

Waimate Daily Advertiser. 28 June 1916 (Papers Past) [28/07/2024]

SEND-OFFS TO SOLDIERS.

WAIMATE'S QUOTA OF THE 18THS

A good crowd turned out at noon to-day to farewell the following men, who were leaving to join the 18ths:

J. Borthwick

W. Pennie

A. R. E. Sutherland

T. Shefford

H. A. Nelson

C. R. Hay

P. W. While.

The Brass Band, under Mr. J. Annand, played the squad from the Drill Shed to the station, via Queen Street.

Mr. E. J. Atwill, who acted as flag-bearer, mounted the steps and addressed the men, in the absence of the Deputy-Mayor (who, however, attended in time to see the men off). Mr. Atwill said he had been spending a week in and about the Trentham Camp, and could assure the men that they were going where they would be well fed, well housed, and well treated. He had witnessed the embarkation of the 2000 men of the 14ths. What were they going away for? He spoke feelingly. They were going away to help to keep the old flag flying — the flag that meant liberty for the weak nations oppressed by the strong — the Belgians were in his mind. Going into camp would make men of them. He advised them to look after themselves. They would find keen brains there, plenty of friends, and withal that spirit of the brotherhood of man. This spirit was evident even in the fun indulged in. One saw bags of apples handed over the ship's side by fond mothers for their sons' use, but what did the recipients do with the fruit? why, handed it round freely till it was all gone. That indicated the spirit of these men. He wished Waimate men God-speed and a safe return, facetiously hoping they would bring with them a lock of William's hair. (Laughter). We would have the Band out, to play the "Conquering Hero," when the boys came home again. (Applause).

Rev. A. S. Morrison spoke on "The King's Uniform." It stood for protection for the weak. Mr. Atwill had told him of the days of the British Navy's work on the African coast overhauling Arab dhows and liberating slaves. That was the kind of thing that the King's uniform stood for. The men would be well cared for after this war. The King's uniform meant duty. "Not once or twice in our rough Island's story, the path of duty was the way to glory." He warned the men to withstand temptation in the strength of Christ the King of Kings.

Cheers for the men, and another for the mothers, preceded the personal farewells, and as the train moved off further cheers were given at the call of the Town Clerk.

Timaru Herald. 8 April 1918 (Papers Past) [28/07/2024]

A concert and dance was held in the Hannaton Hall to welcome home Privates Borthwick, Saunders, and Ingles. Mr Hunter, chairman of the Entertainment Committee, presided, and welcomed the returned soldiers back to the district. Mr Murray also gave an address, expressing the thanks of the people of the district for what the returned men had done for them, and their pleasure at seeing them safely home once more. Musical items were rendered by Mrs Meyer, Misses Crawshaw, Kane and Shrimpton, and Messrs Wotherspoon, Wrenshaw, Meyer, Matheson, Hunter, and Borthwick. At the conclusion of the concert supper was handed round, and the floor was then cleared for dancing. Mr Kearton acted as accompanist for all the performers, and he and Mr A. Borthwick supplied the music for the dance.

Waimate Daily Advertiser. 30 May 1918 (Papers Past)

Last evening the Pipe Band Hall was crowded on the occasion of the welcome home extended by the members of the Highland Pipe Band to Corp. J. Borthwick and Private J. Duncan. (The latter was not present, being indisposed). The evening was spent in dancing, interspersed with songs and stepdances. Mr J. G. Martin (President of the Band) welcomed the guest of the evening and presented him with a handsome medal. Mr Alan McPherson also made, a few remarks. Corp. Borthwick suitably replied. The music for the dance was supplied by many willing players; and Mr W. Geddes acted as M.C. Miss Martin danced some Highland dances and Mr J. Brohan an Irish hornpipe, and songs were given by a number of vocalists.

Timaru Herald. 16 November 1927 (Papers Past) [13/11/2022]

WAIMATE HIGHLAND PIPE BAND.

The Highland Pipe Band came into being on 5th March, 1903. On that date a meeting was held in the Royal Hotel, when the following were present: — Mr Newbury, chairman; and Messrs Donald, J. McDonald. N. McDonald, J. Cooper, A. R. Cooper, F. Cameron, T. Sinclair, Hogan, White. Lundon, J. Mines, T. Gardyne. Messrs A. R. Cooper and J. Symon were appointed secretary and treasurer pro. tem.

The band started with twelve members, but four had left within the first month of chanter practice, so that it was not until 4th July, 1903, that the band gave its first public performance.

Shortly afterwards the following officers were elected: — J. Symon, Chief; J. Mines, Drill Instructor; B. Presland, Drum Major; A. R. Cooper, Pipe Major; J. Smith, Corporal; T. Gardyne, Drum Sergeant; A. R. Cooper, secretary; J. Symon, treasurer; and Pipers, Messrs S. Smith, T. L. Smith, F. Cameron, J. McDonald and N. McDonald.

In order to raise funds to purchase uniforms for band members, the lady supporters of the band organised and successfully conducted a bazaar, which was held in May, 1905. Fifteen uniforms of the McGregor tartan type were later secured for the sum of £220. The cloth was made by the Kaiapoi Woollen Mills, and the uniforms, which are still in use, were made by Wm. Waddell, Oamaru.

In 1906 the band journeyed to Dunedin to perform at the Caledonian Sports and subsequently played in association with the Dunedin Pipe Band at the Oamaru New Year gathering.

Being no longer able to devote adequate time to the band, Drum-Major Presland resigned in November, 1906, and was seconded by J. Torrance, who remained with the band until June, 1908. It was during his term as Drum-Major that the band took part in the 1907 Christchurch Exhibition Pipe Band Contest, held under the auspices of the Scottish Society. There the band tied with Ashburton Pipe Band for first place, winning the sum of £40.

On Drum-Major Torrance's relinquishing his position, he was succeeded by Mr E. Clelland, who remained with the band for several years, before Mr A. Segar assumed the position which he still holds.

The band had many practice rooms during the first eight years of its existence, during which they "rang the changes" on St. Augustine's School Room, Oddfellow's' Hall, Fire Brigade Station, Murdoch's Building, Arcade, Twomey's shed, and a shed at the County Council yard.

Becoming tired of gipsying about, the members decided to have a room of their own, and, as they readily secured the assistance of the ladies, who dearly love a kiltie, another bazaar

loomed quickly on the horizon, so that, in a short time, the band had a room of their own. Thanks to the efforts of the Pipe-Major, a piano was purchased from the Bristol Piano Coy. This instrument has been a great asset during the various functions held at the hall. In 1925, the hall was enlarged at a cost of £100, so that the band now possesses everything it could wish for.

Owing to Mr A. R. Cooper, the Waimate people have had the pleasure of hearing that fine Scottish soprano, Jessie McLachlan, who was ably assisted by Messrs McLinden, Young and Buchanan. On the first occasion the heavy rain prevailing did not prevent the filling of the hall to the doors. The rain came in torrents during the performance, and, owing to the number of perforations in the roof of the old building, many people in the audience put up their umbrellas. The Pipe-Major later secured the services of the Canadian Kiltie Band, which played on the racecourse during the progress of the Studholme Mounted Rifles annual sports, and in the evening of the same day at the Oddfellows' Hall.

With the exception of an interregnum of twelve months, Pipe-Major A. R. Cooper has been actively associated with the band for twenty-four years, and for varying periods has held the positions of Pipe-Major, secretary and treasurer.

In 1919, **J. Borthwick** was elected Pipe-Major, but shortly afterwards relinquished the position owing to his transfer to another location.

The band now have in contemplation the renewal of their uniforms, which have done duty for over twenty years. The members of the band who served in the Great War are J. Sutherland, H. B. Sullivan, W. White. **J. Borthwick**. A. Fyall, E. Lothian, E. H. Jamieson, F. Martin, J. Duncan; and W. White paid the Supreme Sacrifice.

The band now consists of the following members: President, —Mr F. Pollock; vice-presidents, Messrs P. Hunter, J. H. Mitchell and T. Twomey; Drum-Major, A. Segar; Pipe-Major, A. C. Cooper; Sergeant, **J. Borthwick**; secretary and treasurer, A. Dobbs; and Pipers J. Bain. R. Smilie T. Ramsay, R. Wilson, R. H. White, H. B. Sullivan; and Drummers A. Fyall, G. Campbell and R. Baxter.

Timaru Herald. 25 January 1939 (Papers Past) [14/06/2024]

PAREORA

BURNS CLUB Annual Gathering Poet's Memory Honoured

At the sixtieth annual gathering of members of the Pareora Bums Club the birth of Robert Burns was celebrated in a typical "Scot's night."

The Chieftain, Mr Peter Hunter, Studholme, and the guest and speaker of the evening, **Mr J. Borthwick**, were ushered to their seats with musical honours by pipers Ronald, Lochie and Donald Munro.

The Loyal toast was proposed by the Chief after which "The Immortal Memory" was proposed by **Mr J. Borthwick**.

Scotland's national dish was then piped in, and Mr James Little, of Timaru, recited Burns' "Address to a Haggis."

Burns as a Poet

In proposing "The Immortal Memory" **Mr Borthwick** said Burns' songs and poems not only had a message for his own countrymen, but they had an international message that appealed

to everybody. He held an abiding place in the affections of his admirers. Although he was not a highly educated man Burns achieved the eminent position of Scotland's national poet. His school life was short, but his schoolmaster continued to lend him books to read and study. His imagination was also fired by the tales told by his mother and an old friend Betty Davidson. A love for the traditions, songs and stories of his country was born and brought up to life the poetic genius that gave him his place among the immortals of the world.

The speaker referred to Burns as a master of the art of description and quoted the poem "The Jolly Beggars" recognised to-day as a masterpiece of description. Burns also wrote "Auld Lang Syne" the parting song which might well be called the world's national anthem. Referring to Burns' popularity **Mr Borthwick** said he was afraid Burns, although a farmer, was an indifferent farmer and farming did not pay. He was a poet and poetry seldom paid. He knew from bitter experience the hard lives the poor people led. He knew their simple joys and their sorrows. His verses described all the different phases of the lives of the poor who understood and recognised that it was their own experience that they were reading or singing about.

Other Toasts

The toast of "Absent Friends" was proposed by Mr J. R. Whitticase who had attended the 16 anniversaries of the club. He referred to one of the past Chiefs, Mr Alec Munro, committee member E. O'Neill, and Mr F. Stocker (Washdyke), who had passed on. He extended best wishes to Messrs W. Ramsay, A. Bush, and J. McKay, who were unable to be present. Messages of sympathy were extended to Messrs A. Borthwick, and W. Hoare in their recent bereavements.

In proposing the toast "the guest of the evening," Mr Hunter said that during the 25 years he had known Mr Borthwick, he had always found him ready to assist at Scottish gatherings.

"The Chief," proposed by Mr R. G. A. Munro, was replied to by Mr Hunter.

The toast "The Maker of the Haggis" (Mrs A. Munro) was proposed by Mr W. Smith and replied to by Mr R. G. A. Munro. "The Entertainers and Visitors" was proposed by Mr R. W. Munro who thanked members of the entertainment party and representatives of kindred bodies who had attended. Mr J. J. Duncan, the Rev. Clyde Carr. M.P., Messrs W. Duncan. N. Burns, W. Townsend and Budd replied.

Items were contributed by Messrs G. Vucetich, A. Wheeler. J. J. Duncan, C. D. Lyon and Friel. Mr J. Morgan was pianist.

OBITUARY

Mr J. Borthwick

The death of Mr J. Borthwick, in Waimate last week, has removed from the district a man of strong character and high ideal, who had close association with the farming community, sports bodies, and in the social life of the district.

Born in Stirlingshire, Scotland, some 71 years ago, he arrived in Timaru on Christmas morning 1912.

For the past 50 years he had resided in the Willowbridge-Studholme district during which time he took an active interest in practically all local organisations.

In his earlier days he proved himself a competent and reliable teamster and became an expert stacker whose services were eagerly sought.

He was closely associated with the potato industry for some 35-40 years.

Shortly after his arrival he joined the Waimate Highland Pipe Band as a piper and was an active member for at least 25 years. He was pipe sergeant for many years and served a short term as pipe major. He was patron of the band at the time of his death. The Burns Night function invariably found him giving the "Address to the Haggis."

The number of district associations with which he was associated over the years were many. He was closely associated with the Willowbridge Rifle Club, the Studholme School Committee, of which he was chairman for some 10 to 12 years; the Studholme School Committee; the Studholme Bowling Club and the Studholme Gymkhana, of which he was president for a term.

He served on the Waimate Caledonian Society for a number of years and served as president for a period. He was an ex-great chief of the Waimate Savage Club.

Mr Borthwick served in the 1914-18 war being severely wounded and invalided home. He took part in the first Anzac Day service held in Waimate and has been a regular attender ever since, his services often being called upon to sing the Requiem.

Mr Borthwick is survived by his wife, formerly Miss "Tilly" Campbell, and three sons and one daughter. They are John (Wellington), Robert (Thailand), Margaret (Mrs McConchie, Linden), and Gordon (Wellington).