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 Killiccoat – “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 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 –
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

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.ellisisland.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.

Maybole Historical Society
All communications to the society may be addressed to the society
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