

# *Analysis of Artifacts*

Item # 138

## Hand-forged wrought iron spike below Smith's Cove

WHO FOUND	Triton Alliance
WHEN FOUND	1970
WHERE FOUND	U-shaped structure where "heavy planks were nailed across the uprights"
FIRSTHAND/ SECONDHAND	
REFERENCES	Triton's 1988 "Summary of Operations ...." pg.3:05 and Appendix B Triton's "Summary of Work Performed at Smith's Cove August 31 - September 18, 1970" by Dan Blankenship and dated Sept 21, 1970 (Item #9) <i>Stelco @ 11-19-70</i>
LOCATION TODAY	
ODDITY FACTOR	
ASSESSMENT OF AUTHENTICITY	
COMMENTS	Analyzed by Stelco as being estimated "to be produced prior to 1790 based on the metal form used (hand-forged shapes)

SUMMARY OF WORK PERFORMED AT SMITH'S COVE  
AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 18, 1970

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Monday we installed two pumps in the enclosed dam area and by Tuesday evening we had the area dewatered. Having taken advantage of the low tide we managed to complete the dam keeping the inside relatively dry.

Wednesday we started trenching around the inside of the dam in order to more thoroughly dry up the inside and leave it suitable to work in.

By Friday morning the trenching was complete. In trenching we uncovered a layer of logs about 9' long and averaging 5" to 6" in diameter laid at right angles to 3 large logs underneath. These logs averaged about 10" to 14" in diameter. Incidentally, these logs were directly underneath the old dock shown on our composite plan.

Accompanying this resume is a scaled drawing basically of Smith's Cove. It can be lined up by centering the Hamilton Shaft, Pit "J" and the large rock to the left of center of Smith's Cove over the composite map as prepared by George Bates, surveyor.

The items uncovered by excavation inside the dam follow:

Item #1: An inclined ramp about 9' wide and 90' long (neither end found). These logs are very old and when followed towards shore the remains of a higher dock (and much newer) were found on top of the rocks left above the lower ramp. These rocks averaged 2' to 3' thick over the lower ramp.

Item #2: A "U" shape structure alongside the ramp and just south. The northern side is over 45' long, the front about 65' and the southern side over 30', however, the southern end has been destroyed towards shore. This structure is basically a large spruce log from 12" to 20" in diameter into which is notched a 6" X 7" spruce timber and secured by a 2" thick oak peg. These timbers are spaced about 4'0" on center. Across this log on one end only was found 2 timbers lying loose with 2 notches in one end. A sketch is enclosed. Roman numerals are cut into the log by each location. Heavy 2" planks (hardwood) are secured to the bottom of the angle pieces. These timbers are sawn by hand.

Item #3: A neat row of 2" timbers approximately 3' long and in good condition, obviously an attempt at a dam.

Item #4: A row of 1-3/4' boards laid horizontally and tight together about 5' high, obviously an attempt to stop the water.

Item #5: Two or three horizontal boards laid 6" apart with clay in between; an attempt to stop the water?

Item #6: A searchers shaft only 18" behind item #5, about 4' wide and 8' long.

Item #7: A piece of metal pipe found about 6' deep below the original beach level, about 3" diameter and 14" long.

Item #8: Two pieces of a dish taken out in the vicinity of the loose logs. (Item #1)

Item #9: A nail dug out of the loose laying timber on item #2. (See enclosed report from Stelco)

(Items 7, 8, and 9 taken by Kerry Ellard as well as a 6" x 6" timber secured with oak peg about 18" long.)

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Item #10: A piece of dish and a piece of mug found under ramp.

Item #11: A wooden box 18" wide and 24" long, a sketch of which is enclosed. The sides are 4" x 6" oak, the bottom 2" thick oak and the ends 1" spruce. One end of the oak sides is beveled and an oak dowel is in one side only. This was found at least 2 feet below the bottom of the large log on the inside corner of item #2, apparently hidden.

I will be doing considerable hand work in digging for artifacts around item #1 and #2 in the next week. The heavy work by machinery has been terminated at least until we get some results back, and if we decide to excavate further.

I wish to bring out one point of interest. At low tide, a steady stream of water could be seen issuing forth from the sand at the intersection of #4 and B on the Grid Plan. This is of course just outside our dam. We dug into it by hand and the water gushed out a very coarse gravel and of course was salty. We could not proceed further because of the tide. I believe this could very well be a still active flood tunnel, but in order to excavate, our existing dam would have to be pushed out at this point. The cost of this would be about \$300.00.

The total cost of excavating inside our dam, including trenching, trucking, bulldozing, gradall work, pumping, gas for pumps, hand labour, surveying, plans, etc., from August 31 through September 18 has been \$3,241.15.

(signed)

Daniel C. Blankenship  
Oak Island  
September 21, 1970

When the widening of Borehole 10X was completed, an underwater television camera was lowered into the cavity below the bedrock. Photographs of the television screen showed a number of anomalies which continue to baffle experts in photographic analysis.<sup>6</sup> Several attempts at diving into this cavity were also inconclusive due to the extreme chalkiness of the bedrock which turned the water completely opaque as soon as it was disturbed.

Despite these disappointments, Borehole 10X continues to be an area of great interest and work there is continuing.

In addition to the money pit and Borehole 10X, another important exploration site is Smith's Cove where 19th century searchers discovered the entrance to a flood tunnel leading to the money pit some 500 ft. away. In 1970, Triton built a coffer dam at the cove and excavated below the exposed seabed. The results of this preliminary exploration were quite interesting.

Close to the inner edge of the new coffer dam, well beyond any area reached by previous searchers, three 30-foot notched logs were found buried about four feet below the ocean floor. These logs were lying in a loose U-shaped configuration with the open end toward the shore. All three logs were identically notched to accept both horizontal and upward-slanting squared timbers. In some instances remains of both the horizontal and upright timbers were still attached by oak dowels. At one place, heavy planks were nailed across the uprights with hand-forged wrought iron spikes. According to metallurgists at STELCO, these spikes were definitely manufactured prior to 1790.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Ref: Appendix A-1

<sup>7</sup> Ref: Appendix B-6