

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-VA1

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VALENTINE. William & Sons 4 Newcomen Road WELLINGBOROUGH

William Valentine was a native of Guilsborough where his father operated a carrier's business. William came to Wellingborough in 1901 to take over John Willis's carrier's service to Northampton, which operated three times each week. William Valentine quickly developed the service to become a Monday to Saturday operation and at the end of 1909 he motorised the route. This was achieved by the purchase of an Argyll 16.2hp lorry which was painted red, as were subsequent acquisitions, and registered NH 450 on 3rd November 1909. This machine was also adapted to carry passengers, probably in 1910, and thus was running three years ahead of the bespoke passenger service to be provided by the Wellingborough Motor Omnibus Co Ltd from 1913.

William Valentine was joined in his business by two of his sons - Arthur and William - after which the firm traded as W Valentine & Sons.

The next motor vehicle William Valentine is known to have purchased was a Commercial Cars Ltd (Commer) registered BD 1314 on 9th November 1911. It is described in registration records as a van and is not recorded as being used as a public conveyance. However, in reality it was sometimes used on passenger-carrying work as the photograph below will testify.

This somewhat indistinct illustration of BD 1314, a Commercial Cars lorry/bus new to William Valentine in November 1911, was photographed at Market Harborough, probably in 1912. In this case it has open lorry bodywork with longitudinal seats and protective canvas sheetings.



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.

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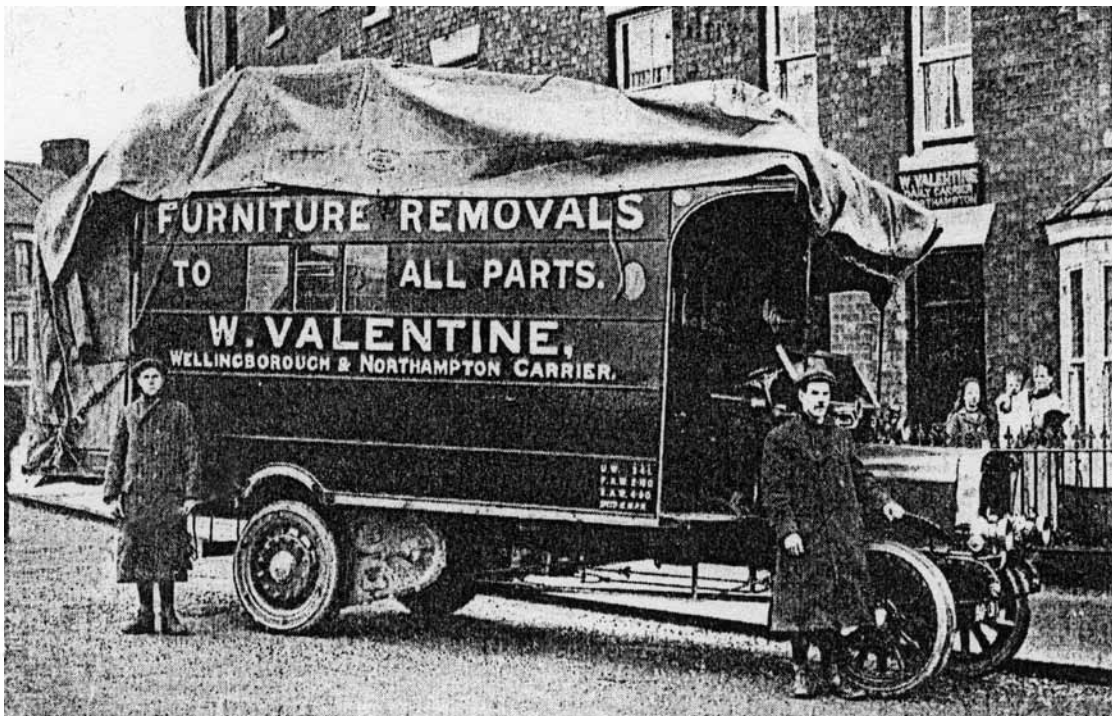
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VALENTINE. W & Sons - W^BBOROUGH

W. VALENTINE,

General Carrier and Furniture Remover.



SPEEDY AND SAFE REMOVALS. :: DISTANCE NO OBJECT.

.. ESTIMATES GIVEN. . .

4 NEWCOMEN ROAD, WELLINGBOROUGH.

See page 25.

This advertisement for William Valentine's business appeared in a publication dated December 1912. If it shows the same Commercial Cars - BD 1314 - as that in the picture on the previous page, then it is carrying a different body. If both photographs do not show the same vehicle William Valentine must have had additional rolling stock about which details are unknown. The side windows in the van body suggest this machine could have been used to carry passengers as well as freight.

On 25th February 1913 William Valentine bought a 35hp Maudslay van/bus registered BD 1727. Thereafter, for the next decade, he bought only Thornycroft models, some of which were used as public conveyances and some not. All are listed at the end of this paper and fortunately a photograph of Thornycroft BD 5798 in charabanc form has come to light.

VALENTINE. W & Sons - W'BOROUGH



BD 5798 was a Thornycroft X-type of 1921 vintage and it was photographed at St. Neots in the early 1920s.

After the First World War William Valentine applied to Wellingborough Urban District Council for authority to ply for hire in Wellingborough with one bus in June 1920 and repeated the application in May 1921 in respect of a twenty-nine seat vehicle. He also made representation to Northampton County Borough Council in June 1921 for a motor van to take up and set down passengers at the Wellingborough Road Tram Terminus. Clearly William Valentine was still in the business of carrying passengers on his carrier's service between Wellingborough and Northampton in 1921 but his very limited service and the availability of much more commodious motor buses plying regularly between the two towns suggest that he did not continue much after 1922.

The freight side of Valentine's business was enhanced in 1923 when the Wellingborough operator Hopkins & Howells (NN-HO7) was absorbed circa 1923. This firm operated from Wellingborough to Leeds and William Valentine expanded it to serve Northamptonshire and Leicester, Nottingham, Sheffield, Huddersfield, Halifax, Bradford and Leeds. By 1933 Valentine's had established garage premises at Gisburne Road, Wellingborough although the office address of 4 Newcomen Road was still used after that date. William Valentine & Sons continued to flourish until being acquired by British Road Services in the late 1940s.

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An example of W. Valentine & Sons' stationery in 1936. Interestingly Valentine used the same printing block depicting one of their very first motor vehicles for well over twenty years.

Rolling Stock:

Regn. No.	Chassis	Type	Chassis No.	Body	Seats	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Nts
						New	S/H	W/D			
NH 450	Argyll	16.2hp	?	?	Lorry/ Bus	11/09	—	?	—		
BD 1314	Commercial Cars		Y408	?	Box Van/ Bus	11/11	—	4/27	—	No further owner	
BD 1727	Maudslay	35hp	?	?	Van/ Bus	2/13	—	by 12/24	—		
BD 2475	Thornycroft		?	?	Lorry/ Chara	7/14	—	by 8/21	—		1
BD 2636	Thornycroft		1832	?	Van	1/15	—	by 6/30	—		2
BD 2234	Thornycroft	J	7437	?	Lorry/ Bus	7/19	—	1/33	—	No further owner	
BD 4730	Thornycroft	40hp	9162	?	Lorry	6/20	—	1/39	—	No further owner	
BD 5798	Thornycroft	X	8538	?	Van/ Chara	3/21	—	12/37	—	No further owner	
BD 6071	Thornycroft	J	2740	?	Lorry	9/21	—	3/31	—	No further owner	
BD 9744	Thornycroft	J	5483	?	Lorry	7/24	—	3/33	—	No further owner	3

Notes: 1 - BD 2475 was not used as a public conveyance after 12/17.

2 - BD 2636 last owned by A Gogswell, New Malden and last licensed 6/30.

3 - BD 9744's chassis may have dated from 1918.