

Analysis of Artifacts

Item # 38

Huge ring-bolt in boulder visible at very low tide

WHO FOUND	Dan McGinnis John Smith Anthony Vaughan
WHEN FOUND	1795
WHERE FOUND	Smith's Cove ?
FIRSTHAND/ SECONDHAND	R.V. Harris, Pg. 10 unidentified account
REFERENCES	
LOCATION TODAY	
ODDITY FACTOR	
ASSESSMENT OF AUTHENTICITY	
COMMENTS	

ure." However they looked about them and sought help from others, but without success. Some were superstitious enough to credit the saying that when pirates concealed money they always killed a black man and buried him with it to guard it. There were others who laughed at the idea of money being hidden so deeply in the earth and none felt inclined to render them any assistance.

From other accounts we learn that red clover and other plants foreign to the soil were growing over part of the cleared area. The earliest authentic mention of clover covering the site is to be found in an account of the discovery written by James McNutt, in 1863, of which only a fragment remains. This account begins with the words "to dig in the clover-patch, at ten feet found a tier of wood and the pit to be twelve feet in diameter."

We learn further that there were marks and figures on the trunk of the oak, that the over-hanging branch projected four feet from the trunk and that it was twelve to eighteen feet from the ground; that the hollow below the branch was a well-defined circular depression about thirteen feet in diameter; that before abandoning the work they reached a total depth of thirty to thirty-two feet and that there were platforms of oak logs at the twenty- and thirty-foot levels.

As one version puts it: "They found that they were working in a well-defined pit, the walls of which were hard and solid; and in some places on the walls old pick marks were plainly to be seen, while within these walls the earth was so loose that picks were not required." It is also stated that "it was low tide, and hunting around in the cove, the men discovered a huge iron ring-bolt set in a rock and apparently a mooring place of a bygone day." The cove referred to was undoubtedly that known as Smith's Cove, where it is said that at very low tide the ring-bolt may still be seen, embedded in a huge rock.

A second ring-bolt embedded in a boulder under water has more recently been found off the north shore of the island.

More Discoveries 1804-1805

Some time between seven and fifteen years after the events related in the last chapter, operations at the Pit were resumed. Most accounts say "seven years," which would place the resumption of work about 1803; although the account in the *Colonist* of January 2, 1864, gives the time as "fifteen years" after the first discovery. The weight of evidence, however, fixes the date as 1804. The *Colonist* account says:

The late Simeon Lynds of Onslow, a man well known in many parts of Colchester County, at the time happened to visit Chester on business. As Lynds' father and Vaughan were related, he called and passed an evening with him. In the course of their conversation, Lynds was let into the secret of the "Pit" on Oak Island, and the opinion entertained about it by Vaughan and his companions.

Another version, however—a modern one dating from 1930—gives the name of Dr. John Lynds of Truro. According to this version, John Smith's wife did not want their first child to be born on Oak Island, apparently because of its mysterious history. They therefore travelled to Truro to see Dr. John Lynds, a relative of Anthony Vaughan, and they stayed at his home in Truro until the birth of the child.

During their stay with Dr. Lynds they told him of the Pit