Our Presidents

George J. Seay  
(1914–36)

Hugh Leach  
(1936–61)

Edward A. Wayne  
(1961–68)

Aubrey N. Heflin  
(1968–73)

Robert P. Black  
(1973–92)

J. Alfred Broaddus Jr.  
To My Richmond Fed Colleagues,

One hundred years ago on November 16, 1914, the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond opened for business downtown on East Main Street. During our Centennial commemoration, we’ve learned a lot about Fed history, from the reasons behind our creation to insights about key economic events over the past century.

We’ve also explored the Fifth District’s unique history. In honor of our 100th anniversary, the Richmond Fed Facts project came up with 100 facts about our Bank and District. Some are serious, others are lighthearted. The team combed through our Bank’s archives and online historical resources, finding items that touched on our business, our people and our communities.

I hope you’ll enjoy these 100 facts in this special booklet to help you remember our Centennial observance. Thank you for your hard work on behalf of America’s economy. I’m looking forward to our second century of service!

Jeffrey M. Lacker (2004–present)

November 2014
It’s Coming
Amid great jubilation, Richmond learned at 6:30 p.m. on April 2, 1914, that it would house one of 12 regional Reserve Banks. About 800 people gathered the next evening at The Jefferson Hotel to pay tribute to the city’s campaign committee.

Baltimore Uproar
Not all Fifth District residents were happy about Richmond’s selection in 1914 as headquarters for the new regional Reserve Bank. An uproar ensued in Baltimore, which had competed for the Bank: on April 15, 1914, the mayor and Maryland’s governor led a massive demonstration of about 3,000 people at the Lyric Opera House to protest the choice of Richmond. City and state leaders unsuccessfully sought a reconsideration of the decision.

Lobby Canaries
George Seay, our Bank’s first president — then called “governor” — used to hang canary cages in the lobby of the Richmond office. He and his wife raised canaries, and the lobby seemed a useful place to hang the cages.

No A/C
In our first building on East Main Street, there were no air conditioners — just fans and open windows, with no screens. Sometimes checks being processed in the Transit Department located at the top of the building blew out of the window and had to be retrieved from Main Street.

Richmond 1915
At the end of the first full year of operation in 1915, the Richmond Fed employed 30 people. Their yearly pay ranged from $10,000 for the president — then called “governor” — to $480 for a messenger.

The facts are listed in the order in which they appeared over 100 business days between June 23 and November 13, 2014.
At the end of the first full year of operation in 1915, the Richmond Fed employed 30 people.

**Baltimore Opens**
The Baltimore office, at the corner of Redwood (then German) and South streets, opened on March 1, 1918, with 29 employees.

**Fun & Finance**
Before there was 5Spot, Fedcaster or the Federal Observer, there was Fun & Finance. During the 1920s and early 1930s, Richmond employees could read about their colleagues and their activities in and out of work, such as sleigh riding parties in Bryan Park, the Flower Committee, Men’s Bowling and Girls’ Swimming.

**East Byrd Tenants**
The first tenants of the East Byrd Street building in Richmond moved in on July 1, 1979. Eventually five companies with 68 tenants occupied offices on the 16th and 18th floors.

**Growth of SRC**
The Bank Examination Department had six employees — four examiners, one clerk, one stenographer — in Richmond in 1930. Today the department, now called Supervision, Regulation and Credit, has approximately 350 employees in Richmond, Baltimore and Charlotte.

**No Vault**
When our Bank first opened, it had no vault and had to store its gold deposits elsewhere. George Seay, then the Bank’s president, personally made sure the deposits made it to safety each night — walking behind the mule-drawn cart with a gun in each hand.
Issuing Bonds
Between 1942 and 1946, the Baltimore branch and qualified agents issued 10.6 million bonds worth almost $682 million to help the war effort during and shortly after World War II.

Safe Passage
Before the widespread use of armored trucks, the Baltimore office relied on rail to bring currency from the U.S. Treasury. The rail came to the downtown post office, which was located diagonally across the street from the branch’s former location at Calvert and Lexington streets. A tunnel under Lexington Street connected the branch and the post office, providing a safe and secure passage for pick up or delivery.

Charlotte Opens
After a seven-year campaign led by local bankers, the Charlotte office opened on December 1, 1927, with 54 employees on the 20th floor of the First National Bank building at 112 South Tryon Street. Ten years later, the number of employees exceeded 100.

2013 Wellness
The Charlotte office made it easier for female employees to receive their yearly mammograms in 2013 — Wellness Committee member Tammy Drake worked with Charlotte Radiology to bring its mobile breast center to the office for the first time on July 16.
1,000 Employees
For the first time, the number of Bank employees exceeded 1,000 in 1942. (1,177)

World War II
During World War II, the Bank published a monthly newsletter that went to employees who were serving in the military so they could stay in touch. The newsletter also contained information provided by the men serving, which M. Evelyn McGhee, the Bank’s receptionist, would gather from letters the men sent the Bank.

PTO in 1946
Under a change in rules in 1946, an employee with more than nine years of service received three full weeks of vacation.

Gold Bar
In 2010 our Bank opened The Fed Experience, an interactive educational exhibit in the Richmond office’s lobby. The Fed Experience explores the importance of price stability and the Fed’s role in the economy. The exhibit also contains our Bank’s only gold bar, which has been on loan from the U.S. Treasury since we moved into the building in 1978. The gold bar weighs 401.75 troy ounces, or roughly 27.5 pounds, and was minted in San Francisco in 1952.

Be Casual
Employees could swap suits for polo shirts under a new uniform dress policy announced in 1999 that allowed business casual clothing. “I hope this new policy will make your workdays more comfortable and enjoyable,” President Al Broaddus wrote in a Districtwide memo.

Mr. and Miss Fed
There was a “Mr. Federal Reserve” and a “Miss Federal Reserve” contest — which included a swimsuit competition — at the Baltimore branch in 1947.
Baltimore 1938
Lil Jenkins, who started working in the Transit Department of the Baltimore office in 1938, recalled in a 1989 interview that women had to wear hats and white gloves when she joined the Bank. She retired after 41 years of service.

Charlotte 1947
The start of World War II delayed the installation of air conditioning in the Charlotte branch until 1947.

Baltimore Checks
In 1919 — the first full year of operation — the Baltimore office handled nearly 7.6 million checks totaling just over $3.5 billion. The office reached its peak year of check processing in 2005, handling more than 505 million checks.

Secretaries Week
The Bank first participated in the observance of “Secretaries Week” in 1952, held during the last full week of April.

Charlotte Fun
The first event organized by the Charlotte Employees’ Council was a cookout and square dance, held in April 1949.

Free X-rays
As a service of the Personnel Department, the Richmond office provided a free chest X-ray every other year. The mobile unit would park outside the building. The practice began in the 1940s and continued into the early 1970s.

Fedcaster
The Friday Fact Sheet, a weekly newsletter for Richmond employees, started on July 28, 1967. It was renamed Fedcaster a month later in a contest won by Lucy Meanley, a secretary, who won a $25 savings bond. Fedcaster was published until 2012.

Charlotte 1928
Charlotte processed almost 6.6 million checks totaling $1.6 billion in 1928, its first full year of operation, while currency and coin transactions totaled approximately $91 million. Charlotte stopped processing checks in 2009. In 2013, our Charlotte office handled almost $53 billion in currency and coins.

1961 Service Gifts
In March 1961, employees with 15 1/2 years of service with the Bank received a power mower, while those with 42 years of service were given a silver tea and coffee service.
Emergency Planning
In 1959, the Emergency Planning Department was established. Today that department’s known as the Business Continuity function in the Corporate Support Services Office.

Civil Defense
During the Civil Defense annual alert in 1961 — at the height of the Cold War — normal business hours were extended and the Bank’s switchboard was kept open 24 hours a day, with the “girls,” as the Federal Observer described them, working three shifts and keeping three lines open at all times.

Margot Deck
In 1965, Margot Deck, a native of Richmond, was the first female examiner hired in the Federal Reserve System. At the time, she was working for the Boston Fed, which she joined in 1964 as an assistant in the Research department. She came to the Richmond Fed in 1996. Though she retired in 2005, she continued to work part time for another five years.

Computer Age
Our Bank’s first computer was installed in Richmond in June 1962, an IBM 1401 RAMAC.

Charlotte Readiness
As part of Civil Defense planning, Charlotte established an emergency shelter program in 1957 to provide for a three-day supply of food, water and first-aid facilities for 200 people in the branch’s basement.

Financial Literacy
Since 1971, the Richmond office has been an active partner with Junior Achievement of Central Virginia. Employees throughout the Fifth District are engaged with students in local classrooms and interactive learning facilities to teach financial literacy.

First Female Officer
Elizabeth W. Angle became the Bank’s first female officer in 1970, when she was named assistant vice president of Research. She retired as a vice president in 1980.

Elizabeth W. Angle
Charlotte Checks
Charlotte added a night shift — with nine employees — to the Checks Collection department in 1962 in anticipation of new high-speed check handling equipment that was installed the next year.

Insurance 1974
In 1974, Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance was free for an individual employee.

Newsletters Abound
For much of our Bank’s history, employee newsletters flourished around the Fifth District — Richmond had the Friday Fact Sheet and Fedcaster; Charlotte produced the Southern Accent; Culpeper published the Mount Pony Express; Baltimore employees read about upcoming activities in the Baltimore Branch Beacon and the 727 Flyer; Columbia, S.C., offered the Sand Dollar; and Charleston, W.Va., printed the Mountain Echo.

Tour Guides
Telling our story isn’t new — the Richmond office’s tour guide program formally began in 1953 “to give the public an inside view of this Bank.”

Volunteer Leave
As part of our commitment to our communities, in 2008 our Bank began offering up to 16 hours of annual volunteer leave to employees.

First Woman Ph.D.
Mary Eleanor Craig was the first woman Ph.D. in the Bank, earning her doctorate in economics in 1959 from Duke University. Her dissertation title was, “Recent History of the North Carolina Furniture Manufacturing Industry with Special
Attention to Locational Factors.” She joined our Bank in 1956 as a research associate and then became an associate economist.

**Culpeper Opens**
The Communications and Records Center in Culpeper, Va., opened in 1969 — during the Cold War — to serve as a relocation site for key federal employees during a national emergency. The three-story building, with 12-inch thick reinforced concrete walls, was built stair-step fashion into the side of a hill called Mount Pony, on 40 acres of rolling countryside with cows grazing on top. With threat of nuclear war significantly diminished, its use as a relocation site ceased in 1994.

**Hurricane Agnes**
During Hurricane Agnes in June 1972, the Culpeper facility served as a safe haven for central Virginians stranded by flooding.

**Walking Uphill**
Before construction started at our current headquarters on Byrd Street, employees could park for free at the new site and then walk five blocks uphill to the former location at Ninth and Franklin streets. In hindsight, this could be considered as Richmond’s first “Wellness Incentive Program.”
### 1972 Prices

### Cafeteria Menu
In 1970, a sandwich in the Richmond cafeteria cost 30 cents and included potato chips and a pickle. For another 5 cents you could buy a slice of tomato.

### Our Presidents
Our Bank’s seven presidents have come from a variety of fields — one accountant, one attorney, two bankers and three economists, including our current leader, Jeff Lacker.

### Jobs in Charlotte
The Charlotte office reached its peak employment in January 1974 with 496 employees — 463 full time and 33 part time.

### 1969 Holidays
In 1969, there were six annual holidays, and none in between New Year’s Day and Memorial Day.

### FRAS Arrives
The first employee of FRAS — now National IT — came to the Richmond office in September 1991. FRAS was established to manage the consolidation of Reserve Bank mainframe processing.
Baltimore Moves
When the Baltimore branch moved on September 4, 1928, so did $6 million in cash. Motorcycle policemen and detectives with shotguns guarded the armored cars carrying the money to the new location at Calvert and Lexington streets.

Average Age
In 1970, the average age of a Richmond Fed employee was 38 — 40 for men and 37 for women. Today we're older — the average age for both genders is 45.

‘First Lady Guard’
Doris Turner, the “first lady guard,” started work in 1969. She was the first female security officer in both the System and the Fifth District. Richmond also hired the second female guard in the System.

No Smoking
Richmond added a “no smoking” area to its cafeteria in 1976.

1960s Exchange
In the 1960s, employees could sell items they made — such as paintings, fruit cakes, floral arrangements and home-grown produce — in the Employees’ Exchange. All items sold had to be made by an employee or employee family member. Additionally, stamps sold for 5 cents, and the rental library rented books at 10 cents for the first three days and three cents every day thereafter.

Cafeteria 1975
In 1975, the Richmond cafeteria served an average of 919 people a day over five meals (breakfast, coffee, lunch, dinner, late dinner).

$1 billion
Until 1988, the Culpeper Communications and Records Center stored a $1 billion stock of currency to be used to reactivate the American economy following a nuclear attack.
New Headquarters
The original building plans called for the East Byrd Street office to stand 29 stories tall and have a garage with 750 spaces. However, architectural revisions resulted in a 26-story building and a garage with 500 parking spaces. The building — at the time the tallest in Richmond — contained more than 1 million square feet and required moving approximately 340,000 cubic yards of dirt and 22,000 cubic yards of rock.

James F. Tucker
James F. Tucker was our Bank’s first African-American officer. He joined our Bank in 1974 as vice president in Research, and became a senior vice president in 1986 before retiring in 1990.

“Sonambient” Artwork
The sculpture in front of the Richmond building, “Untitled, 1978,” was created by Harry Bertoia. He was particularly interested in music and tuned the sculpture’s rods to produce the sound he wanted when played upon by water and wind. Bertoia coined the name “sonambient” to describe the sound that his sculptures make.

Robert McTeer

Culpeper CPC
In April 1984, the Fed established the Culpeper, Va., operating center as a Contingency Processing Center to provide critical data processing operations in the event of a major emergency at the Board or Reserve Banks.

Historical Relics
The construction of the new Baltimore office on Sharp Street in 1980 yielded “an unexpected archaeological bonanza” when excavation uncovered more than 50,000 artifacts and historical relics, many from the 1800s.
Parking 1978
When the East Byrd Street building opened in 1978, the monthly parking fee was $8 for day employees and $4 for evening/night shift employees.

Culpeper Provisions
The Culpeper Communications and Records Center had a heliport to accommodate relocated employees and contained enough freeze-dried food to feed 500 people for 30 days.

Check Processing
Between the 1970s and 2000s, the Bank operated check processing centers in every state of our District. Besides our three offices, we opened additional regional check processing centers in Columbia, S.C., in 1974 and Charleston, W.Va., in 1976. By 2009, as check usage declined, those centers had closed.

Money Museum
Richmond’s Money Museum opened in 1980 and closed in 2006. It contained 575 specimens in 21 exhibit cases and was one of three such museums in the System.

Tallest Building
Until the James Monroe Building was constructed in 1981, the Richmond Fed was the tallest building in Virginia’s capital city.

Asheville, N.C.
Before the Communications and Records Center was established in 1969, “security files” were housed in the Records Center in Asheville, N.C.
‘Fed Flood’
After a water pipe burst above the Minneapolis Fed’s computer room on April 8, 1991, and destroyed their mainframe computer, the Culpeper Contingency Processing Center took unprecedented action. The center assumed responsibility for processing all of the Minneapolis Fed’s applications, including ACH and Fedwire, through July 21, 1991. Since there were no centralized applications then in the Federal Reserve System, this was a huge and complicated undertaking. It became known as “The Great Fed Flood.”

District Size
The Fifth District ranks eighth among the 12 Federal Reserve Districts in geographic size, with a land area of 151,633 square miles — almost the size of California. The percentage of area within each of the Fifth District’s states is North Carolina, 32 percent; Virginia, 26 percent; South Carolina, 20 percent; West Virginia, 15 percent; Maryland, 6 percent; and Washington, D.C., less than 1 percent.

530 Trade Street
The Charlotte branch’s address of 530 Trade Street is more than a location — the “5” stands for Fifth District and the “3” represents Charlotte’s check processing identifying number.

Employee Survey
The first-ever employee survey for the Richmond Fed in 1998 drew a 91.7 percent response rate.

SRC Computers
Automation was such a vital component of what’s now called Supervision, Regulation and Credit that the department had 92 PCs in 1991 — averaging almost one computer per person.
1975 Security
A new policy began on October 6, 1975, that required all Bank employees to show their identification pass anytime they entered the building.

2013 Cash
The Richmond Fed’s three cash offices processed about 3 billion notes worth more than $49 billion in 2013.

Employees’ Council
Four Bank employees got together in 1945 and decided there was need for more direct contact between management and employees. The Employees’ Council was created, first meeting on October 9, 1945. A choral club, bingo parties, athletic events, a rental library and sponsorship of various charities were among the council’s many activities. The 14-member council met monthly, and by 1961 each participant received $10 for each meeting attended.

K-9 Unit
Our Bank hired its first four-legged employees in 2006, when Cal and Maggie — both chocolate Labs — joined the Law Enforcement Unit in Richmond as our first K-9 unit. Pebbles, a black Lab mix, joined afterward. Our Bank was the first in the System to have a K-9 unit, which can now be found in all three District offices.

The Fifth District ranks eighth among the 12 Federal Reserve Districts in geographic size, with a land area of 151,633 square miles — almost the size of California.
SRC Growth
With the merger of Bank of America and NationsBank creating the largest-ever U.S. bank, a team of examiners moved to the Charlotte office in 1998, increasing the number of SRC employees there from about 12 to about 100 today.

Madame Chair
Our Boards of Directors marked a first in 1993 when all three chairs were female — Anne Marie Whittemore in Richmond, Rebecca Hahn Windsor in Baltimore and Anne M. Allen in Charlotte.

WCOC’s Beginnings
The WCOC building used to house the corporate headquarters of Heilig-Meyers, a furniture company.

United Way
Our Bank has a long tradition of supporting the United Way and its predecessors. In 1960, the first campaign in Richmond raised $20,637. In 2013, we pledged more than $350,000 in our Richmond, Baltimore and Charlotte offices to benefit local United Ways.

Serving Breakfast
Breakfast began being served in the Richmond cafeteria in the late 1960s.

Banking Blood
In the 1960s, the Bank belonged to the American National Red Cross Supplemental Blood Program. If at least 20 percent of employees participated in the blood donation program, all Bank employees and their families were eligible to receive blood during the year at no cost. Otherwise, blood was purchased for use during surgery if not covered by the Bank.
1975 Groundbreaking
The groundbreaking ceremony for the 701 East Byrd Street office took place on April 18, 1975. During the event, Robert Lawson Jr., chairman of the Board of Directors, suggested that the Bank’s new headquarters would act as a symbol of the strength and soundness of the Fed. The formal dedication took place more than three years later on November 14, 1978.

Who’s More ‘Country’?
Robert P. Black, our Bank’s fifth president, and Leon Dunn, a former Board member, had a running joke about who was more “country.”

After a series of practical jokes on each other, Mr. Dunn topped them all by sending President Black a French shoat (young pig) on his birthday in December 1984. The pig was quickly named Rita Pearl and eventually found a permanent home with Jimmy Melton, an employee in bag (mail) sorting.

Our Communities
Our Bank has a long history of strengthening our communities. In 2008, community involvement efforts of the Richmond Fed’s three offices came together for the first time under the Fedcorps name, with Fifth District and FRIT employees across the District serving on a combined Volunteer Advisory Board. Those efforts were the foundation of our Civic Engagement Office, which was created in 2012.

CTO Move
In 1994, the Currency Technology Office moved from Culpeper to Richmond. At the time, currency verification, counting and sorting machines processed 64,000 notes per hour. Today, a machine processes an average of 107,000 notes per hour.
Cornerstone Contents
The cornerstone of the Richmond Fed headquarters was installed on December 8, 1977. Contents include photographs of construction, a copy of the Federal Reserve Act and denominations of currency. Before it was sealed, President Robert P. Black — an avid golfer — placed a golf tee on top of the box, which was found undisturbed during the reconstruction of the lobby in the late 2000s.

Irene the Ghost
The Richmond office at Ninth and Franklin streets supposedly housed a ghost named Irene. Since the building was located on the site of an old theater that burned, the ghost story goes that Irene had been an actress who just couldn’t leave the stage. So she stayed at the location and continued to perform, mostly for people on the night force.

Flexible Hours
In November 1996, IT became the first department to introduce a flexible work schedule option.

MARKETWISE Magazine
MARKETWISE was the first full-color magazine published in-house by the Federal Reserve. The magazine, produced by the Community Development office, was published between 1995 and 2009.

Energy Crisis
During the energy crisis in the 1970s, the “Cut-the-Heat-Down” program went into effect and thermostats in buildings were lowered to 68 degrees in the colder months.

Branch Auditors
In 1959, the Board of Directors decided to establish resident auditors at each of the branches, in addition to the Audit Department in Richmond. The titles were branch auditor and assistant branch auditor, and they conducted on-site reviews of local operations.

1921 Move
Richmond moved to its second location at Ninth and Franklin streets in 1921. Today, this building houses the Virginia Supreme Court.

1929 Holidays
Prior to the holiday lunches that we have today, in 1929 the Employees Council in each office sponsored elaborate Christmas celebrations that included originally written plays and even a live orchestra in the Charlotte office.
ERNs Launched
As part of our diversity and inclusion efforts, we launched Employee Resource Networks in 2009. The program started with four “affinity” groups of employees who shared characteristics or interests. Today there are eight ERNs, encompassing ethnicity, generational differences, sexual orientation, disability, gender, and professional interests and experience.

Free Lunch
Employees who had perfect attendance were treated to a complimentary lunch on the 23rd floor as late as the 1990s.

First Day, 1914
Our Bank opened for business on November 16, 1914, at approximately 10 a.m. at 1109 East Main Street in Richmond with 16 employees. Today our offices in Richmond, Baltimore and Charlotte employ more than 2,200 people.
The announcement that a regional Reserve Bank would come to Richmond dominated the next day’s newspaper on April 3, 1914.

Baltimore submitted an unsuccessful formal petition for a regional Reserve Bank.

The 1924 women’s basketball team was among several sports teams at the Bank.

The Bank employed 16 people when it opened in downtown Richmond on November 16, 1914.

The Baltimore office opened at the corner of Redwood (then German) and South streets on March 1, 1918. Photo courtesy of the Maryland Historical Society.

The Bank and Public Relations Department poses in Richmond, 1950.

The Charlotte office opened on December 1, 1927, on the 20th floor of the First National Bank building at 112 South Tryon Street.

Charlotte employees received their mammograms on July 16, 2013, at this mobile center, which parked outside the office.

Baltimore employees enjoy a summer outing in 1959 at Cottage Grove Beach, Md.

Employees work in the redemption division of the Fiscal Agency department in Richmond, 1944.

Employees have the option of wearing business casual clothing.

Presenting “Mr. Federal Reserve” and “Miss Federal Reserve,” Baltimore, 1947.

Bank tour guides in the Richmond office in the late 1960s prepare for their day.

Baltimore volunteers work on a Habitat for Humanity project in 2014.

The Communications and Records Center in Culpeper, Va., opened in 1969 to serve as a relocation site for key federal employees during a national emergency. It ceased being used as a relocation site in 1994.

Our Bank’s Wellness@Work program promotes living and working well.

Economists from the Research department meet with President Al Broaddus (center) in 1993. Our current president, Jeff Lacker, is pictured second from left.

The first employees of FRAS — now National IT — came to the Richmond office in 1991.

Baltimore’s second location was at Calvert and Lexington streets.

The Employees’ Exchange in Richmond sold items made by employees or their family members.

Employees go through the cafeteria line at the Richmond building at Ninth and Franklin streets in 1971.

Cash awaits processing at the Richmond office.

Charlotte moved to its current location at 530 Trade Street in 1989.

The Fifth District is almost the geographic size of California.

The Bank’s first computer was installed in Richmond in 1962. This photo shows Research employees using one of these early computers in 1965.

A member of the Protection Department stands outside the Richmond office at Ninth and Franklin streets in 1952.

The Federal Reserve Choral Club in Richmond gives a holiday performance in 1970.

Cal the K-9 inspects a truck.

Supervision, Regulation and Credit leaders meet with their employees in 2014.

Our Boards of Directors marked a first in 1993 when all three chairs were female — Anne Marie Whittemore in Richmond, Rebecca Hahn Windsor in Baltimore and Anne M. Allen in Charlotte.

Cafeteria workers in the Richmond office in 1953 prepare for the next meal.

Bank and city officials break ground at the new Richmond headquarters in 1975.

Employees join SRC’s Day of Giving in 2013.

The Richmond office’s Health Center helps patients in 1953.
Our Offices

Richmond, Va.

Baltimore, Md.

Charlotte, N.C.
To learn more, visit richmondfed.org or federalreservehistory.org