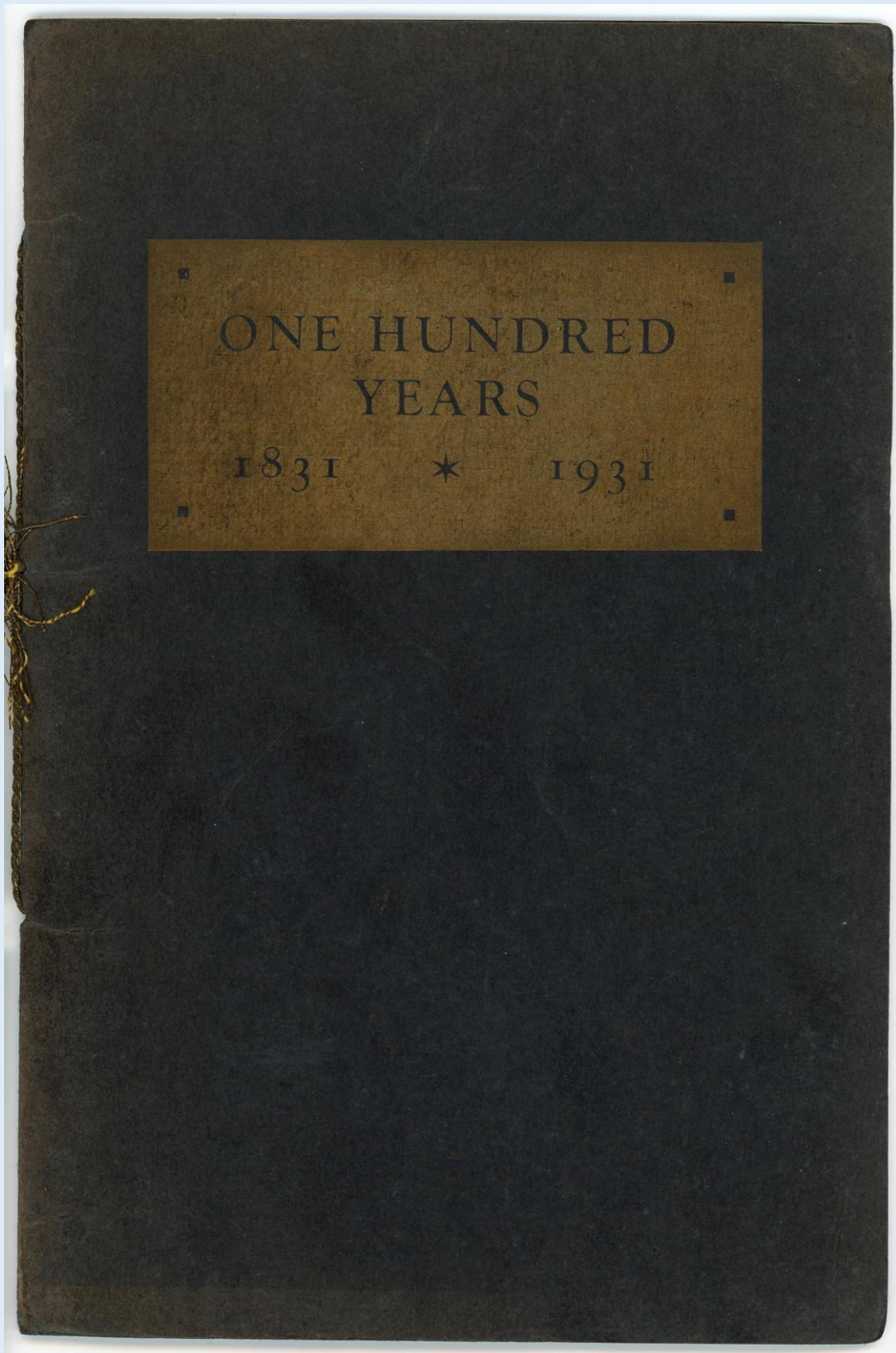




Cover - One Hundred Years 1831-1931

- 1 One Hundred Years (1831-1931) – The Story of Lebanon, Pennsylvania and the Lebanon National Bank

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ONE HUNDRED YEARS IN LEBANON

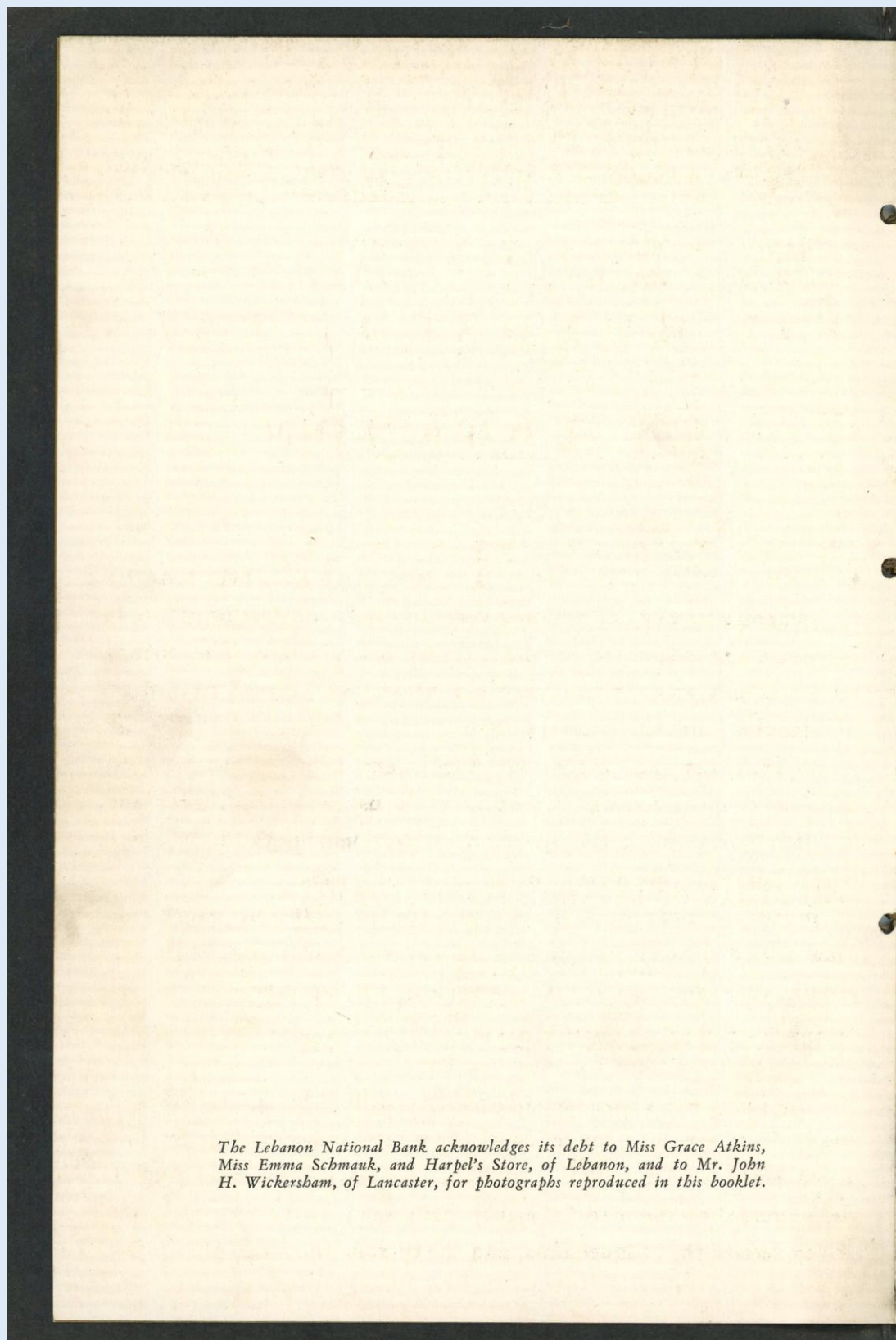
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THE STORY OF LEBANON PENNSYLVANIA
AND OF THE
LEBANON NATIONAL BANK
OLDEST BANK IN THE COUNTY



1 - One Hundred Years 1831-1931 - The Story of Lebanon, Pennsylvania and the Lebanon National Bank

2 [One Hundred Years \(1831-1931\) – The Story of Lebanon, Pennsylvania and the Lebanon National Bank](#)



2 - Acknowledgement Page

ONE HUNDRED YEARS IN LEBANON

* * * * * **T**URN BACK THE PAGES of Lebanon's history one hundred years to 1831, and few of us would recognize the beginning of the city we know today. The county itself was only about fifteen years old, having been carved from parts of Dauphin and Lancaster in 1816.

In 1821, ten years before our story opens, Lebanon had been incorporated into a borough. Our present Locust, Seventh, Church and Twelfth Streets mark the approximate borough limits of the town which boasted a population of about 1,900 people.

In 1827, amidst general rejoicing, the first boat on the Union canal passed through Lebanon on its way westward. That there was genuine cause for rejoicing is now evident, for this event marked the beginning of a steady growth in population and agricultural wealth which was to continue for over one hundred years.

The canal was a real feat of engineering for the age in which it was built. It extended for seventy-nine miles, connecting the Susquehanna with the Schuylkill. The magnitude of the undertaking was also increased by the need for eighty-eight locks—fifty-four for a fall of 307 feet to the Susquehanna, and thirty-four for a fall of 193 feet

to the Schuylkill. The first tunnel in the United States was excavated through solid rock under the ridge northwest of the town.

The Berks and Dauphin Turnpike was the principal means of communication with the rest of the country. Regular stages carried mail and passengers to Reading and Harrisburg and more distant points. There was a road to Cornwall, but it was used chiefly for hauling to and from the furnaces, as it was not improved by planking until the fifties.

This, then, gives the background for the opening of our story in May, 1831. On the 21st day of that month, nine commissioners, authorized by act of the Assembly of April 1, met at the public house of Peter Lineaweaver for the purpose of organizing the first bank in the Borough of Lebanon.

John Harrison, Jacob B. Weidman, Peter Shultze, John W. Gloninger, John Ley, Thomas Harper, George W. Kline, Henry Bower and Christian Snavaley were the commissioners, and they resolved that books be opened to receive subscriptions for stock of the LEBANON BANK on June 20, 1831, at the public house of Peter Lineaweaver in the Borough of Lebanon, and at public houses in Myerstown, Jones-



4 – Sketch of Two Log Cabins in Lebanon - ca. 1850



LOOKING NORTH PAST EIGHTH AND CUMBERLAND STREETS IN THE FORTIES

5

town, Palmyra, Schaefferstown, East Hanover Township, and Millers-town (Annville).

Notices of the times and places of opening the books for subscriptions were published in the *Libanon Morgenstern*, the *Pennsylvanische Beobachter*, and the *Lebanon Courier*, and also in newspapers in Reading, Harrisburg, Lancaster, and Philadelphia.

At a meeting of the first Directors, on September 19, 1831, William Moore was elected president. The other Directors were Christian Snaveley, Thomas B. Coleman, Jacob B. Weidman, George Lineaweaver, John Harrison, John G. Marshall, Peter Shultze, John Ley, David Greenawalt, Abraham Rex, Christian Kreider and John B. Mish.

The first banking house was a two-story brick dwelling on South Ninth Street where the large dining room of the Weimer Hotel is now located, facing the square where the original market house stood. The building was purchased on October 22, 1831 from Philip Huber, and, after remodeling and installing a vault, was opened for business on Monday, January 2, 1832. A. W. Burns was elected Cashier, and George Gleim was elected Clerk. Lebanon Bank notes to the amount of \$20,000 were placed in circulation a few days later.

5 - Looking North Past Eighth and Cumberland Streets - ca. 1840s

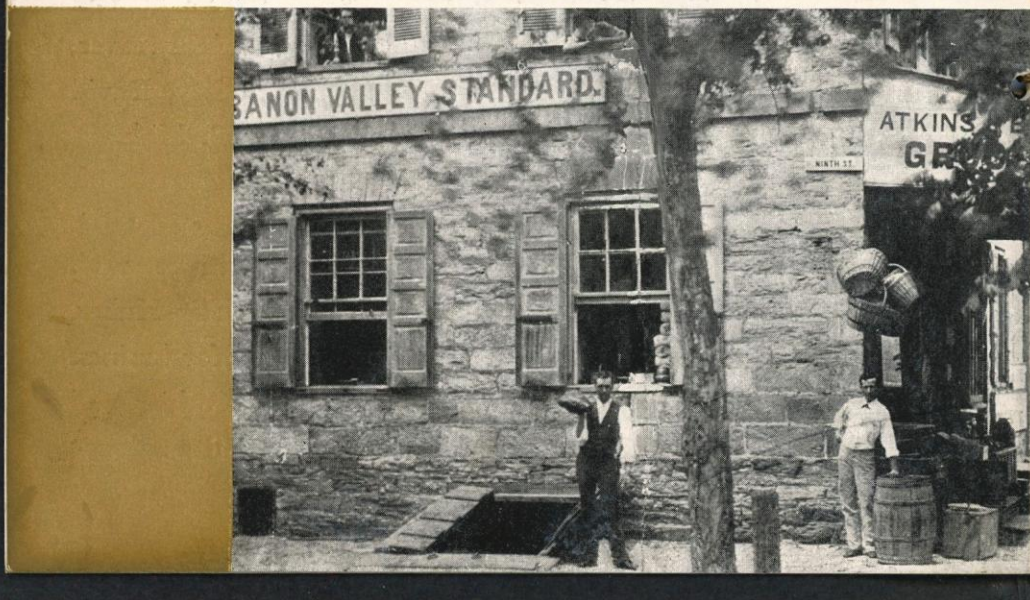
The minutes of a Directors' meeting held about this time record an authorization for the Cashier to purchase a pair of pistols, and the first examination by a Committee of Directors appointed for the purpose disclosed a total of \$74,293.12 in notes and specie in the vault and on the counter of the bank.

The new market house in the northern end of the square, remembered by many of our present citizens, was erected about this time (1833) at a cost of eight hundred and fifty dollars. The convenient and attractive squares at Ninth and Cumberland Streets, Ninth and Mifflin Streets, and Fifth and Chestnut Streets, are the happy legacy of the old markets.

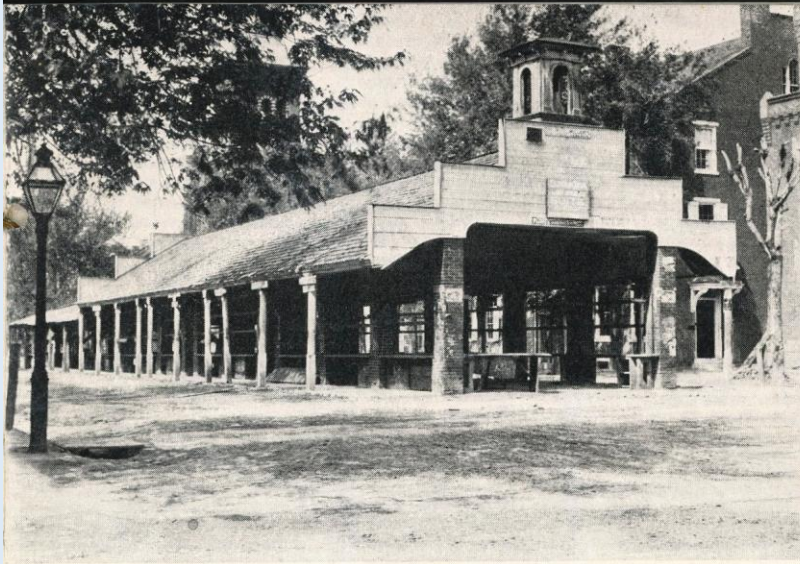
These were the stormy days of Andrew Jackson's administration—anything but an ideal time to organize a sound banking institution. The financial structure of the nation was being weakened by the controversy over the National Bank and by increasing speculation and growing inflation which was to lead to the panic of 1837. What a tribute to the ability of these pioneer bankers that their newly organized institution emerged safely from the storm, giving the people of the County a safe and sound banking institution!

6

A BUSY CORNER IN 1880, NOW OCCUPIED BY THE LEBANON NATIONAL BANK



6 - A Busy Corner in 1880, Now Occupied by the Lebanon National Bank



THIS MARKET HOUSE STOOD IN MARKET SQUARE FROM 1832 TO 1884

7

Things went well from the first, and on November 5, 1832 the first dividend of five per cent. was declared on the capital paid in, followed by dividends at semi-annual intervals during the period the bank operated under State Charter.

In the minutes of the Board of Directors in those early days we find many interesting items. We find the duties of the watchman very specifically given:

"It shall be the duty of the watchman to watch the bank every
 "night from ten o'clock P. M. until day-light in the morning, cry
 "the hour of the night at the watch house, at Mr. Jacob Meyer's
 "corner, and at the corner of the alley at Mr. Daniel Miller's
 "dwelling house; pass around the banking-house into the yard at least
 "once every hour while on duty; light up the lamp in front of the
 "banking-house every evening; make fire in the banking and the
 "directors' rooms at least fifteen minutes before nine o'clock in the
 "morning; sweep out the same; store away the coal and wood in
 "cellar; saw and split all the wood he may want; shovel away in the
 "winter the snow before the banking room and perform all such other
 "duties as may be appertaining to his station."

7 - This Market House Stood in Market Square from 1832 to 1884

In the twenty-five years after the organization of the bank, the town had twice extended its boundaries, and its population had grown to above five thousand. During these years the Lebanon Bank remained the only banking institution of the expanding town.

Lebanon is very fortunate in the preservation of an accurate sketch of the town made about ninety years ago, which is printed below. From the foreground we can follow our present Eighth Street south past Old Salem Church, St. Mary's Church, and the Court House. It is interesting to find that the borough donated the present Court House site to the Catholic congregation, while the Court House was to have been erected where St. Mary's Church now stands. The exchange was made because it was felt that it would provide more suitable locations for the two buildings. Salem and Tabor Churches, the Court House, and the American House, which cannot be identified on the picture, are the only important buildings in modern Lebanon that date back to the time of the sketch.

The streets have been renamed since—our present Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth Streets were called Walnut, Market, and Mulberry, respectively. The present Walnut was known as Hill, and Willow, as Water.



8 - A Contemporary Sketch of Lebanon in 1840 (left side)

In 1857 a severe panic caused much suffering. That the directors of the bank were alive to local needs is shown by a minute:

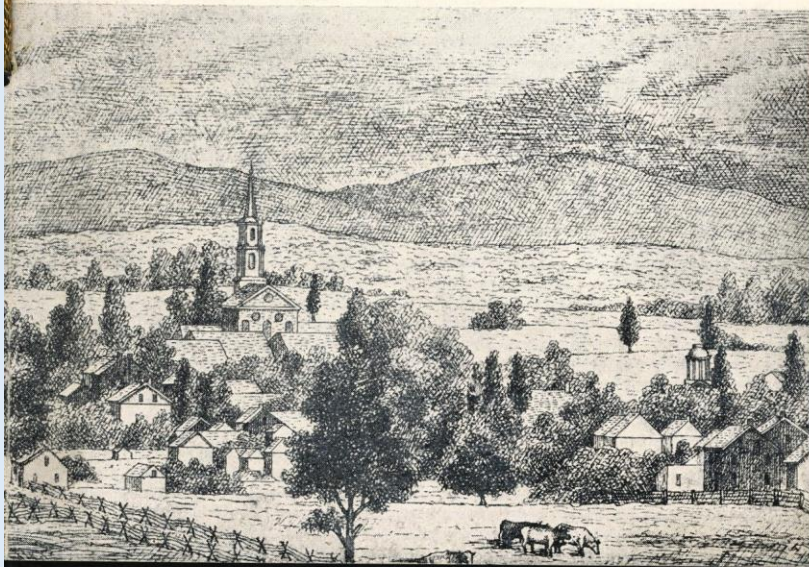
"It was resolved that the Cashier be directed to purchase thirty tons of coal of Levi S. Spangler to be distributed by a committee among the poor of the Borough of Lebanon and its vicinity during the winter."

Stirring times were now at hand. The Lebanon Valley Railroad was being built, and its completion through Lebanon was much longed for as opening up a new period of industrial development. But the canal was not to be abandoned for many years to come, for Egle, in his history published in 1883, says "in this era of railroads [the canal] may have lost its commercial preponderance, but nothing can alter the fact that its projectors have done more for Lebanon County in the past than any other person . . . [they] laid the cornerstone of the prosperity of the sections through which the canal passes."

Next came the exciting days of '61. On April 18, six days after the firing on Fort Sumter, a mass meeting was held in the Court House. Over three thousand dollars was subscribed on the spot. Sixty-one volunteers stepped forward, forming the nucleus of the Lebanon

HOUSE, SALEM LUTHERAN AND FIRST REFORMED CHURCHES CAN BE IDENTIFIED

9



9 - A Contemporary Sketch of Lebanon in 1840 (right side)



A Contemporary Sketch of Lebanon in 1840. The Old Catholic Church, Court House, Salem Lutheran and First Reformed Church Can be Identified (Full 2 Page View)

Guards (Capt. John Ulrich) who left for Harrisburg on April 20. The minutes of the Lebanon Bank at this time reflected the spirit of the entire community:

"Upon motion, Messrs. Bowman, Goodhart and C. D. Gloninger "were appointed as a committee to procure the flag of the Union and "raise it permanently upon the banking house."

"Resolved, that this bank will contribute two hundred dollars "towards the support of families of those companies from Lebanon "who will volunteer their services for the support of the government."

County and Borough meetings raised funds to support families of those who enlisted, and the County Commissioners appropriated \$10,000.00 for this purpose. The organization of a Lebanon County Regiment (93rd) was started early in September. Dr. John W. Gloninger, who was then President of the bank, presided at the first mass meeting, and enthusiasm was raised to the boiling point by the eloquent Rev. McCarter, the Methodist minister, who later received authority to recruit the regiment. A camp was established at the fairgrounds, where Monument Park now commemorates the struggle, and those who gave their lives for the preservation of the Union.



10 - View Looking West Along the Union Canal from Eighth Street about 1880



THE HOME OF THE LEBANON NATIONAL BANK FROM 1884 TO 1926

11

As the war continued the government resorted to drafting, but, to the credit of the county, a sufficient number volunteered at each call to make actual drafting in the county unnecessary until the last months of the war, and the drafted men were never called for service.

Twice the conflict came relatively close to Lebanon—first in 1863, when Confederate troops occupied York and Wrightsville, and again in July, 1864, when a detachment burned Chambersburg. In the latter year, the minute book shows that:

“Upon motion, Messrs. Hiester, Lehman, Kreider, Schneck and John Heilman were appointed as a committee to superintend the removal of the effects of the bank, if necessary, to a place secure from any danger of the rebels.”

The problem of financing the war led the government to establish the national banking system in 1863 as a means of securing funds and of providing a uniform currency. About a year later the stockholders voted to become an association for carrying on the business of banking under the laws of the United States as the “LEBANON NATIONAL BANK” and a charter was obtained, the first meeting of Directors being held on January 16, 1865.

11 - The Home of the Lebanon National Bank from 1884 to 1926

Shortly after the war the area and population of the town were materially increased by the annexation of the Borough of North Lebanon, which lay between Church Street and the Canal.

The question of an adequate water supply for the town was the cause of prolonged and heated discussions. Finally the South Mountain was selected as the source after consideration had been given to the Little Swatara, Snitz Creek, and the Quittapahilla. Water reached the city in September, 1872, and an impressive celebration was held, which reached its climax when a stream of water was thrown over the Court House steeple.

The bank occupied the original site on South Ninth Street for fifty-three years, during which period a healthy growth in business evidenced the confidence the citizens of the community reposed in its officers and directors.

About that time the need for enlarged quarters was recognized, and the commanding location at Ninth and Cumberland Streets was selected for the new building, which was occupied on August 11, 1884. The directors felt it would suffice for another half century at least, but within forty years additional expansion became necessary. The

12

DOWN WITH THE OLD, UP WITH THE NEW . . . AND BUSINESS AS USUAL



12 - Down with the Old, Up with the New...and Business as Usual



THE PRESENT HOME OF THE LEBANON NATIONAL BANK WAS OCCUPIED APRIL 1, 1926

13

site selected forty years before was still an ideal one, although some additional ground was required.

In December, 1923, Frank S. Becker, President, appointed a committee consisting of Thomas L. Becker, Charles V. Henry, Charles M. Coover and William M. Haak, to arrange for the construction of a new bank building.

The unusual conditions under which the present structure was built are well depicted in some advertising literature of John H. Wickersham, Construction Engineer, of Lancaster:

"When progress demanded new and larger quarters for the Lebanon National Bank the Board of Directors faced the problem of carrying on business in the old bank while the new one was being built on the same site.

"It was then the end of August and the peak business of April first demanded that the new building be ready by that time.

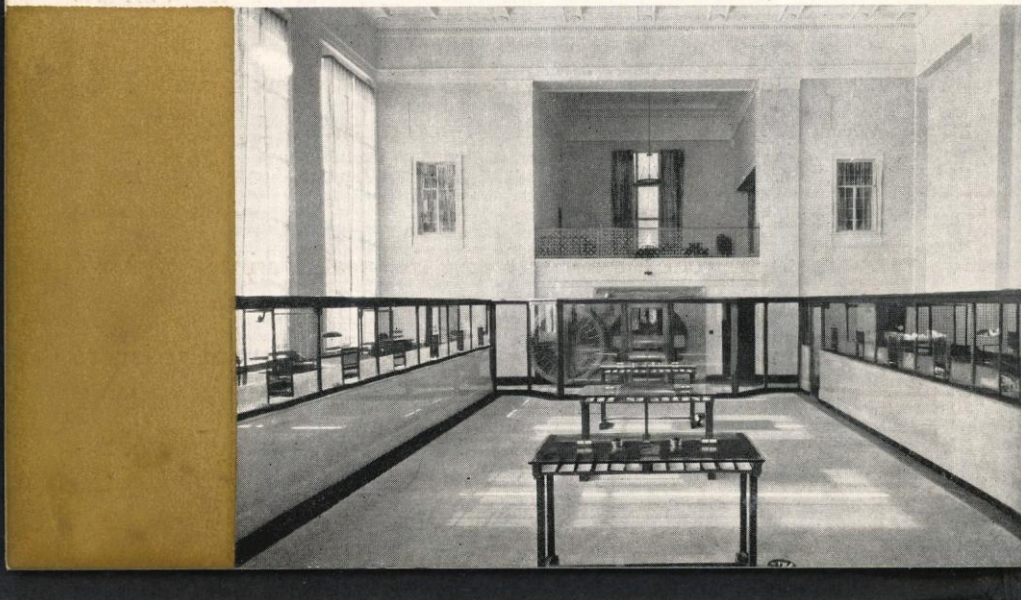
"The proposition was put up to the Wickersham organization to build the new bank, literally under, over and around the old bank building, and to have it substantially complete and ready for occupancy by the first of April.

13 - The Present Home of the Lebanon National Bank - Occupied April 1, 1926

"For seven months we excavated, poured concrete, swung our structural steel, laid our stone facing, and put in the woodwork, lighting, plumbing, tiling, marble, bronze and furniture, while the bank's employees and the bank's customers did 'business as usual,' safely and uninterruptedly in the heart of things. And, as a rugged Wickersham foreman put it, 'We didn't kill anybody, either.'"

For one hundred years the ebb and flow of inflation and depression have swept across the land, leaving wrecked institutions and retarded communities in their wake, but the Lebanon National Bank has come safely through the years.

For one hundred years it has served its community, having received from depositors and accounted for many millions of dollars without ever causing the loss of one cent to a depositor. In this time one hundred and ninety-six dividends, aggregating \$1,725,360.09, have been paid out to its stockholders, and the security of depositors has been buttressed by a surplus and reserves aggregating \$500,000.00. The Lebanon National Bank is proud of its place in the history of its community, and its splendid building in the center of the city's business district is a fitting monument to its achievement.



14 - The Bright and Roomy Banking Room, Looking Toward the Vault

PRESIDENTS

*

WILLIAM MOORE

September 19, 1831 to May 9, 1841

DR. JOHN W. GLONINGER

May 12, 1841 to January 14, 1867

DR. C. D. GLONINGER

January 14, 1867 to August 23, 1872

JACOB ROEDEL

August 28, 1872 to September 18, 1878

CHRISTIAN HENRY

September 18, 1878 to June 27, 1894

GRANT WEIDMAN

June 27, 1894 to November 13, 1895

THOMAS L. BECKER

December 11, 1895 to January 18, 1915

HOWARD C. SHIRK

January 18, 1915 to February 14, 1917

FRANK S. BECKER

March 14, 1917 to Present Time

CASHIERS

*

A. W. BURNS

October 22, 1831 to August 15, 1836

GEORGE GLEIM

August 15, 1836 to April 16, 1856

EDWARD A. UHLER

April 16, 1856 to April 1, 1881

JAMES M. GOSSLER

April 1, 1881 to January 11, 1897

FRANK S. BECKER

January 18, 1897 to January 18, 1915

HARRY C. UHLER

January 18, 1915 to Present Time

D I R E C T O R S

*

JOHN H. LOUSER

Attorney-at-Law — January 8, 1901

CHARLES V. HENRY

President Judge, Courts of Lebanon County — April 19, 1905

FRANK S. BECKER

President — January 9, 1912

CHARLES M. COOVER

President, Lebanon Paper Box Company — December 20, 1916

WILLIAM M. HAAK

Haak Bros. Department Store — March 14, 1917

FRANK B. WITMER

Physician — August 3, 1921

FRANK W. KREIDER

Treasurer, Keystone Macaroni Manufacturing Company — January 9, 1923

R. RAY MILLER

Proprietor, Ed. M. Miller and Son — February 18, 1924

HARRY C. MOYER

County Superintendent of Schools — May 2, 1927

CLARENCE D. BECKER

Attorney-at-Law — October 22, 1928

O F F I C E R S A N D E M P L O Y E E S

*

FRANK S. BECKER.....April 27, 1881

Cashier.....January 18, 1897

Vice President.....January 18, 1915

President.....March 14, 1917

ADAM SAYLOR.....February 10, 1897

HARRY C. UHLER.....August 16, 1898

Assistant Cashier.....February 14, 1914

Cashier.....January 18, 1915

HARVEY A. HEILMAN.....October 19, 1907

LLOYD A. SATTAZAHN.....November 11, 1907

Assistant Cashier.....December 21, 1921

Trust Officer.....November 27, 1922

R. WALTER WEIANT.....February 6, 1922

JOHN S. MULL.....January 21, 1924

*IDA V. DISSINGER.....December 9, 1925

HARRY B. LERCH.....January 18, 1926

HENRY J. BECKER.....February 16, 1928

JOHN A. FEEMAN.....April 22, 1930

MILDRED B. KOPP.....May 6, 1930

FRED SHOWERS.....November 10, 1930

*Mrs. John S. Mull