

Exhibit Best of Show Winner

Fellow GNA member, Dennis Schafluetzel attended this month's Fun Show, and made the decision to display his new exhibit of Western and Atlantic Railroad obsolete money. He said he was surprised that his exhibit came in 1st place for the "Paper Money" category, because this exhibit had only previously been shown as a non-competitive display at the Tennessee State Numismatic Society's back in November 2021. Little did he know that his surprises were not over; at the awards ceremony, his exhibit was awarded Best in Show for the 2022 FUN Show.



Dennis holding his exhibit awards

Regarding the awards, he said, "I was surprised when I received 1st place in class with 3 other exhibits that were very good". At the awards meeting, upon receiving the Best in Show award, "I was further surprised since I had never had judges rate it."

The scope of this exhibit includes all of the Western and Atlantic Rail Road high denomination, (3, 5, 10, 20, and 50 dollar notes) one 1 dollar and one 50 cent note. There are two unique notes. The remaining notes have 2 to 9 notes known. The notes are graded VG-AU, and are the best that have been available for sale. This collection was started in 2004, and the final 3 notes were added in 2020. There are 6 additional fractional unique notes known that not displayed that are tightly held by another collector, however I have images of these 6 notes. Beyond these there are 4 additional type notes which are not displayed that are in an institution's collection. Each description includes: the denomination, the company title, and the issue date. It also includes the: identification number, and the number of notes known.

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A Numismatic What Is It ??

by Bill Groom

When it comes to collecting coins, knowledge is king. The old phrase, “Buy the book before the coin,” is one that has long commanded respect. That said, in numismatics, there's always something new to be learned. No collector, dealer or even professional numismatist can know it all.

Over the years, I've often had fun asking folks at shows if they were familiar with the numismatic “What's-It” pictured below. Do you know what it is?



Hint: It's not to be found in any coin book, to my experience, no one has ever guessed what this is. So if you've no idea don't be forlorn, the answer can be found elsewhere in this Journal. Before peeking, do try to deduce the answer though!

Low Country Winter Coin Show February 4th - 6th, 2022



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Show Calendar

Greater Atlanta Coin Shows

2/13, 3/6, 4/3, 5/15, 6/12, 7/10,
8/14, 9/11, 10/9, 11/6, 12/11
Hilton Atlanta/Marietta Hotel/Conf. Center
500 Powder Springs Street, Marietta, GA
Bob O'Brien: (770) 772-4359
atlcoin@hotmail.com, www.atlcoins.com

GNA 58th 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

Low Country Coin Show

February 4 - 6, 2022
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
Bob Hurst : (321) 427-6474

14th Annual Pickens County Show

March 12, 2022
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Augusta Coin Show

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Columbia County Exhibition Center
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Blue Ridge Numismatic Assoc. 63rd Annual Convention

August 4 - 6, 2022
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Georgia Numismatic Association Application and Membership Details Are Available at GAMoney.org

Call for Nominations GNA Officers and Board

In accordance with GNA By-Laws, it is time for our bi-annual election of Club Officers and Board of Governors.

The Officer/Board positions open for election are:

- President
- Vice-President
- General Secretary
- Membership Secretary
- Treasurer
- 4 Governor-At-Large positions

All of these roles serve for 2 years with the term beginning on the final day of this year's annual convention.

Nominations for any and all positions may be made by any GNA Member in good standing. Please **submit your nominations** to our General Secretary, Marvin Dudek. They can be provided via email at mdudek@gamoney.org or mailed to our PO Box at: **GNA, Officer Nominations, PO Box 76161, Atlanta, GA 30358-1161**

The nominees that accept their nomination will appear on the ballot which will be included in our next *GNA Journal* issue.

Those running unopposed shall automatically be accepted to office, unless an objection is voiced by any member which will trigger a vote for the position.

In case there are no nominations for a particular office, written nominations may be made prior to the Annual Meeting, provided that the nominee gives their permission.

If you have any questions about the responsibilities of a GNA Officer or Governor role, do not hesitate to contact us at Board@gamoney.org

**Annual Membership and GNA Board Meeting will be
Saturday, April 9th at 9pm
in the Conference Room of the Dalton La Quinta Hotel**

Augustus Merritt: Griffin's Agent for Planters' Bank of the State of Georgia and Businessman for the CSA

by Charles Derby

Griffin, located in central Georgia between Atlanta and Macon, is now a relatively small town. But Griffin, founded in 1840, quickly became a thriving center of commerce and culture and was important to the Southern war effort, as home of the second largest Confederate training camp in the South. Griffin had its own currency: in the 1840s, the Monroe Rail Road & Banking Company of Macon issued notes payable in Griffin (a terminal of the railroad line); and in Griffin itself, The Exchange Bank of the State of Georgia and The Interior Bank issued notes in the 1850s, and The Inferior Court of the County of Spalding issued notes in the 1860s. The Planters' Bank of the State of Georgia in Savannah also had an agency bank in Griffin, and it is through this connection that numismatists know Augustus Merritt.

Augustus Merritt, a native of Georgia, was born on March 7, 1823, the fifth and final child of Walter and Sarah Merritt. Not much is known about his early years, but by the late 1840s, he was the junior business partner with Joseph Richardson in Richardson, Merritt & Co., a general store located on New Orleans Street in Griffin.

By the early 1850s, Merritt was Agent in Griffin for the Savannah-based Planters' Bank of the



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State of Georgia. This was his principal occupation in the 1850s and 1860s, and it allowed him to expand his professional and personal worlds. By 1860, the "Bank Agent" owned \$2,500 in real estate and \$3,500 in personal estate. His professional connections likely allowed him to meet his future wife, Sarah Augusta Tinsley. Sarah was the sister of S. G. Tinsley and daughter of William Bowe Tinsley, who, as Cashier for The Bank of Savannah (1851-1864), would have known Augustus through the Savannah banking world. William Tinsley was also mayor of Milledgeville (1837-1838), Inferior Court judge (1845), and Treasurer of the State of Georgia (1847-1851), which undoubtedly provided excellent references for his future son-in-law. Augustus married Sarah, 16 years his

**Contact me at (706) 951-1316
or rustedrocky@gmail.com**

Continued on page 8

History of the Western & Atlantic Rail Road

The Georgia legislature recognized the importance of fostering railroad construction to open up the western portions of the state and granted charters to build three major lines in 1833: Augusta to Athens, Savannah to Macon and Macon to Forsyth. The legislature followed up by establishing the Western & Atlantic Railroad (W&A RR) in 1836 to connect the Chattahoochee River to the Tennessee River. They also provided for the extension of the railroads from Athens and Forsyth to the W&A RR

In 1837 surveyors for the three railroads selected a locale 7 miles southeast of the Chattahoochee River as a southern terminus for the railroads. A small settlement, aptly named Terminus, arose at this location. While work was progressing on the W&A RR, Terminus grew, changing its name to Marthasville (in honor of the governor's wife) in 1843 and to Atlanta (in honor of the railroad) in 1845.

Lt. Col. Stephen H. Long surveyed and laid out the 108-mile route to the Tennessee border in 1837. Three potential routes from the Tennessee border were provided. He estimated the cost at 2.1 million dollars and provided a detailed plan for the first 25 miles. The Georgia legislature authorized the Georgia Railroad based on the plan. The Georgia legislature funded the railroad over the veto of Governor Gilmer using the federal funds from the sale of public lands and borrowed the remainder. Bids for the first 25 miles were issued in April 1838 and hiring started on March 2.



Col. Stephen H. Long

The lack of funds as a result of the national Panic of 1837 - 1842 delayed and finally halted construction. Construction began again as the economy improved. The first 22 miles from Marietta to Atlanta were completed in September 1845, and the line was completed to Dalton by July 1847. Because of the difficulty in constructing the tunnel north of Dalton, at Tunnel Hill, the track on the other side of the proposed tunnel was started and completed to Chattanooga before the tunnel was completed. The tunnel opened on May 9, 1850 completing the W&A RR.

Final Notes: Many Railroad Notes are Inexpensive to Collect

The Western & Atlantic construction notes displayed are scarce and popular. The Western & Atlantic Civil War change notes are common, plentiful and inexpensive to collect. A 5-denomination set of notes on eBay cost less than \$100 dollars.



\$3 Western & Atlantic Rail Road; Dated September 7, 1840
Identification: C-R.W&A-3; Known Notes 1; Grade G

What's On the Horizon for 2022?

Have you been on the lookout in your change for the new Quarter Dollar series beginning this year? I am very excited to finally see Laura Gardin Fraser's portrait of Washington on a quarter. It is a well deserved honor, that has taken too long to become a reality.



How about the US Mint releasing another colorized coin, the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor commemorative dollar? Following the mixed reviews of 2020's Basketball Hall of Fame commemorative, what's your plan for this year's release?

Let us know of your numismatics successes in 2021 and your prospects for 2022.



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junior, on May 3, 1864, in Milledgeville. Unfortunately, William Tinsley died only six months after Mary and Augustus married, so he did not see the birth of Augustus and Mary's only child, Mary Tinsley Merritt, on January 21, 1865.

As Agent in Griffin for the Planters' Bank of Georgia, Merritt did business with the Confederate Treasury. Merritt's banking and business connections helped him land considerable work from the CSA, as revealed by contracts and receipts. For example, from January through March 1863, he received \$30 monthly "for Service rendered as Transportation Clerk at Griffin Ga." On July 25, 1863, he received \$4 for supplying 8 pounds of butter to a physician at the Confederate hospital in Marianna, Florida. On April 2 1864, he sold 11½ packages of envelopes for \$51.75 to a CSA Quartermaster. In 1864, Augustus Merritt was recommended as CSA depository in Griffin. *Figure 1* shows a telegram from J. R.

Sneed in Savannah to CSA Treasurer C. G. Memminger in Richmond: "A depository much needed at Griffin Ga. I recommend appointment Augustus Merritt." James Roddy Sneed was owner/editor of the Savannah newspaper *The Republication and*



Figure 1 - Telegram recommending Merritt's appointment for CSA depository

Savannah Evening Ledger and was appointed Collector of the port of Savannah and CSA Depository in Savannah, following the recommendation of Memminger and nomination by Jefferson Davis. Sneed's telegram arrived too late, and Merritt was not selected as depository of Griffin; instead Charles H. Johnson was appointed on March 11, 1864.

Numismatists know Augustus Merritt from three notes. One is a Confederate T40 train note (*Figure 2*). The CSA Trainmen point out that this note has an unusual stamp on its reverse. His stamp is incomplete since it is on the edge of the note, but it probably reads "A. Merritt, Griffin, Geo., JAN 14." The note was issued on October 2, 1862, and the stamp is just above two "Interest Paid" stamps, one for 1st January 1864 at Macon and the other for 1st January 1865 at Savannah. The Trainmen speculate that the Merritt stamp is a "Commission Merchant Stamp." The reason for the commission is not clear, but perhaps it was for selling the note or paying interest.



Figure 2 - CSA T40 train note, front and back, showing the stamp

The second note associated with Merritt was one that he issued: a 50-cent note, dated October 1st 1862, promising that "A. Merritt, Griffin, Geo., [will] pay bearer Fifty Cents in Currency" (Figure 3). This note was printed

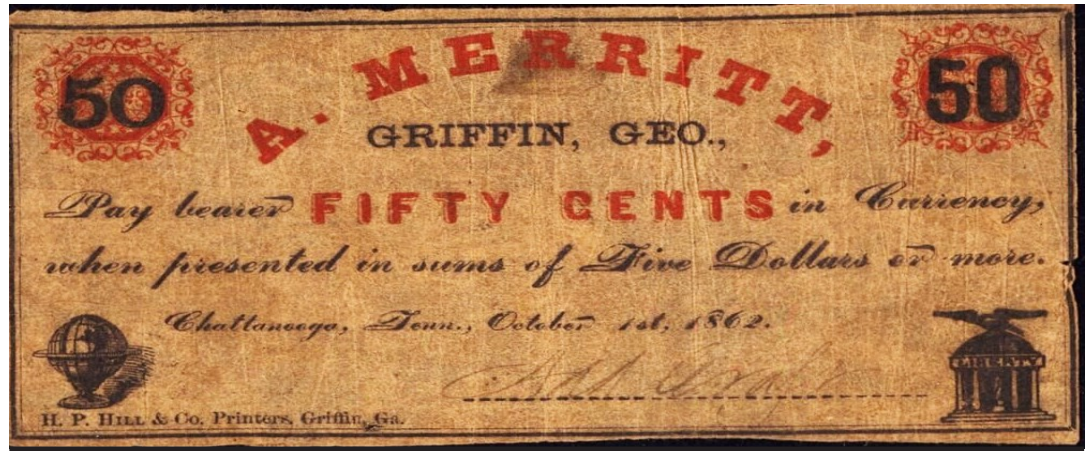


Figure 3 - Note issued by Augustus Merritt payable in Chattanooga, TN

by H. P. Hill & Co., also of Griffin. Captain Henry P. Hill was a prolific printer of currency from several Georgia counties during the 1860s. Interestingly, on front of the note is "Chattanooga, Tenn." No connection between Chattanooga and Merritt's business in Griffin has so far been found, so why this note refers to Chattanooga remains a mystery. The third notes associated with Merritt are \$1, \$2, \$3, \$4, and \$5 currency from the Inferior Court of the County of Spalding, from 1862. These notes were also printed by Henry Hill, and were, as stated on the note, "Receivable for County Revenue." Merritt

signed these notes for the county treasurer. Why he signed them is not clear, but he was involved in Griffin city governance throughout his adult life, including serving as an alderman from 1850 to 1864; so, perhaps it was in that capacity that he signed these notes. Some of these notes, and as well as fractional notes, were signed by C. (Charles) H. Johnson – the Griffin merchant who got the CSA depository position instead of Merritt.

Augustus also served in the State Guard as a private in Captain Mangham's Company, Spalding Infantry, of the 6th Regiment.

Augustus died September 10, 1867, just three years after his marriage to Sarah. Augustus was remembered as "an esteemed citizen and energetic business man, and his loss will be severely felt." .

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Civil War Cents & Non-Cents

by Bill Groom

Historically speaking, the year 1863 is best remembered for Lincoln's *Emancipation Proclamation*. On January 1 of that year, as battles raged on, Lincoln boldly declared freedom for millions who were shackled in slavery. Lincoln's proclamation marked a milestone in American history, fulfilling the promise of the *Constitution* and *Bill of Rights*. What was once touted as principle had yet to be put into practice.

The American economy was understandingly struggling in 1863. Hard money was then being hoarded, and shopkeepers struggled to make change. Millions of small, copper- nickel Indian cents that the Philadelphia Mint produced between 1859-62, proved to be insufficient to meet the needs of public commerce .



Between 1857-1862, the US Mint produced over 136 million small cents. These circulated alongside millions of early large cents.



Money substitutes in the form of tokens, paper scrip and even encased postage stamps began to fill the economic void that resulted from hoarding. Merchants ordered great numbers of cent-sized tokens from so-called *die sinkers*. For each \$1 spent, a merchant would receive 120 tokens that he could give out in change. This amounted to a profit of 20% for the merchant. Each token was, in effect, an I.O.U. for one cent. While there were some higher denominations issued, the great percentage were but good for a cent. It's estimated that 25 million such tokens entered general circulation between 1863-64. Tokens had been in use many years prior; particularly so, in the 1830-40's.

Pictured below is a Civil War token that most closely resembles the 1863 government issued cents. While the majority of Civil War tokens were struck in copper and brass, some were struck in other metals. This token, akin to the 1863 cent, was also struck in copper-nickel composition. Notice that stars replace the obverse legend while the Indian remains the central device. The token's reverse more closely resembles that on the coin but for the noteworthy “NOT” preceding “ONE CENT.”

Continued on page 12

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Between 1857-1862, the US Mint produced over 136 million small cents. These circulated along side millions of early large cents.



While many varieties of Civil War tokens do feature an Indian head design, the large majority of them fell far short of resembling the government issued cents. Northern, patriotic themes were typical. There were no Confederate tokens issued for commerce, but paper scrip was issued, aplenty, in the southern states. Here are a few northern merchant and patriotic tokens that saw circulation back then ...



Continued on page 13

Augusta Coin Club 2022 Spring Coin Show

May 20th and 21st 9am to 5pm

Columbia County Exhibition Center

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Of course, there were merchants who abused the system. Chief among them was one Gustavus Lindenmueller, owner of a NY City saloon and beer garden. It's believed that Lindenmueller issued as many as a million tokens, bearing his image. When he refused to redeem his tokens from the Third Avenue Railroad, spent by riders for conveyance, the company sued Lindenmueller. This case precipitated the Coinage Act of 1864 which *virtually* ended the use of tokens for commerce.



Lindenmueller appears to have been quite the character, what with his imposing beard. Likely, blamed the railroad for even accepting his tokens in trade, to begin with. How dare they!



Coin collectors will be surprised to hear that there are over 10,000 different varieties of Civil War tokens recorded. In the 1950's, the father and son team of George and Melvin Fuld were pioneers in the study and cataloging of these tokens. To learn more about this emergency money, check out the Civil War Token Society website at [www](http://www.civilwartoken.com).



ROME COIN CLUB



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Take A Coin Safari

by Bill Groom

It's great to see the coin shows come roaring back this spring! In addition to the monthly Knoxville show, I've recently attended shows in Chattanooga, Gallatin and Dalton, GA. Attendance was strong at all these shows for collectors and dealers, alike. At times, I had difficulty avoiding bumping into folks in crowded aisles. On the plus side, I bumped into a number of friendly folks whom I hadn't seen in over a year! A number of my dealer friends reported having record sales at these shows. The coin market is strong!

One aspect of the coin shows that remains sluggish is the absence of young folks, the under-twenty-one collectors. I've spotted scores of dads, moms and grandparents at the shows, but where are the kids? Likely, they're back home, parked in front of a computer, video game or TV screen. How do we get our kids interested in this great hobby?

I'd suggest that collector parents and grandparents who attend shows organize a coin safari, beforehand. Have your kid bring a friend along (two friends, if you dare). Give them ammunition, in the form of \$10 or more to bag a group of exotic animals pictured on coins of the world. Prep the kid(s) beforehand by role-playing the part of an unknown dealer. Teach them coin etiquette in the process and how to verbalize what it is they are seeking (e.g. - world coins, displaying animals, under \$1 apiece, etc.). The kids might also benefit from seeing pics of their prey, "animal" coins, in books, beforehand. As with many things in life, anticipation can be just as interesting, if not more so, than the act, itself!

Afterwards, talk with the kid(s) about their acquisitions. Ask if they know from what country or continent each animal came. Help them card and label their finds. Start a coin folder (suggested – 3-ring binder to house vinyl pages of 20 2x2's). Help them take pics of the coins to share with others. These activities will help you connect with your kid, expand his knowledge and pique his interest.

Try going on a family coin safari ...and, Happy Hunting!

<p style="text-align: center;">PLACE YOUR AD HERE</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Contact Marc Kosanovich, GNA Journal Editor for more details: GNAJournalEditor@gmail.com</p>
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