The Marlette Water Company/
Virginia and Gold Hill Water Company

Administrative History

The Virginia and & Gold Hill Water Company (abbreviated as The Company or V&GHWC) was incorpora

Initially water was supplied to Virginia City and Gold Hill by natural springs and wells in the immediate ar

By the late 1860s the V tside the immediate Virginia City a

owners were John Skae, Walter S. Dean, W.S. Hobart, John W. Mackay, James G. Fair, James C. Floo

The contract for fabricating the pipe was awarded to the Risdon Iron and Locomotive Iron Works of San

The plan worked because the initial source of the water, a diversion dam at Hobart Creek was higher in

To meet demands for a

o additional pipelines in 1877 and

supervision of J.B. Overton, company superintendent. The 2nd pipe extended to Cedar Hill on the north end of Virginia

I n addition to providing domestic water in Virginia City and Gold Hill, The Compa

The system required constant supervision so maintenance stations were constructed along the route: M

In addition to supplying water for Virginia City and Gold Hill, the V&GHWC utilized Five-Mile Reservoir to

Over The Company's 100 year existence only four superintendents attended to business and technical c
-1865-1873: J.W. Gashwiler
-1873-1906: J.B. (John Bear) Overton
-1906-1959: James Leonard (related by marriage to W.S. Hobart; he died in 1959)
-1959-1963: Hobart Leonard, son of James M. Leonard
-1963-present: Nevada Division of Buildings and Grounds

The water company's fortunes were subject to the fluctuation in the mining industry's health, resulting in

The 1872 Nevada Corporation had a 50 year time limit as a corporation, at the expiration of its Nevada

The Virginia and Gold Hill Water Company with the Nevada

Under the new corporation there were seven stockholders, each holding one share purchased for $20 fo

According to Federal Income Tax returns in the records, The Virginia and Gold Hill Water Company was

Despite the Commissioner's statement, the entity that had been The Virginia and Gold Hill Water Compa

In 1957 the Curtis-Wright Corporation purchased the system from its Sierra origins to a point just north c

The Marlette Lake Company initiated a series of improvements: it raised Marlette Lake Dam by 15', rep

In 1959 the State of Nevada and the Carson City Water Company entered into a contract with MLC to pu

In Feb. 1963 the President of the MLC offered to sell all assets to the State of Nevada for $2 million; afte

Throughout the history of the Virginia and Gold Hill Water Company a limited number of people played k
J.B. Overton
John (Johnnie) William Skae
Duncan McRae
S. [Sean] H. Marlette or Marlett
Sam (Samuel) Longabaugh
William E. Price

Records of the Virginia and Gold Hill Water Company

Photo Credits
All photographs are from the Virginia and Gold Hill Water Company records, Nevada State Archives.

Top: Outside face of Hobart Dam, 1938. H2O-0042
2nd from top: Box flume going from Marlette Lake to the tunnel, showing an especially rocky, narrow se
3rd from top: Five-Mile Reservoir and the ice house on the eastern slope of Washoe Valley, 1913. H2O

4th from top: West portal of the tunnel above Lake Tahoe, 1913. H2O-0010.
Bottom: Marlette Lake, 1928. H2O-0040.

Bibliography

Doten, Alfred. *Journals of Alfred Doten, 1849-1903*, edited by Walter Van Tilburg Clark. University of Neva

History of Masonry in Virginia City website: www.nvmasons.org/history/torrence/torr3457.html

Legislative Commission on the Nevada Lake Water System. *The Nevada Lake Water System: A Report on the Feasibility and Desirability o*

Nevada Census records, 1860-1900.

Newspaper articles from the *Nevada State Journal*, *Reno Evening Gazette*,

Ormsby County District Court (2nd Judicial District) case files, Nevada State Archives.

Nevada State Supreme Court case files, Nevada State Archives.

Shamberber, Hugh A. *The Story of the Water Supply for the Comstock*. Geological Survey Professional Paper 779, Nevada D

Thompson and West. *History of Nevada, 1881*, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of its Pron

Virginia and Gold Hill Water Company incorporation file, May 12, 1863. Nevada State Archives, TERR-0

Virginia and Gold Hill Water Company records in the Nevada State Archives.