

Islands of Scotland

Hebrides – Orkney - Shetland

Europe

Teaching the Bahá'í Faith

Bahá'í Geography – Scottish Islands

Europe

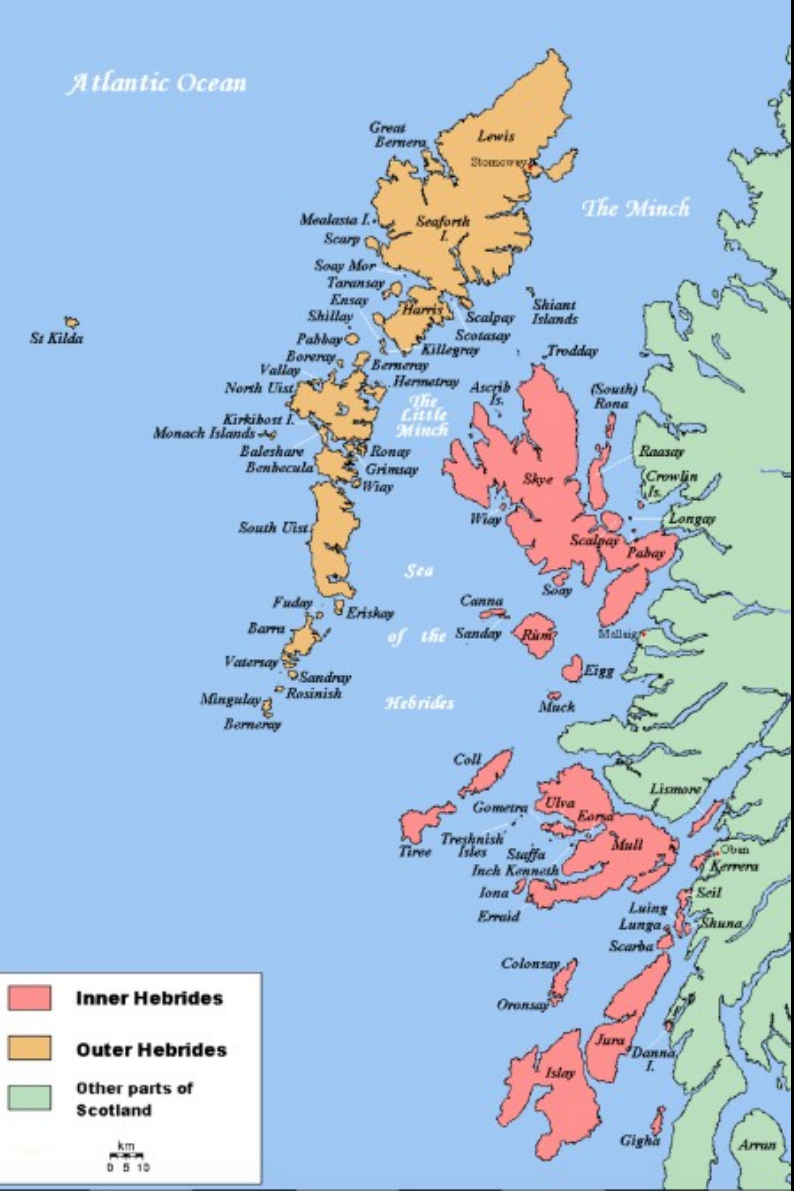
*Show ye an effort and after this war spread ye the synopsis of the divine teachings in the British Isles, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Portugal, Rumania, Serbia, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Greece, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Monaco, San Marino, Balearic Isles, Corsica, Sardinia, Sicily, Crete, Malta, Iceland, Faroe Islands, **Shetland Islands, Hebrides and Orkney Islands.***

Map of Europe



Islands of Scotland

Three groups of islands west and north of Scotland are mentioned by ‘Abdu’l-Bahá in the *Tablets of the Divine Plan*, and were opened to the Faith during the Ten Year Crusade



Hebrides Islands



Hebrides Islands

The Hebrides are islands off the west coast of the Scottish mainland, and have been inhabited since Mesolithic times by Celtic, Norse and English-speaking peoples. They are 7,285 km² in area, with a population of around 45,000. The Inner Hebrides include Islay, Jura, Skye and Mull, and the Outer Hebrides include Lewis and Harris, and North and South Uist among 100 islands. The climate is cool temperate (6°-14° C) because of the Gulf Stream, and rainfall 1,100 mm.

Hebrides
Islands

Isle of
Skye



Hebrides Islands

Isle of Skye



Hebrides
Islands

Isle of
Skye



Hebrides
Islands

Isle of
Skye



Hebrides Islands

Isle of Skye



Hebrides
Islands

Isle of
Skye



Hebrides Islands Knight of Bahá'u'lláh

Knight of Bahá'u'lláh Geraldine Craney was from Ireland but moved to the United Kingdom, working as a mechanical calculator operator. She became a Bahá'í in February 1953, which resulted in total rejection by her family. At the beginning of the Ten Year Crusade, she pioneered to the Hebrides Islands, arriving on 9 October 1953. Living in an isolated area and considered a "stranger" by the local people, she had few visitors from 1953 to 1959.

Orkney Islands



Orkney Islands

The archipelago of Orkney Islands includes 70 low-lying islands 16 km north of the Scottish coast, with 20 inhabited. The Mainland with 523 km² includes its largest settlement Kirkwall. The population was 20,000 in 1953 and has not changed much since. The climate is relatively mild and the soil fertile, so most of the land is farmed.

Orkney Islands



Orkney Islands



Orkney Islands



Orkney Islands



Orkney Islands



Orkney Islands



Orkney Islands



Orkney Islands



Orkney Islands



Orkney Islands

Kirkwall



Orkney
Islands

Kirkwall



Orkney
Islands

Kirkwall



Orkney
Islands

Italian
chapel

built by prisoners
of war during
World War II



Orkney Islands

The islands have been inhabited for 8,500 years. There are well-preserved Neolithic sites on Orkney including Europe's best preserved Neolithic settlement inhabited from 3100 BC to 2500 BC. Standing stones include the Ring of Brodgar.

Orkney Islands

Neolithic sites



Orkney Islands

Neolithic sites



Orkney
Islands

Neolithic
sites



Orkney
Islands

Neolithic
sites



Orkney
Islands

Neolithic
sites

standing
stones



Orkney
Islands

Neolithic
sites

Ring of
Brodgar





Charles
Dunning

Knight of
Bahá'u'lláh

Orkney
Islands



Charles Dunning

Knight of Bahá'u'lláh for the Orkney Islands

Charles Dunning (1885-1967) could not walk until he was 9, but by 13 was driving a pony in a coal mine, and at 15 went to sea as a galley boy. He became a Bahá'í in 1948 and pioneered to Belfast, before arriving in Kirkwall in the Orkney Islands on 9 September 1953. He made friends where he could, saying "Our work is to tell the people and leave the rest to God." He was physically odd and pursued and abused by gangs of boys and distrusted by adults.

Charles Dunning

One day, when a group of young children had been chasing him, ...he turned to look sadly at them. One of the children was a boy of 7 who had not thrown stones or called any names, but ran with the other children. He felt ashamed, knew what he was doing was wrong, and never forgot. As a youth, he made friends with a travelling teacher who told him about Bahá'u'lláh, and was one of the first Orcadians to become a Bahá'í.

(based on Earl Redman, *The Knights of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 324)

Charles Dunning

Marion Hofman, who visited Charles, wrote:

“...I knew the wisdom of Bahá'u'lláh sending Charles to the Orkney Islands... only a soldier and martyr-spirit, such as Charles, would be able to conquer a town like Kirkwall... his sufferings and endurance have brought him into intimacy of the spirit of the Dawnbreakers of the Heroic Age... his comfort and support have been straight from them.”

(based on Earl Redman, *The Knights of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 324)

Charles Dunning

To earn a living, Charles sold brushes door to door, staying for several years until his health forced him to move to Cardiff in Wales. The seeds he planted grew into a Local Spiritual Assembly in 1969.

Shetland Islands



Shetland Islands

The Shetland Islands are a sub-arctic archipelago 80 km northeast of Orkney, 170 km from Scotland and 220 km west of Norway, between the Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea. The area is 1,466 km² with the Mainland 967 km² and the population was 18,000 in 1960. The highest point is 450 m. The only town is Lerwick. They were part of Norway in the 10th-15th centuries before being annexed by Scotland.

Shetland Islands



Shetland Islands



Shetland Islands



Shetland Islands



Shetland Islands



Shetland Islands



Shetland Islands



Shetland Islands



Shetland Islands



Shetland Islands



Shetland Islands



Shetland Islands



Lerwick

Shetland Islands



Brigitte Hasselblatt

Knight of Bahá'u'lláh for the Shetland Islands

Brigitte Hasselblatt was born in Estonia, moved to Germany to study nursing, and after the war moved to England to train as a midwife. She became a Bahá'í in 1950, pioneered to Glasgow, and then at the beginning of the Ten Year Crusade, when Estonia was unavailable, chose the Shetland Islands, arriving on 17 September 1953.

Brigitte Hasselblatt

Knight of
Bahá'u'lláh

Shetland
Islands



Brigitte Hasselblatt

Driving to Lerwick from the airport on her arrival, she saw “no houses, no trees, no bushes or flowers, only brown peat-covered hills.”

“I had no conception of the nature of the tests and difficulties that are to assail every soul in his Service and without the spiritual forces released by the prayers of the friends, I cannot but fail in fulfilling the task before me.”

(quoted in Earl Redman, *The Knights of Bahá'u'lláh*, p.326)

Brigitte Hasselblatt

She worked in public health and as a midwife, and after helping Lilian McKay have her second child, saw her become the first native believer. On 17 March 1956, the first Bahá'í public meeting was held with the help of Marion Hofman, with favorable publicity, and a weekend school in the Autumn. But the the local church warned against 'the dangerous, false religion'.

Brigitte Hasselblatt

Brigitte left Shetland in 1959 to pioneer to Finland, then Copenhagen, back to Finland in 1984, and finally to Estonia in 1988, passing away there in 2008.

Shetland Islands

Brigitte returned to the Shetland Islands in 1993 for the 40th anniversary of the arrival of the Faith, and again in 2003, greeted with enthusiasm by the local people, with over 100 attending a celebration in the Town Hall, a big change from her reception 50 years before.

Knights
of

Bahá'u'lláh

Charles Dunning
(Orkney Islands)

Brigitte Hasselblatt
(Shetland Islands)

Philip Hainsworth
Hermann Grossmann

Dia'u'llah

Asgharzadih
(Channel Islands)

Dorothy Ferraby
Ruth Moffett



Shetland Islands

