



as Cloudy House, Killer-Whale, and Thunder-Rolls-Upon-It.

At the northern end of a gravel beach are highly stylized mortuary poles that originally had grave boxes lashed near their tops. There are also memorial poles and house poles on the island, the first very tall, the second erected inside at the back or just inside the front entrances of beam-and-plank long houses.

L'Anse-Aux-Meadows

L'Anse-aux-Meadows is probably Vinland. It is, at any rate, the only authenticated site of a Norse Viking settlement in North America.

For years scholars assumed that the Vinland described in the sagas—where grapes grew wild and meadows were lush with grass—was at least as far south as Nova Scotia, possibly as far as Virginia. Some twenty-five years ago Helge Ingstad, a Norwegian, predicted in his book *Land Under the Pole Star* that Vinland would be found on the northern tip of Newfoundland. In 1960 he found the settlement at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, on Epaver Bay.

A fisherman led him and his wife, Dr. Anne Stine, an archeologist, to a meadow in which the foundations of ancient houses were barely visible. Ingstad was intuitively sure that the remains were Viking.

"It could be Eskimo, it could be Indians, it could be whalers or fishermen from after the time of Cabot," he would later tell a reporter. "But I had a very strong feeling that it was Norse. It was an instinctive feeling. I had been in Iceland and Greenland and Norway and seen how it was there. I thought that in exactly such a place, those Norse people would like to build their houses—close to the sea, where there are seals, with animals all around and wood and lots of grass."

The houses and artifacts were clearly of Norse origin, and carbon dating established that they were from around the year 1000, the proper time

for Leif Eriksson to have been there.

The visitor today will find grassy mounds, a foot or so high, marking the walls of eight houses. Inside each is a rectangle of stones, the ember pit in which live coals were kept at night. Next to each house is the outline of what was probably a work shed. Ingstad and his wife found what they believed were the remains of a sauna—brittle burnt stones—a hundred yards from the house, facing a small stream. Across the stream are the remains of a smithy, where they found chunks of bog iron which the Vikings smelted to make weapons and tools. A flat stone anvil is in the centre of the excavation and nearby are a kiln and the remains of four small boat houses. On the top of the hill to the south are four cairns which may have been used as sun dials.

L'Anse-aux-Meadows (which is a corruption of L'Anse-aux-Méduses, the bay of jelly fish) is difficult but not impossible to get to. Take the Trans-Canada Highway north to Deer Lake, then a gravel road up the west coast of Great Northern Peninsula to St. Anthony's. From St. Anthony's an unpaved road goes to within walking distance of the site. There is a very small village, of eleven families, nearby.

