



DANIEL STUART
The Bank's First President
1818-1822

FIRST HUNDRED YEARS
OF THE
SUSSEX NATIONAL
BANK *of* NEWTON
NEW JERSEY

1818-1918

A BRIEF SKETCH OF A
CENTURY OF SERVICE

No. 160
Superior Bank.
Capital Stock, 100,000 Dollars. Shares, Fifty Dollars each.

Be it known, that Peter Gordon, Treasurer of the State
of New Jersey, for the time being, and for the use of said State is
entitled to Twenty Shares of the Capital Stock of the Superior Bank.
(One thousand Dollars, the amt of said shares being paid)

Witness my hand 24th day of October 1878

J. S. Major Cash

A FEW WORDS IN BEGINNING



THE OPPORTUNITY which is afforded the present Officers and Directors of this Bank to place before the public these pages, though few in number, is accepted eagerly so that they may say a word in appreciation of those who have gone before and who by their tireless efforts have made it possible to record One Hundred Years of uninterrupted service.

They also desire to express their hearty appreciation to the present patrons and friends of the institution for it is to them and all those who have been friendly in the past that they present the statements on the following pages that indicate success.



SAMUEL D. MORFORD
The Bank's First Cashier, 1818-1865



THE SUSSEX NATIONAL BANK of Newton, New Jersey, is one of the oldest institutions in the Country. On October 8th, 1817, a meeting was held at the house of Isaac Bassett to discuss the matter of a charter for a bank in Newton; the following men of note were appointed to draft a petition: John Armstrong, Chairman; William T. Anderson, Secretary; Job S. Halstead, Daniel Stuart, Col. John Gustin, Grant Fitch, Ezekial Dennis and Ephraim Green, Jr. The meeting then adjourned until October 20th.

CHARTER GRANTED

The Bank received its Charter January 31, 1818.

Established in those stirring times that history records, the bank began business in a very different world from that in which we live today.

The census of 1810 showed that the United States then had a population of 7,239,881, less than one-thirteenth of the present number of inhabitants.

A few years before the great war which had drenched Europe with blood for twenty years had come to an end—the great Napoleon was imprisoned on the Island of Elba. The map of Europe has been remade by his victorious foes.

Almost new in the minds of the people were Mac-Donough's Victory on Lake Champlain. The burning of the Government Buildings at Washington by the British, and Andrew Jackson's famous victory over them at New Orleans.

FIRST ISSUE OF STOCK

On February 6, 1818, an extra issue of the "Sussex Register" printed a notice to the commissioners to open books for the sale of stock. They were John Armstrong, John Johnson, Grant Fitch, David Ryerson, Ephraim Green, Jr., William T. Anderson and John Gustin. The Charter called for a Capitalization of \$100,000—divided into shares of the par value of \$50.00 each.

The books were to have been opened that month but the law required publication of notice in a New York City paper, so that the matter was deferred until March when the books were opened at all the principal hotels in the County and later at the Clerk's Office in Newton. On May 2d, 1818, the books were again opened for subscription.

FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On June 8th, 1818, an election for a Board of Directors was held by the Stockholders at the Court House.

The First Board of Directors was composed of men whose names are still familiar.

They were:

DANIEL STUART
JOB S. HALSTEAD
GRANT FITCH
JOHN GUSTIN
DAVID FORD

WILLIAM T. ANDERSON
JAMES STOLL
EPHRAIM GREEN, JR.
JOHN ARMSTRONG
GERSHOM COURSEN

DAVID RYERSON

Mount Vernon Dec^r 7th 1798

The Cashier of the Office
of Discount & Deposit. Baltimore.

Will please pay Robt Gilmer Esq^r
or bearer the sum of Two Hundred & Ninety
dollars and cly the same to my acc^t

219 Dolly

G. Washington

The original of the above Washington check is owned by Mr. Lewis M. Morford. About the time the Sussex Bank was organized, some of General Washington's papers were still in circulation and Mr. Morford's grandfather, the Bank's first cashier, came into possession of it and it has ever since remained in the family.

FIRST PRESIDENT

The Board of Directors convened on June 13th and chose Daniel Stuart as President.

FIRST CASHIER

On August 17th the Board chose for its Cashier Samuel D. Morford, the father of the late Theodore Morford, who also was Cashier, succeeding his father at his death in 1865, and holding that office until 1902, when his son Lewis M. Morford, the present Cashier, filled the place left vacant by his father, when he succeeded David R. Hull as President—thus we have a notable example of three generations serving in one capacity for a full century.

On the same date, August 17th, 1818, the Bank opened its doors for the discount of notes and all other banking business.

FIRST BANK BUILDING

The first Bank Building was located on Main Street, just opposite the South Corner of the Public Park. Business soon assumed proportions which made it clear that the Bank served a useful purpose in the community and would be a paying investment for the stockholders.

FIRST DIVIDEND

The first dividend was declared January 31st, 1820, for three and one-half per cent, payable February 17, on a capital stock of \$27,300 and a second dividend semi-annual of three per cent was declared August

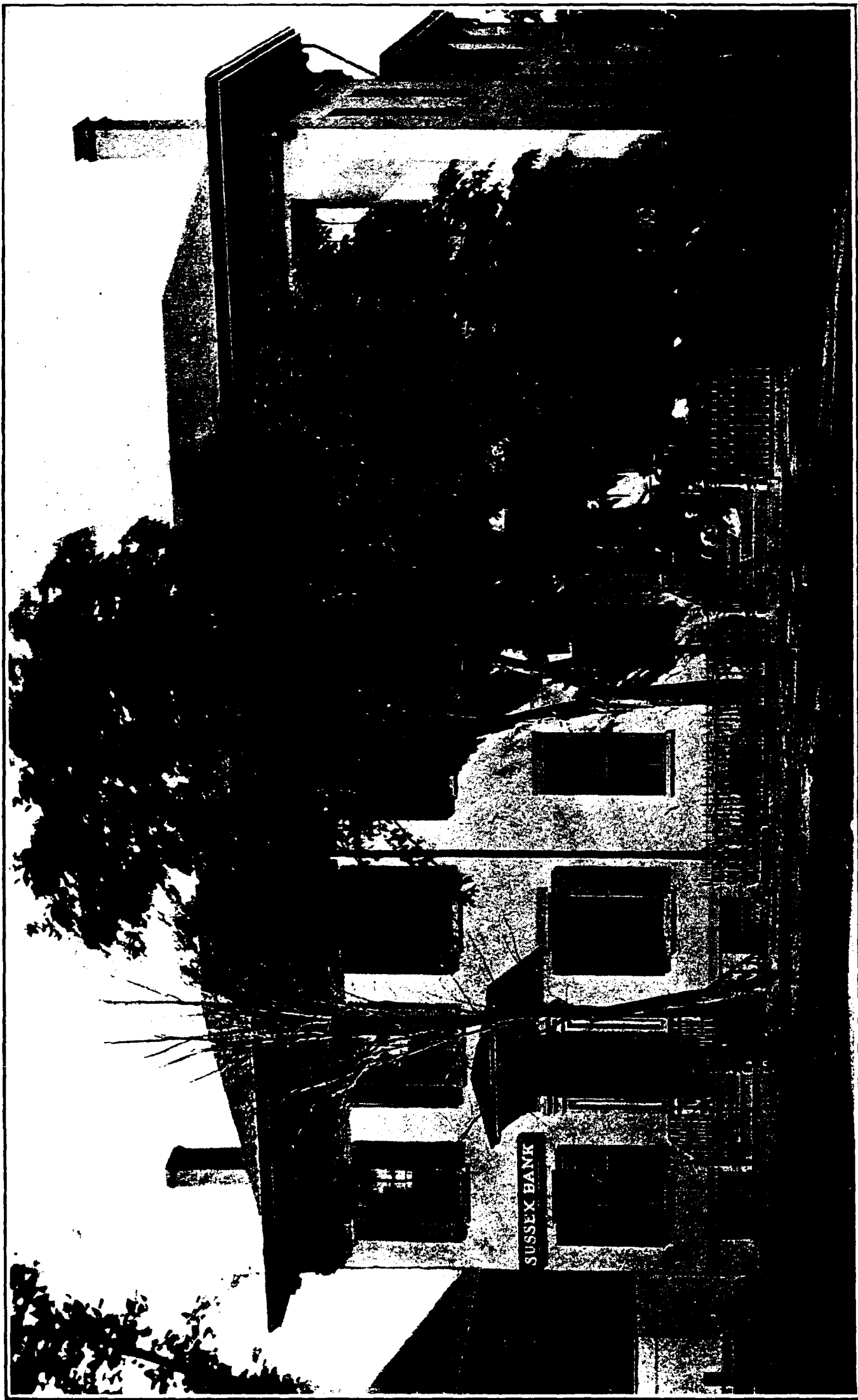
14th, 1820. During the ensuing years the dividend rate varied once as low as two and one-half per cent, but most of the dividends declared were three and one-half and four per cent. A notice in the "Sussex Register" of August 19th, 1818, two days after the opening of the Bank, told of S. Hurd, of Sparta, having left a twenty-dollar bill of the Sussex Bank in the Sheriff's Room at the Court House. This was one of the first notes issued and it seems likely that he never recovered it.

SECOND BANK BUILDING

In the latter part of the year 1820 the Bank business had grown to such a size that the Directors felt the necessity of larger quarters so it was decided to build a more commodious banking house in the business part of the town. On December 20th, 1820, proposals were printed in the newspapers asking for bids on 100,000 bricks, 6000 feet of timber, 200 loads of building stone, 4000 bushels of lime, 10,000 feet of yellow and white pine boards.

The site of the Second Bank Building was chosen at the corner of Church and High Streets and in a short time after the bids were received work was begun and in the early part of the year 1822 the bank occupied its new home.

Already in those early years the germ of the modern safe deposit system was evident. The coin of depositors was received in bags and boxes kept for the owners, being returned to them at their request, just as they had deposited it.



SECOND BANK BUILDING
Occupied in 1822. Corner of Church and High Streets

SUSSEX BANK NOTES COUNTERFEITED

Throughout the period when bank notes were the principal medium of monetary circulation counterfeiters and forgers of bank notes were a continual source of annoyance and loss to honest people. On December 4th, 1821, counterfeit three-dollar notes on the Sussex Bank were discovered to be in circulation.

The notes of the Sussex Bank were counterfeited and forged several times after this first experience. In September, 1831, five-dollar counterfeit bills in large numbers were being circulated in Philadelphia and Sussex County.

In November, 1847, spurious one-dollar notes, altered from the plate of a broken Louisiana Bank, were showing up here and there. In February, 1848, less than a year later, five-dollar and ten-dollar counterfeit notes were in circulation in the western part of Pennsylvania. A newspaper of February 12th, 1848, makes mention of a "recent arrest at Hollidaysburg, Pa., for passing ten-dollar counterfeit notes of the Sussex Bank."

The Sussex Bank was in such good standing that it seemed to be a favorite with counterfeiters.

A mystery that was never solved was the circulation of one-dollar counterfeit notes on this bank printed from a genuine plate but with counterfeit signatures. As the original had never been out of the possession of the bank it was impossible to find the solution. On February 7th, 1822, Ephraim Green,

Jr., was elected President of the bank to succeed Daniel Stuart, deceased, who had thus far, as its first president, wisely guided the bank's affairs and his loss was keenly felt by the community as well as the bank.

On June 3d of the same year two or three strangers arrived in Newton and bought two hundred shares of Sussex Bank stock at ten and twelve per cent above par. It was learned that they had purchased other lots in New York and elsewhere previous to coming here.

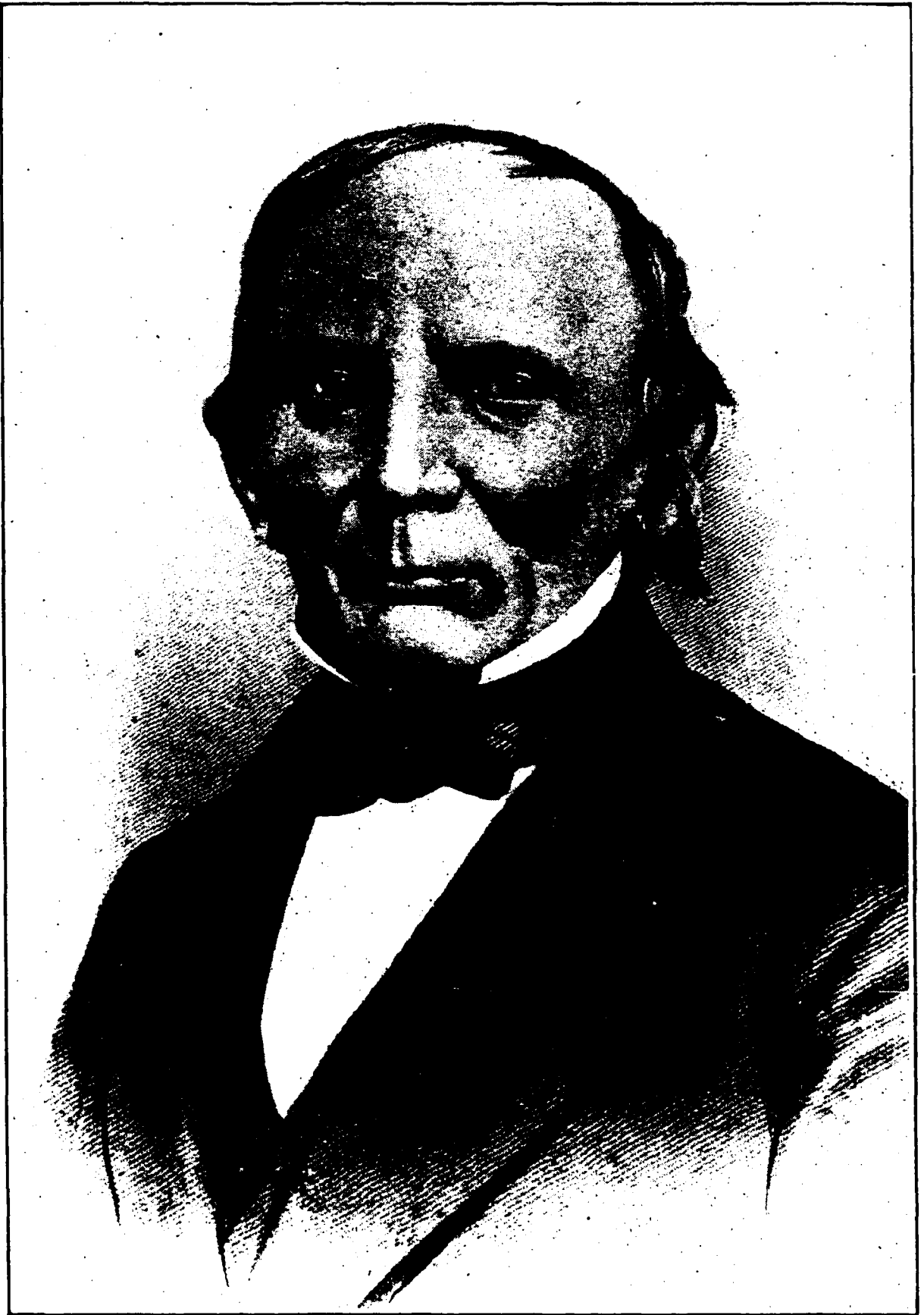
BANK NEVER PASSED A DIVIDEND

The Bank's business grew steadily and dividends were paid regularly and it is with a certain amount of pride the present directors can look over the records, which show that not a single dividend has been passed. The two hundredth dividend was paid July 1st of this year—one hundred and ninety-seven of these were regular semi-annual and three extra dividends.

INCREASES IN CAPITAL

In 1833 the capital was increased to \$41,000, and in 1836 by calling in assessments the capital was increased to \$67,500.

November 25th, 1848, the Bank gave notice of an application to convert part of their surplus to make the capital stock aggregate \$135,000. The bill passed the Senate unanimously on January 23d, 1849, and was passed in the House six days later. On



DAVID RYERSON, President
1828 - 1865

February 12th, 1849, the Bank issued a notice that subscriptions of six hundred and seventy-five shares of fifty dollars each would be received on April 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 and in order to equalize the new stock with the old the sum of five dollars per share would be required. On the same date a five per cent dividend was declared for the past six months.

On April 23d the stock subscriptions were closed and it was found that seventeen hundred and fifty-one shares had been subscribed for by sixty-five persons, or an excess of about one hundred and fifty per cent. The Directors awarded four shares for every ten subscribed to all who had applied for stock.

In 1854 the Bank had asked the Legislature for permission to increase its capital stock to \$200,000, but it was not until January, 1858, the Bank gave notice of the proposed increase and accordingly the books were opened on March 22d of that year for the sale of six hundred and fifty shares. The stock was again largely oversubscribed.

The Capital Stock has remained at \$200,000 since then up to the present time.

FIRST BANK STATEMENT

December, 1837, saw the first bank statement issued. This was under a recent law of the Legislature. The Sussex Bank reported Capital Stock paid in, \$67,500; Notes in Circulation, \$58,371; Due other banks, \$1,447; due Depositors, \$17,462; Specie, \$14,538; balance due from other banks, \$34,093; Notes

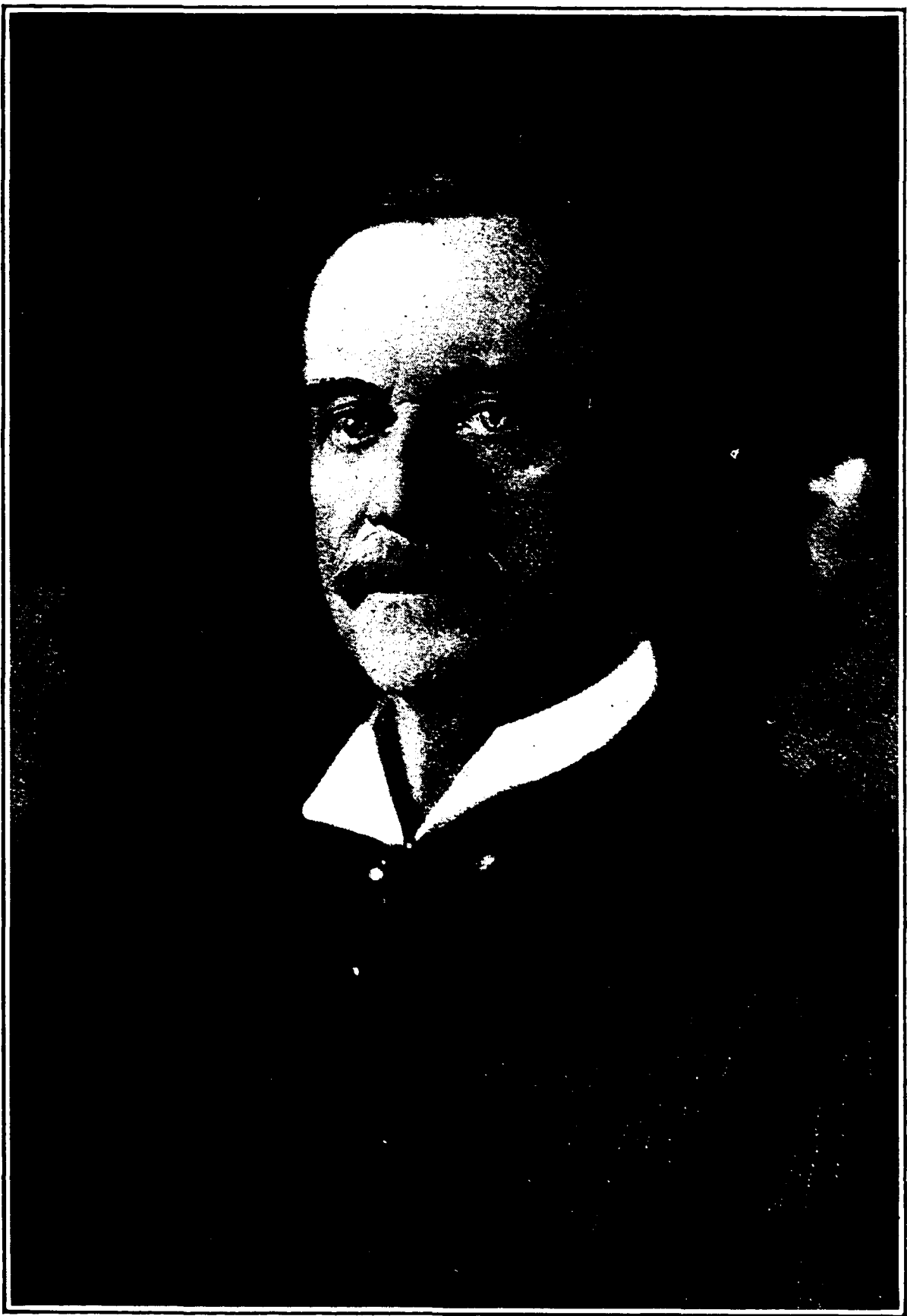
discounted, \$96,639; Bonds and Mortgages, \$7,808; Surplus fund, \$21,338; Banking house cost, \$5,002. No bad debts and only \$120 lost by broken banks.

HARD TIMES

During the years 1837-38-39 "Hard Times" were with us. It followed the flush times of the few years previous, caused by "placing of high Government Deposits which made money plentiful." Loans were easily obtainable and temptation to speculate increased. Prices advanced sharply, and in May, 1837, came the panic, attended by distressing financial disasters in all the large cities. "Shinplasters" were again in circulation and bank notes were only received at a discount with the exception of a few banks, a list of which the Sussex Bank had issued. But during all this time the Bank paid its dividends regularly and by 1845 the Sussex Bank had outlived the panic and its attendant years of business depression and was facing a new era of prosperity.

On June 1st, 1845, John Rorbach offered to sell a few shares of Sussex Bank stock. He was the first individual to offer any of the Bank's stock for sale. This shows in a measure how highly this stock was valued. There is no record of any stock being offered for sale again until 1849, when ten shares were offered at \$60 per share.

In the early part of the year 1854 opposition began to show in the Legislature against the renewal of the Bank's Charter. It developed into a strong

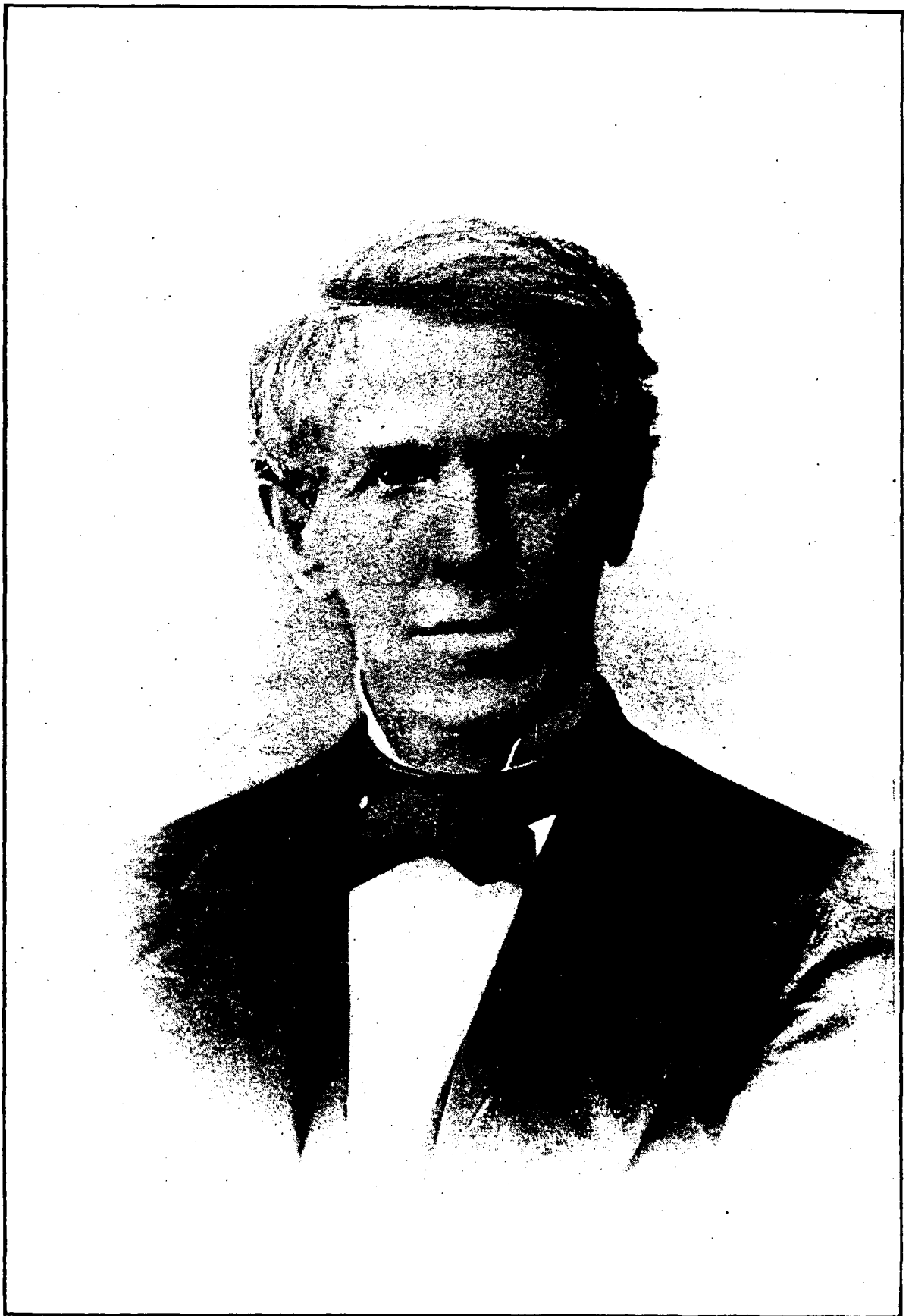


THEODORE MORFORD

Bookkeeper, 1851-1865

Cashier, 1865-1902

President, 1902-1908



DAVID THOMPSON, President
1865 - 1888

fight. One of the arguments used against its renewal was that it might get into the hands of foreign stockholders. An article in the "Sussex Register" reviewed the history of the Bank and added "that there had never been a day nor an hour since its organization in which its credit has been in the slightest degree impaired." In November of the same year, the bank gave notice of application for an extension of its Charter and also permission to increase the amount of its Capital Stock to \$200,000. The fight against the renewal of the Sussex Bank's Charter, as well as several other banks, was continued in the Legislature. Thomas D. Hoxey, of Passaic, was the leader of the opposition, but when a vote was taken The Sussex Bank and seven other banks received special charters by a vote of fourteen to four. The newspapers of that date printed lengthy articles about the bitter fight that continued in the Legislature, and there were several charges of bribery that were unconfirmed, and finally in the latter part of March the House passed an amended bill to recharter The Sussex Bank by a vote of forty-two to eleven and seven other banks by practically the same vote. The next day the Senate agreed to the amendments, and on the thirtieth the bank fight was ended by final passage of all the charters.

In July of the following year we again have a record of a few shares of the Bank's stock being offered for sale at public auction. They were sold for \$67.75 per share.

THE PANIC OF 1857

In 1857 a sharp commercial and banking panic came upon the Country. The reasons for this crisis are still a subject of controversy. On September 30th, 1857, The Sussex Bank refused to receive bills on New Jersey Banks south of New Brunswick and on Pennsylvania banks and New England Banks. The Sussex Bank never received Southern and Western bank bills. The situation became so acute that sixteen New York banks suspended specie payments on October 13th of that year. The news spread like wild-fire. The next day the banks in every section of the country followed, including The Sussex Bank; and as a consequence business was badly crippled.

Free Trade was in force, and it had made itself very obnoxious, the importation of foreign goods for the first nine months of 1857 being \$193,000,000, or \$20,316,223 more than for the same period of 1856. The Sussex Bank, however, weathered the storm; and from the fact that it continued to pay its semi-annual dividends regularly it would seem that it did not suffer severely from the panic.

CIVIL WAR DAYS

In 1861 the great struggle for the life of the nation began. Specie payments were suspended throughout the country. The Government speedily followed this action, and it marked the beginning of a long period during which coin did not circulate. The Bank gave its loyal support to both State and Nation as the war developed.



Reproduction of Early Issues of Bank Notes. It will be noticed that one-dollar and three-dollar notes are dated July 4th, 1818

The Bank invested \$20,000 in the bonds of the State of New Jersey, and throughout the time of the war the Bank subscribed largely to the various bond issues authorized by the Government. The Bank also loaned a large sum to the Board of Freeholders of Sussex County to stimulate enlistments. It is noted that "Captain Bray," who was in charge of recruiting, "lost half of the 85 men he had in camp and others had difficulty until the men received assurance that the bounty promised would be paid by the respective townships. Frankford, Sandyston, Stillwater and Lafayette townships promptly voted \$200 bounty. Green township decided to give \$300. A public meeting on August 28th, 1863, held in Newton, provided for \$200 bounty. A majority of the Township Committee endorsed the plan proposed by Colonel Hamilton, viz., giving their note for the amount endorsed by some twenty of the wealthiest citizens. The note was accepted by the Sussex Bank. In other townships nothing had been done, and they awaited the draft."

NATIONAL BANK CHARTER

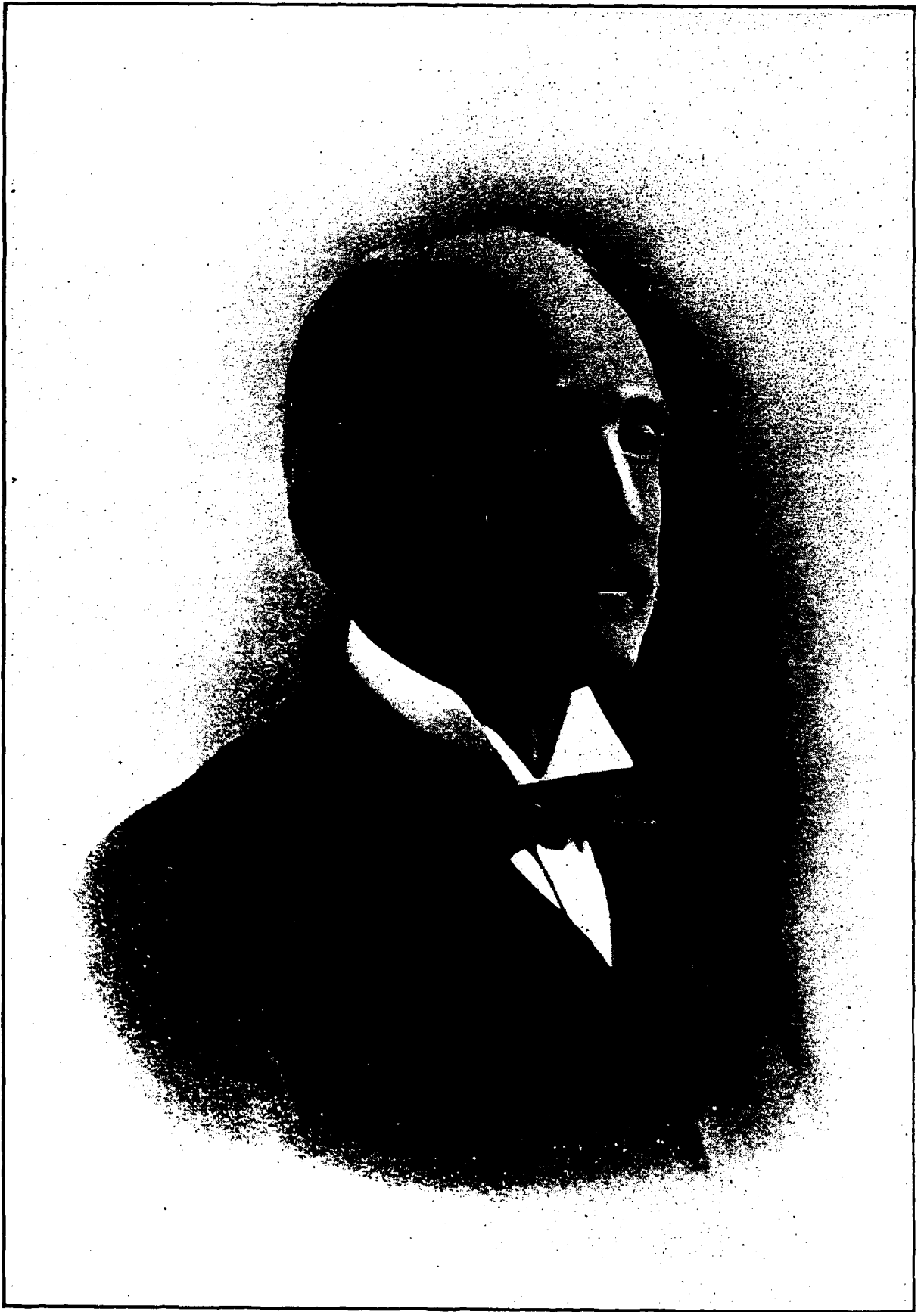
Salmon P. Chase, the Secretary of the Treasury, had recommended a National banking system during the early part of the Civil War. The idea was not acted upon immediately, but there was a growing sentiment in favor of some such national system; and it gradually took shape, and on February 25th, 1863, the National Banking Act became a law. This original act was recast, and on June 3d, 1864, a new National Banking Act became law.

In February, 1865, the President of the Sussex Bank was authorized to make application for a National Charter, and the Comptroller of the Currency's notice, dated March 22d, was received on April 28th authorizing the Sussex National Bank of Newton to begin business under the United States Banking laws; and on June 5th of that year The Sussex Bank gave notice that it had begun business under a National Charter.

THE BANK'S FIRST CASHIER DIES

Samuel D. Morford, for forty-seven years cashier of the Bank, died suddenly on April 11th, 1865, in his seventy-fifth year. He survived an attack of heart disease only half an hour. Quoting from the Sussex Register, it said: "No man ever enjoyed the respect and esteem of this community in a more eminent degree, and he presented a model for all men in every phase of life." Mr. Morford was succeeded by his son, Theodore Morford, who held the office until 1902, when he succeeded David R. Hull as President.

On August 17th, 1868, the Bank was fifty years old. It is interesting to note that it was celebrated with a dinner at the Cochran House, "to which the Stockholders and Officers of the adjoining banks were invited. Sixty-five persons enjoyed the most sumptuous and best arranged dinner ever served on a public occasion in Sussex County. Henry M. Ward was paid \$625 for this dinner, which averaged \$10 per plate. It comprised the choicest of birds, fish, etc."



DAVID R. HULL, President
1888-1902

The Sussex National Bank of Newton passed through the panic of 1873, which had a most disastrous effect upon the country, with its subsequent years of financial and industrial depression, without any seeming bad effects.

RECENT YEARS

The first Charter of the Bank under the National banking laws expired on March 22, 1885, and it was at once renewed for another period of twenty years, and again on March 6th, 1905, for another period of twenty years. While the management of the Bank has always been prudent and conservative, it has always been progressive enough to adopt any sound new development that would in any way help to safeguard or better serve their patrons.

When the Banking Act of 1913 was passed the bank immediately filed an application for a charter under the new banking act.

When the Federal Reserve Act became in force the Bank gave notice of its intentions to subscribe to the capital stock of the Federal Reserve Bank to be organized in the district.

The growth of the Bank in recent years is strikingly shown by a comparison of its deposits thirty years ago and the present time.

In 1888 the deposits were \$321,213.43.

The deposits today amount to \$1,181,628.42.

The Bank has paid to its stockholders since it became a National Bank the sum of \$1,128,000.

A comparison of the first financial statement of the bank with its latest statement will show very vividly the Bank's growth from the very small beginning in 1818 to its splendid proportions of today.

STATEMENT OF CONDITIONS, 1818

RESOURCES

Bills and Notes Discount.....	\$26,865.39
Cash in Vault viz. Specie.....	\$5,553.69
Notes of Sundry Banks.....	8,952.00
	<hr/> 14,505.69
Phenix Bank Dr.	16,031.00
	<hr/> \$57,402.08

LIABILITIES

Capital	\$19,190.00
Notes in Circulation	35,661.00
Discounts Receivable	324.41
Deposits	2,226.67
	<hr/> \$57,402.08

STATEMENT OF MAY 10, 1918

RESOURCES.

Loans and Discounts	\$332,747.66
U. S. Bonds to Secure Circulation.....	200,000.00
Securities	1,075,890.80
Reserve with Federal Reserve Bank....	90,000.00
Cash, Cash Items, and amount due from National Banks	128,367.19
Redemption Fund with U. S. Treasurer and due from U. S. Treasurer.....	10,000.00
Banking House	23,000.00
	<hr/> \$1,860,005.65

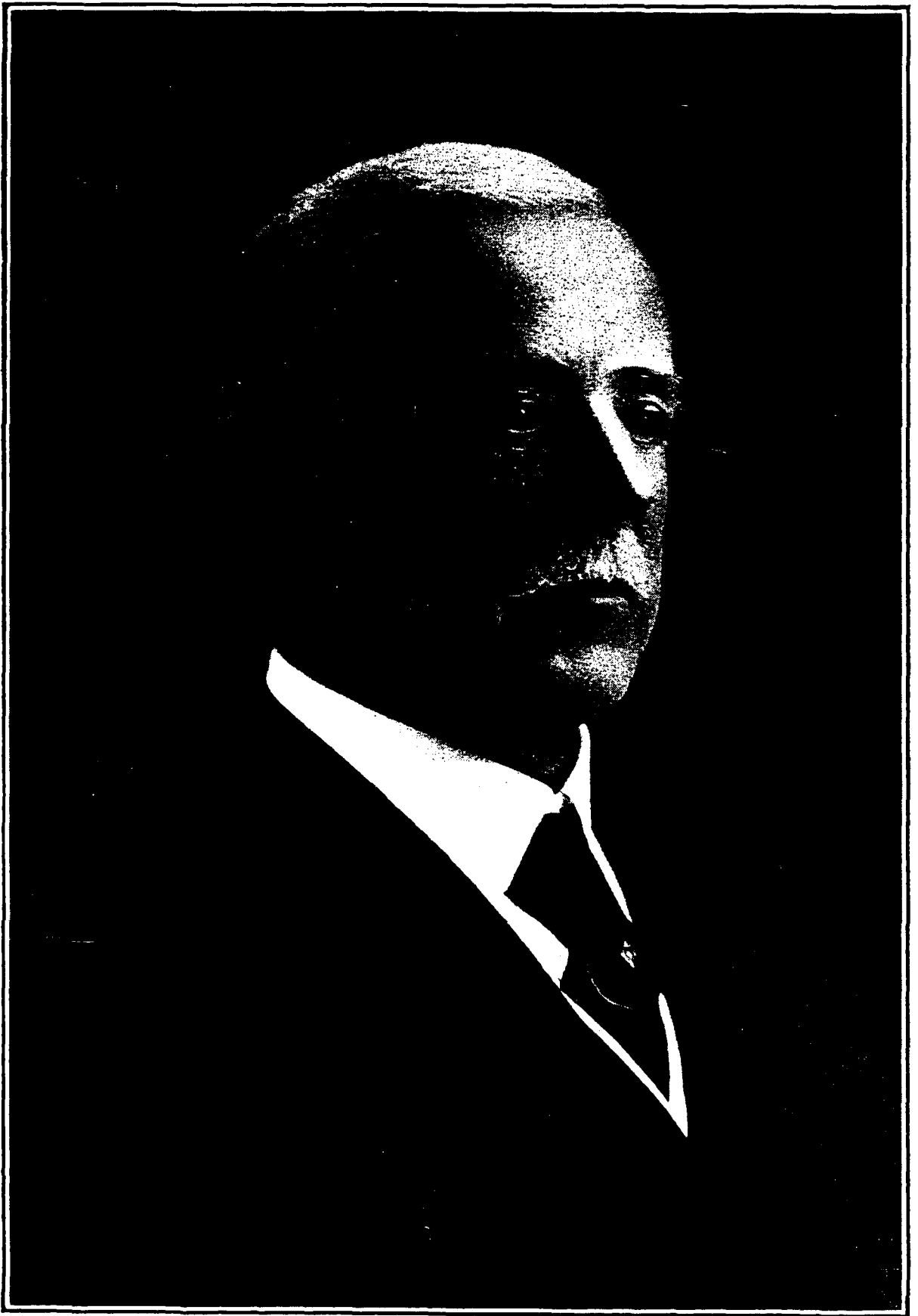
LIABILITIES.

Capital Stock	\$200,000.00
Surplus Fund	200,000.00
Undivided Profits	75,977.23
Reserved for Interest accrued.....	2,400.00
Circulation Outstanding	200,000.00
Dividends Unpaid	72.00
Individual Deposits	1,070,414.08
Due to Banks	1,848.84
War Loan Deposit Account.....	29,647.50
Payments on 3rd Liberty Loan Bond Subscriptions	79,646.00
	<hr/> \$1,860,005.65

THE PRESENT HOME OF THE BANK

The present home of the Bank, located on the corner of Spring and Main Streets, was occupied in April, 1891, within a few rods of where it first began business in 1818.

The Bank's business had increased to such proportions that it was found necessary to have larger banking rooms. This led the Directors to look for a site or building that would answer the Bank's growing needs. Without much delay the present building was



THEODORE SIMONSON

Vice-President, 1905-1908

President, 1908-

purchased from Samuel Johnson. Neither pains nor expense were spared to make the new building attractive and convenient for the transaction of every branch of the banking business.

The "Sussex Register" in noting the occupancy said at that time: "The Banking room is the handsomest in the State," and in speaking of the protection offered to its patrons said: "The securities of the Bank are safely protected against fire and burglars. First is a large fire-proof vault, which rests not upon a solid foundation, but upon brick arches, so as to prevent burglars from working below unseen. The vault is also built out from the wall of the building and stands by itself. Opening the solid door, we are confronted by a gate of polished steel bars, so hung that it closes and locks itself as soon as released from the power that opens it. This is for protection against sneakthieves. Within are shelves for the books of the bank, and also a burglar-proof safe, the edges of the doors fitting in with steps and grooves, and pressed home upon each side by means of two levers after being apparently closed, thus making it air tight, so that neither wedges nor air pumps can make space for the introduction of explosives. After the doors have been closed and pressed home by means of the levers they are locked by bolts that spring from all four sides, and so arranged that they will revolve if any attempt is made to saw or cut them. This door is fastened with a time lock, and within this burglar proof is the safe that has been used in the old Bank building. We doubt if any bank has better protection."

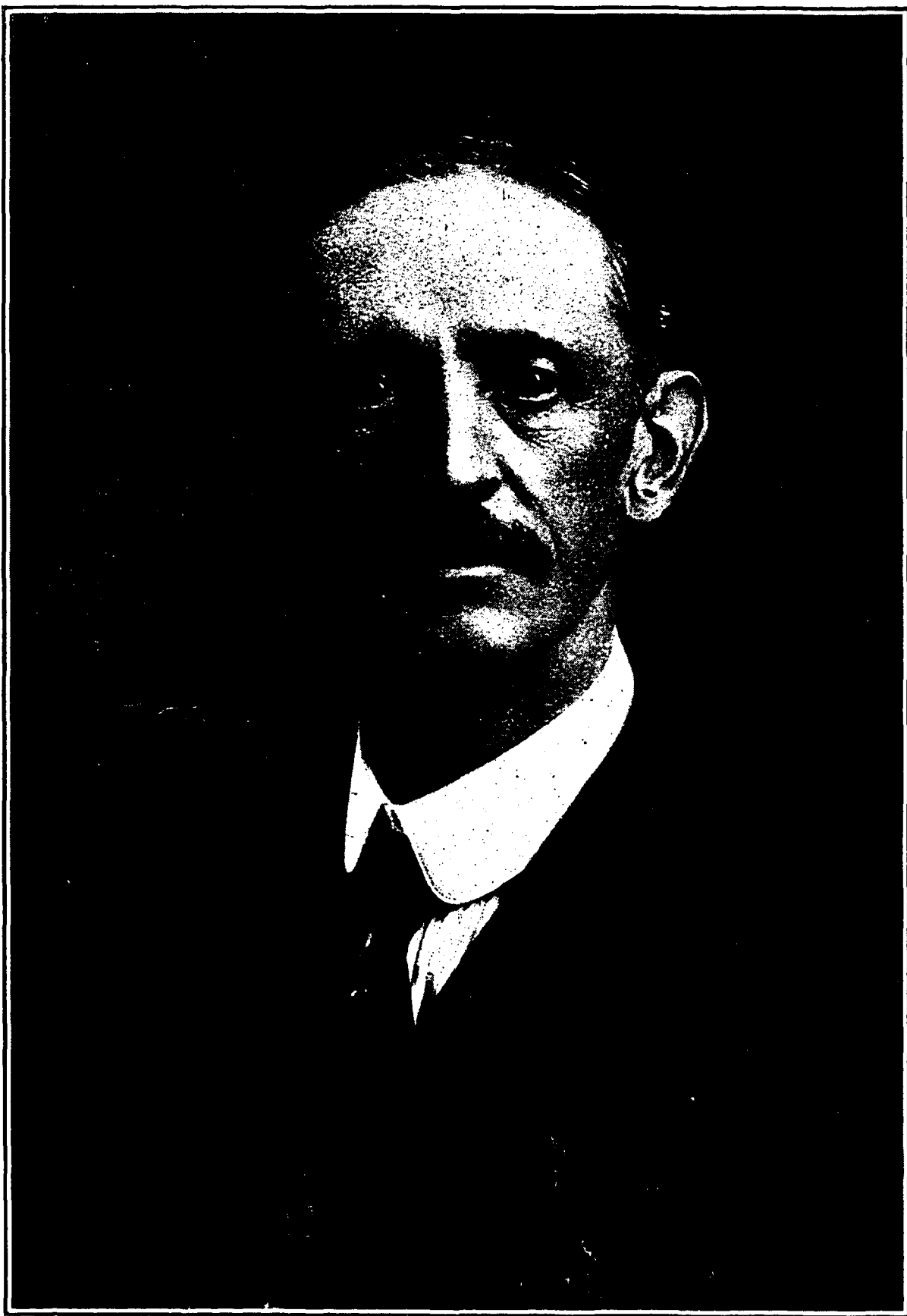
Here for twenty-seven years the Bank has maintained the steady growth that has made it one of the strongest institutions of the country; and it is with a certain amount of pride that the present Officers and Directors point back through the history of a hundred years to those men who joined hands in an experiment which today has proved so justifiable.

This Bank has always held a most prominent and honored position in the annals of Sussex and Warren Counties. Its Directorate has always included many of the most progressive and public-spirited citizens of the county, and has in no small measure contributed to the progress and prosperity of this thriving community.

This Bank is fully equipped for the careful and conservative handling of all banking business, and respectfully directs attention to its large resources and representative directorate. The regular examinations by United States Government Accountants, the frequent publication of its financial condition, in addition to the examinations by the special Committees of the Board of Directors afford every safeguard for its depositors.

ITS MANAGEMENT PAST AND PRESENT

Behind this century of successful banking stands the integrity and wisdom of the men who have managed the affairs of the Bank from the beginning through dark and troublous times as well as seasons of prosperity.



LEWIS M. MORFORD

Clerk, 1874

Asst. Cashier, 1896-1902

Cashier, 1902-1908

Vice-Pres. and Cashier, 1908-

THE PRESIDENTS

DANIEL STUART	1818-1822
EPHRAIM GREEN, JR.	1822-1828
DAVID RYERSON	1828-1865
DAVID THOMPSON	1865-1888
DAVID R. HULL	1888-1902
THEODORE MORFORD	1902-1908
THEODORE SIMONSON	1908-

THE VICE-PRESIDENTS

The office of Vice President was not created until 1871, when Levi Shepherd was elected as the first occupant. He was succeeded in the following order by:

DAVID R. HULL
THOMAS LAWRENCE
WILLIAM McDANOLDS
THEODORE SIMONSON
LEWIS M. MORFORD

THE CASHIERS

SAMUEL D. MORFORD	1818-1865
THEODORE MORFORD	1865-1902
LEWIS M. MORFORD	1902-

PRESENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ANDREW J. VAN BLARCOM	JOHN WILLS
THEODORE SIMONSON	LEWIS M. MORFORD
NATHAN H. HART	HENRY C. KELSEY
LUTHER HILL	ROLLAND T. HULL
WILLIAM W. ROE	WILLIAM H. EARL
WALTER F. WHITTEMORE	

PRESENT EMPLOYEES

Chas. S. Steele, Assistant Cashier, began as clerk in the bank in 1867.

Edwin M. Quick, General Bookkeeper, has been in the employ of the Bank since 1889.

Millard F. Goldsmith, Jr., Individual Bookkeeper, has been with the Bank since 1900.

Rolland T. Hull, Clerk, began his employment with the Bank in 1901.

THE BANK'S SCOPE

This Bank is fully equipped for the careful handling of all banking business, and respectfully directs your attention to its large resources and representative directorate.

This Bank:

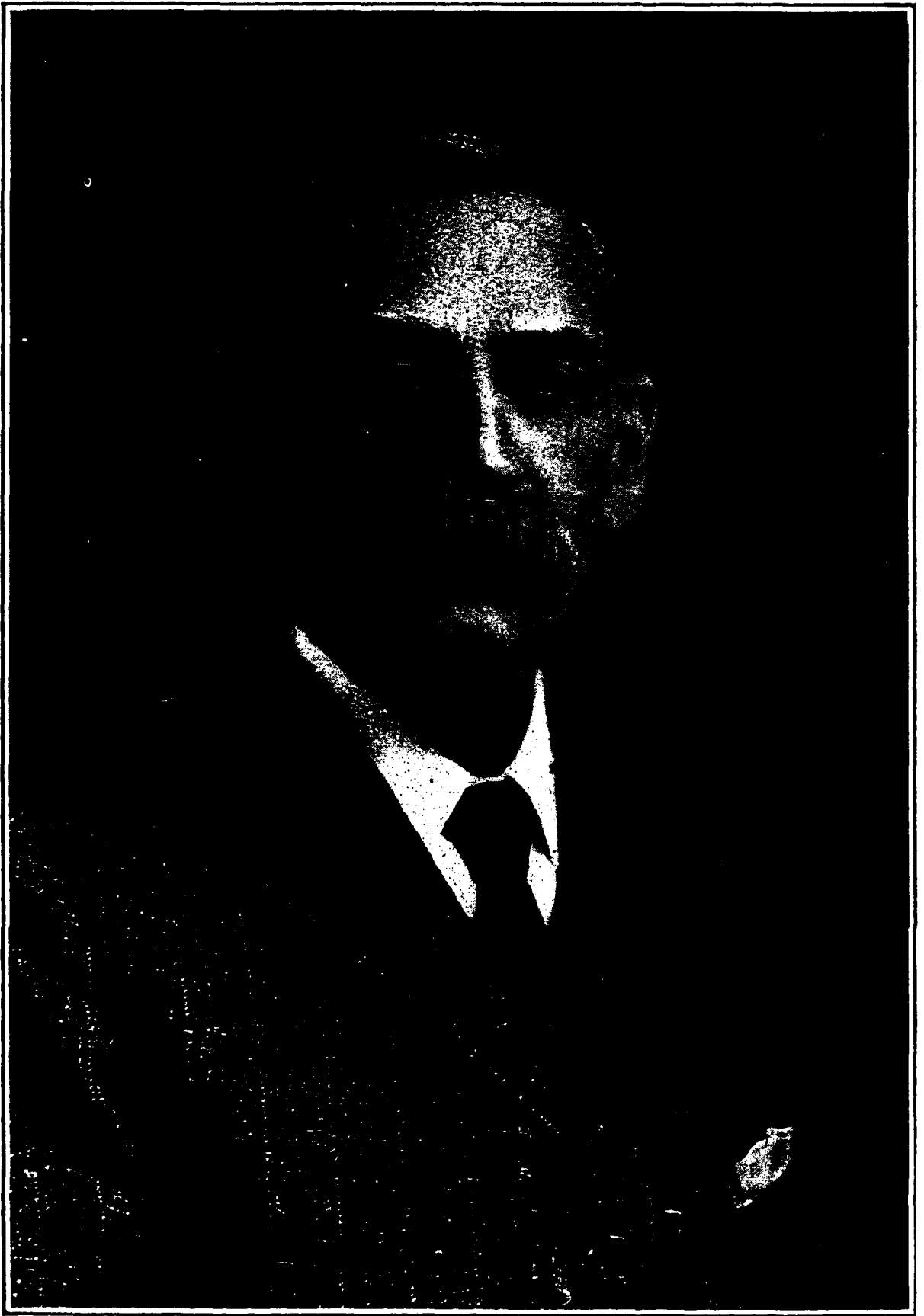
Allows (3%) interest on savings deposits

Loans money on satisfactory personal or collateral security

Invites checking accounts, large or small, and allows 2% interest on daily balances of \$100.

THE BANK'S SECURITY

No better evidence of the strength and security of this Bank could our patrons desire than the figures that represent the surplus and undivided profits. Notwithstanding the fact that generous dividends have been paid to our stockholders of one hundred years, this item of accumulated earnings has grown to such proportions that it means much to all our depositors.



CHARLES S. STEELE

Clerk, 1867

Teller, 1869

Asst. Cashier, 1902

A WORLD CRISIS

This Bank has successfully passed through all of the disturbances which the nation has experienced in the last one hundred years—Financial panics, Business depressions and the great Civil War. Just now we are experiencing a great world catastrophe, but it is our firm expectation to see this terrible thing end victoriously for our own beloved Country and our Allies; and this can be brought to pass more speedily by every one backing up our Government and doing his very best, whatever it may be.

We all have a duty to perform; not one of us can afford to stand idle; we must work and earn; then save and lend our Country all that we can, always remembering what we lend is for the personal privilege of enjoying Liberty, Freedom and “the Pursuit of Happiness.”

CONCLUSION

In the preceding pages we have tried to give you a glimpse of the accomplishments of this Bank's first one hundred years. Today it stands on the threshold of the second century of its existence. It has passed through trying times, but has always been ready to aid legitimate enterprise; has always promoted the town's welfare, and by its conservative, sound management has always maintained the confidence of its patrons during its century of service.

Today the Bank organized in 1818 continues to meet the financial need of the community and is most thoroughly equipped for whatever duties or opportunities may confront it.

