



THE CAROLINA THRESHOLD



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South Carolina Metal Detector & Relic Association, 915 Cherry Road, Rock Hill S.C 29732
www.scmetaldetectingclub.com, Contact: Chris Watson 803-328-5764 or Jeff Kleparek 803-389-4178

Club Meeting

By Jeff Kleparek

Greetings fellow treasure hunters. As the dog days of summer creep up upon you, one question you may want to ask yourself is: what can I do for our club? A club hunt, picnic, a hike, a day at the park, boating? Whatever it is nothing is trivial, and someone may have an interest. Now I realize we all have very busy and very important lives to lead, Family's to take care of, etc.. but we also belong to another family, the SCMD&RA, so do your part and bring something up to do as a club, set a date, and have some fun.

We need to thank Dale Hege from Independence Coin for giving a presentation and sharing some stories from his experience in the coin, and stamp business. One of the stories that stuck out is about an 1850 \$2 ½ gold piece found in an old frame, wrapped in a dollar bill purchased at a yard sale for \$25. You just never know where that next treasure just might pop up so keep your eyes peeled and take a look at those places where you get that gut feeling that something might just be there.

Thanks to Scaler willis for pointing out The June issue of Western & Eastern Treasures on page 63 has a article "Adding Members" about our club. Also on bottom of page 60 and top of page 61 is a mention of finds of the month.

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Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday April 3rd, 2008 between 7-9pm @ our new meeting place, Trinity Bible School, 915 Cherry Road, Rock Hill S.C, 29732. Hope to see you there, and don't hesitate to bring a friend or two, guests are always welcome.

Jeff Kleparek
woodcarver@comporium.net
Ph- 803-389-4178

Independence Coin
Buying-selling-trading Appraisals
(704)542-7554
8700 Pineville Matthews Road.
Suite 580 Charlotte N.C 28226



Be sure to check out the Hobby Stop and The Grove Racing Center. 939 S. Anderson Rd. Rock Hill, SC 29730. (803)327-4121 Regular Showroom Hours: 10 AM - 7PM Mon-Fri, 10 AM - 6PM Sat, ... Hobby Stop Inc. was founded in May 1992. We were in a 2000 Sq. Ft. space for over 3 years until we moved in July 1995. We now sport 3800 Sq Ft showroom and 3 R/C race tracks. Hobby Stop is a full line shop carrying R/C Aircraft, Cars, Boats, Model Rockets, Metal and Plastic Display Models, HO and N Gauge Trains, Science and More...Please call to check stock and prices (we can get anything that is currently available in the hobby industry)

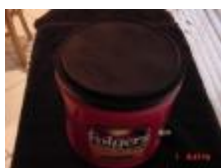


All of your hobby needs will be met as well as any questions answered by the skilled knowledgeable staff. Be sure to let them know you are visiting from the SCMD&RA.

FLOATERS FOLGER ELECTROLYSIS MACHINE

Floater of Treasure Net

OK Guys this is easy. These Folgers coffee buckets are perfect for Electrolysis. The parts are 2 3/8 stainless steel Bolts with nuts and washers. Then 2 neoprene 3/8 washers. Drill 2 holes in the flat section of the bucket. (3/8) Then insert the Bolt in from the inside out. Make sure you put one washer on and the neoprene washer on the inside and then insert the bolt and slip the other SS washer on and the bolt and tighten. This is water proof now and you have two places for conductors. I then just took one of my old battery chargers from a cell phone and cut the end off and installed the two wire clips. Negative and positive. Make sure whatever transformer you use it is output DC less than 14 volt. Anywhere between 6 and 12 is good. The other thing is the MA rating. Mine is low at 130 MA you can go as high as 750 ma or even 1.0amp but you really have to watch it with the higher amperage. The lower the slower and we all know that cleaning slow is good.



"The other thing is the MA rating, the lower the slower and we all know that cleaning slow is good."

Ok here are the working pictures. The first pic shows the Alligator clip POS attached to one of the Conductors (Bolt) the other conductor is attached to the paper clip with the quarter in it. (Negative) Pic two just shows the water which should be distilled or at least filtered with a small amount of baking soda or Salt your choice. Also note the water is above the Bolts. (Conductors) This makes the water conductive. OK Pic three shows the quarter suspended in the solution and cleaning. I suspend it with a wood dowel so the alligator clip doesn't touch the water. The paperclip is sacrificial.



OK so after 1-1/2 hours this is what it looks like. Now I took it out and just put a little baking soda on it rubbed lightly and its clean. This is Clad. I did this for demonstration. Also note the time it took. Remember my MA is only 6 volts - 130 MA if you up the Ma to a 250 to 500 MA it would probably take about 20 minutes or less. The problem is though with something you want to really keep, the slower the better so you don't eat the good metal. Always check it every 5 minutes or so. Good Luck and there is more info on the coin/artifact cleaning thread that discusses actual methods for this type of cleaning and what to use for the type of objects. This is only a machine to help you get there.



Mystery of Lost Confederate Gold By Wesley Millett and Gerald White Wesley Millett and Gerald White are the authors of *The Rebel and the Rose*.

In April 1865, the Civil War ended for most Americans. The war, and its various aspects, continues to capture the interest and imagination of many Americans who are fascinated by the battles, leaders, and strategy displayed during that conflict. Mysteries endure, too, including the ultimate disposition of the Confederate treasury.

Much of the mystery was engendered by Union officials, who greatly inflated the value of the Confederacy's treasury to several million dollars. This was probably done to increase the incentive to Union soldiers combing the villages and roads of the Carolinas and Georgia for the treasury, and for Confederate President Jefferson Davis, who had fled Richmond. The actual value of the treasury was probably not much more than \$500,000.

The trek south of the Confederate government has been well documented in a number of first hand accounts written several years after the war. The authors were primarily participants in the evacuation of Richmond and they included Confederate cabinet officials, army officers, and treasury employees. Many of the accounts were published in the papers of the Southern Historical Society, in an effort to dispel rumors that Davis took the money for himself and his family. One treasury clerk — in particular, Micajah Clark — provided a detailed accounting of the disposition of the funds.

An aspect of the treasure that Clark omitted concerned the fate of 39 kegs of Mexican silver dollars. These were coins that the Confederacy received through the sale of cotton to Mexico. The Mexican coins had been transported to Danville, Virginia, and when the Davis party was forced to move further south, primarily by wagon, the more than 9,000 pounds of silver would have considerably slowed down the procession. For this reason, the coins were almost certainly buried in Danville, and evidence suggests, they remain there today.

The various narratives of the disbursement of the treasury end in Washington, Georgia on May 4, 1865, when two Confederate Navy officials, James A. Semple and Edward Tidball, were entrusted with \$86,000 in gold. Jefferson Davis stated in his 1881 book, *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government*, that the "transfer of the treasure was made to Mr. Semple, a bonded officer of the Navy, and his assistant, Mr. Tidball." Davis added only that the instructions to Semple were for him to attempt to deliver the gold abroad to the financial agent of the government. He was referring to the commercial house of Fraser, Trenholm & Company in Liverpool, England. Postmaster General John Reagan, who was with Davis in Danville, added more detail, recalling that the gold was to be hidden in the false bottom of a carriage. The mystery thus began when Semple and Tidball disappeared.

Tidball, for his part, decided that the war was over for him, as he was seen a few days later heading north from Georgia, accompanied by a Confederate judge and a paroled army officer. The former assistant to Confederate Navy Secretary Stephen Mallory returned to Winchester, Virginia, where he built an elaborate house, Linden Farm, and became a prominent citizen. He received a pardon in August 1865, and in 1872, was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates. Given these events, and his extensive property, Tidball very likely profited from a disbursement of the treasury in Georgia. In fact, during a recent renovation of Linden Farm by its owner, a document found hidden in a wall confirms Tidball's possession of a portion of the gold. For Semple, as with Tidball, history is mute on the activities of both men. In the 1938 book, *Flight Into Oblivion*, by A.J. Hanna, *The Long Surrender* by Burke Davis in 1985, and in 2001, *An Honorable Defeat: the Last Days of the Confederate Government* by Williams C. Davis, the mystery of the disappearing gold was unresolved. The lack of discussion in these books is not surprising. Semple did seem to disappear into the night, for he had to avoid the attention of both the enemy and paroled Confederate soldiers looking to confiscate horses and wagons in returning to their homes. Semple was also given vague instructions, which left a great deal of latitude in where he went and how he got there.

One of the clues to the former Navy paymaster and his survival after the events of May 4 were documented by Robert Seeger in his 1962 book, *And Tyler, Too*, which provided an in-depth look at the presidency of John Tyler and his family. The travels of James Semple and his infatuation with the widow of the president, Julia Gardiner Tyler, were mentioned in the book and provided evidence of Semple's activities on behalf of Davis and the South, even after the surrender of Confederate forces. Corroborating evidence found in Semple's letters to Julia Gardiner Tyler, depicted a man on the run, carrying on underground activities for Davis. Instead of Liverpool, Semple eventually got as far as Nassau, after hiding out in the Okefenokee Swamp along the Georgia-Florida border for months. Ultimately, he took refuge in the North at the home of Julia Gardiner Tyler. Once called the "Rose of Long Island" for an advertisement that used her image, Julia was strikingly attractive, even at 45. She had long black hair, gray eyes, and a figure that drew dozens of suitors before she had agreed to marry the president, then 30 years her senior.

An ardent Confederate, Julia had made a difficult decision late in the war to leave Virginia for her mother's home on Staten Island, New York. Union soldiers were invading the countryside around Sherwood Forest, the Tyler plantation, and the safety of her young children was paramount. With both her husband and her mother deceased, Julia was alone on Staten Island with the children, surrounded by "Yankees" unhappy with a Southern sympathizer in their midst, even though she had been a First Lady.

May 2008 Contest Board Results

Category	Place	Name	Item
COINS: SILVER & GOLD			
	1 ST	Randy Gatchell	1832 capped bust dime
	2 ND	Mark Norris	1857 seated ½ dime
	3 RD	Lanny Irby	1899 Barber Quarter
COINS: OTHER			
	1 ST	Scott Bradley	1898 V nickel
	2 ND	Jeff Kleparek	1905 V nickel
	3 RD	Mike Plyler	Dollar coin
JEWELRY			
	1 ST	Scott Bradley	Gold ring amethyst stone
	2 ND	Mike Plyler	Silver ring
	3 RD	Ricky Rogers	Silver Bracelet
RELICS: PRE-1865 (MILITARY)			
	1 ST	Mark Norris	Navy button
	2 ND	Rick Baker	Breast Plate
	3 RD	Donnie Brazzell	Cannon fuse
RELICS: OTHER			
	1 ST	Lanny Irby	Thimble
	2 ND	Mike Plyler	Pistol cap gun
	3 RD	Mark Norris	Antique lock
BEST FIND			
	1 ST	Lanny Irby	1776 Continental pewter dollar
	2 ND	Bill Styles	14kt gold and diamond ring
	3 RD	Donnie Catoe	Native American spear point
EYE SPY			
	1 ST	Donnie Catoe	Arrow head
	2 ND	Mike Plyler	1930-40 DR Pepper 10-2-4 bottle
	3 RD	Chris Watson	Arrow Head

Gatchel, Randy	43
Stiles, Bill	41
Plyler, Mike	38
Alexander, Frances	36
Irby, Lanny	33
Catoe, Donnie	23
Herring, Steve	22
Watson, Chris	22
Brazell, Donnie	19
Hallman, Bobby	18
Correll, Ray	17
Earnheart, Jimmy	13

Treasure Hunter of the Year Rankings as of March 2008

Baker, Rick	10
Willis, Shaler	8
Jerry Greasman	8
Norris, Mark	7
Randall Wolff	7
Kirkland, Doug	5
Kirkland, Judy	4
Arnold Coinick	4
Ellman, Scott	3
Otterboug, Richard	2
Rogers, Rickie	2
Ron Montomerv	2

Missing Confederate gold from page 3

Semple was drawn to Julia, and she to him, by circumstances of war and the aftermath. Unable to accept the end of the Confederacy and Northern domination over the South, he collaborated with other disenfranchised leaders exiled in Canada. Over the course of the next two years, he traveled between the U. S. and Canada in clandestine activities, often using the alias Allen S. James, his travels financed with the Confederate gold.

In Semple's mind, if the U.S. could be drawn into a war with Great Britain, the North would need the South and would ease up on letting the former Confederate States back into the Union. The Fenian Brotherhood, which was preparing to attack Canada with a growing army, seemed to be an opportunity; and with the apparent blessing of Jefferson Davis, with whom he was somehow able to exchange messages, though Davis was securely locked up in prison at Fortress Monroe, Virginia, Semple became a courier for the Fenian movement. Between the financial help he provided to Julia, payments to support his estranged wife, Leticia, and the expenses of his clandestine activities, the gold in his possession became depleted during his two years on the run.

Around that time (and probably because he could no longer finance his travels), he finally began to realize there was nothing to be gained for the South, that the Fenian army was more rhetoric than substance and was ill prepared to precipitate war between the U.S. and Great Britain.

Like most Southerners, who strongly believed their cause was right, Semple was ultimately forced to admit that the Confederacy no longer existed and could not be resurrected, that nothing more could be done. He returned to relative obscurity in his native Virginia, near where he was born in New Kent County, and turned his attention to earning a living.

Semple apparently never attempted to recover the Mexican silver dollars in Danville, for various reasons. During the months he was trying to stay ahead of his would-be captors, Danville became an encampment for the Union army. With enemy soldiers occupying the town, any effort to dig up the some 160,000 8-reale coins would have certainly been seen. Besides, Semple was done with any sort of an adventure. He was worn out, saddened by the devastation that existed in his part of the state, and the difficulty he and his neighbors were having in restoring their lives and properties. Simply putting food on the table became an essential concern.

The evidence is strong that no one else managed to dig up the silver either, quite possibly because of where it was buried... in a cemetery area. Then too, given the volume and weight of the silver, the digging would have certainly been noticed by soldiers and townspeople, whether during the day or at night under the glow of kerosene lamps. Possibly, the fact that almost 1,400 Union soldiers, former prisoners warehoused in the town, had died of smallpox, dysentery, and other diseases and were buried nearby, could also have discouraged random digging.

In any case, caches of the silver coins have reportedly been detected at several locations in the Danville search area. A Colorado company, hired by a private individual, performed a geophysical survey and employed pulse induction instruments to identify the locations of the silver (and a small amount of gold). With the technology of today, why does the specie remain buried? For one reason only. The coins are buried on city-owned land, and Danville officials, concerned about disturbing graves, continue to refuse all requests to dig, even test holes.

Perhaps the city will ultimately change its mind and enrich its coffers with the largest portion of the estimated \$16 million in value.



Confederate gold

"Like most Southerners, who strongly believed their cause was right; Semple was ultimately forced to admit that the Confederacy no longer existed and could not be resurrected, that nothing more could be done"

Executive Committee

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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 If you are unable to attend the next meeting, you can mail your check made payable to SCMD to:

Frances Alexander
43 Fairway Ridge
Lake Wylie S.C 29710



We want to thank Donnie Catoe and Ricky Rogers for the refreshments at the May meeting. Bobby Hallman and Jimm Earnheart will provide Refreshments in June.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.scmetaldetectingclub.com

Our next club meeting will take place on Tuesday April 1st from 7-9pm @ Trinity Bible School, 915 Cherry Road, Rock Hill S.C 29732
We hope to see you there.

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Rock Hill S.C 29732

