

NUMISMATICA CANADA

Combining the Transactions of the Canadian Numismatic Research Society and the Cee Tee of the Canadian Association of
Token Collectors – est'd 2002

A Quarterly Publication for Students of Canadian Numismatics

CANADA'S LEADING NUMISMATIC PUBLICATION

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NUMISMATICA CANADA

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NUMISMATICA CANADA

VOLUME 19, No.1.

March 2020

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Classified Ads are located at the back of the bulletin.

Notice Regarding the Classified Advertising at the Back of the Bulletin

CATC member's advertisement change.

It was discussed and decided at the CATC meeting in Calgary (RCNA 2019) that the members' ad section needs to be regulated with reference to how long the ad stays active. Therefore, going forward, all ads in the members section will require the advertiser to update his/her ad and re-submit the advertisement to Scott Douglas at sdouglas333@gmail.com after the completion of a calendar year, ending with the December issue of Numismatica Canada. The cut-off date will be the first of February each year. If an update is not provided the ad will automatically be removed. If a new ad is desired during the year or an old ad is to be removed, notice should reach Scott Douglas one month before the scheduled issue of the newsletter i.e, February, May, August and November of each year.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Scott E Douglas

From the editor:

After a fairly mild December and January, Old Man Winter decided to finally let us know he is still around. One way to beat the Winter Blues is to attend a few coin shows. So far this year we have had the C.A.N.D. show in Hamilton and the Paris Coin show. Several more are being held in the near future.

The C.A.T.C. and the C.N.R.S. will be going through a bit of a change which will hopefully make the running of these groups a little smoother. Not that we have had any problems but over the last few years, my wife and I have been spending a fair amount of time in the east coast and we will be increasing our time there to at least four months during the year. So in fairness to both the C.A.T.C. and the C.N.R.S. I am going to resign as editor of "Numismatica Canada". We have a very capable and willing replacement in Lorne Barnes. Lorne has done a fantastic job in getting our publication online. He has the skills necessary for this part of our publication and he will be perfect for the job over the next quarter century or so. Our first editor, Ken Palmer carried on for 23 years, and I have started into my 26th year, so hopefully he will outdo us both.

We have not had a change in the position of president for many years, myself coming into the position after a stint as vice-president. So after nearly 40 years with these, I am stepping down from this as well. We have been extremely lucky with our vice-president, Scott Douglas over the years. He is probably one of the busiest numismatic officers on record and we certainly appreciate all his fine work with the various numismatic organizations he has contributed his time to. Over the years I have been lucky to work with so many fine people within both the C.N.R.S. and the C.A.T.C. and have made many good friends within these groups as well as the R.C.N.A., the O.N.A, and several of the smaller coin clubs throughout southern Ontario. I have enjoyed every minute of my time and hope that my contributions, such as they are, have made some difference. I know I certainly have benefited from being a part of all of these numismatic groups and I hope to be able to contribute somewhat for many more years.

I wish to thank everyone for all of their help over the last many years and wish you all the very best in your numismatic endeavours.

HNJ

NOTICE:

The NC needs articles for future editions, please submit an article to support your publication.

Articles can be submitted to: 1wdin5@gmail.com

or

Lorne Barnes
PO Box 35020
London, ONT N5W5M0

Town of Plympton-Wyoming Mayor's Community Appreciation Awards Luncheon

On Saturday February 1, 2020 Mel Kyle and Harry James were recognized for their contribution to the local area of Lambton County.

Mel had worked for a very long time researching and writing a detailed and comprehensive history of tokens and their issuers in Lambton County but tragically passed away as the completion of this book was in sight. Harry came forth to contribute the needed material, editing and organizing it, and successfully publishing it in June 2018.

Thus, "A Numismatic Listing of Businesses in Lambton County and the Tokens they Used" became a reality.

Approximately 250 award invitees and their guests gathered for lunch and the ceremonies at the community centre in Camlachie, Ontario on this appointed day. Harry and his wife Winnie were there to receive his certificate as were Mel's family, who asked Len Buth to accept his for them.



Len Buth (left) and Harry James (right)

Guide for Contributors

Contributors to Numismatica Canada are encouraged to adhere to the following guidelines;

1. Submissions should be in MS Word, Times New Roman, 12-pt, also please include a copy in PDF.
2. Single-spacing is acceptable, including between paragraphs. The first line of each paragraph should be indented.
3. Quoted material longer than seven or eight lines should be double-indented ½ inch from the left and right margins and separated by a space from the body of the text before and after it. It should not be enclosed by the addition of quotation marks or be italicized. All quoted material should be quoted with absolute fidelity, including any use of quotation marks, italics, capitals, spelling, punctuation, etc., as in the original.
4. For reasons of copyright and research ethics, the source of all quotations, paraphrased material, and borrowed ideas must be acknowledged accurately.
5. The preferred style for acknowledging source material is to embed the reference in the body of the text, preferably at the end of sentences or paragraphs, with the author's surname, the date of publication, and the page number, as follows (Breton 1894: 47). This reduces the proliferation of footnotes.
6. Footnotes should be reserved for expository material of a supplemental or explanatory nature. Avoid endnotes.
7. The bibliography, arranged alphabetically by author, should include all works cited in the text of the article, in the following style: Breton, P.N. 1894. *Illustrated History of Coins and Tokens Relating to Canada*. Montreal: P.N. Breton & Co.
8. Illustrations should be submitted with the article along with the desired captions.
9. All illustrations must be cleared of copyright and, where applicable, permission granted for reproduction.
10. Submissions will be reviewed and returned to the author for response, with corrections, suggestions, and comments in the track changes feature of MS Word.
11. Please do not number the pages of your work.
12. Please submit your images separately from your text in JPEG format. Indicate where you would like them to go and we will include them.

Scott E Douglas

CATC FINANCIAL REPORT
Fiscal Year October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019

SUMMARY OF REVENUE

Membership receipts	
2019 - Print	\$1,447.21
2019 - Digital	\$609.09
2020+ - Print	\$75.00
2020+ - Digital	\$15.00
Donations	
Total	\$35.00
Misc. sales	
Sales	\$8.10
Offset re. award engraving (1)	-\$9.00
CNRS Print reimbursement (2)	
NC: 2018-04	\$127.90
NC: 2019-01	\$102.46
NC: 2019-02	\$164.60
NC: 2019-03	\$79.55
TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,654.91

RECONCILIATION

Bank balance - Sept. 30/18	\$4,827.69
PLUS 2018-19 receipts	\$2,654.91
LESS 2018-19 disbursements	\$2,252.10
	=====
Assets – Sept. 30/19	\$5,230.50
Bank balance - Sept 30/19	\$5,249.22
PLUS receivable revenue	\$79.55
LESS outstanding cheques	\$98.27
	=====
Assets – Sept. 30/19	\$5,230.50

SUMMARY OF EXPENSES

Numismatica Canada - gross printing costs (2)	
NC: 2018-04	\$319.76
NC: 2019-01	\$256.15
NC: 2019-02	\$411.52
NC: 2019-03	\$198.88
Postage	
NC: 2018-04	\$180.39
NC: 2019-01	\$131.54
NC: 2019-02	\$153.40
NC: 2019-03	\$98.27
Miscellaneous	\$57.88
Bank fees	\$88.14
Association memberships	
RCNA - 2019	\$45.00
ONA - 2019	\$45.00
Sundry	
HNJ PO Box	\$190.97
Stationary and office supplies	\$55.20
Misc	\$20.00
Awards engraving	\$9.00
Offset re. award engraving (1)	-\$9.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$2,252.10

NOTES:

1. Disbursement for award engraving offset against receivables for membership.
2. Per agreement with CNRS, CATC pays 100% of print costs of NC, and is reimbursed 40% by CNRS.

Ian Speers, Treasurer
January 11, 2020

NEW TOKEN FINDS

Britannia, *British Columbia*

Contributed by Al Munro



B4810k

This variety was not previously listed. Ron Greene assigned the catalogue number B4810k in his listing of BC tokens.

Britannia / Stores (irregular scallop 8)

B4810k Good For / One / Quart Milk

A-Sc8-30

David Rusty Phillips, from British Columbia, offers the following comments about Britannia: “Britannia Beach was a town located at sea level (on the road from Vancouver to Whistler), and was the civilian residences for the families whose breadwinners worked for the Britannia Mines Co.. The mine was located high above the town site in the hills east of the waterfront. The mine was accessed by a cable system up the mountain side. The mine is long gone, but the waterfront mill buildings are still there and are now a tourist facility”.

Brigden, *Ontario, Lambton County*

Contributed by Lorne Barnes FCNRS



Albert Smith, / Baker / Brigden, Ont.
Good For / One / Loaf Of Bread

A-Sc8-29

Scotland, Ontario, Brant County



G.C. Crawford / Baker / And / Confectioner
Astwood 1657a Good For / 1 / Loaf / Of / Bread

A-Sc8-28

Unlisted Variety of Astwood 1657a



G.C. Crawford / Baker / And / Confectioner
Good For / 1 / Loaf / Of / Bread (tall 1)

A-Sc8-28

Top of lettering in “Baker” is in line with the G and D in the merchant’s name, symbol shape is slightly different and 1 on reverse is larger.

Waterford, Ontario, Norfolk County



Sanderson Bros. / Cash Store / The Leading / Place / Waterford.
1116-G-F Good For / 1 / In Merchandise

A-R-18

Niagara Falls, Ontario, Welland County



Hamam Bros. / Niagara Falls / Ont.
708-N-E Good For / 5¢ / In Trade

B-R-21½

The Hamam brothers (Wadie 1888-?, Naham 1893-? and Naheem 1894-1950) arrived in Canada in 1906 from Syria. Naham's 1917 draft form shows he is living in Niagara Falls, Ontario and a merchant. The three brothers moved to Niagara Falls, New York in 1922.

Hamilton, Ontario, Wentworth County

Contributed by Al Munro



Tandy Leather Company / Good For / 25¢ / On Your Next / Order / Of Canada Limited
Good Only At / 317 King St. E. / Hamilton, Ont.

L-(b)-R-38

TOKENS OF PENETANGUISHENE, ONTARIO

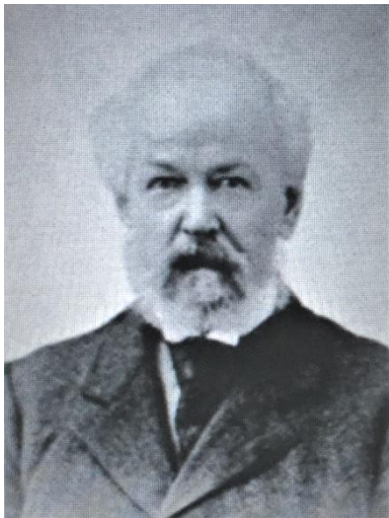
WILLIAM M. THOMPSON

By Harry N. James FCNRS

Penetanguishene, according the Union Publishing Co's Ontario Directory and Gazetteer for 1905-06, is an incorporated town 103 miles north of Toronto, on Georgian Bay, and the northern terminus of the N S branch (North Simcoe branch) N & N W division (Northern and North Western division) G T R (Grand Trunk Railway), in Simcoe County, 34 miles northwest of Barrie. It was incorporated in 1882, and there are flour, saw and planing mills, box factories, sail and tub factory, engine works, launch and canoe factory, carriage factory, a tannery, a foundry etc., public and separate schools, a public library, a bank and a weekly newspaper, the *Herald*. Lumber and other manufacturies are shipped. The Ontario Reformatory for boys located on the old Military Reserve has been abolished and a Provincial Asylum established in its stead. There are large summer hotels in the town and on the islands of the Georgian Bay to which Penetanguishene is the tourists' gateway. There is a large memorial church in memory of the Jesuits. It has steamboat communication with Georgian Bay ports. Stage to Midland, 3 miles east twice a day. Population about 2,800. William M. Thompson was a general merchant here during this time. Thompson's store dates back to early times and their family is an old respected and influential family in Penetanguishene.

Alfred Andrew Thompson came to Penetanguishene in 1830 at the age of 17. He was born in Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1813, the son of Colonel William Thompson, who fought at the battle of Queenston Heights. Colonel Thompson was a United Empire Loyalist, born in New Brunswick. He died in 1860 at the age of 75.

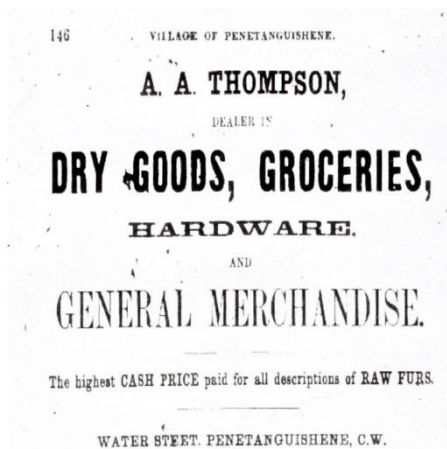
Alfred worked in a lumber yard on Fox Street, and later clerked in the Andrew Mitchell Store when it occupied the corner of Water Street and Owen Street, then Queen Street. It carried on a general mercantile business and in addition did 12,000 to 20,000 dollars' worth of fur trade annually, attracting buyers from Montreal, London, New York and Berlin. Alfred Andrew built his own store, the Greenblock, and bought out Mitchell. In 1857 he married Sara-Anne, the daughter of David Burke, Quartermaster Sergeant. They had three sons, William M., who became a merchant and proprietor of the Greenblock, Alfred B., Barrister Lawyer, who was elected MPP in 1894, and Charles. who was an insurance agent.



A brother of A. A. Thompson, Henry Horace Thompson, pictured to the left was for a while was in partnership with him in the store. Henry, was born on June 10, 1826 in the Township of Toronto, near Oakville, Ontario. He was educated at the Home District Grammer School, Toronto, after which he embarked in the general store business, which he continued for about 37 years, part of the time in partnership with his brother. In 1876 he disposed of his mercantile business and opened a private bank. In municipal affairs he had filled every position from Councillor to Mayor. He was also Clerk and Treasurer for twenty years.



Alfred Andrew Thompson became Penetanguishene's first mayor and was by then one of its wealthiest merchants. He died at the age of 72, in 1885. One of his sons also became a merchant in Penetanguishene. William McMaster Thompson, pictured to the left, was born in Penetanguishene on November 10, 1858. He was educated at the public schools and Upper Canada College. At the age of 17 he entered the firm of A. R. McMaster & Bro., Toronto, and gained a thorough knowledge of the dry goods business. In 1881 he entered his father's store, and at the time of his father's death, took over the business, and a more successful establishment could not be found at that time in the Georgian Bay district. Mr. Thompson took active interests in the municipal and educational affairs of the town, having filled the offices of Trustee of School Board and Councillor for five years. He married, in 1887, Julia Keefer Kitteredge, daughter of A. H. Kitteridge of Strathroy. William McMaster Thompson died on April 22, 1928 at the age of 69.



Ad from the Simcoe Directory and Gazetteer of 1866-67



788-C-E

788-C-Fx

	W. M. THOMPSON / GENERAL / MERCHANT / PENETANGUISENE, ONT.	
788-C-A	GOOD FOR / 1 ⁰⁰ / IN MERCHANDISE	A-R-35
C-B	GOOD FOR / 50 / IN MERCHANDISE	A-R-31
C-C	GOOD FOR / 25 / IN MERCHANDISE	A-R-28
C-D	GOOD FOR / 10 / IN MERCHANDISE	A-R-25
C-E	GOOD FOR / 5 / IN MERCHANDISE	A-R-20
C-F	GOOD FOR / 1 / IN / MERCHANDISE	A-R-18
C-Fx	GOOD FOR / 1¢ / IN / MERCHANDISE	A-R-18

D. A. LAYHEY



Denis Ambrose Layhey was born in Sydenham, Grey County, Ontario on the 17th of April, 1864. He was the son of James Lahey, who was a store keeper in Loughborough Township of Addington County for many years, and his wife Isabella Rennie. In 1891 he was a dry goods merchant in Brampton, Ontario. He was married to Anna C. Fitzgerald on the 29th of August, 1900 at which time he was established as a general merchant in Penetanguishene. Union Publishing Co's Ontario Directory for 1899-1900 lists a partnership of Thompson & Layhey, general merchants. He operated his store until his death in 1935. A 1¢, 5¢, and 10¢ token are known from his store. They are round, of aluminum, and 18, 21 and 25 mm in diameter respectively.



788-B-F

D.A. LAHEY & CO. / THE / BIG STORE / PENETANGUISHENE, ONT.

788-B-D	GOOD FOR / 10 / IN MERCHANDISE	A-R-25
B-E	SAME BUT 5	A-R-21
B-F	SAME BUT 1	B-R-18

G. COPELAND & SONS

George E. Copeland was an extremely successful businessman in Penetanguishene. His father established the first grist and flour mill in Penetanguishene. He also built "The Penetanguishene" in 1889 on the present site of Huronia Park. It was billed as one of the very best resort hotels available. From a part of a poetical description of businessmen and their businesses in Penetanguishene from *Poetical Directory of Penetanguishene and Businessmen of the Surrounding Country* by A. G. Churchill, 1876, below is a poem concerning George Copeland.

"A dulcimer river is flowing on down,
 To Copeland's machinery in view of the town,
 His gristmill is running and sawmill sometimes,
 And brings in the sovereigns, the dollars and dimes;
 Is now building largely on bold table land,
 A view of the harbor and town does command.
 The harbor's channel about a mile wide,
 Bounds the town corporation along the west side;

The scene is romantic while standing on shore,
Where the mills and machinery and steamboats do roar:”

George’s son, George E. Copeland succeeded to the mill and other business outlets of his father. He had been born in Penetanguishene in 1865. On the November 17, 1886 he married Jane Annette Greene De La Penetiere. By 1891 they had two sons, Albert and George Henry Copeland, three and one year old respectively. By 1891 George E. Copeland was listed as a miller. From 1905 through until 1908 directories list the business as George Copeland & Sons, flour mills. In the Union Publishing Co’s Ontario Directory & Gazetteer for 1910-11 the listing is for George Copeland & Sons, millers and bakers. George E. Copeland is still listed as a miller in the 1911 census. His son, George Henry is listed as a baker. It is possible that Albert also worked in the bakery for some time. The business is still listed as George Copeland & Sons, Bakery in 1922, but must have ceased shortly after. About 1923, George Henry Copeland became a contractor and carpenter. He moved to Toronto about 1935 and died there in 1945. Albert became a grain broker in Toronto and died there at the age of 43 in 1930. George E. Copeland outlived both his sons, dying in 1951.



G. COPELAND / & SONS / PENETANGUISHENE, ONT.

1360a	GOOD FOR / ONE / LOAF / BREAD	A-Sc8-29
1360b	GOOD FOR / 1 / LOAF OF BREAD	A-S-22
1360c	GOOD FOR / ONE / HALF / LOAF OF BREAD	A-S-20

J.C. LEE

J. C. Lee was another baker to make use of tokens in Penetanguishene. He had been born in England in 1864 and came to Canada in 1890. He can be found listed in Union Publishing Co’s Ontario Directory and Gazetteer for 1899-1900 as a baker in Penetanguishene. He is listed in the 1901 Canada Census along with his wife, Mary, and two daughters, Dorothy and Bissie. Also living with them was E. M. McConkey, who was a baker along with J. C. Lee. He is still listed for the years 1905-06 but not in 1908. Lee made use of three tokens, one for a half loaf, the other two for one loaf.



1365a



1365b

J. C. LEE / BAKER / PENETANGUISHENE, / ONT

1365a	GOOD FOR / 1/2 / LOAF OF BREAD (McColl 1029)	A-Sc4-29
1365b	GOOD FOR / 1 / LOAF OF BREAD (McColl 1029)	A-R-25
1365c	GOOD FOR / ONE LOAF / OF BREAD	A-R-25

C. BECK M'F'G CO.

The C. Beck Manufacturing Company used tokens ranging from 1¢ to a dollar in its two company stores in Penetanguishene. There are two varieties known of the one dollar, 25¢ and 5¢ tokens. The C. Beck Manufacturing Company Limited started operation in 1875 and was going until 1969. It sold wholesale lumber, shingles, lath, box shooks, pails, tubs and woodenware to firms in Ontario, Quebec and Western Canada, and into the United States. Its wooden tubs, boxes, barrels and pails were produced to carry Ontario food products to markets across Canada and throughout the British Empire. Charles Beck, the founder of the company, was a German immigrant who built up his large lumber business through aggressive marketing, shrewd diversification and technological investment. The company was supported by an extensive array of Georgian Bay area lumber camps, especially shingle, lath and lumber mills, two general stores and three box, pail and woodenware factories in Penetanguishene and Toronto. (This information from an Ontario Heritage Trust Plaque located in front of a museum on the north side of Burke Street just east of Beck Boulevard.) (The Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives originally housed the C. Beck Lumber Company Limited.)

The following is from – *The Canadian Forest Industries 1905-06* published by Southam Business Publications, Don Mills, Ontario.

“In 1872 Mr. C. Beck started a saw mill in the little town of Pene-tanguishene, on the southern shore of the Georgian Bay. Since then many other mills have sprung up into existence along those shores, but the little mill of C. Beck kept pace with the times, and year by year increased its capacity and output until now its ranks amongst the larger mills in Ontario. The plant stretches three-quarters of a mile along the shore of the bay, covering in all about 100 acres. Two saw mills are in operation, the new Keene mill, with a circular and gang saw, planing mill and box factory. The company also have a shingle mill in operation here, and a large tub and pail factory. In addition they have a box factory in Toronto which consumes upward of three million feet of lumber annually. The number of hands employed at their mills in Penetang averages 275. Two tug-boats, the “C. W. Chamberlain” and the “Wah-napitae” are in use hauling the company logs. The present company was incorporated in 1889 under the name of the C. Beck Manufacturing Company, with C. Beck, president and J. F. Beck, secretary and treasurer.”

More recently, Andrew Mendles states in *Historical Names and Places in Penetanguishene and Tiny*, printed in 2018. German immigrant and lumber baron Karl Mazimillian (Charles) Beck was instrumental in the development of Penetanguishene. He had been born in Echarthausen, Germany. As a youth of sixteen he went to live with a sister in Stratford, Ontario. Karl or Charles as he was known worked as a carpenter in Muskoka, mainly in lumber camps and saw mills. He moved to Penetanguishene in 1865. Although he had little money by 1873 had constructed the Red Mill with two partners. By 1878 he had bought out his partners and the C. Beck Lumbering business began. Beck was part of a group which was influential in getting a railroad built between Barrie and Penetanguishene. This railway enabled him to increase production and build a second mill.

There were two company stores in Penetanguishene. His employees were paid half of their wages in tokens which were redeemable in goods at the company stores. The other half of their wages was paid in Canadian currency. The tokens were accepted by almost every store in town until about 1920. Beck became one of Canada's wealthiest lumber barons, amassing a fortune of \$12 million dollars by the time of his death in 1915. His sons were active in the company and it continued operating a box factory until 1969 although the saw mills closed in 1929.

"Beck Money" was discontinued in 1920 when William Findlay Beck became company president. On the May 13, 1915 Charles Beck rode his carriage around the mill yards as he did every morning. Workers suspected something was amiss when the horse and carriage returned without him. Apparently the horse had made a sharp turn, throwing Mr. Beck into Georgian Bay and he drowned.



788-A-A

788-A-B



788-A-C

THE C. BECK M'F'G CO., LIMITED / PENETANGUISHENE. (McCull 332)

788-A-A	GOOD FOR / 1 ⁰⁰ (in wreath) / IN MERCHANDISE	A-R-35
A-B	SAME BUT 50	A-R-31
A-C	SAME BUT 25	A-R-28



788-A-D



788-A-E



788-A-F



THE C. BECK / MFG. Co / LIMITED. / PENETANGUISHENE. (McColl 332)

788-A-D	GOOD FOR / 10¢ / IN MERCHANDISE	A-R-22½
A-E	SAME BUT 5¢	A-R-19
A-F	SAME BUT 1¢	A-R-19



788-A-J



788-A-J



THE C. BECK M'F'G CO. LTD. / PENETANGUISHENE

GOOD FOR / 1 ⁰⁰ (In wreath) / IN MERCHANDISE	A-R-35
SAME BUT 25	A-R-28
SAME BUT 5	A-R-19

Sources:

The Canadian Album: Men of Canada, Or Success by Example, by William Cochrane, 1896.

Simcoe County Directory and Gazetteer for 1866-67.

Census of Canada East, Canada West, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia for 1851 and 1861.

Canada Census for 1871, 1881, 1891. 1901, 1911 and 1921.

Canada Statistics, Marriages and Deaths.

Ontario Heritage Trust – Plaque located in front of the Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives. (This site originally housed the C. Beck Lumber Co. Limited.)

“The Canadian Forest Industries 1905 - 06” published by Southam Business Publications, Don Mills, Ontario.

Historical Names and Places in Penetanguishene and Tiny – by Andrew Mendles, 2018.

Union Publishing Co’s Ontario Directory and Gazetteer for 1899-1900 and 1905-06.

Dun’s Canada Directory 1908.

tokencatalog.com

WILLIAM H. SOPER & ROBERT W. SOPER
GUNSMITHS - LONDON, ONTARIO
CONVICTED OF COUNTERFEITING COINS 1858

By Len Buth, FCNRS

William H. Soper was born in New York State, USA in 1815. He and his family moved to London, Ontario in 1849, and opened a gunsmith shop on Ridout Street, near York Street. His wife Betsa (born in 1816), a son Robert W. (born 1835) and a second son William H. (born 1841) were all born in the USA as well. To save confusion in this article, the son will be referred to as William Jr. Both sons worked with their father as gunsmiths. William H. Soper was highly regarded as an excellent and skilled craftsman, and he won first prize for one of his rifles at the Provincial Agricultural Exhibition held in London, Ontario in 1854.

In July 1858, however, the Sopers' lives took a dramatic change when both the father William, and his son Robert were arrested and charged with making moulds for the manufacture of base metal coins, specifically for counterfeiting United States coins in denominations of half-dollars, quarter-dollars and ten cents. These arrests first caught the writer's attention some years ago upon finding a single line in the book *History of the County of Middlesex Canada*, in Chapter VII headed "The Bench and Bar", page 127 which reads as follows:

Robert Soper was convicted of coining money, in November 1858.

The writer's interests in this case were rekindled recently when reading an article by local London historian Dan Brock in the *London & Middlesex Historical Society Newsletter* Winter 2014 edition, entitled "Gunsmiths of Nineteenth-Century London" which gave reference to the arrests as well. As the Sopers' difficulties had a numismatic interest it was deemed appropriate to learn more about the arrests and write this article. As well, the writer was familiar with the Sopers, having previously written a short article for *Numismatica Canada* March 2003, entitled "Dominion Gun Works - R.W. Soper, London Ontario."

The arrests and subsequent trials were covered in the newspaper *The London Free Press, and Daily Western Advertiser* (hereafter referred to as *TLFPDWA*) commencing with the issue of Saturday November 6, 1858 which stated:

The Grand Jury returned true bills against William and Robert Soper for misdemeanour in making moulds for the manufacture of base coins.

The two were formally charged with counterfeiting.

Testimony revealed that on July 8, 1858, on a lead provided by Hamilton, Ontario police to their counterparts in London, Robert and William Jr. were arrested after a man named only as "Smith" in the newspaper accounts, had been arrested in Hamilton for passing United States

counterfeit coins, and Smith had implicated the Sopers as his source. At the time of Robert and William Jr's arrests on July 8th, the London police searched the premises and found a milling machine and moulds for the three denominations previously mentioned, as well as some counterfeit coins. Upon his arrest Robert admitted to the police that his father had made the "instruments" for a man named Smith. William H. Soper was arrested a short time later. William Jr., after appearing before the Mayor, had charges against him dropped, presumably his age of seventeen being a factor: however the newspaper did not provide reasons.

As mentioned earlier, William and Robert first appeared at the County of Middlesex Fall Assizes in London, Ontario, beginning on Saturday, November 6th before his Lordship, Justice Burns. The Sopers were represented in court by Mr. Henry Eccles, QC, and assisted by Mr. John Wilson. Messrs. Cornish and Hutchison represented the Crown. The Sopers elected to be tried separately, and both pleaded "not guilty" to the eight counts in their indictments.

Robert was the first to be tried, which commenced on Monday November 8th in two sessions. The first session was for the charge of manufacturing the moulds, and the second for actually coining the counterfeit coins and being in possession of same. Robert's case took up the entire day from 9 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. For reasons not explained in any of the detailed reporting in the newspaper, Mr. Smith was not present at any of the court proceedings to testify or to be examined. Yet much of the testimony involved Smith. Basically, Robert and his defence used the argument that the moulds were made for Smith based on Smith's drawings and specifications, but that the Sopers did not know they were for counterfeiting purposes. Some of the evidence appeared circumstantial, but the Crown pressed the fact the "instruments" were on the Soper premises and some counterfeit coins were also found there. After the Justice charged the jury, they retired for approximately one hour and returned with a verdict of "guilty" on the charges of manufacturing the "instruments". The second trial against Robert for coining and possessing of the counterfeit coins commenced immediately after the verdict for the first charge. This time the jury deliberated for only 45 minutes, and again found Robert guilty.

On Tuesday November 9th William H. Soper was placed on trial at 9:30 a.m. The *TLFPDWA* newspaper the following day reported as follows:

The charges and evidence was the same as that provided on the day before in the case of Robert Soper, prisoner's son, and which resulted in the conviction of the father, the only additional testimony introduced was a letter written by Mr. Soper when in Coburg [sic], when he was arrested, to his son in the city.

The letter was not transcribed in the newspaper account, but it contained some of the following facts:

-William could not find a suitable shop to rent in Cobourg, but found one in Port Hope, Ontario.

-he ordered his son (it was not indicted if the letter was sent to Robert or William Jr.) to send some tools and other items for making rifles.

The next item was incriminating evidence and is quoted as in the letter according to the newspaper account:

I came down with Smith. He promised to raise the money and find the tools etc.
as agreed upon between us.

Before the letter was introduced at the trial, William had in testimony tried to suggest he did not like Smith. William also testified he did not understand what the milling machine was for. The letter in evidence now suggested Soper had business relationship with Smith.

Justice Burns delivered the charges to the jury at 1 p.m. When the jury had not yet agreed upon a verdict by 9 p.m., they were sequestered for the night. On the following day, Wednesday November 10th, the jury was called into court with Justice Burns asking if a decision had been reached. The foreman of the jury replied there was no probability of their agreeing on a verdict. As a result, the jury was discharged, and his Lordship said he would consider the matter.

At the termination of the Fall Assizes session on November 11th, Justice Burns sentenced William H. Soper and Robert W. Soper to four years in the penitentiary at hard labour. In his decision Justice Burns, as reported in the *TLFPDWA*, stated the following in regard to Robert:

I have no doubt that the prisoner was used as an instrument in the hands of Smith for his unlawful purposes, but the crime of which he was convicted must, notwithstanding, receive commensurate punishment.

Justice Burns also suggested that application be made on Robert's behalf for clemency. The Grand Jury on November 13th, 1858, concurred with this application.

The writer has spent considerable time and effort viewing microfilms of the *TLFPDWA* for several weeks after November 13th, with no additional information found relating to the final terms of sentence for Robert Soper.

In the article by Dan Brock "Gunsmiths of Nineteenth-Century London" referenced above, Mr. Brock comments as follows:

A William F. Bond joined with William H. Soper by 1863, after the latter's release from prison.

On the presumption both Sopers went to prison in November 1858, and William H. was released by 1863 (and in business again as above), one may conclude he was in prison for the full four years as sentenced, namely 1859, 1860, 1861 and 1862. On the basis of the clemency appeal for Robert, he may have served a lesser term of imprisonment.

The Canada Census for 1861 was completed as of January 14th. Census records for the Provincial Penitentiary, County of Frontenac, Kingston, Ontario indicate both William and Robert were imprisoned there as at January 14th, 1861. On this basis Robert would have served at least two years of his sentence, namely 1859 and 1860, but his precise time of incarceration has not been determined.

The charges, indictment and prison sentence were no doubt very embarrassing to all the Sopers. During the imprisonments, William Jr. continued to manage the family gun shop business. William H. Soper's wife, Betsa Soper, is listed in the 1861 Census, living in London, showing her occupation as grocer and she was no doubt supporting the family income.

After completion of their prison terms, it becomes somewhat sketchy in locating the whereabouts of Robert, but especially William. Mr. Brock's research indicated William H. had left London by 1870.

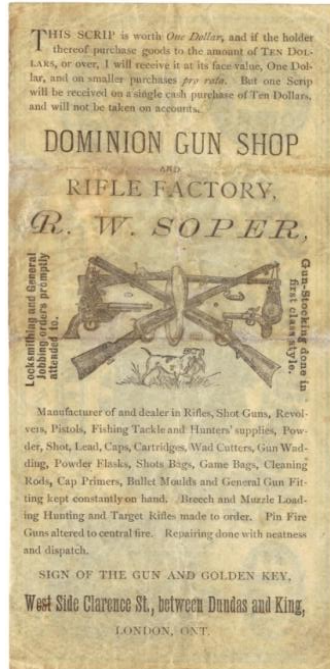
The writer located Robert W. Soper in Detroit, Michigan in July 1863, where on the 16th of that month he married Isabelle Roberts. Robert does return to London in about 1874 from Sioux City, Iowa with his wife and two children, and operated a shop known as the "Dominion Gun Shop and Rifle Factory" at the northwest corner of King and Clarence Streets, London, ON. A large sign on the building simply read "Dominion Gun Works".

While the writer has not been able to establish a specific date when it was used, Robert issued a one dollar Commission Scrip as shown below. As indicated on the scrip, it had a value of:

This scrip is worth one dollar, and if the holder thereof purchase goods to the amount of ten dollars, or over, I will receive it at its face value, one dollar

Images of the scrip appear below and top of next page, courtesy of Scott E. Douglas:





Robert appears to have been quite successful with his business, and several patents were located during the mid 1870s for improvements to “breach-loading rifles and guns”.

The US Census for 1880 shows Robert and his family residing in Detroit, MI with his occupation as gunsmith. Robert’s death certificate was also found and indicates he died on December 31, 1903, at Detroit, MI at the age of 68. The death certificate also provided a date of birth as May 6, 1835. Various records and censuses have shown his date of birth being in 1835, 1836 or 1837.

As mentioned earlier, tracking the whereabouts of William H. Soper, after his release from prison, and his wife, Betsa has been difficult. The 1890 US Census lists a William Soper born in 1817, and his spouse Elizabeth Soper born in 1819, living at Saint Lawrence, Waddington County, NY. The birth dates are relatively close that those found in other census data, and Betsa may possibly have been an abbreviated form for Elizabeth. However, the writer has not been able to find any concrete connection that the William Soper living in New York was the same as the William subject of this article. Also, by coincidence, the Canada census for 1881 lists a William Soper, a gunsmith, at St. Catharines, ON. The age shown of 78 years and his wife’s name of Margaret does, unfortunately, not connect the St. Catharines Soper to the London, ON Soper. His exact whereabouts after leaving London remains a mystery and inconclusive.

Bibliography

Censuses

Canada: 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891

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Directories

Canada: various 1851-1899 including: Bradstreets; J. Cameron; R.G. Dun; J. Lovell; C.H. Macintosh Co.; R.W. Mackay; Murray, Middlemiss; McAlpine; Railtons; Sutherland & Co.

United States: 1880 Polk's Detroit City Directory.

Newspapers

The London Free Press and Daily Western Advertiser. Daily issues November 1-30, 1858

The New York Times, July 16, 1868. "A Gang of Counterfeiters Broken Up in Canada, Bogus American Coin - From the London (Canada) Free Press".

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Brock, Dan. 2004. "Gunsmiths of Nineteenth-Century London," *London & Middlesex Historical Society Newsletter*, (Winter): 4-6.

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Others including: ancestry.ca; ancestry.com; familysearch.org; freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/-soperstuff/Berkshire/Berkshire-notes.htm

MICHAEL JOSEPH - OWEN SOUND, ONT.

By Lorne Barnes FCNRS



Michael Joseph / Owen Sound / Ont.

Good For / 1 / Pint Milk

B-R-25½

Michael Joseph was born June 8, 1870 in Syria to Joseph Michael Joseph and Anna Eszkidy. Michael emigrated from Syria through Hamburg, Germany on board the ship, Suevia, arriving December 1, 1890, at Ellis Island, New York. The 1901 Canada shows Michael and his family are living in Owen Sound. The 1909 R.G. Dun directory lists Michael as a grocer and his August 6, 1940 death certificate lists his occupation as storekeeper. At this time I am unable to locate Michael Joseph as a milk dealer or farmer. Perhaps he used the token for trade with various customers.

Sources

Ancestry.ca

1901 Canada Census

1909 R.G. Dun Ontario Directory

WELLINGTON - BRETON 986
COURTEAU 20
COUNTERFEIT ISSUE

By Lorne Barnes FCNRS

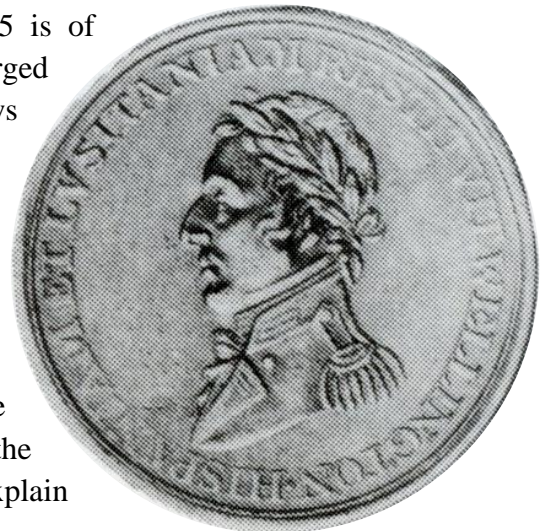


986.20.1555

Composition: Copper. Weight: 7.69 to 8.36 grams. Diameter: 27.43 to 27.58mm. Thickness: 1.61 to 1.69mm. Die axis: ↑↑. Edge: Oblique milling ///////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////. Ten leaves.

My references of choice for the Wellington series are Breton, Courteau and Withers. The work of Breton and Courteau survived the test of time and are still used by many Canadian and American collectors and Withers did a great job for the English collectors in their publication, *British Copper Tokens 1811-1820*. Withers further organized and updated the work of Courteau and added a few varieties not noted by Courteau in their *British Non-Local* section.

Withers noted that the button on number 1555 is of equal distance from collar and lapel. I scanned and enlarged the picture used in Withers, seen to the right, which shows the button is not of equal distance between collar and lapel, but closer to the collar. I then compared the obverse picture of 1555 to examples in my collection of Courteau 20; it is the same as my examples. The three berries are in the same position, the lower bow under the wreath show the same curve and missing section, the hair above the wreath and the top of the cravat are also the same, and lastly the horizontal line across the upper ear lobe is seen. On the next page I will try to explain that Withers 1555 is indeed a Courteau 20.

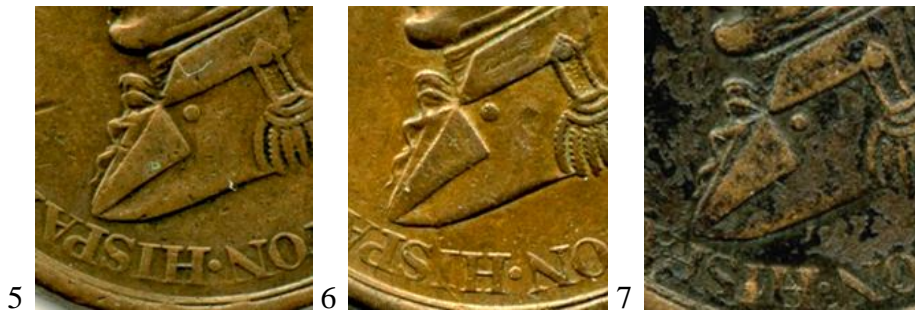


Unfortunately the picture used in *British Copper Tokens 1811-1820* is of low quality and can only be expanded a little before the picture loses clarity. It also shows shadows, which makes identification of key points difficult.



Picture 1 is the plate used by Withers, picture 2 by Courteau and the remaining five are in or were in the author's collection. After comparing the upper berry position of pictures 3 and 6 with the plate in Withers it becomes apparent the berry extends following a line with the lower half of second leaf from top ending at the stem of first lower leaf from top; The left side of lower berry ends on the centre line of leaf; upper right side of lower bow weakly struck and does not connect to upper bow; break in hair is seen under the M in LVSITANIAM; hair ends in a point between upper leaves; three strands of hair are seen exiting under upper left leaf with centre one longest and ending with a downward curl, the downward curl is not seen on picture 1, due to the quality of the picture, the plate from Courteau is also not as clear as the other five pictures; two locks of hair are seen behind the ear, due to picture quality and shadows, the locks appear to be shorter.





The numbering order continues as the previous pictures and explanations. The left tassel in the epaulette ends slightly above the bust line; the plate from Withers and picture number 4 are from a similar die state. Both give the appearance that the left tassel in the epaulette end even with the bust line, but in hand number 4 ends above bust line. This leads me to believe the poor picture quality of number 1 only gives the illusion of the tassel ending at the bust line. The button size can range depending on die state, from slightly closer to collar to obviously closer to collar, this is apparent in the pictures above; the cravat is the largest of the series, at the bottom of the cravat a short line extends, on picture 1 a faint shadow is seen.



The most obvious traits of Courteau 20 are seen on the reverse. The correct spelling of “CIUDAD” and no periods after “JAN” and “AUG”.

Withers stated the edge reeding was northeast to southwest, but the six examples in my collection are northwest to southeast. I contacted Mr. Withers regarding his edge description, but unfortunately more than two decades have passed and he could not recall with confidence.

Based on information in the Sir Edward Thomason autobiography, Withers used the edge types to aid in the identification of counterfeits in the Peninsular series. They believed the tokens in the Peninsular series that did not share an edge type with the known issues of tokens manufactured by Thomason were in all likelihood, counterfeits.

Withers stated 986.20.1555 and 986.21.1556 share the same edge type as 976.2.1980 and concluded they were of the same manufacturer and counterfeit. Obviously this is not the case in my research as the edge of 986.1556.21 in my opinion is similar to 976.2.1980, not the same as; additionally, I have found the edge of 986.20.1555 is similar to 986.12.1551. It is my belief that this is simply an error in the Withers publication, as the authors would have used extensive notes

in their research and misattributed the edge types when compiling the information for their massive undertaking.



Withers concluded 986.20.1555 shared an edge with 976.2.1980 and was therefore counterfeit, but this is not the case based on the edge type information I have compiled. However, Withers stated 986.12.1551, in the group “First limb of M lines to centre of J (1550-1552).” “These are counterfeit.” Based on this information, the edge types are similar and Withers would have come to the same conclusion that 986.20.1555 is counterfeit.



Sources:

Breton, P.N. 1894. *Illustrated History of Coins and Tokens Relating to Canada*. Montreal: P.N. Breton & Co.

Courteau, Eugene G. 1915. *The Wellington Tokens Relating to Canada*, New York: American Journal of Numismatics Vol. XLVIII.

Withers, Paul and Bente R., 1999. *British Copper Tokens 1811-1820*, Llanfyllin, UK. Galata Print Ltd.

Classified ad page: This is a free service for members.

Supplement for March 2020 issue of Numismatica Canada

Wanted for my personal collection. The tokens of A.D. Porcheron. I can be reached at – len.kuenzig@sympatico.ca

For sale or trade: Medals and tokens of collectors, dealers and manufacturers from 1850-1950 available plus miscellaneous items. Send want list or request my listing. Contact Barry Uman, 242 Sedgefield, Pointe Claire, QC H9R 1P2 or email at clarinets@videotron.ca

Wanted for my personal collection: Tokens and scrip of Ottawa and surrounding area (including milk, bread, merchants' due bills, etc. etc.). Also Ottawa medals of all types (agricultural, school, athletic, exhibition, religious, etc.). Will purchase or trade. Contact: Chris Faulkner, 1460 Merrivale Road, Box 78085, Ottawa, ON, Canada K2E 1B1, or email chris.faulkner@carleton.ca

W.R. McColl 1903 Sales List - an alphabetical listing of the McColl offering, by: 1) name 2) location 3) Province - by location, name and cross-referenced to Bowman, Hill, Stewart and Tannahill as applicable. The Ontario listing includes a separate section by County 4) original numerical McColl list. Will facilitate locating names / attribution appearing in McColl which previously could be a time-consuming task to find in his original list. Soft cover, spiral bound, 90 pages, 8 x 11 inches. Copies C\$25.00 **each** plus postage. A private publication by Len Buth, P.O. Box 28012, Oakridge Postal Outlet, 1201 Oxford St. W., London ON, Canada N6H 5E1. lbuth@webmanager.on.ca

Wanted better Canadian medals for my collection: scholastic, exhibition, award, historical, etc. Geoffrey Bell, gbel@nb.sympatico.ca or 506 532-6025

Wanted for my personal collection: medals relating to the 1860 royal visit to North America. I am still looking for Hoffnung medals in bronze (LeRoux 643) and silver (LeRoux 643 & 644), the Lower Canada Board of Arts & Manufactures medal in bronze (LeRoux 612), academic medals, LeRoux 636 (Bishop's), LeRoux 671 (McGill), and "Blondin the Hero of Niagara" medal (44 mm variety), the "NY Firemans Torchlight Parade" medal in white metal, and the Merriam U.S.A. Souvenir medal in brass.

Ron Cheek - roncheek44@gmail.com

Wanted for my personal collection: Breton 735 and 736 (Illiffe tokens) all varieties. Jim Astwood - jastwood@mymts.net

For those interest an updated supplement (January 2020) for the *An Illustrated Guide To Manitoba Trade Tokens* please contact Jim Astwood - jastwood@mymts.net

-Wanted – 60 sous script for Eustache Brunet 1837 for Pointe Claire, Quebec. I can trade a 30 sous note or buy it or any other script for Eustache Brunet. Contact Barry Uman at clarinets@videotron.ca or call 514-697-5839.

Canadian Exonumia Listings

With a tremendous amount of great input from many Canadian exonumia collectors as well as from archived numismatic literature I have compiled updated listings, with images when available, for a few of the many Canadian exonumia collectables as well as some other neat stuff.

The Canadian listings I currently have available include:

- Encased
- Spinners
- Perpetual Calendars
- Pocket Mirror Cards
- Attributed Canadian Maverick Tokens
- Alberta Trade Tokens.



I am making these digital listings available by snail mail to individuals who have similar items in their collections as well as those thinking of adding these fun collectables to their own collections. It is also being made available to solicit feedback as to errors that have crept in when I wasn't looking, providing missing images, obtaining information for unlisted items and to generally enhance the pastime of Canadian exonumia collecting.

If you have an interest in any the above listings please send me a request at egjensen@telus.net

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A new Facebook Group called, Canadian Token Collectors, has been launched as of February 2020. The purpose of the group is to provide an interactive forum to share information, knowledge and meet likeminded collectors, as well as a market place. All interested parties are welcome to join.

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