

CoOI S12E11 Best Caisson Scenario

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Synopsis by Jan Anderson

Money Pit

Last week, the team found wooden evidence in borehole H.5-10.5 at a depth of about 150 feet. In 1897, Fredrick Blair and William Chappell found evidence of a seven-foot-high chest in this area. Today, Alex, Charles, and Terry are supervising the drilling of borehole H.25-10.75. The team is hoping they can find the structure again and confirm it is the Chappell Vault. Later, a core sample is brought over from 130 feet containing wood. The next sample from 139 feet is brought over, and it contains cobble, gravel, and wood, but there is not much in the bottom of the sample. They call Mike over to ask about the sample, and he tells them that the bottom of the sample fell out. Mike then tells them that it got very loose about halfway through the run. Mike tells them that this could mean they are in a void. Alex then asks Mike if he would case the borehole to 149 feet. A core sample is brought over from 163 feet, and they find more wood when they examine the contents. Terry says the sample looks disturbed. Alex calls Rick to notify him of their findings. Rick arrives and says this is a location for a possible caisson.

Lot 4

Peter and Gary are metal-detecting the spoils from the excavation on Lot 5. These spoils are from the rounded stone feature that the archaeology team has been investigating. They soon get a hit, and Gary pulls out what appears to be a piece of copper with rivets. Gary says it could have been on a uniform or from a bag or satchel. Gary hopes that when it is sent to the lab, they will find a military insignia or regimental numbers on the piece.

The Swamp

Craig, Billy, and Katya are continuing to drain and search the brick and slate structure found in the northern part of the swamp. Rick and Laird arrive to check on the progress of the group. The group discusses the possibility that

Anthony Graves could have hidden something in the structure. Graves purchased most of Oak Island in 1857 and built his home near Joudrey's Cove. After living on the island for a while, Graves is said to have purchased goods on the mainland with Spanish silver coins. Katya begins to scan the structure and gets a hit. She pulls out a piece of lead that Laird thinks could be the end of a counterweight. Katya suggests digging deeper. The group agrees that they should dig deeper. Rick reaches the bottom of the structure and asks Katya to scan the bottom, but she doesn't get any hits. Rick and the group discuss the possibility of finding other features and will continue to excavate this area. Peter, Katya, and Billy are continuing to search the northern section of the swamp. They are digging about 20 feet from the brick and slate structure. While scanning the area, Katya finds a large piece of pottery and then finds more pottery. Peter comes over, and they pull out pieces of blue glazed and yellow ware. Peter says this is close to the Grave's home, and they could find more as they go deeper.

Lot 5

Marty, Fiona, and Todd are continuing to work on the structure on Lot 5. Marty asks Fiona about the charcoal that has been uncovered, and Fiona tells him they found a clinker in it, which is evidence of high heat. Marty begins digging dirt out of one section of the wall and finds a charcoal sample. Fiona says it is a good sample and should be able to give them some good dates.

The Lab

Carmen is meeting with the team to discuss the test results of an artifact recently found in the spoils from Lot 5. Carmen examines the copper piece and says it looks like a nameplate. Carmen asks to see the scan results. Emma tells the group that it is a copper alloy that is made of copper, zinc, iron, lead, and arsenic. Emma tells them that arsenic makes the piece older and that it could be from the 1600s.

War Room

The team is meeting in the War Room to decide if they are going to place caissons in the Money Pit. Marty tells the team they would like to place 5 or 6 caissons, but they need to decide where to put them. Steve points out possible locations and discusses what was found at borehole E.75-5.6, which had wood at vault depth. Steve then points out where he thinks they should place the caisson. The team agrees to start placing the first caisson.