

Me detecting on the beach at Dollar Cove.

been recovered in the cove. A detectorist's dream!

After a fruitless afternoon's searching, we were ready to call it a day. On our way back, however, we were intercepted by local history enthusiast Nick Gibbons, who excitedly told us that he had "found something amazing", that might well be from the Spanish ship. He led us to a seemingly ordinary looking round rock which he told us was a 'concretion'. This he went on to explain was a mass formed by accumulated sediment, often bearing rust marks, indicating to his trained eye that it contained something iron.

He proceeded to chip away at this outer crust to reveal a broken 17th century ball grenade. Needless to say, we were astounded. Upon further research, the grenade was most likely washed up from the shipwreck of the HMS Schiedam in 1684, with similar grenades having been found in the area in the past. So while detecting might not be the most

glamorous hobby, it has, for us, proved a worthwhile pursuit and on occasion fascinating. Who knows what we may find in the future? Happy hunting to everyone.

Joseph Buncle, Cornwall

All images are courtesy of William Dax.

Editor's Note

Caution should always be used in relation to these concretions, especially in areas where there were gunnery ranges (coastal or inland) or ammunition carrying ship wrecks etc. Some of the ordnance may well be very much more modern and potentially lethally unstable. This is, of course, not to say that every example will contain a bomb or shell – but please exercise caution and if uncertain about anything, record its location and immediately alert the landowner (where applicable) and/or the police who will then contact the EOD to assess the discovery and organise its safe disposal where appropriate.



Left to right: Jack, me and Will treasure hunting at Dollar Cove.



British TV Series Helps Locate American Wedding Ring

I really got the detecting bug after watching all three seasons of the superb TV series *Detectorists* back in the autumn of 2017. By November the same year I had bought a Garrett Ace 300 and some digging tools, after doing a lot of research on just what to get.

I excitedly carried out a few searches on my own property in rural Maine and found a few coins, toys and old cans – I was hooked! Then it snowed and the ground froze so hard that I had to wait all winter before I could get back at it. I spent this entire close season watching my favourite detectorists every night on YouTube.

Once the snow melted, I gained permission to search a few local historic sites, and on my second day, the second good signal I dug turned out to be a silver-plated brass medallion from 1907. It was made by Whitehead & Hoag in New Jersey. The legend on it reads: THREE HUNDREDTH

ANNIVERSARY AMERICAN SHIP BUILDING 1607-1907. CELEBRATED AT BATH, MAINE AUGUST 5-10. A truly amazing find, which I later gave to the local Historical Society who were absolutely delighted with it.

During the long winter I had mentioned to my friend Topher that I was starting this hobby and he excitedly told me all about when his wife Barbara had lost her wedding ring in their garden a few years ago. I went over to their home to have a quick look. I asked Topher to show me his own nearly identical wedding ring – a beautiful hand braided mixed colour gold with a green tsavorite (garnet) stone.

I took a reading with the Ace 300 that came up as 42 to 43. So I set the custom discrimination to the 3 bars that span about 35-60. Barbara explained that she thought that she had lost it while hanging clothes and that it may have fallen out of

a hole in her pocket. I walked the path to the clothes line, sweeping wide, with Topher watching carefully and asking lots of questions. We had proceeded well over a hundred feet with no signals at all and nothing under the clothes line either! At this point I was thinking "This is going to be one very long hunt."

Then I noticed their beehive nearby and started circling around it. I got a very solid signal and homed in on it with my GP pinpointer and dug up a small 10mm brass circle with some tabs on it that looked like a clothing decoration. Neat!

Whitehead & Hoag medallion.



Then recalling the advice to 'always check all your holes', I took another swing over it. Another good signal was evident, just off to the side of the hole. I brushed away a few leaves and there was the ring right on the surface – actually Topher saw it first! Total hunt time was probably less than 10 minutes, talk about lucky.

Of course they were both thrilled and have invited me to return to hunt some old home sites on their property where they have found lots of ceramic and glass fragments. I'm definitely going back!

Guy Marsden, Woolwich USA



Barbara's missing ring, found at last.