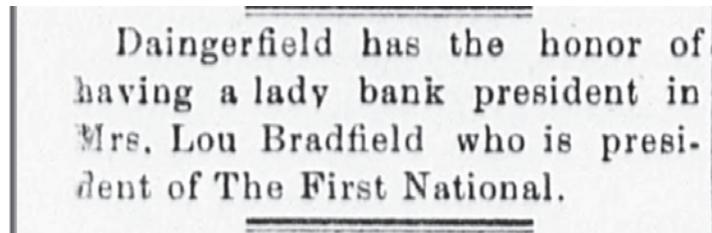


Mrs. Lou Bradfield, National Bank President

By Karl Sanford Kabelac



Daingerfield, Texas, home of Lou (Cook) Bradfield, is the county seat and largest community in Morris County. It is located in the northeastern part of the state, about 125 miles east of Dallas. Named for Capt. London Daingerfield, who was killed in a skirmish with Indians in 1830, it was settled in the 1840s. A century ago the population was 1200; today about 2500.

Lou Cook, a native of Georgia, was born on December 23, 1845, the youngest of eight children and only daughter of Asa and Elizabeth (Ivey) Cook. She married James Young Bradfield on September 20, 1865. The 1910 census revealed that nine of their ten children were then living.

J. Y. Bradfield was a physician who had graduated from the University of Georgia Medical Department in 1858. He was the founding vice-president of The Bank of Daingerfield in 1889. Three years later it converted to The National Bank of Daingerfield (charter #4701) and he became the president. At his death on October 6, 1903, after several years of poor health, his widow succeeded to the bank presidency. She served in that position until 1909/10, when she was succeeded by her son-in-law, Don J. Jenkins.

Lou Bradfield died on July 20, 1917 at the age of 71. She was buried with other family members in the Daingerfield Cemetery.

The National Bank of Daingerfield survives to this day. In the last decade it has opened several new offices and in 2008 changed its name to Texas Heritage National Bank to reflect both its longevity and its expanded role in northeastern Texas.

Sources and acknowledgements

A website for Asa Barrett Cook found at "Bob's Genealogy Filing Cabinet II" provides information about Lou Bradfield's parents, her siblings and her. An obituary for Dr. J. Y. Bradfield is found in the *Dallas Morning News* of October 8, 1903. Searching Lou Cook Bradfield in the Find a Grave website brings up a color picture of the tombstone for her and her husband. Sharon Logan compiled a booklet, *National Bank of Daingerfield*, on the 100th anniversary of the bank in 1989. It gives a summary history of the bank and also contains photographs and text about other aspects of Daingerfield's history.

I am grateful to Linda Laminack, the Genealogy/Local History Librarian of the Longview, TX Public Library, for giving me access to this scarce booklet. Background information on the community of Daingerfield is found in the Handbook of Texas Online, and the Daingerfield Chamber of Commerce website.