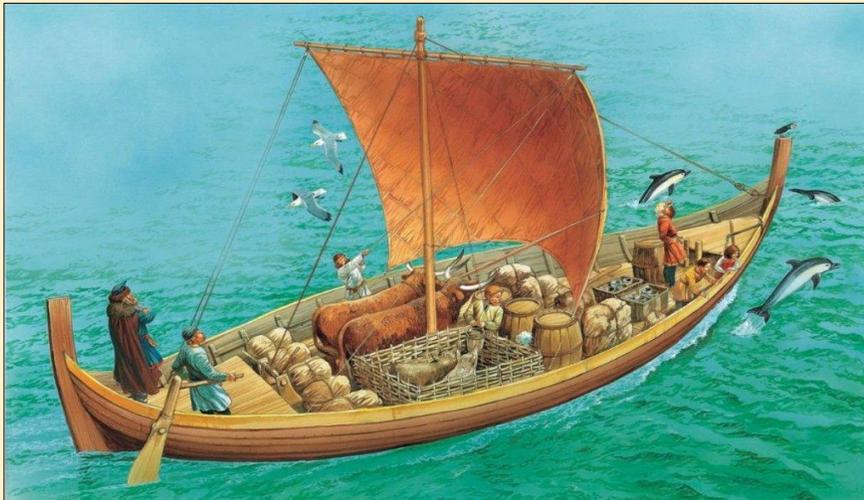


# No Vikings

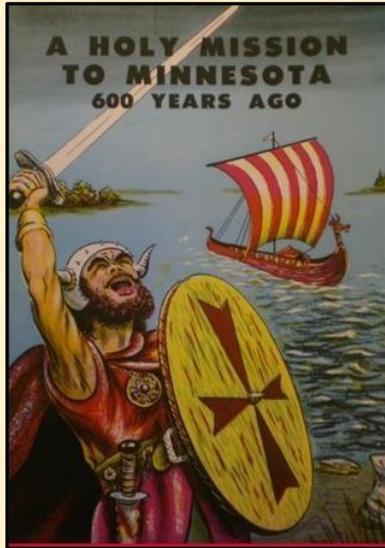
You will not see the words or images of "**Vikings**" used in any of my essays other than this one. The pagan Viking age came to an end in about 1066, three hundred years before the 1362 Expedition of Medieval Christian Scandinavians left the Kensington Runestone. Vikings have nothing to do with the discovery of North America. Leif Erickson, the discoverer of North America in about the year 1000, was a pagan but his wife was a Christian. He sailed a Knarr, a non-descript merchant ship. The myth of armored pagan Viking warriors with swords and shields in hand, horned helmet, dragon headed warships, and looking to battle the savage Indians for this New World never happened.



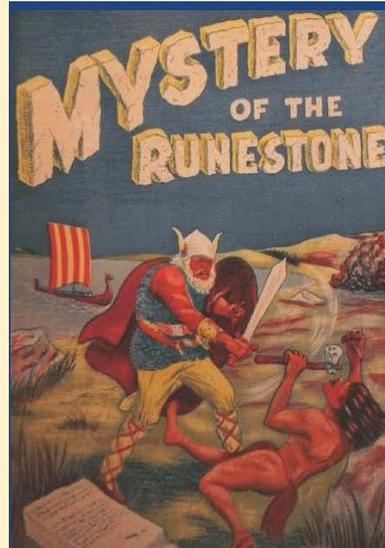
**Knarr Merchant Ship**



**This Never Happened**



This Never Happened



This Never Happened

## The Medieval Scandinavian world of 1362 looked more like this painting



**Valdemar IV of Demark holding the Swedish city of Visby for ransom in 1361.**  
(Swedish historical painter Carl Gustaf Hellqvist (1851–1890))



*(Photo by Celeste Edenloff)*

## Big Ole

Admittedly the word “**Viking**” does work here in Minnesota, such as the 28-foot statue of the Viking “**Big Ole**” in Alexandria. A 28-foot statue of a Medieval 14<sup>th</sup>-century Scandinavian priest would not be a great tourist draw. Also, the **Green Bay Packers** playing the **Minnesota Medieval Scandinavian** does not work.