

*Analysis of Artifacts*

**Item # 75**

*Hand wrought nail*

<b>WHO FOUND</b>	D. Blankenship
<b>WHEN FOUND</b>	1966
<b>WHERE FOUND</b>	South Shore Shaft below 60'
<b>FIRSTHAND/ SECONDHAND</b>	"F" Dan Blankenship
<b>REFERENCES</b>	D'Arcy O'Connor's, "The Big Dig", pgs. 95 &96
<b>LOCATION TODAY</b>	
<b>ODDITY FACTOR</b>	
<b>ASSESSMENT OF AUTHENTICITY</b>	
<b>COMMENTS</b>	

longitude and the latitude of the chart in question and that it was in an eastern sea, on the other side of the world from Oak Island. Moreover, Wilkins assured Hedden that Kidd had never been in the vicinity of Nova Scotia. In a second letter (August 13) Wilkins exhorted Hedden not to "waste any time trying to identify this eastern [hemisphere] island of Kidd with Oak Island."

But Hedden was unconvinced. He felt there were too many points of agreement between Oak Island and Wilkins's map to write it off as mere coincidence. He then turned his attention to the legend at the bottom of the Mar Del map:

18 W. and by 7 E. on Rock  
30 SW. 14 N Tree  
7 By 8 By 4

Hedden realized that if these directions were at all applicable to Oak Island, there must be some sort of markers that would tie in with them. He put this question to Blair, who told him about a triangle of stones that had been noticed by William Chappell and others near the south shore in 1897 and again in 1931. He also told Hedden that he'd once seen a granite boulder with a hole drilled into it somewhere north of the Money Pit.

On August 15 Hedden had his crew make a thorough search for these artifacts. The drilled rock was soon found about fifty feet north of the Money Pit. Then another one was found near the shore at Smith's Cove. In both cases the holes, two inches deep and just over an inch in diameter, were obviously artificially made.

Amos Nauss, one of Hedden's workers, was sent into the underbrush at the island's southeast end. Nauss, shortly before his death in 1981, told me that "Hedden gave me some idea that there was something down there at the beach that he wanted to find. So I explored around there with a hoe. I was clawing around and suddenly I hit one rock, then another and another, all in line with each other. So I decided there was something there, and I started clearing it and called Hedden over."

Nauss had found the triangle. It consisted of sixteen beach stones, each about the size of a man's head. The rocks were

covered with moss and other vegetation and were half buried in the ground. As the undergrowth was cleared away, the triangle could be seen to be equilateral, ten feet long on each side. Its southern base line was about forty feet up from and roughly parallel to the beach. The triangle also had a medial line consisting of eight rocks running from the northern apex stone down through the southern side. It didn't bisect the side but crossed it at a point four feet from the western angle and six feet from the eastern angle. Below this base line was an arc of six stones, which gave the whole thing the appearance of a large sextant.

That evening Hedden called Charles Roper, a Halifax land surveyor, and asked him to come out to the island. He and his young assistant arrived the following afternoon. Roper, in an interview, recalled that "Hedden showed us the triangle and drilled rocks, but he didn't tell us what we were looking for. He just told us to measure the distances and bearing between those three things."

By the next day (August 17) the surveyors established what Hedden already suspected. The drilled rocks ran on an east-west line and were 415 feet, or almost 25 rods, apart. (One rod equals 16.5 feet.) Using the directions on the Mar Del map, Hedden had Roper establish a point along that line that was 18 rods (300 feet) from the westerly drilled rock and 7 rods (115 feet) from the easterly rock. From that position, which was close to the Cave-in Pit, Roper swung his transit 45 degrees, aiming it to the southwest. A distance of 30 rods (495 feet) was chained off along that line. This brought them just below the southerly base line of the stone triangle at a point intersected by the triangle's medial line.

Roper then set up his transit on the medial line itself and sighted along it over the center of the triangle's apex stone. After making a quick calculation for magnetic variation, Roper announced in astonishment that the line ran precisely true north; that is, in line with the North Star. Moreover, the extension of the line passed through Hedden's shaft and the westerly drilled rock.

These findings amazed both Roper and Hedden. Three of the directions on the chart, when interpreted as rods, connected the mysterious island markers. Moreover, the fact that the line running through the triangle pointed to true north and hit the Money Pit could not be dismissed as a coincidence.

However, the direction "14 N Tree" when measured out