

OUR  
BANKING  
HERITAGE

The origins of Permanent TSB





OUR  
BANKING  
HERITAGE

The origins of Permanent TSB

First published in 2022 by Permanent TSB

56-59 St. Stephen's Green

Research and text by Fionnuala Parfrey

Cover, design and layout by Stephen Donnelly and Keith Dalton

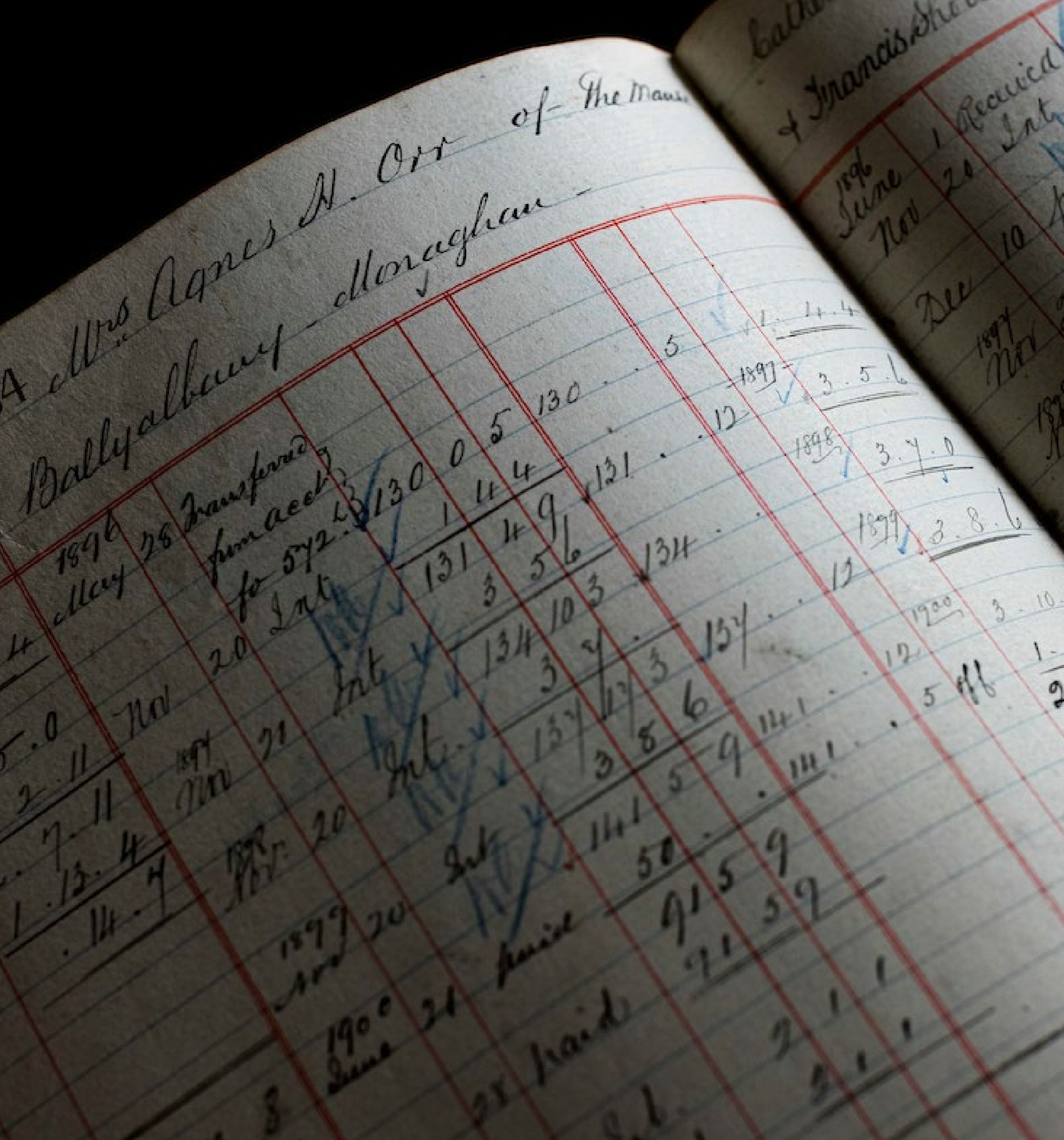
Cover image and photography by Andres Poveda

Printed by The Printed Image, Rathcoole, County Dublin

Copyright © Permanent 2022

Every effort has been made to trace the copyright owners of images used in this book. The publisher and author will be grateful to be notified of any errors or omissions in copyright attributions.

*In compiling and telling the Bank's origin story we want to pay homage to the diverse communities and customers that Permanent TSB has served for over two hundred years as well as the work of the colleagues and leaders who helped to shape the Bank into the organisation it is today.*



# Contents

Foreword	5
Introduction	7
Foundations Timeline	8
Mergers Timeline	10
Chapter 1: The Evolution of TSB Bank	12
Chapter 2: The Evolution of Irish Permanent	54
Chapter 3: The Creation of Permanent TSB	74
Selected Bibliography	79
Acknowledgements	80



## Foreword

Permanent TSB has a long banking history, stretching back over 200 years, making us one of Ireland's longest serving financial services institutions. Today, Permanent TSB is a leader in the Irish financial services market and has the ambition to be Ireland's best personal and small business bank. Our historic roots in community banking have inspired the Bank's purpose: 'To work hard every day to build trust with our customers; we are a community serving the community.'

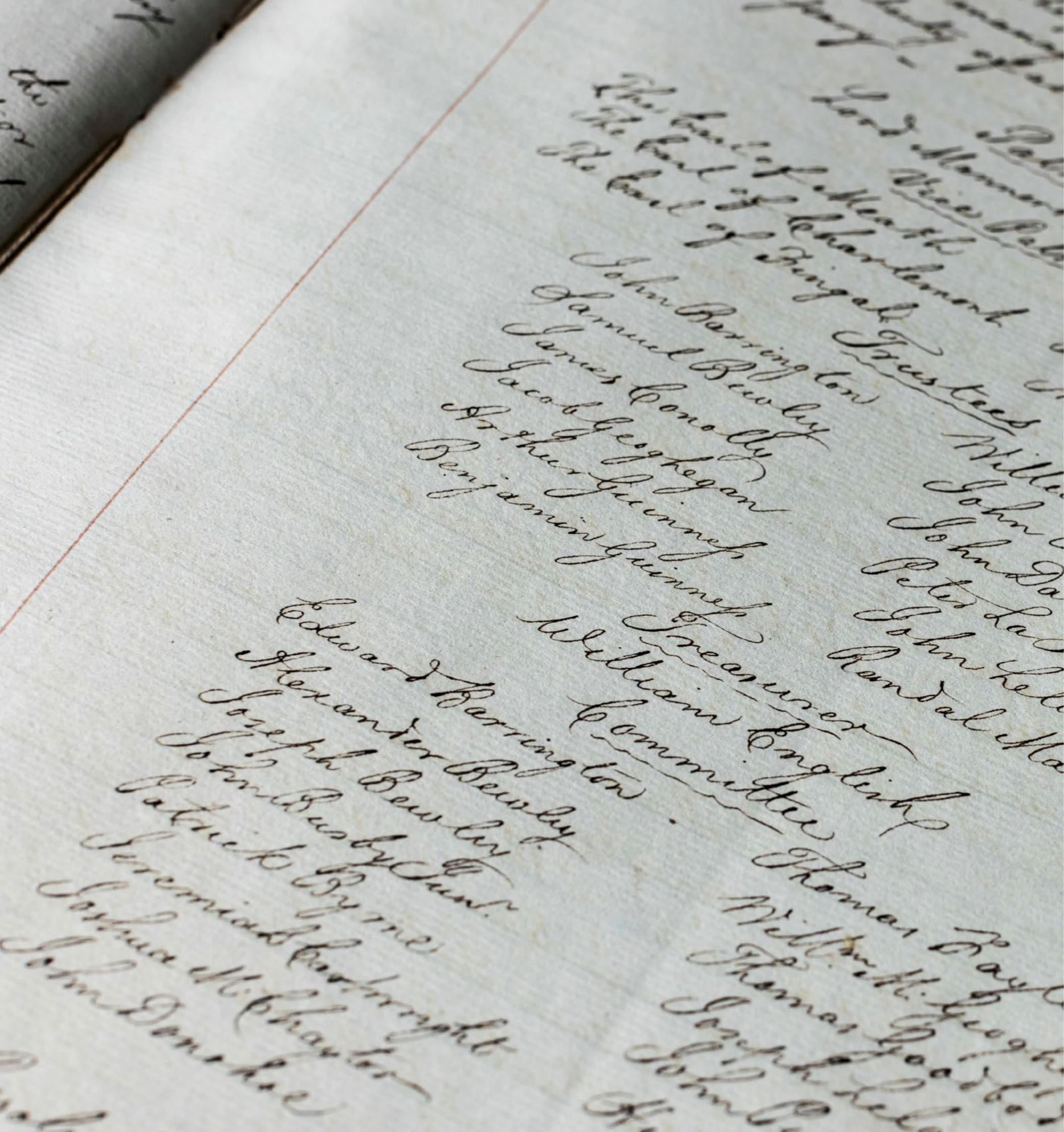
Permanent TSB traces its origins back to the savings bank and building society movements of nineteenth-century Ireland. The name Permanent TSB reflects the heritage of both TSB Bank and Irish Permanent who joined forces in 2001 and in 2002 launched the Bank we know today. For the first time, the story of the Permanent TSB's banking ancestors has been compiled in one place. *Our Banking Heritage: The Origins of Permanent TSB* is structured around the foundation stories of TSB Bank and Irish Permanent. Amplifying these stories are the many primary sources and archival documents preserved within Permanent TSB's corporate archives. The documents in the archives are the Bank's direct link to its past and to the many people who have contributed to its development. The records have an enduring cultural, historical and evidentiary value and will help to tell the Bank's story for many years to come.

In 2022 Permanent TSB celebrates twenty years in operation, which makes this the ideal moment to look both to the past and to the future. Our history underpins the culture of the organisation and is evidence of our longevity and adaptability within the Irish banking sector. Permanent TSB's rich history is a source of immense pride and we are delighted to share our banking heritage with colleagues, customers and friends.

*Eamonn Crowley*

*Chief Executive, Permanent TSB*

*January 2022*



# Introduction

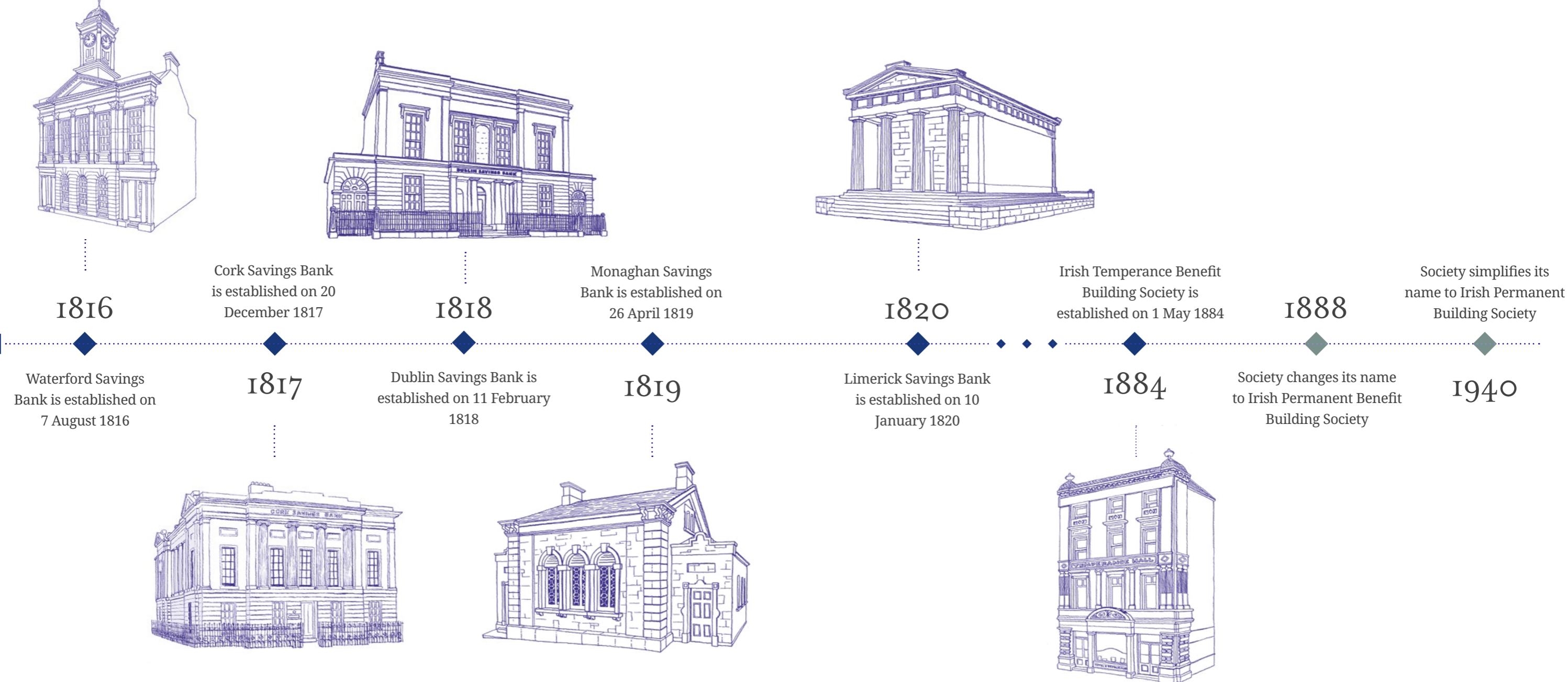
Permanent TSB's earliest banking ancestors are five trustee savings banks established in Ireland between 1816 and 1820. The Waterford, Cork, Dublin, Monaghan and Limerick Savings Banks all developed within the wider context of an evolving savings bank movement, the main aim of which was to promote thrift and saving among the working classes. While there were limits imposed on the total funds that could be lodged, there were no barriers to entry for these community banks and they flourished in urban environments with high population densities. Of the many savings banks that were founded in Ireland in the early 1800s, only these five survived into the twentieth century, eventually coming together to form TSB Bank in 1992.

Irish Permanent began its life as the Irish Temperance Benefit Building Society before changing its name to Irish Permanent Building Society. Founded in Dublin in 1884, the society was originally a mutual organisation, meaning it was owned by its members. Like the savings banks, building societies in this era were founded with the motivation of helping people to help themselves. Members would come together to pool their funds and gradually raise enough money to provide low and no-interest property loans. Irish Permanent Building Society would go on to become a major player in the growing Irish mortgage market in the second half of the twentieth century. The building society demutualised in 1994 and merged with Irish Life in 1999 to create Irish Life & Permanent plc, of which Irish Permanent was the retail banking subsidiary.

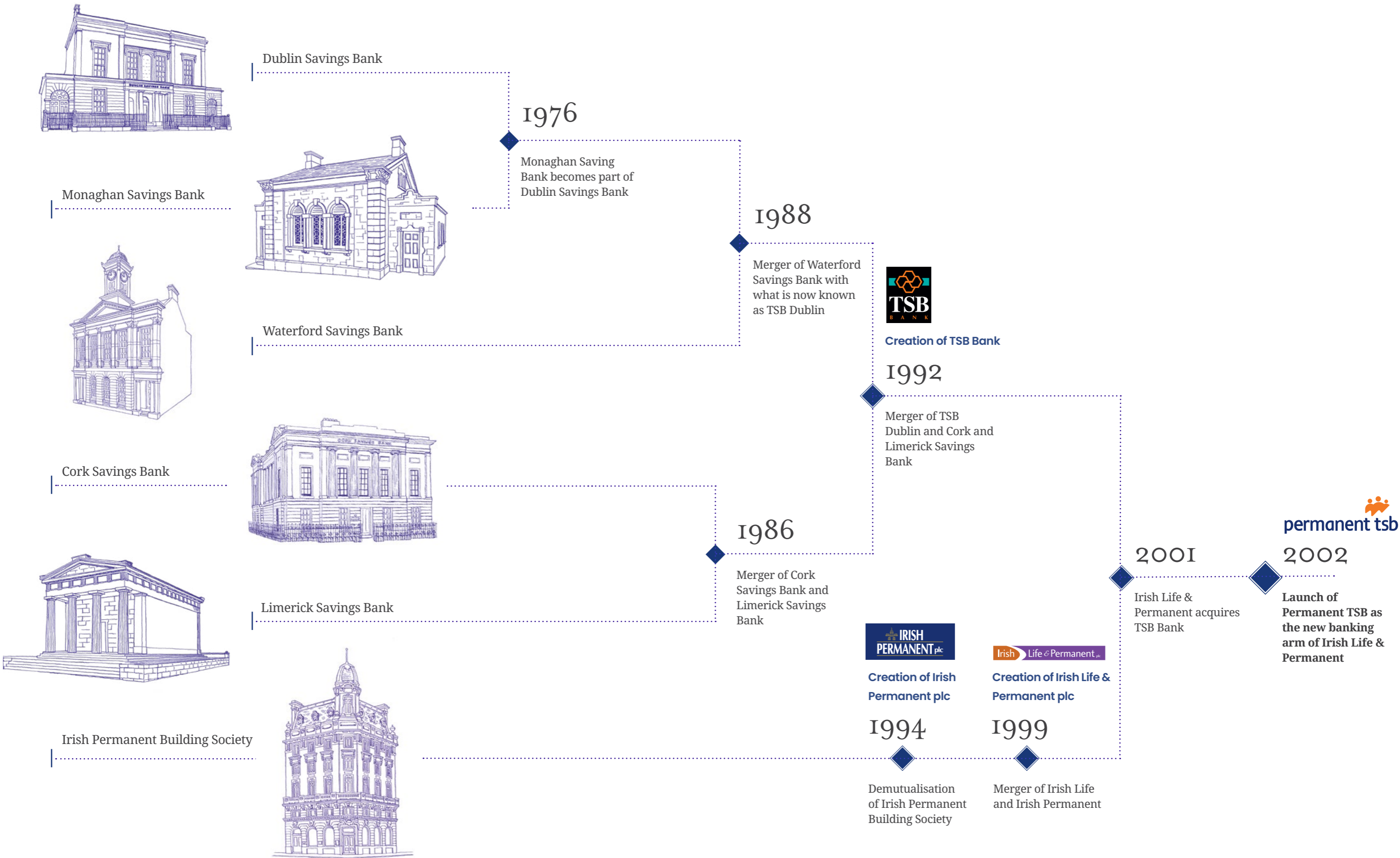
In 2001 Irish Life & Permanent acquired TSB Bank, which was integrated with Irish Permanent. Permanent TSB was launched as the rebranded banking operation of the group in 2002. Ten years later Permanent TSB separated from Irish Life and became a wholly owned subsidiary of Permanent TSB Group Holdings plc.

The merger of Irish Permanent and TSB Bank in 2001 signified a convergence of the historical trustee savings bank and building society movements in Ireland, both of which arose from a desire to put financial power in the hands of Ireland's middle and working classes. Permanent TSB is proud of its deep roots in Irish history and of the important role its ancestors played in an evolving Irish banking sector.

# Foundations Timeline



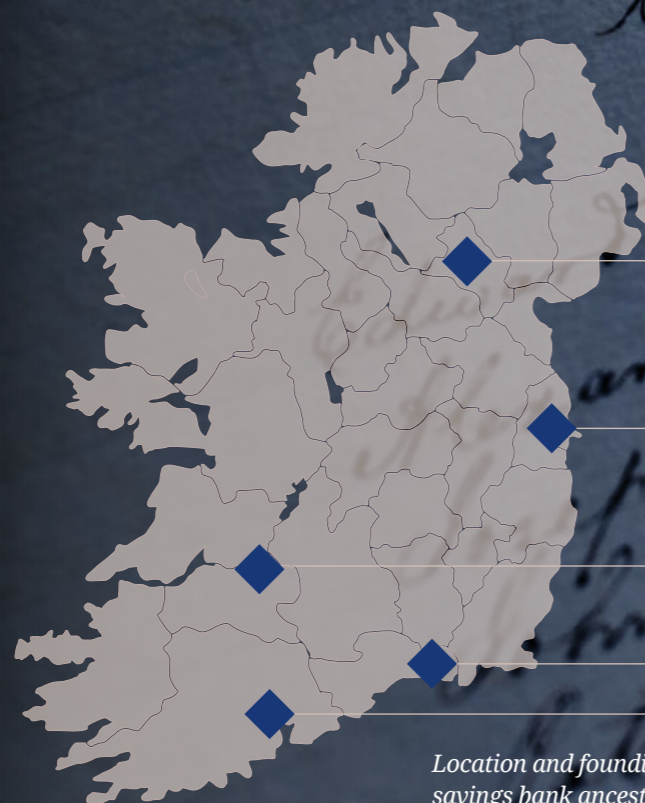
# Mergers Timeline





CHAPTER 1

# THE EVOLUTION OF TSB BANK



Location and founding dates of Permanent TSB's five savings bank ancestors.

DUBLIN, 1818

MONAGHAN, 1819

LIMERICK, 1820

WATERFORD, 1816

CORK, 1817



## The Origins of the Trustee Savings Bank

*'To assist, therefore, the industrious and frugal, to lay by such part of their earnings as they may be able to spare, SAVINGS BANKS have been formed in many places, and so great has been the encouragement they have received, that they are happily spreading in various parts of the kingdom.'*

*Anon., Some Account of the Establishment of the Savings Bank, School Street, Dublin: With the Rules and Regulations for its Management, 1818*

Unlike today's banks, with their extensive range of financial services and financial products, the trustee savings banks that were established in Ireland in the early nineteenth century had one primary function: to provide low-wage workers with a place where they could regularly deposit small amounts of money and reap the benefits of a secure investment and generous rates of interest. These banks were charitable institutions, set up and governed by a voluntary board of trustees, usually comprising members of the gentry and prominent local businessmen or merchants. The savings bank trustees saw themselves as enlightened philanthropists helping to encourage thrift among the working classes so that they might become financially self-reliant. Both Catholic and Church of Ireland religious leaders were often involved in the running of Irish savings banks, a factor which no doubt served to widen their reach and appeal.

The Reverend Henry Duncan is generally considered to have set up the first savings bank in the village of Ruthwell in lowland Scotland in 1810. The model was implemented in Edinburgh three years later to even greater success and the concept then spread rapidly throughout the UK and Ireland as part of a wider welfare economy designed to provide support to poorer members of society. One of the key goals of the trustee savings bank was to



provide a service for communities of small savers for which the commercial banks did not cater. In identifying and fulfilling this widespread need, savings banks carved out a significant place for themselves in the annals of Irish banking. Their continued success long into the twentieth century is a testament to their enduring relevance within the communities they served.

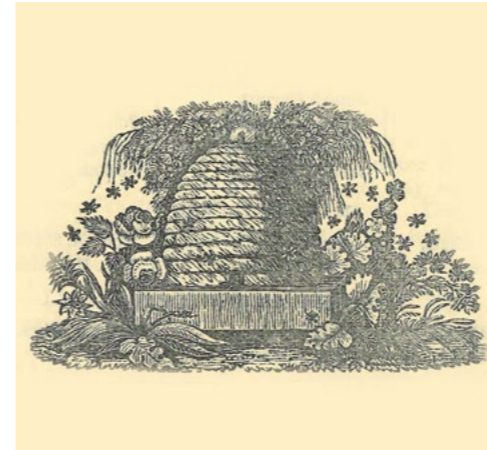
## Savings Bank Legislation

Savings banks were supported and encouraged by the government because they were largely self-governing and could be set up without incurring any immediate cost to the state. Government oversight was eventually established in the form of legislation which established rules and regulations, as well as guarantees, for savings banks. On 11 July 1817 an 'Act to Encourage the Establishment of Savings Banks in Ireland' was passed by parliament in London. The act limited savings bank depositors to investments of no more than £50 in any one year. It also stipulated that, with the exception of day-to-day working capital requirements, savings banks were obliged to place their funds

### From the Permanent TSB Archives:

*Minister for the Gaeltacht, Jack Lynch, cuts the ribbon to officially open the Cathedral Road Branch of the Cork Savings Bank in 1957. To his right is Catholic Bishop of Cork and Ross, Cornelius Lucey, and to his left is Church of Ireland Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, Richard Perdue.*

*There was a long-standing tradition that the Church of Ireland and Catholic Bishops of Cork served as the patrons of the Cork Savings Bank.*



### From the Permanent TSB Archives:

*Beehive illustration printed in a nineteenth century savings bank passbook.*

*The image of the beehive was associated with early savings banks and symbolised the diligence of their working-class depositors.*

on account with the UK Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, the statutory body responsible for the investment and management of government funds. In so doing, the banks were effectively able to provide customers with a government guarantee for their savings.

The state paid a high rate of interest on the deposits it received from the savings banks and the savings banks in turn passed on generous rates of interest to their depositors. The excess of interest received by the banks over that which they paid their depositors is what permitted the organisations to generate a small profit or 'surplus', which was put towards their running costs.

The rules governing savings banks were updated in subsequent acts of parliament. Under the Savings Bank Act of 1863 any institution that conducted its business in accordance with the provisions of the legislation, and which was registered with the barrister-at-law appointed by the National Debt Commissioners, was certified as a trustee savings bank. Towards the end of the nineteenth century, savings banks were permitted to offer customers additional investment options in the form of government stock and special funds that the banks could invest other than with the Commissioners for National Debt. After independence, savings banks in Ireland continued to invest most of their funds with the Irish state until the enactment of the Savings Bank Act of 1989.

## The Development of Irish Savings Banks

The quotation at the start of this chapter is taken from a book about the foundation of the School Street Savings Bank, the bank that would go on to become the Dublin Savings Bank. Printed in 1818, the same year that the bank was established, the publication extols the virtues of savings banks and functions as an instruction manual for 'those benevolent persons' who may be considering setting up a similar financial institution in their locale. The years 1818-19 were some of the most active years for the creation of savings banks in Ireland and the five institutions at the centre of Permanent TSB's history were part of this early wave. Waterford Savings Bank had been established two years earlier, in 1816, followed not long after by Cork Savings Bank in 1817. Monaghan Savings Bank was set up a year after the bank in School Street and Limerick Savings Bank opened in 1820.



ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO SEPTIMO

## GEORGI II. REGIS.

\*\*\*\*\*

C A P. CV.

An Act to encourage the Establishment of Banks for Savings in Ireland. [11th July 1817.]

WHEREAS certain Provident Institutions or Banks for Savings have been and may be established in Ireland for the safe Custody and Increase of small Savings belonging to the industrious Classes of His Majesty's Subjects there; and it is expedient to give Protection to such Institutions and the Funds thereby established, and to afford Encouragement to others to form the like Institutions: May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That if any Number of Persons who have formed or shall form any Society in any Part of Ireland, for the Purpose of establishing and maintaining any Institution in the Nature of a Bank, to receive Money for the Benefit of the Persons depositing the same, and to accumulate the Produce of so much thereof as shall not be required by the Depositors, their Executors or Administrators, to be paid in the Nature of Compound Interest, and to return the Whole or any Part of such Deposits, and the Produce thereof, to the Depositors, their Executors or Administrators, deducting only out of such Produce so much as shall be required to be so retained for the Purpose of paying and discharging the necessary Expences attending the Management of such Institutions, according to such Rules, Orders, and Regulations as shall have been or shall be established for that Purpose, but deriving no Benefit whatsoever

Persons forming Societies according to the Provisions herein prescribed, entitled to the Benefit of this Act.

10 K

From the Permanent TSB Archives:

A copy of the 'Act to Encourage the Establishment of Savings Banks in Ireland' passed on 11 July 1817.

S White 24/264		Page Three.	
Page Two.		Sept. 101 & 366. Sept. 309.	
1856	Aug 28 19 1	1866	Aug 24 16 7
Nov 20	Int 15 6	Nov 20	Int 1 6
1857	Nov 20	1867	Nov 20
1858	Nov 20	1868	Nov 20
1859	Nov 20	1875	21 6 1 <i>Shind</i>
1860	Nov 20	Nov 20	Interest to date 12 4 6
1861	Nov 20	1877	53 10 7
1862	Nov 20	NOV. 20 INTEREST	1 8
1863	Nov 20	1880	NOV. 20 INTEREST
1864	Nov 20	1881	NOV. 20 INTEREST
1865	Nov 20	1882	NOV. 20 INTEREST
1866	Nov 20	1883	NOV. 20 INTEREST
1867	Nov 20	1884	NOV. 20 INTEREST
1868	Nov 20	1885	NOV. 20 INTEREST
1869	Nov 20	1886	NOV. 20 INTEREST
1870	Nov 20	1887	NOV. 20 INTEREST
1871	Nov 20	1888	NOV. 20 INTEREST
1872	Nov 20	Forward	68 11 1

From the Permanent TSB Archives:

A savings bank passbook issued in 1848. The interest on the account was calculated annually on 20 November.

**The effects of the Famine:**  
total deposits in Irish trustee savings banks dropped from £2.9 million in 1845 to £1.2 million in 1849.

By 1830 there was a network of seventy-three savings banks in Ireland. The major growth explosion had by this point petered out. On the eve of the Famine in 1844 there were 95,348 depositors in seventy-six banks holding balances totalling over £2.9 million. The total deposited in the Irish savings banks exceeded the £2.6 million held in private deposits in the Bank of Ireland, which had been in operation since 1783. The effects of the Famine naturally had a significant impact on people's ability to save and a total of twenty-four savings banks closed their operations between 1844 and 1852. In general, the banks that survived the Famine and succeeded in the long run were those based in urban environments which had been established earlier in the century. The longer-established banks were better placed to weather the financial downturn caused by the Famine and the mass emigration from Ireland during that period. While some savings institutions rallied in the post-Famine years, by the turn of the twentieth century the Waterford, Cork, Dublin, Limerick and Monaghan banks were the only five trustee savings banks still in operation in the Republic of Ireland.

## Waterford Savings Bank, 1816

*'This excellent institution opened for the first time on Monday at one o'clock at the Exchange and remained open until three, during which hours attendance will be given under the superintendence of the Secretary and at least two members of the Managing Committee every Monday for the purpose of receiving deposits of any amount not less than Tenpence.'*

*Waterford Mirror, 14 August 1816*

Waterford Savings Bank has the distinction of having been established before the passing of the first Savings Bank Act in 1817. The bank opened its doors on 7 August 1816 at the city's Exchange on Quay Lane (now Exchange Street). A total of seventy-five passbooks were issued on the first day and during the bank's opening hours the following Monday ninety-seven depositors, both new and returning, lodged money into savings accounts. The first secretary of the Waterford Savings Bank was a local merchant, William Lumsden, and the bank's voluntary treasurers were Messrs Scott & Co, who were local agents for the Bank of Ireland, and Messrs Newport & Co., of Waterford's Newport's Bank.

A summary of the bank's annual accounts for the year 1822-3 was published in the *Waterford Mirror* in August 1823 and tells us that by this time the bank held £30,864 in deposits. By 1834 deposits in the bank had increased to more than £75,000. In December 1835 the trustees of the bank applied to the Lords of the Treasury for permission to spend a portion of their surplus funds on the erection of a purpose-built bank building. A site on what is now O'Connell Street was eventually chosen and in December 1840 an advertisement was issued with instructions for architects who wished to submit a design for the new savings bank office. The building had to be in a Grecian, Roman or Italian style, it had to have a clock tower, and it had to be constructed at a cost of no more than £4,000.



*Waterford Savings Bank on O'Connell Street, Waterford, c. 1910.*

*The photograph above features on the cover of a centenary publication about the history of the Waterford Savings Bank. The bank building was originally intended to have an illuminated clock face, but because of the heavy cost and risk of fire it was eventually decided to install dials of copper instead.*

*Image reproduced courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.*

*'Amongst the deposits that were lodged in the Savings Bank on Monday we observe with pleasure two small sums sent by a merchant in the name of two of his men whom he had found it necessary to fine to the amount. This is really turning faults to a good account.'*

*Waterford Mirror, 4 September 1816*

The winner of the design competition was architect Thomas Jackson. Though born in Waterford, Jackson spent most of his career in Belfast and the Old Museum Building in that city bears a striking resemblance to the Waterford bank. Designs by Isaac Farrell, architect of the Dublin Savings Bank, and William Deane Butler, architect of the Monaghan Savings Bank, also featured among the competition submissions.

Waterford Savings Bank operated out of the office on O'Connell Street from 1846 until the mid-1990s when TSB Bank closed the branch and the building was sold. The Southern Regional Assembly used it as their headquarters until 2017. In 2018 the building was restored and reopened as the Waterford Municipal Gallery of Art.

Like other Irish banks, Waterford Savings Bank suffered during the Famine and in the years directly following it. In 1848 the Bank's funds dropped to around £40,000, but by 1855 they had risen again to £64,246. In 1916, a short publication was produced to mark the centenary of Waterford Savings, which, as the writer put it, had 'passed through the vicissitudes of a century with an unblemished reputation.' By this point its deposits amounted to close upon £150,000.



*Banking hall of the Waterford Savings Bank on O'Connell Street, c. 1980.*

*Image reproduced courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive.*



Right: 1799 Newport's Bank note for nine shillings.

There was a saying in Waterford in the early nineteenth century that something was 'As good as Newport's notes'. The Newport bankers acted as treasurers for the early Waterford Savings Bank. The family-run Newport Bank was established by Simon Newport in 1799 and taken over by his son William Newport in 1803. The bank collapsed in 1820 after the suicide of William Newport prompted a run on the institution.

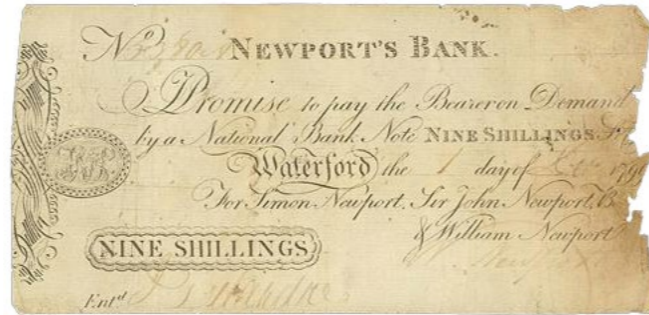
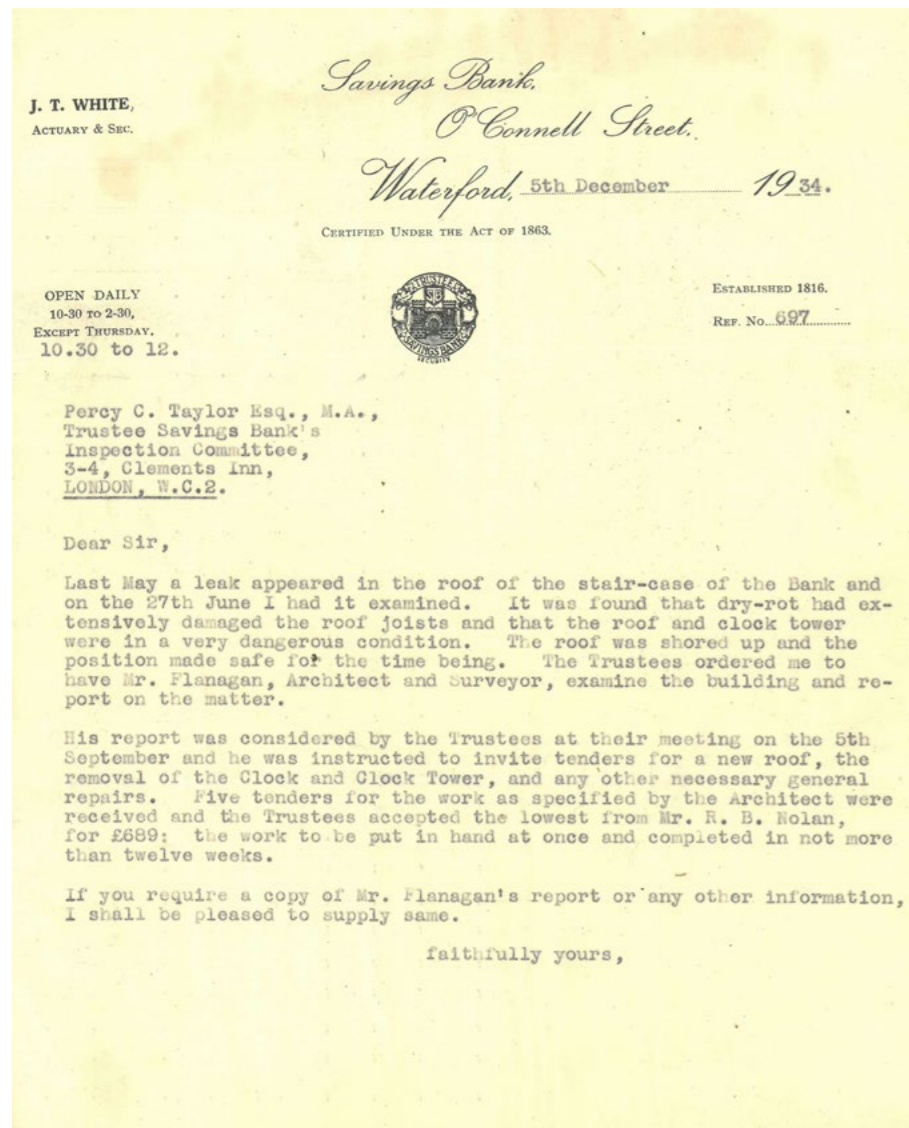


Image reproduced by kind permission of Spink and Son Ltd. London.

**From the Permanent TSB Archives:**

Three early Waterford Savings Bank ledgers. Ledger 'D' dates from 1824.



**From the Permanent TSB Archives:**

Left: Letter from the actuary of the Waterford Savings Bank to the Trustee Savings Banks Inspection Committee referring to the leak and dry rot in the roof of the bank building.

Following a survey and report undertaken by a local architect, tenders were invited for the provision of a new roof. The clock tower and spire of the Waterford Savings Bank building were removed in 1934 as part of this renovation.



## Cork Savings Bank, 1817

*'The Bank is thus, both in the personality of its staff and its clients, very intimately associated with the life of Cork City, and its eminent soundness and respectability are due in equal degrees to the wisdom and foresight of past citizens and to the capacity and attention to duty of those of the present.'*

Anon., 'Cork Savings Bank, 1817-1917', *Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society*, 1917

The Cork Savings Bank opened for business on Saturday, 20 December 1817, in a room at the Royal Cork Institution on South Mall in the centre of the city. The Catholic Bishop of Cork, John Murphy, and the Church of Ireland Bishop of Cork and Ross, Thomas St Lawrence, were two key figures behind the push to open a savings bank in Cork. The first secretary of the Cork Savings Bank was John Clear, and the first treasurer was James Roche of Roche's Bank. The bank initially opened for business only two hours a week – on Saturdays from 12:30pm to 2:30pm. During its first twelve months in operation the sum of £27,455 was received from 1,269 depositors.

While the lofty ideal of the savings bank was to help those of limited means, in reality the high rates of interest also attracted many middle-class customers. At the first general meeting of the Cork Savings Bank it was observed that some of the bank's depositors appeared to be persons who were 'too prosperous to expect to benefit by the use of the Bank'. These undesirable customers were a source of consternation to the voluntary trustees and managers who were opposed to the notion of providing a free banking service to their peers. In the long run, the statutory limits of deposit served to prevent any serious abuse of the savings bank infrastructure and by the bank's third annual meeting in 1821 the consensus was that the benefits of the bank for poorer members of society far outweighed the risk of attracting more affluent customers.

*'There was no one, we believe, who attended the meeting of the 17th who was not compelled to admit the extreme value of the Bank in this city during the last year, who did not enjoy the pleasing reflection that through its means upwards of thirty-four thousand pounds have been rescued from the gulph [sic] into which so much property of the rich and poor of this city was swallowed by the failure of our local Banks.'*

*Cork Mercantile Chronicle*, 19 January 1821

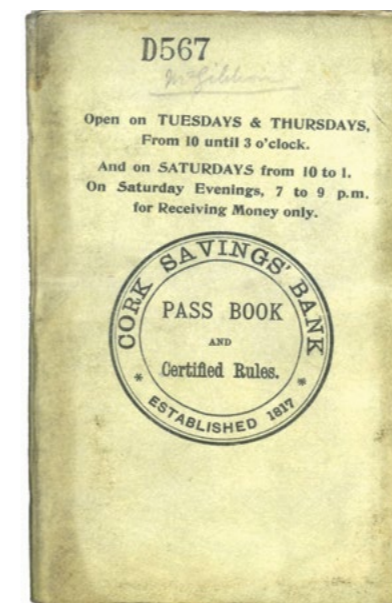


*Plaque above the doorway to the banking hall in the Lapp's Quay Building.*



*Above: Cork Savings Bank, Lapp's Quay, c. 1880.*

*Image reproduced courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.*



**From the Permanent TSB Archives:**

*Cork Savings Bank passbook, issued in 1910.*

That the Cork Savings Bank enjoyed success in its early years is evidenced by the decision to invest in a substantial new premises on Lapp's Quay in 1839. The Lapp's Quay bank building was designed by Sir Thomas Deane and his brother, Kearns Deane, and constructed in limestone from the nearby Ballinlough quarry at a cost of £11,000. Its neoclassical style was considered appropriate to demonstrate the power, status and stability of the savings bank. The Lapp's Quay branch of the Cork Savings Bank opened for business in August 1842 and remained in operation for just over 170 years. It closed its doors as a bank in 2013 and was re-opened as part of the University College Cork (UCC) Business School in 2018. Despite the change in ownership, No. 1 Lapp's Quay has retained its association with the history of the Cork Savings Bank, thanks in no small part to the prominent engraving of the bank's name in gold lettering on the front of the building.



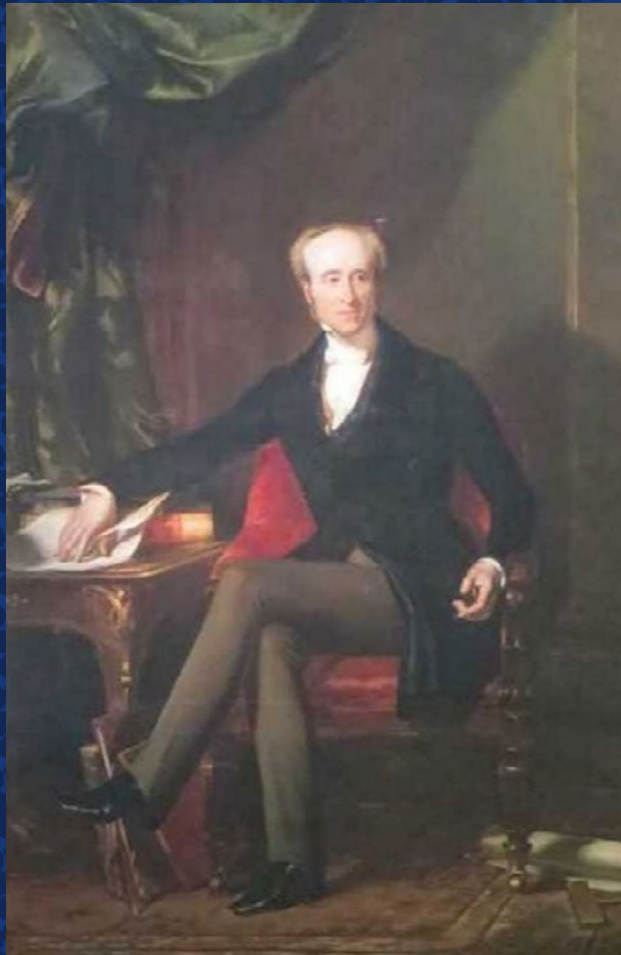
*Trustees and managers of the Cork Savings Bank with invited guests at a dinner to celebrate the centenary of the bank in 1917. Photograph by Guy & Company Ltd, Cork.*

*In November 1917 the Cork Savings Bank celebrated one hundred years in continued operation. A history of the bank was published in the Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society and a banquet was held in the building at Lapp's Quay.*

*Image reproduced courtesy of University College Cork Heritage Services Collection, reference no. UCCHS.2016.003.*



## John Craig, 1790–1868

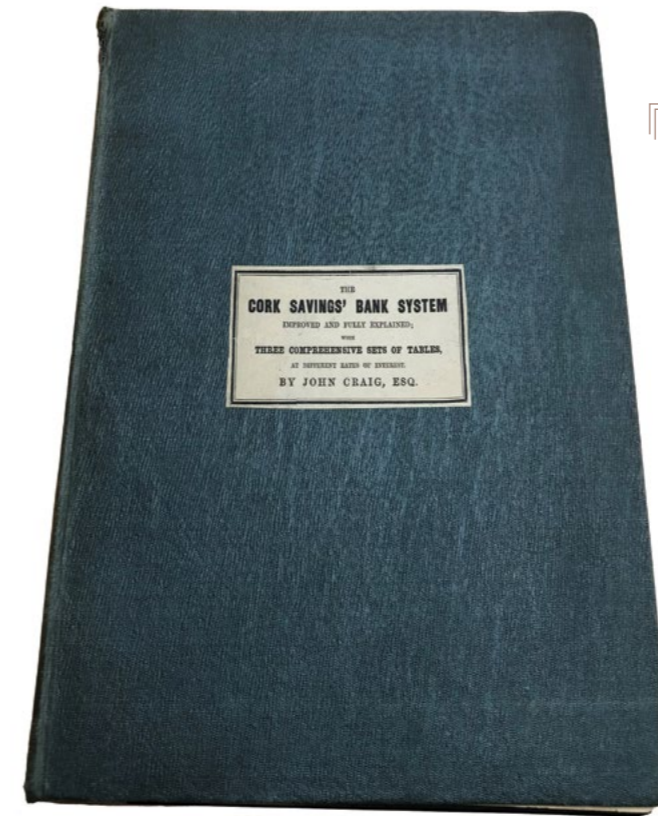


Portrait, John Craig (1790-1868), 1844, by William Fisher (1817-1895).

Image reproduced courtesy of the University College Cork Heritage Services Collection, reference no. UCCHS.2016.001.

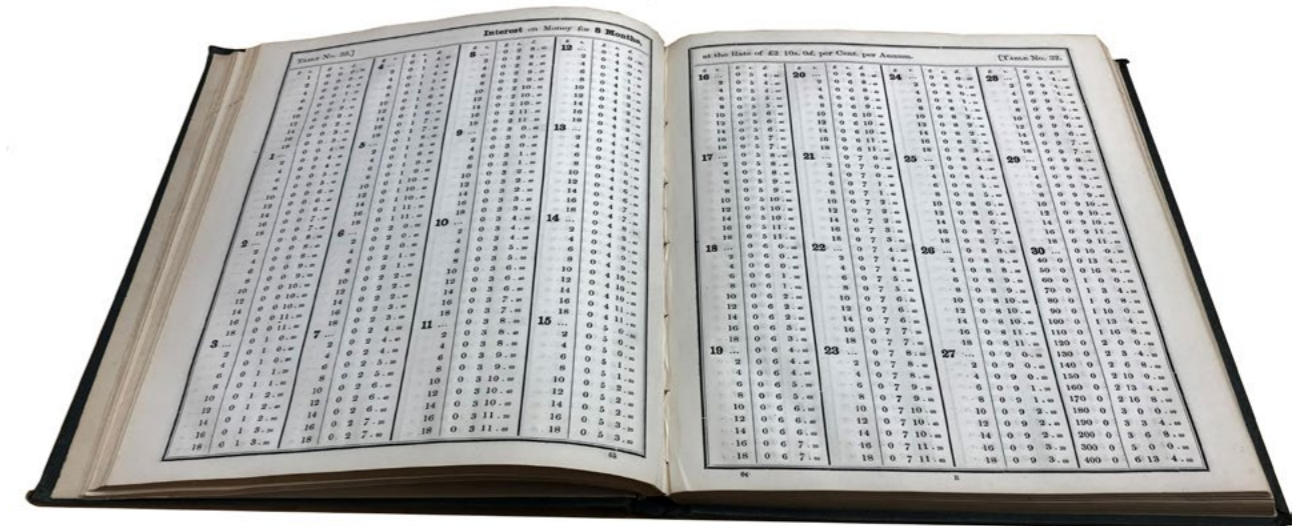
John Craig was a Scottish businessman who made his fortune in the steamship industry. He later became the agent and manager of a Chester salt mine and in 1834 he moved to Ireland to take up the position of agent with the Sligo branch of the Bank of Ireland. He was subsequently appointed manager of the Bank of Ireland in Cork and in 1839 he was elected treasurer of the Cork Savings Bank. As treasurer, John Craig completely overhauled the bank's accounting processes. He created a new balance system by double entry as well as a series of tables for easily calculating the interest owed to depositors. The system, which was described in a series of manuals published by Craig, greatly reduced the potential for fraud and error and was soon adopted by other Irish savings banks. According to the trustees of the Limerick Savings Bank, who starting using Craig's accounting system in 1845, the new process reduced from four weeks to just three days the time it took to prepare the annual statement of accounts.

In recognition of his contributions to the bank, a portrait of John Craig by Cork-born artist, William Fisher, was commissioned in 1844 by the trustees and managers of the Cork Savings Bank who each paid a subscription of £1 towards the painting. The portrait still hangs in the Lapp's Quay building, which is now part of UCC.



*'A separate paper might be written on Mr. Craig's system, which from an accountant's point of view is marvelously ingenious and effective, but it will be sufficient to mention that it provides the Trustees and Managers with an accurate daily balance of their accounts, so that at the end of each day's business, no matter how many transactions have occurred, they can tell in a moment the precise sum due to any particular depositor, or to the whole body of depositors, with interest to that date.'*

Anon., 'Cork Savings Bank, 1817-1917', *Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society*, 1917



**From the Permanent TSB Archives:**

Above and top left: A copy of John Craig's accounting manual, *The Cork Savings' Bank System Improved and Fully Explained*, 1854.



## Dublin Savings Bank, 1818

*'At a meeting of friends to the establishment of Savings Banks, called by public notice for the purpose of taking steps to set forward a Bank in this place for general benefit.'*

From the first entry in the School Street Savings Bank minute book, 1818

The Dublin Savings Bank had humble beginnings, starting out as the School Street Savings Bank, so named because the bank's trustees first convened in a schoolhouse on School Street in the Liberties area of the city. The bank was established on 11 February 1818 and was the second of its kind in Dublin. The first patron of the bank was Lord Manners, then Lord Chancellor of Ireland, one of the highest judicial officers in the country. Among the earliest trustees of the bank were prominent local businessmen including members of the Guinness, Bewley and LaTouche families. The school in which the founders of the savings bank first met had been funded by those same families to benefit the local community.

The first annual general meeting for the savings bank was held on 15 March 1819. At this meeting a bank sub-committee presented a report on the figures for the institution's first ten months in operation, from February to December 1818. These figures shed some light on the make-up of the School Street Savings Bank depositors. Of the 2,920 deposits made during the ten-month period, 228 constituted deposits of £10 or more, while 2,692 were of less than that amount. The trustees and managers of the savings bank concluded from these figures that 'the labouring classes for which benefit the Establishment of Savings Banks was originally and principally designed have been willing to avail themselves of the benefit intended them.'



Above: Portrait of Lord Thomas Manners-Sutton, 1st Baron Manners, (1756-1842), c. 1810.

Lord Manners was a British lawyer and politician who served as Lord Chancellor of Ireland from 1807 to 1827.



From the Permanent TSB Archives:

School Street Savings Bank ledger dating from 1818.

*Trustees*

*John Barrington  
Samuel Bewley  
James Conolly  
Jacob Geoghegan  
Arthur Guinness  
Benjamin Guinness*

*William Harding  
John Jameson  
John David LaTouche  
Peter LaTouche Junr.  
John Heland Maguay  
Randal MacDonnell*

### From the Permanent TSB Archives:

*The first trustees of the School Street Savings Bank listed in the bank's earliest minute book.*

*Arthur and Benjamin Guinness were the sons of Arthur Guinness Snr., founder of the Guinness Brewery. Samuel Bewley went on to found the Bewley's tea company in 1834. John David and Peter LaTouche Jnr. were members of the prominent LaTouche banking family.*

Over the next few decades, the School Street Savings Bank expanded its operation across Dublin. A branch in Middle Abbey Street opened in May 1825, but within a few years the offices were deemed too small and in 1832 the northside branch was moved to the Linen Hall on Lurgan Street. In 1828 a new head office on Meath Street was also established and from around 1830 to 1844 the bank was known as the Meath Street Savings Bank.

In early 1839 the bank began to look at a site on Lower Abbey Street and the foundation stone for the new bank building was laid on 20 June 1839. The Abbey Street premises opened in October 1840 and remained in operation as a bank until 2003. In 1844 the bank's title was changed to 'Dublin Savings Bank with offices in Lower Abbey Street, Meath Street and Linenhall.'



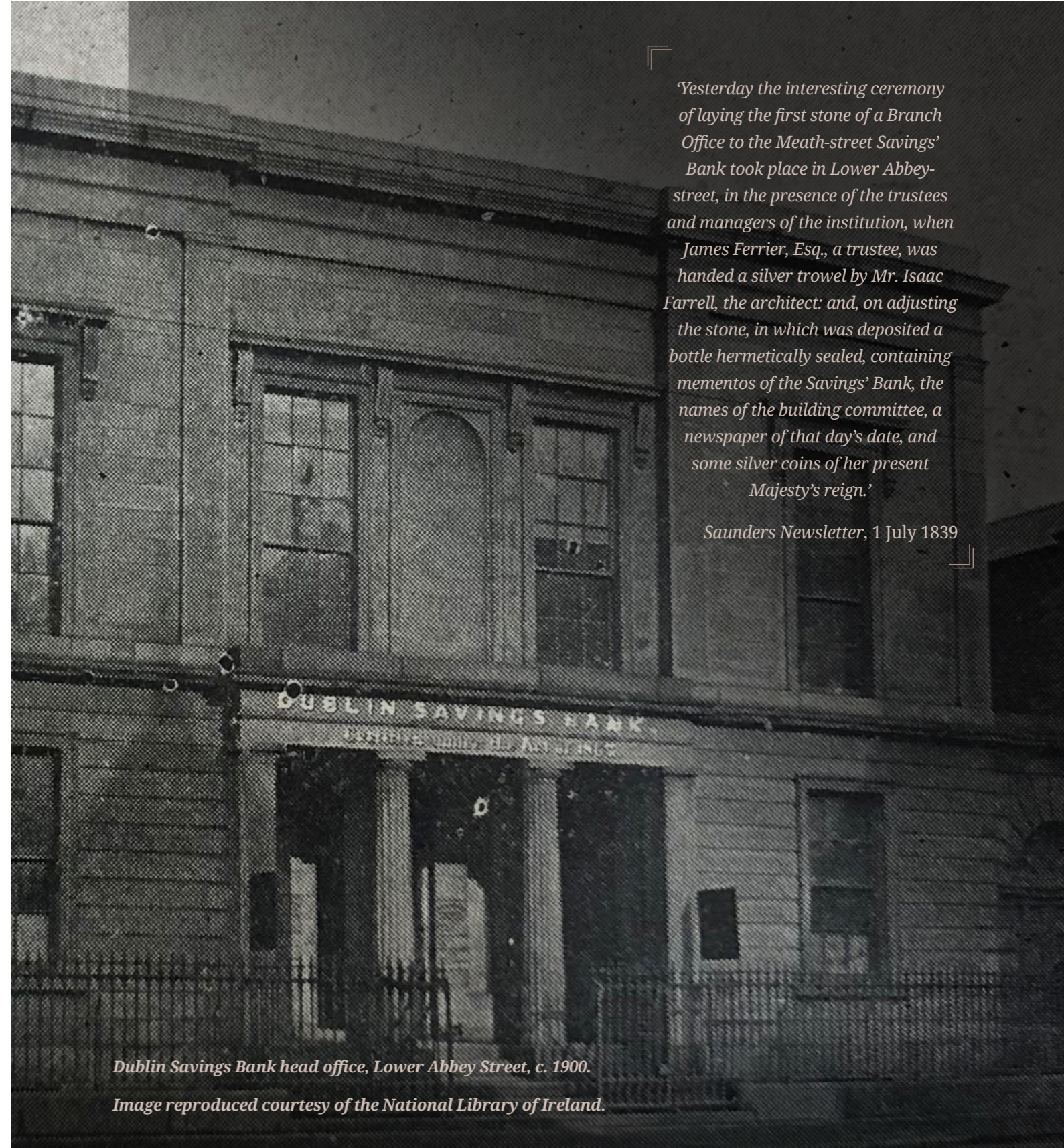
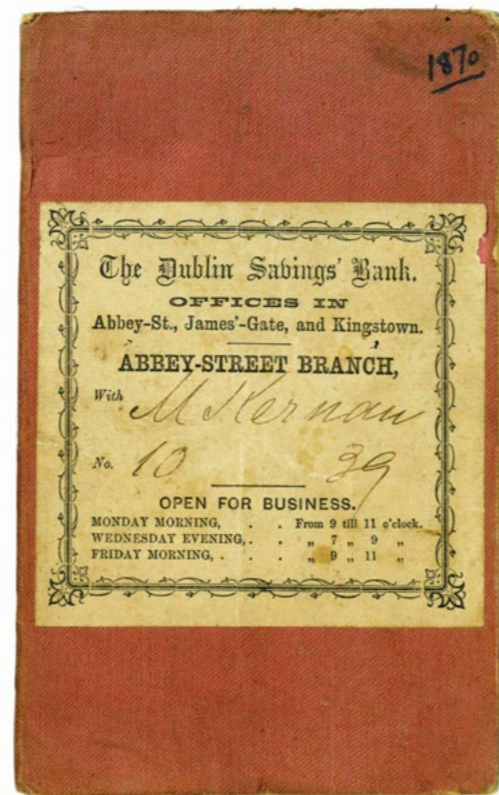
Left: Engraving of the Dublin Linen Hall by William Hincks, 1782.

Dublin Savings Bank had a branch in the Linen Hall from 1832 to 1849. The Linen Hall in Dublin was built in 1728 by the Linen Board as a meeting place for Irish linen drapers and English merchants. It was used as the headquarters of the Linen Board until 1828 when this board was dissolved.

At the beginning of 1845 deposits in the Dublin Savings Bank amounted to £435,336, representing the claims of 16,520 depositors. A run occurred on the bank that year as a direct result of fraud and financial mismanagement at the nearby St Peter's Parish Savings Bank on Cuffe Street. While Dublin Savings Bank was in no danger of being unable to fulfil its claims, the panic induced by the situation at Cuffe Street prompted depositors in the Dublin Savings Bank to withdraw funds of over £300,000. Despite this setback and indeed the total collapse of St Peter's Parish Savings Bank in 1848, the public's confidence was soon restored and by 1850 Dublin Savings Bank was once again in a position of financial security. By the 1890s funds in the Dublin Savings Bank had surpassed £1 million.

**From the Permanent TSB Archives:**

Right: Dublin Savings Bank passbook issued in 1870.



'Yesterday the interesting ceremony of laying the first stone of a Branch Office to the Meath-street Savings' Bank took place in Lower Abbey-street, in the presence of the trustees and managers of the institution, when James Ferrier, Esq., a trustee, was handed a silver trowel by Mr. Isaac Farrell, the architect: and, on adjusting the stone, in which was deposited a bottle hermetically sealed, containing mementos of the Savings' Bank, the names of the building committee, a newspaper of that day's date, and some silver coins of her present Majesty's reign.'

Saunders Newsletter, 1 July 1839

Dublin Savings Bank head office, Lower Abbey Street, c. 1900.

Image reproduced courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.

## Monaghan Savings Bank, 1819

*'[Monaghan Savings Bank] has done much to encourage thrift among the people of the town and district. Its integrity has become a tradition. The trustees are all gentlemen of substance, holding positions of responsibility and whose probity is above question.'*

*Northern Standard, 18 August 1922*

Monaghan Savings Bank was founded on 26 April 1819. Though little is known of the bank's earliest trustees, we do know that by November 1829 the bank had 490 depositors and funds of £12,798. In 1855 Monaghan Savings Bank moved its operations to a new premises on the Hill in Monaghan Town. The building was designed by Dublin-based architect, William Deane Butler, who is perhaps best known as the engineer and architect of Connolly Station in Dublin and Portlaoise Prison in Laois. He died just two years after the completion of the Monaghan Savings Bank building. Although it is modest in scale, the distinctive neo-classical structure has a strong architectural presence in the town. Butler's original plans for the bank are housed in the Irish Architectural Archive on Merrion Square.



*Original plans for the Monaghan Savings Bank by William Deane Butler, c. 1850.*

*Image reproduced courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive.*



**From the Permanent TSB Archives:**

*Monaghan Bank ledger dating from 1885.*

During the nineteenth century Monaghan Savings Bank experienced a lower growth rate than the other savings banks in this history. A minute book from the 1890s tells us that in 1900 Monaghan Savings Bank reported deposits of £29,221, showing an increase of less than 17,000 since 1829. Deposit accounts with the bank had increased by only 161 in the same period. During the 1950s, however, Monaghan Savings Bank overtook Limerick Savings Bank in terms of deposit size and by the mid-1960s the bank had celebrated its first £1 million in deposits.

Monaghan Savings Bank operated out of the 'wee bank on the Hill' until 1998 when a new TSB Bank branch opened on Dawson Street just 250 metres from the original savings bank. There was a running joke among staff at the time, that Monaghan was the only bank branch in the country that still had its own bath, a relic from when the branch manager used to live above the bank.



**From the Permanent TSB Archives:**

*Photograph of the original Monaghan bank building taken by an employee in the 1990s.*

*The building now houses the offices of a local chartered accountant.*

## Limerick Savings Bank, 1820

*'Your savings bank is a friendly place where you are treated and looked on as a friend and any advice asked for is, if at all possible, freely given, and you are made to feel that the bank has interest in your personal welfare.'*

From a paper read by Mr Alma Fitt, Secretary of the Bank, at a meeting of the Old Limerick Society in June 1949

The Limerick Savings Bank opened for business on 10 January 1820. A group of prominent local businessmen were behind the move to establish a savings bank in Limerick city. John Norris Russell, a wealthy merchant, shipowner, and industrialist, served as the bank's first chairman. At a meeting on 21 April 1820, the earliest meeting of which there is still record, the bank already had deposits of £1,671. The collapse of all but one of Limerick's private banks by the middle of the 1820s is likely to have contributed to the early success of the Limerick Savings Bank.

Much like the other Irish savings banks, Limerick Savings Bank started its life in shared accommodation, in this case in the back room of a shop run by a man named William Hill (no relation to the bookmaker of the same name). The bank then moved to the Labour Exchange in Upper Cecil Street. In 1839 the trustees and managers leased a site on Glentworth Street from the Earl of Limerick in order to construct a new bank headquarters. The building was designed by Sir Thomas Deane, who was also responsible for the Lapp's Quay Building in Cork, and its construction was overseen by local architect, William H. Owen. The stout columned structure is often referred to as the 'Stone Jug'. The building was vacated by the bank in 2006 and acquired by Sarsfield Credit Union in 2007.

Deposits in Limerick Savings Bank fell dramatically from £186,000 in 1846 to £84,000 in 1848, the worst of the Famine years. In an attempt to offset the decrease in funds the clerk's



*37-39 O'Connell Street, the building where the Limerick Savings Bank held its first meeting in 1820.*

*Image reproduced courtesy of Historic England Photo Archive.*

*'Today Owen's classical pediment, set firmly on its four lofty columns, is as well supported as the long tradition of service, courtesy and security which has marked the savings bank since its foundation.'*

Kevin Hannan, 'Limerick Savings Bank,' *Old Limerick Journal*, vol. 3, 1980

salary was reduced by ten per cent and the free lunches provided to trustees were discontinued at a saving of £9 per annum. Bank mismanagement in Killarney and Tralee in the late 1840s also had the effect of shaking the confidence of depositors. In the annual report for 1848 the trustees of Limerick Savings Bank claimed that thanks to their implementation of John Craig's system of accounts, they were able to rapidly calculate the exact amount due to each depositor and to show the 'perfect security and solvency of this valuable institution'.

Limerick Savings Bank soon recovered from the effects of the Famine. Deposits increased to £91,000 by 1852 and to £131,000 by 1861. The finances of the Limerick Savings Bank continued to improve towards the end of the 1800s and like the other banks in this story it was in a strong position at the turn of the century.



*Limerick Savings Bank, Glentworth Street, c. 1960.*

*Image reproduced courtesy of Sean Curtin.*

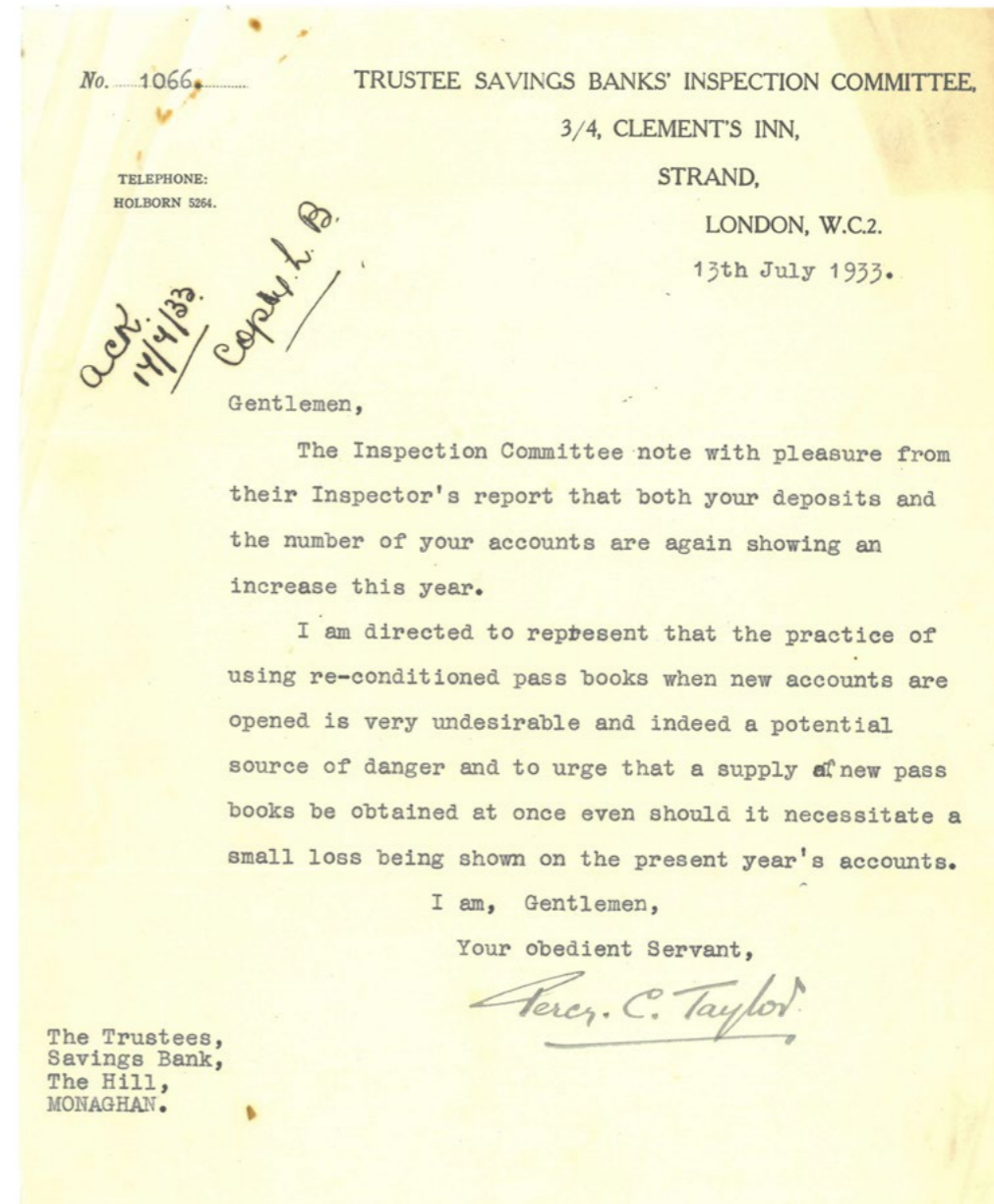
## The Impact of the Post Office Savings Bank

Post office savings banks were introduced in England in 1861 and in Ireland in 1862. William Gladstone, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, viewed the network of post offices as a machinery ready to hand that could be adapted for extending the usefulness of the savings bank system and increasing the facilities available to make small deposits. By 1884 the Post Office Savings Bank had overtaken the combined trustee savings banks as the largest savings bank and the second largest deposit holding institution in Ireland.

However, the launch of the post office savings bank was not the death knell that many presumed it would be for the trustee savings banks in Ireland. Though the number of savings banks in Ireland fell from fifty-three in 1862 to only twelve in 1900, amalgamations and expanding branch networks meant that there were far more than twelve savings bank branches in operation across the country. A series of measures introduced in the late nineteenth century sought to improve government oversight of the trustee savings banks and to diversify their investment opportunities. The Savings Bank Act of 1891 established the Inspection Committee of Trustee Savings Banks to enforce the regulations and demands of the National Debt Commissioners. No savings bank failed after the introduction of the Inspection Committee.

Trustee savings banks in Ireland in fact experienced significant growth in the last decades of the nineteenth century. During the period 1895-1900, deposits in trustee savings banks across the island increased by £261,000, which was the largest increase over such a period with the exception of the 1830s. As William Patrick Coyne wrote in his 1900 report on Irish banking, railway, and shipping statistics: 'Those figures seem to denote that Savings Bank Depositors are no longer exclusively drawn from the poorer classes, to whose interests alone prominence was accorded in the early Savings Bank Legislation.'

What is clear is that at the turn of the twentieth century, savings banks in Ireland had a loyal, increasingly middle-class customer base lodging larger amounts of money than they ever had before. Throughout the twentieth century Irish savings banks would continue to promote the principles of thrift and encourage people from as many sectors of the community as possible to avail of their services.



### From the Permanent TSB Archives:

*Letter from the Trustee Savings Bank Inspection Committee to the trustees of the Monaghan Savings Bank, July 1933.*

## Savings Banks in the Early Twentieth Century

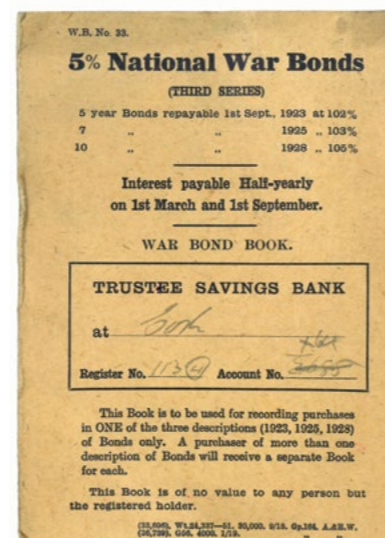
In 1900 there were twelve trustee savings banks in Ireland with combined deposits of £2,295,000. Seven of these twelve banks were located in what is now Northern Ireland.<sup>1</sup> Though collectively the five remaining Irish banks had experienced growth over the previous twenty years, at the beginning of the 1900s their fortunes were beginning to stagnate as a result of reduced interest rates. Savings bank deposits had increased significantly since deposit limits were raised but the number of accounts had stayed at roughly the same level, indicating that while customers were depositing more money than before, the banks were not attracting that many new depositors to their schemes.

From the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914 trustee savings banks and post office savings banks played an important role in encouraging depositors to subscribe to war loans and war saving certificates. Up to September 1917, the post office and trustee savings banks collected a total of £220 million in war stocks. The diversion of funds into war loans naturally resulted in a decrease in savings account deposits and funds in Irish trustee savings banks fell from £2,617,000 in June 1914 to £2,563,356 for the year 1917. Following the war, working-class prosperity and the removal of all limits on deposits after December 1915 contributed to a steady increase in depositors and funds.

There is record of at least one Irish savings bank employee who lost his life fighting in the war in Europe. Captain Robert Percy Dale of the Cork Savings Bank was killed in action in October 1918 while serving with the Cameronians, a Scottish rifle regiment. Captain Dale had worked for the bank for over twelve years and his father, Henry Dale, was a longstanding bank trustee.

### From the Permanent TSB Archives:

Right: War bonds saving book issued by Cork Savings Bank in 1918.



*‘The Committee of Management of the Cork Savings Bank having learned with deep regret of the death in action of Captain Robert Percy Dale, M.C., begs to tender their respected colleague, Alderman Dale, and the members of his family, the expression of their sincere sympathy in their sad bereavement. Captain Dale was for over 12 years a member of the staff of the bank, and greatly esteemed by all connected with it. He gallantly responded to the call of duty and has nobly given his life for King and country.’*

A motion recorded in the Cork Savings Bank minute book, 4 November 1918

<sup>1</sup> Savings Banks in Northern Ireland experienced a different trajectory from those in the Republic. They eventually merged to form TSB Northern Ireland, which was bought by Allied Irish Banks (Northern Ireland) in 1991 and now trades under the name First Trust Bank.

### From the Permanent TSB Archives:

Left: An image of a savings bank home safe printed in a passbook from 1909.



Home safes were introduced by Irish savings banks in 1907. The aim of these savings boxes was to encourage depositors to collect very small sums of money and then bring the safe into the bank, where the accumulated funds could be deposited in their account. It was believed by trustees that the home safes would deter potential savers from spending their money before the next opening hours of the savings bank. Cork Savings Bank reported that in 1908 360 safes were issued from which a total sum of just under £900 was extracted and deposited. In 1911 528 home safes were in use by Cork Savings Bank customers.



Crowds outside the Abbey Street Branch of the Dublin Savings Bank during the 1916 Rising.

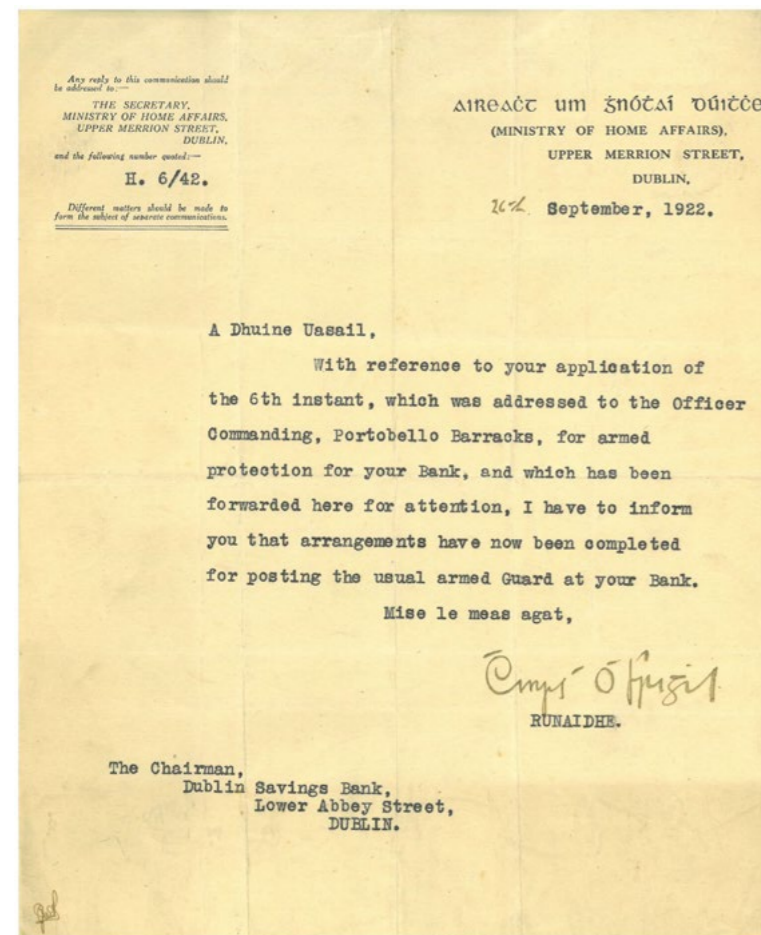
The sign reads: ‘Will Open When Law And Order Is Restored’. The Dublin Savings Bank was closed for eleven days during the conflict.

Image reproduced courtesy of National Museum of Ireland.

## The Creation of the Irish Free State

No immediate action was taken to clarify the position of Irish savings banks following the creation of the Irish Free State in 1922. In 1926 a Free State Commission on Banking recommended that efforts be made to withdraw Irish deposits from the British post office savings banks and merge the Free State post office savings banks with the business of the trustee savings banks. In a letter to the *Irish Independent* in December 1926, Charles Eason, chairman of the Dublin Savings Bank, strongly opposed the merger with the Post Office Savings Banks. In support of his argument he pointed to the longevity and prosperity of the five remaining savings institutions and the increased powers granted to the banks in the preceding years.

It was not until 1931 that the Free State Government began to take action to introduce the necessary legislation so that trustee savings banks in Ireland no longer had to deposit their funds with the UK Commissioners for National Debt, and it was not



*It is universally agreed that voluntary efforts for the development of the Free State should be encouraged, yet here it is suddenly proposed to destroy the work of 100 years without giving the "offenders" even a trial.'*

Charles Eason, Letter to the Editor, *Irish Independent*, 24 December, 1926

### From the Permanent TSB Archives:

*Letter from Henry O'Friel (Énri Ó Frighil), Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, to the chairman of Dublin Savings Bank, Abbey Street, offering armed protection for the bank during the Civil War, September 1922.*

**IS YOUR MONEY HARD TO HANG ON TO?**

**DO YOU** fritter money away on needless extravagances? Bring your budget down to earth. Put your money to work for you in The Dublin Savings Bank and just watch how quickly you leave financial worries behind! Start an account to-day.

- ★ Sums from 1/- to £500 per annum readily accepted.
- ★ Anyone may open an account.
- ★ Clubs or Societies may lodge funds.
- ★ Withdrawals—£30 on demand—All on 7 days' notice.

**BANK HOURS: ALL OFFICES**  
 Monday, 10 to 12.30, 1.30 to 3. Tuesday to Friday, 10 to 12.30, 1.30 to 3.30, Saturday, 9.30 to 12 noon, Monday evening, 5.30 until 7 p.m.

**The DUBLIN SAVINGS BANK**  
 HEAD OFFICE, LOWER ABBEY ST.  
 Branches: 79 Thomas Street and 145 Phibsboro' Road, Dublin

**2½% INTEREST ON ALL DEPOSITS**

*Newspaper advertisement for the Dublin Savings Bank. From the Evening Herald, 30 October 1952.*

*Image reproduced courtesy of the Irish Newspaper Archive.*

until 1940 that Irish savings banks began to lodge their funds with the Irish Minister for Finance. From that time onward the savings bank investments in Irish Securities were put to use to finance the development of national resources and the Irish economy.

## Post-World War II

The advent of the World War II, or the 'Emergency' as it was known in Ireland, created a society that was even more thrift and saving-conscious. 1945 was declared a record year for savings, with deposits in Irish savings banks exceeding £10 million for the first time. Throughout the second half of the twentieth century the trustee savings banks would expand their networks and services while fulfilling their longstanding aim of improving facilities for thrift and saving.

The 1950s and 1960s were decades of steady growth for the savings banks. Total funds across the banks increased to £40 million in 1970. By this time, Dublin Savings Bank had a network of seven branches, while Cork Savings Bank had opened two additional branches in Cathedral Road (opened in 1957) and Princes Street (opened in 1966). In 1969 the banks launched investment account departments, offering higher rates of interest for longer-term investors, and personal loan facilities. The issuing of personal loans was heavily curtailed by regulations stipulating that they could be offered only to customers who had a minimum of 30 per cent of the sum required on deposit with the bank. The maximum amount loaned out by all five TSBs was limited to £200,000. The launch of current accounts in 1971 marked another step towards the provision of a full family banking service.

Compared with the steady growth of the 1960s, the 1970s was an era of rapid expansion for the Irish savings banks. Between 1966 and 1976 three industrial disputes of a year's total duration closed down all the clearing banks in Ireland and drove many depositors to the savings banks. Dublin Savings Bank estimated in 1976 that up to 30 per cent of the 24,000 new deposit accounts opened in 1975 were as a direct result of the clearing bank strike.

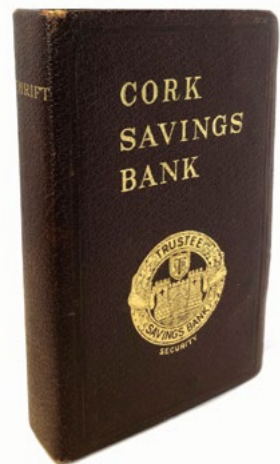
Despite the increase in business and the expansion of their financial services, trustee savings banks were still frustrated by the limitations on their lending and investment powers. Surplus funds had to be lodged with the Minister for Finance and the banks



**From the Permanent TSB Archives:**

*Young depositors at the opening of the Cathedral Road branch of the Cork Savings Bank in 1957.*

received only a 1 per cent margin on them. The 1979 government budget empowered TSBs to grant house mortgage loans but overall lending was still restricted to 15 per cent of the balance due to depositors. Saving bank managers at the time commented that it was very difficult to hold on to younger customers who would go to other institutions in order to secure a mortgage. The loan limits were eventually raised to twenty per cent but by the mid-1980s the trustee savings banks were calling for the introduction of new legislation that would grant them full banking licences.



*Left: The Cork 'Conjun' Box.*

*In the 1950s Irish savings banks began to distribute small secure savings boxes such as these to help children to get into the habit of thrift. Small coins could be inserted and once the box was full, the child would bring it into the bank and have the accumulated funds deposited in their own savings account. In Cork these boxes were often known as 'Conjun' boxes. There is some debate over the origin of this word but one compelling suggestion is that it comes from the Hindi word, Khanjana, meaning treasure.*

*Image reproduced courtesy of Marc Power.*



**From the Permanent TSB Archives:**

*Sleek, modern fixtures inside the Princes Street branch of the Cork Savings Bank, opened in 1966.*



## James Ronald O'Connor, 1924-80



James Ronald O'Connor worked for Dublin Savings Bank from 1943 until 1980. His personnel file is preserved in the Permanent TSB Archives and paints a fascinating picture of both O'Connor's career and the evolution of the Dublin Savings Bank. J.R. O'Connor, known as Ronnie, joined Dublin Savings Bank as a clerk at the age of eighteen. He was a career banker who rose through the ranks and in 1966 was appointed general manager of Dublin Savings Bank. During the 1970s he oversaw a period of major expansion with the Dublin bank, including the introduction of an online, real-time computerised banking system, the first of its kind in Ireland, in 1975. O'Connor was a driving force behind the ambitious move to open high-street outlets on Henry Street and Grafton Street in order to capitalise on the high concentration of young shop assistants working in the city centre. He was an outward-looking bank leader who was heavily involved with the EEC Savings Bank Group, which promoted the interests of savings banks across Europe.

James Ronald O'Connor sadly died suddenly of a heart attack in 1980. His standing in the banking and business community was evident from the numerous letters of condolence the bank received in the wake of his passing. After his death assistant general manager, Gerry Walsh, was appointed general manager and chief executive of the bank.

*J. Ronald O'Connor.*

### From the Permanent TSB Archives:

*James Ronald O'Connor*  
 15, Margaret Place,  
 Sandymount,  
 Dublin.  
 21<sup>st</sup> / 2/1943.

*A. G. Bonnett, Esq.,*  
 Dublin Savings Bank,  
 St. Abbey Street.

Dear Sir,

I have been informed by  
 Rev. Bro. Burton, B. B. S., Westland  
 Row, that you have a vacancy in  
 your bank for a clerk and I wish  
 to apply for the post.

I am 18 years of age  
 and have passed with honours in  
 both the Intermediate and Leaving  
Certificates. I have a great liking for

*figures and took honours course in*  
Mathematics.

Under my present circumstances  
 I am very anxious to obtain a  
 position and will feel grateful if  
 you grant me an interview.

I enclose two references and  
 if necessary I can obtain others.

Yours truly,  
 J. Ronald O'Connor.

James Ronald O'Connor's original letter of application for the position of clerk with the Dublin Savings Bank. He joined the bank straight out of secondary school.

*Irish-American Oil Company, Limited.*  
 192, Upper O'Connell Street,  
 Dublin, C.S. Feb. 20, 1943. **ESSO**

The Bearer of this letter - Ronald O'Connor, Margaret's Pl., Sandymount, Dublin, is a son of the late Mr. James O'Connor of the Firm of Messrs. John Traynor of Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin.

I knew the late Mr. O'Connor for over 20 years, during which time his business relations with my Firm have been of the most honourable kind.

He died recently, leaving a number of children. This boy - Ronald, is the eldest. He received a very good education, but the untimely death of his father has prevented him from pursuing his studies further, and it becomes necessary for him to obtain employment.

I have the greatest possible confidence in this boy, and feel sure that he will justify himself in any position which he may obtain.

I wish him the greatest possible success in future, and will watch his progress with the greatest interest.

*W. J. Delaney*

W.J. Delaney of the Irish-American Oil Company wrote James Ronald O'Connor a very enthusiastic reference for his first job.



James Ronald O'Connor presenting Prize Bonds to a Miss Joan Byrne, aged nineteen, on her opening of the hundred-thousandth Ordinary Savings Account at the Abbey Street branch in March 1972.

## Savings Bank Mergers, 1976-88

In November 1976 Monaghan Savings Bank merged with Dublin Savings bank. At the time, Monaghan Savings Bank had funds of around £5 million and Dublin Savings Bank had funds of over £60 million. A statement issued on behalf of the two banks said that rationale behind the merger was to ensure that the Monaghan Bank ‘can not only continue services that it has for so long offered to the people, but can actually improve them’. Under the terms of the merger Monaghan Savings Bank became part of the Dublin Savings Bank Group, but continued to trade under its own name. The following year, Dublin Savings Bank opened two further branches outside County Dublin, in Navan, County Meath, and Dundalk, County Louth.

In April 1980 Dublin, Cork, Limerick and Waterford Savings Banks launched a major joint marketing/advertising campaign. This decision was motivated by the substantial growth of the banks during the 1970s and the desire to emphasise the consistent services provided across all savings bank branches. While each of the regional banks retained its own management team and facilities, the aim was to forge a new national identity under the banner of ‘Trustee Savings Banks’. From 1980 onwards Dublin Savings Bank began to trade under the name Trustee Savings Bank (or TSB) Dublin. Waterford Savings Bank intended to change its name legally to Trustee Savings Bank Waterford but in fact the new name was never ratified. Cork Savings Bank and Limerick Savings Bank retained their original names.



From the Permanent TSB Archives:

Cover of the Cork Savings Bank Annual Report for 1975.



From the Permanent TSB Archives:

Old Dublin Savings Bank Logo from 1976.



From the Permanent TSB Archives:

Trustee Savings Bank Dublin logo from 1980.

The honeycomb motif may have been an intentional throwback to the beehive imagery historically associated with savings banks.

*‘That the Trustees being of the opinion that an amalgamation is to the mutual advantage of each bank **HEREBY RESOLVE** that the Trustee Savings Bank Dublin and Waterford Savings Bank also known as Trustee Savings Bank Waterford be amalgamated together as one bank without any dissolution or division of their funds..’*

Motion passed at a special meeting of trustees of Waterford Savings Bank on 27 January 1988

From the Permanent TSB Archives:

Dublin Saving Bank cheque book from the 1970s.

In November 1986 Cork Savings Bank and Limerick Trustee Savings Bank announced a plan to merge. From 21 November that year the new bank began to trade under the name Cork and Limerick Savings Bank. Michael Conlon, who had been chief executive of the Cork Savings Bank, was appointed to lead the operation. The merger resulted in the creation of a twenty-six-branch network across counties Kerry, Clare, Tipperary, Galway and Westmeath, as well as Cork and Limerick, and the total assets of the new group amounted to £320 million. It was speculated at the time that this merger would pave the way for the amalgamation of the remaining Irish trustee savings banks, which would make the resulting financial institution the third biggest in the country.

Plans for a merger of Waterford Savings Bank and Trustee Savings Bank Dublin were announced in January 1988. Citing the forthcoming trustee savings bank legislation that would allow for the significant expansion of the bank’s activities, Gerry Walsh, chief executive of TSB Dublin, referred to the strategic importance of a union, which would permit the banks to streamline the organisation and reap the benefits of economies of scale. At the time of the merger, Waterford Savings Bank was approximately one fifth the size of TSB Dublin. It was decided to headquarter the business in Dublin, with Gerry Molloy, former Waterford Savings Bank chief executive, managing a regional office out of Waterford. The new bank retained the Trustee Savings Bank Dublin name.



## The Trustee Savings Bank Act 1989

The 1989 Trustee Savings Bank Act was the most significant piece of legislation relating to savings banks to be introduced in Ireland in over a hundred years. It effectively repealed all previous savings bank legislation and enabled the TSBs to provide a competitive banking service on equal footing with other banking institutions. The new regulations opened up the field of commercial lending to the trustee savings banks through the granting of full banking licences under the control of the Central Bank. The act abolished the requirement that the banks lodge 80 per cent of deposits with the exchequer, giving them the opportunity for stronger interest earnings through more diverse portfolios. In a break with the longstanding tradition of governance by a voluntary board, the new legislation enabled the banks to remunerate their trustees financially.

Since they had no shareholders, the question of who precisely owned the trustee savings banks is one that arose in this period. In the UK, the government had decided that it had the right to dispose of the trustee savings banks and successfully privatised the entities in 1986. Gerry Walsh, chief executive of Dublin Savings Bank, argued in 1989 that the Irish state did not have a stake in the businesses as they had never invested in the bank's activities. Although the Trustee Savings Bank Act stopped short of clarifying the matter of the ownership of the banks, a provision was included to enable the trustee savings banks to convert to companies at a later date. The position held by Minister for Finance, Albert Reynolds, was that legally the Oireachtas had the power to dispose of the assets of the TSBs.

Following the implementation of the 1989 Trustee Savings Bank Act, both TSB Dublin and Cork and Limerick Savings Bank reported a significant increase in profits.

TSB Dublin and Cork & Limerick Savings Bank Profits for 1989 and 1990\*

	1989	1990	% Increase
TSB Dublin	£1.67 million	£2.75 million	65%
Cork and Limerick Savings Bank	£2.47 million	£3.44 million	48 %

\*As published in the TSB Dublin Annual Report and Accounts for 1990 and Cork and Limerick Savings Bank Annual Report and Accounts for 1990.



### From the Permanent TSB Archives:

*Trustee Savings Bank safe custody bag dating from the 1980s. These were used by business customers to drop money into a night safe.*

## The Creation of TSB Bank, 1992

*'The amalgamation in June 1992 of Cork and Limerick Savings Bank and Trustee Savings Bank Dublin saw the emergence of a major new force in Irish personal banking.'*

TSB Bank Annual Report and Financial Statements, 1992



### From the Permanent TSB Archives:

*Tennis superstar, Martina Navratilova, hitting a serve at the 1993 TSB Bank Women's Tennis Classic, as featured in the 1994 annual report.*

*The TSB Bank Women's Tennis Classic, which was held in the RDS, Dublin in 1992 and 1993, marked the emergence of the bank as a major contributor to Irish sports sponsorship. Extensive media coverage of the event and its high-profile contestants gave the bank a huge boost in terms of national brand recognition.*

Although an amalgamation between TSB Dublin and Cork and Limerick Savings Bank was touted at the time of the Dublin-Waterford merger, neither institution was willing to articulate their position on the potential consolidation of Irish trustee savings banks. Gerry Walsh of Dublin Savings Bank insisted at the time that any further merger of the country's trustee savings banks was 'still some way off', while Michael Conlon, chief executive of Cork and Limerick Savings Bank, said it was something to be continually looked at. The Trustee Savings Bank Act that was eventually passed in 1989 allowed the TSBs to compete for the first time on an equal basis with other financial institutions and the strategic advantages of the rationalisation of the two banks became increasingly apparent.

In 1990 Michael Conlon announced that he was stepping down as chief executive of Cork and Limerick Savings Bank after a twelve-year tenure. He handed over the reins to General Manager, Harry Lorton, in January 1991. Both Cork and Limerick Savings Bank and TSB Dublin announced an increase in profits for the year 1990 but senior managers were keen to emphasize that the banks were focusing their energies on dealing with the impact of the new legislation and were not immediately concerned with the prospect of an amalgamation.

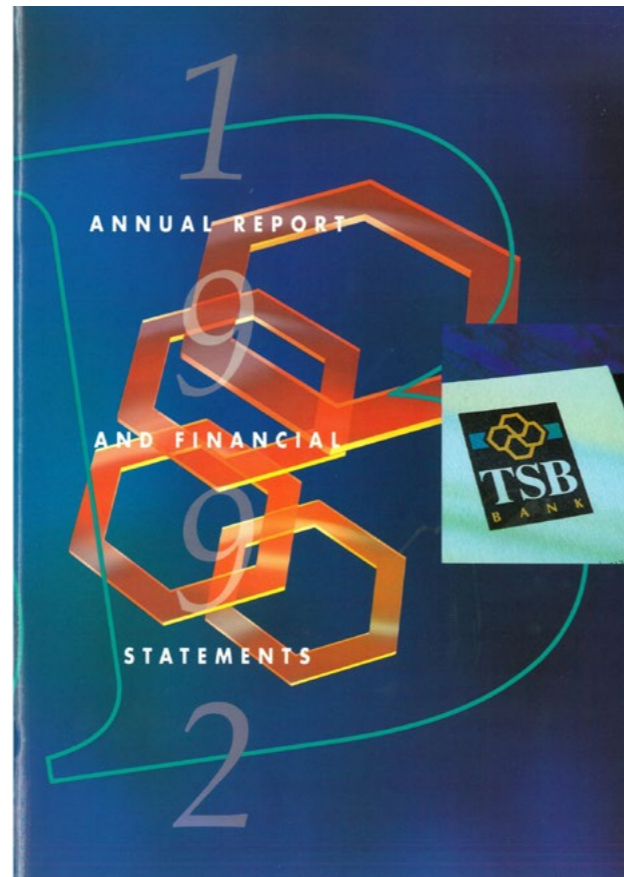
In February 1992 the merger between Cork and Limerick Savings Bank and TSB Dublin was announced. The amalgamation scheme was approved by statutory instrument and came into effect on 1 June 1992. Under the terms of the scheme the new bank would be known as TSB Bank and would be managed by Harry Lorton as chief executive and Gerry Walsh as managing director and deputy chairman. The new bank's registered office was established at 1 Lapp's Quay in Cork, while the head office was located in Frederick House in Dublin. At the point of its creation TSB Bank had combined assets of over £1 billion and a network of 69 branches nationwide.



**From the Permanent TSB Archives:**

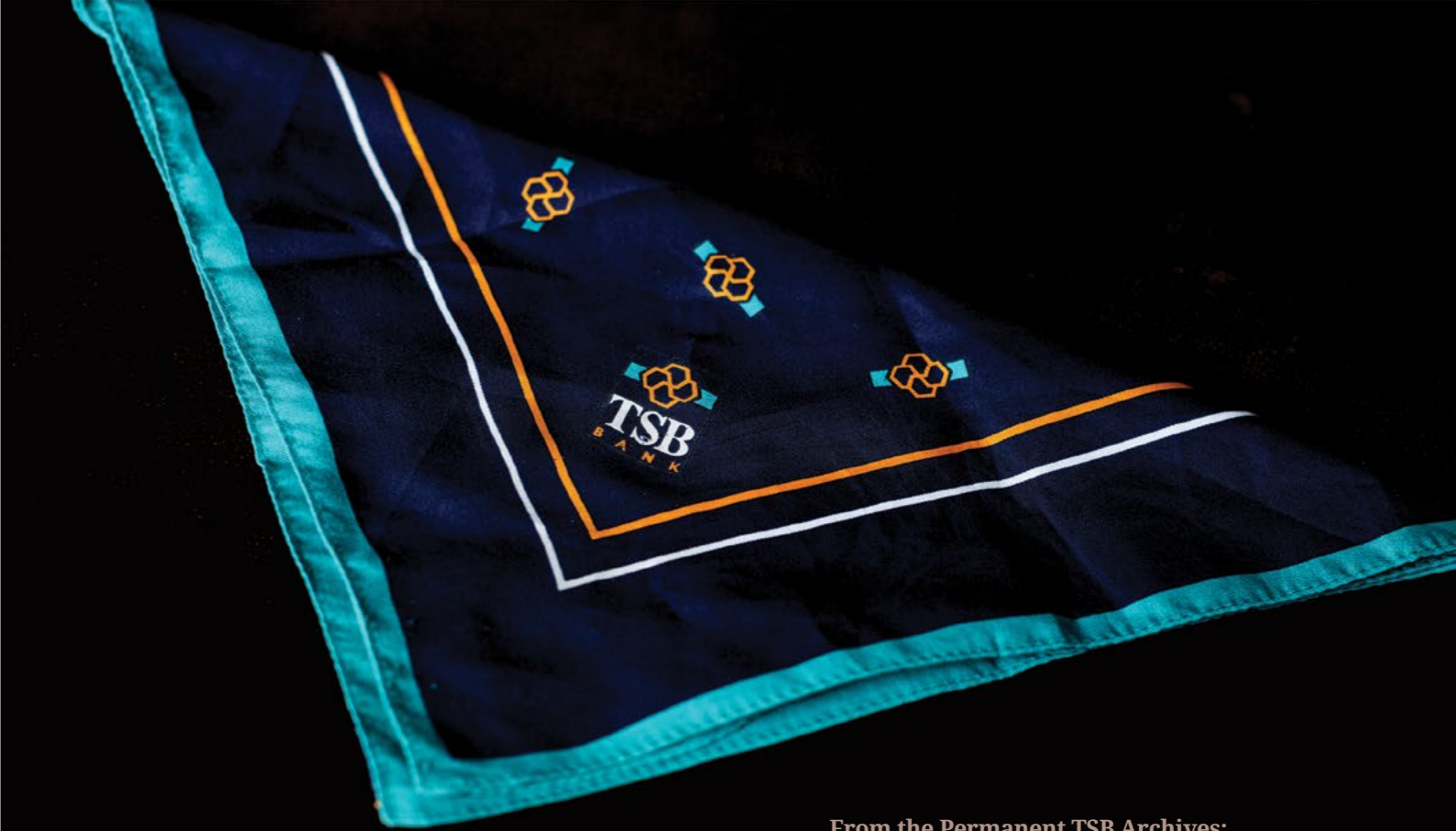
*Above: Staff members at the first TSB Bank all-staff event in Killarney, May 1992.*

*After the merger the new TSB Bank had a combined workforce of nearly a thousand. In May 1992 an all-staff event was held in Killarney to launch the new bank and bring the teams from TSB Dublin and Cork and Limerick Savings Bank together for the first time. According to a recent internal company poll, there are about fifty members of staff still working at Permanent TSB who appear in the photograph above. Many of those who were present have fond memories of the fine weather, the refreshments, and, in particular, the surprise announcement of a special one-off payment of £1,000 for each member of staff.*



**From the Permanent TSB Archives:**

*Right: First Annual Report and Financial Statement for the new TSB Bank.*



**From the Permanent TSB Archives:**

*Above: Scarf that formed part of the TSB Bank ladies' uniform.*



**From the Permanent TSB Archives:**

*Right: TSB Bank's new logo, designed by Dublin-based company, Design I.D., and launched in June 1992.*



## Carol Walsh, 1964–1992



*Carol with her husband Joe Walsh*

1992 was a significant year in the annals of Permanent TSB, but it was also a year when the bank suffered a huge loss. On Monday 2 November 1992 Carol Walsh, a 28-year old TSB Bank clerk, was shot at point-blank range during a raid on the bank's branch in New Ross, County Wexford. She died from her injuries three days after the shooting.

The incident naturally came as an enormous shock for Carol's family, friends and colleagues, as well as the wider New Ross community. Carol was well-known in the town as a dancer and performer and was heavily involved in the community musical theatre scene and with voluntary youth work. At the time of her death she was helping to choreograph theatre productions at a nearby secondary school and with the New Ross Musical Society.

In November 1994 TSB Bank established the Carol Walsh Memorial Trust, which was launched to help support educational advancement by means of scholarships and bursaries for young people in the field of performing arts.



*TSB Bank children's savings box from the 1990s.*

*Image reproduced courtesy of Marc Power.*

## TSB Bank, 1992-2000

The formation of TSB Bank in June 1992 consolidated the five remaining historical trustee savings banks. From the outset TSB Bank had the advantage of a strong regional network that had evolved organically over the course of nearly two hundred years as well as a loyal retail customer base acquainted with the special local character of the original savings banks. It also had the longest bank opening hours in the country.

Despite a climate of vigorous competition in the 1990s, TSB Bank maintained a consistent growth in profits throughout the decade. By 1997 the bank had a network of eighty branches and in the same year ATM reciprocity with the other Irish clearing banks was introduced, giving the bank's customers access to 1,100 ATMs nationwide.

Towards the end of the 1990s, the state began to put pressure on the bank was to find a new owner or strategic partner with which to privatise its business. In 1999 a proposed merger and flotation of the state-owned ACC Bank and TSB Bank fell through due to adverse stock market conditions. In early 2000 National Irish Bank, owned by National Australia Bank, also presented itself as a contender for a possible takeover of TSB. Irish Life & Permanent would eventually make a successful offer for TSB Bank in December 2000.

TSB Bank Pre-tax Profits, 1996–2000\*

1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
€25.4 million	€28.1 million	€32.4 million	€39 million	€41.3 million

\*As published in the TSB Bank Annual Report and Accounts for 2000.

# THE EVOLUTION OF IRISH PERMANENT

## Irish Temperance Benefit Building Society

*'The Society's policy for the future was, as in the past, to grant generous advances speedily on good house property to applicants of approved character. That was the corner-stone upon which the security of the Society had been and would be built.'*

Address by Edmund Farrell, Managing Director and Secretary of Irish Permanent Building Society at the 63rd Annual General Meeting, 11 April 1947

**O**n 1 May 1884 the Irish Temperance Permanent Benefit Building Society was certified by the Registrar of Building Societies in Ireland and incorporated under the Building Societies' Act of 1874. At the time of its creation no one could have predicted that the association would go on to become the largest building society in Ireland.

Building societies had originated in England in the late eighteenth century with and their function was to provide advances to members for the building or purchasing of private property. This was achieved by having members pay regular amounts of money into a common fund from which allocations could be made once enough money had accumulated. The earliest building societies were terminating societies, which meant they would be dissolved once all members had succeeded in purchasing a house. Subscriptions to a terminating society started at a fixed date and individuals could join after that date only if they backdated their payments. In the 1830s and 1840s permanent building societies began to emerge. These associations would operate for an indefinite period and would allow new members to join on a continuing basis. Though more than two hundred years have passed, the word 'permanent' is still part of the bank's name and is a direct reference to the permanent status of the original building society.

The Coffee Palace in which the Temperance Building Society first convened was set up in 1875 by the Dublin Total Abstinence Society, a temperance organisation that promoted teetotalism. The temperance movement in Ireland had gathered momentum in the 1830s and 1840s and in many places coffee palaces or temperance halls were opened in order to provide opportunities for social activities that did not involve alcohol. The coffee palace's connection to the temperance movement in Ireland explains the original name of the Irish Permanent Building Society. In contemporary newspaper reports about the opening of the coffee palace at 6 Townsend Street a picture is painted of an vibrant social hub with facilities including a restaurant, concert hall, library and reading room, accommodation and club rooms. It was in one of the coffee palace's club rooms that the Temperance Building Society held its earliest meetings and 6 Townsend Street was given as the location of its offices until 1894, when the society moved to a premises in Dawson Street.

The Temperance Building Society was an example of a 'ballot-and-sale' building society. When there was enough money in the central fund a member's name would be picked by lottery and they would be given the option of availing of an interest-free loan. In the event that they were not yet in a position to buy a house, the loan would be sold back to the society and then allocated by resale to the highest bidding member. The societies, therefore, did not make profits on interest, but rather on the resale of advances. As they were mutual organisations any profits were returned to members in the form of yearly dividends. The disadvantage of this kind of building society was that the position of members was uncertain regarding when they would receive their advances. Some 'ballot-and-sale' societies also gained a reputation for attracting gamblers who were looking to profit from the sale of their advance, rather than genuinely trying to raise money for the purchase of property.

There is no indication that the forces behind the Temperance Building Society had any agenda other than the provision of mortgages to those of modest means. The society was governed by a conscientious board of directors whose aims were to keep running costs low and to encourage as many people as possible to join the building society. They regularly advertised their meetings in the *Freeman's Journal* and at general meetings implored their

*'There can be no doubt, considering the completeness of the arrangement and the pleasantness of everything connected with the Palace that its workings will prove a most successfully check on the evils arising from intemperance in the city; indeed this counteracting influence is the great feature of the institution and the one which recommends it most.'*

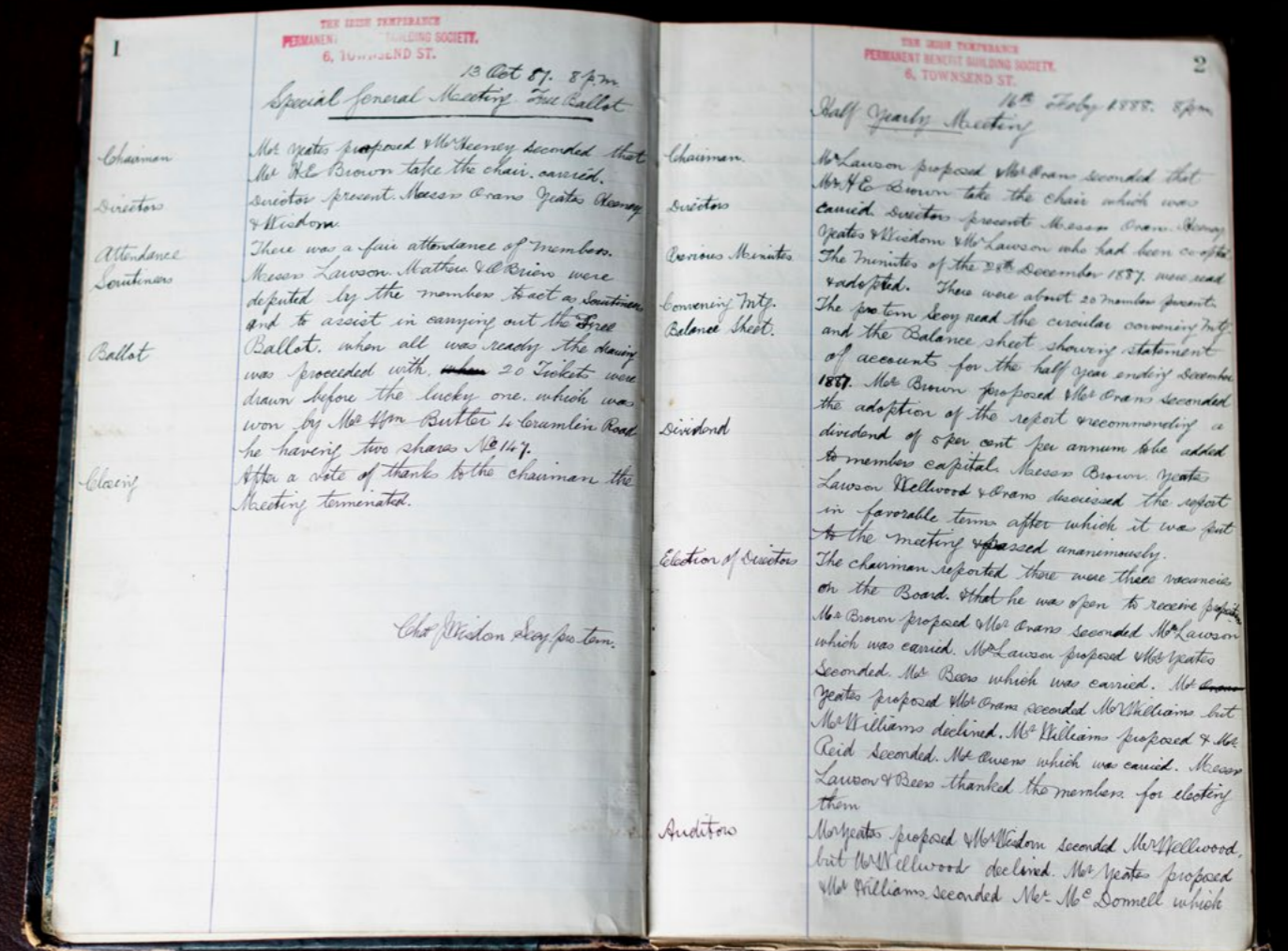
*Freeman's Journal, 17 September 1875*



*Dublin Coffee Palace, Townsend Street, c. 1900.*

*The coffee palace opened in 1875 and remained in operation until 1915.*

*Image reproduced courtesy of the Historic Picture Archive.*

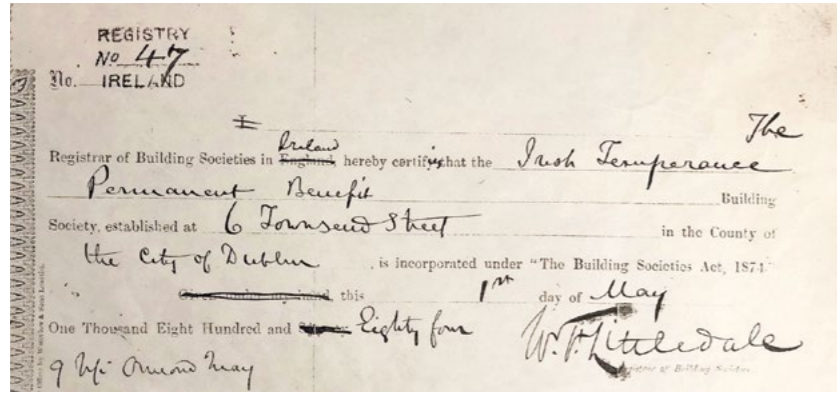


**From the Permanent TSB Archives:**

*Temperance Building Society minute book dating from 1887.*

members to spread the word and encourage their friends to join.

The society reported modest growth in its first decade and by 1894 had close to 300 members. According to the minutes of the 1889 annual general meeting, in the last six months of 1888 membership of the society increased by 50 per cent. This growth spurt is perhaps related to the decision taken in August 1888 to change the official name of the organisation to the Irish Permanent Benefit Building Society. The name-change suggests that the society was aiming to widen its scope and membership base beyond those who were affiliated with the temperance movement.



### From the Permanent TSB

#### Archives:

*A copy of the original certificate of incorporation for the Irish Temperance Benefit Building Society.*

## Building Society Legislation

The first building society law was passed by parliament in 1836. It stipulated that building societies must not set out to make a profit and that they might avail of special privileges in relation to taxes and charges. Under this piece of legislation building societies were registered and managed under the Act for Friendly Societies. Following a Royal Commission into the activities of building societies in 1871, the Building Societies Act of 1874 was passed. The act placed societies under the control of the chief registrar, restricted their rights to the building and owning of land for the purposes of conducting their business, limited liabilities of investors and borrowers, set out rules governing amalgamations and transfers of engagements, and provided for regulations concerning accounts and audits. A new act passed in 1894 conferred even greater powers upon the Registrar in order to secure stricter control over the societies.

Building societies, like benefit societies, friendly societies, and trustee savings banks, were seen by Victorian society as ‘self-help in action.’ Building societies were attractive to the state because they could easily reach and support local communities without the need for a comprehensive country-wide infrastructure. Though legislation provided oversight and limited the scope of their activities, building societies were largely left to their own devices and part of their enduring appeal was their autonomous, co-operative model and the direct connection they established with their members. Those societies that survived into the twentieth century gradually found that historical legislation curtailed their growth and expansion. The regulation of Irish building societies did not undergo any significant change until the 1970s.

## Irish Permanent Benefit Building Society, 1888-1940

Between the 1890s and the 1930s the Irish Permanent Benefit Building Society continued to attract new members and grow steadily. In 1917 the society’s head office moved from 12 Dawson Street to a premises at 3 Burgh Quay. The society’s next major move was in 1943 to 42 Dame Street. Before this move took place, however, the organisation underwent a number of structural changes, precipitated by the election of Edmund Farrell to the building society’s board of directors.

At the annual general meeting in March 1939 Edmund Farrell put forward his name for election to the building society’s board of directors and was duly appointed. In 1940 he proposed to amend the rules of the building society and to adopt the more concise name of Irish Permanent Building Society. From this point onward the society no longer operated by ballot and sale. It began to charge interest on its advances and also commenced the provision of new services to attract investing members who were not necessarily seeking mortgages. The building society facilitated withdrawals at one month’s notice and paid interest at an annual rate of 3.75 per cent tax free. The society continued to provide an attractive home loans service to members at 6 per cent per annum, just 1 per cent above the longstanding bank overdraft rate of 5 per cent. The Irish Permanent Building Society was particularly appealing to prudent non-speculative investors whose main concern was security for their hard-won capital and there were many investors of this class in postwar Ireland.

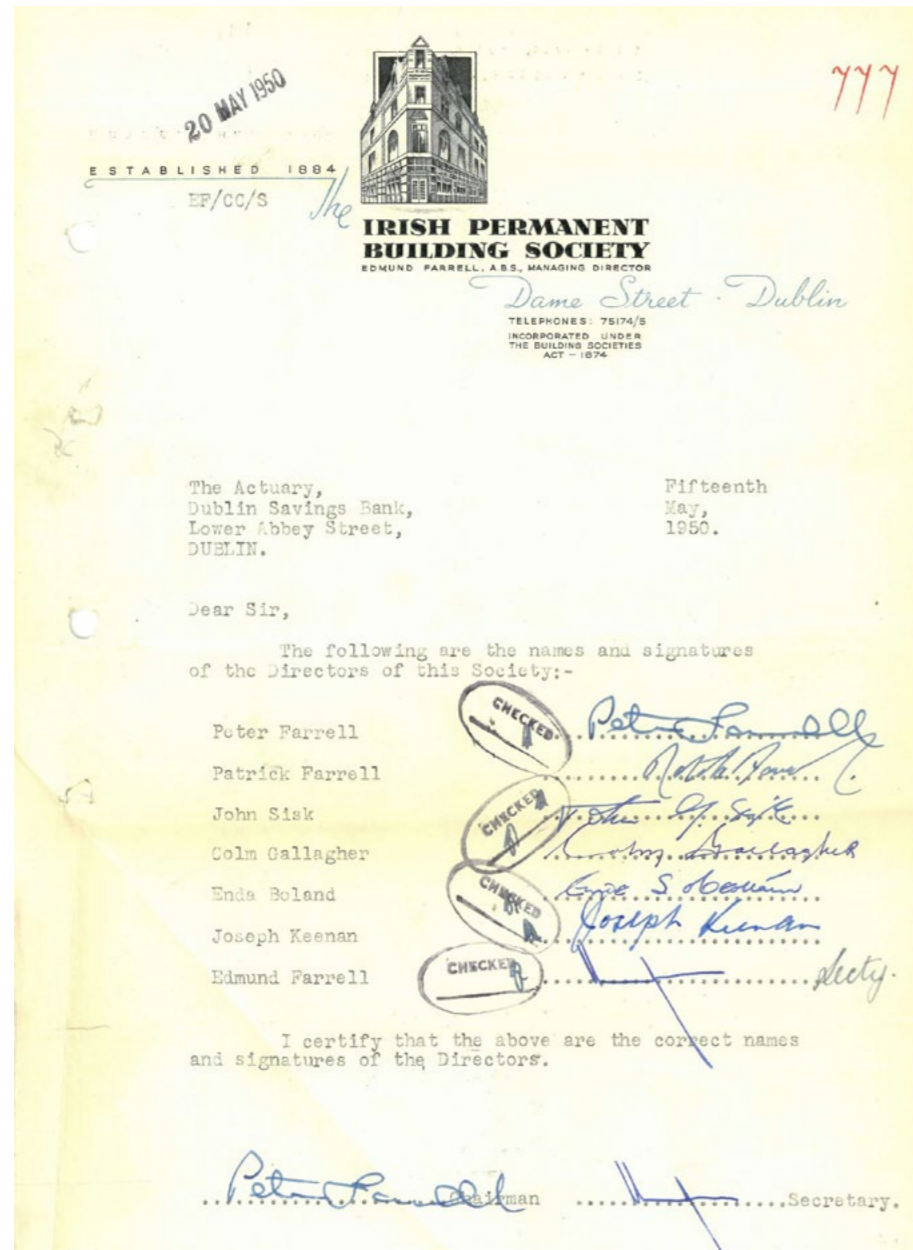
Other changes in the 1940s included the appointment of a number of full-time staff, the creation of building society agencies in major cities and towns outside Dublin and the roll-out of an extensive newspaper advertisement campaign in regional newspapers across Ireland. This was the beginning of Irish Permanent’s path to becoming a major national building society.

The success of Edmund Farrell’s campaign was soon evident. Assets in the society increased by 78 per cent between December 1941 and December 1942 and by 1947 amounted to over £1 million. In March 1948 the rapidly growing building society moved to new premises at 54 Dame Street. By this stage it also had agents working out of representative offices in Cork, Limerick, Galway, Wexford and Tralee.

*‘The proposed complete alteration of the Rules of the Society, which included the alteration in the name to “Irish Permanent Building Society”, was passed unanimously.’*

Minutes of Special Meeting, 22 July  
1940





**From the Permanent TSB Archives:**

*Irish Permanent Building Society signature form for their account with Dublin Savings Bank, 1950.*

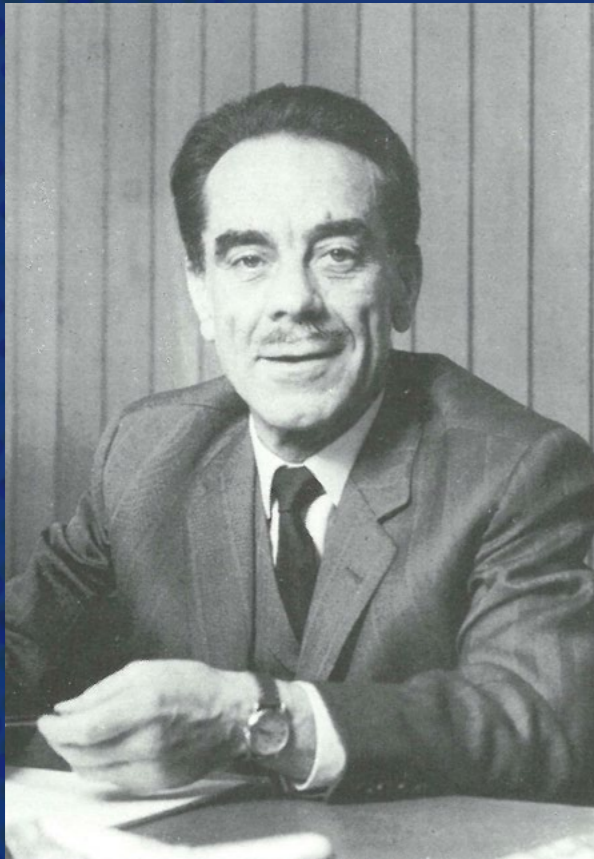
*This document is evidence of a professional relationship between Irish Permanent Building Society and Dublin Savings Bank fifty years before they would eventually merge to form Permanent TSB. Trustee savings banks catered for many unions, guilds, clubs, and societies, and society signature forms were used to update the names and credentials of those with permission to carry out transactions on behalf of an association.*



**From the Permanent TSB Archives:**

*Irish Permanent Building Society head office at 54 Dame Street, c. 1950.*

## Edmund Farrell



Edmund Farrell was born in 1913 and educated in Belvedere College on the northside of Dublin. He worked in the Capitol Cinema on Princes Street, before taking up a position in 1939 as secretary of the Irish Permanent Benefit Building Society. In 1939 the building society had assets of around £3,000.

Taking his lead from what he perceived at the time to be the more modern UK model, he soon overhauled the modest Irish building society and was responsible for its name change to Irish Permanent Building Society. By the time he became managing director of the Irish Permanent in 1955, his aim of developing the society into a financial institution that could compete with the regular banks was well underway. Nine years later in 1964 the assets of the Irish Permanent were around £12 million.

In 1965 Edmund Farrell became chairman of the building society. Despite attempting to compete with the regular banks, Farrell was firmly committed to the idea of mutualism that was at the core of building societies. He was chairman of the Irish Building Society Association and later (1967) served on the United Nations Committee of the International Union of Building Societies & Savings Associations.

When Edmund Farrell died in 1975 the Irish Permanent Building Society was the largest building society in Ireland with assets worth £111 million. His son, Dr Edmund A. Farrell, who had joined the board of directors in 1972, succeeded him as managing director and chair of Irish Permanent.

**4 1/2%**  
**tax free**

This easy withdrawal Investment Service pays 4 1/2% Tax Free equalling nearly 7% gross. For small regular savings there is a 5% Subscription offer. Full details free on request. Call, write or 'phone Dublin 45267, 44917, 43891, Cork 20876, Galway 2592.

Assets £17,000,000

**IRISH PERMANENT**  
BUILDING SOCIETY  
O'CONNELL STREET, DUBLIN  
PATRICK STREET, CORK • EYRE SQUARE, GALWAY

*Newspaper advertisement for Irish Permanent Building in the Irish Independent, 10 October 1967.*

*Image reproduced courtesy of the Irish Newspaper Archive.*

## Growth and Expansion, 1950s-1970s

In the early 1950s the Irish Permanent Building Society made the bold move to a prestigious head office in O'Connell Street which remains to this day a major branch of Permanent TSB. The premises was officially opened by the Sean McEntee, then Minister for Finance, on 23 February 1953. The building, situated at the junction of Abbey Street and O'Connell Street, was built in 1919 after the destruction of the area during the 1916 Rising.

By this point Irish Permanent was the second-biggest building society in Ireland and competition for investors' funds in the Irish market was intense. The somewhat slower growth rate of the society during the 1950s reflects the general national economic difficulties of the time. This decade was a period of rising unemployment and emigration in Ireland, which resulted in a fall in property values across the board. The economic recovery which commenced in 1959, together with the gradual return to relative prosperity during the 1960s, saw the Society's services in greater demand than ever, so that by 1963 the Irish Permanent had become Ireland's largest building society with total assets of £9 million. In 1967 the Society's first full branch office was officially opened by Jack Lynch, then Taoiseach, in Patrick Street, Cork, and from then on the acquisition of prime location offices became a major means of servicing members' requirements and of consolidating the society's top position in the Irish finance market.

In May 1974 Irish Permanent announced the takeover of Provident Building Society. Provident had assets of £7.5 million and was one of the five largest building societies in Ireland but had been unable to meet mortgage commitments in recent months due to the excessive management costs incurred during a period of rapid expansion. The transfer of engagements was formally ratified at a special general meeting in August 1974 and Irish Permanent soon made £5 million available to the 800 former Provident customers who had been unable to obtain their approved advances. During 1974 the Society's total assets increased from £26 million to £108 million.

The decision to acquire Provident Building Society was in part made possible by the passing, in the same month, of the Building Societies Act 1974. The Act was the first piece of building society

**From the Permanent TSB Archives:**

*Irish Permanent Building Society branch office at 13 O'Connell Street, c. 1970.*

**From the Permanent TSB Archives:**

*Irish Permanent Building Society directors, (from left-right) Raymond J. O'Keeffe, Joseph Keenan, Edmund Farrell, Patrick V. Doran, Gerard J. Quinn, and John J. Jones with Kevin Boland, Minister for Local Government (centre) at the opening of the Irish Permanent branch office on Lower Rathmines Road in 1968.*

legislation introduced in Ireland since 1942. It allowed for the amalgamation of two or more building societies if the decision was supported by vote of a majority of members, whereas previously a decision of this nature could be secured only by a vote of 75 per cent of members. The Act also aimed to create an environment for greater self-regulation of building societies. In return for providing a subsidy to enable the societies to keep the mortgage rate stable the Minister for Local Government asked the societies voluntarily to reduce the volume of competitive advertising; to draw up an agreed code of practice governing their activities; and to cease the practice of giving bloc loan concessions to builders in return for a commission.

1975 saw the passing of chairman and managing director, Edmund Farrell, who had been at the helm of Irish Permanent Building Society for more than thirty-five years. Under his direction the Society's total assets grew from about £3,000 in 1939 to £141 million in 1975. The head office and branches of the building society were closed on the morning of his funeral on 3 June.

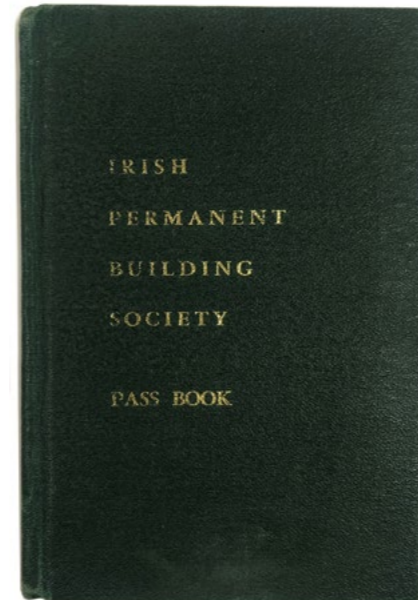
## A Changing Landscape, 1970s-90s

Out of respect for Edmund Farrell's dying wish, the board of directors of Irish Permanent appointed his son, Dr Edmund Anthony Farrrell, as the new managing director of the society. Though the 28-year-old Edmund A. Farrell had limited banking experience, having qualified as a medical doctor in 1972, he initially did well at the head of the organisation and the business's assets and branch network continued to grow throughout the 1970s and 1980s.

In 1975 Irish Permanent accepted a transfer of engagements from the much smaller Cork Mutual Benefit Building Society, which resulted in an injection of assets of £223,300. That same year increased staff numbers necessitated the move to an administrative headquarters located in Sackville Place off O'Connell Street. In 1978 Irish Permanent acquired the failing Munster and Leinster Building Society, a move that marked the end of an era for the smaller building societies that had appeared in the early 1970s. In 1981 Irish Permanent moved to an even larger office space in St Stephen's Green. Initially named Edmund Farrell House after the society's late managing director and chairman, this building, a combination of modern and Georgian architecture, still houses Permanent TSB's head office today.

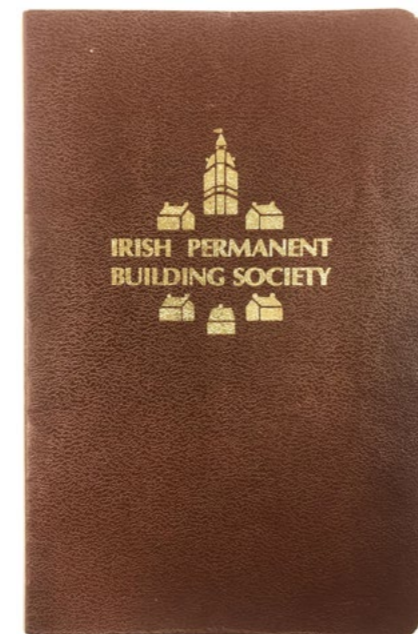
By the end of the 1980s Irish Permanent Building Society had more than two hundred branch offices across all twenty-six counties. Another major piece of legislation, the Building Societies Act, 1989, came into force on 1 September that year. The underlying objective of the Act was to provide a framework for the deregulation of building societies so that they could compete effectively in the wider financial services marketplace. The Act transferred the power to regulate the societies from the Registrar of Friendly Societies to the Central Bank and enabled building societies to engage in activities including lending for any purpose, investing in the development of land for residential and commercial purposes, investing in subsidiary and other associated bodies, providing a wide range of financial services and operating abroad.

At a Special General Meeting held on 7 December 1989 Irish Permanent Building Society sought formal approval from its members to adopt the new powers as provided for by the



**From the Permanent TSB Archives:**

*Irish Permanent Building Society Passbook from the 1960s.*



**From the Permanent TSB Archives:**

*Irish Permanent Building Society Passbook from the 1980s.*



*Above: St Stephen's Green Head Office.*

*Irish Permanent Building Society moved to a new administrative headquarters on St Stephen's Green in 1981. The site comprised a modern block on Leeson Lane and a Georgian wing on the square. Initially named Edmund Farrell House after the former director of the building society, 56-59 St Stephen's Green is still the address of Permanent TSB's head office to this day.*



*Nurses forming a guard of honour as the body of Irish Revolutionary Leader, Michael Collins, is carried from St Vincent's Hospital in 1922.*

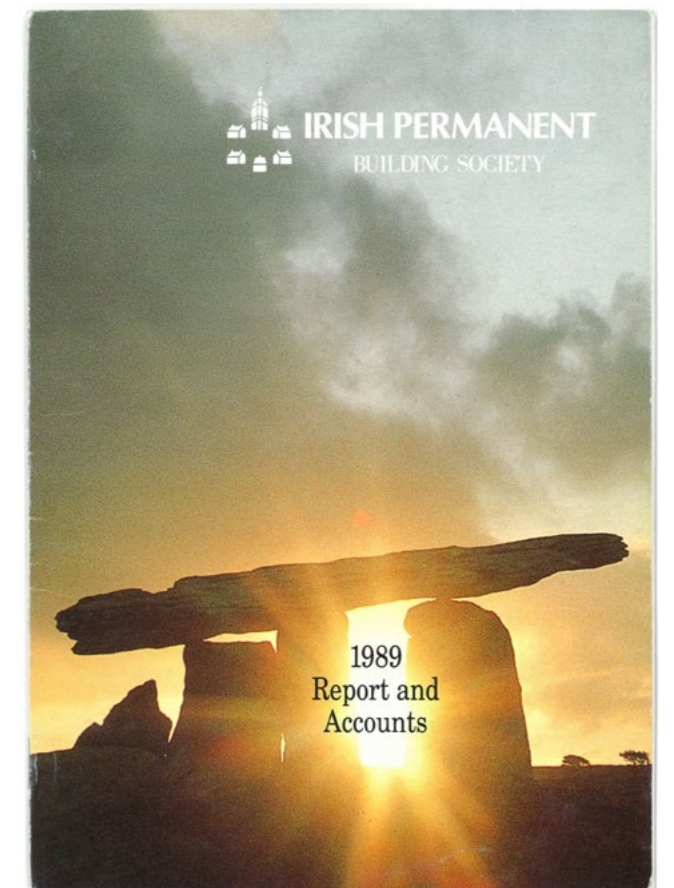
*The buildings at 56-59 St Stephen's Green were once part of St Vincent's Hospital and are steeped in Irish history. The body of Michael Collins was laid out in the basement of the hospital before his state funeral on 28 August 1922.*

*Image reproduced courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.*

Building Societies Act. Eleven special resolutions encompassing all potential areas for expansion of services were proposed and each one was passed with more than 90 per cent of the vote.

By the end of 1991 Irish Permanent had successfully branched out into commercial mortgages, pensions, life assurance and property investment, and launched a variety of new consumer finance products including a current and ATM accounts service and their first unsecured lending product. In 1992 Irish Permanent opened branches in London and Belfast as well as a subsidiary in the Isle of Man.

The structural changes undertaken by Irish Permanent in the early 1990s paved the way for its conversion to a public limited company in 1994.



**From the Permanent TSB Archives:**

*Irish Permanent Building Society Annual Report for 1989.*

## The Demutualisation of Irish Permanent Building Society, 1994

The passing of the 1989 Building Society Act allowed Irish Permanent to compete in the wider marketplace for financial services for the first time. The building society soon recognised that to expand their services they would need new ways of raising capital. In 1991 Edmund Farrell began to recruit a number of top financial players to his leadership team at Irish Permanent. His aim was to bring in a wide range of financial expertise with a view to eventually converting the mutual building society into a bank and listing its shares on the stock exchange. The new senior leadership team included Roy Douglas, the former head of the UK division of Allied Irish Bank, who came on board as chief operating officer, and Diarmuid Bradley, former chief executive of the Irish Futures and Options Exchange (IFOX), who became the general manager of management services.

In January 1993 Roy Douglas was appointed chief executive of Irish Permanent Building Society and Edmund Farrell assumed the position of chairman. Farrell left the company in April 1993. By this point the plans for the flotation of the building society were fully underway. At the end of 1993 Irish Permanent Building Society had assets of £2.7 billion, representing 35 per cent of the total assets of all Irish building societies. Its principal assets consisted of mortgage loans and its liabilities were primarily derived from customer savings accounts. Of its loan book, commercial mortgages made up only 5 cent: the rest were residential mortgage loans. During 1993 the average size of a mortgage loan was £38,500. The period 1991-3 had also seen a significant increase in operating expense, largely related to the extra staffing required to manage the loan portfolio and the new products and services introduced during the period.

Irish Permanent Building Society's conversion to a public limited company was approved by members at the annual general meeting in March 1994. The conversion scheme was then confirmed and registered by the Central Bank on 20 May 1994 and took effect on 21 September 1994, when Irish Permanent was



### From the Permanent TSB Archives:

*Shares in Irish Permanent plc being advertised outside the O'Connell Street branch, 1994.*

*'The change from mutual status to a publicly quoted company means we can now contemplate things of a quantum we would not consider before.'*

Roy Douglas, Chief Executive, Irish Permanent



### From the Permanent TSB Archives:

*Illustration of Guinness & Mahon branch office on Dame Street, Dublin*

*Guinness & Mahon was an Irish merchant bank originally founded as a land agency in 1836 by Robert Rundell Guinness and John Ross Mahon. A London office opened in 1873, closed during WWI and reopened in 1923. From 1986 to August 1994 Guinness & Mahon (Ireland) Ltd was a wholly owned subsidiary of Guinness Mahon & Co., London. The Irish private banking operation was acquired from Guinness Mahon & Co., London by Irish Permanent on 31 August 1994. Its operations were wound down in 2000.*

incorporated as a company and received a banking licence. As part of the conversion qualifying borrowers and savers with the building society were offered 300 free shares and the right to buy another 300 shares at a price of 180p each. To dissuade members from offloading their shares, fifteen loyalty bonus shares were also offered each year for the next two years for members who retained their allocation. On 27 October 1994 Irish Permanent became the first Irish building society to be publicly traded on the stock exchange.

## Acquisitions in 1994

In June and August 1994, Irish Permanent made two major acquisitions. The Irish Progressive Group (formerly the Prudential Life Group in Ireland) was acquired for £32 million and Guinness & Mahon, a long-established private bank, was acquired for a further £7 million. The strategic thinking behind the takeovers was that the Irish Progressive subsidiary would enable Irish Permanent to expand their life assurance and pensions services while the acquisition of Guinness & Mahon would allow it to extend its activities to private banking services.

## Irish Permanent and Irish Rugby

In November 1993 Irish Permanent Building Society entered into a partnership with Irish rugby that would last for thirteen years. From 1993 to 1994 the building society sponsored home international games and from September 1994 the newly formed Irish Permanent plc announced that it would sponsor the Irish national team for the next two years. Rugby in Ireland was at this point still an amateur sport and it was the first time that the team had a main sponsor. The first sponsorship deal included branding on the kit that the team wore prior to matches, during interviews and at formal squad training. In 1996 Irish Permanent became the team's first shirt sponsor and the Irish Permanent/Permanent TSB logo featured prominently on the official Irish rugby jersey until 2006.



*Former Irish rugby captain, Brian O'Driscoll, sporting one of the iconic Irish Permanent rugby jerseys in Paris in 2000.*

*Image reproduced courtesy of Inpho Photography.*

## The Merger between Irish Permanent and Irish Life, 1999

While Irish Permanent's profits continued to grow in the years after the conversion, the company's leadership was keen for it to expand further its insurance and banking operations. As early as 1996 Roy Douglas approached David Kingston, then head of Irish Life insurance company, about the possibility of a merger. Irish Life had been formed in 1939 and by the 1960s had become the largest insurance provider in Ireland. Like Irish Permanent it had recently been privatised and listed on the London and Irish stock exchanges. However, in 1996, the leadership of Irish Life was more concerned with international expansion and Douglas's offer of a merger with Irish Permanent was rejected.

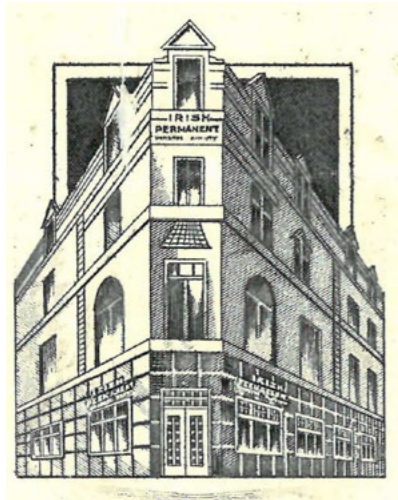
*'The mission of Irish Life & Permanent is quite simply to become the number one provider of financial services to the retail market in Ireland.'*

David Went, Chief Executive, Irish Life & Permanent

In 1997 Roy Douglas made it known that Irish Permanent would be interested in acquiring TSB Bank, which was rumoured to be up for possible privatisation before the end of the decade. By 2001 Irish Permanent would achieve its aims of merging with both companies.

When David Went replaced David Kingston as chief executive of Irish Life in 1998, he announced that the company would refocus its attention on the Irish market. This left the door open for Roy Douglas to renew his offer and in December 1998 Irish Permanent and Irish Life agreed the terms of a £2.8 billion merger which would create the third-largest financial services group in the state.

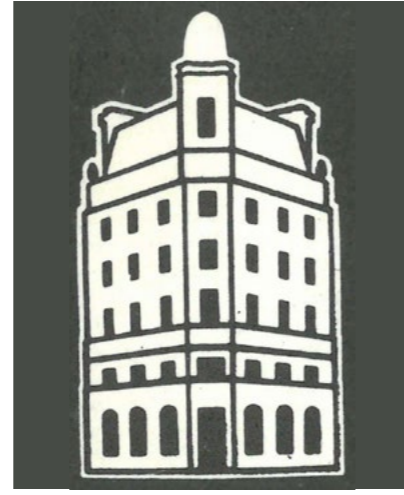
Although structured as a merger from an accounting perspective, due to legislation preventing the takeover of a building society for five years after flotation, the amalgamation was effected through a 'reverse' takeover of Irish Life by the smaller Irish Permanent.

**From the Permanent TSB Archives:***The evolution of the Irish Permanent Building Society logo.*

Logo from 1950 shows the stylised façade of 54 Dame Street where Irish Permanent had its head office between 1948 and 1953.



Logo from 1962 features the façade of the building society's new flagship office on O'Connell Street.



In 1969 a more minimal version of this logo appears.



By 1979 the building icon has become more geometric and now includes five small houses.



The 1995 logo for Irish Permanent plc uses essentially the same icon from the 1970s with a different typeface. This was the last iteration of the Irish Permanent logo.



*Irish Life & Permanent logo, 1999.*

The merger of Irish Permanent plc and Irish Life plc was completed on 21 April 1999. David Went, the group's new chief executive, said at the time that 'The mission of Irish Life & Permanent is quite simply to become the number one provider of financial services to the retail market in Ireland.' The company was renamed Irish Life & Permanent but the Irish Permanent brand name continued to be used for the banking division until it amalgamated with TSB Bank in 2001.

**Irish Permanent Pre-tax Profits, 1994–1998\***

1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
£35.1 million	£42.4 million	£48.6 million	£55.0 million	£66.7 million

\*As published in the Irish Permanent Annual Report and Accounts for 1998.

# THE CREATION OF PERMANENT TSB

## A New Force in Irish Banking

*'The Permanent TSB name reflects the heritage of both TSB Bank and Irish Permanent – two long-established and highly successful Irish institutions. It shows that we plan to build on the strengths of each of these great banks.'*

*'Embarking on a New Journey,' a booklet produced as part of the branding of Permanent TSB in 2002*

In December 2000 it was announced that Irish Life & Permanent would acquire TSB Bank from the Irish government for €430 million and that the bank created from the merger would be known as Permanent TSB. Since its creation in 1999, the Irish Life & Permanent Group had identified business in Ireland as its main area of focus and the decision to amalgamate TSB Bank and Irish Permanent was evidence of this 'Ireland First' strategy in action. The merger gave TSB Bank access to one of the best customer bases in the country, while giving Irish Permanent access to TSB's money transmission system. Like Irish Permanent before it, the new bank sat under the larger Irish Life & Permanent parent company as its retail banking arm. Permanent TSB eventually separated from Irish Life in 2012 and became a wholly owned subsidiary of Permanent TSB Group Holdings plc.





In April 2001, the purchase of TSB Bank by Irish Life & Permanent was formally ratified by the then Minister for Finance, Charlie McCreevy. At the time of its creation, the combined bank had 1.2 million customers and held between eight and ten per cent of Irish current account business and approximately 25 per cent of the Irish mortgage market. TSB Bank's chief executive, Harry Lorton, became chief executive of Permanent TSB, although he retired in July 2002, shortly after the bank was launched. The merger integration team was headed up by Diarmuid Bradley – who went on to become chief operating officer of Permanent TSB – and involved the amalgamation of forty-eight branches, as well as the harmonisation of a combined workforce of more than 2,500. The new Permanent TSB branding was launched in February 2002 and by the end of the year the Bank's 111 branches were fully rebranded. From the outset the vision for the new retail bank was to bring enhanced services to its customers and new competition to the Irish banking industry.

*Roy Douglas, Chief Executive, Irish Life & Permanent (left), and Harry Lorton, Chief Executive, Permanent TSB, launching Permanent TSB in April 2002.*

*Image reproduced courtesy of Fennell Photography.*

## Reflecting on the Past and the Future

Permanent TSB is a bank that was built on the strengths of two stalwarts of the Irish banking sector. The heritage of the Irish Permanent Building Society and of the trustee savings banks are engrained into the Bank's DNA. When the trustees of the early savings banks gathered in their schoolrooms and shops and when the Irish Temperance Building Society members first met in the offices of the Dublin Coffee Palace it was their aim to provide essential financial services to the ordinary people of Ireland. Permanent TSB may have evolved far beyond the modest aims of its original founders, but the core tenet of its operations remains much the same.

2022 marks twenty years since the creation of Permanent TSB and the Bank is currently on the verge of a major new acquisition involving Ulster Bank. At this key moment in the Bank's history it is appropriate to look back as well as forward and to celebrate the what we have achieved thus far. As its business undergoes significant commercial and digital transformation Permanent TSB is making a conscious decision to preserve its material past and re-examine its history and heritage. The depositors' names written in ink in the Bank's historical ledgers are a reminder of the communities that Permanent TSB has served for more than two centuries and hopes to continue to serve for many years to come.

### From the Permanent TSB Archives:

*'Embarking on a New Journey,' a booklet produced as part of the branding of Permanent TSB in 2002.*





## Selected Bibliography

- Anon., 'Cork Savings Bank, 1817-1917'. *Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society*, ser. 2, vol. 13, 1917.
- Anon., *Some Account of the Establishment of the Savings Bank, School-Street, Dublin with the Rules and Regulations for its Management*. John Jones, 1818.
- Anon., *A Short History of Waterford Savings Bank, founded 1816*. News Printing Works, 1916.
- Bab, Herbert J. G. 'The Evolution off the British Building Society'. *The Economic History Review*, vol. 9, no. 1, 1938.
- Bellman, Harold. 'Building Societies - Some Economic Aspects'. *The Economic Journal*, vol. 43, no. 169, 1933.
- Bradley, Finbarr, and Paul Quigley. 'The Irish Permanent Floatation: A Case Study'. DCU, June 1995.
- Buckley, Anthony D. "On the Club": Friendly Societies in Ireland'. *Irish Economic and Social History*, vol. 14, no. 1, 1987.
- Cleary, E.J. *Building Societies in Ireland*. Stationery Office, 1974.
- Eason, Charles. 'The Trustee Savings Banks of Great Britain and Ireland from 1817 to 1928: A paper read before the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland'. *Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland*, vol. 14, no. 7, 1929-30.
- Hannan, Kevin. 'Limerick Savings Bank'. *Old Limerick Journal*, vol. 3, 1980.
- Porter, William H. *Savings Banks: Their Defects – The Remedy*. Hodges and Smith, 1848.
- McGuire, James, and James Quinn (eds.), *Dictionary of Irish Biography*, online edition. Royal Irish Academy and Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- McLaughlin, Eoin. "Profligacy in the encouragement of thrift": Savings banks in Ireland, 1817-1914'. *Business History*, vol. 56, no. 4, 2014.
- Ó Gráda, Cormac. 'Savings banks, famine and financial contagion: Ireland in the 1840s and 1850s'. *Irish Economic and Social History*, vol. 3, 2009.
- Ó Gráda, Cormac. 'The Early History of Irish Savings Banks'. *UCD Centre for Economic Research Working Paper Series*, 2008.



## Acknowledgments

Many people have contributed to the production of this book and I would like to acknowledge their input.

The idea of exploring the history and heritage of Permanent TSB came from the Bank's CEO, Eamonn Crowley. The project was spurred on and enthusiastically supported by other members of the senior leadership team including Company Secretary, Conor Ryan, Director of HR and Corporate Development, Ger Mitchell, and my own line manager and champion, Leontia Fannin, Head of Corporate Affairs and Communications.

I would like to thank the many colleagues and former colleagues who kindly shared their personal stories and their expertise about the company with me in the early stages of my research. I would also like to thank those colleagues who helped me to uncover the treasure trove of archival material stored in Permanent TSB branches and offices across the country.

I wish to acknowledge the work of Stephen Donnelly and Keith Dalton, the two fantastic designers I worked with to put the book together, and the inspiring work of my colleagues in the communications team who have also helped to shape this project.

Lastly, I wish to acknowledge the love, help and support of my partner, Jamie, and my mother, Jo O'Donoghue, who also gave me the benefit of her publishing advice and expertise.

*Fionnuala Parfrey*

*Archivist, Permanent TSB*

*January 2022*

The name Permanent TSB reflects the heritage of both TSB Bank and Irish Permanent who joined forces in 2001 to create the Bank that we know today. Permanent TSB can trace its roots back to the savings bank and building society movements of early nineteenth-century Ireland. The Bank has been in continued operation since 1816 making it one of Ireland's longest serving financial services institutions. For the first time, the history of Permanent TSB has been compiled in one place.

*Our Banking Heritage: The Origins of Permanent TSB* is beautifully illustrated with documents and artefacts from the Bank's corporate archives and invites you to take a closer look at the evolution of Permanent TSB.

