

The Incredible History of the Swan Hotel: Page the Eighth

Marriage

Wells Journal
August 1, 1895

On Friday morning last there was large congregation at St Cuthbert's church the solemnisation of the marriage of Mr. Hebert Alfred, third son of Mr. Alfred Sheldon, of West-street, and Miss Edith Agnes, youngest surviving daughter of the late Mr. Frederic Charles George and Mrs. George, the Swan hotel. The relatives of the contracting parties present included Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Sheldon, Mr. and Mrs. R. Sheldon, Mr. and Mrs. F. Sheldon, Mr. E. Sheldon, Miss A. Sheldon, Mrs. Morgan, Mr. F. Morgan, Mrs. George, Mr. Brand George and Miss Nellie Bryant, Mr. and Mrs. Ruby (Bath), the Misses Gammon, Mr. and Mrs. Baxter Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Ebbelwhite, and Miss Emmie George.

The bride was given away by her mother, Mrs. George. Mr. H. J. Fry officiated as best man. Mr. Stubbs, the organist, played selections from Lohengrin while the wedding party were assembling, and at the close of the ceremony, as the register was being signed and the party were leaving the church, very pretty Andantino (Haydn) and Mendelssohn's Wedding March.

The bride wore dark grey tweed travelling dress, with black hat, trimmed with roses, and carried a beautiful bouquet. She was attended by Miss Mabel Sheldon bridesmaid. There was large company the wedding breakfast at the Swan hotel.

At 12.50 Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon left for the Channel Islands, where they spend the honey-moon. The presents, which were numerous, were very handsome. Merry peals were rung on the church after the ceremony.

Sheep!

Wells Journal
August 1905

During the week a flock of sheep being driven down Sadler Street entered the Swan Hotel Annexe and were eventually driven out onto the Cathedral Green and on to the slaughterhouse.

*Mary had a little lamb
It followed her they say
But here in Wells are different
lamb*

*That in hotels do stay.
On Monday morn at half past
ten*

*A dozen dainty sheep
Tripped merrily to the Swan
Annexe*

*And settled down to sleep.
The guests turned out quite
fifty strong*

*To drive those sheep away
But then created chaos
Which only made them stay!
Eventually the sheep were
driven onto the sunlit green
with Butcher Bill behind.*

Incredible History

The articles in this publication have all come from the Wells Journal archives, and were researched and collated by Clare Blackmore. This publication was designed and produced by the Wells Journal, and printed by TMP (Cardiff) Ltd. The Wells Journal publishes features every week on the fascinating history of the city and surrounding villages.

Trip Advisor for the 1860s

Wells Journal
May 24, 1862

The President and Council of the Bath and West of England Society partook of a champagne luncheon at the Swan Hotel.

This magnificent spread gave the most entire satisfaction to the distinguished guests assembled. The elegance of its appearance and the exquisite taste displayed by Mr George elicited unbounded praise. Indeed so admirably was the whole affair arranged we have no hesitation in saying that Mr George will in future often be called into requisition by his fellow citizens.

R.I.P.

Wells Journal
Friday, July 4, 1919



Sad death of a well-known resident - Much regret has been expressed at the death, which took place under sad circumstances on Sunday evening, of Mrs. Louisa George, widow, residing with her daughter, Mrs. Baxter Jones, at 18 Sadler-street, Wells.

The deceased lady, who was 83 years of age, was well known in the city and respected. She, with her late husband, having for many years been the proprietors of the Swan Hotel. It seems that on Friday last the late Mrs. George had the misfortune to fall her bedroom and fracture her thigh, and though everything was done for her she gradually sunk and passed away on Sunday evening.

At the inquest Mrs. Baxter Jones gave evidence identification, and Nurse Hobbs, who slept in the same room as the deceased lady, said at about 1.30 a.m. during the night of Friday, she awoke and heard the late Mrs. George moving in her bed. Just afterwards she heard the deceased lady fall to the floor. She went to her, and lifted her back into bed; giving her some brandy and milk. She woke Mrs. Baxter Jones, who slept in another bedroom, and sent for Dr. Hincks, who came once, finding that Mrs. George had fractured her right femur. Dr. A. C. Hincks attended the deceased until her death at 7 p.m. on Sunday evening. He attributed death to heart failure, due to vascular disease, and accelerated by the shock of the accident.

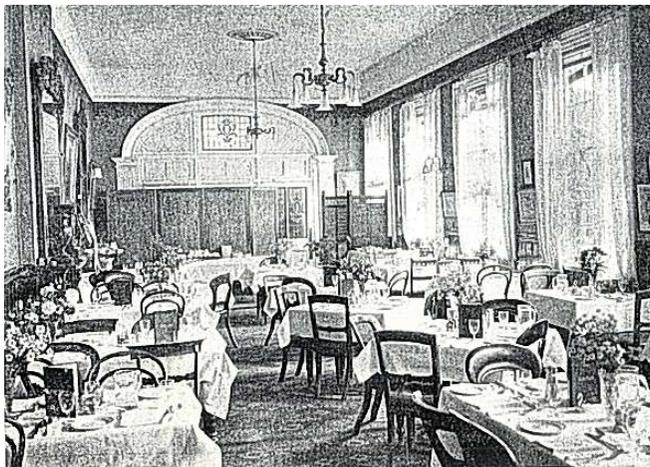
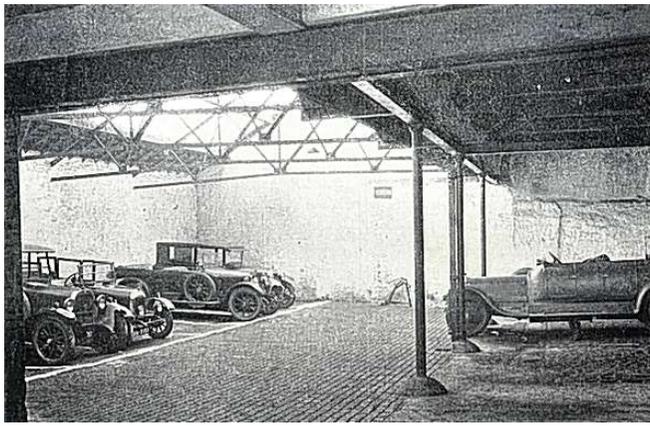
A verdict in accordance with the medical evidence was returned. The late Mrs. George recently lost a son, Mr Brand George, whilst her grandson, Mr Frederick George is the highly esteemed proprietor of the well-known hostelry, the Swan Hotel. Much sympathy is felt with the members the family in their bereavement.

Deficient measures

Wells Journal
October 20, 1860

Borough Police Court - Mrs Sarah Mead was fined 2/6d plus costs for having deficient measures in her possession.

It is only right to state that there were no deficient measures in the Swan Hotel. The seizure was made at the Swan Tap.



The Swan Hotel garage, lounge and dining room in 1929

*What an
adventure
!*

*What a
thrill
!*

Come and see Wookey Hole Caves where your cavemen ancestors lived for 700 years. See their habitation, implements, tools and ornaments. See the actual home of the Witch of Wookey, who, as legend has it, was turned to stone for her sins. See the fairy-like grottos with an underground river, gliding silently and mysteriously. See wonderful caverns, stalactites and stalagmites beautifully illuminated. See the remains of prehistoric animals in the Hyæna Den. See

WOOKEY HOLE CAVES

2 Miles from Wells, Somerset.

GLORIOUSLY SITUATED RESTAURANT.

HOME MADE CAKES. SOMERSET CREAM FROM OUR OWN FARM. FREE CAR PARK.
Phone and Grams: Wells 143.

The Swan
**HAIRDRESSING
SALOON**

(DAVID APPELYARD)

For LADIES and
GENTLEMEN.

PRIVATE ROOM
FOR LADIES.

ADJOINING THIS HOTEL.

T. FORD

*Practical
Boot Maker,*

25, BROAD STREET,
WELLS.

LADIES' & GENT.'S FIRST-CLASS
HAND-SEWN WORK A
SPECIALITY AT MODERATE
PRICES.

*Special and Immediate attention
given to Visitors' Repairs.*

ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE WELLS JOURNAL

July 22, 1852

ANNOUNCEMENT; Mr Edward Mead announces the extensive improvements to the Swan Hotel Wells just completed and the entire arrangements of the establishment improved to give the public as cannot be surpassed by any house in the West of England. Commercial gentlemen will find apartments suitable to their wishes and stabling equal to any in the kingdom. N.B. the "Swiftsure" the four horse Royal Mail coach leaves the hotel every morning at 11am.

November 27, 1858

NOTICE; parties intending to use the omnibus to Shepton Mallet should have their luggage at the Swan Hotel a quarter of an hour previous to their departure.

June 8, 1865

WANTED; a boots for the Swan Hotel Wells. Must be of good character and a single man. Apply manager.

September 9, 1869

WANTED; a waiter must have two and a half years good character. Apply Swan Hotel.

March 23, 1882

WANTED; strong active boy for under boots at the Swan Hotel. Apply Mr George.

June 1, 1882

WANTED; an active, clean, willing lad for the pantry. Apply Swan Hotel.

December 2, 1886

WANTED; cook used to hotel work. State wages and age. Apply Mrs George, Swan Hotel.

March 23, 1888

WANTED; a pantry maid with a good knowledge of waiting. Must be quick and obliging. Apply Swan Hotel.

June 2, 1891

NOTICE; a four horse break will leave the Swan Hotel at 8.30am on each day of the Bath and West of England Show at Bath. Fares there and back 5s.

November 8, 1892

FOR SALE; 25 rare harness horses, cobs, landaus, a hearse, stylish two and four wheel dog carts, upwards of 20 sets of superior double and single sliver and brass mounted harnesses, hogskin hunting saddles, 50 horse rugs.

Suitable for posting masters and private gentlemen. Apply Mrs Louisa George, Swan Hotel, Wells, who is relinquishing the posting business.

November 28, 1895

FOR SALE; Important sale of about 150 dozen of choice wines from the cellars of the Swan Hotel the property of Mr F.B. George who has just taken over the business and wishes to reduce his stock. Valuable wines consisting of champagnes, clarets, hocks, sherries and fine old ports. Descriptive catalogues may be obtained from the hotel. This is a really good opportunity for those who wish to secure good wines. The whole will be for absolute disposal. Samples at time of sale.

February 20, 1896

FOUND; a large black dog. If not claimed within three days it will be sold to pay expenses. Apply Swan Hotel Vaults.

April 21, 1898

TO LET; No's 16 and 18 Sadler Street facing the Cathedral with door opening onto Cathedral Green. Immediate possession. Apply to Mr F.B. George, Swan Hotel, Wells.

February 2, 1904

WANTED; strong lad as under boots. Must have a knowledge of billiards. Apply Head Boots, Swan Hotel.

November 30, 1905

LOST; at the Swan Hotel Wells or between the hotel and the Cathedral. A black mackintosh with brown lining possibly carried away on four wheel dog cart where it was put temporarily. Please return to J. Aiken, Swan Hotel, Wells.

November 10, 1910

LOST; small size platinum ring set with large blue opal surrounded by 16 diamonds. Reward if returned to Mrs George, Swan Hotel.

December 5, 1911

WANTED; a lady to assist in the smoke room and needed for the dispensing of alcohol. Some reception duties experience not essential. Apply manager, Swan Hotel.

June 6, 1914

WANTED; strong girl as general. Apply manageress, Swan Hotel.

Notices.

SWAN
FAMILY AND COMMERCIAL
HOTEL,

AND POSTING-HOUSE, WELLS.—EAST SOMERSET & GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY OFFICE.

By Appointment.

THE Public are respectfully informed that OMNIBUSES will leave the above Hotel for the conveyance of Passengers and Parcels to and from the Railway Station, and George Hotel, Shepton Mallet, as under, until further notice.

PARLIAMENTARY.	EXPRESS.
Leaves Wells at 9.40 a.m. and 12.55 p.m.	
RETURNING,	
PARLIAMENTARY.	MAIL.
Leave Shepton Mallet at 1.35 a.m. " 4.30 "	

S. S. MEAD, PROPRIETOR.

S. S. M. begs to return her best thanks to the Nobility, Clergy, Gentry, and to her Commercial friends for the liberal support extended to her at the Swan, and trusts by strict attention to the requirements of those visiting the Hotel, to merit their continued patronage.

Dated Swan Hotel, Wells, Nov. 19th, 1858.

The first advert for the Swan Hotel, in February 1859. The proprietor is Sarah Mead