Glenavy Conservative Brass Band

L.O.L. 227 have in their possession records for the aforementioned band dated 1877. The roll book, printed in 1875, has the register of members.



The following were proposed on 22nd December 1877 and admitted on 5th January 1878:

Alexander Addison, Aghadalgan - 1st Cornet

Henry Addison, Aghadalgan - 2nd Cornet

Adam Thompson, Aghadalgan - trombone proposed 22 12 1877 admitted 12th Jan 1878

The following were proposed on 22nd December 1877 and admitted on 5th January 1878
Robert Thompson, Aghadalgan - horn
Allan Ross, Aghnakilmoney 2nd Cornet
Alexander Ross, Aghnakilmoney - Bombardon
James Armstrong Glenavy - Baritone
Frank Armstrong Glenavy - Kettle Drum
John Ferris - 1st Cornet
Henry Ballance Ballypitmave - Euphonium

The following were proposed on 22nd December 1887 and admitted on 19th January 1878
William John Thompson - Aghadalgan
Samuel Johnston Hopevale - 1st Cornet
John Armstrong Glenavy – Piccolo

The following page: months April - June 1878:

Alexander Addison - Cornet

Henry Addison - Cornet

Adam Thompson -Trombone

Robert Thompson - Horn

Allan Ross - Cornet

James Armstrong - Baritone

Franklin Armstrong - Kettle Drum

John Armstrong - Piccolo

John Ferris - Cornet

Henry Ballance - Euphonium

Samuel Johnston, Hopevale - Cornet

Samuel Rainey, Leap, Bombardon

July - Sept. 1878:

Alexander Addison - Cornet

Henry Addison - Cornet

Adam Thompson - trombone

Robert Thompson - Sax horn

Allan Ross - Cornet (pencilled out - retired - no dates from 13th July)

James Armstrong - Baritone

John Armstrong - Piccolo

Franklin Armstrong - Kettle Drum

John Ferris - Cornet

Henry Ballance - Bombardon

Samuel Johnston, Hopevale - Cornet

Samuel Rainey, Leap – Euphonium (penciled out- retired- no dates from July)

Willie Ferris - Piccolo

From October 1878:

Willie Ferris - Horn

(No first name) Boyd - Piccolo

A Johnston - no instrument

The names Joseph Young, W.H. Young and a Thomas J Lyness(?) Entered from Jan to March (1879?) April - May 1879 Joseph Young is in Cornet W.H. Young is on horn.

December 1879 "no practice. Mr Kidney absent."

Further list:

Alexander Addison - Cornet

Henry Addison - Cornet

Adam Thompson - trombone

James Armstrong - Baritone

John Armstrong - Cornet

Franklin Armstrong - horn

John Ferris - Cornet

Willie Ferris - Piccolo

Samuel Johnston - Cornet

Alex Johnston - horn

Henry Ballance - Bombardon

Joseph Young - cornet

William H Young - horn

Robert Thompson - Euphonium



The Doctor's Lodge and Brass Band, outside the home of Dr. Mussen. (Date unknown)

The photograph of the Doctor's Lodge appeared in the Ulster Star, Lisburn a number of years ago. At that time Mr. Tom Lamb, secretary of the Killultagh Historical Society had requested information on the photograph.

In the following edition of the newspaper, the following article appeared.

"Mussen mystery solved.

The Killultagh Historical Society were very pleased with the response from Star readers to the two photographs published in last week's issue. Doctor Gallagher of Glenavy was able to name all those in the Doctor's lodge. He told Tommy Lamb, secretary of the society, that the photograph was taken outside Dr. Mussen's house which is just outside Glenavy.

Doctor Gallagher said that Dr. Mussen's house was once a cholera hospital and gave some details of the doctor's life and times. This will be published in the society's journal later this year. Last week's photograph included William Morgan (The Black Prince), James Lorimer, George Thompson, Joe Young, Hugh Gault and the famous Dr. Mussen." (Ulster Star-Date unknown)

The Lisburn Standard, Saturday January 26th 1878 published the following article.

"MUSICAL AND ELOCUTIONARY ENTERTAINMENT IN GLENAVY

(From our reporter)

Thursday evening, 17th instant, at half-past six o'clock, a most successful entertainment, consisting of singing, reading, recitations, and music, was given in the Glenavy Protestant Hall, under the auspices of the Glenavy Conservative Brass Band. The hall, which is capable of holding several hundred people, was crowded to inconvenience by a respectable audience, and indeed many had to go away, being unable to procure seats. On the platform were - Claude L. Capron, Esq., Mrs. and Miss Starkie, Dr.and Mrs. Mussen, Mrs. Walkington, Miss Minnis, Miss Ferris, Miss H. McGahey, Mr. Wm. Capron, Mr. Mortimer, Rev. John Leslie, Mr. T.C. Browne, Mr. W. Arlow, Messrs. J. Bell, G.

Redmond, J. Moneypenny, J. Ferguson, F. McGahey, James Taylor, &c., &c.

On the motion of Mr. James Larmour, seconded by Mr. John Oakman, Claude L. Capron, Esq., took the chair amid great applause.

Mr. Capron said - Ladies and gentleman, it affords me great pleasure to be with youth is evening, and I fully appreciate your kindness in asking me to preside on this occasion, and beg to assure you that I am always willing and most happy to do anything in my power to assist you in promoting any undertaking that may be conducive to the well-being and enjoyment of others. (Applause) We are met here this evening for the purpose of inaugurating the Glenavy Conservative Brass Band. The undertaking is, I must say, at present in its infancy, but owing to the indefatigable exertions of Dr. Mussen, and other energetic friends, it has already met with great support and success, and I understand that many young men have enrolled themselves members of the band, and that not only have thirteen fine brass instruments been purchased, but, better still, have been paid for. I will not detain you with any further remarks, and the programme as such appears to be admirably arranged will now be proceeded with (Applause)

The programme was then gone through in a very creditable manner, under the able conductorship of Mr. R.H. Kidney.

At its conclusion, a vote of thanks was proposed by Mr.H.P.Rhodes, and seconded by Mr. T. English, to the choir and visitors for their services, which was responded to by the Rev. Mr. Leslie and Mr. Mortimer in a suitable manner.

Dr. Mussen, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman, said, Ladies and gentlemen, it affords me great pleasure to move that the best thanks of the meeting be given to our worthy Chairman for his kindness in coming amongst us this evening, and for his dignified and proper conduct in the chair. I must also, on my own part and on the part of the Band Committee, thank him for his kind, encouraging words of sympathy to us in our efforts to establish a local Brass Band in Glenavy. He thereby evidently desires to give us credit for being actuated by higher motives than political considerations in these endeavours. This declaration, I assure you, contrasts favourably with some expressions which it is said have been used in reference to the band, by some who seem to think that we can do nothing without a political end in view, and seem to perceive some political signification in all our acts. Although the band was originated and is supported under Conservative auspices, yet I assure you that the social rather than the political aspect was always in the foreground with us; but with such testimony from our worthy chairman we can afford to ignore these aspersions. I know there is but one opinion in this neighbourhood regarding Mr. Claude L. Capron, and that is one of the utmost respect for him as a gentleman, and the most duplicit confidence in him as an agent. He has always shown a desire to know and be known by all and to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the wants of the people: but such a course of conduct we are bound to expect from the representative of such a popular, generous, and noble-hearted landlord as Sir Richard Wallace, (applause),- a landlord of whom we are all so justly proud, and whose solicitude for the welfare and happiness of his tenantry is proverbial as far as the motto of "Live and let live" is appreciated and practised. It would therefore be perfectly superfluous to do more than mention our noble landlord's name in Glenavy, a place where the relation between him as a landlord and the inhabitants as tenants, has always been, and I trust always will be, of the most cordial nature. (Applause) Sir R. Wallace has evinced a lively interest in this neighbourhood when he more than once honoured this hall by his presence and in it has given utterance to sentiments which I trust will be long cherished by all; and I may mention that to him the band is indebted for a very handsome donation to its funds. We also number among our best subscribers the names of Mr. Chaine, M.P., Rev. E.J. Smyth, Mr. Frederick L. Capron, Mr. Claude L. Capron, Captain Douglass, Mr. T.J. Smyth, Mr. McClintock, Mr. W.J. Johnston, and many others. The band now consists of 5 cornets, 2 saxhorns, 1 baritone, 1 euphonium, 1 bombardon, 1 trombone, 1 brass drum, 1 piccolo - 13 in all, of best make, furnished by Mr. Crymble, Wellington Place, Belfast, But as incidental expenses will occur, such as instruction, &c., the proceeds of the present evening will be devoted to these objects. For the kind presence and support of the audience the committee desire me to express their sincere thanks. I again beg to move the best thanks to the meeting to Mr. Capron. (Great applause)

Mr. J. Wheeler having seconded the vote of thanks, which was passes by acclamation.

Mr. Capron said - Dr. Mussen, ladies and gentlemen, I sincerely thank you for the very kind and too complimentary manner in which a vote of thanks to myself has been proposed and received; and with

reference to Dr. Mussen's remarks as to Sir Richard Wallace, I think I may venture to say that it is unnecessary for me to assure you that he always takes the greatest possible interest in endeavouring to promote the prosperity and happiness of his tenantry. Sir Richard Wallace will, I am certain, hear with great pleasure of the success of our large and well attended meeting this evening, and he hopes that the band which has now been inaugurated under such favourable circumstances, will flourish and meet with every success and support, and I can see no reason why it should not do so in a large and prosperous district like Glenavy. (Loud and prolonged applause)

A most enjoyable evening's entertainment then terminated."

On Saturday 16th February 1889 it was arranged that a concert be raised for the purpose of defraying the expenses in connection with the band. (L.O.L.227 records)

Concert at Glenavy in the Protestant Hall Glenavy on Wednesday evening inst, in aid of the local Brass Band. Dr. Mussen has reason to be congratulated for his efforts. (Lisburn Standard, 13th April 1889)

On Saturday 15th September 1900 there is a record in the lodge minutes stating that Dr. Mussen and William Sherlock were appointed as a committee to make arrangements in respect of the resettlement of the brass band. (L.O.L.227 records)

On Saturday 6th March 1915 the W.M. intimated that he would call on Mr. Camp with reference to having the brass band reorganised with a view to leaving the band fit for the coming twelfth of July. On 3rd April 1915 it was to be arranged with Mr Camp for the purchase of two new cornets for the band. Mr. Camp appears to be Mr. Arthur G. Camp, residing at Avey Lodge, Glenavy in July 1917. (L.O.L.227 records)



Dr. Arthur Mussen proudly displays his Orange sash complete with County Grand Secretary and District Master logos.