

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:02,640

This is the steamship Pulaski.

2

00:00:02,640 --> 00:00:03,640

Wow, look at this.

3

00:00:03,640 --> 00:00:07,740

MUSIC

4

00:00:07,740 --> 00:00:10,740

A second engineer poured very cold water

5

00:00:10,740 --> 00:00:14,640

into a boiling copper boiler

6

00:00:14,640 --> 00:00:17,520

and created a bomb.

7

00:00:17,520 --> 00:00:22,560

We think that there was \$100,000 face value of coins.

8

00:00:22,560 --> 00:00:24,460

We translate that to today's value,

9

00:00:24,460 --> 00:00:25,860

and that's roughly how much money.

10

00:00:25,860 --> 00:00:27,360

It's in the tens of millions of dollars.

11

00:00:27,360 --> 00:00:35,500

MUSIC

12

00:00:35,500 --> 00:00:36,500

In the water.

13

00:00:36,500 --> 00:00:38,300

What is this?

14

00:00:38,300 --> 00:00:41,340

This coin is worth \$30,000 to \$40,000?

15

00:00:41,340 --> 00:00:42,840

Correct.

16

00:00:42,840 --> 00:00:44,340

It's part of the ship.

17

00:00:44,340 --> 00:00:46,840

It is a massive part of the ship.

18

00:00:46,840 --> 00:00:48,040

Actually, it sort of gives you chills.

19

00:00:48,040 --> 00:00:50,340

I mean, it's eerie.

20

00:00:50,340 --> 00:00:52,340

Holy f\*\*\*ing coin!

21

00:00:52,340 --> 00:00:53,840

There's a gold coin in here.

22

00:00:53,840 --> 00:00:54,840

Look at this!

23

00:00:54,840 --> 00:00:59,980

MUSIC

24

00:00:59,980 --> 00:01:07,480

MUSIC

25

00:01:07,480 --> 00:01:09,780

The year is 1838.

26

00:01:09,780 --> 00:01:13,120

The age of the steam engine is in full roar.

27

00:01:13,120 --> 00:01:16,960

Ocean journeys that once lasted weeks now take mere days,

28

00:01:16,960 --> 00:01:21,960

a luxury available to anyone who can afford the steep fare.

29

00:01:21,980 --> 00:01:25,320

On the night of June 14th, the SS Pulaski,

30

00:01:25,320 --> 00:01:28,960

a brand new state-of-the-art side-wheel steamer,

31

00:01:28,960 --> 00:01:31,360

set sail out of Savannah, Georgia.

32

00:01:31,360 --> 00:01:34,360

She is loaded with the city's wealthiest citizens

33

00:01:34,360 --> 00:01:37,060

and some of their most valuable belongings,

34

00:01:37,060 --> 00:01:40,860

headed north for a summer in cooler climates.

35

00:01:40,860 --> 00:01:44,800

As she passes about 30 miles off the coast of North Carolina,

36

00:01:44,800 --> 00:01:49,920

the Pulaski suddenly suffers a catastrophic explosion.

37

00:01:49,940 --> 00:01:52,840

Blasting her side wheels clear off their axle

38

00:01:52,840 --> 00:01:57,480

and turning the entire midsection of the ship into splinters.

39

00:01:57,480 --> 00:02:00,080

Those passengers who don't die instantly

40

00:02:00,080 --> 00:02:03,360

watch the ship crack in half and sink.

41

00:02:03,360 --> 00:02:06,660

Nearly 130 lives are lost.

42

00:02:06,660 --> 00:02:09,400

It's been called the Titanic of the South.

43

00:02:09,400 --> 00:02:11,040

And for almost two centuries,

44

00:02:11,040 --> 00:02:14,900

the shipwrecks location has remained a maritime mystery.

45

00:02:14,900 --> 00:02:17,440

That is, until a group of salvage experts

46

00:02:17,440 --> 00:02:19,540

recently discovered what they believe

47

00:02:19,540 --> 00:02:21,640

to be the Pulaski's boiler.

48

00:02:21,640 --> 00:02:24,300

Now, using top-of-the-line technology,

49

00:02:24,300 --> 00:02:28,140

they're launching a new mission to find the rest of the ship.

50

00:02:28,140 --> 00:02:30,180

But there's another prize.

51

00:02:30,180 --> 00:02:34,180

It's believed the ship was carrying more than \$20 million

52

00:02:34,180 --> 00:02:36,100

worth of rare coins.

53

00:02:36,100 --> 00:02:40,500

So to help the team find the Pulaski and her cargo,

54

00:02:40,500 --> 00:02:43,580

I'll be facing deep water, rough conditions,

55

00:02:43,580 --> 00:02:45,220

and turbulent history.

56

00:02:45,220 --> 00:02:49,100

So get ready, because adventure lies full steam ahead.

57

00:02:50,300 --> 00:02:52,140

My name is Josh Gates.

58

00:02:52,140 --> 00:02:53,140

Hello!

59

00:02:53,140 --> 00:02:54,640

Explorer.

60

00:02:54,640 --> 00:02:55,640

Adventurer.

61

00:02:55,640 --> 00:02:57,140

This is sick.

62

00:02:57,140 --> 00:02:58,140

Whoa!

63

00:02:58,140 --> 00:03:01,140

And a guy who ends up in some very strange situation.

64

00:03:01,140 --> 00:03:02,140

Whoa, this is f\*\*king...

65

00:03:02,140 --> 00:03:03,140

Whoo!

66

00:03:03,140 --> 00:03:04,140

That was exciting.

67

00:03:04,140 --> 00:03:07,340

With a degree in archeology and a passion for the unexplained,

68

00:03:07,340 --> 00:03:09,460

I travel to the ends of the Earth,

69

00:03:09,460 --> 00:03:12,340

investigating the greatest legends in history.

70

00:03:12,340 --> 00:03:13,940

Day, let's punch it!

71

00:03:13,940 --> 00:03:16,340

This is Expedition Unknown.

72

00:03:20,540 --> 00:03:25,540

Wheels Down, Savannah, Georgia

73

00:03:28,540 --> 00:03:31,540

The steamship Pulaski launched from these very docks,

74

00:03:31,540 --> 00:03:36,540

and 183 years later, the city remains a jewel of southern preservation.

75

00:03:38,540 --> 00:03:41,540

It's the kind of place that envelops you.

76

00:03:41,540 --> 00:03:44,540

It sweeps you along with music and humidity.

77

00:03:44,540 --> 00:03:48,540

A place of neatly landscaped squares and stately mansions,

78

00:03:48,540 --> 00:03:52,540

resting under the moss-covered arms of towering oaks.

79

00:03:52,540 --> 00:03:55,540

This is the hostess city, as she's long been known,

80

00:03:55,540 --> 00:03:59,540

a place that makes you realize that you never knew what hospitality meant.

81

00:03:59,540 --> 00:04:01,540

We love Savannah!

82

00:04:01,540 --> 00:04:03,540

Oh, and the food.

83

00:04:03,540 --> 00:04:05,540

I do declare.

84

00:04:05,540 --> 00:04:10,540

The Low Country Boil has been a staple here for as long as folks have been pulling shrimp,

85

00:04:10,540 --> 00:04:14,540

crab, clams, and crawfish from the mouth of the Savannah River.

86

00:04:19,540 --> 00:04:21,540

I'm gonna be here for a while.

87

00:04:21,540 --> 00:04:23,540

Can I get a bib?

88

00:04:23,540 --> 00:04:26,540

In fact, from its founding in 1733,

89

00:04:26,540 --> 00:04:29,540

life in Savannah has always revolved around the water,

90

00:04:29,540 --> 00:04:33,540

a history chronicled at the ships of the Sea Maritime Museum.

91

00:04:33,540 --> 00:04:36,540

This mansion belonged to one of the owners of the Savannah,

92

00:04:36,540 --> 00:04:39,540

the first steamship to cross the Atlantic.

93

00:04:39,540 --> 00:04:41,540

Amidst the museum's galleries,

94

00:04:41,540 --> 00:04:44,540

I find New York Times best-selling author, Patti Callahan,

95

00:04:44,540 --> 00:04:46,540

who wrote the book,

96

00:04:46,540 --> 00:04:48,540

and the author, Patti Callahan,

97

00:04:48,540 --> 00:04:51,540

who recently wrote a novel about one of the South's most tragic

98

00:04:51,540 --> 00:04:54,540

and least-known maritime accidents.

99

00:04:54,540 --> 00:04:58,540

And, Josh, this is the steamship Pulaski.

100

00:04:58,540 --> 00:05:00,540

Wow.

101

00:05:09,540 --> 00:05:11,540

When I was thinking early steamship,

102

00:05:11,540 --> 00:05:13,540

I wasn't thinking about something like this.

103

00:05:13,540 --> 00:05:15,540

This thing looks like it was a behemoth.

104

00:05:15,540 --> 00:05:17,540

This thing was over 200 feet long,

105

00:05:17,540 --> 00:05:20,540

which is more than twice the length of the ship

106

00:05:20,540 --> 00:05:22,540

that the colonists came over on.

107

00:05:22,540 --> 00:05:24,540

I have to say, and I'm sort of embarrassed to say,

108

00:05:24,540 --> 00:05:26,540

I have never heard this story.

109

00:05:26,540 --> 00:05:28,540

You're embarrassed? I researched Savannah.

110

00:05:28,540 --> 00:05:30,540

I write about Savannah,

111

00:05:30,540 --> 00:05:34,540

and I had never heard of the steamship Pulaski disaster.

112

00:05:34,540 --> 00:05:37,540

And why isn't there a bigger historical record of this disaster?

113

00:05:37,540 --> 00:05:40,540

Some stories are just lost to time.

114

00:05:40,540 --> 00:05:43,540

So I've heard it referred to as the Titanic of the South.

115

00:05:43,540 --> 00:05:45,540

Is that a fair analogy?

116

00:05:45,540 --> 00:05:47,540

It's fair for loads of reasons.

117

00:05:47,540 --> 00:05:50,540

One is, there's not enough lifeboats.

118

00:05:50,540 --> 00:05:52,540

It's just these four lifeboats?

119

00:05:52,540 --> 00:05:55,540

These four lifeboats for 190 passengers.

120

00:05:55,540 --> 00:05:56,540

Wow.

121

00:05:56,540 --> 00:05:58,540

But other than that, there was the innovation,

122

00:05:58,540 --> 00:06:02,540

the speed, the wealthy passengers, the hubris.

123

00:06:02,540 --> 00:06:04,540

But while the sinking of the Titanic

124

00:06:04,540 --> 00:06:06,540

has been called a night to remember,

125

00:06:06,540 --> 00:06:09,540

the Pulaski has been largely forgotten.

126

00:06:09,540 --> 00:06:10,540

Until now.

127

00:06:10,540 --> 00:06:12,540

This ship was designed to do what?

128

00:06:12,540 --> 00:06:14,540

It was designed to go fast,

129

00:06:14,540 --> 00:06:16,540

and it was designed to be impressive.

130

00:06:16,540 --> 00:06:17,540

Why is she so fast?

131

00:06:17,540 --> 00:06:19,540

She has two side wheels,

132

00:06:19,540 --> 00:06:21,540

and they are three stories high.

133

00:06:21,540 --> 00:06:22,540

It was impressive.

134

00:06:22,540 --> 00:06:25,540

So this is for its day, really high-tech?

135

00:06:25,540 --> 00:06:30,540

Yes, but we are only 30 years into steamship technology.

136

00:06:30,540 --> 00:06:33,540

Think about the first 30 years of aviation technology.

137

00:06:33,540 --> 00:06:35,540

Lot of accidents.

138

00:06:35,540 --> 00:06:39,540

Despite the risks, passage on the Pulaski was in high demand.

139

00:06:39,540 --> 00:06:41,540

The ship's route began in Savannah,

140

00:06:41,540 --> 00:06:45,540

where it would steam north to pick up more passengers in Charleston,

141

00:06:45,540 --> 00:06:48,540

before continuing to Baltimore, Maryland.

142

00:06:48,540 --> 00:06:50,540

All in just two days,

143

00:06:50,540 --> 00:06:53,540

less than half the time it took older steamers.

144

00:06:53,540 --> 00:06:55,540

Let's talk about who's on board the Pulaski.

145

00:06:55,540 --> 00:06:57,540

These must have been very wealthy citizens.

146

00:06:57,540 --> 00:07:00,540

Very wealthy citizens, but they were also from all over.

147

00:07:00,540 --> 00:07:03,540

We had influential families of the South,

148

00:07:03,540 --> 00:07:05,540

including the owner of the ship.

149

00:07:05,540 --> 00:07:06,540

Lamar.

150

00:07:06,540 --> 00:07:09,540

Gazaway Bug Lamar.

151

00:07:09,540 --> 00:07:13,540

Gazaway Bug Lamar, which I promise is a real name,

152

00:07:13,540 --> 00:07:16,540

was a wealthy merchant in Savannah who invested early

153

00:07:16,540 --> 00:07:18,540

in nascent steamship technology

154

00:07:18,540 --> 00:07:21,540

and commissioned the Pulaski in 1837.

155

00:07:21,540 --> 00:07:25,540

He's so proud of his new ship that he brings along his wife,

156

00:07:25,540 --> 00:07:29,540

six children, his sister, and his niece on the voyage.

157

00:07:29,540 --> 00:07:32,540

Gazaway Bug Lamar originally made his money

158

00:07:32,540 --> 00:07:35,540

as many of the South's landed gentry did

159

00:07:35,540 --> 00:07:37,540

in the cotton business.

160

00:07:37,540 --> 00:07:41,540

To be crystal clear, that meant he and many of the wealthy passengers

161

00:07:41,540 --> 00:07:43,540

on board were slave owners.

162

00:07:43,540 --> 00:07:45,540

Were there slaves aboard the Pulaski?

163

00:07:45,540 --> 00:07:46,540

There were a few.

164

00:07:46,540 --> 00:07:49,540

If you think about it, this ship is headed to free lands.

165

00:07:49,540 --> 00:07:50,540

Right.

166

00:07:50,540 --> 00:07:53,540

So they don't bring their enslaved with them.

167

00:07:53,540 --> 00:07:55,540

Maybe some domestic help.

168

00:07:55,540 --> 00:07:57,540

And are they counted in the ship's manifest?

169

00:07:57,540 --> 00:07:58,540

They are.

170

00:07:58,540 --> 00:08:00,540

They aren't named with last names,

171

00:08:00,540 --> 00:08:02,540

and sometimes they aren't named at all.

172

00:08:02,540 --> 00:08:05,540

The enslaved people on board, while listed as passengers,

173

00:08:05,540 --> 00:08:08,540

were denied actual names on the ship's manifest,

174

00:08:08,540 --> 00:08:10,540

so we don't know who they were.

175

00:08:10,540 --> 00:08:12,540

Other passengers we do know about

176

00:08:12,540 --> 00:08:16,540

include former New York congressman William B. Rochester,

177

00:08:16,540 --> 00:08:19,540

whose father founded the city that bears his name.

178

00:08:19,540 --> 00:08:22,540

These wealthy passengers also brought something else

179

00:08:22,540 --> 00:08:24,540

aboard the Pulaski, money.

180

00:08:24,540 --> 00:08:26,540

They would pack it with them for the summer.

181

00:08:26,540 --> 00:08:27,540

Right.

182

00:08:27,540 --> 00:08:29,540

If you think about it, there's no paper money.

183

00:08:29,540 --> 00:08:31,540

So the coins, there's gold, there's silver,

184

00:08:31,540 --> 00:08:33,540

and they pack them in these trunks

185

00:08:33,540 --> 00:08:35,540

because they're going to be gone for months.

186

00:08:35,540 --> 00:08:36,540

Right.

187

00:08:36,540 --> 00:08:40,540

Today, these early mint U.S. coins are extremely rare

188

00:08:40,540 --> 00:08:42,540

and highly prized by collectors.

189

00:08:42,540 --> 00:08:46,540

A single coin can fetch tens of thousands of dollars,

190

00:08:46,540 --> 00:08:49,540

which means a fortune estimated at more than 20 million

191

00:08:49,540 --> 00:08:51,540

was lost when the Pulaski sank.

192

00:08:53,540 --> 00:08:55,540

She leaves Savannah wet.

193

00:08:55,540 --> 00:08:59,540

She leaves on June 13th, 1838, at 8 a.m.

194

00:09:01,540 --> 00:09:03,540

90 passengers got on board in Savannah,

195

00:09:03,540 --> 00:09:06,540

and 60 more got on in Charleston.

196

00:09:06,540 --> 00:09:10,540

Then, just after 11 p.m. in the darkness of the Atlantic,

197

00:09:10,540 --> 00:09:12,540

disaster strikes.

198

00:09:12,540 --> 00:09:14,540

They're sailing towards Baltimore

199

00:09:14,540 --> 00:09:18,540

when the boiler on the starboard side goes dry.

200

00:09:20,540 --> 00:09:23,540

And the second engineer poured very cold water

201

00:09:23,540 --> 00:09:28,540

into a boiling copper boiler and created a bomb.

202

00:09:31,540 --> 00:09:35,540

The Pulaski's boiler explodes with tremendous force,

203

00:09:35,540 --> 00:09:37,540

sending the three-story high paddle wheels

204

00:09:37,540 --> 00:09:39,540

sailing off their axle

205

00:09:39,540 --> 00:09:42,540

and blowing a gaping hole in the midsection of the ship.

206

00:09:42,540 --> 00:09:44,540

Only 45 minutes later,

207

00:09:44,540 --> 00:09:48,540

the last traces of the vessel are swallowed up by the sea.

208

00:09:48,540 --> 00:09:51,540

Going back to the Titanic, it sinks in the same way,

209

00:09:51,540 --> 00:09:53,540

meaning it collapses in the middle.

210

00:09:53,540 --> 00:09:54,540

Right.

211

00:09:54,540 --> 00:09:56,540

And the bow and the aft go upwards.

212

00:09:56,540 --> 00:10:00,540

And so these 190 passengers, what becomes of them?

213

00:10:00,540 --> 00:10:02,540

The captain was never seen again.

214

00:10:02,540 --> 00:10:04,540

First mate Hibbard helped people get on the life rafts.

215

00:10:04,540 --> 00:10:09,540

Of the four life rafts, only two were sea-worthy.

216

00:10:09,540 --> 00:10:10,540

Of course.

217

00:10:10,540 --> 00:10:11,540

Only two.

218

00:10:11,540 --> 00:10:13,540

While a few are able to ride it out in lifeboats,

219

00:10:13,540 --> 00:10:17,540

other Pulaski survivors cling to pieces of the deck,

220

00:10:17,540 --> 00:10:20,540

hanging on for the next five days and nights

221

00:10:20,540 --> 00:10:22,540

until a schooner rescues them.

222

00:10:22,540 --> 00:10:25,540

And so of the 190 passengers, how many survive?

223

00:10:25,540 --> 00:10:26,540

59.

224

00:10:26,540 --> 00:10:27,540

That's it.

225

00:10:27,540 --> 00:10:28,540

That's it.

226

00:10:28,540 --> 00:10:31,540

The Pulaski was lost for nearly two centuries.

227

00:10:31,540 --> 00:10:33,540

That is until a few years ago,

228

00:10:33,540 --> 00:10:37,540

when a pair of salvage experts claimed to find part of her remains

229

00:10:37,540 --> 00:10:39,540

off the coast of North Carolina.

230

00:10:39,540 --> 00:10:44,540

After thanking Patty for sharing the story of the Pulaski with me,

231

00:10:44,540 --> 00:10:47,540

I leave Savannah in the rear view and drive north

232

00:10:47,540 --> 00:10:49,540

to meet the men who may have found her.

233

00:10:49,540 --> 00:10:53,540

I motor 300 miles from Savannah to the historic port

234

00:10:53,540 --> 00:10:55,540

of Wilmington, North Carolina.

235

00:10:56,540 --> 00:10:59,540

At the junction of the Cape Fear River and Atlantic Ocean,

236

00:10:59,540 --> 00:11:02,540

Wilmington has been a center of maritime commerce

237

00:11:02,540 --> 00:11:05,540

since long before the American Revolution.

238

00:11:05,540 --> 00:11:07,540

I make my way to nearby Ritesville Beach,

239

00:11:07,540 --> 00:11:11,540

where I charter a boat to take me offshore.

240

00:11:11,540 --> 00:11:15,540

I soon see why the Pulaski has been such an elusive wreck.

241

00:11:15,540 --> 00:11:18,540

We steam for nearly three hours away from the coast

242

00:11:18,540 --> 00:11:20,540

and out into open ocean.

243

00:11:20,540 --> 00:11:24,540

Finally, I spot salvage vessel The Blue Water Rose

244

00:11:24,540 --> 00:11:28,540

and a pair of her crew, Micah Eldred and Captain Mark Martin.

245

00:11:28,540 --> 00:11:30,540

Got it.

246

00:11:30,540 --> 00:11:33,540

All right. Hey, nice to meet you. I'm Josh.

247

00:11:33,540 --> 00:11:34,540

Nice to meet you, Josh. I'm Mark.

248

00:11:34,540 --> 00:11:35,540

Hey, Josh, Micah.

249

00:11:35,540 --> 00:11:36,540

Micah.

250

00:11:36,540 --> 00:11:37,540

Nice to meet you.

251

00:11:37,540 --> 00:11:39,540

Micah's company, Blue Water Ventures,

252

00:11:39,540 --> 00:11:41,540

with its president and CEO, Keith Webb,

253

00:11:41,540 --> 00:11:43,540

has already found treasure from ships

254

00:11:43,540 --> 00:11:46,540

like the Spanish galleon Santa Margarita

255

00:11:46,540 --> 00:11:48,540

and the steamship North Carolina.

256

00:11:48,540 --> 00:11:50,540

But right now, all of their attention

257

00:11:50,540 --> 00:11:52,540

is focused on finding the Pulaski.

258

00:11:52,540 --> 00:11:54,540

Welcome to the Blue Water Rose.

259

00:11:54,540 --> 00:11:56,540

Let's head forward and get you settled.

260

00:11:56,540 --> 00:11:57,540

All right, let's do it. Come on.

261

00:11:57,540 --> 00:11:58,540

You guys are out here.

262

00:11:58,540 --> 00:11:59,540

We're out here.

263

00:11:59,540 --> 00:12:00,540

You're out here.

264

00:12:00,540 --> 00:12:02,540

How far offshore are we right now?

265

00:12:02,540 --> 00:12:05,540

We're more than 40 miles offshore.

266

00:12:05,540 --> 00:12:06,540

Where are we anchored?

267

00:12:06,540 --> 00:12:09,540

We're on top of a part of the wreck of the Pulaski.

268

00:12:09,540 --> 00:12:10,540

It's here. It's under us.

269

00:12:10,540 --> 00:12:11,540

Yes.

270

00:12:11,540 --> 00:12:12,540

Part of it's under us. Yes.

271

00:12:12,540 --> 00:12:13,540

Really?

272

00:12:13,540 --> 00:12:14,540

Yes, absolutely.

273

00:12:14,540 --> 00:12:15,540

You sure about that?

274

00:12:15,540 --> 00:12:16,540

We're positive sure about that.

275

00:12:16,540 --> 00:12:19,540

I mean, I don't see a lot of landmarks around here, Micah.

276

00:12:19,540 --> 00:12:21,540

Locating the wreck originally wasn't easy,

277

00:12:21,540 --> 00:12:23,540

but today we're confident that we're on top of it.

278

00:12:23,540 --> 00:12:25,540

And how do we know that?

279

00:12:25,540 --> 00:12:27,540

Easiest way to tell you is to show you.

280

00:12:27,540 --> 00:12:29,540

So why don't you get suited up

281

00:12:29,540 --> 00:12:31,540

and get in the water to see what's underneath us?

282

00:12:31,540 --> 00:12:34,540

No sound like the present. Let's get wet. Come on.

283

00:12:34,540 --> 00:12:37,540

I suit up and dive in.

284

00:12:40,540 --> 00:12:43,540

The waters are choppy and the current is ripping.

285

00:12:43,540 --> 00:12:45,540

Fortunately, the crew has left a shot line

286

00:12:45,540 --> 00:12:48,540

I can follow down to the bottom,

287

00:12:48,540 --> 00:12:51,540

which rests at just over 100 feet.

288

00:12:58,540 --> 00:13:00,540

Visibility is great.

289

00:13:00,540 --> 00:13:02,540

Must be about 80 feet.

290

00:13:03,540 --> 00:13:06,540

As I drop down, my view is obscured

291

00:13:06,540 --> 00:13:08,540

by swarming schools of fish.

292

00:13:09,540 --> 00:13:12,540

They're everywhere. This is crazy.

293

00:13:12,540 --> 00:13:14,540

I make my way through the fish NATO

294

00:13:14,540 --> 00:13:16,540

and approach the bottom.

295

00:13:17,540 --> 00:13:19,540

Stand by and see it.

296

00:13:20,540 --> 00:13:22,540

On the barren ocean floor,

297

00:13:22,540 --> 00:13:24,540

shipwrecks become artificial reefs

298

00:13:24,540 --> 00:13:27,540

and oasis for all kinds of sea life.

299

00:13:28,540 --> 00:13:30,540

Something big is down here.

300

00:13:31,540 --> 00:13:34,540

Oh my God, there is something down here.

301

00:13:36,540 --> 00:13:38,540

Is that a boiler?

302

00:13:46,540 --> 00:13:50,540

Incredible. This looks like it might be part of the boilers

303

00:13:50,540 --> 00:13:52,540

of the Pulaski.

304

00:13:52,540 --> 00:13:55,540

Sitting on the otherwise featureless sandy bottom

305

00:13:55,540 --> 00:13:58,540

lies a huge mass of twisted metal.

306

00:13:58,540 --> 00:14:00,540

Part of mammoth steam boilers

307

00:14:00,540 --> 00:14:02,540

that once powered the SS Pulaski,

308

00:14:02,540 --> 00:14:05,540

the so-called Titanic of the South,

309

00:14:05,540 --> 00:14:09,540

before it exploded off the Carolina coast in 1838.

310

00:14:09,540 --> 00:14:13,540

Unreal. You can still see the rivets in the boiler.

311

00:14:13,540 --> 00:14:16,540

Look how the metal is bent here.

312

00:14:16,540 --> 00:14:19,540

You can tell this was a violent explosion.

313

00:14:19,540 --> 00:14:23,540

At 11.05 p.m., cold water dumped into a hot boiler,

314

00:14:23,540 --> 00:14:25,540

created a reaction so powerful

315

00:14:25,540 --> 00:14:28,540

that it literally blew the side wheels off the Pulaski

316

00:14:28,540 --> 00:14:30,540

and cracked the ship in half.

317

00:14:30,540 --> 00:14:34,540

This mangled wreckage is all that's left on this part of the sea floor.

318

00:14:35,540 --> 00:14:37,540

Much of the ship was wood.

319

00:14:37,540 --> 00:14:39,540

Must have been blasted to bits.

320

00:14:39,540 --> 00:14:42,540

Who knows if anything else is left.

321

00:14:43,540 --> 00:14:47,540

At this depth, I don't have the luxury of investigating for long.

322

00:14:47,540 --> 00:14:50,540

Okay, I'm out of bottom time. I'm headed up.

323

00:14:54,540 --> 00:14:57,540

Huge, huge piece of machinery down there.

324

00:14:57,540 --> 00:14:59,540

That looks like it could be a boiler.

325

00:14:59,540 --> 00:15:01,540

See all the riveting on it, stuff. It's old.

326

00:15:01,540 --> 00:15:03,540

So pretty good evidence.

327

00:15:03,540 --> 00:15:05,540

I mean, what else would be sitting out here

328

00:15:05,540 --> 00:15:07,540

that looks like it's from that era that's that size?

329

00:15:07,540 --> 00:15:09,540

And we've got another piece of evidence

330

00:15:09,540 --> 00:15:11,540

that proves that this is the Pulaski.

331

00:15:11,540 --> 00:15:13,540

Okay.

332

00:15:13,540 --> 00:15:16,540

Found a candlestick, and on the inside of that candlestick

333

00:15:16,540 --> 00:15:18,540

was engraved SS Pulaski.

334

00:15:18,540 --> 00:15:20,540

Get out of here.

335

00:15:20,540 --> 00:15:24,540

After drying off, Micah shows me what else they've found.

336

00:15:24,540 --> 00:15:27,540

Oh, you got the goods up here now. Look at this.

337

00:15:27,540 --> 00:15:29,540

All of these things were actually found

338

00:15:29,540 --> 00:15:33,540

within about 100 feet of the boilers that you just dove on.

339

00:15:34,540 --> 00:15:36,540

The first haul the team brought up

340

00:15:36,540 --> 00:15:39,540

included personal effects from some of the passengers

341

00:15:39,540 --> 00:15:41,540

and coins, lots of coins,

342

00:15:41,540 --> 00:15:44,540

which they've now shielded inside protective containers.

343

00:15:44,540 --> 00:15:47,540

All right, so the thing that jumps out at me, first of all,

344

00:15:47,540 --> 00:15:50,540

is that they seem like they're from all over.

345

00:15:50,540 --> 00:15:52,540

This is from Bogota. This is Colombian.

346

00:15:52,540 --> 00:15:53,540

That's right.

347

00:15:53,540 --> 00:15:54,540

This says Bolivia.

348

00:15:54,540 --> 00:15:56,540

Yes, minted in Bolivia.

349

00:15:56,540 --> 00:15:57,540

And Great Britain mixed in.

350

00:15:57,540 --> 00:15:58,540

Yeah.

351

00:15:58,540 --> 00:16:00,540

So why coinage from all over?

352

00:16:00,540 --> 00:16:02,540

At the time of this sinking,

353

00:16:02,540 --> 00:16:06,540

the United States didn't have enough of its own mintage

354

00:16:06,540 --> 00:16:07,540

to support the economy.

355

00:16:07,540 --> 00:16:11,540

Foreign currency was legal tender up until the mid-1850s.

356

00:16:11,540 --> 00:16:13,540

So you could use gold and silver coinage

357

00:16:13,540 --> 00:16:15,540

from anywhere in the world?

358

00:16:15,540 --> 00:16:16,540

It was all done by weight.

359

00:16:16,540 --> 00:16:19,540

They didn't care if the gold was from Mexico

360

00:16:19,540 --> 00:16:22,540

or United Kingdom or Great Britain or Columbia.

361

00:16:22,540 --> 00:16:24,540

So this ship is kind of a coin collector's dream?

362

00:16:24,540 --> 00:16:26,540

Well, that's what's really interesting for us

363

00:16:26,540 --> 00:16:28,540

is because the time period,

364

00:16:28,540 --> 00:16:31,540

some of these coins can be really rare.

365

00:16:31,540 --> 00:16:34,540

And so a perfect example is this little coin.

366

00:16:34,540 --> 00:16:35,540

This is a U.S. coin?

367

00:16:35,540 --> 00:16:37,540

It is, and it's a \$5 face amount.

368

00:16:37,540 --> 00:16:40,540

This is an \$1836 coin.

369

00:16:40,540 --> 00:16:42,540

This is, what, a quarter of an ounce?

370

00:16:42,540 --> 00:16:44,540

Exactly. It's about a quarter of an ounce of gold.

371

00:16:44,540 --> 00:16:50,540

So the value of the gold here is about \$400, \$500?

372

00:16:50,540 --> 00:16:51,540

That's right.

373

00:16:51,540 --> 00:16:53,540

Okay. But the value of the coin?

374

00:16:53,540 --> 00:16:57,540

This particular coin would exceed \$10,000 today.

375

00:16:57,540 --> 00:17:00,540

This coin is worth \$10,000?

376

00:17:00,540 --> 00:17:04,540

So now my mind is really, like, what else could be down there?

377

00:17:04,540 --> 00:17:06,540

Based on the archival research,

378

00:17:06,540 --> 00:17:13,540

we think that there was around \$100,000 base value of coins.

379

00:17:13,540 --> 00:17:15,540

We translate that to today's collectible value,

380

00:17:15,540 --> 00:17:17,540

and that's roughly how much money?

381

00:17:17,540 --> 00:17:20,540

It's in the tens of millions of dollars.

382

00:17:20,540 --> 00:17:22,540

Well, now I see why you guys are out here

383

00:17:22,540 --> 00:17:24,540

all this way offshore.

384

00:17:24,540 --> 00:17:27,540

All right, so the \$10,000 question is,

385

00:17:27,540 --> 00:17:29,540

where are these coins coming from

386

00:17:29,540 --> 00:17:31,540

and how do you find more of them?

387

00:17:31,540 --> 00:17:34,540

The answer lies at the stern of the Blue Water Rose,

388

00:17:34,540 --> 00:17:37,540

where Mark is keeping a wreck hunting missile.

389

00:17:37,540 --> 00:17:40,540

It's not aware there were weapons on board.

390

00:17:40,540 --> 00:17:42,540

Well, it's not a destructive weapon.

391

00:17:42,540 --> 00:17:44,540

It's a technological weapon.

392

00:17:44,540 --> 00:17:46,540

It's a side scan sonar.

393

00:17:46,540 --> 00:17:49,540

By dragging this torpedo called a towfish through the water,

394

00:17:49,540 --> 00:17:51,540

side-scan sonar will use sound waves

395

00:17:51,540 --> 00:17:55,540

to map the ocean floor and everything resting on it.

396

00:17:55,540 --> 00:17:56,540

We need this why.

397

00:17:56,540 --> 00:17:58,540

I mean, we're sitting right on top of the boilers.

398

00:17:58,540 --> 00:18:00,540

We are, but you'll notice that there wasn't anything else around.

399

00:18:00,540 --> 00:18:02,540

No, that's right. It's just white sand.

400

00:18:02,540 --> 00:18:03,540

It exploded.

401

00:18:03,540 --> 00:18:06,540

So we know that there's debris scattered

402

00:18:06,540 --> 00:18:08,540

in at least a two to three mile radius.

403

00:18:08,540 --> 00:18:09,540

Two to three miles?

404

00:18:09,540 --> 00:18:11,540

Yes. You got to remember,

405

00:18:11,540 --> 00:18:13,540

it took 45 minutes for this thing to sink.

406

00:18:13,540 --> 00:18:16,540

Right. In terms of these coins

407

00:18:16,540 --> 00:18:18,540

and the really valuable items on board the ship,

408

00:18:18,540 --> 00:18:21,540

is there a part of the ship you think they were in?

409

00:18:21,540 --> 00:18:24,540

The aft section is probably where the majority

410

00:18:24,540 --> 00:18:26,540

of the gold and silver are.

411

00:18:26,540 --> 00:18:28,540

Most of the coins would have been stowed

412

00:18:28,540 --> 00:18:32,540

in passenger cabins located in the rear half of the vessel.

413

00:18:32,540 --> 00:18:34,540

To hunt for more of the wreck,

414

00:18:34,540 --> 00:18:36,540

Mark and I rig the towfish

415

00:18:36,540 --> 00:18:39,540

and carefully bring it to the back of the boat to deploy.

416

00:18:39,540 --> 00:18:40,540

Okay.

417

00:18:40,540 --> 00:18:41,540

All right.

418

00:18:41,540 --> 00:18:42,540

Here we go.

419

00:18:47,540 --> 00:18:48,540

Okay.

420

00:18:48,540 --> 00:18:49,540

Toefish's in the water.

421

00:18:49,540 --> 00:18:51,540

All right. Let's go see what she sees.

422

00:18:51,540 --> 00:18:53,540

After you. Come on.

423

00:18:55,540 --> 00:18:57,540

Here we go. Fingers crossed.

424

00:18:58,540 --> 00:18:59,540

We've got data.

425

00:18:59,540 --> 00:19:00,540

All right. She's running.

426

00:19:00,540 --> 00:19:02,540

So let's talk about what we are looking for

427

00:19:02,540 --> 00:19:03,540

other than a giant steam ship.

428

00:19:03,540 --> 00:19:05,540

I mean, what would jump out at you on here?

429

00:19:05,540 --> 00:19:10,540

Anything that has a pretty decent size,

430

00:19:10,540 --> 00:19:11,540

four or five meters or bigger.

431

00:19:11,540 --> 00:19:12,540

Yeah.

432

00:19:12,540 --> 00:19:14,540

Complete circles and right angles

433

00:19:14,540 --> 00:19:16,540

rarely happen in nature.

434

00:19:16,540 --> 00:19:17,540

Yeah.

435

00:19:17,540 --> 00:19:18,540

So that's something to look at.

436

00:19:18,540 --> 00:19:20,540

If it's sitting high up,

437

00:19:20,540 --> 00:19:23,540

you're going to see a shadow off to one side or the other.

438

00:19:23,540 --> 00:19:25,540

So that's something to look at.

439

00:19:25,540 --> 00:19:28,540

All right. Well, let's do some watching.

440

00:19:30,540 --> 00:19:33,540

The Blue Water Rose runs along a straight path

441

00:19:33,540 --> 00:19:36,540

for more than a mile and a half before changing course.

442

00:19:36,540 --> 00:19:38,540

Making a turn.

443

00:19:38,540 --> 00:19:39,540

My turn.

444

00:19:39,540 --> 00:19:41,540

Let me know when we start the next line.

445

00:19:41,540 --> 00:19:42,540

Copy.

446

00:19:42,540 --> 00:19:44,540

All right. Coming around.

447

00:19:52,540 --> 00:19:53,540

Look, there's something.

448

00:19:53,540 --> 00:19:54,540

Yeah. There's something right there.

449

00:19:54,540 --> 00:19:56,540

That thing's probably about four or five meters,

450

00:19:56,540 --> 00:19:59,540

but it's not big enough and there's nothing around it.

451

00:19:59,540 --> 00:20:00,540

Right. There's no debris field.

452

00:20:00,540 --> 00:20:01,540

There's just something sitting there.

453

00:20:01,540 --> 00:20:03,540

It's just something and that could have fallen off a boat.

454

00:20:03,540 --> 00:20:05,540

Right. That could be anything.

455

00:20:05,540 --> 00:20:06,540

Yeah.

456

00:20:06,540 --> 00:20:07,540

Okay.

457

00:20:07,540 --> 00:20:09,540

And this is how it goes.

458

00:20:09,540 --> 00:20:11,540

Search in a straight line.

459

00:20:11,540 --> 00:20:12,540

Making a turn.

460

00:20:12,540 --> 00:20:13,540

Starboard.

461

00:20:13,540 --> 00:20:16,540

Turn and repeat.

462

00:20:16,540 --> 00:20:19,540

Sonar scanning may not be the most glamorous part

463

00:20:19,540 --> 00:20:20,540

of a salvage operation,

464

00:20:20,540 --> 00:20:23,540

but it's important to maintain razor sharp focus

465

00:20:23,540 --> 00:20:25,540

at all times while collecting data.

466

00:20:30,540 --> 00:20:33,540

Because good things come to those who wait.

467

00:20:33,540 --> 00:20:34,540

Oh, there you go.

468

00:20:34,540 --> 00:20:35,540

There you go.

469

00:20:35,540 --> 00:20:36,540

Look at that.

470

00:20:36,540 --> 00:20:38,540

All right. We mark that as a target.

471

00:20:38,540 --> 00:20:40,540

There was a bunch of stuff there.

472

00:20:40,540 --> 00:20:41,540

Yeah.

473

00:20:41,540 --> 00:20:43,540

And it looked kind of like something coming out

474

00:20:43,540 --> 00:20:45,540

and then something turned off to the side.

475

00:20:45,540 --> 00:20:46,540

Right. It looked like two pieces.

476

00:20:46,540 --> 00:20:47,540

That's cool.

477

00:20:47,540 --> 00:20:49,540

Yeah. That's worth looking at.

478

00:20:49,540 --> 00:20:51,540

All right. Well, we got a target.

479

00:20:51,540 --> 00:20:52,540

Okay.

480

00:20:52,540 --> 00:20:55,540

Mark the sonar hit and continue mowing the lawn.

481

00:20:55,540 --> 00:20:58,540

Oh, there's some debris there.

482

00:20:58,540 --> 00:21:00,540

Oh, big piece of something.

483

00:21:00,540 --> 00:21:01,540

Something big is coming in.

484

00:21:01,540 --> 00:21:04,540

That's got to be five or six meters outrageous.

485

00:21:04,540 --> 00:21:06,540

Oh, oh, oh, look at this more coming.

486

00:21:06,540 --> 00:21:08,540

And it keeps going.

487

00:21:08,540 --> 00:21:09,540

Look at this.

488

00:21:09,540 --> 00:21:10,540

Yeah. Huge.

489

00:21:10,540 --> 00:21:12,540

That thing's at least 20 meters long.

490

00:21:12,540 --> 00:21:14,540

I mean, there's something sitting down at that 60 feet long.

491

00:21:14,540 --> 00:21:15,540

Yeah.

492

00:21:15,540 --> 00:21:17,540

And you've got a defined trail coming along.

493

00:21:17,540 --> 00:21:18,540

Oh, this looks like debris.

494

00:21:18,540 --> 00:21:19,540

Look at that.

495

00:21:19,540 --> 00:21:20,540

Yeah.

496

00:21:20,540 --> 00:21:22,540

And obviously man made.

497

00:21:22,540 --> 00:21:23,540

We got to look at that.

498

00:21:23,540 --> 00:21:26,540

That's absolutely something we're going to look at quickly.

499

00:21:26,540 --> 00:21:28,540

So we got two killer targets right now.

500

00:21:28,540 --> 00:21:29,540

Should we dive the first one?

501

00:21:29,540 --> 00:21:30,540

Absolutely.

502

00:21:30,540 --> 00:21:32,540

All right. Let's go back. Come on.

503

00:21:32,540 --> 00:21:36,540

The Blue Water Rose returns to the coordinates of the first target

504

00:21:36,540 --> 00:21:39,540

and sets a multi point anchor.

505

00:21:39,540 --> 00:21:43,540

A small runabout is used to drag a large anchor from the stern of the ship

506

00:21:43,540 --> 00:21:46,540

300 feet out to the side of the vessel.

507

00:21:46,540 --> 00:21:49,540

The same process is repeated on the other side.

508

00:21:49,540 --> 00:21:51,540

Along with the anchor off the bow,

509

00:21:51,540 --> 00:21:54,540

the ship is now pinned in three places over the site.

510

00:21:54,540 --> 00:21:59,540

And that's because the Blue Water Rose is about to do something she was never designed for.

511

00:21:59,540 --> 00:22:00,540

All right. What are we doing?

512

00:22:00,540 --> 00:22:02,540

We're exactly over the spot that we want to blow.

513

00:22:02,540 --> 00:22:04,540

So now we're about to drop the blowers.

514

00:22:04,540 --> 00:22:07,540

Now these, these are something you do not see on most boats.

515

00:22:07,540 --> 00:22:10,540

Common name for these is called mailboxes.

516

00:22:10,540 --> 00:22:11,540

Right.

517

00:22:11,540 --> 00:22:13,540

This is, this is like Mel Fisher territory, right?

518

00:22:13,540 --> 00:22:14,540

Yeah. Yeah.

519

00:22:14,540 --> 00:22:15,540

He's the one that made him popular.

520

00:22:15,540 --> 00:22:18,540

Mel Fisher is a legend among treasure hunters.

521

00:22:18,540 --> 00:22:21,540

In the 1960s, he pioneered blowers like these,

522

00:22:21,540 --> 00:22:25,540

which helped him salvage a wrecked Spanish galleon called the Atotcha

523

00:22:25,540 --> 00:22:31,540

and recover 40 tons of gold and silver worth a cool half a billion dollars.

524

00:22:31,540 --> 00:22:33,540

Okay. Well, let's drop them.

525

00:22:33,540 --> 00:22:34,540

All right.

526

00:22:37,540 --> 00:22:41,540

The two massive mailbox blowers are lowered and pivoted into position.

527

00:22:41,540 --> 00:22:45,540

Under the boat, one of the divers from the Blue Water Rose

528

00:22:45,540 --> 00:22:47,540

then pins them against the hull.

529

00:22:48,540 --> 00:22:52,540

After that, it's time to fire up the engine and stand back.

530

00:22:58,540 --> 00:23:01,540

The engine revs and the propellers direct massive torrents of water

531

00:23:01,540 --> 00:23:05,540

straight down toward the sea floor, clearing sand from the bottom

532

00:23:05,540 --> 00:23:09,540

and hopefully exposing whatever is hiding below.

533

00:23:10,540 --> 00:23:17,540

To find out what we've uncovered, Captain Rodney, tech diver Adam Drobecker

534

00:23:17,540 --> 00:23:20,540

and I get kitted and take the plunge.

535

00:23:28,540 --> 00:23:31,540

Okay. We are headed down the line. Let's see what's here.

536

00:23:32,540 --> 00:23:35,540

We descend through the blue toward the sea floor.

537

00:23:36,540 --> 00:23:40,540

Like the boiler site, we're still in over 100 feet of water.

538

00:23:40,540 --> 00:23:43,540

At this depth, I'll have to monitor my computer carefully,

539

00:23:43,540 --> 00:23:46,540

remaining on the bottom for no longer than 15 minutes

540

00:23:46,540 --> 00:23:49,540

before risking decompression sickness.

541

00:23:49,540 --> 00:23:53,540

Passing 50 feet, no sign of anything yet.

542

00:23:53,540 --> 00:23:56,540

Come on, the fire should be coming in.

543

00:23:56,540 --> 00:24:02,540

Then out of the haze comes a shadow, a shadow that soon takes on an unmistakable shape.

544

00:24:02,540 --> 00:24:05,540

Wreckage! We've got wreckage down here!

545

00:24:07,540 --> 00:24:09,540

That's part of the ship.

546

00:24:12,540 --> 00:24:17,540

Scattered along the bottom is rusted machinery from the SS Pulaski.

547

00:24:17,540 --> 00:24:19,540

The ship is now in the water.

548

00:24:19,540 --> 00:24:21,540

The ship is now in the water.

549

00:24:21,540 --> 00:24:26,540

Scattered along the bottom is rusted machinery from the SS Pulaski.

550

00:24:26,540 --> 00:24:29,540

Some sort of equipment from the ship, baby.

551

00:24:29,540 --> 00:24:32,540

Another part of the boiler system.

552

00:24:34,540 --> 00:24:36,540

Josh, look at this.

553

00:24:38,540 --> 00:24:42,540

Nearby, something even more extraordinary.

554

00:24:43,540 --> 00:24:46,540

Remains of the ship herself.

555

00:24:47,540 --> 00:24:49,540

Oh, my word!

556

00:24:49,540 --> 00:24:53,540

What? We've got part of the actual ship here!

557

00:24:54,540 --> 00:24:57,540

I cannot believe this is preserved!

558

00:24:57,540 --> 00:24:58,540

Look at this!

559

00:24:58,540 --> 00:25:00,540

Look at this!

560

00:25:00,540 --> 00:25:02,540

This is something we never expected.

561

00:25:02,540 --> 00:25:06,540

The blowers have exposed some of the actual ribs of the ship,

562

00:25:06,540 --> 00:25:10,540

not seen since her fateful voyage nearly two centuries ago.

563

00:25:10,540 --> 00:25:15,540

The wood looks perfectly preserved and insane!

564

00:25:16,540 --> 00:25:21,540

But I'm reminded that this ship also took 128 souls down with her.

565

00:25:21,540 --> 00:25:25,540

Though the team I'm here with are salvaging the wreck in accordance with maritime law,

566

00:25:25,540 --> 00:25:28,540

none of them lose sight of the history.

567

00:25:28,540 --> 00:25:33,540

Each item they find is part of a dramatic and tragic human story.

568

00:25:34,540 --> 00:25:37,540

Such a strange feeling seeing all of this.

569

00:25:37,540 --> 00:25:38,540

Wow!

570

00:25:39,540 --> 00:25:42,540

I have less than 10 minutes of bottom time remaining.

571

00:25:42,540 --> 00:25:46,540

Luckily, Captain Rodney has discovered another historical treasure,

572

00:25:46,540 --> 00:25:49,540

the very nails that held the ship together.

573

00:25:49,540 --> 00:25:53,540

Unreal! Looks like a copper spike here!

574

00:25:53,540 --> 00:25:56,540

Okay, get ready. I'm going to blow some sand.

575

00:25:58,540 --> 00:26:03,540

Captain Rodney uses an underwater scooter to clear sand from around the wreckage.

576

00:26:04,540 --> 00:26:08,540

Now, it's time to let the metal detectors get to work.

577

00:26:08,540 --> 00:26:12,540

An earpiece tucked under my mask strap will beep if it gets ahead.

578

00:26:14,540 --> 00:26:17,540

Up in here! Keep clearing!

579

00:26:22,540 --> 00:26:25,540

I've got something! Got something here! I got a head!

580

00:26:28,540 --> 00:26:33,540

Josh! What have you got? Holy s\*\*\*! Holy s\*\*\*!

581

00:26:38,540 --> 00:26:42,540

It's a mass of coins! They're all encrusted.

582

00:26:42,540 --> 00:26:49,540

Most likely silver, yeah? Looks like one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, ten.

583

00:26:49,540 --> 00:26:53,540

I've got something! I've got something here! I've got a head!

584

00:26:54,540 --> 00:26:58,540

Josh! What have you got? Holy s\*\*\*!

585

00:26:58,540 --> 00:27:02,540

Coins! Yes! It's a mass of coins!

586

00:27:02,540 --> 00:27:06,540

They're all encrusted. Most likely silver, yeah?

587

00:27:06,540 --> 00:27:15,540

Looks like one, two, three, four, five, six, gold! There's a gold coin in here! Look at this!

588

00:27:15,540 --> 00:27:16,540

Woohoo!

589

00:27:16,540 --> 00:27:23,540

I have only four minutes of bottom time remaining, but as we furiously metal detect, the excitement continues.

590

00:27:24,540 --> 00:27:27,540

I got a coin! Another coin!

591

00:27:29,540 --> 00:27:32,540

And another! Oh! My c\*\*\*!

592

00:27:32,540 --> 00:27:34,540

C\*\*\*!

593

00:27:35,540 --> 00:27:40,540

We continue to scan the sand around the timbers, even though my computer is screaming at me.

594

00:27:40,540 --> 00:27:46,540

In fact, I've got such treasure fever that another diver has to remind me to leave.

595

00:27:46,540 --> 00:27:49,540

Okay, okay! Let's head up to the surface.

596

00:27:50,540 --> 00:27:53,540

Low on air and out of time, we retreat from the bottom.

597

00:27:54,540 --> 00:28:01,540

The metal boiler pieces and coins mean we've probably just discovered somewhere behind the midsection of the ship,

598

00:28:01,540 --> 00:28:04,540

and clearly there's much more down there to be found.

599

00:28:08,540 --> 00:28:16,540

Unbelievable! Woo! Oh man! You got wreckage down there! Unbelievable, dude! Are you kidding me?

600

00:28:16,540 --> 00:28:21,540

We got coins! We got coins! We got coins! We got a whole cluster of those. Are there silver things?

601

00:28:21,540 --> 00:28:24,540

Silver coins, yes. Silver coins, and it looks like there's a gold embedded in there.

602

00:28:24,540 --> 00:28:26,540

I believe there's one on the leaf. Nice!

603

00:28:26,540 --> 00:28:29,540

You got the goods, right? I got them. I got them.

604

00:28:29,540 --> 00:28:31,540

Do not drop it!

605

00:28:31,540 --> 00:28:35,540

We carefully transfer the coins and ourselves back on board the boat.

606

00:28:35,540 --> 00:28:39,540

I love that you put it in a crowned royal bag. It's a high-class operation out here, I had no idea.

607

00:28:39,540 --> 00:28:41,540

Only the best. Only the best. Only the best.

608

00:28:41,540 --> 00:28:43,540

Alright, come on. Okay, here we go.

609

00:28:43,540 --> 00:28:47,540

I mean, come on! Look at this. You're sweet.

610

00:28:47,540 --> 00:28:49,540

Are you kidding me? Look at this. Beautiful.

611

00:28:49,540 --> 00:28:56,540

That's a spike. That's why it's all clumped, because this iron started to concrete before the silver did.

612

00:28:56,540 --> 00:28:59,540

So it stuck them all to it.

613

00:28:59,540 --> 00:29:04,540

So one, two, three, four, five, and... dude!

614

00:29:04,540 --> 00:29:06,540

Oh, gold! Yes! Gold!

615

00:29:06,540 --> 00:29:08,540

Nice. Sweet.

616

00:29:08,540 --> 00:29:11,540

And then, look at this. Oh, nice. There is more.

617

00:29:11,540 --> 00:29:18,540

Depending on the year and condition of these coins, I could be holding a few thousand or tens of thousands of dollars in my hand.

618

00:29:18,540 --> 00:29:20,540

What is your move now? What do you do with these?

619

00:29:20,540 --> 00:29:24,540

Now this stuff will go to NGC, an artifact conservation lab.

620

00:29:24,540 --> 00:29:25,540

Okay.

621

00:29:25,540 --> 00:29:32,540

And they have processes that they use to clean all of this stuff up, separate it, get rid of the concretion.

622

00:29:32,540 --> 00:29:34,540

So what, do you pop these in the mail?

623

00:29:34,540 --> 00:29:36,540

No, not exactly. We hand deliver them.

624

00:29:36,540 --> 00:29:37,540

Hand deliver them?

625

00:29:37,540 --> 00:29:38,540

You up for a drive?

626

00:29:38,540 --> 00:29:39,540

With this stuff? Yeah.

627

00:29:39,540 --> 00:29:42,540

Yeah, you might not see me again, but I'll drive away, for sure.

628

00:29:42,540 --> 00:29:44,540

We'll send an escort.

629

00:29:45,540 --> 00:29:51,540

Before investigating our other target, the Blue Water Rose needs to return to port to refuel and resupply.

630

00:29:51,540 --> 00:29:56,540

So I say goodbye for now and catch a flight from Wilmington to Sarasota, Florida.

631

00:29:56,540 --> 00:29:59,540

Thankful that the TSA didn't check the contents of my carry-on.

632

00:30:01,540 --> 00:30:08,540

I'm here to meet up with Mark's contact at the Numismatic Guarantee Corporation, also known as NGC.

633

00:30:09,540 --> 00:30:16,540

Numismatics, aside from being fun to say, is the study or collecting of coins, metals and paper money.

634

00:30:16,540 --> 00:30:22,540

And NGC is one of the world's foremost authorities on conserving and grading rare coins.

635

00:30:26,540 --> 00:30:27,540

Hey.

636

00:30:27,540 --> 00:30:28,540

Hey, Josh.

637

00:30:28,540 --> 00:30:29,540

Dave, nice to meet you.

638

00:30:29,540 --> 00:30:30,540

Dave, how are you?

639

00:30:30,540 --> 00:30:31,540

Craig, nice to meet you.

640

00:30:31,540 --> 00:30:32,540

Craig, nice to meet you as well.

641

00:30:32,540 --> 00:30:33,540

Okay, I have a lot of questions for you.

642

00:30:33,540 --> 00:30:34,540

Okay.

643

00:30:34,540 --> 00:30:38,540

So your customers are who? Dealers, collectors, crazy shipwreck hunters?

644

00:30:38,540 --> 00:30:42,540

Exactly. So we go from our collectors all the way up to mints.

645

00:30:42,540 --> 00:30:46,540

U.S. mints, world mints, it's the whole gamut in between. We do it all.

646

00:30:46,540 --> 00:30:51,540

And when we say that you're grading coins, that means you're determining their quality?

647

00:30:51,540 --> 00:30:54,540

That's true. First we make sure is the coin real. That's a basis.

648

00:30:54,540 --> 00:31:00,540

And then from there, yes, it's the coin new. Is it worn? Is it have a scratch on it?

649

00:31:00,540 --> 00:31:03,540

And everything in between, we do a full evaluation on the coin.

650

00:31:03,540 --> 00:31:08,540

And along with grading them, you're actually cleaning them. You're conserving the coins, right?

651

00:31:08,540 --> 00:31:12,540

We'll take all the grease, all the grime off the surface and reveal the coin beneath.

652

00:31:12,540 --> 00:31:17,540

Okay. Well, I brought you a few goodies today that I think might be on the more challenging side.

653

00:31:17,540 --> 00:31:18,540

Great. Let's go to the lab.

654

00:31:18,540 --> 00:31:20,540

To the lab. Let's do it.

655

00:31:20,540 --> 00:31:28,540

Dave leads me to NGC's Conservation Lab, where they've examined everything the blue water rose has

pulled up from the Pulaski.

656

00:31:28,540 --> 00:31:29,540

Right in here, Josh.

657

00:31:29,540 --> 00:31:30,540

Okay.

658

00:31:30,540 --> 00:31:32,540

Wow. Look at this.

659

00:31:32,540 --> 00:31:33,540

Hey.

660

00:31:33,540 --> 00:31:35,540

Josh, this is Ryan. He's our chief lab tech.

661

00:31:35,540 --> 00:31:36,540

Oh, yeah.

662

00:31:36,540 --> 00:31:42,540

And he's been working all this cool Pulaski stuff. Why don't we put on our safety glasses and gloves and he can show us some neat stuff.

663

00:31:42,540 --> 00:31:43,540

Sure.

664

00:31:43,540 --> 00:31:46,540

So, this is all from the Pulaski?

665

00:31:46,540 --> 00:31:50,540

Yes, it's all actually from the Pulaski. What we have here is a key.

666

00:31:50,540 --> 00:31:52,540

My fingers aren't going to melt off.

667

00:31:52,540 --> 00:31:57,540

No, no, no. This is very safe chemical that we use in the lab. Look at that.

668

00:31:57,540 --> 00:31:59,540

What is it attached to?

669

00:31:59,540 --> 00:32:03,540

I don't know. It looks like it could be a tag for something. Maybe it is what the key was for.

670

00:32:03,540 --> 00:32:06,540

Maybe it said it was some room or the boiler room and who knew.

671

00:32:06,540 --> 00:32:07,540

Some iron piece.

672

00:32:07,540 --> 00:32:08,540

Yeah, some iron piece. Is that awesome?

673

00:32:08,540 --> 00:32:09,540

It's amazing.

674

00:32:09,540 --> 00:32:10,540

A lot of history in your hands.

675

00:32:10,540 --> 00:32:12,540

Yeah. Okay. And?

676

00:32:12,540 --> 00:32:15,540

This one was actually a wax seal they used to use.

677

00:32:15,540 --> 00:32:19,540

Look at that. So, this would be if you were sealing a letter or a document.

678

00:32:19,540 --> 00:32:21,540

Correct. Right.

679

00:32:21,540 --> 00:32:23,540

That's incredible.

680

00:32:23,540 --> 00:32:26,540

This is actually a hair comb.

681

00:32:26,540 --> 00:32:31,540

Wow. You know, sometimes it's not the gold and silver stuff.

682

00:32:31,540 --> 00:32:33,540

It's the little personal items.

683

00:32:33,540 --> 00:32:34,540

Absolutely.

684

00:32:34,540 --> 00:32:37,540

That really make you feel connected. That's beautiful.

685

00:32:37,540 --> 00:32:38,540

And this guy?

686

00:32:38,540 --> 00:32:41,540

This is a pocket watch that was actually found in the wreck.

687

00:32:41,540 --> 00:32:45,540

Oh, come on. That is crazy.

688

00:32:45,540 --> 00:32:49,540

And Josh, if you carefully open that, you can notice the time.

689

00:32:49,540 --> 00:32:52,540

11.05. That's the moment of the explosion.

690

00:32:52,540 --> 00:32:53,540

Right.

691

00:32:53,540 --> 00:32:57,540

The watch I'm holding is literally frozen in time.

692

00:32:57,540 --> 00:33:02,540

Stopped forever at the exact moment the boilers exploded

693

00:33:02,540 --> 00:33:08,540

and the Pulaski sank, claiming the lives of nearly 130 passengers.

694

00:33:08,540 --> 00:33:12,540

It actually sort of gives you chills. I mean, it's eerie.

695

00:33:12,540 --> 00:33:14,540

That's amazing.

696

00:33:14,540 --> 00:33:19,540

Artifacts like this tell a story serving as a powerful reminder of the triumphs

697

00:33:19,540 --> 00:33:24,540

and the sins of the antebellum era, a history that generated tremendous wealth

698

00:33:24,540 --> 00:33:30,540

for a select few, a portion of which I've carried here for conservation and analysis.

699

00:33:30,540 --> 00:33:33,540

Wow, this is really fantastic. You see this?

700

00:33:33,540 --> 00:33:36,540

Did I see it? Are you kidding? I almost drowned. I was so excited.

701

00:33:36,540 --> 00:33:39,540

Wow. Look at that, Ryan. That's fantastic.

702

00:33:39,540 --> 00:33:41,540

So there's a gold coin, maybe another one in here.

703

00:33:41,540 --> 00:33:45,540

So what happens now, Ryan? How do we get from this to shiny coins?

704

00:33:45,540 --> 00:33:46,540

All right.

705

00:33:46,540 --> 00:33:50,540

We're going to do a three-step process, but the first process is to put it in these solutions.

706

00:33:50,540 --> 00:33:51,540

Okay.

707

00:33:51,540 --> 00:33:54,540

Ryan places the coins into a chemical bath.

708

00:33:54,540 --> 00:33:59,540

Over the course of days or even weeks, the solutions will gently eat away at the end crustacean,

709

00:33:59,540 --> 00:34:01,540

revealing the coins beneath.

710

00:34:01,540 --> 00:34:05,540

All right. So obviously we're not going to stand here for four or five days and watch this bubble.

711

00:34:05,540 --> 00:34:08,540

But do you have a sense of what these coins are?

712

00:34:08,540 --> 00:34:12,540

I do. I think I know what they are based on their size and shape

713

00:34:12,540 --> 00:34:14,540

and what's come off the Pulaski in the past.

714

00:34:14,540 --> 00:34:22,540

Dave leads me into the grading room where specialists evaluate currency ranging from ancient Rome to modern day.

715

00:34:22,540 --> 00:34:25,540

Let's talk about our coins, the ones from the Pulaski.

716

00:34:25,540 --> 00:34:26,540

Okay.

717

00:34:26,540 --> 00:34:27,540

What do you think they are?

718

00:34:27,540 --> 00:34:30,540

I think actually they were probably these two coins we see right here.

719

00:34:30,540 --> 00:34:33,540

And so these are Mexican eight-real coins.

720

00:34:33,540 --> 00:34:35,540

Which is like our silver dollar at the time.

721

00:34:35,540 --> 00:34:36,540

Right.

722

00:34:36,540 --> 00:34:38,540

And this one is actually from the Pulaski itself?

723

00:34:38,540 --> 00:34:39,540

It certainly is.

724

00:34:39,540 --> 00:34:41,540

And so today what would the value be of something like this?

725

00:34:41,540 --> 00:34:43,540

This is probably like a thousand dollars for that coin.

726

00:34:43,540 --> 00:34:44,540

Wow.

727

00:34:44,540 --> 00:34:49,540

So if there are five or six silver coins attached to that spike,

728

00:34:49,540 --> 00:34:52,540

just that one piece could be worth five or six grand.

729

00:34:52,540 --> 00:34:55,540

Yeah, but don't forget you also had the gold coin in there also.

730

00:34:55,540 --> 00:34:56,540

Right. So what's that gold coin?

731

00:34:56,540 --> 00:34:59,540

Well, let's take a look.

732

00:34:59,540 --> 00:35:03,540

Next, Dave shows me a set of half eagle gold coins,

733

00:35:03,540 --> 00:35:07,540

the same type he expects to find in the conglomerate from the wreck.

734

00:35:07,540 --> 00:35:10,540

We've got Liberty on there, 1836, the eagle in the back.

735

00:35:10,540 --> 00:35:11,540

Right.

736

00:35:11,540 --> 00:35:13,540

And the 5D, five dollars.

737

00:35:13,540 --> 00:35:15,540

Five dollars in the United States of America.

738

00:35:15,540 --> 00:35:17,540

And these also came off the Pulaski.

739

00:35:17,540 --> 00:35:18,540

They did.

740

00:35:18,540 --> 00:35:22,540

And the remarkable part about this is they literally show hardly anything wrong with them.

741

00:35:22,540 --> 00:35:23,540

Yeah.

742

00:35:23,540 --> 00:35:25,540

In fact, they look like the day they were just minted.

743

00:35:25,540 --> 00:35:30,540

So to find coins of this beauty and this originality is rare,

744

00:35:30,540 --> 00:35:31,540

which seems kind of contradictory.

745

00:35:31,540 --> 00:35:33,540

Right, because you've got all these rich folks on the ship.

746

00:35:33,540 --> 00:35:36,540

They're getting newly minted coins from the bank to take with them.

747

00:35:36,540 --> 00:35:37,540

Right.

748

00:35:37,540 --> 00:35:40,540

And then they get trapped after the shipwreck and the sand.

749

00:35:40,540 --> 00:35:41,540

Nobody ever touches them.

750

00:35:41,540 --> 00:35:42,540

They're like brand new.

751

00:35:42,540 --> 00:35:43,540

Right.

752

00:35:43,540 --> 00:35:49,540

Of the original 550,000 or so half eagles, the U.S. Treasury minted in 1836.

753

00:35:49,540 --> 00:35:51,540

Only a few thousand survive.

754

00:35:51,540 --> 00:35:57,540

The Pulaski coins, which have been stashed in the bank of the Atlantic for more than 180 years,

755

00:35:57,540 --> 00:36:00,540

are some of the best preserved examples on Earth.

756

00:36:00,540 --> 00:36:02,540

Could I spend this today, by the way?

757

00:36:02,540 --> 00:36:03,540

You absolutely can.

758

00:36:03,540 --> 00:36:04,540

That's legal tender.

759

00:36:04,540 --> 00:36:05,540

It's legal tender still.

760

00:36:05,540 --> 00:36:08,540

I can walk into a store and that would be worth five bucks.

761

00:36:08,540 --> 00:36:09,540

Correct.

762

00:36:09,540 --> 00:36:10,540

Not that you'd want to do that.

763

00:36:10,540 --> 00:36:11,540

Right.

764

00:36:11,540 --> 00:36:12,540

If I walk into my store, okay?

765

00:36:12,540 --> 00:36:13,540

Right.

766

00:36:13,540 --> 00:36:15,540

What's the finest of these four coins?

767

00:36:15,540 --> 00:36:16,540

It's the last coin here.

768

00:36:16,540 --> 00:36:17,540

May I?

769

00:36:17,540 --> 00:36:18,540

Oh, yeah.

770

00:36:18,540 --> 00:36:20,540

I mean, it looks brand new.

771

00:36:20,540 --> 00:36:21,540

Right.

772

00:36:21,540 --> 00:36:23,540

So this coin would be worth how much?

773

00:36:23,540 --> 00:36:24,540

Five grand?

774

00:36:24,540 --> 00:36:25,540

Six grand?

775

00:36:27,540 --> 00:36:28,540

Eight grand?

776

00:36:28,540 --> 00:36:30,540

Probably 30 to 40,000.

777

00:36:32,540 --> 00:36:35,540

This coin is worth 30 to 40,000 dollars?

778

00:36:35,540 --> 00:36:36,540

It's in your hand.

779

00:36:36,540 --> 00:36:37,540

Correct.

780

00:36:37,540 --> 00:36:38,540

Okay.

781

00:36:38,540 --> 00:36:40,540

I'm going to put that right back there.

782

00:36:40,540 --> 00:36:41,540

There you go.

783

00:36:41,540 --> 00:36:43,540

That's insane.

784

00:36:43,540 --> 00:36:48,540

Just the idea that there could be hundreds of these coins

785

00:36:48,540 --> 00:36:50,540

still down in that wreckage.

786

00:36:50,540 --> 00:36:51,540

Right.

787

00:36:51,540 --> 00:36:53,540

You're just talking about astronomical amounts of money here.

788

00:36:53,540 --> 00:36:54,540

Absolutely.

789

00:36:54,540 --> 00:36:59,540

And the mother load, chests of coins stored in the passenger cabins,

790

00:36:59,540 --> 00:37:01,540

have yet to be found.

791

00:37:01,540 --> 00:37:06,540

I receive word that the Blue Water Rose is about to return to the White River

792

00:37:06,540 --> 00:37:10,540

and that the White River is about to return to our second sonar target.

793

00:37:13,540 --> 00:37:17,540

So I hurry back to Wilmington, where I then catch a ride out to sea.

794

00:37:21,540 --> 00:37:24,540

Several hours later, and more than 40 miles from the coast,

795

00:37:24,540 --> 00:37:28,540

I find Mark and Rodney anchoring the ship over the sonar hip.

796

00:37:29,540 --> 00:37:34,540

Somewhere below us are the unseen remains of a historic American shipwreck,

797

00:37:34,540 --> 00:37:39,540

not to mention a bounty of more than 20 million dollars in gold and silver.

798

00:37:48,540 --> 00:37:49,540

Well, they're still out here.

799

00:37:49,540 --> 00:37:50,540

That's a good sign.

800

00:37:51,540 --> 00:37:52,540

How's it going, guys?

801

00:37:52,540 --> 00:37:53,540

Good.

802

00:37:53,540 --> 00:37:54,540

I'm happy you're here.

803

00:37:54,540 --> 00:37:56,540

So are we.

804

00:37:57,540 --> 00:38:00,540

I'm 40 miles off the coast of North Carolina,

805

00:38:00,540 --> 00:38:05,540

searching for the remains of the Pulaski, a steam ship that sank here in 1838.

806

00:38:08,540 --> 00:38:09,540

Great to see you.

807

00:38:09,540 --> 00:38:10,540

Good to see you.

808

00:38:10,540 --> 00:38:11,540

How you doing, man?

809

00:38:11,540 --> 00:38:12,540

How's it going out here?

810

00:38:12,540 --> 00:38:13,540

It's going great.

811

00:38:13,540 --> 00:38:14,540

Turn your pockets out.

812

00:38:14,540 --> 00:38:15,540

What do you got in there?

813

00:38:15,540 --> 00:38:16,540

I dumped it before you got here.

814

00:38:16,540 --> 00:38:17,540

Of course you did.

815

00:38:17,540 --> 00:38:18,540

Remember that really nice sonar hip we had?

816

00:38:18,540 --> 00:38:19,540

Hell yeah.

817

00:38:19,540 --> 00:38:20,540

That's where we are.

818

00:38:20,540 --> 00:38:21,540

You haven't been down there yet?

819

00:38:21,540 --> 00:38:22,540

No.

820

00:38:22,540 --> 00:38:23,540

Whatever that is, it's big.

821

00:38:23,540 --> 00:38:24,540

Yeah.

822

00:38:24,540 --> 00:38:28,540

When the Pulaski's boilers blew, the ship broke apart and scattered,

823

00:38:28,540 --> 00:38:30,540

creating a three-mile debris field.

824

00:38:30,540 --> 00:38:31,540

Let's go.

825

00:38:31,540 --> 00:38:32,540

Okay, it's in the water.

826

00:38:32,540 --> 00:38:36,540

Using side scan sonar, we were able to pinpoint two promising sites.

827

00:38:36,540 --> 00:38:38,540

Oh, oh, oh, look at this.

828

00:38:38,540 --> 00:38:39,540

More coming out.

829

00:38:39,540 --> 00:38:40,540

And it keeps going.

830

00:38:40,540 --> 00:38:41,540

Look at this.

831

00:38:41,540 --> 00:38:46,540

This second target is large enough to be a significant portion of the wreck,

832

00:38:46,540 --> 00:38:48,540

which has never been found.

833

00:38:49,540 --> 00:38:50,540

All right, cool.

834

00:38:50,540 --> 00:38:51,540

Let's do it.

835

00:38:51,540 --> 00:38:52,540

Let's get wet, guys.

836

00:38:52,540 --> 00:38:53,540

Come on.

837

00:38:53,540 --> 00:38:54,540

All right.

838

00:38:54,540 --> 00:38:57,540

While we suit up, Captain Rodney drops anchor.

839

00:38:58,540 --> 00:39:03,540

Rough seas are in the forecast, and he wants to make sure we don't drift too far off our target.

840

00:39:04,540 --> 00:39:07,540

Once we're geared up, we hit the water.

841

00:39:24,540 --> 00:39:26,540

Roger that.

842

00:39:26,540 --> 00:39:34,540

We're either a hundred feet from history or an ocean full of nothing.

843

00:39:34,540 --> 00:39:39,540

With conditions deteriorating topside, the water is less clear below.

844

00:39:39,540 --> 00:39:41,540

We're going to have to get to the bottom of the water.

845

00:39:41,540 --> 00:39:42,540

Roger that.

846

00:39:42,540 --> 00:39:43,540

Roger that.

847

00:39:43,540 --> 00:39:44,540

Roger that.

848

00:39:44,540 --> 00:39:45,540

Roger that.

849

00:39:45,540 --> 00:39:46,540

Roger that.

850

00:39:46,540 --> 00:39:47,540

Roger that.

851

00:39:47,540 --> 00:39:48,540

Roger that.

852

00:39:48,540 --> 00:39:49,540

Roger that.

853

00:39:49,540 --> 00:39:50,540

Roger that.

854

00:39:50,540 --> 00:39:51,540

Roger that.

855

00:39:51,540 --> 00:39:52,540

Roger that.

856

00:39:52,540 --> 00:39:53,540

Roger that.

857

00:39:53,540 --> 00:39:54,540

Roger that.

858

00:39:54,540 --> 00:39:57,540

You can see it getting unclear below.

859

00:40:05,540 --> 00:40:13,540

We continue the descent, straining to see the bottom and hoping for any sign of wreckage.

860

00:40:13,540 --> 00:40:23,540

Okay, the bottom is coming into view.

861

00:40:23,540 --> 00:40:25,540

Stand by.

862

00:40:25,540 --> 00:40:28,540

Josh, how's it look down there?

863

00:40:28,540 --> 00:40:33,540

Topside, we got debris down here.

864

00:40:33,540 --> 00:40:35,540

Huge pieces.

865

00:40:35,540 --> 00:40:37,540

Is it part of the wreck?

866

00:40:37,540 --> 00:40:40,540

It's metal for sure.

867

00:40:40,540 --> 00:40:43,540

It looks like I don't know it could be part of the engine maybe.

868

00:40:43,540 --> 00:40:46,540

It's definitely from the wreck.

869

00:40:46,540 --> 00:40:51,540

As I close in on our target, it becomes clear that the object is man-made,

870

00:40:51,540 --> 00:40:55,540

and that it's absolutely enormous.

871

00:40:55,540 --> 00:40:59,540

It's part of the ship? It is a massive part of the ship?

872

00:40:59,540 --> 00:41:01,540

Yes, outstanding.

873

00:41:01,540 --> 00:41:04,540

Can you make out anything specific?

874

00:41:04,540 --> 00:41:07,540

Iron, metal, everywhere.

875

00:41:07,540 --> 00:41:11,540

I think this is the engine, the whole engine area.

876

00:41:11,540 --> 00:41:13,540

Amazing.

877

00:41:13,540 --> 00:41:15,540

That means we're probably in the center section.

878

00:41:15,540 --> 00:41:18,540

This is a huge discovery.

879

00:41:18,540 --> 00:41:23,540

Prior to these scans, the exploded boiler was the only documented part of the wreck.

880

00:41:23,540 --> 00:41:26,540

Now, we know there's more here. Much more.

881

00:41:26,540 --> 00:41:30,540

This may be the entire engine area and sections aft.

882

00:41:30,540 --> 00:41:36,540

We circle the hulking remains of rusted machinery that hasn't been seen since the 1800s.

883

00:41:37,540 --> 00:41:40,540

There's debris everywhere.

884

00:41:40,540 --> 00:41:44,540

Let's get as much on film as possible so we can review it.

885

00:41:44,540 --> 00:41:46,540

We'll do our best.

886

00:41:46,540 --> 00:41:50,540

You got a big part of your shipwreck here, Mark.

887

00:41:50,540 --> 00:41:52,540

Absolutely incredible.

888

00:41:52,540 --> 00:41:58,540

Swimming past the towering hunks of twisted metal, I'm awestruck by the scale.

889

00:41:58,540 --> 00:42:02,540

This wreck is a crucial piece of nautical history.

890

00:42:02,540 --> 00:42:07,540

Spanning 200 feet, the Pulaski was the most high-tech and luxurious vessel of its day,

891

00:42:07,540 --> 00:42:10,540

a marvel from the steam age.

892

00:42:10,540 --> 00:42:13,540

Bring home some goodies, Josh.

893

00:42:13,540 --> 00:42:15,540

I'll see what I can find.

894

00:42:15,540 --> 00:42:17,540

I'm standing.

895

00:42:17,540 --> 00:42:23,540

With limited bottom time and a storm brewing topside, we drop to the sand and begin to metal detect.

896

00:42:23,540 --> 00:42:26,540

It's hot. Bottom's iron around here.

897

00:42:26,540 --> 00:42:29,540

Immediately, we start to get hits.

898

00:42:29,540 --> 00:42:31,540

Not sure what we're getting.

899

00:42:31,540 --> 00:42:35,540

And the Pulaski's treasures can't hide for long.

900

00:42:35,540 --> 00:42:38,540

Stop, stop, stop! What is that?

901

00:42:40,540 --> 00:42:45,540

That's gold! That's a coin! Unbelievable!

902

00:42:51,540 --> 00:42:58,540

Savannah's Chippewa Square Park is a popular destination for tourists, all because of one very special bench.

903

00:43:01,540 --> 00:43:07,540

The network always said that expedition unknown was like a box of chocolates.

904

00:43:07,540 --> 00:43:10,540

You never know what you're gonna get.

905

00:43:10,540 --> 00:43:13,540

Like, there's one episode we did.

906

00:43:13,540 --> 00:43:19,540

It was like a caramel, because we got into a real sticky situation.

907

00:43:19,540 --> 00:43:25,540

On this other show, it's like a pecan cluster, because things got real nutty real quick.

908

00:43:25,540 --> 00:43:27,540

I'm sorry, sir. I'm on the phone. Could you...?

909

00:43:27,540 --> 00:43:34,540

Well, I'm sorry, sir, but from this day on, whenever I talk to someone, I am punning!

910

00:43:37,540 --> 00:43:39,540

He just sat down next to me. I don't...

911

00:43:45,540 --> 00:43:47,540

Hey, stop, stop, stop! What is that?

912

00:43:50,540 --> 00:43:53,540

That's gold! That's a coin!

913

00:43:53,540 --> 00:43:55,540

Woohoo! Yes! Yes!

914

00:43:57,540 --> 00:43:59,540

Yes! We got a coin!

915

00:43:59,540 --> 00:44:02,540

Josh, the topside, do you read me?

916

00:44:02,540 --> 00:44:04,540

Topside here.

917

00:44:04,540 --> 00:44:06,540

Mark, I got a present down here for you.

918

00:44:06,540 --> 00:44:08,540

Is it nice and shiny?

919

00:44:08,540 --> 00:44:11,540

It sure is, man. We found a gold coin!

920

00:44:11,540 --> 00:44:12,540

Yes, yes!

921

00:44:12,540 --> 00:44:14,540

Unbelievable!

922

00:44:14,540 --> 00:44:18,540

The gold coin is a U.S. piece from 1836.

923

00:44:18,540 --> 00:44:20,540

Face value, \$5.

924

00:44:20,540 --> 00:44:25,540

Value today, depending on the condition, tens of thousands of dollars.

925

00:44:27,540 --> 00:44:30,540

We scour the area, searching for more.

926

00:44:51,540 --> 00:44:55,540

Another one! Another one! Ha-ha! Nice!

927

00:44:56,540 --> 00:45:06,540

The salvage team manages to one-up the Crown Royal bag from our last dive with another special pneumismatic containment device, a SAC with a dollar sign on it.

928

00:45:08,540 --> 00:45:13,540

The excitement is nearly enough to make me forget that I can't stay down here forever.

929

00:45:13,540 --> 00:45:18,540

I am way out of bottom time. We gotta come up. We gotta go. Let's rock and roll!

930

00:45:18,540 --> 00:45:28,540

We kick our fins toward the light and pull back from the extraordinary wreckage and treasures of the SS Pulaski.

931

00:45:38,540 --> 00:45:43,540

Our discovery of the Pulaski's keel section and the paddle wheel area is historic,

932

00:45:44,540 --> 00:45:48,540

and will help reveal more lost details about her sinking.

933

00:45:50,540 --> 00:45:54,540

Topside, our coins are catalogued and added to the haul.

934

00:45:54,540 --> 00:46:01,540

These two gold coins, plus the materials I brought to the lab at NGC, tally nearly \$100,000.

935

00:46:01,540 --> 00:46:09,540

In the days that follow, 33 more gold coins are discovered and nearly 100 silver coins.

936

00:46:09,540 --> 00:46:17,540

To date, the team has uncovered more than 700 coins, as well as haunting historic artifacts from the night of the explosion.

937

00:46:20,540 --> 00:46:27,540

As I journey home, I make one last stop, a quiet churchyard on South Carolina's Edisto Island.

938

00:46:28,540 --> 00:46:34,540

Here, a weathered obelisk stands in memory of parishioners who died aboard the Pulaski.

939

00:46:35,540 --> 00:46:40,540

Among them, a 15-year-old girl and an 11-year-old boy.

940

00:46:40,540 --> 00:46:47,540

It is the only real memorial to a nearly forgotten disaster that took the lives of so many.

941

00:46:54,540 --> 00:47:00,540

The coins recovered from the wreck have immense monetary value and were a heart-stopping thrill to uncover.

942

00:47:01,540 --> 00:47:06,540

But the true value of the treasures here runs deeper.

943

00:47:08,540 --> 00:47:15,540

They are a snapshot of America as it stood at 11.05 p.m. on June 14, 1838.

944

00:47:17,540 --> 00:47:21,540

A nation so young that our minted currency was just emerging,

945

00:47:23,540 --> 00:47:27,540

and a place where vast wealth was forged in the furnace of human bondage.

946

00:47:28,540 --> 00:47:33,540

Missing from the ranks of those aboard are the unnamed servants and crew,

947

00:47:33,540 --> 00:47:37,540

enslaved people who sailed on an unwilling voyage.

948

00:47:38,540 --> 00:47:46,540

They died alongside some of the wealthiest citizens of the South, as the ocean claimed the powerful and powerless alike.

949

00:47:48,540 --> 00:47:53,540

It has taken 180 years, but now both are being remembered.