

SCOTTISH VINTAGE BUS MUSEUM - ARCHIVES

HARRIS & SONS, LEVEN - COLLECTION

These items were donated to the SVBM Archives in 2012 by Peter Harris whose grandfather started the bus company.

Page 1

Album 1 (large) (mostly photos)

- Original Upper Largo premises (3 views) / SP 7942 / car / lorry
- Leven garage + FG 5113, FG 4145 / Upper Largo garage / FG 4145
- FG 7276, FG 6998 / FG 4145 / FG 6112 / Leven garage + FG 6999, FG 7276
- FG 493 / Andrew's Albion / ? etc
- FG 493 / FG 4145 / FG 493 / + / timetables
- FG 6112 (x2) / FG 7276 / (FG 493) / (FG 4145)(x2) / FG 8566 lorry
- FG 6112 (4 views)
- FG 6112 / ?
- FG 6999 / FG 5113 / FG 6112 / Upper Largo garage / ?
- FG 6998 / line up – FG 7276, FG 7944, FG 6112, FG 5113, FG 493 / FG 3938 / ??
- Leven garage + FG 6998, FG 7276 / FG 7276 / FG 6998 / ??
- FG 6112 / FG 7276 (x2) / FG 3938 / FG 6999 / ??
- FG 7276 (x2) / FG 8566 lorry / FG 7944 (x2) / timetable
- AFG 627 / FS 5991 / BFG 164 / painting
- Leven garage + BFG 164 / AFG 627 (x2) / BFG 164 (x2) / ?
- ASP 911 / Upper Largo garage + car / ASP 911 (3 views) / ?

Album 2 (large) (mostly photos)

- Pony & trap / Stewart & McDonald vehicle / D. Barrie lorry
- FG 493
- FG 493
- Line up - FG 7276, FG 7944, FG 6112, FG 5113, FG 493
- FG 493
- FG 4145 / FG 4145 after acquisition by D. Mackay, Tain
- FG 5113
- FG 6112
- (FG 6999) / FG 6999 after acquisition by Fitzpatrick, Dunoon + other vehicles
- ??
- FG 7276
- FG 7944
- FS 5991
- AFG 627
- BFG 164
- Four pages of newspaper cuttings and adverts - including timetable for ex-Hay service
- FG 6998
- W.H.Harris garage

Album 3 (grey)

- Water-colour paintings by Peter Harris :-
HTN 133 / FG 493 / FG 493 (rebodied) / FG 2592 / ASP 911 & BFG 164 + garage / FG 4145 / FG 5113 / FG 6112 / FG 6998 / FG 6999 / FG 7276 / FG 7276 / FG 7944 / FS 5991 / AFG 627 / BFG 164 / CSP 111 / ASP 911 / HTN 133 / HTN 133
- Black & white photos :-
Harris family c1909 / similar to HTN 133 (photocopy) / FG 5113 / FG 6112 / FG 6998 / FG 6999 / AFG 627 / BFG 164 / similar to HTN 133 (photocopy) / Leven garage + BFG 164

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Album 4 (dark red) (miscellaneous)

- Reference for James Harris, "cattle boy and ploughman", from Mr Wallace of Newton of Collessie
- Photocopies of tours advertising for J. Harris & Sons / Hay, Lundin Links
- Several pages (photocopied) from record book showing income from tours, fuel used, etc
- Timetable - 1929
- Copy of note sent by Peter Harris to GMB following request for further fleet information
- Photos :- pony & trap + James Sydney Harris / garage +car / lorry / car /
FG 6999 / BFG 164 (x2) / FG 6998 / FG 4145 / others
- Photo - garage of W. H. Harris (Motors) Ltd
- Overspill from scrapbook

Scrapbook

Various photos & information - buses, lorries, cars

Books (these have been put in the archive's library collection – have been inscribed)

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| • Bedford - Volume 1 | Broatch & Towsin | Venture |
| • Scottish Buses Before 1945 | Aldridge | Ian Allan |
| • Scotland's Motoring Century | Grieves | XS |
| • Albion Album | " | Southern |
| • Around Scotland By Bus | " | Bus Enthusiast |
| • Motoring Memories (signed copy) | " | XS |
| • Buses Annuals 1974, 1977 | | |

Books & Magazines (kept with main collection)

- | | | |
|---|----------|-------------|
| • Fife's Trams & Buses (some notes inside) | Brotchie | NB Traction |
| • Glass's Guide to Commercial Vehicle values - February 1956 | | |
| • " " " Car Values - December 1959 | | |
| • " " " " " - September 1965 | | |
| • Classic Bus Magazine 52 - mention in article of Harris, Leven | | |

Record book of income from tours, fuel used, etc

The company bank book 1921-1926

Driver's badge - L 2283 (metal)

Staff cap badge - attached to the cover of Album 1

3 business cards of W. H. Harris (Motors) Ltd

Austin lubrication chart/poster (part of replica garage display in Exhibition Hall)

Brief details of James Harris and his family

(there is some duplication among the photographs)

HARRIS & SONS, LEVEN

James Harris Junior was born in 1869 at Hallhill, near Collessie. He worked for three years as a cattle boy and then a ploughman for Mr Wallace J.P., Newton of Collessie who wrote an excellent reference for him in 1887.

He then became a coal miner, and around 1903 or 1904 purchased a coal business in Upper Largo. He developed this into a carrier's business and also started doing summer tours with "brakes." He also started a laundry business.

Around 1909 or 1910 he purchased his first car and started a taxi business. The business developed with cars, lorries and charabancs and the firm of Harris & Sons was established in 1924 with hires and tours. The garage and bus business of Robert Andrew, Commercial Road, Leven, was purchased in 1926 (another reference quotes 1924.)

By May 1928 the firm was operating a stage service from Kirkcaldy to St Andrews via Colinsburgh, although by June 1929 this became Leven to St Andrews and then Buckhaven to St Andrews by October 1929. The bus livery was sapling green and holly green.

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In 1937 the business of J. Hay, Lundin Links, was purchased giving Harris a stage service from Leven to Anstruther via Colinsburgh and Arncroach.

Harris and Sons was the last independent operator in the area resisting until taken over by W. Alexander in 1939.

(compiled by Graham Martin-Bates using information available)

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The following vehicles can be identified in photographs in this collection.

fn = front nearside / fo = front offside / rn = rear nearside / ro = rear offside / f = front / r = rear
n = nearside / o = offside / * = partial and/or obstructed view /
w/c = watercolour painted by Peter Harris

SP 7942 - fo

FG 493 - fo fo - w/c

FG 2592 - fo - w/c

FG 3938 - f*

FG 4145 - fn fo* ro r* fn - w/c

FG 5113 - fo fo - w/c

FG 6112 - fn fo rn n o fn - w/c

FG 6998 - fn fo f fn - w/c

FG 6999 - fo* o r o - w/c

FG 7276 - fn fo f fn - w/c

FG 7944 - fo* o fo - w/c

FS 5991 - fo fo - w/c

AFG 627 - fn fn - w/c

ASP 911 - fo n* r fo - w/c

BFG 164 - fn fo f fo - w/c f - w/c

CSP 111 - fn - w/c

HTN 133 - fo - w/c rn - w/c

Photographs of the following vehicles do NOT appear in the collection :-
SP 3431, SP 7066, FG 3904, FG 6069, BFG 762, Minerva, Selden