

Ten very old spinning wheels have been found on different farms. These show that people have lived here already during the big wondering time. Also stones which they used to make fire with, and a few other tools were found in the ruins of one farm at Hodne. These ruins show that the house had four walls, and open fireplace made from stone which was placed in the middle of the house. One end had been a livingroom, the other end a cow stable.

During the Roman times and the wondering time there was a great time for ceramics. Two ceramic-bowls have been found in graves which date from the time around the birth of Christ until 1000 A.D. This is when they used these kind of graves.

As we know, people lived on Rennesøy during the stone and bronze age, the Roman time and the wondering time. Some of the farms date from this time. The farms with names referring to nature like Vik, Voll, Bø, Sørø, Nordbø, etc. are probably the oldest. Names ending on -land are few. These farms are younger, which proves that people must have lived here before the wondering time.

We have also a few memorial stones without runatic inscriptions on Rennesøy. 12 have been found altogether.

On the farms Nordbø and Hodne, ruins of two fortresses have been found. The one on Nordbo is in the upland, non-cultivated land and the stone wall is about 56 m. long. It is on top of a mountain which is very steep from the other side. These fortresses were used to hide inside when the people feared an attack. Whether these attacks came from pirates or people who just want to take the land, we do not know.

From about 800 A.D. the Viking time started. This is the time when the men went on plundering trips to England, Scotland and Ireland. There has not been found anything on Rennesøy to prove this contact but on Brimse, the small island on the east coast of Rennesøy, a small piece of black hard material was found, which originates from Yorkshire in England. Jewelry like buckles made from bronze were found in an earth-hill on a couple of farms. These date from about 800 A.D. Also a few glass pearls and decorated swords, shields and arrows etc., were found in a grave.

The farms with names taken from men, date from the Viking time. I.e. Asmarvik, Roaldstad, Reianes etc. The last syllable is usually a natural name, just like it is on Iceland. This proves that these names date from the time when the Vikings visited Iceland.

We have now gone through most of the historical things we know from Rennesøy from the stone age to the Viking time. The Viking time is contemporary with the first historic time for our country when the men went on Viking trips. This is, of course, also the time of the "scaldic lays" and the "sagas".