

THE GOLD NUGGET

October 2023

The Prez Sez! By Bobby Manning



Greetings to all...! We did the Clear Creek Cleanup for JeffCo Open Spaces which is an annual project in celebration of National Public Lands Day. We had several members participating at the Arapahoe Bar site where Bill picked up trash and Steve B., Jack M. and myself worked on noxious weeds, and Joe J. worked at another site. We then retired to the Park to set up the panning booth and have a little lunch. It is now October and time to do our annual pumpkin carving so please bring your best pumpkin to the October meeting to be judged by your fellow members. We are looking at Kevin's book to do another

prospecting outing in October as well so watch for that. It is also time for elections for the Club. Mike is stepping down as Vice President and Kevin has volunteered to run for that position. Joe K. has advised that he will also be stepping down so we will need to replace him as well. We also have three other Board positions that need filled so it is time to get some folks to step up again. Gordon will be overseeing the Election process. I will be needing someone to take notes for the Board and General meetings, so let me know if you are interested. These jobs are not all that hard at all. In November, we will be doing two different things. We will be going to Colorado Springs to get some rocks that have gold in them from an old railroad wreck, and we will be doing the annual Club metal detecting hunt in Arvada on W. 74th. I look forward to seeing more of you at these outings. Hope to see you all at the next meeting. . May your Pan be shinning with yellow GOLD!



Vice President's Corner! By Mike Stevens



I wanted to start off by saying how I really enjoyed John Olson's presentation. That must've been quite the adventure of being able to go out on a metal detecting outing and find Civil War memorabilia and artifacts. He did a great job on his presentation and it was really impressive to see the artifacts. I've been thinking about adding metal detecting to my treasure finding tool chest, and after watching this presentation I might have to jump in with both feet. We're truly lucky to have club members that are willing to share their knowledge and experiences with the group. It is members like John and others that make the club experience and meetings more exciting. I can't wait to hear from others in the future. Golden Smiles For All!

From the Treasurer/Secretary Ledger by Joe Kafka



Enjoyed the September meeting and we had a good turnout. The Club remains in the black and members may request to see the financial report at any time which I have at my table in the back whenever you wish to see it. Hope to see you all at the next meeting in October when we will be giving away more gold nuggets and great door prizes....!! Don't forget to buy your 'Special nugget' tickets and your .50/50 tickets' as well. See you all at our next meeting!

Board Meeting Minutes from Sept 2023

X	Bobby Manning	X	Andy Doll	X	Robert Ahr		Joe Johnson
X	Mike Stevens	X	Joe Kafka	X	Kevin Singel		
	Mike Hurtado	X	Gordon Smith		Roger Schlenger		

Quorum Present: Yes

Call to Order by: Pres Manning at 6:10 pm.

Reading and Approval of Minutes: Corrections: # of guests was actually 4, 1 New member and 36 guests_ Approved as read/corrected: Moved by M. Stevens; second by R. AR. Approved



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Treasurer's Report: Questions: On reconciliation going forward Approved: Moved by M. Stevens; second by R. Ahr. Approved

Correspondence: phone calls 1 emails 0 mail 2.

Webmaster: Total hits Not collected this period
Hits in last 30 days Not Collected

Committee Reports: Club picnic will be announced at the gen. mtg. tonight to be held on Sept. 30 from 12-4 p.m. Location: 58th & Tennyson @ Clear Creek Canyon Park. A sign-up sheet will be placed at front table for side dishes.

Unfinished Business: None discussed.

New Business:

- Club elections coming in November. Two board members have announced they will be stepping down: Mike Stevens (VP) and Joe Kafka (Treas.).
- Board member G. Smith will obtain nominations and run the election committee again this year.

Planned Outings:

- Clear Creek Clean-up sign-up sheet at front table for those interested in participating. It is scheduled on Sept. 23rd.
- Possible day outing @ Fountain Creek in COS. Joe Johnston brought this to the board and will run with the planning. A section of the creek is the location of a train wreck that dumped gold ore coming from the mines in the mountains. Looking at a Nov. 4 date.
- The Pirate's Hunt will occur on the last Wed. of the month. Board member Robert Ahr leads these metal detecting events and everyone is to meet at McCoy's restaurant @ I-70 & Federal at 8 a.m. for breakfast or 9 a.m. if only attending the hunt.

Board Members Items of Discussion: None

Tonight's General Meeting Program: John Olson giving a presentation on Civil War relic metal detecting.

Announcements: Next Board Meeting 10/18/23 at 6:00pm Next General Meeting: 10/18/23 at 7:00pm

Adjournment: G. Smith moved to adjourn; R. Schlenger seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting stands adjourned at 6:48 pm.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Although acids dissolve most metals, which acid mixture is used to dissolve gold???

2023 GPR Board of Directors Members

President

Bobby Manning

Vice President

Mike Stevens

Secretary/Treasurer

Joe Kafka

2 Year Board Members

Robert Ahr (2024)

Andy Doll (2024)

Gordon Smith (2024)

1 Year Board Members

Kevin Singel

Roger Schlenger

Vacant

Vacant

Past President

Joe Johnston

General Meeting Minutes from Sept 2023

1. Meeting was opened at 7:04 pm by Pres. Manning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Pres. Manning then announced that the evening Program which was John Olson presenting on metal detecting for Civil War artifacts.

3. Pres. Manning then gave the Metals Report: Gold 1933.00, Silver 23.30, Platinum 950.00, Palladium 1322.00 and Rhodium 4450.00.

4. Web hits for last month was 164710/308.

5. Treasurer Joe Kafka reports that the Club remains in the black. Report is available for review for anyone who wishes to see it. We have a 'Special Nugget' tonight so be sure to buy lots of tickets. It is a beautiful specimen.

6. Robert Ahr and Shelly Zornes from the Membership Table reported that we had 38 members in attendance. There were 2 Guests present tonight. New members 1. The total meeting attendance was 40.

7. Pres. Manning read the 'Question of the Month', which was "...What is the melting point of gold in degrees Centigrade/Celsius? The winners will receive an extra ticket to the gold nugget drawings later during the evening program.

8. Pres. Manning advised that there was time to enter items at the break for the 'Finds of the Month' table and that the monthly winners from tonight will need to be saved for the Finds of the Year competition in November, 2023. A reminder to all that their gold submissions need to be weighed dry and only one submission per person per category. Be sure to fill out the entry cards completely. Only finds found within the last 30 days may be submitted.

9. John Johnson announces the 'Cache Clue' # 2.

10. Pres. Manning advised that the Club Store would not be open tonight.

11. Pres. Manning informed the membership that the club picnic is scheduled for Sept. 30 from 12-4 p.m. @ Clear Creek Valley Park near 58th & Tennyson. A Sign-up sheet for side dishes will be on the front table. Additionally, a sign-up sheet for the Clear Creek



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Clean-up on Sept. 23 is also on the front table. A mention was also made of plans for a club outing to Fountain Creek on Nov. 4. Announcements will also be made with the Newsletter postings.

12. There was a reminder to be sure to vote on the Finds of the Month and to answer the Question of the Month during the break. Additional items to be discussed include...Sign up for side dishes for the picnic and the next Pirate's Hunt is scheduled for the last Wed. of the month. Board member Robert Ahr leads these metal detecting events and everyone is to meet at McCoy's restaurant @ I-70 & Federal at 8 a.m. for breakfast or 9 a.m. if only attending the hunt.

13. **Pres. Manning** announced the break at 7:46 pm. Meeting was called back to order at 8:10 pm.

14. **Pres. Manning** announced the winners of the 'Question of the Month'. The answer was, "1064.18 degrees Celsius! There were 29 winners who received their extra drawing ticket for the gold drawing.

15. **Pres. Manning** announced the winners for the 'Finds of the Month' for Those were:

- **Best Coin** – **Roger Schlenger** with change he received at a store in Omaha, Nebraska.
- **Best Jewelry** – **Shelly Zornes** with a gold necklace pendant she found at Inspiration point in Denver, Colo..
- **Best Mineral** – **Roger Schlenger** with petrified wood he found in Lakewood, Colo..
- **Best Artifact** – **Shelly Zornes** with two goblets she found in Cherry Creek while prospecting..
- **Best Bottle** – There was no find submitted for this category in September.
- **Most Raw Gold** – **Roger Schlenger** with 0.8 grams of gold he found in the Blue River.
- **Largest Raw Gold** – There was no find submitted for this category in September.

16. **Pres. Manning** concluded the evening with drawings for the numerous door prizes donated by the **GPR, JJ Long and G. Smith**, followed by the drawings for the numerous door prizes and gold nuggets. **Pres. Manning** also wants to remind that holders of drawing tickets for the regular gold drawings who did not win and want to redeem those tickets may present them at the end of the Meeting and they will be reimbursed at .01 cents on the dollar, or they shall be considered to have been donated back to the Club. Those assisting in the drawings were **Joe Kafka and John Olson**.

17. **Pres. Manning** conducted the 50/50 drawing. His own ticket won \$94 and he donated that money back to the club. A big Thank You goes out to Pres. Manning!

18. **Pres. Manning** reminds the members that sometimes during the meetings, The President's time is overwhelmingly taken up By the many who wish to speak to him and he apologizes if anyone ever feels like he is unavailable. It is not his intent to be inaccessible and he encourages anyone with questions to contact him by e-mail or phone outside the meetings at any time. His e-mail and phone number are on the web site.

19. **Pres. Manning** thanked **Greg and Nancy Knerl** and all those who contributed to the Refreshment Table. Each member is encouraged to chip in and add to the spread each month. Don't forget the 'tip jar' also, which helps to defray costs. This really helps the folks who run the table and those who volunteer up front each month. The Club appreciates the efforts that each and every one of you to make the refreshment table enjoyable.

20. **The October Meeting Program** will is undetermined at this time. Having nothing further at this time, remember to always prospect safely.

21. **Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.**

A Miner's Laugh

John, an old retired miner who lived in the north of England, decided to go golfing in Scotland with his buddy, Shawn, also an old retired miner. They loaded up John's minivan and headed north. After driving for a few hours, they got caught in a terrible blizzard. So, they pulled into a nearby farm and asked the attractive lady who answered the door if they could spend the night. I realize it's terrible weather out there and I have this huge house all to myself, but I'm recently widowed,' she explained, 'and I'm afraid the neighbors will talk if I let you stay in my house.' Don't worry,' John said. 'We'll be happy to sleep in the barn and if the weather breaks, we'll be gone at first light.' - The lady agreed, and the two men found their way to the barn and settled in for the night. Come morning, the weather had cleared, and they got on their way. They enjoyed a great weekend of golf. But about nine months later, John got an unexpected letter from an attorney. It took him a few minutes to figure it out, but he finally determined that it was from the attorney of that attractive widow he had met on the golf weekend. He dropped in on his friend Shawn and asked, "Shawn, do you remember that good-looking widow from the farm we stayed at on our golf holiday in Scotland about 9 months ago?" Yes, I do,' said Shawn. 'Did you, er, happen to get up in the middle of the night, go up to the house and pay her a visit?' Well, um, yes!,' Shawn said, a little embarrassed about being found out, 'I have to admit that I did.' And did you happen to give her my name instead of telling her your name?' Shawn's face turned beet red, and he said, 'Yeah, look, I'm sorry, buddy I'm afraid I did. Why do you ask?' She just died and left me everything.'

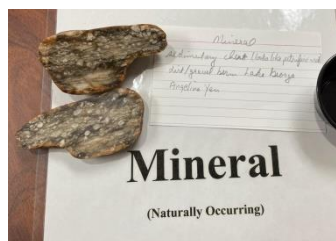


(Taken from the internet and revised just for all us 'old miners')



The Finds of the Month Aug 2023:

- **Best Coin** – There was no find submitted for this category in August.
- **Best Jewelry** – **Bobby Denalow** with a necklace pendant he found near Idaho Springs.
- **Best Mineral** – **Angela Yen** with some mineralized chert she found near Lake George.
- **Best Artifact** – **Gordon Smith** with some old items he found while metal detecting near Parker.
- **Best Bottle** – There was no find submitted for this category in August.
- **Most Raw Gold** – **Kevin Singel** with 0.736 grams of gold nuggets he found in the Blue River.
- **Largest Raw Gold** – There was no find submitted for this category in August.



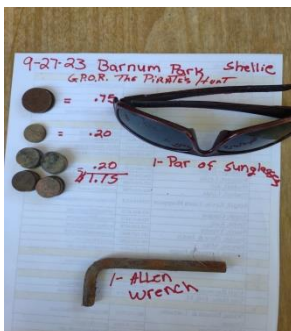
Remember that all gold must be dried and weighed. All monthly winners need save their entries for the November meeting when the Finds of the Month will be judged for the Finds of the Year. So be sure and save them.

The Pirate's Aug 30 Hunt by Robert 'The Pirate' Ahr

Hello and good morning fellow GPOR members. Wednesday was a great day, 6 of us started out at McCoy's for breakfast and 3 more showed at 0900hrs. We decide to go down to Barnum Park, and from there we took off. We started hunting around 0930 hrs. with the Temp at 63degree's. As I was getting ready I noticed Joe F. to my left hunting the tree's around the Tennis courts. Shellie Z. found a target right at the curb and it paid off, John and Cindy O. went off to the trees to the right and started using there pin pointers. I saw Leslie S. working the edges of the walking path and Bill C. was knee deep in the Tot Lot. (nice to have school back open) Bob H. was down by the swimming pool and I looked down and then back up and Bob was on top of the hill dang that guy can move and Jack moved around the hill side moving towards the outhouses. Well it was time to hunt and bang, first target and first Quarter of the day and yes it was a good day. I hope all of you had fun and a good day too.

Anyway I hope to see you out in the field finding all those treasure's soon....Thanks to everyone for having a good day..! See you all on the next great Pirate's Hunt.... Wapitie2@comcast.net

(Finds of Bob H. on left, Sherry Z. center, and Bob A. on right, Joe F. on bottom left.....photos by the 'Pirate')





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These finds are not what you get every time you go out. Sometimes, all you find is a little trash. Photo 5 represents what many of us find a lot of the time. But nothing comes without effort. The more you put into it, the more you will get out of it. So keep trying and keep on looking Just sayin'!!!

Tasmania's Crazy Gold Law: You Can Find It, But The Government Keeps It

Written by Alex of Bering Sea Gold May 1, 2023

Here in the US, the term "striking gold" means one thing: money. That's because in historical gold rushes from the east coast all the way to Nome, Alaska it was taken for granted that finders are keepers and losers are weepers. If you find the gold, you get to keep it all, minus royalties and taxes.

But what if you were just collecting gold on behalf of the government?

That's the state of prospecting in Tasmania, an island state of Australia in the South Pacific, thanks to a strange 1995 law. So just who does own the gold in Tasmania?

I first heard about this watching a video by Tassie Boys Prospecting called "**All my gold could be sent to the Queen!!!**" Tasmanian prospector and YouTube Levi Triffitt, sums it up in the video description: "*My gold could be sent to the queen. That's right – all those lovely gold nuggets, years of hard work, hundreds of days spent out prospecting only to have it all sent to the queen.*" I couldn't believe it! He was just preparing to have his gold repossessed by the queen? Which queen? The queen? Is there a queen in Tasmania? I should've paid more attention in World History class. Here's the scoop..!

The Mineral Resources Development Act of 1995 (MRDA) is the act that governs prospecting and fossicking in Tasmania. It created a government position called the Director of Mines as the head of Mineral Resources Tasmania, and put it in charge of enforcing all matters involving prospecting and fossicking precious metals and gems. The language isn't totally clear, so a fellow from a website called AppleIsleProspector.com wrote an article about who owns the minerals in Tasmania in which he sent a letter to the Director of Mines in 2015 asking her who owns everything. He says, "So I asked the Director of Mines to clarify the following: Do minerals collected in Tasmania under a prospecting license belong to that prospector or not? After all, I've been coughing up my hard-earned cash to pay for a prospecting license for nearly 20 years on the understanding that they do. Apple Isle Prospector

The Director of Mines in 2015, Brett Stewart, said this: "A prospecting license does not grant any right to a mineral, as an exploration license or mining lease does, and the holder of a prospecting license does not have ownership over a mineral found whilst prospecting.

Ouch...!! I feel for any Tassie Prospectors over the years who thought they were owners of the gold they found. Imagine shooting a deer and having to process the meat and then bring it all to your local grocery store! To make matters worse? No other Australian state has this law. Prospectors in mainland Australia can keep the gold they find for personal gain.

On the plus side, this law probably explains why Tasmanian prospectors on YouTube are finding such rich ground. It doesn't seem like there's much incentive for enterprising folks there to go out and find the shiny stuff. I thought of 6 ways for Tassies to use their gold. Looking on the bright side of things, if the gold you find has no monetary value to you then you can do all sorts of interesting things with it. Here's a few of my ideas:

Melt it into a block and use it as a doorstop

Recreate the creek you found the gold by setting it in a live edge epoxy river table

Make it into huge pirate jewelry and wear it out

Turn it into a collar for your dog

Replace the copper wiring in your house with gold wiring

Sprinkle it on your birthday cake and eat it

The author, Alex, used to do "fancy" things like work next to the White House and fly business class and wear suits and shower every day, but left all that behind when he moved to Alaska in 2017. He was commercial fishing and building boats until a certain reality tv star showed up and he became a husband, a father, and a dirty gold miner. He thinks now is the best time ever to be a treasure hunter and wants to connect readers with the best stories and teachers on the internet.





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Where is the purest gold in the world found? This isolated country! Written by

Monica of Bering Sea Gold February 1, 2023

Ah, Australia, of course. The land of sandy beaches and the Great Barrier Reef, the land of Steve Irwin and kangaroos, the land where for some reason the locals abbreviate every word the same way: brekkie, mozzie, telly, pressie, chokkie, chewie, roadie, and the list goes on. If you can get past the fact that everything there wants to kill you, it's also where you'll find the purest gold and gold nuggets in the world.

Australia is known for producing high-grade gold nuggets, with an average purity of around 93-98%. Some gold nuggets from Australia have been found to have a gold purity of over 99%, which is incredibly pure compared to gold nuggets **found in other parts of the world**. Australian gold nuggets are highly sought after by gold prospectors and collectors, and can fetch a hefty price. Why? Well, the geology in Australia is just perfect for producing pure gold nuggets. It's like a recipe for success: Take one part ancient geological activity, add a dash of heat and pressure, mix in a pinch of mineral rich soil, and voila! The purest gold nuggets in the world.



Victorian Gold Rush:

The Victorian Gold Rush began in 1851 with the discovery of gold in Bathurst, New South Wales, Australia and quickly spread to Victoria, where the biggest discoveries were made. The Victorian Gold Rush was centered around the towns of Ballarat, Bendigo and Castlemaine, where large deposits of gold were found in the 1850s. By 1854, Victoria alone was producing around 3.5 tons of gold per year, and by 1857, this had risen to around 11.5 tons per year. This accounted for around 60% of the world's gold production at the time. In total, it is estimated that during the gold rush period, between 1851 and 1861, around 600 tons of gold was discovered and mined in Australia. The gold rush also led to the development of many new mining techniques and technologies and helped establish Australia as a major player in the global gold mining industry.

Australian Gold Purity:

When it comes to purity, many of the gold mines in Australia produce gold that is between 93% and 98% pure gold. This is higher than the average purity of gold found in many other countries, which is typically around 90%. This makes for some amazingly pure gold nuggets. The quality of gold from Australia is so high because of its high-grade deposits. For example, the Fosterville mine in Victoria is one of the highest-grade gold mines in the world and has produced gold with an average grade of 15.5 grams per ton. Also, the mining practices in Australia are highly regulated, which helps to ensure that the gold that is mined is not contaminated by pollutants or other impurities. It also contributes to miners going for the highest quality deposits versus other lower grade deposits due to the costs associated with being compliant with the Australian mining regulations and environmental protections.

The Best Areas to Find Gold in Australia:

Some of the most productive gold-mining regions in Australia have been Victoria, Western Australia, and New South Wales. Victoria is known for its rich history of gold mining and is home to some of the oldest and most productive gold mines in the country, such as the Fosterville mine. The gold deposits in Victoria are often lode gold mines found deep underground and are typically of a high grade, which means that the gold is very pure. The mine tunnels here are some of the deepest and widest in the world. It's also home to the Golden Triangle, where the richest, purest gold has been found. The Golden Triangle is a region in northeastern Victoria, Australia that is known for the richest gold deposits. The area is located between the towns of Beechworth, Yackandandah, and Chiltern, and was a major center of gold mining during the 19th century gold rush.

Western Australia:

Western Australia is another state with a long history of gold mining. The state is home to some of the largest gold mines in the country, such as the Super Pit in Kalgoorlie. The gold deposits in Western Australia are often placer gold deposits and are large open-pit mines. New South Wales is home to some of the oldest and most productive gold mines in the country, such as the Hill End and Sofala goldfields. The lode gold deposits in New South Wales typically have a naturally high purity rate in its large underground mines.

The Biggest Gold Nuggets Found in Australia

Australia is famous for its crazy wildlife, like what even is a platypus and why does it have to be venomous? As dangerous as their animals are, I'd still box a few rounds with a kangaroo to find some of the gold nuggets found in the land down under, especially the ones in the Golden Triangle. Some of the most famous (and biggest ones) are:



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- The Welcome Stranger: Found in 1869 near Moliagul, Victoria, it is the largest gold nugget ever found, weighing in at 2,284 troy ounces (71 kg)
- The Hand of Faith: Found in 1980 using a metal detector near Kingower, Victoria, it weighs 875 troy ounces (27.2 kg)
- The Beggary Hills Nugget: Found in 1858, it weighed 727 troy ounces (22.6 kg)
- The Red Hill Nugget: Found in 1854, it weighed 627 troy ounces (19.5 kg)
- The Canadian Nugget: Found in 1872, it weighed 553 troy ounces (17.2 kg)

With a long history of gold mining and a reputation for producing high-quality gold, Australia is a major player in the gold mining industry and will continue to be so in the future. The majority of gold nuggets found anywhere in the world are **worth a lot more than their actual weight in gold** because of how unique they are. Australian gold nuggets, though, are more sought after from miners and collectors because of their high purity and beauty.

Monica's a treasure hunter at heart and loves watching adventure seekers around the world on TV and online. She has been learning and exploring the world of gold prospecting with the help of seasoned professional gold miners while continuously learning more each day. She panned her first gold from the Bering Sea on the beaches of Nome, Alaska. Monica's been writing content and designing websites for over 15 years.

Rare Gold Coins found buried in Kentucky cornfield worth Millions

By Gretchen

Eichenberg August 2, 2023

Location of Kentucky cornfield where coins were found remains mystery as experts speculate about the 1860s-dated currency. A cache of more than 800 Civil War-era gold coins were recently unearthed in a Kentucky cornfield — a treasure worth millions that experts are calling one of the greatest finds of the 21st century.

"It's hard to put this in context because there are so few instances of coins of this nature with this level of rarity being found in the ground in the United States," Andrew Salzberg, executive vice president of the Numismatic Guaranty Company's (NGC) Certified Collectibles Group, told Fox News Digital. NGC, a third-party grading service for coins, tokens and medals based in Sarasota, Florida, certified the coins — dubbed the "Great Kentucky Hoard" — and valued them at more than \$2 million. "Most of them are gold dollars, which in and of themselves are really interesting pieces of numismatic history," Salzberg said. In addition, he added, there were some \$20 gold pieces — "a couple of which were dated 1863 and graded MS 64, which is the highest grade that has ever been graded," he said. The finder of the coins and the exact location of the apparent buried treasure remain a mystery as of now, as those aware are honoring the request to keep names of the people who found the coins and the names of the cornfield anonymous. This is due to the value of the discovery, the security and the risk of others who desire to treasure hunt themselves, Fox News Digital has been told. Jeff Garrett, owner of Mid-American Rare Coin Gallery in Lexington, Kentucky, was the recipient of an email from the anonymous discoverer. "Someone wanted me to look at an 1863 Double Eagle, which is a very rare coin," Garrett told Fox News Digital. "It's just a scarce coin just because of the year... lower mintage during the Civil War," he said. "So, I agreed to meet at the office. And then when we met in the office, he showed me several more of the coins." That's when the man revealed to Garrett that he located 18 coins in the stash that were Double Eagles dated 1863. "One coin would be astounding," Garrett said. "Eighteen coins is profound due to the rarity... and then we discussed that there were 800 other gold coins, but they were primarily gold dollars, which are fairly common." Garrett, who has 40 years of experience in the coin industry and co-authored "The Encyclopedia of U.S. Gold Coins" (2006), explained that the 18 Double Eagles are more valuable than the other 800 coins.



After the coins were certified by the NGC, they were professionally cleaned in a way that would not compromise their integrity, Garrett said. Garrett, working with the NGC, named the coins the "Great Kentucky Hoard" and created a special label for them. They were then listed for sale on govmint.com and were snapped up in a matter of days, Garrett said. "It's not uncommon to find coins, particularly ancient coins, buried in the ground. But to find U.S. rarities buried in the ground is extremely rare," he added. That's because the United States is a much younger country, according to Salzberg. "Going back 2,000-plus years, there was a lot of commerce and trade going on in other parts of the world, but not so much in the United States that we know today," he said, adding that the coins' burial in the ground actually helped preserve them. "Over the course of 150 years, it really did a great job preserving the coins' condition. Those 1863 20s were



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unbelievable to see," Salzberg said. The story behind who buried the coins, and why, is something Salzberg said he finds fascinating. "Back in those days, you couldn't always go to a bank or put them in a safe or store them in a vault," he said. "Nothing was really available to somebody looking to hide their wealth, so the best way to do it was to bury it in the ground." Ryan McNutt, a conflict archeologist at Georgia Southern University, said he specializes in analyzing "all the stuff that's left behind when people engage in trying to kill each other." "There is a big spike in the hoarding of coins in the American Civil War," McNutt told Fox News Digital, while also mentioning the economic issues that occurred during that time. "The market starts to collapse and the response to all this kind of economic uncertainty and people not sure of essentially where their income is going to come from, means that they start hoarding coinage — to such an extent that coin money almost completely disappears during the American Civil War," he added. Kentucky, McNutt explained, was neutral territory during the war. "There's lots of guerrilla activity, there's lots of both Union military activity and Confederate military activity — and particularly at the time it seems like the coins must have been deposited, because it's got to be about 1863, maybe 1864," he said. McNutt said there were several big Confederate cavalry raids that came through Kentucky during 1863, which is the date of the coins. The fact that it was federally issued currency implies that it may have been obtained through Union-aligned individuals, said McNutt. "They may have been trading, buying, selling or had some kind of business interests that are aligned with the Union, which Confederate supporters and soldiers were taking a pretty dim view of," he said, adding that may be why it was hidden. Another possibility involves Nathan Bedford Forest, who also raided Kentucky in 1864, McNutt said, adding that the story behind the coins is purely speculative, especially since the exact location of the coin hoard is unknown. "It's difficult to say exactly what war-related activity caused it, but it does seem that probably the motive behind hiding this money is civil unrest, conflict, raids coming through," he said. Why the owner of the coins never came back to claim them is another chapter in the story, McNutt said. "Maybe [the person] died, maybe they were forced off their land," he said. McNutt said he calculated the hoard to have been worth about \$1,000 in 1864, which at the time would've been equivalent to several years' worth of annual income. "So, it is a chunk of money," he said. "That makes me speculate that whoever buried it probably died and wasn't able to go back for it." For anyone inspired to excavate their own land for buried treasure, Salzberg said he wishes them good luck. "The chances of finding something like this, I would say, are in line with winning the lottery," Salzberg said. "It's a truly historic and rare find. I can't disagree that, as far as coins being found in the ground, this is one of the most significant finds of the 21st century," he added.

Gretchen Eichenberg is a contributing reporter for Fox News Digital.




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The Gold Nugget

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ADVERTISING IN THE GOLD NUGGET

Commercial Ads

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For information to publish your "Ad" in The Gold Nugget, please contact the Editor. **COPY DEADLINE** is due to the editor by the 25th of the month for publication in the following months' issue of the Newsletter.

Contact the GPR President
(Layout Design Subject To Additional Cost)



<u>Coming Announcements and Special Events for Nov 2023</u>						
(WMMI - Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 North Gate Blvd. Colorado Springs, CO 80921 (https://www.wmmi.org/) (Free to GPR Member with badge)						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
	6	7	8	9	10	11
Day Light Saving END		Election Day				Veterans Day
12	13	14	GPR Club Meeting	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	Thanksgiving Day	24	25
26	27	28	Pirate' Hunt	30		