



Obituaries

Chippenham

AN OLD STAGE-COACH DRIVER

Alfred Waller, said to be the last surviving stage-coach driver in the West of England, was buried a few weeks ago at Devizes. He was born in 1823 at Calne, where his father kept an inn, and, with a stud of 60, horsed the coach between Calne and Newbury - the old "Regulator". At the age of 15 years Alfred 'handled the ribands,' and took the up journey, while his brother managed the team on the downward journey. Alfred Waller afterwards drove the coach between Calne and Bristol, and when the railways were completed drove for some years between Calne and Chippenham, but a branch line was constructed and the coach fell into disuse. About seven years ago Mr. G. P. Fuller, of Neston Park, Corsham, put a coach on the road between Devizes and Bath, and Waller once more mounted the box. Later on Captain Spicer put the 'Nimrod' coach on the road between Devizes and the Pumproom Hotel, Bath, and the services of the veteran whip were once more brought into use. A pension was provided for him during his declining years.

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