



Death of Mrs. Louisa Baker

Associations with Swallowcliffe

Interesting Reminiscences.

The death has taken place of Mrs. Louisa Baker, the wife of Mr. Frederick James Baker, of 51 Endleigh Road, West Ealing, at the age of 77 years. She was a native of Swallowcliffe.

Mr. and Mrs. Baker celebrated their golden wedding on 18th April 1931 having been married at All Saints Church, South Acton, Middlesex on 18th April 1881. Mrs. Baker was the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Gray. Soon after her birth her parents removed to Ansty, where they died. There are two brothers still living there at the present time and one at Brookwater, and two sisters at Shaftesbury and Charlton. Her sister at Shaftesbury is the wife of Mr. A. J. Bealing, photographer.

When Mrs. Baker was about 18 years old she left Ansty to live as companion and help with Mr. Snook and his wife at Avenue Road, Acton. Mr. Snook was a native of Knoyle, and was a carpenter by trade before he decided to seek his fortunes in London.

A Lover of Country Life

Mr. and Mrs. Baker were in the habit of spending their annual holiday at Ansty, and after her parents died they transferred their place of stay to Tisbury and continued to visit there annually until the present year. Mrs. Baker was very fond of country life and used to accompany her husband on his fishing expeditions. While he was watching his float she would roam in search of wild flowers, look for mushrooms, or study bird life. She often used to relate that she had seen on many occasions the late Dowager Lady Arundell of Wardour hunting with the foxhounds. She herself enjoyed the excitement of following the otterhounds. She was present at the celebrations which took place at Wardour House on the successful termination of the Tichborne trial, and saw the cannon burst which killed Mr. Ford and one or two other persons. Her father was one of the bearers at the funeral of Lord Arundell of Wardour, the predecessor of Lord Francis Arundell. The bearers wore silk hats and scarves provided for them by the family. Her father was the founder of Ansty District.

May-Day at Ansty

Mrs. Baker's reminiscences of May-Day celebrations at Ansty, were very interesting, and she used to gather flowers and help to decorate the Maypole; silk ribbons were used as well. In those days the May-Day festivity and club dinners were very different from what they are now, there being more dancing, music and jollification. Her brother Walter kept the Arundell Arms for ten years.

Mrs. Baker was of a generous and happy disposition and was held in high esteem by all those who had the pleasure of her acquaintance. A familiar figure who will be missed by many of the inhabitants of Tisbury.

The funeral took place on October 31st at the City of Westminster Cemetery, Hanwell.

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