



Basketry and memory



[www.wovencommunities.org/](http://www.wovencommunities.org/)







Simmens, rope etc









Heather cassie  
Orkney



Shetland kishie, straw



Shetland bodi, docken



Shetland kishie, imported rattan



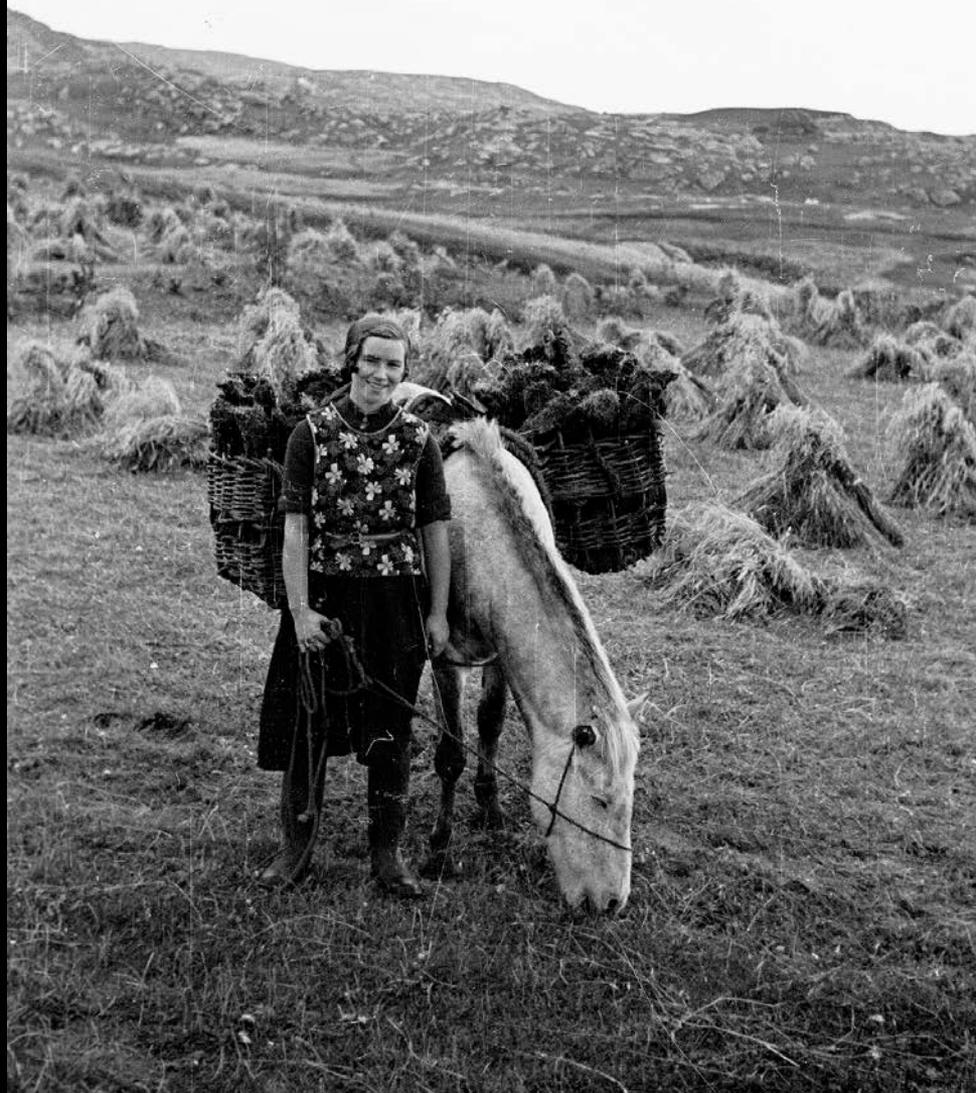
57-57-57







*Carrying Home the Peats*





*Cottages at Jona*





Corner's basket works, Wick

# Jimmy Work, Shetland



Jimmy Work in his 'real' indoor work place



Jimmy and selection of his baskets in a 'staged' work place made for a 1998 Calendar .

Photograph by Bill Jackson for The Shetland Times.



Lowlands and coast

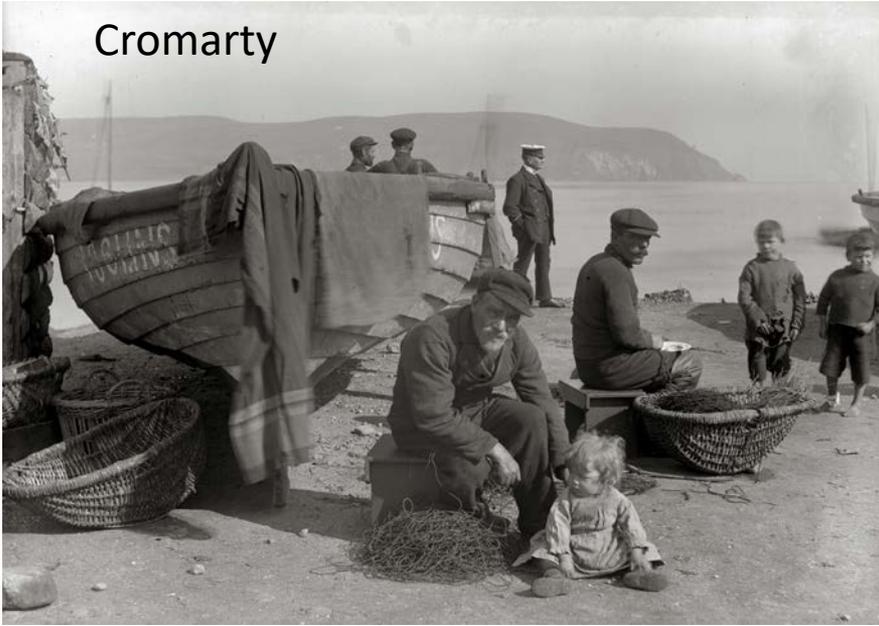


# Lowland farming



# East coast...

Cromarty



Arbroath



# Skills gathering - basketry renewal

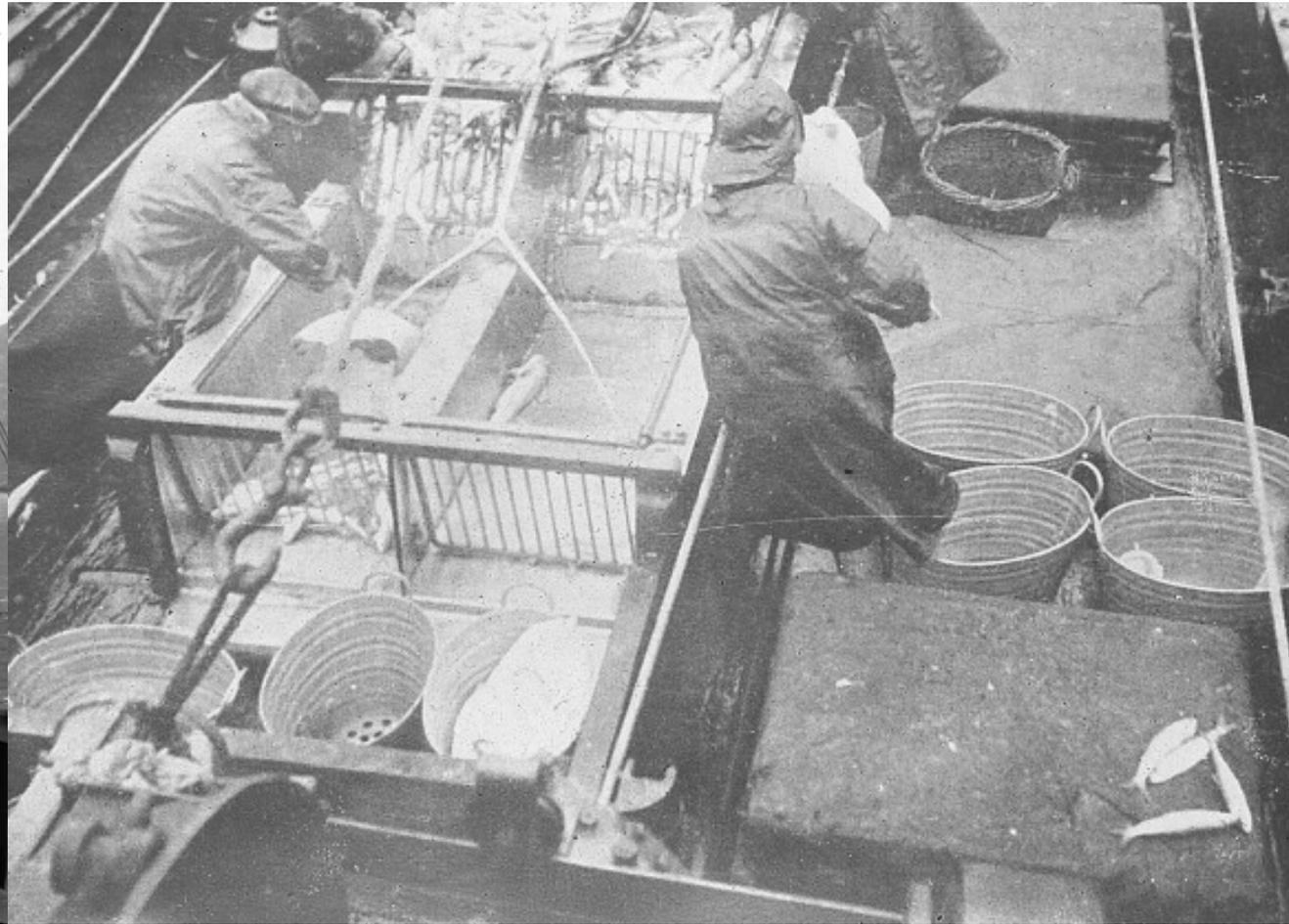




A NEWHAYEN FISHWIFE.



# the herring industry







Highlands





## Western Isles



# Skye



SKYE CROFTERS PLANTING POTATOES. 5758. G.W.W.

# Uist





## Northern Isles





Shetland

# Shetland



# Orkney









websites...  
www.wovencommunities.org

## Woven Communities

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*Basketmaking Communities in Scotland*

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James Yate's great, great, grandfather

Highland Folk Museum





Museum of Scottish Rural Life



# SWRI Highland Show

MORAY & NAIRN

137



Am Baile











# Uist





An Lanntair  
Uist





# Uist marram grass weaving on a loom

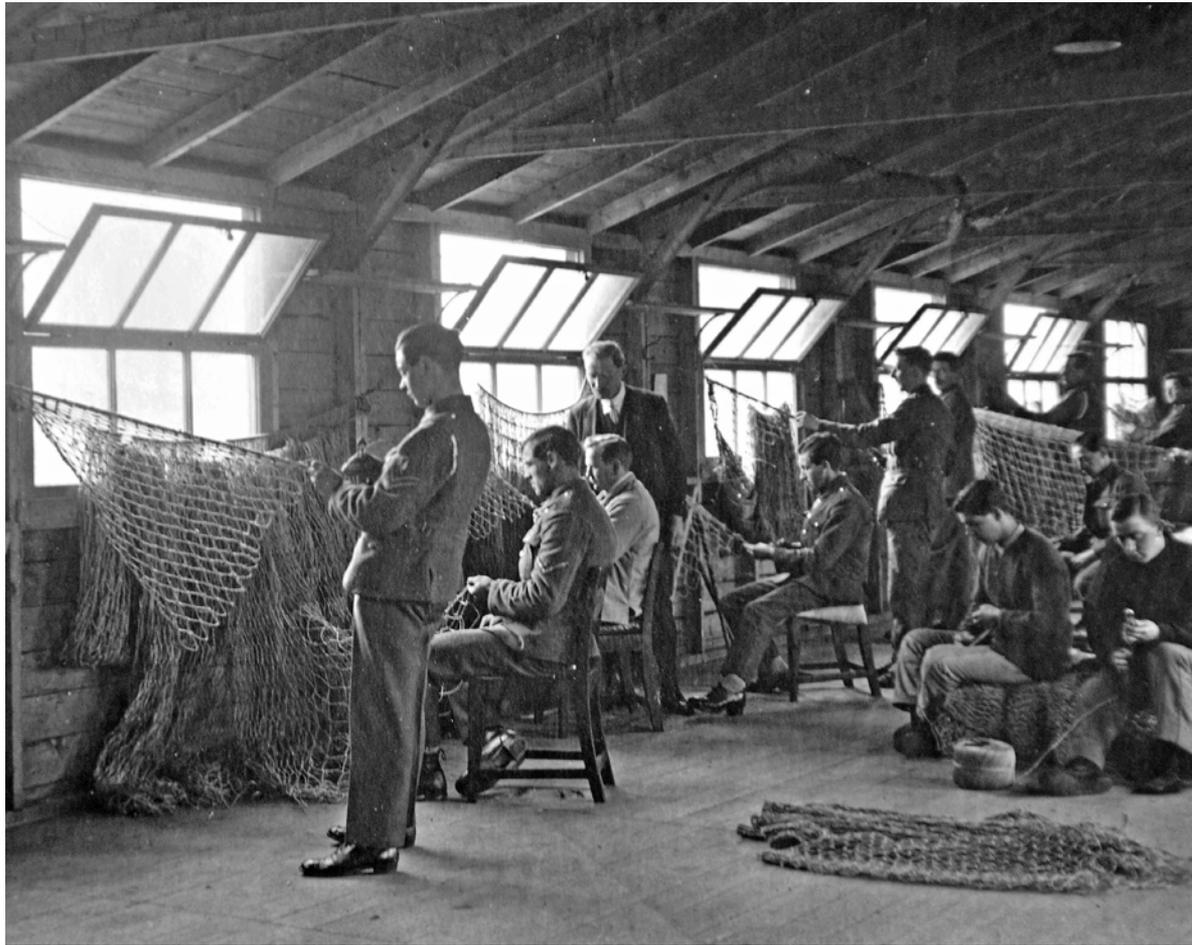


Duncan Macdonald, Peninerine



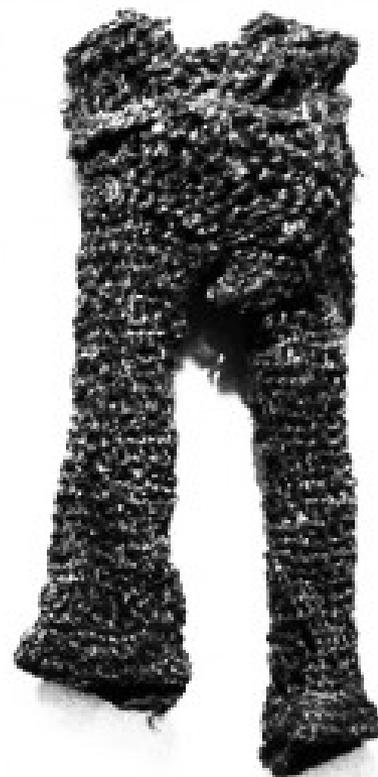


# Oldmill rehabilitation works post WW1



# Angus MacPhee







# Shetland Museum – Ian Tait





Ewen Balfour

# Working with elders in Baltasound



# Baltasound







Lois Walpole









# Hebrides Cutting marram on Kealasangay





# SCRAN

Harvested bent grass, North Uist



# The .... ciosan





Plaiting and roping





I arrived around 11.30 during the first pupil workshop. During the second workshop where I was assisting I heard the following comments from the pupils who had quickly learned to use a natural material they had never handled before

“You don’t have enough tension on that rope move back” instructed one pupil to another.

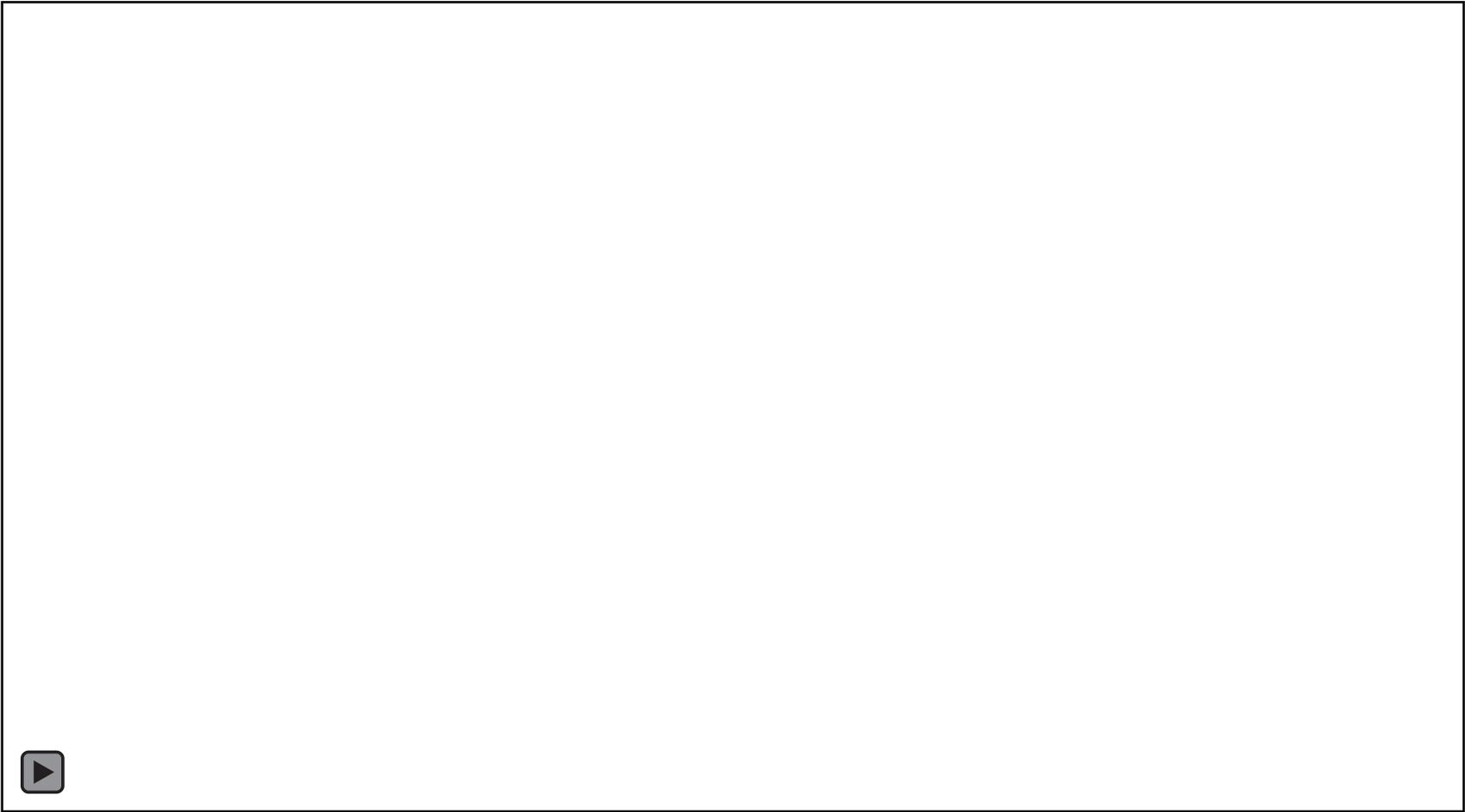
“I just hate it when the murrán is dry, could you get me some of the murrán that has been soaked?”

Testing the newly made rope two boys were towing one of the classroom tables across the room. Very impressed with the strength of it one said “ They should sell this in the shops”

The two boys exchanged looks and one said “ Of course they don’t sell it in the shops” I encouraged them by saying that perhaps they could make some and the shop may sell it.

This class were very industrious, interested and engrossed. I looked around the room at one stage and all five adults were observing with no need to say a word or do anything. The children and their enthusiasm were leading the workshop.

Maggie Smith, SGOIL AN IOCHDAR





A few last thoughts



St. John "fowling" rope 733  
made of horsehair. These ropes were  
kiltorms and passed from father  
to son. There are probably one or more  
in his time, one of which is in  
Dunrobin. Last he & other named by  
himself the most valuable.

63



St. Kildan "fowling" rope 733  
made of horsehair. These ropes were  
heirlooms and passed from father  
to son. There are probably only 2 more  
in existence one of which is in  
Dunvegan Castle & other owned by R.  
Keenan the next winter.

# Skills gathering



# Skills gathering - basketry renewal





# Skills gathering





# Woven Communities

*a fabric of society*



An in-depth look at the many and various baskets used by fisherfolk, exploring the techniques and materials used to create the specialised shapes and forms.

**10 September – 30 October 2016**

Scottish Fisheries Museum



Arts & Humanities  
Research Council



University of  
St Andrews

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These crofters are re-thatching a croft on the island of Eriskay, in the parish of South Uist, Inverness-shire around the 1930s-1940s. The croft belongs to William Johnstone. In the Western Isles thatching was carried out by families and friends.

The croft is built from stone which has been whitewashed. It is one-storeyed and probably has two main rooms. The end walls are battered, or sloping. In front of the croft there is a small porch built of wood with a tarred felt roof. There are two chimneys.

In the Hebridean islands, such as Eriskay, many different thatching materials were used. These have included: cereal straws, heather, bracken, broom, marram grass, iris, and rush. Straw was quite a late development in the Western Isles. The thatch was usually laid on top of a layer of turfs, and the turfs lay on top of the roofing timbers. The thatch was then secured with ropes, as seen here, which were weighted down with stones. The ropes stretched from eaves to eaves, and were all linked along the lower edge, as seen here. These ropes were to protect the thatch against the strong winds. At each end of the ridge of the roof a protruding stick can be seen. These are thatching sticks, known as raven-sticks. The ropes which secured the hipped ends of the thatch were tied to these sticks. The rope used in the Western Isles was originally made from 'sugan', which was hay, straw or heather which had been twisted by hand. This rope took a long time to prepare and could be damaged by frost. By 1920, coir rope was beginning to be used. Old fishing nets and later, chicken-wire, were also used to secure the thatch. It appears as though a net will be used for the final covering on this thatch. Eight men and a woman are involved in the thatching - it is a labour-intensive activity.

murlins

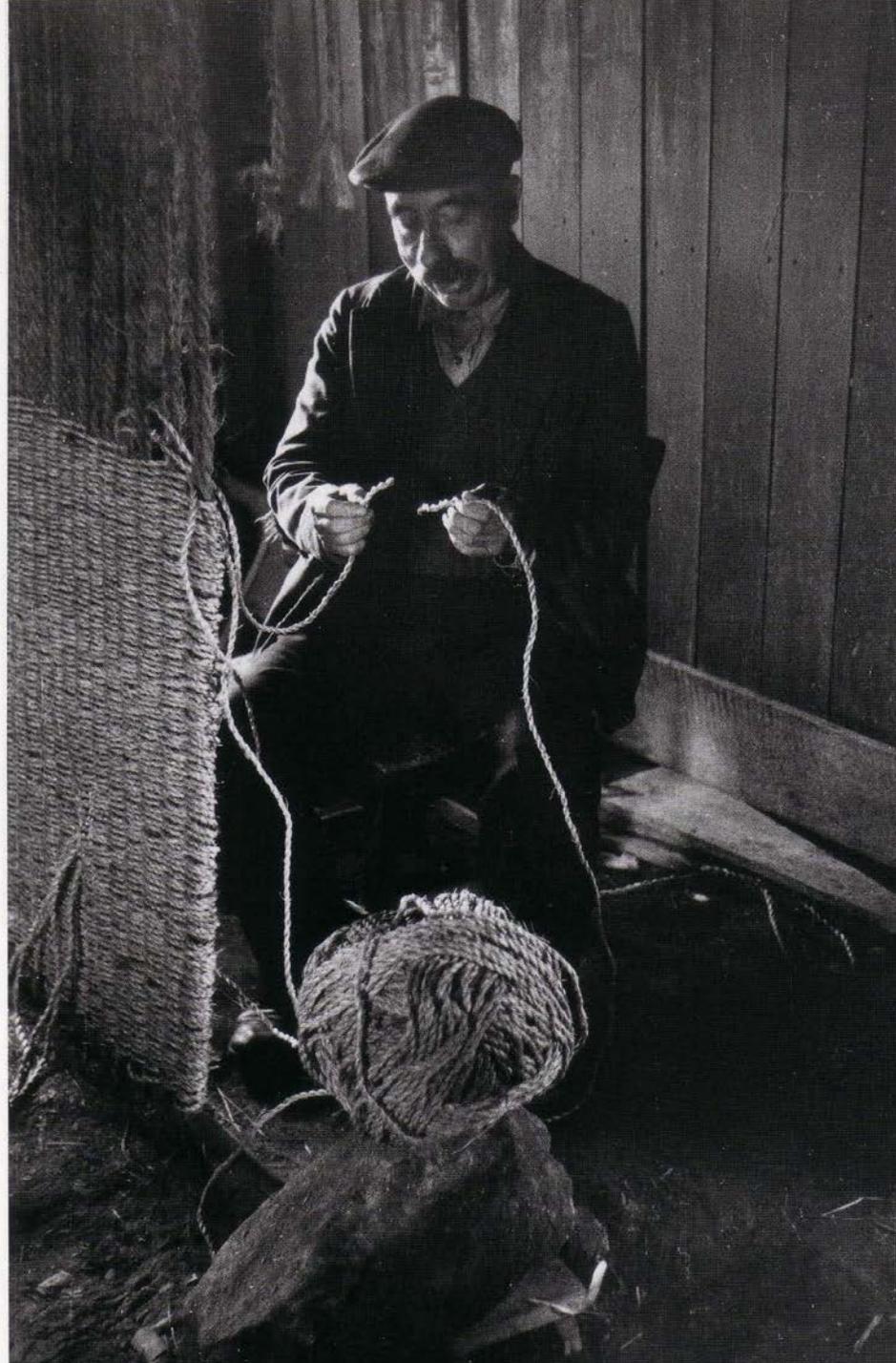




Museum of Scottish Rural Life







# Hebridean migrants to Canada 1924



# World War 1



# World War 1





# Yell: Shetland Museum

◀◀ Item 1 of 2 ▶▶

## Cutting Bent



<b>Photo Number</b>	02803
<b>Title</b>	Cutting Bent
<b>Date Of Photo</b>	
<b>Description</b>	Group of people cutting Bent at Brekkon Yell. Bent was used to make simends rope
<b>Parish</b>	Yell
<b>Collection</b>	
<b>Photographer</b>	Smith, L
<b>Access Level</b>	Public

Select



Harris

Also Harris



Associated person

woman lone and very poor

Event

nverness-shire

Acquired from : date

S. Morrison, Tarbert, Harris: 21.4

D Price

4/6d

Method/detail : operator : date : detail

transparency: CEP: August 1981

title : journal or publisher : volume : detail

books: :





Museum of Scottish Rural Life

