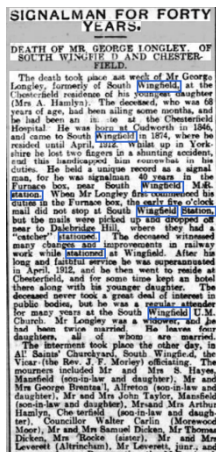


George's story

George Longley (1846 – 1914) spent his early years near Barnsley and lived in the home of his grandfather who was a “pauper highways labourer” *along with other family members who were agricultural and railway labourers, one of whom was probably his father.* George married Emma Blackburn from Bradford in 1869. By 1871, they had moved to Oakerthorpe because George had started work as a Pointsman. The couple had 4 daughters (*Sarah Jane, Mildred Alice, Clara Gertrude and Melvina*) and one son (*George William*) who died age 4 in 1883. *He was buried at All Saints Church, South Wingfield along with his mother who died in 1900.*

George worked as a Signaller in the Furnace Box at Wingfield for over 40 years, leaving the service of the Midland Railway in 1912. In his early years, he lost two fingers in a shunting accident.

After retiring from the railways, George briefly ran a hotel in Chesterfield with his daughter before his death at age 68 in 1914. *The Midland Railway signalmen were represented at his funeral by Albert Humphries, Walter Coleman and A. Hopkins and he was buried in South Wingfield.* It was noted that he “witnessed many changes and improvements in railway work while stationed at Wingfield” not least in the way that the early mail drop was handled.



Caption: George Longley obituary in Belper News 29th May 1914