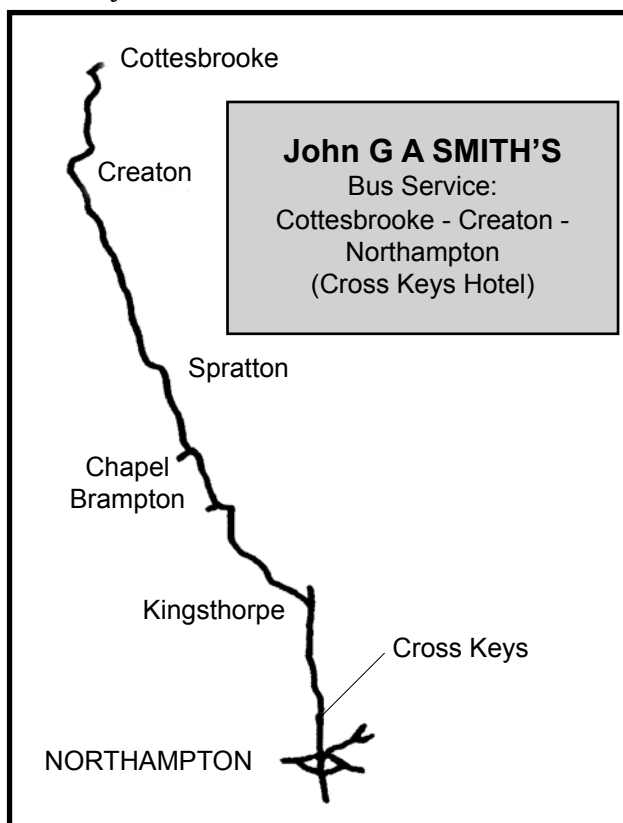


## SMITH. John George Ambrose 27 High Street, CREATON

Reference to paper NN-SM5 detailing the story of Jack Smith's "Blue Fly" bus service reveals that Jack's son, John Smith, was for a period in business with his father, although it is doubtful that any legal partnership was ever formed. In all probability he was partially employed by his father but at the same time operated his own transport. The father - Jack Smith - is said to have been a very difficult man to get on with and evidently Jack and John had so many disagreements that in 1927 John Smith left his father and operated a bus on his own account.

Bus operation, however, was not John Smith's first involvement with transport. As early as 1916 he bought a Selden lorry which was registered BD 3447 when new in October of that year. It is assumed that this vehicle was used for haulage purposes only and after

about nine years service was replaced by a Morris lorry supplied by Ben Hasker of Northampton in November 1925 and registered RP 1923.



At the time of separating from his father in 1927, John Smith had his Morris RP 1923 adapted by Ben Hasker to carry fourteen passengers when not required for use as a lorry. At this point John Smith inaugurated a passenger service from Cottesbrooke to the Cross Keys Hotel, Sheep Street, Northampton. Indeed, at this same time in March 1927, John Smith was granted a Hackney Carriage Licence by Northampton Borough Council for a fourteen-seater bus to stand at either the Cross Keys or Regent Square.

The service from Cottesbrooke to Northampton ran only on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays and John Smith's

**SMITH. John George Ambrose - CREATON**

timetable for 1930 shows a timing point at Creaton but no mention of either Spratton or Chapel Brampton. After a couple of years John Smith bought a new purpose-built Chevrolet LQ bus which again seated fourteen passengers. This was registered RP 7479 in May 1929 and, being supplied by Grose Ltd of Northampton, it's more likely than not to have carried one of that firm's bus bodies.

**Smith's Bus Service—NORTHAMPTON, COTTESBROOKE, AND CREATON**

		Leave Cottesbrooke.			Leave Creaton.			Leave Northampton.		
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	...	9.15	1. 0	5.20	9.30	1.10	5.30	12.15	4. 0	8.30
<b>FRIDAYS</b>	...	9.40	—	—	10. 0	—	—	3. 0	—	—
<b>SATURDAYS</b>	...	9.15	12.55	2.55	9.30	1. 0	3. 0	12. 0	2. 0	4. 0
		4.55	7. 0	—	5. 0	7.20	—	6 0	8.30	—

Arrive at and depart from Cross Keys, Sheep Street.

*A facsimile of John Smith's Creaton to Northampton timetable for December 1930.*

Unlike his father's operation, John Smith's service did survive the 1930 Road Traffic Act and in August 1931 Smith applied to the Traffic Commissioners for a Road Service Licence to continue his service between Cottesbrooke and Northampton on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. The required Licence was granted on 17th November 1931.

John Smith continued his route for about a year, but in September 1932 he reached agreement with United Counties Omnibus & Road Transport Co Ltd to sell the Goodwill of his Licence for the sum of £15, which demonstrates the very low commercial value of Smith's three-day-a-week service which really was of benefit only to the residents of Cottesbrooke. Smith's Chevrolet bus was not purchased by United Counties and it was subsequently used as a goods vehicle by E C Garrett of Creaton. United Counties applied to the Traffic Commissioners to divert its existing service 16 to serve Cottesbrooke on Wednesdays and Saturdays, whilst the Friday facility was discontinued. The Company commenced the operation on Saturday 1st October 1932.

**Rolling Stock:**

Regn. No.	Chassis	Type	Chassis No.	Body	Seats	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Notes
						New	S/H	W/D			
BD 3447	Selden	?	?	?	Lorry	10/16	—	11/25?	—	?	1
RP 1923	Morris	?	6910T	Hasker	Lorry/ B14	11/25	—	5/29?	Supp Hasker, N'pton	?	2
RP 7479	Chevrolet	LQ	53079	Grose?	B14F	5/29	—	9/32	Supp Grose Ltd, N'pton	?	3

Notes: 1 - BD 3447 last owned by A E Letts, Great Houghton and last licensed 10/30.  
 2 - RP 1923 last owned by H Tarrant, Moulton and last licensed 12/34.  
 3 - RP 7479 last owned by E C Garrett, Creaton and last licensed 12/37.