

# Megalithic Colony in Greenland

Jay Stuart Wakefield

That Megalithic structures which were probably three thousand years old were found there by the Vikings when they arrived is supported by early research work. The deep hospitable fjords west of Cape Farvel, southern

The classic 1946 book *The Ruins of Great Ireland in New England* was written by William B. Goodwin. When he wrote the book, he was owner of American Stonehenge, in Salem, New Hampshire. The book contains some

Eric the Red, founder of the Viking colonies in Greenland, made his farm at nearby Brattahlid (about 900 AD), now located just across Ericsfjord from the Narsarsuaq airport. (This big airport was where PBY Flying Boats were based, assigned to escort allied convoys in WWII.) From reading Viking Eddas and Sagas, Goodwin says that Eric gave Garda to his daughter Freydis in a marriage settlement. The name given to her homestead was Garda, which means "stronghold" or "enclosures" in Old Norse. She lived there 28 years until she went to Vineland in 1013, and returned to her homestead the following year. "She was as rough and headstrong as her father ... for her lack of humanity and the totally uncalled-for murders during the voyage, her posterity is not mentioned in the Sagas, being under the ban of Lief's curse". At Garda was held the first Law Moot, the Greenland Thing, or governing council. In 1125 was Garda became the seat of the first Christian Bishopric of Greenland, and the stone ruins became part of the Bishop of Garda's personal farmstead.



Photo 1

Greenland, were on the "Route of the Upper North", the stepping-stone route to America from Orkney to the Faroes, Iceland, Greenland, and Baffin Island. This route was recorded in

interesting photos and discussion about the Gardar (also "Garda") site in Greenland. **Photo 1**, from this book, shows some of the Gardar ruins.

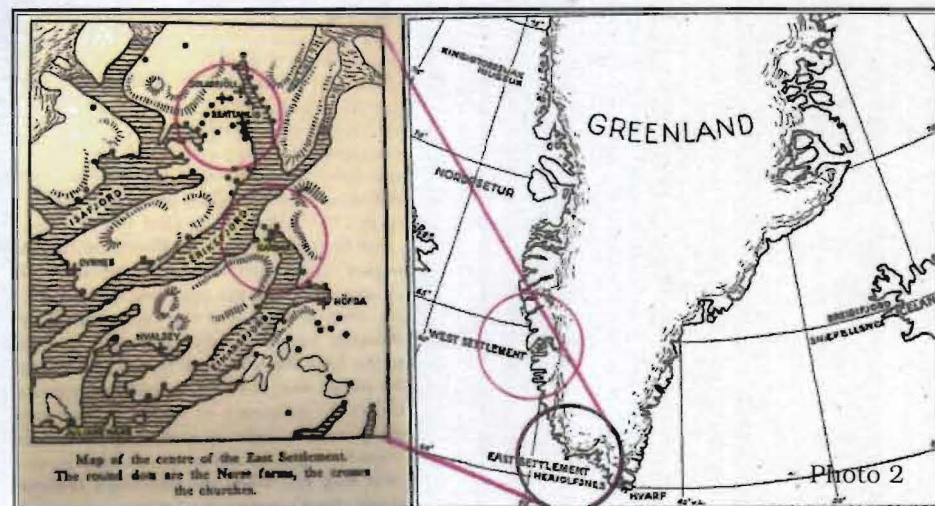


Photo 2

many Bronze Age petroglyphs and monuments, especially Stonehenge ([www.HowtheSungod](http://www.HowtheSungod)).

**Photo 2** shows the location of Gardar on an isthmus between the fjords of Erik and Einar in the "Eastern Settlement" in southern Greenland.

I have found that **Photo 1** was reproduced from an important 1936 scientific book entitled *Viking Settlers in Greenland*, by Poul Norlund, Ph.D, Keeper of Medieval Antiquities at the Danish National Museum, and member of the Commission for Scientific Research in Greenland. The Norlund **Photo 3** (the same picture), has below it a line drawing of the large stone structures, and a scale. On the Internet I found two views of these stones as they appear today, **Photo 4** from the front, and **Photo 5**, the rear view. From the archaeology work in the foreground of **Photo 5**, and the general rock litter, one can see that many stones have been used, re-used, and "cleaned up", over the years. This can be seen at another stone construction, **Photo 6**, from the Norlund book, and

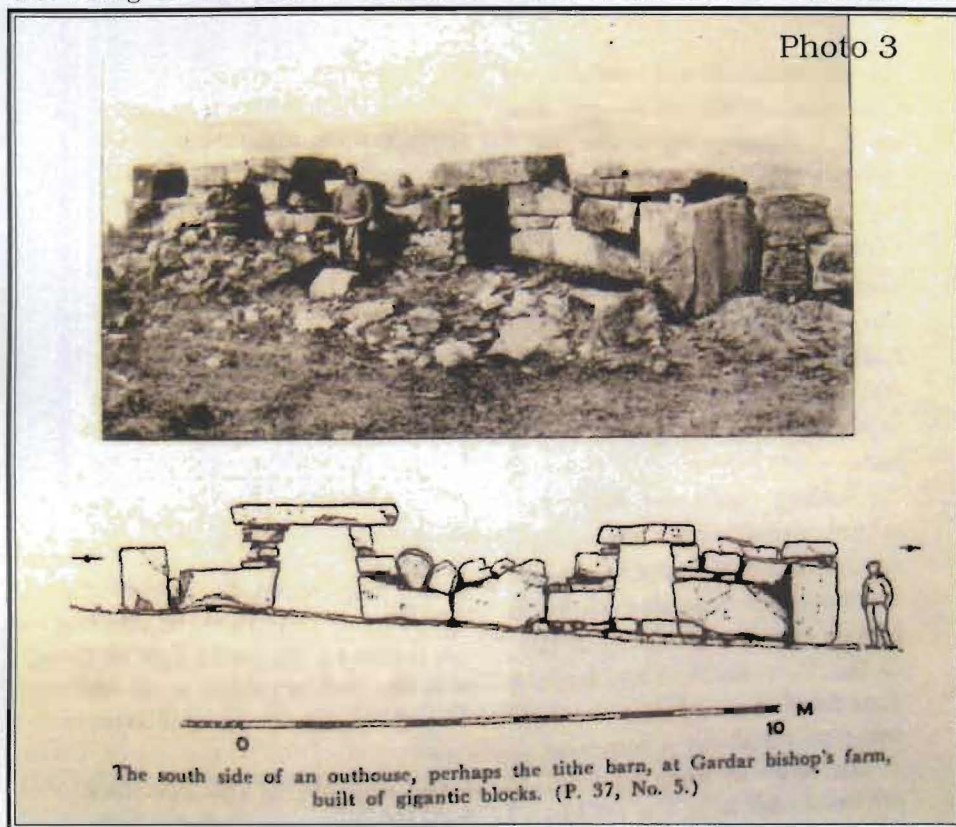


a current Internet photo of the same stones, **Photo 7**.

Norlund reports that when they arrived, the Viking colonists found "traces of

aggressive Vikings, and with the climate deterioration of the 14th Century (300 years later) they eradicated the starving Vikings in the Western Settlement (in 1360), and burned the last Norsemen

Christianity swept over them. One who resisted most was Erik the Red ... he viewed the missionary with displeasure ... his wife, caught up with the stream of the new teachings, declined to share his bed as long as he remained heathen, at which he was most indignant" (pg.30). There were 280 large farms, with

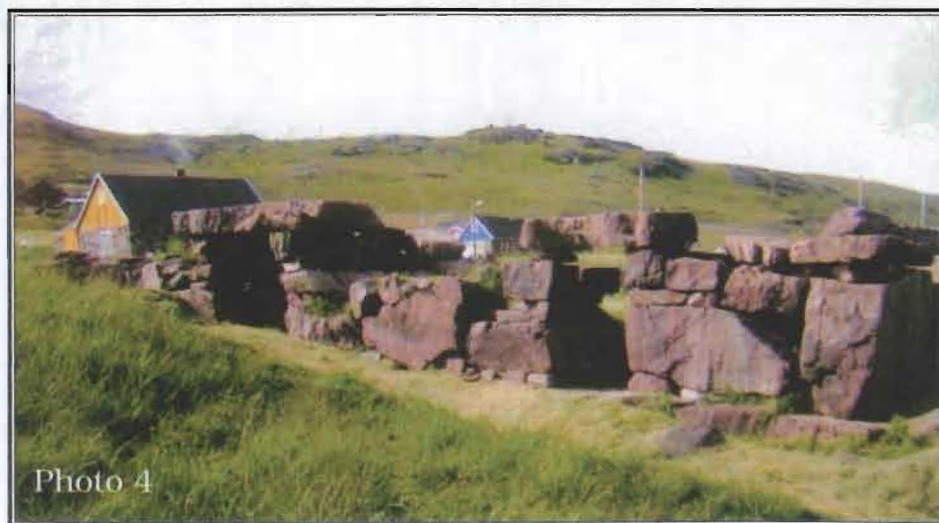


twelve parish churches in the Eastern (southern) Settlement, and four in the Western (northern) Settlement, an estimated 4,000 inhabitants. "The Episcopal Seat was fixed upon Gardar. ... Very imposing colossal blocks of stone had been employed in the walls, both of the churches, and some of the outhouses (outbuildings), stones weighing anything from four to five and even up to ten tons. ... This building method can scarcely have been learned by Norsemen in Iceland, and it is not likely that they had (learned) it from Norway, where cyclopean masonry was not in use. On the other hand, it is typical of the Scottish Isles ... maybe there was cultural influence from that quarter".

The author notes that Norlund was partially correct - the megalithic ruins did come from lands inhabited by people who built cyclopean monuments. Norlund did not grasp that the cyclopean builders did not influence the Vikings, but were thousands of years earlier. Nevertheless, the observations of these early researchers are helpful today. ■

earlier habitations" - "men's dwellings, and the remains of boats and stone implements" (pg.27). He reports that Scraelings (Eskimos) were not seen

in their church (in 1500). In any case, the Eskimos are not known for ever building with megalithic stones.



for over 100 years, except far up the Greenland coast. They apparently occasionally fought the strong and

Norlund says that "the Greenland fjord-chiefs with Erik at their head had scarcely set up their temples when



Photo 6

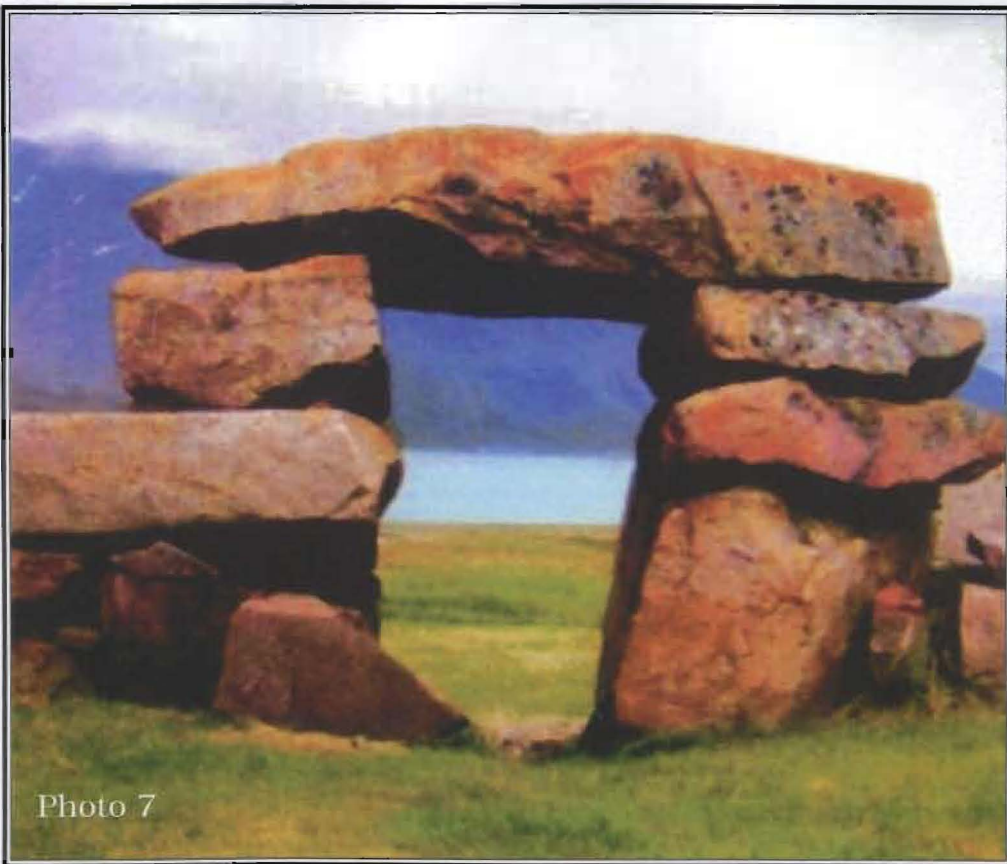


Inner door to the large cow byre of the bishop's farm, converted by the Eskimos into a storehouse. It is built of enormous blocks of stone. The lintel stone weighs about 5 tons.

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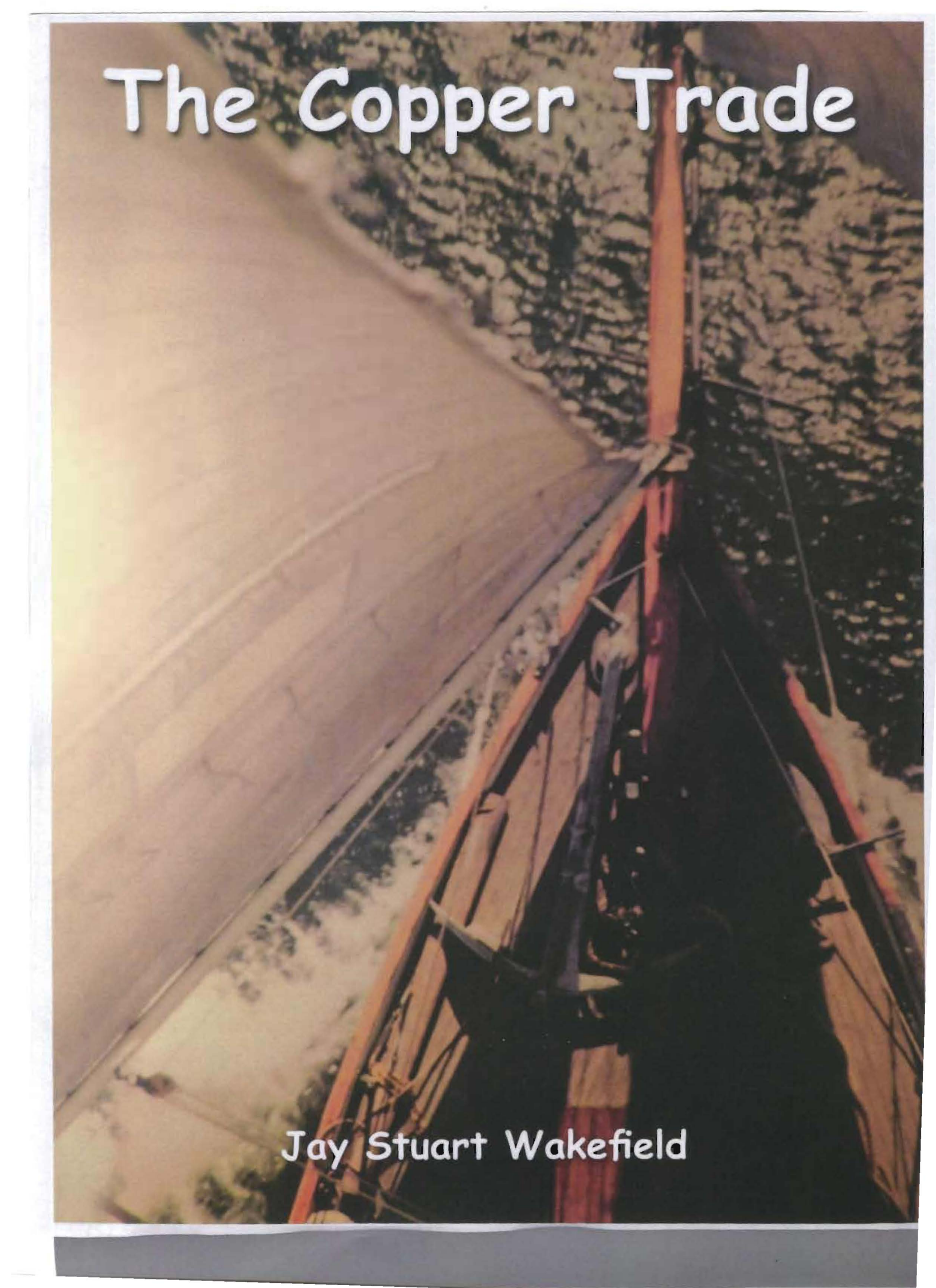
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Photo 7





# The Copper Trade

A photograph of a large sailing ship's mast and rigging, viewed from a low angle looking up. The mast is a prominent vertical structure, with various ropes and pulleys visible. The background features a steep, rocky cliff face and a body of water. The overall tone is historical and maritime.

Jay Stuart Wakefield

# The Copper Trade

by Jay Stuart Wakefield

*"Over and beyond mere living, the human Spirit adds and creates what is better than what was before" -R.Roefield*



## **The Copper Trade**

*By Jay Stuart Wakefield*

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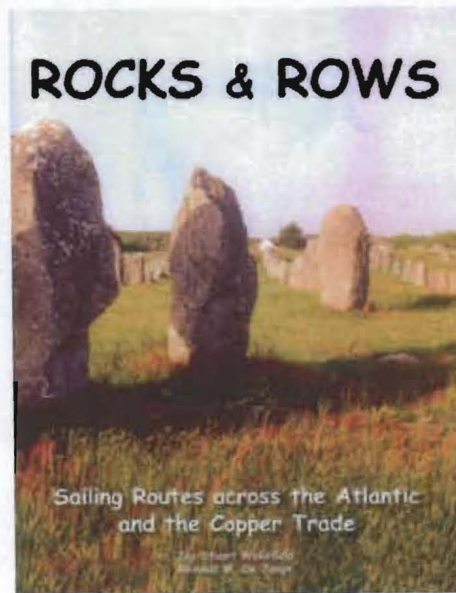
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Cover photo by Richard Holt Wakefield, Yacht Valhalla in Bahamian waters, 1946



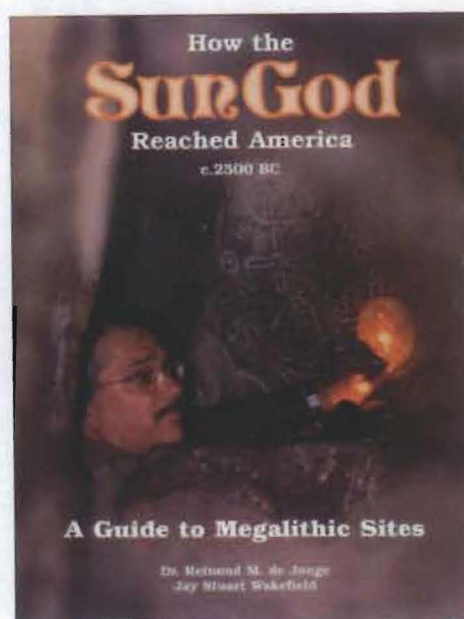
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