

Speech given, at the GRUT HANSEN Family CELEBRATION on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2013.

Dear GRUT HANSEN DESCENDANTS!

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Association, it is a particular pleasure to express, a sincere THANK YOU for the support and affirmative presence in showing up today. Let us all promptly forward this THANK YOU to the PARTY COMMITTEE, which has ensured that we can add another eventful get-together to the chain of family meetings, which started in 1957 at ØREGÅRD .....and went on through time at CLAUSHOLM, BØRSEN, MATTRUP and in 2008 again ØREGÅRD ... and now today at RUNGSTEDLUND and RUNGSTEDGÅRD.

Is it just a coincidence? I do not believe much in life is, and certainly not events like this one. The stage is set and many thoughts and good intentions aired among the creative and entrepreneurial types that inspires and organizes. But even my dear Father, HANS JØRGEN KNUDTZON (No. 193 in the book and founder of the association), during his celebratory speech at Øregaard in 2008, had Karen Blixen as a central figure, could not know that it was this magnificent place that would form the setting for today's celebration. What intuitive foresight ... well done Father ☺

I dare not stand here today and try to be as intuitive as my father and express such intuitive thoughts about future celebrations, - but why not reflect on the story we write today.

Feel the energetic wings of history right here in this place, in and around Rungstedlund where storytelling has been the essence of a lifetime of Karen Blixen. And here we are today writing another chapter in GRUT HANSEN DESCENDANTS cohesion. Our storyline is supported and reinforced by a well-documented history with many generations who can tell about the feeling of belonging together at the events we have had..... Feel the magnificent power of history right here..... It can't be much better!

But one thing is history. We might not be able to just live only by history in the future. We cannot lean back and look at the past and be satisfied. We can and must enjoy it, and we can learn from it and we can find energy and inspiration in the past, to create what we want for the future. But the story must be written over and over again. Well documented in the book are the descendants of 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> generations of the family tree; however they are no longer able to write new chapters.

The 5<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> and even the 9<sup>th</sup> generations, emerging in the best life-affirming way, are present here today, thus consequently we are gradually more and more to write.

So, what is to become the content of the chapter, we are about to write just now. Are there any trends and tendencies that affect and stimulate the description of exactly what we experience together?

Generations have been described very differently over time. The past 50 years has been defining first Generation X, most likely the one I represent: Born in the period from the mid-60<sup>th</sup> until the mid-80<sup>th</sup>. A generation with a focus on human rights, the individual's right to liberty and the need for stability and human tolerance. The focus is on global challenges such as fighting corruption, abuse, and AIDS.

They were followed by Generation Y, often called the Millennium generation from the 1980<sup>th</sup> up to the millennium. Here is a growing focus on community feeling, both local and global, and increasing access to communication technology begins to affect.

However that's nothing compared to the past decade's Generation Z, - those born after 2000. They have not yet so many years in their bag, but shows trends and characteristics in the direction of being so-called "digital natives" - they are connected, throughout most of the life they have lived naturally with communications and media technologies in networks like the Internet, huge variety of messaging and chat-forums, and social networking.

The term cell phone is outdated: it is smartphones which gives constant access to all kinds of information and communication around the clock from a very early start in life.

Movies and music boom that has helped to make the world smaller, is now overtaken by the game boom. Games of all kinds, which increasingly caters for all age groups. It all helps to create new ways of living together.

The incentive, the motivation of us all is different. It is crucial to understand the diversity, it includes when you want to embrace such a vast crowd of types and life skills. There are no characteristics that are more or less right or wrong, but we must recognize them and tolerate them in order to accommodate them in cohesion. There is a stronger urge to independently select communities, not be dictated anything, neither in work nor in social situations, but having development opportunities, and choose something that is relevant to oneself. We know that as parents, the good old argument "because I say so ...." has less and less impact. "- but a counterargument like "I have read on the Internet ....." is what you today, can be absolute sure of hearing.

Variations of incentives and ability and desire to channel ones energy in directions that meet goals - that is the way the young generations think. All kinds of communication is allowed through networks of more or less technical nature, with on-line style that compels action in the present, since it is expected to be "on-line", you are "connected" and even via parallel communication channels, that can be difficult to understand the purpose of, however they form a variety of content, all of which are in reality helping to write the story.

Room for diversity, accommodates the diversity that is more and more the scope for today's everyday life.

Globalization - internationalization, moving of borders in countries, as well as in companies, and in families, and cultures. The world is getting smaller and smaller, we travel around the world and live and experience together, closer and closer and must therefore understand each other, across different lifestyles and

cultures. Cultures that are created over many years of cohesion, which does not change from day to day.

Family Cultures described in our story and to day experienced in the forceful evidence of history.....! It is this energy the management board, want to support. We seek to create a practical framework for your desire to continue writing the next chapters, enabling you all to express your part of the future history.

It takes time, but it is stimulating to see the reactions and joy it gives and being able to meet and feel the cohesion and experience that we belong together, as we do today.

Continue to tell the story; - your own Story - tell it to yourself and to others by means of the dimension of the whole family's cohesion, as the forceful power behind the story.

The board will ensure that there is a framework for us to continue this family relation supported by the story. Something is already in print in the book; something is on the web at [www.gruthansen.org](http://www.gruthansen.org) , where we ensure an update of information and data. However, most of the story is here among us, when we are together - a live network, a continuing story where we can feel the strong powers of history.

Let's send friendly and warm greeting to Emma Eliza GRUT and Andreas Nicolaj HANSEN - in the form of three short precise hurray's for the family well-being, for togetherness and cohesion followed by a very long hurray for the power of history.....!

Long live GRUT HANSEN DECENDANTS.....

CHEERS and THANK YOU!

Nikolaj Knudtzon (No. 410)