



Whisky distilling, blending & bottling in South Queensferry

Glenforth Distillery



Photo courtesy of Queensferry History Group

Glenforth Distillery

- 'A large mass of buildings at the end of Gote Lane (now Hillwood Place) near the harbour, established in 1828 by the Glenforth Distillery Co. It manufactures from 2,00 to 2,500 gallons weekly and gives constant employment to 13 men. It is the property of Mr R Wyld of Gilston, county of Fife.
- Ordnance Survey Name Book, 1856

Canmore

Glenforth Distillery

James Wyld, Merchant Leith
1776 – 1860

William Wyld
1785 - 1842

Robert Stodart Wyld
1808 - 1893



Memoir of James Wyld of Gilston
By Robert Stodard Wyld 1889

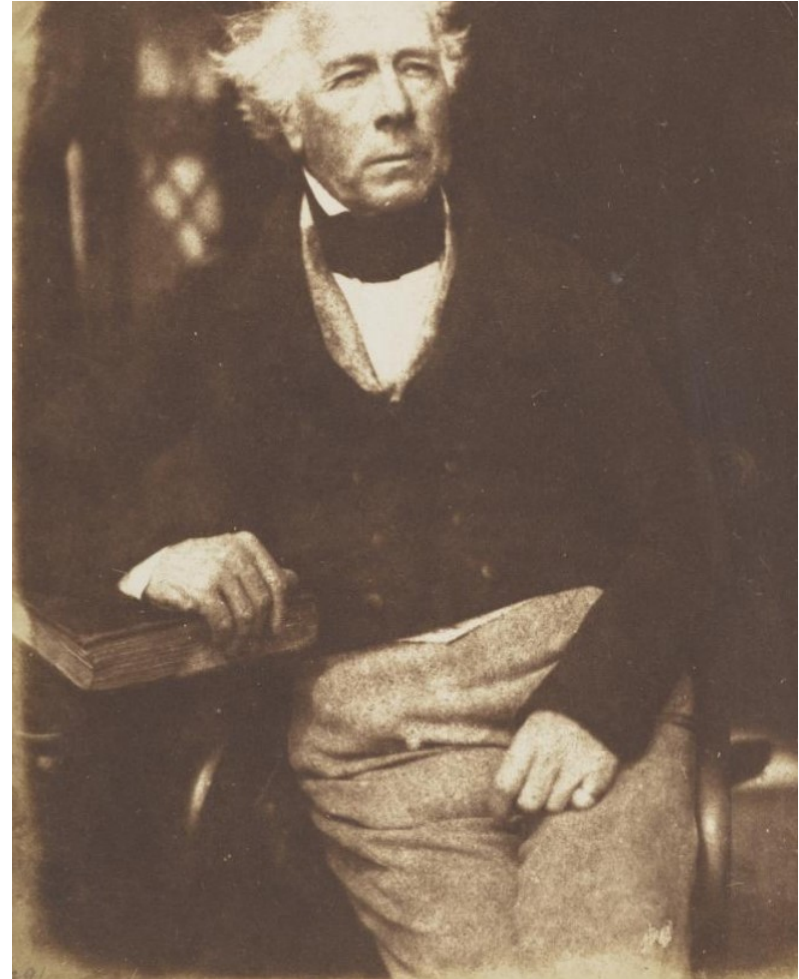


Image: National Galleries of Scotland

View of the
harbour head
in 19th
Century

Watercolour
by Charles
Bryden



Glenforth Distillery

‘GLENFORTH (also QUEENSFERRY), SOUTH QUEENSFERRY, WEST LOTHIAN, Glenforth Distillery Co. 1843 – 63 when diss., purchased by John Steward & Co. Kirkliston, who continued to use the firm’s name until 1867.’



The Scotch Whisky Industry Record
H. Charles Craig 1994

King George 1V

Landing at Leith

The **visit of King George IV** to **Scotland** in 1822 was the first **visit of** a reigning monarch to **Scotland** in nearly two centuries.

By Alexander Carse - 'The Landing of George IVth at Leith', painting in Leith Town Hall, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=21576751>



King George 1V
arriving at Hopetoun
House 1822



Denis Dighton - scan from
The King's Jaunt, John
Prebble, Birlinn Limited,
Edinburgh 2000

Visit stage managed by Sir Walter Scott

1823 - King George IV was
the monarch to formally
pass the Excise Act which
introduced the first
licences to legally distil
whisky in Scotland



 NATIONAL GALLERIES SCOTLAND

George IV, 1762 - 1830. Reigned as Regent 1811 - 1820, as King 1820 - 1830 (Satirical print entitled: ...)

Creative Commons - CC by NC

John Stewart & Co

‘KIRKLISTON (also LAMBSMILN), WEST LoTHIAN
...sold to John Stewart & Co. 1855; diss. 1874;
converted to Distillery operating with pot stills
only 1851, but a Coffey still was installed later,
probably by John Stewart & Co. though pot-still
whisky was still made 1880s. Closed 1920,
subsequently a malt extract factory and
maltings for the Distillers Co. (Malt Products)
Ltd. Closed 1988 and sold to Brewing Products
UK Ltd.’

The Scotch Whisky Industry Record
H. Charles Craig 1994

Images: courtesy of potstill.org



John Stewart & Co

Valuation Roll 1876/7
John Stewart & Co owned a Bonded
Warehouse on "The Loan, West
Suburbs" - £25 pa

Page 8		VALUATION ROLL for the Burgh of South Queensferry for the Year 1876-1877.					Palmerston Park	
No.	Description and Situation of Subject		Proprietor	Tenant	Occupier	Yearly Rent or Value		Observations
	Description	Situation				As assessed by Assessor	As a result of Application or Appeal	
137	Shop	West Suburbs	David Hill	Self	Brought forward	1191	11	
8	House	"	"	Alex ^r Cameron Spirit Merchant	"	12	5	
9	"	"	"	Robert McArthur Fisherman	"	7	-	
140	"	"	"	Henry Fishine Fish Guard	"	6	-	
1	"	"	"	Mrs Donaldson	"	6	-	
2	"	"	"	Dr James Dewar	"	6	-	
3	"	"	"	Mrs Lamond Labourer	"	2	10	
4	"	"	"	Patrick McWhir Labourer	"	5	-	
5	"	"	"	Ann McQueen	"	2	-	
6	"	"	"	Patrick Devlin Labourer	"	3	-	
7	"	"	"	Frank Henry Labourer	"	3	-	
8	"	"	"	John Doyle Labourer	"	3	-	
9	"	"	"	Rose Duffy	"	3	-	
150	"	"	"	James Scott	"	3	-	
1	"	"	"	Mary Kelly	"	3	-	
2	"	"	"	John Fernie Labourer	"	3	-	
3	"	"	"	James Hamilton Shoe Maker	"	3	-	
4	"	"	"	John McArthur Fisherman	"	3	-	
5	"	"	"	Robert Mayde Labourer	"	2	-	
6	"	"	"	Mary Ward	"	3	-	
7	"	"	"	George Brown Painter	"	15	-	
8	Stable	"	"	Self	"	8	-	
X 9	Ground	"	"	"	"	1	-	
160	Smithy	Loan W. Suburbs	Thomas Cooper	Self	"	5	-	98 15 11
1	Bonded Warehouse	"	John Stewart & Co	Self	"	4	-	48 10 11
			N:159 Ground. Appeal against this sustained			25	-	25 11 11
						£1323 15 11		1318 15 11

Distillers Company – formed in 1877

Minutes of Meeting of Directors of DCL 2nd March 1887 – Minute Bk. No. 5, p107

‘A letter was read from Mr Stewart, Kirkliston, reporting that in view of the increase to be expected in the bottling and export trade, the bottling accommodation at Queensferry will require to be increased, and suggesting that the Company should purchase a small piece of land at the back of the present Bottling warehouse whereon to build an addition. After consideration the Secretary was requested to visit Queensferry and inspect the land and report to the next meeting.’

Minutes of Meeting of Directors of DCL 9th March 1887 – Minute Bk.
No. 5, p112

‘The Secretary reported that he had inspected the piece of ground at South Queensferry which Mr. Stewart proposed should be purchased by the Company for the purpose of enlarging the Company’s present bottling warehouse there, and he considered it to be suitable and convenient for the purpose required. After consideration, the Board authorised Mr. Stewart to offer to the extent of £200 for the piece of ground, free of feu duty.’

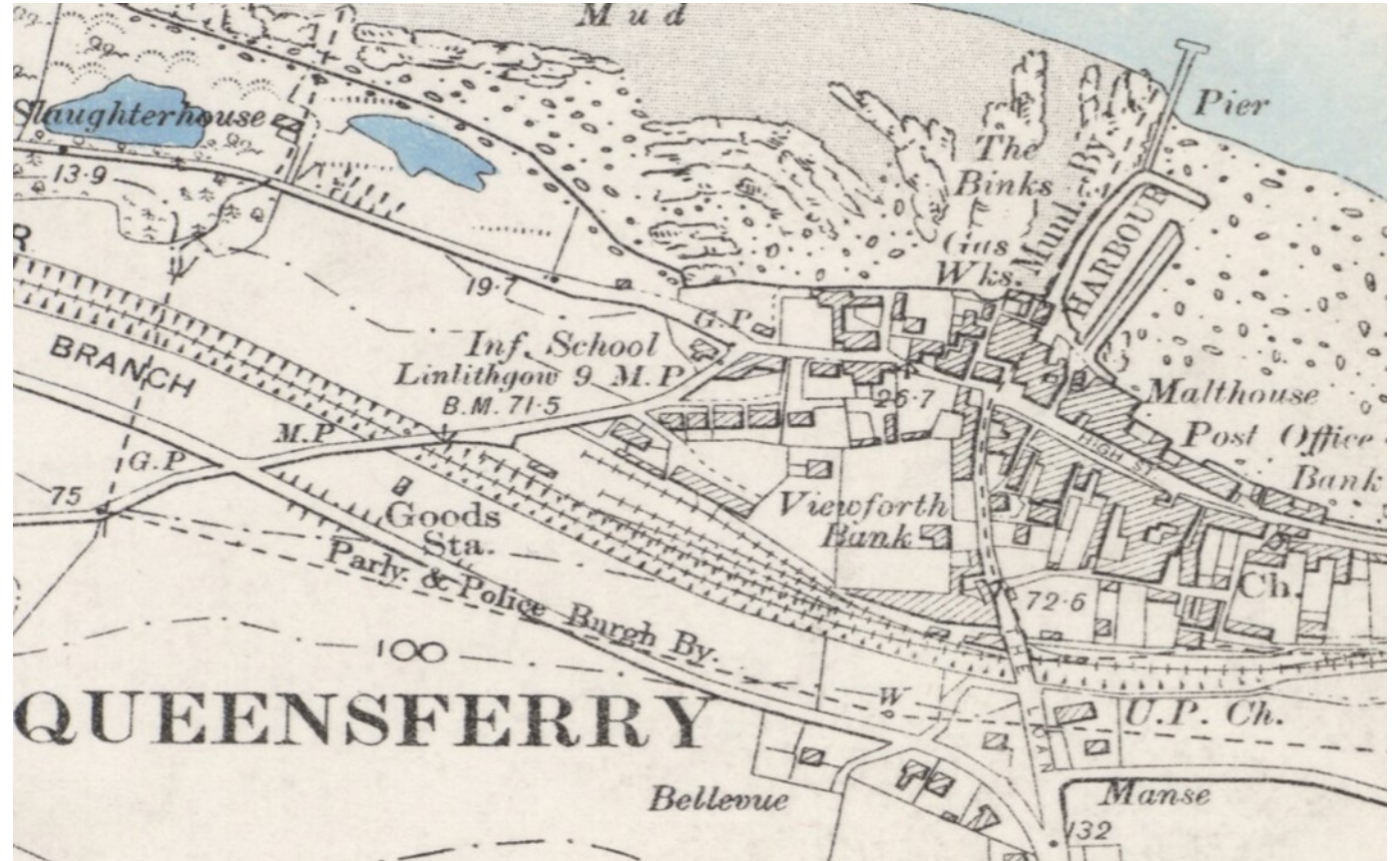
Distillers Company – formed in 1877

Valuation Roll 1894/5

Distillers Coy Scotland own a Bonded Warehouse, Bottling & Offices on The Loan
- £100 pa

Valuation Roll 1920/1

Distillers Coy Scotland own a Bonded Warehouse, Bottling & Offices on the Loan
- £715 pa
- Henry Staples, Manager



Ordnance Survey Map 1895

Ordnance Survey Map 1948

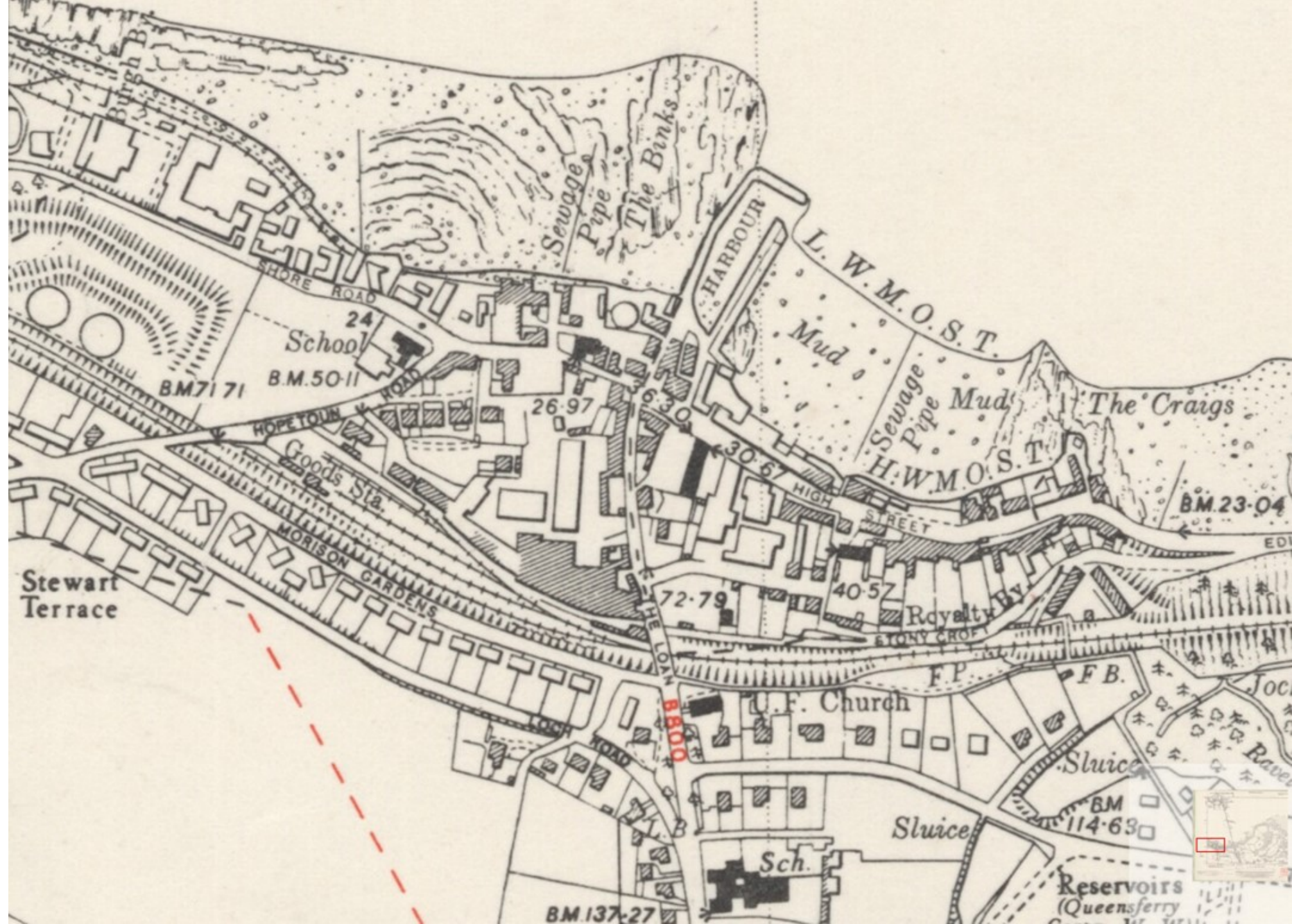




Image courtesy of Queensferry Museum

Plant Fire
24 April 1949

Further fire on
17 November
1965



Photo courtesy of
Queensferry History
Group

“The second fire actually took place on 17 November 1965. It was my 21 birthday. I didn't see my dad (Jim Ward) that day as he was one of the distillery's volunteer firemen and he didn't get home until the next day”. Allison Padmore (Ward).

King George 1V Whisky

King George IV Blended Scotch Whisky

The story behind the brand name of King George IV is based on King George IV's visit to Edinburgh in 1822, which was the first by a reigning monarch in 200 years.

At the end of his visit he set sail in his yacht, the 'Royal George' from Port Edgar in the Royal Burgh of South Queensferry.



Image courtesy of Diageo archive

King George 1V Whisky

c.1880 – King George IV brand was exported for the first time to New Zealand

1880s - King George IV Old Scotch Whisky was registered by Distillers Company Ltd (formed in 1877)

1924 – Distillers Agency Ltd (DAL) formed as a separate company to take over blending & exporting

1920s – DAL took over Blending & Bottling plant at South Queensferry and extended plant



1960's

Blending Director



Tom McDonald
Still from Huntley Archives
Film King George 1V 1960's

VAT 69 DISTILLERY:
THE BLENDING AND BOTTLING PROCESS



Leslie Scott. Photo of display in Queensferry museum

Production Director



Joe Munro pictured (took over from Mr Alexander). Andrew Brown had responsibility for day to day running of the Plant
Still from Huntley Archives
Film King George 1V 1960's

Cooperage



This was the 2nd of 3 Cooperages and was under the canteen & next to where the wooden cases were made.



Shaving a barrel using a Plucker – Bob McGuigan
Still from Huntley Archives
Film King George 1V 1960's



Possibly Ian Andrews
Still from Huntley Archives
Film King George 1V 1960's

Coopers Night Out
Prizegiving of Darts
Competition
c.1965

Stags Head



Photo courtesy of
Arnott Robertson

Bob McGuigan had a win on the football pools and bought a bungalow in Blackhall for £500 – he was known as ‘Blackhall Bob’.

The first cooperage was where East Coast Tyres is now. The 2nd cooperage had blue doors, and the 3rd cooperage was where the railway yard was.



Back row left to right: Bob McGuigan, Alec Robertson, John Stevenson, Adam Watson, George Thompson, James Porteous, Peter Scott.

Middle row left to right: Donald Paterson, William Wright, Peter Beuchars, Ian Andrews, Eric Smith, George Summers,

Front Row left to right: Tom Marshall, Jackie Small, Arnott Robertson, Willie Fleming.

Bill Watson took the photo.

Arnott Robertson started work as an apprentice Cooper at King George 1V plant in April 1953 when it reopened following the 1949 fire.

Stories & Photo courtesy of Bill Watson & Arnott Robertson

Blending

Whisky
blended in
vats then
filled in
barrels





Image courtesy of Queensferry Museum

Once the samples have been approved, the bungs are removed and the whisky flows into stainless steel troughs on its way to the blending vats.

www.huntleyarchives.com film 30353



www.huntleyarchives.com film 30353

65 KING GEORGE IV
2.30 BLENDED
OLD SCOTCH WHISKY

Testing for Proof Strength



Bottling

Note the different overall colours. What did these signify?



Labelling & Wrapping



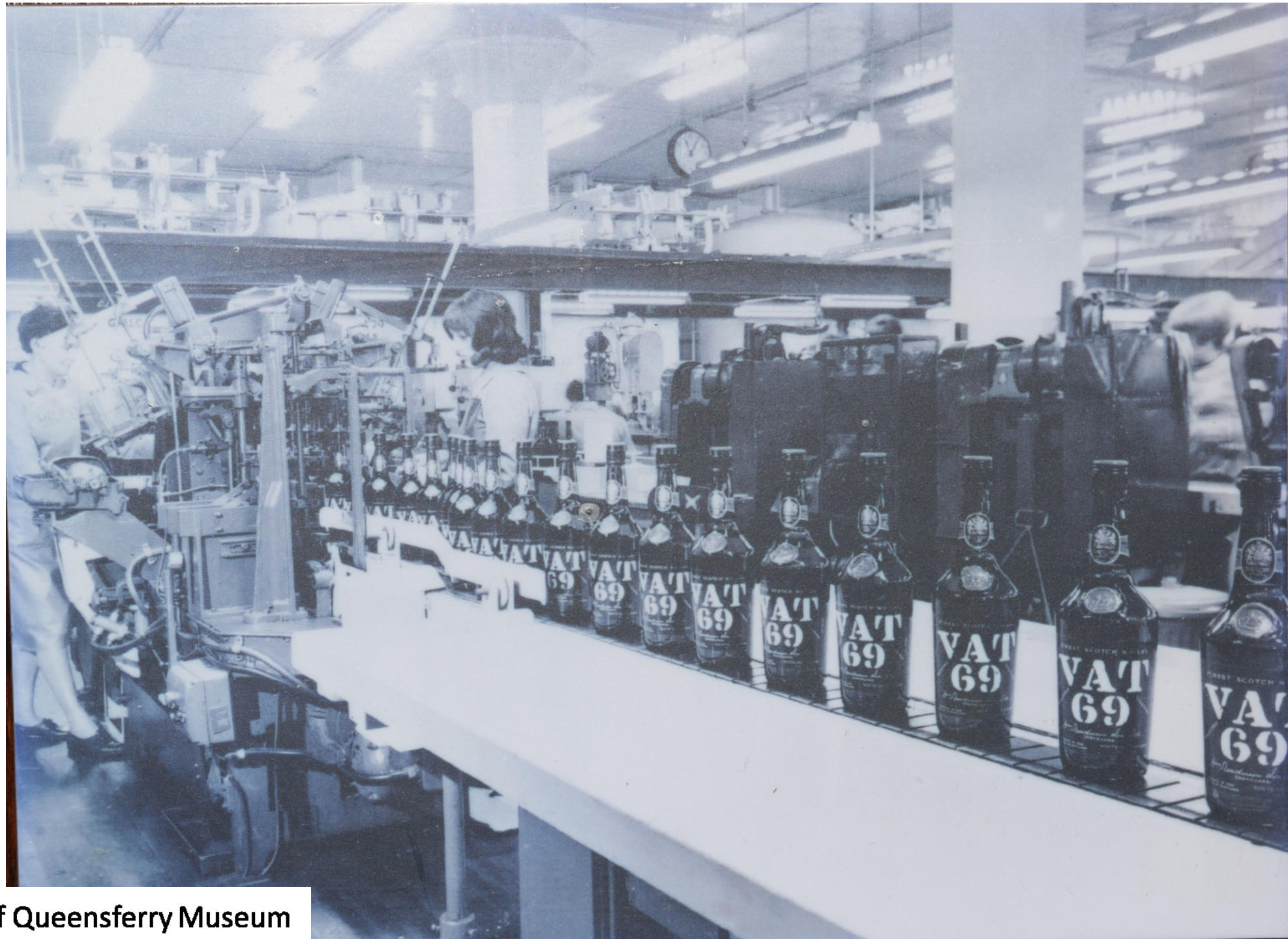


Image courtesy of Queensferry Museum

No personal protective equipment in those days!

Isobel Kerr in the foreground – still resident in Queensferry

Image courtesy of
Queensferry Museum



VAT 69 Bottling



VAT 69 Bottling Plant - 1972

Packaging
Hall c.1970

Queensferry
or Leith?



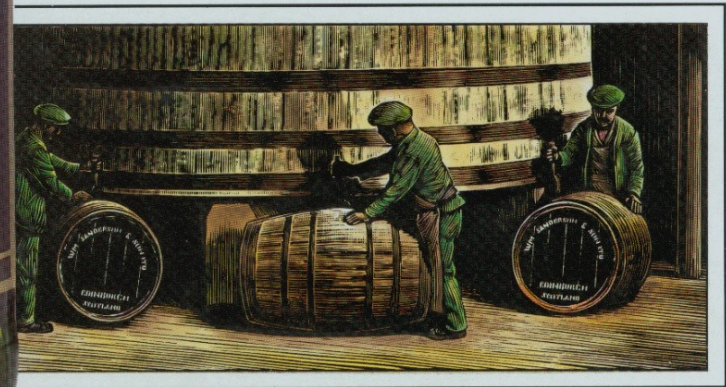
Photo courtesy of Diageo archive

Despatch



House of Sanderson

- 1882 William Sanderson creates VAT 69
- VAT 69 hugely successful
- 3 Royal Warrants & Queen's Award for export
- 1937 Sanderson taken over by DCL
- 1969 VAT 69 Blending & Bottling transferred to South Queensferry



MATURED IN OAK VATS BOTTLED IN SCOTLAND

A TRUE SCOTCH SINCE 1882

Whisky
arriving
c.1960

Leith

Photo courtesy of Diageo archive



Pageant

Leith



Photo courtesy of Diageo archive

Tank being removed
from VAT 69 building.
Late 60's
Harry Kelly,
Photographer.

This building was the
original Cooperage &
later became a “duty
paid” store.

Photo courtesy of
Queensferry History
Group



The plant dominated the Queensferry skyline. Ultimately the design proved to be inefficient for modern blending & bottling



Closure & Demolition of VAT 69 plant - 1984



Ian Andrews, joined King George 1V Distillery in 1959. When the plant closed he set up his own business as a specialist Cooper.

Examples here are mini barrels presented by Dalmeny Estate Golf Club.



Ian
Andrews
Receiving
an award
from Earl
of Wessex



VAT 69 as a global brand

- This venerable 19th century blend accompanied Shackleton to the South Pole and was once the world's 10th best-selling whisky.

<https://scotchwhisky.com/whiskypedia/2547/vat-69/>

THE IMPERIAL TRANS-ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

Telegraphic Address:
"ANTEXPEDI, LONDON"

Telephone No:
2345 REGENT

Codes:
A B C, 5TH EDITION
and
BENTLEY

4 NEW BURLINGTON STREET
REGENT STREET
LONDON W.

19th Sept., 1914

Dear Sirs,

Just on the eve of my departure I write to say that the Whisky, Vat 69, you have supplied has come to hand safely and the packing is excellent. The contents will be used for medical emergencies and for feast days in the Antarctic.

Again thanking you,

I am,

Dear Sirs,

Yours truly,

E. H. SHACKLETON.

Wm. Sanderson & Son,
Charlotte Lane,
Leith.

qualified. M. L. Barker, 1408 Chapman Bldg.

MEN WANTED

for hazardous journey, small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful, honor and recognition in case of success.

Ernest Shackleton 4 Burlington st.

MEN - Near-appearing young



YOU ARE

MEN WANTED

for hazardous journey, small wages,
bitter cold, long months of complete
darkness, constant danger, safe re-
turn doubtful, honor and recognition
in case of success.

Ernest Shackleton 4 Burlington st.

MEN-Near-appearing young

MEN

e
d
i
k

ME

VAT 69 bottle evolution 1936 - 2010



Image courtesy of Diageo archive

1920 Flyer – promoting VAT 69 in India

Image courtesy of Diageo archive



TELEPHONE BUILDING
HOME STREET
BOMBAY

Vat 69 Scotch Whisky

Dear Sir,

We would like to introduce you by this letter to the above High-class Scotch Whisky, which is of particularly fine quality. Our friends Messrs Wm. Sanderson & Son are Distillers, and hold one of the largest stocks of Old Whisky in Scotland, so they are in a position to give exceptional value. The following is from the "**War Office Times and Naval Review**":—

"We give this Whisky with no hesitation the premier place among Scotch Whiskies, and we have sampled most of them. 'Vat 69' is in our opinion the finest Whisky sold at the present time, and believing it to be such, we have confidence in recommending it to our readers."

If you will kindly use the enclosed Post Card, we will be glad to send you by return of post a free sample, and supplies can be obtained from stocks held by us, or if desired our friends can ship direct. Quantities less than one dozen can be obtained from Mr D. B. Mistry, Forus Road, Byculla. We only ask you to give this Whisky a comparison, as we feel confident you will be pleased with the exceptional value.

Yours faithfully,

L. & F. BARRACLOUGH & CO.
Sole Agents.

Price per case of one dozen Quarts.....

Price per single Bottle - - -

With which is incorporated "The Madras Times"

VOL. LXI

FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 31, 1928

[REGISTERED No. M. 81] No. 208 **As. 2.**

SITUATION VACANT

WANTED qualified Nurses for the post of Head Nurse in the Jinto Ophthalmic Hospital, Bangalore.

Pay Rs. 55-5/3-77 with a ration allowance of Rs. 20, and a uniform allowance of Rs. 2½ per mensem. The candidates should have previous experience in sick-nursing, acquired preferably in Ophthalmic wards of Medical Institutions. Applications with copies of diploma and testimonials should reach the undersigned not later than 15th September, 1928.

MAHOMED USMON,

Senior Surgeon, M.C.

FOR SALE

English Apples.

LBS. nett, 11 lbs. gross Rs. 5-4 by
V.P.P. all charges included Cap-
tain H. M. BANON, Sunshine Orchards,
Gulu, Punjab. 3664

A **BONNYBRIDGE** Dover Stove
practically new. For further
particulars, apply Box No. 621, c/o
Manager, "The Madras Mail." 3738

OLD coins of great Historic interest.
Samples, if desired, can be had
in payment of one rupee each coin.
Apply to the ACCOUNTANT GENERAL,
Hawar State, Alwar. 3623

Hall's Distemper.

THE original and best water paint.
Full local stocks held by Sole
Agents, WILLIAM JACKS & Co., 20,
Second Line Beach, Madras. 1105

REFRACTORY goods of all descriptions. The after expansion is

SANDERSON'S VAT 69 WHISKY

Per Bot.

6'12

VAT 69

WHISKY

THIS BRAND has been in the same family since its inception, and is quite independent.

W.M. SANDERSON & SON, Ltd.
Distillers, LEITH.

ESTD. 1861.

Doz. Bot.

81'0

SPENCER & Co., Ltd., MADRAS AND BRANCHES.

FOR SALE

PIANO, table grand, by Lipp. Two-seater car (Leroi) in perfect order, with spare parts, self-starter,

PROPERTY FOR SALE

The Kistna Sugar Works Limited.
MASULIPATM.

TENDER

Burma Railways Co., Ltd.
(Incorporated in England)
TENDERS FOR 87 COACH UNDERFRAMES

NOTICES

ASK FOR
NEW STATIONERY LIST
HIGGINBOTHAMS,
3683 MOUNT ROAD, MADRAS.

Removal Notice.

JOHN W. ROBERTS (Madras),
Ltd., Billiard and Bagatelle Table
Builders, Cabinet Makers and House
Furnishers, have removed to 1 & 2/29,
Mount Road, where all communica-
tions should be addressed. 3746

The Mosquito at Bay

WE offer Mosquito Nets of best make and finish, with netting tops and longcloth surrounds, at following attractive prices:—

					Rs.
Size	6½'	x 3'	x 5½'	at 10-12	each
Size	6½'	x 3½'	x 5½'	at 12-8	each
Size	7'	x 5'	x 5½'	at 14-8	each
Size	7'	x 6'	x 5½'	at 15-8	each

Packing and transit free. In great demand. Apply early if quick delivery required.

3177

BANKS

IMPERIAL BANK
OF INDIA.

CONSTITUTED UNDER THE IMPERIAL
BANK OF INDIA ACT, 1920.

BANKERS TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	...	11,25,00,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	...	5,62,50,000
RESERVE FUND	...	5,17,50,000

'Shapes that recall' Advertising Campaign 1934

Image courtesy of Diageo archive

VAT 69
Liqueur Scotch Whisky

Shapes that Recall Quality

The Forth Bridge — recalling the quality of greatness that distinguishes British engineering throughout the world... The shape of the VAT 69 bottle — recalling the perfection of the Whisky within it, the quality that tells you of genuine Liqueur Scotch Whisky, all the world over.

But neither bottle nor Whisky tells you that VAT 69 costs only 12/6—a fact recalled with pleasure at all Wine and Spirit Dealers, Restaurants and Bars.
DISTILLED AND BOTTLED IN SCOTLAND SINCE 1861 BY Sanderson's

Quality Tells—

VAT 69
LIQUEUR SCOTCH WHISKY
Jm Sanderson & Co
LEITH

‘Shapes that recall’ Advertising Campaign

London Illustrated News
9 March 1935

Photo courtesy of Diageo archive

MARCH 9, 1935 THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS 399

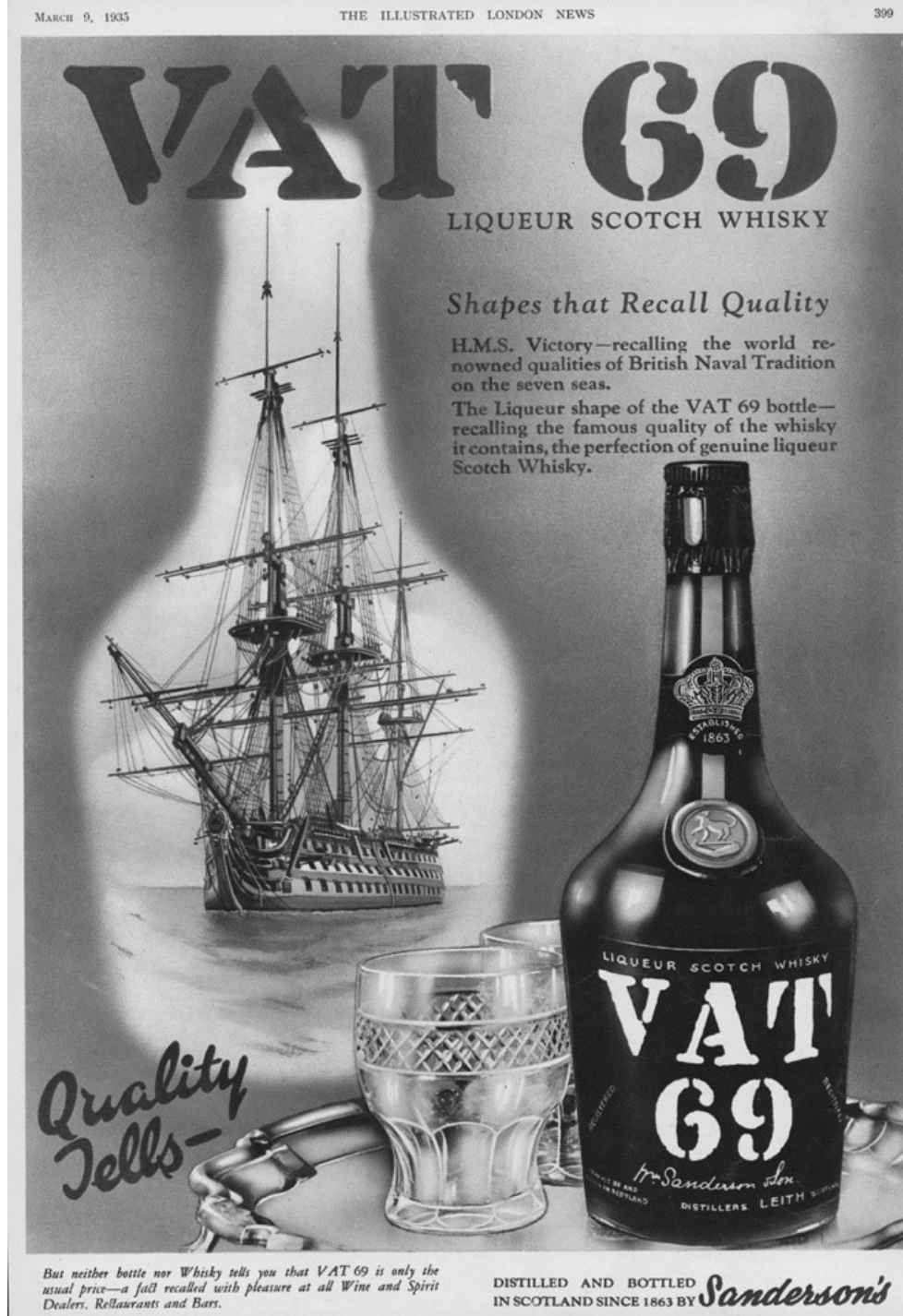
VAT 69

LIQUEUR SCOTCH WHISKY

Shapes that Recall Quality

H.M.S. Victory—recalling the world renowned qualities of British Naval Tradition on the seven seas.

The Liqueur shape of the VAT 69 bottle—recalling the famous quality of the whisky it contains, the perfection of genuine liqueur Scotch Whisky.



Quality Tells—

But neither bottle nor Whisky tells you that VAT 69 is only the usual price—a fact recalled with pleasure at all Wine and Spirit Dealers, Restaurants and Bars.

DISTILLED AND BOTTLED IN SCOTLAND SINCE 1863 BY *Sanderson's*

1940 – promoting VAT 69 in USA

Photo courtesy of Diageo archive



PARK & TILFORD IMPORT CORP., NEW YORK • BLENDED SCOTCH WHISKY • 86.8 PROOF

“Quality Tells” 1954

Photo courtesy of Diageo archive



Advert – Illustrated London News 15 December 1956

Photo courtesy of Diageo archive



The Scots as a Nation
Have great reputation
For deep disputation
And argument fine—
But should you once mention
Their greatest invention
There's never dissension—

it's

VAT 69

The Scotsman's Scotch
because 'Quality Sells'



“Band of
Brothers”
Rejuvenates
VAT 69 in
2001

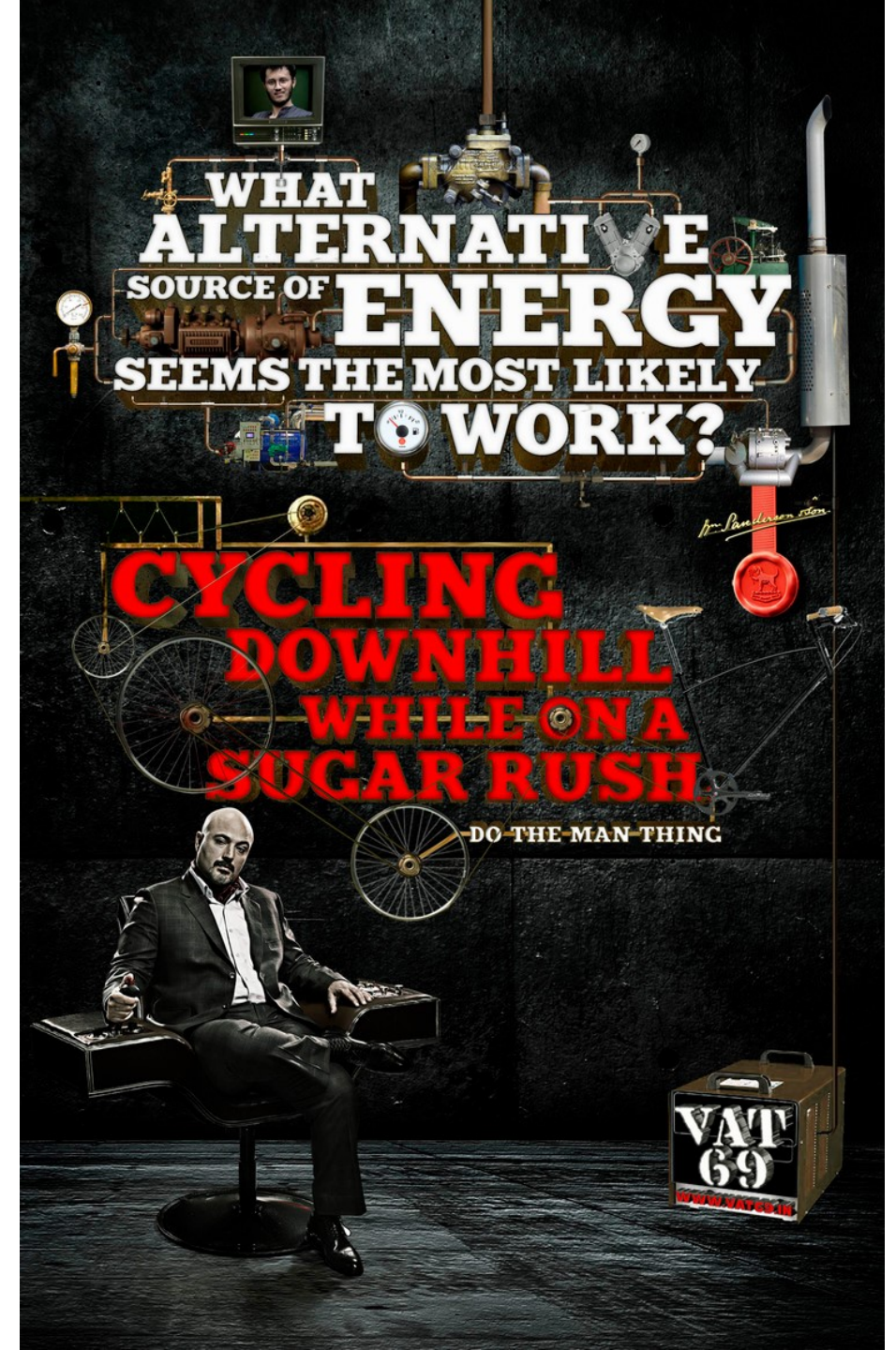


BAND OF BROTHERS
LEWIS NIXON'S VAT69 BOTTLES

Print Advertising - India

These ads were strategically placed next to articles on current phenomenons in various magazines across the country and provided a manly, smart and funny, 'VAT MAN' Solution to the relative questions.

2012 -



Wm Sanderson & Son

SHOULD SENIOR
CRICKETERS
MAKE WAY



FOR **YOUNG
BLOOD?**

OF ALL THE
NUMBERS
TO JUDGE A CRICKETER,
AGE SEEMS THE
SILLIEST.



**VAT
69®**

WWW.VAT69.IN

DO THE MAN THING

Be Smart.

Question, answer and challenge the VAT Man at the VAT69 gaming portal

Join us at  /Vat69Den

The VAT 69 word and associated logos are trademarks. © William Sanderson & Son 2013. Background and bat image used under license from Shutterstock.com

HOW MUCH
MONEY
DO I NEED TO BE
RICH?



MONEY IS ONLY
A MEASURE OF SUCCESS
WHEN IT HAS
YOUR
PICTURE ON IT.

DO THE MAN THING



Wm Sanderson & Son

www.vat69.in

Be Smart.

Question, answer and challenge the VAT Man at the VAT69 gaming portal

Join us at  /Vat69Den

The VAT 69 word and associated logos are trademarks. © William Sanderson & Son 2013. Used under license from Shutterstock.com

So what does VAT 69 taste like?



Jim Murray's Whisky Bible (2014)

VAT 69

“Has thickened up in style: weightier, more macho, much more to say and a long way off that old lightweight. A little cleaning up wouldn't go amiss”.

Overall score **84.5** – n20 t22.5 f23 b21.5

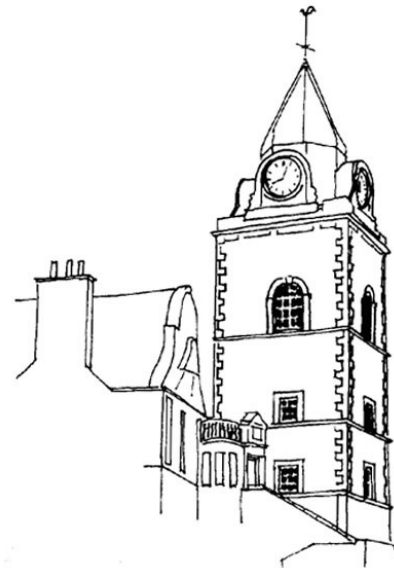
A good whisky – worth trying



Grateful thanks

- The Archive, Diageo, Menstrie – Alia Campbell, Archivist
- Frank Hay
- Queensferry History Group – Norma Brown
- Queensferry Museum
- Queensferry Heritage Trust - Eleanor Sneddon
- Our contributors tonight

David Learmond
david.learmond@gmail.com

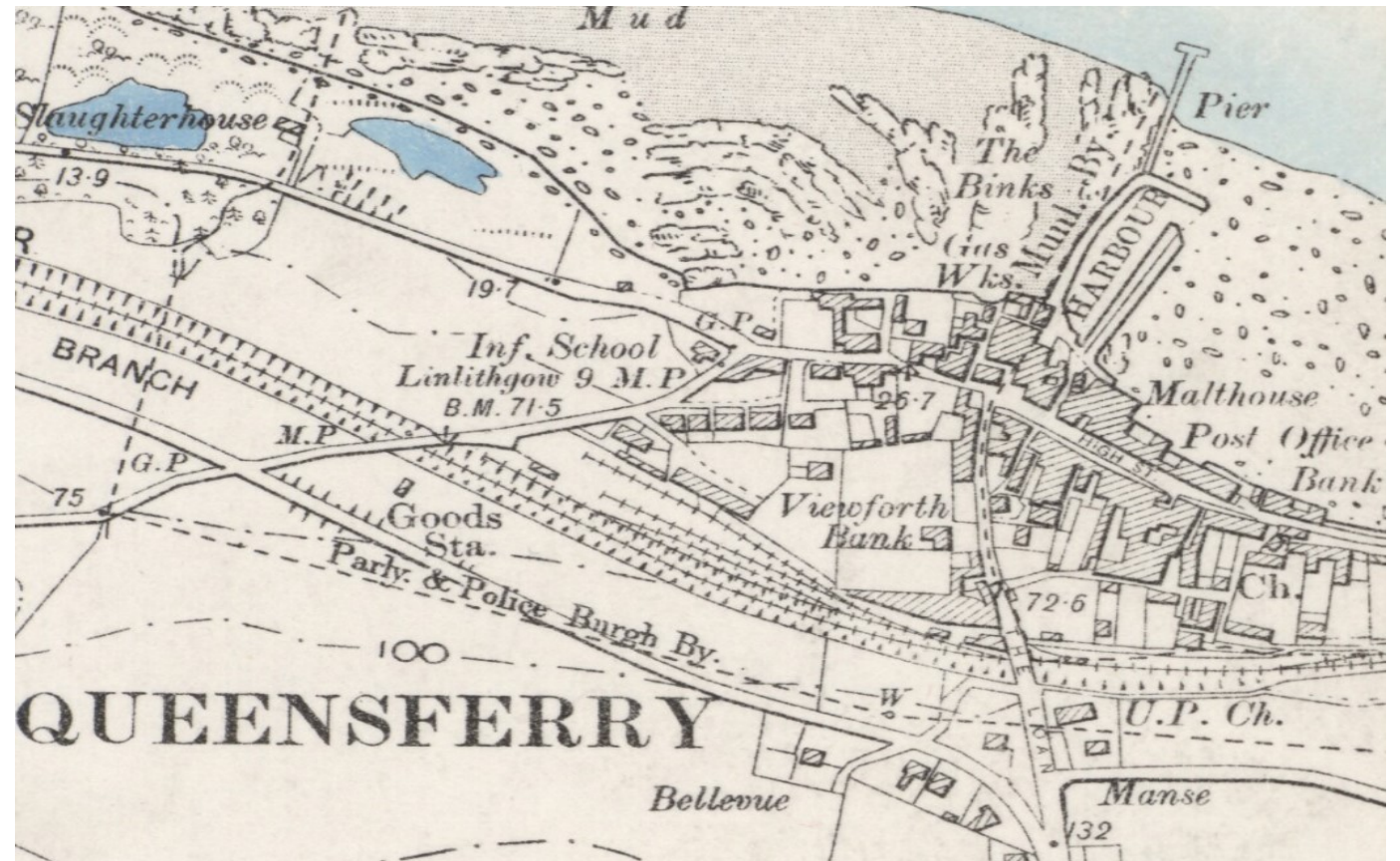


QUEENSFERRY
HERITAGE
TRUST

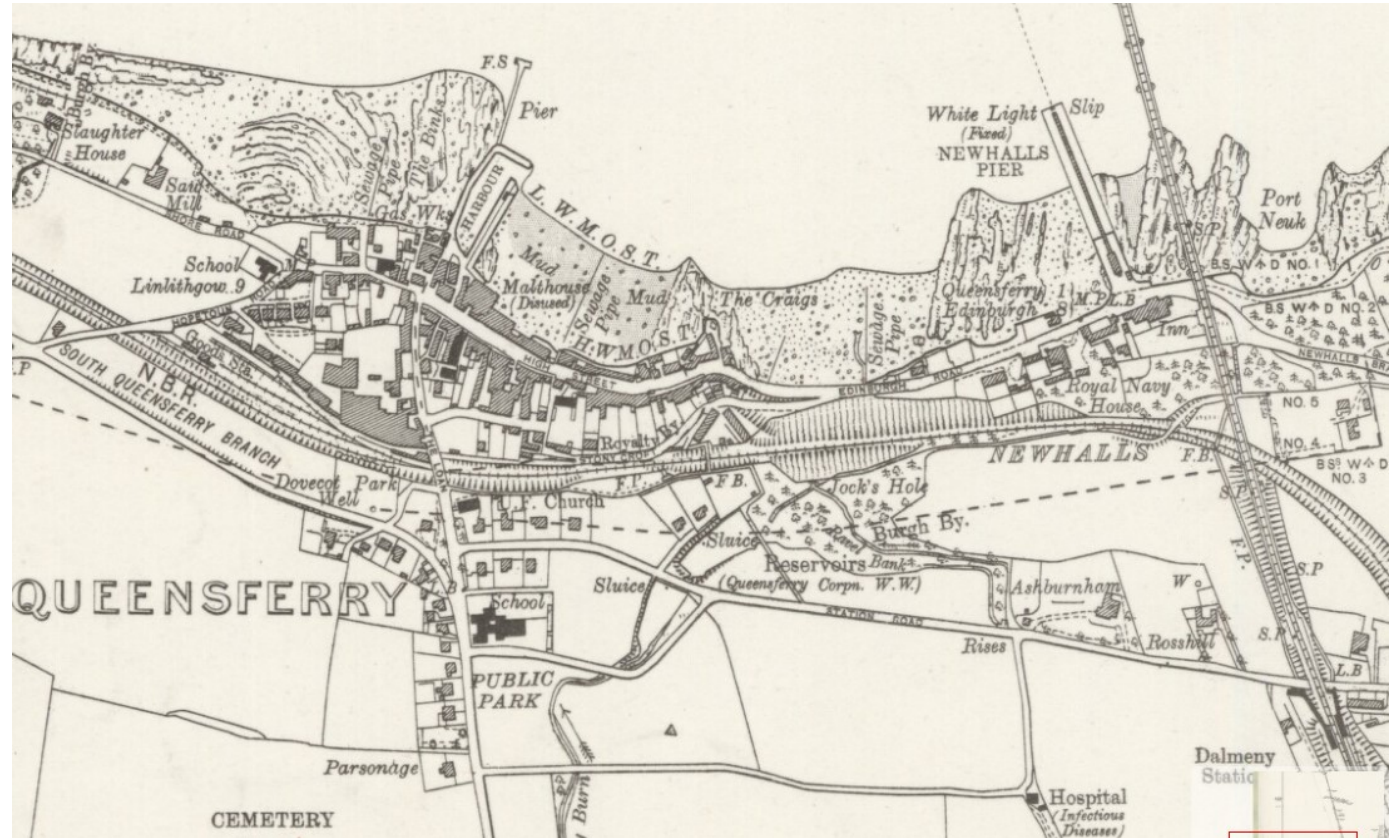
Map 1854



Map 1895



Map 1914



Map 1948

