

Module 6: Where to hunt and Research

- ▶ Finding places to detect is the most challenging part of metal detecting.
- ▶ It's common to hear “I don't know where to go” or “everywhere is hunted out” or “there aren't any parks in my area”.
- ▶ Individual sites might be hunted hard but In my opinion there are no entire areas that are “hunted out”.As long as the area had traffic long ago there will be coins somewhere.
- ▶ I'll show you some typical hunting sites and then explore some methods for finding places to hunt.



Typical Places for hunting:

- ▶ Parks
 - ▶ Churches
 - ▶ Schools
 - ▶ Residential houses
 - ▶ Between the sidewalk and street
 - ▶ Fairgrounds and carnival sites
 - ▶ Old picnic groves
 - ▶ Vacant lots
 - ▶ Old sports fields
 - ▶ Sledding hills
 - ▶ Civil war sites and battlefields
 - ▶ Fishing and swimming spots
 - ▶ Old hotels and taverns
 - ▶ Circus sites
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- ▶ Boy scout camps
 - ▶ Campsites and campgrounds
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- ▶ Beaches
 - ▶ Old revival sites
 - ▶ Dance and concert sites
 - ▶ Drive in theatres
 - ▶ Old water wells
 - ▶ Old mining sites
 - ▶ Hunting cabins
 - ▶ Railroad depots
 - ▶ Playgrounds
 - ▶ Old colleges or military schools
 - ▶ Racetracks
 - ▶ Old horse trails and paths in the woods
 - ▶ Old golf courses
 - ▶ Natural Springs
 - ▶ Lovers lane
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How do you find these places?

Research, research, research =)

- ▶ Public libraries, college libraries, state libraries, Local historical societies, Local history books
 - ▶ Call around and ask various places where you can find this info
 - Look for old local maps, magazines, newspapers, articles, archives, plat map books, pictures, any info on local history...
 - Spend time reading and keep an eye out for mention of places and special events where people gathered. Reunions, revivals, dances, concerts, traveling circuses, pretty much anything that a lot of people attended. Immerse yourself in the local history.
 - There were usually special events next to holidays so pay attention to newspapers close to these dates.
 - Look for old topo maps that have houses, churches, and schools marked (24,000/7.5 minute and 64,500/15 minute versions).
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- ▶ Talk to senior citizens that have lived in the area for a long time. They will probably enjoy the company and can usually tell some great stories.
 - Local coffee shops, nursing homes, parents and grandparents of family/friends.
 - Have a pen and paper ready so you can take notes
 - Bring a map of the local area so they can show you where they are talking about.
 - Let them brainstorm and show them the list of typical sites.

 - ▶ Tell everyone you know about your hobby, you'll be surprised at how many people will mention a few places to hunt or have an old house that you could go through.
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Online research:

- ▶ Search for an old map of your state from the late 1800's so you'll have a list of old towns.
- ▶ Search for local history archives online such as maps, magazines, etc...

Sites like:

- topozone.com
- usgs.gov
- http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/map_sites/hist_sites.html
- hearthstonelegacy.com
- historicmapworks.com

- ▶ Search “historical maps” in google for your area
 - ▶ Search Google images for maps in your area
 - ▶ Use Google and Bing aerial views
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The key to being successful at research:

Learn to be resourceful-

Having the ability to find clever ways to overcome difficulties.

Do this by seeking out knowledge and being relentless with your efforts.

Lets say we live in Kansas =)



Research pays off with a honey hole:



Example using above site:

- ▶ Do a search in Google and find an old map.
- ▶ Notice an interesting structure on it.
- ▶ Look in google or bing aerial view to see what's there now (overlay if needed).
- ▶ Use google or bing to find the address and owner of the property. Drive by in person if needed. Contact info might be online, if not might have to check the assessors or city clerks office to see who owns it.
- ▶ Contact them.
- ▶ Get a yes and go detecting!



In the next module I'll show you a strategy I use that will provide you a virtually endless number of sites to hunt.

