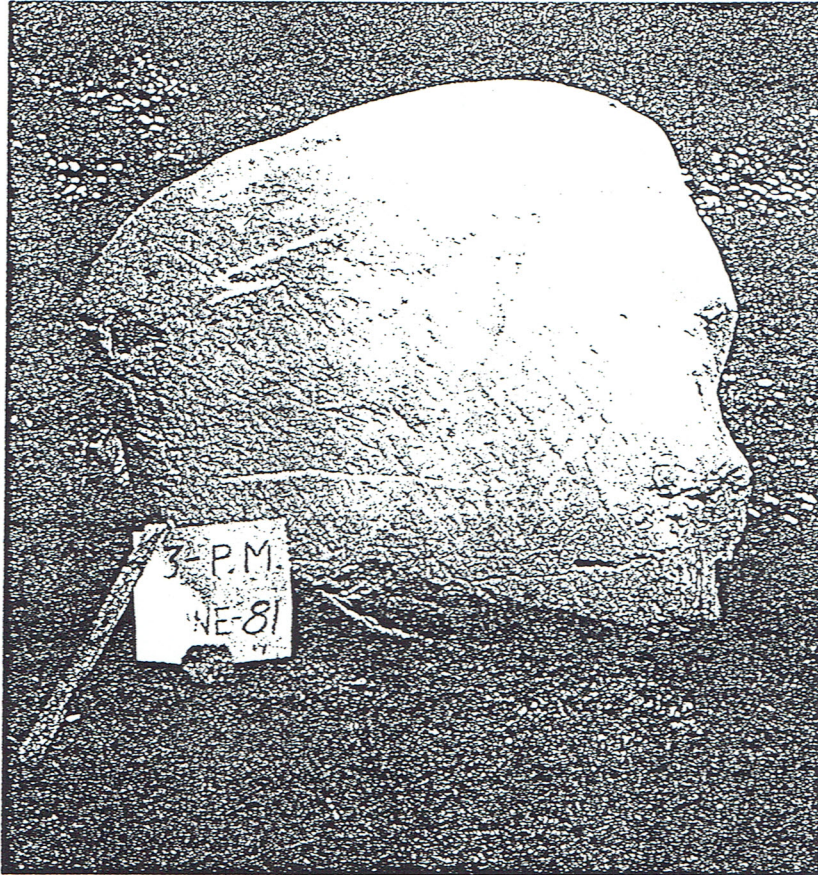


Analysis of Artifacts

Item # 134

Sandstone "Headstone" of the "Christian Cross"

WHO FOUND	Fred Nolan
WHEN FOUND	1981 (June)
WHERE FOUND	On Nolan's property See Diagram in Crooker's, "Oak Island Gold", Pg. 180 and reference to iron bar placed by Nolan to denote "exact location of the center of the cheek below the point of the dagger."(Pg. 178)
FIRSTHAND/ SECONDHAND	
REFERENCES	Crooker's, "Oak Island Gold", Pg. 170, 171, & 178
LOCATION TODAY	
ODDITY FACTOR	
ASSESSMENT OF AUTHENTICITY	
COMMENTS	



Frederick G. Nolan

The Head Stone, a startling clue in the unresolved mystery.

of the city. We sat and sipped coffee for two hours while Nolan introduced his discovery.

“I’ve been surveying and searching for over 30 years,” he said, “and I’m in the process of piecing together some substantial discoveries into a cohesive theory.”

Nolan explained that he had found many survey markers that looked natural to the layman, although they proved to be man-made. For years, he ran survey lines through points he had found and one line would frequently intersect another, resulting in still another discovery. “I would find two markers and project a line through them and find a third but at that time it didn’t make any sense,” he said. However, as time

went by the pieces of the puzzle began to fall into place. But when he finally arrived at the juncture where his discoveries suggested a solution to the mystery, he couldn't share it. "I needed something of a substantial nature to show," Nolan said. "I needed something that people would be able to understand and relate to, and now I have it."

Obviously, if Nolan was going to undertake a major excavation he probably required backers. It would be difficult to attract investors on the basis of a series of survey markers, many of which appeared to be nothing more than natural splinters of rock. I understood his problem. But I left our little meeting with no information other than that he had found "something great and man-made," as he had described it. He wasn't prepared to disclose his discovery. "I still haven't quite made up my mind if I want to share this with the public," he said, as we shook hands in the restaurant lobby.

But Nolan had apparently "made up his mind" on that evening of June 17th. He told me to take the photograph of the rock which he had dubbed "the Head Stone" and show it to anyone. "See what they say," he suggested. Then he let me in on his find.

Nolan explained that the rock survey markers were intended to appear natural so that no one would "get tipped off" and go searching for the treasure. They were only supposed to be meaningful to the people who put them there but were also meaningful to him because when he ran lines through unquestionably artificial things such as anchor bolts in rocks, he intercepted these markers. Some of these markers were not hand-worked in any way, but were obviously hand-placed due to the abnormal positions in which they were found. They were not laying in a natural state. Rather, they were positioned "straight up" with "a pointed end protruding through the surface of the ground."

Nolan recounted that he would find two or three survey markers in one location and two or three in another but they made no sense until he tied them together by running lines between them in all directions. "I would go to sleep at night wondering what I might learn by joining one point to another. Then I would go out to the Island the next day and survey for the answer," Nolan reminisced. He said that when he took measurements between markers, he was looking for some measurement or measurements that fit a "pattern." He was looking for a meaningful measurement that could be applied and eventually he found it. "I felt that all those markers had to mean something," Nolan said. "The trick

almost flush with the ground, after a little back-filling to preserve the stone. "It's not in the exact position where we found it," Nolan said. "We didn't know what it meant at the time so we laid it aside a few feet. We were planning to dig a shaft here but we referenced its original position." Nolan pointed to an iron bar protruding a few inches out of the ground. "That is in the exact location of the center of the cheek below the point of the dagger," he said.

The granite boulder at the end of the south arm of the Cross, lettered "B" on the plot plan, was about the same size and shape as the one at the shore. Even though it had been tipped over, the indenture in the ground at its original position was clear. Nolan said they discovered the remains of a wrought iron stove under the rock when they rolled it over and exposed its bottom. He also said they found small beach stones under the rock. John C. O'Keefe, a retired gentleman of East Uniacke, Nova Scotia, who had worked with Nolan on the Island, recalls: "There's a big rock up there in the field, a great big boulder. We took the bulldozer and the backhoe and rolled it over and out of the way and there underneath were pieces of an old wrought iron pot bellied stove, right there on top and as we dug down we found other pieces. The pieces were beveled and as we dug them up you could see it was a pot bellied stove.... How it ever got down there is beyond me.... Fred was really surprised and we kept digging and digging and found other pieces of stuff there, too, like knives and forks. I don't know how a big rock ever got on top of all that. Why would someone go to all the trouble of digging a hole, burying all that stuff and then rolling a big rock like that over it? It just doesn't make any sense." (O'Keefe didn't know about the discovery of the Cross configuration at the time of the interview so he had no notion as to why the boulder might have found a place above the buried items.)

I questioned O'Keefe about the presence of beach stones under the rock and he said, "There were beach stones all over the place, actually. There were beach stones in several holes we dug and there could have been some under the big rock but I can't remember for sure."

Continuing the tour of the Cross, Nolan showed me the cone-shaped stones on the stem. They were all similar in shape and size to the one at the beach. The two lower cones of the stem were undisturbed but the top one was misplaced by about 20 feet. It had held no significance to Nolan when it was discovered and disturbed but fortunately the depression in the ground where it had once rested was clearly visible,