

SOUTH SHIELDS VOLUNTEER LIFE BIGADE

Annual Meetings and Suppers for 1890's

A modern transcription

These are copies of reports in the local press of the meetings and suppers as reported during 1890's

Contents

Annual Meeting of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 4 th of July 1890	2
Annual Supper of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 27 th of January 1890	5
Annual Meeting of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 17 th of July 1891	9
Annual Supper of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 23 rd January 1891	12
Annual Meeting of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 30 th of June 1893	15
Annual Supper of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade	18
Annual Meeting of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 4 th of July 1894	20
Annual Supper of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 1894	22
Annual Meeting of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 3 rd of July 1895	24
Annual Supper of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 30 th of January 1895	25
Annual Meeting of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 15 th of July 1896	26
Annual Supper of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 1896	28
Annual Meeting of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 1897	30
Annual Supper of South Shields Volunteer Brigade 27 th of January 1897	32
Annual meeting of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 1898	34
Annual Supper of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 1898	35
Annual Meeting of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 1899	36
Annual Supper of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 19 th of January 1899	38

Annual Meeting of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 4th of July 1890

The 24th annual meeting the above was held last evening at the Watch House on the South Pier. Mr Geo. Robson, captain of the 4th division of the brigade, presided. There was a good muster of officers and members,

Mr S. Malcolm,

honorary secretary and treasurer, read the annual report, as follows: — On Saturday, Dec. 7th, 1889, interesting ceremony took place in the Brigade House, viz.: the presentation, by J. C. Stevenson, Esq., M.P., of the Royal Humane Society's certificates, to Mr H. B. Buckland, of Newcastle, and Mr A. E. Hunter, a member of the Brigade, for their gallantry in rescuing two young men from drowning in Frenchman's Bay, through the upsetting of their boat, on the 24th of August. 1889.

On the 8th of April, 1890, the "Abbey Holme," an iron barque of Liverpool, during a heavy gale and a tremendously high sea, was being towed into the harbour for shelter, while on her passage from Leith to Middlesbrough. When between the piers the towline parted and she drifted on to the North side of the South Pier. Her imminent danger having been observed, the rocket van in charge of the Coastguard and members of the Brigade, was taken alongside and communication effected with heaving lines, and eight of the crew managed to scramble on to the pier. The captain and his wife being still on board, the hawser was set up and the breeches buoy sent off. Two of the members, viz., Benj. Heron and J. W. Swainston, went off to the vessel to assist the woman into the buoy. She and the captain were safely landed and the brigadesmen came ashore. During the whole time heavy seas were breaking over the ship and pier, endangering the lives of the rocket party, several of whom were taken off their feet and knocked down by the force of the waves. The Board of Trade directed the Inspecting Commander of Coastguard to convey the thanks of the Board to Messrs. Heron and Swainston for their gallant services under very trying circumstances. It is with regret we have to chronicle the resignation of the Inspector General of the Life Saving Apparatus through failing health. Captain Prowse, R.N., has been associated for a long time with this Brigade. For six years he was the genial and courteous Inspecting Commander of Coastguard for this district, and after his well earned promotion to the wider sphere of Inspector for the whole of the apparatus in the United Kingdom, he continued to take a deep interest in our welfare, and owing to his retirement we have lost at headquarters a sincere friend and well-wishes.

Capt. Freeland, R.N., has been appointed his successor.

The Committee also regret to announce the resignation through ill health of George Gray Captain of the 1st division. Mr Gray has for some years actively identified himself with us, and his retirement is a decided loss to the Brigade.

There are now 20 vacancies in the membership and we hope these will soon be filled up with men suitable for life-saving work.

The Ambulance Class instruction has been continued. Twelve members of last year's class have passed their second years' examination and two fresh members have passed their first examination. The Committee regret that so small a number joined during the year. The value of the St John Ambulance movement cannot over estimated. It is peculiarly fitting that life brigadesmen should be able to render first aid, and therefore the Committee hope that the able and painstaking efforts of Dr Crease to impart the necessary instruction will be encouraged by a huge accession of members during the current year.

The life of the Brigade for the last few years has been devoid of exciting events, contrasting strongly with the stirring incidents of former years. On reflection one is almost inclined to think that the real work for which the Brigade was established is almost accomplished. It seems very evident that the improved state of the entrance to the Tyne has minimized in a large degree the risk from shipwreck, and while we hope there is very little chance of a recurrence of the many harrowing scenes that have been witnessed since our formation, yet we have been reminded even during the past year by the disaster to the "Abbey Holme" that casualties will occur and often unexpectedly, so that it behoves all present and future members to be true to our motto, "Always ready." We own that our ordinary duty of attending the half hour's exercise of the Rocket Apparatus once a month may become somewhat monotonous, but we trust the members are imbued with the thought that these exercises are only means to an end, that end being the probable restoration of some loved ones to their own firesides instead of a watery grave.

Mr Malcolm also read the statement of accounts. They started the year with a balance of £33 16s 11d in hand. The receipts included £25 from the Board of Trade, and £6 2s 7d in collection box at Watch House; the total income being £100 11s 6d. The expenditure was £45 3s 3d, leaving a balance of £55 8s 3d in hand.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said he thought it was a very satisfactory one, and the balance sheet as well.

Mr G. R. Potts seconded. It was a very satisfactory report in every respect. The brigade had not had a great deal work, but that was all the better. A regrettable in the report was the retirement of Mr Gray, who had taken very great interest in the brigade.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr Walter Ross moved the reappointment of Dr. Crease as honorary surgeon of the brigade. He had been there during the winter hours and spent a great deal of valuable time, especially in teaching the ambulance class. He was one of the first to take an interest in the ambulance movement and many others followed his example.

Mr J. W. Buckland seconded, and the resolution was carried by acclamation.

Dr Crease said that was the 21st year that he had returned thanks. He felt very much the retirement of Mr Gray. He was one of the very few who from the first took an interest in the ambulance movement. He regretted especially that it was owing to ill-health he retired; and moved that an expression of regret be sent him from the Brigade.

Mr W. Ross seconded, and the motion was heartily agreed to.

Mr James Henderson moved that a vote of thanks be accorded the proprietors of the newspapers, for giving free copies of the paper for the use of the brigade.

Mr D. Cook seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

A vote of thanks was also accorded to Mr Malcolm for his services.

The voting for the officers and committee was announced as follows : Captains—J. W. Buckland, G. R. Potts, Walter Ross, and Geo. Robson, of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th divisions respectively ; Deputy-Captains—James Thompson, Jas. Henderson. Geo. Scrafton, and J. H. Wood; honorary secretary and treasurer, Mr S. Malcolm committee, Messrs J. H. Wood, J. Page, J. Henderson, G. Scrafton, T. Oliver, T. Vasey, J. Thompson, J. Wilson, J. S. Stevenson, T. F. Wilson, J. W. Swainston, and J. Robe.

Votes of thanks to the scrutineers and to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette 5th of July 1890

Annual Supper of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 27th of January 1890

There was a large muster the Watch House on the South Pier last night, the occasion being the annual supper. The interior of the building had an exceedingly pleasing aspect owing to the decorations, carried out by the members of the coastguard, Messrs Cook, Bartlett, and Lapsley, Chief Officer Lordan also taking an interest in the beautifying arrangements. In the absence the Mayor, his deputy, Ald. Scott occupied the chair. He was supported by Mr J. C. Stevenson, M.P.; Mr M. Cay, J.P.; Mr G. D. Daykins, M.A., headmaster the High School; Dr Crease, and Mr S. Malcolm (hon. secretary), the others present including Ald. Mabane, Councillor Cottew, Mr T. B. Appleby, Dr Martin, Mr Andrew Harrison, coxswain of the lifeboats; Mr Lordan, chief of the coastguard; Mr Diniford and Mr Harrison, of Newcastle, and Supt. Farmer, the vice-chairs being occupied by Captains Geo. Grey, Geo. Robson, G.R. Potts, and Walter Ross; there were also present Deputy Captains Geo. Scrafton, J. W. Buckland, James Henderson, and J. H. Wood. A substantial and well-cooked repast was served up by the caterer, Mr J. G. Johnson, of Fowler Street. The loyal and patriotic toasts were honoured, Mr Lordan responding for the navy, and Captain Downey for the army. Mr Malcolm read

LETTERS OF APOLOGY

for unavoidable absence from honorary captains Messrs A. Whitelaw and W. Cay; Mr J. M. Moore, Captain Bromley (Inspector of Coastguards), Mr J. F. Spence, Mr Henry Nelson, Rev H. W. Farrar, and Superintendent Moorhouse. The Chairman, in proposing the toast of "The Life Brigade," said he was sorry the Mayor (Mr Shotton) could not be with them to preside over the gathering, but he hoped to be soon be able to resume the duties incumbent upon his office. (Hear, hear.) There were many faces they missed that night that had been seen at that annual gathering in previous years, and among the absent was Mr J. F. Spence. (Cheers.) They had in South Shields within the last few days sustained a serious loss to public life in the death of Mr J. L. Hall. (Hear, hear.) He (Mr Scott) was not very old, but he could remember the first municipal election South Shields 40 years ago, when Mr Hall received as a candidate in Shields ward 228 votes out of a total burgess roll of 334. (Hear, hear.) No gentleman on the bench had done more hard work in his capacity as magistrate than Mr J. L. Hall, and they all sincerely mourned his loss to the town. (Hear, hear.)—Mr M. Cay, replying to the toast, said he did not remember an occasion of being absent from the annual brigade supper whenever it was possible for him to be present, though owing to the circumstances already feelingly alluded to, he at first hardly expected being there that night. Although an honorary captain and did not take active part in brigade work now, he would willingly assist the brigade in other ways. (Hear, hear.) He thought there were only two present in the room that night who were at the meeting on the formation of the brigade 25 years ago, Mr Cottew

and Mr Malcolm and their friend whose portrait hung at the bottom of the room. It was at that meeting they said they would have a brigade with or without the sanction of the Board of Trade, and if necessary they would pay the cost themselves. He remembered in a storm they would hold on by the rails of the pier railway while the seas went over them, yet the work was done willingly. The public appreciated the efforts of the brigade, and the late Mr Crisp, his brother (Mr Wm. Cay), and Mr Henry Nelson got about £60 in one hour on Newcastle Quay. Afterwards a house was built and they never wanted for friends from that time. Owing to the introduction of steam and the improvements made in the river, wrecks were not so frequent as they used be. They were thankful for that, but he would ask brigadesmen not to forget these things, and although they might not have an opportunity of displaying their bravery at the end of the pier, let them make themselves efficient so as to be ready to render effective service when the time came, and he trusted they would never forget the motto of the borough, "Always ready." (Applause).

CAPTAIN COTTEW said though the second brigade formed in the kingdom they were the first to land a shipwrecked crew, and he remembered that those they rescued included the - captain, his wife, and child. They stood at the head of any brigade in the kingdom in the number of people they had rescued. (Cheers).—Ald. Mabane, also an old captain of the brigade, was called upon to also make a few remarks. He said it was with pleasure that he accepted their invitation to be present with them that night. Circumstances over which he had no control had prevented him from attending for some years past. After looking round the room and reading the names of the vessels whose crews they had saved, it had afforded considerable gratification to think he should have been of some service in such a work. Although he could not boast of being present at the first meeting that was held, yet he was one of the first persons, under a nom de plume, to promote such an institution in that town, and but for the circumstance of being in London when the brigade was formed he would have been present at its inauguration. However, in 1866, as soon he had passed his examinations, he immediately joined the brigade, and from that time until two years ago he continued a pretty active member. During a storm he had known an occasion in which he had been at the brigade house or in the neighbourhood of it for

SOMETHING LIKE 72 HOURS

and had been so frequently drenched that he had in one instance being reduced to the necessity of putting on his dress clothes to come down there and do duty; but, thanks to the efforts of the Tyne Commissioners, and the public, those times had happily gone by, and he trusted for ever. He hoped the same vitality would continue in the brigade, and he could say, as far as he was concerned, whenever he was in the town and anything happened he was always willing and ready to come down there and give all the assistance could. (Cheers.) —Mr Malcolm announced that Captain Prowse, inspector the life-saving apparatus, had sent for the acceptance of the brigade a portrait of Henry Greathead, taken from an old engraving in the

European Magazine. Captain Prowse, who was now at the Cape of Good Hope, and not in very robust health, presented this portrait to be hung up in the Brigade House. (Loud Cheers.) —Mr Stevenson, in proposing "Kindred Institutions, other Life Brigades and the Tyne Lifeboats," said it was a duty to call attention to the circumstance that they were not alone in life-brigade work, but that there were other brigades and institutions round our coasts for the laudable purpose of saving the lives of those who were exposed to the dangers of the sea while approaching our shores. He thought they had good reason in South Shields to feel proud of its being the

BIRTH-PLACE OF THE LIFEBOAT.

Whether Willie Wouldhave was the inventor and Mr Greathead was only the builder was a question he would not pretend to settle, if it could be settled; but he thought the people there would be rather inclined to give the preference to the old sexton of St. Hilda than to the shipbuilder. (Applause.) It was very well that monument should be erected in the town to commemorate the 100th anniversary of that great invention, in which the two names were joined, and they would not attempt to divide the credit between them. He was glad to think they had received from Capt Prowse a representation of Mr Greathead, and if someone would give them an equally good portrait of Willie Wouldhave to hang beside it they would be pretty well complete in that respect. (Hear, hear.) Reference had already been made to the starting of the first life brigade by their friends on the other side of the harbour, and they all regretted that Mr J. F. Spence was not with them that night, as he had been in the habit of coming and taking part in their annual gathering. With regard to the lifeboat he was entitled to mention, in connection with toast, the name

MR J. L. HALL,

whose death had so recently taken place. He was, he believed president of the Lifeboat Committee. It was a matter of satisfaction that so many of our harbours were well provided with not only life brigades but lifeboats, and he had great pleasure in coupling with the toast the name of his friend, Mr Andrew Harrison, who had seen more than fifty years' service in lifeboat work, and at the age of 72 was still as ready ever to take part in a rescue. (Applause).—Mr Andrew Harrison, who was loudly cheered, briefly responded to the toast, also did Mr John Burn and Mr Andrew Purvis. There were also calls for Robert Wells, who came forward and said a few words in acknowledgment of toast.—Mr M. Cay alluded to the fact that the Tyne Lifeboat Trustees had presented the Tyne lifeboat to the Parks Committee.—Supt. Farmer moved a vote of thanks to the officers of the brigade who had provided the food, to Mr John Turnbull for supplying the beer and to Mr Edward Taylor for supplying them with pipes and tobacco, and the vote was carried with great applause. Captains Grey, Robson, Potts, and Ross replied and also Mr Taylor. Dr. Crease proposed "The Visitors," which was duly acknowledged, and thanks were accorded to the coastguard for the decorations. The proceedings shortly after

terminated. During the evening songs were contributed by Messrs J. W. Henderson, J. Crisp, W. T. Allan, A. E. Hunter and Dunford, and recitations by Mr T. B. Appleby, Mr Jas. Page, and Mr G. Barron. Mr L. Winstone played the accompaniments.

29 January 1890

The annual supper of the Volunteer Life Brigade is an event around which associates memories both pleasing and sad. While it is a matter of regret for the older members to look round and miss from year to year the once familiar faces of those who amid storm and tempest were foremost in the work of rescue, it is also refreshing to see so many hale and vigorous men who are just quite as ready to take the same duties at a moment's notice. Now, however, the brigade is seldom called upon, owing to the immunity of the harbour mouth from shipwreck, but it is always an inspiring sight to see gathered within the watch-house the brigadesmen, fully equipped for emergencies, while without the sea roars and breaks upon the beach and the wind is piping loud and fierce. This is a feature of life on the north-east coast which we would not willingly see pass away, for it speaks of a courage and hardihood not always evidenced in town residents.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette 28th and 29th of January 1890

Annual Meeting of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 17th of July 1891

The twenty-fifth meeting of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade took place in the Watch House, at the South Pier, last night. Mr Wm. Cay having been appointed chairman expressed his pleasure once more meeting the members of the brigade at the annual meeting. They met on this occasion not for rejoicing, but to look after their report and balance sheet.

25th ANNUAL REPORT

The following was read by the hon. sec. and treasurer, Mr S. Malcolm. "Your Committee have again the pleasure of meeting you and presenting for your approval the 25th Annual Report and Financial Statement.

On March 15th 1891, during a strong gale from the south-east (about 8 o'clock in the evening) a schooner was observed in difficulties near the end of the South Pier. As it appeared inevitable that she would drive ashore, the coastguard watch fired the wreck signals. The members of the Brigade on duty took the rocket apparatus along the pier. By this time the vessel had stranded close to the south side the pier. A heaving line was tried but this failing to reach her a rocket line was fired and communication effected. The first man was landed by the whipline and breeches buoy. It was then deemed more prudent to send off the hawser. The crew evidently did not understand the use of the apparatus, for they fastened the hawser to the fore rigging, leaving the tally-board some distance outside, which prevented the breeches buoy going on board. Also, as was found afterwards, the hawser was left attached to the weather whipline, thus preventing it running through the block and the other side of the whipline could only be used. This was done by the crew keeping a bight of the lee whip line in their hands and passing it after the breeches buoy to the shore and then hauling on it to get the buoy back again board. This made dangerous for the last man, who, course, had no one to slack out after him, and he simply shot from the ship's rigging to the pier side. The crew were taken to the Brigade House and their wants attended to. Soon after daylight next morning, the vessel became a complete wreck. She proved to be the schooner "Ploughboy" of Shoreham. Three coastguardsmen and 28 members of the Brigade were present.

About 6.50 p.m., June 3rd, 1871, the screw steamer "Giralda" Newcastle was observed by the coastguard on duty making towards the harbour, but evidently she mistook her course and came to the southwards of the south pier and grounded on the sands. The signals were fired and the Life Brigade mustered as quickly as possible. They took the rocket cart along the beach opposite to where the steamer was lying. Four rockets were fired but she was too far from the beach for them to be effectual. The lifeboats by this time were alongside but the crew refused to leave her. Some tug boats got hold of her and assisted by the rising tide she soon afterwards came off and was towed into the harbour seemingly not much the worse as the sea

was comparatively smooth at the time. Fifty-four members of the Brigade were present. The vessel was bound from Middlesbrough in ballast. No doubt her stranding was owing to the thick fog which prevailed at the time.

The funds the Brigade continue in a satisfactory condition, and as will be seen from the Treasurer's report we finish the year with balance in hand of £55 14s 7d.

We are glad to report that the ambulance instruction has continued during the year. A class was formed on December 2nd, 1890 with 19 first year pupils, also 3 second year pupils, and 11 third year, making a total of 33, and was continued till February 24th, 1891. Of these, 11 first year, 2 second year and 10 third year pupils presented themselves for examination before Surgeon-Major Hutton on February 28th, 1891. The whole of these passed successfully and will receive their certificates and medallions in due course. As far as can be ascertained there are over 40 members of the Brigade certificated. The thanks of the Brigade are due to the instructor Dr Crease for the continued interest he takes in this matter.

There are now 88 members the books of the Brigade and we are glad to report that the attendance at the monthly drills is very much improved, and only four members have failed to attend the requisite number to enable them to be returned as efficient. There are 12 vacancies which will be filled up suitable candidates offer themselves.

Apart from the above nothing of special importance has occurred during the year, but we are glad that some the younger members have had an opportunity of seeing some real wreck service, and we trust that the satisfaction they will feel in having rendered assistance to their fellow men when in danger will encourage them to persevere in their efforts to benefit humanity.

You will have observed that this is the semi jubilee the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade. Twenty-five and a half years having elapsed since it was accepted by the Board of Trade, January, 1866. Many events have been chronicled and many changes have taken place in its membership during that long period, and of those who originally joined its ranks only 8 remain on the active list. Since then a new generation has arisen. Many years ago on a similar occasion to the present we ventured to express the hope that South Shields would never lack men who would be "Always Ready" to continue this institution and carry it on in the same spirit as was manifested by its founders. We are glad to say that this hope is still being realized, and only requires the opportunity to arise to bring out that feeling of humanity which is latent in every true Englishman. (Applause)

The Chairman said since the formation of the Brigade they had never had an annual report that was not of a pleasing description, and was glad the Brigade was in such a healthy condition.

Captain G. Robson moved the adoption the secretary's and treasurer's reports and that they be printed and circulated amongst the members.

Mr G. R. Potts seconded. He was glad that owing to numbers of young members who had joined them during the last year or two, they had had better watch nights than in the past.

HONORARY SURGEON

Capt. J. H. Wood moved and it was seconded that Dr. Crease be re-appointed honorary surgeon to the Brigade.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Dr. Crease, in accepting the position, said his connection with the Brigade dated from the year 1868 or 1869. He would always do his best to further its interests. (Hear, hear.)

Mr Potts moved a vote of thanks to the hon. secretary (Mr S. Malcolm), for his services.

Mr T. Vasey seconded.

Mr Malcolm in acknowledging the vote said although the harbour may be very much safer, than was formerly, still ships might be placed in jeopardy at any time, and it behoved them be always ready for those occasions, that they might able render efficient service.

Mr S. Cottew addressed few words to the members, in the course of which he deprecated the practice of firing rockets over ships, when the sea is smooth, and there is no danger of loss of life.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The captains Messrs G. R. Potts, G. Robson, W. Ross, and J. W. Buckland, were re-elected, as were also the deputy captains, Messrs James Henderson, J. H. Wood, Geo. Scrafton, and James Thompson, and the hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr S. Malcolm. The following constitute the committee:—Messrs J. H. Wood, James Page, James Henderson, George Scrafton, F. Oliver, T. Vasey, J. Thompson, J. Wilson, J. W. Swainston, J. Robe, T. Newby, and B. Heron.

Votes of thanks to the chairman and the scrutineers brought the meeting to a close.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette 18th of July 1891

Annual Supper of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 23rd January 1891

There was a large muster at the Watch House the South Pier last night, on the occasion of the annual dinner of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade. The house was decorated in most artistic fashion, and its appearance reflected great credit on those who had been entrusted with the beautifying process. Mr W. Cay, one of the ex-captains of the brigade, presided, and amongst these present were Ald. Mabane, Dr J. Robertson Crease, Mr S. Cottew, Mr George Grey, Mr Aaron Watson, Mr John Robinson, Mr S. Malcolm (hon. sec. and treasurer of the brigade), Lieut. Taylor (5th Durham Rifle Volunteers), Mr Hebden Barker; Capt. Whitelaw, R. Reid, and Mr John Morrison, captains, representing the Tynemouth Life Brigade; Messrs J.W. Oliver (secretary), R. Ridley, J. Buddle, W. Milburn, W. Herbert, R. Swan, and J. B. Wilkinson, captains; and R. J. Weetman, deputy captain, Sunderland Life Brigade; L. M. Snowdon, captain, Marsden Life-saving Company Messrs G. Robson, G. R. Potts, W. Ross and J. W. Buckland, captains, and Messrs J. H. Wood, George Scrafton, Jas. Henderson, and James Thompson, deputy-captains the South Shields Brigade. The caterer was Mr J. G. Johnson, of Fowler Street, who placed upon the table a capital dinner. The toasts of "The Queen," and "Prince and Princess of Wales" were given with the customary enthusiasm. The Chairman then proposed "The Army, Navy and Volunteers," to which Lieut. Taylor, of Jarrow, responded.

Mr Aaron Watson, on being called upon propose "The Tyne Lifeboat Service," said the lifeboat service had always appeared to him to be, in combination with the life brigades, the noblest service in the world. (Hear, hear.) To say of the lifeboat service of England in general that it was one entitled not only national but to international gratitude was to convey a very special compliment to the lifeboat service the Tyne, which was the first to come into existence, in a town which was the birthplace of the lifeboat. (Applause.) A literary gentleman, for whom he had great deal of esteem, and who had brought the deeds of the brigade prominently before the world, fell into error a few weeks ago in saying there had been a contest between North and South Shields as to which had the credit of inventing the lifeboat. He need not tell them there had been no debate of that kind. The claim of South Shields to the invention of the lifeboat was undisputed. (Applause.) When England looked to see what the lifeboat men could do, what they were willing to do, what dangers they were perfectly ready to encounter, and when it wished to see the long roll of lives saved by the agency of the lifeboat, it turned its eyes the Tyne. (Hear, hear.) It was especial pleasure to have to propose the toast on an occasion like that, an assembly of the volunteer life brigade of South Shields, the second brigade which came into existence, and the first which had the good fortune and the honour of saving life from shipwreck. (Applause.) The history of the Tyne lifeboat service was written in the history of humanity, and no words he could use would be an exaggeration of the

honour that had accumulated round that district in connection with that most noble and magnificent service. (Cheers.)

Mr J. Landers Burn, senior superintendent the Tyne lifeboats, replying to the toast, thanked the company for the way in which they had honoured it, and on behalf of his brother lifeboat men hoped when they were called upon to render service they would be found "always ready." (Applause.)

Capt. Morrison (Tynemouth Life Brigade) proposed "South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade." He said that brigade had been the most successful in the kingdom, and they on the north side of the river always watched their work with interest, and they had their hearty sympathy. If there was any rivalry between the two brigades, it was which of them could do the best work and save the most lives. (Applause.)

Mr S. Malcolm responded to the toast. He read letters of apology from Mr J. C. Stevenson, M.P., Ald. Nelson, J.P., Ald. J. F. Spence, and others. He tendered a hearty welcome to the representatives of the various life brigades of the district. During the last few years they had not so many painful experiences at the mouth of the Tyne in the days gone by. It appeared that those scenes that had been transacted there were travelling southward, and their friends at Sunderland were getting the lion's share of the work for which those brigades were founded, and had been the means of restoring to their homes men who would, without their aid, have perished. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the South Shields brigade, it was now 25 years from the 15th December, since the first meeting in South Shields was called for forming that brigade. During that time they had on all occasions endeavoured to do their duty, and be always ready when their services might be required. At the first meeting; he had the honour to be chosen as honorary secretary, and during all those years he had acted in that capacity. (Hear, hear.) Notwithstanding the multifarious duties the office involved he had done his share of work in keeping watch on the pier and in attendance the wrecks, but being not so young as he had been he felt the time was coming when he must ask the members of the brigade to excuse him from doing the same work in connection with shipwrecks. He felt was not able to stand the storms and exposure he once was. He had always considered it great privilege to do the little he had in furthering that noble institution, and hoped it would never lack willing hands and stalwart men to perform the duties which devolved upon them. (Applause.)

Ald. Mabane proposed "Kindred Institutions." He recalled some of his experiences as a former captain of the brigade, and referred to the good work of neighbouring institutions, the representatives of which they had much pleasure in seeing there that night.

Capt. Morrison responded on behalf of the Tynemouth Brigade, giving some interesting details that institution, and expressing their friendly regard for the members of the brigade at South Shields.

Mr W. J. Oliver, speaking for Sunderland brigade, said that brigade was comparatively young, having been only thirteen years in existence. In that time they had assisted 45 shipwrecks and been the means of saving 175 lives. (Hear, hear.) When they got the piers extended they hoped they would like the Tyne, have immunity from shipwreck.

Mr L. Snowdon responded behalf the Marsden brigade.

Votes of thanks were accorded to the officers of brigade and the donors of the supper.

Captains Potts, Robson, Ross and Buckland replied to the toast.

Capt. W. Ross proposed a vote of thanks to Mr John Cosans for having supplied a barrel of beer for consumption at the supper and Mr E. Taylor for giving tobacco and cigars.

The vote was heartily accorded, and proceedings concluded with thanks to the members who had decorated the Watch House.

During the evening recitations with capital effect were by T. B. Appleby and Mr J. Page, and songs by Messrs J. Thain, J. W. Henderson, W. Ross, A. Whitelaw and A.E. Hunter. Mr Horsley, of Newcastle, played the accompaniments.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette 24th of January 1891

Annual Meeting of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 30th of June 1893

Last evening the annual meeting in connection with the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade was held in the Brigade House, South Pier, South Shields. The hon. Capt. Wm. Cay presided, and amongst those present were Capts. Potts, Robson, and Buckland; deputy-capt. Wood, Henderson, Thompson, and Scrafton, Mr S. Malcolm, hon. sec.; Dr Crease, Mr Higgins, chief officer and coastguard; Mr Snowdon, and Mr J. Page. There was a good attendance of members.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr Malcolm) read the 27th annual report, which stated during a moderate S.S. E. gale and a rough sea the schooner Resolute, of Fowey, came ashore about 2.15 a.m. on October 27th, 1892, to the south of the South Pier. In answer to the rocket signals 20 members of the brigade mustered, and they with the coastguard and the assistance of some foyboatmen, took the rocket van along the sands opposite to where the vessel was stranded. Communication was effected at the first attempt, but some delay was caused by the crew neglecting to cast off the whip line from the becket of the hawser. By repeatedly hailing them they were got to understand what to do, and four men were hauled ashore in quick succession. They were much exhausted by being dragged through the surf and expressed their thankfulness for their timely rescue and also for the kind treatment they received in the Watch House at the hands of the hon. surgeon. Notwithstanding the fact that the sea was breaking over ship and the gale was increasing, the captain refused to come ashore, and this at first caused them a great amount of trouble, as it was feared that he had gone overboard, but eventually it was learned that it was his intention to stay by the vessel. Precautionary measures were then taken in case of need and watch was kept over vessel until daylight. The master came ashore at low tide. Since the tabulated statement of their work at shipwrecks was drawn up in 1886, they had been summoned to 10 vessels from 6 of which people were landed by the apparatus, viz: June 30 1888, Hector s. of Sunderland, one person landed; April 8, 1890, Abbey Holme of Liverpool, 10 landed; March 15, 1891, Ploughboy, of Shoreham, 5 landed; Jan. 10, 1892, Huntsman, of North Shields, 28 landed; Jan. 17, Wellington, of Whitby, 6 landed; Oct. 27, Resolute, of Fowey, 4 landed. Thus the total number of persons landed was 54. These added to those of previous years brought the total to 234 persons landed by the apparatus since the formation of brigade. (Loud applause.) A concert and ambulance demonstration were given in the Assembly Hall in November last, under the auspices of the local centre by the St. John Ambulance Association, the brigade class taking a prominent part. On the same occasion 8 medallions and 16 certificates were presented to members of the brigade class for successfully passing the previous examinations. Another brigade class was formed early this year, and in May last 21 were examined. The result was not yet known, but at the time the examiner expressed himself satisfied. The majority of members were now qualified to render," first aid." and were very grateful to Dr Crease for the valuable instruction he continued to give them. (Loud cheers.)

The annual supper, held on January 18th, passed off in the usual festive and enjoyable way. By the will of the late Mr John Ridley, of Challoner Terrace, South Shields, a legacy of £50 was added to the funds of the brigade. Mr Ridley took a warm interest in their work and they felt very grateful to be thus remembered. (Applause.) The annual church parade to the Seamen's Mission, which was held on the 25th ult., was attended by 60 brigadesmen and coastguards. The committee had decided that in future, candidates for admission as members would have in the first instance, to obtain a certificate from the hon. surgeon that they were physically suitable, after which they would be taken on trial for 12 months. During that time they would be allowed to attend the rocket drills, and to watch on stormy nights. A record of these attendances would be kept for the guidance of the committee. In order that the members might obtain a thorough knowledge of the working of the apparatus it was intended that classes should be formed during the coming winter. Mr Higgins, the chief officer of coastguards, promised that he and his men would assist them all they could in that way. (Hear, hear.) To facilitate the arrangement and to foster a spirit of emulation it was proposed that each division should form a separate class. A competition would afterwards be held amongst the division, committee being willing to vote £5 out of the funds to be divided in prizes. (Hear, hear, and applause.) To remove any doubts that might be in the minds of members as to when they should assemble for night duty in stormy weather, a red light had been fixed in the tower of brigade house. It could be seen from the Lawe on the North and the Mariner's Cottages on the South. It would be exhibited when their attendance was required. The report concluded with an appeal to the members to do their best, according to opportunity to efficiently carry out the work of the brigade, the foundation of which was laid 27 ½ years ago. (Loud applause.).

The treasurer's report showed that the receipts for the past twelve months amounted to £92 0s 11d and the expenditure £60 4s 6d, leaving a balance in hand of £31 16s 5d.

The reports were adopted, on the motion of Captain Potts, seconded by Deputy-Captain Thompson.

Dr Crease was unanimously re-elected hon. surgeon, on the motion of Captain Robson, seconded by Mr Bell.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the proprietors of the Shields Daily Gazette, and of other newspapers for sending papers to the brigade house for use of the members. Mr S. Malcolm was also heartily thanked for past services.

The election of officials resulted as follows: - Captains-G. R. Potts, Geo. Robson. J. W. Buckland and James Henderson; deputy captains- James Thompson, G. Scrafton, J. H. Wood and James Page, secretary and treasurer —Mr S. Malcolm committee- Messrs. Fred Oliver, J. Robe, Geo. Scrafton, James Thompson, Thomas

Newby, T. Vasey, J. Page, T. B. Grimes, J. H. Wood. B. Heron. R. Bell, and John Thompson.

The usual vote of thanks having been passed, the meeting terminated.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette 1st of July 1893

Annual Supper of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade

18th of January 1893

Last night the members the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade in celebration of the 30th anniversary of that institution, held their Annual Supper at the Watch House, South Pier. The Mayor (Ald. J. M. Rennoldson) presided, and among those present were Ald. Mabane, Councillors Cottew and Marshall; Dr Crease (Hon. Surgeon); Dr. Goudie, Dr ??den, Mr J. Moore Hayton (Town Clerk); Messrs M. Cay, J. Heslop. S. Malcolm, (hon. secretary to the brigade), H. Buckland, J. Jacques, Pearson, C. Horsley, P. Lorden (chief officer of the coastguard), Robert ??(Superintendent of the Tyne River Police), Hebden Barker, and M. Pearson, Captain Harland, Messrs G. R. Potts, G. Robson, Ross, and W. Buckland, captains, Messrs G. Scrafton, Thompson, J. Wood, and Thomas Henderson, deputy captains of the Brigade. Mr Emley, captain of the Cullercoats Brigade, Messrs Wilkinson, Harper, Swan, ??? and Milburn, captains of the Sunderland Brigade &c. Letters of apology for non-attendance were read from Ald. Eltringham, Mr Whitelaw, the Rev. H. Farrar, Ald. J.F. Spence, Tynemouth Brigade, Chief Constable Moorhouse &c The interior of the brigade house had been decorated for the occasion and it presented a very pleasing attractive appearance. There were between 120 and 130 members and friends present all of whom were entertained to a substantial repast, the caterer Mr J. Johnson, Ocean Road.

After the usual loyal toasts had been honoured the Mayor proposed "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers" Mr Lordan, and Lieut. Toomer responding.

Coun. Cottew then submitted the toast "Success to the Lifeboatmen." He said they had the work of that very useful body men the last 55 or 60 years, and they would all agree with him that it had done remarkably well. He had watched them himself since he was a lad, had known them to go out when it seemed impossible for them to do anything, so stormy the weather, yet they had always succeeded affecting a rescue and bringing the people on shore, (Applause.) One of their old lifeboats was born and bred in South Shields— (laughter)-had been the means saving 1008 men. He hoped the time was not far distant when they would honour that boat by placing it in one of their public parks. (Applause.) ??er and braver men, he was sure, could not be found to man the lifeboat than they had at present and he considered that South Shields had reason to be proud of them. (Applause.) Mr Burns (coxswain of the lifeboat), in response said that when their services were required, lifeboatmen would be found to be true to the motto "Always ready." (Cheers.) Messrs Purvis and Marshall also briefly replied.

The toast of the evening, "Success to the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade," was submitted by the Mayor, who said he felt greatly honoured having the privilege to give that toast. All honour to them, he said. It was true that it was not the first brigade formed in this country it was established very soon after the formation of the original brigade, which was on the other side of the harbour, and he was proud to say that it

was, certainly, second to none in existence so far as the physique and skill of the men concerned; so far as their willingness and energy went when called upon to perform their duties and also in the fact that it was the first brigade save life. (Applause.) He had never had a personal connection with it, but he had watched it from its infancy. He had seen the members at their drill, and their more serious work when every thought was called into play, in saving or endeavouring to save life, he had never until that evening had the pleasure of meeting them at a social gathering and he must say, in everything the South Shields Life Brigade had acquitted themselves in a most pleasing manner. (Loud cheers.) They had a magnificent record. (Applause.) For services that had often been rendered under the most difficult and trying circumstances, in the height of a storm, when the pier was deluged by the waters, they had taken the rocket apparatus to its very end, to bring those ashore who were perishing. They had been abundantly rewarded for their services, as their record, proved. Even during the few years, although there had not been many wrecks as formerly the ??tion the piers had greatly lessened the danger of entering the harbour, they had been instrumental in saving the lives of a number of persons, who would doubtless, otherwise been lost. (Applause.) He thought the people of South Shields should be very much indebted to that noble brigade, because it had prevented on many occasions very great and very disastrous loss of life near their harbour mouth, (Applause.)

The toast was drunk with musical honours and responded to by Mr W. Cay, Mr M. Cay, Ald. Mabane and Captains Potts, Ross, Robson, Buckland, Dr Crease and Mr Malcolm. The last named gentleman said the brigade had been in existence 27 years, having been established in 1866. Since its formation its members had rescued by the rocket apparatus 232 people. The Sunderland brigade had also done splendid work, as during the 17 years it had been in existence, the lives of 117 men had been saved. Several other toasts followed, including "Kindred Institutions" which was given by Mr W. Cay, and replied to by Captains Wilkinson and Emley, of the Sunderland and Cullercoats brigades respectively.

During the evening songs, recitations &c, were rendered by Messrs Harris, Swainston, Page, Henderson, G. Harland, Dr Goudie, Professor, Slimmingo, &c. Mr-Cuthbert Horsley of Newcastle ably presided at the piano.

21 January 1893

CORRECTION In reference to the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade annual support, the caterer was Mr J. G. Johnson, of Fowler Street not Mr J. Johnson of Ocean Road, as reported

Source: Shields Daily Gazette 19th and 21st of January 1893

Annual Meeting of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 4th of July 1894

The annual meeting of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade was held last night at the Watch House, South Pier. Mr Wm. Cay presided, and among those present were: Messrs; S. Malcolm (hon, secretary), M. Cay, A. Whitelaw, G. Robson, G. R. Potts-, T. Vasey, T. W. Buckland, W. E. Moffett, J. Page, and others.

The report of the honorary secretary stated that with regard to the ambulance work the brigade the members eligible for first re-examination and medallions were examined in May. Seven presented themselves, and all passed. A special drill took place on August 4th, the occasion being the visit of the British Medical Association. There was good muster of the brigade and the proceedings passed of satisfactorily. On the following day a detachment of the brigade numbering 30 attended an ambulance review at Gosforth Park. On Saturday, September 30th, the brigade was officially inspected by Capt. Freeland R.N., inspector-general life saving apparatus. There was a muster of 55 members, and they were drawn up in line to receive the inspecting officer, who was accompanied by Capt. Heathcote, R.N., inspecting commander of coastguards for this district. Previous to the drill Capt. Freeland complimented the brigade on the many efficient services it had rendered at shipwrecks, and at the close of the proceedings expressed the pleasure he had had in meeting them and that he would certainly mark their drill "excellent" which was the highest praise he could give. (Applause.) The finances of the brigade continue in a healthy state, notwithstanding the expenditure of £67 for a new boiler and heating apparatus. The liabilities on that account exceeded the current revenue, but small deposit set aside for a "rainy day" had made up the deficiency, so that they were enabled to show a balance the right side. The report referred to the wreck of the barque Friedrich Ohlerich on New Year's Day, and paid a high tribute to coastguardsmen Prior for his praiseworthy promptitude in firing the signals. When the ship stranded the apparatus was in readiness opposite the spot. Prior succeeded in getting communication with the heaving line, and 16 hands were landed within 25 minutes. This number brings the total rescued by the brigade up to 250. (Applause.) On the motion of Mr G. R. Potts, seconded by Mr Thos. Vasey, the report was adopted.—The financial statement showed a credit balance £18 13s 6d. —Mr G. Robson moved the confirmation of this report and Mr Henderson seconded and it was agreed to.—Mr Potts moved the re-election of Crease as hon, surgeon, and also a vote of thanks to that gentleman for his past services.—Mr Henderson seconded and the motion was agreed to. Mr Malcolm proposed that Mr Walter Ross, who had resigned his position as captain, be elected an honorary captain of the brigade. —Mr Newby seconded the proposition, which was carried with acclamation.—

The election of officers resulted as follows:—Captains, Messrs G. R. Potts, Geo. Robson, J. W. Buckland, and Jas. Henderson; vice-captains, Messrs George Scrafton, Jas. Thompson, Jos. Page, and T. Newby; honorary secretary and treasurer, Mr S. Malcolm. Messrs M. Cay and A. Whitelaw, honorary captains of the institution, afterwards addressed a few encouraging words to the members, and the proceeding closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette 5th of July 1894

Annual Supper of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 1894
24th of January 1895

The annual dinner of the above institution was held last night in the Watch House on the South Pier. The building was decorated profusely with flags and bunting and there was a very large attendance. The Mayor (Mr R. Readhead) presided and amongst those present were the Rev. P. H. Moore (North Shields), Dr Crease and Dr Goudie, Ald. Mabane, Mr M. Cay, J.P. and Mr S. Cottew, honorary captains; G. R. Potts, George Robson, J. W. Buckland and James Henderson, captains; and Messrs J. H. Wood, Thompson, and Page, deputy captains; Mr S. Malcolm (hon. secretary), Mr R. O. Annand, Captain Harland, Mr John Readhead, jun., Councillor M. Stainton, Mr Walter Runciman, Mr T. Conison, Mr A. Purvis, Mr O. E. Walton, Mr Higgins (Chief Officer of Coastguard), Mr John Purvis (pilot master), Mr Pringle, Mr H. B. Buckland, Mr J. Hunter, Mr Geo. Gray, Mr J. J. Runciman, Mr J. McDowell, Mr E. Stout, Captains R. Ridley, W. H. Herbert, J. B. Wilkinson, W. Milburn, and R. Swan, of the Sunderland Brigade, the Lifeboat coxswains, &c. As usual the dinner was an excellent one, the caterer, Mr J. G. Johnsen, of Fowler Street. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were honoured, "The Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces" being responded to by Lieutenant Duncan (3rd D.V.A.), and Mr Higgins (coastguard).

The Mayor proposed the toast "The South Shields Life Brigade," and said that that was the first time he had had the pleasure of attending at their gatherings. He was proud to amongst them that evening, and especially when he was surrounded by brave men like the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade. He hoped that the deeds of the brigade would often be shown before the public in its true spirit. Alluding to the last brave set, on the first of January, he said he believed no other brigade in the country did active work and saved life that day, and the South Shields men deserved every praise for being prepared to do their duty on the first day in the year. (Applause.)

Mr M. Cay replied, said he was captain for 21 years, and with several others, he thought after so long a service should retire and make room for others, and he was proud to think that as soon as the older members retired, others were ready to step into their places and carry on the noble work. (Applause.) He recalled the earlier days of the brigade's existence, before they had a comfortable house to meet in, and when they had to take such shelter as they could get. When they required money, however, it came in as fast as they wanted it. The career of the brigade had been very honourable, and although not so many wrecks now took place as in days gone by, he hoped that, as long as ever South Shields lasted, the brigade would continue also. (Applause.)

Ald. Mabane proposed the health of the Mayor, which was drunk with musical honours.

Rev P. H. Moore gave the toast of "kindred Institutions," and in the course of his observations he referred to his connection with the brigade many years ago and related some interesting little incidents, which were heartily enjoyed.

The visitors from Sunderland replied to the toast in cordial terms.

Captain Cottew next proposed the toast of "The Tyne Lifeboat Service."

Mr John Landers Burn, coxswain, responded and other toasts followed.

The harmony of the proceedings was contributed with great acceptance by the Masonic Choir, consisting of Messrs J. W. Henderson, C. E. Walton, J. E. Stout, J. M. Howell, W. Quickfall, J. T. Ross, G. B. Potts, E. H. Drake, and T. Jameson.

A half barrel of beer was sent for the use of the brigadesmen by Mr Alex. Deuchar, and pipes and tobacco were supplied by Mr E. Taylor.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette 25 January 1895

Annual Meeting of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 3rd of July 1895

The annual meeting of the members the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade took place last evening in the Brigade House at the South Pier. There was large attendance. Mr Wm. Cay (hon. captain) occupied the chair. Mr S. Malcolm (hon. secretary and treasurer) read the 29th annual report, which stated that the year just closed had been comparatively quiet. Alluding to the fact that a member of the Sunderland Brigade had lost his life when on duty last winter, and for whose relatives £700 had been subscribed, the report stated that while the spontaneous generosity of a sympathising public was beyond all praise, yet occasions might arise when there might a less hearty response, and the suggestion was made that there should be a central fund available for accidents of the kind. The interest in the ambulance movement continued. At the examination in December five members obtained certificates and three passed their second year. A new class would be formed in the autumn, at which it was hoped all who had not yet received first aid certificates would attend. There had been no wrecks and no lives lost during the year. The financial statement showed that the year commenced with balance in the bank £18 13s 6d, and the several items of income including £25 grant from the Board of Trade, £15 9s 6d interest from the River Commissioners, and £20 grant from the Tyne lifeboat trustees, brought up the total income to £84 6s 7d. The expenses amounted £74 14s 11d, leaving a balance in the bank of £9 11s 8d. — On the motion of Mr Harrison, seconded by the Rev. F. H. Webb-Peploe, the report and financial statement were adopted. Mr James Henderson, having resigned his position as captain owing to his inability to longer fulfil the duties in consequence of a severe accident was on the recommendation of the committee, appointed house captain, his previous services to the brigade being spoken of in the highest terms of commendation.—It was agreed to have the annual church parade at the Seamen's Mission July 21st, and to take part in the lifeboat demonstration at Newcastle on the 27th.—The election of officers resulted as follows :—Captains, Messrs Geo. Robson, G. R. Potts, J. W. Buckland, and J. Page; deputy-captains, Messrs G. Scrafton, T. Newby, J. Thompson, and T. B. Grimes; hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr S. Malcolm; hon. surgeon, Dr Crease; committee Messrs T. B. Grimes, C. W. Harrison, Geo. Scrafton, T. Vasey, T. Newby, Jas. Thompson, R. Bell, John Thompson, B. Heron, J. W. Swainston, J. E. Purvis, and J. Ross.—The customary votes of thanks were given.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette 4th of July 1895

Annual Supper of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 30th of January 1895

Last night the annual supper in connection with the above brigade was held at the Watch House on the South Pier, and as usual, the gathering was a great success. Ald. J. M. Rennoldson, J. P., in the absence of the Mayor, presided, and amongst the numerous company present were Dr Robertson Crease (honorary surgeon to the brigade), honorary captains, W. Cay, T. G. Mabane, S. Cottew, Geo. Grey, and A. Whitelaw; captains, G. R. Potts, Geo. Robson, J. W. Buckland; deputy captains, Thompson, Scrafton, J. Page, and Newby; Mr S. Malcolm, honorary secretary, Chief Constable Morant, Supt. Farmer, Chief Coastguardsman Collis, Dr Goudie, and representatives of the Tynemouth and Sunderland Life Brigades. A substantial repast was served by Mr J. G. Johnson, of Fowler Street. The loyal toasts having been honoured, Captain Whitelaw gave the toast of "The Lifeboatmen." He said South Shields had a noble record in connection with lifeboat work, and though those who manned the lifeboat were not so frequently called nowadays, they were ever prepared to act up to the motto of the borough "Always Ready," and go to the rescue of anyone in peril upon the coast. (Hear, hear.)—Mr John Landers Burn and Mr Grieves (coxswains of the lifeboats) and Mr John Purvis (pilot superintendent); replied to the toast in suitable terms. The chairman proposed "The South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade." He said during the 29 years the brigade had existed the members had acquitted themselves in a manner which reflected honour on the borough to which they belonged. Though not actually the first brigade formed it was the first one to save life. (Hear, hear.) Considering the immense traffic the accidents at the mouth of the Tyne were very few, especially of late years, which spoke volumes for the improvements carried out by the Tyne Commissioners. During the present winter they had had very tempestuous weather and it was satisfactory to note that the brigadesmen had given assiduous attention to their duties in case their services might be required. He was certain they would continue to uphold the honour of the brigade. (Hear, hear.) Captain W. Cay, Captain Cottew, T. G. Mabane, Mr Geo. Grey and Captain Whitelaw responded to the toast.—The toast of "Kindred Brigades" was given by Captains Cottew and replied to by Mr John Hunter (Tynemouth Brigade) and representatives of the Sunderland Brigade.—Mr Malcolm proposed "The Coastguard," and in the course of his remarks mentioned that it was the intention of the Tyne Commissioners, thanks chiefly to the chairman of that authority, to extend the railing on the side of the pier further westward in a short while.—Mr Collis and Mr Prior replied. Supt. Farmer gave the toast of "The Donors" and included in the list the names of Messrs John Hunter, W. Jackson, and A. Deuchar (beer), P. Thornton (lemonade) and E Taylor (tobacco). —During the evening recitations were given by Mr James Page, and songs by Messrs L. Winstone, J. W. Henderson, A. Whitelaw, G. Harland, Geo. Robson, E. Stout, and the Masonic Choir. Mr Winstone being the accompanist.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette 31 January 1895

Annual Meeting of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 15th of July 1896

The annual meeting in connection with the above brigade, was held in the Watch House, on the South Pier, last night. There was a large attendance of members and Dr J. Robertson Crease, presided.—The Chairman, in opening, said it must be a source of gratification, to see their secretary, Mr S. Malcolm, so completely restored to health. It was to be remembered, that that night was the 30th time Mr Malcolm had been called upon to do similar duties. (Applause.) —Mr Malcolm, in responding, said he was glad they had received his name so warmly from the chair. He then read his 30th annual report.—It stated that in their last year's report the following sentences occurred. "No wrecks and lives lost." Long might this continue. This year they could not report the same immunity from casualties. During the year they had had three wrecks, the s.s. Constantine, on the south side the Pier, on September 20th. The whole of the crew was saved, five of them being landed with the apparatus. November 22nd the Norwegian barque Salween, Mandal, laden with deals, grounded on the south side of the South Pier. The whole of the crew, nine in number, were saved by the rocket. On the 24th of December, the small coasting schooner Rupert, of Faversham, foundered between the piers with all hands. Three bodies were afterwards recovered. During the afternoon of the 24th of December, the brigade were again called out in readiness as the S. S Vildosala, of London, was entering the harbour. She apparently was helpless and drifted about with the waves; turning completely round with her head to sea. She however "paid" off with her head to westward and was got under control and steamed safely into the harbour. Since that date there had been no night watch, and there had been a wonderful immunity from easterly gales. The Saturday Lifeboat movement, so successful in other parts of the country, having spread to this district they were glad to be associated with it and availed themselves of the invitation of the Newcastle Committee to assist in the demonstration, both in July 1895 and June 1896. The annual Church Parade was held on Sunday, July 21st, 1895, at the Seamen's Mission, when there were about 65 of their members, 4 coastguards, and 14 Naval Reserve men present. The inspection of brigade Capt. Freeland, R.N. Inspector-General of Life-saving Apparatus, accompanied by Commander Heathcoat, R.N., Inspecting Commander of Coastguard took place on October 5th, 1895. There was a good muster and a drill was gone through in a satisfactory manner. Tim report to the Board of Trade was marked "Excellent." The Ambulance Class was examined by Sargent-Major Hutton, on December 16th, when four members and a coastguardsman passed their re-examination, and four members passed their final examination. A handsome oil painting, by Stephenson, of the ship Holmsdale, as she appeared sailing out of the Tyne before the piers were constructed, had been presented to the Brigade by Mr George Keating. It was with regret that he had to record that three their old members had died during the year, namely, Joseph Wood, John Wilson, and Thomas Vasey. — Mr Malcolm also submitted the financial report, which showed that the income for the year was £98 9s 10d, and the expenditure £101 16s 8d, leaving a balance

against them of £3 6s 10d.—Captain Potts moved the adoption of the report. Captain Robson seconded, and this was agreed to.—Mr Malcolm moved that Dr Crease be reappointed surgeon to the Brigade. He had been connected with the brigade for 27 years, and was always willing to do his duty when called upon, not only in times of storm, but in the ambulance movement. He was the initiator of the movement in the Brigade. Captain Page seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously. In responding, Dr Crease said he was thinking of retiring from the position, but would accept it for another twelve months. The ambulance movement, he was glad to say, had taken root in Shields. In the early days they used to stand on a plot and tell the people what ambulance was. He was glad so much interest was being taken in the ambulance classes, and some amount of ambulance training would be taught in the - School Board schools. (Applause.) On the motion of Mr Harrison, seconded by Mr Scrafton, Mr Jos. Henderson was re-elected house captain.—It was decided to hold the annual Church Parade on July 26th at the forenoon service at St. Hilda's Church. On the motion of Captain Robson seconded by Captain Thompson, a vote of thanks was accorded the coastguardsmen. Chief Coastguardsman Collis responded. The whole of the captains and deputy captains were re-elected, and Mr S. Malcolm was re-elected secretary. A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the meeting.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette 16th of July 1896

Annual Supper of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 1896

The popularity of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade is exemplified from year to year annual gatherings, and last there was abundant evidence this when about 120 members and invited friends sat down to a substantial supper in the Watch House on the South Pier, the caterer being Mr J. G. Johnson, of Fowler Street. The Mayor (Mr J. Bowman) presided, and amongst those present were Ald. Mabane, Coun. T. D. Marshall, Mr S. Malcolm, hon. secretary; and treasurer to the brigade, Dr Crease, hon. surgeon to the brigade, Messrs G. R. Potts, George Robson, J.W. Buckland, and James Page (captains), Messrs Scrafton, Thompson, and Grimes (deputy-captains), Mr S. Cottew, Dr Drummond, Mr A. Whitelaw, Mr J. Cosans, Mr D. Petrie, Chief Constable Morant, Supt. Farmer, Mr J. Purvis (pilot superintendent), Mr George Gray. Mr G. B. Hodgson, Mr J. McLean, Mr D. Cameron, Mr H. B. Buckland, Mr J. Collis (chief of Coastguard), Dr Turnbull, Dr Goudie, Dr Campbell, Dr Craig, Mr T. Dillis Page and Mr C. T. Clarke. The Tynemouth Brigade was represented by Captain Reed and others, and the Sunderland Brigade by Captains J. B. Wilkinson, R. Ridley, W. H. Herbert, W. Milburn, Deputy - Captains J. H. Walker, and R. Swan, and Mr W. J. Oliver, secretary. After the loyal toasts, the Mayor proposed "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers." Chief-Boatman Collis responding for the navy and Dr Drummond for the volunteers. —The Major, in response to some remarks made by Mr Malcolm, thanked the members for the welcome they had given him that night. It gave him very great pleasure to be amongst them. (Hear, hear.) The South Shields Life Brigade was in a most prosperous and successful condition and its members were ever ready and willing to do their duty when called upon. Ald. Mabane proposed "The Tyne Lifeboats, their coxswains and crews." He paid a high compliment to the courage and bravery of the men, and spoke of the harmonious way in which they and the life-brigadesmen worked in the rescue shipwrecked crews. Mr John Purvis, responding, was happy to endorse what Ald. Mabane had said, that the lifeboats were not now called upon for service often as they used to be, thanks the improvements made the River Tyne Commissioners. But they were always there when wanted. (Applause.) Coxswains Burn, A. Purvis, and Marshall also responded.—Councillor Marshall proposed "The South shields Life Brigade and kindred institutions." He said the brigade had always possessed men who were ready to risk their lives in order that they might save others and for the 30 years of its history it had a splendid record, having saved no fewer than 264 shipwrecked people from almost certain death. (Hear, hear.) It was said that when the piers were completed the work of the brigade would be ended, but that they had still good work to do was evidenced the fact that they were instrumental in saving nine lives last year, while in the previous year they saved five. So long as they had rock-bound coast, seamen would find consolation knowing that there were brave hearts which would man the lifeboat and work the rocket apparatus to save their fellow-creatures. (Applause.) The toast, which was drunk with musical honours, was replied to by Captain Reed, of the Tynemouth Brigade; Captain

Wilkinson, of the Sunderland Brigade; and Captain Potts, of the South Shields Brigade. The health of the Coastguardsmen was proposed by Mr Malcolm and responded to by Mr Collis. —Capitan Cottew proposed the health of the donors of the refreshments. Mr Malcolm, in replying explained that the officers of the brigade had provided the eatables, the executors of Mr .W. Jackson, and Messrs R. Henderson, J. Cosans, and D. Petrie, the drinkables, and Mr E. Taylor and G. Collier, the smokables. —On the motion of Captain Whitelaw the health of the Mayor was given, which brought the proceedings to a close. During the evening a capital musical programme was rendered by Messrs W. T. Allen, J. W. Henderson, W. H. Henderson. A. Whitelaw, G. Harland, Captain Herbert, J. E. Stout, Dr Turnbull, Dr Goudie, and L. Winstone, the latter also playing the accompaniments, Mr J. Page gave a recitation on " The Loss of the Huntsman," his own composition, which was well received.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette 30th of January 1896

Annual Meeting of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 1897

The annual meeting in connection with the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade was held last night in the Brigade House, South Pier. There was a moderately good attendance of members. Captain Wm. Cay presided, and among those present were Dr Crease, hon. surgeon to the brigade, Messrs Malcolm (hon. sec.), Capt. Whitelaw, G. R. Potts, G. Robson, W. Buckland, J. Page, T. B. Grimes, J. E. Purvis and others.

The 31st annual report was read the by the secretary, and stated that only one slight casualty had occurred during the year on this side of the harbour. On the 21st of December S.S. Newent got aground inside the harbour, near the Groyne lighthouse. The signals were fired, and the brigade attended with apparatus, which was not used, as the vessel shortly afterwards floated and was taken up the river. A gale from the E.S.E. came away the 6th January, 1897, increasing hour by hour, and on the 7th a tremendous sea was on the coast, many vessels running to the harbour for safety. The threatening state of the elements brought a good muster of members together at the watch house, and the storm continued to rage with increasing intensity. About 8 p.m. a vessel was discerned in the offing and after passing between the Piers she got into difficulties, and gradually drifted towards the Black Middens, on which she struck. Intense excitement now prevailed and from the number of rockets fired, it was conjectured that their gallant brethren at Tynemouth were in difficulties among the rocks and waves on that most dangerous spot. They afterwards learned with pleasure and satisfaction that after being exposed to much danger, their determined efforts were crowned with success, and that whole of the vessel's crew, 23 in number, were safely landed. Throughout this gale a strong muster of members were on duty, but very fortunately their services were not brought into requisition.

The ambulance class was examined January 25th, Surgeon-Major Button. Sixteen members, including six coastguardsmen, presented themselves, and the whole passed successfully, seven for first examination, eight for second, and one for the final. They had to record the death of the hon. captain Matthew Cay, one of the original captains of the brigade. He retired from the active list after 21 years' service and was afterwards appointed an honorary captain, remaining as such for the ten subsequent years his life. Mr Cay took a warm interest in the affairs the brigade and was much esteemed by the members. The report also referred to the church parade, which was attended by 50 members and to the lifeboat demonstration at Newcastle, when 54 members were present, also to the unveiling of the lifeboatmen's memorial in St. Stephen's Church, and to the success of the annual supper the brigade, when members and friends crowded the watch house. In conclusion the committee hoped that the vacancies in the membership would speedily be filled up and that there would be no lack of suitable men to carry on the work of the brigade.

The financial statement showed that the expenditure for the year amounted to £85 19s 8d, and that there was a balance of £3 10s 6d due the treasurer.

Capt. G. R. Potts moved the adoption of the reports. He thought the financial report was eminently satisfactory. During the year they had had to meet several heavy items which would not come up again and but for which they would have had a substantial balance hand.—Mr James Henderson seconded, and the report was adopted.

Capt. Geo. Robson then moved the re-election of Dr. Crease as hon. surgeon of the brigade, and spoke of the excellence of his services rendered in that capacity.—Mr B. Heron seconded and the proposition was agreed to.—Dr. Crease returned thanks. He suggested that, in order to complete the ambulance training of the Brigade before the end of the year, the vacancies be filled up without delay. He didn't think there would be any difficulty in doing so. (Hear, hear.) —Mr James Henderson was appointed House captain. Mr Malcolm moved a vote of thanks to the coastguard, who, he said, were always prepared for any emergency, and did a valuable work.—The motion was carried by acclamation and Chief Officer Collis suitably replied.

The following officers were elected Captains, Messrs G. R Potts, G. Robson, J.W. Buckland, and J. Page; deputy captain's, Messrs George Scrafton, J. C. Thompson, T. Newby and T. B. Grimes : hon, sec., Mr S. Malcolm; committee, Messrs Geo. Scrafton, J. Thompson, B. Heron, John Thompson, R. Bell, T. B. Grimes, J. E. Purvis, J. T. Ross, R. Terviel, G. Ogilvie, and C. Riley.—A hearty vote thanks to the chairman brought the meeting to a close.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette of 14th of July 1897

Annual Supper of South Shields Volunteer Brigade 27th of January 1897

Last night, the numbers of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade, and a large number of friends, held their annual dinner the Watch House at the South Pier, the proceedings being marked by the same gratifying success as has hitherto attended this festive occasion; Every available seat at the tables, which were set out in a plain and homely style, was occupied, there being about 120 or 130 persons present altogether. The meal was of the usual substantial character roast and boiled beef, roast mutton, plum puddings, &c., and the catering, which was in the hands of Mr W. H. Curry, was splendid, the dinner being served up admirably. At the head of the table sat the Mayor (Mr J. Bowman) and among those present were Ald. Mabane, J.P., Mr A. Whitelaw, and Mr Grey, hon. captains; Dr Crease, hon. surgeon; Mr S. Malcolm, hon. sec.; Messrs G. R. Potts, Robson, W. Buckland and J. Page, captains; Mr J. Henderson, house captain; and Messrs Newby, Thompson and Grimes, deputy captains. Representatives from kindred institutions were also present in Captains Herbert, Ridley, Milburn, and Swan; Dr Beattie, Hon; surgeon, and Mr Oliver, secretary, of the Sunderland Brigade; Captain Reed, of the Tynemouth Brigade; Mr J. Purvis, pilot superintendent; Mr J. L. Burn, and Mr Marshall, lifeboat coxswains; and Mr J. Collis, chief of the coastguard station at South Shields. Among the guests who supported the Mayor were Mr T. Whitfield, Rev. P. Glen, Dr Goudie, Mr G. B. Hodgson, Dr. Turnbull, Captain Harland, Captain Geary (London), Mr C. T. Clarke, Mr C. E. Walton, Mr T. Dilks Page, Mr V. Grunhut, Chief Constable Morant, Mr J. H. K. McLean, Mr D. Cameron, Mr S. Alder, Mr F. W. Legat, Mr L. M. Snowdon, Mr Pearson, and others. After the loyal toasts the chairman gave "The Army, Navy, And Volunteers," which was acknowledged by Mr T. Whitfield, Chief Coastguardsman Collis, and Captain Duncan (3rd D.A.V.). "The Tyne Lifeboat Institution" was submitted by Ald. Mabane who spoke of the good feeling which had always existed between the two bodies. Their common object in view, namely, to save life, and it mattered not who the rescuers were as long as the rescue work was successfully accomplished. —Mr John Purvis, whose name was coupled with the toast, reciprocated the sentiment expressed by the proposer, and said that the lifeboat service and the brigade service were, as they always had been, so well equipped and efficient, that the chances of life being lost in the event of shipwrecks were reduced to a minimum. (Hear, hear.) —The coxswains of the lifeboats, Messrs Burn and Marshall were also called to their feet and spoke briefly though tersely to the same effect.—The Mayor then gave the toast of the evening—"the South Shields Volunteer Brigade." He spoke of the glorious record which the institution had at its back, and of the name it had made for itself and for those who were associated with its origin. It was one of the proudest and noblest institutions which the borough possessed, and believed that it had the sympathy, good feeling, and respect of the entire population. As the past had been successful, so he believed, the future would be equally so. — The toast was drunk enthusiastically.—Mr S. Malcolm, as senior officer, replied, He said it was 31 years since the brigade was formed. He

remembered very well the inaugural meeting of the inhabitants, held in the Town Hall, and the enthusiasm and earnestness which were evinced then had been maintained with increasing vigour to the present time. There had been many changes during that time, but it was a great satisfaction to the older members to know that as they became unfit for the arduous work required of them there was a rising generation who were quite able and willing to, and who did, fulfil the duties devolving upon them with that energy and devotion which the inhabitants of South Shields had so many opportunities of witnessing. (Hear, hear.) The Mayor had said they got no pay, but they had the satisfaction of knowing that they did something that could not be bought with money, that had a higher aim and motive in their duties, and that was in the cause of humanity when poor fellows were cast upon the shore, to go to their rescue, and in many cases they had been successful in restoring them to their homes and families (Applause.) The institution he might claim without appearing to be egotistical, reflected great credit upon the town. Its work had brought the name not only before the whole of England, but before every part of the civilised world, and was sure, as the Mayor had said, that the inhabitants were proud of it. (Applause.) —Capts. Potts, Robson, Buckland and Page, and the hon. surgeon, Dr Urease, were also called upon reply, and spoke a few suitable sentences each. "Kindred Institutions." was proposed by Capt. Whitelaw, and coupled with the names of Capt. Reed, of Tynemouth, and Capt. Herbert and Mr Oliver, of Sunderland Brigade, all of whom replied. Afterwards the health of the Mayor was called for by Capt. G. R. Potts, and was lustily responded to. During the evening an entertaining programme was gone through, among those taking part being the members of the Bohemian quartet (Messrs W. T. Allan, H. S. Darling, W. Hails, J E. Stout), and G. P. Robson, Dr Beattie, Dr Turnbull, Mr V. Grunhut, Mr Gray, and others. Mr T. Short proved an excellent accompanist at the piano. There was a liberal supply of pipes and tobacco, thanks to the generous gifts of Mr Collier and Mr Taylor, and the refreshments were kindly given by Messrs S. Alder, J. W. Henderson, W. Schofield, Snell, the Newcastle Breweries Company, and Messrs Grieves. The dinner was given, as usual, by the officers of the brigade.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette 28th of January 1897

Annual meeting of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 1898

This document is not available

Annual Supper of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 1898

This document is not available

Annual Meeting of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 14th of July 1899

The annual meeting South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade was held last night in the Watch House, the South Pier. Dr Crease, the hon. surgeon of the brigade, presided over first part of the proceedings but was called away, and Ed. Robson, one of the captains, took his place. There was a fairly good attendance.

Mr S. Malcolm, hon. secretary, read his 33rd annual report, which stated that the past year, like the previous one, had been quiet on the whole and only one or two incidents had occurred calling for active work. On December 2nd an unknown steamer, proceeding to sea, was observed to collide with the South Pier, the wreck signals were fired by the coastguard. The vessel was taken along the pier, by which time the vessel was lying a distance off. She afterwards proceeded south, evidently without having sustained any damage. On the 4th Jan. the s.s. Holderness, of Hull, got into difficulties near the Groyne Lighthouse, when the signals were again fired and the rocket apparatus taken to the scene, but the vessel was towed off and taken up the river. The October gale of 1898 was very severe, and continuous watch was kept more or less from the 15th to the 19th, and twice the light at the pier end was extinguished. No accidents to vessels passing in or out the harbour occurred, but on the pier itself a young woman was washed off by a heavy sea near the steamboat landing. She was luckily rescued by one of the members. They had to record the death of another of their honorary captains, Mr T. G. Mabane, which took place on January 3rd, this year. He rendered active and efficient service in the brigade for many years, and occupied a prominent position in the public life of the town. The members attended his funeral at Harton Church, Jan. 6th. On the same day at the "same place they paid their last respects to the late Mr Potter who at one time was connected with the brigade and was an active member of the committee. The resignations of Capt. Potts and Dep. Capt. Scrafton had been received with much regret. Both were old and active members. The committee was very reluctant to accept these resignations. It was recommended that Mr Potts should be an honorary captain and Mr Scrafton an honorary member. They held a church parade on Sunday, Oct. 23rd, when the members in good force went to the Seamen's Church. The annual supper was held on Jan. 19th, under the presidency of the Mayor. The ambulance class was again formed in Nov. last, and the examination took place on Feb. 9th. Sixteen candidates presented themselves for examination and the whole of them passed. The Saturday lifeboat demonstration took place in Newcastle, June 10, and was attended by 54 members of that brigade. They congratulated their neighbour, the Marsden Life Saving Co, on their recent successful efforts at the wreck of the s. s. Violante. Under the able superintendence of Chief Officer Collis and the coastguard staff, the whole of the crew, 14 in number, were safely landed on the top of the cliff. This was the first opportunity they had had of rescuing life. The financial statement showed a balance in hand of £5 15s 11d. The chairman moved the adoption of the reports, and complimented the brigade on the healthy state of

their membership and finances. Mr J. Page seconded and the motion was agreed to. Mr Malcolm proposed the re-election of Dr Crease as hon. surgeon, and thanked him on behalf of the brigade for the very admirable services he had rendered them for a long course of years now. Mr T. B. Grimes seconded, and the chairman, Mr E. Purvis having also spoken of the selfdenial work of their hon. surgeon, the resolution was carried by acclamation. Mr Jas. Henderson was re-appointed house captain.

The result of the election of other officers and committee was as follows:- Captains Messrs James Page, J. W. Buckland, George Robson, T. B. Grimes; deputy-captains, Messrs T. Newby, James Thompson, J. T. Ross, R. Bell; hon. secretary and treasurer, Mr S. Malcolm; committee, Messrs T. Newby, J. E. Purvis, R. Terviel, J. T. Ross, James Thompson. G. Ogilvie, John Thompson. R. Bell, C. Riley, T. Oliver, J. W. Henderson, R. O. Middleton.

After the presentation of ambulance certificates the proceedings concluded.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette 15 July 1899

Annual Supper of South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade 19th of January 1899

The annual supper of the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade was held last night, at the Watch House on the South Pier. The interior of the building had been elaborately decorated with flags and bunting, by the members of the coastguard, and presented a very pleasing appearance. The Mayor (Mr T. D. Marshall) presided. There was a large attendance of members and visitors, amongst those present being Mr S. Malcolm (hon. secretary), Dr Crease (hon. surgeon), Mr S. Cottew, Mr A. Whitelaw, W. H. Turnbull, Mr T. Whitfield, Mr H. B. Buckland, Mr J. H. K. Maclean, Mr Sidney Alder, Mr P. Malloy, Mr Geo. Gray, Mr Geo. Harland, Capt. White, Mr D. Cameron, Mr G. P. Robson, Mr W. Douglas, Capt. Whitehead, Mr M. Pearson. Mr G. Gallon, Messrs G. R. Potts, Geo. Robson, and J. W. Buckland (captains), and Thompson, Grimes, and Scrafton (deputy captains of the brigade); Mr J. Henderson, house captain ; Mr Collis, chief officer of the Coastguard ; Messrs John Purvis, J. L. Burn, William Marshall, and R. Young, representing the Lifeboat Institution; Messrs J. Reed and Fry, captains of the Tynemouth Life Brigade; Messrs J. W. Broderick, captain and secretary ; J. B. Wilkinson, W. H. Herbert, R. Swan, and C. Powler, captains, R. S. Barlow, secretary, J. Herring and J. Burn, deputy - captains of the Sunderland Life Brigades, etc., The caterer was Mr W. H. Curry, of the Metropole Restaurant, who provided a splendid repast, which was excellently served. The usual loyal toasts were honoured. "The Army, Navy, and Volunteer Forces," being responded to by Mr Collis, of the coastguard, and Captain Herbert, of Sunderland. Captain A. Whitelaw proposed "The Tyne Lifeboat Institution," which Coxswains, Burn, Marshall, Young and Mr John Purvis replied. — Captain Cottew submitted the toast of "Neighbouring Brigades."—Mr Reed of the Tynemouth Brigade, and Broderick of the Sunderland Brigade, responded.—The Mayor, who was warmly cheered on rising, proposed "Success to the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade." It needed no words of his to lay that toast before them. The mementoes upon the walls of that house spoke more eloquently than he possibly could of the work done by the South Shields Volunteer Life Brigade. Established some 33 years ago, it had been the instrument of saving close upon 300 lives. (Applause.) That itself was record which commended the toast to them. He could not let that opportunity pass without mentioning one or two names of those who had done so much for the brigade. They had still present among them Mr Malcolm, who had been its secretary since the brigade was commenced. (Applause.) They had also with them Dr Crease, who without fee or reward had laboured strenuously for the brigade for over quarter of a century, and had done splendid work in connection with the ambulance class of the brigade. (Cheers.) He (the Mayor) had the honour to be in the first class which Dr Crease formed, and passed through the three years' tuition, and eventually obtained the medallion. (Hear, hear.) The result of the doctor's labours was the spread of ambulance classes, not only in South Shields but the whole of Tyneside. (Applause.) The Mayor then made mention of the sad loss which the brigade had sustained in

the death of Ald. Mabane, whose heart, he said, was in the work until the day of his death. On the sameday he was laid to rest in Harton Churchyard, there was buried, also at the same burial ground, Thomas Potter, a former member of the brigade, who was severely injured in 1876, while-carrying out duties in connection with the brigade in life-saving work. He hoped the services such men as these had rendered, would be emulated by the present and future members of brigade, he was sure if such were so the success the institution would be as great the time come as it had been the past. (Applause.)

—Mr Malcolm responded, and dwelt upon the good which the Brigade had been enabled to accomplish under often difficult circumstances, and said the members considered they had ample reward in knowing they had saved their fellow creatures from death and restored them to their friends. No matter what countryman the wrecked mariner was, he would be treated with the same humanity. (Applause.) Dr Crease also briefly responded.—Mr Whitfield proposed "The Donors." and said the gentlemen who had supplied the good cheer on that occasion were as follows:- eatables, the officers of the brigade; beer, Mr Wm. Jackson; whisky, Mr Sisterson, Mr S. Alder, Mr R. Henderson and Mr F. M. Laing; mineral waters, Mr James Grieves; cigars, Mr Bain; tobacco, Mr E. Taylor; while other excellent service had been rendered by the coastguard in the decorations and by Mr Curry as caterer. The toast was heartily honoured, and the proceedings shortly afterwards terminated. During the evening harmony was rendered by Dr. Turnbull, Mr J. W. Henderson, Capt. Harland, Capt. Whitelaw, Mr D. Cameron, Capt. Herbert, Mr T. Whitfield and Mr P. Malloy, Mr T. Short playing the accompaniments.

Source: Shields Daily Gazette 20th January 1899