

Analysis of Artifacts

Item # 96

Underground stream below Hamilton Shaft

WHO FOUND	Hamilton
WHEN FOUND	1942?
WHERE FOUND	12' below Hamilton shaft
FIRSTHAND/ SECONDHAND	
REFERENCES	Rupert Furneaux's, "The Money Pit Mystery", pg. 82
LOCATION TODAY	
ODDITY FACTOR	
ASSESSMENT OF AUTHENTICITY	
COMMENTS	

Leasing the machinery that Hedden had left on the island, Hamilton, started work near the Money Pit in July 1938, and bored fifty-eight holes to the depth of 168 to 171 ft. All reached solid limestone. In the fifteenth hole he struck iron at 157 ft. He cleared out shaft No. 21 which had been sunk in 1931 by William Chappell by digging and re-timbered it down to 170 ft. In his explorations between 1940 and 1943, Hamilton re-located an old Halifax tunnel leading into the Money Pit south-east of and close to the Hedden shaft (No. 22). From these discoveries, Hamilton concluded that the Chappell shaft (No. 21) was not located on the exact site of the original Money Pit but lay about five ft. south of it. In 1942, he sunk a shaft, measuring eight ft. square, to the depth of 168 ft. in the southern half of the Hedden shaft. It was about eight ft. from the Chappell shaft which also went to that depth. The two shafts were connected by an old tunnel, which had been driven by William Chappell. Hamilton drilled sideways and downwards from it in all directions, keeping the water down by the use of Hedden's powerful pumps.

Hamilton told me that this vertical and lateral drilling to 180 ft. disclosed things that should not have been there, such as stones that were not native to that depth of soil. He reached a greater depth than anyone had done previously and re-located the original shaft. He made two remarkable discoveries, though he received credit for neither of them. Hamilton located the inlet of the second water course, the existence of which had been suspected since 1897. This entered the *eastern* side of the Money Pit at 150 ft., forty ft. below the higher tunnel which brought water from Smith's Cove. It was obvious that the two artificial water tunnels both came from Smith's Cove, the original constructors having driven two tunnels, one above the other. This lower tunnel was not the tunnel found by the Halifax Company in 1866-7, the discovery of which S. C. Fraser, their foreman, had described in a letter to A. S. Lowden in 1895. That tunnel entered the Money Pit just below the flood tunnel at the 111 ft. level.

Hamilton's discovery of this second man-made flood tunnel from Smith's Cove raised the question: 'How then did the red dye which had been put into the Money Pit in 1897 reach the *south* shore where it showed itself in the water at three distinct places?' Hamilton answered my question; at the depth of 180 ft. he encountered a flood of water eight by ten in. wide and running from north-east to south-west. Analysis of samples brought to the surface showed that it was of greater specific gravity than the sea water around the island. The inference was clear: through the depths of the Money Pit ran an