

## **Early Oak Island Documents**

**Part 1 - Early Newspaper Articles (41 Pages)**

**Part 2 – Letters and Other Documents (39 Pages)**

**Part 3 – Blair Affidavit and Exhibits (49 Pages)**

**Compiled by Les MacPhie May 2014**

## Early Oak Island Documents

### Part 1 of 3 – Early Newspaper Articles

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**Notes:**

1. The original hand written letter dated December 27, 1863 is held by the Nova Scotia Archives and Record Management System (NSAMS) and was likely written by Mr. Cooke Secretary to the Oak Island Association.

## **The Liverpool Transcript, August 8, 1857 (Page 1 of 2)**

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT

Chester, August 8th, 1857

Friend Allen, - The great depression in business matters throughout the Province, is as evident here as elsewhere, and I regret exceedingly that I am called upon to write from a place possessing such advantages of location, when affairs are at so low an ebb. I like particularly to view a town and speak of it in its holiday dress; to receive impressions from the stir and bustle of active life, and to note evidence of industry and the prosperity consequent upon the constant exchange of the circulating medium. Notwithstanding the assurance of Holy Writ that "the love of money is the root of all evil," I have yet to learn the name, occupation and residence of that individual, who if he is possessed of reasoning powers, is not to a considerable extent tinctured with that very objectionable love. But with this I will not meddle at present, as the fact is patent to all observers.

I see, by the way, that your correspondent from the Northern District, proposes to show, that a man can follow two lines of business with profit. I hope he may do so, and that his discovery may be of advantage to himself and all concerned. Nothing gives me greater pleasure than to gain information. I am not so egotistical as to suppose that my positions are invariably correct, my arguments always unanswerable or my statements to be swallowed without consideration on my mere ipse dixit.

I am always happy to free my mind from erroneous impressions and accept the truth in their place. A reply to any arguments I may have advanced or statements I may have made, will therefore at any time be acceptable to me, and will be beneficial to the people interested as giving them food for thought on the subjects to which I have adverted. But if, losing sight of argument and proof, your correspondent should give a "tophaceously" personal article, I regret to say that I shall feel called upon to respond and in that case neither he nor I will have benefited "the people."

In the line of ship building, in this place, there is at present but one specimen. Mr. J. Robinson has a schooner of 60 feet keel in course of construction, which will probably be dedicated to the fishing business. In addition to this, there is the hull of a beautiful new schooner, now in the water, awaiting the result of consideration. The scarcity of money has prevented an advantageous sale, and present prospects are that she will be fitted out here, and continue in the ownership of some of the enterprising young men of Chester.

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I do not approve of long stories in a letter, and will postpone till my next on account of my excursion to Oak Island, where some very industrious individuals have buried large sums in endeavouring to unbury larger ones supposed to have been deposited by the renowned Capt. Kidd. They have sunk their money but have left the holes open. The pits and machinery will be presented to your readers without charge in the next.

Yours,

FORKS J.P.

## **The Liverpool Transcript, August 15, 1857 (Page 1 of 2)**

August 15, 1857

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT

Chester, August 15th, 1857.

Friend Allen, - The letters of your correspondents in the last Transcript were so terse, vigorous and to the point, that notwithstanding the oppressive heat of the day, I feel as though I ought to rouse up and deal in description rather than generalities; in facts rather than in philosophy. I shall therefore give rather a narrative of excursion without serious adventures than adventure upon a narrative of my more serious mental peregrinations.

In my last I spoke of Oak Island and the fruitless search for the treasures supposed to have been buried there by the oft-heard-of Capt. Kyd. By the kind invitation of Mr. James Bond, myself and travelling companion found ourselves skimming at 2.40 speed, down the magnificent bay on which this town is situated, passing numerous green islands, having a fine view of Aspatogon the highest promontory on this coast, in the distance. Its elevation above the level of the sea is about 500 feet, and it presents a bold and striking appearance.

Our destination was Oak Island, and thither we sped and landed. Unlike the general rule in such excursions, we found the reality to exceed our anticipations. We proceeded immediately to the scene of operations, and found the following. Three pits of great depth are still open, though considerably filled with water. Not having lines with us to sound the depths, I cannot give measurements from actual observation, though I have it on good authority that they are upwards of 100 feet in depth.

The first excavation reached 107 feet when they were stopped by the water. This was refilled and another commenced, some ten feet distant, in the hope of being able to undermine the other and secure the treasure of which they felt confident in case of reaching a proper depth under the place of their former attempt. They sunk here to a greater depth than before but were driven out by the inflow and commenced another at about the same distance, then a fourth, in each case with a similar invasion of the sea. As an explanation of why they expended so much apparently foolish labor in sinking the shafts so near each other, after their experience of the inflow, I would state that according to the theory on which they were proceeding, the money had been buried, and sluices or communications with the sea, so constructed, that the localities of the treasure was flooded, while the vicinity was comparatively dry.

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The pits are in shape of an oblong square, about twelve feet by eight and are boxed in, as I may call it, with timber some eight inches square in a workmanlike and substantial manner. In addition to the three pits are five whimsies or gins each intended to be worked by two horses, by means of which the dirt, stones and water were elevated in securely ironed casks, many of which many of which are still on the premises. Remark I shall make none, except that we felt gratified at having an opportunity for so thorough an examination of the scene of labor and of sunken money.

In my last I stated that Mr. J. Robinson was building a schooner; it should have been Mr. E. J. Robinson, and I take this opportunity of expressing my indebtedness to him and to his brother, Mr. Alfred Robinson, for the frequent use of his boat "The Thistle" and his splendid yacht "Katy Darling" by the use of which I have been enabled to visit many other interesting localities, among which is Quaker's Island, the ghostly notoriety of which and my experience in endeavouring to obtain "spiritual manifestations" till after the midnight hour I shall refer to in next.

Yours as ever,

FORKS, J.P.

## **The Liverpool Transcript, October 16, 1862 (Page 1 of 4)**

### THE OAK ISLAND DIGGINGS

We understand that a large steam boiler and pumps have recently been landed at Oak Island. They are to be used in conquering the water in the pits at that place. A most resolute attempt is now being made to bring to light the hidden treasure supposed to have been buried by the notorious pirate, Kidd. We cut from an exchange, some time ago, a letter, written by an interested party to a gentleman in Halifax, and as it contains about the best account we have ever seen of the "diggings", we give it entire to our readers, some of whom, probably, may have read it before. Here it is:

Truro, June 2, 1862.

Having been ridiculed both by the press and the uniformed (sic) portion of the public for embarking in so foolish an enterprise as the "Oak Island Diggings", we propose giving to the public something in the shape of a reason for our great faith in that enterprise.

When the first settlers from the United States came to Chester, they brought with them a story that an old sailor, while on his death bed, stated that he belonged to Captain Kidd's crew, and that he helped to bury on an Island, somewhere in that neighbourhood, about two million pound value of treasure, but that he had never dared to avail himself of the secret for fear of the "law" taking hold of him as a Pirate.

Sometime after the arrival of these persons a Mr. McGinnis went to Oak Island to make a farm, when he discovered the spot in question from its being sunken, and from the position of three oak trees, which stood in a triangular form round the pit. The bark had letters cut into it with a knife on each tree facing the pit, and one of the trees being so directly over the pit, that two large branches forming a crotch, were exactly perpendicular to the centre, and had a hole bored through, and an oak tree-nail driven in, on which hung a tackle (sic) block. He was induced from the appearance to be supposed that it might be the place referred to by the sailor. He then acquainted two men, Smith and Vaughn, of the circumstance, and they commenced digging. After going down ten feet they found a layer of oak timber, at twenty the same, and thirty the same. By this time the work became too heavy for them to carry on alone, and they tried to get the inhabitants to join them; but they refused from a kind of superstitious dread. About seven years afterwards, Simeon Lynds, of Onslow, went down to Chester, and happening to stop with Mr. Vaughn, he was informed of what had taken place. He then agreed to get up a company, which he did, of about 25 or 30 men, and they commenced where the first left off, and sunk the pit 93 feet, finding a mark every ten feet. Some of them were charcoal, some putty, and one at 80 feet was a stone cut square, two feet long and about a foot thick, with several characters cut on it.

## **The Liverpool Transcript, October 16, 1862 (Page 2 of 4)**

All the way down they were confined to a diameter of 16 feet, by the softness of the ground within that limit. The pick marks could be distinctly seen all around the sides of the pit. After they got down 93 feet, they forced a crowbar down and struck wood at five which appeared to be a platform from its being level, making in all to the supposed platform 98 feet. They quit the work until morning, when on commencing again they found the pit filled with water, as high as the tide level. Then they tried bailing, and afterwards tried pumping, which was all to no purpose. After which they sank a new pit in order to tunnel under the treasure which was unsuccessful.

Matters stood so until 1849, when a few persons in Truro, hearing Lynds tell the story, got up a company. They got down 86 feet, when the water drove them out. They then bored. This part of the work I can speak of with more certainty than any previous, as I took part in it personally, and worked on the auger. We bored five holes, in the first of which we lost the only valve sludger we had. It was a long pod with a valve at the bottom to prevent the contents from dropping out. This we always used after the chisel, it was lost by being a little too rash, and thereby twisting it off at the shank. Having lost it we had only one left, which had, instead of a valve, a ball inside with a pin across the bottom to keep the ball from dropping out. That one would not admit of coin passing into it. It would seem strange that we should not have got another valve sludger, but people who are penny wise and pound foolish sometimes do strange things. I wanted the persons in charge to send for two or three, but could not prevail on them to do so.

The second hole we bored struck the platform which the old diggers told us about - precisely at the depth they told us they had struck it with the crowbar, 98 feet. It proved to be spruce, six inches thick. After the auger went through it, dropped one foot and struck wood again, which was oak, four inches thick, then twenty inches of metal in small pieces which we knew from the sound and from the fact that the auger would go through by simply turning it, then eight inches of oak, six inches spruce, and then seven feet worked clay, then hard clay which had never been disturbed, another of the five holes struck the platform at the same depth, 98 feet; after going through the auger dropped a little more than it did in the first hole, and struck a cask which was evident from our bringing up a piece of an oak stave, and some pieces of birch hoops. We also brought three small links which had apparently been forced from an epulette. They were gold.

After that another gang bored, but the results were known only to the persons who conducted the boring, which he managed to keep to himself. But a short time after he made such disclosures to Mr. Charles D. Archibald, who was then concerned in the Londonderry Iron Mines, that he, Mr. A., went to the Government and got a license to dig. But from our having applied for a license before, they could only get permission to dig on unoccupied ground, which

### **The Liverpool Transcript, October 16, 1862 (Page 3 of 4)**

kept them from doing anything while our lease held good. One of the parties dying in the mean time, and Mr. A. being in Europe, they did not avail themselves of the license.

Our company worked at it four years, during which time they found a drain, or tunnel, leading from the sea to the pit. By digging a pit about 20 feet from the old pit and 94 feet deep, also near the shores at the same level, which would make it appear that the water came into the old pit about the top of the upper platform. Work was evidently done by hands in both pits, and also at the beach, where we found flag stones made in the form of drains and covered with a kind of grass, not the growth of this country, and the outer rind of the coconut. When the drain was struck in the pits, in both cases, the water burst in with such force as to drive us out. We drove piles into the one at the shore to stop the course of the water, which slackened the flow of the water in the old money pit, but did not stop it altogether, thereby inducing us to believe that there might be another drain. We afterwards dug two other pits near the old money pit, and found that there was no difficulty from the water at 109 and 112 feet until we attempted to work into the old pit by tunnelling, when it would invariably rise to a level with the tide.

That company also gave up, and last summer we formed another, and commenced digging a new pit 120 feet deep and about 25 feet from the old money pit. Our object was to intercept the water but to no purpose. We then tunnelled from one of the old pits on the west side, in order to enter the money pit, between the upper and lower platform, but from a misunderstanding about the starting point, the tunnel entered the old money pit a little below the lower platform, where we found the soft clay spoken of in the boring. The tunnel was unwisely driven through the old pit until it nearly reached the east pipe, when the water started, apparently coming above as on the east side.

We then bailed from the west pit, with six horses, for three days, and the horses becoming tired out for want of oats, of which we ran short, we knocked off, and went home, and started again with 33 horses and over 60 men. We then rigged gins and bailing apparatus on the new pit, the money pit, and the west pit, and commenced bailing on Wednesday morning, continued constantly night and day, until Friday morning, when the tunnel leading from the west pit to the money pit, which was 17 feet long, 4 feet high, and three feet wide, becoming choked with clay, we sent two men down to clear it out. After they had got about half way through they heard a tremendous crash in the money pit, and barely escaped being caught by a rush of mud which followed them into the west pit, and filled it up seven feet in less than three minutes. In the mean time a stick of oak timber of considerable girth, and 3 ½ feet in length, was ejected with the mud, all of which was soon cut up and made into walking canes, one of which I have the pleasure of sending you.

**The Liverpool Transcript, October 16, 1862 (Page 4 of 4)**

The bailing continued until 3 o'clock p.m., of Saturday, when, on clearing the tunnel again, another crash was heard in the money pit, which was supposed to be the upper platform falling, and immediately the bottom of the money pit fell to about 102 feet, measuring from the level of the ground at the top. It had been cleared out previously down 88 feet. Immediately after the cribbing of the money pit, commencing at the bottom, fell in, plank after plank, until there was only about thirty feet of the upper cribbing left. On Monday the top fell in, leaving the old money pit a complete mass of ruins. We then got a cast iron pump and steam engine from Chebucto Foundry in Halifax; but the boilers being defective we were obliged to give up, after spending considerable time, &c., until the Spring of this year, - not, however, until we proved that the water could be pumped out in two hours.

We now talk of letting a job of the whole work to Sutherland & Co., railway contractors, who have agreed to finish the work to our satisfaction, according to specification, for \$4000, and will take all the risk or forfeit payment, for which purpose we are now endeavouring to raise the required amount of stock. The foregoing statement can be certified on oath of respectable persons.

Now, I leave the matter to a discerning public, to say, whether we are the fools some people take us to be, in endeavouring to set the question for ever at rest. But I suppose the public will judge of it by the success we meet with. Should we be successful in getting a large amount of treasure we will be considered a very sensible lot of fellows; and if we should fail in finishing the work we will be set down as a set of phantom-following fools, fit for nothing but to be held up to public ridicule.

But facts are stubborn things. We have proved that the old "money pit", so called, was dug, and that the water must have been let in after it was filled up. The filling of it, leaving the ten feet marks, shows that the water did not flow into it until after it was filled; also, that the tunnel must have been made before it was filled, and that probably the last thing they did was to tear away a dam and let on the water. By the way the remains of an old dam was seen outside of the place where we found the drain and tunnel at the shore.

Yours &c.,

J.B. McCully

## **The Nova Scotian, September 30, 1861 (Page 1 of 3)**

### THE OAK ISLAND FOLLY

Two of our contemporaries have recently noticed, in not very flattering terms, the efforts of a company who have been laboring all the summer to obtain possession of a treasure supposed to be buried some ninety or a hundred feet below the surface of the soil, on Oak Island, a small island in Chester Basin, County of Lunenburg. There is a tradition, how originating is scarcely known at the present day, but probably as mythical in its origin as many other traditions, that the renowned sea rover, Captain Kidd, buried in this little island a portion of that enormous treasure which he was popularly supposed to have acquired after he renounced the commission under which he was authorised to capture pirates, and turned pirate himself. The tradition is not very clear about how Kidd got to Oak Island from the Indian seas, the chief scene of his exploits, nor about the amount of treasure which he consigned to that secure hiding place; but on the latter point, every man who believes the treasure is there, fixes the amount for himself, and generally at a figure of vast immensity.

At various times during the last fifty years, efforts have been made to get possession of the supposed treasure. These efforts have chiefly been confined to persons living in the Counties of Colchester and Pictou. Although no money has yet been found, a great many hundreds, we believe we may say thousands of pounds have been spent, in the vain effort; and many farmers and tradesmen have spent money in the Oak Island folly which might now be of great benefit to them, if they could but get it out of the hole where they have foolishly sunk it.

The latest attempt to rifle Captain Kidd's strong box has been made during the present season by a company from Truro. The notice taken of their efforts by the Halifax Witness and the Liverpool Transcript has displeased some members of the company, one of whom sends us the following account of their labors for publication. We publish the letter as an interesting history of misapplied labor and mistaken enthusiasm. But while expressing this opinion, we also express our sincere hope that we may be mistaken, and that the faith and perseverance of the Truro company may be rewarded with as big a box of as big doubloons as the most enthusiastic of them ever saw in his most golden-hued vision.

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## **The Nova Scotian, September 30, 1861 (Page 2 of 3)**

Mr. Editor:

As the wise editor of the Witness, and the wiser correspondent of the Liverpool Transcript, have been meddling with business not their own, on Oak Island, please permit one who is acquainted with the facts of the case, to state a few of them.

The ground on the part of the island, where search is made for the treasure, is formed of compact clay, mixed with round lumps of stone to the depth of 110 feet, perfectly dry, excepting in one pit where the water comes in at 98 feet from the surface. Over 50 years ago, a company from Onslow took the earth from this pit, and found it was dug at some former period, and carefully filled in with earth, in which they found wood, charcoal, putty, &c. At 93 feet from the surface they probed with a crowbar, and struck a platform of wood 5 feet beneath them; after which the water came in, and neither they, nor any company that followed them, ever again sent a shaft so far down.

About ten years ago a company, of which the writer was one, bored into this place with mining augers, and at 98 feet passed through wood. The following is a memorandum of one of several holes bored through this platform at 98 feet:

- 1st. Six inches, spruce wood.
- 2nd. A space of 12 inches, through which the auger fell.
- 3rd. Four inches, oak wood.
- 4th. Twenty inches of a material, which by its action upon, and the sound conveyed along the auger, resembled boring through small pieces of metal - coin, if you will - through which the auger passed by its own weight, in one turn.
- 5th. Eight inches, oak wood.
- 6th. Twenty inches, similar to the twenty above.
- 7th. Four inches, oak wood; and then through spruce wood, into the clay below.

It is asked, "what did you get up out of the twenty inches which you twice went through?" Answer - Nothing. The valve sledge that would bring up coin was broken in the first platform, and that used would bring up no coin, even if bored through. Samples of the earth, and specimens of the wood, it brought up without fail, but of the material within these twenty inches, it brought up nothing.

### **The Nova Scotian, September 30, 1861 (Page 3 of 3)**

The part of the pit occupied by this wood, &c. is deluged with water. Four shafts have been dug north, south, east and west of the old pit, from six to ten feet deeper than we wish to go in it; none of them distant from it more than twenty, and some of them not more than ten feet, and yet no water. This season we have gone directly underneath both platforms and water, within two or three feet of them, and yet dry.

Now, we are "deluded" enough to believe that the water comes from the sea through a tunnel cut by the art of man, because we saw the end of it at the shore, and by sinking shafts struck it twice between the money pit and the shore. At the shore there were drains laid most skilfully, and underneath, the sand covered with a kind of grass, which one of the best Botanists in the Province informed us grew nowhere in the British North American Provinces. This same grass was bored up from about the platforms in the old pit; it was also found in these drains - shewing the two works to be connected.

This season two pits were prepared for bailing the water, by sinking them a few feet below the depth we wished to go in the old pit, and tunnelling in at the proper height for the water, when with five gins we found we could conquer the water, and intended to go down in the old pit 98 feet, but having undermined the water and wood, before a way could be made for the water to come down to our tunnel leading to the west pit, the treasure and platforms came down, with a crash, driving wood and clay before them through 17 feet of a tunnel 4 feet by 8 in size, and raised this earth and wood 6 feet in what we call the west pit. While the water was hindered by this earth from coming through, we took out part of the earth and wood. The wood was stained black with age; it was cut, hewn, champered, sawn or bored, according to the purpose for which it was needed. We also took out part of the bottom of a keg, but in digging down we again made way for the water, and as this pit by its position was the deepest, all the bailing of water came upon one pit, and not being able to apply enough power at this point, we could clear out no more of what fell.

The association is now preparing a steam engine and pumps. Over one hundred shares of £5 each are issued, and the money is coming in again. Hear it, O Witness! And thou, Liverpool scribe.

I remain, the digger,

Patrick.

Truro, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>, 1861

## **The Colonist, January 2, 1864 (Page 1 of 4)**

### HISTORY OF THE OAK ISLAND ENTERPRISE - CHAPTER 1

Better than a century ago an old man died in what was then known as the British Colony of New England. On his death-bed he confessed himself to have been one of the crew of the famous Captain Kidd; and he assured those who witnessed his last moments, that many years past he had assisted that noted pirate and his followers in burying over two millions of money beneath the soil of a secluded island, east of Boston. As was natural to be supposed, this news spread rapidly over the New England Colonies, and was productive of many searches for the great treasure, along the seaboard and among the islands of the North American coast. These searches extended over a good many years, and occupied the time, and absorbed the means of a great many people. It is needless to say that they accomplished nothing. At length people could no longer afford to devote their time and means to so uncertain an employment, and some became dubious as to the existence of the treasure, while many were firm believers in its existence but despaired of ever finding its whereabouts.

For a number of years the first treasure-seekers turned their attention to employment of a more certain character, during which time, those who believed in it, ardently desired that accident would soon bring about what their searches had failed to effect. Thus Captain Kidd and his treasure remained for several years following the death of the old sailor, when three men, named Smith, McGinnis and Vaund, emigrated from New England to Chester, Nova Scotia. Smith and McGinnis took up land on Oak Island and Vaund settled on the adjacent main-land. At that time, this part of Nova Scotia was thinly settled, and few inroads had been made upon its primeval forests by the axes of former settlers. These men found the Island covered with a thick growth of wood, mostly oak; and very little of the mainland cleared. At length they had their log-cabins erected, and a small clearing made, in a place which till then, looked not at all desirable as the abode of civilized man. McGinnis, while roaming over the Island one day discovered a spot that gave unmistakable proof of having been visited by someone a good many years previously. He found that the first growth of wood had been cut down, and that another was springing up to supply its place. And some old stumps of oak trees that had been chopped down were visible.

Near this place stood one of the original Oaks with a large forked branch extending over the old clearing. To the forked part of this branch, by means of a wooden trunnel converting the fork into a small triangle, was attached an old tackle block. McGinnis immediately made known his discovery to those who had emigrated to the place with himself. All three were then living on terms of great intimacy. The next day they visited the spot together, and on taking the block from the tree, it fell to the ground and tumbled to pieces. While investigating the place they found that the remains of a tolerably well made road from it to the west shore of the Island, were still discernable. Part of that road may be seen at the present day. At first they were at a

## **The Colonist, January 2, 1864 (Page 2 of 4)**

loss to conjecture what it all meant. The first thought that occurred to them was, that if the report of Captain Kidd's burying money had any foundation in fact, that in all probability it was deposited beneath the spot McGinnis had discovered. The secluded situation of the place in a hitherto uninhabited Island, and the singular traces it presented as having been visited by the hands of civilized man, appeared quite in keeping with all the rumours regarding the hidden treasure of which they were in possession. And taking rather a favorable view of the matter, under all the circumstances, they were induced to go to work, to ascertain whether their convictions were well founded. They found that the ground over which the block and tackle swung had settled and formed a hollow. They cleared the young timber from the sunken ground and removed the surface soil for about two feet, when they struck a tier of flag stones, evidently not formed there by nature.

Afterwards they ascertained that these stones were not indigenous to the Island, but must have been taken from Gold River, about two miles distant. On removing the stones they saw that they were entering the mouth of an old pit or shaft that had been filled up. The mouth was seven feet in diameter, and the sides of the pit were of tough, hard clay, but the earth with which it had been filled up was loose and easy to be removed. They dug ten feet lower down when they came across a tier of oak logs tightly attached to the sides, and the earth below the logs had settled nearly two feet. The outside of the logs was so rotten that they felt confident they must have been imbedded there for a great many years. On removing them they continued the work till they were fifteen feet further down.

At this juncture they were unable to proceed further without more help, and concluded to drop the work until they could obtain other assistance. Before leaving off, however, they took oak sticks and drove them into the mud, and covered the place over. As these men, like most new settlers, were poor, and found that it required all their time at hard labor, more certain of remuneration, to supply their wants, they were unable to devote more time at present to Captain Kidd and his treasures. However, they looked about them and sought help from others, but without success. Some were superstitious enough to credit the saying that when pirates concealed money they always killed a black man and buried him with it to guard it. Others there were, who laughed at the idea of money being hid so deep in the earth, and none felt inclined to render them any assistance.

Thus matters remained for about fifteen years, when the late Simeon Lynds of Onslow, a man well known in many parts of Colchester County at the time, happened to visit Chester on business. As Lynds's father and Vaund were related, he called and passed an evening with him. In the course of conversation during the night, Lynds was let into the secret of the pit on Oak Island and the opinion entertained about it by Vaund and his companions. The next day Vaund crossed over to the place with Lynds in a boat, to let him pass his own judgement upon

### **The Colonist, January 2, 1864 (Page 3 of 4)**

it. The result was that he became of Vaund's way of thinking in the matter. Lynds was then a young man, his father was in comfortable circumstances; and he had a good many well-to-do friends. He concluded to go home, form a company among them to assist the pioneers in the search after the treasure to complete it. He succeeded in getting his friends to further his intentions, and early in the following summer a good many of them loaded a small schooner at Onslow with tools and provisions and sailed for Oak Island.

On their arrival they were joined by the three first treasure seekers, with whom they made arrangements to commence operations. During the time that had intervened since the leaving off work by the resident diggers, the pit had caved in and formed the shape of a sugar loaf resting on its apex; and besides, from the action of the rain and weather, a great quantity of mud had settled at the bottom. It gave them some trouble to clear this all out, but when they had done so they came across the sticks sunk in the mud by the first diggers, on the termination of their work. They then felt satisfied that the place had not been interfered with since. They had not got far into the work that was new to Vaund and his former associates, when they struck a second tier of oak logs, corresponding with the first. Ten feet lower down they found a tier of charcoal, and ten feet further a tier of putty. Further down was a flag stone about two feet long and one wide, with a number of rudely cut letters and figures upon it. They were in hopes this inscription would throw some valuable light on their search, but unfortunately they could not decipher it, as it was either too badly cut or did not appear to be in their own vernacular.

This remarkable stone was pretty far down in the pit, laying in the centre with the engraved side down. As it was preserved in the family of Mr. Smith it may be seen by the curious at the present day. After reaching a distance of ninety feet the earth in the centre of the pit became softer and water began to show itself. At ninety-three feet it increased, and they had to take out one tub of water to two of earth. Still they had no idea that anything was wrong. Night coming on, as it was their usual practice on the close of each day's work, they probed the bottom of the pit with a crow bar to see if they could strike anything below. And this evening at the depth of ninety-eight feet, being five feet below where the bar entered, they struck a hard impenetrable substance bound by the sides of the pit. Some supposed it was wood, and others called it a chest. They then left for the night to resume operations in the morning, when they fully expected to solve the mystery. This circumstance put them all in good spirits, and during the evening a good deal of discussion arose as to who should have the largest share of the treasure. But their great anxiety in this respect was set at rest the next morning, on finding sixty feet of water in the pit.

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Nothing daunted they set to work to clear the water with their bailing buckets, but all to no purpose, for there it stood at the same height. They soon found that their appliances were not sufficient for the emergency, and as haying time was close at hand, they concluded to return to their homes, make their hay, and return to the place in the fall better prepared to grapple with the difficulty. They dropped the work accordingly, and in the fall re-commenced operations. In the meantime, however, a committee was appointed to wait on Mr. Mosher of Newport, who at that time was considered the best mechanic in the Province, to obtain his services in effecting some contrivance to remove the water. Whereupon Mr. Mosher rigged a pump, at a cost of eighty pounds, which he thought would answer the purpose. On resuming operations in the fall this pump was lowered to the depth of ninety feet, and immediately the brakes were applied with all the force they could put on, but before the water reached the surface the pump burst. This ended the operations of the company for that season. Robert Archibald, and uncle to the late Master of the Rolls, then had charge of the work. He proposed that they should return to the place in the spring, and sink a new shaft fourteen feet from the old one, with a view to undermine it. This proposition was acceded to, and the following spring the proposed shaft was sunk to the depth of one hundred and ten feet.

At this stage they began to tunnel towards the old pit, and got within two feet of it, having tunnelled twelve, without encountering any hinderance. But at this time, water oozed in upon them from end of tunnel, and began to run in small streams. They at once resorted to various means to stop it, but they all proved ineffectual. It seemed that the more they attempted to prevent its appearance, the faster it grew upon them. At length the bank between the old pit and tunnel giving away, they were obliged to effect an immediate retreat. And in less than two hours afterwards, water was standing in the new pit to the depth of sixty-five feet. As might readily be expected, this event proved a great damper to their spirits, and was instrumental in bringing to a somewhat abrupt termination, the operations of those who composed the first Oak Island Association. These men have all, with one or two solitary exceptions, passed off this stage of action, but the remarkable zeal and energy they put forth to solve what has since become a knotty question, has not died with them. Since their day, others have been found to enter into their labors with an equal amount of zeal and determination, even up to the present time, when "Oak Island Association" is considered as a household word throughout the length and breadth of the land. But the subsequent history of this "enterprise" must be left for one or two succeeding chapters.

A member.

Truro, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, 1863.

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### HISTORY OF THE OAK ISLAND ENTERPRISE - CHAPTER II

Those who may have read the first chapter of this "sketch" ascertained that it amounted to nothing more than a brief narrative of the doings of a few enterprising Nova Scotians, now nearly all no more, who were the first to institute a search at Oak Island for the much talked about treasure, supposed by many to have been buried there by the redoubtable Captain Kidd.

This chapter will continue the subject, and treat of the proceedings of those who may be said to have formed the second "Oak Island Association". They became connected with the "enterprise" as will be seen at a much later, if not a more successful period in the history.

After the first Association had abandoned the work in despair, with no more consolatory result from all the time and money spent, to reflect upon, other than their fruitless endeavors to reach the treasure, strongly reminded them of persons engaged in the vain attempt to fill a headless barrel with water, some fifty years glided into eternity without anything notable transpiring in the history of Oak Island. This brings us down to about fifteen years ago. Then it was that the cause was resuscitated by a few individuals who eagerly grasped at the singular history of the place given to them by Mr. Lynds and such of his associates as were then living. These accounts being corroborated, and coming from men of known character, caused some of the young men of that day to raise a small sum of money to continue the work the old men had abandoned. They felt confident of success, and imagined among themselves that their operations, unlike those of their predecessors, would end in something more palatable than disaster and defeat.

It was somewhere about the early part of the summer of 1848 that a gang of men belonging to or employed by the second Association, left Truro for Oak Island. The instructions given to these men were, to find the bottom of the old pit, and if possible, to arrive at some satisfactory reason for its being dug at a time when the adjoining coast of Nova Scotia, for miles in either direction, was altogether unsettled.

After making the necessary arrangements with Mr. Smith, who then owned the ground, these men reopened the old pit a distance of six feet, when they struck the top of the pump sunk by their predecessors. Twelve days after, they were down eighty-six feet and inside of the old cribbing. They found that it remained exactly as discovered by Lynds and did not entertain the shadow of a doubt in their own minds, but that the pit had been sunk by some parties long before Lynds ever saw the place. They also considered that something very valuable must be at the bottom, as they could not conceive how such a work could have been undertaken but for some important purpose. Like their predecessors, they were in possession of all the accounts about Kidd's buried treasure, and like them they firmly believed it was within their reach, if they could only surmount the tantalizing difficulties that obstructed their way.

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They worked on successfully for about a fortnight, when Saturday night arrived. As the work had progressed to that stage where the water set in to disappoint the expectations of the old men, and as they supposed they were all but in sight of the treasure, some were anxious to continue their labours until they ascertained whether untold wealth or signal disappointment should crown their efforts. But the good sense of the rest over-ruled the desire of those who did not appear to enter into the spirit of "Burns' Cottar's Saturday Night", and all further work was postponed till Monday Morning.

Sabbath morning came, and no signs of water, more than usual, appearing in the pit, the men left for church at Chester Village with lighter hearts, and, perhaps, easier consciences, than they might have had, had this disappointment happened. At two o'clock they returned from church, and to their great surprise found water standing in the pit to the depth of sixty feet, being on a level with that in the Bay. It would be uncharitable to suppose that this circumstance interfered with the good effects of the sermon the men had just heard; but one thing is quite certain, they considered it as the greatest misfortune they had to encounter.

The next morning they all set vigourously to work bailing, and had not been long engaged until the result appeared as unsatisfactory as taking soup with a fork. In short, they found themselves in the same sad plight experienced by Lynds and his associates, and the thought of their meeting with a similar fate chagrined them not a little.

Notwithstanding the disappointment was great, and the difficulty appeared almost insurmountable, as they did not wish to be outdone by the old men, they did not feel disposed to drop the work without further efforts. They accordingly sent to Truro and procured a set of mining augers belonging to the late John Ross, Esq. While the augers were on the way, a platform was erected at the top of the water, and a box was driven into the mud at the bottom. On their arrival, a bore was commenced at the centre of the bottom of the pit. Nothing was found but soft mud down to the distance, as near as could be judged, of 98 feet from the surface. At this depth, however, the sludge auger striking a hard substance, they put on a chisel to see what it was, and found it to be wood. They cut a hole in this woody obstruction, sufficient as they thought, to admit of the sludge auger, but did not make it large enough. In trying to pass it through, it stuck so that it could not be made to move up nor down and to withdraw the auger they were obliged to twist it off.

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This rendered it unfit to bring up coins, whereupon some proposed to send to Pictou for one that would. But the funds were found too low to admit of this suggestion being carried out and the delay in getting another auger would occasion more loss of time than they could well afford to spare. Under these circumstances they concluded to do the best they could with the tools they had. The most serviceable of these was the chisel and a ball sludge auger. They lost no time in driving another bore alongside of the first. After reaching the wooden obstruction in which their auger was crippled they withdrew the ball-sludge auger to apply the chisel, and, in doing so, brought to the surface a small bunch of what was afterwards supposed by persons likely to know, to be a grass peculiar to the Spanish-Main. For a while, until they had received this information, one or two were foolish enough to wonder whether they had not exhumed a portion of the scalp of the black man of whom they had been informed by those who derided their undertaking. But fortunately for the "Oak Island" treasure-seekers, pieces of this grass were preserved by those who first handled it so if nothing more valuable is found to gladden their hearts and rebut the ridicule and contumely lavishly heaped upon them in many quarters, it, as well as the wonderful discoveries previously and subsequently made, will remain to denote their belief in its being the resting place of Kidd's Treasure, with, to say the least, a mysterious significance.

The chisel having been attached to the auger, they cut through a spruce log about six inches, when it dropped a foot and struck a piece of oak timber four and a half inches thick. On getting through the latter they met something harder than wood, and continued boring until the auger settled down about 20 inches. While the auger was passing through this unknown substance, a sharp metallic sound greeted the ears of those employed. It resembled the grating noise a bar of iron would make on being worked through a keg of nails. Twenty inches lower down wood was again found, and after getting through it, the same mineral obstruction of a corresponding thickness, stood in the way. Then came wood four and a half inches in thickness, and afterwards soil of the same stratum changed into mud.

The only thing worth saying, that they succeeded in taking out of this bore was part of the head of an oak cask. One end had been cut off, but the other showed the finish of the cooper's knife. This apparent success afforded them much encouragement, and for a while proved quite a stimulant to their drooping spirits.

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Wishing to test the thing still further they drove a thin bore close to the others, from which they hoped to take out some token of the existence of the great treasure that could not be gainsayed by the most incredulous. This bore, however, was gone through with pretty much the same results as the others. They withdrew the auger several times in hopes that they might fish up some of the metallic substance that had served them with fresh energy for the work but in this they were sadly disappointed. All they got instead was some more of the same description of grass already referred to - a small piece of wood, broken off the bilge of a cask and afterwards, a portion of the hoop that encased it. The hoop was of birch, and though much discolored had bark on it in a good state of preservation. And from this bore they ascertained that the space containing the casks, between the upper and lower wooden obstructions, which they now called platforms, occupied six feet. Within this space no mud had protruded. Beneath the lower platform they continued the bore for a short distance without finding anything besides earth and mud. But from the way in which the auger penetrated this they judged that the earth had at one time been removed for at least eight feet below where they had encountered wood. They also drove another bore quite close to the side of the pit, but came across nothing but mud and earth.

At length they grew weary of the work. They already felt that too large drafts had been made on their time, their money, and their patience, to admit of their continuing it any longer. They believed that with all the skill and ingenuity they had displayed, superior to that exhibited by the old men, they had now arrived at the goal, past which nothing could take them. They thought of the Dutchman and his anchor, - and of the Irishman who lost his tea-kettle overboard; and then looking at themselves and the treasure that lay beneath them, they considered that for all practical purposes their relative positions were identical. Entertaining these views, many of the Company retired and left a willing few to struggle on against, as they thought, great odds.

In endeavouring to reduce the water by bailing, these men found that it kept rising to its former position, and as it was quite salt and smelt like bilge water, they thought that it must connect with the sea by means of a subterranean channel. This idea had previously been entertained, but as many considered it absurd, no attention had been paid to it. It was now acted upon and a thorough search was set on foot to see whether such a drain was real or imaginary. A good deal of care and attention was given to the matter when the latter conclusion was generally considered the correct one. Those engaged gave up the search as hopeless and retired to their house with one exception. He remained strolling along the beach without any particular object in view. On reaching the Cove on the east side of the Island his attention was attracted to a small stream of clear water issuing from the bank, the tide being then out. As the day was warm, and he being very thirsty, he approached the stream for a drink, when he was surprised to find that it was a salt spring.

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On making this discovery known to his associates they at once proceeded to the spot and soon discovered five well-made drains of small size entering the bank at low water mark. They removed the covering as well as they could and found that the stones forming the arch of the drain were coated with a layer of the same kind of grass they had found on the top of the upper platform in the old pit at a distance of ninety-eight feet from the surface. In investigating the drains further they found that they connected with one of larger dimensions, the stones forming which had been prepared with a hammer and were mechanically laid in such a way that the drain could not collapse. There were a number of tiers of stones strengthening the higher part of the drain, on the top of which was also found a coating of the same sort of grass as that already noticed. Over it came a layer of blue sand, such as before had not been seen on the Island. And over the sand was spread the gravel indigenous to the coast.

Having laid bare the large drain for a short distance into the bank, they found that it had been so well made and protected that no earth had sifted through its arch to obstruct water passing through it.

They then attempted to follow the inward direction of the drain in search of a perpendicular shaft, but on account of the surrounding soil being so soft and so much saturated with water it was given up as impracticable.

Failing in this, they next resolved to sink a shaft from the upland on a range between the drain and the old pit.

After several days hard labor the proposed shaft was sunk to the depth of seventy-four feet, at which distance the drain was struck. The ground being much lower here than it was higher up, their task was much lighter than it would otherwise have been; for had they have commenced on a dead-level with the old pit the shaft would require to have been sunk one hundred and four feet. But before they were aware of it water came in upon them at a rapid rate and drove them from the pit. It rose to the same height it stood in the old one. In order to stop the water they threw in several tons of earth and stone to prevent its return after they had bailed out what was already in. This done they drove a number of piles into the bottom to prevent, if possible, the water passing through the drain. Up to this period in the history of the "enterprise" several shafts had been sunk on the Island, but in only two of them were they aware of the water causing any annoyance - this and the old pit - and as they knew that the drain conveyed the water into this pit, they felt satisfied that it also connected with the other one.

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They next attempted to bail the water out of the old pit to see if the piles driven across the drain at the new one would prevent its recurrence. After bailing a short time they found that the water did not rise with its usual rapidity and this they looked upon as a result gratifying to their expectations. But they soon were disappointed in learning that the result was of such a trivial nature that it could not insure to a continuation of their labors the success they so ardently desired.

Winter coming on, and having no stable for their horses, they resolved to defer further operations till the ensuing Spring; and in the meantime they hoped to raise money enough to drive the work to a successful issue. Spring came, but nothing was done at Oak Island, as the calls for money among the members of the Association were as poorly responded to as those recently made among the share-holders of the Great Eastern in the interests of that unfortunate ship. And for about a period of nine years this state of things continued, during which time the mining lease of the second "Oak Island Association" expired, and on its expiration its existence may be said to have terminated, notwithstanding, as will be seen in another chapter, members of that Association composed the nucleus of a third.

A member

Of The Oak Island Association.

Truro, Dec. 22, 1863.

## Colonial.

From the Halifax Chronicle.

### THE OAK ISLAND ASSOCIATION.

By advertisement, the stockholders in the Oak Island Association resident in Halifax, and others desirous of purchasing stock in the enterprise, were requested to meet at Mason Hall on Tuesday evening last. In response to the solicitation, about 20 persons assembled, and nearly all of them, judging from the part they took in the proceedings, were interested in the affairs of the company. A few minutes before 9 o'clock, the meeting was called to order, and after a brief conversation among the leading promoters of the concern, the chairman requested the secretary to favor those present with an outline concerning the progress that was being made, and the prospects of final success that were entertained, also, to relate the circumstances that led to the belief that treasure is secreted somewhere in the bowels of Oak Island. The individual addressed replied, in substance, that there was in Lunenburg a traditional legend, to the effect that the celebrated rover, Captain Kidd, had buried an immense amount of his ill-gotten treasure on an island in or near Chester Bay. Many years ago, several persons, induced by these rumors, visited Chester in search of the spot where it was thought the money was hidden; but there were so many islands in that vicinity, they were at a loss to fix upon the one most likely to contain the coveted booty. However, several families settled at Chester, and one man named McGinnis, upon visiting Oak Island, discovered that at a certain place upon it a portion of ground in a circular form about twelve feet in diameter, presented a sunken appearance; and on the outside of this spot, forming an outline of a triangle, stood three oak trees, each bearing evidence that at some prior time they had been marked by a sharp instrument. In one of these trees, a trunnel had been driven, and upon it hung an old and weather-beaten block such as are used for hoisting and lowering purposes. McGinnis was then confident that he had found the long-sought spot, and assembling some of his acquaintances, they commenced digging, and every ten feet they encountered a wooden platform; and after much toil and perseverance, they got down some 80 feet, when they struck another platform, larger and apparently stronger than any of the others they had taken out. They felt sure that beneath this lay the money box, but night overtook them before they could remove the covering, and accordingly they concluded to postpone operations until the morning; but before leaving drove a cross-bar between the planks to a considerable depth in the earth beneath. That night they went pretty freely, and it was near mid-day when they got back to the place to resume operations, and upon arriving, what was their surprise to find the pit filled with water. This untoward event caused a suspension of the works for some time.

The Secretary then recounted the efforts that had been made at various times since that period

(about 63 years ago), and the results that had followed. He remarked that while excavations were being made, a hewn stone bearing an inscription, was found at the depth of eighty feet. The fact of the water filling the pit when a certain depth had been gained, led to the adoption of the theory that the pirate had constructed a tunnel communicating with the sea, for the purpose of preventing strange hands from reaching the precious deposit. Various attempts were made at sundry times to reach the money pit, without success, until thirteen years ago, when the existing Company was formed, and from that period to the present time, operations have been going on. The Secretary stated that at a depth of about ninety feet the water came in upon them, and they then resorted to boring, with the most curious results. They at first bored through six inches of oak, then the auger passed through twenty inches of what they supposed was coal, then four inches of spruce, and again, twenty inches of metal, and so on to a considerable depth. During these operations, gold bracelets, and sundry other articles were brought out of the pit. Finding it was impossible to reach the treasure through the means they were employing, they determined to dig a pit alongside the old one, and then tunnel through to the money pit, but unfortunately they went too deep, and got under it, and one night the bottom of the old pit fell down with a great crash, and the new shaft was at the same time filled with water. They are now engaged in sinking another shaft, and the plan arranged is to excavate below the level of the treasure, and then tap the old pit and allow Kidd's money to fall into the new one, and then by means of pumps keep the water clear and remove the treasure at their leisure. If we understood the Secretary correctly, he said that upwards of £2000 have been already expended upon the undertaking, and the existing Company is now in debt over £200, but they are sanguine that if they can raise about £400 now it will be sufficient to pay off the liabilities, and complete the work, and secure the untold sums that it is supposed now lie hidden there from the view of all mankind.

About \$500 were subscribed at the meeting, and it was resolved to make efforts to dispose of several shares in this city during the week. The company are sanguine that the plan they have now adopted will prove a complete success, and the only obstacle at present is the want of funds.

## Communications.

*For the Herald.*

MR. EDITOR:—I notice in your paper of 6th inst., an account of a meeting held in Mason Hall at Halifax, in relation to the Oak Island Association. It seems this meeting was called by J. B. McCully, Esquire, Secretary, at the instance of the President of the Association. If the report of this meeting be true, it differs so widely from the statement made by said Secretary on 23rd August, 1862, to L. J. Walker, Local Agent at Yarmouth, that I am induced to give you said statement in full, which is as follows:—

*Extract from a letter from J. B. McCully, Secretary of the Association, at Truro, to L. J. Walker, Local Agent at Yarmouth:—*

Aug. 23, 1862.

“As regards our financial position, it stands thus:—Last year we expended £1250. We are in debt about £50 on the pumps, and about £50 for wages due the last crew who worked on the Island last fall, which wages will all be taken, or nearly so, in stock. We have in pumps and other rolling stock on the Island and belonging to the Association fully £300 worth, and we estimate the finishing of the work to cost not over £500, which, together with the £100 which is the amount of our liabilities, will amount to £600, which, added to the £1250 of last year's expenditures, will amount in all to £1850. This will be the whole amount of stock of the association, unless the Executive Committee consider it advisable to issue ten more shares, which would add £50 more to the stock. Each shareholder will be entitled to an interest in the association

in proportion to the amount of stock he subscribes and pays for. The association takes no account of any work done previous to last year, that was another Company altogether.”

From the above statement made to the Local Agent, the amount of money required to finish the work was only £500: but should £50 more be needed, the Executive Committee had power to issue ten more shares to raise the £50—these two sums added to the amount expended in 1861, would make the whole amount of stock to be £1900. Upon this statement, individuals in Yarmouth were induced to take stock to a large amount.

Now, Mr. Editor, I wish to ask, what right the President or Secretary had to call such a meeting, to issue more stock without the consent of the members of the Association?

Why did not the Secretary state to the Local Agent in Yarmouth, that the present Company was formed 13 years since?

Why did the Secretary state that no account was taken of any money expended previous to 1861, as that was another Company altogether?

At the meeting held at Halifax, the Secretary stated that this Company was formed 13 years since, that they had expended over £2000, were in debt over £200, that he wished to raise £100 to finish the work; these sums added together would make the stock of the Company £2600.

Let the reader compare the report of this meeting at Halifax, with the statement sent by Mr. J. B. McCully to Yarmouth, and then he can calculate how much dependence can be placed on any statement made by the Secretary of Oak Island Association.

A SHAREHOLDER  
in said Association.

## OAK ISLAND! OAK ISLAND!!

—o—  
*Latest News from Oak Island!!!*  
—o—

**T**HE long-sought, deeply explored Pirate Treasure, has, it is said, at length been reached, only "a few hundred dollars more—to be made up among the shareholders—will be required to complete operations. No more outsiders, believers or unbelievers, are to be admitted."

This "pronunciamento" seems so unfair, that in the name of Justice and Fair Play, it is hereby announced that a new Company, to be called

"THE CONTINENTAL COMPANY,"

will be at once formed, on a more liberal basis than that of Oak Island. The shares will be moderately valued at one dollar each, to bring them within the reach of the boy's pocket money, the maiden's pin money, the professional man's hardly earned fee, or the daily wages of the humbler mechanic, while men of means may invest *ad libitum*.

Under good and sufficient security, to every holder of one share, will be guaranteed double the amount of the Oak Island Dividend—for instance, suppose there are Five Hundred Shareholders in Oak Island Stock, at twenty dollars per share, assume treasure recovered at two millions of pounds, equal to eight millions of dollars. Each shareholder will receive for twenty dollars invested, sixteen thousand dollars, or say fifteen thousand, allowing a broad margin for settling the business, disposing of plant, converting bullion into specie, with the unavoidable attendant expenses. In Continental Company Stock, five hundred shareholders will divide (taking net dividend as above) fifteen millions of dollars, equal to thirty thousand dollars for each dollar share. Four thousand per cent. better than Oak Island Stock.

With a respectable sum like this, the holder of a single share could at once embark in metropolitan shipbuilding, farming on a sufficiently extensive scale for this country, stock raising, gold mining, patent medicines, wholesale liquor dealing, running the blockade, or in any other congenial, creditable and christian pursuit.

The Dividend will be declared simultaneously with the Oak Island Dividend.

It is needless to dwell upon the claims presented by this Company to public favor, independent of mere pecuniary considerations. There will be no calls for future instalments, the Stock can never cave in, nor be submerged under inexplicable brine; it requires no new pits, tunnels, cribbing, or pumps, and only one-fourth part as much faith; the shares once paid for, will be secured to the purchaser, his heirs and assigns forever. There will be no exclusion, no monopoly, even Oak Islanders will be admitted as freely as their Feejee congeners or any other Islanders, and no preference whatever will be given to age, sex, station, color, creed or country.

An agency will be opened at Halifax and at Truro by responsible parties recommended by Members of the Government.

For further information, address, post paid, CONTINENTAL, Yarmouth.

Yarmouth, Feby. 12, 1863.—lw. pd.

## Communications.

### Oak Island.

To the Editor of the Yarmouth Herald.

Sir,—I observe in your issue of the 22d inst., a communication over the signature of "A Shareholder," finding a great deal of fault with the Proceedings and Secretary of Oak Island Association for calling a meeting at Halifax to raise funds to enable us to finish the work on Oak Island. He says: "If the report of this meeting be true, it differs so widely from the statement made by said Secretary on the 23d August, 1862, by L. J. Walker, local agent at Yarmouth, that I am induced to give you said statement in full."

Perhaps it would have been quite as prudent to have ascertained that it was true before he paraded me before the public as a person utterly unworthy of belief, and I must say—at the risk of being considered impertinent—that I could have appreciated his motives in writing that communication, had he done it in a little more gentlemanly style. However, for his gratification, as well as to satisfy the minds of others who have interest in the Association, I will (with your indulgence) make a few explanations.

In the first place, then, the President is the proper person—by the advice of the Executive Committee—to call all meetings of the Association, and to order the Secretary to give notice of such meetings.

It could not be inferred from my letter to Mr. J. Walker, on the 23d Aug., 1862, that the Executive Committee was limited to any certain amount, because I stated that they could, if they considered it advisable, issue more stock. It is true, I mentioned ten shares; but we had no idea at that time that even that amount would require to be added to the estimate.

At a general meeting of the Association, held at Truro in June, 1862, a working committee was appointed to carry on the work on the Island, subject to be displaced by the Executive Committee whenever, in their opinion, the interests of the Association required it. That Committee proceeded to the work, and had succeeded in taking the mud out of the west pit, so far as to have the mouth of the tunnel all clear, and would have finished the old pit by the tunnel in two or three days at the farthest, had not Mr. White, the agent from Yarmouth, interfered in a very improper manner, and induced them to quit the west pit and commence sinking the old pit. After finding that impracticable under existing circumstances, they were obliged to return to the west pit, in which they found another accumulation of mud; and before they succeeded in removing it, the pit began to shew signs of collapse. The Executive Committee then secured

services of Mr. Fleming, an experienced practical miner and engineer, who had been very recommended to us, to take charge of the

He proposed commencing a new shaft immediately, and expressed himself able to finish the work from it by a tunnel. It would also be available for a pumping pit, without which it would be impossible to accomplish our object. He said that if we would commence it immediately he would remain, and put all his wages in as a guarantee that he could not be sure of attending to the work next summer, and that it could be done nearly as well and cheap then, as in summer; because, the men were on the ground, and every thing in working order.

What then were we to do? Abandon the work for an indefinite period, or follow it up and endeavor to finish it while we had a prospect of doing so? We decided upon the latter course as the most rational one, and as engine hire was the next thing to do was to have the work stop until it would be necessary to use the engine again, which was so arranged.

I was authorized to communicate with agents in Halifax, inform them what had taken place, and state that a further issue of stock would be necessary, to enable us to finish the work. That call was partially responded to, but a sufficient amount had not been realised. A gentleman in Halifax told me that we would be able to raise the required amount there, if a meeting were held there, so as to give the people an opportunity of understanding the matter. By order of the Executive Committee, I proceeded on Monday the 6th inst., and arranged for a meeting to be held at Mason Hall on the 10th. As soon as I had made the arrangement, I telegraphed to Mr. R. B. Brown, local secretary at Yarmouth, informing him when the meeting would take place, and requesting to be informed if the Yarmouth people wished to take any more stock, so as to reserve a place for them in case the whole amount should be offered in Halifax. The telegram was answered on the evening of the meeting, but I could not infer from it that any dissatisfaction existed among the shareholders in Yarmouth.

At that meeting I did not state that the existing company was organized 13 years ago, as reported, but was very particular in stating that it was formed in the Spring of 1861, and did not take into account any work done or money expended previous to that time. I said that I, in company with others, did work there 13 years ago, and told the meeting what we had done from time to time during the four years that that Company continued operations, the details of which were quite inaccurately reported in the Halifax Morn-

ing Chronicle of the 10th inst. I called at the Chronicle office, and after some explanation, they promised to correct one or two of the most important misstatements, which they did in their next issue. I would have written a full statement, but as it would probably have occupied more space than they would have been willing to devote to it, I forbore.

I stated also at the meeting that the Association had issued altogether, stock, amounting to a little over £2000, that we owed about £200, and that about £100 or a sufficient sum to make the whole stock £2500, *we estimated*, would pay off the debt and finish the work.

We now have the new pit finished, the pumps put in order, and lowered into it, the engine removed to it and connected with the pumps, and the tunnel finished 11 feet, with only 9 feet further to go, which will soon be accomplished; and as *stubborn facts* give us every reason to believe there does exist a treasure there, we hope to secure it, notwithstanding we have been laughed at as fools and fanatics: but we'll "*bide our time*," and adopt the old motto, "they may laugh that win."

In conclusion, allow me to say to "A Shareholder" not to be alarmed—he will certainly get fair play, even from

J. B. McCULLY,

Sec'y of Oak Island Association.

Truro, Jany. 29th, 1863.

For the Herald.

Who Was Capt. Kidd?

## Communications.

### Oak Island.

THE REASONS FOR SUPPOSING TREASURE IS BURIED THERE.

HISTORY OF OPERATIONS ON THE ISLAND.

For the Yarmouth Herald.

MR. EDITOR,—

Before giving you a history of the "Oak Island Folly," I will first state that, subsequent to the publication of my first communication last week, the shareholders of the Oak Island Association in this place, held a meeting in Baxter's Hall. Although not advertised in the papers, I got wind of it. I understand that the stockholders here agreed to assess themselves \$3 each on a full share, to defray the expenses of delegates to Oak Island and for a large correspondence, say with five or six individuals there and elsewhere. The local agent gets the sincere thanks! (provided anything is obtained of the treasure) of some 200 or more gentlemen residing in this County. It appears to pay him very well, and he seems quite well satisfied with his present income from that source. It appears, moreover, that many of those two hundred individuals, notwithstanding this correspondence costs them \$3 per share, and which a few pay with reluctance or not at all, are weak enough to make public the whole business of the Association. I am myself a living illustration of this fact. Mr. B., the local agent for Yarmouth, by means of plans of the works, and reading the correspondence from delegates at the Island, showed the exact progress made so far towards getting out the treasure. From information obtained at this meeting, added to what I already knew respecting the enterprise, I was induced to take a half share, and on paying my proportion of the assessment, was entitled to learn all they knew about the matter.

But more of this anon.

It appears that about 64 years ago, a man residing on the island first discovered indications of a pit having been dug. A circular piece of ground covered with clover, and oak trees growing by the side of it, a large bough of one of them extending over the spot, and a strong oak treenail driven through the bough into the body of the tree, led the discoverer to suppose there was money buried there. Believing himself to be the first resident on the island, and having lived there three years alone with his family, his surprise was very great on finding the circular clover field, when no clover was supposed to grow on the island.

On making his discovery known to his neighbors on the main-land, a small company was formed, who commenced to dig. They found the earth where the clover grew, sunken below the level of the ground immediately around it, and on digging the earth, required only the shovel and spade, while the marks of a pick were clearly discernible all around the sides of the pit; the surrounding earth being of a hard bluish clay, so hard, that a strong man could only penetrate the soil two or three inches with the blow of a pick. At every ten feet a mark was discovered; some were of timber, one charcoal, one of putty, and the eighty feet mark was a stone about two feet long, cut square, which is yet to be seen in the chimney of an old house near the pit. On arriving at a depth of ninety-five feet they were sounding with a crowbar three feet farther, when water began to come in on them through one of the holes made by the bar. This was plugged up with wood: as night was approaching they all adjourned to drink, talk, and dream over the treasure that was to be dug out on the morrow; but, alas! for human calculations—the searches

after stolen goods, these wicked, unprincipled men [you know Mr. Editor, "the receiver is as bad as the thief" in the eyes of the law.] came with shovels, picks, and crowbars, a rope, tackle, and a few fish barrels, deposited them near the pit—looked in—and lo! about sixty feet of salt water filled the pit to within about forty feet of the top!! An attempt was then made to pump the water out, but no efforts of theirs could lower the water in the pit one inch. It was soon ascertained that the water in the money pit ebbed and flowed with the tide; and even now, although the water in the aqueduct leading from the sea into the money pit was partially stopped some twelve or thirteen years ago, it is the same, though in a less degree: at course the pit was abandoned there, and, so far as I can learn, nothing was done towards finding the treasure until thirteen years ago another company was formed of many of old diggers and some new ones. The work was continued during four consecutive years; a vast amount of money was expended; five small drains were discovered on the shore, due east of the money pit, below high water mark; these drains were each sixty-six feet long, the outer ends of the two outside drains were exactly sixty-six feet apart, and the whole five converged to a point four feet wide; thus forming (between the outside ends of the two outer ones, and the point from which they all radiated) an equilateral triangle. These drains were all built upon beach stones, carefully laid down for the space of one-fourth of an acre or more, and were made by placing two flat stones on their

edges, open at the bottom and closed at the top; against the ends of these, two more were placed in like manner, and so on for the whole three hundred and thirty feet; wherever there was a joint in the stones, one was laid across, protecting the joint, and the whole was covered over with a foreign grass, like the inside of a cocoa nut husk. The searchers thirteen years ago, ascertaining how the pit bore from the middle drain, sunk a pit about one hundred feet from the shore, intending to strike a large drain (supposed to exist there), and on sinking a pit over seventy feet in depth, and finding no water, supposed themselves to be on one side of it, and commenced to dig another pit, so near the first, that the cribbing on the south side of the first, formed the cribbing on the north side of the second pit. At about sixty feet below "high water-mark," they found (on sounding with a bar) a layer of beach stones just four feet wide and covered over with a substance, which must have been water-proof. However, the bar penetrated the covering, and, as happened to the old diggers in the money pit, water began to flow in and soon drove them out. It rose sixty feet in this new pit, just as it had done about fifty years before in the money pit, thus proving the main drain to be on a perfect level from one end to the other. The distance between the two pits is four hundred and twenty feet, or thereabouts; on either side of the drain the bar could be forced at least one foot deeper without meeting any interruption. An attempt was made to cut off the drain by driving down long three inch planks, the ends sharpened, and a battering ram applied to the end above, but the only effect was to enter the planks a short way in the drain, both ends of the planks becoming splintered into shreds of wood; and as this had to be done with sixty feet of salt water in the pit, the drain was only partially stopped. They had previously built a dam beyond where the mouth of the drain was supposed to exist, and in doing this they discovered the five drainlets already spoken of. One strange feature in regard to these little drains, as they are called, is, that they were constructed so far above the level of the main drain, not less than 55 feet—leading to the hypothesis that they were built either for a "decoy," or to leave marks by which the builders could always discover the exact locality of the money pit; and strangely enough, it was through these that diggers thirteen years ago found the drain as already spoken of. It is the opinion of many persons interested in the matter, that, somewhere between the pit near the shore and the terminus of these drains, there is a drop of some fifty to sixty feet to the water, conducting it to all the pits that

have yet been dug. The builders of these works might have had a gate, or some other means for completely arresting the flow of water in the aqueduct; the only indications of a drain to be found on the shore are the little eddies to be seen on a calm day; when the tide is at the ebb a wide shallow stream issues out of the bank of sand and pebbles and gradually spreads itself over the beach—a thin, straggling stream, having no definite outlet—the bank just where it oozes out, being composed of round pebbles, sand and beach stones to the depth of many feet. When the tide is at the flood, several little eddies can be seen curling and twisting themselves about on the surface of the water, until an increase of depth closes over them. In justice to those "unfortunate individuals" who are expending their money in this enterprise, I would just say here that a reliable gentleman (who, I believe, is a large stockholder in the concern,) told me "he was at Oak Island some thirteen years ago, while they were digging the second pit near the shore, and went off in a boat to see the five drains spoken of above, that he saw them several feet under water, that he dipped up some of the water out of the pit, and on tasting found it as salt as the sea water,"—showing that it was not a natural spring, as some persons persist in saying; and I am assured, and believe it to be true, that not a spring of fresh water is to be found on the island. Indeed, out of all their digging, including the six or seven pits, some of which are one-hundred and ten feet or more in depth, no fresh water has troubled the men except what dripped from above ground, amounting to only a few tubfuls. They never are troubled with salt water so long as they avoid striking the main drain; then it rushes in upon them until the tide level is attained, as already described. But I am digressing.

They had established these facts, viz: that a drain existed: that it was  $\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide, filled with pebbles and beach stones; that this drain was 520 or more feet in length; that it was perfectly level, as proved by the water rising 60 feet at the new pit 100 feet from the shore, and to the same depth at the money pit 520 feet from the shore; that this drain was also straight and not tortuous in its course; and lastly, that the five small drains, (capable of admitting a man's arm) covering one quarter of an acre of ground below high water mark, led out of or were in some way connected with the large drain or aqueduct.

The Company now resolved to prove the pit supposed to contain treasure: for this purpose a platform or staging was built in the old pit, at some 30 feet or more below the surface of the ground, and Messrs. McCully and others com-

*menced to bore.* A box or spout, some 4 or 5 inches square, was sunk to the bottom of the pit, the lower end resting on the *upper platform covering the drain*, and a large "pod auger" being lowered to the bottom inside the box which was sunk in more than 50 feet of water, and was used to steady the auger and prevent the borings from dropping out, when the former was drawn up for examination. They bored 5 holes; in consequence of the auger springing or the box containing it not standing perpendicular, in three of them, nothing of consequence was discovered, but the other two gave the following results:—First, they bored through *six inches of spruce*, then the auger *dropped 12 inches*, (supposed to be the drain), then they bored through *four inches of oak*; then, *twenty inches of metal*, (this they knew from the peculiar ring of the auger in turning, as ascertained by applying the ear to the brace-head); then, *eight inches of oak*; then, *twenty inches as before of metal*; they judged it to be coin from its working *its way clear of the auger in the boring*: then *four inches of oak*, *six inches spruce* and *seven feet of soft clay*, and then *hard clay* which had not been disturbed before. The result of this boring also proved that the ceiling of the treasure chamber was just 100 feet from the surface of the ground above. They also drew up adhering to the mud in the auger, *three links of a chain*, of a copper color, which, however, on being tested proved to be gold, being wholly free from tarnish, and having apparently been torn open or wrenched asunder by the auger in turning. *Some of the same kind of grass as covered the small drains on the shore*, was also found adhering to the auger. The work was abandoned about this time for want of funds to continue it, and recommenced two years ago, the old stockholders losing all they had invested in it. A considerable number of men, and from 40 to 80 horses, are said to have been employed at one time on the works. Several thousand pounds, I have been informed, was expended during those four years of labor, intervening between the years 1849 and '53. A new Company was formed two years ago, many of them being the sons and grandsons of the first parties who began sixty-three years ago to search out the hidden mysteries of the old pit. At the time this company was formed, (and which was the nucleus of the present company now operating on the Island), matters stood thus: two pits near the shore had been dug to find the drain, which, being only partially stopped, led to the supposition that *other drains* existed somewhere between the old pit and south shore, distant some 360 feet, (this opinion proved to be an erroneous one as the sequel will show). *Two pits if not three had*

*been dug near the old pit: one on the west side of it 110 feet in depth; they succeeded in tunneling from this pit, intending to strike into the money pit, on an inclined plane, which should carry them into the treasure chamber or between the drain and the lower platform on which it rested.* Owing to some miscalculations on the part of the superintendent, *they entered too low* (say about midway) between the top and bottom of the seven feet chamber of soft clay. The superintendent then supposed the treasure had been taken out, and so he told Mr. McCully (who was one of the three men engaged in boring thirteen years before and who took out one of the gold links with his own hands.) Mr. McCully at once understood the matter and told the party in charge "to dig down until he struck the hard pan, and then upwards seven feet, when if he did not strike a platform, &c., he would consent to be hanged on the first tree." so confident was he of the accuracy of his borings thirteen years before. He also tried to prevail on the person in charge to bore upwards with a "sludge auger," out as these "sludge augers" were expensive—they having broken and lost one already during the boring years before—this the superintendent neglected to do at the time, and soon after the tunnel being found choked with mud, two men were sent down to clear it out, when suddenly a crashing and crackling of timbers was heard ahead in the money pit. The men rushed out into the new pit where a tub stood ready to draw them up; one jumped in and escaped thus; while the other climbed up by the cribbing and cross-pieces to the surface; one left his boots sticking in the mud; both were nearly scared to death and were sure they had seen for the first time, *if not the last*, that well known individual who is said to preside over all such undertakings, with a view, I suppose, to protect what he considers his own property. At the time when the above incident transpired, there were some 400 people, more or less, on the Island, attracted to the place by a report, "that Kidd's treasure was about to be taken out." After the first crash, there was a short interval, during which the pit was sounded with a plumb and line, and the platforms, treasure, &c., were found to have sunk seven or eight feet lower than their former position; *then other crashes were heard*, and it was at once ascertained that the cribbing of the old pit was chasing the platforms and treasure, and finally a seam opened round the mouth of the pit which gradually widened until the whole mass of earth, from the seam inwards, fell into the pit, and the treasure and money pit became a mass of ruins. *No matter a little, and verify the old adage, "one misfortune brings on another," the b.*

attached to the engine "blew up," (some t alter, I believe,) and came near scalding seven persons to death. Being at noon and most the men at dinner, only three were badly injure by this accident.

When the platforms fell, the old west pit became filled to the depth of several feet with the debris, and a stick of timber came out with the first rush of mud and water, was drawn up out of the pit and cut up into walking sticks, and doubtless to this day are a valuable assistance to some of the Halifax gentry during their perambulations; part of a barrel head was also taken out before the first crash.

Winter was coming on, the funds were about exhausted, and the company thought it prudent to defer the prosecution of the work until last August, when their position was as follows:— They had expended the previous year £1250, were in debt about £50 on the pumps, and the same amount for wages, due the last crew who worked on the island in the fall previous; they had air pumps and other rolling stock on the island say £500, and it was thought that an additional £500 raised would complete the work. This sum, added to their whole liabilities of 400, would amount to £600, new stock to be raised; add this to the 1250 already expended by this company would make the whole number of shares amount to 370, unless the Executive Committee considered it advisable to issue ten more shares, which would increase the whole number of shares to 380 at £5—say £1900—the whole amount of stock of the association. Each shareholder would be entitled to an interest in the association in proportion to the amount he subscribed and paid for, out of the £600; about £160 was taken up by Stockholders in Yarmouth; the balance elsewhere.

As I have already occupied too much space in the columns of your paper, I can only give a sketch of the work on the Island last fall. They first cleared out the *old west pit*, a tedious undertaking, and commenced in the old tunnel, entered a few feet, the pumps being kept constantly at work in the pit (except on the Sabbath, when it filled with salt water in about 7 or 8 hours), and in doing this, a block of partially hewn granite was taken out and a clay-stained stick of wood, which had been chopped off at each end, and scooped out in the middle, as if to form *a bedding for a barrel or cask!* A fragment of this stick was in the possession of the late agent for Yarmouth stockholders; and four or five other gentlemen, stockholders in this town, saw the stone referred to just after it was taken out. Two sides of this stone presented the appearance of having been worn by attrition on the beach; in weight it might be about 600 or more pounds.

It was the intention of the superintendent of the work to excavate the mud a few feet farther in the tunnel, and then bore inwards towards the money pit, to prove it; but at this stage of the proceedings Mr. W., the Yarmouth Delegate, induced them to *leave the west pit and tunnel, and go down the money pit*, at this time, filled up with mud, water, and the old cribbing. I ought to state here that the Managing Committee attach great blame to Mr. W. for insisting on a change in the original plan of operations, and they say "much of the additional expenditure is in consequence of this interference on his part, with their plans. I am assured by many of the Yarmouth stockholders that "their delegate was

not sent to Oak Island to act in the capacity of a civil engineer, but to advise with them as to the proper disposal of the treasure when found," a task for which he was well fitted, both on account of his age and superior business capacities. Mr. W. may have erred in judgment, though acting (as he thought) for the welfare of the Association; and it is not the aim of the writer of this article to sit in judgment over him, or criticize his acts, but simply to give an outline of the proceedings at Oak Island, with a view to enlighten the public on the many efforts that have been made, at so great expense, during sixty odd years, to solve a mystery that seems almost inexplicable, and that would fill any antiquary with raptures.

They managed to dig out and crib anew the old money pit to the depth of sixty-two feet, when once more the funds gave out. This time Halifax stood in the gap, and \$500 were raised there: a new superintendent, Mr. Flemming, from the Albion Mines, was employed by the company. On arriving at the island and inspecting the work, it was resolved by him to sink a new pit twenty-two feet from the old money pit, and north of it, then tunnel from that into the very bottom of the old pit. The west pit was condemned as unsafe for men to enter, as the cribbing was ten years old at least, and continually breaking away, to the great danger of those who should go into it. Mr. Flemming's plan of operations thus far has proved successful, far exceeding their expectations. The new pit was commenced in December last: both it and the tunnel are finished; the former is 111½ feet deep, 6 x 12 square, and is strongly cribbed from top to bottom with an open partition in the middle. After tunnelling in eleven feet, the pumps were placed in the new pit, engine and boiler removed and everything in readiness for the anticipated rush of water on striking the money pit, which was still eleven feet ahead. They tunneled and cribbed on some five feet farther, when a small

stream of an inch diameter came in on the west side of the tunnel—this water was salt; the stream soon enlarged until the men could not stand against it, and left the tunnel and pit. The next day being the Sabbath, work was suspended until the Monday following, when the pumps were set at work. In the mean time some seventy to eighty feet of salt water had filled the new pit. All the pits fill up as soon as the pumps stop working. The water, however, was soon pumped out, and, *what never happened before*, the water in the shore pit, *four hundred and twenty feet from the pump pit, was lowered six feet!* The men were sent down; they put a wooden spout around the stream, which had shifted its position, and row came in directly overhead and nearer the money pit. The men then dug and cribbed on, some feet further, until they came to soft mud, supposed to be the margin of the treasure pit, but which proved to be a large cavity in the side of it, caused, it was supposed, by the falling of the platforms, tearing away the earth with them, and which was the result which followed the tunnelling, two years ago, from the old west pit. The cavity on being measured was ascertained to be twenty feet high, small stones and earth, falling from above prevented the men from entering any further; but on boring in ahead three feet, a large oak timber was found, and three feet further *another*, which *at first* was supposed to be a box eighteen inches square. Of course the pumps must be kept going night and day. The men found it impossible to tunnel further in with safety to themselves—so two strong “bulkheads” were built there, a large hole being left for the drain water to escape, and the work thenceforth was to be continued in the old pit, which was already down sixty-two feet and well cribbed.

It is worthy of remark here, that small beach stones, from the size of a hen's egg to that of a child's head, as well as oak chips and bark are continually coming out of the mouth of the drain down into the bottom of the treasure pit, along the new tunnel and into the north or pump pit. Thus matters stood at the beginning of this week. It was found necessary still further to increase the stock, and \$600 more was raised within twenty-four hours by the shareholders in this town, a private meeting having been held the night before for that purpose. From letters and despatches just received from the Yarmouth delegates and others, we learn that it is their intention to cut off the drain in the old shore pit. This work has already been commenced; this drain has been the prime cause of all their difficulties, and hitherto baffled them in all their endeavours to reach the treasure, since it enters the money

pit above the treasure itself. The drain once cut off, and the water intercepted in its course, the remaining fifty feet in the treasure pit can be cut out in a week or ten days. It will probably be just as long to finish cutting off the drain, taking some three weeks before the completion of the whole work. There is one strange feature in connection with this strange affair.

In all the digging of all these pits, three of which are one hundred and ten or more feet in depth, not one single spring, not even a tubful of fresh water is found: the only fresh water ever taken out of these pits is what runs down the sides of them from the ground above, and which is called “surface water.” No salt water ever troubled them except when they “tapped” the drain, *not even when a crow-bar was forced down within six inches of the drain on either side of it*, as was proved about thirteen years ago, or when the old shore pit was dug, and which they are about to clear out a second time for the same purpose that it was *then* dug, viz: to intercept the water. No steam pumps were then used. *Now all four of the open pits are kept free of water by the pumping.* It is fervently to be hoped that no new accident will prevent the solution of this long sought problem.

I regret that want of time and proper data to all these particulars, prevent me from giving you a more detailed account of the proceedings during these sixty-three or more years that have elapsed since the discovery of “Kidd's treasure pit,” so called. The various and contrary opinions held by the public generally have led me to give your readers the above sketch of the whole thing. In listening to the arguments used by some persons. I have been surprised that they did not seek for better information respecting it before they pronounced it “a complete humbug from beginning to end,” and called “fools and fanatics” those persons who knew, if they might trust the evidence of their senses, that artificial works by the hand of man, of a very unusual kind, *did actually exist*, almost under their very noses. that the mysterious character of those works would admit of but one solution, viz: that the origin and design of them, was for *concealing treasure*. The apparent magnitude of the work would indicate that *a very large amount had been buried there*. The condition in which the whole work was found (by the ancestors of many of the present stockholders) sixty-three years ago, or more, would lead to the inference that *it had never been taken out*. All the histories written at the time of Kidd's execution, and the “New England State documents” published *then*, and *since that period*, in which Kidd was mentioned, state distinctly that after nearly two years of rob-

bing and plundering, "merchant ships richly laden," and even towns and villages, the pirate came to the coast—that from some place of concealment "he afterwards sent one Emmet to New York to make his peace with the Governor. We can only conjecture where his hiding place was, and from which he was "inveigled" (i. e. *seduced*) by the Governor, it could not have been one thousand miles, was not likely to be more than five-hundred: the *position* of Oak Island in Margaret's Bay, and subsequent discoveries there, would lead to the inference, that *that was the very spot*. The works there are by some accounted for thus: One man says "it was originally a moose pit!" A moose pit one-hundred feet deep!! Another, that "the ancient Danes settled there centuries ago, built fortifications, &c., when presto, the island 'capsized,' and produced an aqueduct 520 feet long, a pit 110 feet deep, platforms of oak," &c. Another gentleman of well known scientific skill and ability, and who has swallowed "Hugh Miller's Old Red Sandstone," says "the pit is a humbug, and the

water comes in between the granite base of the island and the earth above it," and so forth; but the fallacy of his reasoning is apparent from the fact that pits have been dug on *every side* of the *old pit*, two of them lower than itself, and no water came in. In all their digging, they never encountered a rock, I believe, until the last pit, when a granite boulder had to be blasted out. The soil is of a hard, compact, clayey description, in which no spring has yet been found. As the work progresses, every new developement attests to the accuracy of Mr. McCully's borings 13 years ago, and the truthfulness of his report respecting that work. It is absurd for men to try to argue in the face of facts; but I have trespassed too long already on the patience of your readers, and will only add, that only a few days can elapse before the whole mystery of the old pit will be solved.

PATL PRY.

**THE TREASURE AT HAND!**

**B**EING momentarily expecting our dividend from Oak Island and to retire from our present business immediately thereafter, we have commenced to **SELL OFF** our Stock of Goods at astonishingly low prices. Call soon.

February 19.

**CORNING & GRAY.**

*For the Yarmouth Herald.*

MR. EDITOR,—

*Sir:* Having seen several communications in your paper respecting Oak Island, in which my name was mentioned, I am induced to state why, and the terms I went to Oak Island as a delegate. First, Mr. McCully, the Secretary, by his letters to the Local Agent, induced Yarmouth shareholders to believe that the work would be commenced on the island the first day of September, that men would be sent there some ten days previous to do up the preliminary work before the boiler and engine arrived, that Mr. Mitchell, who furnished the boiler and engine, was under bonds\* to pay all damages the Company might sustain if the engine and boiler were not ready to work by first day of September, and in 30 days from thence, it was calculated the work would all be finished up and the treasure taken from its long resting place.

Yarmouth members, in a meeting called by the Local Agent, unanimously agreed to send a delegate to the island to look after their interest, and receive their share of the treasure. I was selected as the delegate, and written instructions and power of Attorney were given me. I arrived on the island 21st September, expecting I would not be required to remain but a few days before I would have possession of the treasure, but in this I was sadly disappointed; the boiler and engine were not ready for work, and were not put in working order until the 6th October, when the Managing Committee on the island stated that there was some 14 feet of mud in the western pit which would have to be taken out to let the pumps down to the bottom of the pit. They would in two or three days clear all the mud out, put the pumps down and then they would commence going down the money pit, which was then cribbed 35 feet, and as they could crib from 10 to 14 feet per day, it would be about twenty days before the treasure would be procured.

As I had agreed to leave my business in Yarmouth and go to the island, without any remuneration except my expenses, and to stay some 8 or 10 days, and as I did stop on the island eleven days, I left for home on 6th of October, my business requiring me so to do.

A meeting of the members was called as soon as I arrived home, and I gave them a statement of things on the island as I found them, and from the best information I could get.

Before I left the island I made arrangements with Mr. Wjman, who was working for the Association, to keep me posted up respecting the work; he did so, and in November I was again selected to go to the island. I arrived there 13th of November, after an interval of 38 days from my first visit there.

All that had been done during these 38 days, was to take out of the western pit about 15 tons of mud which had run from the tunnel to the pit and was coming all the time. The treasurer on the island told me the expenses were \$60 per day and that all the funds of the Association were expended.

As the water and mud were coming all the time through the tunnel into the western pit, and as 38 days were consumed in taking out 15 tons, at a cost of about \$2200, I thought it advisable to request the Committee to meet, and they did so meet, and it was the unanimous opinion of the committee to commence the following day in the money pit. When the day came, I discovered they were going down the western pit to work. I then stated I would return home, and I also stated that they need not expect any more money from Yarmouth. This statement about money had the effect of magic. I must not return home, and they would go to work in the money pit. At this time they were no nearer getting the treasure than the first day they commenced, except that 35 feet was cribbed in the money pit, and that was all done in 3 or 4 days—the funds all expended. I was sorry to think that Yarmouth had given \$1820 to be thus thrown away, and I was convinced the treasure would not be reached through the tunnel; and my views have

\*This statement (I was told by the Treasurer) about Mr. Mitchell being under Bonds was not true. Why the statement was made by Mr. McCully, I doubt not he can explain to his satisfaction.

The present delegate from Yarmouth, writes up that the expenses are 50 dollars a day, at that rate, the expenses are, since 1st Sept. \$2650, which is only \$430 more than was calculated by the Managers—only a trifle.

been confirmed by the failure of getting it through the tunnel dug from the new pit.

After they had gone down and cribbed about 30 feet in the money pit, which made in all about 62 feet cribbed, it was discovered that the boiler had settled so much, that the money pit could not be cleared out without setting up the boiler again; the foundation had given way, and there was neither a mason or lime in the place to reset it, and if it took from 10 to 20 days to set the boiler over again, (the expenses being \$60 a day), the weather being very cold (9th Dec. I advised the committee to give the work up for the winter, that I was instructed to say if they would give the business into the hands of the Yarmouth shareholders, that they would finish the work for the association and would give good security if required (£500), for the performance of the same. This was not satisfactory to Mr. McCully and the Committee; a long winter ahead, to go home and not have the handling of any more of the association's money would not do. Mr. McCully wrote a letter to the Acting Agent in Yarmouth and stated that if my advice had not been taken, that a part part of the treasure, at least, would have been procured. This statement, when made, Mr. McCull. knew was untrue. Had I been paid for my time by the Association, and had I no other business to attend to at home, I might (had I possessed the same judgment and honesty of the managers of the Association) continued to this day on the island, and I probably would not have seen spirituous liquors, cards, musical instruments, or anything else on the island that was not required by working men. But, Mr. Editor, I had no motive or inclination to deceive my constituents. I devoted over 40 days of my time without remuneration except my expenses, and that for board or lodging was less than 2s. 6d. per day.

I left the island 10th Dec., since then the managers of the Association have kept a company on the island at an expense of from \$50 to \$100 per day, and I suppose they will stay there as long as Yarmouth will furnish them the money to pay them. I cannot learn that the Treasure is nearer being taken than it was the first day's work done in 1861.

A. C. WHITE.

## Communications.

For the Yarmouth Herald  
OAK ISLAND.

MR. EDITOR,—

Whereas many have taken in hand to enlighten the astonished public, and to set forth the wonderful and stupendous mysteries of Oak Island, I would also like to say a few words on that subject.

If we can believe the statements that have been made through your columns, Mr. Editor, wonderful things have been seen and marvelled at events have transpired at Oak Island; but the greatest wonder to me is that Kidd does not appear himself to terrify and drive off those intruders who are trying to rob him of his treasures. The like, you know, Mr. Editor, has happened in such cases. But they tell us he has taken precautions and left there a monster in the shape of a subterranean submarine aqueduct of the most wonderful construction, some 500 or 600 feet long, and at the depth of from 60 to 100 feet under the surface, to protect his "ill-gotten treasure." To baffle or bind this monster has been the theme of the Association ever since it began operations.

If such marvellous things really exist as we are told of; if such a marvellous pipe and wonderful drains are realities, it must call forth the wonder and admiration of every thinking person. Is it not marvellous that people are so stupid and so prejudiced that they will not believe after such clouds of witnesses; and how dare we dispute such evidences? We would not, Mr. Editor, were it not that we have reason, and also that imagination is such a monster. Within the last thirteen or fourteen years we have heard a great many stories concerning Kidd's money, and still new developments are daily being made. A number of years ago when there was such an excitement about Oak Island, there were said to be two drains leading from the sea to the "money pit;" such was the statement made by one of those who "knew all about it;" likely he had been misinformed although a shareholder; now there is but one main drain, but it is of extraordinary construction.

But, sir, it is not my design to speak particularly of these wonders. "Paul Pry" and others have been telling us who Captain Kidd was, and giving us reasons why it is believed that he buried his treasure at Oak Island. I shall also say a few words about Kidd, and give some of the reasons why I believe that this treasure may not be there. Captain Robert Kidd having been fitted out at the expense of Lord Bellamont and others, and having received the King's commission to act against the pirates whom he should "meet upon the seas or coasts of America or upon any other seas or coasts;" and also a commission to act against the French, he sailed from Plymouth in May 1695, in the Adventure galley of 30 guns and 80 men, for New York, at which place "he increased his company to 155 men." After he had thoroughly fitted himself out, he sailed for Madagascar, "where he arrived in February 1696." After spending some time in unsuccessful search for pirates, until all his hopes of realizing a fortune from that source had failed, he himself turned pirate. We never hear of him committing piracies in American waters, nor do we ever hear of him being there until "he sailed from Amboy with not more than 40 men," for New York about the latter part of 1698 or beginning of 1699. There he was arrested by

Lord Bellamont, with a few of his associates, who sent them to England, where they were tried by the "court of Admiralty, condemned and executed, Capt. Robert Kidd and six of his associates. Three of the number taken were dismissed, having proved that they were apprentices to some of the officers of the ship."

Now we find that Kidd's company was small when he last came to the American coast, and if he went to so great trouble to bury his treasure it must have taken some considerable time, unless he employed a great number of men, if the work is such as it is described. Had he been here any length of time no doubt he would have learned that he was excepted by name in the proclamation pardoning all pirates who would deliver themselves up "at any time before the last day of April 1699," and would not so easily have given himself up, for pirates had a great many friends at that time in New England. Now where were all these men who helped Kidd to conceal his treasure, and knew all about it as well as himself, seeing only six were hanged? Pirates were all money hunters, that was their business; and can we imagine that these avaricious thieves would suffer £3,000,000! to lay hid in the earth when they knew where it was and how to get it? *it seems very unlikely!* Then if Kidd or any other pirate buried his money at Oak Island it is very unlikely that it is there now; those who helped put it there would most likely help themselves to take it out. Therefore, Mr. Editor, supposing we believe all that is said about this wonderful place, and that is not a little, for it is an old story, to me at least, though I believe new to some; admitting it all, except the "jingling" of the coin, I can scarcely hope that the long sought for treasure will ever be realized. I sincerely hope that I may be wrong in my conclusion, and that I yet may behold with my eyes some of the mysterious treasure.

Oak Island has attained quite a notoriety, and is causing considerable excitement, the treasure being so often so near at hand; it would be better to keep cool, that if disappointment comes, as we fear it will, we may be prepared for it.

Begging your pardon for intruding so much on your valuable space with such a trifling affair, I conclude with the hope that the most sanguine expectations of the "Association" may be realized, that so a crumb may indirectly fall to a poor

NEWSMONGER.

## Communications.

For the Yarmouth Herald.

OAK ISLAND.

MR. EDITOR,—

As you have communications nearly every week upon the business carried on at Oak Island, and as so many persons are anxious to know if the stock of the Association is all taken up, (being desirous, I presume, to invest their spare capital where it will pay the best), these persons will be pleased to learn that the books are not yet closed up—"that a few more £5 shares may be procured if applied for at once." The judicious managers of the Association do not call for large sums at a time: five or six hundred pounds is as much as they will take at any one time; and as this sum is required every two or three months, those who have not the *rhino* to pay down will be sure by and by to get stock, as it is not the intention to have this lucrative business closed up in haste.

As some may doubt this statement, and may make sacrifices to raise money at once to invest, I will give my reasons why I think the treasure will not very soon be taken from the place where it was deposited.

First, Mr. McCully commenced the work in 1849: he then (as he says) took from the pit gold wire; this was a great stimulus to get the first instalment to carry on the work. Since then, if gold has not been taken, some new accounts of the history of Kidd have been learned which have been as exciting as the gold; and as long as we can get only a small part of the history of Kidd at a time, so long the work will be prolonged. Some think the anticipation of getting the treasure is as great a comfort as the possession, and the managers are divided in opinion on this subject.

It is only fourteen years since some of the present company commenced, and very little has been done to take the treasure, in fact, not any thing has been done as yet: but men are still kept on the Island, and will be till the whole of Capt. Kidd's history is made known. The treasure cannot be taken, or at least the money pit cannot be cleared out till that is done. A large amount of money can be raised every time any thing new of Kidd is made public, and there is room for one thousand more shares to be taken up. It is not just, to divide Kidd's treasure among a few when the mass of the people are anxious for a share.

The business on the Island (by mistake, I suppose.) came very near being closed up this winter, but our shrewd Delegate managed to keep the men from clearing out the money pit (when it was discovered that the pumps would keep the pit dry), and to go to the shore to dig a new pit to cut off the drain, which work they have been at over two weeks, and they are as near accomplishing their object as they were when they first commenced. I say our Delegate has the credit of the above whether he is entitled to it or not.

Now, Mr. Editor, it is well known that the water in the money pit (so called) has been the only obstacle in the way of clearing said pit out, and getting the treasure (if any is there), and the present and former company have been engaged since 1849 (as they say) to stop or pump the water out of said pit, and when the managers have discovered (after the large amount of money was put into their hands for this very purpose) that the pumps would keep the money pit dry, I say when this discovery was known, not to go into the money pit, but go to the shore to dig a new pit. I say can you not see that the managers have no faith in the treasure, or at least do not intend to be in haste in clearing out said pit. This movement is enough to convince any sane

man that the present managers on the Island "know which side of the bread the butter is on"—that the business will not be closed up in a hurry. This is a lucrative business to some stockholders, and those who have not taken stock will have ample time to do so for ten years to come, if the present managers are only kept in office.

PACI PRY, Junr.

for his welfare and happiness. May his Princess prove as a noble a woman as his mother, and much honor and glory to England will be the result.

The Kidd treasure is not *all* buried in Nova Scotia. Long Island in years past has enjoyed the privilege of being well dug up on this account. Last week the Kidd fever appeared in Jersey, and for a little time was very violent, but soon spent itself. Some person discovered a chest imbedded in the sand, which contained a few old coins, and the report was soon circulated that Kidd's treasure was found, but before much digging was done, or shafts sunk, or steam engines set to work, the shrewd Jersey men smelt a rat, and the consequence was that no large investments were made. More sensible than some of your Bluenoses.

The winter has been a remarkable one. In fact we have had no winter weather, but March seems indeed to make up for it.

Before this reaches you, I hope you will have received on the wings of the lightning the news of the capture of Vicksburg and Charleston. It so it will be a bright opening through the dark clouds in front of us. Accept it as the augury of a brighter day, and the premonitory symptoms of a collapse of the Southern Confederacy.

Yours truly,  
VINDEK.

The Yarmouth Herald, May 7, 1863 (Page 1 of 1)

OAK ISLAND.—The Halifax *Sun* of 4th inst., says—

“ We saw on Saturday last, a letter from the manager of the works at Oak Island, which states that the men had sunk the pit on which they are working 94 feet. At the depth of 80½ feet they found two joints of an auger which must have been broken by the parties at work there many years ago. At the depth of 90 feet they found two shovels and a chopping axe. The work is progressing favorably, and the parties engaged seem sanguine of success.”

The Yarmouth Herald, August 27, 1863 (Page 1 of 1)

— The Oak Island Association have recommenced operations, and it is said they are sanguine of getting at the treasure before the lapse of a month.

The Yarmouth Herald, October 15, 1863 (Page 1 of 1)

### Oak Island Association.

A MEETING of this Association will be held in Dallinger's Hall, on SATURDAY evening, the 17th inst., at 7½ o'clock. A full attendance is requested, as important business and several letters will be laid before the meeting. By order of the Committee.

R. B. BROWN,

Oct 15

pd

Secretary.

The Yarmouth Herald, January 21, 1864 (Page 1 of 1)

— A writer in the *Colonist* states that operations at Oak Island are being vigorously carried on by the Halifax members of the Association, on “ scientific principles.” A new shaft has been lately sunk, and “ indications ” struck, and “ Great Expectations ” are entertained of ultimate success.

OAK ISLAND.—It appears that operations at Oak Island in quest of Capt. Kidd's treasure, are not yet abandoned. A new company has been formed, composed chiefly, we understand, of Halifax capitalists, who are prosecuting the work with vigor. The *Sun* says.—

“For some years past enormous sums of money have been expended at Oak Island in the search for Treasure. Company after Company have followed one another in vainly endeavoring to solve the seeming impenetrable mystery attached to the supposed hiding place of the celebrated Capt. Kidd's ill-gotten gains

“The present association contains within its ranks several prominent merchants of this city, determined at whatever cost, to set the matter at rest by means of boring, and we understand, that having secured the services of Mr. Brown (of the Walton Manganese Mines) that the matter is drawing near to a solution. It appears evident from the results obtained by Mr. Brown's borings, that the whole affair is but a freak of nature. The water-course by which the original money-pit was flooded, is in all probability a layer of gravel creation, at a depth of 135 feet, and most of the other indications of previous excavations are likewise satisfactorily accounted for. It is to be hoped that the enterprise of the present company, although unrewarded with the success they anticipated, may at least be the means of setting at rest for all time to come the whereabouts of Kidd's treasures; so far as Oak Island is concerned.”

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## Early Oak Island Documents

### Part 2 of 3 – Letters and Other Documents

(Compiled by Les MacPhie May 2014)

Reference	Description of Document	No of Pages	Page No
McNutt 1867 (Note 1)	Transcript of document prepared by James McNutt regarding the early history of Oak Island and the results of three borings by the Halifax Company drilled from November 1866 to January 1867.	4	2 - 5
	Closely spaced typed version of the James McNutt document.	3	6 - 8
Brown 1867 (Note 2)	Transcript of letter report dated January 17, 1867 by John Brown giving the results of three borings by the Halifax Company carried out from November 1866 to January 1867.	10	9 - 18
Fraser 1895 (Note 3)	Transcript by F Blair of letter dated June 15, 1895 by S. C. Fraser to A. S. Lowden regarding work by the Halifax Company.	5	19 - 23
	Transcript by F Blair of letter dated June 19, 1895 by S. C. Fraser to A. S. Lowden regarding work by the Halifax Company.	5	24 - 28
Blair No Date	Note commenting on the letters by Fraser and giving Blair's recollection of his discussions with Jefferson W. McDonald who worked for the Halifax Company.	1	29
Chappell 1897	Transcript of W. Chappell letter dated September 23, 1897 to F. Blair and transcript of drilling notes by W. Chappell regarding the three borings put down at the Money Pit in 1896 – 1897.	2	30 - 31
Blair No Date	Note by Blair commenting on the difference in boring depths between the Chappell notes of 1897 and the version Blair used for the Exhibit B pamphlet published in 1926.	1	32
Blair 1900	Copy of letter dated June 15, 1900 by F. Blair to J. W. Welling regarding the provenance of the parchment.	2	33 - 34
Chappell 1929	Affidavit made by William Chappell in connection with drilling done in 1897, signed October 25, 1929. This document gives additional detail on drilling done in 1897 in comparison to the brief version given in the letter submitted in 1897.	5	35 - 39

**Notes:**

1. James McNutt was Secretary Treasurer of the Halifax Company during their work. His account of early Oak Island history starts in mid sentence since only part of his notes remain.
2. John Brown worked for the Walton Magnesium Mines and was apparently a geologist.
3. S. C. Fraser worked for the Halifax Company for four years, the last year as foreman. A. S. Lowden was Manager of the Oak Island Treasure Company. This company started work in 1894.

**Transcript by Les MacPhie of three closely spaced typed pages of text representing an account by James McNutt of the early history of Oak island and of the drilling by the Halifax Company carried out in December 1866 and January 1867**

.... to dig in the clover patch at the ten feet found a teir of wood and the pit to be 12 feet in diameter. At twenty another teir of wood, at 30 feet a teir of hued timber and the pick marks was clearly to be seen on the hard sides. By this time the work was to hard for four men to carry on. They tried to get their neighbours to join them but could not induce them to do so from a superticious dread.

Matters stood thus for seven years when Simeon Lynds of Onslow Colchester County happened to call at the house of Mr. Vaughn and was informed of the circumstances, went home and formed a joint stock company and resumed the work at 30 feet where the others left off. At 40 feet a teir of charecoal, at 50 feet a teir of smooth stones from the beach with figures and letters cut on them, at 60 feet a teir of manilla grass and the rind of a coconut, at 70 feet a teir of putty, at eighty feet a stone 3 feet long and 1 foot square with figures and letters cut on it, and it was free stone being different from any on that coast. They having reached the depth of 95 feet on a Saturday night, they pushed down an iron bar and struck wood on the east side at 98 feet. They left off work leaving their tools in the pit but on returning on Monday morning found the pit filled with water to within 34 feet of the surface or tide level. They tried pumping and bailing but to no effect. They then sunk a pit to the south of the treasure pit thinking to tunnell under but this failed.

This company then gave up. Matters stood until 1849 when the people of Colchester formed another company. During this time the owner of the ground had filled up both pits. They cleared out the treasure pit down 86 feet when the water drove them out leaving their tools in the pit. They then procured the services of an experienced miner, and a mining auguer, and erected a platform at 34 feet from the surface at tide level. The first four or five holes were bored to about 106 feet f'rom the surface. The first hole was made a little to the west of the center of the pit. The remaining holes was all made a little further east of each other.

In boring the first and second holes, no indications of any thing but earth and stones was discovered. Then, in boring the remaining holes, two oak planks were passed through of the thickness of 4 inches and about 3 feet apart. A sort of grass was brought up by the auger, the same as found in the pit at 60 feet and a substance white in colour and much resembling putty. Then out of the most eastren or last hole bored, three peices of wire which was copper were brought up by the auger. Then, in boring the last hole, there was a peice of a stave brought also up by the auger and the auger passed through at one time a spruce stick or plank. They left several pods belonging to the auger in the wood 98 feet and downwards.

They then commenced to search along the shore for a drain. They found at the shore in the cove a place where the stones had been removed along the shore. They then commenced

between high and low water marks and, after clearing off the dirt and sand, found a pit covered with the same kind of grass and coconut rind as found at 60 feet in the pit. And also brought up with the auger underneath the grass. The pit was filled with broken stone nicely laid in arches running out below low water mark.

They then built a dam but from some mistake it did not penetrate far enough out into the bay and was almost useless. But it proved that here was the mouth of the drain or inlet to the treasure pit. A storm coming on it was broken up.

They then commenced and sunk a pit about 100 feet from the dam in a straight line with the treasure pit. At 75 feet struck the drain. They drove spiles into it which slackened the water considerable in the treasure pit but not enough to resume work. They then sunk pits, one to the east one to the north and one to the west of treasure pit but no indications of a drain was discovered.

In 1854 this company failed and matters again stood until 1861 when Truro formed another joint stock company. They sunk another pit 115 feet deep in search of a drain but failed to strike it. They then tunnelled to a pit sunk on the east of the treasure pit. There being a communication with the treasure pit, the superintendent also tunnelled the pit on the west of the treasure pit, but he thinking it best to enter the money pit below the lowest plank found in boring. They then put on 63 men and 33 horses to the work of bailing, working 4 large 70 gallon casks in the pit sunk that year, four in treasure pit and 4 in the pit on the west.

The treasure pit had been filled up to within 60 feet of the surface. Commenced at 2 o'clock on Tuesday morning. Worked in the treasure pit until Thursday afternoon having reached the depth of 80 feet in the treasure pit when the tunnel from the west pit closed up with soft clay out of the treasure pit causing the water to rise so that the men had to leave treasure pit and clear the tunnel.

The men worked in the tunnel until 7 o'clock Friday morning when there came a tremendous rush of soft mud again out of the treasure pit filling the pit on the west some feet. They then made another effort to clear the pit on the west and tunnelled and found one piece of Juniper with the bark on cut at each end with an edge tool, one piece of oak 6 inch in diameter and 3 feet long cut at each end, a spruce slab with a mining auger hole in it, also a piece of a stick chipped with the appearance of the plank resting on it, also oak chips and manilla grass and two large smooth stones that had been taken off the surface of the earth.

The men worked in the tunnel until Saturday at 4 o'clock P.M. when there came a third rush of clay through the tunnel from the treasure pit and those persons that was standing at the treasure pit head observed the bottom to sink a number feet. The cribbing in the treasure pit gave way from the bottom been removed and caved in. The men procured a steam engine and pumps and sunk a pit 107 feet deep for the pumps having the idea that the drain entered the money pit at 100 feet from the surface. They then commenced and cribbed the treasure pit again

at 90 feet. They found the 1849 companys tools at 100 feet, the tools left by the Onslow company. They also reached the last teir of cribing at 90 feet thus showing that the old cribing had not been removed at the time of the rush and the wood that came through the tunnell at the rush of mud belonged to the wood struck with the augur and with the iron bar by the Onslow company.

Having reached the depth of 103 being the bottom of the tunnell to the pumping pit and no signs of the drain, the sea water still coming up from below. They then sunk a pit near the one spiled with timber some years before thinking to tunnel under the drain but was unsuccessful. They then cleared off the sand at cove and covered the stone work with clay which stoped the water in a great measure but the tide washed it off. And the pumping shaft, not being deep enough, they sunk another pit 100 feet southeast of treasure pit and 20 feet south of a straight line with the treasure pit and the cove. After sinking 120 feet for the pumps, they drove two tunnells north and south each way, the bottom of the lowest 106 feet. They commenced and run one down towards the shore and this was unsuccessfull.

They then run a tunnell up to the treasure pit and struck it at 108 and found the hard bottom of pit on the west side cribing it down to the hard bottom. They run a tunnell round the bottom of the treasure pit outside of the cribbing clearing out all the soft mud and picks marks could be distinctly seen on the hard sides. They found a pit running down at the east side and all the water coming up from below but nothing of the oak plank bored through nor any or the sand that filled the buckets in bailing thus showing that the treasure had been rigged on a trap and at the time of the soft mud rush into the pit through the tunnell on the west had went down this hole on the east side.

They then built a large dam at the cove at the shore 375 feet long, 12 feet high, 120 feet below high water mark which was unsuccessfull.

They then bored down riging a platform at 108 feet.

Nov. 26, 1866. Started hole at bottom of money pit close to east side 3½ feet from north east corner. Boring through a pipe or tube 5 inch in diameter. Set it at an angle dipping 1 foot in 10 to east, 1 foot in 12 to north.

Nov. 27, Struck wood spruce 2 feet below bottom or pit.

Nov. 28 and 29, Boring through course gravell and soft clay alternately down 16 feet.

Dec. 3, Boring through soft clay and blue mud, below 18 feet clay becomes more sandy and dry, at 20 feet water commenced to flow up the tube carrying up clay, gravel and stones as large as would come up through tube, also chips of wood and coconut fiber and a considerable amount of what appeared to be charcoal.

Dec. 4, Water continued to flow untill the pipe was drove down 2 or 5 feet, it stoped flowing.

Dec. 5, Boring through soft clay, no water in the tube at 24 feet or 132 from the surface, brought up 2 augur fulls of oak borings, appeared as though the augur ran past along side of a stick or plank, also through and brought up a few chips of spruce or poplar wood and fiber at 27 feet. Got through the clay into gravel when water commenced to flow as strong as before carrying up every thing as usual. 33-34 boring through soft clay and sediment of a very fine sand, a vacancy of one foot apparently.

Dec. 6. 37 and 38 feet below bottom, soft clay and blue mud, no water in the pipe.

Dec. 7, Water commenced to flow up again, hole down 40 feet or 150 from the surface, last 2 or 3 feet of a redish dry firm material never having been disturbed. Pulled up the pipe quite easy, 66 feet long.

Dec. 18, Commenced a hole down at east side of pit to where old borers found their best borings. Started at 78 feet from top, 2 feet from southeast corner, slanted pipe with a dip of 1 foot in 4 to east and 1 foot in 10 to south.

Dec. 22 Boring through dry and firm clay, apparantly never been disturbed. Bored down 26 feet or 103 from the surface. Drawed up the pipe.

Third hole.

Dec. 29, Commenced at bottom of pit at east side 3 teet from south east corner at an angle dipping 1 foot in 27 to east, 1 foot in 50 to north. Boring this hole from tide level. Boring through soft clay and gravel.

Dec. 31, At 16 feet down brought up a number of peices of wood and fiber and a few peices of rock.

Jan 1:st, 1867, Had to pump out pits to repair pipe.

Jan. 3, Down 28 feet, boring through gravell and mud as in first hole.

Jan. 4, 30 feet down, boring through soft clay and gravel.

Jan. 6, 3 or 4 feet of sediment gravelly clay of a redish colour, more settled down 40 feet.

Jan. 7 - Clay apparently never been disturbed. Drawed up pipe again, 129 feet of pipe, depth of hole 160 feet, left off work.

Note Regarding Transcript:

The transcript includes the various occurrences of incorrect spelling and grammar. However, punctuation and paragraphs have been added for better comprehension.

WRITTEN BY JAMES MCNUTT IN 1861  
SECTY. OF OAK ISLAND ELDERADO CO.  
(ALSO KNOWN AS HALIFAX CO.)

(OBTAINED FROM AMOS WAUSS  
WHO GOT IT FROM E. HAMILTON IN 1941)

see following copy  
to dig in the clover patch at the ten feet found a teir of weed and the pit to be 12 feet in diameter at twenty another teir of wood at 30 feet a teir of hued timber and the pick marks was clearly to be seen on the hard sides by this time the work was to hard for four men to carry on they tried to get their neighbours to join them but could not induce them to do so from a superticious dread matters stood thus for seven years when Simeon Lynds of Onslow Colchester County happened to call at the house of Mr. Vaughn and was informed of the circumstances went home and formed a joint stock company and resumed the work at 30 feet where the others left off at 40 feet a teir of charecoal at 50 feet a teir of smooth stones from the beach with figures and letters cut on them at 60 feet a teir of manilla grass and the rind of a coconutt at 70 feet a teir of putty at eighty feet a stone 3 feet long and 1 foot square with figures and letters cut on it and it was free stone being different from any on that coast they having reached the depth of 93 feet on a Saturday night they pushed down an iron bar and struck wood on the east side at 98 feet they left off work leaving their tools in the pit but on returning on Monday morning found the pit filled with water to within 34 feet of the surface or tide level they tried pumping and bailing but to no effect they then sunk a pit to the south of the treasure pit thinking to tunnell under but th this failed this company then gave up matters stood until 1849 when the people of Colchester formed another company during this time the owner of the ground had filled up both pits they cleared out the treasure pit down 85 feet when the water drove them out leaving their tools in the pit they then procured the services of an experienced miner and a mining auguer and errected a platform at 34 feet from the surface at tide level the first four or five holes were bored to about 106 feet from the surface the first hole was made a little to the west of the center of the pit the remaining holes was all made a little further east of each other in boring the first and second holes no indications of any thing but earth and stones was discovered then in boring the remaining holes two oak planks were passed through of the thickness of 4 inches and about 3 feet apart a sort of grass was brought up by the auger the same as found in the pit at 60 feet and a substance white in colour and much resembling putty then out of the most eastren or last hole bored three peices of wire which was copper were brought up by the auger then in boring the last hole there was a peice of a stave brought also up by the auger and the auger passed through at one time a spruce stick or plank they lost several pods belonging to the auger in the wood 98 feet and downwards. they then commenced to search along the shore for a drain they found at the shore in the cove a place where the stones had been removed along the shore they then commenced between high and low water marks and after clearing off the dirt and sand found a pit covered with the same kind of grass and coconut rind as found at 60 feet in the pit and also brought up with the auger underneath the grass the pit was filled with broken stone nicely laid in arches running out below low water mark they then built a dam but from some mistake it did not penetrate far enough out into the bay and was almost useless but it proved that here was the mouth of the drain or inlet to the treasure pit a storm coming on it was broken up they then commenced and sunk a pit about 100 feet from the dam in a straight line with the treasure pit at 75 feet struck the drain they drove spiles into it which slackened the water considerable in the treasure pit but not enough to resume work they then sunk pits one to the east one to the north and one to the west of treasure pit but no indications of a drain was discovered in 1854 this company failed and matters again stood untill 1861 when Truro formed another joint stock company they sunk another pit 115 feet deep in search of a drain but failed to strike it they then tunnelled to a pit sunk on the east of the treasure pit there being a communication with the treasure pit the superintendent also tunnelled the pit on the west of the

treasure pit but he thinking it best to enter the money pit below the lowest plank found in boring they then put on 65 men and 53 horses to the work of bailing working 4 large 70 gallon casks in the pit sunk that year four in treasure pit and 4 in the pit on the west the treasure pit had been filled up to within 60 feet of the surface commenced at 2 o'clock on Tuesday morning worked in the treasure pit untill Thursday afternoon having reached the depth of 80 feet in the treasure pit when the tunnell from the west pit closed up with soft clay out of the treasure pit causing the water to rise so that the men had to leave treasure pit and clear the tunnell the men worked in the tunnell untill 7 o'clock Friday morning when there came a tremendous rush of soft mud again out of the treasure pit filling the pit on the west some feet they then made another effort to clear the pit on the west and tunnelled and found one piece of Juniper with the bark on cut at each end with an edge tool one peice of oak 6 inch in diameter and 3 feet long cut at each end a spruce slab with a mining augur hole in it also a peice of a stick chiped with the appearance of the plank resting on it also oak chips and manilla grass and two large smooth stones that had been taken off the surface of the earth the men worked in the tunnell untill Saturday at 4 o'clock P.M. when there came a third rush of clay through the tunnell from the treasure pit and those persons that was standing at the treasure pit head observed the bottom to sink a number feet the cribbing in the treasure pit gave way from the bottom been removed and caved in the men procured a steam engine and pumps and sunk a pit 107 feet deep for the pumps having the idea that the drain entered the money pit at 100 feet from the surface they then commenced and cribed the treasure pit again at 90 feet they found the 1849 companys tools at 100 feet the tools left by the Onslow company they also reached the last teir of cribing at 90 feet thus showing that the old cribing had not been removed at the time of the rush and the wood that came through the tunnell at the rush of mud belonged to the wood struck with the augur and with the iron bar by the Onslow company having reached the depth of 103 being the bottom of the tunnell to the pumping pit and no signs of the drain the sea water still coming up from below they then sunk a pit near the one spiled with timber some years before thinking to tunnell under the drain but was unsuccessful they then cleared off the sand at the cove and covered the stone work with clay which stoped the water in a great measure but the tide washed it off and the pumping shaft not being deep enough they sunk another pit 100 feet southeast of treasure pit and 20 feet south of a straight line with the treasure pit and the cove after sinking 120 feet for the pumps they drove two tunnells north and south each way the bottom of the lowest 106 feet they commenced and run one down towards the shore and this was unsuccessfull they then run a tunnell up to the treasure pit and struck it at 108 and found the hard bottom of pit on the west side cribing it down to the hard bottom they run a tunnell round the bottom of the treasure pit outside of the cribbing clearing out all the soft mud and picks marks could be distinctly seen on the hard sides they found a pit running down at the east side and all the water coming up from below but nothing of the oak plank bored through nor any of the sand that filled the buckets in bailing thus shewing that the treasure had been rigged on a trap and at the time of the soft mud rush into the pit through the tunnell on the west had went down this hole on the east side they then built a large dam at the cove at the shore 375 feet long 12 feet high 120 feet below high water mark which was unsuccessfull they then bored down riging a platform at 108 feet Nov. 26, 1866. started hole at bottom of money pit close to east side 3½ feet from north east

corner boring through a pipe or tube 5 inch in diameter set it at an angle dipping 1 foot in 10 to east 1 foot in 12 to north Nov. 27, struck wood spruce 2 feet below bottom of pit Nov. 28 and 29 boring through coarse gravel and soft clay alternately down 16 feet Dec. 3 Boring through soft clay and blue mud below 16 feet clay becomes more sandy and dry at 20 feet water commenced to flow up the tube carrying up clay gravel and stones as large as would come up through tube also chips of wood and coconut fiber and a considerable amount of waht appeared to be charcoal.

Dec. 4 Water continued to flow untill the pipe was drove down 2 or 3 feet it stoped flowing.

Dec. 5 Boring through soft clay no water in the tube at 24 feet or 132 from the surface brought up 2 augur fulls of oak borings appeared as though the augur ran past along side of a stick or plank also through and brought up a few chips of spruce or popalar wood and fiber at 27 feet got through the clay into gravel when water commensed to flow as strong as before carrying up every thing as usual 33-34 boring through soft clay and sediment of a very fine sand a vacency of one foot appantly.

Dec. 6 37 and 38 feet below bottom soft clay and blue mud no water in the pipe

Dec. 7 Water commenced to flow up again hole down 40 feet or 150 from the surface last 2 or 3 feet of a redish dry firm material never having been disturbed pulled up the pipe quite easy 66 feet long.

x Dec. 18 Commenced a hole down at east side of pit to where old borers found their best borings started at 78 feet from top 2 feet from southeast corner slanted pipe with a dip of 1 foot in 4 to east and 1 foot in 10 to south.

Dec. 22 Boring through dry and firm clay appantly never been disturbed bored down 25 feet or 105 from the surface drawed up the pipe

Dec. 29

#### Third hole

Commenced at bottom of pit at east side 3 feet from south east corner at an angle dipping 1 foot in 27 to east ~~1 foot in 27 to east~~ 1 foot in 50 to north boring this hole from tide levell boring through soft clay and gravel.

Dec. 31 at 16 feet down brought up a number of peices of wood and fiber and a few peices of rock

Jan 1st 1867

Had to pump out pits to repair pipe

Jan. 3 - down 28 feet boring through gravel and mud as in first hole

Jan. 4 - 30 feet down boring through soft clay and gravel

Jan. 5 - 3 or 4 feet of sediment gravelly clay of a redish colour more settled down 40 feet

Jan. 7 - Clay appantly never been disturbed drawed up pipe again 129 feet of pipe depth of hole 160 feet left off work.

**Transcript by Les MacPhie of hand written report dated January 17, 1867 by John Brown  
on Boreholes I, II and III drilled in 1866 at the Oak Island Money Pit  
Report submitted to the Directors of The Oak Island Company  
[Also known as The Halifax Company]**

Walton

Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> 1867

To

Messrs. W. J. Veith, J D Nash, John Selnes and others

Directors of the Oak Island Company

Gentlemen,

In making a report of the recent boring operations conducted under my superintendence at Oak Island, it would be superfluous on my part to enter into any of the past history of that remarkable locality, as doubtless most of the shareholders are better acquainted with it than myself. Before however entering into a description of the borings, the results obtained, and the conclusions I have arrived at, I must tender my thanks to Mr. Hill, as well as to Mr. Ross the engineer for their valuable advice (derived from the interest and experience they have in the undertaking) as without it, it would have been impossible for me to have completed in so short a time the work entrusted to me.

The position of affairs previous to the works of the last two months (if I understand rightly was as follows): The treasure was supposed to have been originally deposited upon a platform built across the Money Pit at a depth from the surface of some ninety odd feet, and that a tunnel from Mitchell's Shaft had undermined it, the whole platform and treasure falling to the bottom of the pit, where it was thought it would be found; therefore it was required by means of boring to find the bottom of the unsettled and disturbed ground, and if possible strike the remains of the platform.

From what I could learn it appears that the present Money Pit is not exactly in the position of the original one, the bottom of the existing pit containing within its base only about 2 ft of the old round Money Pit, the latter being to the eastward and in order to arrive in the centre of it, it became necessary to bore at a slight angle; we had therefore to keep the engine at work and commenced our operation from a platform erected ten feet from the bottom of the pit. In this hole (No. I on the plan) we passed through –

1 ft water

5 ft soft mud

½ ft soft wood

4 ft gravel and clay

½ ft mud

10 ft gravel clay and mud with fibres

6 ft clay and gravel

1 ft oak borings

4 ft clay gravel and sand

1 ft vacant space

25 ft hard settled ground, making in all 58 ft or 166 ft from the original surface.

The water being kept by the engine some 75 ft below the tide level, we were subject to an immense pressure of water, rising through the boring tubes and it was only by driving the pipes ahead of the borings that at times we were enabled to save any portions of the ground passed through. The water appeared to augment until we passed the spot marked on the plan as vacant space, the augur dropping suddenly one foot, caused no doubt by the great rush of water clearing away that extent of ground from before the pipe. After passing this place the ground soon became much harder and the water gradually ceased until about 163 ft it completely stopped, at 166 ft the ground was very hard and unfortunately at this depth we lost an augur, and being unable to recover it, abandoned the hole. Having met with the undisturbed ground at 141 feet from the surface and having been boring at an inclination to the eastward it was thought possible we had passed through the old round pit and had reached its opposite side, it was therefore deemed advisable to put down another hole more perpendicular than the first, so that we might be able to sink further in the pit without danger of coming in contact with the side.

Being able to accomplish the desired end from the tide level, the engine was stopped and after planting the end of the pipe in the right direction inclining only one part in twenty to the eastward, we commenced to bore meeting with nearly the same results as in the previous borings, passing through –

18 ft soft clay and gravel

8.8 ft clay, gravel, softwood chips, with fibres

4 ft gravel

1 ft augur dropped into a fine sediment

8 ft fine sediment (sandy)

9 ft settled ground

12 ft hard ground, bringing us to a depth of 169 ft

In the last borings which were nearly vertical it will be noticed that we struck the settled ground at almost the same depth as on the first occasion when boring at a greater angle; it is therefore beyond doubt that it was not the side of the pit struck in the first instance, but that both of the holes must have reached the bottom.

The layer of gravel which forms the bottom of the unsettled ground is also (no matter whether natural or artificial) the channel by which the seawater is brought into the pit; on the first

occasion the rush of water (as before mentioned) greatly increased and also became clearer and cleaner, but immediately it was passed the water lessened foot by foot (and it would naturally follow the pipe for some distance) but we found in both holes that after going a few feet it entirely ceased.

The boring marked III on the plan was commenced 78 ft from the mouth of the pit and was inclined 1 ft in 4 to the east in order to arrive at the spot where Mr. Graham & Co met with wood, etc in 1851. Mr. Graham was himself present at the starting of this hole, but from the altered appearance of the ground was unable to give any exact information as to the bearings it would be necessary to give in order to explore the ground he passed through. This hole was sunk 25 ft meeting with hard clay which evidently had never been interfered with and having arrived in the immediate vicinity of Mr. Hill's tunnel it was useless to continue in that direction.

I should be doing Mr. Graham great injustice did I not believe that he personally is convinced, that the borings of 1851 actually penetrated the treasure; but it is the easiest thing in the world for the most honest man to be deceived, especially in connection with borings having for their purpose the discovery of immense amounts of treasure; one's imagination is so readily excited by the supposed proximity of wealth, that we are not in a position to discuss and examine evidence which under other circumstances would not be for a moment entertained.

Many times I have allowed myself to be carried away with the idea that we were about to strike something. Doubtless Messrs Graham & Co passed through wood, but when the wood was brought up in the augur, why did the coin not also come up, from mere curiosity, I often at a depth of 150 ft threw money into the hole, of course it came up in the augur and I for one should not be in the least afraid to throw any amount in, and to bring up every piece. If the treasure existed in layers as was supposed, confined in a chest or even in bags, it is my opinion that provided the augur once entered it would be impossible for some of the contents not to have been brought to the surface.

I might also mention that during my operations I frequently passed small layers of gravel, at which times the grit of the augur so greatly resembled the sound I should fancy would emanate from gold or silver coin, that it was difficult to undeceive myself until the augur was withdrawn.

Having given you a description of the borings which will be better understood by reference to the accompanying plan, I will briefly draw your attention to a few of the conclusions I have arrived at viz: the water course is a natural one, and this being the case it is quite possible to account for the original sinkage at the surface, the existence of the so-called round Money Pit, the presence of wood in the disturbed ground as well as the peculiarity of the salt water being found only in one pit.

As regard the water course, it is not at all likely that any man would excavate a drain so great a depth below tide level when the same result of flooding the pit could have been accomplished by bringing a drift in at a much less incline, and consequently at a far less expenditure of time and labour. If it were an artificial channel it must have been at least 5 feet x 3 or 4 feet in size, and as the engine could not possibly keep the quantity of water such a tunnel would bring in, it has been surmised that the drain had become choked, but it could only have been choked by the surrounding clay, and as it still brings in the seawater with the tremendous pressure acquired by reason of being some 100 feet below low water, it is impossible to believe that it

would not soon clear itself; on the contrary however, I understand from those who have watched it for years passed, that the supply of water neither lessens or increases.

Again, the tunnels with which Mr. Hill fully explored the supposed course of the drain, although timbered and secured in a manner reflecting great credit on those who executed the work, having been in existence only a few years, had already in various cases caved in from the surface, and I cannot but think that a tunnel in existence for 200 years would surely have distinctly marked its course upon the surface. It has been said that in driving a tunnel from the shore pit the water burst through from the drain, such being the case the shore pit would be the first to fill after stopping the pumps, on the other hand it is the last. Were the water brought in by layers of gravel beneath, of course the deepest pits would be the first to fill leaving the shore pit until the last.

The original depression on the surface, as well as the old round pit, must be attributed to a natural caving having taken place from the layer of gravel upwards; such things are by no means uncommon, it is only a few years since on the Windsor Road that a most curious instance of this sort occurred. A very tall tree suddenly sank, so that its top most branches were level with the ground. This was caused by a cavity excavated by a subterraneous watercourse. At Oak Island at the present time, there is to be seen a depression on the surface, similar to the mouth of the old pit and probably caused by the same means. The cavings to Mr. Hill's tunnels show that it required but an excavation of 7 ft in height to cause a slip of 100 feet and what is still more curious, is, that these are round or nearly so, in shape.

The old diggers assert, and subsequent investigation has proved that the so-called old Money Pit was not only round, but that it seemed to incline to the east. Now it would be impossible without very secure timbering, to sink through the clay that is found there, in any, but a perpendicular direction; the overhanging part not being able to support itself; no mention has I believe ever been made of any timber having been found.

It seems also absolutely impossible that providing there had been a platform across the pit, that the two holes we put to the bottom should not have struck some portion of it; if we were to believe that it is there it would also be necessary to believe that it has by some miraculous means, all been stowed away in a small corner so as to escape the borings.

Should the ground have caved in (as I suppose) it would be broken up and very easy to remove. At a depth of 90 feet it may have become sufficiently consolidated to resist for a time the rising of the water, or until the diggers should have removed enough weight to allow the pressure of water to burst through and rise to tide level. The water having once raised through the clay, at every baling, the whole of the chips, wood and chain, or anything else left by previous workers would naturally sink and get mixed up, penetrating the soft clay until hard bottom was reached. The above has been exactly verified by the borings, scarcely an augur could be brought up without containing some particles of wood, but after passing the layer of gravel and getting into the settled ground, not a trace of any foreign substance could be discovered. In believing that the whole mystery can be attributed to the hand of nature, it becomes necessary to disbelieve some of the old traditions and although I do not wish to insist upon all the details of my theory being correct, yet if it succeeds in proving the possibility of its being a freak of nature, it must in a great measure banish the probability of its being the work of man.

It may appear strange that the conclusion I have arrived at (if correct) were not come to long ago, persons might naturally think that the vast sums of money expended on the island, would never have been spent, had there not been sufficient proof to convince even the most sceptical that the treasure lay buried there. Tradition, hearsay evidence, and lastly the indomitable pluck and energy of those concerned have done more towards influencing the outflow of capital by succeeding companies than any actual evidence.

The tremendous amount of work which has been accomplished, more especially under Mr. Hill's direction has, so far as I am able to judge, been carried on under the firm conviction that the treasure was there, the object was to get at it, and I believe that had it been there Mr. Hill's works would have succeeded in reaching it. The whole difficulty has arisen from the fact that it has been taken for granted, that the disturbed condition of the ground, the watercourse etc, were only to be attributed to artificial means whereas had one hundredth part of the capital been devoted towards testing the possibility of its being the work of nature, I think the Oak Island problem would have been solved years ago.

I am Gentlemen

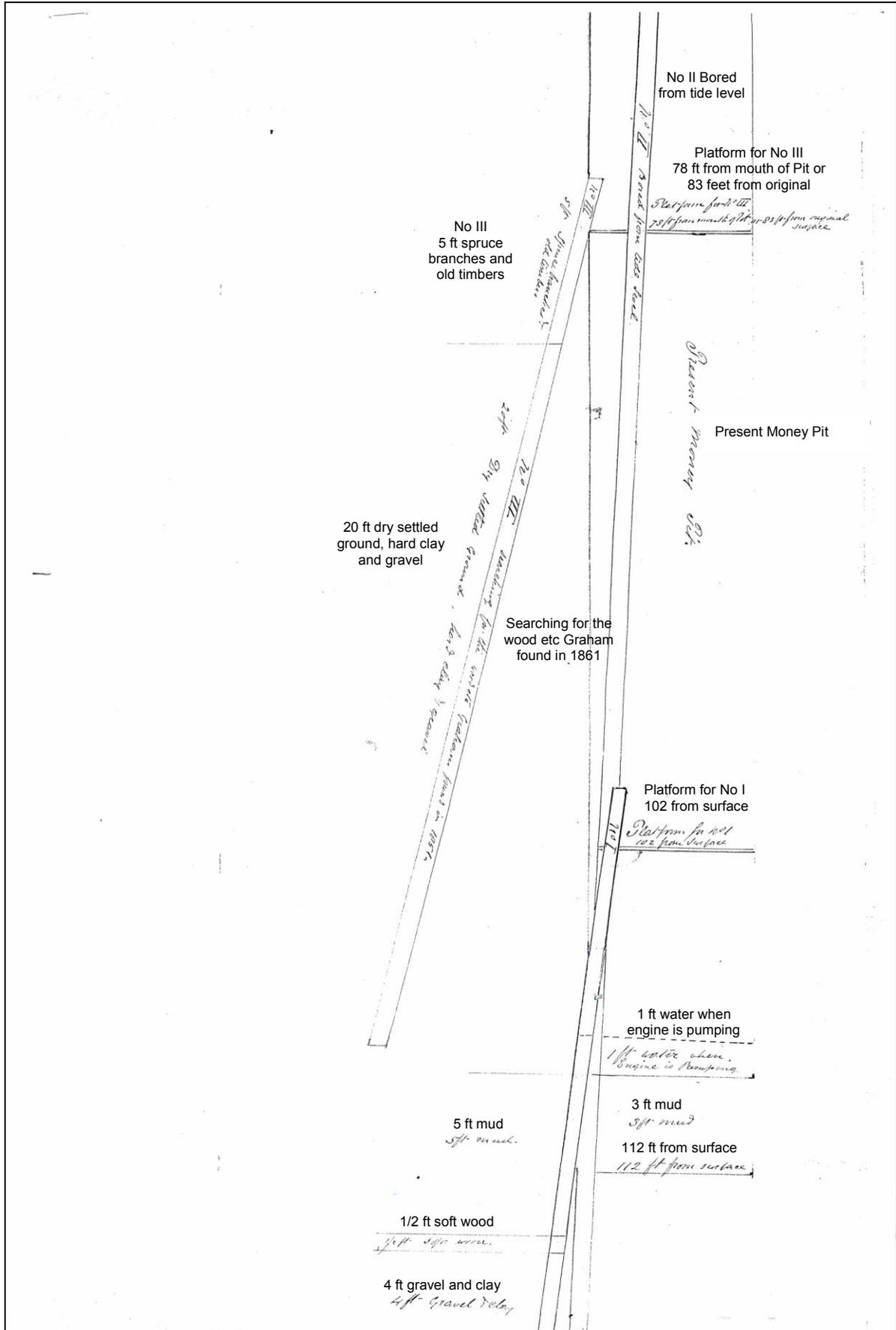
Yours v truly

John Brown

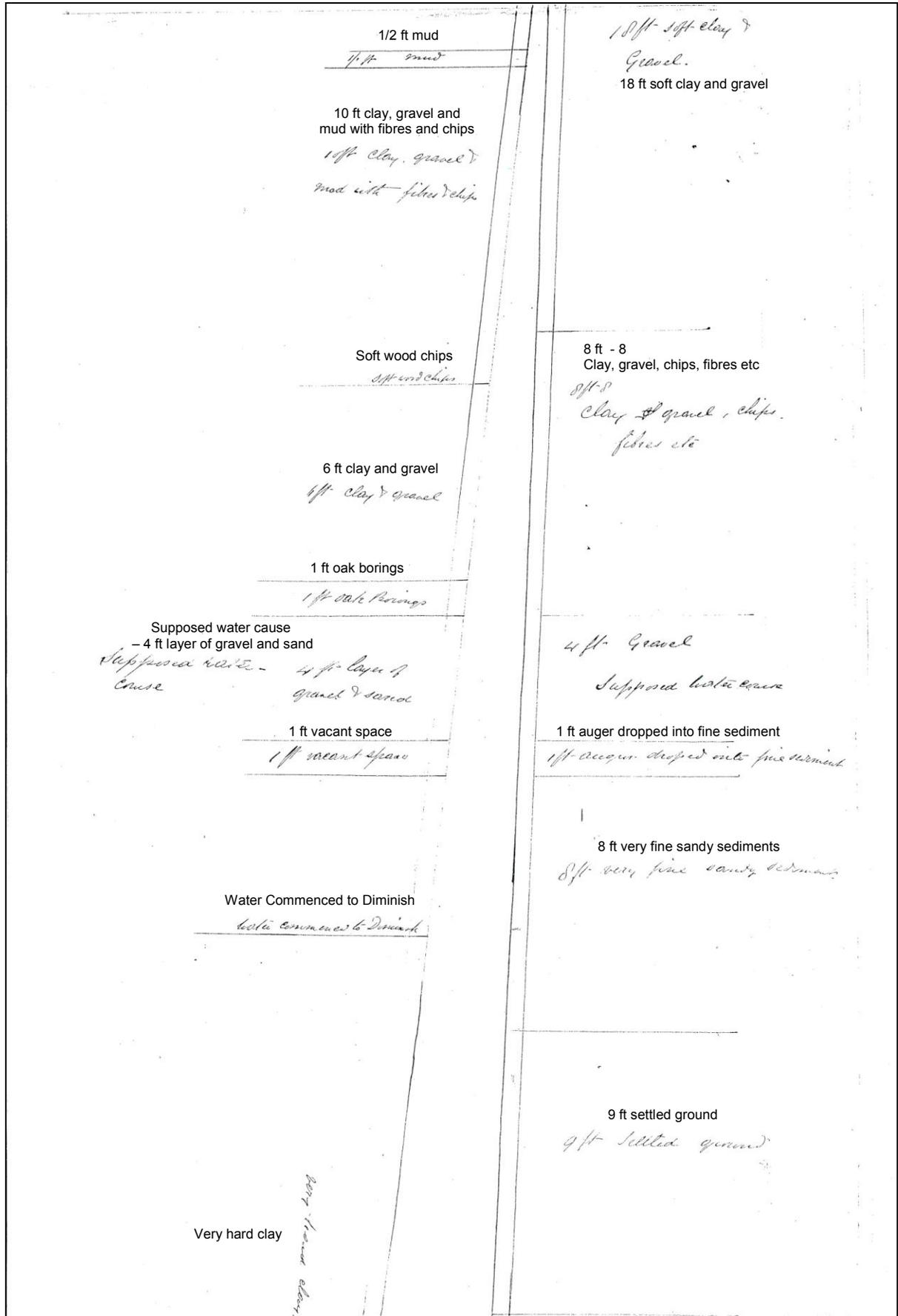
#### Notes Regarding Transcript and Newspaper Article:

1. The underlining in the transcript is according to the hand written version of the report.
2. The "plan" attached to the Brown report is actually an east to west section through the borings. The "plan" is attached to this transcript in three sheets followed by one sheet showing the three sheets combined.
3. A newspaper article regarding the borings is attached at the end of this transcript.

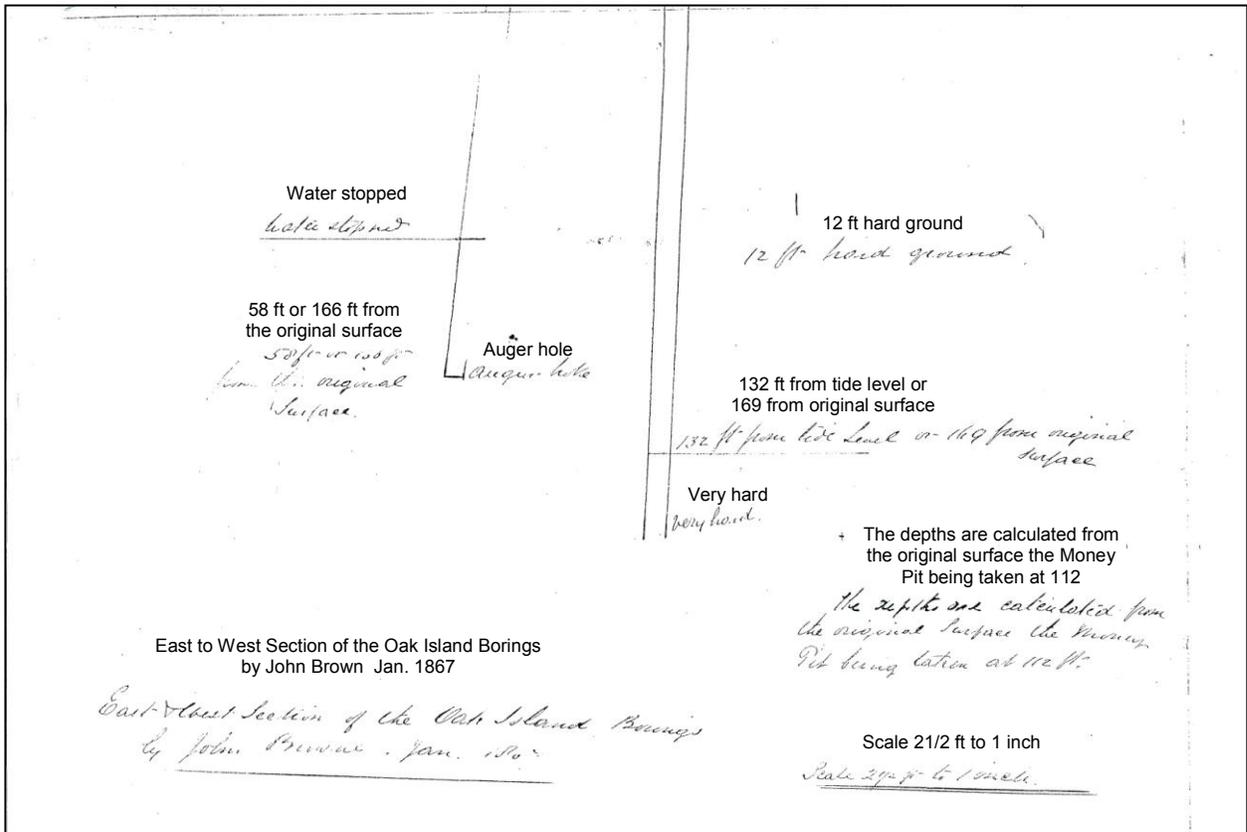
Record of Boreholes I, II and III Drilled in 1867 (Sheet 1 of 3)



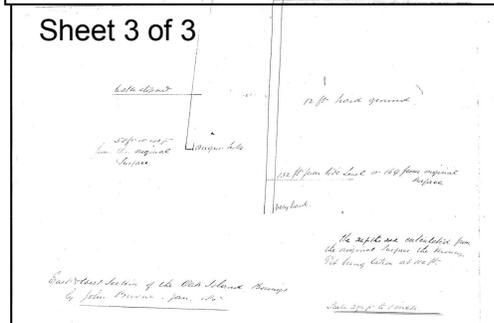
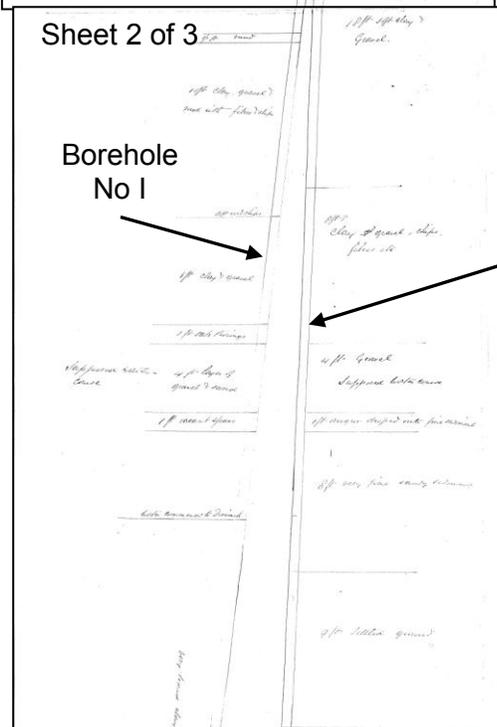
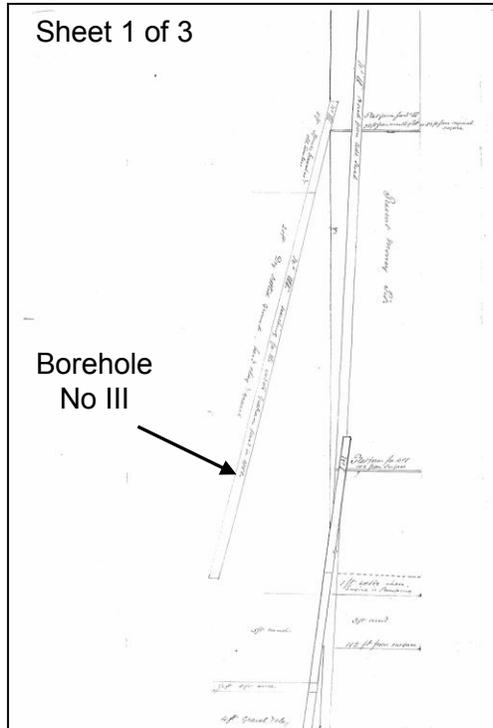
Record of Boreholes I, II and III Drilled in 1867 (Sheet 2 of 3)



Record of Boreholes I, II and III Drilled in 1867 (Sheet 3 of 3)



Record of Boreholes I, II and III Drilled in 1867 (Sheets 1 to 3 combined)



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### Oak Island.

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For some years past enormous sums of money have been expended at Oak Island in the search for Treasure. Company after Company have followed one another in vainly endeavoring to solve the seeming impenetrable mystery attached to the supposed hiding place of the celebrated Capt. Kidd's ill-gotten gains.

The present association contains within its ranks several prominent merchants of this city, determined at whatever cost, to set the matter at rest by means of boring, and we understand, that having secured the services of Mr. Brown (of the Walton Manganese Mines) that the matter is drawing near to a solution. It appears evident from the results obtained by Mr. Brown's borings, that the whole affair is but a freak of nature. The water-course by which the original money-pit was flooded, is in all probability a layer of gravel creation, at a depth of 135 feet, and most of the other indications of previous excavations are likewise satisfactorily accounted for. It is to be hoped that the enterprise of the present company, although unrewarded with the success they anticipated, may at least be the means of setting at rest for all time to come the whereabouts of Kidd's treasures, so far as Oak Island is concerned.

( C O P Y )

Briggs Corner, Queens, N. B.

Undated, but was written about

June 15, 1895.

Mr. A. S. Lowden.

Dear Sir:-

I thank you for the gentlemanly tone of the reply to my notes and comments, on your circular. You will excuse me if I do not go over all the ground again. I will confine myself to what I think may be most helpful to you. My claim of knowledge concerning the Island arises from four years spent on the Island trying to unearth that treasure. I was at the last time, just one whole year in charge of the Halifax Company work. Besides that I have some education and brains, and from facts that I know I have reasoned to conclusions that shall be found correct when you get the treasure, and if your health is spared, all other things being equal, you are the man that is to get it.

First, the Halifax work was at a basis of 110 feet except two circular tunnels which were on a higher level. The tunnel where we struck the surface of the drain was on a direct line to the shore works, but I think was further towards the shore. When we left that we started for the money pit on said level of 110 feet. We had to run the tunnel a little crooked in order to avoid old shafts. As we entered to old

place of the treasure we cut off the mouth of the old pirate tunnel. As we opened it the water hurled around rocks about twice the size of a man's head with many smaller, and drove the men back for protection. We could not go into the shaft again for about nine hours. Then the pumps conquered and we went down and cleaned it out. The tunnel was found near the top of our tunnel. I brought Mr. Hill, their engineer down and he put his arm into the hole of the tunnel up to the shoulder. He was an old man and could not go much under ground. When he came up he telegraphed his Company the words, "The drain no doubt". Nothing could be more particular than our search in the place of the old treasure. This is what I meant in my notes, there was no mistake about our search in the old treasure place. It was in this fashion  the cross lines and circling represent our searching tunnels right in the old treasure place.

Second, as to the falling of the treasure and shaft before ever the Halifax Company had anything to do with it. A man by the name of George Mitchell was then in charge. He finished the sinking of 118 foot shaft through which the water was to be taken away while the money pit was to be cleaned out to the treasure. I was then living in Truro, N. S., and was sent down to clean out the money pit, but before going it I examined the 118-foot pit and tunnel which was then nearly finished. At the end of the tunnel I saw every sign of the cataclysm that was about to take place

and refused to go into the money pit in time to save my own life and the men that would be with me.

When the pit fell down I was there and I with George Mitchell, threw a line down as far as it was open from the top when the subsidence ended, - it was open 113 feet from the top. Now do read and mark this:

As I told you before, there went down ten thousand feet of lumber - board measure - the cribbing of the old money pit. Could these plank stop on their way down and turn into an 18 foot tunnel, three by four feet?

Would or could casks of treasure having ten thousand feet of lumber and hundreds of tons of earth behind them, turn into a three by four feet tunnel? And if they could perform the impossible, would an 18 foot tunnel, three by four feet, and a few feet of the bottom of the 118-foot pit, hold what was fully competent to fill the money pit from 155 feet up to 113 feet, to which it was open from the surface?

Now please read carefully the minutes of McNutt's boring and you will see that he struck solid earth at 155 feet. He went down the east side of the old shaft almost free from wood, yet there is ten thousand feet of wood there for I saw it go down. The boring also found a like flow of water at 150 feet that it found at 100 feet. Please read carefully McNutt's boring and you will come to this conclusion: The pirate sank the shaft at first 155 feet deep, put part of the treasure there with a branch drain into it, then

working upon the old superstition that treasure runs away from seekers, he put another portion of the treasure at 100 feet with a drain into it, and if I did as Mitchell ordered me, I would be down there too, but not likely able to write you this letter.

Now to dig into the money pit means to pull all those plank out by the teeth, and to believe that they turned into that little 18 foot tunnel, would require as much faith from me as that Haley's comet went through it. Sink your pumping shaft deep; deep enough to drain the money pit at 155 feet and you have the treasure, but be sure you sink it on the west side.

They may despise the Halifax Company as they will, but they were the only company that ever took the right way to get that treasure. Their mistake was the same mistake being committed by your company, viz; refusing to believe the treasure is so far below them. For the whole year I was there for them I knew we would not find the treasure at that level because I saw it go down far past it. The trouble was to make them believe it and the trouble to-day is to make your Company believe it, but you will believe it before ever you will see the treasure. This last is not personally for you sir. I have never written a disparaging remark about any member of the Company, but some of them have not treated me as gentlemen treat gentlemen, yet I know perfectly they will never succeed until they listen to me. I am not in my dotage. This day I fed my hens and my hogs, gathered in the cows for milking,

earned \$1.50 at mason work, gathered in the cows again for milking, seen to the horses, made the chores, read your welcome, long letter, wrote this and it is not late bed time yet. I must write this tonight, tomorrow is Sunday and I am not quite ready for my bible class in the morning. You will find me neither a tramp nor a sluggard and therefor demand and expect respect.

I am glad you agree with me as to where and how the pumping shaft should be made. If you can find more treasure still at the air-shaft, all right, be sure and take it out. I have not reasoned conclusion about that matter.

You wrote me of a Simon McDonald of Montana, I did not know he was there, he was my old neighbor and was one of three of us who went from our place first of all. He was a man of no mean mind. Shake Simon; what are you doing out there?

With much respect for yourself, sir, I am,

(Signed)

S. C. Fraser.

( C O P Y )

Briggs Corner, Queens, N. B.

June 19, 1895.

Mr. A. S. Lowden.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your favor of June 12 to which I replied. Also in receipt of June 13th to which this is a reply. I will reply in the order of your letter.

First; the engine and pumps. The engine was a nineteen horse power. The exact capacity of the pumps I have forgotten, but you can judge of that by the power of the engine. Before I got charge there was a skilled miner in charge. Every few days the order was, "up with the pumps". The gravel was the whole time destroying the packing. The very first thing I did was to spend a whole day in protecting the pumps with eel grass and wire webbing. From that day for nine months consecutively the pumps never went out of order, but easily threw out all the water that ever came in to us and I left them in order when the work stopped, but we cut twenty five feet off the head of water by tunneling in from the side hill to the west.

Second, a description of the tunnel that we cut off. It was made of round stones such as found

abundantly on the beach and fields around the Island. Where we found it was the mouth of it where it empties on to the treasure before it - the treasure - went down. Our base was 110 feet, our tunnel was four feet high and the bottom of the pirate drain was near the top of your tunnel. We made no effort to stop the flow of water from the drain, first, we were at the wrong end, and again, with the pumps going we could control it as you could a brook upon the surface, and so you could now if you would go deep enough so that the controlling of the water would get you the treasure. I want you always to remember that I was always under the authority of an engineer upon the ground. I did everything I was ever told to do by him.

Third, Particulars as to amount of water that came up. Emphatically, no water came up and therefor do I know that there is another drain, and by McNutt's boring the water from the under drain came in about 150 from the surface. When the money pit fell in, it assumed the shape of a funnel nearly thirty feet across at the top and to a point 113 feet below. With all this earth and the <sup>curbing</sup> curbing of 86 feet deep of the money pit, would it turn at right angles through a little tunnel and about twelve feet deep of soft debris in the bottom of the 118-foot pit? McNutt's boring after all other work on the Island until last year was concluded; found disturbed earth, cocoanut fibre and pieces of wood down to 155 feet. Now there was tons

and tons of that cocoanut fibre on the works at the shore and around the treasure in the pit. Pray what is it now doing 150 (? 50) feet below the former place of the treasure? You say that water cannot be compressed. True, but water can be displaced. A heavier body of matter cast into water will compel water either to the surface or back in some other way, and that is just what took place in the pit. Forty feet of earth dashed compactly into the water in the lower pit, sent the water back in the lower drain. It is forty feet earth where it is now.

I described as minutely as I could, the facts as to the falling in of the money pit. Perhaps I ought to speak of appearances in the 118-foot pit tunnel when I went to examine it in view of my own safety when ordered by Mitchell to clean out the money pit. The pirate must have placed strong beams across the shaft and strew in say ten or fifteen feet of earth on these under the upper treasure, because when I went into the 118-foot pit tunnel they were in disturbed earth. They had some caving in from above them, above that, worked blue clay coming away from some smooth undersurface. The clay thus settling assumed the shape of the end of a large boiler-round and still becoming a larger circle. That which warned the men in the tunnel and so saved their lives, was the breaking of timbers all around them, so that they escaped before the debris caught them, and they

climbed up the middle curbing of the 118-foot pit perfectly crazed.

Still skeptical? Read carefully McNutt's account of boring which was the last thing done on the Island until the present Company. I did not know that the earth of the Island undisturbed, had cocoanut fibre and wood mixed with it. The pamphlet says, "East India grass", it is not; but cocoanut fibre nearly as well preserved as what I took off the cocoanut when examining and comparing them.

I was always aware of that sand below the blue clay which by the water of the tunnels, became quicksand. The pirate never did his work without <sup>cribbing</sup> ~~curbing~~. Very much less work than I, myself controlled there, would dig the shafts, crib them with a view of taking it out again, beginning at the inner end of the tunnels and at the bottom of the shafts and take out every stick of <sup>cribbing</sup> ~~curbing~~ and throw them out to sea, or burn them. They (the pirates) had quite a road from the west of the money pit, quite visible to the oldest diggers of all, and easily traced when I was there and can yet if it is not plowed.

The following is one of McNutt's statements. "December 7, water commenced to flow again, hole down 40 feet or 150 feet from surface." Scattered all along down he got wood, fibre and charcoal. What he did with so much charcoal I cannot think, but there was lots of it in the shore works. These things

show me that the treasure went down whether there was an open pit there or not. And if you are to conquer you must go below 155 feet with your pumping shaft. By sinking well down on the west side, you will probably escape the sand seam, because the strata curves with the hill and the hill has there nearly thirty feet of a rise. I believe if come in at the bottom you will never get any of the upper water, and to stop the upper drain would not at all help you.

Note: The foregoing was written by S. C. Fraser, Briggs Corner, N. B. The remainder of the letter was on another subject and did not come into my possession.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. C. Fraser", with a horizontal line underneath.

Jefferson W. McDonald, who first mentioned Oak Island to me in 1893, worked there under George Mitchell, who is referred to by Mr. Fraser in the foregoing letters.

I heard Mr. McDonald tell repeatedly of helping to dig the 118-foot pit tunnel, the collapse of the money pit and falling of the treasure, and of Mitchell measuring the depth of destroyed pit with a plumb line. He told also, of the road which could be traced from the money pit to the shore, and of examining the ground between the pit and Smith's Cove, for evidence of another shaft which many claimed must have been dug for ventilation purposes. No trace of such a pit could be discovered, but it subsequently gave way under a pair of oxen as described on page 10 of pamphlet "B". This cave-in was confirmed by Mrs. Henry Sellers, Chester Basin, to me. She was driving the cattle.

Mr. McDonald, who was a carpenter by trade, also told of taking down a partition in Smith's house, in order that he, with others might examine the characters cut on the stone used in the jamb of a fire place in the house. The characters were there all right, but no person present could decipher them. This stone is mentioned on page five of pamphlet above referred to.



**Transcript of Handwritten Letter by William Chappell Dated Sept 23, 1897  
Compiled by Les MacPhie, May, 2014**

Oak Island, Sept 23rd, 1897

Dear Blair

Your letter of the 17th inst to hand, contents noted and I will try to do as you request although I know that it is not my place to keep you posted when you have a Manager for that purpose. It appears that he won't so I will do the best I can while I am here.

I enclose a short account of borings in Money Pit on which you can rely to be as correct as any you have or will get.

As we had not heard of the piece of parchment that you found in the stuff we bored out of Money Pit, I do not think it at all possible that it was put in here after it came out of the pit. I might ask is it possible that it got mixed after Mr. Putman took it away. Find the one that found the parchment first and if it was put in he knows who did it.

Of course there is a lot of people that will not believe that it came out of the pit, it would be the same if we got gold. These are the ones that will not get much of the treasure.

"O yea of little faith" etc.

**Transcript of Handwritten Drilling Notes by William Chappell Made in 1897  
and accompanying Letter Dated September 23, 1897  
Compiled by Les MacPhie, May 2014**

(Note: Underlined words were inferred and may not be exact since they were not clear or cropped in the handwritten copy, blank \_\_\_ indicates cannot infer word)

Boring in Money Pit

We have sunk 3 holes in Money Pit with drill. First hole 132 ft deep, at 126' struck what we believed to be wood, could not get pipe down by it, went down to 132' with small drill.

Second hole at 126 ft struck iron, drove pipe down to it but could not get it any deeper. We then put on a 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " drill and went down to 153 ft through soft clay at this depth. Struck what we thought to be wood then put on an auger and bored 5" when auger dropped 2" and struck on something hard pulled up auger and found on it mixed with clay a few small pieces of wood. Tried drill again and drilled through about 4" of something hard but it did not cut or sound like stone. After getting through this, drill worked down about 18" through stuff in small pieces which would fall in hole made by drill. At this depth struck on a hard solid surface, the same we passed through before, did not go through it.

We wanted to get down to the wood so we put down a 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " pipe inside the 3" that we started with, drove it down to 154 ft, did not strike wood, put down drill and found that the pipe did not follow the hole the drill had made and we did not strike the wood or metal that we bored into. Went down with drill to 180 ft through soft ground at this depth soil appeared to be harder. In this hole at 120 ft got several pieces of hardwood bark.

Third hole through hard clay to 123 ft, soft clay \_\_\_ \_\_\_ stones to 135 ft then through stuff that I cannot describe to 157 ft. At 153 ft struck what we thought was wood but drill worked down by it, drove pipe down solid ground, drilled from 157' to 160 ft through soft light coloured sand stone or cement cuttings when compared looked just like cement. From 160' to 171' through soft material as above 157'. At 171' struck something hard and solid, drilled on it for about 2 hours going down about  $\frac{1}{4}$ ", then tried sand pump and brought up several pieces of iron. We again tried drill making it sharp and tempering it for iron. We worked drill for about 2 hours going down less than  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and in sand pump brought up one or two pieces of iron. Drill showed no ware, gave a few raps on stone with it which took the edge off.

This is the last boring we did there and we think it not necessary to do any more. If the proof we now have of a treasure is not sufficient to convince people that there is one here they would not believe if we should show it. The only proof we now want is can we get it and we can only prove that by trying.

We got water in last hole below 160 ft, connected pump to the guard pipe and could get about \_\_\_ per minute. Water was salt and while pumping lowered the water a little in pits, we will not attempt to explain this. Ask someone that has never been here the reason why.

There is some variation between the depths and thicknesses given by Mr. Chappell in the foregoing "Boring Account", and those recorded in the pamphlet, - Exhibit "B" - for which I am responsible.

The data recorded in the pamphlet is that given me mostly by Messrs Welling and Putnam. The latter helped to bore through the wood at 153 feet and had hold of the rods when the auger passed through the wood and dropped an estimated distance of from one to two inches.

There was certainly seven inches of "cement" over this wood although Mr. Chappell does not say so in his account.

No attempt was made to record in the pamphlet, the data of each hole drilled, but rather the combined result of all except in so far as was necessary to give a clear and easily understood history. This statement applies also, to the many pits put down and lost.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "O. S. Peir", is written over a horizontal line.

( C O P Y )

Amherst, N. S., June 15, 1900

J. W. Welling,  
Oak Island, N. S.

Dear Welling:-

\*\*\*\*\*

Now as to that piece of parchment.

I will at any time positively swear that I saw it in the paper Putnam had before Dr. Porter ever laid eyes on it.

You will perhaps remember that Fullerton, McDonald and I met Putnam in Truro on his way from the island after that boring. I noticed the parchment then, but did not know what it was. It was very, very small and I could not see that it was rolled into a little ball and, of course, did not know what it was. I simply noticed that it was different from the wood. Little threads were sticking out from it. I asked Putnam what it was, but he did not know.

When he came to Amherst, I noticed the same thing in the paper. Porter got his glass over it and very soon spoke of this something being different from the wood. I saw it under the glass and know that it was the same thing I saw in Truro. Porter looked at it several times and the more he

looked the more he handled it and he thus discovered that it was curled up.

It did not strike him that it was parchment until the next day. He came in to me and wanted to see it again. Putnam had gone and taken it with him. Porter said he would like very much to see it again, he believed that it was a piece of parchment. At this time he did (not) believe much in Oak Island and had no money in it. I got the parchment back from Putnam and we compared it with parchment here. It was not so fine nor so white, but was very much the same texture.

Porter is but a poor man, in fact, you may say he had no money when here. He came in to me a few days after discovering the parchment and gave me \$5.00 for a share, saying he did not have any money to throw away and that he had never thought much of Oak Island, but that piece of parchment had convinced him that there was something there. He put his second \$5.00 in not long after. Porter never furnished the parchment, of that I am sure. It was in the paper in Truro that Putnam brought from the island, of that I am also sure.

\*\*\*\*\*

Yours truly,

(Signed)  
F. L. Blair.

COPY OF AFFIDAVIT MADE BY  
WILLIAM CHAPPELL IN CONNECTION WITH  
DRILLING DONE IN 1897

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STATEMENT made by William Chappell, of drilling done in "Money Pit" at Oak Island, Nova Scotia, during the summer of 1897, at which work, T. Perley Putnam, and John W. Welling, took part in addition to the said Chappell, and experienced drillers.

The pit had been opened down to 113 feet, the water level therein being 31 to 33 feet from surface, varying with the tides. Operations were conducted at the surface. The water was pumped out to about 100 feet and the holes were located from a platform placed at 90 feet from the surface. This was done so as to enable us to place the holes over as large an area as possible, and with the assurance that they were not too close together. The cribbing of the pit was so badly twisted that only a small portion of the bottom could be reached with a plumb line from the top. A  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " drill was used in a 3" pipe.

Several holes (more than three) were bored, and this statement is a composite report of all holes drilled except in so far as is necessary to give a clear, succinct and easily understood history of the work. Most of the drilling was done in loose or soft and what appeared to be disturbed ground; blue clay was encountered between 130 and 151 feet, and also between 160 and 171 feet. In one hole we appeared to be in the channel in which the water was coming up and being pumped out at

the rate of about 400 gallons per minute. It was the generally disturbed and loose conditions, and the blue clay, that induced the workmen to drill their first hole below 130 feet.

Wood was struck at 122 feet and at 126 feet and deeper as stated herein. Iron was encountered at 126 feet in one hole, and it stopped the pipe. The pipe proved to be on the edge of the iron, but efforts made to drive it past resulted in failure.

A  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " drill was put down past the obstruction and it went through the blue clay to 151 feet and struck what appeared to be a soft stone. Cuttings of this stone when compared, looked just like cement, and as analytical chemists subsequently pronounced samples from this material to have the composition of cement, it is hereafter referred to as cement. Twenty inches down in this cement, we struck wood, a few chips from which were brought up. An auger was substituted for the drill and five inches of oak wood were bored through.

When the auger passed through the wood it dropped from one and one half to two inches and rested upon a substance the character of which no person would attempt to state. After considerable twisting of the auger on the substance, it was carefully withdrawn and the borings brought up therewith were preserved by Mr. Putnam. The drill was then again put down when we found we were apparently on soft metal that could be moved slightly thereby forming a crevice or space into which the drill, when in alignment, would drop and stick or wedge. This happened a number of times and it was often necessary to pry the drill

loose. After working for two hours or more, we managed to get down four inches when the drill worked easier, but it would not go down under the ordinary method of drilling, (raising and dropping the rods) but by a continuous twisting and turning of the rods under constant pressure, we managed to get 18 or 20 inches deeper, a total of 24 inches of material bored through under the wood. The drill then struck a substance similar to that encountered immediately under the wood. No special effort was made to get through this.

In working down the twenty inches, the space made by the drill would fill at once under the tool as it was raised, and it would fill up nearly the whole twenty inches when the rods were raised that much. We worked over five hours in getting down the two feet, and the drill came up as sharp as when it went down.

The conclusion was that the first four inches consisted of metal in bars which were pushed aside by the drill enough to permit it to pass, and that the additional twenty inches consisted of coin or metal in small pieces that fell into the space left by the tool as it was drawn up, and also, that under these small pieces, there was more metal (not iron) in bars.

It was at once decided to secure this drill hole by piping below 126 feet and then to obtain a sample of the small metal pieces. To that end, a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " pipe was lowered through the 3" pipe and forced past the iron obstruction at 126 feet. It was discovered, however, that this obstruction had turned the small pipe from its course and it struck hard ground, supposed

to be the wall of the pit, instead of going down to the cement.

The  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " pipe was then withdrawn and the drill again lowered through the larger pipe, but it followed the hole made by the small pipe below 126 feet and the hole to the cement was thereby lost. When the  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " pipe was withdrawn it was found that in forcing it past the obstruction at 126 feet, a V shaped piece extending for about one third of the circumference of the pipe at the lower end and up about three inches, had been cut out.

The three inch pipe was then reset and another hole drilled, and the pipe put down until it rested solidly upon the cement. At 153 feet we apparently touched wood on one side which extended down about four feet, the cement extending about three feet further to a depth of approximately 160 feet, with a total thickness of about seven feet from top of wood to bottom of cement.

We then bored into a quite firm, blue clay possessing the characteristics of puddled clay. This extended down to 171 feet where iron was struck. This iron was very solid and the metallic sound could be plainly heard at the surface. We drilled on it two hours or more, getting into it not more than one quarter inch. The drill was taken out, sharpened and tempered for iron and two more hours were spent in drilling and getting down another quarter inch. The drill showed no wear when withdrawn, it was given a few raps on stone which took the edge off. The clay and material at the bottom of the hole were brought up with a sand pump. A magnet was run

through this material and it loaded up with fine iron cuttings thereby producing conclusive proof that it was iron we had been drilling on at 171 feet. No further attempt was made to go through this iron.

(Signed)

William Chappell

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA

COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND S S

Be it remembered that on this 25th day of October A.D., 1929, before me the subscriber personally came and appeared, William Chappell of Sydney, in the Province of Nova Scotia, who having been by me examined, made oath and said that the foregoing statement of drilling done in "Money Pit" on Oak Island, Nova Scotia, during the summer of 1897, at which work, T. Perley Putnam, and John W. Welling, took part in addition to the said Chappell, and experienced drillers, is true, and that the facts and matters of each and every particular contained in the foregoing statement is true.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal the day and year first above written.

(Signed)

C. Guy Black

Notarial  
Seal.

A Notary Public in and for the Province of Nova Scotia, residing and practicing at Oxford, Province of Nova Scotia.

## Early Oak Island Documents

### Part 3 of 3 – Blair Affidavit and Exhibits

(Compiled by Les MacPhie May 2014)

Reference	Description of Document	No of Pages	Page No
Blair Affidavit 1926	In the matter of a search for Buried Treasure at Oak Island, County of Lunenburg, Province of Nova Scotia, Dominion of Canada, Signed February 1, 1926.	5	2 - 6
Exhibit A of Blair Affidavit (Pamphlet by Oak Island Treasure Company) (Note 1)	Cover page of Pamphlet	1	7
	The frontispiece pages of the Pamphlet give a cross section and plan of the Works.	2	8 - 9
	Pages 1 to 8 of the Pamphlet include a history to the end of the Halifax Company work in 1867 and mentions the discovery of the Cave-in Pit by Sophia Sellars in 1878.	8	10 - 17
	Pages 8 and 9 of the Pamphlet include a plan to form the new company (The Oak Island Treasure Company).	2	17 - 18
	Page 9 of the Pamphlet includes a copy of the affidavit by Adams A. Tupper dated November 23, 1893 and comments on sale of stock in The Oak Island Treasure Company.	1	18
	Pages 10 to 13 of the Pamphlet include additional commentary on the work done prior to 1893 including a long letter written in June 1895 by S. C. Fraser (foreman for the Halifax Company).	4	19 - 22
	Pages 13 and 14 of the Pamphlet include a "Report on Last Year's Work" done by the Oak Island Treasure Company in 1894.	2	22 - 23
Exhibit B of Blair Affidavit	Page 14 of the Pamphlet includes commentary on divining rods.	1	23
	Page 1 of the Pamphlet is cover page.	1	24
	Page 2 of the Pamphlet is the frontispiece which gives a cross section and plan of the original work.	1	25
	Pages 3 to 10 of the Pamphlet include a history to 1893.	8	26 - 33
	Pages 10 to 17 of the Pamphlet include a history from 1893 to 1926 prepared by Frederick Blair.	8	33 - 40
	Pages 17 to 20 of the Pamphlet include corroborative letters.	4	40 - 43
Exhibit C of Blair Affidavit	Pages 20 to 23 of the Pamphlet include commentary on the work done prior to 1893.	4	43 - 46
	Affidavit by Dr. A. E. Porter: In the matter of an examination held on certain material at the Court House at Amherst on the 6th day of September, 1897. (Note 2)	3	47 - 49
Notes:			
1. The pamphlet includes the second version of the prospectus of the Oak Island Treasure Company			
2. The "certain material" is the parchment.			

COPY OF AFFIDAVIT

MADE BY F.L.BLAIR :

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IN THE MATTER of a search for  
Buried Treasure at Oak Island,  
County of Lunenburg, Province of  
Nova Scotia, Dominion of Canada.

I, Frederick L. Blair of the Town of Brookline, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, formerly of the Town of Amherst, Province of Nova Scotia, Accountant, do solemnly declare that:

1. I have been acquainted with the history of the search for treasure buried on Oak Island, Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia, for thirty two years. During the said period of thirty two years, I have been connected with or have participated in some manner with every attempt made on the said island for the recovery of the treasure.

2 I was in a position to learn of all vital facts that developed in connection with the work done on the island within the said period and I believe I am aware of all of the important information which was obtained as a result of the said work.

3. I have from time to time during the said period of thirty two years, interviewed and conversed with many persons who possessed knowledge of the work done at various times prior to the year 1893, for the recovery of the treasure, amongst such persons being, Adams A. Tupper, Jefferson W. McDonald, Amherst, N.S., Mrs. Henry Sellers, Chester Basin, N.S., John McGinnis and Arthur McGinnis, Oak Island, N. S., and George Vaughan, Western Shore, N. S., the last three being direct descendants of two of the discoverers of the original work.

4. After due investigation most carefully and thoroughly made, I have every reason to believe and do believe that the story set forth in the pamphlet herewith, published by the Oak Island Treasure Company, and marked "Exhibit A", is correct in all essential facts and is a true history of the work done on the said island previous to the year 1893, as stated by Adams A. Tupper, in his affidavit printed in the said pamphlet.

5 The story of the work done on the said island subsequent to the year 1893, as related on pages ten to sixteen in the pamphlet herewith, marked "Exhibit B", was prepared by me from knowledge and data in my possession, and is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

6 Referring more particularly to the story of the piece of parchment as related on pages sixteen and seventeen in pamphlet "B", and to the affidavit of Dr. A. E. Porter, herewith, and marked "Exhibit C", I was present at the meeting mentioned by Dr. Porter, and there identified amongst the chips of wood, the same substance or fibre I had noticed a few days previously in Truro, N. S., as told in the pamphlet. I watched Doctor Porter, while he examined the material under his glass and saw him work with it until he got it flattened out.

7 I was well acquainted with T. Perley Putnam, who acted as manager of the work done at the island for recovery of the treasure, between the years 1896 and 1900. He was a man in whose honesty and integrity I would place the greatest reliance. I heard him repeatedly tell his experience with the auger and drill in the drill hole in which wood was first struck at 154 feet. His story is retold in the pamphlet both as to boring through wood and what occurred thereafter, also with respect to cleaning the auger and washing the dirt therefrom, as related by Dr. Porter.

8 The piece of parchment is attached hereto, and marked "Exhibit D", I firmly believe it came out of a drill hole in the so called "Money Pit" at Oak Island, as described in the pamphlet and by Dr. Porter in his affidavit.

9 As a matter of record, I further declare that from Jefferson W. McDonald, mentioned in paragraph three, I first heard the story of Oak Island. He worked there some time during the eighteen sixties and helped to dig the 118-foot pit and was present when the "Money Pit" collapsed. Mr. McDonald was a firm believer in the existence of a treasure at Oak Island, his opinion being based on information obtained from men who had taken part in previous work as well as on his own experience. From George Vaughan, I learned that the names of the original discoverers were, Jack Smith, Daniel McGinnis and Anthony Vaughan, the latter being George Vaughan's grandfather. George Vaughan told me how his grandfather had related to him while he (George) was a boy, their experience in opening the pit. He stated it was circular in form, twelve feet in diameter, the digging being easy inside and very hard outside, it therefore being easy to determine when the wall of the pit was reached. Mr. Vaughan stated that his father, David Vaughan, also worked at the pit and was present when the original boring was done. I took notes of Mr. Vaughan's remarks and these notes are still in

my possession. Mrs. Sellers, who lived on the island in her early years, informed me that she was driving the oxen when they dropped into the so called "cave-in" pit, as related on page ten of the pamphlet "B".

(Signed)

Frederick L. Blair

Subscribed and sworn to before me this first day of February, 1926.

(Signed)

Edward F. Allen,

Notary Public.

My commission expires June 16, 1927.

Notarial Seal.

THE STORY  
OF  
OAK ISLAND.

1895.

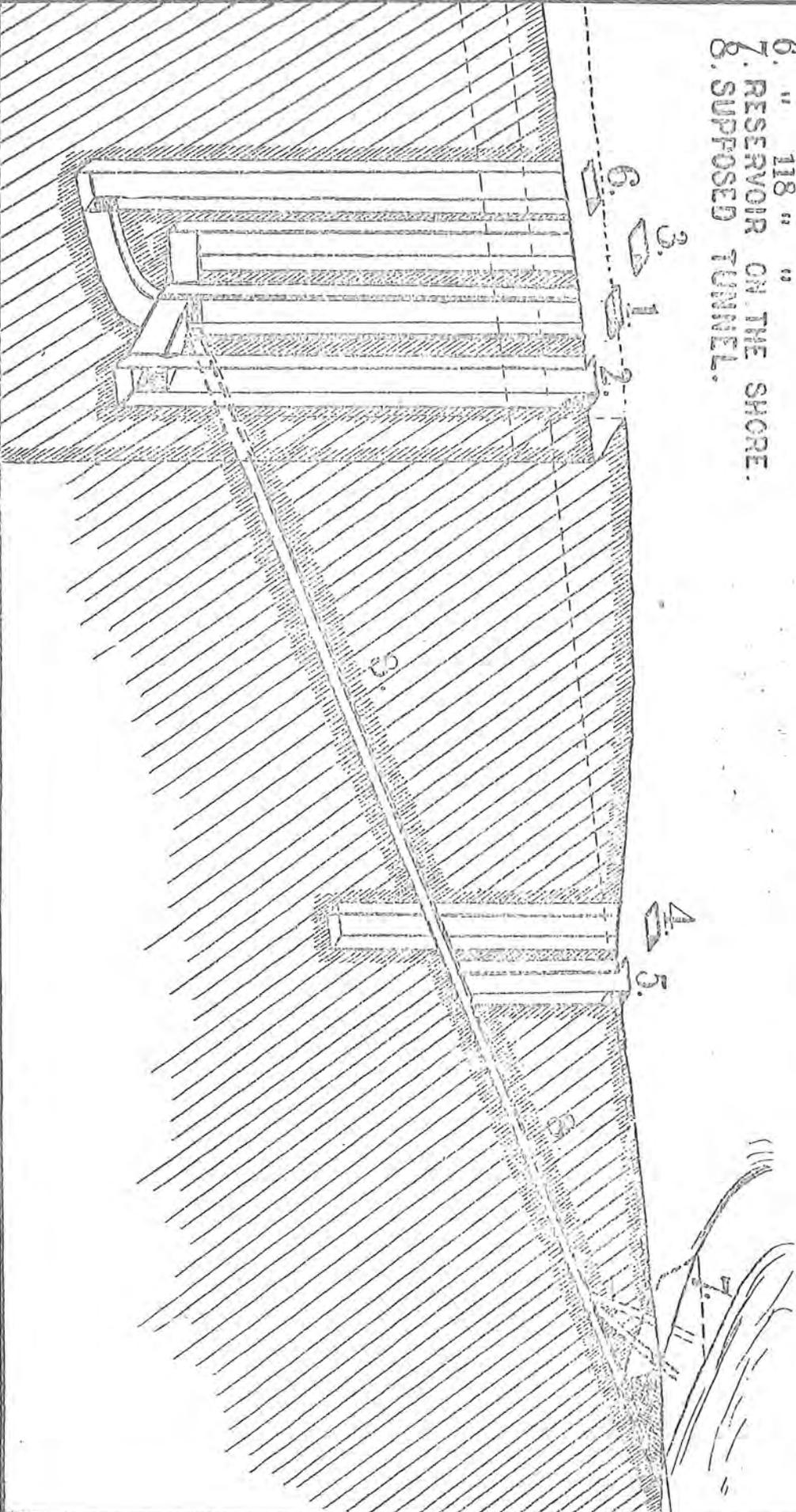
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STOUGHTON, MASS.  
RECORD PUBLISHING CO.

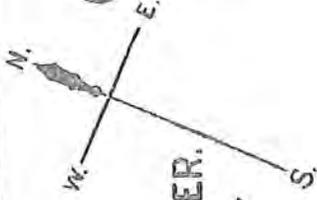
1895.

# SECTIONAL VIEW OF WORKS.

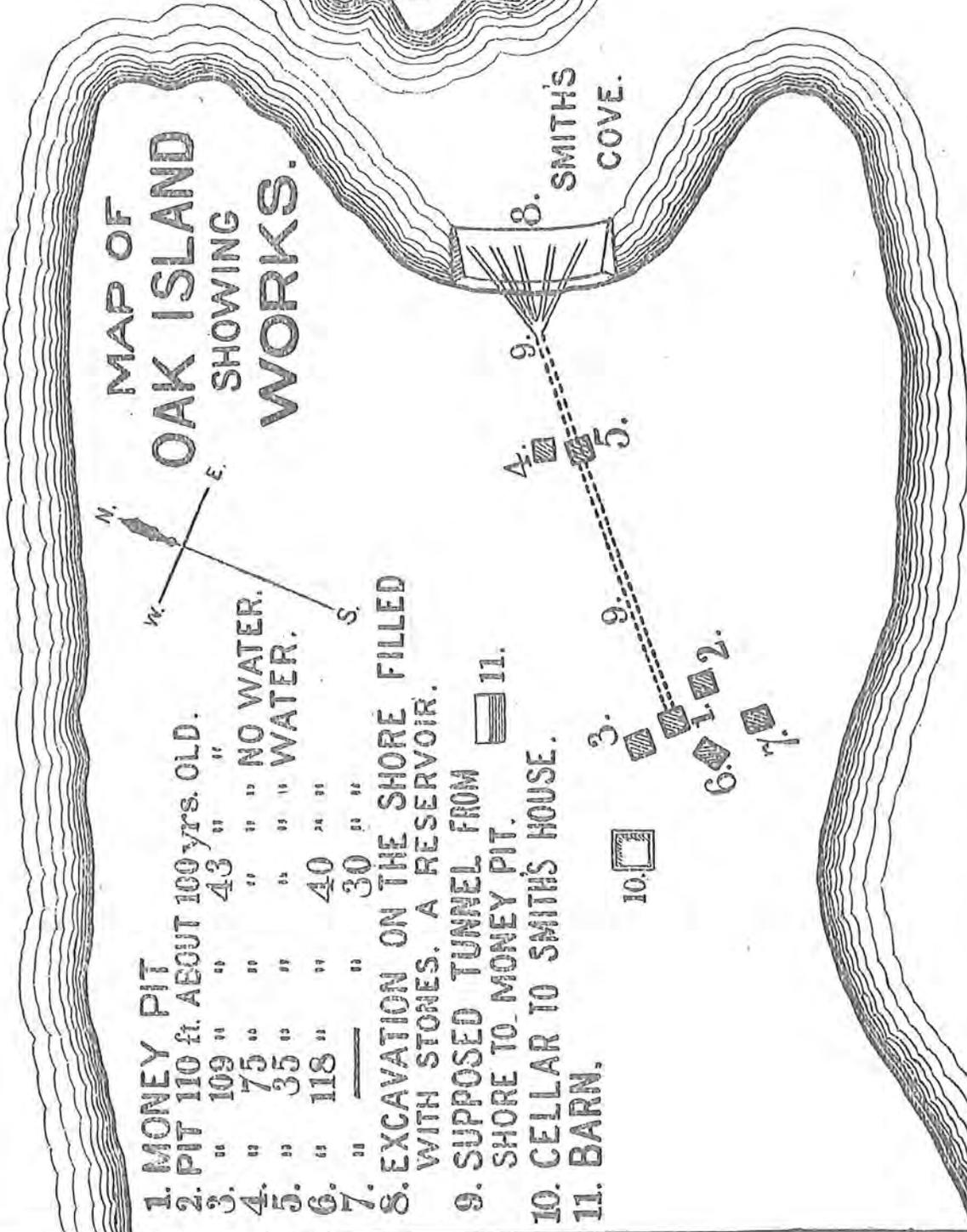
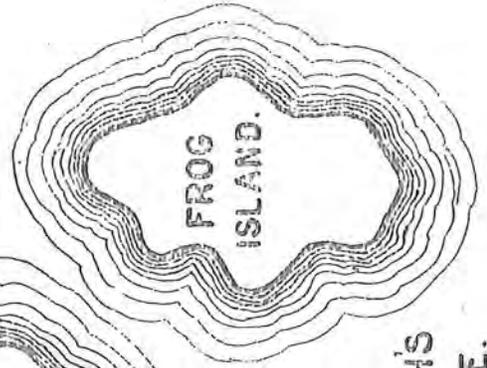
- |    |                         |               |
|----|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1. | MONEY PIT               |               |
| 2. | PIT                     | 110 ft. DEEP. |
| 3. | "                       | 109 " "       |
| 4. | "                       | 75 " "        |
| 5. | "                       | 35 " "        |
| 6. | "                       | 118 " "       |
| 7. | RESERVOIR ON THE SHORE. |               |
| 8. | SUPPOSED TUNNEL.        |               |



# MAP OF OAK ISLAND SHOWING WORKS.



- 1. MONEY PIT
- 2. PIT 110 ft. ABOUT 100 yrs. OLD.
- 3. " " " 43 " " " NO WATER.
- 4. " " " 75 " " " " WATER.
- 5. " " " 35 " " " " "
- 6. " " " 118 " " " " "
- 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.



# BURIED TREASURE.

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SUPPOSED PLUNDER OF THE PIRATES TO BE RECOVERED BY  
MODERN SCIENCE.

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AN AUTHENTIC ACCOUNT OF EFFORTS MADE TO REGAIN ALLEGED  
HIDDEN AND FABULOUS RICHES.

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Much fiction has been written concerning great sums of money and vast quantities of jewels buried by pirates some 200 years ago somewhere along the Atlantic coast. Our story has to do only with facts, as stated by the men now living and who had a hand in them, or as told to them by men now dead. It can be proven:

1. That a shaft about 13 feet in diameter and 100 feet deep was sunk on Oak Island in Mahone bay, Nova Scotia, before the memory of any now living.
2. That this shaft was connected by an underground tunnel with the open ocean, about 365 feet distant.
3. That at the bottom of this shaft were placed large wooden boxes in which were precious metals and jewels.
4. That many attempts have been made, without success, to obtain this treasure.
5. That it is reasonably certain the treasure is large, because so great a trouble would never have been taken to conceal any small sum.
6. That it is now entirely feasible to thoroughly explore this shaft and recover the treasure still located therein.

## THE STORY IN DETAIL.

Oak Island is situated near the head of Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia. A narrow channel separates it from the main land, at

that point known as the Western Shore, and four miles from the town of Chesler. The island is about a mile in length and half as broad. The formation is a very hard, tough clay. The eastern end was originally covered with oak timber, several groves of which still remain. There are over 300 islands in the bay.

About the close of the last century this part of the country was very sparsely populated and the island in question was without an inhabitant. In 1795, three men — Smith, McGinnis and Vaughn, — visited the island, and while rambling over the eastern part of it, came to a spot, of which the unusual and strange conditions at once engaged their attention. (Mr. Vaughn himself, who was only a lad of 16 at this time, subsequently related these facts to Mr. Robert Creelman, who still lives at Upper Stewiacke, N. S., and who was afterwards the manager of a company formed to recover the treasure.) It had every appearance of having been cleared many years before. Red clover and other plants altogether foreign to the soil in its natural state were growing. Near the center stood a large oak tree with marks and figures on its trunk. One of the lower and larger branches of this, the outer end of which had been sawed off, projected directly over the centre of a deep circular depression in the land about 13 feet in diameter. These and other "signs" shortly after led the three men named to commence work.

After digging a few feet, they found that they were working in a well defined shaft, the walls of which were hard and solid; and it is said that in some places old pick marks were plainly to be seen, while within these walls the earth was so loose that picks were not required. On reaching a depth of 10 feet they came to a covering of oak plank. They kept on digging until a depth of 30 feet was reached, finding marks at each 10 feet. At this point the work proved to be too heavy for them. Superstitious beliefs were in full force in that part of the country at that time, and on this account they were unable to get any help to continue the work and were forced to abandon it.

After an interval of 6 or 7 years, accounts of the wonderful discoveries already mentioned had spread over the province, and Dr. Lynds, a young physician of Truro, Nova Scotia, visited the island and interviewed Messrs. Smith, Vaughn and McGinnis. On his return to Truro, a company was formed for the purpose of continuing the search. Several prominent men belonging to Halifax, Colchester and Pictou counties took an active interest in it, among whom were Col. Robert Archibald, Sheriff Harris and Capt. David Archibald. Work was at once resumed by this company and the shaft was excavated to a depth of 95 feet. Marks were found every 10 feet, as before, and an iron bar was frequently used in taking soundings. The 90 foot mark was a flat stone about 3 feet long and 16 inches wide. On it marks or characters had been cut. Afterwards it was placed in the jamb of a fireplace that Mr. Smith was building in

his house, and while there was viewed by thousands of people. Many years afterwards, it was taken out of the chimney and taken to Halifax to have, if possible, the characters deciphered. One expert gave his reading of the inscription as follows: "Ten feet below are two million pounds buried." We give this statement for what it is worth, but by no means claim that this is the correct interpretation. Apart from this however, the fact still remains that the history and description of the stone as above given have never been disputed. Until the depth of 95 feet was reached no water had been encountered, neither had sand or gravel through which water could possibly percolate been met. It was Saturday evening when the depth above named had been reached, and it was at this point that a wooden platform was struck, extending over the entire surface of the shaft, as revealed by the soundings.

This was on Saturday night. Monday, when the men returned, the shaft was found to be full of water within 25 or 30 feet from the top. Notwithstanding this set-back they went manfully to work to bail it out, and with characteristic Nova Scotian pluck continued it night and day until the task proved utterly hopeless. It was then decided to sink a new shaft a few feet to the east of the old pit, (marked No. 1 on map and which at that time was given the name of the "money pit," and has been known by that name ever since), to the depth of 110 feet and tunnel under the "money pit," below the location of the treasure, and take it out from below. Work was begun at once on this shaft, (marked No. 2 on map) and continued until the depth above named was reached. Up to this time in the sinking of this new shaft no water had been met with, but while driving a tunnel in the direction of the "money pit," and before reaching the object sought, the water suddenly burst in on them, and the men engaged escaped with their lives and a fine drenching. This disaster practically ended the operations of this company.

Until 1849 nothing was done in the direction of recovering the treasure, but in that year a new company was formed and operations were resumed at the "old stand." At this time two of the "old diggers," namely, Dr. Lynds of Truro and Mr. Vaughn of Western Shore (before mentioned,) were still alive, and gave the managers much valuable information regarding the old workings, and expressed their firm belief in the existence of the treasure. Mr. Vaughn quickly located the site of the "money pit," which in the mean time had been filled up. Digging was commenced, and went on without interruption until the depth of 86 feet had been reached, when the water again put in appearance and the men were driven out of the pit.

After an unsuccessful attempt to bail the water out, work was suspended and the men returned to their homes. Shortly after, men with boring apparatus of primitive description, used in prospecting for coal, were sent to the island. Mr. J. B. McCully of Truro, who is still living and tells these facts, was manager. A

platform was rigged in the "money pit," 30 feet below the surface and just above the water. The boring started and we submit a verbatim statement of the manager: "The platform was struck at 98 ft., just as the old diggers, as before mentioned, found it when sounding with the iron bar. After going through this platform, which was five inches thick, and proved to be spruce, the augur dropped 12 inches and then went through 4 inches of oak; then it went through 22 inches of metal in pieces, but the augur failed to take any of it in except 3 links, resembling an ancient watch chain. It then went through 8 inches of oak, which was thought to be the bottom of the first box and top of the next; then 22 inches of metal, the same as before; then 4 inches of oak and 6 inches of spruce; then into clay 7 ft. without striking anything else. In next boring the platform was struck as before at 98 ft.; passing through this, the augur fell about 18 inches and came in contact with, as supposed, the side of a cask. The flat chisel revolving close to the side of the cask gave it a jerky and irregular motion. On withdrawing the augur several splinters of oak, such as might come from the side of an oak stave, and a small quantity of a brown fibrous substance, closely resembling the husk of a cocoanut, were brought up. The distance between the upper and lower platforms was found to be 6 feet."

Not satisfied with the result of the boring just above described, another crew, of which the late Jas. Pitblado was foreman, was sent to make further investigations with practically (as far as the wood at the bottom of the shaft was concerned) the same result as before. The late John Gammell, of Upper Stewiacke, N. S., who was present at the boring and who was a large share holder, and whose veracity would not be questioned, stated that he saw Mr. Pitblado take something out of the augur, wash and examine it closely, then put it in his pocket. When asked by Mr. Gammell to show what it was, he declined, and said he would show it at the meeting of directors on their return, but Mr. Pitblado failed to appear at said meeting. It was subsequently reported that Mr. Pitblado had made some revelations to the then manager of the Acadia Iron Works at Londonderry, N. S., which revelations led that gentleman to make a determined, but unsuccessful, effort to get possession of that part of the island where the treasure is believed to be. But as the manager spoken of above was a few years later called to England, and Mr. Pitblado in the mean time had been accidentally killed in a gold mine, nothing further came of it. Nothing further was done until the following summer, 1850, when a new shaft (marked No. 3,) was sunk at the west side of the "money pit," and about 10 ft. from it. This shaft was 109 ft. deep and was through the hardest kind of red clay. Mr. A. A. Tupper, then of Upper Stewiacke, N. S., but now of South Framingham, Mass., who helped sink this shaft, gives the following account: "A tunnel was driven from the bottom in the direction of the "money pit." Just before reaching

that point, the water burst in and the workmen fled for their lives and in twenty minutes there was 45 ft. of water in the new pit. The sole object in view in sinking this shaft was to increase the bailing facilities, for which purpose preparations had been made, and bailing was resumed in both the new and old pits, each being equipped with two two-horse gins. Work was carried on night and day for about a week, but all in vain, the only difference being that with the doubled appliances the water could be kept at a lower level than formerly. About this time, the discovery was made that the water was salt, and that it rose and fell in both shafts about 18 inches corresponding with the tides. It was considered extremely improbable that the flow of water came through a natural channel, and if not through a natural, it necessarily must be through an artificial one, having its inlet somewhere on the shore. In support of the theory that the water did not enter the "money pit" through a natural channel, it was argued that had it done so, the original diggers (supposed to be pirates) must have struck it, and if they did, it is certain that the workmen would have been driven from the pit by the great flow of water, and the shaft would necessarily have been abandoned. This evidently was not the case, as we have ample evidence from the fact that the wooden platforms were carefully placed in position at the bottom of the shaft, (see the account of borings already given) as well as the fact that the shaft had been systematically filled up, with marks placed at every 10 ft., as previously stated. Acting on this theory a search was at once begun in order to find such inlet. Smith's Cove, on the extreme eastern end of the island and about 30 rods from the "money pit" was first examined by reason of its many natural advantages as a starting point for work of this kind, and from the fact that at about the centre of this cove it had always been noticed that at low tide, water was running out of the sand. Investigations were begun at this point and the result of a few minutes' shoveling proved beyond a doubt that they had struck the place they were looking for. After removing the sand and gravel covering the beach, they came to a covering or bed of a brown, fibrous plant, the fibre very much resembling the husk of a cocoanut, and when compared with the plant that was bored out of the "money pit" already mentioned, no difference in the two could be detected. However it was subsequently proved to be a tropical plant, in former times used as "dunnage" in stowing ship's cargo. The surface covered by this plant extended 145 feet along the shore line, and from a little above low to high water mark, and about 2 inches in thickness. Underlying this and to the same extent was about 4 or 5 inches of decayed eel grass, and under this was a compact mass of beach rocks free from sand or gravel.

It was found impracticable to remove these rocks and make further investigation unless the tide was kept back. Accordingly a coffer dam was built around this part of the cove, including

the boundaries just described. After removing the rocks nearest the low water, it was found that the clay (which with the sand and gravel originally formed the beach) had been dug out and removed and replaced by beach rocks. Resting on the bottom of this excavation were five well constructed drains (as shown on the plan) formed by laying parallel lines of rocks about 8 inches apart and covering the same with flat stones. These drains at the starting point were a considerable distance apart, but converged towards a common centre at the back of the excavation. With the exception of these drains the other rocks had evidently been thrown in promiscuously. Work went on until half of the rocks had been removed where the clay banks at the extreme sides showed a depth of 5 ft., at which depth a partially burned piece of oak wood was found. About this time an unusually high tide overflowed the top of the dam; and as it had not been constructed to resist pressure from the inside, when the tide receded, it was carried away. To rebuild it would cost a lot of money, and as there still remained a large amount of rocks to be removed, and as there could be no reasonable doubt that the place we have tried to describe was the outwork of and starting point of a tunnel by which the water was conveyed to the bottom of the "money pit," it was decided to abandon the work on the shore and to sink a shaft a short distance inland from the starting point and directly over the tunnel, which it was expected, if found, would be less than 25 feet from the surface; and if so, the intention was to drive spiles through and thereby stop the further passage of the water. A spot was selected and a shaft was put down, (marked No. 4) to a depth of 75 ft. Realizing the fact that they must have passed the tunnel, work was stopped on this pit. It is worthy to note that the clay formation passed through in sinking this shaft was exactly the same as encountered in the 3 other pits mentioned, neither was water met with. Another and a more careful survey having been made, work was begun on another shaft about 12 ft. to the south of the one just abandoned (marked No. 5.) When a depth of 35 feet had been reached, a large boulder lying in the bottom of the shaft was pried up, and a rush of water immediately followed and in a few minutes the shaft was full to tide level. An effort was then made to carry out the original program of driving spiles, but as the appliances at command were of the most crude description, the effort was a failure. But at the same time it must be admitted that striking salt water in this pit at the depth named; and also the other fact that in the other shaft only 12 ft. distant and 75 ft. deep, no water was found, proves beyond a doubt that the tunnel theory was correct."

A short time after another shaft (marked No. 6,) was sunk on the south side of the "money pit," and to a depth of 118 ft. this made the 4th one (including the "money pit") that had been put down at this place, and in such close proximity to each other that a circle 50 ft. in diameter would include the whole. The

conditions found in sinking this 4th shaft were precisely the same as in the other shafts. As already stated, this new shaft was 118 ft. deep, a greater depth by 8 ft. than had previously been reached. A tunnel was driven towards, and reached a point directly under, a part at least of the bottom of the "money pit." It was now the dinner hour, and the workmen had just come out for that meal. Before they had finished dinner, a great crash was heard in the direction of the works. Rushing back to the pit, they found that the bottom of the "money pit" had fallen into the tunnel that they had a short time before vacated and that the new shaft was fast filling with water. Subsequently it was found that 12 ft. of mud had been driven by the force of water from the old to the new shaft.

The funds of this company in the meantime having been exhausted nothing was practically done that we are aware of until 1863. In that year another effort was made to overcome the water and secure the long searched for treasure. On this occasion a powerful engine and pump were brought on the ground. The engine was placed in position with the pump in the 118 ft. shaft, and the work of clearing out the water and the 12 ft. of mud at the bottom of the shaft commenced. The object in view was to clear out the pit and the tunnel between it and the "money pit" where the treasure was supposed to have fallen when the cave-in above stated took place. The undertaking proved to be very difficult, as the flow of water was heavy; and on account of this and other obstacles little progress was made, but as the water on its way from the "money pit" to the pump had to pass through many feet of loose earth, it was possible to keep the water in the shaft below the 100 ft. level. But the most remarkable thing in connection with this company (and to which your particular attention is invited) is the fact that while the pumping was being continued the water in the pit down by the shore, (No. 5,) in which the tunnel had been struck, was kept at a much lower level than before or after, thus proving the existence of a subterranean water course.

About this time the men engaged in the underground work, one of whom was Mr. A. A. Tupper before mentioned, got the idea that the shaft was in danger of caving in and some of them refused to go into it. An expert examination was made of the shaft, and it was found to be in a very unsafe condition and was forthwith condemned. The pump was withdrawn and the shaft abandoned and work was suspended. The management were at their wits end and did not know which way to turn or what course to take to surmount the overwhelming difficulty. However, it appears that a syndicate of Halifax capitalists had in the meantime been organized, and in a few days after the events above mentioned, they entered into an agreement with the old company to clean out the old "money pit," and recover the treasure for a share of the amount so received. This syndicate spent a large amount of

money in sinking a new shaft, (marked No. 7) and made heroic efforts to overcome the flow of water, but were forced to abandon it. The pump and engine were taken back to Halifax, and from that day to this no efforts worthy of note have been made to recover the treasure.

As a further and conclusive proof of the connection between the ocean and the "money pit," it might be stated that during the latter part of the pumping by the Halifax company, the water came up clear and pure; and that careful comparison of water taken from the shaft and from the ocean failed to show the least difference in color or in taste. An attempt was also made to check the flow of water by dumping on the beach the clay that had been taken from the shaft; and within half an hour after the beach had been stirred up by the teams, and by the dumping of the clay, the water came up muddy in the shaft.

Various experiments, not mentioned above have also been made which conclusively prove that the various pits are directly connected with the ocean by means of this underground tunnel.

About sixteen years ago the present owner of the island was plowing with oxen near these pits, and when about eighty feet from the pit over the tunnel toward the "money pit," both of his oxen suddenly went down into a hole some six or eight feet in diameter and ten or fifteen feet deep. It is supposed that this washout had something to do with the tunnel itself, as it was apparently directly over it. But no further investigations of the cause of this collapse of the earth's surface have ever been made.

Only a very short time ago, a young man found on the island a copper coin, weighing an ounce and a half, dated 1317, on which were various strange devices. Some years ago, a boatswain's stone whistle was also found on the island, of a very ancient pattern, but it was accidentally broken by the finder and was thrown away.

#### PLAN OF THE NEW COMPANY.

Firmly believing this treasure can be recovered, a company has been organized, with \$60,000 capital, in shares of \$5 each, of which \$30,000 has been placed in the Treasury, from which to raise funds for continuing the work; and it is expected that the proceeds of 1000 shares will be sufficient to finish the work. The Treasury Stock that remains unsold at the completion of the work, will be divided pro rata among Treasury Stockholders, only.

The other \$30,000 has been used by the promoters, in securing for the Company a three years' lease of that part of the island, on which it is expected to make the explorations and the absolute right to all that may be recovered by such exploration.

It is perfectly evident that the great mistake thus far has been in attempting to "bail out" the ocean through the various pits. The present company intends to use the best modern appliances for cutting off the flow of water through the tunnel, at some point

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near the shore, before attempting to pump out the water. It believes, from investigations already made, that such an attempt will be completely successful; and if it is, there can be no trouble in pumping out the "money pit" as dry as when the treasure was first placed there.

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AFFIDAVIT OF ONE WHO KNOWS.

I, Adams A. Tupper, of South Framingham, Mass, having in the summers of 1850-51, also 1863, worked for the company then operating on Oak Island, and being familiar with the various reports and traditions concerning the work done there before my own personal knowledge, hereby make oath that the foregoing statement regarding the same is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, absolutely true.

ADAMS A. TUPPER.

MIDDLESEX, SS.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS. }  
Nov. 23, 1893. }

Then personally appeared the above named Adams A. Tupper and made oath that the foregoing statement by him subscribed is true, before me, Clerk of the First District Court of Southern Middlesex, a Court of Record in said County and State.

Witness my hand and the seal of said Court,

JOS. H. LADD, Clerk.

Since printing the first edition of this story we are happy to state, that the stock is selling quite rapidly and only a few hundred shares remain to be sold, of the one thousand shares that was deemed sufficient to complete the work.

It is a fact worthy of note, that with very few exceptions every man whom we have met that has ever worked on Oak Island in the search for this treasure, has expressed his intention of taking stock in this company.

We have received letters from many of the Managers and Foremen of former Oak Island Companies, all of whom state their absolute faith in the existence of a large treasure on Oak Island, and their willingness to go into it again, among whom were R. Creelman, Upper Stewiacke, N. S. ; S. C. Fraser, Briggs Corner, N. B. ; D. Robinson, Eureka, N. S. ; J. W. McDonald, Amherst, N. S. ; Wm. Creelman, Truro, N. S.

## ADDITIONAL.

In making the following addition to the story of Oak Island, the writer is desirous, not so much to prove the existence of a treasure there, as to add to the interest which the story creates. A great many smile at the credulity of those who believe in the existence of the treasure, and they will ask us to give a reason why any one should take so much trouble for any purpose. That question we do not pretend to answer; but the fact remains that the works are there, and the question we want answered is :—What were they put there for? The only plausible answer is,—the concealment and protection of a large treasure. That the treasure is there, the borings would seem to show conclusively; and there is no reason to doubt the truth of the statement as to these borings. That it was well protected is proven by the way it has withstood the assaults of searchers for a century. And yet it has never been a difficult task to have recovered it. To put it there required a good dam. There is a tradition of the remains of a dam being seen by early inhabitants. A good dam would have recovered it at any time.

The Halifax Co. decreased the flow of water for a time by putting clay upon the shore. Why they did not persist in this, I cannot understand, as they afterward spent money enough to have filled Smith's cove from one point to the other.

I spent some time, last summer and fall, on the island. While there, I lodged at the house of a Mr. Maginnis, who is a grandson of one of the discoverers. From him and Robert Creelman, who got his knowledge from Vaughn, another of the finders, I learned many more of the particulars of the discovery of, and early search for, the treasure. Mr. Creelman is a well preserved, vigorous man of about 80 years, with strong religious tendencies of the Old Presbyterian school. He is not a man to make any kind of a statement in order to deceive. Having been connected with nearly every company from 1849 until now, he is thoroughly acquainted with the work described in this book, and endorses the foregoing story in nearly every particular.

Among the "other signs", which led the discoverers to dig, was the remains of a hoisting block, such as is used on sailing crafts, hanging to the limb of a tree, which over-hung the "money pit". Some accounts say this had fallen into the depression in the earth. It is not strange that at this late day there should be some variations in the story; but considering the nature of a hoisting fall, it is not improbable that both are correct.

One of the ten feet marks found in the "money pit" was a layer of putty. This was used in glazing the windows of a house shortly after built on the Western shore. Other layers were of charcoal. These articles are usually found among the stores of sea-going crafts.

"The brown fibrous plant resembling the husk of a cocoanut", spoken of in the prospectus, that was found in such large quantities on the shore, and everywhere that the pirates' work was found, is called by some "Manilla grass". It certainly is not the fiber used in manufacturing the manilla rope, which is the fiber of a tree like the banana. S. C. Frazer writes, "The pamphlet says 'East India grass'. It is not; but is cocoanut fiber, nearly as well preserved as what I took off the cocoanut when examining and comparing them." Considerable of this was found among the sand, last summer, and carried away by visitors. Although it had been there perhaps 200 years, it is in a good state of preservation yet.

The stone, which was taken from the "money pit", and used in the fireplace of Smith's house so long, is still in Halifax. It has been used in a

bookbinder's, to beat leather on, until every trace of a mark has been worn from it. These marks have been described to me. I cannot see in them any warrant for the remarkable interpretation given by the "expert". The stone can be seen by tourists at Creighton's book-store in Halifax, N. S.

Among other things which go to prove that these works were put there by seafaring men, is an iron ring bolt, bedded in the rock. This can be seen only at very low tides, and it is accounted for in no other way than that it was put there to moor vessels to, long ago.

#### SINKING OF OR FALLING IN OF "MONEY PIT."

The time of digging the 118 ft. pit and tunneling to the money pit, and what is called the "sinking" of, or "bottom falling in" of the "money pit," according to some accounts, seems to have occurred in 1861. It is hard to place the exact time, as there is no record. One account gives the circumstances as follows: "The treasure pit had been filled up to within 60 ft. of the surface; commenced at two o'clock Tuesday morning, (no date) worked in money pit. Thursday afternoon, having reached the depth of 82 ft. in treasure pit, when the tunnel from west pit filled up with soft clay out of money pit, causing water to rise, so that men had to leave money pit and close the tunnel. The men worked in tunnel until seven o'clock Friday morning, when there came a tremendous rush of soft mud out of money pit, filling pit on the west some feet. They then made another effort to clear the pit on the west and tunnel, and found, one piece of juniper (larch,) with bark on, cut at each end with an edge tool; a piece of oak six inches in diameter and three feet long, cut at each end; a spruce slab with mining auger holes in it; also a piece of stick, chipped with the appearance of a plank resting on it; also oak chips; Manilla grass; and two large, smooth stones that had been taken from the surface of the earth. The men worked in the tunnel until Saturday, at four o'clock, P. M., when there came a third rush of clay through the tunnel from the treasure pit. Those persons standing at the treasure pit head observed the bottom sink a number of feet, the cribbing in treasure pit gave way from the bottom and caved in."

Another account is that an oak plank with an auger hole in it floated up. I have seen a cane, now in the possession of A. A. Tupper, made from this plank. The wood resembles the wood taken from the abutment of the Old North Bridge in Concord.

Another, Mr. Isaac Blair, the well known building mover of 444 Harrison Ave., Boston, whose grandfather was one of the old Onslow Co. in 1802, states: "You ask me to tell you what I saw when the old pit (or what is called the treasure pit) on Oak Island caved in, while the men were tunnelling through from what was then called the "Fanny Young" pit, (so called from a clairvoyant who had been consulted on the subject.) That was in 1850 and the fact of the pit being named for her would indicate that it was dug at that time. The probability is that it was, and afterward deepened in 1861. To the believers in clairvoyance and spiritualism many interesting things as told by Miss Young and others of the same faith can be related and when they struck the old pit they said the earth there had been dug over. After a while it caved in and drove them out of the tunnel, which was 12 ft. long; and the mud and water which came through the tunnel, filled up the "Fanny Young" pit 21 ft. At this time the old pit remained as it was, with the exception of the water, which all left it; but after a few hours the old pit filled again with water up to sea level. They commenced to bail in the "Fanny Young" pit again, and after taking out the water, they took out the mud which came through the tunnel. With

this mud they brought up a piece of oak about four feet long, round, about six or seven inches in diameter, which had been just broken, but not altogether off. I washed this stick and found that it was black to the center, showing that it had lain in the earth and water for a long time. I also took a boulder which came through the tunnel, and it showed signs of having been on the surface. But after they had worked this mud up, there was another cave in, which was caused by the bottom of the old pit giving way, and the "Fanny Young" pit filled up again, to the level of the sea. At this time I left."

S. C. Fraser of Briggs Corner, N. B., who was foreman for the Halifax Co., writes: "As to the falling of the treasure, that took place before the Halifax Co. had anything to do with it. A man by the name of George Mitchell was then in charge. He finished the sinking of the 118 feet shaft, through which the water was to be taken away while the money pit was to be cleared out to the treasure. I was then living in Truro, N. S., and was sent down to clear out the money pit, but before going into it, I first examined the 118 feet pit and tunnel, which was then nearly finished. I saw every sign at the inner end of the tunnel of the cataclysm that was about to take place, and refused to go into the money pit, in time to save my life and the men that would be with me. The pirates must have placed strong beams across the shaft and thrown in, say 10 or 15 feet of earth under the upper treasure; because when I went into the 118 feet pit tunnel, they were in disturbed earth. They had some caving in from above them. Above that worked blue clay coming away from some smooth under surface. The clay thus settling, assumed the shape of the end of a large boiler, round, and still becoming a larger circle. That which warned the men in the tunnel, and so saved their lives, was the breaking of timbers all around them, and they climbed up the middle curbing of the 118 feet pit perfectly crazed. When the pit fell down I was there, and I, with George Mitchell, threw a line down, and it was open 113 feet from the surface. When it fell in, it assumed the shape of a funnel nearly 30 feet across the top, and to a point 113 feet below. All this earth, and the curbing of the money pit 86 feet deep, (nearly 10,000 feet of lumber) went down. They may ignore the work of the Halifax Co., as they will; but they were the only company that ever took the right way to get at that treasure. Their mistake was in refusing to believe that the treasure was so far below them. For the whole year that I was there for them, I knew we would not find the treasure at that level, because I saw it go down far past it. The trouble was to make them believe it.

The Halifax work was at a basis of 110 feet, except two circling tunnels which were on a higher level. The tunnel where we struck the surface of the drain (or pirates' tunnel,) was on a direct line to the shore works, and might have been at the air shaft [see report of work last year;] but I think nearer the shore. When we left that, we started for the money pit on said level of 110 feet. We had to run the tunnel a little crooked to avoid old shafts. As we entered the old place of the treasure, we cut off the pirates' tunnel. As we opened it, the water hurled around rocks, about twice the size of a man's head, with many smaller, and drove the men back for protection. We could not go into the shaft again for about nine hours; then the pumps conquered, and we went down and cleared it all out. The drain was found near the top of our tunnel, which was four feet deep. It was made of round stones, such as are found abundantly on the beach and fields around the Island; (the stones spoken of in other accounts were undoubtedly some of the stones from this drain.) Nothing could be more

particular than our search in the old place of the treasure. The cross and circling lines represent our searching tunnels right in the old treasure place. Now read carefully Mc Nutt's borings, which was the last thing done on the Island before your company. Scattered all along, down to 150 feet he got wood, cocoanut fibre and charcoal. What the pirates did with so much charcoal I cannot think; but there was lots of it in the shore works. These things, with what I saw, show me that the treasure went down, whether there was an open pit or not.

The pirates had quite a road from the west of the money pit, quite visible to the oldest diggers of all, and easily traced when I was there, and could be yet if it has not been plowed.

#### REPORT OF LAST YEAR'S WORK.

The plan of work last year was to sink a shaft at one side of the tunnel and sufficiently below it to undermine it, and with dynamite to destroy it. This shaft, hereafter called "No. 12," was located about 30 feet eastward; that is nearer the shore of the old 35-foot pit marked "No. 5" on the map of the works; and about 8 feet north of the line of supposed "pirates' tunnel." After sinking 43 feet water worked through the clay, which at this level is very porous, from the 72-foot pit, or "No. 4," the water coming at first fresh and very stagnant, and finally salt. With great expense the shaft was sunk 12 feet further and tunneling began, crossing the line of "pirates' tunnel." As this tunnel started, the water was coming in on the east side; as the tunnel progressed it worked across the face and finally, at a distance in of 8 feet and 4 feet above bottom, it came in a stream. This is on a line of the pirates' tunnel," and the water comes from the direction of pit "No. 5." Tunnels were driven backwards and forwards, working up until within 14 feet of the surface. Not finding the tunnel, and feeling sure that it could not be any higher up, this work was abandoned.

During the time of this tunneling, about four weeks, the supply of water coming into this shaft "No. 4" did not increase and was about 50 gallons per minute.

Now it is apparent to every one that if any more water was coming into the tunnel from the ocean than this it would readily work a larger channel through the clay and increase in volume; and that either the inlet is getting filled up or some obstruction in the tunnel itself is clogging the flow of water.

The water comes in pit "No. 4" about 45 feet down, and also from the direction of pit "No. 5." The level at which the water comes into the two pits is nearly the same as that at which former workmen claimed to have struck the tunnel.

About 30 feet westward of pit "No. 5," and directly on the line of "pirates' tunnel," a deep cavity, like a partially filled shaft, had been noticed and commented on, as it was known that no pit had been sunk there by searchers. Investigation proved it to be the place spoken of in the prospectus, where the cave-in occurred some years ago. It was found this was a circular shaft, and unquestionably the "pirates" air shaft or ventilator, used in digging the tunnel. No water was found in this pit down to a depth of 52 feet. The new shaft having been unfortunately located part in the old excavation and part in the solid ground, the pressure on the cribbing was unequal, and it began to work, until, finally, the pit was pronounced unsafe to work in. Before abandoning it, a boring was made from the bottom about 16 feet deep without any result. The next morning it was discovered that the water had broken into it and was rising very fast; and at the same

time it was lowering in pit "No. 4" and "No. 12" until a level was reached, when all slowly rose to tide level. The water in these pits does not rise and fall with the tide, but stands at about half tide.

A meeting was then called at Truro, N. S., of the Nova Scotia stockholders. It was decided to dig a deep shaft nearer the "money pit" to a depth of 140 feet; to connect this with the tunnel; to procure pumps and use this as a pumping shaft. The reasons for this were that it was claimed by the Halifax Company that, if they had had a deeper pumping shaft, they could have recovered the treasure.

A shaft was accordingly located 25 feet north of the "pirates' tunnel," and about 140 feet from the "money pit." At a depth of 118 feet fresh water was found, coming in very fast, but could be kept down very easily by bailing. But sinking and bailing was very expensive, and it was given up until a pump was procured. The funds had meanwhile given out. An effort was made to raise money to get pumps, etc.; but cold weather coming on, all work was discontinued for the season.

#### DIVINING RODS.

While the virtue of the divining rod is doubted by some, others claim that many valuable finds have been made with the help of them. I will let the following story stand on its merits:

Hiram G. Corbett of Westboro, Mass., writes me as follows: "I was on the Island three years ago. The man with me had a mineral rod and it worked all right at the money pits. The rod drew toward it from all points, right to one spot."

The work of the last year, shows that about 50 gallons of water per minute, are now coming through the tunnel. It is reasonable to believe that this is correct, because it is well known how hard it is to keep an underground drain from filling up. Repeated operations at the shore have had their effect. Men who worked in 1849 and '50, said that there was not as much water in 1863 as in their time. The Halifax Co. could and did control it down to the depth of their pumping shaft; but as that was only excavated deep enough to explore the old money pit, they could not go down to where the treasure went, at the time of its sinking. The water today is much less than in 1866, and it is an easy and sure feat, with a modern pump, to clear out the money pit to its lowest depth.

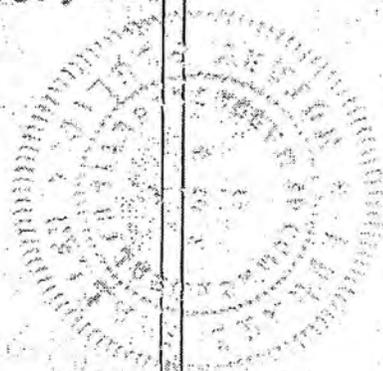
In order to carry the work to a successful completion it is necessary to make a further sale of stock. This can be procured from the present manager, A. S. Lowden, Concord, Mass. The price of the stock is Five Dollars (\$5) per share. A bonus of one share will be given with every two shares sold. The sale will be limited, and orders should be forwarded at as early a date as possible, for encouraging news from the Island will send the price of the stock up.

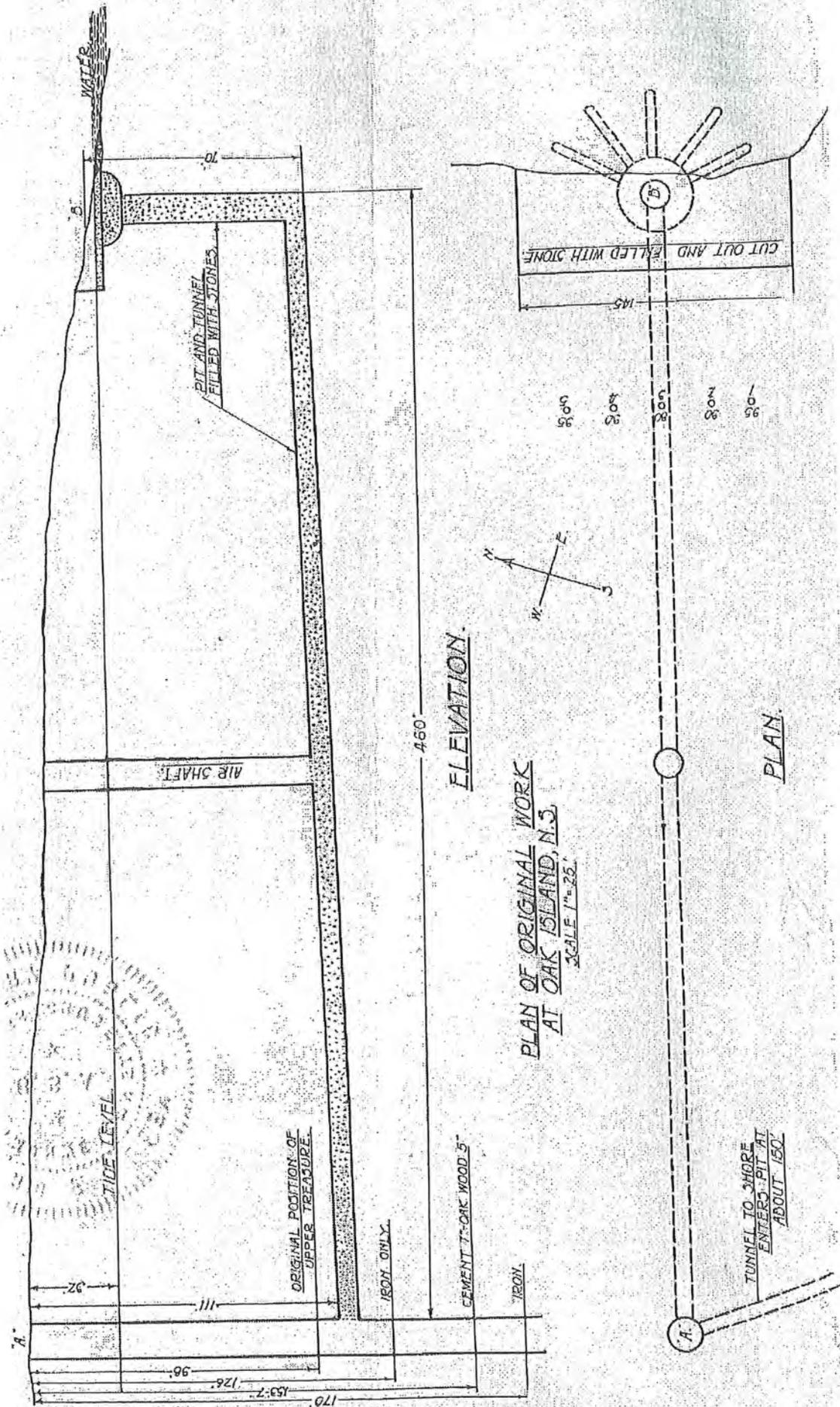
History of  
Oak Island, Nova Scotia, and  
of the Work Done There  
at Different Times to  
Recover Buried  
Treasure



*Exhibits "B"*

*Edward P. Allen  
History Public*





**ELEVATION.**

**PLAN OF ORIGINAL WORK  
AT OAK ISLAND, N.S.  
SCALE 1" = 25'**

**PLAN.**

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Many remarkable accounts have been given of treasure of unparalleled richness concealed in times past by bands of freebooters that at one time infested the American Atlantic seaboard.

Of all these treasure stories there is one which stands out prominently above all others both as to the existence of hidden hoards and as to the facts connected therewith which many years ago were accepted as absolutely authentic. It is the story of fabulous riches long ago buried by pirates or freebooters on Oak Island, in Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia.

The probability of buried treasure is so great that it has, during the past one hundred years, caused a number of efforts to be made by men of intelligence and ability to search for treasure on Oak Island, and large sums of money have been sacrificed in the quest.

The existence of this treasure is firmly believed by men of high standing; and several companies in times past have been organized to carry on a search for it.

It is safe to say that all the men who have ever worked on Oak Island in search of buried treasure believe that eventually treasure will be recovered on this island.

The history herein given is a statement of facts related by men who have had an active part in prospecting on Oak Island. From these facts it can readily be proved:

- (a) That a pit about thirteen feet in diameter and one hundred (or more) feet deep was sunk on Oak Island before the memory of any one now living;
- (b) That this pit was connected by an underground tunnel with the ocean about 460 feet distant;
- (c) That at the bottom of the pit were placed large wooden boxes containing metal in pieces and also much other material foreign to the natural formation;
- (d) That it is reasonably certain the treasure is large, not only from boring tests but from the fact that so much trouble was taken and expense incurred to conceal it.

The buccaneers found an ideal haven in Mahone Bay. The rugged hills reach out long arms on either side, enclosing a sheet of water, about

twenty miles long by twelve wide. Across the entrance, Tancook Islands present a high breakwater against the mists and storms of the Atlantic. Innumerable coves alternate with bold peninsulas, and 365 islands lie scattered about the bay. Once inside the Tancooks, the pirates might loiter at pleasure absolutely secure from detection behind the sheltering capes and islands.

Oak Island is situate near the head of the bay, about four miles from the town of Chester. A narrow channel separates it from the mainland of "Western Shore." The island is about a mile long and half as wide. Its formation is a very hard, tough clay. At its Eastern extremity lies a little crescent shaped bay,— "Smith's Cove," whose shores were originally bordered with large oak trees. A number of these may still be seen.

A century ago, in this portion of the country, settlers were few and far between, and Oak Island was without a single inhabitant.

A history of this island was published in pamphlet form by the Oak Island Treasure Company, incorporated by Boston parties in 1893. We quote:—

"In 1795 three men, Smith, McGinnis and Vaughn, visited Oak Island and while rambling over the Eastern part of it came to a cleared space where the unusual and strange conditions at once attracted their attention.

Mr. Vaughn was only a lad of sixteen at the time and subsequently related these facts to Mr. Robert Creelman, who was afterwards the manager of a company formed to mine for the treasure.

The space referred to had every appearance of having been cleared many years before. Red clover and other plants, foreign to the soil in its natural state, were growing. Near the centre stood a large oak tree with marks and figures on its trunk. One of the lower and larger of its branches, the outer end of which had been sawed off, projected directly over the centre of a deep circular depression in the land about thirteen feet in diameter. These and other signs induced the three men named to commence digging in this depression shortly after it had been discovered.

After excavating a few feet, they found that they were working in a well defined pit, the walls of which were hard and solid; and it is said that in some places on the walls old pick marks were plainly to be seen, while within these walls the earth was so loose that picks were not required.

On reaching a depth of ten feet the workmen came to a covering or tier of logs, the ends embedded in the walls of the pit evidently for the purpose of carrying the weight of the earth above and thereby intending to prevent a subsidence at the surface. They kept on digging until a depth of thirty feet was reached, finding marks at each ten feet. At this depth the work proved to be too heavy for them.

The people were superstitious in that part of the country at the time,

and on this account Smith and his associates were unable to get any help to continue the work and were forced to abandon it.

#### FIRST COMPANY FORMED.

During an interval of six or seven years, accounts of the wonderful discoveries already mentioned had spread over the province and a Mr. Lynds, of Truro, Nova Scotia, visited the island and also interviewed Messrs. Smith, Vaughn and McGinnis.

On his return to Truro, a company was formed for the purpose of continuing the search. Several prominent men belonging to Halifax, Colchester and Pictou Counties, N. S., took an active interest in it, among whom were Col. Robert Archibald, Sheriff Harris and Capt. David Archibald. Work was at once commenced by this company and the pit was excavated to a depth of ninety-five feet.

Marks were found every ten feet, as before, and an iron bar was frequently used in taking soundings. The ninety foot mark was a flat stone about three feet long and sixteen inches wide. On it strange characters had been cut. Afterwards it was placed in the jamb of a fire place that Mr. Smith was building in his house, and while there was viewed by thousands of people. Many years afterwards the stone was removed from the chimney and taken to Halifax to have, if possible, the characters deciphered. No satisfactory interpretation could be made by the experts who examined the characters on the stone.

Until the depth of ninety-five feet was reached no water had been encountered, neither had sand nor gravel through which water could possibly percolate been met.

It was Saturday evening when the depth of ninety-five feet had been reached and by sounding with a bar a wooden platform was struck three feet below. This platform extended over the entire surface of the pit as was revealed by further soundings.

Monday when the men returned to work they found water in the pit to within thirty or thirty-five feet of the surface. Work was immediately commenced to bail out the water and continued day and night for a time, but without success.

It was then decided to sink a shaft a few feet to the east of the old pit to the depth of 110 feet for the purpose of draining the "Money Pit," so called.

Work was begun at once on this shaft and continued until the depth of 110 feet was reached, no water being met with; but while driving a tunnel in the direction of the "Money Pit" the water suddenly burst in. It was found impossible to handle the water and operation by this company were abandoned.

At this time there was no thought that the water pouring into "Money Pit" and thence into the 110-foot shaft was coming from the ocean.

#### SECOND COMPANY FORMED.

Until 1849 nothing further was done, but in that year a new company was formed and operations were resumed.

At this time two of the "old diggers," namely, Mr. Lynds, of Truro, and Mr. Vaughn, of Western Shore, were still living, and gave the manager much valuable information regarding the old workings and expressed firm belief in the existence of treasure in the "Money Pit." Mr. Vaughn in looking over the ground located the site of the "Money Pit" which in the meantime had caved in and about filled up. Digging was commenced and went on without interruption until the depth of eighty-six feet had been reached, when the water again so interfered with operations that the workmen were obliged to leave the pit. An unsuccessful attempt was made to bail the water out with bailing casks.

Shortly after, men with boring apparatus of primitive description, used in prospecting for coal, were sent to the island. Mr. J. B. McCully, of Truro, was manager. A platform was constructed in the "Money Pit" about thirty feet below the surface and just above the water. The boring started with a pod auger and we submit a verbatim statement made by Mr. McCully:

"The platform was struck at ninety-eight feet, just as the diggers found it when sounding with the iron bar. After going through this platform, which was five inches thick, and proved to be spruce, the auger dropped twelve inches and then went through four inches of oak; then through twenty-two inches of metal in pieces; but the auger failed to bring up anything in the nature of treasure except three links resembling the links of a watch chain. The auger then went through eight inches of oak, which was thought to be the bottom of the first box and top of the next; then twenty-two inches of metal, the same as before; and four inches of oak and six inches of spruce; then into clay seven feet without striking anything else.

"In boring a second hole the platform was struck as before at ninety-eight feet; passing through this, the auger fell about eighteen inches and came in contact with (as supposed) the side of a cask. The auger revolving close to the side of the cask gave a jerky and irregular motion. On withdrawing the auger several splinters of oak, such as might come from the side of an oak stave, and a small quantity of a brown fibrous substance, closely resembling the husk of a coconut, were brought up. The distance between the upper and lower platform was six feet."

The late John Gammel, of Upper Stewiacke, N. S., was present at this boring. He was a large shareholder, and his veracity could not be questioned. He stated that he saw Mr. Pitblado, the foreman, take something out of the auger, wash and examine it closely, then put it in his pocket. When asked by Mr. Gammel to show what it was he declined and said he would show it at the next meeting of directors, but Pitblado failed to appear at this meeting. Shortly after Mr. Pitblado was accidentally killed in a gold mine.

Nothing further was done until the following summer (1850), when a new shaft was sunk to the depth of 109 feet at the west side of the "Money Pit" and about ten feet from it. Mr. A. A. Tupper, then of Upper Stewiacke, N. S., who helped sink this shaft, gave the following account:

"A tunnel was driven from the bottom in the direction of the "Money Pit." Just before reaching the "Money Pit" the water burst in, the workmen fled for their lives, and in twenty minutes there was forty-five feet of water in the new shaft. The sole object in view in sinking this shaft was to increase the bailing facilities, for which purpose preparations had been made, and bailing was resumed in both the new and old shafts, each being equipped with two 2-horse gins. Work was carried on night and day for about a week, but all in vain, the only difference being that with the doubled appliances the water could be kept at a lower level."

#### WATER IN PIT CAME FROM OCEAN.

About this time, the discovery was made that the water was salt, and that it rose and fell in the shafts with the flow and ebb of the tides. It was considered extremely improbable that the water came through a natural channel, and if not through a natural, it necessarily must be through an artificial channel, having its inlet somewhere on the shore.

In support of the theory that the water did not enter the "Money Pit" through a natural channel, it was argued that had it done so, the original diggers (supposed to be pirates) must have struck it, and if they had it is certain that the workmen would have been driven from the pit by the great flow of water, and the pit would necessarily have been abandoned. This, evidently, was not the case as we have ample evidence from the fact that the wooden platforms were carefully placed in position near the bottom of the "Money Pit" (see the account of borings already given) as well as the fact that the "Pit" had been systematically filled up, with marks placed at every ten feet.

Acting on this theory of an artificial channel or tunnel, a search was at once begun. Smith's Cove, on the extreme eastern end of the island and

about 460 feet from the "Money Pit" was first examined by reason of its many natural advantages as a starting point for making a tunnel, and from the fact that at about the centre of this cove it had always been noticed that at low tide water was running out of the sand.

#### SHORE END OF TUNNEL DISCOVERED.

The result of a few minutes' shoveling on the beach proved beyond a doubt that the place looked for had been found. After removing the sand and gravel covering the beach, the workmen came to a covering or layer of brown fibrous plant,—the fibre very much resembling the husk of the cocoanut, and when compared with the plant that was bored out of the "Money Pit" no difference in the two could be detected. This layer, about two inches in thickness, covered a surface extending 145 feet along the shore line and from a little above low water to high water mark. About four or five inches of eel grass covering the same area was found underlying the fibrous plant, and under this was a compact mass of beach rocks free from sand or gravel.

It was impracticable to remove these rocks and make a further search unless the tide was kept back. Accordingly a coffer dam was built along this part of the cove, including the boundaries just described.

After removing the rocks nearest low water, it was found that the clay (which with the sand and gravel originally formed the beach) had been dug out and removed and replaced by beach rocks. Resting on this excavation were five well constructed drains formed by laying parallel lines of rocks about eight inches apart and covering the same with flat stones. These drains commenced at different points a considerable distance apart, but converged towards a common centre at the inner side of the excavation. With the exception of these drains, the other rocks had evidently been thrown in promiscuously.

Work went on until half of the rocks had been removed where the clay banks at the sides showed a depth of five feet at which depth a partially burned piece of oak wood was found.

About this time an unusually high tide overflowed the top of the dam, and as it had not been constructed to resist pressure from the inside, when the tide receded, it was carried away. To rebuild it would cost a lot of money, and as there still remained a large amount of rocks to be removed and as there could be no reasonable doubt that the place described was the outwork of and starting point of a tunnel by which the water was conveyed to the bottom of the "Money Pit" it was decided to abandon the work on the shore.

Another shaft was sunk on the south side of the "Money Pit" and to a depth of 118 feet; this made the fourth one (including the "Money

Pit") that had been put down in such close proximity to each other that a circle fifty feet in diameter would include the whole.

As already stated, this new shaft was 118 feet deep,—a greater depth by eight feet than had previously been reached. A tunnel was driven towards and reached a point directly under a part at least of the bottom of the "Money Pit."

#### "MONEY PIT" COLLAPSES.

While the men were out at dinner a great crash was heard. Rushing back to the works they found that the bottom of the "Money Pit" had fallen into the tunnel that had been vacated a short time before and that the new shaft was fast filling with water. Subsequently it was found that twelve feet of mud had been driven by the force of water from the "Money Pit" to the new shaft.

#### WORK ABANDONED UNTIL 1863.

The funds of this company in the meantime having been exhausted nothing was done that we are aware of until 1863. In that year another effort was made to overcome the water and to secure the long-searched-for treasure. This time a powerful engine and pump were brought on the ground. The engine was placed in position with the pump in the 118-foot shaft, and the work of clearing out the water and the twelve feet of mud at the bottom of the shaft commenced. The intention was to clear out the shaft and the tunnel between it and the "Money Pit" where the treasure was supposed to have fallen when the cave-in above mentioned took place.

The undertaking proved to be very difficult, as the flow of water was heavy, and on account of this and other obstacles little progress was made; but, as the water on its way from the "Money Pit" to the pump had to pass through many feet of loose earth, it was possible to keep the water in the shaft below the 100-foot level.

The men engaged in the underground work (one of whom was A. A. Tupper, before mentioned) got the idea that the shaft was in danger of caving in and some of them refused to go into it. An expert examination was made of the shaft, and it was reported to be in a very unsafe condition and was forthwith condemned. The pump was withdrawn, the shaft abandoned and the work was suspended.

#### HALIFAX COMPANY ORGANIZED.

About this time a company of Halifax capitalists was organized and shortly after operations ceased, negotiations were entered into and an agreement was made with the company to clean out the old "Money Pit" for a share of any treasure that might be recovered.

The company put down a new shaft and endeavored to overcome the flow of water but failed.

A number of tunnels were driven at a level of from 95 to 110 feet in an unsuccessful attempt to intercept the so-called "pirate tunnel" and thereby convey the water to the Halifax Company's shaft, thus leaving the "Money Pit" comparatively dry. The company abandoned work and the pump and engine were taken back to Halifax.

The tunnels driven by the Halifax Company gave a good deal of trouble to those afterwards operating on the island.

As a further and conclusive proof of the connection between the ocean and the "Money Pit" it might be stated that during the latter part of the pumping by the Halifax Company, the water came up clear and pure, and that careful comparison of water taken from the shaft and from the ocean failed to show the least difference in color or in taste. An effort was also made to check the flow of water by dumping on the beach the clay that had been taken from the shaft, and within half an hour after the beach had been stirred up by the teams and by the dumping of the clay, the water came up muddy in the shaft.

#### AIR SHAFT CAVES IN.

After it had been satisfactorily proved that there was an artificial channel or tunnel leading from the shore to the "Money Pit," experienced miners contended against a tunnel of so great length unless it could be shown that an air shaft had been made on the island for the purpose of ventilation, and search was made at different times to find this air shaft.

Some years ago the owner of that part of the island where operations had been carried on in search of treasure, was plowing with oxen near the "Money Pit" and when about eighty feet from the "Pit" and over the supposed line of tunnel, the ground suddenly gave way under the oxen and they went down into a hole caused by the cave-in from six to eight feet in diameter and from ten to fifteen feet in depth.

So much for the extracts from the published pamphlet.

#### OPERATIONS OF THE OAK ISLAND TREASURE COMPANY.

This company (inc. 1893) commenced work shortly after incorporation, but its operations were not well conducted and the only result attained the first season was to prove that the "cave-in" or hole into which the farmer's cattle fell some years previously was a well defined circular pit and clearly a part of the original work.

The pit was opened to a depth of fifty-five feet where the workmen encountered salt water and quit. This pit is claimed to be the air shaft which up to this time could not be located.

The work was then placed by the Oak Island Treasure Company in the hands of a committee appointed by the Nova Scotian shareholders,

who took charge of operations. This committee carried on the work with energy and discovered in the "Money Pit" a platform just above high water mark or about thirty feet from the surface. Below the platform the "Pit" was open to about 108 feet,—left this way by the Halifax Company; but the cribbing was so badly twisted and out of alignment that a hoist could not be satisfactorily operated. A connection was therefore made near the bottom to a shaft that had been opened near by.

#### "MONEY PIT" DEEPENED.

The "Money Pit" was cleaned out and deepened and at the depth of 111 feet an opening on the side was found two and a half feet wide, filled with beach stone and gravel through which sea water flowed with great force.

As the face of this tunnel was exposed the water increased very much in volume and finally overcame the pumps, filled the works to tide level and brought operations to a standstill. This opening without doubt was the tunnel leading from the shore to the "Money Pit." The sides of this tunnel, so far as seen, were clean-cut and perpendicular, and the top was square across. A small quantity of sand and gravel was taken from the upper part of the tunnel and amongst this was discovered a chip of wood, a piece of bark, and a bird's bone,—strong evidence that the material in which these were found was originally on the surface and placed by man where found, as these articles could not be conveyed by water some eighty feet below tide level.

#### OPERATIONS AT THE SHORE.

Owing to the great volume and force of water it was decided that it would be less expensive to stop the flow than to pump, and accordingly the committee decided to bore near the shore with a view of intercepting the tunnel and plugging it in some manner.

Boring was done about fifty feet from high water mark at Smith's Cove. Five holes were drilled, each five inches in diameter, location and depths as shown on diagram. A quantity of dynamite was placed in each hole as drilled, the hole filled with water and the dynamite discharged. Fifty pounds was put in number one; seventy-five pounds in number two, and about the same quantity in numbers four and five. Water was not struck in any of these holes and when the dynamite was discharged the water used as a primer was sent one hundred (or more) feet in the air.

It will be noted on the diagram that hole number three was drilled on the supposed line of the tunnel. Salt water and rocks were struck in this hole at eighty feet. The water rose to tide level, ebbed and flowed with the tide and this hole, number three, could not be filled with water. One hundred and sixty pounds of dynamite was set off in this hole and no

water whatever came to the surface. The water, however, standing in the "Money Pit" and pit "B" (see diagram) boiled and foamed for a considerable time, proving conclusively a direct connection between the hole number three and the "Money Pit."

A conflict of opinion as to the best methods to pursue and lack of means prevented working longer at the shore.

#### DEEPER BORING WITH SURPRISING RESULTS.

While the work above described was being conducted at the shore, boring operations were also carried on at the "Money Pit." This pit had been opened down to 113 feet and it was standing full of water to tide level which was about thirty-two feet from the surface. Operations were conducted from the surface and owing to the condition of the cribbing a small portion only of the pit bottom could be reached in a direct line from the top. A 2½-inch pipe was swung from the pit mouth, and boring commenced. At 126 feet from the surface oak wood in a good state of preservation was struck, also iron, past which the pipe could not be driven.

The boring was continued without piping the hole below 126 feet, with a 1½-inch drill, through blue puddled clay.

It may be well to here explain that up to this time the parties in charge of the work had no thought whatever of finding any treasure below 118 feet,—the depth of the deepest shaft sunk by any company of searchers. It will be remembered that this 118-foot shaft was the one from which a small tunnel to the "Money Pit" had been driven previous to the collapse of the "Money Pit." (See p. 9.) It was debris, the loose or disturbed condition of the soil and the blue puddled clay that "coaxed" the workmen to continue drilling below 118 feet.

The soil of the Island is a hard blue clay to about one hundred and ten feet, below which is found a very hard brown marl. In none of the numerous pits sunk on the Island was blue clay found below 110 feet except in the "Money Pit" where it was found in a puddled condition by boring, all the way from 125 to 170 feet.

#### SAMPLES SENT TO ANALYST.

At 153 feet, 8 inches, the operators struck what appeared to be a soft stone. A number of samples of this was saved and two of them were forwarded to Messrs. A. Boake Roberts & Company, Ltd., Analytical Chemists, London, England, with request for analysis. No information whatever was given as to their source. We quote their reply.

"We have carefully analysed the two samples of stone received from you recently and have to report that we find them to be of the following compositions:

	No. 1	No. 2
Lime (C a O) . . . . .	37.40%	37.18%
Carbonate (-C-O <sub>2</sub> ) . . . . .	33.20%	34. %
Silica (SiO <sub>2</sub> ) . . . . .	13.20%	13.92%
Iron and Alumina (Fe or Al) <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> ) . . . . .	10.19%	10.13%
Moisture (At 120° C) . . . . .	0.34%	0.29%
Magnesium etc. (by diff c e) . . . . .	5.67%	4.48%
	100.00	100.00

“These stones are very soft and both of them have the composition of cement.”

On receipt of this reply the Messrs. Roberts were again written to and asked if in their opinion the stones were artificial or natural. Their reply was as follows:

“From the analysis it is impossible to state definitely but from the appearance and nature of the samples we are of the opinion that it is a cement which has been worked by man.”

This cement proved to be seven inches thick directly under which was found five inches of solid oak wood. (Depth 154 feet, 3 inches.)

In addition to experienced drillers, three men well known in Nova Scotia took part, more or less, in the work. These men were T. R. Putnam (prosperous farmer and trader of Lower Onslow, N. S.) William Chappell, (Lumberman and Manufacturer, Amherst, N. S.) and Capt. J. W. Welling, (St. John, N. B.). Mr. Putnam acted as manager, while Messrs. Chappell and Welling had charge of the work at the Island.

#### PARCHMENT TAKEN OUT OF PIT.

When the oak wood was struck Mr. Putnam was notified and at once proceeded to the Island. The workmen allowed the drill to stand on the wood until Mr. Putnam arrived when he assisted in boring through the same with an auger. When the auger passed through the wood it dropped about one and a half inches and rested upon a substance the character of which no one would attempt to state. The auger was carefully withdrawn and the borings brought up therewith were preserved by Mr. Putnam. Amongst these borings was found a very small piece of parchment, which will be referred to later on in this article. When the auger was withdrawn it was replaced with a boring drill, which by constant twisting (the drill could not be raised and dropped in the usual manner as the hole immediately filled under it) was forced through two feet eight inches of what the drillers said was metal in pieces. The drill having a chisel point then struck a soft metal into which it was forced slightly and made to stick. The men worked

over five hours in getting down the two feet eight inches, and the drill came up as sharp as when it went down.

It was at once decided to secure this drill hole by piping and then to obtain a sample of the metal. To this end the drillers lowered a 1½-inch pipe through the larger one and drove it past the iron obstruction at 126 feet. It was discovered, however, that this obstruction had turned the small pipe from its course and it struck the wall of the pit instead of going down to the cement. This 1½-inch pipe was withdrawn and the drill again lowered through the larger pipe, but it followed the hole made by the small pipe below 126 feet and the hole to the cement was thereby lost.

The 2½-inch pipe was then withdrawn and it was found that in the attempt to force it past the obstruction at 126 feet, the lower end had been cut or broken on one side up from the end about one and a half inches. This pipe was reset at the surface and the operators immediately proceeded to drill another hole. Wood was struck at 122 feet in this hole and they finally succeeded in getting the 2½-inch pipe down so that it rested solidly upon the cement. They bored through four feet six inches of cement and had oak wood on one side of the hole for about three feet on the way through the cement.

#### MORE IRON STRUCK.

Blue puddled clay similar to that above was found under the cement down to 170 feet at which depth iron was again struck. The iron was very solid and the sound from it could easily be distinguished at the surface and several small samples (chips) were obtained.

No attempt was made to drill through this iron for the reason that it was the opinion of all that sufficient proof had been adduced of the existence of not only the treasure for which so much money had been expended, but also of a much greater quantity than the prospectors had in mind. Confidence reigned supreme and the Company became practically a close corporation. "Insiders" advanced the necessary funds to carry on the work and those who possessed stock would not part with it at any reasonable price.

It was agreed that a pumping shaft put down deep enough to drain the "Money Pit" at 175 feet was a more certain plan of recovery than to attempt to choke the tunnel. This method of operation prevailed because it was the opinion of some that a second tunnel entering the "pit" below that already located was quite possible.

Early in October, 1897, work was commenced on another shaft and for more than two years the Committee held fast to the plan laid down. They sank in that time no less than six shafts reaching depths ranging from 95 to 160 feet.

It will be remembered that the "Halifax Company" drove numerous tunnels in all directions in an attempt to locate the "pirate tunnel."

No record of this work was available nor could any person be found who could furnish definite information with respect thereto. The result was these tunnels were the direct cause of the loss of four shafts and indirectly of a fifth. Three of the shafts passed down so near tunnels that water broke through under the heavy pressure. Two shafts came directly over tunnels. In one of these, however, the tunnel was dry, evidently being choked somewhere in its course, and indirectly only did it cause the loss of the shaft. The shaft in which the dry tunnel was struck at 98 feet was sunk to 160 feet at which depth salt water broke into the shaft under very heavy pressure.

At this time, in order to relieve the pressure, the water in the "Money Pit" was being kept down to seventy feet by pumps. Immediately the rush occurred in the 160-foot shaft the water in the "Money Pit" began to fall and dropped fourteen feet in one hour, when it began to rise again (it being on a level in both "pit" and shaft). It took five hours to get back to the 70-foot mark.

The Committee in order to do away with using so much fresh water, which was not very plentiful on the Island, had purchased two specially double-acting, single-plunger pumps. One of these pumps was immediately set up in the 160-foot shaft thirty feet from the surface. The pump was started and filled with water on the up-stroke, but the plunger rod (2 pieces timber 4x6 in. strapped and bolted together) suddenly broke on the down-stroke under a tremendous strain! the cribbing of the pit also crushing down several feet under the force. The pump was taken out and on examination it was found that the manufacturers had neglected to use a core in casting a piece of the pump, which in consequence of this oversight did not leave any discharge for the water on the down stroke. The water worked its way into the dry tunnel at ninety-eight feet, and with the now weakened and collapsed cribbing, got in its work in a day or two and the shaft was lost.

#### EVIDENCE OF SECOND PIRATE TUNNEL.

Immediately after it was decided that this shaft could not be saved a pump was set up near the shore and water pumped from the bay into the shaft. The idea was to fill the shaft above tide level and thereby force water out through the shore inlet of the tunnel and thus disclose the location of the inlet.

The muddy water from the pit soon appeared on the South side of the Island at about low water mark. None appeared in Smith's Cove.

This test was then applied to the "Money Pit" and the muddy water showed itself at same point on the shore.

Another test was made by discharging dynamite at the shore inlet and water pumped from the "Money Pit" so that the water from the shore

would come in. The muddy water was only a short time coming through to the pit.

Other similar tests were made, the result of which was conclusive evidence of the existence of an artificial water course on the South side of the Island as well as one from the "Pit" to Smith's Cove. It was also found that the Southern Inlet was more open than the Eastern, due possibly to work done at the latter point by searchers.

The Committee eventually went to work once more at the "Money Pit." They began work enlarging the "Pit" by sinking a shaft five feet by eight feet, close up to the original pit, which was also five by eight feet, as reconstructed. This gave them a double wall of cribbing down the center division and enabled them to do all the hoisting in a direct line to the top which was impossible in the old "pit."

In sinking this new part of the pit the workmen came to a mass of cribbing very largely standing on end and evidently the cribbing of the old Truro Company's pit, which had collapsed after being undermined by a tunnel from the 118-foot shaft. This timber extended down to between ninety-five and one hundred feet.

Eventually the new portion of the pit was carried down on a level with the old part at which depth (113 feet) the quantity of water was too great for the pumping capacity and the work was finally abandoned owing to lack of funds.

The bottom of the new part of the pit was mostly in good hard soil, and also a portion of the old, outside of a ring of gravel that circled through on the side. Water appeared to come up through the gravel as well as through the exposed inlet of the tunnel. The soil inside the gravel ring was clay and it could be handled without the aid of picks.

#### DISCOVERY OF PARCHMENT.

It has already been stated that Mr. T. P. Putnam assisted in boring through the wood found under the cement at about 153 feet.

After working the auger under the wood for some time Mr. Putnam had it brought to the surface, cleaned it himself, taking all mud and dirt therefrom. This dirt he panned out, gathering all cleanings including everything that floated on the water. He left the Island and met Messrs. W. H. McDonald and F. L. Blair (both of Amherst, N. S.) in Truro, N. S., where they examined the borings which Mr. Putnam had brought with him. These consisted very largely of small chips of wood, but amongst them was noticed a few shreds of something of a different texture.

Mr. Putnam went to Amherst a few days later and again the article of peculiar texture was noticed.

Dr. A. E. Porter (who was then practicing medicine in Amherst) examined the borings under a glass, in the presence of a dozen or more men. The strange fibre attracted his attention. Under the glass it appeared in the form of a compact ball about the size of a grain of rice with fuzz or short hair on the surface. Dr. Porter examined the ball very closely and after working with it for some minutes he got it flattened out, when it had every appearance of being a small piece of parchment upon which is written in black ink, "ui," "vi" or "wi." It was afterwards sent to experts and by them pronounced to be parchment.

These borings were never out of Mr. Putnam's possession, except for examination in his presence, until after the parchment was flattened out by Dr. Porter who at the time had no interest whatever in Oak Island. Dr. Porter was one of a few to whom stock was sold after the discovery of this parchment.

#### CORROBORATIVE LETTERS.

A question that may be asked is, where is the wood and metal in pieces, bored through, between 98 and 105 feet, by the Company operating in 1849? This, under the circumstances, cannot be definitely answered.

We might say, however, that it is the opinion of those best informed that the wood and metal in pieces will be found between one hundred and twenty and one hundred and thirty feet.

It will be remembered that the "Money Pit" fell in from being undermined by the small tunnel driven from the 118-foot shaft. We quote the following letters in this connection:

A letter written in June, 1895, by S. C. Fraser, of Briggs Corner, N. B., addressed to A. S. Lowden, Concord, Mass., who acted as manager for the Oak Island Treasure Company in 1895. Mr. Fraser worked four years on the Island assisting in various attempts to unearth the treasure. He worked one year as foreman for the "Halifax Company." His opinion is, therefore, entitled to consideration. Particular attention is drawn to the fact that his letter was written two years previously to the boring under the management of the Committee which proved the existence of metal and cement buried at 153 feet. We quote:

"The Halifax Company's work was at a basis of 110 feet except two circling tunnels which were on a higher level. . . . . As we entered the old place of the treasure (by a tunnel) we cut off the mouth of the 'pirate tunnel.' As we opened it the water hurled around rocks about twice the size of a man's head with many smaller, and drove the men back for protection. . . . . The tunnel was found near the top of our tunnel. I brought Mr. Hill, the engineer,

down and he put his arm into the hole of the tunnel up to his shoulder. . . . . Nothing could be more particular than our search in the old place of the treasure. . . . . As to the falling of the treasure before ever the Halifax Company had anything to do with it. A man by the name of George Mitchel was then in charge. He finished the sinking of the 118-foot shaft through which the water was taken away while the 'Money Pit' was to be cleaned out to the treasure. I was then living in Truro, N. S. and was sent down to clean out the 'Money Pit' but before going into it I examined the 118-foot pit and tunnel which was then nearly finished. At the end of the tunnel I saw every sign of the cataclysm that was about to take place and refused to go into the 'Money Pit.' . . . . . When the pit fell down I was there. . . . . There went down 10,000 feet of lumber, board measure (the cribbing of the pit). Could these plank stop on their way down and turn into an 18-foot tunnel 3x4ft.? Would or could casks of treasure having 10,000 feet of lumber and hundreds of tons of earth behind them turn into a 3x4ft. tunnel? And if they could perform the impossible, would an 18-foot tunnel, 3x4ft, hold all this material? . . . . . The pirate sank the shaft at first 155 feet deep, put part of the treasure there with a branch drain into it. Then working upon the old superstition that treasure runs away from seekers, he put another portion at 100 feet with a drain into it."

(It is inferred that Mr. Fraser intended to convey that a space was left open below the upper treasure.)

"Now to dig into the 'Money Pit' means to pull all those plank out by the teeth, and to believe that they turned into that little 18-foot tunnel would require as much faith from me as that Halley's Comet went through it. Sink your pumping shaft deep,—deep enough to drain the 'Money Pit' at 155 feet, and you have the treasure."

It is a remarkable fact that Mr. Frazer should predict that the "Money Pit" was originally sunk to 155 feet, that something was buried there, and that a tunnel entered the "Pit" at that depth. This prediction was verified two years after the letter was written.

We also quote from another letter written by Mr. Frazer to Mr. Lowden, dated June 19, 1895:

"Perhaps I should speak of appearances in the 118-foot pit tunnel when I went to examine it in view of my own safety when ordered by Mitchell to clean out the 'Money Pit.' The pirate must have placed strong beams across the shaft and thrown in say ten or fifteen feet of earth on these under the upper treasure, because when

I went into the tunnel from 118-foot pit they were in disturbed earth. They had some caving-in from above them, worked blue clay coming away from some smooth under-surface. The clay thus settling assumed the shape of the end of a large boiler round and still becoming a larger circle. That which warned the men in the tunnel and so saved their lives was the breaking of the timbers all around them."

As confirming Mr. Frazer's statements we quote from a letter written by Daniel McDonald, Pictou, N. S., dated May 11th, 1898:

"There was a man here from Stellarton,—Mr. Robinson, who worked for the Halifax Company. He told us that at 108 feet in the 'Money Pit' he tunneled in to one side and after going in a few feet he felt the earth under his feet give a little; he told the men to give him a pick and he drove it down and through, and the water came up. He took a crowbar and put it down and his arm to the shoulder with it and he says that he could swing the bar around in a pit, but the water was coming so fast he had to give it up."

We also give the following quotation as confirmatory evidence. Letter from T. MacLeod, Mulgrave, N. S., dated July 27th, 1897.

"Enclose \$5.00 for share in Oak Island Treasure Company for Daniel Barry, Sen. He and I have some between us but he has so much confidence in it that he wants another share. He worked at Oak Island in 1849-51 and sank \$1200. there. . . . . He thinks that the sea mouth of the tunnel can't be far out beyond low water. They carted some earth into the sea and roiled the water and shortly after the water in the 'Money Pit' got dirty. His theory is that the mouth of tunnel is not 100 feet from low water. He is a shrewd level-headed old man of 80 and I have no doubt his observations are pretty accurate in the main. He was there also when they made the borings in the 'Money Pit' when the three links were taken up and Pitblado put something in his pocket."

From letter written by Frank Burrows to T. P. Putnam, dated November 26th, 1899:

"I met Mr. J. W. Publicover on the train. He claims to be the last man coming out of the 118-foot pit and tunnel. . . . . Mr. Publicover tells me that the water was being kept out by three gins when this pit caved. He got a head or bottom of a small barrel or some wooden dish about the size of the end of a nail keg and it had been painted yellow. This came through the tunnel to the 118-foot pit."

A. S. Lowden, who had charge of the work in 1895, writes:

"I spent some time last Summer and Fall (1895) on the Island. While there I lodged at the house of a Mr. McGinnis who is a grandson of one of the discoverers. From him and Robert Creelman (who got his knowledge from Vaughn,—another one of the finders) I learned many more of the particulars of the discovery of and early search for the treasure. Mr. Creelman is a well preserved vigorous man of about 80 years, with strong religious tendencies of the old Presbyterian school. He is not a man to make any kind of a statement to deceive. Having been connected with nearly every Company from 1849 until now, he is thoroughly acquainted with the work described and endorses the story as published in the Oak Island Treasure Company's pamphlet in nearly every particular. Among the other signs which led the discoverers to dig was the remains of a hoisting block, such as is used on sailing crafts, hanging to the limb of a tree, which over-hung the 'Money Pit.' Some accounts say this had fallen into a depression in the earth. It is not strange that at this late date there should be some variations in the story, but considering the nature of a hoisting fall it is not improbable that both are correct. One of the 10-foot marks found in the 'Money Pit' was a layer of putty. Other layers were of charcoal. These articles are usually found among the stores of sea-going crafts. The brown fibrous plant resembling the husk of a cocoanut spoken of in the pamphlet, that was found in such large quantities on the shore and everywhere that the pirate's work was found is called by some 'Manila grass.' It certainly is not the fibre used in manufacturing Manila rope, which is the fibre of a tree like the banana. S. C. Fraser writes:— 'The pamphlet says "East India Grass." It is not, but is cocoanut fibre, nearly as well preserved as what I took off the cocoanut when examining and comparing them.' Considerable of this was found under the sand on the beach at Smith's Cove last Summer and carried away by visitors. Although it had been there perhaps 200 years it is in a good state of preservation."

Other letters could be quoted but the foregoing may be considered sufficient.

#### IN CONCLUSION.

The foregoing statement of discovery and work done at Oak Island Treasure Company is authentic. In the pamphlet published by the Oak Island Treasure Company there is an affidavit made by Adams A. Tupper, in which he states that he worked on the Island during the summers of 1850-51 and 1863; that he was familiar with the various reports concerning the

work done there before his own personal knowledge, and that the statements made in the pamphlet, to the best of his knowledge, were absolutely true.

The late Judge DesBrisay, in his History of Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia, writes of Oak Island and verifies the history we have given up to 1850, by stating that what was not within his own personal knowledge had been given to him by reliable persons who had personal knowledge of the facts.

The experience of the Oak Island Treasure Company and the Nova Scotian Committee is recent and the statements with regard to their work can be verified by various parties who took part in the work.

It, therefore, has been proved that a large amount of work was done on Oak Island before the memory of any of the original settlers of that section of the country.

In considering why all this original work was done, the whole of it must be taken collectively, the "Money Pit," (which includes all revealed by boring therein) the tunnels and the work at the shore.

A pit was sunk to at least 170 feet and systematically refilled.

The pit was protected by water from the ocean conveyed thereto by artificial tunnels, one entering the pit with its top at 111 feet, the other entering at about 150 feet.

The tunnels run from the pit to the shore (probably on a level) there entering the bottom of pits sunk near low water.

The shore pits, and the tunnels throughout their course, are filled with beach stone (plentiful supply of which was available on the shore) through which the water freely flows.

Some means of stopping this flow of water was probably provided, possibly in the "Air Shaft."

Provision was made to prevent the shore pits from filling with sand in the form of a heavy layer of eel grass over rocks and a tropical plant or cocconut husks over the grass and beach sand over all.

The opinion is that the work was done under a plan similar to that shown in the accompanying drawing which is self-explanatory.

This work was done for a purpose and was evidently laid out and supervised by some person or persons with no small amount of engineering skill, and the methods employed were eminently successful. Each pit put down has increased the difficulty in sinking others.

Can there be any conclusion except that this work all meant the concealment and protection of something of great value?

Failure to recover the treasure by the various companies that have worked on Oak Island was due:

First: Lack of knowledge of conditions.

Second: Lack of engineering skill.

Third: Want of funds, which carried with it lack of proper appliances.

The difficulties to overcome are now well known, and with modern appliances and engineering skill the bottom of the "Money Pit" can easily be reached and everything therein recovered.

#### THE SOURCE OF TREASURE.

The question is often asked, "Where did all this treasure come from that is said to be buried at Oak Island?"

We cannot tell where it came from, but if any person will take the trouble to study the history of America, particularly the history of Mexico, Peru and Brazil, having in mind the question of the amount of gold, silver, jewels and precious stones that was produced by these countries during the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, that person will readily conclude that the production of treasure in those times ran into the billions.

Most of this treasure was exported to Spain.

"The coming and going of the annual fleets was a matter of the utmost solicitude to the Crown, to shippers, and to consignees. Many a treasure-laden craft either foundered at sea or fell a prey to buccaneers, and the safe arrival of a convoy was heralded with every manifestation of joy even royalty itself not deeming it out of place to announce such an event."

The Atlantic Ocean was the hunting ground of thousands of pirates. Plundering Spanish galleons and merchant ships was the game.

The present banking system between the banks of the different countries as now in use and paper money were practically if not altogether unknown. Gold, silver and all other valuables were transferred across the ocean and delivered to the owners in bulk. This was the system of exchange as well as of delivery.

Prescott, in his History of Peru, speaks of the division by Pizarro of one accumulation of gold amounting to fifteen and one-half million dollars, and silver estimated at fifty-one thousand six hundred and ten marks.

Brazil and other countries of South America have also always been famous for their great mineral wealth.

Untold millions were shipped to Europe from Mexico, Peru and Brazil during the times in question, and the temptation to buccaneers and pirates to roam the high seas in pursuit of treasure, as well as the reward, was so great that for a time forcible plundering was the chief occupation of many of the seamen of the day.

The estranged condition of the nations and the constant wars of the

time made the line very thin between privateering and piracy, and the most flimsy excuse, if any were necessary, was considered sufficient to justify attack and plunder.

We can only refer the reader to the early history of countries mentioned for fuller information on this subject.

And where would the buccaneer go with his booty? Not back to the port where it was shipped; certainly not to the consignees or owners. Leaving the usual Southern track or sea route between Central America and Europe, after securing a prize he could file away and make a course Northward to Nova Scotia,—a peninsula well out in the Atlantic, a convenient and secluded place, and there at his leisure he could bury his treasure unmolested.

Is it unreasonable to say that Oak Island was chosen by one or more of these pirates?

It may be that the "Money Pit" was dug to its deepest depth and partially filled from time to time as treasure was deposited, then finally closed and connected with the ocean.

COPY OF AFFIDAVIT MADE BY  
DR. A. E. PORTER IN CONNECTION WITH THE  
DISCOVERY OF THE BIT OF PARCHMENT.

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CANADA  
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

IN THE MATTER OF an examination  
held on certain material at the  
Court House at Amherst on the  
6th day of September, 1897.

To Wit:

I, Andrew E. Porter, of the City of Edmonton, in the  
Province of Alberta, Physician, do solemnly declare that:

1 On the 6th day of September 1897, I was in Amherst,  
Nova Scotia, and was in attendance at a room in the Court House  
on that date with a number of men, including Mr. T. P. Putnam  
and Richard Lowerson, when there was examined certain materials  
which were stated to have been brought up by a drill at what  
was known as the Money Pit at Oak Island, Nova Scotia.

2 The materials in question consisted of small chips  
or particles of wood and amongst them was a piece of material  
which upon examination, I verily believed and still believe  
to have been parchment. I examined the said particle under  
a magnifying glass and it was photographed and enlarged and  
now produced and shown to me and marked "Exhibit A", hereto  
is what I verily believe to be a print of the photograph of  
the said particle of parchment.

3 I was informed by the said T. P. Putnam, that this particle had been taken by him from a common wood auger after its extraction from depth of 153 feet in a drilled hole in the said pit.

4 The said T.P. Putnam, stated that he had been present and had assisted with the boring with the auger at the place and time and that after the auger had reached that depth it struck some substance through which it would not proceed and could not be forced further, but the nature of which could not be ascertained. Mr. Putnam then stated that after the auger was cleaned and the materials washed off into a pan of water and dried in the sun, the fragments of wood and other materials which were before the meeting, were everything that remained of the materials which floated in the water and that the material which was produced to the meeting had never been out of his possession or been tampered with by anybody at all.

5 I personally examined the above mentioned scrap of parchment and state positively that under the magnifying glass at that time it had every appearance of being parchment and that certain marks on it had the distinct appearance of being written with ink and part of some word, but the letters were not sufficiently clear to enable me to decide what the letters were or the language.

And I make this declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and

effect as if made under oath and by virtue of "The Canada Evidence Act."

Declared before me at the  
City of Edmonton, in the Province of  
Alberta, this 11th day of January,  
A.D., 1926.

(Signed)

A.E. Porter.

(Signed)

Henry J. Carr,

Notary Public and  
a Commissioner for Oaths in and for the  
Province of Alberta.

Notarial  
Seal.