

## *Analysis of Artifacts*

### **Item # 18**

#### ***Iron "Plate" at 170'***

<b>WHO FOUND</b>	Oak Island Treasure Co.
<b>WHEN FOUND</b>	1896
<b>WHERE FOUND</b>	In Money Pit at 170' (see F.L. Blair's 1926 account which says 170' versus others which say 171')
<b>FIRSTHAND/ SECONDHAND</b>	"S" - See F.L. Blair 1926 "History of Oak Island ...", pg. 14
<b>REFERENCES</b>	"History of Oak Island ...", pg. 14 R.V. Harris "The Oak Island Mystery", pg. 87 D'Arcy O'Connor,, "The Big Dig", pg 57
<b>LOCATION TODAY</b>	Unknown but never recovered
<b>ODDITY FACTOR</b>	5
<b>ASSESSMENT OF AUTHENTICITY</b>	5: unclear if iron filings retrieved were off drill bit or not
<b>COMMENTS</b>	

get the pipe down through it so a smaller drill was used which went to 132 feet. It was later found that the pipe had encountered iron and had been deflected.

The second hole, a foot away from the first, also met with iron at 126 feet, which again stopped the pipe. A one-and-a-half-inch drill was used which passed through puddled clay to the iron obstruction and struck *soft stone or cement* at 153 feet 8 inches, to which reference will be made later.

On continuing the operation, the drill went through seven inches of this soft stone, or cement, and then through five inches of solid oak, proof that the stone was not the bed-rock of the Island. When the auger passed through the wood it dropped about one and a half inches and rested upon soft metal or some substance which seemed to "give" somewhat. The auger was carefully withdrawn and the borings brought up were preserved by Mr. Putnam. Amongst these borings containing oak chips and coconut husks was found a very small piece of *parchment*, to which reference will be later made.

When the auger was withdrawn, it was replaced with a boring chisel which by constant twisting (the drill could not be raised and dropped in the usual manner, as the hole immediately filled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 soft metal into which it was forced slightly and made to stick. The men worked five and a quarter 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, if possible, to obtain a sample of the metal. To this end the drillers lowered a one-and-a-half-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 one-and-a-half-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.

In the third hole, with a two-and-a-half-inch pipe, after striking wood at 122 feet, they succeeded in getting the pipe down so that it rested upon the cement at 153 feet. They bored through four feet six inches of this cement and had oak wood on one side of the hole for about three feet. Under the cement was found eleven feet of blue puddled clay. At 171 feet the drill brought up solidly on iron. This iron was very evident and the sound from it could easily be distinguished by the drillers at the surface.

After attempting for nearly three hours to penetrate it and not succeeding for more than a quarter of an inch, the drill was withdrawn. It showed no wear, but when given a few raps on a stone, the edge came off. The material at the bottom of this hole was pumped up and a magnet run through it, showing the presence of fine iron cuttings at 171 feet.

In one hole the drill entered a channel at 126 feet down, in which water suddenly spouted up at a rate which, according to the pumps, indicated a flow of about 400 gallons a minute. The drillers concluded that this suggested a second tunnel, probably from the south shore of the Island!

A fourth hole was later put down to 166 feet and struck the iron obstruction again. Being somewhat on a slant the drill passed the iron and went down to 188 feet, where it encountered hard clay about six feet out of line.

A fifth hole went to 175 feet without any new results, cement being encountered between 150 to 170 feet.

Summing up the results of these boring operations, oak wood and iron were found at 126 feet, iron at 138 feet, seven inches of cement at 153 feet, oak wood at 153 feet 8 inches, a piece of parchment just below the wood, and iron at 171 feet.

From these facts the drillers estimated that at a depth of 150 feet there was a subterranean chamber, enclosed by a casing of about twenty inches of a primitive type of cement.

the rods and applying heavy pressure. And the workers noticed that the material would fill up the hole each time the drill was raised.

In his report, Blair said they "worked 5¼ hours getting down the two feet eight inches" of this material "and the chisel came up as sharp as [when] it went down." The drillers were certain this material was metal in small pieces, similar to that which had been struck in 1849 between 100 and 104 feet in the Money Pit, prior to its collapse. At 158 feet the drill hit the same sort of soft metal that had been found just under the oak wood. The chisel stuck fast and couldn't be turned or driven down, so the drill was withdrawn. An attempt to put casing further down in order to retrieve the loose metal proved useless as the casing pipe was repeatedly deflected into the side of the Money Pit by the iron obstruction at 126 feet.

The 3-inch casing was withdrawn and reset for a second hole a few feet away. The drill again hit wood at 122 feet, followed by puddled clay, then through 7 feet of cement between 154 and 161 feet. One side of the drill also encountered wood from about 154 to 158 feet. Below the cement the drill was driven through more puddled clay until it met what appeared to be an iron plate at 171 feet. Several attempts were made to penetrate the plate, but to no avail. Chappel reported that "a magnet was run through the material [on the end of the bit] 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."

From their drill logs and the material salvaged from these two holes and others, the Oak Island Treasure Company profited what they were certain was a large concrete vault deep in the Money Pit. All of the foreign material brought up on the auger was sent away for independent analysis, and this supported their discovery of a man-made chamber.

Geologists in Halifax declared that the puttylike clay found above and below the concrete chamber had been hand-worked. Interestingly, seventy years later (1967) an early drilling program by the current Triton group struck puddled clay at similar depths. Triton's consultants also declared it to be man-