

Great Britain - 1795

½ Penny Token (D & H 4 - Hertfordshire, Stortford)



**Obverse** - A landscape showing the river Stort winding towards the distant hills. A horse is towing a barge with part of another barge in the foreground.

**Legend:** STORT NAVIGATION SOURCE OF TRADE with two ornamental stops separating it from the date, 1795.



**Reverse** - Arms: Azure, a fess erminois between three shelldrakes proper. On an inescutcheon argent, a sinister hand coupled at the wrist gules, for JACKSON. In pretence Quarterly: *First* and *Fourth* gules, on a fess [according to heraldic authorities this should have been a chevron] between three saltires argent, an annulet sable for GOLDSTONE. *Second* and *Third* sable, a saltire argent for DUCKETT.

	<b>Crest:</b> A sheldrake, as in the Arms. <b>Motto on a riband, beneath the shield:</b> "Malo pati quam foedam." <b>Legend:</b> SIR GEORGE JACKSON BAR: SOLE PROPRIETOR.
Edge: - PAYABLE AT BISHOPS STORTFORD struck in a collar.	
Diesinker. Kuchler; manufacturer, Boulton. This is an exceedingly fine token, the perspective view of the Stort is remarkably well rendered, an effect difficult to achieve on a coin and requiring considerable skill. Common.	

*Comments.* The Stort Navigation was authorised by an Act of Parliament 6 George III c. 78, and extended from the river Lea near the village of Rye to the Town Mill in Bishop's Stortford. It was formally opened on 21st October, 1767, amid great rejoicings; some years before the issue of the token.

The proprietor, Sir George Jackson, was Judge Advocate of the Fleet, and sat as a Member of Parliament in turn for Weymouth, Melcombe Regis, and Colchester. He was a friend and patron of Captain Cook, who named "Cape Jackson" in New Zealand, and "Port Jackson" in New South Wales after him.

His second wife was Grace, daughter and co-heiress of George Duckett, Esq., M.P., of Hartham House, Wiltshire; and in 1797 under the will of Thomas Duckett, Sir George assumed, by Royal Licence, the name and Arms of that family, becoming *Sir George Duckett, Bart.* He died in 1822 at the age of 97.

*Commercial Coins 1787-1804., pp. 60-61*

<b>D &amp; H 4 - Stortford</b>	
<i>O:</i>	Shield of arms, crest, and motto. SIR GEORGE JACKSON BAR: SOLE PROPRIETOR.
<i>R:</i>	View of a river, with barges, &c.
<i>E:</i>	PAYABLE AT BISHOPS STORTFORD . <span style="float: right;">A. 4</span>
<i>Engraver - KUCKLER    Manufacturer - BOULTON.</i>	

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He approached Boulton, through an agent, in May 1795 with a view to an issue of halfpenny tokens. Boulton agreed to the project, and then forgot about it until early in 1796. Being reminded, he assigned Kuchler to design and engrave the tokens, which he did, incorporating astonishing detail and pretty good perspective. In mint state, these are remarkable coins, and it is said that Boulton always kept a few handy to give out as gifts or samples, but, as copper is a soft medium, they don't wear very well in circulation. 562 pounds of tokens were struck at forty-four to the pound, a grand total of 24,728 coins