

*Analysis of Artifacts*

**Item # 125**

*Pieces of old hand-cut wood one of which has old iron hinges intact*

<b>WHO FOUND</b>	Fred Nolan
<b>WHEN FOUND</b>	1963+
<b>WHERE FOUND</b>	known by Nolan
<b>FIRSTHAND/ SECONDHAND</b>	
<b>REFERENCES</b>	Crooker's, "Oak Island Gold", Pg. 155 & 156
<b>LOCATION TODAY</b>	
<b>OBDDITY FACTOR</b>	
<b>ASSESSMENT OF AUTHENTICITY</b>	
<b>COMMENTS</b>	

Sellers and acquired the land for a price of \$2,500 which he says was \$700 more than the \$1,800 Chappell had given the Beamish family in 1961 for one-third of the Island.

In April 1963, Nolan again approached Chappell and offered to trade his newly acquired lots for an opportunity to try his luck at the Money Pit. But as before, Chappell refused.

Nolan felt defeated. He had spent a small fortune in time and money on the survey, and had nothing to show for it. But his curiosity kept him busy studying his survey notes and preparing a map of all the collected data. And as he worked, it gradually began to dawn upon him that there was more to the mystery than the Money Pit and its flood system.

The three piles of stones that Captain Allan may have been searching for in the 1880s formed the corners of a triangle in the shape of an arrow head. They were situated on top of the hill just outside the eastern boundary of his property. The sides of the triangle were about 150 feet long and the base about 100 feet. Nolan said that the stone piles (one has since been destroyed) had diameters of about 12 feet and heights of about five feet and had always been considered an old observation place. The arrow-like formation pointed directly towards the center of the swamp on Nolan's property. When Nolan found these stone piles, he also found two large ring bolts set in granite boulders that were on his property. He drew lines through the stone piles and ring bolts and decided to excavate shafts where the lines intersected, expecting that one of these intersection points would mark the location of a treasure. Utilizing a six-man work crew, he dug two 30-foot-deep shafts in 1963-1964. Nothing was found other than an old two-inch brass buckle from the bottom of one of the shafts. "But where did it come from?" Nolan asks. "Perhaps time will tell."

Nolan had for some time suspected that there might be a watertight vault somewhere else on the Island with a shaft running downward. It was now time to test out this theory and he embarked on an intensive search of his lands. In 1969, he even drained the swamp. He was surprised by what he found. His property, which extends entirely across the Island on the east side, contained numerous markers and objects which he believes are related to the original works.

Nolan discovered rocks with round holes bored or chiseled into them and some had pieces of metal inserted into the surfaces. He dug up pieces of old hand-cut wood which he believes are from an ancient

treasure chest (one piece has old iron hinges intact). He also found beach stones, bits of old wood, and metal beneath the swamp, and pieces of wood and rocks that Nolan believes are survey monuments associated with the Island's puzzle.

One of the most noteworthy discoveries that Nolan made public at the time was what he believes to be an old stone surveyor's monument which he describes as being "similar to the type used by surveyors today." Nolan verified that the stone was man-made by having it examined and analyzed by a geologist, Robert Grantham, who reported that, "The upper six or seven inches of rock have been exposed to the weather for quite some time. There were lichens growing on the upper four inches and below that are marks made by vegetation growth in the soil which surrounded the rock." He also reported that, "The rock was found on end. This is not a natural stable resting position for a rock of this shape." The monument is of sandstone. It is square in cross section with two sides smooth or natural and the other two sides rough as if cut by a chisel. Burn marks are visible suggesting that heat was applied to cut the rock. Nolan says, "Some have said that when placed on its side it resembles a Spanish galleon."

Nolan believes that the monument was definitely planted as a survey marker, bearing no relationship to a property boundary. It was found purely by accident while tracing a prolongation of the median line of the arrow-shaped triangle formed by the stone mounds. "I was crawling along on my hands and knees following this line with a hand compass when the compass actually bumped into it. That's when I found the pointed end of this stone sticking out of the ground," he recalls.

Nolan claims that numerous other rock markers have assisted him in his search, and that many are of sandstone. He told me that some of the sandstone objects had "marks and figures on them," adding that all of the rocks found in a "natural" state were granite, whereas the sandstones fitted into a pattern "placed there by others." Nolan concluded that the sandstones are not indigenous to the Island, but that they were brought there for survey purposes.

In 1971, Nolan was granted a treasure trove license and began digging. In 1973 he dug his largest hole about 650 feet northwest of the Money Pit. He picked the position from the intersection of lines projected from some of the previously found markers. But he found nothing and abandoned the hole after reaching a depth of 35 feet. "I was