

"The Bulletin" October, 1998

President's Message

ONA 2000 Medal Design Competition

The Ontario Numismatic Association's annual convention will be hosted by the North York Coin Club in April of 2000. As is the tradition, we will be issuing a medal in commemoration of the event. It was announced at the September meeting that there is a medal design competition now open to all Club members. The Medal Committee Chairman, Rick Craig, along with fellow committee members Roger Fox and Paul Johnson, are now receiving your design ideas and hope to select a winning design by the end of the year. Why do we need to decide on the design so quickly? It will be the logo of the convention and will establish our major theme. The winner will receive one of the medals in silver as their prize.

... and some reminders:

This is a reminder to the Executive Committee members that we have a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Need to reach the President? Phone calls are welcome at **416-745-3067** (leave a voice mail message if you can't get through in person) and e-mail may be sent to petchp@ican.net.

Start the Presses!

The next meeting of the North York Coin Club will be held on **Tuesday, October 27** 1998, at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Drive.

Our guest at this meeting will be Mr. Paul M. Fiocca. Paul is the Publisher at Trajan Publishing Corporation who produce such familiar periodicals as Canadian Coin News and the CNA Journal for the numismatic hobby community. The company's offerings span out to serve other hobbies as well including stamps, sportscards, antiques and other collectibles. Paul will be taking us behind the scenes at Trajan to help us understand what it is like to be a supporter of so many hobby interests. This month's feature promises to be a little different, so we hope to see you there. And think about bringing along something for the auction table too!

Coming Events

Torex, October 24-25, Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 10am-3pm at the Primrose Hotel, Pearson Ballroom, 111 Carlton St., Toronto. Daily admission \$5. Contact: Ingrid K. Smith (416) 260-9070.

Military Collectors Club Show, October 25, 10am-3pm at Ramada Inn 400/401, 1677 Wilson Ave. Admission \$2. Contact D. Migory (416) 653-6648.

Stratford Coin Club 36th Annual Coin Show, October 25, 10am-4pm at the Kiwanis Community Centre, Lakeside Dr. Free admission. Contact Ken Wilmot, Stratford Coin Club, Box 21031, Stratford, N5A 7V4.

Windsor Coin Club Show, November

8, 10am-4pm at the Caboto Club, Tecumseh Rd. E. at Parent St. Admission \$1, free parking, coin displays, hourly door prizes. Contact: Ron Binder (519) 254-6855.

Waterloo Coin Club Annual Coin Show, November 21, 9:30am-4:30pm at 404 Wing, R.C.A.F. Ass'n., 510 Dutton Dr. Free admission and parking. Contact Don Robb (519) 888-9655.

N.I.C.F. Coin-A-Rama Niagara Falls, November 28, 9am-4pm at Our Lady of Peace Hall, 6944 Stanley Ave. Free parking. \$1 admission, free gold draw. Contact Barbara Kostyk, 7581 Dorchester Rd., Niagara Falls, L2G 7G4.

Simcoe Coin and Sports Card Show, November 29, 10:30am-4pm at the Junior Farmers Bld., Simcoe Fairgrounds, 172 South Dr. Admission \$2. Contact Ian Ward (519) 426-8875.

**Next Meeting:
October 27**

Meeting News from the September 29 Meeting

The 433rd meeting of the North York Coin Club was held on Tuesday, September 29, 1998 at the Edithvale Community Centre, 7 Edithvale Dr., Willowdale. The President, Paul Petch, opened the meeting at 8:05 p.m. and welcomed 22 members and 1 guest.

Rick Craig was present to collect the \$2 pot for the on time attendance draw.

The minutes of the August 19, 1998 meeting were read by the Secretary and, after correction, were accepted by the Chair.

An application for membership has been received from Len Kuenzig of Mississauga. Any objections to accepting this membership application may be lodged up to the start of the October meeting. If accepted his number will be 501.

Paul Johnson reported a one-day CNA Advanced Course will be held on Saturday, November 7th at Humber College. The course will concentrate on grading, mint errors and preservation, with three presenters, namely Brian Cornwell, John Regitko and Susan Maltby respectively. It is limited to approximately twenty people at a cost of \$55 for CNA members and \$65 for non-members. A repeat programme will likely be given for the overflow.

Report from the September 16 Executive meeting:

- 1) It was decided not to hold a spring show.
- 2) A little extra money is being spent on refreshments and Roger is open to suggestions.
- 3) April 14-16 has been selected for the ONA Convention 2000. Specifications will be forwarded to a list of hotels.
- 4) Paul advised that a medal design competition will be held amongst the members and that a silver convention medal will be given as a prize for the winning design. Rick Craig, as chairman for this

committee, elaborated briefly and stated a theme idea is needed by January. He is joined by Roger Fox and Paul Johnson as committee members.

Del Murchison came to the floor to report that the Mississauga Coin Club is assembling a listing of tokens, coins, medals and notes of the towns, villages and hamlets that combined to create modern-day Mississauga. He is interested in photographing or hearing about anything that other people may have on this topic.

Paul Petch very graciously introduced Rick Craig as our speaker for the evening. Since a full and comprehensive examination of Rick's subject, "An Overview of Numismatics in the Fur Trade", could take several hours, he elected to restrict it by listing and briefly discussing main historical events regarding the Hudson Bay Company and the Northwest Company. Foremost, he emphasized, that Beaver pelts and financial profit drove these operations and these same Beaver pelts were used as Canada's first form of money. Further to this history Rick noted various books, medals and tokens from his vast array on view and regaled us with interesting and amusing information about them. Following a hearty response by the members, Paul expressed the Club's appreciation and presented Rick with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Coffee break was much enjoyed with Roger's many choices of refreshments.

The Question of the Month was to identify Canadian numismatic items which are tied-in with alcohol. Both Marvin Kay and Paul Petch presented interesting accounts which will appear in the next bulletin. Del Murchison had some AA medals and other tokens and Ted Boxall had a Canadian collection of drink medals from breweries, bars, etc.

Lucky Draw winners were: Avram

Question of the Month

We have never really had a Halloween meeting, but since it is that time of the year, your editor thought it might be fun to look for goulish, monstrous or even horrific connections to world-wide numismatics for October.

We had so much fun with alcohol last month (well, that didn't come out right!) that I'm hoping our clever members will give us a "treat" and search their collections and libraries and bring some possible answers to this very wide-open question.

Oh, by the way, I notice that the Royal Canadian Mint is now issuing a proof-finish version of their 90th anniversary set marking the 1908 opening of their facility in Ottawa. In all fairness, we can therefore no longer accept the "antiqued" set as being a bona fide Canadian horror story, so it's disqualified as an acceptable answer!

Our theme for the September Question of the Month was alcoholic spirits. You were challenged to identify as many Canadian numismatic items as you could which are somehow tied in with alcohol. Look for three articles, ranging from the serious to the whimsical, on pages 3, 4 and 5 which investigate this theme.

Zak(2), Len Kuenzig, Ron Zelk, May Bunnett(2), Rick Craig, Roger Fox, Bob Porter, Paul Petch, Jean Orr and Ted Boxall. The draw, run by Roger Fox, brought proceeds of \$21.

An auction of 2 lots run by Bob Porter with the assistance of Basil Latham earned a commission of 25¢ and a donation of 50¢.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:55 p.m.

Numismatica Alcoholica by R. C. Willey

Since time immemorial, alcohol has been used by man as a short cut to freedom from the cares of everyday life. Even though its overuse may be attended by disastrous consequences, liquor possesses an attraction for most of us,—although the majority of people know when they have had enough!

However, persons hopelessly addicted to alcohol sometimes get involved in strange activities, with the production of certain special types of coinage ranking not least among them. Incidents of the kind occurred several times in the early history of Canada. Best known, perhaps, are the blacksmith tokens of Lower Canada—an extensive issue of crude counterfeits made to resemble worn-out English and Irish regal half-pennies from the reigns of George II and George III. Such pieces show only a rude outline of Britannia or a harp on their reverse side, and a silhouette of the king's bust on the obverse, without legends. Turned out at first by a tipsy blacksmith as an easy way of paying for his alcoholic drinks, these crude forgeries soon inspired others to do likewise. Copied, as we have said, from badly worn halfpennies that contributed the only legal copper coinage, the dies used in striking them were deliberately left unfinished. Many of this series bear their designs backwards because the forger cut his design so that it faced in the same direction on the die as on the model employed.

The practice of making blacksmith tokens spread from Montreal to Quebec City, Toronto, and possibly to other centres. They were poured into circulation by thousands, and speedily became such a curse to the country that in 1835 the banks refused to accept any coins obviously light in weight, worn beyond recognition, or made of brass. The Bank of Montreal issued copper tokens to replace the unacceptable pieces, whilst Habitant tokens of 1837 further augmented the volume of respectable copper respectable copper coinage cir-

culating in Lower Canada. Most of the blacksmiths disappeared from use, though a few are believed to have been issued after 1840.

In 1837, J. Roy of Montreal struck a sou which proved very popular among the French-speaking people of that city. Its obverse features two large maple leaves and the reverse design consists of the value, *Un Sou*, in a wreath, with the issuer's name above. A journeyman employed by the firm achieved notoriety for this coin because he was an ardent beer drinker and yielded to the temptation of running off a few sous from the dies whenever his thirst got the better of him. The coin comes on thick and thin flans, possibly because of these irregular strikings.

Meanwhile, Prince Edward Island became the scene of action for another immoderate toper. A Charlottetown metalworker named McCarthy placed in circulation the only penny issued in that Province to keep himself adequately supplied with liquid refreshment. His coin is even worse than the blacksmiths, being nothing but a copper blank stamped "P. E. I." on one side. How he circulated such trash remains a mystery, for the piece weighs even less than two of the local halfpenny tokens. Yet halfpenny tokens of Prince Edward Island were put out lighter in weight than those used in the other colonies of British North America, except for certain issues of Newfoundland, and a few anonymous ones. Apparently he did not circulate very many of them, for his products are extremely rare today.

Now we come to coins which—though associated with the use of alcoholic beverages—appeared with no intent to defraud. The first are a pair of halfpenny tokens issued in Upper Canada in 1821: these form part of the Sloop series (Breton Nos. 726-731), but their reverses show a liquor keg. one of them displays a keg marked *Jamaica*, refer-

ring to the importation of rum from the West Indies, whereas the other exhibits a similar cask inscribed *Upper Canada*—an allusion to the popularity of whiskey in that part of the world. Both tokens are rare,—particularly the *Jamaica* variety.

Last, but not least, comes Molson's token of 1837, which has a keg and the firm's name on one side; on the other, a distilling apparatus is seen, accompanied by the words *Cash Paid For All Sorts of Grain*. This coin, too, is scarce, and exists on thick and thin flans.

Liquor seems responsible for all of the coins described, but it was not always the most important reason for their appearance. The tipsy blacksmith at Montreal and his numerous imitators elsewhere felt a need for small change. No doubt all of them were guilty of fraud and forgery, but at least they did their bit to supply the public of that day with copper coinage when the colonial governments could not, besides providing coin collectors with some of the most amusing and interesting tokens to be found anywhere.

Bibliography

- Bowman, F.: *The Maysenholder & Bohle Token*, C.N.A. Bulletin, April 1955.
- Breton, P. N.: *Illustrated History of Coins and Tokens Relating to Canada*, 1894.
- McLachlan, R. W.: *The Money of Canada from a Historical Standpoint*, 1915.
- Wood, Howland: *Canadian Blacksmith Tokens*, *The Numismatist*, 1910.

(This article is reprinted from the December, 1957 Canadian Numismatic Journal.)

The Beaver Club Jewels by Larry Gingras, F.R.N.S, F.C.N.R.S.

Forming Of The Beaver Club

Montreal, in the latter part of the 18th century, was the fur trading center in Canada, apart, of course, from the vast operations of the Hudson's Bay Company along the shores and inland of Hudson's Bay. Business, for the most part, was conducted during the season of open water, and at freeze-up traders would return to Montreal to relax and enjoy themselves and to prepare for another expedition to Indian territory the following spring. It is not difficult to understand their desire to relax and enjoy themselves in sumptuous wining and dining and partaking of some of the luxuries of civilization. Partying of all kinds was common during the winter months but there was felt a desire, and the atmosphere was just right, for the forming of a club composed exclusively of men of the fur trade. What these men were looking for was a club where all members had something in common. A club where the members could let off steam, tell of their adventures and dangers in Indian territory, and conduct business under the most congenial conditions.

The Jewels

A unanimous vote by the members was necessary before a person could be admitted to membership in the Beaver Club, and upon admission the new member was obliged to have a gold jewel made to certain specifications, suspended from a blue ribbon and worn at all meetings or be subject to a fine of one dollar. From time to time members were requested to suspend their jewels from a black ribbon out of respect to the memory of a member who had passed away.

Most of the jewels known to exist today have the same basic designs, that is to say, the obverses show a beaver gnawing at a tree and the words "Industry & Perseverance", and the reverses show four men in a canoe and the words

"Fortitude in distress".

After Dinner Antics At The Beaver Club

"In those days we dined at 4 o'clock and after taking a satisfactory quantity of wine, perhaps a bottle each, the married men and some others, retired, leaving about a dozen to drink to their health. We now began in right earnest and true Highland style, and by 4 o'clock in the morning the whole of us had arrived at such a degree of perfection that we could all give the warwhoop as well as Mackenzie and McGillivray. We could all sing admirably, we could all drink like fishes, and we all thought we could dance on the table without disturbing a single decanter, glass or plate by which it was profusely covered, but on making the experiment we discovered that it was a complete delusion, and ultimately, we broke all the plates, glasses, bottles, etc. and the table also."

In these words, Colonel Landmann, in his "Adventures and Recollections"



*William McGillivray's Jewel
It was in the Hunter sale of 1920 and in the possession of J. Douglas Ferguson by 1927. In 1968 it became the property of the Riveredge Foundation.*

describes a Beaver Club dinner he attended as a guest in December of 1797. Landmann goes on to say:

"I was afterwards informed that 120 bottles of wine had been consumed at our convivial meeting, but I should think a great deal had been spilt and wasted."

One cannot help but agree with this observation. Another account of a Beaver Club dinner tells us:

"...by six or seven o'clock I had, in common with many of the others, fallen from my seat. To save my legs from being trampled on, I contrived to draw myself into the fireplace, and sat up in one of the corners, there being no stove nor grate. I there remained very passive, contemplating the proceedings of those who still remained at table, when at length Sir Alexander Mackenzie, as president, and McGillivray, as vice-president, were the last retaining their seats. Mackenzie now proposed to drink to our memory, and then, give the warwhoop over us, fallen foes or friends, all nevertheless on the floor, and in attempting to push the bottle to McGillivray at the opposite end of the table, he slid off his chair, and could not recover his seat whilst McGillivray, in extending himself over the table in the hope of seizing the bottle which Mackenzie had attempted to push to him, also in like manner began to slide to one side, and fell helpless on the floor."

To read only these accounts of Beaver Club meetings, one would be quite justified in coming to the conclusion that members of the Club and their guests were nothing more than a bunch of rowdy alcoholics, but such was not the case. It would be well to point out that the details brought out in these accounts refer primarily to the activities of those who remained on after the more sedate members and guests had called it an evening. To arrive at a more charitable picture we must consider the rules of the Club, the high esteem held for many of the members and guests, why the Club was formed, and what took place during the early hours of the dinner meetings.

(This article is comprised of excerpts from Larry Gingras's book *The Beaver Club Jewels*, Published under the auspices of the Canadian Numismatic Research Society, 1972.)

A "Question of the Month" Winner by Dr. Marvin Kay, "M.D." (Moderate Drinker)

(Presented by Marvin Kay at the September, 1998, North York Coin Club meeting.)

I was very, very intrigued by the Question of the Month in the September issue of The Bulletin of the North York Coin Club. It said, "What you are challenged to do is identify as many Canadian numismatic items as you can which are somehow tied in with alcohol."

I tried to figure out just exactly what it was that our Editor, Paul Petch, was looking for. I couldn't imagine what he was thinking. But I was fascinated by the question so I rummaged through my collection trying to find something that was numismatic, related to alcohol, and Canadian.

The first item I found is a piece of German notgeld. It is 75 pfennig from the town of Nordhauser. It shows a man in a barrel, holding a glass of wine. The captions translated from the German says, "The best medicine to ward off death." It's numismatic; it's related to alcohol; but it's not Canadian.

This next item is a souvenir of the Israel Orphans' Home for Girls. On one side, it shows the traditional Jewish Sabbath table, with bread, candies and wine. Again, it's numismatic; it's related to alcohol; but it's not Canadian.

Now here's a wooden nickel from Lexington, Massachusetts. It's a bar chit. Once again, it's numismatic; it's related to alcohol; but it's not Canadian.

Closer to home, this is Dr. Pierce's Memorandum and Account book, from Buffalo, New York. He states that his remedies contain *no* alcohol. Well, this is not exactly numismatic; it's not Canadian: but it is related to alcohol.

Now we have something Canadian. This same Dr. Pierce has issued a Coupon good for 10¢ off on a sample of Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets. By the way,

this is his remedy for constipation. This coupon is redeemable at his Canadian office in Bridgeburg, Ontario. Thanks to Roger Fox and his 1932 Canadian Tire map, I found Bridgeburg. It's a small town now absorbed into Fort Erie. So this is numismatic; it's Canadian; but it's not exactly related to alcohol.

Here's a clipping from Coin, Stamp and Antique News dated June 19, 1976. It tells about a medal issued by Alcoholics Anonymous to people who have been free of alcohol for a number of years. This is numismatic; it's related to alcohol; and it was written up in a Canadian newspaper. But I don't think that is what Paul was looking for.

Here's another newspaper clipping. It's from The Medical Post, April 21, 1981. I'll read the first sentence.... "The first International Gold Medal for Excellence in Research in the Disease of Alcoholism has been awarded to Dr. Harold Kalant, research director of the Addiction Research Foundation in Toronto." The gold medal is numismatic; it's related to alcohol; and it was written up in a Canadian newspaper. But, again, I don't think that is exactly what Paul was looking for.

Then it finally dawned on me. I think I know exactly what Paul was looking for in his 'Question of the Month'.

It passes all the criteria: here is something numismatic; it's Canadian; and it's related to alcohol... it is the souvenir wine bottle from the Canadian Numismatic Association convention banquet held in Hamilton in 1994!

(Marvin, impeccable logic! However, your use of the word "souvenir" betrays the fact that your bottle is an empty. This wasn't quite the idea! Ed.)

SamTrans Introduces Tokens

Beginning July 1, San Mateo transit (SamTrans) passengers will be able to pay for their bus ride with tokens. A first for the San Mateo County Transit District, the discounted tokens will be available at SamTrans headquarters in San Carlos and Safeway stores in San Mateo County and selected stores in San Francisco and Palo Alto.

Tokens have several advantages over cash fares:

- Tokens eliminate the need for exact change. Each token is good for one local ride.
- Tokens are sold at a 10-percent discount: adult tokens cost \$10 for 10 and youth tokens cost \$6.75 for 10. The regular cash fare is \$1.10 for adults and 75 cents for youth.
- Tokens do not expire, allowing riders to purchase them in advance and use them over an extended period.

"We think that parents will appreciate the added security of tokens," said SamTrans' General Manager Gerald T. Haugh. "When a youth carries tokens, they always have the correct bus fare."

SamTrans will introduce the tokens at a special event on June 29 at the Redwood City Transit Center. A team led by SamTrans Chair Mike Nevin will challenge the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department to a game of "Token Toss," a baseball game played with giant tokens. The winning team will receive \$50 in tokens to donate to its favorite local organization.

In addition, a special promotion dubbed the "Magical Mystery Tour" will introduce tokens to riders. The tour will make surprise visits to major transit centers this summer to pass out tokens and answer questions.

<http://www.transitinfo.org/SamTrans/> on the Internet Web has more information for those who may be interested in this subject of transportation tokens.

The Hudson's Bay Company by Rick Craig

The operations of The Hudson's Bay Company have left a rich numismatic heritage to Canada. What do you know of the Company's history? Here is a brief overview.

The Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) is the world's oldest continuous commercial enterprise still in operation. It has spanned an area of trading posts from the Arctic Ocean to Hawaii, San Francisco in the south and Labrador to the east. The 3 million square miles of land it has controlled is about 1/12 of the earth's surface and 10 times the size of the Roman Empire at its height. Called Rupertsland after King Charles' cousin Prince Rupert, it originally encompassed 40% of Canada plus North Dakota and Minnesota.

All this was driven by profit motive, of course, and that was accomplished by supplying beaver pelts for the making of beaver hats in England. In fact, it can be argued that the beaver was Canada's first form of money and one which lasted a very long time.

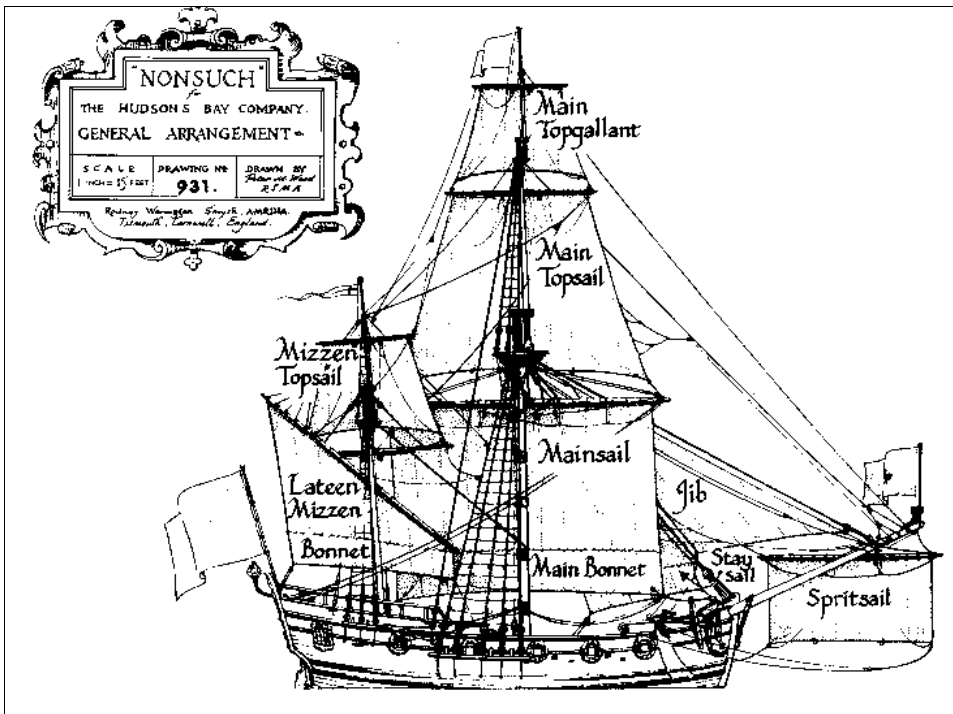
Before Canada's official history The

HBC was Canada. The HBC is the company that became a country—Canada. The Company's existence kept Americans from moving into what became Canada. Company forts became provin-

cial capitals, e.g., Fort Gary/Winnipeg, Forts Edmonton and Victoria. In fact it is not possible to study Canada's history west of Upper Canada without starting with the Hudson's Bay Company. All territorial rights were transferred to the Company, including the making and keeping of laws.



Radisson meets the Indians in Winter Camp



Trading posts were called factories because the resident manager for the company was called the factor.

Some early history:

1610: Henry Hudson discovers Hudson Bay and makes the first fur trade with an Indian on the shore of James Bay.

1660: Radisson and Groseilliers trade among the Indians of the Great Lakes and arrive in Montreal with riches in furs only to be charged with making an unauthorized expedition and refused permission to start exporting pelts through Hudson Bay.

1666-67: Radisson and Groseilliers meet King Charles II, and plan

(Continued on page 7)

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the first commercial voyage of the Hudson Bay adventurers. War with the Dutch And a great fire in the city of London delays them. Sir George Carteret makes the first investment in the venture—20 pounds.

Company (NWC), which operated principally at first to the south and west of the HBC—in the Oregon and Washington State areas. That changed and the competition became fierce and was in reality a war. The NWC was based in Montreal but really operated from Fort William named after William McGillivray, a NWC partner.

1690: HBC stock has by now tripled in value.

1752: York Factory, till now the center of HBC operations, agrees to expand inland and west to counter the Montreal based French NWC.

1768: After British victory at Plains of Abraham in 1760 the French are allowed to trade in the North West but not in Rupertsland.

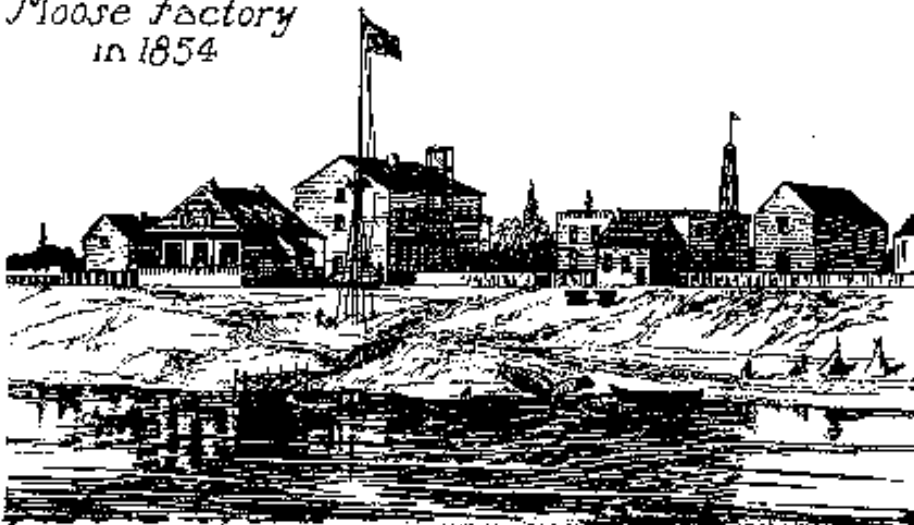
1780: First HBC point blankets made by Thomas Empson. Both NWC and HBC establish more inland posts to combat each other.

1793: Because they have expanded more west and south the NWC now control 78% of fur sales. But profits suffer on both sides because of the high costs of fighting each other. The NWC won most of the battles but because they lacked the financial depth of London money they lost the war.

1821, March 26: The amalgamation of the two in the name of the HBC gives a 21 year monopoly over fur trading in British North

(Continued on page 8)

*Moose Factory
in 1854*



1668: A trade syndicate is formed; the Nonsuch sails to Hudson Bay and the first fort is built in the region on the east coast of James Bay.

Alexander Mackenzie of the NWC was the first European to cross North America by land.

1669: The Nonsuch returns to England with 1380 Pounds Sterling of furs. Charles II is convinced to grant a royal charter to found the Company of Adventurers.

Some more significant history:

1670: Charter granted on May 2nd for the rights over all territory draining into Hudson Bay to "The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson's Bay". Prince Rupert was the first Governor.

1671: Moose Factory established by Radisson and Groseilliers for HBC.

1676: HBC exports 650£ sterling and reaps a return of 19,000£ sterling!

The Hudson's Bay Company's main competition came from the Northwest





(Continued from page 7)

America west of Upper Canada. This amounts to 173 posts over 3 million square miles.

1838: Licensed monopoly renewed for another 21 years.

1841-2: Upper and Lower Canada unite as the first limits on beaver catches is imposed in the name of conservation. Ultimately the beaver was nearly wiped out.

1859: HBC retains territorial rights but loses its trade monopoly.

1867: Confederation of Canada includes Rupertsland and the North West Territories.

1868: HBC signs Deed of Surrender returning Rupertsland to the Crown in a cash settlement and smaller land concessions, plus 120 posts.

1900's: Large numbers of European immigrants cause the old posts in towns to evolve into more general sales stores. First department stores opened in

1914.

1967: Even this far into modern times, 80% of the shareholders of the HBC were British residents.

1970: 300th Anniversary was marked on May 2nd, and the head office moved from London to Winnipeg.

Other illustrious names etched in HBC history include:

Simon Fraser, Samuel Hearne, Henry Kelsey, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Simon McTavish, Thomas Selkirk, George Simpson, Lord Strathcona (Donald Smith, who drove "the last spike"), and David Thompson.

Currency Exchange

There is an interesting little book called "Adams's New Arithmetic", J. & J.W. Prentiss, Keene, N.H., 1838 by Daniel Adams, M.D. It includes several pages on U.S. Federal money and how to convert it to various other currencies. Remember that foreign coinage was legal tender in the United States until 1857, so conversion of pocket change was a reasonable and required part of a school curriculum.

"Federal money is the coin of the United States. The kinds, or denominations, are eagles, dollars, dimes, cents, and mills. [Footnote: The eagle is a **gold** coin, the dollar and dime are **silver** coins, the cent is a **copper** coin. The mill is only imaginary, there being no coin of that denomination. There are half eagles, half dollars, half dimes, and half cents, *real* coins.] This character, \$, placed before a number, shows it to express Federal Money."

"Previous to the act of Congress in 1786 establishing federal money, all calcula-

tions in money, throughout the United States, were made in pounds, shillings, pence, and farthings, the same as in England. But these denominations, although the *same in name*, were different in value in different countries.

"Thus, 1 dollar is reckoned in—

- England, 4 s. 6 d., called **English**, or **sterling** money. (In Canada where both were both currency and sterling were used, sterling is abbreviated *stg.*, currency is abbreviated *cy.* There are a couple of postage stamps from the Province of Canada denominated in both currency and sterling and a couple denominated in cents and sterling.)
- Canada and Nova Scotia, 5 s., called **Halifax** currency. (Only a few tokens are denominated in "cy" but most of the early to mid 19th century Canadian banknotes have both dollar value and a value in currency. Upper Canada used **New York** currency until **Halifax** replaced it in 1822.)
- The New England states, Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee, 6 s., called

New England currency.

- New York, Ohio, and North Carolina, 8 s., called **New York** currency.
- New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland, 7 s. 6 d., called **Pennsylvania** currency.
- South Carolina and Georgia, 4 s. 8 d., called **Georgia** currency."

"Rates at which the following foreign coins are estimated at the Custom Houses of the United States—

Livre of France.....	\$.18½
Franc do.18¾
Silver Rouble of Russia....	.75
Florin or Guilder of the United Netherlands40
Mark Banco of Hamburg .	.33
Real of Plate of Spain.....	.10
Real of Vellon of do.....	.05
Milrea of Portugal.....	1.24
Tale of China.....	1.48
Pagoda of India.....	1.84
Rupee of Bengal.....	.50"

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- England, 4 s. 6 d., called **English**, or **sterling** money. (In Canada where both were both

currency and sterling were used, sterling is abbreviated *stg.*, currency is abbreviated *cy.* There are a couple of postage stamps from the Province of Canada denominated in both currency and sterling and a couple denominated in cents and sterling.)

- Canada and Nova Scotia, 5 s., called **Halifax** currency. (Only a few tokens are denominated in "cy" but most of the early to mid 19th century Canadian banknotes have both dollar value and a value in currency. Upper Canada used **New York** currency until **Halifax** replaced it in 1822.)
- The New England states, Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee, 6 s., called **New England** currency.
- New York, Ohio, and North Carolina, 8 s., called **New York** currency.
- New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland, 7 s. 6 d., called **Pennsylvania** currency.
- South Carolina and Georgia, 4 s. 8 d., called **Georgia** currency."

"Rates at which the following foreign coins are estimated at the Custom Houses of the United States—

Livre of France	\$.18½
Franc do.		.18¾
Silver Rouble of Russia		.75
Florin or Guilder of the United Netherlands		.40
Mark Banco of Hamburg		.33
Real of Plate of Spain		.10
Real of Vellon of do.		.05
Milrea of Portugal		1.24
Tale of China		1.48
Pagoda of India		1.84
Rupee of Bengal		.50"