

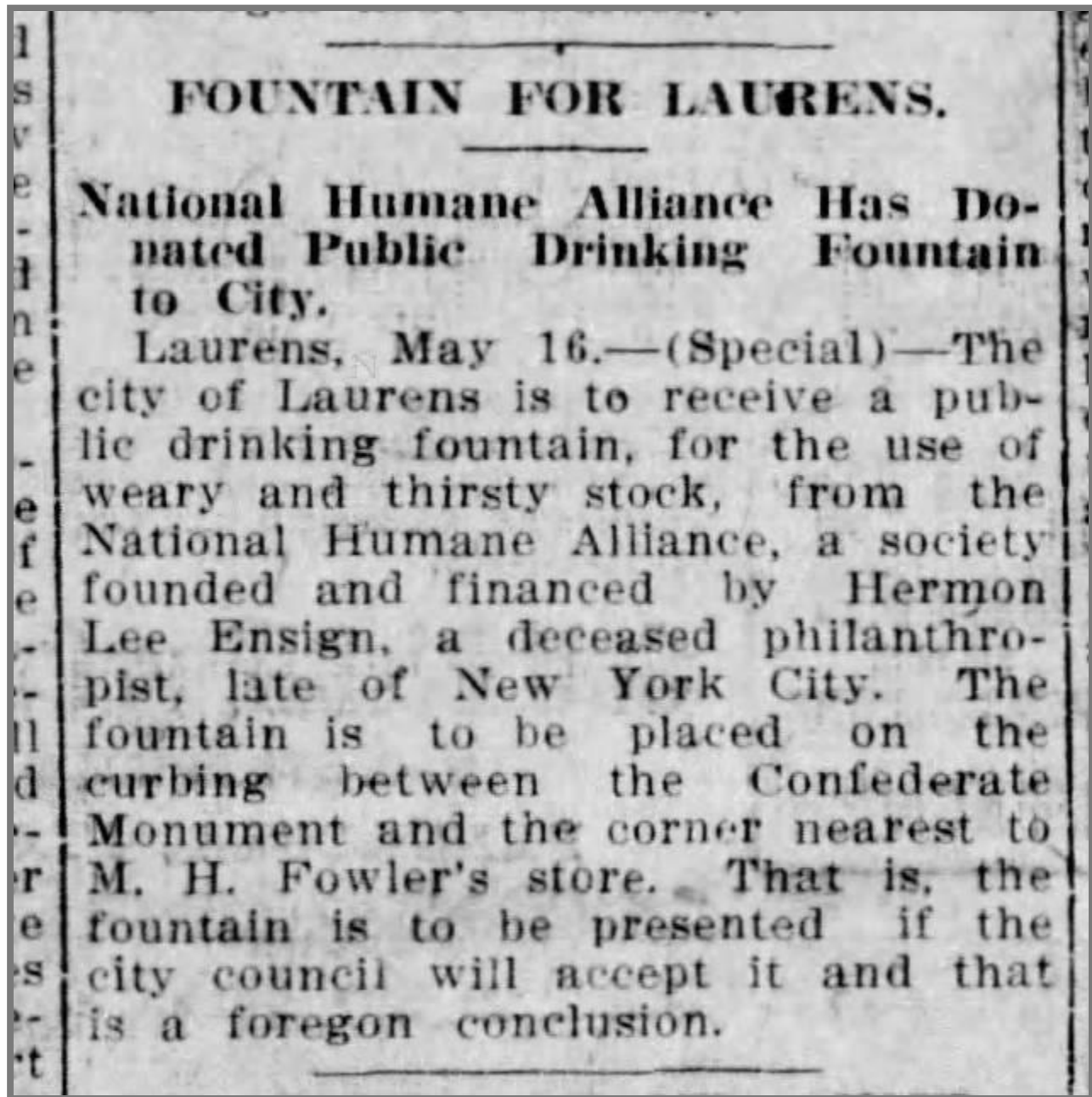
1911



Today

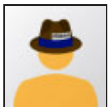


The fountain is currently being restored!



## Laurens to get fountain - 1911-05-17

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derbyct  
Sat, Nov 16, 2019

## The Fountain Offered.

The National Humane Alliance,

New York, May 8th, 1911.

Hon. C. M. Babb, Mayor and The City Council,

Laurens, South Carolina.

Gentlemen:

Referring to the matter of animal drinking fountain for your city, the donation of which has been earnestly and persistently solicited from our Association, particularly by Mr. W. G. Lancaster of your city, beg to say that the writer recently visited Laurens and inspected the proposed sites for the location of a fountain and we have now decided that we will furnish your city with one of our second size fountains, free of charge, freight prepaid, upon the acceptance of the following conditions, viz: That the City of Laurens will take the fountain from the car, place it on a good foundation in the street on the north side of your public square, about halfway between the soldier's monument and the corner of the square, put in good water connections (plumbing, etc.) and guarantee a good continuous flow of water, and proper permanent care to said fountain.

Trusting to have proper acceptance of this in due time, we are

Very truly yours,

National Humane Alliance,

Lewis M. Seaver,



# DRINKING FOUNTAIN FOR DUMB ANIMALS

National Humane Alliance  
Makes a Gift.

TO BE ERECTED  
ON PUBLIC SQUARE

Responding to the Persistent Efforts of a Well Known Citizen of this City, the National Humane Society has Consented to Provide for the Watering of Stock on the Square.

The City of Laurens is to receive a public drinking fountain, for the use of weary and thirsty stock, from the National Humane Alliance, a society founded and financed by Hermon Lee Ensign, a deceased philanthropist, late of New York City. The fountain is to be placed on the curbing between the Confederate Monument and the corner nearest to M. H. Fowler's store. That is, the fountain is to be presented if the city council will accept it and that is a foregone conclusion.

For those who perhaps may be unfamiliar with the life and work of the deceased philanthropist, it can be said that he started out in life as a poor boy in the State of Illinois. He worked industriously and intelligently in different lines of endeavor, mostly literary. He amassed a fortune. During this time he had always been interested in the care and protection of dumb brutes. Just before his death, which occurred in New York City, he founded the National Humane Alliance, but did not live to see it enter into its work. However, he left a large fortune with which the work was to be perpetuated. By means of the money derived from the bequest, the National Humane Alliance, is enabled to present these fountains to those cities most in need of them.

## LIFE HISTORY OF HERMON LEE ENSIGN WHO PRESENTED FOUNTAIN TO LAURENS

Now that the public drinking fountain, which has been erected on the public square, is in daily use it is an opportune time to call attention to the founder of the National Humane Alliance, which organization gave the fountain to the city. This man was the late Hermon Lee Ensign.

He was born in Carbondale, Pa., on June 30, 1849. 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, mildly religious and widely 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 1882 he moved to Rochester and two years later to New York, where he lived until his death in 1899.

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, light-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 detest all 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 have 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. 529 United Charities Building, New York city. The officers are: Harrison Grey Riske, president; Frederick B. Tilghman, vice-president; Lewis M. Seaver, secretary and treasurer.

Mr. Seaver made a visit to Laurens some months ago and, in company with Mr. W. G. Lancaster who had called his attention to the need of the fountain here, he went over the city and studied the situation, coming to the conclusion that Laurens was in need of the fountain. It was then in accordance with his orders that the beautiful and useful ornament was sent here and erected.

## Laurens, SC celebrates Ensign 1911-07-19

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