

# *Analysis of Artifacts*

## **Item # 100**

### *Iron at 126'*

<b>WHO FOUND</b>	Oak Island Treasure Co.
<b>WHEN FOUND</b>	1897
<b>WHERE FOUND</b>	Boring down from 90' in Money Pit
<b>FIRSTHAND/ SECONDHAND</b>	
<b>REFERENCES</b>	D'Arcy O'Connor's, "The Big Dig", pg. 56
<b>LOCATION TODAY</b>	
<b>ODDITY FACTOR</b>	
<b>ASSESSMENT OF AUTHENTICITY</b>	
<b>COMMENTS</b>	Compare to anchor fluke found by Chappell in 1931 at 127'

The workers now assumed they'd finally choked off the water supply. Yet, when the pumps were subsequently run in the Money Pit, they were barely able to keep ahead of the incoming water. The blasting had had no appreciable effect on the flow from the sea. The answer to this puzzle would not be found until the following year.

With the pumps running night and day, the company was able to hold the water in the Money Pit, which had previously been excavated to 113 feet, down to about the 100-foot level. Under the direction of William Chappell, T. Perley Putnam, and Captain John Welling, the rest of the summer of 1897 was spent boring deep into the Money Pit from a platform set up at the 90-foot level. A full account of the drilling program and its tantalizing results is contained in notes prepared by Blair in 1900 and later in an affidavit sworn to by Chappell in 1929.

Several holes were bored with a 2½-inch drill through a 3-inch casing, usually in loose and apparently disturbed ground all the way down to 171 feet. Blue clay, which Chappel said had the "characteristics of puddled clay," was encountered between 130 and 151 feet and again between 160 and 171 feet. (Puddled clay is a hand-worked watertight preparation of clay, sand, and water, with a consistency similar to putty.)

The first hole was bored through several inches of wood at 122 feet, and at 126 feet the bit struck iron which it couldn't penetrate. So a 1½-inch drill was put down the same hole, and it was able to slip past the obstruction. It then went through puddled clay and, at 154 feet, struck what the drillers first thought was sandstone but was later found to be cement. The cement was 7 inches thick, and underneath it were 5 inches of solid oak, samples of which were brought to the surface.

At 155 feet the chisel-shaped drill bit struck what felt like soft metal. Chappel said it was found that this metal "could be moved slightly thereby forming a crevice of space into which the drill, when in alignment, would stick or wedge." This happened several times, and the chisel had to be continually pried loose. After spending two hours to get through four inches of this soft metal the boring became easier. But even then the drill would go down only by continuously twisting