
The Ramrod

Volume 90

July, 2004

Annual Relic Show

Don't forget—the 26th Annual Southeastern Civil War Show and Sale is fast approaching. The show will be held August 7th and 8th at the Cobb County Civic Center. There will be over 220 tables of relics, weapons, books, prints, and tons of other items.

Please volunteer to work one or more shifts at the show. Sign up sheets are available at each meeting to reserve your shift. Remember, for each shift you work, you receive one ticket to the November dinner banquet. To make sure you get credit for a ticket, your name MUST be on a sign up sheet. The August 4th meeting will be the last available time to sign up.

Please try to help out the club as the show is our main fundraising event of the year. This show helps us to support all of our club activities and charities (to which we contribute to at the end of the year). The success of the show benefits everyone, so please volunteer and help out.

Club & Events Calendar:

Date	Event
July 7th	Business Meeting
July 21st	Find of the Month Meeting
Aug 4 th	Business Meeting
Aug 18th	Find of the Month Meeting

Members info on the Website

As you all probably know by now, we have hired someone to maintain our website and make improvements. We



want our members to be able to access as much club information as possible.

The Ramrod is currently available through the website and we plan to add the member directory as well. As new members join, it is difficult to get each member a copy of the updated directory. Through the website, new members can be added and club members will have immediate access to the directory.

The online directory will include a club member's name and telephone number. There will be no member addresses available through the website.

Todd Lee is in the process of making this website change. If you do NOT wish for members to have access to your telephone number through the website, please email him directly at ToddCLee@cs.com by August 1st.



New Members

Please welcome the following new member(s) to the club:

Michael Musser, Alpharetta

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.

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Here are the results for the Single & Multiple Relics.

Month	Person	Relic Item(s)
May Single	Daryl Shipp	Eagle Breast Plate
May Multi	Bill Mull	Breast Plate & Bullets
Jun Single	Daryl Shipp	11" round navy shell
Jun Multi	Tony Williams	Cast's

Here are the results for the Single & Multiple Coins.

Month	Person	Relic Item(s)
May Single	Don Thomas	Flying Eagle Cent
May Multi		
Jun Single	Bryan Copelan	Shield Nickel
Jun Multi	Keith Cochran	Dimes & Quarters

Here are the results for the Jewelry and Miscellaneous category:

Month	Person	Relic Item(s)
May	Glen Daniel	Misc. Items & Period Beer Bottle
June	Donald Nations	Rings and Bracelets

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.

Did you see us in the news?

Tuesday, July 13th, *the Atlanta Journal Constitution* newspaper featured an article describing metal detecting and the treasures we find as hunters. The article included a picture of our own Roy Baker, and mentioned other members of the club as well.

In case you missed it, here is the article in its entirety:

Buried treasure with a tale to tell

By Clint Williams

The refuse of two great armies is scattered across Cobb County, left behind 140 years ago by the soldiers who fought at Kennesaw Mountain and other battles of the Civil War's Atlanta Campaign.

One soldier's trash is Roy Baker's treasure.

Baker, a cabinetmaker, is among the hard core relic hunters who comb the countryside with metal detectors looking for buttons, buckles, and bullets left behind by the boys in blue and gray. Baker is among the 130 members of the North Georgia Relic Hunters Association, which meets twice a month in Marietta.

Baker spends about eight hours a week seeking long-buried artifacts from Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's fabled March to the Sea, driven by a passion for history and the thrill of the hunt. Digging up a cannonball or bullet, relic hunters say, breathes life into the text of history books.

"It's sort of like a time machine," said Brian Copelan of Dallas. "You can't go back in time, but you can retrieve something from 1864."

A dug relic "speaks to you like a diary," said George Deeming, curator for the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History in Kennesaw.

On display at the museum is a tin cup with a bullet hole.

"When you look at that cup, you realize this was a frozen moment," Deeming said.

Jim Hammonds of Marietta once found a spot where he dug up Confederate bullets that had been dropped before being fired mixed with Union bullets that had been fired. An ambush? A panicky retreat?

"It makes you understand what they were going through," Hammonds said.

Carved bullets are a common find, evidence of the tedium between battles. Civil War soldiers carved the soft shots of lead into chess pieces or small sculptures. Baker has a pair of boots carved from bullets. Ray McMahan of Paulding County has found tiny lice combs crafted from bullets, "but unfortunately, the ones I find, the guy wasn't a real good artist."

Everything found by Copelan and the other members of the North Georgia Relic Hunters Association was found on private property.

Relic hunting is prohibited in federal and state parks such as Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park in Cobb and Picketts Mill Battlefield Historic Site in Paulding.

Relic hunters study historical maps and texts to pinpoint likely encampments and battle sites.

Then they wait for the spot to be cleared for a subdivision or shopping center.

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“It seems when they start clearing it (the land) and moving the dirt around, that is when stuff pops up,” said Copelan.

Relic hunters said they always ask permission to search the land. What they find can end up in private collections, in museums, or more and more, for sale on the Internet.

A good metal detector can be had for about \$500 and can find a bullet a foot below the ground. A cannonball can be detected if it's three feet under the dirt.

“We also find a lot of cars and junk,” Hammonds said.

The Siege of Vicksburg

July 4th marks our country's birthday but it is also the date in which Vicksburg, Mississippi fell to the North. This battle proved to be a turning point for the North and it ensured their full control of the Mississippi River.

Gettysburg, with its tremendous casualties, ended only one day before Vicksburg, and garnered much of the spotlight. However the fight for the Mississippi at Vicksburg was a most crucial battle.

After capturing New Orleans, and Memphis, the Union controlled both ends of the Mississippi River. But they could not safely use the river because the Confederates held Vicksburg. Vicksburg sat on a cliff, high above the river, and cannons could fire on boats traveling the river between New Orleans and Memphis.

In May and June of 1863, General Grant's troops tried to seize Vicksburg. The Confederates held out bravely. Grant devised a brilliant plan. Marching his troops inland, he launched a surprise attack on Jackson, Mississippi. Then he turned west and attacked Vicksburg from the rear.

For over six weeks, Grant's army lay siege to Vicksburg. Day after day, the Union soldiers pushed their lines closer to town. Union soldiers on the Mississippi bombarded the soldiers and inhabitants. Their food and supplies ran out. Finally, on July 4, 1863, the Confederates surrendered Vicksburg. This was the culmination of one of the most brilliant military campaigns of the war.

With the loss of Pemberton's army and this vital stronghold on the Mississippi, the Confederacy was effectively split in half. Grant's successes in the West boosted his reputation, leading ultimately to his appointment as General-In-Chief of the Union Armies.

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

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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

July 4, 1861 –Lincoln, in a speech to Congress, states the war is...”a People’s contest...a struggle for maintaining in the world, that form, and substance of government, whose leading object is, to elevate the condition of men...” The congress authorizes a call for 500,000 men.

July 27, 1861 –President Lincoln appoints George B. McClellan as Commander of the Department of the Potomac, replacing McDowell. McClellan tells his wife, “I find myself in a new and strange position here: President, cabinet, Gen. Scott, and all deferring to me. By some strange operation of magic I seem to have become the power of the land.”

July 11, 1862 –After four months as his own general-in-chief, President Lincoln hands over the task to Gen. Henry W. (Old Brains) Halleck.

July 1-3, 1863 –The tide of war turns against the South as Confederates are defeated at the Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania.

July 4, 1863–Vicksburg, the last Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River, surrenders to Gen. Grant and the Army of the West after a six week siege. With the Union now in control of the Mississippi, the Confederacy is effectively split in two, cut off from its western allies.

July 13-16, 1863 –Anti-draft riots in New York City include arson and the murder of blacks by poor immigrant whites. At least 120 persons, including children, are killed and \$2 million in damage caused, until Union soldiers returning from Gettysburg restore order.

July 18, 1863 –“Negro troops” of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment under Col. Robert G. Shaw assault fortified Rebels at Fort Wagner, South Carolina. Col. Shaw and half of the 600 men in the regiment are killed.

July 20, 1864 –At Atlanta, Sherman’s forces battle the rebels now under the command of Gen. John B. Hood, who replaced Johnston.

Relic Trivia...Test Your Knowledge

1. Who was known as “Little Napoleon?”
2. What was Virginian Wilmer McLean’s unusual distinction during the Civil War?
3. What is the highest rank Robert E. Lee achieved in the U.S. army?
4. What was the “Alligator?”
5. There were 13 stars in the Confederate battle flag. How many states were in the Confederacy?

Answers to previous issue’s questions:

1. The artillery used round shot. Where did they aim when they fired it at the attacking troops? **The round shot was aimed in front of the attacking troops so that it would skip along the ground, (something like skimming a stone across water) causing great havoc.**
2. What is an “abatis”? **An “abatis” is an obstacle formed of trees felled toward the enemy.**
3. What was the CSS Virginia before it became a Confederate Iron Clad? **The Merrimack.**
4. What was the official name for Andersonville Prison and why did it have that name? **The name was Camp Sumter. It received this name because it was located in Sumter County, Georgia.**
5. What Virginia born artilleryman named four of his cannons Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John? **Brig. Gen. William Nelson Pendleton, an ordained Episcopal Rector.**

Answers will appear in the next *Ramrod* issue.

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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.**