

# Portsoy Salmon Bothy



## PORTSOY'S FIRST HARBOUR



A Scottish Whisky  
Alexander An Gallery and Museum Collection

This account by the Earl of Ogilvie (of nearby Boyne Castle) in 1679 describes new possibilities for Portsoy Harbour. His idea of improving this natural inlet by

*'there is a convenient harbour called Portsoy which already safely harbours smalls vessels and boats and if built and erected might prove a safe harbour for all sorts of ships within the Kingdom'*

building a new harbour was to have a profound effect upon the nature of fishing, commercial trade and the livelihood of Portsoy's people. It planted a seed which was to grow and flourish over the next two hundred years. Portsoy's fortunes became intertwined with the use of the port - now known as the 'Old Harbour'. A European-

wide network of trade developed, inevitably becoming linked with loss of life at sea and the destruction of many vessels. After the first New Harbour suffered severe gale damage only four years after its completion in 1839, the Old Harbour continued to bring goods and catches to the shores of Portsoy.

The completion date of the Old Harbour is uncertain, but in 1692 the Earl requested help from the men of Cullen to 'light out the harbour at Portsoy' as an 'advantageous venture to us all'.

Raging storms in 1739 'quite demolished Portsoy Pier' but by 1755 repairs must have taken place as General Roy's military map (1747-1755) shows the Old Harbour as capable of providing shelter and mooring for vessels.

