



Hunters' huts in North-East Greenland

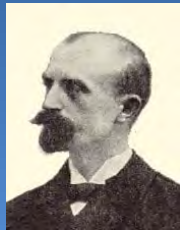
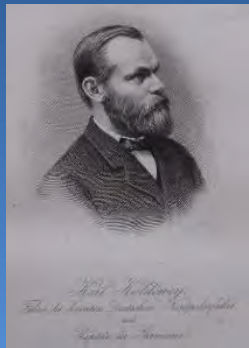
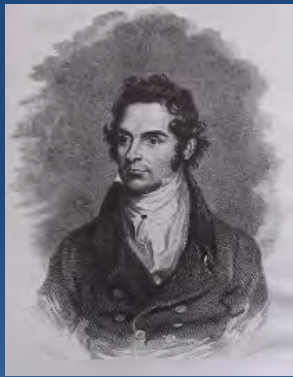
*- something about huts, places, people, and adventures
in the largest National Park on Earth*

10th December 2016, Queens' College, Cambridge

Peter Schmidt Mikkelsen
Nordøstgrønlandsk Kompagni Nanok

- North-East Greenland ...
- Mapping ...
- The Trapper Era ...
- Sirius Patrol ...
- North-East Greenland revisited ...
- Tracking the trappers ...
- The Nanok Company ...
- Nanok's recent activities ...



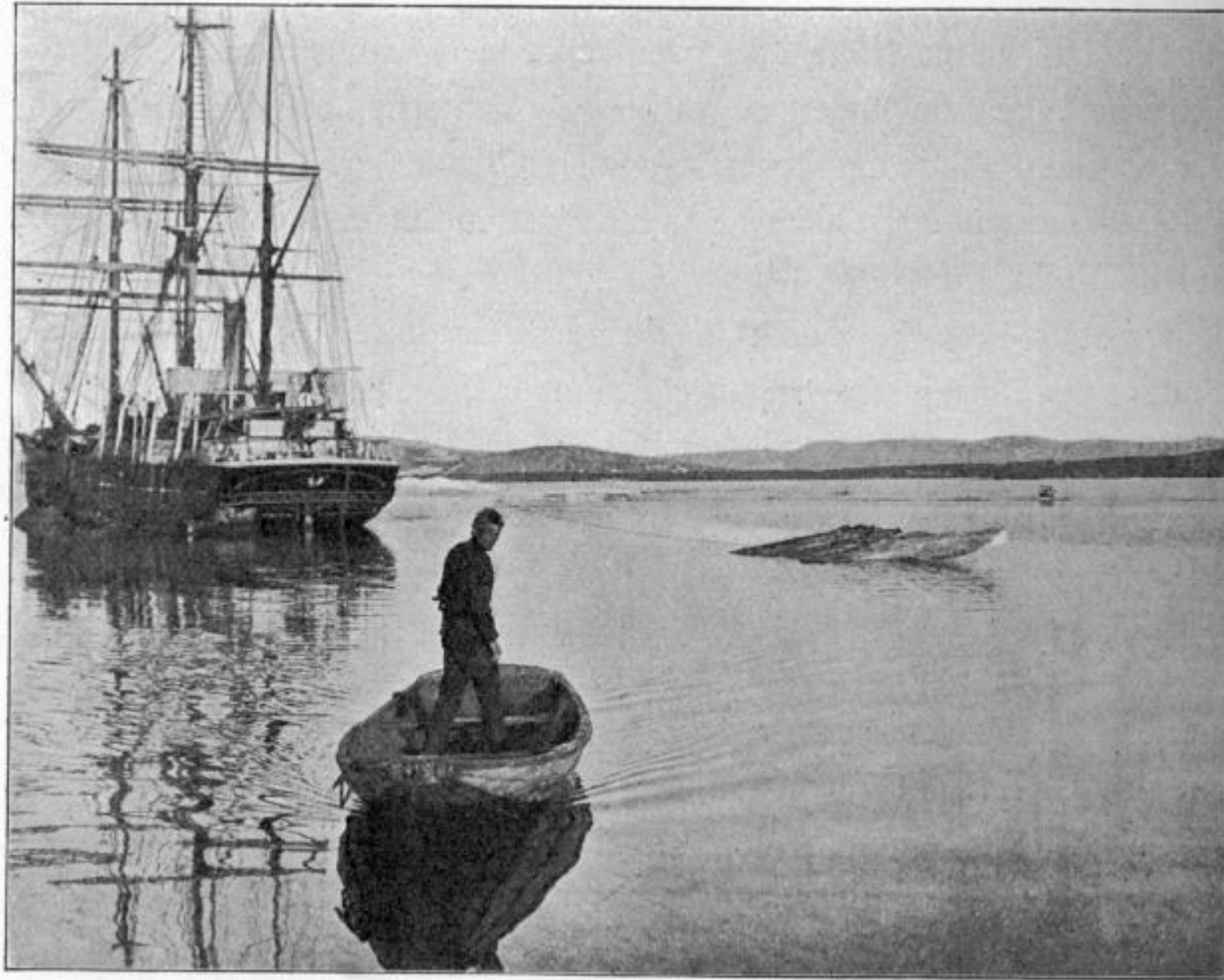


North-East Greenland explorers and mapping 1822 – 1908

- William Scoresby Jr. 1822 
- Douglas Clavering & Edward Sabine 1823 
- Zweite deutsche Nordpolarfahrt 1869-70 
- Danish Expedition to East Greenland 1891-92 
- Alfred Gabriel Nathorst 1899 
- The Carlsberg Foundation. Expedition 1900 
- The Duke of Orléans 1905 
- Danmark-Ekspeditionen 1906-08 



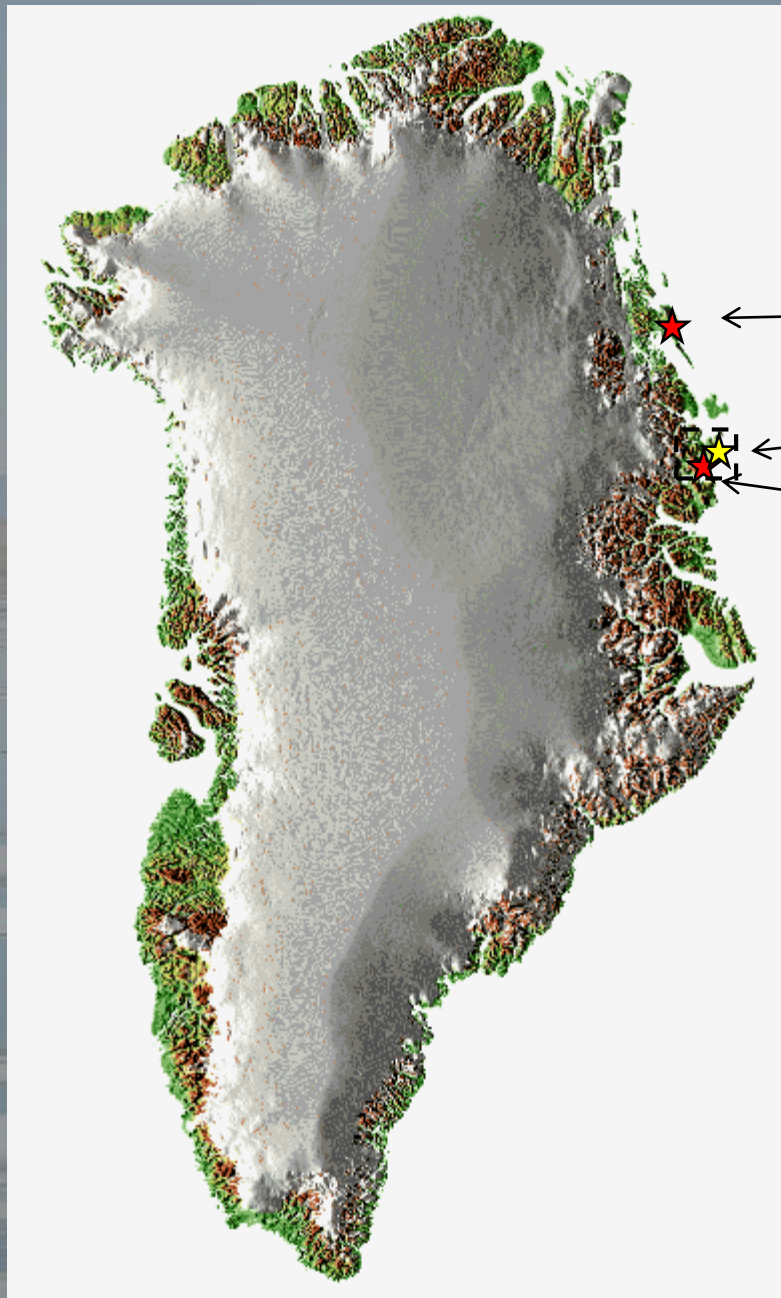
The Trapper Era 1908 - 1960



„DANMARK“ SEJLKLAR.

“Danmark” leaving Danmarkshavn - 21. July 1908 ...

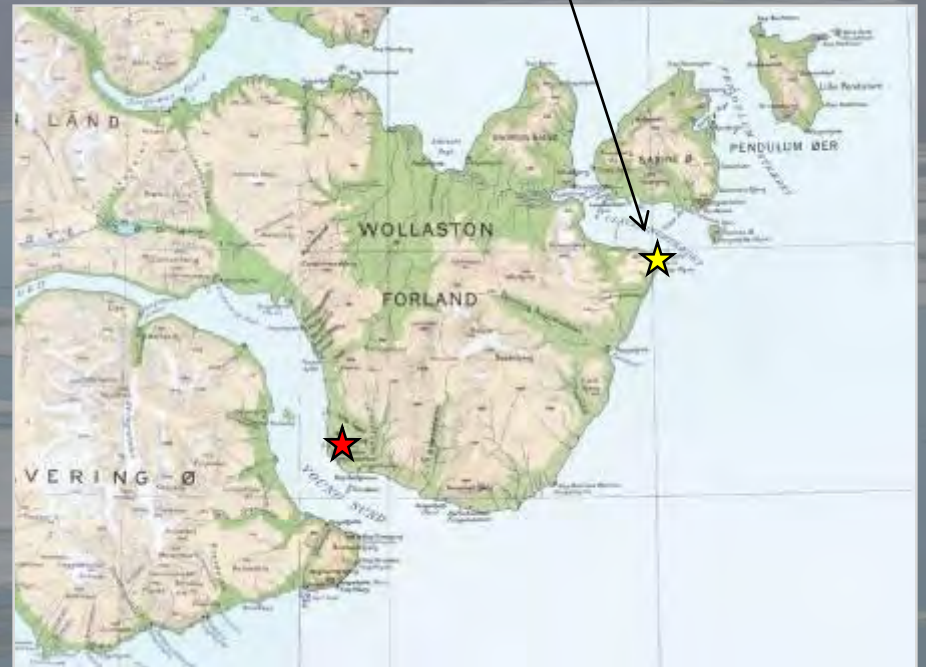
North-East coast of Greenland 1908 ...



Danmarkshavn

Kap Wynn

Daneborg



Cherchez la femme ...



The Norwegian "Floren"-expedition - first overvintring trappers Kap Wynn, 3. July 1908 - 30. July 1909



HOUSE OF WINTERERS AT CRIPPER ROADS (GREENLAND).



Kap Wynn 2012



SEVRIN LIAVÅG var førar og partreiar av "Floren". Han var fødd i 1879. Drukna under bjørnejakt 12. mai 1909.

Danish pioneers from A/S Østgrønlandsk Kompagni 1919-1924 ...

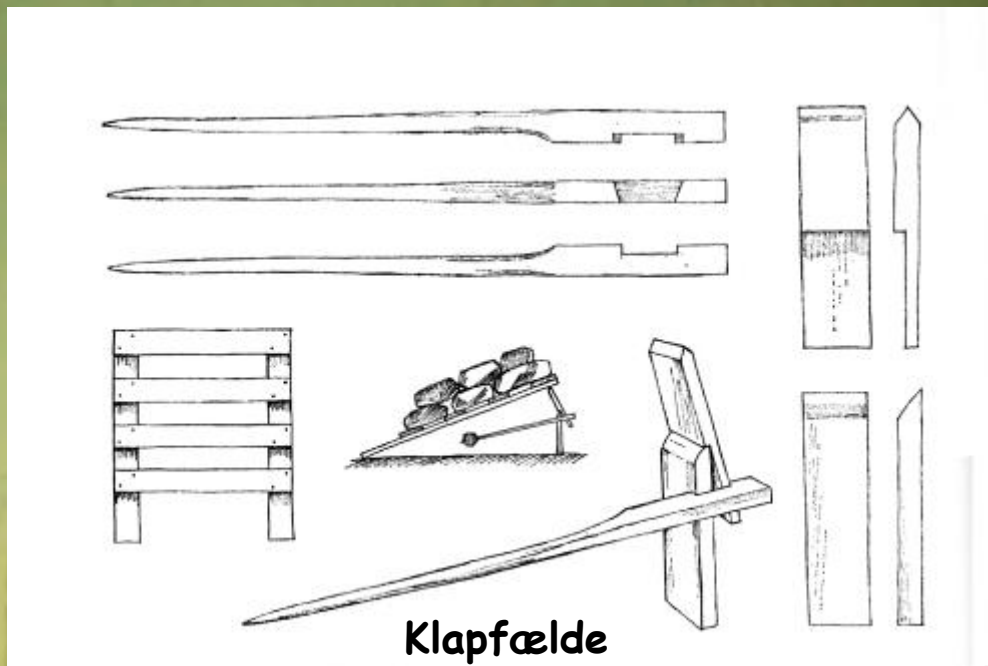


Danish trappers at "Villaen" (Danmarkshavn) 1919

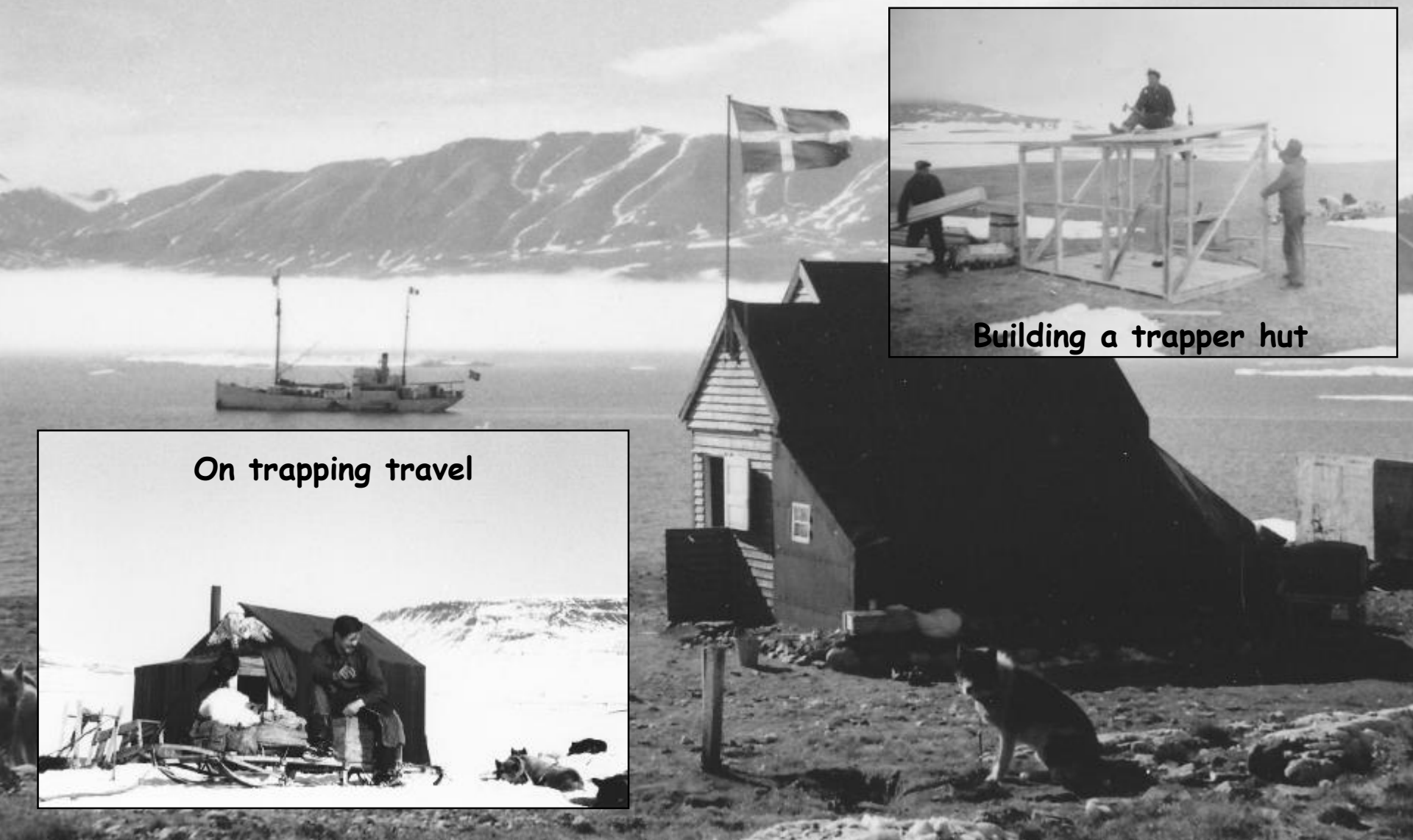
Fur & food ...



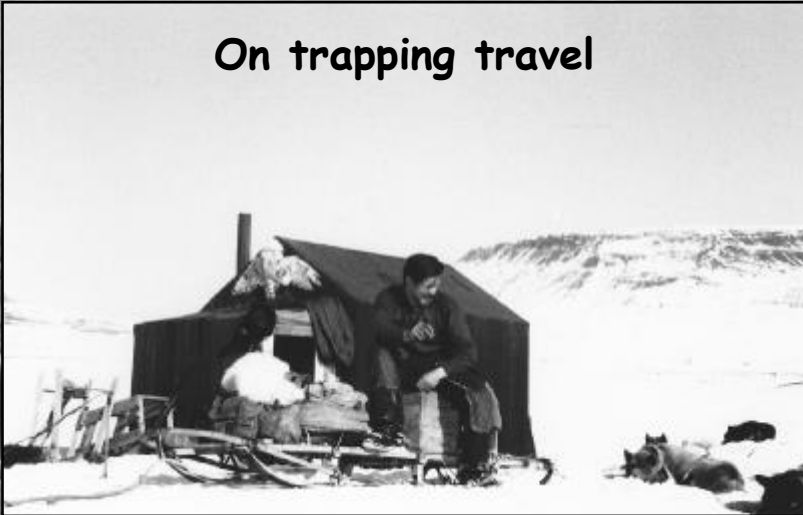
Trapping ...



By the end of the 1920's the trapping concept had been perfected: Two trappers sharing a trapper station and a vast terrain equipped with a chain of small trapper huts, where they could stay during their winter trapping travels ...



Building a trapper hut



On trapping travel

The stations, trapper's home ...

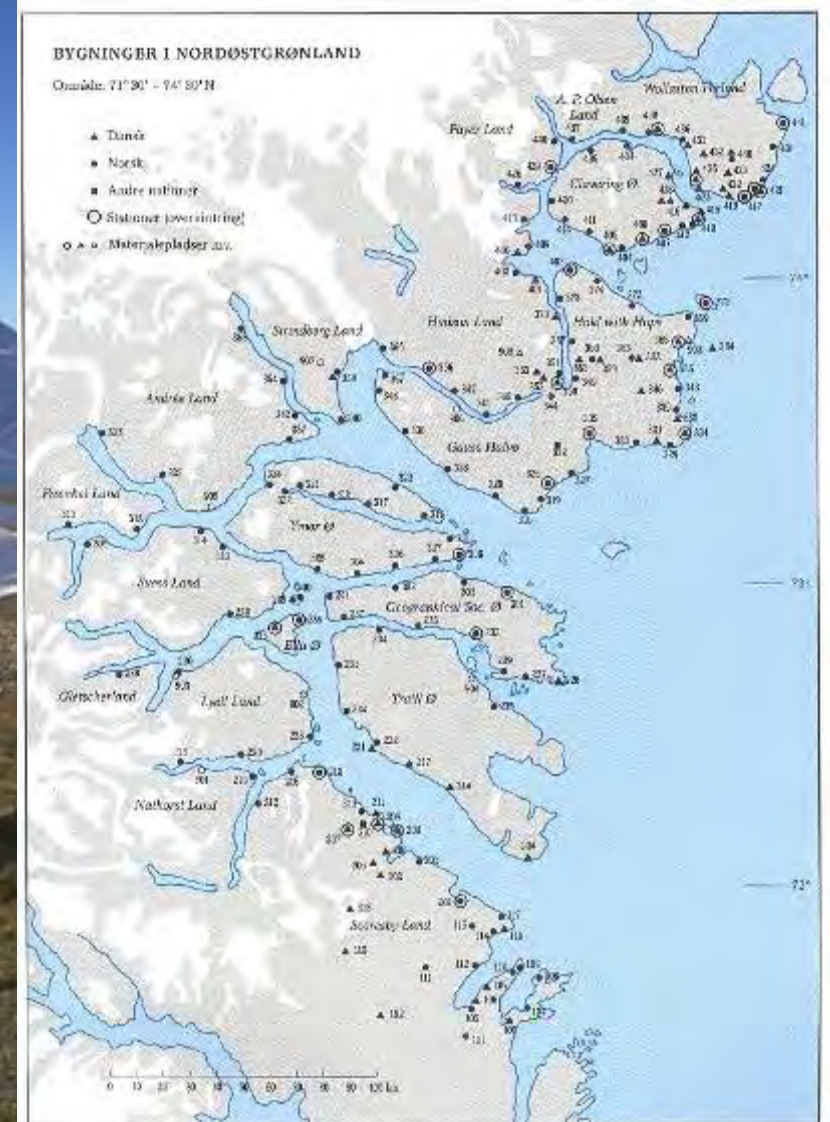


"Sandodden" - built 1923

The stations, trapper's home ...



Trapper huts, for overnight stay. There are more than 300 ...



"Pashuset" - built 1933 - in 1989

and not two identical ...





Until the end of the 1970's Sirius, the Danish military dog sledge patrol, used a large part of the old trapper huts



Sledge Team 2 at Dahl Skær, 26. May 1979

But when the Greenland National Park was established in 1974 and hunting stopped, Sirius got an increasing problem with polar bears ravaging the trappers huts time after time, eating food for both men and dogs. Sirius therefore began building new "bear proof" huts, and stopped maintaining the old huts ...



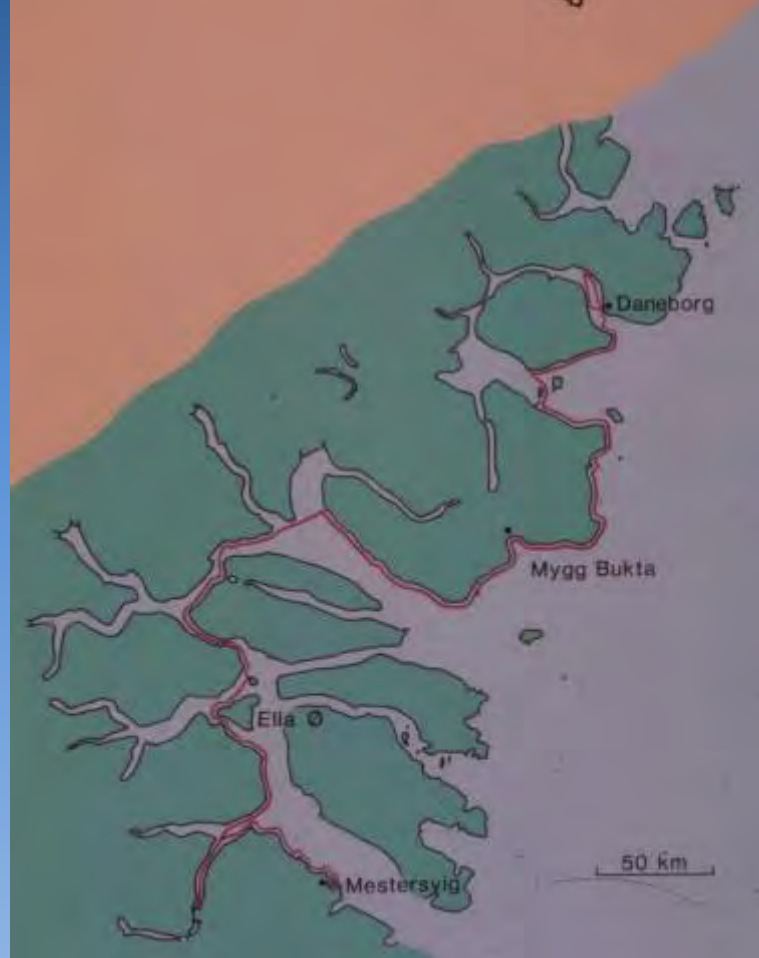
The result soon came: "Varghytten", Blomsterbugten, 1979



North-East Greenland revisited. A 700 km kayak journey from Daneborg to Mestersvig in the summer 1989

DANSK · SVENSK KAJAK · EXPEDITION

NORDØST-GRØNLAND 1989



Olaf Malver - Claus Birkebøll - Peter Schmidt Mikkelsen - Magnus Elander

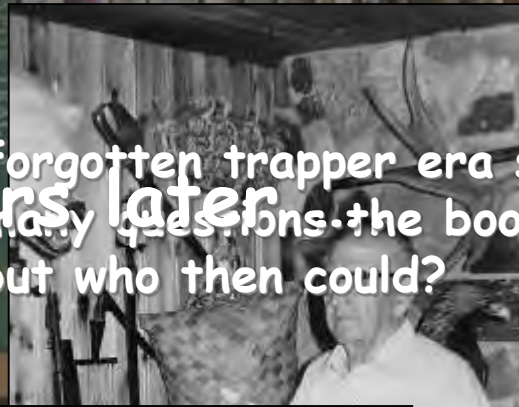
The kayak journey in 1989 was a fantastic revisit to North-East Greenland.
During the trip photos and notes were made of the old trapper huts
The idea for a new book began to evolve ...



In search of the trappers ...



Back home the search of the forgotten trapper era started on the book shelf, but there were many questions the books didn't give an answer to, but who then could?



NORDØST-GRØNLAND 1908-60

FANGSTMANDSPERIODEN



PETER SCHMIDT MIKKELSEN

DANSK POLARCENTER



The NANOK Company 1991 -



Nordøstgrønlandsk Kompagni NANOK



NANOK is a private 100% non-profit company.
Purpose: *To disseminate knowledge of North-East Greenland and its cultural history, and to contribute to maintenance of the cultural relics and buildings of the area ...".*



NANOK was founded in 1991:
Peter Schmidt Mikkelsen, Jens Erik Schultz, Erik Jensen, Mogens Graae, Henning Schwegler Poulsen



Zackenberg trapper station

- where we started ...

Nanok's first initiative was to send two men to North-East Greenland in the summer of 1991 to renovate the old Zackenberg trapper station.

Even the same summer the house was used by the expedition, which was making reconnaissance for the later on established Zackenberg research station.

Since then the house has been frequently used as weekend house by researchers and guests at Zackenberg.



Restoring the huts ...



It takes:

- a pile of wooden boards
- several rolls of roofing felt
- lots of nails, screws and fittings
- a stove with pipe
- a "hut box" with equipment
- coal, fire wood, fuel



Crew, logistics and financing ...



- all work is voluntary, unpaid and non-profit
- 2-3 teams with 2-4 members each summer
- participants with experience and local knowledge
- sponsored by Aage V. Jensens Foundation



AAGE V. JENSENS FONDE



Authenticity is essential ...

But we also prepare the huts for future practical use: Stove, basic hut equipment, coal, and fuel is a standard part of the renovation ...





Example before and after:

"Elvsborg" built 1927 at
Clavering Ø, 2007-08



Kap Herschell 1946 - 2002



1946



1999



2002 - før



2002 - efter

A new floor in Myggbukta 2002



Example before and after:
Myggbukta 2011



Nanok 2016



Ellø 2015-16



Ellø 2015-16



Ellø 2015-16



Since 1991 a total of 160 NANOK'ers (more that 75 individuals)





Since 1991 NANOK has restored more than 50 huts and stations





Plan 2017 / 27th field season

Villaen, Danmarkshavn





Plan 2017 / 27th field season

Daneborg area



Antonsens Hytte

Blæsenborghytten



Plan 2017 / 27th field season

Ella Ø





Thank you for your attention!

www.xsirius.dk