

Buttons and Coins Found During a Brief Metal Detecting Survey

A brief metal detection survey of the Orchard at Orchard Barn resulted in the discovery of three buttons. Two of these were badly corroded but another, a polished metal disk with a metal loop attached to a boss on the rear, has been identified as a 'Hessian' or 'Tombac' button.



Hessian buttons were so named as they were originally attached to uniforms supplied to German troops serving with the British army in the USA during the American Civil War 1761 to 1765. The soldiers were commonly recruited from the provinces of Hesse Cassel, Hesse Hanau and other small German states. They were made in Birmingham using a copper/zinc alloy which was known as tombac. They continued in use on British military and civilian clothing until the 20th century.

The following photograph is of a marriage in the resident Waspe family. It is believed that it was taken in the orchard at Orchard Barn in the war years 1914-1918. The two men at each end of the front row are wearing military uniforms and It is likely that one of them is Ernest Edward Waspe, a Gunner with the Royal Field Artillery, who died from the effects of gas in 1918. Were any of the buttons lost from the uniforms?

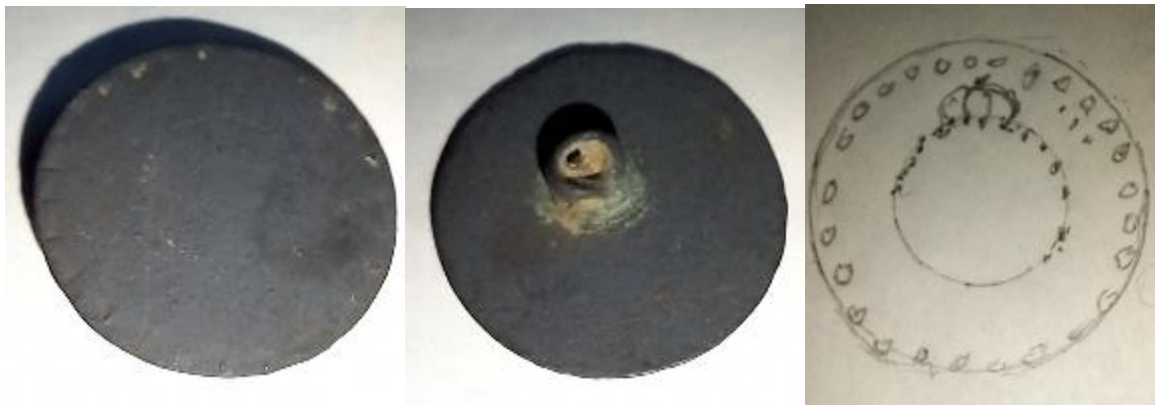


Another button was very badly corroded and no identifying features could be seen. A scratch is visible across the centre.



A third button is also very corroded but an inspection with a magnifying glass has revealed interesting features.

The interior perimeter of the button is surrounded by coarse beading and an inner circle of smaller beads describes a circle about 13mm in diameter. A crown may be seen above the inner circle and it has been determined to be that of a King as loops appear to meet at the top. The crown of a Queen has rounded loops that curve down at the summit.



The adjacent sketch aims to illustrate the features seen on the button

This button has not been found by internet searches and caution must be taken to avoid incorrect assumptions. However, similarities of form have been seen with Royal Artillery objects in searches, notably the circular feature topped by the crown. Elsewhere a gun carriage with large wheels and a canon has featured. However this may not be military in origin as there are literally hundreds of buttons associated with organisations through history.

media/fuse/drivefs-

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Early Twentieth Century Coins

These two coins were found at the same time as the buttons.
An Edward VII Penny minted in the last year of his reign 1910. He was King from 1901 following the death of his mother Victoria.



A George V half penny minted in 1911 the first year of his reign (1910-1936) following the death of his father Edward VII.



