

believe his ancestors would choose to entomb them under the island rather than stash them in the customary attic or cedar chest

Anyway, my argument is less with the details of Mr. Pentz's theories than with his smug presentation of them as fact - all of this without a shred of documented or scientific evidence. He then, according to the article's closing lines, challenges anyone to prove him wrong. Well, he's on pretty safe ground there - just as I would be were I to suggest that the lost city of Atlantis lies three hundred feet below the Bridgewater Mall, and then dare anyone to prove me wrong.

Until searchers can physically get down into Oak Island's interior and follow the tunnels which are known to exist, any hypothesis concerning the mystery is only that - an hypothesis. It will take time, money and scientific investigation to unlock Oak Island's secret; not ludicrous suppositions based upon faulty research and undocumented "evidence." And it will take on-the-spot searchers like Dan Blakenship and Fred Nolan - not off-the-wall theories like Mr. Pentz and the many others like him - to bring that answer to the surface. Conjecture and wishful thinking is one thing; proof is another.

Sincerely
D'Arcy O'Connor
21 York Street
Westmount, Que.
H3Z 1N7

Author says

Oak Island theory is drivel

The Editor:

On a visit to Nova Scotia last month, I chanced to read your article on Earl Pentz's fantasies about what lies at the bottom of Oak Island's money pit. While I long ago gave up trying to address myself to every half-baked theory about who did what and why on the island, I feel Mr. Pentz's fanciful drivel should be nipped in the bud right now. (In fairness to the gentleman, however, I might note that he isn't missing quite as many dots on his dice as some other Oak Island theorists I've encountered).

Mr. Pentz's statement that the South Sea Company used the island as a subterranean holding pen for slaves bound for the Americas in the early 1700's is patently ridiculous. The route from Africa to the New World didn't come anywhere near Acadia at that time (unlike the return voyage which followed the Gulf Stream north and then east); any transported slaves would have been "penned" in the Caribbean or Latin America. In addition, carbon-14 dating of wood brought up from the original workings places the date of the project at 1575, with a maximum error of plus or minus 85 years - well before Mr. Pentz's time frame.

He then tells us that some long-ago ancestor of his employed the abandoned slave kennels as a repository for "family papers." While Mr. Pentz assures us the papers were of no intrinsic value, he also expects us to

Deeds go

back to

January, 1762

The Editor:

I read with interest your article concerning Oak Island in last week's issue of the Bulletin.

This article by Gerrie Grevatt stated that D'Arcy O'Connor since the publishing of his book "The Money Pit", is reputed to be the world's foremost authority on Oak Island. In his book "The Money Pit", O'Connor stated that the earliest existing deed pertaining to Oak Island was recorded on March 8, 1768. This is not correct.

The earliest deed concerning Oak Island is dated Jan. 26, 1762. This

island, known as island 28, at that time was divided in two parts. The south half was owned by the assistant land surveyor to Charles Morris - a man by the name of Benjamin Bridge. Mr. Bridge's life is fairly well recorded; he was responsible for surveying most of the original lots in Lunenburg and New Dublin Townships.

Oak Island, cleared some 40 years earlier of all trees but some oaks, would have by the time the New England settlers arrived in the late 1750's appeared to have never been cleared at all. It's quite possible that Mr. Bridge and his survey crew occupied the island during the time of the laying out of the original lots. This could explain the stone triangles that existed at various locations on the island. Benjamin Bridge may well have tried to teach the basics of surveying to his crew.

The south half of Oak Island, known as lot no. 51 in the earliest deed, changed hands many times in the next few years. The division line, known as the east-west line, often referred to as the road, existed in the 1760's and is mentioned in several deeds. It was after a closer inspection of the island in the mid 1760's that it was apparent that the island had been surveyed earlier and laid out in four-acre lots, thereafter reverting to the original small lots.

Before anyone can be considered an authority on Oak Island, they should at least do some basic research on the island. This, as well as other information, can be found in my book "The Man Called Springauf", yet to be published.

Yours, Sincerely,
Earl N. Pentz
Pentz, Lun. Co. N.S.

THE BULLETIN
SEPT 1981

the homes of
Mrs. Herbert
Mr. and Mrs.