

## IX.

NOTES ON THE ANALYSES OF ADDITIONAL SAMPLES OF BOG BUTTER FOUND IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF SCOTLAND. By W. IVISON MACADAM, F.S.A. Scot.

In April 1882, I had the honour of laying a communication before this Society, in which I gave the result of an investigation into the chemical composition of several samples of bog butter. The present notes are intended to supplement the previous paper and bring the subject to date.

1. *Yell*.—Towards the close of 1887 there was discovered in a peat moss near Cunnister, North Yell, an oblong or oval-shaped mass (fig. 1) somewhat like a large nut in general appearance. The extreme length

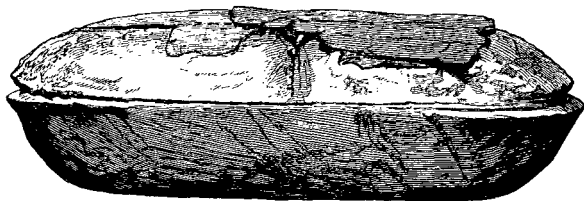


Fig. 1. Wooden Vessel full of Butter, found in Yell, Shetland.

was 20 inches; breadth, 12 inches; and thickness, 7 inches. The weight was 32 lbs.; covering of peat, 3 feet. On closer examination, it was discovered that the material consisted of a mass of bog butter in an oblong wooden vessel, covered by a thin covering of fibre, evidently the inner bark of some tree. The properties of this sample in no way differ from those of the masses already described. The analysis is given below.

2. *Keith*.—This large mass was discovered by workmen, during the cutting of peats, in the moss of Hen Heads, on the westmost shoulder of the hill of Aultmore, and was covered by 15 feet of peat. The fat was enclosed in a bark case, and externally covered by wicker-work. Total weight, nearly 2 cwt.; height, 3 feet 5 inches; circumference at widest part, 5 feet 6 inches. This mass has been unfortunate since ever it was

discovered. First, the workmen broke off the top of the case; then the party in charge of it for the first night cleaned off all the wicker-work, and after being rescued and placed for safety in Keith Museum, the building was burned down, and the mass perished. The specimen now shown is believed to be the only portion now existing.

3. *Plockton, Loch Carron*.—Found in 1886, within 10 yards of No. 4 sample, and is contained in a cask of the same class, which is now in the Museum. Total height, 18 inches; diameter, 11 inches.

4. *Plockton, Loch Carron*.—Found in 1888 in the moss, An Cnatharan (shaking ground), during the cutting of peats. The moss was drained in 1851, and the peat is not now more than 8 feet deep. The keg was found with a covering of 4 feet of peat. The mass was enclosed in a barrel or keg hollowed out of a birch-tree trunk, and had a cover and bottom let in. Total weight, 37 lbs.; circumference, 3 feet 6 inches. The sample is in the hands of Mr Maclean, factor for Sir Kenneth Matheson.

It is stated that a keg of butter was found in 1821 at the bottom of Cromaske Moss, Perthshire. Nothing is now known of this mass.

A sample from a peat moss in Morayshire is said to be in Elgin, but I have not yet been able to get particulars.

	Cunnister, North Yell.	Hen Heads, Keith.	Plockton, Loch Carron. 1886.	Plockton, Loch Carron. 1888.
Moisture, . . . . .	2.208	0.856	3.347	4.115
Oil or Fat, . . . . .	95.932	96.304	93.582	15.043
Casein, &c., . . . . .	1.744	2.705	2.875	80.761
Ash or Mineral Matter, &c.,	0.116	0.135	0.196	0.081
	100.000	100.000	100.000	100.000
Cow Hairs, . . . . .	present	present	present	none

From the above results it will be seen that the first three samples are similar in composition to the majority of known specimens. The fourth sample is very unusual, containing a very large excess of casein or cheese matter. I much desire to retest this material with fresh samples from the keg, and trust an opportunity may be afforded me to do so.