

PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN NOTE

A PILGRIM CONNECTION

by JACK H. FISHER, NLG ©

My curiosity about Plymouth, Michigan originated during my childhood in Kalamazoo, Michigan Public Schools. I wondered about Plymouth, Michigan having any connection with the Pilgrims; Plymouth, Massachusetts; Plymouth, England; Plymouth Rock and related historical subjects.

I did not act upon this early curiosity until I acquired a \$5 Second Charter Period Brown Back national bank note issued by The National Exchange Bank of Plymouth, Michigan charter number 4649. This note is dated November 14, 1891. The note focused my curiosity into an active research project.

I was not disappointed as I commenced to probe and learn about the early days of the Plymouth, Michigan area. I learned that the old native American trails were used as the roads by the first individuals who investigated this area for possible settlement. These trails extended from Detroit by following the Rouge River to and beyond the area that today is known as Plymouth, Michigan.

The first land that was purchased in what was later known as Plymouth Township was by Alanson Aldrich in 1824, but he did not settle there. John Williams and Allen Tibbets are considered to be the first settlers.

Settlers were attracted due to the high quality of the land and because water was plentiful from many springs and a branch of the Rouge River. Among the settlers were descendants of the Pilgrims who landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620.

The community itself had no name for two years. Various names considered were Pekin, LeRoy, Plymouth and others. The name of Plymouth was accepted at a meeting of interested citizens at the home of John Tibbets on February 26, 1827. It was approved by Gov. Cass and the legislative council on April 12, 1827.

The first township meeting was May 25, 1827. Officers were elected and a total tax of \$154.40 was levied to be allocated among 140 taxpayers.

The village of Plymouth was recorded in 1837 after being laid out by Henry Holbrook. There were five stores, a Presbyterian church, three taverns, a druggist, a lawyer, three physicians and others to provide necessary services. The population was estimated to be about 300. It also had a wild cat bank known as Wayne County Bank.

There were two first class hotels. Plymouth was the stagecoach headquarters, which was called the Detroit-Ann Arbor.

There were as many as eight four horse stagecoaches that passed through Plymouth each day. Many of the passengers and drivers stayed at the hotels.

The village was incorporated in 1867. The first elected president was Bethnel Noyes. There was always a feeling in Plymouth, Michigan of an attachment to Plymouth, Massachusetts. There was also a feeling among the residents of connection with the Pilgrims and Plymouth, England.

Plymouth, Michigan grew to such an extent that a local group decided it needed a national bank. This group organized The First National Bank of Plymouth, which received charter number 1916 on January 5, 1872. It had a capital of \$50,000. It only issued First Charter Period notes consisting of Original Issue \$1, \$2 and \$5 plus Series 1875 \$5 notes.

This bank was placed in voluntary liquidation in November 1891. It was succeeded by The National Exchange Bank of Plymouth with charter number 4649 issued November 14, 1891. It was regarded as a reorganization of the liquidated The First National Bank of Plymouth, charter number 1916.

The First National Exchange Bank of Plymouth issued \$5, \$10 and \$20 Second Charter Period Brown Backs. The \$5 note dated November 14, 1891 with bank serial number 1900 illustrates this article.



\$5 Second Charter Period Brown Back national bank note issued by The First National Exchange Bank of Plymouth, Michigan charter number 4649

Then I learned about The Plymouth National Bank that had charter number 3109 issued January 16, 1884. It issued only Second Charter Period Brown Backs in the \$5 denomination. It was placed in voluntary liquidation in February 1890. It was then reorganized as the Plymouth Savings Bank on May 13, 1890.

The Plymouth Savings Bank and The First National Exchange Bank of Plymouth were consolidated in 1903 with the new name of The Plymouth United Savings Bank. The president was C.A. Fisher (no relative of mine).

The bank prospered. There was an announcement dated October 2, 1952 to the effect the Plymouth United Savings Bank, along with another Plymouth bank chartered in 1926 as First National Bank of Plymouth, charter number 12953, were opened as offices of the National Bank of Detroit after the merger of these banks into the National Bank of Detroit.

The Plymouth, England connection was again in the news when Plymouth, Michigan celebrated its centennial in 1967 (the village being incorporated in 1867). The Lord Mayor of Plymouth, England arrived, along with aldermen, city clerk and other officials. The relationship between the two Plymouths was and is strong because during World War I the Plymouth, Michigan Rotary Club sent food, clothing, medical supplies, money and letters to Plymouth, England during the

blitz when England was under bombing attacks by Nazi planes and rocket bombs.

The Lord Mayor brought a piece of rock from Plymouth, England as a gift to Plymouth, Michigan. The area where this "Plymouth Rock" is situated is now designated as a Michigan Historical Site with a marker in front of the gift "Plymouth Rock." A marker states "PLYMOUTH—The Village of Plymouth was settled in 1825, incorporated in 1867, and became a city in 1932. The Lord Mayor of Plymouth, England came here in July 1967 to celebrate the centennial of Plymouth, Michigan's incorporation as a village. He and his aides presented this piece of rock from Plymouth, England to the citizens of Plymouth, Michigan, some of whom are descendants of the Pilgrims. This rock, taken from Plymouth harbor from where the Mayflower sailed in 1620, stands as a symbol of friendship between the two cities."

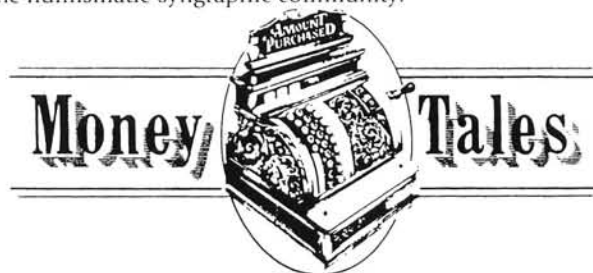
The "Plymouth Rock" gift is shown in the photograph used to illustrate this article. The people of Plymouth, England, were given four trees native to Michigan as a gift from the people of Plymouth, Michigan. These four trees are growing in front of the city hall of Plymouth, England. The ties between the two cities are close.

There are many other banks throughout the country that have the name of Plymouth in the titles. Many of these Plymouth banks issued national bank notes in various denominations in different charter periods. Collecting notes from these Plymouth banks could and would make an interesting collecting goal. This could also lead to learning in depth about the Pilgrims and the various cities named Plymouth to enhance the enjoyment of the Plymouth notes.

Any individuals with information about unusual notes issued with the name of Plymouth are requested to transmit such information to Jack H. Fisher 3123 Bronson Boulevard, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008. Information will be shared with the numismatic-syngraphic community.



"Plymouth Rock" from Plymouth, England presented to Plymouth, Michigan by Lord Mayor Frank Chapman of Plymouth, England. The bronze marker next to the "Plymouth Rock" situated in Plymouth, Michigan states: "THIS PLYMOUTH ROCK REMOVED FROM THE MAYFLOWER STEPS IN THE HARBOR OF PLYMOUTH ENGLAND FROM WHENCE OUR PILGRIM FOREFATHERS EMBARKED IN 1620 WAS PRESENTED TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY ON JULY 7, 1967 BY THE PEOPLE OF PLYMOUTH ENGLAND ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT OF THEIR LORD MAYOR FRANK CHAPMAN DURING OUR CENTENNIAL YEAR OF 1867"



DEMOCRATIC MONEY

The \$10 treasury note of the series of 1880 is called the "jackass bill" because a picture of the American eagle thereon when turned upside down forms a perfect imitation of the head of a jackass. It is told that an engraver in the employ of the government received notice of his discharge, and in the month he worked after his notice, he made the puzzle picture in revenge. Whether done purposely or by accident however it is perfect. Mr. T.L. Price has one and showed it to the editor this week. We would be glad if any reader of this, who has one of these bills, would send it in, as such bills are very scarce with us, and we are anxious to add one or more to our "collection," and we will return the sender our sincere thanks and due credit on subscription account. P.S.—As the government is republican and the bill is evidently of democratic faith it is likely these bills will be called in immediately, and if you have one, the sooner you send it to us the better it will be for the government—and us.—*The Pioneer Express*, Pembina, N. Dak., Mar. 15, 1901.