

AllBooks Review

Feature Book of the Month

August 2008

Genre: Historical Fiction

Title: **Axe of Iron: The Settlers**

Author: J. A. Hunsinger

Halfdan Ingolfsson is a brave, intelligent leader of men. His second in command, Gudbjartur Einarsson is loyal, invaluable and ruthless. He does what must be done. The two men lead a group of Greenlanders, sometime between the year 997 and 1003, to a new and exciting land. A land filled with game, fish, fresh vegetation, and North American natives. Can the two men discover the perfect home for this diversified group of men, women, and children? Will Halfdan decide to take a wife from amongst the women traveling with them? How will they coexist with the natives?

Author, J. A. Hunsinger is an expert in the mores and customs of the Northmen, the Vikings, and the Norse in general. His research is beyond reproach and he provides an educational, yet attention-getting plot. The characters are believable, filled with faults and foibles, most realistic. The descriptions of ancient North American shores are vivid, and in depth. Readers can picture the landscape, the animals, and the settlement of the settlers.

The use of fiction to develop a story around a most informative history lesson is a talent, and this author definitely excels here. The book is filled with technical descriptions of tools, ships, and interesting facts of their day-to-day existence. Sometimes brutal and violent, their lives were filled with adventure. The pagan customs and the mix of early Christianity are well explained in fictitious settings.

As one who has visited L'Anse-aux-Meadows in Newfoundland's northern tip, I found this book very interesting, exciting and a great read. Perhaps this was the land of Halfdan and Frida. I look forward to the rest of the series. Highly recommended by

Reviewer: Shirley Roe, Allbooks Review.

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Author: J. A. Hunsinger

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