



THE BIG NAME HUNT!



BACKGROUND

Girlguiding Scotland is working with Women's History Scotland and Glasgow Women's Library to record memorials to women in Scotland. There are lots of memorials to men but very few to women, not because women haven't made history but because often women were overlooked in society. Well, we're here to put the record straight! We want you to find out about women in your area who have made a difference in some way and who have a memorial in some form. It might be a statue, a plaque, a building, a memorial window, a bridge, a street, or something else entirely. Members of Girlguiding Scotland will be key to this project to create a national record of memorials to women in Scotland,

and will be a vital part of the collecting process for what will become a publicly available national record.

It might take a bit of digging but we're sure you are up to the challenge! We probably know quite a lot about Mary King and her Close (Edinburgh) but do we know why Grannie Clark had a Wynd (St. Andrews) named after her? Or perhaps there might be a memorial to covenanting women? And what about Captain Betsy Miller from Saltcoats? What's in your area? Did you have a female social reformer, or a medical pioneer? Let's shine a spotlight on these women and make sure their contribution is recognised.



Famous Scottish Women
Flora Drummond



WHAT DO WE DO?

We want you to try activities from each section. There is no limit to the number of challenges you can do but Rainbows should complete at least 1 challenge from each section, Brownies at least 5 challenges across the four sections, Guides should have a minimum of 6 challenges and Senior Section a minimum of 7 challenges. We hope the Trefoil Guild will also want to be involved.

These are unit activities so if someone is absent one week it doesn't mean they miss out. Once the unit has completed the challenges and recorded the information on the database, you can buy badges by contacting Val Clark via SHQ or emailing val_clark@btinternet.com



SECTION 1: CHOOSING A LOCAL WOMAN.

Think about who can help you in your area. Is there a Local History Society, a librarian, genealogist, Local Authority archivist or a County Guiding archivist?

- Arrange a visit with someone from the wider community who can help with ideas for you to research.
- Register with Girlguiding Scotland by Email:

Linda@girlguiding-scot.org.uk

The Leader will then be given access to the database where you will find guidelines to help you.

There is a list at the end of this article of websites and places where you can find help and ideas. Once you've chosen the woman you want to research or the memorial you want to find out about, try some activities to help the girls to appreciate what life was like for your chosen subject.

SECTION 2: ACTIVITIES.

These are only some ideas of things you might do. The activities you choose to do will depend on who you are finding out about.

- Hold a Suffragette Tea Party and make banners.
- Have an evening where you dress as famous women and tell the others in your unit about your character.
- Write letters as if you were the woman in history lobbying your MP for the cause you are fighting for.
- War Time Working: Be a Land Girl and plant a vegetable garden.
- Invite someone from the Land Army or a munitions factory to come and tell you about their work.
- Missionaries: find out about what they do by inviting one along to your unit. You might be surprised!
- Design a commemorative stamp or coin for your chosen woman.
- The Skye Boat Song marks the escape of Charles Edward Stewart with the help of Flora MacDonald. Write a poem or song about a famous Scottish woman.
- Have a discussion about fame. What makes someone famous? Do you want to be famous? What could you do, in what field?
- Streets are often named after well known people. Think up street names for everyone in your unit e.g. Brown Owl Avenue! If you live in a small town you could draw the street map with your new street names on it. Your town will never look the same to you again!
- Visit an art gallery and look for portraits of famous Scottish women. Ask the education officer to tell you about them.
- Visit a local memorial and take photographs.
- Find out about the memorial: who designed it, what is written on it, when was it erected and by whom? What can you add?

SECTION 3: PUTTING WOMEN ON THE MAP.

This is the crucial part!

- Record your findings on the database so that we can have a clearer picture of memorials to women in Scotland.

Visit www.womenofscotland.org.uk or follow the link from the Girlguiding Scotland website www.girlguidingscotland.org.uk. You can upload your photographs of the memorial to the database too. (Don't

worry if there is not a physical memorial for your famous woman - you can still record the information you have found.) There is also a blog where you can share information and if another unit is working on the same person you can use the blog to compare notes as you go along. You might also get some tips and hints here from the entries others have made.



Women's History
SCOTLAND

SECTION 4: SHARING WHAT YOU FOUND OUT.

- Invite parents to your unit meeting and tell them about what you did.
- Make a display in your local library or in a shop window about what you did.
- Produce a newsletter or leaflet and send it to the people who helped you and to parents
- If you have a Unit website or blog, post your adventures and findings on there.
- Devise a walking trail around your area, highlighting all the places with connections to famous (or even not so famous) women.
- Contact the local newspaper to share what you found out with your community.

HOW DOES THIS FIT WITH THE WIDER PROGRAMME?

Rainbows - choose activities for Look, Learn, Laugh and Love.

Brownies - you might complete clauses for the Hostess Badge, Gardener's badge, Writer's badge and the Community part of your programme.

Guides - have a look at the Culture badge, Go For It Blast from the Past. If you complete 6 Challenges, this can replace a 'Go For It'.

Senior Section – you may cover parts of the Octants for Personal Values, Independent Living, Community Action and Fit for Life.



Famous Scottish Women **Elsie Ingles**



SOURCES OF HELP

- Tourist Boards: literature and websites.
- Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow have published trails which you can use to start your research.
- Aberdeen has put up plaques to women, and these can be found on the Council website.
- 'The Biographical Dictionary of Scottish Women' is a key resource, and can be borrowed from the library. This contains references to some memorials which can be entered on the database.
- If you need funding to help you with your activities, look at the **Cashback for Communities scheme** on the GGS website. You may be eligible for a programme grant to help with costs etc. You can apply for up to £2000 for equipment, travel, promotional material etc.
- www.womenslibrary.org.uk
- www.rcahms.gov.uk - RCAHMS in Edinburgh holds the National Monuments Record of Scotland. Could your unit arrange a visit and ask them for help?
- www.scotlandspplaces.gov.uk - This provides online access to RCAHMS and National Archives of Scotland sources. It includes photographs, maps and histories of buildings and our built environment, and it should have online information on statues and memorials.
- www.womenslib.org/index_files/Page310.htm - The sister website provides a comprehensive list of contemporary and later sources for the study of the Scottish campaign for votes for women, c1870 to 1920.
- www.scan.org.uk - Online catalogue to holdings of 50 Scottish archival repositories - this describes what they have and will also have archivist's contacts details for most of the local archive services throughout Scotland.
- www.scran.ac.uk - see your library for free access
- www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archon/?source=ddmenu_search2 - The contact details for all archives in the UK can be accessed here.
- http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/learning/education_unit/free-education-visits.htm - will arrange free visits to some properties. See the website for more info.



**GLASGOW
WOMEN'S
LIBRARY**