

Seaboard Villages

In November 1842 the Linnet, a Sunderland schooner on route from Macduff to Ardersier, was driven by a storm on to rocks below Cadboll. A group of Balintore fishermen bought the wreck, hoping to set up in trade, but as they re-floated her the Linnet was swept out to sea with seven local men on board. The wreck was driven ashore near Banff, three or four days later. The only trace of the Balintore men was a handkerchief tied to the mast – all had been drowned.

John Happer, master of the Linnet, and the three other members of the crew, survived the original shipwreck. They were looked after by local people and the captain – according to a local tradition – gave a gold ring to Finlay Skinner, one of the fishermen who had come to their aid. The gold ring, inscribed with the letters 'S S' (for Sophia Skinner) has been passed through five generations of the same family.

John Ross (1842–1915) was born in Balintore and preached in the parish of Nigg, in the United Presbyterian church at Chapel Hill. He worked as a missionary in China for almost forty years from the early 1870s and became the founder of Protestant churches in both Manchuria and Korea, where he is still remembered. A native Gaelic speaker, he came to speak eleven languages and translated the New Testament into Korean.