

THE FIRST STANDARD BEARER

At a meeting of the Colonial Society Committee, held in the Institute, High Street, Selkirk, on 23rd May, 1911 Mr. T.B. Williamson, the founder of the Society in Canada, was nominated to be the first Standard Bearer.

His ribbons were prepared and everything was put in place for the ceremonies to be conducted. Mr. Williamson even booked his passage from New York so that he would be here in good time for the Common Riding, but prior to starting his long journey home, he had to withdraw for reasons which are not recorded in the archives of the Society.

At a hastily convened meeting of the Society held some four days before the 1911 Common Riding Mr. John Johnstone was appointed to take his place. Mr. Johnstone was a great friend of the founder and had lived in Winnipeg, Canada, at the time the Society was first formed, but had returned to Selkirk in the intervening year. He had been one of the persons present at the inaugural meeting of the Society in Canada and was now a member of the committee in Selkirk.

The bussing of the 'Golden Banner' took place on the 'night afore the morn' and the Lady Busser appointed for the occasion was Miss Chrissie Williamson, niece of the founder and daughter of Mr Gilbert Williamson from Innerleithen. Despite her tender years (she was only eight at the time), she carried out her duties in a very graceful manner, and according to the local newspapers of the period she spoke with 'directness and confidence' when bussing the flag.

The original flag was rather large in comparison to modern casting flags, as can be seen from the photograph on the previous page, and it required considerable strength and skill to cast it successfully.

