

MAYBOLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hon President : J. Murray Cook

Newsletter 19 * October, 2002

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

Who's Who and Who's New at the Archives

With the recent move by Huw Pritchard to a more senior post in England, Ayrshire Archives have been suffering from a staff shortage for a few weeks. Happily the situation is now back to normal with two new appointments (*italicised*) and the current staff are as follows:-

Kevin Wilbraham – Archivist

Dr Christine Lodge – Assistant Archivist

Allison Cuningham – Records Manager (South Ayrshire)

Tilly Gilmour – Senior Archives Assistant

Marion Lynch – Archives Assistant

You can contact Ayrshire Archives at Ayrshire Archives Centre, Craigie Estate, Ayr, KA8 0SS Tel. 01292 287584, or on www.ayrshirearchives.org.uk

HISTORY FAIRS

We are already looking forward to next year's local and family history fairs. If you have never been to one before then there are a couple of worthwhile opportunities closer to home in 2003 – **THE GREAT NORTH FAIR**, The New British Local and Family History Fair at Gateshead International Stadium on Saturday 17th September or Fife Family History Fair in Kirkcaldy on 30th August. For a full list and contact details see posters or contact Dave Killicoat.

Next Meeting



**DUNASKIN
HERITAGE CENTRE**

**Presented by
Rob McSporran
Maybole Town Hall
Monday
4th November 2002
7.30 p.m.**

A NEW WEBSITE FOR GRO(S)

(General Register Office
for Scotland)

www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

***At last you really can
research your Scottish
family history from the
comfort of your own home!***

In the past few weeks GRO(S) have launched their new website in partnership with Scotland On Line. For all of you who have used the old Scots Origins site then you will find that the new site represents a tremendous leap into what can be (and is) made available through the medium of the world wide web.

This new facility is so good that it would be difficult to find any criticism at all – unless you are searching for John Smith of unknown age or location. User friendly, comprehensive and with excellent digital reproduction of original material, this pay-to-view site represents excellent value for money.

So what can you get? – Payment of £6.00 for 30 credits must be made by Credit Card (GRO(S) *please note that in England the Public Record Office are making scratch card vouchers available through local archive offices, libraries and Family History Societies!*) and 1 credit = 1 search or 5 credits = 1 original page download. Available are the 1881, 1891 and 1901 Censuses, Births/Christenings and Proclamations/Marriages in the Old Parish Registers 1553-1855, Statutory Births 1855-1901, Marriages 1855- 1926 and Deaths 1855-1951.

***A great facility very well
presented and one of Scotland's
new treasures - and this from one
who has been very critical of
GRO(S) in the past – Ed.***

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St Andrews Day Celebration



At Drumellan House
(By Maybole)



Monday 2nd December
7 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

Dress Informal

Carriages for 10.30 p.m.

ALL WELCOME –

TICKETS £4.00 if purchased
on or before the next meeting
on 4th November, thereafter

£5.00 - NUMBERS
STRICTLY LIMITED

PROGRAMME

RECEPTION

*The Selkirk
Grace*

SUPPER

*Vegetable
Broth, Cullen
Skink or Fruit
Juice
Meat or
Vegetarian
Stovies or
Shepherds Pie*

*Athole Brose or Cranachan
or a selection of Scottish
Cheeses with Oatcakes*

Tea, Coffee, Wine and soft drinks will be provided. If you would prefer something stronger during the evening you are welcome to bring your own – glasses will be provided.

ENTERTAINMENT

*Including Piping,
Singing, Recitation and
Music with a particularly
Scottish Flavour*

DUTY BOUND TO APPEAR!

One way of tracking down those illusive relatives several generations ago could well be to find them in the records of H.M. Customs and Excise. The gaugers were responsible for collecting quite a variety of duties at different times and punctiliously recorded all the monies received on behalf of the Crown. The following list, which is part of the display in the Customs and Excise Museum at Greenock, gives a rough idea of some of the excise duties collected over the years.

<i>Auctions</i>	<i>1777 – 1845</i>	<i>Malt</i>	<i>1697 - 1880</i>
<i>Beer</i>	<i>1643 - 1830, 1880 -</i>	<i>Matches</i>	<i>1916 -</i>
<i>Bricks</i>	<i>1750 – 1850</i>	<i>Paper</i>	<i>1712 - 1861</i>
<i>Candles</i>	<i>1710 - 1832</i>	<i>Patent Medicine</i>	<i>1763 - 1941</i>
<i>Cider</i>	<i>1643 - 1830, 1916 - 23, 1976-</i>		
<i>Dice</i>	<i>1711 - 1862</i>	<i>Plate</i>	<i>1756 - 1777</i>
<i>Entertainments</i>	<i>1916 – 1960</i>	<i>Playing Cards</i>	<i>1711 - 1960</i>
<i>Glass</i>	<i>1695 - 1845</i>	<i>Railway Passengers</i>	<i>1832 - 1929</i>
<i>Hackney Carriages</i>	<i>1662 (became Motor Vehicle Excise Licenses in 1888)</i>	<i>Saccharin</i>	<i>1901 - 1962</i>
<i>Hair Powder</i>	<i>1795 - 1869</i>	<i>Soap</i>	<i>1643 - 1660, 1712 - 1853</i>
Hearths	1662 - 1689	<i>Spirits</i>	<i>1660 -</i>
<i>Leather</i>	<i>1711 - 1861</i>	<i>Windows</i>	<i>1696 - 1851</i>

(plus, of course, the unlawful additional duty payable on spirits taken across the border long after the Union of 1707).

COULD YOUR ANCESTOR BE ON A VOTERS ROLL?

Many people never look for their ancestors on the voters or electoral roll. There is a greater chance of finding someone on these rolls than you might think and women can be found on electoral rolls almost sixty years before the days of universal suffrage.

As a rough guide here are a list of the qualifications required to be allowed to vote :-

Pre 1832	Ownership of Land
1832	Any male adult who leased or owned a habitation worth - long leases £10 p.a./short leases £50 p.a. County franchise 40/- freeholders (urban or rural)
1867	All urban householders County franchise £10 Educational qualification
1870	Women can vote on School Boards
1872	Secret ballot introduced
1875	Women can vote on Poor Law Boards
1881	Women can vote in municipal elections
1884	Equalisation of Burgh and County franchise
1894	Women can vote on Parish Councils
1918	All handicaps removed for males over 21 War veterans can vote from age 19 5 year ban on conscientious objectors Women over 30 get vote in parliamentary elections
1928	Men and women on equal terms
1948	End of plural voting i.e. "one man, one vote"
1971	Age limit reduced to 18

MEMBERSHIP - ALL MEMBERS WHO LAST PAID PRIOR TO 1st FEBRUARY 2002 PLEASE NOTE THAT THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE FOR RENEWAL. Membership is only £10.00 and covers individuals or couples staying in the same household. Anyone in full time education can join the society free of charge. Please send all membership applications (with the appropriate fee) to The Honorary Treasurer at the address overleaf.