

Analysis of Artifacts

Item # 67

Large shoe

WHO FOUND	Dan Blankenship
WHEN FOUND	1966+
WHERE FOUND	By west-end "wharf(s)"
FIRSTHAND/ SECONDHAND	
REFERENCES	D'Arcy O'Connor's, "The Big Dig", pg. 170
LOCATION TODAY	Oak Island Museum
ODDITY FACTOR	6
ASSESSMENT OF AUTHENTICITY	8
COMMENTS	Clothing archaeologist-- early 1800s

nation wharf and cofferdam that was purposely destroyed after the Money Pit and flood tunnels were completed. Triton had samples of the wood carbon-dated, and it was found to date back 250 years or more.

Prior to that discovery, Blankenship had found two other crudely built wooden structures beneath the beach of the island's western end. These appeared to have been slipways used to haul out boats. Handmade wrought-iron nails and metal straps were also found in these areas, and laboratory analysis determined the metal to have been forged sometime before 1790.

Blankenship has unearthed other strange artifacts scattered around the island. These include a pair of old leather shoes nine feet below the island's western beach, and three drilled rocks north of the Money Pit that are similar to the two found by Hedden. He also discovered several rock piles under which were mounds of gray ash. The ash was later analyzed and found to be the remains of burned bones; how it got there isn't known.

In order to confirm its earlier drilling results, Triton hired Golder & Associates of Toronto, a leading geotechnical engineering firm, to conduct the most complete study ever done beneath the island. In the summer and fall of 1970, Golder drilled a series of deep holes all around the island's east end, analyzed core samples, and ran seismic and other tests to measure the exact nature and porosity of the soil and the underlying bedrock. They also determined that the water under the Money Pit area was coming in at a rate of 600 to 650 gallons per minute. Based on this data, pumping holes were put down in spots where they would be most effective in holding the water below the bedrock level.

The Golder project, which cost Triton over \$100,000, produced detailed charts and cross-sectional drawings of the island's interior, with the engineers mapping out a combination of natural and man-made formations below bedrock. Based on those and later findings made by Triton and its consultants, engineers have estimated that, given sixteenth- or seventeenth-century tools and technology, approximately 100,000 man-hours went into the original project. If, for ar-