

*Analysis of Artifacts*

Item # 127

*Old branding iron about 12" long with an iron handle*

<b>WHO FOUND</b>	Fred Nolan
<b>WHEN FOUND</b>	1963+
<b>WHERE FOUND</b>	From the swamp on Nolan's property
<b>FIRSTHAND/ SECONDHAND</b>	
<b>REFERENCES</b>	Crooker's, "Oak Island Gold", Pg. 176
<b>LOCATION TODAY</b>	
<b>ODDITY FACTOR</b>	
<b>ASSESSMENT OF AUTHENTICITY</b>	
<b>COMMENTS</b>	

piece of wood off the side of a sailing ship containing grooves through which ropes had once been attached. He said that extensive probing when the swamp was drained in 1969 showed no evidence of a ship having been buried beneath the mud. Another item of interest Nolan recovered from the swamp is an old branding iron. About 12 inches long, it has an iron handle but the branding protrusion marks are badly worn, making interpretation difficult if not impossible.

The press had not returned by 1:45 p.m. so we launched Nolan's 12-foot aluminum boat and loaded it up with the necessary survey equipment to include transit, tripods, range poles, and electronic distance measuring equipment.

On the way over to the Island, Nolan complained that Oak Island has seriously harmed his survey business. "People have lost respect for me because I'm a treasure hunter," he said, "and they question my judgment. As an expert witness in court I have had lawyers try to discredit me by asking if I searched for treasure as if that was a mark against me." Perhaps Nolan had hoped that press coverage of a substantial discovery would erase his supposed credibility problem.

It was low tide when the bow of the boat scraped the rocky bottom of Joudrey's Cove. I was seated in the middle and so I hopped out to lighten the load, pulling the boat partly up onto the beach. Nolan tilted up the outboard motor and tied the bow rope to a boulder near high water. "The land is alive," he joked, "You have to be sure you tie up high enough."

"Well, Bill, there is the first cone," Nolan said, pointing to a large conical-shaped granite boulder about the size of a compact automobile and situated between high and low tides about 40 feet below the high water mark of the shore. Nolan noted that this boulder is the cone lettered "C" on the left end of the arm of the Cross shown on his plot plan.

Nolan explained that the body or stem of the cross straddles the swamp with the top cone and Head Stone on the east side and the two bottom cones on the west, all on dry land; the stem of the cross runs in a southwest to northeast direction from the bottom to the top; the arms are at right angles to the stem and run northwest to southeast from the cone on Joudrey's Cove.

Nolan then said that he thinks the Cross was laid out with the English system of measurements and that the distance of 360 feet from the ends