Minting Money

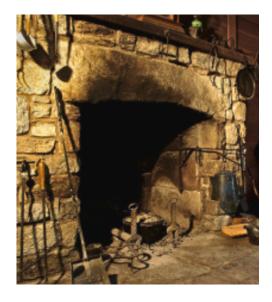
I melted wheel weights in cupped tongs at the fireplace meant for stoking coals

pouring molten lead on the hearth to make play coins my wealth grew nightly

inscribing each one by hammer and screwdriver to show year minted

rounding their edges to perfect my creations for posterity

those priceless lead coins did not survive growing up would be worth gold now



The fireplace hearth in my childhood home near Knoxville, 1950's Image source: Unknown (similar but not original)

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