

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-RE3

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REEVE, Thomas Frederick PATTISHALL

Before the first World War Thomas Frederick Reeve was a carrier serving both Foster's Booth and the adjacent village of Pattishall. During 1914 he joined the armed forces but a year later was discharged on medical grounds, thereafter requiring surgical boots. Thomas Reeve resumed his carrier's business with a horse and cart, conveying stones from Bugbrooke to Northampton for road repairs. He then graduated to a covered van drawn by a pair of horses and ran a regular service from Foster's Booth and Pattishall via Rothersthorpe to Northampton on Wednesday and Saturday market days, terminating at the Ram Hotel in Sheep Street, Northampton. On other days Thomas Reeve gained contracts to carry items such as rags for Messrs Barnes, scrap merchants; beer for Phipps Brewery and many varied loads for sundry suppliers ranging from coal to tobacco and general groceries.

In 1920 Thomas Reeve expanded his business by inaugurating a bus service from Grimscote via Cold Higham, Foster's Booth, Pattishall, Astcote, Eastcote, Dalscote and Rothersthorpe to Northampton, Plough Hotel. A route diagram may be seen in paper NN-RE1. To operate this service Reeve bought a sixteen-seater Daimler lorry/bus registered BD 4255 from Kingston Bros of Woodend. It had started out as a coal lorry operated by a Mr Moisey but the Kingston brothers had fitted a canopy and fourteen seats to its platform body. Passenger access was gained from the rear and another two passengers could be accommodated alongside the driver.

Thomas Reeve could not drive a motor vehicle and had to take lessons from a local man before he could start his service. Whilst operating a private hire from Pattishall to the New Theatre at Northampton the Daimler lost one of its wooden wheels, an event that destroyed Reeve's confidence in this machine. Indeed the Kingstons' had also found it troublesome and replaced it with a Lancia in their own fleet. Thomas Reeve similarly disposed of his Daimler and bought a Ford T lorry with left-hand drive. Reeve then adapted his carriers van to fit onto the rear of the lorry to form an enclosed saloon and equipped it with longitudinal bench seating to accommodate fourteen passengers, again with two more riding alongside the driver.

Thomas Reeve taught his son Bernard to drive the Ford T, although underage, but such trivialities did not seem to matter in those days, unless caught by the Police which, inevitably, Bernard Reeve was, and fined.

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.

REEVE. Thomas F. - PATTISHALL



Thomas Reeve's Ford T can be seen in this illustration with its passenger compartment made from his carrier's van. Thomas Reeve stands alongside his bus with his son Bernard acting as conductor. The young lad is Donald Reeve, another of Thomas's sons.

Thomas Reeve's final vehicle comprised another Ford T chassis bought from Groom's garage at Hanslope and fitted with a body made from a section of a railway carriage. It was of a strange configuration, seating eight in its rear section and six with the driver. Unfortunately illustrations of it have not come to light.

Sadly, late in 1923 Thomas Frederick Reeve was declared bankrupt and his son Bernard Frederick Reeve paid off his father's debts and took over the business.

The story is continued in paper NN-RE1.

REEVE. Thomas F. - PATTISHALL

Rolling Stock:

Regn. No.	Chassis	Type	Chassis No.	Body	Seats	Body No.	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Nts
							New	S/H	W/D			
BD 4255	Daimler				Lorry/ B16R		?	10/20	-/21	Kingston Bros., Woodend	?	1
?	Ford	T			B16R		?	-/21	-/23		B F Reeve, Pattishall	2
?	Ford	T			B14R		?	-/23	-/23	Groom, Hanslope	B F Reeve, Pattishall	3

- Notes:**
- 1 - Chain driven; wooden wheels.
 - 2 - Part of body previously Reeve's carrier's van.
 - 3 - Part of body previously a railway carriage.