



One of the houses being excavated at L'Anse au Meadow was built over Archaic fireplaces predating the Norse by about 4,000 years (the scattered stones on the right). The buildings surround a peat bog, which may once have been a lagoon. In the centre is a drain built by the archeologists.

In the next five years many other ships and men went looking for Franklin and his crew. They came from the Atlantic and from the Pacific, and together they almost proved that there was, indeed, a continuous stretch of sea across the top of the continent. (It was there but blocked by ice and impenetrable to their vessels.)

They found no trace of Franklin. Franklin had intended to sail south of Lancaster Sound, abreast or below Baffin Island. The Admiralty, for some odd reason, instructed the searchers to search only the sound itself.

Remnants of the Franklin party were finally found by Leopold M'Clintock. In the spring of 1859, he and his party came to Prince William Island, 400 miles south of Lancaster Sound, and found relics — seven or eight pairs of boots,

*Sewn birch bark containers, such as this one found in the L'Anse au Meadow bog, were used as net sinkers by the Norse.*



towels, soap, a sponge, a tooth brush, hair combs, nails, saws, powder, bullets, a small amount of tea, 40 pounds of chocolate and two human skeletons sitting in a boat, along with eleven large spoons, eleven forks and four teaspoons, all silver. Chocolate alone cannot sustain life in the Arctic; the party had starved to death.

Roald Amundsen, the greatest of the Arctic explorers, finally took a ship through a northwest passage in 1906, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police ship, *St. Roch*, under Captain Henry Larsen sailed from sea to shining sea, twice, between 1940 and 1944.

[THE TERRITORIES]

The ice that stopped the first explorers is still there, part of a great mass ten to twenty feet

*Inuit fishing in the high Arctic.*

