

Cumberland Coins

The Volunteer Coin Club Newsletter

May, 2012

Next Meeting

They don't come any earlier in the month. On Tuesday May 8th we will have the next meeting of the Volunteer Coin Club starting at 6:30. The meeting is still being held at the 127 Senior Center on Highway 127 (Main Street) South of town. Doors open at 6:00.

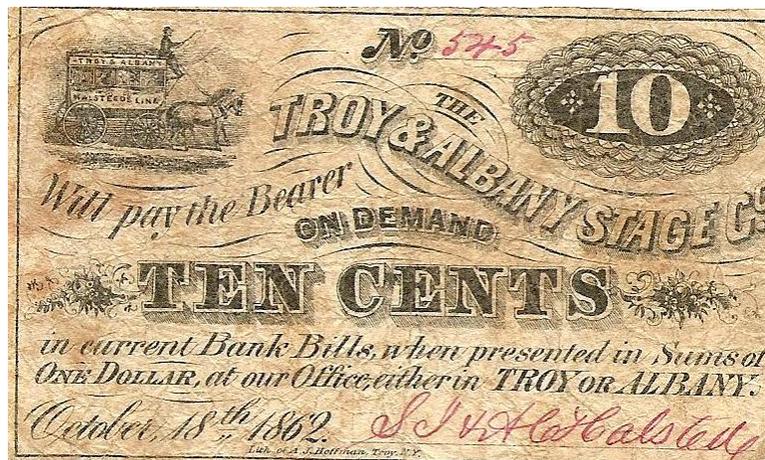
We will start planning for our August picnic. We will also have our normal business meeting, show and tell, the raffle, and the auction.

Coin Lore

The Troy & Albany Stage Co. ... A Civil War Issued Scrip

By Bill Groom

This is one of those numismatic items that shouted, "Buy me!" when I spotted it at a coin show. Aside from my personal attraction to Civil War era collectibles, this piece of scrip, or paper "token" currency, simply had so much going for it. The horse-drawn coach immediately caught my eye. What a snapshot of history! For such a small note, being less than half the size of our present dollar bill, there are so many eye-catching elements. A Civil War era collectible, it can also appeal to those who collect early transportation items.



Note the hand-written serial number, "545." Then there's the prominent number "10" within such a fanciful design. The company title seems to be moving, amid arching flourishes. "Ten Cents" is then boldly printed so as to make clear the note's worth. The small print explains the terms of how these notes, then given out as change for a ticket purchase, could be redeemed. Then follows the date, "Oct. 18, 1862." As if this isn't enough, the note is hand-signed by managers and brothers, "S.J. & A.C. Halstead." Then too, in most fine print at the very bottom of this one-sided note, appears "Lith. Of A.J. Hoffman, Troy, N.Y" - the maker.

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During the Civil War years, many businesses issued scrip like this, tokens too, as “necessity money” in order to maintain commerce at a time when hard money was scarce. Unlike so many of the broken bank notes of earlier years, 1830-50’s, this scrip issued in small denominations by largely reputable, local businessmen, was far more redeemable. Yet, its typically small and flimsy make-up made it susceptible to loss; this then, of course rendering the issuer with a profit.

This note obviously saw some use. Think of it traveling between Albany and Troy, during the Civil War, tucked in a passenger’s pocket. Think of the fine, metal engraving that Abraham J. Hoffman performed in the production of the plate for this note. Think of the history ...

COINfucious Says: *"When shopping for bedding, numismatists should opt for gray sheets."*

Area Coin Shows

- May 5, 2011 **Knoxville Coin Show**, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike
(I-40 exit #378)
- May 18-19, 2011 **Gallatin Coin & Currency Show**, Civic Center, 210 Albert Gallatin Ave.
- June 2, 2011 **Knoxville Coin Show**, Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike
(I-40 exit #378)

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

This Month’s Raffle Prizes

		Est. Grade
1837	Coronet Large Cent	Good
1883	NC Liberty Nickel	VF
1864	Two Cent Piece	Good
1905 & 1907	Indian cents	VF & Fine
1972 & 1986	Proof Set & 1986 Com. 50c	Proof & Unc.

The Door Prize will be an 1887 Liberty Seated Dime (VF).