

AUTHOR'S NOTE

The study of history is a colorful and fascinating adventure that has the power to excite and inspire the imagination. That's why I wrote this book. America's past is riddled with colorful tales of notorious outlaws and shady characters whose legends inspire and motivate us to delve more deeply into our history. In addition to looking into the past through the eyes of a treasure hunter, this book provides precise, step-by-step instructions for researching, seeking and recovering caches of all kinds with a metal detector. From the Rocky Mountains to the sandy sea shores, there are countless lost treasures that still lie in wait, undisturbed, for the person willing to research, study and work hard to recover them.

Discovering hidden treasures is the dream of every metal detector hobbyist, whether he or she will admit it or not. What could be more exciting and rewarding than researching, hunting and locating money, jewels and other valuables hidden eons ago by some desperado?

Hunting for treasure with a metal detector is a hobby filled with romance and adventure. Does discovering a button from the uniform of a Civil War soldier, the badge or gun of a 19th Century lawman, a gold nugget in a mining camp or an Indian head penny stir your imagination?

Many agree that cache hunting is the most romantic and potentially most profitable form of metal detecting. When looking for a cache, you're searching into the past, which is truly romantic and exciting. If your cache is loot abandoned by an outlaw, the hunt becomes even more compelling and may be far more rewarding.

Treasure Caches Can Be Found

Believe me, with a modern metal detector, you can find a cache. The cache might not be the big one hidden by Frank and Jesse, Butch and Sundance, John Dillinger or other notorious outlaws described in this book, but you can find one. Even if it's smaller, searching for it is no less romantic.

Okay, you say. Tell me about it. What kind of cache are you so certain I can find?

It could be a fruit jar filled with coins buried long ago in an abandoned garden; a purse with a few bills hidden in the closet of an empty house; even a tobacco tin full of bills hidden within the wall of a dilapidated, old dugout. These are typical caches that still lie in wait for you to recover.

The point is, there are caches of all sizes out there, just waiting to be found. I know because I, along with many treasure hunting colleagues, have found several of them. Many are discussed principally in Chapters One through Seven of this book. These chapters will spawn ideas of just what caches are, where they're located and offer specific instructions on recovering them. Often I give you treasure hunting clues, and if you're paying attention, you'll learn a little more about my treasure hunting techniques.

In the final chapters we'll explore the real romance and adventure of cache hunting and review some legends that feature famous bandits and their caches. I'll admit that some of the caches attributed to these renegades may not exist. A great deal of folk lore has grown around the exploits of Sam Bass, The Wild Bunch, Jean Lafitte and others whose stories I present.

Thus, I urge you to carefully follow the instructions outlined in Chapter Three before spending much time, money and other personal resources searching for outlaw caches. Reading about these exciting treasures and how they came to be hidden by bandits long ago takes little time and no money. It certainly sets my mind to wondering into the past as well as my prospects for digging one of the great hidden outlaw treasures.

But, make no mistake about it: many outlaw caches existed at one time. It's a well known fact that banks, stagecoaches and trains

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This cache of gold nose rings was discovered in Africa. Made of alloys and differing percentages of gold, these rings hold a high historical and intrinsic value and well worth the effort to recover.

were regular targets by Old West bandits and that much of their loot was never located when, or if, they were apprehended during their next robbery. It only makes sense they hid it somewhere!

Maybe a gang member recovered it the next day. Maybe it was found accidentally a few months or years ago. Or, maybe a treasure hunter, just like you, found it last week. Who knows? The caches may be still be out there waiting for us.

Will this book tell you exactly where the outlaw treasures are hidden? Of course not. If I knew exactly where they were, I'd have dug them up myself long ago. But, I've certainly spent a great deal of my life in the field looking for, and finding, treasures.

You may even be wondering if I've ever discovered an outlaw cache myself. The answer is yes, perhaps several. However, my "yes" depends on your definition of "outlaw." That may seem to be an evasive answer, but later in this book I'll tell you of some of my adventures. I'll also let you in on reliable information on many other caches. In fact, I'm on the trail of several right now. Let me quickly admit, however, that over the years I've found a lot more gold, silver and jewelry than outlaw caches—some of which I found while searching for caches.

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Since this book contains a compact summary of the knowledge I've accumulated about caches during a lifetime of treasure hunting, you may note that some of it has been presented in my other writings. Yet, this book offers an expanded treasure trove of cache hunting information. I continually add to my knowledge through personal experience and contact with other veteran cache hunters. In this book you'll learn of my successes as well as mistakes. Both are vital to effective cache recovery.

If you're a dedicated treasure hunter like me, I know that you'll enjoy reading about finding caches. I hope you set on the path to a bandit's treasure, if seeking one is truly your aim. Remember, however, that while it's certainly an admirable goal, I strongly recommended that you set your sights on smaller caches. You'll be amazed at how many there still are. This book offers solid recommendations about where and how to find them. In fact, the owners of thousands of hidden or lost caches are still alive and may even want to help you find their lost treasure.

After six decades of treasure hunting, I've learned one truth that I readily share with you: The treasures is out there. It's up to us to find it.

It has taken me ten years to assemble the material and write this book. I truly loved doing it as much as I loved every minute during each one of my cache searches. I wish I could have bought this book 60 years ago and put it to good use. I assure you, as a cache hunter, I would be saying, "the cost of *Treasure Caches Can Be Found* was the best investment I ever made." I also suggest you read *Buried Treasures You Can Find*, written by Robert Marx and published by RAM Books. Look for the RAM Books order information included at the back of this book.

I'll see you in the field!

Charles Garnett