

Captain James Campbell Jamieson

Shetland Museum and Archives has recently accepted a wonderful donation from Mrs Christine Deyell, in Edinburgh which included war medals and an OBE with its associated paperwork from St James's Palace. These were awarded to James Campbell Jamieson (31st August 1895 - 8th September 1944), the donors Grandfather who was from Garth in Sandness.

Capt. Jamieson served on various ships during WWI and WWII. He was also the first British officer to become master and manager of a whaling factory, the 'T.S.S. Salvestria'. He successfully sailed the 'Saluta' from Tønsberg Harbour, Norway during the 1936 union dispute where he had to battle through a crowd of protesting strikers to the ship and sail through the blockade of small launches in the harbour. Captain Jamieson was master in command of two factory ships that were sunk during the war; the 'Salvestria' and the 'Southern Princess', and was awarded the OBE in July 1944 for his service.

Captain Jamieson was lost at sea on 8th September of the same year, aged just 49, as Captain on board the S.S. Empire Heritage. She was sunk by a German U-boat 12 miles north-west of Malin Head, County Donegal, Ireland. The ship was lost with 59 of his crew, including 3 Shetlanders (John Smith



Jenny Murray, Assistant Curator, with Christine Deyell, granddaughter of Captain Jamieson.

from Cunningsburgh, George Robertson from Yell and Peter Johnson from Ollaberry), and 53 passengers, some of whom were survivors from another torpedoed ship. 46 men were rescued and landed in Londonderry. 'The Empire Heritage', formerly the whaling factory ship Tafelberg, was owned by Christian Salvesen & Co. Edinburgh. She was in convoy having come across from America and she was loaded with equipment for the war effort including Sherman tanks, aeroplane parts and trains.

The sinking of the Empire Heritage was featured on a BBC 1 programme 'DIG WW2' with Dan Snow and aired in August 2012.



Captain Jamieson.

Local Events Listings

For information on local events please visit www.shetland.org to view listings. To add your own event to this site please call 01595 989898 or complete the online form at www.visit.shetland.org/submit-an-event

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Sumburgh Head Lighthouse, Visitor Centre and Nature Reserve Development Nears Completion

The 5.4 million development at Sumburgh Head Lighthouse progresses on schedule as restoration work and enhancements to the world class visitor attraction continue.

Construction contractors, Corramore are nearing the end of the major building work which is on schedule for completion by the end of 2013. The interpretation design team are now on-site, installing the display materials which will take visitors on a journey through the fascinating history of Sumburgh Head Lighthouse; the Lighthouse keepers and their families; and the plethora of seabirds, plants, wildlife, geology and archaeology of the area.

Upon entering the extended lower car park at Sumburgh Head, visitors are greeted by the newly restored and erected Muckle Roe Light. This structure serves as a beacon, welcoming and informing through its new use as an information kiosk, with only minor modifications now required. Additional car parking spaces have been created, as well as dedicated space to accommodate buses.

The Lighthouse buildings on the upper site have been restored, using as much of the original decorative detail as possible. The self-catering accommodation block has been restored to the original layout, with



Sumburgh Head Engines



Sumburgh Head Education Centre

the previously blocked-off staircase reinstated for use. Traditional Stonemason skills have been utilised in restoring chimneys, doors and window surrounds, with stone sourced to closely match the original materials.

The engine room has reverted to its former glory, with on-going, meticulous, restoration of the three diesel engines to their original working condition. Interpretive panels describing the engines essential role are installed, using lighting, graphics and audio to tell the story of the light, and the foghorn. Brian Johnston, ex-lighthouse keeper (now back working for the Northern Lighthouse Board) has worked hard to renovate and test the engines, which will once again be able to power the mighty foghorn.

The neighbouring Smiddy is now complete, telling the story of the Lightkeepers, and their families, who lived and worked at Sumburgh Head. Erik Erasmuson has restored the original forge and bellows, which will be installed in the hearth before opening. He describes the process in an interview which can be heard on the website at www.sumburghhead/smithy. The re-set cobbled floor and the installation of interpretation panels retain a feeling of the traditional Smiddy in the space.

The Education Centre is the only new build element of the site, offering space for learning events, indoor

wet-weather activities and private hire. The panoramic floor to ceiling windows, internal wood cladding and contemporary lighting are now all installed. The building provides stunning views over Fitful Head that enhance the visitor experience regardless of the weather. Visitor toilets will also be available here.



Restored Forge and Bellows

A series of familiarisation visits for community groups, schools, history groups and tourism providers will be offered in the new year. Anyone who would like to arrange a visit should contact Emma Miller or Andrew Gibson at Shetland Amenity Trust on **01595 694688**. The visitor attraction facilities will be officially opened at an event in June 2014.

Spaek it and laek it

Shetland ForWirds is lookin forwird ta 2014 when we'll be 10. Hit hardly seems a decade fae da dialect convention whaur folk gaddered fae aa da airts ta spaek aboot da Shetland dialect. Da conference wis a bit despondent aboot da future – bit cam up wi mirds o ideas aboot how da dialect could be nurtured, maist o dem concentratin on bairns. Usin modern technology ta promote da Midder Tongue wis anidder o da recommendations fae da final brain stormin session.

Shetland ForWirds wis set up wi da intention o takkin aa dat ideas forwird. We spent a bit a time tinkin up a name fir wirsels and da 'punny' title, it can be pronounced in mair as ee wye, is whit we finally agreed on.

Hit's been an action-packed ten years. On da Education front, wir developed new resource material fir schules. We hae a web-site on www.shetlanddialect.org.uk which we keen is accessed fae roond da world. Wir fund-raisin concert is aye a sell-oot. Wir helpit makk CDs laek Lise Sinclair's Iver Entrancin Wis and da bairns een Craigsæet. We even cam up wi names fir dis newsletter when it wis planned, so hit's fine ta fin wirsels in Unkans. Dat's juist some o da things wir prood o.

Bit we canna takk da dialect for granted an dat's why wir decided nixt year sood be A Year o Shetland Dialect. Hit's

an opportunity ta draa attention ta da Midder Tongue, highlight aathing at's already happenin – an maybe gie a kick-start ta idder ploys. We keen der a steid ta bigg on an wirkin in partnership wi idders we can aa achieve mair.

Alang wi da library an Living Lerwick der a new Bards on da Street/Bards in da Bog project in January wi a 14th December deadline for new poems; alang wi Lunnastin History Group wir hain a Rhoda Bulter night in da Vidlin Haal on 15th July; an der mair pencilled in atween January an December.

We wid love ta hear fae ony o you wi ideas for dialect projects. Get in touch wi wis trowe info@shetlanddialect.org.uk. An mind wir 2014 slogan: Spaek it an Laek it!



Christmas events at Shetland Museum and Archives

Don't forget the annual Christmas Choir day at Shetland Museum and Archives. Pupils from Bell's Brae school choir will perform Christmas songs in the Boat Hall, led by music teacher Maree Simpson, on Saturday 14th December from 2.00pm. An afternoon for the whole family, guaranteed to get you in the festive spirit!

Then, on Wednesday 18th, at 2.00pm, Join Angus Johnson and Yvonne Reynolds for an enjoyable afternoon sharing memories with old friends and new in the December 'Dus Du Mind' session. Christmas is a time of year full of memories. Do you remember your first Christmas party? What was your favourite present? Did you get an apple and an orange in your sock?

This event is run in association with Alzheimer's Scotland.



Bell's Brae School Choir

Goings on at Grevavoe

I was searching the Internet for references to Clickhimin, and found an instance in a journal called the *New Monthly Magazine*, published in 1862 by the novelist W. Harrison Ainsworth. Curious, I read further, and gradually realised I had found an anonymous short novel, *The Elopement at Grevavoe*, set in Shetland and full of dialect.

I was astonished. No-one has mentioned Grevavoe since. There is no reference to it in the *Shetland Advertiser*, the newspaper published in Lerwick at exactly the same time. The great Shetland bibliophile E.S. Reid Tait didn't know about it. We had always believed that Shetland dialect literature started abruptly in 1877, when George Stewart wrote his *Shetland Fireside Tales*, and James Stout Angus published the curious long poem 'Eels'. Here, all of a sudden, was an earlier pioneering work.

Grevavoe is set at the end of the Napoleonic wars, and Grevavoe is in an island north of the Shetland Mainland. That island sounds a little like Yell. Its author was an accomplished Shetland dialect speaker and writer. He or she knows about Lerwick – there is an intimate reference to the town, which I shall mention later – and about London too.

He or she is a good writer. The earliest prose works written in Shetland are literary exercises, very dull ones: D.P. Campbell's awful novel *Harley Radington*, published in 1821, is a good example; so is the *Fireside Tales*, and Jessie Saxby's

Rock Bound (1877) is another. The author of *Grevavoe*, on the other hand, knows how to write a story. It romps along. He or she loves words, Shetland and English ones. His novel is full of Shetland 'skyimp'.

There are three allusions to early Dickens novels in the text, and that made me wonder about when it was actually written. A good clue is in part III, where the author refers to 'the steep road [in Lerwick] called "The Bullet-Loan", and now, by modern, and questionable, improvement, "London Road"'. There was an attempt to rename the Bullet-Loan, by Lerwick's Police Commissioners - in 1845 - but it was an utter failure. It looked to me as if *Grevavoe* might have been written fifteen years before it was finally published.

Who wrote it? My provisional answer is that the author was Arthur Anderson, a native of Lerwick who served in the navy at the end of the Napoleonic Wars, and who was paying lots of attention to Shetland in the 1840s. He was elected M.P. for Orkney and Shetland in 1847. In his *Shetland Journal*, published in the late 1830s, he wrote skyimpy material, some of it in dialect. He knew Lerwick, of course, but he also knew London, because he lived there.

It is worth noting, too, that he had turned his attention to Shetland again in 1861-2. Those were the years when he built the school in Lerwick which still bears his name, and he visited the islands in 1862 and 1864. Perhaps equally



Did Arthur Anderson write *The Elopement at Grevavoe*?

significantly, in 1862 the *Shetland Advertiser* reprinted one of his *Shetland Journal* contributions, a didactic piece in English and dialect. But they published it anonymously.

It looks to me as if Arthur Anderson may have written *Grevavoe* in the 1840s, when his attention was fixed on Shetland, but then laid it aside. Did he offer it to Ainsworth fifteen years later, but specify that it should appear anonymously – perhaps because of the skyimp? There is a ferocious attack on a minister, the Rev. McCandle, and other Shetland panjandrums, in it!

We don't know the full facts about *The Elopement at Grevavoe* yet, but we know that it is a pioneering piece of Shetland literature. It bears out what I have always believed: that the best Shetland writers are radicals. The sooner it is in print again the better!

Brian Smith
Shetland Archives

This page is dedicated to research on all aspects of Shetland's history and heritage. Contributions are welcome.

Get in touch

We are keen to include contributions from anyone who has something interesting to share about Shetland's heritage.

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DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NEXT ISSUE IS 24 JANUARY 2014.