

The Old North State Detectorists

Club Newsletter for September 2012



My First Silver Coin by Rodney Joslin

I recently went to Harrisburg, PA for a one-week business trip and decided to drive, in order to take my detector along, just in case. On Tuesday, I was talking to a co-worker who asked why didn't I fly up. When I told him about wanting to detect a couple of other co-workers properties which were built in the late 1800's, he mentioned his house was built in 1858. He has owned it for twenty-five years. Asking if I could detect there, he said a co-worker of his wife had searched the area about six years ago. That detectorist thought that someone else must have gone over it already because he did not find a thing. I said it didn't matter to me if I found anything; I just enjoy the time hunting and would like the opportunity. He said it would have to be Wednesday after work. Wednesday morning when we saw each other, he said "oh, by the way, I also own the cabin next door which was built in 1795". It had been purchased about four years ago. Now I am even more excited about the chance to search this location.

Arriving at his house around 6:30 pm, there was a large back yard including what may have been a horse barn in the very back and a fair-sized side yard. I walked in the back gate and felt that was a good place to start working my way across the yard. Turning on my White's MXT Pro, I took two steps, and got a good signal, digging to find a 1951 Wheat Penny within a couple of minutes of starting my hunt. What a way to quickly see there was potential at this site! I continued working the area over the next couple of hours. The property has a lot of iron. I dug quite a bit of it just to be sure it was junk. I was getting tired and the sun was going down, but didn't want to stop. I was making my way back and forth when I heard another good signal, dug it, and found an old thimble. Before filling in the hole, I ran the detector over it again and there was another good signal. I took another handful of dirt out and there was an 1862 Indian Head Penny. I had worked just over half-way across the yard and had not even made it to the cabin yet. It was about 9 pm when I sat down with my co-worker and his wife to show them what I found. They said I could come back Thursday after work to finish.

I arrived Thursday at about 5:30 pm and decided to start behind the cabin. Unfortunately, sixty percent of the back yard was filled with 10 inch deep gravel to make a parking lot (the cabin is rented to businesses). I found some matchbox cars along the back walk and a lot of junk near the far end building (a horse barn?). I decided to go back to the house and continue working my way back. About 7 pm I got a good signal, dug, and pulled out a silver piece about the size of a dime, only thinner. It was well worn. I could not make out a date and could only read a few letters and the word HISPAN. I put it in my pocket and continued on. I was there until dark again. The



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only other items of interest recovered were a horseshoe that was different from others I have found, as it was flat and wide in the front, and an old spring, probably from a carriage.

The property owners were shown the finds and told I would research the worn coin more (my only guess at that time was Mexican). Returning later to the hotel room, I was able to examine the coin closer and found it is a ½ Spanish Reale. The letters on it indicate being minted in Mexico City between 1772 and 1777. I am very excited about this find and even though its value in this condition is \$10-15, it is priceless to me!

Happy Hunting.

PS: Did you happen to note that each significant find was about 90 years older than the one before it?



Back of 1795 cabin



Possible stable behind cabin

An association of metal detecting hobbyists