

Ghosts of Oak Island

MGI Vol. 382

1876

Mrs. Florence Whitehead

P.O. Nox 74, Mahone Bay, N.S.
Oct. 12/55

M. R. Chappell
Sydney, N.S.

Dear Sir:

Re: Oak Island

Thanks for your letter in reply to mine of October 5th, and I will now answer it in a spirit of co-operation.

As you are said to be the owner of a portion of Oak Island it seems to me that your attention must have been drawn to the fact that Anthony Graves and family lived on Oak Island not so awfully long ago, if my age is any justification for this statement. Anthony Graves was my grandfather, and he lived on Oak Island 44 years or more previous to the year 1828 (when he died). My stories or visions, etc. are all in accordance with the stories I've heard through the years and I believe them all to be true.

I was one of the persons who has had access to the R.R. Chappell record-book (so-called) on Oak Island which was presented or loaned to a relative of mine a number of years ago and no doubt the book is still in existence. However, I noted at the time I saw it that the name of Anthony Graves was not mentioned in it.

I'm very much interested in the search for treasure on Oak Island this fall, and I would like to know whether visitors would be allowed on the Island while men are at work there.

Oak Island is rickled with pits and some of them are very deep, but there is one place that I think should be looked for especially, and that is on the South side of the Island. There used to be, years ago, a birch tree growing on top of the bank (above the shore) on the south side of the Island, and an old lady told me that a vision was seen there as follows: Three chests, one on top of the other with a little dog sitting on the top of the chests (on the shore). It was said that an artificial water course was around there and that it might be the 2nd pirate tunnel.

I heard, or read at some time or other, that there was red clay in No. 3 shaft and blue clay in the so-called money pit only ten feet distant. The sides of the money pit were said to be of clay but the inside filling of the pit was of a different and soft material compared with the clay. It is my opinion that No. 3 hole connects with the money pit, and that this course should be pursued, but I also believe that the money pit is the air-shaft. Perhaps there is a sealed part in the side of the pit to go into a dry tunnel who knows?

A number of years ago I visited an old gentleman in Halifax because I had heard that he was a relative of Anthony Graves, hence relative of mine. He was then about 82 years of age and I wanted to hear what he had to say about Oak Island. He told me that he went to Oak Island when William Graves (son of Anthony) was very sick with consumption and not expected to recover. William (called Will

1877
MGI Vol. 382

was about 20 years old. He told me that my Uncle Will told him a story to this effect. "I am a dying man and I would not tell a lie about it, that I was out in my boat one evening, lobster spearing on the North side of the Island, when I saw the figure of a man sitting beside 'twintrees'. He had long white ~~hair~~ whiskers. He called to me saying "come here and I will give you all the gold you can carry." My Uncle Will said he was so frightened he rowed for home as fast as he could. Now anyone might imagine that my Grandfather Graves looked up this spot but I never heard that he did so, or whether he got any gold out of it. //

I was told one time that a big pile of rocks in the yard of the Graves homestead was always a mystery. My own mother told me that she saw what resembled a slick little cog and disappear in the stone wall near the house. She also told me about the oak tree which grew by the so-called money pit. She said there were two crossed swords grown into the tree and below the swords were letters or figures (or both) but no one paid much attention to it. The old ship's block hung on the tree, but people in those days were more or less superstitious, and nobody seemed to care to explore the mystery. It was only after my Aunt Sophia (Anthony Grave's oldest child) lead a pair of oxen past the money pit and they got mired in it that after that it was all the talk around those parts of the country, and men wanted to dig for treasure and they did so.

My Aunt Sophia said that she believed that if any treasure were buried on Oak Island that it was carried away because she remembered a vessel coming into the Cove one evening and disappeared or departed before morning, and there were marks in the sand on the shore like a barrel having been rolled out that morning. //

I remember talk of 'quicksands' in the Western part of the Island and I had the experience of almost being caught in them. I had heard once that there was an 'old road' in the Western end of the Island but nobody seems to know where it was or what it was used for. It may be that salt water goes in the tunnel on that end of the Island and out the other end (Smith's Cove). Perhaps the tunnel is obstructed somewhere and that causes water to flow in the pits. It was said that there was a place on the shore (in the West end opposite Martin's Point) where the salt water flowed in. I saw a picture in one of the newspapers quite a while ago of Smith's Cove, and there was a very large rock with a ring bolt in it seen only at low tide. I don't think that rock was ever turned over. No doubt it was used as a mooring for vessels.

Another large rock was located on the shore of Oak Island, directly opposite Frog Island, and this rock was said to have compass directions on it, but was turned over. "Wouldn't it be interesting to look for it?"

I wonder if there isn't a dry passage way (so-called Pirates tunnel). Perhaps the six foot difference between the upper and lower platforms was a dry underground passageway and not connected with the tunnel (where water flowed).

I wonder why former searchers for treasure couldn't stop up those five drains they discovered in Smith's Cove. If they could be stopped, then by watching, they would know if it was either fresh or salt water in the different shafts. It was said they drove spiles and they struck water at 35 feet while a shaft only 12 feet distant they did not strike water even at 75 feet. Doesn't this prove that there is a water tunnel?

When former searchers for the supposed treasure dumped clay in Smith's Cove they found that water decreased in the shafts. If they had persisted in doing that, perhaps that would have stopped the inlet of water into the tunnel (because it might be such a thing that the tunnel filled with water from the Smith Cove end of the Island) and then the water could be pumped out of the shafts. If the water rose in the tunnel as the tide was rising and fell as the tide receded (by running out of those five drains discovered in Smith's Cove) it must be, in my opinion, that the water tunnel is slanted as much as necessary to let the water out (not level as some imagine). It seems there is only the one water tunnel running from east to west the whole length of the island.

Some holes were said to have fresh water in them, but who knows where these shafts were sunk. Wouldn't it be interesting to watch (when the tide is rising) to see whether it is salt water in the shaft as the water rises.

Why not explore the former's well (drinking water well). Former treasure hunters did not (they said) remove all the rocks in Smith's Cove to ascertain whether there was an opening from those five drains or what was at the end of them (the coffer dam was washed away). Perhaps all that tunnel work by the pirates was just to mislead seekers for treasure and that the real treasure is covered up on the shore below the drains. Perhaps the tunnel work was for a hiding place for themselves to live in at some future time.

Well, I have finally come to the end of what I had to say hoping that you can shoulder your way thru it all.

I would appreciate it if, (when you see Mr. Greene, the Engineer in charge on the Island) you and Mr. Greene would have a real good talk on these matters which might possibly mean something and perhaps nothing, but I hope I don't sound like a schoolgirl.

Thanking you

Yours very truly

(Mrs.) Florence W. Eisenhauer.