



Vicksburg, Mississippi

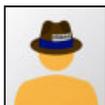
Vicksburg is currently looking to restore its National Humane Alliance Fountain to its previous glory, but is looking for some help. Some of its early history is recorded below. The fountain no longer stands at its original location at Monroe Street near South Street and it has seen better days. However, it has been preserved and still holds a place of honor at a triangle formed by Locust, Main and Openwood Streets. The base and bowl still exist. But the top piece including the lions head spigots are missing, and that's where they are looking for help and ideas on how those vital pieces might be found or made. Vicksburg also added their own electric light at the top to the original fountain and that is missing as well.

We want to thank Bill Fulcher from Vicksburg for contacting us and providing this updated information and the current picture to add to the collection.

The new Ensign drinking fountain, to be placed on Monroe street, just south of the Louisiana monument, has arrived and will be placed in position shortly. The fountain, which cost \$1,000, was presented to the city by the National Humane Alliance, with offices at 513 United Charities building, New York. The officers are: Harrison Grey Fiske, chairman; Frederick B. Tilghman, vice president; Lewis M. Seaver, secretary and treasurer. The city is indebted to Captain Frederick B. Tilghman for the fountain. When that gentleman was here several months ago he offered the fountain to the city, provided that the city place it on a suitable concrete foundation and supply the water. The new fountain will be for man and beast, and is very attractive.

Vicksburg fountain arrives 1908

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Sun, Nov 10, 2019

ENSIGN FOUNTAIN IS FINALLY PLACED IN POSITION

On Monroe Street, Near Louisiana Monument—Made of Vermont Granite and Is Very Attractive—Bowl Weighs Five Tons—Fountain Will Be Lighted by Electricity and Be in Operation by Sunday.

The handsome new fountain which will furnish water for man and beast, has finally been placed in position on Monroe street, south of the Louisiana monument. The fountain, which was presented to the city about one year ago by the National Humane Alliance, is made of Vermont granite and was given to the city as the result of the efforts of the son of the late Gen. Lloyd Tilghman. It was placed in position under direction of City Engineer Twiss, Mr. Tom Morris, being actively in charge of the work. The plumbing work necessary was done by Mr. J. B. Smith. The fountain was placed on a five-foot concrete foundation. It is in four parts, the base, pedestal, bowl and fountain head. The bowl weighs five tons. The bowl, which will be used for horses, will be furnished with water flowing through three spouts, the water passing through lion's head gargoyles. Under the bowl are four spouts for dogs. On the south side of the base is a bronze tablet which reads: "1907. Presented by the National Humane Alliance. Hermon Lee Ensign, founder." Water will be supplied through pipes which will connect with the Crawford street water main. On the top of the fountain will be an electric light kindly donated by Colonel S. S. Bullis, president of the Vicksburg Lighting Co. The fountain will be in operation by next Sunday.

SKETCH OF GOOD MAN WHOSE WORK GAVE IT.

THOUGHTS OF POOR BEASTS

Prompted Herman Lee Ensign to Will His Fortune to a Most Laudable Cause.

The Ensign free fountain is now permanently located on a suitable concrete foundation just south of the Louisiana memorial on Monroe street, and water connections will be made this afternoon.

Civil Engineer Twiss has staid his intention to furnish an electric light, to be placed on top of the fountain. City Engineer Twiss had charge of locating the handsome gift to the city, which was put in place by a force of men, superintended by Mr. Tom Morris.

In connection with this gift, it is an opportune time to call attention to the founder of the National Humane Alliance. This man was the late Herman Lee Ensign.

He was born in Carlisle, Pa., on June 20, 1818. At an early age he moved with his parents to Sheffield, Ill. When fifteen years old he acquired a knowledge of telegraphing, and soon became an expert operator. Soon after that he went to Davenport, Iowa, and later to Denver.

He was reared under religious influences, was a member of the Congregational church, and when twenty years old decided to become a minister. With that object, he entered Phillips Academy. His health or finances soon failed, and he left school and went to Chicago, where he began business with a bridge company.

During the great fire of 1871 he rendered important service to this company by saving from the office valuable books.

A few years later he became the manager of a brilliantly written paper, called the Alliance, a weekly journal, ably religious and wisely humanitarian. His experience in journalism he turned to practical account by later engaging in the advertising business, following it with marked success, and acquiring a fortune in twenty years.

Fertile in fancy and quick in experiment, he devised a new form of newspaper advertising, known as headline reading advertising. He also invented the stereotype plate with removable base.

In 1852 he moved to Rochester and two years later to New York, where he lived until his death in 1898.

Without advantages of birth or fortune, living the life of a quiet American citizen, and dying before he was fifty, he had rounded out a notable life. To his business and general friends, he was known as a genial and companionable man, successful in his affairs, right hearted and satisfied with life. His more intimate friends know that he had other interests and feelings, which represented the deeper and more vital side of his nature. He had an eager and imaginative temperament, an instinctive love of what is good and true and a hatred of what is wrong.

From childhood he was a lover of domestic animals. This love made him doleful at that was cruel or unkind in the treatment of animals by their natural protector-man. It became more than a sentiment—it became a passion, growing upon him and at last dominating his life.

To him animals were not merely inferiors or slaves, they were companions and friends, devoting themselves to man and dependent upon him for their lives and happiness. The ethics of the relations with lower animals have seldom had more practical and forcible expression than from this humane man. He was an ardent disciple of Henry Bergh, and felt that if he could leave behind him such a record as did Mr. Bergh, he would regard it as the best monument that he could desire.

He accordingly founded the National Humane Alliance to carry out his ideas for the welfare of animals. He intended to give his time and fortune to the work. But just as it was started he died. He left his fortune for this work, and the society is administering the trust of Mr. Ensign on the lines of his ideas, for humane work, educating children in kindness to animals and other similar work.

The Humane Alliance has offices at No. 512 United Charities Building, New York city. The officers are: Harrison Grey Plake, president; Frederic B. Tighman, vice-president; Lewis M. Seaver, secretary and treasurer.

Vicksburg tribute to Ensign

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