



First Bank Title, July 17, 1884 - Feb. 25, 1886



Brown Back National Bank Notes

An Incredible Pair

by CHARLES G. COLVER

It is difficult to believe that the two Winona, Minnesota \$5 brown back type National Bank Notes described herein exist today. But it is still more incredible that they presently reside in two neighboring California note collections. Therein lies a tale.

A few years ago when the two California collectors were visiting at the Memphis paper money show, mention was made of a crisp uncirculated Winona \$5 brown back, serial #1. The other collector quickly perked up his ears; he had one too. Must be off the same sheet, but no, it was recalled they both were plate letter position "B". Must be some mistake, but let's look into the matter further.

Scene now shifts to this writer's kitchen table in Covina, California. At last the two collectors have set up an evening to compare notes. The coffee pot is steaming and out come the notes in question. Now, the facts are evident as some readers have probably guessed by now. The truth is the Winona bank had made a name change in 1886 and re-issued the serial #1 sheet of brown backs with the new title. We possessed a like note with the different title.

What a rare coincidence that these sister notes should again come together after all these years in far off California! Both \$5 brown backs, both plate letter "B",

both serial #1, both CU condition, both signed by the same cashier, but one signed by S. C. Porter as president and the other signed by his brother as "vice" president.

The National Bank of Winona was founded in 1884 and awarded charter #3224 by the Comptroller of Currency. With this title it issued only \$5 brown back type notes. The bank name was changed on Feb. 25, 1886 to The First National Bank of Winona. Again it issued \$5 brown backs starting at #1. This time around, \$10 and \$20 notes were also issued. The bank then continued to issue all three third charter period types as well as both types of the small size 1929 series.

Now the dilemma: Both collectors agree the twins should be side by side in the same collection. No question about this? But, neither wants to give up his prize at any price. Checkmate! Any Solomons out there?

CIRCULATION STATISTICS

<i>National Bank of Winona</i>	#3224
-chartered in 1884	
-succeeded #550	
-title changed to The First N. B. of Winona on Feb. 25, 1886	
-Large Size Circulation	
-Second Charter Brown Backs - Old Title	
5- 5- 5- 5 plate = \$ 46,560 worth; serials	1 - 2328
-Second Charter Brown Backs - New Title	
5- 5- 5- 5 plate = \$174,000 worth; serials	1 - 8700
10-10-10-20 plate = \$417,750 worth; serials	1 - 8355