

The State of EXAS Civil War Currency

A Review and Reclassification of Texas Treasury Warrants

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Preface

IN 1986 Texas will celebrate the sesquicentennial anniversary of her independence. As a personal commitment to this celebration and to the enhancement of understanding the history of the Lone Star State the author has dedicated the research and results of this article.

Introduction

FOR those interested in the paper money issued by the individual Confederate states during the Civil War period, the issues of the state of Texas can be best described as being "different". From an aesthetic quality the kindest critique would be to call them boringly simple and unappealing. Specifically, what makes Texas notes different from other Southern states is their "plain vanilla" appearance, their division into use for either civil or military expenditures and labeling them "treasury warrants".¹ This has forced numismatic cataloguers Criswell² and Medlar³ into lumping all of the state of Texas Civil War period notes together, with little consideration of their historical grouping. That has been a simple and, perhaps, acceptable method of classification for dealers but has contributed little to stimulate the interest or curiosity of collectors.

According to the list of the authorizing acts of the Texas Legislature as shown by one cataloger,⁴ it is indicated that all of the acts, both those for civil and those for military service, were utilized to approve the release of all the catalogued treasury warrants. This eliminates the use of the authorizing dates as a means of classifying these warrants as is done with the issues of other Southern states. However, a further study of these Texas notes shows that there are three basic groups of notes. These can be described in simple terms as (I) script style type-set, (II) vignette with lace overprint, and (III) fancy two-color notes. In conjunction with these different printing styles, some variations in the

wording of the text on the notes aid in developing these groups and establishing a chronological sequence of their printing.

The catalog listing of state-issued Civil War period currency of other Southern states is done in groups by the printed date of issue because such identification is easy and generally only a few dates are involved. The state of Texas, with a greater multiplicity of dates (19 different handwritten dates) and a more look-alike currency, has discouraged the grouping by date method of cataloguing. Nevertheless, a grouping of the Texas currency can be achieved, which makes sense and relates to the apparent chronological sequence of their issuance. This grouping, as indicated above, separates them into similarities of printing and wording styles. The first group (I. script style type-set) to be released is based on the assumption that this printing style most closely imitated the style of treasury warrants used by Texas prior to secession both in printing and context. The second group (II. vignette with lace overprint) to be issued is assumed on the basis of a change in wording on the warrant (see Appendix 2). Texas Governor Francis R. Lubbock⁵ recognized the need to make treasury warrants receivable for payments due the state.⁶ The text on the notes (Group II) was amended to include the words "Receivable for State Dues". Then, as the economy further deteriorated with the problems of war, the blockade, and inflation, came the need to raise money by the sale of state bonds, which brought about another wording change. This caused the third and last group of notes (III. fancy two-colored) to be released which now included the words "Fundable in Eight Per Cent Bonds", which was sometimes changed with a handwritten "six" percent.

A regrouping to recognize the sequence of issuance of these Texas Treasury Warrants is shown in Appendix 1. This is based on the three printing styles and wording groups as described above. The appendix shows the groups of the notes in denomination sequence with the catalog numbers assigned by the two popular catalogs. There is no intention to create a new set of catalog numbers.

Historical Background

Texas was the seventh Southern state to pass an ordinance of secession (February 1, 1861) and joined the Confederate States of America on March 6, 1861. The Lone Star State had been a member of the United States for only 15 years and had the distinction of being the only sovereign nation to enter that compact of states. However, when Texas joined the Union it brought with it a lot of economic difficulties. The problems of forming a government, fighting a war to gain her independence, securing the frontier against hostile Indians, and assorted other woes, left little in the Texas Treasury. When Texas joined the new compact of Southern states being formed at Montgomery these financial problems provided a difficult base with which to begin over again. Not that the Texans were spendthrifts, quite to the contrary; they were tightfisted conservatives. However, to secede they had to borrow funds.

"The (Texas) secession convention contemplating the acquisition of the (U.S.) government military stores and the removal from the State of the Federal troops (who were protecting the frontier against Indian attack) . . . (the convention) deemed it advisable to raise funds to defray the necessary expenses. The president (of the secession convention) was authorized to negotiate a loan of \$100,000, which was (unsuccessfully) attempted in New Orleans by General E. B. Nichols, appointed agent for that purpose."⁷

In a message to the Texas Legislature on February 6, 1861 Governor Sam Houston admonished the legislature, "In view of the contemplated speedy adjournment of the Legislature, the Executive would again call your attention to the embarrassed condition of the finances, and press upon your attention the importance of adopting such measures as will sustain the government during the present fiscal year . . . the possibility of a severance of the connection of Texas with the Federal Union (the citizens of Texas had not yet voted on secession), render it imperative that money should be raised to sustain the government, so that in such a contingency, the people of the State may be ready to meet any emergency that may come upon them."⁸ In a month Governor Houston would be out of office because of his refusal to swear an oath of allegiance to the Confederate States of America.

Texas Governor Sam Houston (December 1859—March 1861) was no stranger to the realities of state finances and state issued paper money. Many of the notes issued by the earlier Republic of Texas carried the signature of Sam Houston. In all probability he designed the format of the script style type-set (Group I) notes issued at the beginning of the war. Now, while serving as governor prior to secession, he had a continuing feud with Texas Comptroller Clement R. Johns.⁹ The Texas Legislature had passed an Act on February 3, 1860 (Criswell M-1), which authorized the disbursement of pay due the Texas Rangers (which at that time was a militia rather than a police force) for active service in what was called the "Cortinas War". On May 22, 1860 Governor Houston wrote the comptroller with the question as to whether the \$300,000 approved by the act could be furnished by the Texas Treasury. Houston indicated that if cash was not available "certificates of indebtedness to an amount not exceeding \$200,000 may be issued upon which, in the opinion of the Executive, ten per-cent interest should be paid." Houston further indicated in this letter, "Enclosed I send to you a form of scrip I wish issued." Though the ten percent interest was never approved, it would appear that the Group I treasury warrants were probably of the same

design suggested by Sam Houston. A few days later, May 29th, Governor Houston, in another letter to Comptroller Johns, acknowledges the information from Johns that there was no money in the treasury and the governor again authorized the issuance of the scrip.¹⁰

The bureaucratic squabbling would continue. On July 10, 1860 Houston in another letter to Comptroller Johns, stated "You wish to be informed whether I desire you to proceed to issue scrip for the payment to the Rangers. Such companies as you have been furnished with certified copies of the pay rolls, vouchers and accounts, and I will countersign the warrants if they are correct. Upon pay rolls which no payments have been made you will issue your warrant upon certificate of the paymaster."¹¹

On November 3, 1860 Governor Houston wrote to State Treasurer Cyrus H. Randolph,¹² "You are hereby notified that I will countersign no warrants issued by the Comptroller for the pay of Rangers except such as may be issued upon the certificate of the Paymaster. The Comptroller having published notice that he will issue warrants to Colonel Dalrymple's Company, you are hereby notified that his action in such case is in defiance of law and such warrants will be by Proclamation declared void."¹³

In recommending that the warrants carry 10% interest, Houston admitted that there was not "a positive law authorizing interest . . . but [was] willing to take the responsibility of assuring the public that the Legislature will pay interest on it. Unless this is done, the certificates of debt will at once depreciate to 80 cents on the dollar, for parties cannot afford to take them at par and wait two years for the money. To compel the Rangers to submit to this loss would be unjust."¹⁴

Shortly after this squabbling Texas would dissolve the short-lived relationship with the union of the United States. Governor Houston was disappointed when Texas joined the Confederate States and he declined to continue as Governor. The lieutenant-governor served on an interim basis until a new governor was elected.

On November 15, 1861 newly elected Governor Francis R. Lubbock delivered his initial message to a joint meeting of the legislature. Excerpts of that address are of interest: ". . . the Treasury at this time having no gold or silver in its vaults, it becomes necessary for you, by legislation, to provide means for carrying on the civil government until such time as the Treasury shall be in receipt of its usual revenues: for this purpose, the limited information now in my possession, I can point you to no better mode than the issue of Treasury Warrants, payable at the Treasurer's office out of any monies not otherwise appropriated. I would suggest, however, that hereafter, the warrants should be issued so as to bear no interest . . . I would suggest . . . making all the Warrants heretofore issued, as well as those which may hereafter be issued, receivable in payment of taxes and for all other public dues . . ."¹⁵

The condition of Texas state finances was already critical in this first year of the war. Of the approximately \$300,000 in outstanding treasury warrants it was reported that a considerable amount "is in the hands of speculators. It is to be regretted that the condition of our Treasury has been such as to force those holding claims against the State, to dispose of these claims at ruinous rates . . ."¹⁶ At this time there were approximately \$649,000 in claims against the state for which not even treasury warrants had been issued. To show the nature of these claims, the principal ones were as follows:

• Colonel Ford's command on the Rio Grande	\$130,000
• Colonel H. McCulloch's command on the northwest frontier	\$ 20,000
• Colonel Ford's regiment raised by the Secession Convention, while in state service	\$ 30,000
• Colonel Dalrymple's command on the northwest frontier	\$ 17,000
• Minute-men militia companies in 1860 and 1861	\$ 77,000
• For obtaining and turning over property captured from the U.S.	\$100,000
• For purchase of 1,000 Colt's pistols	\$ 25,000
• Gregg's, Parson's, Locke's and Sim's Regiments.	\$250,000

To help restore the confidence in the fiscal integrity of the state and to satisfy outstanding claims, the House Finance Committee made a report in December 1861. The recommendation included ". . . the certificates of indebtedness to be issued in the future, the committee agrees should draw no interest, being made receivable for taxes and public dues, and those holding the 10 per-cent Warrants already issued should be compelled to return them to the Comptroller's Office, that the interest may be computed, and the Warrants bearing no interest given in lieu of them, otherwise they shall not be received for taxes or public dues . . ."¹⁶

A report on the "Condition of the Treasury" made to the Legislature on January 8, 1862 included the statement "The necessary issuing and use of Treasury Warrants to considerable amounts, especially during the next two or three years, renders it proper to facilitate such issuing and use by prescribing a mode for issuing and providing blanks therefor . . ."¹⁷

In January 1862 the Texas Legislature was studying a number of money bills including the following:

- A bill to provide for the printing of blank treasury warrants @ \$1,200
- A bill to authorize the Chief Clerk in the treasurer's office to sign the treasurer's name "in certain cases"
- To provide funds to transport clothing and supplies furnished by citizens of Texas for volunteers in the army on the Potomac
- A bill to provide arms and ammunition for the military defense of the state.

On January 11, 1862 Texas established a military board to coordinate the efforts needed to supply her soldiers and develop an industry base to manufacture ordnance and supplies for the Confederacy. On April 12, 1864 the military board was reorganized. During the entire war period the military board drew from the Texas Treasury a total of \$1,650,000 of which only \$25,000 was in the form of Texas Treasury Warrants. The principal funds used by the board were Confederate currency, Texas state bonds and pre-war United States bonds.¹⁸

As the war expanded into most of the Confederate States the federals were still unable to secure a foothold within the Lone Star State. Nevertheless, the economy in Texas would deteriorate as rapidly as in the states that saw the blue-coated soldiers within their borders.

Newly inaugurated Governor Pendleton Murrah,^{18a} in a

message to the legislature in late 1863, endeavored to aid Texas tax payers by making Confederate money, which then had a specie value of 3 or 4 cents per dollar in the state, to be accepted in payment of taxes at par value.¹⁹ The governor called a special session of the legislature in May 1864 to deal with the problems of the economy but little was accomplished. A second special session of the legislature was called on October 19, 1864 to deal exclusively with the economy. The proclamation by Governor Murrah describes the problems faced by the legislature:

The Treasury Warrants which you authorized (at the legislative session Nov. 3 - Dec. 16, 1863) to be issued to meet the annual appropriation of a million dollars made for the benefit of the families of soldiers and to support the civil list, will from every indication fail to accomplish the objects desired. The provisions made by you [the legislature] for sustaining these warrants is under existing circumstances inadequate and are now quoted in the market at from 8 to 10 cents on the dollar, and I see no prospect of their advancing in value. Under existing laws, nearly if not quite two million dollars in these warrants will be put in circulation before the regular session of the Legislature can convene, and yet they will fail in consequence of the great depreciation to afford the relief to indigent families of soldiers that was intended mainly by you in authorizing them to be issued. Thus a large debt will be created against the State, to be funded in Bonds and ultimately redeemed in specie, while the State will not realize in the objects she has in view, perhaps over ten cents on the dollar of the amount issued. But few of these Warrants are yet issued under the law passed by you, and the further issuance of them should at once be arrested unless measures can be adopted that will give them credit of the State sufficient value to insure the accomplishment of the objects intended . . . It would be far better to rely entirely upon Confederate currency.

P. Murrah, Governor²⁰

Near the completion of this special session of the legislature, Governor Murrah again recommended ". . . issue no Treasury Warrants, provide in some way for the support of the families of soldiers, and rely for the other necessities of the government upon the Confederate currency."^{20a} This recommendation was made on November 14, 1864 and the last act approving issuance of Texas Treasury Warrants was made on November 15, 1864.²¹

The war ended for most of the Confederacy before it ended in Texas. On June 8, 1865, nearly two months after Appomattox, the nearly bare Texas Treasury reported the following assets: Specie \$15,397.36; Confederate Treasury notes "old issue" \$2,535,490.23 and "new issue" \$362,548.11; and Texas Treasury Warrants \$445,074.37.

A few days later, June 11, 1865, a group of "ruffians" attempted to loot the treasury vault in Austin just as the governor was preparing to flee to Mexico. A number of citizens and some of General Jo Shelby's soldiers, who were enroute to Mexico, responded and saved most of the less than \$5,000 in specie that was in the vault. The war was now over and the cupboard was as bare as when the war had begun.

The Texas Currency – General

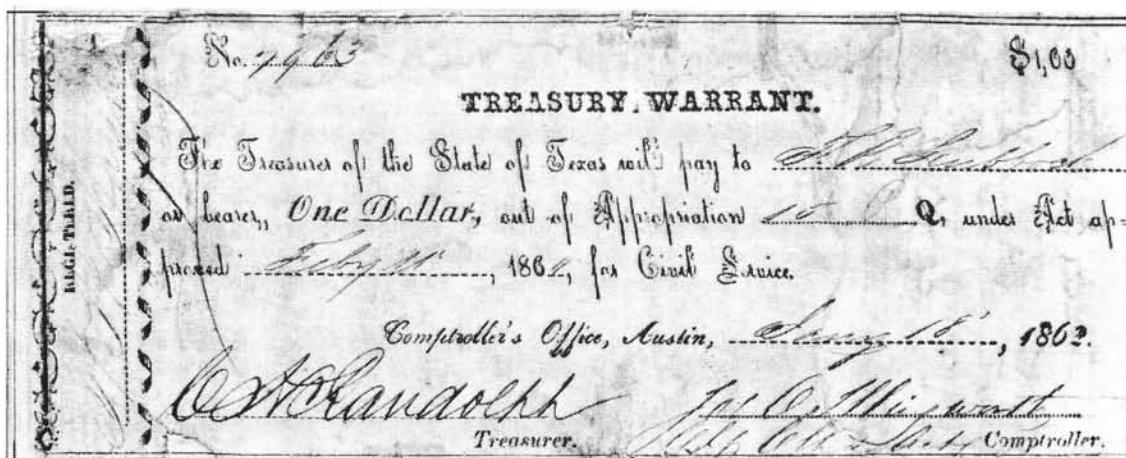
Each of the Texas Treasury Warrants shows a handwritten date of the authorizing legislative act. Obviously then these dates must be within the periods in which the Legislature was in session. For the war-time period the Legislature was meeting in regular or called session during the following periods.

January 28, 1861 to February 4, 1861
 March 2, 1861 to March 25, 1861
 November 4, 1861 to January 14, 1862
 February 2, 1863 to March 7, 1863
 November 3, 1863 to December 16, 1863
 May 9, 1864 to May 28, 1864
 October 19, 1864 to November 15, 1864

Dates of authorizing acts shown on the warrants that do not fit within a time period of a legislative session probably represent a clerical error or a reporting error. Appendix 3 lists the military service and civil service acts shown in the Criswell²² catalog. Also, where known, the purpose of the act is described.

treasury warrants, which would follow the type-set group, were designed in the more popular manner of traditional paper money. The legislature in January 1862 authorized the expenditure of "\$1,200 for obtaining blanks for treasury warrants."²³ These were probably those later and more attractive issues.

For some unknown reason the fourteen basic "type-set" notes in Group I were produced in a total of 48 printing varieties, considerably more variations than the later groups. The variations serve no useful purpose, so it is apparent that they were directly attributable to the printer. A comment by Governor Lubbock in his memoirs may provide the clue when he reported "The public printer appointed having failed to give bond, and there consequently, was no person then authorized to do the public printing."²⁴ The printing of this group of warrants was apparently the work of an ill-equipped small job printer. As an example of the work quality, the printed denomination in the upper right corner uses a comma, instead of a decimal, to separate dollars and cents. Displaying zero cents was also unusual.



Texas Treasury Warrant - Group I

The Texas Currency – Group I

The pre-war Texas Treasury Warrant in its format was a straight forward business-legal document with no frills to make it look like the ordinary circulating paper currency. To replace the interest-bearing warrants previously released, it would probably be preferred to use a look-alike warrant with pre-printed denominations and a blank denomination for odd amounts. Thus, an initial purpose for the 1862 "type-set" treasury warrants was to use a design that the public would recognize when they replaced the older interest-bearing warrants as they were presented for retirement. This may possibly be the reason why all of these notes have the issue year "1862" pre-printed in anticipation of a rapid replacement of the old warrants. Further, to continue this historical speculation, when these "type-set" warrants were printed, the Texas Legislature had not yet authorized their use for the payment of taxes and public dues and hence that wording does not appear on them as it does on all other, and supposedly later, Texas Warrants (see Appendix 2). The

The Texas Currency – Group II

This second group of Texas Treasury Warrants, arbitrarily described as "vignette with lace overprint", represented a distinct change from the plain business-like notes first released. This second group was printed in a more professional manner and in a style similar to the currency of her sister Southern states. This time the printer used standard off-the-shelf printer's vignettes, several colors and an overall overprint of a geometrical lace-like pattern to deter counterfeiting, though, strangely, no printer's imprint was used on this or any other issues of the state of Texas war-time currency that would identify the printers. Another, and significant, difference in this second series was the appearance of the words "Receivable for State Dues", which now appeared in the text of the notes. (See Appendix 2)

For the apparently more frequently issued denominations (\$1, \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$ written) the year "1862" was pre-printed in the space designed for the handwritten date of release but on the less frequently used denominations (\$50 and \$100) it was



Texas Treasury Warrant - Group II

only partially pre-printed with "186__". Why the two higher denominations were anticipated to be released beyond 1862 is not known. However, the appearance of the pre-printed "1862" does chronologically identify this group of notes as not being the last group to be issued that would be continued into 1865. The addition of the words pertaining to "state dues" makes this group later than the type-set group.

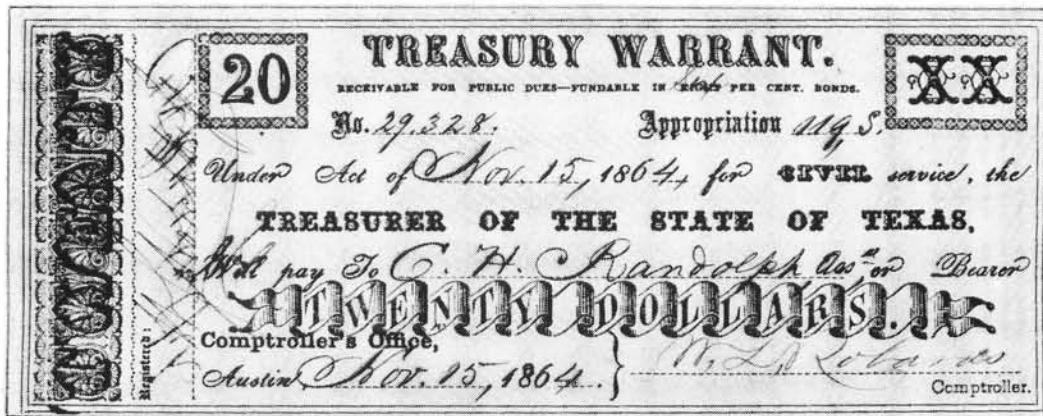
A survey of printer, imprint-identified currency printed in Texas during this period allows for an educated guess as to the identity of the anonymous printer of this second group of warrants.²⁵ This work probably came from the presses of the Texas Printing House in Houston, operated by E.W. Cave, the politically connected former Texas Secretary of State under Governor Sam Houston. Examining the quality of work from other Texas printers of the period, in addition to the fact that the Texas Printing House was the only identified printer who had used this geometrical overprint, becomes the basis for this assumption. Mr. Cave may have deliberately avoided use of his imprint so as not to be associated with the secessionist state government.

The Texas Currency – Group III

The third group of Texas Treasury Warrants adds to the perplexity of understanding the history of this currency and develops more unanswered questions. The printing style is distinctly different from the previous two groups but has more contradictions. Vignettes were not used (with an exception), some had fancy backs, but all had a change in wording (see Appendix

2) that now included the statement "Fundable in Eight Per Cent Bonds." Some of the later released notes in this group would have a handwritten "six" superimposed over the printed "eight" on the bonds.²⁶ The denominations of \$1, \$3, \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$____ written would all show the printed statement as being fundable in bonds and receivable for "public dues". However, the \$50 and \$100, which were printed in the same style, did show a difference in wording. These two high denomination notes would only say that they were "Receivable for State Dues" and had no reference to being fundable in bonds. Again exception persists in that occasionally the bond fundable statement does appear handwritten on the notes.

At this point whether these warrants were or were not receivable for public dues may seem dull and unimportant but in reality it was a serious issue. Governor Lubbock in his initial address to the Texas Legislature on November 15, 1861 recommended "... making all the Warrants heretofore issued, as well as those which may hereafter be issued, receivable in payment of taxes and for all other public dues."²⁷ The House Finance Committee responded by their recommendation on December 16, 1861 that future Warrants "... being made receivable for taxes and public dues ..."²⁸ The Governor later reported as an accomplishment of this legislative session the authorization of "... receipt of Treasury Warrants and Confederate notes for all dues and taxes ..."²⁹ Thus, that provision had to have been in effect no later than January 14, 1862 but it would probably require some time to exhaust the supply of the previously printed treasury warrants (Group I) and obtain a new supply of warrants



Texas Treasury Warrant - Group III

(Group II). A further complication hurt the Texas economy when, in November 1863, Governor Murrah "... stated that the state would accept payment of taxes in Confederate money at par value, as the market value at that time was only three to four cents on the dollar ..."³⁰ The governor reported that "Confederate notes constituting the currency, and being made receivable for State taxes and dues generally, has the effect of driving out of sight State paper. . . . State paper, like specie, is being hoarded and brought to light only when it can be used on most favorable terms. State paper could be made almost equal to specie by making it alone receivable for state dues. . . . It would strike a blow at the credit of the Confederate paper, which I [Governor Murrah] am not willing, therefore to recommend."³¹

A superficial study of the issue dates of this third series shows the earliest dates in November 1862 and continuing through May 11, 1865³² or June 5, 1865.³³ Texas was not occupied by the federals until June 17, 1865, over two months after the surrender at Appomattox. The first two groups of treasury warrants generally had the year "1862" pre-printed indicating that most of them were released during that year. Thus, apparently, this third type would serve the Texas State Treasury from late 1862 to the end of the war. Nine of the nineteen Texas legislative acts authorizing the expenditure of money were passed in 1863 and 1864. (See Appendix 3)

Another anomaly in this group is the printed style of the written denomination notes (Criswell 43 & 44/Medlar 138 & 139) that, from their general format, would seem to belong to the second group of warrants. Vignettes are again used and the paper is different but the phrase "Fundable in Eight Per Cent Bonds" does appear, which ties them to the third group. Perhaps it was a matter of logistics with the supply of Group II written denomination warrants being exhausted before the design of the third group of warrants was resolved.

The Texas Currency—Other

Texas, as with the other Southern states, had an abundance of fractional paper currency issued by local governments, railroads, merchants, etc. The smallest denomination of the Texas Treasury Warrants was one dollar. The Texas Senate reviewed this matter and the Senate Finance Committee reported on November 13, 1863³⁴ that such issues were illegal under state law. However, public sentiment had tolerated them since the beginning of the war and the circulation of small denomination Confederate notes (50¢ note issued April 6, 1863) had now diminished the public interest in other fractional currency and such public avoidance would terminate the need for local issues.

The Texas Currency—Reconstruction Period

Again, we must speculate with history while the positive facts remain buried in obscurity. Some of the Texas Treasury Warrants appear with a circular hand-stamp, generally faint and illegible, which consists of two concentric circles. Between the two circles are the words "REGISTERED 1867" and inside the inner circle is a month and day date. Most collectors hardly notice nor are concerned with this special marking, which, perhaps, helps to account for the purpose of the mark being virtually unknown. On an educated basis, the reason can be attributed to the post-war punitive reconstruction legislation. Repudiation of the Confederate war debts was mandated by the victor as part of the punishment to the vanquished. The Unionist dominated Texas Constitutional Convention passed an ordinance on March 15, 1866 that "declared all debts created by the State of

Texas in the aid of the late war, directly or indirectly, to be null and void, and forbade the legislature to assume or make any provisions for the payment of any portion of the debts incurred or contracted, or warrants issued by the state between January 28, 1861 and August 5, 1865, except warrants issued in payment of services rendered or liabilities incurred before January 28, 1861."³⁵

A subsequent ordinance passed by this convention stated "... this convention validated all the warrants issued for the payment of troops called into the service of the state by Governor Houston for the protection of the frontier prior to March 2, 1861."³⁶

The 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution stipulated that "... neither the United States, nor any state, shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States ... but all such debts shall be held illegal and void ..." The Texas Constitution, approved February 8, 1869, reiterated with the statement, "All debts created by the so-called State of Texas, from and after the 28th day of January 1861, and prior to the 5th day of August 1865 were and are null and void; and the legislature is prohibited from making any provision for the acknowledgement or payment of such debts"

Texas Treasury Warrants were somewhat unique among war-time Southern state currency. Each was directly identified with the authorizing legislature, the appropriation number releasing the funds and the person to whom it was issued. The warrants issued for the expenses of pre-war frontier defense could be easily identified and validated by the application of the REGISTERED overstamp, which would give it the credibility to continue to circulate. The validation would also allow the state to tabulate the extent of its obligation.

A report was made to the Texas Legislature indicating that as of October 30, 1865 the outstanding treasury warrants of the war period included some for "valid" debts incurred prior to secession. Included in these "valid" state obligations were the expenses of the state militia called into service by Governor Sam Houston to defend the western frontier. This same report indicated that there was about \$2 million in repudiated treasury warrants issued under the war-time act of January 10, 1862.³⁷

The Texas Legislature then passed on November 9, 1866 "An Act to ascertain the amount of, and adjusting and funding the State debt, and to state any and all accounts between the State and individuals." More specifically, this legislation created an "auditorial board" for the purpose of auditing all claims against the state for money and for the reauditing of all previously audited liabilities of the state inhibited by the Constitution. Thus, the principal work of this board consisted of separating from the total debt that part not incurred during the "Confederate period" (January 28, 1861 - August 5, 1865). The board terminated this operation on December 1, 1867, which, for practical purposes, would mean that it functioned only in 1867.³⁸ This then becomes the obvious explanation for the overstamp REGISTERED 1867 found on some of the earlier issues (Group I type-set) of Texas Civil War Treasury Warrants. This auditing board determined the "valid" debt by examining the outstanding warrants and marked the valid ones as they were included in their count.

Thus ended an era: most of the Texas Treasury Warrants were made only as "the pledge of a nation that passed away."

APPENDIX 1**Summary Regrouped Texas Treasury Warrants**

Criswell Numbers		Medlar Numbers		
Denom.	Military	Civil	Military	Civil
I. Script style type-set Warrants				
\$1	5-5A-5B	6-6A-6B	52-53-54-55-56	57-58-59-60-61
\$2.50*	7-7A	8	102-103	104
\$5	15-15A-15B	16-16A-16B	62-63-64-65-66	67-68-69-70
\$10	21-21A-21B	22-22A-22B	71-72-73-74-75	76-77-78-79
\$20	27-27A-27B	28-28A-28B	80-81-82-83	84-85-86-87
\$50	33	34	88-89	90
\$100	39	40	91	92
\$xx	45	46	93-94-95-96	97-98-99
II. Vignette with lace overprint Warrants				
\$1	1	12	100	101
\$5	11	12	105-106-107	108-109
\$10	17	18	110	111
\$20	23	24	112	113
\$50	29	30	114	115
\$100	35	36	116	117
\$xx	41	42	118	119
III. Fancy two-color Warrants				
\$1	3	4	120	121
\$3	9	10	122	123
\$5	13	14-14A	124-125	126-127
\$10	19	20	128	129
\$20	25	26A-26B	130	131-132-133
\$50	31	32	134	135
\$100	37	38	136	137
\$xx**	43	44	138	139

Comments:

The catalog numbers assigned by Criswell and Medlar do not by themselves provide unique identification of the note. The Criswell number would have to be prefixed by "Texas" to be specific in identification. Medlar lists by the Texas city of issue so the treasury warrants should be prefixed by "Austin".

*This note is somewhat of a "maverick" in that the printing is a bit fancier with a printed back, but the paper quality and absence of a statement that it is "receivable for state dues" or "fundable in bonds" puts it into this group. Also, a comma is used in lieu of a decimal point in the \$2.50 denomination figure as was the style of the Group I printer.

**Another "maverick" to the general printing style of the group. However, the use of the phrase "Fundable in eight per cent Bonds" makes it compatible with the group.

APPENDIX 2**Text Appearing on Texas Treasury Warrants****Group I Warrants:**

The Treasurer of the State of Texas will pay to *** or bearer, XXX Dollars, out of Appropriation *** under Act approved ***, 186* for Civil (or Military) Service.

Comptroller's Office, Austin, ***, 1862

(Signed by Comptroller, Treasurer and Registered)

Group II Warrants:

Appropriate *** Under Act of *** 186*, for Civil (or Military) Service The Treasurer of the State of Texas Will pay XXX Dollars To *** or Bearer. Receivable for State Dues.
Comptroller's Office, Austin, ***, 186*
(Signed by Comptroller, Registered and Treasurer)

Group III Warrants: (\$1-\$3-\$5-\$10-\$20-\$xx)

Receivable for Public Dues—Fundable in Eight Per Cent Bonds. Appropriation *** Under Act of *** 186* for Civil (or Military) service, the Treasurer of the State of Texas, Will pay to *** or Bearer XXX Dollars.

Comptroller Office, Austin, ***, 186*

(Signed by Comptroller, Treasurer and Registered)

Group III Warrants: (\$50-\$100)

—same as above except: State Dues instead of Public Dues and no printed statement as to fundable in bonds.

APPENDIX 3**Legislative Approval Acts For Issuing Texas Treasury Warrants****Pre-War Legislature Sessions:**

M1* February 3, 1860 \$300,000 for frontier defense

C1 February 11, 1860

8th Legislature, called session, Jan. 21, 1861 - Apr. 9, 1861:

M3 April 5, 1861 \$100,000 for frontier defense

M2 February 8, 1861

C2 April 8, 1861

For payment of certain debts created by the secession convention

M4 April 8, 1861 \$75,000 for subsistence and transportation of regiment ordered by secession convention

9th Legislature, regular session, Nov. 4, 1861 - Jan. 14, 1862:

M5 January 4, 1862

\$60,000 for troops called out on frontier in spring 1860; also for transportation of supplies to army volunteers

C3 January 8, 1862

\$150,000 for care of sick and wounded Texas soldiers

M6 January 12, 1862

To provide arms and ammunition for the military defense of the state

M7 January 13, 1862

C4 January 13, 1862

M8 January 14, 1862 \$1,000,000 for military purposes

9th Legislature, 1st called session, Feb. 2, 1863 - Mar. 7, 1863:

C5 March 2, 1863

C6 March 3, 1863

M9 March 5, 1863

\$200,000 for military hospital fund

C7 March 5, 1863

\$600,000 for needy soldier's families

M10 March 6, 1863

10th Legislature, regular session, Nov. 3, 1863 - Dec. 16, 1863:

C8 December 15, 1863 \$1,000,000 for soldier's families

M12 December 16, 1863 \$1,000,000 for defense of frontier

C9 December 16, 1863

10th Legislature, 1st called session, May 9, 1864 - May 28, 1864

C10 May 28, 1864

10th Legislature, 2nd called session, Oct. 19, 1864 - Nov. 15, 1864:

C11 November 15, 1864

Comments:

*The "M1" etc. designations are from the Criswell catalog,³⁹ which lists these acts; M is for military service and C for civil service, the numbers are sequential.

In the listing of the authorization act dates the Criswell catalog makes the caveat that the "Act dates other than those listed in the standard list are simply man-made 'Errors' of the pen" the author has seen some dated '1852'.⁴⁰ There is reason for uncertainty as to the complete acceptance of that statement. Certainly an "1852" is an obvious slip or poor penmanship. A date not within the time periods shown above for the legislative sessions, even though during the Civil War period, is in all probability an error. For example, the catalog lists M11 as April 11, 1863 but is not included in this listing as it undoubtedly is an error. However, an unlisted date that does fall within a legislative time period could be legitimate. As an example, "the legislature, on March 8th (1861), passed an act appropriating \$25,000 to pay State troops."⁴¹ Yet that date is not included in the list nor is it known if the troops were paid with treasury warrants, but the date is within the time period of the 8th legislative session. Thus, there is the possibility that warrants do exist with that date. The original source of this list of dates is not known though they were

included in an article "Texas Treasury Warrants" by D.C. Wismer in the September 1927 *Numismatist*.⁴²

APPENDIX 4

Appropriation Numbers

Each of the treasury warrants has a place for a handwritten entry of the appropriate "Appropriation Number" (see Appendix 2). The appropriation was designated by a number followed by an alphabet letter. D.C. Wismer⁴³ comments on these appropriations: "They were given serial letters O, P, Q, R and S and numbered from 1 to 119." Criswell⁴⁴ and Medlar⁴⁵ catalog the appearance or omission of a preprinted "Q" letter on some of the type-set warrants. A general explanation of the function of the letter is that it represented a time period while the number indicates a specific expenditure of the money approved by the legislative act. The estimated time periods for the letter designations are as follows:

"O" 1860 - 1862
 "P" 1861 - 1864
 "Q" 1862 - 1864
 "R" 1863 - mid 1865
 "S" 1863 - 1866

Usually the appropriation number and letter is continued until the funds appropriated are spent even if it extends beyond the fiscal period for which it was originally intended. Then another number and letter was assigned a subsequent appropriation for the same expense. This accounts for the overlapping termination dates shown above. The alphabet letters probably tie in with the legislative session when the appropriation was authorized. Some examples of this system are:

- 1-O Pay and mileage of members of the 8th Legislature
- 105-O Salary of Adjutant General, Dec. 1860—June 1861
- 78-P Pay for militia 1850-61
- 82-Q Fund for military purposes
- 92-R Working certain salt operations on northwestern frontier

APPENDIX 5

Civil War Events Within Texas

While Texas was not the stage for major battles, there were numerous events that made this remote corner of the Confederacy ever aware of the war. Attacks and landings along the Texas coast were the primary military efforts directly made against the state. The Texans successfully fought off this harassment and were conquered only after the Confederate Government collapsed.

1861

- February 1 Texas Secession Convention approves an ordinance of secession
- February 18 General David Twiggs surrenders U.S. military posts in Texas
- March 16 Administering of the Confederate oath of office to incumbent state officials; Governor Sam Houston declines to take oath and is removed from office

- | | |
|----------|--|
| April 17 | Texas volunteers under Colonel Earl Van Dorn, C.S.A., capture the vessel <i>Star of The West</i> off the Texas coast near Indianola, Texas |
| July 2 | Blockade of Galveston, principal seaport of Texas, initiated by the <i>USS South Carolina</i> |

1862

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| February 22 | U.S. Navy attacks Aransas Pass on Texas coast |
| May 26 | C.S.A. establishes the Trans-Mississippi Military Department |
| October 5 | Galveston captured by the U.S. Navy |

1863

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| January 1 | Confederates recapture Galveston |
| January 11 | Naval engagement off Galveston, CSS <i>Alabama</i> sinks <i>USS HATTERAS</i> |
| May 30 | U.S. Navy attacks Port Isabel on Texas coast |
| September 8 | Battle of Sabine Pass; battery of Texas artillery repulses attempted landing of over 4,000 federals |
| November 6 | Brownsville (on Texas-Mexico border) occupied by U.S. troops |
| December 1 | A.J. Hamilton arrives at Brownsville as Lincoln's proposed Military Governor of Texas |
| December 10 | Texas Legislature authorizes sale of \$2,000,000 in cotton bonds |
| December 23 | Indianola occupied by U.S. Army |

1864

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| October 20 | Week long battles with Indians in north Texas |
| November 15 | Texas Legislature approves the annual distribution of 600,000 yards of cloth and excess thread manufactured at the state penitentiary (Huntsville) for distribution to indigent families and dependents of Texas soldiers |

1865

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| January 8 | Texas troops defeated in fight with Indians near San Angelo, Texas |
| June 2 | Surrender of the C.S.A. Trans-Mississippi Department by General E. Kirby Smith at Galveston |
| June 17 | U.S. General Gordon Granger arrives in Texas to assume command of occupation forces. A.J. Hamilton appointed provisional civil governor of Texas |
| June 19 | General Granger issues proclamation from Galveston advising that all slaves are free |

Footnotes

- ¹ Warrant—a writing, writ, or other order that serves as authorization for something, specifically (a) a voucher authorizing payment or receipt of money. *The American Heritage Dictionary*.
- ² Grover C. Criswell, *Criswell's Currency Series—Confederate and Southern States Currency*, Citra, Florida, 1957, 1964 and 1976.
- ³ Bob Medlar, *Texas Obsolete Notes and Scrip*, San Antonio, Texas, 1968.
- ⁴ Criswell.

⁵ Francis R. Lubbock served as Governor of Texas from November 7, 1861 to November 5, 1863; he then joined the Confederate army as a Colonel, served on several military staffs, and then became aide-de-camp to President Jefferson Davis. He accompanied Davis on his 1865 flight from Richmond and was with him when captured in Georgia.

⁶ Message to Texas Senate and House, November 25, 1861. "I (Gov. Lubbock) would suggest . . . making all the Warrants heretofore issued, as well as those which may be hereafter issued, receivable in payment of taxes and for all other public dues." The Legislature approved his recommendation.

⁷ Clement A. Evans, *Confederate Military History*, reprint edition.

⁸ *The Writings of Sam Houston*, Volume III, Austin, 1970.

⁹ Clement R. Johns served as Texas Comptroller from August 2, 1858 to August 1, 1864. He was succeeded in office by Willis L. Robards who served from August 1, 1864 to October 12, 1865. The name of Clement R. Johns is well known to Texas currency collectors for the frequency with which his bold signature appeared on Texas Treasury Warrants.

^{9a} Houston. ¹⁰ Houston.

¹¹ Cyrus H. Randolph served as Texas Treasurer from August 2, 1858 to the collapse of the Confederacy in Texas, June 1865. He fled to Mexico with remnants of the state government and Trans-Mississippi army. His signature appears on the Texas Treasury Warrants.

¹² Houston. ¹³ Houston.

¹⁴ *House Journal of the Ninth Legislature Regular Session of the State of Texas*, November 4, 1861 to January 14, 1862. Compiled by James M. Day, Austin, 1964.

¹⁵ Ibid. ¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ *Senate Journal of the Ninth Legislature of the State of Texas*, November 4, 1861 to January 14, 1862. Compiled by James M. Day, Austin, 1963.

¹⁸ Charles W. Ramsdell, "The Texas State Military Board, 1862-65", *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 27, 1924.

^{18a} Pendleton Murrah served as Governor from November 5, 1863 to June 12, 1865, the collapse of the Confederacy in Texas. Murrah accompanied General Jo Shelby's cavalry in their flight to Mexico. Murrah died in Mexico in July 1865.

¹⁹ W. C. Nunn, *Ten Texans in Gray*, Hillsboro, Texas, 1968.

²⁰ *Senate & House Journals of the Tenth Legislature Second Called Session*, October 19, 1864 to November 15, 1864. Compiled by James M. Day, Austin, 1966.

^{20a} Day, *House Journal . . . Ninth Legislature . . .*

²¹ Listed by Criswell catalog as C11 for civil service.

²² Criswell.

²³ *Six Decades in Texas—The Memoirs of Francis R. Lubbock*, Edited by C. W. Raines, Austin, 1968.

²⁴ Ibid. ²⁵ Medlar.

²⁶ Texas had several bond issues during the Civil War period: Act of March 20, 1861 @ 8% interest; Act of April 8, 1861 @ 8% interest; Act of December 10, 1863 @ 7% interest; December 10, 1863 @ 6% interest.

²⁷ Day, *House Journal . . . Ninth Legislature . . .*

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ *Six Decades in Texas*.

³⁰ Nunn.

³¹ *Senate Journal of the Tenth Legislature*, November 3, 1863 to December 16, 1863, Compiled by James M. Day, Austin, 1964.

³² Medlar. ³³ Criswell.

³⁴ *Senate Journal . . . Tenth Legislature*.

³⁵ Edmund T. Miller, *A Financial History of Texas*, Bulletin of University of Texas, No. 37, July 1916.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Edmund T. Miller, "Repudiation of State Debt in Texas Since 1861", *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 16, 1912/1913.

³⁸ Ibid. ³⁹ Criswell. ⁴⁰ Criswell. ⁴¹ Evans.

⁴² D.C. Wismer, "Texas Treasury Warrants", *The Numismatist* September 1927.

⁴³ Ibid. ⁴⁴ Criswell.

⁴⁵ Medlar.

A Reply to A Confederate Mystery

by ARLIE SLABAUGH

Brent H. Hughes, in writing about the "C" counterstamp on the \$20 (Washington) Confederate note of July 25, 1861, states that "Slabaugh also suggests that a 50 percent premium value on notes with the 'C' stamp would be in order, but the present market prices do not support his belief." That was my statement in 1958 for the first edition of my catalog, *Confederate States Paper Money*, and for that time, when Confederate notes were cheaper, it was not unreasonable. But, after prices of the notes without the "C" stamp increased, the suggested premium of 50 percent was no longer valid since the increased base price translated into too many dollars difference. If you will check the 6th edition (1977) of my catalog you will find that this now reads "A small capital 'P' in green also appears stamped on a few of these notes as well as the previous \$20 (sailing ship) note. This mark can be considered as rare, the 'C' as scarce. Overprinted 'P' doubles value of note, 'C' increases value 25 percent or more (according to condition)."

Brent offers the suggestion that the "C" stands for 100. In that case, what does the "P" stand for?

One thing that has long intrigued me about this "C" stamp is its resemblance to an initial ring. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if one could obtain a similar ring from a jeweler right now. If a ring was heated and then burned or impressed into wood, or other substance to make a die, the result would be like this stamp; that is, the raised "C" and border would be recessed and appear blank when inked and used as a stamp while the background that was recessed on the ring would be positive when an impression was made from it. The fact that a "C" stamp made in this manner would be in reverse is no problem since the result needs only to be turned upside down. However, this particular "C" does have a large loop on one side and that may be the reason the notes have been stamped horizontally to make it less obvious to those not familiar with the ring that this was the source of the design. Take a look at the "C" on the reverse of the silver 3-cent piece then used in the United States—the heavier loop is at the top, whereas the "C" on the Confederate note is in reverse.

But this raises another question. Assuming that this premise is correct, and since the Confederate States frequently used substitutes without hiding the fact, why should it have been necessary to hide the source of this stamp? Were the notes really stamped during the Civil War, or was it done later by some enterprising individual who had a hoard of plate letter Bb notes that were stamped to satisfy the growing demand for varieties?

Another point is the green color of the stamp, which Brent mentioned should have been black or red. Actually, blue was also used in the South but green is unusual and not a commonly used stamp ink even now. Further research on this could perhaps lead to some interesting things, for the "C" stamp impression indicates that the ink was of commercial quality. Had it been homemade it would have been more likely to have soaked through the paper or smudged.

In conclusion, it wouldn't surprise me a bit if the answer to this puzzle isn't found by chance while searching for something else.