

# Cumberland Coins

## The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

October, 2016

### Next Meeting

Our next meeting will on Tuesday October 11<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.

The club received a nice donation of numismatic supplies for Ralph Blackwood. There are some boxes of plastic roll containers, empty storage boxes, packs of 2 by 2's, a few Whitman books, and some Red Books. Some will be put in the auction for the club treasury and some will be put out for whoever wants it.

In addition to the auction, we will also have the usual business meeting, show and tell, raffle, and member prize drawing.

### Coin Lore

#### A Civil War Era Saloon Token

*by Bill Groom*

During the Civil War years, 1861-65, circulating coins were being hoarded, so merchants were hard-pressed to make change to conduct business. Consequently, they took to issuing tokens, purchased from die sinkers. These typically cent-sized tokens could be purchased in lots of a thousand, \$10.00 worth, for maybe \$8.00. Thus, a merchant would realize an instant profit on his investment, providing his customers accepted the tokens; this, which they predictably did. These Civil War tokens fell into two, distinct categories, *store cards* and *patriotics*. The store cards served as word-of-mouth advertising for the issuing merchant, whereas the patriotic tokens principally expressed political sentiments. However, many store cards displayed merchant advertising on one side with a patriotic die on the reverse.

Below is pictured a Civil War store card that was issued by Gustavus Lindenmueller of New York City. He was an entrepreneur extraordinaire, operating his beer hall amid a theater atmosphere. He managed to evade the Sunday drinking law by declaring his business to be "The Church of German Shakers" and displaying a "members only" sign at the entrance. A contemporary newspaper account described the establishment as follows .... "On entering, it appeared that the German Shakers have a more peculiar, and apparently a more cheerful mode of conducting their religious enterprises than their American namesakes." The NY Tribune reporter went on to say that the "worshippers" seen consuming lager beers were shaking with Scandinavian laughter. To Lindenmueller's credit, the reporter described it as being more of a family atmosphere, wherein groups of friendly folks would gather to enjoy entertainment.



# Cumberland Coins

## The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

October, 2016

Beneath Lindenmueller's prominent bust can be seen the name of the die sinker, **L. (Louis) Roloff**. A beer mug, encircled by a wreath, adds to the pictorial desirability of this token which is closer in size to a quarter than a small cent. It's estimated that more than a million of Lindenmueller's tokens were struck. The Third Avenue Railroad commonly accepted his tokens as fare. But, when Lindenmueller refused to redeem his tokens from the railroad, a lawsuit ensued which led to the Coinage Act of 1864. This act ended the use of Civil War tokens as currency. Lindenmueller's historic token lives on ...

### Area Coin Shows

November 4-6 **Chattanooga**; Tennessee State Numismatic Society (TSNS). Fall Coin Show.  
Camp Jordan Arena, I-75, Exit 1.

November 12 **Knoxville**; Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).

December 3 **Knoxville**; Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).

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

### This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1825	Large Cent	Good
1863	Civil War Token (saloon)	F-VF
1909	Indian Cent	G+
1916-S, 1917-S & 1938-D	Mercury Dimes	VG-F
	Mercury + Barber Dime "cut-outs"	Fine

The door prize is a 2009 First Day Lincoln Cent Roll (original postmarked) - BU.