

## **Harry (Horace) Amos - Saddler, Harness Maker, Cycle Agent & Captain of Fire Brigade (Brackley).**

### **Bridge Street, Brackley.**

- Harry joined Brackley Fire Brigade – c1889
- Competed in many National Fire Brigades Association National Competitions with Brackley & Deddington Fire Brigades.
- Chairman of South Midland District of National Fire Brigades Association
- On the board for The Workingmens Conservative Association - 1887
- Accepted onto the Board of Brackley Union - 1891
- Church Warden & Sideman at St. Peter's Church, Brackley
- Freemason & Past Master of Grenville Lodge, Buckingham – From 1896
- Involved in fundraising for a new fire engine - 1898
- Became a Member of Brackley Board of Guardians - 1914
- Founder of Freemasons Waynflete Lodge, Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire
- A prize winner of Wyandotte Hens – Shows were held at The Town Hall, Brackley, Bicester & Banbury
- 1921 Newspaper article describes him as a farmer
- Harry Amos would regularly give saddle equipment as prizes at agricultural shows & ploughing matches.
- I cannot find the exact house number for the Saddlers business, but I think it may have been number 1? In the 1939 register, a saddler and harness maker lived at number 1 Bridge Street, Brackley with his family.

Horace Amos was born 1857 in Syresham, Northamptonshire. Horace was known as Harry.

He was a son to William Amos – Saddler & Harness Maker in the High Street, Syresham and Emma a Dressmaker.

Harry married Ann Jane Edwards Kirkby (1853 – 1907) January 1880, in Syresham, Northamptonshire and his occupation was Saddler on the marriage certificate.

Harry & Ann had 5 daughters, Edith, Mabel, Evelyn, Ada & Winifred.

In the 1911 Census, Edith, Evelyn & Winifred occupation was Saddler

- I think Harry was most likely an apprentice with his father William in Syresham, before starting his business in Brackley. He is still living at home in 1871
- I do not have an exact date when he started his business in Brackley

1881 Census – Bridge Street, Saddler & Harness Maker employing 2 Youths

1891 Census to 1921 Census – Bridge Street, Saddler & Harness Maker

Kelly's Dictionary:

1890 to 1898 – Saddlers & Harness Maker

1903 to 1914 – Harness maker, Cycle Agent & Captain of Fire Brigade

Freemasons Register – Year Range 1887 to 1909? Inducted into Freemasons - 1896.  
There are a 4 Brackley shop owners/ workers registered at the Grenville Lodge, Buckingham Freemasons at this time.

1913 – Harry married Maria Louisa Booth, (1864 to 1917) a spinster who was a Stationery & Fancy Business Shopkeeper in Brackley.

1921 Census – Harry is married for the third time.

Harry Amos died 16<sup>th</sup> August 1931, Brackley, Northamptonshire

**Sources:**

The British Newspaper Archive

Births, Marriage & Death Certificates

Census, Freemason & Kelly Dictionary



Left – Harry (Horace) Amos

Right – Ann Amos nee Kirby



Brackley & Deddington Fire Brigades

1927 – National Fire Brigades Association Annual Competitions.

Harry Amos first left standing

### The Late Mr. H. Amos

#### DEATH OF CHIEF OFFICER OF BRACKLEY FIRE BRIGADE.

**A LONG AND USEFUL CAREER.**  
 Not only the Brackley Fire Brigade, but the town itself, suffers a severe loss in the passing of Chief Officer Harry Amos, whose death occurred somewhat suddenly on Sunday evening last, at the age of 75. Although suffering from a malady which caused him considerable pain and discomfort at times, he remained active and interested in his work to the end, and his death came as a painful surprise to his numerous friends and business associates.

Mr. Amos originally came from Syresham, but set up in business for himself at Brackley at an early age as a saddler, an important and flourishing occupation in those times. He took a very active part in the public life of the town, acting as churchwarden and sidesman, and also for many years as a member of the Brackley Board of Guardians. As a Freemason, he was a founder of the Waynflete Lodge and also a Past Master, an interest which absorbed him to an extent that was only eclipsed by his life-long love and enthusiasm for Fire Brigade work. It is in this latter direction that his real objective in life was manifested, and he possessed an intensive and specialised knowledge of Fire Brigade matters, both from the practical and administrative sides. His association with the Brackley Brigade goes back more than forty years, and constitutes a wonderful record of persistent endeavour. So great was his energy and enthusiasm in the early days of this organisation that the Brackley firemen achieved considerable notoriety as winners of competitive events up and down the country, and as the years passed by his services were much in demand as umpire or judge at various centres of competition. His administrative ability was also acknowledged by his election for a term of office as chairman of the South Midland District of the National Fire Brigades Association. Under his guidance, too, the Brackley Brigade has kept pace with the times in the matter of equipment. Commencing operations with the old manual engine which did noble duty for a decade, a great step forward was made by the acquisition of the steamer "Stratton" more than thirty years ago. The last word in fire-fighting appliances of its day, this, too, eventually became obsolete, and during the past year or so Captain Amos achieved the final triumph of his life by organising a movement which raised sufficient funds to purchase the latest type of motor fire engine. Since that date a trailer motor pump has been added, completing an equipment which very few towns of this size can match. This final re-organisation of the Brigade was a source of the greatest possible gratification to its old leader, and its accomplishment a fitting conclusion to a long and strenuous career. Although a person of some reserve, his friends and Brigade associates knew him for a man of lovable nature and considerable charm, and his passing will be very sincerely regretted. Captain Amos had been married three times, and leaves behind him a wife and four daughters, with whom is felt the keenest sympathy.

The Banbury Advertiser, Thursday August 20<sup>th</sup> 1931.

Obituary of Harry Amos

Note: Harry would have known my Grandfather through Deddington Fire Brigade.

Joanna Cox Marshall