

## FARMERS BANK OLDEST BANKING INSTITUTION IN LOGAN COUNTY

### Bank Building Also Included Scroggin Opera House, Hotel

The Farmers Bank of Mount Pulaski, which will celebrate its 90th anniversary next year, dates back to the life of Leonard K. Scroggin, its founder. The following is an interesting account up to the present.

After the Civil War, Leonard K. Scroggin owned considerable land about Mt. Pulaski, and with his farming operation and cattle feeding, raised and sold many head of cattle during the years, and in the year 1872, found his business had increased to such an extent he decided to open a private bank.

He chose as his helper a young man by the name of Walter Sawyer, who looked after the book work and helped him with the money and notes, as he had loaned considerable money to the farmers and business men of the community. This bank was called the Scroggin & Sawyer Bank, and was in the building that faces west on the north side of the alley on South Washington, and which is still there at this date.

His own son, L. B. Scroggin, began to work in the bank with Sawyer, and after about four years, Mr. Scroggin bought the lot where the present bank is located and decided to build a new building; he bought the lot from Magdalena Danner by deed, dated February 7, 1876.

The building that was built was very substantial for that time, and consisted of bank and store, over which were offices and a large opera house and dance hall. The building also included a three-story hotel and rooming house, which had about 20 rooms in addition to parlor and restaurant or dining room.

On completion of the new building, the new bank was called Scroggin & Son, and a few years after that, was known as The Farmers Bank of Scroggin & Son, it being a private bank and remained such until July 1st, 1914, when it was incorporated as a State Bank under the name of The Farmers Bank of Mt. Pulaski, Illinois, its present name.

During the early years and until about 1905, a number of people worked in the bank, among them were Linn K. Scroggin, Walter Sawyer, L. B. Scroggin, B. F. Scroggin, John M. Rothwell, Frank Wilson, Fred W. Meister. Records previous to 1905 are hard to find, for as a private bank no general records of employees were required, although practically all old records such as deposits, ledgers and notes, and etc. are still here and intact, in most instances back to the beginning. Many and many names of the great grandfathers, grandfathers, and fathers of present citizens can be seen on these old books and are very interesting.

Shortly after 1902 and 1903, we find among the employees, names that are still familiar to us today, such as Virgil Wynd, G. A. Volle, E. A. Downing, George Weller, Harold Tomlinson, Della Anderson, A. W. Schaffnacker, Harry O. Elliott, and a host of girls have helped us during the passing years.

During the years since the incorporation of this bank as a State Bank, we have had the following as directors: Leonard K. Scroggin, founder and president until his death in 1918; L. B. Scroggin, A. C. Scroggin, T. A. Scroggin, J. M. Tomlinson, William H. Bryson, William Dittus, W. E. Birks, Michael Volle, Harry Wells, Wilford K. Scroggin, Sr., Ira Veail, O. O. Scroggin, A. W. Schaffnacker, W. K. Scroggin, Jr., G. A. Volle, and Dan Volle.

The present Directors at this date, are: O. O. Scroggin, E. K. Rothwell, Wilford K. Scroggin, Sr., W. K. Scroggin, Jr., Dan Volle, and G. A. Volle. The officers and employees are: G. A. Volle, President; Wilford K. Scroggin, Sr., Vice-President; Dan Volle, Cashier; Harriet Bender, Ass't. Cash-

ier; Paul H. Volle, Sonja Weller, and Faye Bahn.

Next year we will be in our 90th year as a bank, and we have a deep appreciation of the confidence that has been enjoyed by us during these years by the many patrons that have come to us for service. We are not the largest in our county, by far, but at the present we are the oldest, and we hope and believe we can continue to be of service in the years to come.

### L. K. Scroggin Owned 25,000 Acres of Land

Leonard K. Scroggin was born in Galatin County, Ill., Jan. 25, 1819. Carter T. Scroggin, his father, was born in Kentucky, and died in 1859. The members of the family were Mary A., Russell Shelby, Humphrey, Esther J., Sarah, Pleasant, Carter, Thomas, Ellen, and Leonard.

Leonard was 8 when brought by his family to Logan county. He was educated in a log school house during three months of the year. After his marriage he began farming 40 acres of his own and 40 acres of timberland. Success attended his well-directed efforts and as the years passed he made judicious investments in land until he owned 5,000 acres in Logan county, alone. His land possessions elsewhere amounted to 20,000 acres, including land in Nebraska and Missouri and 10,000 acres of Minnesota land.

#### Organized Bank

In May, 1872, Mr. Scroggin organized the Farmers Bank, and in the business, his son was associated with him.

In early manhood, Mr. Scroggin was united in marriage to Miss Lavinia Buckles, a daughter of Robert Buckles. She was born in Logan county in 1826, married in 1841 and called to her final rest Jan. 16, 1863. There were 10 children born to this union.

After the death of his first wife Mr. Scroggin was married to Mrs. Rhoda Pickering, the widow of Thomas Pickering and the daughter of George Girtman, formerly of Missouri, whence he removed to Mount Pulaski township, Logan county, where the birth of Mrs. Scroggin occurred. By the second marriage there were three children, Herbert; Thomas, who was cashier in the Farmers Bank, and Edna, wife of Logan Andrews.

Mr. Scroggin built the bank, opera house, and Scroggin House in 1877, erected other fine buildings and cooperated in many movements and measures for the general good.

### L. K. SCROGGIN, 94, VISITED STATE FAIR

(Oct. 17, 1913)

Last Sunday's Springfield Register contained the following of interest to Mt. Pulaskians:

"Leonard K. Scroggin of Mt. Pulaski, Ill., 94 years old, was one of the most interested state fair visitors. Mr. Scroggin made his headquarters during his visit at the tent of the H. S. Bekemeyer Realty Company. Mr. Bekemeyer was formerly a resident of Mt. Pulaski and a great friend of Mr. Scroggin. Mr. Scroggin was born the same month and year as Queen Victoria. He has a deed to 20,000 acres of land in Canada signed by Queen Victoria. The deed was given direct by the crown in order to clear the title, as the land was being claimed by the Hudson Bay Company. Although 94 years old Mr. Scroggin visited all of the buildings and thoroughly enjoyed the exhibits.

"Mr. Scroggin is a democrat of the old school. He is a strong admirer of President Wilson and his administration."

Visitors to Mount Pulaski will find the city filled with gracious hosts and hostesses. Our folks have always had a fine reputation for friendliness and this occasion will fully prove it.

## FOUNDER OF FARMERS BANK



LEONARD K. SCROGGIN

### Carter Scroggin, Father Of L. K. Came In 1827

In the year 1827 Carter T. Scroggin came to what is now Logan county. His father, Humphrey Scroggin, was a native of North Carolina and married Sarah Kirby, a native of Virginia. Humphrey Scroggin had the distinction of serving in the Continental Army, having enlisted at the age of 17 and serving thru the Revolutionary War. He was present and witnessed Lord Cornwallis surrender the British Army to George Washington, at Yorktown. Later, Humphrey Scroggin moved with his family to Kentucky.

In 1811 they came to Gallatin county in Illinois. Then it was that the Territory of Illinois contained less than 15,000 white inhabitants.

Carter T. Scroggin was born in Kentucky in 1796, and came with his parents to Illinois. He met and married Phebe Shelby, a native of North Carolina, who came to Illinois with her father, Jacob Shelby.

In 1827 Carter and Prebe Scroggin came to Logan county, staked out a claim in the Lake Fork timber, about 4 miles south of the present site of Mt. Pulaski, and built an unhewn log cabin, with a puncheon floor. In the fall preceding "the deep snow", in 1830-31, he built a comfortable hewed log house on the same site, where passers-by found a hospitable welcome.

Carter Scroggin died in 1859, and his wife died in 1876. Both are buried in the Steenberger Cemetery.

They were the parents of the following children: Leonard K., Mary A., Russell L., Humphrey,

Esther J., Sarah E., Carter T., Pleasant M., Thomas J., and Ellen C.

### 1871 Advertisers

A Mount Pulaski newspaper printed during the year 1871, almost 90 years ago, contained the advertisements of the following businessmen, etc.

George S. Sawyer & Co., dry goods and groceries.

George Mayer & Co., dry goods and groceries. Firm composed of George Mayer, David Vanhise, and W. W. Martin.

Mount Pulaski Mills, S. C. Brown, owner.

Harmon F. Lushbaugh, Jeweler. J. N. Pumpelly, practicing physician, druggist and apothecary.

E. B. Weakley & Bro., carriages, wagons, etc., and horseshoeing.

Mrs. O. T. Capps, Millinery, New York Styles and Patterns.

O. T. Capps, oyster and ice cream parlor.

U. E. Robinson, house and sign painter.

Robert Green, Clothing, etc.

St. Charles Saloon, D. Laycock, owner.

A. Reese, house and sign painter.

Reinhart & Werlich, hardware, agricultural implements.

P. L. Corby, boots and shoes.

Fuller & Washburn, contractors and builders. Firm composed of L. A. Fuller and George P. Washburn.

J. M. Reitz, saddlery.

C. Paranteau, boarding house, and feed stable. Also daily hack, Mount Pulaski to Lincoln and return.

S. Linn Beidler, drug store.

Charles S. Capps, stoves, hardware.

Alex Beck, fashionable barber and hair dresser.

## Thos. A. Scroggin Esteemed Banker Died January 1958

Thomas Arthur Scroggin, well known and esteemed resident of Mount Pulaski and vicinity all of his life, and a retired bank official, died at 7:45 a.m., Monday, Jan. 13, 1958, in the Abraham Lincoln Hospital, Lincoln, Ill., at the age of 90 years, 2 months and 26 days. His health began to fail several years ago, but his last illness was the result of a fall in his home on South Spring St., Dec., when he was taken to the hospital.

Mr. Scroggin was born Oct. 17, 1867, on a farm two miles south of Mount Pulaski, a son of Leonard K. and Rhoda Alice Girtman Scroggin, Logan county pioneers. His father was born on Jan. 25, 1819, in Gallatin county, Illinois, a son of Carter and Phoebe Scroggin and as a lad came with the family to Logan county, locating on a farm in Mount Pulaski township. He became an extensive landowner and in 1872 engaged in the banking business with other citizens under the name of Scroggin, Warner & Co. When Mr. Warner retired, the name was changed to Scroggin & Sawyer, Walter P. Sawyer being the junior member. The bank was then located in the building across the alley north of the present Times-News building.

Along about 1877, the Scroggin building was constructed on the west side of the public square, a half block in length, to house the banking business, the Scroggin Opera House and the Scroggin Hotel. Mr. Sawyer retired in 1881 and the bank was then named Scroggin & Son. When Thomas A. Scroggin, who had attended school in the township, was 15 years old, his father had him enter the bank as office boy, then clerk, teller, bookkeeper, cashier and finally president of this well known central Illinois banking institution.

In 1912 the name of the bank was changed to The Farmers Bank. Mr. Scroggin served as cashier from 1914 to 1918 and then as president from 1918 to 1947, when he retired from active duty in the bank.

Mr. Scroggin was one of the three original trustees named in the will of the late Clarence Tomlinson, and he served that trust faithfully for a number of years.

On Oct. 6, 1891, he married Miss Anna Mary Weisenberger, daughter of Charles and Johannah Weisenberger.

Besides his wife, decedent is survived by the following children: one son Wilford K., Sr., of Mount Pulaski; three daughters, Mrs. R. Baxter Foster, Portland, Oregon; Mrs. Harry S. Martin, Sr., and Mrs. Austin W. Schaffnacker of Mount Pulaski.

**Exams:** A college term meaning, "Hello, folks, I may be home sooner than you think."

## THOS. A. SCROGGIN HONORED ON HIS RETIREMENT

