12 Μαΐου 2012

Χριστιανική Εκκλησία στη Β.Αμερική 1000 χρόνια πριν τον Κολόμβο;

/ Γενικά Θέματα / Ορθόδοξη πίστη

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Connecticut's 5th Century Church

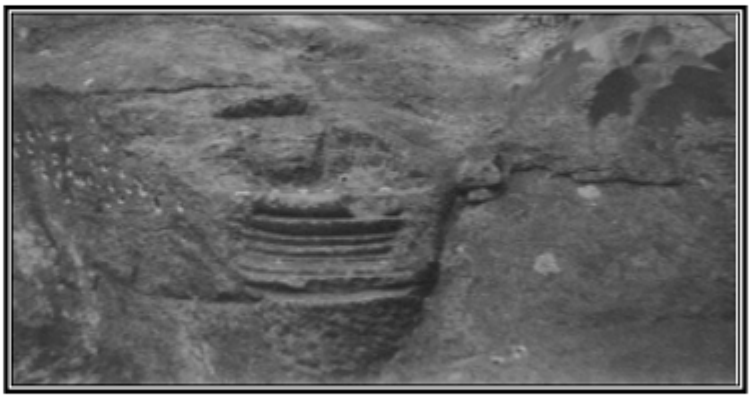
by John Gallager

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.

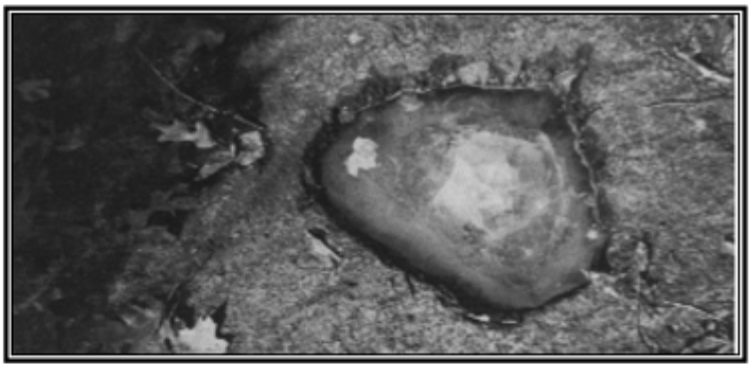
These items indicate that it was a place of worship, an Early Christian Church. The artifacts are illuminated by Libyan Arabic texts found at Figuig (Hadj-Mimoum), a remote oasis in eastern Morocco, in 1926. They tell of a voyage undertaken by North African Christian monks sailing "toward the setting sun," to "Asq-Shamal," the "Northern Land," suggestive of North America. A diffusionist scholar, Frederick J. Pohl, who studied the Figuig inscriptions during the 1960s, placed the monks arrival in North America at about 480 AD.

About 40 years ago, he was told of some strange carvings on stone in the Connecticut woods, and obtained the services of a local a physician as a guide to their location. As the author of several books describing Norse voyages to America, Pohl anticipated Viking origin for the Connecticut inscriptions. Seeing them in person, however, he knew at once that they were not 10th Century runic, but belonged to something entirely different and much older. Seeking clues from the immediate environment, he noticed a nearby cove suitable as a land-fall for ships was visible from the inscriptions.

When I first met an older Frederick Pohl at his home in Brooklyn, New York during 1976, he asked me to go to the site, look it over and see what I could make of it. For two and a half years thereafter, I regularly visited the site gathering information, taking photographs and making drawings, followed



"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.



Flame-shaped Baptismal Font representing the Holy Spirit. Here the elderly were baptized by pouring water over their heads.

by long hours investigating source materials in public and university libraries. Together with Pohl, I sought out the opinions of other experts in pre-Columbian matters. Their insight combined with diligent, independent research to reveal the Guilford location as an Early Christian Church and Baptismal site of Byzantine Greek North African origin. Epigraphic evidence identified its construction or carving by Christian monks who voyaged to Connecticut from North Africa in the mid-5th Century.

To understand the origins and reasons behind this 1600 year-old undertaking, something about the history of the Early Christian Church during this period is needed. By 430 AD, more than 600 bishops operated across North Africa, mostly in Tunisia, where Christianity sank its roots in the Dark Continent at the ancient Phoenician port-city of Carthage. From the beginning, the new faith was a tale of violence and heresy. Under Emperors Decius (249 to 250), Valerian (257 to 259) and Diocletian (245 to 313), many Christians everywhere were arrested, tried and executed on charges of theological or political subversion, because they characterized the deities of all other faiths as "devils" and called for the downfall of the Roman state.

Meanwhile, fanatic followers of Manichaeism, Montanism, Pelagianism, and a dozen other, largely forgotten heresies fought bitterly between themselves

Μέσα στο δάσος του Cockaponset State Forest στο Νότιο Connectikut, κοντά στο χωριό Guiulford, βρίσκεται η αρχαιότερη Χριστιανική Εκκλησία της Βορείου Αμερικής, αριστοτεχνικά σκαλισμένη από πέτρα. (περισσότερα…)