

Then - I will make an attempt to say in English a welcome to this family reunion and then of course especially to our honor guests - Carol and Frans. A visit from America is apparently needed for this kind of gathering .

Frans is the oldest of our cousins here today and then it is Gilbert and me in age order. We were both born in 1946 and we went to the same school class in Hånger school many years ago. The following year, Ingegerd was born. Ingegerd and Gilbert are responsible for the event today and I would therefore particularly like to thank them. Gilbert has asked me to welcome you all in English and I therefore make this attempt. Since it is 29 years since we were gathered for a similar big family reunion – together with Carol and Frans – has the family grew bigger with many younger members. Because of that I also want to use the opportunity for some family information.

Frans Seastrand here has the same name as our cousins common grandfather Frans Sjöstrand. Last month it was 100 years since our grandfather died. The next month it is 100 years since my mother Dagmar was born. On my father's 90 years birthday party, I took the opportunity to interview Uncle Sixten Sjöstrand about his memory of his father's death. Sixten was then 6 years old. If anyone is interested - ask me afterwards so I can retell his story in Swedish. If we call Frans Sjöstrand's parents for generation no. 1 then me and my cousins are generation no. 4, our children no. 5 and our grandchildren are generation no. 6.

Our Great Grandparents are Gustav Bengtsson and his wife born Carlsdotter from Torskinge. When Gustav became a soldier, he was named Tånnkvist because he came from Tånnö and was born on the farm Kronogård. Gustav Bengtsson Tånnkvist with wife are then generation no. 1. Our great grandfather is the last generation where the son was given the surname after his father's first name. His father's name was therefore Bengt with surname Pettersson. Bengt was at least the 4th generation back as owner of the family farm Kronogård - but before we move on in the generations we must mention something about the family farm Kronogård. – It went bad for Bengt. He lost the farm and then died. The new owner was unmarried but then married the widow - Gustav Bengtsson Tånnkvist's mother. When Gustav Tånnkvists and his siblings stepfather died after many years, the farm came back into the family's possession when Gustav's younger brother, who was then in age among the siblings, took over the farm, which today is owned by his grandson's son Bo Bengtsson. Bo is our third cousin – In Swedish we call it “brylling”. Bo is thus at least the 9th generation as the owner of the family farm.

Now to generation 2 and grandfather Frans and his siblings who grew up at the soldiers cottage Kårabo in Tännö. Frans' older brothers became all soldiers and received different soldier names as Törnkvist, Sjöberg and Lönn. Frans also became a soldier and changed his family name from Tännkvist to Sjöstrand before he married our grandmother Ida and became a farm owner in Södra Ryd Hånger. Frans 2 younger brothers did not become soldiers and retained the new family name Tännkvist. The two sisters changed Tännkvist when they married Johansson and Linder respectively.

Now to generation 3 – the parents to me and my cousins. First a look back to our meeting 29 years ago. Then – 1990 – uncle Anton Sjöstrand has passed away. 8 members of this generation participated. None of these are here today. In this generation they were 42 cousins on the grandfather Frans side. Remaining in life today is Mother Dagmar and Gunnar Tonnquist, who have done a great job of genealogi.

Before I continue with the generations, it is time to make a clarification; Between 1850 and 1930, almost 1.5 million Swedes emigrated - the majority to North America. This has also very much affected our family. When I look back in my mother and father's families, I find 36 names who emigrated to America. The last of these persons who emigrated were from generation 3 - just at the end of the period - are the 3 brothers who in the US spelled their last name Seastrand. Eric Seastrand is Frans Seastrands father. 2 persons - of these 36 - returned to Sweden to get married. They then stayed in Sweden partly because of difficult times in America in the early 1930 decade. Gilbert's father Axel Pettersson was one of these 2 and he married my aunt Edit.

Now to generation 4 – our generation. First – again – a look back to our meeting 29 years ago. 15 cousins participated. Only Frans 2 sisters in US - Evelyn and Sylvia were missing. Cousin Karl-Erik has then passed away.

Now to generation 5. 22 children in this generation participated 29 years ago. You will all probably remember the family meeting. As a curiosity we make a side look at an another branch of the generations. Are there any known people in public? Two journalists known from TV and the newspaper world are the brothers PJ Anders Linder and Mats Linder. They are third cousins to you in generation 5.

Now to generation 6 and all of you that did not exist 29 years ago. You are all especially welcome to this party because you are the future who can arrange the next family meeting.