

Book Review

By Stephen C. Olson, P.E., President, H2Olson Engineering, Inc., Green Harbor, MA

Title: Old Oaken Buckets: Scituate and Its Water Supply

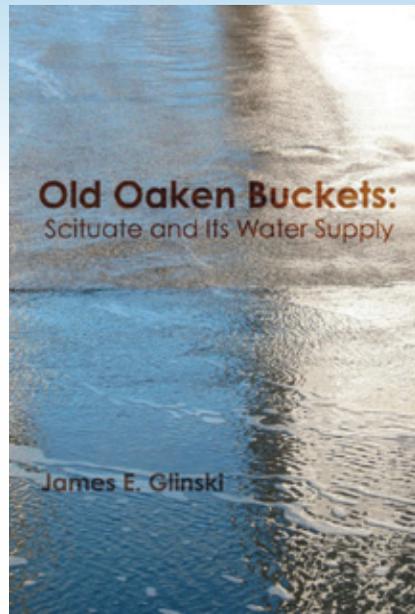
Author: James E. Glinski

I began reading this book with both timid skepticism and great curiosity as I have driven by the book's title namesake water treatment plant many times. I will also admit to my pleasant surprise that I was taken in by the strait forward writing style and simple elucidation of facts and circumstances right from the book preface and continued on enjoyably through the organized chapters.

I would consider this book a good read and recommend it for anyone that has a common interest in water resources, the drinking water industry, and history. For those "ultra-technical" types who enjoy scientific theory and an explanation of water treatment concepts, this book is not for you. However, if you think that you would enjoy reading about the development and implementation of a public drinking water system from a historical perspective in a typical New England community located on the south shore of Massachusetts, then you will certainly find this book interesting.

One does not need to have an engineering or technical background in the drinking water industry to enjoy the book and storyline as the writing style and presentation has been prepared for the "layman" and suitable definitions are provided along the way. Furthermore, although as a member of the New England Water Works Association I may be biased, the book brought a special level of connection when a reference was made to a presentation given by the former Scituate Water Superintendent William J. Lumbert in 1938 on the topic of water storage tanks, which lead to a New England Water Works Association Journal article.

The drive and purpose for Scituate's beginnings into the industry of public drinking water is a common theme shared by many New England communities that began in the late 1800s. As residential development and industry grew, citizens



and town/city leaders realized the importance of the availability of clean, safe, reliable drinking water for consumption and fire protection. A water system needs a source (or sources) to supply the water, treatment depending on the quality of the source water, pipes for conveyance, and distribution storage. As the book reiterates, the challenges facing the Town of Scituate have been recurring and a bit cyclical: the ability to provide a sufficient quantity of high quality water for its customers at an economical price. When the story finally catches up to recent activities of the past 5 to 10 years, it was interesting to read about the cooperative approach and progress made between the Water Department and nearby watershed association. I'm sure that it will be interesting for citizens and engineers to follow along this next decade to see if recent recommendations and plans for improvements are discussed and hopefully implemented.

The book can be ordered on-line at www.blurb.com at a cost of \$15.

Publish Date: Sep 24, 2020

ISBN: Softcover 9781715542672