

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-GR7

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GRIFFIN. Thomas Henry Ernest 16/18 London Road DAVENTRY

The business of Thomas Griffin of Daventry was basically that of a motor carrier but he did also carry passengers when the need arose. As far as it is known Thomas Griffin started his business in August 1912 when he purchased a Karrier A-type lorry which was licensed as BD 1602 on 15th August. It was painted Humber Red and was equipped with a hooped canvas top to keep the merchandise or passengers it was carrying dry. It was licensed from the start for both goods and hackney usage and probably earned its keep during the week as a lorry and was then fitted with seats at the weekend.



Fortunately a photograph of the Karrier BD 1602 has survived and a fine-looking machine it was too!

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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GRIFFIN. Thomas H. E. – DAVENTRY

Lea's Northampton Directory for 1914 lists Thomas Griffin as a motor carrier operating daily from Campbell Square, Northampton to Flore, Weedon, Dodford, Newnham, Staverton and Daventry.

On 26th June 1916 Thomas Griffin either replaced his Karrier or added a second vehicle to his fleet. His chosen vehicle was a Garford red van which is not recorded as being used for passenger-carrying duties which because of fuel restrictions may have ceased during the First World War. The Garford was registered BD 3364. There is evidence that the Karrier was later fitted with a van body which may, or may not, have originated with the Garford. In the next move to update his fleet Thomas Griffin purchased a 4-ton Dennis lorry in October 1919 registered NH 2359. Again, as far as it is known, this machine was not used for the carriage of passengers.

THOMAS GRIFFIN,
THE MOTOR CARRIER
FROM DAVENTRY
TO NORTHAMPTON.
MON'S., WED'S, FRI'S., & SAT'S.
Northampton Depot: Campbell-square, 12.30 to 3.
Contractor for CAREFUL Furniture
Removals to all parts.
Free Estimates for all Classes of
MOTOR HAULAGE.
Pleasure Parties Catered for.
DAVENTRY ADDRESS—
16 & 18, LONDON ROAD.
TELEGRAMS--GRIFFIN, DAVENTRY.

Left:- One of Thomas Griffin's advertisements that appeared in the Daventry Express in December 1921. Note at the bottom of the advertisement "Pleasure Parties Catered for", so passengers were still being carried at this time whether his vehicles were licensed to do so or not.

By 1924 the use of lorry-buses was becoming a trifle dated so Thomas Griffin availed himself of a Berliet bus that seated twenty passengers, was painted Wedgewood Blue and licensed as BD 9603 on 11th June 1924. Again this vehicle was taxed to carry both passengers and goods and so presumably served as a

van when necessary. It is not known for how long Thomas Griffin continued to offer private hire passenger vehicles but he seems to have finished well before the Road Traffic Act, 1930 came into being and his Berliet bus was sold to Charles Barfield of Long Buckby (NN-BA4) for further use.

ROLLING STOCK:

Registration Number	Chassis Make	Chassis Number	Body Make	Body Type & Seats	Dates			Initial Disposal	Notes
					New	S/H	W/D		
BD 1602	Karrier A50	?	?	Lorry/Bus	8/12	—	10/19	L H Morgan, Higham, Nr Gloucester	
BD 3364	Garford	RO.BN.936	?	Lorry	6/16	—	c-/24	L Spriggs, North'pton Last Licensed 7/28	
NH 2359	Dennis 4ton	?	?	Lorry	10/19	—	?	Hives? Garage & Tpt Co, Barking L/L 4/33	
BD 9603	Berliet	14429	?	B20	6/24	—	?	C Barfield, L. Buckby Last Licensed 9/30	