

Analysis of Artifacts

Item # 72

Free mercury in clay at end of drill bit

WHO FOUND	? Baker
WHEN FOUND	1934
WHERE FOUND	On drill bit brought up from hole drilled in vicinity of Money Pit
FIRSTHAND/ SECONDHAND	"S" Thomas Leary book states that "Baker" had been drilling for a month in the Money Pit area with a churn drill and had "noticed specks of a silvery substance mixed with the clay on the point. It was mercury."
REFERENCES	
LOCATION TODAY	Unknown
ODDITY FACTOR	9
ASSESSMENT OF AUTHENTICITY	Relatively low - have found only this one reference in a book that has many mistakes and inconsistencies.
COMMENTS	

EXCERPT FROM THOMAS LEARMY'S BOOK

"OAK ISLAND ENIGMA"

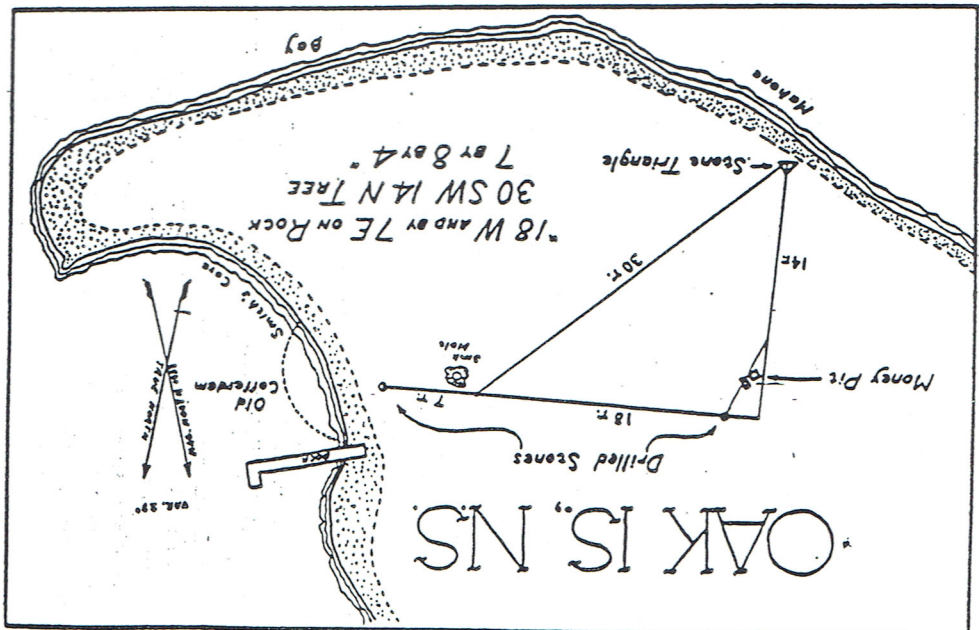


DIAGRAM OF THE LEGEND ON THE KIDD MAP LEADING TO THE STONE TRIANGLE.

manner, that perhaps, during his long years of research in the British Museum, he had seen the map and subconsciously retained its outline and the legend. Either that, he thought, or he was in psychic communication with Kidd's ghost! It is difficult to imagine that Wilkins' memory had preserved so many details, and yet he could not recall the most important particular—where was the map?

Thoroughly dissatisfied, Hedden returned to Oak and resumed digging. He had planned to bore out laterally from the 150 foot level in a radial pattern in order to probe the area completely. However it was necessary to timber the hole so closely at the bottom that there was no room to operate a drill, and the dampness caused frequent electrical breakdowns.

In 1934, before he began excavating, Hedden met a young man who had been working on the island for a month with a churn drill. Baker, as he was known, had made several deep holes near the Money Pit and told Hedden he had had no luck. But he had run across one peculiar thing. Once when the drill was pulled up, he noticed specks of a silvery substance mixed with the clay on the point. It was *free mercury*.¹

Lack of funds prevented Hedden from continuing the search and in 1939 Erwin T. Hamilton took over the work for three years.

Hamilton was a professor of mechanical engineering at New York University. He sank a smaller shaft from the bottom of Hedden's to a hundred and seventy-one feet and hit heavy gravel. Another water tunnel, entering from the general direction of the south shore, was found at a hundred and sixty-five feet. He drilled twenty feet more into the gravel without striking anything.

1. Mercury is almost never found in its metallic form in nature. Its chief ore is Cinnabar, a red compound of sulfur and mercury. There are no known deposits within several thousand miles of Nova Scotia.