

(SEE PARCHEMENT)
FILE FOR
PRECEEDING PAGES

pleasing personality, extremely well preserved physically, possessing an accurate and exhaustive memory, and appeared to the writer as a man of stirling character.

He is a Past Master of his Masonic Lodge in Amherst; is connected in some way with local politics and enjoys a very fine reputation. His one possible fault seems to be his undying faith in the story of Oak Island. He is happily married; has several grown children and at present earns his livelihood as a manager and part owner of a general insurance business in Amherst, Nova Scotia.

The company with which Mr Blair was associated had exhausted most of its funds by 1903 and operations were suspended. Shortly after that time Mr Blair applied for and entered into an agreement with the ^{N.S.} Canadian Government under the law of "Treasure Trove" to insure to himself all rights to whatever might be recovered on this site. An agreement was also drawn up at the same time based on the Mines Act. Both of these agreements grant entire rights to Mr Blair and provide for the appointment by the Government of Arbitration Boards in event of any or all claims conflicting with such rights. The Government reserves to itself a royalty of 2% of the recovered value. The present agreements expire in 1944; are renewable, and are considered as real assets of Mr Blair's estate, being transferrable to his heirs by law.

According to the present agreements any party engaging in recovery work can only do so under agreement and with the permission of Mr Blair. Mr Blair maintained a lease of that portion of the island until ¹⁹³¹ ~~1933~~ at his own expense. At that time the owner ^{SOPHIA SELLERS} died and willed the property to her son. There is no lease at the present time.

Mr Blair has in recent years entered into several agreements for the recovery of the treasure, all of which were

Mr Blair) operation for recovery. Each agreement by its own terms becomes null and void at the conclusion or cessation of any work.

COPY OF AFFIDAVIT (FEB. 1, 1926)

MADE BY F L BLAIR FOR RECORDING PURPOSES IN CONNECTION WITH PAMPHLETS OUT OF PRINT.

THE FOREGOING STORY IS A COPY OF PAMPHLET "EXHIBIT B" REFERRED TO IN HIS AFFIDAVIT EXCEPT THAT WILLIAM CHAPPELL'S AFFIDAVIT HAS BEEN SUBSTITUTED FOR THE ACCOUNT OF 1897 DRILLING, IT BEING UNQUESTIONABLE. THE "DISCOVERY OF PARCHMENT" STORY IS VERIFIED BY THE ADDITION OF DR A E PORTER'S AFFIDAVIT.

BLAIR WAS BORN ~~1867~~
IN 1867

IN THE MATTER of a search for Buried Treasure at Oak Island, County of Lunenburg, Province of Nova Scotia, Dominion of Canada.

I, Frederick L Blair of the Town of Brookline, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, formerly of the Town of Amherst, Province of Nova Scotia, Accountant, do solemnly declare that:

1 I have been acquainted with the history of the search for treasure buried on Oak Island, Lunenburg County, Nova Scotia, for thirty two years. During the said period of thirty two years, I have been connected with or have participated in some manner with every attempt made on the said Island for the recovery of the treasure.

since
(1893)
↓
at age
26

2 I was in a position to learn of all vital facts that developed in connection with the work done on the Island within the said period and I believe I am aware of all of the important information which was obtained as a result of the said work.

who possessed knowledge of the work done at various times prior to the year 1893, for the recovery of the treasure, amongst such persons being, Adams A Tupper, Jefferson W McDonald, Amherst, N.S., Mrs Henry Sellers, Chester Basin, N.S., John McGinnis and Arthur McGinnis, Oak Island, N.S., and George Vaughn, Western Shore, N.S., the last three being direct descendants of two of the discoverers of the original work.

4 After due investigation most carefully and thoroughly made, I have every reason to believe and do believe that the story set forth in the pamphlet herewith, published by the Oak Island Treasure Company, and marked "Exhibit A", is correct in all essential facts and is a true history of the work done on the said island previous to the year 1893, as stated by Adams A Tupper, in his affidavit printed in the said pamphlet.

5 The story of the work done on the said island subsequent to the year 1893, as related on pages ten to sixteen (Mr Blair's book) in the pamphlet herewith, marked "Exhibit B", was prepared by me from knowledge and data in my possession, and is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

6 Referring more particularly to the story of the piece of parchment as related on pages sixteen and seventeen (Mr Blair's book) in pamphlet "B", and to the affidavit of Dr A E Porter, herewith, and marked "Exhibit C", I was present at the meeting mentioned by Dr Porter, and there identified amongst the chips of wood, the same substance or fibre I had noticed a few days previously in Truro, N.S. as told in the pamphlet. I watched Doctor Porter, while he examined the material under his glass and saw him work with it until he got it flattened out.

7 I was well acquainted with T Perley Putnam, who acted as manager of the work done at the island for recovery of the treasure, between the years 1896 and 1900. He was a man in whose honesty and integrity I would place the greatest reliance. I heard him repeatedly tell his experience with the auger and drill

8 The piece of parchment is attached hereto, and marked "Exhibit D", I firmly believe it came out of a drill hole in the so-called "Money Pit" at Oak Island, as described in the pamphlet and by Dr Porter in his affidavit.

9 As a matter of record, I further declare that from Jefferson W McDonald, mentioned in paragraph three, I first heard the story of Oak Island. He worked there some time during the eighteen sixties and helped to dig the 118-foot pit and was present when the "Money Pit" collapsed. Mr McDonald was a firm believer in the existence of a treasure at Oak Island, his opinion being based on information obtained from men who had taken part in previous work as well as on his own experience. From George Vaughan, I learned that the names of the original discoverers were, Jack Smith, Daniel McGinnis and Anthony Vaughan, the latter being George Vaughan's grandfather. George Vaughan told me how his grandfather had related to him while he (George) was a boy, their experience in opening the pit. He stated it was circular in form, twelve feet in diameter, the digging being easy inside and very hard outside, it therefore being easy to determine when the wall of the pit was reached. Mr Vaughan stated that his father, David Vaughan, also worked at the pit and was present when the original boring was done. I took notes of Mr Vaughan's remarks and these notes are still in my possession. Mrs Sellers, who lived on the island in her early years, informed me that she was driving the oxen when they dropped into the so-called "cave-in" pit, as related on page ten of the pamphlet "E".

(Signed) Frederick L Blair (A9558)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this first day of February, 1926.

(signed) Edward F Allen, Notary Public

My commission expires June 16 1927.

Notarial Seal

No additional discoveries have been made or knowledge

of any value obtained at any time since 1897.

In 1931 an agreement was made with Mr William Chappell,

heretofore mentioned, and a shaft was sunk at the site to a depth of 163 feet, at a cost of \$30,000, but to no avail.

At the present time, a Mr Nixon of Victoria, B.S.,

and a Mr Zundrum of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, partners, have an

agreement valid until November 1934 and are making a series of

test borings at the site. They have little or no financial back-

ing and it is not presumed that any great progress will be made.

End of G. D. Hedden
NOTES WRITTEN UP
BY HIM IN 1934. (JULY)
SEE "DISCOVERY"
FILE FOR BEGINNING
OF NOTES.

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MGT Vol. 384

Check for
shaft
sunk to
date

Handwritten initials or scribble.