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IN THIS ISSUE

- The Battle of Petersburg, Virginia, 25 April 1781,
by ISG Robert P. Davis, USA (Ret) 146
- Camp Colors, General Guide Flags and Flag Markers in the
United States Army, 1861-1865: Part III,
by Howard Michael Madaus 155
- A Spanish Colonial Fleur-de-Lis,
by John T. Powell 165
- Model 1925 Air Service Officer's Lapel Coat of
First Lieutenant Eugene Hoy Barksdale,
by Douglas R. Cubbison and William K. Emerson 167
- Confederate Clothing of the Houston Quartermaster Depot,
by Frederick R. Adolphus 171
- Use of an India-Rubber Pontoon Bridge,
by Michael Woshner 180
- The Humanity of Major General Jeffery Amherst,
by George A. Bray III 181
- Dinner with the 92nd Illinois,
by Stephen E. Osman 182

MILITARY UNIFORMS IN AMERICA

- 751: 24th Regiment of Infantry, United States Army, 1888-1889,
by Tom Jones and Anthony Gero 184
- 752: Illinois Troop, Virginia Light Dragoons, 1779-1782,
by Peter Copeland and Marko Zlatich 186

COLLECTORS FIELD BOOK

- The Rarest of All U.S. Army M1881 Helmets,
by BG Edward R. Burka, USAF (Ret) 188
- The Manila Provost Guard Badge?, by William K. Emerson 189
- Riding Off to Battle, by Marius B. Peladeau 190

FEATURES

- Gazette 191
- Publications 191

MILITARY MUSIC IN AMERICA

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Confederate Clothing of the Houston Quartermaster Depot

Frederick R. Adolphus

RELATIVELY little is known about Trans-Mississippi Confederate uniforms compared to the clothing issued from the depots east of the Mississippi River. This is because so many more uniforms have survived to the present day that originated in the well known eastern depots (Richmond, those in North Carolina and others in the Deep South) compared to uniforms from west of the Mississippi.

Adding to this problem is the fact that most documentable uniforms from this region are tailor or homemade affairs, rather than depot products. The few that might pass the test as true "depot issue clothes" cannot be positively identified as to their origin. This dearth of relics eliminates a major source of information regarding Trans-Mississippi uniforms that other Confederate uniform buffs have always taken for granted.

Fortunately, the Chief Quartermaster for the District of Texas, Captain Edward C. Wharton, left very detailed records of the types of clothing that he made or purchased and subsequently issued. Captain Wharton purchased clothing from local contractors and from abroad, and he had clothing made in government shops as well. This was done almost exclusively in Houston on the Upper Texas Coast.¹ Such clothing as Wharton acquired was issued primarily in Texas, but some was sent to Louisiana, Arkansas and the Indian Nations, too.

Captain Wharton began operating a quartermaster depot in Houston early in 1862. At that time, he purchased clothing and equipage from various sources and made his own tents in a government owned "tent loft." His tent-making venture proved so successful and saved the government so much money that Wharton determined, with the district's concurrence, to expand his government shops, make his own products and avoid contracting to reduce costs.²

By December 1862, Wharton had added shoe and tailor shops to his depot. The availability of Texas cowhide and a timely shipment of cadet gray cloth through the blockade made these ventures possible.³

In the spring of 1863, Wharton was producing a large variety of articles in respectable quantities. He had done so well in organizing the Houston Depot that he was placed in charge of all quartermaster operations in Texas that summer. He continued to expand, building a fabric mill, hat factory and foundry in late 1863 and early 1864. By the end of the War, he had established new manufacturing facilities throughout the state, greatly enhancing Texas' self sufficiency and home industry. The Houston Depot, however, would remain the hub of his manufacturing base. This article will concentrate on the clothing produced there under Wharton's direction.⁴

As stated, Wharton's shoe shop was one of his first major ventures. There he made two styles of footwear: a brogan or "soldier's shoe" for issue to the troops and a "Negro brogan" for issue to workers of the Labor Bureau.⁵ Additionally, he issued footwear acquired on contract. As with every aspect of his operations, Wharton would never be able to completely rely on government shops to meet the army's demands, and imports and local purchases would continue to make up a portion of his issues throughout the War.

The depot shoe was described as a heavy, double-soled, pegged army "brogan." Wharton used ink in making these shoes, indicating that he dyed them black. The leather he used was very thick, because, as Wharton wrote, "...the generality of Texas Leather is thick," compelling him to contract for calf hides, whenever possible, to keep the weight, and therefore the cost, of his leather down. As a result, he used calf hides for the shoe "uppers" and thicker, mature leather for the soles. Whether the brogans were made on a straight last or with lefts and rights remains unknown.⁶

More than 3,000 Negroes served in the Labor Bureau on the Upper Texas Coast in 1863, and their requirements for shoes were the same as those of the troops. Wharton, however, did not feel the soldier footwear would suit them and had special lasts made for the manufacture of "home-made" Negro shoes. These, he asserted, were "of a size suitable for their delicate pedestrian extremities; being made especially for them, at Houston." Presumably, these shoes differed little in construction from soldier brogans, other than the different lasts on which they were made.⁷

Wharton's locally contracted shoes were probably similar to those made in his shops, being substantial, double-soled, pegged footwear. The specifications from some of his sub-depot contracts bear this out. Four local contracts from the Austin Sub-Depot, dating from 6 February 1863 to 1 July 1864 call for shoes made of thoroughly tanned Texas leather in a good and workmanlike manner with the spur pieces on the outside or the leather stiffening pieces on the inside of the heels. The shoes were to be double soled from the toe to the front of the heel, except where the hind quarter is thick, and pegged. They were to be manufactured in size Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 with customary proportions in each size; No. 8 being used as the average size.⁸ A local contract from the San Antonio Sub-Depot of 9 January 1863 requires the same "substantially made brogan shoes." They were to be made in the following proportions as to sizes; per 100 pairs, six No. 6, twenty No. 7, thirty-five No. 8, twenty-five No. 9, twelve No. 10 and two No. 11.⁹

As with those made at the depot, it is hard to say whether the contract footwear was made on a straight last or with lefts and rights. Both "straight" and "crooked" shoes were contracted for in the trans-Mississippi, but Wharton never mentioned what style he received.¹⁰

Regrettably, no specific mention is made as to whether the contract shoes were "blackened." The evidence suggests, though, that they were. Local contracts in Louisiana required blacked shoes, hinting that Texas quartermaster officers expected the same thing. More significant, however, is the occasional description of shoes in various reports as being "russet," or having the reddish-brown shade resulting from oak tanning. Shoes are never described by color in any original documents, except when the adjective "russet" crops up. This strongly suggests that russet colored shoes were so unusual that they deserved comment. Further, when russet shoes are mentioned, they cost less than the other shoes on the same receipts, indicating a lower quality or lack of desirability. The very fact that they are mentioned as such implies that blacked shoes were the norm. Indeed, blacked shoes were very much the style of the day, and even slaves thought it uncouth to sport "red-russets" at dances, preferring to apply a concoction of grease and soot to their shoes to give them the proper tone. One can infer from this that the local contract shoes were usually blacked, but occasionally left russet.¹¹

Trans-Mississippi officials also made foreign contracts for footwear and much is known about these shoes. Four contracts dating from 6 October 1862 to 24 January 1863 provide good descriptions. Two call for "...good, substantial, British Army Shoes, the Quality of which to be superior to the sample of Shoes shown to [the contractors] and known as the United States Army Shoes." Two other contracts require "...good, substantial Northern or European made brogan shoes." Sizes for these shoes were to be, per 100; four No. 5, ten No. 6, twenty-four No. 7, thirty No. 8, twenty No. 9, eight No. 10, two No. 11 and two No. 12. As with the local contracts, Size No. 8 is the median.¹² It might be emphasized here that the above contracts call for British or Northern products. The trans-Mississippi got shoes regularly from Great Britain dating from at least mid-1863. More surprisingly, however, is the fact that many unscrupulous Northern merchants also ran shoes into Texas. It is difficult to make an exact estimate on the quantity smuggled in by Yankee speculators, but enough did arrive to cause mention in Southern newspapers.¹³

While we can only assume that the Northern made shoes were patterned along the lines the U.S. Army bootie, we have more information about the British shoes that came through the blockade. These were described in invoices as sewn army shoes, sewn army bluchers or simply as shoes. The shoes from Great Britain came in a variety of styles, many of which survive from other theaters of the war. The extant relics indicate that some had hobnails and heel irons while others had an odd buckle closure in lieu of laces. One model was made without a tongue, yet another closely resembled the Union army bootie. All were black, with sewn and nailed

soles, and of good quality. They also came in left and rights. The patterns that were imported into Texas remain unknown, but substantial numbers of these shoes did arrive and were distributed throughout the trans-Mississippi.¹⁴ We can assume they were comparable to the surviving relics from the cis-Mississippi.

Wharton also got a large quantity of shoes from Mexico. One source describes them as "Mex sewed Brogans." Wharton, however, was not pleased with their quality and relates, "The ordinary Mexican shoe is of no use whatever here..." Subsequently, he classed all Mexican shoes in stock as "summer shoes" and eschewed further purchase of them. Despite his evaluation, the Mexican brogan held its own for some time, probably to the very end of the War. They were issued to both Confederate and State troops from 1862 onwards and, whether he liked it or not, Wharton was compelled to procure them to meet the demands of the army.¹⁵

The last type of footwear Wharton dealt with was boots. He did not manufacture boots in his shop, however, and he generally issued brogans to cavalry troopers instead. He did receive a small shipment of boots through the blockade in late 1863, though, probably one of the few invoices of its kind.¹⁶

Wharton's second major clothing enterprise was his tailor shop. Prior to setting that up, he purchased uniforms locally. Although he left no description of this contract clothing in his records, the clothing rolls of the regiments that received these goods describe it well. The contract uniform consisted of a suit of "blowse and trowsers" made of bleached white woolen goods.¹⁷ The "blowse" was probably cut along the lines of a sack coat.

Wharton felt that contracting was expensive, and that clothing could be made cheaper in his own depot.¹⁸ In the fall of 1862, Wharton received a shipment of 12,000 yards of coarse cadet gray cloth through the blockade.¹⁹ He used this material to fabricate clothing in his government tailor shop, thereby saving on costs. This uniform consisted of a jacket, trousers and cap. He described it as his primary "winter" uniform, an interesting title, considering that woolen clothing was commonly worn year round during this period. Subsequently, he got such regular shipments of cadet gray cloth that he was able to continue manufacturing clothing until the end of the War.²⁰ In fact, the Quartermaster Department in Texas would have to rely on imported cloth for its winter uniforms because the quartermasters in Louisiana had almost sole use of the woollens produced at the Huntsville Penitentiary in East Texas.²¹

Wharton describes the cut and materials used to make one of these winter jackets very minutely. The jacket was single breasted with seven buttons, made of 1¼ yards of double width coarse, cadet gray cloth, basted with spool cotton and sewn with flax thread. It had bleached domestic sleeve lining, taking ¾ of a yard, and had unbleached domestic for the body lining and pockets. The lining was the heavy weave cotton material from the penitentiary mill. On occasion, however, calico, cotton jean or all unbleached domestics were used as

a substitute for the usual lining. The jacket facings, when added, were of imported woolen cloth, with the color according to service, either yellow, red or blue. Sky blue cloth was usually meant when Wharton referred to blue. For chevrons, 1/2-inch wide worsted binding was used, at 2 yards for each man of the "Non-commissioned Staff." Flannel cloth was used as a substitute. Chevrons were made by sewing the stripes onto cadet gray backing so that the pairs could be issued out separately from the jackets. Additionally, the jacket was to be cut so as to come below the tops of the hips, similar to the well known jackets of the Richmond Depot. This was to prevent the belt from slipping below the bottom of the jacket. As alluded to beforehand, jackets did not always come with facings; therefore, some were plain cadet gray.²²

Wharton used a variety of buttons on his jackets, both imported and locally made. Relic finds on the Upper Texas



FIG 1.

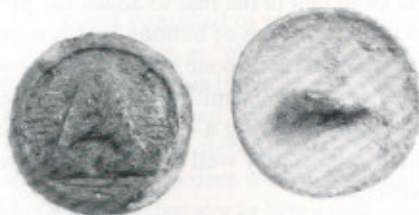


FIG 2.



FIG 3.

FIG 1. Cavalry button recovered at Camp Dixie, Texas, where Debray's and Terrell's Cavalry regiments encamped in the winter of 1863-64. It has the "T. Miller, Houston" backmark.

FIG 2. T. Miller "A" buttons have been found at Camp Wharton and Millican, Texas. Camp Wharton was the site of an artillery camp of instruction in December 1863. Millican was a railhead and clothing distribution point for the Houston QM Depot from 1863-65.

FIG 3. Miller infantry button excavated at Camp Git, Texas, southeast of Huntsville.



FIG 4.



FIG 5.

FIG 4. T. Miller button dug near Baytown, Texas in a training camp for the 2nd Texas Infantry. Courtesy Bobby J. McKinney.

FIG 5. A style of button beloved by Texas troops throughout the South. This specimen has the "Waterbury Button Co." backmark and was recovered in Brazoria County, Texas. Courtesy Bobby J. McKinney.



FIG 6.



FIG 7.



FIG 8.

FIG 6. This script "A" has no backmark. Most collectors believe it to be imported. It was recovered from Camp McNeel, Brazoria County, Texas. Courtesy Bobby J. McKinney.

FIG 7. This script "R" is unlike any other yet found. It may have been used only in the trans-Mississippi. It has no backmark. It was dug on the old Fenn Plantation in Arcola, Texas. Courtesy Bobby J. McKinney.

FIG 8. Script "C" button found at Fort Quintana at the mouth of the Brazos River. It has no backmark. Courtesy Bobby J. McKinney.

Coast, where the Houston jacket was known to have been issued, show evidence of cast T. Miller, Houston buttons, both with and without backmarks. They include "C" (FIG 1), "A" (FIG 2) and "I" (FIG 3) styles and two varieties of star buttons with "CS" centers (FIG 4). The star buttons follow Albert patterns TX 25 and TX 26. Stamped Waterbury Button Co. Texas buttons [TX 17] (FIG 5) have also been found in this area. A quantity of unmarked buttons, probably imported, have also been found that include script "A's" (FIG 6), "R's" (FIG 7), "C's" (FIG 8) and "I's." Superior Quality "CSAs" have also been found in this region, with both 7mm and 8 mm letters (FIGs 9, 10). Last, two styles of imported lined "I's" [CS 173] (FIG 11), marked Herbert & Co / London and P. Tait & Co / Limerick, have been recovered in this area. It is probable that all of these styles were used on the Houston

PHOTOS COURTESY BOBBY J. MCKINNEY



FIG 9.



FIG 10.

FIG 9. "CSA" buttons are often regarded as being atypical of Confederate clothing. The numerous "Superior Quality" backmarked buttons found in Texas may change collectors' thinking, however. These 7mm letter "CSAs" have surfaced at Camp McNeel, the Fenn Plantation and many other trans-Mississippi sites in recent years. Courtesy Bobby J. McKinney.

FIG 10. An 8mm letter "CSA," another variant of the Superior Quality buttons used in Texas. This button was dug at Camp McNeel. Courtesy Bobby J. McKinney.



FIG 11. Lined "I's" with identical fronts, but different backmarks. The top button, in better condition, is backmarked "Herbert & Co / London". The button with the cracked front is backmarked "P. Tait & Co / Limerick". The Tait button is significant because it indicates that Tait uniforms were sent into Texas. Both buttons were recovered in Millican, Texas.

COURTESY BOBBY J. MCKINNEY

Depot jacket, except for the last two, which were attached to Tait jackets brought through the blockade.²³

In addition to the jacket buttons which Wharton purchased, he also manufactured his own patterns. One model was made of pewter, the other of sheet metal.

The pewter buttons from his tin shop were made using plaster of Paris molds. These had a 50% tin, 50% lead mix. The tinsmith used 1¼ lbs. of tin and the same amount of lead to make 100 jacket buttons. Two styles of pewter buttons have been recovered from Trans-Mississippi sites which are most likely the products of Wharton's tin shop. One follows the Albert pattern TX 23B, a star encircled with "T-E-X-A-S." The other is muffin shaped with a "CS" inside of a wreath (FIG 12).²⁴

Aside from the tin shop button, Wharton had a sheet metal button made in his foundry. This was a three piece button having a metal body, wire shank and stamped face. Wharton was of the opinion that this button was much better than the tin shop button, "costing but little and easily made." He went on to relate that he was trying to secure some sheet brass with

which to make a button that even officers could use. This may indicate that he had not used sheet brass up to this time, December 1863, but that he eventually did.²⁵ It is possible that some of the locally made, unmarked brass buttons recovered at Texas sites are those which Wharton had made in his foundry.

As with his jacket, Wharton gives a detailed description of the "trousers" he made. Each pair was made from 1¼ yards of double width coarse, cadet gray cloth. Cavalry trousers required an additional half-yard of material for reinforcing. Coarse light or sky blue cloth was occasionally used as well, starting in November 1863. For material of less width, meaning Huntsville goods, a proportionate increase was necessary. It is noteworthy that Wharton substituted penitentiary goods for cadet gray when making trousers. This indicates that he preferred using his cadet gray cloth for jackets and expending any available penitentiary woolens on trousers.²⁶ More will be said about the Huntsville woolens later. The trousers were made with either four or five buttons each. They were sewn with flax thread and presumably basted with spool cotton, as was the jacket. A half yard of unbleached domestic was used for the pockets and waistband. Half-inch wide cotton webbing or braid, for stripes, at 2¾ yards per pair, was sewn on the trousers, presumably in the branch of service color. As with the jacket facings, Wharton did not always add stripes to his trousers, so many were plain. The trousers were finished with a buckle and cloth belt in the rear to adjust the girth.²⁷

Wharton used two types of buttons for his trousers. They included an imported black bone button and a pewter button made in the tin shop. The tinsmith used 1¼ lbs. tin and 1¼ lbs. lead for 100 buttons, making a 42% tin, 58% lead mix. The pewter trouser buttons may well be found at many old camp sites and battlefields.²⁸



FIG 12. The origin of the pewter "CS" buttons is uncertain. They may have been made in Wharton's Houston Depot tin shop. Many collectors, however, believe they were made by Thomas E. Miller in Houston. This particular relic was found on Cedar Bayou, Texas. Others have

surfaced in the Red River Campaign area and in camps of Hood's Texas Brigade in Virginia. Courtesy Bobby J. McKinney.

A cap finished off this uniform, which was described as follows.²⁹ It had a coarse, cadet gray cloth body with a narrow yellow, red or blue band of cloth or flannel to indicate the branch of service. Surviving records indicate that the caps were indeed made with colored bands, although substitutes, such as blue velvet instead of cloth, were sometimes used. The cadet gray parts were usually cut from scrap gathered in the making of jackets and trousers. Bleached domestic or calico was used for the lining and pasteboard for the stiffening.

White cambric or white linen may also have been used as lining. Plain leather visors, from the shoe shop, were added, preferably "glazed." A glazed chinstrap, secured by two small lettered buttons was also required by Wharton, but he leaves no record of having actually added them. Nor does he specifically state whether he added sweatbands to his caps.³⁰

It might be noted that Wharton did not make caps by choice, but of necessity. He had no wool hats to issue. On 16 May 1863, he specifically stated that wool hats should be issued in place of caps. Again in July, he requested that black wool hats, instead of caps, be given to the troops. Finally, he established his own hat factory late in 1863 in order to fabricate "a plain but serviceable wool hat—of which the Troops stand much in need."³¹

Production of Wharton's wool hat did not begin until early 1864. Until then he procured black wool hats through the blockade.³² Those black hats which he got through the blockade came from Britain and at least one example of this style survives from the Army of Northern Virginia in a museum. This relic is faded to a medium gray and is very misshapen, but appears to have originally been a black, broad brimmed, pork pie style hat.³³ The British-made hats arrived at Houston in the fall of 1863, and were undoubtedly welcomed by the soldiers.

Wharton made yet another "winter" uniform, one from Huntsville Penitentiary woolens. Prior to describing it, however, a description of the Huntsville woolens is necessary.

The mill's woolens consisted of plain or twilled kerseys, commonly known, however, as "plains" and "kerseys." At the outbreak of the war, they came in three colors: white (bleached), brown (bleached and dyed) and "sheep's grey" or drab (the unbleached, undyed natural fleece color).³⁴ This changed rapidly, however. Brown woolens were discontinued entirely after December 1861, the last stocks being sold in that month. Sheep's gray was never produced during the war in significant amounts and by 1864, it accounted for only 946 yards, or 1.2% of the penitentiary's total woolen production over a nine month period. Bleached white woolens became the mainstay from 1862 onwards. Kerseys were always made in higher proportion than plains, accounting for about 80% of Huntsville's woolen weaves by 1862. By 1864 kerseys were up to 98.6% of total woolens, while plains fell to a trifling 0.2%.³⁵ Wharton himself reports that the penitentiary woolens he used were bleached white, which corresponds with other records.³⁶ Also significant, the penitentiary woolens were single-width goods.

The penitentiary kersey "winter" suit was intended for the Labor Bureau Negroes, but could serve as a soldier's uniform as well. It consisted of a jacket and trousers cut like the Houston Depot uniform. This suit required three yards of kersey and two yards of osnaburg linings for the jacket. The trousers took an additional three yards of kersey and a half-yard of osnaburgs for linings. Both jacket and trousers would have had the same complement of buttons that the cadet gray suits had. Wharton stated that the penitentiary goods (osnaburgs, jeans, plains and kerseys) were alone suitable for

the laborer's clothing.³⁷ He had economic reasons for using penitentiary goods. These were the only fabrics that the Negroes' owners could afford, when called upon to compensate the government for issues of clothing. Wharton had 2,000 penitentiary kersey suits made up in the fall of 1863, "...which will answer either for the Troops, or the Negroes,..." he related.³⁸

Just as Wharton relied on the blockade runners for a portion of his headgear and shoes, he was also glad to receive uniforms from the same source. In the fall of 1863, 2,400 jackets and 2,916 pairs of trousers reached Texas. These woolen suits were described as gray, probably meaning cadet gray.³⁹ Shipments of ready made jackets and trousers continued until the War's end. Although there is no way of telling who manufactured the suits sent in 1863, the Peter Tait Company made the clothing sent in 1864. This is evidenced by two invoices from November and December 1864 that list 10,000 "Suits Infantry Uniforms," having been shipped from Limerick to Liverpool before coming to Texas. Tait's uniforms were manufactured in Limerick, Ireland.⁴⁰ Additionally, lined "I" Tait and Herbert style buttons, both used exclusively on Tait uniforms, have been dug on the Upper Texas Coast and at other trans-Mississippi sites.⁴¹ This fairly confirms that Tait uniforms were indeed used in these regions. A further 5,525 sets of "Military Jackets" and trousers were sent by the same vessels and may also have been Tait products. No less than nine Tait jackets, not one of them from the trans-Mississippi, survive as relics in various collections.⁴² The Tait jacket, in all of its variations, is so well known that it requires no description herein.

Wharton produced a summer uniform as well as his winter suits. For this, he used Huntsville fabrics. Apparently, he had fair access to the cotton products of the penitentiary mill. The mill produced three types of cotton goods: osnaburgs, lowells and cotton jean.⁴³ He used cotton jean cloth for the summer clothing, as did the Monroe Depot in Louisiana.⁴⁴ For linings, he used Huntsville osnaburgs. The penitentiary jean clean cloth was left undyed and probably unbleached as well; therefore, it was white in color. This uniform consisted of jacket and trousers, probably cut no differently than the winter uniform and having the same complement of buttons on both jacket and trousers. Since jeans were only single-width goods, it took three yards to make the jacket, plus two yards of osnaburg lining. Apparently, osnaburg was wider than jean. The trousers required three yards of jean as well, instead of the 1½ yards used with double width cloth. A half yard of osnaburg for pockets and lining and an adjustment buckle would have finished the trousers.⁴⁵

The summer headgear consisted of a hat made of "stout straw," an easily procurable material.⁴⁶ This hat was undoubtedly made in the style of most straw hats of the day, with a broad brim and flat, cylindrical crown. Wharton tried to obtain grosgrain and, if he succeeded, he would have had bands for these hats.

Another style of coat was made in Houston, too. This was

a frock coat, probably made on a special request from the 1st Texas Heavy Artillery Battalion stationed on the coast. Many of its members were prominent Houstonians and a request for frock coats would surely have been honored by Wharton for that reason alone.⁴⁷

Two other important items that Wharton fabricated and obtained through the blockade were shirts and drawers.

The depot shirt was made of three yards of single width cotton or flannel goods with either five or six buttons each. It was sewn with spool thread. Wharton listed many of his shirting materials as follows: brown domestic (meaning unbleached), bleached domestic, cotton jean, linsey, brown (unbleached) linen drill, blue linen drill, flannel (sometimes listed as gray, meaning unbleached), cottonade and various prints to include regattas, roanoke stripes, indigo blue stripes, blue checks and calicoes. There is further evidence that he used red and blue flannels, cotton, osnaburg and hickory cloth. The wide range of materials allowed Wharton to make summer or winter shirts, both styles being fabricated and issued.⁴⁸

Wharton did not describe his shirt buttons as well as many other buttons he used, but he did describe what they were not. Throughout his reports, he differentiated shirt and trouser buttons. He also describes his shirt buttons as being distinct from bone buttons. This tells us that he did not use either the pewter or the bone buttons on his shirts, but he never mentioned what he did use. Three other styles were available to Wharton that he may have used: imported black and white metal buttons and depot made composition buttons. Composition buttons were commonly used on shirts and may well have been what he used.⁴⁹

As with other types of clothing, Wharton secured large quantities of shirts through the blockade from 1863 onwards. These included both summer and winter shirts. Invoices describe the imports as being "summer shirts," "winter shirts," "cotton undershirts," "merino undershirts," "woolen shirts" and "gray, all wool shirts."⁵⁰ Some of the above may well have been British army goods. There are at least two original Confederate shirts in collections today that appear to be British army shirts, both issued in the Eastern Theater. One is of white cotton with blue stripes; the other is of dark bluish-gray woolen material. Both have small white buttons, apparently made of glass.⁵¹ Perhaps these originals are typical of what Wharton got.

Drawers were made in summer and winter styles, just as the shirts were. The depot drawers were made of 2¾ yards, single-width flannel (sometimes listed as "grey") heavy cotton goods or cotton jeans, with two white bone buttons per pair (FIG 13). Twilled silesia, a coarse linen, was also used for drawers. They were sewn with spool thread. From the amount of material used, it is obvious that the drawers were long.⁵²

Imported drawers, both cotton summer and flannel winter styles, arrived in Houston in large quantities as well from at least mid-1863 to the end of the War.⁵³

Socks were another crucial item that the troops needed. Wharton experienced difficulty in procuring socks on contract

because he could not afford the market price.⁵⁴ Furthermore, he left no records of having made any at the depot. While he wrote requirements for cotton summer socks, woolen winter socks and part woolen, part cotton socks in 1863, all he received that year was a large shipment of woolen socks from Britain. This leaves the impression that he relied heavily upon the blockade runners for his socks. In any case, invoices show that socks were being shipped to Texas in bales until the end of the war. Those socks arriving in late 1864 are described as "Woolen ½ Hose," corresponding to what Wharton had written requirements for a year earlier.⁵⁵ Wharton tried to resolve the shortage, however, by borrowing a "stocking knitting machine" from a wealthy planter. This device would make a pair of cotton socks every ten minutes.⁵⁶ Whether he managed to put the machine to use is not known.

Other articles of clothing that Wharton described include great coats, talmas, stable frocks and overalls.

Wharton had a pattern for a great coat, presumably double breasted with a cape, that called for 4½ yards of double width gray cloth, one yard of unbleached domestic for trimmings and lining, and 16 buttons. It was to be sewn with flax thread and spool cotton. This design was never used, however, and Wharton made no great coats of cadet gray cloth. He did make a limited number of overcoats out of imitation beaver cloth, which were single breasted and without capes, causing him to comment that it was "...the mere ordinary overcoat."⁵⁷

Wharton contemplated making talmas in lieu of great coats. Again, this plan was never fulfilled due to a shortage of materials. His pattern, however, called for three yards of double width cadet gray cloth, or 6¼ yards of other single width woolen goods, with 8 buttons each. It was to be sewn with flax thread. The talma was cut similar to an overcoat. Wharton did issue a few talmas, but these were the India rubber models from the Union stocks captured in San Antonio in 1861. He leaves no record of having made any of his own.⁵⁸

Stable frocks, also called fatigue frocks, were made in limited quantities. This article called for 5½ yards of heavy, unbleached single width cotton goods. It required six white bone buttons and was sewn with flax thread. The stable frock was cut much like an overcoat.⁵⁹

Wharton made a small stock of overalls as well, which



FIG 13. Bone buttons recovered at Fort Quintana. They follow Wharton's description of depot bone buttons, and were possibly issued on Houston Depot drawers. Courtesy Bobby J. McKinney.

required three yards of heavy, unbleached single width cotton goods and five white bone buttons. It was sewn with flax thread. Overalls were essentially large trousers that could be fit over the wearer's regular trousers.⁶⁰

Regarding his priorities, Wharton wrote, "It is not to be understood that I enter into the manufacture of *all* the above named Articles of Clothing on an extensive scale. I confine myself to endeavoring to supply the shops with Jackets & Trowsers; Shirts & Drawers, Caps, Blankets & Shoes." This statement is confirmed by comparing it with his production lists and invoices of imported goods. Only a handful of overcoats, talmas, stable frocks and overalls are listed. The bulk of his inventory consisted of his basic articles of clothing.⁶¹

Knowing what was produced in Houston, the question arises now as to whether the clothing was issued out. Wharton's records and several clothing rolls and diary accounts indicate that it was, indeed, issued out extensively.

Exact reports showing stocks on hand, issues from the depot and receiving commands are available for 1863 and early 1864. Therefore, much must be inferred about the issues of late 1862. Clothing rolls show that cadet gray jackets, trousers and cloth were being issued in Texas from late 1862 to mid 1863; strong evidence of Wharton's success in clothing the troops that winter.⁶²

Wharton's reports provide details of the Houston Depot's operations, along with reports showing the clothing issued from the depot from 1 January 1863 to 30 January 1864.⁶³ These included issues made to Arkansas, Louisiana and the Indian Nations. They included the stocks of Confederate clothing issued to Texas State troops and the Labor Bureau during that time frame as well. The principal clothing issued included 13,691 hats and caps, 20,925 jackets, 1,435 coats, 40,293 pairs of trousers, 39,407 shirts, 35,057 pairs of drawers, 3,426 pairs of socks, 43,657 pairs of shoes, 377 great coats, 98 U.S. vintage talmas and 308 stable frocks. The jackets, trousers, shirts and drawers were both winter and summer styles.

Wharton's reports end in February 1864. He does, however, allude to his future plans, giving the impression that his operation continued along the same lines that it had up until his last report. He continued to issue cadet gray uniforms, as he had received 33,000 yards of cadet gray cloth and kersey from the Rio Grande between 3 November 1863 and 29 February 1864.⁶⁴ The imported jackets and trousers that had come into Brownsville in the fall of 1863 were probably delivered to Houston as well. Due to transportation difficulties, he had not received them prior to his last report.⁶⁵ We must infer from later invoices that he continued to receive cadet gray cloth and imported clothing throughout 1864.⁶⁶ This would have enabled the Houston Depot to continue the manufacture of those uniforms described by Wharton in 1863.⁶⁷

Aside from Wharton's reports, clothing rolls and other official documents, there are many personal accounts that support the argument that Houston Depot clothing was exten-

sively issued. Such accounts are too numerous to list completely, but one diary commands attention. That is the journal and sketchbook of Morgan Wolfe Merrick.

Merrick served as a soldier in the 2nd Texas Mounted Rifles during the New Mexico Campaign, and upon his return to Texas in 1862 he joined the 3rd Texas Cavalry, Arizona Brigade. The 3rd "Arizona" served in Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana for the balance of the war. Merrick's journal covers his service up to the summer of 1863. More important for this study than his journal, however, is his sketchbook. It provides historians with about fifty drawings, many of them in full color and most depicting his comrades in uniform.⁶⁸ This is comparable to having an array of black-and-white and color photos of trans-Mississippi soldiers in camp and battle.

The first group of sketches from the New Mexico Campaign depicts 2nd Texas Mounted Riflemen wearing U.S. uniforms from the San Antonio arsenal and carrying Federal arms and accoutrements taken from like sources.⁶⁹ This is significant because it proves Merrick's accuracy. Confederate authorities did issue Federal arms, accoutrements, clothing and equipage to the 2nd Texas prior to its departure on the campaign. Numerous clothing rolls and arsenal accounts attest to this.⁷⁰ Merrick did not embellish his drawings in the least.

A later drawing shows the 3rd Arizona at "Camp Snow" in Holly, Arkansas in the winter of 1862-63.⁷¹ The black and white sketch depicts the troops in distinctly Confederate caps, jackets and trousers. The trousers have stripes and the caps have unshaded bands, indicating a branch of service color different from the body of the cap. Again, Merrick's drawing matches perfectly with all the records. These include official Monroe Quartermaster Depot accounts of clothing issues to Arkansas, commanders' comments about adequate clothing, good marks on muster roll inspections for clothing and various personnel accounts of the troops being well uniformed. Even the cavalry caps with "yellow" bands are found in the Monroe Depot inventory under the heading, "Caps, cavalry."⁷²

Finally, we have Merrick's sketches of his regiment in camp, on the march and in battle in Louisiana in 1863. These include eleven detailed drawings, six of them in color. The 3rd Arizona is shown well uniformed, having gray jackets with yellow collars and cuffs, and gray trousers with yellow stripes on the legs. Some of the jackets display yellow piping on the back seams. Most men have hats, but many sport caps; gray with yellow bands. Two of Merrick's sketches show artillerymen of the 1st Confederate Louisiana Battery in action. The artillerymen's uniforms are gray jackets, trousers and caps, all trimmed in red.⁷³

Considering the accuracy of Merrick's previous sketches, there is no reason to believe that he drew the uniforms in Louisiana differently than they truly were. Furthermore, the 3rd Arizona was supplied with clothing by Wharton in 1863, and it is entirely conceivable that they got Houston Depot uniforms resembling those Merrick sketched.⁷⁴ The uniforms

in the sketches certainly match Wharton's pattern. The 1st Confederate Battery probably also drew clothing from Houston, as it belonged to the 3rd Arizona's brigade. Their uniforms follow the Houston Depot pattern as well. All in all, Merrick offers the best evidence that Houston Depot uniforms were well utilized in the Trans-Mississippi Department.

Such was the clothing made in or issued from the Houston Depot. Throughout the state and throughout the department, other documentable uniform styles were made in depots and by contractors. Therefore, one cannot assert that Houston depot clothing was typical of the entire trans-Mississippi. It was, however, widely used.

Houston uniforms were issued to almost every Confederate unit stationed in Texas in 1863.⁷⁵ Most of these regiments went to Louisiana, Arkansas and the Indian Nations in early 1864, thus clothed. As mentioned, the depot also sent finished clothing to the aforementioned areas, and sent materials for clothing there as well. Among the items sent were 2,124 hats or caps, 2,201 jackets or coats, 7,631 pairs of trousers, 3,977 shirts, 4,354 pairs of drawers, 90 pairs of socks and 7,396 pairs of shoes. Wharton described the materials he forwarded during 1863 as being, "4,425 Yds. grey cloth and enough Materials, as Buttons, Thread, Linings & Trimmings to make Uniforms."⁷⁶ This was enough to fabricate 1,475 jackets and trousers of the Houston Depot winter pattern. If there is one uniform, therefore, that can be documented as having been used throughout the trans-Mississippi, it is the Houston depot style.

Indeed, Houston, Texas was one of the largest industrial centers in the trans-Mississippi Confederacy.⁷⁷ The city had not only the natural resources of Texas to rely on, such as a ready supply of leather, it had access to the shipments of blockade runners, which arrived almost unhindered, into Galveston and Brownsville, for most of the war.⁷⁸ These factors helped to assure that the "Bayou City" would play a key role in providing Confederate armies with clothing and other materiel throughout the war.

If nothing else can be gleaned from Wharton's records, perhaps they dispel the common misconception that the trans-Mississippi Confederacy was a backwater territory, unable to produce fine quality uniforms for its troops. Houston's vast manufacturing complex gives the lie to this myth. The Houston Quartermaster Depot proves that fine quality products were made in the trans-Mississippi. Where else in the Confederacy did a depot produce a uniform closer to the quartermaster regulations? No place but Houston, Texas!

Notes

1. Captain Edward C. Wharton's records of 1862-1864, as Chief Quartermaster, District of Texas; National Archives, Record Group 109, various Confederate Inspection Records, M935, roll 8, 89-J.41 through 158-J.41 and Confederate staff officer papers, M331, roll 264, reports of 16 October 1863 and 29 February 1864 with supplementary comments. Wharton's records formed the basis of this study (hereafter cited as

- Wharton). This reference cites 136-J.41, 155-J.41 and 158-J.41. There were three smaller sub-depots in Texas: the Austin, San Antonio and Tyler Sub-Depots. These concentrated mainly on making or buying shoes and had minimal issues of other clothing.
2. Wharton, 89-J.41, pp. 45-73.
3. Wharton, 89-J.41, pp. 14, 42-45; 95-J.41. The term "cadet grey" deserves comment at this point. "Cadet grey" was commonly used in official documents, regulations and quartermaster records. Troops and company grade officers generally referred to cadet gray cloth as "Confederate grey cloth," "army cloth," "English goods," "grey cloth" (distinct from domestically made gray kersey) or just "cloth."
4. Wharton, 89-J.41, pp. 45-73. Major J. J. Busby's report, *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, series I, vol. 48, pt. II (Washington: GPO, 1896), 966-967 (hereafter cited as *Official Records*) describes the Mound Prairie Manufacturing Depot in Texas during 1865.
5. Throughout the records studied from this region, Confederate officials used only a few terms for military footwear. They were "brogan," "shoe" and "half boot." The term "bootee," so common in the Federal army, was not used in the trans-Mississippi South.
6. Wharton, 89-J.41, p. 46.
7. Wharton, 89-J.41, p. 8.
8. Texas State Archives, Miscellaneous Records of the Quartermaster and Commissary Departments for the State of Texas and the Confederate States, 1861-1865, (hereafter referred to as Texas State Archives) Box 401-851, Folders 20 and 21. Includes the local shoe contracts of Catterton & Blair, 6 February 1863, J. R. Redding, 28 March 1863, Js. Yows, 20 November 1863 and R. D. Blair, 1 July 1864.
9. National Archives, Confederate Contracts. Cites the local shoe contract of Phillip F. Key, 6 January 1864.
10. Captain N. A. Birge's records of 1861-1865, as a quartermaster officer in the trans-Mississippi, University of Texas, General Papers of the Confederacy, box 2C487, folders 1-6 (hereafter cited as Birge).
11. Ibid. See also National Archives Microfilm Publications, M323, rolls 273-274. Includes clothing receipts for the 3rd Texas Volunteer Infantry of March-June 1863. These receipts list three types of shoes being issued simultaneously to the troops, each at a different price. The shoes with their prices were: 1) Shoes, pegged for \$3.06¼ per pair, 2) Shoes, Mexican for \$2.00 per pair and 3) Shoes, russets for no charge at all. See also Elizabeth Silverthorne, *Plantation Life in Texas*. (College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 1986); this account describes common slave shoes on page 99.
12. National Archives, Confederate contracts. Cites shoe contracts of Lippman & Koppel, 6 October 1862, Attrill & Lacoste, 18 October 1862, Justin McCarthy, 5 November 1862 and Johnson & Rhine, 24 January 1863.
13. Robert L. Kerby, *Kirby Smith's Confederacy, The Trans-Mississippi South, 1863-1865* (Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 1972), 182 (hereafter cited as Kerby).
14. Wharton, 89-J.41, p. 33; 92-J.41; 95-J.41. See also Ramsdell Microfilm Collection, E. Kirby Smith Papers. (Center for American History, University of Texas), reel 209B, part 47 (hereafter cited as Ramsdell). Invoice of quartermasters stores shipped to the Trans-Mississippi Department on 29 November and 19 December 1864. See also James L. Nichols, *The Confederate Quartermaster in the Trans-Mississippi* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1964), 80-81 (hereafter cited as Nichols). See also *Echoes of Glory, Arms and Equipment of the Confederacy*, (Alexandria, VA: Time Life Books, 1991), 174-175 (hereafter cited as *Echoes of Glory*). See also Robert Serio; personal correspondence provided drawings and descriptions of imported shoes.
15. Wharton, 92-J.41, 112-J.41. See also Texas State Archives, box 401-840, folders 13, 16 and 17; cites invoices and receipts of 4 August 1862, January-February 1864 and 4th quarter 1864. See also National Archives Microfilm Publication M323, roll 273, 3rd Texas Volunteer Infantry, receipts of 20 April 1862.
16. Wharton, 115-J.41.
17. National Archives, Record Group 109, Confederate Clothing Rolls of Texas. Rolls of the 3rd Texas Volunteer Infantry; 1 November 1862 - 31 March 1863 and the 2nd Texas Field Battery; 10 November and 2

- December 1862. These rolls list the issue of "white woolen blowses and trousers".
18. Wharton, 89-J.41, pp. 8, 38, 50, 57, 58.
 19. Wharton, 89-J.41, pp. 13, 41.
 20. Wharton, 89-J.41, pp. 14, 38, 49, 95-J.41, 110-J.41, 143-J.41, M331, roll 264 and M935, roll 8; Report of 29 February 1864, pp. 29-30. Aside from the amounts of uniform cloth imported, distinct types are mentioned as well. These included cadet gray cloth, gray kersey and cassimere, the last two presumably cadet gray, as well. See also Nichols, pp. 80-81. This refers to large shipments of cadet gray army cloth and (cadet) gray satin.
 21. Wharton, 89-J.41, pp. 8, 38, 50, 57 and 58.
 22. Wharton, 89-J.41, pp. 50-51, 95-J.41, 113-J.41, 142-J.41 and Expenditure Report, November 1863. See also Leslie D. Jensen "A Survey of Confederate Central Government Quartermaster Issue Jackets, Parts I & II," *MC&H*, 41, nos. 3, 4, (Fall, Winter 1989): 117, 120 (hereafter cited as Jensen, "Confederate Issue Jackets"); several Richmond Depot jackets are pictured therein.
 23. Bobby J. McKinney, *Confederates on the Caney* (Rosenberg, TX: Mouth of Caney Publication, 1994). This book provides an excellent reference to Confederate relics found in Texas. Mr. McKinney also allowed the author access to his relic collection and provided numerous personal interviews regarding Confederate buttons found in the trans-Mississippi. See also Serio; personal correspondence provided the author with information on Confederate buttons found in the trans-Mississippi. See also *North-South Trader*. This reference cites relics pictured in the issues of March-April 1981, 10; November-December 1981, 9; July-August 1982, 8; September-October 1982, 5; July-August 1984, 20-23; March-April 1986, p. 11; November-December 1986, 14.
 24. Wharton, 89-J.41, p. 57. McKinney showed the author buttons of this type found on the Upper Texas Coast. See also *North-South Trader*. Pewter buttons likely made by Wharton are pictured in the issues of March-April 1981, 10; July-August 1982, 8; July-August 1984, 20-21; November-December 1986, 14. See also Alphaeus H. Albert, *Record of American Uniform and Historical Buttons* (Boyertown, PA: Boyertown Publishing, 1976). This is a general reference guide to Confederate military buttons.
 25. Wharton, 89-J.41, pp. 56, 66.
 26. Wharton, Expenditure Report, November 1863.
 27. Wharton, 89-J.41, pp. 50-51, 141-J.41, 143-J.41 and Expenditure Report, November 1863.
 28. Wharton, 89-J.41, p. 57; 113-J.41 and 141-J.41.
 29. The term "cap" was the common word used for this item in all official and informal records. The author has studied thousands of original Confederate clothing related documents and has never found the term "kepi" used to describe caps, except for one place. The official Confederate uniform regulations of 1861 and 1862 refer to the cap throughout as a "cap" or a "forage cap", with its "Pattern-Of the form known as the French kepi..."
 30. Wharton, 89-J.41, p. 51; 95-J.41, 113-J.41, 141-J.41, Expenditure Report, November 1863 and M331, roll 264 and M935, roll 8; report of 16 October 1863, document C.
 31. Wharton, 89-J.41, pp. 71-72; 112-J.41, 113-J.41 and 141-J.41.
 32. Wharton, 92-J.41 and 95-J.41.
 33. Jensen, "Confederate Issue Jackets". While compiling information for the Museum of the Confederacy's "Catalogue of Uniforms", Mr. Jensen became acquainted with this particular relic and described it to the author during an interview. See also *Echoes of Glory*; this hat is pictured on page 157.
 34. Michael Rugeley Moore, "The Texas Penitentiary and Textile Production in the Civil War Era" (Austin: BA Thesis, University of Texas, April 1984), p. 45 (hereafter cited as Moore).
 35. Wharton, 89-J.41, pp. 38 and 50. See also Birge, box 2C488, folder 2. See also Kerby, p. 261. See also National Archives, microfilm M346, roll 62, Jno. S. Besser; purchases of December 1861 and March-April 1863. See also Texas State Archives, box 401-832, folders 2 and 9; cites purchases of 29 August 1862 and inventories of 30 April 1863.
 36. Wharton, 89-J.41, pp. 37-38.
 37. Wharton's mention of cotton jean indicates that summer uniforms were made for the Negroes. In fact, the laborers' summer uniforms were probably the same as those Wharton made for the troops, that clothing being issued to the Negroes as necessary.
 38. Wharton, 89-J.41, p. 8; 92-J.41, 152-J.41 and M331, roll 264 and M935, roll 8; Report of 16 October 1863, document C.
 39. Wharton, 92-J.41 and 95-J.41.
 40. Ramsdell, invoices of 29 November and 19 December 1864.
 41. McKinney reported finds of Peter Tait and Herbert & Co. buttons, Albert pattern CS 173A, in Texas and Louisiana. Serio reported that Peter Tait buttons have been found in Arkansas by relic hunters there.
 42. Jensen, "Confederate Issue Jackets" pictures several Tait jackets on pages 162-164. See also Ross M. Kimmel, "Enlisted Uniforms of the Maryland Confederate Infantry: A Case Study, Parts I & II," *MC&H*, 41, nos. 3, 4, (Fall, Winter 1989): 105. This reference includes a picture of a Tait jacket. See also *Echoes of Glory*, 139; this reference pictures two Tait jackets.
 43. Moore. This gave good information on fabrics produced at the Huntsville Penitentiary. See also Wharton, 89-J.41, p. 50 and Birge, box 2C487, folder 4.
 44. Wharton, 92-J.41, 143-J.41 and Expenditure Report, November 1863. See also Birge, box 2C487, folders 4, 6, 12, 13; box 2C488, folders 1, 18.
 45. Texas State Archives, box 401-832, folder 14; box 401-840, folders 16, 19. Cites the Texas State quartermasters requirements for jackets and trousers using penitentiary jeans and osnaburgs.
 46. Wharton, 92-J.41, 143-J.41.
 47. Wharton, 142-J.41, 143-J.41.
 48. Wharton, 89-J.41, pp. 50-51; 92-J.41, 110-J.41, 115-J.41, 141-J.41, 143-J.41 and Expenditure Report, November 1863. See also National Archives, Record Group 109, Confederate Clothing Rolls of Texas. 26th Texas Cavalry, Galveston, Texas; 19 November 1862. See also National Archives, microfilm M331, roll 83; Receipts of 32nd Texas Cavalry, 25 August and 12 September 1863. M323, rolls 273, 274; Receipts of 3rd Texas Volunteer Infantry, 1-11 September 1863, April 1863 and 1st and 2nd quarters of 1863.
 49. Wharton, 89-J.41, pp. 50, 57; 95-J.41, 112-J.41, 113-J.41, 136-J.41, 141-J.41, 142-J.41, 143-J.41, 147-J.41 and 155-J.41.
 50. Wharton, 92-J.41, 95-J.41 and 110-J.41. See also Ramsdell, invoice of 19 December 1864.
 51. *Echoes of Glory*, 154-155; the referenced shirts are pictured in this source.
 52. Wharton, 89-J.41, p. 51, 92-J.41, 115-J.41, 141-J.41, 143-J.41 and Expenditure Report, November 1863.
 53. Wharton, 92-J.41 and 95-J.41.
 54. Wharton, 89-J.41, p. 39.
 55. Wharton, 92-J.41, 93-J.41, 107-J.41, 112-J.41, 113-J.41, 137-J.41, 138-J.41, 142-J.41 and 143-J.41. See also Ramsdell, invoice of 12 November 1864. See also Nichols, 80.
 56. Wharton, 89-J.41, p. 71.
 57. Wharton, 89-J.41, p. 51.
 58. Wharton, 89-J.41, p. 52.
 59. Wharton, 89-J.41, p. 52 and 141-J.41.
 60. Wharton, 89-J.41, p. 52 and 141-J.41.
 61. Wharton, 89-J.41, p. 52, 92-J.41, 93-J.41, 137-J.41, 138-J.41, 142-J.41, 143-J.41, 146-J.41 and 152.41.
 62. National Archives, Record Group 109, Confederate Clothing Rolls of Texas. 3rd Texas Volunteer Infantry; 1 October-31 December 1862 and 1 November 1862-1 May 1863, 8th Texas Volunteer Infantry (Hobby's Bn.), Lavaca, Texas; 27 December 1862, 2nd Texas Field Battery; 10 November and 2 December 1862, and 15 May 1863, and 8th Texas Field Battery; 13 November 1862, 1 December 1862 and 3 June 1863. These rolls list the issues of gray cloth, meaning cadet gray, for uniforms and "grey cloth jackets and trousers".
 63. Wharton, 137-J.41; M331, roll 264; M935, roll 8; Report of 29 February 1864, pp. 17, 18 26, 29 and 30. Included also were issues to detailed men, the gunboat service and officer sales.
 64. Wharton, 143-J.41; M331, roll 264; M935, roll 8; Report of 29 February 1864, p. 29.

65. Wharton, 92-J.41, 95-J.41, and M331, roll 264; M935, roll 8; Report of 29 February 1864, p. 29.
66. Nichols, 80, 81. A sampling of the invoices from the fall of 1864 lists 15,000 suits of jackets and trousers, 64,000 prs. shoes, 22,000 prs. socks, 18,000 prs. drawers, 20,000 woolen shirts, 67,000 yds. cadet gray army cloth and 77,000 yds of cadet gray satin. See also Ramsdell, invoices of 12 November, 29 November and 19 December 1864.
67. Oscar Haas, "The Diary of Julius Giesecke, 1861-1865," *Texas Military History* (quarterly publication of the National Guard Association of Texas) 3, no. 4 (Winter 1963) 4, no. 1 (Spring 1964): 44-45. The 4th Texas Cavalry Regiment "drew gray coats and pants from the government" in Houston on 31 December 1863.
68. Jerry D. Thompson, *From Desert to Bayou, The Civil War Journal and Sketches of Morgan Wolfe Merrick*. (El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1991).
69. Thompson, 12, 21 27, 32, 34, 36, 37, 72, 79.
70. National Archives, Record Group 109, Confederate Clothing Rolls of Texas. 2nd Texas Mounted Rifles; 15 September 1861-28 February 1862. These rolls list basic items of Federal uniforms that the regiment received such as hats with cavalry bands and tassels, uniform coats, flannel sack coats or blouses, greatcoats, shirts, drawers, trousers, socks, shoes and blankets.
71. Thompson, 94.
72. Birge, box 2C489, regarding his issues of clothing to Arkansas; box 2C487, folder 12, reference the cavalry caps. See also *Official Records*, series I, XV: 867, 872. This cites Generals Holmes and Taylor pirating a shipment of 200,000 yards of cadet gray cloth in Louisiana during October 1862 that was bound for the cis-Mississippi. They used this cloth to clothe their soldiers in Louisiana and Arkansas. See also National

Archives, Record Group 109, muster roll inspections for Walker's Texas Infantry Division, 31 December 1862, near Little Rock, Arkansas. The entries under "clothing" are marked "good", reflecting the massive issues of uniforms received that quarter. See also Norman D. Brown, ed., *One of Cleburne's Command, The Civil War Reminiscences and Diary of Capt. Samuel T. Foster, Granbury's Texas Brigade, CSA*. (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1980), 8, Foster wrote that on 1 November 1862, all the men got a new suit apiece; jacket, pants and cap, at Arkansas Post. Regarding the uniformity of dress he claimed, "You can't tell one from another unless you see his face."

73. Thompson, 44, 46.
74. Wharton, 89-J.41, pp. 4-5.
75. Wharton, 89-J.41, pp. 1-18; 90-J.41, 91-J.41, 93-J.41 and 151-J.41. See also Col. Harold B. Simpson and Brig. Gen. Marcus J. Wright, *Texas in the War, 1861-1865*. (Hillsboro, TX: Hill Jr. College Press, 1984). This is a basic reference for identifying Texas commands that Wharton provided with clothing.
76. Wharton, 138-J.41.
77. Wharton, 89-J.41, pp. 39-76. See also Michael Powell, "New Shell Variant: The Houston Read," *North-South Trader's Civil War*, 19, no. 6 (Christmas 1992, issue 120): 44-46. This article described Houston's industrial role in the war. See also Bill Winsor, *Texas in the Confederacy, Military Installations, Economy and People* (Hillsboro, TX: Hill Jr. College Press, 1978): 96-97, 99. The section titled "The Wartime Journal of Major E. T. Milsaps" related much about the industrial operations in wartime Houston. See also Kerby, pp. 17-18, 65, 76, 81-84, 164-165, 258-260, 380, 386.
78. Wharton, 89-J.41, pp. 14, 24, 27-34, 38, 50; 92-J.41, 95-J.41, 107-J.41, 110-J.41; 115-J.41. See also Kerby, 377-379.

Use of an India-Rubber Pontoon Bridge

Michael Woshner

THE 1864 *Report of the Secretary of War* contains a fascinating extract from the report of Major General Steele on his retreat from Camden after the Battle of Jenkin's Ferry, showing that some India-rubber floats were used during the Civil War:

Headquarters, Department of Arkansas
Little Rock, May 4, 1864

General:

The enemy having disappeared from the field, our troops were withdrawn and passed over the bridge without interruption from the enemy, the bridge was kept two hours to pass over our wounded men and stragglers. It was nearly worn out (India-rubber floats), having been in use over two years. Some parts of it were two feet under water, and I ordered it to be destroyed. We had no transportation for it; the mules were exhausted; the wagons were destroyed. It had done good service. Without

it my whole command would, in all probability, have been lost. General Halleck sent it to me two years ago last March to operate on Current and Black Rivers.

Very respectfully, general, your
obedient servant,

F. Steele
Major General, Commanding

Major General H. W. Halleck
Chief of Staff¹

Note

1. Congressional Set 1230, *Reports of the Secretary of War, 1864 Annual Report*, 30. See also, *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Washington: GPO, 1880-1901), series I, vol. 34, pt. 1: 70.