

HISTORY of DEERING FIRE DEPARTMENT

1718: The Town of Falmouth incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

February 14, 1814: Section of Falmouth was taken, and incorporated as the Town of Stroudwater.

June of 1814: Stroudwater changed name to Westbrook, in honor of Colonel Thomas Westbrook.

March 15, 1820: Section of Massachusetts separated as State of Maine (Town of Westbrook, Maine).

February 16, 1871: a section of Westbrook seceded to form the town of Deering, named for Mr. James Deering. The thickly settled neighborhoods were Woodfords, Deering Centre, Morrill's Corner, Allen's Corner, East Deering, Libby's Corner, Stroudwater, Oceanvale, Lunt's Corner, and Oakdale. Requests for Town improvements were voted for at the annual town warrant meeting, held in March.

1873 - October 7: Woodfords Engine Company organized by Woodford's Corner Citizens and they purchased a used hand pump engine from Saco for \$375. The Engine was named, "*Niagara.*"

1875 - February 22: Town year ending annual report mentions engine house at Woodfords, a two-story wood frame building owned by Benjamin H. Lewis ("Lewis Hall"). Deering Town Offices here.

1886 - Contract made with Portland Water Company for a system of water works and a supply of water for extinguishment of fires and domestic use throughout the thickly settled portions of Deering.

1888 - March Warrant Meeting: Articles in relation to fire alarm boxes, hose carriages, and places to keep them at East Deering, Allen's Corner, Morrill's Corner, Stroudwater, and Libby's Corner.

1889 - Town annual report ending February 20, 1889, mentions Selectmen's findings on costs of two of 1888 Articles. The Articles were again to be voted on at the 1889 March warrant meeting: **Article # 25**, a fire alarm system, **Article # 26**, hose carriages and places to keep them in.

- * **April 12:** Special town meeting, \$1,000 was raised to build hose houses and purchase hose carts or wagons for the thickly settled portions of town, and Mr. J.H. Hutchins was appointed to act with the Selectmen on the locations.
- * Work began by Burnham Lane & Co. on building five hose houses, to be: 10x12 feet in plan and 8 feet in length, finished with neat cornice, two windows, one door, shingled with extra cedar shingles, clapboarded with extra spruce clapboards and 2-coats of paint estimated cost of \$500.
 - Hose 2 - On high school lot at Deering Centre, at the rear of the high school.
 - Hose 4 - On schoolhouse lot at Allen's Corner.
 - Hose 5 - At East Deering on land of L.W. Dyer.
 - Hose 6 - On schoolhouse lot at Libby's Corner.
 - Hose 7 - At Stroudwater on land of Andrew Hawes, between bridge & Westbrook Street.
- * Hose 3 - Room finished off in horse railroad car house, Stevens Plains Avenue, Morrill's Corner.
- * Hose 1 - Continued to use the Lewis Hall Engine House with an old hose carriage.
- * Town purchased fire hose, 3 H.K. Barnes 2-wheel hose reel carts, and 3 J. Scanlon hose wagons.
- * **December 14: Hose Co. 4 organized at Allen's Corner**, North Deering, C.H. Leighton *Captain*

1890 - Hose Co. 1 organized at Woodfords Corner, housed on Spring Street, at Lewis Hall building.

******* Charles H. Leighton (H-4 Foreman) appointed Chief Engineer of Deering Fire Department.**

* **February 17: Hose Co. 5 organized at East Deering**, Charles L. Pollister, *Captain*.

* **Hose Co. 3 organized at Morrill's Corner**, G.M. Leighton, *Captain*.

* Town voted to pay \$50 yearly to each organized Company, not to exceed seven; four Companies returned their organization (Hose 4, 1, 5, and 3), and drawn six months' pay to September 1st.

* Two more hose reel carts acquired (Hose 1 and 7, in exchange for the H-7 wagon?). The old H-1 cart (owned by the Woodfords Company) probably relocated to Lunt's Corner, as Hose # 8.

1891 - First DFD annual report (year ending February 10, 1891) listed Stroudwater Hose 7 as #6 and Libby's Corner Hose 6 as #7 (probable error). Also listed fire apparatus, consisting of: Six two-wheel hose carriages, two hose wagons (Town Property listed two wagons, five carts).

Hose 1	1890 two-wheel hose reel cart, 500 feet	Spring Street engine house at Woodfords
Hose 2	1889 two-wheel hose reel cart, 250 feet	on high school lot at Deering Centre
Hose 3	1889 four-wheel hose wagon, 550 feet	horse railroad car house, Morrill's Corner
Hose 4	1889 two-wheel hose reel cart, 450 feet	on schoolhouse lot at Allen's Corner
Hose 5	1889 two-wheel hose reel cart, 500 feet	on land of L.W. Dyer at East Deering
Hose 6	1889 four-wheel hose wagon, 500 feet	on schoolhouse lot at Libby's Corner
Hose 7	1890 two-wheel hose reel cart, 500 feet	on land of Andrew Hawes at Stroudwater
Hose 8	18__ two-wheel hose reel cart, 350 feet	at Lunt's Corner

* **Levi G. Eldridge elected Chief Engineer**, replacing Chief Leighton.

* **Hose Co. 3 at Morrill's Corner disbanded** during the year, paid \$25 for six months.

* Hose 8 received \$25 for six months salary (unknown if ever organized).

* **Hose Co. 6 organized at Libby's Corner**, drawing \$16.66 salary for remainder of the year.

* **October 12th**: Town of Deering voted to adopt a City Charter.

1892 - No DFD report in last "Town of Deering" annual report, ending February 15th for 1891-92.

* **Deering incorporated as a City, with a City Charter granted by State Legislature.**

Ward 1 - East Deering	4 - North Woodfords	6 - Oakdale
2 - Morrill's Corner and Allen's Corner	5 - South Woodfords	7 - Stroudwater
3 - Deering Center		

* **September 19: Hose Co. 8 organized at Oakdale** (Lunt's Corner Hose #8 no longer listed).

* **November**: City order to purchase \$33 hose carriage from Mineralized Rubber for Oakdale H-8.

* **December 1**: Hose 8 completed organizing company with 12-Men, Constitution, and By-laws. Council Order; Room to be fitted up in basement of Oakdale School on School (Oakdale) Street, and repaired into a storage room for the new hose reel, and for a Ward Room for Ward #6.

1893 - Annual report by Chief Eldridge for year ending February 15, 1893 reported 12-fires, and listed:

Hose 1 - Woodford's, 12-Men

Hose 2 - Deering Center, **no company.**

Hose 3 - Morrill's Corner, **no company.**

Hose 4 - Allen's Corner, 12-Men

Hose 5 - East Deering, 12-Men

Hose 6 - Libbytown, 12-Men

Hose 7 - Stroudwater, **no company.**

Hose 8 - Oakdale, 12-Men

- * **August:** Council passed order to furnish Badges for all Fire Department Members.
- * Rumsey Co., four-wheel, iron frame ladder carriage purchased, carrying 100 feet of ladders and located at Woodfords Corner with Hose Co. 1. Two horses acquired to haul the new truck
- * **September 16: Ladder Co. 1 organized**, the members were mostly local business merchants.
- * Hose Co. 1 hose cart repaired, repainted (matching L-1), and fitted-up as a four-wheel hose reel carriage, carrying 1,000 feet of hose, and to be hauled to fires by a horse.

1894 - January: 28-foot tower erected at rear of Hose 5's hose house, East Deering for fire alarm bell.

- * 1893-94 annual report by Chief Eldridge listed **Hose 2 and 3 with no company**, 6-fires, and "Stroudwater Hose Company" receiving \$50 annual pay, but did not organized.
- * **Frank B. Moody again elected Chief Engineer**, replacing L.G. Eldridge.

1895 - January 30: Hose Co. 3 re-organized (1890-1891) at Morrill's Corner, with 12-Members.

- * City purchased lot of land on Main Street, near Randall Street, East Deering for H-5 hose house.
- * **March 1:** Small East Deering hose house moved from Dyer's to corner of Galvin & Main streets.
- * Hose Co. 5 Members' built new one & ½-story wood frame hose house, owned by the Company.
- * **June:** Construction work began on a new fire alarm system. It was tested and completed by the Gamewell Fire Alarm Telegraph Company on September 10th.
- * **September: Hose Co. 2 organized at Deering Center.** One & ½-story hose house built next to the high school on Clark (West Concord) Street, at corner of Stevens Plains Avenue, Deering Center. Hose 2 moved in 11/28, with a hall and Ward #3 Room on the upper floor.

1896 - Fred W. Peck elected Chief Engineer, replacing Frank B. Moody.

- * Hose Co. 4's small hose house next to school at Allen's corner moved out closer to Main Street.
 - * City purchased Sewall Winslow property on Forest Avenue at Morrill's Corner for Hose 3, with a Meeting Room for Ward #2. **November 19**-Public house warming held at the new Quarters.
 - * **November 26:** Former H-2 house moved from behind high school to rear of new H-2 House.
 - * **November: New Hose 8** one-horse hose wagon, built by C.N. Barbour/Locke & York, arrived.
 - * **December 16:** Dedication and Supper at new two and ½-story hose house for Hose Co. 6 on Congress Street, at the corner of Davis Street, next to the schoolhouse, near Libby's Corner.
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1897 - February: New Hose 2 one-horse hose wagon, built by J.F. Cobb/Locke & York, arrived.

* **June: New Hose 3** two-horse hose wagon, built by H.L. Sawyer/Locke & York, arrived.

* **July 27: New Hose 1** two-horse hose wagon, built by Talbot & Moulton, in service.

* **August:** Old H-3 wagon repainted/reassigned to Hose 4, Allen’s Corner, hauled by a horse.

* **August:** Old H-1 one-horse, four-wheel hose reel carriage reassigned to Hose 5, East Deering.

* **December 15:** Dedication of new Hose 4 hose house built on Main Street at Allen’s Corner.

1898 - Frank B. Moody elected again as Chief Engineer (Chief 1894-1896), replacing F.W. Peck.

* The Woodford's Corner Engine House (Lewis Hall) of Hose Co. 1 and Ladder Co. 1 enlarged to about twice its former size by taking in the back room, formerly occupied by the City Council.

* **August:** H-2 Clark St. hose house rolled back from street 12-feet, foundation cedar posts added.

* **December 2:** Dedication of newly built Pitt Street H-8 House, next to schoolhouse, at Oakdale.

* New \$320 G.M. Stanwood & Co. hose wagon, built in Portland, ordered for Hose 5.

1899 - February 6: City of Deering annexed to the City of Portland.

* **Last DFD annual report, ending February 14, 1899;** 24-alarms, 1-second alarm, 6-still alarms.

Deering Fire Companies listed in 1898-99 annual report: Hydrants=132 (21 in 1898)

Hose Co. 1	Spring Street, Woodfords Corner	two-horse hose wagon	1,000 feet
Hose Co. 2	Clark Street, Deering Center	two-horse hose wagon	1,000 feet
Hose Co. 3	Forest Avenue, Morrill's Corner	two-horse hose wagon	1,000 feet
Hose Co. 4	Main Street, Allen's Corner	one-horse hose wagon	700 feet
Hose Co. 5	Main Street, East Deering	one-horse, 4-wheel hose carriage	1,000 feet
Hose Co. 6	Congress Street, Libbytown	one-horse hose wagon	750 feet
Hose No. 7	Congress Street, Stroudwater (no company)	two-wheel hose reel cart	500 feet
Hose Co. 8	Pitt Street, Oakdale	one-horse hose wagon	1,000 feet
Ladder Co. 1	Spring Street (with Hose 1)	two-horse iron frame ladder carriage	100 feet

* **DFD Inventory in the 1898-99 Report:**

Hose Wagon No. 1, equipment	\$550	H-1 City’s interest house/lot, Spring St	\$1,000
Hose Wagon No. 2, equipment	\$400	H-2 House and lot, Clark Street	\$900
Hose Wagon No. 3, equipment	\$400	H-3 House and lot, Morrill’s Corner	\$2,350
Hose Wagon No. 4, equipment	\$100	H-4 House, Allen’s Corner	\$400
Hose Reel No. 5, equipment	\$150	H-5 House and lot, East Deering	\$500
Hose Wagon No. 6, equipment	\$100	H-6 House and lot, Libbytown	\$1,500
Hose Wagon No. 8, equipment	\$400	H-8 House and lot, Pitt St., Oakdale	\$800
Hook & Ladder No. 1, equipment	\$350	Hand tub, <i>Niagara</i> No. 1	\$100

March 1, 1899: Fire Department of Deering became a part of the Fire Department of Portland.

- * **DFD Chief, Frank B. Moody, appointed PFD 4th Assistant Engineer**, for Deering District.
- * **March 16:** DFD Hose 6 changed to # 7 (PFD had a H-6), and DFD Ladder 1 changed to # 4.
- * **March 21: Deering Company numbers changed to bring in line with Portland numbers.** (Portland had Engine Co. #'s 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, H-6, E-7 Fireboat, and Ladders 1, 2, and 3)

DFD Hose 1	to	PFD Hose Co. 8	Woodfords Corner
Hose 2	to	Hose Co. 13	Deering Center
Hose 3	to	Hose Co. 9	Morrill's Corner
Hose 4	to	Hose Co. 10	Allen's Corner
Hose 5	to	Hose Co. 11	East Deering
Hose 6	to	Hose Co. 14	Libby's Corner (3/16-as PFD #7, 3/21-to #14)
Hose 7 (never organized)			Stroudwater
Hose 8	to	Hose Co. 12	Oakdale
Ladder 1	to	Ladder Co. 4	Woodfords Corner (3/16-changed)

- * **Deering was now part of Wards 7, 8 & 9. The Portland Fire Department re-organized the new annexed territory (Deering), as Fire District 2. The Peninsula called, Fire District 1.**
- * **May:** New G.M. Stanwood & Co. hose wagon, built in Portland, for Hose 11 in service.

June 8, 1899 - as a re-organization plan by Committee on Fire Department / Board of Engineers, the following hose companies were disbanded per order of City Council:

Hose 10	Main Street (#1,352 Washington Ave.), corner Maplewood Street, Allen's Corner
Hose 13	Clark Street (#189 West Concord), corner of Stevens Avenue, at Deering Center
Hose 14	Congress Street, at the corner of Davis Street, near Libby's Corner

*** Remaining Deering District PFD Companies in Service:**

Hose 8	165 Woodford (Spring) Street, next to the railroad tracks, at Woodfords Corner
Hose 9	1,128 Forest Avenue, near Arbor Street, at Morrill's Corner
Hose 11	550 Washington (Main Street) Avenue, near Randall Street, at East Deering
Hose 12	51 Pitt Street, near the corner of Oakdale Street, at Oakdale
Ladder 4	165 Woodford Street (with Hose Co. 8)

- * **June 15:** Hose Co. 13 Special meeting voted unanimously to disband/return all City Property.
- * **July 11: Permanent PFD Drivers appointed:** **Hose 8**, F.W. Hayes
Hose 9, W.H. Skillings
Ladder 4, A.G. Eldridge
- * DFD L-4 Truck considered too light for fire duty and donated to South Portland (7/14/1900).
- * **August 26:** Spare PFD 1874 Hunneman ladder truck reconditioned, assigned to Ladder 4.