



Monthly Database Challenge Famous People Born on St. Valentines Day

For this month's challenge you are required to write about a famous person using the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography database as your source of information. However, there are three requirements for those taking part in this challenge:

- You must source the information using your **branch library computers** or from a personal computer
- Your biography summary must be between 250 and 500 words long
- The person you are writing about must have been born on the 14th February

Hand your completed biography, along with your contact details into your local library or email it to yps@aberdeenshire.gov.uk by 17th March. You might win a prize!

How to access the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

From the library database page -

http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/libraries/online_services/index.asp

Select 'Oxford Dictionary of National Biography' from the listing.

If you are using your branch library select the '**Library Access**' link.

An illustrated collection of more than 57,000 specially written biographies of the men and women from around the world who shaped all aspects of Britain's past.

Library Access: Any library computer. No user name and password required

Home Access: Enter your membership number at Library Card Login and click on Go.

If you are using your computer at home or out with the branch select the '**Home Access**' link and input your library card number when prompted.

Using the 'more search options' feature

The '**more search option**' enables you to refine your search; this includes searching for specific dates in history. Select the '**date, place, and occupation**' link.

More search options:

[full text](#) | [date](#), [place](#), [occupation](#) | [image](#) | [more ...](#)

Refine your search by using the drop down

menu options (see example below).

For the purpose of this example the **'field of interest'** has been left as **'Any'**, **sex** as **'All'**, **'Birth'** has been selected from the **'Event'** menu and the date required is **'14th February'**.

The screenshot shows a search interface with the following sections and annotations:

- Name:** Search box with a link to "See More Name Options".
- Fields of Interest:** A dropdown menu set to "Any". An arrow points from the text "field of interest" to this dropdown.
- Sex:** Radio buttons for "All" (checked), "Female", "Male", and "Family / Group". An arrow points from the text "sex as 'All'" to the "All" radio button.
- Life Dates:** Fields for "Year" and "Month" with "in or from:" and "to:" labels. Radio buttons for "Alive" and "Active".
- Places, Dates, Life Events:** A dropdown menu set to "Birth". An arrow points from the text "'Birth' has been selected from the 'Event' menu" to this dropdown. Below it are fields for "Year", "Day" (set to "14"), and "Month" (set to "February"). An arrow points from the text "date required is '14th February'" to the "14" and "February" dropdowns. A "Place" field contains "Scotland".
- Religious Affiliation:** Fields for "Faith" and "Denomination or group", both set to "Any".
- Image:** A checkbox for "Presence of an illustration".
- Text Search:** A search box and a dropdown menu set to "Complete text".

At the bottom, there are radio buttons for "Exact", "All words", and "Any words".

Click **'search'**. You will now be provided with a list of famous people born on the 14th February throughout history.

Now that you are familiar with the database you can now conduct your own search to find a person in history born on the 14th February that you would like to write about.

Good luck.