

MAYBOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Scottish Charity Number SC034056

Hon President : J. Murray Cook

Newsletter 28 * October, 2003

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

NEXT MEETING



EARLY POOR RELIEF IN AYRSHIRE

with Kevin Wilbraham

Archivist, Ayrshire Archives

Have you ever wondered how your ancestors dealt with poverty, how they managed in times of need or what it was like in the days before the Welfare State? Kevin gives us a fascinating glimpse in to the system whereby the parish rather than the state looked after its own.



Model Poorhouse Plan for Town Parishes, 1847

MAYBOLE TOWN HALL

Monday 3rd November 7.30 p.m.

ALL WELCOME

VISITORS £0.50

LOCHSPOUTS PREHISTORY SAFE FOR NOW



As reported in our September Newsletter, there was some concern that the lack of water in Lochspouts might mean deterioration of any prehistoric remains that exist below the surface of the exposed silt around the sight of the crannog in Lochspouts. As can be seen from the picture above, recent rain has raised the level of water sufficiently to cover the crannog site and thoroughly soak all the surrounding area. This has turned what looked like a scene from a dried out African mud pan into a reasonably sized lochan surrounded by a lush marshy area full of wildlife. The site is well preserved for the moment but we will be keeping an eye on the area to ensure that this continues.

The Creator of Taggart and a Kirkoswald Gravestone

While we were at the Scarborough Family History Fair an excited gentleman approached us and asked if we had any maps of Ayrshire. It turned out that this gentleman was Peter F. H. Robson, the great great great grandson of one Charles Angus, merchant of Liverpool whose grave we had seen in Kirkoswald Churchyard but had never given much thought to and Peter wanted to find the locations of two houses in Glenapp and Turnberry where Charles had lived during the latter part of his life. It transpires that Charles Angus was born in Stranraer in 1767, left for Liverpool in 1787 to seek his fortune and became a wealthy trader in the triangular trade (the polite term for the slave trade).

What followed was a tale of the death of Charles' wife shortly followed by the suspicious death of her half-sister who was also governess to the Angus children. Charles was acquitted of the murder but there is a fascinating story surrounding the death and subsequent trial. Peter Robson has a considerable quantity of letters and family papers referring to this but he told us that Glenn Chandler – creator of Taggart – had actually written a book which gives the whole fascinating story. After the trial Charles was virtually forced to leave Liverpool and returned to his native Scotland.

Charles and several of his siblings were actually christened with the name Anguish rather than Angus which turned out to be more than appropriate. Was Charles guilty of the murder? Read the book and draw your own conclusions!

BURNING POISON by Glenn Chandler – published by Lea Valley Press, ISBN 0-9538338-0-1.

LEGACIES

A brand new history site from BBC Nations & Regions is now available at www.bbc.co.uk/legacies.

For the first time within a site, BBC web teams from across the UK have collaborated to bring you unrivalled local detail on a range of historical themes. The site is interactive and the Society will be participating as much as possible with our own contributions going in to the regional section.

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Maybole Historical Society
All communications to the society
may be addressed to the society
c/o Maybole Resource Centre
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KA19 7BZ

Committee 2003-4

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Members -

Willy Connelly

Alex Davidson

David Kiltie

Arnold Lake

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

BURNS NIGHT

Monday 2nd February 2004

A list is now open for those wishing tickets for the Burns Night. A full programme and cost will be available at the next meeting and if you are interested please add your name to the list. You can do so at the regular meetings or by contacting Murray Cook, Helen McAdam or Dave Killicoat by phone or e-mail.

Spring Meetings – full details will be confirmed soon but provisionally the March meeting will be on the Glasgow Police and Museum and in May we will be visiting Rozelle House in Ayr where we will also hold the AGM.

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.**

October Meeting a Major Success



Helen McAdam with Major Shaw (extreme right) Willie Gallacher (second right) and Fusilier Steven Torbit



David Hunter examines the Regimental Scrapbooks – only a small part of the material on display

There was an excellent turnout at our October meeting to hear about the history of our local regiment – now The Royal Highland Fusiliers (Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment) although at times members of the audience might have thought they had stumbled on an Old Comrades meeting rather than one of the Historical Society.

Major Willie Shaw, curator of the museum, was accompanied by Willie Gallacher, a volunteer assistant in the museum, and Steven Torbet, a serving Fusilier who has recently bought a house in Maybole to which he will be moving in the near future. With them they brought a vast array of material including Regimental War Diaries, scrapbooks, photographs, medals and historical reference books. From the minute people began arriving until long after the normal finishing time, members and guests were to be seen pouring over this magnificent display and firing question after question at all three.

Major Shaw gave a short talk on the history of the regiment from its founding, through various amalgamations up to the present day but best of all, he then took his audience through a folder which gave great detail on military history research and many examples of the types of records to be found. Your editor has been to various talks and examined a number of books on this subject but has never seen such a wealth of material – especially on a local regiment – put together in one place outside the museum itself. A copy of this folder will be bound and placed in the resource centre for members and visitors to consult.

The Society is very grateful to Major Shaw and his staff for all the effort they put in to make this a very successful evening which, as well as giving us a tremendous amount of information, strengthened the ties between Maybole and the local regiment and made many of us very keen to visit the museum ourselves.

The regimental Museum is situated at 518 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, G2 3LW (Tel. 0141 332 5639; website <http://www.rhq-rhf.org.uk>) and is open Monday – Friday 9am – 4pm and at weekends and evenings by arrangement.

BY POPULAR DEMAND

There have been several requests for a copy of the extract covering North Carrick from **John Smith's "Prehistoric Man in Ayrshire"** (1895) which is already available on the website. This has now been produced as a small booklet available from the Society or the Resource Centre at a cost of £1.00 (plus p&p if applicable).

CAN YOU HELP?

The Society has been very fortunate in the last few months to be lent (or given) various items relating to the history of North Carrick. High quality digital copies are being made of these before they are returned to their respective owners or (as in the case of the Crawford's 1935 Boot and Shoe Catalogue) given to the Archives or Museums Service for proper preservation.

We would be delighted to hear of any other books or photographs that might be borrowed for copying, or artefacts that we could photograph (in situ if necessary). Please contact any member of the Committee. All photographs and copies will be added to our collection and made available to anyone interested.