

Oak Island Times

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From The Publisher ...

I heard a story once about a kid who was always afraid of a dog at the house next door to him that was kept inside a fence.

Whenever he and his friends played baseball and a ball got hit over the fence the dog would grab it and just stare at them. No one dared go get the ball.

Well, one day he decided to do something about it so he threw the ball over the fence on purpose. Then he went over it himself to retrieve the ball. Very cautiously, he befriended the dog and was able to get his baseball back, and make a new friend.

Whether this story is true or not, I “done did throwed” the ball over the fence with this publication. The response has been overwhelming, but I should have known, with all the fans *The Curse of Oak Island* has around the world.

The stats, as of this writing, show 1,392 unique readers and 2,426 total hits since first going live on May 7, 2021, shortly after the COOI season ended.

Wow!

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And they come from all over the world!

I’d like to make three points:

First, the *Oak Island Times* publication in no way represents the Oak Island, Prometheus or History Channel teams. It is just my writings based on many years of research.

Second, as I said in my first issue, not everyone will agree with my assessments and there may be conflicting histories about a specific part of this research, plus I just might make a mistake every once in awhile. My writings are not meant to be a peer-reviewed, comprehensive report on every single aspect of a certain subject, just observations I’ve made.

Third, I appreciate the faith people are putting in me and I take it seriously. I can’t respond to every email personally because there are just so many of them, but I do appreciate every single one of you.

We have a lot of good stuff again in this July issue, and August is being worked on already. I better get busy before this dog decides to bite me!

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This month we're going to the "go-to" guy, Mr. Carmen Legge, the walking, talking expert on just about every old piece of metal lying around Oak Island. Carmen's expertise comes from many years of training and experience. So let's get right to the interview.

OIT: Hey Carmen! Great to have you here sharing your information with our readers. You've become pretty much the go-to person on *The Curse of Oak Island* TV show for the interpretation of metallic items found on Oak Island. Can you tell our readers how you first became interested in blacksmithing, and where your unique knowledge of these older items comes from

Carmen: I've always been fascinated with antique tools and hardware, and how they were made, from the time of my youth. Why were they made a certain way?

Partly, that comes from my belief I could make them in a better way, still keeping true to the integrity of traditional methods.

Firstly, I needed to know the processes involved in the design and manufacturing of these bygone items, though many were still being used in my area until the mid 1970s, due to the practicality of the item, both economically and ergonomically.

Following my fascination through research and hands-on learning, I realized the utter craftsmanship and ingenuity of our ancestors, both the maker and user.

My focus was, and still is, French, British and German artifacts, and their styles from the 1600s through to the 1950s.

Though having a continuing interest in the blacksmithing aspect, as well as the woodworking aspect, of historical trades, it was not until twenty years ago that I got to really experience the blood, sweat and tears of our foreparents when I started working at the Ross Farm Museum.

My work there expanded my knowledge of the stories that minute nicks and notches can tell when an artifact is examined.

OIT: I know you work at the Ross Farm, and at another interpretive centre as well, as a demonstrator of older blacksmithing methods. I just missed meeting you in person when Rick Lagina sent me your way with one of the metallic finds from Smith's Cove. One question I'm guessing our readers would like to know the answer to is – Do they give you a little more time than is shown to assess each item?

Carmen: Most items are shown to me as we film, however there are exceptions.

OIT: Do you think that a lot of the surface find items could be from settler activity on the island, or possibly from items washing in from shipwrecks in Mahone Bay?

Carmen: Some of the items, indeed, are from settler activity, but many are from industrial activity from a long-ago era, or eras, with a smattering being of maritime activity.

OIT: I know you are also involved in preserving the history of New Ross. You helped me tremendously with my book *Oak Island And New Ross*. Are you native to that area? ...and, how long has your family been in Nova Scotia?

Carmen: Yes, native of Blue Mountain, a rural community north of New Ross. I can trace my roots back to great, great grandparents on both sides, living in Nova Scotia, however, don't know where the originators hailed from, but do desire to know.

OIT: I understand that the Legge surname comes from Scotland, but just on the border with England. Have you been able to trace your family back to that area and do you celebrate your Scottish heritage?

Carmen: Yes, I have French, German and Swedish backgrounds, as well as being predominantly Scottish and English.

OIT: When they show all the Oak Island finds on the war room table at the end of each season, the viewers know that a good share of the metal items passed through your hands for your expert opinion. What were a couple of your favorite artifacts from Oak Island that you were asked to review? And what was the estimated date on the oldest item, if you can remember?

Carmen: One artifact that intrigued me greatly was the rock-drill sharpening swage. It was constructed and used a very long time ago, possibly late-1400s. From its features, the story of its awe-inspiring usage was revealed to me; staggering to me was the amount of back-breaking work it was involved with.

Other artifacts were the ox shoes, which I am very familiar with, having shod over 700 oxen.

Another item was the hand point. One wonders what message was it used to convey? I have made a few replicas since.

OIT: Wow, 700 oxen! I also know that you wrote a book about the care of oxen. By the way, I was able to hold the hand point chisel one day in the war room. I have a rough idea of what you mean about the awe these items inspire. Do you have a pet theory of what you think might have happened on Oak Island over its long history?

Carmen: After several years of examination and scrutiny, both of the numerous artifacts from the island, as well as the island itself, I know there were activities dealing with mining and tunneling, possibly of different time periods, as well as different nationalities. For what purpose, I have no idea.

OIT: I imagine you get easily recognized whenever you're out in public now, because of the TV show. What would you like the viewers of *The Curse of Oak Island* to know about you that maybe doesn't come across in the short clips from all the many episodes you've appeared on.

Carmen: I would like all the viewers to know about my desire to pass on the knowledge of traditional crafts, especially blacksmithing.

Also, I strive to help viewers nurture the ability to READ the story that an artifact will tell.

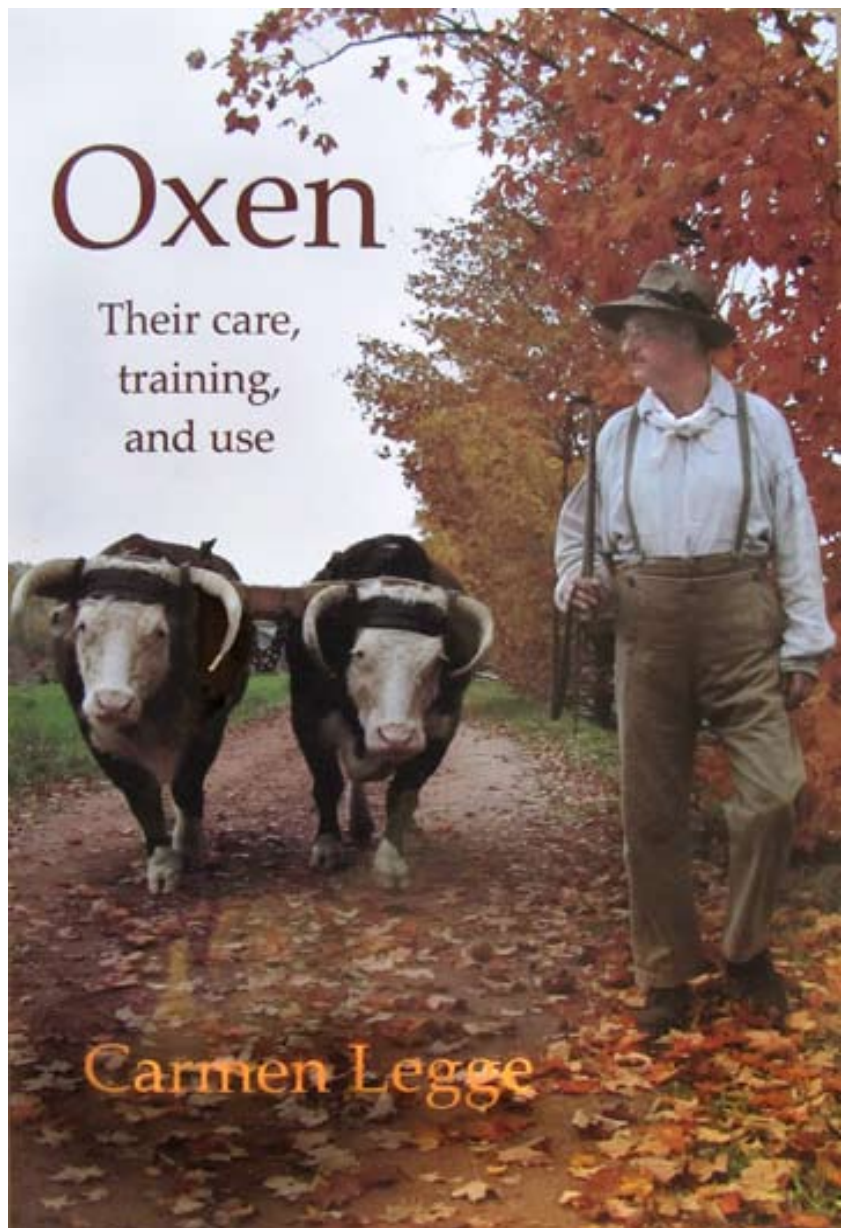
I'd like to see the showcasing of more of the crafting process, or at least highlighting of some traditional items crafted.

Would not the viewers like to see me fabricate a hand point just like it was done in the 1600s?

I also enjoy comments from fans that come up to me or write me saying they enjoy my part in the show. It is much appreciated.

OIT: Thank you, Carmen, for sharing your thoughts with us today. I think a lot of *The Curse of Oak Island* viewers are just like me, when they see the Oak Island team pull up to your blacksmithing shop and we all wait with baited breath to hear what Carmen has to say.

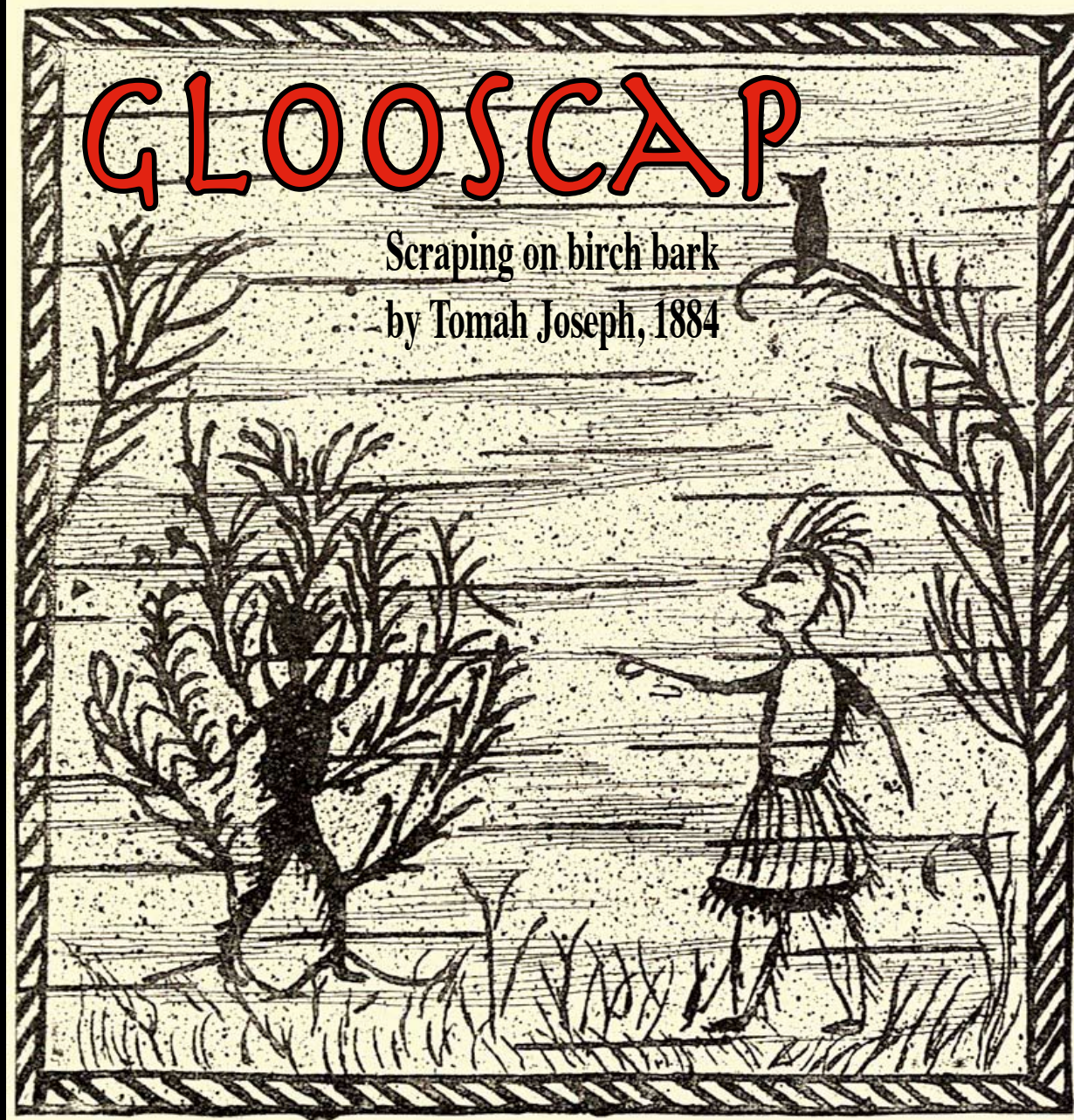
(Below: This is the book Carmen Legge wrote on the care of oxen which was published January 1, 2012. It is available on Amazon. I just love the cover photo! It reeks of authenticity.)



GLOOSCAP

Scraping on birch bark

by Tomah Joseph, 1884



The true identity of the man known as Glooscap has been debated on *The Curse of Oak Island* TV show, and throughout the Northeast corner of North America for a long time.

While he is often connected to the Mi'kmaq people, he is actually part of the lore of the Abenaki, Penobscot, Maliseet, and Passamaquoddy people as well.

All of these tribes share something else. Their homes were in the general territory granted to William Alexander under the name Nova Scotia, as well as parts of New England, in which he was also involved.

While these legends certainly predate Alexander, they may not predate earlier Scottish explorations of the same general area, supported by Scottish legends.

There are many alternative spellings of Glooscap including Glooskap, Gluskabe, Gluskap, Koluscap, Koluskap, Kuloscap, Kluskap, Kluscap, Gluskabi, Gluscabi, Gluskonba, Gluskôba, Gylascop, Gluskoba, Kloskabe, Kuluskap, Klouskap, Glousgap, Gluskab, Klosgab, Glouscap, Gluskape, Gluscabe, Glusk8ba, Klosk8ba, Gluskoba, Glous'gap, Gloosekap, Gloskap, Gluskap, Kloskap, Kloskurbah.

Pretty crazy, huh?

His name is spelled so many different ways for two reasons: first, these tribes spoke slightly different languages, and second, the languages were traditionally unwritten, so English speakers just spelled the name however it sounded to them at the time.

Since stories about Glooscap have been told in so many different communities, details about his life tend to vary a lot as well. In any case, Glooscap is always portrayed as a virtuous hero and a good caretaker and teacher of the First Nations. Sometimes he even plays the role of a transformer, changing monsters into harmless animals and adapting the landscape to be more favorable to the people.

I suppose we'll never know the truth, but I do have a theory that I am going to put forth that is not meant to in anyway dismiss First Nations lore, but simply to offer a possible alternative.

While Sir Henry Sinclair has often been thought of as the inspiration for this man-god (by Sinclair theorists at least), there has never been a way to adequately connect his name to the name of Glooscap.

There is no phonetic similarity, and no reason Sinclair would give this as his name. The same can be said for the name of the prince in the *Zeno Narrative*, whose name was Zichmini.

This is one reason that the theories that these names actually refer to Henry Sinclair have been disbelieved. Honestly, how could the name Sinclair be contorted into the name Zichmini? And, how could the name Sinclair be contorted into the name Glooscap?

I believe I have found a possible answer to both mysteries!

I'm going to save Sinclair for another issue of *Oak Island Times* but here's a possible theory on the name Glooscap.

The name Archibald is one of the more common given names within the Campbell family of Scotland.

The source of this name is very peculiar. It is usually given as the English equivalent of the Gaelic names of Gilleasbuig or Gillespeck.

In fact, there are a few Campbell men, and men of the MacDonald clan and other clans as well, whose Gillespeck-type name was translated as Gillespie, which makes sense, and also as Archibald, which doesn't seem to make any sense.

Some confusion is common where Gaelic names or words were being written in English or even Latin, but it's a heck of a jump from Gillespeck or Gilleasbuig to Archibald. One explanation for the Archibald translation is that the name Gillespeck actually means "servant of the bishop," and many bishops were referred to as Archbishops. "Arch" can be found in words like monarch, matriarch and patriarch, meaning "leader." The theory is that the Arch in this word was used in the translation of the Gillespeck name to Archibald (The Bold Leader).

The name was also sometimes translated as Celestine, which typically means "heavenly," and which appears to have been influenced by religious fervor.

One Gillespeck, Gilleasbuig, Archibald, or Celestine Campbell of Lochow succeeded to his father before May 2, 1343, as on that date King David II, the last male of the House of Bruce, bestowed on Campbell many forfeited lands, including those of Dowgall or Dougall Campbell, his brother.

This Gillespeck also had a grant from Mary, Countess of Menteith, of "the whole land of Kilmun," which was confirmed to him in a charter issued by King David.

Kilmun is located on Holy Loch, the home to St. Fintan who claimed he sailed with St. Brendan to a land to the west (North America?).

Kilmun would mean "servant of Mun," and St. Fintan was also known as St. Munnu, and lived in what became Campbell land. Therefore, members of the Campbell family were likely to have heard of this famous saint who once lived on their lands.

On October 11, 1363, Gillespeck Campbell is called Gilleaspoch Cambel, in a document written in Latin, as deeds and charters often were, in those days. On March 26, 1371, he did homage to the newly crowned Robert II, at Scone, along with the other "magnates of the realm."

Where the story gets interesting is that in a much earlier charter, the name Gilleasbuig Campbell is written in Latin as Gylascop Kambel.

There are ancient records of at least five additional men with a different surname, but with variations of the Gylascop name, including Gillescop and Gillascop.

And, just as we have a multitude of spellings for the name of Glooscap, we now have a multitude of spellings for the Gaelic name of Gylascop, including Gillescop, Gillascop, Gilleasbuig, Gillespie, Gillespeck, Gilleaspoch, Celestine and even Archibald.

A very prominent Gaelic etymologist, Alexander MacBain, in 1896, tells us that the spelling of Gilleasbuig was a fairly substantial departure from the original, which was the prefix Gille added to the word written in Gaelic as "Epscop."

This would make Gylascop much closer to the original version or spelling of the name than Gillespeck or Gilleasbuig.

Colin, or Cailean, the son of the elder Gylascop Campbell, was married to Janet, a first cousin of Sir Henry Sinclair, through his uncle John Sinclair, according to the 17th Century compilation *Ane Accompt of the Genealogie of the Campbells*.

This means the son of Colin Campbell and Janet Sinclair, the younger Gylascop Campbell, would have been a first cousin, one generation removed, to Henry Sinclair, giving Gylascop a possible reason to want to join in Henry's voyage to a new land in the west.

It has been said that Sinclair took a few hundred men with him to North America.

Sir James Gunn is said to be one of those men and is supposed to be the "Westford Knight." You see, in Westford, Massachusetts, is a carved stone said to commemorate the death of Sir James Gunn, who is supposed to have accompanied Sinclair to North America, who is believed to have died at sea.

In the case of the Gunn family, they were beholden to the Sinclairs, since they lived in Caithness, which had been under Sinclair control for many generations.

In the case of the Campbells, Gylascop was a first cousin (once removed) to Sir Henry Sinclair. The Campbells also lived in the land of St. Fintan, who had told the tale of a Land of Promise to the west that he and St. Brendan had reached using hide-covered boats.

Either man, Gunn or Campbell, would be a likely candidate to join Sir Henry Sinclair on his voyage.

I don't know if it's just me, but Gylascop and Glooscap are extremely similar in sound and appearance.

Each name has the same number of letters, they each begin with a "gl" sound, and end with a "scop" or "scap" sound. In fact, if the "a" in Gylascop was replaced by the letters "oo," you would have Gylooscap, which is incredibly close to Glooscap.

If I had snuck the name Gylascop into the list of First Nations names for Glooscap, you may not even have noticed.

Go back to page 4 and check, because I did just that and I'm betting you read right over it as a possible alternative spelling for Glooscap. It wasn't and isn't. I just wanted to see if anyone would notice.

Though we think of the pronunciation of the vowel "a" as in the word "fate," and the pronunciation of "oo" as in the word "foot," the short "a" pronunciation, as found in the word "far," sounds a bit like the short "oo" pronunciation, as in the word "floor." It is possible that this added some confusion as to the correct pronunciation of the names Glooscap and Gylascop.

The same type of phenomenon might account for the difference in the endings "scap" and "scop," which could also be a case where a short "a" sound was interchanged with a short "o" sound, as in the example of the Caribbean pronunciation of "man," often pronounced as "mon."

Scottish names, in general, are an extreme testament to early variations in spellings.

This theory is further supported by returning to the root of the name. The Gaelic "Epscop" would match to some of the sounds in Episcopacy, which derives from the same root.

All vowels in this word, except for the "i," are generally pronounced with a short "a" sound.

The first vowel/consonant combination of "Ep" is spoken almost as "up." The vowel/consonant combination of the "cop" part of the word is spoken with a short "a" sound, almost as in the word "cup." This shows that words built around this Epscop root consistently have short "a" sounds, which could account for a variation in how Gylascop and Glooscap were written or remembered.

We've already seen how Gylascop was spelled a few different ways in Gaelic and English, and also two different ways in Latin, not to mention two replacement names of Archibald and Celestine. So it is not beyond reason to believe that Gylascop could become Glooscap, or that Gylascop Campbell, a first cousin, once removed, to Henry Sinclair, would travel with him to North America, and could have become the source of the legend of Glooscap.

I'm not here to say that it was absolutely Gylascop Campbell who was the true inspiration for Glooscap, but it is, in fact, quite possible. The only record available for Gylascop Campbell's death, says he "died apparently, before 1394," although his son is said to have been born "about 1400." Sir Henry Sinclair sailed in 1398.

The year of death for Henry Sinclair is also in dispute. All of these dates have been given: 1401, 1402, or some time between 1404 and 1412? We don't know for sure when Henry Sinclair died, and we don't know for sure when Gylascop Campbell died, but we are told that, between the two of them, it was some time between 1394 and 1412. The voyage took place in 1398.

But we're not finished just yet. What about James Gunn?

We have no idea when Sir James Gunn died either, unless we believe the Westford Knight legend based on the stone found in Westford, Massachusetts.

Sir James Gunn is given as the father of George Gunn. In 1460, Uisdean or Hugh MacDonald, after his battle with William Sinclair, paid a visit to George Gunn, who was then Coroner of Caithness. This means James Gunn was definitely deceased by 1460, as Coroner was a hereditary position.

One online naysayer asked these questions about James Gunn: "Why would Sinclair have chosen a random Gunn? Sinclair's territory was not Caithness."

Not true.

Caithness had been held as a fief of Scotland by the Norse Earls of Orkney since about 1020 AD, and possibly even several decades before. Henry Sinclair's cousin, Alexander de L'Arde, was Lord of Caithness when Henry became Earl of Orkney, and Henry's grandson William was 1st Lord Sinclair of Caithness.

And he asks, "Why would Gunn go, especially if he was 'Crownier' and 'of Clyth'? Surely he'd have too many responsibilities, if being Crownier was of any real importance?" What an idiot!

First, Clyth is a remote, scattered coastal crofting village in eastern Caithness, in the Scottish Highlands, and is in the Scottish council area of "Highland."

Upper Clyth, Clyth Mains, Mid Clyth, Hill of Mid Clyth, West Clyth and East Clyth are all locations associated with the name Clyth, and so it is not deserving of any type of question as to its existence, which seems to be this naysayer's intent.

Second, the titles of Crownier and Coroner were interchangeable. This job was somewhat different than what we think of today as a coroner.

In those days, the "important" job of the coroner or crownier was to get whatever money was due the king, whenever a person died. This was a very important position, also not deserving of a doubter's questioning.

A coroner, in those days, could also forgive a murder, if the murderer repented, gave up all his worldly goods, and left town in a monk's habit. Seems like a very powerful and "important" position to me.

"Why would Gunn go?" is the only good question this amateur at Scottish history has asked.

As I pointed out in my first Oak Island book *Oak Island Missing Links*, in much greater detail, Scotland was suffering from some terrible challenges from plagues to politics, from peasant revolts to the pope.

Although I have not been able to substantiate this yet, I've read that Henry Sinclair's daughter and son-in-law signed a legal document with her father giving the couple possession of all his lands if he should not return from his adventure to the west.

It is also said that Sinclair controlled around 200 small islands west of the Orkneys, which means he was very familiar with sailing in that direction. His 1390-91 annexing of the Faroe Islands proves that his inclination was in a westward direction.

Our online naysayer also confidently asserts, "the fact that this trip could not have actually occurred was convincingly demonstrated in 1898 by Fred W. Lucas."

Not sure how Mr. Lucas demonstrated this, but he obviously couldn't have heard of the 1976-77 voyage made by Tim Severin and his crew in a skin-covered boat, built as if it came from the 6th Century, which made it from Ireland to Newfoundland in a total sailing time of under five months.

This boat was far inferior to anything Sir Henry Sinclair would have used.

Sinclair was also the subject of historian Frederick J. Pohl's *Atlantic Crossings Before Columbus*, which was published in 1961. Not all historians agree with Pohl, but he made the case that Sinclair not only wandered about mainland Nova Scotia in 1398, but also lived among the Mi'kmaq long enough to be remembered through the centuries as the man-god Glooscap.

Pohl was a prolific playwright, editor and book writer who authored six books about pre-Columbian travel to the New World by Europeans. He held a master's degree from Columbia University, and wrote articles for a variety of publications. If my theory is correct, he was wrong about at least one thing – the true identity of Glooscap.

It is very hard to believe that the name Sinclair could be misconstrued as Glooscap, but it is only a quick and easy jump to believe that the name Gylascop could be remembered, written down, or even pronounced as Glooscap.

To further explore this theory, we have the legends of the Mi'kmaq, which say that Glooscap had a twin brother named Malsum. Malsum is very similar to the common Scottish name of Malcolm. There have been many Malcolm Campbell's in history, although there is no evidence Gylascop had a twin named Malcolm.

There were also Malcolms of different surnames, not the least of which was Sir Malcolm Drummond, brother to Henry Sinclair's son-in-law, John Drummond. The Drummond clan played a substantial role in the history of Scotland at the time of Henry Sinclair's supposed voyage to North America. To begin with, Malcolm Drummond's Aunt Margaret was married to the last king of the Bruce line, David II.

Not to be outdone, the sister of Malcolm and John Drummond was Annabella, wife of Robert III. It was her son James who was under the care of Henry Sinclair II when they were captured while making their way to France to escape the societal collapse of Scotland.

John Drummond married Henry Sinclair's daughter Elizabeth and they apparently inherited the majority of his land. John was Justiciar of Scotland at the time. This is very significant because it is said that it was through Elizabeth Sinclair that the story of the trip to Nova Scotia, by her father, was kept alive.

Malcolm Drummond married Isobel Douglas, and this couple had no children. Malcolm distinguished himself at the Battle of Otterburn, in 1388. This battle led to a decade or so of relief from the fear of another English annexation attempt.

It was during this period that Sir Henry Sinclair is thought to have made his voyage to North America.

From 1388 until his death, in 1402, at the hands of the son of the Wolf of Badenoch, little is known of Malcolm Drummond's whereabouts, and so it could well have been he that is now remembered as Malsum by the Mi'kmaq.

It is at least possible that Sir Gylascop Campbell, Sir James Gunn, Sir Malcolm Drummond and Sir Henry Sinclair traveled to North America. Using "boats with only oars" they explored as far as Westford MA, where, after the death of Sir James Gunn at sea, they commemorated him with a stone carving. And during their stay, in and around Nova Scotia, Gylascop Campbell, who disappears from Scottish history some time between 1394-1400, becomes the inspiration for the Mi'kmaq legends of Glooscap.

How Does That Work?



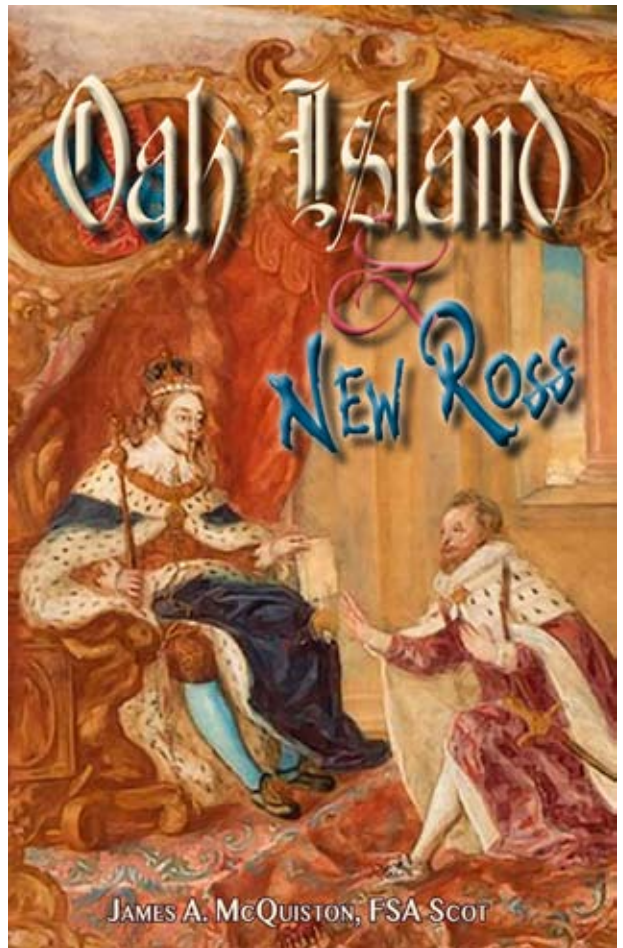
One of the first metals to be worked by man is gold. Nuggets of it were often easily seen lying on the ground or in streams, or when pits or holes were being dug.

It was generally fairly pure and could be hammered and melted easily. The only problem was that gold is not a very tough metal and so making hand tools or weapons from it was out of the question. However, it worked great for decorating items and the earliest surviving gold jewelry is thought to be from Egypt, about 3000 BC.

Unfortunately, there hasn't been a lot of gold to have to test or date that's been found on Oak Island so far. We did see the gold plated button found in spoil piles from the GAL1 shaft, and the piece of jewelry with the red garnet stone which, while set in a brass and copper setting, did appear, under an electron microscope, to be gold plated, which Laird Niven had earlier asserted.

The jewelry was dated to around 500 years ago based on the hand cut stone. The button is thought to be from the 1700s.

Just as enticing are a few other mentions of gold, not the least of which is Gold River that runs from near Oak Island up to the mysterious foundation at New Ross, and which I speak about in my *Oak Island And New Ross* book.



During research for this book I found out that Joan Harris, former owner and discoverer of the New Ross foundation, was told that some wooden clamps she retrieved from the dig site were from a goldsmith operation.

Mark Finnan, wrote in his book *The First Nova Scotian* about laboratory tests conducted on samples of sand collected at the New Ross site indicating "high levels of gold dust." As I point out in my book, there are strong indications that the first Scottish proprietor of Nova Scotia built the New Ross "castle."

His name was William Alexander and, as of 1621, he was given the rights to all mining proceeds in Nova Scotia excepting 10% of any gold or silver. When his settlers were booted out, in 1632, the order to leave named specifically “silver or gold” as items they were allowed to take with them.

As for Oak Island, we have the gold cross presented by the McGinnis sisters who stated that it came from the Money Pit as part of their ancestor’s share of enough items to fill three chests.

Perhaps most enticing is that Fred Blair, who spent a good share of his life involved with Oak Island, swore in a statement that he had heard treasure hunter T. Perley Putnam say that “unmistakable evidence” from the 1867 drilling showed that gold was present in the Money Pit.

Perley wasn’t the first as, in the summer of 1850, Jotham McCully, a member of the Truro Company, allegedly recovered three links of gold chain from the pit at a depth of 98 feet.

One final point on gold is that the Truro Company hit an area where they felt coins might be being drilled through. At one point, foreman John Pitblado retrieved something from the drill bit and slipped it into his pocket. When asked what it was he said he would show everyone at the next business meeting.

Pitblado never returned to the work site but instead unsuccessfully tried to form his own search group. When this failed, he disappeared.

Gold is no longer so easy to find around the world and certainly has been elusive on Oak Island. Not so with silver.

Silver is often considered second only to gold as a precious metal. How many times have we heard the expression, “silver and gold,” when treasure is being spoken of?

As the latest season of *The Curse of Oak Island* ended, silver was definitely being spoken of.

Geologist Dr. Ian Spooner led a team in testing the water found in various shafts dug in the Money Pit area. From one shaft, samples seem to indicate to Spooner that a fair amount of silver had leached into the water from that shaft which caused his measuring instruments to spike. He stated “There is every reason to believe that down in those holes there’s treasure.”

When asked how much, he indicated possibly a “Gerhardt dumptruck load.”

Billy Gerhardt is the big equipment operator who either carries out or oversees a lot of the earth moving that takes place on Oak Island.

What a cliffhanger! I personally want to see what a Gerhardt dumptruck full of silver looks like.

The first evidence of silver mining dates back to 3000 B.C., in Turkey and Greece, according to the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Like gold, it was too soft to make tools or weapons from however, ancient people did figured out how to refine silver. They heated the silver ore and blew air over it, a process called cupellation. The silver does not react to the air, but the base metals such as lead and copper oxidize and separate from the precious metal.

Pure silver is too soft for products like jewelry and tableware, so the family’s finest forks and knives are most likely sterling silver, an alloy of 92.5 percent silver and 7.5 percent copper (though sometimes other metals are used).

Once Europeans landed in the New World, in 1492, Spanish conquerors went on to discover that South America was home to rich veins of silver and silver ore.

When the invaders couldn't steal enough already processed gold and silver, they mined the veins of silver enthusiastically.

According to the Silver Institute, an industry trade group, 85 percent of all the silver produced worldwide came from Bolivia, Peru and Mexico between 1500 and 1800. That's a startling figure!

What has been found on Oak Island so far, in regards to silver, at least outweighs any gold discoveries.

Beyond the silver tainted water found by Dr. Spooner, a few other cool finds have been made.

Oak Island landowners Samuel Ball and Anthony Graves were both rumored to have paid for supplies with older gold and silver coins. As far as more recent finds, Gary Drayton has uncovered silver coins, buttons, and a handle from a silver spoon engraved with the name "Wm. Miller."

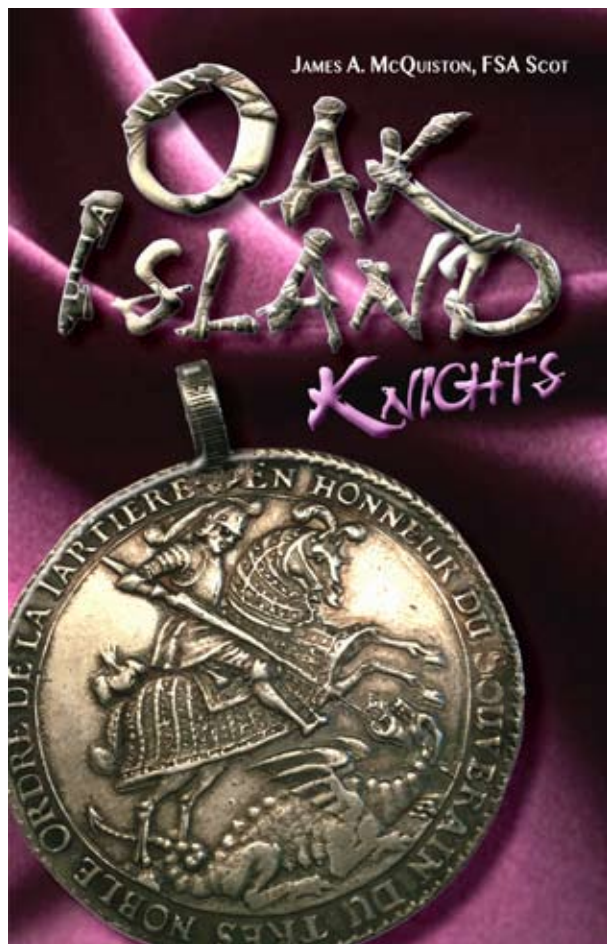
Turns out Wm. Miller was a silversmith working in Philadelphia circa 1810 to 1840.

One of the more exciting items in recent years (which unfortunately didn't make the show) was a knighthood medallion from 1671 that was found near the New Ross mystery foundation in the 1970s.

Working off information provided by Doug Crowell, I was able to identify the item as a medallion, one of only three issued in 1671. This one was issued to Christopher Monck who later became the financier of treasure hunter William Phips.

Another matching medallion is held by the British Museum and they say it is made of silver.

I've held the New Ross medallion in my hand, and in fact have taken the only good photos of it that you will find anywhere. It very well could be solid silver as it is heavy. There is a small indent on the piece perhaps caused by it being of a softer metal.



I go into great detail about the medallion and Phips in my book *Oak Island Knights*.

Even though this was my third Oak Island book, it is the first one where I lay out the basis for my complete theory. All of my non-fiction books since then just add icing to the cake, and proof to my theory.

While the medallion looks a little on the gold side on my book cover it is actually silver grey with hints of black tarnishing.

Also found in the Oak Island swamp was a silver ring. This was passed onto a professional gemologist who felt that two repairs had been made – one to make the ring larger and one to make it smaller. It's chiselled floral design pointed to 1730s European origin, possibly from Spain. The team also found a silver button at Isaac's Point, dating to the mid-18th century.

Next we move on to a metal not always thought of as a precious metal, but one that helped change the world, and one that we use almost everyday in some way, shape or form.

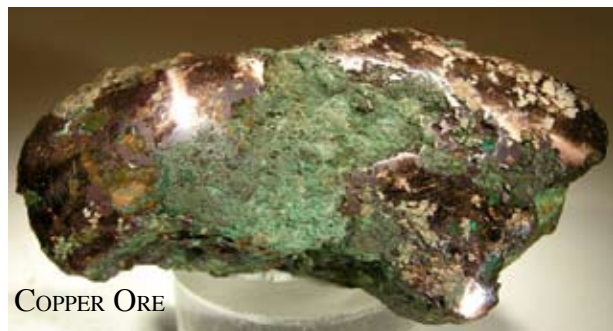
The age of copper actually predates the use of gold and silver. From about 7000 BC, Neolithic communities began hammering copper into crude knives and sickles.

These metal tools worked as well as their stone equivalents and lasted far longer. Some of the earliest implements of this kind have been found in eastern Asia Minor.

This intermediate period between the Stone Age (when all weapons and tools are of flint or other stones) and the first confident metal technology of the Bronze Age, has been given a name deriving from the combination of materials. It is called the Chalcolithic Period, from the Greek *chalcos* "copper" and *lithos* "stone."

Perhaps an accident, probably frequent, revealed another of nature's useful secrets. A nugget of pure copper, or perhaps a finished copper tool, fell into the hot camp fire. The copper melted. When it cooled, it is found to have solidified in a new shape.

And the magic of fire has yet more to offer. Certain kinds of bright blue or green stones were attractive enough to collect for their own sake. It turns out that when such stones were heated to a high temperature, liquid metal flowed from them. They are azurite and malachite, two of the ores that hold copper.



COPPER ORE

Copper was found accidentally in Nova Scotia. Cape d'Or on the Bay of Fundy side of Nova Scotia was named by French explorers as the "Cape of Gold" because bright native copper deposits, accidentally unveiled in a landslide, appeared golden.

Samuel de Champlain explored the copper deposits at Cape d'Or, in 1607, and bestowed the name Port of Mines on nearby Advocate Harbour to reflect the seams of copper ore at Cape d'Or. However, for the technology of the time, they were at first found too difficult to mine.

It is well-known that copper was mined in the Great Lakes region. The only controversy is where it might have ended up. The official view is that it was used by First Nations people to make tools and weapons. Others feel it was transported to South America and even to Europe.

In his book, *The Lost Empire of Atlantis*, Gavin Menzies presents a very strong case that the Minoans were responsible for the extraction and export of the missing copper. The most compelling evidence from his book is listed below.

- The tools used for mining in both European mines (known to be Minoan) and the Lake Superior mines are identical.
- The pottery and utensils found in the Lake Superior mines are identical to those used in the Minoan civilization on Crete.
- The mines in Lake Superior are the only known Bronze Age mines to contain copper with a purity exceeding 99%. Many European artifacts from this time period contain copper of this purity.
- The mining of copper in Lake Superior ended abruptly and coincidentally with the fall of the Minoan empire.

The descendants of the Minoans on Crete as well as the current populations in European and Middle Eastern countries, where the Minoans were known to have significant interactions, have a genetic marker on their mitochondria DNA known as haplogroup X.

The overlay of geographic distribution of haplogroup X and the known Minoan trading empire is nearly exact, providing strong evidence that the Minoans were the source of this genetic material.

In surveying the world for any other populations which have haplogroup X, the Ojibwa and Chippewa tribes in the vicinity of Lake Superior were found to have this marker. Further, by studying the extent of mutations within the haplogroup, it is possible to determine that the introduction of this genetic material into the local Native American populations occurred at the same general time of the copper mining.

What about copper on Oak Island?

A copper coin was found by the team in the island's swamp. After taking it to a specialist, it was shown to have been made in the 17th century. The specialist dated it to 1652, but I show in one of my books that it could possibly have been dated 1612.

Either way, it was a remarkable find.

Traces of both copper and zinc were found along with the silver traces in Dr. Spooner's water testing.

The symbol $\mu\text{g/L}$ means how many micrograms of a particular substance per liter of water. Copper had the highest value in the Oak Island study at $342 \mu\text{g/L}$.

The World Health Organization reports that normal environmental values range between 3 and $19 \mu\text{g/L}$.

For domestic water supplies, the values can range from 5 to $30\,000 \mu\text{g/L}$ due in part to copper water pipes.

Since Spooner's testing was carried out away from any domestic water piping, and there is little of that on the island to begin with (especially around the Money Pit area) it does seem that the amount of copper is out of place unless some copper is found in its natural state.

Somewhere along the way, in ancient history, it was discovered that using an alloy of copper and tin would create bronze, a new form of metal that made extremely strong weapons and tools, and this time period (beginning in 2800 BC) is given its own name – the Bronze Age. One of the more mysterious bronze discoveries on Oak Island was a "medallion" approximately 6" square bronze colored relief with darker background, said to look "Heraldic" and European in nature. It was found in 1995 by Fred Nolan and a photo of it was shown to David Tobias, Dan Blankenship's partner, who sold his share of Oak Island to the Michigan Group.

It was thought, for a while, that what appeared to be a genuine bronze Roman sword was legitimate but further research proved the story and the item were bogus.

In addition to the valuable metals already mentioned, the other two that stand out as finds on Oak Island are lead and iron/steel products.

Much has been said about the lead cross which appears as though it may be of French origin. A similar but not identical cross was found in New Brunswick at a fort built by a man once associated with Oak Island.

Gary found other chunks of lead on Smith's Cove which were thought to be patching material for ship repair, and he also found lead in areas further inland that was thought to be used for making ammunition. But, the vast majority of items discovered seem to fall into the iron category.

As for iron, there have been many hand forged spikes or nails, which are typically dated both by the type of head (a rose shaped head) or by the type of carbon in the metal (wood fired or coal fired).

There were also the two metal swages, which Carmen mentioned, that were used to sharpen drills and other pointed instruments. And there were other finds in the iron/steel family including eyebolts of various descriptions.

A piece of chain was found coupled with some bone in one dig site, and on a lot further inland, a long piece of thick chain was uncovered.

Gary also found two iron trade axe heads dating from 1710–1720. They could have been used as a ships rigging axes.

I was lucky enough in 2018 to be handed the stone mason's finishing chisel during a war room meeting. It was very impressive.

I was also asked to deliver a piece of metal found at Smith's Cove to Carmen Legge, but unfortunately for me, he had left for the day.



I was more than a little nervous just leaving it at the front desk but was assured it would be put directly in a safe.

Ox shoes were the big deal during the 2020 dig season because they seem to show steady use of a path up through the island beginning in the swamp. One, in particular, was a Scottish ox shoe roughly dated by Carmen to about 1610. This couldn't have fit better with my Scots/1632 theory.

Carmen is no amateur when it comes to ox shoes since he has written a complete book on Oxen called *Oxen, Their Care, Training And Use*.

By the 11th century BC it was discovered that iron could be much improved. If it was reheated in a furnace with charcoal (containing carbon), some of the carbon was transferred to the iron. This process hardened the metal and the effect was considerably greater if the hot metal was rapidly reduced in temperature, usually achieved by quenching it in water.

The new material was steel. It could be worked (or wrought) just like softer iron, and would keep a finer edge, capable of being honed to sharpness. Gradually, from the 11th century onwards, steel replaced bronze weapons in the Middle East, birthplace of the Iron Age. It became essential, from then on, to have a good steel blade rather than a softer bronze blade.

This led to what became known as "The Steel Age" extending into the 20th century.

Gilbert Hedden, an operator of a steel fabricating company, came to Oak Island to buy it, and searched it for years. Dan Blankenship's Borehole 10-X is supported by a steel caisson to bedrock. In fact, steel has been hard at work on Oak Island for a long time in the form of drilling and digging equipment and it could be considered Oak Island's number one metal.

Who's Who? Bacon

America loves its bacon; the U.S. and Canada, too. I'm here to tell you that Sir Francis Bacon loved America even more.

His involvement in Canada and the United States was seminal in planting British colonies in these locations.

Unfortunately, that story sometimes gets missed in all of the talk about him writing Shakespeare's plays and other connections to Oak Island.

Some possible connections are real and are documented, and that's what this article is all about.

When some people think of Sir Francis Bacon they might think of a statesman, a visionary, or a mad scientist out in the snow trying to freeze a chicken (which caused his death). He truly was a little of each of these, and a whole lot more.

What doesn't come to mind is his role as a founding father to the United States or Canada because his efforts in this area are typically hidden among other stories.

The *Mayflower* ship of the Pilgrims made land near Cape Cod 400 years ago, last year (2020), and Nova Scotia was founded 400 years ago, this year (2021), when a charter was granted to Sir William Alexander.

Where's the connection and where does Sir Francis Bacon fit in?

In the late 1500s, Queen Elizabeth was the first to send explorers to colonize America in the name of England. Sir Walter Raleigh was one of a few who failed in the endeavor.



You may remember the story of "The Lost Colony" of Roanoke. There were actually three groups of settlers sent to Roanoke, Virginia, that disappeared, one being sent in 1584, another in 1585, and a third in 1587. Their fate still remains a mystery today.

By 1606, it was decided to separate what had been established as Virginia (for the "virgin" Queen Elizabeth) into two settlement areas - the London Company (Virginia South) and the Plymouth Company (Virginia North).

Virginia North is where the Plymouth Colony (and eventually New England) ended up, and it extended from the 38th (later the 40th) to the 45th latitudes.

Perhaps surprising to some, *Mayflower* immigrants were not the first to attempt a settlement in New England.

Explorer Bartholomew Gosnold had already founded a short-lived community at a place called Cuttyhunk Island in 1602.

He is the very man who discovered and named Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard (after his deceased daughter Martha), and the Elizabeth Islands.

After only a few months of hardship and exploration, Gosnold's group returned to England. He later became a top leader in the Jamestown Colony of Virginia. An interesting note is that Gosnold was the son of Anthony Gosnold and Dorothy Bacon.

Bartholomew's cousin, Henry Gosnold, was a famous friend of Sir Francis Bacon.

The village of Hesselton where Dorothy Bacon was born is in the same county of Suffolk as Barham, England, where Sir Francis Bacon's father lived; and so there is a high likelihood that Dorothy was some type of cousin to Sir Francis Bacon as well – same county, same surname, same friends and family. Dorothy even had an uncle also named Francis Bacon.

We will see how Sir Francis Bacon fits into the Plymouth scheme very shortly.

By 1603, there was a new sheriff in town. King James VI of Scotland followed Queen Elizabeth to the throne of England and Ireland, upon her death, and took up the cause of settlement of the New World.

As part of the 1606 separation of the territory of Virginia into the southern London Company and the northern Plymouth Company, King James granted the Elizabeth Islands, near Cape Cod, to the Council of New England, on which Sir William Alexander, founder of Nova Scotia, served.

Alexander's friend, Ferdinando Gorges (pronounced "George"), was leader of what became known as the Plymouth Company, and eventually as New England.

By 1607, the London Company had established the colony of Jamestown under Captain John Smith.

And by 1609, the Virginia Company of London had decided that its arrangements for governance and investment needed an overhaul.

Sir Francis Bacon, then the Solicitor General, submitted to the king a report on "The Virginia Colony." He and Sir Henry Hobart were given the task of drafting the Virginia Company's second royal charter, which was signed by King James and issued on May 23, 1609.

Likewise, the Plymouth Company was an English stock company of merchants founded in 1606 by King James I.

Its purpose was to establish settlements on the coast of North America, between 38 and 45 degrees north latitude, within 100 miles of the seaboard. The merchants agreed to finance the settlers' trip in return for repayment of their expenses plus interest out of the profits made.

In 1620, after years of disuse, the company was revived and reorganized as the Plymouth Council for New England with a new charter – the New England Charter of 1620. The Plymouth Company had forty patentees at that point, and established the Council for New England to oversee their efforts. One of these patentees was Sir William Alexander.

On July 23, 1620, several months before the *Mayflower* landed at Plymouth, New England, Ferdinando Gorges was able to get a directive written and signed by some very illustrious people. The directive read:

Whereas it is thought fit that a Patent of Incorporation be granted to the adventurers of the Northern Colony in Virginia, to contain the like liberties, privileges, power, authorities, lands and all other things within their limits, namely, between the degrees of forty and forty-eight... this new Company is to be free of custom and subsidy for the like term of years, and of impositions after so long a time as his Majesty shall please to grant unto them.

Dated 23d July, 1620

This “new Company” became the famed Plymouth Colony, named after Gorges’s home port of Plymouth, England.

The signatures were general in nature and included nine men who signed this way:

Lord Chancellor
Lord Privy Seal
Earl of Arundel
Mr. Secretary Calvert
Master of the Rolls
Lord Digby
Mr. Comptroller
Mr. Secretary Naunton
Master of the Wards

And guess who the Lord Chancellor was in 1620 - Sir Francis Bacon, the very first man to sign this request to create the Plymouth Colony.

Back on May 23, 1609, Sir Francis Bacon had drafted a new charter for the Virginia Colony, and now he was leading the charge to create the Plymouth Colony as well!

As Lord Chancellor, Bacon was basically the next most powerful man to King James when he signed this 1620 directive that began the process of establishing the Plymouth Colony.

Bacon served as Lord Chancellor from March 7, 1617, until 1621, when he was brought up on possibly false charges and imprisoned by his enemies.

One of the investors and councilmen of the Plymouth Colony was William Alexander, future proprietor of Nova Scotia, who, at the time, was also highly placed in the court of King James.

Based on *The Freemasons Repository*, the *Documentary History of the State of Maine*, *Cracroft’s Peerage*, and *The Peerage of Scotland*, William Alexander was a member of the Great Council of Plymouth.

There had been a long association and perhaps even a close friendship between Sir Francis Bacon and Sir William Alexander.

When the royal court of James VI of Scotland moved to London, in 1603, on James’ accession to the English crown as James I, William Alexander moved with it, becoming Gentleman of the Privy Chamber and Master of the Household. In that same year, Sir Francis Bacon was knighted by James I.

Alexander was knighted six years later, in 1609 possibly after a visit to North America to check on the fur trade, since he was given a commission that very year for the purpose of carrying out this review of an important trade item for Britain.

If Alexander came to North America for this purpose, he almost certainly traveled only to Newfoundland, as Nova Scotia was then held by France, and recorded as Arcadia, Acadia, Acadie or La Cadie.

In 1610, Francis Bacon and his associates formed the Newfoundland Colonization Company, of which Bacon held a partial grant of land. In 1611, Alexander received his second commission to check on the fur trade in North America and also received a grant for land in Newfoundland.

We now have Sir Francis Bacon involved directly in settlements in Newfoundland, New England and Virginia, not just as an investor but as a composer of charters and general rules of organization and conduct.

In fact, there is no one else so deeply involved in all three areas of North American settlement as was Sir Francis Bacon.

In 1604, Bacon was appointed as the King’s Council and, by 1613, was made Attorney General of Great Britain. During this period William Alexander helped James I with the translation of the Psalms of King David.

Sir William Alexander was appointed Master of Requests in 1614. His duties would have included the receiving of petitions from subjects and presenting them for consideration by the Privy Council. The following year (1615), he was appointed to the Privy Council, and was followed by Sir Francis Bacon's appointment to the same body, in 1616. In 1618, Bacon was appointed Lord Chancellor.

In 1626, the year Bacon died, James I appointed William Alexander to the post of Secretary of State.

With so many shared political contacts and positions, a jointly-held fascination with authorship, and Bacon's concern over his enemies destroying, censoring or plagiarizing his writings, it is not out of the question that Sir Francis could have asked Sir William to take some of his books and ideas to the New World, specifically to Nova Scotia.

While there may be some connection of both Francis Bacon and William Alexander to the works of Shakespeare, Bacon's incredible life's work of scientific study seems like something he'd be more worried about making it to the New World.

Bacon and Alexander were both forward-looking individuals. Worrying about the plays of Shakespeare, which at the time were not considered as valuable as they are today, seems trivial compared to the revolutionary studies and papers undertaken by Bacon under the watchful eye of more conservative rulers and lawmakers.

The third signature on the 1620 Plymouth Company petition, that of the Earl of Arundel, was written by Sir Thomas Howard, 2nd Earl of Arundel. Howard was also on the New England Plantations Committee in 1620.

The following year Howard presided over the House of Lords Committee, in April 1621, for investigating the charges against Sir Francis Bacon and, at whose demise, he was appointed a commissioner of the great seal – essentially a committee to handle some of the Lord Chancellor's duties until a new one could be appointed to replace Bacon.

The two men remained friends and it was at Thomas Howard's house that Bacon died after catching a severe cold while experimenting with freezing a fowl. Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel, is important to our story in a few other ways as well.

First, he had collected such a huge amount of old documents and manuscripts that after he passed away the collection had to be donated to two separate entities because no one had the space or staff to catalogue Howard's entire collection. One can only imagine what is held in these collections considering Sir Francis Bacon was in the midst of a scientific experiment when he was rushed to Howard's home, where he passed away.

In addition, the Earl of Arundel name appears on a map Sir William Alexander drew (or had drawn) of his grant for Nova Scotia, in 1623. The map appeared in print in 1624 and again was republished in 1630.

The only year this map could have been drawn was 1623, the year Alexander's first ship successfully reached Nova Scotia.

Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel, may play an even more surprising role specifically in Oak Island history if one of my side projects on Oak Island proves to be true. Unfortunately, for now, I need to study this new theory a little longer and wait for an appropriate time to talk about it.

Meanwhile, there's no doubt Bacon loved America.

THE Christianized *Indians* in some parts of *Plymouth*, have newly appointed a day of Thanksgiving to God for his Mercy in supplying their extreame and pinching Necessities under their late want of Corn, & for His giving them now a prospect of a very *Comfortable Harvest*. Their Example may be worth Mentioning.

'Tis observed by the Husbandmen, that altho' the With draw of so great a strength from them, as what is in the Forces lately gone for *Canada* made them think it impossible for them to get well through the Affairs of their Husbandry at this time of the year, yet the season has been so unusually favourable that they see a good way want of the many hundreds of hands, that are wont to be from them, which is looked upon as a Merciful Providence.

Thanksgiving and Oak Island?

The King of England, at the time, was King James I, who was also King James VI of Scotland. He was the son of the famously beheaded Mary, Queen of Scots.

When Queen Elizabeth of England died without any children, James took the throne of England and Ireland as well, being the only rightful heir.

For the first time, the people of Ireland, Scotland and England were relatively satisfied to have one monarch. He was "Celtic" in nature if not in blood, and he was the true king, so there wasn't much for anyone to argue about.

It was under King James that the Pilgrims left England, being finances and supported by several merchant adventurers. This part of the story gets lost sometimes.

Sir Francis Bacon and Sir William Alexander were part of the effort to plant the Plymouth settlement in New England.

King James was worried that if he did not answer his settlers concerns about the French, he would have trouble getting more people to take a chance on the New World.

In steps Sir William Alexander, Privy Council member, Secretary of State of Scotland, and long-time friend of King James.

Alexander was Scottish just like King James, and so the king asked if Sir William thought he could get some Scots together to chase out the few remaining French Catholics in Acadia, then living at a place called Port Royal.

Most residents of the United States know the story about how the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, back in 1620, kicking off not only the English settlement of New England, but also our U.S. Thanksgiving holiday. Above is one of the first mentions of Thanksgiving that appeared in a newspaper from back in the 1600s.

What has remained somewhat hidden for all this time is that it was these Pilgrims who complained about Catholics still living north of them in Acadia, or what would become Nova Scotia, that resulted in the name and coat of arms for Nova Scotia, beginning in 1621, under Sir William Alexander. This perhaps even started the whole Money Pit mystery of Oak Island.

As many of you may know, I have been working for six years now with the owners and searchers on Oak Island, and with *The Curse of Oak Island* TV show. I've written seven books on Oak Island, so far, all but one being non-fiction.

My two latest books are *Oak Island And The Mayflower* and *Oak Island And New Ross*. Here's the story in a nutshell, but don't let it stop you from reading my books!

Alexander replied that, since there was a New England, a New France, and a New Spain, maybe there should be a New Scotland (*Nova Scotia* in Latin). The King agreed and gave William Alexander dominion over Acadia/Nova Scotia.

From 1621 through 1629, Alexander worked to get a group of Scottish settlers imbedded at Port Royal, absorbing the local French, who had been deserted by France. Even the French leader of Acadia allied himself with the Scots.

King James passed away during this period and his son Charles I took over. Charles was the brother-in-law of the King of France, who still owed him half of the dowry that was to accompany his marriage to the French king's sister. They signed a treaty in which Acadia was given back to the French.

On March 29, 1632, the Scots were ordered to leave Port Royal within 29 days. It was to be a peaceful evacuation, and they were even allowed to take their weapons and their gold and silver with them.

The only problem is that the North Atlantic would have been too rough to sail then. I looked at several weather records to determine that they potentially faced 20-30 foot waves, 25-35 knot winds, dense fog and freezing spray, the latter which would have iced up and sunk their ships.

The best place to take refuge was in Mahone Bay, where Oak Island is located, and the best island to anchor ships behind was Oak Island, for three reasons: because of the depth of the water near its shores; because it is one of the farthest back islands in the bay; and because it had a nice little cove to pull into.

That cove is now what is now known as the Oak Island swamp, created possibly due to a man-made coffer dam.

I discovered a carbon dating window, based on records for many pieces of finished lumber found in the swamp or in the Money Pit dig, that fits my 1632 date very well. Other artifacts fit, not the least of which was a carpenter square found in the swamp that carbon dated to as far back as 1632 and a chunk of axe-cut wood found at depth in the vicinity of the Money Pit that dated to as far back as 1626.

It is my belief that these Scots buried either what they needed to, after one of their ships sunk near the island, or what they wanted to, to prevent people back home from finding out about it.

There are many items they could have taken to Nova Scotia including a massive treasure stolen by one of the men involved in the Nova Scotia settlement.

The details are very interesting, but there is way too much to tell here (1200 or so pages over seven books).

In my *Oak Island Endgame* book I get pretty deeply into the weeds of my theory. It's not for the faint of heart but it became the icing on the cake of my *Oak Island Knights* book, and was the forerunner to my *Oak Island And The Mayflower*



book. It was well worth the writing and I believe it is well worth the reading.

I think it has been all of these books, and my handful of long war room presentations that prompted Rick Lagina to say: "When you ask the who, what, when, where, why and how, I think James, above all the others, really deals with that."

SO, WHAT'S NEXT?

I am shooting for a rare interview with Doug Crowell for my August issue. Doug has consistently resisted interviews since starting with the Oak Island team many years ago. This has nothing to do with him being shy as that is one thing Doug isn't. He is just so close to the action and research that he has to be careful not to let something slip that spills too many beans. However, he said he'd be more than happy to participate in an *Oak Island Times* interview.

One thing that probably gets missed a lot is that there are always many avenues being explored in Oak Island historical research and it's like a big spider web that seems to grow ever larger. Doug's at the forefront of a lot of it. Maybe we'll get him to spill at least a few beans.

I'm thinking for my main article in the August issue that I might just explore pre-Columbian travel to North America. My theory still rests with the Knights Baronet of the early 1600s, but I also think it would have been possible (and likely probable) that Europeans made it to North America long before Columbus. We know the Vikings did for sure, but what about others?

And since we'll be on that subject, I'll take a look at the Sinclair family for my "Who's Who?" section.

For my "How Does That Work?" segment, I keep holding on to my GPS and surveying article for just the right moment, and just the right person to say "Yes."

Instead, for August, I might take a look at techniques of research. I've shared a few days of research and a few remote research projects with Doug and we seem to work in a similar fashion, so this sounds like a good subject to look into.

I'm working on a handful of other projects right now that are not ready for prime time for a variety of reasons. When they are ready to share, you know I will share them.

Please remember, **this publication in no way represents the Oak Island Team, Oak Island Tours, Prometheus Entertainment or the History Channel.** However, they are well aware of *Oak Island Times*. If you wish to have the password to the digital vault where these issues are stored, simply email me at oakislandtimes@gmail.com.

See ya in August!

Since we talked about silver in this issue, here I am taking a photo of the silver knighthood medallion found at New Ross, while Rick and Doug anxiously await their turn to inspect it.

This was an amazing day in the war room, from 2018, and this photo is about the only proof that it ever happened.

