

The SPMC National Bank Lookup website

Bank Note History Project Overview

The *Bank Note History Project* is sponsored by the *Society of Paper Money Collectors* as part of its mission to promote the study and appreciation of paper money and related financial history. The purpose of the project is to help organize historical information related to U.S. bank notes issued during the National Bank Note Era (1863-1935). The project is focused on two of the primary historical aspects of these 'Hometown' bank notes: The *Banks* that issued them, and the *Bankers* who signed them.

The online *Bank Note History Project* consists of the *Banks & Bankers Database*, two *Search/Lookup websites* that access data stored on the database server, and the *Bank Note History Wiki* website.

- The ***Banks & Bankers Database*** includes historical data on all 14,348 National Banks that were chartered between 1863 and 1935. It also includes information on 65,000+ bankers, with all the bank Presidents & Cashiers listed in the OCC reports from 1867-1935, as well as many other potential bank note signers (VPs & Asst Cashiers). Currently the primary focus is on the National Banks & Bankers, since we have data available for all the National Banks. In the future, we plan on adding data for the Obsolete Banks & Bankers to the database.
- The ***National Bank Lookup website*** provides a simple interface to lookup National Banks by Charter# or Town. This is a public website available to everyone at <https://banklookup.spmc.org>
- The ***Banks & Bankers Search website*** provides advanced Bank & Banker search capabilities, and requires SPMC member login.
- The ***Bank Note History Wiki*** is a crowd-sourced, searchable content website (very similar to Wikipedia). The primary content in this wiki is detailed *Bank Histories* and *Banker Biographies* for bank note signers. The Banks and Bankers in the B&B Database are linked to these Bank History and Banker Bio wiki pages. *State Bank Note History home pages* have been set up for all 50 States and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Each home page focuses on that state's Banks, Bankers, and Bank Notes.

National Bank Lookup website Overview


In this article, we will go over in detail how to use the *National Bank Lookup website* and show you the information available for banks and bankers.

There are several links available to get to the *National Bank Lookup website*:

- On SPMC.org, on the *Education & Research menu* there is a *National Bank Lookup* link.
- On SPMC.org main page, scroll down to the Bank Note History Project panel/link. That will get you to the *Bank Note History Project home page* which has a *National Bank Lookup* link.
- On the *Bank Note History Wiki* website, there is a *National Bank Lookup* link on the sidebar.
- You can also just type banklookup.spmc.org into your browser, and that should take you directly to the website home page. The website URL is <https://banklookup.spmc.org>

U.S. National Bank Lookup (1863-1935)

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A Historical database of U.S. Banks and Bank Officers
During the National Bank Note Era (1863-1935)

National Bank search by Charter

Charter Number

Find Bank

- or -

National Bank search by Town

Town

State

☒ 'Note Issuing Banks' only

List Banks for this Town

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Once you are at the *National Bank Lookup* home page, you will have two search options as shown in *Figure 1*:

1. National Bank Search by Charter Number

To use *Search by Charter*, simply type in the Bank's charter number. Then click on *Find Bank* and the *Bank Information page* for that bank will be displayed.

2. National Bank Search by Town

To use *Search by Town*, type in the Town name. Then click on *List Banks for this Town* and a list of the National banks for that Town in *All States* will be listed (*See Figure 2*). Click on the *Bank Title* of the bank you are looking for, and the *Bank Info page* for that bank will be displayed. When you return to the Lookup home page, it will still display the list of banks from your previous Town search results, so you can view the other banks.

Figure 1. National Bank Lookup Home page

National Bank search by Town

Town

State

☒ 'Note Issuing Banks' only

List Banks for this Town

Search Results (6 Banks)

State	Town County	NB Charter	Bank Title(s) click for bank info	Bank Open	Bank Close
IN	Gary Lake County	8426	First National Bank	1906	1932
IN	Gary Lake County	11094	National Bank of America	1917	1932
SD	Gary Deuel County	9393	First National Bank	1909	1933
SD	Gary Deuel County	10846	National Bank	1916	1931
WV	Gary McDowell County	8333	The Gary National Bank	1906	1931
WV	Gary McDowell County	13505	Gary National Bank	1930	1931

Figure 2. Town Search Results for Gary


Bank Info page

Figures 3 & 4 below shows the *Bank Info* page for Charter 9596, the First National Bank of Starbuck, MN.

U.S. National Bank Lookup (1863-1935)

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Bank Info for NB Charter 9596 (1909 - 2014)



[Series 1902 Date Back](#)

Official Bank Title(s) (Huntoon)

#	Bank Title (Change Date)	Bank Town
1	The First National Bank of	Starbuck, MN

Bank Officer Pairs (OCC/Pollock)

Years	Cashier	President
1910-1914	George Washington Hughes	Harold Thorson
1915-1918	Bennie C. Bergerson	George Washington Hughes
1918-1923	Bennie C. Bergerson	Gustav I. Engebretson
1924-1935	Edward Selmer Olson	Gustav I. Engebretson

Other Bank Note Signers

- No other known bank note signers for this bank

Bank Note History Links

- [First National Bank, Starbuck, MN History \(BNH Wiki\)](#)
- [50th Anniversary of the Discovery of the Ella Overby Hoard \(SPMC PM#332\)](#)
- [Thank You Ella Overby for a Minnesota Nationals Hoard \(SPMC PM#88\)](#)
- [Minnesota Bank Note History \(BNH Wiki\)](#)

Bank Note Types Issued (VanBelkum)

Series/Type	Sheet/Denoms	Serial#s	Sheet Comments
1902 Date Back	4x5	1 - 1600	
1902 Date Back	3x10-20	1 - 1220	
1902 Plain Back	4x5	1601 - 4345	
1902 Plain Back	3x10-20	1221 - 2811	
1929 Type 1	6x5	1 - 716	
1929 Type 1	6x10	1 - 348	
1929 Type 1	6x20	1 - 106	
1929 Type 2	5	1 - 42	

Smithsonian NBN Proof Links (Huntoon Index)

- [1902DB 5-5-5-5 A-B-C-D; Plate Date Nov 6, 1909](#)
- [1902DB 10-10-10-20 A-B-C-A; Plate Date Nov 6, 1909](#)

Bank History Summary (VanBelkum/Huntoon/Pollock)

- Organized Nov 6, 1909
- Chartered Dec 1, 1909
- Bank was Open past 1935
-
- For Bank History after 1935 see:
- [FDIC Bank History website](#)
-
- Merged into AmericanWest Bank in Spokane, WA on Apr 5, 2014.
- Starbuck was home to Ella Overby and her hoard of 700+ large size Nationals found in her home upon her death in 1970.
-
- Notation on Organization Report:
- Conversion of The Farmers State Bank of Starbuck

Bank Balance Summaries (Huntoon/Pollock)

Total Resources Summary	
Low Bal (1910)	\$179,935
High Bal (1920)	\$545,537
Circulation Summary	
Low Bal (1912)	\$24,400
High Bal (1914)	\$25,500
Total Out (1934)	\$25,000
# Large Notes	28,624
# Small Notes	7,062
# Total Notes	35,686
\$ Large Size	\$227,450
\$ Small Size	\$55,290
\$ Total Issued	\$282,740

OCC Annual Bank Balances (Pollock)

Report Date	Total Resources	Circulation
Sep-01-1910	\$179,935.00	\$25,000.00
Sep-01-1911	\$188,202.00	\$25,000.00
Sep-04-1912	\$197,177.00	\$24,400.00

Figures 3 & 4. Bank Information page

Banker Info page

As you can see on the *Bank Info page* above, each of the banker names listed in the *Bank Officer Pairs* section is a link. Clicking on a link will display the *Banker Info page* for that banker.

Figure 5 below shows the *Banker Info page* for cashier George Washington Hughes.

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Banker Information [return to bank](#)

Bank Officer Name: Geo. W. Hughes

Banker Full Name: George Washington Hughes

Gender: ☒ Male ☐ Female

Bank Note Signer?: ☒ Yes ☐ Unknown

Home Bank: *First National Bank
Starbuck, MN
Pope County*


Banker ID: 1464

Birth: Sep 21, 1860
Vinton, IA


Death: Jun 10, 1947
Minneapolis, MN

Bio Links: [BNHWiki](#) • [Obituary](#) • [FindAGrave](#)

Comments: Spouse: Daisy Ellen (Perry) (m.1902)



Geo. W. Hughes



Banker served in these Banks

1. Garden City State Bank, Garden City, SD
(Cashier 1902...1903)
SD-SB 78-544
2. Farmers State Bank, Starbuck, MN
(President 1904...1905; Cashier 1906...1909)
MN FSB-Starbuck
3. [First National Bank](#), Starbuck, MN
(President 1915-1918; Cashier 1910-1914)
NB 9596
4. [First National Bank](#), Glenwood, MN
(President 1918-1924)
NB 7742

Officer Name Variations

1. G. W. Hughes
2. Geo. W. Hughes
3. George W. Hughes

Figure 5. Banker Information page

Town Search Options

Bank Search By Town has a couple of search options to control how your search works.

Only list 'Note Issuing Banks' option

The *Note Issuing Banks Only* checkbox controls whether '*No Issue*' banks should also be included in the search results. The *Note Issuing* banks will always be included in the search results, since those are the primary banks we are interested in. But sometimes you may be interested in also seeing the banks that did not issue notes. The default is to have that checkbox *checked*, which means Town/County searches will include ONLY those banks that issued bank notes, and any *No Issue* banks will NOT be included in the search results. (Note: *No Issue* banks will have (*No Issue*) included in the bank name to indicate that bank did not issue bank notes).

Multi-Town search options

You can also include multiple town names in a *Search by Town*.

For example, Pittsburgh, PA had 2 spellings (Pittsburgh & Pittsburg) during its history. Most of their National banks used the Pittsburgh spelling, but 5 banks used the Pittsburg spelling.

To include both town spellings in the search results, you would:

- Type 'pittsburgh,pittsburg' (separated by a comma) in the Town search box.
- Type 'pa' in the State search box, so it will only include Pennsylvania banks.
- Make sure the *Note Issuing Banks only* search option is checked.
- Click on *List Banks for this Town* to list the 51 Note Issuing banks with a Town name of either Pittsburgh or Pittsburg, in the State of Pennsylvania.

Bank Search Tips

- For *Search by Town*, you must enter a Town name, but you can usually just leave *State* blank, and let it search *All States* for that Town to build the search results bank list. If that list is too long, then you can enter the State for the Bank(s) you are looking for, click on *List Banks*, and the search results will only include the banks for that State.
- Some banks used abbreviations in their town name or bank titles (such as St. for Saint). For some towns with multiple banks, this resulted in both the abbreviation and full word being used on their bank notes. To avoid confusion, and missing banks in the search results, always use the *full word* instead of the *abbreviation* for your search value, and the search results will automatically include banks based on both the full word and abbreviation. Three specific examples are automatically handled by the search routines: *St./Saint*, *Mt./Mount* and *Ft./Fort*.
- The *National Bank Lookup home page* and the *Bank Info* and *Banker Info* pages were designed so they should work well on most smart phones.

Summary

To wrap up, in this article we gave you a brief overview of the *SPMC Bank Note History Project*, and showed you how to use the public *National Bank Lookup website* to find information on any National banks from the National Bank Note Era (1863-1935).

For further information on the other *SPMC Bank Note History Project* websites, you can browse to the Project home page at <https://spmc.org/bank-note-history-project>.

If you have any questions, or want to help us out with this project, please contact us via email at banknotehistory@gmail.com.