

DIRT DIGEST

MAGAZINE

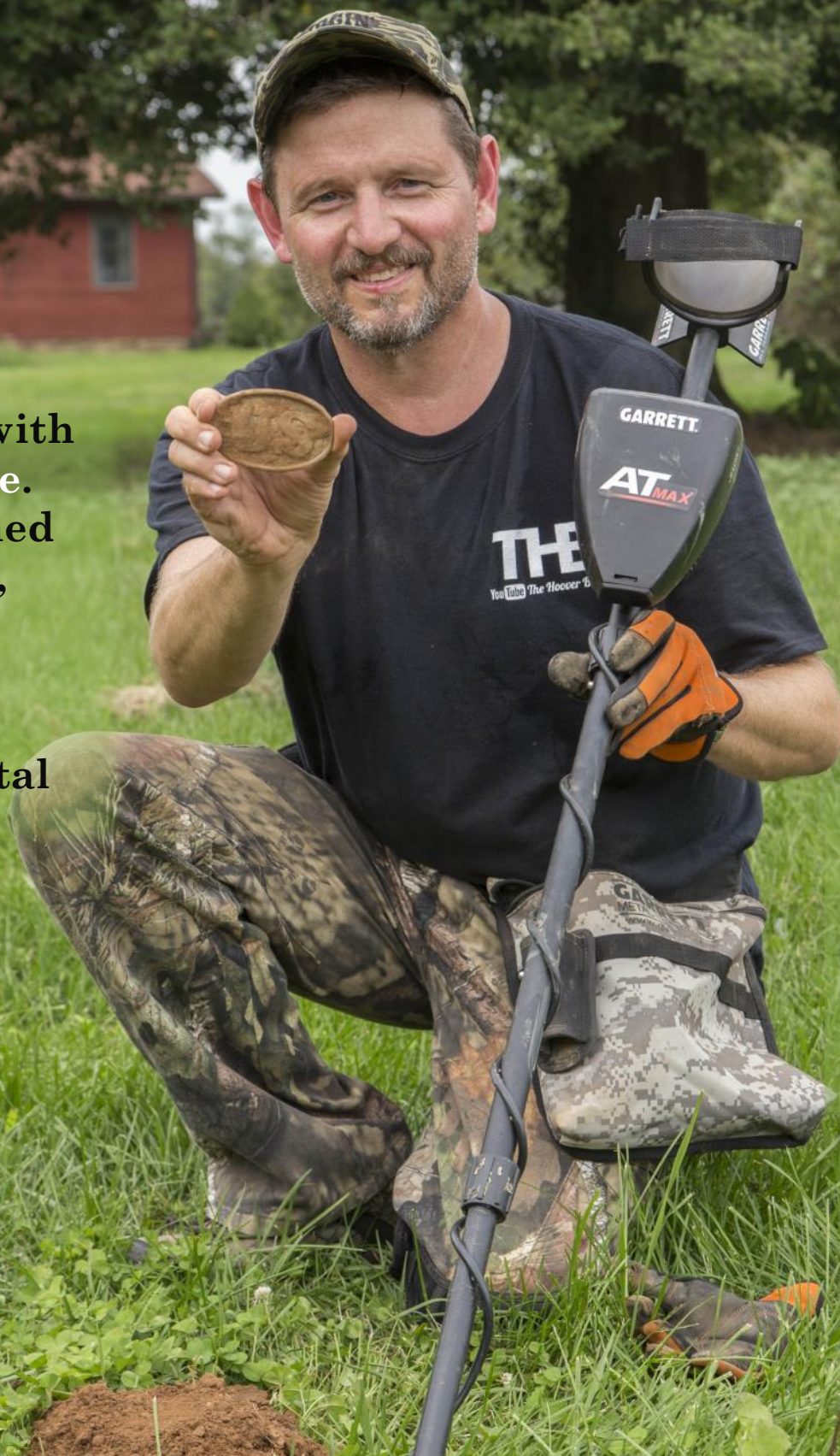
May 2021 Volume 3 Issue 5



The Journal of Modern Treasure Hunting.

**Interview with
Steve Moore.
Accomplished
Detectorist,
Author &
Marketing
Director of
Garrett Metal
Detectors**

**Metal
Detecting
Adventure
with Gypsy
Jewels**



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Before you get started on this issue of Dirt Digest Magazine, you might want to take a moment to read through this to get the most out of your experience.

First, lets start with navigating Dirt Digest. Top right, outside of the magazine is a navigation bar. From left to right is the following:

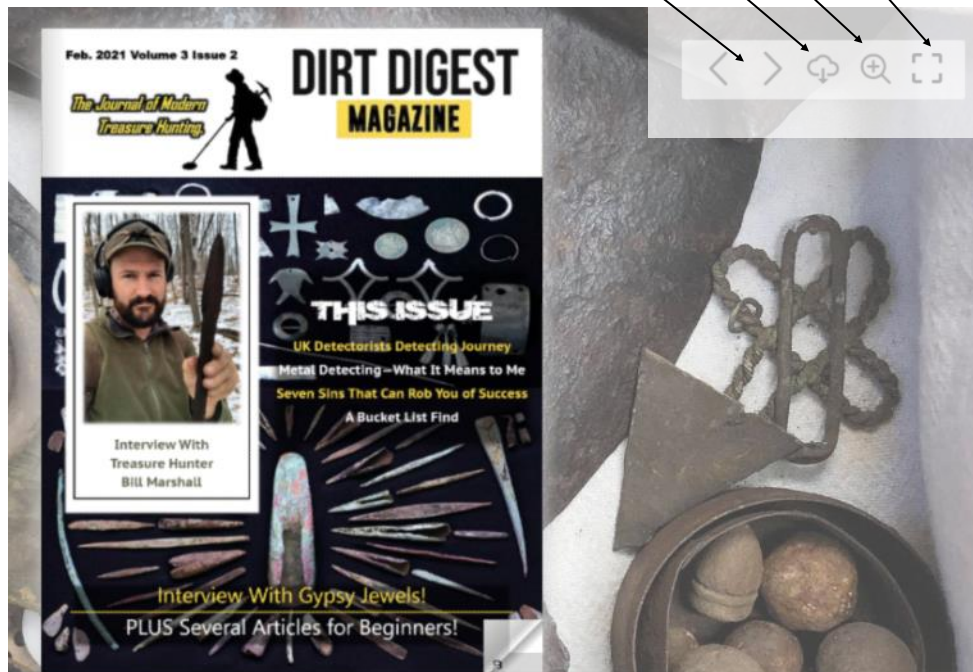
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Magnifies the page you're on

Box – that expands the magazine to full screen.



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The Magazine Itself

As you flip through the magazine, as you turn a page you might see something quickly flash. That means there is a hyperlink to click on. For example, the Garrett ad and all of our other sponsors will have a hyperlink to click on to visit their website directly if you so choose to do. If you see any text a different color than the surrounding text and underlined it is a link to something else such as a supporting article, a website etc.

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There are three different way to turn pages. The arrows top left in the navigation pane that was mentioned earlier is one way. Another way is if you hover your cursor at the edge of the magazine a navigation key will show and you can turn the pages that way. A third way is moving your cursor over the corners. The corner will appear folded over and you can either click and drag the page or click the area of the next page showing.



Bar with arrow is another way to turn the page. Once opened, if you hover just off of either page the arrow and box will appear.

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April 2021

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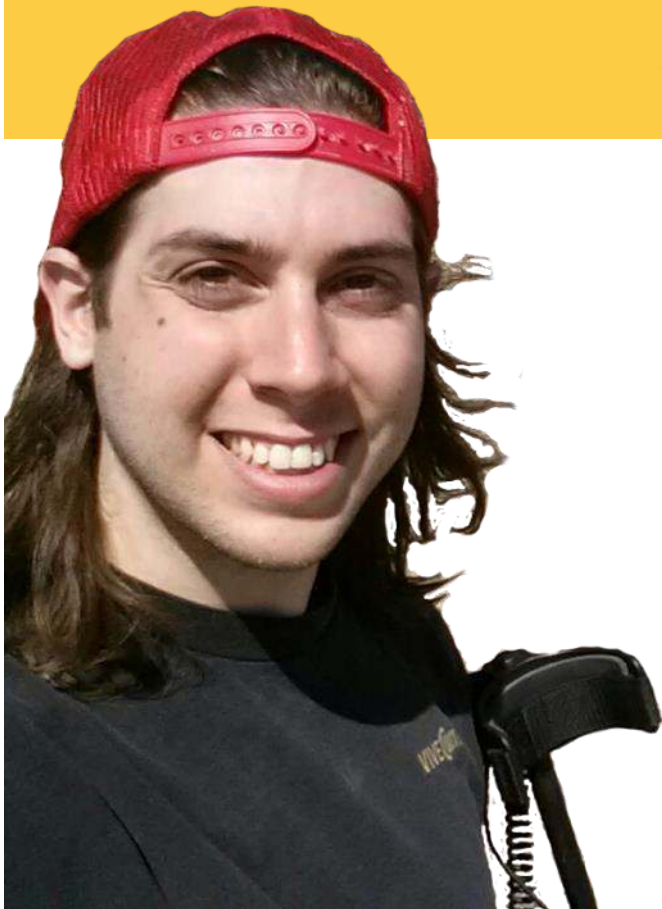
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DIRT DIGEST MAGAZINE



The Journal of Modern Treasure Hunting.

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Here at Dirt Digest we are always looking for articles.

Please submit articles, along with pictures to:

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Monthly deadline is the 15th

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Thank you!!!

We would like to express our appreciation to all who make this magazine possible and for everyone's continued support, without you, Dirt Digest wouldn't be possible!



The Journal of Modern Treasure Hunting.

From the Editor

Many don't know but Dirt Digest Magazine is a two-person operation. Joanna Jana Laznicka and I work countless hours to bring you the magazine each month. It is a labor of love and something we both truly enjoy!

Both of us working full time and trying to get the magazine ready each month can sometimes be a little overwhelming. It cuts into family time, metal detecting adventures and often times sleep. Often, we receive given great suggestions by our readers and I want you to know we listen but as of lately we are just too busy to take some of these great ideas and implement them currently.

We also get readers telling us they love the magazine and will ask how they can support us. Below is how you can support us and even make our lives a little easier!

Submit an article:

We are constantly looking for articles! You can share anything metal detecting/treasure hunting related. A recent metal detector adventure, technical, coins, relics, bottles, glass, insulators, privy digging... the list literally goes on and on! Make sure to include pictures.

Submit photos of a find:

Send us pictures of one of your recent finds or even multiple finds. If it's not recent, tell us when you found it. also include a brief description, what state it was found in, what metal detector you were using and don't forget to tell us your name!

We would also like to personally thank our sponsors. Garrett Metal Detectors, Nokta/Makro, Predator tools, Historic Map Works and Anderson Detector Shafts.

I would also like to personally thank Dorian Cook who helps us monthly with the magazine. from his great suggestions to his awesome articles Dorian has been a big help each and every month!



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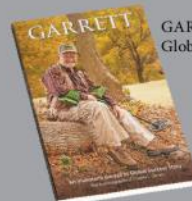
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Monday 8pm EST



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HOSTS

Amanda "Digger" Degaz
& Gypsy Jewels

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THREE HARDCORE DAYS METAL DETECTING WITH GYSPY JEWELS

By Mike Haer



"Knowing that it has never been hunted I was really hopeful it would produce some nice early relics "

Did this hunt allow Gypsy to find something on her bucket list? Read the article to find out!!

Gypsy's Adventure to Ohio to Find Some Early Field Relics



Recently, I came back to Ohio in not the best circumstances. A little down in the dumps and feeling beat up rather good. If there was anything to be excited about is the fact that it is spring in Ohio and for anyone who knows me that means metal detecting the fields!

I got out a few times by myself and I could not even enjoy myself. Usually, I put my headphones on and all my worries, problems and stress go away. Everything just melts away and the only thing I'm concentrating on is the next find. I knew I was in a rough place but this is the first-time metal detecting seemed to make me feel worse and not better.

Sitting around one evening and down in the dumps I called Gypsy up and told her she should come metal detect with me soon before they start planting the fields here in Ohio. I was half joking and figured she was too busy, not to mention the expense of coming to visit! She got excited and started looking into it and before I knew it, she was coming to Ohio in less than a week!

I got busy lining up some places and getting an itinerary together and before I knew it, we had a great game plan. Friday

we were going to start off visiting Dorian Cook down in Northern Kentucky for some Ohio river relic hunting. Day two we were going to head down to hunt with my good friend Donnie Lang in Southeastern Ohio and wrap the trip up on the third day in an area with some amazing history. I won't go into details yet on the area but hopefully it will lead to some articles. Although the third day didn't quite pan out like I hoped yet, it did lead to some great detecting and a bucket list find for Gypsy.

All packed up and ready to start the weekend metal detecting with Gypsy.



Gypsy got in Thursday evening and not long after I picked her up from the airport, I got a call from Dorian. Recently, he had hurt his knee and he was concerned he wouldn't be able to metal detect long because of that injury. He said he would stay with us though, sit in his vehicle while we metal detected but Gypsy and I decided it was best if we just cancelled that trip so Dorian didn't have to be miserable while we hunt, it just didn't feel right to do even though Dorian assured us he didn't mind.

Gypsy has been metal detecting for a long time, a matter of fact for over twenty years so she knows there are no guarantees in this hobby but that didn't make it any less stressful for me! Although I know she didn't care what she found, I felt like there was some pressure and I at least hoped she could find her first large cent. If it could be done, I knew there was a good chance of it happening field hunting here in Ohio.

We started Friday morning off in a field I've had permission for and although I've hunted the house site, I had not had the opportunity to hunt it much. I've also suspected that there could possibly be another house site in the huge field I have permission for. We started the



Gypsy's first day here I tried to show her

morning by heading south from the driveway where I expected another house might have existed. It didn't take long and we found ourselves on a previously unknown house site that would have existed before the earliest known maps of



Gypsies large cent or better yet, a Spanish coin! Surprisingly not much came from this early house site, I managed a few buttons and Gypsy found five or so but I was hoping for more.

After several hours of metal detecting, we decided to explore the property a little more before finishing the day on the site I had previously known about but barely detected. While exploring Gypsy found a dump in a small patch of woods and pulled out a few keepers. A few local bottles, although not real old they did have local towns on them and an awesome license plate from 1958!

We wrapped up the remainder of the day hunting the site I had known about with not much luck. Although it was a fun day,

It seemed like every time I turned around the first day Gypsy was digging another old button!

the area so I knew it was gone by 1858! I knew this because I had studied the property and all known maps, even later ones so I knew what had been on the property.

Knowing that it has never been hunted I was really hopeful it would produce some nice early relics and maybe even



One of the many old buttons Gypsy found on our first day of metal detecting.

in my opinion it was a little disappointing, I really had hoped finding the undiscovered home site would lead to some better finds.

Saturday morning, we drove about an hour and a half to hunt with my good friend Donnie Lang who had lined up



Steep hill leading to the old dump where Gypsy found her bottles and old license plate.

four field sites. We had just barely god started when Donnie found a FATTY INDIAN but not much more came from that site. We packed it up and headed to another one where some more buttons



One of the many buttons to come from the second day of metal detecting.

and relics came up and Donnie again found another coin, a shield nickel!

We wrapped the day up at a third site and didn't even make it to the last one. We managed to find a few buttons and I found part of a silver fork or spoon that was bent over and just part of the handle remained.

The pressure was on! As we drove back home, I hoped Sunday, Gypsies final day of Ohio metal detecting would pay off. I had lined up some property that we



My finds from Saturday's hunt with Gypsy and Donnie who managed to get us on some great sites!



*Gypsy making friends wherever we go!
The Shook family were so much fun and even fed us!*

didn't know much about other than it was a lot of farmland and one old house still standing.

Brad is a friend of my brothers who I had never met before. Gypsy and I absolutely fell in love with him and his family who joined us on our metal detecting

adventure. We started at the old house where the whole side yard has been turned into field for planting so we decided to start there. I showed Brad how *Driving around the fields in a UTV sure made finding potential new sites much quicker than walking!*



to use my Tesoro Mojave and turned him loose. He showed the kids how it worked and before I knew it his teen daughter was using it. I believe it was their third hole she found a large cent!

I'm going to be really honest here, I was torn! On one hand I was so excited for her but on the other... I sure wanted to



Brads daughter proudly showing off her very first Large Cent!

see Gypsy find a large cent! It made my day though seeing Gypsy so happy for her! She stopped metal detecting to get pictures and a video with her find and it was absolutely incredible!

We all got back to metal detecting once the excitement was over. As I walked along, I wondered "is there another large cent here" and suddenly Gypsy was all kinds of excited and yelled for us to come over, sure enough, she finally found her large cent!

I can't tell you how relieved I was! I knew Gypsy had so much fun each and every hunt and to spend time in Ohio but it



Both of the Large cents found that day! Gypsy's is the 1845 on the right!

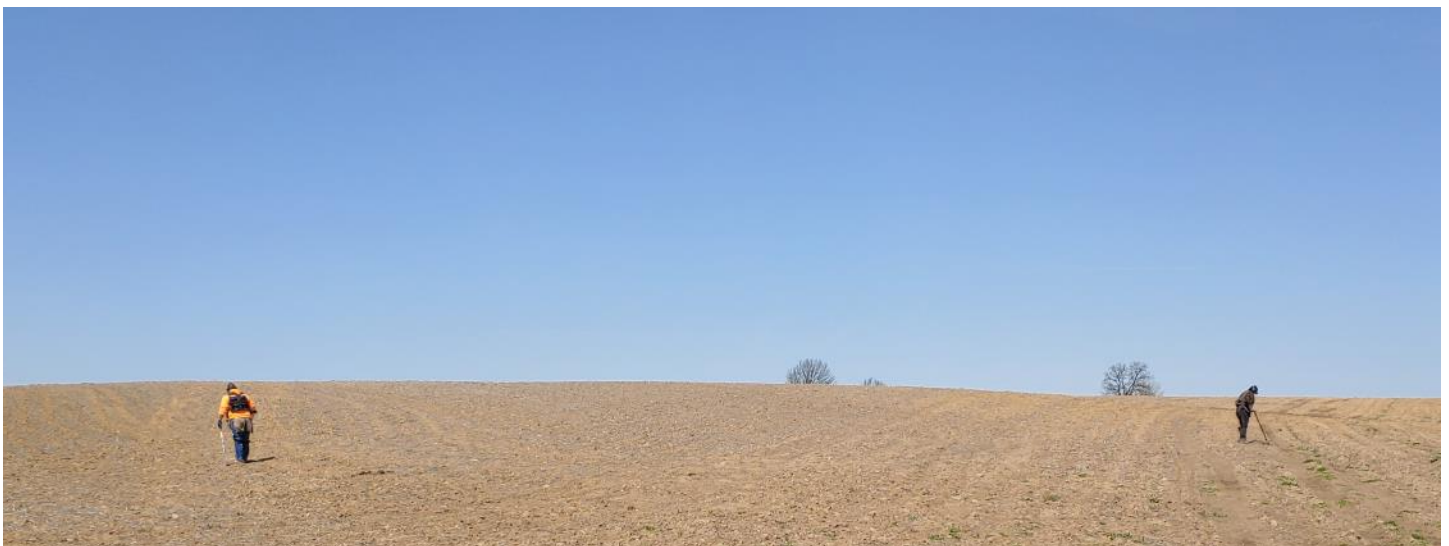
was icing on the cake to finally get to watch her find a bucket lister!

While touring the property I thought we were on the edge of a possible other site earlier so I decided to run out in that field and see if I could confirm it. Sure enough

there was another site, a huge debris area with lots of pottery, brick and glass. I didn't hunt that one much but did manage a few more keepers before I handed over my metal detector to the kids who were having so much fun!

After a few more hours Brad and I went exploring once again and found another possible site where I found a button and Gypsy found a musket ball before it was time to call it a day.

Whenever I get to spend time with people in this hobby, I always enjoy myself no matter what I might find. Getting to spend 3 days with my good friend Gypsy and Donnie was amazing. Getting to see Brads kids get hooked on metal detecting and spending time with his family enjoying the hobby made it a weekend I will never forget!



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Interview with Steve Moore

*Accomplished Author, Long Time Detectorist and
the Marketing Director for Garrett Metal Detectors*

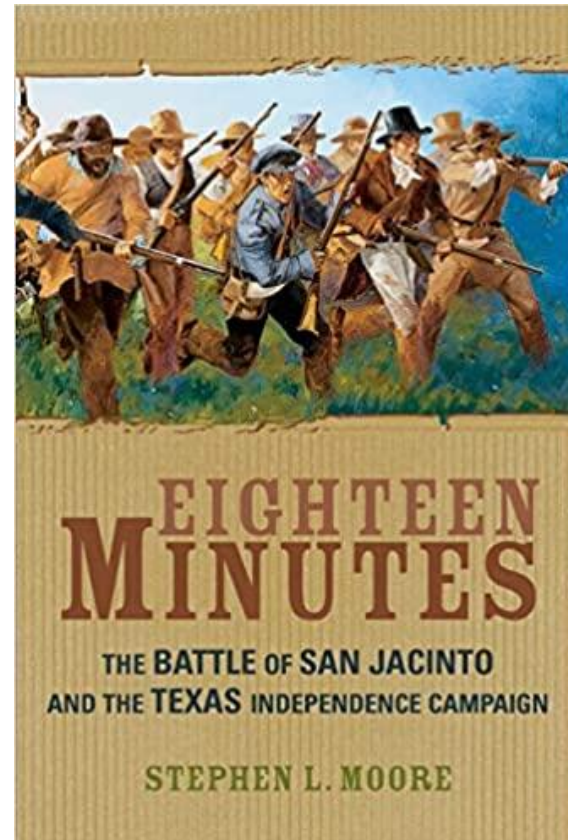
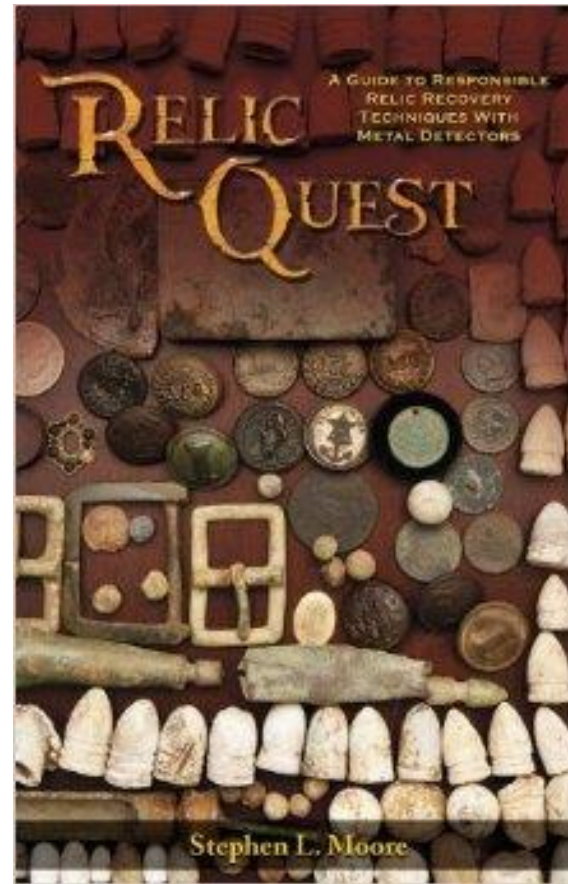
Dirt Digest: I knew you were the marketing director for Garrett metal detectors and an avid detectorist but I recently found out you are also an accomplished author. Can you share with us how you got started writing and talk about your career as an author?

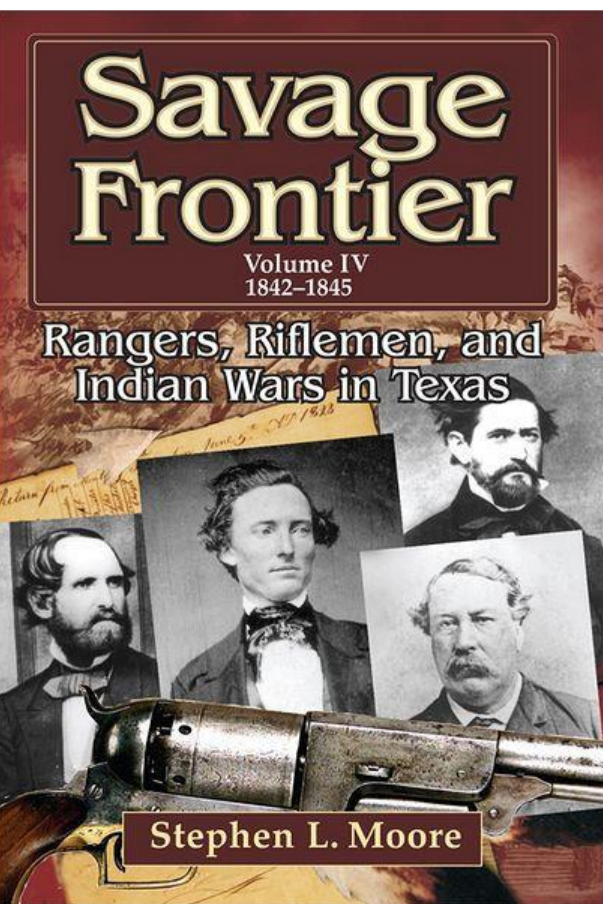
I've been an avid writer since I was a kid and did some journalism in college back in the 1980s. But I didn't get around to publishing my first book until 1996. It was a World War II carrier squadron history. One of the veterans, Bob Gruebel, was a professor at SFA where I went to school.

Long story short, I've continued to research and write non-fiction books on subjects that interest me. A good number of them have been WWII military history and almost an equal number have been early Republic of Texas history. I did a four-volume series called Savage Frontier about the Texas Indian wars that were fought by Texas Rangers, Texas Militia, and Texas Army forces. I have ancestors on both sides. I have a little Cherokee blood and I have great-great-great grandfathers that served in the Rangers and who fought for Texas independence.

Dirt Digest: From what I can tell you have written 20 books and every one of them I would be interested in reading but especially the two on metal detecting. Can you tell us a little about those?

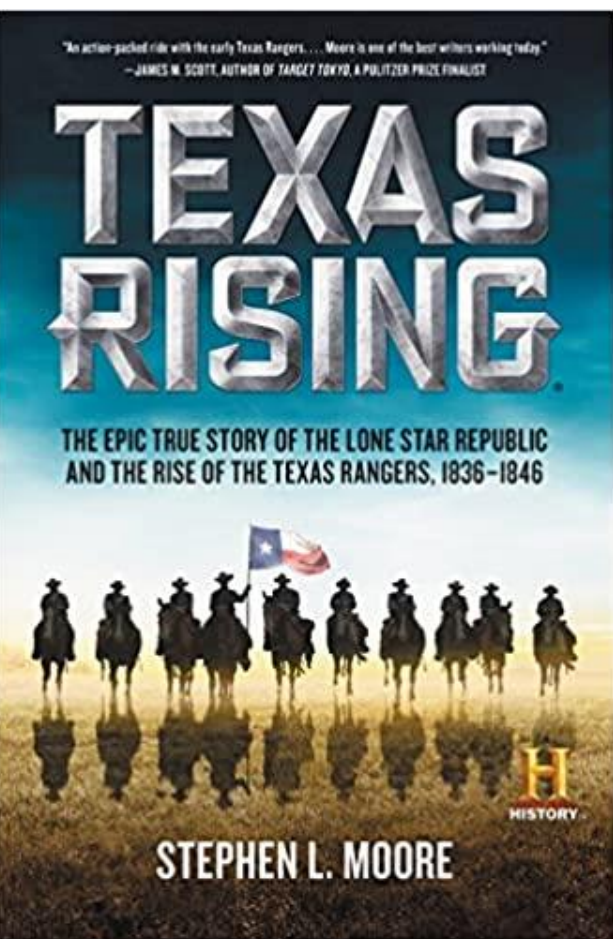
I've actually done three books for Garrett that involve both history and metal detecting. One was





on European treasure hunting. It gave a lot of basics, covered some of the laws that are in play for those who detect in Europe, and had chapters showing lots of photos of the types of artifacts and coins you can find over there.

Relic Quest was a lengthier book that gave a lot of tips and pointers on how to relic hunt with metal detectors. One chapter talks about how detectors work. Others give advice on research, preparation, and other techniques, based on the type of relic hunting a person is interested in. I leaned heavily on subject matter experts for that one—veteran treasure hunters who have been doing it far longer than me in their areas of specialty (water hunting, Civil War, colonial, etc.).



The third one was Last Stand of the Texas Cherokees. It's more of a history of Chief Bowles and his tribe coming into Texas and then their battles against Texas military forces when our government decided to drive them out. Bowles was killed in July 1839 on the Neches River while fighting against the Texian forces. In the last part of the book, I returned to the battleground with a group of detecting friends to dig up artifacts. We donated a bunch of relics both to the Cherokees who preserve that piece of land and to the Texas Ranger Museum in Waco, Texas.

Dirt Digest: Can we expect any other metal detecting books from you in the future?

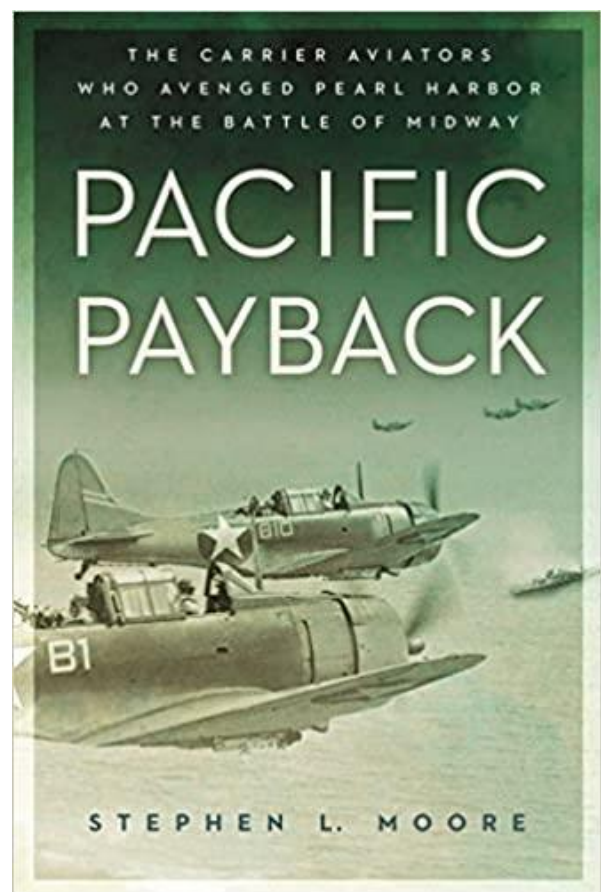
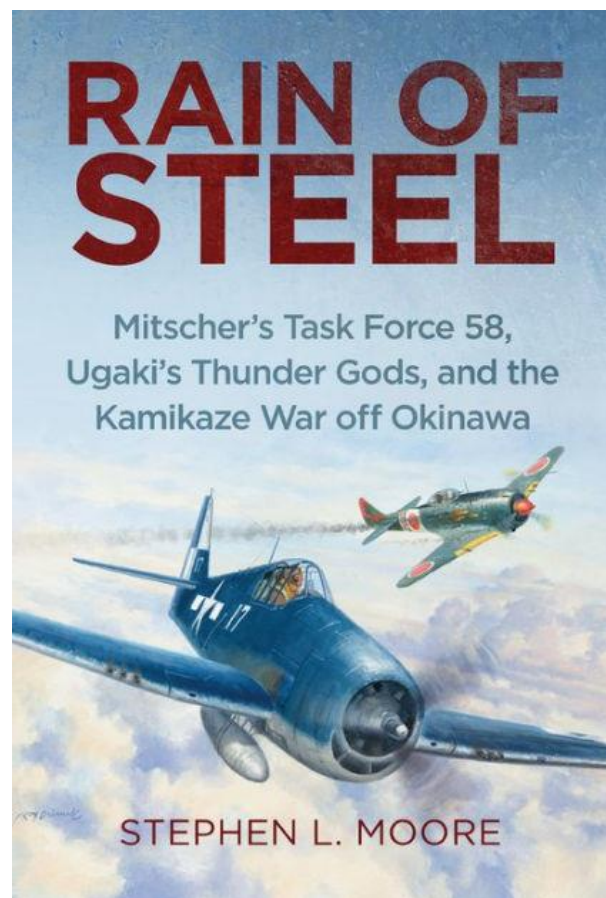
It's always possible. I could see myself doing an update relic hunting book one day down the road, but I don't have anything cooking immediately. I still have a couple more World War II titles I'm currently editing and writing.

Dirt Digest: Looking through your titles I have to imagine your love of history is what got you into metal detecting. How long have you been metal detecting?

I've really only been into heavily the past sixteen years since I came on with Garrett. One of my cousins had an older Garrett in the 1980s I tried out a little bit, but I was too distracted in those days to really take it up. Charles Garrett always encouraged our Marketing team to get out in the field and learn all the machines, and listen to the customers. So, I've always tried to follow that advice. Visiting different regions and even different countries certainly helps to understand the many different types of challenges that detectorists can face in their searches.

Dirt Digest: This issue's theme is the Civil War. Do you have a metal detecting story or find you can share with us on the subject? (We were hoping to get this article in the March 2021 issue but due to unforeseen circumstances it didn't make it)

Sure, I can share a few photos with you. Over the years, I've been able to attend a number of different organized Civil War hunts in Virginia and





South Carolina. There, you have the chance to find buttons, bullets, and other relics from that era.

It took me many trips to find my first US belt plate, but I'll always remember that day. We were on an old farm in Virginia that had been hunted before. But the farmer gave us permission, and the rest is history. I heard a good, higher tone signal that was certainly something I would dig. But I suspected it was a nice colonial copper coin, or something else. It was actually standing on edge in the dirt, so it presented a smaller target signal than it would if it was lying flat. But as soon as dug out a plug and saw the edge of it down in the hole, I knew exactly what it was.

Dirt Digest: Can you share with us a few of your favorite finds and what is it about them that make them special to you?

To me, some of the most special finds are ones where I have family history on the site. For example, I've dug with archaeologists on the San Jacinto battleground. We, of course, could not

keep any musket balls or brass artifacts we found, but it was a thrill because these were things that had not seen the light of day since my ancestors fought there.

My first gold coin, an 1851 one-dollar coin, is certainly a favorite. I found that on an old plantation in Virginia. I dug an 8-reale Spanish silver in Missouri one time that was pretty exciting. I think any time you dig a significant first, or bucket lister, you'll always remember that one.

Dirt Digest: Can you tell us your favorite metal detecting story?

That's a tough one to pick a favorite, but one from last year was a lot of fun. I was in Florida walking down the beach with my wife before sunset. I noticed another couple and their friends frantically digging and searching for something lost. I knew immediately they had lost a ring or something valuable. Sure enough, the man had lost his wedding ring while throwing a football with his buddies.

Long story short, I offered to jog back to our room and retrieve my Garrett detector. I was able to find his ring on the edge of the wet sand before the tide finished coming in and before it was too dark to see. I didn't take anything for it. The joy I saw in their faces was more than I could ask for.



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Forty Years of Paid Detector Hunts

ARTICLE BY: Rich Creason

I bought my first metal detector in 1974. As I drove to work every day, I passed a shop which sold detectors. After many days looking at the sign, I pulled in the driveway and walked out with my first machine. I think it was a White's Coinmaster IV. It held 14 AA batteries and weighed a ton. I used it several times in our yard, found some new coins, a few bottle caps, and other assorted junk. Like many other new owners, my detector quickly went into the closet.

Then, in 1974, I picked up a Western and Eastern Treasures magazine in the grocery. (I paid for it.). When looking through it, I saw the Calendar of Events page. It listed a treasure hunt at the

North 40 Campground across from the airport in Chesterfield, IN. I didn't know what they did at these events, but it sounded like fun. The cost for the two-day hunt was \$10.

“We went to Kentucky, then, Illinois. Michigan was next, and Ohio after that”

I drove the 10 miles from our house on the designated Saturday, hunted the fields with maybe 50 other participants, and came home with a lot of neat coins and some prizes I had won with tokens buried in the ground. Susie and our four-year-old daughter, Angi, came back to watch me on the second day. Again, I



“Geode hunting, gold panning, and movies and bingo at night filled the week”

found many silver coins, and a few more prizes. One of the prizes was for a \$40 entry into the First Annual Great Texas Hunt. I knew I wouldn't be going to that event, so I sold it to someone for \$25. My total for the two-day hunt was something over \$150 worth of money and prizes. I told Susie, “They have another one of these things next weekend near Seymour, IN at Wray's Treasure Shop and we are going!”

It was about 100 drive with an overnight stay. I spent the week buying a tent, sleeping bags, and assorted other stuff for our first campout with a youngster. One of several hunts on the first day was a partner's hunt. One paid entrant used the detector and located the target, while the other non-paid person had to dig it up. Somehow, we ended up in second place and won a silver half dollar each. I also picked up a hunt flyer for the following weekend in Kentucky. Susie told me if we were going to do this every week, I had to walk over to the shop and buy her a detector. We also bought one

for Angi. (I have since bought numerous detectors at Wray's shop.)

As it turned out, back in the 70's, there was a treasure hunt almost every weekend, all summer, within driving distance. We went to Kentucky, then, Illinois. Michigan was next, and Ohio after that. We joined several metal detecting clubs along the way. The Trove Hunters were out of Pekin, IL and they had a spring and fall hunt we attended. The following year, on Wray's property, there was a weekend hunt, followed by another the next weekend. This continued for a couple years. Many folks took their vacation and stayed the week between



the two hunts. Geode hunting, gold panning, and movies and bingo at night filled the week. Soon, detector hunts were held every day and the event was known as Treasure Week and became an annual event. It was the first thing on our calendar when new ones came out.

“We bought our grandson, Benjamin, his first machine when he was five”

We started expanding our travels. We went to events in New York, South Carolina, Alabama, Wisconsin, Florida, Texas, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Mississippi, Virginia, and even Ontario,

Canada, while continuing to go to ones closer to home. Our tent was upgraded to a camper truck, a used motorhome, then, a new motorhome.

Treasure Week exploded to over 400 people and outgrew the small area where it began. It moved to Shreve, Ohio, until difficulties with the campground where the event was held forced another move to Pennsylvania. At that time, the event split and Starve Hollow Recreation Area near Vallonia, IN began holding the weeklong Treasure Fest every year. Some folks spend the week in PA, then, traveled over to IN to attend the other one.



“We detect with one man in his early 90’s. Somehow, when we count our targets after the hunt is over, he still beats me”

We also started expanding our detector collection. Like most guys, when a new toy comes out, they have to have it. So I bought several new detectors. At the many hunts we attended, almost all offered one or more new detectors as tokens which were buried in the ground. Susie and I won several. Angi was getting older and she also won three new detectors. We bought our grandson, Benjamin, his first machine when he was five. At 15 now, he has five machines, of which he won three. At one point, Susie and I had 23 detectors. When someone asked why so many, I replied, “You can have an adjustable wrench, or you can have a set of wrenches.” Many of our detectors do different things.

At 74, with a bad back and numerous other major health problems, my digging at these events has slowed. Attending them has not. We still travel hundreds of miles to attend a one-day event. We especially enjoy going to Civil War relic hunts in Texas, Mississippi, and Virginia.

While Angi has to work and can’t go with us often anymore, Benjamin goes to Treasure Fest in the summer with us and any of the Civil War relic hunts when he is not in school.

When I look at my seven plus decades of age, and start to think about slowing down, I just look around at these events. Many of the hunters are older than I am, some much older. We detect with one man in his early 90’s. Somehow, when we count our targets after the hunt is over, he still beats me.

We are always looking for new events which we have not attended. If any of you clubs have hunts out there, put me on your mailing list. Hopefully, in 2028, Wray’s Treasure Shop will still be holding detecting events, and I will be able to attend my 50th year. If I can’t hunt, I can still watch Benjamin carry on the family tradition.

The author may be reached at eyewrite4u@aol.com.

Treasure's From The Dirt



Rare 1875 Arkansas State Seal Militia Staff Button. 1893 Chicago worlds fair souvenir and Arkansas plate found on same property.

Found by: Craig Burns



INTERVIEW WITH

HISTORY DOES NOT DESERVE TO BE LEFT IN THE DIRT

FINDER BINDERS





Dirt Digest: How did you get started and how long have you been metal detecting?

My father and uncles are all detectorists. They all have different personalities. My father Steve is more like the "pirate". My uncle Brian is more of the old relic and coin hunter. And my Uncle Bill is the enthusiast. He just loves finding anything really. I was exposed to a wide variety of information at an early age. However I didn't start swinging until 2015. That is when we started Flnder Binders Metal Detecting. It was to bring our family closer and share the passion that is metal detecting with others through our motto. Preserve History, Protect the Environment & Educate the Public.



Since then I have made some great friends, and found some things to be very proud of. I am very grateful, and maybe somewhat lucky.

Dirt Digest: What metal detectors have you used and currently using?

When I first started I tried out my fathers Whites Spectrum XLT. I found some modern silvers and was instantly bit by the Treasure



Bug. I got a Garrett At Pro in 2015. Then I got a Garrett AT MAX. I currently use a Minelab Equinox 800.

I would have to say I do not favor brands particularly, I like to believe that there is a tool for every job. I am always interested in

learning about new tech.

Dirt Digest: What's your favorite type of metal detecting?

I very much enjoy hunting in old farm fields. Esepceially when the field has been plowed or deep disked. Relics and coins excite me very much. I love large copper coins. On occasion, I will rescue a Native American artifact as well. No matter how much a farm has been detected. Once it has been re-plowed it seems to always be plentiful. I must be fascinated with the idea that a farm field can never be fully hunted out.

Dirt Digest: Tell us about some of your favorite finds and why they are your favorite.

One of my favorite finds is a 1787 NJ



Copper 38-Y variety. I learned what type of variety it was by joining a local metal detecting club in NJ. The day that I found it was a day that I will never forget. I also found a Large Cent, KG, also that day. The NJ Copper was the last find. I was so excited I was shaking. I had to stop for the day because I didn't think my heart could handle any more excitement.



Another favorite find would have to be a Native American Axe head. I was in a field that was recently plowed metal detecting and noticed something sticking out of the ground from afar. Curiously I approached the strange object and unearthed it to learn that it was completely intact. I was so happy because it could have been very well destroyed by the plow. I often feel a special connection when coming across

artifacts. And I am honored to rescue them.



Recently I unearthed a Chinese coin from the 1700's in NJ. It was on a farm that just so happened to be near an old rail road. For those who do not know, the Chinese helped build our rail road systems. Sometimes you almost feel



like a detective when researching a find. I get great joy in learning and educating about the things being found. You never know what will come out of the ground.

Dirt Digest: Can you share with us some of your favorite metal detecting stories?

When I metal detect I like to have a ritual or something that I believe that will assist me in rescuing history. I have a crotal bell that I

will bring with me and ring for good luck. If I see a feather on the ground I pick it up. I like to pay attention to wildlife like hawks and foxes as I believe they can lead or change my direction in an effort to rescue something of importance. I keep my hair long because I like to believe it is a spiritual antenna. Sometimes I will get a feeling and I will act on it, like detecting at the highest elevation of the field, or walking in the direction of a really old tree. I also like to pray to the metal detecting gods to give me strength and the ability to successfully rescue history.

Dirt Digest: Can you give us a few metal detecting tips?

If you are new to metal detecting, be sure to find a mentor or join a metal detecting club. There is a wealth of knowledge you can gain that can ultimately better your detecting experience. Be sure to help others that show an interest in the hobby





and try to be a great ambassador for your passion.

Always fill in your holes and take your trash with you. We do not want to see any person or animal hurting themselves due to carelessness. Taking your trash with you is not only great for the environment, but if you save your metals you can scrap them for extra money. Plus when you go back to metal detect there will be less obstacles in your way to find more fantastic items!

Mental health is very important. I cannot stress this enough. The plus side to detecting is being out into nature. This is one of the purest forms of therapy. Be sure to take the time to take breaks, properly hydrate and enjoy nature in its beautiful splendor. Your mind, body and soul will thank you later. Finding friends in the metal detecting community is important. They are very supportive and will always want to hear from

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General



Announcements

13 Topics · 21 Posts



Introduce Yourself

tell us where you're from, detector(s) you use, what type of metal detecting you enjoy etc.

12 Topics · 51 Posts



General Discussion

metal detecting & treasure hunting related

16 Topics · 65 Posts



Feedback

Do you have suggestions on how we can make the podcast, website or forum better?

2 Topics · 3 Posts

Metal Detecting



Coin Shooting

7 Topics · 69 Posts



Relic Hunting

13 Topics · 67 Posts



Beach & Shallow Water Detecting

4 Topics · 10 Posts



Cache & Treasure Hunting

2 Topics · 4 Posts



Gold Prospecting

0 Topics · 0 Posts

Treasure's From The Dirt



Virginia Style cast CSA belt buckle I dug. Overjoyed, to say the least. I dug this Virginia Style CSA buckle on private property near the Chickamauga Battlefield. The area was possibly used as a Confederate camp, due to the other relics found nearby. This was a "Bucket Lister" for sure. Needless to say, I will be back there again soon! This was found with my new Nokta Marko Simplex + detector. I have been very pleased with this new machine.

Found by: Ronald Slatton



Civil War Detecting Site Leads

From the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion

Article by: Dorian Cook



WHY CIVIL WAR LEADS WILL BE A REGULAR FEATURE IN DIRT DIGEST...

After 45 years of Civil War relic hunting with a metal detector, I still know of no better source for outstanding leads on the location of Civil War battle and camp sites that can possibly be found than the "O.R.'s, as we relic hunters call them for short."

The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, comprise 128 very big volumes that contain all the officers of both sides battle reports and other war related correspondence that could be found and gathered up after the Civil War and published for use by the general public.

These records contain literally hundreds of thousands of clues to where units of both armies camped and how and exactly where they fought in over 22,000 known battles and skirmishes. Many of these

sites have not yet even been found by detectorists... or historians. But... THEY CAN BE! Diligent research in the O.R.'s followed up by common sense searching for them in the field can still pay off big time by rewarding the detectorist with previously un-detected sites sometimes containing thousands of historic and valuable relics. If discretion is used by the finder, these sites can often provide years of profitable and highly enjoyable discoveries with a metal detector.

Naturally, it is not within our power to either guarantee these sites have not been previously found or hunted or that permission to hunt them can be obtained from the site owners. We can tell you, however, from our own past experience in researching the O.R.'s that the odds are very good that a number

of these leads will lead you to some great detecting sites that can be hunted, if you persevere. Even if several do not pan out for you, keep hunting for more and the odds are high that you will find and obtain access to some great detecting sites... and when you do... they will provide you with MANY enjoyable outings with your metal detector.

Each month, I will give a lead from the O.R.'s for six different states involved in the Civil War. I will highlight in yellow the parts of these reports that show potential for relic hunting opportunities. Once we have covered all the states, I will go back to the first six states and start with new leads and continue rotating the states mentioned in each issue.

Please feel free to submit questions or comments about this new feature to us here at the magazine. We would love to hear from those who find good sites from these leads and especially to see good relic finds they make on them.

This month's leads are drawn from the states of Maryland

South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama and Missouri

Let's get started:

LEAD #1 - MARYLAND



Numbers 198. Report of Lieutenant Henry M. Binney, Tenth Maine Infantry, aide-decamp of operations at Harper's Ferry September 1-15.

HARPER'S FERRY, September 18, 1862.

GENERAL: I have the honor to submit to you the following report of occurrences and events at Harper's Ferry, va., behavior of artillerist, of Dixon S. Miles, colonel Second Infantry, U. S. Army, from the 1st day of September and ending with the fall of Colonel Miles, on Monday, September 15, 1862, from an abbreviated journal, kept each day by Lieutenant H. M. Binney, aide-de-camp:

WRITER'S NOTE: The entire report is too long to print here so I picked a part of it that talks about lesser-known Civil War battles/actions in Maryland. Here is the

link to the full report should you wish to follow-up on it. [War of the Rebellion: Serial 027 Page 0532 OPERATIONS IN N. VA., W. VA., MD., PA. Chapter XXXI. | eHISTORY \(osu.edu\)](#)

Wednesday, September 10, 1862.-Captain Russell, First Maryland Cavalry, reports his dash on Frederick, what he did, and what he saw. One column of the enemy appears to be moving toward Baltimore, on Georgetown turnpike; the other moving toward Frederick City, from the Potomac. General White, at Martinsburg, writes: "The enemy will be whipped in Maryland, and we will be gobbled up in their retreat." Colonel Davis, Eighth New York Cavalry, made a reconnaissance toward Winchester to-day, but saw no enemy. Colonel Downey, Third Maryland, scouts with a squad of Captain Shamburg's cavalry into Maryland; meets the enemy near Boonsborough, Md., 1,500 strong. Downey has but 19 cavalry, and bodily dashes into the enemy, who are composed of infantry, artillery, and cavalry. So suddenly does he come upon them that they are thrown into utter confusion, but soon rally on ascertaining Downey's small party, and charge on him with their cavalry. Colonel Downey's horse killed, and himself

wounded in the head; thinks he killed 9 or 10 of the enemy, and he lost himself but 1 killed and 3 wounded. Colonel Miles' staff (Major McIlvaine, Lieutenant Binney, and Lieutenant Willmon) visit the lookout or observatory on Maryland Heights. We see no indications of the enemy in any direction.

Thursday, September 11, 1862.- Colonel Miles and staff visit Maryland Heights. The enemy make their appearance at Solomon's Gap; cavalry go out to feel them and their intentions; reported in large force. Colonel Miles orders a strong picket force in that direction. Solomon's Gap is the key to Antietam Ford, on Potomac; also to Maryland Heights. The enemy advance in large force into Pleasant Valley, eastern slope Maryland Heights. They shell our pickets from Solomon's Gap, and advance in such force as to drive back our pickets. Quiet during the night; a general attack expected along our whole eastern front in morning. General White writes he is entirely surrounded. Colonel Miles sends him employ cars for his baggage; his baggage arrives here at midnight.

Friday, September 12, 1862.-Enemy advance during the night and throw into the woods up the eastern slope of

Maryland Heights three whole brigades of infantry; musketry firing most all day. Captain McGrath opens his big guns in the direction of Solomon's Gap. The enemy advancing at Solomon's Gap; they throw thirty-eight shells into servatory, but we repulse them with severe loss. Colonel Miles re-enforces the heights by sending Downey's Third Maryland Regiment. Our men hold the lookout all night. Colonel Miles directs Colonel Ford to hold these heights at all hazards, and he will send him another regiment, if wanted. Colonel Miles and Lieutenant Binney visit the outposts. General White arrives from Martinsburg. General White generously gives up all claims to command to Colonel Miles. Colonel Miles accepts. General White tenders his services to Colonel Miles. Colonel Miles issues a general orders accepting the trust, and orders that the troops will obey implicitly all orders given by General White. A general attack expected at all points at daybreak.

Saturday, September 13, 1862.-The ball opens early by Captain McGrath on Maryland Heights; throws his shells into the gap and along edge of mountain with effect. The enemy gain ground in the woods; Colonel Ford calls for re-

enforcement. One hundred and twenty-sixth Enemy press on; the One hundred and twenty-sixth New York break and fall back; Colonel Shrill, while bravely rallying them, is wounded in the face, and they become panic-stricken. Colonel Miles and staff go upon the heights; his staff officers rally two or three companies of the One hundred and twenty-sixth New York. The regiment partially rally under the exertions of a meritorious officer of the regiment, First Lieutenant Samuel A. Barras, but again get the panic and retreat. Colonel Miles orders Colonel Ford, and if he can send him any more reinforcements he will do so, provided he is not attacked on Bolivar in front. Enemy extend their lines to the Potomac. Colonel Ford fearful he cannot hold the heights, Colonel Miles tells him; "You can and you must." The panic became so great in the One hundred and twenty-sixth New York that Colonel Ford could do nothing with them. The Garibaldians were ordered by Colonel Miles' aide to bayonet the panic-stricken men if they attempted to break through the Garibaldians' lines. Much praise is due the gallant Garibaldians, who were under their major, for their steadiness and discipline. Also the Thirty-second Ohio Volunteers deserve credit. Captain McGrath, commanding big guns,

keeps up a constant cannonading. Captain Graham, with his 20-pounder Parrotts, on Camp Hill, also rapidly uses his effective guns on the rebels in the woods on Maryland Heights. The cannonading is tremendous since 2 p. m. Colonel Miles still hopes for assistance, but still determined to hold on until his last shell has been fired. Our subsistence short; our long-range ammunition exhausted almost, hardly enough for another day's defense. The enemy open about 11 o'clock a. m. on the Charlestown pike with two batteries; they are replied to by Rigby's and Von Sehlen's batteries. The cannonading is now terrific. Colonel Miles expressed a wish that he could be everywhere at the same time. General White was active, directing movements on the left. Enemy open still another battery upon Bolivar Heights. Colonel Miles, Lieutenant Binney, aide-de-camp, and Lieutenant Willmon, aide-de-camp, again visit Bolivar Heights; find General White active. He sends Captain Rigby, with two pieces of artillery out on Charlestown road to play upon the enemy, putting a battery in position near Halltown. An officer overtakes Colonel Miles, from Colonel Ford, on Maryland Heights, who informs Colonel Miles that Ford says his

regiment won't fight, and he cannot hold the heights. He sends back word that he can and he must Colonel Miles afterward wrote the following letter, which was the last order given by him in regard to that position:



LEAD #2 – SOUTH CAROLINA

HDQRS. SECOND Brigadier, SECOND DIV.,
15TH ARMY CORPS, OFFICE ACTING
ASSISTANT INSPECTOR-GENERAL,
Goldsborough, N. C., March 31, 1864.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to submit the following record of events of the Second Brigade, Second Division, Fifteenth Army Corps, from the 15th to the 31st of March, 1865:

March 16, marched 9 a. m. on the Goldsborough road; crossed South River; camped at Ray's Store 5 p. m.; marched

eight miles. March 17, marched 9 a. m. on the Goldsborough road; camped 3 p. m. at Clinton Cross-Roads; marched six miles. March 18, marched 6 a. m. on the Goldsborough road; crossed Great Cohear River 9 a. m. ; left the Goldsborough road 11 a. m., turning to the right and moving down the Clinton road; camped 12 m. near Troublefield's Store; marched twelve miles. March 19, marched 12 m. ; left the Clinton road, turning to the left, taking the Goldsborough road to Cox's Bridge; moved in rear of corps, and about 10 p. m. received orders to return on the road just marched over and join Slocum's command on the upper road to Goldsborough, near Mill Creek, where they had become hotly engaged with the enemy; joined the Left Wing at daylight; marched twenty-two miles. March 20, remained in reserve near Fourteenth Army Corps, March 21, marched 12 m. and took up a position on the extreme left of the Army of the Tennessee; built a line of works within 400 yards of the enemy's main line, and that, too, under a severe fire from the enemy's skirmishers; lost 2 men killed and 11 wounded. March 22, enemy evacuated their liens last night and our skirmishers occupied their works at daylight ; picked up three rebel

stragglers; marched at 12 m. in the direction of Goldsborough; camped 6 p. m. ; marched eight miles. March 23, marched 6. 30 a. m. on the Goldsborough road; camped 10 a. m... marched eight miles. March 24, marched 7 a. m. for Goldsborough; crossed Neuse River at railroad bridge on pontoons; camped near Goldsborough, N. C., 1 p. m., where the command remained to present date; marched eight miles.



LEAD #3 – GEORGIA

Numbers 3. Report of Brigadier General Absalom Baird, U. S. Army, commanding Third Division, Fourteenth Army Corps.

HDQRS. THIRD DIVISION, FOURTEENTH CORPS,

Ringgold, Ga., April 29, 1864.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that having learned yesterday from General Kilpatrick that he had received from General Thomas directions to attack and harass the pickets of the enemy as much as possible, and finding him, and indeed the whole of his command, from their recent arrival here, ignorant of the county and of the position of the enemy's troops, I thought that a proposition made by him to drive down impetuously upon the direct road to Tunnel Hill, surprising the pickets and reserves, and chasing them as far as possible, even into the headquarters of General Wheeler if he could, promised more for a first attempt than anything else.

I concurred in it, and to make him the more secure in case the rebels should turn upon him with very superior force, I sent Colonel Van Derveer along with four regiments and a section of artillery as a support. General Kilpatrick took out about 500 men. They came upon the enemy's pickets just before daybreak and drove them back, but immediately on reaching the woods found the road so heavily blockaded with trees that speed was impossible. Behind these

fallen trees the rebels took refuge and fired upon our advance, but gradually they were driven back nearly to Terrill's house, the same obstruction in the road continuing all the way.

The delay necessary to our advance permitted the rebels to collect and confront us with a force much superior to ours, including the infantry, which was up in line with the cavalry, and General Kilpatrick thought it proper to withdraw. He was not disturbed in this until he reached the open fields near Davis' house, when the rebels charged upon his rear. Quite a brisk skirmish ensued, but the enemy was driven back into the woods and our men quietly retired.

The enemy then resumed his former picket-line. We have had 10 men wounded, 2 perhaps fatally, and we know that we killed at least 2 or 3 of the enemy and captured 1.

We have learned the fact of the road being blockaded, and that the number of mounted men in our immediate front is still large; and above all the expedition has put increased confidence into our men.

General Kilpatrick has not yet had time to

make me a written report.

The official reports of the affair at Nickajack were sent by Colonel Murray direct to General Elliott, and are no doubt in the possession of the major-general commanding. For this reason I have added nothing to my first report of that transaction.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. BAIRD,

Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Brigadier General W. D. WHIPPLE,

Chief of Staff.



LEAD #4 – Mississippi

APRIL 25-29, 1863. -Expedition to Hard Times Landing, La., with skirmishes (26th) at Phelps' and Clark's Bayous, and (28th) at Choctaw Bayou, or Lake Bruin.

Report of Colonel James Keigwin, Forty-

NINTH Indiana Infantry, commanding Detachment of NINTH DIVISION, Thirteenth Army Corps. *

BIG BLACK RIVER BRIDGE, MISS., May 30, 1863.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to submit the following report:

On April 24, I received orders to be in readiness to command a distance of the NINTH DIVISION, for the purpose of making a reconnaissance on the Lake Saint Joseph road to a point opposite the mouth of Bayou Pierre, for the purpose of ascertaining whether a practicable road could be found at or near that point that would let us in position on the flank or in rear of Grand Gulf; also for the purpose of capturing or dispersing the command of Major [I. F.] Harrison, which was on this road.

On the morning of the 25th, at 6 o'clock, I left camp at Perkins' plantation, La. The detachment consisted of the Forty-NINTH Indiana Volunteers, Lieutenant-Colonel Thornton commanding; One hundred and fourteenth Ohio, Colonel Cradlebaugh; a detachment of the SECOND Illinois Cavalry, Major Bush commanding, and one section of Captain

Lanphere's Michigan battery, Lieutenant Stillman commanding. We moved on the Lake Saint Joseph road about 4 miles; we came to Holt's Bayou, and found that the rebels had burned the bridge. I detailed 100 men from each of the infantry regiments to assist Lieutenant-Colonel Beekman, of the One hundred and twentieth Ohio Infantry, who had been sent with us for the purpose of building bridges.

We soon had our men at work, and in a few hours had a bridge across the bayou, which was about 80 feet wide. I moved the cannon across and marched about 1 mile, and came to Durassett Bayou, which is about 120 feet wide, and was bank-full, with a stiff current. The bridge having been burned by the rebels a few days before, I detailed Lieutenant James Fullyard, of the Forty-NINTH Indiana Volunteers, to superintend the building of the bridge, which I found would have to be well built, on account of the strength of the current and width of the stream, and by the skillful management and industry of Lieutenant Fullyard and his men he completed the bridge that night and had all things ready for us to cross next morning.

At 5 o'clock on the morning of the 26th,

we crossed the bridge and moved on. I left a guard of 1 sergeant and 10 men at each bridge to prevent any small party of the rebels from destroying them. We marched about 5 miles over a beautiful road, and came in sight of Phelps' Bayou, where we found the bridge had just been burned, and a rebel picket standing on the opposite side of the bayou, and between this and Clark's Bayou, which was only about 400 yards distant, on the opposite side of which I discovered Major Harrison's command, consisting of about 400 cavalry and four pieces of artillery. My advance guard fired a few shots at the rebel pickets, which drove them from the neck of land between the two bayous. I ordered my artillery forward, and threw a few shells into the rebel camp, which caused them to saddle up and leave in the greatest confusion. They left a few dismounted men under the cover of a hedge near the bank of the bayou, who kept up a fire on us until I sent two companies of infantry across to drive them away, which caused quite a skirmish, lasting about one hour. The two companies of infantry finally succeeded in driving them from their cover, with a loss, on the part of the rebels, of 1 man.

As soon as the skirmishers were over, I

immediately prepared to build the two bridges, which I found would take a great deal longer than it had to build the two formed ones, as the bayous were much wider and current much stronger. I detailed Captain Peckinpaugh, of the Forty-NINTH Indiana Volunteers, to superintend the building of these bridges, and I must compliment him for the good judgment displayed in working his men to the best advantage. We were not so well supplied with tools as we should have been for the task, and had not a rope or anything necessary for building the bridges after they were put in the stream. I detailed a few men from the cavalry, who in a short time, from their experience in foraging, had a supply of ropes and tools. It required all of the 26th and 27th to complete these two bridges.

I sent Major Hawke, with two companies of the Forty-NINTH Indiana and two from the One hundred and fourteenth Ohio, to cross Clark's Bayou and make a reconnaissance a few miles in our front, which he did in a successful manner. He found that Harrison had left the road to Hard Times Landing and crossed Choctaw Bayou, which empties into Lake Bruin about 2 miles from the road that

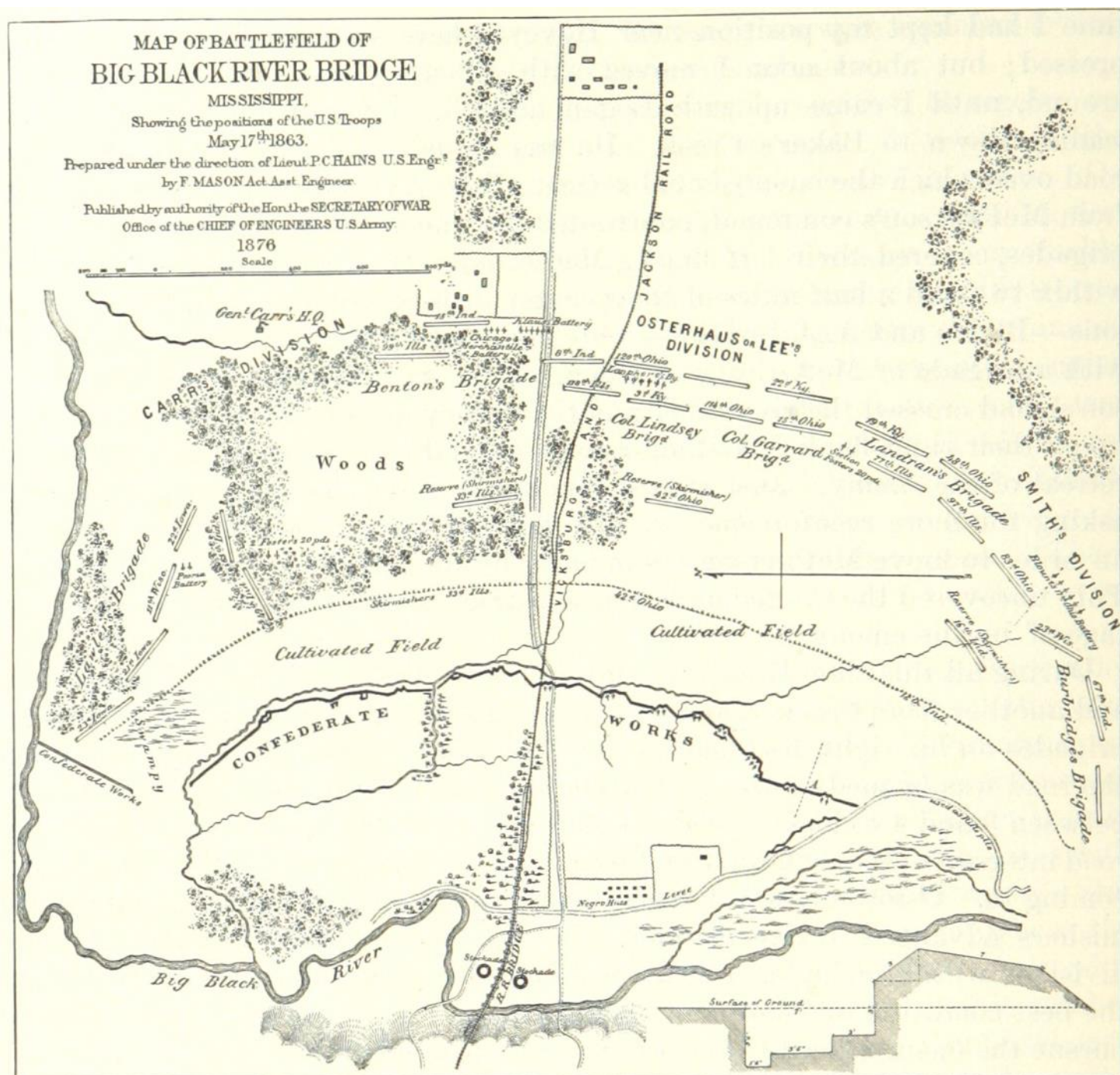
we were to march on the next day.

We completed the bridges on the 27th, and I received orders from you to be at Hard Times Landing early the next day.

I left our bivouac on the morning of the 28th, leaving a sergeant and 10 men at each of the bridges as a guard. I sent two companies of cavalry, under command of Major Marsh, to leave the road and find out whether Harrison was still in the position he held the evening previous. I soon received word from him that he had found the enemy, and that he could not move him from the point he held. I immediately sent Major Bush in that direction. He had not been gone but a short time until I heard artillery firing. I left the road with my command, determined to drive him from the point he held, for I was fearful that as soon as we passed he would recross the bayou and destroy the bridges we had just built. I moved on, and soon came in sight of my cavalry, which were held at bay by the enemy's artillery. I halted my command, and went forward to reconnoiter and find out the position of the enemy, and found he had his four pieces of artillery in position. I found that Choctaw Bayou was a small stream about 60 feet wide. On the point of land into the angle where the

bayou connected with Lake Bruin he had four pieces of artillery in battery. The only approach I had to the point was over a field that was open, and without stump or tree that would cover my skirmishers, with Lake Bruin on my left and the backwater from the bayou on my right, which left a strip of land about

500 yards wide and narrowing down to about 200 yards at the point and on the opposite side from the enemy's battery. His battery was supported on the right cavalry, which made quite a formidable appearance. I found that I could not use my infantry or cavalry to any advantage. At first I had my doubts whether with my



two pieces I had that I could move him from his position. I formed my two pieces I had that I could move him from his position. I formed my two regiments of infantry in column of DIVISION, and deployed four companies forward as skirmishers, and placed one piece of artillery on the bank of the lake, where it had a fine range, and in open view of the enemy's battery. The other piece I posted in the field, where it had an excellent range. I then ordered Lieutenant Stillman to open fire upon them with his artillery, and advanced my line of skirmishers, and the enemy opened fire with his battery, but did us no damage, his shots passing over my command. After a few shots from our pieces he moved his cavalry out of range of our shells, and in about one hour from the time our artillery opened on him he limbered up and left the ground in a hurry. We followed as far as we could for the bayou and then halted.

Having no orders to bridge this bayou, and it being off of our line of march, and from all appearances the enemy had fled from our view, I returned to the road with my command, and there bivouacked for the night. I sent the cavalry on to Hard Times Landing, to

report to you, having learned of your arrival during the day.

On the morning of the 29th instant we continued our march to the landing, arriving there at 8 a. m. There I received orders from the general to send the section of artillery to General Burbridge and the regiments to report to their former commanders, which they did in a short time, and were on board the transports, ready to assist in the attack on Grand Gulf.

I cannot speak in too high terms of all the officers and men in the detachment, they being ever ready to assist in all the labors of building bridges, and so forth, and were ever ready and, and all seemed, when we came in sight of the enemy, to be ready for any emergency. I cannot but feel indebted to Lieutenant Stillman and his men for their bravery and skill. I scarcely ever witnessed as fine artillery shopping.

To Captain Peckinpugh and Lieutenant Fullyard, of the Forty-NINTH Indiana, I was indebted for the speedy construction of the bridges across the bayous and for aiding me in all the duties I had to perform on the trip.

I will say, in conclusion, that a good road was found all the way around to near the mouth of Bayou Pierre, and, as I have since learned, the most of the army that crossed the river after us marched on the road and bridges we had constructed.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES KEIGWIN,

Colonel, Commanding Detachment.



LEAD #5 – Alabama

Numbers 34. Report of Colonel John W. Noble, Third Iowa Cavalry, of operations March 21-April 21.

HDQRS. THIRD IOWA VETERAN
VOLUNTEER CAVALRY,

Macon, Ga., April 23, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to report the operations of this regiment since the 21st of March, as follows:

At 3 p.m. of the last-named day we broke

camp near Chickasaw, Ala., having on duty 37 commissioned officers and 823 enlisted men mounted, and 57 dismounted, the latter going as a guard for the wagon train of the Cavalry Corps. From the 21st to the 31st of the month we were occupied in the ordinary duties of the march, passing over the barren pine-clad hills and mountains of Northern Alabama and fording its deep, rocky, and rapid streams. On the evening of the 30th we camped at Montevallo, Ala., and rested there until 1 p.m. the next day, when the enemy appearing in some force, our division advanced against him on the road to Randolph, the Second Brigade being in front of the division and the Tenth Missouri Cavalry, of this brigade, in advance of this regiment in the brigade. After driving the enemy some miles, the Second Brigade was relieved by ours (the First), and at 4 p.m. the Tenth Missouri Cavalry, being engaged with the enemy in line, this regiment was ordered to the front. Then Company G, Captain Stidger, was sent to the right flank and Company H to the left, thus placing Company E, under their second lieutenant, Battin, at the head of the column. At the point where the Alabama and Tennessee River Railroad crosses the Randolph road sabers were

drawn and the column with a cheer charged the line of the rebels and broke it instantly, a number of the foe being wounded and captured under the saber alone. At the time Company E charged in front, Company M, under Captain Johnson, was ordered to attack on the right flank, which was also done promptly and with entire success. My acting adjutant, Lieutenant Crawford, Lieutenant-Colonel Jones, and the non-commissioned staff joined me in the charge with Company E and did good service. Lieutenant Crawford's horse was shot from under him, and one of my orderlies was wounded. Lieutenant-Colonel Jones continued the pursuit with great gallantry. This attack was made under the immediate observation of Brevet Major-General Upton, commanding division, and needs no other comment from me than that it resulted in the complete rout of the brigade of rebels under General Roddey and the capture of many of his men, and elicited that applause of General Upton which was again and again given the Third Iowa in the successive battles of this campaign. The enemy fled in three columns, one immediately down the road, one before Captain Johnson, on the

right and one over the field to the left. Lieutenant Battin was among the foremost of his gallant company in this charge and pursuit. Company E being relieved by Company F, Lieutenant-Colonel Jones with his company, under Captain Crail, drove the enemy about two miles to and across Mahone or Six-Mile Creek. The enemy, rallying somewhat beyond the creek, attempted to regain the bridge, but in spite of superior numbers Company F held the ground, although at considerable loss, Captain Crail falling wounded with several of his men. The main column of the brigade was threatened by an attack in the rear at this time, but the brigade commander did not see fit to allow me to support the company immediately. In a short time Company K was sent to support Company F, and the column then moved forward to the creek. Dismounting, Major Walker was ordered with Companies A, B, C, and D across the railroad bridge, and with the remainder of the regiment I advanced to join Companies F and K beyond the creek and pushed back the enemy on the road. It was now dark, but in an unbroken line we drove the rebels from point for some three miles farther, when the picket-posts were established and we retired to camp at about 9 p.m.

Here the other companies of the regiment joined us. Besides the prisoners taken by this regiment (about sixty in all) a large a number of arms was found thrown away by the enemy in their flight, and there is no doubt but that the whole brigade in front of us was much demoralized by the charge and proved rather an element of weakness than strength in the forces joining battle with our troops the next day at Ebenezer Church. In this affair this regiment lost 1 enlisted man killed, 1 commissioned officer and 10 enlisted men wounded.

April 1, this regiment left camp at daylight, and moving at the head of our brigade and in rear of the Second Brigade, passed through Randolph at 8 a.m. going south on the road to the left of the railroad, while the Second Division (General Long) advanced on the right of the railroad. Soon after leaving Randolph, Captain Brown with his company (L) was sent to Maplesville to rejoin the regiment at Maplesville Station. Captain Brown found Maplesville occupied by a battalion of the enemy, who resisted his progress. He charged their line and occupied the place, burning some public property, and on retiring captured the officer commanding

the picket beyond. He also captured two enlisted men in the town. The result of the attack on this force was to prevent it from venturing to attack our rear when we soon after became engaged at Ebenezer Church. While halting for Company L at Maplesville Station artillery firing was heard in front, and at once moving on we soon learned that the Second Brigade, was engaged in force. This regiment was then ordered to the trot, and at this pace we came cheering on the field of battle. We came into the presence of the enemy at 3 p.m. The Second Division (Long's) was engaged on the extreme right across the Randolph road, while our Second Brigade (under General Alexander) was warmly contending on the left. By immediate order of General Upont I sent Company I (Captain Arnim) to the left in line over the open fields, over which they at once charged, mounted, with carbines the plainly visible lines of the enemy extending across the railroad, being the rebel right wing. This company met the continual volleys of the enemy, who were under the immediate command of the Confederate General Forrest, but the fire was returned with coolness and great effect. At the same time Company K (Captain Honnold), and successively

Companies L, M, A, B, C, D, H, E, F, G, charged the line, passing over a deep stream called Bogler's Creek, and drove the foe in complete rout, capturing on the field 250 of the enemy. Companies D and H, under Captain Miller and Captain Grousbeck, pressed on to Plantersville, carrying the standard of the regiment (borne by the gallant Sergeant Burns, of Company G) in advance, and drove a party of rebels from that place, where they attempted to rally. In this charge all the officers and men acted with great gallantry, striving to outdo each other in assailing their old antagonist. I think, however, Captain Arnim, and his company (I) deserve particular mention for their gallant effort. The conduct of Sergt. John Wall, guidon bearer, of Company K, was also admirable. His company charged the line hand to hand with the rebels and this sergeant was shot in the bridle hand, the ball also striking deep into the lance of the guidon. He became the target for a line of muskets. He, however, maintained his place with the company, and, though thus wounded, captured a rebel officer in the heat of the battle. Captain Brown is also deserving of mention for having captured a whole company, officers and men, yet armed and guns loaded, with a

force less than that of the prisoners. This was the color company of one of the regiments opposing us, but the colors were secreted by them and not found. At Plantersville Companies D and H were halted, and near this place the regiment and brigade went into camp. In this engagement Lieutenant Veatch, of Company I, and ten men were wounded; names given on annexed exhibit. The regiment also lost 7 horses killed and 11 wounded. There is no doubt that General Forrest and his escort were put to precipitate flight in this charge of the Third Iowa Cavalry, and made to hear the shout of pursuit an triumph as they ingloriously retired. It is with peculiar satisfaction I note this fact for my command, which has marched far and labored long to match this boasting victor of the 10th of June at Guntown, Miss. Time at last has set us even with him.

On the 2nd of April we left our camp, near Plantersville at 10 a.m., my regiment being in rear of our brigade, or on the left. At 2 p.m., the Second Division, under General Long, having taken position on the right of our line of battle, this regiment was ordered to the front of the brigade, and dismounting again took

position on the right of the brigade line, moving down the Plantersville road and deploying into line about half a mile from the rebel entrenchments. The Tenth Missouri Cavalry was on my left and the Fourth Iowa Cavalry on the left of the brigade. This compliment to my men was highly appreciated by them, and is a full equivalent for the trophies of war they might have taken from the broken foe had they not been compelled to keep the rear after having led the brigade in all previous engagements. While advancing in this order, the battle opened heavily on the right from an assault by General Long's division, and the battery in our front opened at long range with canister and spherical case-shot, some of the shot falling on my line, but without effect. The assault of the Second Division right across the Randolph road, while our Second Brigade (under General Alexander) was warmly contending on the left. By immediate order of General Upont I sent Company I (Captain Arnim) to the left in line over the open fields, over which they at once charged, mounted, with carbines the plainly visible lines of the enemy extending across the railroad, being the rebel right wing. This company met the continual volleys of the enemy, who were under the immediate

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The assault of the Second Division roved successful, and by the time we could reach the breast-works they had been abandoned by the enemy. Scaling these formidable works, the regiment advanced about 400 yards, when the line was halted and the horses ordered to be brought up. At this point, and about dark, firing commenced on our right flank, and

I was ordered to go in support of the right wing. This we did at once, but after marching about a mile over very broken ground we found the Second Division had driven the enemy from his inner lines, and no assistance was further needed. We camped late at night. We met with no loss at Selma. The strength and discipline of the regiment were never more fully displayed than as we marched, 750 dismounted and in line, upon the enemy behind the formidable works of this rebel arsenal. On the 3rd of April I was placed in command of the brigade, and this regiment with the others marched the same day to the rear toward Cahawba River via Summerfield, and swinging around by way of Perryville, Pine Tuckey, and south of Randolph, returned by Ebenezer Church and Plantersville to Selma again on the evening of the 6th. The object of this expedition was to reconnoiter for the enemy, gather information if possible of Croxton's brigade, and protect the corps wagon train, then coming in on the Randolph road. No enemy was found. The distance marched was about 100 miles. On our return to Selma Company B, Captain McKee, was sent back with a party from another command (in all 100 men) to again reconnoiter toward

Cahawba River. This officer reached Fike's Ferry at noon, and finding a force of about 300 attempting to cross the river he dismounted a platoon and attacked. He drove the enemy back into the river, killing 3 of them and capturing about 25 mules and horses. A battalion under Major Curkendall was sent the next day to the same point, but the enemy was not prosecuting his effort of the day before and had disappeared. This regiment under my command crossed the Alabama River on the 9th, and was joined at night by the battalion just mentioned, which with scarcely any rest moved again with the column early on the morning of the 10th on the Montgomery road. Marching by way of Benton and Lowndesborough, we reached Montgomery on the 12th, and passed through this surrendered capital with flags flying and bugles sounding. On the 13th instant we rested in camp three miles out on the Columbus road, and in the night of this day six of our companies (E, F, G, H, L, M), under Major Curkendall, were ordered as a provost guard to Montgomery, and did not rejoin me until after the capture of Columbus. They reported their arrival near Columbus before the attack and I earnestly requested that they might be brought up, but they were kept with the

train by special order of brigade headquarters, and had to remain there during the engagements at that place.

Marching daily, we arrived before the defenses of Columbus, on the right bank of the Chattahoochee River, at 2 p.m. of April 16. We were first prepared to fight on foot with the rest of the brigade in rear of the Second Brigade, then in position. After this, and about 3 p.m., we again mounted and moved to the extreme right of the rebel line, halting on the way for about two hours, and finally dismounting for action after dark and within musket-range of the rebel line. The six companies of this regiment present (A, B, C, D, I, K) were the only force dismounted at this time for the assault upon the batteries [and] entrenchments. The rebel lines extended in part across the Summerville road, and thence south toward the river and the city beyond, along this road, so as to command the same at short range, something like a letter L, with the short arm advanced and lying across the road, while the main line extended parallel to the road and to the bridge across the river. At the extremity of the short arm was a well-constructed fort (no guns being in position, however) flanked by

well-constructed rifle-pits running nearly east across the road, and nearly to another fort at the elbow or angle of the works. In this latter fort were four 12-pounder cannon, well manned and skillfully handled, and the battery was supported by the veterans of all the army in our front. The works were manned to the bridge, and near the bridge were two battalions more one in the road and one in a large fort to the right of the road. This infantry force was well acquainted with all the ground round about, while our attack with six companies, dismounted, was in complete darkness and without a glimpse beforehand of the locality. The detachment of this regiment was first formed dismounted in line facing the fort and breast-works composing the short arm or curtain to the main line, the left of our line resting on the road. This was near 8 p.m. As the last of the line gained position, the enemy opened with a heavy musketry fire on our immediate front, and with two



guns (12-pounders) on our left. We went forward at once with a cheer under the heavy fire and cleared the works and the fort, crossing the road and without delay formed the line beyond. This was the opening of the battle,

NOTE: This report goes on for quite a bit longer but I am going to stop here as there are plenty of leads already marked.

LEAD #6 – OKLAHOMA

AUGUST 24, 1864.-Skirmish on Gunter's Prairie, Ind. Ter.

Report of Major General Samuel B. Maxey, C. S. Army.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF INDIAN TERRITORY, Fort Towson, C. N., September 3, 1864.

COLONEL: I have the honor to state that I am in receipt of General Watie's official report, by which it appears that at daylight on August 24th ultimo he attacked a Federal camp on north side of Arkansas River, on Gunter's Prairie, about 350 infantry and about 70 cavalry, with a detachment of his command of about 500. He says:

The result of this affair was 14 prisoners, about 20 killed, 150 mules and horses,

and the burning of a large quantity of hay. I had several men wounded, 1 killed, and some horses killed-shot. The principal object was to burn the hay and capture the stock.

He says he did not intend to engage enemy with equal numbers, and that enemy was stronger than he anticipated.

Very respectfully, colonel, your obedient servant,

S. B. MAXEY,

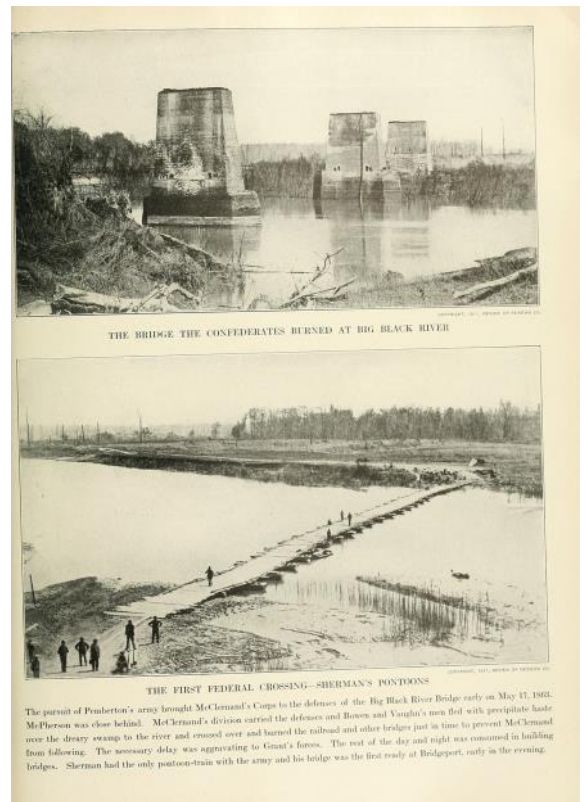
Major-General.

And there you have it once again... a second good sampling of the kind of information to be found in the O.R's in all the states that were involved in the Civil War in any way. As I mentioned in last month's issue of Dirt Digest, there is even information on Civil War period military operations in states like Nevada, California and Arizona and New Mexico... way out west!

Next month, I will give you more leads from the O.R's in six more of the states that were involved in the war.

If you are interested in leads for a particular state or area in a state, let us know and I will see what I can come up

with, but remember... any leads that I give here in the magazine, every reader can see and it is likely that you will have some competition for those sites. On the other hand, if you take the leads I post here as an EXAMPLE of what can be found in the O.R.'s and learn to research them out of the O.R.'s yourself, the odds are a lot better that you will be the first to find the sites you go looking for.



Metal Detecting Leads

Permission must be obtained at any site listed

Florida Dunlawton Plantation and Sugar Mill - In August 1804, Patrick Dean, a merchant from the Bahamas, and his uncle John Bunch, a planter from Nassau, were granted by the Spanish Crown land in Florida that had been part of the British Turnbull grant of 1777. Dean established a 995-acre indigo and sugarcane plantation in what is now the Port Orange area, using the labor of enslaved Africans to cultivate and process the crops. Dean apparently was killed by a renegade Indian or slave during the First Seminole War in 1818, and left the plantation to his aunt Cecily, the wife of his uncle John Bunch, who had set up his own plantation on the grant to the north of Dean's property. Cecily died

Started in 1804 Dunlawton Plantation and sugar mill was a successful plantation using the labor of African slaves. Patrick Dean was the plantation owner and his uncle owned a plantation just north. The plantation was 995 acres. It is believed Dean was killed in 1818 during the first Seminole War. His uncle, John Bunch inherited the property and with his own property to the north combined the two plantations.

During the second Seminole war the plantation was burned down in 1835 and the Natives occupied it for a time and several skirmishes have been reported over the siege and initial taking over by the Natives.

During the Civil war the plantation was used by a Confederate reconnaissance unit and made it their headquarters.

Although it is in an urban setting and the plantation is off limits for metal detecting. Many relics are sure to exist in the area. While today what is federally

Metal Detecting Leads

Permission must be obtained at any site listed

protected is only a small portion of the original plantation and certainly gaining permission on surrounding properties would lead to relics from a much earlier time period in Florida's history.

California Klamath Glen – Fort Ter-waw was established by the U.S. Army in 1857 to keep peace between settlers and local tribes. Most of the fort was destroyed during a flood in 1862. Located at Ter-wer Riffle road and Klamath Glen road. Located on the edge of a small town with a lot of woods and some fields close. Would be worth trying to gain permission for nearby property.

Kentucky Fayette County – Roughly 10 miles southeast of Lexington ky was Boones station. A very early settlement that was started around 1783. Now a state park but the area is very rural and permission granted in the areas around the park could produce some early Kentucky history.

Ohio New London – Along Clark Station road, just north of Byrket in Dark County Ohio sat New London. The town started in the early 1830's and had a few mills, a grocery store and general store. A few years after the start another nearby town was started and New London was no longer in existence by 1850.

Treasure Legends

How a Civil War Tragedy Created a Civil War Treasure!

By: Dorian Cook

It was first stated hundreds of years ago that, "War brings out the best... and the worst... in men." That profound truism has ever proved completely accurate down through the centuries since it was first spoken or written. War inspires good men to the ultimate heights of heroism while at the same time, provides evil men the opportunities to commit despicable acts so terrible that a special word had to be invented to describe them... ATROCITIES!

And so it was all throughout the American Civil War, that this continued to be the reality... especially in the border states of Missouri, Kansas and Kentucky where emotions over the issue of whether or not these states would side with the Union or the Confederacy exploded into unprecedented acts of extreme violence against neighbors and strangers alike. These acts were perpetrated by "cruel, heartless, "criminals in uniform" and ultimately moved from attacks against individuals to the burning of entire towns

and the almost wholesale gruesome murders of their inhabitants.

In truth, they were motivated not by loyalty to any noble cause but rather out of lust for plunder and the feeling of power they got from torturing and killing those they stole from under the false banner of "Making War."

These war criminals who "officially" hid behind blue uniforms of the Union Army were called "Redlegs," raiders, and night riders. Those who claimed loyalty to the southern cause were called "Bushwhackers" and guerillas. Whether professing to be Union or Confederate, however... they all had one thing in common... sudden violent death or death by slow torture, destruction and looted houses and stores... the ones they did not burn, that is... marked their path through Civil War History.

This true treasure story, is one of thousands that became reality during the Civil War due to the above atrocities being perpetrated upon the victims who had hidden their valuables before their one and final encounter with "Bushwhackers."

In this instance, our story originates in Kentucky near the small town of Barwick. Located about 30 miles east of the county seat of Jackson County, McKee, Ky, Barwick was home to a man named Pete Akeman. Akeman had apparently served in the Union Army, completed the period of his enlistment and then returned to his home. Rebel Bushwhackers who were scouring the area looking for Union loyal men to plunder and murder, learned of Akeman's return home and the location of his house and set out to make him their next victim.

Someone unknown tipped him off that the Bushwhackers were coming for him and he had time to initially escape from them fleeing up a big hill to a ridgetop behind his house. He is believed by his relatives to have fled with \$800 in face value of gold and silver coins. Apparently he had contact with one or more of them that same day and told them that he had fled with the money and had buried it near a large flat rock on the ridgetop.

Akeman avoided capture that day but was surrounded and caught the next. For some unknown reason on the part of the Bushwhackers, he was taken to the head

of Millers Branch (creek) about 3 miles from his home, tied to a tree and burnt alive.

The likely reason is that he told them he had buried his money there... a lie to prolong his life as he knew they would kill him, even if he told them where he had buried he money. It is known from the testimony of one or more of the Bushwhackers after the war was over that Akeman did NOT have the money with him when captured. He was most likely burned because other forms of torture had failed to get him to reveal the true location of the money he had buried. That did not work either but it did kill him.

A few years later, his relatives found \$9.50 in silver coins and one \$2.50 gold piece (Called a quarter eagle.) near the only flat rock on the ridge top. They claim to have never found the rest of the hidden money. Considering that this cache of coins is 160 years old, it would be a nice treasure to find, if it is still there... as it well could be. The money was known by the relatives to have been buried on the top of the ridge about a mile

from Millers Branch on the left-hand side, approximately 2 miles from where the Barwick post office is/was.

This area is located off Highway # 15 on KY county road #1110 between Jackson and Hazard, KY on the North Fork of the Kentucky River, in Breathitt County. (Note: This part of Kentucky is known to be "rough" territory with a lot of suspicious mountain people living in the area that tend to shoot first and ask questions later. So... trespassing to pursue this lead is NOT advised! Get permission BEFORE proceeding to hunt for this cache.)





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and history with two of the best
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ON THE GOLD

with

THOMAS "PENNYWEIGHT" FOWLKES

A Dredger's Life

It's that time of year again where we are itching to get the dredge's out and in the water. Being underwater and moving material to recover that shiny, is just about the most fun you can have. I'm slightly bias since I'm a certified diver and feel right at home under the surface. There a few things you need to do before we can float our equipment.

I start by pulling out almost all of my equipment from my trailer, and give it a final inspection to make sure everything is serviceable and organized. Now in the fall before I put it away, I make a note of items I need to repair or replace, so I can get it done during the winter. Just last year I had to replace my pump seal and fix the flapper in my foot valve.



Inspect your floats to make sure something weird didn't happen. Barring something heavy falling or puncturing them, they hold up pretty good.



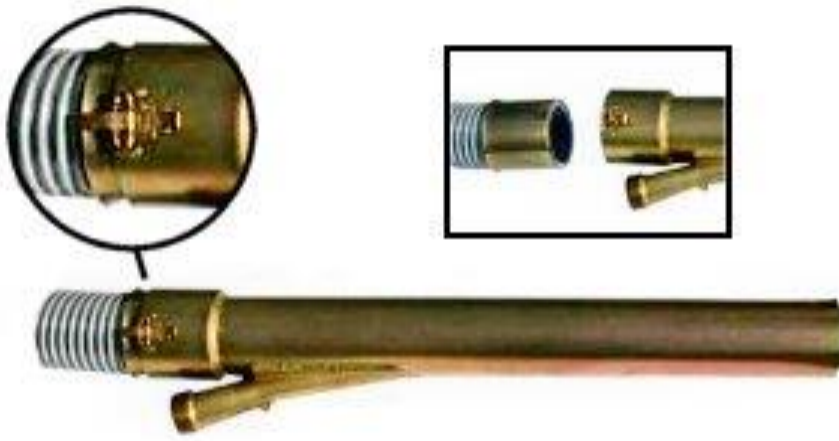
Check the frame. Over time they will rust and weaken and may even break. Make sure none of those things has happened since, along with the floats they make up the platform for the dredge.

The sluice box is where all the good stuff will be at the end of the day. Make sure that the riffles aren't bent or broken. Look at your miner's moss, carpet or whatever type matting you will be using to make sure they are in good shape.

Next look at the jet flare or header box. The header box should not have any cracks or holes. Look the jet flare over to make sure it is not cracked or has any holes. Make sure it is still attached to the sluice box correctly and the flapper/damper is in good order.



Now to the heart of the beast. The motor, pump in some cases the air compressor. I start by changing the oil. I think we know why I do that, so nuff said. If it's been a while, check or change the sparkplug. Look at the pull cord to make sure it not frayed. I make sure at the end of the season I empty the gas tank. Check the compressor belt. It should have no deep cuts and not to glazed. Every few years I check my diaphragm to make sure it's not cracked. Replace if cracked. Air is kinda important. Not much to check on the pump. If the seal goes out, you'll know it. Water



will spray everywhere from around the shaft. Check to make sure you have the snorkel for the compressor if you are diving under water. Sucking on exhaust messes up your day really bad. Make sure it is high enough to keep you

in fresh air, or as fresh as it gets.

Now check out your jet, intake, output and suction hoses. You're want to make sure they are not cracked, split or have holes. Hose is expensive. So, if they are damaged you may be able to extend their life by using tape. I use gorilla. It holds wet or dry. The jet is a metal tube just check for holes and no deep dings. Finally, check air hose, reserve tank and air filter. You don't want them leaking air.

It's a good ideal to stock some parts like pump seals, pull cord, diaphragm and belt. Check out your trailer and vehicle and inspect all your camping equipment. Now go out and have some fun!

For great gold prospecting videos find Thom on:



Treasure's From The Dirt



I am just getting started, so I am honing my location and tone experience right now at local ball parks, schools and other permissions I have been able to secure. All my digs have taken place in Warrick County, Indiana USA.

I've got the passion immediately too! I love it so much, I've started a YouTube Channel and a website <https://bhiggles.com>. There you can learn more about me, how I got my name, my cute lil town in Southern Indiana and some of my fresh new content.

Found by: Brian Hanson

How to submit a find

Would you like to see one of your finds in Dirt Digest Magazine?! We would love to put it in! Please include a description of the find, what state, what kind of site you were hunting and any other detail that is relevant. Please include your full name and what metal detector or equipment you were using. Email your find to mhaer@dirtdigestmagazine.com