

# Bygone Buses

of  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-KN1

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## KNIGHT. Mervyn Llewelwyn Ivy Cottage, 8 High Street, DENTON

The Knights of Denton were well known in transport circles for around eighty years. It all started in 1864 when Alfred Knight was born and he later married Alice Sophia Newton Gammage. Alfred became the Denton village carrier and at one time he held an important contract to move stone delivered by rail to Piddington and Billing Stations, to various sites in the vicinity for road making and repairing, using his horse and cart.

Alfred and Sophia had eleven children as follows:

Sarah Florence - died in infancy  
Edgar Innes  
**Mervyn Llewelwyn**  
Reginald Augustus  
Maud Mary Ann  
**Charles White**  
Algernon Ennis  
Cyril Alfred  
**Herbert Sidney**  
Florence Sarah  
Mildred Alice

Alfred died in 1924 at the age of sixty and his wife died in 1938 aged seventy-three.

This paper concerns **Mervyn Llewelwyn Knight**, the third child of Alfred and Sophia, who was born in 1887 and he became butler and chauffeur to the Hon. Llewellyn Irby of Whiston. Mervyn was highly regarded by his employer and upon the death of Llewellyn Irby, Mervyn Knight was left a sum of money to look after Irby's wife. With part of this money Mervyn bought a second-hand 30hp Daimler lorry registered LN 2923 and this vehicle was transferred to Knight's ownership on 24th April 1913, being used to convey both goods and passengers.

As far as can be ascertained, Mervyn Knight did not operate a regular passenger service to a fixed timetable but conveyed parties to local functions and carried passengers at the same time as goods in the course of his carrying work, in much the same way that his father operated his carriers cart.

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.

#### KNIGHT Mervyn L - DENTON

On one occasion in 1917 Mervyn Knight conveyed a load of furniture to the south coast, but on the way LN 2923 burst into flames and everything was lost. That was the end of Mervyn Knight's transport business but, even worse, the shock of the incident is said to have caused him to contract pneumonia, which later turned to double-pneumonia and caused his demise in October 1917 at the early age of thirty.

#### Rolling Stock

LN 2923 - Daimler 30hp - New -/07 - To Mervyn Knight 24/4/13 - Withdrawn 1917.

Mervyn Knight's younger brothers – **Charles White Knight** and **Herbert Sidney Knight** – were later to venture into bus and coach operation and these stories are continued in subsequent papers.