

Mrs. Emma Reed, National Bank President

By Karl Sanford Kabelac

MARLIN, TEXAS IS LOCATED IN THE EAST CENTRAL PART OF THE State, about a hundred miles south of Dallas. It is the county seat of Falls County and was named for John Marlin, a Texas patriot. In the 1890s, while drilling for water, hot mineral water was discovered in the community. This led to several decades of importance as a healthcare center with hotels, spas, and clinics. It also created a nickname for the city, Mineral Water City of Texas. The population grew from 2,000 in 1890 to 5,000 in 1930 to some 6,000 today.

Emma (Adams) Oakden, a native of Texas was born on November 1, 1873. She was a young widow when she married Richard Allen Thomas Reed, a native and resident of Marlin, in the late 1890s. He was widower with seven children. They had two children.

Reed was the founding president of the Marlin National Bank (charter #5606) which opened in 1900. He served as president until his death on January 24, 1924. At that time his oldest son, John A. Reed, became president and served until his own death on January 28, 1930.



Emma Reed's facsimile signature appeared on National Currency such as the one shown. (Courtesy Heritage Auctions)

With the death of her stepson, Emma Reed then succeeded to the presidency. In February 1931 the bank consolidated with the Citizens National Bank, a Marlin bank founded in 1925, which had never issued national currency. The resulting bank was the Marlin-Citizens National Bank, which kept the charter number of the older bank. Emma Reed signed National Currency such as the one shown.

According to a Marlin history, a local resident went to the bank on Armistice Day 1932 and, finding the bank closed, spread the news that it had closed permanently. This began a quiet run on the bank which, along with the general depressed economic conditions, forced the bank to close in February 1933.

But community residents worked to reopen the bank and in April 1934 a new Marlin National Bank (charter #14114) opened with Mrs. Reed as president. It issued no national currency. She continued as its president until her death in Marlin on August 14, 1951.

The bank itself failed in 1987.

Sources

The history of the community is *Marlin, 1851-1976*, published in 1976. It mentions the bank on pages 66, 230, 288, with a biographical sketch of R. A. T. Reed on page 335. The accounts of Marlin and Falls County in *The Handbook of Texas Online* have also been useful. ❖