

A prominent court case also involved the town. "Shortly after the constitution for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was written and approved, a young slave named Qualk Walker challenged his master in the courts and after a few suits and counter suits over a couple of years, a decision by the State Supreme Court declared that the phrase 'all men are free' applied to black men as well as white men. This was the first manumission of slaves by a court decision in the nation in 1783. Thus, Qualk Walker figures large in our history," according to a local reference.

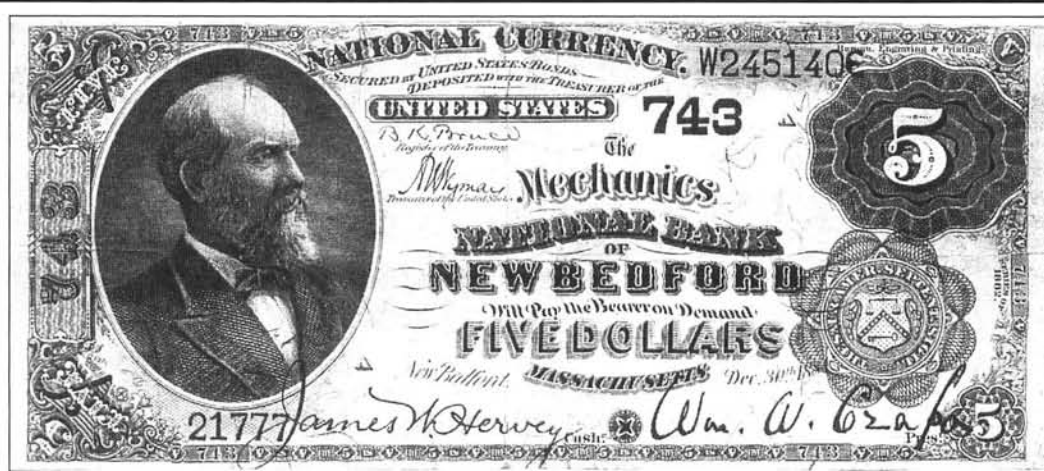
So ends the tale of the First National Bank of Barre and the startling \$2 bill that has survived 138 years and will, if I have anything to say about it, go on surviving a long, long time.

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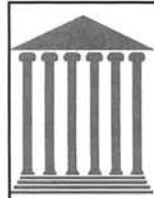
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Series 1882 \$5 on the Mechanics National Bank of New Bedford, Mass., signed by William W. Crapo, President, and James W. Hervey, Cashier.



BANK Happenings

Submitted by BOB COCHRAN

William Wallace Crapo

President, Mechanics National Bank, New Bedford, Mass.

"WILLIAM WALLACE CRAPO WAS BORN IN Dartmouth, Mass., May 16, 1830; when he was very young he moved with his family to New Bedford. Crapo's father Henry moved to Flint, Michigan, to oversee his investments in timber. He became very successful, eventually serving two terms as Governor of Michigan.

"William W. Crapo graduated from Yale College in 1852, and was admitted to the Massachusetts bar in February, 1855. He supported John C. Fremont during the presidential

Wm. W. Crapo

campaign of 1856, and remained active in politics. Crapo was appointed to fill a vacancy in the forty-fourth session of the U.S. House of Representatives, and he served there three successive terms. He was an unsuccessful candidate for Governor of Massachusetts in 1889.

"He was a director of the New Bedford and Taunton Railroad, the Eel River Railroad in Indiana, and many knitting mills. He inherited his father's business interests in Michigan, and served as president of the Flint and Pere Marquette Railroad."

Mechanics National Bank of New Bedford (Charter 743) was organized on January 23, 1865. It was placed into liquidation on February 24, 1919. This bank issued Original and 1875 Series First Charter notes, Second Charter Brown Back notes, and Third Charter Red Seal, Date Back and Plain Back notes.

RESOURCE

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