

Opened 29th Sept 1886

Closed Jan 7 1887

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The new life boat for the Dornoch Firth The Launching Ceremony

The splendid new lifeboat which has been provided by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution for service on the Dornoch Firth was successfully launched on Wednesday, the 30th ult., from the beach about half a mile distant from Dornoch. Thirty-eight men belonging to Dornoch and Embo have been enrolled to act as crews. They all volunteered for the work, a fact which testifies to the great interest manifested in the management of the boat. On Wednesday ten men were selected by lot to form the crew at the launch. They consisted entirely of fishermen from the village of Embo. Strong, hardy looking fellows they were, and as they appeared in the boat, attired in their lifeboat costume, with cork jackets and cork preservers, their appearance indicated that when called upon to perform active service in the open sea, they would not fail to render a satisfactory account of themselves. Their names are :- Donald Mackay "EBAN" Coxswain; Alexander Main, 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 and superintended the launch. The new boat is to be stationed at a point adjacent to the village of Embo. It is named the "DAISIE".

In Dornoch the arrival of the lifeboat excited much interest and 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 which bore the suitable & appropriate inscription "Welcome Daisie". Flags floated on the Castle, the Cathedral, Bailie Neill's residence and from the building occupied by Mr W. S. Fraser, merchant while a flag was also unfurled at the 'Poles' and at the

launching point. The effect was pleasing & attractive. The boat was conveyed from the "Mound" railway station by eight powerful horses, which were kindly granted for the work by Provost Fraser, Dornoch; Mr Barclay, Skelbo; Mr Mackintosh, Proney; and Mr Gordon, Embo. Some difficulty was experienced in removing the boat from the railway waggons but many willing hands came forward, including a number of fishermen from Embo and succeeded in successfully placing it upon the carriage. Among those who assisted in the work were Mr J. B. Kydd, forester to the Duke of Sutherland; Mr Symon, station agent; and Capt Mackintosh of the Dornoch Rifle Volunteers. At the "Poles" the boat was prettily decorated with flowers by Mr Kydd. The members of the local committee and a large number of the general public assembled at the triumphal arch at the west end of Dornoch, and on the arrival of the boat a hearty cheer of welcome was raised. The members of the crew consisted of twelve men, including the coxswain, Mr Donald Mackay ^{EBAN} and the look-out man. It was originally intended that the launch should take place from the beach at Embo, but this site had to be abandoned.

The procession, headed by two pipers, wended its way to the new launching station and was followed by a large number of people. There were present at the ceremony Mr Sutherland of Skibo, chairman; Bailie Neill, hon secretary, Dornoch; Rev Mr Taylor, Free Church, Dornoch; Mr Lewis Hayes, S.S.C.; Mr John Mackintosh, Proney; 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. Kydd, the Poles; Mr William Sutherland, merchant; and Mr Roderick Maclean, chief constable, members of committee; Bailie Ross, Dornoch; Rev Donald Grant, Parish Church, Dornoch; Mrs Sutherland, Skibo; Mr Barrow & party, Dornoch; Mr Donald

Maclean, Rhives; Mr Box, factor, Tongue; Mr ~~Box~~ Barclay, Skello; Mr Fraser, from India; Mr & Mrs Donald Taylor, Dornoch; Mrs Taylor F.C. Maule, Dornoch, Dr Gordon, Embo; the Misses Mackintosh, Clashmore; Mr & Mrs Mackenzie, Tain; Miss Pryde, Edinburgh; Mr Mackenzie, 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 Captain Beddoes RN as the representative of the RNLI, handed over the lifeboat to the local committee.

Bailie Neill returned, on behalf of the inhabitants of the district, their heartiest thanks to Capt Beddoes for this noble gift from the RNLI. He asked them to ~~join~~ join in according 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 and generous person and to that person they returned their heartiest thanks.

The ceremony of christening the lifeboat was then performed by Mrs Sutherland of Skibo. Amid warm cheering the crowd 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 & in a choppy sea the crew towed her round the new station at Embo. Here a number of the fishes^{men}~~men~~, along with their wives & children, awaited to receive the boat, which glided through the waves in excellent style. The boat was dragged on to the beach, where it will remain until the completion of the new building to be erected for its accommodation.