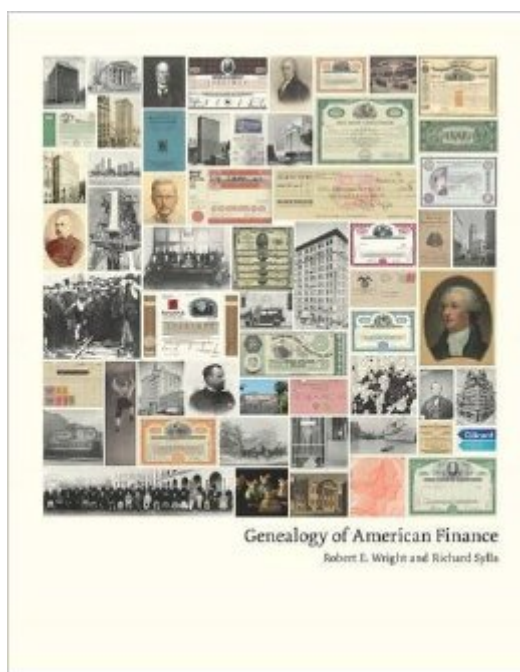


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# Genealogy Of American Finance (Columbia Business School Publishing)



## Synopsis

In this unique, well-illustrated book, readers learn how fifty financial corporations came to dominate the U.S. banking system and their impact on the nation's political, social, and economic growth. A story that spans more than two centuries of war, crisis, and opportunity, this account reminds readers that American banking was never a fixed enterprise but has evolved in tandem with the country. More than 225 years have passed since Alexander Hamilton created one of the nation's first commercial banks. Over time, these institutions have changed hands, names, and locations, reflecting a wave of mergers, acquisitions, and other restructuring efforts that echo changes in American finance. Some names, such as Bank of America and Wells Fargo, will be familiar to readers. The origins of others, including Zions Bancorporation, founded by Brigham Young and owned by the Mormon Church until 1960, are surprising. Exploring why some banks failed and others thrived, this book wonders, in light of the 2008 financial crisis, whether recent consolidations have reached or even exceeded economically rational limits. A key text for navigating the complex terrain of American finance, this volume draws a fascinating family tree for projecting the financial future of a nation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

What a great piece of work that Sylla and Wright have produced in "Genealogy of American Finance." This book is a must for higher education research libraries, business oriented museums, banks and Wall Street firms and for those who have an interest in the formation and transformation

of America's financial system. The genealogical layout of this book and the survey of the history of fifty of America's most influential financial companies are spot on. It's timely and easy to read, whether you are a financial historian or a novice. Well researched, great illustrations and excellent source listing. While this is not a comprehensive history of these financial institutions, it is a broad survey that has great value to the reader. For those who want more information, there is plenty of source material listed. Hat's off to the Museum of American Finance and Columbia Business School Publishing!

This book of histories should be particularly interesting to anyone who ever worked for a financial institution that was involved in a merger or acquisition. It presents factual accounts of only some of the largest transactions. A companion website ([www.moaf.org/bankgenealogy.index](http://www.moaf.org/bankgenealogy.index)) offers access to many other transactions. It's a great coffee-table book for your home or your business.

A handsome volume that does much more than just decorate your coffee table. Sylla and Wright offer thumbnail illustrated sketches of the major banks in the United States that bring their histories to life. It teaches and entertains at the same time. Well worth reading.

I spent the last hour going through the book, moments after it arrived, I was very anxious to get a look. Spent 38 years in the Banking Industry and wanted to review the history I lived through. However I was very disappointed in the omissions. A few examples: 1) PNC acquired Nat City is shown but not Nat City's acquisition of First of America nor their acquisition of Midwest Financial Group nor their mergers with United Bancorp, Comm NB of Peoria, Corn Belt Bank etc, etc. 2) Goldome was acquired by M&T but the specimen certificate is shown in the Key Bank chapter. 3) M&T Trust Co was the product of Fidelity Trust and M&T Bank and they acquired AM&A Bank, Genessee Trust Co, Central Park Bank of Buffalo, Bank of Corfu and several additional. 4) Bank One's acquisitions are not listed in any detail under JP Morgan, for instance FNB Rockford, IL nor is FNB Chicago's acquisition of American NB of Chicago included. There were other omissions but I think the point is made.

Good but not what I expected.

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