
The Ramrod

Volume 85

September, 2003

Club Relic Hunts

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the club's seeded relic hunt on June 28th. Everyone had a good time and many members found and were awarded some great relics.

As a result of the hunt, the club will no longer allow participants to use shovels. Only a digging knife, trowel, etc. will be allowed for digging the relics. This new rule is necessary to preserve the land at the park and it helps ensure we may use the property in the future. Before our next hunt, everyone will be reminded of the new rules.

We appreciate everyone's participation and look forward to seeing you at the next hunt!



Club & Events Calendar:

Date	Event
Sept 3rd	Business Meeting
Sept 17 th	Find of the Month Meeting
Oct 1st	Business Meeting
Oct 15 th	Find of the Month Meeting

Civil War Poetry

This is a poem written by Gideon Luke Roach, and was published in the "Confederate Veteran", vol. 34, page 73.

Who Loved the Gray

The gates of time swing wide to-day,
And through them march our men n gray--
Fathers, brothers, young and old--
With loyal minds, with hearts of gold;
And, through the mist of dreams and tears,

Our heroes come across the years.

Again the voice of Lee we hear,
Again his army's answering cheer;
Again a wall of stone we see,
And Jackson stands by General Lee;
And fearless leaders, score on score,
Make up the South's immortal corps.

Another army passes by
Whose name and fame can never die--
Our Southern women, dauntless, brave,
Who gave their lives to cheer to save;
Our Southern women, tried and true,
Who toiled and prayed the long years through.

Their sacrifice, their deeds of worth,
Have made for us a purer earth;
Their victories, unknown to fame,
Have touched their children's ears with flame;
And all the South is glorified
Because for love they lived and died.

The gates of time wide open stand,
And through them streams a deathless band--
Southern women, Southern men,
Who come to thrill our souls again;
And through the mist of tears we pray,
"God keep them all who loved the gray!"

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.

Month	Person	Relic Item(s)
July Single	Bill Ganues	Carved Bullet
July Multi	Bill Ganues	Bullets

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Here are the results for the Single & Multiple Coins.

Month	Person	Relic Item(s)
Jul Single	Keith Cochran	Peace Dollar
Jul Multi	Tony Millians	Misc. coins

Note: Because there was no second meeting in August, the relic and coin winners will be chosen at our meeting on September 3rd.

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.



New Members

Please welcome the following new members to the club:

Scott Sharp	Woodstock
Ben Martin	Marietta
Jim Scarr	Powder Springs
Tim Beasley	Dallas

Civil War Show

Well the 25th annual N.G.R.H.A. Civil War Show has come and gone. All indications point to a successful show, but we would not have been able to have the show without all of your support.

We owe a big thank you to all the club officers and members for being there during the show to help ensure everything went smoothly. Many members worked Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to get everything ready for the show.

As in years past, the annual rite of passage for all dealers and vendors, continues to be the banquet, catered by *The Rib Ranch*. Everyone seemed to enjoy the good food, drinks, and fellowship.

Admission results and Judges Awards information will be published in the next issue and on the club website when available.

Ring Returns To Owner With A Story To Tell

by Laura Irvine

As published in *The Daily Southtown, Special to the Daily Southtown*, Tinley Park, Illinois

Sunday, August 31, 2003

When Eric Keenan Learned that his class ring had been lost on a beach more than 1,200 miles from home, he figured that was the last he'd seen of it. The ring, which Keenan's girlfriend lost while she vacationed in Cocoa Beach, Florida, was replaced and all was forgiven.

But a phone call from a Florida man turned a typical story of a lost piece of jewelry into a comical one of coincidence and finding "buried treasure."

Keenan, a junior at Lockport Township High School, gave the ring to his girlfriend, Kara Anderson, when she went to Florida in December. Anderson lost the ring while walking on the beach, and although Keenan was disappointed, "it wasn't that huge of a deal because I could just order another one."

But when Keenan was contacted by the high school this summer, it seemed he ordered the replacement ring too soon. "Some guy called our high school saying he found my ring with a metal detector under a foot of sand," Keenan said.

The man, who found the ring, a Cocoa, Florida, resident, is a metal-detecting enthusiast. After finding the ring buried under 10 inches of sand in about a foot of water, he went online to find out what school's team name used Porters, which was engraved on Keenan's ring. The twist? The man who found the ring is named Porter Cummings.

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"I've returned quite a few (rings) but this is the first time I found one with my name on it," Cummings said. "I was lucky to get it." Cummings said finding a ring with identifying information was lucky, because many things he finds do not have anything on them.

"With class rings you have a good success rate," he said. Keenan's ring is one of many items Cummings has found with his metal detector. Cummings, who is retired from the Air Force, has found other jewelry as well as Civil War and World War II items. While in England, Cummings tracked down Roman coins dating to 336 A.D. during Emperor Constantine II's reign. He is hoping to find relics from a Spanish fleet of ships that sank off the coast of Cocoa Beach in 1715. "It had untold amounts of treasure," Cummings said.

Even though Cummings has found many items, he does not comb the beaches for profit. "It's the seeking and the searching," he said. "It's the finding where the fun comes in. Something's in your blood."

As for Keenan's recovered ring, he keeps it in a safe place at home and wears his new ring out. "Now that I got it back, it means more," he said. The ring that Cummings found is not as shiny, but Keenan said he wants to keep it in the same condition it was when he got it back, to remember what happened.

Cummings and Keenan also talked via e-mail, and officials from the high school sent Cummings a Porters hat and a card as a way of showing their appreciation. "The response from that end is great," Cummings said. "I've never seen anything like it."

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 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

September 11, 1861 – President Lincoln revokes Gen. John C. Fremont's unauthorized military proclamation of emancipation in Missouri. Later, the president relieves Gen. Fremont of his command and replaces him with Gen. David Hunter.

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September 4-9, 1862 - Lee invades the North with 50,000 Confederates and heads for Harpers Ferry, located 50 miles northwest of Washington. The Union Army, 90,000 strong, under the command of McClellan, pursues Lee.

September 17, 1862 – The bloodiest day in U.S. Military history as Gen. Robert E. Lee and the Confederate Armies are stopped at Antietam in Maryland by McClellan and numerically superior Union forces. By nightfall, 26,000 men are dead, wounded, or missing. Lee then withdraws to Virginia. Confederate dead lined the fence bordering Farmer Miller’s 40 acre Cornfield at Antietam where the intense rifle and artillery fire cut every corn stalk to the ground “as closely as could have been done with a knife.”

September 22, 1862 – Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation freeing slaves issued by President Lincoln.

September 19-20, 1863 –A decisive Confederate victory by Gen. Braxton Bragg’s Army of Tennessee at Chickamauga leaves Gen. William S. Rosecrans’ Union Army of the Cumberland trapped in Chattanooga, Tennessee under Confederate siege.

September 2, 1864 –Atlanta is captured by Sherman’s Army. “Atlanta is ours, and fairly won,” Sherman telegraphs Lincoln. The victory greatly helps President Lincoln’s bid for re-election.

Relic Trivia...Test Your

1. What personal tragedy struck President Jefferson Davis and his wife Varina on April 30, 1864?
2. How old would Abraham Lincoln have been this Feb 12th?
3. Which General had the longest last name?
4. We all know Lt. Gen. Thomas J. Jackson's nickname was "Stonewall", but his cousin, Major Gen. William L. Jackson also had a nickname... what was it?

5. Companies within Regiments were given letters. Ten letters were used beginning with "A". Which letter did they skip?

Answers will appear in the next *Ramrod* issue.

Answers to previous issue’s questions:

1. Who was Frank Stringfellow? **A confidential scout for Gen. Robert E. Lee and Gen. Jeb Stuart.**
2. Who was Emma Green? **A companion of Frank Stringfellow, who assisted him with his spy efforts.**
3. True or False? Many Civil War Battles have two names. **True. The Confederates named them after the nearest settlement, and Northerners often named them after the nearest body of water.**
4. The Federal ship, the *Merrimack*, was raised by the Confederates and renamed what? **The Monitor.**
5. These lyrics are from what song?

*You may talk about your Beauregard,
And sing of General Lee,
But the gallant Hood of Texas
Played hell in Tennessee*

“The Yellow Rose of Texas”

A Friendly Reminder

Each member should have their own name tag. Please wear these at each club meeting so our new members can get to know each person. See Todd Lee to pick up your name tag or let him know if you need a new one.

Meetings at FOP Lodge

The club would like to thank Bill Mull and Mike Brice for their efforts in allowing us to meet at the FOP Lodge for our meetings.

We will continue to meet at the Lodge for all club meetings unless there are future changes announced.

Wanted Newsletter Articles

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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.**