

NORFOLK NEWS

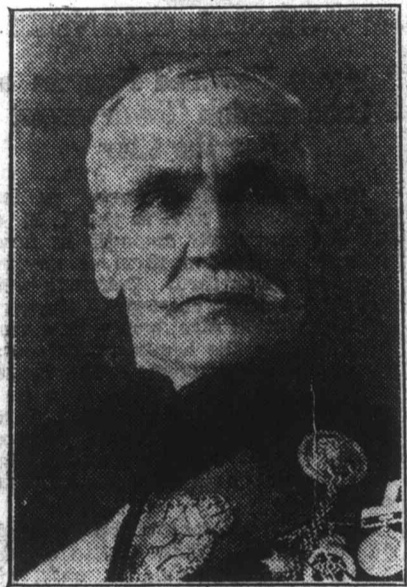
SIMCONIANS CELEBRATE THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING

Lt.-Col. and Mrs. H. L. Coombs Have Been 50 Years Married
PIONEERS IN COUNTY
Simcoe Soldier is Repatriated—Other Simcoe News

From our own correspondent, Simcoe, Dec. 10.—Lt.-Col. and Mrs. H. L. Coomb celebrated yesterday at their West Street residence 50th anniversary of their wedding and this without more than passing notice, to judge from exterior movements about the place.

For though of their family of six sons and one daughter, four survive it was impossible to have a family reunion. One son, Captain Harry Coombs is still overseas.

He went with a western battalion



LIEUT.-COL. H. L. COOMBS.

as a private and has arisen from the ranks in service. Another, Arthur, served until medically unfit for further service, was honorably discharged about a year ago and is at present in Saskatchewan.

Their third son, Frank, is located in Troy, N.Y., and their only daughter, Mrs. B. Sparks lives in Sarnia. They were married at the Pelley home in the North Ward, then designated as "Wellington" by Rev. Martin W. Livingston, father of the late Mrs. W. P. Innes. Of the guests

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at the wedding, and they were many, only four survive, the Misses Polley, Mrs. D. J. Palmerston and Mr. Samuel Chadwick, all of Simcoe.

At the time of their marriage, Col. Coombs was engaged in farming at Forestville, and Mrs. Coombs, then Miss Catherine Brackthred, was teaching school. They moved to Simcoe subsequently and their family grew up here.

Col. Coombs has chafed since Aug. 1914 because his age of 70 years had prevented him from going to the front. Though two of his sons enlisted promptly from the West, one of them walking 17 miles out of the fastnesses of the Peace district to the nearest transportation line. The Colonel has been ill at ease throughout the war and of indifferent health. Mrs. Coombs, who is slightly his junior in years, has won the esteem of her associates through long years and carries her load of over three score lightly. Characteristically active and bright her interest in social and church work has never abated and we learn incidentally that during 1918 the good lady has not missed a single one of the W. M. S. meetings of the Presbyterian Church of which both are members.

Historic Note—Norfolk Militia. The name of Col. Coombs is closely associated with the history of the militia in Norfolk county. He was a private in the Fenwick rifles, the original militia contribution in Norfolk with headquarters in Simcoe and organized as a company. This was the senior company in the 39th Battalion when organized. At that time, Simcoe contributed a second company, and four other companies were mustered at outside centres. Subsequently two more companies brought the battalion up to eight company strength.

still reputed as an encyclopedia of British valor ahead. But why enlarge. Are not Coombs and Osborne R. Young and the rest of the old guard here to tell about The Front affair and the mustering of the Fenwick in the old wooden court house on a single evening? Those were recruiting days. They remember the call to the frontier for four months during the winter of 64-65 and the summons again in 96. Yes and some of them have photographs of the school house used as a barracks. They know all about it and the trip to Paris too.

The Fenwick won the Governor's \$20 prize as the crack company at Niagara. They subsequently reviewed at London as regulars would.

Mr. Culver Re-patriated. Perhaps one of the most welcome cables received from overseas for months was the following which was handed to Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Culver, of Windham, on Friday, 7:55:42, P.M. "Rose Culver, Infantry, now officially reported released prisoner of war, arrived in England Nov. 28th." Rose was one of the twin sons of Mr. and Mrs. A. M.



MRS. COOMBS.

Culver. He was taken prisoner on April 21st, 1917, while on a scouting expedition with a difficult task in hand, and the party never returned. His brother, Roy, now a lieutenant wrote on Nov. 15th, stating that he was in the army of occupation. He is doubtless now in Germany.

W. A. Bowyer has had advice from his convalescent son in England, who, like Capt. Coombs, expects soon to be home, and from a second son who had the good luck to be in the fight up to the last minute and is now on the way to Berlin. Capt. Burt wrote briefly, just before the truce ceased growing, and later sent back a field card briefly remarking "I am well." Even that is good news to the next of kin.

TOLD OF MISSION WORK IN AFRICA
Dr. N. C. Taylor Spoke in Bethel Hall Last Evening

A very interesting and instructive address was given by Dr. N. C. Taylor in Bethel Hall last evening. Dr. Taylor has spent 20 years in Morocco, North Africa, and his talk revealed a most intimate knowledge of the people and their customs. The Arabs predominate in numbers, but there are also Moors, Berbers, Mountaineers, Phillistines and Jews.

The Moors mostly dwell in the cities, with the Arabs being the agriculturalists. The manner of life, houses, and customs of the people etc., are the same as in the days of Abraham.

Mohammedanism is the prevailing religion. It is the only one of the four great religions that categorically denies the truth of Christianity, the only one that claims to correct, complete and supercede it, but it fails to satisfy the heart. In fact, they know there is nothing in it, and are therefore ready to give an attentive hearing to the Gospel of the grace of God.

Dr. Taylor came to this country to take an American degree that he might continue his medical work amongst the people, and expects to return to Morocco in the near future.

Press Photographs
 Mr. Robert Pegg, 4th of the late Nathan Pegg, one time bailiff of Norfolk county, is visiting in town after an absence of 10 years, broken by only a couple of flying visits. He and his daughter, Miss Marion, are the guests of Alderman and Mrs. Henry Crabb, at 62 Head St. north. Mr. Pegg has disposed of his inheritance in Danville, Penn., and will have this week for Port Huron.

Set. Clarence Holmes, of Waterloo was in town last week, having recently returned from overseas. Mr. H. Crabb had recently sent him an overseas box and Clarence doubtless regretted that he missed intercepting it.

Odd Ends of News
 Councillor Roney of Charlotteville has purchased the Silver Hill general store.

With all the war calls, minor church organizations continue to report increased finances. The Young Ladies' Mission Circle of St. Paul's wound up the year last night with receipts of \$378.96. For 1917 the total was \$255.

Reports from outside go to show that plowing operations have not yet ceased in some parts of the county and in some local posts are being set for wire fencing.

December Sessions.
 Simcoe, Dec. 10.—The December sessions of the Peace and of the County court will open to-day under his Honor Judge Poles.

T. J. Agar, after six weeks absence on crown work, one week in Renfrew and five in Toronto is home and will conduct all the crown's cases owing to the indisposition of Attorney Slaght.

Two Civil Cases.
 Hopkins vs. Hamilton's, action to receive a sum of money.
 Slaght and Agar for ptf. Kelly and Porter for defence.

Broughton vs. Steinhoff. Slaght and Agar for ptf. H. P. Innes for defence.

Both of these will very probably be traversed.

Aftermath of County Fair.
 The case against O'Connor arising out of an arrest at the county fair when it was claimed O'Connor attempted to get his hand into the pocket of a county constable from the reserve, is the only case that is of much interest. Mr. German of Welland has been retained for the defence.

The other cases are:
 Rex vs. Conklin and Smith, theft.
 Rex vs. Silverthorn, demanding money with interest.
 Rex vs. Simms, theft.
 Rex vs. Osborne, theft.
 Kelly and Porter have been engaged for the defence in each of these four cases.

Other Lines:
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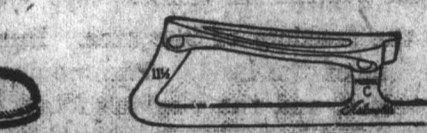
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