

## Byzantines beat the Vikings to America by 500 YEARS!

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*"Main Altar" with Greek Doric style plinth. To the left is fish-shaped cupule (holes) pattern. Both hold candles for ceremonies. Photos courtesy of the author*

### Connecticut's 5th Century Church

by John Gallager

In the stillness of Cockaponset State Forest, southern Connecticut, near the town of Guilford, masterfully carved from solid rock, stands North America's oldest Christian church. Recent epigraphic evidence found here suggests that it is 1500 years old, and linked to a voyage of Christian Byzantine monks who fled from North Africa during the 5th Century, in the wake of the Vandal invasions. Greek and North African inscriptions, Greek cupule patterns in the form of Chrismons (monograms of Christ), baptismal fonts, a cathedra or throne, candelabras and an altar have been found at the site.

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