

CoOI S12 E1 The New Digs
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Interpretive Center

The team is meeting to discuss plans for this year. They begin by discussing the plans for the Money Pit. Dr. Spooner tells the group that the goal is to find where the gold and silver that are in the water is coming from and to give the team a target. Dr. Michel has been working during the winter and has lots of new data which includes a new area where they found the highest levels of gold and silver. This new area is being called The Pie. Dr. Michel also identified an area where they got persistent high levels of copper, lead, zinc and tin. Marty wants to drill this area and do more water testing to see if they can get more information. Next Craig discusses the plan to dig up Shaft #2 which is located 14 feet from the Money Pit. This will hopefully give the team the location of the Money Pit. Shaft 2 was constructed in 1805 to try and bypass a flood shaft and was dug to a depth 110 feet deep before the searchers began to tunnel toward the Money Pit. When they were two feet away from the Money Pit the tunnel flooded. Next the team discusses plans for the archaeology team. Rick wants the stone cairns on Lot 15 investigated and Laird says they will also continue to investigate the circular feature and the rectangular feature on Lot 5. Laird then introduces the new members to the archaeological team, Jillian Parsons, Ethan Green and Todd Langseth.

Money Pit

The team has started work in the Money Pit. They will start the borehole drilling program within the area they call The Pie with borehole DN7. They are also starting the excavation for Shaft 2. The hope is to obtain samples to send for dating by Dendrochronology. After the digging begins a large piece of wood is spotted. Billy removes the large beam, and it has a rounded side. The next day the group continues to examine the shaft they believe is Shaft 2. They do find a corner and Marty tells Billy to reposition the excavator so they can try and find the other end of the wall and get the dimensions of the shaft. While

Gary scans the material Billy is removing, he finds a rose-head spike that he thinks is from the 1700's. Also, in the Money Pit the drilling of borehole DN7 has reached a depth of 109 feet and water begins to shoot from the casing. Mike Tedford comes over and tells the group that when he broke the casing free the water kept coming out and it seemed to be mixed with air. When they examine the core, it contains some clay and is saturated with water. The next core comes over and the material is undisturbed. The team continues to work on the excavation of shaft 2 and search for artifacts in the material being removed. Rick finds what looks like one of the dowels found in the U-shaped structure in Smith's Cove. The wood being brought up is now 17 feet away from where the team thought shaft 2 was located. This makes them wonder if they have found another shaft. Rick wants to stay focused on what they believe is shaft 2. The next day they begin using the long reach excavator to reach deeper into shaft 2. They soon find the corner and the wood appears to be older. The wood will be dated to see if it dates match with the shaft 2 information they have. The next day the borehole program is continuing as is the excavation of the shafts in the Money Pit. Billy begins excavating shaft 2A and the wood they are finding look similar to what was found in Shaft 2. Next, they see a wall that they decide to measure. Rick and Scott take measurement of the wall which Scott says is 116 inches. Shaft 2A's construction is very similar to Shaft 2. The next day the excavation of Shaft 2A continues. Marty arrives and notes that the shaft was filled in, and the material was packed into it as if it was being hidden. They will continue to excavate the shaft to look for answers. The team is doing more excavating in Shaft 2 and notice very dark boards that they feel could date to even earlier. They will attempt to remove some of the wood from the bottom to be dated. Billy removes a large beam that will be tested.

Lot 15

Rick and Marty are helping with the investigation of the stone cairns on Lot 15. The stone cairns were discovered and partially dismantled by Fred Nolan. Professor Gaspani dated the stone cairns to around 1250 AD. This date was based on their alignment to the star cluster known as Hyades. The team also saw the same formation carved into a stone in Bornholm, Denmark last year.

Rick finds a layer of slate below one of the stone cairns. The next day Dr. Spooner arrives to look at the rock feature Rick found yesterday beneath one of the piles of stones. Dr. Spooner tells the group that the slate found in the feature was transported to this area to be used. Rick says the stones are similar to those at the Lot 26 wall and well.

The Lab

Rick, Marty and Doug are meeting with Emma and Moya to hear the results from testing done on the material found under Cone E. The sample was compared to material from Lot 5 and the Money Pit. Moya tells the group that the material from Cone E and from Lot 5 are 95% similar and the material from the Money Pit also matches.

Lot 4

Peter and Gary are on Lot 4 to metal detect more than 10 tons of spoils that were removed from the round feature on Lot 5 last year. Gary begins detecting and soon gets a hit. Peter unearths a cut coin. Coins were cut during the 15th to 18th centuries to make change and for the military and pirates to pay crew members.

The Lab

Gary and Peter meet Rick at the lab to have the coin examined. Emma scans the coin on the XRF and determines the coin is silver and contains a lot of chlorine which indicates it was exposed to saltwater. The group discusses the possibility of the coin being part of the treasure from the Concepción. Emma will run a CT scan on the coin to get more information about the coin.

Cone E

Lawrence Veinotte Enterprises arrives on the island with a 30-ton crane to lift Cone E and allow the team to do more digging under the cone. Marty finds more of the concrete like material.

War Room

The team is meeting with Emma to hear the results of the CT scan done on the cut coin found in the spoils from Lot 5. Emma tells them there were some faint engravings on one side. The scans revealed the coin is silver with a small amount of lead and the letters GVLI were found on the coin. Emma then points out two triangles and another area with a design. She then tells them it is a William III shilling from the 1690's and she thinks it is from 1697.