

Chapter 1 : Vikings in Minnesota? The Mystery of the Kensington Runestone

The Kensington Rune Stone is a medieval artifact recently proven to be authentic. Read the story here of how, for over years, repeated claims of hoax have been debunked forcing a major rewrite of American history.

That means they were carved for about three hundred years before the Viking onslaught on Europe and Russia and approximately one hundred years after the traditional pagan Viking territories were Christianized. Most of the runestones known to us today stand in Sweden approx. There was even a runestone discovered on Berezan Island in the Dnieper River in Ukraine, which was a trade route for the Swedish Vikings in the east. Surprisingly, there are no known Viking Age runestones on Iceland. The Lingsberg Runestone, Sweden, known as U At first glance, one might believe this refers to Kensington, England. After all, the Vikings did raid and possess much of England before Images of the two carved faces of the Kensington Runestone. In , Swedish immigrant Olof Ohman announced that he had discovered a type of sandstone stele memorial while clearing his land near the town of Solem, Minnesota. He brought the two hundred plus pound stone to nearby Kensington hence the name , and the local bank put in on display, no questions asked, though a trace paper sketch of the runic characters on the stone was sent to the University of Minnesota. The location of the Kensington Runestone in relation to historic river navigations. We were fishing one day. After we came home we found 10 men red with blood and death. Also includes runically-unrelated blackletter writing style and pigpen cipher. Similar to notes dated It seems odd that the stone would be found by a none other than a Swedish immigrant at a time when Scandinavian immigrants were flooding into the area. Viking treasures discovered Like many other immigrant groups, the Scandinavians were eager to show that they belonged in their new chosen land – how better to claim that than to show that people from their homeland were there hundreds of years before the British? It was a great time to be a Viking historian. It seems quite convenient that Olof found his stone at just this time in history. Still, it should be remembered that Ohman a farmer swore to his dying day that the stone was real, and he suffered ridicule and family tragedy because of the notoriety his story caused. Still, the rock looked aged, the runes looked good, and the message itself was typical of runestones – informational, but still cryptic. Long story short, Holand took the stone to Europe for analysis. Still, there were others, such as a scientist at the Minnesota Historical Society that subjected the stone to the weathering tests of the time not quite the most accurate system , and he determined that the writing was years old. This announcement brought forth more believers in the authenticity of the stone – mostly among the Scandinavian community in the Midwest. Close up of the runestone. No one was doing any writing on a stone at that spot in Read another story from us: Only the Strong Survive: Did Vikings Abandon their Sick Children? The origin of the the Kensington Runestone is still a mystery, however. No one knows who made it and exactly why the hoax was perpetrated. A former educator, he values curiosity and diligent research. He is the author of many best-selling Kindle works on Amazon.

Chapter 2 : Myths of the Rune Stone – University of Minnesota Press

The Kensington Runestone is a pound (92 kg) slab of greywacke covered in runes on its face and side. A Swedish immigrant, Olof Ohman, reported that he discovered it in the largely rural township of Solem, Douglas County, Minnesota, and named it after the nearest settlement, Kensington.

The Kensington Runestone Aug 21, Video of this report available at wcco. A Minnesota geologist thinks the controversial Kensington Runestone is the real thing and there is evidence that he says backs up the theory. The Kensington Runestone is a rock found near Alexandria a century ago. It begs the question. Were Vikings exploring our land more than years before Columbus? Or is it just an elaborate hoax? It contains carved words that have haunted these hills and the Ohman family for more than years, yet their faith has never wavered. I mean I was very emphatic about it. His grandfather found the Runestone. He says he found it buried under a tree in Critics say the language on the stone is too modern to be from , that some of the runes are made up. They say this simple farmer carved it himself to fool the learned. If this is a hoax he lied to his two sons, he lied to his family, lied to his neighbors and friends and lied to the world," said Scott Wolter a geologist and researcher of the Runestone. Wolter and Texas engineer Dick Nielsen are sharing for the first time new evidence about the hidden secrets they say are carved in this stone. He says the breakdown of minerals in the inscription shows the carving is at least years old, older than Olof Ohman. Those findings support the first geological study in that also found the stone to be genuine. Linguistic experts are not convinced. They say runes like those on the stone are made up. For the first time Wolter has documented every individual rune on the stone with a microscope. He was the first to discover dots inside four R shaped runes on the stone. He said they are intentional and they mean something. So Wolter and Nielsen scoured rune catalogs. This absolutely fingerprints it to the 14th century. This is linguistic proof. This is medieval, period," Wolter said. What they found on the grave slabs were very interesting crosses. If they carved the rune stone why did they come here and why did they carve this thing? He has uncovered new evidence that has taken his research in a very different direction. Wolter now believes that the words on the stone may not be the record of the death of 10 men but instead, a secret code concealing the true purpose of the rune stone. Two runes in the form of an L and a U are two more reasons why linguists say Olof Ohman carved the stone. They are crossed and linguists say they should not be. A third rune has a punch at the end of one line. Each rune on the stone has a numerical value. Wolter and Nielsen took the three marked runes and plotted them on a medieval dating system called the Easter Table. Is this a coincidence? They wondered why Templars would come to North America, carve the stone and code the date. This is the evidence. This is who was there. This is what the grave slabs tell us. It is what it is," he said.

Chapter 3 : Kensington Runestone Faker's Signature Found | ScienceBlogs

The Kensington Runestone has been the subject of discussion and controversy since its discovery in by a Swedish farmer, named Olof Ohman, while clearing land for his farm near Kensington, Minnesota (45° 48' "N - 95° 40' ").

The Kensington Rune Stone is a medieval artifact recently proven to be authentic. Read the story here of how, for over years, repeated claims of hoax have been debunked forcing a major rewrite of American history. In , a Minnesota farmer unearthed this carved stone while felling a tree. It unleashed a storm of controversy that has still not abated today. Branded a hoax, the family of Olof Ohman endured scorn, ridicule and lies. Over years later, the stone rests in a small museum. These pages provide an overview of where we are with Kensington Rune Stone research. The information here is factual and correct but we do not claim to be unbiased - we believe the rune stone is genuine. The pendulum has swung back and forth many times, from hoax to legitimacy. The story has inevitably followed the same pattern. An academic or self-appointed scholar proclaims the stone to be a hoax and writes a book. This continues today as personal agendas interfere with objective study. Fingers are pointed in both directions and the KRS sits there as a silent witness. Many of the scholarly culprits of the past have been linguists. But then new discoveries of medieval runes in Europe dating to the correct period would emerge. Suddenly the tables are turned - how could a farmer have known about these runes decades before the academics discovered them? The language on the KRS is so complex and many of the forms so obscure that only a handful of people in the world today could reasonably attempt a similar carving. In , the number was arguably zero, and certainly not a Minnesota farmer. The linguistic smoking gun on the rune stone is the dotted R, which we will discuss in much more detail. Even with the limited science of that day, he was able to determine that the carvings were very old and that there was no reason to doubt the date on the stone. But the geology was never given the weight or importance of the linguistics, even though the linguists were being proven wrong with regularity. By comparing the deterioration of mica in colonial gravestones of a similar type and in a similar environment, he determined that the deterioration in the rune stone carvings was much more advanced. The carvings were centuries old when they came out of the ground in . Indeed, there are no viable candidates within accepted Minnesota history for the period between the 14th century and the first 19th century settlers. While there is a linguistic story and a geologic story to the KRS, there is also a human story. Not by their friends and neighbors in the small community of Kensington, though. No, those people were solidly behind Olof Ohman. They knew him to be an honest man and the whole family was respected. Never mind that they were wrong over and over. Through photos and letters, and testimonies of people in the community, you can see how the burden of an accusation with no court to defend yourself in, weighed on Olof and his wife and children. They had property stolen, and the stress and strain no doubt led to some tragic early deaths. Olof never backed down on his story or his defense of the stone as genuine. No-one in the family doubted it for a moment. In recent years the family has gained some redemption as evidence mounts that the KRS is a genuine medieval artifact. But even today, there are those who accuse Olof of fraud. This is done despite the knowledge that there are no candidates to have carved the stone between and Olof. But the issue is not evidence or lack of evidence that Olof carved it, he could not possibly have done so.

Chapter 4 : Douglas County | Kensington Rune Stone Park

The Runestone and the enduring mystery of its origin continues to be the hallmark of the Runestone Museum. This intriguing artifact was discovered in , clutched in the roots of an aspen tree on the Olof Å-hman farm near Kensington, MN (15 miles southwest of Alexandria).

They understand the methodology of science, and Inference, from data, to the Best Explanation -- IBE, philosophers of science call it. Both scientists are experienced serving as expert witnesses in court cases. He engaged Wolter to examine the Runestone using current high-tech microscopy. The result was clear: QED, inference from the petrographic data leads to the carved date of A. Paul soon after the petrographic tests were completed. To his surprise, the audience was cool. Nielsen presented his research on Old Swedish vernaculars and rune variations at the same session, linguistic data that are much less familiar to Midwestern archaeologists than geology of weathering, but that explained why the century-old rejection by professors of languages is no longer tenable. The Runestone itself stood at the front of the meeting room, letting everyone who came up to it see, and feel, that its graywacke is a very hard stone, not a slab a hoaxer would be inclined to select for a remarkably long inscription. Barry Hanson, a chemical engineer, independently figured out, about , that the Runestone ought to be examined by a contemporary petrographer. He found Nielsen on the Internet and the two agreed to work together to obtain the obvious tests. I contacted two of my colleagues, senior Professor Guy Gibbon of the University of Minnesota and recently retired professor Dale Henning, considered the foremost authority on western Minnesota-adjacent regions prehistory. Gibbon and Henning heard the presentations and agreed that inference to the best explanation supported authenticity of the date of carving. It happens that both Gibbon and I have studied history and philosophy of science in order to better understand our field of American archaeology. Wolter and Nielsen proposed a day-long workshop presentation of their petrographic and linguistic data, along with discussion of historical circumstances of and , the time the Runestone was discovered. Professor Gibbon was pleased to chair the workshop, at Fort Snelling in St. Richard Nielsen had engaged Scott Wolter for the laboratory analysis of the Runestone carvings because Wolter enjoys a national reputation for expertise in petrographic analysis. The geologist, although a native Minnesotan, knew nothing about the Kensington discovery. What has been popularly held up as a classic hoax is now a classic example of dogmatic insistence on a hasty, inadequately-informed verdict. From a larger perspective, facile rejection of the Kensington Runestone inscription indicates the power of the Columbus myth, that the Americas had been hidden from the active world until the Admiral of the Ocean Sea rent the veil. Newton Winchell was not the only solid scientist whose conclusions have been ignored; the great early-nineteenth-century naturalist Alexander von Humboldt published comparisons of American and Old World cultures to argue the probability of transoceanic contacts before Columbus, and so did, in the twentieth century, the remarkable Cambridge biochemist and historian of Chinese science, Joseph Needham. Columbus and his Spanish backers were entrepreneurs who broke, not a veil hiding America, but international law recognizing entitlement from first discovery -- first discoveries indubitably made thousands of years ago by ancestors of the hundreds of millions owning America in . Not even a small expedition of Norsemen seeking sources for furs west of the familiar Canadian Atlantic regions could be admitted to the virgin land. You readers may accept these more extensive possibilities. Accept, too, that sorely beleaguered farmer Olof Ohman was an honest man. The notion that the Kensington Runestone is a late-nineteenth-century hoax is not supported by contemporary data. MP3 Format Check back here for more news from the authors, or click their links in the menu. News from Scott Wolter Coming Soon! The follow-up to The Kensington Rune Stone: Key to the Secret History of North America. In September , Olof Ohman was clearing his fields for farming in southwestern Minnesota. The inscription on the stone indicates it was carved and immediately buried as both a memorial and a land claim in A. Geologist Scott Wolter performed a forensic analysis of weathering minerals in the stone by comparison with tombstones to determine the relative age of the inscription. Once the topic of much debate over its authenticity, the stone has now been proven by Wolter to be genuine through this geologic study. Since the language, runes, grammar and dialect used on the stone must also date back to A.

Study of the runes on the Kensington stone led him to Scotland, England, Sweden and Denmark where he found the same runes, language and symbolism in use by the Cistercians, a religious order of monks that began at the turn of the 10th century and gained momentum years later. Although persecuted and put to death in Europe, the Cistercian established military order, the Knights Templar, continued on secretly. Voluminous evidence suggests they traveled to North America claiming land for what they called, The New Jerusalem. Other stones found on the East Coast and inscribed with maps, dates, codes and symbolism give credence to the theory that North America was staked out long before Christopher Columbus ever set sail. That theory is bolstered by an elaborate mapping system for which the point of origin is a mysterious medieval stone tower in Newport, Rhode Island. That tower points directly to Kensington, and serves as a compass for the design of the New World. But Freemasonry is nothing new. In fact, evidence shows many of the signers of both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were Freemasons, including George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and John Hancock. The separation of church and state is by their design. It comes as no surprise when considering Freemasonry is founded on the same ideals of the Cistercians, and those ideals led medieval followers to bloodshed at the hands of the Roman Catholic Church. The X represents equality -- the balance of man and woman, and of heaven and earth. Belief in what the Hooked X represents continues today for more than 5 million Freemasons worldwide and perhaps for you upon reading *The Hooked X*: Please check out the following links: [Cabal of the Westford Knight](#): [Templars at the Newport Tower](#) is a novel inspired by the legend of the Westford Knight. The legend recounts how Scottish explorers secretly visited Westford, Massachusetts in , where they carved an effigy in stone to commemorate the death of a fallen comrade, a carving that remains visible today. But who were these explorers, and why did they come? Our wayward hero is back in this sequel, enlisted by Bonaparte for the Marengo campaign and then sent by newly-elected Thomas Jefferson on a mysterious and perilous quest to the edge of the American frontier.

Chapter 5 : Runestone Museum – Alexandria MN – Preserving Our Past

The chart contains the exact form of the controversial Kensington A-umlaut rune, i.e. an "X" with a hook and two dots. The Dalarna rune site cited above contains the X-form, but not the hook or the dots.

By David Mathisen not verified on 18 Nov [permalink](#) Like so many of my own blog posts Anyway, as you may have learned on your visit to Minnesota, depending on whom you spoke with, the folks from the immediate area around the farm all pretty much know of the stone as a practical joke. It is fascinating to see how many archaeologists have been, for a while, taken in. Usually they are in a historical society display case, occasionally a local historian would just pull them out and show them to me as I was making the round speaking with the locals about the local history. Occasionally I would be tracked down while digging somewhere, etc. None of them were real, sadly. I suggest you turn it on to improve interaction with readers. But I believe the problem lies here: This is not what Larsson does. Larsson does commence at the first line and count sixty-two words. But on every odd-numbered line he always counts from the left, and on every even-numbered line he always counts from the right. [Log in to post comments](#) By [aardvarchaeology](#) on 19 Nov [permalink](#) I have met and debated with Mats Larsson in Sweden and he is a completely unobjective, ardent opponent of the KRS and will invent anything to try and discredit it. The facts are clear, concise, and consistent. The tombstone weathering study I performed in my material forensic laboratory in , clearly showed the inscription to be older than years from the date it was pulled from the ground in This makes a late 19th Century hoax impossible, and leaves only one other obvious possibility. I could go on with voluminous factual geological, runological, linguistic, dialectic, and historical evidence that is consient with the KRS being a genuine medieval artifact. Quite frankly, publishing this nonsense is irresponsible. [Log in to post comments](#) By [Scott F.](#) The "softer" science linguistics has also left holes in the arguments against the dialectic "anomalies" with the more recent discovery the E-dialect which is wholly consistent with the date on the stone, showing it seems to a real possibility. As for the "difficulties" of long distance travel to the Kensington, MN area, it is generally accepted that some hundreds of Norman mercenaries traveled overland on foot between the Danish coast and Istanbul to fight for pay. That straight line distance is some kilometers or miles through some hostile areas. And they carried their weapons down and carried their weapons and their booty back. To walk from, say, Portland, Maine to Kensington is a distance of some miles and the river crossings are less arduous than walking to Istanbul. If the members of the Kensington party were able to sail into Hudson Bay, build some riverine craft, and use the rivers coming off the bay, they could sail to very near present day Kapuskasing, Ontario. The overland journey to Kensington from there was a comparative cakewalk at miles. While there is no direct evidence to tie the stone holes directly to the rune stone, their very consistent size and distribution is very consistent with an organized , large area survey. Getting back to the "soft science" of linguistics, the "fishing" reference within the text of the rune stone may be a colloquial or trade lexicon reference to the English equivalent "casting", which is a surveying term that remained in use well into the 18th, and possibly still used into the 19th century. All in all, the "ancilliary" evidence speaks for more than against the validity of the Kensington Rune Stone. The consensus among professional runologists and archaeologists remains that the stone was carved in the late 19th century. I suggest you devote your energies to real Minnesotan archaeology instead. I believe the record goes all the way back to Clovis, right? [Log in to post comments](#) By [aardvarchaeology](#) on 21 Nov [permalink](#) Ohman was clearing land for farming, not cutting firewood. [Log in to post comments](#) By [Damon Capps](#) not verified on 21 Nov [permalink](#) Common stupidity is when one takes a partial view of a situation and acts as if it represents the whole situation. So did Olman travel to Oklahoma and leave those runes for us to puzzle over also? Or how about those runes in Arkansas? Was he there also? I have another viewpoint to tell you about those inscriptions. [Log in to post comments](#) By [Mark Johnson](#) not verified on 22 Nov [permalink](#) Haha, yeah, "common stupidity" must be the reason that scholarly consensus accepts none of these inscriptions as authentic [Log in to post comments](#) By [aardvarchaeology](#) on 22 Nov [permalink](#) Very interesting. People have found Ancient Pheonician coins in the merrimack river banks in lowell MA. Is there any truth in these finds? If so, should the Pheonicians have been able to travel this far why

not the Norse? Another adept sea faring people? Log in to post comments By Carl S not verified on 23 Nov permalink The textural debunking is based on a uniformity of literacy among a largely illiterate Viking population without a Vatican. If you look up "Top Ten Viking Hoaxes" you will see what the texts on a number of American "rune" stones really are dealing with. Kjell Aartun The eminent Norwegian has written a new book, dealing with old inscriptions. It is printed by the German firm "Harrassowitz Verlag". The book is in German language. As for the claim its language is modern Norse that has been disproved. NOW having proven it was in use from to they are silent. If someone wants to support THAT claim fine. Log in to post comments By david not verified on 06 Jan permalink As a result of ten years of historical research and a rigorous translation of the Spirit Pond runestone found in Maine in , We now know that King Magnus Eriksson of Norway and Sweden sent an expedition to North America in to attempt to restore the fur trade that had ceased when the Greenland merchants abandoned their homes and migrated to the continent. The chivalric poem memorializing their loss was inscribed on the Spirit Pond runestone found by Walter Elliott in Johnson not verified on 26 Mar permalink I find it interesting that a guy who is supposedly learned enough to write in runic skrift as well as use cryptography would not make his hidden message more grammatically correct. Log in to post comments By Andrea L not verified on 30 May permalink I think your findings fall under junk science. Log in to post comments By Flint not verified on 28 Aug permalink Your study seems to be junk science. Holten claiming that the Kensington Stone is genuine. And it also takes an expert to recognise an artefact for what it may be when first finding it. The short inscriptions on the Heavener stone and the "Medoc" stone are one thing, and could easily be an antiquarian "doodle" , but the Kensington Stone is much more fulsome: No more puzzling than the known puzzles so often taken for granted, such as how the Anglo-Saxon church at Bradford on Avon was constructed, or how they managed to import every chip of stone from Caen in Normandy to build the huge mass of Norwich cathedral, to name just two examples from my recent investigations. Nordic history has now been extremely well examined, and it is worthwhile for users of English to acquire a bit of reading knowledge of Danish, Swedish, etc. Too bad it was confirmed to be genuine. Nice try though Log in to post comments By Paul not verified on 16 Jan permalink you said the stone has 12 lines but from all the pics i have seen it has only 9, and as far as the code i took a random book used the code and 5 times out of 10 came up with an intelligent sentence i just opened it to different pages and started counting. Is H2 so far off from the truth? Log in to post comments By Gabe Collazo not verified on 03 Feb permalink Yes, the Discovery Channel is almost as bad as the History Channel when it comes to accuracy. It is our responsibility and quest to do so! The truth is the child of GOD. So let's not get ahead of ourselves and give time to rewriting history correctly this time. The Rewriting of History! Log in to post comments By Gabe Collazo not verified on 03 Feb permalink The Norsemen who carved the Kensington rune stone were camped on the shores of the then much wider lake Agassiz I believe, by the time the French and other settlers arrived hundreds of years later, the lake had receded, leaving their docking area far inland. Apparently they had a run in with local Indians, which was told of in other Viking sagas to Vinland. Sceptics are soft in the head, and hard in the heart. Just look at the facts, not proud assumptions that you are right and others wrong. Log in to post comments By Bryan D not verified on 07 Feb permalink You know it's hard to tell but from all accounts of older family members we believe the stone to be real. I however find an interesting meaning in the Swedish etymological dictionary Swedish only Far down: Mats G Larsson also writes in: Log in to post comments By Pehr not verified on 29 Mar permalink Interesting findings. Anyone ever watch America Unearthed? There is a very good story in the series which claims the authenticity of the stone. I really know next to nothing of the finder of the K stone, but I would certainly believe he pranked this if he was in any manner , interested in Archeology. The stone has been authenticated as having been carved out by Pre-Columbian people. If the Vikings made it to America , they could have made it to Minnesota water ways. Evidence has been found of Pre-Templars reaching the Arizona area, leaving many items incrusting very deeply into the lands. Well, in any case, Columbus did not discover America. I feel this article is good information, but there were root impressions deeply imbedded into the stone which would have taken much longer than the date this stone was discovered. Stone all of my life, we as children played in the woods and swam the river. There are two rivers that meet to create one river at a point. Templars made it to Minnesota

and used the waterways to travel both north and south. Being so young, we found them as curiosity but no importance. In my attempts to recreate the engravings, I made a very large pot in pottery class and made some engravings to mimic the stones we had found I still have. I have believed for some years now that we had actually found Grave Stones. At that age , i had NO knowledge of any Heiroglyphics or other languages, and as i look at the engravings i did as a child, they resemble Rune markings although i couldnt remember the true stones markings. Any evidence now, so many years later would have been wiped out with the ongoing Floods but it could have been the flooding that actually had uncovered these stones so many years ago. When i heard of the K. Stone, I knew , that the Templars had made it to Minnesota using the waterways and they did leave either land markers or grave markers behind that we had found. Without the daily traffic of children in the woods , they have grown over thickly. We had a tree fort and that is where i left the stones, so many years later i tried to get down there to find them, but couldnt even get into the woods. The river is one of the only rivers in the world that flows North all the way from Louisiana I think. Norwegians have lived in Northern Minnesota long before Columbus ever landed in America.

Chapter 6 : Home | City of Kensington Minnesota Website

To many Viking Age historians both professional and amateur, the most mysterious runestone is the "Kensington Runestone". At first glance, one might believe this refers to Kensington, England. After all, the Vikings did raid and possess much of England before

The same symbol represented here by " l " appears in the KRS word sk l ar, shown above. The runic scholars who originally examined the KRS were unfamiliar with this uncommon symbol. The context called for some kind of landmark. Early on, someone suggested that it represented a Germanic j-sound English consonantal y so that the word could be read skjar, "skerries" or "rocky islets," and this became the generally accepted interpretation of the KRS letter. In his eagerness to have as complete an alphabet as possible the engraver has invented a j-rune. He ought not to have gone as far as that. Both these letters were invented by the French philosopher Petrus Ramus in the 16th century. It was therefore, unbeknownst to Moltke, an authentic 14th century nordic rune, and not a newly invented J-rune at all. Apparently this symbol represents a soft one might even say silky L-sound, and not a Germanic J-sound English Y-sound , as had been assumed by Moltke and most prior writers. They found that While the back is naturally glaciated, other surfaces were clearly "dressed" to provide the present shape. Some of the man-made surfaces clearly show weathering, but not as much as the glacial surfaces. Several of the inscribed grooves contain significant iron-oxide deposits, a byproduct of the decomposition of pyrite within the stone. The back side of the stone has two undulating discolorations, "believed to be chemical bleaching of minerals in the stone from prolonged contact with tree roots. A freshly fractured surface of a core sample obtained from the KRS shows well-defined, sharp mica crystals in a Scanning Electron Microscope SEM image displayed in the report. Another image shows that the mica crystals on a carved surface have completely weathered way, indicating that the runeforms "spent a long time in the ground. Many of these inscriptions, discovered in and so not available to early discussion of the stone, are roughly contemporary with the date on the KRS. Only two of the contain the word virgo, and neither of these is in the phrase Ave Virgo Maria that has also been advocated. More cool runes roughly contemporary with KRS. Data base of over Scandinavian runic inscriptions, sponsored by Uppsala U. Summary by Michael Zalar, from his website. Dalarna runes from the 18th century, including some of the peculiar KRS runes. In particular, an X-like A-rune! Unfortunately, the specimen of 16th century Dalarna runes on the same site does not include these features, except for an incipient X-form for the A-rune, and an incipient O-form for the O-rune. The site unfortunately gives no references to original sources. Runestone Museum , "right off exit on I," with 28 foot tall statue of "Big Ole. Three months later, Prof. Schulman, associate professor of English at Southeastern Louisiana University , admitted that they had carved the stone as graduate students back in , along with three other members of a University of Minnesota seminar on runic inscriptions taught by Prof. In a letter to the Runestone Museum, Gade and Schulman explained that the third line was intended to read "ALU" a pagan invocation comparable to Ave Maria , in the Older Futhark, but that the chisel slipped on the "L". The Echo Press of Alexandria Minn. Archaeologist Patricia Sutherland announces that a foot strand of yarn in a collection of Dorset artifacts from Northern Baffin Island "is directly comparable to textiles from the Farm Beneath the Sand [in Greenland]," and that the yarn implies contact with the Norse. It suggests there was a significant European presence in Eastern Canada in the centuries around A. Link to full article now requires free registration with the New York Times Online, and cookies enabled. The chart contains the exact form of the controversial Kensington A-umlaut rune, i. The Dalarna rune site cited above contains the X-form, but not the hook or the dots. The only difference is that whereas the KRS rune contains a miniature e-rune inside the "O", the Larsson form has a vertical stroke that extends outside the "O" both above and below. The Larsson chart also contains the unusual if less controversial KRS Y-rune, as "u", complete with its two dots, though without its crossbar. Furthermore, Larsson lists the pentadic numerals from 1 to 9 plus 0, and dates his chart using these numerals in Arabic placement, just as on the KRS. Richard Nielsen has abundantly documented the use of these pentadic numerals plus knowledge of Arabic placement in Scandinavia in the 14th century, but this is the first example that I am aware of outside of KRS of actually using pentadic numerals in Arabic

placement. The only issue is how far back before , if at all, these conventions go. The Wikipedia article indicates that knowledge of these runes was widespread among late 19th century guilds, with the tacit implication that the KRS forger must have shared this knowledge, but does not indicate how this knowledge eluded the many runic scholars who have criticized the KRS for using these symbols. In a new book coming out in November of , *The Kensington Runestone: The Foreword* by Alice B. Kehoe, author of *Land of Prehistory: A Critical History of American Archaeology* Routledge, , concludes, "The notion that the Kensington Runestone is a late nineteenth-century hoax is not supported by contemporary data.

Chapter 7 : Kensington Rune Stone Decoded: Vikings, Templars & Goths in America in ? â€“ American Fr

Kensington Rune Stone Park has a wide array of offerings ranging from the historic Ohman farm yard and discovery site of the Rune Stone to the beautiful landscapes to recreate in. The Park has indoor restrooms, picnic shelters, and a playground.

Two of his sons were working with him when the stone was found, Olof Jr. When Olof saw the stone it was inscription down. As said, the runes were caked with mud so Olof used a nail to scratch them out and attempt to read them. It was also declared that Old Swedish was a well known language and that words on the stone that were unknown in Old Swedish were proof of a forgery. But in fact Old Swedish was not well known at all. He was skeptical but did note the weathering. Curme thereby creates the expectation that the bodies of the ten men red with blood should be buried at the discovery site. He refers, of course, to the scratching Olof did with a nail to clear mud from the runes. A careful examination would have shown that, but another rush to judgment created a myth that still persists today. Stewart takes the first known photographs of the Kensington Rune Stone at Prof. They are cut as with a diamond-pointed tool. They chose geologist Newton H. Winchell to head the study. They appear later in the documents section. Anderson wrote an article claiming that A. When the line of battle reaches these fundamental truths they will assert their power. No one has, as yet, attacked those important bulwarks of the rune stone. Still, even as the discussion now stands the Hagstad published in the same number of the Norwegian American. The only lingering uncertainty lies in the word opdagelse. On the contrary, it is harder than granite, standing next to pure quartzite in hardness. Winchell dies at age Olof Ohman returns from his trip to Sweden aboard the later famous ship Lusitania. There is much excitement and several large rallies, but the monument is never built. Ironically, the small monument that was built much later was placed on the wrong site. It remains on display for one year. Edward dies in December Erik Moltke, a Swedish archeologist, writes a series of articles attacking the inscription as a fraud. Also during this period, Wahlgren begins correspondence with Theodore Blegen, a history professor in Minnesota. Walter Gran was the son of John Gran who lived at Kensington. Tombstones of slate in Maine that were approximately years old were selected. This made it possible to conclude that the rune stone was carved more than years ago. The book, *The Kensington Rune Stone: Compelling New Evidence* is published. Some of the key historical documents are reproduced on the following page.

Chapter 8 : The Kensington Rune Stone: Compelling New Evidence

In a Runestone Memorial Park was inaugurated at Alexandria, Minnesota, the seat of Douglas County, in which Kensington is located. There a gigantic replica of the rune stone, weighing, along with its base, more than two hundred times as much as the original slab of graywacke, was unveiled at a public ceremony.

Provenance[edit] Swedish immigrant [3] Olof Ohman said that he found the stone late in while clearing land he had recently acquired of trees and stumps before plowing. Some Norwegians claimed the stone was a Swedish hoax and there were similar Swedish accusations because the stone references a joint expedition of Norwegians and Swedes. It is thought to be more than coincidental that the stone was found among Scandinavian newcomers in Minnesota, still struggling for acceptance and quite proud of their Nordic heritage. Breda â€” , professor of Scandinavian Languages and Literature in the Scandinavian Department, declared the stone to be a forgery and published a discrediting article which appeared in *Symra* during They "unanimously pronounced the Kensington inscription a fraud and forgery of recent date". Scholars either dismissed it as a prank or felt unable to identify a sustainable historical context and the stone was returned to Ohman. Hjalmar Holand , a Norwegian-American historian and author, claimed Ohman gave him the stone. Holand renewed public interest with an article [12] enthusiastically summarizing studies that were made by geologist Newton Horace Winchell Minnesota Historical Society and linguist George T. Flom Philological Society of the University of Illinois , who both published opinions in Several nearby poplars that witnesses estimated as being about the same size were cut down and, by counting their rings, it was determined they were around 30â€”40 years old. One member of the team who had excavated at the find site in , county schools superintendent Cleve Van Dyke, later recalled the trees being only ten or twelve years old. Winchell also mentions in the same report that Prof. Hotchkiss, state geologist of Wisconsin, estimated that the runes were "at least 50 to years. Similarly, the language of the inscription was modern compared to the Nordic languages of the 14th century. The sequences rr, ll and gh represent actual digraphs. The AVM is written in Latin capitals. The numbers given in Arabic numerals in the above transcription are given in the pentimal system. The language being closer to the Swedish of the 19th than of the 14th century is one of the main reasons for the scholarly consensus dismissing it as a hoax. We were [out] to fish one day. After we came home [we] found ten men red of blood and dead. For the next 40 years, Holand struggled to sway public and scholarly opinion about the Runestone, writing articles and several books. He achieved brief success in , when the stone was put on display at the Smithsonian Institution , and scholars such as William Thalbitzer and S. Hagen published papers supporting its authenticity. Blegen flatly asserted [10] Ohman had carved the artifact as a prank, possibly with help from others in the Kensington area. Further resolution seemed to come with the published transcript [21] of an interview of Frank Walter Gran conducted by Paul Carson, Jr. Hall asserted that the odd philological problems in the Runestone could be the result of normal dialectal variances in Old Swedish of the period. He further contended that critics had failed to consider the physical evidence, which he found leaning heavily in favour of authenticity. In *The Vikings and America* , Wahlgren again stated that the text bore linguistic abnormalities and spellings that he thought suggested the Runestone was a forgery. This lexeme is unattested in either Scandinavian, Low Franconian or Low German before the 16th century. The Norwegian historian Gustav Storm often used the modern Norwegian lexeme in late 19th-century articles on Viking exploration, creating a plausible incentive for the manufacturer of the inscription to use this word. Early Old Swedish 14th century still retained the four cases of Old Norse , but Late Old Swedish 15th century reduced its case structure to two cases, so that the absence of inflection in a Swedish text of the 14th century would be an irregularity. Similarly, the inscription text does not use the plural verb forms that were common in the 14th century and have only recently disappeared: Such numerals are known in Scandinavia, but nearly always from relatively recent times, not from verified medieval runic monuments, on which numbers were usually spelled out as words. Hagen stated "The Kensington alphabet is a synthesis of older unsimplified runes, later dotted runes, and a number of Latin letters The runes for a, n, s and t are the old Danish unsimplified forms which should have been out of use for a long time [by the 14th century] I suggest that [a

posited 14th century] creator must at some time or other in his life have been familiar with an inscription or inscriptions composed at a time when these unsimplified forms were still in use" and that he "was not a professional runic scribe before he left his homeland". The first Futhark consists of 22 runes, the last two of which are bind-runes, representing the letter-combinations EL and MW. The runes in this second set correspond closely to the non-standard runes in the Kensington inscription. Wahlgren noted that the carver had incised a notch on the upper right hand corner of the letter V. In a letter by Gerardus Mercator to John Dee , dated , Mercator refers to a Jacob Cnoyen, who had learned that eight men returned to Norway from an expedition to the Arctic islands in . One of the men, a priest, provided the King of Norway with a great deal of geographical information. Furthermore, in , King Magnus Eriksson of Sweden and Norway had issued a letter appointing a law officer named Paul Knutsson as leader of an expedition to the colony of Greenland , to investigate reports that the population was turning away from Christian culture. Supporters of a 14th-century origin for the Kensington runestone argue that Knutson may therefore have travelled beyond Greenland to North America, in search of renegade Greenlanders, most of his expedition being killed in Minnesota and leaving just the eight voyagers to return to Norway. Hjalmar Holand adduced the "blond" Indians among the Mandan on the Upper Missouri River as possible descendants of the Swedish and Norwegian explorers.

Chapter 9 : Kensington Rune Stone

The Kensington Rune Stone has been the subject of passionate debate over its authenticity since it was discovered in the roots of a tree near Kensington, Minnesota, by Olof Ohman in 1898. Through the presentation of compelling new evidence this book answers the many nagging questions that have eluded investigators for over years.

Kensington Rune Stone Decoded: But more than years later, additional discoveries have proved the stele was the real McCoy, although left there by Knights Templar of the Middle Ages rather than Norsemen. Wolter, is certainly one of them. Although the author of this Revisionist book, who is well known to longtime readers of TBR, is a professional geologist and not a historian, the discoveries made by Wolter in recent years and described in *Hooked X* are powerful enough to compel a fundamental rethinking of our view of the American past. The centerpiece of his revelations is that controversial, even contentious artifact known as the Kensington Rune Stone. For those who are unfamiliar with it, this is a pound greywacke sandstone stele found by Swedish immigrant farmer, Olof Ohman, while clearing his land in the largely rural township of Solem, Douglas County, Minnesota, during September. Lying face down and entwined in the roots of a stunted, year-old aspen, the byby-six-inch slab was covered on its face and one side with some sort of runic writing. Ohman brought it to the nearest town, Kensington, where his find was displayed at the local bank. A badly flawed copy of the inscription was forwarded to the University of Minnesota, where a translation was attempted by Olaus J. It would take more than another years for scholars, correcting for the imperfect copy, to properly translate the text. We had a camp by two shelters? We were fishing one day. After we came home we found 10 men red with blood and death. He never tried to make money off the rune stone; he often cursed the day he found it; and swore he told the whole truth about its discovery unto the hour of his death. With the family reputation ruined, he was shunned and mocked by society to the extent that one of his daughters committed suicide. *Emigrate While You Still Can!* While mainstream archeologists and linguists continued to insist that the Kensington Rune Stone was fraudulent, a geologist at the Minnesota Historical Society, Newton Horace Winchell, undertook a detailed physical analysis of the object for the first time. For examples, they cited the inscribed text for internal evidence. Not until , when hydrological surveys were conducted for the state of Minnesota, did investigators learn that the area of discovery was virtually flooded with streams and lakes during the 14th century and for at least years before. Increasingly dry conditions beginning in the 16th century transfigured the regional landscape into swamps and marsh, until it became the rich pasture Olof Ohman settled in the late s. The hill on which he found the rune stone was indeed an island, although neither he nor anyone else at the time knew it was surrounded by water back in , the inscribed date. Compelling considerations such as these prompted investigators to seek out professional help of their own in . They contacted the St. Paul-based American Petrographic Services, a firm specializing in the analysis of construction materials to determine suitability, conformance to specifications, or causes of failure. It was and is owned and headed by Scott F. Wolter, a university-trained, certified geologist, who had never even heard of the Kensington Rune Stone. With no preconceived notions and indifferent to the outcome of his research, Wolter began using photography with a reflected light microscope, core sampling and examination via a scanning electron microscope. In November, he presented his preliminary findings: In other words, the Kensington Rune Stone was buried for at least a century before Olof Ohman excavated it. Skeptics endeavored to fault his determination by arguing that standards for mica degradation do not exist. The reason is, to my knowledge, I am the first to perform this type of relative-age dating study. Because the biotite mica began to weather off the manmade surfaces of the slate tombstones after approximately years, the Kensington Rune Stone inscription must be older than years prior to , when it was pulled from the ground , since all the mica had weathered away from the manmade surfaces. Also noticed was a hitherto-unseen series of dots engraved inside three R-runes. This discovery was highly significant, because such dotted runes occur only on the headstones of 14th-century graves in church cemeteries on the island of Gotland off the coast of Sweden. Early 21st-century technology confirmed Prof. But Wolter expanded his research to reveal much more. He discovered that the Kensington Rune Stone was not just some pre-Columbian anomaly proving only that the

Norse beat the Spaniards to America. He competently defines it as a land-claim marker. In other words, the men who set it up did so to declare what later became west central Minnesota for themselves. After carving, the Kensington Rune Stone was deliberately buried, and triangular-shaped holes were drilled into glacial boulders not far away; these were used to triangulate and relocate the precise position of the buried rune stone. In 1898, Swedish immigrant farmer Olof Ohman discovered a lb. Ohman believed the stone was proof that Vikings were in America before Christopher Columbus, but was quickly ruled to be a fraudster. He suffered greatly from the smears, but now has been vindicated. Wolter goes still further in his quest for information about the artifact to discover the identity of the man who carved its inscription: Templars were still residents of the island at the time the Kensington Rune Stone was carved in 1000. When the Kensington Rune Stone was first discovered, it was quickly labeled a fraud. After much research, geologist Scott Wolter and others found characters very much like those on the Kensington Rune Stone in Templar churches in Gotland. This makes sense as the stone said Goths/Gotlanders were along on the voyage. Further, four characters had slash marks. This peculiar glyph is especially helpful in authenticating a runic inscription, because it is highly unlikely to have been known to a hoaxer, appears on few artifacts, and has been competently dated to the late Middle Ages, thereby helping to establish not only the authenticity, but the time parameters of a particular object. Accordingly, Wolter gives us the Kensington Rune Stone in the context of other, related finds. Since the standard unit of measurement used in construction throughout New England in the 17th century was the English foot, the Newport Tower [which was laid out in the Norwegian short alen] was not built by 17th-century Colonists. These marks are unique and unknown when compared to tool marks noted in Colonial stonework. The walls were covered with a plaster stucco finish, both interior and exterior. Stucco finishing started in the 16th century and is a feature known in Orkney and Shetland. There is no archeological parallel in Colonial New England for the Newport Tower and its specific architectural features. Other researchers have offered possible units of measurement used to build the tower: The below image of ruins of a Cistercian church at Eynhallow in the Orkney Islands left, side-by-side with a tower archway right, is another illustration of the possible Scottish origin for the Newport Tower architects. To make the connection to Prince Henry and the Sinclair clan stronger, the abbot in charge of Eynhallow in the mid-12th century was Abbot Lawrence, previously known as Henry Sinclair of Rye. Wolter goes to describe several other pieces of evidence for the medieval European impact on this continent, and for the presentation alone of these otherwise little-known artifacts, his book is especially valuable. To him, they are all fragments of an interrelating mosaic, the final image of which tends to reveal a post-Templar interest in North America. These conditions argue strongly against the probability of a hoax. Wolter found that each of the nine glyphs was approximately two inches long and cut one-half inch deep. The first rune he was able to identify was a version of H dated to the late Middle Ages. They were found shallowly buried along the shores of Spirit Pond near Popham Beach, not far from the Maine coast. Like other accidental discoveries unfortunate enough to have been made by unaccredited persons, the three Spirit Pond stones were automatically deemed fraudulent by mainstream opinion, and tossed into the Maine State Museum at Hallowell, where Wolter took some 1,000 photographs of them from 1908 to 1910. His examination showed that one of the stones, apparently illustrated with a map, was strangely oriented with east at the top and north to the left, something a forger would have been unlikely to do. Yet, until 1908, medieval maps were identically oriented to place Jerusalem, in the east, at the top. Only later, just yards from Spirit Pond, did archeologists uncover the remains of a Norse-style sod building, and radiocarbon-dated its floorboards to circa 1000 A.D. Wolter was likewise impressed by the convincing antiquity of a very large granite boulder illustrated with the outlines of surrounding topography, and located in a town near the Merrimac River, as it flows through the northwest section of Middlesex County, Massachusetts. The weathering actually surprised me. Whoever carved this did it long ago. The image had been familiar to generations of Westford residents, but was only professionally photographed for the first time immediately following World War II. Goodwin Meador Press, Boston, To protect the site, Goodwin never revealed its precise whereabouts. Some years after his death, however, a determined reader, Frank Glynn, eventually found the image, which had been created by punch-holes made with a hammer. The unorthodox illustration supposedly portrayed a helmeted knight-at-arms, complete with sword and shield. By the time Wolter examined it in 1908, he was unable to make

out anything resembling a human figure, perhaps because it eroded away in the decades of exposure to the elements after moss covering the illustration was removed. A short walking distance from the Westford Knight, the J. Fletcher Library displays a pound glacial granite boulder depicting a sailing vessel in the company of an arrow and three glyphs. I was certain the weathering of both the Westford Boat Stone and the Westford Knight were not made in the past several decades, and could very well be many hundreds of years old. As such, he has removed them from the uncertain speculation of amateur theorists. More importantly, Scott Wolter shows that they are pieces of a puzzle far greater than its individual parts. The bigger picture emerging with breathtaking credibility from his research reveals the surprising extent and depth of Norse impact on our continent long before Christopher Columbus was born. Their five-year investigation established that this document, long contested by conventional scholars, was a compilation of Norse voyages to and exploration of North America beginning after A. Frank Joseph is a veteran scuba diver and participant in hundreds of underwater expeditions around the world.