

Cumberland Coins

The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

September, 2016

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will on Tuesday September 13th 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 are back to our regular meetings after the great family picnic we had last month. There wasn't a very large attendance. Those that were not there missed a great meal and good fellowship. This month we will also have the usual business meeting, show and tell, raffle, member prize drawing and auction.

Cookeville Coin Club

Our sister club in Cookeville has a new meeting place and a new meeting day. The will be meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at Shoney's Restaurant in Cookeville. It is located at 880 S. Jefferson St., which is just a couple of blocks off the Jefferson St. Exit from I-40.

Coin Lore

A Personal Counterstamp

by Bill Groom

Most nineteenth century, counterstamped coins it seems had some sort of mercantile use. They circulated to promote word-of-mouth advertising or were used as business checks and the like. However, there were a good many other reasons why coins were stamped.



Above is pictured a counterstamped 185_ quarter that was crudely made with individual letter and number punches. Some of the letters are misaligned, yet care was taken to fit the legend on the coin. **Note that the** maker carelessly switched the letter "T" and the number "1" punches. The use of a well worn host coin like this accentuates the stamping.

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It's probable that this likely one-of-a-kind counterstamp was created as a memento, a love token of sorts. Upon first seeing it, I couldn't help but wonder who P. Stoddard was. Given his location, as well as the year the coin was stamped, I was fairly well assured that I could attribute this one. The answer came when a digitized copy of The History of Ulster County, NY, published in 1880, was found online.

Phineas Stoddard was born in Alford, Massachusetts on July 7, 1797. He relocated to Ulster Co. about 1804, in the company of his uncle, Simeon Stoddard. By agreement, Phineas was to gain half his uncle's fortune by remaining with and assisting him. Phineas fulfilled his obligation and reaped the reward. He went on to make farming the main business of his life. He marketed bark, wood, glass and cord wood. He dealt extensively in real estate, and much profited from that. He married at age eighteen and produced six children by his wife, Marilda. She was a Quaker and a member of the Society of Friends. Marilda died in 1848, and Phineas eventually took a second wife, Caroline. Phineas died on August 17, 1879.



The above image of Phineas Stoddard appears in The History of Ulster County, NY. Having lived more than eighty years, Phineas far surpassed the majority of his contemporaries. From all accounts, he was a hard working and dedicated man. One obituary noted that his son, Prof. J.F. Stoddard, was a celebrated mathematician and author.

It never ceases to amaze me as to how much history can spring from a simple token; or in this case, a coin turned into a love token of sorts. With a bit of study, any token can effectively become a time capsule, transporting us back to bygone days.

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Area Coin Shows

October 1 **Knoxville**; Coin Show, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike (I-40 exit #378).

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).

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

This Month's Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1843	Large Cent	VG
1946-D	Washington Quarter	BU
1868	Two Cent Piece	VG
1899 & 1908	Indian Cents	XF&VF
1906-O	Barber Half	Good

The door prize is 1909 & 1926 Type Dimes (F & VF).