

Civil War Token

**J. W. C. Smith, Dealer in Leather and Findings
189 Main St.
Wheeling, West Va.**

by Linda Cunningham Fluharty, for the Ohio County WVGenWeb Project.

From Wikipedia: "Civil War tokens are token coins that were privately minted and distributed in the United States between 1861 and 1864. They were used mainly in the Northeast and Midwest. The widespread use of the tokens was a result of the scarcity of government-issued cents during the Civil War. - Civil War tokens became illegal after the United States Congress passed a law on April 22, 1864 prohibiting the issue of any one or two-cent coins, tokens or devices for use as currency. On June 8, 1864 an additional law was passed that forbade all private coinage. - Civil War tokens are divided into three types—store cards, patriotic tokens, and sutler tokens. All three types were utilized as currency, and are differentiated by their designs. The collectible value of the tokens is determined chiefly by their rarity. By 1862, the second year of the Civil War, government-issued coinage began vanishing from circulation. American citizens hoarded all coins with gold and silver, and eventually began hoarding copper-nickel cents as well. This made it extremely difficult for businesses to conduct transactions. In response, many merchants turned to private minters to fill the void left by the hoarded coins. The first of these privately minted tokens appeared in the autumn of 1862, by H. A. Ratterman, in Cincinnati, Ohio. It is estimated that by 1864, there were 25,000,000 Civil War tokens (nearly all redeemable for one cent) in circulation, consisting of approximately 7,000–8,000 varieties....."

These images are from previous online auctions.



J. W. C. Smith, named on the Civil War token, was John W. C. Smith, born 18 Jan 1845 in Coshocton, Coshocton County, Ohio. He was the son of John G. and Henrietta (Powelson) Smith of Coshocton. John G. and Henrietta were married in Coshocton in March 1841, and the family is found there in the 1850 Federal Census.

Henrietta died 4 Sep 1851, and is buried at Oak Ridge Cemetery, Coshocton. The children of John G. and Henrietta were John W. C., Isabel and Morgan.

John G. Smith's second wife, Elizabeth, died in 1859. She, too, is buried at Oak Ridge Cemetery. They had a son, Joseph.

The third wife of John G. Smith was Narcissia P. Bleakmore. They were married in Harrison County, Ohio 8 July 1860.

J. W. C. Smith name is confirmed as John W. C. Smith in the 1860 Federal Census of Coshocton. After that census, the family moved to Wheeling, West Virginia and operated a leather business during the Civil War.

On 21 Nov 1867, at Louisville, Kentucky, J. W. C. Smith married Anna M. Ulrich, the daughter of a Wheeling physician. Their son, Edward W., died 1 July 1869 at the age of one month.

From a biography of Dr. Charles Frederic Ulrich in "*History of Wheeling City and Ohio County, West Virginia and Representative Citizens*," published in 1902: "Anna, who was a music teacher, married J. W. C. Smith, formerly in the leather business with his father at Wheeling, but now residing at Lafayette, Indiana."

At the time of the 1870 Wheeling census, the occupation of both John G. and John W. C. was "Leather Merchant." At some point, they went into business with Adam Faupel, and the business was dissolved in 1874. John G. Smith retired in 1877.

A news article, dated 1879, say that J. W. C. Smith had a confrontation with a Wheeling newspaper editor for writing something he didn't like.

J. W. C. Smith stayed in the Wheeling area until about 1880. According to news articles, they resided in Kalamazoo, Michigan for some time and JWC worked as a retail agent for an oil company. When they might have lived in Lafayette, Indiana, as indicated in the biography, is not known. According to the obituary of Anna M. Smith, she and J. W. C. left Michigan about 1895.

The father, John G. Smith, had also moved to Michigan and he died there in 1896. A newspaper article indicates that following his death, J. W. C. and other siblings challenged the disposition of estate of their late father. The widow, Narcissia P. Smith, died in 1898.

At the time of the 1910 census, John W. C. and Anna, as well as their daughter, Mamie Smith, were residing in Chicago. Anna M. Ulrich Smith died in November 1910. JWC died in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois 2 Aug 1913. They are buried at Rose Hill Cemetery, Chicago.

The children of John W. C. Smith and Anna M. Ulrich were: Edward, d 1869; Vida Hortense; Henrietta, d 13 Apr 1880, age 7; Jesse May; Mamie Johnson; Enona; Gordon Mead; Richard Morgan.

ARTICLES FOLLOW

J. W. C. SMITH,
DEALER IN
LEATHER AND FINDINGS,
189 Main Street,
[opposite Monroe House,]
WHEELING, WEST VA.
aug25tf

General Notices.
DISSOLUTION.
The partnership heretofore existing between J. G. Smith, Adam Faupel and J. W. C. Smith, under the firm name of Smith, Faupel & Co., has this day been dissolved by mutual consent, Adam Faupel retiring.
The business will hereafter be conducted by J. G. and J. W. C. Smith, under the firm name of J. G. Smith & Son, who alone are authorized to make all settlements.
J. G. SMITH.
ADAM FAUPEL.
J. W. C. SMITH.
WHEELING, W. VA., March 2, 1874. mar2

March 21, 1877

DISSOLUTION.
The firm of J. G. Smith & Son has been dissolved by mutual consent, J. G. Smith retiring. The business of the late firm will be settled by either party.
J. G. SMITH & SON.
In retiring from the firm of J. G. Smith & Son, I take pleasure in returning my thanks to our friends and patrons who have favored us in the past, and trust a continuance of the same may be extended to my son, who continues the business.
J. G. SMITH.
Referring to the above, I beg leave to state to the public and patrons that I will continue the business of Leather and Shoe Findings at the old stand, and respectfully solicit a continuance of the patronage so liberally extended heretofore; and will endeavor to keep a full line of everything in our business, which will be offered at the lowest market rates.
(mr19) J. W. C. SMITH.

THE PRESS.

J. W. C. Smith Attempts to Abridge Its Liberties.

Yesterday afternoon a fellow, giving his name as J. W. C. Smith, perpetrated a brutal attack upon the person of Mr. H. T. Black, the city editor of the REGISTER, an attack as unwarranted as unmanly. Smith was not known to Mr. Black, who was entirely unconscious of having given offence, but was simply pursuing his duties as a journalist in publishing what was alleged by Smith to be the cause of the attack.

The article referred to stated that the forthcoming report from the investigating committee would set forth that this Smith, among others, had received metre service from the gas works, for which nothing had ever been paid. To this, Smith made no objection, (nor could he, as we are informed at the gas office 'tis true) but because his name, or so much of it as the writer could remember, was published with those of Maxwell and King. This, he alleges, was the cause of the attack. The pretext will not hold water. He felt "his honah, sah," was tarnished and wanted berlood, berlood!

When a man of this class, a man whose brute strength is his only possession, imagines he can thus easily intimidate a writer in the conscientious discharge of his duty, it is time his eyes were opened to a better understanding of affairs. A gentleman informs us that he had, last night, arrived at a realization of what he has attempted, which, if he is half a man, will do more than all we might say.

Funeral of J. G. Smith.

The funeral of the late John G. Smith was held at the family residence at 8 o'clock Wednesday evening, Rev. C. M. Keene officiating, assisted by Rev. J. S. Boyden. The remains were taken the same night to Coshocton, O., by his son J. W. C. Smith. Interment will be at that place Friday, under the auspices of the Masonic order. The pallbearers here were C. H. Williams, W. S. Lawrence, E. S. Rankin, Burr Bannister, E. H. Hickley and William McDonald.

FRAUD IS CHARGED

September 27, 1896 Paper: Kalamazoo Gazette

In a Suit Commenced
Against J. W. C.
Smith, et al.

DEEDED HER HOME

To Her Step-Children and Others and Did Not Know It—An Injunction Secured Restraining the Defendants From Disposing of the Property.

Suit was begun in the circuit court Saturday by Narcissia P. Smith by her guardian A. Sidney Hays to get possession of her home which she deeded away the day before her husband, J. G. Smith died last July. The bill of complaint was presented to Judge George M. Buck, and he issued a temporary injunction against Anna M. Smith, Joseph W. Smith and Isabella H. Faupel, restraining them from destroying, or in any way incumbering the house and lot of 515 Locust street which was formerly owned by Narcissia P. Smith, and was purchased by her for \$3,500 of George H. Phillips in 1890. The bill of complaint sets forth that she bought the home with money which came from her father. In 1894 she borrowed \$625 of E. E. French, whose wife was formerly Gussie Griffin who made her home with Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Smith. She gave a note and mortgage on the place. The bill of complaint states that Mr. Smith had been married twice before he married Narcissia and three children by a former wife were reared by her as her own. It is also charged in the bill that when Mr. Smith was taken sick J. W. C. Smith, the son, came to the house and took about \$500 in

money which was secreted in the house and caused the wife to be excluded from her husband's room during his last illness, and that she was not even allowed to know and does not yet know the burial place of her husband; also that he demanded that she deed to him the house and lot, representing that his father wanted her to deed him the place; if she did not it would kill him, and if she did he would get well. She did not want to go to the poor house but he continued to insist and informed her, the bill says, that if she did not do it she would regret it. These continual threats made her beside herself and on July 27 J. W. C. Smith came to the house with two men, one an immensely large man, and she signed a paper in their presence which she has since been informed was a warranty deed of the home to Anna M. Smith, (wife of J. W. C. Smith), Joseph W. Smith, brother, and Isabella H. Faupel, sister. The consideration was \$1 and other considerations. It is claimed that it was through violence, intimidation and coercion that the property was deeded and all of the parties in whose names the property stands are implicated with J. W. C. Smith in the said fraud.

She also claims that she was not allowed to go to the burial place of her husband, and that she was left destitute and would have suffered for food but for the kindness of the neighbors. Gussie T. French was called here by telegraph and she found her suffering from mental derangement—had a delusion that Johnnie Smith was trying to kill her. Since her husband's death Mrs. Smith has received a letter from J. W. C. Smith threatening to put the property beyond the reach of all if she makes any trouble or complaint about it. There are about a half dozen affidavits from reliable parties substantiating the statements contained in the bill of complaint. Sheriff Vosburg obtained service on all of the local parties to the suit last evening.

September 7, 1898 Paper: Kalamazoo Gazette

AMONG THE DEAD.

Mrs. Narcissia P. Smith.

Mrs. Narcissia P. Smith died Sunday morning at 5:30 after a long illness, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. French, 515 Locust street. She was born October 19, 1833, and was 66 years of age. A short service was held from the house Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock, Rev. W. J. Russell officiating, assisted by Rev. J. S. Boyden. Misses Kate Johnson and Jessie Boyden sang "Nearer My God to Thee," and "Abide With Me." There were many beautiful floral gifts from loving friends. The remains were taken on the 11:35 p. m. G. R. & I. train to Harrisville, Ohio, where the funeral and burial took place Tuesday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. E. E. French accompanied the remains.

December 1, 1910 Paper: Kalamazoo Gazette (Kalamazoo, MI)

Mrs. J. W. C. Smith.

Mrs. J. W. C. Smith, formerly of Kalamazoo, and well known in this city, died Monday at her home, 4743 Kenmore avenue, Chicago. Mrs. Smith left Kalamazoo about 15 years ago. Mr. Smith was at the head of the Smith Oil company. She is survived by a husband and five children—Mrs. F. H. Wallace, Mrs. William Hopkins, Jr., Richard M., and Minnie J. Smith of Chicago, and Mrs. G. M. Donnelly of Galesburg, Illinois. The funeral was held from the home yesterday.

April 5, 1885 Paper: Kalamazoo Gazette (Kalamazoo, MI)

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