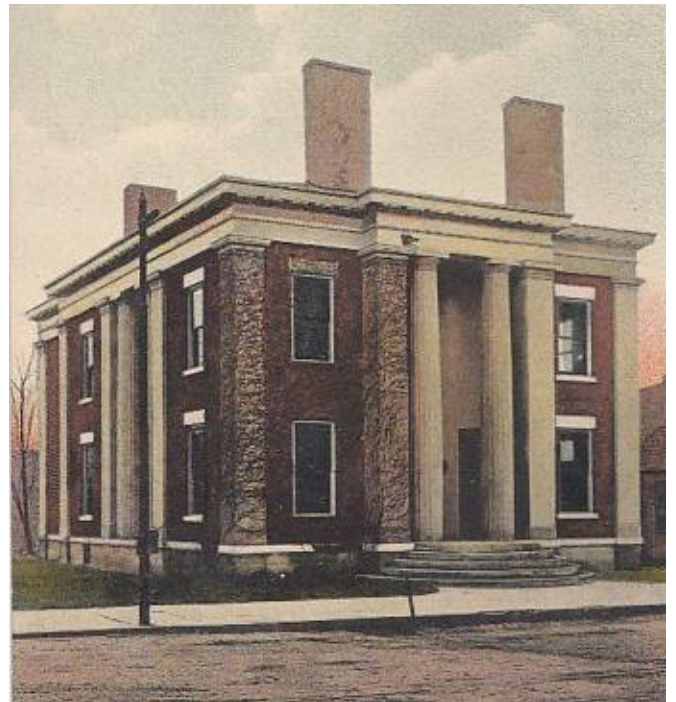




## Lake County Visitors Bureau's New Claim to "Old Money"

Late 2019 brought several changes to downtown Painesville and Lake County overall. After a long and successful run as general manager of the Lake County Captains baseball team, Neil Stein became the newest director of the Lake County Visitor's Bureau. Months later the bureau office relocated a few hundred yards across the street into a very historic building. Here is the tale of a shared home of two local service organizations -then and now.

The story of the Painesville National Bank is the story of Painesville. In 1831, when the town had 500 inhabitants, the Bank of Geauga was founded. It was designed and built by famed architect Jonathon Goldsmith. For thirty years the colonial columned bank located on the first floor served Painesville and the surrounding counties. On January 4, 1864 it became the First National Bank of Painesville. By 1888 it was known as the Painesville National Bank. Sadly, the building burned in 1925.



The current structure at 105 Main Street was built in 1925-1926, for the Painesville National Bank. Its design was Gothic and its engineering, currency vaults and window space provided a stately grandeur befitting its still evolving history. While serving continuously since 1831, from 1929-1934 the bank printed

\$352,360 worth of national currency. Its charter number 13318 appears on the four denominations printed in Painesville.



Two series of \$10 notes with Alexander Hamilton and two series of \$20 notes with Andrew Jackson on the front were distributed nationally throughout the U.S. In the late 1940s the Painesville National Bank became

part of the Cleveland Trust Company, Branch 25. Another name change occurred in 1966-1968 when the site became the HT Nolan-Lake County Administration Building. This Gothic building, its Bank facade and the county administrative offices that still occupy the site welcome the newest chapter in its history- the LCVB. Stop in room 101 and see the original vault and experience all the LCVB 'Remarkable' offerings for county residents and visitors alike.

Sources: *The Pioneer*, a booklet issued at the 1926 opening. Painesville Telegraph, September 2, 1926

Submitted by Dan Maxson - *Local Lore by Max, 2010-2016 - Community Media Lab, The News-Herald; Volunteer Trustee, Curator - FHHS/ Fairport Harbor Lighthouse & Marine Museum; Volunteer Curator / Docent - Old Stone School, Concord Township*

