

WEST FELICIANA, LOUISIANA

West Feliciana is a parish in Louisiana with borders on the Mississippi River to the east and the State of Mississippi to the north. The Treasury note bears an endorsement which reads:

“Dr. J. J. Engle
W. Feliciana
La”

Note the additional downstroke at the end of “Feliciana,” which would indicate that the last name “Engle” lacks what might be interpreted as an “s.” The lack of a date suggests that this is simply an endorsement by a civilian and not an issue of the Treasury note. The note was manuscript issued in Jackson, Mississippi on October 8th, 1862; an Interest Paid stamp of January 1st, 1865 does not state a location.

A search of the Fold3.com database for Officers and Citizens produced no matches for this endorsement. An officer of this name was found as the Chaplain for the 42nd Virginia Regiment who resigned in April of 1863. But this is an unlikely match as the 42nd Virginia participated in Gen'l Robert E. Lee's campaigns, the wrong theater of the war. It would have been gratifying to associate this endorsement with the Chaplain, as his resignation letter was signed and approved by Stonewall Jackson just days before his death. Unfortunately, the signature of the Chaplain bears no similarity to that of the doctor.

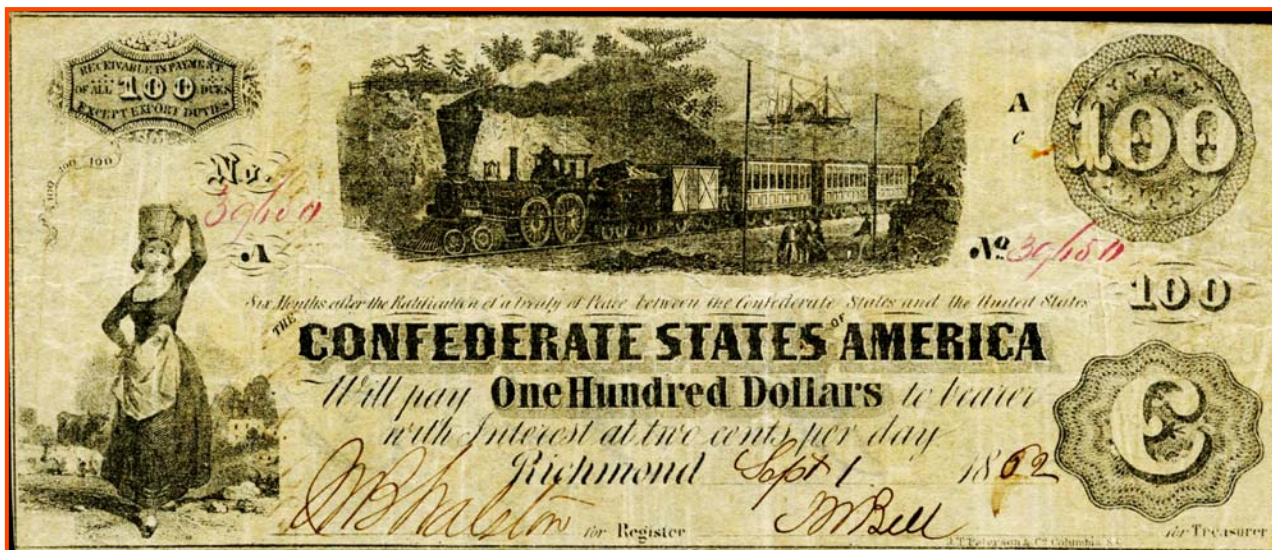
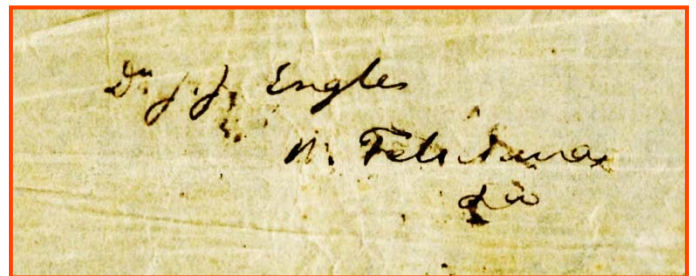
Roger Adamek found a mention of a doctor of this name in *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Louisiana transcribed by Kim Mohler*, The Goodspeed Publishing Company, Chicago, 1892, which described A. A. Carruth:

“...a prominent medical practitioner and planter of East Feliciana Parish, La.,.... He took up the study of medicine with Dr. J. J. Engle, of Mississippi....”

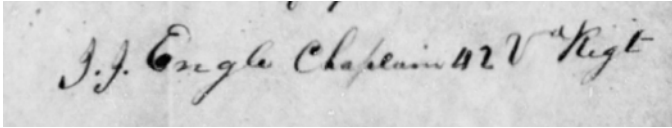
A search of this name on Ancestry.com produced a match to a physician in the city directory of New Orleans in 1863, who listed Dr. J. J. Engle with a residence at 112 and 114 Customhouse Street. This street was renamed Iberville Street in 1904. Federal tax records for 1865 and 1866 also listed Dr. J. J. Engle at this address. It is possible that this is the physician who endorsed this Treasury note, and it is possible that the physician and planter of this name may have moved to New Orleans to pursue his career as a physician after the end of slavery made plantations less profitable. We can only speculate.

At the opposite end of the Treasury note from Dr. Engle's endorsement we can just discern a faint pencil endorsement which is almost entirely illegible, nor is a date in evidence. The real significance of this Treasury note is its West Feliciana, Louisiana endorsement, a discovery by Ed Mason, the first known from this location and the only known example.

McNeil



Walston Bell
39650 Ac
1 Sep 1862
image: MasonE



J. J. Engle Chaplain 42 Va Regt

Signature of J. J. Engle signed on November 10th, 1862, on a pay voucher, as "Chaplain 42 Va Regt." The only listing in any Fold3 file for J. J. Engle, this is not a good match to the script of the Treasury note endorsement and it is probably not the same person.

image: Fold3.com

