

SIMMONS FIRST NATIONAL CORP

Form S-8

January 28, 2013

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 28, 2013.

Registration No. _____

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM S-8

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

SIMMONS FIRST NATIONAL CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Arkansas

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

6022

(Primary Standard Industrial
Classification Code Number)

71-0407808

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

501 Main Street

Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601

(870) 541-1000

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number,
including area code, of registrant=s principal executive offices)

Simmons First National Corporation

2011 Employee Stock Purchase Plan

(Full Title of the Plan)

J. Thomas May

Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer

Simmons First National Corporation

501 Main Street

Pine Bluff, AR 71601

(870) 541-1000

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone
number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies of all Communications to:

Patrick A. Burrow, Esq.

Quattlebaum, Grooms, Tull & Burrow PLLC

111 Center Street, Suite 1900

Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.:

Large accelerated filer ___ Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer ___ Smaller reporting company ___

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

| Title of securities to be registered | Amount to be registered(1) | Proposed maximum offering price per share(2) | Proposed maximum aggregate offering price(2) | Amount of registration fee |
|--|----------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|
| Common stock, \$0.01 par value per share | 60,000 | \$25.18 | \$1,510,800 | \$206.08 |

(1) The Simmons First National Corporation 2011 Employee Stock Purchase Plan authorizes the issuance of a maximum of 60,000 shares.

(2) Estimated pursuant to Rule 457(c), solely for the purpose of calculating the amount of the registration fee, based upon the average of the high and low prices reported on January 23, 2013, as reported on the NASDAQ Stock Exchange.



PART II
INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference

Simmons First National Corporation (the "Company") hereby incorporates by reference in this registration statement the following documents:

(a) The Company's latest annual report on Form 10-K filed pursuant to Sections 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), containing audited financial statements for the Company's latest fiscal year ended December 31, 2011 as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") on March 7, 2012 and the Company's reports on Form 10-Q for the periods ended March 31, 2012 (as filed with the SEC on May 10, 2012), June 30, 2012 (as filed with the SEC on August 9, 2012) and September 30, 2012 (as filed with the SEC on November 9, 2012).

(b) All other reports filed pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act since the end of the fiscal year covered by the registrant's Form 10-K referred to in (a) above, including but not limited to the Company's current reports on Form 8-K dated January 19, 2012, February 27, 2012, April 19, 2012, April 20, 2012, June 1, 2012, July 20, 2012, July 24, 2012, July 26, 2012, August 14, 2012, August 21, 2012, August 29, 2012, August 31, 2012, September 17, 2012, October 22, 2012, October 25, 2012, December 7, 2012 and January 7, 2013 and Form 8-K/A dated September 20, 2012, October 25, 2012, November 27, 2012 and January 3, 2013.

(c) The description of the Company's Common Stock contained in the Registration Statement on Form S-2, filed April 16, 1993 (File No. 0-06253), and any further amendment or report filed thereafter for the purpose of updating any such description.

All documents subsequently filed by the Company pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act, prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment to this registration statement which indicates that all securities offered hereby have been sold or which deregisters all securities remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this registration statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents.

Item 4. Description of Securities

Not Applicable.

Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.

Not Applicable.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Article Sixteenth of the Company's Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation provides that the Company's directors will not be personally liable to the Company or any of its shareholders for monetary damages resulting from breaches of their fiduciary duty as directors to the fullest extent permitted by the Arkansas Business Corporation Act of 1987, as amended. The 1987 Act permits the limitation of liability for monetary damages of directors for breaches of fiduciary duty, except (a) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the Company or its shareholders, (b) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (c) under Arkansas Code Annotated ' 4-27-833, as the same exists or hereafter may be amended, (d) for any transaction from which the director derived an improper personal benefit, or (e) for any action, omission, transaction, or breach of a director's duty creating any third party liability to any person or entity other than the Company or stockholder.

Section 4-27-850 of the Arkansas Business Corporation Act empowers Arkansas corporations to indemnify any former or current director or officer against expenses, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlements actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with any action, suit or proceeding, if such director or officer acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation and, with respect to any criminal proceeding had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful, except that no indemnification shall be made in connection with any action by or in the right of the corporation if such person is adjudged to be liable for negligence or misconduct in the performance of his duty to the corporation, unless the court determines that despite that adjudication of liability such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnify for such expenses actually and reasonably incurred by him.

Article Twelfth of the Company's Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation provides that the Company shall, to the full extent permitted by the Arkansas Business Corporation Act, indemnify all persons whom it may indemnify pursuant thereto.

The effect of the indemnification provisions contained in the Company's Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation is to require the Company to indemnify its directors and officers under circumstances where such indemnification would otherwise be discretionary.

The Company's Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation specify that the indemnification rights granted thereunder are enforceable contract rights which are not exclusive of any other indemnification rights that the director or officer may have under any by-law, vote of shareholders or disinterested directors or otherwise. As permitted under the Arkansas Business Corporation Act, the Company's Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation also authorize the purchase of directors' and officers' insurance for the benefit of its past and present directors and officers, irrespective of whether the Company has the power to indemnify such persons under Arkansas law. The Company currently maintains insurance as authorized by these provisions.

The Company's Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation also provide that expenses incurred by a director or officer in defending a civil or criminal lawsuit or proceeding arising out of actions taken in his official capacity, or in certain other capacities, will be paid by the Company in advance of the final disposition of the matter upon the approval of the Board or the shareholders and upon receipt of an undertaking from the director or officer to repay the sum advanced if it is ultimately determined that he is not entitled to be indemnified by the Company pursuant to applicable provisions of Arkansas law.

The indemnification provisions are not intended to deny or otherwise limit third party or derivative suits against the Company or its directors or officers. However, to the extent a director or officer were entitled to indemnification, the financial burden of a third party suit would be borne by the Company, and the Company would not benefit from derivative recoveries since the amount of such recoveries would be repaid to the director or officer pursuant to the agreements.

Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed.

Not Applicable.

Item 8. Exhibits

| Exhibit Number | Description of Exhibits |
|----------------|---|
| 5.1 | Opinion of Quattlebaum, Grooms, Tull & Burrow PLLC |
| 15.1 | Awareness Letter of BKD, LLP |
| 23.1 | Consent of BKD, LLP |
| 23.2 | Consent of Quattlebaum, Grooms, Tull & Burrow PLLC (included in opinion filed as Exhibit 5.1) |
| 24.1 | Power of Attorney (included on page S-1) |
| 99.1 | Simmons First National Corporation 2011 Employee Stock Purchase Plan |
| 99.2 | Simmons First National Corporation 2011 Employee Stock Purchase Plan Offering |

See Exhibit Index.

Item 9. Undertakings

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement; and

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement; provided, however, that paragraphs (1)(i) and (1)(ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, on January 28, 2013.

SIMMONS FIRST NATIONAL CORPORATION

By: /s/ J. Thomas May
J. Thomas May, Chairman of the Board
and Chief Executive Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints J. Thomas May and Robert A. Fehlman, and each of them, his true and lawful attorney-in-fact, as agent and with full power of substitution and resubstitution for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacity, to sign any or all amendments to this Registration Statement and any registration statement related to the same offering as this Registration Statement that is to be effective upon filing pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorney-in-fact and agents in full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully and to all intents and purposes as they might or be in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and their substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

| SIGNATURE | TITLE | DATE |
|--|---|------------------|
| /s/ J. Thomas May J. Thomas May | Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer) and Director | January 28, 2013 |
| /s/ Robert A. Fehlman Robert A. Fehlman | Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer) | January 28, 2013 |

| SIGNATURE | TITLE | DATE |
|--|---|------------------|
| /s/ David L. Bartlett David L. Bartlett | President & Chief Banking Officer and Director | January 28, 2013 |
| /s/ William E. Clark, II William E. Clark, II | Director | January 28, 2013 |
| /s/ Steven A. Cosse' Steven A. Cosse' | Director | January 28, 2013 |
| /s/ Edward Drilling Edward Drilling | Director | January 28, 2013 |
| /s/ Sharon Gaber Sharon Gaber | Director | January 28, 2013 |
| /s/ Eugene Hunt Eugene Hunt | Director | January 28, 2013 |
| /s/ George A. Makris, Jr. George A. Makris, Jr. | CEO Elect and Director | January 28, 2013 |
| /s/ W. Scott McGeorge W. Scott McGeorge | Director | January 28, 2013 |
| /s/ Harry L. Ryburn Harry L. Ryburn | Director | January 28, 2013 |
| /s/ Robert L. Shoptaw Robert L. Shoptaw | Director | January 28, 2013 |

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