

Golddigger Update

Dig & Find Coinshooters & Historic Club

Vol. 29, Issue 4 ♦ April 2013

Welcome

The next meeting of the Dig and Find Coinshooters and Historical Club will be on April 23 at 7:30 p.m. We meet at Grace Lutheran Church, 338 Ocean Shore Blvd. in Ormond Beach. That is right across from the Neptune Beach Access on A1A.

March Meeting Report

The meeting was called to order 7:30 p.m. with 27 members and 9 guests present.

Our guests were former member Sterling Gosa and his wife Earlene from Holy Hill, Jeffery Busque from Daytona Beach, Robert Kappenberg from Port Orange, Jim and Diane Farquarson from Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island Canada, Andrew Graves, Wes's co-worker, Ed Sobzak from Whitby, Ontario, and Andy Lyga, of parts unknown or at least not revealed. I'm also pretty sure Gord Fontaine was there testing the limits of his visa. Sterling and Earlene Gosa and Jeff Busque joined the club.

Topics of Discussion:

There were a few members sharing stories about detecting areas, and Jim Tippitt shared information with the club about the "River Walk" area in Port Orange north of Aunt Catfish's. It's still awaiting development and members have been hunting in that area without any trouble.

Upcoming hunts were discussed including the Dig and Find Annual Turtle Hunt to be held Sunday April 21st at Winter Haven Park, the Central Florida Metal Detecting Club Sunshine Shootout & Relic Hunt on Saturday, May 4th and the 14th Annual Historical Recovery Assoc. of N. FL Hunt on Saturday, May 18th 2013. Entry and prizes were discussed with the members.

An early prize drawing was announced for the Turtle Hunt for those who signed up at the meeting.

Wes announced there was a For Sale table at the meeting, and it would be there every month if members wanted to bring in detecting related items to sell. Tonight we had diggers and two 'vintage' Fisher 12XX series detectors.

The **Club Auction** was announced for the May meeting. This is always a fun time and one of the club's biggest fundraisers. The way it works is you go through all the nice stuff you have and don't want anymore and donate a few of those things to the club auction. Then you bring wads of cash and buy other nice stuff brought in by the other club members in a frenzy of fast action, crazy excitement and laughs galore. Everyone gets a great bargain.

The trouble with normal is it always gets worse.

Bruce Cockburn

Monthly Raffle

The raffle winners were:

Scott Van Sickle won a Spanish shipwreck coin.

Earlene Gosa won a screwdriver set.

Misc. Group – **Tom Burchett** – Park Finds

Jeff Busque won the Zen Garden and a Half.

Randy Brummitt won a pair of scissors.

Mary Warne won a one-ounce copper coin.

Gene Crovella won a Minelab Hat.

Shirley Bossert won a Minelab Bag.

Deyton Peyton won a towel

Bob Benware won a pouch.

Congratulations to the winners. Thanks to all who donated prizes.

Events in the past may be roughly divided into those which probably never happened and those which do not matter.

William Ralph Inge

Finds of the Month Competition

Jewelry Single – **Tom Burchett** with a 22k gold ring.

Jewelry Group – **Tom Egan** with Spring Break stuff.

Coin Single – **Warren Trager** with 1935 Mercury dime

Coin Group – **Jim Tippitt** with coins from river and school

Artifact Single – **Steve Hamilton** with Roll's Razor sharpening tool cover, 1930s-50s England.

Artifact Group – **Steve Hamilton** with 2 wagon wheels, gal. bottle, glasses, lead ant hill thing.

Misc. Single – **Mike Cornell** with Coin thing (no clue really) Locking Mechanism.

Misc. Group – **Tom Burchett** – Park Finds

Display Single – **Shirley Bossert**, Prospector for gold on turquoise Rock

Display Group Honorable Mention– **Deyton Peyton** for an awesome collection of shipwreck silver and civil war relics.

Jim Tippitt won the second chance drawing of \$2.00 bill and Kennedy Half dollars totaling \$5.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

It is impossible to defeat an ignorant man in argument.

William G. McAdoo

Remember

D&F Members-Only Turtle Hunt

The annual Turtle Hunt will be held THIS Sunday April 21 at Winter Haven Beach Park, 4589 S. Atlantic Ave., Ponce Inlet. The cost is \$15 per person. If you haven't signed up, you can still come and pay at the hunt. Arrive at 9 a.m. for the all the fun

Just the omission of Jane Austen's books alone would make a fairly good library out of a library that hadn't a book in it.

Mark Twain

A soldier's long-lost Civil War ring is returned to his family in Pennsylvania

By Michael E. Ruane, April 09, 2013

Who knows how Pvt. Levi Schlegel lost his identity ring?

The finger ring bearing his name, company and regiment — a Civil War version of a dog tag -- was found near Fredericksburg, a place Schlegel had only passed through on his way home a month after the war ended.

On Tuesday, 148 years after the war ended and 81 years after he died at the age of 91, the ring that married him to the conflict was returned to his family in a modest ceremony at his grave in Reading, Pa., where he had lived.

It was handed over by John Blue, 40, a heavy equipment operator and veteran relic hunter from Manassas, to Ernest Schlegel, 49, a candidate for Reading City Council, who believes he is a distant cousin.

“To know what this person went through and get back here...and to know what he went through in battle ... it's an amazing feeling to have this right here in my hand,” Ernest Schlegel said when Blue gave him the ring.

Blue, who was wearing a ball cap and T-shirt bearing the name of White's Metal Detectors, said, “No matter where you walk, you could be walking on all kinds of history.”

Blue, who grew up in Manassas and learned relic hunting from his father and grandfather, said he found the ring in 2005 with a metal detector but didn't try in earnest to track down the soldier's relatives until recently.

Blue said he believes it may be the first time that such a recovered Civil War object has been returned to a soldier's family.

Schlegel was 21 when he joined his first regiment, the 167th Pennsylvania, in 1862, Ernest Schlegel said. This was a nine-month outfit that disbanded in August, 1863 without seeing too much action.

Schlegel, who was a carpenter by trade, was out of the army for a year. He then signed up again in September 1864 with the 198th Pennsylvania regiment, Company G, recruited in Berks County, Pa., where Reading is located.

The war at this stage was exceptionally grim. The main Union and Confederate armies were locked in trench warfare around the city of Petersburg, Va. The Confederacy was in its death throes, but its Army of Northern Virginia was still dangerous.

Blue said the identity ring was one of several ways Union soldiers had to make sure their bodies would be identified if they were killed in battle. The soldier's name, company and regiment were etched on the outside of the ring, which probably was worn, in this case, on a pinky finger.

The ring, which appears to be silver, was likely purchased by Schlegel, Blue said, and served as daily reminder of the prospect of death. Blue found it at a construction site where he was hunting for relics.

If Schlegel was with his regiment throughout the final months of the war, he was lucky to have survived. The 198th saw a half-dozen savage battles, marched through dreadful weather.

And the outfit was near Appomattox, Va., when Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered the battered Army of Northern Virginia, on April 9, 1865, essentially ending the war.

The regiment then slowly started home, reaching Richmond, and then marching through Fredericksburg on May 9. Probably, it was there that Levi Schlegel, no longer facing oblivion, parted with his ring.

He may just have lost it. But he had seen so many wartime horrors. Abraham Lincoln had been assassinated. And he had lost 117 comrades in the

regiment to combat and disease.

Levi Schlegel went home to Reading, got married and had 11 children.

He is buried beside his wife, Mary, beneath a twin "pillow"-style tombstone in Reading's 167-year old Charles Evans cemetery.

An American flag and a Grand Army of the Republic veterans emblem marked the grave Tuesday.

And he might never have missed the tiny ring that has been brought home to his grave.

I know a lot about cars. I can look at a car's headlights and tell you exactly which way it's coming.

Mitch Hedberg

Coming Attractions

April 21 - Turtle Hunt

April 23 - Club Meeting

May 28 - Club Meeting - Annual Auction

June 25 - Club Meeting

Laughing at our mistakes can lengthen our own life. Laughing at someone else's can shorten it.

Cullen Hightower

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Watch Out

by Wes Wade

I know everyone knows to lock their car doors and put anything of value out of sight when you're out and about detecting. But, I got two calls today from people I sold machines to recently that their cars were broken into on the beach side while they were detecting. One guy said they broke the window and took his detector case, spare battery and his daughter's purse, cell phone, credit cards etc. He was out with his detector so they didn't get that. He said his case was in plain sight, but maybe these thieves are getting smart and know what to look for. And another guy called and said they got his scoop and some odds and ends out of his truck. Same thing he was out digging with his machine so they didn't get it.

We have many DBPD officers that stop by my work weekly and one today said that the number one crime in Daytona Beach is car breaks, normally it's unlocked doors, but when they see something good they will break a window.