

Salinas Daily Index

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FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 1902

MARRIED FIFTY YEARS.

MR. AND MRS. ROBERT STIRLING
CELEBRATE THEIR GOLDEN
WEDDING.

A Grand Gathering of the Scottish
Clans at the Town of Castro-
ville.

About the middle of the last century, midst ye banks of braes o' bonnie Scotland, young Robbie Stirling, son of wee Jock Stirling o' the "Glessert," met the bonnie Agnes Mounts of Strathaven, and his light heart played pit-a-pat against his vibrating ribs, as such hearts now do and will do for aye, and in due time they were married and lived happily ever afterward.

All this happened some fifty years ago and now, in the spring days of the new century, surrounded by their friends, their children and their children's children, they, are, by the blessing of a kind Providence, permitted to celebrate and enjoy the passing of the bright golden milestone, the fiftieth anniversary of their wedded life, still hale and hearty, loving and beloved.

That wedding of half a century ago took place at the home of the bride's parents at Strathaven beyond the sea in the land made famous by Scott and Burns and Wallace and Bruce. While

they stood before the minister, Rev. Mr. McClay, and pledged themselves to each other through weal and woe, there stood beside them as bridesmaid and groomsmen, Martha Mounts (Thompson) and William Stirling, sister of the bride and brother of the groom; and, after all these years and wanderings in many lands, these four again stand together on the fiftieth anniversary of that happy event. They, with Mrs. David Webster, a sister of the groom, who was also present at the wedding, have been living in Monterey county for the past twenty-five years and more, within ten miles of each other.

Of the wedding party of forty-five, who witnessed that ceremony fifty years ago, twelve are still living—five in California and seven in Scotland. Two years after the wedding Robert Stirling migrated to Canada to make a home for his family; two years later he was followed by his father, John Stirling and his brothers, John, Alexander and Allan, and a year later by his brother William Stirling and wife. In Canada this little colony of Stirlings and their cousins, the Martins, felled the trees and tilled many an acre of Canada's virgin soil. After twelve years of hard labor Robert returned to Scotland and brought out his wife and son John, who had waited patiently for him in the land of his birth. His father, brothers and the Martins left Canada at various times from 1856 till 1867 and came to California, settling in Monterey county, forming a part of that sturdy stock of pioneers, of which our golden state so often boasts.

In 1873 Robt. Stirling and his good wife and family, now increased by three more sons—Andrew, Robert and James—followed the blazed trail of their relatives and came to California and engaged in farming, three years on the Martin ranch and since that on the Cooper ranch. In addition to his farming he is known as one of the leading threshing-machine men of the valley. He celebrated his seventieth birthday last April and his wife fol-

lowed on September of the same year. They are still a hale and hearty couple with the prospect of many happy years of life yet ahead of them.

In response to invitations sent out relatives and friends came from far and near to attend the golden wedding on Wednesday the 5th inst. The ample farm yard was crowded with buggies and carriages and the hospitable home was filled to overflowing with guests.

At high twelve the bridal couple stood up in their ample parlor in the presence of a large assemblage of witnesses and renewed the pledges which they made half a century ago, Rev. George McCormick, officiating, assisted by Rev. J. M. Gillespie. Dr. McCormick has been an intimate friend of the family for over twenty-five years and in that time he has "kenned them weel" and has spent many a day and night beneath their hospitable roof.

When the ceremony was concluded the genial groom and his blushing bride received the congratulations of their assembled guests. When all had kissed the bride and pressed the hand of the groom, wishing them many happy returns of their wedding day, the merry company repaired to the dining room, which had been beautifully decorated for the occasion. The bridal party took their places at the head of the principal table on which was an immense wedding cake, around which were blended the flags of the land of their birth and the home of their adoption.

A social hour was spent at the table, giving and responding to toasts, relating reminiscences, jokes appropriate to the occasion, etc., concluding with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne." They then returned to the parlor and spent another social hour, after which the younger members of the party engaged in athletic games on the green. Numerous photographs were taken as souvenirs of the happy occasion.

Many of the guests returned to their homes at the close of the day, but a goodly number of the auld cronies

spent the evening in living over again the days of old, the days of gold and the days of Auld Lang Syne, and it was not till the wee sma' hours of the mornin' that the remaining guests departed or sought their downy couches to dream of the happy day of yore and the others yet to come.

This is an age of improvement, but there are some things that cannot be improved. One of them is old-fashioned affection. This was beautifully illustrated at the golden wedding here described, where Robert Stirling and his guld wife presented a picture of love triumphant over time, which Burns had his eye upon when he wrote that most touching of all ballads, "John Anderson, My Jo:"

"John Anderson, my Jo, John,
When we were first acquent,
Your locks were like the raven,
Your bonnie brow was brent,
But now your brow is beld, John,
Your locks are like the snow;
But blessings on your frosty plow,
John Anderson, my Jo.

John Anderson, my Jo, John,
We clamb the hill thegither,
And monie a canty day, John,
We've had wi' ain anither;
Now we maun totter doon, John,
But hand in hand we'll go,
And sleep thegither at the foot,
John Anderson, my Jo."

Those present were: Robert Stirling (groom) and Anges Mounts-Stirling (bride); William Stirling (groomsman) and Martha Mounts-Thompson (bridesmaid), sister and brother of the bride and groom.

Children of the happy couple—Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Stirling, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Stirling, Mrs. and Mrs. James A. Stirling, Andrew Stirling.

Grand Children—Robt. N. Stirling, John Stirling, Jr., Willie Stirling, Andrew Stirling, Mary Stirling and Robert Lester Stirling.

The best man and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Stirling and their family—

Mr. and Mrs. B. E. Cahoon, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Whiteher, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Stirling, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Stirling and Jean and Kara Whiteher.

The bridesmaid, Mrs. Martha Mounts-Thompson and her husband, James Thompson.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Davidson, Willie, Annie and Robbie Davidson Mr. and Mrs. David Webster (sister of the groom), Mr. and Mrs. Robert Warnock, Mr. and Mrs. Adam Thompson, John Warnock, D. A. Webster, John Nelson, Allan Stirling (brother of groom), Mr. and Mrs. James Martin and son Jimmie, Thos. Martin and children, Mrs. H. Struve, Nellie Martin and William Martin, Mrs. John Martin and children, Andrew Stewart, W. E., Robt. H., and Isabel Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Martin and children, Maggie and Willie Martin and John Harper, Mrs. Mary Jefferson. Rev. and Mrs. Geo. McCormick and daughter Anna, Rev. J. M. Gillespie, Mr. and Mrs. Jake Jefferson, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. P. Steigleman, Mr. and Mrs. John Malloy, Mr. and Mrs. L. Weaver, Mr. and Mrs. J. Beavers, Mr. and Mrs. R. Peel, Mr. and Mrs. V. H. Lent, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Douglass, Mrs. Margaret Poehlman, Misses May and Nellie Steigleman, Lizzie Keating, Velma Campbell, Flora and Ivy Yates; Messrs. Wm. Duncan, Martin Jefferson, James Martin, James Russell, J. Russell, Jr., Neils O. Peel, W. P. Labree.

Among the wedding presents were the following:

Groom to bride, new gold wedding ring.

J. B. Stirling and wife, \$20 gold piece.

R. A. Stirling and wife and son, gold headed cane to groom and to bride, gold broach and diamond.

J. A. Stirling and wife, silk chain and gold locket.

Andrew Stirling, dress-suit case.

Allan Stirling, \$10 gold piece.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Stirling, \$5 gold piece.

Grand children—Robert, John, Willie,

Andrew and Mary Stirling—\$5 gold piece each.

Wm. Davidson and family, gold ring with diamond set.

Jas. Martin and wife, \$5 gold piece.

Mrs. Robt. Martin, \$5 gold piece.

Mrs. E. Martin, \$2.50 gold piece.

William Martin, \$5 gold piece.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Webster, Mr. and Mrs. A. Thompson, Mrs. Mary Jefferson, John Warnock and D. H. Webster, gold-headed cane and gold-headed silk umbrella.

Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Stirling, gold spectacle case and golden slippers.

Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Warnock, gold berry spoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Thompson, gold card receiver and cake plates.

Thos. Martin and daughter, gold cream, sugar and souvenir spoons.

Rev. Geo. McCormick, set gold coffee spoons.

Mr. and Mrs. B. E. Cahoon, gold picture frame.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Jefferson, gold souvenir spoon.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Steigleman and daughters, set gold coffee spoons and sugar spoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Struve, gold berry spoon.

Rev. J. M. Gillespie, gold salad fork.

John Nelson, gold salad spoon.

Perhaps the most notable gift to the bride and groom and the one that they will most prize was a handsome little volume, entitled "The Bells Do Chime, 'Tis Angels' Music," and containing choice poetical selections, addresses, certificate of marriage, to all of which were attached the signatures of those present at the golden wedding. It is a souvenir that probably money could not buy.

The Index acknowledges the receipt of a generous slice of the wedding cake, and hopes that the happy bride and groom will live to celebrate their diamond wedding.

Write best wishes.
A. J. Hill