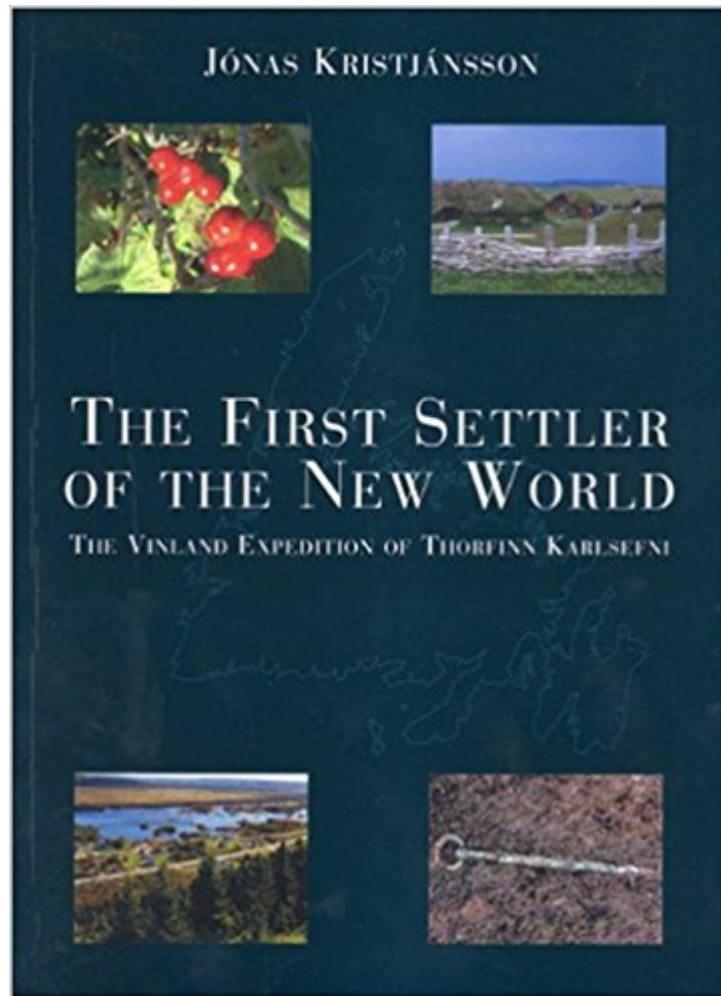




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The First Settler Of The New World



Synopsis

This study discusses the expedition made by Thorfinn Karlsefni to Vinland the Good. Karlsefni sailed there from Greenland along with his wife Gudrid and a fine company of men. They brought along all sorts of livestock, having originally planned to settle in the new land. Karlsefni stayed for three years in Vinland, but was forced to leave due to the hostility of the natives there as well as infighting among his men. He and his wife returned to his native region of Skagafjörður in Iceland and lived the remainder of their days as respected farmers. The present study is based on a new appraisal of older sources, in particular the Saga of Eirík the Red, also called the Saga of Thorfinn Karlsefni. In the opinion of the author, Jonas Kristjánsson, this saga, written in the 13th century, is not only the most detailed but also the most trustworthy source concerning the voyages of Thorfinn Karlsefni.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Axe of Iron: The Settlers Kristjánsson's well-written book is about the expedition of the Icelander, Thorfinn Karlsefni to North America. The author refers to Karlsefni's destination as Vinland, certainly in keeping with the hypothesis posed by the two sagas that he quotes; however, the exact location of Vinland is unknown to the present day. The two quoted sagas are in occasional agreement on Karlsefni's expedition to Vinland but they were written 200-300 years after the fact and many contemporary sources place little credence in their veracity, although they are the only source on the subject. He makes mention of the World Heritage site at L'Anse aux Meadows, inferring that Karlsefni never landed there. All that said, the author does a good job of stating his case and adding

his opinion to the plethora of opinions on the subject of Norse involvement in North America. He draws no conclusions after several trips to Newfoundland in search of other Norse sites, nor does he offer anything new. The book is 53-pages in total, with a Table of Contents and sources Bibliography. It takes but a short time to read and is entertaining and well written as I've stated.

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