

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-FR3

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FRISBY. Samuel, Robert & John Peacock Hotel 28 Market Place NORTHAMPTON

The Frisby family was steeped in horse transport in the Northampton area for around a century. It would seem that Samuel Frisby was born in Wellingborough in 1840 and twenty-four years later commenced his own business in Katharine Street, Northampton with one horse, which soon died as did his next two! However he persevered and by 1867 had been appointed by the Midland Railway Company as their parcels and



The Peacock Hotel, Market Square, Northampton showing a four-in-hand and a couple of Frisby's taxis.

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.

FRISBY, S, R & J - NORTHAMPTON

omnibus agent. A couple of years later Samuel was sufficiently established to take out a lease on the Peacock Hotel yard on Northampton's Market Square, with a view to opening a posting business. Fifteen years later he was operating some forty horses with a whole range of vehicles from carriages to omnibuses. His final expansion was to acquire the freehold of the Peacock Hotel in 1882 and establish stables in Bedford Place.

Samuel Frisby had two sons - Robert b.1864 and John b.1879 both of whom were very much involved with horse transport. By 1916 Robert Frisby was advertising as a complete funeral furnisher from the Peacock Stables and also with works at Greenwood Road and later at 77 Waterloo. From 1916 onwards he was also granted a number of Hackney Carriage Licences by Northampton County Borough Council, which all refer to taxis. For example in September 1926 Robert Frisby was granted licences for two motor cabs from the Castle Station and a horse cab from the same point at nights. Robert certainly ran Star taxis registered NH 731, NH 915, NH 1182 and NH 1418; a Buick NH 1097 and five Fords registered NH 1473, 1758, 2201, 3208 and 3511.

Samuel Frisby operated a horse bus service between his Hotel and the Castle Station and at some point his youngest son John took over the operation and also provided horse bus services to St John's Station. John Frisby relinquished the parcel agency he had with the Midland Railway at the end of June 1928 when the Peacock Hotel closed its receiving office at 27 Market Square, Northampton.

Robert Frisby died in 1937 aged 73 years and John died in 1962 at the age of 83 years. The Peacock Hotel closed for business in May 1956 and was demolished in 1960.

Much of the detail of the Frisby family's involvement in horse transport had been gleaned from various articles written by the late Alan Burman in Northampton newspapers.