

The First National Bank of Kinmundy (Charter # 6143)

The city of Kinmundy was laid out in April of 1857 along the Chicago branch of the Illinois Central Railroad in Section 22 of Marion County, Illinois. The name Kinmundy is said to have come from a Scotsman who was a stockholder in the Illinois Central Railroad and had visited that part of the county when the railroad was laid through the township. A depot had been built in 1856, while W. B. Eagan built the first home in 1857 in which he kept a general store and served as postmaster. Within ten years there was a brick mill and sawmill, hotel, drug store, and village blacksmith.

McCreary and Monger had a banking business in 1867 in Kinmundy, while the T. W. Haymond & Co. Bank was organized in January of 1870 with Tilman Raser serving as President. The Haymond Bank had a capital stock of \$45,000. The Building & Loan Company was organized in Kinmundy on August 12, 1887, while in 1899 the Merchants & Mechanics Bank was established which later became the Hammond State Bank. By the end of the 1890's the Chicago, Peoria, and Memphis Railroad had laid track through the township, passing through the western side of the city.

Charter #6143 was issued to The First National Bank of Kinmundy, Illinois, on February 19, 1902, and opened for business on March 19th with a capital of twenty-five thousand dollars. Records indicate that with the death of W. T. Haymond in 1899, remaining stockholders of the T. W. Haymond & Co. Bank sought to organize a national bank. The bank opened for business at the corner of Madison Street and Third Street and received deposits amounting to \$3,478.83 on opening day. At the time of opening the bank had two employees working full time and nine directors. R. P. McBryde, who was operating a small private bank, joined First National as its Cashier, while L. C. Rohrough served as the bank's bookkeeper.

By the end of First National's first year in business, they had \$47,270.70 in deposits, \$52,023.48 in loans, \$7,200 in U.S. Bonds, and \$16,429.42 in cash on hand. After one year the bank had undivided profits of \$10.20! The building of the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad gave an impetus to business in Kinmundy with several nice brick homes being built, but an extensive fire in 1904 destroyed approximately one-half of the town's business section.

In 1906 Henry Warren & Sons started a private bank in Kinmundy that later changed to the Farmer's & Merchant's Bank. Also on August 26, 1906 the Hammond State Bank consolidated with First National, thus increasing the capital stock of First National to \$50,000. A. W. Songer had come to Kinmundy several years before, entering the milling business at which he was very successful. He sold his mill and became involved in the banking business, being associated with the Hammond State Bank. At the time of First National's merger with the State Bank, he assumed the presidency of First National.

By 1909 Kinmundy had about fifteen hundred citizens, six churches and several school buildings with a high school program of three years. Brinkerhoff's History of Marion County, Illinois, published in 1909, stated the following regarding First National: "This

is one of the solidest and most popular institutions of its kind in this part of the state and its prestige was greatly strengthened when Mr. Songer became its head for the public at once realized that their funds would be entirely safe in his hands owing to his conservatism, coupled with his peculiar business sagacity, and since then the business of the First National has grown steadily.”

Among those who figured prominently in the building up and expansion of the bank in its first twenty-five years were C. Rohrbough, R. P. McBryde, A. W. Songer, August Borchelt, A. W. Pruett, Jacob Nelson, C. F. Pruett, and W. W. Lowe. In 1921 C. R. Alderson succeeded McBryde as the Bank’s Cashier. By 1926 the bank’s deposits had grown to \$335,000 with the growth in the bank based in large part upon the financing of the local dairy and fruit industry.

On March 7, 1931, the deposit liabilities of the State Bank of Kinmundy were assumed by First National with all assets delivered as guaranteed and retired from business. First National was one of the sixty-seven southern Illinois banks on March 15, 1933, notified by the government that it could resume normal banking operations after the “Banking Holiday.” William Martin, Governor of the Eighth Federal Reserve District, made the announcement the night before that the Secretary of the Treasury had approved licenses permitting those banks to re-open. An October 29, 1933 financial statement for First National reflected resources of \$395,974.62 and surplus & undivided profits of \$17,011.47.

First National issued 79,272 notes totaling \$637,260 with \$40,000 outstanding in 1935. Of that outstanding amount in July of 1935, \$2,190 was in large size currency. As of February 2006 the First National Bank of Kinmundy continues to serve the citizens of its community and surrounding area.