M. R. Chappell

Sydney, Nova Scotia

September 20th, 1973

Mr. Dan Blankenship
c/o Oak Islan d Motel
Martin's Point
Lunenburg Co., N.S.

Dear Dan:

I mentioned to you that I was preparing data for a book, am sending a copy to you. The data which I have gotten together is up to Dunfield's time only. When you have the time kindly go over what I have prepared; make any corrections where I may have made an error and if you notice anything that I have left our make a note of it. Le me know what you think of the data. You could no doubt add to Dunfields data and possibly to Restalls data. The proposed cover and some diagrams are enclosed. Other pictures should go in the book such as The parchment, the whistle, the coconut fibre and possibly other data prior to 1965.

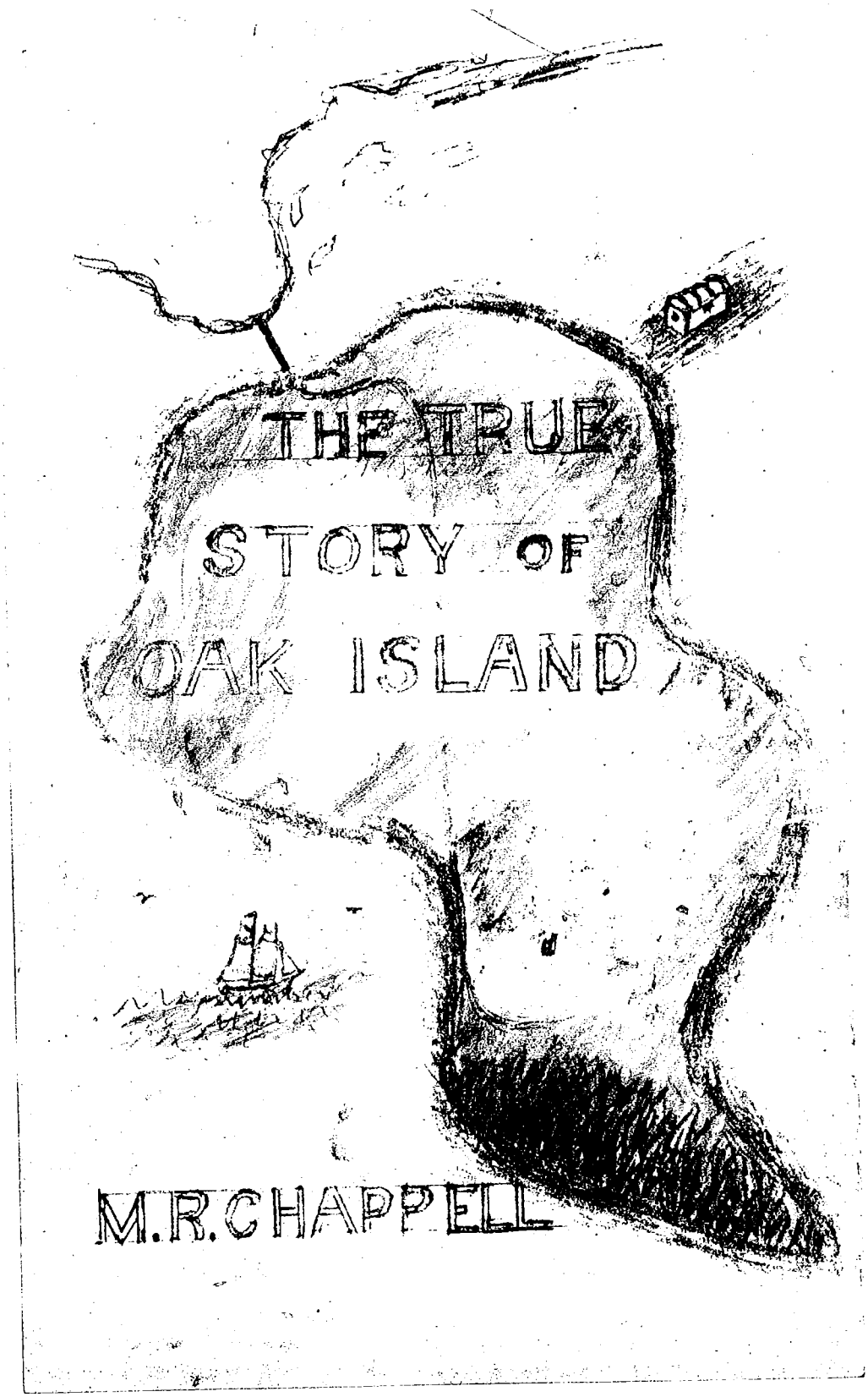
The data from 1965 on will make a lot of interesting reading and some pictures of real interest. Re this material, I do not feel that I have enough facts to prepare the manuscript.

Dan blankenship, David Tobias and Kerry Ellard could prepare a wonderful story from 1966 to date without divulging any private or confidential information or any data that has not already been published in magazines, the press or over the air. Letme know what you think of the idea of a book and what you think of the data I have submitted. Is it worth sending to David.

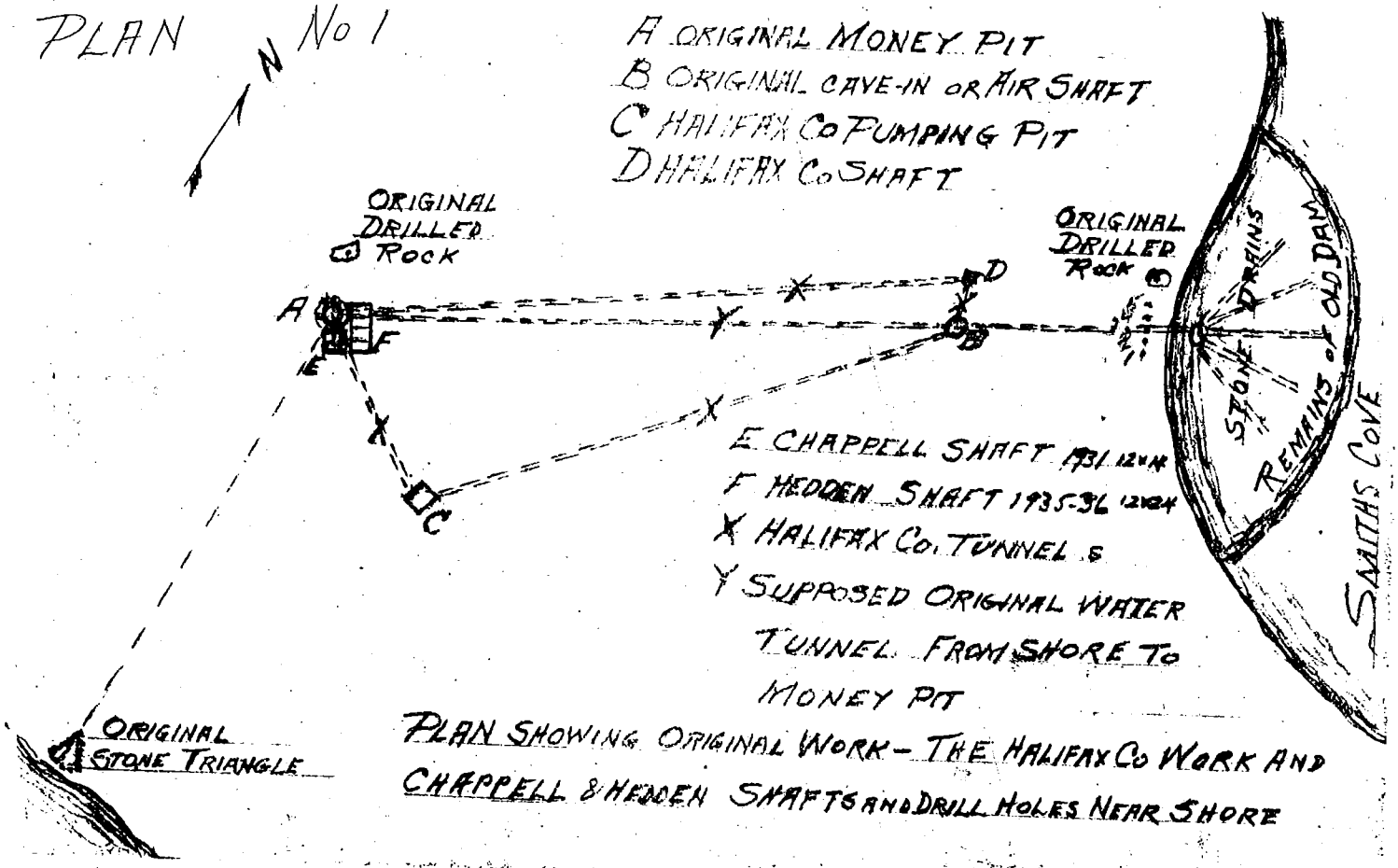
Kindest regards,

M.R. CHAPPELL

MRC/jh

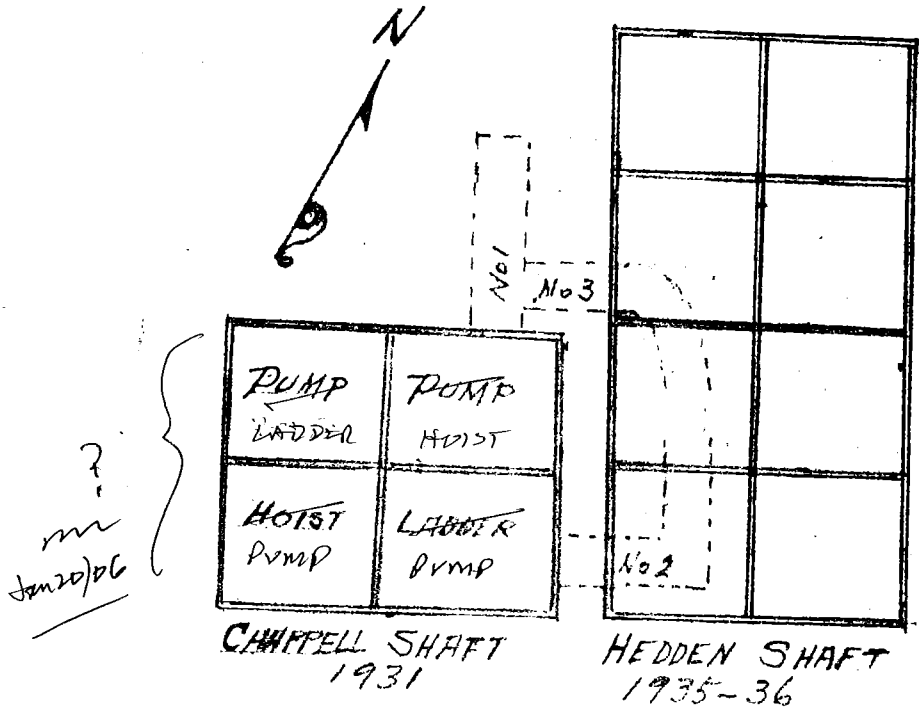

THE TRUE
STORY OF
OAK ISLAND
M.R.CHAPPELL

PLAN No 1



PLAN SHOWING ORIGINAL WORK – THE HALIFAX Co WORK AND CHAPPELL & HEDDEN SHAFTS AND DRILL HOLES NEAR SHORE

PLAN No 4



CHAPPELL AND HEDDEN SHAFTS

DOTTED LINES SHOWS TUNNELS 1931

MENTIONED IN BLAIR LETTER OCT. 22-1931

THE TRUE STORY OF OAK ISLAND

FOREWORD

Oak Island is an island located in Mahone Bay along with a number of other Islands some larger, some smaller. It has been rumured a total of 365 one for each day in the year, infest the Bay.

Oak Island is located close to the Mainland separated by a strip of water only four to five hundred feet wide.

The Island is about one mile long and nearly one half mile wide at the widest part containing some One hundred and thirty acres.

The data in this publication up to 1950 has been obtained from information accumulated by the Late Mr. Frederick L. Blair who as a young man in the early 1890's become interested in Oak Island and the story of buried treasure.

Mr. Blair was able in his researches to secure authentic information from individuals who had worked with earlier searchers and particularly from Mrs. Sellers a granddaughter of Mr. Vaughn one of the original discoverers in 1795 who in 1890 was about fifty years old and was very familar with what had been done on Oak Island.

Due to the fact that there was a direct connection between the various groups who worked on Oak Island, individuals who were interested in one group also became interested in the following group hense Mr. Blair was able to secure records of the workings of several of the groups who did work on Oak Island, consequently his data is authentic and accurate.

This volumn is dedicated to the memory of the Late Frederick L. Blair and his associates who spent so much time, energy and effort in endeavouring to solve the mystery of Oak Island.

PREFACE

The author of this volume is the son of the late William Chappell who was on the Island with the Oak Island Treasure Company for twenty months in 1895-6 & 7. From whom a great deal of the data of that Companie's operations was secured.

In 1931 the Chappell shaft was sunk. William Chappell being there during the entire operation. The author being present for two or three days twice a month and having assisted in the design of the shaft and determining the method of procedure.

In preparing the history of a project covering a period of 179 years during which time a number of groups took part, a great deal of detail must of necessity be omitted. In the following pages the highlights of the various undertakings are portrayed.

Chapter 1

The beginning

The story of Oak Island has a beginning somewhat different from most Treasure Trove, Pirate Stories and Buried Treasure. These stories generally begin with an old chart or map with devious markings on it and sometimes a key to the markings, sometimes X marks the spot. Or it may be that some old seaman has been befriended by a kind hearted soul and in return the stranger relates his sad experience with a group of cut throats who had plundered towns carrying off all the valuables they could find and depositing them on some lonely Island in a far off sea, and endeavour to describe the location, he being the sole survivor having escaped from the ship which was shipwrecked or captured by another pirate gang, he escaping by jumping overboard and swimming to shore through shark infested waters.

Oak Island story had a very different beginning.

In the year 1795 three boys in their late teens living near Oak Island and knowing that a pond near the outer end of the Island was frequented by game birds decided they would take a hunting trip. They landed on the shore opposite to the pond. In making their way over the raised ground they discovered a small clearing with a slight depression by the side of which stood a large oak tree. They noticed that one of the large lower branches had been cut off and in scuffing around in the depression came across a rusted ships block. This immediately excited their curiosity and having heard of pirates and buried treasure they after having secured a couple of ducks from the pond returned home.

They kept their discovery a secret and later decided to investigate the spot.

With picks and shovels they uncovered what appeared to be a shaft about twelve to thirteen feet in diameter. Pick marks were clearly distinguished on the sides. At ten feet they encountered a layer of timber with ends embedded in the sides of the shaft. Their hopes ran high, but on removing the timber they found only more earth, they kept on digging and at twenty feet they encountered a second layer of timber same as the first layer.

On removing this layer of timber they still found nothing but earth. They were beginning to become discourged; however, they kept on digging and at thirty feet they encountered a third layer of timber. These were removed and again more earth beneath.

By this time the work was becoming quite strenuous and they were becoming really discourgged so decided to call off.

For some time they still kept their find a secret among themselves.

One of the many mysteries associated with Oak Island is the burning question of who did the immense amount of work done on the Island prior to the discovery in 1795, when the work was done and for what purpose unless for the concealment of something of great value.

Many conjectures have been put forth as to who did the original work. The question immediately arises was it the work of Pirates and if so which one of the many who roamed the seas, or was it a group who made Oak Island a headquarters for secreting their ill gotten loot. Names of many pirates have been mentioned, prominently among them Capt. Wm. Kidd, Henry Morgan, Blackbeard and others.

Was it the Crown Jewels of France or a payroll for the French Soldiers in North America, the commanding officer learning of the beseiging of Louisbourg or Quebec diverted his valuable cargo to Oak Island.

Was it the St. Andrews Church Plate and valuable treasure which is said to have disappeated during Cromwells time.

Could it have been the Inca Treasure from Peru. Some claim it may be the Shakesperian Papers etc, etc. One party claimed it was the so called Cacus Island treasure which was removed from Cacus Island and reburied on Oak Island.

So the search goes on in the hope the mystery will be solved.

Chapter 11

PRIATES IN NOVA SCOTIA WATERS

The late Dr. W.A. Creelman, L.L.D. former supervisor of schools in Sydney, whose uncle at one time worked with two of the groups exploring Oak Island, prepared a short history of Pirates in and about Nova Scotia waters, here quoted verbatum from his manuscript.

Since the middle of the eighteenth century, tales of pirates and hidden gold have been gradually passing from the realm of reality to that of romance; but along the Atlantic seaboard of North America in the seventeenth century, pirates in ugly reality sailed the seas not only in single ships, but at times in fleets.

It is an unquestioned matter of history that in those good old days the whole coast from New England down to the far Carolinas swarmed with these ear-ringed scoundrels of the sea.

With these men-living in open defiance of all laws-men who openly plied their so-called "Red Sea" trade and made "Arab Gold" a common medium of exchange, many respectable, church going merchants of New York, Philadelphia and Charleston were in the secret chambers of their counting houses hand and glove.

From the time when the American Commonwealths began to take their place in the commerce of the world, smuggling was the rule rather than the exception among the thousands of colonials who in pursuit of gain went down to the sea in ships. England by her "Trade and Navigation and Fishery Acts" attempted in vain to put a stop to this wide spread trading in contrabond; yet long before these Acts ever saw the light in "Old Westminister", pirates had become familiar figures in the taverns around Bowling Green along the water front of New York.

A matter of fact man; however, might ask at this point what has authentic history to say on all this? As the question is a pertinent one, let us look into history:

In Johnston's "History of the Pirates" and Esquemeling's "Buccaneers of America", one reads that rich merchants in New York City, as well as men prominent in the official life of the Commonwealth, were often the sleeping partners of these pistol belted sea

rogues who grew wealthy by plundering the treasure laden galleys of Spain and the well lined trading ships both of the West and the East Indies.

The robbers made no secret about it at all. In fact any well known pirate ship could lie quietly at anchor in the harbor of seventeenth century New York without exciting any more comment than would the presence of a Gloucester fisherman in any of our Maritime harbors today.

Coming to publications more modern, perhaps the greatest authority today among the new, twentieth century school in American history, is Sydney George Fisher; and on page 20 of his, "True History of the American Revolution", you will read of pirates and piracy in American waters as follows:

> "In early colonial times, piracy had been almost openly practiced, and respectable people even governors of colonies were interested in the profits. The distinction between privateering, smuggling, piracy and buccaneering was light; the steps from one to the other was easy. PROTECTION TO PIRATES WERE OPENLY SOLD IN NEW YORK CITY and handsome presents given to the Governor and his daughters. It was a profitable occupation and pursued as eagerly as modern stock jobbing and speculation. Charleston was equally deep in the business.
> Lord Bellamont was sent out from England in 1695 as Governor of New York as the result of what we would now call a "Reform Movement". He reported, 'a most lycencious trade with pirates' 'The people of New York' he wrote, 'grow rich, but the customs, they decrease'."

But coming down now to bed rock or rather to the bed clay of Oak Island and the treasures that undoubtedly lie buried there, the matter of fact reader may ask also as he had the most perfect right to ask what evidence from unquestioned history can be produced to back up this cock and bull story about Oak Island? On what evidence, in fact, exists that pirates, even in those admittedly piratic times, were ever seen at all along the then bleak shores of NOva Scotia? I, who am writing this have over and over again been asked just such questions as these, and I'll answer them now as I did before:

Leaving Captain Kidd, who not likely ever came within hailing distance of Nova Scotia and who was never proven to have been a pirate at all, entirely out of the question, the fact that Pirates in large numbers assembled once upon a time at La Have on the Lunenburg coast, has been a matter of provincial history for over a hundred years. And if any should ask what has La Have got to do with Oak Island, the

Answer is hhis: Oak Island lies in Chester Bay and Chester Bay is just around the corner, as one might say from the mouth of the Old Historic La Have. Furthermore, this Bay of Chester was in the Seventeenth century probably the best lurking and hiding place for these sea robbers to be found along the whole American seaboard from Isle Royale to Florida.

Imagine, if you can, in 1700 a half century before the founding of Halifax, the absolute desolation that must have reigned along that Nova Scotia coast. In those early years ships could have lain hidden until they rotted in that Nova Scotian Bay of Islands now known as Mahone Bay, and no one ever the wiser except the Captains and the crews. No reasoning man would ever doubt this who had once sailed in behind the Tancooks and looked around him in that little forest bound sea with its hundreds of islands: islands that by their wooded heights and coves must then have assured a hiding place for ships equal if not superior to any that have ever been described in fiction.

And to say that the pirates, whom we shall show as having once infested the neighboring La Have, never know of Oak Island in days when their daily business was to lie hidden until some ship of New England came up over the southern sky line, would only be to state the extremely improbable. Around the year 1700 A.D. Pirates in large numbers were assembled at La Have to plunder the ships of New England; and to do this most effectively, why it goes without saying that in twos and threes they would have taken cover and watched the seas from the bays all along that coast.

It might be even again asked, however, what would a pirate or any number of pirates for that matter, want at the beginning of the eighteenth centurey to hid their treasures on Oak Island or elsewhere, instead of wasting it and making a display of it as in the Old Bowling Green days. That question is answered in one of the lines quoted from Fisher's history. This one:-

"Lord Bellamont was sent out from England in 1695 as the result of what we would now call 'A Reform Movement'."

This so called, "Reform Movement", was nothing more nor less than a determined effort on the part of England to sweep these pirates off the seas; and so successful were many of England's ships of the line in this sea cleaning business that, in ever increasing numbers, skull and crossbones ships were being sent to the bottom of the sea while in swinging batches their crews were being hung as high as Haman. The effect of all this on these brethern of the wave was to render them cautious and somewhat timid. Their ships began to seek cover, at times were forced to run for cover; the old vaunting, swashbuckling days were gone. Their business, in fine, was ceasing to be either a safe or a profitable one.

Under such changed conditions, therefore, what would you very likely have talked about, had you in some hidden cove made one of a group of these now hunted men? To be caught with the "Goods" was certain death; cleared of these "goods" - hidden until better times and governors of the old kidney ruled again - meant perhaps a chance with a golden provision for old age. Or, again, what would you in all likelihood have considered as a wise, not to be delayed move on your part, had you been a bloody pirate, sailing with others on the highseas with stolen goods below decks and a hundred cut throats for a crew above decks, if some tall English ships of the line came looming up over the horizon? Is it an unreasonable assumption that knowing the latitude of Oak Island knowing its possibilities for you, you would have barked an order to that ear ringed scoundrel at the wheel to head her Nor-Nor East or West as your location then might be and that all the other ships sailing with you would have done the same?

I shall now give the history facts connection Nova Scotia with all this. For we in Nova Scotia can likewise boast that in our annals are true tales of governors and pirates and plundered ships away back yonder in the good old times when piratic songs like, "Yo Ho who'll sail to the Main with me?" were more familiar in certain Atlantic ports than some forerunner of "Rock of Ages." We turn for information to Nova Scotia's first historian and America's pioneer humorist, Thomas Chandler Haliburton. One page 82 of his "Historical Account of Nova Scotia", we read of Acadia in 1700 as follows:

"Brouillan, the Governor of Acadia, was ordered to encourage the trade of LaHave, to rebuild and enlarge the fortifications and to prevent as far as possible the English colonies from participating in the fisheries. The condition of Canada did not permit him to hope for succour from the Commander in chief (at the assistance of the pirates who at that time infested the shores of the Atlantic. Upon this invitation they resorted in GREAT NUMBERS to LA HAVE which was favorably situated for committing depredations on the trade of Massachusetts. The money which was thus thrown into circulation and the quantities of merchandise which they disposed of, afforded him the means of paying the savages whom he instigated against the people of New England".

That's history. But owing to the fact that the treasure chambers at Oak Island have twice been proven to exist from evidence of boring operations, evidence vouched for by men of the highest standing and belong to more than one generation of Nova Scotians, history in consequence is not necessary here.

Yet to any who may ask as others before them have asked - what evidence from history is there that pirates were ever at or near Oak Island - the above should surely supply all the answer necessary.

W.A. Creelman, L.L.D.

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The foregoing is an endeavor to line together authentic history and is written with the hope of removing from the mind of those who read the following pages any doubt of the fact that pirates did infest the shores of Nova Scotia, that while LaHave was to them an open port, Mahone Bay in which Oak Island lies was a haven of rest to which they could resort and be secure from observation from either land or sea.

Chapter 111

WAS GOLD APLENTY IN THE OLDEN DAYS

On page 262 of William H. Prescott's history of the Conquest of Peru you will find the Inca King, when captured by the Spaniards, offered to fill the room about 17 feet by 22 feet to the height of 9 feet with gold and to fill an adjoining room of smaller dimensions twice full of silver in two months and on page 282 may be read:

> "The business of melting down the plate was intrusted to the Indian goldsmiths, who were thus required to undo the work of their own hands. They toiled day and night, but such was the quantity to be recast, that it consumed a full month. When the whole was reduced to bars of a uniform standard, they were nicely weighted, under the superintendence of the royal inspectors. The total amount of the gold was found to one million three hundred and twenty six thousand five hundred and thirty nine 'pesos de oro', which, allowing for the greater value of money in the sixteenth century, would be equivalent probably, at the present time, to near three millions and a half of pounds sterling, or somewhat less than fifteen millions and a half dollars. The quantity of silver was estimated a at fifty-one thousand six hundred and ten marks."

If a captive Inca could accumulate such a large quantity of gold and silver in two months in his small domain it is not unreasonable to suppose that many times as much was taken from that vast southern country by the Spaniards who over ran South American during the 15th and 16th Centuries and the writer submits it is well within the realm of reason to suppose that much of the gold, silver and precious stones that was accumulated by such rescals, who might justly be called land pirates, would not be taken to Spain because of the large royalties confiscated by the Crown on its arrival.

Can you imagine the value of this gold and silver at prices as of 1973 well over the $100.00 per ounce for gold.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

The following authentic quotations taken from historical records of many writers and the recrods of actual discoveries made by bhose endeavoring to solve the mystery should be sufficient to convince even a skeptical cynic that the most mysterious and competent work of ancient engineering on the American Continent was performed several hundred years ago on Oak Island in Chester Bay, Nova Scotia.

Innumerable magazine and newspaper articles have been written about Oak Island, and the subject has formed a chapter in various books. Those who are interested in the details can get them in Ralph D. Paine's"Book of Buried Treasure", A Hyatt Verrill's "Lost Treasures", and Charles B. Driscoll's "Doubloons". The Oak Island Treasure has been investigated from every angle and proved true in all its essential features; and the narrative is amply supported by a wealth of evidence and affidavits.

Ralph D. Paine, in his authoritive work, "Book of Buried Treasure" writes:

"The most convinceing evidence of a pirates' rendezvous and hoard has been found at Oak Island, Nova Scotia. In fact this is the true treasure story, par excellence, of the whole Atlantic coast."

A Hyatt Verrill, the eminent author and authority on treasure in his "Lost Treasure", has this to say:

"Here is perhaps the most mysterious treasure in the entire world, a treasure which, thoughtknown to exist, has never been recovered --- and which is undoubtedly the most remarkable concealed treasure known."

Charles B. Driscoll, the author and specialist in pirate lore, who ownes the largest collection of pirate books and manuscripts in America, says:

"I know where treasure is buried in a dozen places on this globe, but the most extraordinary buried treasure I know anything about is far from the tracks of all buccaneers. It is deep in the soil of Oak Island, in Mahone Bay, on the eastern coast of Nova Scotia. There is a buried treasure on Oak Island, if there is a buried treasure anywhere."

The story of the search for this treasure extends back to 1795 and is an authentic account of numerous attempts made since that year to solve the mystery which centers on the Island.

All work done in connection with every attempt to recover this treasure has been donducted with but one object in view, ie., that of reaching the required depth in the so called "Treasure Pit" discovered and opened by the original searchers.

At this site it has been conclusively proved that a vast amount of work was done at some remote epoch, in an exceedingly well conveived and efficient manner, to conceal and protect something. This something can hardly, in all human probability, be other than of great value. Men do not undertake stupendous works for mere caprice or the conveqalment of trifles.

Each attempt to recover the treasure, after the initial attempt, was based on and encouraged by information obtained directly from predecessors; and as the work progressed from one attempt to another, additional proof of the original work was exposed.

Excavation and drilling by various groups of local people have brought to light many facts of conclusive nature. The first discoverers accidentally discovered a depression beneath a live oak tree and subsequent digging in this pit, 13 feet in diameter, disclosed wood platforms, putty and charcoal layers each ten feet for ninety feet, also a large stone with undecipherable words, subseqeuntly lost. The pit was then flooded by water from the sea entering in some then unknown manner. It was later learned that a tunnelled inlet had been built to a nearby beach, where five artificial channels as well as the tunnel had been filled with beach stone, covered with a fibrous material and recovered with sand. No method was devised to effectively shut off this water, and no competent engineering skill has ever been engaged on this project. Further digging and drilling disclosed that the pit has a depth of at least 155 feet, that cement, iron, as well as wood construction was used. Pieces of parchment and metal have been recovered.

Competent engineers have stimated that it took great crews of men working for a least two years to make this excavation. Their work was competently done, defying all amateur efforts to date to recovere the treasure. During previous operations 66 inches of loose metal has been drilled through. Its value, if gold would fun into millions of dollars, as each four cubic feet of gold amounts to more than a million dollars. At 1973 Prices about four million.

Many conjectures concerning the possible source of the treasure have been made. Some assert that it is the treasure of some pirate, possibly of Morgan. Others see in it a solution of the disappearance of huge treasure during the Protectorate of Cromwell, after the execution of Charles I. Many others assertt that it is the work of the Vikings, who may have had a colony at this location. Whatever it is, its value for archaeological and historical purposes will far outweight its value as bullion or more precious metal. Such values, as historical articles or objects d'art, are above computation as museum material.

It will be understood that any estimate is wholly problematical but the statement is well grounded that at Oak Island a very great reward awaits those who successfully complete the recovery of this most mysterious and stupendous of known treasures.

Many remarkable accounts have been given of treasure of unparalleled richness concealed in times past by hands of freebooters that at one time infested the American Atlantic seaboard.

Of all these treasure stories there is one which stands out prominently above all others both as to existence of hidden hoards and as to the facts connected therewith which mahy years ago were accepted as absolutely authentic. It is the story of fabulour riches long ago buried by pirates or freebooters on Oak Island, in Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia.

The probability of buried treasure is so great that is has, during the past one hundred and 80 years, caused a number of efforts to be made by men of intelligence and ability to search for treasure on Oak Island, and large sums of money have been sacrified in the quest.

The existence of this treasure is firmly believed by men of high standing; and several companies in times past have been organized to carry on a search for it.

It is safe to say that all the men who have ever worked on Oak Island in search of buried treasure believe that eventually treasure will be recovered on this Island.

The history heroin given is a statement of facts related by men who have had an active part in prospecting on Oak Island. From these facts it can readily be proved:

(a) That a pit about thirteen feet in diameter and one hundred (or more(feet deep was sunk on Oak Island before the memory of any one now living;

(b) That this pit was connected by an undergroung tunnel with the ocean about 530 feet distant;

(c) That at the bottom of the pit were placed large wooden boxes containing metal in pieces and also much other material foreign to the natural formation;

(d) That it is reasonably certain that the treasure is large, not only from boring tests, but from the fact that so much trouble was taken and expense incurred to conceal it.

The buccaneets found an ideal haven in Mahone Bay. The rugged hills reach out long arms on either side, enclosing a sheet or water about twenty miles long by twelve wide. Across the entrance, Tancook Islands present a high breakwater against the mists and storms of the Atlantic. Innumerable coves alternate with bold peninsulas and 365 islands lie scattered about the Bay. Once inside the Tancooks, the pirates might loiter at pleasure absolutely secure from dotoction behind the sheltering capes and islands.

Oak Island is situate near the head of the Bay, about four miles from the town of Chester. A narrow channel separates it from the mainland of Western shore. The Island is about a mile long and half as wide. Its formation is a very hard, tough clay. At its Eastern extremity lies a little crescent shaped bay, - "Smith's Cove", whose shores were originally bordered with large oak trees. A number of these may still be seen. These large oaks have all died before 1973. Nearly 2 centuries ago, in this portion of the county, settlers were few and far between, and Oak Island was without a single inhabitant.

A history of this Island was published in pamphlet form by the Oak Island Treasure Company, Incorporated by Boston parties in 1893. We quote:-

"In 1795 three men, Smith, McGinnis and Vaughan, visited Oak Island and while rambling over the Eastern part of it, came to a cleared space where the unusual and strange conditions at once attracted their attention.

Mr. Vaughan was only a lad of sixteen at the time and subsequently related these facts to Mr. Robert Creelman who was afterwards the Manager of a company formed to mine for the treasure.

The space referred to had every appearance of having been cleared many years before. Red clover and other plants, foreign to the soil in its natural state, were growing. Near the center stood a larger oak tree with marks and figures on its trunk. One of the lower and larger of its branches, the outer end of which had been sawed off, projected directly over the center of a deep circular depression in the land about thirteen feet in diameter. Those and other "signs" induced the three men named to commence digging in this depression shortly after it had been discovered.

After excavating a few feet, they found that they were working in a well defined pit, the walls of which were hard and solid, and it is said that in some places on the walls, old pick makrs were plainly to be seen, while within these walls the earth was so loose that picks were not required.

On reaching a depth of ten feet the workmen cametto a covering or tier of logs, the ends embedded in the walls of the pit evidently for the purpose of carrying the weight of the earth above and thereby intending to prevent a subsidence at the surface. They kept on digging until a depth of thirty feet was reached, finding marks at each ten feet. At this depth the work proved to be too heavy for them.

The people were superstitious in that part of the county at the time, and on this account, Smith and his associates were unable to get any help to continue the work and were forced to abandon it.

1 Chapter V

FIRST COMPANY FORMED

During ~~th~~ interval of six or seven years, accounts of the wonderful discoveries already mentioned had spread over the Province and a Mr. Lynds, of Truro, Nova Scotia, visited the Island and also interviewed Messrs. Smith, Vaughan and McGinnis.

On his ~~ret~~turn to Truro, a company was formed for the purpose of continuing the search. Several prominent men belonging to Halifax, Colchester and pictou Counties, N.S., took an active interest in it, among whom were Col. Robert Archibald, Sheriff Harris and Capt. David Archibald. Work was at once commenced by this Company and the pit was excavated to a depth of ninety five feet.

Marks were found every ten feet, as before, and an iron bar was frequently used in taking soundings. The ninety foot mark was a flat stone about three feet long and sixteen inches wide. On it strange characters had been cut. Afterwards it was placed in the jamb of a fireplace that Mr. Smith was building in his house, and while there was viewed by a great many people. Many years afterwards the stone was removed from the chimney and taken to Halifax to have, if possible, the characters deciphered. No satisfactory interpretation could be made by the experts who examined the characters on the stone.

Until the depth of ninety five feet was reached, no water had been encountered, neither had sand or gravel through which water could possible percolate been met.

It was Saturday evening when the depth of ninety five feet had been reached and by sounding with a bar a wooden platform was struck three feet below. This platform extended over the entire surface of the pit as was revealed by further soundings.

Monday when the men returned to work they found water in the pit to within thirty or thirty five feet of the surface. Work was immediately commenced to bail out the water and continued day and night for a time, but without success.

It was then decided to sink a shaft a few feet to the East of the old pit to the depth of 110 feet for the purpose of draining the "Money Pit". so called.

Shaft No. 1805

Work was begun at once on this shaft and continued until the depth of 110 ffet wasx reached, no water being met with, but while driving a tunnel in the direction of the "Money Pit", the water suddenly burst in. It was found impossible to handle the water and operations by this Company were abandoned.

At this time there was no thought that the water pouring into the "Money Pit", and thence into the 110 foot shaft was coming from the Ocean.

These layers of timber at every ten feet down to the ninety foot level were embedded into the sides of the shaft. No doubt these timbers were placed when the shaft was being filled in order to prevent the entire load of the fill resting on the lowest layer of timber which no doubt was just above the first deposit of valuables which some suggest was placed there as a decay to give the finder the idea that he had recovered the treasure and would proceed no further.

In the records of the excavation down to the ninety foot level it is reported that on some of the platforms was found layers of a putty like substance which was later thought to be the blue clay which was encountered in some of the shafts later put down. Also on one layer of timber a quantity of charcoal. During later drilling pieces of charcoal was brought up from depths up to about two hundred feet.

Other layers of timber was covered with coconut husk.

Chapter VI

SECOND COMPANY FORMED

Until 1849 nothing further was done, but in that year a new Company was formed and operations were resumed.

At this time two of the "old diggers', namely, Mr. Lynds, of Truro, and Mr. Vaughan, of Western Shore, were still living, and gave the Manager much valuable information regarding the old workings and expressed their firm belief in the existence of treasure in the "Money Pit". Mr. Vaughan, in looking over the ground located the site of the "Money Pit", which in the meantime had caved in and about filled up. Digging was commenced and went on without interruption until the depth of eighty six feet had been reached, when the water again so interferred with operations that the workmen were obliged to leave the pit. An unsuccessful attempt was made to bail the water out with bailing casks.

Shortly after, men with boring apparatus of primitive description, used in prospecting for coal, were sent to the Island. Mr. J.B. McCully, of Truro, was manager. A platform was constructed in the "Money Pit", about thirty feet below the surface and just above the water. The boring started with a pod auger and we submit a verbatim statement made by Mr. McCully.

"The platform was struck at ninety eight feet, just as the diggers found it when sounding with the iron bar. After going through the platform, which was five inches thick, and proved to be spruce, the augar dropped twelve inches and then went through four inches of Oak then through twenty two inches of metal in pieces, but the auger failed to bring up anything in the nature of treasure except three links resembling the links of a watch chain. The auger then went through eight inches of oak, which was thought to be the bottom of the first box and top of the next, then twenty two inches of metal , the same as before, and four inches of oak and six inches of spruce, then into clay seven feet without striking anything else.'

"In boring a second hole the platform was struck as before at ninety eight feet; passing through this, the auger fell about eighteen inches and came in contact with (as supposed) the side of a cask. The auger revolving close to the side of the cask gave a jerky and irregul-

ar motion. On withdrawing the auger several splinters of oak, such as might come from the side of an oak stave, and a small quantity of a brown fibrous substance, closely resembling the husk of a cocoanut, were brought up. The difference between the upper and lower platforms, was six feet."

The late John Gammel, of Upper Stewiacke, N.S. was present at this boring. He was a large shareholder, and his veracity could not be questioned. He stated that he saw Mr. Pitbaldo, the foreman, take something out of the auger, wash and examine it closely, then put it in his pocket. When asked by Mr. Gammel to show what it was, he declined and said he would show it at the next meeting of directors, but pitbaldo failed to appear at this meeting. Shortly after he was accidently killed in a gold mine.

Nothing further was done until the following summer (1850) when a new shaft was sunk to the depth of 109 feet at the West side of the "Money Pit", and about ten feet from it. Mr. A.A. Tupper, then of Upper Stewiacke, N.S., who helped sink this shaft, gave the following account:- Shaft No. 3

"A tunnel was driven from the bottom in the direction of the "Money Pit". Just before reaching the "Money Pit", the water burst in, the workers fled for their lives, and in twenty minutes there was forty five feet of water in the new shaft. The sole object in view in sinking this shaft was to increase the bailing facilities, for which purpose preparations had been made, and bailing was resumed in both the new and old shafts, each being equipped with two 2-horse gins. Work was carried on night and day for about a week, but all in vain, the only difference being that with the doubled applicances, the water could be kept at a lower level.".

WATER IN PIT CAME FROM OCEAN

About this time, the discovery was made that the water was salt, and that it rose and fell in the shafts with the flow and ebb of the tides. It was considered extremely improbable that the water came through a natural channel, and if not through a natural, it necessarily must be through an artificial channel, having its inlet somewhere on the shore.

In support of the theory that the water did not enter the "Money Pit" through a natural channel, it was argued that had it done so, the original diggers (supposed to be pirates) must have struck it, and if they had, it is certain that the workmen would have been driven from the pit by the great flow of water, and the pit would necessarily have been abandoned. This, evidently was not the case as we have ample evidence from the fact that the wooden platforms were carefully placed in position near the botto m of the "Money Pit", (see the account of borings already given) as well as the fact that the "Pit" had been systematically filled up, with marks placed at every ten feet.

Acting on this theory of an artificial channel or tunnel, a search was at once begun. Smith's Cove, on the extreme Eastern end of the Island and about 330 feet from the "Money Pit", was first examined by reason of its many natural advantages as a starting point for making a tunnel, and from the fact that at about the center of this cove it had always been noticed that a low tide, water was running out of the sand.

SHORE END OF TUNNEL DISCOVERED

The result of a few minutes's shovelling on the beach proved beyond a doubt that the place looked for had been found. After removing the sand and gravel covering the beach, the workmen came to a covering or layer of brown fibrous plant, the fibre very much resembling the husk of the coconut, and when compared with the plant that was bored out of the "Money Pit", no difference in the two could be detected. This layer, about two inches in thickness, covered a surface extending 145 feet along the shore line and from a little above low water to high water mark. About four or five inches of eel grass covering the same area was found underlying the fibrous plant, and under this was a compact mass of beach rocks free from sand or gravel.

It was impracticable to remove these rocks and make a further search unless the tide was kept back. Accordingly a coffer dam was built along this part of the Cove, including the boundaries just described.

After removing the rocks nearest low water, it was found that the clay (which with the sand and gravel originally formed the beach) had been dug out and removed and replaced by beach rocks. Resting on

this excavation were five well constructed drains formed by laying parallel lines of rocks about eight inches apart and covering the same with flat stones. These drains commenced at different points a considerable distance apart, but converged towards a common center at the inner side of the excavation. With the exception of these drains, the other rocks had evidently been thrown in promiscuously.

Work went on until half of the rocks had been removed where the clay banks at the sides showed a depth of five feet at which depth a partially burned piece of oak wood was found.

About this time an unusually high tide overflowed the top of the dam, and as it had not been constructed to resist pressure from the inside, when the tide receded, it was carried away. To rebuild it would cost a lot of money, and as there still remained a large amount of rocks to be removed and as there could be no reasonable doubt that the place described was the outwork of and starting point of a tunnel by which the water was conveyed to the bottom of the "Money Pit", it was decided to abandon the work on the shore.

Another shaft was sunk on the South side of the "Money Pit", and to a depth of 118 feet; this made the fourth one (including the "Money Pit") that had been put down in such close proximity to each other that a circle fifty feetin diameter would include the whole.

Shaft No. 4 1861

As already stated, this new shaft was 118 feet deep, - a greater depth by eight feet than had previously been reached. A tunnel was driven towards andreached a point directly under a part at least of the bottom of the "Money Pit".

MONEY PIT COLLAPSES

While the men were out at dinner a great crash was heard. Rushing back to the works they found that the bottom of the "Money Pit" had fallen into the tunnel that had been vacated a short time before and that the new shaft was fast filling with water. Subsequently it was found that twelve feet of mud had been driven by the force of water from the "Money Pit" to the new shaft.

Being unable to cope with the water and funds being exhausted work was abandoned.

WORK RESUMED

As mentioned in the previous chapter the funds of that company being exhausted nothing was done until 1863. In that year another effort was made to overcome the water and to secure the long searched for treasure. This time a powerful engine and pump were brought on the ground. The engine was placed in position with the pump in the 118 foot shaft, and the work of clearing out the water and the twelve feet of mud at the bottom of the shaft commenced. The intention was to clear out the shaft and the tunnel between it and the "Money Pit" where the treasure was supposed to have fallen when the dave-in above mentioned took place.

The undertaking proved to be very difficult, as the flow of water was heavy, and on account of this and other obstacles, little progress was made, but as the water on its way from the "Money Pit" to the pump had to pass through many feet of loose earth, it was possible to keep the water in the shaft below the 100 foot level.

Pumping from 118' Deep Shaft

The men engaged in the underground work (one of whom was A.A. Tupper, before mentioned) got the idea that the shaft was in danger of caving in and some of them refused to go into it. An expert examination was made of the shaft, and it was reported to be in a very unsafe condition and was forthwith condemned. The pump was withdrawn, the shaft abandoned and the work was suspended.

About this time a company of Halifax capitalists was organized and shortly after operations ceased, negotiations were entered into and an agreement was made with the Company to clean out the old "Money Pit" for a share of any treasure that might berrecovered.

The Company put down a new shaft marked C on plan, No 1 showing original work and endeavored to overcome the flow of water, but failed. Shaft No. 10

A number of tunnels were driven at a level of from 95 to 110 feet in an unsuccessful attempt to intercept the so-called "pirate tunnel" and thereby convey the water to the Halifax Company's shaft C, thus leaving the "Money Pit" comparatively dry. The Company abandoned work and the pump and engine were taken back to Halifax.

The tunnels driven by the Halifax Company gave a good deal of trouble to those afterwards operating on the Island.

The plan showing original work also shows some of the tunnels of the Halifax Company. Shaft D about four feet by six feet, near the cave in pit or air shaft was put down by this company. The tunnel from the Companies pumping pit connected with it as did the tunnel from the money pit. In 1896 when work was being carried on in the 'Money Pit' area, Mr. Chappell was investigating shaft D when he heard voices coming from the shaft. He immediately checked at the shaft where the men were working and definitely determined that there was a direct connection between the two shafts. He decided to investigate further. Descending shaft D to a depth of about 80 feet he discovered two tunnels one from the pumping pit C and one leading to the "Money Pit'. The tunnel being in good condition he followed it and came up in the money pit. Shaft D was in good condition below the water level which when no pumping at the money pit stood at about twelve feet from the surface. It was learned the Halifax Company drove a tunnel from their pumping pit to and through the money pit and also tunnelled all around the money pit. This was again proven in the 1960's by workers at that time.

As a further and conclusive proof of the connection between the ocean and the "Money Pit", it might be stated that during the latter part of the pumping by the Halifax Company, the water came up clear and pure, and that careful comparison of water taken from the shaft and from the ocean, failed to show the least difference in color or in taste. An effort was also made to check the flow of water by dumping on the beach the clay that had been taken from the shaft, and within half and hour after the beach had been stirred up by the teams and by the dumping of the clay, the water came up muddy in the shaft.

AIR SHAFT CAVES IN

After it had been satisfactorily proved that there was an artificial channel or tunnel leading from the shore to the "Money Pit". experienced miners contended against a tunnel of so great a length unless it could be shown that an air shaft had been made on the Island for the purpose of ventilation, and search was made at different times to find this air shaft.

Some years ago the owner of that part of the Island where operations had been carried on in search of treasure, was plowing with oxen near the "Money Pit" and when about three hundred feet from the pit and over the supposed line of tunnel, the ground suddenly gave way under the oxen and they went down into a hole caused by the cave in from six to eight feet in diameter and from ten to fifteen feet in depth.

Chapter VIII

(22)

OAK ISLAND TREASURE COMPANY

After the Halifax Company ceased operations, nothing of importance was done until the Oak Island Treasure Company was formed in 1893. The late Mr. F.L. Blair being Secretary of the Company. This Company commenced work shortly after incorporation, but its operations were not well conducted and the only result attained the first season was to prove that the cave-in or hole into which the farmer's cattle fell some years previously was a well defined circular pit and clearly a part of the original work.

Shaft No. 11

The pit was opened to a depth of fifty five feet where the workmen encountered salt water and quit. This pit is claimed to be the air shaft which up to this time could not be located.

The work was then placed by the Oak Island Treasure Company, in the hands of a committee appointed by the Nova Scotian shareholders, who took charge of operations. This committee carried on the work with energy and discovered in the "Money Pit", a platform just above high water mark or about thirty feet from the surface. Below the platform the pit was open to about 108 feet, - left this way by the Halifax Company, but the cribbing was so badly twisted and out of alignment that a hoist could not be satisfactorily operated. A connection was therefore made near the bottom to a shaft that had been opened near by.

MONEY PIT DEEPENED

The "Money Pit" was cleaned out and deepened and at the depth of 111 feet an opening on the side was found two and a half feet wide, filled with beach stone and gravel through which sea water flowed with great force.

As the face of this tunnel was exposed the water increased very much in volume and finally overcame the pumps, filled the works to tide level and brought operations to a standstill. This opening without doubt was the tunnel leading from the shore to the "Money Pit". The sides of this tunnel, so far as seen, were clean cut and perpendicular, and the top wassquare across. A small quantity of sand and gravel was taken from the upper part of the tunnel and amongst this was discovered

a chip of wood, a piece of bark, and a bird's bone, strong evidence that the material in which these were found was originally on the surface and placed by man where found, as these articles could not be conveyed by water some eighty feet below tide level.

OPERATIONS AT THE SHORE

Owing to the great volume and force of water it was decided that it would be less expensive to stop the flow than to pump, and accordingly the committee decided to bore near the shore with a view of intercepting the tunnel and plugging it in some manner.

Boring was done about fifty feet from high water marks at Smith's Cove. Five holes were drilled, each five inches in diameter, location and depths as shown on diagram. A quantity of dynamite was placed in each hole as drilled, the hole filled with water and the dynamite discharged. Fifty pounds was put in number one; seventy five pounds in number two and about the same quantity in numbers four and five. Water was not struck in any of these holes and when the dynamite was discharged the water used as a primer was sent one hundred (or more) feet in the air.

It will be noted on the diagram PLAN No 3 attached, which shows the supposed water tunnels from the shore to the "Money Pit" also that hole number three was drilled on the supposed line of the tunnel. Salt water and rocks were struck in this hole at eighty feet. The water rose to tide level, ebbed and flowed with the tide in this hole, number three, could not be filled with water. One hundred and sixty pounds of dynamite was set off in this hole and no water whatever came to the surface. The water; however, standing in the "Money Pit" and pit "B", (see diagram) boiled and foamed for a considerable time, proving conclusively a direct donnection between the hole number three and the "Money Pit".

A conflict of opinion as to the best methods to pursue and lack of means prevented working longer at the shore.

DEEPER BORING WITH SURPRISING RESULTS

While the work above described was being conducted at the shore, boring operations were also carried on at the "Money Pit" area.

At this time the "Money Pit" which was not cribbed and therefore not to safe was used as the pumping pit, work and drilling being done in a new timbered shaft about five foot by eight foot south of and close to the "Money Pit".

It may be well to here explain that up to this time the parties in charge of the work had no thought whatever of finding any treasure below 118 feet, the depth of the deepest shaft sunk by any Compamy of searchers up until that time. It will be eemembered that this 118 foot shaft was the one from which a small tunnel to the "Money Pit" had been driven previous to the collapse of the "Money Pit". It was debris, the loose or disburbed condition of the ~~mtk~~ soil and the blue puddled clay that coaxed the workmen to continue drilling to a greater depth.

The soil of the Island is a hard blue clay with gravel to about one hundred and ten feet, at this dep th a layer of about one foot of smooth blue clay free from any grit was encountered, below this layer of smooth blue, which resembled putty, was a layer about one foot of white sand which when wet resembled quick sand, below which is found a very hard brown marl. In none of the number of pits sunk on the Island was blue clay found below 110 feet except in the "Money Pit" where it was found in a puddled condition by boring, all the way foom 120 to 170 feet.

In addition to experienced drillers, three men wellknown in Nova Scotia, took part more or less, in the work. These men were T.P. Putman, a prosperous farmer and trader of Lower Onslow, N.S., William Chappell, lumberman and manufacturer, Amherst, N.S., and Capt. John W. Welling, Saint John, N.B. Mr. Putman acted as manager, while the Messrs. Chappell add Welling, had charge of the work at the Island.

Chapter IX

DRILLING DONE IN 1897

Statement made by William Chappell, of drilling done in "Money Pit" at Oak Island, Nova Scotia, during the summer of 1897, at which work, T. Perley Putnam and John W. Welling, took part in addition to the said Chappell, and experienced drillers.

The pit had been opened down to 113 feet, the water level therein being 31 to 33 feet from surface, varying with the tides. Operations were conducted at the surface. The water was pumped out to about 100 feet and the holes were located from a platform placed at 90 feet from the sufface. This was done so as to enable us to place the holes over as large an area as possible, and with the assurance that they were not too close together. The cribbing of the pit was so badly twisted that only a small portion of the bottom could be reached with a plumb line from the top. A 2 1/2" drill was used in a 3" pipe.

Several holes (more than three) were bored, and this statement is a composite report of all holes drilled except in so far as is necessary to give a clear, succinct and easily understood history of the work. Most of the drilling was done in loose or soft and what appeared to be disturbed ground; blue clay was encountered between 130 and 151 feet, and also between 160 and 171 feet. In one hole we appeared to be in the channel in which the water eas coming up and being pumped out at the rate of about 400 gallons per minute. It was the generally disturbed and loose conditions, and the blue clay, that induced the workmen to drill their first hole below 130 feet.

Wood was struck at 122 feet and at 126 feet and deeper as stated herein. Iron was encountered at 126 feet in one hole, and it stopped the pipe. The pipe proved to be on the edge of the iron, but efforts made to drive it past resulted in failure.

A 1 1/2" drill was put down past the obstruction and it went through the blue clay to 151 feet and struck what appeared to be soft stone. Cuttings of this stone when compared, looked just like cement, and as analytical chemists subsequently pronounced samples from this material to have the composition of cement, it is hereafter referred to as cement. Twenty inches down in this cement, we struck wood, a few chips from which were brought up. An auger was substituted for the drill and five inches of oak wood were bored through.

When the auger passed through the wood it dropped from one and one half to two inches and rested upon a substance the character of which no person would attempt to state. After considerable twisting of the auger on the substance, it was carefully withdrawn and the borings brought up therewith were preserved by Mr. Putnam. The drill was then again put down when we found we were apparently on soft metal that could be moved slightly thereby forming a crevice or space into which the drill, when in alignment, would drop and stick or wedge. This happened a number of times and it was often necessary to pry the drill loose. After working for two hours or more, we managed to get down four inches when the drill worked easier, but it would not go down under the ordinary method of drilling, (raising and dropping the rods) but by a continuous twisting and turning of the rods under constant pressure, we managed to get 18 or 20 inches deeper, a total of 24 inches of material bored through under the wood. The drill then struck a substance similar to that encountered immediately under the wood. No special effort was made to get through this.

In working down the twenty inches, the space made by the drill would fill at once under the tool as it was raised, and it would fill up nearly the whole twenty inches when the rods were raised that much. We worked over five hours in getting down the two feet, and the drill came up as sharp as when it went down.

The conclusion was that the first four inches consisted of metal in bars which were pushed aside by the drill engough to permit it to pass, and that the additional twenty inches consisted of coin or metal in small pieces that fell into the space left by the tool as it was drawn up, and also, that under these small pieces, there was more metal (not iron) in bars.

It was at once decided to secure this drill hole by piping below 126 feet and then to obtain a sample of the small metal pieces. To that end, a 1 1/2" pipe was lowered through the 3" pipe and forced past the iron obstruction at 126 feet. It was discovered, however, that this obstruction had turned the small pipe from its course and it struck hard ground, supposed to be the wall of the pit, instead of going down to the cement.

The 1 1/2" pipe was then withdrawn and the drill again lowered through the larger pipe, but it followed the hole made by the small pipe below 126 feet and the hole to the cement was thereby lost. When the 1 1/2" pipe was withdrawn it was found that in forcing it past the obstruction at 126 feet, a V shaped piece extending for about one-third of the circumference of the pipe at the lower end and up about three inches, had been cut out.

The three inch pipe was then reset and another hole drilled, and the pipe put down until it rested solidly upon the cement. At 153 feet we apparently touched wood on one side which extended down about four feet, the cement extending about three feet further to a depth of approximately 160 feet, with a total thickness of about seven feet from top of wood to bottom of cement.

We then bored into a quite firm, blue clay possessing the characteristics of puddled clay. This extended down to 171 feet where iron was struck. This iron was very solid and the metallic sound could be plainly heard at the surface. We drilled on it two hours or more, getting into it not more than one quarter inch. The drill was taken out, sharpened and tempered for iron and two more hours were spent in drilling and getting down another quarter inch. The drill showed no wear when withdrawn. it was given a few raps on stone which took the edge off. The clay and material at the bottom of the hole were brought up with a sand pump. A magnet was run through this material and it loaded up with fine iron cutting thereby producing conclusive proof that it was iron we had been drilling on at 171 feet. No further attempt was made to go through this iron.

(Signed) William Chappell.

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA

COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND S S

Be it remembered that on this 25th day of October A.D. 1929 before me the subscriber personally came and appeared, William Chappell of Sydney, in the Province of Nova Scotia, who having been by me examined, made oath and said that the foregoing statement of drilling done in "Money Pit" on Oak Island, Nova Scotia, during the summer of 1897, at which work, T. Perley Putnam, and John N. Welling, took part

in addition to the said Chappell and experienced drillers, is true, and that the facts and matters of each and every particular contained in the foregoing statement is true.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal the day and year first above written.

(Signed) C. Guy Black.

Notarial Seal

A Notary Public in and for the Province of Nova Scotia, residing and practicing at Oxford, Province of Nova Scotia.

SAMPLES SENT TO ANALYST

Mr. Chappell, in his affidavit, refers to cuttings of stone which were pronounced to be of cement compostion by analytical chemists.

A number of samples of this stone were saved and two of them were forwarded to Messrs. A. Boake Roberts & Company, Ltd., Analytical Chemists, London, England, with request for analysis. No information whatever was given as to their source. We quote their reply:

"We have carefully analysed the two samples of stone received from you recently and have to report that we find them to be of the following compositions:-

		No. 1	No. 2
Lime	(CaO)	37.40%	37.18%
Carbonate	($-C\Phi_2$)	33.20%	34.00%
Silica	(SiO_2)	13,20%	13.92%
Iron & Alumina	(Fe or Al) $2^0{}_3$	10.19%	10.13%
Moisture	(At 120° C)	0.34%	0.29%
Magnesium etc.	(by diffce)	5.67%	4.48%
		100.00	100000

These stones are very soft and both of them have the composition of cement".

On receipt of this reply the Messrs. Boake Roberts, were again written to and asked if in their opinion the stones were artificial or natural. Their reply was as follows:

"From the analysis it is impossible to state definitely but from the appearance and nature of the samples, we are of the opinion that it is a cement which has been worked by man."

Mr. Chappell, says in his affidavit that no further attempts was made to drill through the iron struck at 171 feet. This was for the reason that it was the opinion of all that sufficient proof had been adduced of the existence of not only the treasure for which so much money had been expended, but also of a much greater quantity than the prospectors had in mind.

Confidence reigned supreme and the Company became practically a close corporation. "Insiders" advanced the necessary funds to carry on the work and those who possessed stock, would not part with it at any reasonable price.

It was agreed that a pumping shaft put down deep enough to drain the "Money Pit" at 175 feet was a more certain plan of recovery than to attempt to choke the tunnel. This method of operation prevailed because it was the opinion of some that a second tunnel entering the pit below that already located was quite possible.

Early in October, 1897, work was commenced on another shaft and for more than two yaars the committee held fast to the plan laid down. They sank in that time no less than six shafts reaching depths ranging from 95 to 160 feet.

It will be remembered that the Halifax Company drove numerous tunnels in all directions in an attempt to locate the "pirate tunnel". No record of this work was available nor could any person be found who could furnish definite information with respect thereto. The result was these tunnels were the direct cause of the loss of four shafts and indirectly of a fifth. Three of those shafts passed down so near tunnels that the water broke through under the heavy pressure. Two shafts came directly over tunnels. In one of these, however, the tunnel was dry, evidently being choked somewhere in its course, and indirectly only did it cause the loss of the shaft. The shaft in which the dry tunnel was struck at 98 feet was sunk to 160 feet at which depth salt water broke into the shaft under very heavy pressure.

At this time, in order to relieve pressure, the water in the "Money Pit" was being kept down to seventy feet by pumps. Immediately the rush occurred in the 160 foot shaft, the water in the "Money Pit" began to fall and dropped fourteen feet in one hour, when it began to rise again, it being on a level in both pit and shaft. It took five hours to get back to the 70 foot mark.

Shaft No. 18, to 160

The committee in order to do away with using so much fresh water, which was not very plentiful on the Island, had purchased two specially built double acting, single plunger pumps. One of these pumps was immediately set up in the 160 foot shaft, thirty feet from the surface. The pump was started and filled with water on the up-stroke, but the plunger rod (2 pieces timber 4" x 6" strapped and bolted togerther) suddenly broke on the down stroke under a tremendous strain, the cribbing of the pit also crushing down several feet under

the force. The pump was taken out and on examination it was found that the manufacturers had neglected to use a core in casting a piece of the pump, which in consequence of this over-sight, did not leave any discharge for the water on the down stroke. The water worked its way into the dry tunnel at ninety eight feet, and with the now weakened and collapsed cribbing, got in its work in a day or two and the shaft was lost.

EVIDENCE OF A SECOND TUNNEL

Immediately after it was decided that this shaft could not be saved a pump was set up near the shore and water pumped from the bay into the shaft. The idea was to fill the shaft above tide level and thereby force water out through the shore inlet of the tunnel and thus disclose the location of the inlet.

The muddy water from the pit soon appeared on the south side of the Island at about low water mark. None appeared in Smith's Cove.

This test was then applied to the "Money Pit" so that the water from the shore would come in. The muddy water was only a short time coming through to the pit.

Other similar tests were made, the result of which was conclusive evidence of the existence of an artificial water course on the south side of the Island as well as one from the pit to Smith's Cove. It was also found that the Southern inlet was moreopen than the Eastern, due possibly to work done at the latter point by searchers.

The committee eventually went to work once more at the "Money Pit". They began work enlarging the pit by sinking a shaft five feet by eight feet, as reconstructed. This gave them a double wall of cribbing down the center division and enabled them to do all the hoisting in a direct line to the top which is impossible in the old pit.

Shaft No. 2 1900

In sinking this new part of the pit the workmen came to a mass of cribbing very largely standing on end and evidently the cribbing of the old Truro Company's pit, which had collapsed after being undermined by a tunnel from the 118 foot shaft. This timber extended down to between ninety five and one hundred feet.

Eventually the new portion of the pit was carried down on a level with the old part at which depth, 113 feet, the quantity of water was too great for the pumping capacity and the work was finally abandoned owing to lack of funds.

The bottom of the new part of the pit was mostly in good hard soil, also a portion of the old, outside of a ring of gravel that circled through on the side. Water appeared to come up through the gravel as well as through the exposed inlet of the tunnel. The soil inside the gravel ring was clay and it could be handled without the aid of picks.

THE PARCHMENT

By reference to Mr. Chappell's affidavit you will note that after twisting and working the auger on the substance struck under the oak wood at about 153 feet, it was carefully withdrawn and the borings brought up therewith were preserved by Mr. Putnam.

He cleaned the auger himself, taking all mud and dirt therefrom. This dirt he panned out, gathering all cleanings including everything that floated on the water. He left the Island and met Messrs. W.H. MacDonald, and F.L. Blair, both of Amherst, N.S. in Truro, N.S., where they examined the borings which Mr. Putnam had brought with him. These consisted very largely of small chips of wood, but amongst them was noticed a few shreds of something of a different texture.

Mr. Putnam went to Amherst a few days later and again the article of peculiar texture was noticed.

Dr. A.E. Porter, who was then practicing medicine in Amherst examined the borings under a glass, in the presence of a dozen or more men. The strange fibre attracted his attention. Under the glass it appeared in the form of a compact ball about the size of a grain of rice with fuzz or short hair on the surface. Dr. Porter examined the ball very closely and after working on it for some minutes he got it flattened out, when it had every appearance of being a small piece of parchment on which was written in black ink, characters that appeared to represent parts of the letters "ui", "vi" or wi". It was afterwards sent to experts and by them pronounced to be parchment.

These borings were never out of Mr. Putnam's possession, except for examination in his presence, until after the parchment was flattened out by Dr. Porter, who at the time had no interest whatever in Oak Island. Dr. Porter was one of a few to whom stock was sold after the discovery of this parchment.

The parchment is now in possession of M.R. CHAPPELL SYDNEY, NOVA SCOTIA.

COPY OF AEBIDAVIT MADE BY

DR. A.E. PORTER IN CONNECTION WITH THE

DISCOVERY OF THE BIT OF PARCHMENT

CANADA

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

IN THE MATTER OF an examination held on certain material at the Court House at Amherst on the 6th day of September 1897.

To Wit:

I, Andrew E. Porter, of the City of Edmonton in the Province of Alberta, Physician, do solemnly declare that:

1. On the 6th day of September 1897, I was in Amherst, Nova Scotia, and was in attendance at a room in the Court House on that date with a number of men, including Mr. T.P. Putnam and Richard Lowerson, when there was examined certain materials which were stated to have been brought bp by a drill at what was known as the Money Pit at Oak Island, Nova Scotia.

2. The materials in question consisted of small chips or particles of wood and amongst them was a piece of material which upon examination, I verily believed and still believe to have been parchment. I examined the said particle under a magnifying glass and it was photographed and enlarged and now produced and shown to me and marked "Exhibit A", hereto is what I verily believe to be a print of the photograph of the said particle of parchment.

3. I was informed by the said T.P. Putnam, that this particle had been taken by him from acommon wood auger after its extraction from depth of 153 feet in a drilled hole in the said pit.

4. The said T.P. Putnam, stated that he had been present and had assisted with the boring with the auger at the place and time and that after the auger had reached the depth it struck some substance through which it would not proceed and could not be forced further, but the nature of which could not be ascertained. Mr. Putnam then stated

that after the auger was cleaned and the materials washed off into a pan of water and dried in the sun, the fragments of wood and other materials which were before the meeting, were everything that remained of the materials which floated in the water and that the material which was produced to the meeting had never been out of his possession or been tampered with by anybody at all.

5. I personaly examined the above mentioned scrap of parchment and state positively that under a magnifying glass at that time it had every appearance of being parchment and that certain marks on it had the distinct appearance of being written with ink and part of some word, but the letters were not sufficiently clear to enable me to decide what the letters were or the language.

And I make this declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of "The Canada Evidence Act."

Declared before me at the City of Edmonton, in the Province of Alberta this 11th day of January A.D., 1926

(Signed) A.E. Porter

(Signed) Henry J. Carr

Notary Public and a Commissioner for Oaths in and for the Province of Alberta.

Notarial Seal

Chapter XIII

(35) CORROBORATIVE LETTERS

A question that may be asked is, where is the wood and metal in pieces bored through between 98 and 105 feet, by the company operating in 1849? This, under the circumstances, cannot be definitely answered.

It is, however, the opinion of those best informed, that the wood and metal in pieces will be found between one hundred and twenty and one hundred and thirty feet.

It will be remembered that the "Money Pit" fell in from being undermined by the small tunnel driven from the 118 foot shaft. We quote the following letters in this connection:

A letter written in June 1895, by S.C. Fraser, of Briggs Corner, N.B., addressed to A.S. Lowden, Concord, Mass., who acted as manager for the Oak Island Treasure Company in 1895. Mr. Fraser worked four years on the Island assisting in various attempts to unearth the treasure. He worked one year as foreman for the Halifax Company. His opinion is, therefore, entitled to consideration. Particular attention is drawn to the fact that his letter was written two years previously to the boring under the management of the committee which proved the existence of metal and cement buried at 153 feet. We quote:-

"The Halifax Company's work was at a base of 110 feet except two circling tunnels which were on a higher level ..... As we entered the old place of the treasure (by a tunnel) we cut off the mouth of the "pirate tunnel". As we opened it the water hurled around rocks about twice the size of a man's head with many smaller, and drove the men back for protection. .....The tunnel was found near the top of our tunnel. I brought Mr. Hill, the engineer, down and he put his arm into the hole of the tunnel up to his shoulder. ..... Nothing could be more particular than our search in the old place of the treasure. ... As to the falling of the treasure before ever the Halifax Company had anything to do with it. A man by the name of George Mitchell, was then in charge. He finished the sinking of the 118 foot shaft through which the water was taken away, when the "Money Pit" was to be cleaned out to the treasure. I was then living in Truro, N.S., and was sent down to clean

out the "Money Pit", but before going into it I examined the 118 foot pit and tunnel which was then nearly finished. At the end of the tunnel I saw every sign of the cataclysm that was about to take place and refused to go into the "Money Pit". .....When the pit fell down I was there. .....There went down 10,000 feet of lumber board measure (the cribbing of the pit). Could these plank stop on their way down and turn into an 18 foot unnel 3' x 4'? Would or could casks of treasure having 10,000 feet of lumber and hundreds of tons of earth behind them turn into a 3' x 4' tunnel? And if they could perform the impossible, would an 18 foot tunnel, 3' x 4', hold all this material? ..... The pirate sank the shaft at first 155 feet deep, put part of the treasure there with a branch drain into it. Then working upon the old superstition that treasure runs away from seekers, he put another portion at 100 feet with a drain into it."

(It is inferred that Mr. Fraser intended to convey that a space was left open below the upper treasure.

"Now to dig into the "Money Pit" means to pull all those plank out by the teeth, and to believe that they turned into that little 18 foot tunnel would require as much faith from me as that Halley's comet went through it. Sink your pumping shaft deep: - deep enough to drain the "Money Pit" at 155 feet, and you have the treasure."

It is a remarkable fact that Mr. Fraser should predict that the "Money Pit" was originally sunk to 155 feet, that something was buried there, and that a tunnel entered the pit at that depth. This prediction was verified two years after the letter was written. We also quote from another letter written by Mr. Fraser to Mr. Lowden, dated June 19, 1895:-

"Perhaps I should apeak of appearances in the 118 foot pit tunnel when I went to examine it in view of my own safety when ordered by Mitchell to clean out the "Money Pit". The pirate must have placed strong beams across the shaft and thrown in say ten to fifteen feet of earth on these under the upper treasure, because when I went into the tunnel from the 118 foot pit they were in disturbed earth. They had some

1861?

caving-in from above them, worked blue clay coming away from some smooth under surface. The clay thus settling assumed the shape of the end of a large boiler round and still becoming a larger circle. That which warned the men in the tunnel and so saved their lives was the breaking of the timbers all around them."

As confirming Mr. Fraser's statement we quote from a letter written by Daniel MacDonald, Pictou, N.S. dated May 11th, 1898:-

"There was a man here from Stellarton, - Mr. Robinson, who worked for the Halifax Company. He told us that at 108 feet in the "Money Pit" he tunneled in to one side and after going in a few feet he felt the earth under his feet give a little; he told the men to give him a pick and he drove it down and through, and the water came up. He took a crow-bar and put it down and his arm to the shoulder with it and he says that he could swing the bar around in a pit, but the water was coming so fast he had to give it up."

We also give the following quotation as confirmatory evidence. Letter from T. MacLeod, Mulgrave, N.S., dated July 27th, 1897:-

"Enclosed $5.00 for share in Oak Island Treasure Company for Daniel Barry, Sen. He and I have one between us, but he has so much confidence in it that he wants another share. He worked at Oak Island in 1849-51 and sank $1200., there. .....He thinks that the sea mouth of the tunnel can't be far beyond low water. They carried some earth into the sea and roiled the water and shortly after, the water in the "Money Pit" got dirty. His theory is that the mouth of the tunnel is not 100 feet from low water. He is a shrewd, level headed old man of 80, and I have no doubt his observations are pretty accurate in the main. He was there also when they made the borings in the "Money Pit", when the three links were taken up and Pitbaldo put something in his pocket.

From the letter written by Frank Burrows to T.P. Putnam, dated November 26th, 1899:-

"I met Mr. J.W. Publicover on the train. He claims to be the last man coming out the 118 feet pit and tunnel. ... Mr. Publicover tells me that the water was being kept out by three gins when this pit caved. He got a head or bottom of a small barrel or some wooden dish

about the size of the end of a nail keg and it had been painted yellow. This came through the tunnel to the 118 foot pit."

A.S. Lowden, who had charge of the work in 1895, writes:-

"I spent sometime last summer and fall (1895) on the Island. While there I lodged at the house of a Mr. McGinnis, who is a grandson of one of the discoverers. From him and Robert Creelman, who got his knowledge from Vaughan,-another one of the finders, I learned many more of the particulars of the discovery of and early search for the treasure. Mr. Creelman is a well preserved vigorous man of about 80 years, with strong religious tendencies of the old Presbyterian school. He is not a man to make any kind of a statement to decieve. Having been connected with nearly ev ery Company from 1849 until now, he is thoroughly acquainted with the work described and endorses the story as published in the Oak Island Treasure Company's pamphlet in nearly every particular. Among the other signs which led the discoverers to dig was the remains of a hoisting block, such as is used on sailing crafts, hanging to the limb of a tree, which over hung the "Money Pit". Some accounts say this had fallen into a depression in the earth. It is not strange that at this late date there should be some variations in the story, but considering the nature of a hoisting fall, it is not improbable that both are correct. One of the 10 foot marks found in the "Money Pit", was a layer of putty. Other layers were charcoal. These articles are usually found among the stores of sea going crafts."

"The brown fibrous plant resembling the husk of a coconut spoken of in the pamphlet, that was found in such large quantities on the shore and everywhere that the pirate's work was found, is called by some "Manilla Grass." It certainly is not the fibre used in manufacturing manilla rope, whichis the fibre of a tree like the banana.

S.C. Fraser writes:- "The pamphlet says East India Grass.
'It is not, but is cocoanut fibre, nearly as well preserved
' as what I took off the cocoanut when examining and comparing
'then.

Considerable of this was found under the sand on the beach at Smith's Cove, last summer and carried away by visitors. Although it had been there perhaps 200 years, it is in a good state of perservations"

Other letters could be quoted but the foregoing may be considered sufficient.

Note:- Considerable portion of the foregoing data has been taken from the Oak Island Treasure Company's paumphlet referred to.

COCONUT FIBER

Attention is drawn to several references made in the story to a brown fibrous substance, or coconut fiber.

It is recorded that a small quantity of brown fibrous substance closely resembling the husk of a coconut, was brought up on an auger when drilling in the money pit.

It is also recorded that in working on the shore, "the workman came to a covering or layer of brown fibrous plant the fibre very much resembling the husk of a coconut."

Mr. Lowden, refers to it and says: "It is not the fibre used in the manufacture of Manilla rope." He also quotes S.C. Fraser, who stated definitely that it was coconut husk, or fibre. It will be noted that Mr. Lowden mentions the fact that considerable of this fiber was found in good state of preservations under the sand on the beach at Smith's Cove in the summer (1895) and carried away by visitors.

In one of S.C. Fraser's letters, he writes: "There was tons and tons of that coconut fiber on the works at the shore, and in the pit."

During the summer of 1916, a small quantity of this fiber was dug up at Smith's Cove, under instructions and in the presence of Mr. F.L. Blair. This was preserved, and a specimen thereof was mailed to the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., with request that they identify it. We quote their reply:-

> "The specimen of fiber submitted is undoubtedly from the fibrous husks surrounding a coconut. This fiber is especially resistant to the effects of sea water and under the donditions under which it was found might have been there for several hundred years."

No such fiber, material or substance is found elsewhere in Eastern Canada, either on its shores, inland or on its islands except on Oak Island, and there only in two spots; Smith's Cove and the Money pit.

Was it put there by nature or man? If by nature, why not elsewhere in the vicinity or surrounding country? How did it get down 100 or more feet in the money pit and not in the surrounding soil at the same, or any other depth so far as known?

If placed there by man, from whence did it come, and when, and for what purpose was it used in the locatbons where found?

The answer will be found at 155 feet in the money pit.

When the author was on Oak Island in 1931 a considerable amount of the coconut fiber was still to be found at Smith's Cove. Also during Mr. Restall's operations at Smith's Cove in 1959-1965 he uncovered several pieces of this fiber.

Mr. William Chappell stated that when he was on Oak Island in 1895-1897 there was a large amount of this coconut fiber piled on the shore which had been removed when the drains were uncovered in 1849-50.

Chapter XV

(42)

CAPTAIN HENRY L. BOWDOIN

A little over 100 years after the discovery by John Smith, Daniel McGinnis and Anthony Vaughn, the Oak Island Treasure Company wnet out of existance, Mr. Blair buying up the holdings of the stock-holders in December 1900. Having also secured Treasure Trove Rights from the Government, he decided to carry on the search on his own.

Mr. Blair stated in a letter in October 1898 that when he became interested in Oak Island in 1890 it was thought at that time the money pit was not much deeper than one hundred feet. During the Oak Island Treasure Company operations it was proven that the pit was close to two hundred feet deep, that water was entering not only at one hundred feet but also at about 150 feet, that treasure had been placed at about one hundred feet and also at one hundred and fifty three feet, that the water was entering the pit at the rate of between four hundred and four hundred and fifty gallons per minute, that the original workers did not encounter water but made the tunnels to the shore after having completed their other work.

From 1900 to 1909 very little was done on Oak Island. In the meantime a lease was negotiated with the owner, Henry Sellers for the right to operate and search, and to further secure theasure Trove and Mining Rights which was done with a royalty to the Provincial Government of two percent of the value of anything recovered.

In March 1909 Captain Henry L. Bowdoin, a noted engineer announced he was making arrangements to solve the mystery of Oak Island and recover the treasure. He prepared a prospectus outlining his method of procedure which was excellent in theory. Only a trial would prove if it was practical. Captain Bowdoin claimed it would take only a few weeks to accomplish the recovery of the Treasure.

No less a person than the late Franklin D. Roosevelt who later became President of the United States and who learned about Oak Island from folks on Campbell's Island, in the Bay of Funday where his mother had a summer residence, became associated with Captain Bowdoin, along with Duncan G. Harris, Frederick Childs, Albert Gallatin, John W. Shields.

The officers of the Company known as the Old Gold Salvage and Wrecking Company, were President Captain Henry L. Bowdoin; Vice president Frederick L. Blair; Treasurer, L.H. Andrews, an attorney of New York; Secretary G.D. Mosher, and accountant and Captain John W. Welling, these were the Board of Directors.

Captain Bowdoin prepared a prospectus descirbing in detail his method of procedure.

In order to secure funds to purchase equipment and carry on the work, stock in the company was offered to the public at a price of one dollar per share. The Captain stated inside a few weeks he would recover the treasure.

This company began operations in the late summer of 1909. According to the record made by Mr. Blair two pits were found near the money pit, one five feet by seven feet and cribbed to one hundred and ten feet, the other seven by seven feet. The smaller pit was floored over just above the water level about thirty feet from the surface.

This floor was removed and the cribbing reinforced. It was found that below the floor a series of platforms had been installed all connected with ladders. These platforms and ladders were removed. A diver was sent down to examine the bottom, he reported the cribbing in bad condition.

Using a grab bucket the pit was cleared to a depth of about one hundred and thirteen feet, a core drill was then used, it drilled through gravel sand, blue clay and small stone to a depth of approximately one hundred and fifty feet when six inches of cement encountered. Hopes ran high thinking they had hit the treasure chamber but instead the drill passed through clay and gravel to a depth of 167 feet where it encountered gypsum or limestone. A number of holes, two dozen or more were put down but nothing of importance was encountered.

At the conclusion of his work in November, Captain Bowdoin asked mr. Blair for an extension of his contract to January 1st, 1912. Mr. Blair replied he would be willing to consider an agreement but he must be given evidence that sufficient funds were available. Captain Bowdoin's reply was to the effect that if he could not get the extension, he would make a report that would not help in getting further interest or investment in Oak Island.

Mr. Blair's reply to this implied threat was that it did not jar him one bit.

The next move on Captain Bowdoin;s part was a publication in August 11, 1911 copy of Collier's Magazine under the heading "Solving the Mystery of Oak Island," in which he made several statements here quoted verbatum:

1. "There never was a pirate treasure or other treasure in the money pit on Oak Island.

2. It would have been a long and tremendous operation to dig a tunnel 600 feet from Smith's Cove to the pit and over 100 feet underground, for, if a tunnel was required, one could have been built only 150 feet long from the south shore to the pit.

3. The salt water did not reach the pit through a tunnel, but percolated through the soil from the bay 150 feet away on the south side of the Island.

4. There never was a ring bolt in the beach for it would have been much easier to tie a line to an Oak tree than to drill a hole in a rock and set in a ring bolt.

5. No borings ever brought up links of a chain or anything valuable because such things do not stick to a flat chisel or auger, through 120 feet of water.

6. There never were any characters on the rock found in the money pit.

When Mr. Blair learned of Bowdoin's article he published in the Amherst daily News February 23rd, 1912 a catagorical reply. He explained that Bowdoin had not asked for or taken any advise from himself or any of the many workers available to him that he did very little work of exploration, that he had used dynamite blindly and without reason destroying the cribbing of the pit. In his article he omitted very important facts well known to himself. Captain Bowdoin's borings were done after he had ruined the cribbing of the pit, it was so out of line his pipes and rods could reach only a small area at the bottom of the pit. He rediculed the analysis of the cement made by A. Boake Roberts Co. one of the most reputable analytical corporations in Great Britian.

Mr. Blair concludes as follows, - quoting verbatum:-

1. It has been clearly demonstrated that only a comparatively small part of the cribbed part of the pit was over the original pit.

2. Captain Bowdoin had failed to explain the work done on the beach at Smith's Cove, the discovery of the five artifical drains, the results of the boring of the series of five inch holes above high water mark, the effect of exploding dynamite in these holes, the discovery of the air shaft and the abundant evidence of the existance of an artificial connection between Smith's Cove and the "Money Pit".

3. When the entrance of the tunnel into the pit was exposed, the water did not seep or percolate into the pit, but poured in at the rate of 500 gallons a minute, and rose and fell with the tide.

4. Whether there ever was a ring bolt in the rocks on the beach at Oak Island is a matter of the utmost indifference to all who are interested in the place. He might have added that the existence of such a ring bolt would not possibly be a factor or otherwise in the proof of the existence of a treasure in the "Money Pit".

5. As to the borings which had taken place some sixty years previously, the results of which Captain Bowdoin had dismissed. Mr. Blair admitted that all he had was tradition. In Mr. Blair's opinion, based on experience, the links of chain could very readily have come to the surface embedded in the sticky clay. Oak wood borings had likewise been brought up along with the clay, and dried out with the greatest care, and it was around these bits and particles that the bit of parchment had been found, not by him or Mr. Putnam, but by Dr. A.E. Porter, who was not a shareholder and had no financial interest in the Oak Island venture. That it was sheepskin was the opinion of experts. No stock issure had been made following the discovery, but nearly all the funds were put up by insiders.

Captain Bowdoin's suggestion that the pit was "salted" with the piece of parchment, was a weak insinuation of dishonesty on the part of Blair and his associates. Why not with gold or silver coin, and more links of gold chain? Such a small piece of parchment would be the last thing to "plant" in the pit. Why not a piece of substancial size with history and figures on it.

It was ridiculous to assume that Putnam used the parchment to induce himself to go bankrupt in a vain hunt for a treasure which he knew was not there.

6. The existance of an inscribed stone and the traditions respecting it were also matters in the same class as the ring bolt. Its history was incontrovertible, and spoke for itself.

Captain Bowdoin failed to explain the coconut husks and charcoal, the platforms every ten feet in the pit, the borings brought up all the way down to one hundred and seventy one feet and many other pieces of evidence brought up since the first discovery by men who by their findings invested all they had some of whom endeavoured more than once to recover the treasure and solve the mystery.

Thus ends the Bowdain - Roosevelt expedition.

Chapter XVI

THE YEARS 1912 to 1930

During this period Mr. Blair made arrangements with the owner of that portion of Oak Island, Mrs. Sophia Sellers, widow of Henry Sellers, for a lease up to November 1932.

A company named the Oak Island Salvage Company was organized by Professor A.R. Williams of Soldier's Grove, Wisconsin, U.S.A. His plan was the Poctseh freezing method. The company was origanized with a capital of twenty thousand dollars, half of which was offered to the public.

His method was to circle the "Money Pit" with a number of holes five inches in diameter, three feet apart and one hundred and sixty feet deep. The holes would be cased and closed at the bottom, then pumped out and filled with a freezing mixture of calcium chloride at thirty five degrees below zero, this mixture would be kept circulating by means of small pipes. This process would freeze the water thus forming a ring of ice, around the "Money Pit", allowing the excavation of the pit to a depth of one hundred and sixty feet.

The prospectus inferred that within a few days a part of the treasure would be recovered. However this company never got off the ground and no work was ever started.

The next venture was headed by William S. Lozier, an engineer from Rochester, New York, in 1916.

The firm of Sprague & Nenwood of Scranton, Penn. under the foremanship of James A. Ross. Their work consisted chiefly the drilling of holes within the pit and some outside the pit. No new data was learned from this drilling so the operation was abandoned. No further work was done during the period 1916 to 1921. In the meantime Mr. Blair had been endeavouring to interest parties.

Mr. Blair entered into an agreement with Edward W. Bowne, an engineer pf Newark, New Jersey, on August 6th, 1921, to recover the treasure.

Mr. Bowne's method of procedure was to sink a shaft about six feet by six feet about fifteen feet from the "Money Pit", strongly cribbed and with an air lock. Mr. Bowne figured that he could locate the treasure by sounding with an iron rod and then tunnel to it.

OnlJuly 4th, 1922 work began by Mr. Bowne. During the period of mine weeks only a depth of seven feet had been reached. Mr. Blair at that time terminated the agreement and was awarded the deposit of $1,000.00 by arbitration.

During the next nine years Mr. Blair endeavoured to interest a party or parties who would be willing to invest $50,000.00 in the search for treasure on Oak Island on a basis of sharing to the extent of fifty percent of anything recovered.

In "The Journal of Commerce" of Boston, December 7th, 1922 Mr. B Blair had incerted the following advertisement:

"BURIED TREASURE" - Speculative venture, partly proven, requires $50,000.00 for half interest. If successful, will produce millions within one year, otherwise possible eighty percent loss, satisfactory credentials, proof, partially successful efforts will prove good sporting proposition for party financially able to take chance. Full frank details at interview, 228 F., Journal of Commerce.

Mr. Blair in his interviews with prospective investors was very frank and truthful in his statements admitting that the enterprise was entirely speculative and no definite knowledge of what was buried on Oak Island, who did the emmense amount work that was done, when the deposit was made or where the treasure came from. With the result the parties making inquiries decided not to invest in a project apparantly so speculative.

Mr. Blair then decided to contact his old friend and partner William Chappell and discuss matters with him.

Chapter XVll

1931 CHAPPELLS LIMITED

The operation really began in the late fall of 1930 whem Mr. F.L. Blair contacted Mr. M.R. Chappell asking if his company would be interested in taking a contract to do excavation on Oak Island.

Mr. M.R., as he is generally known, contacted his father, Mr. William Chappell who had spent a part of three years 1895 - 1897 on Oak Island with the Oak Island Treasure Company of which Mr. F.L. Blair was Secretary.

After discussing the matter at length with William Chappell and his brother R.R. Chappell it was disided to ask Mr. Blair to come to Sydney to go into details regarding a contract to sink a shaft. Mr. Blair arrived in Sydney January 3rd, 1931.

As no one in the Chappell organization was familiar with shaft sinking or tunnelling it was decided that Mr. M.R. contact mining engineers with a view to determining the simplest, safest and least expensive method of sinking a shaft. Many methods were given consideration such as freezing to take care of the water, then excavating the frozen gound, sinking a caison which was given up as not being practible, using sheet piling to form walls of the shaft to prevent collapse of the earth, etc. After discussing the problem with the late C.W. Risley, Mining Engineering with the Dominion Coal Company, it was decided to sink an open timbered shaft with pumps to take care of the water, details of which were worked out as shown on attached drawing, later referred to as drawing Sl.

Mr. Risley and Mr. M.R. both being members of the Engineering Institute of Canada attended the annual meeting of that body in Mantreal in February 1931, which was also attended by about one thousand engineers from North America, Great Britain and other countries. An opportunity was given to discuss the Oak Island problem. After many suggestions of ways and means of sinking a shaft were put forth it was decided that our own idea of an open timbered shaft was the most practical, particularly from the stand point of cost.

A contract was drawn up between Mr. Blair and Chappell's Limited whereby the Company was to sink a shaft at least 155 feet deep in a location designated by Mr. Blair.

On May 1st, 1931 Mr. William Chappell, Mr. M.R. along with Mr. S.A. Noonan, who was to look after the carpentry and blacksmith work. Mr. George Stevens an experienced miner from River Hebert, Cumberland County and who had experience in drivin g tunnels overseas during the 1st World War, to be in charge of the actual shaft sinking.

The first work was to build a bunk house, a dining hall and office building. The next item was to get the materials for the actual work of shaft sinking, on the ground. This consisted of 10 x 10" x 24 foot long timbers for sills, 8" x 8" timber and 6" x 8" x 1/2" steel angle for cutting shoe, 1/4" x 4' steel plate for a shield and 6" x 6" timbers for shaft walls and braces. Drawing S1 shows the type of Construction of the shaft. The lumber was secured from Henniger at Chester Basin, iron work from Hawbolts at Chester. Transportation was by boat or scow towed by a motor boat.

It will be noted on Drawing S1 that the shaft was 12' x 15' divided into four compartments by the cross bracing timbers, one section for a power hoist, one section for ladders and two sections for pumps.

After erecting the buildings and making ready for shaft sinking the matter of pumping equipment became a necessity. It was decided to use Smart-Turner mine sinking centrifugal pump operated by an attached electric motor, to pump 450 gal. perminute at 155 feet head. Motor 50 H.P. - 550 volt. The pump was hung on cable, lowered and raised as required by a hand operated hoist.

In order to secure power it was decided to negotiate with the Chester Power Company, who installed a power line, 250 H.P., from the Main Highway to the Mainland shore, about three quarters of a mile, thense a cable under water to the Island about 450 feet thence on poles to the workings about one mile.

The shaft put down in 1897 by Mr. William Chappell was easily located. After some discussion it was decided to sink a new shaft 12 feet by 14 feet southwesterly from the pit of 1897 and to include part of it in the new shaft.

Drilling at Smith's Cove

On May 15th Mr. Kennedy, well driller from Bridgetown, set up his drill on the shore at Smith's Cove for the purpose of endeavouring to locate water courses leading to the "Money Pit" from the shore and if 1931

possible seal them off by cementation. It was thought that if a water course or tunnel were encountered and air forced into the drill hole, the entrance to the tunnel could be located by air bubbles appearing.

The 1st drill hole at 96 feet filled with water, the case pipe was capped and air pressure applied, the water was lowered but the air came up around the pipe and extending out several feet. A charge of dynamite was exploded with no special result except that the water rising in the pipe was materially slowed.

The second drill hole 12 feet to the south of first one was in firm hard soil, considerable trouble developed with the equipment. Salt water filled this hole up to tide level. When at 96 feet the pipe was capped, air applied, at first the air came up around the pipe but soon came up through the ground extending out 10 to 12 feet causing the soil to lift a couple of inches, the soil in this area being quite open near the surface as if having been previously disburbed. It was decided not to drill any more holes at the shore at this time. However, later it was decided to do more drilling at Smith's Cove with the following results, - the 3rd and 4th holes put down to about 100 feet encountered only the natural soil. The result of the 5th hole was laterely different. Salt water was encountered at 95 feet rising to tide level, a heavy charge of dynamite 160 lbs. was lowered to the bottom of the hole and discharged. The water in the "Money Pit" was noticeably agitated indicating a direct connection between Smith's Cove Shore and the "Money Pit"/

Mr. F.L. Blair arrived May 30th and established an office. He acted as Secretary keeping a record of each days progress.

The following account is largely condensed from his daily reports, omitting details of the amount of daily progress, the number of timbers placed, the bracing installed each day, reports on the weather, etc.

In the meantime work was progressing at the "Money Pit". The sills were set, the deck house completed and the first small pump set up to take care of surface water by May 22nd and cribbing below the sill well underway. By May 30th the shaft had been sunk to a depth of 28 feet. A quantity of old lumber was encountered which slowed progress very materially.

By June 15th a depth of 50 feet had been reached. The timber now encountered had taken the form of a shaft, partly included within the new 12' x 14' shaft on the north side, while balance of the shaft contained timbers from previous workings, these having been broken and disburbed by explosives used by earlier searchers.

The only water encountered to date was fresh which was from rains which were quite frequent and sometimes quite heavy which accumulated in the pit.

On June 22nd a depth of 58 feet had been reached, a great amount of old timber encountered, also three drill pipes appeared in the shaft, these from previous drillers, possibly the F.D. Roosevelt expedition.

As the timbers from one of the old shafts which was partially inside the new shaft were being removed, Mr. William Chappell remarked, "Those timbers look like our work of 1897 if so, at below ninety feet you will find the platform from which I did the drilling".

At ninety feet the platform was uncovered just as he had described. At this point Mr. Blair remarked, "I don't think we are in the original shaft, possibly ten to twelve feet to one side".

A depth of 69 feet was reached on June 29th. At this time it was noted that the water which had been standing in two of the old pits had settled to about the same level as that in our shaft, which indicated a direct connection between those old shafts and the new shaft.

On July 3rd the first accident occured. The hoist caught on the runway at the top of the shaft and tipped sufficient to spill part of the contents of the wheelbarrow which fell down the shaft, a stone hitting one of the workmen on the back. Medical examination indicated two cracked ribs. The patient was removed to a small hospital in Chester where he remained a few days before returning to work.

About this time July 6th it was found that the pressure of earth against the sides of the shaft were causing the timber to crack. To relieve this pressure the timbers were kept 2 inches apart with the result no more broken timbers. There was now seven pipes in the bottom of the shaft.

Volumn of water is increasing rapidly July 8th it is becoming salt. The new pump (450 gal. capacity) arrived and being set up.

July 13th the new pump has much more capacity then required even when throttled down to the limit. Depth of shaft now 87 feet. There are 12 drill pipes in the bottom some are being pulled out, most of these pipes are bent at the bottom end having encountered timber on an angle and forced from the surface.

July 20th shaft cribbed to 98 feet. Water is increasing but pump can easily take care of it.

On the night shift July 22nd at 105 feet deep a small cribbed tunnel was located on the north west side, this is no doubt one of the Halifax Company cross tunnels of the 1860' works.

The afore mentioned Halifax Company did a considerable amount of tunnelling at approximately 100 feet below the surface, hoping to intercept the water course which at that time was believed to be at that depth. Incidently these tunnels caused some trouble by draining water from old shafts into the new workings.

At midnight July 23rd the pump ceased to keep ahead of the inflow of water. It was discovered that the suction hose had collapsed at the upper end, the reason being that the reinforcing had been removed, possibly when the nipple was being installed. This shut down the work until a new suction hose could be gotten on the job, in the meantime the pit filled with water.

A second pump and hose was ordered for a stand by, these did not arrive until August 12th. By the 14th this pump was in place and water lowered and work resumed.

After the shutdown it was found very difficult to start the shoe on its downward course, the pressure on the side of the 4 foot shield being so great it required over 200 ton of jack pressure to start each corner, this great pressure against the 4 foot high shield leads to the opinion that a caisson could not be sunk in this type of water soaked loose soil.

About this time trouble developed in the electric starter for the pump. A replacement was secured but did not operate satisfactorily, it was two weeks before the starter trouble was corrected.

By August 28th a depth of 113 feet had been reached this was the bottom of the old shafts, several old tools were taken out of this depth, old shovels, a pick, a wrench, pipe fiffings, etc. at 114 feet a layer of quite white sand was encountered in the south west side of the shaft, the balance of the area being blue clay and gravel.

At the edge of the shaft on the south side firmly embedded in the clay was thefluke of an anchor about fourteen inches long, nine inches wide and about 1¼" thick, quite flat, the rib appeared to be on the inside rather than outside as on anchors today. There was no sign of rust on the fluke.

At 119 feet a large boulder, over 5 feet in diameter appeared in the center of the shaft, which was ppplit into three pieces in order to remove it. Several pieces of wood, some chips, spruce boughs, a piece of a limb and a large piece of oak bark were found under this boulder. Several more pieces of wood and an old axe were removed at 123 feet.

The south west side of the shaft is hard yellow marl, undisturbed soil while the rest of the shaft is blue clay and gravel. It is the belief that no searchers up to date had ever excavated to this depth.

Regarding the axe. It is of ancient vintage, a wide blade of non rustable steel, the head was very badly rusted. The head was split and the cutting edge set in it opposite to the way axes are made today, the cutting edge being split and the head set into it. The handle was straight and three feet long.

A small pick with a short handle was taken out, one point was oval, the other was blunt and cross hatched for use as a hammer.

Some trouble was experienced with an occassional broken timber in the side of the shaft due to excessive pressure. At 127 feet the remains of a seal oil miners lamp was picked up, the top was rusted away but the bottom with oil in was bright and intact. The oil was analized and reported to be seal oil.

It was noticed that a considerable amount of clay and silt was being thrown out by the pumps with the water. Upon investigating it was found that a void had developed outside the shaft at the north east corner extending out several feet and also along the north and east sides.

It was also found that the shaft was moving toward this void so much so that the hoist cage was binding, a plumb line showed the shaft 10" out of perpendicular. A hole was made in the side of the shaft and the void filled with brush and bags of clay. A haulage cable was secured from the Coal Company and a length installed in each corner, secured to the timbers at the bottom and to the sill at the top, the shaft was then sheathed with three inch plank spiked to the crib timbers, thus the whole shaft was tied together.

During this time there was considerable twisting of the crib timbers with some breaking, several of the workmen refusing to enter as they considered the shaft unsafe.

On September 17th Mr. Messervery, Provincial Inspector of Mines, arrived and after inspection pronounced the shaft safe for work.

So many happenings had occured to delay and handicap the progress of the work that Mr. Blair made the remark that "Anything can happen at Oak Island", and when considering all things that have occured, his remark is one hundred percent correct.

The hard yellow marl continues on the west side of the shaft, the balance of the area being loose gravel and blue clay. The hard marl at times was just inside the wall of the shaft and at times extended out four to five feet, giving the appearance of a spiral ramp on the side of a circular chamber about thirty feet in diameter. These ramps were encountered three times about twelve feet apart.

After the tie up of the work and movement of the shaft it was very difficult to move the cutting shoe which had twisted quite badly.

At 130 feet a granite boulder about fifteen inches in diameter was taken out, it had been broken or worked on three sides.

On September 22nd word was received that the deck man had lost an eye the night before, he was in a car near his home on the Mainland being towed with a chain, the chain broke, a link flying back entering his eye. The same day advise was received that one of the night shift men who had fallen on a jack at the bottom of the shaft on the 18th had a broken rib.

September 27th a depth of 140 feet measured today. Some increase in water flow was noticed, no doubt due to greater depth and as a result greater pressure.

days with no satisfactory results, some soft stone encountered but no wood.

October 19th, it was decided to explore outside the shaft from 130 feet down by drilling out from the shaft, several holes were put out, some of them hit wood, thought to be timbers which had fallen down from earlier workings.

It was decided to do some tunnelling at the bottom. The first opening being made in the north side near the east corner, the bottom of the tunnel being 157 feet from the surface. The soil on west side of tunnel was hard and dry that on the east side quite soft and wet.

Here are copies of letter written by Mr. Blair from Oak Island to Mr. R.R. Chappell in Sydney regarding the last few days of work.

Oak Island, October 21, 1931

Mr. R.R. Chappell, Sydney, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Chappell:

Good progress was made in the tunnel yesterday until around three o"clock when a run of clay from the top near the face of tunnel occurred. They were then out about nine fee t from the pit, and Stevenson reported they had reached a wall of the so called cement, which appeared to dip away from them in the direction they were digging. The clay ran in and filled a good part of the tunnel. It was not considered advisable or worth while to explore any further in this direction.

The tunnel was closed and another was started at the same level on the north east side of the east corner. The face of this tunnel is in the "cement" and they hope to drive if five or six feet and then run towards the north.

Last evening much to the surprise of every person, water broke into the pit about 55' from the deck directly above where the second tunnel was being started. The flow continued part of the night, then ceased as suddenly as it had commenced. We have decided that this water came from some old pit that has been standing full until the subsidence of the surrounding soil has permitted the water to work its way through.

The water standing in the cave-in pit has entirely disappeared in spite of two heavy rains the last two weeks, which filled the hole pretty well up on each occasion. It must be remembered that the water in this pit maintained its level all summer until our pit reached a depth

of at least 150 feet while the water in all surrounding pits disappeared immediately after our pit was down 110 feet.

Personally, I have concluded that there is a direct connection around 150 feet between this pit and the money pit site, and as soon as we reached that depth in the latter, the water dropped in the cave-in pit, thus permitting the water in the surface hole to find its way through. This was not sooner done because any connection made by searchers above 150 feet has been plugged in some manner, thereby preventing water in this pit from passing out when that in the others disappeared.

It has always been maintained that this pit was original work, and exploring it may possibly give the key to the situation or it might at least under any circumstances, furnish sufficient evidence to confirm the treasure theory.

I believe that exploring this pit should be considered a part of the work, and if it is not feasible this fall, it should be kept in mind as something to be done next summer at the same time as operations are being conducted at the money pit. What do you think? I remember we talked of this very thing once when you were in Boston, and if I remember correctly, you said that William had expressed a desire to explore this pit if he ever got to work again on the Island.

I have not said anything to him about it because it is not worth while, and he has quite enough to worry over without giving any thought to that just now. It is now looking very much to me as if nothing definite is going to be decided this fall, which I realize is as great a knock-out to you all as it is to me. If the question were only settled, it would not be so bad, but as I see it, the only thing we can now say is, that the problem of handling the water is a thing of the past. It has been fully demonstrated that it does not increase as it was claimed it would, and that it can be easily handled by modern pumps. The rest is still a job to be done.

Sincerely,

F.L. Blair

Oak Island, October 22, 1931

Mr. R.R. Chappell, Sydney, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Chappell:

The second tunnel was driven out about ten feet from the pit so Mr. Lohnes told me, (William says it is not that far, probably by 2 feet) and then they turned at right angles towards the northwest. This tunnel is in the so called cement as far as they have gone, only two or three feet after the turn. The ground is in a broken up condition with a few scattered rocks of different structure mixed in. A small stream of salt water is coming through what appears to be a water course. They came across an old 1½" drill pipe running at an angle through this tunnel about as located on the sketch below.

This morning Stevenson reported that there was danger in driving this tunnel further, so work was stopped there, and they commenced another from the first tunnel just outside the north corner. of pit. This will be driven north east in the hope that some evidence of treasure may exist in that direction.

Mr. Bedwin has just been here, and he tells us that a geologist in Halifax, after examining a piece of the soft stone or so called cement, stated that it was his opinion it was lime stone. William had previously tried it for lime stone and says there was no evidence of it being such, and there you are.

Northing further of interest at present.

Sincerely,

F.L. Blair

Oak Island, Western Shore, October 24, 1931

Mr. R.R. Chappell, Sydney, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Chappell:

The third tunnel is now a thing of the past also. This was started from the pit as advised on the 22nd, and instead of going straight out, they commenced to circle at once towards the second tunnel. Clay was encountered at first, but the ground became harder as they worked over until when within two or three feet of the face of second tunnel, they came to the same material as was met in the latter.

This was closed the efforts to locate anything outside the pit. Mr. Stevenson tells us that to attempt to work out above might cause the loss of the pit, and of course, that contingency should be avoided. The men are therefore idle today waiting for the arrival of M.R., who is expected any hour by William.

It looks like a shut down for the winter, which considering the lateness of the season, may be the best move to make, but I confess a great disappointment in the result of the season's work. As stated in a previous letter, I know your feelings are quite in sympathy with mine in that respect, and it is a case of mutual consolation.

Mr. Bedwin was here yesterday afternoon with his geologist, a Mr. Baily, or Bailey. It would seem that as a result of their first conversation, Bedwin was about converted to the idea that conditions here were natural, and there was nothing in the treasure idea. The last words of Mr. Bailey as he left us, were, that "we had a very peculiar condition and it looked very much like artificial work". He examined two pieces of the "cement" we have in the office, and he said they had the appearance of artifical natural cement. I confessed I did not understand the term, "artificial natural", and he replied that it meant cement made from natural cement rock. He looked at the same stuff around the pit - it does not all look alike - and pronounced it lime stone, but said it did not possess all the characteristics of good lime stone.

He was down in the pit and pronounced it a splendidly timbered shaft, whether he knew anything about such work or not. He could not explain why we get such various classes of soil at the same level, nor why there are such sudden changes in so narrow limits. He undertook to explain the presence of water by its passing through what was in prehistoric times, a fresh water course, and thinks that the action of salt water on the lime stone has caused a disintegration and a collapse of the ground at the level of the stone, the surrounding ground gradually dropping down until the surface was reached. He also said that the constant ebb and flow of the tides would cause an errosion and create further water courses, but he was staggered when told that water pumped into the money pit above tide level, would flow out only a short time and then cease.

The pit could be then filled to the surface, and it would remain full, the tide having no effect on it. Of course, he could not explain why such a condition should exist, nor could he do anything better regarding the coconut fibre on the shore at Smith's Cove, nor the manner in which the pit was filled when first opened by searchers. He frankly told us he was not there for the purpose of refuting our claims, but only as an interested party in the work being done.

I think on the whole we did more to donvince him than he did to turn our heads.

Sincerely,

F.L. Blair

Oak Island, October 27, 1931

Mr. R.R. Chappell, Sydney, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Chappell:

There is nothing in the line of work to report for Saturday as the men were idle all day. M.R. arrived here late Sunday afternoon.

The men worked yesterday drilling in various directions, but to no purpose. It was decided last evening that probably the better plan was to discontinue operations for the season, at least.

They are at work raising the pumps this morning, and none too soon as the water was gaining on them last night presumably due to lack of efficiency of the large pump, which M.R. thought was developing trouble yesterday.

He will be leaving for home this afternoon, and will, of course, explain matters more fully than can be done in a letter, in fact this is written more as a matter of record than of news, because you will probably see M.R., before it reached you.

He spoke about returning the latter part of the week, and of you coming with him which I hope you will do. I want to see you and talk over the situation.

Sincerely,

F.L. Blair

Oak Island, October 29, 1931

Mr. R.R. Chappell, Sydney, Nova Scotia

Mr. Chappell:

As advised in mine of the 27th the work or faising the pumps

and pipe was commenced that day and completed yesterday. The pumps are now in the men's quarters and the pipe is on the ground and being covered with lumber. Stevenson and Noonan overhauled the pumps and oiled them to protect from rust.

The former with his son and Legere, left for home this morning. All the equipment and fittings are housed, and the timber is now being piled up.

This will probably be the last report from me for the season only I hope. Have not yet decided where we'll lay out the winter, but it is likely to be Amherst, if we can procure suitable quarters.

May see you here Friday with M.R., but at all events, we must keep in touch with each other during the winter, and for the present anyway, Maritime Block, Amherst, will reach me in case I do not see you before we leave here.

Cannot say just when we shall leave, but it looks now as if it might be Saturday.

Sincerely,

F.L. Blair

Mr. Blair has expressed the disappointment we all felt in having to close down the work without more definite results.

The weather at the end of October was very cold and raw with a great deal of rain and high wind, which made working difficult and boat travel hazardous at times.

It was the intention to reorganize for resumption of work in the spring of 1932; however, during the winter Mrs. Sellers the owner of the portion of the Island involved passed away and it was not possible for Mr. Blair to make a satisfactory agreement with the heirs to proceed with the work.

During the early months of the year 1931 before the work on the Chappell shaft was begun, Mr. Blair had a communication from two Wicks Brothers from Saginaw, Michigan, U.S.A. inquiring if they could invest in the Oak Island venture about to begin. Upon checking with them as to where they got their information about Oak Island and the proposed operation, Mr. Blair was amazed with their reply which was that

it was from Automatic writing. On occasions during the work in 1931 Mr. John Wicks would write Mr. Blair giving accurate details of certain happenings the information of which they could not possibly have gotten from the Island, their answer always "automatic wirting". So intrigued did we become Mr. Blair and the author paid a visit to the Wicks Brothers home in Saginaw spending several days with them and witnessing their performance with automatic writing. The demonstrations were absolutely fantastic. They not only gave data which we already knew but also gave data which we did not know which in after years was proven to be as they stated. One statement made was "There is a treasure there, it will be some time and several attempts before it is recovered".

CHAPTER XVIII

As mentioned at the close of the previous chapter it was the intention of Chappells Limited to continue the search in 1932 but unfortunately during the early months of the year Mrs. Sophia Sellers, widow of Henry Sellers and owner of the area involved died without a will and the Blair lease from her expired in the late fall.

Mr. Blair endeavoured to negotiate a lease with the heirs but they refused to consider any arrangement with him, without a substantial payment to each one about fifty in number.

However during the summer of 1932 before his lease expired Mr. Blair made an agreement with John Talbot, a New York engineer who representated Miss Mary B. Stewart and others.

Mr. Talbot spent about two months on the Island, drilling one hole a few feet from the Chappell Shaft to a depth of about one hundred and fifty feet at which point the pipe broke. Further work was abandoned.

In September 1933 Mr. Thomas M. Nixon of Victoria, B.C. was able to make arrangements with the Sellers heirs to enter the area and also made an agreement with Mr. Blair who had the Treasure Trove Rights.

Mr. Nixon assigned his rights to the Canadian Oak Island Treasure Company, which company had an authorized capital of $250,000.00. A prospectus was prepared giving an elaborate description of the items covered in Treasure Trove also giving a description of the history of the workings since the original descovery, also a description of what he thought was the source of what was buried there. One half of the capital stock was offered to the public but it was found difficult to sell it.

Nixons proposed plan was to circle the money pit with sheet piling interlocking type, making a caisson about sixty feet in diameter, then excavate the entire caisson down to the treasure.

Mr. Nixon had an engineer from Toledo, Ohio, Mr. Norman J. Zumbrunn associated with him. They did not carry out the plan outlined above, but spent the summer in drilling a number of holes in the vicinity of the money pit.

According to their record of the drilling the first hole ten feet north west of the Chappell shaft was to one hundred and seventy feet through blue clay and gravel. At about 58 feet alayer of pink sand was encountered possibly made by the red die put into the pit some years earlier.

All the way from 132 to 146 feet, clay and gravel was encountered, which would indicate the drill was in the original money pit.

The second hole was about seven feet due norht from the Chappell shaft, to the same depth as the first hole, as in number one the pink layer of sand was encountered at 58 feet. The conclusion from the drilling of number two hole was that the Chappell shaft was not in the original money pit.

Other holes were at various distances from the Chappell shaft, most of them 170 feet or more. In hole number eight, pieces of Oak were brought up from below 110 feet also pieces of china. In holes number nine and ten, timbers were cnoountered at sixty four feet.

The report states that holes number thirteen and fourteen encountered oak and cement, fourteen inches thick at 136 feet, under which was a void of thirty three feet down to 169 feet. The next seven feet was thruugh clay and pieces of oak at 176 feet a hard body was encountered.

The agreement between Mr. Blair and Mr. Nixon expired in November. Mr. Blair declined to have any further dealings with him.

Mr. Blair was of the opinion that due to there having been so many shafts sunk in the close vicinity that the exaut location of the original money pit was lost.

Chapter XIX

Gilbert D. Hedden

Following the Nixon operation Mr. Gilbert D. Hedden, an engineer from Chatham, New Jersey became vitally interested in Oak Island, having read an article on Oak Island in the "New York Times" of May 8, 1928.

At the age of twenty two Mr. Hedden became Vice-President and General Manager of the Hedden Iron Construction Company of Hillside, New Jersey, which company fabricated and erected structural steel. In 1931 this company was sold to the Bethlehem Steel Company, Mr. Hedden became manger of the Hedden works.

Mr. Hedden served afour year term as Mayor of Chatham, New Jersey 1934-1938.

After becoming interested to the extent that he decided to look into it further he carried an exhaustive research into the history of previous workings. During the course of his investigations he visited England and had the opportunity to examine the data and maps purported to have been taken from Captain William Kidd's desk and sea chest found in concealed compartments. In examining the map which is supposed to be Oak Island he came to the conclusion that it was not Oak Island. By stretching the imagination the shafts on the map could be to some extent likened to Oak Island or some of the other islands in Mahone Bay and in other parts of the world.

Mr. Hedden visited Sydney and spent some days with Mr. William Chappell and the writer going thoroughly into detail of the operations by the Oak Island Treasure Company 1893 to 1897 also the Chappell operation of 1931. He also spent considerable time with Mr. Blair, going over the history of Oak Island to date. During the year 1934, 1935 and 1936 a great deal of correspondence passed between Mr. Blair and Mr. Hedden.

In March 1935 an agreement was made with Mr. Blair who still held Treasure Trove Rights from the Government to search for the treasure. At this point the question of entering the land came to the fore. Mrs. Sellers having died and Blairs lease having expired, it was a matter of dealing with the Mrs. Sellers heirs. This was unsuccessful. Mr. Hedden endeavoured to have the Government change the Treasure Trove Act bringing it under the Mining Act Regulations whereby the land could be entered without consent of the owner by paying for any damage done to the property

during the operation. This move being unsuccessful Mr. Hedden arranged with his solicitor from New Jersey, Mr. George W. Grimms to purchase the south end of the Island from Mrs. Sellers heirs which he did in 1936.

Mr. Hedden had been very fortunate in certain investments and accumulated considerable wealth. When in Sydney he stated to Mr. William Chappell that he was prepared to spend $100,000.00 or twice that if necessary to play with and investigate Oak Island. By the way it is the opinion of those carrying out his operation that only a portion of this amount was spent.

A contract was made in April 1936 between Mr. Hedden and Sprague & Henwood Inc. of Scranton, Penn., the same company who worked for the Rochester group in 1916. They were to do the necessary dewatering of the existing shafts, excavate the money pit and do laterial drilling between 120 and 160 feet.

Frederick R. Krupp an engineer of considerable experience was in charge of the work along with Sylvester Carroll a gold miner from Northern Ontario. Equipped with electric pump of 1000 gallong per minute capacity and modern machinery necessary, work was begun with high hopes of success.

A copy of Sprague & Henwood proposal which was accepted follows:-

Mr. Gilbert D. Hedden, 39 Market Street, Morristown, New Jersey

March 18th, 1936

Dear Mr. Hedden:

We are pleased to make you the following proposition to start work on Oak Island around the first week of May. We trust that our proposition is in order.

We have full charge of the operations on Oak Island. The first work will be to de-water the money shaft and reinforce same to a depth of 155 feet, and then start drilling horizontal holes in the North and East sides of the shaft for a maximum distance of 20 feet.

If we do not find the object, we are to raise the drill up approximately two feet and continue with another series of holes and repeat the operations up to 126 feet from the surface. While in the shaft, we are to put down a series of holes to approximately 172 feet.

You are to forward a minimum of TWELVE THOUSAND DOLLARS ($12,000.00) to Scranton to be put in the First National Bank in escrow, for Sprague & Henwood, Inc., to draw on same.

The best arrangement would be to pay us a lump sum of TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($250.00) per month for supervision, plus all expenses in connection with the project, including transportation, rental, time of men travelling, their salaries, wages, compensation and duties if any, plus FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) of all money spent. If the writer was to visit the property once or twice during the operation, you to pay the expenses of the writer.

Please let us know at your earliest convenience if the above is in order, so that we can arrange to get the equipment lined up in Montreal and wherever necessary, and also get the deep turbine pump assembled, etc.

Yours very truly,

SPRAGUE & HENWOOD, INC.

(Signed) James A. Ross - President

The Sprague & Henwood being unsuccessful in discovering anything of interest Mr. Hedden decided to carry on operations on his own.

The Hedden operation consisted of sinking an open timbered shaft twelve feet by twenty four feet with eight six foot by six foot compartments. This shaft was to the east of the Chappell shaft and of similar construction to it. The south end being in line with said Chappell shaft which was twelve feet by fourteen feet, the extra length extending to the north, see plan No. 4. The Chappell shaft which was in fairly good condition and was 165 feet deep was used by Mr. Hedden as a pumping pit, in which was lowered an impeller pump of 1000 gallons per minute capacity at 160 feet head this enabled the workman to sink the Hedden shaft without the interference of water. The shzft was put down to about 124 feet the first season 1937 and floored over at that depth.

Later one of the six foot by six foot sections was put down to the depth of the Chappell shaft 165 feet.

Some tunnelling was done and a number of drill holes put down. Nothing of importance was discovered other than water was entering from the south at about 155 feet at the rate of about 450 gallons per minute.

Due to important personal commitments Mr. Hedden was obliged to terminate his direct connection with the operation on Oak Island and return home. His equipment pumps etc. were cleaned and stored for the winter.

During the years 1934- 1937 a considerable amount of correspondence passed between Mr. Hedden and Mr. Blair, Dr. R.V. Harris, Geo. W. Grimms, Sprague & Henwood Inc. and many others, the files of which Mr. Hedden forwarded to the writer and now in his possession.

The writer has had considerable correspondence with Mr. Hedden who is retired, living in Florida. He is still very interested in the solving of the Oak Island mystery.

As an item of interest when Mr. Geo. W. Grimms acquired deed to the south end of the Island from the Sellers Heirs it was later transferred to Mr. Hedden who later sold it to Col. H.A. Gardner along with other lands Mr. Hedden had acquired, all later purchased by J. Whitney Lewis, from whom the writer purchased.

Chapter XX

EDWIN H. HAMILTON

Following the discontinuance of operations by Mr. Hedden in 1937 arrangements were made with Edwin H. Hamilton, associate Professor of Engineering in New York University to carry on the work of exploration. Mr. Hamilton made an agreement with Mr. Blair and Mr. Hedden, with Blair re Treasure Trove Rights and with Hedden re the leasing of the pumping equipment and machinery left by him.

In the mid summer of 1938 Hamilton did a considerable amount of diamond drilling about sixty holes, most of them to a depth of approximately 170 feet. In one hole at 157 feet he struck iron which may have been a case pipe left there by previous drillers.

During the month of August, some lateral drilling was done at about 120 feet, from the Chappell shaft, which he had repaired when the timbers were broken. He was of the opinion that pieces of wood encountered were from the collapsed pit of 1850.

The following summer 1939 when the Chappell and Hedden shafts were pumped down it was found that some of the timbers had become loose and some broken. To make the necessary repairs in order to ensure the safety of the shafts, required several weeks of strenuous effort covering areas from sixty feet to ninety feet and from about one hundred and forty feet to the bottom.

Some tunelling was done toward the west from the Hedden shaft at about 117 or 118 feet from the surface, nothing of interest resulted.

In the fall of 1939 Mr. Hamilton did some investigating near the shore at Smith's Cove, at various depths he encountered three tunnels from 35 to 45 feet down, they were partly filled with broken timber, sand, beach gravel and clay.

In this area the Halifax Company in the 1860's did a considerable amount of tunelling and sank some shafts one of which Mr. William Chappell in 1897 descended and followed a tunnel coming up in the shaft in which they were about 380 feet distant from the shaft he descended about seventy five feet below tide level. This tunnel was well timbered and in good condition.

As mentioned in a previous chapter, the Halifax Company did a great deal of tunnelling endeavouring to intercept the original flooding tunnel. These tunnels of theirs caused the loss of several shafts put down by subsequent searchers.

Again in 1940 Mr. Hamilton did tunnel work in the money pit area, locating one of the Halifax Kompanys tunnels and followed it a considerable distance, confirming Mr. William Chappell's report of 1897 that some of the tunnels had the wood rails still on the floor.

Mr. Hamilton's work confirmed that the Chappell shaft and the Hedden shaft were not in the original money pit but off to the south and east a few feet.

During the deepening of the Hedden shaft Professor Hamilton at about 155 feet encountered the tunnels put out of the Chappell shaft in 1931, these were in a good state of preservation.

In spite of the war years 1939-1945 Mr. Hamilton carried on druing the summer months of 1941-1942 and 1943 doing some tunnel work and confirming certain work done by former searchers. By the fall of 1943 he decided to call it a day and removed all the machinery and equipment to Chester for storage, first flooring over the shafts just above water level with heavy timbers.

Chapter XXI

1943 - 1951

Following discontinuation of work by Professor Hamilton, letters continued to come in to Mr. Blair, Hedden, Harris and the writer from far afield by individuals interested in Oak Island, some out of curiosity, others with far fetched ideas of how to control the water and recover the treasure and still others who were serious but in most cases having very little, if any idea or knowledge of the problem and lacking funds to carry out their proposed plan.

During the closing years of the war nothing was done in the line of work.

Mr. Blair's license from the Government expired in 1944 but due to the war years being practically lost he had no difficulty in securing a renewal for five years. The way matters now stand Mr. Hedden owns the land, Mr. Blair has the Treasure Trove Rights. Neither one can act without an agreement between them, a third party could not operate without an agreement with both. With Mr. Hedden to enter his land, from Mr. Blair to search for treasure.

EDWARD REICHERT

In 1946 Mr. Edward Reichert of New York announced he was planning to recover the treasure. He came to Halifax where he made arrangements with a Construction Company to rent from them equipment and tools and machinery on a monthly rental basis. His plan was to excavate a shaft about eighty feet in diameter which would include all the shafts put down close to and including the money pit, to a depth of two hundred feet if necessary. He estimated it would require about eight to ten months and winter would not interfere with the work.

After discussion with Mr. Blair and learning of the problems and difficulties of past operations, he decided not to proceed with his plans.

Col. H.A. GARDNER

In 1947 an arrangement was made between Mr. Hedden and Col. H.A. Gardner, a retired army officer, whereby Col. Gardner had leave to investigate on Oak Island with a radar device in an endeavour to locate treasure. This did not interfere or encroach on Mr. Blair's Treasure Trove Rights. Should anything be definitely located then no doubt the matter of operation would be negotiated with both Hedden and Blair.

Col. Gardner visited the Island in 1947 and again in 1948. His investigations were unsuccessful in locating anything.

Col. Gardner must have been keenly interested in Oak Island because he purchased from Mr. Hedden all his land.

JOHN WHITNEY LEWIS

In May 1950 Mr. John Whitney Lewis of New York, an engineer of prominance, purchased the portion of Oak Island involved in the Treasure seeking.

During the summer of 1950 a considerable amount of correspondence passed and negotiating carried on between Mr. Blair and Mr. Lewis and Dr. R.V. Harris for the purpose of finalizing an agreement whereby Mr. Blair could carry on further exploration.

The last attempt to settle on an agreement was made in the office of Dr. Harris with Lewis, Blair, and Mr. M.R. Chappell present. Several hours were spent, it appeated terms were pretty well agreed to but Mr. Lewis made a remark as a stipulation of the Contract regarding the ownership of any documents recovered to which Mr. Blair objected and when Mr. Lewis was asked if he really meant what he said, his reply being inthe affirmative, Mr. Blair Said, "No point in negotiating any further, I will definitely not agree to that", and walked out of the meeting.

In the meantime the writer was able to have the Treasure Trove Act ammended and brought under the Mining Act regulations whereby a permit or special license could be secured fromthe Government to enter private lands without the owners consent, any damage done to the property by the prospector to be paid by him to the owner. Mr. Blair wrote Mr. Lewis on July 27, 1950 asking on what terms he would allow Mr. Blair and his associates to enter the land for the purpose of carrying on search for Treasure Trove, free and unmolested.

Mr. Lewis answered on August 25, 1950 asking for copies of Mr. Blair's agreement and license with the Government and on the same day wrote the Provincial Secretary for a copy of these documents.

On September 20th, 1950 Mr. Blair gave Mr. Lewis notice that he was making application for a special license to enter his land and carry on operations for the recovery of Treasure Trove.

On September 29, 1950 Mr. Lewis made application to the Provincial Gpvernment for a license to search for Treasure Trove on his own land. Mr. Blair opposed the application. After arguments pro and con Lewis' application was rejected.

Mr. Lewis knowing that he could not operate a search and assuming that the Blair application for a special license would be granted decided to sell. Negotiating with M.R. Chappell a deal was completed and deed made out in December to The Acadia Trust Co. to be hald in Trust for Mr. Chappell. Later the deed was registered in Mr. Chappell's name where it still remains.

In 1950 The Parker Contract Company, through a mutual friend got in touch with Mr. M.R. Chappell regarding a material detecting device which supposedly could locate any material. The equipment was a box about two feet long by one foot wide and eighteen inches high. It contained tubes similar to radio tubes with many other parts including a projection tube with lenses similar to a camera. The manner of operating the equipmant was to place a piece of whatever was being sought for, if copper put in a piece of copper, if silver put in a piece of silver, if diamonds put in a diamond, etc. etc., then point the project at aphoto of the area involved in the search. The owner of the equipmnet claimed to have located a number of items including iron ore, oil deposits, radio active material etc. On the strength of these statements, some of which were investigated and found to be correct, aerial photos were taken and a definite location established, where a deposit of gold was suppesed to be at a depth of twenty feet. An excavation was made to a depth of about fifty feet, some thirty feet in diameter. The result was aggative, later four other points were located these were investigated with a well drill six inch diamter to a depth fifty percent deeper than the equipment indicated all proved negative.

MR. F.L. BLAIR DIES

It is with deepest regrets that we at this time report the death of Frederick L. Blair a man of sterling quality and great determination. For the greater part of his long life his one ambition was to solve the mystery of Oak Island and recover the treasure supposed to be buried there. He became interested in Oak Island in 1890 at the age of about twenty two During the nex6 sixty years he gathered a vast amount of data and infor-

mation regarding the history of the efforts made in the various attempts to solve the mystery and recover the treasure. Mr. Blair firmly believed there is an emmence treasure beneath the soil of Oak Island. He died without realizing his life long dream of seeing the treasure recovered.

Mr. Blair was Secretary of the Oak Island Treasure Co. from its formation in 1893 until he bought out the shareholders about the end of the century.

Thousands of letters and phone calls were received by Mr. Blair from parties interested in Oak Island. Many just curious and seeking information, some from parties who had no idea whatever of the situation or problems but claimed they knew all about it. Others who came up with the recovery of the treasure.

To these various letters and calls Mr. Blair replied with courtesy and candor.

During his life time he had many experiences, some of which are difficult to explain, happenings that have no logical answer. For instance when a power shovel was being transported by scow to the Island, it was dumped into the water 100 feet from shore. When Mr. Blair was called on phone in Amherst and informed they had an accident with the shovel, his remark was "If you tell me it sprouted wings and flew away, I could believe it as anything can happen on Oak Island".

Mr. Blair was of the opinion that failure of the various attempts was due to one of three reasons or a combination of the three, namely, - lack of sufficient engineering skill, a full knowledge of conditions and lack of sufficient funds.

Chapter XXII

From 1951 to 1955 very little was done only sufficient to cover the regulations, nothing of importance was discovered. Several parties submitted that they had a solution to the problem. Some with a sure method to shut off the water, others with a method of recovering the treasure by sinking a caisson, etc.

When they visited the site and laarned the conditions they backed off with one exception, a gentlemen who claimed to be an oil well driller from California.

His idea was to put down a six foot diamter drill hole, pump it out, go down and bring up the treasure. He said he was ready and willing to proceed at once if satisfactory arrangements could be made regarding the split of anything recovered, when asked what he had in mind he said 95 percent to him and 5 percent to the owner of the property and the treasure Trove Rights. It was the opinion of the owner that he made such a ridiculous suggestion knowing it would not be accepted. He left thanking for the opportunity of visiting the Island.

In 1952, the magazine "Life" published an article on the history of operations on Oak Island from 1795 to 1950making the statement that the Government of Nova Scotia has passed an act by which a license to search for treasure on Oak Island could be secured by application to the Provincial Secretary as a result of this statement, within a short time hundreds of applications were received from far and near. The deluge was so great the questions asked could not be answered. The only reply given was that Mr. M.R. Chappell had already taken out a license to search for the treasure.

In the summer of 1955 Mr. Prescott H. Brown of Boston, Mass. was interested along with Mr. Hedden and Mr. Lewis, nothing definite was done regarding an operation.

GEORGE J. GREEN

In August 1955 Mr. George J. Green of Corpus Christi, Texas, an oil well driller contacted the owner, claiming he represented a group of five Texas oil men who were interested in solving the mystery of Oak Island and had engaged him to contact the owner and made an agreement to do drilling and recover if possible any Treasure Trove encountered.

In late September an agreement was made, work to begin immediately.

Mr. Green made arrangements with the Provincial Government to use one of their drills to be operated by their drillers.

On October 16th the writer with Mr. Green visited the Island and determined the location to start drilling operations and method of procedure.

By the end of October, 1955 Mr. Green had put down four drill holes, he did not follow the method or procedure outlined a few days earlier but slanted the drill so that at a depth of 160 feet it was in the center of the Chappell shaft as a result nothing was learned that was not already known. The first of November, Mr. Green returned the drilling equipment to the Government and returned home to Corpus Christi. Later the report of the core drilling of two of the four holes was sent in.

During 1956 very little was done on Oak Island, only sufficient to cover the required amount required by Government regulations.

HERMAN BROTHERS

On January 7, 1957 a letter was received from William Harman of Englehart, Ontario who along with his brother Victor had made a visit to Oak Island the summer of 1956 thus they were familiar to some extent with the location and conditions. This letter was to inquire if they could obtain the rights to do some drilling and if anything located to bring it up. Also on what percentage they would getif anything recovered.

A copy of the reply follows:-

January 9th, 1957

Mr. William Harman, Englehart, Ontario

Dear Sir;

Your letter of January 7th received this morning, and note you and your brother are interested in recovery work at Oak Island.

I also note you have in mind doing some drilling. I may say the last experience I had with a drilling operation was not very satisfactory.

Before coming to any agreement with you, there are a few things I should like to know. One is, what type of drilling do you propose to do? And to what extent? (That is how many holes would you prepare to put down if it were found necessary to go beyong the first one). What size holes? And how far apart had you in mind, for setting your pattern?

And now, probably the most important item is, how much are you prepared to spend in your investigations/ The reason for this question is that several previous workings were called off due to lack of funds, and I should not like to see another started unless proper financing were arranged before work was commenced.

Regarding the disposition of anything recovered. First the Provincial Government takes their Royalty of 5%; the balance to be split between myself and whoever makes the recovery. This has been the arrangement in practically every expedition that went to Oak Island.

If you are further interested, I would like to know very soon as other parties are keenly interested in getting to work there in the Spring, and a decision must be reached without delay so that preparations can be made.

I note you have visited Oak Island and are therefore, at least to some extent, familiar with the situation.

Looking forward to hearing from you very shortly.

Yours very truly,

In their reply January 17th all questions were answered quite satisfactory except the one of finances, the important one, their reply was that they had some funds but not sufficient. They planned to form a syndicate and raise $50,000.00 to $100,000.00 and to anyone who puts up funds they plan to pay them back many times more than they invest.

On January 23th they asked for two months to raise the finances. In a phone conversation on February 11, time was given to March 11th to make their arrangements, which was confirmed by letter.

Following several letters and phone conversation an agreement dated August 31st was prepared. Work to begin by September 30, 1957.

The solicitor acting for the Harman Brothers was preparing to organize a company named "Oak Island Exploration Co. Ltd." with an issue of 1,000,000 shares at 25¢ each, thereby raising $250,000.00.

The Harman Brothers along with a drill and a driller as expected arrived in April. Early in May they brought up cores at 153 and 171 feet which they were to have analized in Halifax. No report has ever been submitted to the owner.

On August 4th it was reported that the drill was not operating and the operator was in Toronto.

At this point it was learned that the Ontario Government Security Commission would not consider approving the selling on the open market the shares of their company unless they had a five year agreement with the owner and the Nova Scotia Provincial Government.

The owner had no difficulty in securing an extension of the Treasure Trove license but was not prepared to tie up the property on a five year lease with the Harman Brothers.

Some months time was given to the Brothers to sell stock in their Company.

= They were unable to sell a substancial amount. Consequently the owners made an agreement with another party. Again lack of finances caused a failure of the Harman Brothers to continue their explorations.

Chapter XXIII

ROBERT RESTALL

Mr. Robert Restall of Hamilton, Ontario who at one time operated at exhibitions, fairs, side shows and circuses, a concession known as the Globe of Death, a sphere of steel lattice work about twenty feet in diameter inside of which a motorcyclist made revolutions in all directions. In the late summer of 1959, after considerable correspondence contacted the owner and holder of Treasure Trove License stating that he was familiar with the work at Oak Island and stated he had a method to shut off the water from entering the money pit, and had the finances to carry out the work and recover any treasure buried there. An agreement was entered into with Mr. Restall on September 11, 1959 to carry on work until the end of 1959. A little work was done at Smith's Cove by Mr. Restall and his son Robert Jr. but no definite result was accomplished.

The next year the agreement with Mr. Restall was renewed and again renewed year after year until 1965.

In the meantime work was carried on at Smith's Cove in attempts to locate the flooding drains and stop them. At one time it was thought the main drain had been located. A process of cementation was proceeded with over a period of several weeks which eventually proved to be unsuccessful.

In 1960 Mr. Restall built a small shack and moved in with his wife and two sons Robert and Richard. Later the shack was enlarged and winterized making it fairly comfortable.

It was decided to do exploritory work at the money pit. The pump and equipment used by Elwin H. Hamilton in the late 1930's and early 40's was purchased and set up in the Chappell shaft. With this pump the impeller type powered with a diesel motor, it was not difficult to keep the water level down to the bottom of the Chappell shaft approximately 165 ft.

During this perior the Chappell and Hedden shafts were explored from the 100 foot to the 120 foot level. The tunneling done by the Halifax Co. and others was located and examined, some was in good condition while other sections had been destroyed or collapsed. In 1965 further work was undertaken at Smith's Cove. Among the excavated material Mrs. Restall noticed a stone which drew her attention, upon recovering it, after washing off the

clay it was found to be heart shaped about five inches long and wide, about two inches thick, with the date 1704 cut in one side with figures about one and one half inches high. This stone is still in Mrs. Restall's possession.

In July 1965 Mr. Robert Dunfield a geologist from California became interested with Mr. Restall in his project and more or less assumed management of the work.

It was Mr. Dunfields opinion that if the water entering the money pit camefrom Smith's Cove it could be stopped by dumping a quantity of clay over the cove area to a depth of six to eight feet.

During Mr. Restall's efforts to locate the drains at Smith's Cove leading to the money pit he in 1963 excavated a pit about twenty four deep at which depth he encountered a quantity of stone which he believed to be part of the original workings. A quantity of water was encountered, further work was suspended at that time. In August 1965 just after Mr. Dunfield appeared on the scene and before he dumped clay over the Smith Cove area Mr. restall decided to sink another shaft about thirty feet from the one he put down in 1963. As before at about twenty four feet he again encountered rocks and water. He thinking the two shafts may be connected at the twenty four foot level. In order to prove it he dumped two drums of coloured gasoline in the last shaft expecting it would show in the shaft put down two years previous.

Upon descending the first shaft which had been open and into which fumes from the gasoline pumps which had been used during the past two years, had accumulated in the shaft, with the result Mr. Restall was overcome and became unconscious falling off the ladder into the water at the bottom. His son seeing his father's plight went to his rescue, meeting the same fate, these others followed, all being overcome by the fumes. A sixth man was about to go down when Mr. Dunfield insisted that he put a rope on him with this precaution he not only was saved himself but was able to rescue the fifth man who fully recovered. Unfortunately the first four when removed were beyond help. The verdict being they were overcome by the fumes and drowned in the water at the bottom.

This most regretable tragic happening is the one black spot in connection with workings on Oak Island.

Following the death of Mr. Restall arrangements were made with Mrs. Restall for Mr. Dunfield to continue the work until the expiration of the Restall agreement with the owners December 31, 1965.

Mr. Dunfield immediately proceeded to fill in over the Smith Cove area but did not shut off the water which may have been coming through other tunnels.

He then proceeded with work at the money pit area. He reasoned that on account of so many shafts having been put down in the area immediately adjoining the money pit the exact location of the original untimbered twelve to thirteen foot diameter circular shaft was lost and by cleaning off a few feet of earth it could be located along with some of the searchers shafts in the close proxsemitary to original shaft. At between ten and twelve feet the tops of these shafts became evident, the thirteen foot circular uncribbed shaft appeated about fifteen feet north of the Chappell shaft and ten feet west of the north end of the Hedden shaft.

Mr. Dunfield then prepared to bring in heavy equipment by first construction a causeway between the Island and the mainland about five hundred feet. He then brought in a heavy crane, dragline bucket and a clam shell, one yard capacity. In the meantime installing pumping equipment.

He then proceeded to excavate the money pit, which he did to a depth of about ninety feet. The soil around this excavation having been disturbed by so many shafts ~~having been disturbed by so many shafts~~ having been put down all around the money pit, began to cave in when at about sixty feet. At ninety feet a large cave in occured filling the excavation over twenty feet, the top of the excavation widened to such an entent the equipment was in danger of falling into the hole, it was decided to move from there and excavate the cave in pit or air shaft. This was done to a depth of about ninety feet when due to heavy rains this shaft also began to cave in.

The equipment was moved to the south shore the dragline bucket put down and an endeavour made to locate any drains leading to a tunnel to the money pit.

When immediately south of the money pit a shaft was encountered eight feet in diameter and uncribbed. The clam shell was put on and this

shaft was excavated to sixty feetwhere a layer of boulders were encountered, these could not be removed as the clam shell could not pick them up the shaft being to small for the clam to open full width.

A great deal of trouble was experienced with the equipment with parts breaking, cables snapping some breaks of cable having the appearance of having been cut with a hacksaw or other tool, pumps going out of commission, pump hose leaking, etc. etc. Mr. Dan Blankenship was was with Dunfield for a short while, stated that more things happened in three weeks to tie up the work then happened in twenty years in his contracting business in Miami. The dirty weather coming on, the difficulties with equipment and the fact that Mr. Dunfield had geological commitments he decided to call off and returned to California.

W.L. JOHNSON

Mr. W.L. Johnson of Vancouver, B.C. with whom the writer had correspondence for some time, did in January 1962 effectan agreement with the owner, to explore a certain area north of the money pit, after first making an agreement with Mr. Restall who at that time had an agreement with the owner ovet the whole area, to permit Mr. Johnson to operate in the area which he selected.

When weather permitted Mr. Johnson moved in and excavated a shaft six to eight feet in diameter to a depth of about thirty feet, the soil was firm and hard, no cribbing being required. Nothing of value being recovered and Mr. Johnson's time running out, work was suspended for the time being.

A couple of years later Mr. Johnson's agreement was renewed. He moved in with a drilling rigand drilled forty holes, to a depth of between thirty and forty feet, to the south of the shaft he had put down earlier.

Air was forced down these drill holes under pressure. In some holes the air blew back, in other cases the air reached adjoining holes one of them being several feet distant, this would indicate certain pourous strata in the soil.

At this point operations were terminated. Mr. Johnson is still very interested and is hoping he will some day have an opportunity to test his theory further.