

CRICK. Frank E. Weldon Road UPPER BENEFIELD

At some point during the War, the precise date not being known but probably in 1943, Frank Crick took over the bus operations of George Howard of Upper Benefield (NN-HO12).

Acquired with the business was Howard's sole vehicle, a Bedford WLB with Waveney twenty-seat body and registered NV 1182. George Howard had Road Service Licences for four local bus services and an Excursion & Tours Licence from Upper Benefield which was dormant because of War restrictions. The four local services plied between Upper Benefield and Peterborough on Wednesdays; Upper Benefield and Oundle on Thursdays and Upper Benefield and Kettering on Fridays. Inter-worked with the Oundle service on Thursdays were short workings to Pilton and Wadenhoe and to Glapthorn and Southwick.

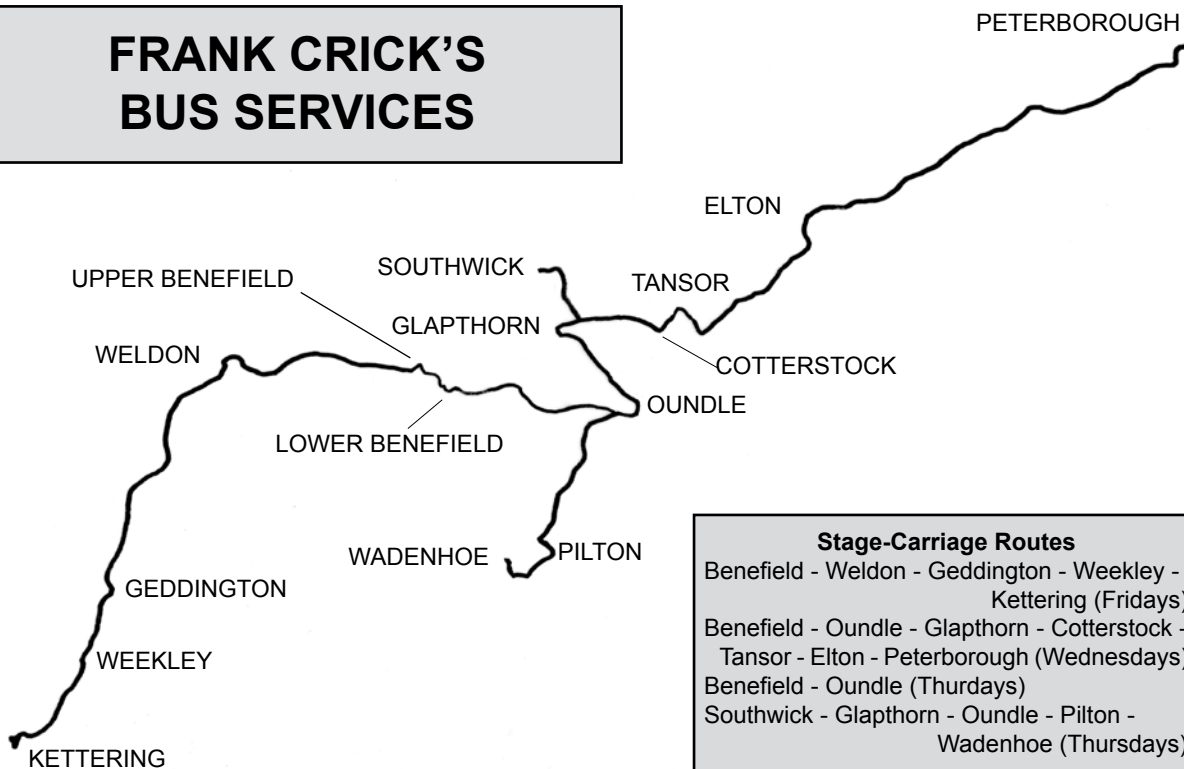
Nothing definite about the personal life of Frank Crick has come to light and it is not known for sure what he did for a living prior to taking over from George Howard, although it is rumoured both that he had at one time been a driver for Robin Hood Coaches of Nottingham and that he was a taxi operator based in Weldon.

It seems that in 1944 Frank Crick was awarded a contract to convey European and other Stewarts & Lloyds workers billeted at Deenethorpe Aerodrome, and in a hostel at Weldon, to and from the Steel Works at Corby, for which the Traffic Commissioners issued a Road Service Permit. It is also known that Frank Crick conveyed personnel from the United States Army Air Force base at Deenethorpe to Kettering and possibly other destinations. Frank was allocated three second-hand vehicles for the above operations of which two were Bristols and the third a Maudslay but unfortunately photographs of them are lacking.

Allan Coales, the Aldwincle bus and coach operator told the Author that after the War had ended Frank Crick had had enough of bus operations and sold his business to a London man who knew nothing about running buses and he engaged a Manager named Henry Hall to run the outfit. The London owner did not keep the business for long before selling it to Messrs Graveling & Wootton, as revealed in paper NN-GR3.

CRICK. Frank - UPPER BENEFIELD

FRANK CRICK'S BUS SERVICES



Stage-Carriage Routes
 Benefield - Weldon - Geddington - Weekley - Kettering (Fridays)
 Benefield - Oundle - Glaphorn - Cotterstock - Tansor - Elton - Peterborough (Wednesdays)
 Benefield - Oundle (Thursdays)
 Southwick - Glaphorn - Oundle - Pilton - Wadenhoe (Thursdays)

Rolling Stock:

REGN. NO.	CHASSIS			BODY			DATES			PREVIOUS OWNER	INITIAL DISPOSAL	NOTES
	MAKE	TYPE	NO.	MAKE	TYPE/SEATS	NO.	NEW	S/H	W/D			
NV 1182	Bedford	WLB	108434	Waveney	B20F	?	3/32	—	7/46	Howard, Upper Benefield	Graveling & Wootton	1
UT 7300	Bristol	B	B615	?	B32F	?	6/30	6/44	7/46	Gibson, Barlestone	Graveling & Wootton	
HL 4536	Bristol	BGW	B580	Bristol	B30F	?	2/30	c6/44	7/46	Brooks, Castle Gresley	?	
GU 2903	Maudslay	ML4B	4582	?	C32	?	3/29	c6/44	5/46	Bailey, London E8	?	

Notes: 1 - NV 1182 last owned by R Wilson, Carnwath and last licensed 12/49.