

ANDREWS. Mrs Violet May t/a The Violet Bus 17 Marefair NORTHAMPTON

This account continues from paper NN-WA3 which directly concerned Alfred Walmsley and indirectly Mrs Violet May Andrews. It is recommended that paper NN-WA3 be read first.

When the association between Mrs Andrews and Alfred Walmsley ended in the first half of 1922 and Walmsley continued to operate his Northampton to Duston service from Horseshoe Street, Violet Andrews bought her own Ford T for £100 from Messrs York, Ward & Rowlatt of Wellingborough. The vehicle seated fourteen passengers, was painted violet, and was named "The Violet". The price allegedly paid for it indicates it was a second-hand acquisition. The precise date on which this bus was bought is not known but it was prior to the end of July 1922 when Mrs Andrews was advertising a trip to Bedford in "The Violet" saloon.

Driver Charlie Swann, who had been employed by Walmsley now found himself on the pay roll of Violet Andrews and this ensured Andrews' service prospered whilst Walmsley's floundered.

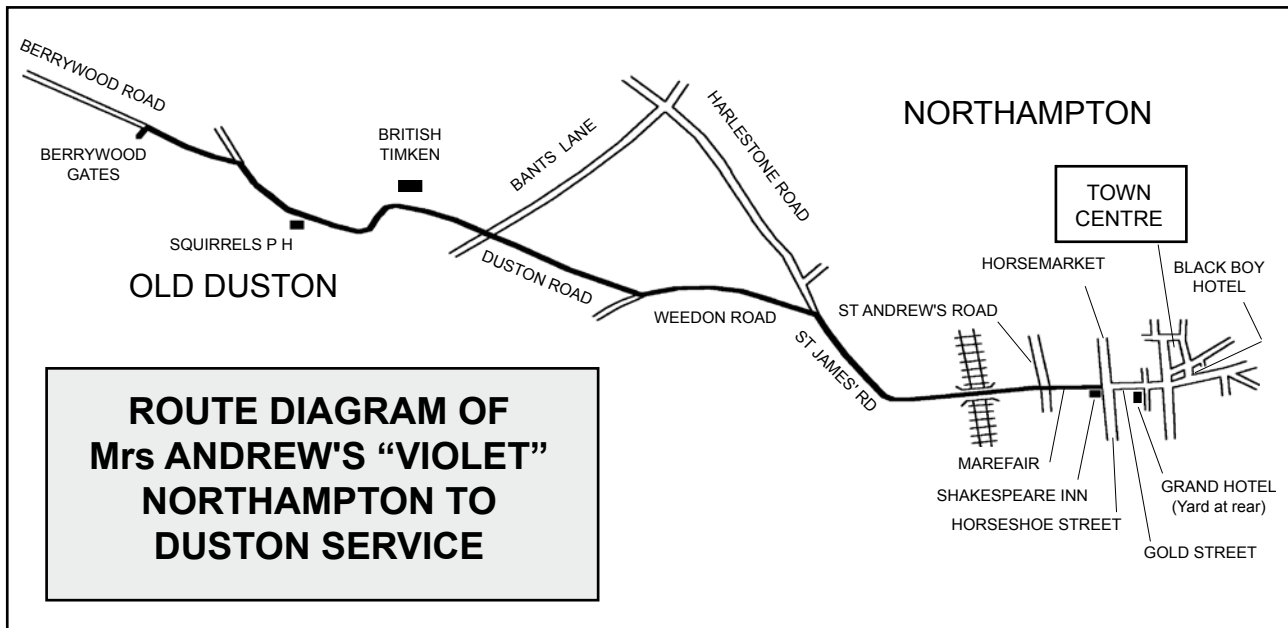
Mrs Andrews quickly obtained a second Ford T with a body built by Ben Hasker of Northampton. The service started at 8.00am and shuttled back and forth to Duston until 11.00pm. On Saturdays a second vehicle was required which at other times was used for private hires. The fare from Northampton to the Squirrels, Duston was originally 6d and 1/-d to Berrywood Gates. Later, due to competitive pressure, the fares were reduced to 3d and 4d respectively.

Probably during 1924 Alfred Walmsley returned to Violet Andrews, took over the operation of "The Violet" and moved the Northampton terminal of the service to the Grand Hotel, Gold Street to be nearer the town centre. At the same time driver Charlie Swann left and went to drive for Charlie Billington's "Shakespeare" bus company which

ANDREWS Mrs V M - NORTHAMPTON

was also running on the Duston road. That, however, is another story and it is related in paper NN-BI2.

Competition on the Northampton to Duston route with Billington's "Shakespeare" and another newcomer - Benson's "Squirrels" service was too much for Violet Andrews and her associate Alfred Walmsley and so the "Violet" service ceased around 1926.



Rolling Stock:

? - Ford T - YW&R? - B14F - New ? - Acquired by Andrews by 7/22 - Withdrawn c-/26.
(named "The Violet").

NH xxxx? - Ford T - Hasker - B14F - New c-/23 - Withdrawn c-/26.

Additional Information:-

Violet Andrews was operating NH 4090, a 17cwt Ford, as a Hackney Carriage at 9th November 1922. Its last owner was also Mrs Andrews. This may, or may not, have been the first Ford T referred to above.