

MAYBOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Scottish Charity Number SC034056

Hon. President : J. Murray Cook

Newsletter 38 * January, 2005

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

NEXT MEETING JOHN STEELE



THE HMS DASHER DISASTER

Monday 7th February 7.30 pm

MAYBOLE CASTLE

ALL WELCOME VISITORS £0.50

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2005

Monday 7th March – Dave Killicoat – “Registration - Finding the Whole Story.” A complete look at the history of registration in the year celebrating the 150th anniversary of the introduction of official registration in Scotland.

Monday 4th April – Kevin Wilbraham/Christine Lodge, Ayrshire Archives – “The Archives in the Castle.” Details of the Culzean & Cassillis Estate archives collection in Maybole Castle, its condition and future preservation.

Monday 9th May – Tony Collins – “What did you do in the war Dad?” The untold story of The Sparrows (H.M.R.N. Patrol Service)

DO YOU REMEMBER ANN?

The following e-mail was received recently from a visitor to the website who thought that it might be of interest in the future. As many of our more senior members may well remember Ann or her family from her time in Maybole, the e-mail and a copy of the obituary from the newspaper are included in the column on the right –

“Good evening,
Don't know whether you have an area Family History Society or a local library which might be interested in "Strays". I noticed, in the *Chatham Daily News* (Chatham, Ontario, Canada) of 13 Dec. 2004, an Obituary for Ann Stewart (Watson) Olson, "born in Maybole, Scotland". Thought perhaps some future researcher might appreciate if it were on file there.

Leslie Mancell”



OLSON: Ann Stewart, a resident of Chatham, passed away surrounded by the love of her family at the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance, Chatham on Tuesday, December 7, 2004 at the age of 65. Born in Maybole, Scotland, daughter of the late Thomas and Agnes (Sym) Watson. Beloved wife of Gordon Olson for 40 years. Dear mother of Carol O'Connor and her husband Gregory of Toronto. Adoring grandmother of Jack O'Connor. Sister of the late Jean McMillan (1985). Also survived by nieces and a nephew in Northern Ontario and several cousins in Scotland. Ann graduated from Ayr County Hospital School of Nursing (Scotland) in 1960 and was the recipient of the Dr. Geikie Gold Medal Award. She was also a midwife and paediatric nurse. Ann moved to Canada in 1962 and nursed at Port Arthur General Hospital, Atikokan General Hospital, Brantford General Hospital, St. Catherine's General Hospital, and the Public General Hospital, Chatham where she nursed in labour & delivery for 30 years. A Memorial Service in celebration of Ann's life will take place at St. James Presbyterian Church, Chatham at a later date. Cremation with interment in Maple Leaf Cemetery, Chatham. In memory of Ann, donations to St. James Presbyterian Church Memorial Fund would be appreciated. Online condolences may be left at

www.mckinlayfuneral-home.com
McKinlay Funeral Home
459 St. Clair Street,
Chatham, Ontario
(519) 351-2040

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MEMBERSHIP

Membership for all those who last paid prior to January 2004 is now overdue. New or renewed membership for all those whose membership fees are received after 1st February 2005 will now be valid until 1st September 2006.

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 below.

WINTER CASTLE OPENING

The castle will re-open on advertised days in the spring of 2005 - the new programme of open days is included with this newsletter. In the meantime if you wish to see inside (providing sufficient notice is given) or if you wish to arrange a function or hold a meeting at any time please contact -

Dave Killicoat Tel. 07776 445033

e-mail maybole@scotsfamilies.co.uk

Helen McAdam Tel. 01655 884255

or

Murray Cook Tel. 01655 883235

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 2004-5

Hon. President – J. Murray Cook

(Tel. 01655 884235)

Chair – Helen McAdam

(Tel. 01655 884255)

Vice Chair – Arnold Lake

Project Co-ordinator – Dave Killicoat

e-mail maybole@scotsfamilies.co.uk

(Tel. 07776 445033)

Secretary – Vacant

Treasurer – Jack Boyd

9 Kincaig Court, Maybole, KA19 8AQ

Tel. 01655 882109

Members -

Alex Davidson Archie Scobie

Eleanor Jamieson David Kiltie

Mary Henry

DID YOUR RELATIVES EMMIGRATE?



Many people have contacted our Society, mostly through the website, enquiring about their ancestors. Our most recent visitor was the great grand daughter of a Maybole expatriate who moved from the town to Glasgow and one of whose children then emigrated to Canada. Not only was it a great pleasure to welcome her to the Castle, but also her Great Uncle and Aunt because her great Aunt was one of those whose family left Maybole in the 1920's but were one of the very few to return when the great depression meant that circumstances in Canada were no better than those they left behind in their home country.

Scenes such as that shown above (about 1250 people leaving Maybole station on one time to emigrate to Canada) have been repeated throughout the last four centuries when families had to uproot and move to a place that they had only the vaguest image of, but with a hope that the future would be much brighter. The greatest of these emigrations forced by various different circumstances are better known to us as "the clearances".

Very few records were kept in Scotland of the vast number of people who left these shores to seek a better life elsewhere which is why we find that the majority of our enquiries come from those who have traced their ancestors back to Scotland through the records in a number of foreign countries which can actually be exceptionally good and are a major resource for finding those elusive relatives who seem to have disappeared from the scene completely.

It is no longer necessary to travel abroad to see these records as most of them are now freely available via the internet – it is just a case of exploring all the possibilities until you find a possible answer. Websites range from the very good records for Pictou, Nova Scotia containing lists of passengers on named ships from Scotland (mainly the Hebrides) to Nova Scotia during the 18th and 19th centuries at www.rootsweb.com/~pictou/index.htm, to the government records of the USA at www.ellisland.org which gives a free search on surnames for immigrants to America through the main immigration centre at Ellis Island. Records for Australasia are also very good and are usually kept at the government archive covering the port of entry.

Finally, if you have your own story to relate or would like to browse through those of others, a website which came on line in August 2001 and was featured in an article in the "Scots Magazine", www.theclearances.org, is well worth a visit.