"Shake-speare's" Tomb
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Table of Contents

I. Aerial photograph of Oak Island

II. Reproduction of Marcus Ghaerhaedts the Younger’s Portrait of Edward De Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford (circa 1586)

III. Letter to Joseph Alioto

IV. Exhibits:
   A. Aerial photograph of Oak Island showing lagoon (inverted “V” shape) and artificial beach (undistinguishable from the rest of the shore).
   B. Sarcophagus of Lord Oxford
   C. Mythical Bird - (bas relief)
   D. Entrance to Limestone Cavern from adiz (upper entrance along shore of lagoon)
   E. Oak Island ‘solution’ rendering
Once known as 'Gloucester Isle' and just off the western shore of 'King's Harbor,' it is now called Oak Island and is situated in Mahon Bay 40 miles south of Halifax, Nova Scotia.
Edward DeVere, the 17th Earl of Oxford, also known as "Shake-speare"
August 31, 1994

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Dear Mayor Alioto:

You have expressed interest in the theory that Lord Oxford may be buried along the east Coast of North America and that his manuscripts, the complete writings of "Shakespeare," are preserved in his mausoleum. Let me recount how this theory developed and the factual support it has found to this date.

In 1971 I read "Shake-speare" identified in Edward Devere the 17th Earl of Oxford, by J. Thomas Looney. On page 109, when he presented the lyric poem "Woman's Changeableness," written in the 6-line stanza of Venus and Adonis, I felt the immense importance of his discovery and the truth and persuasive force of his demonstration. Everything that followed in his masterful treatise only deepened this conviction; Lord Oxford was, indeed, "Shake-speare."

Up until 1971, some of my leisure time had been spent reading and rereading "Shake-speare's" plays. Annually, I always reread three or four of them. All of them have been read at least several times, some of them many times. Thus, I was surprised, very surprised, that I had never heard the name of Edward Devere, the 17th Earl of Oxford. Upon completing Looney's treatise, I undertook another rereading of the complete works (the canon; 36 or 37 plays) to see what effect knowledge of the author had on the experience of reading these masterpieces.

This rereading took four years, but as it came to an end, the plays had undergone a 'sea-change'. Everyone knows them as classics of dramatic poetry. For those who like universals in the particulars, they are profound studies in ethics and political philo-
sophy. But knowing Lord Oxford as the author, they become something 'rich and strange'. The plays of "Shake-speare" become a kind of allegorical algebra that provides both an historical record and a telling commentary on the Elizabethan Era, and the years immediately following.

This reading experience led me to form four hypotheses, each of which has only been strengthened as the years go on. Two of them are commonplace among Oxfordians today. They are as follows:

1. Edward De Vere, by right, possibly by Divine right, was England's king; Edward VII.

He was descended from King Richard II, the last of the Plantagenet kings, and held his right under Salic law, where the right to the throne descends and is not extinguished by inheritance through the female line. His paternal grandmother was a Plantagenet princess, Elizabeth Bolbeck, married to the 15th Earl of Oxford. The claim of his father, John De Vere, the 16th Earl of Oxford, to the throne of England was stronger than that of Owen Tudor's grandson, Henry VII.

2. Henry Wriothesly, the 3rd Earl of Southampton, was Edward DeVere's illegitimate son. The 2nd Earl, a Catholic recussant, was confined to the tower, when his countess, Mary Browne, conceived the child. The 2nd Earl was freed after the child was born, but he left for France without so much as coming by their ancestral home at Beaulieu, to take leave of his countess. He never did return and died on the Continent. In time, when the questions of royal succession and the Oxford earldom took on towering importance, Henry Wriothesly became "the fair youth"; the 'Vere' youth of the 1609 sonnet sequence.

3. The palace revolt, led by Robert Devereaux, the 3rd Earl of Essex and Henry Wriothesly, the 3rd Earl of Southampton, known as the Essex Rebellion, had as its purpose, securing the succession for Edward DeVere, the 17th Earl of Oxford. Its failure, and the execution of Essex led to the accession of James VI of Scotland, and the triumph of the Cecil family, DeVere's in-laws. Early in the last decade of the 16th Century, circa 1593, DeVere had alienated the Oxford earldom to his former father-in-law, William Cecil, Lord Burleigh, in settlement of the marriage contract imposed on him by the infamous Court of Wards. William Cecil was master of that court and held title to the estates of fatherless aristocrats until they reached the age of 21. Today the Cecil family is the most powerful family among the English aristocracy, and only because they own the Oxford earldom (322 feudal states, extending from East Anglia and the North Sea to Lands End and the Atlantic Ocean).
4. With the execution of Robert Devereaux (DeVere/aux: the military arm of the DeVere family; "A king without an army is only a pretender") and the freeing of Southampton, (the sonnets spared him: Queen Elizabeth never ordered his execution), following the accession of James VI, son of Mary Queen of Scots, Edward DeVere "feigned" his death. The year was 1604 and he went into exile on the Continent, finding refuge in the court of his friend, Henry IV of France. On the French king's assassination in 1610, DeVere returned to Venice where he had acquired a home in 1576. There he died, and I place his death around 1626. The evidence for this is in the possession of Richard Roe, a Pasadena attorney, who is authoring an authoritative book on DeVere's experience in Italy and Sicily, and demonstrating persuasively that "Shake-speare's" knowledge of Italy came from first hand experience, and not from listening to sailor tales on the docks of London.

In the summer of 1977, together with my wife Susan, I left for England to test these hypotheses. I was not after conviction concerning authorship. I knew DeVere had authored "Shake-speare's" plays, but I wanted to get a feel for the atmosphere and detail of certain places such as the castle where he had been born; Cambridge and Oxford where he had been educated; London and Wilton Place which were important to his literary career, and several places where he was thought to be buried.

The first day's visit took us to the castle which dominates a small village in Essex, the place of his birth in 1550. From there, we went down the Colne River eight miles to Earl's Colne, the burial site of the Earls of Oxford and their families. At the priory, we learned the tombstones had been removed from the cemetery and were preserved in a small chapel in Bures, Suffolk. There, through the Vicar of Bures Church, we learned that the family of Colonel Probert would be interested in meeting us because of our interest in the Earls of Oxford. Out of this meeting at Bevils, the English country home of Colonel Probert and his wife, a correspondence began that was to be important in the development of my hypothesis... that Oak Island, 40 miles south of Halifax, Nova Scotia, is the burial site of Edward DeVere the 17th Earl of Oxford.

Let me quote directly from my letter to Colonel Probert, which is dated February 28, 1978 (sixteen years ago: so slow time flies):

"At the risk of further wearying you with detailed expositions of what, for the time being, I choose to call 'insights,' I, nevertheless, feel compelled to recount to you for what I only mentioned in my previous letter; a 'fifth insight.' This insight was actually arrived at while drafting my letter to you. As it very likely now exceeds the others in practical importance and very definitely points to evidence which indicates that the Earl's 1604 'death' was feigned, I want to present it to you as briefly as possible.

The burden of this demonstration will be to prove that Lord Oxford is not buried in the cemetery of St. Augustine's Church in Hackney, nor in Westminster Abbey where some have thought his tomb might later have

Page 3
been moved. Lord Oxford’s grave lies along the seashore of a small, remote island, just off the coast of Nova Scotia. The original name for this island was Gloucester Island at the western shore of what was called ‘King’s Harbor’, but since late in the 18th Century it has been called Oak Island and the harbor is called Mahone Bay.

Again, I want to take an indirect approach to this proof, the way being through the plays themselves -- two in particular, The Tempest and Timon of Athens. But the evidence of these plays will be abundantly supported by certain facts of De Vere’s own age, succeeding ages, and more recently the last two decades."

The hypothesis that Lord Oxford is buried just off the shore of Nova Scotia was formed out of the association of several ideas. The first idea, or notion, had its origin in a letter I received from Mrs. Miller regarding Lord Oxford’s business acumen. It was this letter which first associated the idea of Oak Island with the author of “Shake-speare’s” plays; and I must observe, the association was inexpressibly faint. What followed, and I quote now at length from the Probert letter, will develop this topic to the moment of discovery whereupon I had to get further evidence, and succeeded in obtaining this -- first from Bob Dunfield and then later the archives of the Huntington Library and finally...from the owner of 25 of the 32 lots into which the island has been subdivided. His name is David Tobias and he resides in the Westmont section of Montreal, Canada. Tobias has been involved with exploration on the island since the early 60s.

“The first correspondence I received from Mrs. Ruth Miller of Jennings, Louisiana referred to some letters of Lord Oxford that had come to light both in London and in the Huntington Library at San Marino, California. These letters gave an insight into both De Vere’s business judgment and his economic interests. I am enclosing a copy of Mrs. Miller’s letter, but wish to excerpt and quote the second paragraph here in its entirety."

“I’ve had a professional researcher working full time for me at the Public Record Office in London -- and have, through her efforts, collected copies (Xerox and photographs) of all Vere-Oxford documents she can unearth there. This did yield several letters in Oxford’s holograph, which I style the “Cornwall Tin-Mine letters,” dealing with the Queen’s tin royalties in Cornwall County. Then while at the Huntington Library in San Marino, I found several more letters in Oxford’s hand, and some in a secretary hand from him, also dealing with the Tin Mine operation in Cornwall. These at the Huntington are in the Egerton-Ellersmere manuscript collection. The two sets (PRO and Ellesmere collection) are a fantastic overview of Lord Oxford’s business acumen -- dispelling the judgment passed on him by later day historians that he was wasteful and uncaring in the handling of financial affairs.”
The first time I read this paragraph, a random question crossed my mind: if the 17th Earl of Oxford had an economic interest in a tin mine operation in western England, could it be possible he would have had any knowledge of the puzzling mining entrance and subterranean system of shafts and tunnels that were once constructed under Oak Island, three thousand miles from England, off the coast of Nova Scotia. So fleeting was the question and so faint the impression that there was no second thought, at least not then.

The factual foundation for this association lies in the historic technique for exploiting tin deposits along the Cornwall coast. Ever since the Phoenicians mined these rich deposits, it has been necessary to control the tides in order to remove the tin ore. Since control of the tides is at the essence of the construction of Oak Island, and if Lord Oxford were interested in those mines...... but, returning to the Probert letter:

"Since its discovery in 1795 -- almost two centuries now -- this elaborate mining system has successfully baffled search parties. Some of them have been quite well-equipped, and one of them, in 1909, included Franklin D. Roosevelt, then a young man. The prevailing theory has been that the mine is a skillfully concealed place where some pirates of the sixteenth or seventeenth century buried a great treasure.

I first learned of Oak Island in 1968 from a geologist named Robert Dunfield. I had met him in 1963, and five years later we had become associated in a drilling venture at Half Moon Bay along the coast of northern California. Dunfield had just returned from Nova Scotia where he had spent several disappointing years attempting to solve the mining and engineering riddle posed by a shaft and an elaborate system of tunnels that not only lie under the island, but are constantly being flooded by the incoming tides. He gave a memorable account of the obvious ingenuity that lay behind this mining maze. Dunfield's theory was that whoever buried treasure under Oak Island had to have been thoroughly acquainted with engineering techniques involved in sub-surface mining. Since Henry Morgan was the only buccaneer known to have had any mining experience -- he was a coal miner when he was a youth in Wales -- it was Dunfield's belief that on at least one occasion, after leaving the coal mines and going to sea, Henry Morgan had buried treasure at Oak Island.

No doubt Dunfield's intriguing reports of the mysterious mine at Oak Island occasioned the brief question that crossed my mind on reading Mrs. Miller's letters: if Lord Oxford had mining and engineering knowledge from some experience with the tin mine operation in Cornwall, England, could he have explained why the Oak Island mine has successfully resisted re-entry and why
its inner recesses have remained inaccessible for almost two centuries now? The question itself is as remote from Oak Island as the island is from England.

Some three months after receiving Mrs. Miller’s letter I happened to be waiting in the reception room of the Oxnard office of DeWitt Blase, my attorney. To pass the time, I was leafing through a recent issue of Newsweek and came upon a review of a new non-fiction book. It was titled The Money Pit and what it was but a history of the many futile attempts to penetrate the Oak Island mine and recover the treasure said to be hidden or buried there. I quickly read through the review expecting that it would include some comment on the efforts of Bob Dunfield and his expedition, but it did not.

It did, however, mention that one theory concerning the treasure buried at Oak Island was that whoever succeeded in penetrating the mining mystery would find the manuscripts of “Shake-speare.” Again, I recall my ever so faint judgment on this statement: It was to the effect that such a theory is not as improbable as it sounds. If Lord Oxford had knowledge of a tin mining operation in Cornwall, it was very likely sufficient to have enabled him to construct the ingenious mining system at Oak Island and conceal whatever he desired to preserve for the future. Remembering Dunfield’s description of the “problem” all I could recall was that whenever the mine was penetrated to a certain depth, the tides moved through another system of tunnels and flooded the entry shaft. For almost two hundred years, this unceasing force of nature had successfully thwarted every effort to solve the mystery of Oak Island and find whatever awaits the solution and success.”

Now for the longest leap on record for leaping from two associations to a conclusion. Let me leave the world of mines, shafts, and incoming tides, and move to Prospero’s magic Island in The Tempest. This was to be my great reward for four years of rereading the majestic plays of Lord Oxford, aka “Shake-speare.”

“The passage from which I am about to quote is one of the best known in The Tempest, if not in “Shake-speare’s” works. Coming at the very end of the play, it has a solemn and even religious sound. In truth, it is an English hymn. Doubtless you remember:

Prospero:  Ye elves of hills, brooks, standing lakes, and groves,
          And ye that on the sand with printless foot
          Do chase the ebbing Neptune and do fly him
          When he comes back:

Act V, Scene I (11.33-36)
The passage continues in this celebrated vein moving towards this conclusion:

But this rough magic
I here abjure and, when I have required
Some heavenly music, which even now I do,
To work my end upon their senses that
This airy charm is for, I'll break my staff,
Bury it certain fathoms in the earth
And deeper than did ever plummet sound
I'll drown my book.

(11.50-57)

The previous evening I had read through the Fourth Act of The Tempest, saving the concluding act for an early Saturday morning reading.

"I'll drown my book," left me stunned. "Is it possible?" I silently asked.

I went to the library where there was a 1957 edition of Hammond's Ambassador World Atlas. A search of the index revealed Oak Island was in the F4 quadrant of the map of Nova Scotia. Upon finding the island I was first impressed with how minute it seemed. But then my eye glanced to the mainland and inland from the north shore was a community named Oxford. Next to Oxford there was another community and a river named for the Herbergs: Lord William Herbert, the Earl of Pembroke, and Lord Phillip Herbert, the Earl of Montgomery. In the 1623 publication of the First Folio, both Lords were referred to as the "Grand Possessor's" indicating that the Herbergs had custody of the original manuscripts of "Shake-speare." Lord Phillip Herbert was Lord Oxford's son-in-law, having married his youngest daughter, Susan. Lord William Herbert had succeeded to Lord Oxford's white staff and the Vere family's hereditary office of the lord Great Chamberlain in the reign of King James I." (This was the staff Devere broke before drowning his book.)

Across the Northumberland Straits from the North Shore of Nova Scotia lay Prince Edward Island.

The thought then occurred to me that these islands had been discovered and named during the three Frobisher voyages late in the 16th Century and I turned to Mrs. Miller's publications where there is abundant information on Captain Frobisher and his historic voyages searching for the Northwest Passage. Lord Oxford had been a heavy investor in each of these voyages. I quickly read through the information in the books and succeeded in convincing myself that Frobisher voyages, particularly the third voyage undertaken in 1578, would provide a clue, and possibly even an answer, as to what was hidden or buried under Oak Island.
Quite excited, I called the Millers in Louisiana. When Judge Miller got the map of Nova Scotia before him he immediately noted the community of Kensington on Prince Edward Island. Kensington, of course, is the large park that lies west of the heart of London. Formerly, it had been a great estate owned by the Vere family through centuries of English history. Famous for its lovely gardens, it is now also the site of Kensington Palace where Princess Margaret has her residence. The presence of Kensington on Prince Edward Island confirmed my belief as to the identity of England’s Prince for whom the New Anglia island had been named.

A desire, which Newsweek’s book review had failed utterly to arouse, suddenly seized me -- all I wanted to do was read about Oak Island. It was Saturday, however, and due to the recent passage of Proposition 13, all the public libraries in Ventura County were closed. The book stores between Oxnard and Santa Barbara were about as much help to me as I was to them, because I could not recall the book’s title and had no idea of the author: all I knew was the subject matter; the history of exploration at Oak Island.

On Monday, I finally located a copy of the book. It was titled The Money Pit, and I located it in Oxnard’s Public Library, where it was out on loan. I was surprised to learn that it had been on the non-fiction best seller lists earlier in the year. By the end of the day I had been able to obtain three copies from local book stories and left an order for two more. One I forwarded to the Millers in Louisiana, one I reserved for Robert Richardson’s reading -- Richardson being a petroleum engineer -- and that evening I began reading through the third as if it were a racy novel. The other two were ordered for William L. Kumler, our corporate counsel, and Kurt Pilgram, an engineer in association with Robert Richardson. The strategy here was obvious: since Oak Island is a small body of land surrounded by water that is preventing entry to some sanctuary where the manuscripts of “Shake-speare” have been placed, the thing to do is surround the island with engineers. Bill Kumler’s original calling had been in the field of mining engineering.

The Money Pit proved well worth $8.95, particularly to one who believes that Prospero is “Shake-speare” and “Shake-speare,” a shield that conceals the identity of the last of the Plantagenet kings.

The history of exploration at Oak Island absolutely defies belief. To date, the sea has defeated every effort -- and every generation has mounted at least one -- to penetrate the deep shaft sunk under one of the island’s many oak trees and thus gain access to the subterranean system of tunnels where something precious is said to be hidden and something even sacred may lie buried.

Let me list but three of the many interesting facts that have been unearthed at Oak Island across almost two centuries of exploration; particularly as these
facts relate to the sublime manuscripts themselves, and their extraordinary author, Lord Oxford.

1. While, as yet, no buried treasure has been found, in 1897 a drill bit returned a substance to the surface which was analyzed in a laboratory at Amherst College, Massachusetts, and declared to be, without question, a piece of parchment on which some letters had apparently been written in India ink.

2. In 1911, Dr. Orville Ward Owen, a professor at Michigan State University, became convinced that Elizabethan manuscripts had been buried at the mouth of the Wye River near Gloucester, England. Dr. Owen also believed that Sir Francis Bacon had written “Shake-speare’s” plays and that he later concealed these and other manuscripts in a vault that lay buried in the Wye River bed. Owen deduced this conclusion and the location and whereabouts of the storage vault from Bacon’s own writings.

Dr. Owen later organized an exhibition to the Wye River which was, to a certain extent, successful. He did find, at the mouth of the Wye, a room-sized chamber made of stone and cement, that was buried in the river bed. But it was empty.

Dr. Owen claimed that there were marks discernible on the walls of the vault that could only have been made by Sir Francis Bacon. He concluded that the original plan had been altered and for some reason a more distant and remote location had been decided upon.

Professor Owen died in 1924, but one of his students, Burrel Ruth, reached for the torch. By 1939, Ruth was a Doctor of Philosophy teaching chemical engineering to science students and preaching Baconian authorship at Iowa University. It was at this time that Dr. Ruth happened to read about Oak Island in the October 14, 1939 edition of the Saturday Evening Post. It was the fact of the parchment and the complexity of the engineering work that led Dr. Ruth to conclude this was the distant and remote location the whereabouts of which some Baconians had spent a generation pondering.

He proceeded to write a long letter to the man who held the current search rights on Oak Island and whose name was Hedden. In his letter, Dr. Ruth set forth Dr. Owens’ theory concerning the Elizabethan manuscripts and explained how Bacon had devised a scientific method for preserving parchment by immersing manuscripts in mercury. In his reply to Dr. Ruth’s letter, Hedden expressed his own amazement at what he termed a “co-incidence.” One of the legends concerning the Oak Island mine and buried treasure was that whoever solved the
puzzle would find mercury. This legend had its origin in an old dump on the island where the remains of thousands of broken mercury flasks had been found together with an iron boatswain’s whistle and an old coin that dated back to the reign of Elizabeth.

3. For one who could believe that Lord Oxford was a 16th Century mining engineer, this last fact may be the most interesting. It is nothing more, but nothing less than the existence of a lodestone triangle on the south shore of Oak Island that points to true north adjusted for magnetic deviation and -- directly at the money pit. This equilateral triangle with each side ten feet in length was first discovered in 1897, but its significance was missed for forty years. By then it was related to other stone markers on the island and the accuracy of its sighting appreciated. Because of the shifts in the earth’s magnetic field, there is considerable magnetic variation as far north as Oak Island. Since the year 1550, true north, adjusted for magnetic variation, indicated by the Oak Island lodestone triangle, has occurred only twice; once about 1620 and once about 1780. Whoever set that triangle in place -- and no one questions its relation to the original work -- had advanced knowledge of astronomy and navigation. Very likely, he even knew Sir William Gilbert, Queen Elizabeth’s personal physician, who authored the classic scientific treatise, On the Loadstone.

Almost all engineers know of “the money pit” at Oak Island. Consulting Engineer, a Canadian magazine, recently described Oak Island as a “threat to the reputation of the engineering society as a whole.” Robert Richardson, a petroleum engineer, knew Bob Dunfield well and was far more informed about Oak Island and the mysterious “money pit” than most engineers. When told of my belief concerning “the treasure” of Oak Island, Richardson’s first reaction was one of disbelief and even scorn. He listened patiently, however, while, without going into much detail, I mentioned the Frobisher voyages searching for a Northwest Passage and financed in part by Lord Oxford; the interesting co-incidence that inland from Oak Island on the Nova Scotia mainland are communities named for Lord Oxford and the Herbert brothers, and that across the Northumberland straits lies an Island named for the Earl himself, Prince Edward Island. Not easy to arouse, Richardson’s curiosity quickened a little when I mentioned that Frobisher’s third voyage in 1578 appears also to have been a mining venture and that somewhere along the northeast Atlantic coast a mine or mines were sunk in search of gold. By now his skepticism concerning my “theory” of Oak Island’s treasure had somewhat abated. It was then I learned that Bob Richardson had his own ideas concerning the elaborate system of shafts and tunnels at Oak Island: “For a long time I have thought Oak Island is a tomb. It reminds me in some way of the Egyptian tomb discovered in the 1920s that was the burial place from one of Egypt’s ancient kings.”
Timon of Athens has baffled "Shake-spearean" critics and commentators because the author's mood obviously obtrudes in the drama itself and there is nothing known in the life of the Stratford man to account for the terrible cynicism, misanthropy, and despair that London's Earl of Oxford might have experienced when he was denied England's throne in 1603. All these pathological states of mind could have resulted from the success of the wily intrigues of Robert Cecil, the Earl's brother-in-law, in securing the throne of England for the King of Scotland, and the inability or unwillingness of Queen Elizabeth to publicly proclaim Lord Oxford as her successor and England's future King as she lay dying in her palace at Richmond.

So conceived, the progress of Lord Oxford's royal mind following the accession of James I moves from the cynicism and despair of Timon to the final hope and serenity of Prospero, who, having regained his Dukedom at Milan, plans to retire there where "Every third thought" shall be his grave.

Timon, obsessed with mankind's unkindness and ingratitude, is likewise preoccupied with his grave and has selected a site in a remote wilderness beside the sea:

I am sick of this false world, and will love nought
But even the mere necessities upon't.
Then, Timon, presently prepare thy grave;
Lie where the light foam of the sea may beat
Thy grave-stone daily; make thine epitaph,
That death in me at others' lives may laugh.

(Act IV, Scene III, 11.375-380)

A short while later, certain Senators seek out Timon and before his cave implore him to return to Athens where Alcibiades has laid siege, and where the people are now waiting and willing to make him king. But their embassy fails as Timon speaks his final words:

Come not to me again, but say to Athens,
Timon hath made his everlasting mansion
Upon the beached verge of the salt flood,
Who once a day with his embossed froth
The turbulent surge shall cover; thither come,
And let my grave-stone be your oracle.
Lips, let four words go by and language end!
What is aniss, plague an infection mend!
Graves only be men's works, and death their gain!
Sun, hide by the beams, Timon hath done his reign.

Exit Timon

(Act V, Scene I, 11.214-223)
The last moments of this unusual melodrama occur at the gates of Athens where a report has been brought that Timon is dead. His epitaph is a final curse upon Athenian citizens and mankind and it is framed by two statements — one by the messenger who has brought the news, and the other by Alcibiades who solemnly listens:

**Messenger:**

*My noble general, Timon is dead,*  
*Entomb'd upon the very hem o' th' sea,*  
*And on his grave-stone this inscrupure, which*  
*With wax I brought away, whose soft impression*  
*Interprets for my poor ignorance.*

Alcibiades reads the epitaph and then remarks of Timon:

"*These well express in thee thy latter spirits:*  
*Though thou abhorr'dst in us our human griefs.*  
*Scorn'dst our brain's flow, and those our droplets which*  
*From niggard nature fall, yet rich conceit*  
*Taught thee to make vast Neptune weep for aye*  
*On thy low grave, on faults forgiven. Dead*  
*Is noble Timon, of whose memory*  
*Hereafter more.*"

That part of the epitaph which is not a curse describes Athen’s paragon:

"*Here lies a wretched corse, of wretched soul bereft;*  
*Seek not by name...*"

That the original name for the small island off the coast of Nova Scotia was Gloucester Isle, I deeply suspect is not without a rich historic meaning. In both King Lear and Henry VI trilogy, the Duke of Gloucester is an eminent nobleman who is mistaken and punished as a traitor. In English history, King Richard III, formerly the Duke of Gloucester, may also have been mistaken by those historians who have treated him as a traitor to the realm and the usurper of the Lancastrian throne. More is needed to be known, especially by those who can see Robert Cecil in “Shake-speare’s” hunchbacked villain.”

The conclusion of my letter to Colonel Probert began a search to find Bob Dunfield. It took six months to locate him -- some said he was dead -- and when I found him, indeed, he was stricken and heroically resisting an attack of cancer. I had not seen Bob and his wife, Alleen, since Half Moon Bay, but my visit to their home in Grass Valley and the reason for coming led Bob to reveal some of the information that had
been developed at Oak Island in recent years -- particularly the photographs that had been taken in a limestone cavern some 235’ to 250’ deep under the island. Remember that on approaching the Dunfield’s, I was convinced that the island was Lord Edward DeVere’s tomb. One of the pictures Bob showed me was what I have come to call the Oxford sarcophagus. I looked at it in silence and when he said to me, “That appears to me to be a tomb,” I broke my silence and agreed, “Bob, that’s what it is! It’s a stone coffin and it contains the body of Edward Devere.”

By the time I was finally able to contact Bob Dunfield I had gone deeper into the research on Frobisher’s voyages and was now convinced that what was thought to be a pirate’s communal bank was, in fact, an abandoned gold mine having been originally constructed by 200 tine miners from the coast of Cornwall.

I had also changed my opinion regarding the ingenious engineer who had devised the tidal flood system. The engineer was not Devere, despite all his Renaissance talents and sublime genius. The flood trap had been introduced long after the mine itself was abandoned and it was associated with the effort to provide a ritual burial place for Lord Oxford as well as to protect his manuscripts and probably much else. I have come to believe this engineer was a young apprentice of Francis Bacon. His name was Thomas Bushel and the work he did on the island was in or around the year 1620. If this is a fact, it could well place a cloud over a familiar interpretation of one of “Shakespeare’s” more famous lines, often thought to be his expression of “momento mori”: the line is “Every third thought shall be my grave.” Read under the assumption that Oak Island is the actual burial place of Lord Oxford, this statement could now mean that he would bend at least one-third of his thought and energy to the design of his final resting place.

Several valuable observations have been made with regard to the limestone cavern -- one by Charles Van Doren and another by Ruth Miller.

Charles Van Doren, who accepts the authorship of Devere, had read and discussed The Tempest with a group of civic and business leaders at the Spring Hill Center outside Minneapolis and St. Paul. He then delivered some memorable remarks which were preserved on tape and subsequently published by the Spring Hill Center. Van Doren observed that the interesting statement, “.... I’ll break my staff,/Bury it certain fathoms in the earth/ And deeper than did ever plummet sound/ I’ll drown my book...” suggests a curious use of the word “plummet.” Strictly speaking, sound does not plummet through the earth -- it plummets through water, and so to say that his manuscripts -- even his body -- lie deeper than did ever plummet sound suggests they lie under water, which may be under the earth.

Ruth Miller asked me how deep the limestone cavern is and upon being told it is between 220’ and 250’ deep, she remarked, “It’s a shame it isn’t five fathoms deep.” This remark lay uneasily in my mind until Dan Blankenship, the driller who located the limestone cavern, put it to rest. He informed me that the interior height of the cavern, where I hold Devere’s tomb to be, is approximately 30 feet. This would mean that he
does lie five fathoms deep under sea water and this gives exquisite meaning to the beautiful dirge which is sung in *The Tempest* by Prospero’s poetic spirit, Ariel.

*Ariel’s Song*

*Full fathom five thy father lies;*
  *Of his bones are coral made;*
*Those are pearls that were his eyes:*
  *Nothing of him that doth fade*
  *But doth suffer a sea-change*
*Into something rich and strange*
  *Sea-Nymphs hourly ring his knell:*

Burden:       *Ding-dong.*

Ariel:        "Hark! Now I hear them -- Ding-dong, bell."
Ferdinand:    "The ditty does remember my drowned father."

Indeed, the plays too of “Shake-speare” have suffered a “sea-change.” They have been handed down to the generations as poetry, whereas, in fact, they are also historical documents containing a perfect record of Queen Elizabeth’s age and written in an allegorical language that is not hard to decipher once you possess the key.

Lately, and until the fact is established, let me state, of necessity quite imperfectly, what my deepest belief about Oak Island is. Where it may be the depository for the riches and wealth of England’s ruling family, the Plantagenets; where it may have been a place for depositing Spanish plunder by Drake, Hawkins, Frobisher, and other sea-hawks, and where it appears to be the mausoleum for Lord Oxford’s tomb, to me the deepest meaning of this island lies in the concept of an apotheosis and this concept goes far far to explain why the tomb lies under water.

An apotheosis in the ancient world involved a ritual burial which was afforded to heroes of Greece and emperors of Rome on the pagan belief that at death these great leaders were translated into the heavens. Something like this is occurring at Gloucester Isle. The man buried is England’s King, and while he lived his life, his activities were dominated by the rule of England’s monarch, Queen Elizabeth. Because of her reputation for chastity, during her reign, Elizabeth was likened by poets, courtiers, scholars, and even noblemen, to the “Goddess of the Moon.” As in life, so in death, the ritual burial Lord Edward Devere devised for himself involves the tides -- daily and nightly -- flowing over his tomb and constantly governed by the moon. But he himself is England’s star. The age in which he lived was also an age of exploration and the navigational reckonings that were taken at sea took as a fixed point the North Star: But that star guides not only English mariners; it also guides England. So we have at least two celestial references to an apotheosis in this ritual burial -- one to the Moon and the other to the North Star which is, I believe, the true
reading taken on the triangle of stones that once lay on the East beach of Oak Island. The apex of that triangle pointed to the place of entry known as “the money pit” and is a fix on magnetic north in or about the year 1620. True North points in the direction of Devere’s grave and the North Star.

“But stay, I see thee in the Hemisphere
Advanced, and made a Constellation there!
Shine forth, thou Star of Poets...”

In the Ancient world there were seven wonders. In the modern world, if Oak Island is the mausoleum of Lord Oxford, there are only two: the grave of great “Shake-speare” and those precious manuscripts it protects.

Learning Sir Francis Drake had been buried at sea, Lord Oxford observed, “The waves became his winding sheet.” In 1588, Drake had been in command of the English fleet that met the Spanish Armada in the Channel. Drake’s flagship was the Elizabeth Bonaventura. Second in command was the Earl of Oxford at the helm of the Edward Bonaventura. What better than unite the City of St. Francis with Francis Drake Bay to the north, by claiming Lord Oxford the way Ravenna claimed Dante and seven cities of Ancient Greece claimed Homer. England’s Seahawk and its Warrior King and Sovereign Poet held in honored memory together in the City by the Bay.

Yours very truly,

David J. Hanson

DJH/kgw
EXHIBIT A.

Aerial photograph of Oak Island showing lagoon (inverted "V" shape) and artificial beach (undistinguishable from the rest of the shore).

An interesting fact of Oak Island, observed by Bob Dunfield, is that the shore was strewn with boulders while being formed during the last Ice Age when the ice was receding. This is very obvious in the colored aerial photograph in the beginning. There is an exception to this shore, and that is the shoreline that borders the island lagoon. There is evidence that this was once an inlet where ships docked and were repaired after crossing the North Atlantic. Later, for some reason, an artificial beach was made to contain the lagoon and this is why that stretch of the island shore has no boulders. Unfortunately, this is not evident from the height of the aerial photograph.
EXHIBIT B.

Sarcophagus of Lord Oxford

This is what appeared to Bob Dunfield to be a stone coffin. The figure at the head appears to be that of an angel and the bas relief on the lid of the sarcophagus appears to be the body of a man, a Plantagenet King (?), in repose.
EXHIBIT C.

Mythological Bird
(bas relief)

This bird was first noticed by DEX Ragatz while doing his rendering of the 'Pilgrim Solution'. Because of another work pertaining to death and the transmigration of soul, which some researchers believe is a late work of Edward DeVere, this bird has taken on more than ordinary interest.
EXHIBIT D.

The Adiz
Entrance to Limestone Cavern from adiz
(upper entrance along shore of lagoon)

The fact that the underwater photograph appears to capture this entrance here at an angle suggests it is an adiz and not a tunnel and certainly not a shaft. If it is, in fact, an adiz, then it lends a strength and credence to the Pilgrim concept.
Circled is Nail
Sawn Boards under
(two layers at 90° angle

Anhydrite
Bedrock
with Tunnel behind
EXHIBIT E.

Oak Island 'solution' rendering

Kurt Pilgram devised what some have come to believe is the solution to the engineering problem caused by the flood tunnels that prevent any entry by way of the "money pit."

This solution was later rendered by Dex Ragatz, a Pasadena commercial artist, and appears opposite this page. The shaft to the right from the island's highest elevation is the "money pit." The deeper shaft to the left is bore hole 10X which penetrated the limestone cavern at 220 feet and into which a television camera was lowered to photograph the contents of the cavern among which are thought to be the sarcophagus of the 17th Earl of Oxford, who might have been the last of the Plantagenet kings.

Kurt Pilgram reasons, that if what is photographed in the limestone cavern is, in fact, a tomb, then it was lowered along an adiz that once had its entrance along the lagoon shore above sea level. Later when the tide was out, a section to the adiz was added which flooded the cavern and is below the water level of the lagoon.

Ragatz's inserts are each significant. The jeweled box on the top right may be what the drill bit first encountered when it was returned to the surface with a fragment of parchment and a piece of purple lining. Elizabeth Wrigley, curator of the Francis Bacon Library, says the purple lining suggests it was a jewel box.

The sculptured bird below may be on the side of the sarcophagus and may also be a mythological bird that bears an immortal soul to heaven.

n.6. (n.b.) To the left there is the bas relief on top of the sarcophagus which is that of a man in repose with an angel at his head. This is sculpture that traditionally ornamented the tombs of Plantagenet Kings.

Diagram has been lost.