

BENNETT, J. S. K. Cotton Broker, Produce Loan Office

Four documents are found for J. S. K. Bennett in the National Archives files for Officers.

J. S. K. Bennet was appointed on March 13th, 1862, as Capt. & AQM reporting to the QM General and taking rank on March 1st, 1862. The appointment was declined, and on October 25th, 1862, Bennett was dropped from the Quartermaster rolls for failure to post a bond. No signatures of the Quartermaster exist to compare with the endorsement on the Treasury note, but the unusual initials "J. S. K." are suggestive.

Seventy-three documents for J. S. K. Bennet are found in the files for Citizens. These documents and the discoverer of the endorsement, Roger Adamek, suggest that the endorsement "J S K Bennett, Bk Charleston" represents the Produce Loan Agent and Cotton Broker of this name in Charleston. Documents in this file are dated from March 20th, 1863 to November 19th, 1864. Many of these documents concern the purchase and shipment of cotton bales to Treasury Agents at Wilmington, North Carolina. Bennett collected a commission of 1.25% as an agent on many of these transactions. While nearly all documents and vouchers for payment of office space were signed in Charleston, South Carolina, Bennett signed vouchers for receipt of bales of cotton in Columbia, South Carolina, some of which involved purchases of a quarter million dollars. Signing simply as "Agent" at Charleston on August 20th, 1864, Bennet was awarded a brokerage commission for "purchasing" of 0.5%. Cotton was purchased with Government bonds bearing 8% interest, and the intermittent supply of these bonds was a subject of several letters to C. G. Memminger, Secretary of the Treasury.

On March 15th, 1864, Bennett purchased a "spy glass" for \$65.00 and the signature on this document, which is quite different than the script in the body of the document, is a reasonable match to the style of the endorsement on the Treasury note. Bennett's signature is highly variable, and while the endorsement on the Treasury note may be clerical, there are no other officers or agents with the name of Bennett and the distinctive first initials of "J. S. K."

Roger Adamek, the discoverer of this endorsement, has pointed out that Page 794 of the Second Edition, *Confederate Quartermasters, Commissaries, and Agents*, shows a listing for J. S. K. Bennett as a Produce Loan Agent for South Carolina.

McNeil

Signed on September 1st, 1863, at Charleston, South Carolina, as "Congr(essional District) 2 Cotton Broker."
image: Fold3.com

Signed on March 15th, 1864, at Charleston, South Carolina.
image: Fold3.com

Signed on August 20th, 1864, at Charleston, South Carolina, as "Agent."
image: Fold3.com

Grayson_Walford
39180 Af
28 Aug 1862
image: Adamek

Signed on March 20th, 1863, at Charleston, South Carolina.
image: Fold3.com