

## PACKER. Handel Henrico Angel Hotel Silver Street WELLINGBOROUGH

Gloucestershire was the county and 1848 the year of birth of Handel Henrico Packer who at one time was described as an Architect and Hotel Keeper, an unusual combination of trades to say the least. However, by 1880 he was the licensee of the Angel Hotel situated in Silver Street, Wellingborough and, amongst his other activities, he was an agent of the London & North Western Railway Company. It was in this capacity that Handel H Packer operated a horse bus between the Angel and Wellingborough's London Road Station and this service probably continued until circa 1910 albeit not run by Packer who had moved to the Cliff Hotel at Dovercourt by 1901.

Due to the steep incline of Sheep Street, Wellingborough over which thoroughfare the horse bus operated, together with the mud and poor road conditions at the bottom of the hill, Handel Packer's bus always required two horses to pull it. Below is reproduced an extract from the 1904 L.& N.W. Railway timetable relative to the service. Handel H Packer's name is not mentioned as he had moved on by this time but earlier editions of the timetables did refer to Packer by name.

**\* Wellingborough**—Omnibus meets all trains except 11.0 a.m., and 11.0 p.m., Saturday trains from Northampton, and 6.9 p.m. (Saturdays) to Northampton, unless previously ordered.

Handel Henrico Packer died in 1909 in Essex at the age of 61 years.

The buildings which formed the Angel Hotel are still in situ but now comprise a number of shop premises.

# Bygone Buses

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PACKER. Handel H. - Wellingborough



*This photograph depicts the Angel Hotel at Wellingborough outside which stand a Brougham, Packer's horse bus and a milk float. This latter vehicle also carries Packer's name indicating yet another of his business diversifications. Possibly the top-hatted gentleman on the pavement was Handel Henrico Packer?*