

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.

- June 3rd – business meeting
 - General discussion and demonstrations on different types of metal detectors
 - Members will bring in different types of metal detectors and demonstrate them to the club. This will help folks understand the functions of different detectors and also may help folks decide on what type of detector that they may wish to obtain.
- June 17th – business meeting
 - Find of the Month (June Finds)
- July 5th – business meeting
 - Buy-Sell-Trade- Sway meeting
- July 19th – business meeting
 - Find of the Month (July Finds)
- August 2nd – business meeting
 - Club discussion on the club's upcoming Relic Show
- August 13th and 14th – Club Show
 - 44th Annual Southeastern Civil War and Antique Gun Show
- August 16th – business meeting
 - Find of the Month (August Finds)

RELIC HUNTERS CAUGHT ON PICKETT'S MILL STATE PARK

The club was recently notified that two people had been caught metal detecting at the Pickett's Mill Battlefield Park. This location is a state park, and metal detecting is strictly forbidden. This

type of activity puts a “negative outlook” to our hobby, and puts us in a “bad light” with government officials.

To repeat, please read the rules (below and on our club’s website) regarding knowing the laws to metal detect in Georgia.

We cannot have this type of negative activity going on in our state, especially if they are members of our club.

The key to remember, obtain permission from the owner to metal detect a property, and stay away from State and Federal parks.

KNOW THE LAWS TO HUNT IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA

We periodically get asked by people visiting or moving to the state of Georgia what the rules for relic hunting in the state are. The answer to this question is on the useful website:

<http://www.mdhtalk.org/cf/city-regulation.cfm?st=GA>

It does describe the laws pretty well but not how they might be applied. For example, they state “*keep in mind that the actual practice for any given area may not represent the actual regulation that exist*” but keep in mind if you get stopped by an official the law (or as stated on the website: regulation) is what matters. You take a chance hunting in a park that everyone says is ok even though the regulations say you can’t. So here are the rules in general.

There are no Federal metal detecting laws other than the ARPA laws which protect ALL Federal Government owned lands. This law doesn’t address private property. But this law is far reaching and severe. This includes national historical parks, national seashores, national forests, military bases or any land considered US government property. Note that it is a felony to dig on Federal property and they are pretty committed to enforcing it. You don’t want to be caught

there so I suggest you stay far enough away from any federal property lines that there is no question about where you are hunting.

All private or state owned property is governed by the state laws. These governing laws are described on the right side of the above web site. Bottom line is don't hunt state or Federal property and you can hunt any private property as long as you have the land owner's permission. The above link states you must have written permission from the landowner.

The exception to the state laws is when cities or counties pass local laws that restrict state laws even more. An example of this is the Jekyll Island law shown on the above link stating no metal detecting is allowed on that island.

So in general you can hunt anywhere in the state other than Jekyll Island, State of Georgia property, Federal property or burial grounds with the land owner's written permission.

For the written permission, I suggest taking a copy of the web page above to show the land owner why you need it and then carrying a form permission sheet that you can fill out on site with the land owner's name, address, date and signature stating they give you permission. That makes it faster and easier than having to explain things and draw up a document.

Good luck and happy hunting! There is plenty of private property that with a little effort you can get permission to hunt.

SPRING CLUB HUNT

Our club held our first club hunt of the year on Saturday, May 21st. The hunt was held at Darrel Shipp's farm, as we have done in the past. Thirty (30) club members attended the hunt (we had six members who signed up who were not able to participate).

For the hunt, we had 625 targets (plus many relics and tokens over from previous hunts at this location). Of this number, 191 of the items were tokens (which were turned in for a prize).

As in past hunts, we did not find everything, as only 158 tokens were turned in – meaning 33 tokens were left in the field. Surprisingly, 9 tokens (along with some other relics) from previous hunts were turned in (goes to show you no place is ever hunted out).

After the hunt, we had a cookout (after the hunt) with hotdogs, baked beans, coleslaw, chips and lots of desserts. After everyone ate and we gave out the token prizes, we had a raffle where we raffled off a Borman Artillery Shell. Darryl Houston won the shell.

All said they had a good time at the hunt, and the club is very thankful to Darrell and Jennifer Shipps for allowing us to use their farm for the hunt.

We will have another hunt in the fall at this same location – the date to be decided on at a future meeting.

MAY RAFFLE PRICE 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 May 3rd meeting, Ben Martin won a North Carolina Sunburst button
- At our May 17th meeting, Roy Thompson won a Cast I button

FIND OF THE MONTH WINNERS

April Find of the Month Winners

For the month of April, here are the winners for the find of the month.

- Single Relic – Ed Travis with a US Belt Buckle
- Multiple Relics – Hannah Martin with a lock-plate, spur, fuse, henry bullet and miscellaneous bullets
- Single Coin – William Dorris with a 1936 Walking Liberty Half Dollar
- Multiple Coins – William Dorris with a 1948 Franklin Half Dollar and 3 wheat pennies
- Jewelry / Miscellaneous – Scott Fields with 2 rings and miscellaneous buttons

May Find of the Month Winners

For the month of May, here are the winners for the find of the month.

- Single Relic – Rod Hall with half of a borman shell
- Multiple Relics – William Dorris with bullets and carved bullets
- Single Coin – no entry
- Multiple Coins – no entry
- Jewelry / Miscellaneous – Rod Hall with bottles containing sand from Omaha and Utah beach in Normandy.

UPCOMING KENNESAW BATTLEFIELD EVENTS

It will be quite the month for Kennesaw Mountain NBP! In addition to our regular weekend programming, we will be having our Battle Anniversary Event at the end of the month. See below list and attached flyers for more information!

- June 4 - Cheatham Hill Walk
- June 5 - Pigeon Hill Hike
- June 11 - Native American History of Kennesaw Mountain
- June 12 - Memorial Field Walk
- June 18 - Visitor Center Museum Tour
- June 19 - Waves in the West, An Atlanta Campaign Talk
- June 25 & 26 - 158th Battle Anniversary of the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain

ATLANTA CAMPAIGN – “HELL HOLE” STORY

A relic hunter's story – July 16, 2014

They say there are places on this planet which have seen such tragedy and sorrow that they are forever cursed. It's as if the earth itself holds some dark supernatural force beyond our understanding. A few years ago, I found such a cursed place just a few miles west of Atlanta, Georgia – a tiny hamlet called New Hope. And even though many people don't believe the story I'm about to tell, my visit there haunts my dreams to this day. And to understand my story, you must understand the carnage that took place there.

It was May 1864, and General Sherman had begun his relentless march toward Atlanta. His men were hungry and battle weary, but knew that to destroy Atlanta would mean destroying the heart of the Confederacy and finally bringing an end to this horrible war. Standing in Sherman's way was a stubborn Confederate Army led by Joe Johnston. Johnston's men resisted the Union onslaught, forcing Sherman into flanking maneuvers. But like a bloody chess game, Johnston countered each of Sherman's moves, slamming his army into the Union forces day after day.

It was during one of these flanking maneuvers that Sherman's men marched into the area of New Hope Church. What they didn't know was that Confederate forces were lying in wait with sixteen cannons and some 5,000 men. As the Union troops struggled through the thick underbrush into the clearing, they were suddenly hit by a vicious firestorm of artillery. Confederate guns and cannons blasted away at them from behind makeshift log walls. The Union soldiers were sitting ducks.

As the battle raged on, legend has it that a vicious thunderstorm blew into the area – a storm unlike anything the men had ever seen. The skies turned black as night. Lightning flashed and thunder boomed around the battlefield, sometimes drowning out the relentless artillery barrage. Wounded Union soldiers desperately crawled through the torrential rain into a ravine to escape certain death from the Confederate guns. And it was said that, even with the storm and battle raging around them, one could still hear the agonizing moans of the wounded soldiers rising from the ravine. From that day forward, the Union troops gave a new name to the ravine near New Hope Church – “Hell Hole.”

Like other battlefields, New Hope was rumored to be haunted. It had a reputation amongst learned Civil War historians as being a creepy and unsettling place. But I had heard plenty of ghost stories about the battlefields in Virginia, and they had never stopped me before.

I drove into the town of New Hope just before sundown. It wasn't as much a town as it was a country intersection, with a small auto repair shop, a couple of churches and a cemetery. But the historical markers lining the road betrayed its bloody past. I reasoned that the Confederate battle lines must have been spread out across the area where the cemetery now stood. There was a heavily wooded area beyond the graveyard that I reasoned must have been the location of the “Hell-Hole.”

I parked across the street behind one of the churches. I reached the woods and soon found myself struggling through a thick jungle of thorn bushes, vines and trees. For a brief moment, I thought about what it must have been like to have been a soldier back then, already weary and hungry and now having to fight your way through this hellish Georgia forest. But then my thoughts drifted back to the business at hand.

The ground suddenly sloped downward, and I figured I was on the lip of the ravine. Some of the residents were now using the ravine as a garbage dump. There was plenty of scrap metal scattered about, including a rusted old car. But I had come this far, so I was going to at least give the place a try. I crept down into the ravine, chose an area that seemed the least polluted, and began clearing away some of the garbage. Once that was done, I swept the area with my metal detector and picked up plenty of readings. Whether or not this was from buried garbage I did not know, but I soon began digging in earnest.

In fact, I was so intent on my digging that I didn't notice a strange noise – heavy raindrops plopping onto the thick canopy of leaves above. This seemed impossible to me, as the skies were beautifully clear just a few minutes before. A jarring blast of thunder shook the forest, and I quickly moved into the only shelter I could find – the inside of the junked car. I hoped this was

one of those hit and miss thunderstorms so prevalent in Georgia. But the storm grew louder and more intense, the booming thunder shaking the earth, and the torrential rain drenching everything, even through the thick trees.

It was then that I heard it – a low moan drifting out of the bottom of the ravine. At first, I thought it must be some wounded animal, or perhaps a dog lost in the storm. But as it grew louder and louder, I realized the voice was definitely human. Soon other agonizing moans could be heard, seemingly feeding off the horrifying thunder crashing around me. Then I smelled a repugnant odor that I can only describe as the smell of rotted flesh. It must be from a dead animal, I thought, desperately trying to rationalize what I was experiencing. But the odor seemed to grow stronger and stronger as the moans grew louder.

A bolt of lightning suddenly illuminated the forest, and in that brief second, I swore I saw a shadow darting through the woods – a human shadow. As the storm reached its crescendo, the intense lightning lit the forest like some harsh florescent light, the gnarled trees taking on odd and terrifying shapes. My blood ran cold as I spotted more of these shadows darting amongst the trees, as if fleeing in terror from the storm. And in the bright flashes of lightning, I began to notice details on the shadows – a military cap here, a rifle or bayonet there. They could only be one thing – soldiers.

But the worst was yet to come. The temperature seemed to drop twenty degrees around me, and I was hit with the most sick and agonizing feeling I had ever felt. I can only describe it as a feeling of devastating loss and pain, as if I had learned that my entire family had suddenly died at the same time. I couldn't take it anymore – I kicked the car door open and hopped out into the storm. Then I was hit with a debilitating feeling of exhaustion that raced through my whole body, as if I had walked a hundred miles. I left all my equipment behind and desperately clawed and sputtered through the rain-drenched forest until the cemetery was finally in sight.

As I burst free of the forest, the storm inexplicably stopped. The clouds blew away, and I found myself standing in the midst of the glowing white tombstones. I had seen enough – I crossed the street and ran back to my car, only to spot the silhouette of a man standing beside it, peering into the windows. I stood frozen in my tracks until he yelled out in a warm, inviting Georgia drawl, “Hello there! I was getting worried about you!” It was the minister of the church. He had come out to check the building after the storm, and had discovered my car. Road maps and Civil War books scattered across the seats had betrayed me as the tourist I was.

I tried to avoid telling him what I was doing in New Hope by commenting on the thunderstorm that had passed, and how I had never experienced such a ferocious storm. The minister chuckled and replied, “Yeah, we seem to get them this time of year, especially on this date. Some folks think this place is haunted, but I don't believe in such things.”

My blood suddenly ran cold, and I heard myself ask him, “What's so special about today?”

The minister cocked an eyebrow at me and grinned. “Well, from all them Civil War books in your car, I thought you'd know. Today's May 26th – the Battle of New Hope was fought 136 years ago today.” And that's my story of the Hell Hole.

CIVIL WAR SOLDIER RESEARCH

If you have a Civil War ancestor that you wish to have more information about (ie; personal information relating to the soldier), then bring your request to the club's board. The club has access to some Civil War databases (which the club has paid for with a yearly subscription) and one of the benefits of being a club member is that we can do research to find information on Civil War soldiers (Union and Confederate).

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 the 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:

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.

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF COBB COUNTY

Another organization that you may be interested in joining is the Civil War Round Table of Cobb County. This organization meets the 1st Thursday of each month (except for July and August) at the Marietta Hilton Hotel.

As stated in the organization's bylaws, the purpose of this organization is:

- TO cultivate and preserve Civil War heritage of Georgia and to broaden the understanding of the Civil War era and its impact on our nation.
- TO explore the many facets of the Civil War from the battlefield to first-person narratives, including lectures by writers and historians and to encourage travel to locations linked to the Civil War.
- TO support historical projects and activities aimed at increasing awareness and appreciation of our Civil War history through sponsorship of various educational programs.

You can learn more about this organization by visiting the Facebook group page.

Happy Hunting !!!