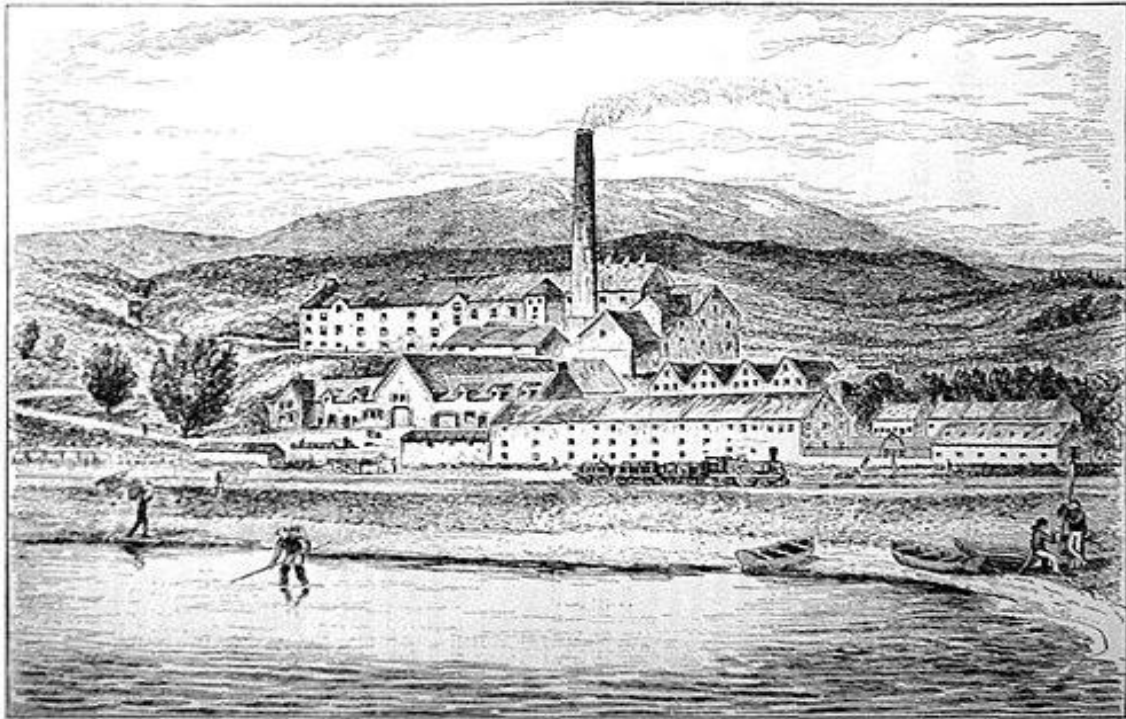


# The Dingwall Distillery, 1879-1926

*by Forbes Munro of Dingwall Museum*



BEN WYVIS DISTILLERY.

The 'Ben Wyvis Distillery' was established on the southern approaches to Dingwall in 1879. The site, valued for its proximity to the railway station, had to be cleared by blasting for building to take place. The founder was D.G. Ross, who was an ironmonger and agricultural merchant. He was also a town baillie and became provost in 1882. It is likely that he raised the capital locally.

This was a period of rapid expansion in the Scotch whisky industry because of the development of mass marketing and advertising techniques, and the opening of overseas markets by steamships and railways. Such spectacular growth encouraged a flurry of mergers and acquisitions. In 1887 the distillery was taken over by an English concern called Scotch Whisky Distillers which was trying to acquire a portfolio of distilleries across Scotland. However, this business quickly ran into financial difficulty and was liquidated in 1889.

✱

**WHISKY.**

**The "DEW OF BEN WYVIS" WHISKY is welcome upon every occasion on the Loch, River, Hill, or your own Table at home. It is a typical Highland Spirit, with a charm of its own.**

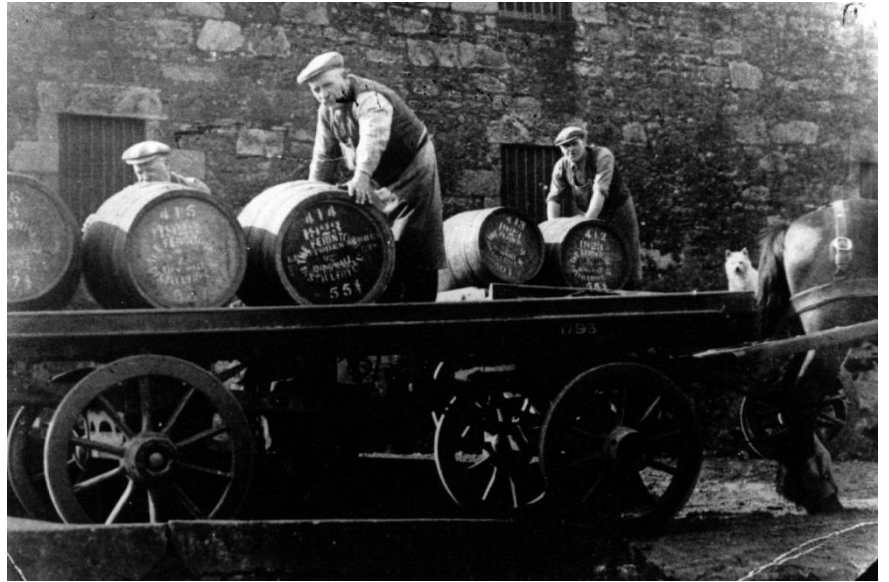
— TRY IT. —

<b>3s 6d per Bottle.</b> <b>7 years old.</b>	<b>4s per Bottle.</b> <b>10 years old.</b>
---	---

**POSTAGE EXTRA.**

The Dingwall distillery then passed into the hands of The Ferintosh Distillery Company. Despite borrowing its name from the historically significant distillery nearby in the Black Isle,

this was a brand new firm. It was established in 1893 by a financial concern in Belfast - which duly renamed the distillery as 'The Ferintosh Distillery'. It continued producing and selling whisky until 1926, when the introduction of prohibition in the United States brought about a crisis in the industry. The distillery closed as a going concern, although in later decades - certainly by the 1950s - its warehouses would be used by other distillers for storage purposes.



The buildings have now been converted into housing.

In 2015, a new Glen Wyvis distillery, at the west of the town, revived Dingwall's distilling tradition. It was originally conceived as a community-owned project and many of its shares are held by people in the Inner Moray Firth region. Its first batch release of whisky took place in 2021.

**Sources and Further Reading:** Charles MacLean, *Whiskypedia; An Introduction to Scotch Whisky* (2012)

**Image Copyright:** public domain and Dingwall Museum