

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-WR0

Page 1

WREN. William Edward The Poplars, West Street EARLS BARTON

FACT: William Edward Wren of The Poplars, Earls Barton purchased a twelve-seater Arrol-Johnston charabanc which was registered to him on 30th January 1915 as NH 1490. It was a 30/40 horsepower machine painted in a buff livery but it did not remain with Wren for many months before being transferred to a Warwickshire owner on 27th October 1915. No evidence has been found to confirm that Wren actually operated this charabanc.

SPECULATION: A William Edward Wren owned a boot polish works in Greyfriars Street, Northampton and was a prolific backer of local business enterprises. He is known to have had a financial interest in George Clark's Weedon bus operation (NN-CL6) and the Midland Motor Bus Co Ltd, Northampton (NN-MI1). If the William Edward Wren featured in this paper is the Boot Polish Wren it maybe that he had purchased the Arrol-Johnston NH 1490 with a view to supporting another local enterprise rather than running it himself, but 1915 during the First World War was not an ideal time to start bus services or to operate excursions and so the project may never have got off the ground. This theory has yet to be proved or disproved.

Rolling Stock:

REGN. NO.	CHASSIS			BODY			DATES			PREVIOUS OWNER	INITIAL DISPOSAL	NOTES
	MAKE	TYPE	NO.	MAKE	TYPE/ SEATS	NO.	NEW	S/H	W/D			
NH 1490	Arrol-Johnston	30/40hp	?	?	Ch12	—	1/15	—	10/15	—	To Warwickshire	

Bygone Buses of Northamptonshire is compiled by R M Warwick, "Forestyn" 101 Broadway East, Northampton NN3 2PP, who would be pleased to be advised of any additional information relating to the above operator. The records of the PSV Circle and the Omnibus Society have been consulted extensively for this series and acknowledgement and thanks are due to these organisations.