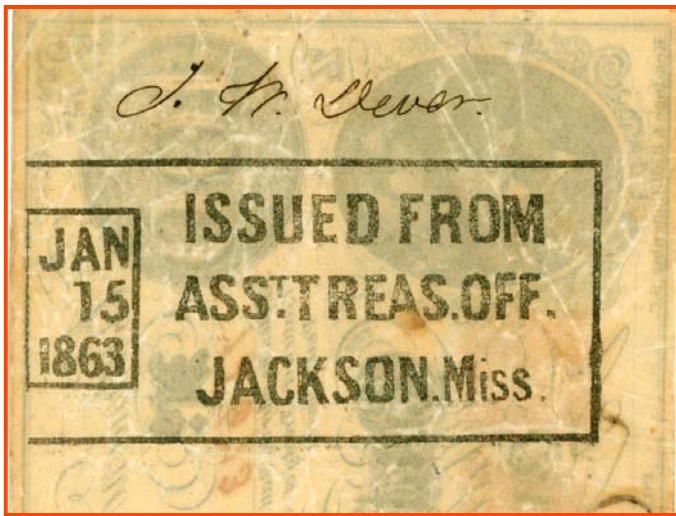


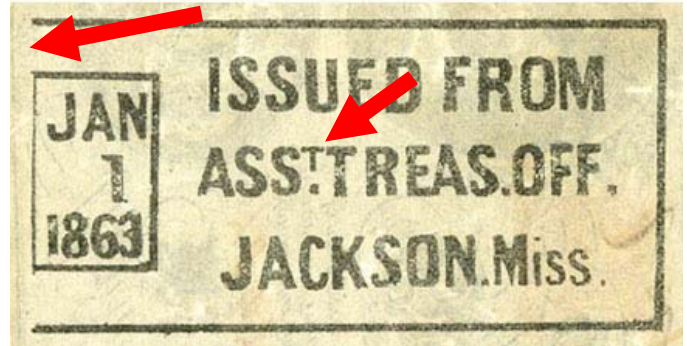
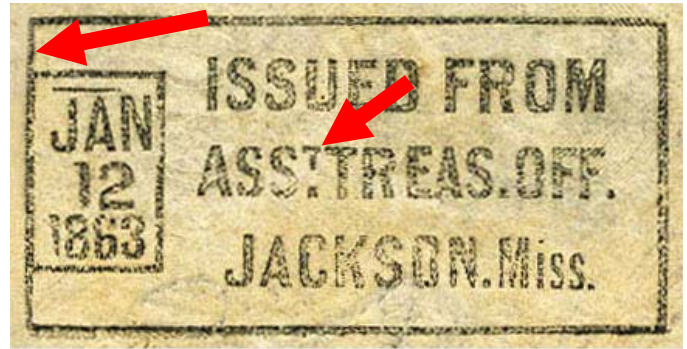
DEVER, J. W. forged endorsement

There are no documents in the National Archives (via Fold3.com) with a signature match for the endorsement of J. W. Dever. This signature was brought to my attention years



ago by Enrico Aidala; we both struggled to find a positive signature match and eventually gave up the effort. A voucher for work performed at the C. S. Armory at Macon, Georgia, by J. W. Dever exists in the files for Confederate Civilians, but there is no signature on this document by Dever to provide a match; furthermore, the date of this voucher is August 4th, 1864, more than a year and a half after genuine T-41s were normally issued and when such notes were recalled for exchange with the February 17th, 1864 issue. In November of 2018 Crutchfield again spotted this signature on a Treasury note owned by Richie Self and sent it to the Trainmen for comment. Amanda Sheheen pointed out that the T-41 Treasury note with this endorsement was a counterfeit. Research by Roger Adamek located more examples of this signature on the Heritage website, all of them CT-41s. Adamek also discovered a description of the note on Randy Shipley's website. Enrico Aidala provided three more examples, two of which were found in Spain.

Randy Shipley's description of one of these notes is a gold mine of information (see the illustration from his website). He noted that the issue stamp on the back of these notes is also a counterfeit, one of whose telltale indicators is a missing border on the left side. George Tremmel also noted that the genuine stamp oddly uses a number "7" in the abbreviated word "ASS⁷" while the counterfeit stamp correctly reads "ASS^T" (see the illustrated examples provided by Crutchfield). Here are the issue dates on the counterfeit stamps known at this time:



A genuine issue stamp from Jackson, Mississippi is seen at the top. The example below is a counterfeit seen on the CT-41/315 and /319 notes. George Tremmel has observed counterfeit stamps from Montgomery, Alabama on these notes as well. The red arrows point to the critical diagnostics of the counterfeit.

image: W. Crutchfield Williams

JAN 1 1863
JAN 15 1863
JAN 20 1863

All examples known to the author of the counterfeit Jackson, Mississippi issue stamp are missing the left border frame and exhibit the correct form of "ASS^T."

Chris Jones pointed out that notes endorsed by Dever are often seen as the CT-41/319 variety with a "CSA" script watermark; these are printed from the same plate as the CT-41/315 variety. According to Tremmel, Shipley commented that he purchased a consecutively numbered group of 57 CT-41/319 notes in Central America, of which the note endorsed by Dever on his website was a part. The serial number of the note illustrated on his website is 78671, plen Z, and falls into a group of known CT serials from 78181 to 78815. Enrico Aidala found two similar CT-41/315 or 319 notes in Spain, both endorsed by "J. W. Dever", and these bear consecutive serial numbers of a slightly higher run with plen X. The inference is that some of these counterfeits may have been intended for foreign markets. Shipley commented that the counterfeit notes in his consecutive run of serials from Central America showed obvious signs of intentional crumpling to suggest circulation; notes found in groups with consecutive serial numbers are usually found with little or no evidence of circulation.

I am going to do something which I find usually misleading and sometimes dangerous—I am going to speculate on the origin of some of the best lithographed counterfeits in an effort to suggest avenues for future research. Although many of the superb lithographic counterfeits (e.g., CT-33/250) are directly associated with Upham, they vastly exceed the quality of Upham's normal woodcut work on his letterheads and envelopes; they are certainly vastly superior to Upham's poor quality woodcut imitations of the notes produced by the Southern Bank Note Company (e.g., T-31, etc.). My speculation is that Upham did not have the skills to produce superb counterfeits like the CT-33/250; I find it more likely that such notes were produced in secrecy by a major Northern firm with the complicity of the Federal government, and that Upham or Hilton, or others like them, were simply conduits of these counterfeits and provided cover for a more professional operation.

The CT-41/315 and /319 varieties are not attributed to any known counterfeiter by Tremmel. It is a professionally executed lithograph with unusual attention to detail, including a "CSA" script watermark on the /319 variety (this is sometimes difficult to observe—see the comments in the illustration of an example). Nineteen of the twenty-one examples known at this writing with the endorsement of "J W Dever" or "J W D" bear the Z plen, date of December 1st, 1862, and the well-executed forgeries of T. L. Crouch for Register and T. O. Keesee for Treasurer. Thian's *Register of the Confederate Debt*, pp. 37, 39, shows that the serial numbers on these counterfeit notes are correct for the date of December 1st, 1862 on the front of the note. Of more interest is that the genuine serial number runs for Crouch and Keesee narrowly precede the serial numbers on the counterfeits. Here

are the known counterfeit serials, plen Z, dated December 1st and endorsed by J. W. Dever, gleaned from images and correspondence:

78181 plen Z [this is a match to the genuine run of serials]
 78437 Z
 78438 Z
 78441 Z
 78444 Z [initials "J W D"]
 78448 Z
 78483 Z [initials "J W D"]
 78617 Z
 78641 Z [Shipley website, 319 variety]
 78671 Z
 78672 Z
 78673 Z
 78675 Z [ex-Shipley]
 78676 Z [ex-Shipley]
 78702 Z ["J. W. Dever" in a different hand]
 78742 Z [ex-Shipley]
 78743 Z [ex-Shipley]
 78780 Z
 78815 Z

Here is the genuine serial number run signed on December 1st by Crouch and Keesee in Thian's *Register of the Confederate Debt*:

77401-78200

Two CT-41/315 or /319 notes endorsed by Dever and found by Aidala in Spain bear the X plen, date of December 15th,

Crouch_Keesee
 78673 Z
 1 Dec 1862
 image: Crutchfield



The CT-41/315 counterfeit note endorsed on the back by J. W. Dever and exhibiting the counterfeit issue stamp from Jackson, Mississippi. Note the date of December 1st, 1862, which correctly correlates with serial numbers of genuine notes signed on that date, and the excellent forgeries of the signatures of T. L. Crouch for Register and T. O. Keesee for Treasurer.

84633 X
84634 X

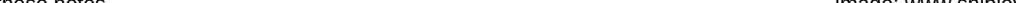
These serial numbers match the genuine run signed by Johnston and Harvey, 84601-85400, but the genuine notes were signed on December 1st, not December 15th. The author owns a CT-41/319 signed on December 15th by Johnston and Harvey, serial 84551, a close serial to the group above. Although this note was not endorsed by Dever, it bears the crumpling cited by Shipley and it bears a counterfeit stamp of issue by T. Sanford at "Montgom'y", Alabama (see the illustration). This note was also marked "Counterfeit" in script on its front, implying that it had seen some circulation.

The data implies that the professional counterfeiters of these notes paid attention to the dates, serial numbers, and signatures on genuine T-41 notes. Such attention to detail does

We can say with reasonable certainty that the endorsement of "J. W. Dever" is a forgery meant to make the counterfeit notes appear to have been circulated. Along with the professional lithography and superbly counterfeited Jackson and Montgomery issue stamps of varying dates, this looks like the work of a major engraving house and professional operatives. This is not idle speculation. Many governments have counterfeited the currency of their enemies in times of war. If these CT-41/315 and /319 notes are indeed the work of the Lincoln administration, it was very secretly done. After much searching by the author, absolutely no hard evidence has been found to prove involvement of the Federal government, so it remains pure speculation.

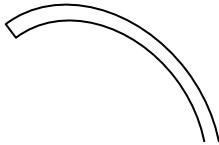
McNeil

[illegible]

A screen capture of Randy Shipley's website entry for a CT-41/319 note endorsed by J. W. Deaver (sic). Randy was at the forefront in his description of these notes.  image: www.shiplevscurrency.com

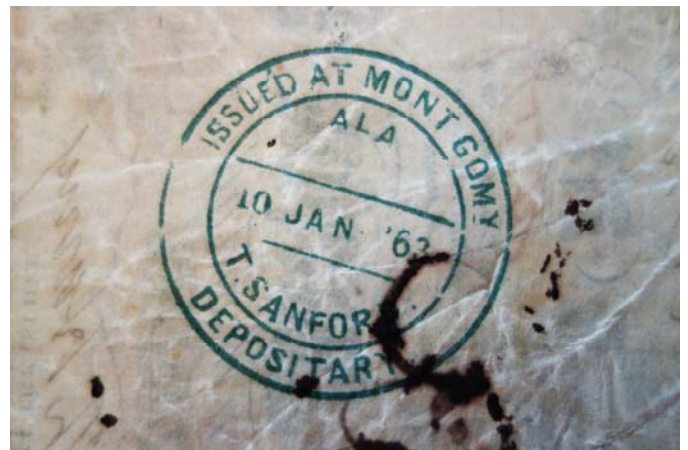


A CT-41/319 counterfeit note with no endorsement on the back by J. W. Dever. It exhibits the counterfeit issue stamp from Montgomery, Alabama on the back and a script notation "Counterfeit" on the front. Note the serial number 84551, which correctly correlates with the serial numbers of genuine notes signed by Johnston and Harvey, but the date of December 15th is incorrect; it should read December 1st. Note the excellent forgeries of the signatures of G. Johnston and W. L. Harvey. image: McNeil



A very clear but incomplete watermark was seen at the top right of the central vignette on the note illustrated above; a red arrow points to the location. A very bright, LED flashlight shows this watermark, which is otherwise invisible in incandescent light. The parallel lines are about 1/8" apart. The image above is reversed, i.e., the watermark is clear white, not black.

image: McNeil



The counterfeit issue stamp on the back of the note, serial 84551. Note the accurate abbreviation of the word "Montgom'y", which correctly imitates the genuine issue stamps, and the crumpling noted by Shipley on these CTs. This note was not endorsed by J. W. Dever.

image: McNeil

Here follows detailed data on a large group of CT-41 notes from Charlie Knupp. He states that with wear and obvious circulation on some of the notes, all of which are printed from the same plate, it is sometimes difficult to determine with accuracy if the notes are 315 or 319 varieties. The watermark is clearest on notes with earlier serial numbers and a date of November 24th, 1862.

Plate X, Nov 24, 1862, serial number 70800, Crouch/Keesee signatures, fake Montgomery round issue stamp 10 JAN 63

Plate X, Nov 24, 1862, serial number 70844, Crouch/Keesee signatures, fake Montgomery round issue stamp 10 JAN 63

Plate X, Nov 24, 1862, serial number 70845, Crouch/Keesee signatures, fake Montgomery round issue stamp 10 JAN 63

Plate Z, Dec 1 1862, serial number 78249, Crouch/Keesee signatures, fake Jan 1 1863 Jackson issue stamp, handwritten "Counterfeit" (twice) written in ink on the front

Plate Z, Dec 1 1862, serial number 78331, Crouch/Keesee signatures, fake Jan 15 1863 Jackson issue stamp, handwritten "Counterfeit" written in ink on the front

Plate Z, Dec 1 1862, serial number 78343, Crouch/Keesee signatures, fake Montgomery round issue stamp 10 JAN 63

Plate Z, Dec 1 1862, serial number 78483, Crouch/Keesee signatures, fake Jan 15 1863 Jackson issue stamp - has J W D initials (looks to be in a different handwriting than the J W Dever name you showed

Plate Z, Dec 1 1862, serial number 78578, Crouch/Keesee signatures, fake Montgomery round issue stamp 10 JAN 63

Plate Z, Dec 1 1862, serial number 78675, Crouch/Keesee signatures, fake Jan 1 1863 Jackson issue stamp, - has the J. W. Dever name as you showed - from Randy I believe as consecutive notes

Plate Z, Dec 1 1862, serial number 78676, Crouch/Keesee signatures, fake Jan 15 1863 Jackson issue stamp, - has the J. W. Dever name as you showed - from Randy I believe as consecutive notes

Plate Z, Dec 1 1862, serial number 78702 Crouch/Keesee signatures, fake Jan 1 1863 Jackson issue stamp, - has the J. W. Dever name but in a different handwriting

Plate Z, Dec 1 1862, serial number 78742, Crouch/Keesee signatures, fake Montgomery round issue stamp 10 JAN 63 - from Randy I believe as consecutive notes

Plate Z, Dec 1 1862, serial number 78743, Crouch/Keesee signatures, fake Montgomery round issue stamp 10 JAN 63 - from Randy I believe as consecutive notes

Plate Z, Dec 1 1862, serial number 78780, Crouch/Keesee signatures, fake Jan 1 1863 Jackson issue stamp, handwritten "Counterfeit" written in ink on the front

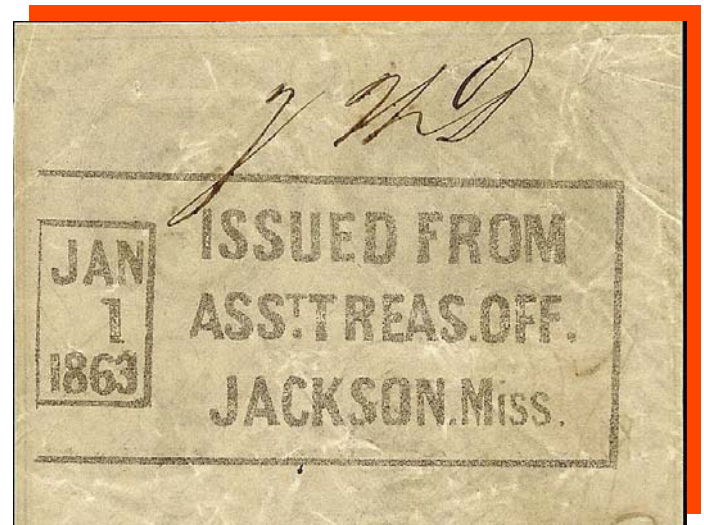
Plate Z, Dec 1 1862, serial number 78815, Crouch/Keesee signatures, fake Montgomery round issue stamp 10 JAN 63

Plate X, Dec 15, 1862, serial number 84368, Johnston/Harvey signatures, fake Jan 20 1863 Jackson issue stamp, handwritten "Counterfeit" written in ink on the front

Plate W, Dec 15, 1862, serial number 106991, Grayson/Walford signatures, fake Jan 10 1863 Jackson issue stamp, handwritten "Counterfeit" written in ink on the front

Here follows detailed data from Chris Jones.

Plate Z, Dec 1, 1862, serial number 78444, Crouch/Keesee signatures, fake Jan 1 1863 Jackson issue stamp, has J. W. D. initials above the fake Jackson issue stamp. Here is the back of this note:



The endorsement of the initials "J W D" on the back of the note with serial 78444, plate Z, dated December 1st, 1862. The form of the first initial "J" suggests that the endorsement is in a different hand than the endorsements of "J. W. Dever."

image: Chris Jones