

Trash from the Past

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What comes to mind when you think of hidden treasures? Treasures can be many things like gold, silver, other precious metals, jewelry, and gemstones. Other examples of treasures are fine porcelain, old furniture, and even books. When I think of treasures I think of a story my dad told me about when he was my age.

My father spent many of his younger years growing up in England. To pass some of his time he walked down old horse cart roads, wading through shallow streams, and crossing farmer's fields. All the while his eyes fixed to the ground scouring the stream beds and banks, the edge of the roadways, and down the freshly plowed fields. At times he would find pieces of green glass, old shoes and buckles, flint arrowheads, and many old coins.

As time went on he read articles in magazines and news papers of some of the other interesting finds of the locals. This really inspired him to keep on going and research more about areas around old villages and towns. Soon my dad found out through reading and research where some of the old Victorian era garbage dumps were located. My dad would get rides from his friend's parents to the places where they were located. Lots of the places looked very overgrown. They were crowded with weeds, dense brush and very many nettles. My dad did not think of these things as challenges but as protectors of the valuable treasures hidden beneath the surface of the earth.

My dad would often explore and dig around these areas in search of pieces of the past. At times he would dig sometimes 3-7 feet deep below the surface. He spent countless hours

digging in and around roots, clay, and sometimes finding water. My dad thought of these things as good signs of finding the hidden treasures.

As his exploring continued his imagination of finding pieces of the past would keep him searching and digging for the ultimate treasure. As a result of all his hard work he unearthed, old clay pipes, Victorian shoes and buckles, thick green and clay bottles. Some other things he found were cobalt blue poison bottles and other beautiful porcelain doll heads.

All these things coming out of the ground are absolutely filthy not always looking like much but after countless hours of gentle cleaning the hidden treasure finally meets sunlight again revealing it's true beauty.