

Analysis of Artifacts

Item # 144

Metal "plate" in Triton Shaft location

WHO FOUND	Triton Alliance(Dan Blankenship)
WHEN FOUND	1973
WHERE FOUND	From a borehole ^{#301} in middle of Triton Shaft location below level where wrought iron wire was retrieved
FIRSTHAND/ SECONDHAND	
REFERENCES	Letter from K. Ellerd dated 11/19/70 Dan Blankenship's "Current Report Oak Island" dated Sept. 20, 1973
LOCATION TODAY	
OBDDITY FACTOR	
ASSESSMENT OF AUTHENTICITY	
COMMENTS	

#5

September 20, 1973

Current Report Oak Island

Since the report of last June, we received the analysis of the small piece of wire found in hole #301 at a depth of 95' in a solid clay core. Mr. A. B. Dove of Steelco of Canada confirms the metal as being made between 1500 and 1800. This excludes the possibility of it being searchers work. This location happens to be about 800 feet away from the Money Pit. That in itself is enough to positively identify it as being original. At 98' we came up solid on a piece of iron. Two drillers confirmed the opinion that we were hitting on iron plate. The iron was about 9' below the bottom of our 8" casing. While I was showing the action of the drill to a driller the bit pierced the iron and we weren't able to shake it off until we brought it up to the bottom of the casing and after beating it against the bottom for several minutes we finally succeeded in dislodging it. Upon withdrawing the bit from the hole, we could see that the back-edge was deeply cut. Only metal could have done this.

We then tried to retrieve a solid core by using a diamond drill supplied by Warnock-Hershey. However, the drill came up solid on the bottom about 12" higher than where we hit the iron. When we pulled the diamond bit, the bottom wrenched off and stayed in the hole. We then tried a second core, the next day with a smaller diamond bit. We succeeded in getting a solid core of rock, but again at a depth about 14" higher than where we hit the iron.

We then tried to advance our 8" casing and proceed with our drilling. We made about 15' more but had to abandon the hole when we couldn't penetrate a tight, sticky layer of clay. Needless to say the iron obviously fell off to one side when we shook it off our drill.

We then moved to another location and set up. We didn't have enough cable to reach to the bottom of 10-X or #24.

This hole also has an interesting history. From ground level to 125' the hole seemed normal. From 125' to 129' we hit solid stones. They seemed to turn in the ground when you hit them with the drill and they kept coming in on top of the drill bit after you had passed down a ways. It took us three to four days to get through this rocky area as we had to keep sharpening the bit, as we only have one 8" bit.

From 130' to 230' the hole appeared to be filled in and in an un-natural condition. For one thing, the hole kept caving in, and we had to keep advancing our casing. The material coming out didn't seem to be in formation. At one time we could see four different types of clay and different colors, on our drill bar. This is very suspicious to say the least. We also brought up pieces of anhydrite rock and granite stones in the same formation. We never hit bed rock until 230'. At 225' the drill dropped about 2 to 3 feet. However, no wood was hit.

We decided we just missed a chamber at approximately 225'. It must be remembered that at 110' our drill was deflected and we had a hard time continuing the hole. We hit two large stones at this level.

It was decided to move over 5 ft. and see if we couldn't put down a straight hole. This hole is presently at 115'. Jerry dropped a large bolt in this hole Sept. 15th and we've had nothing but trouble since.

The brass bushing wore out on our hoisting line and is currently being repaired at Hawboldts. It should be ready by Monday.

After several discussions with M. R. Chappell and Claude Chappell we deem the evidence sufficient to put down a searcher's shaft at the location where we hit the wire, and iron. The water was bailed out continuously for 3 hrs. and measured as being between 12 and 15 gals. per min. This doesn't present any problem and the shaft should be put down in the dry using our existing 6" casing for a pumping hole.

We bought about 7000 bd. ft. of 5" X 12", 4" x 12" and 6" X 12" from Percy Wentzell. This cost \$60.00 per thousand. New lumber would cost about \$200.00 per thousand.

We cleared off the point of land south of Smith's Cove, this summer making use of two men supplied by the Province. This wood has been carried to the mill and we have over 600 logs. This is enough to put a shaft down to 100'.

The iron shoe has been made and is ready to be placed in the ground.

New plans are being revised to conform with existing conditions and also to satisfy the safety requirements.

Wm. Bowmaster has pledged to supply a welder, pump, bull dozer and new bits for our drill for participation only. He has already supplied 200' of 6½" casing.

Russell Hopper is hoping to fix up a compressor for us and anything else that he might have that we could use. Again for participation.

Lester Veinotte has offered to give us whatever help he can.

My son, David, is foregoing a job paying \$9.55 per hr. so he can be with me and work in the shaft. He will also participate.

A complete break-down of labor and material is being prepared and a cost breakdown.

Daniel C. Blankenship

The Steel Company of Canada, *Limited*



CANADA WORKS. Hamilton, Ontario.

November 19, 1970

Triton Alliance Ltd.
6200 Grande Allee
ST. HUBERT, Quebec

Attention: Mr. K. Ellard
The Oak Island Exploration

Dear Mr. Ellard

I am sending this letter directly to you as requested in Mr. Davis' letter of November 6th. With Mr. Davis' letter were included two containers, numbered 13 and 20, having the appellations "Borehole 201, Sample 10" and "Borehole 202, Sample 2" respectively. The small metal fragments contained in Borehole 201, Sample 10 are too friable for any sort of consistent examination but their general structure indicates that they were produced from wrought iron which would date them prior to 1800. The foliation in the corroded samples is quite characteristic of that particular type of material.

The sample indicated as Borehole 202, Sample 2 appears to be a replacement material in which calciferous and siliceous material has replaced iron. Some of the iron is still contained in the calciferous material and, therefore, some portions are still magnetic. Other portions of this particular material are not magnetic at all and this suggests the replacement in sea water of the iron bicarbonates and of course the siliceous material which is visible. Even though two sides of this small sample appear to be at an angle of 90°, it would be quite difficult to state the origin or age of such a material. Such replacement processes are normally very slow so one could assume a considerable age.

A shipment was received from Mr. Blenkinship which contained some pieces of wood thought to have nails embedded therein and a piece of iron bar with one end pointed in a chisel-type point. No nails were found in the wood; indeed, one protruding portion which was thought to be a nail, when opened was found to contain a wood nodule around which the wood had grown. These samples have been taped together again and are being returned to you. Even where iron salts had gathered on the outside of the wood, it will be seen that there is no nail inside, the nail having been chemically changed to soluble salts and transferred throughout the cellulosic material of the wood. The bar contained in this particular shipment, however, was very interesting. It is wrought iron of excellent consistency and very clean stock. It was probably produced in Europe and forged there. It is about the purest bit of iron that I have seen in a long time insofar as early materials is concerned. There would have been little purpose in producing a wrought iron after 1800 for such a tool as this.

(2)

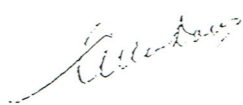
The tool could have been used either as a pry bar or as a drift pin for major wooden construction. I was rather surprised that the corrosion had not been as great on this bar as on earlier materials but I would still believe that it was produced prior to 1800. The 300 magnification photographs of the cross-section are shown at photo number 1..

A second sample from Mr. Blankenship which was contained in a Kodak film box accompanied his letter of November 9th. In that letter he stated that the small piece of iron taken from the bit at approximately 130 ft. depth at Borehole 205 was included. This piece was said to be 1-3/4" x 1-3/4" x 5/8" thick and that he had broken off a very small corner. Mr. Blankenship suggested that the metal was similar to material taken from a hole about 7 ft. away. This is not the case. This is the most peculiar piece of metal yet studied as will be seen from photograph number 2. The main body of metal contains what would normally be accepted as a fairly normal iron for the early periods prior to 1760 - dirty, full of holes, and indeed not too abnormal for a piece of melted iron overflow from a furnace. Strangely enough, however, within this matrix there are small spheroids of very good steel - high carbon material - which apparently has resulted from deoxidation and purification of the outer shell. These particles are very small as will be seen from the curvature at 300 magnifications of the light portion of photograph number 2. These small particles of bright metal can be observed throughout the darker matrix. The darker material is overlaid with a fairly heavy scale which is not completely magnetic. This leads to the belief that this metal formed and hardened in an atmosphere low in oxygen, thereby accounting for the lower magnetic value of the outer body and the presence of the unoxidized particles on the outside of the sample. These particles, being almost a martensitic steel, are highly magnetic. I cannot account in any way for the formation of this material except that it was formed at very high temperature and in the absence of oxygen.

Again, in sending this letter, I do not know if I have helped you or hindered you. We can say quite surely that Mr. Blankenship's sample is not at all similar to the samples sent in by Mr. Davis. We can say that the bar is very pure wrought iron and was probably produced in Northern Europe. Had we found some nails in the wood, it might have been of considerable help, but the very nature of wood tends to draw in moisture and dissolve iron materials, particularly when they are under water as these were.

I am enclosing the photographs numbers 1 and 2 and am sending along the samples which should be reasonably identifiable being in the original containers. I trust that this information will prove of some assistance to you.

Yours very truly,
THE STEEL COMPANY OF CANADA, LIMITED



A. E. Dove
Senior Development Metallurgist
Wire and Fastener Divisions

ARD/SF
Encl: