

MARRIAGE: 25th Aug 1866 at All Saints' Church, Newchurch  
**George Henry COOMBES** 23. Bachelor. (father: John COOMBES)  
& Elizabeth DYER. 23. Spinster. (father: Robert DYER)

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1891 CENSUS: RG12/892. folio 19. page 32.  
Address: 25 Swanmore-road, Ryde, IW.

**George H. COOMBS. Head. M. 49. Gardener's Assistant. Ryde, IW.**

Elizabeth COOMBS. Wife. M. 48. Shanklin, IW.  
Elsie COOMBS. Dau. S. 15. Dressmaker. Ryde, IW.  
Ellen C. COOMBS. Dau. 12. Scholar. Ryde, IW.  
Alice J. COOMBS. Dau. 12. Scholar. Ryde, IW.  
Charles G. H. COOMBS. Son. 9. Scholar. Ryde, IW.  
Ellen MILLS. Boarder. S. 41. Living on own means. Portsmouth, Hants.  
Gertrude MONK. Boarder. S. 21. General Serv Domestic. Guildford, Surrey.  
Charlotte THIES. Boarder. 1. Ryde, IW.

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*In 1911 **George** was living at 25 Swanmore-road, Ryde, with his wife Elizabeth and daughter Alice. His occupation was Gardener Jobbing.*

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1933 REGISTER OF ELECTORS - 25 Swanmore-road, Ryde

**COOMBES George Henry**

COOMBES Elsie Laura

COOMBES Alice Jane

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ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March 1943

**Oldest Bellringer's Death.-** The death took place on Saturday at 25 Swanmore-road, of Mr. George Henry COOMBS who had he lived until the 28th inst., would have celebrated his 100th birthday. Until a few days ago, when a chill compelled him to take to bed, Mr. COOMBS enjoyed the best of health for one of such advanced years and had been active in his greenhouses. In bygone years he was in the front rank of exhibitors at Island shows and won many awards for chrysanthemums. His greatest hobby apart from floriculture was campanology. he was the oldest member of the Winchester and Portsmouth Diocesan Guild of Bellringers and was believed to be the oldest ringer in the British Isles. When All Saints' bells were installed in 1886 he joined the ringers as a probationer at the age of 43, but quickly mastered his bell, the third, which will always be known as "Henry's bell." He was the most regular Sunday ringer, until the outbreak of war he took his place in the belfry, and his great desire was to hear his favourite bells ring out a peace peal. For over 77 years he had lived in the same house. He was the oldest member of the Court Astraea of Foresters and Shepherds. His wife died 23 years ago and he leaves five daughters, two living in New Zealand, and one son.

The funeral was on Thursday, the service in the Parish Church being conducted by Canon MOXON, assisted by the Rev. F. H. ROLPH. The mourners were Mr. C. COOMBS (son), Mrs. LEWIS (daughter), Mrs. C. COOMBS (daughter-in-law), Miss N. LEWIS (grand-daughter), Mr. G. LEWIS (grandson), Mr. H. G. COOMBS, of Bembridge, (nephew), Mrs. G. LEWIS, Mr. and Mrs. BRETT, and Mrs. SMITH. Miss A. COOMBS (daughter), was prevented from attending by indisposition. Others attending were Major C. W. VINCENT (hon. member) and Messrs. A. BRADING, A. JACKSON, T. W. KEMP, P. LONG, O. MUNDELL, B. J. SNOW, and A. R. WARD (Ryde ringers), and Messrs. W. SCOTT, senior, and W. UPTON (Newport ringers). His colleagues had hoped to ring handbells over the graveside as a tribute to their beloved veteran but

war conditions made this impossible. The large collection of flowers included wreaths from his brother ringers of All Saints'; the Liss Council School; the staff of Ryde Central School, the scholars of which also sent a pillow of primroses; Herbert J. SMITH; Mrs. HARWOOD; and Dr. F. J. C. SMITH, of Tredegar House.

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*NB: We have noted that on almost all of the records found, the spelling of the surname was recorded as "COOMBES"*

Researched & typed by  
Ann Barrett  
Kate MacDonell