



Sources for Seafaring Ancestors

In addition to standard family history resources such as census returns and birth, marriage & death records, various specialist sources can shed extra light on your seafaring ancestors:

An impressive database of **FISHING BOATS** which operated from all North Sea ports has been created at www.fishingboatheritage.com. Details include history of ownership and some photos are also available.

SHIPS LOST AT SEA are also listed at www.fishingboatheritage.com. Further particulars are often available in local newspaper reports.


SHIPPING REGISTRATION RECORDS originally compiled by the Customs & Excise Service are held at the National Records of Scotland in Edinburgh in the CE series. Dating in some cases as far back as 1786, they usually record the names of ships, their owners and changes in ownership, the ship's master and a basic description of the vessel, including the year it was built and its size and tonnage. Records for the Aberdeen district are held at Aberdeen City Archives.

Additional details of **INDIVIDUAL BOATS & CREW** may be held by local organisations such as:

Buckie & District Heritage Centre (www.buckieheritage.org)
Fraserburgh Heritage Society (www.fraserburghheritage.com)
The Family History Society of Buchan (www.buchanroots.co.uk)

NEWSPAPERS can be rewarding sources of information about a broad range of shipping activities. Items of relevance may include advertisements for freight & passenger services, reports on ship arrivals & departures, notices of sales of shares in vessels of various types and reports of disasters at sea. Online access to 19th century newspapers is usually possible through your library membership. Microfilm copies of local newspapers are available at certain local libraries.

These items are from the Aberdeen Journal of 13th May 1812:

 **FOR SALE, BY PRIVATE BARGAIN,**
THE EAST-SAILING SMACK,
LEITH PACKET,
116 27-94th Tons per Register,
Now on her passage from London, well found
in every kind of Stores, carries a large Cargo, and admir-
ably calculated for the fruit, or any other trade where
dispatch is wanted.
The above vessel was built at Berwick, by contract, of
excellent materials, and under particular inspection, for
the Union Company; but being of smaller dimensions than
the Smacks now employed by the present Proprietors,
(the London and Edinburgh Shipping Company), they
will be ready to treat with a purchaser at a moderate price.
Offers will be received at the Company's Office, where
Inventories may be had, and any other information re-
quired.
ROBERT BRUCE, Manager.
London & Edinburgh Ship. Co.'s Office, }
Leith, May 8, 1812.

ARRIVED.
May 6.—Margaret, Renton, Dundee, goods; Döl-
phin, Robertson, Newcastle, do. 7. Endeavour, Wood,
Dysart, coals and salt. 8. Aberdeen and Leith Packet.
Gilmour, Leith, goods; Lord Huntly, Nicol, London,
do. 10. Mayflower, Chalmers, Dundee, do. 11. Ce-
res, Walker, Glasgow, do.
16 with lime, 17 with coals, 1 with timber, and 1 with
boxes.
SAILED.
May 6. Commerce, Davies, London, goods; Peggy,
Leslie, Moray Firth, do.; Freemason, Stephen, Peter-
head, do.; 8. Daphne, Lancaster, Findhorn, do. 10.
Nelly, Collie, Hull, do. 11. Lady Grant, Forbes, Dy-
sart, do.; William, Mackie, Dundee, do.; Aberdeen
Packet, Thomson, London, do.
5 with coals, 1 with timber, 4 with stones, and 16 in
ballast.
It will afford considerable gratification to our readers to
learn, that a vessel has arrived at this port laden with
grain from the Baltic, whence we hear that 100 cargoes
are expected.—*The Mercury.*

Information supplied by

