

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-CR3
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CRANE, John William Far Cotton, NORTHAMPTON

Readers are referred to paper NN-BU4 which details the fairly short life of the Buffalo Motor Omnibus Company Ltd of which John William Crane was the leading light.

The Buffalo Company was not put into voluntary liquidation until about September 1922 so it is unclear whether Crane was acting independently or on behalf of Buffalo when he applied to Northampton Borough Council Watch Committee, in June 1922, to run motor buses between St Giles Square and Kingsthorpe, Northampton on a route proceeding via Abington Park and Kingsley Road.

This ambitious scheme for a service entirely within the Borough of Northampton was not acceded to by the Council who, in the following year acquired motor buses itself to operate the route through its Tramways Committee. Whether the idea to operate came as a result of Crane's own thinking or whether he got wind of the Council's intentions and tried to move in before the Tramways Committee could act, is not known.

At the time of J W Crane's application to the Watch Committee in June 1922 his address was given as Far Cotton, Northampton. He had previously been the licensee of the Horse & Jockey at Newport Pagnell but he may have given that up to run the Buffalo Company, or he may have moved to Northampton to take over a public house in the Far Cotton district. Nothing further is known of J W Crane's career save to mention that he was the last owner of a Buick Hackney Carriage registered NH 5532 - chassis number 80298. Presumably at this time, December 1934, he was operating a taxi from an address at 15 Lady's Lane, Northampton. The Buick was new in May 1924 but whether or not Crane had it from this date, or later, is not known.