

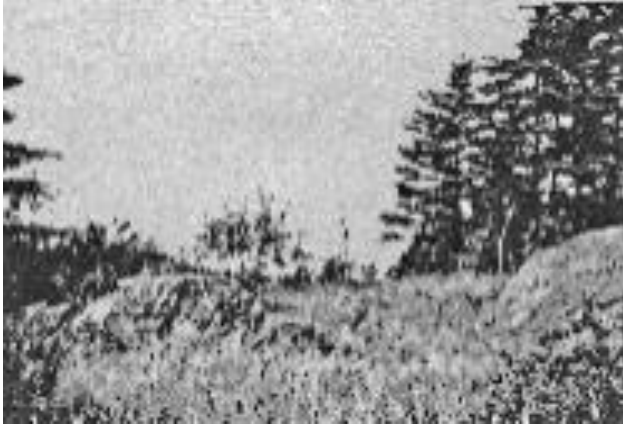
RUNIC STONE

FACT OR FICTION?



Discovery

- Dr. Richard Fletcher, a retired army surgeon, discovered the stone in 1812. The stone's official name is the "Fletcher Stone", named after Dr. Fletcher.
- The stone was found on a piece of land, between the head of



Yarmouth Harbour and the Cheggogin Flats. This piece of land was situated on Dr. Fletcher's property and would later be known as "Mrs. Fletcher's Landing". After its discovery, Dr. Fletcher had the stone moved closer to his home where it remained for the next 60 years.

Characteristics

- The stone measures 31' x 20' x 13' and weighs approximately 400 pounds.
- There are 13 unidentifiable markings on the top of the stone.

Theories and translations



- Leif Erikson, son of Eric the Red, was born in A.D. 975 in Iceland. He is suspected to have landed in Yarmouth County during his expedition for new land in the year 1000. He and his party set up camp approximately 7 miles from where the runic stone was found. They named this site "Markland" or "Wooded Land" (now Yarmouth) because of the large trees seen growing down the edge of the sandy beaches. The stone is said to be associated with Leif and translates to **"Leif to Eric Raises"**.
- Sir Daniel Wilson, in 1865, referred to the stone in his publication, "Prehistoric Man". Years later, in 1884, Henry Phillips, Jr. expanded on Sir Wilson's theory and proclaimed that the markings translated into **"Hako's son addressed the men"**. He identified Hako as being an explorer with the Karlsefni expedition of 1007.
- John Campbell, in his 1896 article "Ancient Literature of America", believed that the markings were written in old Japanese. Campbell

maintains that identical writings had been found in Siberia, Mongolia and Japan. This dialect could have traveled to Nova Scotia by the Choctaw, the Maskoki or the Chicasa tribes of North America. The old Japanese inscription reads, “*wabi deka Katurade bushi goku*”, translated to **“Katurade, the eminent warrior, has died in peace”**.

- Dr. Berry Fell of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, theorized in 1976 that the inscription could have been early Basque and reads **“Basque people have subdued this land”**.
- Elbert E. Esmiol theorized in 1974 that by using the royal Mycenaean alphabets the translation is **“Exalted Throne: The pure Lions of the royal household sent into the sunset to protect, to seize, and to make a hole in the mighty waters at the summit have been sacrificed – the whole corporate body”**.
- There are many more theories ranging from Hungarian to Siberian.



Hoax?

- There have been many people who've dismissed the stone as being a hoax some even claiming that Dr. Fletcher contrived it himself. Katherine Ladd, great granddaughter of Dr. Fletcher, was quoted as saying; *“It was always said in the family that he (Dr. Fletcher) did it as a joke.”*
- After careful examination, Yarmouth resident, K.G.T. Webster, arrived at the unwilling conclusion: *“that we must of necessity decide that it was made by the later English, either for amusement or for fraudulent purposes”*.
- Professor Magnus Olson and Dr. Liestol of the Norsk Polar Institute, both from Norway, concluded that the stone's markings were not Runes and suggested that they were the result of natural agencies.