

ROBERT ANDERSON,

Honolulu,

(Colonial Nominee)

Hawaii.

Mr. Robert Anderson was born in Selkirk on 12th December, 1875, and was affectionately known and is still recalled within the town as 'Honolulu Bob'. He was described by his peers as a handsome, genial, honourable borderer who maintained the highest regard for his beloved Scotland. There was 'nae music sae sweet' to him as 'the soft Lowland Tongue o' the Borders'.

The story behind his nickname goes back to the 19th Century when in 1898 he followed his brother Deacon John Anderson (Chairman at the Bussing Concert 1911) who had emigrated to Honolulu in 1893 as an engineer. Bob had served his apprenticeship as an accountant with a firm of attorneys in Selkirk. He was employed in this capacity with a company which eventually became the Honolulu Iron Works and he remained with them, rising to a senior position in the company, prior to his retirement in 1937, at which time he returned to his beloved Selkirk.



Robert was married in Honolulu on 5th August, 1902, to Margaret Scott Dickson of Gattonside and in 1913 they and a large contingent of the family gathered in Selkirk for the Common Riding as Bob had been granted the honour of becoming the third Standard Bearer of the Selkirk Colonial Society.

This in itself was no great surprise as he had been present at the inaugural meeting of the Society in 1910 in Canada. 1913 was of course a memorable year in the town's history, being the 400th anniversary of the Battle of Flodden. Lord Roseberry unveiled the Flodden memorial and 'licked the birse' during the ceremony which conferred upon him the Freedom of the Royal and Ancient Burgh of Selkirk.

After his period as the Standard Bearer Robert returned to Selkirk frequently at the Common Riding and stood on the platform as guest chairman of the Colonial Society on many occasions. Bob and Margaret were in Selkirk from 1937 until 1946 and played a big part in the affairs of the Society. Bob being chairman from 1940 to 1946.

They moved to California to be with their sons where Margaret died in 1949 and Bob in 1952. He was a 'larger than life' character who was fondly remembered by those who knew him and greatly missed by his friends in the Society.

He was a keen cricketer and played several seasons with Selkirk Cricket Club, displaying what was described as 'praiseworthy skills' according to reports in the local newspapers. He took his enthusiasm for the sport with him and continued to enjoy the game in Honolulu, where the 'Anderson Eleven' relished the opportunity to play against any visiting countrymen, who were frequently press-ganged into playing a game before they were allowed to leave port.