

Analysis of Artifacts

Item # 77

"Christian Cross"

WHO FOUND	Nolan
WHEN FOUND	1981
WHERE FOUND	
FIRSTHAND/ SECONDHAND	"F" Dan Blankenship
REFERENCES	Crooker's, "Oak Island Gold", Pgs. 172-174 & 176-180
LOCATION TODAY	
ODDITY FACTOR	
ASSESSMENT OF AUTHENTICITY	
COMMENTS	

Oak Island Gold

was to discover or figure out the pattern they represented.”

Now, after years of investigation, Nolan claims to have discovered a pattern for all of the markers he surveyed. He says they form a mathematical equation. It is an equation that involves trigonometry but very strangely it also involves symbolism. And, that is where the Head Stone fits in!

Nolan said that the Head Stone was laying on its side when he discovered it. The side or face of the stone was slightly slanted with the top portion or head exposed. He dug it up with a backhoe and photographed it. At that point in time it meant nothing more to him than just another rock to be examined. But it was a rock that shouldn't have been there. It was composed of sandstone and bore glacial striation lines which indicated that it had once been part of a bedrock formation. Of course this could have been a fluke of nature but as Nolan later discovered, it wasn't.

Nolan asked if I noticed anything else peculiar about the Head Stone other than its human skull shape and the glacial striations. There were scratches on the rock which had obviously been clawed by the teeth of the backhoe bucket and there was what appeared to be a well-weathered slot or groove on the face. Nolan said the groove was hand-carved in the shape of the very same dagger that he had acquired from the heirs of Sophia Sellers, daughter of Anthony Graves. (The Graves who had once occupied Nolan's property.) He said it was a “perfect fit,” and concluded that the Head Stone symbolically represented “the brain” and the dagger pointed to the “heart”—the brain and heart of the equation.

On that bizarre twist to his story, Nolan turned to the physical nature of the survey markers or monuments. He explained that there was a vast scale differential. Some were average size survey monuments such as the “Spanish Galleon” shaped stone, while others were very large. “You could be leaning against one and never recognize it as a survey monument,” Nolan said. “The Head Stone is, in fact, a survey monument, regardless of its size.”

With that, Nolan concluded all that he was prepared to discuss that evening. He changed the subject and proposed that I transport my survey equipment over to the Island to conduct a survey of a few of the markers. He explained that he wanted an engineer to check some of his measurements and verify his findings, now that he was prepared to go public with an astounding discovery. He said he would have the press

The Christian Cross

on hand while my survey was being conducted. They could take pictures and he would be available to answer any of their questions.

On winding up our meeting, I asked Nolan what the Head Stone and this mysterious equation with a symbolic meaning "was really all about." Nolan said that the answer had to be supported by the evidence. Regarding the mystery of his findings, Nolan said on closing, "If I told someone what the answer to the puzzle is, they would think I was crazy."

A month following our June 17th meeting, I sat on a sofa in the reception room of Nolan's museum on Crandall's Point, holding a plot plan which showed the configuration of the most ancient and symbolic image known to man—a cross! It resembled a giant Latin cross or crucifix. Each arm of the cross, which Nolan has dubbed the "Christian Cross," was shown as 360 feet in length and the total length of the stem from top to bottom was 867 feet. The ends of the arms and the top and bottom of the stem each terminated at a circle marked by the word "cone" and the base stem was also divided by a circle marked "cone" at a distance of 293 feet from the bottom. The center of the cross (where the arms meet the stem) was marked "headstone."

At the left-hand bottom corner of the plot was a diagram of a cone entitled "cone boulder size," indicating that the cones were rocks. It was shown as being eight feet wide at the base and nine feet high.

The cross shown on the plot plan was almost perfectly proportioned. Within two feet, the body (the portion of the stem from the Head Stone to the bottom) was twice the length of either arm. Within three feet, the top (the portion of the stem from the Head Stone to the top) was five times the length of the body and twice the distance of the bottom cone of the body to the cone situated partway up the body. These almost numerically even ratios of body to arms and top to body suggested to me that what Nolan had found was not an accident of nature.

We were waiting for the press as I studied Nolan's plot plan and squeezed out the impressive ratios on a pocket calculator. The meeting had been arranged for 1:00 p.m. but Nolan got held up in traffic and was a half-hour late. Meanwhile, the press arrived, gave Nolan 15 minutes grace, and left. We figured that perhaps the newspeople might have gone for a quick lunch and would be back, so we waited. And while we waited Nolan talked about the Cross and the artifacts he had discovered.

Nolan said that he had discovered the Head Stone and the five cone-

Oak Island Gold

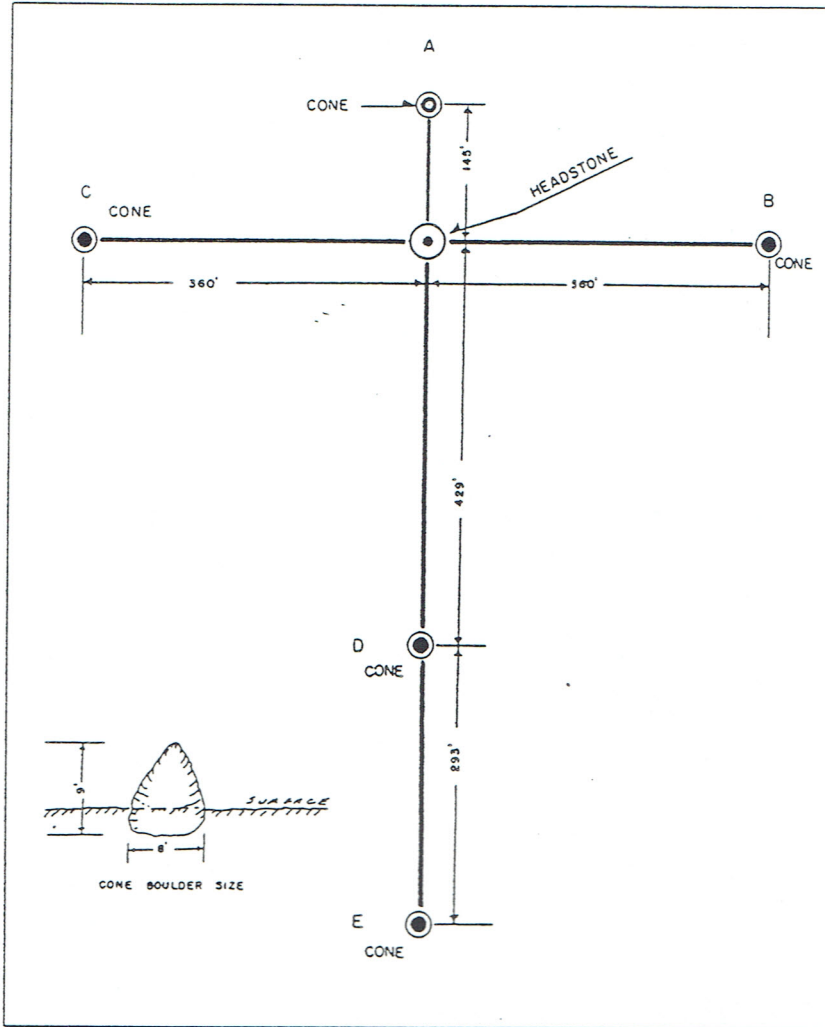


Diagram of the "Christian Cross," obviously a manmade clue to the mystery of Oak Island.

shaped boulders in 1981 but Triton's civil suit against him curtailed his operations on the Island for a decade. He was only now getting to the point of disclosing the discovery to the public. Asked why he had decided to go public with this discovery, Nolan said, "I hate to share all this after 30 years of work but if I die without telling anyone, all my work will be lost. I could be driving down the highway tomorrow and

piece of wood off the side of a sailing ship containing grooves through which ropes had once been attached. He said that extensive probing when the swamp was drained in 1969 showed no evidence of a ship having been buried beneath the mud. Another item of interest Nolan recovered from the swamp is an old branding iron. About 12 inches long, it has an iron handle but the branding protrusion marks are badly worn, making interpretation difficult if not impossible.

The press had not returned by 1:45 p.m. so we launched Nolan's 12-foot aluminum boat and loaded it up with the necessary survey equipment to include transit, tripods, range poles, and electronic distance measuring equipment.

On the way over to the Island, Nolan complained that Oak Island has seriously harmed his survey business. "People have lost respect for me because I'm a treasure hunter," he said, "and they question my judgment. As an expert witness in court I have had lawyers try to discredit me by asking if I searched for treasure as if that was a mark against me." Perhaps Nolan had hoped that press coverage of a substantial discovery would erase his supposed credibility problem.

It was low tide when the bow of the boat scraped the rocky bottom of Joudrey's Cove. I was seated in the middle and so I hopped out to lighten the load, pulling the boat partly up onto the beach. Nolan tilted up the outboard motor and tied the bow rope to a boulder near high water. "The land is alive," he joked, "You have to be sure you tie up high enough."

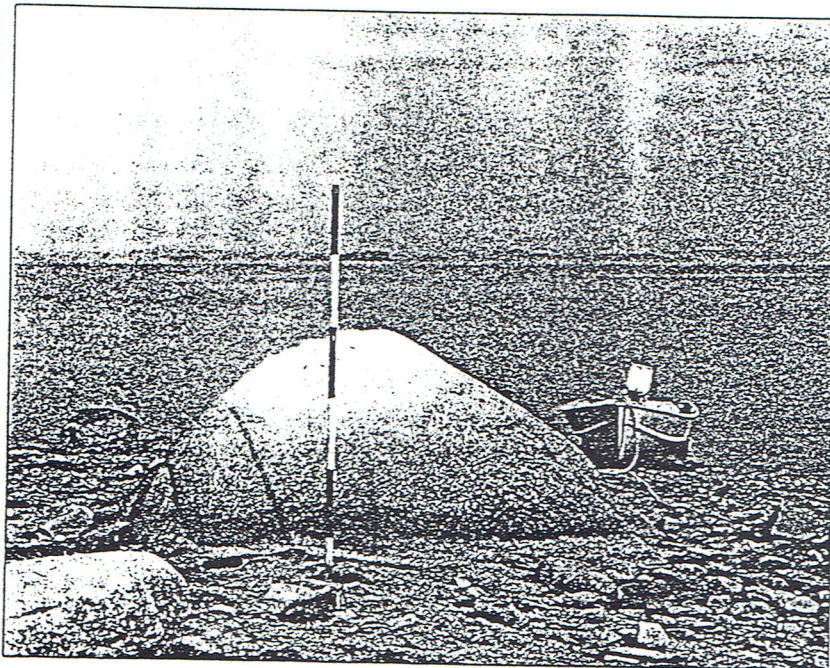
"Well, Bill, there is the first cone," Nolan said, pointing to a large conical-shaped granite boulder about the size of a compact automobile and situated between high and low tides about 40 feet below the high water mark of the shore. Nolan noted that this boulder is the cone lettered "C" on the left end of the arm of the Cross shown on his plot plan.

Nolan explained that the body or stem of the cross straddles the swamp with the top cone and Head Stone on the east side and the two bottom cones on the west, all on dry land; the stem of the cross runs in a southwest to northeast direction from the bottom to the top; the arms are at right angles to the stem and run northwest to southeast from the cone on Joudrey's Cove.

Nolan then said that he thinks the Cross was laid out with the English system of measurements and that the distance of 360 feet from the ends

The Christian Cross

William S. Crooker



Cone-shaped boulder on the beach of Jodrey's Cove (Cone "C" on plot plan), one of a series that forms the Cross.

of the arms to the Head Stone corresponds to the number of degrees in a circle. (He apparently feels strongly about his contention that the cross was laid out in feet because he was annoyed by a future press release in which the reporter converted the measurements to meters.) The ratios were of the utmost interest to me so it really didn't matter what unit of measurement was used as these ratios remain unaffected. I agreed to conduct the survey using the Imperial rather than the Metric system.

After giving me a general idea of the layout and on the system of measurements to be used, Nolan took me for a tour of the Cross. We walked inland past the east end of his cottage and crossed the old road leading to the Money Pit. A short distance south of the old road, Nolan stopped and pointed to a slab of sandstone almost flush with the ground. "There's the Head Stone," he said. It looked like the bottom of a large dish, partly covered with topsoil and grass. The stone had been dug up, examined, photographed, and then laid back on its side with the face

Oak Island Gold

almost flush with the ground, after a little back-filling to preserve the stone. "It's not in the exact position where we found it," Nolan said. "We didn't know what it meant at the time so we laid it aside a few feet. We were planning to dig a shaft here but we referenced its original position." Nolan pointed to an iron bar protruding a few inches out of the ground. "That is in the exact location of the center of the cheek below the point of the dagger," he said.

The granite boulder at the end of the south arm of the Cross, lettered "B" on the plot plan, was about the same size and shape as the one at the shore. Even though it had been tipped over, the indenture in the ground at its original position was clear. Nolan said they discovered the remains of a wrought iron stove under the rock when they rolled it over and exposed its bottom. He also said they found small beach stones under the rock. John C. O'Keefe, a retired gentleman of East Uniacke, Nova Scotia, who had worked with Nolan on the Island, recalls: "There's a big rock up there in the field, a great big boulder. We took the bulldozer and the backhoe and rolled it over and out of the way and there underneath were pieces of an old wrought iron pot bellied stove, right there on top and as we dug down we found other pieces. The pieces were beveled and as we dug them up you could see it was a pot bellied stove.... How it ever got down there is beyond me.... Fred was really surprised and we kept digging and digging and found other pieces of stuff there, too, like knives and forks. I don't know how a big rock ever got on top of all that. Why would someone go to all the trouble of digging a hole, burying all that stuff and then rolling a big rock like that over it? It just doesn't make any sense." (O'Keefe didn't know about the discovery of the Cross configuration at the time of the interview so he had no notion as to why the boulder might have found a place above the buried items.)

I questioned O'Keefe about the presence of beach stones under the rock and he said, "There were beach stones all over the place, actually. There were beach stones in several holes we dug and there could have been some under the big rock but I can't remember for sure."

Continuing the tour of the Cross, Nolan showed me the cone-shaped stones on the stem. They were all similar in shape and size to the one at the beach. The two lower cones of the stem were undisturbed but the top one was misplaced by about 20 feet. It had held no significance to Nolan when it was discovered and disturbed but fortunately the depression in the ground where it had once rested was clearly visible,

The Christian Cross

making it possible to estimate the original position of the top of the cone. From the depression to the stone was a trail that had been made by tractor treads and the dragging of a large heavy object. Nolan said that the stone had been in the way of a line he was running, and had told the machine operator to drag it out of the way.

Asked how many other boulders of similar size and shape might be found on the Island, Nolan said there were no others. He said that on surveying the entire Island in 1961-1962, he had not seen any granite boulders of the size and configuration that mark off the Cross. During my tour of the Cross, I looked around for boulders of a similar shape. I saw only one rock of the size of the cones but it was far from being conical. There were boulders on the shore of Joudrey's Cove but a cursory search turned up nothing resembling the cones of the Cross.

Proceeding with my assignment, I estimated the original positions of the tops of the two cone-shaped boulders that had been disturbed, and carried out the survey. The arms of the Cross were indeed at right angles to the stem and all the measurements complied with Nolan's plot plan!

It now appears obvious that someone in the past spent a large amount of time and labor laying out the configuration of a large Latin cross on Oak Island. The cone-shaped stones were apparently hand selected, probably from boulders on the shores, and weigh about ten tons each. To transport these stones into position would have required a large work force using skids and even with the aid of horses or oxen, would have been quite labor intensive. The work may have been conducted during the winter but even with the advantage of sliding the boulders on skids over frozen ground, the work would have been difficult. And the boulders would have had to be surveyed into place by engineers.

There must have been a scheme behind all the work of building the Cross and Nolan believes it bears a relationship to a large deposit beneath his swamp which he says is "the real treasure." Who's to say he is wrong? The Cross doesn't seem to mark the location of the Money Pit. Lines drawn through the cones in every conceivable direction fail to intercept anywhere close to the Pit.

Considering Nolan's findings, if the long-sought treasure lies under his swamp, why was the Money Pit dug? Nolan believes it's a decoy. Although it seems incredible that anyone would build a system as complex as the Money Pit and its flood trap just to throw treasure

Oak Island Gold



William S. Crooker

Cone-shaped boulder on stem of Cross. (Cone "D" on plot plan.)

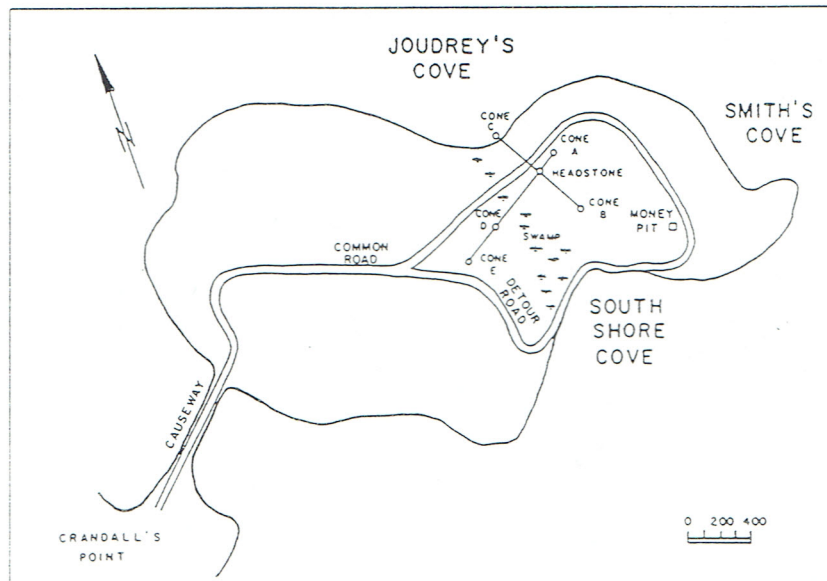


Diagram of Oak Island showing size and location of Cross.