

# NOVEMBER 2020 RAMROD

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## CLUB MEETINGS AND COVID

Since we are still under orders from the Governor in regard to the COVID situation, we ask that all who attend observe the guidelines that have been put in place - including maintaining social distances of 6 feet apart (especially when looking at finds or in buying raffle tickets) and wear facial masks. The gym will allow us to spread out more, so this will help with the social distancing.

Please keep in mind that we have a number of elderly members and that you consider wearing a mask for their safety.

We will bring a bottle of hand sanitizer to the meeting so folks can use it whenever they touch something.

Again, if you are not feeling well, or if you have been around someone who has the virus (thus exposing you to the virus) please remain home so as to not possibly spread the virus to others in the club. Remember, we have a number of individuals who are considered in the "high-risk" category, so please be considerate of them.

## .CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Here are the dates for our upcoming club events. A reminder note will be posted to club members before each event, or you may go to our club website or Facebook page for additional information.

- November 3<sup>rd</sup> – meeting cancelled
  - Election day so our meeting room is not available.
- November 17<sup>th</sup> – find of the month meeting
  - Nominations of 2021 club officers may be submitted
- December 1<sup>st</sup> – business meeting
  - Nominations of 2021 club officers from the floor may be submitted
  - Election of club officers for 2021
- December 15<sup>th</sup> – Business meeting
  - December find of the month

### 2021 Meeting Schedule

- January 5<sup>th</sup> – Business Meeting
- January 19<sup>th</sup> – Find of the month meeting
- February 2<sup>nd</sup> – 2020 Find of the year meeting
- February 16<sup>th</sup> – Find of the month meeting.
- March 2<sup>nd</sup> – business meeting
- March 16<sup>th</sup> – find of the month meeting.

On the **first meeting of each month** we try to have a speaker to give a talk on subjects of interest to our members. Many times, these talks are given by the members of the club but we often try to bring in guests who have a specialty area to share.

The **second meeting of each month** is dedicated to the “Find of the Month”. This is an opportunity for each member to bring in items that they have personally found since the last Find of the Month.

Here are the club rules for find of the month entries:

1. You must be a club member before the Find of the Month meeting date to enter an item.
2. Items that are submitted for find of the month are subject to board approval.
3. Items found to be ineligible for judging will be removed from the table.
4. Items submitted are for items recovered after the last month’s contest.
5. Items should be mostly dug items but an item that has been found by sight can qualify.
6. Items must be old in nature
7. Items found must be found by the person entering the items.
8. You can only enter once in each category.
9. Person bringing in an item is responsible to sign-in the item
10. The board can request an item be relisted in a different category if the board sees fit.
11. Items should be placed on the table after being signed in.
12. Place item on table according to its category and number sequence.
13. Person bringing items are responsible for items well-being; including, picking the item up at the end of the meeting.

Members vote for their favorite in each category. The winner of the single relic and single coin can then be entered into the Find of the Year event; which will be held January meeting of the upcoming year.

Here are the winning entries at our October find of the month meeting:

- Single Relic – Brad Leatherwood with a Colonial Pewter Buckle
- Multiple Relic – David McNamara with miscellaneous bullets, J-hooks, percussion caps
- Single Coin – Jimmy Barry with an 1833 Bust Dime
- Multiple Coins – no entries
- Jewelry/Miscellaneous – Maynard Ringenberg with a silver locket

Note: Pictures of the various finds can be found on the club’s Facebook Page.

**Raffle Prize** - At each meeting, we will have a raffle (\$0.50 per ticket) with two or three choices for the winner of the raffle to select. These items may include (but not limited too) Civil War Breastplates, Box plates, Bayonets, Union and Confederate buttons, artillery shells, and more. All attending the meeting may purchase raffle tickets.

- At our October 6th meeting, Lynn King won a 12-pound solid shot cannonball.
- At our October 20th meeting, Ray McMahan won a 1995 Civil War Commemorative Coin Set (silver dollar and clad half dollar).

**Door Prizes** - Each attending club member is also entitled to a door prize ticket, where winning numbers are pulled for various items (such as book, bottles, pictures, relics, coins, and other items). Only club members who are at the meeting can participate in the door prize drawings.

## **CLUB OFFICER ELECTION FOR 2021**

As noted in the “Calendar of Events” section (of this newsletter), the election of our club officers for 2021 will be held at the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Carl Dimare is on the nomination committee, and if anyone wishes to run for an office position, he or she can contact Carl (at a meeting or via email). We will also have nominations from the floor at the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Below are the articles in the Club’s By-Laws that note the duty of elected officers on the board.

### **Article 5 – Officers**

The club officers will consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The positions of Secretary/Treasurer may be combined by a majority vote of the members present. The President or President Elect, as appropriate, shall appoint an agreeable Club Member to serve a one-year term as Sargant-at-Arms.

### **Article 6 – Executive Committee**

The above names elected officers shall comprise the Executive Committee. This committee shall direct and control the operations and activities of the club.

### **Article 7 – Election and Terms of Office**

The President will appoint a nominating committee of at least three members at the first meeting in November of each year. The nominating committee will present a proposed slate of officers for the coming year at the first meeting in December. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. Election of officers will be held at that meeting. A majority vote of the members present at the meeting is necessary for election. Only dues-paying members (one per dues paid membership) will be eligible to vote. The newly elected officers will take office effective the first of January and will serve the entire calendar year. In the event an office becomes vacant during the year, the Executive committee will appoint someone from the membership to serve in that office for the remainder of the year. Persons nominated for office must be present at the election meeting to accept nominations. No absentee ballots will be accepted.

### **Article 8 – Duties of Officers**

- The President shall preside over all meetings of the club and executive committee. He/she shall represent the club in all matters relating to the association of the club with the Marietta Parks and Recreation. He/she will appoint a club member as chairman of any standing or temporary committee.
- The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the Absence of the President.
- The Secretary shall maintain a complete record of the club activities correspondence, including notice of meetings and special events. He/she shall maintain a roster of all active members and attendance records at the club meetings.
- The Treasurer will handle all financial matters for the club. He/she will keep appropriate records of all funds and expenditures. He/she will serve as custodian of the bank account maintained in the club’s name.
- Only the Treasurer and the President are authorized to write checks or withdrawal funds from the club’s account.
- Only the Treasurer, President, or Vice-President can handle funds for use in activities and operating costs for the club.
- The Treasurer will submit a financial report at each club meeting. This report shall be a verbal along with a written copy available for viewing and inspection by the membership at the meetings. All purchases made will be documented in the financial report.
- An inventory of prizes and artifacts will be maintained by the Vice-President. A written inventory will be available for inspection by the membership. Only a board member will keep of said items belonging to the club.

## SCOVILL BUTTONS

The following information was copied from the site

[https://inkspotantiques.com/index.php?main\\_page=page&id=1](https://inkspotantiques.com/index.php?main_page=page&id=1)

Prior to and during the Civil War, Scovill was the most prolific button manufacturers. The Scovill name is common on buttons from the 1830 to the 1970s. The original Scovill partnerships and companies were located in Waterbury, CT, so often the name Waterbury also appears on Scovill buttons. The brothers J. M. Lamson Scovill and William Henry Scovill operated the business from 1827 to 1840. These buttons are generally marked "JML Scovill..." or "Scovills". The Scovills & Co backmark is found from around 1840 to 1850. Marks with variations of Scovill Manufacturing begin about 1850 (Scovill MG.- early 1850s, Scovill MF'G - mid 1850s).

Below are some of the many Scovill backmark variations.

LEVENWORTH, HAYDEN & SCOVILL (also as LH&S) 1811-1827

J.M.L. & W.H. SCOVILL 1827-1840

J. M. L. & W. H. SCOVILL / [dot] WATERBURY [dot] / EXTRA SUPERFINE [dot] [star] [dot] [star] [dot] [star] [dot] 1830s. Example: Republic of Texas infantry

J M L & W H SCOVILL / [star] EXTRA RICH [star] 1830s. Example: South Carolina militia  
SCOVILLS : 1827-1840

SCOVILLS [dot] Waterbury [dot] [two inner rings of dots] 1830s US Dragoons [Eagle with D]

SCOVILLS / [dot] WATERBURY [dot] [RMDC between solid rings, outer ring of short rays, flat back]  
1830s Example: US Artillery [Eagle with D]

SCOVILLS [star] Waterbury [star] [two inner rings, one piece] 1830s Example: US Topographical Engineers

SCOVILLS & CO / [dot] WATERBURY [dot]" [stippled background] 1840s and 1850s

SCOVILL MG. CO. [dot] 1850s. Example US Navy

SCOVILLS & CO. : 1840-1850

SCOVILL MANUFACTURING CO. : 1850-1960

SCOVILL Mg. Co.: 1850-1865

SCOVILL Mg. Co. / WATERBURY CT. 1850-1865

SCOVILL Mf'g Co. : WATERBURY CT. 1850-1865

SCOVILL Mf'g Co. WATERBURY : 1850-1865

SCOVILL Mfg Co. WATERBURY CT. : 1850-1865

SCOVILLS [dot] Waterbury [dot] Typically Civil War or earlier, especially RMDC types. Example: So. Carolina militia button

SCOVILLS [star] WATERBURY [star]: pre Civil War (typically RMDC backmark), and Civil War and post Civil War (typically DM backmark)

### **Backmark Acronym Definitions**

There are two acronyms commonly seen when button backmarks are described.

**RMDC:** Backmarks with a raised mark in a depressed channel. These generally date to the 1830s to 1850s.

**DM:** Depressed marks (the lettering looks hand stamped into the metal). These typically date to the 1860s and later.

**Caveats**

Keep in mind that using Scovill backmark lettering (including dots and stars) is not a foolproof method because Scovill often used old backmark dies to make newer buttons. Thus it is possible to have a World War I "[Great Seal](#)" button with an 1850 backmark. Another nuance is that while text may remain the same, other embellishments on Scovill buttons change with time. An 1850 backmark may have the name in a groove or one or two rings made of fine lines or tiny dots, whereas a later button may have no ring of dots (like the Great Seal general service button below).

Here are Scovill examples of late buttons with old backmarks that we have observed:

SCOVILL MF'G CO. WATERBURY CT. 1872-1902 (on GI 98, ring of large dots)  
 SCOVILL MF'G CO. \* WATERBURY \*: 1902-est. 1918  
 (on Great Seal coat buttons with ring of large dots)

**Device Period** (c) InkspotAntiques.com



**Estimated Use of Scovill Backmark**

<b>"SCOVILL MF'G CO. WATERBURY"</b>			
"RMDC"	"DM"		
<b>Name in groove</b> 1850-1865	<b>Ring of Dots, 2*</b> 1860-1880?	<b>Plain</b> 1870s - ??	<b>Plain, 2 stars</b> 19th & 20th C.

## Timeline of Key US Army General Infantry Button Devices - Based upon Albert (1976)

**General Service 1852-1902:** (enlisted men) Two-piece buttons with spread eagle and lined shield

**1852-1875:** shield not raised, coat size 19-20 mm type

**1875-1902:** shield conspicuously raised, coat is 21 mm

### **Shields with Letters**

Shield with I : Infantry. Enlisted men, 1821-1854, officers 1821-1902.

Shield with A : Artillery. Enlisted men, 1821-1854, officers 1821-1902.

Shield with R : Riflemen. Enlisted men, 1821-1857, officers 1821-1902.

Shield with C : Calvary, 1855-1902 (officers only).

Shield with D : Dragoons (a light cavalry), 1836-1854 for enlisted men, officers 1836-1902.

### **SPECIAL CLUB RAFFLE**

To raise funds for our club, in lieu of our show being cancelled, we will have a special raffle starting at our August club meeting – and running through the year. This raffle will be for a professional framed picture (29 inches by 36 inches) entitled “The Christian General” – a painting of Robert E Lee (in uniform) reading a bible to a child.

You may purchase raffle tickets (\$0.50 per ticket) at all of our meetings, and we will draw the winner of the painting in December. You do not have to be present to win the painting, so we ask that you please print your name on the back of the ticket when you put it in the ticket-bucket.



If you have any questions about this raffle, please let me know.

### **CLUB WEB SITE**

The club web site can be viewed at the following address:

[WWW.NGRHA.COM](http://WWW.NGRHA.COM)

This site is continually updated with club-related information, so we encourage you to visit to site to learn about the latest club activities and events.

### **CLUB FACEBOOK PAGE**

More club information can be found on the club's Facebook site. This site not only includes information on club activities, but also a variety of information regarding the Civil War and articles of interest relating to history and our hobby.

You can subscribe to our site on Facebook by going to our page at:

*North Georgia Relic Hunters Association*

Take a few minutes to subscribe and view this page.

You can also make posts to this page with anything that you think will be of interest to other club members – including online articles and information from other Facebook sites.

### **CONTRIBUTORS TO NGRHA**

The North Georgia Relic Hunters Association (NGRHA) club and their members wish to thank the listed companies and individuals who have supported our club and the hobby of treasure seeking, metal detecting and the pursuit of history.

Through their donations and support and through responsible excavation, we are able to preserve, share and further the enjoyment of responsible collecting of Civil War relics, old bottles and coins as well as other items from years gone. We urge our members and others to support these supporters of our club. Thanks again to all!

- **Fisher Metal Detectors**  
<http://www.fisherlab.com>
- **Minelab Metal Detectors**  
<http://www.minelab.com>
- **Teknetics Detectors**  
<http://www.teknetics.com>
- **Whites Metal Detectors**  
<http://www.whiteselectronics.com>
- **Garrett Metal Detectors**  
<http://www.garrett.com>

- **Kellyco Metal Detectors**  
<http://www.kellycodetectors.com>
- **Nokta Detection Technologies**  
<http://www.noktadetectors.com>
- **Bullet And Shell**  
<http://www.bulletandshell.com>
- **Fisher Metal Detectors**  
<http://www.fisherlab.com>
- **Minelab Metal Detectors**  
<http://www.minelab.com>
- **Teknetics Detectors**  
<http://www.teknetics.com>

The following club members have made donations to our club therefore are listed here as club sponsors.

- Brian B. Waugh (Attorney at Law) – made a \$500 donation to the club
- James Grant – donated to the club the framed picture of Robert E Lee that is being used as a special club raffle.
- William McNamara donated \$100 to the Marietta Confederate Cemetery

#### **FUTURE ITEMS**

If you have items or ideas on what you would like to see added to the Ramrod, please let me know.