

PCNS Minutes for August 25, 2021

The board meeting for August 25, 2021, was called to order via Zoom at 7:01PM by President Jason Macario. Remote attendance included Treasurer Stephen Huston, Past President Dan Hipple, Secretary Charlie Catlett, Governors Paul Turner, Ed Treuting and Bob Somers as well as Bill Hyder.

Jason announced that Jerry Schimmel passed away this week.

The minutes for the July meeting were approved.

The treasurer's report was e-mailed earlier this week, with 13 cents difference from last month.

2019-2021 Papers:

1) Most of the articles have been proofread, and Michael e-mailed the board to review them for further corrections.

The board discussed that nothing else really needs to be added to the printed copy of the papers. Jason questioned the need for an introduction. The final layout may dictate if there is even room for that. Jason will work with Michael on finalizing the papers and eventually getting them to a printer.

September 25, 2021 BBQ details:

- \$10 per person payable via PayPal, due by September 17. Directions to Federico's home will be e-mailed to paid attendees prior to the BBQ
- Attendees are expected to be fully vaccinated
- Attendees are expected to have masks for the comfort and protection of everyone

Return to Fort Mason: Still planned for November 2021...

Vacancies coming in 2022: still looking for volunteers for

Papers Contest Coordination

Drawing Prize Coordinator

Archives Storage and Maintenance. A proposal by Stephen Huston, *if* there are no volunteers for this position, is to take on the task temporarily for one year, given the proviso that he has full control to triage and disperse archives as deemed appropriate. Old dies could be donated to the ANS/ANA (we would keep current dies, of course); paper archives could go to the Newman Numismatic Portal; current financial info will be kept. A full proposition will be written up with hopes for a decision on this by the October meeting.

New Business: none

Adjournment 7:29 PM

At 7:30 PM, general meeting #1264 was called to order via Zoom. In attendance along with those from the board meeting were Herb Miles, Scott Safe, Greg Burns, Robert Jesinger, Doug Ward, and Federico Castillo.

Jason announced that 50-year PCNS member Jerry Schimmel passed away earlier this week

Our BBQ will be Saturday September 25 at 1 PM. The cost is \$10 per person, payable via PayPal (a link will be on the website within a couple of days). Prepaid members will be sent directions. Vaccinations and masks will be required.

Vacancies coming in 2022: members were asked to consider volunteering for one (or more) of these positions:

- Papers Contest Coordinator
- Archives Storage and Maintenance
- Raffle Prize Coordinator

In-person meetings are scheduled to return to Fort Mason in November. A hybrid including Zoom will hopefully be possible at that time.

Presentations were still needed for October (on-line only) and November (an on-line and in-person hybrid). Back up presentations are also needed.

Featured speaker: Federico Castillo

"Revisiting Sheep Shearing Tokens in the American Southwest"

Federico first reminisced about Jerry Schimmel. Jerry wrote a booklet on Costa Rican tokens, and Federico talked with him a lot about those. He will be missed.

Federico talked about sheep ranching, sheep products, shearing techniques and crews, and tokens. The first sheep to arrive in the Americas were on Coronado's ships in 1540. They were Churro sheep with a coarse wool, better known for their meat. Merino sheep first arrived from Spain in 1801.

There was a difference between sheep ranching in Texas compared to other southwest states. Texas ranches were large operations with national markets. The sheep shearing twice a year was performed by traveling crews as a separate business. New Mexico, Arizona, and California were smaller operations with shearing supervised by the ranch owners.

The Texas crews were mostly located in southern Texas near the Mexican border, and they would contract with ranches for their services. Most of the workers were Mexican- first, second, and even third generations of *men* working together at some of the crews. Some of the crew businesses were owned by different relatives. And sometimes a crew chief position was passed from father to son.

For hundreds of years a simple form of sheep shears was used. Electric shears sped up the process significantly. Both ways could cause injury to the sheep however, so the condition of the animals after shearing was a factor in the shearing business. There were also treatments for the skin injuries to the sheep.

The tokens of the Texas traveling crews usually provided a lot of information: the name of the crew captain; the crew location (City, State); Street address/phone number. The reverse

would show the denomination (how many shorn sheep the token was valued at). They were mostly brass and aluminum. Each crew member would be given a token (by the crew chief) as the stated number of sheep were shorn. At the end of the week those were exchanged for cash.

The Arizona, New Mexico, and California tokens were used by *ranch owners* to pay their workers. Unlike Texas tokens, many of these are pictorial. Federico showed many tokens from Texas crews based along the southern Texas area as well as those from ranches in the other states. There was a photo of Navajo women shearing their own sheep. And he also showed a Santa Cruz Island Company sheep shearing token (confirmed by Bill).

The talk was recorded and will be made available for viewing.

Member Exhibits:

- Bill proudly showed us his recent acquisition of a complete boxed set of George Lovett's Revolutionary War dollars, purchased from Jeff Shevlin. All eight were the original dollars in the lined box he showed us. They can be obtained in higher condition separately, but this was one of few known original sets.
- Robert had three items to show. One was a 1st Interstate Wool Congress in New Mexico from the 1892 Albuquerque Commercial club- with the image of a sheep; next was an 1876 George Lovett second obverse Revolutionary Battle Dollar in bronze, featuring White Plains; and finally, a store card token for R. Lovett, a Philadelphia die sinker, along with a paper receipt from the same R Lovett dated 9/9/1858 with signatures on both sides.
- Doug showed us his 1863 "Dix" Civil War Token with explanations about it. It features "The Flag of our Union", and "Should anyone attempt to tear it down, shoot him on the spot", with "Dix"

The general meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Catlett, Secretary PCNS