Author's Notes

The author is Carmi A. Thompson's cousin Lafayette Thompson's great-great grandson. According to the author's grandmother Mildred Thompson, the proper pronunciation of Thompson's first name is "car-my" as opposed to "car-mee". The author's great-grandmother Mary Elizabeth Thompson had the picture of the *Carmi A. Thompson* Great Lakes freighter displayed in her bedroom for many years. The author began collecting Napier-Thompson signature notes in 1995. His ambition is to eventually collect one of each of the types of Napier-Thompson signature notes. He would appreciate any additional information on Carmi A. Thompson or Napier-Thompson signature notes. Contact him at: 1123 Lake Weldona Dr., Orlando, FL 32806.

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ABOUT TEXAS MOSTLY

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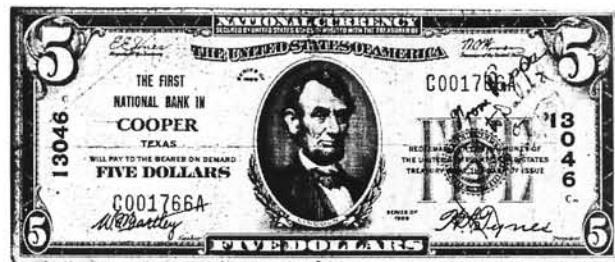# THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK IN COOPER, TEXAS

by FRANK CLARK

COOPER is located 90 miles northeast of Dallas in Delta County. This county was created in 1870 from parts of the surrounding counties, and Cooper is the county seat. Delta County gets its name from the fact that it is shaped like the letter "Δ" delta in the Greek alphabet.

The first bank founded in the county was The Delta County Bank in Cooper in 1889. It was a private bank and was located in a grocery store. In 1891 the bank applied for and received federal charter 4500, becoming The First National Bank of Cooper.

The bank issued the following types of notes: Second Charter Series 1882 $10 and $20 Brown Backs and Date backs; Third Charter $10 and $20 Date Backs and Plain Backs. The total amount of circulation issued was $831,800.

The First National Bank merged with the Guaranty State Bank in 1925. On April 28, 1927 The First National Bank placed itself in voluntary liquidation. The directors then voted to re-charter the bank. Federal regulations at the time prohibited the use of the old name for the new bank, so the new bank became The First National Bank *In* Cooper. The new charter number of the bank was 13046.

A $5 Series 1929 Type I note issued by The First National Bank in Cooper, Texas. Engraved signatures of W.I. Bartley, cashier and W.H. Tynes, president. Written in the upper right corner of the note is, "From Pappa to David on Dec. 8, 1931." Could this have been someone's Christmas present?

Under the new charter and title, the bank issued Series 1929 Type I and Type II notes in denominations of $5, $10 and $20. When the note-issuing period ended in May of 1935, the bank's outstanding circulation was $48,750.

The bank has experienced continued growth, and is still in business today. It has been in the same building on the downtown square in Cooper since 1909.

The original founder of the bank was William J. McDonald (1844–1926). At his death he left a great fortune to the University of Texas to establish an astronomical observatory of the first order. This became the world-famous McDonald Observatory in west Texas. It is one of the busiest and most productive astronomical research centers in the United States. In May 1989 the McDonald Observatory celebrated its fiftieth anniversary.

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