

Analysis of Artifacts
Item # 33

"X" on Apex Stone of "Stone Triangle"

WHO FOUND Laverne Johnson

WHEN FOUND 1959

WHERE FOUND

**FIRSTHAND/
SECONDHAND**

Revealed: "The Secret of Oak Island", Laverne Johnson , PG 26 Crooker's,
"Oak Island Gold", Pg. 118 and 119 (Photo)

REFERENCES

LOCATION TODAY

ODDITY FACTOR

**ASSESSMENT OF
AUTHENTICITY**

COMMENTS

they got back to England their stories were received with a good deal of scepticism, and a considerable investigation was conducted. Hawkins eventually agreed that they were three of the men he had marooned, and their feat is recorded in history as the Impossible Walk or the Long Walk. It is conceivable that the men from Oak Island attempted to make a similar walk.

I went to Oak Island for the first time in 1959. At that time there was no causeway from the mainland to the island, and everything and everybody who went to the island had to go by boat. Bulldozers had not yet been used on the island to cause the devastation which they carried out later. The two drilled stones and a good part of the triangle were still in place as shown on the Roper Survey. During that first visit the westerly drilled stone was not in evidence, and I spent a day searching unsuccessfully for the triangle.

Willie Sawler, who ran a boat from Western Shore to Oak Island for tourists, told me the next morning that his daughter had seen the triangle during a picnic on the island, and she agreed to find it for us. Elizabeth, now Mrs. Martin Sovie of Chester, was a teenager at the time, and she came over to the island with us. It had been a foggy morning, but by the time we reached the island the fog was burning off, with wisps of it still trailing through the treetops, and I think we all felt a kind of eeriness around us. Elizabeth led us along a faint footpath in the general direction of the triangle, and then down among the trees toward the shore. There on a bank which had been eroded until the storm waves could beat right up to it, she pointed out the remains of the triangle, nearly hidden by the low-hanging branches of spruce trees. The stones which had formed the ends of the base had been knocked out of place by storms which had driven the waves right up to the triangle. The apex was hidden by the branches of a spruce tree sweeping right down to the ground.

I felt that if the depositor was as careful and precise as what I had learned about him indicated he was, then surely he would have left some kind of mark on the apex stone. Neither Willie nor Elizabeth had ever heard mention of any such mark, but when I crawled in under the low-hanging branches, and with my knife scraped away countless years of moss or lichen, there was my mark. It was a plain little X or cross, about three inches from tip to tip of the arms, and the arms carved about three sixteenths of an inch deep and about a quarter of an inch wide, neatly done and unmistakably manmade. It was a strange, spooky moment for us, complete silence all around us, except for the wavelets lapping on the stony shore, bits of fog still drifting through the trees, and we three down there on our hands and knees looking at a mark apparently left there by a mysterious group hundreds of years before, and undetected until we discovered it.

In 1960 my wife and I went back to Oak Island, and because I had damaged an eye and was unable to work, I had a local man, Johnny Zwicker, helping to do a bit of surface investigation. As we were walking back to the shore where the boat would pick us up, Johnny was walking along, kind of sliding his shovel along the grassy ground between steps. Suddenly his shovel snagged a piece of sod and turned it up off a large flat stone lying flush with the ground.

On the apex stone was a mark: a little cross, three inches from tip to tip and unmistakably manmade.

Three hundred years ago sea level was about forty-six feet below the surface at the point where the lines intersect.

Johnny was quick to notice an odd shaped knob on the bottom side of the sod, and we found that it came out of a hole drilled in the upper surface of the stone. It proved to be the westerly drilled stone, and it had obviously gone unnoticed for a good number of years.

In 1962 we returned to the island, poorly prepared, poorly organized, and short of time and money. Our surveyor found the triangle and the two drilled stones in the same positions as shown on the Roper Survey. Of course we could not use the site of the original shaft as a point with any degree of precision because according to the code it lay within the southern portion of the Hedden shaft. That shaft was still open, and men were working in the immediate area. The easterly drilled stone lay fully exposed at its site near Smith's Cove. It could possibly have been moved slightly from its original position since 1795, but it still coincided with the Roper Survey. We dug a 30 foot shaft up in the high ground where the marks according to the code intersected, and although we had received some response from a metal detector we did not learn anything except that the ground was terrifically hard.

There could be any of several reasons why our attempt failed. Perhaps our survey had not been careful enough, or perhaps the easterly drilled stone had been moved slightly by work done near Smith's Cove during the years. In hindsight it is very easy to see that we should have gone prepared to explore across the line of the treasure tunnel up near where the intersection would be. Exploring across the course of the treasure tunnel would have been much more judicious than attempting to hit the intersection dead on after all those years, but we did not realize that at the time. Perhaps the line between the drilled stones was not precisely seven degrees off True when it was laid down. Even a few minutes off True would make a surprising difference in the location of the intersection. If the line between the two drilled stones was not exactly seven degrees off True it could have altered the point of the intersection, but the principle of the code would still be the same.

We should also have been more careful in estimating the height of our shaft above sea level. Early reports stated that the water came to within thirty two feet of the surface at the deep shaft; we assumed that our shaft was about six feet higher, and that sea level should be about thirty eight feet below the surface. A later survey proved that our shaft was actually about forty three feet above sea level. It is said that sea level on that part of the Atlantic coast has risen about a foot a century for the past thousand years so perhaps three hundred years ago sea level was about forty six feet below the surface at the point where the lines intersect.

I like to think that I have an open mind about clairvoyants, and I am still puzzled by an experience I had with one some time after we dug the 1962 shaft at Oak Island. Her name came up in a conversation, and I recognized it as that of a Madame Fontaine who had a remarkable reputation around Edmonton during the depression. It was said that she was sought after by many business men looking for sound advice.

The westerly drilled stone; had gone unnoticed; good number of years.

Even a few minutes of True would make a surprising difference in the location of the intersection.



Oak Island Gold

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

The Stone Triangle

measuring about nine or ten feet on each side with the base of the triangle running approximately east and west. A median line of stones ran from the base to the apex in a true north direction beginning at a distance of four feet along the line of the base from the most westerly corner of the triangle. The significant feature of the triangle was that an extension of this line from the base to the apex intersected the supposed position of the Money Pit.

From other sources I learned that an arc of stones situated about three

Frederick G. Nolan



The stone triangle. Notice a chiselled cross mark on the rock near the bottom of the photo. This rock formed the apex of the triangle. The dark square object beside the tree is an attaché case placed to give an idea of the size of stones. The triangle was destroyed in the mid 1960s as a result of excavation work on the shore.