

BANKING IN THE BRIGHTON AREA (Cont.)

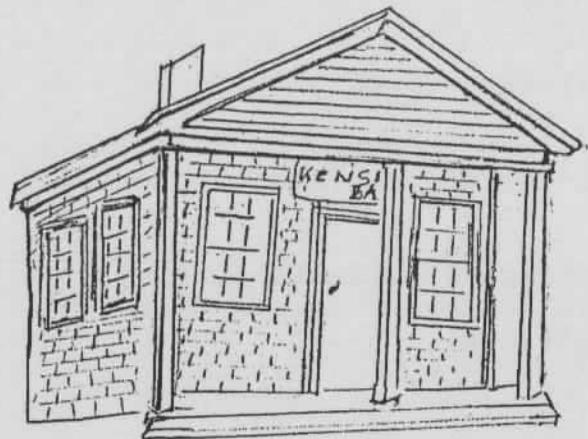
After being certified by the Farmers and Mechanics Bank of Detroit the Kensington Bank Directors began to issue notes. "They obtained a good supply of bank note blanks that were soon properly signed and put in circulation. Let it be recorded that the Bank of Kensington issued as nice bills to look upon as any bank ever issued." (1880 quote Sylvester Calkins of Lyons Township, Oakland County.)

When Kensington Bank note sales had not proceeded as well as expected, Sherman Dix and Alfred Dwight (unknown to the remaining stockholders) left for Milwaukee and disposed of several thousand bank notes, keeping the proceeds.

At that time the Michigan Legislature passed laws requiring banking corporations to show real estate security. The Kensington Bank was ordered to close since only two of the original holders owned land: N.F. Butterfield and Chauncy Crouse. The remaining holders had conveniently recorded their land titles to their wives' names. (Not all went to Milwaukee to hold on to their assets.) Kinsley Bingham was appointed receiver of Kensington Bank. He found that liabilities were many times the value of the assets. The bank notes were worthless.

Dix and Dwight were later arrested in Milwaukee and returned to Kensington. This writer has found no record of legal proceedings against any of those connected to the bank. Not all researchers malign Dix and Dwight for their actions. Some historians believe they were making a last ditch attempt to salvage the bank if possible with new assets from other areas.

Prior to the closing of the bank construction had begun for a small brick building, with white columns supporting the portico at the front, for the use of this banking company. This building was used by the Wesleyan Methodist Church until 1920. For some time farm tools were put up in the building and a local postmaster used it as a storage shed for a while. In September, 1931, the remaining walls were leveled. In August, 1946, the ground breaking ceremony was held for the Kensington Metro Park. Travelers on I-96 unknowingly pass the site each day in 1992. (By Marieanna Bair. To be continued.)



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