

*Analysis of Artifacts*

**Item # 104**

*Silver Spanish Coin dated 1785*

<b>WHO FOUND</b>	Unknown
<b>WHEN FOUND</b>	1930
<b>WHERE FOUND</b>	Near the foundation of Anthony Grave's house
<b>FIRSTHAND/ SECONDHAND</b>	
<b>REFERENCES</b>	D'Arcy O'Connor, pg. 183
<b>LOCATION TODAY</b>	
<b>ODDITY FACTOR</b>	
<b>ASSESSMENT OF AUTHENTICITY</b>	
<b>COMMENTS</b>	Conflicts with R.V. Harris's account that it was the "Spanish Maradevi dated 1598" that was found at this location.

search parties, and that they purposely kept quiet about it in order to avoid paying the compulsory royalty to the Nova Scotia government.

One long-standing legend concerns Anthony Graves, who purchased much of the island after John Smith's death in 1857. Graves built his house at Joudrey's Cove and lived there until he died in 1888. Graves is rumored to have occasionally purchased supplies on the mainland with Spanish coins of gold or silver. In 1930 a silver Spanish coin dated 1785 was found near the foundation of his house. Another coin, a Spanish *maravedi* said to be dated 1598, was supposedly found in 1965 near Joudrey's Cove, though the coin's authenticity is suspect.

The Graves story would seem to be nothing more than gossip, since his own family wasn't aware of it. Graves's granddaughter, Florence Eisenhauer, told Mel Chappell in 1955 that she hadn't heard of any discovery of treasure by her grandfather. But she did say that her aunt, Sophia Sellers (Graves's eldest daughter) "believed that if any treasure were buried on Oak Island, it was carried away, because she remembered a vessel coming into the cove one evening and it disappeared or departed before morning, and there were marks in the sand on the shore like a barrel having been rolled out."

Edward Vaughan of Western Shore is another whose name often comes up in local speculation about who made off with the island's treasure. His father, George (a grandson of Anthony Vaughan), is rumored to have found a chest on the island in the late 1930s. He died in 1941, and some say he left one of his two sons, Edward, an inheritance consisting of several gold ingots. Edward disappeared shortly thereafter, leaving his wife and children behind. He surfaced in Ontario many years later and died in 1968.

If Vaughan or anybody else did find something on the island, Fred Nolan, the current owner of several Oak Island lots, would not be surprised. He is certain no less than eleven separate caches have been carted away "in the past eighty years or so." He bases that claim on his discovery in recent years of several previously dug holes, none of them more than four feet deep, and most of them in the island's swamp area.