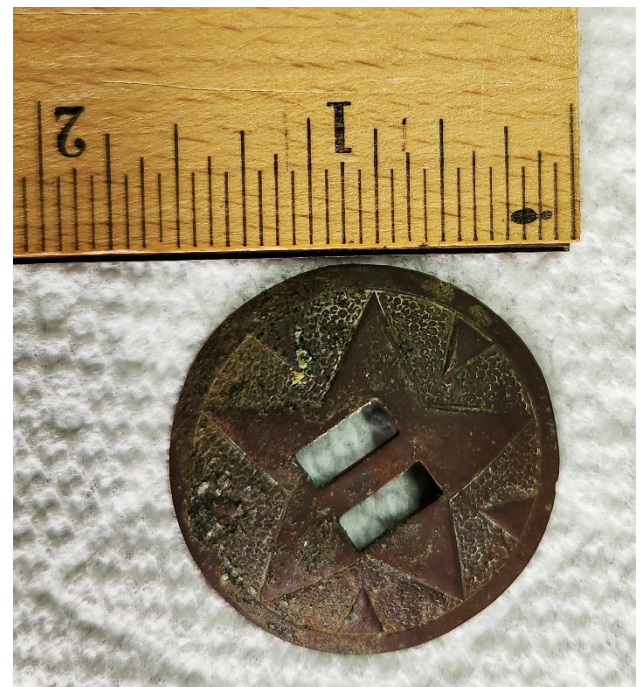
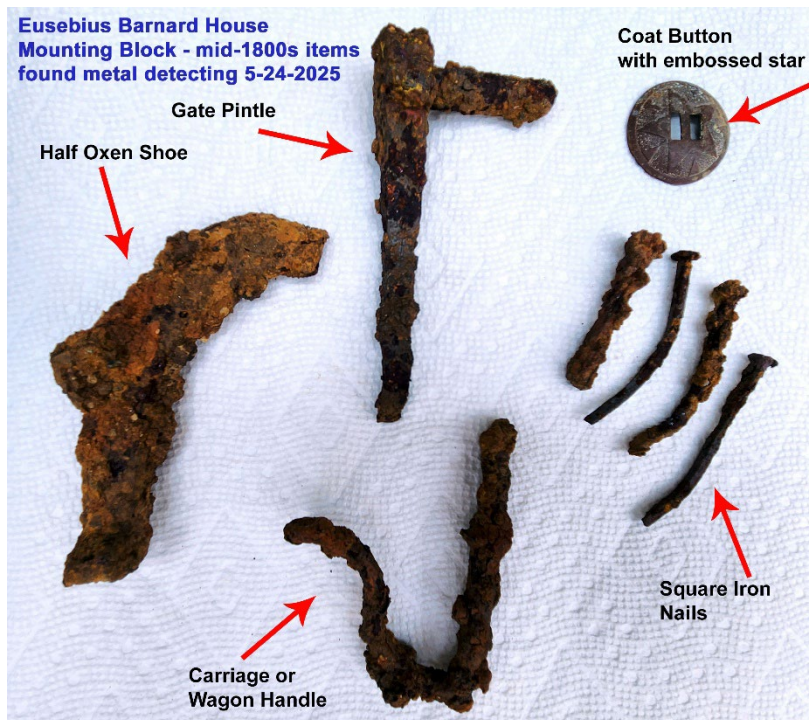


Metal Detecting at the Eusebius Barnard House

In late May 2025 a volunteer started metal detecting around the Barnard property. Sites were selected based on knowledge that they likely were unaltered over the decades either through construction or fill dirt. Two sites were initially selected – the mounting block in front of the house and the dairy barn foundation behind the house. Both existed in the mid-1800s. The upper section of the dairy barn had been altered when the parking lot was extended in 2021 so only the lower section was scanned. Note: Friends of Barnard Station received special permission from Pocopson Township to metal detect their property. This is not open to the public.

The mounting block yielded two unique finds – a metal button with an embossed star and half of an oxen shoe. Based on the 1850 Agricultural Census for Pocopson Township, the 193-acre farm of Eusebius Barnard had 4 horses and 2 working oxen. By the 1880 Agricultural Census the 189-acre farm of Eusebius R. Barnard had converted to only using 3 horses to pull wagons and farm implements. The neighboring 89-acre farm of brother Enos P. Barnard was worked using 4 horses. This dates the oxen shoe to the mid-1800s.



At the dairy barn foundation most items were exactly what you would expect – shell casings, barn parts and hundreds of nails, especially inside the foundation. The abundance of both square iron nails mixed with more modern round wire nails was partially due to the slate roof collapsing over time. Pieces of slate were also everywhere. Amazingly there were no soda cans or pull tabs, the scourge of all metal detectors. OK, we did find one sardine can and a full can of Pabst Blue Ribbon beer, but threw them away.

