

25/10/13

75 YEARS AGO
(October 27th, 1938)

IN the course of excavation work preparatory to laying down a telephone cable at the Littleferry, near Golspie, workmen came across a large quantity of human bones on Saturday.

There were three skeletons in all. Two of them were of fully developed people, while the third skeleton was that of a young child.

Several theories have been advanced as to how the remains came to be buried in the embankment in front of the cottages. One of these is to the effect that the remains were those of Vikings who, demoralised by the loss of their leader at the battle of Embo, were routed and driven back to their ships at the Littleferry where they drowned.

Another theory is that in the course of conviviality at the "Ferry Bar Parlour" in the days when the ferry was a hive of industry, some villain, fired with wine and regardless of action, clubbed a father, mother and child in search of valuables.

One old inhabitant of Golspie is of the opinion that in the days of her youth she had been told that a father, mother and child had been washed ashore at the Littleferry from a wreck at the Gizzen Brigs and buried a short distance from high water mark near Littleferry Pier.

Another speculation is that the skeletons belong to the generation when people were evicted from their homes and driven to the Littleferry in search of food, in the form of cockles and mussels. It is stated that they died there of scurvy and that at one time there was a cemetery in the vicinity.

A curious feature of the find is that one of the thigh bones is of such length as would indicate that the person was of rather huge stature. The shoulder blade also bears this out. All the skeletons were in a wonderful state of preservation, no doubt due to the sandy nature of the ground in which they were buried.

Experts say the skeletons are from three to four hundred years old.