

1876 At 12 noon proceeded to Company
arrived with P.C. Esson Boat Driver to Sulo village
The Wreck of Barge Vestal returned
along sea shore by Dornoch Rocks &
visited the wreck of the Brig "Courier"
to Station at 4.30 P.M.

Tuesday

'76 AT 7 A.M. Called at House of
Mr. & Mrs. proceeded to the Watch
house on the Dr. Burying Ground
where I assisted Insp. Bridgeford
P.C. Anderson & P.C. Esson & others
in putting the Bodies of the four
seamen drowned at the Wreck of
the "Courier" into coffins & at
12 noon attended the interment
At 1 P.M. proceeded to Sulo village
where I made further inquiries
into the wreck of the Barge "Vestal"

At 1 P.M. got notice from Insp.
Bridgeford that a ship had been
wrecked on the Dornoch rocks

One of the Seamen having got ashore
made his way into the town

Friday Dec 21
1876 - Left number of plates
Got notice at 10 AM found on shore
there. approached along beach

23 Got notice another ship
has been wrecked near Sulo village
On our way at Sulo found
Russian ship Vesla 359 tons
W F. Lindeman Master & crew
of 11 band from Sewardtown to Kiel
with cargo of coals had gone
ashore on Sand Beach about
300 yds north of Sulo. between
1 AM - 2 AM this morning it came
a total wreck. The crew all
rescued by exertions of Sulo
fishermen

He found the shore strewn with
wreck & could see the vessel
about 80 yds out in the sea &
apparently breaking up. We could
also hear some of the crew calling
on board but owing to the heavy
sea & the darkness of the night
we could render no assistance
we however kept patrolling along
the beach & before daylight we
found the bodies of the Captain
& mate & 2 of the crew washed
ashore among the rocks. These
bodies were conveyed to the watch
house in D. Brady's ground. I afterwards
assessed this was the Russian Brig
"Courier" of Barth Bond from
Hull to Copenhagen with a cargo
of coal & coke & a crew of 9
including the Captain all of which
were drowned with the exception
of Peter San, (carpenter) who
came ashore on a piece of wood

26th Tuesday Processed in company with the 1st Lt. Gibson
along the seashore to
the Donagh Rocks
where we searched about the wrecks
of the Brig "Courier" as we
suspected some parties were carrying
away part of the wreck, but found none
we hurried to Station at 5 AM following
hardly

Danach Firth Lifeboat

At a meeting of the Committee of Management of the R.N.L.I. on 1st July 1886 it was decided to open a lifeboat station on the shores of the D. Firth. This station was ^{inaugurated} on 29th Sept 1886.

The new lifeboat "Daisy" was 34 ft long 7'-6" broad, self righting powered by 10 oars weighed over 2 tons & cost £297 - provided by an anonymous donor gift.

It was transported by rail ~~from~~ ^{to} The Mound where after towed on its carriage by 8 horses via Danach to its launching position.

On 29th Sept 1886 in the presence of a large gathering of people from Danach, Embo & the surrounding districts, Miss Sullivan of Skibo castle formally named the boat.

In 1887 a boathouse - 140 ft long wooden slipway was constructed at the cost of £638-6-10 - somewhere between Danach & Embo.

Although launched on three occasions to vessels in distress, its only effective service was to the "Come On" & open fishing boat with a crew of six from Banderston in Banffshire which was stranded on a sand bank at the entrance to Loch Keel. Two lifeboat men were placed on board & she was repaid & taken to safety. The rescue was carried out in darkness, with snow showers, a heavy swell & a south west gale.

The station closed on July 1904
The lifeboat was withdrawn & - the lifeboat was sold out of lifeboat service in 1905.

It is not known where the ~~boat~~ house was situated but it was probably nearer Embo not known of any photographs.

P. T. O

The New Lifeboat for the D. Firth

Launching Ceremony

The splendid new lifeboat ^{which} had been provided by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution for service on the Donagh Firth was successfully launched on Wednesday the 30th inst. from the beach about 1/2 mile from Donagh. Thirty expert men belonging to D. & Embo have been enrolled to act as crews. They are volunteers for the work, a fact which testifies to the great interest manifested in the management of the boat. On Wednesday 10 men were selected by lot to form the crew at the launch. They consisted entirely of fishermen from Embo. Strong, hardy looking fellows they were, & as they appeared in the boat, attired in their lifeboat costume, with cork jackets & cork preservers, their appearance indicated that when called upon to perform service in the open sea, they would not fail to render a satisfactory ~~and~~ account of themselves. Their names are Donald Mackay ('Eban') coxswain; ~~Thomas Fraser~~, Alexander Mann, (lookout); Kenneth Mackay 'Main'; John Ross; John Ross 'Elder'; Thomas Fraser; William Fraser; Alex Mackay 'Roy'; John Mackay 'Roy'; Kenneth Ross. Captain Beddoes R.N. as representing the Royal National Lifeboat Institution was present throughout the day & superintended the launch. The new boat is to be stationed at a point adjacent to the village of Embo. It is named the "Daisy".

In Donagh the arrival of the lifeboat evoked much interest & several of the buildings were decorated with flags in honour of the occasion. At the west-end of the Burgh, a triumphal arch was erected with bore the suitable & appropriate inscription "Welcome Daisy". Flags floated at the castle, the cathedral, Bailies Neill's residence & from the building occupied by W.S. Fraser - merchant.

While a flag was also unfurled at the "Poles" & at the launching point. The effect was pleasing & attractive. The boat was conveyed from the main Railway Station by 8 powerful horses, which were kindly granted for the work by Messrs Fraser-Dornoch; Mr Barclay - Skelbo; Mr McIntosh - Pracey; Mr Gordon-Simbo. Some difficulty was experienced in removing the boat from the railway wagon but many willing hands came forward, including a number of fishermen from Simbo, & succeeded in successfully placing it upon the carriage. Among those who assisted in the work were Mr J. B. Kidd - forester to the Duke of Argyll; Mr Symon - station agent; & Captain McIntosh of the Dornoch Rifle Volunteers. At the "Poles" the boat was prettily decorated with flowers by Mr Kidd. The members of the local committee & a large number of the general public assembled at the triumphal arch at the West-end of Dornoch & on the arrival of the boat a ^{hearty} welcome was raised. The members of the crew consisted of 12 men, including the coxswain Mr Donald Mackenzie 'Eban' & the look out man. It was originally intended the launch should take place from the beach at Simbo, but this site had to be abandoned.

The procession, headed by 2 pipers, wound its way to the new landing station & was followed by a large number of people. There were present at the ceremony; Mr Luthinland of Pracey Skibo - chairman; Bailie Niell - hon secretary Dornoch; Rev M^r Taylor - Free Church - Dornoch; Mr Lewis Haynes - SSC; Mr John McIntosh - Pracey; Mr John Leslie - Solicitor; Mr David Peters - Solicitor; Mr A Morrison - Hotel keeper; Mr W. S. Fraser - merchant; Mr Alex Mackenzie - Skelbo; Mr J. B. Kidd - the Poles; Mr Wm Luthinland - merchant.

Mr Roderick MacLean - Chief Constable; members of
committee; Bailie Ross Donoh; Rev Inada Grant
- Parish Church - Donoh; Miss Sutherland - Skibo
Mr Borrow & Artie - Donoh; Mr Donald MacLean -
Rivers; Mr Box - Fair - Tongue; Mr Barclay - Skelbo;
Mr Fraser from Inada; Mr Mr Donald Taylor - Donoh
Mr Taylor F.C. MacLean; Mr Gordon - Skibo;
The Messes Mackintosh - Blashmore Mr Mr
McKenzie Tain; Miss Pryde - Sandburgh;
Mr McKenzie Bonar; Rev. Mr Taylor from England
etc

Prior to the launch, Mr Sutherland of Skibo called
upon the Rev Neil to offer prayer, after which Capt.
Beddoes R.N. a representative of the R.N.H.I, handed
over the lifeboat to the local committee.

Bailie Neil returned, on behalf of the
inhabitants of the district their heartfelt thanks
to Capt Beddoes for this noble gift from the R.N.H.I.
He asked them to join in accordancy a hearty vote of
thanks to the Institution for sending us this noble
boat. They did not know the name of the donor, but
the excellent gift showed that the donor was a
humane & generous person & to that person they
returned their heartfelt thanks.

The ceremony of christening the boat was then performed
by Mrs Sutherland of Skibo. Amid warm cheering the
crew thereafter pulled the boat into the sea, while the
crew at the same time stood by their oars. The boat
glided splendidly into the ^{water} ~~sea~~ in a choppy sea.
The crew rowed her round to the new station at Skibo.
Here a number of fishermen with their wives & children
wanted to receive the boat, which glided through the
waves in excellent style. The boat was dragged onto the
beach where it will remain until the completion of
the new building to be erected for its accommodation.