

A HIDDEN TREASURE

CLAIMED ONE IS BURIED NEAR THIS CITY

A Man Named Chamberlain from Vermont Claims to have a Chart by Which He can Locate \$10,000 Buried by Counterfeiters Years Ago

The following article recently appeared in the Argus-Patriot of Montpelier, Vermont, and was forwarded to the Republican by A.B. Chamberlain, a printer employed by the Republican office in 1867. From the description it would appear that the swamp mentioned in the article is the old bogus swamp, where was recently found several old coins, molds and other evidence of the counterfeiters work:

Mr. Charles Stebbins leaves Montpelier, Vt., in a few days to look for a large sum of money in gold, said to have been buried in the state of Michigan, more than fifty years ago, by a body of counterfeiters, somewhere near where now is located the city of Lansing, the capital of the state. Mr. Stebbins has a lot of old papers and a diagram of the locality, given to him by an old bachelor uncle, recently deceased, who had guarded his secret with the greatest care. Through the kindness of Mr. Stebbins we are allowed to look over some of the tome-worn papers, and get an idea something like this: The place where the counterfeiters did their work, as represented was very wet, and in the mist of a wild forest, accessible at that time only by the government surveys, which are all well described on the diagram, and by following the section of quarter lines in upwards of a mile brought these cunning fellows to their hut, on high ground, where they slept and ate.

Their mode of operations seems to have been to first make up a lot of "bogus," as it was called, and then go out into civilization, separately and visiting different places worked off their stock, after which they would return to a stated point in the then new state, and from there proceed to their hut and workshop to renew their nefarious business. After their last return to work, the men found they could not carry their money on their persons at all times, it had grown to heavy and inconvenient, and as they had the utmost confidence in each other they had all agreed to deposit their money with one man, he to

take care of it, allowing no one to draw any out of it without the consent of the whole party.

So the treasurer took all their belts of coin, and while the rest were at work buried them near the hut. Soon after this the whole party was surprised while at work by government officials, and with the exception of the treasurer, who made good his escape, were convicted and sent to prison, if they ever returned to freedom they could not without some knowledge of its exact location have succeeded in finding their money, so it was lost to them. The treasurer, on escaping, immediately took himself out of the country, going to South America, accumulated some fortune, and did not return until a short time before he died. During the last few days of his long life he brought out and explained to his nephew – who is now nearly 60 – the diagrams and papers, which we trust will be in the hands of Mr. Stebbins, the means of restoring to circulation the rouges' buried gold – nearly \$10,000. But this may prove no easy task with the forest cleared and other landmarks change.

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