

# APRIL 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.

## 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 one 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

- 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

## BUY- SELL-TRADE-SWAP MEETING

As noted in the club calendar, our April 6<sup>th</sup> meeting is our Buy-Sell-Trade-Swap meeting. However, **you cannot bring modern weapons** to this event (it is against the policy of the Church, which is allowing us to use their facilities for our club meetings).

We ask that you limit items you bring to those relating to our hobby – that is; relics, coins, books, prints that other club members may wish to have in their “collections”.

## ANNUAL CLUB SHOW

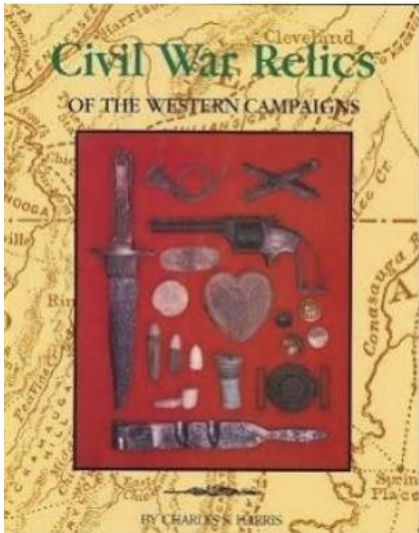
At this time, the Cobb County Civic Center has reported that they should be able to open the Civic Center in the May time-frame. At that time, the Board and the Show Chairman will meet with Civic Center Personnel to discuss the proposed setup and guidelines that must be in place to enable us to have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

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

### MARCH 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.

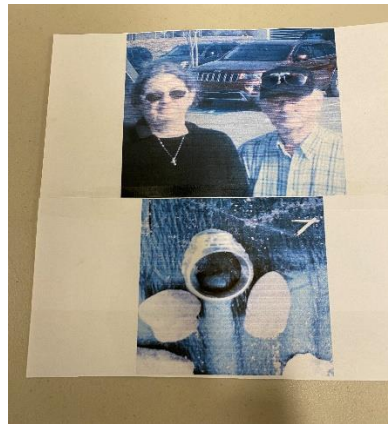
- At our March 2nd meeting, Gary Pass won the book “Civil War Relics of the Western Campaign (Harris)
- At our March 16th meeting, Ben Martin won a riker box which contained non-dug Eagle “A”, “C”, “D”, and “I” cuff buttons



### MARCH FIND OF THE MONTH WINNERS

- Single Relic – Apothecary weight from early-mid 1800s; used to measure medicine
- Multiple Relics – riker case with bullets, buttons, part of a US plate, and other miscellaneous items.
- Single Coin – 1820 large cent
- Multiple Coins – no entries
- Jewelry/Miscellaneous – Class ring (which the finder returned to the owner)



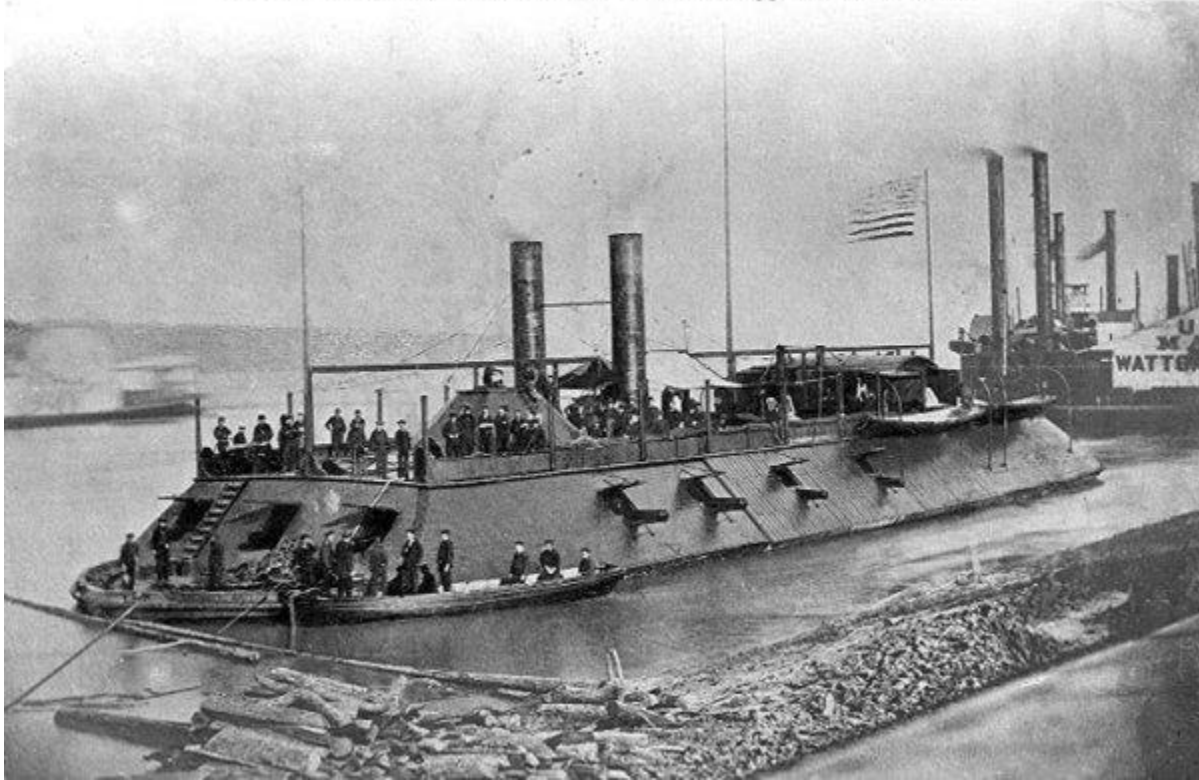




## SINKING AND RECOVERY OF THE USS CAIRO

The following article is from the following website: [The Sinking and Raising of the U.S.S. Cairo – Iron Brigader](#)

Photo # NH 61568 USS Cairo, in the Mississippi River area, 1862



The U.S.S. *Cairo* was commissioned on January 15th, 1862. The vessel was named after Cairo, Illinois, and not the city in Egypt. It was 175 feet in length, and just over 51 feet wide. Its two coal fired steam engines propelled the vessel at a speed of six knots. Its armor plating was 2 1/2 inches thick. *Cairo* was armed with thirteen heavy cannon. The ship was manned a crew of 158 enlisted men led by 17 officers for a total compliment of 175.

*Cairo* spent the rest of the winter and early spring of 1862 on patrol duty on the Mississippi, Cumberland, and Tennessee Rivers. The vessel saw action at the Battle of Plum Point, near Confederate Fort Pillow, Tennessee, on the Mississippi River. *Cairo* was not heavily engaged at Plum Point, though several other City Class ships were. It saw additional action at the Battle of Memphis on June 6th. That action resulted in the Federal fleet capturing the Tennessee city.

In December 1862, *Cairo* was operating on the Mississippi River near Vicksburg, Mississippi. On the morning of December 12th, *Cairo* and four other vessels steamed up the Yazoo River just north of Vicksburg on a mission to destroy Confederate artillery and clear the river of torpedoes as they were called then, but what would be called underwater mines today. After steaming 18-20 miles up the Yazoo, the flotilla encountered the mines and began to clear them out of the river. *Cairo* was in the center of the river channel when an explosion, or possibly two in rapid sequence, blasted the ship under its port bow.

*Cairo* sank in 36 feet of water in just 12 minutes. Though some crewmen were injured, none of the injuries were serious and there were no fatalities. It was the first ship ever to be sunk by an electrically detonated mine. For 94 years, the U.S.S. *Cairo* sat undisturbed on the bottom of the Yazoo River.

Then in 1956, Vicksburg National Military Park Historian Edwin C. Bearss and two companions set out to find the *Cairo*. Their approach was low tech. They used a motorboat and compass to detect any large masses of iron

below the surface, plus a long metal bar for probing below. It paid off when a promising mass of metal was discovered. A diver ventured down into the dark water and confirmed that it was indeed, the wreck of a vessel, most likely the *Cairo*.

As time went on, more artifacts and pieces of the ship were brought to the surface. The ship had been covered with silt and mud that acted as a preservative. In 1964, an attempt was made to raise the sunken vessel intact; however, the cables used to lift it cut into the hull of the ship. It was decided the only way to raise the ship was to cut it into three sections and lift each piece out separately. This was successful, and the raised sections were placed on barges and taken to a shipyard in Pascagula, Mississippi for restoration.



The interior of the ship contained vast numbers of artifacts preserved by the Yazoo silt and mud. All types of weapons, eating utensils, medical equipment, and personal items were present, and in excellent condition.

Restoration of the U.S.S. *Cairo* took several years, partly due to the amount of work involved, and partly due to difficulties in getting funding for the project. Finally, in 1977 the ship was brought to Vicksburg National Military Park and placed on display next to a museum which houses artifacts recovered from the vessel. The ship and museum displays are a high point of any visit to Vicksburg.

For the Vicksburg National Military Park virtual museum exhibit of the U.S.S. *Cairo* [follow this link](#).

Sources:

Bearss, Edwin C. [Hardluck Ironclad: The Sinking and Salvage of the Cairo](#)  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana: The Louisiana State University Press, 1980.

Joiner, Gary D. [Mr. Lincoln's Brown Water Navy: The Mississippi Squadron \(American Crisis \(Rowman & Littlefield\)\)](#)

Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc. 2007.

Kennelley, Christopher. "From the Yazoo Mud", *America's Civil War*, March 2006.

U.S. War Department. Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion. Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1895-1929.

## **METAL DETECTING IN GEORGIA**

There are many federal and state laws that prohibit, regulate and condition certain aspects of artifact collecting on federal, state and private lands. Artifact collecting is not prohibited outright, but there are many restrictions. As federal, state and local law enforcement officers become familiar with the laws, investigations and arrests are increasing.

**State Property** - To surface collect, metal detect, or dig on any state property, you must have a permit from the Department of Natural Resources. State property includes state parks, historic sites, wildlife management areas, recreation areas, and forests, as well as state highway rights-of-way, navigable river and stream bottoms, and the coast out to three miles. Official Code of Georgia sections (OCGA) dealing with the protection of archaeological materials include [OCGA 12-3-10](#), [OCGA 12-3-52](#); and [OCGA 12-3-80 to 83](#).

**Federal Property** - Generally, it is illegal to surface collect, metal detect, or dig on any federal lands without a federal permit. Federal lands in Georgia include Corps of Engineers lakes, U.S. Forests, National Parks, National Wildlife Preserves and military bases. The **Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979** (ARPA) and the **Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990** (NAGPRA) deal with the protection of archeological materials on federal lands.

**Other Property** - It is legal to surface collect non-burial artifacts with permission from the landowner. It is illegal to dig in any way (including metal detector hits) on archeological sites without written permission of the landowner and notification to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in advance of the digging ([OCGA 12-3-621](#)). It is illegal to expose, remove, or otherwise disturb human burials ([OCGA 31-21-44](#)), except when part of a legitimate archeological excavation ([OCGA 31-21-6](#)). Otherwise, if suspected human remains are encountered, they must be protected from harm and reported to local law enforcement immediately ([OCGA 31-21-6](#)).

If you do find somebody willing to let you metal detect on their property then it's best to get their permission in writing. This written permission should also be accompanied by some sort of agreement as to how discoveries will be divided.

the following page is an example of a permission form that you can use when asking for permission to detect on private property.

**Permission to Metal Detect on Private Property**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ agree to allow \_\_\_\_\_\* to use a metal detector to search for and recover buried coins, relics and other artifacts located on my property at \_\_\_\_\_.

It is understood that recovery includes the digging of small holes which will be repaired as nearly as possible to original condition. This permission will remain in effect until such time that it is revoked in writing.

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

Date

**Liability Waiver Form**

In consideration of permission to use a metal detector to search for and recover metal artifacts on the property located at \_\_\_\_\_, I, \_\_\_\_\_\* agree to release from all liability for personal injury or property damage that I may suffer as the result of my searching said property. This release is binding, and discharges said owner, his or her heirs, executors, and/or administrators, from all actions, causes of action, claims and demands for, upon, or by reason of any damage, loss, or injury which I may sustain while engaged in metal detecting on the owner's property.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Address) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

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### **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 !!!**