



Antigua Commercial Bank
Sir Louis H. Lockhart

“Even a Journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step.”

Sir Louis H. Lockhart (Born, October 17, 1922; Died, February 26, 2016) was one of the Bank’s founding fathers, having joined with another eight visionaries to form **The Antigua Co-operative Bank Limited** on October 20, 1955, over sixty (60) years ago. Undaunted by the unknown, Sir Louis’ commitment, dedication and leadership established a foundation that allowed for the Bank (renamed **Antigua Commercial Bank, February 2, 1972**) to become a national treasure, an indigenous financial institution that all Antiguan and Barbudans can be proud of.

A distinguished Attorney-at-Law by profession, Sir Louis was called to the English Bar, Gray’s Inn, in June, 1954 and started practicing, under Law Firm, Louis H. Lockhart Chambers. However, Sir Louis’ vision transcended his profession. His passion for the educational and financial success of the ordinary man inspired him to lead the other founding fathers in establishing the Bank in October 1955, before starting its operations on January 2, 1956.

*“The passing of Sir Louis, the day after our 60th Annual General Meeting was sad news to contemplate,” noted **Michael F. Roberts**, Chairman of the Board of Directors, ACB. “But even while we extend condolences to his family and loved ones, we can continue to pay tribute to his ambitious and determined nature, which was a catalyst for the formation and growth of Antigua Commercial Bank over decades.”*

“Sir Louis along with his contemporaries on the first Board of Directors, has instilled and inspired a confidence that we indigenous people can own, build and operate our own companies and organizations to not only endeavor, but also achieve great success. May his hard work now be rewarded by eternal peace.”

According to Sir Louis’ daughter **Patricia Samuel**, a current employee of ACB, “...arguably his greatest achievement was his contribution to the establishment of the nation’s first indigenous financial institution, Antigua Commercial Bank (the Penny Bank), in which the average, ordinary man and woman, could claim ownership through the purchase of shares. His immense pride in, and dedication to, the Bank was never in question, as he always ensured that he was kept abreast of the institution’s activities and progress.”

Sir Louis, a former Chairman of the Board of Directors of both **Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB)** and **ACB Mortgage & Trust Company Ltd.**, served as a Director for over 34 years until his retirement on October 17, 1992. On his retirement, he noted that “Fully operative in the minds of ACB Directors at every stage of our deliberations was the interest of our Institution, a shining beacon for the achievements of nationals and a thriving nation”.

Sir Clare K. Roberts Q.C., Sir Louis’ fellow colleague at the Bar and a former Chairman of the ACB Board of Directors, also commented upon hearing of his passing. “With genuine sadness, I learned of the passing of Sir Louis H. Lockhart, one of the founders and a former Chairman of Antigua Commercial Bank. Please accept my sincere sympathy on the loss of Sir Louis. I served on the Board of Directors of ACB with Sir Louis for many years. I can therefore attest to Sir Louis’ love for the Bank he lived long enough to see grow from a ‘Penny Bank’ to a ‘billion-dollar’ institution. He was particularly thrilled when the Bank endowed the **ACB Louis H. Lockhart Scholarship** in commemoration of his exemplary service to ACB.”

Since its launch in 1993, the **ACB Louis H. Lockhart Scholarship**, a prestigious academic scholarship on offer by Antigua Commercial Bank, has been synonymous with excellence, awarding top-performing students the opportunity to pursue their dreams. In the words of the first Scholarship Recipient, Howard Bayrd, “the Scholarship was an important springboard and catalyst for my subsequent academic successes. It was without question a career highlight and a truly humbling honor.”

In 2008, eight years before his death, Sir Louis, appearing at his last official Bank event, reinforcing his endorsement of the Bank’s commitment to the Scholarship Fund said, *“I have always believed that education is the vehicle to transport Antigua and Barbuda into unparalleled success.”*

His daughter Patricia noted, “I remember his commitment to his Faith, his love for his family and his willingness to embrace, and extend hospitality to, persons of all ages, and from all walks of life. He was a man of many parts: he gave 44 years of service to the Rotary Club, (attending meetings up to the week of his passing); he served as Attorney to the Roman Catholic Church for 35 years, and was a member of the first Board of Directors of the St. Joseph’s Academy. He played an active role in Carnival, and also drafted and registered the Constitution of the Antigua Workers’ Union...”

“Though he died at the age of 93 years, his mental acuity was not diminished in any way. He enjoyed life, and he was satisfied with the life he had lived, and those of us who shared his journey were the better for having done so,” she added.

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Antigua Commercial Bank take this opportunity to express our deepest sympathies to Sir Louis’ dear wife, Lady Joy, his family, friends and colleagues on the death of a treasured son of the soil, Sir Louis H. Lockhart. We remain eternally appreciative of his contribution to the ACB Group and generally to nation-building and pledge to continue to honour his legacy of unparalleled dedication and commitment.

The corporate flag at the ACB Headquarters will be flown at half-staff as a sign of respect to his illustrious contribution to the ACB Group.

MAY HIS SOUL CONTINUE TO REST IN PEACE