

Greenland

Vignette: Trip to Southern Greenland,
July 1983



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Greenland

July 1983

My parents' trip to Southern Greenland

Letter from my father to me, from Manby House, dated 29 July 1983:

My Dear Adrian

We are all sweltering in one of the hottest summers we can remember. The whole of July has been really marvellous – too hot, many people think – but of course we missed the first half of it while away in Greenland. Even there, though, it was pleasantly warm and, on most days, beautifully sunny.

It was really a 'fabulous' holiday – such wonderful scenery, masses of glorious icebergs, blue, green, white and translucent; and the ruins of the Norse homesteads, byres, churches etc. (including those of Eric the Red, the first settler in AD 982) were most evocative.

We walked for miles and miles through country very reminiscent of the Scottish highlands (though with snow on the mountains, and the great ice-cap behind); we climbed mountains, and we fished in marvellously crystal-clear rivers and lakes.

We caught Artic char (a kind of trout, but pink underneath), but most of them were too small to keep. I caught the three largest – using a spinner – but we only kept two of these.

We missed the ship from Reykjavik by one hour, so had to spend a day there and catch a flight from Keflavik to Glasgow on 15th – but were very well looked after and accommodated for 2 nights by the Icelandic Hydrographer and his wife (Gunnar Bergsteinsson and Brynja Thorarinsdotter) whom we knew of old.

Since getting back here late that night we've hardly stopped to draw breath, catching up with ourselves, so to speak...

Photographs taken on the trip follow.

The Captions tell the story; however, it appears that some of the place names have changed since 1983...

CAPTIONS

- ① Departure from Harwich, in a heatwave. Fishing rods, encased in cardboard tube, leaning against wall in background. (Taken by Virginia)
- ② On board M.V. Dana Regina, in North Sea. (C'est la vie!)
- ③ Hotel Arctic, Narsarsuaq, S. Greenland
- ④ M.O.H. examining flora, overlooking Eriksfjord
- ⑤ G.P.D.H. studying iceberg, off Narsarsuaq
- ⑥ G.P.D.H. trekking up the river valley to the edge of the inland ice-cap
- ⑦ Willowherb amongst the 'glacial outwash'
- ⑧ Ruins of Erik the Red's cow-byre at Brattahlid (Qagssiarssuaq)
- ⑨ G.P.D.H. fishing a mountain-tarn above Qagssiarssuaq
- ⑩ Erik the Red's view down the fjord from his homestead at Brattahlid.
- ⑪ Eriksfjord: icebergs off the mouth of Qoroq Fjord
- ⑫ Itivdleq: G.P.D.H. viewing some of the Green of Greenland
- ⑬ Gardar (Igaliko): Ruins of the 12th Century Diocesan Tithe-barn
- ⑭ Navigating the Qoroq Fjord
- ⑮ The Head of Qoroq Fjord; where the inland ice-cap meets the sea.
- ⑯ Icefall at the head of Qoroq Fjord
- ⑰ G.P.D.H. with part of his catch at Qordlortoq (The 2 we didn't throw back!)
- ⑱ Waiting for the boat after a day's fishing at Qordlortoq; M.O.H. with the Greenlandic dog that befriended us.



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Photographs of Southern Greenland, July 1983



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Photographs of Southern Greenland, July 1983



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Photographs of Southern Greenland, July 1983



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