Banksters, Bosses and Smart Money

Messer-Kruse, Timothy

Published by The Ohio State University Press

Messer-Kruse, Timothy.  
Project MUSE.  
muse.jhu.edu/book/28313.

For additional information about this book  
https://muse.jhu.edu/book/28313

For content related to this chapter  
https://muse.jhu.edu/related_content?type=book&id=1177287
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In any work that is the product of several years of research a large number of debts are incurred. As this one did not begin as a book but as a private interest in the author’s own community, the roster of those who offered suggestions, pointed to leads, or assisted in many small but significant ways is probably incomplete. To all who are overlooked, I apologize.

This book was only possible because of the tremendous resources and expert knowledge of the staff of the Toledo–Lucas County Public Library, especially Jim Marshall and his team of dedicated librarians who have made the Local History Department a model of engaged scholarship and preservation. Though I’ve claimed more than my share of time from everyone who works in the Local History Department, I want to especially thank Greg Miller for not only finding what I asked for, but digging deep into the vault and finding many nuggets that were not cataloged and that I would never have found otherwise.

Over the years I have been assisted by a succession of able graduate students who helped me track down citations, copy articles, enter data into spreadsheets, and perform many other boring but indispensable tasks. Steve Miceli, Doug Wolf, Katy McMillion, Bonnie-Jean Chudzinski, Andrew Wicks, and Holly Hartlerode all took time out from their studies to contribute in these ways. Slavak Lehman amazed me with his rapid ability to translate Polish into English and his patience in spending many long hours in doing so while I transcribed the results.

Many people in Toledo opened their doors to me, and I am grateful to all of them. Sally M. Copeland, Marketing and Promotions Coordinator, and Robert A. Robinson, Executive Vice-President of National City Bank for the Northwest Region, generously made arrangements for me to study some of their older banking records and although these did not provide many facts for this study, this was not for lack of helpfulness. Mr. Robinson also helped arrange an interview with Willard Webb, Jr., and I want to thank them both for extending this courtesy to me. George Jones III shared his family reminiscences with me and helped put me in contact with others whose recollections were important. Though my researches and findings affected him personally, Mr. Jones displayed a mark of character rare in men of his
stature, a willingness to pursue the truth wherever it took him. Similarly, Milton F. Knight took time out to share some of his stories with me.

The University of Toledo supported my research directly and indirectly, with a summer research grant, a semester sabbatical, and by supporting the graduate program in the Department of History. I would like to thank Prof. William H. Longton for not only enthusiastically supporting my research as chair of the department, but for listening to all my banking anecdotes.

I must also thank David Simmons and the staff of *Timeline* magazine for finding some terrific photographs that I had missed and for generously sharing their fine photographic reproductions with me. *Timeline*’s editor, Christopher Duckworth, has given me encouragement and support for this endeavor.

Finally, it is my wife, Diana, who keeps me going and puts things in perspective for me, and my boys, my best friends, Griffin, Emmett, and Connor, who make me want to write a book that they might want to read.