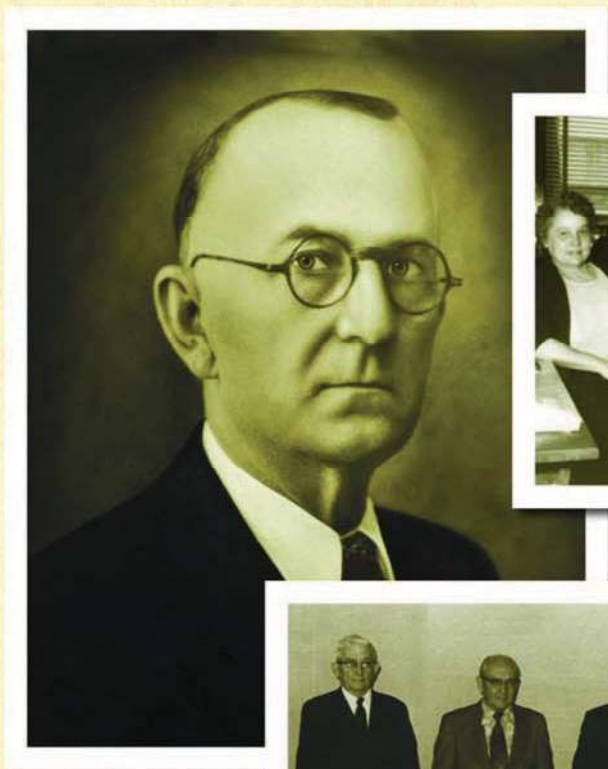


# ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF STORIES TO TELL



1905 ~ 2005

*Celebrating The Unique And Indelible Heritage Of*

## SLOCOMB NATIONAL BANK





Over the last century, the residents of Slocomb, Alabama have experienced many things. They have born witness to monumental successes and tragedies, taken part in global change, and experienced the miracles of modern society. And throughout this age of modernization and change, one thing has remained the same. Slocomb National Bank, its employees and the people it serves have maintained a sense of kinship and family that is the core of what we do. As we look back and reminisce over the last hundred years, we feel blessed to be part of such a prosperous and vibrant community. We invite you to step back in time with us as we celebrate the closing of our first one hundred years, and the beginning of one hundred more.



It was Autumn in Slocomb. The towering pines were shedding their orange needles heavily upon the ground. The sky was clear of gleaming airplanes. The freshly made dirt streets were free of speeding cars. The budding town itself was less than five years old. It was 1905 and change was approaching Slocomb. The builders were putting the final touches on a new addition to the corner of Commerce and West Slocomb Streets. The local residents passing by chatted excitedly before the stately marble columns that flanked large, friendly windows. They were the first to see the Slocomb National Bank, an institution that has helped to shape and change the growing town of Slocomb just as much

as the residents of Slocomb have helped to shape and change one of its very first banks. Since its foundation in 1905, Slocomb National Bank has witnessed 100

years of turbulent wars, economic depression, brilliant discovery, and financial prosperity.

Slocomb National Bank was chartered in 1905 under bank president Charles E. Segrest. The first shareholders formed the bank on a unique



*The bank's first President C.E. Segrest and an original 1905 bank note signed by him.*

philosophy. These forward thinking individuals realized the impact a bank could have on the growth and development of young Slocomb and founded the bank on the principles of community





service, conservative ideals, and a commitment to a strong future for the town. Drawing from the rich tradition of the patently Southern values of the area,

they felt the folks who came into the bank weren't just customers—they were family. Forming lasting relationships with friends and neighbors, through times good and bad, was a smart investment in the community. Their unique approach to banking and dedication to the community struck a chord with local residents. Their original \$35,000 investment grew, and within a year, Slocomb National Bank had assets totaling over \$100,000.

The bank was founded just before an era marked with great financial turmoil. Through two World Wars and the Great Depression, Slocomb National Bank persevered due to the keen leadership of its officers and the unwavering support of

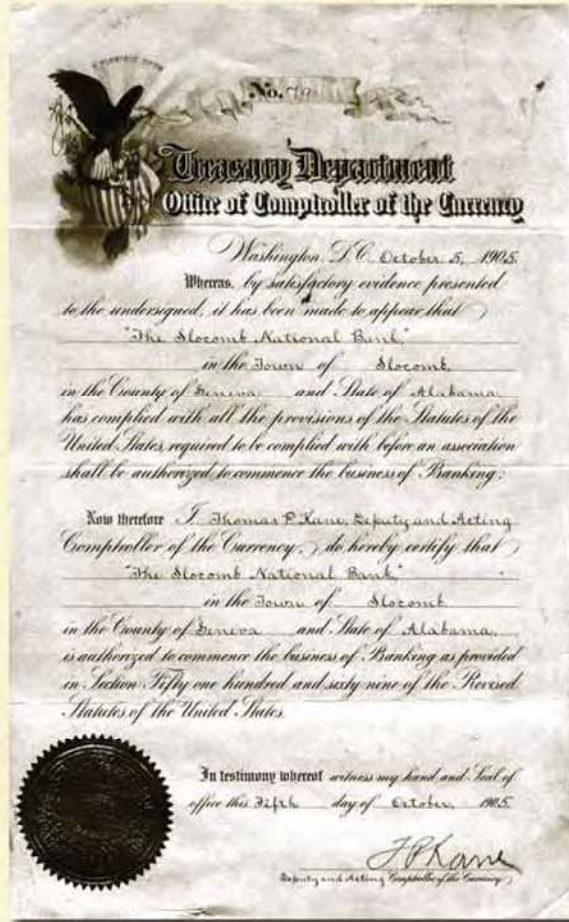
the local community. Less fortunate banks, however, were claimed in the economic upheavals of the early 20th century. The First National Bank of Slocomb, for

example, was formed just two months before Slocomb National Bank. In 1916 the financial uncertainty of World War I claimed it and unfortunately the bank became inactive. The 1920s,

*The original Charter for Slocomb National Bank in 1905.*

for the most part, were a time of prosperity for the rapidly growing bank. This fortuitous time was overshadowed, however, by the Stock Market

Crash of October 1929, which plunged the country into the Great Depression. One month later, the Bank of Slocomb, established just nine years prior, also became inactive.



[1929] Economic boom ended by "Black Tuesday" the stock market crashes, leading to the Great Depression.

[1929] 12 banks fail in Alabama due to crash 659 fail nationwide



[1933] President Roosevelt signs Banking Act that establishes FDIC, and declares nationwide banking holiday March 6 - March 9



[1935] C.M. (Clyde) Segrest: President 1935-1940. Director 1935-1940



[1935] Original bank building remodeled



[1938] Dothan's first peanut festival



[1939] The start of WW II



By March of 1933, the economy had deteriorated to a point that President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared the now famous week-long Bank Holiday to prevent account holders from bankrupting the country's banking systems by withdrawing all their money. At the end of the week, Slocomb National Bank was one of only three

*An original sheet of Slocomb National Bank notes dated 1929.*

banks in Geneva county allowed to reopen. Strong support of the Slocomb community, coupled with the enormous efforts of bank president Charles E. Segrest, helped Slocomb National Bank survive what would forever be known as The Depression Years. Segrest's term as president was unfortunately cut short by his death in 1935. Under his leadership the bank had tripled its

assets, then totaling \$300,000. C.M (Clyde) Segrest succeeded his father as president and under his stewardship Slocomb National Bank underwent its first renovation. The aged, brick exterior was covered with a modern, white stucco, giving the building the

appearance of a brilliant beacon of strength and stability. Drawing upon his father's shrewd business sense and dedication to the community, Segrest ushered the bank out of the Depression and into the economic revitalization which occurred at the outset of World War II.

One notable employee during this period was Harry Harris. Having started with Slocomb National fresh

out of high school in 1926, Harris had risen to cashier by the early 1930s. During these years infamous "runs" on banks became prevalent across the country. Customers, having lost confidence in the ability of



[1940]  
H. C. (Henry) Harris,  
Director 1940-1996

[1940]  
W.E. (Ernest) Harris,  
Director 1940-1985



[1940]  
Jim Griffin,  
President 1940-1942,  
Director 1940-1942



[1940]  
James A. (Jim) Hardwick,  
Director 1940-1974



[1942]  
Harry Harris,  
President 1942-1974,  
Director 1942-1974

[1952]  
The Polio vaccine  
was created



[1958]  
Ross Clark Circle  
completed



[1957]  
Southeast Alabama  
General Hospital opens



[1958]  
Alto V. Lee III,  
Director 1958-1987  
[1954]  
Gladys Hardwick Harris,  
Director 1954-1997  
Longest employee history,  
1940-1997



banks to protect their money, would assemble in masses to empty their accounts, destroying a bank in the process. Anticipating a run, Harris ordered enough bills to cover the accounts of Slocomb National's 200 customers and piled them high on the counter behind a teller window. Hiring two guards to watch the money, he declared that the cash was available for withdrawal at any time. One man did approach, withdrawing his entire balance, around \$3,000. Walking slowly back home under the weight of all his savings, he quickly realized his money would be far safer back at the bank. The man turned around on the spot and quickly deposited his money back into his account. Those who witnessed the scene followed suit and decided to leave their

money in the bank as well. Harris had cleverly averted a potential crisis and restored faith in the bank. His keen ability for problem solving and his devotion to the

community did not go unnoticed: Harris was officially made bank president in 1942.

*Bank President Harry Harris and his five year old granddaughter, future Alabama State Senator Harri Anne Harris Smith.*

Harris' presidency began a family legacy that continues today. His mission was to provide unequalled

service and economic growth for the area. Harris, and his son Lawrence, who had begun full time with the bank in 1960, used 1967 to usher in a new chapter into the history of Slocomb National Bank. The bank's



[1967] Slocomb National Bank relocated to current location

[1969] The United States puts man on Earth's Moon

[1974] Dacia Purvis Hardwick, Director 1974-1977

[1975] SNB establishes employee profit sharing plan

[1976] William C. (Bill) Harris, Director 1976-1981

[1964] President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act

[1967] Alabama joins forty-two other states in adopting the Uniform Commercial Code

[1970] Pocket calculator

[1974] Lawrence Harris, President 1974-1991, Director 1963-1991, Bank V.P. age 16 - 1953



assets had grown to \$3 million and Harris was determined to offer customers the highest level of customer service. The bank had outgrown its location, so in that same year it was relocated to its current location on Highway 52. The new 4,000 square foot building was an

*Bank President  
Lawrence Harris and his wife, Marjorie Hughes Harris, who succeeded him as Slocomb National's First Woman President.*

exercise in modern architecture. Gone were the aging stonework and antique columns. The new office, with its sleek lines and contemporary design, communicated the bank's devotion to a strong future for the Slocomb area. The building enjoyed a host of modern conveniences, including safety deposit boxes, a drive-in window, and a night deposit box. The site also included a 20-foot

evergreen, which was lavishly lighted each Christmas. Sadly, the tree was destroyed in 1975 during Hurricane Eloise.



In 1974, Lawrence Harris succeeded his father Harry as bank president, continuing his father's mission to grow and strengthen the area economy. Over the next 17 years, Lawrence Harris' dedication and strong leadership helped Slocomb National Bank's assets to

quadruple, growing from \$8 million to \$36 million. After Harris passed away suddenly in 1991, the Alabama State Legislature renamed a portion of Highway 52 as Lawrence

Harris Highway. They did so to honor the bank's fifth president and to commemorate his contributions to the Slocomb community and his years of dedicated public

1980

[1981] Introduction of the IBM PC

[1985] A bill is passed to allow automated teller machines throughout the state

[1987] William L. (Bill) Lee III, Director 1987-2002

[1988] First Slocomb Tomato Festival

[1989] The Resolution Trust Corporation is established to resolve failed thrift institutions

[1990] The World Wide Web was born at CERN

[1991] Marjorie Hughes Harris, President 1991-1996, Director 1976 - To Date

[1991] Lawrence Harris Hwy. named.

[1992] Lawrence Harris University of Alabama Endowed Scholarship established

1990



service. Upon his death, Lawrence's wife Marjorie Hughes Harris followed to become Slocomb National's first woman president.

**M**arjorie Harris served until 1996, when she was succeeded by their daughter, Hope Harris Johnson. Johnson, drawing from her family's years of devotion to the bank and the Slocomb community, and committed to providing unmatched services for the bank's customers, renovated Slocomb National in 1996. The newly remodeled building had grown to 7,000 square feet, providing additional space for services, as well as the bank's first automated teller machine.

Charles Waid, the architect in charge of the renovation was, coincidentally, the son of the building's original architect, Allen Waid. The Slocomb National family has

shaped the bank from its humble beginnings in a small turn-of-the-century building downtown to its modern incarnation as a state-of-the-art community bank,

ready to take on the 21st century. Looking back, residents take pride

*Current President Hope Harris Johnson carries on Slocomb National Bank's family tradition of community service, conservative ideals, and a commitment to the future.*

knowing the Slocomb National family of officers, directors, employees and customers form a century-

old relationship destined to shape the Wiregrass area for years to come.



[1996] Charlie Smith, Director 1996 - 2000

[1996] Joseph H. Johnson Jr., Director 1996 - To Date

[1996] Kay Harris Christiansen, Director 1996 - 2005.  
Brett Christiansen, Director 1996 - 2002

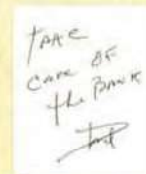
[1996] Hope Harris Johnson, President 1996 - To Date, Director 1989 - To Date, Bank Building is renovated



[1998] Harri Anne Harris Smith, Director 1990 - To Date, Alabama Senator 1998 - To Date



[2005] Slocomb National Bank celebrates one hundred years. Historical art piece by Wes Hardin.



[2005] Joe Dalton, Director 2005 - To Date



[2005] Slocomb National Bank selects a second bank site, 3101 Ross Clark Circle, Dothan





Slocomb National Bank's tale is one of growth and strength. It is a story of the close relationship between a growing town and its bank. From that very first Autumn a century ago, Slocomb National has grown from a fledgling institution, with \$100,000 in assets, to a large, modern financial force with assets totaling over \$50 million. During this centennial celebration, the Slocomb National Bank family, past and present, look to the bank's rich history for the lessons it can teach us—ones that can be applied to the future, encouraging future growth, unmatched service, and lifelong relationships. This 100th anniversary is only the first chapter in a history, not of a bank, but of an enduring partnership that will continue to grow stronger over the next 100 years.