

Rasmus Bjorn Anderson

Rasmus Bjørn Anderson (January 12, 1846 - March 2, 1936) was an American author, professor, editor, businessman and diplomat. He brought to popular attention the fact that Viking explorers discovered the New World and was the originator of Leif Erikson Day. Anderson was born in the Town of Albion in Dane County, Wisconsin and grew up in Koshkoning. His parents Bjørn Anderson Kvelve (1801-1850) and Abel Cathrine von Krogh (1809-1885) were immigrants from Sandeid / Vikedal in Ryfylke in the county of Rogaland, Norway. His parents were part of a small band of Quaker sympathizers who organized a Norwegian emigration to America in 1836. Anderson was a graduate of Luther College and the University of Wisconsin. He was a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1867 to 1883. While there, he was the founding head of the Department of Scandinavian Studies, the oldest such department in an American university. He also persuaded Norwegian violinist Ole Bull to give a concert for the benefit of a projected Norwegian language library at the university. Ole Bull subsequently paid Anderson's expenses for a trip to Norway to purchase books for the library.

