

# Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeological Clubs Inc.

## FMDAC News Gram

## United States Metal Detecting Association

December 2018

FMDAC News Gram

Volume 2 Number 14



### FMDAC

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Legislative Officer:  
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*Alaska, Washington, Oregon,  
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North Dakota, South Dakota,  
Minnesota, Wisconsin,  
Michigan, New York, Vermont,  
Massachusetts, New  
Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode  
Island, Maine, Canada*

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*Nevada, Utah, Colorado,  
Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa,  
Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio,  
Kentucky, West Virginia,  
Virginia, Pennsylvania, New  
Jersey, Delaware, Maryland*

The Federation of Metal Detector and Archaeological Clubs Inc. (FMDAC) was organized in 1984 as a legislative and educational organization and incorporated, as a non-profit, non-commercial, non-partisan organization.

**The Mission:** The FMDAC is dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and protection for the hobby of recreational metal detecting and prospecting.

**The Purpose:** To unite, promote and encourage the establishment of metal detecting clubs. To preserve the sport / hobby of recreational metal detecting and prospecting. To make available to FMDAC clubs and Independent members information pertaining to the hobby and to keep members informed as to active legislation.

**The Goal:** is to Educate and inform the public as to the merits of recreational metal detecting.

**What is a News Gram?** The news gram provides a brief look into news events for the past month. The intent of the news gram is to provide you, the FMDAC reader, with news clips on what took place in the hobby last month. The News Gram is configured like a webpage and must be read online for the article links to work.

### Mark Schuessler, FMDAC President's Message

Last month I told you about the Alabama Historical commissions attempt to place a section of the Alabama River at Selma on the National Register of Historic Places. I also said that I would have more info on the website. Well I was remiss in that endeavor. It has now been corrected and you will find more info on the FMDAC website at FMDAC.org.

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the information and send a letter. This attempt is a very dangerous situation. If it is successful it will rewrite the rules for listing on the register. With no specific legitimate historic sites defined in the river they are trying to claim a mile section of it as historical enough to be listed. If you read the criteria for listing this one does not even come close. It is not even a stretch. It is just a made up travesty.

If it is allowed to happen then any body of water anywhere in the nation could fall to this. It could place these areas of limits to many activities that are commonplace. As for Alabama itself, according to a law in that state, the simple eligibility would make it a protected site. You can go to the website to find out what the term eligible means.

What everyone needs to do is write an actual letter to the address below and object to the section of river being found eligible. It is important that you object to the eligibility and not just the listing. It is 2 different but related levels. Please read the more detailed info before you write the letter so that you have your information correct.

Please take care when writing to be polite. We have no quarrel with those at the National Register. We want to make them understand our reasons for opposing this nomination and disqualify it from the register. Please write a letter. It does not have to be long but needs to be written and mailed. The hobby you save will be your own!

National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW, MS 7228  
Washington, DC 20240

On behalf of the FMDAC board I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Have a safe holiday season.

### HOBBY Related News

### Other News Sources

- **American Mining Rights Assn** is not a gold club but rather an advocacy group for miners and public land users to preserve and maintain their rights as they pertain to access to their public lands. [November News](#)

South Region: **Art Di Filippo**  
California, Hawaii, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida

- **Gold Prospectors Assn of America (GPAA)** - News on legal issues for the gold prospecting community [November News](#)
- **JW Fisher Detectors** CT-1 Cable Tracker; Indispensable when safety is paramount. [Press Release](#)
- **Lost Treasure Is No Longer in BUSINESS.**
- **Prospecting and Mining Journal (IMCJ)** [November News](#)
- **1715 Fleet Society** [December Newsletter](#)

#### Hobby Related News

#### General U.S. and World Wide Hobby News

- Knoxville-based Mollenh our Gross acquires Kellyco Metal Detectors. [Article Link](#)
- A Chest Of Gold Hidden In The Rockies Is The Ultimate Social Experiment. [Article Link](#)
- Man finds possible human remains in Murrells Inlet while metal detecting. [Article Link](#)
- Oshawa 'relic hunter' finds rare silver coin, donates it to Whitby diabetes centre. [Article Link](#)
- NC man continues to dig up historic treasures on Topsail Island beaches post Florence. [Article Link](#) [Coroner confirms bones](#)
- 10 Most Valuable Treasures Ever Found (Part 1). [Article Link](#)
- Exceptionally large 'Pink Legacy' diamond sells for record-breaking \$50 million at Christie's. [Article Link](#)
- Apple designer Jony Ive creates unique ring made from one diamond block. [Article Link](#)
- Underwater Archaeologist Sir Robert Marx to Talk on 'Archaeology of the Abyss' at Florida Tech Nov. 15. [Article Link](#)
- Treasure hunt. [Article Link](#)
- Did a Conspiracy Rob These Treasure Hunters of Millions of Dollars' Worth of Florida Shipwreck Artifacts? [Article Link](#)
- The Curse of Oak Island: Huge double discovery made at start of Season 6. [Article Link](#)
- Fossicking for forgotten silver turns up more than spare change in Australia's second-largest mining town. [Article Link](#)
- Metal detector find in Linton unearths fascinating past. [Article Link](#)
- Man with metal detector finds 'training' grenade on Pocatello school field. [Article Link](#)
- Heartbreaking twist after wedding ring lost 20 years ago finds its way home. [Article Link](#)

#### U.K. News

- Amateur metal detector celebrating after 'find of a lifetime' sells for £10,000. [Article Link](#)
- Pembrokeshire treasure hunter unearths Celtic chariot. [Article Link](#)
- Old Buckenham blog Digging report. [Article Link](#)
- Apple designer Jony Ive creates unique ring made from one diamond block. [Article Link](#)
- Travis Allen digs for history. [Article Link](#)
- How to prospect for gold in England. [Article Link](#)
- Link to the Past. [Article Link](#)
- This post-medieval ring found in North Staffordshire paddock is declared as treasure! [Article Link](#)
- Metal detecting in Corby could land you with a fine. [Article Link](#)
- Poole man finds historic buried gold ring. [Article Link](#)
- Detectorists' discoveries to be housed in new museum. [Article Link](#)
- Driving instructor steers his way to buried treasure. [Article Link](#)
- British man finds WWII dog tags belonging to Blair County man. [Article Link](#)

#### Jewelry Returns

- Buried Class Ring Leads Sisters to the Poconos. [Article Link](#)
- The dog ate your... wedding band? How couple used a metal detector to find lost ring. [Article Link](#)
- Club unearths man's wedding ring lost for nine years. [Article Link](#)
- Last of three class rings returned to 1959 South High grad. [Article Link](#)
- Class ring returned to owner 39 years later. [Article Link](#)
- Heartbreaking twist after wedding ring lost 20 years ago finds its way home. [Article Link](#)
- From 55 years in the past, Columbus man reunites classmates and their rings. [Article Link](#)

#### North America Archaeology News

- First look at archaeological dig near Garden of the Gods. [Article Link](#)
- Ancient Artifacts Stolen 40 Years Ago in Alabama Recovered. [Article Link](#)
- Archaeologists Discover Evidence Of Connecticut's Earliest English Colony. [Article Link](#)
- UWF archaeologists make new discoveries during Emanuel Point I artifact restoration. [Article Link](#)
- Archaeologists uncover history in the waterfront. [Article Link](#)
- Archaeological finds kept secret in public filings . [Article Link](#)
- Students find 6,000-year-old ax at George Washington estate. [Article Link](#)

#### W.W. Meteorite News

- Meteorite hunters dig up 60 million-year-old site in Skye. [Article Link](#)
- Giant meteorite crater bigger than Paris found beneath Greenland's ice sheet. [Article Link](#)
- Five huge 'hazardous' asteroids are coming - and one is the size of as skyscraper. [Article Link](#)
- Professional Meteorite Hunter believes space rock pieces are between Chadwick-Bradleyville. [Article Link](#)
- Fireball In The Sky! Locals Spot Huge Meteor Friday Night, As Earth Enters Annual Taurid Shower. [Article Link](#)

## Hunt Events and Shows

### Metal Detecting & Gold Prospecting Events.

Now is the time to start planning and getting your club's 2018/19 hunt information on the web. The sooner it is out and available to the metal detecting community the greater the chance for people to see it and give your event some consideration.

### Other Hobby Related Show Calendars

- [Antique Bottle Show](#)
- [Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors](#)
- [Coin Shows](#)
- [Numismaster Coin Shows](#)
- [Insulator Shows](#)
- [CFMS Society & Club Shows](#)
- [Club-Sponsored Mineral Shows](#)

- **December 07, 2018** (One Day)  
29 Palms, California  
First Class Miners 2018 Annual Membership Appreciation and Awards Banquet
- **December 19, 2018** (One Day)  
LApache Junction, Arizona  
Goldfield Ghost Town– Metal Detecting Outing  
Apache Junction AZ Gold Prospectors Assn

[Select here to View  
the Complete Event Details for October](#)

[Add Your Event Information Here](#)

### Treasure Hunters Doubt FBI's Word On Dig For Civil War Gold

By Michael Rubinkam ASSOCIATED PRESS [Article Link](#)

Comment from Ed Burke, FMDAC Vice President.

These folks are the same people who spoke at the FMDAC Convention several years ago. The article certainly is an eye opener.

DENTS RUN, Pa. (AP) – Surrounded by dozens of stone-faced FBI agents on a frigid winter's day, Dennis and Kem Parada stared down at the empty hole and knew something wasn't right.

The father-son duo spent years combing this bit of Pennsylvania wilderness with high-end metal detectors, drills and other tools to prospect for a fabled cache of Civil War gold. They felt certain they'd discovered the hiding place of the long-lost booty, leading the FBI to the mountainous, heavily wooded area last March.

Now, at the end of the court-sanctioned excavation, the FBI escorted the treasure hunters to the snow-covered site and asked them what they saw. They gazed at the pit. Not so much as a glimmer of gold dust, let alone the tons of precious metal they said an FBI contractor's instruments had detected.

"We were embarrassed," Dennis Parada told The Associated Press in his first interview since the well-publicized dig last winter. "They walk us in, and they make us look like dummies. Like we messed up."

Since that day, however, neighbors' accounts of late-night excavation and FBI convoys have fueled suspicions the agency isn't telling the whole truth. The Paradas are challenging the FBI's account of the dig, insisting that something had to have been buried in the woods near Dents Run, about 135 miles northeast of Pittsburgh.

That something, they believe, was gold.

"After my years of experience here using equipment, there was something here, something here of value, some kind of precious metal. And whatever it is, it's gone now. And that's what I want to get to the bottom of, is what was in that hole," Kem Parada said.

Federal investigators insisted a few days after leaving the site that the search came up empty, adding cryptically that its work there was related to an "ongoing investigation." The FBI declined to comment further, and a bureau spokeswoman told the AP last week that court documents related to the dig are sealed.

The dispute between the Paradas and the FBI is the latest chapter in a mystery that has persisted for more than a century and a half. As the story goes, around the time of the 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, the Union Army sent a shipment of

"I said, 'You've got three hours of daylight and we're only 3 feet away,'" Dennis Parada recalled. He said the agent replied, "Denny, we're going, we're going."

Whether the FBI actually left the woods that afternoon is itself an open question. Cheryl Elder, who lives nearby, told AP she heard what sounded like a backhoe and jackhammer at least until 2 a.m. – the noisy machinery keeping her awake and annoying her because she had to rise early for work – and she saw that the hillside was brightly lit.

"It was just real loud all night," the former constable recalled.

"It was driving me nuts."

The second day of the excavation was similar to the first, according to the Paradas and Getler. They said they were confined to their car for several hours, then escorted up the hill to the dig site – by then a large, empty hole. The FBI had finished the excavation out of their presence, they said.

The Paradas said they were cheated of a moment they had spent years working for.

"You can only dig the gold up once, and that's a historical moment. And here we were robbed of all that," Dennis Parada said. "I don't understand why they played that game on us."

After the Paradas and Getler had left, Elder said, she saw a half-dozen black SUVs at the site. One by one, she said, they backed up to the bottom of the hill and rendezvoused with one of several all-terrain utility vehicles. Elder tried using her binoculars, but couldn't make out what investigators were transferring from the ATVs to the SUVs.

Even so, "I know they found gold," she declared. "I know they found it, and they're being sneaky."

Heather Selle, who lives in nearby Weedville, said she was getting her kids ready for school on the morning of the second day when she spied a convoy of FBI vehicles driving past – including two large armored trucks.

"There was too many people involved, there was too much hush-hush, and there's been too much seen," said still another resident, Garrett Osche, whose garage was used as a staging ground for the FBI's initial foray to the Dents Run area weeks before the dig. "Why do you close the road down if you're not loading something

gold from Wheeling, West Virginia, to Philadelphia. The wagon train took a circuitous route through the wilds of northern Pennsylvania so as to avoid Confederate troops. Along the way, the gold was either lost or stolen.

The legend has inspired generations of treasure hunters to take to the thick woods of northwestern Pennsylvania – including Dennis and Kem Parada, who spent five years digging in a cave on state land, and two more years drilling atop the cave, before going to the FBI in January with their evidence.

The Paradas showed agents how their sophisticated metal detector lit up like crazy when aimed at the spot where they believed the gold was hidden. Within a month, they said, the FBI had hired an outside firm to conduct an underground scan using a device called a gravimeter. The scan identified a large metallic mass with the density of gold, according to the Paradas and Warren Getler, an author and journalist who's been working with them.

So it was with great anticipation that father, son and Getler arrived at the dig site March 13. But nothing went as planned.

The treasure hunters and Getler said they had an agreement with the FBI to watch the excavation. Officers instead confined them to their car – out of sight of the wooded hillside where a backhoe was digging – for six hours that first day before they were finally allowed up the hill. The digging proceeded for another hour before an agent called an abrupt halt at 3 p.m., saying the team was cold, tired and hungry and it would be getting dark soon. They were just 3 feet from the target.

out? If you're not sneaking something, why do you need to do what they did?"

If Union gold was indeed recovered from the woods, the discovery of a historic and extremely valuable trove of federal property on state-owned land would almost certainly touch off a court battle over who owns it, and whether the Paradas are entitled to a cut. Bill Cluck, their lawyer, said it would be a novel case for the courts, "a law professor's dream final exam."

According to the legend, the lost shipment had either 26 gold bars or 52 bars, each weighing 50 pounds (23 kilograms), meaning it would be worth about \$25 million or about \$50 million today. The Paradas and Getler say the government contractor's scan detected a much larger quantity of precious metal – 7 to 9 tons – an eye-popping haul that could be worth more than \$250 million if every ounce of it was gold.

In May, Cluck filed a Freedom of Information Act request for documents on the FBI's investigation into the legendary gold. The agency demurred, claiming it had no files it could share. Cluck appealed to Republican U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey for help, and, a few weeks ago, the Justice Department ordered the FBI to do a more thorough review. If the bureau determines there are documents it can turn over after all, it could still take months or years to reach that point.

"There was definitely some kind of precious metal based on the readings of the instruments at the site," Cluck said. "The fact they wouldn't let them be there for the dig, it's suspicious as hell and it doesn't have to be."