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# The Ramrod

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Volume 91

September , 2004

## Annual Relic Show

Well, the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeastern Civil War Show and Sale has come and gone. But we would not have been able to have the show without all of your support.

A big thanks to all the members who helped prepare for the show and make it a huge success. A nice pat on the back to all the club members who pitched in Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to work the show and get everything ready.

We should all be looking forward to next year's show, and the continued success of our club's yearly event.

## Club & Events Calendar:

Date	Event
Sept 1 <sup>st</sup>	Business Meeting
Sept 15 <sup>th</sup>	Find of the Month Meeting
Oct 6 <sup>th</sup>	Business Meeting
Oct 20 <sup>th</sup>	Find of the Month Meeting

\*\*\*LAST CALL\*\*\*

## Member info on the web

In the previous issue of *The Ramrod*, we explained that all members' names and phone numbers will be added to the new club website. With new members joining each month, it is difficult to provide every club member with an up to date directory.

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



Todd Lee is in the process of making this website change. Members were to notify him if they do NOT wish for other members to have access to their telephone number through the website. We want to be sure that each member is aware of this policy. If you do not notify Todd by Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, your name will go on the website directory. Please email him directly at [ToddCLee@cs.com](mailto:ToddCLee@cs.com) or call him at home at 770-514-8651.



## New Members

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

Rodney Bowers, Marietta  
Jerry and Dawn Doss, Powder Springs  
Brian Pennington, Tuscaloosa, AL  
Mike Rubadue, Kennesaw  
Jerry Sharp, Cartersville

## 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)
July Single	Tony Millians	NC Starburst Button
July Multi	Ed Wiggart	Bullets and Box Plate

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<b>Aug Single</b>	Maynard Ringenberg	Spur
<b>Aug Multi</b>	Glen Daniel	Bullets and Buttons

Here are the results for the Single & Multiple Coins.

Month	Person	Relic Item(s)
<b>July Single</b>	Larry Shira	1890 Indian Head Penny
<b>July Multi</b>	Keith Cochran	Misc. Coins
<b>Aug Single</b>	Steve Beaver	1876 Seated Liberty Dime
<b>Aug. Multi</b>	Glen Daniel	Dimes, Quarters, and Walking Half

Here are the results for the Jewelry and Miscellaneous category:

Month	Person	Relic Item(s)
<b>July</b>	Don Nations	Rings and Watches
<b>Aug</b>	Don Nations	Rings, Watches, and earrings

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.

### Civil War Coins...Did you know?

The U.S. Department of the Treasury first issued paper U.S. currency in 1862 to make up for the shortage of coins and to finance the Civil War. There was a shortage of coins because people had started hoarding them; the uncertainty caused by the war had made the value of items fluctuate drastically. Because coins were made of gold and silver their value didn't change much, so people wanted to hang onto them rather than buy items that might lose their value.

“In God We Trust” was first used on coins during the Civil War. This inscription was added to the two-cent piece of 1864. But it didn't become necessary to add it to all coins until 1955. The inscription “E Pluribus Unum” which means “One from Many” (as in one country made from many states) was first used on the \$5 piece of 1795.

Lady Liberty saved a Civil War sea captain! Lt. George Dixon's sweetheart gave him a \$20 gold coin for luck

before he left to fight in the Civil War. It seems that the coin saved his life when a bullet hit the image of Lady Liberty in his pants pocket instead of wounding his leg. He carried the coin with him until he died years later in a submarine battle (*The Hunley*). The bent coin, found recently in the sunken sub, helped to identify Lt. Dixon's nearby body.

## Winfield Scott Hancock

### The hero of Gettysburg

by Dave Kopel, Paul Gallant and Joanne Eisen

An excerpt from *American Freedom*

He was a great warrior, lauded as “the hero of Gettysburg.” When he was the Democratic nominee for president, he refused to accept campaign contributions. He was a superb American, admired by people of all political persuasions for his unimpeachable integrity and devotion to public service.

He was Winfield Scott Hancock, born on Feb. 14, 1824 near Philadelphia, PA. And in 1881 he was elected the sixth president of the National Rifle Association.

As a boy of 11, Hancock befriended a physically small, poor 9 year old orphan named Johnny Everman, who became a lifelong friend. Regularly and generously sharing his few pennies with Johnny, Hancock often placed himself physically between Johnny and larger would be attackers.

“If you want to take hold of a boy, why don't you find one of my size. Let little Johnny alone!” challenged the 11 year old Hancock. A classmate recalled, “If a big boy undertook to worry a small boy, he'd find Winfield atop of him in short order.”

As a young child, the young Hancock learned from his lawyer father a deep respect for the Common Law. When Winfield departed for the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1840, his father placed in his luggage the Constitution of the United States and Blackstone's *Commentaries*, with the instruction to read each at least once a year. Blackstone, of course, was the author of the most influential legal treatise ever written, the analysis of common law and civil liberty which declared the right “of having arms for their defence, suitable to their condition” to be one of “the natural rights of resistance and self-preservation, when the sanctions of society and law are found insufficient to restrain the violence of oppression.”

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Named after the military hero Winfield Scott, Winfield Scott Hancock served ably as an infantry lieutenant in Indian Territory and then as an officer in the Mexican War.

In 1856-58, Hancock and his wife, Almira were stationed in Florida, where the Seminole Indians still carried out raids. While in Florida, Almira Hancock learned how to shoot.

When the Civil War began, the Hancocks were serving in Los Angeles. There was very little pro-Union sentiment in the city; most people wanted California to join the Confederacy, or to create an independent Western Republic. As historian Glenn Tucker explains:

“Probably all that saved the faraway section of Southern California from the Union at this critical moment was Hancock’s care in seeing that his precious guns, ammunition and supplies were adequately protected. He assembled twenty or so derringers for his own use in an emergency, then recruited every Union sympathizer in the neighborhood to be ready on a moment’s notice. He armed Mrs. Hancock...(In a Federal arms depot, Hancock) hid the boxes of guns and ammunition underneath great heaps of grain, drew up his wagons to form a barricade and prepared to fight it out. No officer was closer than a hundred miles, but Hancock faced attack with some confidence. Finally a squadron of cavalry arrived from Fort Tehone, a hundred miles away, and paraded, and the danger of the loss of Southern California was minimized. Many credited Hancock with holding it for the Union cause.”

Having saved Southern California for the Union, Hancock headed east to join the fighting. His first major engagement was the battle of Williamsburg (May 4-5, 1862) in the Peninsula Campaign; there he forced the Confederates to retreat by breaking their left flank. General George McClellan said “Hancock was superb today.” Thereafter, he was known as “Hancock the Superb.”

At Antietam (September 17, 1862), Hancock took command of the Second Corps after Israel B. Richardson was killed in action. Hancock’s division fought at Fredericksburg (Dec. 13, 1862), in the grueling assault on Marye’s Heights. After the Confederate victory at Chancellorsville (May 3, 1863) Hancock led the rear guard that protected the Union withdrawal.

On the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg (July 1, 1863), Hancock formed the Union defensive positions at Little Round Top and Cemetery Ridge—the key positions that held the Union center. As McClellan had observed,

Hancock “had a wonderfully quick and correct eye for ground.”

On the third day of Gettysburg, Hancock commanded the First, Second, and Third Corps—three-fifths of the Union army. That day, Robert E. Lee flung the Virginia militia and Confederate Lt. General James Longstreet into “Pickett’s Charge,” a bold defensive gamble to win the battle, and perhaps the war, in a single day.

During the Confederate artillery bombardment before the charge, Hancock slowly rode along the Union line, urging his men to hold firm. A soldier recalled that “his daring heroism and splendid presence gave the men new courage.”

The charge began, and Hancock was everywhere, ordering the regiments and brigades. The steady advance of Pickett’s men was the high water mark of the Confederacy. A bullet ripped through Hancock’s saddle, opened an inch wide hole in his body, and lodged eight inches inside his groin—along with a nail and a piece of wood as big as the bullet. Hancock looked as if he had been cut with a butcher’s knife.

Hancock refused to be carried to safety and continued to direct the combat from his stretcher. Pickett’s Charge was repulsed, and the Union dubbed Hancock “the hero of Gettysburg.” The Confederates called him the “Thunderbolt of the Army of the Potomac.”

President Lincoln explained, “When I go down in the morning to open my mail, I declare that I do it in fear and trembling lest I may hear that Hancock has been killed or wounded.”

Although the wound caused him pain for the rest of his life, Hancock recuperated sufficiently to return to fight in the Wilderness Campaign, where in the Battle of Spotsylvania (May 12, 1864), he earned the rank of Major General for breaking through a Confederate salient in less than an hour and capturing almost 3,000 prisoners.

## 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.

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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** –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 just 50 miles northwest of Washington. The Union Army, 90,000 strong, under the command of McClellan, pursues Lee.

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**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. Confederates lay dead by 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.”

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**September 22, 1862** – A preliminary Emancipation Proclamation freeing slaves is issued by President Lincoln.

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**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.

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**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.

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## Relic Trivia...Test Your Knowledge

### Answers to previous issue’s

1. Where is the “Bloody Angle” and the “Bloody Lane”?
2. Who was the Vice President of the Confederate States of America?

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3. What is panada?
4. Who or what was Daniel Webster?
5. On February 11, 1861, what did both Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln do?

### Answers to previous issue's questions:

1. Who was known as "Little Napoleon?" **Gen. George B. McClellan**
2. What was Virginian Wilmer McLean's unusual distinction during the Civil War? **The first battle of the Civil War began on his land and the war was ended on his land on two different farms in Virginia.**
3. What is the highest rank Robert E. Lee achieved in the U.S. army? **Colonel**
4. What was the "Alligator?" **It was an experimental Union submarine which was declared useless.**
5. There were 13 stars in the Confederate battle flag. How many states were in the Confederacy? **Eleven...the other two stars were for the secession governments of Kentucky and Missouri.**

Answers will appear in the next *Ramrod* issue.

## 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](mailto: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](http://WWW.NGRHA.COM)

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