Catalogue Number: EOF-PA-1863-TKN-001

ECHOES OF FREEDOM
WITH SMITH McNEILL

Echoes of Freedom
Certificate of Authenticity

Artifact: 1863 Public Accommodation Token

This Certificate of Authenticity verifies that the accompanying artifact is an original Public Accommodation Token dated 1863, issued during the American Civil War. Such tokens were privately minted and circulated in response to widespread coin shortages caused by wartime hoarding and economic instability.

Historical Significance

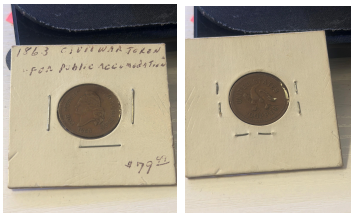
By 1863, the United States was deeply entrenched in the Civil War. Precious metals had largely disappeared from circulation as citizens hoarded gold, silver, and copper coins, fearing economic collapse. In response, private businesses—including hotels, boarding houses, saloons, restaurants, rail depots, and general stores—issued tokens to facilitate everyday transactions.

Public Accommodation Tokens were typically redeemable for goods or services and often bore patriotic imagery, business names, or slogans reflecting Union loyalty and wartime resolve. While not legal tender, these tokens were widely accepted within local communities and played a vital role in sustaining civilian life during the war.

Today, Civil War–era tokens are recognized as important artifacts of American economic history. They offer insight into how ordinary citizens adapted to extraordinary national crisis, and they stand as tangible reminders of life on the home front during America's bloodiest conflict.

Photographic Documentation

Photograph of the 1863 Public Accommodation Token:



Catalogue Number: EOF-PA-1863-TKN-001

Authentication & Provenance

This artifact has been documented and preserved as part of the Echoes of Freedom Public History Project. Echoes of Freedom is dedicated to the preservation, interpretation, and ethical presentation of authentic American historical artifacts for educational, commemorative, and scholarly purposes.

Certified by: Thomas Smith McNeill

Certifier Signature: _____

Certified Date: January 8, 2026

Location: Wilkes County, North Carolina

