

Analysis of Artifacts

Item # 146

Bits of charcoal from clay filled depression in Money Pit area

WHO FOUND	David Tobias Dan Blankenship
WHEN FOUND	1967
WHERE FOUND	From Becker borehole #35 at depth from 178' to 192'
FIRSTHAND/ SECONDHAND	
REFERENCES	Triton's 1988 "Summary of Operations" pg. 3:03 Triton's Becker Drilling Log from 1967 for borehole #35
LOCATION TODAY	
ODDITY FACTOR	
ASSESSMENT OF AUTHENTICITY	
COMMENTS	

Holes # 18 - 19 - 20 Holes # 18 - 19 - 20 not relevant.

- * Hole #21 Disturbed all the way to 206'. Good recovery thru-out. Much water from 125' down to 184'. Piece of brass at 176'. Clay 184' - 200'. Black stagnant water 200' - 206' (possible cavity). Gypsum 206'.
Angle:
6" to 8" O"
- Hole #22 Disturbed to 160'. Pipe broke at 136' so return is not reliable. Lost hole.
Angle:
Hole #23 Hole was plugged most of the way, but think earth was disturbed to about 160'. drilled with rotary from 160' to 205' mostly in gypsum.
Angle:
12" to 8" O"
Hole #24 Disturbed to about 160'. Used rotary from 160' - 207'. Gypsum bedrock at 160' and continued thru solid gypsum to 192' at which point we hit wood, a layer of clay and wood again and below that a cavity of at least 6'. The water return in this hole was very good with much small pieces of wood and pine needles thru-out.
- Hole #25 Disturbed to about 130'. Not much water until 130'. Hard going from 130' to 148' where we started with rotary. Gypsum to 191'6". Cavity 191'6" - 197'6" Deffinitely hit iron metal at bottom of cavity, this was proved by collecting water and letting settle after which we put magnet in bottom, and also by coring. We cored for about 1/2 hour and only penetrated 1/2", we lost this sample at top of hole and never recovered same.
- Hole # 26 Disturbed to about 179'. Casing broke and we lost hole.
- Hole # 27 Hit gypsum bedrock at 146'. Used rotary to 170' hit 12' cavity at 170'. Cored gypsum below cavity to 182'. Used rotary for 20', hit soft spot for 14'. Decided to get 5 1/2" casing, all the way down dynamited and pounded casing all the way to 204'. Much clay and about 1' gravel and broken cement with aggregate stone. Tried to get camera down but sand kept rising up to 155'. ~~pounded to 148'. Drilled to 170'. Cavity or soft spot 182'. 3' gypsum 185' - 14' cavity on clay 199'. 3' gypsum 202'. 2' core 204'.~~
- Hole # 28 Pounded casing to 148'. Rotary to 190'. 104' - 136' blue clay. 128' - 145' brown clay. 146' - 189' dry white gypsum. 189' - 190' one foot water and sand. 190' - 194' four foot pure clay. 194' - 202' gypsum.
- Hole #29 112' wood. 116' - 128' hard pounding, brown marl with rocks. 128' water. 136' very hard pounding. Started rotary at 148'. 185' - 195' lots of water and darker material. 200' very soft with lots of water in 6' soft spot at bottom was sand, limestone mixed with gypsum.
- * Hole #30 Disturbed to bottom of Chappell Shaft. 168' - 176' limestone, gypsum small amount clay. 176' - 184' brown clay, blue clay, gravel, limestone, not much water. 192' big pieces gypsum, sandstone mixed gravel with not much water to 200'. Sloppy clay to 208'. Gypsum bedrock 208'.
- Hole #31 Drove casing to 190'. All through overburden. Discovered casing broken at 165'
- Hole #32 Drove casing to 148' and hit gypsum. Drilled to 203' not much water, all gypsum to 193', changed color and was in cement, limestone and clay at 196' thru 200'.
- * Hole #33 Pounded casing to 152' hit gypsum. Drilled to 190'. At 184' soft for 2', hard for 2', soft for 2'. Hit clay before wood and wood was 192' (apparently top of tunnel and clay was for water proofing. Just below wood was plenty of water with gravel, cement, sand, limestone, etc. Cored for 1' and it was gypsum
- Hole #34 Pounded to 156' into gypsum. Drilled to 205'. Absolutely dry to 190'. Broke thru gypsum this depth and hit limestone, small amount cement and very small amount red clay with much water and sand which had quartz and granite in it. Gypsum bedrock 205'.
- * Hole #35 Drove casing to 160', and hit gypsum. Drilled to 178' and hit soft spot for 3' At 181' 6" to 8" wood, from 178' to 192' good return. (differend dinds of wood, charcoal, small pieces clinkers from hot fire. Decided to drive rock-bit down for positive return 18'. Took rock-bit to Chester and had hardened edge put on. Very hard pounding made 4' by 11:45. Blasted 2 times and driving was very hard. Broke casing. Worked on pulling casing. Hit void below wood for 12' with much water.
- Hole 36 Had much trouble in alighing hole. Pulled out and relocated 3 or 4 times. Went through old shaft and at 144' was mucky clay. Bit stayed plugged from 152' to 176'. Pulled back to 152' and unplugged. 152' beach gravel and stones. 168' water and limestone chips. 176' no return. 178' pure clay started and continued to 187'. 187'-194' broken up pcs. limestone with little pieces clay.

engineer and consultant, this indicates that the clay was puddled on the surface and poured into the hole in layers. General Campbell also noted that prior to the development of concrete, puddled clay was commonly used as a water seal in underground situations.²

Repeated drilling into this clay-filled depression brought up oak buds (which could not have become imbedded in such dense material naturally), pieces of cement, charcoal and a small fragment of brass which appeared to have been torn off something by the drill bit.

Spectrographic analysis of the brass revealed a high level of impurities indicating that it had been smelted before the advent of modern brass-making in the mid-1800's.³

One of the most striking results of this drilling program, however, was the discovery of well-defined cavities located 35 to 40 ft. below bedrock. In two instances, the drill went through about 35 ft. of bedrock, then wood, then a thin layer of blue clay, then wood again and finally dropped 6 ft. by its own weight. This strongly suggested the existence of waterproofed cribbing along the ceiling of what appeared to be a tunnel. Carbon-14 tests of the wood chips brought up from these cavities put their growth period at 1575 ± 85 years.⁴

In the opinion of civil engineers, mining engineers and geologists, these findings could not be explained in terms of a natural occurrence. Consequently, Blankenship and Tobias decided to proceed with a full-scale exploration of Oak Island.

² Ref: report in Appendix C

³ Ref: Appendix B-2

⁴ Ref: Appendix B-3