

Visit to the discovery site, a farm near Kensington, Minnesota.

a stone slab artifact.

Introduction

This report presents the results of an investigation into the geologic aspects of a ~~stone slab artifact~~ called the Kensington Rune Stone or (KRS). In addition to documenting the physical features of the stone, the geologic attributes were used to determine the age of the inscription. The investigation began on July 3, 2000, and included both field and laboratory work. Fieldwork consisted of a ~~site visit to where the stone was discovered on a farm near Kensington, in west-central Minnesota, in 1898,~~ and the collection of chip samples from tombstones in the Hallowell Cemetery in Hallowell, Maine in March of 2003. ^{We also do (with permission)} Permission to collect samples was obtained by the board of trustees for the Hallowell, Cemetery, with one of their board members assisting in the collection of samples. Laboratory analysis was performed at American Petrographic Services Inc. in St. Paul, Minnesota, and at the Materials Analysis and Research Laboratory at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. We also performed research into the history of the KRS at the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS). Where appropriate, portions of relevant documents are reproduced in this report.

Background Information

Not true

The KRS was discovered in November of 1898 by a Swedish immigrant farmer named ~~Olof Ohman~~. Mr. Ohman was grubbing trees on his farm near Kensington, Minnesota, when he unearthed the stone on November 8, 1898. According to interviews with several witnesses, including Mr. Ohman and his 10-year-old son Edward, the stone was tightly entangled in the roots of a tree when he pulled it out of the ground. The stone was ~~reportedly~~ found with the main inscription side facing down. Shortly after its discovery, the KRS was displayed for a short time in the bank in Kensington and was then shipped to the Northwestern University, near Chicago, Illinois, for study in March of 1899. ^{Dr.} Professor of German philology, George O. Curme, made one of the first translations. The stone contained a carved message ~~that was written using an Old Swedish language form called~~ runes. The message carved into the stone tells of the death of 10 people in party of 30 that originated from somewhere in Scandinavia. While at the University, the first known photographs were taken of the stone by John F. Steward, an amateur geologist. Professor Curme eventually concluded that the inscription was "ungenuine." Over the next few months, several other language experts pronounced the inscription a fake and in the summer of 1899 the stone was returned to the Ohman farm.

what bank told

The stone remained at the Ohman farm until Mr. Hjalmer Holand, a well educated historian, took possession of the stone in August of 1907. Mr. Holand performed a linguistic analysis of the inscription and proclaimed it genuine.

In August of 1908, Mr. Holand ^{skipped} gave the stone to the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul, Minnesota for study. The research was conducted under the control of the Museum Committee with field and laboratory work performed by the well-respected geologist/archaeologist, Professor Newton H. Winchell. Professor Winchell performed an extensive investigation into various aspects of the KRS which included: the physical characteristics of the stone and the inscription, a topographical analysis of the area where the stone was found, and how it was related to specifics referenced in the inscription and the archaeological aspects of the discovery.