

# Paper Treasure! Retrieving the Past!

## Local Heritage Resources in Aberdeenshire



# Curriculum for Excellence: Social Studies

- I can use primary and secondary sources selectively to research events in the past (**SOC 3-01a**)
- I can interpret historical evidence from a range of periods to help to build a picture of Scotland's heritage and my sense of chronology (**SOC 2-02a**)
- I can investigate a Scottish historical theme to discover how past events or the actions of individuals or groups have shaped Scottish society (**SOC 2-03a**)





# Heritage Education Resource Group

- Formed in 2009 by Archives, Local Studies Library, Registrars & Arts Development Team
- Aim of raising awareness of local heritage resources in Aberdeenshire
- CPD Day – run twice with plans to run more in 2012



<http://www.nefa.net/nefajnr>

# Keep Calm and Carry On

Local Heritage  
Resources for World  
War 2





# How can your local Registrar help?



We offer .....

Digital Access to all Scottish registered events from 1855 to more or less the present day,

Digital Access to Old Parish Records,

Digital Access to Census Records,

Access to Burial Ground records (some offices only),

Experienced and helpful staff.

# Search for an Ancestor



## National Records of Scotland

*Preserving the past – Recording the present – Informing the future*

### Registration Office Version

[Census Search](#) | [Birth Search](#) | [Death Search](#) | [Marriage Search](#) | [Civil Partnership Search](#) | [Divorce Search](#) | [OPR Search](#) | [Home Page](#) | [Help](#)

## DEATH - Search Results for 1942

Searching for ages = 0 - 16. All records for this year where age is not recorded in the index will also be returned.

To view the record - click on the appropriate Surname.

Search returned in 0 seconds.  
Your search found 3 records.

Surname	Forename	Age	Mother's Maiden Surname	Reg Year	RDNo/Suffix	Entry No	Registration District Name	Print?
LEITCH	JESSIE MCLEOD	0	-----	1942	037/B	11	Keiss	No
LEITCH	MARY	11	-----	1942	233/00	9	Pitsligo	No
LEITCH	RUBINA JOHNSON	0	-----	1942	685/8	706	Leith	No

Your search found 3 records.

[Search Previous Year](#)

[Search Following Year](#)

[Return to Death Search screen](#)

[Cross check on Female Deaths using two surnames screen](#)

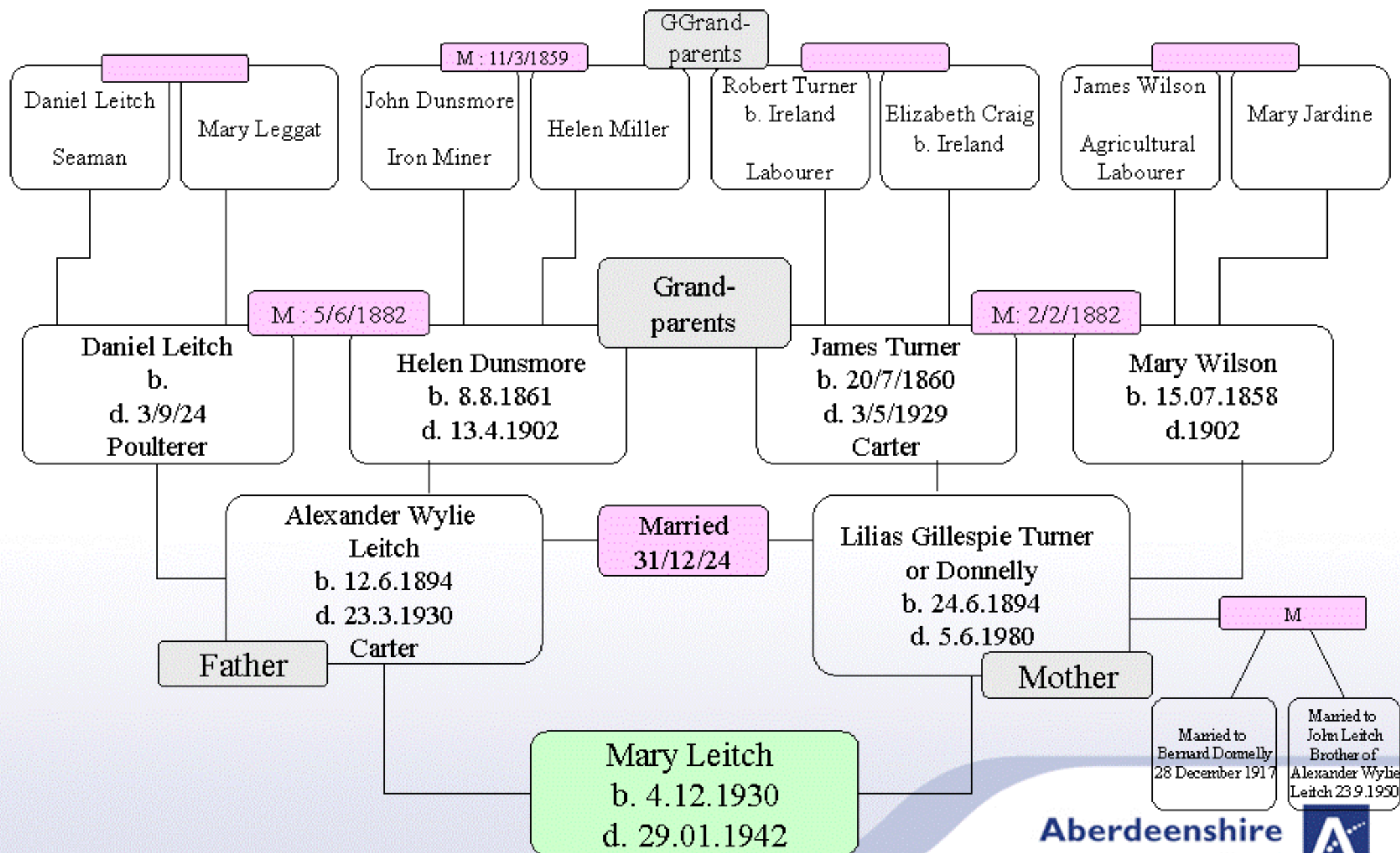


# Register entry for Mary Leitch

		1942	P. 11	Alexander Lylie Leitch, Carter (Deceased) Lily Leitch previously Donnelly M.S. Thomas	Back wounds and Cushing from Was upstair As certified by R. A. Webster, M.B. Ch.B. who examined the dead body.	Lily Leitch Mother 41 Appleby Street Hamilton Hill Glasgow	1942, January 31 <sup>st</sup> Dr. Rosshearty E. G. MacLennan Asst. Registrar. Glasgow
	Mary Leitch	January Twenty Ninth 6.15 AM P.M. Body found at 25. Ridge Street Rocharty, Pitslo Local residence 41 Appleby Street Hamilton Hill Glasgow					

Alex MacLennan..... Registrar.

# Mrs Smith's Family Tree





# Off to the Local Studies Library





# The First Casualty – Newspaper Reports

## Women and Children Killed by Raider

### Eleven Deaths in N.E. Town

Eleven persons—all women and children—were killed when a German plane dropped bombs on a North-East Scottish coastal burgh on Thursday night. Seven others were injured.

The raider first circled the town before dropping his bombs. Two dwelling houses were completely demolished.

Rescue workers and first aid workers were rushed from neighbouring towns and the work of rescue among the ruined buildings continued throughout the night.

The A.R.P. personnel had great difficulties to overcome, but they toiled grimly in order to try to save any who might have been trapped in the wreckage.

The names of the dead are:—Mrs Chalmers and her daughter Norma; Mrs Noble and her children George, William, and Florence, and an evacuee child; Mrs Gunn and James Gunn; Miss Bruce and Miss Dorothy Duncan.

When the raider afterwards approached another town it was met by very heavy anti-aircraft fire and no further incident took place.



# The First Casualty – Newspaper Reports





# Thanks for the Memory – Oral History Accounts

We had to take people from other places in, evacuees. Ours were mostly from Glasgow, there were some mothers with their children and some children on their own. You had to have them if you had any spare rooms in your house. They just went to school along with us. They came off the bus with their gas masks over their shoulders, their baggies in their hands and their name on a placard on their back. They were taken up to school and sorted out there.



## Thanks for the Memory – Oral History Accounts

There was evacuees came up to Rosehearty at the time of the war, came to the country as well, they went to Peathill School from the country. Came up and were supposed to be safe from the raids here but there was a lassie that was evacuated was killed here in the raids. The planes were across here continually.



# Thanks for the Memory – Oral History Accounts

- The night that Rosehearty was hit they were not allowed to fire in case they brought the plane down over the town, they were told to hold their fire. It was a terrible night of snow, the snow was mountains high. Doctor Webster was the first one to get through from Fraserburgh to try to help the injured. There was no injured, everyone was killed. They were all taken up into the school, that was the only day that they were off the school. The bodies were taken down into the Masonic Lodge after that. We had to leave our house because they thought there was an unexploded bomb at the other side of the street but it was a big stone that had been thrown there by the blast. The house that got the hit was completely shattered, nothing left of it. It was terrible. There were three bombs dropped, some in the sea. The Germans said they had sunk the boats in the harbour but it was only little wee boats that was in the harbour. Lord Haw Haw used to speak on the wireless and the night that Rosehearty was bombed he said that they had bombed a village and had sunk all the boats in the har-bour, really it was just little yawls they had sunk.



# Thanks for the Memory – Oral History Accounts

- “Lord Haw Haw used to speak on the wireless and the night that Rosehearty was bombed he said that they had bombed a village and had sunk all the boats in the har-bour, really it was just little yawls they had sunk.”

# A Dig in the Archives

- Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Archives holds archive collections covering the North East of Scotland
- These mostly relate to the local authorities that have operated in the area, but does also include some records from external sources, e.g. families and businesses





# A Dig in the Archives

- Highlights of the collections include records of
  - schools,
  - Victorian poor relief,
  - 19 burghs in Aberdeenshire, and
  - civil defence in Aberdeen County during World War 2



REGISTER OF AIR RAIDS AND ALARMS

DATE 29th January 1942(2)

I. SIGNALS

		TIME
a. Air Raid message	Yellow	
b. Lights warning	Purple	18.23.
c. Action warning	Red	18.30.
d. Cancel action	White	18.56.

II. BOMBS

No. dropped

High Explosive 5.

Medium

Incendiary

Smoke

Delayed action

Unexploded

Poison Gas: Type:-

Machine Gunning

Where dropped 25/21 Pittblip Strat, Rosehearty (3 H.E)  
Harbour, Rosehearty (2 H.E)

Rosehearty.

On village and outside harbour & houses demolished  
others badly damaged. - & small fishing boats  
damaged. - Harbour walls slightly damaged - lighting  
and telephone system broken. - large number of dwelling  
houses damaged - Foodstuffs damaged.

# Aberdeen County Incident Register entry, 29 January 1942

Where dropped 25/21 Pittblip Strat, Rosehearty (3 H.E)  
Harbour, Rosehearty (2 H.E)

Rosehearty.

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# Aberdeen County Register of Civilian Deaths, entry for Mary Leitch

REGISTER OF CIVILIAN DEATHS  
Where Body Claimed and Removed from Mortuary for Burial

No.	Name (Surname first)	Address	DATE OF CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	PLACE { OF DEATH OF FINDING THE BODY	DATE AND HOUR { OF DEATH OF FINDING THE BODY	SEX	PROBABLE AGE	CAUSE OF DEATH
103	Leitch, Mary	Do	Do	Do	a) 29/1/42 6-40pm b) 29/1/42 7-5pm	F.	11 years	Do

DUE TO WAR OPERATIONS  
by Friends who have Registered the Death with the Registrar

NAME OF RELATIVE OR FRIEND IDENTIFYING BODY AND REMOVING IT FOR BURIAL	ADDRESS	DETAILED IDENTIFICATION BY RELATIVE OR FRIEND AS TO THE RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED	SEXUAL IDENTITY MALE OR FEMALE	DATE OF FURNISHING OF PHOTOGRAPH IF ANY	MORTUARY TO WHICH BODY TAKEN	CLOTHING AND EFFECTS—How DESCRIBED	REMARKS
Mrs. Lily Leitch	141 APPLEY STREET, CLISSON	Her Daughter			Do		Do



# The Best Days of our lives? School Log Books

The arrival of evacuees at Rosehearty School, August to September 1939

Aug 31 Telegram from Area Clerk to close school on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Sept - national emergency. Evacuation to begin then.

Sept 8. School closed since 1<sup>st</sup> Sept to allow of evacuation plans to be carried through.

Sept 11 Local scholars met at 9.30 am, Glasgow evacuees of school age at 10.30 to arrange for school work to proceed on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>.

Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> Air-raid warning given - 11.40 am - 12.20 p.m. - school carried on.

Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> Air-raid warning from 11.5 a.m. - 11.55 a.m.

Air-raid warnings at Peathill School, November 1940



# The Best Days of our lives? School Log Books

June 11<sup>th</sup> Police Constable, Roseheartly, inspected gas-masks this afternoon.

Gas-mask checks at Peathill School, June 1941

Fixing the Harvest break in the Roseheartly School year of 1943.

9. 8. 43 After consultation with Mr A.W. Taylor Philorth, Member of the Agneal. Execut. Mr Geo Walker Mr Sandison Sandhaven, it was decided to fix the harvest

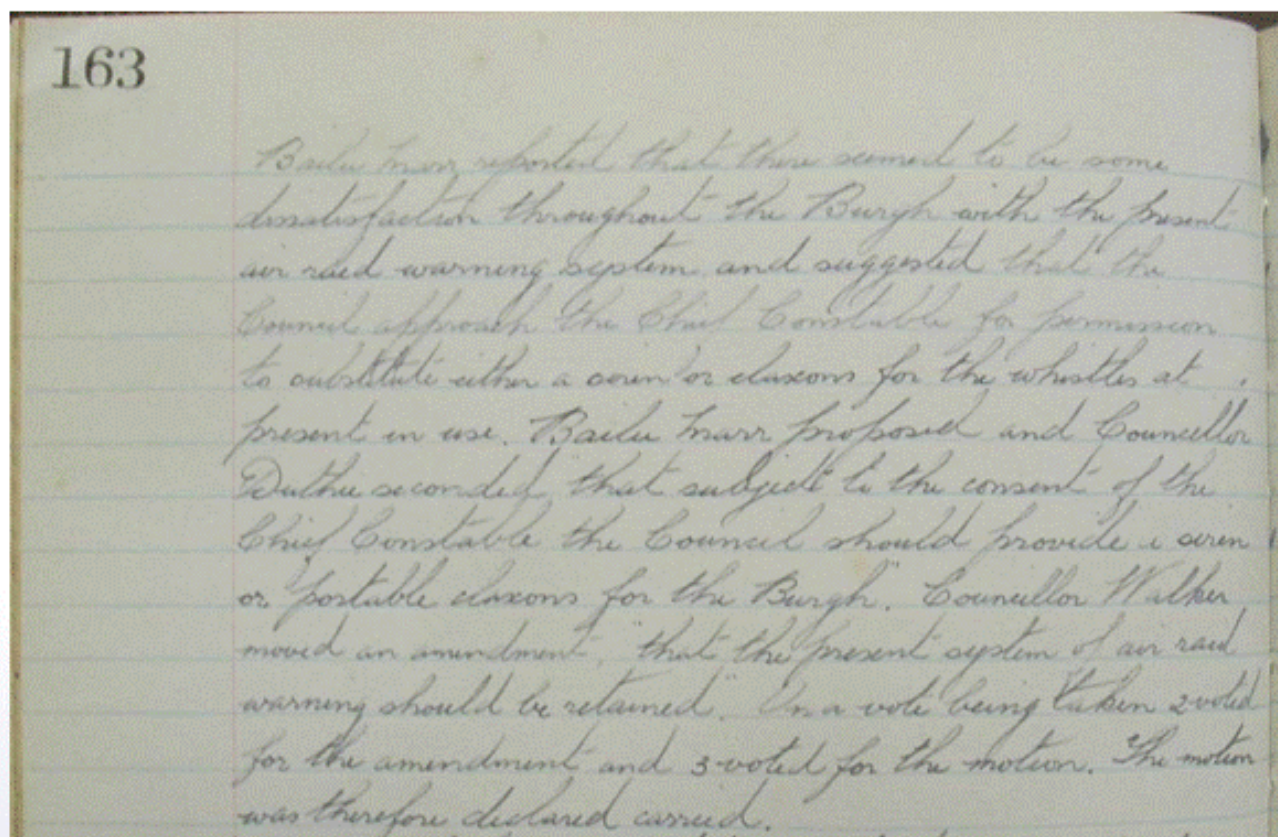
359  
break of 4 wks from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Aug to Frid. Sept 10<sup>th</sup> and the potato break from 20<sup>th</sup> Sept to Frid. 15<sup>th</sup> Oct.

10. 9. 43 End of 4 weeks holiday for "harvest play".



# Just a minute...Council Minutes

A motion  
about  
upgrading the  
air-raid  
warning  
system in  
Rosehearty, 4  
March 1941

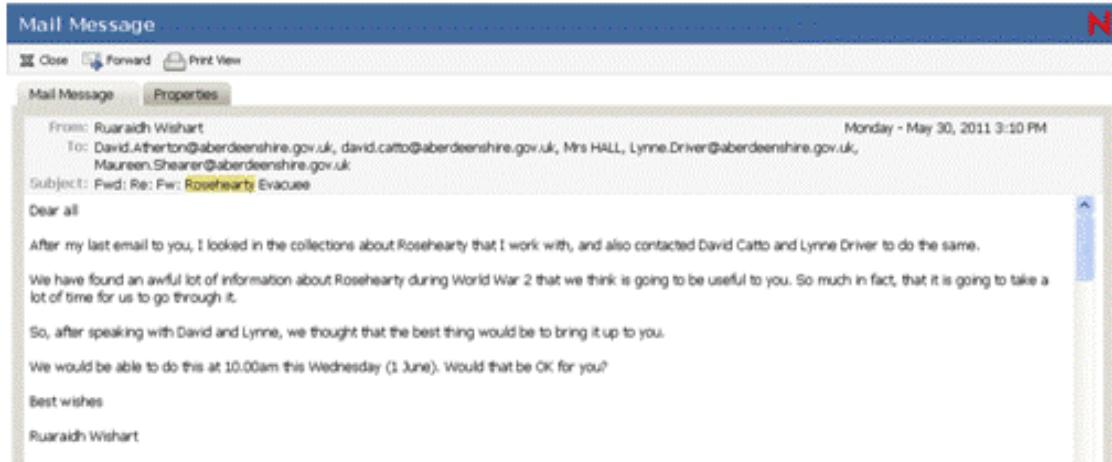




## Other sources

- Glasgow City Archives – School Log Books for Saracen School, Quarrybrae School and Dundas Vale School
- Glasgow City Council Website re Evacuation -  
<http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/en/Residents/Libraries/Collections/Blitz/Evacuation/>

# How the story was used



## Mary's Tragedy

Miss Newlands came into our class and asked us a very unexpected question. She asked us if we would investigate a young girl who lived in Rosehearty during World War Two. The girl was called "Poor Mary" and Miss Newland's friend wanted to find what happened to her. We answered with a definite yes.

Mary was evacuated from Glasgow, 41 Appleby Street on Hamilton Hill, to Rosehearty during World War Two.

At six forty pm, on Thursday the twenty-ninth of January 1942, five highly explosive bombs were dropped on Rosehearty. The harbour wall and two fishing boats were damaged. More importantly, one of the bombs hit 25/27 Pitsligo Street. Mary was playing there with the Noble children. Her death was registered on the thirty-first of January, 1942.

Another ten people died that night. Dorothy Duncan, fourteen, went to see her friend Peggy Noble. Dorothy was killed and Peggy was seriously injured. Peggy stayed with her aunt, Mrs Chalmers, who had a four year old daughter who was killed. She also had a baby, who was rescued unharmed, from a bombed house.





# Where can you find more?

Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Archives  
Old Aberdeen House  
Dunbar Street  
Aberdeen  
AB24 3UJ  
T: 01224 481775  
E: [archives@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:archives@aberdeencity.gov.uk)  
W: [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/archives](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/archives)

Aberdeenshire Council Registrars - Huntly  
25 Gordon Street  
Huntly  
AB54 8AN  
T: 01466 794488  
E: [huntly.registrar@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:huntly.registrar@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Local Studies Department  
Aberdeenshire Libraries  
Meldrum Meg Way  
The Meadows Industrial Estate  
Oldmeldrum  
AB51 0GN  
T: 01651 871219  
E: [local.studies@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:local.studies@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

**This presentation will be available  
at the NEFA Junior website**

**<http://www.nefa.net/nefajnr>**

# Any questions?





# Who was this Man?

