

DN44L: 2002. 285. 001

## District News.

## DORNOCH.

**PRESENTATION TO POPULAR YOUNG MAN.**—On the occasion of his departure from Dornoch Mr William Murray, an employee in Dornoch Post Office, was made the recipient of a handsome presentation. Mr Murray, who was well known and deservedly popular in the Royal Burgh, left on Saturday to take up a position in Glenlivet, and on the Friday previous was met in the Old School Buildings and presented with a tangible token of the esteem of the people of Dornoch. There was a large and representative gathering, and Mr Thomas Munro was unanimously elected chairman for the evening. Mr Alex. Campbell, postmaster, who was called upon to make the presentation, remarked that it was with very great pleasure that he acceded to the request of the chairman, to hand over to Mr Murray the marks of respect and esteem, on the occasion of leaving this town for the wild district of Banffshire. He was very pleased to testify to Mr Murray's integrity and ability, and had no doubt that Mr Murray would never regret having entered the service of the Post Office. Mr Campbell amid applause then handed over to Mr Murray a handsome travelling bag, and a pocket book, well lined, which lining would probably be useful. Mr Murray, in returning thanks for the presentation, said that although he was very sorry leaving Dornoch, he hoped that it would not be very long before he would be back. Mr Murray's colleague, Mr R. A. Murray, corroborated in all that Mr Campbell had said regarding Mr Murray's ability, and remarked that he had the regard and good wishes of all connected with him. Mr G. B. McCulloch referred to Mr Murray's connection with the Good Templars, and, remarking that it had been his pleasure to have Mr Murray's assistance and friendship in the movement in Dornoch. The Good Templar Lodge was one of the best possible means of making friends, and if there was a lodge in his new home, he hoped Mr Murray would become connected with it. Mr Murray had been a courteous official in the Dornoch Post Office, and Mr McCulloch had not the slightest doubt that he would carry his courteousness with him to his new situation. A long and varied programme was then gone through. Mr G. B. McCulloch and Miss Mackenzie contributing solos, and Miss Weir and Mr Macgregor, violin selections. Miss Jeanie Polson ably accompanied on the piano. The outstanding feature was the dancing of the Sailor's Hornpipe by Mr Edward Skinner. Dancing was indulged in until a late, or rather early hour, Mr John Jeans acting as M.C.

THE NORTHERN TIMES, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1913

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## NORTHERN TIMES The Story of Willie's Bible 10.2.89

**A** MENTION in *The Northern Times'* Old Files, describing a presentation to a young Dornoch man 75 years ago, has been spotted by his nephew, now a senior citizen living in Fife.

Mr William Murray, 24 Muirside Grove, Cairneyhill, Fife, is the eldest son of the late Andrew and Roberta Murray, who lived at 2 Victoria Drive, Brora. His uncle, the subject of a report in December 1913, was Willie Murray, one of nine sons of Mr and Mrs Walter Murray, Dornoch. The report described the presentation of a pocket book and Bible to the 17-year-old on leaving his job at the Post Office to move to Glenlivet. He died two years later in the First World War.

His nephew writes:

Willie Murray was a son of Mr and Mrs Walter Murray who lived in Gilchrist Square, Dornoch. The presentation, held on 11th

December 1913, was in the form of a Bible and was presented to Willie by a Mr A S Mackay.

On 6th August 1914, Willie was called to the Front with the 6th Gordons TS, taking his treasured Bible with him; seven months later, on 14th March 1915 at the age of 19, Willie made the supreme Sacrifice at Neue Chappel. His Bible was sent home to his parents where his mother treasured it and, I understand, regularly read from it.

Willie was one of nine sons, six of whom served in the 1914/18 War, the other three being too young. Willie's father also volunteered to serve his King and Country, but as six of his sons were on active service, was turned down.

Willie's mother, my paternal grandmother, moved from Dornoch to Ellon to live with one of her sons and their daughter, and prior to her death in 1957 she passed the Bible to that daughter, my cousin, to give it to me, Willie's namesake.

I had no knowledge of the existence of this Bible, nor had I any

real contact with this cousin who moved down to England with her husband after grannie's death. She is now retired and on clearing out her house prior to moving back to Scotland, came across the Bible and sent it to me on the 8th December 1988. Three days later, on 11th December, exactly 75 years to the day Willie was presented with the Bible, I was to read the lesson in a Rosyth church.

It was a strange coincidence that this Bible, which arrived out of the blue, should arrive at that time, and I felt it was meant for me to read the lesson from it on the 75th anniversary of the presentation. I read from it, a very emotional experience, as I could feel Willie's presence beside me, an emotion I still feel whenever I open or see his Bible.

After the service, an ecumenical one, a great deal of interest was shown to the Bible and its history by the clergy and congregation on that special day.

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## Willie's Bible

Sir—Concerning "The Story of Willie's Bible" (NT 10th February). I would be very grateful if any of your readers in Dornoch could identify the Mr James A B Mackay who presented Willie with the Bible. **ON 11.12.1913.**

I feel that Mr Mackay may have been a minister, schoolmaster or a member of the Good Templars' Lodge.

Trusting one of your readers will be able to come up with the final link in the chain. — **W A Murray, 24 Muirside Grove, Cairneyhill, Fife, KY12 8RB.**