

QASSIARSUK QASSIARSUK

Keld Jensen

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Qassiarsuk

Sammen med et forskningsteam besøgte jeg i 2014 bygden Qassiarsuk. Qassiarsuk ligger i bunden af fjorden Tunulliarfik. Det er et sted, der emmer af historie fra for længst forsvundne tider.

Oprindeligt formodes området i Sydgrønland i årtusinder at have været beboet af oprindelige folk. Men i år 982 begyndte en ny æra. På små skibe ankom nordboerne fra deres oprindelige opholdssteder i Island. Nu var de blev fordrevet og fandt deres nye bosted under helt nye betingelser inderst i den lange fjord. De kaldte stedet for Brattahlid.

Gruppen af nordboere var ledet af Erik den Røde. I dag er nordboerne for længst forsvundet fra Grønland, men de har efterladt mange ruiner langs kysten.

Senere valgte inuitterne også dette sted til beboelse, og bygden Qassiarsuk blev etableret.

Under 2. Verdenskrig etablerede amerikanerne en militærbase lige over for Qassiar-

suk på den anden side af fjorden. Allerede i 1950erne forlod amerikanerne Narsarsuaq, og basen fungerer nu som en civil lufthavn.

Qassiarsuk har landbrugsproduktion og turisme. Men bygden kan kun overleve med relativt store offentlige tilskud. I de senere år har mange har forladt bygden. Ved indførelse af hjemmestyret omkring 1980 var Qassiar-suk hjemsted for omkring 150 borgere. I dag er der under tyve fastboende tilbage.

Søn af Erik den Røde, Leif den Lykkelige, har fået sin egne mægtige statue oppe på bjerget over bygden. Herfra kan han betragte udviklingen. Med jævne mellemrum forstyrres freden af fly, der benytter lufthavnen på den anden side. Det kan dog også snart være slut. Lufthavnen Narsarsuaq nedlægges, når den nye lufthavn i Qaqortoq er etableret. Derefter fortsætter lufthavnen som en heliport.

Qassiarsuk

Year 2014, together with a research team, I visited the settlement of Qassiarsuk. Qassiarsuk is located at the head of the fjord Tunulliarfik. It is a place with traces from long time ago.

In ancient time, for millennia, the area in South Greenland is believed to have been inhabited by indigenous peoples. But in the year 982, a new era began. On small ships, the Norse arrived from their native places of residence in Iceland. They had been expelled, and under completely new conditions they found their new habitat in the head of the long fjord. They called the place Brattahlid.

The group of Norsemen was led by Erik the Red. Today, the Norse have long since disappeared from Greenland, but they have left many ruins along the coast.

Later, the Inuit also chose this place for habitation, and the settlement of Qassiarsuk was established.

During World War II, the Americans established a military base immediately opposite

Qassiarsuk on the other side of the fjord. Already in the 1950s, the Americans left Narsarsuaq, and the base now act as a civilian airport.

Qassiarsuk has agricultural production and tourism. But the settlement can only survive with relatively large public subsidies. In recent years, many have left the settlement. At the time of the introduction of Home Rule, around 1980, Qassiarsuk was home to about 150 citizens. Today, less than twenty permanent residents remain.

The son of Erik the Red, Leif the Lucky has got his own mighty statue up on the mountain above the settlement. From here he can watch the development. Periodically, the peace is disturbed by aircrafts using the airport on the other side. However, this may also soon be over. The Narsarsuaq Airport will be closed when the new airport in Qaqortoq is established. After that, Narsarsuaq continues as a heliport.



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KOLOFON

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COLOPHON

*Photo of the week: Qassiarsuk
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