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Leif the Lucky! When the Norwegians, Eric the Red and his son Leif, had their colony in Greenland, it may have been much milder there than at present -- some more of Leif's luck. Excavations in Greenland have revealed wooden coffins, skeletons wrapped in a kind of haircloth, and tombstones with Christian inscriptions on some of them. It is believed that Baffin Bay, which is well within the Arctic Circle between Greenland and North America, was almost free of ice in the 10th century. It was then that the Ericssons were in Greenland. After that the climate grew worse, except for temporary improvements in the 11th and 12th centuries.

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