

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-SW1

Page 1

SWANN. William Henry

Mill Lane

GREENS NORTON

In the early 1920s the village of Greens Norton already had a bus operator by the name of Arthur Basford who went on to become a well-known, successful and respected bus and coach operator. (See paper NN-BA9). However, in 1922 William Henry Swann - always known as Harry - tried his hand at running a bus when he purchased a Star chassis which he registered as BD 6195 on 17th February. It is not known whether this Star was essentially a lorry or a bus but evidently it was equipped for the conveyance of passengers. Harry Swann then provided a bus service from Greens Norton to Northampton routed via Towcester, Blisworth and Milton Malsor and terminating at the Woolpack Inn in Bridge Street. The livery of the Star was blue and white.

Harry Swann is also said to have operated an Albion bus and is known to have acquired a second-hand Straker-Squire registered NH 2319 which was new in 1919 and is believed to have been operated by the Midland Motor Bus Company of Northampton (NN-MI1). The date of acquisition is not known for certain but is likely to have been circa February 1924.

Apparently Swann operated his Greens Norton to Northampton service for only two or three years after which time he gave up. His sister Lottie acted as conductress and both later worked for Fred Whitlock of Towcester (NN-WH5) and Walt Lawrence of Wappenham (NN-LA9).

Rolling Stock:

Regn. No.	Chassis	Type	Chassis No.	Body	Seats	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Notes
						New	S/H	W/D			
BD 6195	Star	?	915	?	Lorry/ Bus?	2/22	—	c -/25	—	?	1
?	Albion	?	?	?	B	?	?	c -/25	?	?	
NH 2319	Straker-Squire	?	?	?	B	9/19	c 2/24	c -/25	Midland Motor Bus Co ?	?	2

Notes: 1 - BD 6195 last owned by Johnson & Wright, Northampton as a lorry and last licensed 9/28.

2 - NH 2319 is believed to have been a former Midland Motor Bus Company vehicle. Last owned by D Dyson, Foster's Booth and last licensed 2/33.

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