

## CHAPTER

7

# Official HANDS

**I**F YOU FASTENED A MAP ON THE WALL, STRETCHED A string between Memphis and Nashville, and then gave it a little slack, it would run right through Finger, Tennessee, population 279. On the application for a local post office, which was submitted in 1895, “Cash” was crossed out and “Finger” was inserted. Nobody presently knows why. The prevailing opinion among locals is that there was disagreement, heated discussion, and even finger-pointing during the naming process. Because there was a whole lot of finger shaking going on, somebody suggested memorializing the act. We can only surmise that they left in agreement, sealing the deal and parting with a handshake.



Hands have other official roles as well. “Raise your right hand and repeat after me” asks for a sign of sincerity, loyalty, and honesty at various swearing-in ceremonies. A salute signifies respect. Hands also figure into government-issued maps, coins, stamps, and even license plates. Let’s explore.

## The Hand Owner's Manual

### Other topics covered in Chapter 7: Official Hands

#### SEALED WITH A SHAKE, OR A KISS

Customs of shaking and kissing hands

#### HANDS ON ANCIENT GREEK AND ROMAN COINAGE

Symbolism in early commerce

#### HANDS ON BANK NOTES

Governmental artwork in your wallet

#### HANDS OFFICIALLY STAMPING OUT DISEASE

Medical hands on stamps

#### MARKING THE GOODS

Trademarks depicting hands

#### CLEAN LACE AND DIRTY PALMS

Custom of saluting

#### GENERAL HAND

Biosketch of American Revolutionary War General

#### BIRD-IN-HAND, PENNSYLVANIA

Name origin of town near Paradise, PA

#### HAND COUNTRY

How Hand County, South Dakota, got its name

#### LICENSE TO SPEAK

Custom license plates with hand messages