

8-15-05

SCOTT WOLTER

Scott:

I thoroughly enjoyed reading the Manuscript.

As I told you more than once, much of the geology and linguistic sections I only partially comprehend and do not pretend to understand all of the nuances and runic comparisons and relationships.

I have flagged a few places where I disagree or feel need clarifying or further explanation.

But you are familiar with my views on the inscription and I'll not inflict them on you here.

That was one delightful evening at the Wolters Sunday night. Most enjoyable and intellectually stimulating!

P.S. I have mislaid the SCANDALS chapter. You gave it to me separately and I read it apart from the rest of the Manuscript. So I shall have to deliver it to you on ~~another~~ day.

*Juss*  
*another*

Denmark then promptly invaded Gotland in 1361, in retaliation to Visby for being one of the two founders of the Hanseatic League. In July of that same year the Danish army landed near Öja Church in southern Gotland, tarried in the south for two weeks and reduced the defense towers there and at Flöjel Church on the way to its final battle outside the walls of Visby. A Latin inscription from those times says it all of the Danish Army, "they burn our farms, put our men to the sword, all is woe." Obviously the men responsible in Visby for setting up the Hanseatic League left the city before the Danes arrived outside the walls at the end of July three years later. Visby had been the center for the lucrative spice and fur trade from Novgorod (Nyrod = New city) in Russia. This city had been founded by the Gotlanders many centuries before and now the connection was lost. However, it appears that a new connection was made by these men.

The spice trade had been closed forever by the Mongol invasions of the 1200s, but now the furs from the New World opened up new vistas. It was well known that in 1289 Erik, the King of Norway, had sent Rolf to seek men in Iceland to go to a new land and that a Greenlandic ship from Markland had arrived with 18 men in Iceland in 1347 (Rasmus Anderson 1906). The tales of Leif Eriksson and Thorfinn Karlsefne had been circulated already by the Hauk's manuscript in the period 1299-1334, so the wealth that Karlsefne acquired by selling his cargo of timber and furs was well known. His widow Gudrud had even visited the Kings of Denmark and Norway, and traveled to Rome in the 1020's. The Church records of Adam of Bremen (and Lund was a daughter Cathedral of Bremen) stated that King Sven Estridson of Denmark had declared that "Vinland was a well-known place from the many people that have traveled there and come back." The special clams from New England found in the sand strata of Klagen off the northern tip Jutland show that ships from New England had anchored there in the 1200's and 1300's. In the other direction the European periwinkle was found in the medieval sand strata of Halifax harbor. Both the clams and the periwinkle can only travel attached to bottom of ships.

Additional evidence of travel to North America is found in newly discovered bills of lading from circa 1380-1420. These furs landed in London aboard Basque ships with beaver that were bailed in the Canadian fashion, as opposed to being packed in barrels from Russia. The Kensington party was just one of many to leave for the New World during the turmoil caused by the Danes taking of Visby. By this time the sturdy cogs of the Hanse were fit for transatlantic sailing.

Too speculative  
to tie to KR

between the pirates and the Order of Teutonic Knights. After landing in late 1403, the troops were forced to surrender in May 1404. In 1408 the Danes, had a 10-year stay to guard the interests of Visby for the Hansa, paid the Teutonic Knights to leave Gotland. Shortly after, King Erik of Sweden began to build a well-fortified castle in Visborg just outside the north wall of Visby. After King Erik's exile in 1336 he tried to use this castle as a base to reestablish himself on the Swedish throne. The Danes forced ex-King of Sweden, now Erik of Pommeren, to leave in 1449, and Gotland remained Danish until 1645 when it reverted to Sweden by treaty. This episode led to the carving of two of Gotland's outstanding grave slabs at Lye Church with G-99 and G-100 (see G-100 in the color section) that speak of a Jacob of Mannegrde killed by a canon ball from the Visborg castle.

It is the thesis of this book that among the eight Goths and 22 Norwegians of the Kensington Rune Stone party was a Cistercian cum Teutonic Knight who had knowledge of Latin, Old Swedish, the Gutnish dialect, and Middle Low German (as opposed to Luther's Middle High German translation of the Bible) spoken by the Hanseatic league in Visby, which is only seventeen kilometers northeast of Roma. This scenario explains the traces of Gutnish dialect words [**og** (and) for and **far(p)**] (journey), the Middle Low German-based forms **rise** (journey), **west** (west), and **10 man** (10 men), and the dotted umlauts (Ȳ, ȶ, Ȯ) on the Kensington Rune Stone.

When the Kensington Rune Stone was in Sweden in 2003 and 2004, we were aware of certain punch marks on the Kensington Rune Stone that had not been reported before. In December 2004, a catalog of these punch marks was prepared. The catalog showed four dotted R-runes and we were delighted to discover that these dotted R-runes were first discovered in the 1930's in Skåne and Småland. Furthermore, the palatal R rune, while extinct in mainland Scandinavia (except at Ukna Church in Småland in circa 1300), was alive and well in usage, if not always correctly, in Gotland until the mid-1300s.

*Others but  
no historical  
evidence!*

*The Kensington Rune Stone: Compelling New Evidence*

Eight months later on March 8, 1968, Dr. Carson had a telephone conversation with Russell Fridley who was then director of the Minnesota Historical Society. He relayed the information about the interview to Fridley, who suggested that the Minnesota Historical Society conduct its own interview with Walter. Eventually, the proper arrangements were made and Fridley interviewed Walter Gran with Dr. Paul Carson present on January 17, 1970. The interview took place at the Viking Motel in Alexandria, Minnesota on a very cold, -12°F day. Walter's recollections were relatively vague, and he usually answered questions with rambling narratives ~~that at times seemed to try Fridley's patience~~. As an alleged witness to such an important confession he came across as flippant and unreliable. Over the course of the interview he consistently referred to well-known stories about events that many believed were proof that the Stone was a hoax. He passionately discussed these stories as if they were accepted facts that supported his claims. At times it seemed like Walter was trying to convince himself that the story he was telling was true.

*Wrong*

Carson:                    It seemed to me when mother was up here, you told a story about Ohman and your father, at lunch time and Ohman was carving a piece of wood.

Walter:                    Yah, sure, yah, he was, they was having lunch, then he took his jack knife out and made a few little runic inscriptions on a board and then he held that up and he said, "Do you understand dis."

Fridley:                    And you saw this?

Walter:                    What?

Fridley:                    And, you saw that?

Walter:                    No, I didn't see that

Carson:                    No, this was your Dad.

Walter:                    Yah.

Carson:                    And did your Dad understand it?

Walter:                    Well, not then, he said he didn't and then he would laugh.... it would be fun, we'll fix them scripts that will bewilder the people. And they sure as hell did.

When Dr. Paul Carson interviewed his uncle Walter Gran on August 13, 1967, Mr. Gran said his father saw Ohman "Make a few little runic inscriptions." (Minnesota Historical Society)

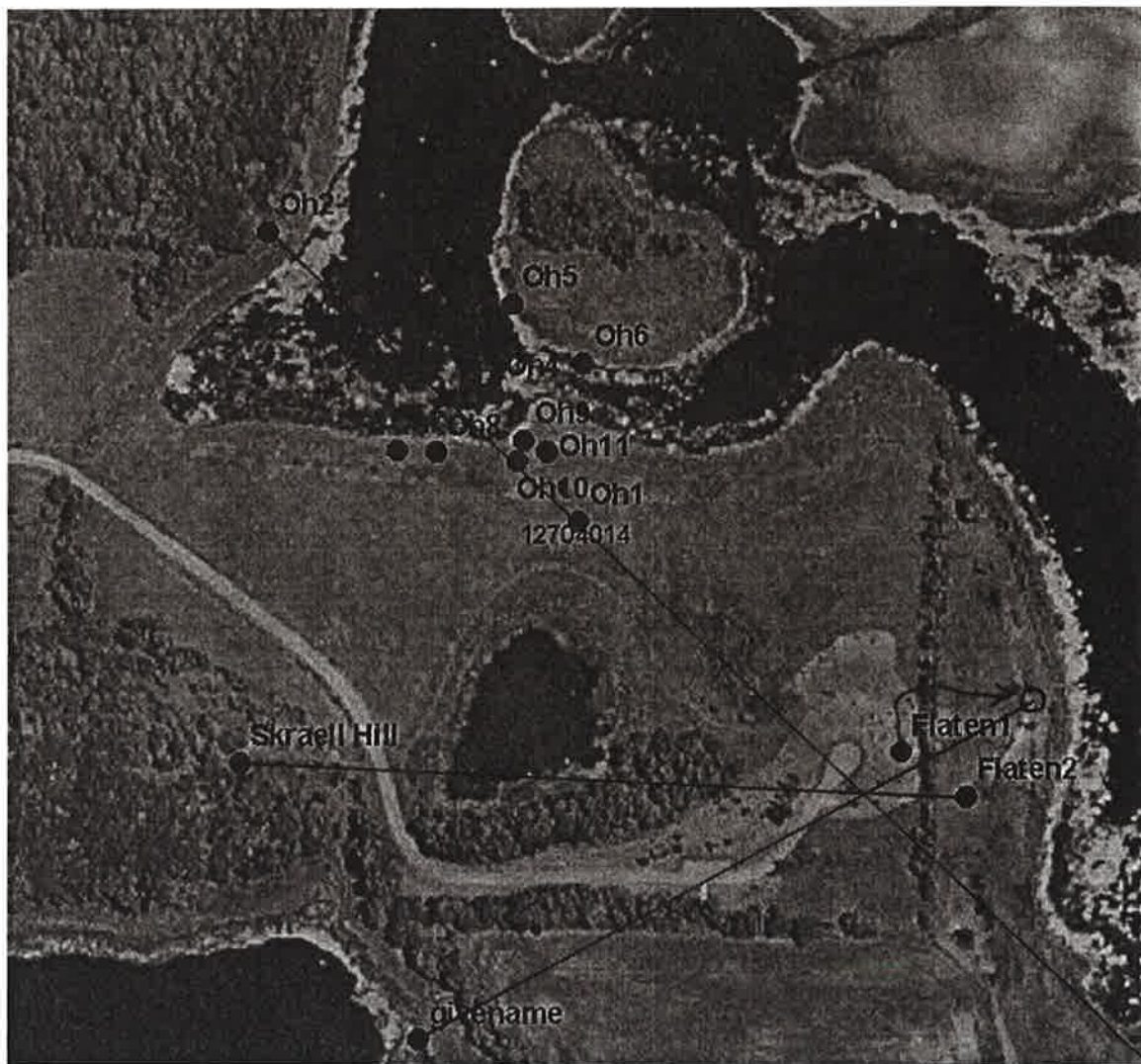


The La Vérendrye party buried a lead plaque at what is now Pierre, South Dakota that was discovered on February 16, 1913 (top and bottom left). They also placed another plaque that was discovered in 1906 near Pincher Creek at the foot of the Rocky Mountains in Alberta, Canada (top and bottom right). Both plaques have the date of March 30, 1743, carved on the back. The texts of the inscriptions are the same and were carved by the same individual. However, the inscriptions are *not* identical indicating that one cannot be a copy of the other and that both are likely genuine. (Photographs of the South Dakota plaque courtesy of the South Dakota Historical Society and the photographs of the Pincher Creek plaque courtesy of the Pincher Creek Echo newspaper, February 9, 1961)

The Ft. Pierre plaque found in 1913 was likely brought back by the party after being inscribed at Old Man River and buried or lost at a later date at Ft. Pierre. According to his journal, their father also presented a plaque at Ft Pierre to the Mandan Chief residing there in 1738. This plaque was not buried and to date has not been found. La Vérendrye's sons made another important discovery on their journey to the Rockies that would set in motion the mystery that finally appears to be solved.

Clarify which mystery? which stone?





This satellite photo shows the location of ten glacial boulders with triangular shaped holes in the vicinity of the Ohman Farm. Three lines can be drawn that intersect at the actual location where the Kensington Rune Stone was discovered. The Flaaten 1 boulder was moved to its present location when the park was developed in the early 1980's. The original position of this boulder was located using photographs taken in the 1941. The satellite map and location of stone holes are courtesy of Bruce Kunze and Judi Rudebusch.

Our theory of a land claim in the Kensington area is bolstered by the fact it is a unique location in North America since it is the apex of three-watershed system. The watersheds between the Mississippi, Great Lakes basin, and the Red River valley all converge near Kensington and this site would have served as a strategic outpost. In the early 1800's, this area was the best hunting grounds in all the plains and the various tribes shared this area that marked the border zone between the open plains and the dense woodland forests.

*Can you locate it with more precision?*

*How close is it?*

### *The Kensington Rune Stone: Compelling New Evidence*

her niece Roxanne were excited about the news of the letter and were willing to help out. Judi gave me the phone numbers and I told her I'd call them in a couple days.

I was pretty darn excited about the Sarsland developments, but I had also found something else interesting in Holvik's file during this time: two letters written to Holvik by a man with rather shaky handwriting, named Henry Hendrickson. Hendrickson was the former postmaster in Hoffman, Minnesota, who wrote some rather cryptic things about Olof Ohman to Holvik. I was already aware of Hendrickson from Blegen's book and turned my attention to getting to the bottom of his story. On September 16, 2004, I went back to the Minnesota Historical Society to try to find additional letters from Hendrickson in Holvik's file, which required looking through the papers from later papers to earlier, beginning with October, 1949. Sure enough, more letters from Hendrickson were there, including the three-page letter in which he relayed his story about Ohman, as well as his own hoax theory about the Rune Stone. Hendrickson's narrative reminded me of Walter Gran and his theories; both men were long on opinions, but painfully short on evidence.

Page one of a three-page undated letter written by Henry Hendrickson in 1949, contains comments he allegedly heard Olof Ohman make in 1890. (Minnesota Historical Society)

*In Regard to the Runestone*

*For J A Holvik*

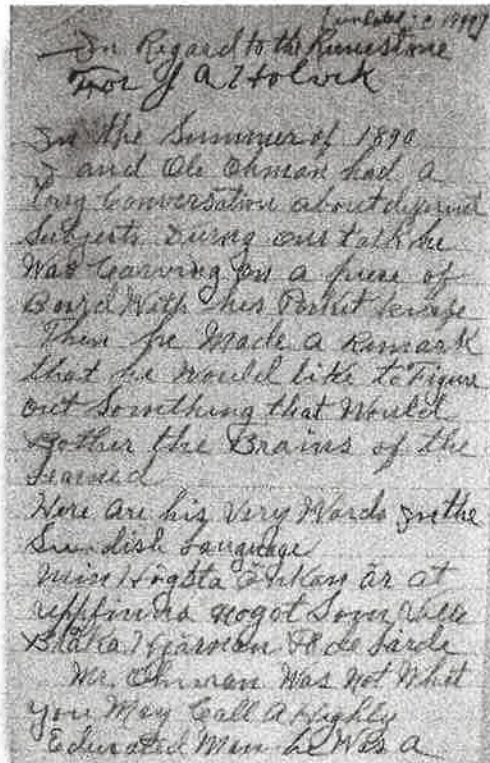
*In the summer of 1890 I and Ole Ohman had a long conversation about different subjects. During our talk he was carving on a piece of board with his pocket knife. Then he made a remark that he would like to figure out something that would bother the brains of the learned.*

*Here are his very words in the Swedish language: Min Högsta änkass är at reppfinna nogot sonr ville bråka hjärnan jo de järde.*

*Mr. Ohman was not what you may call a highly educated man he was a carpenter by trade but there was a man that was staying with him when he was visiting in the neighborhood around Kensington. His name was Sven Fogelblad he was a highly educated man he was a graduate of Uppsala college in Sweden and ordained a minister of the state church of Sweden but as he told me himself that he resigned from the church for the reason that he could not preach to people a doctrine that he did not believe himself (He was an atheist). They both liked to invent jokes Fogelblad could read and write different languages so he furnished the brains and Ohman done the work and I believe Fogelblad had books with the runic alphabet so they spelled the text out of those books.*

*It is about 65 miles between lake Cormorant and Ohman's place so that is a long one day walk as the story on the stone states as would take at least two days to walk that trip as Lake Cormorant is in Becker County.*

*H Hendrickson"*



*In Regard to the Runestone  
For J A Holvik*

*In the Summer of 1890  
I and Ole Ohman had a  
long conversation about different  
subjects. During our talk he  
was carving on a piece of  
board with his pocket knife.  
Then he made a remark  
that he would like to figure  
out something that would  
bother the brains of the  
learned.*

*Here are his very words in the  
Swedish language:  
Min Högsta Änkass är at  
reppfinna nogot sonr ville  
bråka hjärnan jo de järde.*

*Mr. Ohman was not what  
you may call a highly  
educated man he was a*

*I would say Hendrickson gives  
support to the Gran tapes.*



and James Smith

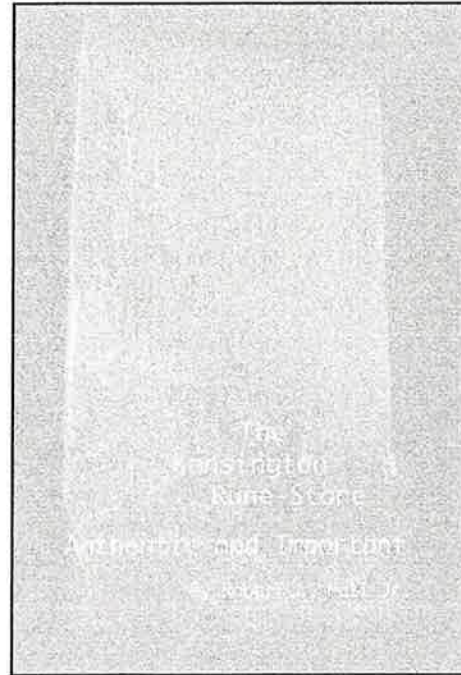
*The Kensington Rune Stone: Compelling New Evidence*

Summer – Rhoda Gilman, a retired staff member of the Minnesota Historical Society, wrote an article titled, “Vikings in Minnesota: A Controversial Legacy,” in the MHS publication *Roots*.

1994

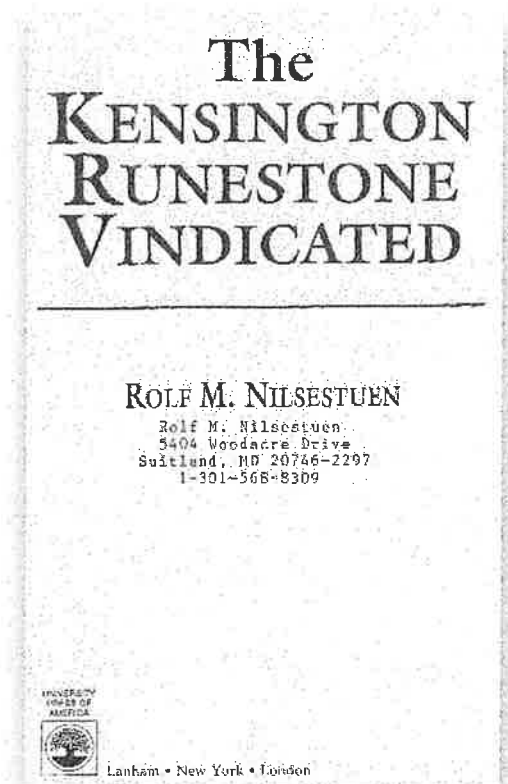
Hall, Robert A. Jr. published his second book about the Kensington Rune Stone entitled, *The Kensington Rune-Stone: Authentic and Important*.

Robert Hall Jr. published a book in 1994 that was favorable to the authenticity of the Kensington Rune Stone. Chapter 15 was dedicated solely to a categorical denouncement of the poor scholarship in Erik Wahlgren's 1958 book, which was highly critical of the Kensington Rune Stone.



Nilsestuen, Rolf, M. published a book about the Kensington Rune Stone called, *The Kensington Runestone Vindicated*.

Rolf Nilsestuen published a book in 1994 that was favorable to the authenticity of the Kensington Rune Stone. (Courtesy of University Press of America; Lanham, Maryland)





Russ Fridlay - met Holand in late 1950's  
John Bengtson - listened to lecture in Mpls. 8-14-05  
- stopped into MTHS late 1950's  
Alice Kehoe  
Darwin Ohman  
Scott Wolter

Holand to Blegen  
Debate between Holand & Blegen "Not a Poet"  
Blegen to Holand  
"You are a poet"

Sorsland

Experience

Scandals - Tried to be fair

"SKTI Skeptical"

1. Lack of Context - isolated occurrence, lack of documented evidence

2. Lack of Archeology Evidence - LaAnx Meadows -

3. Gran Tapes - three children all say they

3 sources

Darius - Geological Evidence  
Runes existing in Sweden

Alice Late 14th Century

"Hillforts" - Indian village clusters, enclosure for protection from raiding parties, something made them build these structures "Something Happened" Guy Gibbon

John - singular verbs in plural function, 1350, From Estonian Vowel Harmony - medieval root vowel influence end vowel