

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-CL4
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CLARK. Frederick William 68 Higham Road RUSHDEN

Fred Clark was operating a horse and dray in the early part of the twentieth century and he graduated to motorised transport in 1917 when he bought a grey McCurd lorry which was duly registered BD 3612 on 22nd September 1917. As far as it is known the McCurd was never used for passenger conveyance.



*Thomas Stapleton with Frederick Clark's horse and dray at the yard of 68 Higham Road, Rushden circa 1920.
(Photo Eric Fowell collection)*

Notwithstanding the above, Fred Clark purchased a Thornycroft X-type on 11th July 1919 when this twenty-six seater bus was registered BD 1671. This vehicle was clearly used for private hires and one of Clark's regular jobs was to convey Rushden Old Boys' Football Club to away matches. It seems that on the occasions of home fixtures the Rushden Old Boys used Fred Clark's garage in Higham Road as a changing room!

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.

CLARK. Frederick William - RUSHDEN

By May 1921 Fred Clark had made application to Wellingborough Urban District Council's General Purposes Committee for a licence to ply for hire with a bus seating thirty passengers inside and this was granted on 18th May 1921. Whether this indicates Fred Clark ran a local service from Rushden to Wellingborough at this time is not known. Also the licence granted by Wellingborough Council for a thirty-seater vehicle may indicate he had another vehicle besides his twenty-six seater Thornycroft, but if so details of this bus are absent.

Furthermore, Fred Clark is reputed to have operated a REO so it is possible that when the Thornycroft was sold around April 1926, a REO could have replaced it. The Author has no knowledge of when Fred Clark ceased passenger carrying work but he was certainly not operating in the post 1930 Road Traffic Act period.

Rolling Stock:

Regn. No.	Chassis	Type	Chassis No.	Body	Seats	Body No.	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Nts
							New	S/H	W/D			
BD 3612	McCurd	40hp	377	?	Lorry		9/17	—	4/25	—	No further owner	
BD1671	Thornycroft	X 40hp	5667	?	B26		7/19	—	c4/26	—		1
?	REO	?	?	?	?		c4/26?		?			

Notes: 1 - BD 1671 - last owned by W C Nutt, Harpole and last licensed 12/29.