

A
BRIEF SKETCH
OF THE
HISTORY
OF THE
SOUTH SHIELDS
VOLUNTEER LIFE BRIGADE,



*Presented to the Members on the occasion
of Re-opening the Watch House, December
28th, 1875.*

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PRESENTED TO THE MEMBERS ON THE OCCASION OF RE-OPENING THE
WATCH HOUSE DECEMBER 28TH 1875

SOUTH SHIELDS

Printed by G Nicholson 22 Barrington Street

1876

OFFICERS

Captains

MR W.CAY.
MR S. COTTEW

MR. M. CAY, Jun.
MR. T. G. MABANE.

Deputy Captains

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MR. R. BELL

MR.J. T. WHITE
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MR G. R. POTTS

REPORT

It is just 10 years since the Life Brigade was established, and we have thought it not inappropriate on this occasion to give a brief sketch of the history. In doing so we cannot hope to say anything with which most of you are not already familiar, but still it will serve to refresh our memories and nerve us to dare and do in the future as we have tried to do in the past. This account being necessarily of a somewhat personal character to a great many of us, it is clothed in much more modest language than perhaps it deserves.

In December, 1865, a few gentlemen met together to talk over the desirability of having a Life Brigade at South Shields, formed on the model of that at Tynemouth, which has the honour of being the first to be established in the country, our own being second. In January, 1866, a Petition was presented to the then Mayor (Mr. Moffet), who called a Public Meeting to consider the matter.

This was Held in the Town Hall, January 15th, when resolutions favourable to the movement were passed.

I will make two quotations from speeches made on that occasion.

The Mayor said, "I think there can only be one opinion as to the desirability and the necessity of forming such a Brigade, and I am sure the Town which originated the Life Boat will not be slow in adopting any further facilities or plan that may be suggested for the preservation of life from shipwreck."

Mr. Ingham M.P. in seconding the resolution, said, "I do so with a sincere feeling of gratitude towards those gentlemen in this town who have taken a prominent part in calling this meeting together, and in making the preparations for the formation of the Life Brigade. I do think that no place can more appropriately take up this movement than South Shields, situated as it is at the mouth of the river Tyne, and where the first great enterprise was undertaken for the rescue of life from shipwreck by means of the life boat. Now that improvements have been made in other apparatus introduced for the same purpose, I think it quite appropriate that we should take a prominent part in forming such a supplementary establishment to the life boat as a Volunteer Life Brigade." About 140 offered them-selves as Brigadesmen and their services were accepted by the Board of Trade, January 31st, 1866.

The first Rocket Drill took place February 17th, and in April we attended the first shipwreck, winning our spurs and saving the lives of 7 people including a woman and her baby, which incident forms the subject of the picture you see hanging on the wall.

In November other 4 people were brought ashore.

In 1867	19
1868	15
1869	12
1870	10
1871	9
1873	2
1874	10

Making a total of 88 lives saved from 17 vessels.

We have had to attend many more wrecks than these the crews of which were saved chiefly by our gallant brethren the Life boat men. The first winter was long and severe and it was soon found necessary to have a shelter for the Members.

The Public subscribed liberally and a “Watch-House” was built consisting of two-thirds of the present Room, and the Porch outside. The next year it was resolved to provide accommodation for Shipwrecked crews, instead of having to send them, often very much exhausted, into the Town. Accordingly a room was added containing bed berths, bath, clothing, and other appliances for their comfort. This year a further extension designed by the Honorary Secretary has been made, viz:—lengthening this room by 18 feet, and also adding a look-out above, from which we get a more extended range seaward, the two being connected by a circular stair. We must here express our sincere thanks to the Board of Trade and those gentlemen who have so liberally subscribed to these alterations, and whose names are appended.

We have always tried to carry the sympathies of the Public along with us, and from time to time as on this interesting occasion, a few gentlemen who manifest an interest in the work of the Brigade, have been asked to join us in our social gatherings. We are indebted to many kind friends for helping us through our financial difficulties, and we hope this will always be the case, and that the Life Brigade will be one of the permanent institutions of the Town, and together with the life boat be the means of saving the lives of Shipwrecked mariners in all times to come.

Ten years bring many changes, and several of those who helped to found this Brigade: such as Mr. Ingham M.P., Mr. Salmon, Mr. Moffett, Mr. Maxwell, Dr. Stokoe, and others have all passed away, as well as many more who closely identified themselves with us as working members.

Such is a brief outline of the past decade, which includes many a stormy night, many a heartrending scene, and many a "God bless you my fine fellows," from those who have been rescued from a watery grave.

There are few Institutions of a more honourable nature than a Volunteer Life Brigade. Such organizations as these are the glory of our country, they raise us pre-eminently among the nations of the earth, they are the outcome of that Christianity in which we all believe, they partake of the nature of Him who has taught us to love our neighbour as ourselves, and I trust that as generation succeeds generation the same impulses that animate us will stimulate the men of South Shields not to be behind then: forefathers in deeds of humanity.

S. MALCOLM,

HONORARY SECRETARY.

List of Subscriptions

	£	s	d	£	s	d
Board of Trade				200	0	0
Bishop of Durham (per Rev. T. H. Chester)				25	0	0
Collected by Mr. W. Cay.						
Mr. H. Nelson	5	0	0			
Messrs Borries Craig & Co	5	0	0			
Hunter & Erickson	5	0	0			
Mr. J. Joicey	5	0	0			
Mr. H. Coxon	2	2	0			
Mr.S. H. Frazer	2	2	0			
Mr. M. Havelock	2	2	0			
Mr. H. Chapham	1	1	0			
Mr. T. Nelson	1	1	0			
Mr. W.Swanson	1	1	0			
Carried over	29	9	0	225	0	0

	£.	s	d	£	s	d
Brought over	29	9	0	225	0	0
Mr. W. J. V. Haansbergen	1	0	0			
Messrs. A. Harris & Company	1	1	0			
Mr. Adolphus Harrison	1	1	0			
Messrs. Pyman Bell & Co.	1	1	0			
Mr. Stout	1	1	0			
Mr. Ridley	1	1	0			
Mr. J. L. Bell	1	1	0			
Messrs. Rennoldson & Capper	1	1	0			
Mr. C. W. Rose	1	1	0			
Mr. Addison Potter	1	1	0			
Mr. J. L. Hall	1	1	0			
Mr. T. Harper	1	1	0			
Messrs. J. Foster & Co.	1	1	0			
Mr. J. Ridley	1	0	0			
Messrs. J. & J. Scott	1	1	0			
				45	2	0
Collected by T. G. Mabane						
St. Hildas Lodge of Freemasons	10	10	0			
The Mayor of South Shields J. Broughton Esq.	5	0	0			
Mr. J. M. Moore	5	0	0			
Mr. Ed. Moore	5	0	0			
Messrs Duncan & Duncan	3	3	0			
Messrs L. Wright & Son	2	2	0			
Mr. Jacques Grunhut	2	0	0			
Mr. W. Black	2	0	0			
Mr. Jos Eltringham	2	0	0			
Mr. T. T. Dale	1	11	6			
Mr. W. H. Bell	1	11	6			
Mr. J. H. Dickenson	1	1	0			
Mr. J. Strachan	0	10	6			
				41	9	6
Collected by Mr Hobson						
Mr. R. S. Donkin West Stanley, Colliery Company	5	0	0			
Messrs Lindsay, Gracie & Co.	3	3	0			
Messrs Wright, Fawcett & Waugh	3	3	0			
Messrs Hutchinson and McIntyre	2	2	0			
Messrs Davidson & Charlton	1	1	0			
Messrs Barras Brothers	1	1	0			
Messrs J. Metcalfe & Co.	1	1	0			
Messrs Geo. Bell & Co.	1	1	0			
Mr. J Nicholson	1	1	0			
Carried over	20	15	0	311	11	6

Brought over	20 15 0	311 11 6
Burnhope Colliery Co.	1 1 0	
Messrs J Hall & Co.	1 1 0	
Mr. J. O. Scott	1 1 0	
Messrs W. F. Taylor & Co.	1 1 0	
East Hollywell Colliery Co.	1 1 0	
Mr. W. Dickenson	1 1 0	
Mr. C. Hassell	1 1 0	
Broomhill Colliery Co	1 1 0	
Mickley Coal Co.	1 1 0	
Weardale Iron & Coal Co.	1 1 0	
Messrs A. C. Houen & Co.	1 1 0	
Mr. J. White Jun.	0 10 6	
Mr. M. J. Pelegrin	0 10 6	
Mr. T. E. White	0 10 6	
Mr. W. A. Brown	0 10 6	
Mr. Geo. N	0 10 6	
A Friend	0 10 6	
Mrs. R. W. Thompson	0 10 6	
Messrs T. Danzinger & Co.	0 10 0	
Mr. J. Appleton	0 10 0	
C	0 1 0	
		37 11 0
Collected by Mr T. A. Wilson		
Messrs Wilson & Bain	2 2 0	
Mr C. F. Shotton	1 1 0	
Mr Thos. Coulson	1 1 0	
Mr Jno Edgar	1 1 0	
Mr B. Williamson	1 1 0	
Mr James Edgar	1 1 0	
Mr Mackay & Co.	1 1 0	
A Friend	1 1 0	
Miss S. B. Nevins Cheltenham	1 1 0	
Mr T. B. Baker	1 1 0	
Mr J. P. Wardle	1 1 0	
Mr Jas Pollard	1 0 0	
Mr Jno. Salmon	1 0 0	
Mr J. Dickson	1 0 0	
Mr W. Glover	10 6	
Mr J. H. Haggett	10 6	
Mr R. B. Peverley	10 6	
Miss M. Knox	1 0 0	
Mr James Scott	10 0	
Mr W. Emmett	10 0	
Mr Rich. Robson		
Carried over	19 13 6	349 2 6

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought over	19	13	6	349	2	6
Mr Henry Baker	0	10	0			
Rev. R. M. Herdman	0	10	0			
Mr James Kirkley	0	10	0			
Mr Wm. Weaterburn	0	10	0			
Mr R. E. Thompson	0	5	0			
Mr J. G. Swan	0	5	0			
Mr James Campbell	0	5	0			
Mr R M Gallon	0	5	0			
Mr M Hodgson	0	2	6			
Mr John Robson	0	2	6			
Mr W. M. Byrne	0	2	6			
Mr Henry Briggs	0	2	6			
				23	3	6
Collected by Mr. M. Cay Jun.						
Messrs Hall, Blenkinsop & Co.	5	0	0			
Messrs Scott Brothers	5	0	0			
Messrs Dixon & Corbett	1	1	0			
Messrs Wallace & Laurie	1	1	0			
Mr Henry Strachan	1	1	0			
Mr T Dunford	1	1	0			
Mr J. C. Brooks	1	1	0			
				15	5	0
Collected Mr J. T. White						
Mr S. Gearey	0	10	0			
Mr A Keys	0	10	0			
Mr O E Anderson	0	10	0			
Mr G Whatley	0	10	0			
An Admirer of Bravery	0	10	0			
Mr Robt. Bain	0	7	6			
Mr W. Mallot	0	5	0			
Mr T. W. Stephenson	0	5	0			
Mr Geo. Wood	0	5	0			
				3	12	6
Collected Mr G. R. Potts						
A Friend	1	1	0			
G. P.	1	1	0			
Mr J. Cross	0	5	0			
Mr J. Kimber	0	5	0			
Mr A. Alen	0	2	6			
Mr J. G.	0	2	0			
Mr T. L.	0	2	0			
				2	18	6
Mr Siddall, Alhambra				7	6	0
TOTAL				401	8	0

Abstract of Treasurer's Account. Enlarging Watch House, 1875

Receipts.	£ s. d.	Expenditure	£ s. d.
Donation from Board of Trade	200 0 0	Messrs. Marshall, Guest Co., Timber	27 11 3
Donation From the Bishop of Durham (per Rev. T. H. Chester)	25 0 0	Mr G. S. Cassels, Timber	88 0 0
Donation from Mr. Siddall	7 6 0	Mr J. Frazer, Contractor	109 0 0
Collected by Mr. W. Cay	45 2 0	Messrs J. L. Hall and Son, Plumbing and Hardware	86 0 0
Collected by Mr. T. G. Mabane	41 9 6	Messrs Garbutt and Jameson, Painting	33 10 0
Collected by Mr Hobson	37 11 0	Messrs J. Christie and Son, slating	6 10 0
Collected by Mr. T. A. Wilson	23 3 6	Messrs J. Moralee and Son, Iron Work	2 10 0
Collected by Mr. M. Cay Jun.	15 5 0	Tyne Commissioners, Foundations and Iron Work	15 19 7
Collected by Mr. J. T. White	3 12 6	Mr W. Rippon Drain Pipes	0 14 8
Collected by Mr G. R. Potts	2 18 6	Messrs Foreman and Stoker, Rope	1 15 3
		Mr. B. Birch	3 5 0
		Bank Interest	1 7 6
		Balance carried to General Expenses Account	25 4 0
	401 8 0		401 8 0

A Set of New Lamps, value £30, Presented by Missions to Seamen, per Mr. H. N. Sullivan, Esq; Rev. P. H. Moore, and J. W. Cudworth Esq

An Anemometer, value £5 presented by Archibald Stevenson, Esq.

A powerful Telescope value £20, Presented by E. B. Railton, Esq.