

Mans Stanes, Northside



There are three places along the shore on the north side of Birsay traditionally known to have once had Mans Stones: namely Crowdue, Waspitten and Skippigeo.

The Mans stone at the now ruinous homestead of Crowdue was close to the road and was thus removed in the mid-1800s as it was an impediment to traffic. The farmer was said to have got a splinter of stone in his finger when he removed the stone and that he died soon after. The stone was locally known to be 'sacred' and the farmer had been warned not to remove it.

The Waspitten stone was a boulder located on a narrow strip of ground called waspitten between the farms of Flecketsquoy and Hawin. The ground was considered holy and was never ploughed. The boulder was broken up by soldiers, who did not know of the associations with the stone, and used for building during the Second World War.

The last of the three Northside stones was near Skippiegeo, a large inlet in the northeast side of the Buckquoy peninsula. The flat stone was in a field that belonged at one time to the farm of Gelderhouse.

References

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