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circ: Joel JIF  
 Ed EG (copy for your file) - (cc: Jane Gibson?) by Joel Fry 10/88  
 Jew \_\_\_\_\_ (last) Joel - very fine analysis!  
 Thank You! Jew

Statistics on Water Usage and Plumbing Fixtures in 19th c. Philadelphia

1850

16,274 houses in the city proper [According to 1850 U.S. Census]  
 6,451 " " Southwark  
 4,096 " " Moyamensing

26,821 total houses in area served by Fairmount Water

1852 City Water Customers [Annual Report of the Watering Committee for the Year 1852. (Phila: 1853).]

15,535 dwellings served with water  
 5,106 baths } includes commercial est. 33% of dwellings  
 970 water closets } " " " 6% "  
 757 wash basins } " " " 5% "  
 1,724 wash pavements } " " " 11% "

In the same year there were 19,459 total city water tenants. Since the figures on plumbing connections include commercial establishments this total forms a better base for percentages.

19,459 city water tenants  
 26% have baths  
 5% " water closets  
 4% " wash basins  
 9% " wash pavements

The watering committee estimated that 3000 people used free public hydrants so this would raise the figure of city water users to 22,459, but this does not take into account the number of people served in each dwelling or by each water tenant. Many of the commercial tenants were hotels, saloons, or public baths. A more accurate calculation of the percent of the population with indoor plumbing could be developed using the total city population and an estimated number of people per dwelling.

Southwark water customers

5321 dwellings {3960 dwellings with hydrant  
 {1361 court houses - one room to a floor, hydrant in court  
 447 baths 8% of dwellings  
 10 water closets 0.2% "  
 7 basins 0.1% "  
 106 wash pavements 2% "

Moyamensing water customers

2829 dwellings {1806 dwellings with hydrant  
 { 923 court houses - one room to a floor  
 246 baths 9% of dwellings  
 7 water closets 0.2% "  
 2 basins 0.1% "  
 34 wash pavements 1% "

In 1852 "indoor plumbing" in the modern sense was still an extreme rarity in Philadelphia. In the city proper, about 75% of water tenants had only a single hydrant connection in either a courtyard or the kitchen of their dwelling. In Southwark and Moyamensing approximately 90% of water customers had only a single hydrant connection. The city water from Fairmount replaced pumps and wells, but it still functioned much the same. Water was available in most houses at a single location, often outside, and had to be carried inside and from room to room for use. The most common addition to the basic water service was a bath, but in less than 25% of city dwellings and only 8-9% of dwellings in Southwark and Moyamensing. Any additional plumbing beyond a hydrant and a bath was very rare. It must be assumed sanitation was still dealt with by privy as less than 5% of city water tenants had water closets and 0.2% of water tenants in Southwark and Moyamensing. The wash pavement (a hose attachment to a hydrant or separate device) was a more common fixture, in use by about 9% of the city's water tenants, and 1-2% in Southwark and Moyamensing.

In the city proper, there were 432 water tenants who had the equivalent of "indoor plumbing" -- a bath, water closet, and basin or multiples thereof. This works out to 2% of the city water tenants. This figure again includes commercial establishments, hotels, public baths, etc. and so it is an exaggeration of the number of city dwellings which had the bare necessities of modern plumbing.

1853 City Water Customers [Annual Report of the Watering Committee  
for the Year 1853. (Phila: 1854)]

Water Tenants

City	23,409
Southwark	5,771
Moyamensing	<u>3,120</u>
	32,300

City

15,754 dwellings			
5,466 baths	} exclusive of hotels, stores	34%	of dwellings
1,245 water closets	} & public bldgs.	8%	"
1,164 wash basins	} "	7%	"
1,978 wash pavements	} "	13%	"

Southwark

5,725 dwellings	{ 4279 dwellings with hydrant	
	{ 1443 single dwellings or court houses	
	{ 3 3/4 houses	
575 baths		10% of dwellings
16 water closets		0.3% "
10 basins		0.2% "
143 wash pavements		2% "

Moyamensing

3,070 dwellings	{ 2022 dwellings with hydrant	
	{ 1039 single dwellings or court houses	
	{ 9 3/4 houses	
284 baths		9% of dwellings
15 water closets		0.5% "
7 basins		0.2% "
46 wash pavements		1% "

The statistics from the 1853 Annual Report are more useful as the report excluded commercial establishments (hotels, stores, public buildings, etc.) from the figures on plumbing fixtures, so correct percentages of dwellings served by baths, water closets, wash basins, and wash pavements can be calculated.

In 1853 34% of city dwellings had baths, 8% had water closets, 7% had wash basins, and 13% had wash pavements. 15,754 dwellings were served with water in the city proper, but for 2/3 of those customers this still meant a single hydrant either outside in a courtyard or in the kitchen of the house. While almost all dwellings in the city had city water; its use followed the function of a pump with a single water source in each dwelling. The most common addition to single hydrant service was a bath.

Outside the city proper, in Southwark and Moyamensing, water connections were growing, and a majority of houses were served by city water, but in 90% of dwellings this was a single hydrant in the yard or kitchen.