

CoOI S12 E18 If the Shoe Phips

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Synopsis by Jan Anderson

Money Pit

The team is continuing to search the spoils of RP1 for evidence of the Money Pit and the two chests that the Oak Island Association supposedly drilled through in 1861. The next hammer grab brings up a large amount of wood but no metal. Vanessa arrives and tells the team the dig is at 114 feet, but they are still pulling out a lot of wood. The group agrees that they are not at the bottom yet. RP1 has almost reached a depth of 118 feet, but the last hammer grab contains very little wood. Vanessa arrives and tells the team the dig is at 118 feet, and the material is different. Terry says the material appears to be in situ. Terry says they are now below the level of interest. Rick says it is time to call this hole, and they will move to another location. The next day, Vanessa tells Rick, Marty, and Gary they are at 62 feet with the dig of RP2, and the can is at 65 feet. Rick and Gary begin to search through the spoils, and Rick finds a large wooden dowel. Dowels have been used since as early as the 7th century AD to connect timbers of large structures. Alex notices that a square hammer was used on the dowel. Rick thinks the dowel could be from the original Money Pit and wants C14 testing done on the dowel.

Wash Plant

Charles and members of the team are searching for clues and artifacts at the wash plant. Blake finds a piece of a pipe stem and then a piece of pottery is

found. Charles shows the pottery to Alex, and it will be shown to Laird for his opinion.

Swamp

Tom, Jack, Katya, and Alan are continuing their work in the swamp to try and find more of a cobblestone pathway that might lead to more structures. As Katya scans for metal and valuables, she finds another wooden stake. Jack notices that this stake is cut differently than the other stakes they have found in the area. Katya continues to metal detect and gets a hit. She digs out what looks like a curved or bent spike. She begins scanning again and gets another hit. This time, Jack digs out what appears to be a chisel. Charles and Rick arrive, and they are shown the objects that were just found. The group continues searching, and Katya finds some pieces of leather that appear to be from a shoe or boot. All these items will go to the lab for testing. The next day, Jack, Gary, and Alan are continuing the dig in the swamp. Alan pulls back another layer, and Jack notices another stake. Alan continues pulling back the soil and hits stones. Jack wonders if the path is starting to turn and notices there is cobble leading south and west. Jack texts Rick to come take a look. When Rick and Tom arrive Jack points out the cobble that was just found. Rick wants Steve to take measurements and then continue with the dig.

War Room

The team is meeting to discuss where the next dig will be. The group agrees with Rick that RP1 does confirm the story of the collapse, and they should follow up on that. Rick wants to move to the other side of Shaft 6, and it is

decided to call this hole RP2, which will be located 1 foot to the northeast of RP1.

Lot 5

The archaeology team is searching for clues at the rounded stone foundation. Fiona finds a nail and then a piece of a pipe bowl. When she and Laird look closely, they notice an “O” on the piece. Laird explains that because these pipes weren’t used over and over, this will help date the feature. He asks Fiona to clean the piece so they can get a better look at it.

Research Center

Rick, Craig, and Gary are meeting with Joe Landry to get his opinion on the pieces of leather found in the northern part of the swamp. Joe looks at the first piece and says it is the sole of a boot. Rick asks why he thinks it is a boot and not a shoe. Joe tells him the weight of the leather and that it is probably oak-tanned. Joe then points out that the sewing is “quite heavy.” Joe also explained that the tanning solution would have been made from the bark of the oak tree. Joe then looks at the next set of leather pieces and tells the group these pieces are finer pieces of leather and are probably from the toe of a military boot. Gary asks about the date of the piece, and Joe tells them from 1830 to 1900. These dates would fit into the time of Anthony Graves.

The Lab

Rick, Doug, and Jack are meeting with Emma and Laird to hear the results of testing done on the pipe stem found in RP1. Laird tells the group that this is the largest pipe stem they have ever found on the island and is most likely English. Laird tells them the angle of this piece matches an example from 1680 to 1710. Doug points out that the date range matches up with Sir William Phips and the theory about the treasure from the Concepción. Rick calls Marty to tell him what they have found about the pipe stem.