

## Other men who worked the boats

Harry Mount (Old Harry)	Mascot	John Mount (See me)	Invincible
John Mount (Shiny)	Volunteer	George Mount (Chronic)	Wakine
George Mount (Somebody)	Jane	John Mount (Cinders)	Seven Sisters
John Mount (Cinders)	Cricket	Georgie Mount (Young George)	Third Hand
Joseph Parkinson (Red Hill)	Annie	Joseph Parkinson (Young Joe)	Third Hand
George Parkinson (Geordie)	AnnRobert	Douglas (Sniggy Bill)	Third Hand
Harold Dugdale (Duggie)	Falcon	Thomas Murgatroyd	Third Hand
Cornelius Hodgson (Corry)	Third Hand	Herbert Hodgson (Best)	Hannah
John Wilson	Third Hand	Herbert Wilson (Jerkem)	Jane
Richard Threlfall (Old Ridley)	Teutonic	Richard Threlfall (Ridley Dick)	Third Hand
Martin Allan	Alice-Allan	Harry Allan	Third Hand
Samuel Miller Drowned from Gypsy Queen		Robert Wilson (Roddin)	Nora
William Jackson (Bithy)	Fram	Henry Hogerly	
Richard Mayor (Dick)	Faithful	Thomas Cocking	Two Sisters
Thomas Cocking (Young Tommy)	Third Hand	Billy Brown (Billy and Tommy)	
Thomas Brown (Tommy and Billy)		John Bolton	Flying Fox
John Bolton	Primrose	Harry Bolton	Third Hand
Peter Bolton	Third Hand	Herbert Green	Comrade
Harold Priestly	Young John		

Harry Mount was a fisherman who tried very hard and with his boys, Jack and George, became a good fishing family who would try to do any job at all. Once again a good fishing family all gone. Martin Allan was good and followed all jobs; as well as being a JP he was, for years, the fishermen's representative. Herbert Wilson, noted for his cry of Jerk em in, a noted mackerel fisher and a man with whom I am proud to have worked. Joe Parkinson (Red Hill) was the first man to have a petrol, paraffin engine installed. The one we had in Blanche was steam engine. This man was remarkable in the fact he could swear twenty four hours and never repeat himself. Sammy Miller drowned when quite young. Was a grandson of Harry Mount who also lost a son, Harry, drowned on the day I was born. Nearly all these men mentioned had sons but none of them followed the fishing industry. Although the main factor in the decline of the inshore fishing is that nearly all these people I have written about were all a lot older than me. I realise it now, but I was always going to some fisherman's funeral. I did not know then, it was the end of the sailing era.

These men who worked for mussels used clinker built boats about twenty to twenty six feet long. They carried anything up to three ton with the bigger boats and small ones accordingly. The mussels were gathered on the Keysham Shears mainly on big tides, because the big tides ebbed off and uncovered the mussels. They were crammed into baskets called "teenels", washed, then dumped into the boat which had been grounded nearby. When the men were

## WHAT'S TO DO?

This book contains a few of my personal memories. Things that happened when I started trawling in 1915-16. Men I knew, boats I knew and the life they led as I worked through life with them. I have gone before any boyhood recollections, only when I wanted to state a point. But from 1908 onwards I have only quoted what happened in my time. To a schoolboy very interested in the fishing activity in Morecambe Bay. I can obviously remember things that took place, whereas anyone else would never notice. I can remember one small fishing boat from Bolton-Le-Sands and five more fishing out of Ulverston but that is only a memory. One boat was lost on the foul ground at Piel with a large loss of life, about twenty men were drowned but that was when I was young and that stuck in my memory because the Morecambe Fishermen's Choir gave a concert to help the relatives.

Men who were making their living in Morecambe Bay in various ways. I have tried to classify them all but some were very difficult to fit in because they just worked when the fishing or pleasure boating was good. I am going to put down all the names of the men I can remember who were working when I started. Their names and nicknames will be put down as I knew them. In the case of some men I have put, Third Hand. This was a man who trawled with the owner of the boat and generally got a third of the earnings. I am purposely keeping all modern gear out of my statements because when I get to the so called modern days I am finishing my little log.

## THE FISHING FAMILIES OF MORECAMBE

### The Woodhouse Family The Men and their Boats

Adam Woodhouse (Brian)	Blue Ribbon	John Woodhouse (Brian)	Elsada
Tom Woodhouse (Brian)	Faithful	Frank Woodhouse (Brian)	Annie Agnes
John Willie Woodhouse	Young John	Arthur Woodhouse (Girt Hamper)	Snowdrop
Adam Woodhouse (Fanny Adam)	Third Hand	John Woodhouse (Beasley Jack)	May
Harry Woodhouse (Bonnie Like Harry)	Third Hand	John Thomas (Like John Thomas)	Sisters Viking
James Thomas (Widgy)	Midnight	Martin Thomas (Old Shut)	Edith
William Thomas (Billy Ned)	Third Hand	William Thomas (Old Willy)	De Wet
Wilfred Thomas (Old Wilt)	Clara Mount	Richard Thomas (Old Dick)	Rotha
Wilfred Thomas (Prodder)	Third Hand	James Thomas (Lame Jim)	Seagull
John Thomas Drowned at sea Sixteen years old		Jack Thomas (Happy Jack)	Third Hand
Richard Thomas (Young Dick)	Annie Bell	Adam Woodhouse (Me-Me)	Me-Me
Eli Woodhouse (Kewley)	Third Hand		

In all walks of life you get men of different personalities and the family of this name is no exception. One was noted for one thing and one for another but all in all they nearly all found their own niche. Some men were skippers very early in life because the job was not so

Harry, took over the fish and shrimp shop established by himself. He was a keen racer and would go anywhere to race his boat and he sailed all round the coast. William Baxter, Old William and his sons, William (Knocker) Jack (Frigger) Dick and Graham all were fishermen and Knocker was very good, I thought Knocker was also one of the men I can best recall as a boy as a good mackerel fisherman. Unfortunately, a lot of the Baxter clan died very young, by that I mean forty or fifty and that quickly thinned out this group of men. So before I realised it the Baxter clan had ceased to fish and their departure has been very much noticed because it is hard to believe that all the men I knew have gone. The Baxter men were all good fishermen and all had good boats so their general catching power was very good, so to beat them, anyone had to be on their toes. They were a band of men noted for their willingness to help others when trouble loomed ahead. Jack (Fatty Jack), was the coxswain of Morecambe Lifeboat for a long time and he was very reliable. Percy, Pop, worked as a net maker at Morecambe Trawlers and to go to work and listen to him was an education in itself. He could do anything with netting. In those days it was white cotton netting and you had to be careful with it. But just a word about Bloney, Blus, or Jack Baxter or whatever you cared to call him. when I started fishing I was told that he would kill himself with drinking. He was always drunk. He did kill himself, I think, but it took him until he was eighty three! So what does that prove. A ship, bigger than a liner, could float in the beer he drank.

### The Willacy Family The Men and their Boats

David Willacy (Old David)	Three Brothers
Gilbert Willacy (Gilly)	Casabianca
Rueben Willacy (Rube)	Fanny
Amos Willacy	Linda
Charles Willacy (Charlie)	Three Brothers
James Willacy (Sea-weed)	Third Hand
George Willacy	Mascot
Herbert Willacy (Nibbler)	Third Hand Cedar

Jack Willacy (Old Jackie) when I knew him he was just working on the Pleasure Boats, but as he had a large family, I am putting him in. This was another famous family of good all round fishermen. One, of whom I must write was, and still is, a very good friend of mine. His name was Amos and he and I fished together for a long time. When the job changed from a single handed fishing to double handed, we teamed up. Some of my happiest times were spent with him and I do thank him for all the good times we had. His Father (David) was a good fisherman and three lads followed him on the water and one, Rueben, I used to think, was as good a prawner as we had in town. His brother, Gilbert, never was anything but the third hand. He was one of the best at his job. Charlie was considered one of the Ports top hands and as a single handed man he was hard to beat. Another one, Jim, (Seaweed) was what they called a Jetty feller, this meant that he worked at Wards as a hammer man. He was good at his job but he achieved his ambition late on when he became a third hand and towards the end of his life he was accepted as one. George (Jud) was a top skipper but he left to become a salesman for Young's, the London firm that dealt in potted shrimps. He was a success and I think he joined the board of directors of that firm. Herbert Willacy (Nibbler) is the one that left his footprints in the sands of time. Although he started as a fisherman he did not follow it long, because he was in the 1914 - 1918 war and when the Morecambe Trawlers was formed, with Walter Baxter as Chairman, he became the manager. He was in that position until his death but with the passage of time he was honoured by the award of the MBE. That, itself, was good but he became a town