

CARMANVILLE



When doing online research prior to my trip to Newfoundland in the summer 2015 I came across the website www.vinlandvoyager.com and got in touch with the author Peggy Fredrickson. On the website Peggy gives sailing directions to the different sites which in her view belong to Vinland (note the present tense), and it was the first time I heard Fogo Island and Carmanville being mentioned in that context. I had assumed Peggy was a local from that area but I learned she was from Massachusetts instead and had undertaken her sailing trips to Newfoundland quite some time ago. Sending me her essay *My Vinland Saga*, Peggy introduced me to the full story behind her interest in Vinland. When I was planning my field studies I decided that I would visit the central spot of her narrative, the place she had identified as *Leifsbudir*, Leif Eiriksson's camp, lying near today's Carmanville. Fogo Island has an exposed location such that you can hardly avoid it when sailing south from the Northern Peninsula (at the tip of which lies L'Anse aux Meadows). Peggy's idea based on the saga descriptions and further personal research is that after getting ashore on Fogo Island, Leif Eiriksson then continued sailing up Carmanville Arm and into a lake in the wetlands at its upper end to build his camp. The wetlands are a Nature Reserve today, and after I had found the rather badly signposted entry to the trail system, I took an extended tour around the lake and through the adjacent marshes and woods. The place has a special, somehow enchanted aura which was

enhanced by the fact that I didn't meet a single soul during my walk.

Today the lake and the bay are connected by a culvert under the street. But even when considering that this connection might have been wider before the street was built, it is very shallow as is the upper end of the rather rocky bay even at high tides. To me it was difficult to imagine entering the lake from the bay with a ship of the size of a knarr, the ship type used by the Norse for their cross-atlantic voyages.

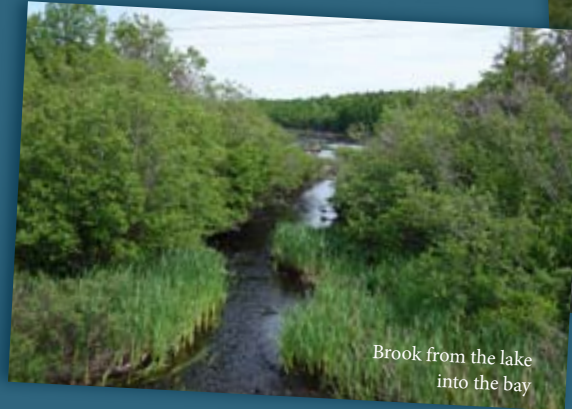
On my way back to Fogo Island where I had my own base camp at the time, I passed through Main Point where I found a scenario which very much looked like the one described in the sagas as well: a small lake with sandy shores can be accessed at high tides through a river mouth...

*"I am convinced that Leif Eiriksson made his camp in central Newfoundland and the other five Vinland Saga sites can be located in Newfoundland. It took me over 20 years to go from wondering where Leif really did land to actually seeing the site where I think he made his camp. I have now seen each of the places that I picture as a Vinland Saga Site. Visiting them has been a great adventure for me. I have met interesting and pleasant people and seen scenery unlike anything in Massachusetts. It has been fun solving my Vinland Saga Sites Puzzle." (Peggy Fredrickson in her essay *My Vinland Saga*, bottom rear: cover of a paper in which Peggy published the conclusions of her research, 2004)*





Upper end of Carmanville Bay



Brook from the lake into the bay



Culvert connecting Carmanville Bay with the lake





Margaret Fredrickson is a retired mom, church worker, math and science teacher, day care administrator, solar heating technician and community television coordinator. She has arrived at her theories about Norse sites in Newfoundland by mathematical logic. Contributing to the decisions were her studies in astronomy, earth sciences, solar heating design, her experiences in small boat sailing, a collection of maps and navigational charts, extensive reading of theories about Vinland and of books about Norse life at the first millennium.

For several years she and her late husband Paul were active in the Sons of Norway Norebega Lodge #3-506. He was president and she was cultural director. In 1995 they participated in on a Pan Scandinavian Committee to plan the Boston celebration *Finland Revisited* celebration of welcome for those Viking Ship replicas that had voyaged from Greenland to Newfoundland, and down the East Coast of the United States.

Since coming to her conclusions about the Norse sites in Newfoundland, Ms. Fredrickson has traveled to Newfoundland three times to visit sites and confirm the reliability and reasonableness of her conclusions.



Norse Saga Sites In Newfoundland

By
Margaret Fredrickson

Suggests
That the settlement at
L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site
Was used for ship repair
By Norseman Thorvald Eriksson

