

CoOI S12 E19 Barreling Forward

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Synopsis by Jan Anderson

Money Pit

Rick and Gary are watching the excavation of RP2, which is at a depth of 82 feet. The next hammer grab comes out, and it contains more wood. Steve tells Rick they are taking out the north corner of Shaft 6, and that is probably where the beams are coming from. Steve also says that at the bottom of this hole, they should also catch part of the tunnel going from Shaft 6 to the Money Pit. As Gary scans the spoils from Shaft 6, he gets a hit and pulls out a piece of iron. Gary thinks the piece of strap that looks like the piece pulled out of RP1 a few days ago. Also in the spoils is a timber that Steve brings over to the table for Rick to take a look at. Rick and Steve agree the timber appears to be a corner piece. Vanessa arrives and tells Rick the dig is at 87 feet, and they are about to stack another can. Later, Vanessa tells the team the dig is now at 96 feet, and the next hammer grab brings out more wood. Scott points out a hewn beam that Rick and Marty add to the wood that has been removed. They discuss if the wood is spruce or oak and if it could be from the Money Pit. Vanessa arrives and says they are stopping for the day and that they are almost at the target zone. She then tells them the dig is at 100 feet, and the casing is at 107 feet. The next day, Rick and Marty arrive at the Money Pit after being told they are at a depth of 105 feet. The next hammer grab comes out and contains large pieces of wood. Terry hands Rick a large piece of adze-cut wood. Next, Gary finds a barrel stave. When the Money Pit collapsed in 1861, a worker from Shaft 6 retrieved the top of a barrel as he was escaping the collapse. Lee tells Jared he has hit something hard, and the pressures have jumped. Vanessa tells the group they are at about 116 feet, but the pressure

has jumped. The next hammer grab doesn't contain any wood or metal. Terry says there is more in situ material. Rick declares they are done with RP2, and they will put an "X" through Shaft 6 but will put the next can over the tunnel.

Northern Swamp

Craig, Jack, Katya, and Alan are continuing the search for more clues and features in the swamp. Alan continues to remove the soil, and as Katya scans for artifacts, she finds a piece of axe-cut wood. Jack and Katya then find boards that will be put aside for possible testing. Rick arrives, and Craig tells him about the wood that was just found. The group discusses the possibility of the wood being part of the work done by Fred Nolan. Rick tells the group to see if the stake line continues in the same direction. Alan pulls back some soil, and Rick notices a stake in the dirt. This stake, however, does not line up with the other stakes that have been found in the area. Katya continues to metal detect and gets a hit. She then tells the group there is metal in the wood. The piece of wood also has lines in it that appear to be carved. Craig calls Ethan to come take a look and give his opinion. Ethan arrives and says the lines do appear manmade, and he thinks it was done for gripping. The next day, the group continues to search for clues and more stakes. As Katya metal detects, she finds another stake that has eight cuts. Tom points out the spacing on the stakes. Tom suggests measuring the spacing and then using that to project where the next stakes will be. The stakes measure 14 feet apart. They mark the next possible location. When Alan pulls back the next scoop of soil, Jack finds a large pin. Rick arrives, and they show him the pin. They also tell Rick about the spacing of the stakes.

Lot 5

The archaeology team is continuing the work on the circular stone feature. As Fiona is scraping away soil, she finds a large nail that has some corrosion but not like more modern iron would be. Fiona thinks it is from the mid to late 1700s. She also thinks the size indicates it would have been used for a large structure such as a wharf. Fiona continues scraping and finds a piece of Astbury ware. She points out the combing lines and the glaze. She tells Ethan this is probably one of the older ceramics found in this area and could date to 1740. Astbury ware is an English-made pottery that was made from the 1720s to the 1760s.

Wash Plant

Blake has just brought over a handle that he found in the spoils from RP2. Rick arrives and asks Charles what they have found, and Charles shows him a piece of pottery with a glaze on the inside. Charles says it could have been part of a handle. Rick mentions that Laird says if there is only glaze on one side, it is older. Charles then shows him another piece of pottery that has a fleur-de-lis type design. Rick brings up the ship's log that mentions the arrival of the Duc d'Anville.

War Room

The team is meeting in the War Room to hear the carbon dating of the dowel that was found at a depth of 60 feet in the spoils of RP2. Dr. Spooner tells them that the dates of 1725 to 1764 came back as 44%. This date range means the dowel could be an actual piece of the Money Pit. Dr. Spooner also points out that time matches some of the artifacts from Lot 5.