

BLAIR

1712
MGI Vol 383

August 15, 1947

Mr. L. Elbert Smith,
3703 Hawthorne Avenue,
Highland Park,
Dallas, Texas.

Dear Mr. Smith:

The original shaft was opened to 95 feet and had undoubtedly been previously to that of a greater depth as evidenced not only by the markers on the way down, but also by the disturbed ground, it being very easy to determine the walls of the pit. Subsequent drilling proved the burial of wood and undetermined material buried at from 100 to 107 feet. Salt water entered the shaft at from 90 to 95 feet.

A pit was subsequently started twelve feet distant from the original. The hardest kind of digging was had all the way to 118 feet, no water being met with until they tunnelled to and made a connection with the original shaft.

The conditions to day could not be much worse. After a connection with, or rather from the 118 feet shaft, the original shaft was undermined and it caved in. Various pits surrounding it were excavated. The original was recribbed and stood for years, then torn to pieces by dynamite until today the whole section for a diameter of 40 or 50 feet is a mass of broken up soil and salt water below 32 feet from the surface.

The water can be kept down by pumps handling from 250 to 300 gallons per minute.

Treasure Trove is the property of the Crown as represented in this instance by the Government of the Province of Nova Scotia. I hold an Agreement with the said Government whereunder I have been granted the sole right to search for and recover the supposed treasure on payment of a royalty of 2% of the proceeds.

At present I am not tied up in any manner with Mr. Reichert or any other person. Mr. Reichert has a verbal understanding that I shall deal with him when he is in a position to finance a properly evolved method of recovery, provided, of course, I have not in the meantime negotiated with others.

Before entering the property it is necessary to deal with the owner of the surface rights. You will, of course, understand that we cannot enter any person's property and cause damage without paying for that damage. That, in this case is a trifle because the property is of very little value due to the damage that had already been done. The present owner is a man who has spent probably not less than \$300000 of his own money in attempted recovery, and that is why I said "we". Naturally, I feel that we should deal with him in a fair manner in consideration of the amount he has expended.

Yours very truly,

Blair

BLAIR

1709
MGI VOL 882

August 4, 1947

Mr. L. Elbert Smith,
3705 Hathorne Avenue,
Highland Park,
Dallas, Texas, U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Smith:

Acknowledging your recent letter I fear that it is just one more added to the hundreds which I have received from parties scattered all over this continent and even so far away as New Zealand, containing ideas and suggestions of procedure in the work of recovery of the treasure supposed to be buried at Oak Island.

The difficulty is not so much the method of recovery as is the financing of the work. Scientific engineering and modern equipment will do the work if properly financed. Previous failures, and there have been many, were due to lack of knowledge of conditions. In other words, they knew nothing of the original work, and in addition they lacked engineering skill and were short on the financial end. Today it is financial backing we need, not a method of recovery. The latter will come with the former.

Replying in brief to your inquiries, the shaft was originally circular in shape, 12 or 13 feet in diameter, and it was uniform in size as far as at least 90 feet. It was in a very hard blue clay and was not shored or supported in any way by timber when opened. Some say it was cribbed when opened by the original workers, and that the cribbing was taken out as they refilled. Others claim that the soil would stand without cribbing and that the loss of a man or two was not material, hence safety was not a factor.]

No timber was encountered between ten feet below the surface and 95 feet, the latter being proved by drilling. There were marks every ten feet on the way down, such as a layer of charcoal, one of puty bladders, another of beach gravel, and one of cocconut husks etc.

I still hold the right of recovery and as you will probably imagine, am fully convinced that a treasure of vast proportions is buried on Oak Island, and I hope to see the mystery solved before a great while.

Yours very truly,

Blair