# Bessie D. Brooks Trust Scholarship

## History

Bessie Clapp Dunning was born in Bath, Maine on Aug. 18, 1872. She was the only living child of prominent Bath businessman and hotelier Charles Washington "Charlie" Dunning, and his wife Sarah B. Clapp. In 1891 Bessie graduated from the old Bath High School at 864 High Street (the site of the present-day Fire Dept.). This was quite a privilege, since many young people of her day were financially forced to leave school after Grade 8 and earn a living to help support their family.

In 1907 Bessie and her first husband Forrest Nelson moved to Boston for greater opportunity. Forrest died in 1912, and Bessie made her own way for 14 years, until she married Thomas Colby Brooks (who was born and raised in Westport, Maine). Tom had lived in the Boston area since 1888 and had established a successful manufacturing business there. By 1934 Bessie and Tom had moved back to Maine and were living in the Congress Square Hotel in Portland. Tom died in 1934, and Bessie in 1962.

Bessie had no children. After leaving generous bequests to several cousins and friends, her Will stated that she wanted to establish a trust "for the education and support of the boys and girls in whatever line or course such boys and girls seem best fitted…"

For over 30 years, students from Sagadahoc and Lincoln counties have benefitted from Bessie D. Brooks Trust scholarships for their higher education.

## Application Instructions

1. Applicants must either be residents of Sagadahoc or Lincoln County, or be graduates of (or graduating from) a high school *located* in either county and participating in an undergraduate program only.
2. All information requested on this application must agree with the following documents which must be attached to this application (please e-mail documents as .pdf files):
    a. A copy of your current Transcript
    b. A copy of the Financial Aid Package letter or form you received from the college or trade school which you are planning to attend
    c. If you do not receive the Financial Aid Package letter prior to the deadline for this application, then please submit a copy of your FAFSA application instead
3. Please return this application to **First National Wealth Management** by May 1, 2026 to be considered for the 2026/2027 school year.
4. **** Any application submitted *incomplete* will not be considered by the Bessie D. Brooks Trustees. ****

Thank you!

# Application for Bessie D. Brooks Trust Scholarship, Pg 1 of 2

Name _____Tel #_____

Address_____City, State, ZIP_____

Email_____

High School _____Class of 20_____

Student's
College ID # _____ Marital Status _____ GPA _____

College Name & Address

Course of Study _____

# Years Req'd _____ Years Completed _____ Annual Cost* _____
(*Tuition, Room & Board, Fees)

**Expected College Contributions:** Total Amount from Student $_____

(Check all that apply: ☐ Savings ☐ Summer Job ☐ Work Study)

from Parents $_____ Pell Grant/Subsidy $_____

Scholarships $_____Other (Amt & Source) $_____

Student
Signature _____Date _____

# Application for Bessie D. Brooks Trust Scholarship, Pg 2 of 2

Name _____Tel #_____

Please prepare a brief summary of your career plans:

Please share any special circumstances which affect your ability to fund your education:

Please return completed application and supporting documents to:

First National WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Attn: Bessie Brooks Scholarship
PO Box 940
Damariscotta, ME 04543

or e-mail application and supporting documents (.pdf files only) to bessiebrooks@thefirst.com