

# The Needham Trust Co. Robbery, 1934



*Funeral procession for Officer Haddock down Highland Avenue in Needham Heights*

The Needham Trust bank was robbed in February 1934 by the Millen-Faber gang from Boston – brothers Murton and Irving Millen, Abraham Faber. They timed the robbery by the train schedule, so that the trains passing across Great Plain Avenue would hinder the police trying to reach the Bank. The gang held up the Bank with machine guns – the first machine-gun crime in MA – wounding two of the Bank personnel, and briefly taking one hostage. During their escape, they also killed two members of Needham’s small police force, Forbes McLeod and Francis Haddock, as they responded to the alarm. Assigned to downtown patrol, Haddock and McLeod were well known in the community. The robbers also wounded a fireman, Timothy Coughlin, as they sped through the Heights.

The robbers were caught fairly quickly, and the men tried and executed. The slain officers were given heroes’ funerals; schools and offices were closed so people could attend to pay their respects. In gratitude for their sacrifice, the town voted pensions to support their widows, and the Bank established a fund to provide education for their young children.