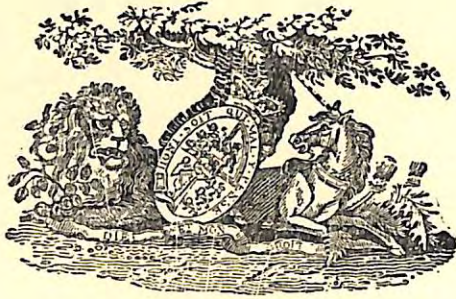


To Rise Above a Village We Need a Bank!

*The Story of
The Littleton Savings Bank
1868-1968*

AMBROSE P. McLAUGHLIN





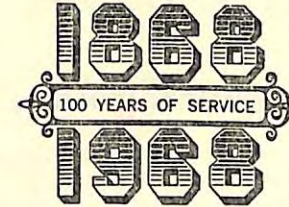
"Were American Newcomen to do naught else, our work is well done if we succeed in sharing with America a strengthened inspiration to continue the struggle towards a nobler Civilization—through wider knowledge and understanding of the hopes, ambitions, and deeds of leaders in the past who have upheld Civilization's material progress. As we look backward, let us look forward."

—CHARLES PENROSE
(1886-1958)
Senior Vice-President for North America
The Newcomen Society
for the study of the history of
Engineering and Technology
(1923-1957)
Chairman for North America
(1958)

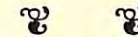


This statement, crystallizing a broad purpose of the Society, was first read at the Newcomen Meeting at New York World's Fair on August 5, 1939, when American Newcomen were guests of The British Government

"Actorum Memores simul affectamus Agenda"



THIS NEWCOMEN ADDRESS, *dealing with the history of The Littleton Savings Bank, was delivered at the "1968 New Hampshire Dinner" of The Newcomen Society in North America, held at Littleton, New Hampshire, when MR. AMBROSE P. McLAUGHLIN was the guest of honor and speaker on June 28, 1968.*



"It is reasonable to believe, therefore, that when the leader of a group which met at the beginning of 1868 and stated the words: 'Gentlemen, we have local government, schools and houses of worship. But until we have our own bank, we'll never rise above the role of a village,' his words touched a responsive chord, and the first steps to give Littleton the status of a leading community in the North Country were taken. The man was John Farr, a Littleton attorney, one of the community's leading citizens."

—AMBROSE P. McLAUGHLIN



To Rise Above a Village We Need a Bank!

The Story of The Littleton Savings Bank 1868-1968

AMBROSE P. McLAUGHLIN

MEMBER OF THE NEWCOMEN SOCIETY
CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT
THE LITTLETON SAVINGS BANK
LITTLETON
NEW HAMPSHIRE



THE NEWCOMEN SOCIETY IN NORTH AMERICA
NEW YORK DOWNINGTOWN PRINCETON PORTLAND

1968

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First Printing: June 1968



SET UP, PRINTED AND BOUND IN THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA FOR THE NEWCOMEN SOCIETY IN
NORTH AMERICA BY PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS



INTRODUCTION OF MR. MC LAUGHLIN AT LITTLE-
TON, NEW HAMPSHIRE, ON JUNE 28, 1968, BY THE
HONORABLE NORRIS COTTON, UNITED STATES SENIOR
SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE,
MEMBER OF THE WASHINGTON COMMITTEE IN
THE NEWCOMEN SOCIETY IN NORTH AMERICA.

My fellow members of Newcomen:

YEARS ago when I was a young lawyer in Lebanon, I served a year as President of the local Chamber of Commerce. In that capacity it became my duty to introduce a very well-known and distinguished out-of-state speaker at our annual banquet. Taking this responsibility very seriously, I prepared a somewhat voluminous introduction covering all the major points of his career. When the evening arrived, I met him at the train and spent some time with him at the hotel before taking him to the banquet. I took occasion to hand him a copy of my introduction, asking him if it met with his approval. As he read it, he began to frown, and when he finished, he handed it back to me with this comment, "Young man, why don't you tell them that I am there and let me make the speech."

Tonight, I find myself in a similar situation. Ambrose McLaughlin is here. Like you, I came to listen to our speaker, who, by the way, is so well known you don't need a recital from me to acquaint you with his many talents and accomplishments.

I think my first recollection of Ambrose McLaughlin was when he was a baseball star at Dartmouth. We were introduced by Charlie Tesreau, who became my law partner and was the son of Jeff Tesreau, the famed Dartmouth coach. Incidentally, it is a little known fact that Ambie was so fine a catcher that four big league teams offered him contracts, but all were declined. Fortunately, other fields attracted him.

However, the first realization I had of his extraordinary ability to get things done was when I was in my first campaign for the Senate. In a certain town, not far from Littleton, I didn't have even a foothold. Those who were my friends had already committed themselves to one of my opponents. I couldn't even

get a Chairman, to say nothing of workers. I mentioned it to my friend Ambie, and he said he would see what could be done about it. It was the only town in the second district where I'd actually given up hope. When the returns came in, I carried it heavily. I couldn't understand it and didn't even have anyone to whom I could write a thank-you letter. The next time I was in Littleton, Ambie told me with some surprise that he supposed I understood that I had asked him to take care of it. Like a one-man political army, he went up there, organized the town, and carried it on election day.

I discovered much to my delight a long time ago, that our speaker is a man of rare insight and intellect—and a great judge of character. My friendship and intermittent association with him in helping me on my staff from time to time has confirmed and impressed me with his dynamic ability to get things done. His competitive spirit in sports has apparently extended throughout his life. I have not only enjoyed his unique loyalty, but also his alert criticism, as well as his staunch support.

Ambrose is a native of this area, having been born in nearby Fabyan, New Hampshire. He graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy and Dartmouth College. Biographical research indicates that his scholastic achievements were somewhat problematical. His extracurricular activities were significant and prominent.

At the outset of World War II, Ambrose volunteered for military service and selected the U.S. Marine Air Corps. He served commendatorily as a ground officer for four years and was retired in 1946 to inactive duty with the permanent rank of Major.

During his busy lifetime, Ambie has contributed generously of his time and talent to a number of worthy causes—local and state—community, religious, educational and fraternal. Like most bankers, who are also active in other areas of business endeavor, he finds it impossible to say no when asked to head a drive, be it for Red Feather agencies, Catholic charities, Red Cross, schools, colleges or hospitals.

It is difficult to pick out the highlights in the career of such a busy man. He served, for example, as a member of the Board

of the New Hampshire Development Corporation, as trustee of the Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital at the Medical Center in Hanover; he is a member of the President's Council, American Institute of Management, and currently is Vice President of the significantly famous Crotched Mountain Foundation for Handicapped Children and Adults in Greenfield, New Hampshire.

As Chairman of the Board of Directors and President of the Littleton Savings Bank, Ambrose McLaughlin has done much to build this fine North Country financial institution to its present status, one of the leading mutual savings banks in the Northeast.

An ingenious organizer and fine executive, he seems to excel in everything he undertakes. Similar excellence is also exemplified in his family life, for he, and his wife, Blanche, are the parents of two fine sons, Ambrose III, a gifted surgeon; and Peter, a Captain in the U.S. Army, presently serving in the office of the Surgeon General of the U.S. having recently returned from fourteen months of duty in Korea.

Fellow members of Newcomen, ladies and gentlemen, Mr. AMBROSE P. McLAUGHLIN.

My fellow members of Newcomen:

EIGHTEEN hundred and sixty-eight was a leap year. As I began to gather material for this address by perusing the pages of the journal of that period—*The White Mountain Republic*—yellowed by the passage of the years and frail to the touch, I was attracted by an article which may well amuse the women guests in this audience.

Six young ladies from the then village of Littleton, availing themselves of the liberties of the leap year, displayed their gallantry to good advantage. They issued invitations to six young and bashful men, procured a four-horse team and driver and proceeded to Lisbon, where, at Ford's Hotel, the best accommodations awaited them. They had supper, attended a concert, and lingered. In the early morning hours the party returned home. Each young man, no longer bashful, was taken to his house, safe, happy, and with pleasant memories. It seems that somewhere herein lies a deducible co-efficient. The paper didn't say.

A well-circulated poem, entitled "Carol for the New Year," ushered in the year 1868. It had several stanzas, but permit me please to quote only the first and last:

Ring out, old bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light,
The year is dying, during the night,
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the false pride, in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of God!

We can believe that it was in this spirit of love of God—in the sense that if you love thy neighbor you love thy God—that a group of Littleton men held the first of several meetings to discuss a matter of profound interest.

We can imagine, too, that an incident reported in the same newspaper may well have prompted this meeting. A young man named Edwin Hunt, in the employ of Kilburn Brothers, and

now I quote, "Moved and instigated by the devil, clandestinely entered into the store of his employers, and extracted from the money drawers all the money and loose change" he could find. Although the young man was eventually apprehended, not all the money was recovered. Surely, a safer depository for the people's moneys was sorely needed.

It is reasonable to believe, therefore, that when the leader of a group which met at the beginning of 1868 and stated the words: "Gentlemen, we have local government, schools and houses of worship. But until we have our own bank, we'll never rise above the role of a village," his words touched a responsive chord, and the first steps to give Littleton the status of a leading community in the North Country were taken. The man was John Farr, a Littleton attorney, one of the community's leading citizens. Included in the group were Cyrus Eastman, George B. Redington, George A. Bingham, E. B. Baker, Henry L. Tilton, Charles W. Rand, Joseph L. Whittaker, Luther T. Dow, and Wilson C. Farr. You'll find these names often as you study the early history of our community.

The petition for a savings bank charter was dispatched to the New Hampshire Legislature in Concord. There was much rejoicing in the entire area when word was received that Governor Walter Harriman signed his name to the bill creating The Littleton Savings Bank—the State's 12th mutual savings institution, the first such institution for thrift north of the City of Laconia. Obviously enough, attorney John Farr was elected the Bank's first President and the attendant group of gentlemen was among the Bank's first Directors.

What *was* Littleton like in 1868?

I was amused by a couple of stories that I discovered in my research for material. A word to the wise, meaning, at the time, the male readers of that day, was published on the front page of the local paper stating:

"Let no man quarrel with a woman. If you are in trouble with her, retreat. If she abuses you, be silent. If she tears your cloak off, give her your coat too. If she boxes your ears, bow. If she tears out your eyes, feel your way to the door—and call the police!"

Perhaps there was good reason for the fairer sex to behave that way. Apparently the men had a fondness for things other than their work. There's a story of E. E. Dunn, on a day he reported to his employer that he was too sick to work, went fishing and returned with 150 pounds of trout! I'd say that was a fair effort, though extra-curricular, and no woman should pick a fight with her husband on matters such as these. But how can one explain how the little woman will react? For those of you in the audience who may call this a "fish story" greatly exaggerated, it was also reported that John Messer's ten-month-old chick laid an egg over seven inches long! Great year, 1868!

There was a genuine need for a mutual savings bank in this area. In addition to providing the community with a safe place for its currency, there began a great demand for mortgage money and home improvement financing. Summer travel in 1868 reached its greatest heights. Many of the farmers converted their homes and barns into boarding establishments. An extra train to accommodate the summer visitors was added in 1868 between Littleton and Plymouth. Some of the visitors had famous and distinguished names—Confederate Generals Wade Hampton and John Breckenridge; Horace Greeley, the great editor; the noted abolitionist, Wendell Phillips; Virginia Townsend, a popular author of the time; and ever so many more.

Incidentally, in July of 1868, the month our Bank was chartered, things were really hot in and around Littleton. The temperature reached 105 in the shade, and even on the top of Mt. Washington the mercury registered 85 degrees!

Yes, 1868 was indeed an important year for our community. It received its bank charter, assuring itself of a place in the sun, which was the dream of its founder. It was in 1868 that Littleton High School was founded, and it was in 1868, too, that the novel idea of building a railroad up Mt. Washington was to become a reality, at an estimated cost of \$100,000.

What about living conditions? Please listen to this newspaper item:

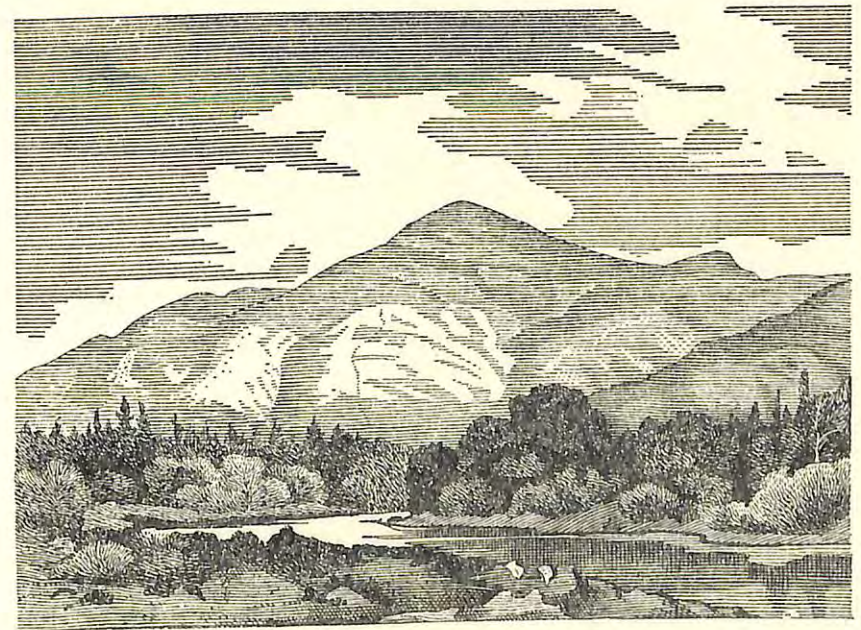
"Rents in Littleton are advancing. What a sad commentary on the future prospects of business and the working men! Upon

nearly every article, an advance price is asked. Family commodities and luxuries are becoming almost out of reach. It is hard to tell where the figures will end." This article *was* published 100 years ago.

Perhaps another sign of the times, also published 100 years ago, may give us an idea of the business conditions of the day. If this article makes our printer and publisher friends cringe, I can well sympathize. On its first anniversary in 1868, *The White Mountain Republican* ran this story: I quote verbatim:

"We shall soon commence the publication of a series of biographical sketches of those *contemptible scoundrels* who are in the habit of *cheating* the printer and everyone else foolish enough to trust them. The *scamps* who refuse or willfully neglect to pay the printer's bill will not hesitate to be guilty of *any* kind of meanness and we deem it an act of charity to inform the public of who these *good-for-nothings* are. We have the names of these *deadbeats* on our books."

Economics may have been temporarily unstable. Perhaps these economic phenomena delayed the acceptance of depositors' funds



by The Littleton Savings Bank for some three years—though chartered to commence business July 1, 1868.

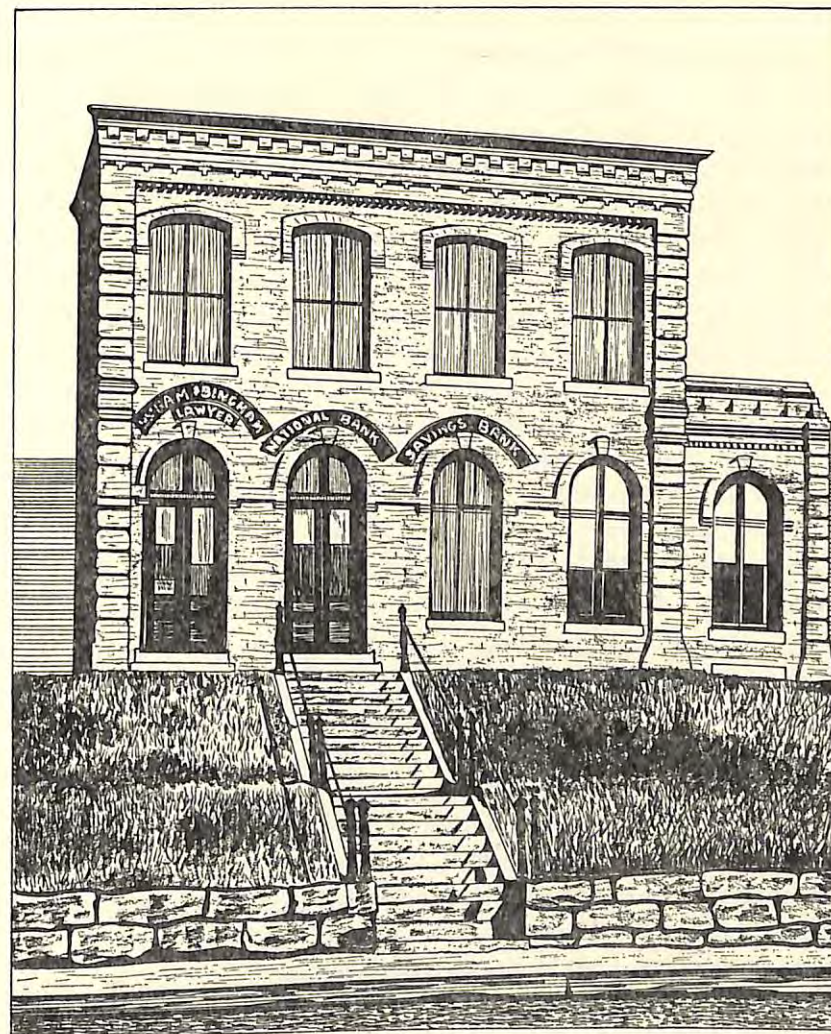
It is significant that from its very beginning The Littleton Savings Bank established itself as a "Family Savings Bank." Official records in the archives of this banking house show that passbooks numbered three, four, five and six were issued to a single family—Martha King and her husband, account number three; daughter Jennie, number four; number five, daughter Clara; and son George received passbook number six. Who can say what prompted the King family to entrust what must have been their lifelong savings to a brand new institution, to be safeguarded by virtual strangers? We might forgive them if there was fear and trepidation in their hearts. But we may be sure that they slept better each night, no longer fearing loss through fire or theft.

Other clients followed suit. At the end of the first year of operation, the Bank's resources totaled \$3,239.95!

For the sake of the record, it should be reported that the honor of becoming the first depositor of The Littleton Savings Bank fell to Benjamin Winch, with an initial deposit of \$913.50. Passbook number two went to Moses P. Burnham, who deposited the sum of \$215.

These two depositors, plus the King family, were followed by many others. The word spread quickly: not only was money safe in the hands of The Littleton Savings Bank, but (also of major importance) those early depositors received dividends—their money *earned* money—it was not idle! The dividend-paying policy, established in that first year, has never been interrupted throughout the Bank's 100-year history.

The Littleton Savings Bank opened for business in what was known as the Tilton block, adjacent to its present location. Through the years, as the needs of the bank increased, the banking premises were remodeled many times. In 1882, the lot on which our Bank is now located was purchased. A two-story brick building was erected on an elevation level to conform with the surrounding buildings. The new structure was considered substantial and adequate to meet the Bank's needs for several generations.



FIRST HOME OF THE LITTLETON SAVINGS BANK

Bricks and mortar history is hard and boring. Suffice it to say that many structural changes have been made over the years by way of expansion to accommodate the ever-increasing business. As we meet this evening, once again plans are in the making for an extensive addition to the present banking quarters. The North Country's leading savings bank is compelled by business influx to establish the necessary physical capabilities which will allow

its people to provide the significant services required by its clients in today's competitive markets.

Most bankers accept the fact that there really isn't much glamor in the life of a mutual savings bank, restricted as it is by state and federal regulations. There is excitement, however, for those of us who have studied the past history of The Littleton Savings Bank and are intrigued with its success, and with the role it has played in the growth of the area.

On June 30, 1893, the Silver Anniversary of The Littleton Savings Bank, it passed the million-dollar deposit figure. As I tried to find something of interest to report for this stage of our existence, this item caught my attention: it took place during a Sunday church service. As the sermon ended, one of the members of the parish—apparently a member of our corporate board, awoke from a deep sleep saying in a loud voice: "*I don't believe a G.D. word of it.*" In a lower voice, he was quoted as whispering to his wife: "I thought I was at the bank meeting!"

I spoke earlier about the need for the Bank to finance the farmers who converted their homes to boarding establishments. Those of you in this audience who are bank officers or board members, know, of course, that in addition to homes we finance many other types of enterprises, including livestock and other types of property. This has been true of our institution from the start, and there were standards and yardsticks to govern our appraisers. In the matter of livestock, I ran across this early memo, subject: appraisal of dairy cows:

"A good cow, well kept, is profitable. Poor cows are unprofitable. In appraising cows for dairying or furnishing milk to sell, look for good wedge-shaped animals, with heavy hind quarters and tapering toward the head, with light heads, long faces, and unusually long, wax-colored horns; also slur necks, small tails, capacious udders, running well forward, rather long and set well apart."

Armed with such instructions, I assume that the early directors and assessors of The Littleton Savings Bank could have made but few mistakes. I regret that I am not presently alert to the specifications of this painstaking trade.

Let's jump another 25 years, and see where our banking house stood on our Golden Anniversary on June 30, 1918. At this stage, our deposits had increased to \$2,830,446, our resources just over the \$3 million mark.

This was a tragic year in the history of Littleton and our Country. The First World War was still on. Littleton did its share, with more than 200 men in uniform. The first news of war fatalities announced the death of three Littleton men. The news of the Armistice later that year threw the town into turmoil, and there was rejoicing for days. I quote, "The community helped make the world safe for democracy."

It was the capability of these individuals, the great American system having been devised, which contributed to the ongoing way of life we Americans have come to know and desire to maintain.

As we marched forward toward our 75th Anniversary, our Bank continued to grow with the area; or, if I'm permitted to express it in a different way, the area grew with our Bank's continued financial support. And grow it did. Littleton became the first place north of Boston to have 24-hour manned telegraph service in a local office. In December, 1927, Franconia Notch was kept open for the first time for winter travel, and, in 1928, our Chamber of Commerce began exploring the possibility of an airport for Littleton.

An important milestone was reached and passed in July of 1928: The Littleton Savings Bank reached and exceeded the \$5 million mark in resources. A new high of \$96,000 was paid in dividends for the first six months of that year, at a dividend rate of 4½%. It would be almost 40 years before this dividend rate would be the same again.

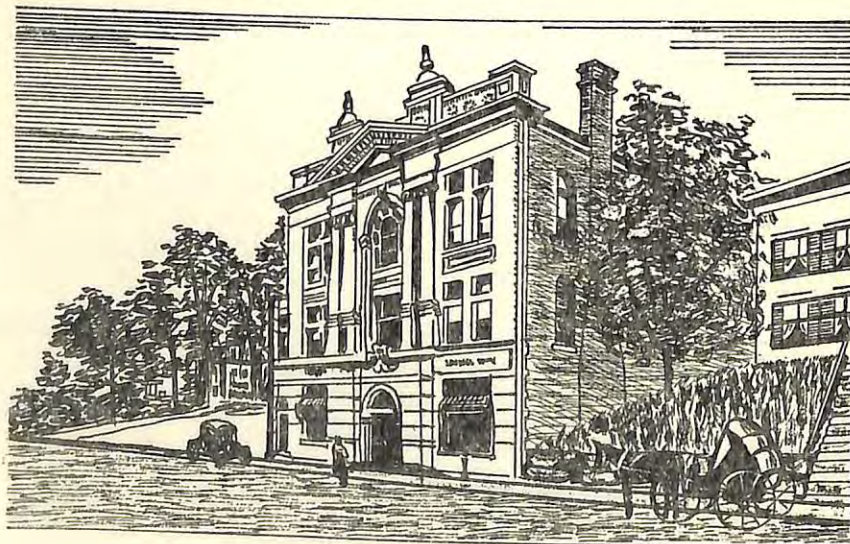
The dark days of 1929 and those subsequent were weathered by our Bank, and a comparison of deposits among mutual savings banks in the State showed that we rated third largest, judging by deposits on a per capita basis.

As we approached our Platinum Anniversary, war years were with us again. Littleton sent 32 men to the armed services at the start of 1941. We were in the war on December 7, and wardens

and observers went on a 24-hour duty. Mr. & Mrs. Brooks of Franconia had five sons in the service, and so did Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Monahan of Twin Mountain and Mr. & Mrs. Victor Duval of Littleton.

Our 75th year was marked with the coldest weather in history, with 50 degrees below zero in mid-February. Not to be outdone in the statistical department, one of our Lancaster depositors, Joseph Howe, celebrated his 102nd birthday; Harry Farr retired as a mailman after having walked a record 176,000 miles; and Mr. & Mrs. Moses Goulding celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary, having been married when our Bank was just about initiating noticeable activity.

At the time The Littleton Savings Bank moved to its present quarters, efforts to keep abreast of the latest developments in our own field were also a response to sweeping changes in our economic and cultural environment. The first television programs from the top of Mt. Washington were offered late in 1954. During 1955, the final work was completed on the huge Moore Hydro-Electric Dam. And during this same period, tremendous improvements were being made in ski facilities, resort accommodations and major highways, linking our area more directly with the rest of New England and the East.

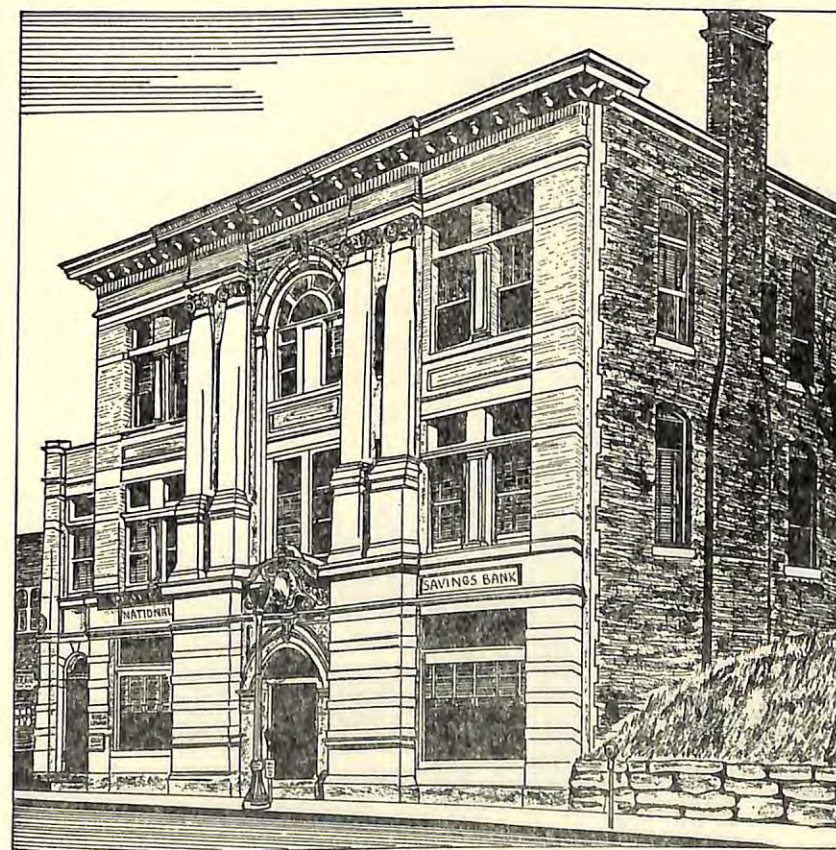


FIRST CHANGE IN THE BANK BUILDING

It took the Bank 75 years to attain the \$5 million level.

The Littleton Savings Bank has been progressing at a rapid pace in recent years, attaining deposit and resources heights far in excess of our most optimistic expectations.

As we turned the corner of the second half of the 20th Century, many or all of our present Officers and Members of the Board of Directors joined the Bank. These include: 1. George T. Noyes, who is also Vice-President; 2. A. Bartlett Carleton; 3. Harold G. Cushing; 4. H. Hubert Merrill; 5. Arthur T. Simmonds; 6. Walter A. Goss; 7. Elton E. Bigelow; 8. Andrew W. Poulsen; 9. Sherman Joslin; 10. Joseph Delisle; 11. Roger A. Peabody and your Speaker who has the honor of serving as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

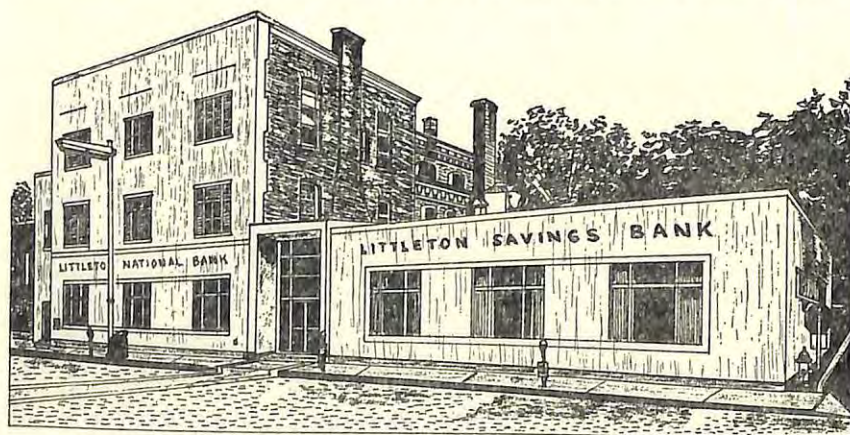


SECOND CHANGE IN THE BANK BUILDING

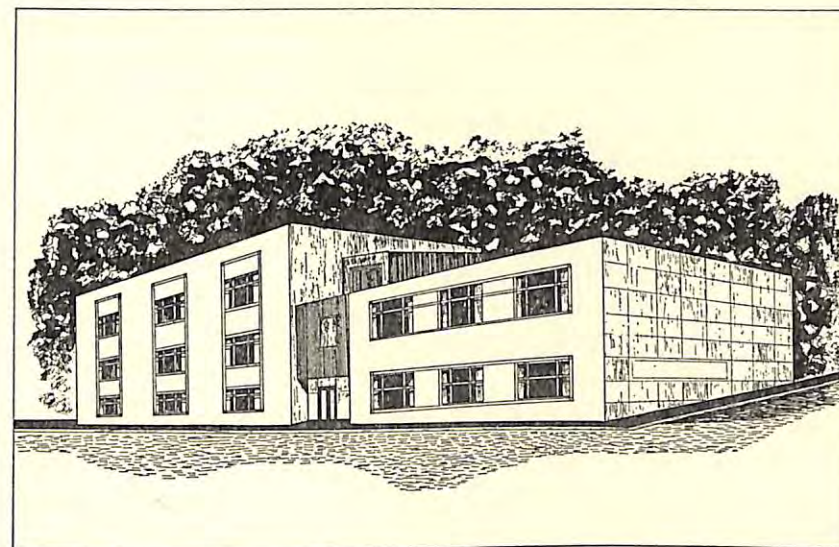
Our primary executive officers represent people who have been veteran employees: Gilbert P. Pike, our Executive Vice-President and Margaret A. Buffington, our Treasurer; our younger officers, Robert W. Mulligan and Daniel G. Edgar, are Assistant Vice-Presidents. The staff is an alert one, both in attitude and capability.

What has made The Littleton Savings Bank the strong, healthy institution it is? People, of course. Our depositors and customers. The businessmen of our area. The town fathers and the town officials. Our correspondent banks and our professional counselors and indeed the prominent heritage passed on to us by our predecessors: our first President, John Farr, who served until 1880; George A. Bingham, whose term lasted five years. Then followed Charles F. Eastman, President until 1912; William H. Bellows, in office until 1929; Charles F. Bingham, who was succeeded in 1943 by Arthur S. Morris, the man who initiated new movement. When he regretfully resigned the office in 1956, he was succeeded by Trevor O. Mooney, my predecessor, who died in office in 1960. The Board of Directors paid me the singular compliment of electing me the 8th President of this 100-year-old institution—a post I treasure most highly and I am devoted to it.

During these past 100 years, our Bank has been prominent in the building of the region. Historically, our efforts have been—and are now—to excite the region's economy to greater growth



PRESENT HOME OF THE LITTLETON SAVINGS BANK



ARCHITECT'S DRAWING OF PLANS FOR THE NEW, LARGER
QUARTERS FOR THE LITTLETON SAVINGS BANK

heights. The success of the capabilities of our institution has been precisely defined by the level, resourceful and progressive growth which has been ours. It is the intention of The Littleton Savings Bank to pursue and to improve the general disciplines which have provided it with the instruments pertinent to authoritative banking.

A significant factor in the growth of our Bank has been its careful approach to marketing management. Our planned policy is to seek out our customers' needs, through disciplined methods, and then to accommodate them at a profit to our depositors.

Our growth in the past decade has been rapid, particularly in the sixties. In the middle of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1964—in other words, four years ago—it was forecast that, barring unforeseen developments, we would attain a total resources figure of \$28,850,000 sometime in mid-1968. It became my most satisfying thrill to announce to the Corporate Board at our Annual Meeting in January of this year that this fiscal plateau had already been reached and surpassed, for at the close of business in December, 1967, our resources were \$30,134,644.03.

At this particular time I am safe in reporting to you that as we embark on our second century in July, 1968, the banking

assets, all things working for it, will be well above the \$30,000,000 figure and our deposits will exceed \$27,000,000. Our gains in every phase of operation will show correspondingly high increases, which should be of great satisfaction to our depositors, our clients and members of the Corporation.

The honor which is being accorded The Littleton Savings Bank by The Newcomen Society in North America is indeed a tribute to the men and women who have labored in the past 100 years to build this fine Institution into a beacon of stability and safety, as well as one of prominence among savings institutions.

As we move on into the future, into our second century of progress, I predict that where we first crawled, then walked, those who follow will race ahead. We are continuously making whatever changes are necessary in order to achieve the stature of a genuinely great and effective banking house. In so doing, we shall be in an even better position to serve our depositors and customers, the community of Littleton, the Northern New Hampshire Region and the State. It is my unqualified hope, as future anniversaries of our Bank are observed, that the present progressive attributes of growth and The Littleton Savings Bank's preeminence of reputation will be recognized and cited as a bright and cheerful chapter in the long life of this fine banking Institution.

To you all I offer thanks for having gathered to pay homage; particularly, to The Newcomen Society in North America I offer, in behalf of The Littleton Savings Bank and the people of this area, our genuine and fervent appreciation for this unique honor accorded by this great Society. Such a tribute will excite extra energy, vigor and determination—act as a causative—to continue disciplined efforts, imagination and ingenuity with greater conviction in behalf of our community, our service region, and our State.

THE END



"Actorum Memores simul affectamus Agenda!"

"The petition for a savings bank charter was dispatched (in 1868) to the New Hampshire Legislature in Concord. There was much rejoicing in the entire area when word was received that Governor Walter Harriman signed his name to the bill creating The Littleton Savings Bank—the State's 12th mutual savings institution, the first such institution for thrift north of the City of Laconia."

—AMBROSE P. McLAUGHLIN



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This Newcomen Address, dealing with the history of the Littleton Savings Bank, was delivered at the "1968 New Hampshire Dinner" of the Newcomen Society in North America held at Sugar Hill, New Hampshire on June 28, 1968. Mr. McLaughlin, the guest of honor, was introduced by The Honorable Norris Cotton, United States Senator from the State of New Hampshire. The dinner was presided over by the President of The Newcomen Society in

North America.



THE NEWCOMEN SOCIETY in North America

IN APRIL, 1923, the late L. F. Loree (1858-1940) of New York, then dean of American railroad presidents, established a group now known as "American Newcomen" and interested in Material History, as distinguished from political history. Its objectives center in the beginnings, growth, development, contributions, and influence of Industry, Transportation, Communication, the Utilities, Mining, Agriculture, Banking, Finance, Economics, Insurance, Education, Invention, and the Law—these and correlated historical fields. In short, the background of those factors which have contributed or are contributing to the progress of Mankind.

The Newcomen Society in North America is a non-profit membership corporation chartered in 1961 under the Charitable Law of the State of Maine, with headquarters on North Ship Road, Uwchlan Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, some five miles east of Downingtown, Pennsylvania, and 32 miles west of the City of Philadelphia. Here also is located The Thomas Newcomen Memorial Library in Business History, a reference collection, including microfilm, open to the public for research and dealing with the subjects to which the Society devotes attention.

Meetings are held throughout the United States of America and across Canada at which Newcomen Addresses are presented by leaders in their respective fields. These manuscripts represent a broadest coverage of phases of Material History involved, both American and Canadian.

The approach in most cases has been a life-story of corporate organizations, interpreted through the ambitions, the successes and failures, and the ultimate achievements of those pioneers whose efforts laid the foundations of the particular enterprise.

The Society's name perpetuates the life and work of Thomas Newcomen (1663-1729), the British pioneer, whose valuable contributions in improvements to the newly invented Steam Engine brought him lasting fame in the field of the Mechanic Arts. The Newcomen Engines, whose period of use was from 1712 to 1775, paved a way for the Industrial Revolution. Newcomen's inventive genius preceded by more than 50 years the brilliant work in Steam by the world-famous James Watt.

The Newcomen Society in North America is affiliated with The Newcomen Society for the Study of the History of Engineering and Technology, with offices at The Science Museum, South Kensington, London, S.W. 7, England. The Society is also associated in union with the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, whose offices are at 6 John Adam Street, London, W.C. 2, England.



Members of American Newcomen, when in Europe, are invited by the Dartmouth Newcomen Association to visit the home of Thomas Newcomen at Dartmouth in South Devonshire, England, where the festival of "Newcomen Day" is celebrated each year on the fourth Friday in July.



*"The roads you travel so briskly
lead out of dim antiquity,
and you study the past chiefly because
of its bearing on the living present
and its promise for the future."*

—LIEUTENANT GENERAL JAMES G. HARBORD,
K.C.M.G., D.S.M., LL.D., U.S. ARMY (RET.)
(1866-1947)

*Late American Member of Council at London
The Newcomen Society
for the study of the history of
Engineering and Technology*

