

# Building a Secure Burial

*(A committee is being formed on how to proceed on this discovery)*

“Mr. Olof Ohman told me that about in his farm in several places, in the woods, are **"mounds"** in groups, **the largest he has noticed being about six-foot-high**, with smaller ones round about.”

*Newton H. Winchell 1909*  
Minnesota State Geologist

**There was a medieval Scandinavian Christian tradition of building a burial mound when a church cemetery was not available.**



Icelandic Christian burial mound from the 1200s.  
with a memorial stone.

# A Scandinavian Traditions of Burial Mounds

Earthen Burial Mounds are a centuries-old tradition that is found on the Scandinavian landscape. The Expedition's members would be familiar with this burial tradition and could easily build one.

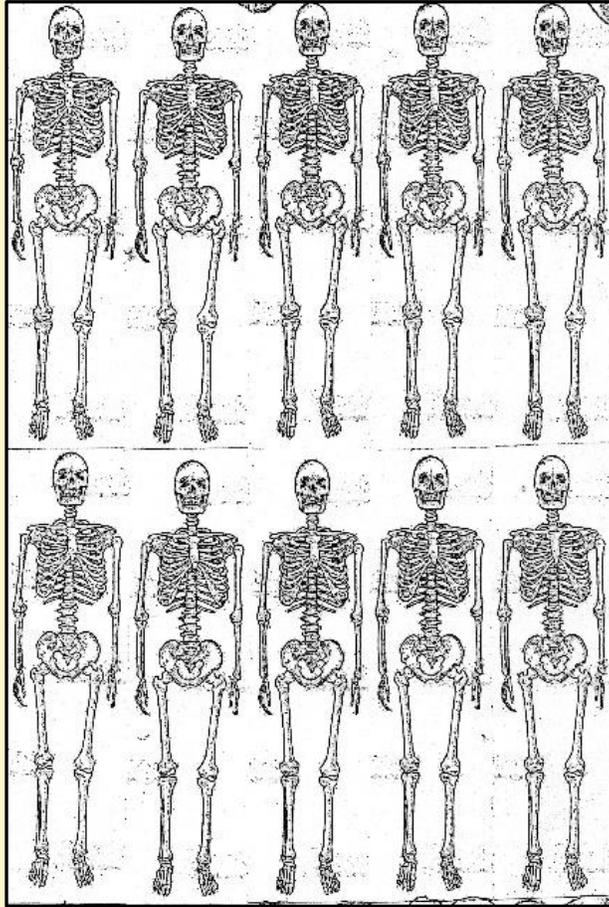


# A Scandinavian Tradition of Burial Cairns

The building of burial cairns out of rocks and boulders is a centuries-old Scandinavian tradition. Tens of thousands are known to exist in Sweden alone, dating from pagan to early Christian times. The Expedition's members would be familiar with this tradition and could easily build one out of the abundant rocks and boulders on the Minnesota landscape.



To build this burial mound/cairn for their 10 martyred comrades, they would have to cover a burial area of about 9 ft. x 11 ft. (average medieval male height was 5 feet 6 inches).

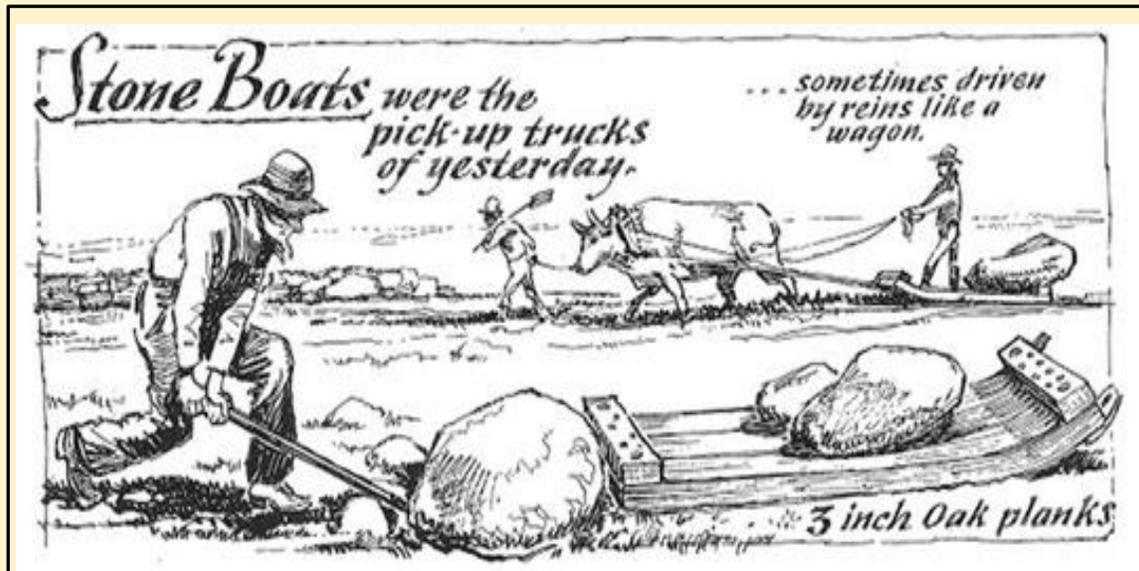


**Burial Area of 9 Feet x 11 Feet**

The Martyrs were then buried a foot or a little more below the surface and then covered with earth to ground level. The Mound/Cairn probably originally was about 8 feet high, then over the centuries flattened and spread out to a height of 6 feet. (**six-foot-high**)

*(The landowner told me this part of the field has not been plowed for years. Then only to a depth of 6 inches. So probably that would not have disturbed the burial.)*

Then the boulders that are abundantly found in the area would be pulled to the burial site using muscle power and a “**Stone Boat**”. The large size of many of the boulders found in the woods could not have been brought to the burial site unless a Stone Boat was used. The Expedition had metal tools to build a Stone Boat, that were used in Europe but unknown in the Western Hemisphere.

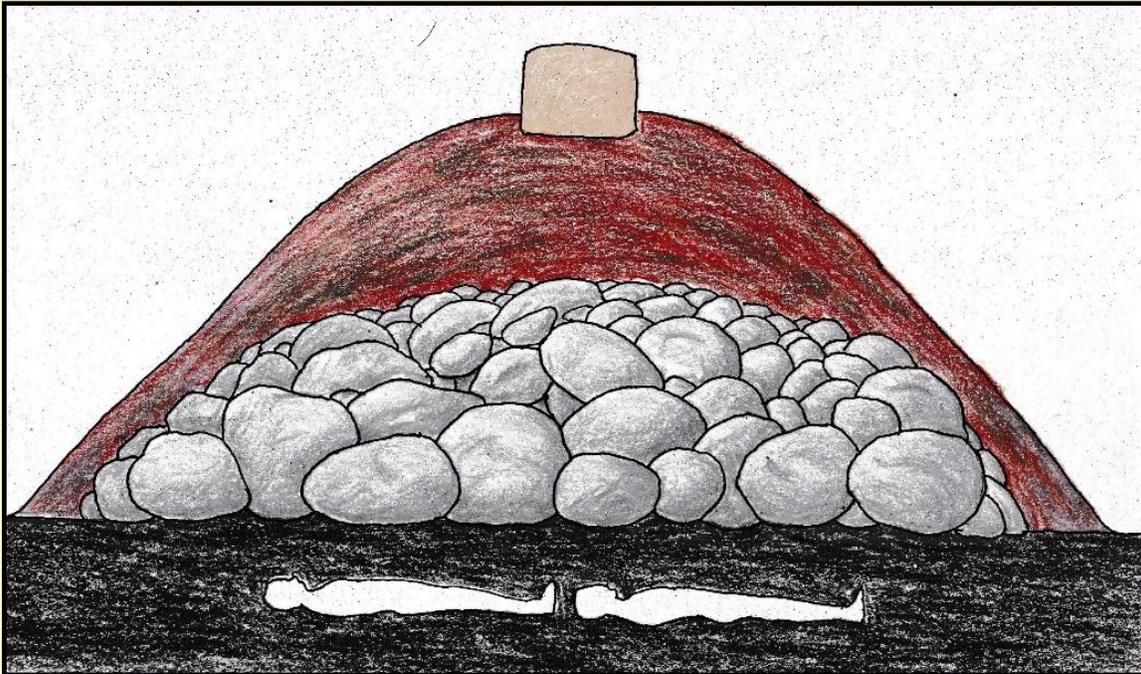


My guess from the number of rocks and boulders found in the woods (Essay: [Why are so Many Boulders Found in the Woods?](#)) they would have been enough to stake upon the burial to a height of 4 to 5 feet; this now would be called a Burial Cairn. Then covered with earth to a height of 8 feet. It is more efficient to obtain this additional height with baskets of earth than to lift a 400-pound boulder to 8 feet. This height offered added security, and I think it would be enough to cover the 9 ft. x 11 ft. burial. Probably a monument stone inscribed in Latin was placed on top. Now this Mound/Carin served as a physical monument to their martyred comrades. Over the centuries the Mound/Carin would settle down and spread out to a height of 6 feet. (**mound ... about six-foot-high**) Also would be overgrown with brush and trees, as seen in 1951 aerial photo.

It is certain that some of the 10 buried martyred comrades were interred wearing woven clothing and metal objects such as religious medallions and crosses. These items would be of great value to the Indians. The Expedition's members would have concerns that after they leave this area, the martyr's burial would be desecrated and looted. A Mound/Cairn that was 8 feet high covering the burial would make their martyred comrades' final resting place secure.

It would have been economical for the Expedition to trade strings of glass beads or metal objects for Indian muscle power to construct this burial mound/cairn, as well as the cairn where the Kensington Runestone was placed.

# Mound/Cairn Burial Site in 1362



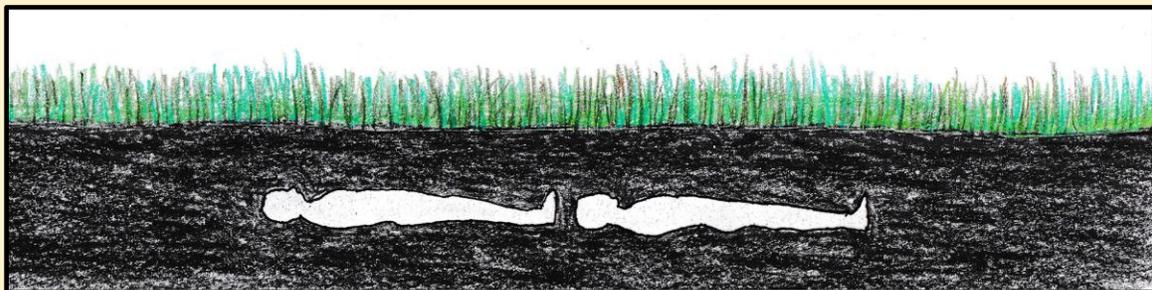
8-Foot High Mound/Cairn - Martyrs 5'- 6" (Drawn to Scale)

# Mound/Cairn Burial Site in 1951



Over the centuries the earth part of the Mound/Cairn settled down to a height of 6 feet and spread out (**mound ... about six-foot-high**). Now covered with Trees, Brush and Vegetation as seen in the 1951 aerial photo.

# Mound/Cairn Burial Site TODAY



This is private property and posted "No Trespassing." The landowner utilizes their property for hunting and firearm activities. Permission must be obtained each time you enter the property.

# Another Cairn with Rocks & Boulders in the Woods

*See the Essay:*

## The Kensington Runestone Was Meant to Be Seen

