# SHETLAND: DESCRIPTIVE AND HISTORICAL; AND TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF THAT COUNTRY

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649704002

Shetland: Descriptive and Historical; And Topographical Description of That Country by Robert Cowie

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

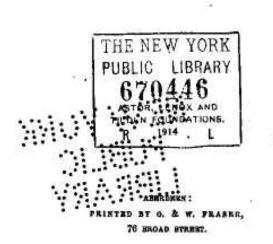
This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

# **ROBERT COWIE**

# SHETLAND: DESCRIPTIVE AND HISTORICAL; AND TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF THAT COUNTRY

Trieste



39

•

1.54

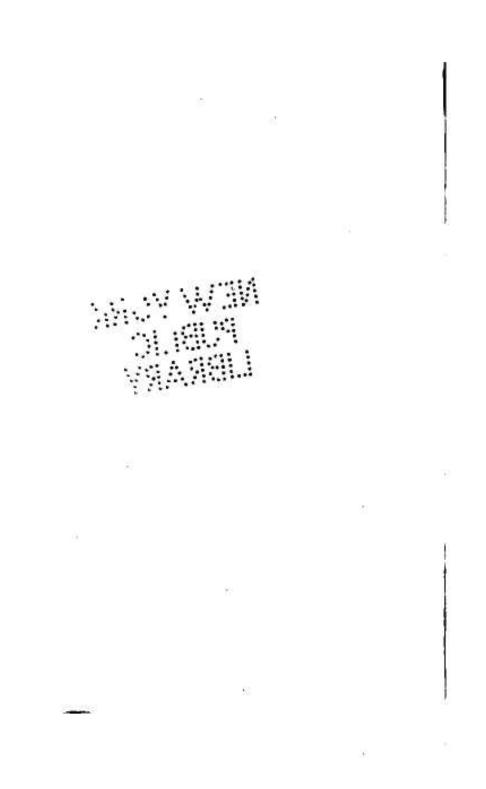
## PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

This edition of "SHETLAND AND ITS INHABITANTS" is intended to be a Complete Guide to the Tourist visiting these interesting Islands, and has been carefully revised and corrected to the present date.

1 . A. A.

The Medical Thesis and other information contained in the first part of the two former editions has not been republished in the present work, being considered unnecessary, and of little interest to the majority of readers.

ABERDEEN, Nov., 1879.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

### CHAPTER I.

#### CHAPTER IL.

Sumburgh Roost -- Fitful Head -- Quendale -- Iron Mines---Quendale Bay-- Fishing Stations -- Fisheries -- Sumburgh Lighthouse -- Jarlshoff -- The Hall -- Lord Robert Stewart's House -- Battle on Sumburgh Links -- Gruitness -- Voe-----Accommodation.

#### CHAPTER III.

DUNROSINESS TO LERWICK.—Levenwick—The Moull— Channerwick—Sandwick—Pictish Burgh or Castle of Mousa—Legend regarding Dame Margareta and Earl Erlend—Sand Lodge—Copper Mine—Coningsburgh—Its people—Scenery—Aith's Voe—Helliness—Fladshister— Quarff—Brendiater—Gulberwick—Shipwreck of Earls Ronald and Harold, &c.—Bressay Lighthouse—The Knab—Paul Jones repulsed.

#### CHAPTER IV.

LERWICK.—The Harbour—The Town—Its Situation—Arrangement of the Streets, &c.—Shope, &c.—Public Buildings— Docks—New Town—Villas, &c.—Loch of Clickhemin—Sound.

#### CHAPTER V.

LERWICK CONTINUED.—Some of its Industries and Social Customs—Trade—Farce Fishing—Markets for Fish, &c. —Fish Tithes to Minister of North Leith—Absence of Manufactures, and Scarcity of Employment—Society— Means of Communication with other places—Lerwick at different seasons—Winter—Royal Naval Reserve— Christmas Morning Amusemente—Spring—Greenland Ships—Whale and Soal Fishery—Whalers "frozen up" in Arctic Regions all Winter, &c.

. . . . . . . . .

30

14

23

10

7405

5

#### CONTENTS.

#### CHAPTER VI.

LEBWICK CONTINUED. —Summer Season —The Dutch Fishery on the Shatland Coast—its Ancient Magnitude and Importance—The "Hollander's Knowe".—The Dutchmen on Shore, and some of their Amusements—Their "Busses" —Boat-Sailing off Lerwick — Fishing of Herring on Lines— Mackerel Fishing in Autumn—History of Lerwick— Progress of its Population—Fort Charlotte—Rifle Corpe— Anderson Institute—Widows' Asylum—Parish School— Episcopal School—Municipal Affairs—Water-Works— Over-crowding—Small Lodging-Houses—Fever Hospital—Courts, Civil, and Ecclesizatical—Markets—Want of Public Places of Amusement—Scenery—Cemetery. …

#### CHAPTER VII.

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER PLACES.—Little Intercourse with Mainland of Scotland for along period—Illustrations of this—Sloops running to Leith—Wreek of the Doris—Smuggling Trade with Holland—Schooners to Leith—Steamers—Introduction of Penny Postage—Great Increase of Letters, &c., snce—Trade between West Side of Shetland and Leith—Between North Isles and Lerwick—Steamer—Story—Iceland MailSteamer—Shetland Telegraph.

#### CHAPTER VIII.

#### CHAPTER IX.

#### CHAPTER X.

THE SCATHOLDS (OR COMMONS) AND THEIB INHABITANTS. Products of the Commons-Game, &c. The Shetland Pony -The Shetland Sheep-Their Wool-Native Dyes-Skins-Mutton-Method of Removing Wool-Their Food in Seasons of Scarcity-Diseases-Birds of Pray-Attention paid to the Rearing of Sheep in Accient Times-Wadmel - Shetland "Tweeds"-Proposed Introduction of Grouse-Peat-Moss-Great Depth in many places-Its Formation-The Cutting, Curing, and Transport of 39

PAUE

63

67

54

#### CONTENTS.

Peats-Might not Peat-Moss be further utilised !--Improvements in Shetland Farming, and its Assimilation to that of the Mainland of Scotland-Fishing of greater importance there than Farming-Division of , Commons-Shetland rather a Grazing than an Agricultural Country-Years of Destitution by Destruction of Crops-Trees. .... .... ... .... ....

#### CHAPTER XI.

SHETLAND HOSIERY .- That exported restricted to Coarse Stockings, &c., for a long period-Fine Shawl-knitting of Recent Introduction-Its Origin and Rise-Veils, &c .--Present to the Princess of Wales. ... ..... Sec. 2.

#### CHAPTER XII.

BRESSAY AND NOSS .- East Coast of Bressay - Cave-Bard-"Giant's Leg"-Holm and Noup of Noss-The Cradle-Dr. Copland-Farm of Noss-Dangers of Noss Sound--Bressay again-Gardie-Maryfield-Parochial Statistics --- Slate Quarries. .... ....

#### CHAPTER XIII.

SCALLOWAY AND TINGWALL. -The Journey-Magnificent View from Hill above Scalloway-The Castle-Earl Patrick Stewart-Gallow Hill-Garden of Westshore-Gibbleston Lodge-Blacksness-Harbour-Tingwall-The Ting-Church, Manse, &c .- Veensgarth and Laxfirth Farms-Dale. .... .... ..... .... ....

#### CHAPTER XIV.

FROM LERWICK NORTHWARDS TO NESTING AND WHALSAY .-of Eswick—Maiden Stack—Hon Stack—Bay of Nesting— Brough, &c.—Dangerous Reefs—Neap—Hog Sound— Tragedy at Neap—Nesting Statistics—Whalsay—Symbister-Manor House, Whalsay Sound-Its Islands-Manufacture of kelp-Parochial Statistics, &c. ...

#### CHAPTER XV.

The SKERBIRS.—Passage thither—Grief Skerry—East Linga —Seals—Cormorant—The Otter—Skerry Isles—Their Harbour—The Fishery—"The Skerry Fight "—Ship-wreck of the Carmelas, and of a Russian Frigate—The Lighthouse-Light-keeper's Houses, &c. -Effects of the Sea-School-Shipwreek of the s.s. Pacific on East Linga, near Whalsey, in February, 1871. 2.21 ....

99

107

93

83

74

vii

7486

87

### CONTENTS.

### CHAPTER XVI.

THE NORTH ISLES—! Soil—Harbours— Manor Houses—H	Propose	d Cana	-Par	ochial S	Itatistic		PAGE
	CHAI	TER	XVII.				]
FETLAR.—Its Name Formation—Paro Lodge—Fetlar marine Volcano.	chial S	tatistic	s-Ant	iquitie	s-Bros	ugh	119
	CHAR	TER	XVIII				
UNSTHills-Lochs				ine or	Iarbou		
History and Anti	quities.						123
	CHA	PTER	XIX.				
UNST CONTINUED. — Munces Castle—B Some Distingui Quarries—" Feni North Coast—Lig	alta—B shed N ian Inve	alta So latives wion	und E	Uness-	-M. Bio	t—	126
	CHA	PTER	XX.				
LUNNASTINODoura Voe-Lunna-Pa	Vos-V rochial	Vest Sc Statist	ound of ics—Inc	Whals	s, &c.	ilin 	139
	CHAP	TER	XXI.				
YELL SOUND TO SULEA Islands—Its Tide Voe—Mavisgrind	wava-0	loast o	f North	-Yell S Delti	Bound- ngSu	-Its lem	142
	CHAI	TER	XXII.				
SULEM VOR TO FRID Roe-Fishing Sta				Ollaber	ryNo 	erth.	145
	CHAP	TER	XXIII	ş			
THE HAFF-FISHING.					***		147
	CHAP	TER	XXIV				
SAND VOE TO ROENE west Coast of Action fought th	ss Vog.	-Pira	tes' Vi Uvea	sit, &	eas Vo		
Summit	***	•••		•••	***		151
	CHAI	PTER	XXV.				
ROENESS VOR TO HAM -Grind of the Nav	INA VOR	-Wo lians of	nderful Ure—H	Effets	of the Scraad	Sea. 8—	
The Cannon	•••	•••	•••				155