

# Cumberland Coins

## The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

February, 2015

### Member News

At the January meeting, we were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of two of our members' wives. Rick Wiberg's and Chuck Landess's wives both passed way in the period between our December and January meetings. Our deepest condolences go to these faithful members.

### Next Meeting

Our next meeting will on Tuesday February 10<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.

Election of officers is next month. The consensus at the last meeting was to keep the current officers for another year. If you would like to be an officer tell one of the current officers or bring it up at this month's meeting. Your annual dues are due in March. Our treasurer, Mike Swanson will accept your dues at any meeting.

We will also have the usual business meeting, show and tell, raffle, member prize drawing and the auction at the meeting.

### Coin Lore

#### Die Cutting Errors Make for Novel Varieties

*by Bill Groom*

Die cutting errors made by engravers have created many an interesting variety for collectors of coins and tokens, alike. Given the more exacting standards of mints, the most glaring errors have tended to be the products of private die sinkers or engravers who produced merchant tokens; particularly so, back in the 1800's. While many die cutting errors were minor, still others stood out .... *if* one was good at spelling. Can you spot the spelling errors on the following, mid-nineteenth century merchant tokens:



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Fox's Casino was located at 620 "Chestnut" St. during the Civil War. The 1863 Military "Necessity" token features crossed cannons on the obverse. Civil War tokens were necessary for trade, and cannons were necessary for warfare. Buffum's Mineral Water was produced in "Pittsburgh" during the war. The Van Cott token predates the war and is actually the size of a large cent. Van Cott was a retail jeweler in "Racine" not *Racim*, Wisconsin. Last but not least, it's very difficult to imagine that a die cutter could mistakenly misspell the word "S-P-O-T!" For obvious reasons, this humorous variety is a longtime favorite among collectors of Civil War tokens. Imagine, the horror ... getting shot in your SPOOT !!

Back in the mid 1800's, these tokens were readily used in daily commerce as a cent's worth of copper. In today's collector market, they are worth two or three thousand times their original value. Then too, we can prize them even more for the history of bygone days that they convey.

### Area Coin Shows

February 6-7 **Knoxville**; 51st Annual Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).

March 6-8, **Chattanooga**; Tennessee State Numismatic Society (TSNS). Fall Coin Show. Camp Jordan Arena, I-75, Exit 1.

April 17-19 **Dalton, GA**; Georgia Numismatic Association (GNA) 51st Annual Coin Show. NW Georgia Trade and Convention Center, 2211 Dug Gap Battle Road

For more information on some of these shows see [http://www.tsns.org/Tennessee Club Shows.html](http://www.tsns.org/Tennessee%20Club%20Shows.html)

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### This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1854	Large Cent	Fine
1837	Hard Times Token popular turtle & jackass (rim ding)	Fine
1918-D	Mercury Dime	Fine
1929-PDS	Buffalo Nickels (3)	G+
1901	Barber Quarter (semi-key Philly Mint)	G+

The Door Prize is a 1935 Washington Quarter AU+.