

Transcript of the annual reports and
suppers as reported in the local press

Annual Reports for 1880's of South Shields Volunteer LifeBrigade

1880 to 1889

Always Ready est. 1866

Contents

ANNUAL MEETING 23rd of July 1880	2
ANNUAL MEETING 18 th of July 1881.....	5
ANNUAL MEETING 21 st of July 1882.....	9
ANNUAL MEETING 10 th of July 1883.....	13
ANNUAL MEETING 6 th of July 1884.....	17
ANNUAL MEETING 3 rd of July 1885.....	20
ANNUAL MEETING 2 nd of July 1886	22
ANNUAL MEETING 7 th of July 1887.....	25
ANNUAL MEETING 6 th of July 1888.....	28
ANNUAL MEETING 5 th of July 1889.....	31
ANNUAL SUPPER December 1880.....	33
ANNUAL SUPPER December 1881.....	34
ANNUAL SUPPER 1882	37
ANNUAL SUPPER 1883	38
ANNUAL SUPPER 1884	39
ANNUAL SUPPER January 1885.....	40
ANNUAL SUPPER January 1886.....	43
ANNUAL SUPPER January 1887.....	44
ANNUAL SUPPER January 1888.....	48
ANNUAL SUPPER January 1889.....	50

SOUTH SHIELDS VOLUNTEER LIFE BRIGADE

ANNUAL MEETING 23rd of July 1880

The fourteenth annual meeting of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade was held last night in the Watch House on the South Pier. Mr Ald. Glover, J.P., occupied the chair, and amongst those present were Mr J. L. Hall, J.P., Mr W. Cay, Capt. Johnson, R.N., Commander of the Coastguard, Sunderland District; Mr S. Malcolm, hon. sec, Mr Stephen Cottew, A. Whitelaw, Mr T. Watkins, Mr J. Robinson Mr R. B. Peverley, Mr T. Brown, Mr R. Gover, Mr W. E. Moffett, Mr T. A. Wilson, Mr J. Wood, Mr T. Coulson, Mr J. E. Smith, Mr R. Bell, Mr G. Hanray, Mr G. R. Potts, Mr J. W. Buckland, J. Reay, Mr M. C. Cowan, Mr J. Hopper. Mr G. Hart, chief officer of South Shields; Mr J. Latter, chief officer of coast guard, Tynemouth, and others.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and confirmed. Letters of apology for absence were read from the Rev. Canon Chester, Vicar of South Shields; Ald. J. F. Spence, Tynemouth Volunteer Life Brigade; Dr Crease, hon. surgeon to the brigade; Henry Nelson, J.P., and T. G. Mabane. The Chairman said he had been requested to apologise for the absence of the Mayor (Mr Ald. Readhead), who was prevented from being present owing having a prior engagement.

Mr S. Malcolm (the hon. secretary) read the committee's report, which stated that the most important event in the history of the brigade during the past year was the wreck of the brig. Thomas and Elizabeth, of Sunderland, on Monday, February 16th, 1880. During a strong gale from the SE with a very high sea, and about 6 30 p.m., the above vessel was observed to be too close in shore to weather the South Pier, and shortly after she came to the ground about 50 yards south of the pier. Signals were at once made for the guns to be fired, and the apparatus taken down. Three rockets were sent over the vessel, but a succession of heavy seas broke her up in very few minutes, leaving no chance for the crew, whom, they regretted to say, were all drowned. Searching parties went along the beach the hope of saving some who might wash ashore, but without success. Early next morning the whole of the bodies, six in number, were found together on the north side of the South Pier. Financially, the brigade improved its position. The last report showed deficiency of £78 3s 1 s. 1 1/2d, and they had since expended £50 12s 10d. To meet this outlay many kind friends had come forward to help them, as would be seen from the balance sheet, so that they were able to begin another year with the debt reduced to £9 9s 2d. It is four years since the Watch House was painted, and arrangements had been made to get this done once, a cost of about £20. On the 23rd of December last the members attended an amateur performance at the Theatre Royal for the benefit of the widows and orphans of some pilots who were drowned at sea. Half the proceeds was offered to the brigade, but the committee thought it would be better for the whole to go to the widows and orphans. They had had to fix a new boiler in the bath room, and an additional coil of pipes in the drying closet, which had proved a success, and the whole arrangement now in good working order. The committee desired to thank the friends who had subscribed so liberally, and they also thanked Captain Johnson, R.N., and the officers of coastguard stationed at South Shields for the care and

attention they give to the rocket apparatus that it may be in perfect working order when required.

Mr W. Cay moved that the report be adopted, printed, and circulated amongst the members of the brigade, and remarked that, notwithstanding the depressed state of trade, they had removed a great debt, which last year seemed to appal everyone connected with the brigade.

Mr T. A. Wilson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr Malcolm next read the financial statement. It shewed that the subscriptions had amounted to £119 7s 7d, including £40 from the Board of Trade, £20 from the Tyne Lifeboat Fund, and £1 17s 1 1/2d from the box at the Watch House. The disbursements amounted to £128 16s 9 1/2d, including £78 3s 11 1/2d, balance due treasurer at last annual meeting, and £19 for new heating apparatus, leaving a balance due the treasurer of £9 9s 2d. Mr Malcolm said that since the balance sheet was drawn up he had received a cheque for five guineas from the Mayor of South Shields. (Hear, hear, and applause.)

Mr A. Whitelaw moved the adoption of the balance sheet, and said it must be gratifying to all the members of the brigade to know that they were gradually getting clear of debt. (Hear, hear.)

Mr J. Wood seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr S. Cottew moved the re-appointment of Dr Crease, as honorary surgeon of the Brigade, and said he was glad that there had been so little work for the doctor to do during the past year.

Mr T. Coulson seconded the motion, and remarked that Dr Crease was most painstaking and attentive officer of the brigade.

The motion was carried by acclamation.

On the motion of Mr T. A. Wilson, seconded by Mr Bell, a vote of thanks was awarded to the Harton Coal Company for gratuitously supplying the Brigade with coals, which they had done since the commencement the institution.

Votes of thanks were also given to the proprietors of the various daily newspapers for supplying a copy of their papers daily for the use of the members when assembled in the Watch House.

It was resolved to memorialize the Council in favour of providing a new public mortuary for the borough, and the Chairman undertook to present the memorial.

The following was the result of the election of officers for the ensuing year —
Captains: Messrs W. Cay, S. Cottew, Cay, and T. G. Mabane. Deputy-captains Messrs A. Whitelaw, J. Wood, T. Watkins, and T. Coulson. Hon. secretary and treasurer S. Malcolm, unanimous. Committee : Messrs Jas. Wood, T. Coulson, A. Whitelaw, R. Hobson, T. Watkins, T. A. Wilson, J. Hopper, R. Bell, G. R. Potts, James Ross, H. Richardson, and T. Potter.

This concluded the business portion of the meeting, and subsequently the members were entertained at substantial supper of beef, bread and beer, kindly provided by the captains and officers of the brigade. After supper several toasts were given, including "the Queen," "Success to the Volunteer Life Brigade," &c. Several of the members sang songs, and altogether an enjoyable evening was spent.

Source Shields Daily Gazette and Telegraph 24 July 1880

SOUTH SHIELDS VOLUNTEER LIFE BRIGADE

ANNUAL MEETING 18th of July 1881

The annual meeting the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade was held in the Brigade House, last night, The chair was occupied Mr W. Cay, one of the of the Captains of the Brigade. There were also present Messrs Matthew Cay, S. Cottew, T. G. Mabane, S. Malcolm (Secretary), Dr Crease, G. R. Potts, W. Ross, A. Purvis, Rev. R. Herdman, &c.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said that in consequence of the heat of the weather it had been decided to postpone the annual supper until some more convenient time. He was glad to state that, as regards finances, they were richer this year than they had ever been before. (applause.) He would not detain them with a long speech, but would simply express a hope that their great usefulness would continue.

THE REPORT

Mr Malcolm, amidst frequent applause, read the annual report, from which we extract the following: -

The past has been a very eventful year in the history of the Brigade, and in presenting the fifteenth annual report we have to record that the members have been summoned to active service on seven different occasions.

The Olympe Kruper, German brig, while sailing into the harbour, about 9 p.m., October 22, stranded midway between the South Pier and Fish Pier. The signal guns were fired, and the Brigade got out the apparatus; but it was not required, the crew was not much danger, and the lifeboats were alongside.

On the 28th Oct. this coast was visited one the most terrific storms that has been experienced here for many years, and which resulted great destruction both of life and property. It began on the evening of the 27th to blow a steady breeze from the ESE, increasing during the night; until the morning, when it came away with the force a hurricane, accompanied with showers of hail, snow, and sleet. When daylight broke the whole expanse seawards was one mass of foam, the huge billows almost enveloping the North and South Piers. It was known that several steam trawlers were at sea, and great alarm was felt for their safety. Two or three schooners were in the offing. One of these, the Johanna, of Denmark, made for the harbour, and as she shaped her course through the heavy seas, at times appearing almost buried in them, her progress was watched with trembling anxiety. On nearing the South Pier she broached to, and afterwards struck the stones at the end. The apparatus was taken along, and a heaving line thrown over her quarter. The only man left on board was in the rigging. Just then the wind tilled one of the sails and she drifted off, ultimately foundering near the Fish Pier. The lifeboats had meanwhile got alongside, from one of which line was thrown, and the poor fellow rescued from his perilous position.

About 8 a.m. the guns announced another vessel in distress. The trawler Wonga was entering the harbour, and after getting within the Piers was struck by a heavy sea and broached to. Another sea struck her, when she immediately capsized and foundered with all her crew.

At 9 o'clock the guns again sounded the alarm. This time the trawler Flying Huntsman was seen struggling through the breakers. A heavy sea, however, threw her athwart, and in an instant she shared the unhappy fate of the Wonga. These distressing events, happening so speedily one after the other, cast a most depressing gloom over those who were ready and willing, but utterly helpless, to render any assistance.

The storm continued to increase, and about one pm. the "look out" saw a schooner to the southward, struggling for the harbour. It was soon seen she was too close shore to weather the Pier, and the apparatus was taken along the sands. This had to be worked under most trying circumstances, in the teeth the gale, and during blinding showers of sleet and snow. Moreover, from the state the tide the members were standing up to the knees in water for hour. We had, however, the satisfaction of landing the whole of the crew, 6 in number, from the vessel, which proved to be the Isis, of Yarmouth. The weary and wet members now went home for a rest and a change of clothing.

The day's work was, however, not yet finished, and we have to record a yet more lamentable catastrophe. The appalling events of the day had created intense excitement among the inhabitants, and when the guns were again fired, about 8 o'clock in the evening, the people flocked down in thousands. The schooner Harry Clem, of Faversham, was caught in the storm similarly to the Isis. She was pooped heavy sea, washing overboard one of the two men at the wheel, and disabling the steering gear. Another sea washed the captain off the deck. The vessel then drifted ashore and stranded near the Isis. The members took the apparatus through the surf as near to the vessel as possible. The first rocket, owing to the shifting sand, fell low. The second rocket took the line on board. After waiting some time and seeing no signs of the crew, another rocket was sent successfully over the ship. Still there was nothing to seen of the crew. The vessel was lying broadside to the sea, which was washing right over the hull and some distance the masts. At last a boat was seen drifting close to the shore, and in it were four men, who were speedily taken to the Brigade House, and attended to. How it was possible for boat to live in such sea was a marvel to all present. It turned out a very fortunate circumstance, because the spectators crowded so much upon us, and among the gear, that it would have been impossible, without much delay, to have saved the crew with the rocket apparatus. The rising tide surrounded the people who were looking on, and five of them were unfortunately drowned.

November 8th.—The Danish schooner Bertha was being towed in from sea about 5 p m., when the towline broke, and she drifted athwart the staging at the end of the South Pier, both masts going the board. The pilot, in trying to jump on to the staging, fell overboard and was drowned. The rocket was all ready for firing when the steam tug got another rope on board and towed the vessel off.

February 14.—The brigantine Ann, of Bristol, was making for the harbour, but during a snowstorm missed the entrance and stranded the Herd Sand. The crew of six hands were safely landed by the apparatus and taken to the Watch House. She went pieces before daylight next morning.

About 10 minutes after the Ann had stranded a similar thing happened to the brigantine Reaper, of Guernsey. The Brigade was divided, and with another set of apparatus managed to save all the crew, nine in number. This vessel shortly afterwards broke up. It is worthy of notice that the crews of both vessels were being saved at the same time—a circumstance that has not occurred before in the history of this Brigade. This was a fitting conclusion to the wreck service of the year, which adds 21 to the previous total of 126 persons saved by this Brigade. We wish here to record the great energy and zeal displayed by the Coastguard all occasions.

The Brigade was inspected, November 16, by H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, Admiral Superintendent of Naval Reserve.

The treasurer has to report the receipt of a legacy of £425 from the executors of the late Mr Harrison Gregson, formerly of this town. The sum of has been invested with the River Commissioners for 7 years at 4 per cent, per annum, and £25 have been reserved to purchase new caps for the members. A new and more serviceable storm cap has been designed, and the committee has ordered 100, at a cost of 7s 3d each.

Our special thanks are due to Dr Crease for the trouble he took last winter in forming classes and giving some very useful and valuable information to the members, including instruction as to what to do case of wounds and broken limbs, lifting and carrying the sick and injured, stretcher drill, the application of the Esmarch triangular bandage, and the treatment of the apparently drowned.

The Chairman said they had heard the report read, and all must agree that they had had a most successful year. (Applause) Would some gentleman kindly move the adoption of the report?

Upon the motion of Mr Bell, seconded by Mr Wood, the report was unanimously adopted.

FINANCES

The Secretary next read the annual balance sheet, which shewed that the total income for the year had been £495 4s 2d, which sum included £20 from the Tyne Lifeboat Fund; £29 9s 2d Board of Trade grant, and £425 legacy from the late Mr Harrison Gregson. The expenditure had been £470 2s 7d (the sum of £400 having been invested with the Tyne Commission), leaving a balance in the bank of £25 1s 5d. (Applause) He (Mr Malcolm) might tell them that the sum would absorbed the purchase of new hats, a sample of which he had with him for the members' inspection.

Upon the motion of Mr Wood, seconded by Mr Richardson, the financial statement was adopted.

Mr Matthew Cay proposed a vote of thanks to Dr Crease for his valuable services to the brigade.

Mr J. Pollard seconded, and Mr Cottew supported. The motion was carried with three cheers.

Dr Crease responded.

A vote of thanks to the Harton Coal Company for their generous supply of coals was next carried.

A LIFEBOAT FOR BAMBURGH

The Secretary handed in a petition from Belport, Northumberland, requesting that the signatures of the brigadesmen and pilots Shields be attached for the purpose of asking the Royal National Lifeboat Institution to place a lifeboat Bamborough Castle. The petition pointed out that in case of a wreck occurring the nearest point from which help was attainable was North Sunderland, a distance of three miles.

Mr Cottew said he had known frequent wrecks upon the Bamburgh Sands.

It was agreed that the petition be signed by the members of the brigade.

THE COMMITTEE

The voting showed that the whole of the officers and committee men had been re-elected.

After lengthy conversation about providing oilskins for the members of the Brigade, votes of thanks were accorded to the Secretary and Chairman, and the proceedings closed.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette and Telegraph 19 July 1881

SOUTH SHIELDS VOLUNTEER LIFE BRIGADE

ANNUAL MEETING 21st of July 1882

The sixteenth annual meeting of the members of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade was held last night in the Watch House, on the South Pier. Captain S. Cottew (2nd division) occupied the chair, and there were also present Captain T. G. Mabane (4th division), Mr T. Coulson, Mr A. Whitelaw, and T. Watkins, deputy-captains Mr S. Malcolm, hon. secretary; Mr Joseph Crisp, Mr G. Gray, Mr T. D. Marshall, Mr G. R. Palmer, Mr Ed. Taylor. Mr W. Ross, Mr G. R. Potts, Mr J. E. Smith, Mr J. W. Buckland, Mr G. Robson, Mr G. Wilson, and others.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said there had been some good things done by the Brigade during the past year, such as taking the crews of two vessels at one time, a circumstance which had not occurred on that coast previously. (Applause).

Mr S. Malcolm, hon. secretary of the Brigade, read the annual report, which was as follows:-

The committee have again the pleasure of meeting the members, and laying before them a general report of the principal transactions of the Brigade during the past year. The wreck services are enumerated in the following brief summary:—

The first service rendered by the Brigade this year was on Oct. 14th. It will be remembered that about 2 p. m. that day a tremendous hurricane came upon us. During its height the three-masted schooner Atlantic, of Laurvig, was being towed in, and although two tug-boats had hold of her, and both anchors were down, yet these were not sufficient, she drifted on to the north side of the South Pier. The alarm guns summoned the members, and it was with difficulty they made their way down, owing to the force of wind and the blinding sand. Two rockets were fired over the vessel, and the crew, seven in number, and the pilot were safely landed. Just before this a cable was upset, and three pilots drowned.

About 11p.m, on Oct. 19th, during a strong ESE gale and high sea, small schooner was seen entering the harbour. When near the Fish Pier she was observed to stop and finding she had taken the ground and was amongst the broken water, the signal was made for the guns to fire, and at the same time men were sent along the sands with lifebuoys. On finding the vessel was some distance to the southward of the Fish Pier, the rocket cart was taken as near to her as possible and a rocket soon placed into position for firing. The lifeboat, however, got alongside, and succeeded in taking off the whole of the crew. The vessel was the brigantine Bertha, of Stavanger, bound to Blyth, with pit props.

Oct. 20.—About 1 a.m. ,during an gale, the barque Iron Crown of Liverpool, was coming from the southward, and as seen from here it seemed impossible to her to weather the South Pier end. She, however, escaped, and drifting across the harbour, anchored in a dangerous position inside the North Pier. The cables afterwards

parted, and she became a total wreck. The apparatus was taken along the pier to be of service if required.

Nov. 26.—During a blinding squall of rain and strong ESE wind, and about 6 45 p.m., the brig George Clark, of South Shield, missed the entrance to the harbour, and ran ashore behind the South Pier. The apparatus was at once taken down and communication effected with the first rocket. The crew of eight persons were safely landed in the breeches buoy. The agent and a party of men went on board at low water to furl sails and heave out ballast, in order to get her off at high water. As the tide flowed the sea increased, and at high water was breaking over the vessel. The men on board shouted for the apparatus to take them off. Communication had been secured at low water by a rocket line made fast to the rigging. The party of 13 men was safely landed in the breeches buoy. Detachments of the brigade had been on duty all night and were thus ready to render the Coastguard assistance.

Just before landing the last of the crew of the George Clark, the ketch Ida, of Ipswich, ran ashore within 15 yards of the offside of the George Clark. The latter being between the brigadesmen and the Ida, it would have been difficult to get communication by rocket. The sea at the time was breaking over the brig. Frederick Jagers, coastguard, volunteered to be hauled off to the brig by the breeches buoy, although cautioned of the danger attending such an enterprise, as it was feared the brig's masts might fail. Jagers succeeded in getting communication from the brig's fore rigging with a heaving cane. A large rope was then hauled on board the Ida from rigging to rigging, and the crew of four men got the George Clark, and thence to the shore by the apparatus.

March 22.— The schooner Mail, of Alloa, was towing into the harbour about 10 15 am., during a NNE squall with hail showers, when her towline broke. The tug got hold of her again, and the towline parted a second time. A new towline was then sent from the schooner to the tug, and this also broke. The vessel's anchor was let go, but failed to her up, and she drove on to the north side the South Pier. The apparatus was taken down and communication effected by the first rocket, and the crew of four hands safely landed. The time occupied from the vessel striking till the last man came was only twenty minutes.

April 15th.—The signal guns summoned the members about 3 p.m. to the large fall-rigged iron vessel Glenfinart, Glasgow, bound from San Francisco to the Tyne. She had got too close in shore, and very narrowly escaped drifting on to the rocks at the south end the Herd Sand. A steam tug towed her out of danger.

This concludes the wreck service, and we have landed with the apparatus during the year, from the following vessels, 87 persons, viz. : - Atlantic, 8; George Clark, 8; salvage men from George Clark 13, Ida, 4; and Mail, 4.

Two interesting ceremonies in connection with the Coastguard have to mentioned. Frederick Jagers has been doubly honoured, and we trust his good example will be followed by his comrades and the numbers generally. For his efforts to clear the lines that had got fouled while landing the crew of the Atlantic and for his conduct at the wreck of the Ida, he was presented with bronze medal by the Board of Trade, and an Albert Medal of the second class.

A well-known figure at all our previous annual meetings will be missed to-night. The late Mr T. A. Wilson was a most indefatigable member. Bluff, hearty, and honest, he yielded to none in his desire to further the interests of the Brigade or to use his oft quoted expression, "cause of humanity." Although too old latterly to undergo the rough and exposed duties of shipwreck, he was ever at his post the head of the commissariat department in the Watch House, and nothing seemed to give him greater pleasure and to cause his face to beam with great joy than when he had to serve out warm clothing and refreshments to shipwrecked crew.

In order to form an ambulance corps in connection with the brigade, a class under the St. John's Ambulance Association was established, and a course of instruction given. At the termination of the course the usual examination under the auspices of the Association was held, the examiner being Surgeon-Major Hutton. All the candidates passed a most satisfactory examination, and each had received a certificate from the association qualifying him to render first aid to the injured. (Applause).

The treasurer's report showed that the receipts for the past year had amounted to £96 15s 3d, including a balance from last year of £25 1s 5d; grant from the Board of Trade, £25 ; grant from the Tyne Lifeboat Fund, £20; interest from the River Tyne Commissioners. £15 3s 3d. The expenditure amounted to £81 7s 9d, and included £29 19s 9d for storm caps, and £12 7s 2d for ambulance class stores and examination expenses. The balance present in hand is £15 7s 4d.

Mr J. Wood moved that the report be adopted, printed, and circulated amongst the members of the Brigade.

Mr J. Smith seconded the motion.

Mr A. Whitelaw supported the motion, and referred to the excellence of the report. With reference to the ambulance class, thought that every member should be proud of such an acquisition to the brigade. He also referred to the touching remarks in the report in reference to the late Mr T. A. Wilson.

Mr Mabane suggested that, the report this year being printed more elaborate form than hitherto, a table should be given shewing the number of lives saved since the formation of the brigade.

Malcolm said that matter had occurred to himself, and he proposed to append the list to the report. (Applause) In reference to the present strength of the brigade, he said the number recommended by the Board of Trade was 100. There were at present only 89 men on the books, so that there were eleven vacancies, which he hoped would be speedily filled up by robust and energetic men, He next referred to the duty of watching on stormy nights, and hoped this matter would be taken up by the members generally, instead being left to a few. If they wanted maintain the present high character of the Brigade they should attend to this important duty, and whenever possible be at their posts in stormy weather. They should bear in mind that the character of the Brigade was at stake, and it would be serious matter if ship came ashore and no brigadesmen were present.

The motion was then put and carried.

Dr Crease was unanimously re-appointed honorary surgeon to the Brigade, and cordial vote of thanks was awarded him for his past services to the Brigade and the Ambulance Class

The Ambulance Class certificates were then presented the successful candidates by Mr Malcolm, as follows :—Messrs G. Ogilvie, T. D. Marshall, G. Robson, G. R. Palmer, G. Gray, J. W. Woolner, W. Purvis, John Wilson, Walter Ross, J. W. Buckland, P. S. Wood, J. W. Wood, G. R. Potts, and Deputy. Captain Watkins. Mr Malcolm said he was present at the examination, and he was pleased at the smart manner in which the men went through the drill. The examiner told him he had never examined such a smart lot of men in his life. (Hear, hear.)

Mr Watkins moved a vote of thanks to the secretary for his able report.

Mr J. E. Smith seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation.

Mr Malcolm, in returning thanks, urged all the members to do whatever they could to make the Brigade thoroughly successful.

T. D. Marshall proposed a vote of thanks to the coast-guardsmen for their assistance to the Brigade, and referred to the gallant deeds of Frederick Jagers

Mr G. R. Palmer seconded the motion, and it was also carried by hearty applause.

The result of the election of officers was follows: — Captains—T. G. Mabane, S. Cottew, M. Cay, and W. Cay. Deputy-Captains— James Wood, T. Coulson, A. Whitelaw, and T. Watkins Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. —Mr S. Malcolm. Committee—Messrs G. R. Potts, T. Coulson, T. Watkins, A. Whitelaw, James Wood, R. Bell, R. Hobson, J. W. Buckland, T. Potter, G. Hopper, J. Gray, and G. Robson.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette and Telegraph 22nd of July 1882

SOUTH SHIELDS VOLUNTEER LIFE BRIGADE

ANNUAL MEETING 10th of July 1883

The annual meeting of the members of this Brigade was held last night, in the Watch House, South Pier, There was a good muster of members, and the chair was occupied by Captain William Cay. The Watch House now looks exceedingly nice. It has been thoroughly overhauled and painted outside, at great expense. The yard lying between the entrance door and the Coastguard Rocket House has been cemented—a great improvement, the value of which will be much felt in winter time. Internally, the house has been cleaned, re-varnished, and everything put in order. Amongst those present were Capts. M. Cay, S. Cottew, and T. G. Mabane; Deputy-Captains Jas. Wood, T. Coulson, and A. Whitelaw, also Messrs S. Malcolm (secretary), Messrs G. R. Potts, R. Bell, T. Potter, J. Hopper, W. E. Moffatt, Geo. Wilson, W. A. Smith, P. H. Wood, G. R. Palmer, Walter Ross, T. D. Marshall, G. Grey, W. Buckland, Geo. Robson, chief officer of the Coastguard Hart, and others.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said that was the 17th annual meeting of the Brigade, and he was glad to see in the company some of the old faces that were present when the corps was first formed, (Hear, hear.) hoped those old faces would long be spared to attend the annual meeting, drills, and wrecks—the fewer of the latter, of course, the better. (Applause). Some years ago, they changed their usual practice of having a dinner on the occasion of the annual meeting; but the entertainment now took place the winter, and hoped they would again enjoy it when the time came round. (Applause) He then called upon Mr Malcolm, the secretary and treasurer, to read the report and statements of finance.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

The following is a short abstract of the principal events in connection with the Brigade during the past year :—August 2nd, 1882.— The fishing vessel *Isabella*, of Lowestoft, while beating into the harbour, about 4 p.m., missed stays, and drove on to the stones the north side of the South Pier. The apparatus was taken down the pier, and communication effected with the heaving cane. A rope was then sent from the vessel and made fast to the pier. It being flood tide, she got off, and was towed into the harbour by a tug. — Dec. 4, 1882.—The schooner *Emily* was observed approaching the harbour through a very heavy sea. The wind was east, with squalls of hail and sleet. The rocket van was at once taken down the pier. The vessel broached to, and ran within 50 yards of the South Pier, about 11.30 p.m. A rocket was arranged for firing, but her sails caught aback and drove her stern foremost clear of the pier. Another sea knocked her completely round, and eventually she reached the harbour in safety. During this service some of the Brigadesmen were very much knocked about by the heavy seas which broke over the pier, and some of them would assuredly have been washed off had it not been for the protection afforded by the iron railing along the edge of the pier.—Dec. 5, 1882.—During ENE gale, with snow, the Norwegian brig *Olaf Kyrre* was disabled at sea, and in a sinking condition was run on the beach to save her from foundering. The apparatus was

taken along the sands, and communication effected by the second rocket. Two more rockets were successfully fired, but the men, who had taken to the rigging, dare not leave their positions to reach the lines, as heavy seas were sweeping decks, and the masts were momentarily expected to go over the side. They managed to reach one line with a boat hook, but it slipped. The lifeboat Tyne, stationed on the Herd Sand, was in the meantime launched and manned by 16 Shields pilots. After an hour and a half's strenuous exertions, and at very great risk to themselves, they managed to land the whole of the crew, eight in number. Their brave conduct elicited considerable sympathy among the inhabitants, and a considerable sum was subscribed for their benefit, —Dec. 7, 18S2.—During an easterly gale, with snow, the Norwegian schooner Flid ran ashore on the Herd Sand close to the wreckage of the Olaf Kyrre. The first rocket landed the line right amidships, and the gear was hurled off. After this a considerable time was lost owing to the crew being somewhat ignorant as to the working of the apparatus. They unbent the breeches buoy and laid it on the deck, and re-fastened it so that it got jammed halfway along the hawser. Humphrey Ashton, coastguard, with a cork jacket on, went through the surf to try and clear it, but was so knocked about by the heavy seas, that he had to be hauled ashore. Thomas Hewett, another coastguard, volunteered to be hauled off along the hawser in another breeches buoy, to clear the obstruction and instruct the crew. This was a very perilous undertaking. Owing to the heavy rolling of the ship, Hewett was alternately being dipped overhead then hanging in mid-air. He reached the vessel in safety, and speedily three of the crew were landed. By this time the lifeboat Tyne was afloat, and the remainder of the crew preferred being landed in her.—December 8th, 1882. —About 5 p.m., wind E, weather squally, with hail and sleet, a vessel was seen midway between the South Pier and Trow Rocks heading for the shore, and burning flares. She was just outside the broken water, and was made out to be a large brig or barque.

The apparatus was taken along the sands, and when abreast the ship a blue light was burned as a warning, upon seeing which she hauled to the wind, and stood out from the shore, and way lost sight of in darkness.—February 8th, 1883.—The Russian barque Vega, in entering the harbour, damaged her steering gear, and ran ashore on the Herd Sand, near the Fish Pier. The apparatus was taken along the beach and a rocket fired. As this did not establish communication, and two lifeboats were near, no more rockets were fired. The vessel was afterwards towed off and taken into the harbour. —February 8th, 1883.—the brig Ann, of Guernsey, was sailing from sea, struck on the stones at the end of the Fish Pier. The rocket waggon was taken the sands, and communication effected by the first rocket. The whipline was hauled nearly on board when the lifeboat came alongside and took off the crew. It has been arranged with the Lifeboat Trustees that in future, after a crew has been taken out of the vessel by a lifeboat, the coxswain shall burn a longlight as a signal to the Life Brigades that their services are not required.— Dec. 21, 1882.—Through the kindness of Ald. Glover, the members and pilots who manned the lifeboat at the wreck of the Olaf Kyrre, were entertained to supper in the Watch House. Mr Glover presided, and stated how much he appreciated being able to meet them once more, and how highly he thought of their recent efforts to save life. Their work had always been one of self-sacrificing devotion, and he had made his mind when the recent storm was over to meet the Brigadesmen and pilots, and have a chat with them.—

January 22, 1883.—Instead of the usual supper which had been given annually by the officers of the Brigade to the members and a few gentleman, it was decided to alter the arrangement so that each member might be allowed to ask a lady. For this purpose the watch room was turned into a ball room, and refreshments set out in the other rooms and Rocket-House. The space between the Brigade-House and Rocket House was covered in with canvas, and formed a promenade. A most enjoyable evening was spent, and very interesting programme of songs, recitations, and dances, was gone through. Great credit is due to the Coastguard for the pains they took with the decorations,—During the past year the term of six years' service of Capt. Johnson, R. N., as Inspecting Commander of Coastguard, has expired, and we hope he may soon again be placed the active list. Capt. Johnson's successor, Capt. Denny, R. N., paid us his first and only official visit, Feb. 10th, 1883, on which occasion it was his pleasing duty to present Thomas Hewett, Coastguard, with a bronze medal awarded by the Board of Trade for his courageous conduct at the wreck of the Flid. Shortly after this, regret to say that Capt. Denny took ill and died in Greenwich Hospital. Capt. Dolphin, R.N., has been appointed his successor.—The committee regret to report the resignation of Dep. Capt. T. Watkins, who took active interest the affairs of the Brigade, and was very constant In his attendance at the Watch House during stormy nights.

We are glad to report that the Ambulance Class, formed by Dr Crease, has continued its studies during the year, and was again examined by Surgeon-Major Hutton, April 14th, 1883. The following members gained certificates :— Dep. Capt. Thomas Watkins; Messrs G. R. Potts, George Grey, George Robson, P. S. Wood, J. H. Wood, T. D. Marshall, Walter Ross, John Wilson, J. W. Buckland, Fred. Oliver, Wm. Purvis, G. R Palmer, George Ogilvie. The above gained second year certificates. Mr R. S. Buckland and Mr W. McDowell gained first year certificates.—The Board of Trade presented the Brigade with 100 new waist belts, which were served out to the members Sept. 16, 1882.—On Saturday, Sept. 23, 1883, the members attended, by invitation, the North-East Coast Exhibition, Tynemouth, and had a most successful drill with the rocket apparatus. They were afterwards entertained to tea by the Committee of the Tynemouth Life Brigade, in their Watch House.—we have also to report that last month the Watch House was painted outside, and thoroughly cleaned and varnished inside. The clothing and bedding have also been washed and put in order for the coming winter.

The financial statement shewed that the receipts of the Brigade had been £114 3s 10d, which, with a balance from the previous year of £15 7s 4d, made a total of £129 11s 2d. The expenditure had been £88 3s 9d, leaving a balance to the good of £41 7s 5d. The reading of this statement was received with loud applause.

On the motion of Mr Bell, seconded by Mr Brown, the report was adopted, and the treasurer's statement was received, and ordered to be printed, the motion of Mr G. R. Potts and Mr Bell.

Mr Geo. Robson moved a hearty vote of thanks to Dr Crease for his valuable services during the year, especially to the Ambulance Class, which had been a great acquisition to the brigade. (Applause)

Mr Bell seconded, and the motion was carried with loud applause.

The Chairman read a letter from Dr Crease, apologising for absence, and saying that if the members decided to re-elect him, he would be glad if the Chairman would return thanks for him for the distinguished honour. (Loud applause)

Upon the motion of Mr G. R. Potts, seconded by Mr P. Wood, a vote of thanks was accorded to the hon. secretary, to which Mr Malcolm responded, wishing the Brigade every success, and promising his exertions on behalf of the institution to which had filled the position of secretary for seventeen years.

Mr Thos. Coulson, in a speech which elicited great applause, moved a vote of thanks to the Coastguard for their cooperation and assistance during the year.

Mr E. R. Palmer seconded, and pointed out that to the painstaking care of the Coastguard much of the success attending the brigades men's efforts was due, (Applause.)

The motion was carried with applause.

Mr Mabane called attention to the question of railings along the Pier, and asked that the Secretary put himself in communication with the Commissioners, with a view of getting the palisading extended westwards. He believed the railings were ready, and would be put up if they were only asked for. They all knew what a boon those had been to the men at the Pier end. The work should really be done as much for the safety of the public and the Brigadesmen. (Applause)

Mr Malcolm promised attention, and mentioned the fact that the Commissioners had promised also to put up some gates to keep the crowd from following the Brigadesmen down the Pier and interrupting their operations. The rails, of course, were a pressing necessity, and the matter should have his attention. (Applause)

Mr Brown called attention to the state of the hand-rail fixed to the stone parapet of the Pier, and said it wanted renewing and repairs. That had been excellent protection for the Brigadesmen, and had prevented them being washed overboard. It should be attended to.

Capt. Cottew thought they should not ask the Commissioners for too much at once. They might frighten them, and then nothing would be done. (Laughter.)

The voting at the election of officers and committee was next announced. The whole of the officers were re-elected, Mr G. R. Potts being appointed to the vacancy caused by the resignation of Deputy-Captain Watkins some time since. The following is the Committee : —G. Gray, J. W. Buckland, Geo. Robson, R. Bell, James Wood, G. R. Potts, T. Coulson, A. Whitelaw, W. Ross, J. Hopper, T. Potter, and G. Scrafton. The Chairman, Capts. Matthew Cay, Cottew, and Mabane returned thanks for their reappointment, and were loudly applauded.

Several Ambulance certificates having been presented, the proceedings term

Source: Shields Daily Gazette and Telegraph 11 July 1883

SOUTH SHIELDS VOLUNTEER LIFE BRIGADE

ANNUAL MEETING 6th of July 1884

The annual meeting of the above brigade was last night, held in the Watch House on the South Pier. The Mayor presided, and amongst the company present were Messrs S. Cottew, Capt. Whitelaw, J. Crisp, G. R. Potts, M. Cay, W. Cay, T D. Marshall, J. Wood, T. Coulson, C. Gray, G. Robson, G. R. Palmer, and S. Malcolm (secretary.) A word of praise may be given to those to whom it is fairly due. The house is now —as it was not always—a model of cleanliness, and to use a common phrase, “as neat as a new pin.”

The Chairman, in opening what said was the 18th annual meeting of the Brigade, thought they should congratulate themselves on the marvellously fine weather that prevailed during the past winter. Not a single casualty of any importance—with the exception of a small wreck, which, although a wreck in the strict meaning of the term, involved no danger—had occurred at the mouth of the river whereby the services of the members had been required.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been confirmed,

The Secretary read the annual report, which was as follows:—

The annual report

Very few events of importance have transpired in connection with the Brigade since the last annual report. It has been a year singularly free from storms and casualties in this neighbourhood and on one occasion only have we been called upon to render assistance. On Feb.27 a storm warning was published, to the effect that SE gale might be expected. During the evening a fresh breeze sprang from ESE. This being a fair wind for the entrance to the Tyne, several vessels reached the port in safety. About four o'clock the next morning the brig Excel, of Swansea, was not so fortunate. As she neared the bar a shower of sleet came on, and getting too close in shore was unable to weather the South Pier end, and stranded about 500 yards east of the Brigade House. The dangerous position of the vessel had been previously noticed from the Trow Rocks by the Coastguard on duty. He hurried along and signalled for the guns to be fired. Assistance was soon at hand, and the apparatus taken abreast of the vessel and communication effected with the heaving cane. The crew had in the meantime taken to their boats and were picked up by a steamboat and landed at the Mill Dam. They afterwards came to the brigade house, and were supplied with dry clothing and refreshments.

On July 18th, the Board of Trade wrote stating that application had been received from Lieutenant C. H. McClellan, of the United States Life Saving Service, for permission to be allowed to visit one or more Rocket Stations in this country, in order to enable him to obtain a complete knowledge of the working of the rocket

apparatus. The Board of Trade arranged that Lieut. McClellan, accompanied by Captain Prowse, R.N., Inspector-General of Life Saving Apparatus, should visit the South Shields Brigade, and hoped the officers and members would afford every assistance in their power towards the object in view. The visit took place July 25th, and large number of the men turned out to work the apparatus. Through the courtesy of the Tyne Lifeboat trustees opportunity was given Lieut. McClellan of inspecting the lifeboats ashore and afloat. The United States Government has sent to the Brigade a copy of the report of the Life Saving Service of the United States for 1882, which is a really good thick volume, full of useful and valuable information, and gives us some idea the enormous extent of that wonderful country.

The ambulance class formed in connection with the Brigade three years ago, has recently undergone its third and final examination. Fourteen members have passed this stage, and are entitled to wear the medal of the St. John Ambulance Association. It is satisfactory to know that as result of the formation of the Brigade class there are now several classes formed in the town. Surgeon-Major Hutton, the examiner, in addressing these classes, paid high complement to our class, and also to the brigade itself, as a life saving institution, and said it had furnished him with topic on many a platform in the large towns of the country.

The annual supper given by the officers was held on December 27th. In the previous year a new departure was made in its character, and with such success that it was decided to have similar gathering. During the first sixteen years of our history a supper was given to the members only and some of their male friends, but it was thought that the arrangement should be such that ladies could join in the pleasures of the occasion. Through the exertions of Messrs Hart and Ashton, of the Coastguard, assisted some of the members of the Brigade, the large room of the Watch House was very tastefully and profusely decorated with flags, evergreens, and mottos, and transferred for the nonce into a ballroom. The other rooms and the rocket house were utilized for refreshment purposes, and the yard outside was enclosed and covered with an awning, which served as a promenade and smoke room. Music, recitations, songs, and dancing enabled the 200 people, who were present, to spend a very enjoyable and pleasant evening.

The committee in closing this report desire to express a hope that the members will continue to take a great interest in the welfare of the Brigade, and not allow that interest to flag should their active services in the future not be so much required as the past.

The financial statement was to the effect that during the year the income of the Brigade had been £132 12s 8d, which was made of the following items:—Grant from Board of Trade, £50; from lifeboat trustees, £20 ; interest, £15 13s 4d; contribution box, £5 11s 11d. The expenditure had been £88 6s 2d, so that there was at present a balance of £44 6s 6d, which was £2 19s 11d greater than that of last year.

Captain Whitelaw stated that the report was imperfect in one respect—it contained no reference to the death of Captain Denny, who accompanied Captain Clellan and addressed the men. His death was sudden one, and occurred shortly afterwards.

The Secretary promised to include paragraph regarding the sad event in the report.

Mr G. Gray moved, and Mr G. Robson seconded, the adoption of the reports, and the motion was carried without comment.

It was moved by Mr T. D. Marshall that the Committee should consider the advisability of providing a number of suits of oilskins—twenty or more—for the use of those who had to stay on watch and risk their lives during stormy weather. The motion was seconded by Mr Robson, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Capt. Whitelaw said he was sorry to see that there was no less than 21 per cent, of the members non-effective. Some of the members, no doubt, had reasons for their absence, but such a large percentage was not creditable to the Brigade.

Mr Palmer said there were many whose drills were recorded and whose faces were scarcely ever seen within the house. This was not as it should be; the same faces should not be seen on Watch from year's end to year's end. (Hear, hear.)

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The Scrutinisers reported that the captains, deputy-captains, and secretary, had been re-elected, and that the committee were as follows:— Messrs Buckland, Coulson, Whitelaw, Robson, W. Ross, Potts, Scrafton, Gray, J. Wood, Hopper, P. S. Wood, and T. D. Marshall. (Applause.)

THE ROYAL VISIT

Capt. Whitelaw said that as the Prince and Princess of Wales were about to visit the Tyne, it would be proper if the Brigade could contribute to the pleasure of their Royal Highnesses. He would suggest that if possible the Brigade should drill from the Coble Dene and perhaps the Mayor would venture to invite His Highness to try a trip in the breeches buoy. (Laughter)

The Mayor said he was willing to do what he could; he feared the suggestion was impracticable.

Mr M. Cay said he would present the suggestion to the Tyne Commissioners, and would endeavour to obtain a proper place for to drill within the dock. (Applause.)

VOTES OF THANKS

The meeting concluded with votes of thanks to the donors of newspapers, to Dr Crease, to Mr Malcolm, and to the Mayor.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette 7 July 1884

South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

ANNUAL MEETING 3rd of July 1885

The nineteen annual meeting of the above Brigade was on Friday evening held in the house at the south pier, under the presidency of the Mayor (Ald. Mabane), amongst those present being Messrs W. Cay, M. Cay, Whitelaw, S. Cottew, J. Crisp, G. R. Potts, G. Grey, and S. Malcolm (secretary.) The Mayor said the business that night would be purely formal, was very glad to be present at the meeting. Fortunately the services of the Brigade had not been much required during the past two years, and therefore here had not been that interest manifested in the corps which there otherwise might have been. In fact, he considered the secretary must have had some trouble to make up a report for the year.—The minutes the last meeting having been passed, on the motion of Mr Wood, seconded by Mr Brown, the annual report for the year ended June 30th was read by the secretary.

It was as follows: — The past year has happily concluded without any casualty at our side of the river, and although it is very gratifying at the end of year to look back with satisfaction on having been the means of saving the lives of some of our fellow creatures, yet on this occasion it is equally pleasant to know we have been free from fatal storms, and at the same time to feel that the coastguard, members, and apparatus were ready should the occasion have arisen. Owing to alterations at the Recreation Ground for the purposes of a Marine Park, and the erection of a salt water baths, the exercise mast has had to be removed from the position it has held so long to a point on the sands, south of the Brigade House. This removal has been at the expense of the Board of Trade, who we wish to accord our sincere thanks. On the 21st August, 1884, the Tyne was visited by their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales for the purpose of opening the Albert Edward Dock. On that occasion the Brigade was honoured with an invitation to be present, and occupied a conspicuous place in front of the Grand Stand. The ambulance class had also charge of the necessary arrangements in case any accident occurred. Fortunately their services were not required. At the close of the proceedings the whole of the members present were entertained at luncheon by the Chairman of the River Tyne Commission (J. C. Stevenson, Esq., M.P.), for whose kindness and liberality we now record our best thanks. At the close of the rocket drill on Saturday, November 6th, the Royal Humane Society's bronze medal was presented in the Watch House to John Gibson, for his gallant conduct in saving the life of a woman, who was in danger of drowning while bathing at the south side of the Pier. Jas. Henderson, a member, of the Brigade, also rendered valuable assistance on the occasion. The usual annual supper, given by the officers, was held in the Watch House on Friday, Jan. 23rd. There is one more point we wish to mention before closing this necessarily brief report. Of the members who were present at the first Rocket Drill, less than a dozen of us remain. These and others may be said to have borne—not perhaps the burden and heat of the day—but certainly the anxieties and exposures of the night, and by their efforts in conjunction with the Coastguard, have won for this Brigade a position second to none with similar institutions. What we wish to point out to the younger members is, that they, having been admitted to a Brigade which

occupies such an honourable position, enter into an inheritance of which they never need feel ashamed. We wish to urge upon them their responsibilities, that they will have to carry on this work when the old members have gone, and upon them will devolve in the coming years the duty of being "always ready" to work the Rocket Apparatus in case of need.

—The treasurer's report showed the balance from last year to be £44 6s 6d, received from the Board of Trade £25, from the lifeboat trustees, £20, interest, £15 11s 10d, and subscription from Dr Glover, London £1 1s. The balance left at the bank after the payment of expenses was £65 14s. (Applause.) Mr S. Cottew said that perhaps the secretary would mention the number of lives saved by the Brigade since it was commenced. It would be very interesting to a lot of people.—The Mayor said the number would be nearly 200. — The Secretary said he would not like to mention a figure off hand, but he thought 140 would be within the mark.—Mr M. Cay said it was 126 when the Duke of Edinburgh visited the Tyne. —On the motion of Potts, seconded by J. Wood, the report was confirmed.--Capt. Whitelaw moved the re-appointment of Dr. Crease as brigade surgeon and said they could not have a gentleman whose heart was warmer towards the organization.—Mr J. Brown seconded, and the motion having been passed, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Dr. Crease for his kindness in the past. A similar compliment was riven to the Secretary on the motion of Messrs Potts and Cottew. Mr Malcolm briefly replied and urged the young members of the brigade to remember its noble object as an incentive to greater interest in its proceedings.— The Secretary reported that the voting had resulted in no change of the constitution of the officership of the Brigade, the order being as follows :—Captains. Messrs. W. Cay, S. Cottew, Cay, T. G. Mabane: Deputy Captains. Messrs. A. Whitelaw, Potts, J. Wood, and T. Coulson; Mr S. Malcolm, Secretary and Treasurer. A vote of thanks to the Mayor ended the proceedings.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette and Telegraph 4 July 1885

South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

ANNUAL MEETING 2nd of July 1886

The annual meeting of the members of the above institution was held last night at the Brigade House, the South Pier, South Shields. Mr M. Cay, J.P., presided, and there was good attendance of officers and members.

The Secretary (Mr Malcolm) read the annual report, as follows:—In presenting the 20th annual report your committee have again pleasure in meeting the members. During the month of October, this coast was visited series of easterly gales with very high seas, and although many vessels ran to the harbour for shelter it is satisfactory to record that they all entered safely, proving the Tyne to be a valuable harbour of refuge for the east coast. Many exciting scenes were witnessed as the vessels struggled through the storm, and some had very narrow escapes. On two occasions it was thought necessary to summon the brigade, who mustered in strong force. October 16th, a steamer, name unknown, was seen to be drifting dangerously close the South Pier. As the vessel burnt a “flare up” and a heavy sea was running at the time the apparatus was taken down the pier to be of service if required. On October 24th the s.s. Firdene, of Newcastle, drifted into danger, but by skilful handling she was got into the proper channel and passed up the river. It was in connection with this that lamentable and fatal accident occurred. As usual on such occasions the pier was crowded with spectators, and one of the waves that washed over it knocked some people down and swept two boys into sea. A gallant attempt at rescue was made by Messrs J. H. Wood, J. R. Dixon and J. W. Swainston which resulted in saving one boy. The circumstances of the case are so well known and have so recently been recounted to you all that it is needless to repeat them here; suffice to say that Messrs Wood and Dixon each awarded a medal and certificate by the Royal Humane Society and Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen was pleased to award Mr Wood an Albert Medal of the second class. During the year new iron gates have been fixed to the Pier to prevent, if possible, the public crowding upon the members and impeding them their operations at shipwreck. Such a protection has long been required, and your committee desires to place on record the sincere thanks of the whole the members of this brigade to the River Tyne Commissioners for their kindness for providing this much needed improvement, and also extending the railings to the end of the pier. As will be seen from the treasurer's report, the committee has not been unmindful of the comfort and appearance of the members, having provided oilskin suits, guernseys and fine weather caps, at an expenditure of about £53. The outside of the Watch House has also been repainted. Notwithstanding these expenses, it satisfactory to report we have a comfortable balance of £20 to the credit of the Brigade. It has been suggested that the Brigade House should be lighted by gas instead of paraffin as at present. This would undoubtedly be much more convenient, and the matter will have consideration before next winter. The annual supper by the officers was held in the Free Library Hall on January 1886. In addition the usual commissariat, a varied entertainment was provided at the expense of a few of the members themselves and very pleasant evening was spent. At this meeting the Humane Society medals were presented to

the recipients by the Mayor (Mr J. T. Eltringham). The number of members in the brigade has maintained the usual average, and we wish to impress upon each member his individual responsibility for attending at the Watch House in stormy weather when his division is on duty. There are at present eleven vacancies, which will be filled up when suitable candidates apply. On the 15th Jan. 1887 this brigade will have attained its majority. It will be for your committee to consider what arrangements should be made to suitably commemorate such an interesting event. The balance sheet was also read, showing the state of finances as given above.

The Chairman, after commenting on the satisfactory nature of the report, said that although the brigade had not during the year been in the position of saving life, it was well to know that they were always ready where life was in danger. (Hear, hear). As the harbour had been greatly improved, they did not, naturally, look for as many wrecks occurring as in past years, yet they all felt and acted upon that feeling, that it was their duty to be there whenever life was in a state of risk.

Mr J. D. Robson moved the adoption of the report and balance sheet.

Mr Sanderson seconded.

Capt. Mabane, in supporting the motion, said the institution would attain its majority in January next, it had occurred to him that their secretary might collate the reports from the commencement, and have them done up in a little volume. With regard to the cost that could be overcome. He was in a position that day to tell them that a lady recently deceased, and who had been client of the firm to which he belonged, had bequeathed to that institution £100 (Loud applause.)

The Secretary said ever since the brigade was established he had been in the habit of collating from the different newspapers everything that had appeared in connection with their life brigade, and storms on the coast, so that he had a good deal of material, although it would take some labour to put it in the order suggested. He would, however, endeavour to find time to have the work done. (Hear, hear.)

Capt. Mabane moved that Dr. Crease be re-elected as Medical Officer of the institution.

Capt. Cottew seconded, and the resolution was carried with hearty unanimity.

Deputy Captain Potts moved that an expression of regret at the resignation of Mr Coulson be recorded.

Mr T. D. Marshall seconded.

The Chairman explained that the committee just before that meeting had the resignation under consideration, but Mr Coulson pleaded that he was getting too old to think of reconsidering his decision. The committee however passed a resolution suggesting that Mr Coulson be made an honorary member, and he retain his cap. So that he would still remain a member the brigade. (Applause.)

Mr Grey proposed vote of thanks to the secretary.

Mr Robson seconded, and it was carried with acclamation.

The result of the voting with regard to the appointment officers and committee the ensuing year was at this stage of the meeting reported by the scrutineers, showing that same gentlemen had re-elected, with the exception that Mr George Grey was appointed a deputy-captain, and James Henderson on the committee, in the place of Thos. Coulson, resigned. The following is a full list: Captain: Messrs W. Cay, Cottew. M. Cay, and T. G Mabane. Deputy-captains, A. Whitelaw, G. Potts, James Wood, and George Grey, secretary and treasurer, S. Malcolm. Committee: J. W. Buckland, G. Grey, J. Hopper, T. Marshall, Walter Ross, Geo. Robson, Geo. Scrafton, A. Whitelaw, Jas. Wood, and R. S. Wood .

The proceedings closed with votes of thanks to Dr Crease, to the local newspaper proprietors for free copies of papers, and to Mr Cay for presiding.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette 3 July 1886

South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

ANNUAL MEETING 7th of July 1887

The 21st annual meeting of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade was held last night in the Watch House at the South Pier. There was a large attendance of members. Dr. Crease, honorary surgeon to the Brigade, was voted to the chair.

The first business was to appoint scrutineers of the voting papers which had been sent out to the members for the election of four captains in place of the old captains, the latter having all sent in their resignations. Mr T. Vasey and Mr J. W. Buckland were appointed as scrutineers.

The Resignation of the Captains.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr S. Malcolm) said the members would see in the papers which had been sent them that the whole of their captains had resigned. This, to him, was a matter of very great regret. He should have preferred that these resignations had come singly, spread over a lengthened period. They must, however, accept the situation and endeavour to do their duty in the matter by appointing suitable officers to these positions. He proceeded to read the letters of the old captains. Mr W. Cay wrote thanking the members for the forbearance and courtesy they had always shown him, and regretted that old age and infirmity compelled him to take the present step, and concluded with best wishes for the continued success of their noble institution. Mr M. Cay assured the members that it was with considerable reluctance that, owing to old age and the fact that he lived so far from the scene of wrecks, he was compelled to resign his post as captain. He thanked the members for their uniform courtesy and good feeling towards him, and said he would still continue his connection with the Brigade in honorary way, if that were possible. Mr T. G. Mabane after alluding to excellent work rendered by the Brigade during its history, stated in his letter that his removal from a reasonable distance from the spot where wrecks usually took place, coupled with a desire that younger members should occupy the honourable post of captain, had been the reasons which had led to his resignation. He had, however, no desire to sever his connection with the institution entirely. Mr Malcolm went on to say that he had mislaid the letter of Mr Cottew, but he gave similar reasons to the other captains for resigning.

The Annual Report

The Hon. Secretary read the annual report, which stated that the principal event of the past year was the celebration on the 15th January of the 21st anniversary of the formation of the Brigade. On the occasion the members met in the Watch House and were entertained at a supper by the officer of the Brigade. In the course of the evening some interesting details relative to the Brigade had been given, and it had been thought advisable to embody them in the report, so that they might be printed and each member get a copy for reference.

The report here contains a summarised history of the Brigade, which has already been published the Gazette.

During the past winter they had had very few easterly gales, and only on one occasion, so recently as May 20th, was there a probability of their services being required. This was the case of the Norwegian schooner Kaperan, which was being towed into the harbour during a NNE gale. The towline broke, and she rapidly drifted toward the South Pier. The members assembled and made the usual preparations for rendering assistance, but the steam-tug got another line on board, and she was towed into safety. The rocket signals were used on this occasion for the first time in summoning the Brigade, and answered admirably. In closing the report, it was with extreme regret the committee had to record the resignations of all the captains of the Brigade. Long servitude and other causes had led to this result, and while accepting the resignations with reluctance, the committee recommended to the members that the old captains should still be identified with the Brigade by being appointed honorary captains.

Mr Whitelaw, in moving that the report be printed and circulated amongst the members, said it would be a proper thing to elect the old captains as honorary captains.

Mr Potts seconded the adoption and printing of the report, which was carried.

The Hon. Secretary then read the financial report, which stated that they commenced the year with balance of £20 3s 3d in hand. The expenditure amounted to £37 15s 3d, leaving a balance now with the bankers of £47 3s 10d. Applause.)

Mr Grey moved the adoption of the financial statement. Mr Whitelaw seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Honorary Captains

Mr Sanderson moved that the old captains of the Brigade be elected to the position of honorary captains.

Mr Kell seconded.

Mr Malcolm supported the resolution, which was unanimously carried.

Result of the Voting

The scrutineers now entered the room and the voting in the election of new cap tan was reported as follows :—Mr Geo. Grey, 56, Mr A. Whitelaw, 55; Mr Geo. Robson, 35; Mr G. R. Potts, 33; Mr Walter Ross, 33.

Mr Ross said Mr Potts was one of the best members of the Brigade, and he should gladly withdraw in his favour. (Applause.)

Mr Malcolm said this was very generous of Mr Ross, and the generous spirit which he had displayed in foregoing his own claims in favour of Mr Potts would not be forgotten by the Brigade. (Applause.)

The Honorary Surgeon

Mr Ross moved the reappointment of Dr Crease as honorary surgeon to the Brigade.

The motion was seconded and carried by acclamation.

Dr Crease, in thanking the members for the honour they had again conferred upon him, suggested to those members who were not already familiar with ambulance work to join the ambulance class without delay, as nothing could be of more benefit to them in connection with the work of the Brigade, especially in learning how to treat persons apparently drowned.

Votes of Thanks

On the motion of Mr Vasey, seconded by Mr Henderson, a vote of thanks was passed to the proprietors of the local newspapers for sending free copies of their journals to the Watch House.

Mr Grey proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Malcolm for the able manner in which he continued to carry out the duties of secretary.

The vote was carried with applause.

Mr Malcolm responded, and concluded by moving a vote of thanks to the members of the Coastguard.

The vote was also heartily carried.

Mr Lorden suitably responded, and the proceedings terminated.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette and Telegraph 8 July 1887

South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

ANNUAL MEETING 6th of July 1888

The annual meeting of the above was held last night the Watch House, South Pier, where there was a large attendance of officers and members. Mr W. Cay presided.

The Honorary Secretary (Mr S. Malcolm) read the 22nd annual report as follows:

It will in the recollection of the members that at the last annual meeting we had very reluctantly to accept the resignations of the four captains of the divisions, who had for so many years acted in that capacity, and in consideration of their valuable services we had the pleasure of conferring upon them the title of honorary captains of the brigade. The ballot for their successors showed that the choice of the members had fallen upon Messrs Geo. Gray, A. Whitelaw and Geo. Robson, and a tie between Messrs G. B. Potts, and Walter Ross. The latter gentleman generously retired in favour of Mr Potts. These changes necessitated the adjournment of the meeting for a week for the purpose of electing deputy - captains and commander. In addition to these Deputy- Captain Ward and brigadesman Joseph Hopper were elected honorary members. On Thursday night October 27th, a competition took place in the North Gardens of the Newcastle Exhibition between various ambulance classes of the district. Of the 18 detachments who competed, three went from this brigade, and we are glad to report that one of the detachments was awarded the first prize. At the close of the drill on Saturday, November 5th, an interesting ceremony took place, one of which are glad to say has on several occasions occurred in connection with the brigade, namely, the presentation to A. E. Hunter the Royal Humane Society's certificate on vellum, for saving the life of Mr James W. Bell, of Newcastle, who was in danger drowning while bathing at the Trow Rocks on August 3rd, 1887. The Mayor (Ald. Eltringham) made mention of the fact that during his mayoralty three members of the brigade had sufficiently distinguished themselves to merit recognition from the Royal Humane Society. On Friday, Jan. 20, 1888, the annual supper provided by the officers took place, and was presided over the Mayor (Ald. Scott). It was numerously attended by the members and visitors, and passed off in a pleasant and enjoyable manner. About 8 p.m. on January 27 during heavy snowstorm, the schooner Balcay, Dundee, was being towed into the harbour when the towline parted and she stranded about 30 yards from the Groyne lighthouse. The brigade was summoned the new rocket signals, and the rocket apparatus was taken along the sands within range of the vessel. In meantime some steamtug got alongside and towed her into safety. Forty-five members were present.

During the second week in March a severe snowstorm prevailed, with strong gales, and the brigade was on duty for several nights, the members mustering in strong force. About 10 a.m. on March 12, a small steamer was observed making for the harbour, and when on the bar she broached to with her head towards the pier. When about 30 yards from the pier, and in imminent danger, the alarm signals were fired and the apparatus taken down. The vessel answering her helm, came round, cleared the pier head, and stood out to sea. At 11.30 a.m., March 16th the steamer Recepta

of Sunderland, was observed off the entrance of the harbour flying signals of distress, with machinery out of order, and gradually drifting in. An engine was attached to the van and the brigade proceeded to the end of the pier. The lifeboats were also launched. In the meantime some tugs came to her assistance and succeeded in towing her into the harbour. We have had a long and severe winter, in fact it may be said not to have disappeared even at the date this report closes, the 30th June, for about 3 p.m. on that day we were summoned to a steamer in distress. It appears that the s.s. Hector, of Sunderland, which had left the harbour the previous day was returning disabled, tow of two tugs. When near the South pier the tow-line broke and she drifted on to the inner side of the extreme end of the pier. A rope thrown from the vessel was made fast to the pier, and by its means one of the crew was assisted ashore. The rest of the crew were taken out by the lifeboats. During these gales and high seas the foundations of the exercise mast were undermined, and the mast fell. It was found, on examination that the wood was in a decayed state. It was considered inadvisable to be at the expense of refixing it, and a new mast has been erected in its place. We are also glad to report that the new rocket house has just been completed by the Board of Trade.

The Chairman said they ought to congratulate themselves on there having been no wrecks, but the members were on the spot had they been needed. He trusted that as the piers were extended and steam became more and more the motive power of vessels, there would be still fewer casualties. However, it was netter to be prepared for emergencies, and he sincerely hoped the brigade would always show up in good numbers when required.

Mr Malcolm then read the balance sheet which stated that at the end of the previous 12 months, ending June 30th, 1887, there was a balance of £347 3s 10d in hand, there had been received: Board of Trade grant, £25; Tyne Lifeboat trustees, £20; interest, £15 10s 7d; box contributors in Watch House, £2 12s 8d ; total £110 7s 1d. The expenditure was £50 16s 4d, leaving a balance of £59 10s 9d in hand.

Mr J. D. Marshall moved the adoption of the report and balance sheet, and remarked upon efficiency displayed by the ambulance class at the Newcastle Exhibition.

Mr J. Barrett seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Rev. H. W. Farrar moved the re-election of Dr Crease as honorary surgeon to the Brigade.

Mr A. Whitelaw, seconding, gave Dr Crease great praise for the careful and thorough manner in which he had instructed the men in ambulance work.

The motion was carried by acclamation, and Dr Crease briefly replied.

Capt. G. Grey moved a vote of thanks to the proprietors of the local journals for free copies of papers sent to the Watch House.

Mr T. Vasey seconded, and the motion was carried.

Capt. G. Robson moved a vote of thanks to the Coastguard for their kindly assistance during the past year.

Mr Barrett seconded, and the motion was heartily agreed to.

Mr Lorden briefly responded.

On the motion of Mr Whitelaw a similar compliment was paid to Mr Malcolm.

The election of officers resulted in the brigade captains, Messrs G. Gray, G. R. Potts, A. Whitelaw, and G. Robson; the deputy captains, Messrs J. W. Buckland, James Henderson, G. Scrafton, and W. Ross, and the hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr S. Malcolm, all being unanimously re-elected.

Mr Malcolm suggested that as a brigade they should raise a fund to be contributed towards the proposed memorial to the inventors of the lifeboat.

The Chairman said he did not think he would be violating the confidence of his colleagues if he stated that the Tyne Lifeboat Trustees had resolved to offer the old lifeboat Tyne to the Parks Committee, and they would also perhaps contribute towards the building of a suitable house to put her in. (Applause.)

Mr T. D. Marshall moved that the four captains the brigade should be appointed to receive subscriptions towards the memorial to the lifeboat inventors.

Mr James Henderson seconded the motion, which was supported by Messrs Cottew and M. Cay, and carried unanimously.—The committee was elected as follows:—Messrs J. W. Buckland, J. Barrett, T. Oliver, James Henderson, Benjamin Heron, T. D. Marshall, Walter Ross, George Scrafton, T. Vasey, A. E. Hunter, John Wilson, and J. H. Wood.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the meeting.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette and Telegraph 7 July 1888

South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

ANNUAL MEETING 5th of July 1889

The annual meeting of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade was held last night at the Watch House. There was a good attendance of members. Mr M. Cay, J.P., honorary captain, was unanimously voted to the chair. - The Chairman said he was glad to come down and see the house once again. There were many new faces since he was in active service, but he was glad to hear the Brigade was still flourishing, that there was want no money and want of money and no want of men, and one was just as necessary as the other. (Hear hear). —Mr Malcolm, honorary secretary, asked that scrutineers be appointed before the other business was proceeded with, and Messrs Middleton, Harrison, Wood and Page were appointed.— Capt. Grey said with regard to the subscriptions on behalf of the Greathead and

WOULDHAVE MEMORIAL,

between £11 and £12 had been received in response to circulars sent out to the members, and probably other subscriptions would come in. (Applause)—Mr Malcolm read a letter from Captain Whitelaw regretfully tendering his resignation as captain of the third division, after a service of 15 years. He took the step on account of the state of his health, and spoke with pleasure of the many kindnesses he had received during his connection with the institution. He also read letters of regret and an inability to attend from Captain W. Cay and the Rev. H. Farrar.

Mr Malcolm then proceeded to read the 23rd annual report as follows:—

ANNUAL REPORT

In presenting the 23rd annual report, your committee feel at a loss what to say to you. We have been able on many previous occasions to narrate some interesting facts in connection with the work of our Brigade, but it will have been noticed in later years these facts have gradually become very meagre, owing to the lessening number of casualties at the mouth of the Tyne. While we may regret there are now fewer opportunities of usefulness, yet at the same there is great cause for congratulation that our harbour is becoming so safe that, notwithstanding the enormous traffic, vessels enjoy a comparative immunity from danger in entering the port. It is true the gales have been less severe and continuous: at the same time we think the near completion of the piers has contributed not a little to this satisfactory result. We are glad to note that the ambulance class movement, begun 10 years ago in connection with the Brigade, still continues, and 16 members who presented themselves in March last passed a satisfactory examination, and have been awarded Certificates of Competency to render first aid the injured. The funds continue in a flourishing condition, and we have had the Watch House repaired and re-painted inside and outside, and also the drill mast overhauled and painted. There are at present 15 vacancies, which will be filled up as soon as suitable candidates offer themselves. The committee regrets that Capt. Whitelaw, of the 3rd Division, has thought it desirable to resign his position in the Brigade owing the state of his health.

Capt. has been connected with us for 15 years, and consideration of his active and valuable services, we recommend you elect him Honorary Captain. The annual supper, given by the officers of the Brigade, was held on January 18th last, and passed off in the usual pleasant way. In conclusion, your committee sincerely hope the members will not allow their interest to diminish, notwithstanding the lack of excitement, keeping in mind that casualties are still probable, although perhaps not so frequently as formerly.

He also read the

FINANCIAL STATEMENT,

which stated that the last financial year was began with a balance of £59 10s 9d. There had been a grant of from the Board of Trade, £20 from the Lifeboat trustees, £15 12s interest from deposit account, and £2 7s 9d from the contribution box in the Shipping Office. The expenditure was £88 13s 7d, leaving a balance of £33 16s 11d in hand.—On the motion Captain G. R. Potts, seconded by Mr Geo. Wilson, the report and balance sheet were adopted, ordered to be printed and circulated amongst the members.— Captain Robson moved that Dr Crease be re-elected honorary surgeon to the Brigade. Deputy- Captain James Henderson seconded, and the motion was carried by acclamation.—

On the motion Captain Grey, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr Lorden and the members of the Coastguard for keeping the brigade house and apparatus in order. —Deputy Capt. Buckland proposed a vote of thanks to the proprietors of the local newspapers for their kindness in supplying free copies the papers at the Brigade House. Mr A. E. Hunter seconded, and the motion was carried with applause. On the motion Captain G. R. Potts, seconded by Captain Robson, the thanks of the brigade were given to Mr Malcolm for the way he had discharged his duties as secretary and treasurer.—The result of the voting in the election of officers and committee for the ensuing year was as follows Captains, Geo. Robson, Geo. Grey, G. R. Potts, and Walter Ross ; Deputy-captains, J. W. Buckland, James Henderson, Geo. Scrafton, and J. H. Wood; secretary, S. Malcolm ; committee, J. W. Buckland, J. H. Wood, F. Oliver, James Henderson, J. Page, Geo. Scrafton, T. Vasey, G. Wilson, B. Heron, J. Wilson (1st division), J. Shannan Stevenson and Jas. Thompson (1st). On the motion of Mr Malcolm a vote thanks was awarded to Mr Cay for presiding, and the proceedings terminated.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette and Telegraph 6 1889

South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

ANNUAL SUPPER December 1880

No report available

South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

ANNUAL SUPPER December 1881

Last night, the members of the above brigade met in their watch-house to partake of the annual supper provided the officers. There was excellent attendance, and the proceedings were much enjoyed. The brigade-house had been elaborately decorated with evergreens, banners, flags, &c., and presented a most attractive appearance. Amongst the visitors were the Mayor (Ald. Nelson), Mr J. C. Stevenson, M.P., the Rev. W. C. M. Woosnam, Dr Crease, J. H. Morton, Ald. Spence (Tynemouth), Messrs J. Robinson, Jos. M. Moore (Town Clerk), T. T. Dale, Thos. G. Mabane, S. Cottew, Matthew Cay, W. Cay, W. Wilson, G. R. Potts, Captain Whitelaw, Chief-Officer Latter (Coastguard, Tynemouth), Chief-Officer Hart (Coastguard, South Shields), &c. The absence of Ald. Glover, who had hitherto presided at every annual supper of the brigade for fourteen years, was much regretted. Letters of apology for nonattendance from several gentlemen were read by Mr Malcolm.

The Mayor, who presided, as soon as supper was over, gave the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, coupling the names of Major Stevenson with the army and volunteers, and chief officer Latter with the navy.

Mr Latter heartily responded in an excellent speech on behalf of the profession of which he had always felt the warmest admiration. He called forth loud manifestations of approval by saying the naval captains of to-day had a very hard task. He thought the duties of a captain 30 or 40 years ago were nothing comparison to the responsibility of nowadays. In his opinion there should three captains at least to handle the modern complicated ironclad.

Major Stevenson followed, on behalf of the army, amid enthusiastic applause. He pointed out that all services now were voluntary, there being no press-gang to compel people to defend their country whether they would or not. He recognised many round him in that room who were once members of the Volunteer Corps; and he felt glad that they had volunteered in the admirable duty of the Life-brigade. It seemed to be the impression of certain people—members of the Peace Society—that the volunteers were banded together for the purpose of putting an end to other people's lives. (Laughter.) Those individuals, however, could not say that of the Life Brigade, for they were banded together for the object of saving lives (Applause). It customary in replying to that toast for persons to say—"if the time did ever come," &c. — and they knew all the rest. (Laughter.) It would useless to talk of their brigade in that fashion. They had already shown what they could do. (Applause.) To those trophies hung around their room—vessels' name boards, the crews of which they had rescued—they could point as possibilities of the future, just as they were realities of the past. (Applause.)

The Chairman next gave the toast the evening—that of the "South Shields Life Brigade," and announced the Tyne Commissioners, seeing the necessity of railings on the pier, had decided put them up at once. He was glad of that, for without them

the brigadesmens' lives were in danger. He had always taken a paternal interest in their welfare, and was glad to see them doing so well. After adverting to the past and present financial position of the brigade and the handsome legacy left them by Mr Gregson, the Mayor concluded by telling an amusing anecdote of a race he once had, when a boy, with their benefactor. To this toast was coupled the name of the secretary.

Mr Malcolm, in responding, mentioned as a fact that he had for fourteen years endeavoured to get Ald. Nelson to take supper with them, and at last he had succeeded.

At this of the proceedings Ald. Nelson retired, and Major Stevenson was requested to take the chair, which he did amidst applause. Captain Mabane then proposed "Our brother volunteers." He thought most fitting that they should recognise the services of their fellow-workers on the other side of the water. (Applause.) It was most gratifying to the South Shields Brigade to know that, should any distressed vessel, in her attempt to enter the Tyne, run ashore the other side of the water there was available help there. He coupled the toast with the name of the founder of the Life Brigade—the veteran Ald. Spence. The toast was enthusiastically received.

Ald. Spence said he felt undeserving of the compliments heaped upon his head. He thanked the members most sincerely for their good wishes, and could assure them that the Tynemouth men took deep interest in their work. Whenever the "three guns" were fired, the members of the north side brigade invariably hurried to the Spanish Battery, and watched with the greatest eagerness and rejoicing the work going at South Shields; and rejoiced with great rejoicing when they learnt of the successful landing of every man of the crew. (Loud applause.) It was perfectly plain that as long as there were storms upon the coast, vessels would get into danger, and he hoped the day was far distant when the life brigades would cease to exist. He hoped that whenever a wreck came ashore, they would never lose a man, (Loud applause.)

Mr Moore next gave the "Coastguard," which was responded to by chief officer Hart, who was received with vociferous applause, and continued, mingled with cries of "Ashton" and where's "Jaggers".

Coastguardsman Ashton somewhat appeased the assembly by a short reply, but when he had concluded there was fresh demand for Jaggers, who did not put in an appearance, being on duty.

Another appropriate toast, that of "the officers," proposed by Mr George Grey, followed, and was responded to by Messrs W. Cay, M. Cay, T. Cottew, and T. Mabane, a speech from each of those gentlemen insisted open by the members. The cries for "Jaggers" were renewed, and eventually that worthy individual made his appearance, amidst loud cheering. Addressing the company as "ship-mates and mess-mates all," he expressed his satisfaction having been permitted to come to "canny Shields." As to the service to which he had the honour belong, "it was a salvage strop' had slung world." (Loud laughter and applause.)

The health of the honorary surgeon (Dr Crease) Laving been honoured, there were number of other toasts proposed.

During the evening, the proceedings were enlivened by some excellent songs, which Messrs Whitelaw, Potts, Brockbanks, Woolner, Pollard, and others distinguished themselves —Mr Wilson doing good service as accompanist on the piano.

Major Stevenson being also compelled to retire early, Dr Crease took the chair.

The proceedings were kept up until a late hour.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette and Telegraph 2 December 1881

South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

ANNUAL SUPPER 1882

No report available

South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

ANNUAL SUPPER 1883

No report available

South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

ANNUAL SUPPER 1884

No report available

South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

ANNUAL SUPPER January 1885

The annual supper of the South Shields Brigade was last evening held in the Watch House at the Pier. The house was elaborately decorated with wreaths, holly, and flags. A very large number sat down to an excellent repast, and after the supper the Mayor took the chair, among his supporters being Ald. J. F. Spence (Tynemouth), Mr S. Malcolm, J. Robinson, Mr R. Farmer (R.P.), Rev. Mr Peace, Capt. Nicholson, Mr J. W. Broderick (Sunderland), Middleton, Dr Crease, Mr W. Cay, Mr M. Cay, Mr Whitelaw, Mr S. Cottew, Mr T. Coulson, and Mr G.R. Potts.

The usual loyal toasts having been duly honoured,

The Chairman gave "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers," and spoke of the great victory the army had gained in the Soudan.

Mr Hart and Mr Latter (officers of Coastguard) responded on behalf of the Navy, and Lieut. Ogilvie (5th Durham) replied for the Volunteers.

Mr S. Malcolm stated that J. C. Stevenson, M.P., had written to him regretting his inability to be present. At a later portion of the evening they should have an opportunity of shewing their appreciation of the kind offices of Mr Stevenson to the Brigade during the recent visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to the locality.

Mr W. Cay said was asked to propose success to the kindred institutions of the neighbourhood—those of Tynemouth, Sunderland, and Marsden. They had representatives from those brigades present. From Tynemouth there was the kindly face Mr Spence and "Father of us all"—who was "always ready" and other gentlemen with whom he was not so well acquainted, but who, he was sure, would always do their duty, when their services were needed. There should only be one rivalry amongst them, and that should be as to who would the most good. Whatever honours their friends should receive they should very echo throughout the land, when they in South Shields had the good fortune to save the lives of their fellow creatures they would equally glad to compliment them on their good work. (Applause).

Ald. J. F. Spence, who was received with applause, said it was with very great pleasure he responded on behalf of Tynemouth Life Brigade to the kind remarks of Mr Cay. Whenever, on the other side of the water, they heard of their success at South- Shields it was to them a matter of great rejoicing, and was so whenever they learnt of the success of any of the life saving organizations which were now spread all round the land. It was now nearly 21 years since the Life Brigade movement started, and just on his left hand, whilst gentlemen had been speaking and singing, there was a picture of the wreck of the "Stanley" on which he had been looking. It was the wreck which originated the Brigade movement. There were probably many present who joined the Brigade on its formation— (hear, hear) —and he did not think there was any man who had joined the movement who did not feel thankful at the part he had been enabled to play. A more delightful sensation there could not be than that which accompanied the rescuing of their fellow-creatures from the grasp of death. (Applause.) Some of them were getting old in the service. He was very much amused when meeting a gentleman in Newcastle to hear him say "Here comes old Spence." He asked what he meant, and he replied that 20 years' ago he stood in the arcade at Tynemouth when he heard the guns fire. Very soon afterwards he (Mr Spence) went tearing past. There were two or three old fellows standing in the arcade, and one of them said "There gans awd Spence," and since that day, whenever saw his face, thought "there goes old Spence." (Laughter and applause.) He added, "But I don't think you look a day older.*" (Applause.) He (Mr Spence) hoped his heart was not a day older in the service, and although 20 years made a good deal of difference in a man's physical powers, he felt yet as though, if heard the guns fired, he would be out of bed and down to the scene of action as fast he could. (Applause.) He was sure that was the feeling of every man in that room who had anything to do with the work. (Applause.)

Mr Broderick, on behalf of the Sunderland Brigade, said that during the late storm they had been the means of landing men from ship wrecked vessels. In one case, unfortunately, two men had been drowned, and he had doubt they had seen in the papers a very singular report which reflected upon the character of the Brigade at Sunderland. ("No.") It was unfortunate it had occurred, but he was very glad to say there was not one single word of truth in the report. (Applause.) The report had arisen out of a misunderstanding it had been contradicted in the local papers, but he could not undertake to contradict it in all the papers into which it had crept throughout the country.

Capt. Nicholson responded on behalf of the Marsden Brigade.

Mr M. Cay gave "The Tyne Lifeboat Institution." They claimed South Shields as the birthplace of the lifeboat, and he was glad to say that in that part of country the lifeboat was supported by voluntary subscriptions. The lifeboat was perhaps not so much needed as 50 years ago, when he could remember, standing on the beacon, seeing the boats coming and going continually to and from wrecks. Most of them would remember the veteran lifeboatman Joe Smith—(applause)—who during his lifetime was engaged in the saving of nearly a thousand lives. As Shieldsmen they had reason to be proud of such men, for although they did not stand before Arabs

and shoot them down, they saved lives with just as noble hearts as their noble men in the Soudan. (Applause.) He associated with the toast the names of Messrs Andrew Harrison, William Burn, John Grieves, and Wm. Purvis coxswains of lifeboats.

Mr Harrison replied on behalf of the other coxswains.

Mr S. Malcolm proposed vote thanks to the member for the borough, Mr J. C. Stevenson, who had, he said, kindly looked after the Brigade when the Prince and Princess of Wales visited the Tyne, by giving them a prominent standpoint at the opening of the dock, and providing them a luncheon. He was sorry that Mr Stevenson could not be present, and Mr Stevenson was equally sorry.

The proposition was carried by acclamation.

Capt. Cottew gave "The Coastguardsmen." They were he said supplied with a fine staff of men, and it gave him pleasure to propose their health.

Mr Hart and Mr Ashton replied, the latter saying that he would soon be leaving the service, as he intended enjoying his pension after 23 ½ years of service. If any situation should turn up in Shields to suit him—(loud laughter and applause) —he looked upon the officers and members to do their best for him. (Applause.)

Other toasts followed, and the health of the Mayor was drunk before the close the evening. The programme was a smart one, Mr W. Brown giving ventriloquial sketches and a number of comic songs, besides accompanying on the piano, while other gentlemen obliged the company in a similar manner.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette and Telegraph 16 January 1885

South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

ANNUAL SUPPER January 1886

REWARDS FOR SAVING LIFE

Last night the annual supper the South Shields Volunteer Brigade was held in the Free Library Hall, South Shields, when there was large gathering of members and their lady friends. Amongst the company were the Mayor of South Shields (Councillor J. T. Eltringham), Ald. Mabane, Captains Cottew and W. Cay, ex-Deputy Captain Watkins, Whitelaw, J. Wood, E. R. Potts, S. Malcolm (secretary), Dr Crease (hon surgeon), Supt. Moorhouse, Supt. Farmer (River Tyne Police), Mr Fred Cook, Ald. J. F. Spence (Secretary Tynemouth Brigade), Mr John Latter (Chief Officer the Coastguard), and others. A departure was made from the general rule, and in addition to the supper there was conceit interspersed by dancing, and an excellent recitation by Mr Fred, Cook (lessee of Theatre Royal). Mr Thomas Robinson's excellent band was present and provided the dance music. Amongst those ladies and gentlemen who contributed the concert were:—Mr Ed. Clark, Newcastle; Mr Sewell, Mr J. W. Henderson, Mr C. Walton, Mr R. S. Buckland, Miss Graham, Miss Miller, and Miss Buckland (at the piano), Sec. The chief point of interest in the proceedings was the presentation of a bronze medal and vellum certificate from the Royal Humane Society to Mr John Henry Wood, member of the South Shields Life Brigade, and Captain Joseph Ralph Dixon, of Brandling Park, Newcastle, for distinguished bravery at the South Shields pier during the great storm of October 24th last. It will be remembered that two lads were swept off the pier by a heavy sea. The gentlemen named gallantly plunged into the water to the rescue. One boy was saved, but the other was drowned. A detailed account the adventure was published in the Gazette at the time. The Mayor, who made the presentation, said that Mr Wood was member of the Brigade, of whom, he was proud to say courage and heroism had been the chief attributes. They were banded together to save life, and nobly had it done its work whenever the chance came. The courage displayed by Wood and Mr Dixon was of high order—it combined both the physical and the moral. He hoped that both gentlemen would be spared with strength to perform similar work. (Applause)— The Mayor then made the presentations amidst applause, after which a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to him for doing so. Mr Dixon, we are informed, was awarded a certificate by the Spanish Government for saving a young lady from drowning at Bilbao, in 1882 and also with a gold ring by the parents of the lady. Mr Wood was warmly congratulated by his friends after the receipt the certificate and medal.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette and Telegraph 16 January 1886

South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

ANNUAL SUPPER January 1887

The 21st anniversary of the above institution was celebrated on Saturday evening, when supper was provided at the Watch House, to which a very large company sat down. Mr W. Cay, senior captain of the Brigade, presided, and was supported by the Mayor (Mr J. T. Eltringham), Mr T. L. Hall, J.P., Mr M. Cay, J.P., Ald. Readhead, J.P., Ald. Mabane, Mr S. Cottew, Dr. Crease, Mr Alexander S. Stevenson (Tynemouth), Mr Broderick (Sunderland), Mr R. C. Annand, Mr S. Malcolm (honorary secretary and treasurer), Supt. Farmer (R.T.P.), Mr Hedley, Mr John Robinson, Captain Whitelaw, Mr G. D. Marshall, Mr Walter Ross, Mr G. R. Potts, Mr Lordan (chief of the local coastguard) &c. Ald. J. F. Spence came in when the first part of the toast list was proceeding, and received an enthusiastic welcome. The Watch House was profusely decorated with holly and other evergreens a pretty effect being produced by the excellence with which everything had been carried out by the members of the Coastguard, under the superintendence of Mr Lordan. The supper was catered for by Mr J. G. Johnson, of Fowler Street, and was served up in first-class style.

Mr Malcolm read letters of apology for unavoidable absence from T. Gray, assistant secretary to the Board of Trade, Marine Department, who sent his congratulations on the attainment of the Brigade's majority, and best wishes for its continued prosperity and success; from Mr J. C. Stevenson, M.P., who had been suddenly called to Edinburgh; from Captain Prowse, R.N.; Capt. Hall, Inspector of Coastguards on North- East coast; Ald. Nelson, J.P., and Mr Latter, chief officer of Tynemouth Coastguard.

The Chairman said they must all regret the absence of those friends who had sent their apologies, but they would the best they could to enjoy themselves at the gathering, where he saw so many happy and smiling faces, though there were not very many faces around them that night that were present at the first meeting of the Brigade when it was formed. Many of them had gone to join the great majority,—some had become invalided from old age, a state which their chairman was fast approaching to. ("No, no," and laughter.) Those who were with them in the decline of life might they be long spared to do their duty and assist in the work of saving shipwrecked mariners, (Applause) He concluded by moving the toast of "The Queen, Prince and Princess of Wales, and members of the Royal Family," which was drank with musical honours.

The Chairman next proposed "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers;" which was responded to by Mr Lordan and Mr Geo. Hart.

The Mayor said it was very great pleasure for him to be there that evening at the annual gathering of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade, and not only their annual gathering, but their 21st anniversary. He believed there were few present of the members who were first in it, who had borne the burden and heat of the day, or rather be might say the quiet of the night. It must be great consolation to those present when they thought of the blessings which had resulted from their work, the number of children whose fathers had been saved to them, and the wives who had kept their husbands. When they thought of this glorious record it must make them well satisfied with the help they had given in this work. They, who might be said to sit at home at ease; sometimes thought of them at nights when the guns were fired, and were proud of the men Shields, who were ever ready to the call of duty, and prepared to take up their cold vigils of the night. He wished them all the best health and strength to continue in the good work they had been doing, and he would ask those present who were not members to drink "Success to the South Shields Life Brigade."

The toast was drunk with enthusiasm, to the musical accompaniment of "The Old Brigade."

The Chairman thanked the Mayor most heartily for the kind and good wishes he had given them and the encomiums he had passed upon what they had done for the saving of shipwrecked mariners. It would be needless for him to say it had not been an easy task. There had been many a weary and anxious night long before that Watch House was built, when they had to bear with the rain and cold, and take shelter behind the pailings which led alongside the pier. He hoped that in future there would always be a Life Brigade in South Shields, and that success would attend all its endeavours to save life. (Applause.)

Mr Malcolm said it had been his intention to have written a report for that evening, giving a *resume* of the various events which had taken place in connection with that Brigade since its formation, but, to use nautical phrase, the wind was taken out of his sails by the Shields Gazette — (applause) —and about a month ago there was a history of the Brigade published in its columns. As the history was taken largely from reports prepared by him, and published by the Brigade, it would be a waste of time simply to repeat what they already knew. It was, however, due to that occasion, and due to the position he held in the Brigade, that he should make few remarks bearing on the history of the institution. It was the twenty-first anniversary of their formation, and he happened to have a copy of the requisition which was presented to the Mayor asking him to call a public meeting to consider the advisability of forming the Brigade. That requisition, he found, contained forty-three signatures, and out - of these eighteen were still living, and of that eighteen Captain Cottew and himself were the only two still in the Brigade. (Applause.) That meeting only lasted half an hour, and the remark was made at its close that a great work had been done in a very short time—in fact, people said they never remembered so much business being done in so short a time. (Laughter and applause.) The Brigade was formed, and the first captains were the two Captains Cay, Captain Cottew, and Captain Tinmouth. Then Captain Wright succeeded Captain Cottew, and in 1869 Mr Riddle became a captain. In 1870 Mr Wright left, and Captain Cottew took his place, and in 1871 Capt. Mabane joined the ranks. Since then they had remained unchanged with

the Captains Cay, Capt. Cottew, and Capt. Mabane. The captains had been long livers, at any rate. (Hear, hear.) Coming to the other officers, at the first meeting two secretaries were appointed, Mr Archibald Stevenson and himself, but Mr Stevenson was afterwards appointed treasurer, and held that office until his death in 1877. Then the office of treasurer became merged into that of secretary, which he (the speaker) still held. (Applause.) The first surgeon was Dr Stokoe, and on his death in 1870 they were fortunate enough in getting a successor in their present surgeon Dr Crease. (Applause.) He started ambulance classes, which had been the means of doing an immense amount of good in instructing the Brigadesmen. (Applause.) As to the members—originally they had 140 members, but the maximum number was reduced to 100, and of the original members there remained Messrs W. Cay, M. Cay, Cottew, John Wilson, James Wood, Matthew Thompson, H. Johnston, J. Johnson, W. E. Moffitt, Robert Wells, James Bulman, and himself. As to their finances, their income from subscriptions and donations since the formation of the Brigade was £920, from the Board of Trade £837 and other sources brought the total to £2,037. Their expenses were £2,017 leaving a balance of £20 in their hands. Their work had been a noble one and he could not sit down without mentioning the Coastguard. (Loud applause.) They were responsible for the gear, and if that was allowed to go out of order, where were they? In fact, a very great deal of credit belonged to them. (Hear, hear.) It had been his custom to preserve all the records of the Brigade which appeared in the public prints, and he had now arranged these in their proper order in a book, which was his wish should be kept in the reference department of the Free Library at South Shields. (Applause.) He had also prepared an abstract of their services at wrecks, and each member of the Brigade would receive a copy, so that he could frame it, and have a record of their twenty-one years' work. (Loud applause.)

Mr Alex. S. Stevenson, who was warmly received, assured that meeting that he complied with the greatest pleasure with the request of the Chairman that he should speak to the toast "Health and success to all kindred institutions throughout the world." He should like to say at the outset that was charged by his brother to say that be deeply regretted, having been called suddenly to Edinburgh, he was unable to be present with them at their coming of age. With regard to another brother of his, he could not but help being deeply touched when his name was mentioned by their honoured secretary. That brother, who now sleeps in the southern' seas, and whose portrait they had there in the Watch House, in no place and amongst no people would, from what he knew of him, wish to be more remembered than amongst them—his old comrades of the Life Brigade. (Applause.) He took a deep interest in their work, and they of his family were glad to have him remembered by men like those the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade. (Applause.) These institutions, now scattered all over the world, began in Tynemouth, and one of the first places to follow the example was South Shields. It was one of the noblest works in which men could be engaged, and the saving of 180 lives meant much more than that, when they remembered how many were dependent on these 180, whom the Brigade had taken from wrecks by means of the rocket apparatus. When they thought of the wives and children and relatives of these men, then only would they properly appreciate the services they had rendered. (Applause.)

Mr J. F. Spence, responding to the toast, said it must, indeed, produce on seamen a great feeling of security to know if they were wrecked on this coast there were many men to assist and endeavour to save their lives. He had listened with very great interest to the statement which their worthy secretary had put before them that night, and his remarks connection with that beautiful book which he had presented to them. He did not know a more valuable possession that anyone could have than such a record of the valuable services rendered by such an institution, and the book for all time to come would be a most interesting document to anyone who valued the work that had been done. To many it would be a matter astonishment to learn the number of windows and orphans that were left by the loss of life at sea, in spite of all the precautions that were taken by that and kindred institutions. Since the year 1830 the average number of widows who had come on the funds at North Shields was 30 every year and 60 children also in each year of the period. Such an institution as that, whose 21st anniversary they were celebrating, must be acknowledged to be of very great value, and he could only hope it would go on and prosper in the work it had so nobly carried out during the 21 years it had existed. (Applause.)

Mr Broderick also responded to the toast.

Ald. Readhead proposed the toast of "The Chairman and Trustees of the Tyne Lifeboat Institution."

Mr J. L. Hall replied, and referred to the circumstances which gave rise to the invention of the lifeboat, remarking that one of the South Shields boats alone had saved over a thousand lives. (Applause.)

Captain Cottew, on behalf of the Brigade, thanked the guests who had patronised them that night, and mentioned specially the four Tyne lifeboat coxswains who were present.

Mr A. Harrison, one of the latter, acknowledged the compliment.

Ald. Mabane asked the gathering to accord their thanks to Messrs J. W. Henderson, C. Walton, J. W. Woolner, and R. S. Buckland, vocalists, and Mr J. Tait, pianist, for rendering several songs and glees during the evening. This was done in a hearty manner, and Henderson replied.

The proceedings shortly afterwards concluded.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette and Telegraph 17 January 1887

South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

ANNUAL SUPPER January 1888

The annual dinner of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade took place last night at the Watch House, on the South Pier, under of the presidency the Mayor (Mr Geo. Scott). Amongst those present were Mr J. C. Stevenson, M.P., Alderman Eltringham, Alderman Mr W. Cay, Mr Geo. Hannay, Alderman J. F. Spence (North Shields). Dr. Crease, Mr A. T. Flagg, M.A., Mr Dixon (Gateshead), Mr R. C. Annaud, Mr John Robinson, Mr Coulson, Mr S. Malcolm (hon. sec. the Life Brigade), Mr A. Harrison (superintendent of the South Shields Lifeboat), and the captains and lieutenants of the brigade. There was a large attendance of members, the Coastguard staff with their chief, Mr Lorden, being also in attendance.

The caterer was Mr J. G. Johnson, Fowler Street, South Shields.

Mr Malcolm gave a hearty welcome on behalf of the brigade to the Mayor, and read letters of apology for unavoidable absence from the Town Clerk (Mr J. M. Moore), Mr M. Cay, J.P., Supt. Farmer, and others.

The loyal and patriotic toasts were duly honoured.

The Mayor proposed the toast of the Army, Navy, and Volunteers.

Mr Latter replied for the Navy, and Mr Stevenson, M.P., for the Volunteers.

Mr Stevenson proposed the toast of the "Life Brigade and Kindred Institutions." He remarked on the circumstance that there had been for the few years past scarcely any occasion for the services of the Brigade wrecks. The progress of the pier increased the safety of the port, but there had been an exceptional absence of easterly gales. They had known times when five screwsteamers were ashore near the South Pier at one time. Such hurricanes would happen again and there would always be need of an efficient Brigade "always ready" to tender assistance to crews in danger.

Ald. J. F. Spence replied, and said that the South Shields Brigade was the first to save life, and had probably saved more lives than any similar institution. He urged on the members to stick closely to their drills, for there would be as great storms in the future as there had been in the past.

Mr Broderick, secretary of the Sunderland Life Brigade, spoke to a similar effect, and suggested that the Cullercoats, Tynemouth, South Shields, and Sunderland Life Brigades should periodically meet and discuss matters that would tend to more efficiency in connection with their brigade work.

Ald. Mabane, Mr W. Cay, and Mr Cottew, former captains of the brigade also responded to the toast.

Ald. Eltringham proposed "The Lifeboat." He referred to the important position South Shields occupied in regard to the invention and improvement of the lifeboat, and the fact that one of their lifeboats had been the means of saving over a thousand persons.

Mr A. Harrison responded and said he hoped they would always be ready at the call of duty as they had been in the past.

The Mayor called on Mr James Page for a recitation, and that gentleman responded reciting "The Lifeboat." Coming it did "after the above toast, and rendered in capital style the effort was a very great success, reflecting much credit upon the capabilities of the reciter.

The toasts of "The Coastguard," and "The Mayor," were heartily accorded, and the proceedings terminated.

During the evening harmony was contributed by Mr Barron, Mr J. W. Henderson, Mr Page, Mr Stout, and Mr Potts (violin). Mr M. Fairs, A.C.O., officiated as accompanist.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette and Telegraph 21 January 1888

South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

ANNUAL SUPPER January 1889

Last night, the annual supper given by the officers of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade to the members and a number of guests, took place in the Brigade Watch House, South Pier. There was a large attendance. The interior of the house was very prettily decorated for the occasion by the members of the coastguard with evergreens, flags, &c. An excellent repast was served by Mr J. G. Johnson. The Mayor (Ald. Scott) presided, and amongst the gentlemen present were Mr J. C. Stevenson. M.P., Ald. Eltringham, J.P. (ex-Mayor), Mr M. Cay, J. P., Dr Crease (hon. surgeon), Mr S. Malcolm (hon. sec.), Mr S. Cottew, Mr Cay, Mr T. B. Appleby, Mr Hebden Barker, Mr T. Vasey, Mr J. H. Morton, Mr J. T. Hedley; the captains of the brigade, Messrs A. Whitelaw, G. K. Potts, George Gray, and George Robson ; Mr Lorden, Chief Officer of Coastguard ; Messrs W. Ross, W. Buckland, James Henderson, and George Scrafton, deputy-captains, &c.

Letters of apology were read from Captain Paul, R.N., inspecting commander of Coastguard, Mr J. L. Hall, chairman of the Lifeboat Trustees; the Rev. H. W. Farrar, Ald. Nelson, and Ald. Mabane.

After the loyal and patriotic toasts, which were given from the chair, Chief Officer Lorden and Lieutenant Downing responded to the "Army, Navy, and Volunteers."

The Mayor, in the course of a brief speech, took occasion to call the attention of Mr Stevenson, as chairman of the Tyne Commission, and that of Mr M. Cay, who is also a member of the same authority, to the dangerous state of the outer end the South Pier, owing to not having a handrail along the side, and said his visit there that night should speed the completion of this desirable work it would not be in vain, and would give satisfaction to the public generally. He concluded by expressing his pleasure at seeing many young men present. That spoke well for the vitality of the brigade, and he hoped it might long continue.

Ald. Eltringham proposed "Success to the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade." He said that two years ago, when he occupied the position of Mayor, he had to congratulate the members on their long immunity from active service. After a period of two years he had still to congratulate them, for he believed they had not seen any, or at any rate very little, active service in the two years past. But if they had no immediate deeds of prowess to send forth to the public, they had a store of capital to draw upon, a capital which had been amassed during 16 or 17 years of previous work which they might all proud of. (Hear, hear.) It must be gratifying to the old members to look around that room and see the names of the vessels they had succoured, reminding them of husbands they had given back their wives, fathers whom they had given back to their children, and who would probably have been lost had they not done their duty well and ably. (Applause.)

Mr W. Cay, Sen., honorary captain, responded. He believed South Shields, the birthplace of the lifeboat, would never want men to work the apparatus for the purpose of saving life long as there were ships upon the waters. It would be a bad day for South Shields if ever it were otherwise. (Applause.)

Mr Stevenson said before proceeding with the toast which had been called on to propose, he wished to say a word in respect the diplomatic proceeding of the Mayor, in introducing at a gathering of that kind his suggestion as to extending the railing on the side of the pier. It was doubt a very clever thing on the part the Mayor to get hold of two Commissioners like himself and Mr Cay on a pleasant evening like that and press this matter upon them, and ask them to spend some of the public money on behalf of this scheme he had put before them. (Laughter.) He did not think the Tyne Commissioners had ever been unwilling to aid any scheme which the requirements of, the Life Brigade called for from time to time. He was sure any considerations of economy would never prevent the Commissioners doing what was necessary in regard to the service of saving life, more especially the saving of life at the mouth of the harbour. (Hear, bear). He was inclined to think the matter mentioned by the Mayor was rather a different case to securing the lives of the gallant brigadesmen who risked their lives to save those seafaring men. He might however say for the encouragement of the Mayor, if it would be any encouragement to him, that the Commissioners at present could not plead the same amount of financial difficulty which he was sorry to say they could in the last few years, and, perhaps, their funds, owing the revival of trade, were more flourishing than they had been for some time past. He mentioned one fact of a cheering character, which was that in 1888 they shipped more coals from the than ever previous in one year. (Applause.) The toast they had to propose was "Success the Tyne lifeboats." They could not do too much justice to the gallant efforts of the life brigade service, but they must not forget the older service which had been doing noble work for a hundred years. (Cheers.) As a native of South Shields he felt proud of that courageous body of men, the Tyne pilots, who were true to the motto of the borough, always ready to man the lifeboat (Renewed cheers.) For generations, accustomed to dangerous and difficult duties, their arduous work had fitted them to act in this capacity in a way others could not have done who had not inherited, as it were, the qualities which had been characteristic of the Tyne pilots for generations past (Loud applause.) He was always proud to show strangers where the first lifeboat was designed on the top of the Lawe; to instance many hundreds of lives the lifeboats had rescued, and it had ever been to him one of the greatest pleasures to take visitors down to his friend, Mr A. Harrison, and get him to show them the lifeboats at present in use, and relate his experiences in regard with them. He asked the company to suitably recognise the toast.

The toast having been enthusiastically given,

Mr Andrew Harrison was called upon to reply, which he did in brief terms, thanking the company for the hearty way in which the services of the lifeboat had been commended.

Mr Malcolm, in proposing " The Coastguard," said ever since they had been a brigade they owed much of their success to the men whom they had been called to work with. He was sure they would get badly on if they had not the coastguard to depend on. They had always ready the apparatus, and if it was not in working order at critical moments the consequences would be serious indeed. To them they were highly indebted for the services they had as a brigade performed. (Cheers.)

Mr Lorden thanked Malcolm for his kind remarks, and assured him and others that nothing gave the Coastguard greater pleasure than to do anything they could aiding and assisting the brigade in every way. The brigadesman were on spot immediately after the signals were fired, and very often before. They had a company of men who were equal to any emergency that might arise. (Cheers.)

Mr Sutcliffe proposed the health of the officers who had generously provided the repast that evening.

Captains Grey, Potts, Whitelaw, and Robson replied.

Mr M. Cay proposed a vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding.

The Mayor replied, and in the course of his remarks, expressed a hope that they would soon see the Wouldhave and Greathead Memorial erected. (Applause.)

Captain Potts proposed "The Visitors," including those who had contributed songs and recitations.

Mr Appleby responded, in his characteristically happy fashion, and the proceedings concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

During the evening excellent recitations were given by Mr Appleby, Mr James Page, and Mr Ernest Stout, and songs by Mr Appleby, Mr Crisp, Mr Self, Mr Allen, and Mr J. W. Henderson.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette and Telegraph 19th of January 1889