

Analysis of Artifacts

Item # 136

Pieces of an old wrought iron pot bellied stove under southern arm boulder of the "Christian Cross"

WHO FOUND	Fred Nolan John C. O'Keefe
WHEN FOUND	1981
WHERE FOUND	Diagram on pg. 180 of Crooker Book, "Oak Island Gold" (Cone "B")
FIRSTHAND/ SECONDHAND	
REFERENCES	Crooker's, "Oak Island Gold", Pg. 178
LOCATION TODAY	
ODDITY FACTOR	
ASSESSMENT OF AUTHENTICITY	
COMMENTS	

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,