

# MARCH 2021 RAMROD

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## CLUB YEARLY DUES

Please remember to pay your yearly club dues. For 2021, dues will remain at \$10 per person. Dues paying members will be able to participate in our club hunts, receive a free door-prize ticket at each meeting, and be able to attend our yearly relic show for free.

## ANNUAL CLUB SHOW

At this time, the Cobb County Civic Center has reported that they should be able to open the Civic Center in the May time-frame. At that time, the Board and the Show Chairman will meet with Civic Center Personnel to discuss the proposed setup and guidelines that must be in place to enable us to have our Annual Show this coming August.

We will keep everyone in the club apprised on this ongoing situation.

## SPRING CLUB HUNT

We will have our club's Spring Hunt on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>.

- the hunt will start at 10AM, so please be there by 9:30 so we can go over hunt boundaries.
- you will need a small digging tool for the hunt (as we buried over 900 targets - along with a few dozen tokens)
- you will need headsets for the hunt.
- We will have water in the field where the hunt will be held, but you still may want to carry extra water (so you don't have to spend too much time running around looking for the coolers).
- we will have grilled hamburgers after the hunt -
- there will also be a raffle after the hunt.

### **To participate in the hunt, you must:**

- be a paid-up member of the club one month before the hunt date must have attended at least on meeting prior to the hunt have signed up for the hunt before the actual hunt.
  - To ensure that we have an adequate supply of prizes for the hunt, you have to already have signed up for the hunt at a previous club meeting.
  - You cannot simply show up at the hunt and pay your club dues and sign-in for the hunt
- the fee for the hunt is \$25.
  - children under 13 are free as long as they are accompanied by a paying adult family member that is participating in the hunt
  - children under 13 must stay with the member during the hunt – and not just walk around looking for relics/coins/tokens that may be visible on the ground.
- You must sign a waiver (since the hunt is on private property) at the beginning of the hunt.
- when the hunt has ended, any token for prizes that are found in the field or that have not been turned in will become null and void.
- No prizes will be given out until the hunt has ended.
- if a member cannot stay until the hunt ends, you will have to forfeit your prize tokens or find someone who can turn them in at the end of the hunt for the appropriate prize
- you will need a shovel for the hunt, although the relics are not buried deep - put cover your holes after you dig.
- you can keep any and all relics that you dig during the hunt.

- please wear headphones during the hunt.
  - Due to the number of folks participating in the hunt, and the close are, wearing headphones will benefit everyone.

### **CLUB 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.

#### **2021 Meeting Schedule**

- March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Business Meeting
  - Guest Speaker – Steve Strickland; Civil War Buttons
- March 16<sup>th</sup> – find of the month meeting.
- April 6<sup>th</sup> – Business Meeting and Buy, Sell, and Swap meeting
- April 20<sup>th</sup> – find of the month meeting
- May 4<sup>th</sup> – Business Meeting
  - Guest Speaker – Jim Hammonds; Civil War related letters and documents
- May 18<sup>th</sup> – find of the month meeting
- June 1<sup>st</sup> – Business Meeting
  - Guest Speaker – Carl Sitherwood; something Civil War Artillery related
- June 15<sup>th</sup> – find of the month meeting
- July 6<sup>th</sup> – Business Meeting
  - Guest Speaker – Ed Travis; Civil War Bullets
- July 20<sup>th</sup> – find of the month meeting
- August 3<sup>rd</sup> – business meeting and discuss the upcoming club show
- August 17<sup>th</sup> – find of the month meeting
- September 7<sup>th</sup> – Business meeting
  - Guest Speaker – Carl DiMare; Civil War Edged Weapons
- September 21<sup>st</sup> – find of the month meeting
- October 5<sup>th</sup> – Business meeting
  - Guest Speaker - Steve Strickland: Georgia Civil War Relics
- October 19<sup>th</sup> – find of the month meeting
- November 2<sup>nd</sup> – business meeting
  - Guest Speaker – Jim Hammonds; Grand Army of the Republic (Union Civil War Veterans) related memorabilia
- November 16<sup>th</sup> – find of the month meeting
- December 7<sup>th</sup> – business meeting
  - Election of new board officers to serve in 2022
  - Club charity announcement
  - Buy, Sell, Trade and Swap meeting
- December 21<sup>st</sup> – general meeting
  - Christmas Party
  - Find of the month meeting

## 2020 FIND OF THE YEAR AWARD

At our February 2<sup>nd</sup> Find of the Year Award, only 3 entries were brought to the meeting to be judged the find of the year. As per club bylaws, you had to be present at the meeting to be judged for this award.

The entries for the 2020 Find of the Year (that were present at the meeting) were:

- Ed Travis with a carved bullet
- Liz Vawter with a Borman Shell
- Lynn King with an 1865 Indian Head Penny

The winners for 2020 Find of the Year were:

- Liz Vawter with a Borman Shell
- Lynn King with an 1865 Indian Head Penny



## FEBRUARY FIND OF THE MONTH WINNERS

- Single Relic – Hannah Martin won with an Eagle Breastplate
- Multiple Relics – Jim Berry won with two (2) riker boxes full of American Revolution relics
- Single Coin – Bill Gilmore won with an 1818 Large Cent
- Multiple Coins – William Dorris won with a 1941 Mercury Dime and a no-date Buffalo Nickle
- Jewelry/Miscellaneous – Dana Riddle won with an antique cuff-link



## FEBRUARY RAFFLE PRIZE WINNERS

**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, Civil War reference books, silver coins, and more. All attending the meeting may purchase raffle tickets.

- At our February 2nd meeting, John Webb won a Bayonet
- At our February 16th meeting, Rod Hall won the book “American Military Plates” (O’Donnell)

## RECOVERY OF THE CSS GEORGIA

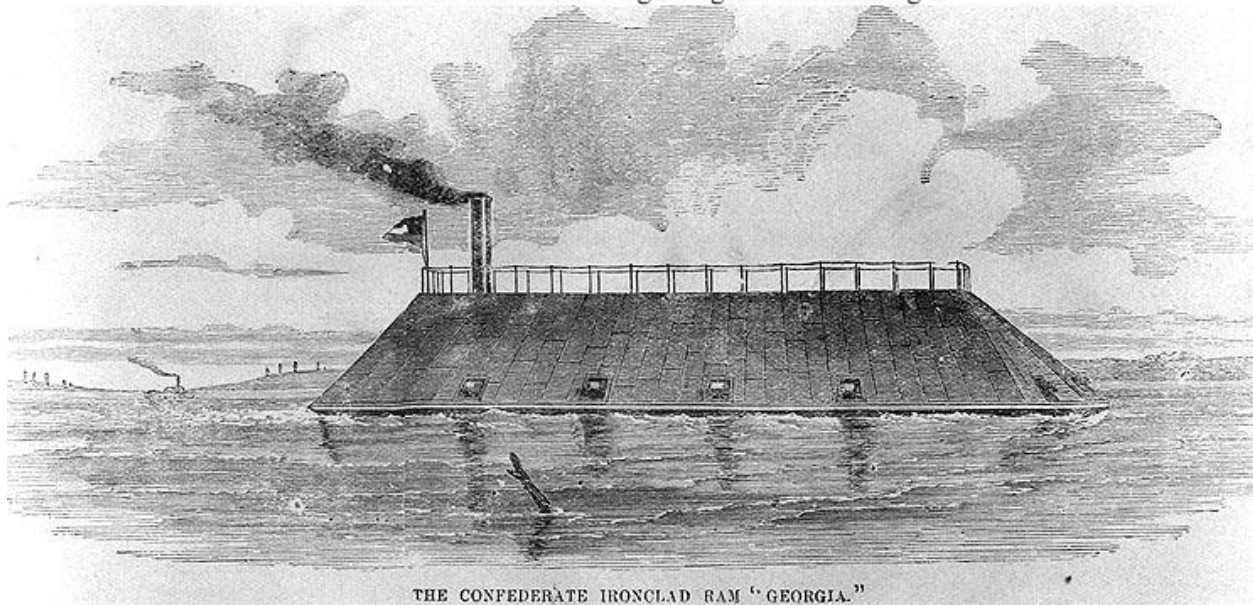
The following information on the recovery of the CSS Georgia came from the following website:

[A Rare Recovery: CSS Georgia | The Sextant \(dodlive.mil\)](#)

This link also contains pictures and links to other websites with additional information on the recovery.

*By: Dr. Alexis Catsambis, Archaeologist & Cultural Resource Manager, Naval History and Heritage Command  
Underwater Archaeology Branch*

Photo # NH 58722 Engraving of C.S.S. Georgia



My work is unique. I am an underwater archeologist, part of a team actually, responsible for the management, research, preservation, and interpretation of the U.S. Navy's sunken military craft. While there is no typical day for me at NHHC, a point that humbles me when I think of the responsibility with which I and my colleagues are entrusted, this week was truly rare. I was part of a team charged with one of the largest archaeological excavations of a maritime site that has ever taken place in the United States – CSS *Georgia*.

The recovery of the remains of CSS *Georgia* is a testament to the dedication of the DoD to the preservation of its submerged cultural resources and to its investment in facilitating economic development, in this case, the Savannah, GA region. It is rare to come across a series of stakeholders and partners who, despite differing priorities and roles in an operation, maintain the same dedication to conducting the recovery in a professional and pragmatic manner. Environmental parameters such as high currents and low visibility, combined with impressive vessel traffic, make the site a challenge to operate within logistically; the addition of ordnance and the presence of extensive remains of casemate sections which weigh tens of tons have necessitated the collaboration of dozens of people and machinery usually not encountered in archaeological projects. I feel privileged to be a small part of an operation decades in the making. Seeing the cannon recoveries earlier this week and knowing the last time they broke the water's surface was during the Civil War was a stirring moment.

As part of the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project, and following years of planning, the current recovery of the remains of CSS *Georgia* began in early 2015 in order to mitigate the anticipated disturbance of the site by planned expansion of the Savannah River ship channel. The project is a coordinated effort with the US Army Corps of Engineers-Savannah District, Georgia and South Carolina state officials, U.S. Navy and other stakeholders.



The site of CSS Georgia rests immediately adjacent to the main shipping channel leading to a major United States port. Vessel traffic, tide cycles and low visibility hamper diving operations, make the recovery of remains from the site particularly challenging. Adding to today's environmental factors, CSS Georgia was as a floating battery and carried a number of guns and ordnance when she was sunk. Archaeological research and extensive documentation of the site prior to the current project revealed a large amount of Discarded Military Munitions located within and around the wreck site. Because of the sunken ordnance, it became evident early on during the planning phase that operations would require the assistance of U.S. Navy partners such as SUPSALV, [EOD](#), and MDSU 2.

Following 6 months of archaeological documentation and recovery of hundreds of smaller artifacts, the current phase of the project utilizes the capabilities and expertise of Navy counterparts in the recovery of four cannon, casemate sections, machinery, and over 140 pieces of ordnance, which will be rendered inert prior to conservation. NHHHC's underwater archaeology role is to provide the necessary expertise to ensure the recovery is done to the professional standards expected of the Navy.

CSS Georgia was a Confederate ironclad gunboat that was built to help defend the city of Savannah, Georgia during [the Civil War](#). Georgia was launched on 20 May 1862 and soon came to serve as a floating battery moored adjacent to Old Fort Jackson when it was discovered that she was substantively underpowered. On 20 December 1864, CSS Georgia was scuttled in the Savannah River near the fort in order to prevent capture by advancing Union forces. Salvage attempts were conducted on the site shortly after the war and then the vessel lay forgotten until partial remains were rediscovered in 1968 during dredging operations. Several archaeological surveys of the site have been subsequently conducted CSS Georgia was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987.

### **What's Next for CSS Georgia?**

[Recovered artifacts](#) are scheduled to be delivered to [Texas A&M University's Conversation Research Laboratory](#) for stabilization and conservation treatment. Over 500 artifacts recovered during the archaeological excavation have already been delivered to the laboratory; thousands more are expected. Already, the artifact assemblage represents ship's fittings and gear, personal items, ordnance, and machinery; what else will be uncovered is a mystery.

Once conserved, the artifacts will be accessioned and curated at the [NHHHC Archaeology & Conservation Laboratory](#) and the Collection Management Facility in Richmond. The ultimate intent is to place portions of the collection on loan for display at regional museums in the Savannah area, as well as other interested qualified facilities nationwide, through NHHHC's artifact loan program. The artifact collection will not only help us learn more about this pivotal moment in our nation's history but also serve as an educational tool to raise awareness among the public of our story as a people.

### **CLUB WEB SITE**

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

***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.

#### **FUTURE ITEMS**

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

# **Happy Hunting !!!**