# Annotated Bibliography

*Brun, Eske. "Greenland." Arctic 19.1 (1966): 62-69. JSTOR. Web. 06 Oct. 2015.*

“About a thousand years ago Greenland was sighted from the East by an Icelander by the name of Gunnbjorn, but the first European to set foot on the land was Erik the Red from Iceland.” (Pg 62)

This quote is from the text "Greenland" by Eske Brun. This also states that Erik first settled on Greenland. Although it clears up that he definitely wasn't the first to spot the land as I'm sure other Vikings may have explored near the vicinity of that land. For me, this helped me to believe in the actual text, seeing other people say that Erik also first settled on Greenland made it more believable and factual in my mind.

*Friis, Herman R. "Greenland: A Productive Arctic Colony." Economic Geography 13.1 (1937): 75-92. JSTOR. Web. 06 Oct. 2015.*

"Commercial relations between Green- land and the Scandinavian countries, and the attendant settlement of Green- land by the Scandinavians has been more or less continuous since the initial estab- lishment of colonies in the southern part by Erik the Red at the close of the tenth century. However, there have been periods since the founding of these settlements during which Greenland was left completely isolated from the world outside." (Pg 80)

I picked this piece of information, or text because to me it was factual scientific information about Greenland and how the land actually was and the climate of the land. When I read this article I was thinking about how difficult and hard it would be to settle at the time Erik the Red did and the amount of agricultural skills you would need to be able to farm in cold climate. This quote says to me, that Erik would had to have been fairly powerful and wealthy and to have pillaged other villages or settlements to replenish his supplies and food to keep his people alive.

*Smith, Charles Sprague. "The Vinland Voyages." Journal of the American Geographical Society of New York 24 (1892): 510-35. JSTOR. Web. 06 Oct. 2015.*

"He gave name to the land and called it Greenland and said that it would make men eager to go thither if the land had a good name."

Ideally when you’re reading literature you like to see evidence or some sort of citation when you hear about someone founding or first settling on land. In the Erik the Red text, it says that he not only first settled on Greenland but he also named it and speaks his truth about why he named it Greenland. When I read his reasoning, I thought that cannot be the real reason he named it Greenland. So when I found this Journal from Charles Sprague “The Vinland Voyages” I read that he actually did name it Greenland and he really did name it Greenland to attract other explorers or settlers to make the land sound more pleasant.

# Summary of Text

Mainly comprised of the origins of the fathers and the whereabouts that they settled in and eventually gets to the birth of Erik the Red. Whose father is son of Ox-Thorir who is the son of Asvald Ulfqson which was the son of Thorvald. Erik where two of Thorgest’s sons were killed along with several other men. Erik was then outlawed from Iceland. He then went and founded and named Greenland with his wife named Thjodhild, to make it sound pleasing to attract many other with its delightful name. There, he had his two sons, Thorstein and Leif. Leif sailed to Norway and served King Olaf Tryggvason who told him to convert Greenland to Christianity. Erik and Thorstein went out to search the land that Leif had found with some friends. Thorstein then proposes to Gudrid, although Thorstein died from sickness  on a farm in Lysufjord. So after his sons death, Erik took in his wife to take care of and provide for her. After the feast, Yule Karlsefni asked Erik for Guard’s hand in marriage and he agreed and so didn’t Gudrid. Then Erik and his friends set sail and coasted along the western settlement, where they sighted land and named it Helluland, and an island to the South-East which they called it Bjarney. When Leif served King Olaf, he sailed the length of Furdustrandir , they found and island called Straumsey, where they decided to stay and settle on for a little while. As they were settled on Straumsey, they continued to explore the island and try fishing and farming. They then talked about exploring the rest of the Island further, Thorhall sailed to the North, whereas Kjalarnes sailed along the east shore. As Thorhall and his crew sailed North they ran into a storm and were drive ashore in Ireland and were beaten and enslaved, it was here that Thorhall died. As Karlsefni headed South around the coast, they can across a river, which flowed into a lake from there into the sea. They found more land and named it Land Hop. As they were settled there, they came across other settlers with raw-hide covered boats with whom they started trading goods with. Although one morning, they startled the visitors, and three weeks later, the visitors came with bigger ships and they both began fighting. So Karlsefni and his mend decided to flee upriver and managed to survive with a few men. So they left that country and went off sailing again, Thorvald was shot in the intestine with an arrow and died shortly after, and later returned back in Winter to spend time in Straumsfjord. They then went South and reached Markland, where they met 5 Natives and captured the boys and took them with him and taught them their language and baptized them, they then went back to Greenland where they spent the Winter with Erik the Red. Karlsefni then sailed for Iceland and Gudrid went with him, and after his mother found out how outstanding of a woman Gudrid was she stayed on the farm for the second Winter. Where Karlsefni and Gudrid had a son named Thorbjorn, whose daughter Thorn was he mother of Bishop Bjorn.

# Critical Analysis Quotations

“This was my payment for the poem I composed about Thor, my guardian, who’s seldom disappointed me.’

Once they heard this no one wanted to eat the whale meat, they cast it off a cliff and threw themselves on God’s mercy. ”

After I read this, I thought to myself, that doesn’t sound like Christianity. i figured after King Olaf had Leif convert Greenland to Christianity, that Leif would’ve converted his family first who would then convert the rest of the settlers. This says that Thorhall is still Norse Pagan, and he’s talking poorly about his god and how Thor has disappointed him time and time again. If I had to guess usually when you speak poorly about your god that means their either going to punish you or your no longer underneath their protection. In this case I guess that would explain Thorhall luck with catching the storm and ending up on the shores of Ireland and being captured and beaten and later dies there. As tragic as it is, In my opinion its more of a karma situation where he fabricated his own fate. After he said that this is how they get repaid for the poem that he recited and that Thor has disappointed him, everyone listens to what he says and throws the whale off the cliff which in turn seemed to be the start of their good luck which allowed them to have better luck with fishing and the weather improved. (204 words)

"Erik the Red's Saga." *The Sagas of Icelanders: A Selection*. New York: Viking, 2000. N. pag. Web.

“With promises of fine drinks

the war-trees wheedled,

                                           war-trees: warriors

spurring me to journey

to these scanty shores.

War-oak of the helmet god,

                                          war-oak: warrior , helmet god: Odin

I now wield but a bucket,

no sweet wine do I sup

stooping at the spring.” pg (1817)

Now Thorhall is praying to Odin, after Thor has disappointed him. This makes me think, what are the consequences of that, Odin being Thor’s father, would that be a group religion change? Nonetheless, i feel like here he’s mocking the gods, saying that he was promised riches or a great celebration and now he’s hear with only a bucket filled with water, so wheres his wine and great celebration. Thorhall seems to only do things when they benefit him, more of a character with an attitude and usually he does what he wants. At the same time, I think this passage is humorous in a way he’s saying “well I was promised this great celebration and find great land and be rewarded, so wheres my reward Odin?” Later after he sets sail,  he also spoke another verse which speaks about him wanting to go home and see his friends and family. The Ironic part here is right after he talks about going home, they end up washed up on Ireland shores and he is captured and dies where he DOES NOT return home. Throughout the rest of the text it doesn’t say what happens to the men that were captured so i wonder what happened to them, if they were ever released, or forever enslaved or if they were released.  (220 words)

"Erik the Red's Saga." *The Sagas of Icelanders: A Selection*. New York: Viking, 2000. N. pag. Web.

“They had southerly winds and reached Markland, where they met five natives. One was bearded, two were women and two of them children. Karlsefni and his men caught the boys but the others escaped and disappeared into the earth. They took the boys with them and taught them their language and had them baptized. ” pg 1826-1827

After reading about how Karlsefni found five natives and captured the two boys and kept them, I was actually surprised. Karlsefni’s actions made me think why he kept them rather than killing them, and why would he want to keep them and convert them and teach them his language? On top of that, why would Erik allow them to stay with him? The natives are the ones that attacked Karlsefni and his company and nearly killed them. The rest of the text doesn’t mention these native boys names or what becomes of them after they stayed with Erik for the Winter, that if they were in fact killed or released to go back with their family. The only thing that Karlsefni seemed to want from the boys was to know their father and mothers names, and who ruled their lands, and where the people slept and the natives also told him about land across from theirs, where people were dressed in white clothing and shouted loudly and bore poles and waved banners. They also said that their people assumed this land to be owned by the land of the white men. From this quote I implicate Karlsefni seemed like he had morales and like a reasonable person, he seems to do things with strategy and he did everything with a purpose. (221 words)

"Erik the Red's Saga." *The Sagas of Icelanders: A Selection*. New York: Viking, 2000. N. pag. Web.