

that point known as the Western Shore, and four miles from the town of Chesler. The island is about a mile in length and half as broad. The formation is a very hard, tough clay. The eastern end was originally covered with oak timber, several groves of which still remain. There are over 300 islands in the bay.

About the close of the last century this part of the country was very sparsely populated and the island in question was without an inhabitant. In 1795, three men — Smith, McGinnis and Vaughn,— visited the island, and while rambling over the eastern part of it, came to a spot, of which the unusual and strange conditions at once engaged their attention. (Mr. Vaughn himself, who was only a lad of 16 at this time, subsequently related these facts to Mr. Robert Creelman, who still lives at Upper Stewiacke, N. S., and who was afterwards the manager of a company formed to recover the treasure.) It had every appearance of having been cleared many years before. Red clover and other plants altogether foreign to the soil in its natural state were growing. Near the center stood a large oak tree with marks and figures on its trunk. One of the lower and larger branches of this, the outer end of which had been sawed off, projected directly over the centre of a deep circular depression in the land about 13 feet in diameter. These and other "signs" shortly after led the three men named to commence work.

After digging a few feet, they found that they were working in a well defined shaft, the walls of which were hard and solid; and it is said that in some places old pick marks were plainly to be seen, while within these walls the earth was so loose that picks were not required. On reaching a depth of 10 feet they came to a covering of oak plank. They kept on digging until a depth of 30 feet was reached, finding marks at each 10 feet. At this point the work proved to be too heavy for them. Superstitious beliefs were in full force in that part of the country at that time, and on this account they were unable to get any help to continue the work and were forced to abandon it.

After an interval of 6 or 7 years, accounts of the wonderful discoveries already mentioned had spread over the province, and Dr. Lynds, a young physician of Truro, Nova Scotia, visited the island and interviewed Messrs. Smith, Vaughn and McGinnis. On his return to Truro, a company was formed for the purpose of continuing the search. Several prominent men belonging to Halifax, Colchester and Pictou counties took an active interest in