Analysis of Artifacts
Item # 29

Easterly Drilled Rock

WHO FOUND	Gilbert Hedden
WHEN FOUND	1937
WHERE FOUND	Near Smith's Cove beach
FIRSTHAND/ SECONDHAND	
REFERENCES	Crooker's, "Oak Island Gold", Pg. 118 Furneaux's, "The Money Pit Mystery", Pg. 97 D'Arcy O'Connor's, "The Big Dig", Pgs. 95 & 148
LOCATION TODAY	Lost since Dunfield's time
ODDITY FACTOR	
ASSESSMENT OF AUTHENTICITY	
COMMENTS	According to Roper's survey two rocks were 421.5' apart

area around the Money Pit. Fifty ft. to its north he found a large granite stone, three ft. in length, in which a hole two in. deep and one and a quarter in. in diameter had been drilled. He ran to tell Blair about his discovery and was greeted with the exclamation, 'there is another stone marked in exactly the same way near the beach at Smith's Cove'. He and his partners, said Blair, had noticed it forty years before and wondered what it might mean. Blair re-located this boulder which was embedded in sand and he and Hedden stepped out the distance between the two drilled rocks. It measured approximately twenty-five rods, the sum of eighteen and seven (see directions above), indicating that rods had been the unit of measure employed, if these marker stones had any meaning.

Hedden called in the Provincial Land Surveyor, Charles Roper who came to Oak Island on 16 August 1937 with his assistant, George Bates. Roper and Bates told me in 1966 that they were not informed of Hedden's reasons for the survey. They said the two drilled rocks were encrusted with moss and looked as though they had been in the same position for centuries. They lay on a line south of west, parallel to the supposed line of the subterranean flood tunnel from Smith's Cove to the Money Pit.

These two drilled rocks, Roper and Bates found, lay 421½ ft. apart, nine ft. in excess of the exact equivalent of twenty-five rods, which is 412 ft. Nevertheless, they measured a position seven rods from the rock near Smith's Cove and eighteen rods from the rock by the Money Pit. Then, following the directions, they turned south-west measuring out the distance of thirty rods, or 495 ft. bringing the surveyors to a dense tangle of bushes close to high water mark on the southern shore. A man employed by Hedden, named Amos Nanse, crawled in. His excited cry brought the searchers. They found Nanse pointing to a set of beach stones embedded in the soil. Clearing away the bushes, Hedden and his men discovered the stone triangle that had been noticed by Captain Welling in 1897.

Each side of the triangle was ten ft. long. A half circle of stones enclosed its base giving the whole structure the appearance of a sextant. An arrow of stones fourteen ft. long connected this curved base with the triangle's apex.

Setting up his transit and sighting it along the line of the arrow shaft, Roper peered through his view-finder. 'North', he announced, quickly qualifying his finding by the statement that the direction was True and not Magnetic North. 'It points', he exclaimed. 'Come, and

Fanneau's "Money Pit Mystery" pg 97

The island on the map was unnamed and there was no designation of latitude and longitude. The water around the island was unnamed as well, showing only the words "Mar Del" (sea of?).

The author claimed that the map and three similar to it had been discovered in the secret compartments of three sea-chests and a desk, alleged to have once been owned by Captain William Kidd. Hubert Palmer, a British antique dealer of Eastbourne, Kent, had purchased the items in the early 1930s and shown the maps to Wilkins.

Hedden wrote to Wilkins pointing out the similarities between Oak Island and the island shown on the map and requested additional information. Wilkins replied that although the map was genuine there couldn't be any connection with Oak Island because he knew the latitude and longitude of the island in his book which placed it in a sea of the eastern hemisphere, far from the Atlantic Ocean. He further advised Hedden that Kidd had never been near Nova Scotia. In a second letter to Hedden, Wilkins prevailed upon Hedden not to waste his time making comparisons between Oak Island and Kidd's island, which lay on the other side of the world.

However, Hedden was not convinced. On discussing the matter with Blair, he learned of the stone triangle Captain Welling had discovered in 1897. Blair also told him that there was a white granite boulder with a hole drilled in it not far north of the Money Pit.

Hedden couldn't contain his curiosity. It was mid August 1937. Although digging in the Hedden shaft was well underway, he discontinued the dig to investigate. He and his men made a thorough search of the eastern end of the Island. There, they found the white granite boulder with the drill hole, about 50 feet north of the Money Pit. Then they found another one, unknown to Blair, near the shore of Smith's Cove and about 400 feet from the first. Both boulders were marked with drill holes two inches deep by one and a quarter inches in diameter which were obviously man-made.

Further searching quickly located the stone triangle near the south shore. Fred Nolan, who had investigated and photographed the triangle, (which was later destroyed by a search party in the mid 1960s) described it to me in an interview in 1975. He said that it had been situated about 50 feet from high water mark of the south shore and was composed of large granite beach stones about 12 or 14 inches in diameter. The stones were arranged to form a large equilateral triangle

longitude and the latitude of the chart in question and that it was in an eastern sea, on the other side of the world from Oak Island. Moreover, Wilkins assured Hedden that Kidd had never been in the vicinity of Nova Scotia. In a second letter (August 13) Wilkins exhorted Hedden not to "waste any time trying to identify this eastern [hemisphere] island of Kidd with Oak Island."

But Hedden was unconvinced. He felt there were too many points of agreement between Oak Island and Wilkins's map to write it off as mere coincidence. He then turned his attention to the legend at the bottom of the Mar Del map:

18 W. and by 7 E. on Rock
30 SW. 14 N Tree
7 By 8 By 4

Hedden realized that if these directions were at all applicable to Oak Island, there must be some sort of markers that would tie in with them. He put this question to Blair, who told him about a triangle of stones that had been noticed by William Chappell and others near the south shore in 1897 and again in 1931. He also told Hedden that he'd once seen a granite boulder with a hole drilled into it somewhere north of the Money Pit.

On August 15 Hedden had his crew make a thorough search for these artifacts. The drilled rock was soon found about fifty feet north of the Money Pit. Then another one was found near the shore at Smith's Cove. In both cases the holes, two inches deep and just over an inch in diameter, were obviously artificially made.

Amos Nauss, one of Hedden's workers, was sent into the underbrush at the island's southeast end. Nauss, shortly before his death in 1981, told me that "Hedden gave me some idea that there was something down there at the beach that he wanted to find. So I explored around there with a hoe. I was clawing around and suddenly I hit one rock, then another and another, all in line with each other. So I decided there was something there, and I started clearing it and called Hedden over."

Nauss had found the triangle. It consisted of sixteen beach stones, each about the size of a man's head. The rocks were

depositors before burying anything of value." But he added, "If something is buried on Oak Island, the limestone could have been a surprise to any depositors and used to their advantage." He also noted that samples of wood and metal later found in and below the cavity by Triton "are man-made and foreign to glacial deposits."

Dunfield's heavy-equipment approach to finding the treasure evoked a lot of criticism among local people in the Mahone Bay area as well as from other investigators of the mystery. Some feel he contributed more than anyone to turning the east end of the island into a scarred mess of water-filled pits and mounds of earth. But that's an aesthetic complaint voiced by locals and tourists; the more significant damage was archaeological. A clam bucket capable of gobbling up more than sixty cubic feet of dirt in one bite can hardly be expected to distinguish between earth and underground artifacts. Dunfield did sift through material brought up from the lower depths, but some of those involved with him said the investigation was often cursory. The underground damage was probably limited to previous searchers' shafts, although that can't be known for certain.

But on the surface, the stone triangle, one of the island's most interesting landmarks, disappeared as a result of the trench Dunfield dug on the south shore. The triangle, which almost every investigator including Dunfield accepted as original and significant, fell into the eroding trench after he left the island. In addition, the drilled rock near Smith's Cove hasn't been found since Dunfield's time. The westerly drilled rock, however, was moved before the crane began excavating the Money Pit. Fortunately, the location of all those markers had been accurately plotted by Charles Roper in 1937 and again by Fred Nolan in 1959.

The local hostility toward Dunfield may also partially explain his many equipment breakdowns. Mel Chappell told me that some of the crane's broken cables had "the appearance of having been [previously] cut with a hacksaw or other tool." It was suspected that the saboteurs were local fishermen who strongly objected to Dunfield's causeway that forced them to