

THE STORY OF THE CARNEGIE ROLL OF HONOUR

“True Heroes think not of reward.

They are inspired and think only of their
fellows endangered; never of themselves.”

Andrew Carnegie, 1914

CARNEGIE
HERO
FUND TRUST

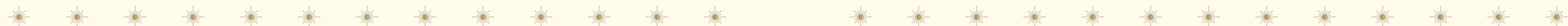
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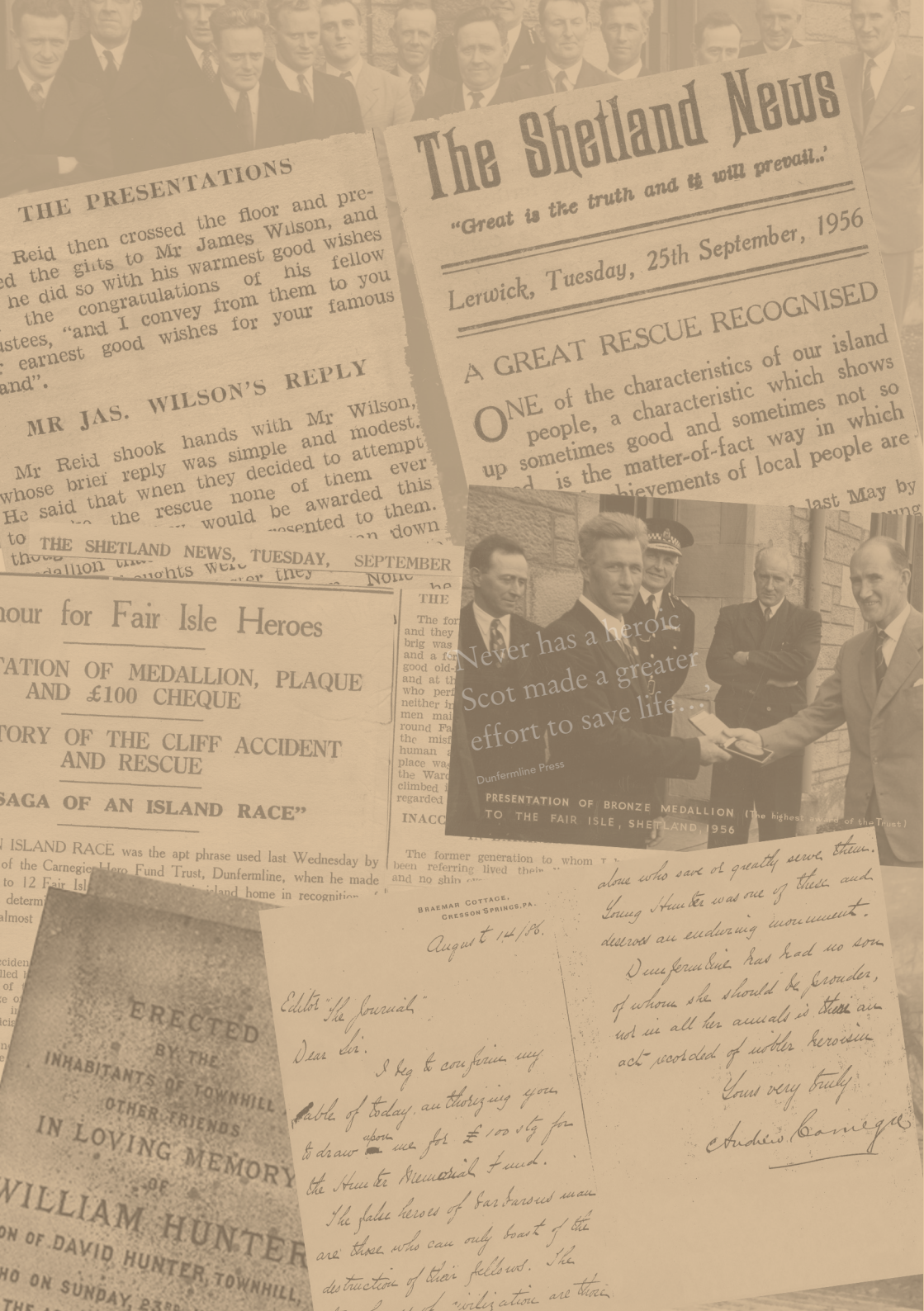
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INSTITUTED 21ST SEPTEMBER

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THE CARNEGIE HERO FUND UK ROLL OF HONOUR

Carnegie Hero Fund Trust was set up in 1908 by Andrew Carnegie. Its aim is to recognise civilian heroism and give financial assistance and support, if necessary, to people who have been injured or to the dependants of people who have been killed in saving or attempting to save another human life. Its geographical area is Great Britain, Ireland, the Channel Islands and the surrounding territorial waters.

Creation of Carnegie Hero Fund

In a letter to the Trustees of the Carnegie Hero Fund Trust on the 21st September 1908, Andrew Carnegie stipulated that *"a finely executed roll of the heroes and heroines shall be kept displayed in the office at Dunfermline. The Roll should contain the names of the persons who had been recognised as having performed heroic actions, a statement of the date of action and of the place at which it was performed. It should be inscribed on loose pages of vellum or parchment and preserved in a loose sheet binder and when sufficient number had accumulated these should be bound together in a volume."*



First Meeting of Carnegie Hero Fund Commission, Dunfermline, 1st October 1908

1. Robert E. Walker, 2. David Gilmour, 3. Rev. John Sanderson, 4. John Hynd, 5. Provost Macbeth,
6. William Robertson (Vice-Chairman), 7. John Taylor, 8. Dr John Ross (Chairman), 9. George Mathewson
10. John Russell 11. Rev. Robert Stevenson, 12. Robert Philp, 13. Sheriff Shennan, 14. William George (Secretary),
15. Dr Alan Tuke 16. James Walls, 17. Archibald Colvill, 18. Andrew R. Shearer, 19. James Brown,
20. Andrew Scobie, 21. David D. Blair, 22. James Norval



Symbolism in Roll of Honour Volume 1

Andrew Samuel, Craftmaster of Dunfermline Craft School was given the task to design the first pages of the Roll, and in December 1910 he presented his proof of his design to the Trustees. It was approved and he was requested to have the work executed on vellum. He received the sum of £20 for planning the volume and illuminating the first and second pages *Figure 1 (opposite)*, and £5 for the third and fourth pages *Figure 2 (opposite)*. Andrew Samuel also designed the first Honorary Certificate presented by the Trustees.

The first page is dominated by a laurel wreath which symbolizes triumph or victory and dates back to ancient Greek mythology. In ancient times, a wreath of laurel was presented as a mark of honour upon poets, heroes and victors in athletic contests. It was an emblem of honour and glory won for great achievement.

Today we use the same laurel wreath on the certificates and citations presented to our Heroes and their families:



Certificates and Citations

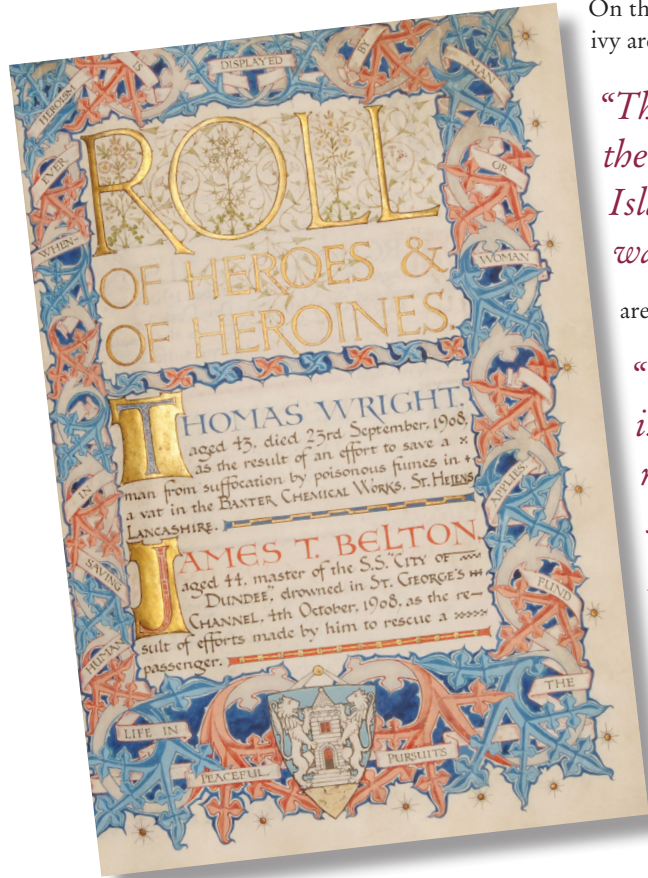
Figure 2 – Pages Three and Four





The pages are surrounded by intertwined ivy in red and blue with white ribbon weaved throughout. Ivy has long been used in ancient manuscripts for decoration, but it also denotes eternity, fidelity and a strong affectionate attachment. As an evergreen it is associated with perennial life and immortality. In effect, the laurel wreath together with the ivy are saying we recognise your heroic act of bravery and will never forget you.

The colours, red, white and blue, are the colours of the Union Jack, the flag of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the area the Fund covers. It should be noted that at the time the Trust was set up, Southern Ireland was part of the United Kingdom.



On the ribbon weaving through the ivy are the words:

“The field embraced by the Fund is the British Islands and their waters”

are on the first page and

“Whenever heroism is displayed by man or woman in saving human life in peaceful pursuits the fund applies”

on the other. These two quotes are from a letter written by Andrew Carnegie when setting up the fund in 1908.



Figure 3

Figure 4

There are three shields *Figure 3* along the bottom of the first page, the shields of Scotland, England and Wales and Ireland. The shield on the second page *Figure 4* is the coat of arms for Dunfermline, Andrew Carnegie’s birthplace and home to the Carnegie Hero Fund Trust.

Early years of the Roll of Honour

Andrew Samuel was also appointed the Trust’s calligrapher and given the task to inscribe each name in the Roll. From 1908 to 1920 an average of 700 people were recognised by the Trust every year. By 1920, there was a backlog of 1000 names to be inscribed into the Roll of Honour. It was agreed that the staff at the Craft School would be employed to bring it up to date and thereafter the work to be entrusted to John Burt, also a Craftmaster at the Craft School.

Unfortunately, the volume of work proved too much for the Craft School and in 1926 due to a continuing backlog Miss L Braxton Hicks from the Society of Scribes in London was entrusted with bringing the Roll up to date. This took four years to complete.



In 1932, the 392 pages consisting of the 2392 names of people who had been recognised by the Trust was bound by Messrs F Sangorski and G Sutcliffe, of London to make the first volume of the Roll of Honour.





Binding of Volume 1

The leather used was a heavy native undyed Nigerian goat skin and the metal work silver, which has been plated in gold with amethyst corner bosses. All subsequent volumes have been bound in the same leather but without the ornate decoration.

On completion of the first volume, it was decided to put it on display in the Andrew Carnegie Birthplace Museum with the Heroes and their families being welcome to view their particular entry on request. It has remained there on display ever since only being removed during the Second World War. Due to the wartime precautions, it was taken to a place of safety and was not available to be viewed.

In 1946 Messrs R Sangorski & G Sutcliffe bound the second volume with RDW Book and Paper Conservation Limited, Falkirk, binding volume III in 1996 and then volume IV in 2020.

RDW Book and Paper Conservation Limited kindly invited us to visit their premises in Falkirk while the work on volume IV was being carried out.



Work being carried out on Volume IV

This work was all completed by hand. They applied the same skills and tools as used in 1932 when the first volume was bound.

People and Heroic Acts

Throughout the many years that the Carnegie Hero Fund has been in existence (1908-present), there have been a handful of Heroes who have been recognised by the Fund more than once for their bravery. A few, like Michael Madden (1909 & 1910) and Thomas Sutherland (1909 & 1914) have been recognised on two separate occasions. However, Thomas Knowles was recognised on four separate occasions by the Hero Fund – in 1912, 1916, 1917 and 1920.



THOMAS KNOWLES,
(28), LIVERPOOL, on the 9th July 1912,
rescued a boy (4½), from drowning in the
Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Litherland.

THOMAS KNOWLES,
(32), Tanner, 61 Staley Street, Orrell,
Bootle, rescued two boys from drowning in
the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at Litherland,
Lanes., on 5th and 22nd May 1916, respectively.

THOMAS KNOWLES,
(33), Tannery Employee, 61 Staley Street,
Orrell, LIVERPOOL, on 11th. May 1917, rescued a
boy (6) from drowning in the Leeds and
Liverpool Canal at LITHERLAND, Liverpool.

TOM KNOWLES,
(36) Tanner, 61 Stanley Street, BOOTLE, on
23rd March 1920, rescued a boy (7) from drowning
in the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, LITHERLAND.



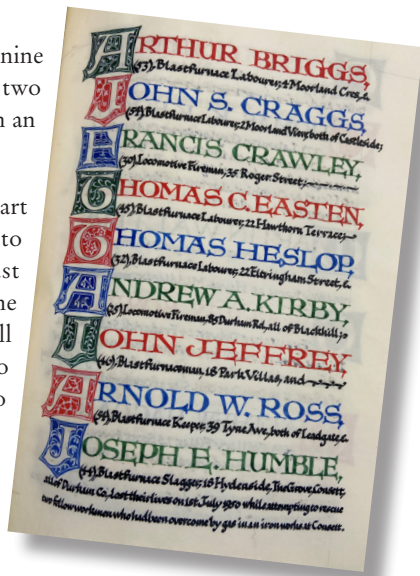


In the early decades of the Hero Fund many of the incidents which were recognised involved runaway carriages, horses and rampaging bulls, and also industrial and marine accidents. Sadly, fire, drowning, assaults and incidents involving vehicles have remained consistent. In more recent years there has been a rise in individuals showing bravery in incidents of attack.

The Hero Fund also has a history of honouring groups of Heroes when there have been disasters or incidents that have involved a number of people, such as mining disasters, industrial disasters and sea disasters.

One such disaster happened on 1st July 1950 when nine men lost their lives while attempting to rescue two fellow workmen who had been overcome by gas in an iron works at Consett.

In September 2020 the Trust was invited to take part in the ceremony of the unveiling of a memorial to the eleven men who died in the disaster. The Trust recognised nine of them who all died trying to save their two colleagues.



Relationship with Dunfermline Craft School

The history of the Roll of Honour is closely linked to Dunfermline Craft School. The Craft School was initially set up by The Carnegie Dunfermline Trust as a bit of an experiment in 1908, when practical classes in subjects such as: Furniture Making and Wood Carving; Metalwork (including jewellery & enamelling); Illustrating, Lithography & Etching; and Quill Writing & Manuscript Illuminating (to name a few) were arranged by the Trust and held at Lauder Technical School. These classes proved to be very successful and when the Lauder Technical School required their building back the following year, the Trust moved the Craft School to their premises in Abbot House.



Abbot House, Maygate



Old Carnegie Baths, (Carnegie Leisure Centre), Pilmuir Street

Over the next decade the popularity of the school's classes increased and when Abbot House could no longer accommodate the demand two further premises were used. The Carnegie Women's Institute and the Old Carnegie Baths both in Pilmuir Street, Dunfermline. It was evident that the Craft School needed premises of their own which they got in 1920 when they moved into Viewfield

House, Viewfield Terrace, Dunfermline. This house was originally built in 1808 for James Blackwood, Provost of Dunfermline. The Carnegie Dunfermline Trust closed the Craft School in 1963. However, craft classes continued to be taught there by the Dunfermline Arts and Crafts Guild which was formed by some of the Craft School's students. It closed in 1980.



Dunfermline Craft School, Viewfield House



The first Craft master of the Craft school, Andrew Samuel was called upon by the Hero Fund to design the certificates and the Roll of Honour. He also inscribed the entries in the Roll of Honour from 1908 until 1920.

The calligraphers for the roll include:

Mr Andrew Samuel,
Craftmaster,
Craft School, Dunfermline
(1910 – 1920)

Miss L Braxton Hicks,
London, she was also
helped by 2 others from
the Society of Scribes in
dealing with the backlog
(1926 – 1930)

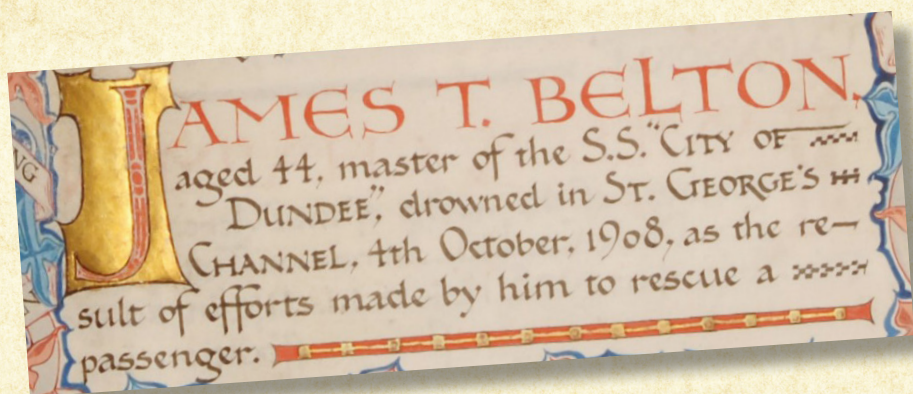
Mr Sandy Turner,
Art Department,
Queen Anne High School,
Dunfermline
(1992- 2018)

Mr John Burt,
Craftmaster,
Craft School, Dunfermline
(1920 – 1957)

Mr John Shaw,
Dunfermline,
(1959 – 1984)

Ms Annette Reed,
Falkirk
(2018 onwards)

Mr Tom Gourdie MBE,
Dunfermline
(1990 – 1992)



Mr Andrew Samuel, Craftmaster

On the retirement of Sandy Turner in 2018, Annette Reed took over as the official calligrapher for the Carnegie Hero Fund Trust. A conscience decision was made to go back to the original style of calligraphy in the first volume. This uses 23ct gold leaf for the first initial of each name.



1908



2018

Annette has a wealth of experience in calligraphy. In 2012 she was accepted to work as a calligrapher to the Court of the Lord Lyon in Edinburgh. She began writing in the Public Registers, on traditional vellum, which record all the Arms and Bearings that have been granted by the Court and date back to 1672. Then in 2015 she was introduced to the art of Heraldry and in 2016 was accepted as a Craft Member of the Society of Heraldic Arts. Annette designs coats of arms granted by the court and produces an official detailed document for the petitioner which includes both calligraphy and artwork of the arms. In addition to this, she is a scribe to the Order of the Thistle and has written many official documents including the Queen's Commissions for Nicola Sturgeon, MSP, First Minister, The Lord Lyon King of Arms, Lords Lieutenant, and Commissioners for the Church of Scotland.



Annette Reed

Her work has appeared in a music video, been used for an album cover and has been enlarged and put on a wall of a conference centre in Glasgow. She has also been filmed writing by BBC Scotland for a BBC 2 documentary, has made a brief appearance on BBC Radio Scotland and featured in The Courier newspaper.

To continuously develop new skills and keep her calligraphy fresh and new, she attends many workshops and is also a member of the Calligraphy Lettering Arts Society (CLAS), Mercian Scribes and West Lothian Scribes.



WE RECEIVE NUMEROUS ENQUIRIES EVERY YEAR FROM PEOPLE WANTING TO KNOW MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE INCIDENT WHICH LED TO THEIR RELATIVE BEING RECOGNISED BY THE TRUST. SOME MAKE THE JOURNEY TO SEE THE ACTUAL ENTRY IN THE ROLL OF HONOUR. WE ARE ALWAYS DELIGHTED TO MEET THE FAMILIES OF OUR HEROES.

To make enquiries about a case from the past, please contact the Trust at enquiries-herofund@carnegietrust.com with the following information:



Andrew Carnegie Birthplace Cottage & Museum

- Name of person whose heroism was recognised by the Hero Fund
- Your relationship to them
- Date, place and nature of the incident which took place and any further details known to you
- State if you have a copy of the certificate
- If not, state how you found out about the award

Our staff will endeavour to provide as much assistance as they can in answering queries but reserve the right to only release such information as is available or appropriate to the enquiry.

The Roll of Honour is kept in the Birthplace Museum, where the first volume is on constant display. Individual requests regarding viewing of specific entries are subject to the same procedure as above.

