

WHO CAME BEFORE COLUMBUS?†

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Evidence of several kinds is adduced to show that people from Europe or the Near East have come to the Americas long before the time of Columbus. The knowledge that such things have happened may help in understanding how men spread throughout the world after the Flood, or after the dispersion from Babel. At the same time, the information found may throw light onto some puzzling aspects of the archaeology of the Americas.

The thesis maintained in this article is that there have been contacts between Europe and the Near East and the Western Hemisphere much before 1492, and before the Vikings who came around 1000 or so. Probably such contacts occurred at least as early as 2000 B. C. The evidence is found partly in artifacts, partly in legends and records, and partly in the resemblance of some natives of the Americas to Europeans.

This matter may be of interest to creationists in at least three ways. First of all, since all truth is one, in a sense, it often turns out that knowledge of the truth about one thing may help in the understanding of something which seems at first wholly unrelated. In the second place, creationists who believe in a universal Flood and in a young Earth have to consider the problem, how the Earth was re-populated quickly after the Flood. The dispersion from Babel no doubt played an important part. The times of interest here go back almost to Babel, according to many chronologies; and the fact that people went from the Eastern to the Western Hemisphere long ago may make it more plausible that they did so even at the time of the dispersion.

Finally, the information presented here may help to throw some light on the interpretation of the table of nations in Genesis Chapters 10 and 11.

White Indians in the Literature

Some literature will be cited, to show that there have been, and still are, natives of the Americas who look much like Europeans. First about the Beothucks of Newfoundland:

The dead husband of Mary March was six feet seven and a half inches.

Jacobus Bastaldus writeth of the inhabitants (of Newfoundland) thus: "They are whyte people and very rustic."

I was led to conclude them fairer than the generality of Indian complexion.

Mary March had: "... hair much like that of a European ..." "... she was a tall fine figure and standing nearly six feet high ..." Compared with the Micmacs they had "... more regular features with slightly aquiline noses, not so broad featured, and much lighter in complexion."¹

Nearly everywhere, however, there existed the tradition of a superior white race who had brought

an ancient culture and erected the great monuments. The well preserved Peruvian tradition was that the stone structures at Quinoa and Huaytara had been built by "bearded white men" with iron tools. Like much of its culture, the white race itself had disappeared, lost in the flood of the "darker peoples".²

Women as fair as English milkmaids were found in Central America. Along the northwest coast dwell numerous tribes which according to accounts must be widely distinguished from the Indians of the interior. The Tlinklet or Koloshian family, consisting of several tribes, are represented as lighter colored than any other North American aborigines ... indeed ... having as fair a complexion ... as some inhabitants of Europe; and this feature, accompanied sometimes with auburn hair, has been considered as indicating an origin different from that of the copper-colored tribes.³

The girls ... gathered around me ... I tried to talk to them in Spanish ... English ... Their inability to talk any of my languages did not seem to shake their confidence in me. I examined their skin closely to make sure it was not colored artificially. It was not. ... their golden hair ... was of a much finer texture than the coarse hair of the other Indians. Their eyes were hazel or bluish-brown. White Indians? ... these were certainly Indians. And they were most certainly white. They were not albinos ... My three little girls looked like healthy Norwegians ... Neither were they ... half-breed offspring ... these ... were invariably dark.⁴

But the discovery of huge stone wheels amid ruins may be the answer. One such wheel was found by Dr. Bennett ... and, on my first visit to Tiahuanaco, I discovered two more. One was almost completely buried under the masses of tumble-down stones at the Tuncu-Puncu while the other was hidden under small rock fragments and sand just outside the ruins. These wheels are seven feet in diameter, about sixteen inches in thickness, and have square holes in the center.⁵

In Mexico there is a very ancient Aztec tradition which says "the first settlers in Mexico were a white race". The tradition continues, saying, "this white race was conquered by a race with darker skins, and the darker skinned race drove the white race from the land".⁶

Both older observations and recent studies have singularly corroborated the natives' tradition regarding Quetzalcoatl's white colony. Bancroft relates ... how the women of Jalisco found great favor ... Father Torquemada ... was shown one ... that might be considered a miracle of beauty; ... she looked like an English milk-maid, says a

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†Drawings in this article, as well as the one on the front cover, were drawn by Soren Jensen, Danish-born artist who lives in Lyndhurst, Ontario, Canada. See information about the cover illustration on the inside front cover.

more recent author . . . these flattering notices he extended to the people of that country in general. Another racial feature . . . was found by Ovicdo in Nicaragua, on a man of about seventy years of age, who, namely, had a long, flowing white beard.⁷

The literature quoted above is but a small sample of the thousands of references extant which clearly show a constant flow of settlers to the west from the eastern Mediterranean, Britain, Scandinavia, and continental Europe, from 2000 B. C. (or even earlier) to 1492 A. D.

I feel that there has been a great deal of suppression of the true history of the Americas, by members in good standing of what I have labeled, in a previous work,⁸ "A. W. L." or "Academic Wonder Land". However, I hasten to add that not all academics are guilty of suppressing knowledge. The situation is only too familiar to creationists: once a dogma is established in any study, it is difficult, not only to have the dogma revised, but even to get a hearing for evidence which shows the need of revision.

Naturally, in the space available I cannot discuss all of the peoples who crossed the Atlantic and settled in America (or at least left some traces) before the time of Columbus. So I shall deal with three areas in which I have conducted personal research. It may be, moreover, that these are areas with which readers are not yet familiar. Incidentally, I can hope that these remarks may stimulate comments from some readers, especially in connection with etymology, and ancient British and Mediterranean history.

Vikings in South America?

The reason for beginning with an old standard, the Vikings, is not that they were the first over, but rather that they, along with the Scottish, Irish, Romans, Welsh, and French, were among the last to arrive in any great numbers before Columbus. Many strain mightily to keep the Norse penned up in their formidable Greenland ice cap (although the settlement at L'Anse Meadows, Newfoundland, is conceded). Likewise scholars strain to keep the French, Irish, Scottish, and Welsh where they are considered to belong; while the Jews may be scattered everywhere else, but not in the un-touchable Western Hemisphere.

Thomas Lee's great work on the true history of the Canadian North,⁹ Gloria Farley's on the American mid-west,¹⁰ and DeRoo's scholarly studies,¹¹ are either attacked or ignored. The more than 70 runestones discovered in North America are similarly ignored.

Now if the very idea of Viking exploration and settlement in North America is anathema to so many, what would be the reception of their apparent settlement in Paraguay, a land-locked South American country? According to the French anthropologist, Jacques de Mahieu, head of the Buenos Aires Institute for the Science of Man, Danish Vikings and their descendants did indeed explore and settle in South America centuries before the time of Columbus.

The main discoveries are in the northern province of Amambay, and in the Guaira region to the east. Some ceramic shards discovered in the Horoti diggings at the site of a long abandoned village bear the familiar Norse Runic inscriptions, such as prayers to Odin and typical

Viking symbols. Some of the fragments are decorated with fine stylized figures, such as bird-men, exactly like those found on Easter Island in the Southern Pacific. Incidentally, this could be corroboration of the belief that that island was settled by Nordic white men from South America.

DeMahieu's findings seem to agree with those of Thor Heyerdahl, and of Gene Savoy, President of the Andean Explorers' Club. Savoy, incidentally, while once searching for descendants of the "Cloud People", a blond white race who at one time controlled much of the mountainous region of Peru, came upon:

. . . five tall men . . . much taller than the average native of the region . . . they were blond and blue-eyed, with long, thin faces and aquiline noses. They were decidedly white skinned, and I would have identified them as Viking-like. . . . As we visited the villages . . . I began to notice a large number of light-skinned, blue-eyed people. . . . It is clear to me that the descendants of the Chachapoyas are still living, though their numbers are decreasing every year . . .¹²

Central and South America, then, have suddenly come alive with living evidence of the pre-Columbian white ruling population so often referred to in the literature. Sometimes they are "blonds", sometimes they have "red hair"; but always they have "blue" or "green" eyes; and generally they are "considerably taller in stature" than their neighbors.

Dolmens in the United States

A year ago, I was able to see the megalithic structure, called locally the "Balanced Rock", at North Salem, New York, off Route 84. This megalith is shown on the front cover. It is hardly a "balanced rock"; a stone cap lies on a half-dozen or so upright stones, like a table with six legs. The name "balanced rock" would apply better to a monument like the "Thor's Hammer" which Thomas Lee found in central Ungava, Canada. (See Reference 9).

The dolmen is located on a well kept lawn. Beside it is a puzzling (to me, at least) sign which reads "Glacial Period". Evidently the sign is intended to imply that the structure is due to glacial action, and is not man-made. My research (and it has been considerable) in Scandinavia, North Germany, the Iberian Peninsula, the British Isles, Palestine, and North Africa, has included many such stone structures; and they were not the results of glacial or any other natural action, but were artifacts.

In Britain such a structure is known as a "Dolmen"; in north Germany they are "Hünengrab"; the "Graves of the Giant Blond Warriors" or "Giant Blond Heros". These names, it is believed, refer to the Nordics, related to the Saxons who were known (in Germany) as the "Super Men". They evidently later migrated to Scandinavia.

Gottlieb Schumacher, a German archaeologist, has reported that in his time (about 1880) the many dolmens in Palestine were called by the Arabs "*Kubūr beni Israil*", i.e., "Graves of the Children of Israel".¹³ Biblical evidence would support the belief that the people of Israel were quite familiar with megalithic



Figure 1. This is a drawing of a menhir in New England.

structures; and they could have used at least some of them for graves. Certainly megaliths were used for graves in other parts of the world.

Mr. Jones, President of the Historical Society of North Salem, kindly provided some additional information. The label "Glacial Period" was the consensus of the opinions of several archaeologists, geologists, and historians who had visited the structure at various times. The cap stone, weighing some 16.5 metric tons, is from New Hampshire, having "travelled" some 320 kilometers. The support stones are local.

The official view seems to be that the glacier carried the cap stone from New Hampshire, and just happened to deposit it on the support stones, which were already in place. I, for my part, simply cannot believe that.

The structure stands alone; there is no jumble of rocks nearby. In particular, there seem to be no other rocks from New Hampshire nearby.

It may be pointed out, also, that some of the stones of Stonehenge were evidently transported about 300 kilometers, from Wales; and nobody ascribes such relocation to a glacier. Some have argued that there is no record of a megalithic culture in America. But, in fact, there are many dolmens, menhirs (see Figure 1) monoliths, stone circles (see Figure 2), mounds, and other artefacts. Indeed, these monuments extend into South America (see Figure 3).

It may be pointed out also that as long as people hold that there was no megalithic culture in America they will ascribe structures of this kind to some natural action. Then, of course, they will say that there is no evidence of a megalithic culture. Here again is the type of reasoning with which creationists often have to contend.



Figure 2. This shows a stone circle in Ungava, Northern Quebec, Canada. A single stone is located in the exact center of the circle. This structure, which is reminiscent of many in the British Isles and in Scandinavia, was found during Lee's archaeological research in Northern Quebec. (See reference 9.)



Figure 3. This inscribed dolmen, at the Pedra Pintada, Venezuela, is carefully set in position in relation to the stars.

In my opinion, these structures in the Americas, like others in other parts of the world, are remains of one megalithic culture. This culture spread out from the Eastern Mediterranean, probably from near Palestine. To the west, such megalithic culture spread across North Africa, up through Europe, to Scandinavia and Britain, and across the Atlantic to America, and even on to the islands of the Pacific. It spread also to southern Russia, and eastward to India, China, and Japan. Thinking, yes, brilliant men built these monuments, as Thom and others have shown.¹⁴ These monuments are the results of a world-wide migration—it might be called a dispersion—from Palestine or a nearby region.

Celtic Connections

There is evidence to show that some of the Celtic people of western Europe reached America long ago. It will be worth while to consider some of that evidence. The consideration may throw some light onto the many

questions about the Beothuck, the extinct people who formerly inhabited Newfoundland.

The members of the New England Antiquities Research Association have been foremost in confirming the pre-Columbian Celtic presence in the United States and Canada. I might mention especially Robert Stone, Barry Fell, Byron Dix, James Whittall, Robert McGhee, and David Kelly. They have combined efforts in the many disciplines required until, as for the Celtic presence, in the words of Dr. Barry Fell, Professor at Harvard University: "There's absolutely no doubt about it".

The evidence includes many buildings, astronomical stone alignments, and inscriptions in the Ogham script, which is known to have been used by the European Celts. Such remains are found especially in Vermont and New Hampshire in the United States; and in Newfoundland in Canada.

Dr. Fell, it is reported, has dated the sites in New Hampshire between 800 and 600 B. C. The astronomically aligned stones in New Hampshire and Vermont bear a curious resemblance to Stonehenge in England, and to the stone structures on the Island of Lewis in the Hebrides.

The Ogham stone of Newfoundland may well be of especial interest to readers, not least because it may be related to the Beothuck "red Indians". While this Ogham inscription is not as well known as the others in the United States, it could throw much light onto Canadian pre-Columbian history.

The Beothucks were called "Red Indians", not because they were "red skins", but because they had a habit of painting themselves with red ochre. This was also a custom of the early British Celts; and they picked up the custom from the Picts or Pictish (Painted Men) of the British Isles. It is interesting to notice that some think that the Greeks called the Phoenicians of the Eastern Mediterranean "Painted Red Men".¹⁵

The Beothucks were generally large of stature. According to John Lewis, a Mohawk Metis who could speak several Indian dialects; the Beothuck language was unknown among the other Canadian tribes. Generally, the Beothucks seem to have been white of skin, and their hair was of the texture common among Europeans, and ranged in color from black to blond. The consensus of opinion of Europeans who first made contact with them was that they were not Indian.

In view of all this, the following interpretation of the origin of the Beothuck is presented. Certainly the evidence falls short of proof; yet I believe that there is enough to justify consideration and further investigation.

Moreover, this suggestion has a bearing on the Ogham inscription just mentioned. First, then, something more may be said about that inscription.

Dr. Robert McGhee, Professor of Archaeology at Memorial University, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, and James Tuck, another Archaeologist, were shown the inscription, it is reported by Lloyd Decker, a fisherman and custodian of the ruins of a Viking settlement not far away.

McGhee stated that the inscription bore no resemblance to any script previously discovered in North

America. (This was before the confirmation of the Ogham inscriptions in New England by Dr. Fell and others.) McGhee observed that if it were a hoax (which is always an easy explanation) it was an old one. Tests showed that the lichen covering the inscription was between 100 and 200 years old.

So if it were a hoax it was perpetrated in the late 1700's, in a remote area of a remote island. Why would anyone perpetrate a hoax which was very likely never to be seen? And how would the (supposed) hoaxer know of the Ogham script? It was invented, a long time B. C., and seems not to have been used since about 700 A. D., when the Roman Church superseded the Celtic Culdee church and customs in the western part of the British Isles. So here is more evidence of a Celtic connection in Newfoundland. Could it be connected somehow with the Beothucks?

A Possible Origin of the Beothucks

The suggestions to be made here are, it is admitted, somewhat speculative. Also, some of the source literature may be suspect. But, it may be answered, so was Homer's Iliad when Heinrich Schliemann began his investigations. Some called it "a fiction full of monsters and wondrous beasts . . .", and worse than that. As for Schliemann himself, many scholars of the day dismissed him with not a little show of contempt. Yet with only the Iliad for direction, Schliemann and his Greek wife Sophia dug up King Priam's Troy.

To continue, note first that "Beothuck" has also been spelled "Beothook", "Beothick", "Beathook", etc. There has often been re-arrangement of the vowels.

Now the name "Beothack" appears in the *Leabhar Grabhala*, the history of the Celtic Danann who migrated from the Mediterranean to Ireland. It occurs in the geneology of a famous prophet, one Iarbanel, who died in the British Isles. His geneology reads in part:

The children of Elathan, son of Dealbaoth, son of Ned, son of Iondae, son of Alldae, son of Tai, son of Tabarn, son of Enna, son of Baath, son of Iobath, son of Beothack, son of Iarbanel the prophet, son of Neimhedh, son of Agrorman, . . ., etc.

So this Beothack (one vowel removed from Beothuck), the son of a prophet, a leader in his day, no doubt, migrated to the British Isles.

Could it be that he, or his descendants, went on to Newfoundland? It is apparent from the genealogies in Scripture, and from the Scottish clans, how a whole people may take the name of a renowned ancestor. Obviously, more study is needed here. However, evidence is not so scanty as might be expected; in fact, there is a wealth of pertinent literature.

Some may wonder whether the Celts had the ability to cross the Atlantic. First of all, it may be noticed that Caesar found in Gaul a presumably Celtic seafaring tribe, the Veneti.¹⁶

Moreover, according to some accounts, there was considerable learning among the Celts. It is said that Hu Gadarn Hysicion, (Isaacson), or Hugh the Mighty, led the first colony of Cymri into Britain from Defrobane where Constantinople now stands.¹⁷ This Hugh is said to have been a man of great learning, from whom

the Druids learned many things. One of these was the Ogham script, which the Druids used for many centuries, along with Greek, and, later, Latin. The Culdee, i.e. Celtic Christians, also used this script, until the time when all of the distinctive features of their church were suppressed by the Roman church.

Both the Druids and the Culdee had many schools. In time, Ireland, under Culdee scholarship, became the main center of learning for western Europe.

According to the book, *The Early Scottish Church*, Christians arrived in Britain from Palestine or nearby as early as 37 A. D.¹⁸ If this is true, the British church would be among the premier churches of Christendom. The name "Culdee", incidentally, has been taken to be from "*Cultores Dei*" (Worshippers of God), or "*Gille De*" (Servants of God); but such suggestions, while ingenious, seem not to be true. In fact, "Culdee" seems to be an anglicised form of "Culdich".

Originally, however, "Culdich" seems to have meant "Refugees". According to one Freculphus, some Judean refugees came to the west of Britain in the early years A. D. Arviragus (Caractacus) king of the west Britons, received them graciously, and settled them in a Druids' college.

From such a beginning, it is said, grew the Culdee church, which had many great leaders, such as Cumian, Adomnan, Cuminius, Joannes Scotus, Columba, and St. Patrick (Maclgwn). It is interesting that some of these men, such as Columba and Patrick, are counted as saints of the Roman church, although during their lives they were Culdee and nothing else. Patrick, for instance, was born at Llantuit Major, the son of a Culdee presbyter.

Be these origins as they may, it is evident that the Culdee loved knowledge; and in their times—yes, and earlier—there was a quite high level of learning among the Celts. It is said that Culdee scholars were taught arithmetic, geometry (incidentally, Thom—see reference 14—has shown recently how old some geometrical knowledge may be), astronomy, music, grammar, logic, rhetoric, and, last but certainly not least, the Holy Scriptures. There is no reason to suppose that their learning did not at least equal that of the Druids, who were contemporary or somewhat earlier.

As for the Druids, it is said that students took 20 years to master the complete circle of knowledge. This knowledge, according to Caesar, included the stars in their motions, the magnitude of the Earth and its divisions, natural history, and the power and government of God.¹⁹ Some have even suggested that the Druids had some knowledge of the telescope; and that that is the origin of the story, told by Diodorus Siculus, that they were able by magic to bring the Moon down to the Earth.

Thus, it is quite likely that the Celtic people had the skill and knowledge necessary for voyages to the Western Hemisphere. Actually, as has been remarked earlier, such voyages were not something new in those times, for there is evidence of many crossings to America, quite likely extending all the way back to the dispersion from Babel.

Did Any Visitors Travel Eastward?

This question must be considered, for it is commonly held that the Americas were settled by people who crossed Bering Strait. It is, of course, quite possible that there were some such movements of people. But they would have nothing to do with the matters which have been discussed here.

Any who arrived by the northern route are commonly thought to have been quite primitive. So they would have left little enough in the way of artifacts by which they could now be traced; and certainly nobody proposed that they might have left written records or inscriptions. So their history, whatever it be, is independent of the history of visits westward to the Western Hemisphere.

There is also some evidence that visitors, or maybe settlers, may have come across the Pacific, at some time in the past, maybe from China or Japan. This matter needs more investigation than it has received so far. But for the present it is another story.

Conclusion

Evidence has been presented to show that there have been journeys from the Near East, or from Europe, to the Americas, as far back as can be traced. Arguments have been given for thinking that such happenings go back all the way to the dispersion from Babel. Moreover, the fact that such journeys were possible shows that a quick dispersion of people throughout the Earth, in which anyone who believes in a young Earth must believe, was quite possible.

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