

# Cumberland Coins

## The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

December, 2016

### Next Meeting

Merry Christmas!

Our next meeting will on Tuesday December 13<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30. The meeting is will be held at the 127 Senior Center on Highway 127 (Main Street) South of town. Doors open at 6:00.

We will have a little celebration of Christmas and another successful year with snacks and soft drinks supplied by the club. We will have the usual business meeting, show and tell, raffle, and member prize drawing. (The raffle will have more prizes and a little higher quality.)

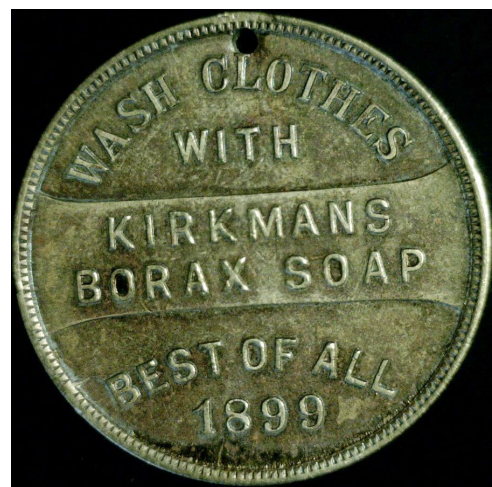
### Coin Lore

#### **Admiral Dewey – An Old Salt Sells Soap !!**

*by Bill Groom*

The Spanish-American War, near the close of the nineteenth century, saw the United States of America emerge as a dominant world military force on the high seas. George Dewey, commander of the U.S.S. Olympia, emerged as a naval hero when he sank the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay in 1898. This battle led to the Philippines becoming a U.S. possession. Dewey was promoted to the rank of Admiral, returned home a conquering hero and toured many cities, to the adoration of thousands of Americans.

Admiral Dewey had one thing in common with Kirkman's Borax Soap. Both the man and the product sprang to existence in 1837. Borax, a salt derivative of boric acid, was the principal ingredient in Kirkman's soap. When on tour in 1899, Admiral Dewey, the "Old Salt" would regale eager listeners with tales of his exploits. It's unknown whether the Admiral officially endorsed Kirkman's soap or any of the many other products that also touted his name and image.



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The above, Dewey storecard is the size of a half dollar and made of brass. These come holed for wearing like a medal or unholed. They were often gilt to give the appearance of gold. The maker's mark, "W. & H. Co., Newark, N.J." appears beneath Dewey's bust. Whitehead and Hoag were major maker of tokens and medals for many years. Kirkman issues and those of the Syracuse Chilled Plow Company are among the most commonly seen Dewey storecards. Many scarce and rare merchants also used Dewey's fame.



Kirkman's company was purchased by Colgate-Palmolive in 1929. However, products reportedly remained on store shelves in New England into the 1950's. Admiral Dewey, revered naval hero, died in 1917. Hundreds of numismatic items now honor his memory.



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### Area Coin Shows

January 14 **Knoxville;** Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).

February 3-4 **Knoxville;** 53rd Annual Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).

February 18 **Cookeville;** Coin Show, Upper Cumberland Coin Club. Hyder-Burkes Pavilion, 2390 Gainesboro Grade

March 3-5 **Chattanooga;** Tennessee State Numismatic Society (TSNS). Spring Coin Show. Camp Jordan Arena, I-75, Exit 1.

For more information on some of these shows see <http://www.tsns.org/Tennessee Club Shows.html>

### This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1852	Large Cent	VF
1864	Two Cent Piece (rev. die rotated 180 degrees)	VG/ G
1854	Half Dime (arrows at date type)	Fine
1923	Peace Dollar	AU-Unc
1988	Lincoln Cent (off-center striking error)	G/F
1864	Civil War Token (Union For Ever)	XF

### **Door Prize**

1899 Admiral Dewey  
Storecard  
(Spanish-American War)  
(XF)