

Now they come!

Qaqortoq was reportedly founded as a colony Julianeshaab in the year 1775. The settlement has almost certainly been the home of people back much further than any man has written down. The town is today a small port near the mouth of the fjord leading into The Davis Strait.

"Now they come!" I imagine that the vigilant Inuit children excited have cried to their parents up at the turf cottages just below the lake Storesøen. The small settlement was so nice and warm and protected and yet so close to the important hunting areas out on the banks and in the pack ice at the mouth of the fjord. It was the local hunters in their small kayaks the children with their sharp eyes could see. The hunters appeared between the ice floes, heavy tugging their catch of birds and seals.

Many centuries after the cries resounded in the little settlement: *"Now they come!"* Now it was the Norsemen, who were leading in the

region. The Vikings had arranged themselves along the shore of the fjord. What the Norse had seen was a Viking ship, ravaged by Atlantic storms, moving slowly into the fjord. Everyone ran down to the shore to see who was entering. The guests, who perhaps were close family members, which would stay to create a new, small society along the deserted coasts of South Greenland – and they could tell news from the big world.

"Now they come!" The cry may also have been sounding, when the ships from the Royal Greenland Trading Department arrived to the colony Julianeshaab after their trip from Copenhagen over the Atlantic. It must have been a fantastic event, when the big wooden ships were at anchor, and new people and new supplies began to fill the houses in the small settlement.

"Now they come!" Almost daily we hear the children shouting and pointing at the small helicopter

coming into sight above the fjord. Long-awaited brothers and sisters who have been attending school far away or relatives, who come to visit, immediately after fill the small waiting room. People locked in an embrace, without words but with tears greet each other after a long time longing,

Here in the summer of 2015 the cry *"Now they come"* again appears in the town. Now it is the cruise ships - filled with tourists – which appear and anchor close to the town. Fast small boats from the ship full of tourists come alongside the quay - tourists seeking experiences in what they feel is an exotic small town here in the middle of the wilderness. The tourists, who of course also might intend to buy local crafts and spend their money in shops and stalls.

This year, about twenty of these huge floating palaces are expected to visit our pleasant little town.



Qaqortoq, July 2015