

Timaru Herald. 30 December 1915 (Papers Past)

KINGSDOWN SCHOOL. PICNIC AND PRIZE DAY.

The annual school picnic and distribution of prizes in connection with Kingsdown School was held on Monday in the school grounds. The heavy rain in the afternoon, though very welcome to farmers, interfered somewhat with the arrangements made, but a good number of children and parents were present to witness the prizes being distributed by Mr J. Craigie, M.P. Mr A. Coster, chairman of committee, presided, and Mr Craigie's interesting address was followed closely throughout.

Mr Craigie expressed his pleasure at being present. He stated that it was unique that all of the original seven members of the first Kingsdown School Committee, elected 35 years ago, were still living — viz., Messrs J. Hampton, J. Campbell, G. Talbot, D. Averis, D. Munro, R. Dynes, and himself. In fact all except himself were still hale and hearty and likely to live to a good old age. (Laughter.) In addressing them to-day there was only one subject to discuss, viz., the Great War, the most momentous war of all history. We are living in a serious time. Democracy is on its trial. Our Empire has to fight for its very existence. Had little Belgium not opposed the Germans, France would have been conquered and our Empire too might have been crushed. In the present crisis it is the duty of all to help. We can all help in various ways. We can help to increase the various patriotic funds. He was glad to know that this school with many others had been knitting caps and socks and caps for the soldiers. Kingsdown, too, in proportion to its population had nobly done its share in sending men. All honour to the young men who had gone to the Front. He strongly recommended that a permanent memorial should be erected in the district and their names inscribed on it. He would be pleased to assist to do this. The young men who are facing danger and even death for the Empire are our real nobility and aristocracy. Mr Craigie then read the names of the past pupils of the school who are at the Front, and are preparing to go, viz., Arthur Burness, Frank Averis (reported missing), Alex. Craigie, James A. Campbell, Robert Campbell, Garfield Stewart, William Simmons, George H. Simmons, Fred Stevenson, Percy Stowell, Loughrey Hayward, Charles Bee, Harold Wyatt, John Seyb, Harry Seyb, Fred Hanson. The other young men who enlisted from Kingsdown, but were educated in other schools were: Frank Daniel (killed at the Dardanelles while trying to save a wounded comrade), William Grey (severely wounded after landing, April 25), Albert Fridd, Peter Fridd, William Ballagh, Martin Carter, Albert Staff. It was remarkable, continued Mr Craigie, that New Zealand had already sent more men to this Great War than Great Britain sent to Europe to fight the Battle of Waterloo. The greatest factor in winning this war will be the British Navy — the great silent Navy which has done such wonderful work. He hoped that next year we would have a brighter and happier Christmas.

Timaru Herald. 31 January 1916 (Papers Past) [02 August 2014]

SOCIAL AT KINGSDOWN FAREWELL TO SOLDIERS.

A complimentary social was given in Kingsdown school on Wednesday evening as a farewell to Privates R. C. Campbell, P. Fridd, and W. Ballagh, who are now in training, before leaving New Zealand for the front. In spite of the wet night there were a good many friends present to

take leave of the departing soldiers. After a very short dancing programme had been gone through, Mr A. Coster took the chair and called on Mr J. Anstey, M.P., to address the meeting. Mr Anstey apologised for Mr James Craigie, M.P., who was visiting the North Island, and so unable to be present. The speaker expressed his pleasure at being present on such an occasion. They should honour the men who were fighting the battles of the Empire. It was now well known that the Germans had had covetous eyes on Australia and New Zealand. Could they imagine what it would be like to be under German rule? Mr Anstey said that he hoped that those young men would be in at the finish of the war, and that before long they would have the pleasure of giving them a hearty reception on their return.

Private R. Campbell was then presented with a wristlet watch, Private Ballagh with a case of pipes, and Private Fridd with a kodak. The recipients briefly thanked those present for their kindness. Three hearty cheers were given for the guests of the evening.

Reference was made to the presence at the meeting of two returned wounded soldiers. Private W. Grey (Kingsdown) and Trooper Dick (St Andrews).

Afterwards refreshments were liberally provided by the ladies and partaken of by all present. Mr W. Campbell acted as M.C. and kept things moving briskly throughout the social.

Ellesmere Guardian. 17 May 1919 (Papers Past) [13 July 2015]

Welcome to Soldiers.

SUCCESSFUL SOCIAL AT LEESTON

The residents of Leeston district had the pleasure on Thursday night of welcoming home, at a social held in the Town Hall, under the auspices of the Patriotic Committee, the largest number of returned soldiers yet welcomed on any one evening. There were eleven soldiers, in addition to a lady who had rendered service as a masseuse. The attendance was excellent and the evening passed very pleasantly. The social was held in honour of Miss Volckman, Sergeant G. S. Taylor, M.M., Corporal R. G. Power, Drivers M. Brown and V. Main, Troopers P. Barker and Goddard, Gunner Tombs, and Privates W. Bohan, W. J. Ballagh, S. Lunn and T. Winter. Several of the soldiers were temporarily absent from the district and were therefore unable to attend.

Each of the guests received the customary gift, a gold medal, as a mark of the appreciation of the residents. The Rev. P. Jones, vice-chairman of the Patriotic Committee, made the presentations. "We are living in a time of self-advertisement," he said, "when great generals and admirals and all sorts of people are turning into journalists and telling us who was responsible for winning the war. I do not think we ordinary people will be inclined to believe that the war has been won by any general or admiral, however great he may be. These men on the stage and millions like them are the ones to whom our thanks are mostly due for bringing peace to a war stricken world." We had all heard with pride of the doings of our New Zealand boys during the last four years in France, in Egypt, Palestine, Mesopotamia, and other parts of the battle line, and now the people were able to meet to welcome back to the shores of this Dominion some of the men who had been spared to come through the ordeal. The thanks of all were due to the nurses and others who had done so much for the soldiers in the hospitals and elsewhere, and they were glad of the opportunity of expressing their thanks to Miss Volckman for the services she had rendered. They were proud, too, to be able to welcome a Military Medal man in Sergeant G. S. Taylor. Mr Jones then handed the gifts to the guests, and there was hearty cheering. "For they are jolly good fellows" was sung.

Dr Volckman said that instead of having to ask the guests to accept presents, as was usual on such occasions, he had persuaded someone more able than himself to undertake the duty, for

he was one of those who had to return thanks, and he could not very well act in both capacities. He wished to thank the residents very heartily on behalf of his daughter for their kind welcome and the gift which would be treasured very highly. The one thing that had impressed Miss Volckman more than anything else during the time she was serving in the hospitals was the fortitude and cheerfulness of the “diggers,” who always bore up bravely in spite of their sufferings.

All the guests acknowledged the gifts in suitable terms. Several of them took the opportunity of thanking the ladies for the parcels they had received while at the front or in hospital through the Lady Liverpool organisation. These had proved very acceptable indeed.

Lyttelton Times. 19 May 1919 (Papers Past)

LEESTON

On Thursday evening a well-attended social was held in the Leeston Town Hall to welcome home Miss Volckman (marseuse), Sergeant G. S. Taylor, M.M., Corporal R. G. Power, Drivers M. Brown and V. Main, Troopers P. Barker and F. Goddard, Gunner Tombs and Privates W. Bohan, W. J. Ballagh and S. Lunn. The function was very successful in every way. Mrs Donald provided the dance music. Each of the guests received the usual gift, a gold medal, from the residents of the district. The presentations were made by the Rev P. Jones, vice-chairman of the Patriotic Committee. All the guests acknowledged the gifts in suitable terms.

Press. 28 June 1921 (Papers Past) [13 July 2015]

UNVEILING SERVICE. CHURCH ROLL OF HONOUR.

One of the finest Rolls of Honour yet erected in the Ellesmere district was unveiled at the Leeston Presbyterian Church on Sunday morning. It contained the names of 76 members of the congregations at Leeston, Irwell, and Killinchy, who had served in the Great War.

The memorial is made of oak, and is the work of Messrs Wilkinson Bros., of Christchurch. At the top the words “Roll of Honour” are written between the figures 1914 and 1918. Immediately below are the words, “The Great War,” and at the bottom, below the names, are the words “For God and Humanity.” A centre panel is reserved for the names of the fallen, above which are crossed flags done in colour. The names on the roll are beautifully written in gold.

The congregation, which was thoroughly representative, filled the church, and the service, which was conducted by the Rev. R. M. Ryburn, M.A., director of Youth Work, was very impressive. A strong choir led the singing, and two anthems were given. The roll has been placed on the south-east wall, on the opposite side to that occupied by the fine memorial to the late Major Grant, C.F., who met his death at Gallipoli, and who was for many years minister of the Leeston Church.

Mr Ryburn delivered an eloquent sermon from two texts. One was taken from Matthew, 4th chapter and 19th verse: “And He saith unto them: Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men”; and the second was from John, 21st chapter, and part of the 19th verse, “Follow Me.” In concluding his address, Mr Ryburn said that the thoughts of all present were turned to what was done during the war. The young men had heard the command, “Follow Me.” But some would say that every young man who went out to the front was not a Christian. How did they

know? They were not the judges as to who were Christians. He would say that those who had gone out to defend their homes, and to fight for righteousness had done a Christ-like thing. They had done more than many professing Christians. There was cause to thank God for those who had promptly answered the call, for all the unknown heroes who had died to keep the land inviolate and free, for all who had been spared to come back from the gates of death. The preacher concluded with quotations from the beautiful lines written by John Oxenham.

The Rev. E. W. Walker explained that there were in the parish two ladies who had been connected with the Church since services were first started 54 years ago. They were Mrs Anderson, of Killinchy, and Mrs Houston, of Leeston. Both were mothers of returned soldiers. It had been arranged that Mrs Houston should unveil the Roll of Honour. Mrs Houston drew aside the flag and exposed the roll to the congregation. Prayer followed, and the Rev. Walker afterwards addressed a few words to the congregation, appealing for a deeper and more whole-hearted interest in the work of the Church, and for regular attendance at the services on the part of those who were merely nominal Presbyterians.

The service concluded with the hymn, "For All the Saints," and the Benediction.

Following are the names of the men who made the supreme sacrifice: — S. Allen, S. Brown, W. Carter, R. Connelly, P. Campbell, R. Duff, R. Harris, C. W. Henderson, C. J. A. McLachlan, C. R. McLachlan, J. Patterson, W. J. Robb, W. Spence, E. Taylor.

The names of the others who served are as follows: — Mary McD. Aitken (nurse), G. R. Aitken, J. Allen, A. Anderson, G. Buick, D. S. Boyd, J. Boyd, T. Boyd, M. Bishop, G. Bailey, W. Bailey, S. Beanland, F. J. Boal, H. R. Boal, W. J. Ballagh, J. Clark, T. J. Carter, H. Carter, H. Chappell, W. Chappell, R. W. Dawson, T. E. K. Dawson, A. Duff, J. Duff, W. L. Donald, H. Donaldson, R. M. Finlay, W. Fulton, G. Gibson, S. J. Gibson, G. S. Taylor, H. J. Harvey, T. E. Henry. M. Houston, R. Lyn, J. Lambie, W. C. Lowery, R. Maskimmen, R. K. McCandless, W. L. McLachlan, W. S. McLaughlin, J. McVinnie, W. McClure, J. McClure, T. C. Maw, M. Maw, B. Maw, H. Manson, F. Norquay, A. Pringle, J. Pearce, F. Quigley, J. J. Rodgers, G. Robb, C. Tod, W. Tod, R. Tod, F. Taylor, D. Webster, T. Winter, I. Winter, H. Millar.