

# Bygone Buses

of  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-HA7

Page 1

## HARRIS. Joseph Edward

### Moseley Cottage

### High Street,

### ROADE

Joseph Edward Harris had lived in Roade from at least 1916 and it appears that he established a garage business in a building adjacent to his home and abutting the High Street carriageway in the early 1920s. In addition to all the usual activities associated with a village garage, Harris also set up a hire car operation and it is known that he acquired a 1921 Armstrong-Siddeley 30hp saloon car registered NH 3572 which was licensed as a Hackney Carriage. On 22nd October 1924 Joseph Harris ordered a Ford T Ton Truck chassis from Messrs Henry Oliver Ltd of Northampton and this was delivered on 9th November 1924 registered RP 136 and also licensed as a Hackney Carriage. At a cost of just £100 it seems certain that a Ford T car chassis was supplied by Henry Oliver Ltd rather than a Ton Truck chassis, so it is probable that RP 136 was a private hire car rather than anything larger.

Joseph Harris is not known to have owned any buses or charabancs but by the mid-1930s he obviously intended to test the water with an excursion licence to provide transport in connection with dances and other evening entertainments. Thus, in January 1936, Harris applied to the Traffic Commissioners for a Road Service Licence to operate Excursions & Tours from Roade to twenty-two destinations of villages surrounding Roade, broadly in a circle bounded by Northampton, Wolverton and Towcester. The Traffic Commissioners duly granted Joseph Harris his required licence under reference TER 3069/1 but it is not known whether any actual operations took place and neither is it known what vehicle Harris secured for such operations. Evidently the enterprise was not a great success as the licence was surrendered in March 1937. It was around this time that Joseph Harris sold his house and ceased to trade as a garage proprietor.

#### Rolling Stock:

Regn. No.	Chassis	Type	Chassis No.	Body	Type & Seats	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal
						New	S/H	W/D		
NH 3572	Armstrong-Siddeley	30hp	?	?	Car	-/21	—	9/37	—	No further owner
RP 136	Ford	T	10629304	?	Car?	11/24	—	3/26	—	No further owner

Bygone Buses of Northamptonshire is compiled by R M Warwick, "Torestyn" 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.