
The Ramrod

Volume 87

January, 2004

Christmas Banquet 2003

On November 9, 2003, the club held its annual Christmas Banquet. As always, the food was delicious and the company superb!

We would like to say a special thank you to our 2003 President, Ray McMahan for all of his past work and leadership. At our banquet, he was given the well-deserved, Bill Evans Award. As luck would have it, Ray also won the Fisher Metal Detector being given away that night.

Thanks Ray, for your devotion to our club. We look forward to you serving us in 2004!

2004 Club Officers

As per our club constitution, a nominating committee presented a proposed slate of officers for 2004. Additional nominations were made from the floor at a club meeting. The election of officers was then held at that meeting, with a majority vote of the members present at the meeting determining the new club officers.

As a result of that election, the following are the new club officers for the year 2004:

- ❖ Ray McMahan, President
- ❖ Todd Lee, Vice-President
- ❖ Darrell Shipp, Treasurer
- ❖ Jim Black, Secretary

The newly elected officers will take office effective the first of January and will serve the entire calendar year.

Yearly Dues



It's that time of year again. The dues for the club remain at \$10.00 per year. Please see Darrell Shipp to pay your dues. We would like to have all dues paid by the February 18th meeting. We thank everyone for their continued support of the club.

2003 Find-Of-The-Year Entries

Our Find-of-the-Year meeting will be held in February. Each member who won the find-of-the-month for single relic and single coin can bring that item to this meeting. Club members will then vote for the 2003 Single Relic of the Year and 2003 Single Coin of the Year.

To be eligible for the Find-of-the-Year, the relic/coin must be exhibited and the person who found the relic/coin must be present.

Here are the entries for the find of the Year in the Single Relic category:

Month	Person	Relic Item(s)
Jan Single	S. Riddle	CSA Buckle
Feb Single	S. Beaver	VA Coat Button
Mar Single	G. Watkins	U.S. Cartridge plate
Apr Single	B. Mull	Script A
May Single	Charles Ross	Georgia Button
June Single	James Grant	Conf. Officer's button
July Single	Bill Ganues	Carved Bullet
Aug Single	Steve Beaver	Conf. Script C button
Sept Single	Craig Nesmith	Enfield Hammer
Oct Single	Doug Edwards	Carved Acorn Badge
Nov Single	Benny Harris	Wis. Button
Dec Single	Bill Mull	CSN vest bullet

Here are the entries for the find of the Year in the Single Coin category:

Month	Person	Relic Item(s)
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The Ramrod

Jan Single	S Riddle	1791 Large One Cent Coin
Feb Single	M. Childers	1841 Liberty Dime
Mar Single	R. Baker	1877 Dollar
Apr Single	D. Shipp	1903 Barber Quarter
May Single	Benny Harris	1848 Half Dollar
June Single	James Grant	1787 French Dollar
Jul Single	Keith Cochran	Peace Dollar
Aug Single	Bill Lee	1841 Seated Dime
Sept Single	Tony Williams	Ruby/Diamond Ring
Oct Single	Lottie Nations	14k ring
Nov Single	Benny Harris	1890 Dollar
Dec Single	Bill Mull	1976 Bi-Centennial set

Club & Events Calendar:

Date	Event
Jan 7 th	Business Meeting
Jan 21 st	Find of the Month Meeting
Feb 4 th	Business Meeting
Feb 18 th	Find of the Month Meeting

Find-Of-The-Month

For the benefit of new members, at the second meeting of each month members bring to the meeting items recovered since the prior month's award. Members then vote for the item they feel is the best find in the respective category.

A prize is given to those members who win. The find of the month in the single category then becomes eligible for the find of the year award.

Here are the results for the Single & Multiple Relics.

Month	Person	Relic Item(s)
Nov Single	Benny Harris	Wisconsin Button
Nov Multi	Roy Baker	Misc. Bullets
Dec Single	Bill Mull	CSN vest bullet
Dec Multi	Darrell Shipp	Cannon ball, 1865 bottle

Here are the results for the Single & Multiple Coins.

Month	Person	Relic Item(s)
Nov Single	Benny Harris	1890 Dollar
Nov Multi	Roy Baker	Misc. Coins
Dec Single	Bill Mull	1976 Bi-Centennial set
Dec Multi	Darrell Shipp	Asst. Coins

To our "old" members – think about bringing in all of your finds from the previous month. Besides showing new members what kind of things can be found, it may give the rest of us some hope.

Note: Pictures of recent club finds can be found on the Club Web Site.

Christmas Party

Our annual Christmas party was held last month and we all had a fantastic celebration. It was wonderful to have time to get together with other club members and celebrate the holidays.

Santa was especially nice to two of our members. Congratulations to Larry Shira for winning the Tesoro metal detector and to Ed Swiggart for winning the 1851 sword belt buckle.

Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's Pistol on Display at the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History

From www.Thegeneral.org/news

Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart's pistol is now on display at the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History through March 31, 2004.

Stuart was a daring and courageous cavalry officer and renowned intelligence gatherer who said, "I had rather die than be whipped" after he was mortally wounded at Yellow Tavern Crossroads near Richmond, Virginia, May 11, 1864. "The pistol originally belonged to Major Heros von Borcke, a German noble who came to the United States to fight for the Confederacy," said Museum Curator George Deeming. Von Borcke served as Stuart's chief of staff and gave Stuart the pistol after he was severely wounded and had to retire from the army. "We're fortunate to display such an important Civil War artifact with such a fascinating background," Deeming said.

As a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate, the Museum may request Smithsonian artifacts to display within its collections. The J.E.B. Stuart pistol is on loan from the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and will be displayed within the Museum's Railroads: Lifelines of the Civil War collection.

The Ramrod

“The pistol of J.E.B. Stuart, the most famous cavalryman of the Civil War, is one of the many artifacts in the National Museum of American History’s collections that tells the story of the war that forever changed and defined America,” according to Brent Glass, Director of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History.

The Museum has also borrowed several other artifacts from the Smithsonian, including a Civil War Zouave uniform from the 155th Pennsylvania Infantry and a Union army surgeon’s amputation set. These items will be on display through March 1, 2006. The Stuart pistol, along with a Berdan Sharpshooter’s Kepi hat, will be on display only through March 2004. The Museum also has some unique Confederate playing cards from the Smithsonian on display.

“We are proud to join the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History in giving visitors a glimpse into American life during this tumultuous period by loaning these striking objects from the Smithsonian collection,” Glass said. Deeming is pleased to have the artifacts on loan from the Smithsonian. “The Zouave uniform is quite different from the Confederate uniforms we have in our collection,” he said. “It’s based on a French army uniform that featured baggy pants and short jackets. This particular uniform is blue with ornate gold trim.” A Berdan’s Sharpshooter’s Kepi from the Smithsonian is also on display. “The Kepi is a hat worn by an elite group of marksmen who would be comparable to modern day special forces,” Deeming said.

In addition to the uniform artifacts, the Museum has a comprehensive Civil War surgeon’s amputation set. “Civil War soldiers used .58 caliber Minie Ball bullets that expanded when they hit causing extensive damage and prompting many amputations. Some doctors could amputate an arm or leg in less than three minutes.

“This Union army surgeon’s set shows the tools used during amputations. It’s hard to believe some of the tools, which look like kitchen utensils, were used,” he said. “This is definitely not an exhibit for people with weak stomachs!”

Tunnel Hill

From www.Roadsidegeorgia.com

The rugged North Georgia mountains of Whitfield county, stood tall, and they alone blocked the southern push of the railroads in the 1840’s. Chetoogetta Mountain was most formidable of all. To connect Atlanta and Chattanooga, a tunnel must be dug by the Western and Atlantic Railroad. Plans for the tunnel began in the late 1830’s, but a great panic and depression delayed construction for almost 10

years. The railroad provided passenger and freight service during this time, carrying the freight and letting the passengers walk over the mountain. A town came to life in the area to service the needs of the passengers from the train and the “sappers” building the tunnel. As unimpressive as it may seem now, this 1,477 foot tunnel was the engineering marvel of its time.

The tunnel at Tunnel Hill (sometimes called Tunnelsville) was a major target of James Andrews and his men in The Great Locomotive Chase. By the time the raiders reached here, the Texas was in sight so the tunnel was spared.

During the battle of Chickamauga, the Clisby-Austin house, which still stands, was used as a hospital. Confederate General John B. Hood was sent here after the amputation of his leg, which accompanied him on his journey (if he died of infection, they could be buried together). The leg is buried in the family cemetery near the house.

In December, 1863, after the Confederate defeat at Chattanooga, Patrick Cleburne wrote his proposal to draft slaves into the army in return for their emancipation at Tunnel Hill.

General George Thomas approached the area in May of 1864 and ran into Confederate skirmishers defending the hill on May 6th. After testing the line, Thomas sent a division to battle the rebels. Outnumbered and overwhelmed, the Confederates did not have time to damage the tunnel as ordered. Although relatively minor, the skirmish marked the beginning of the Atlanta Campaign.

General William T. Sherman used the Clisby-Austin house as his headquarters during the battle of Dalton. It was here that Sherman was having an early supper on May 9, 1864 when General James McPherson sent word that he was within sight of Resaca and moving towards the town.

The tunnel remained the centerpiece of the town until it was closed because of structural problems. A park, constructed on the original right-of-way gives visitors access to this engineering marvel of 1850.

Why Did Women Fight in the Civil War?

From www.Civilwarstudies.org/articles

Why does anyone volunteer to fight in a war, especially someone who would not otherwise be called upon? There are approximately 400 documented cases of women who served in the ranks, both North and South. But, why did these women fight?

The Ramrod

The ladies may have “had their reasons,” but for the most part, we have no documentation to tell us why. There was John Williams, also known as Sarah Blaylock, who states only that she was mustered in as a private and discharged one month later when she was discovered to be a woman. Why did she enlist to fight?

Charles Freeman, or Mary Scaberry, enlisted in the summer of 1862. Her identity was discovered after she was admitted to the hospital the following November. Her discharge papers state she was dismissed for: “Sex(t)ual incompatibility and fever.” Why did she fight?

Sarah Edmonds enlisted as Franklin Thompson and describes her physical exam as “a firm handshake.” She participated in several battles and left the service when she caught malaria and feared discovery if she were treated. After the war, she married, raised three children, and received a government pension for her Civil War service. Why did she fight?

The most telling story is that of another fighting lady, Rosetta (Lyons) Wakeman. She was the oldest child in a large family, and by necessity worked under brutal conditions on the family farm in upstate New York. She left home at 19, and instead of taking a job as a laundress or a domestic for pennies a day, she dressed as a man and hired onto a canal boat as a coal handler. When she learned she could earn \$13 per month in the army, she enlisted as a private in the 153rd New York State Volunteers.

Her early letters home tell just how oppressed she felt there. Still, she saved her army pay and sent home large sums of money and generous gifts. In return, she asked the home folks for tobacco, apples, pies, and cakes. In the army she enjoyed freedoms not possible to her as a woman. And, she was having the time of her life. She writes “I enjoy myself first rate...I have had plenty of money to spend and a good time asoldiering. I find just as good friends among strangers as I do at home.” Her true identity was never discovered, not even when she visited male friends in other regiments who knew her from home, or even when she was hospitalized with dysentery. When she died in a New Orleans Army hospital, she was buried as a soldier. She rests at Chalmette National Cemetery with a soldier’s headstone.

We might assume that women soldiers in the Civil War fought for the same reasons as men—patriotism, adventure, to rid the country of slavery. But we know exactly why Rosetta Wakeman fought. She fought to gain her own freedom. Only as a soldier was she able to live as free and “independent as a hog on the ice.”

Ten Commandments of Metal Detecting

Courtesy of Fisher Research Laboratory

With all of the “bad-talk” we seem to be getting lately about our hobby, I thought it might be a good time to remind everyone that sometimes, we are our own worst enemies. Therefore, here are some “commandments” that we have published in previous editions of the Ramrod that you should take a minute to read, and more importantly, remember while you are out there enjoying our hobby. These are the judgements and edicts which should be obeyed by all those who wield detectors of metal:

1. Thou shalt not leave behind unfilled excavations.
2. Thou shalt not trespass or defy in any way the lawful decrees of thy city, county, state or country.
3. Thou shalt not harm vegetation, the creatures of the field, natural resources or the personal property of others.
4. Thou shalt not covet the finds of thy companion. Nor shalt ye covet his metal detector, digging tool or the hallowed ground in which he diggeth.
5. Thou shalt not ignore nor neglect thy family whilst in the endless pursuit of thy hobby.
6. Thou shalt assist the distraught owners of lost goods, and the archeologists, and the enforcers of law, and all others who may need thy skill as a metal detectorist.
7. Thou shalt return found treasures to the proper owners whenever their true identity can be rightfully determined.
8. Thou shalt report to the proper authorities any finds relating to criminal activity or of archeological significance.
9. Thou shalt be considerate of others on the beach and in other public places whilst waving thy search coil and digging holes in the sand and the soil.
10. Thou shalt speak out against the unjust laws and stand firm against the philistines who would cast out all those who use detectors of metal.

And if thou dost not abide by these Commandments, may you be plagued with the mineral-bearing rocks, hard-cracked soil, pestilence, serpents, locusts, poisonous vegetation and great multitudes of pull-tabs, bottle-caps and rusty nails. May you spend the remaining years of your wretched life digging signals of false origin. For thy

The Ramrod

iniquities shall surely bring the overzealous wrath of the ignorant, heathen bureaucrats down upon those of us who are innocent. For we are the righteous and the just, and ye who disobey the Ten Commandments of Metal Detecting are bad.

This Month in the Civil War

January 31, 1862 – President Lincoln issues General War Order No. 1 calling for all United States naval and land forces to begin a general advance by February 22nd, George Washington's birthday.

January 1, 1863 - President Lincoln issues the final Emancipation Proclamation freeing all slaves in territories held by Confederates and emphasizes the enlisting of black soldiers in the Union Army. The war to preserve the Union now becomes a revolutionary struggle for the abolition of slavery.

January 25, 1863 – The president appoints General Joseph (Fighting Joe) Hooker as Commander of the Army of the Potomac, replacing Burnside.

January 29, 1863 - General Grant is placed in command of the Army of the West, with orders to capture Vicksburg.

January 31, 1865 – The U. S. Congress approves the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, to abolish slavery. The amendment is then submitted to the states for ratification.

Relic Trivia...Test Your Knowledge

1. How many men were in a Company? How many Companies in a Regiment?
2. Who were the two commanding generals at the siege of Vicksburg?
3. He was a teacher at VMI before the war. Name him.

4. Many battles had more than one name, i.e. Antietam/Sharpsburg, or First Bull Run/ First Manassas. There was a battle on the 30th of June, 1862 in Virginia with seven names. What was it and can you name all seven names?

Answers will appear in the next *Ramrod* issue.

Answers to previous issue's questions:

1. What primary Confederate General was killed at the Battle of Shiloh? **Albert Sidney Johnston.**
2. What Northern general was accused by northern press as being insane? **William T. Sherman.**
3. What Southern General was mortally wounded at the Battle of Chancellorsville, Virginia? **Thomas J. Jackson.**
4. Which physician-inventor devised a weapon for the Union Army, which used only twelve of them, that was the prototype of the machine gun? **Dr. Richard J. Gatling (the Gatling gun).**
5. What raiders, captured by Confederates, were treated as civilian spies because they were out of uniform? **The 24 army volunteers who followed civilian James J. Andrews (Andrews Raid became known as the Great Locomotive Chase.)**

Wanted Newsletter Articles

If you have any Civil War articles , or any other club related items that you would like to have published in The Ramrod, please let me or the other Club Officers know. You can also email articles to me by sending them to ToddCLee@cs.com

Club Web Site

The club web site continues to be updated on a regular basis. Take a minute and view the site and let us know what you think of it, and if there is anything else you would like to see done with the site

The club web site can be viewed at the following address:

WWW.NGRHA.COM

**That's all for this issue.
See you at the next club meeting.**

The Ramrod