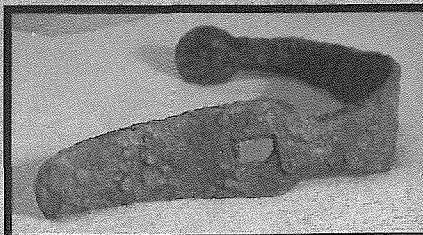


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from American Digger Magazine.



Early in the War, many Confederates recruits left home brandishing huge and crude blacksmith-made knives. Although most were soon discarded as useless, among the most popular were those with a guard which protected the user's fingers, the "D" guard. Tommy Mondy recovered this "D" guard, minus the blade, in a site in Central Virginia.

Photo by Rosalee Hundley



No matter what our publisher claims, here's proof that Civil War era Georgia buttons *can* be dug in Georgia. This one was recovered by Gene Early near Chickamauga, Georgia. As an added bonus, Gene's great-great-grandfather, a member of a Georgia unit, was camped near the site.

Photo by Charlie Harris



While searching a yard in Cobb County, Georgia, Scott Muncher dug this Federal cartridge box belt plate. Often called Eagle breastplates, these served no practical function, yet made a nice target for the enemy. As such, they are often found discarded in staging areas before battlefields, as this one was.

Photo by Jerry Solomon



Everyone dreams of finding a gold coin, but why not set your goals even higher? For instance, dream of finding one like this \$5 gold piece dug by Chuck Acton. Not only is it a very rare 1861-C (only 6,800 minted), it has been graded an AU44 with an estimated retail price of \$7,500. It was found at a Civil War camp in Virginia. These coins were minted in Charlotte, NC.

Photo by Chuck Acton



Durad Fox was metal detecting at a Civil War site near Culpeper County, Virginia, when he recovered this Virginia state seal button. While not a standard issue from the Central Confederate government, these were often used by the Confederate troops from the "Old Dominion" state.

Photo by Anita Holcombe



Due to a coin shortage during the Civil War, many merchants gave tokens as change. While not legal tender, these were accepted grudgingly as a necessity of the times. While some were embossed with the merchant's name, a cheaper alternative was to purchase a stock pattern, often with a patriotic slogan. Mike Harvey recovered this one in Culpeper, Virginia.

Photo by Mike Harvey