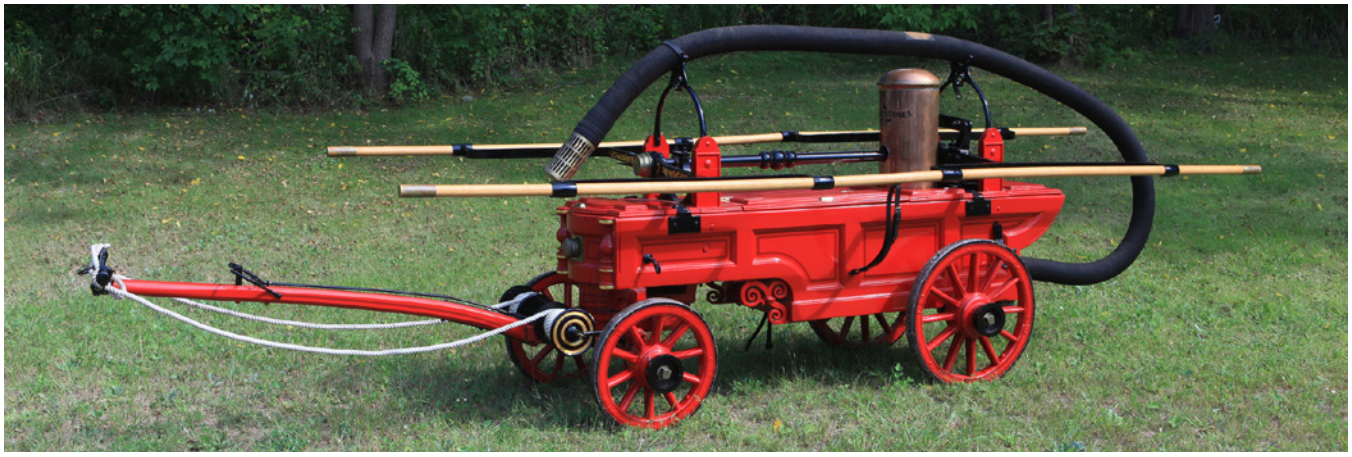
1847* Selye-Porter Hand Pumper — Thomas Cornes No.3



This hand pumper was built in 1847* by the Selye & Porter Fire Engine and Hose Co. of Rochester, New York and operated by the Rochester, New York Fire Department (individual fire company unknown) until the 1850's. It was sold by the City to the Village of Brockport (date unknown) when the Rochester Fire Deprtment was becoming a full time, paid, fire department and were replacing their hand pumpers with steam fire engines. When the Village acquired the hand pumper, it was first operated by the Conqueror Engine Co. No. 2 until January 27, 1856 when that company disbanded. Although the hand pumper had become neglected and unusable during this period it was pressed into service and utilized at the Market Street fire of January 28, 1877 and helped stop the fire before much of the business district was destroyed. Following the Market Street fire a group of men asked the Village Board for permission to refurbish it. Originally the hand pumper was painted blue but, because many of the men were employed by the Johnston Harvester Co., it was repainted Harvester Red—the color used on the reapers manufactured there. A new fire company was organized. The Thomas Cornes Engine and Hose Co. No. 3. was named for a prominent Brockport merchant, Village Mayor, Town Supervisor and US Congressman. Engine House No. 3 was also constructed on the Johnston Harvester Co. property. This huge manufacturing complex spanned both sides of Main Street north of the canal near Clark and Liberty Streets. However, on June 22 & 23, 1882 a fire of conflagration intensity consumed a majority of the





*approximate date, not confirmed.



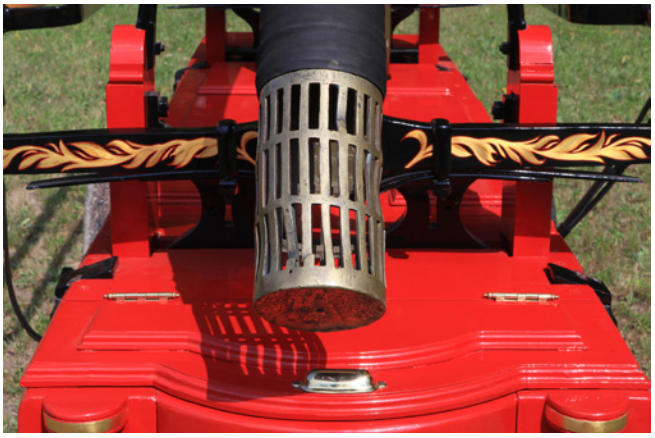


1847* Selye-Porter Hand Pumper — Thomas Cornes No.3













1847* Selye-Porter Hand Pumper — Thomas Cornes No.3

Thomas Cornes Engine and Hose Co. No. 3
Brockport, New York Fire Department
1877-1893

A group of men came before the Village Board after the great Market Street fire of January 28, 1877. Most were employed by the huge Johnston Harvester Co, who built world famous reapers. They asked to refurbish the old Selye & Porter pumper, used by the Conqueror Engine Co. No. 2 before the Civil War and also to build a new engine house No. 3. Known for quality, this New York Style Hand Pumper was built in Rochester, New York in 1847 by Lewis Selye. Used by an early Rochester Fire Co., Brockport purchased the pumper and was refurbished in 1877 by the Cornes Engine Co. Originally painted blue, they painted it Harvester Red as the color used on the reapers. The rotted box was removed exposing the copper pressure dome. The hard suction hose carried on the sides was pre-connected to the rear and carried squirrel tail fashion. On June 22 & 23, 1882 on both sides of Main Street a fire destroyed most of the Johnson Harvester Co. and Engine House No. 3. The Cornes Engine was relocated to new fire headquarters on Market Street, built in 1884. The Thomas Cornes Engine & Hose Co. No. 3 was named after a merchant and former Mayor in Brockport, was disbanded in 1893.

This working hand pumper is restored to its original proud heritage of 1877.

The restoration of this hand pumper was made possible from memorial donations to firefighters who have answered their last alarm

Brockport New York Fire Department

[ATTRIBUTION NEEDED]

... Johnston Harvester Co. and Engine House No. 3. After this fire the hand pumper was relocated to Fire Headquarters on Market Street (constructed in 1884) and remained in operation until 1893 when the Thomas Cornes fire company was disbanded. (The Johnston Harvester Co. relocated to Batavia, New York).

[ATTRIBUTION NEEDED]

SPECIFICATIONS
Material:

Height (bed top to ground):
Width (outside of bed rails):
Wheelbase (axle to axle):

If you can add to this document, please contact the Museum at:
admin@brockportcommunitymuseum.org
or by writing to:
Brockport Community Museum
49 State St, Brockport, NY 14420
(585) 637-5300

Acknowledgements:

This apparatus is in the collection of the Capen Fire Museum.
Special thanks to liason Norman Knapp and other volunteers who moved the equipment outside the Capen Fire Museum to the grounds near the railroad tracks for these photos. For more information about the Brockport Fire Department, go to: http://www.brockportfire.org

Captions: Norman Frisch
Photos: ©2010 Norman Frisch
Photo adjustment and layout: Norman Frisch