

120 Years of Community Banking



From a small-town bank serving a rural community to one of the largest financial institutions in Iowa with offices spanning the Corridor, Hills Bank has come a long way in over a century of doing business.

“Hills Bank is honored to be celebrating a milestone anniversary this year with 120 years as a truly local community bank,” said Lisa Shileny, President and Chief Operating Officer of Hills Bank. “Our team cares greatly about meeting the financial needs of our customers and being a valuable partner in the communities we serve, and we look forward to continuing this dedication to our customers and communities throughout the years to come.”

Here’s how Hills Bank has grown its financial footprint in Eastern Iowa while remaining true to its local roots.

Humble Beginnings

In 1904, the Hills Savings Bank was founded in Hills, Iowa by 19 local citizens with \$10,000 among them and a shared goal to create a community bank that truly cares about the people it serves and provides ways to help them prosper.

Approximately 25 years later, the Great Depression struck. Hundreds of banks failed across Iowa, including all five in Iowa City. The Hills Savings Bank remained open, and it developed a loyal core of customers thanks to its emphasis on building trust – and being trusting. One of the bank’s early leaders, Albert Droll, gave blank promissory notes to individuals and small businesses whose money was tied up or lost in area banks. They were told to fill in the amount they needed and pay it back later.

Under Albert Droll’s leadership, the bank grew to \$30 million in assets by 1975. He was succeeded by John Hughes in 1975. Under Hughes’ leadership, the bank expanded into Iowa City, Coralville, and North Liberty. After Hughes’ tragic death in 1985, Dwight Seegmiller was named Hills Bank President and CEO. Seegmiller remains Hills Bank’s CEO today.

Hills Bank Today

Today, Hills Bank spans 19 locations with more than 500 employees across three Eastern Iowa counties. It has over \$4 billion in assets, along with \$2.6 billion managed by the bank’s Wealth Management Group. Despite its size, Hills Bank remains focused on its local communities – using local deposits to fund local loans. It’s an ethos that has proven successful thanks to enduring customer and shareholder loyalty. And after 120 years, Hills Bank aims to continue giving each

customer the personal service and care they deserve while striving to better the communities where its employees and customers work and live across the Corridor.

Hills Bank Member FDIC.