

to settle there, if the country had a good name. He staid three years in Greenland, and went back to Iceland the fourth summer, staying the next winter at Holmlatur, in the district of Skogarstrond, inducing people to accompany him back to Greenland and settle that country. So favorable impression did he make regarding that country, that the coming spring the Icelanders fitted out twenty-five emigrant ships and set sail for Greenland, from Breidalfjord and Borgarfjord that summer, but fourteen only reached their destination. Some drifted back to Iceland, several were never heard from.

This appears to have taken place in the year 986, as Ari the Wise says that it was fourteen or fifteen years before the establishment of Christianity in Iceland in the year 1000, but the annals claim that it happened either in the year 987 or 988.

Eirik took up land in Eirik's Fjord, about the middle of the Western Colony in Greenland, and built an estate called Brattahlid. He had three sons, Thorstein, Thorvald and Leif, the last of whom has become famous through his connection with his discovery of Vinland.

Among those who went with Eirik the Red from Iceland to Greenland in 986 was a man whose name was Herjulf Bardarson. His grandfather Herjulf was a cousin to Ingolf Arndrson, the first permanent settler of Iceland. Before going to Greenland Herjulf lived at a place called Eyraðakki, which is at this time one of the most important commercial towns in Iceland. He had a son named Bjarni, who at the time of his father's departure from Iceland was in Norway. Not knowing that his father had left till he came to Eyraðakki the next summer, he without unloading, or anything, set sail for Greenland. After three day's sailing, he was out of sight of land, and being caught in a north-east gale accompanied with a dense fog, was driven by the wind in it for many days without knowing whither (see note 2) till finally they came to a land which was level, and covered by timber. Bjarni knowing that was not Greenland "as there is no timber there," they set to sea again, leaving the land to the port side. After two day's sail, they came to another land which was also flat and covered with forest. Knowing that this could not be Greenland, they set to sea and sailed in a stiff south-western wind. After three day's sail they came under still another bend which was mountainous with glaciers, but Bjarni said that was not Greenland and would not land.

Setting to sea once more they sailed in a heavy gale from the south-west, for four days, before they reached Herjulfness in Greenland. The general opinion about Bjarni's discoveries was not to his credit. This not acquiring any practical information concerning these lands, was regarded as an unexampled neglect on his part.

In the year 1000, Olaf Trygvason, king of Norway, was in the height of his power. Leif, the son of Eirik the Red, was with King Olaf at that time. Leif was born at the estate Eirikstad, Dalasysla, Iceland, and had while still very young, gone with his parents to Greenland. Having embraced the Christian faith in Norway, and being a zealous Christian, he at the command of King Olaf left Norway in the spring, to go to Greenland, for the purpose of

Christianizing that country. (See note 3.) But due to stormy weather he lost his course, and came to some unknown land, where he found wheat fields, and grape-vines growing as also trees called "Mocsur," a specimen of all of which they took with them. (See note 4.) On their voyage Leif also found some men on a wreck out in the open sea, whom he saved. This was regarded such an excellent omen that he was afterwards known as Leifur Heppni, Leif the Lucky. Reaching Eiriks Fyrth in Greenland the next fall, he remained with his father through the winter, working faithfully in the cause of Christianity, which resulted in the conversion, and baptism of many people in that country during that season. Hauksbok, and another old vellum tell about this trip, but Flateyrbok, *Codex Flateoensis* does not, but says that the rescuing of the men took place a year later.

By this time there had been a change of rulers in Norway. King Olaf Trygvason had been killed in the battle of Swolder in the Baltic the year before. Earl Eirik Hakonson having become the ruler of Norway, Bjarni Herjulfson, who had become one of the earl's body-guard returned to Greenland early in the summer A. D. 1001. After his arrival at Brattahlid there was a good deal talked about those lands he had seen. Leif Erikson thinking it unmanly not to find out some more about them, fitted out his ship, manning her with thirty-five young men beside himself, and went in search of those much talked of lands, setting to sea late in the summer, finding first the land Bjarni had seen last. "Inland," the annals say, "there were great glaciers, the land between them and the sea having the appearance of one solid flat rock." Exploring the land somewhat they called it Hellarland, "the land of flat rock", which—without absolute certainty—is generally regarded as Newfoundland.

Setting to sea again they soon found another land, "which land was vastly covered by dense forests, with glades of white sands here and there, and level clear down to the beach," to which they gave the name of Markland, "a land of forest." This is thought to have been what is now called Nova Scotia. Having explored this land to some extent they set sail once more and sailing for a heavy northeastern gale after two days' sail came within sight of land, landing in an island which lay north from the mainland. Reaching the summit of this island in fine and clear weather, they took a good view of the surroundings. Northward from the mainland a ness extended into the sea, west of which the water was shallow. Further inland there was a lake from which a river emptied into the sea. Getting the ship onto the lake, and crossing it they built a large house near to its edge. Salmon was there plentiful and much larger than they had seen before. (See note 5.) "The climate and country were excellent. Frosts were light, and grass plenty all the year round, so stock did not need any hay in the winter season. The days were much longer in the winter than in Iceland or Greenland." There they found wild grapes, which they gathered in large quantities, as it is said that when they went back to Greenland the next spring (1002) the ship's boat was full of grapes, and they called the land Vinland, "Wineland."

There has been some dispute since the days of Arngrim the Learned (†1648) how far south Leif Erikson and his party went. But it is now regarded as settled that it could not have been farther north than 49°, but rather that it must have been a good deal farther south, but I am positively sure that it must have been greatly farther south, but how much can not be satisfactorily determined.

This trip of Leif Erikson's has been regarded as the first real discovery of the western hemisphere, as he was the first man to build houses there and give names to different portions of the land. On his return he was held in great esteem, and regarded as the foremost man in that community, causing him to gain wealth and influence on every hand.

The next winter after Leif's return from Vinland his father Eirik died, leaving all his estates to his favorite son Leif. How long Leif Erikson was the master of the estate Brattahlid in Greenland, is not positively known, but by all indications, it appears most probable that he dwelt there till his death, which took place some time between 1021 and 1026; for in the latter year his son Thorkell is master there, and his honored guest during the winter of 1026-27 is King Saint Olaf's favorite poet and courtier, Thormod Kolbrunarskald. But whether Sokki Thorirson, who was there in 1124, and his sons Einar and Orm have been Leif's descendants, is not known. Leif is described to have been large of stature, stately in deportment, a wise and good man, unpretending, and moderate in all things, having taken after his mother's kinsmen, who were noted as men of learning, justice and refinement. It is nowhere recorded that Leif has destroyed any human life, a somewhat uncommon case with men of power and influence of that age.

A brief review having been taken of the first discoveries on the western hemisphere, and the causes that led to it, the next thing is to give a short account of the travels of the Icelanders to Vinland from the time of its discovery by Leif Erikson. Thorvald Erikson, Leif's brother, considering that the country had not been sufficiently explored, went from Greenland to Vinland in the fall of 1002. He came to Leif's booths, and remained there till he was killed by the natives in the year 1004. His companions returned to Greenland and related the sad fate of their master. The next year (1005) his brother Thorstein Erikson fitted out a ship and manned her, intending to go to Vinland for the sole purpose of taking his brother's body to Greenland and bury him beside their father and mother; but being caught in a heavy southern gale accompanied by a snowstorm, he was wrecked and died on the coast of Greenland.

In the year 1007 Thorfinn Thordarson—better known as Thorfinn Karlsefni—having married Thorvald Erikson's widow, Gudrid, went to Vinland for the purpose of colonizing it, accompanied by 65 people. They came to Leif's booths, explored the country extensively, trading and bartering with the natives and dwelt there till 1011. Here in the year 1008, Snorri, the son of Thorfinn and Gudrid, was born, from whom many people in Iceland has sprung. In 1012 Freydis Eriksdotter, Leif's sister, together with two brothers,