

P.O. Box 321  
Mahone Bay  
Nova Scotia

June 29, 1976

Dear Mr. Dunfield:

I am currently in Nova Scotia researching a book on the Oak Island treasure hunt. I first became involved with the subject in 1970 when I was a reporter for the Wall Street Journal operating out of the Montreal bureau. I wrote a feature article on Oak Island for the Journal in the summer of that year and then a follow-up piece for the same paper last summer. I recently left the Journal to write this book under contract to a New York publisher.

Besides covering the early history of the 181-year-old mystery I plan to write a full and detailed account of the work of searchers during the past 15 years, from Robert Restall through the continuing work by Triton Alliance. I also wish to detail all current and recent theories as to who buried What on Oak Island. I found the accounts of work done by people like yourself, Restall and Triton rather scantily outlined in both Harris' and Furneaux' books and I think there is room for a book which will fully explore this more recent work.

From information available at the Nova Scotia Public Archives and morgues of the Halifax newspapers you carried out your major excavations on the island between the fall of 1965 and spring of 1966. It would also appear that you invested some money in Restall's work prior to his death in August 1965 and that you were (and perhaps still are) involved as a shareholder in Triton. I'd like to know as much as possible about ~~your~~ Oak Island work and experiences as well as when and how you first became interested in the subject. I would also be interested to know whether you still believe there is something down there and if so, who was the most likely depositor. And do you plan or hope to someday return to the island to resume your search? Would it be possible to lend me or send me copies of any documented data you have pertaining to your work on the island? I would be most happy to reimburse you for any reproduction costs.

As you most likely know, Triton is still deeply committed to the project although the extent of their work has tapered off in recent years. Dan Blankenship recently built himself a house on the west side of the island near the causeway and is living there full time with his wife and son. They are currently in the process of setting up a 1,000-gallon-per-minute pump in the Money Pit. As Tobias explained in the piece I did for The Wall Street Journal last August, Triton's hope is to eventually go public and raise enough funds to carry out a major open-pit mining operation down to 200 feet in the Money Pit.

I would appreciate any information at all you can give me regarding your work on and theories about the island and I hope to hear from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

  
D'Arcy O'Connor