

The Adoue Banking Family of Dallas, Texas

by Frank Clark

Jean Baptiste Adoue, Sr. was born on October 24, 1846 in Aurignac, France. Adoue moved from France to New Orleans in 1861 with his younger brother in order to join his older brother who had already gone ahead. After federal forces captured New Orleans in the year 1862, Jean moved on to Bryan, Texas. He would next move to Waco where he operated a grocery store. His next stop was Bremond, Texas. There he opened both a general store and a private bank in that Robertson County hamlet. He remained there until 1880 before moving on to Dallas. He would help organize a bank in Dallas with the name of Flippen, Adoue, and Lobit. This bank would become The National Bank of Commerce of Dallas on March 8, 1889 with charter number 3985. Adoue became its president in 1892.

He married Mary or Mittie Neosha Simpson in 1885 and they had four children. The first was a boy given the name of Jean Baptiste Adoue, Jr. and he was followed by two sisters and a brother. Bertrand was the brother and he was killed in France during World War I. In 1896 the Adoue family was living at 2309 McKinney at the corner of McKinney and Maple. This address is less than one mile southeast of the location of my employer, Heritage Auctions.

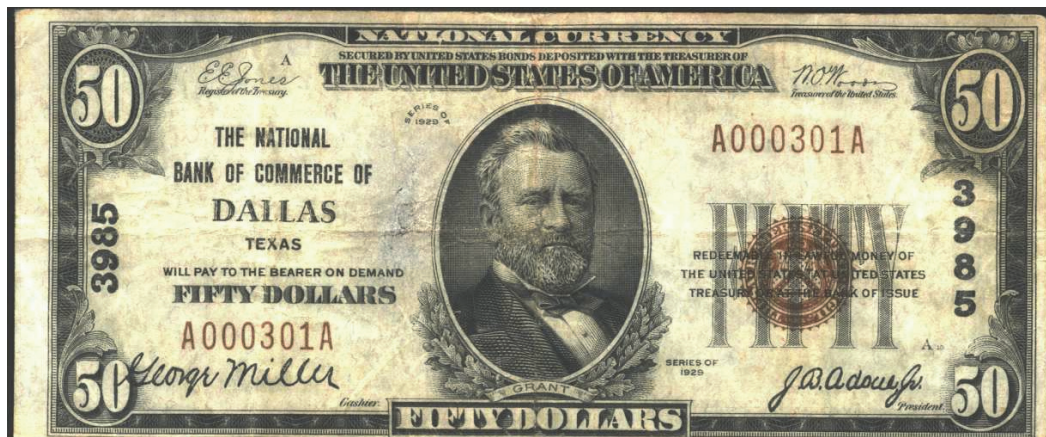
Mr. Adoue took his own life with a gunshot to the head on June 20, 1924. This occurred in the upstairs bathroom of the McKinney address on a Friday morning. Mrs. Adoue and a grandchild were in the house at the time. Family members did not know there

was a firearm on the premises. Members of the family believed that ill health was the reason for the suicide as Mr. Adoue had recently suffered an apoplectic stroke that had affected his sight. He had often said in the days leading up to his suicide that he would rather die than become helpless.

Mr. Adoue, Sr. was regarded as the dean of Dallas bankers at the time of his death. Jean Baptiste Adoue, Jr. immediately succeeded his father as president of The National Bank of Commerce. He was president for over thirty years. He did take time off from 1951 to 1953 to serve as the mayor of Dallas. He was also a leading amateur tennis player in the state of Texas. He sat on the board of directors of the United States Lawn Tennis Association for thirty years.

Mr. Adoue, Jr. went back to being the president of The National Bank of Commerce after his term as mayor. He died at his desk at the bank on November 17, 1956.

Charter number 3985 issued Series 1882 Brown Backs, Series 1902 Date Backs and Plain Backs, and Series 1929 Type 1 and Type 2 notes. The Philpott/Moody Foundation Collection has a Series 1882 \$10 Brown Back signed by the father as president as "J.B. Adoue." That collection also has a Series 1902 \$100 Plain Back signed by the son as president as "J.B. Adoue, Jr." All Series 1929 notes have the engraved president signature of "J.B. Adoue, Jr."



Bank officers on this note are Cashier George Miller and President J.B. Adoue, Jr.

Image courtesy of Heritage Auction Archives.