

What Was Runestone Hill?

PENINSULA or Island

2009 Translation by Nielsen/Williams

1. **8 GÖTALANDERS AND 22 NORTHMAN ON**
2. **ACQUISITION JOURNEY FROM**
3. **VINLAND FAR TO THE WEST. WE**
4. **HAD A CAMP BY 2 HUTS ONE**
5. **DAY'S JOURNEY NORTH FROM THIS STONE.**
6. **WE WERE OUT FISHING ONE DAY. AFTER**
7. **WE CAME HOME WE FOUND 10 MEN RED**
8. **FROM BLOOD AND DEATH. AVE VIRGO MARIA**
9. **SAVE FROM EVIL**
10. **THERE ARE 10 MEN BY THE INLAND SEA TO LOOK**
11. **AFTER OUR SHIPS 14 DAY'S JOURNEY**
12. **FROM THIS [PENINSULA or ISLAND] YEAR 1362**

FROM THIS [PENINSULA or ISLAND]

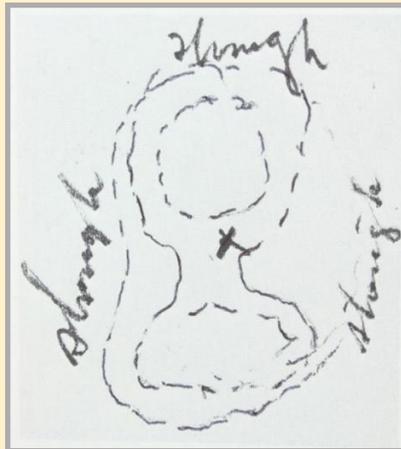
The original land survey of 1866 indicates Runestone Hill was a prairie. Other early land surveys and topographic maps show Runestone Hill was surrounded by wetland and water on several sides. In the 20th century the landscape was altered greatly, some of the surrounding wetlands were drained to be converted into farmland and a dam was built, making the wetland on the northside of Runestone Hill into a lake.



Topographical Map was published in 1962. The elevation contour lines are from an earlier 1929 topographical survey. The wetlands are colorized blue for clarity. In 1362 the wetlands (sloughs) were probably a shallow lake.



In 1909 & 1910, Minnesota State Geologist Newton H. Winchell (*Wikipedia; Newton H. Winchell*) at the request of the Minnesota Historical Society, made three trips to examine the Kensington Runestone and the discovery site. In his field notes (lost in the archives until found in 1968), he penciled in a simple map of the discovery site. On three-sides of Runestone Hill, he had written “**slough**” (wetland), confirming that Runestone Hill was a **PENINSULA**.



Winchell’s 1909 field notes with “**slough**” written on three-sides of Runestone Hill and “**X**” showing the Kensington Runestone discovery site.



Runestone Hill in 1999 (*Douglas County Parks*)

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