

## *Analysis of Artifacts*

### **Item # 89**

#### *Hand-sawed boards in Smith's Cove*

<b>WHO FOUND</b>	Triton Alliance
<b>WHEN FOUND</b>	1970
<b>WHERE FOUND</b>	In mud near log structure
<b>FIRSTHAND/ SECONDHAND</b>	
<b>REFERENCES</b>	D'Arcy OConner's, "The Big Dig", pg. 169
<b>LOCATION TODAY</b>	
<b>ODDITY FACTOR</b>	
<b>ASSESSMENT OF AUTHENTICITY</b>	
<b>COMMENTS</b>	

years ago hearing stories about Oak Island. So I grew up with the mystery. But I'm also enormously impressed with Dan and David; the way their enthusiasm never wanes. Dan takes great physical risks down in those holes, and it never seems to faze him. And David I know has put a great deal of money into that island, but he never seems to waver from his belief. So one becomes somewhat enthused by the devotion of those two people."

With the creation of Triton and its injection of new capital, Blankenship spent much of the summer of 1970 using bulldozers to construct a four-hundred-foot earth and rock cofferdam around the perimeter of Smith's Cove. It extended about fifty feet seaward of the dams that had been built by searchers in 1850 and 1866 and was therefore well outside the low-tide mark.

This cofferdam, like the others before it, was eventually destroyed by Atlantic storms. But during its construction a large U-shaped structure was found buried below the silt beyond the low-tide line. It consisted of several huge logs about two feet thick and from thirty to sixty-five feet long. They were notched exactly every four feet along their length, and beside each notch was carved a Roman numeral, each number different from the others. The notched surfaces had been bored, and some contained the remains of two-inch-thick wooden dowels. These presumably had been used to fasten crosspieces to the logs. In fact, several crosspieces and some hand-sawed boards were found buried in the mud in the same area. They had uncovered an extension of the same wooden formation that Gilbert Hedden had first noticed in 1936.

Experts were brought in to examine the structure, and they suggested it was an ancient wharf or slipway, or perhaps even the remains of the original cofferdam built to contain the sea while the flood tunnel was driven to the Money Pit. One of the investigators, Dr. H. B. S. Cooke, a geologist from Dalhousie University in Halifax, stated, "I have no doubt whatsoever that it was an artificial structure, probably a cofferdam, with a well-built wall."

Blankenship believes that it was more likely a wharf built by the original depositors, though it may have been a combi-