

# The Picket Post

*The Central Virginia Civil War Collectors Association*

*Established 1980*

**Volume 14, Issue 8**

**September 2005**

## *September Meeting*

Our September meeting was held at 7:15 p.m. on Tues., September 6, 2005, at the Hunton Recreation Center. Ben Greenbaum presided. Jim Livesay gave a brief update on a dangerous amendment to the Native American Repatriation Act ([www.usbr.gov/nagpra/](http://www.usbr.gov/nagpra/)) and encouraged members to ask their congressmen to vote no. Jim also added a correction to July's newsletter noting that the bullets he had found were in a topographic "saddle," as opposed to a bottle.

**Best Dug Relic-of-the-Month.** Dave Batalo found an exceptionally nice example of the pewter entwined USA button of Revolutionary War vintage.



Dave Batalo's Rev War Entwined USA with cast-on shank.

Mark Schultz found five, yes, five, script I buttons in the same hole, all with London backmark, and probably off the same jacket! He took ROM with his find. Congrats Mark!



One of Mark Shultz's five script I buttons (l), and a lined I found by Mike Philyaw (r).

Jack Mountcastle went into one of those proverbial places that has been "cleaned out," so don't bother to go there. He recovered a number of items, such as a US box plate, knapsack hooks, eagle buttons, a harmonica reed, a large cent, and several bullets.



A portion of Jack Mountcastle's past month's recoveries.

Ben Greenbaum returned from an expedition near Bismarck, ND with a nice assortment of various American Indian artifacts, including items as small as trade beads (dots in the small display case). Jim Livesay also displayed some Indian artifacts, including "hammerstones" that fit the hand.



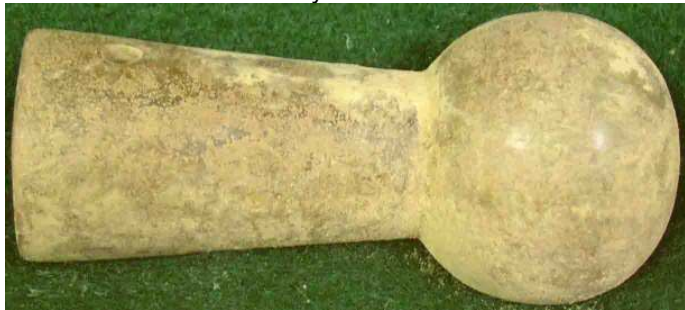
Ben Greenbaum's American Indian artifacts.

Mike Philyaw found his usual variety of relics this past month, including a lined I, a tin back local I, and a knob from a horse or mule collar.



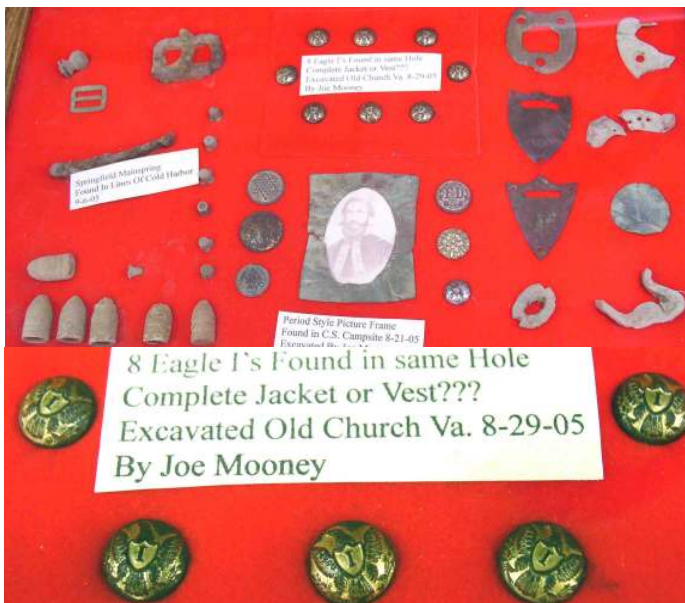
Tin Back Eagle Cuff, Found In Lines Of Cold Harbor, By Mike Philyaw

Some of Mike Philyaw's recent recoveries.



Horse/mule collar knob found by Mike Philyaw.

Joe Mooney recovered numerous items this past month, including a picture frame, saddle shields, and eight eagle I buttons from the same hole, apparently from a dropped vest.



8 Eagle I's Found in same Hole Complete Jacket or Vest??? Excavated Old Church Va. 8-29-05 By Joe Mooney

Some of Joe Mooney's recoveries from the past month.

**This Month's Display Items.**



Gilded script I cuff button.



Non-dug Confederate spurs.

**This Month's Program.** This month's program was presented by Anna Holloway, curator for the Monitor, and Kimberly Hansin, campaign manager and fund-raising director, of the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, and detailed the upcoming opening of the USS Monitor Center.



Anna Holloway & Kimberly Hansin of the Mariners' Museum.

We learned that the museum, [www.mariner.org](http://www.mariner.org), is multifaceted. It is a conservation facility for 250 tons of iron. A center of scholarship, where authors may discuss topics, a place of exhibits of artifacts and their stories, an archive of one of the largest depositories of CW maritime literature, and an educational faculty.

The planned USS Monitor center is scheduled for March 9, 2007 to coincide with the 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the epic battle of the ironclads, the CSS Virginia (the Merrimac) and the Monitor, and will tell the story of both. The

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construction techniques and transformation of the USS Merrimac to the CSS Virginia will be explained, and the original wheel made at Richmond's Tredegar Ironworks will be on display. Not long after the battle, the Virginia was scuttled by her crew on May 11, 1862 to prevent capture by the US.

The Monitor went down in a storm 16 miles off of Cape Hatteras. The wreck site was discovered in 1973, and the Mariners' Museum has been chosen by NOAA as the repository of artifacts recovered by the wreck. The various recoveries, such as a comb found in the turret, will be tied in to letters and other items from crew members and officers.

A letter from Francis Butts, a crewman, described putting a cat into one of the Dahlgren guns during the storm, although no cat was found upon excavation of the guns. The guns, however, were engraved "Monitor" and carried the name of Erickson, the ship's designer, and that of the captain.

The new USS Monitor Center will be a 65,000 square foot addition to the existing Mariners' Museum. A replica of the monitor is being constructed for display, along with a mock-up of both war vessels, and part of the Virginia's casemates with a Blakely gun. One interesting item that will be on display will be the red signal lantern, recovered in 1977, which was the last thing seen of the monitor prior to its sinking.

A "theatre in the round" will show a 12-minute movie of the Battle of Hampton Roads using computer graphics and surround-sound. There will be a gallery for the reassembly of the turret and guns recovered from the Monitor wreck, discussion of recovery technology, and a prop on display explaining 19<sup>th</sup> Century technology. The desalination process is estimated at a decade for the turret and possible more for the engine.

There are currently expeditions to the Monitor site annually to recover as many artifacts as possible, but recovery will never be able to be completed because of decay. Surveys are made of the site every year to track possible shifting of the wreckage.



Jar of relish from the USS Monitor.

Anna and Kimberly expressed their appreciation for the club's support of the conservation efforts by the museum, and asked members to come up and examine some of the

display items they had brought, including a portion of the Monitor's iron plating and a small jar of relish, both encased in Lucite blocks, and a replica of a mustard jar.

## *Civil War Course*

The University of Richmond's School of Continuing Studies will offer a course titled "Crossed Sabers – Civil War Cavalry in Virginia" that meets 7:00 – 9:00 PM on four consecutive Monday nights, beginning on October 3, 2005. The course will discuss the extensive use of mounted soldiers by both sides in many different types of units. The Civil War in Virginia would see large cavalry divisions made up of thousands of cavalymen and light artillery to small units of irregular forces mounted on swift horses who served to gather information on the enemy or to attack his weak points. This course explores the use of cavalry by both the Union and the Confederacy, highlights the major cavalry battles fought in Virginia between 1861 and 1865, and brings to life some of the fascinating men who led the forces in blue and gray. The instructor will publish a suggested reading list prior to this course and will also provide additional information as take-home material. On October 29<sup>th</sup>, a Saturday bus field trip led by the instructor will visit selected cavalry battlefields in Virginia.

This course is led by CVCWCA's very own retired Brigadier General Jack Mountcastle, the U.S. Army's former Chief of Military History. Discussions will focus on those soldiers who truly believed the lyrics of the popular Civil War song, which said: "If you want to have fun -- J'ine the Cavalry!" Cost of the non-credit course is \$159.

Details: Call University of Richmond's School of Continuing Studies at 289-8133 or visit their website at [www.richmond.edu](http://www.richmond.edu). Click on "Continuing Studies" and then select the Think Again Noncredit course catalog's section on Personal Enrichment History Courses.

(Thanks to David Hagy for taking notes on the Mariner's Museum presentation, and to Sam Williams for the Monitor presenters and relish jar photos.)

## *Upcoming Programs*

**October 2005** – Annual meeting at the Museum of the Confederacy. Each year we meet at the MOC and the staff shows us items of a theme of our choice that are generally not displayed to the public.

**November 2005** – Discussion of the upcoming November CW Relic Show & Sale.

David Garnett continues to solicit your ideas for programs and speakers for upcoming meetings.



President  
Vice Pres./Show  
Vice Pres./Programs  
Secretary  
Treasurer

Ben Greenbaum  
Steve Sharpe  
David Garnett  
Bob Baird  
Tom Carlton



## Upcoming Shows & Events

*Remember, before traveling any distance to attend a show, be sure to call and verify the dates and time!*

**September 3, 2005.** Civil War living history lantern tours at Meadow Farm, north of Richmond (follow signs from I-295). Tours leave every 15 minutes 7:15-9 pm. Free. Registration required: 804-501-5520.

**October 7-9, 2005.** North-South Skirmish Association's National Competition at Fort Shenandoah near Winchester. Live-fire competitions featuring all variety of vintage weapons. Free. More info: [www.n-ssa.org](http://www.n-ssa.org) or 248-447-5909.

**October 8, 2005.** Bus tour, "Chancellorsville," annual Friends of Fort Ward bus tour leaves from Fort Ward in Alexandria 7:45 am. \$85. Deadline for reservations is Oct. 5. [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org) or 703-838-4848.

**October 8, 2005.** Tour, two-hour guided tour of part of the Brandy Station battlefield. Begins 10 am at the Graffiti House Visitor Center (just off Route 29 north of Culpeper) at 10 am. \$5. 540-547-4106.

**October 8-9, 2005.** Living history and ranger programs at Drewry's Bluff, part of the Richmond National Battlefield Park. 10 am-5 pm Saturday, 10 am-4 pm Sunday. Free. 804-226-1981.

**October 13-15, 2005.** Bus Tour, "Stonewall Becomes Lee's Right Arm — The Jackson Valley Campaign of 1862," based in Winchester. Includes reception and orientation dinner. Tour covers lower Valley sites at Winchester, Kernstown, Middletown, Strasburg. \$175 (does not include lodging). For more info, email [ssnyder@su.edu](mailto:ssnyder@su.edu) or call 540-535-3543.

**October 15-16, 2005.** Symposium, "Great Controversies of the Civil War," sponsored by Pamplin Historical Park south of Petersburg. Reservations, fee required. 877-PAMPLIN.

**October 23, 2005.** Bus tour, "Petersburg's Western Front" ranger-led tour includes visits to Fort Stedman, Dinwiddie Court House, Five Forks and much more. Leaves from the Petersburg National Battlefield's visitor center 9:30 am, returns 5 pm. Bring bag lunch or purchase Sunday buffet

on the tour. \$30 does not include lunch. Reservations required. 804-732-3531 extension 206

**October 29-30, 2005.** Civil War show, Gettysburg Fall Show at the All Star Events Complex, Business Route 15, four miles south of town. 9 am-5 pm Saturday, 9 am-3 pm Sunday. 717-642-6600.

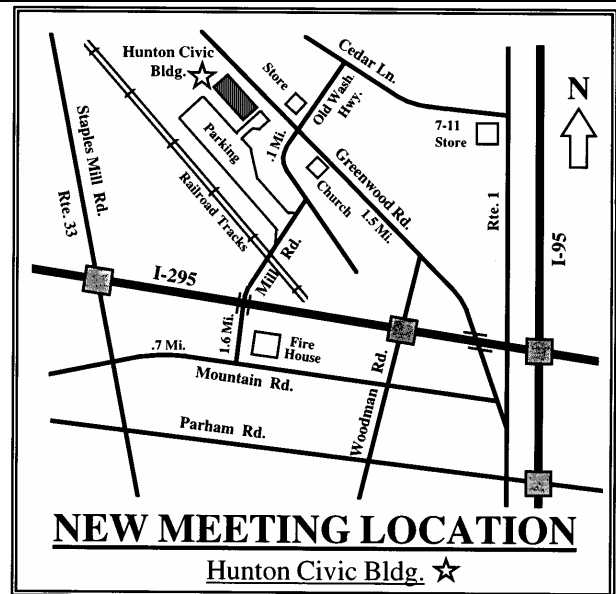
**November 12, 2005.** Living history, "Camp Life of Union Soldiers," at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick. 11 am-3 pm. Free with admission. 301-695-1864.

**November 16-19, 2005.** Conference, "Fredericksburg: The Dare Mark Line," includes tours, lectures, dinners and more. There is a charge for the entire conference, but free lectures are open to the public November 17. Details: [www.nps.gov/frsp](http://www.nps.gov/frsp) (click on "Special Events").

**November 19-20, 2005.** The original Richmond Civil War Show. 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Capital of the Confederacy Civil War Show and Sale at the Richmond Raceway Complex. Over 400 tables. Sponsored by the Central Virginia Civil War Collector's Association in conjunction with the Museum of the Confederacy. Held at the Richmond Raceway Complex (formerly the Virginia State Fairgrounds) in Richmond. 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Saturday; 9:30 am – 3:00 pm Sunday. \$6.00. 804-928-1006.

(Thanks to Dennis Madison for the calendar of events for this month's newsletter!)

## Map to Hunton Civic Center



MAP NOT TO SCALE

CVCWCA Newsletter  
Bob Baird, Editor