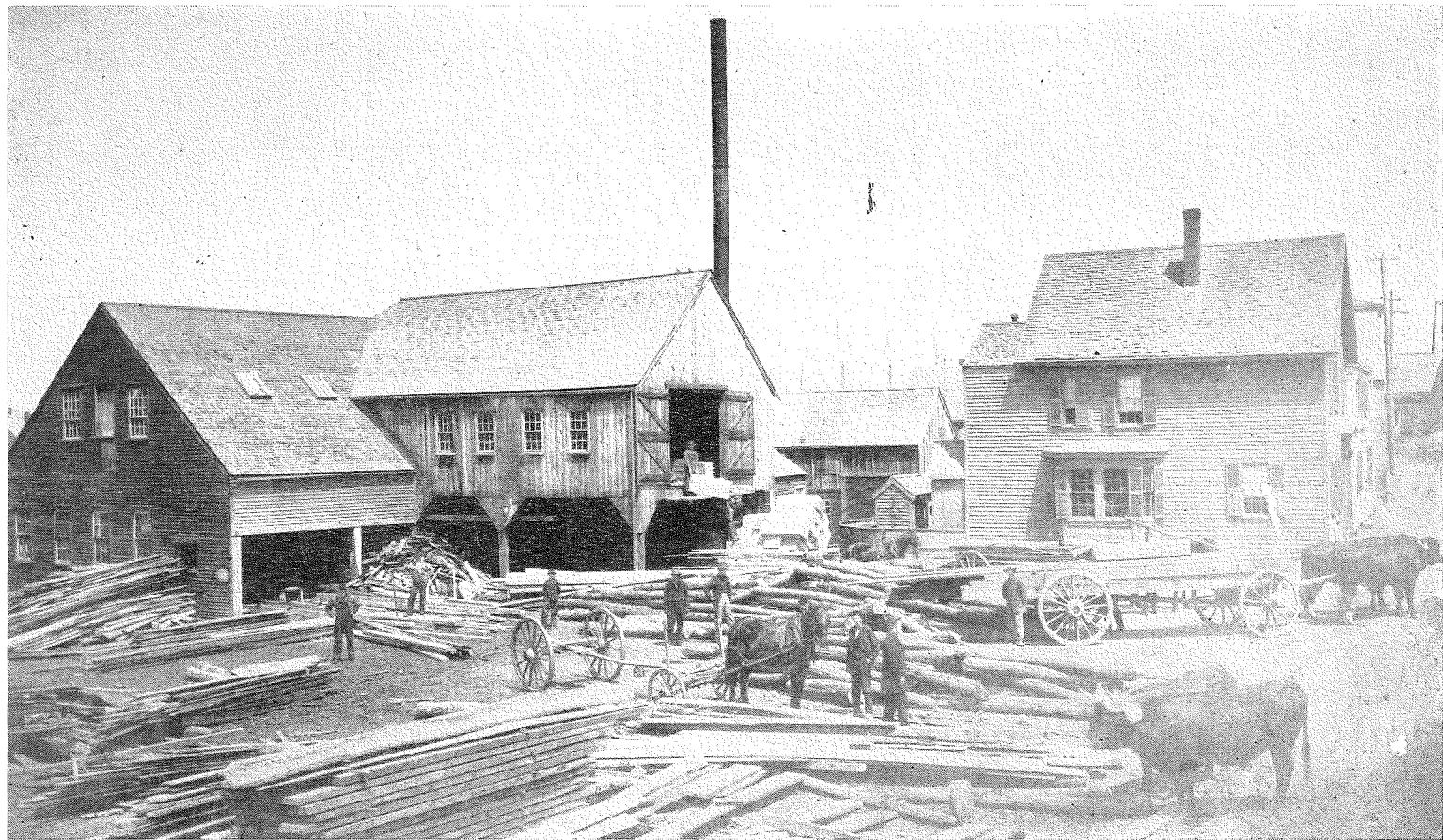


PORTSMOUTH -- 1877



THIS OLD PHOTO carried no identification, but historians guess it to have been taken around the late 1800's or perhaps as early as 1850. The location was Marcy Street, then called Water Street, (masts of sailing ships may be seen in the background).

Research by Edith Brewster

The year is 1877, and we are on Market Square, Portsmouth, strolling westward along Congress street. There stands the tall, slender Athenaeum, called by May Heffenger "our slim slice of elegance." William P. Walker and Henry Leveen, clothiers and tailors, operate shops where soon will be the establishment known as Foye's. The John Sise Insurance Company and the hardware store of A. P. Wendell, both of which were established in the 1830's, are in their familiar locations. Butler & Laighton's, a large grocery store, is on the spot a later generation will know as Green's Drug Store.

Crossing High street as we continue up Congress, we find the shoe shop of Joseph Pettigrew, whose good-natured son often hears his schoolmates chant, "Oh, Georgie Pettigrew, I buy my shoes of you!" Next door is another shoe store operated by E. S. Fay. Our sons and daughters will find neither of these, but rather Goodman's Men's Store on this location. Farther along, where those to come will find the Jarvis Block, are the book store of Willie G. Myers, William R. Preston's pharmacy, Moses Brothers' variety store and Henry M. Clark, who sells provisions. J. H. Thompson's candy store, a favorite spot with the youngsters, stands next to the hat and scarf shop of J. F. Berry at the corner of Fleet street.

From Fleet Street to Vaughan there is much activity for preparations are underway to tear down the buildings now there and erect a huge, block-long structure. This

will open in two years, in 1879. Beyond Vaughan Street stands the apothecary shop of Fred R. Coleman and the familiar stores of Wilbur I. Trafton and Mr. Pfieffer. Then we enter the residential district, where the large brick home of Alfred Haven stands. There are rumors that it is to be converted into apartments and stores.

Returning to the First National Bank on Pleasant Street, we come at once to our City Hall with the Police Station, and just beyond that the Rockingham Bank Building, where the newly founded Piscataqua Savings Bank will one day have offices. Next is the Exchange Building, where Charles E. Laighton sells fine groceries and West India goods. Also in this building is H. B. Buzzell & Son, who sell room papers and curtains. Over the New Hampshire National Bank may be seen the offices of the CHRONICLE, while diagonally across the street on the corner of State and Pleasant Streets, the Portsmouth JOURNAL, a weekly, is published by Lewis W. Brewster. Next door on State Street the DAILY EVENING TIMES and STATES AND UNION are published by George W. Guppy. On the corner across from the JOURNAL office M. M. Collins has a 99c store.

If Joe Dondero's peanut stand is not in front of the Post Office, it will be here in a year or two, and later you will hear the sizzling whistle of his peanut roaster on Congress Street just opposite Vaughan. Ambitious and progressive, Joe is building up to the store he will take later across from the Kearsage Hotel, where he will sell oranges from Valencia and Messina.

Lamp-Lighters

On the street in 1877 we can hear the rumble of brewery carts as they bump over the crosswalks drawn by magnificent horses, the pride of the city. Portsmouth has three breweries and a distillery. A. K. Brown's street sprinkling machines travel the city to lay down the dust of the dirt roads. We watch the penetrating drawls of the fish-mongers out with their push-carts, "Fre-e-sh Mack-er-el-l". As night comes on the lamp-lighter with his torch stops at each lamp-post, turns on and lights the gas jet that throws a dim light on the dark street. There are eighty lamp-posts in the city and three lamp-lighters who return at daylight to turn off the gas. We are glad to miss the night-cart that takes away the offal for want of sufficient sewers. Should we arrive in town by train, the cries of "Hack! Hack!" would greet us at the railroad station, as William Allen, William Dennett, Andrew Sides, or Charles Sides would vie for our patronage with the calls, perhaps of "Rockingham House," or "Kearsarge." Then on wheels or runners with a pair of horses off we'd drive.

Perhaps we'll quickly dodge a pair of dashing horses followed by a crowd of boys, for the Extinguisher is on its way to a fire. The City has two Extinguishers, four Steam Fire Engines, a Hose Carriage, and a Hook and Ladder. There are six fire stations, but no fire-alarm boxes!

What did the people do but run, crying "Fire! Fire!" "Whenever 'Fire' is cried," reads the order of the Board of Engineers, "the North Church Bell, School House (Christian Shore), First Baptist Bell, Eastern R. R. Depot Bell,

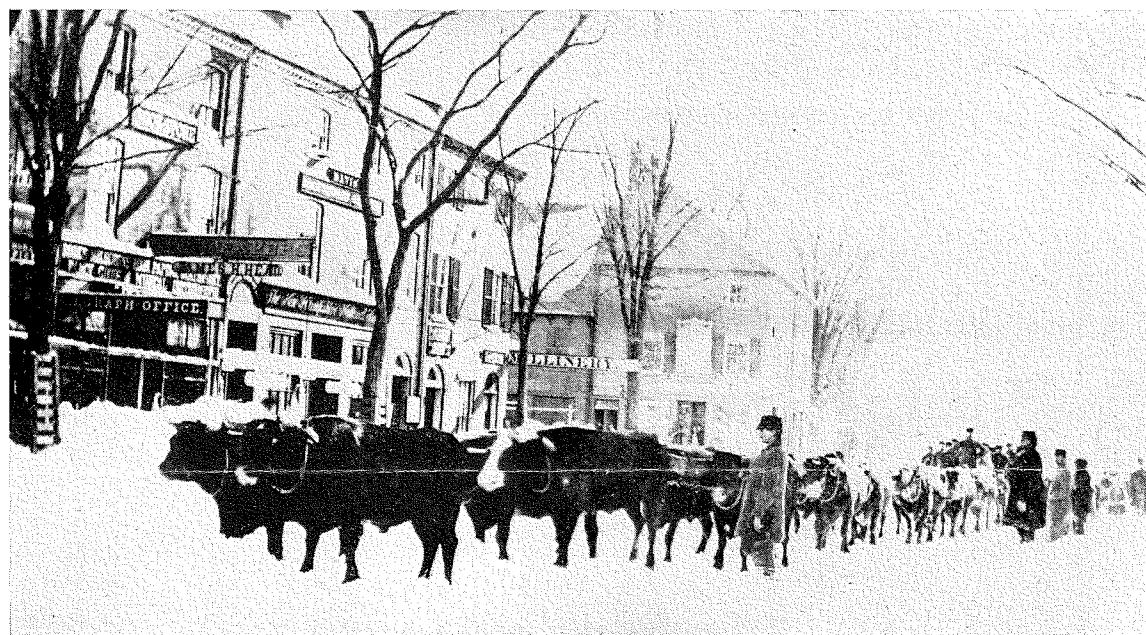
block at Congress and Fleet Streets is "An Institution for Ladies and Gentlemen," as the ad reads. There are also five smaller private schools for the lower grades.

A New Bank

Onto this scene there came, in 1877, a small group of local residents who had analyzed the business and housing prospects of their town. "Why," they reasoned, "should the people of Portsmouth have to go elsewhere to have their homes and business ventures financed? Why can't our city support an additional mutual savings bank to aid her merchants and home owners?" These men could see no reason why Portsmouth should not have a second bank which would be owned by its depositors without outside interference. From their idea came the germ of a theory which became the Piscataqua Savings Bank.

Prominent on the list of incorporators who founded the Piscataqua Bank are some eminent names in New Hampshire's past. Ex-Governor Ichabod Goodwin was a trustee, as was John H. Broughton, Mayor of Portsmouth in that year. Others included such honored local names as E. P. Kimball, Augustus Lord, J. H. Hutchinson, John W. F. Hobbs, W. H. Y. Hackett, William L. Dwight, Robert C. Pierce, J. Albert Walker, A. F. Howard, Ephraim C. Spinney and Emmons P. Philbrick.

Bridging the years and concerning ourselves now with 1952, we find that the bank established by the above men has grown with Portsmouth and this "Bank with the Bear" — so named because of the life-like stuffed bruin in the main banking room — is proudly celebrating its 75th anniversary.



and Ward Room Bell at South End, will ring. The North Church Bell will be the guide, and will ring 20 minutes unless ordered to be stopped by an Engineer, and the other bells will be guided by it; also the Whistles at the Breweries of Messrs. Jones and Eldridge, Jarvis Bros.' Mill, and at the Eastern Railroad and Concord Railroad Stations, will blow 7 distinct whistles, and repeat for two minutes." Should the fire horses be out on a street job, the driver, at the first peal, unhitches his pair from the cart, jumps onto the back of one and dashes to the fire station.

In 1877, we have thirteen public school houses. There is also Miss Arabella Morgan's Select Seminary for Young Ladies and Misses, at the corner of Miller Avenue and Rockland Street, — famed throughout New England and beyond. Smith's Academy and Commercial College in the

A FAR CRY from present diesel powered snow plows — Here with 16 ox power a crew, probably volunteer, is breaking out Pleasant Street. In operations of this type then as now several curbstone foremen look on.

Through the courtesy of Mr. E. Curtis Matthews, President of the Piscataqua Savings Bank, and Miss Edith Brewster, author and historian, the Shoreliner next month will present further descriptive information about the Portsmouth of 1877, covering other streets in the times when Fleet Street was a dirt road and Congress Street had Washington Freeman's Oyster Saloon where thirty-five cents bought a quart of oysters and an exchange of news with the Proprietor, also the publisher of the Daily Chronicle.

The people of Portsmouth, 1877, held the future of their city in their capable hands. A bustling, port it was, (home base of many of the world's famed Clipper ships) whose handsome homes are yet today among Portsmouth's most admired possessions.

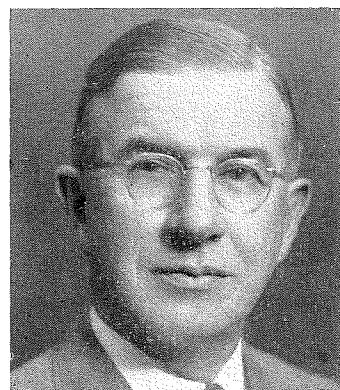
1877

75 YEARS OF SERVICE

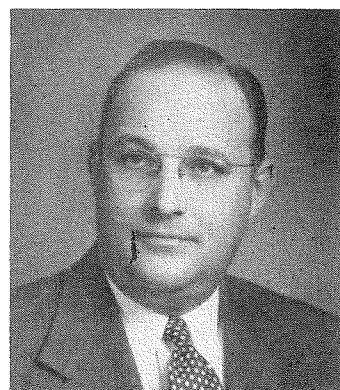
1952



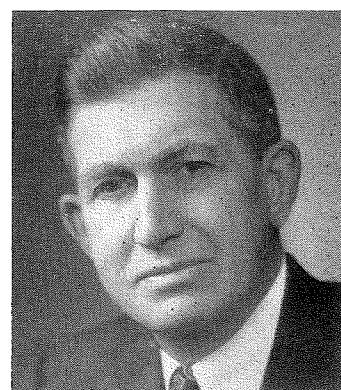
R. C. L. Greer
Trustee



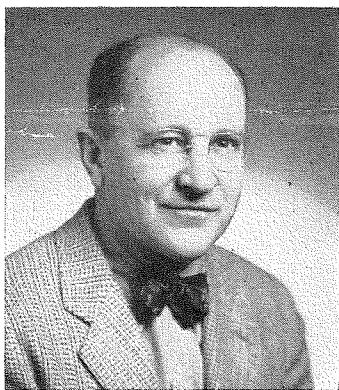
E. Curtis Matthews
President



John S. Remick
Treasurer



Elmer J. Burnham
Vice President



Stowe Wilder
Trustee

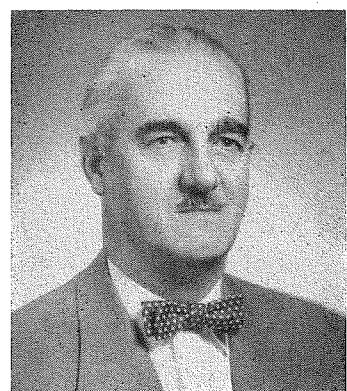
- SAVINGS ACCOUNTS
- MORTGAGE LOANS
- BANKING BY MAIL
- TRAVELERS' CHECKS
- MONEY ORDERS
- INVESTMENT INFORMATION
- SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES
- U. S. SAVINGS BONDS
- CHRISTMAS CLUB
- VACATION CLUB

The bank's most valuable asset is the men who comprise the Board of Directors, and whose responsibility is the safe investment of funds entrusted to their care. They are chosen for their business ability, their good judgement in financial affairs and for the respect in which they are held in their community.

SERVICES FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE AND FINANCIAL WELL BEING



Roland I. Noyes
Trustee



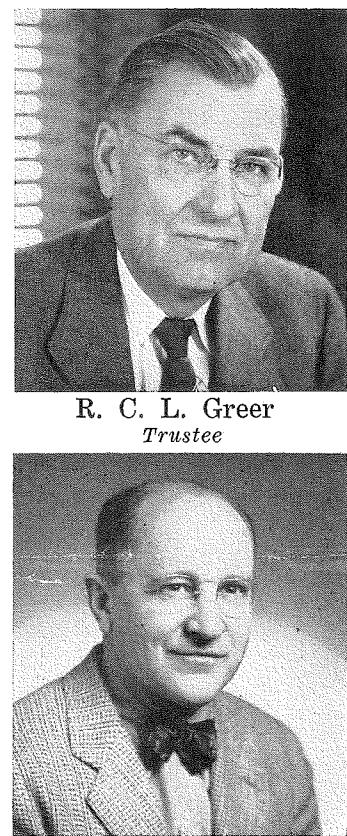
Frank Jones Massey
Trustee

PISCATAQUA SAVINGS BANK

ASSETS - \$6,600,000

PLEASANT STREET

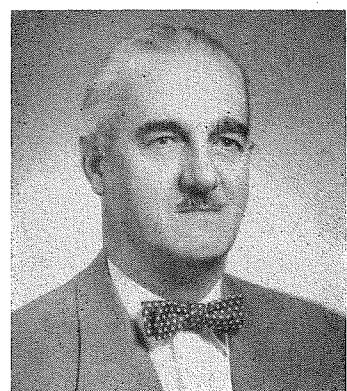
PORTSMOUTH N. H.



John H. Greenaway
Trustee



Ralph Margeson
Trustee



John J. Hassett
Trustee



Here is the group who daily contact our depositors. It is their cordial and genial attitude which creates the friendly atmosphere (as customer and clerk meet), recognized in all lines of business as good public relations. Seated in the center is Mildred I. Rand, Asst. Treas. Others, from left to right, are Eleanor O'Brien, Judy Wayne, Howard H. Noyes, Wilda A. Masse and Barbara H. Hay.