



First National Bank was organized and chartered by the State of West Virginia in 1888 as The Bank of Ronceverte. This was a result of a meeting of the Board of Directors on April 24, 1888. There were two different presidents the first year, A.F. Mathews who resigned after less than three months at the helm, followed by John W. Harris. The bank opened on July 30, 1888, and the first financial statement is dated August 2, 1888. A resolution was adopted and members were instructed to locate a place of business for the bank in Ronceverte. On April 30, 1900, the bank received a national charter from the Comptroller of the Currency and the name was changed to First National Bank of Ronceverte. It was reorganized after the Great Depression and, with the implementation of the National Banking Act of 1933, became FDIC insured. From 1933 until January 1996, the bank was known as The First National Bank in Ronceverte and because of offices in towns in West Virginia and Virginia, the bank is officially known as First National Bank. Unlike many state banks, First National Bank has a national charter.

The bank began operations in 1888 at 218 Frankford Road and stayed at that site until a new structure was built on the corner of Edgar Avenue and Cedar Street when the board purchased a lot for \$275 and built a two-story brick building at a cost of \$2,075.00. The move to the new location coincided with receiving a national charter in 1900, and First National Bank has remained in that location since. In 1976, work began on renovating the bank and eventually the former building was torn down and replaced with a new building. This new building was built in three phases and extends from Edgar Avenue to Main Street, with the entrance on Cedar Street. The phases included completion of a Drive-In Facility in 1976, the portion facing Main Street in 1978, the side facing Edgar Avenue in 1980. The building was designed to meet the needs of the bank and the local community, well into the 21st century.

In recent years the bank expanded its community outreach by establishing branches in Lewisburg (1986), Covington, VA (2001), Hot Springs, VA (2004), White Sulphur Springs (2006) and most recently the Downtown Lewisburg location which began as a temporary branch (2008) and opened its full service office in 2009. Today, First National Bank is a company built on rich tradition. For over 125 years, First National Bank has provided quality financial services to the communities and is proud to support over 500 community organizations and events that range from PGA badge giveaways to partnering with our local chambers, schools, little leagues, non profits, future farmers, and food banks, as well as offering programs on financial literacy, how to do your banking, having good credit, and understanding social security updates to many, many others. According to President and CEO, Matt Burns, ***“As a community bank, the earnings we make go right back in to the community to make loans, help businesses and support organizations, all of which make our communities stronger.”***

To celebrate the 125 year milestone, First National Bank will be doing a variety of special activities within the communities. Some of the events to expect include an essay contest with 6 community high schools; a coloring contest for 16 elementary schools; a special customer selection to be a “Banker for a Day”; sponsorship of the new program, Entrepreneur Café which promotes business growth; PGA ticket giveaway during customer appreciation with anniversary cake served; and partnership with Greenbrier Valley Theatre for their WV Symphony concert which celebrates West Virginia’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



First National Bank began with \$40,000 in capital and had 26 initial shareholders. Today, First National Bank is a \$260 million bank, with approximately 185 shareholders, and 64 employees. According to the FDIC, in 1966, there were 13,529 insured commercial banks in the United States. In 2011, there were 6,279. In WV, there were 189 insured commercial banks in 1966 and 58 in 2011.

Burns emphasizes, *“A community bank is special, and having been part of history for 125 years is even more special to share with our customers and with the areas we serve.”*

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Additional quotes and photos can be obtained by contacting Selina Cahill, First National Bank.

