

American Bank Note Engravers of the State Bank Note Era

Brief Biographies

by C. JOHN FERRERI

WHO were the artists whose work we so admire? Where did they come from? When did they live? What were their achievements?

At some point during a collector's life he must wonder about these things, and more. With this listing I hope to answer some of the questions that I am sure many of us have had tucked away for future attention.

The one overriding reason why people collect anything must be its beauty. Artists must excel at beauty and engravers must be good artists. The product of their toil is what we as collectors hold dear.

No doubt there were more engravers in the bank note business of the state note era than are listed here but the information on them has either been lost in obscurity or unavailable to this compiler despite diligent research.

Some painters went on to become bank note engravers and some bank note engravers went on to become more famous as painters. Often children, siblings or spouses of the engraver followed his example and became engravers in their own right. Some of the sculptors who designed our coinage of the 19th century were also engravers who contributed to the manufacture of the plates.

Many of the engravers found it beneficial to join with others in the trade, forming associations and corporations, the most successful in terms of lineage being the American Bank Note Company of New York, which is still in business today.

Listed here are the names of state bank note engravers along with some pertinent information which should help us understand and appreciate their work a little better. The names of engravers or lithographers of merchant scrip only should be compiled separately and do not appear in this listing.

ADAMS, WILLIAM (?). In association with an engraver named Baldwin he produced plates out of New York City. Did a fair amount of bank note work but information on both these gentlemen is sparse.

ARMSTRONG, WILLIAM G. Born 1823 in Montgomery County, Penn. He was a pupil of Longacre in Philadelphia. Devoted a part time of his life to the engraving of banknotes.

BALCH, VISTUS. Born in Williamstown, Mass. in 1799; died in Johnstown, N.Y. in 1884. He was in partnership with Samuel Stiles in Utica, N.Y.

BALD, J. DORSEY. One of the first trustees of American Bank Note Co. Was a partner in the Bald, Cousland Co.

BALDWIN, GEORGE D. 1823-1869. In association with an engraver named Adams out of New York City. See above.

BANNISTER, JAMES. 1821-1900. Born in England. Was apprenticed to the company of A.L. Dick of New York. His main concern was engraving portraits for book illustrations but he also did bank note engraving.

BARBER, JOHN WARNER. Born in 1798 in Windsor, Conn. Died in 1885. He was apprenticed to Abner Reed and probably did bank note engravings for his firm.

BOGARDUS, JAMES. Born 1800 in Catskill, N.Y. He invented a machine for producing bank notes from separate dies. Died in 1874.

CARPENTER, SAMUEL H. 1800-1870. In 1854 he was associated with Charles Toppan to form the Toppan, Carpenter & Co. firm.

CASILEAR, JOHN W. Born in New York, 1811; died, 1893. Was apprenticed at 15 years of age to Peter Maverick, where he became an excellent line engraver. He also studied bank note engraving under A.B. Durand. Went on to become a landscape painter of good reputation. Became an associate and then full Academician of the National Academy in 1851.

CLARK, ASAHIEL. 1800-1836(?). Born in Cooperstown, N.Y. Associated with Ralph Rawdon, forming Rawdon, Clark & Co. of Albany, N.Y.

CLARK, JAMES. Worked for an establishment at 67 Broadway, New York City in 1840, engraving bank notes, etc.

COUSLAND, WILLIAM. 1825-1856(?). Worked in association with J. Dorsey Bald about 1853 under the name of Bald, Cousland & Co. New York & Philadelphia.

CUSHMAN, GEORGE H. Born at Windham, Connecticut in 1814, died in Jersey City, N.J., 1876. He was a pupil of Asaph Willard, an engraver in Hartford, Conn. Mr. Willard was an active member of the Graphic Banknote Co. in Hartford and we can assume that George Cushman lent his talents to that firm.

DAGGETT, ALFRED. Born in New Haven, Conn. in 1799 and died there in 1872. He was a line engraver of portraits and bank note vignettes.

DANFORTH, MOSELY ISAAC. Born in Hartford, Conn. in 1800; died in New York in 1862. He was apprenticed to Asaph Willard of the Graphic Banknote Co. in Hartford. He was one of the founders of the National Academy of Design in 1826. He was associated in business with many of his colleagues and was vice-president of American Bank Note Co. at the time of this death.

DARLING, CHARLES C. —1837(?). Was for a short time associated with one of the Jocelyns producing bank note plates in Connecticut.

DELNOCE, LUIGI. 1822-1890. Born in Italy, died in New York. Worked producing book illustrations but chiefly engaged in bank note work.

DOOLITTLE, AMOS. Born in Cheshire, Conn., 1754; died in New Haven, Conn., 1832. He was credited with producing many of the primitive bank note engravings of the late 1700's and early 1800's. Famous for engraving on copper the battles of Lexington and Concord while serving in the Revolutionary Army.

DRAPER, JOHN. 1770-1865(?). An apprentice of Robert Scot of Philadelphia. He was associated with many other engravers from 1810 through 1861 under various firm names.

DUNNELL, E.G. He was an excellent landscape engraver and was by 1847 employed with the firm Rawdon, Wright & Hatch. He soon left the field of engraving for the pulpit.

DURAND, ASHER BROWN. Born in Jefferson, N.J., 1796; died in South Orange, N.J., 1886. He was an apprentice to Peter Maverick and in 1817 became a partner of his preceptor, forming the company of Maverick and Durand. His talent in line engraving was evidenced in his engraving of the "Declaration of Independence" after the painting of John Trumbull. Formed a bank note company with his brother Cyrus and another with Joseph Perkins. He left engraving for the brush and palette and became quite famous as an American painter.

DURAND, CYRUS. Born in Jefferson, N.J., 1787; died at Irvington, N.J., 1868. He was the elder brother of Asher B. He was mostly a mechanic and produced a machine for Peter Maverick for ruling straight and wavy lines for bank note work. He was also credited with making the first geometric lathe in America. His life was devoted to invention and perfection of machinery used in bank note production. He was also a partner with his brother under the name of A.B. & C. Durand.

DUTHIE, JAMES. 1825-1876(?). He was a business partner with John E. Gavit about 1849. Born and educated in England, he was more famous for his book illustrations.

EDMUNDS, FRANCIS W. 1806-1863. For a short time in 1858 was a partner in the firm of Edmunds, Jones & Smillie. This firm, shortly after starting up, joined the association of the American Bank Note Co.

EDSON, TRACY. 1809-1881. He was a member of the Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson firm, which soon became associated with American Bank Note. Because of his administrative skills he eventually became its president.

FAIRMAN, GIDEON. Born in Newton, Conn., 1774; died in Philadelphia in 1827. He opened an office in Albany in 1796 but in 1810 moved to Philadelphia for the formation of the Murray, Draper and Fairman Co. Like many engravers he was in partnership with other engravers also at different times.

FAIRMAN, RICHARD. 1788-1821. He was the brother of Gideon and worked for a time for his brother's firm.

GAVIT, JOHN. Born in New York in 1817; died at Stockbridge, Mass., 1874. Learned the bank note engraving business in Albany, N.Y. In 1855, he assisted in the formation of American Bank Note Co. He was elected president of this company in 1866 and held that position until his death. About 1849, he was in business with James Duthie.

GOLDTHWAIT, G.H. This man apparently was working as a bank note engraver in Boston in 1842.

GOODHALL, ALBERT GALLATIN. Born in Montgomery, Ala., 1826; died in New York in 1887. He learned copperplate engraving in Havana in 1844. He moved to Philadelphia in 1848 and began engraving bank notes on steel. Eventually became a trustee of the American Bank Note Co.

HALBERT, AUGUST. He was a nephew and probably pupil of J.F.E. Prud'homme. At about 1835, he was working for Harper

Bros. in New York. By 1838, he was employed by the firm of Rawdon, Wright & Hatch. His specialty was line engraving.

HALL, GEORGE R. Born in London in 1818; died in 1858(?). He was the brother of H.B. Hall, Sr. and was also his pupil. He came to New York in 1854 and was employed by Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Co.

HALL, PETER. Born in Birmingham, England in 1828; died in Brooklyn, N.Y. in 1892 or 1895. He came to the United States in 1849 and learned to engrave while employed at American Bank Note Co. His specialty was script engraving. He was also a talented engraver in the stipple method.

HAMLIN, WILLIAM. He was born in Providence, R.I. in 1772 and died there in 1869. He was established as a manufacturer and repairer of sextants and quadrants and other nautical instruments. He was self-taught and his work was primitive but filled a need at that time. He was an admirer of George Washington and consequently some of his best plates have him for their subject.

HAMMOND, J.T. He was a good line engraver of landscapes and subject plates in 1839 and was employed in Philadelphia. He later moved to St. Louis, Mo. He evidently was a partner in the engraving firm of Woodruff and Hammond, producing plates for many mid-western banks.

HANKS, O.G. 1821-1879(?). Born in Troy, N.Y. He was a capital line engraver of both portraits and landscapes. He studied with the firm of Rawdon, Wright & Hatch in New York.

HARRIS, JAMES. A line engraver working in New York. This was probably the person who was in partnership with Alfred Sealey, engraving bank note plates in New York City.

HARRISON, CHARLES. In 1840, he was working as a letter engraver in New York and for many years worked as an engraver for American Bank Note Co.

HARRISON, DAVID B. He was a bank note engraver for many years in the employ of American Bank Note Co. He continued to engrave until 90 years of age.

HARRISON, RICHARD G. He was a line engraver who was probably one of several sons of William Harrison, Sr. who came to Philadelphia in 1794. He was engraving book plates before entering the bank note field. After 1822, he is called "bank note engraver" in the Philadelphia directories.

HARRISON, WILLIAM. Born in England, died in Philadelphia, 1803. He was the grandson of John Harrison who invented the chronometer. He learned engraving in London and for a while was employed by the Bank of England. In 1794, he came to Philadelphia to engrave for the Bank of Pennsylvania.

HARRISON, WILLIAM, JR. He was a son of the previously mentioned William Harrison. He was an engraver in both the line and stipple manner during the early 1800's and was most likely employed by the bank note companies.

HARRISON, WILLIAM F. He was an excellent letter engraver and was employed by various bank note companies 1831-40.

HATCH, GEORGE W. 1804-1866. Born in western New York, died at Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. He was one of the first students in the National Academy of Design in 1826. He was also a pupil of Asher B. Durand. He was a good line engraver and was drawing and engraving vignettes in Albany and New York City. Many of his bank

note engravings are signed. He eventually became president of American Bank Note Co. in 1863.

HAY, De WITT CLINTON. 1819-1887. Born near Saratoga, N.Y. In 1850, he was an apprentice with the firm Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Smillie in New York. Eventually he became a partner in the firm of Wellstood, Hanks, Hay & Whiting.

HEATH, CHARLES. He is credited with engraving the first notes to be issued by a private bank in America. This was the Bank of North America of Philadelphia. He worked in the 1790's.

HINSCHELWOOD, ROBERT. Born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1812; died 1891. He came to the U.S. about 1835 and was employed as a landscape engraver by Harpers and other New York publishers. He also worked in Cincinnati about 1855 and later became employed by the Continental Bank Note Co. of New York. He married a sister of James Smillie, another bank note engraver, and some of his plates are engraved after Smillie's drawings.

HORTON, (?). Probably came from Providence. He was an engraver of portraits and views. About 1830-35 was employed in Philadelphia and Baltimore for various publishers. He also engraved for book publishers in Providence as early as 1823. His primitive engravings are in evidence on some issues of notes issued in the New England area.

HOUSE, T. He was a banknote engraver employed chiefly by the Boston concerns. He was at work as early as 1836. He died about 1865.

HUFFY, SAMUEL. 1800-1853(?). Worked during the 1840's and was in association with Mosely Danforth during most of his bank note engraving career.

JOCELYN, NATHANIEL. Born in New Haven, Conn. in 1796; died there in 1891. He was the son of a watchmaker. He was an apprentice engraver at 18 years of age and at 21 entered into partnership with Tisdale, Danforth & Willard in the Hartford Graphic and Banknote Engraving Co. Later with Mr. Danforth he founded the National Banknote Engraving Co. He also worked with his brother Simeon S. and executed quite a number of plates under the name of N. & S.S. Jocelyn. Eventually he tired of engraving and became a portrait painter. He was made an Academician of the National Academy on May 13, 1846.

JOCELYN, SIMEON S. Born in New Haven, Conn. in 1799; died at Tarrytown, N.Y. in 1879. His specialty was line portraits. He engraved drawings of his brother Nathaniel and entered into business with him in 1827 under the name of N. & S.S. Jocelyn. He was also associated with S.B. Munson as bank note engravers.

JONES, ALFRED. Born in Liverpool, England in 1819. He was accidentally killed in New York in 1900. In 1834, he was apprenticed to the firm of Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson of Albany, N.Y. He later became a partner in the firm of Edmonds, Jones & Smillie. He was made an Academician of the National Academy in 1851. As a line engraver he had few, if any, superiors in this country.

KEARNY, FRANCIS. Born in Perth Amboy, N.J. about 1780. He was a student of Peter Maverick in New York. He did considerable work in line, stipple and aquatint. He became a member of the firm of Tanner, Vallance, Kearney & Co. of Philadelphia about 1823.

LENEY, WILLIAM SATCHWELL. Born in London, England, 1769; died at Longue Pointe, Canada, 1831. He was a pupil of the well-known English engraver Peltro W. Tompkins and his work bears evidence of careful training in the art of stipple engraving. He

came to the U.S. in 1805 and is most likely the engraver associated with William Rollinson, turning out bank note plates in the 1820's.

LONGACRE, JAMES BARTON. Born in Delaware County, Penn. in 1794; died in Philadelphia in 1869. He was taught to engrave by George Murray in Philadelphia. He was a noted engraver in the stipple manner. He was also the designer of the U.S. Indian cent in 1864. He became a partner in the firm of Draper, Toppan, Longacre & Co. in 1837; bank note plates were their main concern.

MAJOR, JAMES PARSONS. Born at Frome, Somersetshire, England in 1818; died at Somerville N.J., 1900. He came to the United States as a bank note engraver in 1830. For over 55 years he was in charge of the engraving and modeling department of what is now the American Bank Note Co.

MARSHALL, WILLIAM EDGAR. Born in New York in 1837; died there in 1906. He was employed by American Bank Note in 1858 but subsequently went on to painting. He was distinguished by having engraved many famous personalities, including Lincoln, Longfellow, Grant, Sherman and Theodore Roosevelt.

MASON, D.H. The Philadelphia directories of 1805-18 listed D.H. Mason as a music engraver. In 1816, he executed bank note engravings for the firm of Murray, Draper, Fairman & Co. He was also an architect.

MAVERICK, PETER. Born in New York in 1780; died there in 1831. He was son and pupil of Peter Rushton Maverick, one of the early engravers of New York. Sometime after 1802, he was practicing in Newark, N.J. and was the preceptor of Asher B. Durand. In 1817, they formed a partnership. He was one of the founders of the National Academy of Design in 1826. Peter was from a family of engravers. He had two daughters, a brother, son and father in the business.

MUNSON, SAMUEL B. Born in Connecticut in 1806; died in Cincinnati, Ohio, 1880 (1850?). In 1830-35, he was engraving in association with S.S. Jocelyn in New Haven. In 1836, he moved to Cincinnati as part of the firm Doolittle and Munson.

MURRAY, G. Born in Scotland (1770?); died in Philadelphia in 1822. He was a pupil of the British engraver, Anker Smith. In 1810, he organized the bank note and general engraving firm of Murray, Draper, Fairman & Co.

NEWCOMB, D. This name as engraver appears on vignettes on title pages of books published in Boston in 1820. Judging by his work, he was probably one of the bank note engravers then in business in Boston.

NICHOLS, FREDERICK B. Born in Bridgeport, Conn. in 1824; died sometime after 1906. He learned engraving with the firm of Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Smillie, the last mentioned being his chief instructor. In 1848, he invented a process for relief engraving.

ORMSBY, WATERMAN LILLY. Born in Hampton, Windham County, Connecticut in 1809; died in Brooklyn, N.Y. in 1883. He was a student in the National Academy of Design in 1829. He was engraving on his own soon after. Having a mechanical mind, he invented a ruling machine, a transfer press, and a gammagraph, all useful tools in bank note engraving. He was a champion of the single vignette method of engraving particular denominations of bank notes so as to foil counterfeiting. This method is in evidence on many of his bank note plates.

OURDAN, JOSEPH PROSPER. Born in New York City in 1828; died in Washington, D.C. in 1881. He served his apprenticeship under W.L. Ormsby in New York. Joseph taught his father Joseph

James how to engrave, who in turn found employment with the United States Treasury Dept. He was employed at one time or another by the Continental and National Bank Note Companies of New York and the American Bank Note Co. of Philadelphia.

PACKARD, RAWSON. In 1839, he was engraving and in partnership with the firm of Hall, Packard & Cushman.

PARADISE, JOHN WESLEY. Born in New Jersey in 1809; died in New York in 1862. He was a pupil of Asher B. Durand and became an admirable line engraver of portraits. He was one of the founders of the National Academy in 1826. He was chiefly employed as a bank note engraver.

PEASE, JOSEPH IVES. Born in Norfolk, Conn. in 1809; died in Salisbury, Conn. in 1883. He was the inventor of a power loom and a propeller for boats. He was an apprentice with the Hartford engraver Oliver Pelton. He devoted the later portion of his life to bank note engraving.

PELTON, OLIVER. Born in Portland, Conn. in 1798; died at East Hartford, Conn. in 1882. He was first a pupil and then partner of Abner Reed in Hartford. In 1827, he was established in business in Boston and in 1836, the firm of Terry & Pelton was in business engraving bank notes in the same city. His specialty was line engraving of portraits.

PERKINS, JACOB. Born in Newburyport, Mass. in 1776; died in London, England in 1849. He was actually a silversmith and made the dies for the Massachusetts copper coinage of 1787. He was somewhat an engraver but more accurately an inventor of bank note plate machinery and production methods. He made practical the use of steel in place of copper for bank note plates, thereby lengthening their useful life. He also helped in developing a method of duplicating engraved steel plates, the process being called "siderography." His most notable invention as far as collectors are concerned was the stereotype steel plate.

PERKINS, JOSEPH. Born in Unity, N.H. in 1788; died in New York City in 1842. In 1818, he trained in Philadelphia to learn script engraving. In 1825 he went into partnership with Asher B. Durand in the bank note engraving firm of Durand, Perkins & Co.

PRUD'HOMME, JOHN FRANCIS EUGENE. Born on the island of Saint Thomas, West Indies in 1800; died in Georgetown, D.C. in 1892. He was an engraver of portraits in stipple. In 1852, he became interested in bank note engraving and after 1869 was employed by the Treasury Department.

PURCELL, EDWARD. 1810-1860(?). Was a partner in the firm of Jocelyn & Purcell about 1850.

RAWDON, FREEMAN. Born in Tolland, Conn. in 1804; died 1859. He was the pupil of his brother Ralph Rawdon, then an engraver in Albany, N.Y. He was the Rawdon of Rawdon, Wright & Hatch and Rawdon, Wright & Co.

RAWDON, RALPH. 1790-1860(?). In 1813, he was engraving in Cheshire, Conn. About 1816, he moved to Albany, N.Y. and with his brother Freeman and Asaph Willard went into the bank note and general engraving business.

REED, ABNER. Born in East Windsor, Conn. in 1771; died in Toledo, Ohio in 1866. He was apprenticed to a saddle maker and started his engraving career working on the metal name plates on saddles. In 1803, he settled in Hartford, Conn. He was one of the earliest bank note engravers in this country and produced plates for both U.S. and Canadian banks. He engraved the plates for the Hart-

ford Bank in 1792. Among the apprentices in his employ were Asaph Willard, Oliver Pelton, Alfred Daggett, Vistus Balch and William Phelps, a plate printer.

RICE, JAMES R. Born in Syracuse, N.Y. in 1824. He studied engraving under his brother W.W. Rice of Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Co. of New York in 1846.

RICE, W.W. 1820-1860(?). He was an engraver of portraits and subject plates of the firm of Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Co. of New York.

ROLLINSON, WILLIAM. Born in Dudley, Staffordshire, England in 1762 or 1772; died in New York in 1842. He was probably a silversmith and learned to engrave on plate. It is said he was the engraver who ornamented the silver buttons on the coat worn by Washington at his inauguration as President. He is most likely the engraver who was associated with William Satchwell Leney under the firm name of Leney and Rollinson.

ROST, CHRISTIAN. 1824-1896. Born in Germany, studied in Paris and London. By 1860 he was a well-known engraver in New York and about the same time became employed at American Bank Note Co. One of his engravings appears as the main vignette on the notes of the Lewiston Falls Bank of Maine. The scene is of the falls at Lewiston.

SEALY, ALFRED. Born in the United States and is said to have died in Canada about 1862. He was a line engraver and devoted most of his later life to bank note work.

SMILLIE, JAMES. Born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1807; died in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. in 1885. Came to New York in 1829, and in 1851 became an Academician of the National Academy. He excelled as a line engraver of landscapes. From 1861, he devoted his time solely to bank note engraving. He had two sons and a brother who were also in this line of work.

SMILLIE, JAMES DAVID. Born in New York in 1833; died in 1909. He was a son of James Smillie and taught by him. He was a founder of the New York Etching Club and was made an Academician of the National Academy in 1876. His principal specialty was bank note engraving but he also produced general work.

SMILLIE, WILLIAM CUMMING. Born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1813; died in 1908. He was connected with several bank note companies, the last of which, Edmunds, Jones & Smillie, was later absorbed by American Bank Note Co. In 1866, he secured a contract to engrave the paper currency of the Canadian government and established a bank note company in Ottawa.

SMILLIE, WILLIAM MAIN. Born in New York in 1835; died there in 1888. He was a son of James Smillie and was known as an expert letter engraver. He was long employed by one of the firms that in 1857 merged into the American Bank Note Co. In 1880, he became vice-president of that firm.

SMITH, GEORGE GIRDLER. Born at Danvers, Mass. about 1799; died in Boston about 1858. He was probably a pupil of Able Bowen, the Boston engraver. Sometime after 1830, he was engaged in the bank note engraving business with Terry and Pelton, and when that firm was absorbed by another he went back into the general engraving field. He was an engraver in both the line and stipple manner.

SPENCER, ASA. Born in New England in 1790(?); died in England in 1847 (1853?). In 1815, he was a member of the bank note engraving firm of Murray, Draper, Fairman & Co. He invented a process of applying lathework to bank note engravings. He also had a hand

in developing a technique known as "medallion engraving." He later on was in partnership with the firms of Underwood, Bald, Spencer & Co.; Underwood, Bald, Spencer, & Hufty; Danforth, Bald, Spencer & Hufty; and Danforth, Spencer & Hufty.

STEEL, JAMES W. Born in Philadelphia, Penn. in 1799; died there in 1879. He was a pupil of George Murray and for a time was engaged in the bank note engraving business for Tanner, Vallance, Kearney & Co.

STILES, SAMUEL. Born in East Windsor, Conn. in 1796; died in New York in 1861. He served his apprenticeship as an engraver with Abner Reed and for a while engraved plates under the name of Reed & Stiles sc. In 1824, he moved to Utica, N.Y. and formed a general engraving business with Vistus Balch. He was also at one time a partner in the firm of Stiles, Sherman & Smith.

TANNER, BENJAMIN. Born in New York, 1775; died in Baltimore, Md., 1848. He was possibly a pupil of Peter R. Maverick. In 1816-24, he was a member of the firm of Tanner, Vallance, Kearney & Co. He was both a line and stipple engraver.

TANNER, HENRY S. Born in New York City in 1786; died there in 1858. Although he was an engraver of maps and charts, he invented a process of bank note engraving which was intended to increase the difficulty of counterfeiting.

TERRY, W.D. In 1836, in connection with Oliver Pelton, he formed the Boston Banknote Co. This firm also did general engraving. Some of his early work was signed at Providence, R.I.

TIEBOUT, CORNELIUS. Born about 1770 in New York; died in Kentucky about 1830. He learned the basics of engraving in New York but went to London to seek instruction under more able masters. He excelled in the stipple manner of engraving.

TISDALE, ELKANAH. Born in Lebanon, Conn. about 1771; died sometime after 1825 (1835?). He practiced engraving in Hartford, Conn. until about 1825. During this time he became a member of the firm, Graphic Banknote Co., where he worked as a designer of vignettes rather than an engraver.

TOPPAN, CHARLES. Born in Newburyport, Mass. in 1796; died sometime after 1868 (1874?). He was a pupil of Gideon Fairman. After the death of Fairman, he became a partner in the firm of Draper, Toppan, Longacre & Co. This firm changed names a few more times and was then absorbed into the American Bank Note Co. Charles Toppan became president of American Bank Note Co. in 1858.

TUCKER, WILLIAM E. Born in Philadelphia in 1801; died there in 1857. He was a pupil of Francis Kearney in Philadelphia and also studied in England. He was an excellent engraver in line and stipple. He is most likely the person involved in the bank note firm of Woodruff & Tucker.

UNDERWOOD, THOMAS. Born about 1795; died at Lafayette, Ind. in 1849. He was a good bank note engraver and during his career was a partner in at least seven bank note engraving firms, all bearing his name.

VALLANCE, JOHN. Born in Scotland; died in Philadelphia in 1823. He was one of the founders of the Association of Artists in America. He was an excellent script engraver and was a member of the firm Tanner, Vallance, Kearney & Co. of Philadelphia. Some early bank notes bear his name.

WARREN, A. COOLIDGE. Born in Boston in 1819; died in New York in 1904. He was the son of Asa Warren, a portrait and minia-

ture painter. He served as apprentice under G.G. Smith, the Boston engraver. For a number of years he was employed by the New England Banknote Co. In 1863, he moved to New York and commenced work with the Continental Bank Note Co.

WELSH, CHARLES. 1820-1859(?). He was engraving bank notes in the early 1840's. He later became associated with John Draper. Subsequently his firm was absorbed by the American Bank Note Co.

WELLSTOOD, JOHN GEIKIE. Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1813; died some time after 1880. He came to New York in 1830 and was employed by Rawdon, Wright & Co. In 1848, he formed the firm of Wellstood, Benson & Banks. This firm eventually merged with the American Bank Note Co.

WHITING, WILLIAM H. 1812-1861(?). Was engraving in 1852 with the firm of Wellstood, Hanks, Hay & Whiting. After one more name change this firm was merged with the American Bank Note Co.

WILLARD, ASAPH. He was in business in Albany, N.Y. as early as 1816. He was a member of the firms Willard and Rawdon and the Graphic Banknote Co.

WOODRUFF, WILLIAM. He was an adequate engraver in both line and stipple. After 1824, he moved to Cincinnati and was most likely the partner in the bank note engraving firm of Woodruff and Hammond.

WRIGHT, CHARLES CUSHING. Born 1800 in Damariscotta, Maine; died in New York in 1854. In 1824, he was associated with Asher B. Durand in New York engraving medals to be awarded by national and state governments. He was one of the founders of the National Academy of Design in 1826. He was most likely the partner in Durand, Wright & Co. and Wright and Prentiss, both bank note engraving firms.

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A-Z Financial Americana Issues 20-Page Price List

Nineteenth and early twentieth century checks are featured in the newly released 20-page price list of A-Z Financial Americana, 1416 So. Big Bend Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63117.

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