

ARCHER. Frederick George WAPPENHAM

Frederick George Archer was a shopkeeper and carrier based in Wappenham who, according to Lea's Northampton Directory of 1914, was operating from Wappenham and Abthorpe to the "Lord Palmerston" public house in Northampton on the market days of Wednesday and Saturday.

Somewhat later he is reported to have had a motor van with steps at the rear, in which he would convey people from Wappenham and Abthorpe to Towcester. Fred Archer developed his business further when on 13th August 1923 he took delivery of BD 8254 which was a model T Ford which was described as a chocolate lorry but also as seating fourteen passengers. Archer apparently operated the Ford carrying both goods and passengers for the next six years after which time he replaced it with a Chevrolet LO lorry which again was licensed for the carriage of both freight and passengers. This particular van-cum-bus was registered RP 7844 in July 1929.

Meanwhile in Wappenham, from about 1927 onwards, Walter Lawrence (NN-LA9) was providing a dedicated bus service from that village to Towcester and Northampton and no doubt his vehicles were more attractive to the villagers than vans equipped with seats. There is no evidence that Frederick Archer applied to the Traffic Commissioners for a Road Service Licence following the passing of the Road Traffic Act, 1930 and his passenger carrying activities would have ceased by this date at the latest. Archer ran his Chevrolet until the end of September 1934.

Rolling Stock:

Regn No.	Chassis	Type	Chassis No.	Body	Seats	Body No.	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Notes
							New	S/H	W/D			
BD 8254	Ford	T	7899399	?	Lorry/ B14	—	8/23	—	7/29	—	?	1
RP 7844	Chevrolet	LO	54721	?	Van/Bus	—	7/29	—	9/34	—	No further owner	

Notes: 1 - BD 8254 last owner by J Gardner, Grimsbury, Banbury and last licensed 6/30.