



ÞORPIÐ VIÐ NYRSTA HAF

Grimsey er nyrsta byggð Íslands og liggur 41 km. norður af landi. Hún er 5,3 fm² að stærð og lengst 5,5 km, og hæsti punktur hennar er 105 m, yfir sjávarmáli. Nyrst liggr heimskautsbaugur þvert yfir eyjuna. Vegna legu Grímseyjar er mikill munur að dagsbirta eftir árstíma. Á styta degi ársins er dagsbirta í 2 klst., og 15 mínútur en í einn mánuð yfir hásumarið sest sólin aldrei og þá er albjart allan sólarhringin.

Lengst af var búið á 10 jörðum í Grímsey en smáman risu fleiri hús í landi gömlu jarðanna og lítið þorp myndaðist ofan Sandvikur úr landi gömlu Sandvíkurjarðanna. Um árið 1930 voru mest 125 ibúar en nú eru ibúar rúmlega 80 talsins sem flestir búa í eyjunni allt árið um kring.

Grímseyingar stunduðu sjálfsþurftarbúskap og lifðu á því sem sjóinn og eyjan gaf af sér.



„Sandvíkin“ 1928
Meðfram fjarborðmu byggðu Húsavíkarkaupmenn fiskverkunar- og verslunarhús. Húsið til vinstri er Bjarnhús, Dókká húsið er Pálshús, þar byrjaði KEA verslunarrekstrur sínum ári 1929. Óþekktur ljósmyndari

Lengi vel var engin verslun í eynni en 1883 varð Grímsey löggið verslunarstaður, Ibúar pöntuðu vörur frá kaupmónnum á Húsavík og greiddu fyrir með saltfisk og örnum söluvörum. Eftir 1918 stofnuðu heimamenn verslun og lagðist pöntunarverslun þá af. Kaupfélag Eyfirðinga rak verslun í Grímsey 1929-2000 en nú er verslunin í eigu heimamanna.

Sjávarútvegur var og er uppiþáðan í lífi Grímseyinga enda stutt á góð fiskimið. Í



„Stílkur á Eiðabakkanum“ 1928

Í baksyn er Sandvíkin og fram í hana skapar Sandvíkurhléin sem notuð var sem náttúruleg bryggja. Úpp af Sandvíkinni er þorpið að myndast. Ljósmynd: Matthias Eggertsson

„Girls on Eiðabakki sand spur“ 1928

In the background, Sandvík cove and the Sandvík seacliffs, used in days gone by as a natural pier. Above the cove the village is growing. Photograph: Matthias Eggertsson



„Sildarsöltun á stettinni í Sandvík“ um 1960

Lengi var allur fiskur verkður í skreðum en eftir 1883 var farið að verka saltfisk og frá 1955 til loka sildaráranna var söltuð sild í Grímsey. Stóra hvíta húsið er Frysþúsið sem var byggt um 1945. Ljósmynd: Guðmundur Jónsson

„Salting herring in Sandvík“ around 1960

All fish was, at one time, dried, but after 1883 saltfish processing commenced and the salting of herring was practised in Grímsey from 1955 until the end of the herring years*. The large white building is the freezing plant, built around 1945. Photographer: Guðmundur Jónsson



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THE VILLAGE BY THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

Grímsey Island is Iceland's most northerly settlement. It lies about 41 km off its northern coastline, has an area of 5,3 km² and is, at its longest point, 5,5 km in length. The highest point on Grímsey rises to 105 m above sea level, and the Arctic Circle straddles the northernmost part of the island.

Because of the island's geographical position, the number of daylight hours differs greatly from season to season. On the shortest day of the year, daylight lasts for 2 hours and 15 minutes while, for a month in summer, the sun never sets and it is bright right around the clock. For centuries there were 10 agricultural holdings on Grímsey, but little by little more houses were built on the land of the old crofts and a small village was born above the Sandvík cove. All the dwellings on Grímsey have names which are used in everyday speech.

The people of Grímsey were, through the ages, engaged in sustainable farming, living off the

fruits of land and sea. On most crofts there was a small homestead as well as a few animals. In 1883 Grímsey became an authorised trading post. The islanders ordered goods and had those sent to them by the Örum & Wulff store in Húsavík. After 1918, new stores owned by the inhabitants of Grímsey began to spring up, which marked the end of the old system of trading by order. The Eyjafjörður Cooperative Society ran a store on Grímsey from 1929-2000; this store is now owned by the islanders themselves.

Fishing has long been the mainstay of life on Grímsey, which is not surprising as it is but a short distance to rich fishing grounds. Grímsey did not enjoy the benefit of a natural harbour; there were only a few landing places on the shore, which made seagoing a risky pursuit. Up until just after 1900 fishing was conducted from small rowing boats, as the lack of harbour facilities made the use of larger craft much harder. In 1935 the first pier was built at Sandvík

and in 1990 the inner harbour was completed and taken into service. Now there are several fishing companies on Grímsey, marketing both salted and fresh fish.



„Verslun“ 1930s
Verslun Holmfríðar S. Geirdal var í turni á húsi sem het Strandberg sem nú er horfitt. Í baksyn sést sildarfotlinn í innilegu. Ljósmyndar óþekktar.

„Trading“ 1930s
This store was in the tower of the house Strandberg, which no longer exists. In the background the fishing fleet shelters in the harbour. Photographer unknown.