

## NOTES AND DOCUMENTS

### MICHELLE DUFAULT

Michelle (Michael) Dufault, one of the oldest residents of the White Earth Reservation, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Antoine Charrette, December 14, 1916, aged ninety years. He was the son of Joseph Dufault, one of the early artisans of the Northwest, and of Jossette Cadotte, an aunt of William Whipple Warren, the well-known historian of the Chippewa Indians. His father was for many years a boss carpenter; between the years 1820 and 1830 he supervised the construction of the stores and warehouses of the American Fur Company on Madeline Island in Lake Superior, eighteen miles from Bayfield, Wisconsin. He built the mission churches on the island also, one of which, the Presbyterian church, is still standing. The Catholic mission church, which contained a rich and valuable collection of historical manuscripts and old paintings, was destroyed by fire about three years ago.

Michael, the son, was born in 1827 on Madeline Island, at that time included in the territory of Michigan. In his boyhood he attended the Indian mission school. During his early life he helped his father by working at the carpenter's trade and assisted the fur-traders as clerk, interpreter, and messenger. He was a member of the Wisconsin bands of the Chippewa, but removed to the White Earth Reservation many years ago, where he was held in high esteem by all who knew him. He was married to Jossette Roy, a daughter of Vincent Roy, an early Indian trader, who died in Superior, Wisconsin, a few years ago.

In the death of Michael Dufault the Northwest loses one of the few remaining picturesque "noble landmarks" so characteristic of the unstinted, open-hearted hospitality and generous chivalry of early northwestern days, the cherished love-neighbor days, when the latchstring hung on the outside, sug-

gestive of an ever-ready welcome to friends and strangers alike; when the last morsel of food or family raiment was cheerfully divided with those who were in need, and when a man's word was his bond. He was an exemplary Christian, devoted to his family and friends and to things righteous. He was a member of the Catholic Church and was ever zealous in his religious duties up to the time of his death.

THEODORE H. BEAULIEU

WHITE EARTH, MINNESOTA

### A LAWYER'S VIEW OF THE KENSINGTON RUNE STONE

That the truth or falsity of the inscription on the Kensington rune stone will ever be proved to the satisfaction of all investigators is very doubtful. The available evidence is too meager to admit of a final solution of the problem in accordance with the canons of historical criticism. Interest in the subject continues unabated, however, and justifies the publication of the following argument by Mr. Charles C. Willson of Rochester, Minnesota. In a letter accompanying the manuscript Mr. Willson states that, as a member of the Minnesota Historical Society, he is "not content to rest under the presumption" that he agrees with the conclusion of the museum committee of the society as set forth in its report in volume 15 of the *Minnesota Historical Collections*.

MR. OLE W. ANDERSON.

DEAR DOCTOR:

On November 8, 1898, on the farm of Olof Ohman on the southeast quarter of section fourteen, Solem Township, Douglas County, Minnesota, about three miles northeast from Kensington, was found a slab of flinty rock with an inscription in runic letters cut into it, which, literally translated, reads as follows:

"Eight Goths and twenty-two Norwegians upon a journey of discovery from Vinland westward. We had a camp by two skerries one day's journey north from this stone. We were out fishing one day. When we returned home we found ten men red with blood and dead. A V M, save us from evil.



Copyright of **Minnesota History** is the property of the Minnesota Historical Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. Users may print, download, or email articles, however, for individual use.

To request permission for educational or commercial use, [contact us](#).