

Analysis of Artifacts
Item # 106

"Acadian Axe" brought up in excavating the Chappell Shaft

WHO FOUND	Chappell Expedition
WHEN FOUND	1931
WHERE FOUND	At 123' level in 1931 Chappell Shaft
FIRSTHAND/ SECONDHAND	
REFERENCES	Furneaux's, "The Money Pit Mystery", pg. 76
LOCATION TODAY	
ODDITY FACTOR	
ASSESSMENT OF AUTHENTICITY	
COMMENTS	

(No. 21) which became known as the 'Chappell' shaft, twelve ft. by fourteen ft. to the south-west of the shaft excavated in 1897, and also to enclose shaft No. 12. As the digging proceeded, evidence of early operations came to light: at 127 ft., a pick; at 123 ft., an axe head, resembling an Acadian axe, and estimated to be 250 years old, its edge tempered and not rusted, although the rest of it was badly corroded; at 116 ft., an anchor fluke, a bit of oak under a piece of granite, measuring four ft. by four ft., and which needed to be broken by blasting; at 127 ft., part of a miner's seal-oil lamp, and at 130 ft. and 150 ft., further pieces of granite.

These discoveries perplexed Blair, who recorded his thoughts:

'From 116 ft. six in. to 155 ft., the earth in over half of the shaft was much disturbed. How these articles reached a depth of from ten to seventeen ft. lower than any searcher ever reached, is a question that must be answered.

'These tools, I believe, belonged to searchers who worked there many years ago, and had fallen from a much higher level to where found. Both (the axe and the pick) were in perpendicular position and in soft, disturbed or filled ground.

'The only reply that I can think of is that there existed an open space into which they fell when the Pit collapsed years ago, and at that time the Pit had been opened only to eighty-six ft., hence these tools may have fallen as much as thirty-five ft. or more.

'At about 150 ft. we commenced to uncover broken up pieces of stone, the nature of which no person here can identify. They have the appearance of the so-called cement which was drilled through in previous years, and yet it does not resemble it in all respects. These stones first appeared in the disturbed portion of the Pit, a chunk or two, and gradually spread over the whole area.

'As the men worked deeper, the bottom became largely covered with this stuff in broken pieces, and Mr. Stevenson, the miner in charge of the actual work, says they appear just as if they had been dumped or dropped from a higher point. At the present level, the bottom of the Pit is covered with this stuff, and it seems as if we are in a bed of it that may extend considerably deeper. The water comes through under the shoe at the bottom on one side, and a few feet up the wall as well as at the bottom on the opposite side.