



CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK BUILDING — COMPLETED 1876

1854

1904

A RETROSPECT

ON THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
INCORPORATION OF THE

Charlestown Five Cents Savings Bank

*Being a Paper read before the Board of Trustees
at their Quarterly Meeting, April 13, 1904*

BY

AUGUSTUS W. STOVER

TREASURER OF THE INSTITUTION



BOSTON

PUBLISHED BY THE CORPORATION

1904

INTRODUCTORY.

When the following article was written, the author had no idea that it would ever serve any purpose than that which prompted its preparation,—to briefly review the earlier years of the Bank, for the entertainment of a body of gentlemen who are well posted on its recent history and in personal touch with its present affairs. The coming of the fiftieth anniversary of the institution suggested to the writer that it might prove interesting to the Trustees if a brief sketch of the period preceding their personal knowledge should be read at their meeting, which was to be held a week later. This statement will make clear the reason why but little appears relating to recent years and living men, while the pages are mainly filled with the record of events long past, and the eulogy of those whose very memory is dim, except to the older members of the community. The men who are carrying on the work of this Bank at the present day are no less faithful to its interests, no less zealous in its behalf, and no less successful in attaining results than were their predecessors of a generation ago; and it must not be assumed that they are not deserving of credit because a preponderance of the praise in this paper has been given to those whose labors on earth have

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

long since ceased. If the succeeding pages had been intended to comprise a complete history of the Charlestown Five Cents Savings Bank, and had been written for the general public, much would have been included which relates to the immediate past and to men who are still in our midst. Consistently with the character and purpose of the article, however, this has been left to the future historian.

But few days were available to the writer for the preparation of this sketch, and he realizes, more than any one who may peruse the same, the need of a more careful examination of the records to render the work of real value to the economist, such as an exhaustive treatise might be, since the rise and growth of savings institutions is a topic of scientific interest to those who speculate on the causes and factors of national wealth and prosperity. He has been well repaid for his efforts by the interest aroused among those for whom he undertook the work; and he cheerfully complies with their request that he furnish a copy for publication, only regretting that the subject has not been more fully and worthily treated.

Save for a few statistics, contemplated, but not obtainable at the time of writing, the paper is committed to type substantially as read before the Board of Trustees.

THE CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK.

1854-1904.

The Charlestown Five Cents Savings Bank was incorporated by Chapter 228 of the Acts of the year 1854, the text of which is as follows:—

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

SECTION 1. George B. Neal, Thomas J. Stevens, A. Stone, Thomas Greenleaf, George H. Jacobs, George W. Bartlett, James Tuttle, Charles Thompson, D. D. Taylor, M. B. Sewall, Samuel Rice, Duncan Bradford, William Fosdick, Edward Pratt, Warren Sargent, their associates and successors, are hereby made a corporation, by the name of the Charlestown Five Cents Savings Bank, to be established in the city of Charlestown, with all the powers and privileges, and subject to all the duties, liabilities, and restrictions, set forth in the thirty-sixth chapter of the Revised Statutes, and in all other laws of this Commonwealth relating to institutions for savings.

SECT. 2. Said corporation shall receive, on deposit, sums as small as 5 cents.

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

SECT. 3. Whenever any deposit shall be made by any minor, the Trustees of said corporation may, at their discretion, pay to such depositor such sums as may be due to him or her, although no guardian shall have been appointed for such minor, or the guardian of such minor shall not have authorized the drawing of the same; and the check, receipt, or acquittance of such minor, shall be as valid as if the same was executed by a guardian of such minor, or the said minor was of full age, if such deposit was made, personally, by said minor.

SECT. 4. This act shall take effect from and after its passage.

This act became a law on April 7, 1854, when it received the approval and signature of the Governor of the Commonwealth, his Excellency, Emory Washburn.

FOUNDERS OF THE INSTITUTION.

At a meeting of the incorporators, held at 56 Main Street, the following gentlemen were present: George B. Neal, Thomas J. Stevens, George H. Jacobs, Joseph F. Boyd, Amos Stone, James Tuttle, William Brown, L. S. Hurd, Warren Sargent, Dolphin D. Taylor, Aura S. Tuttle, Thomas Summers, and Duncan Bradford. Those who were absent were Thomas Greenleaf, George M. Bartlett, Charles Thompson, Moses B. Sewall, Samuel Rice, William Fosdick, Edward Pratt, Freeman C. Sew-

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

all, Hartwell Mayers, George Cutter, Phineas J. Stone, Gilbert D. Cooper, James Hurd, Parker Fall, and J. Q. A. Griffin.

At a subsequent meeting, held April 27, the following were elected members of the corporation: William Dalrymple, David Snow, Nathaniel Brown, Major A. Lane, Jeremiah Preble, Samuel Tuttle, Seth W. Lewis, Benjamin Hinckley, Josiah Brackett, Daniel Johnson, William W. Wheildon, Thomas N. Cutter, Oliver Kimball, Fred T. Barrel, Benjamin Page, Isaac Rowe, Moses F. Tate, Andrew J. Lock, John Brown, Josiah T. Reed, Ethan N. Coburn, and John L. Eaton; and, at a meeting held May 5, Foster Pierce, William H. DeCosta, Isaac Cook, William S. Thomas, and Charles F. Newell were chosen, making the total membership of the corporation 56. To this number 7 more were added at a meeting held May 19; namely, Peter Hubbell, Jacob Foss, Oliver Smith, Abraham B. Shedd, Solomon Hovey, Timothy T. Sawyer, and J. V. Fletcher.

On foundations established by these men, representing the ablest and foremost citizens of that day in this vicinity, this institution was inaugurated; and with confidence and zeal they set about the work they designed to accomplish.

Committees had been appointed to nominate officers and to prepare by-laws, to be submitted to the corporation. At the meeting of May 19

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

a code of by-laws, consisting of thirteen articles, were considered and adopted; and on May 23 the Nominating Committee reported the following names for officers, who were forthwith elected:—

For President, Peter Hubbell; for Vice-Presidents, Thomas J. Stevens, Jacob Foss, Josiah Brackett, Daniel Johnson, Phineas J. Stone, and Oliver Smith; for Trustees, George B. Neal, Andrew J. Lock, Solomon Hovey, Edward Pratt, Moses B. Sewall, Amos Stone, Joseph F. Boyd, Abraham B. Shedd, B. M. Clark, Timothy T. Sawyer, Amos Brown, and J. V. Fletcher.

Mr. Hubbell declined to accept the office of President; and at a subsequent meeting, held June 17, Phineas J. Stone was elected in his stead. At the same meeting Amos Stone was made Treasurer, and Duncan Bradford Secretary, of the corporation.

Of the 62 gentlemen whose names are recorded on the roll of the corporation as being members in 1854, the writer knows of but three who have survived to witness the fiftieth anniversary of the institution they founded. Dolphin D. Taylor, long known and universally respected as a prominent builder of Charlestown, is now eighty-seven years of age. He was a constant attendant at the meetings of the corporation until prevented by increasing years and failing health. For several years, and until recently, he resided in Melrose, but is

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

now a patient at the hospital in Danvers, Mass., hopelessly shattered in mind and body by extreme old age and long sickness. Abraham B. Shedd, now aged eighty-two years, retired from active business some years ago, and is now a resident of the town of Belmont. He was a trustee of the Bank for twenty years, and served quite a while as solicitor. Timothy T. Sawyer, eighty-seven years of age, now resides in the Back Bay District of Boston. He was connected with this Bank as a member of the corporation and Trustee in 1854 and 1855. He is still, despite his years, a vigorous and useful citizen. Mr. Sawyer has been, for more than forty years a Trustee, and for over twenty years was President of the Warren Institution for Savings, to the high standing and constantly increasing reputation of which he may justly point with pride, as evidence of long and faithful service and an attestation to his financial ability. His love for Charlestown, the place of his birth and the field of his successful and active career, his knowledge of the history of the district and its prominent citizens in former days, and his sincere interest in its welfare and prosperity have endeared him to the hearts of all who cherish the name and fame of this historic city.

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

EARLY YEARS.

The first location of the Bank was in a room rented from the Monument Bank. This room was opened on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons for the transaction of business. The officers of the Monument Bank were authorized to receive deposits at other times, and several agencies were established for that purpose. Several years later, the room being found insufficient for the growing needs of the Bank, a committee was appointed to consider a change of location, and reported that, in their judgment, it was advisable to hire the entire third story of the same building, which could be rented for the sum of \$140 per annum. This report was made, and the recommendation adopted, at a meeting held July 5, 1866; and thereafter the Bank was kept open for business on every week day, at that location, until the present building was erected and occupied.

The first deposit, the sum of \$10, was made July 1, 1854, by Phineas J. Stone, in the name of his son, Phineas J. Stone, Jr., who was afterward, for several years, a clerk at the Bank.

The first statement of the financial condition of the Bank was presented to the Trustees on July 31, 1855, showing the number of depositors to be 209, and the amount of deposits to be \$1,596.19.

At a meeting of the Trustees held June 16, 1855,

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

in the office of the City Treasurer, the first dividend was declared as follows: "Voted, That the amount of interest already received, \$12.71, be placed to the credit of those persons who made deposits prior to the third Wednesday in July, 1854." A dividend of 2 per cent., amounting to \$59.34, was declared April 17, 1856.

At the second annual meeting it was voted "that the thanks of the Corporation be tendered to the Treasurer for his arduous services the past year; also to the Secretary." Doubtless this compensation was satisfactory, as at a meeting held May 7, 1860, five years later, it was voted "that the thanks of the Corporation be tendered to the President, Treasurer, and Secretary, also to the Committee of Investment and Examining Committee, for their gratuitous services for the past year." The amount on deposit in April, 1860, was \$83,407.06, and the dividend then declared was \$1,738.91.

In May, 1861, the following gentlemen were elected members of the corporation: Dr. A. B. Bancroft, Samuel Oakman, Moses A. Dow, and A. N. Swallow,—names familiar to most of us.

At a meeting held Oct. 20, 1863, it was voted "that the Treasurer be allowed for services and office expenses, exclusive of rent, for the current year, and until otherwise ordered, a sum not exceeding \$400 per annum."

At a meeting held Nov. 11, 1865, it was voted

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

"that there be paid to the Treasurer the sum of \$300, to the Chairman of the Auditing Committee \$150, and to the Secretary \$50," and "that it is deemed advisable that the current bank expenses shall not exceed \$1,000 per annum, until otherwise directed."

As will be seen by referring to the condition of the Bank at the various periods in its history, as presented in this paper, its growth was rapid; and its success and stability placed it among the safest and best of similar institutions of the times.

THE NEW BANK BUILDING.

At a meeting held July 14, 1871, Philander S. Briggs, George S. Pendergast, and Amos Stone were appointed a Committee to consider the whole subject of a new location for the Bank, to report at a subsequent meeting. In accordance with the recommendation of this Committee, presented at a meeting held June 16, 1873, it was voted "that the President, Phineas J. Stone, the Treasurer, Amos Stone, and Trustees, George S. Pendergast, Philander S. Briggs, and Charles H. Guild, be a Committee, with full powers, to select and secure a building lot, and to negotiate with parties who may wish to hire any part of a contemplated building; also, that they be authorized to procure plans, specifications, and estimates for a building on the lot they may secure."

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

On Oct. 20, 1874, the Building Committee reported, in part, as follows: that on the ninth day of April, 1874, they purchased, through the agency of Charles H. Guild, the brick building in Dexter Row, formerly occupied by Dr. George E. Ellis, with about 3,879 feet of land; and that on the 2d of May they purchased of Francis Thompson and others the "Thompson Estate," containing about 7,373 feet of land, situated at the corner of Main Street and Church Court; that they had also examined plans for a building, by Moffette & Tolman, architects, and approved the same, together with estimates of the cost; that they had negotiated with the Masonic organizations of the city for a lease of all the building above the second story, with the Charlestown Gas Company and the Monument National Bank, for accommodations on the second floor, and with Benjamin F. Stacey for a lease of the westerly store.

The agreements with the prospective tenants having been made before the plans of the building were perfected, their respective apartments were designed and constructed so as to best serve their destined purposes. For the use of the banks two burglar and fire-proof vaults were provided. In a report to the Trustees the Committee says that these vaults "were constructed by one of the best firms in Boston, with all the modern improvements and appliances to make them, as far as possible,

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

what they purport to be,—fire and burglar proof. The weight of steel and iron in the two vaults is about forty-five tons, and the Committee feel confident that the contents deposited therein may be considered safe.”

The work of construction was energetically prosecuted by the various contractors down to the first day of April, 1876, when the building was substantially finished, and turned over to the Trustees. The final report of the Building Committee concludes as follows:—

“The members of the Committee have watched the progress of this building from its commencement to its completion, with no small degree of anxiety as to its success. It is now finished,—a substantial and ornamental structure; and, in surrendering it to you, they invite you to inspect it, feeling confident that you will find it equal to their representations. May it prove to be a central and convenient location for your depositors, a well-designed building in which to transact business, and a safe and satisfactory investment.

P. J. STONE,
GEORGE S. PENDERGAST,
P. S. BRIGGS,
AMOS STONE,
CHARLES H. GUILD,
Building Committee.”

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

Well might these men feel satisfaction at the result of their labors. For many months they had given valuable time and a vast amount of thought and energy, with a keen sense of the great responsibility resting upon their willing hands; and now they could, with pride and confidence, present their completed work, with a happy sense of duty well performed. Thirty years have passed away, and these men are gone; but the beautiful and substantial edifice they erected stands to-day, a fitting monument to their wisdom, pluck, and energy, representing as it does the strength and stability of the institution they created, for the use of which it is so fittingly adapted.

THE CRITICAL PERIOD OF THE BANK'S HISTORY.

As the result of a great depreciation in values subsequent to and in consequence of the passage of the act for the resumption of specie payments, and succeeding the great inflation of values which prevailed for several years after the close of the Civil War, savings-banks, whose income was derived from the investment of their funds in the various securities which they were allowed by law to purchase, and in real estate mortgages, found themselves confronted by a peril which required their utmost skill and vigilance to overcome. Timid people, frightened by depressing rumors regarding

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

the stability of financial institutions, began to draw largely from their deposits in savings-banks. For the purpose of raising funds to meet these unusual withdrawals, many banks were compelled to dispose of securities at a considerable sacrifice, often at a figure far below their original cost. A continuation of this course would inevitably lead to great loss and ultimate liquidation.

In this crisis, recourse was had to the legislature, which considered it expedient, and for the best interests of the thousands whose little savings were in danger, to enact a law authorizing the Commissioners of Savings-banks, whenever, in their discretion, it should appear necessary, by an order in writing directed to any savings-bank, to limit and regulate payments to its depositors, in time and amount, as the interests of all the depositors might require. This act, popularly known as the "stay law," was entitled "An Act for the Better Protection of Depositors in Savings-banks," and took effect on March 21, 1878, to remain in force for a period of three years.

Acting under the provisions of this statute, the Committee of Investment of the Charlestown Five Cents Savings Bank on March 15, 1878, passed the following vote: "*Voted*, That the Treasurer be instructed to require sixty days' notice for the payment of all deposits, when the amount exceeds \$50, until otherwise directed";

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

and at a meeting of the Trustees, held March 19 following, the action of the Committee was approved.

By requiring notice from depositors of proposed withdrawals, and by limiting the amount to be paid, the greatest danger of disaster which ever threatened our institutions for savings was safely passed; and the banks, by careful and conscientious management, began rapidly to recover from the conditions that had menaced their stability and good names.

As a further measure of safety, it was deemed wise to pass the dividends of 1878 and the April dividend of 1879, and devote the profits to meeting the losses sustained by depreciation in the value of securities owned by the Bank, and in property on which the Bank held mortgages. This course, taken with the approval of the Commissioners of Savings Banks, proved, by its results, to be of material benefit to the Bank, and involved comparatively small sacrifice on the part of those depositors who, having faith in its stability, had not withdrawn their deposits. Although it is to be regretted that circumstances should have arisen entailing any loss to the depositors, it is a satisfaction to recall that those who had had accounts with the Bank for some years,—and they constituted a large majority,—had received six extra dividends, amounting in all to $13\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., which was nearly one-

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

third more than the sum of the three dividends passed at this time.

In October, 1879, the Bank resumed the payment of dividends, and in January, 1881, the Treasurer was directed to allow withdrawals without previous notice.

The report of the condition of the Bank at the time last mentioned shows that it had successfully passed through its unavoidable trials and dangers, and stood secure in its strength and reliability. The lessons of the few years of this period had a most salutary influence on savings-banks at large, and the experience has resulted in a great and lasting benefit to the public.

OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION.

The first President, Phineas J. Stone, who was elected May 27, 1854, occupied that position until his death, Aug. 12, 1891. His brother, Amos Stone, was elected his successor on Sept. 3, 1891, and served until June 10, 1895, being followed by Mark F. Burns, who died Jan. 17, 1898, after having filled the office for more than three years, to the satisfaction of the Trustees, with benefit to the Bank and honor to himself. Shortly after his decease, Charles F. Byam, the present incumbent, was elected to the Presidency. His work, as shown by the continued prosperity of the Bank, since his

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

accession to its management, is his best commendation.

The first Treasurer was Amos Stone, who gave many years of gratuitous service in the Bank's behalf, and whose interest in its welfare and success never wavered. He remained Treasurer until the death of his brother, when he was elected President. He was succeeded as Treasurer by Miss Abby M. Andrews, who for many years had been a valued clerk in the service of the Bank. She died March 25, 1895. Mark F. Burns was elected to fill the vacancy, and served until June 10 of the same year, when he became President; and on the same date the present Treasurer, Augustus W. Stover, was chosen.

The first Secretary, Duncan Bradford, served faithfully and well for twenty-seven years from April, 1854, resigning in June, 1881. John H. Sherburn was then elected, and held the office until June, 1885. Following him, George S. Pendergast served temporarily until October 3 of the same year, when Benjamin F. Stacey was elected. Mr. Stacey continued in the Secretaryship for eleven years, resigning in April, 1896, upon being appointed a member of the Committee on Investments. He was succeeded by John H. Gibbs, now serving, whose connection with the Bank covers a period of twenty-five years, having been elected a member of the corporation in 1880, and whose interest in

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

its prosperity and good name has been attested by faithful service in its behalf.

It is a pleasing duty to give full measure of praise to those two men, the pioneers in this great enterprise, Phineas J. Stone, its first President, and Amos Stone, its first Treasurer, under whose guiding hands, assisted by the able and public-spirited men they gathered about them, this institution grew to proportions they could hardly have dared to anticipate. For nearly forty years they directed its affairs with judgment, skill, and success; and, when their work was done, who could say that it was not well and wisely done? Let us also summon before us some of those other faithful and voluntary servants of the Bank who are so well entitled to the love and reverence of us all.

IN MEMORIAM.

It has been said that to Dr. Thomas J. Stevens, one of the incorporators, belongs the credit of having suggested the wisdom of establishing a bank that would receive deposits in sums as small as 5 cents. He believed that this would lead people of small means to save something for the future. He was a kind and generous man, and such a thought might well emanate from such a source.

The records of the corporation for twenty-seven years attest to the careful and conscientious dis-

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

charge of the duties of the Secretaryship by Duncan Bradford. The following vote, passed June 13, 1881, gives evidence of the great respect and gratitude he enjoyed from his associates, and their appreciation of his valuable and generous service to the corporation: "Voted, That the cordial thanks of the corporation be tendered to Duncan Bradford, Esq., for his long and faithful service as Secretary, with the sincere regret that his physical condition compels him to decline a re-election."

Among the names of the earlier members of the Board of Trustees are those of Rev. Josiah Brackett, 1854, Rev. O. C. Everett, 1859, and Rev. Thomas R. Lambert, 1859, all honored and loved by our citizens, not only faithful and earnest in their chosen profession, but generous in service for the public welfare. The records of the Bank give evidence of their constant attendance at meetings and their lively interest in its prosperity.

At a meeting held April 15, 1862, resolutions on the death of Dr. Luther V. Bell, a Vice-President and Trustee of this Bank, who died while in the service of his country, as brigade surgeon, on the banks of the Potomac, were passed and entered upon the records.

At a meeting held April 17, 1871, resolutions of respect were adopted on the death of Peter Hubbell, one of the incorporators, and the first Presi-

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

dent elected, also a Vice-President and Trustee for seventeen years.

Resolutions of respect and sympathy were also voted on the death of Andrew J. Lock, a Vice-President, eulogizing his character and commending his great services in the formation and establishment of this institution.

George B. Neal, already mentioned as one of the incorporators, served the Bank for forty-seven years in any and all capacities wherein his efforts would be of benefit to its depositors. Who can forget his pleasant face, his kind and genial nature? In his long and useful life he made many friends, and was ever honored and respected by his associates.

George S. Pendergast took his seat on the Board of Trustees in June, 1867,—the commencement of an earnest, able, and loyal service in the interests of the depositors of this Bank. Mr. Pendergast, while still an honored officer of the corporation, passed away in February, 1896, at the ripe age of eighty years, having contributed the benefit of his valuable and valued services for thirty-three years. The records of the Bank bear witness to his sincere attachment to the institution, and his unwavering fidelity in the performance of his self-imposed duties.

Philander S. Briggs, who served as a Trustee and member of the Committee on Investments

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

for twenty-five years, was a man of excellent judgment and a devoted friend to the Bank. His constant service in its behalf entitled him to be gratefully remembered.

Abram E. Cutter, who was a member of the Examining Committee, gave most efficient and intelligent service for many years. A genial, high-minded, and courteous gentleman, he gave freely of his time and ability in the public service, and left a memory of good deeds and a useful life.

Daniel Williams was associated with Mr. Cutter on the Examining Committee. None who knew him can forget his charming personality, his generous nature, and his high sense of honor. His service to the Bank was marked by careful and intelligent scrutiny, and his duties were performed faithfully and well.

Linus E. Pearson is remembered as a reliable, capable, and sincere worker, with a keen sense of responsibility. He gave his best thought to the discharge of every duty he accepted, and enjoyed the confidence and respect of his associates.

Mark F. Burns, who, after faithful and valuable service on the Committee on Investments, became President of the corporation, brought to that position the benefit of his large business experience, his knowledge of public affairs, together with fitness and inclination for his duties and a courteous

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

and pleasing personality. His death, while at the prime of his activity, was a sorrow that touched many hearts, and none more than his associates at this Bank.

Peter S. Roberts, who not long ago met with us for the last time, had served on the Board of Trustees for twenty years, during a portion of which he was a member of the Examining Committee. Loyal to the Bank to the very end, an honored citizen and a valued friend, his memory will ever be held sacred by his associates.

Among the faithful servants of the Bank the name of Abby M. Andrews stands pre-eminent. For more than thirty years she was clerk and cashier, until in 1891 she was elected Treasurer, in which capacity she served until her death, March 25, 1895. During her long connection with the Bank she brought to her duties the full power of an excellent ability, with an earnest devotion to its welfare and prosperity. With a superior natural talent for business, she also possessed the courage of her convictions, sterling integrity, and a constant desire to deal justly with all. In private life a kind, generous woman, doing good in many ways, she was respected in the business world, and honored and loved by her many friends.

Of the Board of Trustees elected in June, 1879, on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the incorporation

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

of the Bank, all have passed away, with one exception. The familiar names will recall to most of us personalities marked by great ability and generous devotion to the interests of this institution,—men who have left a lasting impression for good, and whose example it is for us to emulate. They were the following: Phineas J. Stone, Columbus Tyler, Joseph F. Boyd, J. V. Fletcher, Amos Stone, George B. Neal, Philander S. Briggs, George S. Pendergast, Amos Brown, William W. Wheildon, Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Lambert, William Fosdick, Abram E. Cutter, Otis Little, J. Wakefield Roberts, Frank E. Downer, Phineas Sprague, Francis Thompson, Daniel Williams, Benjamin F. Stacey, and Francis Hall.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIVING.

Our associate, Benjamin F. Stacey, is the only surviving member of the Board of 1879. He was elected a Trustee in 1876, and has constantly, since that time, rendered faithful and intelligent service in that capacity. He was Secretary of the corporation for eleven years, and has been a valuable member of the Committee on Investments since 1896, thus having served the Bank for twenty-eight years. That he may long remain to give the benefit of his experience to the officers of the Bank is the hearty wish of all.

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

James F. Hunnewell became a member of the Board of Trustees in 1885, and served until 1903, when advancing years and many cares compelled him to decline a re-election. He has always felt a deep interest in the institution, and has freely given it the benefit of his advice and support. His services in behalf of his fellow-citizens in many ways have won for him an honored name and an enviable reputation. May he live long to enjoy the satisfaction which comes to one who looks back on duty well performed and days well spent!

To do full justice to all the men who have been connected with the Bank since its foundation would be beyond my scope. The records of the corporation give ample attestation to their devotion to the interests of the institution and to their generous service in its behalf; and as, one after another, they passed away, the tributes of affection and sorrow spread upon the records testify to the sincere respect and appreciation in which they were held by their associates.

They were men of the past generation, who, following in the footsteps of the founders and builders of the nation, gave earnest and steadfast endeavor toward increasing and perfecting the benefits designed to flow from the establishment of a government of the people and for the people. By their patriotism and valor they saved that nation from dis-

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

union and death. They gave freely of their time and ability in the encouragement and support of good government, charity, education, public works, and all other measures tending to uplift and benefit their fellow-men; and we of to-day are enjoying the invaluable results of the blessings they bequeathed to us.

THE TRUSTEES AND VICE-PRESIDENTS.

The names of those who have served as Trustees and Vice-Presidents at various times since the establishment of the Bank, together with their respective years of service, are as follows:—

	<i>As Trustee.</i>	<i>As Vice- President.</i>
Phineas J. Stone	1854-1891	
George B. Neal	1854-1901	1871-1901
Peter Hubbell	1854-1870	1854-1870
Thomas J. Stevens	1854-1861	1854-1861
Jacob Foss	1854-1855	1854-1855
Josiah Brackett	1854-1873	1854-1873
Daniel Johnson	1854-1871	1854-1871
Oliver Smith	1854-1871	1854-1871
Thomas Greenleaf	1854-1876	1854-1876
Andrew J. Lock	1854-1874	1859-1874
Solomon Hovey	1854-1855	
Edward Pratt	1854-1858	
Moses B. Sewall	1854-1872	1861-1872
Amos Stone	1854-1891	1871-1891

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

	<i>As Trustee.</i>	<i>As Vice-President.</i>
Joseph F. Boyd	1854-1883	1859-1883
Abraham B. Shedd	1854-1875	
Benjamin M. Clark	1854-1875	
Timothy T. Sawyer	1854-1855	
Amos Brown	1854-1888	
J. V. Fletcher	1854-1886	1873-1886
William Fosdick	1855-1884	
William W. Wheildon	1856-1882	
Luther V. Bell	1858-1862	1859-1862
Columbus Tyler	1859-1881	1862-1881
J. O. Curtis	1859-1877	
Rev. O. C. Everett	1859-1869	
Rev. Thomas R. Lambert	1859-1883	
Phineas Sprague	1859-1883	
William J. Eames	1859-1861	
Andrew N. Swallow	1861-1876	
Moses A. Dow	1861-1863	
Samuel Oakman	1861-1864	
A. B. Bancroft	1862-1863	
John Cheever	1863-1867	
Philander S. Briggs	1864-1889	1871-1889
George W. Whittle	1865-1876	
George S. Pendergast	1867-1896	1876-1896
Abram E. Cutter	1870-1900	1886-1900
James W. Roberts	1871-1890	
Otis Little	1871-1893	1887-1893
Frank E. Downer	1872-1891	
Charles H. Guild	1873-1878	
Andrew Sawtelle	1874-1877	1875-1877

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

	<i>As Trustee.</i>	<i>As Vice-President.</i>
Francis Thompson	1875-1885	1882-1885
Daniel Williams	1875-1891	1887-1891
Benjamin F. Stacey	1876-	1898-
Francis Hall	1877-1893	1890-1893
Emri B. Stetson	1880-1896	1892-1896
Charles F. Byam	1882-	1893-1898
Augustus W. Stover	1883-	
Peter S. Roberts	1884-1904	1892-1904
Warren Sanger	1885-	1902-
Albert D. S. Bell	1885-1888	
James F. Hunnewell	1885-1903	1896-1903
William H. Kent	1885-1889	
George M. Starbird	1888-	1898-
Horace E. Boynton	1889-1890	
Daniel Walton	1889-1898	
Samuel T. Harris	1890-	1904-
Thomas Doane	1891-1898	1896-1898
Mark F. Burns	1891-1898	1893-1895
Stanley B. Hildreth	1891-1892	
Joseph Stone	1891-	1900-
Frank O. Reed	1892-1898	
John H. Gibbs	1892-	
Linus E. Pearson	1893-1900	
George H. Pendergast	1893-	1900-
Abby M. Andrews	1893-1895	
Joseph W. Hill	1895-	
J. Frank Wellington	1896-	
Clinton White	1896-	1904-
F. A. Downing	1896-1897	

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

	<i>As Trustee.</i>
Walter S. Glidden	1898-
Frank A. Titus	1898-
Frank V. Noyes	1898-
Henry Brower	1898-
Charles M. Hosmer	1898-
Louis E. Merry	1900-
Willis W. Stover	1900-
A. Warren Patch	1902-
George Whiting	1904-
Maynard E. S. Clemons	1904-

INVESTMENT AND EXAMINING COMMITTEES.

To the Committee on Investments are intrusted the duty of investing the funds of the depositors and the care and custody of the real estate owned by the Bank. The satisfactory performance of these services calls for the exercise of good judgment, much time for examination and deliberation, and a most generous devotion of thought and effort to the interests of the institution. As the success of the Bank is largely determined by the action of this Committee, we may well give credit to those who have served thereon. The first Committee chosen consisted of the President, Phineas J. Stone, Peter Hubbell, Timothy T. Sawyer, Joseph F. Boyd, and Amos Brown. In 1855 J. V. Fletcher was elected to fill the vacancy caused by

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

the retirement of Mr. Sawyer; and Mr. Fletcher, in turn, was succeeded by M. B. Sewall in 1860. In 1868 Philander S. Briggs was chosen in place of Peter Hubbell, resigned. In 1871 Mr. Boyd having retired, Columbus Tyler was selected to succeed him. Subsequent vacancies, as they occurred from time to time, were filled by the election of the following gentlemen in the years indicated: George S. Pendergast, 1872; Benjamin F. Stacey, 1881, and again in 1896; Peter S. Roberts, 1886; Emri B. Stetson, 1888; S. D. Sawin, 1889; A. W. Stover, 1890; Francis Hall, 1891; Mark F. Burns, 1893; G. H. Pendergast, 1895; G. M. Starbird, 1895; G. B. Neal, 1896; and C. M. Hosmer, 1901. The President of the Bank, by virtue of his office, is a member of this Committee and its chairman.

To the Examining Committee is intrusted the important duty of making a quarterly examination of the Treasurer's books and accounts, one of its most important functions being the careful verification of the latter's statement of the securities held by him as assets of the Bank. The faithful discharge of this duty, requiring, as it does, patient and intelligent effort, reflects great credit on those who have willingly given of their time and ability in performing this service; and we may feel, as we read the familiar names, that they are worthy of our kind remembrance. The gentlemen who have

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

served on the Examining Committee at various times since the establishment of the Bank, and the years in which they took up the responsible duty, are as follows: Andrew J. Lock, 1854; Joseph F. Boyd, 1854; George B. Neal, 1854; Edward Pratt, 1854; William Fosdick, 1856; P. S. Briggs, 1865; G. S. Pendergast, 1867; A. E. Cutter, 1870; James W. Roberts, 1872; Daniel Williams, 1875; Charles F. Byam, 1890; Peter S. Roberts, 1891; F. A. Downing, 1896; J. Frank Wellington, 1896; Linus E. Pearson, 1897; Samuel T. Harris, 1897; Walter S. Glidden, 1899; Frank V. Noyes, 1899; Warren Sanger, 1901; A. Warren Patch, 1903.

ORGANIZATION ON THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

The officers of the Bank for the current year are as follows: Charles F. Byam, President; Augustus W. Stover, Treasurer; John H. Gibbs, Clerk; Joseph Stone, Benjamin F. Stacey, George M. Starbird, George H. Pendergast, Warren Sanger, Samuel T. Harris, Clinton White, Vice-Presidents.

The Board of Trustees consists of the officers and the following gentlemen: Joseph W. Hill, J. Frank Wellington, Walter S. Glidden, Frank A. Titus, Henry Brower, Frank V. Noyes, Louis E. Merry, Willis W. Stover, Charles M. Hosmer, A. Warren Patch, George Whiting, and Maynard E. S. Clemons.

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

Besides those already named as officers and Trustees, the following are members of the corporation: James F. Hunnewell, Dolphin D. Taylor, Abraham B. Shedd, Everett Torrey, John H. Sherburn, John G. Dearborn, S. B. Hildreth, Elliot D. Robbins, Robert Burns, Winfield F. Prime, Frank Lewis, Jasper W. Stone, Benjamin F. Wild, Frank Dow, William H. Hodgkins, William P. Hart, John F. Briry, Frank R. Shepard, Samuel J. Fowler, and Augustus A. Fales.

The present members of the Committee on Investments are the President, *ex officio*, as chairman, and Benjamin F. Stacey, George M. Starbird, George H. Pendergast, and Charles M. Hosmer, who have in the past performed this important duty in a most careful, conscientious, and acceptable manner; and the depositors may deem themselves fortunate in being favored by the service of men of ability, whose sole aim is to advance the interests of the institution, and in so doing benefit the many who have intrusted their funds to its care.

Mr. J. Frank Wellington is the chairman of the Examining Committee, and his associates are Warren Sanger, Walter S. Glidden, Frank V. Noyes, and A. Warren Patch, who leave nothing undone to secure a full knowledge of the condition of the books and securities of the Bank; and we may rest satisfied that their names attached to any

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

report are assurance that the subject-matter has been thoroughly and honestly investigated.

THE WORKING FORCE.

No duty of the Bank is more satisfactorily performed than is that of our solicitor, Samuel T. Harris, in whose ability and care in the performance of the legal requirements of the institution we place implicit trust, justified by the fact that in a service of more than twenty years there has never occurred a mistake on his part. Such a record is worthy of our warmest praise.

The Bank has ever been fortunate in its office clerks, and never more so than at present. The cashier, William P. Hart, and the clerks, Susan A. Getchell, George P. Nason, and Fred A. Coates, are animated with a desire to perform their duties faithfully, accurately, and courteously, and enjoy the confidence of the officers and the esteem and friendship of the depositors they serve.

In this connection we may pleasantly call to mind a former faithful and efficient assistant, Miss Allietta A. Anderson, now Mrs. Thomas P. Craig, of Colorado, whose services for nearly fifteen years were characterized by an earnest desire to do her full duty, in which she happily succeeded.

The janitor, James P. Coates, who for eighteen years has been a valuable official, and to whose

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

fidelity and care the security of the vaults and our personal comfort are committed, is entitled to our commendation for faithful service; and I know that all will heartily concede to him this tribute.

In March, 1896, Edwin H. Barrett entered the service of the Bank as a clerk. He performed his duty with intelligence and fidelity, and won the esteem of his associates by his courtesy, his pleasant ways, and the manliness of his daily life. He died in December last, sincerely mourned by his many friends; and, in paying this tribute to his memory, I am sure that my words will find an echo in the hearts of all who knew him.

PROGRESS OF THE BANK.

The progress of the bank is best presented by the following table, showing its condition at the end of each decade since its incorporation:—

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK, 1854 TO 1904.
AS SHOWN BY ITS STATEMENTS AT THE CLOSE OF EACH DECADE.

	April, 1864.	April, 1874.	April, 1884.	April, 1894.	April, 1904.
ASSETS:—					
Loans to counties, cities, and towns,					\$25,000.00
Street railway bonds					30,000.00
Public funds	\$99,450.00		\$100,000.00		678,000.00
Bank stock	47,729.25	\$480,780.00	670,100.00	\$757,500.00	396,250.00
Loans on bank stock		17,400.00	1,600.00	18,300.00	73,800.00
Railroad bonds		179,000.00		583,500.00	660,900.00
Loans on railroad bonds		4,000.00		60,000.00	160,000.00
Loans on public funds					26,500.00
Boston Terminal Company bonds,					110,000.00
Real estate, bank building		500.00	80,000.00	70,000.00	70,000.00
Real estate by foreclosure		12,774.42			71,634.00
Loans on real estate	158,929.63	1,817,550.00	1,312,940.00	2,153,075.00	2,699,120.00
Loans on personal security	18,400.00	119,500.00	385,800.00	1,362,650.00	2,329,450.00
Loans on bank books					500.00
Cash	11,892.43	42,396.88	29,156.62	170,540.23	170,490.52
Total assets	\$336,401.31	\$2,673,901.80	\$2,679,596.62	\$5,175,565.23	\$7,591,644.52
LIABILITIES:—					
Deposits	\$330,557.65	\$2,604,625.02	\$2,492,255.43	\$4,757,436.17	\$6,762,303.81
Guaranty fund			73,000.00	240,000.00	336,000.00
Profits	5,843.66	69,276.78	114,341.19	178,129.06	403,340.71
Total liabilities	\$336,401.31	\$2,673,901.80	\$2,679,596.62	\$5,175,565.23	\$7,591,644.52

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

In addition to the foregoing table, the following figures enable us to estimate the extent of the business done by the Bank in the first half-century of its existence:—

Total amount of deposits received	\$24,398,192.48
Amount of dividends carried to deposits,	\$5,918,333.16
Total deposits for fifty years	\$30,316,525.64
Amount withdrawn	\$23,405,735.39
Amount remaining on deposit April, 1904,	\$6,910,790.25
Number of regular dividends paid	97
Amount of regular dividends paid	\$5,735,980.95
Number of extra dividends paid	6
Amount of extra dividends paid	\$182,352.21
Average percentage of dividends	41 ⁸⁸ / ₁₀₀
Total number of depositors in the half-century to April 1, 1904	60,208
Number of depositors having accounts on April 1, 1904	18,786

It is also gratifying to note that on April 1, 1904, the profit account of the Bank amounted to \$403,340.71, and the guaranty fund to \$336,000, while the market value of the securities owned by the institution in excess of their book value was \$287,516. This shows an actual surplus of \$1,026,856.71.

A statement of this nature, showing upon what a solid foundation this institution is established, is sufficient guarantee to the community that the

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

funds intrusted to its keeping are absolutely safe, and are available, with their accumulations, at the demand of the depositor.

For the purpose of demonstrating just what this Bank has accomplished for its depositors in the fifty years just passed, let us suppose that a deposit of \$100 was made on July 1, 1854, when the doors were first opened for business, and that this sum, with its accumulated dividends, has remained untouched to the present day. This account would amount to \$1,410. on the April dividend day of 1904.

SOME SAVINGS-BANK STATISTICS.

The following figures relative to savings-banks in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are interesting and instructive:—

Number of savings-banks Oct. 1, 1903	187
Number of depositors	1,723,015
Total amount of deposits	\$608,415,409.59
Average amount of each deposit	\$353.11
Amount deposited in 1903	\$104,893,853.85
Amount withdrawn in 1903	\$104,460,530.78
Excess of deposits over withdrawals	\$433,323.07
Amount of dividends paid in 1903 and carried to deposit account	\$21,047,936.69
Increase of deposits in 1903	\$21,478,325.29
Total of guaranty funds in April, 1903,	\$27,469,936.69

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

There are 657 savings-banks in the United States at this date. The total amount deposited therein is two billion, five hundred and twelve million, four hundred and sixty-eight thousand, four hundred fifty-eight dollars (\$2,512,468,458), or more than one-fourth of all the deposits in all the banks and trust companies in the entire country. These 657 savings-banks have 6,116,594 depositors, with an average account of \$410.76 each. The deposits yield to the depositors, at the present time, more than \$100,000,000 each year in dividends, while the total loss sustained through the failure of savings institutions in eighty years has been insignificant, and far less than in other ventures. The annual gain in deposits for the last twenty years has been, approximately, sixty-five millions of dollars. The figures given are taken from the *Savings and Trust Review*.

While it is human to desire the largest possible return from the investment of funds, good judgment dictates that safety is a more important consideration; and, so long as the State exercises the most careful and conscientious supervision over savings-banks, restricting by law investments in securities to those whose perfect safety is assured, depositors cannot expect a high rate of dividends. Of the 19 savings-banks in the city of Boston, six, representing deposits of \$17,000,000, paid 4 per cent. in 1903, while the remaining 13, representing

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

deposits of \$170,000,000, paid $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The question of dividends in the future is uncertain. In view of the present low rate of interest on first-class securities, it is doubtful if the earnings of savings-banks will exceed $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., although banks with a large surplus may consider it expedient to pay the rate of 4 per cent. for a time, drawing from their accumulated profits to make good the deficiency in earnings.

To the Commissioners of Savings Banks, appointed by the Governor, the 1,723,015 depositors are indebted for faithful and conscientious service in the enforcement of the laws enacted by the legislature for the protection and safety of their deposits. With 187 savings-banks and 48 trust companies under their supervision, the duty must, and does, require eternal vigilance, ability, and special fitness for the work. The ever-increasing prosperity of the savings-banks of Massachusetts is unimpeachable testimony to the able and faithful manner in which these officials discharge their duties.

CLOSING WORDS.

The controlling principle of the savings-bank is the conservatism that seeks safety and security with small returns rather than to incur the danger of risk and loss with greater promise. The sav-

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

ings-bank means an ever-present opportunity and inducement to invest the small sums that might otherwise slip away. It means the satisfaction and peace of mind that come to him who knows that his hard-earned savings are secure from loss rather than the disquiet and doubt of one who hazards his money in uncertain ventures. It means the gradual growth of his accumulations, by added dividends, that will serve to provide for his declining years. It makes men better, happier, and freer from the care and anxiety that besets him who is unprepared to meet the trials and misfortunes of life; and it stands for thrift, economy, and good citizenship, which lie at the foundation of the nation's prosperity and greatness.]

Gentlemen, in preparing this summary of the history of this institution for the past fifty years, it has been my purpose to bring to your attention such incidents in its rise and progress as may be interesting and instructive to those now engaged in its work, and especially to recall to you the memory of the men to whose foresight and energy we are indebted for its establishment and success. Let us not forget the gratitude that is due to those who so nobly and effectively accomplished the work they set about to do! And let us hope that, when twenty-five or fifty years more shall have passed, it may be said of us that the trust committed to our care for a time was transmitted to our suc-

CHARLESTOWN FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK

cessors, not merely unimpaired, but strengthened and advanced, to the benefit of the Bank and to the advantage of those who confidently place their interests in its keeping!

