

Analysis of Artifacts

Item # 55

Found 300 metal objects using a metal detector

WHO FOUND	Phillips Academy Expedition
WHEN FOUND	1965 (August)
WHERE FOUND	Various places on Oak Island
FIRSTHAND/ SECONDHAND	
REFERENCES	R.V. Harris Pg. 178
LOCATION TODAY	
ODDITY FACTOR	
ASSESSMENT OF AUTHENTICITY	
COMMENTS	Apparently included "old irons, axe-heads, files, farm implements. One large axe-head measured 9 inches by 5 inches (badly corroded)

Robinson's Corner, a foreman directing the workmen, who at his own risk took on the task of getting the victims out of the shaft; and Richard Barber and Peter Beamish, campers on the Island, who rendered first aid.

The tragedy shocked and excited the interest of the whole world.

The Beamish Expedition

As a postscript to this chapter, we may record the fact that Mr. Peter Beamish was one of a party of nineteen student-campers from Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts, spending several weeks on the Island. With their electro-magnetic equipment they surveyed the whole Island and later reported finding over 300 metal objects of archaeological interest, including old irons, axe-heads, files, farm implements; one large axe-head measured nine inches by five inches (badly corroded), and a Spanish coin, 11 Maravedi, dated 15981. A skin-diving expedition turned up an anchor, pieces of china and several iron rings, also a ringbolt in a rock on the south shore not far from the triangle; the third such ringbolt in our story.

It was later learned that the Spanish coin had been found on the site of Anthony Graves' house, where he had lived for thirty years—the same Anthony Graves who, it was said, had bought his groceries and supplies in Chester nearby with Spanish money!

Robert R. Dunfield 1965-1966

Following the failure of the Restall undertaking, Robert R. Dunfield, a petroleum geologist from Canuga Park, California, and a graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles, came into the picture.

An engineer of long experience, in association with three others, he took over the Restall rights to search for the treasure. His associates were Daniel Blankenship of Miami, Florida, Jack Nethercutt of Beverly Hills, and G. R. Le Perle of Bakersfield, both in California.

As already stated, Mr. Dunfield had been on the scene some months before Restall's death, and estimated that with heavy equipment the mystery might be solved. A three-yard link-belt "digging clam," weighing about 100 tons, capable of digging an excavation over 200 feet deep and 100 feet in diameter, and handling over 800 cubic yards an hour under favourable conditions, was the answer. His belief was that "there is *something* buried on the Island, and at different elevations." He described the project as "a problem in open-pit mining but with the added difficulty of seeping water. We can complete the excavation successfully, if we can dig it dry." The pumping equipment required to keep the pit dry at all times was capable of handling 110,000 gallons of water an hour.