

## Harry Thomas Coombes

Isle of Wight County Press  
13 March 1971

### NEWPORT

**Well-known Saddler.**—Mr. Harry Thomas Coombes, aged 64, one of the few remaining master saddlers in the country, died suddenly on Sunday at St. Mary's Hospital after a seizure which occurred on Saturday shortly after he returned home from his Nodehill shop. Mr. Coombes resided at Freshfields, 32, Alderbury Road.

His reputation for craftsmanship had spread far beyond the Island. He had had special orders from horse owners in Canada, United States and South Africa. Mr. Coombes was born in Clifford Street and attended what is now the C.E. Primary School. He was a choir-boy at St. Thomas's Church and a member of the Bible class, as well as of their athletic team, for which he used to run in local sports meetings.

During the war he was a special constable. In 1928 he married Miss Catherine MacPherson, whom he had known since he was 17. They had two children, Pamela and Maureen. Mr. Coombes was also a saddler-sergeant in the Territorials until the outbreak of the last war.

The funeral service took place at St. Thomas's Church on Thursday, followed by interment at Carisbrooke. The Rev. J. Evans (rector of Gatcombe) officiated. The mourners were Mrs. C. Coombes (widow), Mr. and Mrs. C. Edney and Mr. and Mrs. K. Morey (sons-in-law and daughters), Mr. J. Coombes (brother), Mrs. D. Smith (sister), Mr. D. Morey and Mr. R. Edney (grandsons), Mr. and Mrs. S. Croutier (brother-in-law and sister), Mrs. P. Ferguson (sister-in-law), Mrs. A. Toole and Mrs. G. Nobbs (cousins), Mr. and Mrs. F. Bradley, Mrs. M. Hewitt, Mr. and Mrs. C. Thomson, Mr. M. Biles, Mr. D. Biles, Mr. E. E. Downer, Mr. F. Chiverton, Mr. G. Steele, Mr. Clark (his former schoolmaster), Mr. and Mrs. W. Bayfield, Mr. and Mrs. K. Holland, Mr. G. Withers and Mr. W. Smith. Mrs. F. Robbins (sister-in-law) was unable to attend.

The I.W. Hunt and Hunt Supporters' Club, Messrs. Downer and Sons, Messrs. Steele and Sons, Messrs. Upward and Rich, the Osborne and Medina Lodges of Freemasons were represented. Messrs. R. G. W. Reed made the arrangements.

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