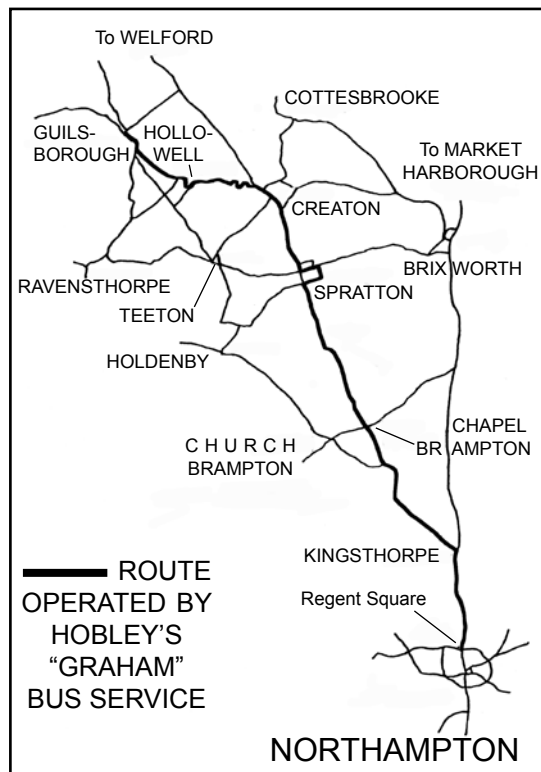


HOBLEY. William Edwin t/a The "GRAHAM" Bus Service GUILSBOROUGH

From the scant evidence available in relation to this operator it is by no means clear whether William Edwin Hobley first ventured into road passenger transport by acquiring a vehicle for private hire operation or whether his initial act was to commence a local bus service between Guilsborough and Northampton.

What is known, however, is that in the Autumn of 1926 Hobley made application to Northampton Borough Council for a Hackney Carriage licence that would permit him to ply for hire from Regent Square in connection with a service operating from Guilsborough to Northampton via Hollowell, Creaton, Spratton and Chapel Brampton. The required licence was granted for the period 11th October 1926 to 25th March 1927. At the same time amendments to the timetable for the above route were granted by the Council which could suggest that the service was already up and running by this date.



Be that as it may, Hobley bought a brand new Graham-Dodge twenty-seater at this time and it was registered RP 3355 on 12th October 1926 and it carried a body built by Ben Hasker of Northampton.

By May 1927 the Guilsborough to Northampton service was again amended and then comprised workers' facilities on Mondays to Saturdays, with an enhanced timetable on Wednesday and Saturday market days providing an approximate two-hourly headway. On Sundays four journeys each way were operated and the entire route was provided under the name of "GRAHAM" bus service. Maybe this title was derived from Hobley's bus being of Graham Bros. manufacture?

It is not known when Hobley ceased to trade or what happened to his business. The major operator on the Guilsborough Road was the Northampton

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-H01

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HOBLEY. W E - GUILSBOROUGH

Motor Omnibus Company Limited, who could have acquired Hobley's business or picked up his timings prior to the summer of 1928. In addition, there were a number of other small independent operators covering the same route, or parts of it, at around this period, none of whom could have been making a fat living from such a rural area. Hobley did not survive into the post-1930 Road Traffic Act era.

All previous times cancelled.

Commencing May 28th. 1927.

THE "GRAHAM" BUS SERVICE

Between

Guiltsborough and Northampton.

Buses start from Regent Sq., Northampton.

	Monday only	Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.		Wednesdays and Saturdays.								Sundays.					
	AM.	AM.	PM.	AM.	AM.	AM.	PM.	PM.	PM.	PM.	PM.	PM.	PM.	PM.	PM.		
Guiltsborough dep	7 0	6 30	4 55	6 30	8 50	1050	1245	2 30	4 50	7 0	PM.	....	1245	2 15	4 50	8 30
Hollowell	7 5	6 35	5 0	6 35	8 55	1055	1250	2 35	4 55	7 5	Sats only	....	1250	2 20	4 55	8 35
Creaton	7 10	6 40	5 5	6 40	9 0	11 0	1255	2 40	5 0	7 10	8 15	....	1255	2 25	5 0	8 40
Spratton	7 15	6 45	5 10	6 45	9 5	11 5	1 0	2 45	5 5	7 15	8 20	....	1 0	2 30	5 5	8 45
Chapel Brampton	....	....	....	....	9 15	1115	1 10	2 55	5 15	7 25	8 30	....	1 10	2 40	5 15	8 55
Northampton arr	7 30	7 0	5 30	7 0	9 30	1130	1 25	3 10	5 30	7 40	8 45	....	1 25	2 55	5 30	9 10
Northampton dep	7 45	5 45	7 45	9 45	1130	1 30	3 45	5 45	8 30	7 45	PM.	9 15	1 30	3 0	6 15	9 15
Chapel Brampton	8 0	6 0	8 0	10 0	1145	1 45	4 0	6 0	8 45	8 0	PM.	9 30	1 45	3 15	6 30	9 30
Spratton	8 10	6 10	8 10	1010	1155	1 55	4 10	6 10	8 55	8 10	PM.	9 40	1 55	3 25	6 40	9 40
Creaton	8 15	6 15	8 15	1015	12 0	2 0	4 15	6 15	9 0	8 15	Saturdays only	9 45	2 0	3 30	6 45	9 45
Hollowell	....	8 20	6 20	8 20	1020	12 5	2 5	4 20	6 20	9 5	Sats only	9 50	2 5	3 35	6 50	9 50
Guiltsborough arr	....	8 25	6 25	8 25	1025	1210	2 10	4 25	6 25	9 10	Sats only	9 55	2 10	3 40	6 55	9 55

Parties catered for. Distance no object.

ALL PASSENGERS INSURED AGAINST ACCIDENTS.

Proprietor, W. E. HOBLEY,

Guiltsborough, Northants.

THE VICTORY PRESS, OAKWOOD RD.

Facsimile of Hobley's timetable for 28th May 1927.

Rolling Stock:

As Hobley was advertising "Parties catered for...Distance no object" at the same time that he was operating his Guiltsborough - Northampton service, it is reasonable to assume that he owned more than one vehicle. Details of only one, however, are known.

RP 3355 - Graham-Dodge - A561440 - Hasker - B20 - New 12/10/26.

Last owner - O A Bartle, Potton and last licensed 9/31.