

## Good for a Drink: 1862 Merchant Scrip

by Charles Derby

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Tim Mullany, an Irish immigrant to the United States, was not unusual in owning and running a bar, as he did in Macon, Georgia, during the 1850s and 1860s. What is exceptional is that he had printed scrip for his bar, and at least one example has survived!

This scrip (Fig. 1), is dated *July 10th, 1862*, and was “GOOD FOR FIFTEEN CENTS *At the Bar, and redeemed in Bank Bills of the State, when the amount of One Dollar or upwards is presented.*” This one is hand-numbered “21” by Tim, so he issued at least this many. Beer bills, scotch scrip! – these are rarities in numismatics. In fact, Tim Mullany’s money appears to be unique. How did this note, and others like it that did not survive, come to be?



**Figure 1.** Fifteen cent scrip issued by Tim Mullany  
Image courtesy of Gary Doster.<sup>1</sup>

Timothy Mullany came to the United States in 1851 with his relatives Charles and Mary Mullany from their home in Cork, Ireland. They left Ireland during the Great Famine, as did so many others from Ireland. In fact, during the decade after the start of the Great Famine in 1845, over 1.5 million Irish immigrated to the United States, many settled in the South, including Georgia. Entire shipping lines were established to bring Irish to the United States and deliver food on the return trip. Tim, Charles, and Mary made this voyage, arriving in New York City in June 1851. Charles and Mary arrived on June 15<sup>th</sup> aboard the *Guy Mannering* from Liverpool (Fig. 2), and Tim arrived on June 26<sup>th</sup> on the *Southampton* from London. They were self-described as “relatives” and “laborers” bound for Georgia. Their ages on arrival in New York are uncertain,

# Three Proofs, Two Possibilities, One Design – the Barbers

by Mark Benvenuto

Proof coins are the absolute best that a mint has to offer. In the past few decades, not only has the United States Mint pounded out a river of exquisite proof sets, but the Royal Canadian Mint, the British Royal Mint, the Monnaie de Paris, and several other world Mints have had the same focus. However the idea of mass produced proof sets is a modern one. If we crank the clock back a century or so, we still have proof coins but back then the overall number of them was tiny in comparison to what we see today. Still, it might be worth looking into some of our classic proofs, simply to see what might be available. Let's do that for just three coins – the Barber dime, quarter, and half dollar.

The entire series of Barber designs – the dime, quarter, and half-dollar started in 1892. While the dimes and quarters concluded in 1916, the half dollars ended 1 year earlier in 1915. All bear the Lady Liberty design of Mr. Charles Barber, who was the 6<sup>th</sup> Chief Engraver of the United States Mint. Plenty of collectors know that this design appears to have had some detractors in its day, but now enjoys a certain popularity among collectors. There is even a Barber Coin Collectors' Society at: [www.barbercoins.org](http://www.barbercoins.org).

*Continued on page 5*

## MIDDLE GEORGIA COIN CLUB

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### GNA 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Coin Show

April 7 - 10, 2022

Dalton Convention Center  
2211 Dug Gap Battle Road, Dalton, GA  
Show information: www.gamoney.org  
Tom Youngblood: (770) 815-4042

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Georgia National Fairgrounds  
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401 Larry Walker Pkwy, Perry, GA  
Chip Davis at (478) 320-7850

### Low Country Coin Show

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Exchange Park Fairgrounds  
9850 Hwy 78, Ladson, SC 29456  
Richard Smith : (843) 797-1245

### 51st Upstate SC Coin Show

February 18 - 20, 2022  
Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium  
385 N. Church St, Spartanburg, SC  
David Burzinski: (864) 293-8416

### Tennessee State Show

March 4 - 6, 2022  
Camp Jordan Arena  
323 Camp Jordan Pkwy, East Ridge, TN  
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## **GNA Scholarship Offered for ANA Summer Seminar**

GNA is accepting applications for **two scholarships** to the **2022 American Numismatic Association Summer Seminar** that will be held in Colorado Springs. The scholarships are available to both young numismatists (YN), age 13 to 22, and GNA adult numismatists.

Completed **applications along with recommendations** from fellow GNA members must be **received by Sunday, January 16, 2022**. Each scholarship covers the minimum "On-Campus Fees" for a double occupancy dorm room boarding, tuition for one session plus air travel. Scholarships are awarded on a merit basis. Successful applicants will need to demonstrate their involvement, leadership and accomplishments in numismatics, as well as a desire to learn more about the hobby.

Summer Seminar features a lineup of classes to meet virtually every collector's educational needs. Class subjects typically include ancients collecting, paper money collecting and grading, counterfeit detection, coin grading, the Civil War exnumia, digital photography of coins, Colonial numismatics, hobo nickels carving, collecting medals and tokens, and more. Students learn from the hobby's most prominent scholars, rising young stars and successful business leaders. In previous years, over 300 students and instructors ranging in age from 13 to 87 participate in Summer Seminar. The two one-week sessions are scheduled for June 18-23 & June 25-30 2022.

YN scholarship recipients will attend one week-long class of their choice, have lodging in a Colorado College dormitory with counselor supervision, and participate in seminar programs and events.

Separate YN and senior scholarship applications are available at [www.GaMoney.org](http://www.GaMoney.org) (select "scholarship" on the main page). You can also apply by contacting the GNA scholarship committee at (423) 653-7908 or by e-mail at [scholarship@GaMoney.org](mailto:scholarship@GaMoney.org).

**Scholarships will be awarded by January 31st**, and preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate dedication and service to the hobby.



Perhaps fewer are aware that every year of issue there were some proofs produced. The numbers were absolutely minuscule compared to the number of proofs we see today, only making it up over one thousand pieces in the year 1892. That's simply because the collecting community was a much smaller group than it is now. Weirdly though, the price tags for them are not screamingly high.

In general, the proof Barber dimes can be had in a grade as low as PF-63. Such a number might seem odd to us today, accustomed as we are to modern coins with grades such as PF-69 or even the technically perfect PF-70. But early proofs sometimes ring in at this technically lower number because they have had some mis-handling over the course of decades, or simply because they were not struck up to the same standard to which they are today.



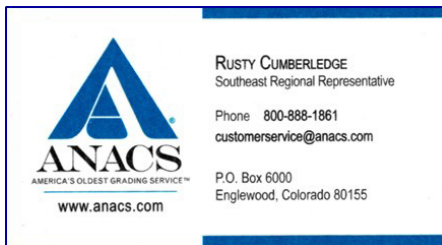
Concerning the Barber dimes, aficionados of the series know that one of the crazy, howling rarities of United States coinage are the 1894-S dimes, which have an official tally of only 24 coins. All of them were probably originally made to a standard that is pretty close to proof. Thankfully for anyone trying to focus on proofs, coins that are officially proof in their means of production were only made in Philadelphia back in that time.

In what seems to be a very interesting piece of information regarding prices, no matter what the mintage of proof coins is when we look at Barber dimes, the prices today are virtually all the

same. For example, the 1892 – the first year of issue for the design, for any denomination – saw 1,245 proofs coined. As this is being written, the major price lists peg it to \$525 in that PF-63 grade. Almost at the other end of the series, the 1913 saw only 622 proofs made, yet they have the same price. Only the 1914 and the 1915, with the smallest proof mintages in the entire series, have any higher price tag connected to them. Even then they don't cost too much more.

Lest we think this is some kind of fluke, we can see if this set of flat-line prices has always been the case by looking through old references, such as the early "Red Book" editions. Short answer: yes, these dimes always seem to carry similar prices to each other.

The fact that one proof Barber dime pretty much costs the same as any other means that there are not too many people trying to



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## **“Did you know...volume 30”**

by Chip Cutcliff

**Did you know...** that there are some very reasonable solutions being discussed amongst collectors on how to fix “THE PROBLEM” with U. S. Mint ordering system? If you’ve tried to order any of the recent limited-issue items and even annual sets and coins directly from the Mint in the past year you already know exactly what I’m talking about. No phone service, no live chat or e-mail to ask questions or check problems, routinely “crashed” web site at issue date/time and my all-time favorite “page not found/error/you’re a ‘bot”! The Mint tells us that they didn’t expect 660,000 people to try to order one of the 1,945 V75 Anniversary Gold Eagles. Really? What DID you expect? 2021 Proof Ty 1 ASE’s sold out in minutes. They are usually available throughout the year of issue. Limited Edition Proof Sets, Silver Sets, Commemorative coinage – all sold out within minutes! This might make the Mint happy, but it certainly doesn’t make the average Mint customer so. Which market are you playing to? A good friend of mine has a suggestion that would be advantageous for the average Mint customer and good for collectors in general: mint to order. The Mint could advertise that an item would go on sale at a certain date and time and that all orders placed within an assigned time frame (say 30 days, as an example) would be fulfilled. You want one or 1,000 – order them. Don’t have time to order today? Order next Wednesday when you’ve got the time. Everyone that wanted one of the coins would be able to get one. The Mint wouldn’t have to start production until the end of the open enrolment period. No waste, no overages, no melt-downs necessary on unsold stock. I realize that I’m oversimplifying all the issues, but the general outline for the idea is strong. We all know that something needs to be done! Start by letting the Mint know how you feel. I realize that odds of successfully ordering are currently against us based on percentages. I don’t mind, as long I get to play the lottery on equal status with everyone else, rather than get locked out of the Mint web site.

**Did you know...**that the uncirculated Carson City Morgan Dollar market is smokin’ HOT! Prices for true BU coins, raw, original GSA encapsulated or third party graded have seen dramatic increases since the start of the Covid pandemic. Coins that sold 18 months ago for \$225 - \$250 are now \$400 to \$450 – and that’s the common dates! This dramatic market uptick seems to be due to a dealer running up their buy offer, which has steadily increased over the last 18 months. The price increases for the common uncirculated dollars have also pulled the common circulated prices along with it. VG/F coins that were selling for \$100-\$110 last spring are now \$165-\$175. If you have coins to sell, make sure you are aware of the most current prices so that you don’t leave serious money on the table. If you’re buying, be aware that prices are dramatically higher than a year ago and that’s to be expected. If you’re buying GSA encapsulated coins, make sure it has a box and that the certificate with it matches the coin. If you don’t know how to confirm that they match, ask your seller. If he says he doesn’t know, buyer beware!

*Continued on page 7*



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*Did you Know? (continued from page 6)*

**Did you know...** that you must exercise extreme caution when buying Atocha Shipwreck Coins on-line? When using the internet to buy from, it's important to understand the terminology being used with the sales pitch. Most of the pieces seen on-line are not authentic. Many of the ads don't describe the piece being sold in a way that specifically indicates that it is not real. Most DO provide information that meets legal requirements for identification of the coin as not real, but the reader must have the knowledge to decipher the meaning behind the words. The ad says "genuine 14KT Atocha shipwreck gold coin medal and bezel". Gold Atocha coins were NOT 14KT and they were not medals, but rather coins. "Museum quality Atocha Silver medal" – again, the coins are not medals and museum quality means it's a good copy. "Genuine 7 mil .999 pure silver" – piece is covered by 7/1,000,000 of an ounce of fine silver. "Coins made from genuine Atocha silver bars"... meaning a few grains of Atocha silver (480 grains to an ounce troy) have been included in the silver smelting pot that the replicas were poured from. Someone once said that the only stupid question is the one that wasn't asked. Feel free to ask the seller a question to make sure you are getting what you think you're buying. Remember, caveat emptor!



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because their ages in various documents differ substantially, but a fair guestimate is that Tim was 33, Charles 31, and Mary 27 when they arrived in the United States.

Tim, Charles, and Mary soon made their way to Macon, Georgia, which was a growing city with the promise of jobs. Macon was the county seat of Bibb County, and it was flourishing because the surrounding land was well suited for growing cotton, the Ocmulgee River provided shipping to markets, and the Macon and Western Rail Road and the Central Rail Road of Georgia provided connections to major cities, including Chattanooga and Savannah. Indicative of Macon’s employment opportunities was its rising population, which increased from ca. 3,300 residents in 1840, to ca. 5,720 in 1850, and ca. 8,250 in 1860. Mary arrived in the United States pregnant, and she gave birth later in the year to a girl, which she named Mary. The record is not clear on the exact familial

relationships between Tim, Charles, and Mary. It is likely that Tim was Charles’ older brother and Mary was Charles’ wife, and baby Mary was Charles’ and Mary’s daughter. Whatever their relationship, Tim was clearly responsible for providing for the family, and he did so effectively. By 1853, Tim owned a housing tenement that he rented to others, and by 1855 he owned a bar, but times were not always easy for Tim, and he faced hardships. In 1853, his saddlebags were stolen, which contained money and papers. In 1855, his rental tenement building burned to the ground, though he had insurance to cover the damage. Later that year, Tim was fined \$5 by the mayor and city council for “fighting,” possibly an occupational hazard of owning a bar. By far, the greatest tragedy struck later in 1855: four-year old Mary died September 22, 1855, and her mother, Mary, died one week later, on September 29, 1855. Charles and his friend Thomas Murphy purchased a family plot in Rose Hill Cemetery, and Mary and her baby were buried there. Charles survived for some years, but he left barely a trace of his life. He is listed as living with Tim in the 1860 census, as a “laborer” but with no listed real or personal estate. He died on October 27, 1861, and was buried next to Mary and her daughter.

Tim lived on, though apparently alone – he seems to have never married. Hard work paid off for him though, through his bar, rental tenement, and mercantile trade. In 1860, he reported owning \$1,200 in real estate and \$1,500 in personal estate. His business continued during the Civil War, as demonstrated through his bar scrip and records showing that he sold merchandise to the Confederate government. Tim survived the war, but only by a few years; he died on January 26, 1868, in Macon. He left no will and had no family heirs, so his friends – John Campbell, Denis Daly, and Michael Redmonds – assumed the responsibility of administering his estate.



Figure 2. The *Guy Mannering*, was a U.S. ship that Charles and Mary Mullany took from Liverpool to New York in 1851. The image is painting of the *Guy Mannering* by British artist Roy Cross.

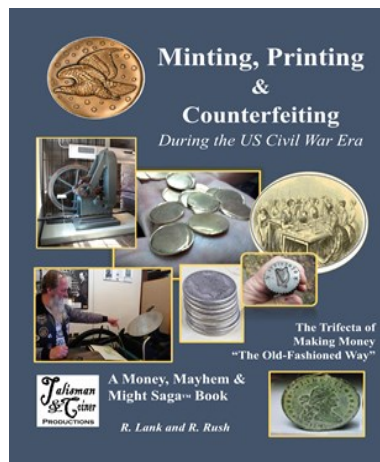
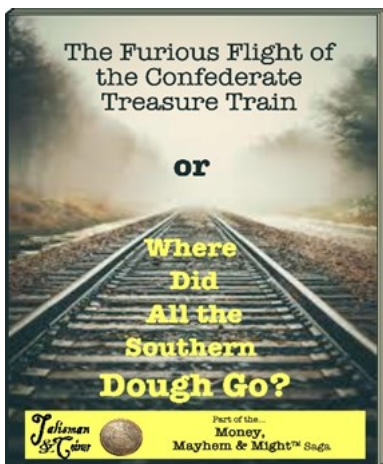


"Good for a Drink: 1862 Merchant Scrip" (continued from page 8)

Tim was buried in the Mullany family plot next to Charles, Mary, and baby Mary (Fig. 3). They rest together in the Pine Ridge section, which was the burial site of Catholic families. Presumably it was Joseph and friends who purchased and placed the headstone for Tim Mullany's grave, the only headstone in the plot. The plot is in need of repair and care, the headstone is cracked, and the engravings on the headstone are eroded to the point that much of the writing is illegible. Nevertheless, the name "Timothy Mullany" is clear, identifying the resting place of this strong-willed, hard-working Irish immigrant who left us a single bar scrip as a reminder of his life



**Figure 3.** Family burial plot for Tim, Charles, Mary, and baby Mary Mullany in the Pine Ridge section of Rose Hill Cemetery, Macon, Georgia,.



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collect them. That's to be understood, since \$525 is a lot to cough up for a small piece of silver, no matter the cost. But every single one of these ten-cent pieces in a proof grade costs far, far less than any 1916-D Mercury dime, which has a mintage of 264,000 coins. This tells us that the proof Barbers are quite undervalued. Moving up to the quarter series.

The Barber quarters have proof coin mintages that are about the same as those of their smaller siblings. Some years are exactly the same, such as the just-mentioned 1892. Some years, like the 1913 and the 1914, are slightly different. Another important similarity between the two denominations is the flat-line prices, although for the quarters the dollar amount is \$750. The only hiccup in this straight line involves a variety that occurred in the 1892 issue. We'll say it here as we did for the dimes: spending \$750 is a lot for one quarter, yet the entire group of proofs remains undervalued.



Going big, the half dollars

Filling out our trio of Barber coins, we get to the half dollars. As you probably expect by now, the number of proofs made each year pretty closely mimics those of the two smaller denominations.



As we might not expect, the flat-line here is absolute. For a PF-63 specimen, we find a value of \$1,100 for the most "common" date of 1892, as well as for the scarcest date, the 1914. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, yet again these coins are more than most of us probably shell out for a single piece, but undervalued when we think of what they might be.

What do our friends on eBay say?

It's one thing to read prices off a list, and quite another to see what real sellers are asking for a particular coin. Since it's a fair bet that we won't find fistfuls of proof Barbers at a local show, let's check the never-closing tent sale that is eBay and see what we can find. Once again, as this is being written, one dime in PF-63 was listed as a \$445 piece. In a word, wow. One quarter was up for purchase at \$399.95, or best offer – but was slabbed and graded as PR58. Interesting, to say the least. And for the big guy, well, among the proofs that were offered was a 1909 in PR61 for \$740. It looks like the PF-63 grade listed in the standard reference sheets is not as low a grade as we might expect.

All things considered, proof Barber coins remain beauties. They will never cost as little as pocket change, but there appear to be plenty of possibilities if we are willing to shop about for a bit.



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# GEORGIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

**NOTICE:** Members, please be aware that we have been notified of reports from several members that they have received unsolicited emails offering exclusive hotel rates for the 2022 GNA Show.

Neither the GNA nor the Laquinta Hotel has any relationship with this service or any online service.

Beware following any links in these emails, we recommend contacting Laquinta Hotel directly for reserving your room for the Show.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact our General Show Manager: Tom Youngblood

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# Confederate Gold Lost Forever

by Rick Lank

Three river towns were at the confluence of the Broad and Savannah Rivers: Petersburg and Lisbon, Georgia and Vienna, South Carolina, and this is where the “Confederate Treasure Wagon Train” crossed into Georgia in early May of 1865. When the “Treasure Train” ran out of track in Abbeville, South Carolina, CSA General Basil Duke commanded, everything that wasn’t nailed down to be loaded onto wagons, carts and ambulances. They made it to Washington, Georgia in an attempt to go to Macon, but were forced to turn back. The goods were reloaded onto a train to Augusta and circled back. As the Federal forces closed in – the “Train” surrendered in Washington, Georgia in early May. The Federals permitted the Banks to take their massive stake back to Virginia but then...“Snag the Swag” bank money was easy pickins’.



*CSA General Basil Duke watches as the Confederate Treasure Train crosses the Savannah River on a pontoon bridge*

The tales of Richmond Bank Gold being heisted in late May of 1865 near the Savannah on the Georgia side of the River – some \$250,000 in gold coin and brick were heisted in Georgia along what is now known as “Graball Road” near the site of the now sunken Petersburg, Georgia. This was no doubt an inside job, as strongly suggested by a member of Vaughn’s Cavalry late in his life - some bushwhackers got away with

thousands of dollars of the “swag”. Others purportedly scattered their pilfered gold in places such as Fishing Creek and in ponds scattered throughout Wilkes County because the gold’s weight slowed them down while running from the hot pursuit of the Federal cavalry. By the way, a portion of SR44 got its name “Graball Road” from this heist – “Grab All You Can Get, Boys!!”

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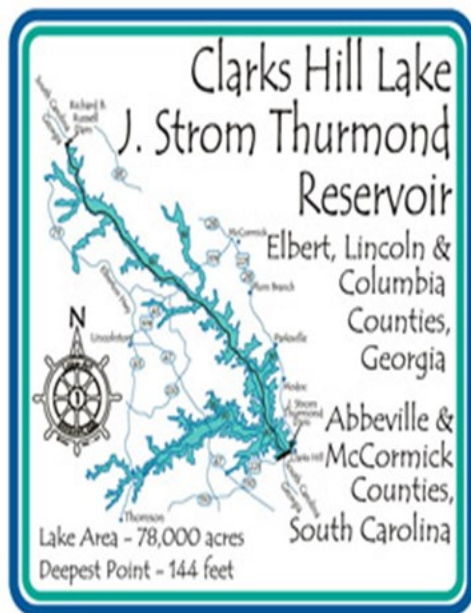
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General Basil Duke speculated that people would be hunting the area “for years to come,” and he continued, “I believe that there were rumors current to the effect that treasure had been buried, and that parties were organizing to search for it.” Little did Duke know that many of the sites that were camped on and skirmished over near places such as Petersburg, Georgia would end up as “Sunken Cities” in the coming century.



These once-bustling towns of Vienna, Lisbon and Petersburg were considered all but “dead-and-gone” by WWII. As part of the modernization of the state, a dam would be built to provide electricity and flood control. The Clarks Hill Dam would create a vast reservoir, sealing the lost treasure’s fate. When the Clarks Hill Dam was completed in 1954, the US Army Corps of Engineers projected that the areas around Broad River and Fishing Creek Georgia which were less than 400 feet above sea level would be submerged. In all, about 75,000 acres went under water when the dam’s impoundment was at full pool.

There were many observations about the flooding throughout the Wilkes and Lincoln County area in Georgia, where the Wagon Train bearing the Confederate Treasure and Archives crossed the Savannah River on an Army-built Pontoon Bridge. Mary Shumate gave an account of what she saw when she was 17 years old. “... a good many others (who snatched some bank gold), when they saw how things were going, got uneasy and gave up their share (of the missing bank gold or “swag”), and so the Yankees got a good deal of it, but there oceans more of it scattered all over Wilkes and Lincoln Counties... some of it was hid about in swamps and woods; some was buried in the ground.... There is no telling how much has been forgotten and not found again....” Mary also claimed to have seen the robbers stuff fifty dollar California gold pieces into their boots and money-belts....



Who knows how much Confederate gold was lost, stolen or buried at what is now the bottom of J. Strom Thurmond Lake. The history, tales and speculations keep treasure hunters’ dreams alive that one may make their own discovery of a lifetime of Confederate gold.

If you are interested in learning more about the Confederate Treasure Train, please contact Rick Lank at his email: [coiner@talisman-coiner-productions.us](mailto:coiner@talisman-coiner-productions.us)



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