

# Dr. LeRoy Simmons

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Dr. LeRoy Simmons was a well-known Sarcoxie physician and veteran. He was born in 1883 and passed away in 1961. Dr. Simmons began his practice in 1906 after graduating medical school in Kansas City. He maintained an office on the upper floor of the First National Bank building next door to an undertaker's establishment on the northeast corner of Sarcoxie's square. He was placed in charge of maintaining Sarcoxie's statistical birth and death data for many years.

He served as a Lieutenant in the Second Missouri National Guard in charge of the Medical Corp and later as a major in Sarcoxie's unit of the 203rd Coast Artillery. He had a military career that span 37 ½ years. He served under Gen. John J. Pershing on the Mexican border in 1916 and ended with retirement from Walter Reed hospital as a full colonel.

Dr. Simmons was one of Sarcoxie's most prominent citizens and civic leaders over the years. He served as mayor from 1928-1932. During his tenure as mayor the first motorized fire truck was purchased in 1929. In 1934, Dr. Simmons served as local administrator of a five acre community garden relief project. At one time, he edited The Sarcoxie Record for six weeks, while its editor, the late Barney Finn, was recovering from an automobile accident.

He was an active member of various civic groups and active in church work. He originated the Christmas Nativity scene display exhibited yearly on the hill east of Center Creek. The first crèche for the display was a private endeavor by Dr. Simmons who commissioned the first figures.

He was a versatile writer and entertainer who wrote and staged many local talent events. He was frequently asked to serve as master of ceremonies for various events. In 1934, he was asked to write a pageant, "The Founding of Sarcoxie", which was presented on many occasions for the fall celebrations. It portrayed Chief Sarcoxie as he may have appeared around a campfire welcoming the white settlers. He often directed the reenactment and even was known to sing the "Indian Love Call. Because of his excellent singing voice and public speaking ability, his services at public gatherings and funerals were frequently requested.