# KIRKINTILLOCH SHIPBUILDING

Kirkintilloch Shipbuilding
For many years shipbuilding was an important industry
in Kirkintilloch. There were two boat yards in the town, on the Forth and Clyde Canal, which between them built up a tradition which has made Kirkintilloch unique in the Scottish shipbuilding world. Kirkintilloch was Scotland's furthest inland boatbuilding centre.

J & J Hay
Two brothers, James and John Hay, took over the
Townhead boatyard in 1867. They were in the canal
trade and used the yard primary to repair and maintain their fleet of vessels. Soon they began to build scows and puffers to add to this fleet. It was for their puffers that they became famous. These boats were so called because the exhaust from their steam engines was turned up through the funnel, producing a puffing noise The size of these boats was restricted to 66 feet by 18 feet by the canal locks.





# P. McGregor

The first boat built at the yard in the Railway Basin was the 'Laburnum' in 1874. McGregor's built barges, lighters, tugs, small oil tankers, small motor vessels and passenger steamers. Many of McGregor's ships were exported to overseas destinations, such as Egypt and Brazil.

Some were too large to sail down the canal and required dismantling and reassembly elsewhere. 118 ships were built at this yard before it closed in

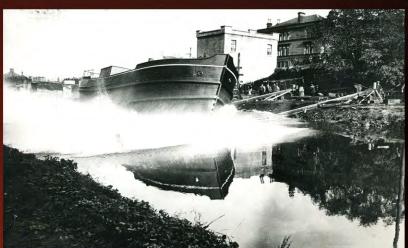


## **Puffers**

steered by tiller. They were shallow enough to allow them to operate in the canal's 6 feet of water. By 1913-14 seven Hay's puffers were being operated on the canal each carrying up to 100 tons of cargoes such as coal, timber, pig iron and sand.

"Outside" puffers such as the 'Druid' and the 'Tartar' were modified for coastal work. They had wheel steering, continuous bulwarks and derricks attached to the masts for loading and unloading cargoes
These boats carried coal for Caledonian MacBrayne's passenger and cargo steamers and malt, barley, and empty barrels to distilleries.





### The 'May Queen'

This passenger steamer was built at McGregor's yard in Kirkintilloch and operated between 1903 and 'May Queen', the 'Gipsy Queen' and the 'Fairy Queen' to Craigmarloch during the summer months only.

