**JOHN MCCRACKEN**

Mr. John McCracken, who met with a tragic death Monday night, was born in Marmora township and lived most of his life in this district. For years he engaged in farming, living in what was called the "Irish Settlement" west of Marmora. He was 79 years and 8 months of age. In the 1920's he left Marmora and entered the employ of a construction company in the Niagara district. In 1927 he met with a very serious accident as a result of which his back was broken and he has been unable to work since, but received Workmen's compensation.

His wife, who before her marriage was Dorothy Phillips, a sister of Robert Phillips, of Marmora, predeceased him in July 1917. He was of a friendly disposition and. was well known in the district. In recent years he had lived with his son Thomas, at Niagara Falls for most of the year,

but came back to Marmora for the summer.

The late John McCracken is survived by two daughters and two sons. They are Mrs. John Buck (Bessie), Mrs. Leonard McCracken (Cora), Thomas and James, all of Toronto.

He is also survived by two sisters and two brothers — Mrs. Robert Phillips, Winnipeg; Miss .Annie McCracken Toronto, and James and William, both of Toronto.

The funeral will be held this after noon, service being conducted in St. Paul's Anglican Church and interment taking place in Marmora Protestant cemetery.

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**JOHN McCRACKEN**

**Fatal Motor Accident Here John McCracken Instantly Killed by Truck Driven by Carl Simpson .**

A well known resident of Marmora township for many years was instantly killed shortly before midnight Monday night, when John McCracken was struck by a light truck driven by Carl Simpson. The accident occurred on No. 7 Highway, just east of the bridge over Crowe River. Mr. McCracken apparently was walking along the highway on his way home, and when

he heard the truck turned around. It struck him with great force causing multiple fractures of his arms and legs and breaking his neck.

The accident was investigated by Cpl. Hatch and Provincial Constable T. L. Lummiss. Coroner Dr. S. R. Beatty, of Madoc, was notified and directed that an inquest be held. The jury, composed of F. R. Loveless, foreman, and Wm. Shannon, Major Percy Gray, A. M. Jones and Basil McTaggart, was empanelled and viewed the body. Jas. Gordanier, an acquaintance of many years, identified the deceased and the preliminary inquest was adjourned to be continued next Monday, July 23rd, at. 5 o'clock, when the Crown attorney will be present and evidence will be taken. Following the preliminary inquest the body was released for burial.

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**JOHN MCCRACKEN INQUEST**

The inquest into the death of John McCracken, who was fatally injured on the night of Monday, July 16th, was held in the council chamber yesterday forenoon with Coroner Dr. S.R. Beatty, Madoc, in charge. Assistant Crown Attorney Gordon, S. Robertson, examined the witnesses.

Corporal J. H. Hatch, of the Provincial Police, Madoc, conducted the investigation together with Prov. Officer Thomas Lummiss, who was also officer in charge of the inquest and jury.

The Jury was composed of F. P.. Loveless, foreman; Major Percy Gray, W. A. Shannon, A. M. Jones and Basil McTaggart.

The first witness was John Driscoll, formerly a corporal with the Provincial Police and an official photographer. He took a number of photographs at the scene of the accident which were produced and explained by the witness. Two or three showed the body of the deceased still caught between the hood and the headlight of the car. Others showed the road way with glass on it and other evidence of impact. The photographs were passed to the jurors and examined by each in turn. The license plate on the truck was C30138.

Dr. H. G. Parkin was the second witness. He told of being called shortly before midnight on Monday, July16tn, and proceeding to the scene of the accident. On examination he found McCracken was dead when he arrived. He gave the cause of death as multiple injuries and shock. On being questioned he stated that shortly after 1 a. m. he had taken a sample of blood from Carl Simpson, which he gave to Constable Lummiss.

W. B. Wilde was called and told of being in his bed, where he had been reading, when he heard a car come along and then he heard a bump or thud, not very loud. He looked out his window and saw a car or truck standing, but did not know anyone was hurt or killed until the next morning.

Constable Gould was called and told of sending the sample of Simpson's blood by registered mail to the Provincial Pathologist at Toronto. He also directed traffic at the scene of the accident, but did not take further part in the investigation.

Cpl. Hatch told of receiving notice of the accident by telephone by midnight. Accompanied by the Coroner, he proceeded to the scene of the accident about 12:15 A. M.

Carl Simpson admitted to being the driver of the half ton truck and also consented to a blood test. He described the road as being paved and in good condition, and while it was raining a little, driving conditions were good.

Hatch described a, quantity of broken glass, which was lying on the road, most of it on the south side of the| white line. The glass was 48 feet east, of where the truck as standing when he arrived. The left front headlight on the vehicle was smashed. A cane, which was identified as belonging to John, McCracken and used continually by him, was found lying on the south side of the road 42 feet from the rear of the truck, A set of teeth were also found on the south side of the road. The truck was seized and taken to Walker's garage. There was no evidence of brake marks of any kind on the road.

Constable Lummiss gave evidence that he had forwarded the blood taken from Simpson to Toronto by registered mail. He had received a call from Mrs. Myrtle Yeomans stating that Simpson had been involved in a slight accident. When he arrived at the scene of the accident he found the body of the victim caught between the hood and the left headlight of the car. His evidence corroborated that of Cpl. Hatch.

He gave evidence that Simpson had said he only had Richard Cole in the truck with him, but subsequent investigations had revealed that John Oscar

Cole and Frank Nihill were also in the truck. Simpson definitely had been drinking but not drunk enough to charge with drunken driving.

James Gordanier was called to identify the deceased. He had known John McCracken for thirty-five years and was positive he was the man killed.

John Oscar Cole was summoned. He said he was in the back of the truck and could not see what had happened. He thought the accident occurred about 11.45 P **M,** Monday evening. When questioned he admitted he had heard Simpson say "My God I've hit John McCracken."

Richard Cole, son of the former witness, said he had joined Simpson at the Hotel about 11 o'clock and had asked for a ride home. He was riding in the front of the truck with Simpson. He said they crossed the track and then he heard a thud. He claimed the lights were good but he

couldn't see a man a few feet in front of the truck. There was no car approaching. He also claimed Carl Simpson did everything possible to avoid an accident, but was unable to tell anything he did. At the time of the accident when Simpson put the brakes on, the car stopped pretty quick.

Frank Nihil was in the rear of the truck with John Oscar Cole. He frankly admitted he was intoxicated and unable to tell anything about what happened.

Eugene Brady stated that Simpson was at the hotel from shortly after 4 o'clock until the beverage room closed at 6.30 and again from around 9o'clock until after 11 p. m. As far as he could tell from the bar, he did not show signs of intoxication.

Frank Leal said he was serving customers in the beverage room. He served Simpson with about 6 draughts of beer. He did not show signs of intoxication or he would not have served him any more. He also served the Coles and Nihill during the evening.

Carl Simpson said the brakes on the truck would have stood relining, but were able to stop it. Questioned as to his condition when he left the hotel he said it was practically the same as when he went in.

The most impressive part of the evidence was given by Dr. Lucie, pathologist, who made the post mortem on the body. He described an amazing number **of** fractures of various parts of the body including the legs, the arms, the spine in two or three places, ribs on both sides, the breast bone and lacerations of various kinds and serious internal injuries.

While it was not directly brought out in evidence there must have been a terrific impact to cause so many and such serious injuries.

After the conclusion of the evidence the jury retired and after about an hour's deliberations brought in the following verdict.

"We, the jury, alter careful consideration have come to the conclusion that John McCracken met his death on No. 7 highway, west of the C. N. R. crossing and east of Crowe river bridge at approximately 11.45 P. M. on Monday, July 16th, 1951. His death occurred as a result of multiple injuries when struck by a truck driven by Carl Simpson of the village of Marmora.

We feel that Mr. McCracken was negligent in being near the centre of the road and further that the driver was negligent in driving a truck that was not mechanically perfect as to brakes and lights.

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**DEATH OF MR. McCRACKEN**

A highly respected resident of North Marmora passed away on Sunday last in the person of Mr. Robt. McCracken. after a short illness of consumption of the bowels. The funeral took place on

Tuesday, service being conducted in the Presbyterian church by Rev. Mr. Fulcher. Deceased was in his 63rd year. The bereaved family have the sincere sympathy of a large circle of friends and neighbors.

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**MRS. ROBERT McCRACKEN (ANNIE)**

Mr. John McCracken of Marmora Township received a telegram from Winnipeg on Friday notifying him of the death in that city of his mother, Mrs. Robert McCracken. The deceased

lady who was past eighty years of age was born in northern Ireland and came to Canada about thirty-six years ago with her husband and four children

Her son, John ,was already a resident of Marmora Township and it was to his home at Post's Corners, North Marmora that the family went. Later Mr. and Mrs. R. McCracken moved to the residence in Marmora Township now occupied by John Moffatt. The late Mrs. McCracken whose husband predeceased her several years ago, is survived by three sons and two daughters, namely: John, of Marmora township;- James, William and Annie of Winnipeg and Mrs. Robert Phillips who resides in California. Further tidings of funeral arrangements are being awaited by Mr. John McCracken.

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**ANNIE McCRACKEN**

On Nov. 25th at the family residence 458 Dufferln Ave., Winnipeg, Annie, widow of the late

Robert McCracken, of Marmora Township, in her 87th year. Funeral from Bonarlaw Station at 1 pm, Dec. 3rd, to Marmora Cemetery. Friends and relatives please accept this ultimation.

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**ANNIE McCRACKEN**

The funeral of the late Mrs. Annie McCracken took place on Saturday afternoon, the remains arriving from Winnipeg on the 1 **p** m. train at Bonarlaw and proceeding to Marmora Protestant cemetery for interment. The Rev. A. B. Caldwell officiated at the graveside.

The mourners were John McCracken, Marmora and William McCracken, Winnipeg,

sons; Edward Phillips, Winnipeg, grandson; Mrs. L.F. McCracken:, Windsor and Mrs. J F.

Buck, Toronto, grand daughters; Mr. Sam Phillips, Malone: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Phillips, Marmora and Mr. and Mrs. Ben Wort, Eldorado. The pallbearers were W. K. Linn, T. E. Potts,

J. Gordenier, R.E. Bonter, John Moffatt and J.Bedore. Several beautiful wreaths lined the grave. The deceased lady who was born in Maghara, County Dervy, Ireland, had reached the age of 87 and had only been confined to her bed for three weeks. She moved from Marmora to the West

about 20 years ago and had not returned to this village since.

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