HANOVER WATER WORKS COMPANY
A Chronology of
Hanover’s Public Water Supply

1770  First well dug on campus near Reed Hall.
1820  The Hanover Aqueduct Association incorporated. Water collected from springs near present Town
garage and distributed to Lebanon and North Main Streets through 1 1/2-inch pipes.
1880  New 2-inch lead pipes installed to replace original pipes, doubling the available water supply.
1880  A disastrous fire in the Village indicates the need of an adequate water system for fire protection.
1887  Professor Pettee recommends that the Village build a system to impound the water of Camp Brook
and a new distribution system.
1887  The New Hampshire State Legislature authorizes the Hanover Village Precinct to raise no more than
$20,000 to implement Professor Pettee’s plan. However, the authorized amount is inadequate for the project.
1890  Another serious fire emphasizes the need for an adequate public water supply.
1892  Dartmouth College appoints a special Alumni Committee to study the water supply problem. This
committee endorses the findings and recommendations of Professor Pettee.
1893  The Trustees of Dartmouth College authorize an appropriation of $25,000 to permit implementation
of the proposed project.
1893  The Hanover Water Works Company is incorporated on August 1, 1893, as a joint project of
Dartmouth College and the Village Precinct.
1893  On November 19th, the first water from Camp Brook is delivered to the Village. The initial water
works include an impounding dam and headworks, a cast-iron distribution system, and a few
hydrants. Fifty acres of land were purchased for the reservoir site.
1903  Dartmouth College becomes alarmed at the news of a water-borne typhoid fever epidemic in Ithaca,
NY (1350 cases in population of 3000). It is promptly decided to purchase the entire watershed in
order to protect the quality of the water supply.
1912  Acquisition of the entire watershed completed, all structures removed, and the planting of tree
plantations started in the former pastures and fields. The watershed area now under complete control
amounts to 1205 acres.
1915  The flow-line of the original reservoir raised to increase the impounded storage to 134,000,000 gallons.
1924  A second reservoir built on Camp Brook adds 150,000,000 gallons to impounded storage.
1931  A new 16-inch cast-iron main installed from the reservoir to Main Street to improve service and
reliability.
1951  The flow-line of the second reservoir raised increasing the impounded storage to 206,000,000 gallons.
1954  The capacity of the original reservoir increased to 219,000,000 gallons resulting in a total impounded
storage 425,000,000 gallons.
1955  Continuous chlorination of supply commenced.
1958  After several public hearings, continuous fluoridation of the supply started.
1959  The installation of meters on all service lines commenced.
1962  A third reservoir for stand-by use constructed on a tributary of Mink Brook in Hanover Center. This
addition to the works increases the watershed area to 1410 acres and the impounded storage to
525,000,000 gallons.
1970  The Balch Hill high-service system built by Dartmouth College and added to the distribution system.
1973  Chemical treatment begun to control corrosion of old pipes.
1973  Ordinance to provide essential protection to the watershed area adopted by the Hanover Board of
Selectman acting in its capacity as the Board of Health.
1974  Improved service and fire-protection for the Greensboro Road area provided by the creation of a
high-service system.
1976  An inter-connection with the Lebanon water system installed on Route 10 for mutual aid.
1977  Long-term plans adopted for management of maturing tree plantations on watershed.
1980  Instrumentation installed for continuous monitoring of raw water turbidity.
1981  Original reservoir designated as “The Robert Fletcher Reservoir” in honor of the Company’s first
Engineer and long time President.
1993  Waiver from filtration rule granted. Construction started on chlorine dioxide disinfection tank.
1994  Chlorine dioxide disinfection system goes on line.
1996  Construction started in December to provide 800 sq. ft. of administrative space adjacent to the shop.
1997  Administrative offices moved to new space at Grasse Road facility
1998  Approval of $4,035,000 from State Revolving Loan Funds to upgrade mains on East Wheelock, Park &
Lebanon Streets, North College, West, Maple and Prospect Streets, as well as construction of 800,000
gallon storage tank to serve downtown area.
2001  SRF projects completed in September.
2005  Construction begins on water filtration plant and additional 1,000,000 gallon finished water storage tank.
2006  October – filtration plant goes on line with additional 1,000,000 gallon finished water storage tank.
2009  Greensboro High Pressure Zone Pump Station Improvements completed – include building renovations,
replacement of pump and control system, and emergency power.