

# Bygone Buses

of  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-BA4  
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## BARFIELD. Charles & COLES. A. Owen 20 Market Place LONG BUCKBY

Not a great deal is known about either Charles Barfield or Owen Coles save that the latter gentleman was in business as a carrier at Long Buckby during the first decade of the twentieth century. Certainly by 1914 Coles had been joined by Charles Barfield and the pair are listed in Kelly's Directory for Northamptonshire in 1914, trading as Barfield & Coles and providing carrier's routes from Long Buckby to Daventry on Wednesdays and Saturdays and from Long Buckby to Northampton every day except Thursday. It is presumed that the term "every day" did not include Sundays.

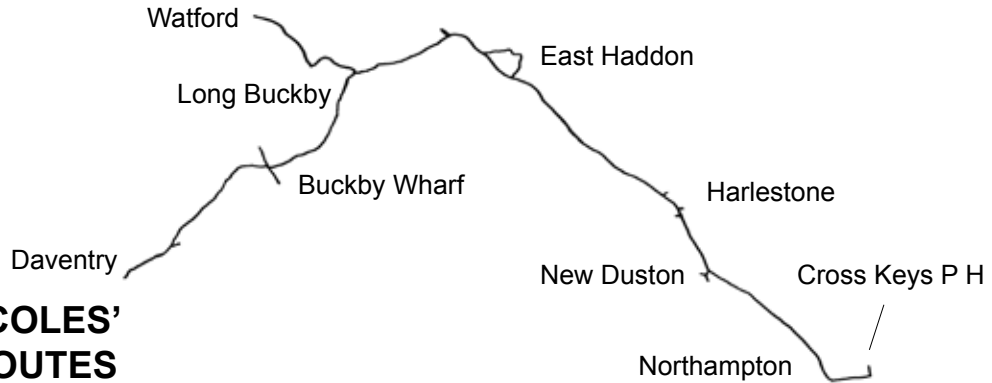
Rather confusingly Lea's Directory of Northampton for 1914 lists Charles Barfield as operating solely from Northampton, Cross Keys Public House to Duston, East Haddon, Long Buckby and Watford on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. This Directory also lists Barfield & Coles jointly operating between Long Buckby and Daventry daily except Thursdays.



*A rather indistinct photograph showing Owen Coles standing with his carrier's cart in the early 1900s before joining in business with Charles Barfield.*

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.

### BARFIELD & COLES - LONG BUCKBY



### BARFIELD & COLES' CARRIER'S ROUTES

Interestingly Barfield & Coles turned to motor traction as early as 1914 when they bought a secondhand Karrier lorry that had been new to Percy Kerr of Kettering (paper NN-KE4) in 1911. Luckily a pair of photographs have survived of this 20hp Karrier registered in Huddersfield (where Karriers were built) as CX 679.



*This splendid photograph of Barfield & Coles' Karrier CX 679, taken at Long Buckby on 1st September 1914, shows the response of the local men to Lord Kitchener's call to action. It seems that twenty-seven left on CX 679 for Northampton on 1st September and a further forty were conveyed by motor-bus on the next day. According to a report in the Northampton Independent, a further batch was due to leave at the beginning of the following week and each man was presented with a pipe and tobacco!*

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*A second view of Karrier CX 679 being used in its passenger-carrying mode, this time apparently running an excursion. On the drop-sides of the body is painted "Trips &c. Arranged For" whilst on the flooring sides are the words "Barfield & Coles - Long Buckby".*

If Barfield & Coles operated other motor vehicles during the first World War then details have not been discovered. What happened to Owen Coles is also unknown but the business was operating in Barfield's name only by 1920. In this same year Charles Barfield purchased two former military vehicles, one of which was used jointly for the carriage of goods and passengers whilst the other was used exclusively for the carriage of freight. The passenger vehicle was a 25/6hp Wolseley which was registered on 24th April 1920 as BD 4418 and in bus form seated fourteen passengers. The goods vehicle was a 32hp Straker-Squire lorry with War Department type bodywork, which became BD 4842 on 20th July 1920.

In the following year, 1921, Charles Barfield bought a fourteen-seater Ford T charabanc for passenger work, registering it as BD 106 on 1st November 1921 and a photograph of this machine appears on the following page. Charles Barfield bought three other passenger vehicles as the 1920s progressed. On 18th March 1924 another fourteen-seater Ford T was registered as BD 9010 and at an unknown date a secondhand Berliet twenty-seater bus was bought from Thomas Griffin of Daventry (paper NN-GR7), this being registered BD 9603 and retained until 1930. Charles Barfield's final passenger vehicle was delivered on 18th May 1929 when a Chevrolet LQ model was registered as RP 7501. Sadly pictures of these latter vehicles are not available.

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*A nice photograph of BD 106, Charles Barfield's fourteen-seat left-hand drive model T Ford. On the occasion on which the picture was taken BD 106 was returning Long Buckby Scouts from their camp at Canons Ashby in 1923.*

Charles Barfield specialised in excursion and private hire work and provided no local bus services. In the aftermath of the 1930 Road Traffic Act Barfield applied to the Traffic Commissioners for an Excursions & Tours Licence in July 1932 and this was granted, duly modified, in December of that year. Charles Barfield's original application was to run tours to Bedford, Wicksteed Park, Stratford-on-Avon, Northampton, Rugby Races, London, Whipsnade Zoo, Towcester Races, Market Harborough & Kettering and Gretton & Uppingham. All were approved except Wicksteed Park, London and Whipsnade Zoo. Thereafter there was no change whatsoever to this group of excursions.

It is presumed that Charles Barfield died in the early part of 1935 as his wife took over the operation in May/June of that year. When United Counties experienced strike action in January 1936, Mrs M Barfield applied to provide a replacement service which was approved by the Traffic Commissioners on a short period basis. However, attempts to secure a substantive licence failed following objections from both United Counties and the London, Midland & Scottish Railway.

As well as the previously detailed bus operations, Charles Barfield and later his wife, persisted with their carriers service between Long Buckby and Northampton. However,

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Mrs M Barfield soon decided to cease trading and from Monday 6th April 1936 the carrier's service was sold to Messrs. T H Clark (Rothwell) Ltd, the well-known Northamptonshire hauliers, whilst the excursion and private hire side of the business appears to have been abandoned after the 1935 season.

#### Rolling Stock:

Regn. No.	Chassis	Type	Chassis No.	Body	Seats	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Nts
						New	S/H	W/D			
CX 679	Karrier	20hp	?	?	Lorry/ Bus	by 8/11	by 9/14	?	P W Kerr, Kettering	?	
BD 4418	Wolseley	25/6hp	26204	?	Lorry/ B14	?	4/20	9/27	Ex-War Dept.	No further owner	
BD 4842	Straker-Squire	32hp	?	?	W/D-type lorry	?	7/20	?	Ex-War Dept.	No further owner	
BD 106	Ford	T	4677310	?	Ch14	11/21	—	?	—	No further owner	
BD 9010	Ford	T	9127184	?	B14	3/24	—	1/29	—	No further owner	
BD 9603	Berliet	?	14429	?	B20	6/24	?	9/30	T Griffin, Daventry	No further owner	
RP 7501	Chevrolet	LQ	53108	?	B	5/29	—	4/36	—	T H Clark, Rothwell	1

**Notes:** 1 - RP 7501 last licensed to T H Clark (Rothwell) Ltd as a goods vehicle 12/36.