

Louisbourg after it fell to the British during the [Seven Years' War](#).^[24]

Marie Antoinette's jewels

There is a story that, like most others regarding the island, lacks adequate archival sources, or any quoted sources at all, places the priceless jewels of [Marie Antoinette](#) (which are historically missing, save for some specimens in the collections of museums worldwide) on Oak Island. During the [French Revolution](#), when the [Palace of Versailles](#) was stormed by revolutionaries in 1789, Marie Antoinette instructed her maid or a lady-in-waiting to take her prized possessions and flee. Supposedly, this maid fled to London with such royal items as Antoinette's jewels and perhaps other treasures, such as important artwork or documents, secreted away either on her person (one variation suggests sewn into her underskirts in the case of the jewels, though fails to mention artwork) or as her luggage; it is even said she was perhaps assisted by the remaining officers of the French navy during the uprising at the queen's behest.^{[25][26][27]}

The story then goes on to say that this woman fled further afield from London to Nova Scotia.^[28] Through the royal connections she would have had during her service to the queen at [Versailles](#), she managed to contract the French navy to help construct the famed 'pit' on the island. This theory (as noted) lacks recognized documentation other than that which is folkloric in nature, involves the French navy, which (during the Revolution) had an uncertain level of authority, and would place the construction of the Oak Island structure very close to its initial discovery by Daniel McGinnis in 1795. Whether such a complex engineering effort could have been completed in that small space of time is questionable, though no official date of its construction exists.

Exotic treasure

Still others have speculated that the Oak Island pit was dug to hold treasure much more exotic than gold or silver. In his 1953 book, *The Oak Island Enigma: A History and Inquiry Into the Origin of the Money Pit*, Penn Leary believed that English philosopher [Francis Bacon](#) used the pit to hide documents proving him