

Fragments : Traces : Pieces : Excerpts
Collections : Assemblages : Miscellany : Mélange
Facts : Fictions : Fantasy : Myths

EDGE

A Shoreline Miscellanea

Explore at will

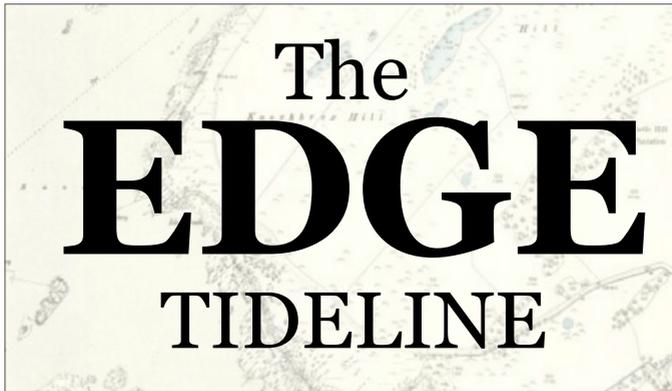
A Public Art Commission for Upland



EDGE

The EDGE tideline and the pages in this book contain fragments of stories. Some draw from the rich history of this area, from tales of Empire and free trade to the history of the huts on Carrick shore. Others reflect on strange happenings such as the ‘Solway Spaceman’ supplemented by stories from our imaginings. We leave it for you to discover the facts and fictions contained within the EDGE tideline as well as piecing together new stories of your own.

EDGE is created by Jo Hodges & Robbie Coleman with contributions from: Elaine Dempsey, David Giblin, Linda Mallett, Brett Self & Denise Zygadlo.



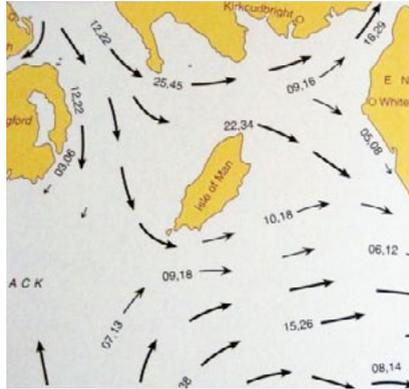
**All boxes and suitcases can be
opened and explored.**

**Please leave everything as found
for others to discover.**

1964

*“My father designed a raft to carry
Lady McCulloch’s china from Ardwall
Island to her cottage in Gatehouse.
We floated it precariously across
at high water”*

Colin Murray



It is reputed that James Murray from Gatehouse, a skilled oceanographer had such a keen understanding of ocean currents and trade winds that he was able to conduct a long distance love affair in the early 30's with an woman called Riiya from Peneek, a remote island in the Caribbean. Their messages were carried in bottles, thrown into the water at Carrick. The tides took their 'billet-doux' backwards and forward over oceans and through storms, each of them waiting on their respective shores for word from their sweetheart. Their relationship gradually faded after the introduction of the telephone.



The first hutter at Carrick was Mr William Davidson, a fisherman who lived on the shore from the 1890's. He had a horse, Pip, and a cart that he used to take his catch to sell in Gatehouse. He had 10 children with his wife, Margaret. He died in 1934 aged 91 years. This first hut burned down in 1936.

Photograph by kind permission of Stanley Grieve, Great Grandson of Mr Davidson.

Sailed: Carsethorn, May 1, 1775
Ship: The Lovely Nelly
Master: William Sheridan
Destination: St. John's Island, Canada
Number of passengers: 82

Passenger No 6
Joseph Graive
Age 36. Weaver from Newabby, Galloway
Reason for passage: To seek better bread
than he can get here.

Passenger No 45
William Douglas
Age 21. Labourer from Kirkboan, Galloway
Reason for passage: To mend himself.

Passenger No 62
Charles Carson
Age 18. Labourer from Colvend, Galloway.
Reason for passage: To better himself.

Local Shipwrecks

Akaster 29.10.1845
Clyde 18.12.1833
Margaret 23.01.1883
Comet 01.02.1865
Harriet Stewart 15.03.1857
Middleton 10.11.1801
Importer 12.10.1891
May 04.12.1801
Quartus 26.12.1872
Ranger 24.10.1826
Codelia 29.12.1913
Madras 23.01.1884
Emma Laura 19.01.1883.
Public sale at Carrick Bay
of masts, sails, rigging,
ropes, anchors, chains
and best quality coals.

Daystar 06.10.1918
Truda 27.02.1903
Duchess of Leinster 25.01.1873
Monreith 12.11.1900
Elizabeth 20.02.1868
Grace 22.02.1835
Ross 18.06.1822
Havelock 30.11.1864
Jessie Ray 10.12.1899
Lady Buckley 04.10.1891
Mary 20.01.1830
86 cattle. 200 sovereigns
(80 recovered)
Mary and Francis 20.11.1850
Sir Sidney 29.09.1879
Daisy 20.02.1900

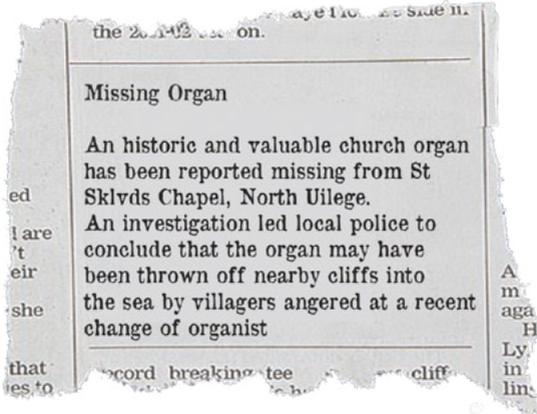


On a bright summer's day in 1964 at Burgh Marsh, overlooking the Solway Firth in Cumbria, a Carlisle fireman took a photo of his daughter that created headlines around the world. Fifty eight years later we are no closer to solving the mystery of the "Solway Spaceman".

Photo: Jim Templeton 1964

First reported in the Cumberland News 1964

From the Uilege Standard
3rd April 1967



the 201-12... on.

Missing Organ

An historic and valuable church organ has been reported missing from St Sklvds Chapel, North Uilege.

An investigation led local police to conclude that the organ may have been thrown off nearby cliffs into the sea by villagers angered at a recent change of organist

record breaking tee... cliff

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The Lost Fisherman

In 2006 Mrs Boam from Borgue took some photo's inside the local Church. When the pictures were printed they showed something very surprising indeed....

Smugglers land routes :
Night navigation by farm names

Daughtie, Auchengairn, Dawine and Dahairn

Glassgalloch, The Balloch, the Challoch

The Chang and The Cairn

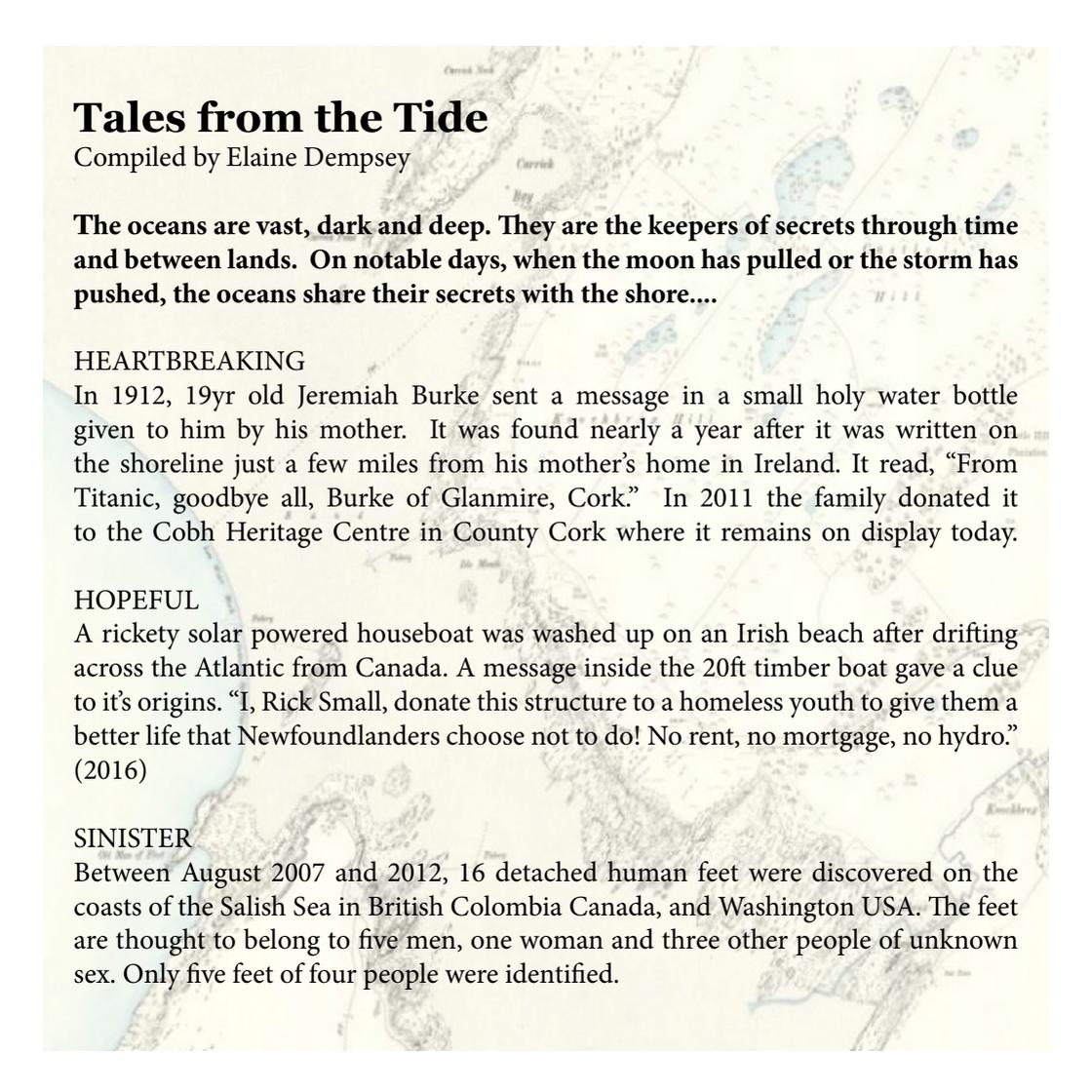
Lonely farmer Mr David O'Hearn from Lachlan Farm on the Isle of Man determined to win the island ploughing competition in order to gain the admiration and hand of Jane, vivacious daughter of the local publican. The competition was delayed by unseasonably bad weather for so long that by the time the competition was run, Jane had run off with a commercial salesman from Carlisle. With the cup in his hand and the prize money in his wallet Mr O'Hearn arrived victorious at the public house to find that the couple had sailed for America that morning. The heartbroken farmer ran to the harbour and threw the cup into the sea. Witnesses say that he slipped and followed his prize into the waves. Neither Mr O'Hearn or the cup was ever seen again.



Early 1920's Ardwall Island

RA Mitchell outside the cottage dyke with a friend, Ted Gaukroger, apparently with a considerable party in prospect.

When my father, a former merchant seaman, died, I cast his ashes into the shape of a skimming stone that I found at his favourite beach, Carrick Shore. These ash stones were sent to his friends and family around the world to skim across whichever ocean was nearest to them.

A faint, light-colored map of the Atlantic Ocean and surrounding landmasses, including North America, South America, and Europe, serves as the background for the text. The map shows coastlines, major cities, and some geographical features like the Gulf Stream.

Tales from the Tide

Compiled by Elaine Dempsey

The oceans are vast, dark and deep. They are the keepers of secrets through time and between lands. On notable days, when the moon has pulled or the storm has pushed, the oceans share their secrets with the shore....

HEARTBREAKING

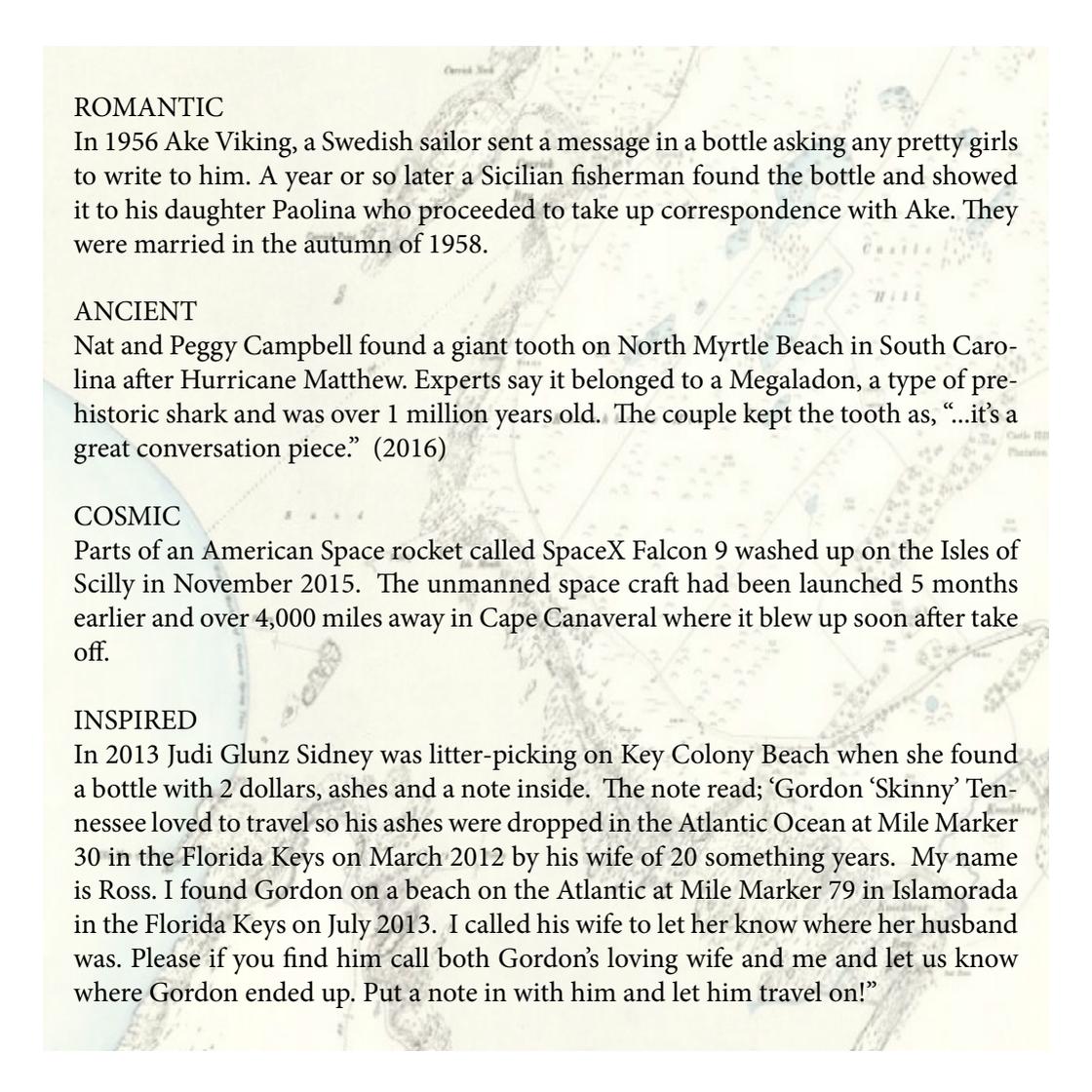
In 1912, 19yr old Jeremiah Burke sent a message in a small holy water bottle given to him by his mother. It was found nearly a year after it was written on the shoreline just a few miles from his mother's home in Ireland. It read, "From Titanic, goodbye all, Burke of Glanmire, Cork." In 2011 the family donated it to the Cobh Heritage Centre in County Cork where it remains on display today.

HOPEFUL

A rickety solar powered houseboat was washed up on an Irish beach after drifting across the Atlantic from Canada. A message inside the 20ft timber boat gave a clue to it's origins. "I, Rick Small, donate this structure to a homeless youth to give them a better life that Newfoundlanders choose not to do! No rent, no mortgage, no hydro." (2016)

SINISTER

Between August 2007 and 2012, 16 detached human feet were discovered on the coasts of the Salish Sea in British Columbia Canada, and Washington USA. The feet are thought to belong to five men, one woman and three other people of unknown sex. Only five feet of four people were identified.



ROMANTIC

In 1956 Ake Viking, a Swedish sailor sent a message in a bottle asking any pretty girls to write to him. A year or so later a Sicilian fisherman found the bottle and showed it to his daughter Paolina who proceeded to take up correspondence with Ake. They were married in the autumn of 1958.

ANCIENT

Nat and Peggy Campbell found a giant tooth on North Myrtle Beach in South Carolina after Hurricane Matthew. Experts say it belonged to a Megalodon, a type of prehistoric shark and was over 1 million years old. The couple kept the tooth as, "...it's a great conversation piece." (2016)

COSMIC

Parts of an American Space rocket called SpaceX Falcon 9 washed up on the Isles of Scilly in November 2015. The unmanned space craft had been launched 5 months earlier and over 4,000 miles away in Cape Canaveral where it blew up soon after take off.

INSPIRED

In 2013 Judi Glunz Sidney was litter-picking on Key Colony Beach when she found a bottle with 2 dollars, ashes and a note inside. The note read; 'Gordon 'Skinny' Tennessee loved to travel so his ashes were dropped in the Atlantic Ocean at Mile Marker 30 in the Florida Keys on March 2012 by his wife of 20 something years. My name is Ross. I found Gordon on a beach on the Atlantic at Mile Marker 79 in Islamorada in the Florida Keys on July 2013. I called his wife to let her know where her husband was. Please if you find him call both Gordon's loving wife and me and let us know where Gordon ended up. Put a note in with him and let him travel on!'

From The Scotsman 2014

'For more than five decades, its journey has been a mystery known only to the tides and currents of the Solway Firth. But now, a message in a bottle penned by a schoolboy in the 1960s has been discovered – just yards from where he dropped it into the waters of the Kirkcudbright coastline'

George Grierson age 5 years from St Cuthbert's School Kirkcudbright has not been able to be tracked down.



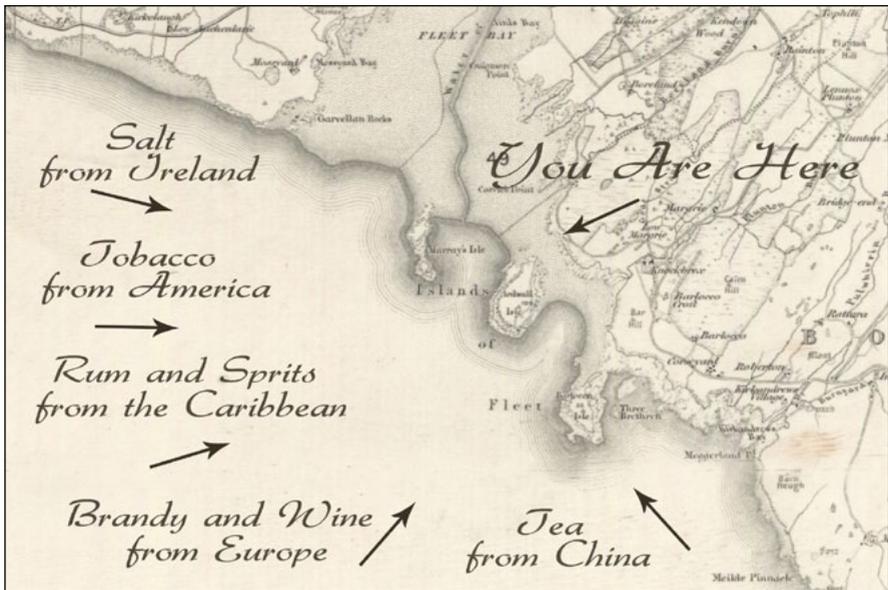
The Kindertransport system enabled Henry Wuga to leave Germany and come to Britain in 1939. He visited Kirkcubright and come to Britain in 1939. He visited Kirkcubright for three weeks one summer.

“We lived on Carrick Shore in a hut, no electricity, no water, tiley lamps, I mean that’s how it was. My first connection with the sea,”

www.gatheringthevoices.com

The Luckiest Man in Kircudbright.

Captain Ike Brown, a fishing boat captain between the years 1925 and 1952 pulled mermaids from his nets on at least four occasions over that period; once would have been lucky enough, but four! He married two of them (on separate occasions of course) “They were happy at first and fitted right in at home, especially as we kept a tank of goldfish in the living room. I was a widower at the time and they got on great with the kids, taking them to the local pool for swimming lessons but in the end they both returned to the sea” says Ike, “I guess they couldn’t resist the pull of it, same as me and the boat. For a few years I could still hear them singing if I stood on the beach, but my hearing’s not so good now.”



“Taxes on imported goods were seen by Scots as oppressive and resistance to them positively patriotic” Platt

In 1957 a couple called Scott took the tenancy of the cottage on Hesten Island near Auchencairn and supplemented their income by manufacturing church organs, rowing the finished products from the Island to Balcary Bay.

Borgue Cemetry. Plot 108

“By Alex COUGHTRIE in memory of son Thomas died Fleet St, Gatehouse of Fleet, March 1815, daughter Margaret perished with the whole passengers and crew of the steamship “Hungarian” wrecked near Sable Island Nova Scotia on the morning of 20.2.1860 aged 35, son Alexander died Windsor Pen, St Catherine, Jamaica 23.2.1863 aged 46, widow Eleanor McWILLIAM died Cairniehill 31.7.1864 aged 72. The said Alexander COUGHTRIE died Kirkcudbright 3.11.1874 aged 83”

From the Whitehaven Courier
August 2013

Theft of Garden Ornament

A plastic owl has been reported stolen from a garden in Whitehaven, Cumbria. Witnesses report seeing two seagulls, seemingly working in concert, attack the plastic predator and then make off with the ornament. Police are asking anyone coming across the item, which has sentimental value, to contact Whitehaven police.

“I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast, for I intend to go in harm’s way.”

John Paul Jones. 1778

Extract from letter from one of the Magistrates of Kirkcudbright to the Provost of Dumfries. April 23 1778

“This morning, about ten o’clock, an American privateer, thought to be about twenty guns, appeared on this bay, and have plundered the house of St. Mary’s Isle, the seat of the Earl of Selkirk, within a mile of Kirkcudbright, of all the silver plate, etc. We expect a visit from them on return of the tide, as they still hover in our bay. We are not in a state of defence, nor do we believe anything effectual can be done unless some of the King’s ships had notice of them. If you had any troops we should be much the better of them; but I suppose all our injury will be over before you can assist us. Give notice to any person you think in danger. The vessel is three-masted, or ship-rigged. I am, sir, your most obedient humble servant, John Murdoch”



The Whale of Barlocco Isle

A stranded 30-foot whale died on the rocks of Barlocco Island, Borgue in March 2006. The huge mammal, weighing several tons, was thought to be a female Minky. Females can grow to up to 36 feet long - males 28ft - and can weigh up to ten tons. The animals normally live to be around 50 years of age.

There is a story of a man who was walking along a cliffside path with his daughter when she asked if he wanted to see what she could do. She proceeded to put a couple of upturned shells in a puddle near the path and started stirring the water. She pointed to sea and said, 'Look at the boats!'. The man looked out to sea and was concerned when he saw two of the ships on the water struggling to stay afloat. His daughter got more and more excited and stirred and slapped the puddle until the shells filled with water and sank to the bottom. To the man's dismay he watched the struggling boats capsize the instant his daughter had sunk the shells. The girl looked up at her father with pride. 'Who taught you that?' he asked. 'Mother', she replied. Being a Christian man he dutifully reported both his wife and his daughter to the local minister and they were burned at the stake.

Oh, never leave your eggshells unbroken in the cup, Think of us poor sailor-men and always smash them up, For witches come and find them and sail away to sea, And make a lot of misery for mariners like me. (Gill, 1993: 97) Newall, 1971: 80-7; Opie and Tatem, 1989: 136-6

Vice-Admiral Philip Howard Colomb (1831-1899)
Born Knockbrenn, Gatehouse of Fleet, Dumfries and
Galloway.

*“No one knows better than the naval officer, how
absolutely comparative beauty is. He falls in love with a
face in a distant colony, and wonders at himself when he
sees the same face in a London drawing-room”*

From *Slave-catching in the Indian Ocean: A record of naval
experiences.* 1873

LARRY'S ISLE MYSTERY

Ardwall Island opposite Carrick, is known to locals as Larry's Isle after an Irish fisherman and shepherd who lived on the Island 150 years ago. In 1823 Lawrence O'Hagan (29) married Elizabeth Gourley (43). Known as Larry Higgins he appears to have come into money under mysterious circumstances. It was rumoured that he lived in poverty and to supplement his income was involved in smuggling or gained from wrecking. One story told of Larry concerned a Belfast ship that as wrecked off the rugged coast of Galloway. The Captain's wife was on board the stricken vessel and she concealed on her person the ship's papers and a substantial amount of cash. All on board were drowned and her body was washed up on the sands to the west of the island. Larry reported finding the body and when her son came to identify the body he handed over the ship's papers. The son asked after her rings and any other valuables she may have had but Larry denied knowing anything about them. Soon afterwards Larry set up a tavern on the island and lived the rest of his life in comfort.

Larry drowned in strange circumstances when returning to the island late one night in June 1867. His boat was recovered and a search was made, which proved fruitless, but several articles were picked up, leaving no doubt of his sad fate.

Contributed by Nic Coombey
Solway Coastwise Co-ordinator

Notes & Observations



We love tidelines. We love the random assemblages of familiar and unfamiliar objects that are thrown up by the sea, the curious arrangements that are created when weather, currents, underwater landscapes and celestial events combine. Every day the tide refreshes, reframes and reformulates, leaving behind the secrets that its been carrying.

We both spent our childhoods on shorelines; the West coast near Oban and the East coast of England in Suffolk. Creating EDGE has brought back memories of the anticipation that we would feel walking a tideline looking for something strange and exciting washed in from far away on the last tide.

In making this work, we have let ourselves be led by randomness and chance and have followed stories that have intrigued or delighted us. We have incorporated objects that we have found on the beaches of Dumfries and Galloway as well as items that have come to us by through generosity or happenstance. It's been a fascinating journey leading us to a new relationship with the coastline and we hope you'll find the same sense of excitement as you explore EDGE.

Robbie Coleman & Jo Hodges



EDGE

Human societies have always used the sea to travel, to fish or trade goods, skills and stories. People around the world still set off on perilous sea journeys in pursuit of new lives or to escape the dangers of old ones, launching themselves into the currents and trade winds with uncertainty and hope. If you've enjoyed EDGE, please consider making a donation to the RNLi Kirkcudbright Lifeboat Station or MOOL (Dumfries and Galloway Refugee Action). Thank you.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Elaine Dempsey for her in depth research and support. Thanks also to Nic Coomby (Solway Coastwise), Brian Jones, Annie Shnapp, Vicki Dowdell, Pete Garnett & Greg Lawson, The Hoolits.

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Special thanks to Mr & Mrs Austin for permission to use this beautiful place.

27-29 May 2017

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Upland

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& Galloway



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