

MAYBOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Scottish Charity Number SC034056

Hon President : J. Murray Cook

Newsletter 27 * September, 2003

Crosshill * Dunure * Kirkmichael * Kirkoswald * Maidens * Maybole * Minishant * Straiton * Turnberry

NEXT MEETING



Trying to find out about your ancestors who served in the British Army? What was the 21st Regiment? Find out the answers and much more -

SOURCES FOR MILITARY HISTORY with Major Shaw

Curator – Royal Highland Fusiliers Museum

MAYBOLE TOWN HALL

Monday 6th October 7.30 p.m.

ALL WELCOME VISITORS £0.50

LOCHSPOUTS –

AS ONLY VERY FEW HAVE EVER SEEN IT!



Murray Cook standing where he would until recently have been waist deep in water

Several weeks ago Murray Cook was informed that Lochspouts had been drained and rumour had it that it was to be used for landfill.

Somewhat perturbed at this news, we immediately went to examine the scene and found only a small pool left in the middle of what had been the old loch. This sight has only been seen once before in living memory - in 1935 – and prior to that the loch had been full since 1888. At that time the dam was built to convert the loch into a reservoir for the

Maybole water supply and a full

excavation of the site was carried out with various artefacts being found around the sight of a crannog. These artefacts are now all in the care of the National Museum of Scotland but a good description of the site and the finds can be found in Smith's "Prehistoric Man in Ayrshire" which is available on the Maybole website at www.maybole.org/history/archives/prehistoric/man.htm.

The society contacted the West of Scotland Archaeology Service and Stuart Jeffrey (pictured right with Murray and Helen McAdam inspecting old wood remnants) came down the next day to see the site for himself. It is their opinion that the loch had possibly been drained to remove any liability from flooding if there was a breach in the dam however further investigations will be made by them as to the owner and the possible future plans for the site. In any case, now that the site is "in their conscience", nothing can be done without their approval. One interesting fact that came out of Stuart's visit is that this site is not in fact listed.



The Society has undertaken to gather all the information available from the original dig published in the Ayrshire and Wigtown collections available in the Carnegie Library in Ayr and to keep an eye on the condition of the surface to prevent possible deterioration of the site should the dry conditions continue. If the surface remains wet, anything below should be preserved in the meantime.

James Hunter Blair welcomes the Maybole



Historical Society group outside Blairquhan (photo – Tony Kerrigan)

VISIT TO BLAIRQUHAN

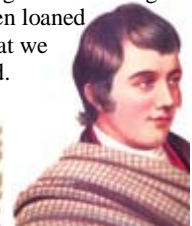
The Society's visit to Blairquhan at the invitation of James Hunter Blair proved so popular that a bus was provided to take our group of thirty-six members and friends to the house. Our tour commenced at the Ayr Lodge entrance to the policies and continued up the very scenic long drive to Blairquhan itself. While the heavens opened outside we were treated to a personally guided tour with Mr Hunter Blair pleased to answer the many questions our group had for him. Our group were completely captivated by the magnificent collection of locally made furniture as well as paintings, drawings and maps. Finally everyone enjoyed refreshments in the drawing room.

BURNS CLUB MINUTES SAFE IN MAYBOLE

As reported in our last Newsletter, the Society with Ayrshire Archives made a combined unsuccessful bid for what was thought to be the minutes (1897-1939) of Maybole Burns Club. The attendant publicity which this produced also led to our President receiving a telephone call from a Maybole resident telling him that the Maybole St. Crispins Burns Club had in fact existed from 1897 until 1954 and that he had the original minute book!

It would appear that the book sold at auction in Edinburgh was a collection of notes and programmes put together by one of the club members – still a valuable record in its own right. The original minutes have now been loaned to Murray Cook so that we can have them copied.

AYRSHIRE
ARCHIVES



Maybole Historical Society
All communications to the society
may be addressed to the society
c/o Maybole Resource Centre

48/50 High Street

MAYBOLE

KA19 7BZ

Committee 2003-4

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Members -

Willy Connelly

Alex Davidson

David Kiltie

Arnold Lake

November Meeting – Kevin Wilbraham – Ayrshire Archives – Poor Relief in Scotland.

December Meeting – Tom Barclay – South Ayrshire Libraries – Cromwell's Ayrshire.

BURNS NIGHT

Monday 2nd February 2004

Due to the disappointment of those who could not get tickets for our St Andrews Night, a provisional list is now open for those wishing tickets for the Burns Night. A full programme and cost will be available at our November meeting but if you are interested please add your name to the list. You can do so at our regular meetings or by contacting Murray Cook, Helen McAdam or Dave Killicoat by phone or e-mail.

MEMBERSHIP –

ALL MEMBERS WHO LAST PAID PRIOR TO 1st FEBRUARY 2002 PLEASE NOTE THAT THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE FOR RENEWAL.

Membership, once paid, is valid until 1st September 2004.

Membership is only £10.00 and covers individuals or couples staying in the same household. Individuals who are registered disabled and anyone in full time education can join the society free of charge. **Please send all membership applications and renewals (with the appropriate fee) to The Honorary Treasurer at the address above.**

WHERE THERE'S A WILL

Once again an ex-pat Minieboler (a couple of generations down) has sent us an enquiry which has given us an insight not only into another emigration from the area but also the Reid family of Maybole and how sources other than the normal registers of births, deaths and marriages or Old Parish Registers can actually provide a wealth of information. Some of this information is available on the internet and some in the local libraries and archives but all of it is available at little expense. It is also indicative of the way many enquiries we receive are going now, asking for details of houses or properties rather than of families.

The original enquiry was the subject of correspondence between Rich Petit, the webmaster, and a Murray Reid from New Zealand in April 200. Rich had passed on David Kiltie's e-mail address to Mr Murray and David was contacted by Mr Reid a few days ago with queries regarding the properties of Cultezeoun and Broomknowes just south of Maybole. The family involved was that of Hugh Reid and Elizabeth Boyd who married in Ayr in 1776 and had 11 children before 1800¹, most born in Ayr apart from one born in Dundonald in 1784 and one born in Maybole in 1788 and subsequently christened in Ayr, and their 9th child christened Hamilton Boswell James Reid but known as James Hamilton Reid.

Hugh Reid died in Gardenrose, Maybole in 1831 a wealthy man. A copy of his will entered in 1832² covers 8 pages and shows that he left a gross estate of £680/11/10 –equivalent to about £45,000 in modern terms.³ The main value of this will however does not lie in the financial detail, although this does give a very good idea of the social and economic conditions for this family at the time, but in the detailed list of benefactors. This confirms that the births/christenings of all Hugh and Elizabeth's children had been recorded. It also provides details of the spouses of all the surviving daughters and the names of grandchildren whose Reid parent had died before 1831. This allows a very complete picture of the family to be put together where information provided by gravestones and other records is scant indeed. It also confirms that Hugh must have moved to Cultezeoun permanently in the early 1800's as some twenty years before his will was written he had settled £70 on his son William when William agreed to stay and assist him on the farm.

James Hamilton Reid first appears in the Stent Rolls of Maybole for 1825/6 paying 3/- and on the 21st October 1826 he is residing in the Kirklands of Maybole when he is made a Burgess.⁴ In the 1841 Census⁵ James and family are staying at "Newyards, Duncanland" (Vol. 605, En. Dist. 4, Page 18) and in the 1851 Census this becomes "Duncanland Cottage" (Vol. 605, En. Dist. 17, Page 37).⁶ These censuses show that, as was very common, not all of James and Margaret's children's births or christenings had been recorded. James died in Broomknowes in 1858 leaving his own will, having been predeceased by his wife Margaret in 1857.

Mr Reid's main line of enquiry is about when Hugh Reid actually moved to Cultezeoun, whether he owned or tenanted it and who the occupiers of Cultezeoun and Broomknowes were from then until the present day. This information can be gleaned from the Valuation Rolls (1855 onwards) and prior to that from the Registers of Sasines which are available in the main library and Ayrshire Archives. The results of this search and more details of the Reid family tree will be appearing a future Newsletter.

¹ Family Search in Scottish Church Records (Index) available at Mormon Family History Centres Free of Charge giving frame numbers on relevant microfilms.

² Downloaded from www.scottishdocuments.com - cost £5.00 per will.

³ Richards, Patsy, *Inflation: the value of the pound 1750 – 2001*, Research Paper 02/44 (House of Commons Library 2002).

⁴ Maybole Morsels at www.maybole.org/history.

⁵ Searchable database available at <http://freecen.rootsweb.com/cgi/search.pl>.

⁶ Index on CD-ROM available from East Ayrshire Family History Society but can be searched in Maybole Resource Centre and all main libraries where the complete microfilm of the Census is also available.