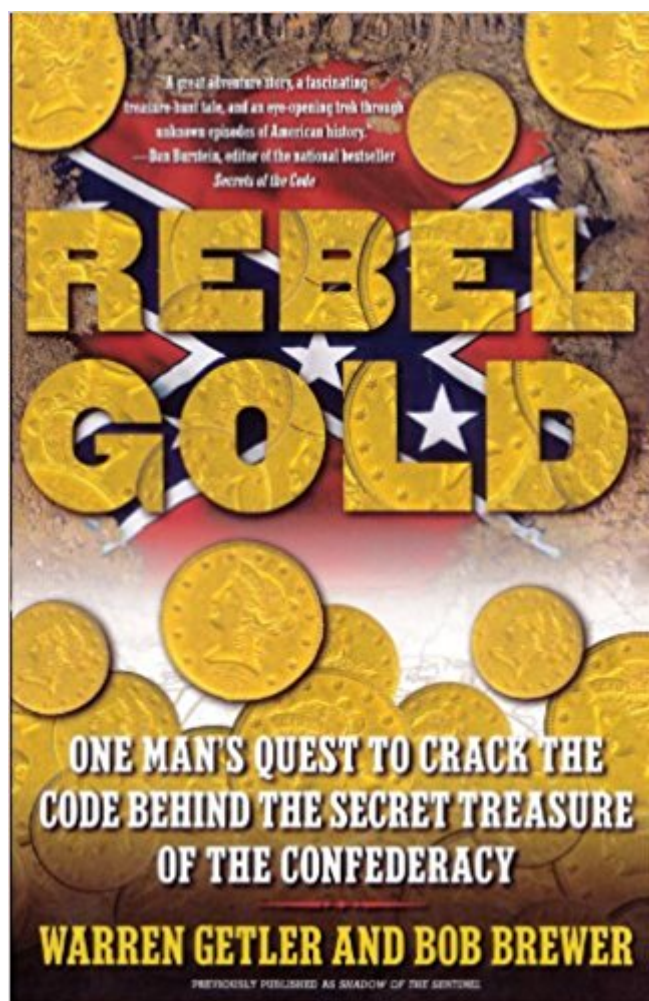


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Rebel Gold: One Man's Quest To Crack The Code Behind The Secret Treasure Of The Confederacy



Synopsis

What if a secret society, founded during the Civil War, accumulated a fortune in gold coins in the hopes of someday funding a second war between the states? What if they buried their treasure in a vast network of remote locations across the South and the Southwestern United States, and appointed sentinels to guard them -- sentinels who passed the secrets of this treasure from generation to generation? What if the keys to this fantastic treasure were hidden in a series of mysterious coded maps? In *Rebel Gold*, investigative journalist Warren Getler and Bob Brewer, a descendant of one of the Confederate sentinels sworn to protect this treasure, uncover the truth behind the legend of this buried gold and the group rumored to have hidden it, the Knights of the Golden Circle. A fast-paced blend of history and modern-day detective story, *Rebel Gold* reveals a shadowy chapter in American history -- and how its legacy may be continuing to this day.

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Customer Reviews

Conspiracy connoisseurs tired of contemplating whether Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone will feast on this tale of the 19th-century doings of the Knights of the Golden Circle. According to treasure hunter Brewer (aided by Bloomberg News editor-at-large Getler), who attempts to unravel their secrets in hopes of finding millions of dollars of hidden gold, the KGC was a sinister group of influential Southerners intent on engineering the secession of Southern states. They supposedly conspired to split the 1860 Democratic convention so that a weak candidate would emerge, guaranteeing Lincoln's election and support for secession-a deep game indeed. Losing the Civil War sent them underground, where, the authors say, political theorist and KGC member Jesse

James, whose death they faked, led them to amass a fortune primarily through the pedestrian crimes of bank and stagecoach robbery and, more creatively, by collecting a multimillion-dollar award from Mexican Emperor Maximilian as repayment for aiding Maximilian's tottering regime. They hid their treasure, preserving knowledge of its whereabouts through a series of devilishly complex symbols known only to initiates for the day the South would rise again. Brewer believes some of his relatives were "sentinels" charged with protecting the KGC's hidden treasure. As fanciful as the group's history sounds (and the authors admit it is heavily based on circumstantial evidence), Brewer is convincing that the code existed and that he deciphered some of it, and his treasure hunting meets with modest success. In the end, this is a curiosity that will strain many readers' credibility, but leave a lingering "Maybe." Photos, maps. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Buried treasure! Secret societies! The South shall rise again! Yes, all the red-blooded elements of a boy's adventure story crowd this tale, except that, tall as it is, it purports to be true. While growing up in the 1950s, Brewer learned at his grandpa's knee that rebels cached gold in the Ouachita Mountains of Arkansas to finance round two of the Civil War. After a career in the navy, Brewer dedicated himself to pursuing the story, written up here by reporter Getler. This exceedingly recondite story involves Scottish Rite Freemasonry, codes, cabalistic carvings on trees, Jesse James, a furtive entity called Knights of the Golden Circle, and a helluva lot of speculation. Still, Brewer is convinced the Confederacy's hidden treasury is still out there waiting to be dug up; alas, he unwisely confided one location to a rogue who allegedly absconded with the multimillion-dollar rebel stash. But Brewer perseveres, secret maps in hand, searching in, aptly enough, Arizona's Superstition Mountains. A saga that inveigles more than it convinces. Gilbert Taylor Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

The book's not too bad if taken with a grain of salt. I enjoyed the story and the writing style, but was miffed that I ordered both this one and Rebel Gold only to find out they were the same book under a different name. In the story the treasure hunter/co-author makes A LOT of jumps in logic to arrive at his conclusions but it doesn't make the concept any less interesting. Unfortunately, the book ends with the co-author claiming he has deciphered the code to a treasure in the Superstition Mountains but then just leaves it hanging as to whether anything was ever found there.

Is it true? Who knows. The real question is whether the book can keep my interest. At first it did a

great job in laying out the story as the authors saw it. Unfortunately most of the last half of the book is spent trying to describe how he "located" the "treasure" spots. It also included maps which to my inexperienced eyes seem more of a stretch. I agree if there was a succession of Confederate treasure spots it would make sense that they all were laid out in similar patterns with markers. The question is whether you believe his explanation of markings. I have to admit it seems a bit of a stretch but who knows stranger things have happened I guess. The real problem is the book simply falls apart half way through whether true or not you no longer care.

Depending on your point of view, this is conspiracy theory at its best or maybe not so much. Regardless, there is an amazing amount of supposition here all conveniently woven together with the most imperfect of threads. And while some of the authors' conjecture simply does not pass the sniff test, the writing is so superb, the fundamental analysis so remarkable, one is left with the understanding that this book was seriously researched before its story was placed on paper. As to the story's building blocks, there is very little fiction here. The myriad of organizations and people really existed. The book's thesis revolves around the Knights of the Golden Circle, what led up to its formation and its subsequent legacy. The book purports that the KGC was responsible for the South's succession in 1861 and as early as 1863 started to plan for the Confederacy's defeat by burying arms, ammunition and gold in a series of clandestine, underground depositories protected by guardians who understand a hieroglyphic code adopted from the Freemasons and their progenitors, the Knights Templar (of Jerusalem and the Crusades fame). Imagine if you will a story of treasure buried across the Southern United States, from North Carolina to Arizona with the leading guardian none other than Jesse James! It seems Jesse wasn't the outlaw bumpkin history delivers but, according to this version of events, was the head General of a nationwide depository system designed to enable the South to Rise Again! Unfortunately, the book melts down at the midway mark. The first part is quite good "what if" conjecture, but the second part becomes a rambling jumble of dubious map interpretations that is remarkably boring. The book's second half, the treasure hunting portion, fails to find any meaningful treasure and is unsuccessful in supporting the story guidelines set up earlier. However, the book's premise is a fun one. If you are into this sort of hidden history, you will enjoy this work. The first half of the book is fascinating guess work, some of which could possibly be true, and the writing is quite excellent throughout.

I'm about half way through this book. If your into treasure hunting - this is a must read book.

Thanks, Absolutely no problem. Reasonable cost.

Great book. Borrowed from a friend to read and decided to buy myself a copy. This particular book was in great shape.

Interesting read.

Well written and interesting on many levels from historical to adventure!

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