

Clabe Cross, FNB's First President, My Great-Grandfather

By SCOTT THOMPSON FNB Executive Vice President & CFO

In today's terminology, my great-grandfather Clabe Cross would be called a "mover and a shaker." He was a visionary who was always looking for ways to improve living conditions. He was one of the first entrepreneurs of Scott County and Oneida. He operated a general store and hotel, operated a stave and lumber business, was an early oil explorer, he was civic minded and believed Oneida should be incorporated and have paved streets, sidewalks, a good water supply and have a sewer system This was in the early 1900s.

He donated land for churches and was the first chairman of the board of the Oneida Independent School System.

Clabe organized the Scott County Bank in 1904. The bank evolved to Scott County National Bank, then to First National Bank of Oneida, as it is called today. He served as president and director of the bank from 1904 to 1913. After a difference of opinion, Clabe resigned from the bank in 1913 and, in 1923, formed the Oneida Bank and Trust Company, serving as its president until his death in 1946.

My father, Dr. Milford Thompson, became a director of First National Bank in 1956, along with Howard H. Baker, Jr. In 1959, they worked to purchase the controlling stock of the First National Bank of Oneida from Hamilton Associates.

Dad and my grandfather, Dr. M.E. Thompson, established the Thompson Clinic in 1942, the first licensed hospital in Scott County. The clinic remained open until the Scott County Hospital opened in 1956. Dad practiced medicine from his office at home until his death in 1980.

My brother, Bob, joined the board of directors of First National Bank in 1975 and served until 1980. I came on the board of directors in 1979 and working full time for the bank.

My mom, Ruth Massey Thompson, joined the board of directors of First National Bank and served from 1981 to 1986. In 1983, day-to-day operation of the bank was turned over to Mike Swain as president and me as vice president. I am currently executive vice president and CFO, responsible for oversight of the lending function of the bank and the investments portfolio.



Figure 1 - Scott Thompson



Figure 2 - Clabe Cross

Just like my great-grandfather, my family and I work diligently to improve the quality of life here in Scott County. I am a 22-year elected school board member of the Oneida Special School District. I'm a member and chairman of the Oneida Industrial SCOTT THOMPSON CLABE CROSS Development Board, a 32nd degree Mason, a past member of the Agriculture Development Board at the University of Tennessee, a member of the board of directors for the East Tennessee Foundation, which assists all upper east Tennessee counties, and I'm a member of the board of trustees of Cumberland College.

My wife Cyndi is Secretary/Treasurer of the Boys and Girls Club of Scott County and a member of the Board of Directors of the Children's Center of the Cumberlands. My daughter, Lindy, is a fourth-grade math teacher at Oneida Elementary School. My grandson, Andrew Scott Terry, is only four months old so it will be a few years before he will "receive the torch" to make his contribution to the betterment of our communities.

The Thompson family proudly traces its roots back to the very beginning of First National Bank of Oneida and today we are still active in its daily operation.