

CLARKE. George Henry & DILLOW. George Talbot Hotel, TOWCESTER

The events described in this paper have been pieced together from reports received from a number of sources, each one possessing a little knowledge of the subject but none being in possession of the full facts. Consequently the story is a little vague and "iffy" in parts, but where uncertainty exists, this is made clear in the narrative.

George Henry Clarke was born at Towcester in 1876 and at an unknown date moved to Great Houghton where he operated a coal and general haulage business using horses and carts. It can only be assumed that this venture was unsuccessful as George Clarke subsequently went to work in a Northampton shoe factory. Whilst in Northampton it is understood that George met and became friendly with a Mr Wren who owned the well-known "Wren's Shoe Polish" factory in town.

Nothing whatsoever has been discovered about the life of George Dillow but it is rumoured that he worked in the same Northampton shoe factory as G H Clarke, where they became acquainted prior to George Dillow apparently becoming the licensee of the Talbot Hotel at Towcester.

George Clarke's previous experience as a carrier and his friendship with George Dillow undoubtedly led these two gentlemen into a business venture which resulted in them forming a partnership in the summer of 1913 when they traded as Clarke & Dillow, District Carriers, from the Talbot Hotel, Towcester.

Clarke & Dillow bought a second-hand 28 horse power Daimler lorry which had been registered new as AY 980 on 21st January 1909. This vehicle was transferred from Leicestershire on 16th July 1913 and the photograph overleaf shows the Daimler to have been used for both freight and passenger transport.

By 23rd August 1913, at the latest, Clarke & Dillow were operating a bus service between Northampton, Milton, Blisworth and Towcester which, interestingly, appears to have been worked from the Northampton end of the route and clearly the bus was based at the yard of the Plough Hotel Northampton. No doubt George Clarke was still living at Great Houghton at this time. The timetable was advertised as follows:

CLARKE & DILLOW, TOWCESTER

NORTHAMPTON to TOWCESTER VIA MILTON AND BLISWORTH

Leave Northampton

Mondays	9am	2pm
Tuesdays	9am	12.30pm
Wednesdays	9am	11am
Thursdays	Open for Party Catering	
Fridays	9am	2.0pm
Saturdays	8am Continuous Service	
Sundays	9.30am	12am

Leave Towcester

Mondays	9.45am	4.30pm
Tuesdays	10.30am	5pm
Wednesdays	10am	12am
Thursdays	Open for Parties	
Fridays	10am	4.30pm
Saturdays	9am Continuous Service	
Sundays	11am	1.30pm

Special Terms for Parties

Garage: Plough Hotel, Northampton; Talbot Hotel, Towcester
Parcels Collected and Delivered

Evidently the business was not successful and was short lived. It probably lasted only until the Autumn of 1913, after which time George Henry Clarke and George Dillow went their separate ways. Further information concerning George Clarke can be found in paper NN-CL6.



Daimler AY 980 with its compliment of twelve passengers seated longitudinally within the vehicle. The lettering on the side reads "Clarke & Dillow, District Carriers: Towcester. Pleasure Parties Catered For". Note the enormous rear overhang!