SECTION E

CONCLUSION

"*It is of great consequence to consider whether sciences should be delivered by way of aphorism or of method. Methodical delivery is more fit to win consent or belief; but less fit to point to action; for they carry a show of demonstration in orb or circle, one part illuminating another: and therefore do more satisfy the understanding; but being that actions in common course of life are dispersed, and not orderly digested, they do best agree with dispersed directions. Lastly, aphorisms representing certain portions only, and as it were fragments of sciences, invite others to contribute and add something; whereas methodical delivery carrying show of a total and perfect knowledge, forthwith secureth men as if they were at the furthest.*"

Sir Francis Bacon – Sylva Sylvarium

"*Anyone who is practically acquainted with scientific work is aware that those who refuse to go beyond fact,*
rarely get as far as fact; and anyone who has studied the history of science knows that almost every great step
therein has been made by the 'anticipation of Nature,'
that is, by the invention of hypotheses, which, though verifiable, often had very little foundation to start with."

Thomas Henry Huxley,
The Advance of Science in the Last Half-Century

Chapter Eleven

HARVESTING THE TRUTH

Objectively, truth is often a harvest of truckloads of chaff unless one is willing to do the threshing. We seek the truth, but in earnest we seek *our* truth, which is not the same. I started this book squarely believing I knew what the species was of those long-ago, mystery canopied-trees. I thought I knew the species which "out-looked" all others, and so I found out, like we all have, looks are deceiving. But the journey taught me much about trees, their interplay with man and the environment, and what amazing things nature is. My favored species failed the ultimate test, which only one of the contender species went through – *real testing through DNA and dendrochronology.*

Forensically, we did identify the most likely species to have been those mystery canopied-trees. Yet the battle of angiosperm or gymnosperm still rages on In my mind. So with no seeds, stems, branches, leaves, bark, roots, boles, or sexual items to ***compare***, the use of taxonomic characteristics and the impacts of morphology and certain tropisms was needed to whittle down the contenders to one – *European Sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus)!*

Ironically, it was the one botanical factor I was truly fighting against having any validity in determining a tree species to be those mystery canopied-trees, and that was simply - *environmental impact!* Native species, nonnative species, conifers, evergreens… species after species I searched to find the species of those strange Oak Island trees.

When I found them I was exuberant they were the exact match of our Oak Island canopied tree. And surely they must be some exotic tree which could only be found in the homeland of our ancient voyagers. Maybe Katmandu or Kilimanjaro were their ranges and like in *Whoville*, they all grew identical. They would have the clear

and concise taxonomical characteristics which define and demonstrate why they were so different, so tall, so lanky, and not from the thick forested lands surrounding them. Surely their "architectural modeling" and their phyllotaxy would rescue my sin of observation. Well, I got one right – as they were not native to the Western Hemisphere when found, and perhaps, were new to the island homes they most likely did come from. *But oh my!* How off was I and how right was Dr. Craig Holdrege. One could not have picked a better specimen of a species to show how much and to what effect a tropism can have on the morphological change of a tree. Why didn't that sink in when we were looking at krummholz effects and the world of Tuckamore trees? By the way, - *Shirley still has nothing to do with it.*

The adage '*Location, Location, Location*' is sizzling in my mind.

So the mighty, the robust, the stalwart of farming homes and steeped in historical lore; the European Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) is the tree needed to withstand the salty onslaught of chilled islands of the windy world. *Who da thunk it?*

Yet undimmed by my misperception, I did notice our canopied trees came from the same lands as whence the people that settled in Nova Scotia. Could the "environmental' tropisms of the Western Hebrides be so similar to the sheltered islands within Mahone Bay? Was this the source of those Oak Island Mystery Trees and as the people migrated, so did the trees? Or perhaps this will boil down to a genetic variety with hereditary links between those ancient travelers' homelands, and their visitation to Oak island.

I am most assuredly convinced by my family of couch potatoes, that not all of the pronunciations on the following pages are exclusive or rapturous in their revealing. I can say proudly that I did my best to track things down and evaluate the forensic evidence as best I knew how as I went along. And, with no apology, I answered the question discussed in the front of the book – *why not*. So read on and then tear apart and you add to the discussion and find answers.

Dirty Determinations Delivered

What exactly was it I hoped to hear from my very qualified scientist and his staff? I expected his reports, beside answering my submitted questions regarding the scenario, to provide specific equations formulating length-of-time on the following specific events:

1. *How much time would have elapsed for the soil to settle 24 inches, under the first platform at 10 ft in the pit?*
2. *How much time would have elapsed for the soil to settle 24 inches, under the second platform at 20 ft in the pit?*
3. *How much time would have elapsed for a depression to form at 18 – 24 inches above 2 ft. of forest duff, which collected on top of the flagstone?*
4. *How much time would have elapsed for the weight of the flagstone, and developing pile of duff, to settle and compact the top 10 ft of soil which was placed on top of the first platform found at 10 ft in the pit -pushing it down approximately 40 inches lower?*
5. *How much time would have elapsed to find 7-7.5 inch diameter Northern Red Oak logs, embedded in hard clay walls within ten ft depth, and at twenty ft depth of an enclosed pit with the identified clayey soil on top, as rotted and decayed to be able to be broken with brute force?*

The questions to these answers are attainable through scientific investigation as demonstrated by receiving one of the two reports provided by Dr. Hopkins and his associates. They are not contingent to narratives from the Oak Island Treasure story. I look forward to sharing the second Report when it is released. Maybe, Dr. Hopkins himself can present the findings to the War Room for their evaluation and review, as it could signify when the Money Pit was actually filled in.

Twenty Questions – *Twenty Answers*

Now is the time and place to answer those questions which brought us to this forensic quest. In the Introduction to this book, "*Oak Island Mystery Trees, and other Forensic Answers*," we sought solutions to nineteen written ponderings. The answer to the twentieth question can be found at the end of this chapter, though it is your charge to answer it. The answers are compiled here in summation. I hope you agree with the findings and the methods used to forensically prove them valid. If not, I hope I have paved the way for you to pick up and search for answers to the Oak Island enigma yourself.

Question: ***What was the species of those unique, canopied-trees on Oak Island?***

Answer: Without having DNA evidence of those long-ago mystery canopied trees from Oak Island which to compare to those mentioned here, we cannot prove without any doubt their species. However, we have found a similar stand of tree which are identical in shape and morphology and matching biomes. Additionally, we have the indirect added knowledge that the location of these similar canopied trees live in the area from where settlers of Nova Scotia came from and at the same time the area was initially populated. With that information, we announce those mystery trees of Oak Island are in fact, **European Sycamore** (*Acer pseudoplatanus*).

Question: ***Why were they never felled for valuable timber during this entire saga?***

Answer: Though the answer is more conjecture than absolute knowledge, it appears these trees were not accosted due to reverence they were given by the immigrant Scottish settlers who may have known of their sacred standings through their homelands history, as well as Templar, Clan, or Freemasonry connection. The wood of the European Sycamore is a quality

wood used for many purposes and would have been as valuable in Nova Scotia as it was in Scotland and England.

Question: ***Did those towering canopied-trees really cover Oak Island as the legend goes?***

Answer: No. The stand of those trees was limited to Lots #18, #19, and #20 at most, and are listed in reverse order of quantity. However, as we have shown in this research, those tall mystery trees were seen from several mainland advantage points, clearly towering over the remaining island forest canopy. And in so doing, appeared to be covering most of the island from those vantage points on the mainland. Though some may argue we have no such proof they did not grow all over the island, there is a simple and quick way to prove oaks did not grow as advertised. Look at a photo of Oak Island today. Lot #5 has more than 28 old growth Northern Red Oaks towering on its land. Yet you could not pick them out of the forest canopy covering Oak Island. Why? Because they do not grow or are not growing above the existing forest canopy as those mystery trees once did. The photographic evidence provided within, clearly show those mystery trees towering distinctly high above the forest canopy for all to see. Thus, this stand growing around Smith's Cove and on Isaac's Point on the east, southeastern side of the island, taller than the rest, gave the view of this grove above the rest of the island flora. This view, from either the Chester mainland or the Western Shore mainland would make it appear they were growing all over the island, as the photographic evidence has shown. Finally, there is no written or photographic evidence about any such original canopy tree growing on other lots outside those mentioned above. This is because they did not grow there.

Question: ***Why were those trees on this one island and nowhere else in Nova Scotia?***

Answer: Since the European Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) species were not native to the entire Western Hemisphere in 1795. Nor were they even introduced to select locations until 1847 of North America, unless they were specifically planted by

someone, they would not be on any island or any land west of the Azores Islands. Having been exclusively found on one island in a bay full of islands, and not found elsewhere on the continent, can only mean they were planted on this one island for a reason. In most of Europe and British Isles, the Sycamore was used as a shelterbelt to protect fields from the impacts of wind and specifically, salty wind. Yet there were no agricultural activities on Oak Island at the time those trees would have been planted, to need protecting. So we turn to another benefit of the European Sycamore, which would have been a benefit only few would have known about back in Europe. Perhaps, like those who lived amongst this select tree along a salty and windy coast, that benefit would be the morphology of the Sycamore into a unique, very tall, tree – *as a distinct marker!* Besides the botanical benefits which could be reaped from this species, the planters must have specifically chosen this species to "weather" this environment while providing a signaling of that specific location. For If it was the reverence or sacred status of the species, then we would have found them planted wherever there were people holding those trees sacrosanct, right?

Question: ***Did the trees die off one by one… or en masse by disease, ants, or old age?***

Answer: Though I was prepared to argue this with all Oaks and some of the other hardwood tree species, I can only relate what insects affect the current living stand of European Sycamores we found on the Isle of Raasay in Scotland. The answer is they did not die of any insect or infestation, as the *Acer pseudoplatanus* is well guarded in that respect. "*Acer pseudoplatanus* is not particularly subject to serious insect infestations (Johnson and Lyone, 1988)." As a nonnative species it is not out of the question that a die-off could have occurred due to exposure to new fungi, bacteria, or other risk factors being new and exposed to the species. However, if you look at the photographic history of those mystery trees on Oak Island, we can clearly see over the period of time, the trees most likely died of old age. This is an almost identical pattern of morbidity with the stand of *Acer pseudoplatanus*

on the Isle of Raasay, which appear to be of similar age as those earlier on Oak Island. They have had 3 die since I found them last fall. Those in Scotland are approaching at the minimum, 249 years old. On Oak Island, the photographic history shows them to have died out approximately 1945-47. Assuming Oak Island was named after that stand of trees back in 1775, they would have been 247 years old.

Question: ***Why never any mention of the canopied-trees foliage in the autumn?***

Answer: CABI, Kew, and other botanical index sites which have been cited in this book, clearly notate that the fall foliage of the *Acer pseudoplatanus* is disappointingly nondescript, and they go out of their way to say some of the variants may even be evergreens, of fluctuate their leafing patterns with late drops or unusually early blooms. "*Leathery, coarsely-serrate, prominently-veined, 5-lobed, dark green leaves (to 6" across) are dull green beneath. Leaves produce no fall color*." Since their growth in popularity, almost all of the newly introduced hybrids and variations of the *Acer pseudoplatanus* have been created to "beef up" the Sycamores autumn foliage. Many have wild color swings from pink and purple to yellow, orange, and vibrant red. So today, most would say the European Sycamore has a lively autumn dress, but not back then.

Question: ***How many trees did it take to build the platforms within the Money Pit?***

Answer: Simply based on constructing eleven oak platforms within the money pit at ten foot intervals, the total number of trees with a 7" DBH, would require 152 trees - yielding 3,333 linear feet of butt log material for the platform construction.

Question: ***Can a timeline of events be created by studying the rate-of-compaction of soils on top and within the Money Pit?***

Answer: Yes it can, and we have a Report pending describing just what that rate-of-time it would take to compact the soils as reported at the depression and within the Money Pit.

Though this report is not requiring observations of the day for validity, the soil settlement calculation uses the types of soil, weather and temperature which are found on Oak Island, to make its calculations. Unfortunately, the provider of that Report is convalescing and we are unable to publish those findings as we go to print. They will be made available on the *Books*' website when we receive it. I am sure the information will also be presented via social media.

Question: ***Can a timeline of events be created by studying the rate-of-rot of the oak logs making up the platforms within the Money Pit?***

Answer: Yes it can, and that Report has been accomplished and can be found within this book. See Appendix M, "*Experts Examine the Evidence*," and Chapter 8, "*Planting Evidence*" Section, "*Dating Decay & Displacement*," to read how the science was performed and elaborate on the formulations. In review, the most conservative rate of decay based on the mycological equations used, date back ***420 years*** for oak logs in such a scenario, to have reached 70% of their fiber decomposed, which is the most conservative of the decay rates provided. This indicates, should the Money Pit have been actually found in 1795, the oak logs making up the upper platforms would have been placed in such a filled-in pit, 420 years earlier, or to **1375** AD. Any additional degree of decomposition would be problematic for those platforms to main structural integrity, and soon subject them to collapse.

Question: ***When was the Money Pit on Oak Island filled in?***

Answer: As in the previous question, seek those sections of the book which expand my answer. With only one of the two Reports received, the Money Pit was filled in sometime between **1360** and **1390** AD. This is not based on historical witness reports of the degree of decay of those oak log platforms, but based on scientific analysis by mycologists, the type of wood discussed, and the environment of those logs underground.

Question: ***Why was red clover found on Oak Island, Nova Scotia to be "foreign?"***

Answer: Red clover, like the European Sycamore and the fiber from the Coconut Palm, were not indigenous to Canada or officially introduced to Nova Scotia prior to 1815 at the very earliest, and most likely not until after 1847. Domesticated Red clover was a vital instrument used in spreading the Agricultural Revolution of the 16th and 17th centuries. For Nova Scotia, such enlightened agronomy did not take root prior to the mid-19th century, though efforts to use red clover seed were attempted in a few select communities of the province as early as 1798. In all, red clover was a plant few would know or know how to use. Those who reported finding red clover growing in the depression or in the area, all commented on it being a foreign plant and out of place for sure. All of the weeds of Europe arrived on the shores of the western hemisphere unintentionally, except by those who introduced it with enlightened understanding of using nitrogen-charging plants to fertilize and restore soils – ergo, red clover. Others were simply swept off boats when cleaning out hay and fodder leftovers for use by the animals on the voyage, or seeds tucked in the pantlegs and brims of hats worn by migrants arriving and bringing what stuck to them from home. This would not have been the case with red clover. Those arriving in the new colonies were of the older mindset in regards to European farming's abuse and misuse of the land until it was exhausted. They would not have been exposed to red clover, nor was it found to have spread with their initial arrival into the hemisphere.

Question: ***Can red clover help determine who was on Oak Island when the Money Pit was filled in?***

Answer: Again… someone planted red clover exclusively on top of the Money Pit on Oak Island it would appear. As the story goes, the depression was in the woods – not a place a farmer would plant red clover to help grow his Timothy Hay. Some reported it was "only" growing in the depression and not growing all around the area. This could indicate the red clover may have been limited to the protection it garnered of the depression itself, below the wind, and insulated from being eaten, frozen, or trampled; thus allowing it to living a lengthy life.

So could a unique, strange, and foreign ground cover, which could handle the Nova Scotian winters, live within the hollow for as long as the depression had been slowly sinking? Since red clover self-seeds, it is possible. So if by chance there is a connection, then the historical migration of the use of domesticated red clover for the agricultural revolution, could help indicate or anecdotally confirm when the Money Pit was filled in. Assuming red clover was planted at the site of the filled-in depression, or, those who filled it in, left seeds of red clover from their clothing as they worked, then using the timeline of its spread, we can deduct from whence red clover came. As an example; making the assumption here the Money Pit was filled in c. 1375 AD based on the mycology equations, and referring to Chapter 8, "*Planting Evidence*," and noting the map reflecting the dates of the spread of domesticated red clover plant throughout the world, a correlation can be made as to where the red clover originated at that time. In this example scenario described here, since domesticated red clover had not yet been adopted outside the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal), any red clover in Nova Scotia circa 1375 AD, would have been posited by someone from that same region.

Question: ***How much coconut fiber was used in the constructs found on Oak Island?***

Answer: As we limited our review to just coconut coir fiber found in the Smith's Cove filtration system and on a single oak log platform within the Money Pit, we determined more than 1.5 metric tons of coconut "coir" fiber were deployed in Oak Island constructions. However, reportage discusses coconut fiber found on other platforms, within casks bored, and perhaps at other island venues. Our calculations are verifiable and consistent with other commenters who have opined of the "tons" of coconut fiber left on the beach and outside the Money Pit. Also to be considered was the multiple descriptions of locals carting off "bushels" of the fibers to their homes. This is a very conservative formulation and doubling the quantity would not be a stretch of the imagination.

Question: ***Where in the World did the coconut fiber come from?***

Answer: Though coconut palms may have covered a good portion of the oceans coastline, there were only a dozen locations worldwide that knew how to ret the coconut husk into coir fiber, and even fewer who could do it in the volume (18-19,000 coconuts) our ancient voyagers needed. The window with which those radiocarbon dated coir specimens claim as their age, further reduce the options to one. Kerala, India has been for centuries, the primary port and center of commerce for the southern West Indian coast, known as Malabar, or the Malabar Coast. Kerala, or Keralam which means "land of coconuts," is a perfect environment to grow, harvest and ret coconuts. Along with tremendous forests of Teakwood (*T. grandis*), Blackwood (Sisam), and Ebony wood (Date plum), Kerala was known back to Biblical days as Ophir, and was a favorite haunt of Roman travelers. For all the reasons outlined in Appendix J, "*History Looks for Coir*," Kerala India is the source from which our ancient voyagers acquired their fibers. This, however, is not saying *they* themselves traveled to Kerala and stopped in a *Coir-R-Us* to select seasoned coir for their cruise. Again, the above appendix discusses where they may have "picked up" the fiber which would also have come from Kerala, India.

It is possible for the Oak Island Fellowship to have the coconut coir fiber specimens in their possession, be further examined at a DNA level. The new scientific research could tell from which of the two genetic sub-group populations of *Cocos nucifera*, they possess. That and further determinations in all likelihood, would lead to where in the world's proximity they once grew. The DNA material may not pinpoint a specific location, but such data would in turn, identify who collected them, and therefore, what was the purpose for all those fibers.

Question: ***How did the coconut fiber get to Oak Island?***

Answer: The WHOI scientists were not wrong when they gave but four viable and plausible 'pathways' on how coconut fiber found its way to Oak Island. They left the conclusion open for further study, which this book has performed. Others, who scoffed and claimed coconut fiber was simply a flotsam and jetsam or dunnage issue, are simply shaving with Occam's Razor - *cutting their throats on such assumptions.*

It must also be understood that the coir fibers were gleamed from over 18,000 coconuts. However, I am confident our historical search for coconut coir fiber, clearly brought us to the same proximity. With further forensic investigation based on the fibers age, we now know of their origin and which genetic species they were. The fibers are from the ***niu kafa*** variety of the Coconut Palm Tree, and were almost certainly retted in Kerala, India.

Having restated the previous questions answer, the answer to this question has been proven to be **Pathway iv**, as described by WHOI authors in their 1996 report; that is, – *ancient voyagers who brought and used for flood tunnel purposes!*

Since no commentary, searcher, archeologist, interested explorer or island looky-loo has found any coconut nut shell pieces or debris, It appears all those coconuts were retted before the coir fiber was brought to Oak Island and the process of retting was not performed on the island itself. Anyone thinking perhaps a slew of slaves were brought to do the digging and they may have dined on al 18,000 drupes. Had that been the case, debris from such dining would be everywhere – coconut shell chunks, fragments, etc. Frequently archeologists and ethnobotanists have found shell fragments and can date them successfully. The swamp would not facilitate a communal retting of 18,000 husks due to cold temperature and weather conditions inhibiting aerobic or anerobic fermentation. So we are again pointed to what the WHOI researchers said - *coir fiber was brought to the island.*

So to summarize, ancient voyagers brought by sea +1.54 metric tons of coconut coir fiber to Oak Island and used it in the constructs they built on the island. If you still have doubts, please review Appendices I, J, K, and M.

Question: ***What does the testing of those coconut fibers from Oak Island tell us about their true source and impact on the treasure story?***

Answer: The myriad of testing performed by a variety of official labs and those who should know over the years, clearly determine the coconut material was coir fiber. With my research I postulate those fibers were from the ***nui kafa*** subgroup of *Cocos nucifera*, exclusively used in the retting process for making of maritime cordage, nets, mats, and caulking. As discussed, additional DNA testing may provide more information on these very old specimens.

When you admit these facts and those I present within this compilation, you must realize the fibers were both intentionally brought to Oak island and their application was specific and functional. Therefore, the ambiguity of there being flood tunnels (obviously an aspect of a filtration system) within Oak Island or not, should evaporate. Even those WHOI researchers made that claim. In addition, it is more conceivable as one examines the purpose of the puddled putty and coconut coir fiber on one or two oak log platforms within the Money Pit, that this construct had a purpose and was not just *willy-nilly* applied. Attempting to steer clear of any theory, and if the narrative of this 230 year saga has any veracity hidden within it, then one could apply a scientific answer to what that putty and fiber was doing on a platform(s) and how its removal may have activated the construct.

With the forensic examination provided, I would proffer the eastern drumlin of Oak Island is housing or did provide facility to something very valuable, and that would be greater than currency, in my view. It seems Oak Island, or a place very similar, has had an inordinate amount of esoteric, even cryptic literary existence and may even have a sibylline nature to it.

Regardless, coconut coir fiber found on Oak Island has much more to tell of this story, absent the hammergrab doing the answering for us.

Question: ***How much dirt was dug out of the Money Pit and where did it go?***

Answer: Each platform held 45.9 metric tons of clayey soils. The entire volume of earth removed down to the 110 ft. level of the Money Pit, was 542 cubic yards. Most of the dirt, minus the boulders, stones, cobbles, and breccia, were put back into the pit. The serpent mound in my opinion, clearly represents those larger boulders and breccia extracted, which could not be used in road construction or within the filtration system. The relatively small amount of soil covering those boulders is the remaining soil from the pits' excavation. This is easily provable when you inspect the serpent mounds appearance even today. Those soils, also known as spoils or "overburden," is different and appears to be infertile and sterile or lack the organic mixture and nutritive value to sustain life. The deep soils from within the Money Pit would not have been a fertile soil for plant growth, even after a very long period of time. These soils can be compared for similarity, even today. Looking closely at the serpent mound, you do see spots of growth, grasses, etc. But these are in pocketed areas amongst the boulders, where windborne nutrients and decomposed materials could have gathered or with water, puddled. This would form a type of 'island' of organic material which started to support growth. Our calculations show the serpent mound formation would account for approximately 90.2% of the estimated breccia which was removed from the Money Pit, and which represents approximately 29.3% of the total volume of material removed from the Money Pit originally.

Question: ***What is or is not true about the block and tackle, big oak trees, and digging into the Money Pit?***

Answer: I believe the forensic examination clearly shows there were no "Large Oak(s)" nearby or within reach of the depression. Nor were there any large branches extending out over it. Nor was there a block *OR* tackle or any so declared contraption to

hoist from the original pit below. Why? *The roots!* You cannot expect a large Oak or gaggle of large Oaks or any other species of tree not to grow roots in soils next to your tap root, especially aerated soils absent of boulders, etc. Even if the original ancient voyagers had to whack through thick entangled roots going down, those roots would not sit idly by for 1, 2 or 400 years later, without growing back. Also, the crude apparatus described was clearly for romantic enhancement and not logistical and void of engineering functionality. In addition, the "stump story" makes no sense unless you are talking of a recent cutting by Mr. Samuel Ball entering the forest to fell another batch of cord wood – *only*. Since we already know of the varied versions of how the depression was found… even though there was a visible road leading directly to it from the western end of the island; the expectation that the trees and the block and trunnel are just too cute by half and the book proves them to be just that, lipstick on a pig story. See Appendix H. "*Dirty World of Detritus*" and Chapters 7 & 8 for in-depth explanation.

Question: ***Using the forensic analysis from this research, can we postulate a When, a How, and a Who to the Oak Island saga? And will this lead us to a What?***

Answer: No, not yet. This undertaking was to find answers to questions I believed we should be able to acquire using science, investigation, and deduction. It would violate that charge if I were to attempt on this final question to force pieces to fit in the puzzle without adequate validation.

It had grown past time to publish, especially as the Fellowship seems hard charging to find their answers. Unfortunately, I became handicapped in solving some open investigations when the owner of Lot #5, Mr. Robert S. Young past away. As you read in Chapter 7, "*Root and Branch of the Story*," I described the conditions of a large NRO on his property. After our previous email conversations I was awaiting some input regarding the size of that opening around that NRO, to validate the pertinent aspects discussed in Chapter 7.

Then earlier this year, my expert soils scientist Dr. Hopkins underwent important surgery and as of this writing, I have not received his second Report regarding the soil settlement, compaction, and consolidation timeline of the Money Pit.

Finally, I have been slowed in receiving a Dendrochronological Report and other Taxa findings on the yet-to-be-harvested *Acer pseudoplatanus* specimens from Raasay Island, Scotland. This is no ones fault. However I would have preferred to publish scientific laboratory findings, then just what several botanists and a bevy of arborists have determined.

So, turning back to ponder on this last question. We are on the right track, but we are not to the level of assuredness any author would want to stake his name on when answering this question.

Now I need your help. Perhaps one of you readers can take this information and move it to that next step? ***Why not?***

Examples of "next-step" analysis opportunities:

1) Can it be calculated to what level of log decomposition would the described oak log platforms need to decay further to have collapsed from the known load they carried? This could help frame the forensic scientific formulations on our oak log platforms and help in projecting more vigorously when the MP was filled.

2) Can the eelgrass specimen (*Zostera marina*) found by the Fellowship and sent to BETA Analytic, be reviewed to make sure the ^{14}C dates encompass the new research regarding "uptake of Blue Carbon in eelgrass?" Recent research shows *Z. marina's* dramatic variance in decomposition rates due to exposure to sunlight versus anaerobic (anoxic) environment (deep under the sand). Furthermore, since this species of eelgrass has been determined to take up massive amounts of aquatic carbon, becoming the largest marine plant life factor in oceanic carbon sinks, could their unique carbon sequestration create an error in their ^{14}C age? will this new knowledge better define their age, and if so, would not their age be the primary driver in dating when the Smith's Cove filtration system was constructed? Confidence in the dating of the eelgrass

should significantly add to the determination of when the filtration system at Smith's Cove was deployed by our ancient voyagers.

3) Can the dirt found atop or within the Serpent Mound be scientifically tested to determine its fertility/sterility as compared with other Oak Island soils? Could it then be tested against soils gathered underground to verify it was, indeed, spoils from the Money Pit? Can a pedologist or a geologist examine the Serpent Mound to verify and quantify the stratigraphy of their original location (Money Pit v. surface or other shaft or pit)? Would not further examination of the Serpent Mound, if found to be sterile spoils, assist in generating leads to learn of those early diggers?

4) Can the Fellowship coordinate with this author to acquire botanical specimens of the European Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*) found on the Island of Raasay in Scotland; and identify a qualified laboratory they have previously used for dendrologic datings and specific species tagging? The author is willing to pay for this botanical service. Would this not help create a known database should roots, logs, stumps from those original mystery canopied trees be found on the island, ***or***, found amongst the wood recovered from within the island or the swamp? This "standard" would be available to them should further wood analysis be performed to determine species or age.

5) Perhaps a better review of past photographs and aerial images of those mystery canopied trees can be performed by an imagery analyst using photogrammetry, digital cartography, spatial analysis, and GIS analysis? This image review can identify, and the locations of those mystery trees plotted, from the photo array provided in this book. It has been suggested the trees were planted from the end of Isaac's Point, directly to the Money Pit. Perhaps someone should contact Sr. GIS Programmer/Analyst Erin Helton to inquire if she could performs such a task. She appeared in several episodes in Season 8.

6) Should Lot #5 be sold, could someone from the Fellowship inquire or seek a permit or lease to further explore (Gary Drayton or Steve Guptill) and mark GPS coordinates of certain findings on that property? This could include notating the OG stand of NRO on his property, as they have all been tagged and monitored by the Forestry Service of Nova Scotia. Could one of you Couch Potatoes interested in conducting further research, inquire with the new owner for the same opportunity, permit, or lease? Would this not be a fantastic way to gain access to Oak Island for a limited period of time while helping the Fellowship?

7) Perhaps you could visit this books website and read the sixteen appendices of research performed to write this book and determine other forensic avenues to pursue. Therefore, now that you have this book and the security access code, which is provided here within, please visit **www.oakislandmysterytrees.com** and join the conversation, upload related Oak Island images you may have which would further the forensic inquiry, or simply leave a message arguing points made within this book. Why? *Why not?*

I would hope the reader looks at my forensic investigation and not fixate onto any theory with which I may have pointed to as being evidentiary of fact. The book was written to spur YOUR thoughts regarding this enigma, hopefully showing you other ways to look at this saga in your personal examinations of it. However, the facts and calculations presented here in this book are ample enough to move the conversation forward of the *When, the How, and a Who.* I hope you agree. Finally, the *What* issue – I believe the Lagina's will answer for us in the upcoming 10th Season of History Channel's Curse of Oak Island.

So now onto the 20th question…

So, are you now sailing on with new knowledge and insights into the Oak Island Treasure puzzle, or has this presentation left you adrift with little convincing cargo and plenty of damp dunnage clogging your brains bilge? If the latter it be, spare the "Captains' Daughter" and know the coxswain of this crew plotted the course as the crow flies, as he said - *why not?*

As the reader… did you find this inquest apophantic, or an apophenic quest?

The Fellowship of BobbyDazzlers

As I conclude this hefty doorstop of forensic evidence regarding the Oak Island mystery, it is, if of any value, a tribute to the Oak Island Fellowship. The Lagina Brothers and crew and scientific team were responsible for inculcating belief in me, that I could lend a hand. I hope I and my co-authors Robert W. Cook and Christopher L. Boze have added SOME value to the search itself.

Thank You's

During this two-year process I have received all descriptions of help and support from those I have communicated or come in contact. Since this will be my only book, I'd like to note a few accolades and give appreciation as the book begins to close…

- Thank you Halle Holden for giving me the best advice to make the book 'less boring.'

- Thank you Lisa Hawkins, Lisa Neisen, Carol Siskovic and about half a dozen others, for not commenting on those early chapters I passed out to you for your thoughts and opinions. By not responding, I careened past the crush of criticism you held back, allowing me to blindly plow ahead.

- Thank you Janice D. for your editorial advise and work on the first seven chapters. Most of your admonishments were helpful, educational, and improved the product. I am glad you did not turn me into the Literary Police with your warning I was just a word or two short of committing a felony. Like a bad boy, I probably would have added them had I known which ones they were.

- Thank you to Chris Boze for his endless help with all sections of this product – as our online Facebook friendship developed better than many sections of this toilsome book, *just ask Mr. Barber!*

- Thank you to Rebecca MacKay, founder and leader of the Raasay Heritage Trust, for helping me forge a more appropriate Scottish connection to this story. Try as you did, no Gaelic has stuck to me, but I hope this book springs eternal funding to help with your

endeavors to recapture the history of the Isle of Raasay, Scotland, as you have in your many written books.

- Just when I thought a Sycamore was just a Sycamore, I came across the *Druid Sibylla* Siusaidh NicNeill. She truly is a 'glic boireannach!' She wrote an essay, now in the book, which caused a major course correction to my approach of Sycamores in Scotland. Even James McQ. noticed the possibilities of the Sacred Sycamore after directed to the book "*We the Skythians*." Do not go there if you look for no more than playing with the helicopter seeds, as it is like an undertow which will affect you for sure. I truly want to thank Siusaidh for spinning me around like a top and let me play book writer.

- A big thank you to Hammerson Peters' very valuable self-printing YouTube Primer. By far, the tasks to properly put a book together – especially the bibliography, was more daunting than scrubbing the planet for coconut coir fiber back between 1130 and 1279 AD!

- I want to thank my best friends Abbey, Sammi, Jax, Roux, and Fynn! Without their frequent interruptions while I was researching and writing this book, or watching The Curse of Oak Island, or blabbing on Facebook, I would have completed this effort a year ago – *but then I would not have had a project to keep me engaged*. They had me stop to frequent the front door looking for a deliveryman due to their wild barking at every movement; or up to take them out to relieve themselves every twenty minutes. They were always there for me, laying around my office desk, and causing a tripping hazard in the wee hours while I was capturing a thought or investigating a clue. Truly my best buddies and furry family.

- In ending, I would like to thank Rosemary Sheel and her talented image capturing. I asked Rosemary if I could use her photo in my book, as I was certain 'it' was the tree to be found. She asked me to prove myself worthy and I guess I did. But it was not the tree to be, however. I hope Rosemary and her daughter are well and can drag their way through this lengthy book. Enjoy her peaceful photo as we turn to the final section – *the timeline*.

"Ach an Cuan" – "But for the Sea." Only an ocean divides us.

Image courtesy of Rosemary Sheel.

Timing is Everything

Remember the adage of "*Location, Location, Location!*" we talked about earlier? So true, but only based on the ***timing*** of things.

In this section of this final chapter we are going to create a timeline of sorts. This chronology will include those radiocarbon dated artefacts which apply to our forensic analysis. Also shown are graphic representations of when and to what degree coconut coir fiber was available from locations found in our search, as well as indicate the percentage of decomposition of oak logs had they been in the Money Pit since 1795. This scientific analysis has been performed by both mycologists and soils experts and provided in this book. Other historical events are listed for completing the understanding of what was happening over the period of time which best covers our interest.

All of the included timeline reference points and historical milestones are either scientifically or historically proven. This is a compilation of hard fact evidence we find hidden within a stack of circumstantial and subjective clues – *the chaff*. And because of all that chaff, it is why we felt it important to represent them visually for the reader to assess how they may or may not apply to one or more theories which swirl around Oak Island.

Others are adding to the forensic knowledge of the periods and the players who seem interwoven with Oak Island. Join the intrigue and get involved. What about the relationship of Mary Queen of Scots and the European Sycamore. Was it planted in her honor? Did her son figure things out? Was it her son? I am eager to hear more about the artistic rendition of the city of Jerusalem found within the King James Bible, said to have more Sir Francis Bacon decryptions – *leading to Oak Island*. I wonder if he did any scientific research on coconut fiber.

A legend is provided to explain the timeline.

TIMELINE & LEGEND

The timeline is presented to provide a view of what has been forensically determined and discussed, with pertinent historical chronological events between the years 1075-1650 AD. The legend is below and the timeline on the opposite page.

Legend Design	Legend Definition	Additional Notes
▮	A Black-filled Box	Usually represents the "mean" dating window of *14C* artefacts, or a known date, or the highest degree of certainty for the condition stated.
▮	A Dark Gray-filled Box	Usually represents the "plus or minus" dating window of *14C* artefacts, or a period of time where the activity is known, or the lesser degree of a full condition stated.
▮	A Medium Gray-filled Box	Usually represents the "plus or minus" dating window of *14C* artefacts, or a period of time where the activity is assumed, or the lesser degree of a condition stated.
▮	A Light, Gray-filled Box	Usually represents the "extreme plus or minus" dating window of *14C* artefacts, or a period of time where the activity has possibly ended or started, or the lowest or least degree of a condition stated.
×	Not Available	Used to show an unavailability of Coconut coir fiber produced or in a volume for export. Also indicates it was not part of commerce or trade, which may be due to hostile climate and growing conditions.
$	For Sale Only	Indicates Coconut coir fiber was not grown nor produced at that location or time period. However, it was or could have been part of the trade or commerce conducted at that site or passed along through it.

	1075-1100	1100-1125	1125-1150	1150-1175	1175-1200	1200-1225	1225-1250	1250-1275	1275-1300	1300-1325	1325-1350	1350-1375	1375-1400	1400-1425	1425-1450	1450-1475	1475-1500	1500-1525	1525-1550	1550-1575	1575-1600	1600-1625	1625-1650
Hopkins, Logs rate of rot												70	70					50	50			30	30
1st Crus. Jerusalem won																							
BETA #66584 coir fiber																							
Geochron, Inclined beam																							
BETA #39897 coir fiber																							
Stick under Paved Road																							
WHOI #10168 coir fiber																							
Saladin wins Jerusalem																							
Mongols Conquer China																							
SE1,EP2 coir fiber																							
Chunk carbon w/nail																							
Black Death kills 40% EU																							
Red Clover Domesticated	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×															
Lil' Ice Age hits GreenInd																							
Turks seize Constantinop																							
Cocos not found w. Africa																							
De Gama to/from Ind/Af																							
Cocos > Cape Verde 1499																							
Port. est. Factory in IN.																							
Port. est. Factory in AF.																							
Cocos > PuertoRico, 1549																							
FR, DU, EN visit Cape Ver.																							
Cocos > Brazil, 1553																							
Cocos > W. Mexico, 1565																							
SE3,EP11 eelgrass *14C'd*																							
Tree root u/stone wharf																							
D2 wood/metal +gold																							
Brock, inclined timber																							
Geochron, wood chips																							
Fiber @ Madagascar	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Fiber @ Malindi, Africa																							
Fiber @ Djibouti/Somalia	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	×	×	×	×	×	×
Fiber @ Aden, Yemen					$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	×	×	×	×	×	×
Fiber @ Dhofar, Oman																							
Fiber @ Hormuz, UAE	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	×	×	×	×	×	×
Fiber @ Kerala, India																							
Fiber @ Ceylon, SriLanka	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×						

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This *Compendium* is similar to the first volume but is in color. Therefore it does justice to all the colored images which had to be modified to a black and white format to keep down printing costs. The Compendium volume is available wherever the first volume is sold.