



The Herring Lassies **‘Following the Herring’.**

Stanley Bruce,
Chairman,
Banffshire Maritime & Heritage Association.

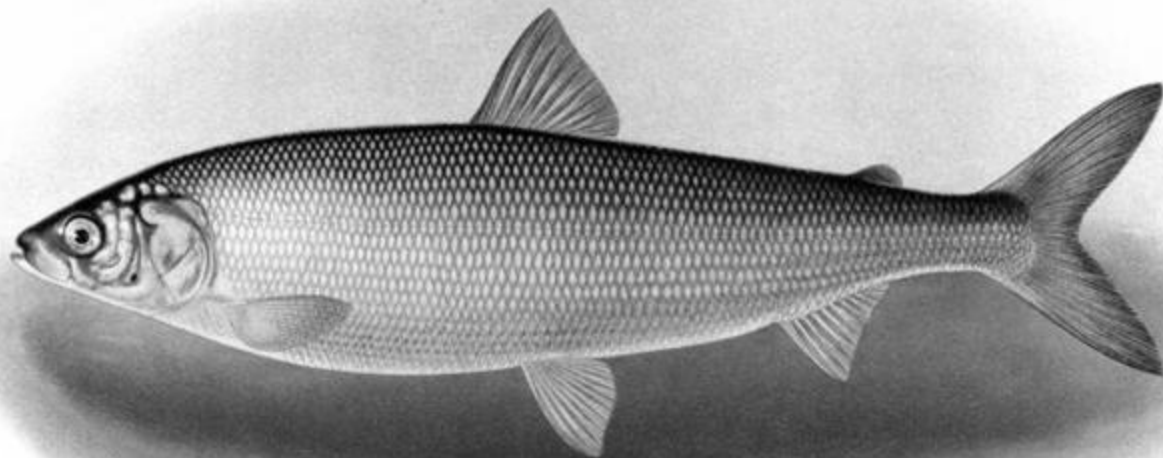
Presented to the Aberchirder History Club,
3rd December 2008.

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Herring Lassies 1900's.

Following the Herring – ‘The Silver Darlings’.



Herring – ‘Clupea harengus’.



Around 12" long fully grown.



Salt herring steeping overnight in the pot.

The Herring Lassies.



Herring Lassies.

The Herring Lassies, otherwise known as the 'Gutting Quines' followed the migrating herring all over the UK. They travelled from port to port by train, on a fisherman's boat, on the ferry, or sometimes on the back of a truck. With them they carried a 'Kist', a large trunk which held their belongings. Once they reached port they lived in wooden huts or if they were lucky a guest house. The fishermen caught the herring during the night and landed their catch early in the morning; herring doesn't stay fresh for long so all of the catch had to be processed that day. This meant that if there was a large catch the women had to work until it was all gutted and packed, often into the small hours. Their gutting knives were sharp and the salt stung any cuts – so they tied strips of old flour sacks on their fingers for protection, these were known as 'Clouties'. The woman worked Monday to Saturday, mostly outdoors exposed to the elements, but never on a Sunday (The Sabbath) the women and fishermen were all church-goers, so Sunday was their day off.

The NE Fishing Season – Cod v's Herring.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cod	B	S	S						S	S	B	B
Herring	S	S			S	S	B	B	S	S	S	S

Key

S - fish is in season;

B - best of the season.

NE – North East of Scotland.



Fife herring boat.

The UK Herring Fishing Season.

January to March

Herring fishing was concentrated in **Ireland**, the **west coast** and the **Western Isles**. Some fishermen used the canals to get across to the west coast. Caledonian Canal, Forth and Clyde Canal, and the Crinan Canal.

April

Most of the herring lassies and fishermen went home for a month.

May to August

The fishing commenced in the **Shetland Isles** and then moved south following the herring down to the **Moray Firth** and the **east coast**. The herring also move south from the **west coast** to the **NE coast of Ireland**.

September to November

The herring had now migrated to the **east coast of England** and were followed to **Hull**, **Scarborough**, **Grimsby** and as far south as **Great Yarmouth** and **Lowestoft**. On the west coast to the Isle of Man.

December

Most of the herring lassies and fishermen went home for a month. This was when most of the herring lassies got married many to a fisherman they had met during the summer months. Fish could still be caught in the **Celtic Sea** (SE Ireland).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Herring	S	S			S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S

Following the herring – Contents of a Herring Lassies ‘kist’.

- ◆ A thin mattress.
- ◆ A pillow.
- ◆ Sheets and a pillow case.
- ◆ Blankets.
- ◆ Towels and flannels.
- ◆ Six shifts (A type of long vest).
- ◆ Six ‘drawers’ (Knitted knickers).
- ◆ Working clothes – a long coat, a skirt, a ‘gansey’ (A sweater), aprons, six pairs of woollen stockings, shawls, helmets and working gumboots.
- ◆ Gutting knives, and a sharpening stone.
- ◆ Sunday best – a blouse, a skirt, cardigan, stockings, coat, hat and best shoes.
- ◆ Knitting needles, wool and a ‘knitting pouch’ (A long bag tied around the waist).
- ◆ Toiletries – soap and talcum powder.
- ◆ Hairbrush and kerbies (hair-pins).
- ◆ Cutlery, mug and a plate, and a bible.



Following the Herring – Ardglass, Ireland 1920's.



Following the Herring - Campbeltown (1890's)



Following The Herring – Oban (1900's).



Following The Herring – Mallaig (Banff boats).



UNLOADING HERRING, MALLAIG.

218610.

Following The Herring – Stornoway (1900's).



Herring Gutting
Stornoway

Following The Herring – Stornoway (1900's).



Following The Herring – Stornoway (1900's).

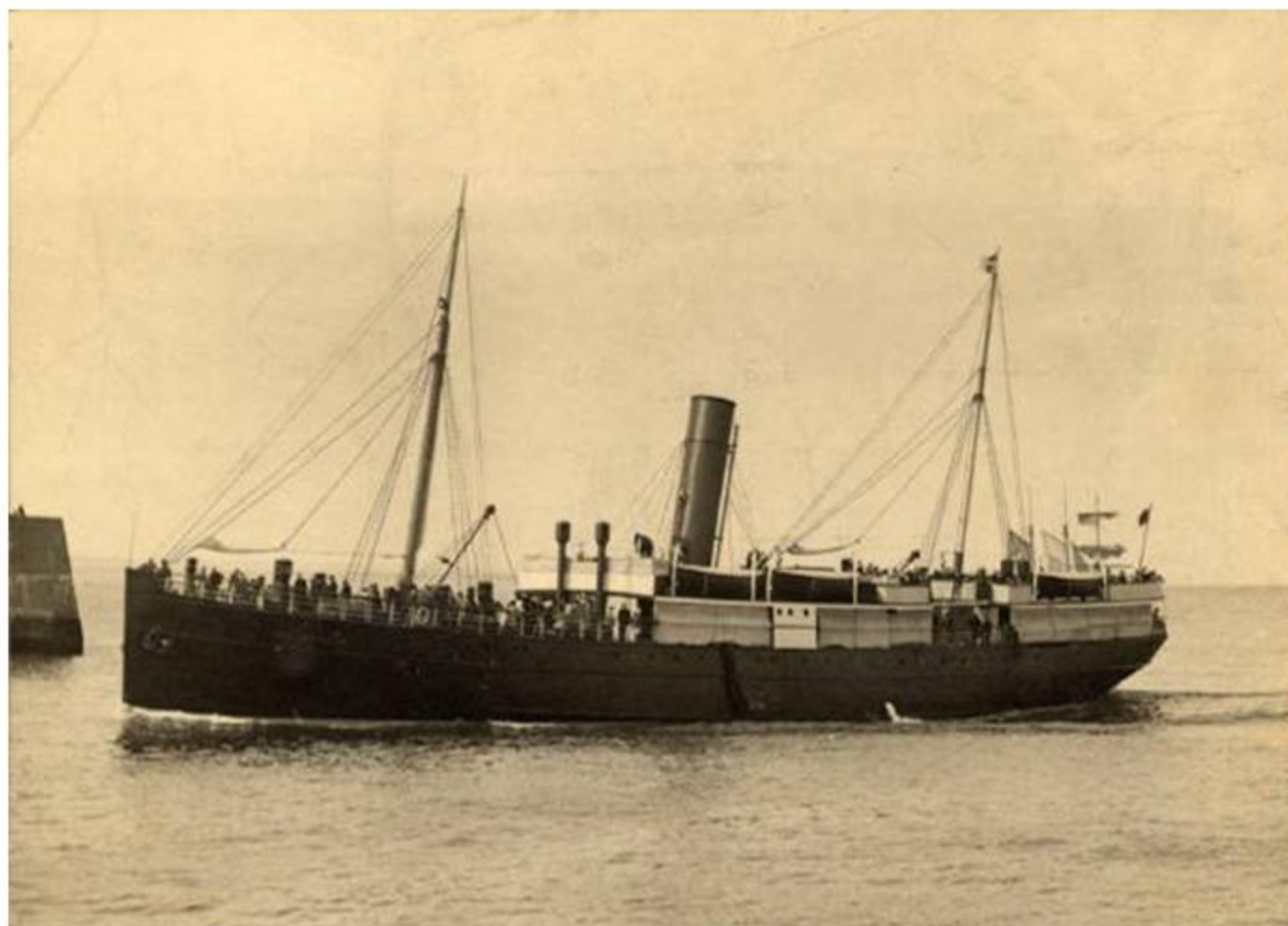


Herring Butlers, Stornoway

Sains

It was back-breaking work.

SS St Rognvald (1920's). Leith and Aberdeen to Orkney and Shetland.



Built in 1901 by Hall Russell and Co Aberdeen for the North of
Scotland & Orkney & Shetland Steam Navigation Company .

Following The Herring – Scalloway - Shetland.



Following The Herring – Lerwick - Shetland.



Esplanade, Lerwick.

Following The Herring – Lerwick - Shetland.



Following The Herring – Lerwick - Shetland.



Following The Herring – Lerwick - Shetland.



Herring Lassies knitting at their hut - Lerwick 1910's.

Following The Herring – Lerwick - Shetland.



"GUTTING", LERWICK.

9678

Following the herring – Wick.



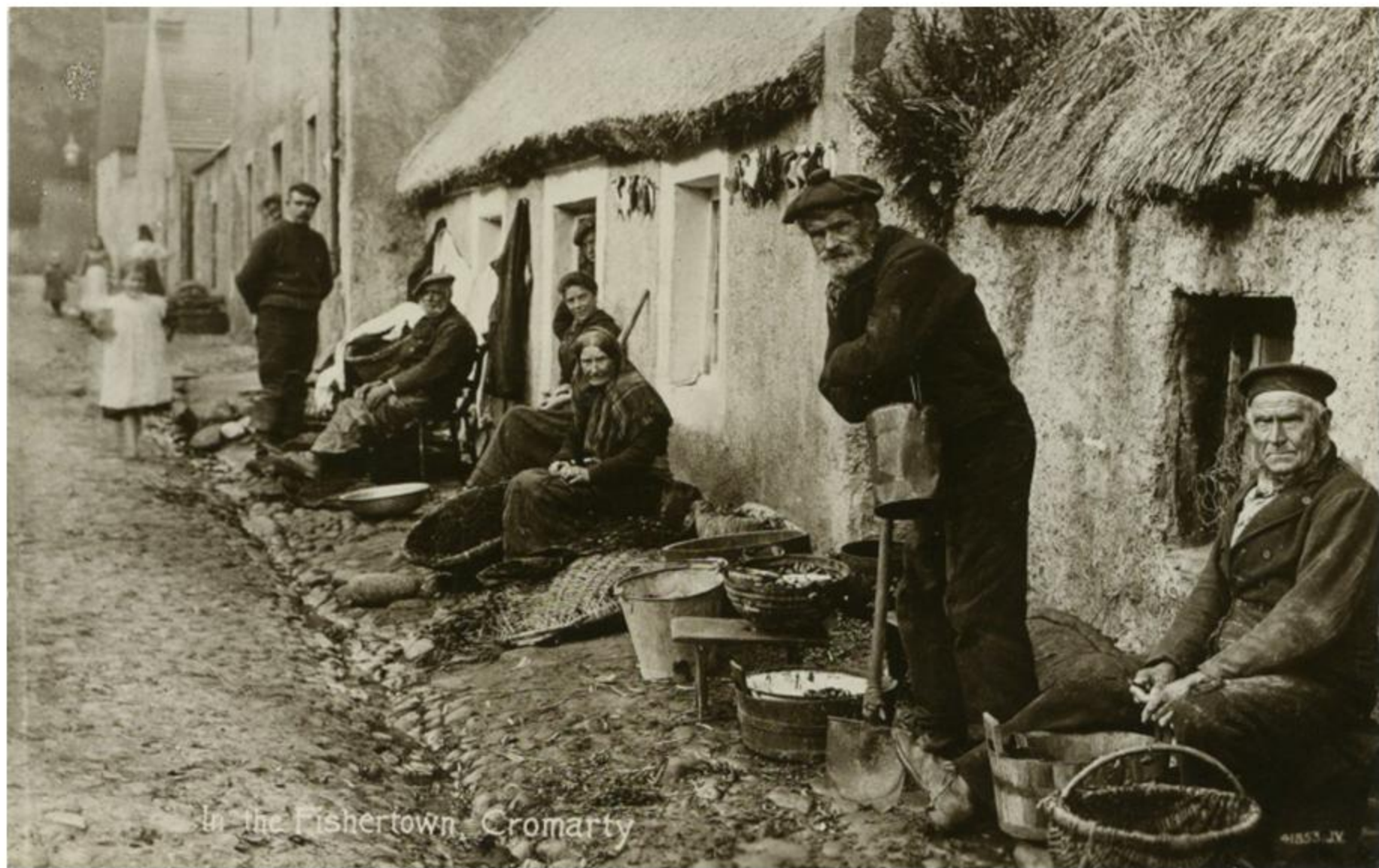
Following the herring – Wick.



The large wooden trough was known as a Farlan.



Cromarty Fisher folk (1890's).



In the Fishertown, Cromarty

Following the Herring Nairn



Following the Herring – Burghead.



Burghead Harbour – The harbour was built in 1807 to 1810 and extended in 1881. The first herring gutting and curing yard was established here in 1817. Telford's Granary built in 1808 is a four storey building on the east side of the harbour now made into flats.

Following the Herring – Lossiemouth.



BF787 Zulu drifter model - Elgin Museum.

Zulu - A Lossiemouth fisherman William 'Dad' Campbell is credited with building the first 'Zulu' fishing boat named the 'Nonsuch' registered INS2118. The 'Zulu' was named after the Zulu Wars which were ongoing in South Africa at the time (1879). The boat has a vertical stem similar to the 'Fifie' popular on the east coast and a raked stern similar to the 'Skaffie' popular on the Moray Firth coast. It is said that his wife who was from Fraserburgh influenced his decision because the Fraserburgh fishermen favoured the Fifie, however the Moray Firth fishermen favoured the Skaffie so the boat was built as a compromise. The Zulu boats became very popular first in Lossiemouth and the all along the east coast of Scotland.

Portgordon 1940's.



Following The Herring – Buckie (1890's).



Following The Herring – Buckie.



BCK29 'Lolist'



Following The Herring –
The Buckie Drifter.
(And a motley crew).

Stanley Bruce

Now Closed.

2004.04.30

Buckie and District Fishing Heritage Centre.



Well worth a visit, and it's free!

The works of 'Peter Anson' marine artist can be seen in the 'Peter Anson Gallery' located in Buckie library. Peter donated four hundred of his paintings to the library, most of his paintings are nautical scenes.

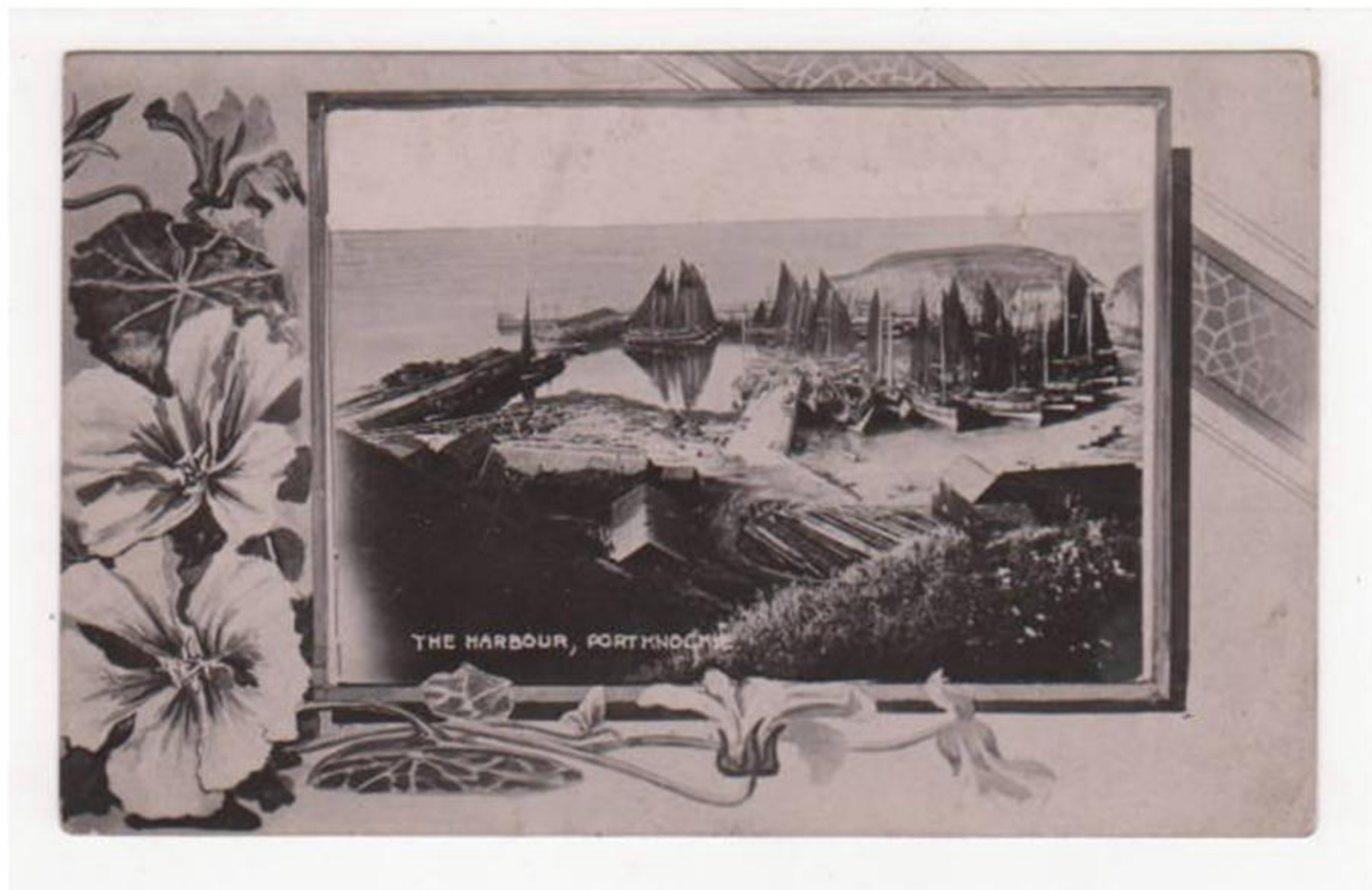


Whitehills 1929 by Peter Anson.

Buckie and District Fishing Heritage Centre.



Following the Herring - Portknockie (1905).



Following the Herring – Cullen (1890's).





BF315 Liberty

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Portsoy Harbour



Following the Herring – Portsoy.

Following the Herring – Foggie Harbour.



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Artists impression by Margaret Mackenzie

Whitehills – Natural Harbour (1890's). www.banffshiremaritime.org.uk

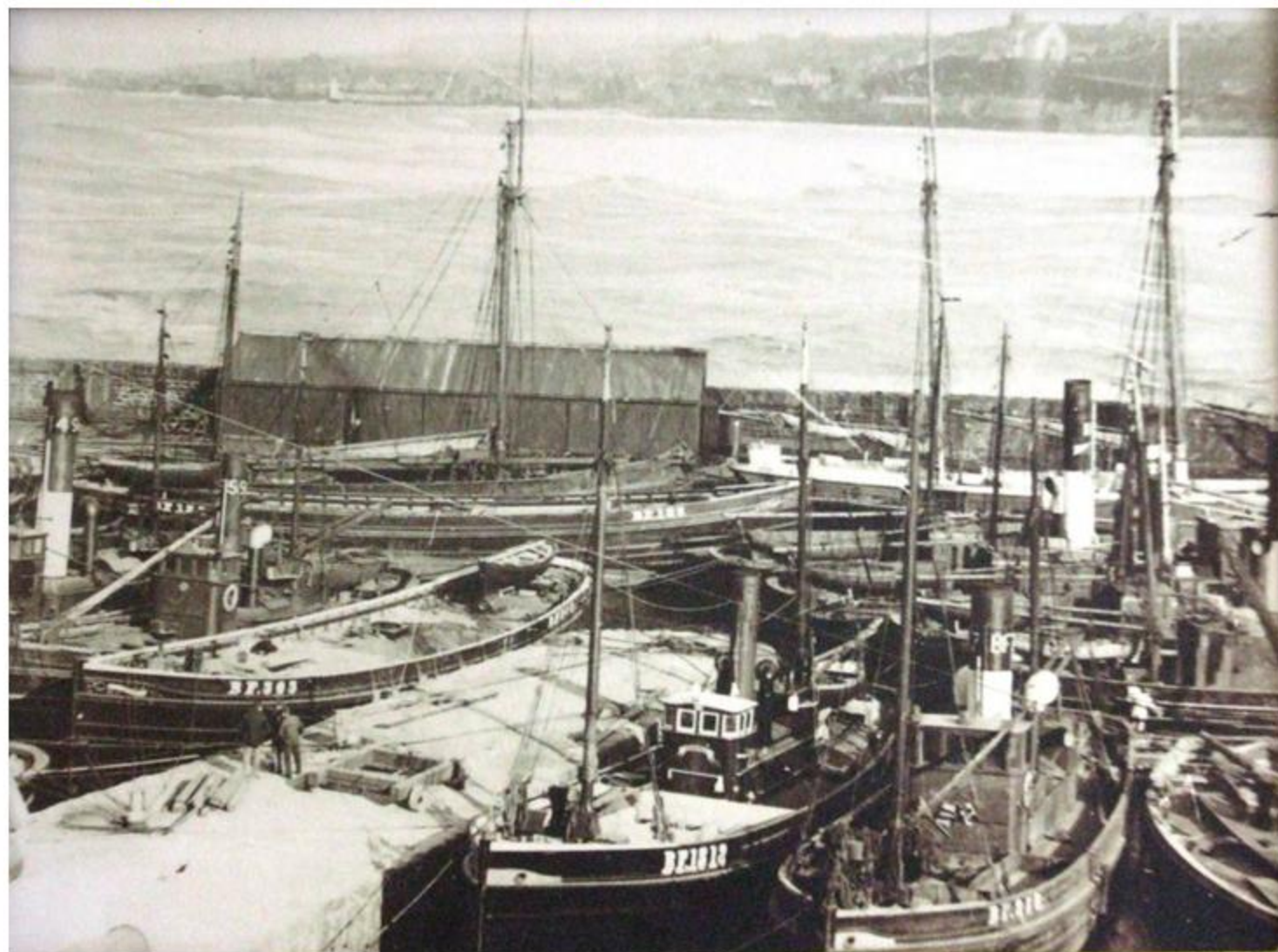


Whitehills Harbour.



THE OLD HARBOUR, WHITEHILLS.

Following The Herring – Banff.



Banff Harbour 1912. (BF303 Elegant being fitted-out on the left was launched in 1912).

Banff Harbour c1900.

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Walter Biggar, Banff.



***Biggar Fountain,
Low St. Banff.***

Walter Biggar born in Edinburgh is credited by many as being one of the founders of the herring trade in the Baltic. He settled in Banff in 1821 and married local lass Anne Duff (1784 to 1876). In Kirkcaldy he is said to have begun Sunday school collections for the herring lassies, this money was used to provide basic comforts and medical care for them while they were away from home. An ornate Victorian Gothic fountain designed by John Rhind was erected in Low Street, Banff in 1878 to the memory of Walter Biggar and his wife Anne Duff.



**Walter Biggar
(1787 to 1867).**

BF70 Banff Steam Drifter – Hollydale.



Following The Herring – Macduff (1890's).



Following The Herring – Macduff (around 1920).



Photo by]

ENTRANCE TO HARBOUR, MACDUFF.

[Valentine & Sons, Ltd.

Following The Herring – Macduff (1920's).



Steam Drifter - BF45 'Craig Alvah' built in 1909, in Macduff Harbour (BMHA).
www.banffshiremaritime.org.uk

Following The Herring – Macduff (1930's).



Fishwives and creels Macduff Harbour.

Following The Herring – Macduff (1930's).



*A busy Macduff Harbour.
(Note the Bodie Fountain).*

Following The Herring – Macduff (pre 1940's).



Macduff railway Station pre - 1940's.

Fishwives with their creels at Crovie.



Following The Herring – Pennan (1890's).



A fisherman and his wife (BMHA).

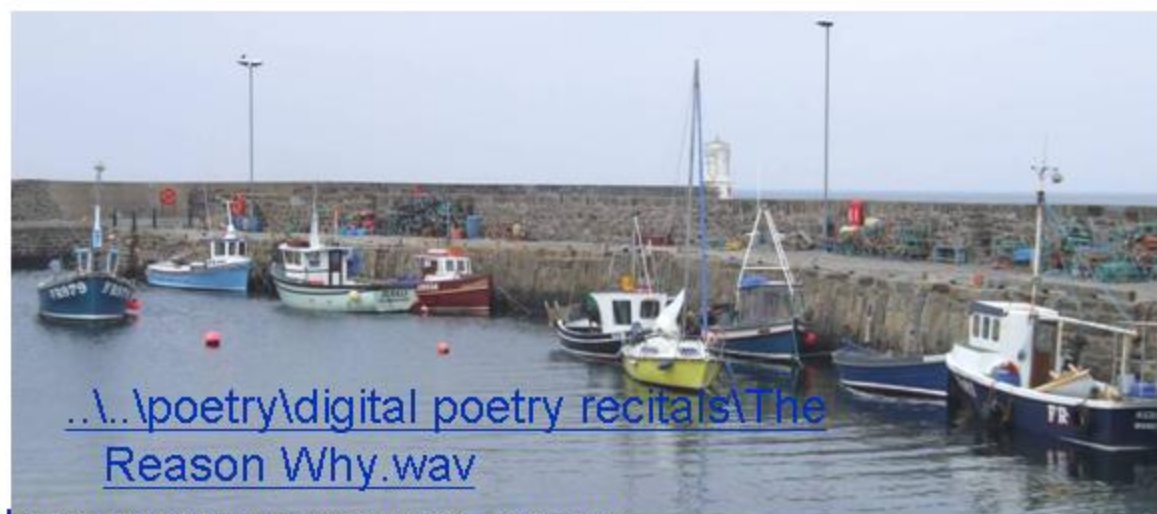
Following The Herring – Pennan (1890's).



Following The Herring – Rosehearty.



One of Scotland's oldest seaports, said to have been founded by shipwrecked Danes in the 14th century. The harbour and Seatown were built in 1681 by Lord Pitsligo. The thirteen acre harbour was a bustling fishing port until the collapse of the herring industry in 1884.



[..\\..poetry\\digital poetry recitals\\The Reason Why.wav](http://poetry.digitalpoetryrecitals.com/TheReasonWhy.wav)

Following the Herring – Sandhaven.

J&G Forbes

Sandhaven

Built the Fifie

FR958 'Reaper'

In 1902.



Anstruther Harbour

Fraserburgh Gut Factory.



Fraserburgh gut factory in the 1940's.

Following The Herring – Broadsea (Early 1900's).



Following The Herring – Broadsea (2005).



Following the Herring – Broadsea.



Following The Herring – Fraserburgh (c1870).



Balacava basin, Fraserburgh Harbour c1870.

Following The Herring – Fraserburgh (1890's).



Following The Herring – Fraserburgh (1890's).



Photograph by permission of Mrs. J Gatt, Fraserburgh.

Some of the ministering angels to the Scottish herring fleet pause from their labours in Watts yard, Fraserburgh to have their picture taken about 1890. The lady fifth from the left in the front row was Jean Noble, the famous Grannie Jeannagie, whose kindness to those in the Braidsea district of Fraserburgh less fortunate than herself, was legendary.

Following the Herring – Fraserburgh (1900's).

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Following The Herring – Fraserburgh (1900's).



Following The Herring – Fraserburgh (1900's).



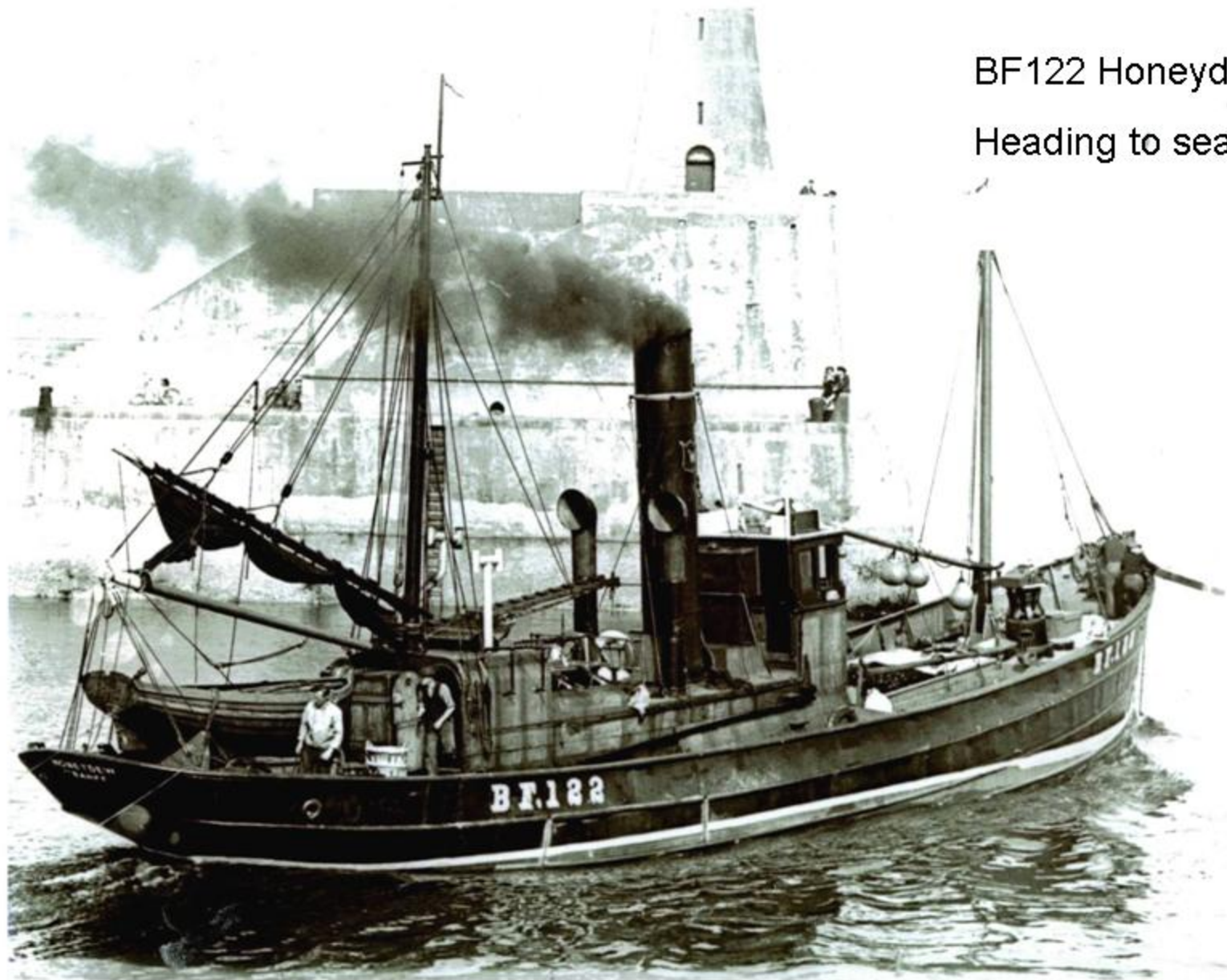
Packing Herring, Fraserburgh.

Following the Herring – Fraserburgh (1930's).

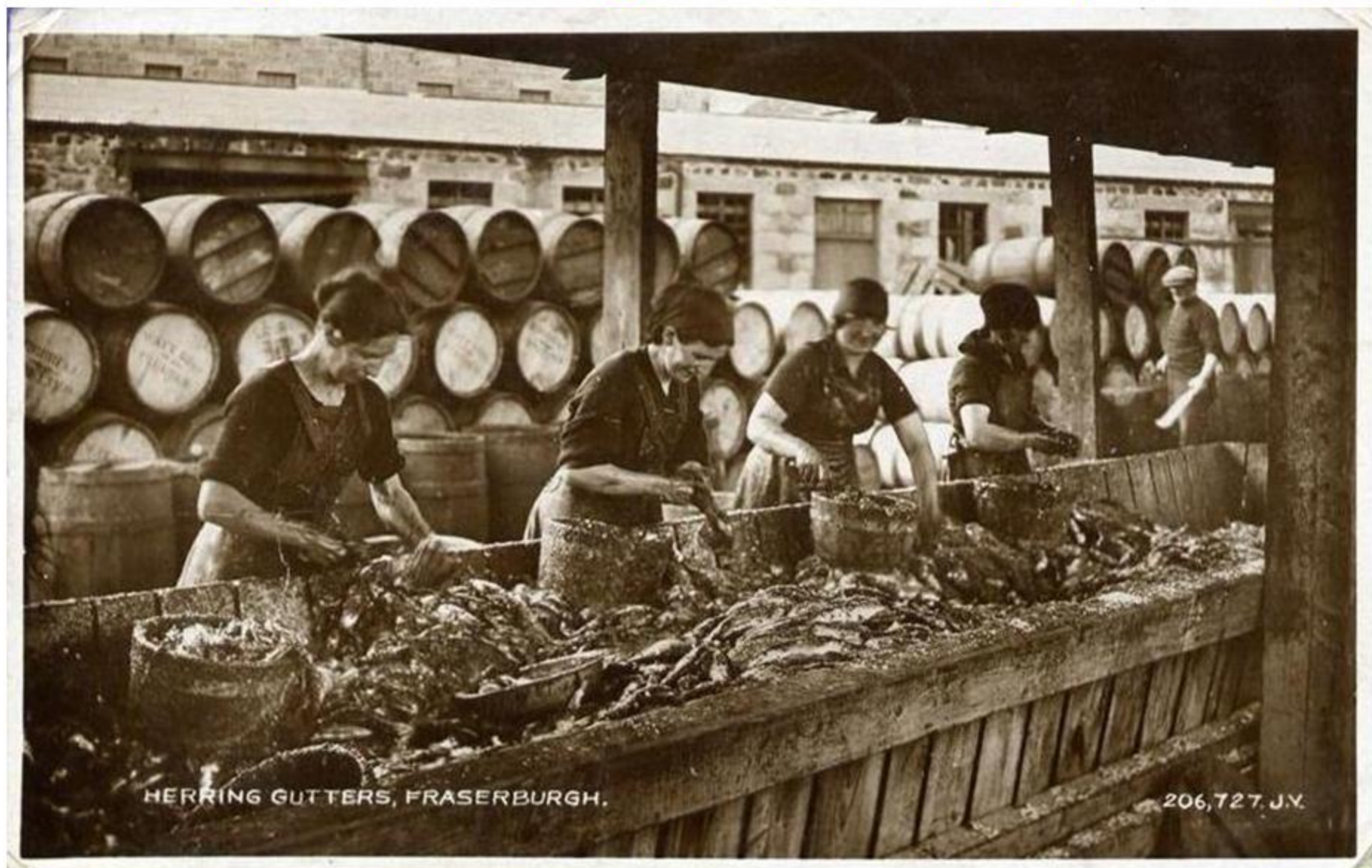


Following the Herring – Fraserburgh.

BF122 Honeydew
Heading to sea.



Following The Herring – Fraserburgh (1930's).



Herring Gutters at the farlan Fraserburgh (1930's).

Following The Herring – Fraserburgh (1930's).



THE HARBOUR, FRASERBURGH.

Following the Herring – Fraserburgh.



The Net erected in 1997.



Evelyn (Bunty) Davidson and Margaret Buchan. (Fraserburgh 1950's).

A Hard Working Han'

A hard working han',
o' a gutting quine,
fingers wrapped wi' bits o' cloot,
tied wi' bits o' twine.

Nae rubber gloves,
in the nineteenth century,
cloot an' bits o' twine (cloodies),
jist hid tae dee.

Protected fae being cut
an' stung by the sa'at,
the peer gutting quines,
hid tae stan' a' day like that.

They hid tae work affa hard,
aften a' through the nicht,
fer half a loaf,
it wis a sare ficht!

Stanley Bruce



..\\..\\poetry\\digital poetry recitals\\A
hard working Han in Doric.wav

Following The Herring – Fraserburgh.

Jessie Duthie was widowed in 1860 when her fisherman husband was lost at sea. She was left with two young boys to raise on her own and she vowed they wouldn't go to sea and they both became master cabinet-makers.



Jessie Duthie married John Crawford on 24 Jan 1856

Following The Herring – Inverallochy.



Maggie's Hoose, Inverallochy – a traditional 'But and Ben' built around 1750.

Following The Herring – Peterhead



Following The Herring – Peterhead



Fisher Memorials - Peterhead

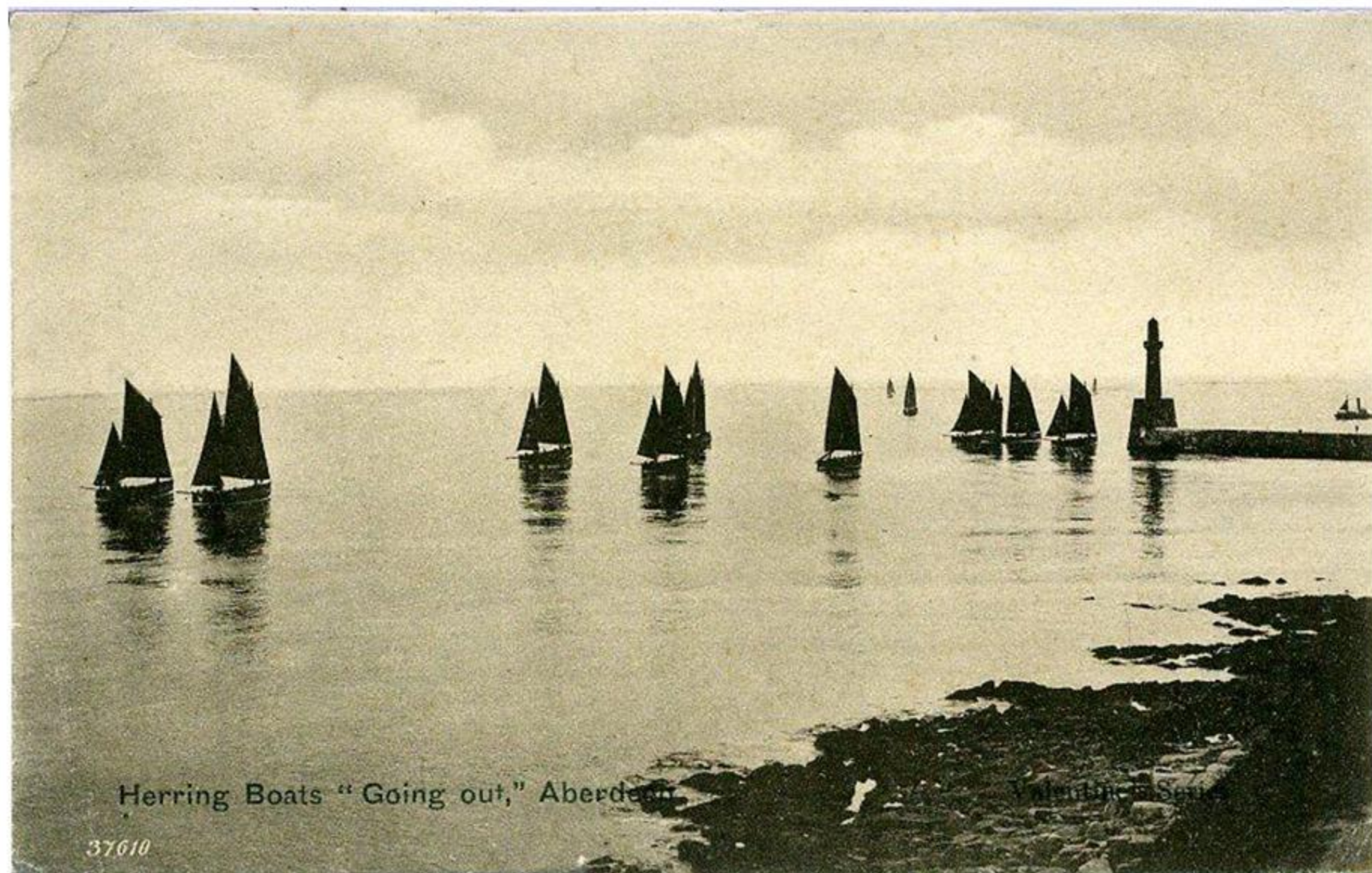


Fisherman's Memorial Peterhead.



Fisher Jessie statue, Peterhead.

Following The Herring – Aberdeen (1890's).



Herring Boats "Going out," Aberdeen

Valerian Series

37610

Following The Herring – Aberdeen Harbour (1900's).



Following The Herring – The Green, Aberdeen (1900's).



Aberdeen, Fish Wives, in the Green.

Following The Herring – Aberdeen (1920's).



Albert Basin 1920's.

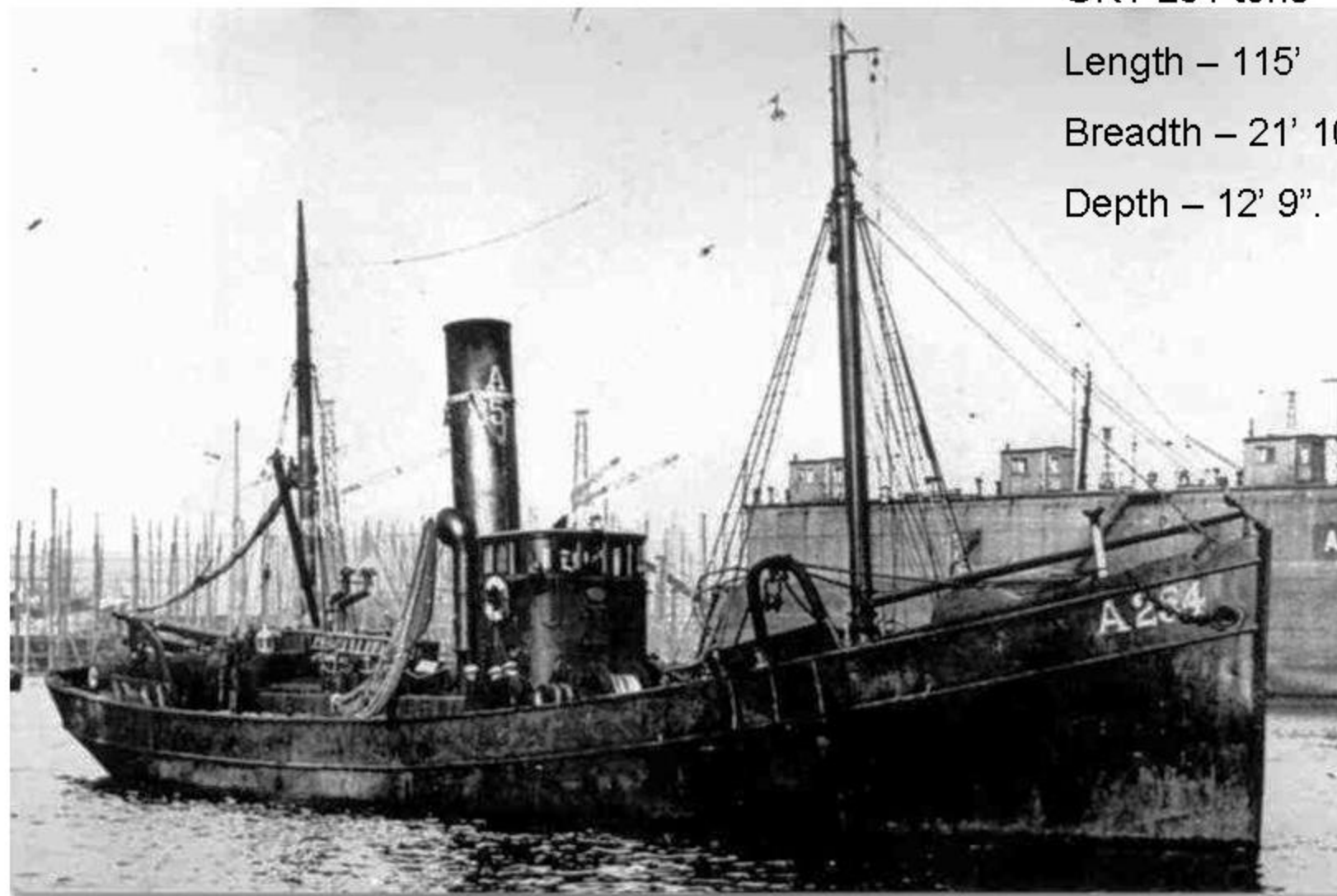
Steam Drifter A254 Anne Melville.

GRT 201 tons

Length – 115'

Breadth – 21' 10"

Depth – 12' 9".



Built by Hall Russell Aberdeen in 1909. Used as a minesweeper in WW1 and WW2, foundered 1949, and scrapped in 1950.

Following The Herring – Aberdeen.



THE HARBOUR, ABERDEEN FROM THE AIR

White Fish Market Aberdeen



FISH MARKET, ABERDEEN.

1015

St Sunniva II (1910).



Built in 1931 By Hall Russell & Co Aberdeen. (Overcome with ice and sank 1943).

Following The Herring – Stonehaven (1890's).



OLD TOWN AND HARBOUR, STONEHAVEN

6471

Following The Herring.

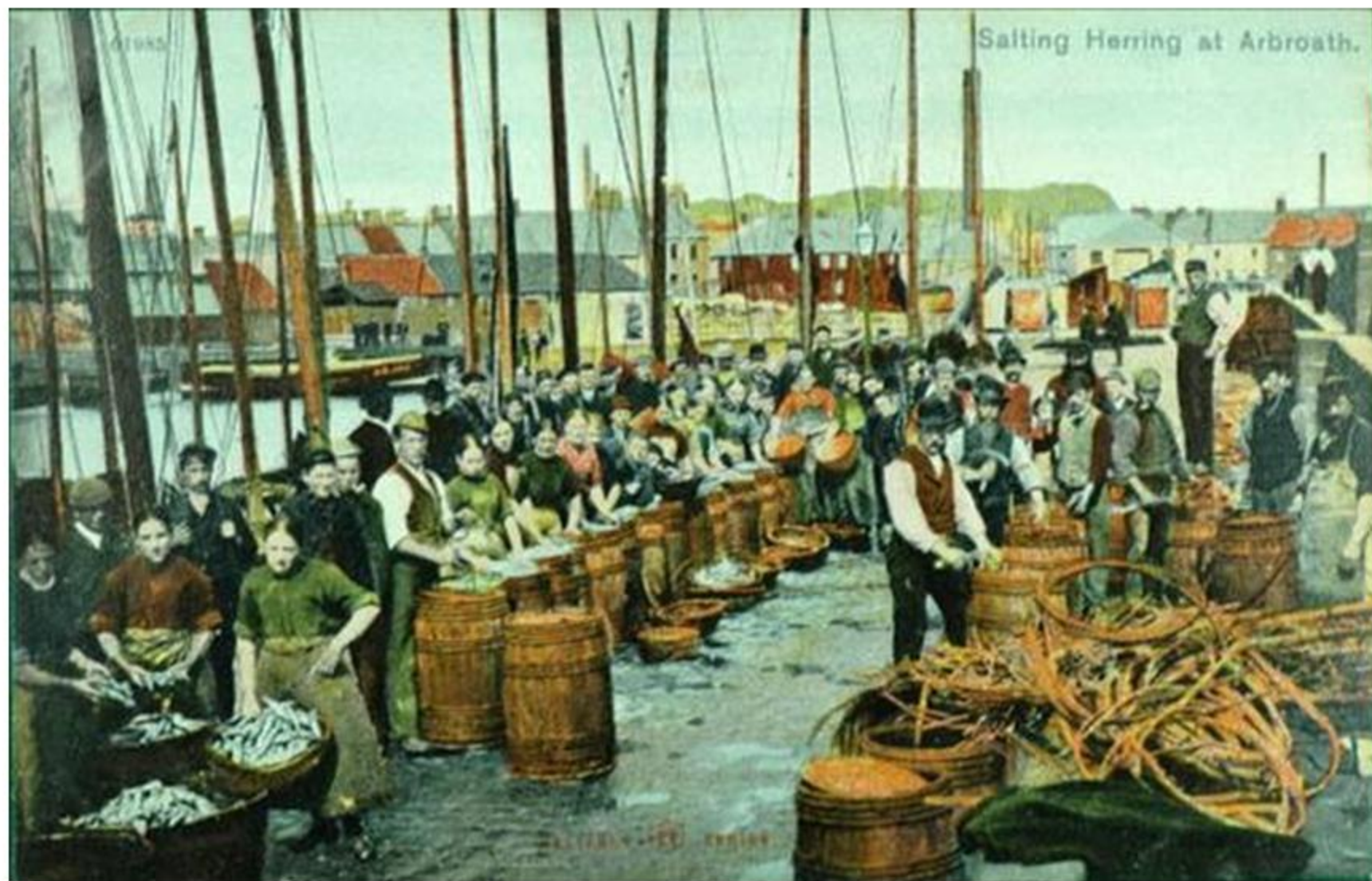
The herring was followed all the way down the NE coast. All of these towns had curing yards set up during the season.

- ◆ Montrose
- ◆ Arbroath
- ◆ Dundee
- ◆ Kirkcaldy
- ◆ Burntisland
- ◆ Leith

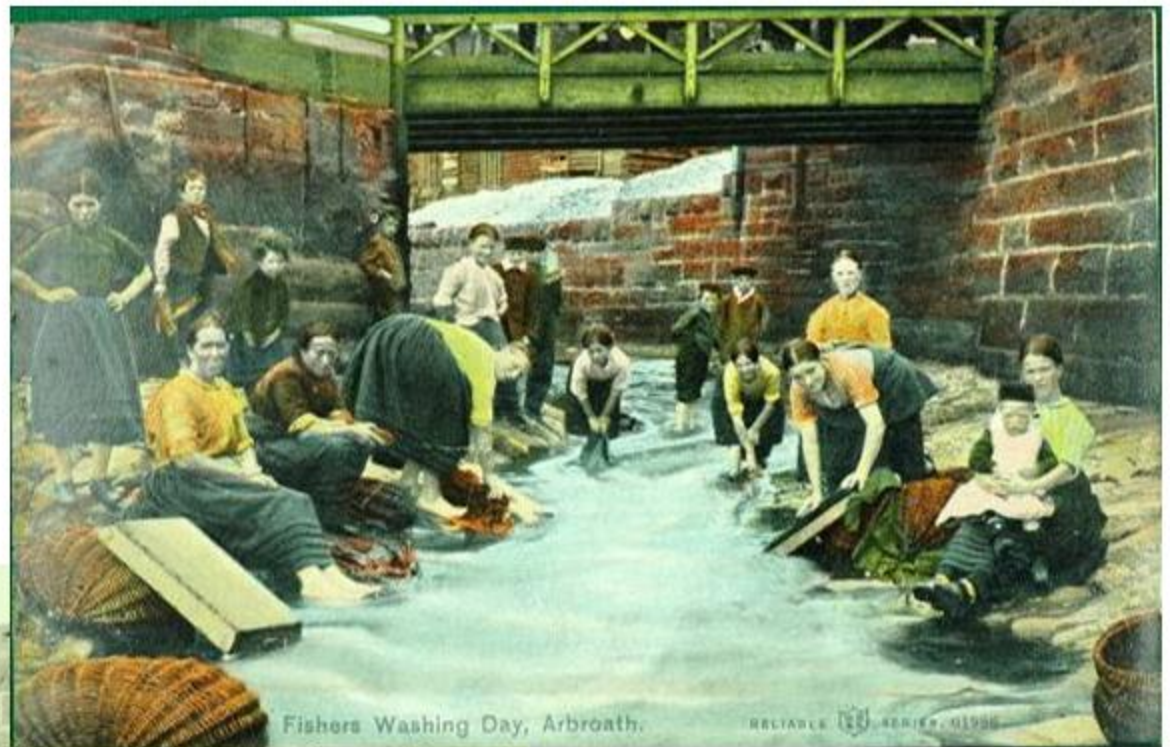


Dundee

Following The Herring – Arbroath (1900's).



Fisher Girls Washing Day Arbroath.



Fishers Washing Day, Arbroath.



Fisher Girls Washing at Danger Point

Newhaven Fishwife

With her creel, basket, and herrings.



Scottish Fisheries Museum, Anstruther.



THE DAYS OF STEAM

Following the Herring - The Humber (1910's).



Many of the gutting quines could
gut 60 herring a minute.



Following the Herring - The Humber (1910's).



Following The Herring – Cullercoats.

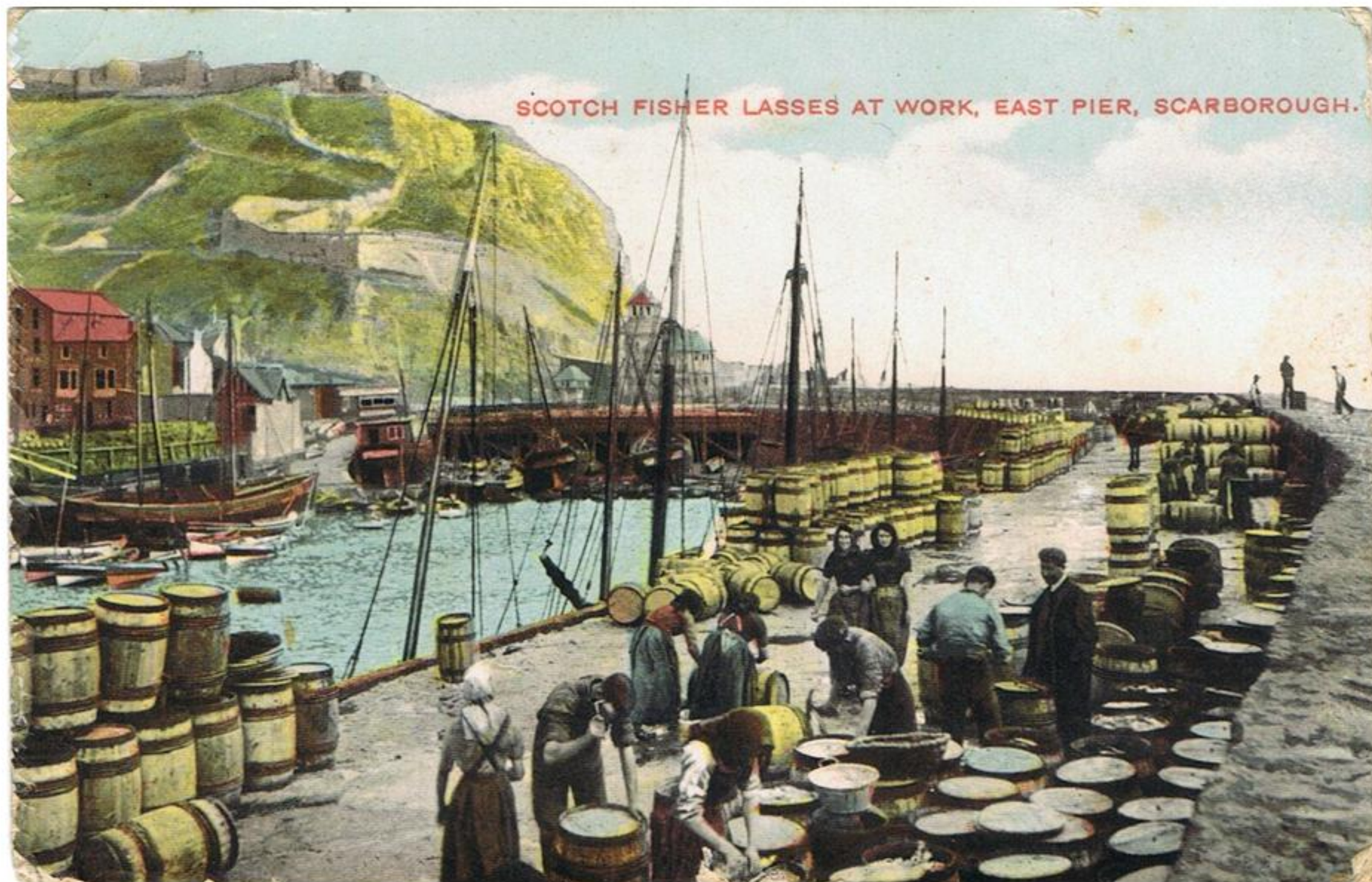


Following The Herring – Scarborough (1900's).



SCOTCH FISHER GIRLS AT SCARBOROUGH

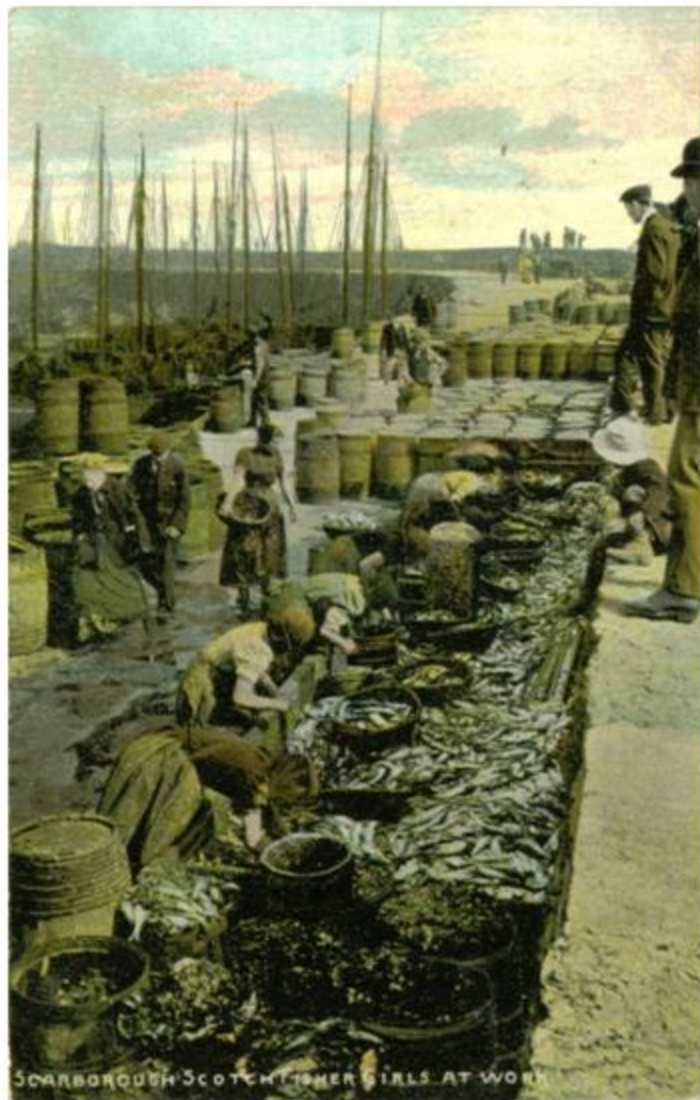
Following The Herring – Scarborough (1900's).



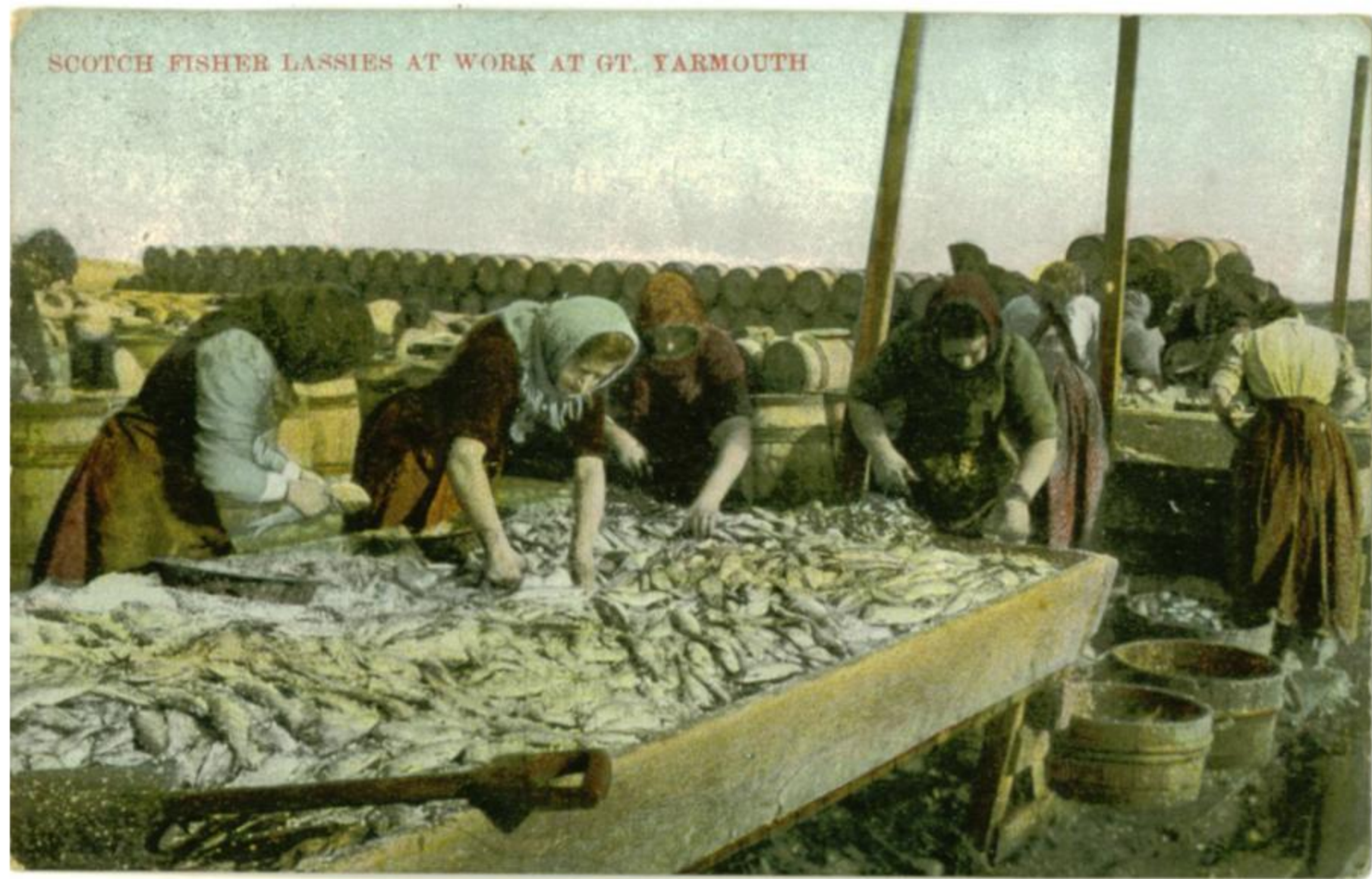
Following The Herring – Scarborough (1900's).



Following The Herring – Scarborough (1900's).



Following The Herring – Great Yarmouth (1900's).



Following The Herring – Great Yarmouth (1900's).



PACKING HERRING IN SALT, GREAT YARMOUTH.

It was back-breaking work.

Following The Herring – Great Yarmouth (1900's).



Following The Herring – Great Yarmouth (1900's).



Following The Herring – Great Yarmouth.



5198 Herring Season, Gr. Yarmouth. Drifters Unloading their Catch.

Following The Herring – Great Yarmouth (1890's).



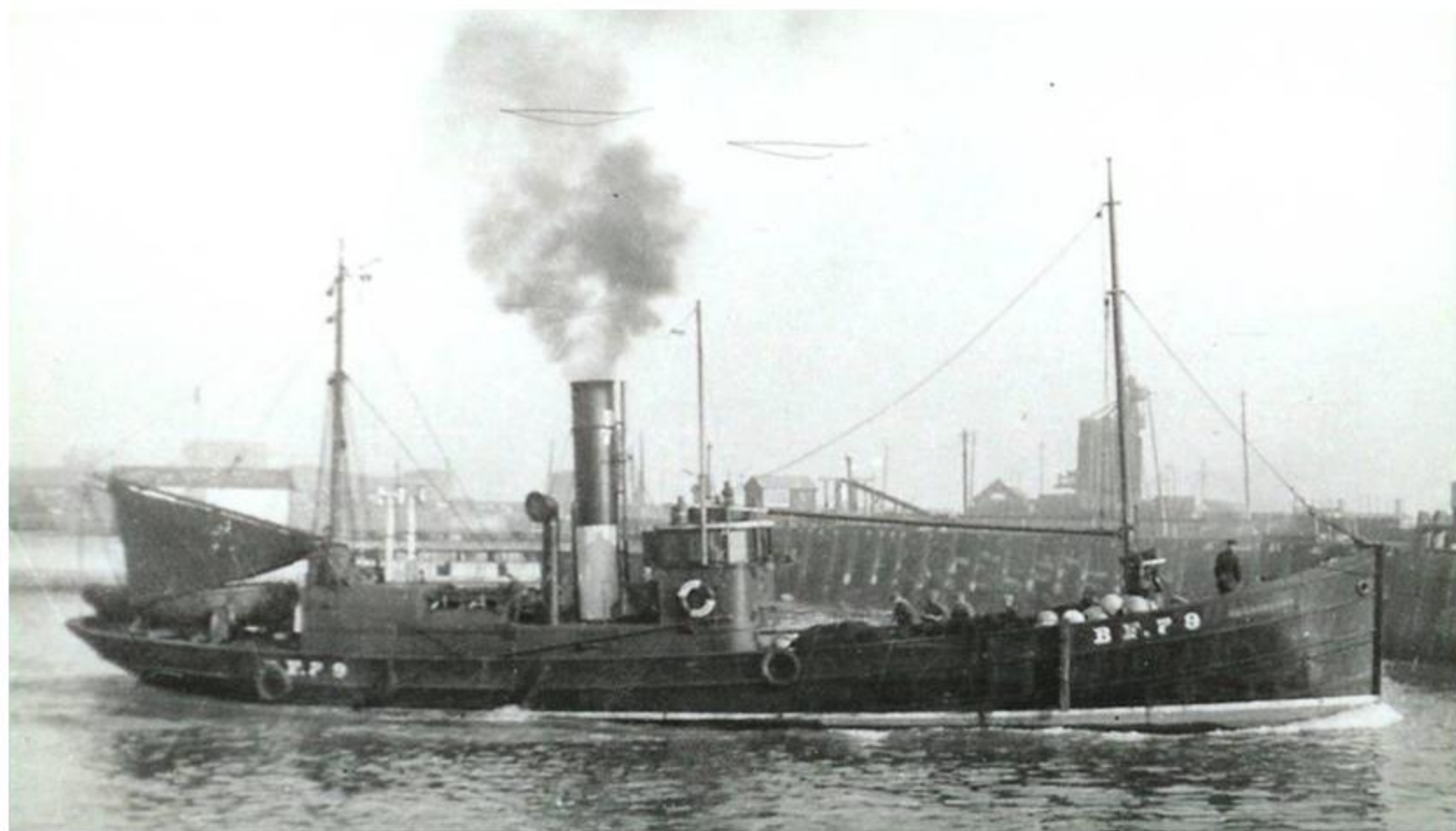
Scottish herring boats leaving Yarmouth Harbour.

Following The Herring – Great Yarmouth.



YH – registration is for Great Yarmouth.

Following The Herring – Great Yarmouth (1920's).



BF79 Lasher built in 1919 as HMD Lasher for the MoD by Alexander Hall and Co Aberdeen seen here in Great Yarmouth.

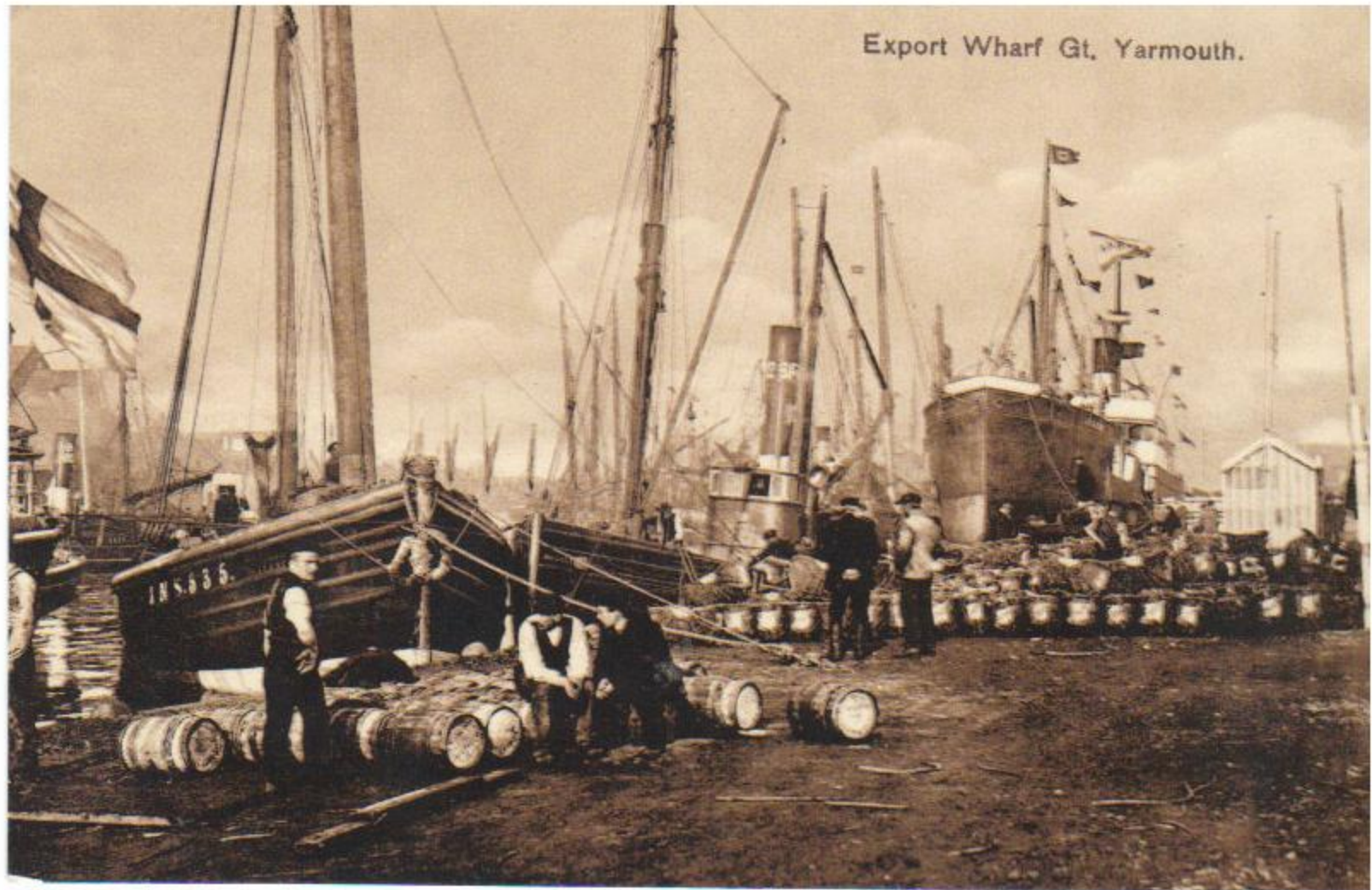
Following The Herring – Great Yarmouth (1900's).



Following The Herring – Great Yarmouth (1900).



Following The Herring – Great Yarmouth (early 1900's).



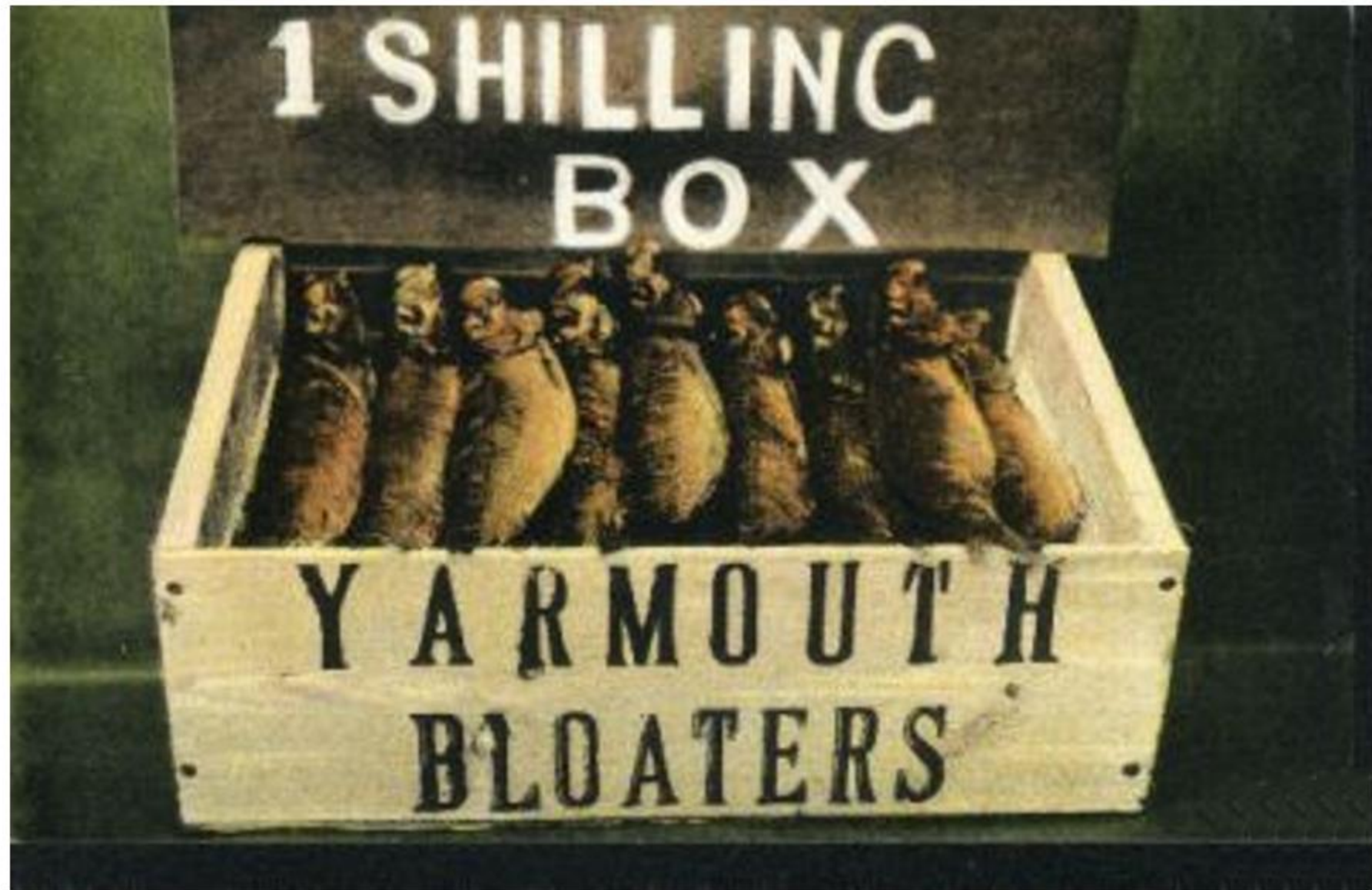
Fraserburgh women in Yarmouth 1947 / 48.



Following The Herring – Great Yarmouth.



Following The Herring – Great Yarmouth.



Following The Herring – Lowestoft (around 1900).



Packing herring Lowestoft.



Herring Lassies Lowestoft.

Lowestoft Herring Dock (around 1910).



V376-2

LOWESTOFT, NEW HERRING DOCK.

RAPID PHOTO E.C.

Following The Herring – Lowestoft (around 1900).



66 GUTTING HERRINGS, LOWESTOFT.

Following The Herring – Lowestoft (around 1900).



89 SCOTCH GIRLS AT WORK, LOWESTOFT

Following The Herring – Lowestoft (c1900).



67 PICKLING HERRINGS, LOWESTOFT

Following The Herring – Lowestoft (c1900).



Lowestoft Fish Market



Beatsters at Work, Lowestoft.



85 BEATSTERS AT WORK, LOWESTOFT

Herring Fleet Church Lowestoft.



Herring Sample Basket (BMHA).

HERRING SAMPLE BASKET

A sample of the herring catch was put into this basket in order that buyers could assess the quality.

Coopering Tools



Coopers Adze



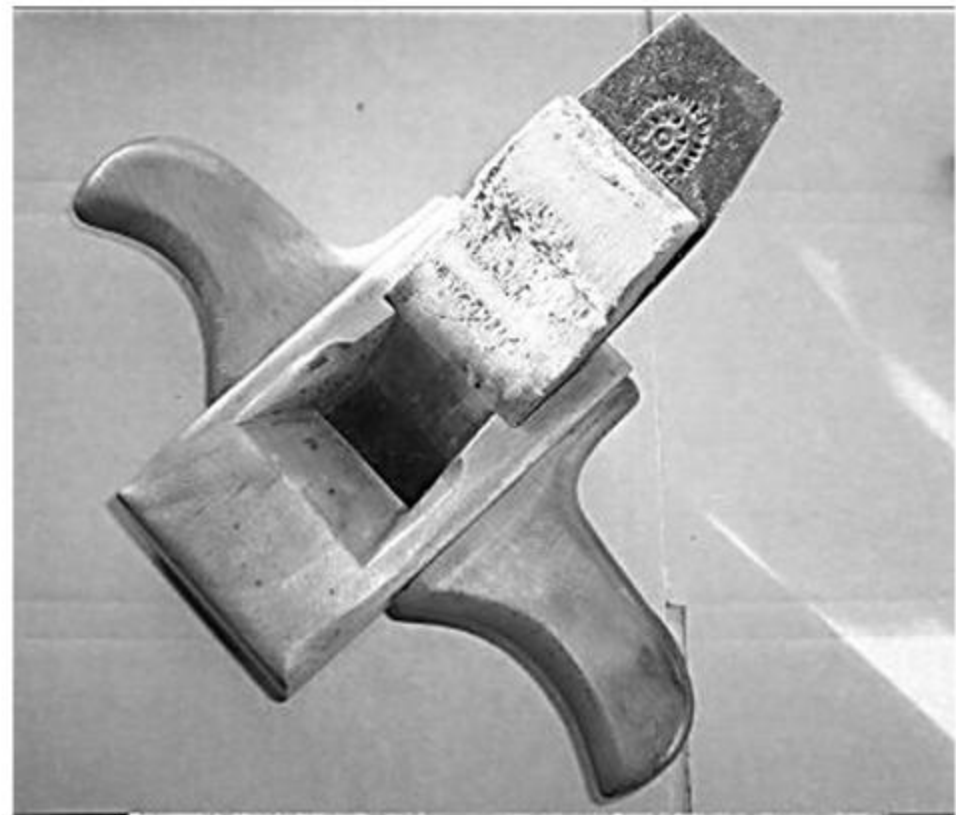
Cooper's Heading Knife.



Cooper's Driver



Cooper's Crumb Knife or Jigger.



A Coopers Plane.



Cooper's Flagging Iron.

Scotch Cure



Crown Brand brass stencil for medium sized fish packed in 1940 by curer 'AB'.

(Photo - Angus Council, Cultural Services, from the collections of Signal Tower Museum, Arbroath).



Each full-size barrel held approximately 1,000 herrings.

An important delegation.

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Friendships.

..\..\poetry\digital poetry recitals\The
Herrin Lassies in Doric.wav



Married Life.

Travelling around the countryside
selling fish or bartering for eggs,
cheese, milk, meat etc.

Carrying a heavy creel.



A Fishwives Creel. (BMHA).

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A Bait Basket. (BMHA).

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Bait Basket. (BMHA).



Small Line Basket. (BMHA).

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Kippers



HERRING FILLETS TODAY.

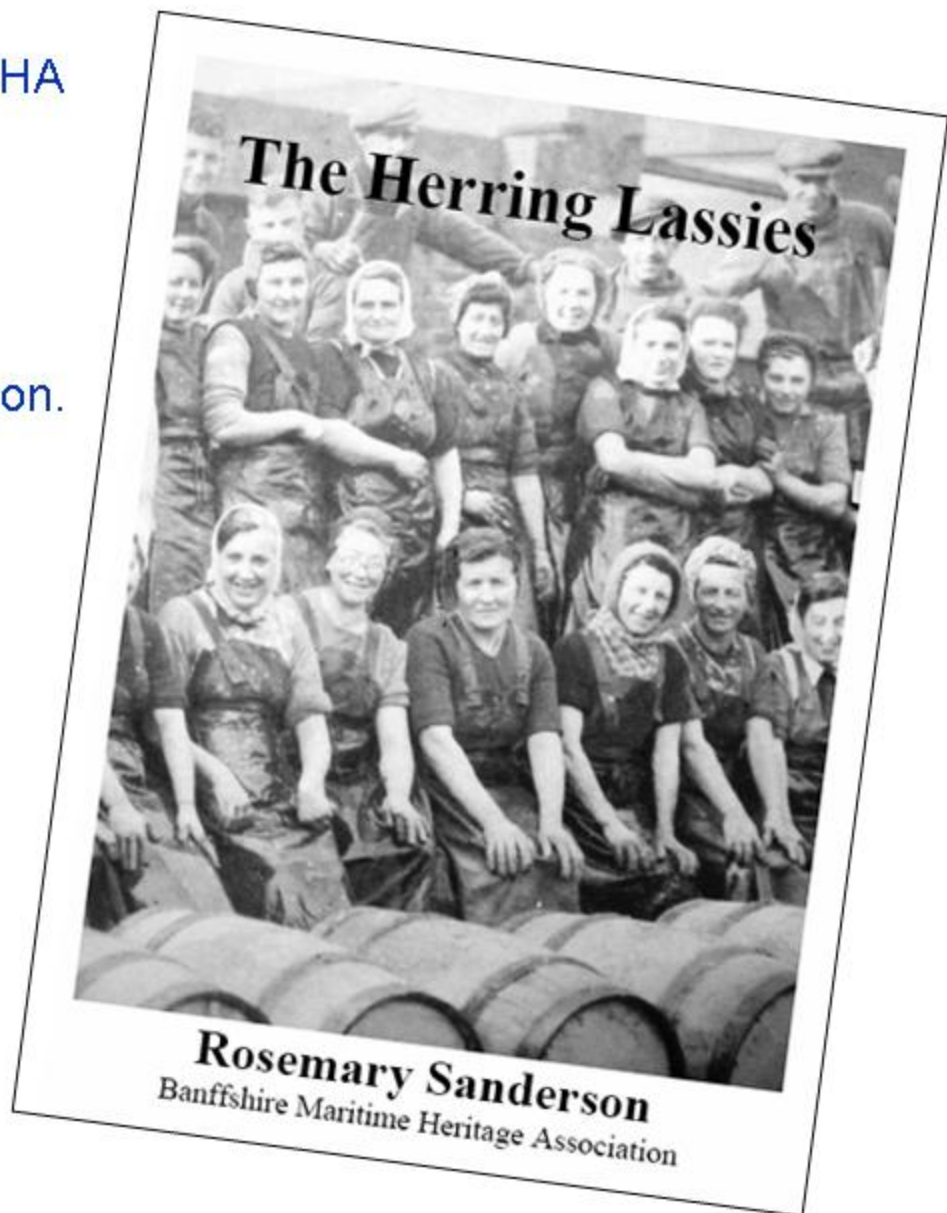
New book for 2008.

Written by Rosemary Sanderson BM&HA
committee member.

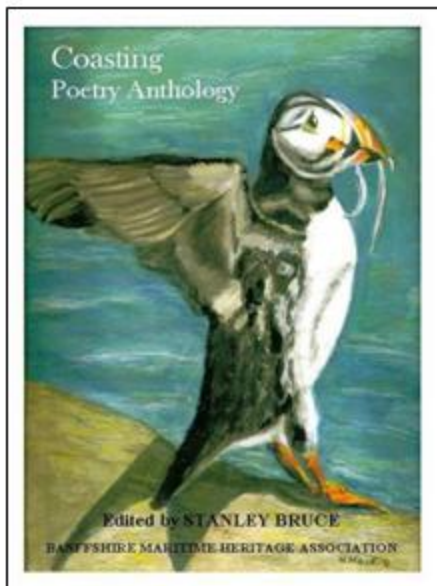
Only £5.00

All proceeds to the

Banffshire Maritime Heritage Association.



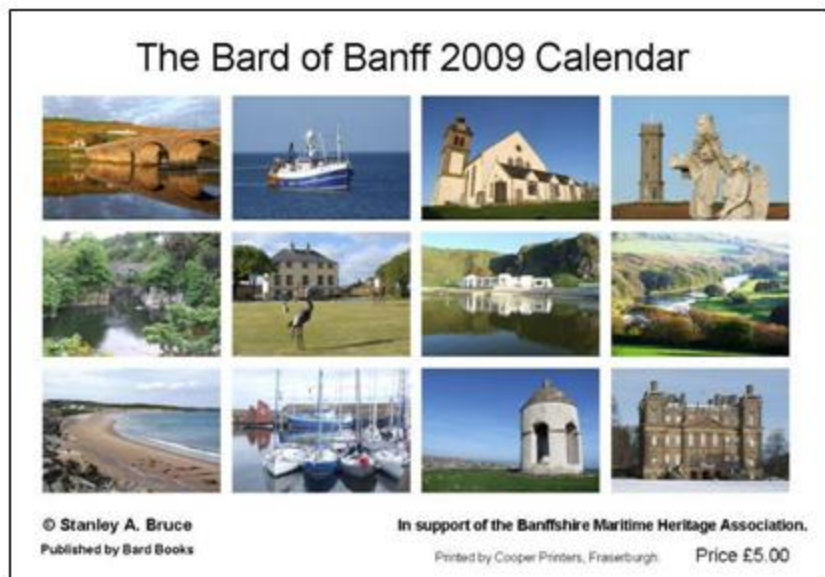
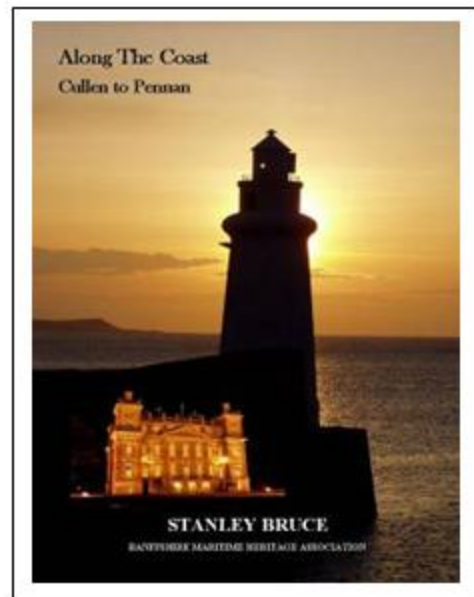
Other BMHA Publications



2007 - Coasting Poetry Anthology
ISBN 978-0-9547960-5-1.

2008 - Macduff Through the Years
ISBN 978-0-9547960-8-2

2007 - Along The Coast -
Cullen to Pennan. ISBN
978-0-9547960-4-4.



2009
Banffshire
Calendar

