

THE FAIR ISLE FISHING- MARKS

Jerry Eunson

In off-shore fishing it is essential for the fishermen to fix and find again the particular spot or ground which fish are known to frequent, and to avoid similarly those areas of the sea in which a good catch is unlikely. Frequently, shifting by a few yards in any direction can make or spoil the catch, and for this reason prominent geographical features on the shore are used to determine the exact position of the boat. In moving the boat into the desired position two sets of two such landmarks are employed—very often rocks, cliffs, promontories, but also clearly visible buildings like a church or a schoolhouse—each set being brought into an internal relationship, i.e. one feature being in line with, in front of, above, or below the other. In this way the boat can be moved away from the shore along one line, established by such a relationship, till the correct position on the other line has been found, and the point in which these two lines meet or cross, indicates the intended position above a certain fishing ground.

This method and such fishing-marks are, of course, made use of wherever off-shore fishing takes place, but it was felt that it might be desirable to bring together in one place as comprehensive a collection as possible of *all* the fishing-marks used by one fishing community in one particular locality. Obviously a fairly small island lends itself better to such a project than a larger one or an extensive mainland coast, and so the author has undertaken to collect and arrange on the pages which follow, the fishing-marks of Fair Isle between Shetland and Orkney. The actual term employed in Fair Isle is "Fishing Hands" rather than fishing-marks, and this term will be used throughout the article.

Necessarily, a great number of names of coastal features and of other landmarks in the island will be mentioned as part of the fishing-hands in question, but there will be no attempt to analyse or etymologise these, unless this is essential for the understanding of the directions given. It will also be noted that, in many cases, only two of the four features involved are actually mentioned whereas the other two are taken to be understood. This is due to the fact that many coastal features can only be seen or made use of, in relationship

to one feature and not to any other so that it would be superfluous to name this one landmark again and again, as confusion is impossible. A case in point is, for instance, "Head o' Yisness an' da Burrian", which stands for "the Head of Yisness past the North Gavel of Bunes, and the Burrian rock past the Sheep Rock", but there are many more.

The spelling of the place-names and dialect words which occur in conjunction with the fishing-hands, tries to convey the local pronunciation of these words although absolute unambiguity is not possible in every single instance.

It is hoped that Mr. Eunson's collection of fishing-marks from Fair Isle will stimulate the interest in, and the bringing together of, similar collections from other parts and fishing communities of Scotland, for a comparative study of the methods employed and the terms used should be most enlightening.

EDITOR

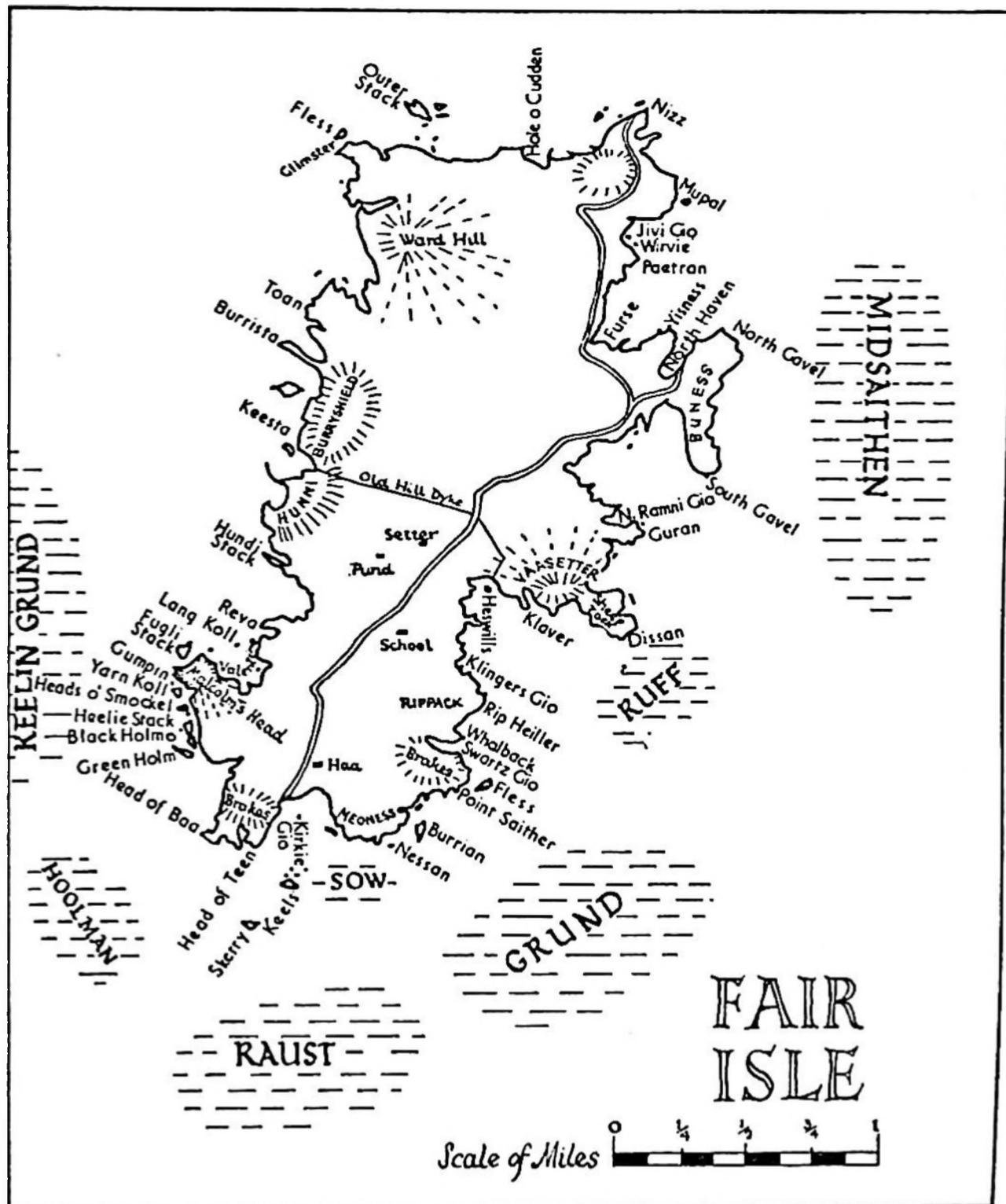
When I commenced collecting the Fair Isle Place names, I concentrated on the Coast and Inland names. However, some of the Fishing Ground names, remembered from childhood, often cropped up and after a few visits to the Isle my list of sea-fishing names seemed quite impressive. Some of the younger men had lists of the fishing grounds collected from fathers and grandfathers, other names were coaxed from the recesses of the minds of some of the older men.

By the beginning of World War II, the fishing being so spasmodic, many of the sea names were really only remembered. Long before then they should all have been collected and it says a lot for the local men that they remembered so many. Fishing was their main occupation at one time, but new and more intense fishing methods by trawlers exhausted the local fishing banks. For these reasons, I decided the most important thing was to collect, as soon as possible, all names connected with fishing.

No doubt there are names which have been lost but from those collected it can be seen that every little corner of the ocean round the Fair Isle shores, where fish was found, had been carefully recorded in the minds of the fishermen, be it sandy bottom or rocky boulder-strewn area. Each place had a name, which was derived from a mark or marks on shore; from the type of sea bottom or from the kind of eddy or tide in this part of the sea. Sometimes the place was named after a fisherman who either first tried it or who made it his favourite

spot. In every case the particular spot for fishing at sea was found by landmarks.

In Shetland the name used for this is *Meeds* or *Meeths*



The fishing-grounds of Fair Isle and the most important geographical features used as fishing-marks. For reasons of space the following have had to be omitted: the Sheep Rock to Klaver area: Engan Ru, Komon Gro, Ho Buxton, Da Whilse, Rowan Heilor, Rowan Wheetha, and Rowan Ru.

but on Fair Isle we called our fishing bearings *Fishing Hands*. It takes two bearings to fix an exact spot at sea and these were our *hands*. The fishermen could not do much without hands,

and their sea hands . . . Point A past or over point B and X over Y . . . gave them an exact fix.

To the local men the fishing "hands" are easy of utterance, the speed of speech would make many of the names unintelligible to the stranger. "Dissan aest afore an' da hol' o' Huggie Stoor" is Dissan (the outer corner of the bulky Sheep Rock) showing past the outer east side of the Burrian rock as the East hand and the Hole of Huggie Stoor, at the back of Malcolm's Head, showing past the Black Holm as the West hand, two exact lines viewed from the sea, and at that spot the men fished.

That is the basis of all sea hands whether for fishing or navigation. "Hands" or bearings were used for safety when passing certain points and for entering small bays and gios. Glimster is a bearing still used when the Fair Isle mail boat *Good Shepherd* makes the weekly run between Fair Isle and Sumburgh, Shetland. In a small rowing boat, "Glimster dipping" (disappearing), I have heard it said, is half-ways to Shetland (10 miles), but perhaps 7 miles would be nearer the distance.

"Skerry doon" (down) is just one more interesting piece of navigational knowledge. This was the Skerry off the south end of the Isle just disappearing when at sea in a small boat and was reckoned about 6 miles. This distance guide was used a lot in the old days when boats were out bartering with passing ships.

The bearings for some of the fishing grounds vary with the different men and this being so, their publication will probably give rise to further discussion and it may stimulate a further awakening in this very interesting subject. Other fishing communities in the islands would be able to compare the names with those used in their districts.

It is very important to impress on the reader the small area often covered by one set of "hands". "Lying on a quern's e'e" was a phrase sometimes used, which denoted that fish were lying in a very small area. When the fish were found to be more scattered, it was said they were "No' lying on a quern's e'e".

The boat could fish on one "hand" and open up a series of "hands" on the other side of the Isle. One example of this is the list of fishing "hands" connected with *Gumpin*, a rock on the west side. The boat can continue "on Gumpin" and, going in a

southerly direction, open up Dissan and Gumpin a Skut, then on

Engan Ru and Gumpin a Skut
Komon Gro and Gumpin a Skut
Kuppan and Gumpin a Skut
Ho Buxton and Gumpin a Skut
Da Whilse and Gumpin a Skut
Rowan Heilor and Gumpin a Skut
Rowan Wheetha and Gumpin a Skut
Rowan Ru and Gumpin a Skut and on to the
Point o' Klaver and Gumpin a Skut

It may be thought that some of the fishing "hands" encroached on each other and that is quite possible. Quoting the *Fless* and the various "hands" connected with that rock, we have "Over the Fless"; "through the Sneck of the Fless" (the *sneck*—small dip); "up to the inside of the Fless" and "the Sound of the Fless", the boat just moving round in a small area.

There are a few points which figure frequently in the fishing hands, mainly prominent rocks and headlands; names such as Buness, Sheep Rock, Burrian, Skerry, Black Holm, Gumpin, Fugli Stack and Outer Stack.

Some of the fishing spots are close inshore, the majority lie between 1 and 3 miles, and the farthest distance for fishing, apart from when the boats went in search of the saithe, was no more than 6 miles.

Time of tide was the most important element in fishing. Tide and weather were never far from the thoughts of a Fair Isle fisherman.

"The first of the flüd" (flood) was a popular time. During the slack tide (slow running) it was easier to keep the boat on the required position. Fish, like all other life would feed at the best opportunity, consequently they became less lethargic and would hunt for food when currents and eddies started to flow.

I have listed the fishing "hands" round with the sun, starting from an East-South-East direction, finishing at East. First of all giving the North hand and then the South hand and, as the boat comes round into a southerly position, the East followed by the West hand. On the west side it becomes the South and then the North hand and so on till we have circumnavigated the Isle. Some of the "hands" are grouped under Fishing Banks. These have names and the spots within these

banks are sometimes also named. Here we had names like Tongan, Rive Haige and Hifdi Kliv. In every case there must be two "hands" to fix the exact spot.

Some shore names assume a different name at sea. The Point of *Shaldi Kliv* on shore is known as *Knockhammar* when out fishing. Viewed from the sea this point appears imposing and bulky.

The fisherman soon became acquainted with the type of sea-bed from what came up on the hooks. Shallow spots were discovered when the line suddenly got caught on the bottom. When the lines came up badly buckled, it usually meant that they had been caught up in a swift flowing eddy or current. Treacherous sea-bed which could mean loss of fishing-lines, swift dangerous currents on the surface and weather-lore, the old fishermen on Fair Isle had to be in command of the lot.

I have attempted to give an analysis of the various features found in the Fair Isle fishing hands, their mental pictures by which the men could return year after year to the same spots in the ocean. It is important to reiterate that the naming of these spots would have been a very gradual process. The old fishermen would never have believed that these directions on which their livelihood depended so much would at a later date be collected and studied at high schools and universities. They have become part of the social history of our country and are just as important as the history of battles and kings and queens.

MIDSAITHEN

East-South-East to South-East from the Isle. Middle of the saithe fishing ground (The North part of Midsaithen is known as "Da Hill Rod"; the very narrow fishing area reminded the fishermen of the rough road to the peat hill).

"Head o' Yisness an' Da Burrian"

i.e. the Head of Yisness past the North Gavel of Buncess and the Burrian rock past the Sheep Rock.

"Da Black Rivvick an' Stromsheiller"

i.e. the Black Rivvick, Gio of Furse, past the North Gavel and Stromsheiller past the Sheep Rock.

"Sooth Ressens Gio an' Stromsheiller"

i.e. South Ressens Gio past the North Gavel and the South hand (as before).

“Da Runnick o’ Ressens Gio an’ Da Stack o’ Whalback”

i.e. the narrow gully or cleft in the cliffs at North Ressens Gio past the North Gavel and the Stack of Whalback (at the south corner of the Rippack), past the Sheep Rock.

“Da White o’ Paetran and Rip Heiller”

i.e. a white mark in the cliffs at Paetran past the North Gavel and Rip Heiller past the Sheep Rock.

“Wirvie Beach an’ Da Hoose a’ Heed”

i.e. the beach of Wirvie Gio past the North Gavel and the House on the top of Malcolm’s Head past the Sheep Rock.

“Jivi Gio an’ Da New School”

i.e. Jivi Gio past the North Gavel and the New School (built 1870) past the Sheep Rock.

INYER

This piece of ling fishing ground, “half-roads” to Mid-saithen. Perhaps it was the inner fishing ground.

*Da Twa Rivvicks an’ Peerie Rip Heiller an’ Da West Dyke
Ower Ramni Gio*

i.e. two rivvicks out past Jivi Gio past the North Gavel and Rip Heiller past the Sheep Rock and the west end of the hill dyke seen over North Ramni Gio. (It is unusual to be supplied with two South hands.)

RUFF

Inshore fishing ground.

“Da Skult o’ Guran an’ Da Hoose a’ Heed”

i.e. headland of Guran past the Sheep Rock and the old house on the top of Malcolm’s Head over Muckle Rip Heiller.

“Da Skult o’ Guran an’ Knockhammer”

i.e. the north hand (as before) and Knockhammer past the Sheep Rock.

“Da Man o’ Skarvalie and Da Daek End”

i.e. the man o’ Skarvalie (Buness) past Blue Gio and the Dyke end (the old turf dyke at Heswills) past the Sheep Rock. The “man” of Skarvalie is only seen from the sea and is formed by a cleft in the rocks casting a shadow, resembling the shape of a man.

“Da Skult o’ Güran and Falls Allen (or Falls Helm)”

i.e. the Head of Güran past the Sheep Rock and the high North side of Gunniwrik (the South end of the high land of Burrayshield) over the old Hill dyke at Heswills.

Falls Helm: appears to be a sea term.

BIGHT OF HESWILLS

Heswills is the gio from which this area derives its name.

“Da Tail o’ Buness an’ Meoness up ta Burrian”

i.e. the tail of Buness past the Sheep Rock and Faeryland, the east end of Meoness up to the inside of the Burrian.

“Face o’ Keiman and Meoness up ta Burrian”

i.e. the Green lye of North Klingers Gio past the Rippack and the South hand (as before).

“Da New School an’ Meoness up ta Burrian”

i.e. the New School past the Rippack and the South hand (as before).

BURRIAN AND FLESS GROUNDS

Inshore fishings out from these rocks.

“Da Stack o’ Heswills an’ Da Muckle Keel”

i.e. the Stack of Heswills past the Rippack and the Muckle Keel past the Burrian.

“Wart o’ Burrayshield an’ Da Skerry”

i.e. the south top of Burrayshield past the Rippack and the Skerry past the Burrian.

“Skuran afore Yisness an’ Engan Ru”

i.e. Skuran (near Jivi Gio) past Yisness (seen through the North and South Havens) and Engan Ru, the reddish cliffs at the South side of the Sheep Rock, past the South Corner of the Rock.

“Skuran afore Yisness an’ Da Store”

i.e. North hand (as before) and the Old Store, at Mid Gio, past Meoness.

“Mupal afore Da Gavel an’ Da Kirk”

i.e. Point of Mupal past the North Gavel and the Old Kirk (now only parts of the walls standing) at Kirkie Gio, past Meoness.

“Mupal a Kumlin an’ Da Store”

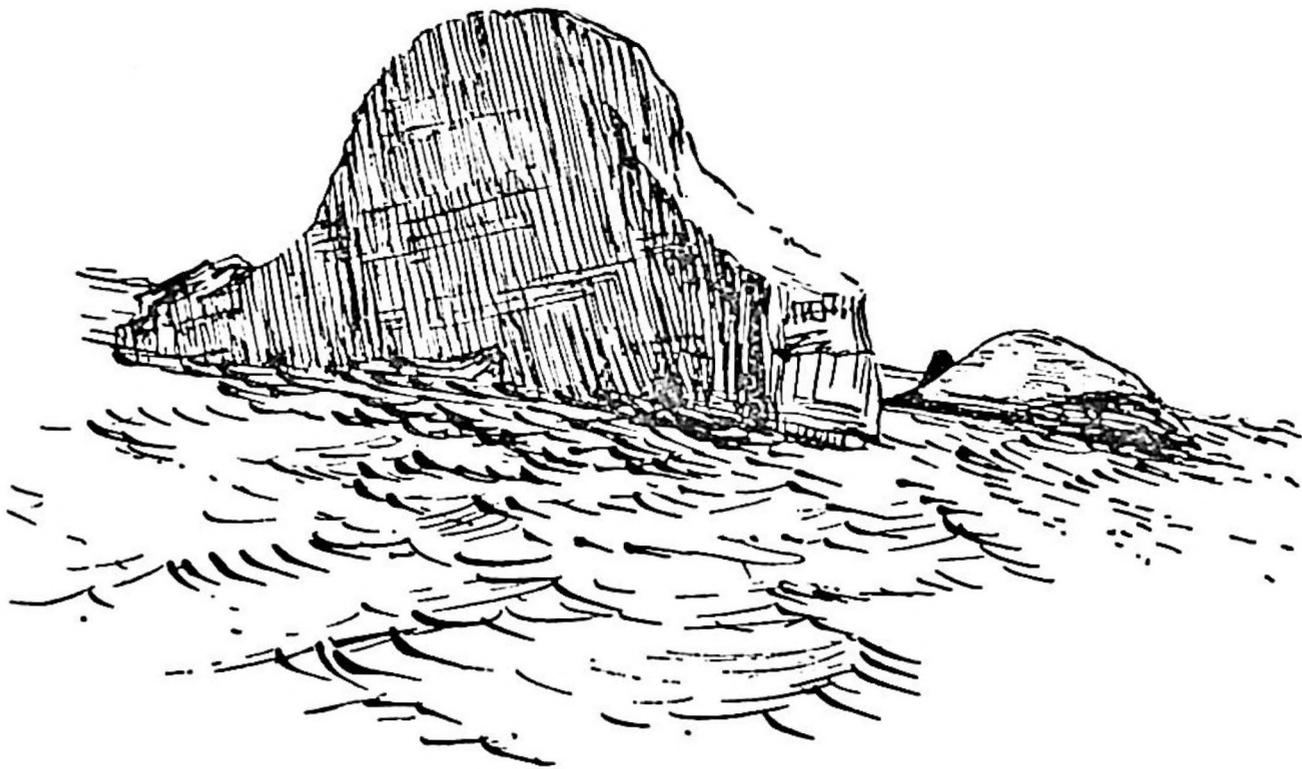
i.e. Point of Mupal over Da Kumlin, Bunes and the Old Store past Meoness.

“Mupal afore Blue Gio”

i.e. Point of Mupal past the top edge of Blue Gio, South Bunes and the South hand (as before).

“Mupal up ta Bunes”

i.e. Point of Mupal up to the inside of Bunes (seen through the Havens) and the South hand (as before).



Steen a’ E’e, or Steeny E’e

“Mupal afore Yisness an’ Da Black Holm on Da Skult o’ Teen”

i.e. Mupal in front of the Head of Yisness and seen through the Havens and the Black Holm over the top corner of the Head of Teen.

“Mupal Afore Yisness an’ Da Holm on Tap a’ Keel”

i.e. Mupal (—) and the Black Holm over the Keels.

“Steeny E’e an’ Ro Skerry”

i.e. the top of the Stack in the North Haven showing over Bunes (inner end) and past the Sheep Rock like an eye, and Ro Skerry or Skarfy Stack past Meoness.

“Tail o’ Buness an’ Gumpin afore Da Green Holm”

i.e. Tail of Buness past the Sheep Rock and Gumpin, a rock behind Malcolm’s Head, in front of the outer edge of the Green Holm.

THE GRUND

“Da Valentines”

i.e. Tae Gavel afore tidder (the one Gavel of Buness in front of the other) and the Valentine (North side of Malcolm’s Head) over the grey stone at the top of Swartz Gio.

“Rivvicks o’ Buness an’ Da Daek a’ Heed”

i.e. Rivvicks near the South Gavel of Buness past the Sheep Rock and Malcolm’s Head dyke over the Burrian.

“Da Rivvicks an’ Ro Skerry”

i.e. the North hand (as before) and Ro Skerry past Meoness.

“Glip o’ Nessian an’ Da Holm in Da Skult o’ Teen”

i.e. a V-shaped opening (O.N. *glup*—throat; U- or V-shaped) between the tail or Ness and the Rivvicks of Buness past the Sheep Rock and the Black Holm over the Head of Teen.

“Tail o’ Buness an’ Da Gait o’ Stensie Gio”

i.e. the tail of Buness past the Sheep Rock and the V-shaped opening at the top of the Gait of Stensie Gio over the Burrian.

“Stack o’ Heswills an’ Da Noosts”

i.e. the Stack in the East side of Heswills past the Rippack and the Noosts at Udie Gio past Meoness.

BROCKA

“Skio o’ Buness an’ Skio A’ Brakes o’ Leogh”

i.e. the height of Buness past the Sheep Rock and the height of the brakes of Leogh past Meoness.

SAID TONGAN

“Da Red Mark at Skripton an’ Da Kirk”

also given as

“Da Red Mark at Skripton an’ Da Point o’ Hunni”

i.e. the red mark in the cliffs (about 30 feet up from the sea) at Skripton in the Sneck of the Fless and the Old Kirk

past Meoness or the same North hand and the South point of Hunni over the Burrian.

HIFDI KLIV

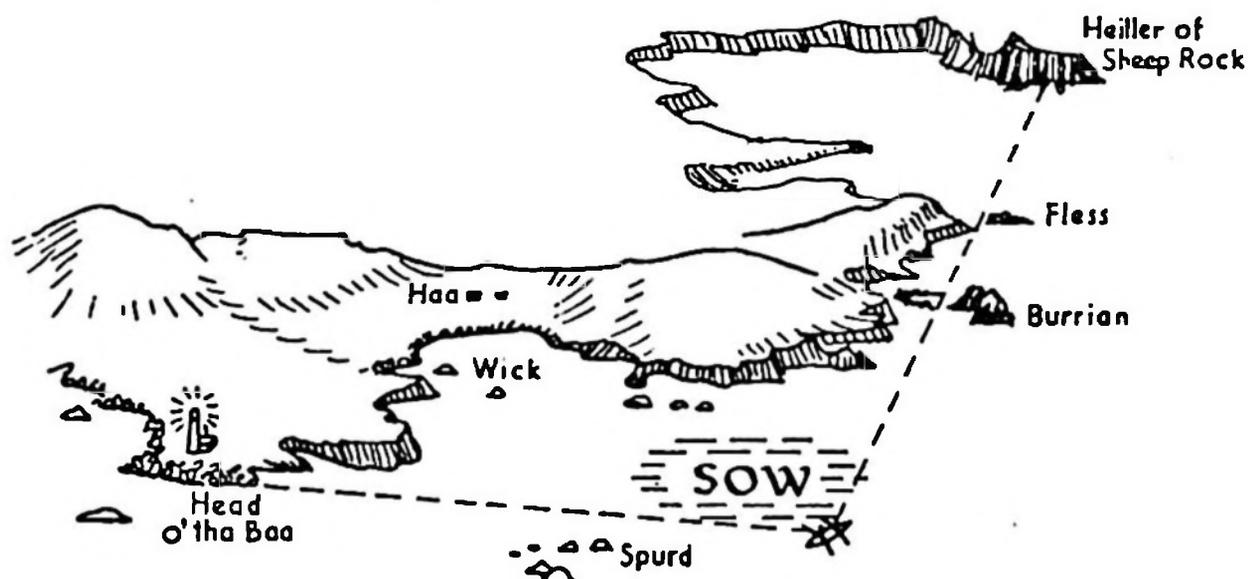
"Klaver an' Da Gait o' Stensie Gio"

i.e. the hole of Klaver through the Sound of the Fless and the V-shaped top of the Gait of Stensie Gio past Meoness.

SINNIE SKERRIES

"Klaver an' Da Ness o' tha High Holm"

i.e. Klaver through the Sound of the Fless and the Ness (the inner face or height) of the High Holm out past the Keels.



Heiller E'e an' da Hand o' da Sow

"Hole a' Klaver an' Da Holm a' Skult a' Teen"

i.e. Hole of Klaver up to the inside of the Fless and the Black Holm over the Head of Teen.

"Klaver an' Da Holm a' Skult a' Teen"

i.e. the edge of Klaver up to the inside of the Fless and the South hand (as before).

"Klaver a' Soond an' Gumpin a' Soond"

i.e. the same North hand, but this time in the middle of the Sound of the Fless and Gumpin through the Sound of the Holm (behind Malcolm's Head).

SOW

Inshore fishing ground for piltocks with a handline, just outside the South Harbour entrance, running from the back of Meoness up to the Keels and Skerry.

“Heiller E’e an’ Da Hand o’ Da Sow”

i.e. the Heiller of the Sheep Rock appearing between the shore land of the Brakes of Busta and inside the Burrian, like an “eye” (black in the whiter foreground) and The Spurd (rock just inside the Keels) along the Head of the Baa.

DA POOL O’ O STACK

“Da Wheeth a’ Burrian an’ Da Haa o’ Gaila”

i.e. the white mark on the West corner of the Burrian past the East corner of Meoness and the Old Haa past the West side of Meoness.

GUMPIN GRUND

“Rivvicks o’ Buness and Gumpin ower Da Holm”

i.e. the Rivvicks of Buness past the Sheep Rock and the top of Gumpin over the Black Holm.

AUDIN

“Hole o’ Klaver an’ Yarn Koll”

i.e. the Hole of Klaver past the Fless and the Head of Yarn Koll on the outside of the Keels.

RAUST

Half to three miles S. to S.W. from the Isle. Halibut ground, formerly good cod ground. The shallowest part, only 7 fathoms is called the SHAULD and has strong tides, the deepest part is known as the HAFF.

“North Brae o’ Buness and Gumpin Afore”

i.e. North Brae (Skio) o’ Buness past the Sheep Rock and Gumpin afore the Green Holm (up to the outside of the Green Holm).

“Buness End—Tail o’ Buness an’ Luistemil”

3 ml. out.

i.e. the Tail of Buness past the Sheep Rock and Luistemil, the light showing between Gumpin and the outer side of Black Holm.

“Gumpin a Skut”

(As mentioned in the introduction)

“Gumpin a Kriv”

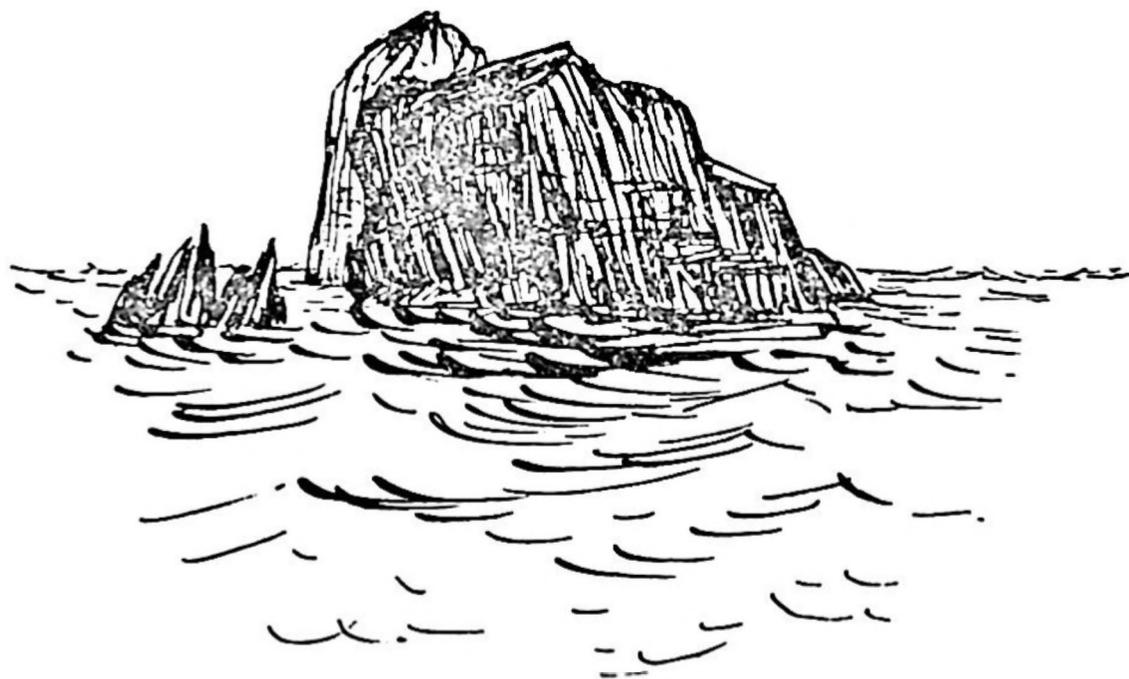
i.e. Gumpin between the Black Holm and the Kriv rock and the usual set of East hands.

EAST ROGANS

The East red bearing.

“Edge O’ Klaver an’ Gumpin High on the Nap of the Holm”

i.e. Edge of Klaver past Point Saither and Gumpin high on the Nap of the Black Holm. *Rogans*: as a fishing hand represents a vein or an extended ridge of any colour differing from the surrounding cliffs.



Gumpin A Skut

WEST ROGANS

The West red bearings.

“Rowan Ru an’ Gumpin Neat in the Nap of the Holm”

i.e. Rowan Ru past Point Saither and Gumpin neat in the Nap of the Black Holm.

“Rowan Ru an’ Gumpin afore Da Green Holm”

i.e. Rowan Ru past the outside of the Burrian and Gumpin outside the Green Holm.

“Engan Ru an’ Huggie Little”

i.e. Engan Ru past the outside of the Burrian and Huggie Little, at back of Malcolm’s Head past the outside of the Black Holm.

PILIE BANKS

"Edge o' Klaver an' Gumpin a Nap a Holm"

i.e. the outer edge of Shaldi Kliv past Point Saither and Gumpin in the Nap of the Black Holm.

HOXTA

"Ho Buxton an' Da Heads o' Smockel aff a Bit"

i.e. the heights above Buxton past the Burrian and the Heads of Smockel, back of Malcolm's Head well opened up outside the Black Holm.

RIVE GLIPPE

"Engan Ru an' Glip a Toan"

i.e. Engan Ru past Point Saither and Glip a Toan, back of Malcolm's Head, along the outside of the Black Holm.

RIVE HAIGE

"Dissan aest afore an' Da Hol' o' Huggie Stoor"

i.e. Dissan past the east, outside of the Burrian, and the Hole of Huggie Stoor on the outside of the Black Holm.

"Wast Wyes o' Da Skerry"

i.e. The Burrian on the Tail of the Skerry and Codlin Gully (a white or yellowish mark on Yarn Koll) on the outside of the Black Holm.

HANDS FOR DA HAFF

"Da Burrian an' Da Apron o' Heelie Stack"

i.e. the Burrian (as before) and a conical shaped part of Heelie Stack out past the Black Holm.

"Sley Heiller an' Da Mill"

i.e. the mill (now only the site) at Whilligirt past the Black Head and Sley Heiller past the outside of the Black Holm.

HOOLMAN

"Head o' Nessian an' Codlin Gully"

i.e. the Head of Nessian seen past Head of Teen and Codlin Gully, Yarn Koll.

“Out past Hoolman”

i.e. Burrian a Skerry (inside the Skerry) and the Tail o' Dronger the North West corner of the Isle showing.

AFORE URAN

“Da Head o' Nessian an' Red Codlin Ru”

i.e. the Head of Nessian (as before) and Red Codlin Ru (Red rocks) past Fugli Stack.

“Da Head o' Nessian an' Black Codlin Riven”

i.e. the Head of Nessian (as before) and Black Codlin Riven (Black rocks) past Fugli Stack.

THE STACK—FUGLI STACK

“Da Blett o' Duggie Gio an' Da Heelicks o' Reva”

i.e. a green lye in the cliffs at Duggie Gio past Gumpin and the heelicks at South Reva past Fugli Stack.

SKURAN

“Da Skios o' Da Brakes an' Da Black Rivvick o' Hundi Stack”

i.e. the site of the former skios at the Brakes of Leogh past the Black Holm and the Black Rivvick at Hundi Stack past the outside of Fugli Stack.

Skur: a name given to fishing grounds close inshore.

“Da Skios o' Da Brakes an' Da Wheeth o' Keesta”

i.e. The Skios (as before) and the white mark in the cliff at Keesta, past Fugli Stack.

TOAN

“Da Skios o' Da Brakes an' Da Face o' Toan”

i.e. the Skios (as before) and the Face of Toan past Fugli Stack.

“Da Horn o' Da Holm an' Da Heelicks o' Reva”

i.e. the Horn (the prominent West corner) of the Black Holm and the Heelicks of Reva. (The Horn of the Holm is only seen from the North west side.)

KEELIN' GRUND

Keeling is an old name for cod.

“Da Haa an’ Da Pund”

i.e. the Haa House along the Holms and the Pund House through the Sound of Fugli Stack.

“Da Muckle Keel an’ Da Sheep Craig past North Reva”

i.e. the Big Keel in the slack of Uran and the face of the Sheep Rock up to the north side of North Reva.

“Da Muckle Keel an’ Da Muckle E’e o’ Reva”

i.e. the Big Keel along the outer west corner of the Kletts and the North Hole of Reva past Fugli Stack. (The eye disappeared when a large area of cliff “fell afore” at the beginning of the twentieth century.)

“Da Peerie Keel an’ Lang Koll”

i.e. the Small Keel over the outer west corner of the Kletts and the Lang Koll past Fugli Stack.

“Da Muckle Keel in the Slack an’ Da Sheep Craig up ta Hunni”

i.e. the Big Keel in the slack of Uran and the face of the Sheep Rock along the south corner of Hunni.

WEST BANK

i.e. Vaasetter up to Malcolm’s Head and proceeding North along the West side of the Isle.

“Cudden an’ Da Skerry”

i.e. Hole of Cudden out past the Outer Stack and the Skerry out past the Black Holm.

POOLS O’ DA SANDS

Sandy fishing spots or pools out from Hunni.

DA STOO

A fishing spot off the Stoo of Burrista.

“Da Valentine an’ Da Tail o’ Buness”

i.e. the Valentine in the North side of Malcolm’s Head past Keesta and the Tail of Buness past Mupal. The West hand stretches from the Valentine east to the Riggin’ of the Head (the highest part), and the East hand from the tail to the whole of Buness.

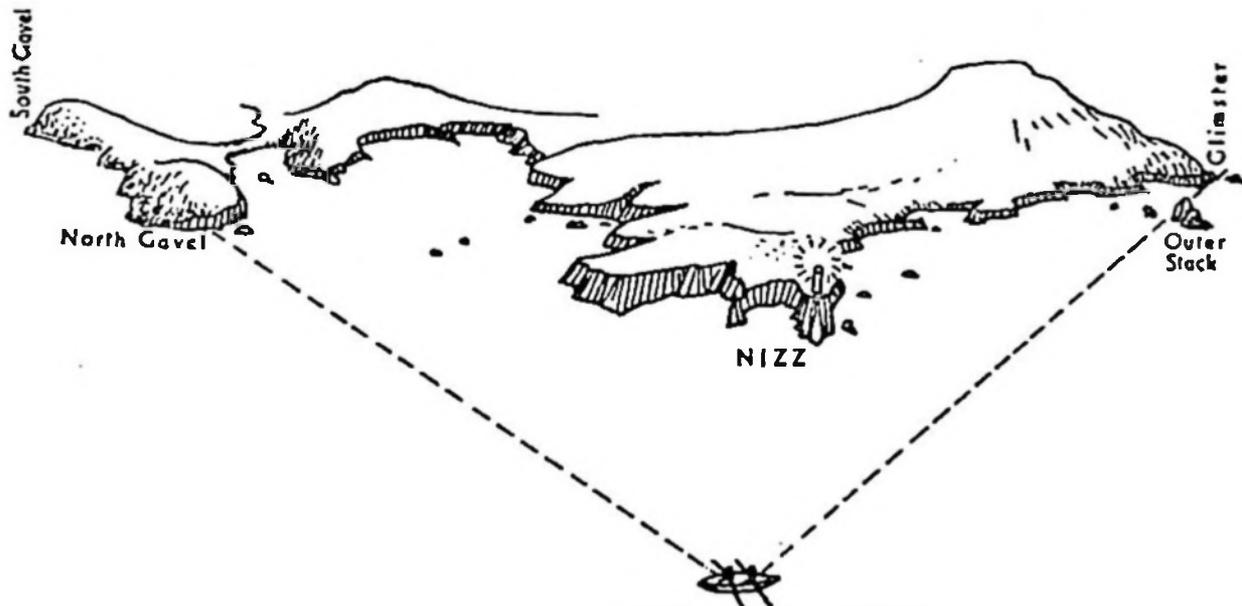
OOLIE'S GRUND

North from the Isle, about 3 miles. Named after Oliver Smith who stayed on Fair Isle early in the nineteenth century.

WESTER POOL

"Da Shudder o' Glimster an' Da Skio o' Buness"

i.e. the Shoulder (corner) of Glimster, the Northerly point of the Isle down near the sea, up to the Outer Stack and the Skio of Buness past Mupal.



SETTERY'S POOL

Settery's Pool, north from Fair Isle

EASTER POOL

"Glimster an' Da Sheep Rock"

i.e. Glimster (as before) and the Sheep Rock up to the inside of Buness.

SETTERY'S POOL

Named after a fisherman who stayed at Setter.

"Glimster and tae Gavel afore Tidder"

i.e. Glimster (as before) and the North Gavel of Buness almost in line with the South Gavel of Buness.

"Dissan an' Da Graves"

i.e. Glimster (as before) or perhaps between the Outer and Inner Stacks and Dissan, the outer point of the Sheep Rock over the Graves (over the New Lighthouse pier and Store at North Haven). Behind the Store, at the Neck of Buness, there are several old Dutch Graves, not marked, where Dutchmen from ships wrecked in the North Haven were buried.

“Lanorder”

i.e. the Burrian afore da Ruff (outer edge of the Sheep Rock) and the Outer Stack afore da Nizz (past the Nizz, the North-easterly point of Fair Isle. (Probably the north end of the fishing grounds.)

KENABY'S GRUND

A fishing spot worked by Stewart Wilson of Kenaby croft.

“Rip Heiller an' Da Stack”

i.e. Muckle Rip Heiller past the Sheep Rock and the Outer Stack (as before).

“Da Krook o' Klingers Gio an' Da Stack”

i.e. Klingers Gio past the Sheep Rock and the Outer Stack (as before).

So now we are back on the east coast, a few miles out past where we started. It is difficult to assess how many names have been lost. Several will have assumed a more English content. The mere publication of the foregoing will probably help to produce more old names.

I feel that there still remain many interesting items and stories about the sea, the land and the people, waiting to be collected, and even at the time of writing, correspondence with some of the men in Fair Isle is producing additional material. Even in a small community like this, there is still much to be collected in this respect.

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