

## Executive Committee

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Vice President

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Treasurer

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Scott Ellman  
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Jimmy Earnheart  
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Scott Ellman  
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## Club Meeting

As 2007 comes to an end and the birth of our Lord and Savior is upon us, we should remember to give thanks that we have our health, family, and good friends of the SCMD, and let's not forget our detectors!!!!

Some would say that 2007 was an all time detecting success! Just ask Frances Alexander, with an astounding 15 rings in 3 months. WOW!!! Congratulations Francis!

**Do not forget to bring your three best finds to the January meeting to be photographed for our updated website.**

We decided to keep the website going for another 3 years and Scott will be updating it soon. Just think of all the new members we can attract by having new and intriguing pictures to attract the attention of potential new members. If anyone has a good quality digital camera with the ability to take macro pics, please bring it to our next meeting.

As we all know, Trinity Church of the Nazarene has sold the facility to Gospel Light Baptist Church. We would like to thank Trinity Church for their support over the years. We at SCMD wish both Trinity and Gospel Light continued success in leading people to Christ.

In the New Year, we will be starting our next chapter in a new facility, which has yet to be determined.

Let's not forget to give thanks to Lynn Myers, daughter of Leonard Bratton, for donating his old maps to our club for us to copy. Leonard's generosity still reaches us even after death. Please see Laney Irby or Jeff Kleparek to have copies made. We have several general highway maps by county, which show school and church locations.

If you need to contact me, I can be reached by email [woodcarver@comporium.net](mailto:woodcarver@comporium.net) Hope to see you at the January meeting.

Jeff Kleparek



Washington



## Treasure in the News

### OLD FORT YIELDS NEW DISCOVERY

Given its grand distinction as "The Fort That Saved America," it's hard to imagine how Philadelphia's Fort Mifflin ever got lost in the tourism shuffle.

The fort allowed George Washington's tired army to escape to Valley Forge in 1777 during a five-week British naval bombardment that otherwise would have ended the Revolution.

Even so, more prominent attractions like Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell eclipsed the fort for years, leaving it to a quiet existence along the banks of the Delaware River. This all changed in August 2006 when Wayne Irby, the fort's projects manager, was cutting the grass.

As Irby maneuvered around the torpedo magazine, a loose patch of earth gave way, exposing a sinkhole more than a foot deep. For reasons he still can't explain, he felt compelled to stop the mower and start digging.

He had discovered the entranceway to a series of underground rooms hidden for over a century. The fort's staff named it Casemate 11.

"The discovery amazed us because we originally believed there was only one room there, and the only record of that is a dotted square on an 18th century diagram," says Lee Anderson, executive director at Fort Mifflin. "The other rooms aren't in any documents."

Casemate 11 started as two rooms used for storing gunpowder and munitions during the Revolutionary War. The Army added three more rooms throughout the mid-1800s, creating an L-shaped labyrinth of five chambers that served as a prison during the Civil War.

After the war, the Army sealed and buried the casemate's entrance, leaving no traces of its existence. The August 2006 discovery was the first time anyone had set foot in Casemate 11 in over 130 years.

On entering, it was clear they had stumbled upon a veritable time capsule. Nineteenth century artifacts, many in pristine condition, remained exactly where the owners left them in the late 1860s.

"We found everyday items like tin plates, a wash basin, several bottles, and a flask with a picture of George Washington on one side and General Burnside on the other," Anderson says. "We also found chicken bones, which we think were from someone's lunch."

Even more striking are messages from Civil War-era prisoners, literally scrawled on the doors and walls in their own handwriting. Men left notes of contrition preaching that "To be good is to be happy," and also issued warnings to "Shun this place oh, man who so ever art thou." Others just wrote their names, perhaps to leave some evidence that they lived.

One inscription- "Wm H. Howe"- proves particularly significant. A hero who rallied Union troops at the Battle of Fredericksburg, William Howe later deserted along with 300 others and killed the bounty hunter pursuing him.

Howe was convicted of desertion and murder, and the Army sent him to Fort Mifflin where he spent three weeks in Casemate 11 awaiting his hanging. He was the only person executed at the fort during the war.

"All this time we believed Howe was imprisoned in a guardhouse that's no longer here, but it turned out we were wrong," Anderson says. "Ironically, we discovered the casemate almost 142 years to the day of his hanging."

Once past the initial excitement of these discoveries, Anderson and his staff turned their attention to the task of preserving them. To do this, they enlisted the help of Milner + Carr Conservation, a Pennsylvania-based firm that specializes in architectural preservation.

"The prison as a whole is in a remarkable state of preservation, especially the inscriptions on the surface of the doors," says Andrew Fearon, an architectural conservator with Milner + Carr. "At the same time, these materials are extremely fragile, so we have to be very careful how and in what order we remove them."

The casemate's environment has held a constant temperature and humidity for over a century. Its wooden doors have been moist for so long that the water is actually holding them together. If dried too quickly, they would disintegrate.

To preserve and restore these artifacts, conservators must simulate the casemate's environment and change it incrementally to slowly adjust them to conditions above ground. Then they clean any corrosive surface products to prevent further deterioration.

The process is painstaking and time-consuming, with the drying stage alone taking several months, according to Fearon. In the meantime, Anderson's staff will install replica doors and artifacts in the casemate to give fort visitors a sense of the existence Howe and his counterparts led years ago.

"This site is the best kept secret in the country, and we don't like that," Anderson says. "We want to show this gem to the world."

And that's exactly what they're doing. Anderson estimates that attendance has tripled since the discovery.

So much for that quiet existence on the banks of the Delaware.

*From The Erickson Tribune, submitted by Bob Bolek, Hometown, IL.*

## Next Club Meeting

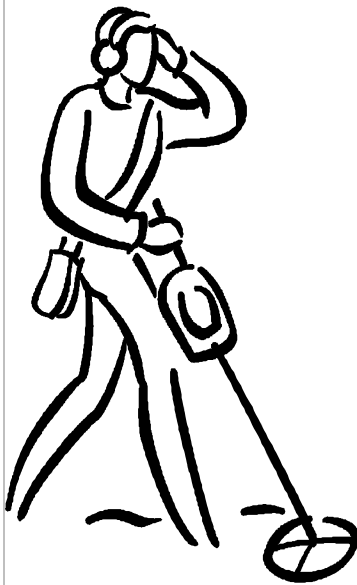
**Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> 2008** 7-9pm. Location TBA, due to our current location being sold. We will be sending a postcard with further details. If you need further directions, email Chris Watson at [amwatson@comporium.net](mailto:amwatson@comporium.net) or telephone at 803-328-5764. We meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month. Due to the holiday, our January meeting is the second Tuesday of the month instead of the first. Visitors are *always* welcome.



## CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY & TREASURE HUNTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

We closed out 2007 at the Club's Christmas Party, held at Jackson's Cafeteria in Rock Hill, SC, on Friday, December 7. As her last act of program director for 2007, Mary Beth Schwallie announced SCMD'S Treasure Hunter of the Year as none other than...

### **DONNIE BRAZELL TREASURE HUNTER OF THE YEAR 2007**



Donnie has been a faithful member, rarely ever missing a meeting. His collections include relics, bottles, marbles, and Indian artifacts. Donnie is always helpful to members trying to determine what their finds are and an idea of how old they may be. He has been helpful in preparing the field for Club Hunts as well as providing refreshments at the meetings. He always does his part. When Donnie accepted his award, he thanked his hunting partner, Lanny Irby, for his help achieving the award. We take great pride in Donnie's accomplishment. Way to go, Donnie! Keep up the good work!

Chris Watson received a plaque for Second Place, and Steve Herring, who was absent, won Third Place.

## Refreshments



We enjoyed the refreshments provided by Bill Stiles at the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Donnie Brazell and Lanny Irby will provide refreshments at the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

We will be passing around the sign up sheet again for 2008 at the January 8th meeting. We still need a second volunteer for February. You do not need to do anything elaborate; cookies and soda would be appreciated. Just plan for 25 to 30 people and remember cups, ice, and napkins.

## Dues



Remember to provide your support of the Club by keeping your dues up to date and inviting your friends to join us. Adults \$15 (add \$5 for optional FMDAC Membership), Juniors \$5.00 (add \$5 for optional FMDAC Membership). If you are unable to attend the next meeting, you can mail your check, made payable to SCMD, to:

FRANCES ALEXANDER  
2257 Eden Terrace Apt 101  
Rock Hill, SC 29730

## Research Forum / Team Building

How about some teamwork? Each month, we will list a potential spot or area that has some history to it for all to research and bring their research to the next meeting. I would ask that no one hunt the area being researched until arrangements can be made for anyone interested to accompany each other on the hunt. The locations will vary between NC and SC. This month, I am willing to give up a site that I have been researching for several months: The Pineville A.M.E Church in Rock Hill, SC The actual church has been moved and rebuilt 3 times in the same area since the mid 1800's. There was also an African American School, which is no longer there. As far as I can tell, the school ceased to exist between 1900-1910. I have not found the exact location yet; since it was not a public school, no record of it exists.

Good Luck Researching!



***“Today is the Day!”***

***- Mel Fisher***

## **Club Library**

Jimmy Earnheart has all the pertinent books you need to read to improve your mind and/or metal detecting. There are also maps available. Jimmy opens the library during each meeting. Just sign out what you want and sign it back in when you return it. Check it out!

**This month, Chris Watson purchased two new books for the library, which will be available at the January meeting.**

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## **NEW MEMBERS!!**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members!

Warren Bobbitt:  
[WARBOBBITT57@hotmail.com](mailto:WARBOBBITT57@hotmail.com)

C. Floyd Hailey, Jr  
[haileyjr@comporium.net](mailto:haileyjr@comporium.net)

Jeffrey R. Mansir  
[ColSTON6164 @aol.com](mailto:ColSTON6164@aol.com)

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## DECEMBER 2007 CONTEST BOARD RESULTS

Category	Place	Name	Item
<b>COINS: SILVER &amp; GOLD</b>			
	1 <sup>ST</sup>	Randy Gatchell	1790 Reale
	2 <sup>ND</sup>	Bobby Hallman	Seated Half dime
	3 <sup>RD</sup>	Lanny Irby	1902 Barber Quarter
<b>COINS: OTHER</b>			
	1 <sup>ST</sup>	Bill Stiles	Buffalo nickel
	2 <sup>ND</sup>	Lanny Irby	1914 wheat penny
	3 <sup>RD</sup>	Chris Watson	1955 wheat penny
<b>JEWELRY</b>			
	1 <sup>ST</sup>	Frances Alexander	14k white gold wedding band
	2 <sup>ND</sup>	Bobby Hallman	Old cuff link
	3 <sup>RD</sup>	Don Catoe	Watch
<b>RELICS: PRE-1865 (MILITARY)</b>			
	1 <sup>ST</sup>	Randy Gatchell	Navy button
	2 <sup>ND</sup>	Bill Stiles	Fed Eagle button
	3 <sup>RD</sup>	Lanny Irby	Fired three ringer
<b>RELICS: OTHER</b>			
	1 <sup>ST</sup>	Randy Gatchell	Skeleton Key
	2 <sup>ND</sup>	Frances Alexander	Brass Drawer cover
	3 <sup>RD</sup>	Bill Stiles	Lead screw cap
<b>BEST FIND</b>			
	1 <sup>ST</sup>	Bill Stiles	Block R button
	2 <sup>ND</sup>	Shaler Willis	1921 Kershaw County tax dog tag
	3 <sup>RD</sup>	Bobby Hallman	Colonial button
<b>EYE SPY</b>			
	1 <sup>ST</sup>	Don Catoe	Flint (off flint lock rifle)
	2 <sup>ND</sup>	Schaler Willis	Case Knife
	3 <sup>RD</sup>	Donnie Brazell	1915 coke bottle

### SPECIAL CATEGORY:

NA this month

THOSE WERE AMAZING FINDS THIS MONTH. WE ENJOYED SEEING THEM.

THANKS FOR EVERYONE'S EFFORT AND KEEP DIGGING. BE SAFE.

We would like to remind all members to promote the positive aspects of metal detecting by requesting a letter of thanks from agencies you assist, publicizing such activities, as these as well as the return of items such as rings. Help promote our hobby. We are attempting to maintain a folder of such letters and information about our club. There was much discussion at the meeting to overcome being called looters and other negative things. We wish to be a resource to our community and work hard in any way we are asked to help. Keep up the good work.

## Amazing Deals & Bargains

- ü GT Royal Headphones from White's – 1Yr Warranty - \$45.00, two pair. Contact Lanny Irby 803-684-2592 after 5 PM or email at [mduser@comporium.net](mailto:mduser@comporium.net)
- ü Bill Stiles has display cases for sale: large \$8, medium \$6, small \$3. See him at ANY Meeting to purchase.
- ü Richard Otterbourg is seeking undated buffalo nickels to purchase at 13 cents each, non-dug only please.

## About Our Organization

Our club was started by a small group of friends that had the hobby of metal detecting as a mutual bond. We decided that Rock Hill, S.C. would be an ideal place for our club to be based.

We chartered our club in 1994 and have been growing steadily since. From an initial group of about six, we have grown to a membership of over 50, with new members joining almost every month.

JEFF KLEPAREK  
915 IDLEWILD DRIVE  
ROCK HILL, SC 29732

POSTAGE  
STAMP



We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
[www.scmetaldetectingclub.com](http://www.scmetaldetectingclub.com)