



North Carolina Numismatic Association

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December 2013 Issue

Call for Assistance

We need your news and articles!

Do you enjoy the hobby? Have you discovered information that has helped you? Would you like to share this information with fellow collectors?

The NCNA Journal is looking for informational articles by North Carolina numismatists and collectors. The articles can be educational but it may also relate personal experiences of both a serious or humorous nature. Other suggested items include featured speakers at local coin clubs, club events, fun stories, write-ups about coin shows or meetings, club election results and anything else you think people would like to hear about. Bragging about your latest acquisition is also welcome.

Submissions should be well-written with all sources properly referenced or cited. All images used for the article should be royalty free or be accompanied by permission of the copyright holder. Remember, if you take the photo or the scan then you are the copyright holder and that picture can be printed in the journal. Most photographs downloaded from the web, however, cannot be used in the journal. Images should be of the highest possible resolution for the best printed results. Please remember to proofread your article. If you need assistance, please contact the editor.

Individuals submitting articles will be considered for the Bason Literary Award that is awarded annually to the person who had made the most significant contribution to the NCNA Journal from the previous Fall issue through the Convention where the award is presented. Articles are judged based on their content, readability and timeliness of the subject matter.

Issues

January– March
April– June
July– September
Oct– December

Submission Deadline

February 1
May 1
August 1
November 1

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	One Issue Price	Annual Price (4 times)
1/4 page	\$16	\$50
1/2 page	\$25	\$80
Full page	\$45	\$150
Full back page in color		Sold!

NOTE ON ADVERTISEMENTS

All advertisements should be submitted in camera ready format. A \$35.00 formatting fee will be charged for any non-camera ready ad and for any changes requested during the year. The ad should be in as high a resolution JPG as possible for the best printed results. If you have any questions, please ask about available options.

Second Vice President's Address to the NCNA Membership

I attended my first coin show in 1966 when my Grandfather asked me to join him for an afternoon to share his love of coin collecting with me. I was 9 years old then, and for years afterwards, my time with him was limited. When we did get together for family visits, he always made a point to spend a few quiet minutes with just the two of us, sharing some of his duplicates and comparing new acquisitions with me.

This simple sharing of the love of coin collecting with a young person is the heart and soul of our hobby's future.

NCNA President Jim Neely asked me if I would step in this month and write a message to the membership of the NCNA. I have chosen to take this time to encourage you all to create a similar relationship with a young person and get them involved in our great hobby. All four of my own children were encouraged to collect when they were younger and currently none of them are active collectors, but their children are... We can plant seeds to encourage the love of collecting, but we may never know the impact it will have on their young minds. What may start as a simple collection of State Quarters may end up leading to a love of history or a pursuit to being a teacher or banker.

In my role as 2nd VP of the NCNA, I am hoping to get around to visit as many of the NC Coin Clubs as possible in 2014. I would love to have the opportunity to share some of the progress the NCNA has made in improving your NCNA Journal and to begin an NCNA supported YN [Young Numismatist] program with your feedback. The recent NCNA Convention Show had a YN program run by NCNA member and volunteer, Rodney Bobak who had a great time encouraging a group of about 20 youth as they hammered their own commemorative coins.

NCNA volunteers often seem willing but have limited resources to create a working YN program on their own. One of my goals in 2014 is to leave in place for the NCNA membership a framework to allow any willing NCNA member club or individual the ability to lead a program to encourage YNs. We will do this by creating

some program content that can be shared by all NCNA members, encouraging the development of YN Exhibit Awards for all club shows, and to continue to provide a venue at the State Show for a growing YN collector presence.

I look forward to meeting many of you this year as I visit your club meetings. If you have some ideas for YN Program development to share, please feel free to contact me at twood@northstate.net.

Take a small part of your particular collecting passion and choose to actively share with others, old and young. Remember to keep it short and simple. The rewards for yourself and the hobby will be great. Thank you in advance for your efforts.

Tom Wood
twood@northstate.net
2nd Vice President
December 2013

Notes from the Editor

This year has been a year of changes. A new President, a new Board, a new Convention location, and a new Editor. Moreover, the Editor decided to greatly expand the Journal and place a renewed interest in Club News and Numismatic Articles. This brought about the need to find a new printer. The result of all of this newness is in your hands. Hopefully, you will find the new journal's format and content appropriate, worth reading, and worth supporting. You see, to keep producing a quality journal full of news and articles, we need your help. This journal is your journal and is for your benefit. Enjoy, and keep the news and articles coming. All ideas are welcome, even the ones that are not implemented.

Richard McDowell
richard@tryongold.com



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The Series of 1928 Census Project

Have you ever wondered if your note is really scarce or not? Sure, there are many websites, articles, and publications that declare certain notes to be rare, but often the data is dated, based on second-hand or third-hand information or just plain factually incorrect. The more information we know as collectors, the better off we are when making purchases or selecting which notes to collect. That is why I created 1928notes.com.

1928notes.com is a free, educational resource for those that collect or need information concerning Series of 1928 (and Series of 1933!) note rarities. Contained on this website are census listings for Gold Certificates, Silver Certificates, United States Notes, and Federal Reserve Notes. To make it easy to remember, every census contains small-size notes with signatures that occur before the Julian/Morgenthau combination. Why Series of 1928 notes? Because there tend to be less of these notes and often the most desirable small-size note varieties are found within them.

So how does 1928notes.com work? Unlike many resources, this website does not display vague, unreferenced numbers. Every note that I have ever officially confirmed is listed with as much information as I know about it. These confirmed notes are the backbone of the project. 1928notes.com census listings are purely based on the information I have compiled, not on what I estimate to be out there. Notes that are assumed to exist or that have been passed on to me by reliable members of the note collecting community are also listed; however, until I have certainty of a note's existence, it is not officially counted in a 1928notes.com census. Each of these unconfirmed notes are assigned a category designation based on how reliable I think the information is and each may be upgraded or downgraded according to new information that arises over the course of time.

This project is a perpetual work-in-progress and should never be

considered definitive. This fact is what drives me to gather more information. Whether I am on the road attending shows or at the office speaking with collectors, I am always searching for note discoveries so that I might give you, the collectors, the most accurate information possible on 1928notes.com.

This is also a project where you can help too! Note discoveries or updates on current listings can be sent to admin@1928notes.com. I am always appreciative of your contributions!

Gerald Crain, Jr.

*Also includes Series of 1933.

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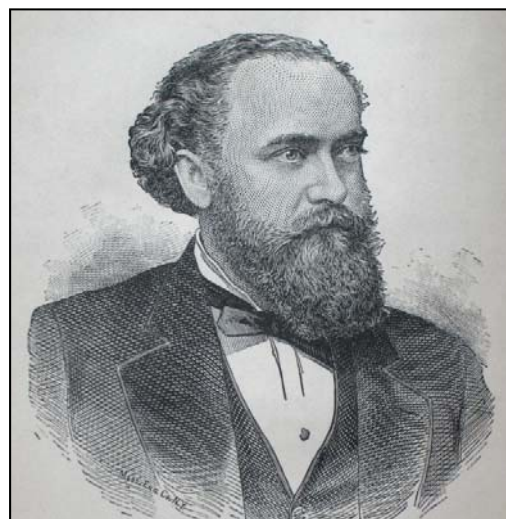
SAGE'S CANDY COIN

One counterstamp that has piqued my interest of late is the mysterious SAGES CANDY COIN mark found on some examples of 1870's vintage, high-denomination U.S. coins. It was once believed that this counterstamp might be the subject of a 19th century confection related promotion. The odd thing is that this mark is found on quarters, half dollars and Trade Dollars making this a truly generous promotion for that era.



In the last five years a more precise theory has come to light regarding the origins of the Sage counterstamp. It seems that Sage's "Candy" was the product of one Dr. Ray Vaughn Pierce using the pseudonym of Dr. Sage.

Ray Vaughn Pierce was born in 1840 in Stark, New York. In his early twenties he set up practice in Titusville, Pennsylvania. An early claim was that he had graduated from the Philadelphia University of Medicine and Surgery. More recently, however, Ohio University Medical Historian Norman Gevitz dispelled this particular laurel (his exact words: "Undoubtedly, the diploma was purchased") A second boast was an earned degree from the Eclectic Medical College



in Cincinnati, Ohio. Regardless of his scholastic accomplishments it is known that he practiced traditional medicine in Titusville for five years, after which he moved to Buffalo to continue his practice in 1867.

It was in Buffalo that he began to expand his business into the manufacture and sale of proprietary medicine. This was commonplace in the late 19th century as there was little federal regulation in this field. Legitimate and illegitimate doctors alike produced a variety of elixirs, oils, salves, tablets, blood purifiers and an entire family of bitters billed as cure-alls.

In their day, this was a viable substitute for having access to medical facilities, especially for customers in rural areas. Many of these medical charlatans would purport that owning a bottle of their latest concoction was akin to 'having a doctor in the house.' It was from these unfounded expectations that the whole idea of the polished and fast talking snake-oil salesman was born. Certain proprietors of these panacea had larger than life personalities and were sure to draw a crowd. They were not above using skills in the audience to reinforce claims that their potent tonic had miraculously cured every ailment that once maligned them.

Advertising of these miracle medicines was predominantly word of mouth mixed with some newspaper ads, the occasional painted barnside or, relevant to numismatists, a counterstamped coin. Dr. Pierce, and sometimes his alter ego Dr. Sage, would utilize all of the popular means of advertising of the day for his Golden Medical Discovery, Catarrh Cure, Pleasant Purgative Pellets, Nasal Douche, Extract of Smartweed and an entire line of products aimed specifically at diseases of women.

While on the topic of women, one has to wonder why this particular demographic was the focus of so many of Dr. Pierce's products. Well, the good doctor viewed women as favorably as most of his contemporaries in the medical field did; which is to say he looked down on them as irresponsible children who needed to be cared for and watched after. Because they were misunderstood, women in this era were especially vulnerable to misdiagnosis and inadequate treatment. A common belief was that their ailments were caused by their sexual organs. In many cases this led to highly experimental and sometimes lethal treatments for women.

Dr. Pierce's attitude towards women and their ability to take care of themselves responsibly may have been conventional but judged by the scrutiny of history it was entirely chauvinistic. He held the belief that women could not help other women with their medical concerns even if she had already experienced a similar condition. This was chalked up to the lack of loyalty and discretion that the fairer sex possessed, or so it was believed. This sexism did not skip a generation it seems as Dr. Pierce's son, Valentine Mott Pierce, published the '*Dream Book -- Bridal Superstitions*' for women in 1922.

In addition to hawking his famous line of potions Dr. Pierce was also the proprietor and chief consultant at the Invalid's Hotel and Surgical Institute in Buffalo, New York which staffed over a dozen physicians. The facility was state-of-the-art complete with electric elevators, ozone machines, and power generators.

He was also publisher of the Common Sense Medical Advisor which consisted of 1006 pages and over a twenty year span sold 2 million copies in North America and Europe. Copies of the guide book could be requested by sending 31 cents in stamps for a cloth-bound edition. The publication primarily consisted of Dr. Pierce's attempt to defend against accusations that his elixirs contained opium or alcohol and his popular boast that he would pay \$500 as a reward to any individual uncured by a bottle of his good stuff. The balance of the ink was devoted to sycophantic praise from his devotees **As a side note: the Massachusetts State Board of Health did find traces of opium in Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription in 1882 despite the doctor's plea to the contrary.

IN THE DOCTOR'S OWN WORDS

(from the pages of the Common Sense Medical Advisor)

Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery," or Alterative Extract. This compound is a highly nutritive and tonic preparation, combining the remedial properties of the best vegetable alteratives at present known to the medical profession. In perfecting this alterative compound, and likewise other standard preparations of medicine, we have made an outlay of many thousand dollars for chemical apparatus, and special machinery by the aid of which these remedies have been brought to their present perfection. Great

pains are taken to obtain the materials at the right season of the year, properly cured so that none of their remedial qualities may be impaired. We, therefore, can with great confidence recommend Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery" as one of the best preparations of the alterative class. Like all others of this type, its action is insensible, producing gradual changes, arousing the excretory glands to remove morbid materials, and at the same time toning the secretory organs. The manufacture of this compound is under the special supervision of a competent chemist and pharmacist, and it is now put up in bottles wrapped with full directions for its use. We can confidently recommend this compound whenever an alterative is required to cleanse the blood, tone the system, increase its nutrition, and establish a healthy condition. For these reasons we shall often advise its employment.

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Purgative Pellets. These pellets combine the pure, concentrated, active principles of several vegetable alteratives, and the result is, that within the small compass of a few grains he has most happily blended and chemically condensed these properties, so that their action upon the animal economy is sanative and universal. They awaken the latent powers, quicken the tardy functions, check morbid deposits, dissolve hard concretions, remove obstructions, promote depuration, harmonize and restore the functions, equalize the circulation, and encourage the action of the nervous system. They stimulate the glands, increase the peristaltic movement of the intestines, tone the nutritive processes, while aiding in evacuating the bowels. All this they accomplish without corroding the tissues or vitiating the fluids. Their assistance is genial, helping the system to expel worn out materials, which would become noxious if retained. Having expended their remedial powers upon the various functions of the body, they are themselves expelled along with other waste matter, leaving behind them no traces of irritation. This cannot be said of mercurials, or of other harsh, mineral alternatives. These Pellets may be safely employed when the system is feeble, frail, and delicate, by giving them in less quantities. *Dose*—As an alterative, only one or two Pellets should be taken daily.

A DEBT OF GRATITUDE

Gentlemen -- Some ten years ago I suffered untold agony from chronic nasal catarrh. My family physician gave me up as incurable, and said I must die. At this time I weighed 110 pounds. My case was such a bad one, that every day, towards sunset, my voice would become so hoarse I could barely speak above a whisper. In the morning my coughing and clearing of my throat would almost strangle me. By the use of Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy in three months I was a well man; the cure has been permanent, and I now weigh 148 pounds.

Yours truly,
Prof. W. Hausner
Ithaca, Tompkins Co., NY

In the name of full disclosure, Hausner was a famous Mesmerist who published works on animal magnetism and held similar misogynistic views towards women as Pierce.

Later in life Ray Vaughn Pierce served as a State Senator from 1877 to 1879 and then a short stint as a Congressman from his district until 1880. It is rumored that President James A. Garfield once commented that Pierce was one of the finest men he had ever known and spoke favorably towards the medical empire that Pierce helped to create. Whether he was a medical professional or a huckster preying on the ill-informed, the fact remained that Dr. Sage made appearances in almost everyone's medicine cabinet with his line of products selling well into the 1970's.

The man at the center of our counterstamp mystery, Dr. Ray Vaughn Pierce died at his home on St. Vincent Island, Florida on February 4, 1914. His aforementioned son, Valentine Mott Pierce continued to publish pseudo-medical journals in the family tradition until 1942. Interestingly enough, the Florida property today is home to a national wildlife refuge with many animals flourishing that were nearly extinct one hundred years ago. The elder Dr. Pierce had the foresight to bring Sambar deer from the Bronx Zoo to St. Vincent Island. The marsh-like habitat is similar to that of Asia where Sambar are native and today more than 200 Sambar deer roam the former Pierce homestead.

Hopefully, you will reflect on this man and his interesting life the next time you see a SAGE'S CANDY COIN counterstamp. I am sure that I will.

— Greg Capps



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The Great Silver Dollar Hoards

By Danny Freeman

Preface

Perhaps no other United States coin ever made stirs the human imagination more than the silver dollar. Images of the old west, poker tables, saloons, and bank robbers all come to mind when the silver dollar is the subject of discussion. This is part 4 of a series that examines the “Hoard” of dollars that have become famous and are known to the collector.

Part Four

The Redfield Hoard

LaVere Redfield is the classic “rags to riches” American success story. Born in poverty in 1897 in Ogden, Utah, Redfield would amass a huge fortune from stocks and later real estate. Along the way he also stashed away hundreds of thousands of U.S. silver dollars that would become known as the “Redfield Hoard.”

Living in a fatherless home as a young child, LaVere watched his mother do whatever she could to earn money and put food on the table; he learned the habit of “thrift” from her and it stayed with him all of his life. In his teens, the family moved to Idaho, and he worked after school at all kinds of odd jobs, including digging potatoes. In his early 20’s he got a job as a clerk in a department store where he fell in love with a co-worker and they were married. Hearing that there were lots of opportunities in California, they soon moved to Los Angeles. Within a short period of time, the natural born “go-getter” was a stock broker. When The Depression hit in 1929, he prospered; he had a knack for buying stocks at rock bottom prices and selling at the right time. By the late 1930’s he was worth several million dollars. He never trusted banks and stuffed cash in hiding anywhere he could. As the banks began foreclosing on distressed properties, he began putting his money in real estate; he would show up at bank auctions with large grocery bags full of cash to buy property.

Even as wealthy as he was, he still was very thrifty. Driving an old pickup and even delivering vegetables for a small fee for local farmers. He didn’t drink or smoke, but his one vice was gambling. This would lead him to Las Vegas and Reno. He liked the Reno area

very much and purchased a stone house near Mt. Rose in 1935. He would accumulate over 50,000 acres of land around Lake Tahoe and Mt. Rose in the next 20 years. After World War II, he started buying bags of silver dollars from the banks and sliding them down the old coal chute at his home. He also had a large safe full of cash, jewels, and stocks. In 1952 one of his female blackjack dealers from a local casino took several of her male workers to his house and they stole the safe. Local police quickly arrested the thieves and recovered all of the contents except \$150,000.00. The safe had contained over 1.5 million in cash and tens of thousands of dollars in jewels. The theft made huge headlines and it attracted the attention of local IRS agents who discovered that LaVere’s tax returns had serious shortcomings. He would eventually be tried for income tax evasion. He acted as his own attorney, telling the judge that he could not afford one. He received a 5 year sentence and a \$60,000 fine.

After serving a year and a half LaVere was paroled. He continued to buy land and hoard silver dollars. In late 1963, his home was robbed again. This time they stole over 100,000 silver dollars; this theft was never solved. He continued to work hard at making money even into his seventies. When he died in 1974, his estate was estimated near \$200 million. Two different handwritten wills were found, and the legal entanglements began. The second will was determined to be a forgery and the estate went to his wife and a niece. Executors appointed by the courts would find over 400,000 silver dollars hidden in the basement behind fake walls made out of cardboard and cement that LaVere had fashioned himself. Stack’s Rare Coins were called in to do the appraisal. The estate then sold the coins to A-Mark for \$5.2 million. Stack’s filed a lawsuit to recover the time and effort of the appraisal. The probate court would cancel the first sale, and scheduled a public sale. A-Mark would be the high bidder at \$7.3 million, but other dealers involved also sued and the case would not be closed until 1983. A-Mark would finally take physical possession of the coins, but they could not market such a large hoard themselves.

A-Mark would team up with Paramount International Coin, John Love, Robert Hughes, and other dealers to disperse the vast holding. A plan was devised to spread the silver dollars out over several years so that it would not impact the coin market all at once. Paramount was very aggressive with their marketing; they placed their dollars in red plastic holders showing it was from the Redfield Hoard and placing a grade on it as well. Other dealers sold theirs in a quieter manner, afraid to upset the market.

The exact dates, mintmarks, and quantities have never been released to the public, but it is known from advertising of the coins they were overwhelmingly “S” mint dollars. Over a period of a few years, all the coins were sold, and the legacy of an eccentric millionaire endures to this day.

Do you think there could be another such hoard hidden away in some cold, dark basement? Only time will tell...

— Danny Freeman

References:

- Comprehensive U.S. Silver Dollar Encyclopedia
- John Highfill
- Reno Coin Club
- Paul Williams
- David Elliott
- Reno Gazette- Journal
- Coin World
- Numismatic News

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YN Education Zone

From time to time, we need to get back to our roots and educate ourselves about new things in the market. Not everything in numismatics is expensive or old, but everything has a story. If I have learned anything, it is that you can learn that story when the product is new and inexpensive, or you can pay for your education years later when the product is in demand, and in short supply. For this, the inaugural article for the YN Education Zone, I have selected a brand new mint product that will likely sell very few pieces. Here is a chance to learn the story while the item is being made. Who knows what the future holds? Let me know if any of you pick up one of these, or will you all roll the dice and take your chances that none of these are diamonds in the rough.

Richard McDowell
richard@tryongold.com

Native American Code Talker Congressional Medals

The Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2008 (Act) (Public Law 110-420) requires the Secretary of the Treasury to strike Congressional Medals in recognition of the dedication and valor of Native American code talkers to the U.S. Armed Services during World War I and World War II. “Code talkers” refers to those Native Americans who used their tribal languages as a means of secret communication during wartime.

Under the Act, unique gold medals are struck for each Native American tribe that had a member who served as a code talker. Silver duplicate medals are presented to the specific code talkers, their next of kin, or other personal representatives. In addition, bronze duplicates are available for sale to the public.

The Navajo Nation was awarded Congressional Gold Medals in

2001 under Public Law 106-554.

On November 20, 2013 in Emancipation Hall at the U.S. Capitol, 25 tribes were awarded Congressional Gold Medals in recognition of the dedication and valor of Native American code talkers to the U.S. Armed Services during World War I and II. Another tribe also was recognized at the ceremony with the unveiling of its medal designs.

25 Tribes Honored on November 20, 2013 With a Congressional Gold Medal

Cherokee Nation	Osage Nation
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe	Pawnee Nation
Choctaw Nation	Ponca Tribe
Comanche Nation	Pueblo of Acoma Tribe
Crow Creek Sioux Tribe	Santee Sioux Nation
Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes	Seminole Nation
Ho-Chunk Nation	Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate (Sioux) Tribe
Hopi Tribe	Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Kiowa Tribe	Tlingit Tribe
Menominee Nation	Tonto Apache Tribe
Meskwaki Nation	White Mountain Apache Tribe
Muscogee (Creek) Nation	Yankton Sioux Tribe
Oglala Sioux Tribe	
Oneida Nation	

Seven additional tribes are eligible and will receive their Congressional Gold Medals at a future date. They are:

Tribes with Congressional Gold Medals Yet to Be Released

Lower Brule Sioux Tribe	Crow Tribe
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes	Laguna Pueblo Tribe
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior	Rosebud Tribe
Chippewa Tribe	Mohawk Tribe

The medals are available at www.usmint.gov and come in two sizes. The 3" bronze medals are \$39.95 each and the 1.5" bronze medals are \$6.95 each.

Cherokee Nation Medal

The Cherokee Nation is the federally-recognized government of the Cherokee people whose capital is located in the Tahlequah, Oklahoma and is the largest tribal nation with more than 317,000 citizens.

In 1838, the United States government removed more than 16,000 Cherokee Indian people from their homelands in Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, and Georgia, and sent them to Indian Territory (Oklahoma). Thousands died during this "Trail of Tears." Approximately 1200 Cherokee remained in Western North Carolina and later formed the separate Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation.

Nearly 600 Cherokee fought in World War I despite the fact that Indians were not citizens and not subject to the draft. Draft eligible in WWII, Cherokee participation was still disproportionately high.

At a time when America's best cryptographers were falling short, the Native American Code Talkers were able to create an unbreakable code based on their native languages. The result became the most successful code in military history.

Obverse

Designer: Donna Weaver
Engraver: Michael Gaudio

The obverse design features a code talker communicating on a field phone and writing in the Cherokee language. Inscriptions are *CHEROKEE NATION* and *CODE TALKERS* in both Cherokee Syllabary and English.



Reverse

Designer: Joseph Menna
Engraver: Joseph Menna

The reverse design features a variation of the Cherokee Nation seal. Inscriptions are *WORLD WAR I*, *WORLD WAR II* and *ACT OF CONGRESS 2008*.



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Dot Hendricks: 919-828-9450

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2/7/2014 - 2/9/2014

Charlotte Coin Club 44th Annual Coin Show

Metrolina Tradeshow Expo, Bldg. C

7100 N. Statesville Rd., Charlotte, NC

Jerry Sajbel: 704-641-2959

2/14/2014 - 2/16/2014

Low Country Coin Club Winter Show

Exchange Park Fairgrounds

9850 Highway 78, Ladson, SC 29456

Randy Clark: 843-367-0141

2/21/2014 - 2/23/2014

Upstate South Carolina Coin Show

Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium

385 North Church Street, Spartanburg, SC

David Burzinski: 864-293-8416

2/22/2014 - 2/23/2014

Salem/Roanoke Valley Coin Show

American Legion Building

710 Apperson Dr., Salem, VA

Will Camp: 540-943-CAMP

March

3/8/2014 - 3/9/2014

Carolina Coin & Stamp Show (Raleigh)

NC State Fairgrounds, Raleigh, NC

Dot Hendricks: 919-828-9450

03/29/2014 - 03/30/2014

Winston-Salem Coin Club Show

Miller Park Recreation Center
400 Leisure Lane & Westfield Ave., Winston-Salem, NC
Jeff Nolen: 336-406-2974

April

04/11/2014 - 04/13/2014

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Chip Cutcliff: chascoins06@yahoo.com
770-639-0190 - <http://www.gamoney.org>

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Eagle Coin Club Coin Show

J. Smith Young YMCA
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Leon Little: gosslanding@gmail.com - 336-596-3986

May

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Salem/Roanoke Valley Coin Show

American Legion Building
710 Apperson Dr., Salem, VA
Will Camp: 540-943-CAMP

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Carolina Coin & Currency Show

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Dot Hendricks: 919-828-9450

July

07/18/2014 - 07/20/2014

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Member Club News

NCNA Member Clubs

The North Carolina Numismatic Association is a combined force made up by Member Clubs. Their purpose is to promote, encourage and educate collectors in the local areas. **Support your local Coin Club.**

For a **more detailed listing** (i.e., time of meeting, location, contact, etc.) for the Member Clubs, visit the NCNA website at **www.ncnconline.org**.

MOORE COUNTY NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

After 5 plus years of operation, the Moore County Numismatic Association has recently disbanded due to a low sustained membership of 5-6 people. We have tried to raise it at least to 10 or more with no success.

It is with regret I write this, but the existing membership decided it was not worth the drive, commute and building rental expense to continue the club on a monthly basis.

Some of the membership may try the Fayetteville club eventually. Please note that our Membership No. C 078 should be considered inactive.

Best regards, Paul Brill

WINSTON SALEM COIN CLUB

The Winston County Coin Club meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Miller Park Recreation Center. The Club had a recent election and the officers for 2014 are as follows:

President - Bill Orell Vice President - Leon Little
Treasurer - Bill Breeding Secretary - JoAnn Hawks

MORGANTON COIN CLUB

With unanimous approval, the standing officers were requested to serve another year. All accepted and, as a result, the officers for 2014 are as follows:

President - Charles Lambert Vice President - Tim Davis
Treasurer - Edward Dula Secretary - Michael Beach

The club set the Christmas dinner for Thursday, December 17, 2013 at 7:00PM. This meeting will consist of a dinner, an auction and the club's signature raffle featuring a 2013 Silver Eagle awarded to a lucky winner. When the club is able to buy 2014 Eagles, they will become the highlight of each meeting's raffle which will be held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00PM at the Morganton Recreation Center.

At a very exciting November meeting, the club discussed the Bechler Foundation and learned that the house in Rutherfordton is a tourist destination. For more information contact the club President at drueylam@yahoo.com.

The club also was presented with information concerning the pending bill to promote the use of Dollar Coins and the eventual removal of one dollar Federal Reserve Notes.

Rodney B offered a presentation on Henry River Tokens and crowd favorite RD gave an account of a baseball photograph from the early 1900's.

To cap off the evening, a member demonstrated his skill in detecting the difference between the common 1928-S Peace Dollar and the key date 1928 Peace Dollar using only his fingers. The trick, he revealed, is that the rim on one of the coin is raised and the other is smooth. If only I could remember which one was which. Hmmm.

As if this were not enough, the evening ended with an auction and some good purchases were made by some of the club members.

The club contact is Charles Lambert who can be reached at P.O. Box 147, Drexel, NC 28619 or by email at drueylam@yahoo.com.

LUMBER RIVER COIN CLUB

The Lumber River Coin Club will hold its annual end of the year "Spouses" Dinner Meeting on Thursday, December 26th at 7:00 P.M. at the Villages Station Restaurant on Highway 211 in Lumberton. This has become a popular event for wives and guests. After dinner, a regular club meeting is held. Special door prizes and gifts are given away, and everyone is encouraged to participate in the club auction. Officers for 2013 are:

Danny Freeman, President
Clint Sealey, Vice President
Frank Ross, Secretary & Treasurer

The Club holds their meetings on the 4th Thursday of every month (except November) at 7:00 P.M. at the Lumberton Regional Airport Terminal. For more information call Danny Freeman (910) 740-6751 or Frank Ross (910) 739-2096.

ROWAN COUNTY COIN CLUB

With the sad passing of Dick Sattazahn, please note that the new point of contact is Don Harris. He can be reached at 704-857-7231.

The club meets the 1st Thursday each month at 6:45 PM at the Salisbury Civic Center on Boundary St. in Salisbury, NC.

EAGLE COIN CLUB OF LEXINGTON

The Eagle Coin Club of Lexington will hold its Annual One-Day Coin Club Show at the J. Smith Young YMCA on Saturday, April 26, 2014. Saturday hours are 9-5. Contact Info: Bourse Chair Leon Little: 336-596-3986 or gosslanding@gmail.com.

The club meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Davidson County Center. The officers for 2014 are:

President - Leon Little Vice President - Forrest Michael
Treasurer - Gary Michael Secretary - Bill Graves

BUNCOMBE COUNTY COIN CLUB

The Buncombe County Coin Club meets the 2nd Monday of every month at 7:00 PM at the Grove Arcade, Downstairs Conference Room located at 1 Page Avenue in Asheville, NC 28801. The club's contact person is Roger Gumm who can be reached at 828-768-2200 or by email at gscoinshop@gmail.com. The Club had a recent election and the officers for 2014 are as follows:

President - Roger D. Gumm Vice President - Mike Wilson
Treasurer - Joe Smolski Secretary - Mike Gentilini

RALEIGH COIN CLUB

The Raleigh Coin Club (Raleigh, NC) held its annual elections at its November meeting. All club officer positions along with one Director position were on the ballot. The newly elected officers for 2014 are:

President: Dennis Edens Treasurer: Steve Pladna
Vice President: Paul Landsberg Sergeant-at-Arms: Benji Harrell
Secretary: Sanford Steelman Director (2014-16): Dave Provost

David Boitnott, the outgoing RCC President, had served the club for five years. He commented, "I've enjoyed my time as President of the RCC, I feel we've accomplished quite a bit over the last five years and have a good base for additional growth. Our annual show continues to expand and we are always looking for opportunities to promote the hobby in our community." He continued, "Dennis and the new Board have my full support, I'm sure they will do a great job!"

The 41st Annual Raleigh Money Expo will be held July 18-20, 2014 at the Exposition Center on the NC State Fairgrounds and will feature 150+ dealer tables. ANACS will be on-site to accept grading submissions and will offer special show pricing. For more information about the Raleigh Coin Club and Show Schedule updates visit www.raleighcoinclub.org. Interested dealers should contact Paul_Landsberg@yahoo.com or 919-247-1982.

LOW COUNTRY COIN CLUB

Low Country Coin Club held its inaugural/Christmas dinner on December 4, 2013. The dinner was the beginning of the 54th year for the club and has become an annual event for the club.

New club officers were elected at the October meeting of the club and begin serving in November, but the club decided to combine the “official inauguration” and their Christmas party in December at the final meeting for the year.

Chris Staubes is the new club President and Susan Baker vice-president. Richard Smith is club treasurer and Tony Dantzler is secretary. These four new club leaders have over 150 years of collecting experience among them and each specializes in a unique area of collecting. All four of them have been a part of the Low Country Coin Club for years, from well over 20 years to about five years.

A new Club Board of Directors was also installed at the dinner; Bernie Acuff, Chris Bellew, Randy Clark, Alex Gilchrist and Lowell Knouff. All officers and directors will serve on year terms. Randy Clark is also Bourse Chairman for the club.



New Club Officers

From left to right/front to back they are: Susan Smith, Vice Pres., Chris Staubes, Pres., Chris Bellew, Alex Gilchrist, Richard Smith, Treasurer, Randy Clark, Lowell Knouff

Each year the club directors select one club member as the “Numismatist of the Year” for recognition and special club privileges for a year. This year’s award went to Lowell Knouff for his work as chairman of the club publicity committee.

Bill Latour of Low Country Coins spoke to the club about Chinese counterfeit silver eagle coins that have been found in South

Carolina and other eastern states in recent months. Latour ended his presentation with a quiz on coins and US coin history which brought Cora Warren, wife of club member Don Warren, a hundred dollar gift certificate.

The Low Country Coin Club is currently working toward its semi-annual coin show to be held February 14 – 16, 2014. Changing a habit of the past several years the show is being moved slightly in both date and location. It will once again be at the Ladson, SC Exchange Park Fairgrounds but in a building about 200 yards from the location it has been in the past several years. Ladson is just a coins throw northwest of Charleston off Interstate 26 and most residents consider it part of metropolitan Charleston.

A limited number of the 2014 Winter Show wooden nickels are available free to collectors. Just send 50 cents postage and handling for each nickel to Lowell c/o Low Country Coin Club, 1990 Elaine Street, Johns Island, SC 29455. Also ask about older wooden nickels as we have a few from past shows left. Wooden nickels can also be ordered via email: lccwooden@gmail.com.



Website: www.lowcountrycoinclub.com
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Submitted by:
 Lowell Knouff
 Low Country Coin Club PR Committee Chair
 (843) 559-0959
llowell@bellsouth.net

SPARTANBURG COIN CLUB

The Spartanburg Coin Club held its regular meeting for the month of November which included a presentation on the process and valuation of toned Morgan Dollars given by Jason Greene. As always, there were items displayed from the personal collections of the members and the Silver Eagle from the monthly giveaway was presented to Tommy Bratton. The December meeting on the 12th will be the annual Christmas party.

LOWER CAPE FEAR COIN CLUB

The Lower Cape Fear Coin Club will hold its annual Christmas supper again at The Boathouse Restaurant, 6328 Oleander Drive near Bradley Creek Marina on December 15. The social hour begins at 5:30 pm and the meal will be served at 6:30. Last year's meal was fabulous. Cost is \$30 per with members receiving 50% off AND a 50c discount for each raffle ticket sold this year. The food choice is seafood or prime rib.

A board meeting was held on November 19 at The Boathouse Restaurant with full attendance for the club's quarterly free meal. It was decided to have a coin show in conjunction with the North Carolina Azalea Festival in Wilmington.

COINS IN THE CLASSROOMS

Karen F., Mike S. and O. T. gave a coin collecting talk to a third and fifth grade class at Blair Elementary school recently. The program was enthusiastically received by the kids, especially when they each received a sample cent and blank planchet. Plans are to present a short program to all third graders in New Hanover County and present them with a "beginners" coin folder for either Lincoln cents, State quarters or National Park quarters. The club's board has agreed to fund this project.

Low Country Coin Club Winter Show February 14 – 16, 2014 Exchange Park Fairgrounds

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JAMES CAPPS: SHAFTEED!

James Capps was a poor farmer in early nineteenth century Mecklenburg County. Purchased in 1808 from Alexander McClure, his 108 acre family farm located on present day Beatties Ford Road was believed to be some of the most barren and worthless land in the area. Barely able to feed his family, an important discovery was made on this same lot of sterile land in 1827.

Gold! That precious yellow rock that changed many a Carolina farmer's life had been discovered on the Capps property. Within six months shafts had been dug, some nearing 100 feet in depth, and the newly formed Capps Mine was the richest in the county. His fortune had surely changed for the better.



James, with his newfound wealth, was known to carry portable scales with him everywhere he would go to facilitate purchases with his gold dust. One such place that often saw his purchases first hand was any local tavern. Sobriety and temperance gave way to extravagance and decadence with his main vice being the whisky bottle.

By 1828 James had drunk himself to death perishing in his own mine shaft at age 53. His body today lays at rest at the Old Settlers Cemetery in downtown Charlotte with this tombstone inscription:

*Adieu to all both far and near
My loving wife and children dear
for my immortal soul is fled
I must be numbered with the dead*

His widow remarried shortly thereafter and the mine continued to prosper. One rule that was now enforced at the Capps Mine was that

alcohol, that same drink that stole life from its founder, was now prohibited. This was uncommon around mining communities as virtually every vice known to man flourished in these circles: gambling, drinking, fighting and prostitution all were known to develop around mining towns.

By 1829 the Capps Mine was utilizing the first stamp mill in the entire United States. Installed by J. Humphrey Bissell, the mill would pound the ore into a fine golden gravel. The Capps Mine had migrant Cornish and Italian miners employed to operate the machinery as well as some 38 black slaves who provided physical labor for the camps such as mending fences and tending to the teams of horses and mules.

The heirs of the Capps fortune in subsequent years leased the operation of the mine to Mecklenburg Gold Mining Company, which held interest in the Capps, Rudisill and St. Catherine mines and employed some 600 men. It is a shame that James could not live to see the full success of the mine that bore his name. Had he lived a few more years he could have witnessed the gold minting operation of the Bechtlers in nearby Rutherfordton, and within another decade he could have seen Charlotte given her own federal mint.

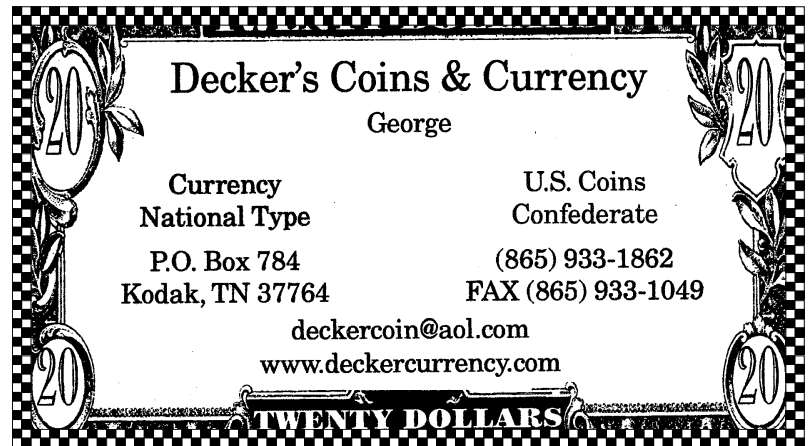


His life is best summed up by the obituary that was printed in the South-Carolina State Gazette And Columbia Advertiser: James CAPPS, the owner of the land on which the most productive gold mine in Mecklenburg county, died at his residence, near Charlotte, on the 7th instant. Poor old man - his gold mine was his grave! The treasures dug from his land gave employment and subsistence, and even wealth to others, but the proved the death of him who might have profited by them. Anterior to the discovery of his gold mine, he owned but a few acres of the most sterile, and

apparently valueless land in Mecklenburg county, which yielded a miserable subsistence to himself and family; but they had stayed on the place, in a half-starved condition for many years. The discovery of the gold mine, however, had a magical effect of the wo-begone condition of the family. No sooner was the old man's pockets well lined with cash, from the products of the auriferous soil, than himself and family plunged into extravagance and excess; and the BOTTLE, that too common resort of those whom affliction has cast down, or some freak of fortune has suddenly elevated to a condition for which nature has unsuited them, cut short the days of this miserably fortunate old man!

Despite the author's similar surname and the fact that he is a North Carolina native, there is no presumed descendancy between Gregory James Capps and the subject of this article.

— Greg Capps



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Troubling YN Development

A troubling trend has emerged among a minority of dealers, bourse chairmen and customers at coin shows regarding young numismatists. By and large the coin industry has open arms for young numismatists, but for this minority, children represent an unwanted and burdensome problem they would rather do without. For instance, a bourse chairman contacted me to ask for advice on how to attract people to his show. Any suggestion to attract young numismatists was quickly rejected. When asked about it, he simply replied that he didn't want customers that would take up space and purchase one and two dollar items. This simply wasn't the demographic he was after. He and his club only wanted to attract the numismatic "whales."

Another troubling example involved a well known dealer at a regional show who complained about the number of kids at the show. This show had done a wonderful job attracting two bus loads of kids from local schools on a Friday. As most of you know, that is a lot of kids and a welcomed rush of excitement on an otherwise pedestrian school and work day. It seemed, however, that the dealer didn't want the "brats' grubby little hands" all over his cases. He would have preferred for the kids not to be allowed at the show at all.

A couple of coin clubs that I am aware of have separate meetings for children so the kids "do not interfere" with the regular meeting.. It seems that the grown ups in these clubs outgrew the need to be associated with younger versions of themselves.

Quite simply, this is wrong-headed thinking. Young numismatists are our future. They are the ones who will buy our collections when we are too frail to go to shows anymore. They may buy one and two dollar items now, but as they grow, so do their collections and their pocketbooks. As our economy has constricted so has our collector base. This is not a time to shun the young and enthusiastic. It is a time to embrace, attract, and retain new collectors.

I, for one, am thrilled with the quality efforts the NCNA has made with YN development in recent years. Similarly, the next couple of pages detail the efforts of the SCNA. Let us all help both organizations pursue and promote the future of our noble hobby.

Richard McDowell

Record Youth Attendance and Cash Awards for Youth Exhibitors at SCNA

The South Carolina Numismatic Association held its 41st Annual convention at the TD Convention Center in Greenville, SC on Oct 25-27, 2013. One of the many highlights of the convention was the SCNA Young Numismatist Exhibits and Saturday Program.

As the SCNA youth membership continues to grow, so does their interest in all areas of Numismatics as demonstrated by the increasing number of Youth Exhibitors and youth in attendance. Youth attendance for the entire convention reached a total of 77 attendees with 51 youth attending on Saturday alone. Most Young Numismatists attended the convention on Saturday for the youth program. The youth program continues to attract participants from all over the state. All youth signing in at the Young Numismatist table were entered into a drawing for door prizes. Seven participated in the Youth Exhibitors event and earned "show cash" gift certificates.

The "Young Numismatist Exhibitors" competed for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes. The first place winner was awarded a 1st place certificate and \$100 in show gift certificates. The second place winner received a 2nd place certificate and \$70 in show gift certificates, and the third place winner received a 3rd place certificate and \$50 in show gift certificates. All others were awarded an "Honorable Mention Certificate of Accomplishment" and \$20 in show gift certificates. This was the first year of the "Show Cash Gift Certificate Program." Randy Clark, 1st Vice President of SCNA and organizer for the Youth Exhibitors, designed this year's awards to allow the youth choices with their award certificate dollars. Show cash gift certificates were given in denominations of \$10.00 so multiple dealers could be visited. In the past, winners only received plaques with a collectible coin. The Show Cash Gift Certificate Program was seen as a huge success by the youth as well as the many dealers that redeemed the certificates for cash at the end of the show.

The Young Numismatist (YN) program was conducted by Mr. Mack Martin and Mr. Bob Hartje from 10 AM until 2 PM on Saturday. At the end of the program, the Youth Exhibit Winners were announced; certificates of accomplishment were awarded and

show cash gift certificates were distributed. The YN's were then "turned loose" on the bourse floor to seek out treasures to add to their collections with over 85 dealers to visit.



Pictured are the Youth Exhibit participants and the YN Program Directors.

Back Row

-Left rear is Mr. Mack Martin, right rear is Mr. Bob Hartje Program Director.

Middle Row Left to Right

Myarim Saldarriaga-1st place winner "Benjamin Franklin- An American Icon."
 Emma Whitener-3rd place winner "Time runs out on the Canadian penny."
 Shelby Plooster-Hon. Mention "The Centennial of a Lost Treasure: The Titanic."
 Grace Lamant-Hon. Mention "Coins of the World."

Front Row Left to Right

Lily Whitener-2nd Place "Mouse in my pocket: Wonderful World of Disney Dollars."
 Cameron Barton-Hon. Mention "History thru Numismatics."
 Johanna Lamant-Hon. Mention "It was the Best of Dimes, It was the worst of Dimes."



Calling all Young Numismatists!

The South Carolina Numismatic Association will hold its annual Convention at the TD Center in Greenville, SC October 24-26 2014. One Hundred Twenty Five tables with approximately 85 dealers from 5 states.

The convention will again host the SCNA Exhibit program. This year's prizes for YN's have been upgraded to the following.

*First Place winner for YN's will be given:
 10 \$10 Gift Certificates (total of \$100) for use at the show.*

*Second Place winner for YN's will be given:
 7 \$10 Gift Certificates (total of \$70) for use at the show.*

*Third Place winner for YN's will be given:
 5 \$10 Gift Certificates (total of \$50) for use at the show.*

*Honorable Mention winners for YN's will be given:
 2 \$10 Gift Certificates (total of \$20) for use at the show.*

The SCNA will provide locked cases for each Exhibitor. YN's can set up their exhibits Saturday Morning, have their exhibits judged during the YN Program, and winners announced at the end of the YN program, Winners will receive their gift certificates, spend them Saturday after the program, remove their Exhibits and leave all in the same day. Mom and Dad do not need to spend the night. Applications and Rules are online at the SCNA website www.sc-na.org. Applications are due October 1, 2014. All YN exhibitors must be members of the SCNA. All questions can be directed to the SCNA Exhibits program chairman, Randy Clark at twobuckrandy@yahoo.com.

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The Confederate Ironclad CSS Neuse

The current commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War period has been far more muted than it was during the 1961-65 centennial years. Today's socio-political climate has apparently made marking one of the seminal events in US history a less than popular idea. As such, there are relatively few numismatic souvenirs available to collectors.

In contrast, 50 years ago, the Civil War Centennial proved to be a fertile ground for collectors of commemorative medals and/or tokens. From the official silver and bronze medals of the Congressionally-authorized US Civil War Centennial Commission (produced by the Medallion Art Company) to the many dozens of privately-struck pieces, a 1960s collector was faced with an honest challenge if they sought to secure an example of each piece available.

Included among the North Carolina related Civil War centennial issues was a medal struck to commemorate the Confederate ironclad CSS *Neuse*. The medal was sponsored by the Lenoir County Confederate Centennial Committee; it was issued to help raise funds to support the recovery of the century-old warship from the bottom of the Neuse River in Kinston, NC. The recovery effort was one of the highlights of North Carolina's Civil War centennial activities.

History of the CSS Neuse

The *Neuse* was one of four ironclads built for the Confederate Navy in North Carolina (the others were the CSS *North Carolina*, CSS *Raleigh* and CSS *Albemarle*).¹ It was designed to be an inland waters warship and thus had a flat bottom to support maneuverability in shallower waters. The *Neuse* was 158 feet long and 34 feet wide, and was armed with two 6.4" Brooke rifles (one fore and one aft within the vessel's casement) that were each mounted on a swiveling carriage to enable an individual firing arc of 180°. ²

The wooden hull of the *Neuse* was built in White Hall, NC (present day Seven Springs) by the shipbuilding firm of Howard and Ellis; the construction site was about 18 miles west of Kinston. Work on the barge-like ship was begun in late 1862. From the start, however, the ship faced multiple obstacles to its completion.

First of these was an attack by Union forces shortly after construction of the ship had begun. On December 15, 1862, Union forces chased a Confederate force retreating from Kinston into White Hall and engaged them along the Neuse River. The partially-completed *Neuse* was spotted by the

Union forces and was subsequently attacked with artillery. Though the ship was damaged by the Union attacks, the damage was not severe enough to destroy the ship. Construction resumed on the *Neuse* shortly after Union forces left the area on December 17, 1862 and by March 1863 it was ready to be floated down the river to Kinston where it was to receive its engines and iron plating.

Work continued on the ship through the rest of 1863, but shortages of needed materials – not the least of which were the iron sheets that were to be used to plate the ship – caused ongoing delays. Work dragged on into 1864. The *Neuse*, though still not fully outfitted, was called into action for the first time in April 1864 as part of a Confederate offensive to retake the town of New Bern.

Unfortunately, the ship ran aground on a sandbar in the shallow Neuse River within a half-mile of its Kinston departure point. It remained trapped until mid-May when the river rose enough to float the ship. It returned to Kinston where it was finally completed. There it waited for its next chance to take the offensive against the enemy, but such a chance never came as the Confederate troops that would be needed to provide ground support for the ship's actions at New Bern were pulled to other areas to help defend them against Union advances.

After the fall of Fort Fisher and Wilmington in January 1865, Union forces pushed inland. On March 17, they had reached Kinston and prepared to destroy the Confederate ironclad. The crew of the *Neuse* was able to briefly shell the advancing Union army, but it was clear that they would not be able to protect and save the ship. The crew of the *Neuse* eventually evacuated the ship and then set it on fire to keep it from being taken by Union troops. The fire triggered an internal explosion of ordnance that was left on board. The explosion blew a hole in the ship's port side that led to its sinking – a less than glorious end to a ship from which much was expected.

After the Civil War was over, the US Treasury Department held an auction for the salvage rights to the ship. The company that won the auction recovered the ship's iron plating, guns, boiler, engine parts and other worthwhile machinery. From that point on, the ship was basically left untouched by any organized recovery effort. And so, the *Neuse* began to slowly deteriorate while lodged in the silt and sand at the bottom of the Neuse River.

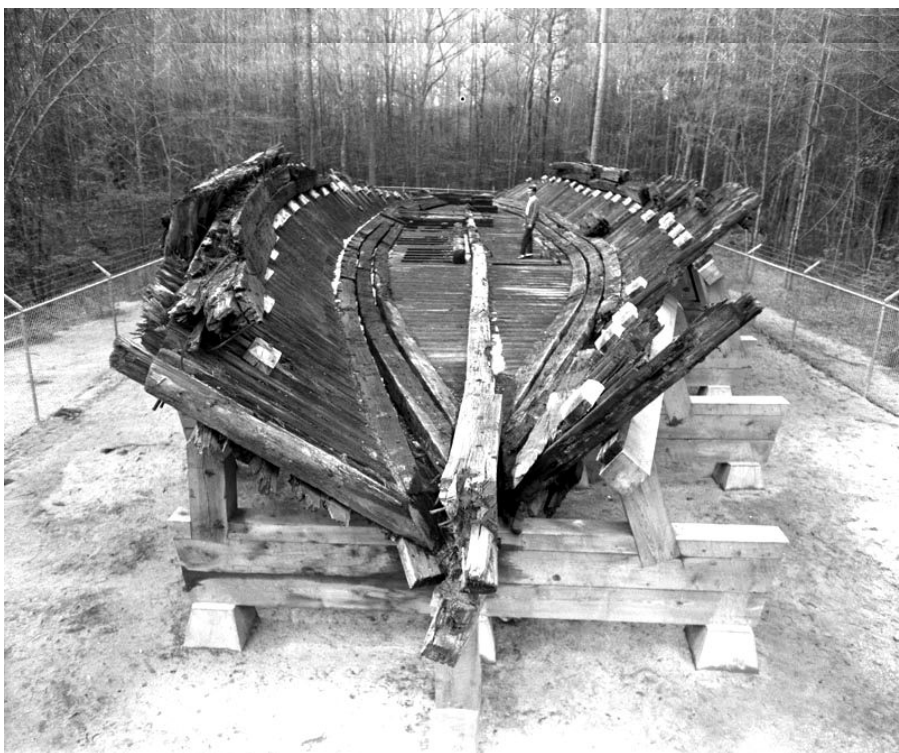
Recovery Efforts

In 1940, the Army Corps of Engineers was asked to survey the sunken remains of the CSS *Neuse*. They determined that successfully raising the near 100-year-old ship was not practical due to its deteriorated condition.³ Just over 20 years later, three private North Carolinians decided to take on the challenge and began efforts to raise whatever was left of the ill-fated Confederate ship.

On October 31, 1961, Henry Clay Casey and Lemuel Houston of Kinston, NC along with Tom Carlyle of Richlands, NC began using a dragline (an excavating machine that drags a bucket via a cable) to initiate the removal of the accumulation of sand and silt from around the *Neuse*.⁴ The three soon realized that the project was bigger than anticipated and that additional equipment and funds would be necessary if they were to succeed. The question of ownership of the ship's remains also surfaced when the owners of the land adjacent to the Neuse River on which the ironclad had settled also made claim to the ship.

In 1962, the City of Kinston, the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners and the Lenoir County Confederate Centennial Committee began working together to reclaim the *Neuse* from its river grave. They each contributed money to the effort and also began public fundraising efforts. The goal of their efforts was to relocate the remains of the ship to a site where it could be protected, preserved and put on public display as a permanent Confederate memorial.⁵

The deteriorated lower hull of the *Neuse* was finally freed from the river bottom in the spring of 1963 by D. C. Murray, a local house mover. The nearby



Recovered remains of burned out CSS Neuse hull (ca. 1965).⁷

Governor Richard Caswell Memorial site was selected as the new home for the *Neuse*. To move the hull to the Caswell site, it was carefully cut into three pieces; it was estimated that the hull weighed in excess of 150 tons. The sections were moved by truck to the site and then re-assembled. The move was completed on May 25, 1964.⁶

The Commemorative Medal

The Lenoir County Confederate Centennial Committee sponsored several fundraising efforts to support the *Neuse* recovery project, including the striking of a commemorative medal. The obverse of the medal depicts the CSS *Neuse* under power sailing on the Neuse River. The design is the work of artist John Voight and is based on the limited information available in 1963 regarding the design and appearance of the ship – no photographs of the ship were available for reference. The medal's reverse features the Seal of the Confederate States Navy (CSN); it is believed that its use was the first on any coin or medal.



Obverse of CSS Neuse commemorative medal depicting the ironclad under power.

Reverse of CSS Neuse commemorative medal featuring Seal of Confederate States Navy.

The general release of the medal offered three options: 0.999 fine silver in proof, oxidized bronze and silver-oxidized bronze (the silver-oxidized medals have a pewter-like appearance). All versions are the same size, 1-17/32 inches (39 mm); they were described at the time of issue as “crown-sized.”

Mintage of the one-ounce silver proof medal was limited to 1,000; the serial-numbered medals sold for \$10.00. Mintage for each of the bronze pieces was “open” but, based on current availability, likely did not exceed 3,000 for either. The oxidized bronze medals sold for \$2.00 and the silver-oxidized bronze cost \$3.00. The two bronze versions are considered “relic” medals as

they feature metal from the recovered vessel.⁸ The medals were struck by Capitol Medals, Inc. of High Point, NC.

The Lenoir County Centennial Committee also took special orders for platinum medals and four-ounce silver medals. The platinum medals sold for \$750.00, while the large silver pieces cost \$100.00. No gold medals were available as it was illegal for Americans to own gold in such form at the time; platinum was the metal of choice for collectors desiring a “high-end” piece.

How difficult is it to find the medals today? Over the past year, I have encountered one or more of them at several of the coin shows that I attended here in North Carolina. I’ve also come across a few on on-line auction sites as well. In all cases, the selling price for each of the bronze versions was \$30 or less and for the one-ounce proof silver \$50.00 or less. So, for a collector with interest, obtaining the medals is certainly not an impossible pursuit.

Supplemental Notes

The story of the *Neuse* and its medal would not be complete without mention of William H. Rowland. Mr. Rowland was a member of the Lenoir County Confederate Centennial Committee as well as an amateur Civil War historian. He was closely involved with documenting the archaeological excavations of the *Neuse* and co-authored the most complete historical account of the Confederate ironclad (see below). He was also involved with the commemorative medal, and authored the informational leaflet that originally accompanied each medal. Mr. Rowland donated his papers and correspondence regarding the CSS *Neuse* to East Carolina University, they currently reside in the Joyner Library Manuscript Collection. I enjoyed going through his papers at the Joyner Library in preparation for this article.

This past summer, the *Neuse* was moved from its covered but otherwise outdoor home at the Caswell Memorial Site to a new indoor facility in downtown Kinston – the CSS *Neuse* Interpretive Center. The Center is currently open for visitors but remains a work in progress. The official opening of the facility, with all permanent exhibits in place, will be during the summer of 2014.

A full-size replica of the ironclad – the CSS *Neuse II* – has been constructed in Kinston by the CSS *Neuse* Foundation and is available for tours on Saturdays from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

For the most complete history of the CSS *Neuse*, I recommend the book *C.S.S. Neuse: A Question of Iron and Time*; this volume was the primary source for the summary of the history and background regarding the ship that I included here. An adaptation of the book’s information can be found at the North Carolina Historic Sites web site for the ship at <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/neuse/>.

Until next time, Happy Collecting!

Have a comment or question? Contact me at CarolinaTAMS@aol.com.

Footnotes

1. "Ironclads." *NCpedia*. North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources Office of Archives & History. Web. Nov. 15, 2013.
2. Bright, Leslie S, William H. Rowland, and James C. Bardon. *C.S.S Neuse: A Question of Iron and Time*. Raleigh: North Carolina Office of Archives and History. 1981. Print.
3. "The Salvage Operation." *CSS Neuse & Gov. Caswell Memorial*. North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources Office of Archives & History, June 5, 2012. Web. Nov. 15, 2013.
4. "Civil War Ram." *News Letter of the North Carolina Confederate Centennial Commission*. November 1961: 2. Print.
5. "Annals of the Neuse." *News Letter of the North Carolina Confederate Centennial Commission*. December 1962: 1-2. Print.
6. "Neuse Moved to Permanent Site." *News Letter of the North Carolina Confederate Centennial Commission*. May 1964: 1. Print.
7. "Burned out hull remnants of the Confederate ironclad gunboat CSS Neuse." William H. Rowland Papers. JY Joyner Library; East Carolina University. <http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/855>.
8. "Commemorative Medals Struck for Neuse." *News Letter of the North Carolina Confederate Centennial Commission*. October 1963: 2. Print.

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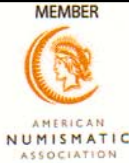
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