

# ANCIENT AMERICAN

Archaeology of the Americas Before Columbus

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**OHIO'S  
GREAT  
SERPENT  
MOUND**

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# Leni Lenape were Christians When the Europeans Arrived

by Myron Paine, Ph. D.

## Consider this hypothesis:

The Leni Lenape were Christians when the English came.

## Why even propose the hypothesis?

Because "every school child knows" that the American Indians were savages when the English came. That knowledge has not really been challenged, yet the correct evidence favors the hypothesis.

## Background

The Leni Lenape are better known to most school children as the Delaware Indians. Lord De La Warr ravaged the Leni Lenape villages in Chesapeake Bay during a campaign of total destruction.<sup>3</sup> (Most school children do not know about the campaign.) The surviving Leni Lenape were called the Delaware Indians.

But the original Leni Lenape name for the people began in Greenland. Leni Lenape means, "Pure, abiding with the Pure." Norse people lived the fjord called "Hrein" (Pure) in Greenland at the start of the Little Ice Age. Hrein fjord was where the bishop's church stood. Four thousand people from Greenland, including Hrein fjord, migrated to America.<sup>7, 8</sup> There were four documents, on two continents, which described the event.

The American document is called the Maalan Aarum, which means, "engraved years."<sup>1</sup> The Maalan Aarum was recorded as pictographs and memory verses. When the modern Europeans came, the Leni Lenape were calling the Maalan Aarum the "Walam Olum." The Leni Lenape observed the barbaric behavior of the English and acted to protect their religion. The Leni Lenape hid the Maalan Aarum (Walam Olum) pictographs from Euramericans for two centuries.

The plot of the Frozen Trail to America manuscript was based on chapter 3 of the Maalan Aarum.<sup>1, 7, 8</sup>

## GREENLAND AMERICA

The Maalan Aarum reports that the Norse people, who walked to America, morphed into five tribes: The Leni Lenape, Shawnee, Mahigan, Nanticoke, and Conoy. Chapter 3 of the Maalan Aarum closes at James



Bay. But in chapters 4 and 5, the five tribes migrated from James Bay into Ohio. Then they migrated to the East coast. Linguists agree that these tribes, and about twenty five others, speak the Algonquin language.

If the tribes left Greenland as Norse speaking Catholics, they would have arrived on the east coast speaking a dialect of Norse. The Leni Lenape would still have been Christians with rituals similar to the Catholic religion that existed in Greenland in 1300.

Evidence supporting the hypothesis

In 1940 Reider T. Sherwin published the Viking and the Red Man.<sup>9</sup> During the next sixteen years, Sherwin published seven more volumes. The Viking and the Red Man has over 15,000 positive comparisons for words of the Algonquin Indian languages and Old Norse. Sherwin concluded, in volume four, that the "Algonquin Indian Language is Old Norse."

The Leni Lenape on the East Coast were (and still are) speaking a dialect of Old Norse! Today modern speakers of Leni Lenape type words of their language into email and web sites on the internet. A persistent scholar can refer to the Viking and the Red Man to define about 95% of the Algonquin words used by the descendants of the Leni Lenape.

## More evidence for the hypothesis

The Viking and the Red Man enabled better decipherment of the Maalan Aarum. The Old Norse definitions gave a more precise understanding of the Maalan Aarum than the original English translation, which was made by Moravian priests in 1821.<sup>7, 8, 9</sup> The Leni Lenape historian, who tried to tell the Moravians about a bishop in Greenland and a bishop who came to America, knew enough English to realize that the Moravians were not recording his words correctly.<sup>1</sup> He left

a message in Leni Lenape words warning future Leni Lenape readers that the English translation was not correct.

The English translation of Chapter 3, verse 13, as recorded by the Moravians is so odd that Leni Lenape speakers might chose to read the Leni Lenape words instead. The Leni Lenape words warn readers that the English translation is not correct. Later Leni Lenape people did not accept the translated Maalan Aarum because there are so many omissions, mistranslations, deliberate alterations, and, especially, the warning. But Sherwin's Viking and the Red Man comparisons enable decipherment today and the decipherment is accurate enough to uncover the errors in the first translation.<sup>9</sup>

The Maalan Aarum is a true American history.<sup>1</sup> The Maalan Aarum records the migration of the Norse speaking Christians from Greenland to the East Coast of America. Their ancestors, the modern Leni Lenape, the pure abiding with the pure, still speak a dialect of Old Norse. A few descendants remain in New Jersey. They are still Christians.

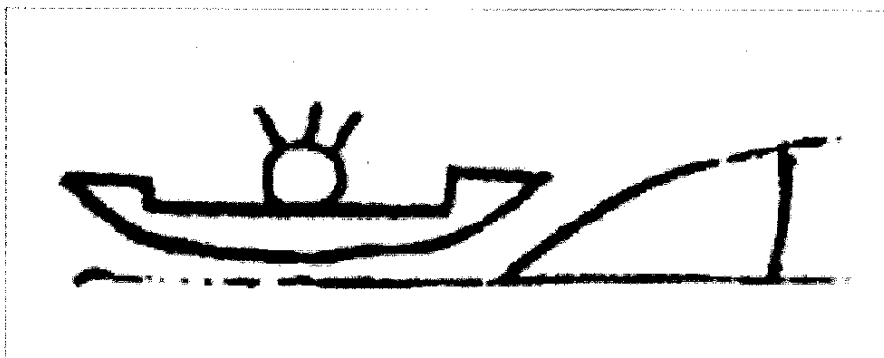
## Statement accepted as evidence against the hypothesis

The first English survey trip to America in 1585 set the example for the colonies that followed.<sup>3</sup> The English commander at Roanoke NC, Ralph Lane, seized a village chieftain, Menatonon, and cajoled him into providing directions.<sup>3</sup> Then Lane handcuffed the chief's son and kept him as a hostage. Later Lane led an unprovoked attack on a village meeting, where his men "slaughtered any Indians they could catch." Even Later, Lane ordered the beheading of two more Americans.

Back in England Lane was in the same social strata as Grenville, Raleigh, and Drake, who all became heroes. So when Lane, who had acted like a savage in America, wrote that "Savages ... possess the land," the phrase became accepted by most English people. That uncritical acceptance of Lane's words has become "the every school child knows" evidence against the hypothesis.<sup>3</sup>



Bishop in Greenland  
NOTE: The Captain's bench



Bishop coming to America

Word for "above" a sign of person in charge, is similar to "in the light."

**Mind set created evidence against the hypothesis**

The English, who came to Jamestown, were given a charter by King James I. The charter permitted the English investors to establish a colony on land in America "not now possessed by Christian Princes or people."<sup>3</sup> The European investors may not have wanted the colonists to report finding Christians in America. So their writings indicate that they intended to 1) convert, 2) trade, 3) conquer, which implies that they believed that the Leni Lenape were not Christian. If settlers had acknowledged that Christians stood on the shore, the investor's capital would have been worthless.

With that predetermined mindset, the English settlers may not have recognized the Christian actions of the Leni Lenape. Or, if they did, the settlers may have ignored what they saw. Indeed, there are antidotes that the English colonies used pleas for "conversion" campaigns to milk donations from the Christians in England. Only a small percentage of the donations went to educating the Leni Lenape. Not one Leni Lenape attended the "Indian school" in Jamestown.

The English did not find savages either. Like Lane, they created the savages.<sup>4</sup> Other evidence indicates that the Euramericans obscured evidence of the Christianity of the Americans.

The mindset formed the basis for the conquest of America, which caused the death of millions of the Christian Leni Lenape. The mindset still exists as Euramericans try to force the Leni Lenape descendants to forget the past and "be like us."

**More evidence in favor of the Hypothesis**

Before Lane was given the command in 1585, John White had painted eighteen pictures of Americans.<sup>3</sup> He painted two women, each wearing the Johannes cross, which was worn in Scandinavia in the 11-1200s. He painted the statue called "Our Mother" (of Jesus) which was found in "every temple." The statue wears a Latin cross. Our Mother (of Jesus) in every temple and the three crosses related to Scandinavian Christianity are positive visible evidence for the hypothesis.

**More supporting evidence for the hypothesis**

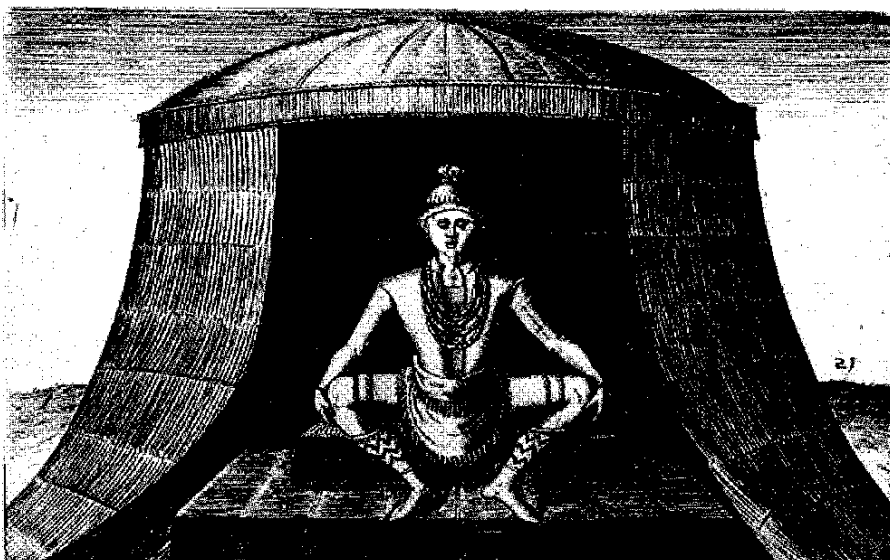
Thomas Hariot, a tutor of Raleigh and known as an imminent man of science, wrote that the Leni Lenape had Our Mother in every temple.<sup>10</sup> He wrote that they did, "pray, dance, sing, and make offerings" to

her.

He also described other knowledge about the Leni Lenape religion. His report appears to be similar to a description of the Catholic religion in Europe in the 1300s.

Hariot wrote his report to the English Queen to counter people [Lane?] who were saying erroneous things about the Leni Lenape. There is no evidence that Queen Elizabeth, who was engaged in warfare with Spain, or King James I, ever heard Hariot's report. The circumstantial evidence, so far, seems to be that Hariot's report was "pigeon holed."

So during the first English voyage to America, two qualified observers painted and wrote that they saw religious practices similar to 14th century Catholics. White's paintings still exist, but his painting of Our Mother (of Jesus) is missing. There is no evidence that Hariot's report was read by the Queen or King.



Our Mother (of Jesus)

**Even more evidence for the hypothesis**

There are at least three other events that contribute evidence to the hypothesis. These events are:

The Pennsylvania treaty between Quaker William Penn and Leni Lenape Talerman III, which lasted forty (40) years without a violent death among the Christians of different cultures.<sup>6</sup>

In 1996 a popular children's author, Mary Popc Osbourne, published a book entitled *Standing in the Light, the Captive diary of Catherine Carey Logan*.<sup>6</sup> The book is fiction but Osborne had done her research. The fictional captive slowly learns the kindness of her captors. Osborne details the swindle of the Walking Purchase and the massacre of the Conestoga tribe as two events that created savages after forty years of harmony between Quaker and Leni Lenape. More importantly, she describes a Leni Lenape circle dance with "Our Grand Mother" being passed from dancer to dancer and then hidden from sight of the English captives. The dance she described is similar to the worship Thomas Hariot described in 1585.

A small wooden stature, which could represent a Sheppard carrying a sheep, was found in the Kanawha River Valley. The statue has been carbon dated twice to about 500 years ago. That time would match the migration of the Leni Lenape, and especially the Shawnee (Southern Lenape), along the Ohio River. Kanawha River flows through a fertile valley south of the Ohio River. Kanawha means, "Channel waters" in Old Norse.

**Parallel Evidence**

The First Americans in the New England area spoke Algonquin, a dialect of Old Norse. But according to European documents, they may have come by sailing directly from Norway, Iceland, Greenland, Ireland, or Scotland. There are episodes indicating that they, too, were Christians. These parallel episodes are support for the hypothesis. They show that the European pattern of not seeing Christian behavior existed all along the East Coast. The episodes are:

The lavabo and keep of a Norse Christian Church at Newport RI, which are similar to lavabo and keeps of 21 similar churches in northern Europe and Scandinavia still exists today.<sup>2</sup>

Roger Williams was banned from the Pilgrim and Puritan Colonies.<sup>11</sup> Williams had stayed through a winter with the Wampanoag's (White folks). He learned that the Wampanoag's spoke Old Norse and Ancient Norse. He may have learned that they were Christians because, when he returned, he preached that King James had no right to give charters.<sup>4</sup> He was banished from the colonies, but became the communicator between the colonies and the New England tribes.

Thomas Morton taught classical languages, Greek and Latin, at Oxford before he came to America.<sup>11</sup> He was one of the few Englishmen who did not build a fort on initial contact. He began to hear Latin and Greek phrases among the Massachusetts. Those phrases might have been associated with the Christian religion. Morton was imprisoned by the Pilgrims and sent back to England. He returned. The cycle repeated two more times.

When the Jesuits first began to preach in Nova Scotia, an older chief listened as the priests told the crucifixion story in broken Algonquin.<sup>5</sup> The old chief rose to say, "We have one of those." Later, the old chief became a strong advocate for the Jesuits.

In the late 1600s St. Alban was sent by the French to find out what the English were doing in James Bay.<sup>5</sup> As he walked and canoed along the way, he wore his robes. The word of his coming was passed ahead.

When St. Alban and his guide finally floated onto the waters of James Bay in a single, small canoe, they saw six big canoes being paddled toward them in haste.

The fifty, or more, men in the canoes wanted to be baptized as soon as possible. The men were Christians, who had been without a bishop during their lifetime.

**TIME PERIOD to consider**

There is other evidence of Christianity in America, such as the Mormon plates and resulting religion, the Michigan plates, the Burrows cave artifacts, crosses on Hopewell artifacts, Ogam script, and other artifacts. This evidence implies Christian contact between the Mediterranean, Europe, and America before 1300.

The climatic events beginning with the Little Ice Age in 1300 appear to have obscured the influence of the very early Christianity and Hebrew contact. Only evidence of Christianity that occurred after 1300 will be compiled in the discussion about this hypothesis. The limitation will reduce the confusion caused by symbols from earlier Christian contact.

**IN SUMMARY HYPOTHESIS:**

The Leni Lenape were Christian when the English came?

The discussion has just begun. Please join the discussion, provide evidence, correct previous statements, and respond with your opinion.

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