The Oak Island Mystery, Nova Scotia

Presentation to
The Ottawa Geotechnical Group
by Les MacPhie, May 18, 2011

Outline of Presentation

1. Introduction and Geological Setting
2. Historical Summary from 1795 to Present
3. Becker Drilling Program 1967
4. Geotechnical Drilling Programs 1969 and 1970
5. Archaeological Findings at Money Pit 1967 to 1970
6. Investigation at 10X 1969 to 1991
7. Investigation Programs 1988 to 1996
8. Search by Ron Aston 1999 to 2001 (North Carolina)
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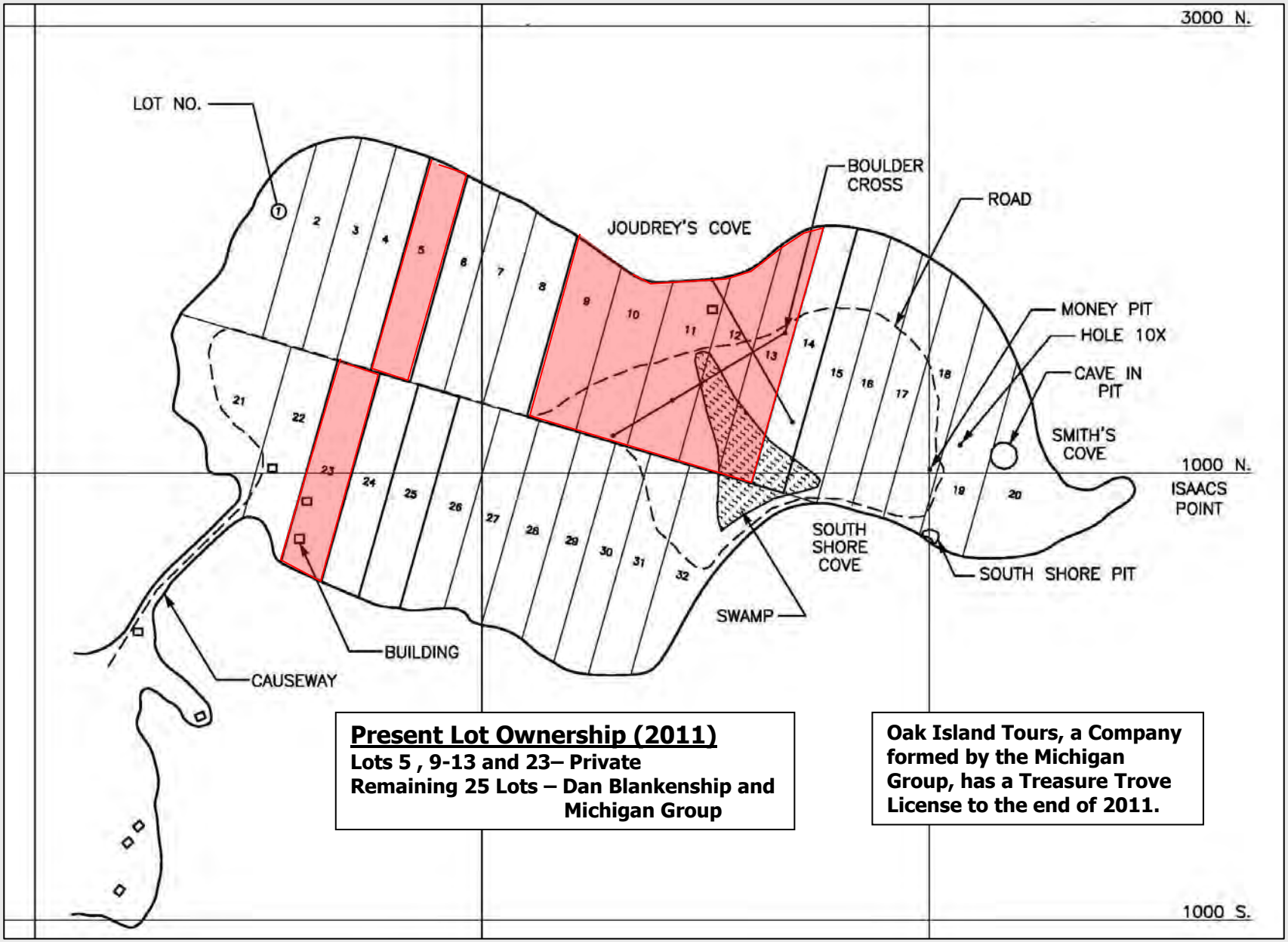
10. Main Theories
11. Options for Future Exploration at the Money Pit
12. Conclusions

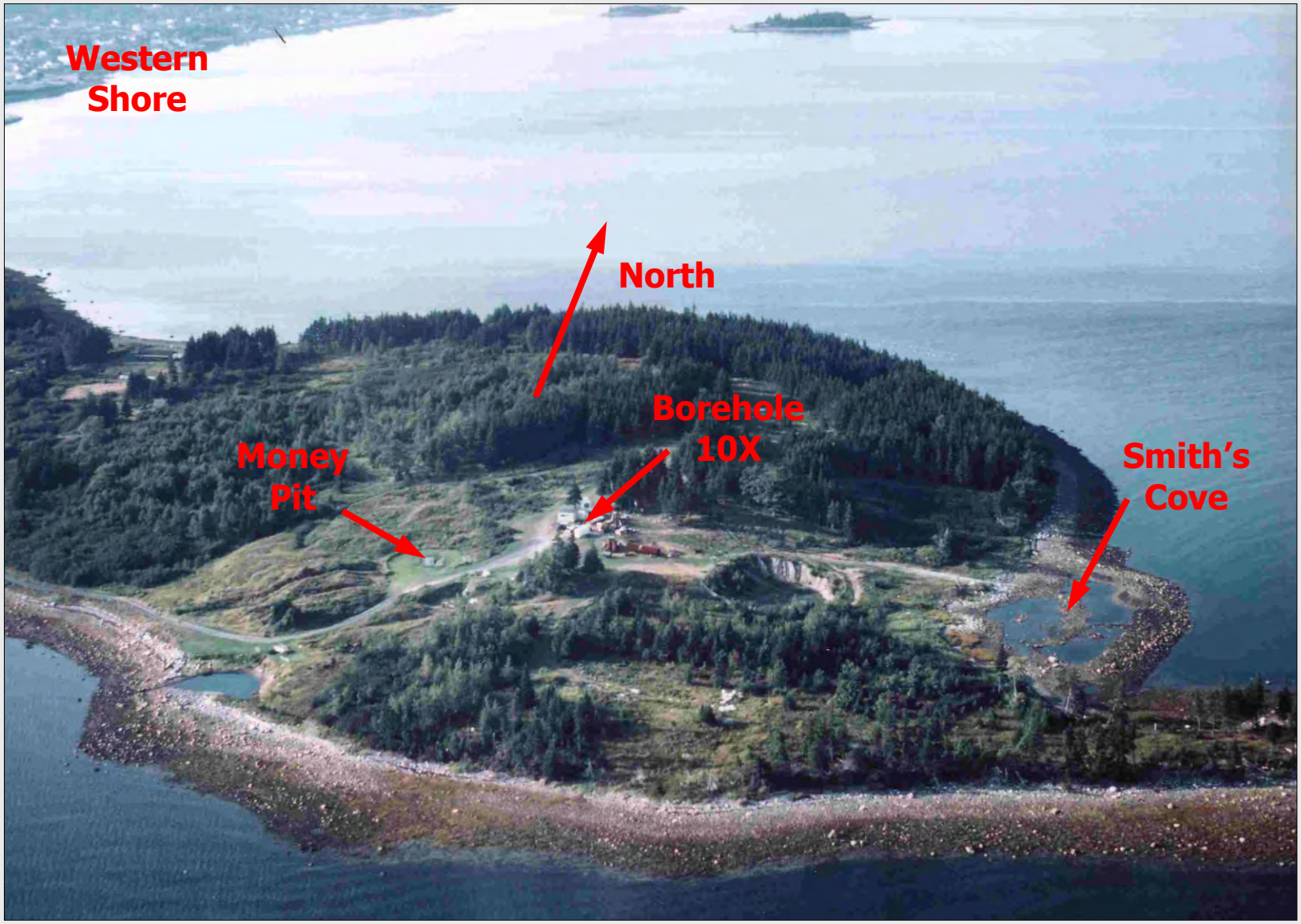
Oak Island Lot Distribution 2011



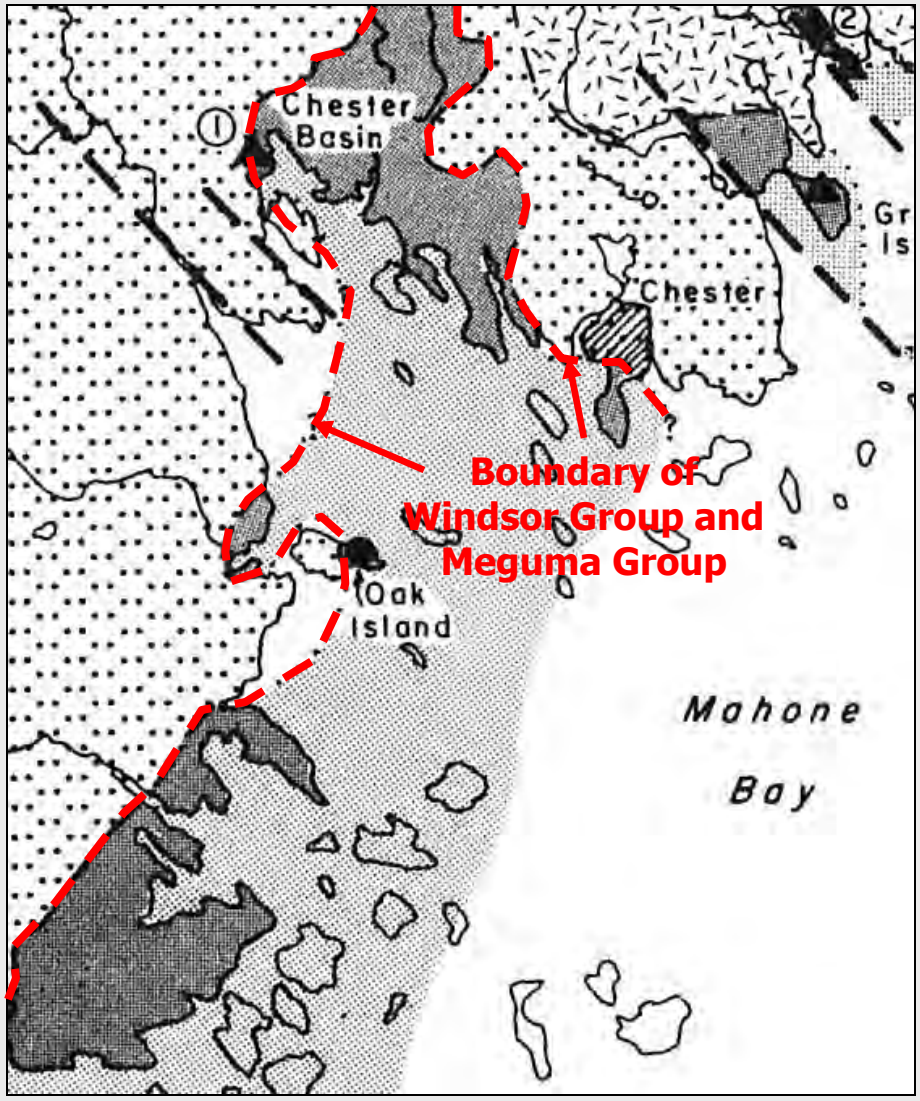
Present Lot Ownership (2011)
Lots 5 , 9-13 and 23– Private
Remaining 25 Lots – Dan Blankenship and Michigan Group

Oak Island Tours, a Company formed by the Michigan Group, has a Treasure Trove License to the end of 2011.

East End of Oak Island, Nova Scotia 1986



Bedrock Geology Western Mahone Bay



LEGEND

EARLY CARBONIFEROUS

WINDSOR GROUP

Limestone, gypsum, shale; possible submarine extent indicated

DEVONIAN

Undivided granitic rocks

CAMBRO-ORDOVICIAN

MEGUMA GROUP

Undivided slate, metasiltstone and meta-greywacke of the Goldenville and Halifax Formations

Geological boundary, dotted in submarine areas

② *Bedrock locality cited in text*

Quarry in bedrock

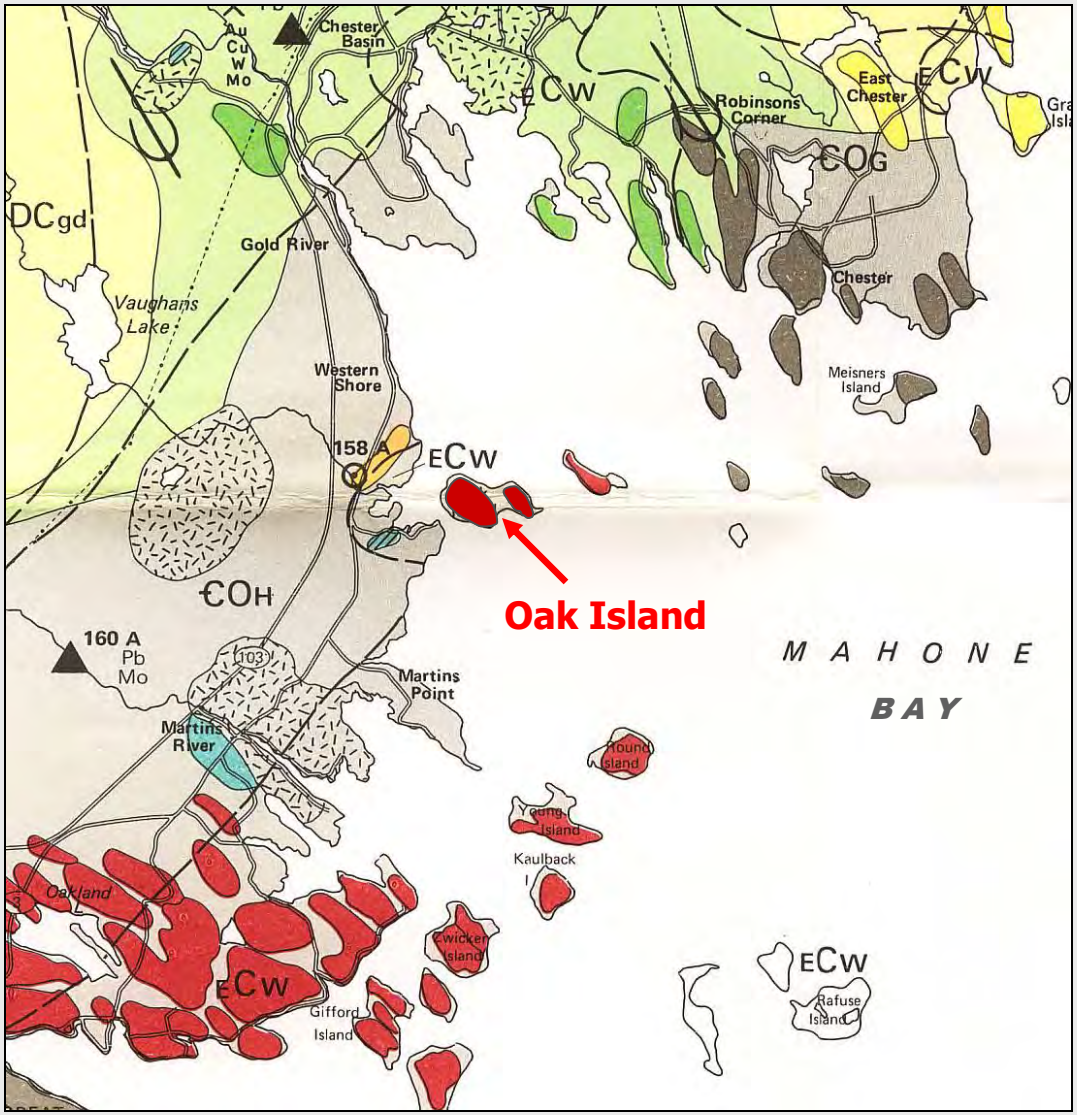
Diamond-drill hole(s)

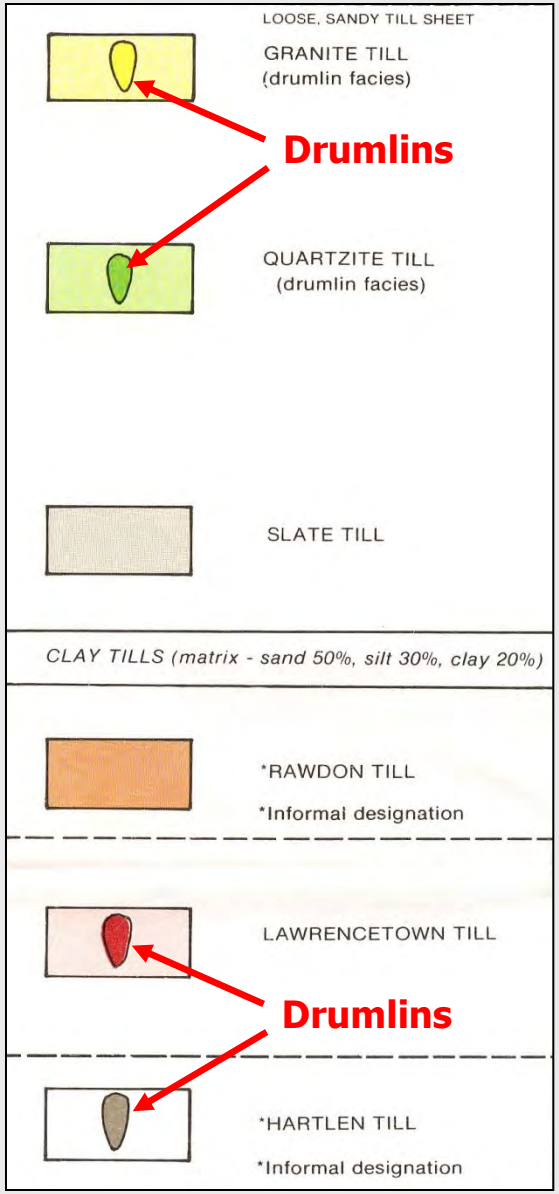
Fault, (known, and/or inferred)

Geology modified after Sage (1954) Cameron (1956) and Taylor (1969). Submarine extension of boundaries in north-eastern Mahone Bay modified after Barnes (1976).

Ref: Giles 1981

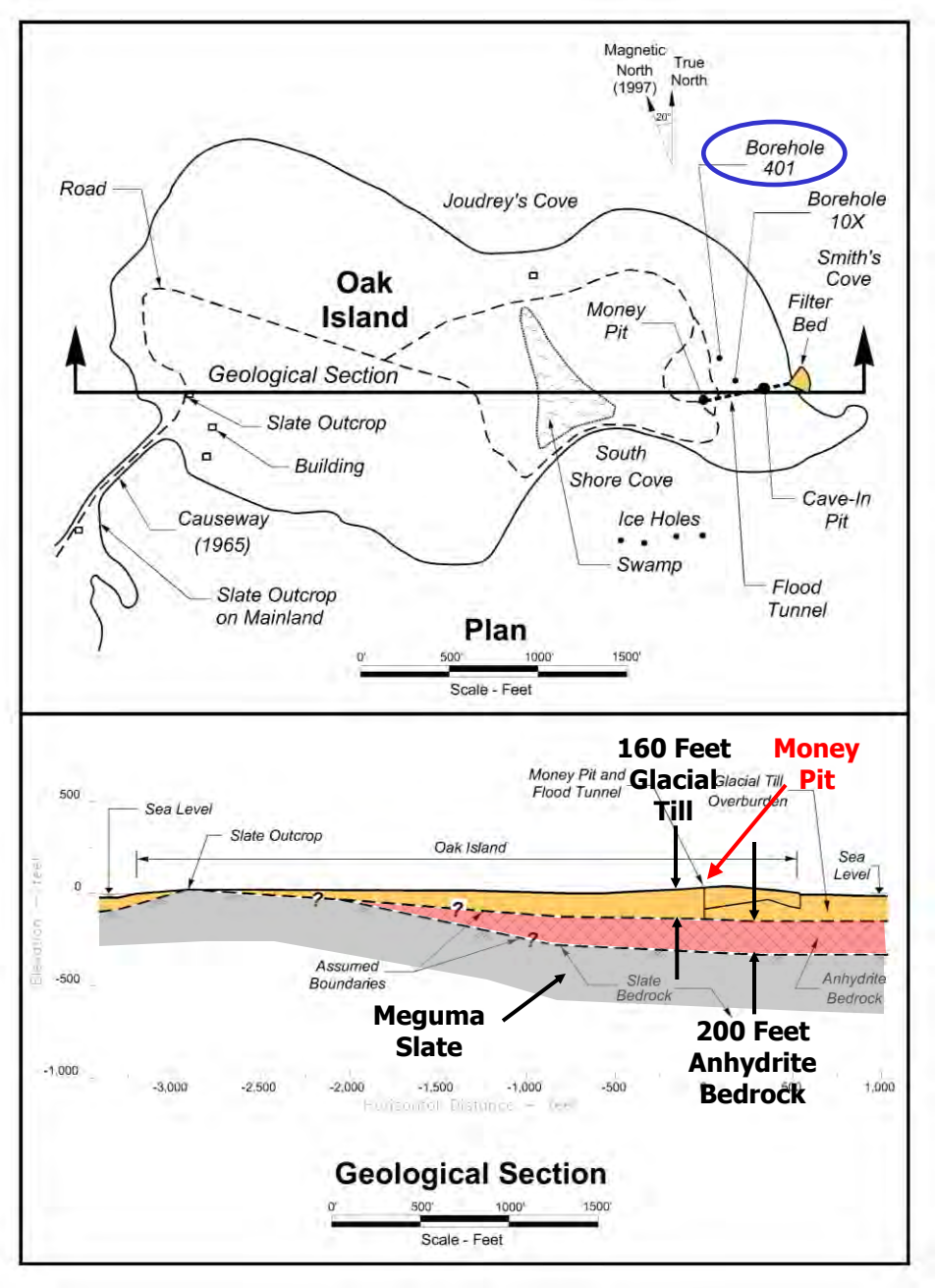
Surface Geology and Drumlins
Western Mahone Bay





Ref: Stae and Fowler 1981

Geological Section of Oak Island



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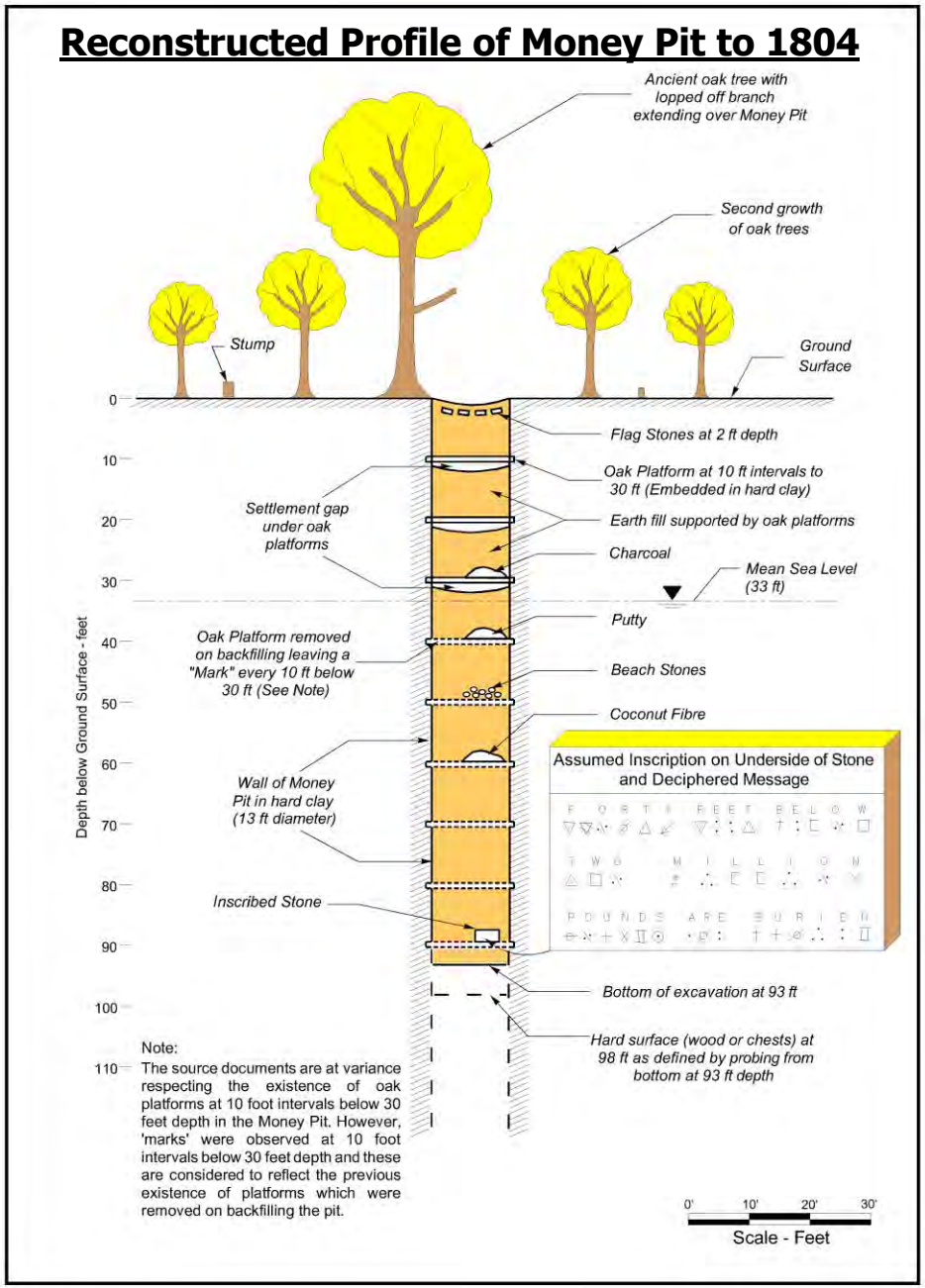
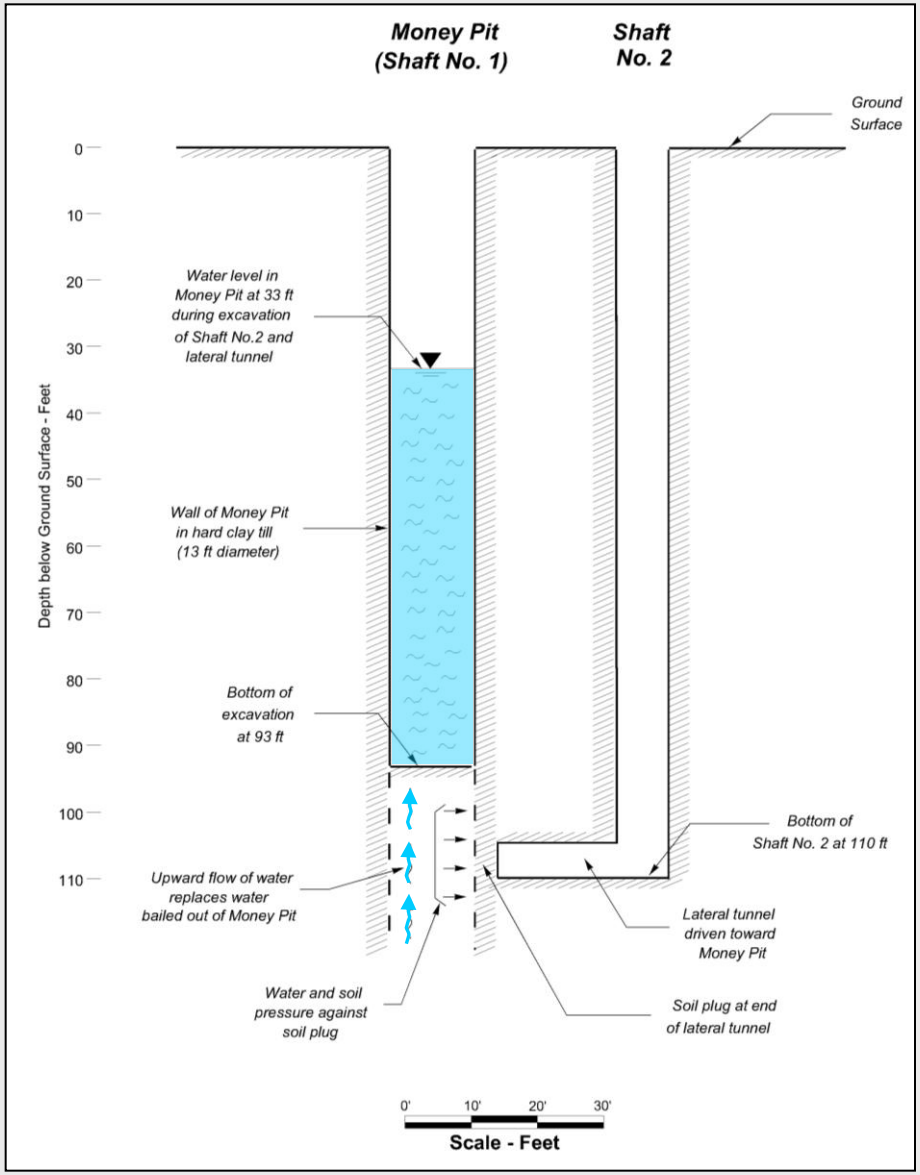
The Beginning in 1795

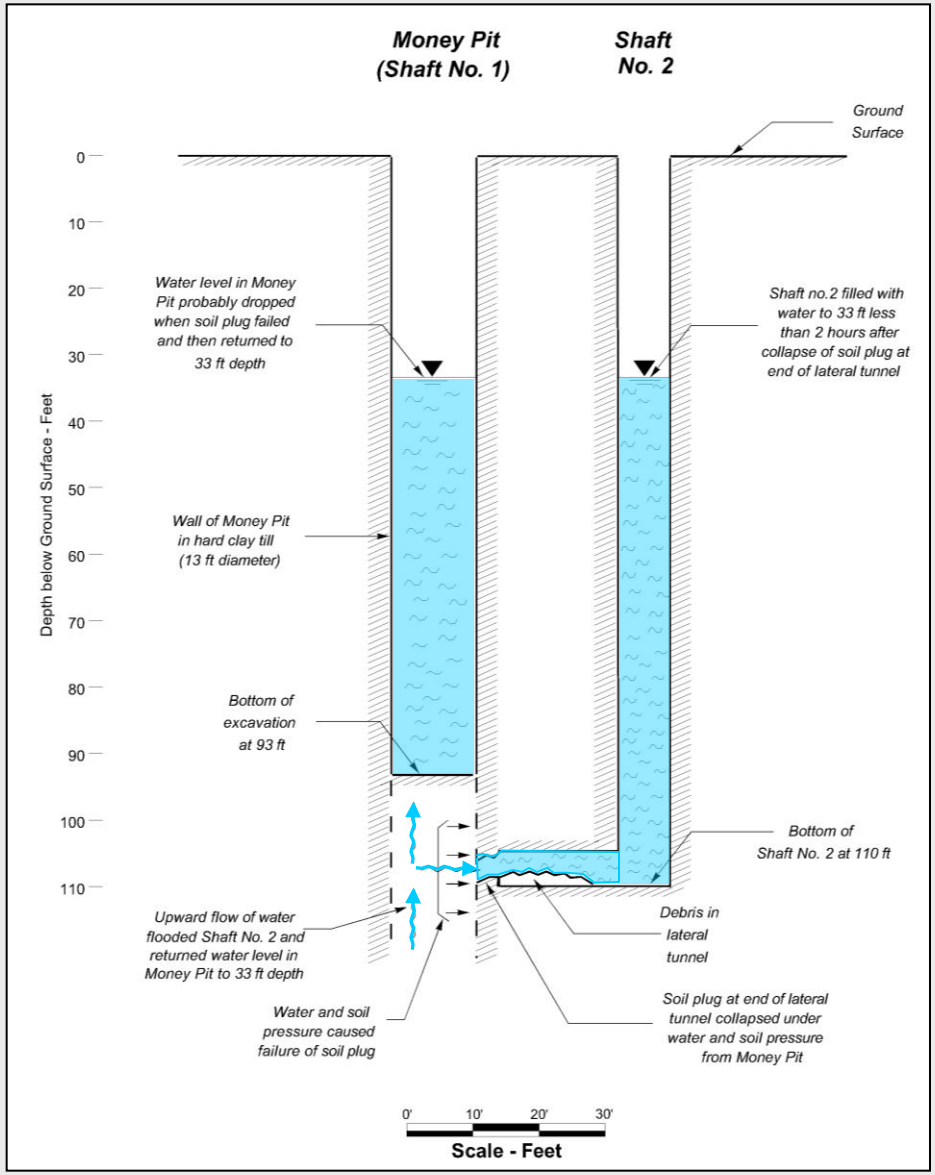
Main Findings in 1795 by Three Boys and from 1804 to 1805 by the Onslow Syndicate

1. In 1795 a depression in the ground was found beside a large oak tree.
2. Excavation to 25 feet in 1795 found flag stones and oak log platforms.
3. In 1804 the Onslow Syndicate excavated to 93 feet and found charcoal, putty, beach stones and coconut fibre.
4. At 93 feet depth the pit flooded to sea level and could not be bailed out.
5. In 1805 a second shaft adjacent to the Money Pit was excavated to 110 feet and was flooded.

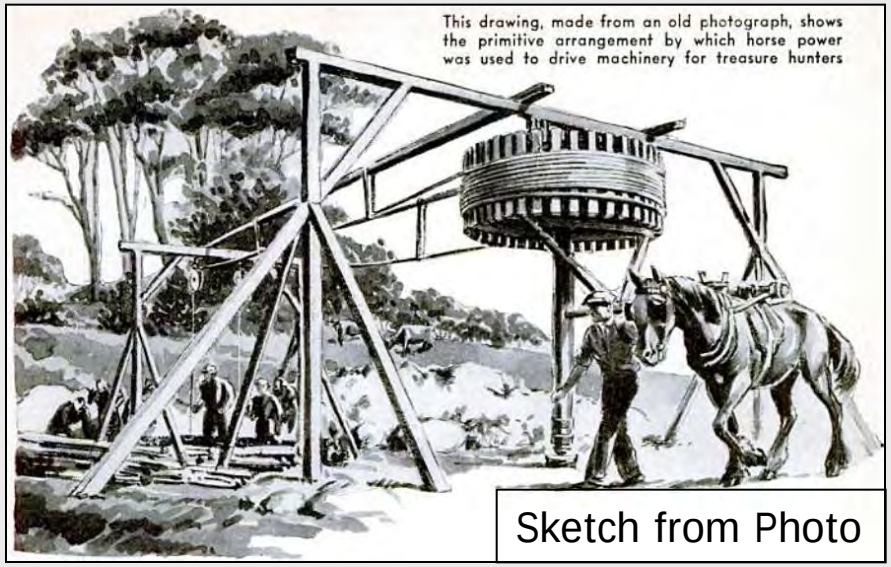


Flooding of Second Shaft in 1805

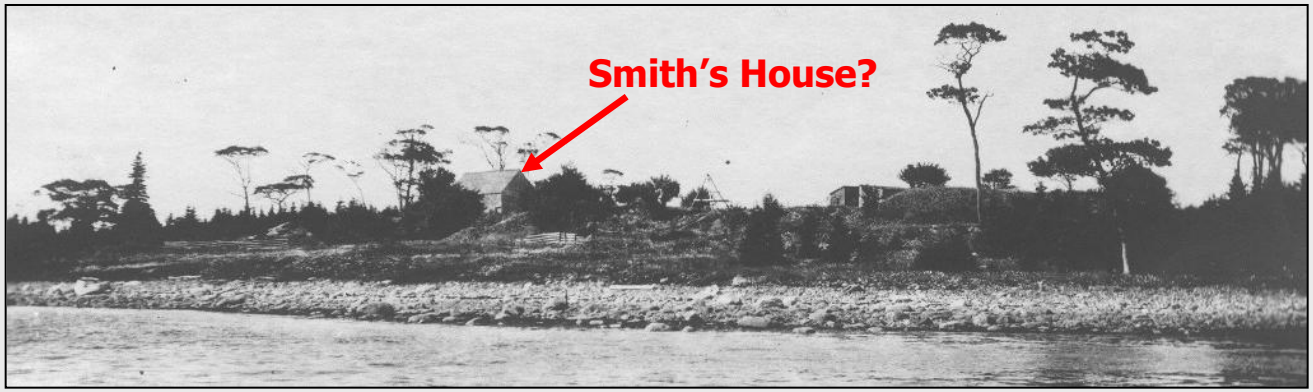




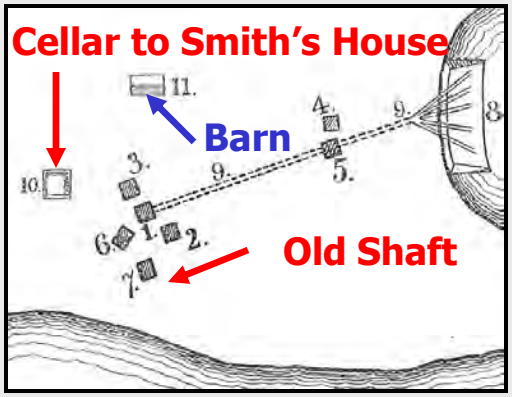
Early Oak Island Digs 1850 - 1909



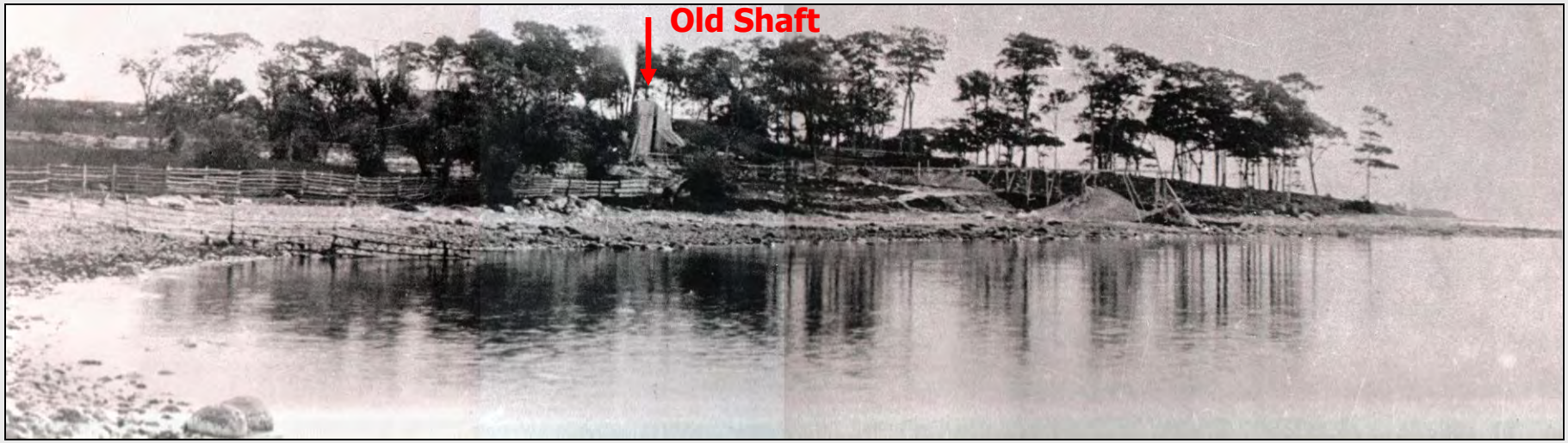
Photos of South Shore 1860s and Old Shaft



Money Pit Area from South Shore Cove 1860s



1895 Sketch



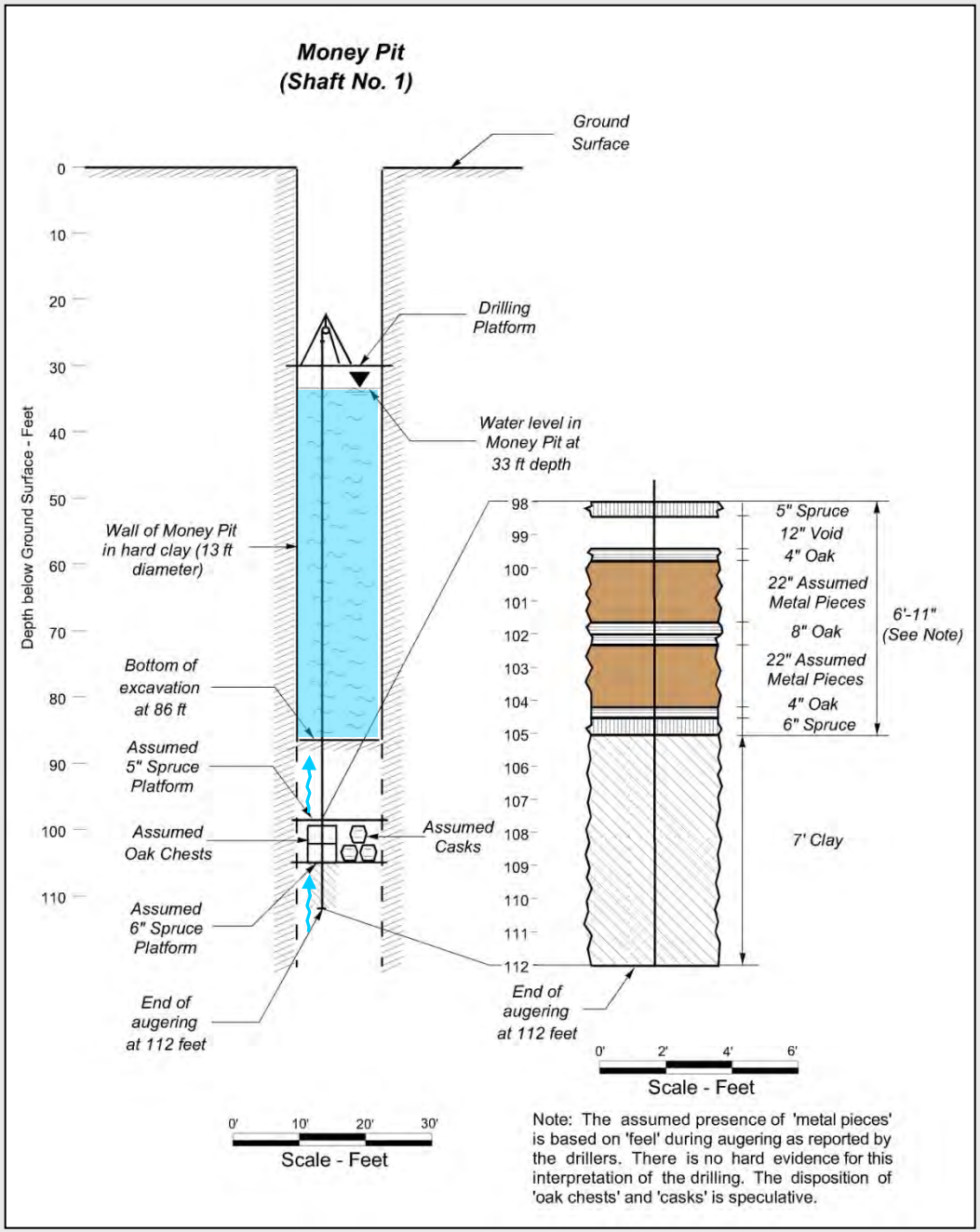
Old Exploration Shaft South of Money Pit Area

Main Findings of the Truro Company in 1849

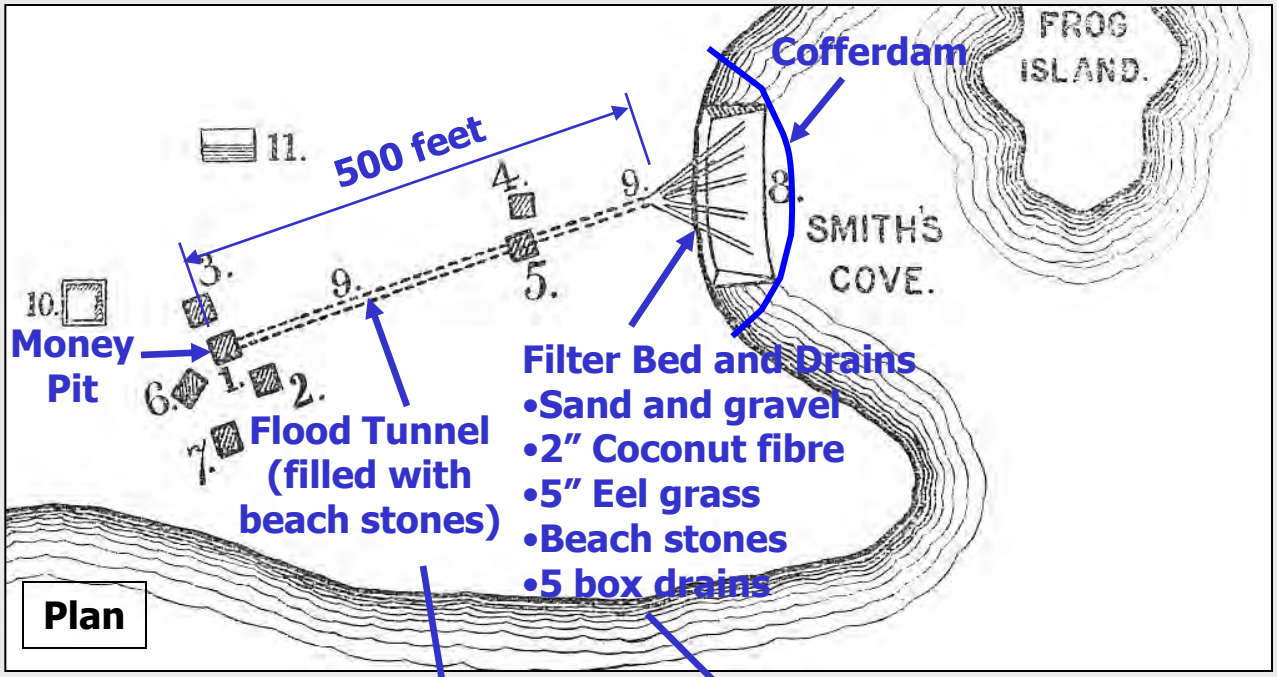
1. **In 1849 the Truro Company excavated the Money Pit to 86 feet and then the pit flooded to sea level.**

2. **Drilling with a pod auger found timber platforms and evidence of assumed coins in chests.**

3. **No materials were recovered from the zone of assumed coins.**



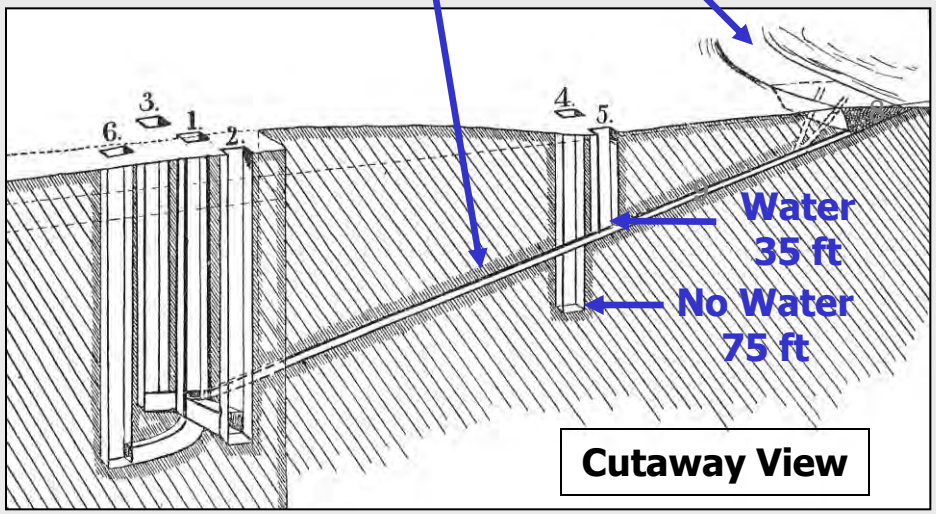
Results of Exploration in a Cofferdam at Smith's Cove by the Truro Company in 1850



Reasons for Cofferdam

1. Realized Money Pit contained salt water
2. Water draining out of tidal zone at low tide
3. Boulders removed over 145 feet along shoreline of Smith's Cove

Ref: Booklet – The Story of Oak Island 1895 (Based on work by the Truro Company in 1850)

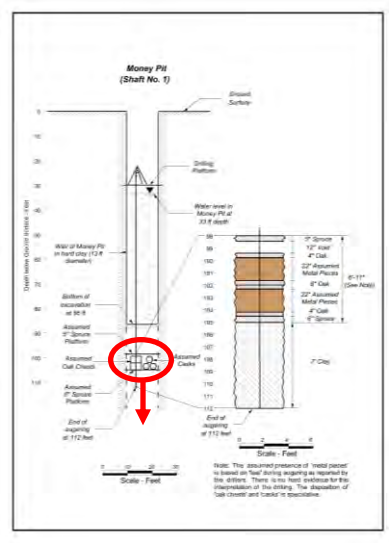


1. MONEY PIT
2. PIT 110 ft. ABOUT 100 yrs. OLD.
3. " 109 " " 43 " "
4. " 75 " " " " " NO WATER.
5. " 35 " " " " " WATER.
6. " 118 " " 40 " "
7. " —— " 30 " "
8. EXCAVATION ON THE SHORE FILLED WITH STONES. A RESERVOIR.
9. SUPPOSED TUNNEL FROM SHORE TO MONEY PIT.
10. CELLAR TO SMITH'S HOUSE.
11. BARN.

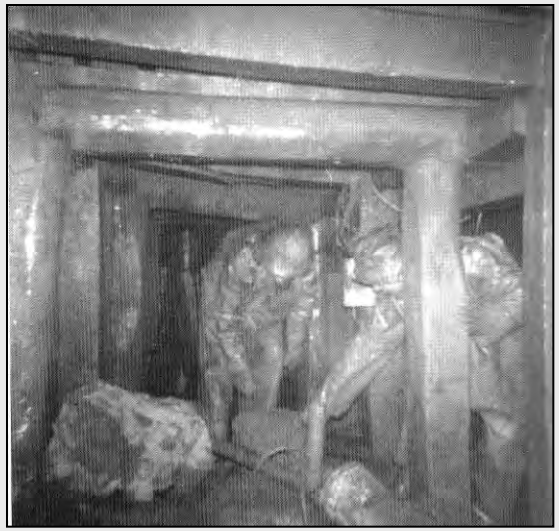
The Oak Island Association 1861 to 1864
The Halifax Company 1866 to 1867

1. **The Oak Island Association tried to approach the assumed chests at 100 to 105 feet by offset shaft and lateral tunnel. The resulting undermining caused a major collapse of the platforms and assumed chests in 1861.**

2. **The Halifax Company carried out extensive tunnelling and constructed a cofferdam at Smith's Cove to block the flood tunnel.**

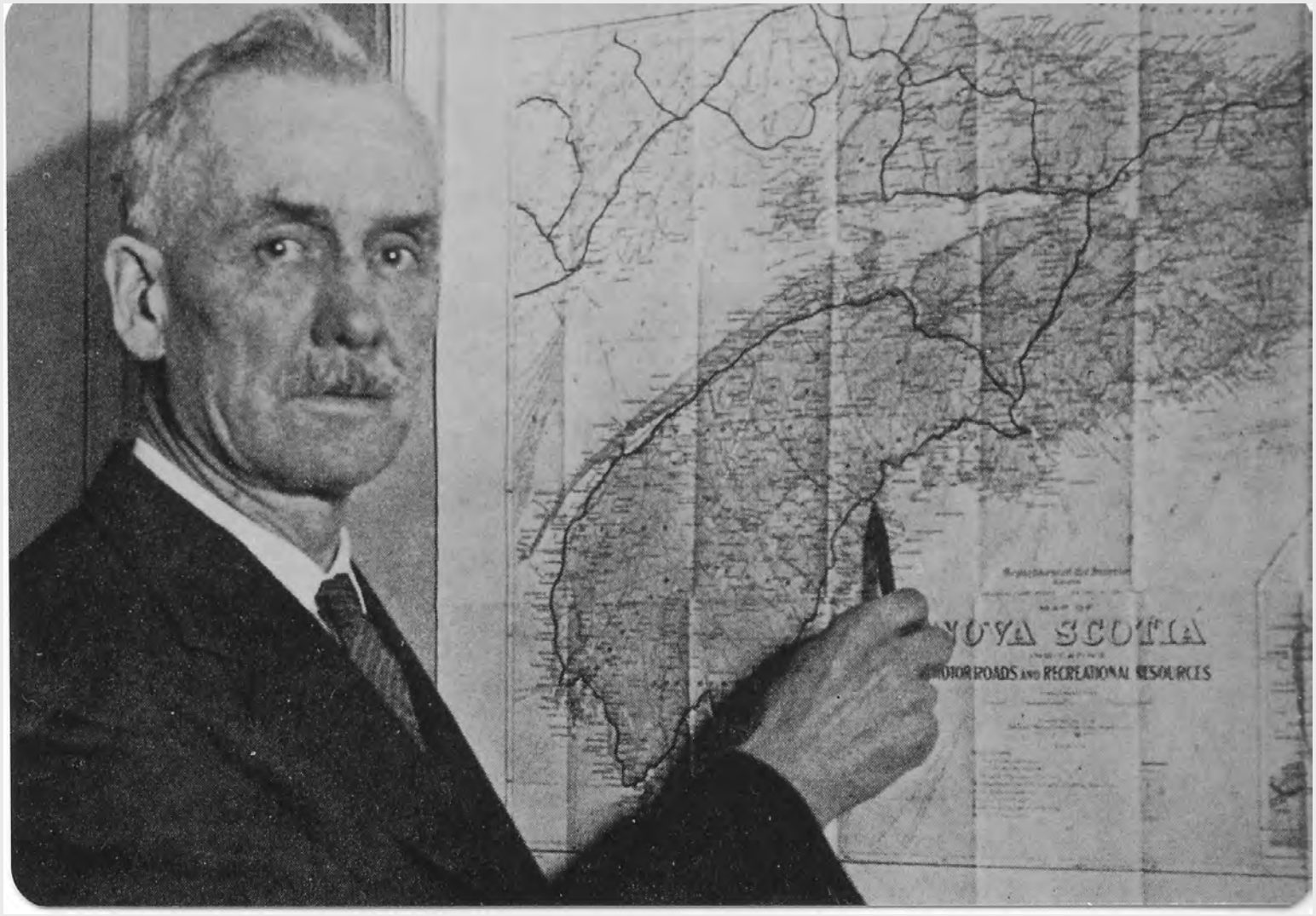


Collapse of Assumed Chests in 1861



A Halifax Company Tunnel Constructed in 1866/67 and Explored in 1963 Ref: Lamb 2006

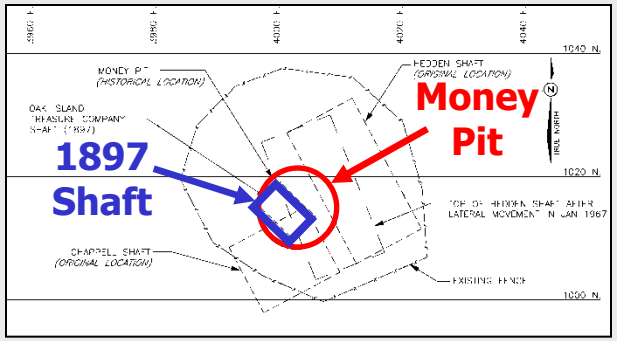
Frederick Leander Blair, Ahmerst, N S
Involved from 1897 to 1951

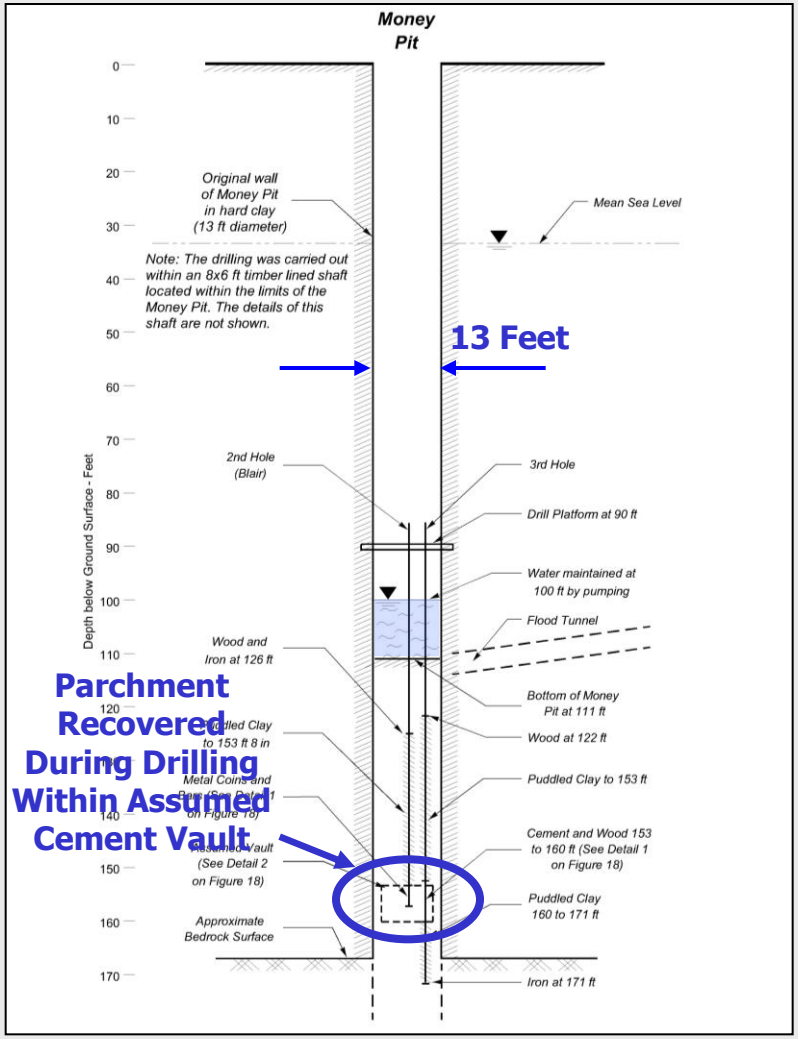


Workmen at Money Pit 1897

Shaft 25 feet South of Cave-in Pit 1897

Results of Drilling by the Oak Island Treasure Company in 1897 and Parchment Location





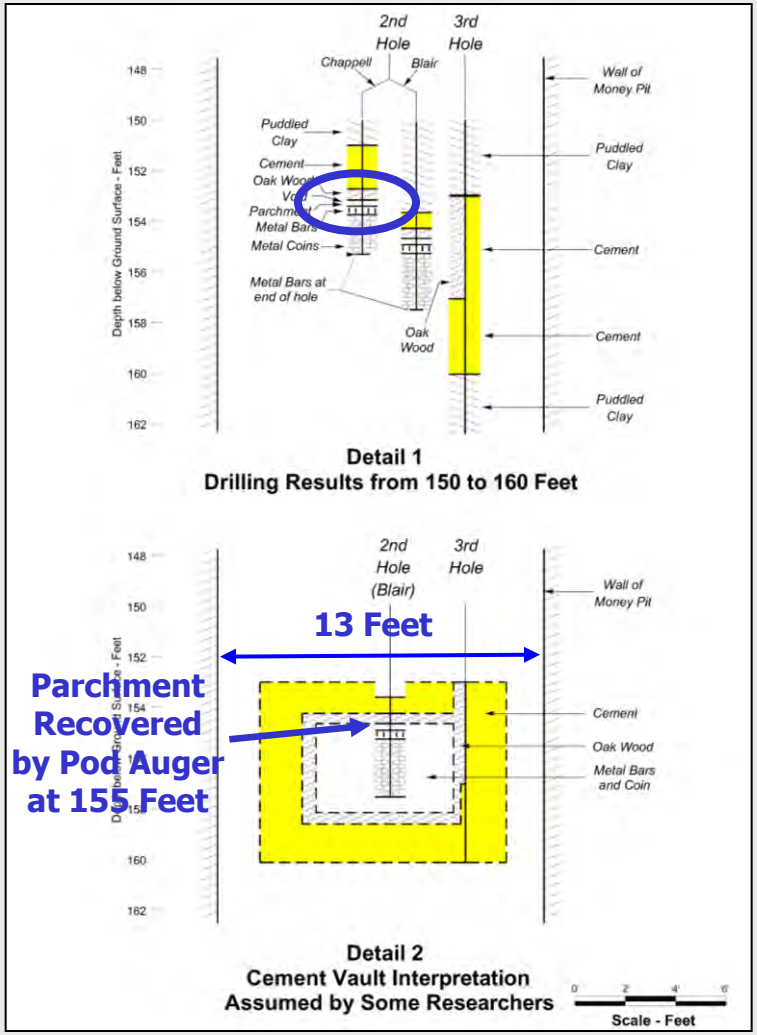
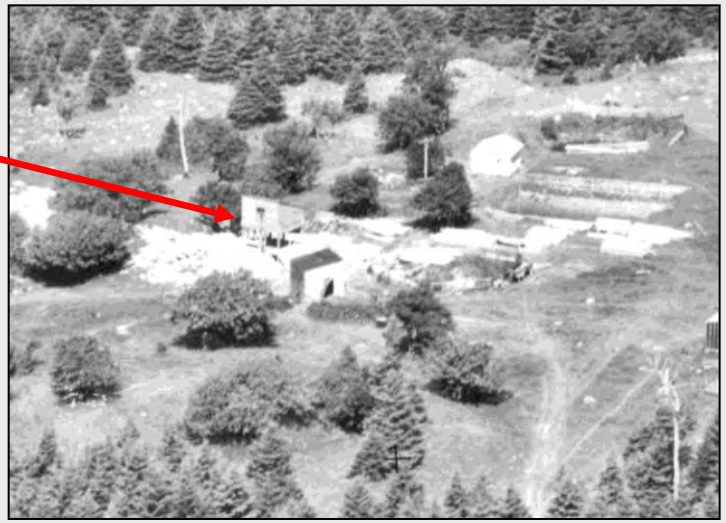


Photo of Parchment Recovered by the Oak Island Treasure Company in 1897

Photo from Triton Alliance

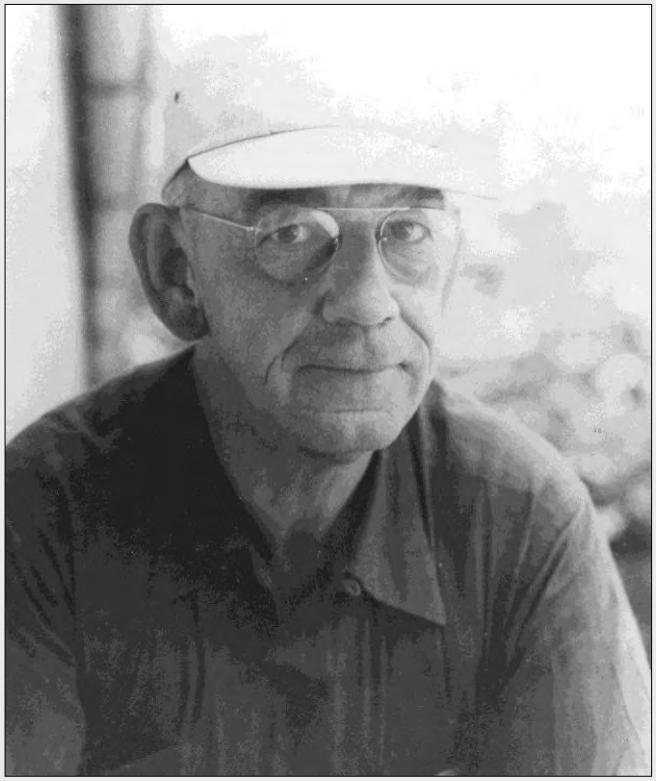
Henry Bowdoin, Franklin Roosevelt and Others 1909

The William Chappell Shaft 1931



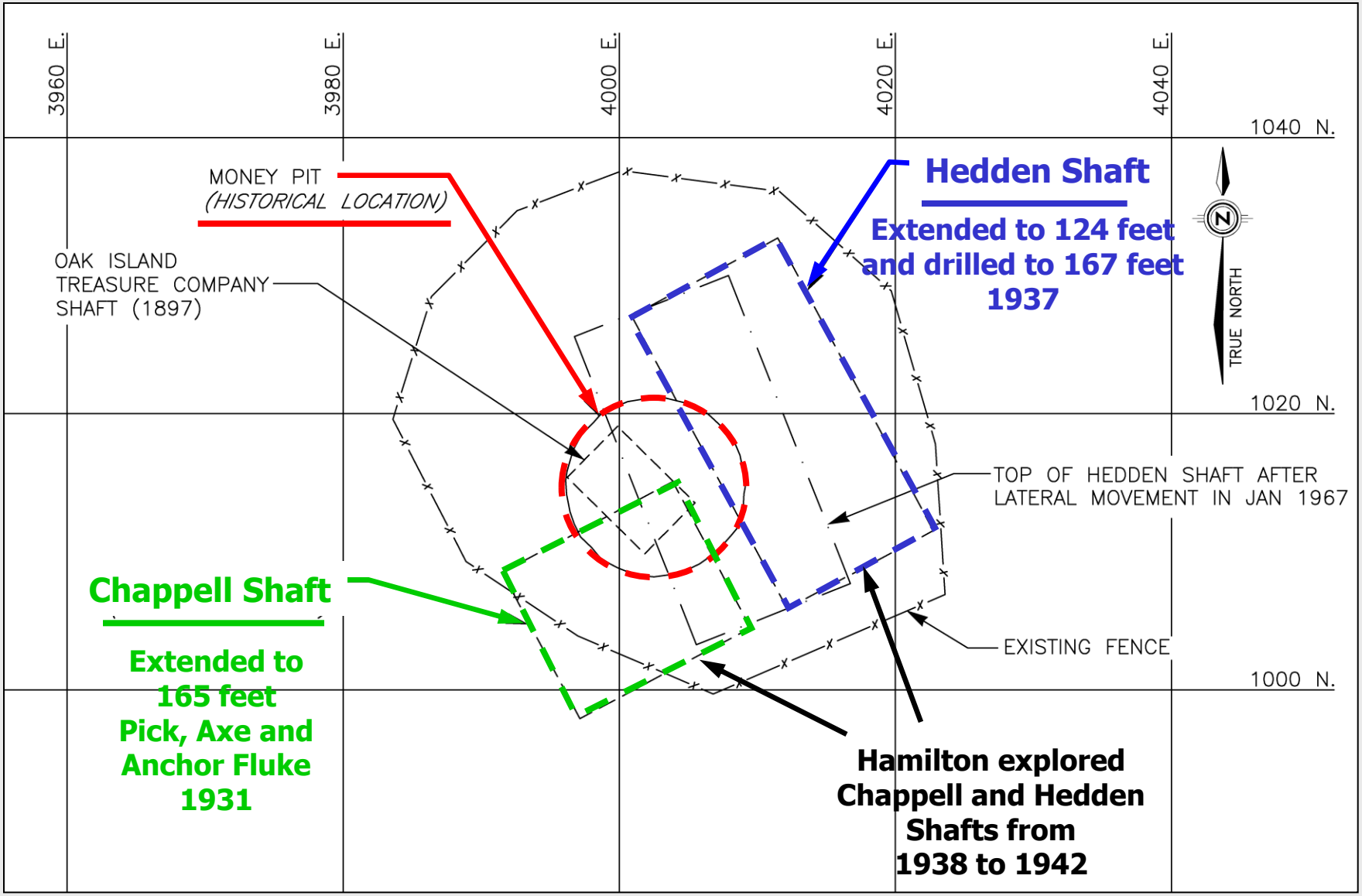
Melbourne R. Chappell, Sydney, N S
Involved from 1897 to 1980 (Age 10 to 93)

Gilbert Hedden, Chatham, New Jersey Involved from 1936 to 1937

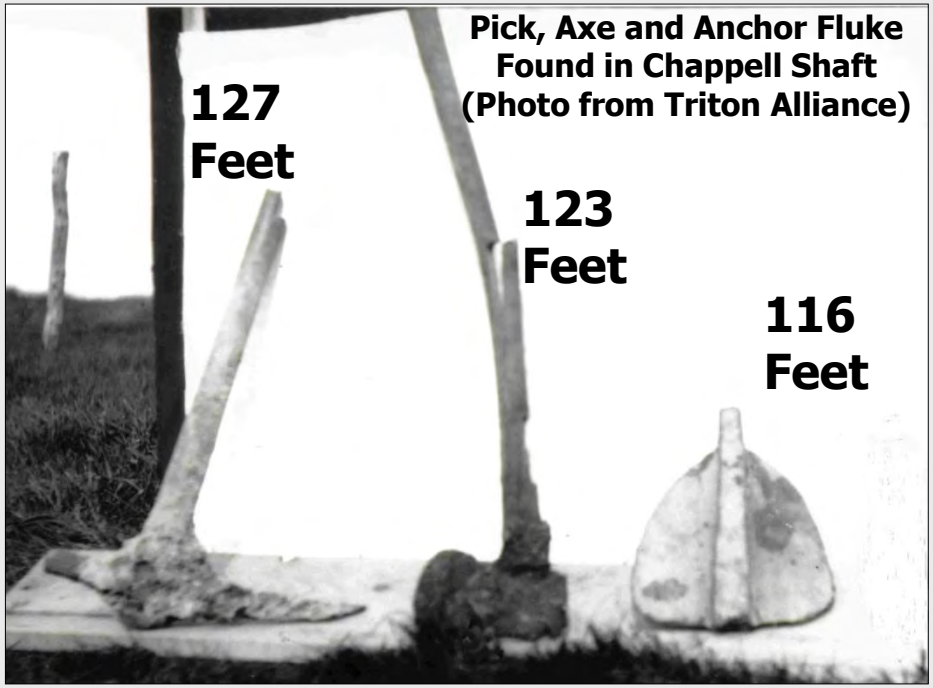


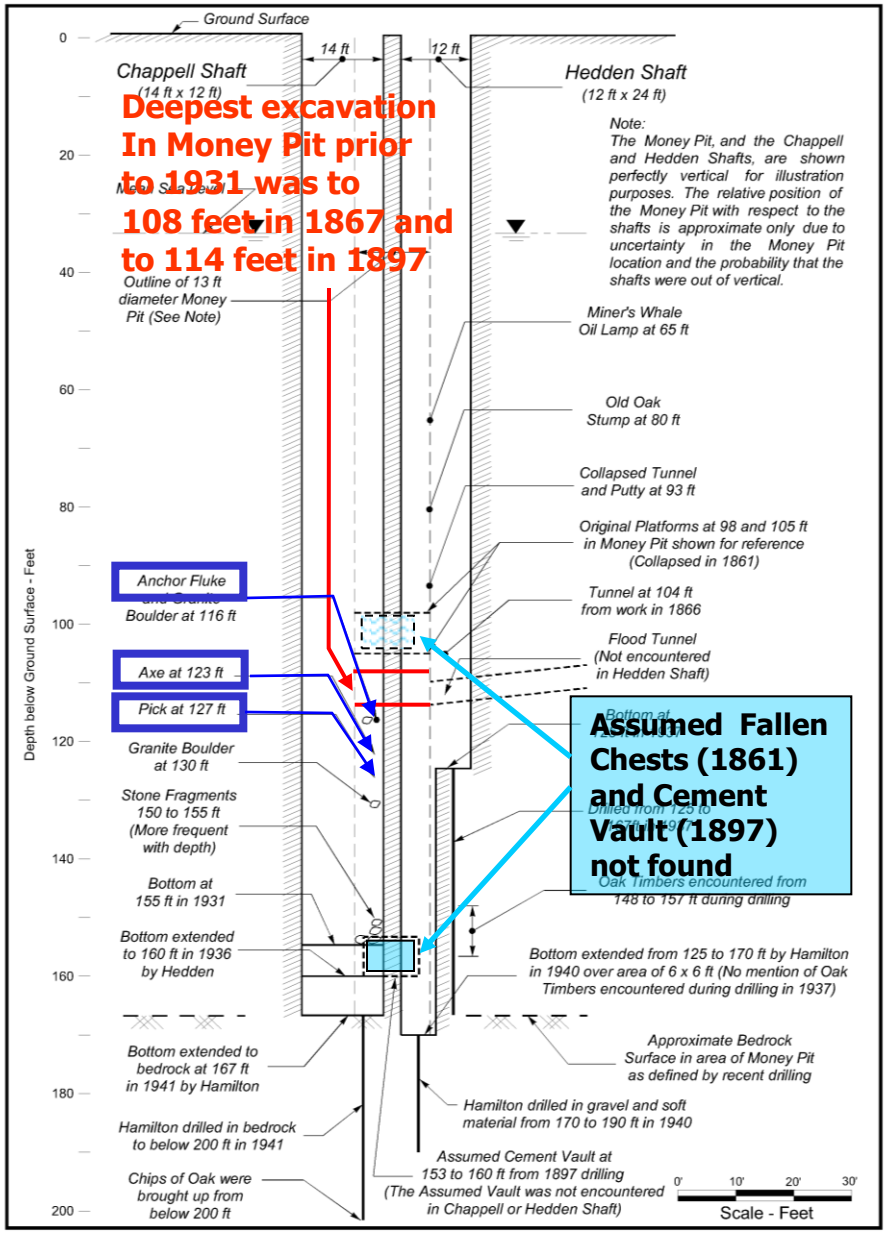
Professor Erwin Hamilton New York Involved from 1938 to 1942

Exploration at Money Pit from 1931 to 1941



Findings in Chappell Shaft in 1931 and Hedden Shaft in 1937





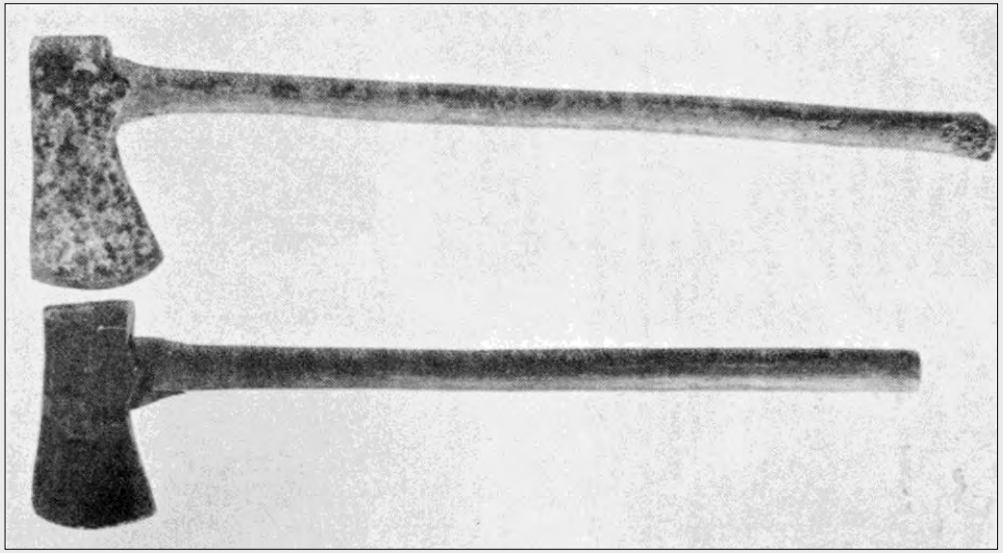
Poll Pick Chappell Shaft 1931

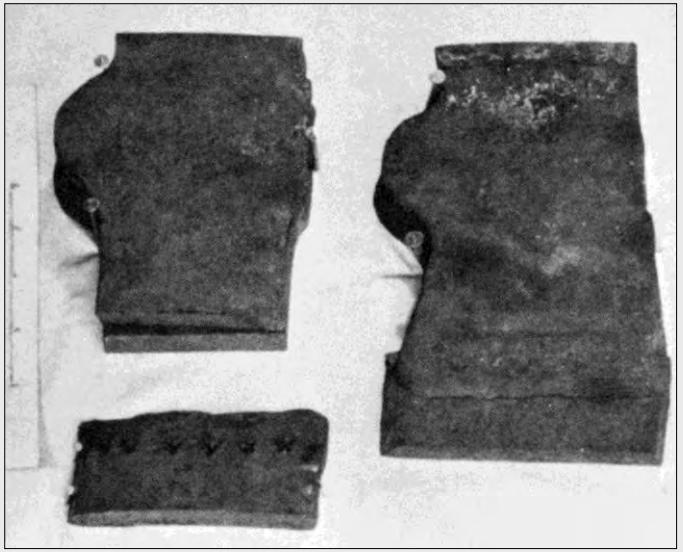
Photos from Triton Alliance

Anglo American Felling Axe Chappell Shaft 1931

Photos from Triton Alliance

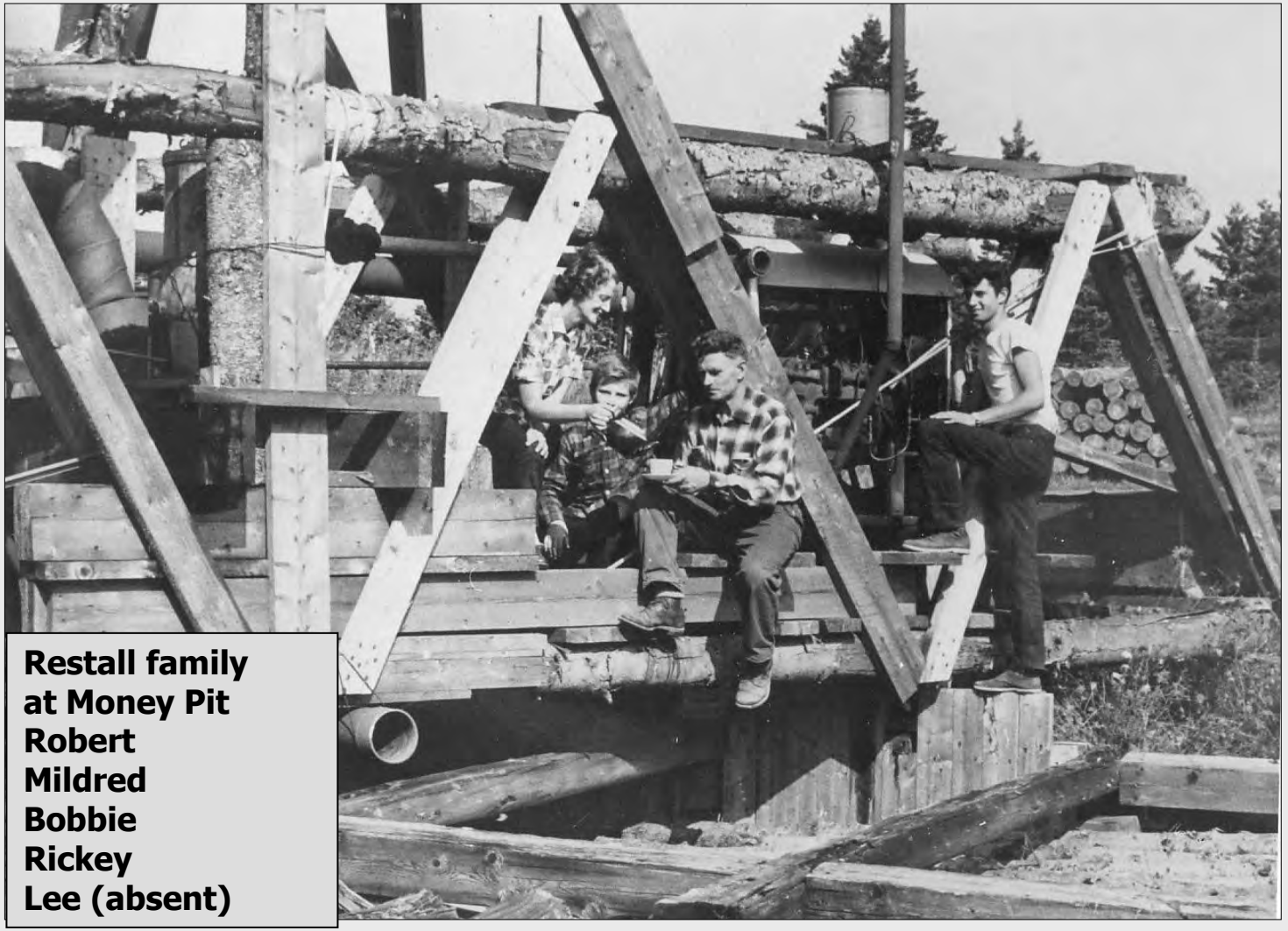
Anglo American Axes (1725 – 1800)





Ref: Ancient Carpenters' Tools (Mercer 1975)

Robert Restall, Hamilton, Ont
Involved from 1959 to 1965



Restall family
at Money Pit
Robert
Mildred
Bobbie
Rickey
Lee (absent)

Robert Dunfield, California Involved from 1965 to 1966

Robert Dunfield (right) in South Shore Trench Nov 1965

Excavation at Money Pit Dec 1965

Anchor Found in 1965 Survey by Peter Beamish and Students of Phillips Academy, Andover, NH

Photos courtesy Peter Beamish, Ceta-Research Inc., Trinity, Newfoundland

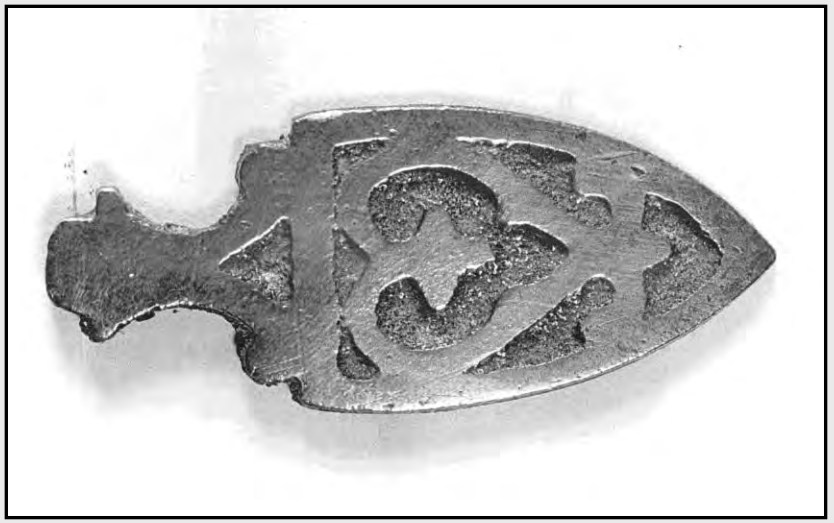
Artifacts Found by Peter Beamish 1965 Survey

Spanish 10 Merevedi similar to coin found by Student on beach at Smith's cove and identified by J J Teaparty Inc., Boston as Merevedi 11, 1598

Photo courtesy Peter Beamish

Fred Nolan, Waverley, Nova Scotia Involved from 1959 to Present

Fred Nolan at his Joudrey's Cove cottage



Nolan's Brass Casting $1^1/_4$ Inches Long

David Tobias, Montreal, Que Involved from 1966 to 2006

At Becker Drill 1967

Scuba diving Smith's Cove 1976

In the Montreal Office 1996

Dan Blankenship, Miami, Florida
Involved 1967 to Present

Working on churn drill at Money Pit 1977

Gardening on Oak Island 2005

The Michigan Group, Traverse City, Michigan Involved 2006 to Present

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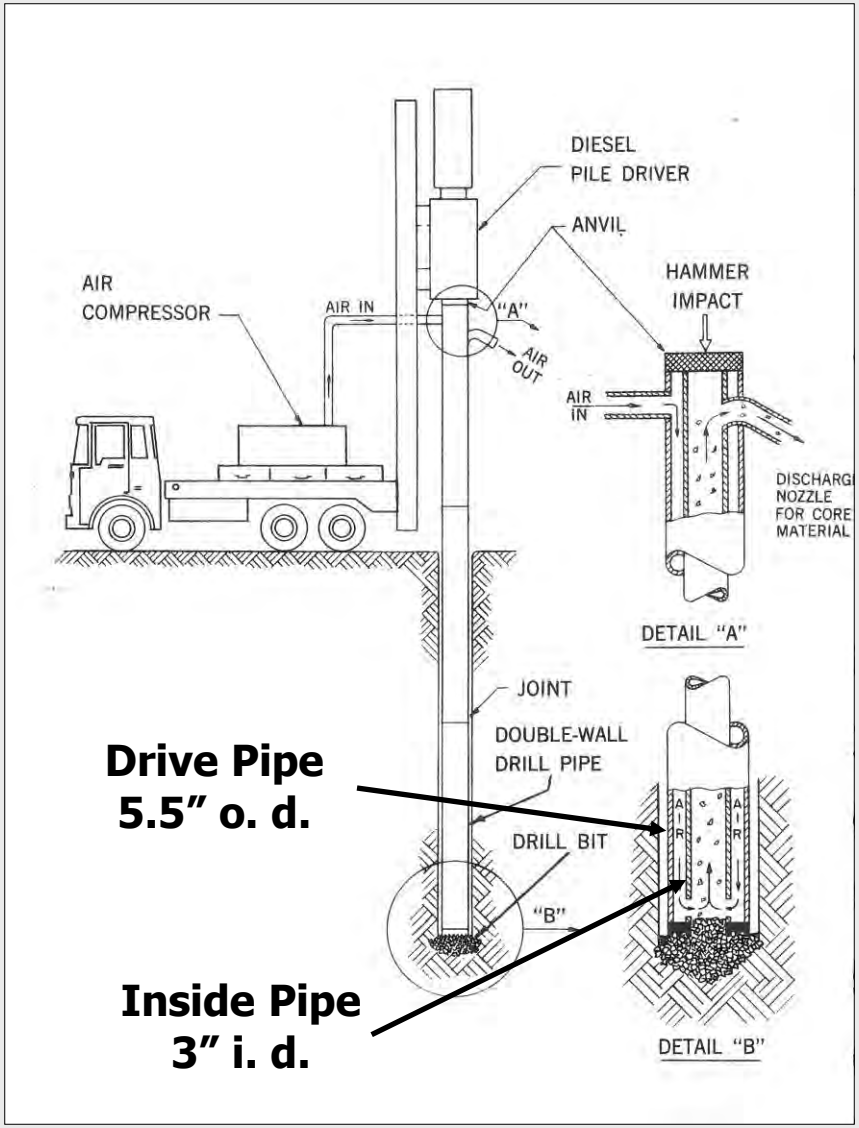
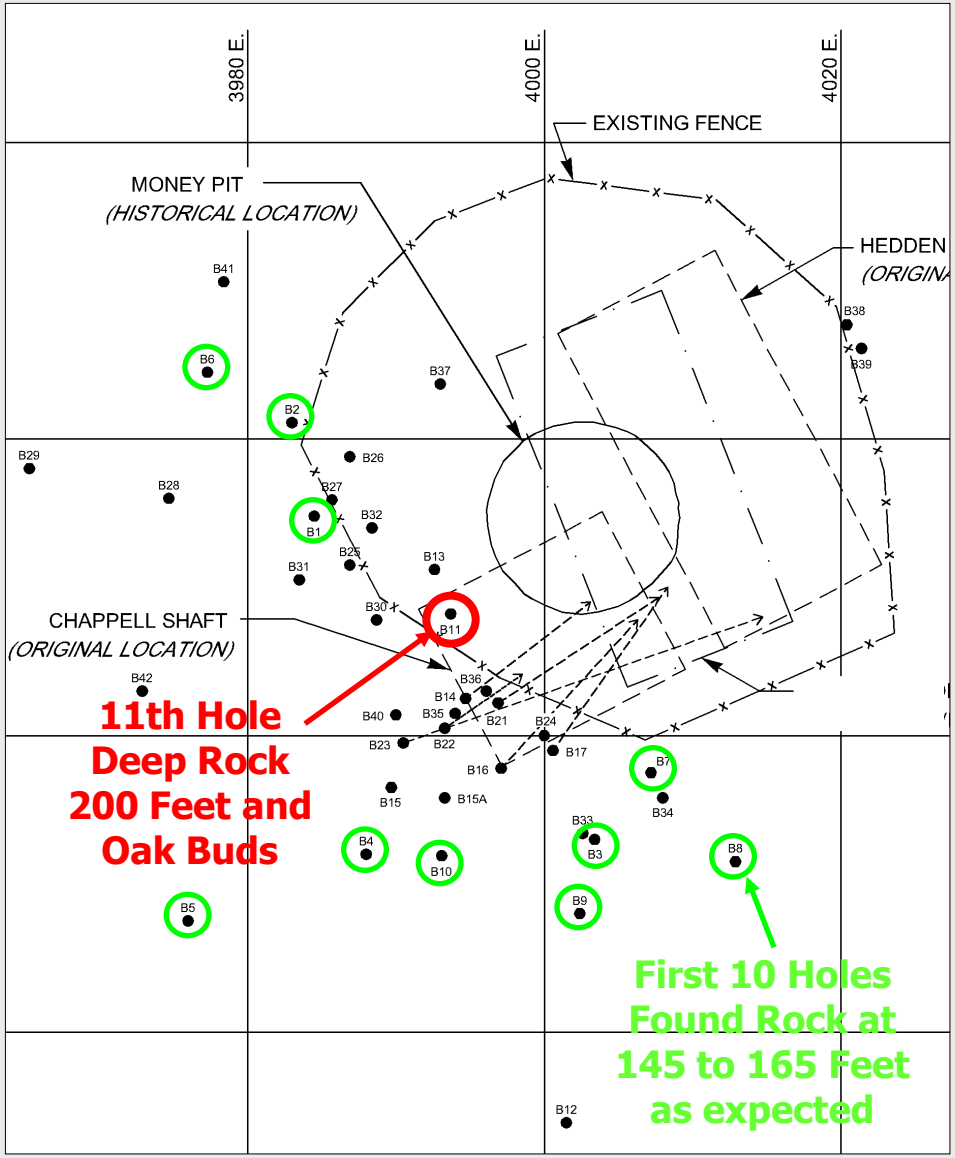
Becker Drill Setup 1967

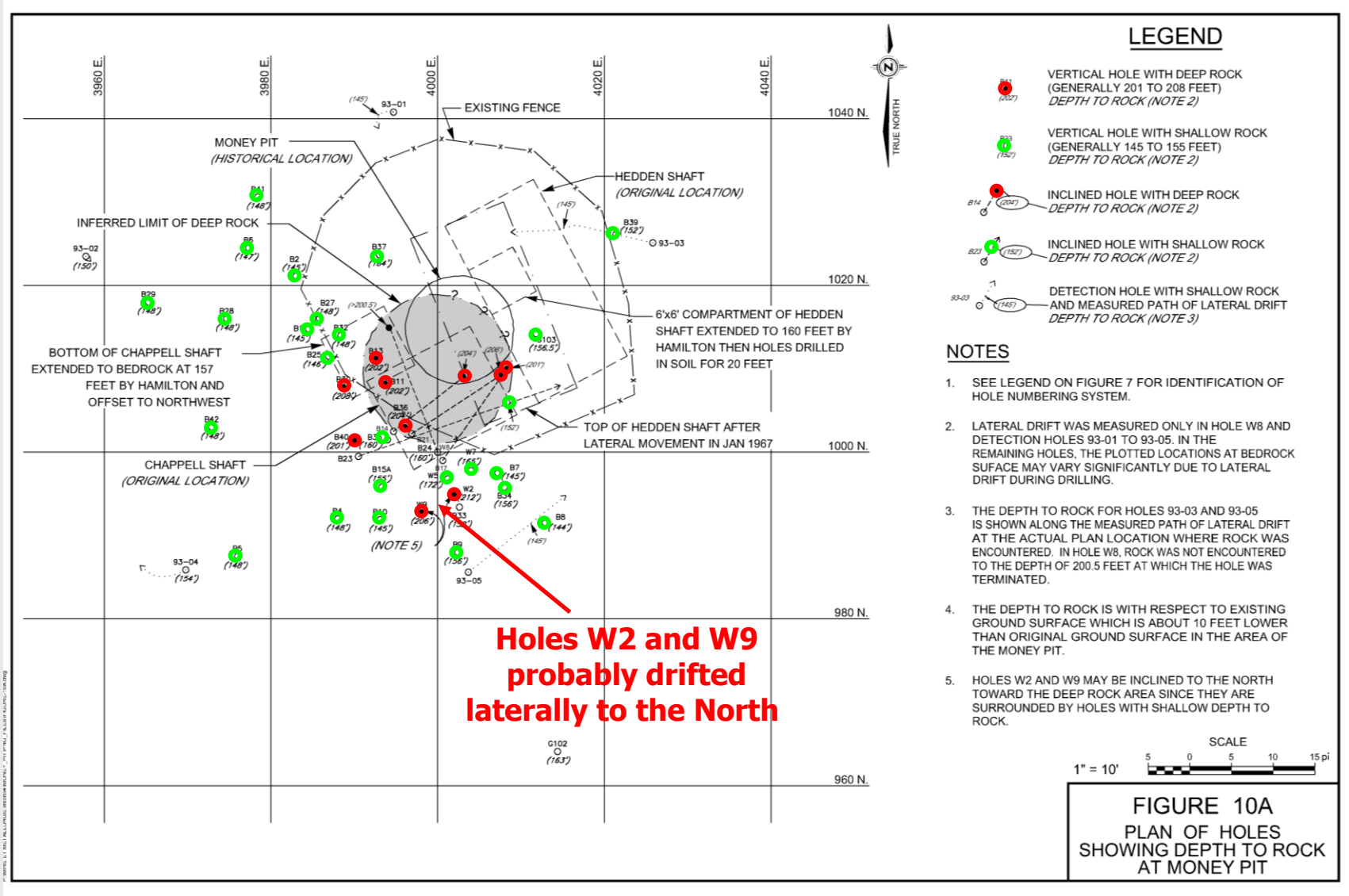


Becker Drilling Program at Money Pit 1967



1. The objective of the Becker drilling program was to drill through overburden to bedrock surface in search of the presumed treasure chests at 100 and 150 feet.
2. The first 10 holes extended to bedrock surface at depths of 145 to 165 feet.
3. The 11th hole (B11) extended to a depth of 200 feet before bedrock was encountered. Puddled clay was found from 184 to 200 feet and two oak buds were found embedded in the puddled clay at 196 feet.
4. This singular finding initiated the extension of all holes to 200 feet with the use of tricone drilling in bedrock.
5. 40 holes were drilled at the Money Pit from January to June 1967.
6. The drilling resulted in the major milestone of finding man made cavities in the bedrock at 200 feet and this was completely unexpected.
7. Lateral drift measurements were not made in the Becker holes but were made in 5 deep detection holes done in 1993.

Plan of Deep Rock Area at Money Pit



LEGEND

- VERTICAL HOLE WITH DEEP ROCK (GENERALLY 201 TO 208 FEET) *DEPTH TO ROCK (NOTE 2)*
- VERTICAL HOLE WITH SHALLOW ROCK (GENERALLY 145 TO 155 FEET) *DEPTH TO ROCK (NOTE 2)*
- INCLINED HOLE WITH DEEP ROCK *DEPTH TO ROCK (NOTE 2)*
- INCLINED HOLE WITH SHALLOW ROCK *DEPTH TO ROCK (NOTE 2)*
- DETECTION HOLE WITH SHALLOW ROCK AND MEASURED PATH OF LATERAL DRIFT *DEPTH TO ROCK (NOTE 3)*

NOTES

1. SEE LEGEND ON FIGURE 7 FOR IDENTIFICATION OF HOLE NUMBERING SYSTEM.
2. LATERAL DRIFT WAS MEASURED ONLY IN HOLE W8 AND DETECTION HOLES 93-01 TO 93-05. IN THE REMAINING HOLES, THE PLOTTED LOCATIONS AT BEDROCK SUFACE MAY VARY SIGNIFICANTLY DUE TO LATERAL DRIFT DURING DRILLING.
3. THE DEPTH TO ROCK FOR HOLES 93-03 AND 93-05 IS SHOWN ALONG THE MEASURED PATH OF LATERAL DRIFT AT THE ACTUAL PLAN LOCATION WHERE ROCK WAS ENCOUNTERED. IN HOLE W8, ROCK WAS NOT ENCOUNTERED TO THE DEPTH OF 200.5 FEET AT WHICH THE HOLE WAS TERMINATED.
4. THE DEPTH TO ROCK IS WITH RESPECT TO EXISTING GROUND SURFACE WHICH IS ABOUT 10 FEET LOWER THAN ORIGINAL GROUND SURFACE IN THE AREA OF THE MONEY PIT.
5. HOLES W2 AND W9 MAY BE INCLINED TO THE NORTH TOWARD THE DEEP ROCK AREA SINCE THEY ARE SURROUNDED BY HOLES WITH SHALLOW DEPTH TO ROCK.

SCALE
1" = 10'
5 0 5 10 15 pi

FIGURE 10A
PLAN OF HOLES SHOWING DEPTH TO ROCK AT MONEY PIT

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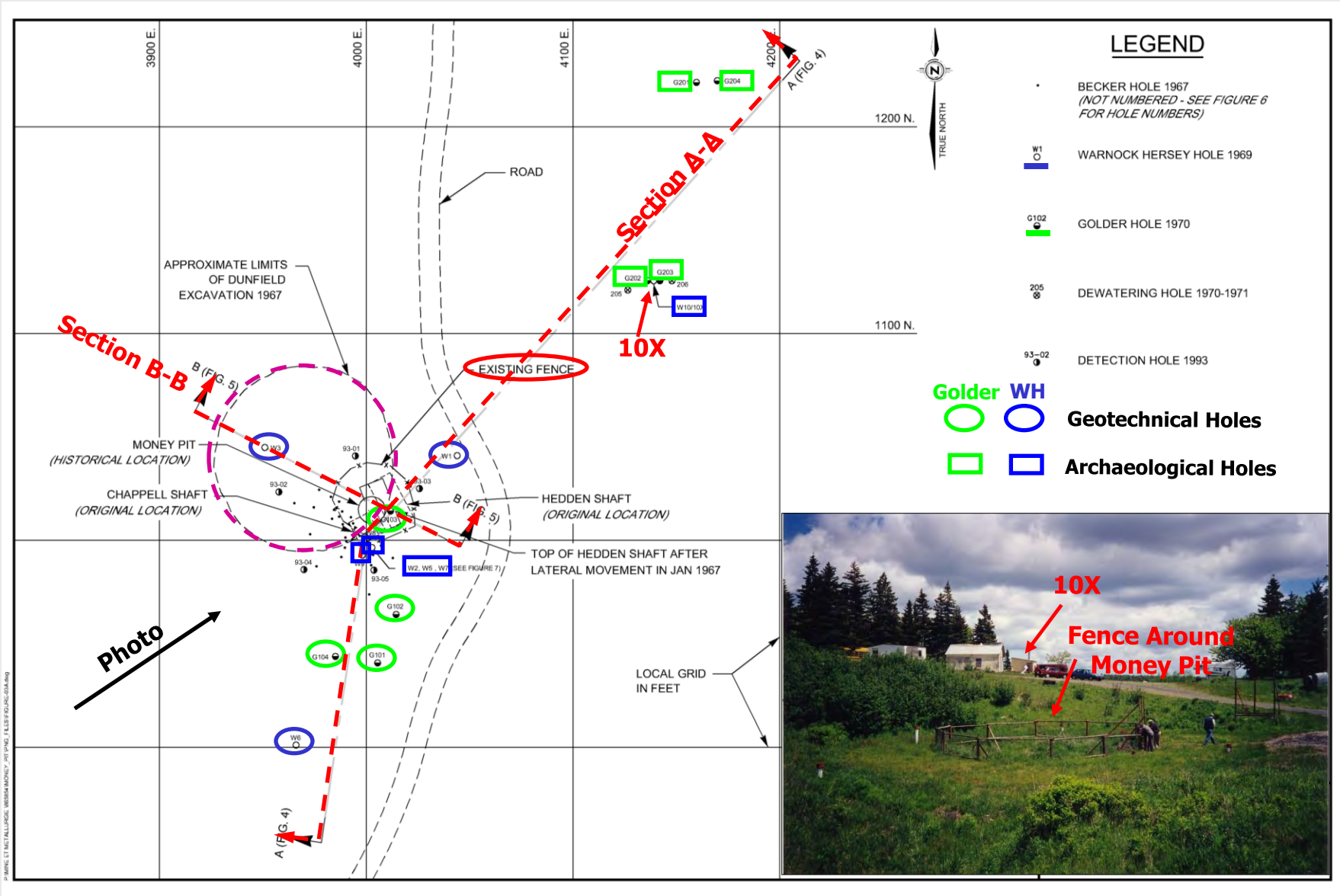
Geotechnical Programs by Triton Alliance

1. **Triton Alliance held Treasure Trove License and Oak Island tours owned property.**

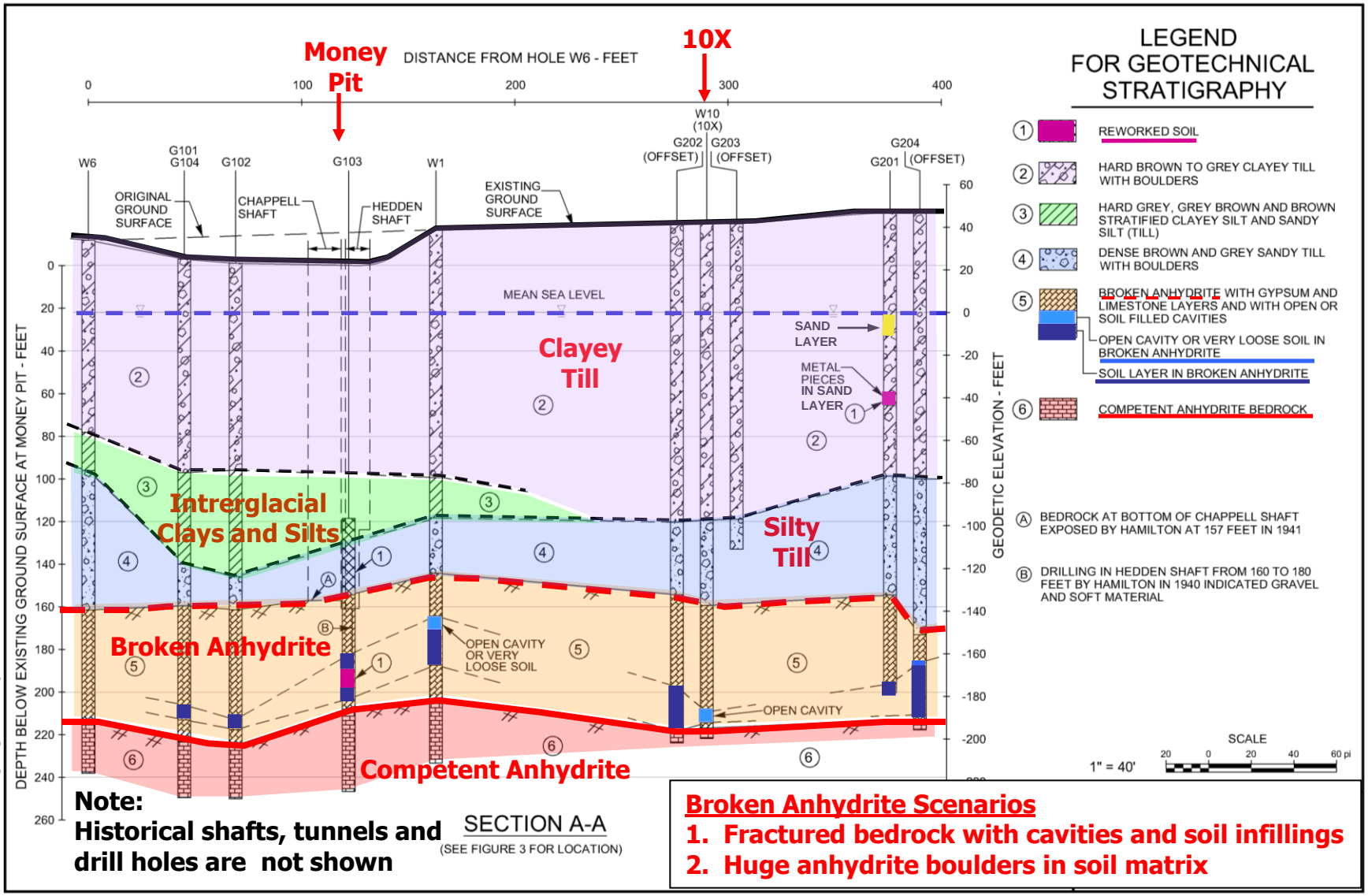
2. **In 1969 Warnock Hersey put down 3 geotechnical holes in the Money Pit area and a number of archaeological holes. Work was managed by Hector Jacques.**

3. **In 1970 Golder Associates put down 4 geotechnical holes in the Money Pit area and 4 archaeological holes northeast of the Money Pit. Work was managed by John Davis and reviewed by Hugh Golder.**

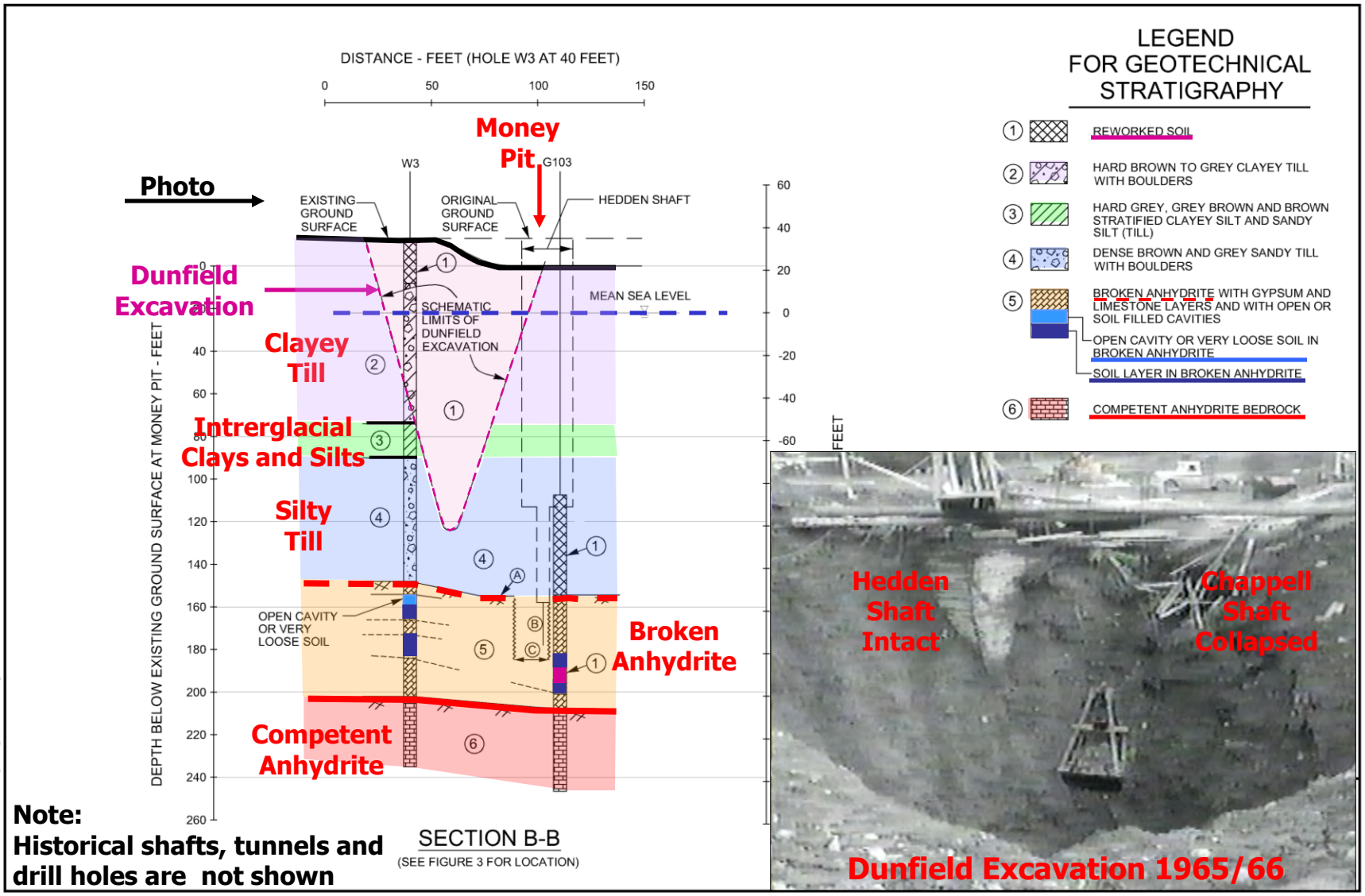
Plan of Exploration Boreholes



Geotechnical Section A-A at Money Pit and 10X



Geotechnical Section B-B at Money Pit and Dunfield Excavation



Note:
Historical shafts, tunnels and drill holes are not shown

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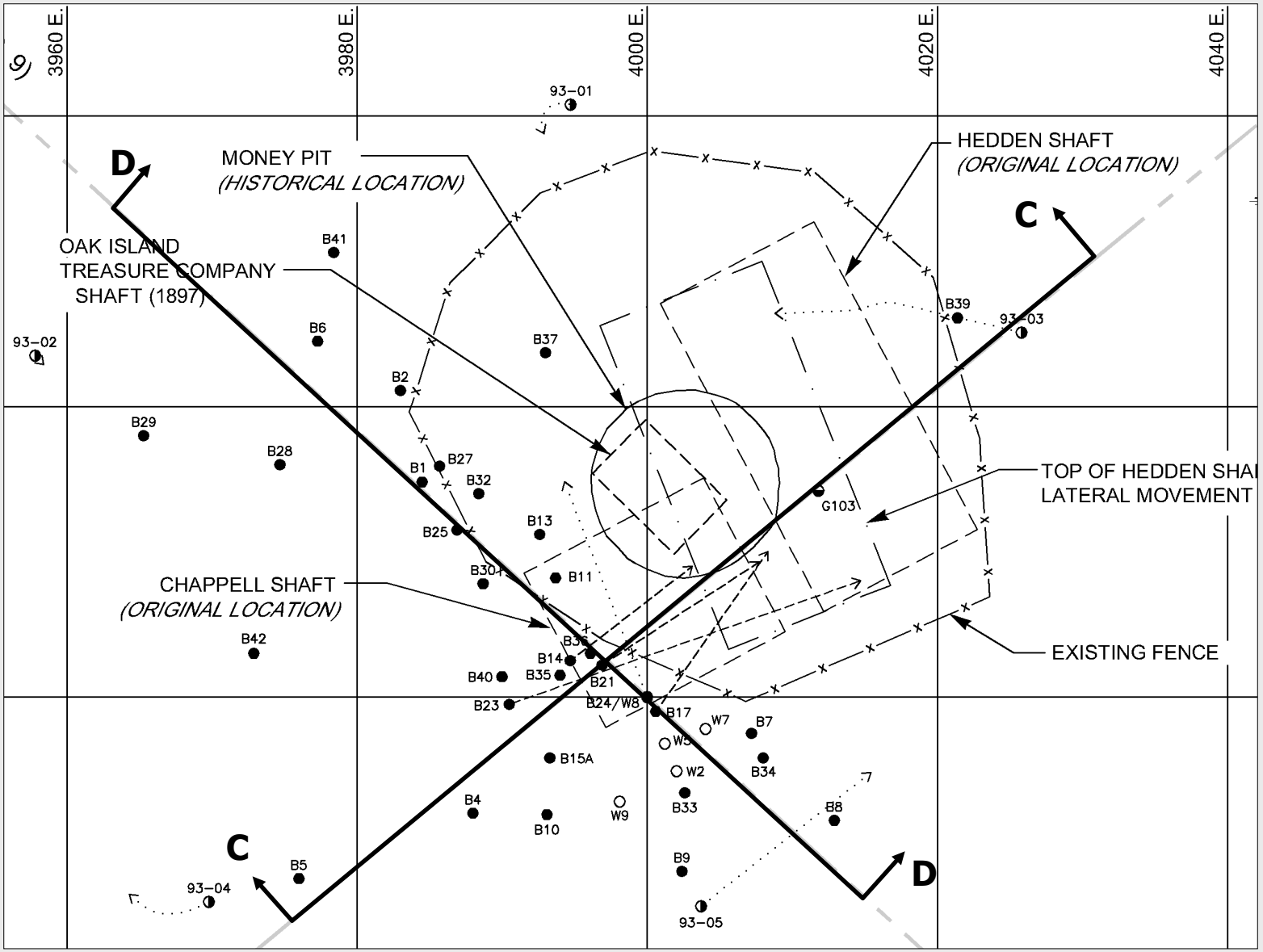
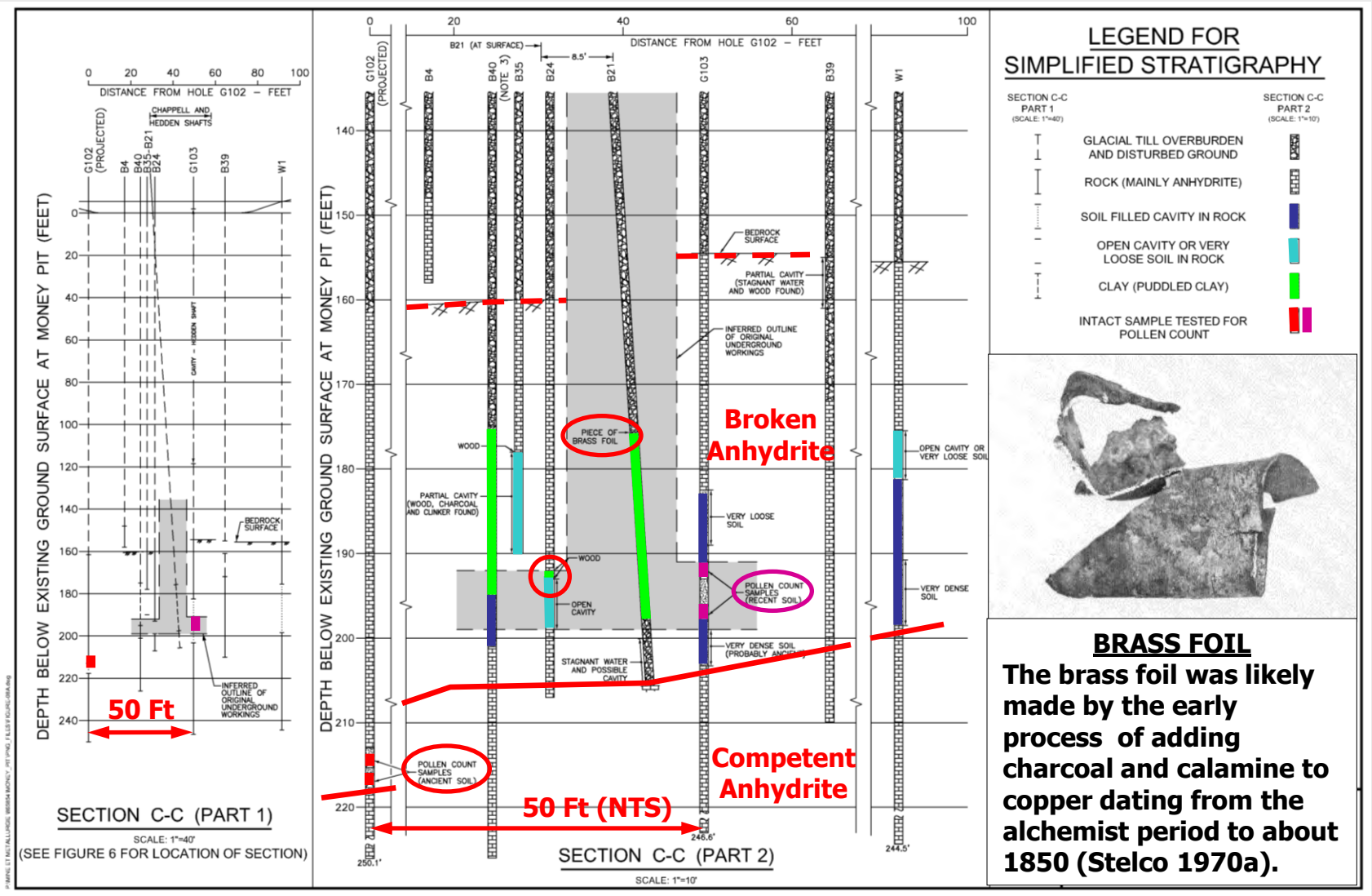
Plan of Archaeological Sections at Money Pit



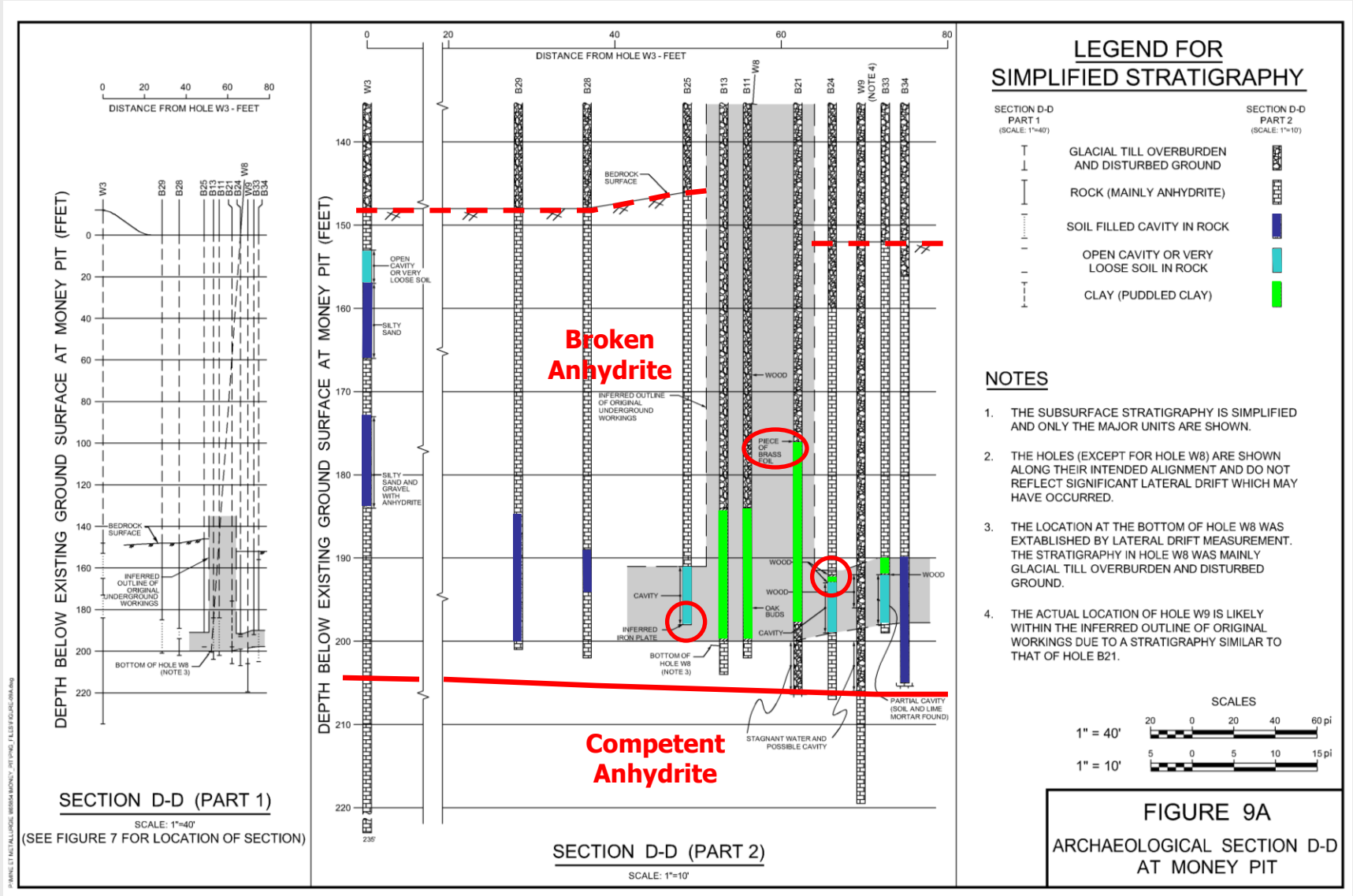
Archaeological Section C-C at Money Pit



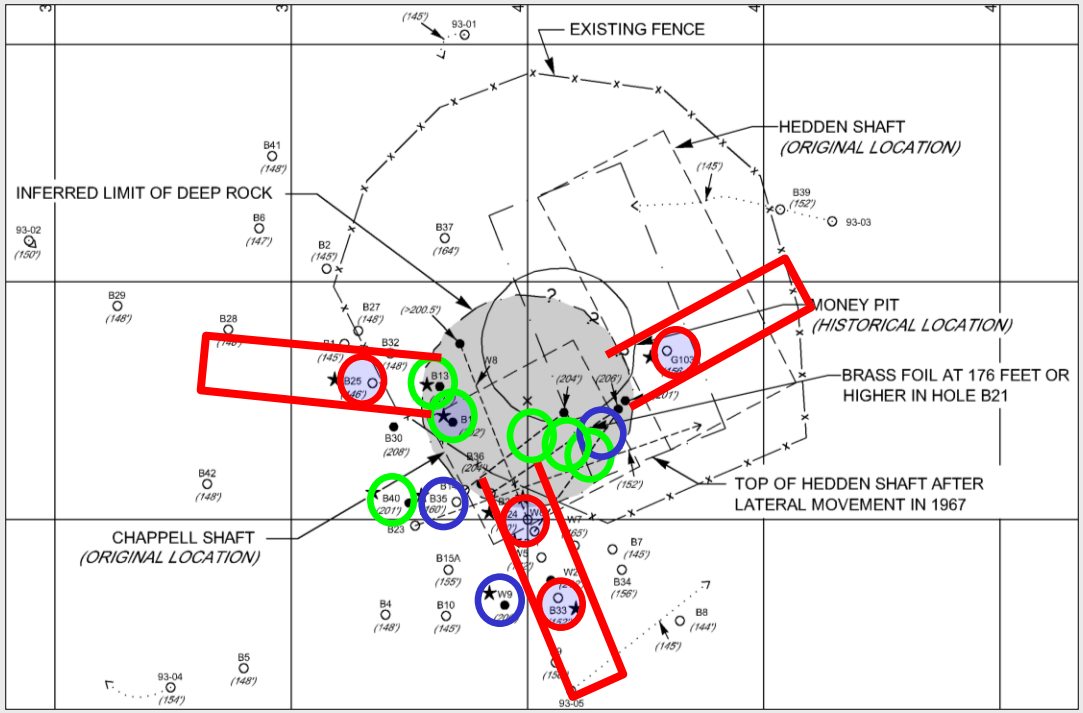
BRASS FOIL

The brass foil was likely made by the early process of adding charcoal and calamine to copper dating from the alchemist period to about 1850 (Stelco 1970a).

Archaeological Section D-D at Money Pit

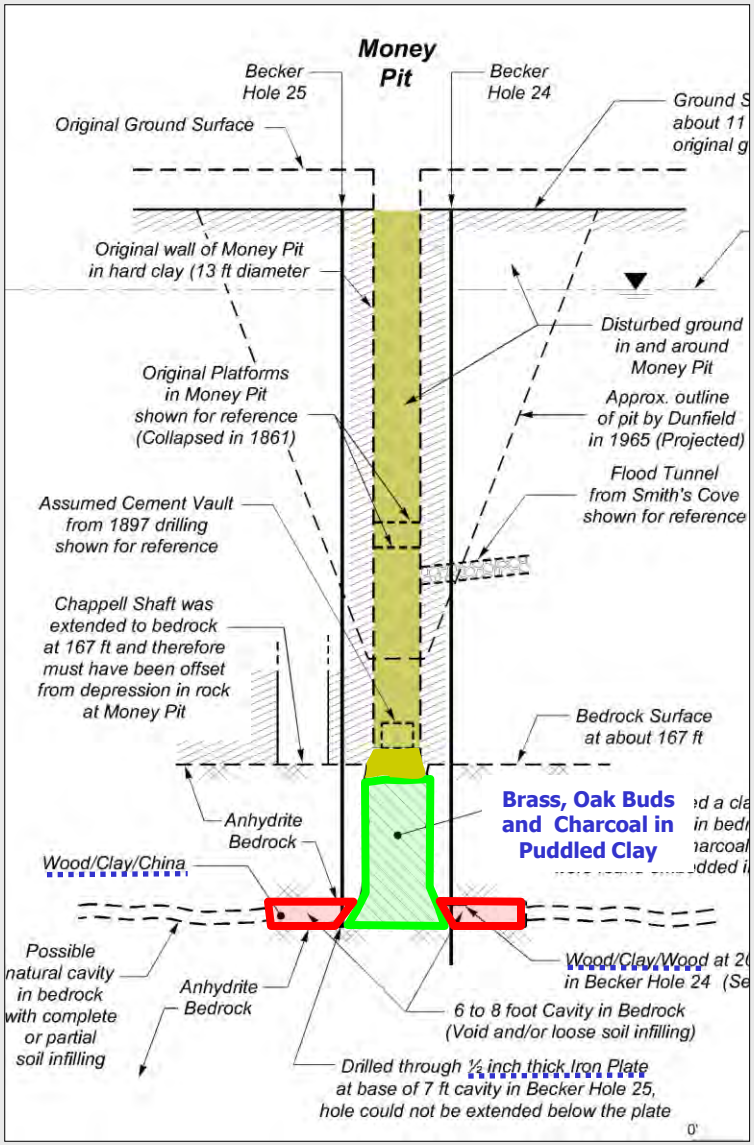


Summary of Archaeological Features at Money Pit



★HOLES WITH ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

HOLE	FEATURES	DEPTH
B11	PUDDLED CLAY, OAK BUDS	184-200
B13/14	PUDDLED CLAY	184-200
B17	PUDDLED CLAY	176-198
B21	BRASS FOIL, PUDDLED CLAY, STAGNANT WATER	176-205
B24	INFERRED CHAMBER, CHINA FRAGMENT, WOOD	192-199
B25	INFERRED CHAMBER, IRON PLATE	191-198
B33	INFERRED CHAMBER, WOOD, LIME MORTAR	190-198
B35	WOOD, CHARCOAL, CLINKER	178-190
B40	PUDDLED CLAY	175-195
W9	WOOD, STAGNANT WATER	192-206
G103	REWORKED RECENT SOIL (INFERRED CHAMBER)	191-198



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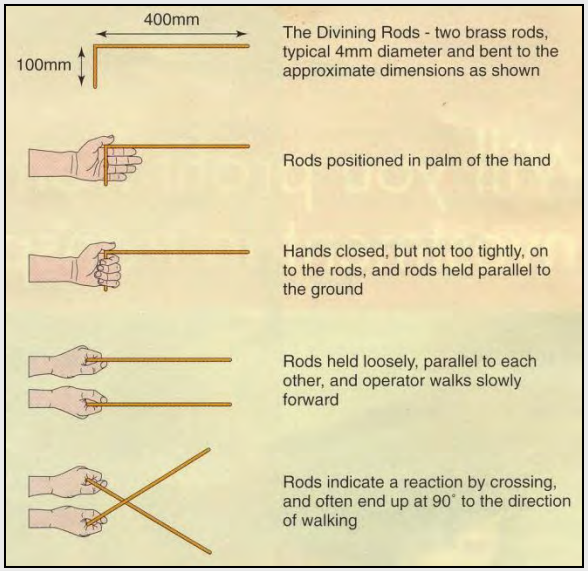
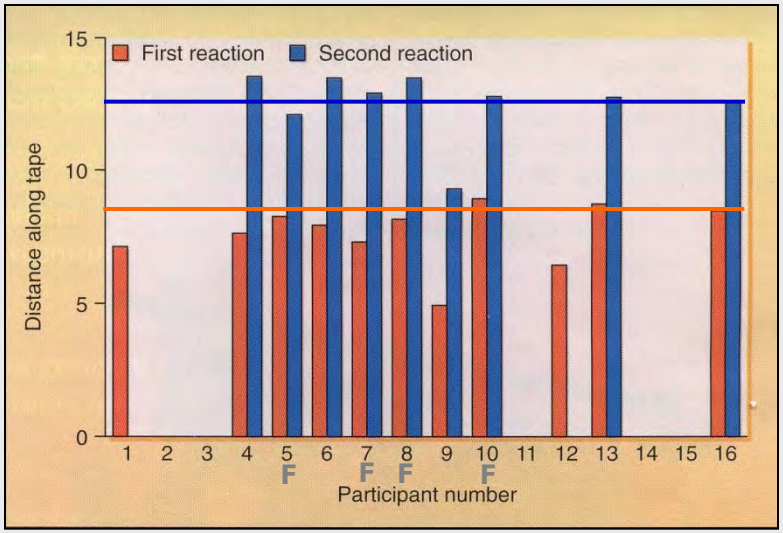
Finding 10X in Oct 1969

Oak Island ca 1969

Dowsing Experiment June 2000
Nottingham Trent University, UK

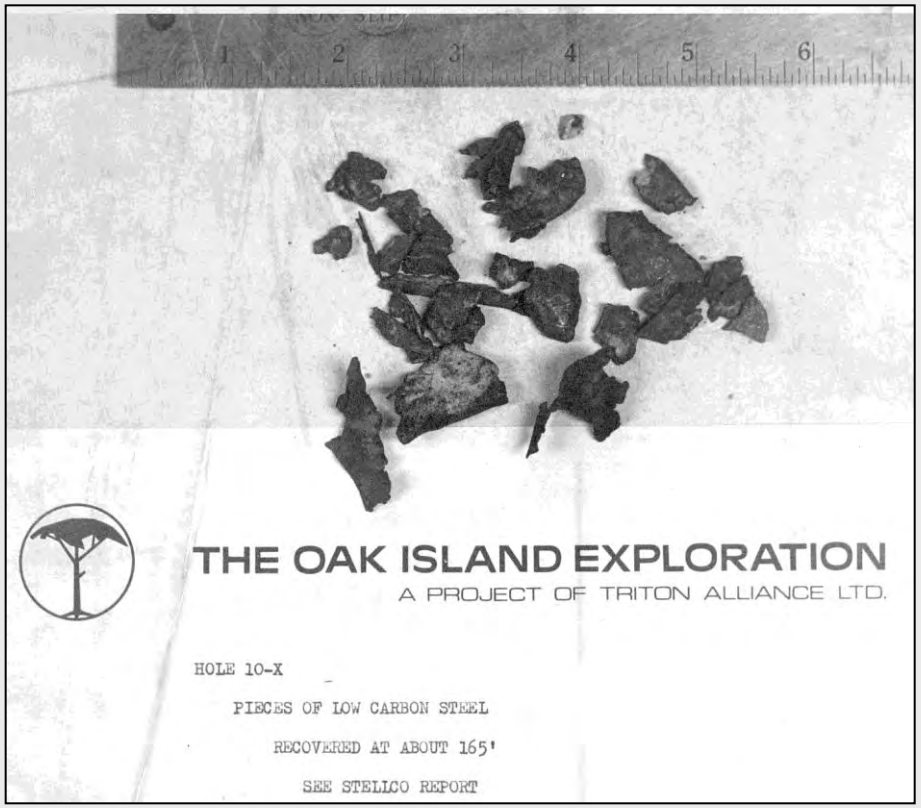




Reaction Experienced By Participants	Number of Participants out of 16	Percent of Participants
First Feature 8m	11	69%
Second Feature 13m	9	56%
No Reaction	5	31%

Ref: Greenwood and Price 2001 (Ground Engineering, the Magazine of the British Geotechnical Association)

Metal Pieces from Hole 10 at 165 Feet

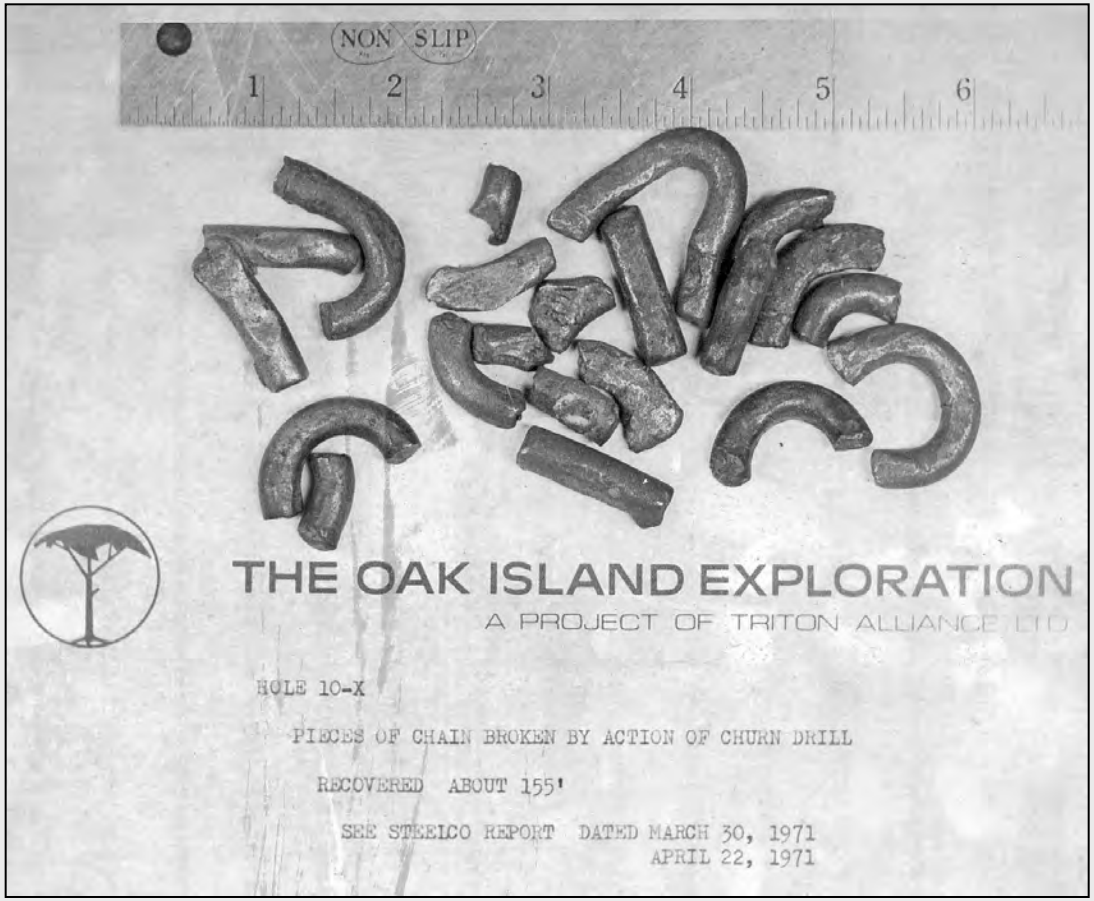


"(a) and (b) Borehole 10 – Ferrous rolled metal
The steel samples (a) and (b) contain slags, but the combination of 0.20 C and 0.45 Mn with low phosphorous, is very close to a C 1020 type steel, and while it may have been early steel, it is unlikely to have been produced prior to 1856." (Stelco 1970a – Aug 18)

Note:
Sample recovered in Oct 1969 and transmitted with letter dated July 28, 1970

The metal was bright and soft (malleable) when it came out of the ground. Within minutes the metal started to oxidize and small rust specs appeared. Overnight the metal hardened noticeably. (Triton Jan 29, 1970)

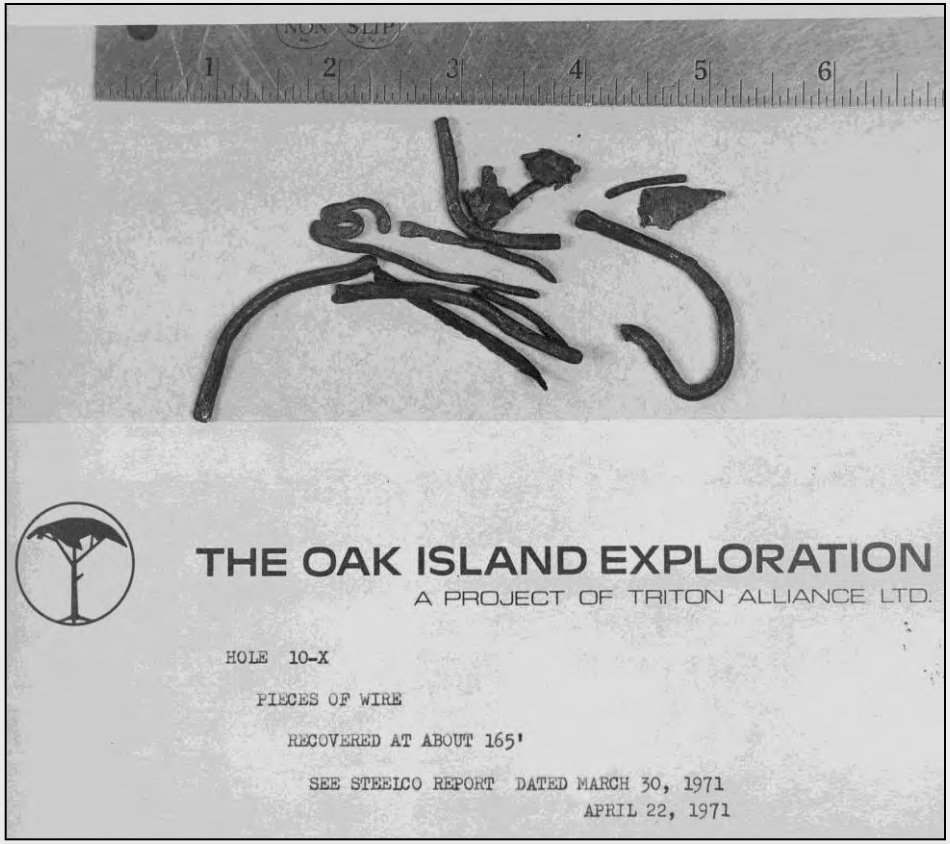
Chain Pieces from Hole 10X



"Chain
The treatment is archaic. .... The cleanliness of the steel indicates the possibility of use of Swedish steel. Until after 1747, the British Navy would not use English steels. The metal of the chain could be from before that time; the treatment would not likely be countenanced by later knowledge." (Stelco 1971a – Mar 30)

"Metal from 175 – 198 Ft.
The two welded pieces of chain were very interesting. They were fire welded and case hardened after welding." (Stelco 1971b – Apr 22)

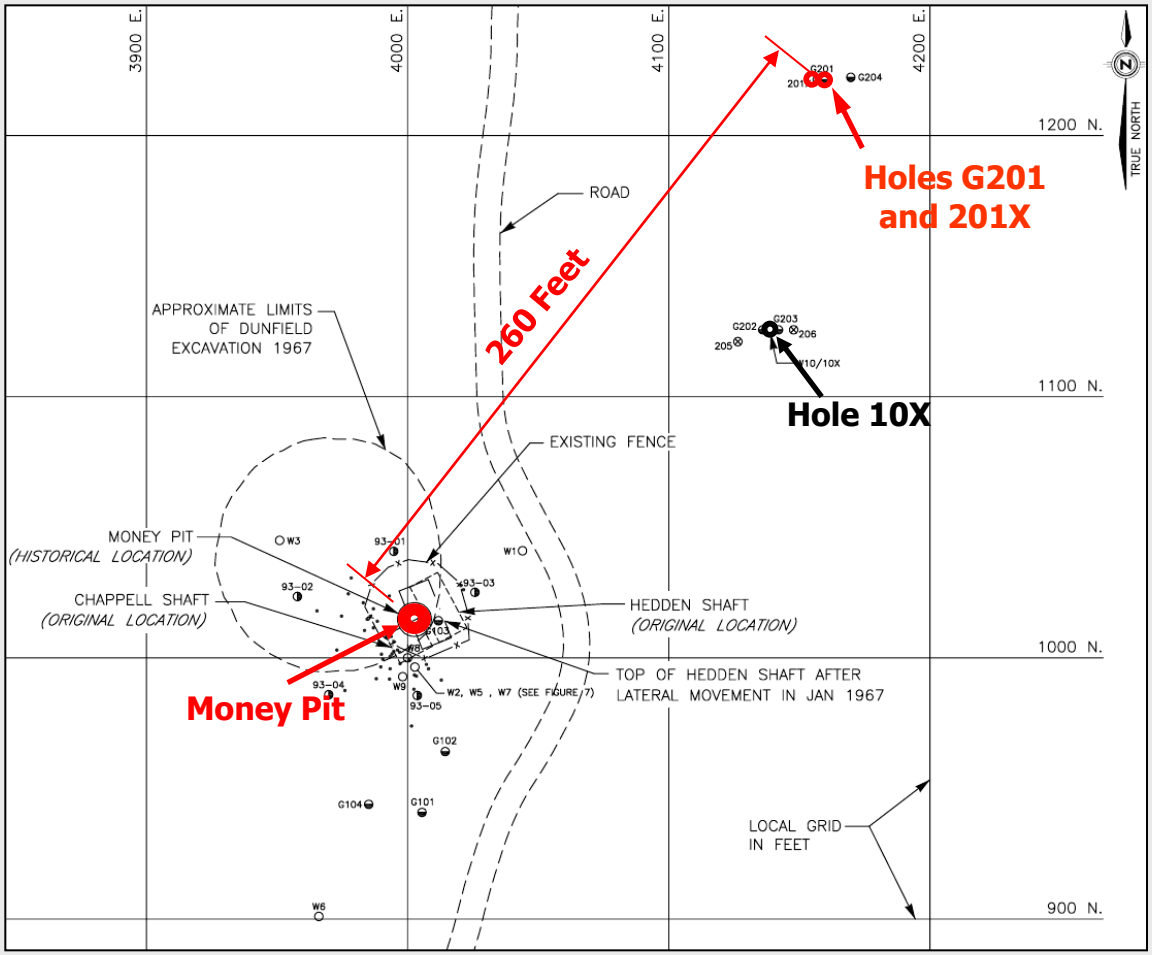
Wire Pieces from Hole 10X

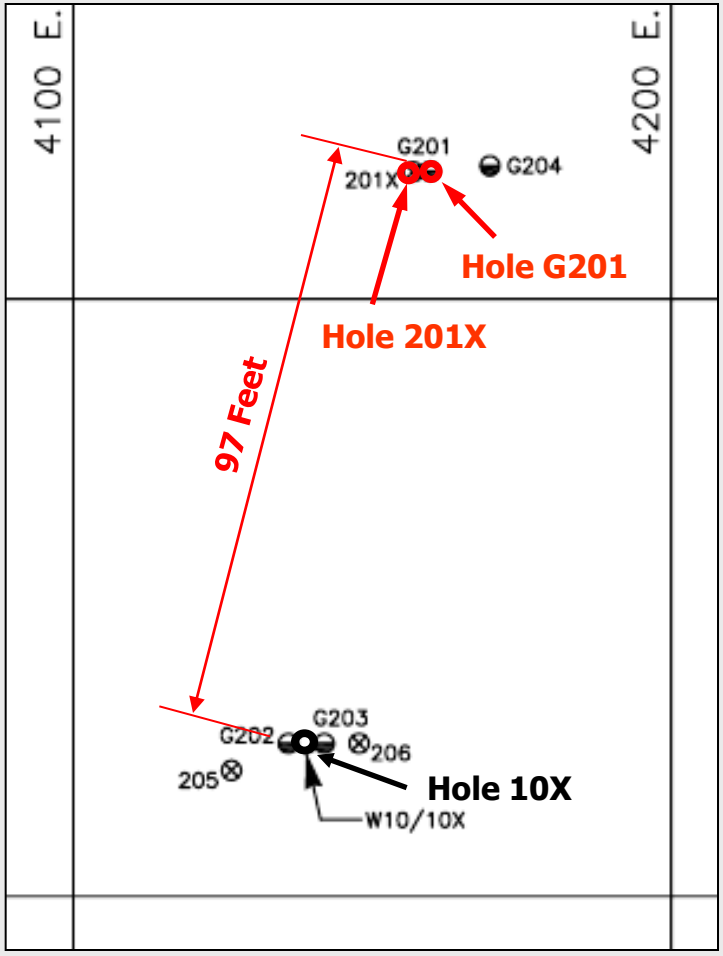


"Wire Samples
Poor surface quality was probably due to early seamy rod production and poor wire lubrication. .... The steel is relatively free of dirt and inclusions, and could again be of Swedish steel ...." (Stelco 1971a – Mar 30)

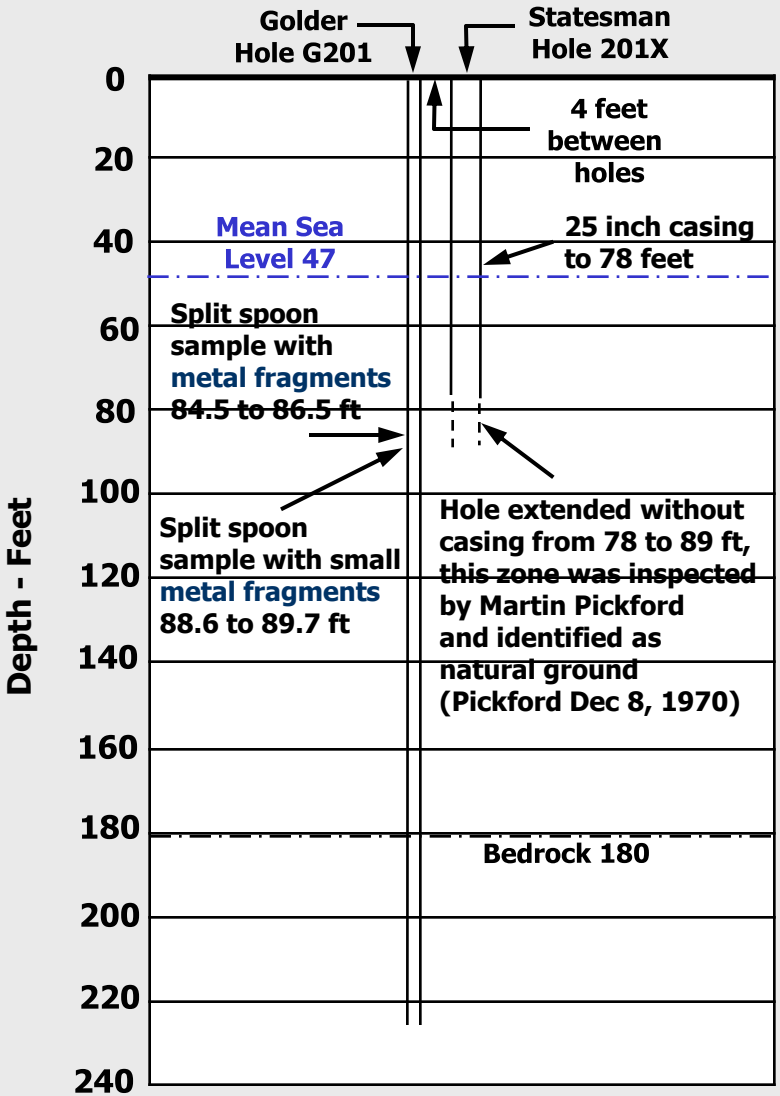
"Metal from 175 – 198 Ft.
The wire samples are not wrought iron, but a cemented steel and ..... the grain structure flows around the inclusions. This is characteristic of older pieces of metal and would not be expected, even in highly drawn material of this sort, in a modern steel. I therefore consider this material to be pre-1850 and possibly pre-1800." (Stelco 1971b – Apr 22)

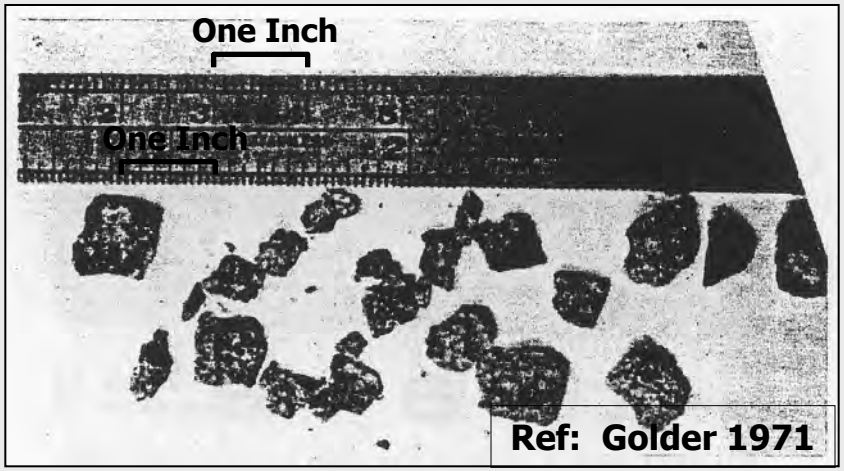
Plan of Holes G201 and 201X





Metal Fragments in Golder Borehole G201



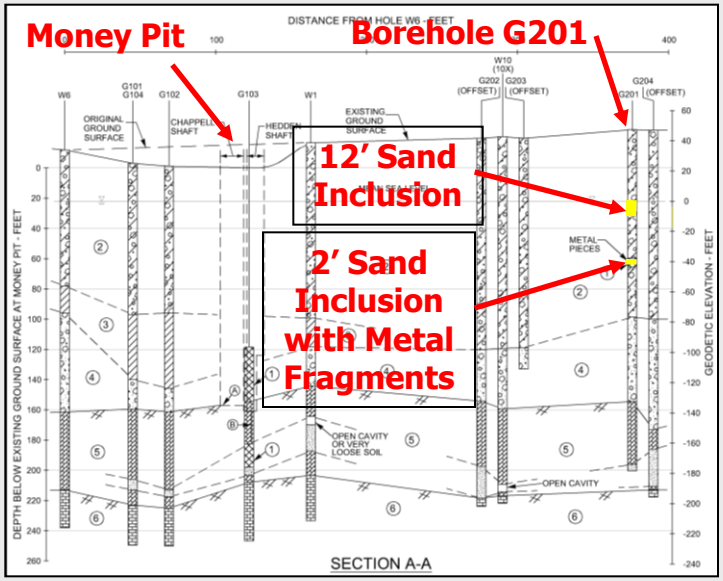


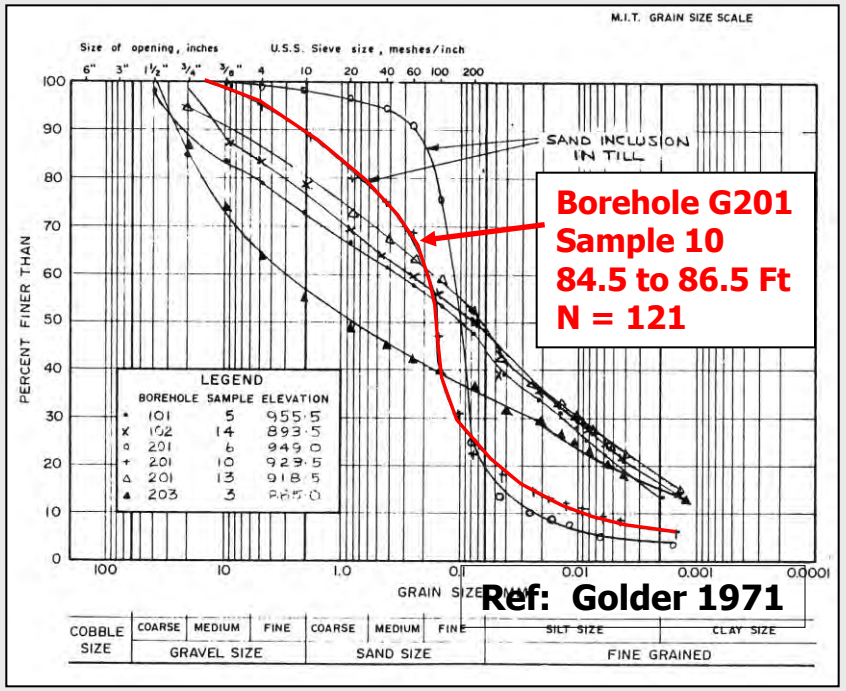
Metal fragments from 84.5 to 86.5 feet are friable wrought iron produced prior to 1800. (Stelco 1970c – Nov 19)

Metal fragments were found embedded in sand sample during sieve analysis (Golder 1971)

Typical Split Spoon Sample

Gradation of Sand Sample with Embedded Metal Fragments in Golder Borehole G201 at 85 Ft

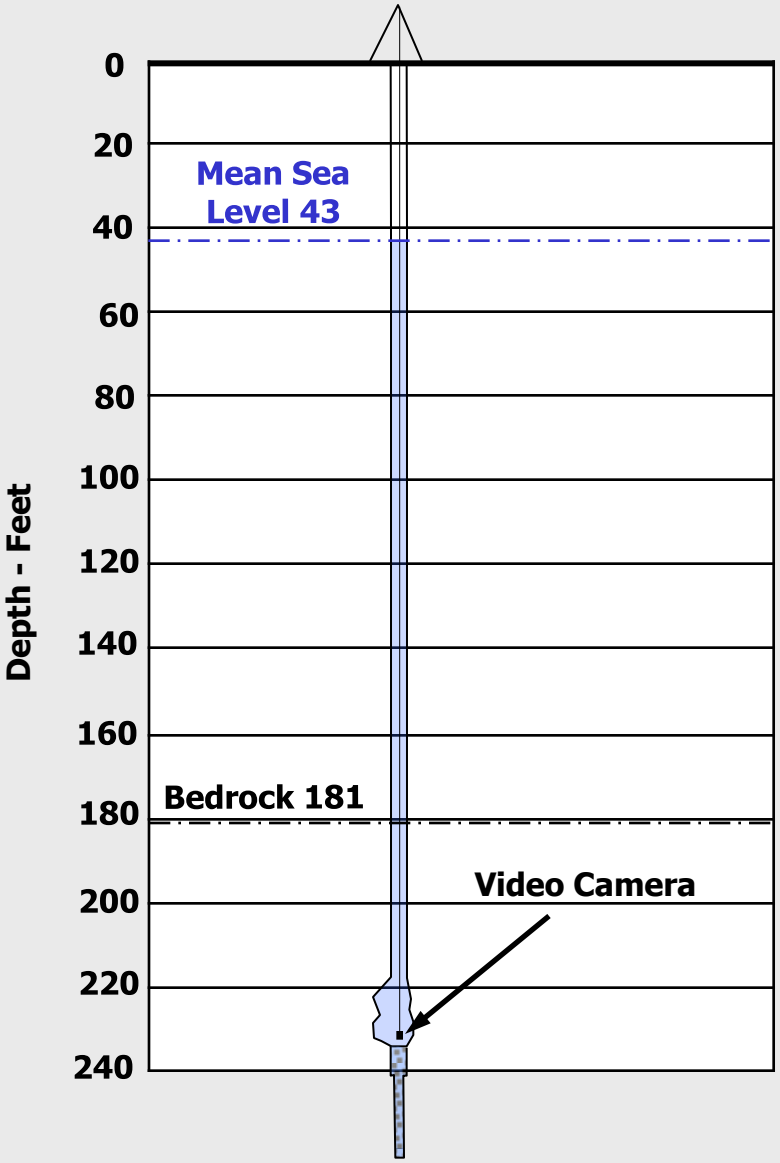




Ref: Golder 1971

Metal fragments found embedded in sand sample during sieve analysis (Golder 1971)

Schematic of Video Camera in Hole 10X August 1971

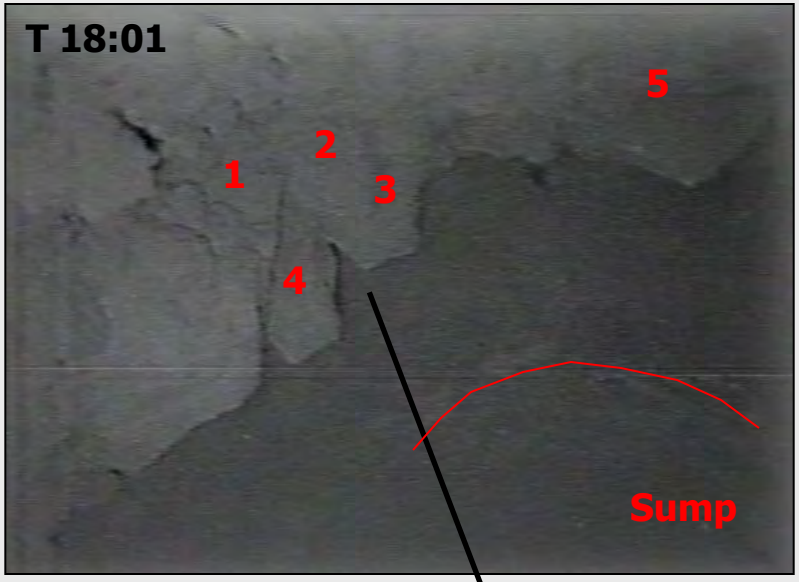


1. The water level in the hole was at about mean sea level.

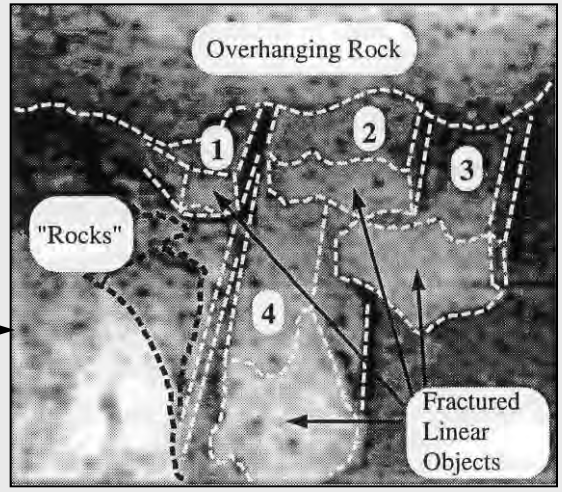
2. The video camera was lowered on a cable to the cavity in bedrock.

3. The video camera could be moved vertically or could be rotated on the suspension cable.

Images from 10X Video
Lower Layer of Rock Slabs

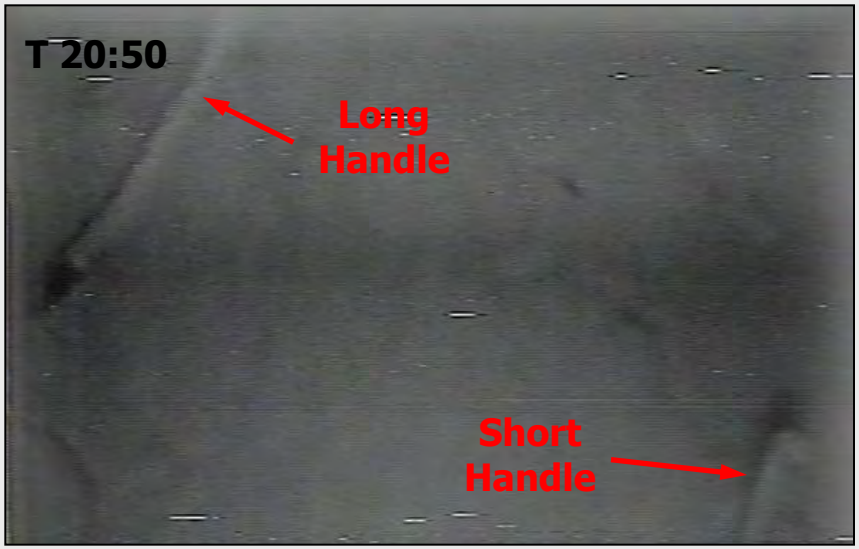


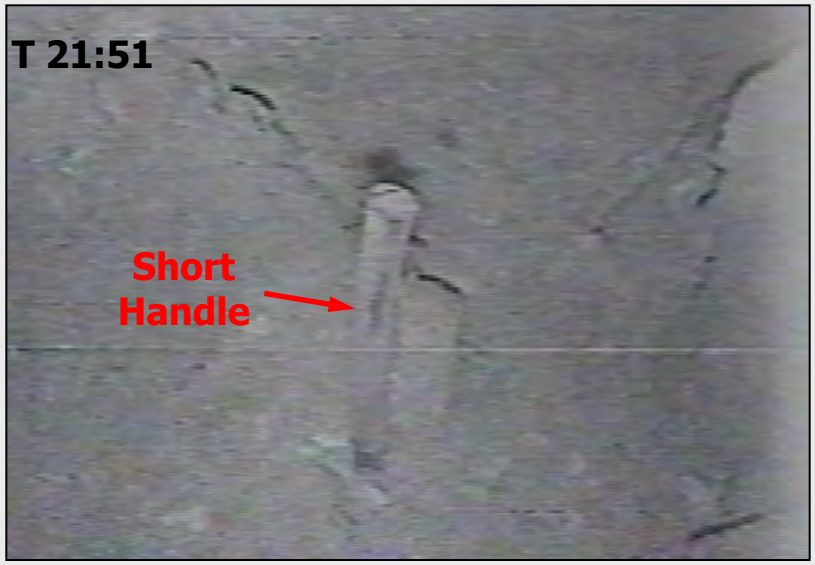
Interpretation as Boards Image Ref: Ritter and Schmalz 1995

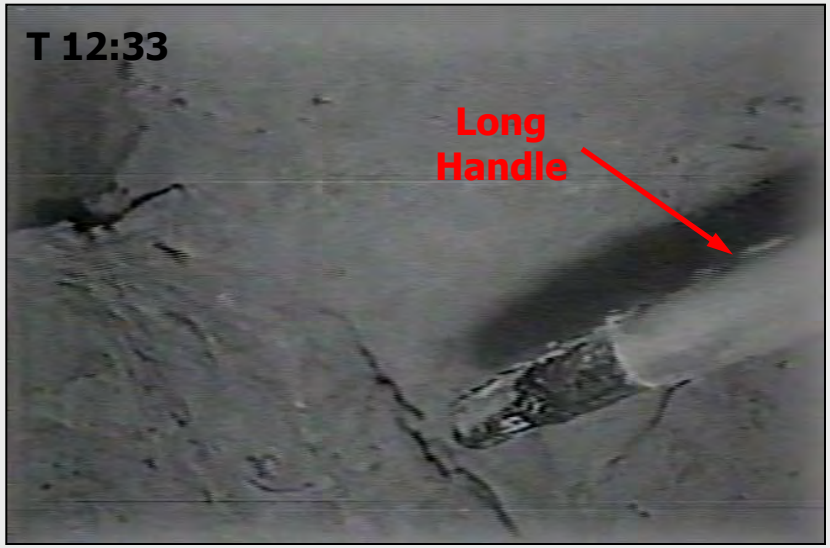


2

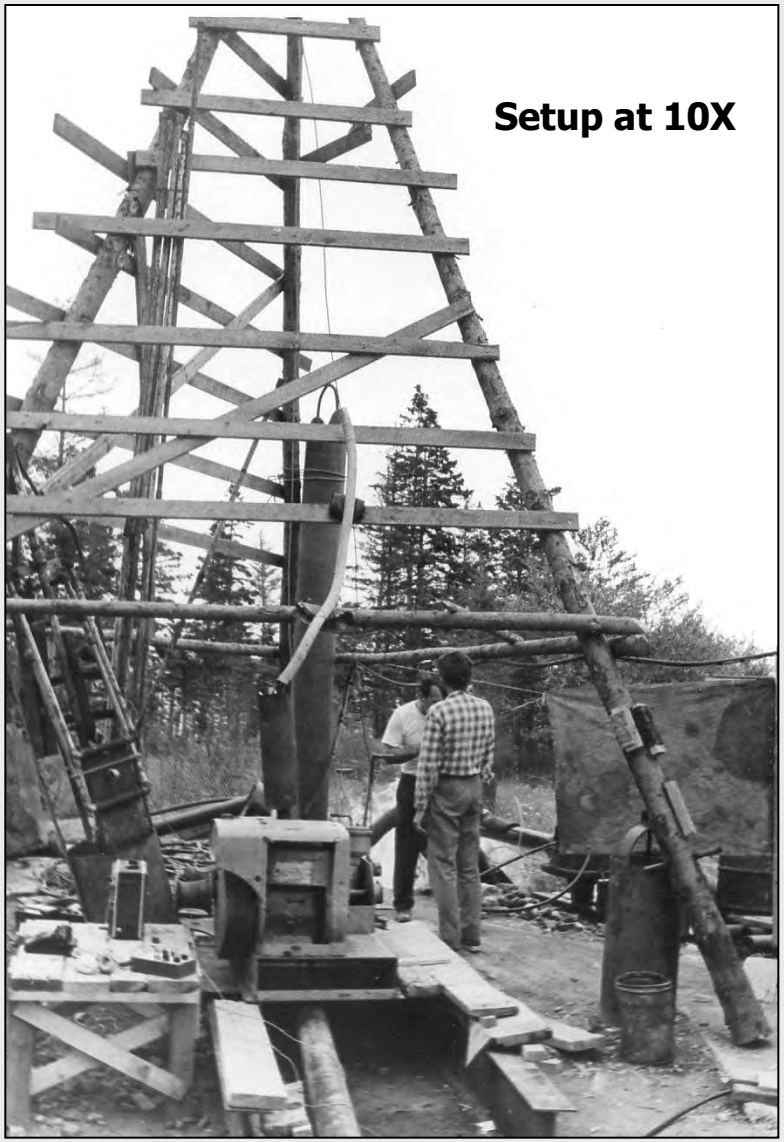
Images from 10X Video – Assumed Tool Handles

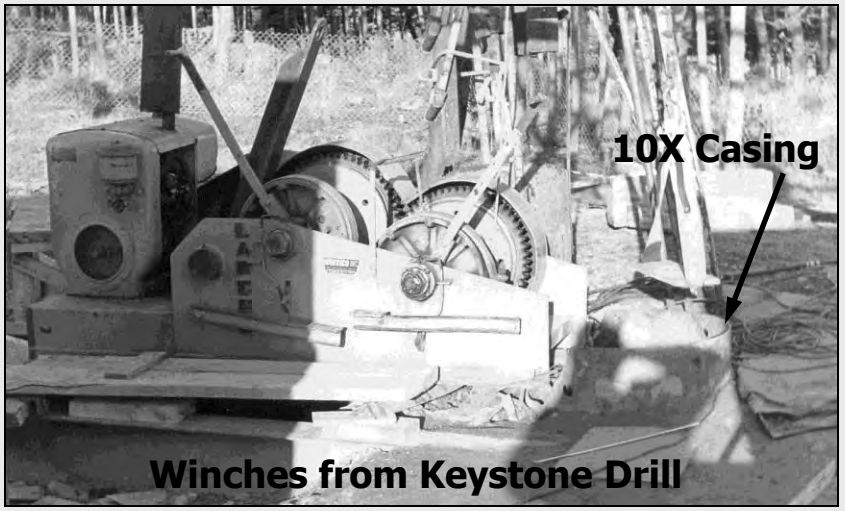




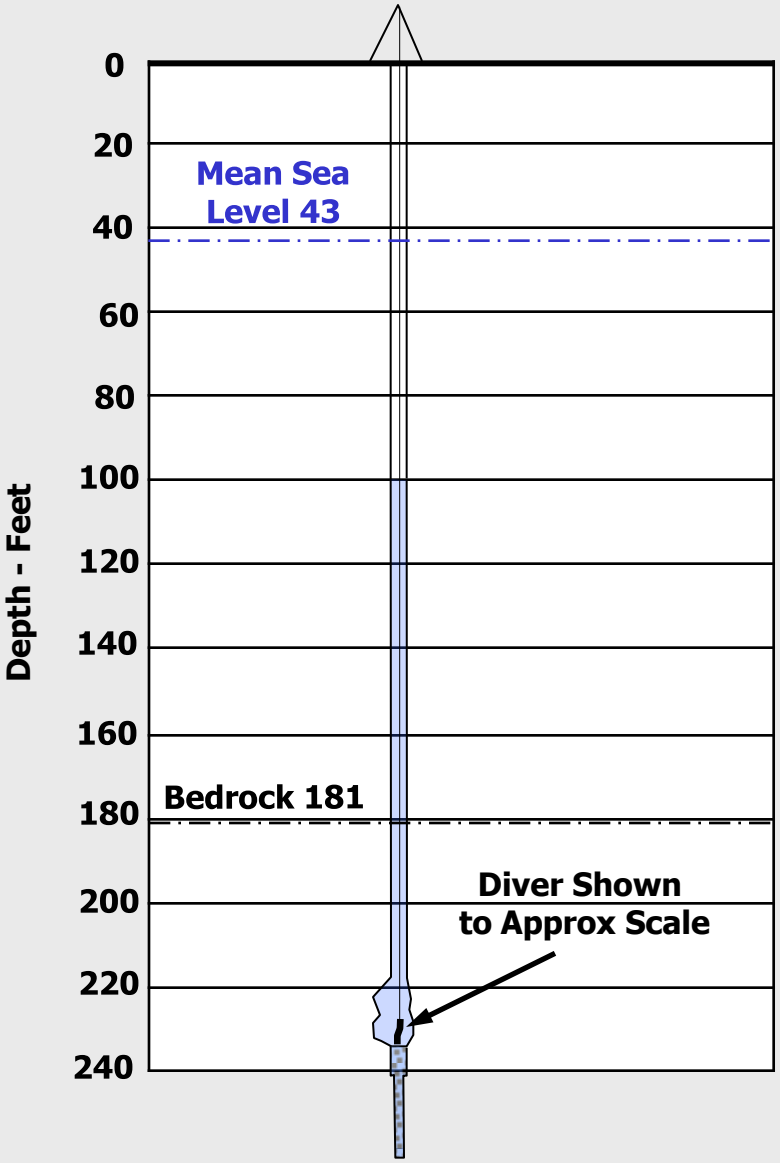


Setup for Diving in 10X Casing Sept 1972





Schematic of Diving in 10X Casing

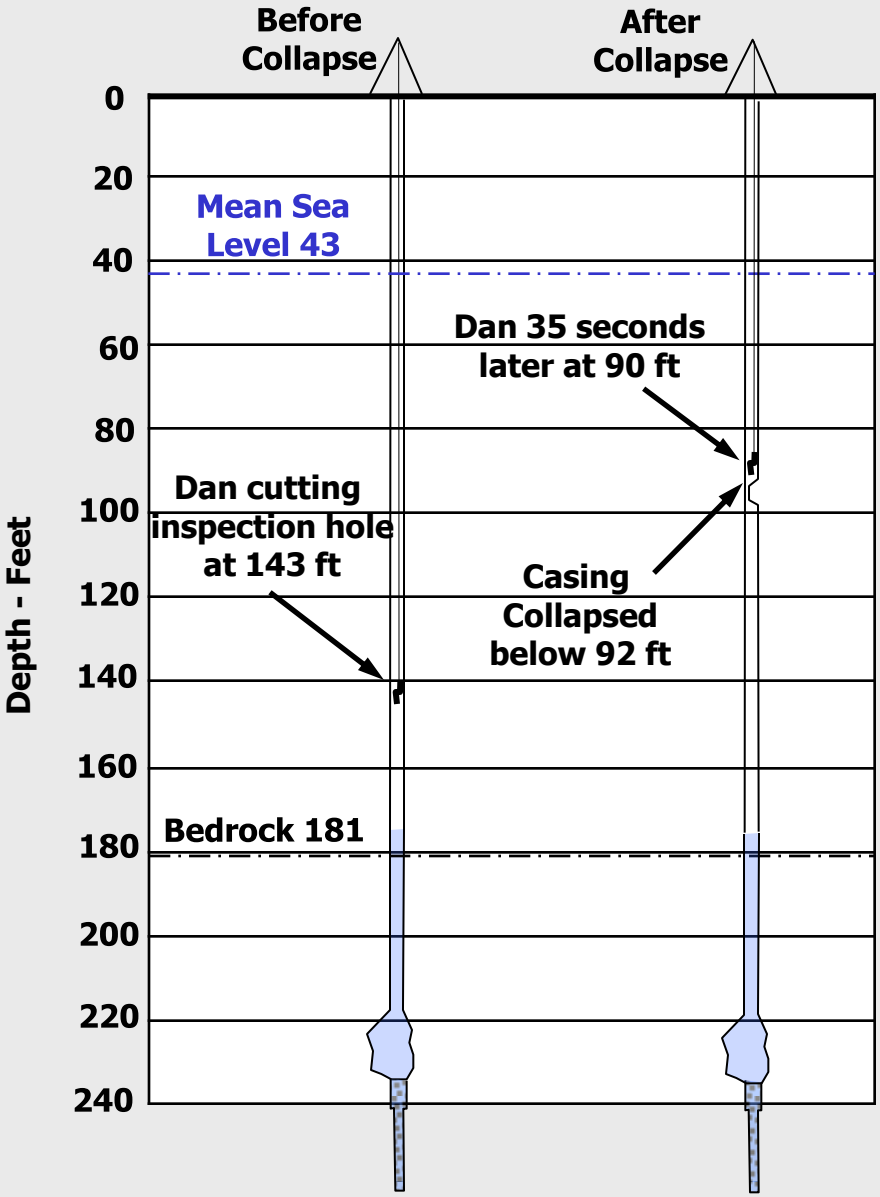


1. The first step in diving involved lowering the water level to about 100 feet by pumping.

2. The diver would then be lowered to the water level on a special seat.

3. The diver would then slip off the seat and be lowered to the cavity at 235 feet depth.

10X Casing Collapse 6 pm Oct 27, 1976



1. The water level in the 27 inch diameter casing was lowered by pumping from an adjacent well to allow inspection holes to be cut into the wall of the casing.
2. While jetting in an inspection hole at 143 feet, Dan Blankenship observed clay being squeezed out of inspection holes below and was raised a few feet.
3. After 30 seconds, Dan heard rumbling from above and shouted to be raised immediately.
4. 35 seconds later Dan was at 90 feet and the casing collapsed below him.
5. 3 minutes later Dan was raised to surface and after 5 minutes went down to 80 feet to inspect the damage.

Ref: Triton Nov 1, 1976

Recovered Section of Collapsed 27 Inch Casing from 10X

Section of collapsed casing recovered below 92 feet

Start of Shaft Construction
Depth 28 feet July/Aug 1978

Railway tank cars trimmed for use as shaft liner

Formwork for top 25 feet of shaft

Top of concrete shaft liner

Looking Down shaft

Shaft Excavation Approaching Bedrock Depth 170 to 181 feet Feb 1990

Excavation below concrete liner at 170 feet

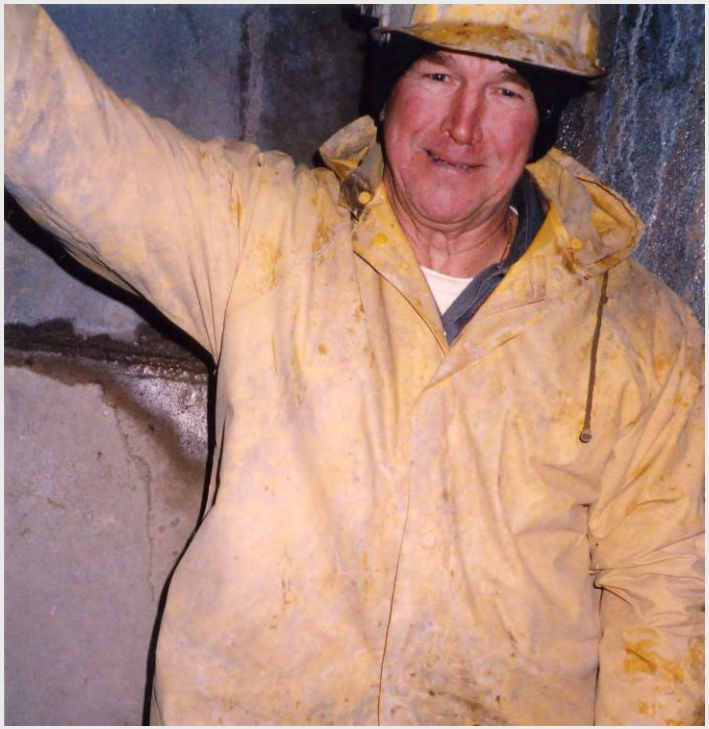
Hoist bucket and excavation below concrete liner

Preparing to cut 27 inch casing

Exposed till below liner and 27 inch casing

David and Dan at the Bottom (180 feet) of Shaft 10X 1990

David Tobias



Dan Blankenship

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Investigation Programs by Triton Alliance 1988 to 1996

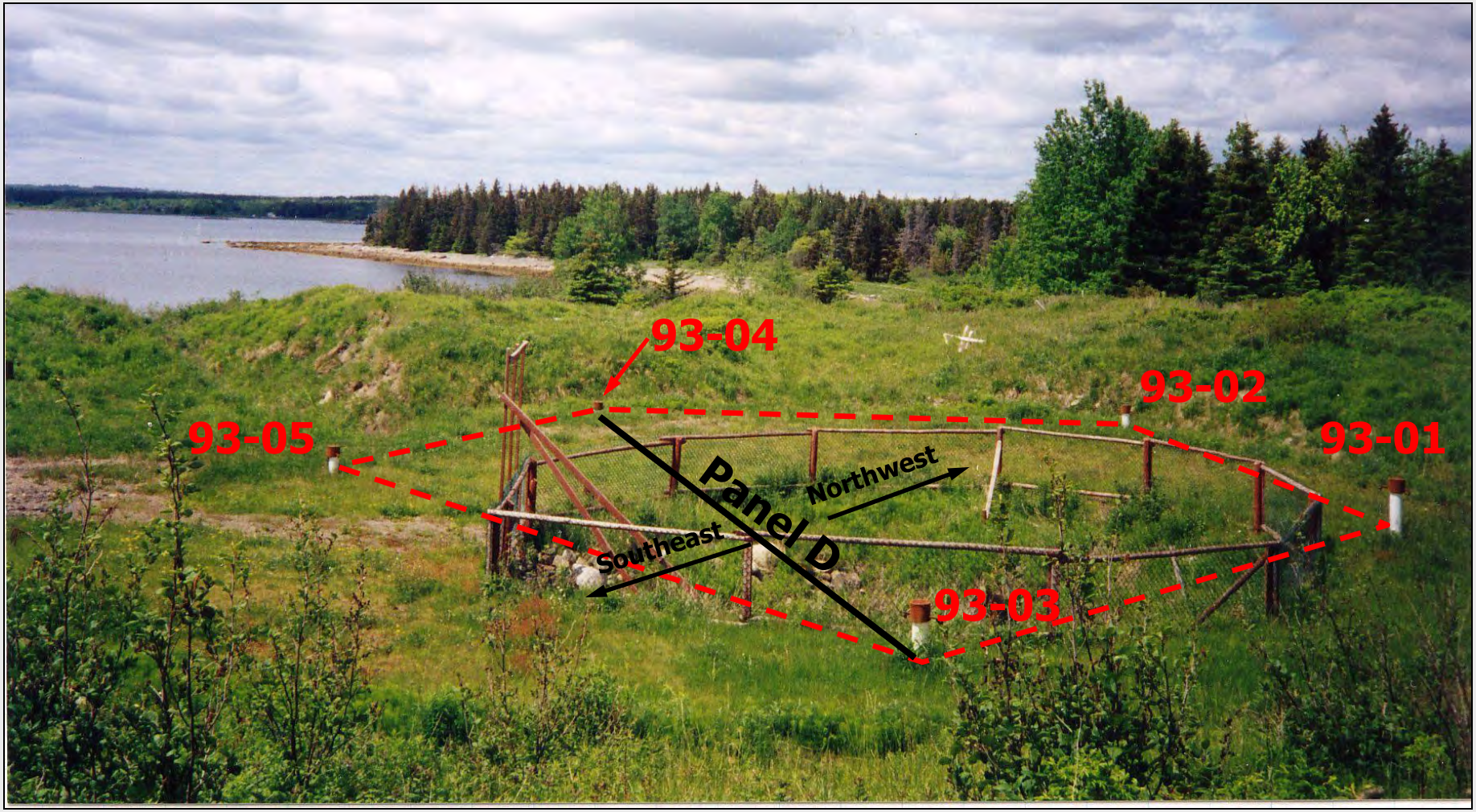
1. Barringer Geophysical Survey 1988
2. Oak Island Detection Program 1992 to 1994
3. Woods Hole Survey 1995
4. Side Scan Sonar Survey by Dave Delaney 1995
5. Bedford Institute of Oceanography Survey 1996

Barringer Geophysical Survey 1988 – People Present

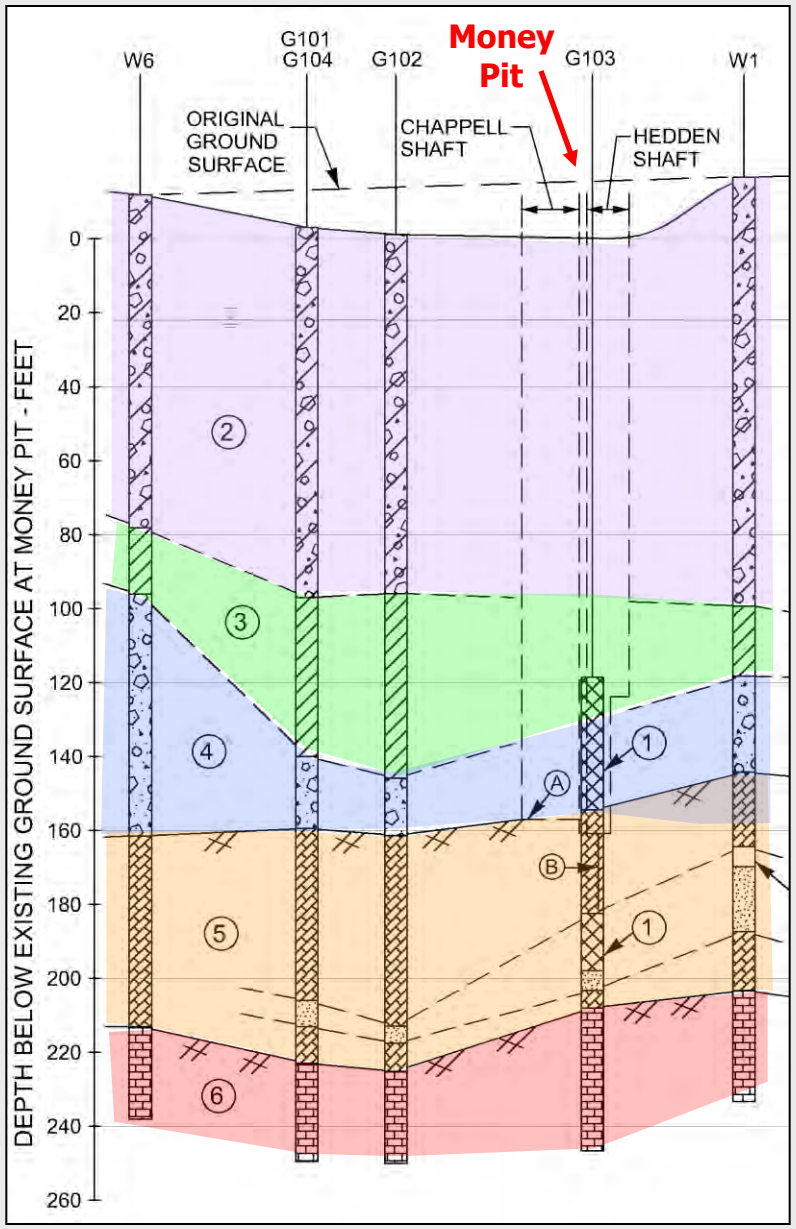
Barringer Geophysical Survey 1988 – Setting out Grid

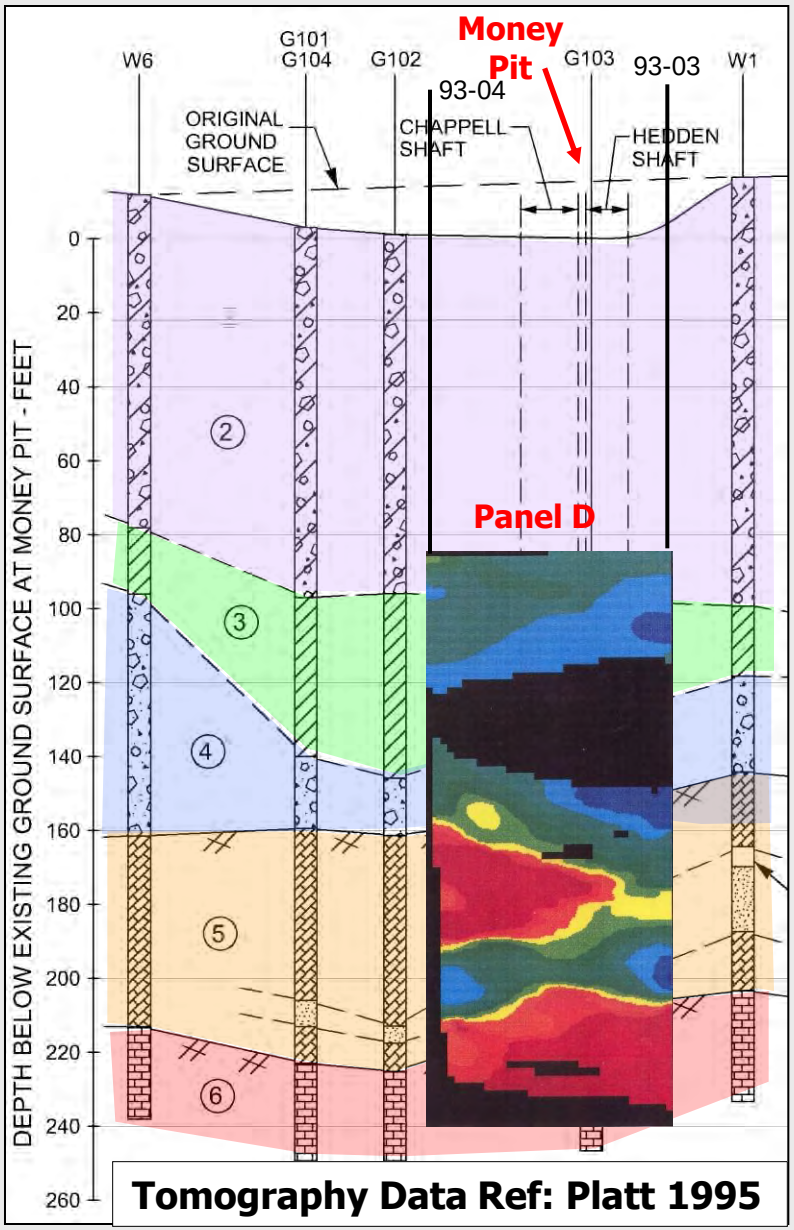
Barringer Geophysical Survey 1988
Magnetic and EM Measurements

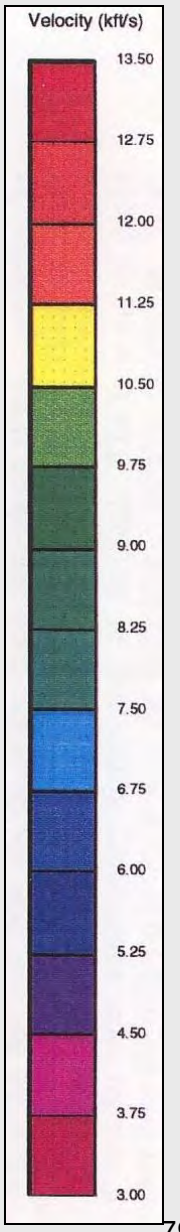
Oak Island Detection Program 1992 to 1994
Seismic Tomography Panel D at Money Pit



Oak Island Detection Program 1992 to 1994
Profile of Tomography Results for Panel D

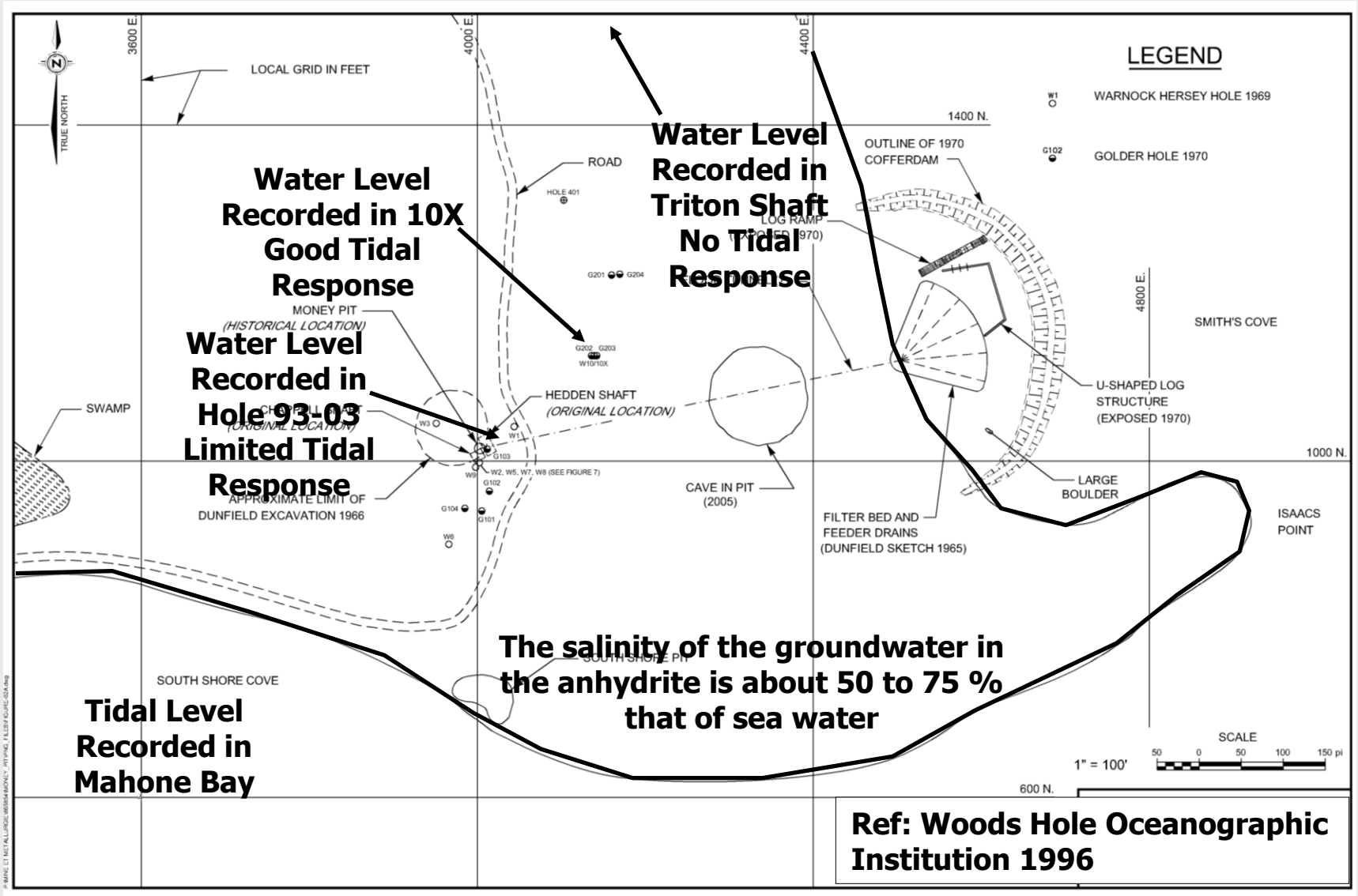




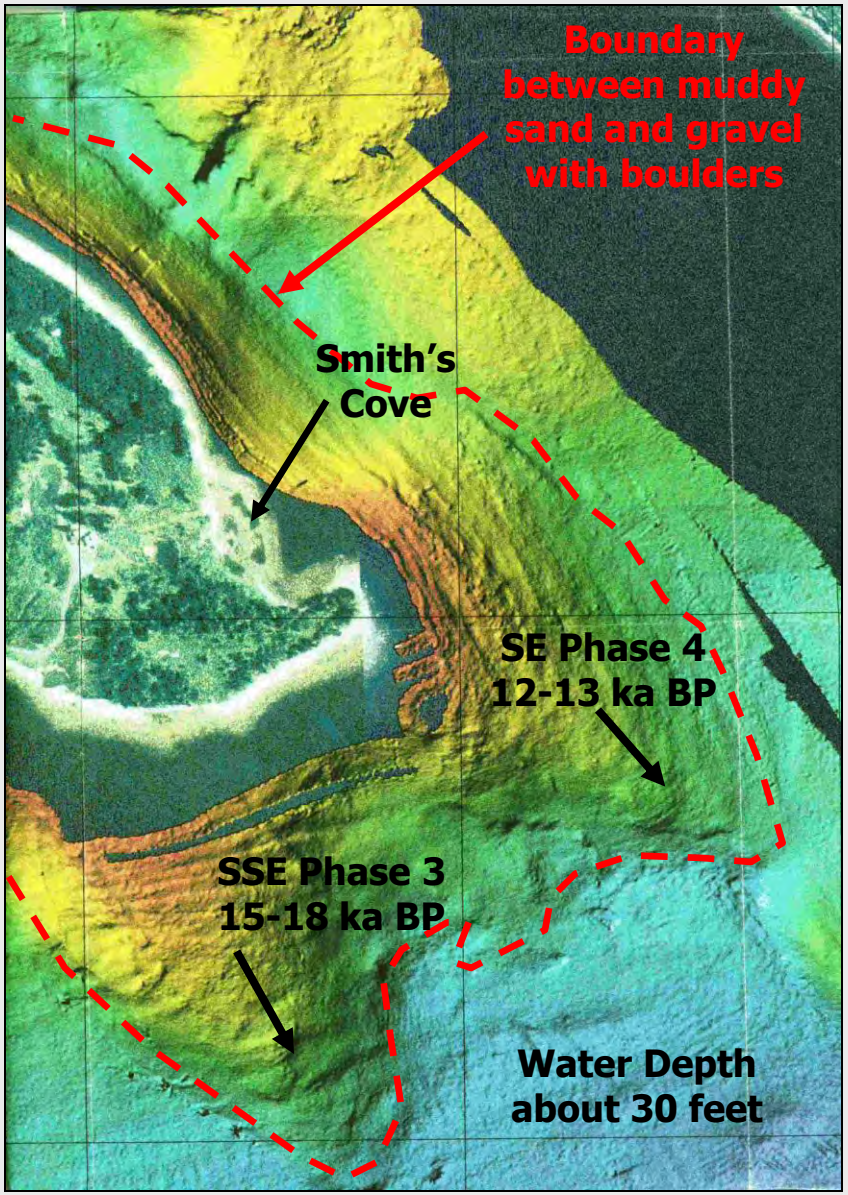


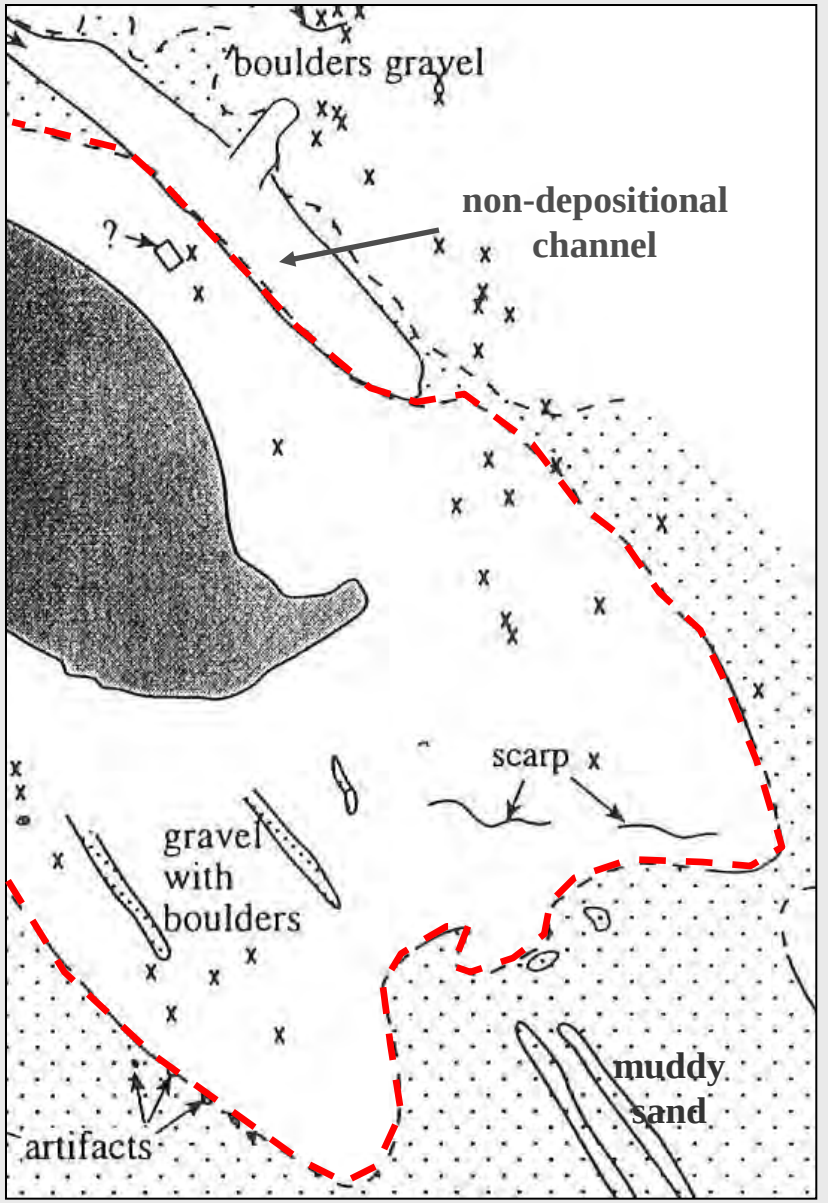
Tomography Data Ref: Platt 1995

Woods Hole Survey 1995
Plan of Tidal Hydrogeology Testing



Bedford Institute of Oceanography Survey 1996





Multibeam Bathymetry Results Ref: Fader and Courtney 1998

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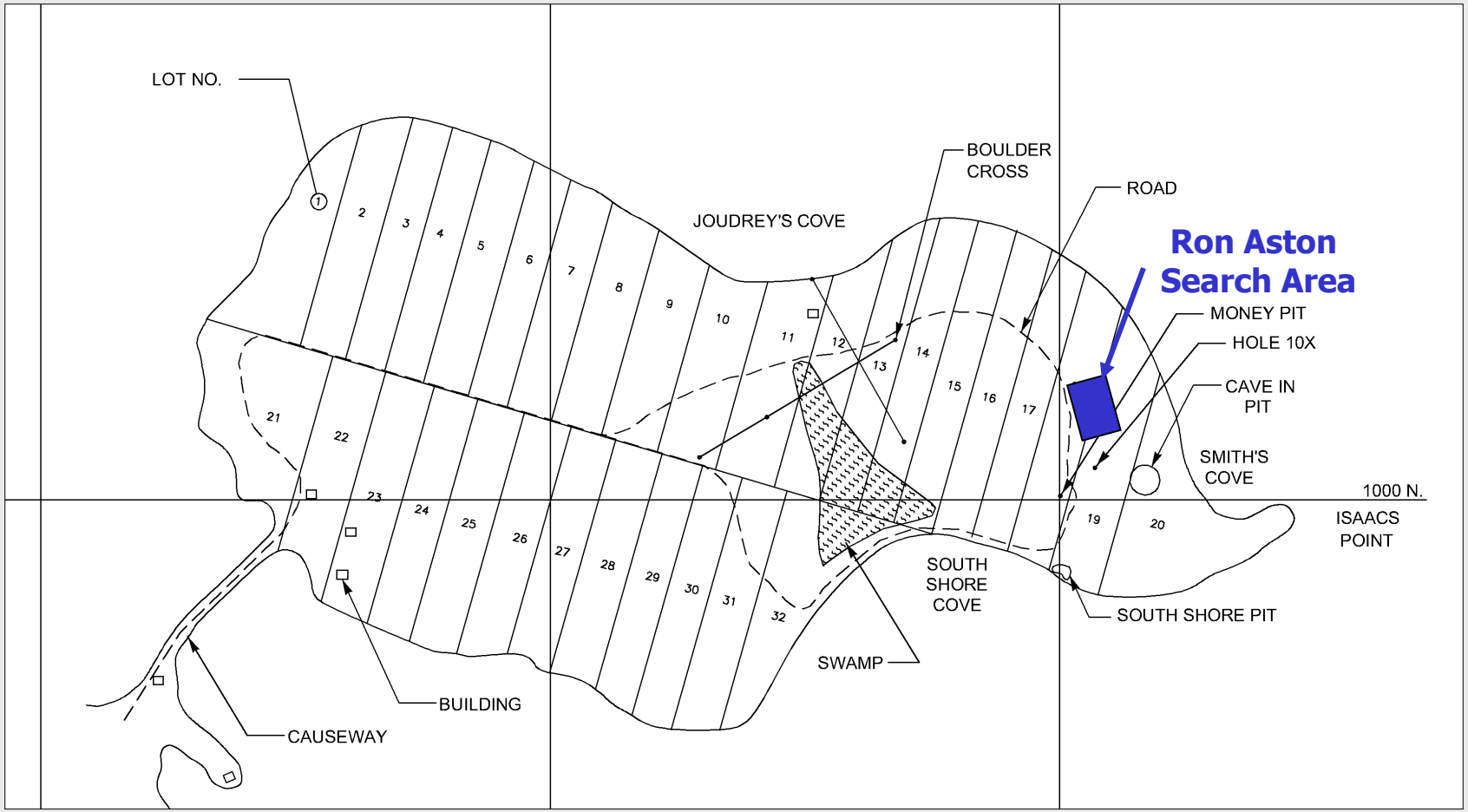
Plan of Ron Aston Search Area



Ron Aston and Others 2001

Murray MacPhie | Jim Harvey | David Tobias | Ron Aston

David Tobias

Ron Aston Drilling Program August 2001

Boulder in Glacial Till Exposed by Aston 2001

Large Boulder at Shore

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Happy Norwegians May 2003

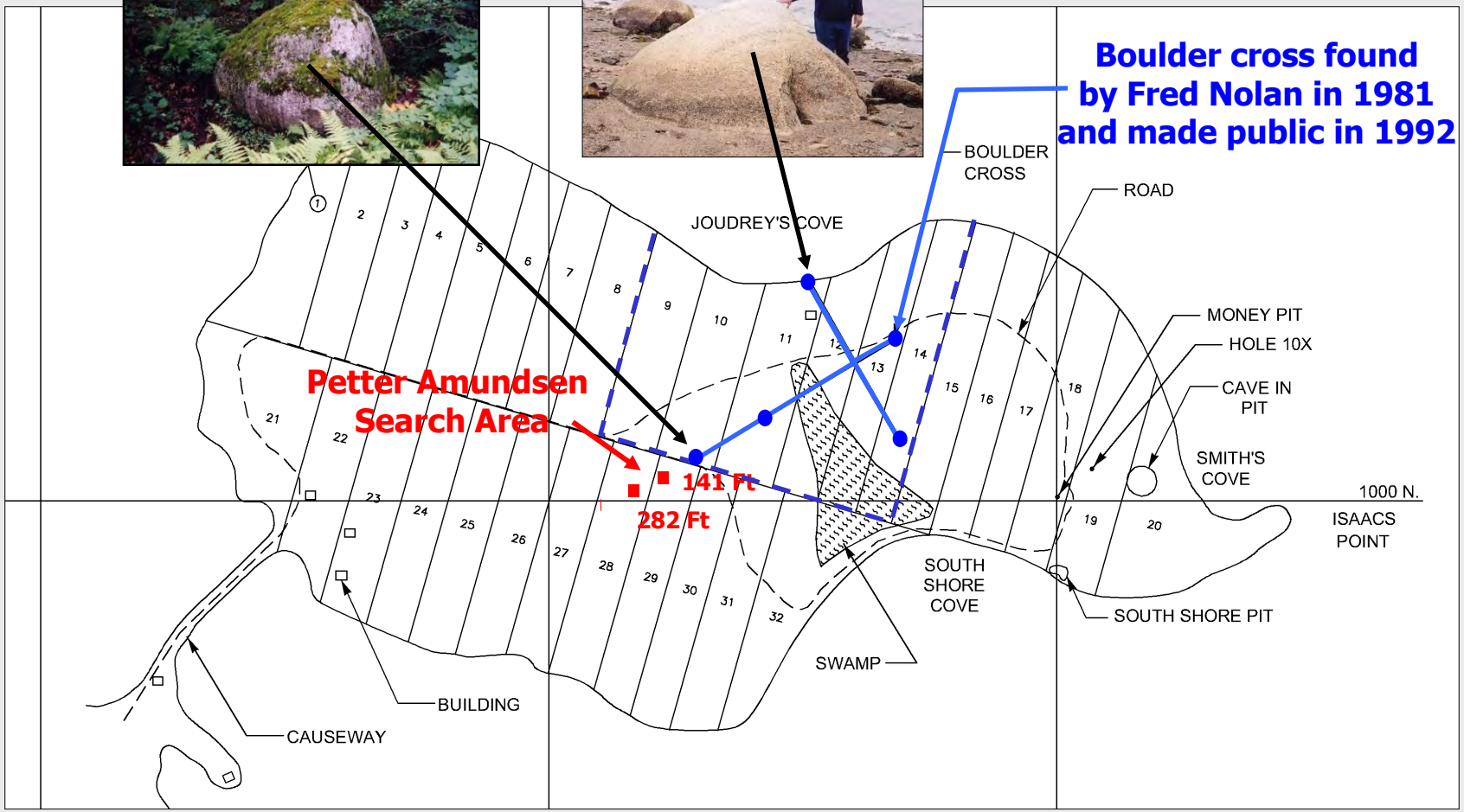
Eric Hauan

Petter Amundsen

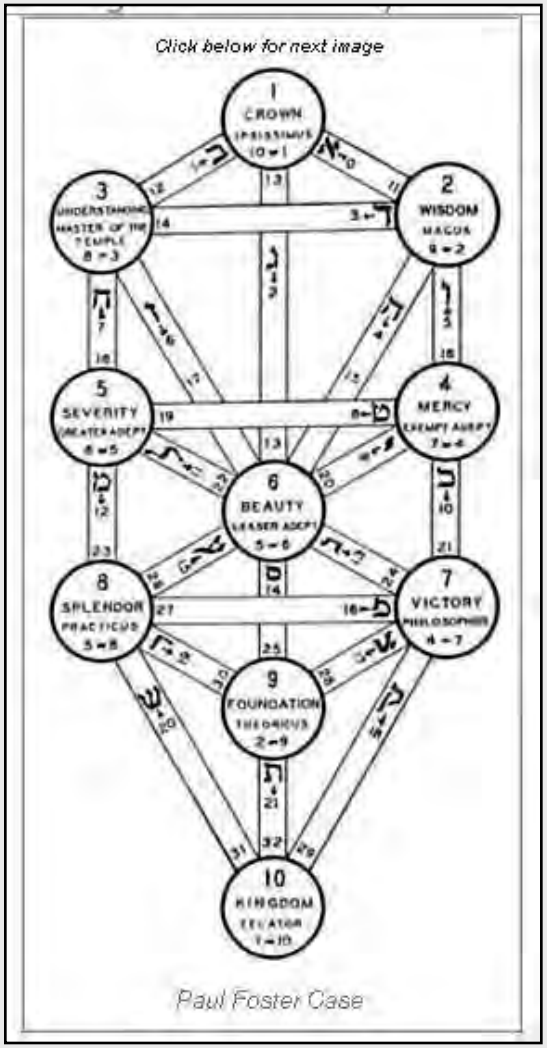
Tony Ronning

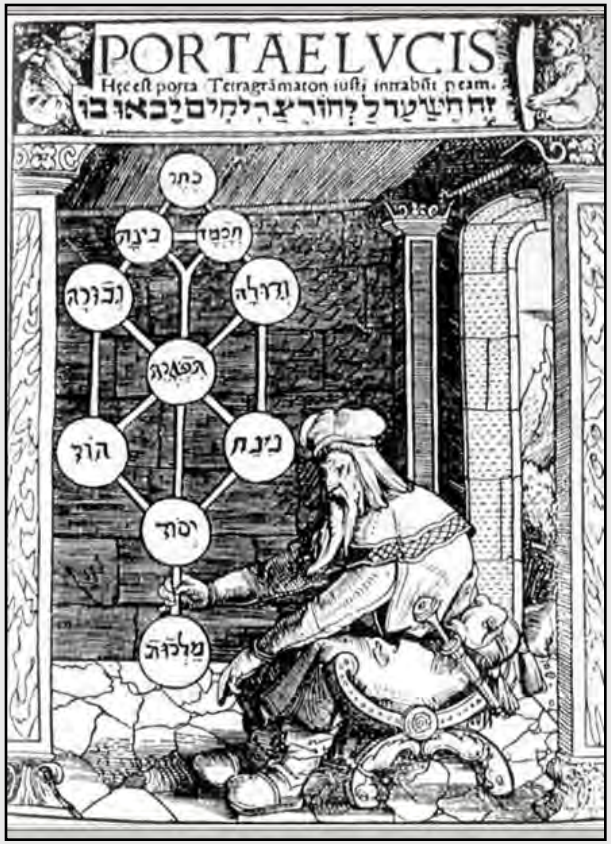
Sigbjorn Larsen

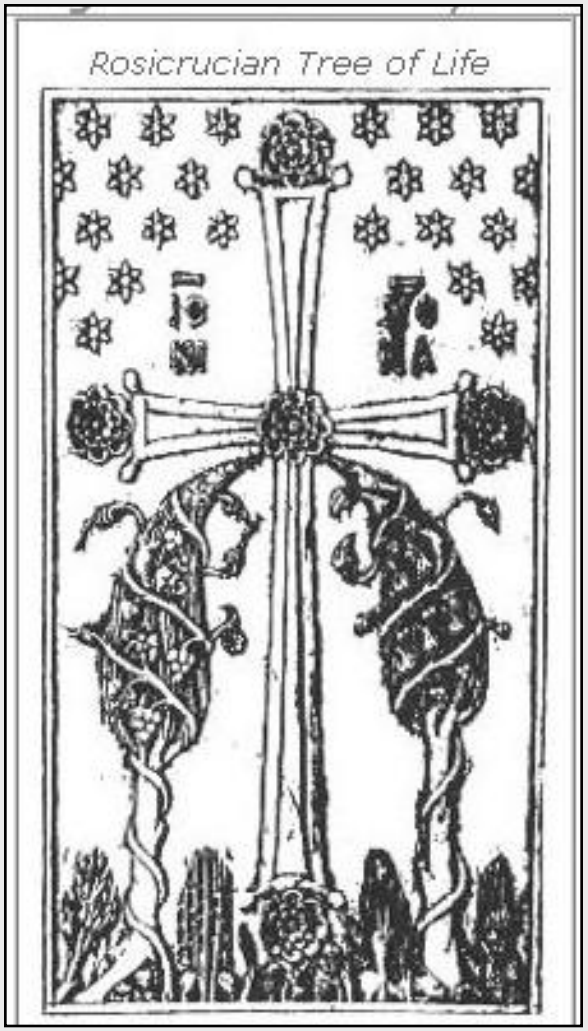
Plan of Petter Amundsen Search Area 2003



Kabalistic Tree of Life and Rosicrucian Cross







Boulder 282 Feet South of Cross

Boulders at Shore

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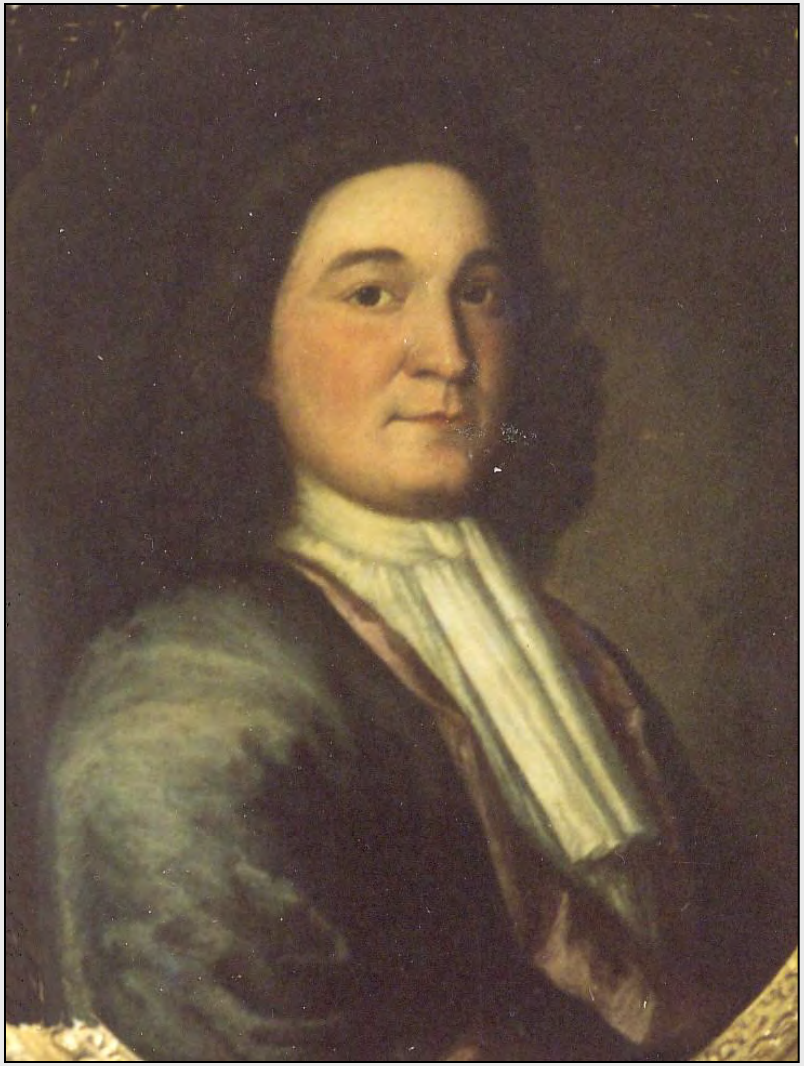
Sir William Phips and Recovery of the Treasure from the Concepción 1688/89



Ref: Bowden 1996 (National Geographic)

~~Treasure found,~~ lost, then discovered anew

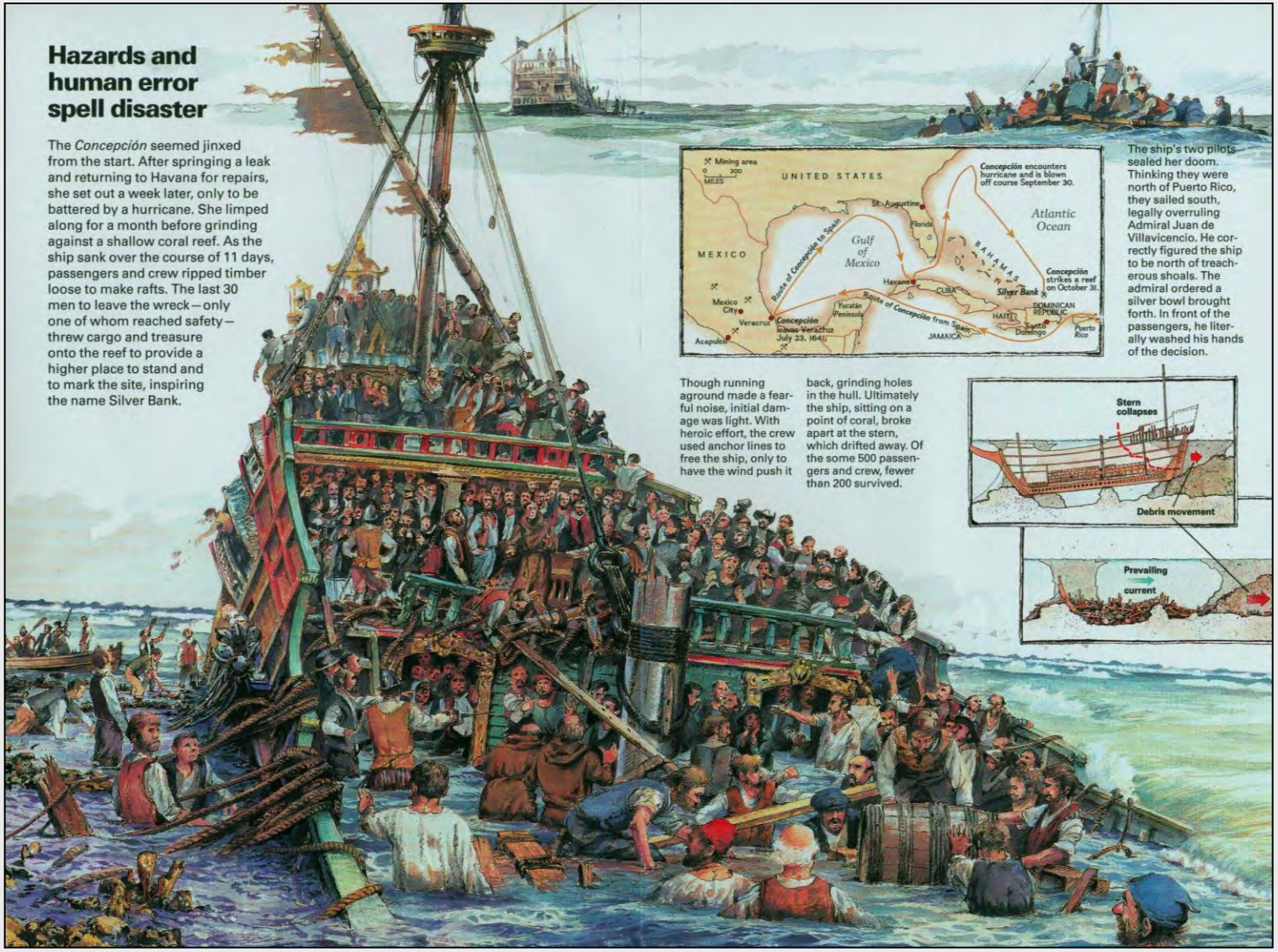
The sea did not easily yield the secret of where *Concepción's* riches lay. Recovery expeditions were mounted by private consortiums in the 1650s and '60s to no avail.

William Phips

But success came to William Phips, a brash young seaman from New England who wheedled financing from several English noblemen. He located the wreck in 1687, recovered an enormous amount of treasure, then quit the site because of low provisions, threatening weather, and French pirates. As a reward, Phips was knighted by James II—and received a share of the goods.

Once the site was found, Phips relied on the astounding abilities of native pearl divers. Clutching rocks to aid their descent, they could hold their breath for up to five minutes.

Sir William Phips and Recovery of the Treasure from the Concepción 1688/89



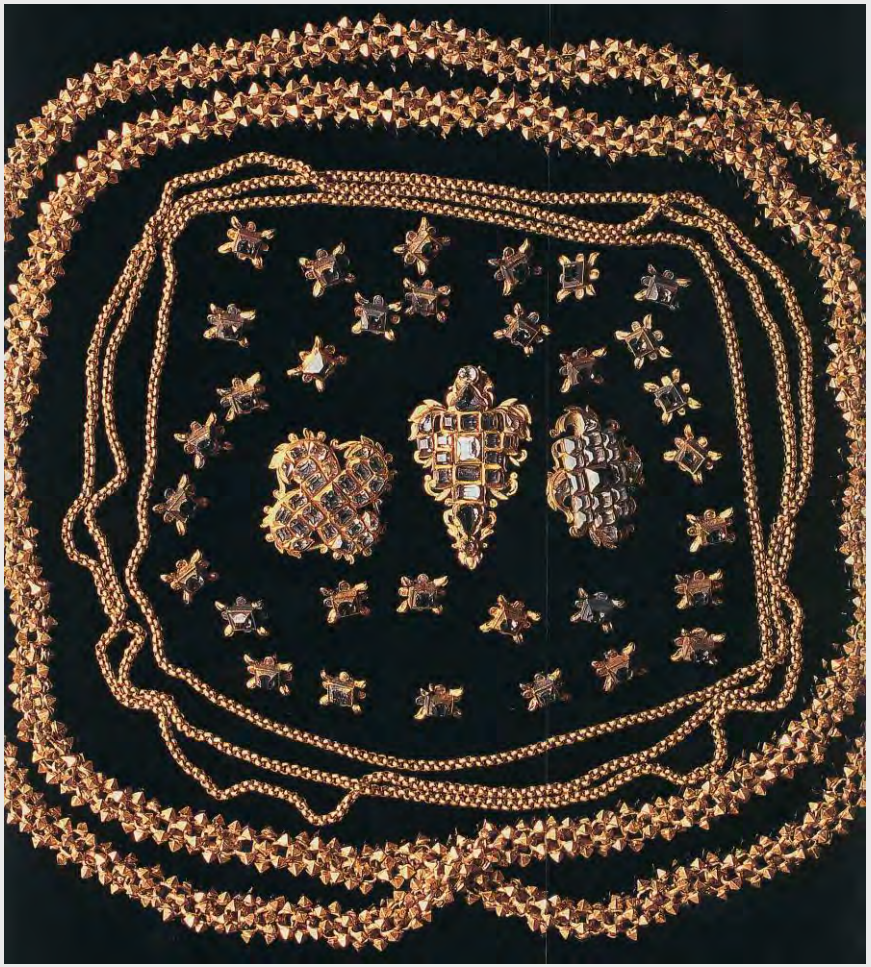
Sinking of the Concepción 1641

- **500 people on board**
- **300 people lost**
- **200 people survived**

Ref: Bowden 1996 (National Geographic)

Treasure from the Concepción (Leftovers)

(Nuesta Señora de la pura y limpia Concepción)



Articles recovered in 1978 by Burt Webber
Ref: Bowden 1996 (National Geographic)

Sir Francis Drake and Queen Elizabeth 1
Did Drake Deceive the Queen?

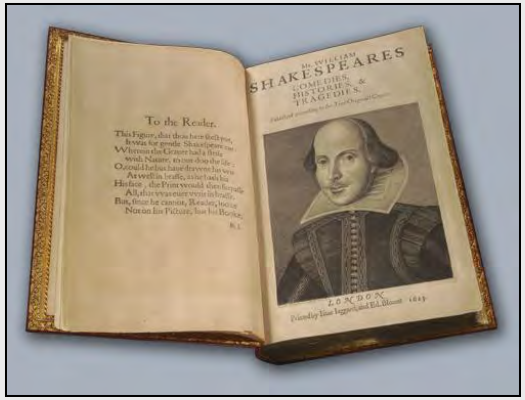
Queen Elizabeth I 1533 - 1603

Sir Francis Drake 1540 - 1596

Sir Francis Bacon and William Shakespeare
The Missing Original Manuscripts and
The Bacon-Shakespeare Authorship Controversy

Sir Francis Bacon
1561 - 1626

William Shakespeare
1564 - 1616



Shakespeare's First Folio
1623

Spanish Galleon Lost at Sea

A Recent Theory - The Portuguese

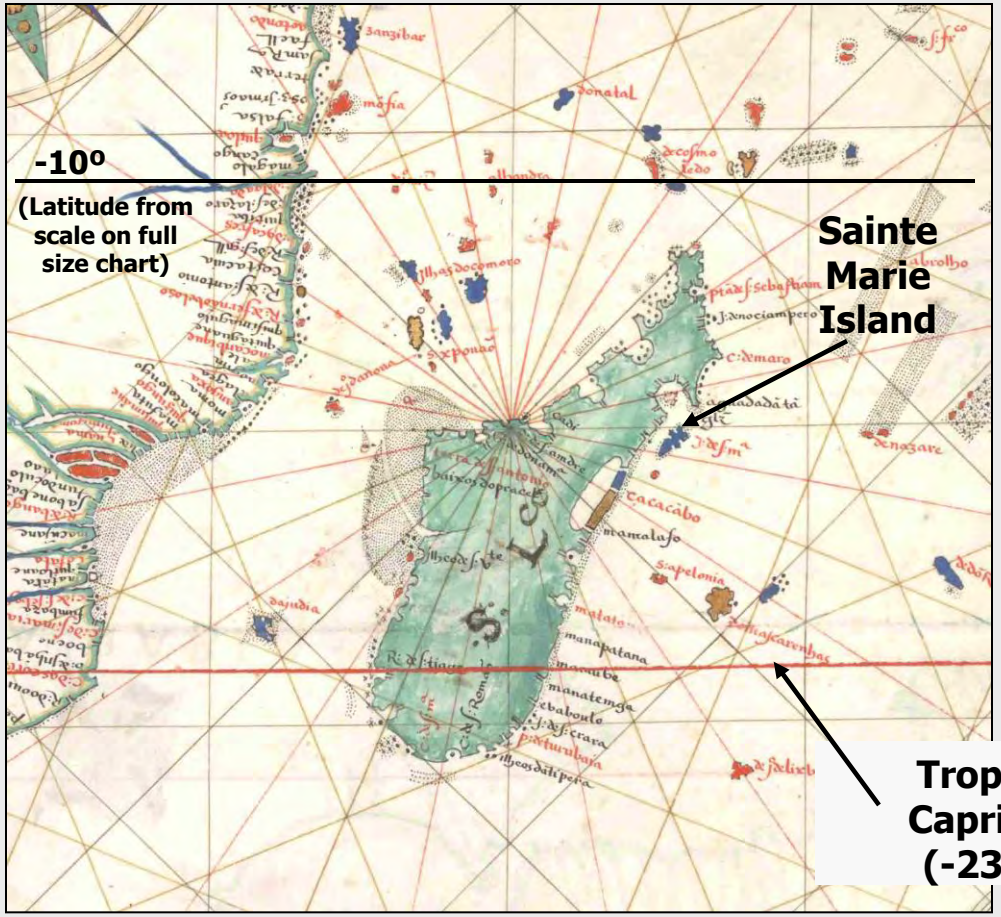
1. **In the 1500s, during the Portuguese voyages of discovery, Portuguese cartographers mapped the east coast of America in considerable detail with highly accurate latitudes (Woodward 2007).**

2. **In the 1500s, the Barcelos family from the Azores was granted land in Portuguese controlled North America. They used islands and mainland areas of the New World to raise livestock for colonization and future voyages (Vigneras 1973).**

3. **Based on documents dated 1568, the Barcelos family petitioned to the King's Purveyor to settle on an island in North America called "Barcellona de Sam Bardão" where the family was "breeding herds of cows, sheep, goats and swine" (Vigneras 1973). This is believed to be the island identified on Velho Chart 3v (1560) as "Ilha Barcelonas" and this island appears to be in Mahone Bay.**

4. **The theory proposed is that the Barcelos family, and other wealthy families of the Azores, buried their gold, silver and jewels on an island in Mahone Bay before the Spanish take over in 1583.**

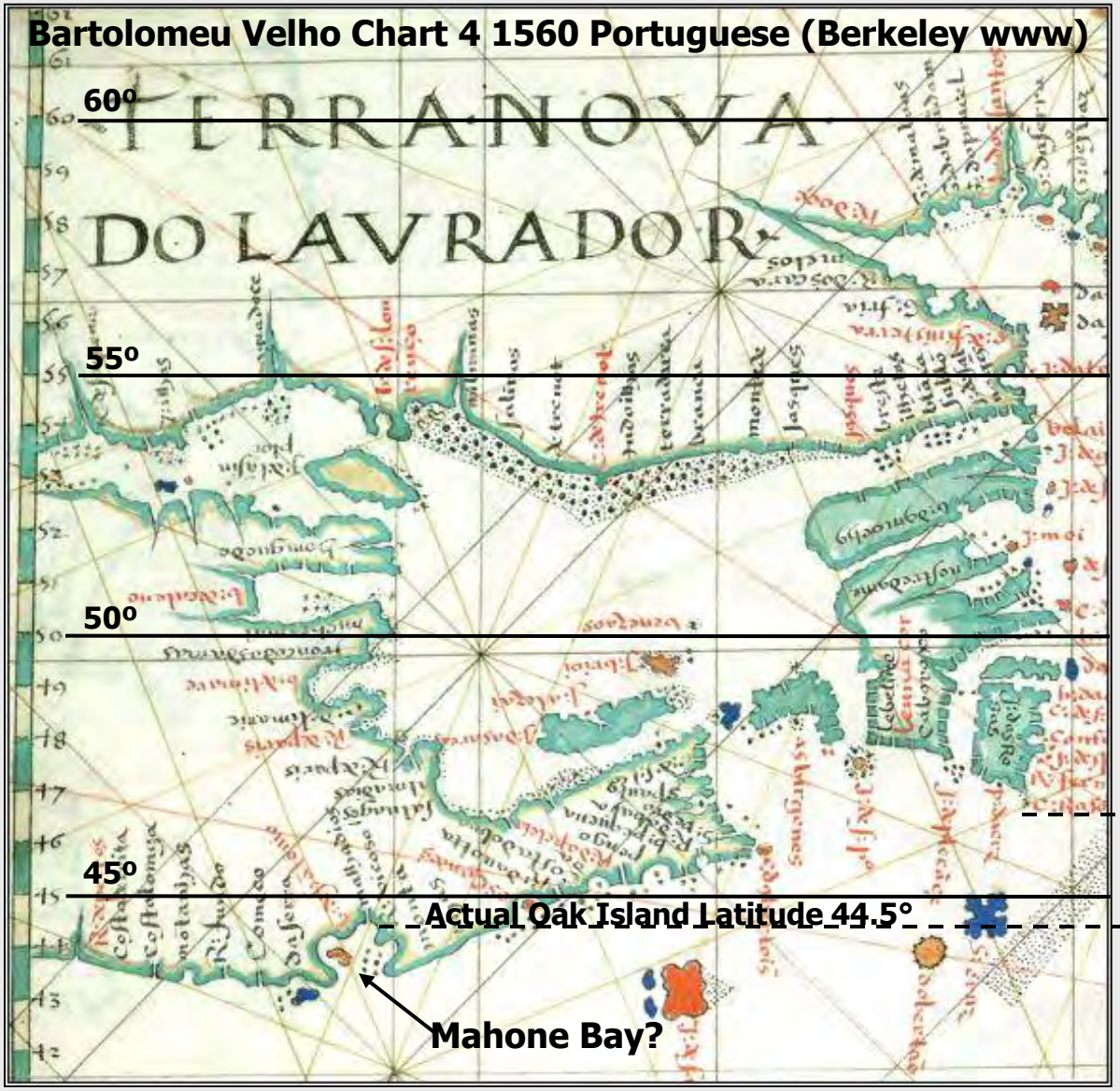
1560 Portuguese Chart of Madagascar and Modern Map to Illustrate Latitude Accuracy



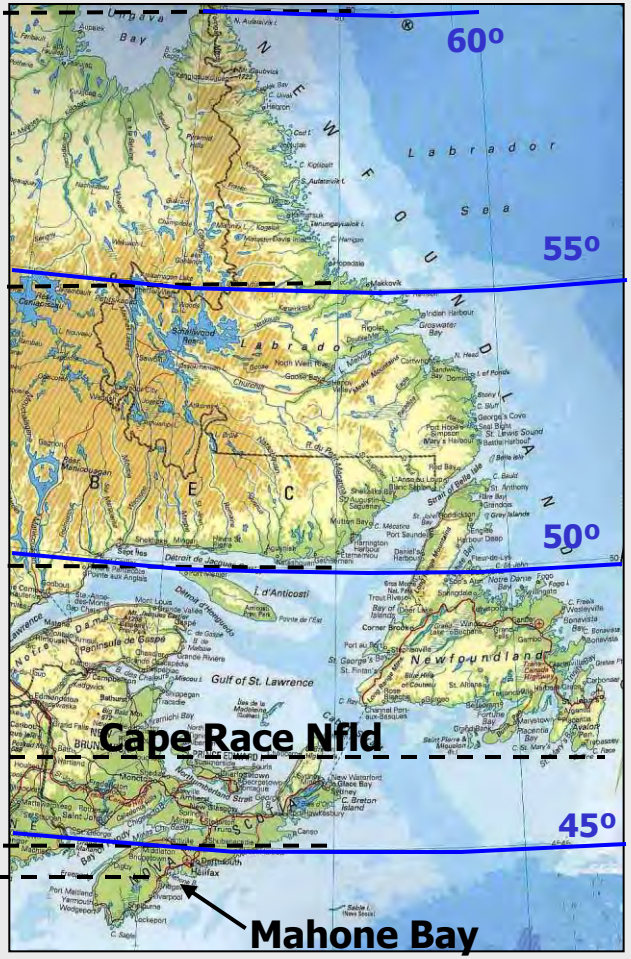
Bartholomeu Velho Chart 7v 1560 Portuguese (Berkeley www)

Modern Map

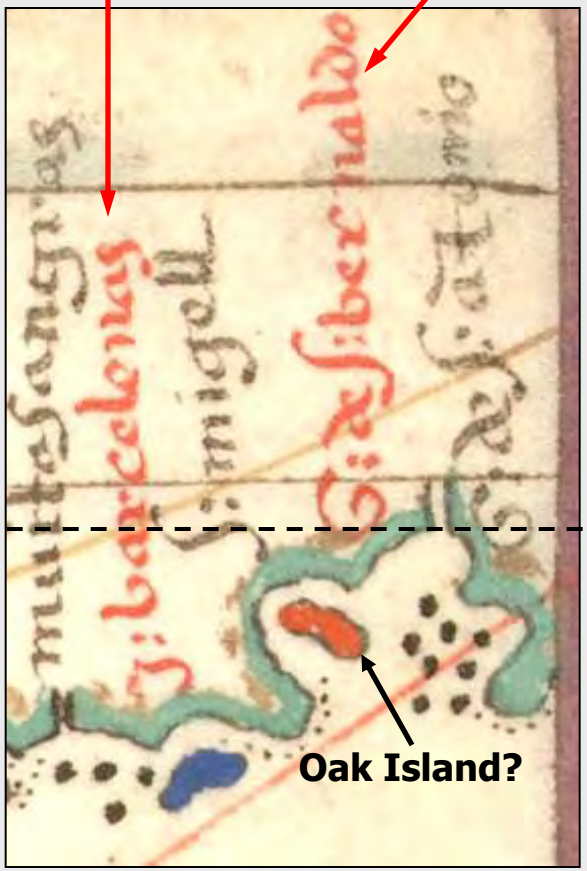
1560 Portuguese Chart of the New World and Modern Map to Illustrate Latitude 44.5°



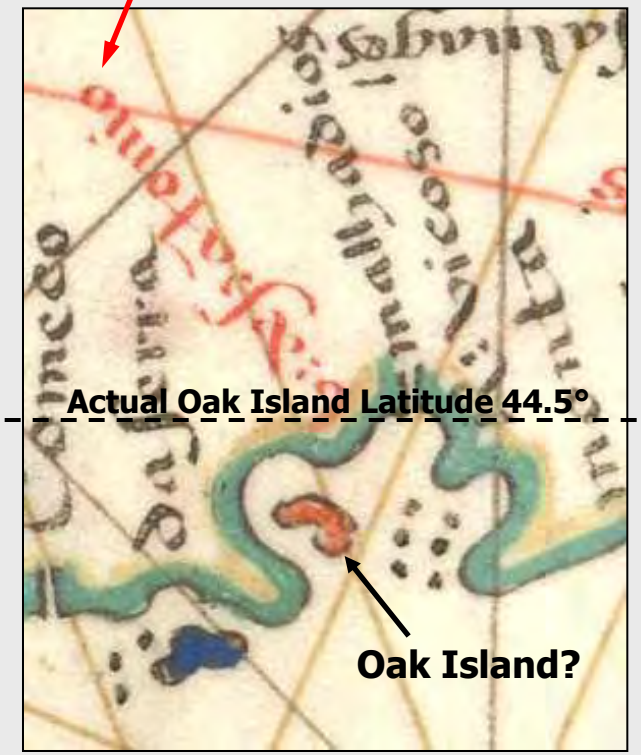
Modern Map



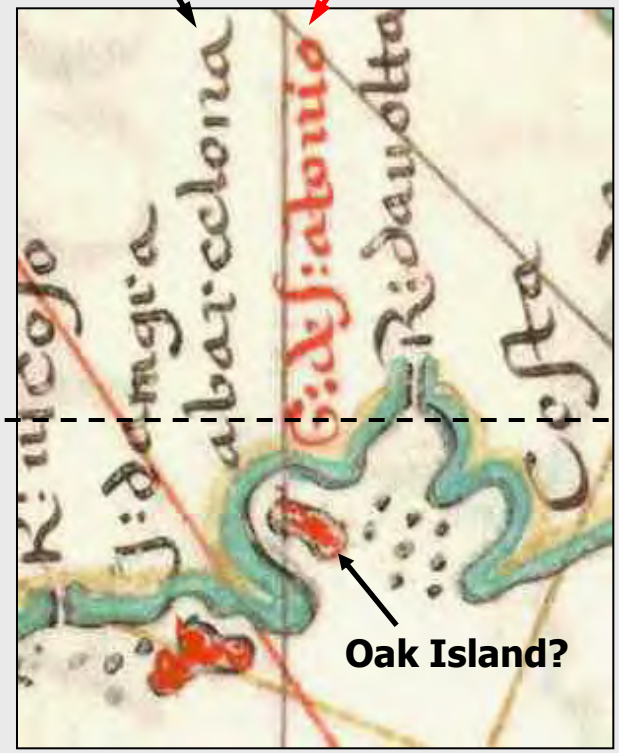
Comparison of Three Velho Charts at Lat. 44.5°



Velho Chart 3v
West Indies and Surrounding Coasts



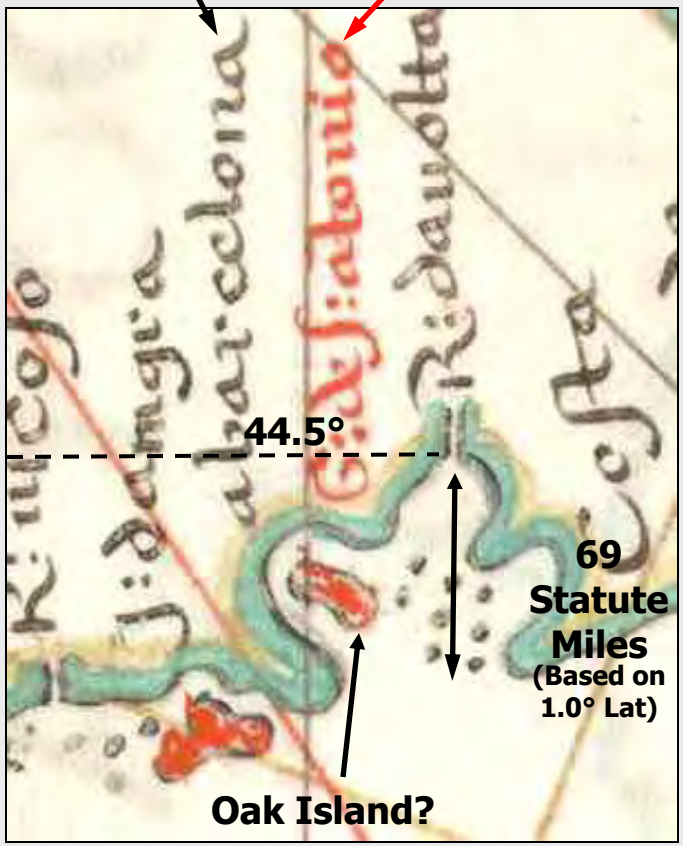
Velho Chart 4
North Atlantic and Nfld



Velho Chart 4v
South America and Nfld

Bartolomeu Velho Charts 1560 Portuguese (Berkeley www)

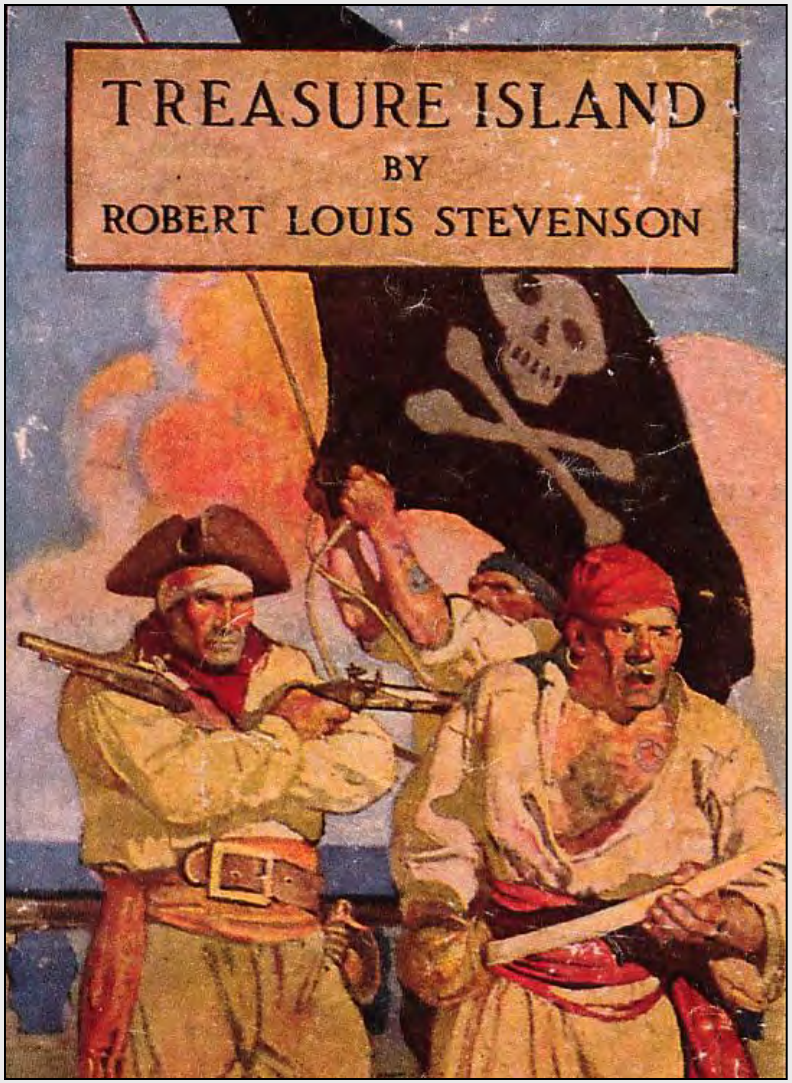
Velho Chart 4v and Modern Map Showing Gulf at Latitude 44.5°



Velho Chart 4v
South America and Nfld
(Berkeley www)

Modern Map

Pirates

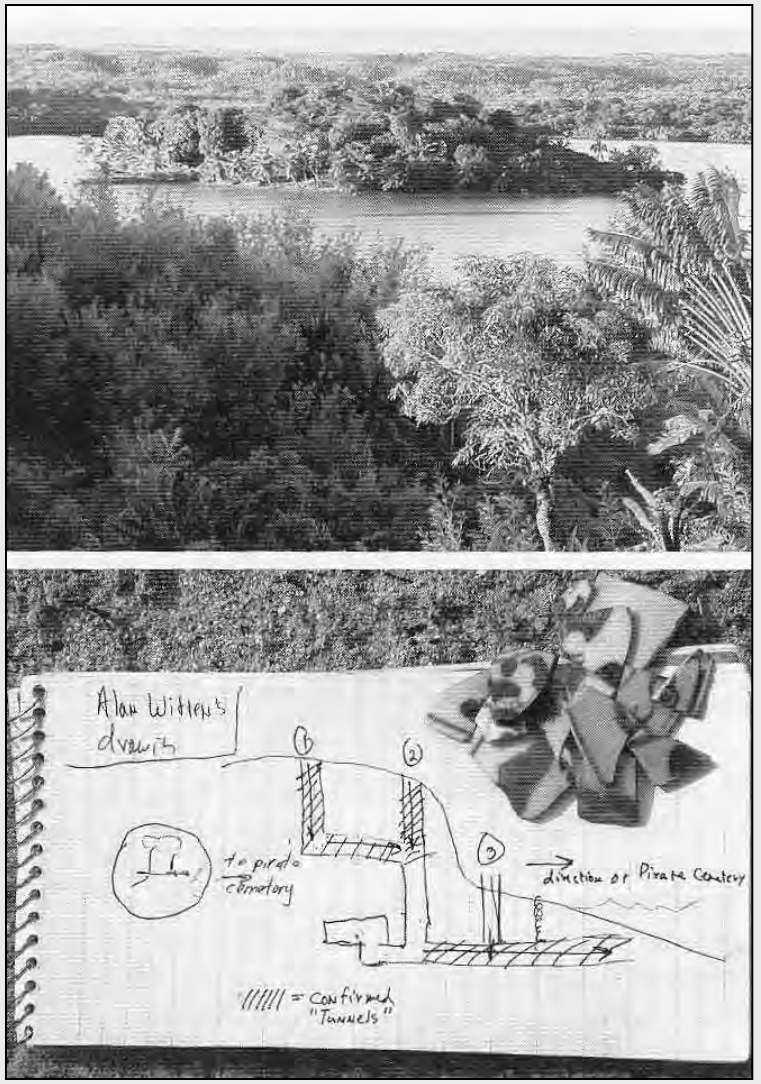


1883

2006

Pirate Tunnels, Sainte Marie Island, Madagascar (1650 to 1725)

Typical Geophex EM unit used to define Pirate Tunnels



Ref: Clifford 2003

Sainte Marie Island, Madagascar

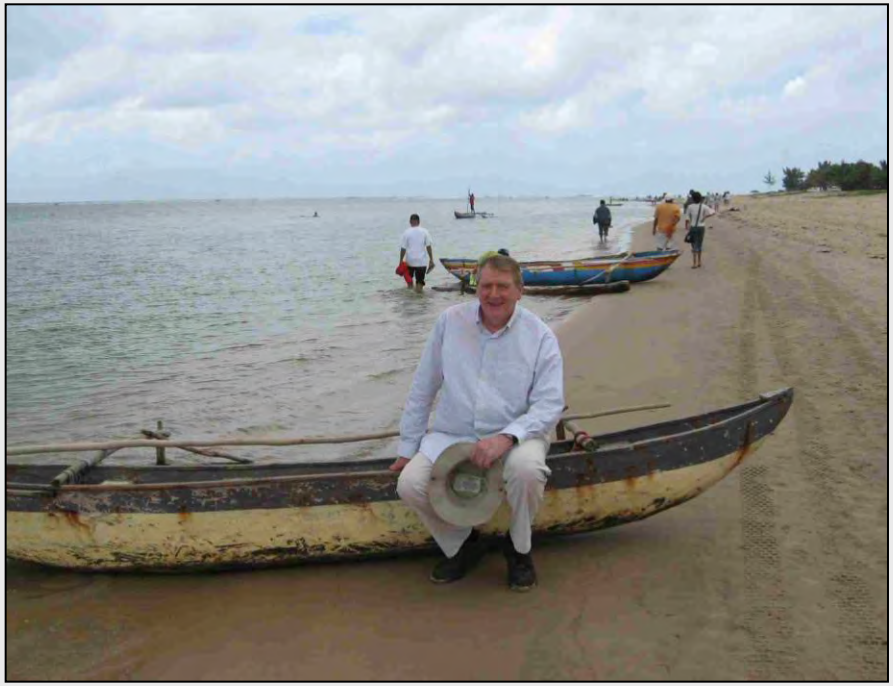
Photos courtesy Slav Domurat

Pirate Cemetery Saint Marie Island

Photos courtesy Tim Clinton

Madagascar

Lemur



Les

Theories - Who Buried What and When?

Who	What	When
1. The Knights Templar	The treasure of the Knights Templar (The Holy Grail)	1300s to 1400s
2. Spanish	Treasure from damaged Spanish Galleon which sunk on way home	1500s
3. Spanish*	Treasure stored on several occasions in underground vaults	1500s
4. Portuguese*	Treasure from the Azores	1580s
5. Sir Francis Drake	Plundered Spanish treasure	Late 1500s
6. Sir Francis Bacon	The original Shakespearean Manuscripts	1600s
7. Masons	Sacred treasure	1600s to mid 1700s
8. French	Treasure from French pay ship destined for Fortress Louisbourg	Mid 1700s
9. Sir William Phips*	Treasure recovered from the Spanish Galleon Concepción sunk in 1641	Money Pit 1688-89 Flood Tunnel 1752-54
10. Conspirators from the British Military*	Spoils from the sack of Havana in 1762	Shortly after 1762
11. Not Yet Identified	Not Yet Identified	Not Yet Identified

Note: Other less credible theories include Early Civilizations, Egyptians, Incas, Mayans, Aztecs, Mi'kmaq, Vikings, Acadians, Pirates and Aliens.

Theories – Where is the Treasure?

Proponent	Where
1. Many Researchers	Money Pit
2. Laverne Johnson	Offset chamber northwest of Money Pit
3. Ron Aston	Offset chamber north of Flood Tunnel
4. Several Researchers	Offset chamber from Money Pit
5. Fred Nolan (and others)	Fred Nolan's lots, swamp
6. Petter Amundsen	Locations referenced to Boulder Cross
7. Several Researchers	Various locations on Oak Island by separate groups at different times
8. Several Researchers	Other Islands in Mahone Bay
9. Michael Bradley	New Ross, Nova Scotia, 20 miles inland from Oak Island
10. Not Yet Identified	Money Pit and/or elsewhere

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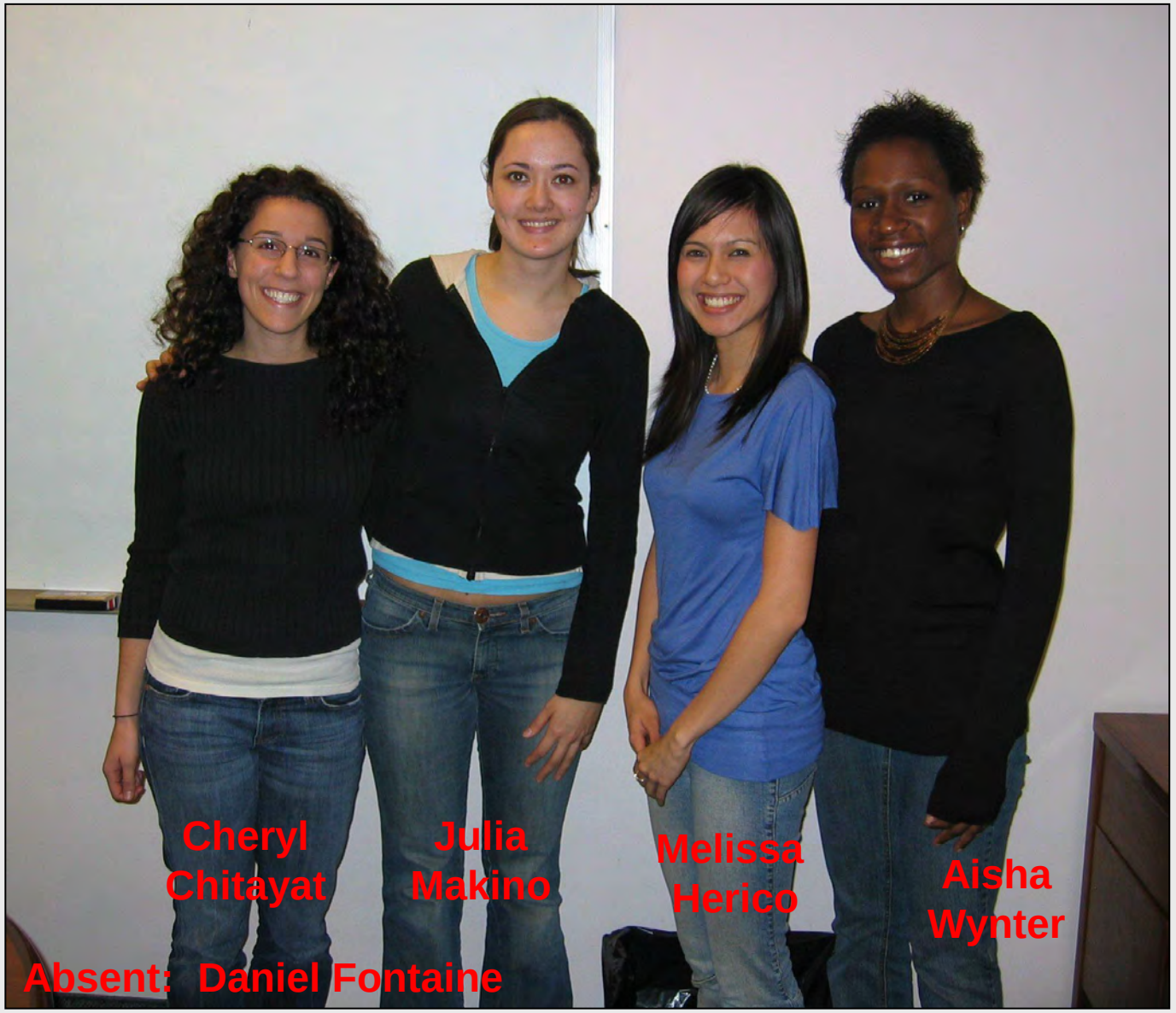
Options for Future Exploration at the Money Pit

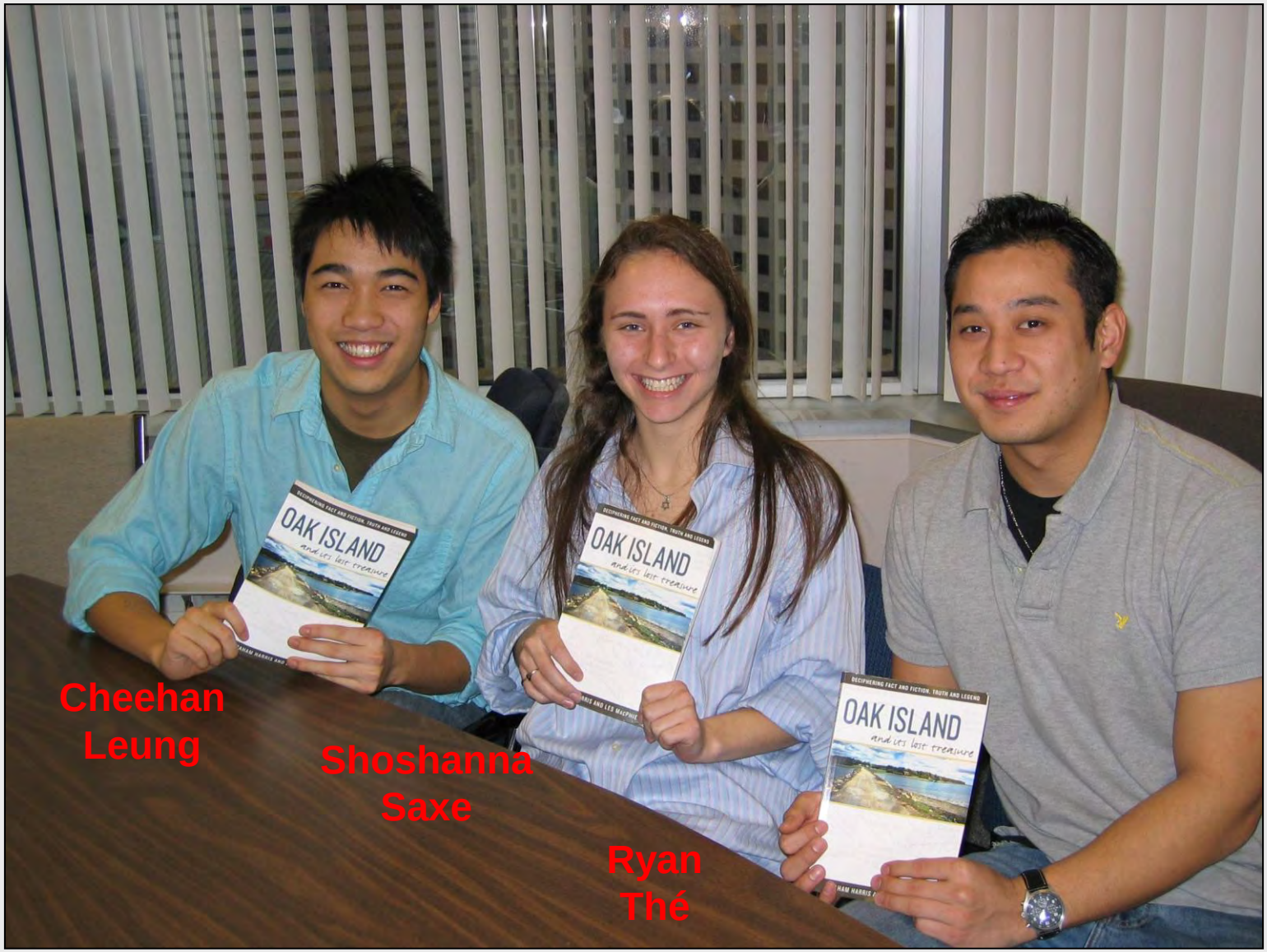
1. **Option 1**
   - **Exploration boreholes with lateral drift measurements**
   - **Downhole camera inspection to define the nature of man made workings and possibly to verify the presence of treasure and artifacts.**
   - **Advanced geophysical methods such as Atomic Dielectric Resonance (ADR).**
   - **Identify specific targets which could be accessed by a caisson or a small diameter shaft.**

2. **Option 2**
   - **Excavation of a deep shaft of sufficient diameter to enclose the zone of man made workings at 200 feet depth.**

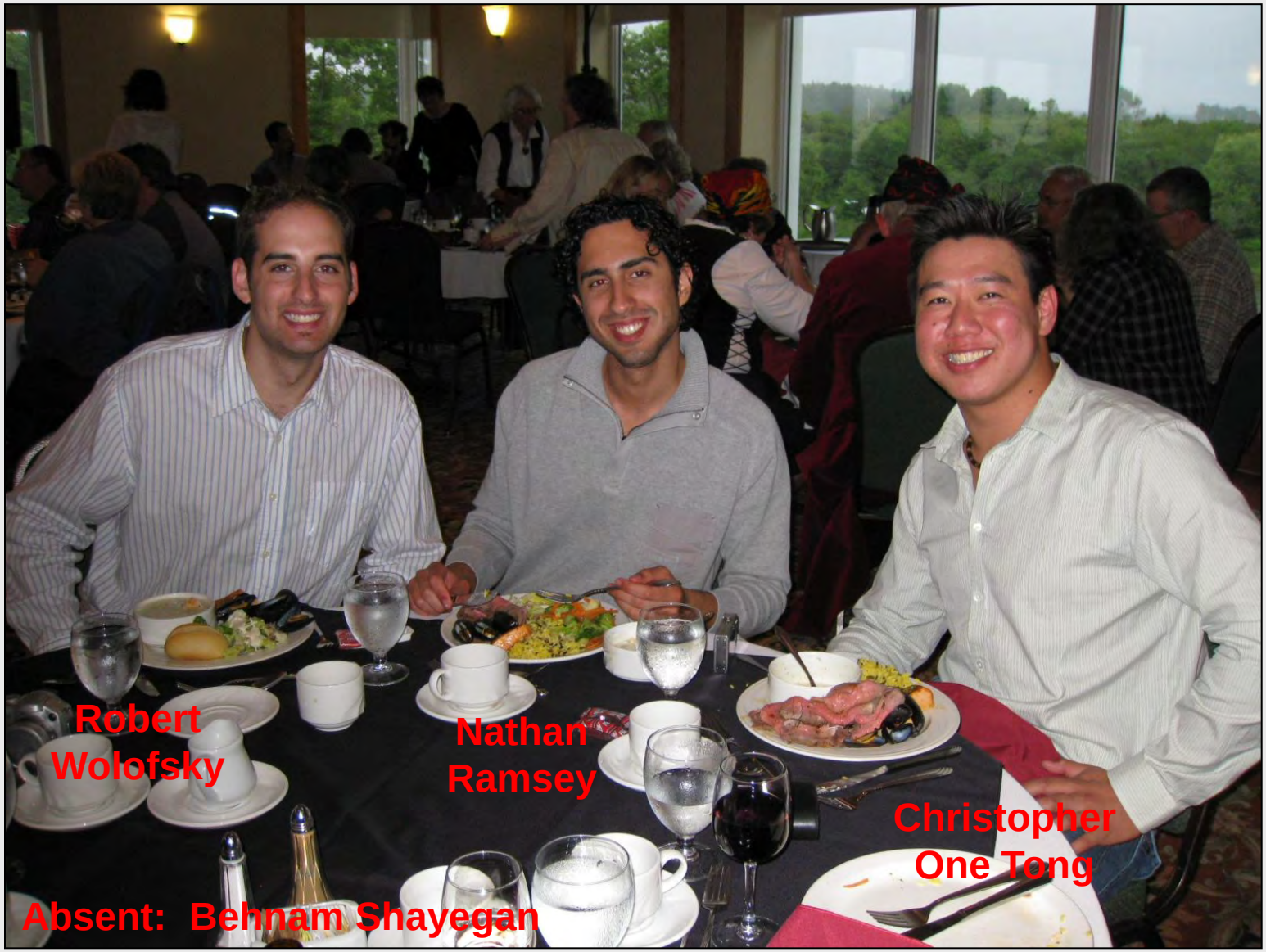
McGill Design Project
Boat Launch Team Jan to April 2006



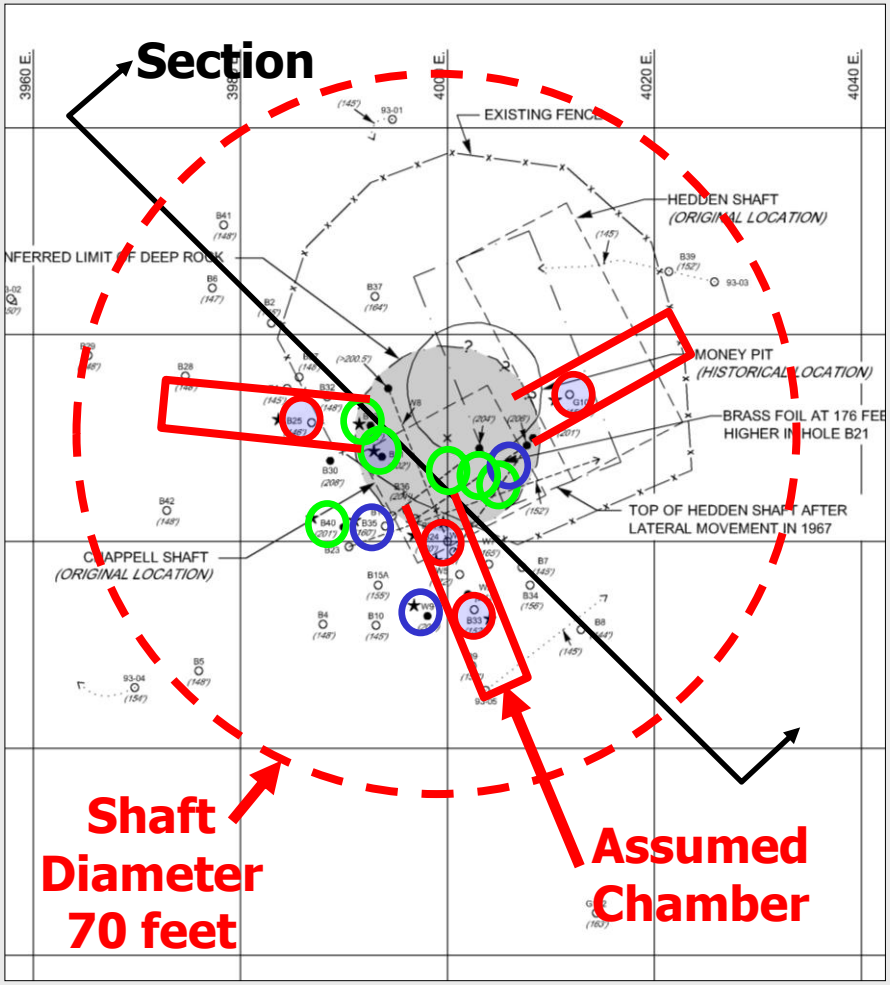
McGill Design Project
Freeze Ring Team Sept to Dec 2006



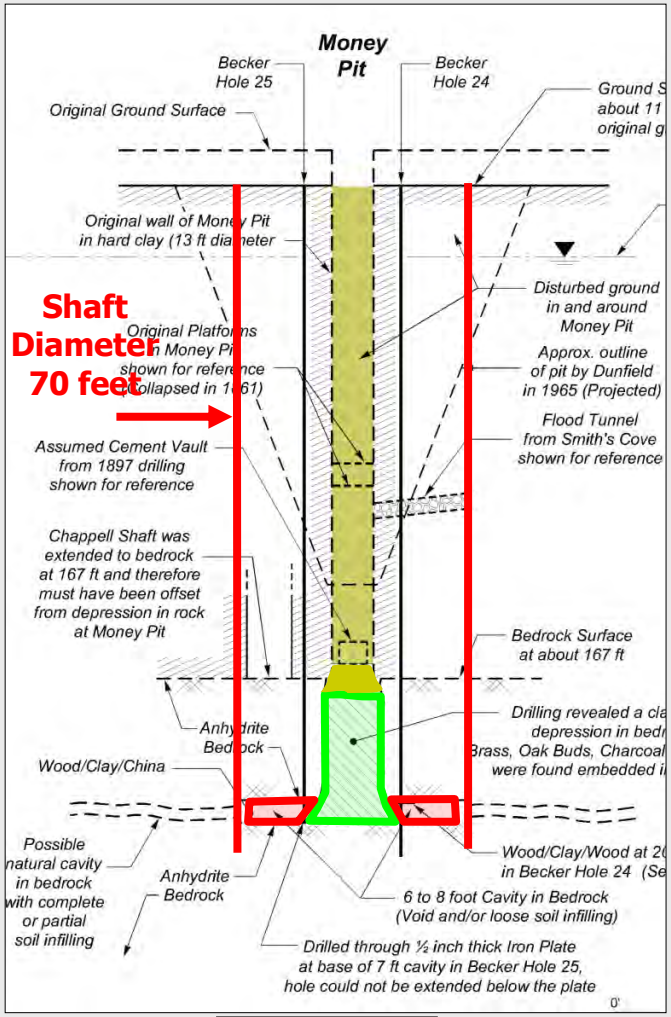
McGill Design Project
Secant Pile Team Sept to Dec 2008



Proposed Excavation by Large Diameter Shaft



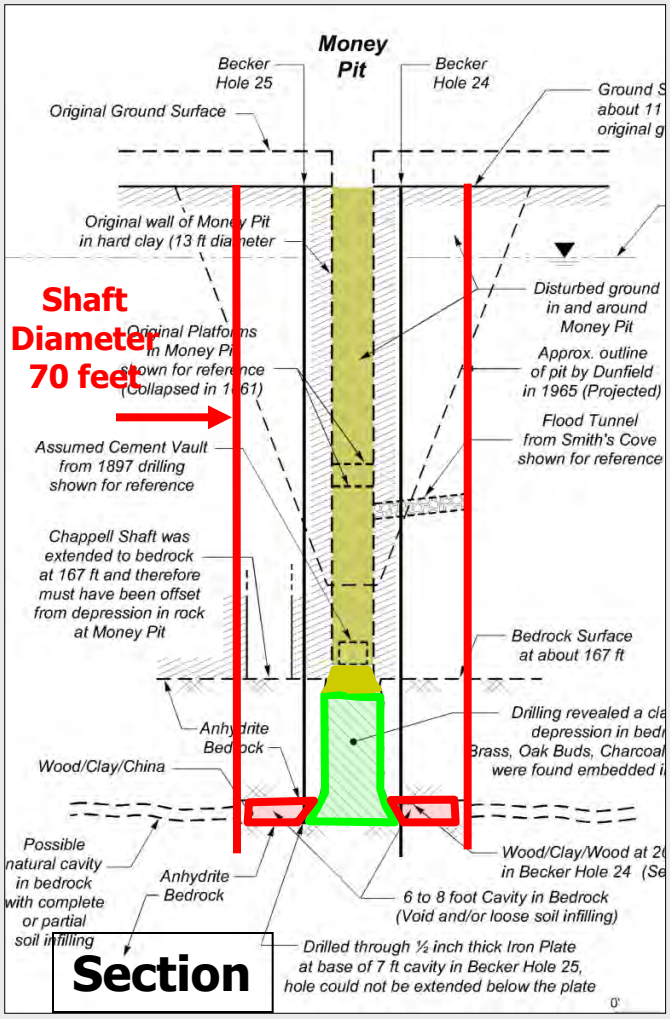
Plan of Archaeological Features



Section

Summary of Geological, Geotechnical, Hydrogeological and Other Issues to Consider for Deep Shaft Excavation at Money Pit

1. **Boulders in glacial till**
2. **Open and soil filled cavities in broken anhydrite**
3. **Saline groundwater in anhydrite**
4. **Cyclic groundwater movement in anhydrite due to tides**
5. **Very high permeability zones in broken anhydrite**
6. **Reworked soil zones resulting from events such as collapse of the Money Pit in 1861 and the Dunfield excavation of 1965/66**
7. **The presence of timbers and debris from numerous previous shafts and tunnels in the area of the Money Pit**
8. **Steel casings and pipes remaining in the ground from previous drilling operations**



Expected Outcome of a Shaft Excavation at the Money Pit

1. **A shaft excavation to bedrock surface is expected to resolve the nature of the presumed chests with coins drilled at 100 feet in 1849 and 155 feet in 1897, and the parchment may be recovered.**

2. **A shaft excavation to 200 feet is expected to recover significant evidence (and possibly artifacts and treasure) which will result in:**
   - **An obvious solution to the mystery**
   - **A solution determined in conjunction with related historical and archaeological studies or verification**
   - **The Oak Island mystery is not resolved (very unlikely outcome)**

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Do We Have Proof of Original Work and the Presence of the Treasure at Oak Island According to the Criteria of Othello?

Othello: So prove it

That the probation leave no hinge nor loop

To hang a doubt on

"OTHELLO, The Moor of Venice" (Shakespeare)

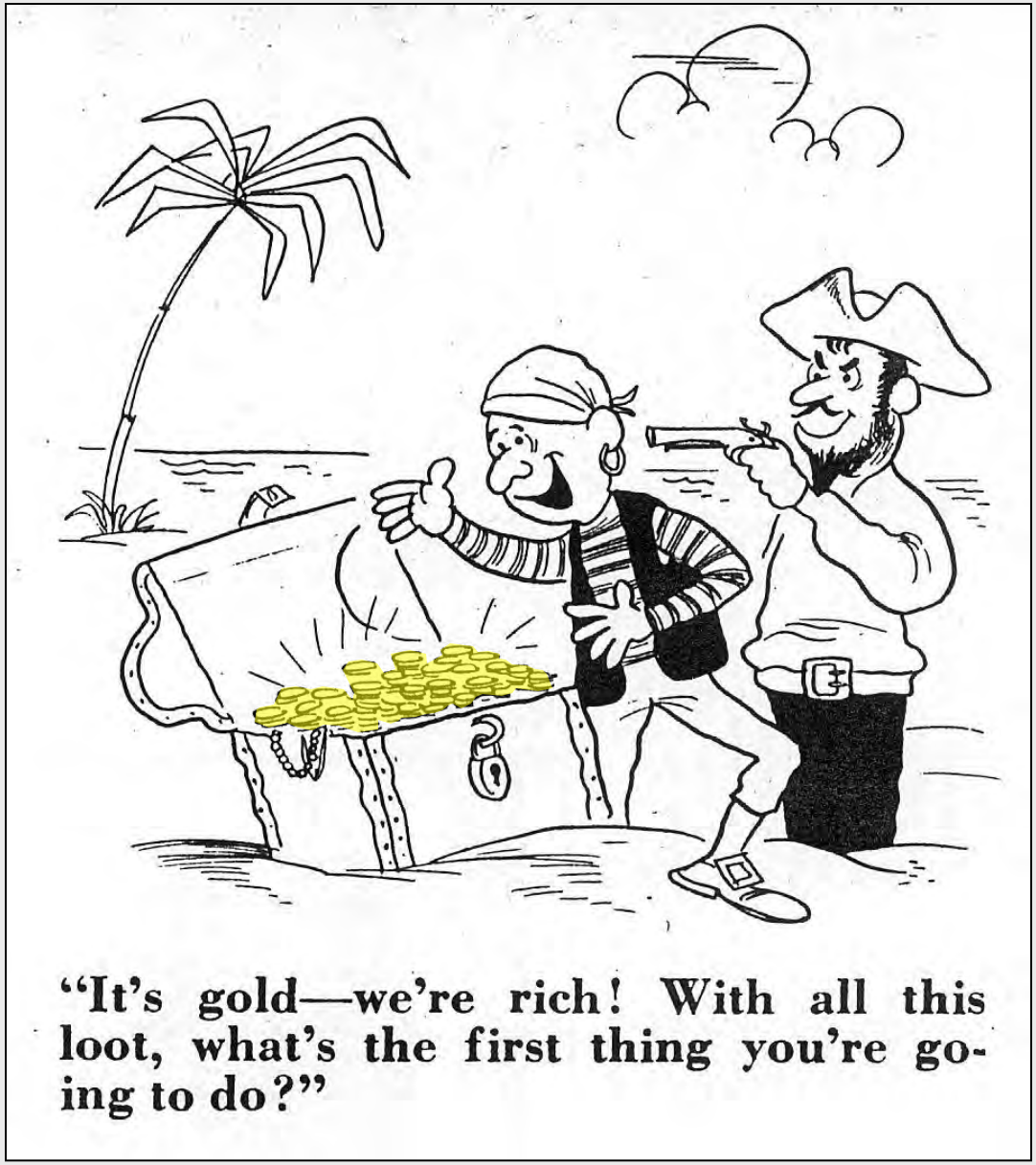
Conclusions

1. **The chests at 100 feet in the Money Pit are likely decoy treasure.**

2. **There are chambers at 200 feet depth at the Money Pit. Possibilities:**
   - **The chambers were made and nothing was put in them.**
   - **The chambers were made, something of great value was put in them and then taken away.**
   - **The chambers were made, something of great value was put in them and is still there.**

3. **We don't know who did it or what is there, the mystery remains unsolved.**

When Treasure is Recovered



"It's gold—we're rich! With all this loot, what's the first thing you're going to do?"

Ref: David Tobias

THANK YOU

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