

HistoryHubUlster

Charity No: NIC106993

**NORTHERN BANKING
COMPANY, CUSHENDALL
BRANCH**

Gavin Bamford
History Hub Ulster

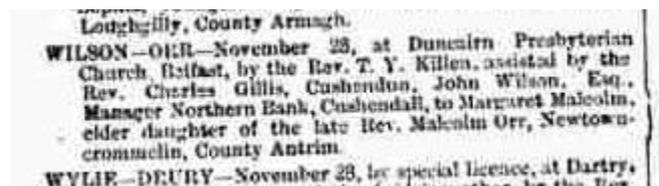
Northern Banking Company, Cushendall Branch

An old envelope addressed to 'J Wilson, Manager, Northern Bank, Cushendall' and postmarked 'Dublin 19, 14th March 1879' was recently discovered in an internet search.

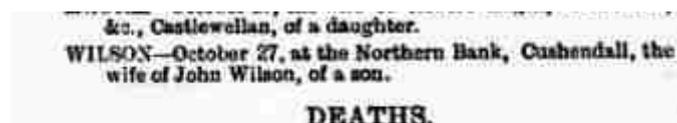


What is the story of this bank branch in the small County Antrim village of Cushendall?

The first point of contact via the British Newspaper Archive was a John Wilson's wedding details posted in the 'Marriages' column of the '*Northern Whig*'. On 28th November 1878, John Wilson, Bank Manager, Cushendall married Margaret Malcolm Orr, Belfast at Duncairn Presbyterian Church. John was of full age and was already a bank manager indicating a date of birth circa 1835/1840.

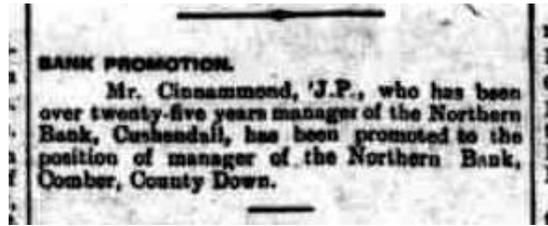


A son was born to the couple on 27th October 1879 as announced in the '*Coleraine Chronicle*' dated 1st November 1879.

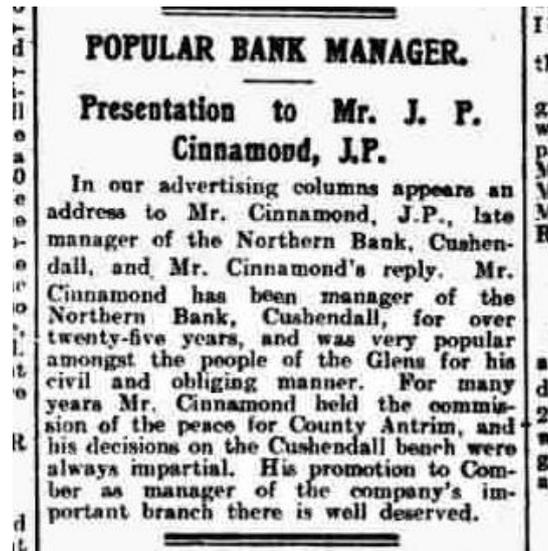


The '*Belfast Morning News*' of 6th October 1880 reported that an 'Address and Presentation' had been given to John Wilson on his 'leaving this neighbourhood for Fivemiletown'. 'The address was signed by the clergymen of all denominations, the resident gentry, and leading merchants of the place'. 'The presentation consisted of a solid silver teapot and salver' and bore the inscription 'Presented to John Wilson Esq., Sub-Manager of the Northern Bank, Cushendall, by his numerous friends in the Glens of Antrim, 4th October 1880'.

The next mention of the Cushendall bank branch was in the '*Irish News and Belfast Morning News*' edition of 27th September 1910. Mr Cinnamond J.P. who has been over twenty-five years manager of the Northern Bank, Cushendall has been promoted to position of manager of the Northern Bank, Comber, County Down. Mr Cinnamond would have moved to Cushendall in 1885.



The 'Northern Whig' edition of 19th October 1910 echoed the transfer of Mr Cinnamond to Northern Bank, Comber branch.



Mr L A Montgomery, Northern Bank, Cushendall was reported by the 'Northern Whig' of 21st April 1911 to be the Treasurer of the new golf course.

The 'Northern Constitution' edition of 4th May 1912 advised readers that the managership of Northern bank, Cushendall would be transferred to Mr C T Simpson.

Following the setting up of Northern Ireland on 3rd May 1921 there was serious burning of properties in County Antrim and the other counties. The 'Freemans' Journal' dated 22nd May 1922 reported that the following Cushendall properties had been destroyed during the fierce fighting: Police Barracks, Northern Bank, Motor Garage and Martinstown Station.



THE RUINS OF THE NORTHERN BANK, CUSHENDALL, FROM WHICH £200 WAS TAKEN BEFORE THE BURNING SET IT ON FIRE.

The branch and the bank house were totally destroyed in the malicious fire. The bank branch moved temporarily into the Temperance Hotel close by.

1922 saw the compensation claims for damage being settled. The *'Belfast News-letter'* of 8th June 1922 reported that Northern Banking Company Limited was awarded £4,600 for the destruction of the branch and a further £2,000 for money taken. Robert H Allen, manager, Northern Bank, Cushendall was awarded £5,000 for household furniture.

The *'Belfast News-Letter'* of 4th October 1922 further reported on the compensation claims. In the claim for the Northern Bank, Ballycastle Rural Council had arranged that a 'decree should be given for £2,750 for the premises, as they thought that was fair under the circumstances'. Miss Elizabeth G Bradbury, who was living in the Northern Bank, Cushendall when the premises were destroyed, claimed £450 for personal belongings burned and, by consent, was awarded £220, with £5 witnesses' expenses. The same principle was adopted for the claim by Mr Allen, the bank manager.

At some stage, the bank moved the branch into an adjoining building in Shore Street, Cushendall.



James O'Kane, Northern Bank, Cushendall was reported by the *'Larne Times'* of 1st October 1927 as being the honorary treasurer of the Cushendall Concert Committee.

The same newspaper on 17th November 1927 reported that Cushendall is losing Mr Hugh Lynagh who is being transferred on promotion to the Royal Avenue branch, Belfast. He was the successful secretary of the local Regatta and Sports Association for a time, and also a valued member of the Dramatic Club – taking part in some productions. Mr J P O'Kane has been re-elected honorary treasurer of the local branch of the Ulster Farmers Union.

1933 saw a fire occur at the residence of James Dickson, Cashier at Northern Bank, Cushendall. It was extinguished by the police sergeant before much damage was done.

In that same year, James O'Kane was vice president of the Cushendall School Attendance sub-committee.

In 1939 Mr E Sweeney, Northern Bank, Cushendall was involved in 'Agriculture in Cushendall'.

A 'Garvey College' advertisement in the '*Northern Whig*' of 24th July 1948 reported that a 'Miss E S M Sweeney, Northern Bank, Cushendall had been successful in an examination'.

The cleared site of the 1922 burnt branch was used to build a brand-new branch.



By 1967 the branch at Cushendall was also operating agencies in the neighbouring villages of Carnlough and Cushendun.

1981 and 1982 saw various legal trials of men involved in various incidents concerning the bank in Cushendall that included 3 raids in November 1974, April 1975 and May 1975 together with a case of blackmailing the manager in 1977.

After Northern Bank closed the branch, the building would later become a GP surgery before being turned in apartments.

