

CoOI S12 E17 Boots on the Ground

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Synopsis by Jan Anderson

Money Pit

Rick and Steve meet with ROV specialist Ken Deboer, who will be helping the team get a look at the cavity known as Aladdin's Cave. Floculent was placed down the caisson several days ago to try and clear the water so Ken could help the team determine if Aladdin's Cave is manmade. The ROV is lowered into the water, and the camera shows a black image, and the sonar is not reading anything. Since the team cannot get any information about the cave, the decision is made to move on to another location. The next day, Gary and Terry are supervising the digging of RP1. Vanessa arrives and tells them they are at a depth of 69 and a half feet. The next hammer grab comes out, and Gary goes over to metal detect the spoils. He soon gets a hit, and a piece of iron plate is pulled out that Gary describes as possibly a decorative strap from a box or chest. Gary starts to scan again and gets another hit. This time, he pulls out a metal strap that appears to be wrought iron. Rick and Steve arrive, and Vanessa tells them they are at 78 feet. That afternoon, RP1 reached a depth of about 97 feet, and the group continued to search through the spoils. Rick notices some timber, and then they find axe-cut-shaped wood. The next hammer grab contains more wood that the group feels could be from Shaft 6. Scott then finds a piece of adze cut wood from the spoils. Vanessa arrives and tells the group that the wood that just came out was from 108 feet. Steve tells Vanessa that the wood could be from the original Money Pit. They will continue the digging of RP1 tomorrow.

War Room

The team is meeting in the War Room to choose a location for the next caisson. Rick suggests placing the next caisson where Shaft 6 was located. In 1861, the Oak Island Association drilled through what they thought were two stacked treasure chests. These chests were located at a depth of 100 feet in the Money Pit shaft. The group tried to avoid the flood tunnel by moving 18 feet west before digging an adjacent shaft to a depth of 118 feet and then tunneling toward the Money Pit. When they were one foot away from the Money Pit, seawater began rushing in and causing tons of lumber and the chest to collapse into the tunnel that was connected to Shaft 6. The team agrees, and Marty suggests naming it Rick Pick One or RP1.

Lot 5

Helen, Moya, and Todd are working in a 15 x 15-foot test pit near the round stone foundation on Lot 5. As the group works, Todd finds what looks like a nail. Helen takes a look and notices there is very little corrosion on the piece. Helen points out that the piece is in as good of shape as copper, but she doesn't think it is copper. Helen asks Moya if she has a magnet to test the piece. The piece is square, which indicates it is hand-forged, and the magnet shows it is iron. Todd recently found another old nail, and Helen asks to see it to compare the corrosion on the two. The piece will be sent to Emma to scan with the XRF.

Swamp

Jack, Gary, Tom, and Dr. Spooner are continuing the investigation in the Swamp. As Jack is digging, he finds clay at the edge of the cobble. Alan scrapes off the top of the adjacent area so they can look for more cobble. Once the area is cleared, more rock is found. Dr. Spooner feels this is a primary pathway for some type of activity and also wonders if this is what connects Lot 5 to the Money Pit. The group continues working, and as Gary scans for metal, he notices pieces of leather. Gary pulls out three pieces of leather that look like they are from a boot. The group keeps searching and finds more pieces of a shoe. Rick and Steve arrive, and the group shows them the pieces of leather they have recovered. Gary thinks the leather could be from the 1600s. Gary reminds them of the shoe they found in the swamp that was dated to the 1600s by Joe Landry last year. Rick says it should be carbon-dated. The next day, Jack, Tom, Steve, and Katya continue to work in the swamp. Katya continues to metal detect the area and finds an axe-chopped wood. Jack takes a look and says the rough cut could indicate they are very old and could be remains of a structure. Katya points out that the wood is also burned, and Jack wonders if it is to hide evidence.

The Lab

Rick and Marty have come to the lab to hear the results of testing done on the nail found on Lot 5 yesterday. After running a CT scan and using the XRF to examine the nail, she told the group it was older and that it was an iron pin. She then tells them it is hand-wrought and the composition is clean, which means the iron will last longer. She also tells them the aluminum-silicon ratio is characteristic of colonial American metals. She tells them the dates for the pin are the late 1600s to mid-1700s. Since these dates match up with the

Phip's theory, Marty asks Emma to compare the metallurgy of the pin to the metals from Phip's collection.