

BANKS AND BANKERS IN RALEIGH.

Bank History of Raleigh

Bank-Note Story of Before The War.

The history of banking in Raleigh dates back to 1804, the same year that marked the beginning of legalized banking in the State, with the establishment of the Bank of Cape Fear at Wilmington, which bank by its charter was permitted to have a branch at Raleigh.

Six years later, in 1810, the General Assembly chartered the State Bank of North Carolina, with central office at Raleigh, and six branches, at Edenton, New Bern, Wilmington, Fayetteville, Tarboro and Salisbury.

In 1833, the State Bank was replaced by the Bank of the State of North Carolina, also with headquarters at Raleigh. After a chequered career of ups and downs, this bank was suspended by the establishment of the Bank of North Carolina in 1859 at Raleigh.

For the interesting story in detail of this ante-bellum period of Raleigh's banking history, the reader is referred to the splendid history of the Bank of North Carolina from 1859-'67, by Dr. K. P. Battle, on page 19 of this edition; the excellent comprehensive history of banking in North Carolina up to the civil war by Mr. F. D. Gold, Jr., of Greensboro, on page 22, and Col. W. H. S. Burgwyn's delightful story of when the South was the Richest Section of the Country, on page 18.

However, there is one refreshing little anecdote of those days "befo' de wah" that must be told.

The old inhabitants will remember Louis Peck and Son, who conducted a banking business here before the war in the little wooden house still standing on the northeast corner of Wilmington and Morgan streets.

Those were the days when bank notes of all kinds were in free circulation. Well, it seems that a horse dealer in Mississippi wanted to come to Raleigh. He had a lot of bank notes of Louis Peck and Son amounting to \$2,000. Going to his banker in Mississippi, he asked for a draft of exchange on Raleigh, as he did not care to carry so much money on his person through the country on horseback, for that was the way he was traveling.

The Mississippi banker charged him five per cent for the exchange, or \$100. Mr. Horsedealer paid his \$100, and then Mr. Mississippi Banker asked him when he expected to start. He said he would leave the next morning. Then the banker said he had a small package he desired to send to a friend in Raleigh, and asked if he would not accommodate him by carrying it as he went. Mr. Horsedealer very politely agreed to do so, and said he would call for it in the morning. He did so, and the package was for Mr. Peck. The horse dealer counted himself lucky that the commission did not take him out of his way and departed, with a message of regards from the Mississippi banker to his friend the Raleigh banker.

Mr. Horsedealer reached Raleigh safely in due time, proceeded to the office of Louis Peck and Son, and presented his draft. Mr. Peck looked at it, and went to look up the Mississippi banker. He found that his credit was hardly good for the amount and was about to tell Mr. Horsedealer so, when that gentleman suddenly remembered the package and handed it over with the message of regards from the Mississippi banker. This created a slight diversion, and Mr. Peck retired to open the package.

He found in it all neatly done up his own bank notes for \$2,000. He went back to the counter and cashed the draft, and Mr. Horsedealer was none the wiser, although he had paid \$100 for the privilege of bringing his own notes to Raleigh. The Mississippi banker had adopted this keen subterfuge rather than acknowledge his precarious condition.

After the Bank of North Carolina went into voluntary bankruptcy in 1867, the Raleigh National Bank was established almost immediately.

Shortly thereafter also the State National Bank was organized from the private banking house of John G. Williams and Company, which had been conducting a private banking business for some 10 or 15 years previously. Mr. John G. Williams was the first president, and Mr. S. C. White, cashier. Upon the death of Mr. Williams about 1883 or 1884, his widow, Mrs. M. C. Williams, became president of the bank, and had the distinction of being the only woman bank officer in the State, and the only woman bank president in the country, perhaps.

This bank failed on March 26th, 1888, Mr. Williams was an Irishman, and many are the stories of his sayings and witticisms.

The Citizens National Bank was established in 1871. The original charter expired in 1891, and it was renewed for 20 years.

Twenty-one years later, in 1892, the Commercial and Farmers Bank was organized. Then in order came the Raleigh Savings Bank, the Mechanics Dime Savings Bank, and the Carolina Trust Company.

Mechanics Dimes Saving Bank of Raleigh.

The Mechanics Dime Savings Bank of Raleigh was organized in 1896, the capital stock being distributed among the most substantial people in the City of Raleigh. The first president was Charles E. Johnson and B. R. Lacy, the present State Treasurer, was the first cashier and Walters Durham, teller. Upon the election of Mr. Lacy to the office of State Treasurer, Mr. Durham was elected to succeed him as cashier, and has since had the active management of the bank.

The capital stock of the Mechanics Dime Savings Bank is fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00), and the surplus and undivided profits seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500.00), deposits aggregating one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00).

The Mechanics Dime Savings Bank pays

interest at four per cent compounded semi-annually and has been one of the most active agency workers for the betterment of the condition of the working classes of this city, encouraging them to save the small amounts.

The directory includes the names of such representative men as Charles E. Johnson, president, member of the firm of Johnson and Thompson, cotton buyers; C. B. Edwards, of the firm of Edwards and Broughton, printers and binders; C. P. Wharton, photographer; John Ward, of the firm of Hart-Ward Hardware Company; Cary J. Hunter, superintendent for Virginia and North Carolina for the Union Central Life Insurance Company, of Cincinnati, Ohio; Charles B. Park, member of the faculty of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of North Carolina, Dr. K. P. Battle, physician; John A. Mills, president of the Raleigh and Cape Fear Railway and D. M. King, of the Seaboard Air Line Railway, and Attorney W. N. Jones.

During the past few months the Mechanics Dime Savings Bank has purchased its new banking house, and has had it handsomely refurnished and elegantly furnished with all the modern up-to-date banking furniture, and has every facility known in modern banking of handling its business.

Mr. Charles E. Johnson, president of this bank, is identified with leading business interests in Raleigh and other cities in North Carolina. He is one of the directors of the Seaboard Air Line Railway and is president of the Hamlet Ice Company. He is one of the most extensive cotton buyers in the South.

Mr. Walters Durham, cashier of the bank, is a son of the late Rev. Columbus



CHAS. E. JOHNSON, President Mechanics Dime Savings Bank.

Durham, and is well known in this city. Since his election to the cashiership of the bank, it has had its most prosperous era, and the systematic effort has been made to aid people of small incomes to begin a systematic saving.

Individual saving banks are furnished depositors, and these small sums may be accumulated at home, and afterwards de-



WALTERS DURHAM, Cashier Mechanics Dime Savings Bank.

posited, so that it is a fact that the bank gives its customers a private bank, and pays them interest on the money that they themselves have saved.

The condition of this bank on June 23rd, is seen in the following statement:

RESOURCES.	
Loans and Discounts	\$121,457.95
Stocks and Bonds	7,000.00
Banking house, fixtures, etc.	12,277.97
Due from Banks	16,608.06
Cash	11,219.04
	\$178,592.12
LIABILITIES.	
Capital Stock	\$15,000.00
Undivided Profits, less expenses	7,697.24
Deposits	155,894.78
	\$178,592.12

Raleigh Savings Bank.

The Raleigh Savings Bank was organized in 1887, with a capital of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000). It has twenty-six hundred individual depositors. Its surplus and individual profits on a fifteen thousand dollar capital now amount to twenty-two thousand, one hundred and seventy-eight dollars and forty cents (\$22,178.40) and its deposits exceed half a million dollars. There is no banking institution in this country upon this capital that has made a greater record. It has been of incalculable benefit to the city and to the twenty-six hundred depositors, it pays 4 per cent. interest on deposits.

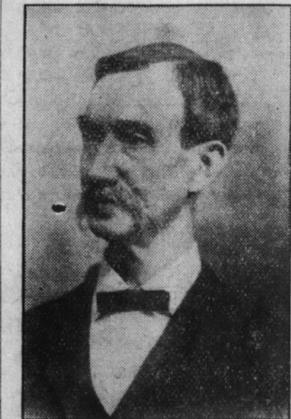
The directors of this bank are: Mr. John T. Pullen, who is President; N. W. West, Vice President; Dr. V. E. Turner, Henry E. Litchford, Joseph F. Ferrall, Charles H. Belvin and J. O. Litchford, Cashier.

When this bank was established Mr. Pullen, who had previously had banking experience, having been connected with the State Bank, became cashier. He accepted the place at \$100 a month, because he had faith that it would grow into a great institution. Its wonderful success in its early history was chiefly due to the confidence in which Mr. Pullen is held in this community.

Mr. J. O. Litchford, Cashier of this bank, is one of Raleigh's foremost young (Continued on Page Seven.)

Commercial and Farmers Bank The Carolina Trust Company

The Commercial and Farmers Bank of Raleigh was organized September 30th, 1891, by a number of the most prominent business men in Raleigh and other towns in North Carolina. It opened its doors in its handsome four-story building, one of the best bank buildings in the State, and, without waiting for the usual slow growth, stepped at once to first place among the leading banking institutions of the State. Only two deaths have occurred among the charter members of its directors during the life of the bank. There has been no death among its active



CAPT. J. J. THOMAS, President Commercial and Farmers Bank.

officers since the formation of the bank. A glance at the names of the directors of this bank shows that they are composed of some of the best and most successful business men in North Carolina. They are Capt. J. J. Thomas, president of the bank; Mr. A. A. Thompson, vice-president of the bank and member of the firm of



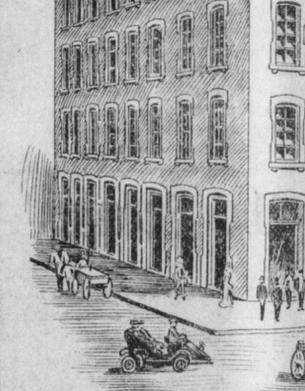
H. W. JACKSON, Assistant Cashier Commercial and Farmers Bank.

Johnson and Thompson, cotton exporters; Mr. Carey J. Hunter, insurance; Mr. R. B. Raney, insurance; Mr. J. B. Hill, of the firm of J. R. Ferrall and Company, grocers; Hon. James E. Shepherd, ex-Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; Mr. Henry A. London, of Pittsboro, lawyer;

profits are now almost to the fifty thousand dollar mark. The owners of its stock value it so highly that it is not offered for sale on the market. From its organization, it has paid a semi-annual dividend of four per cent and accumulated a surplus equal to one-half its capital stock.

With its large resources the Commercial and Farmers Bank has shown every disposition to aid any legitimate enterprise by loans to those whose account and credits will justify it. It has been a potent factor in Raleigh's larger life in business and manufacturing, and not only in Raleigh, but has assisted many enterprises in adjacent sections. Its line of deposits embraces not only many of the first business and manufacturing concerns in Raleigh, but it also has a large out of town line of depositors who are attracted by its wise methods and the high standing and popularity of its officers.

The people generally are beginning to realize the value of doing business with banking establishments, which, like the Commercial and Farmers Bank, provide themselves with the most approved safety devices, as against burglars; with indemnity, as against misappropriation of funds; and last but not least, with a busi-



COMMERCIAL AND FARMERS' BANK BUILDING.

ness corps composed of men above reproach.

The location of this bank is in the heart of the cotton and tobacco markets of the city, being situated in its handsome building on the corner of Wilmington and Martin streets. The bank is well lighted with every modern comfort and banking convenience. In addition to its large city business and mail business it has a large business with the farmers, who sell their products in Raleigh. Its convenient location, courtesy to its depositors, and excellent management have given it large deposits from Raleigh's chief business houses and the farmer who trades in the city.

The minimum estimate of the combined wealth of this directorate is not less than twelve and a half million dollars. The phenomenal success of the bank under the control of such a board of directors, and such wise and efficient active bank officers, is no surprise. The men at the

head of the bank, both as directors and officers, are men whose names are a guarantee of success along lines that endure.

The president of this bank is Capt. J. J. Thomas, who, prior to the organization of the bank, was the leading cotton and commission merchant of Raleigh, and ever since his return from the war, first in Baltimore and then in Raleigh, he has held a chief position in the business world. He is noted for his sagacity, prudence and wisdom. There is no bank officer in the State who is better read in the literature of banking and both in the theory of banking and in practice he makes an ideal bank president.

Mr. A. A. Thompson, vice-president of this bank, former mayor of Raleigh, is one of the leading cotton buyers of this State, president of the Carleigh Cotton Mills, and other important enterprises.

Mr. B. S. Jermon, cashier, has devoted his whole life to the banking business, and is one of the most affable, efficient and popular cashiers in the State, whose advice is often sought by leading captains of industry upon financial questions, and investments.

Mr. H. W. Jackson, assistant cashier, is not only one of the best qualified and most popular bank officers in the State, but is an officer of other large enterprises calling for business ability of the highest order. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the North Carolina Bankers' Association.

This bank was organized with a capital stock of \$100,000, and its surplus and

Raleigh's youngest financial institution is the Carolina Trust Company, which began business in Raleigh on the 22nd day of July, 1902, with a capital stock of \$100,000. It had previously completed in Raleigh a handsome four-story building on Fayetteville street in the business center of the city, giving it one of the handsomest, most elegant and modern homes of any banking institution in the State. This building is equipped with every modern comfort and convenience, and its offices were eagerly sought by prominent attor-



THE CAROLINA TRUST BUILDING.

neys, insurance men and others who wished to be centrally located in this elegant modern building. The construction of this building and the opening of this bank was the most important event in the history of Raleigh in 1902. It gave promise of doing more for Raleigh than any of its new enterprises started that year, and in its short career of less than one year, has succeeded far beyond the expectations of its promoters, and has already come to be regarded as one of the State's strongest financial institutions. The directorate of this bank is made up of the following business men, whose names are a guarantee of the bank's strength and reliability:

J. D. Riggan, merchant.

R. C. Strong, attorney.

Leo D. Heartt, formerly cashier First



W. W. MILLS, President Carolina Trust Company.

National Bank, Durham, vice-president and general manager.

W. W. Mills, capitalist.

Charles B. Hart, Hart-Ward Hardware Company.

F. T. Ward, Hart-Ward Hardware Company.

P. R. Albright, Superintendent North Carolina Car Association.

Alex Webb, vice-president North Carolina Home Insurance Company.

Julius Lewis, retired merchant.

James Webb, Hillsboro, manufacturer and merchant.

A. J. Ruffin, capitalist.

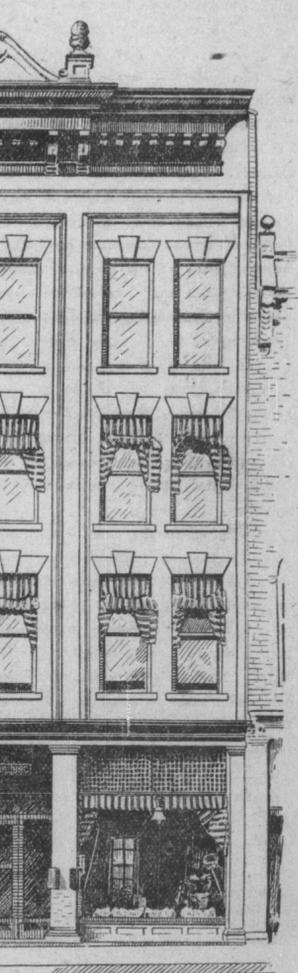
W. C. Petty, general manager Carthage Railroad.

The president of the Carolina Trust Company is Mr. W. W. Mills, who is president of the Mills Lumber Company, and the Biscoe Lumber Company. His success in the lumber business has been phenomenal, due to his practical knowledge and his financial ability. Mr. Mills is also vice-president of the Raleigh and Cape Fear Railroad and identified with various interests and banks that are doing much for the upbuilding of the State.

Mr. Leo D. Heartt, vice-president and general manager, has devoted his whole life to the banking business, first in Raleigh and then upon the organization of the First National Bank of Durham, he was elected cashier and remained with that institution until he returned to Raleigh and became vice-president of the

Carolina Trust Company. He is one of the best trained and most capable and popular bank officers in the State.

Mr. Robert C. Strong, trust officer and general counsel, is a native of Raleigh, son of the late Hon. George V. Strong, an able lawyer, is the family counsel for many of the greatest interests represented in the State. He was one of the moving spirits in the building of the magnificent Carolina Trust building, and in the organization of this company. The bank has printed for distribution a beautiful



LEO D. HEARTT, Vice-President Carolina Trust Co.

Nashville, Tenn., and then went to Carthage with Mr. W. W. Mills, and was cashier of the bank of Carthage for three years, resigning to go to Biscoe in charge of the big lumber mills of Mr. W. W. Mills of that place. From Biscoe Mr. Hayes came to Raleigh in July last year



WILLIAM HAYES, Cashier Carolina Trust Company.

to become the cashier of the Carolina Trust Company. He is a young financier of all round capacity and has already demonstrated his ability as a bank officer and as a business man of recognized capacity.

In addition to the large deposits and the large line of valued customers, this bank in its life of eleven months, during the past year has been named as trustee and receiver for a number of companies, has received a gratifying volume of guardian and administration business and is filling

(Continued on Page Seven.)