



Rebel Gold: One Man's Quest to Crack the Code Behind the Secret Treasure of the Confederacy

By Warren Getler, Bob Brewer

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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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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

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.

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From Booklist

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*
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Review

Dan Burstein, editor of the national bestseller *Secrets of the Code: The Unauthorized Guide to the Mysteries Behind The Da Vinci Code Rebel Gold* is a great adventure story and a fascinating treasure-hunt tale, but it is much more than that. It is an improbable, fantastic, and yet ultimately eye-opening trek through unknown, unseen, and unremembered episodes of American history. Jesse James, Confederate gold, the Knights of the Golden Circle, Freemasons, Albert Pike, the Ku Klux Klan, mysterious maps, codes, and symbols, echoes of the Knights Templar: It would make a great case for Dan Brown's Robert Langdon character -- except Warren Getler and Bob Brewer got there first -- and in non-fiction!

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