



Silver City Treasure Seekers Club Newsletter

"Where the Adventure Begins ..."

Volume I - Issue 4a

SCTSC News

April 2020

April ... has been Cancelled !!

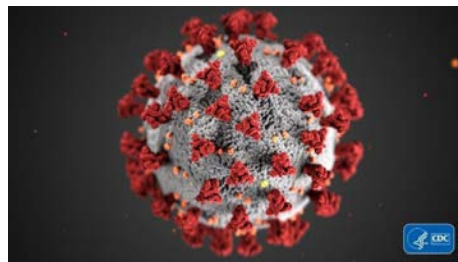
As has our May meeting_

Compliments of CoVid-19

Be Safe All ! Stay Home !

or, if out Swinging the Machines ...

Please --- maintain 'Social Distancing' as much as possible



**Fellowship ... and Conversations ... Stories, Tips and
Friendships formed ... must be 'Virtual' ... for now**



Treasure Seekers Club Newsletter

"Where the Adventure Begins ..."

This mid-month **SCTSC**
NewsLetter is dedicated
primarily to
Finds reported that
we might all like to see ...

My plan is to issue another
in ~ two weeks ...

IF ... !

Those photos and
descriptions continue ... !

The President's Corner :

Bill is recovering from Surgery ...

He say's Hi to you all ...

so, let's all of us wish Bill a speedy, and complete, recovery.

We don't know when our next meeting will be ...

There will be NO meeting in May ...

so,

I thought a small 'mid-April' Newsletter might be Fun.

Hopefully some of you are out there Swinging those machines ...
in fact, I know some of you did, because they e-mailed in some
photos ... of damn nice finds !



*"I am a great Believer in Luck ... and, I find the harder I work,
the more I have of it."... Thomas Jefferson*

For comments/corrections or to submit photos/articles please contact

Quack - Newsletter scribes

Kevin & Jim Quackenbush @ QuackSellsHomes@gmail.com

Some Excellent finds reported !

Check out these finds from Tony !!

Nicely Done !



**Tony was pretty jazzed ...
when this treat was
unearthed !**



"I dug my first trime in
March after 12 years of
digging.

1853 US 3 cent silver
coin (trime).

In random woods about
8 inches deep with my
AT Max."



Neat find !

You just never know what you may find when you're out 'Hunting' !

Betting April is a good 'Find' Month also !

What are yours ?! Let Quack Know !!!

Some History about the Trime

The United States three cent piece was a unit of currency equaling $\frac{3}{100}$ of a United States dollar. The mint produced two different three-cent coins for circulation: the three-cent silver and the three-cent nickel.

Additionally, a three-cent bronze coin was made as a pattern in 1863. During the period from 1865 to 1873, both coins were minted, albeit in very small quantities for the silver three-cent piece.

The three-cent coin was proposed in 1851 both as a result of the decrease in postage rates from five cents to three and **to answer the need for a small-denomination, easy-to-handle coin.**

The three-cent silver featured a shield on a six-sided star on the obverse and the Roman numeral III on the reverse. The coin was initially composed of 75% silver and 25% copper to ensure that the coin would be considered real currency, yet not worth melting down for the silver.

The coins were physically the lightest-weight coins ever minted by the United States, weighing only $\frac{4}{5}$ of a gram and with a diameter smaller than a modern dime and only slightly greater than the smallest gold dollars.

The silver coins were known as "fishscales".

The term "trimes" is often used today for these coins, and was first used by the director of the United States Mint (James Ross Snowden) at the time of their production.

The size of the date numerals also varied through the years, with 1860–1863 featuring the smallest date numerals of any US coin.

It was minted from 1851 to 1873 at the Philadelphia Mint.

The silver three-cent piece was discontinued by the Coinage Act of 1873
Mintage figures --- 1853 (P) – 11,400,000

Designer: James Barton Longacre

Design Date: 1851



Check these Finds by Denise Schoener and George Mallard !!
Just ... WOW !

They detect areas in RI a lot - e.g. Portsmouth

"here are some items that George and I have found in the past couple of months.

So all of these items in the pics were found in one day.

We were detecting at what we thought would be a promising field, but were coming up with nothing.

With tails between our legs we headed toward the car.

While on our way, we decided to take a shortcut.

As we headed back, we noticed a very flat forested area that looked detectable. Obviously it had never been detected. We found an early 1900s Egyptian revival ring about 6" down. Also came up with about 6 carriage buttons deep (10"). Close by were a 2 Reale and 2 1/2 reale and what appeared to be the silver handle of a stiletto knife.

Only ones imagination could think.... maybe a robbery?

Unearthing history is pretty cool"



early 1900s
Egyptian
revival ring
(pretty cool)



Oh wait ... there's More ! - Little Compton RI



The 2 1/2 reales and a 2 Reales were about 8" deep and under two flat stones



1787/8 Mass Cent in pretty darn good shape.



This is what keeps you going thru all the days of getting skunked !

silver handle of possibly a stiletto knife ?



Fugio Cent !

Some History

Massachusetts coppers

"On October 16, 1786,"An Act for establishing a Mint for the coinage of Gold, Silver and Copper" was passed in the House of Representatives and on the 17th was passed in the Senate and approved by the Governor, authorizing the construction of a state owned mint. A Boston goldsmith named Capt. Joshua Wetherle was appointed mintmaster to supervise the production of coppers.

The law stipulated the obverse of the coins was to depict **the figure of an Indian holding a bow and arrow with a star above (as on the state seal) and the legend "Commonwealth" while the reverse would carry an eagle with wings spread out and the legend "Massachusetts" along with the date.**

Massachusetts was the only mint to conform to the federal resolution of July 6, 1785 establishing a decimal ratio of 100 cents to the Spanish milled dollar.

The Massachusetts coppers were designated in decimal units of one-half cent and one cent at weights of 78.75 grains and 157.5 grains respectively. Thus, the cent was slightly heavier than the weight of a royal British halfpenny (authorized at 152.2 grains). However, the coins actually circulated at the same rate as Connecticut coppers, that is eighteen cent size coins to the shilling. As six shillings equalled a Spanish dollar, the coins actually circulated at less than their stated value since it took 108 cents to equal a dollar !

The dies for the Massachusetts coins were first produced by Joseph Callender, an engraver located on State Street in Boston, who had apprenticed at Revere's shop. In mid 1788, the state gave the contract to a young twenty-two year old engraver in Newberryport, Jacob Perkins.

Perkins's dies can be distinguished from Callender's in that Perkins used a closed letter S that looks somewhat like an eight, while the earlier dies by Callender have a distinctly open letter S.

Massachusetts coppers were well received and stayed in circulation for several decades.

They were made on good quality copper planchets and were well struck."

Some History

Fugio Cent

On April 21, 1787, the Congress of the Confederation of the United States authorized a design for an official copper penny, later referred to as **the Fugio cent** because of its image of the Sun and its light shining down on a sundial with the caption, "Fugio"

(Latin: I flee/fly, referring to time flying by).

This coin was designed by Benjamin Franklin; as a reminder to its holders, he put at its bottom the message, "Mind your business".

Some historians believe that the word "business" was intended literally here, as Franklin was an influential and successful businessman.

It does not mean "mind your own business" as that phrase is used today, but rather, "pay attention to your affairs".

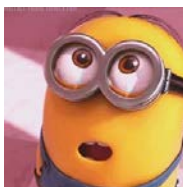
The reverse side of both the 1776 Continental dollar coins and paper notes, and the 1787 coins, bore the third motto "We Are One" surrounded by thirteen chain links, representing the original thirteen colonial states.

Following the reform of the central government with the 1788 ratification of the 1787 Constitution, gold and silver coins transitioned to the motto "E pluribus unum" from the Great Seal of the United States.

Here's the part I like best ... !

**The copper used to strike the coins was from U.S. military supplies,
from the bands used to hold together powder kegs that
the French government sent to the United States during
the American Revolution ... !**

Talk about a Piece of History !



A Few Finds reported by members during the month :

Joe Baker rang the Bell !

several times ... !!!

In Fact - the next Pages (!) are Joe's !



Joe's finds
Quite the Haul
all have a tale to tell
of the Past

'It's All Old Dirt' !

Joe and his son Nathan have been working e.g.
a new field with an old cart path from the 1700's

Take a closer look at a few of these on the following pages
... Wow !

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"As we were leaving that day, I also dug up this really bent (curled up) silver spoon. So, what do I do ? I carefully bent it open to straighten it out and see the figure of a baby on it with the words to the affect of "weight/born". So, I deduce immediately it's some type of commemorative baby spoon. Then, after I get home and research it online ... I find out (Ha !) it was Supposed to be bent in a curve shape so that the adult could put his/her finger through the handle while feeding the infant ... Now I have to Bend it Back ! LOL "



BIGBEARSVINTAGEDEN ★★★★★ (69)

Vintage Silver Plate Curved Handle Baby Spoon, Rare Find Collectible 1958 Chalice-Harmony Pattern Unique Gift





Joe's Dad dug this Sterling pendant that appears to be of the state capital of Oklohoma

< -- Before

After -->



The same day Joe dug this 1805 Large Cent and a small silver three sided hat ...



The Draped Bust large cent, designed by engraver Robert Scot, first appeared in mid-1796 as a replacement for the former Liberty Cap design.

1805 and 1806 are uneventful years, with only a few, essentially normal, varieties in each year.



In 1796, Congress responded to the almost universal dissatisfaction of the first coins (Flowing Hair dollar) and decreed a new design.

As was the custom of the time, all denominations bore the same design or, in this case, the same obverse. By Congressional decree, certain features were required: the eagle, the word Liberty, stars, and United States of America.

It was not considered necessary to include the value of the coin since it could be discerned from its size based on the precious metal content.

All coins (copper and silver) bore the same obverse. Robert Scot, Chief Engraver of the U.S. Mint, 1793–1823, transformed a portrait of a society lady by Gilbert Stuart into a rather buxom Ms. Liberty. Some accounts identify the woman as Philadelphia socialite Ann Willing Bingham.



"Then I dug this Huge round copper."



Church of St John the Divine



© bbybugs



"I was sure it was a new type of State Copper I hadn't seen before ... but, after getting home and brushing it off it says 'The Cathedral Church of St John the Divine ... New York' Turns out it's a Pilgrimage souvenir - and only 3000 were minted. They stopped making them in 1950."



1758 King George
Copper



Draped Bust -
no date visible



Old Sterling ring
missing the stone



And, just for good measure ...

Nathan dug what 'appears' to be a Connecticut Copper (?) - no date ...
& several colonial flat buttons & a Merc.



"I scraped up an 1853 Seated Liberty Half Dime ..."



Before

In 1853 the Liberty Seated design was modified by the addition of arrowheads to the left and right of the date. These arrows remained in place through 1855, after which they were discontinued

“**LUCK IS WHAT
HAPPENS
WHEN
PREPARATION
MEETS THE
OPPORTUNITY.**”

”



~Seneca

After

As earlier half dimes (as well as the other silver denominations) were being hoarded, the mint produced an unprecedented quantity of half dimes of the with-arrows style, with the figure for 1853 totaling 13,210,020 at the Philadelphia Mint.



And !
Joe's Daughter Shannon
had a Blast digging this
Barber Dime !
&
the (?) pieces of a Belly Ring !
Way to Go Shannon !



Judi B. & Sharon Scored !

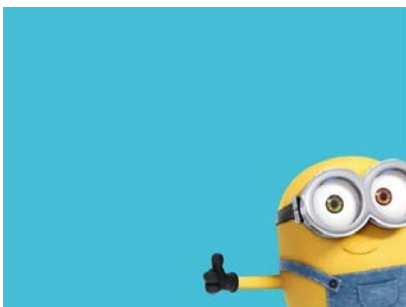


"Sharon and I had lots of fun at our new permission at a farm in Pembroke."

A Large cent is a neat find
and 1826 !



And an
Indian !



Kent B. had a rather *amazing* stroke of luck



These alone would have
made for an excellent
week ...

But ... WOW !
Jackpot !
Check it Out !

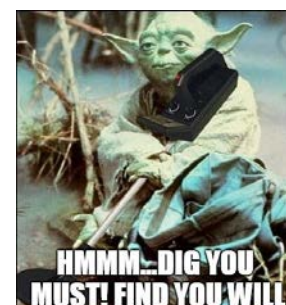


Pine Tree
ThreePence

"Field -
4 to 5
inches deep"



Congrats Kent
Excellent find



Hey ! Corbin ! Triple Silver !



"At House w-permission ...
2 to 4 inches down'



"My new favorite find ...
WWII Sterling Silver
Marksman badge clasp"



Way to Go Corbin !

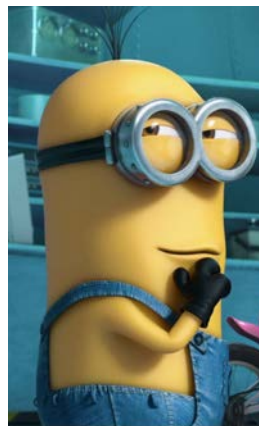


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John LaFleur is still out frequently at several Beaches
and, has had some luck while out & about



Gold !



The Brothers Q ... another Field day

'Hey ! We're 'Socially Isolating' here ...
"This time I have two old schools for us to try."
Why not !? ... Off I went !

The first school was inaugurated in 1895 ... so we had high hopes.
Alas, after two hours of swinging including the rather expansive front 'lawn'
we had little more than a pocket of 'hot rocks' !?



Finally
turned up
a 1905 Indian



Lunch at the 'Office' !



The second school was
better
for number of targets



We also dug a coin spill ...
a Susan B, four Quarter's,
four Dimes, two Pennies
and a Canadian Nickle !

Best finds of the day ...
seven Wheaties &
a 1905 Indian



Oh ... and a Cadillac !
Okay - just the nameplate



A Fun and relaxing day with my Bro ...
we'll be back !

Bill found this magazine cover recently
Oh how Far our equipment has Come !



1933 !!!

An Invitation ...

**Our President Bill has proposed that Members
who have a Business, or engage in Business ...
and who wish to,
be Invited to place an 'Ad' in the Newsletter
each month.**

Those who may be interested in doing so should
e-mail Quack
with whatever verbiage and Photo(s) they wish to
include ...

Compose your 'Ad' to fit within
approximately a Business card size ...

Note - IF enough of you submit Photos of Finds
& your descriptions, I hope to publish
a second newsletter this month
at the end of April.

It **could include the First Ad's.**

Questions - ?!



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SCTSC members - Items for Sale or Trade page

any errors on this page are Q's



**White MX Sport
with an extra lower shaft ...**

asking \$550. It's a year old

Contact :
Bafflel@comcast.net



**Hey - You need a
new machine !**



About Our Club :

The Silver City Treasure Seekers Club of Taunton, Massachusetts started back in 2001 by **Bill Henderson**, and is dedicated to the promotion of metal detecting as a hobby.

Membership is open to the public, with the only requirement being that all members follow the Treasure Hunters Code of Ethics.

The Club's yearly dues are \$35 per (household) Family or \$25 single.

We meet at 6:30 p.m. on the first Friday of every month at the Bristol-Plymouth Technical High School, 940 County st. (Rte 140), Taunton, Massachusetts.

There are currently over 90 active members that participate in various club meetings, club hunts, and Coin contests ...

e.g. Find of the Month and Find of the Year, with prizes.

Monthly meetings are scheduled for two hours, the first portion being club business, followed by discussions, coin/relic exhibits, 50/50 prize and raffle drawings for Silver & Gold and, occasional Guest speakers.

Read more about Our Club by visiting the Club's Web site at :

www.silvercitytreasureseekers.net



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This Month's Newsletter Contributors

Tony, Denise Schoener & George Mallard,
Joe B. his Dad, Nathan & Shannon,
Judi B. & Sharon, Kent , Corbin, John LaFleur,
& The Quack's

Your Club Officers - 2020

President - Bill Henderson
1st Vice President - Joe Baker Jr.
2nd Vice President - Kent Blethen
Secretary - Steve Petrelli
Treasurer - John Oliveira

Mailing Address :

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North Dighton, Ma. 02764
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Metal Detecting Tips & Tricks You may not have Considered

Carry a sack. Always take along a metal detecting bag to collect your finds. If you dig up trash, take it with you - don't leave it behind ... one less false signal next time.

Slightly overlap your sweep. When moving the metal detector in a sweeping motion, be careful to overlap your sweeps so you don't miss any potential targets.

One treasure sometimes means two. If you dig up something extraordinary, then spend some time searching in the same area because oftentimes, you will find several great finds in the same spot ... think Coin Spills !

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Did you know ...

"Buck and ball was a common load for muzzle-loading muskets, and was frequently used in the American Revolutionary War and into the early days of the American Civil War. The load usually consisted of a .50 to .75 caliber round lead musket ball (.69 caliber for the "Brown Bess" musket) that was combined with three to six buckshot pellets.

The intent of the buck and ball load was to combine the devastating impact of a .50 to .75 caliber ball with the spreading pattern of a shotgun. The combination served to greatly improve the hit probability of the smoothbore musket.

In combat, especially at closer ranges, the buckshot would retain significant energy.

When used against closely packed troops, the spread of the buckshot would be advantageous. Claud E. Fuller, in his book *The Rifled Musket*, shows tests of a rifled musket firing Minié ball, and a smoothbore musket firing round ball and buck rounds at various ranges against a 10 by 10 inches (25 cm × 25 cm) target.

The firers consisted of several men in line shooting in volley.

At ranges of 200 yards (180 m) and under, the buck and ball from the smoothbore musket, while less accurate than the rifled musket, produces a greater number of hits due to the greater number of projectiles. At 100 yards (91 m), 50 shots by smoothbore buck and ball against the 10 x 10 target result in 79 buckshot hits and 37 ball strikes, as opposed to 48 Minié ball hits in 50 shots. At 200 yards, 37 of 50 Minié bullets struck the target, vs. 18 of 50 smoothbore balls and 31 of 50 buckshot, for a total of 49 hits in 50 shots. Beyond this range, the buckshot will have lost too much energy to be effective due to its lower ballistic coefficient.

Perhaps the most famous proponent of the buck and ball loading was **George Washington**, who encouraged his troops to load their muskets with buck and ball loads during the American Revolution. The buck and ball load was standard issue throughout the Seminole Wars of 1815–45. With the advent of general issue rifled muskets in the American Civil War, and longer engagement ranges during the later stages of the war, the buck and ball loading began to fade from use.

Buck and ball did see action in the remaining inventory of smoothbore muskets **at Gettysburg** and later actions. The Union Irish Brigade retained their smoothbore muskets until late so they could fire buck and ball during the relatively close range battles, **perhaps most famously, and to good effect, against Pickett's Charge**. In addition, the 12th New Jersey Infantry preferred to use buck and ball, which they did to deadly effect at Gettysburg, and so continued carrying smoothbore muskets."