The Bank of Abbeville
— Its History

The Bank of Abbeville was located at Jefferson and Concord Streets in a red pressed brick limestone-trimmed building, topped with two story book turrets, in the Bank of Abbeville and Trust Company. It was organized August 14, 1894, and has a branch bank at Maurice, Louisiana.


Of those men who signed, there are only two living members, D. L. McPherson and William Pierpoint Edwards.

The first officers of the bank were Eli Wise, president; Lastie Broussard, vice-president, and L. O. Broussard, cashier. On the first board of directors were Eli Wise, L. O. Broussard, Lastie Broussard, M. Fisher, Alphonse LeBlanc, Ophelia Bourgeois, R. H. Washburn, and F. L. Melebeek.

The presidents, who have served the bank throughout the years, and the tenure of their services are: Eli Wise, August 14, 1894, to May 7, 1907; L. O. Broussard, May 6, 1907, to February 20, 1932; F. W. Kerksieck, February 20, 1932, to the present time.

The vice-presidents are: Lastie Broussard, August 14, 1894, to June 6, 1911; Ophelia Bourgeois, June 6, 1911, to February 21, 1933; Frank A. Godchaux, June 6, 1911, to January 15, 1928; G. R. Broussard, June 1, 1925, to August 4, 1934; H. A. Eldredge, February 9, 1937, to the present time.

The cashiers are: R. H. Washburn, August 14, 1894, to September 16, 1894; L. O. Broussard, September 16, 1894, to May 16, 1907; O. A. Broussard, June 7, 1909, to June 1, 1925; E. L. Terrier, June 1, 1925, to the present time.

The assistant cashiers are: O. A. Broussard, January 3, 1895, to June 7, 1909; H. A. Eldredge, July 6, 1899, to June 4, 1909; Claude Broussard, June 5, 1902, to June 7, 1909; E. L. Terrier, June 8, 1909, to June 1, 1925; Frank W. Summers, June 5, 1910, to June 6, 1911; Alphe Baudouin, November 3, 1910, to June 8, 1911; J. Camille Broussard, June 8, 1911, to June 6, 1913; R. Clifford Abshire, June 6, 1913, to June 7, 1915; M. E. Harrington, June 7, 1915, to the present time; Alfred Broussard, March 2, 1915, to March 2, 1917; A. J. Gaudard, March 2, 1917, to June 3, 1918.

The chairman of the board of directors, an office created in 1932, are: L. O. Broussard, February 29, 1932, to January 23, 1944, and F. W. Kerksieck, February 8, 1944, to the present time.

The members of the board of directors are: Eli Wise, August 14, 1894, to May 7, 1907; Lastie Broussard, August 14, 1894, to June 5, 1911; Ophelia Bourgeois August 14, 1894, to February 14, 1933; M. Fisher, August 14, 1894, to June 5, 1911; R. H. Washburn, August 14, 1894, to September 16, 1907; Alphonse LeBlanc, August 14, 1894, to May 16, 1896; F. L. Melebeek, August 14, 1894, to March 2, 1911; L. O. Broussard, May 6, 1896, to January 23, 1944; A. J. Gaudard, June 3, 1895, to June 6, 1898.

The active present directors are: Joseph A. Villien, from June 5, 1911; Felix J. Sanson, from June 7, 1915; E. L. Terrier, from December 22, 1924; M. E. Harrington, from June 4, 1928; H. A. Eldredge, from February 20, 1932; O. H. Deshotel, from February 20, 1932; F. W. Kerksieck, from February 20, 1932; D. Vincent, from February 11, 1936; E. W. Henry, from February 11, 1937.

Officers of the Maurice Branch Bank are: Dr. Joseph A. Villien, manager, and Philip E. Trahan, assistant manager.

Other employees of the bank, in the main office, are: Mrs. A. O. Landry, Jr., Miss Sarah L. Broussard, Miss Pauline R. Blanchet, Mrs. Leonel Noel, Jr., and Mrs. Roberta P. Landry, now on leave.

In 1894 the total resources of the bank were $42,578. The sum of the deposits was $38,883.31. Loans amounted to $17,376.33. Total cash was $29,629.98.

On June 1, 1943, the total resources were $2,923,616.44. Deposits totaled $2,274,719.95. Loans amounted to $626,818.69. The total of cash on hand was $34,933.65.

Two former employees of the bank are now serving their country at war. They are Joseph A. Villien, Jr., and Alfred Broussard.

The Bank of Abbeville & Trust Company is a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. All accounts are insured up to $5,000.