

Analysis of Artifacts

Item # 92

Third drilled rock

WHO FOUND	Restall
WHEN FOUND	1961
WHERE FOUND	Smith's Cove Beach
FIRSTHAND/ SECONDHAND	
REFERENCES	R.V. Harris, "The Oak Island Mystery", pg. 176
LOCATION TODAY	
ODDITY FACTOR	
ASSESSMENT OF AUTHENTICITY	
COMMENTS	

The distance from the oak tree to the drilled rock (near the Money Pit) was two rods, true north-east.

The distance from the drilled rock to the other drilled rock found by Heddon was twenty-five rods, seven degrees north of true east.

Eighteen rods along this line from the drilled rock near the Money Pit, he found a steel pin put in by Hedden and from this pin the distance to the Cave-in shaft was two rods, true south-east.

The distance from the steel pin to the base of the triangle is six feet short of thirty rods.

A dam of twenty feet of clay, he said, was evident on the beach in Smith's Cove, along with another drilled rock.

We may add that Roper, the surveyor, included or verified most of these measurements.

He also expressed the opinion that "an old sail cloth thrown on the beach over the drains on the beach would effectually close the intake drains or tunnels as would a plug in a wash-basin, and until cloth or some such material gets caught at the entrance of the tunnel filled with rocks, the ocean will continue to flood the Money Pit."

In the course of his explorations, Restall found "tons of coconut fibre; thousands of acorns on the Smith's Cove shore; also a paving [?] stone" with the date "1704" inscribed on it; also at other points, three piles of stones, which, in his opinion, were "the ruins of early sentry stations," and at least one timber through which a drill or auger had passed (probably in the Truro expedition of 1845). The stone dated 1704 is believed to be the same stone "found" in E. H. Hamilton's time and admitted to have been a practical joke of the workmen employed by him. The date, as far as is known, has no significance, but Restall seems to have attached much importance to it as the date 1704 was shortly after Jacques de Broullan, French Governor at La Have, about twelve miles away, invited all pirates to assist him to rid himself of raiders from Massachusetts (see p. 59).

A full account of Restall's period of exploration to the end

of 1964, written by him, appeared in the *Hamilton (Ontario Spectator* of January 29, 1965.

Restall's belief was that Oak Island was the place of deposit — "a sort of 'Fort Knox' but built by forced labour over a period of twenty years" — where a number of pirates deposited their ill-gotten plunder. "Similar systems of underground tunnels," he told the writer, "which could be flooded at will by sea-water, are to be found in the West Indies, undoubtedly the work of pirates. I don't know where it all came from, and don't care, but I believe Oak Island was their hiding place."

His exploration centred around the Heddon shaft, about 155 feet deep. At a depth of 125 feet his efforts were directed laterally towards the spot where he believed the treasure, consisting of gold bars, had been deposited in a vault between fifteen and twenty-five feet north of the shaft. He had selected this particular shaft after a careful study of the maps, reports and letters of earlier explorers in the period 1850 to 1900. It was his firm belief, at the time of his death, that he was "within a few feet of its discovery," and that four or five more days' work would result in its discovery.

Near the entrance of the water tunnel from Smith's Cove to the Money Pit, Restall sank a shaft twenty-seven feet in depth and measuring about ten feet by six feet. On the surface, on August 17, 1965, a gasoline-power pump was in action, emitting carbon monoxide fumes. Apparently overcome by those fumes, Restall fell into the shaft itself. His son Robert, age 24, climbed down to help him, followed by Karl Graeser and then by three of the local workmen. All were affected by the gas fumes and collapsed. Two of the workmen were pulled out by a New York fireman, Captain Edward J. White, a tourist visiting the Island, and revived by artificial respiration. But for the other four it was too late and they died—Robert Restall and his son Robert, Karl Graeser and sixteen-year-old Cyril Hiltz of Martin's Point, victims of the carbon monoxide fumes as the coroner's jury found, or drowned in the water in the shaft.

Other heroes of the disaster were James Keizer of nearby