



The Story of a Village in Newspapers

**Transcripts from various newspapers
from 1862 onwards**

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(with annotations by Nigel Peacock)

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The Lophams area is recorded in the Domesday Book as Lopham, later becoming known as Lopham-Parva to mirror the existing village of Lopham-Magna (now North Lopham), and then finally becoming known by its present name of South Lopham.

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Notes:

- The transcripts of the newspaper articles do not show corrected spelling or grammar and only the layout might be slightly changed to make it readable and suitable for this booklet.
- If there is anything in the text which is in square brackets, [xxx], this indicates additional information inferred by the content but not specifically mentioned.
- All the transcriptions are the original work of the author and have been entirely freshly undertaken and not copied from other sources.
- The majority of the articles are from the Diss Express – not surprisingly so as it is the local newspaper.

Church and Chapel:

Much of village life rotated around the religious establishments and a variety of social as well as spiritual events came from them. There were the obvious Church and Chapel services and children's Sunday schools, but as well there were social gathering with food and games, and events with a charitable theme. The Rector was a prominent man in the village and was looked up to by many.

22 July 1862	Bury and Norwich Post	page 5
LOPHAM.		
<p>On Thursday last the children of the North and South Lopham Sunday Schools were entertained at the Rectory. After the teachers and the children, 120 in number, had partaken of tea, cake, &c., various games, cricket, ninepins, races, &c., were commenced, and carried on with great spirit. On bidding the children "Good night!" at the close of the proceedings, the Rev. J. F. Bateman expressed his hope that the schools might continue to prosper, and that all present might meet again on a like occasion for many years.</p> <p>Sermons in aid of the North Lopham Girls' and Infants' Daily School were preached on Sunday last; in the morning, by the Rev. J. F. Bateman¹, Rector; and in the afternoon, to a crowded congregation, by the Rev. C. R. Manning, Rector of Diss, after which the sum of 3l. 13s. was collected. An effort is being made by the Rector to build by subscription a Girls' and Infants' School-room at North Lopham. Sufficient accommodation for the boys of both parishes will, it is hoped, be shortly provided in the new school-room, about to be built at South Lopham from the charity funds.</p>		

2 June 1863	Diss Express	page 4
NORTH LOPHAM.		
<p>WESLEYAN CHAPEL. - The friends connected with the above place of worship have for some time been quietly working in order to extinguish a debt of nearly £200, and on Tuesday last a very special effort was made by holding public services in the chapel. Busy hands had been at work in decorating with choice pot plants and flowers all the windows, the pulpit, platform, and galleries, and on entering the building one could but think of the words of the "Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary." In the afternoon at 3.30, the Rev. John Gould, of Norwich,</p>		

¹ A brass plate on case over the console "On this Organ (Dedicated 25 April 1878 to the Glory of God and in memory of Rev. J. F. Bateman) is now placed this tablet in affectionate remembrance of their only child Susan Margaret whom the voice of Jesus called away from an earthly to the heavenly choir, 21 June 1886."

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chairman of the District, delivered an eloquent sermon from 1. Thessalonians, v., 23, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and Inly be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." The discourse was given in choicest language, with many touches of inspiration, and the congregation thereto with unflagging interest. At 5.30 a public was held in the schoolroom, a large number of friends from all parts of the circuit being present. This was followed by a meeting in the chapel, which was well filled in every part. Mr. Edward Abbott, of Diss, was elected to the chair, and after singing and prayer Mr. Yeates gave a very interesting account of the work of Methodism in Lopham from its commencement to the present date, and stated it was their determination to free the place from the burden of debt. – The Rev. John Gould, who occupied more than an hour in the delivery of his speech, and who held the attention of the large audience to the end with his word pictures of Christian work and personal consecration, encouraging all to renewed devotion. to large-hearted sympathy, and not to rest until they had wiped off the debt upon the chapel, which only crippled their energies and was a hindrance to all progression. The evening's enjoyment was greatly enhanced by friends from Diss discoursing some pleasing music, Miss Kate Pullen singing "He shall feed His flock," and Miss Pullen "Come unto Me," accompanied by Mr. A. T. Bobby on the harmonium; their rendering of the same securing well deserved applause. A collection was taken during the afternoon and evening, the people responding liberally. Votes of thanks were moved by the Rev. J. G. Lawrence and by Rev. G. E. Waterhouse, and after singing "God be with you till we meet again," all departed to their homes well pleased with the glad services of the day. We must not omit to mention that last Sunday morning a sermon was preached by the Rev. G. E. Waterhouse, and the evening service was conducted by the Diss Mission Band.



North Lopham Wesleyan Chapel

NORTH LOPHAM.

THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING² was held at North Lopham on Easter Monday, when Mr. W. Hindes and Mr. J. Womack were elected churchwardens for the ensuing year. Some remarks having been made respecting a scheme sent down by the Charity Commissioners, it was thought advisable to adjourn the meeting until Tuesday, April 26th, when the scheme to which reference has been made was to be brought fully before the meeting. At the time appointed, a large meeting was held, and some portions of the scheme were objected to; the first objection being that the trustees were not chosen by a vestry, but selected solely by the Rector. The second objection was that the number of non-officials (four) did not fairly represent the parish, and that it was desirable that in addition to the two churchwardens for the time being, ten should be appointed, namely - Edward Muskett, Esq., Thomas Davey Esq., Messrs. Dix (guardian), W. Gill, S. Beales, J. W. Bobby, W. Cooke, E. Murton, J. Chamberlain, and J. E. Beales, who were fully approved. It was further objected that no portion of the poor money should be applied to education, on the ground that it was not needed and believed to be contrary to the donor's wishes. At a large meeting, held January 27th, at which Mr. Good, the Charity Inspector, was present, Mr. Bateman said he was going to build school, but he should not ask for shilling out of the charity money; but, strange to say, this scheme asks from 25l. to 30l. yearly to be given to school children attending the National or any other approved school in the parish. After these objections were made, Mr. Bateman said that although the scheme was not altogether what could wish, yet the parish had better accept it - for any changes were attempted, we should jump out of the frying pan into the fire - evidently wishing to convey the idea that the scheme could not be improved, but that it could be made much more objectionable. It was then asked what the scheme was sent to the parish for - was it to mock the parish and treat them like children? Certainly not; it was sent down for their approval; for the parish believed the Commissioners were gentlemen who would do what was just and right, and, as Mr. Good said, would listen to any remarks which might be made. The Rector then said had better accept the scheme as it was, or very probably it would put into Chancery. It was then asked who would or could put it there, when the rev. gentleman said, "I don't know; and if I did, I would not tell you." [Cries of "Oh,oh," and "Shame."] Feeling the dilemma in which the reply placed him, the rev. gentleman tried to extricate himself by saying, "If a man asked me the cleverest way to cut his throat, I should say, 'I don't know; and if I did, I would not tell you;' "

² In the Church of England, the Annual Vestry Meeting, sometimes known as the Annual Meeting of Parishioners, is annual meeting to elect churchwardens and sometimes deputies for the coming year. It is usually held before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

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a very significant illustration, which caused Mr. Good to say, "If we are in the way of cut throats, you must be responsible, as we have been in great measure guided by your advice." It was then stated that a memorial was to be sent to the Charity Commissioners, asking them to apply the poor money the following manner, namely – 16l. to be given to bind out apprentices, a sum sufficient to nominate two patients to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, and the remainder to be given to the poor in fuel, food, clothing, or, under extraordinary circumstances, small sums money. It was further objected that any portion the poor's money should be taken for education, as there are in existence a Church day school, Wesleyan day school, under Government inspection for the last seven years; and three Sunday schools. It was said if we needed anything more in the shape of education, the Government, having that subject before them, would look upon the village and give help; but the rev. gentleman cannot wait until such a measure is passed, but intends at once to build the Royal Albert National School. If the nobility, clergy, and gentry like to give their money for that purpose, all very well; but do not give the poor's money to the children attending that or any other. A memorial to this effect was signed by the retiring churchwardens, the present guardian, and by a very large majority of the ratepayers of the Parish, and forwarded to the Charity Commissioners, who have replied that it shall receive due attention.



St Nicholas' Church, North Lopham

30 September 1871	Bury Free Press	page 10
SOUTH LOPHAM.		
The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts ³ , held their annual meeting the National School-room on Thursday last. The Rev. J. J. Bateman		

³ The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (now known as the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel) was founded in 1701 as a missionary society to provide clergy from the Church of England to minister to the settlers and to convert nonbelievers in the colonies.

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taking the chair, in a short speech introduced the Rev. Bevau⁴, a missionary from the Orange River, Africa. He gave very Interesting account of his labours, illustrating his remarks by some very excellent photographs. The Rev. Holt-Wilson, of Hinderclay, made a very excellent speech, urging the claims of the society. Several hymns were sung by the village choir.

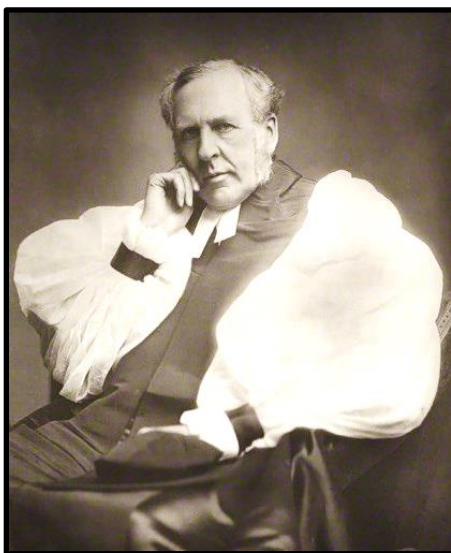
9 February 1872

Diss Express

page 5

LOPHAM.

The Bishop of Norwich⁵ has requested the churchmen of each parish in the Diocese to elect a gentleman as lay-representative for Conferences to be held in 1872 and 1873. After Divine Service on Sunday, according to notice given, W. Gill, Esq., was elected Lay Representative for North Lopham, and Mr. William Soar for South Lopham.



John Pelham, Bishop of Norwich

28 August 1885

Diss Express

page 5

LOPHAM.

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY⁶. - Sermons in aid of this Society were preached last Sunday, August 23rd, at North Lopham in the morning, and at South Lopham

⁴ The name "Bevau" is likely a misspelling or mispronunciation of "Bevan." Canon Bevan was a missionary in South Africa, particularly associated with the Orange River area. He was involved with the mission to Central Africa and worked with the Bishop of the Orange.

⁵ At the time of this article the Bishop of Norwich was John Pelham, born 1811, consecrated on 11 June 1857, retired on 16 May 1893 and died on 1 May 1894.

⁶ The Church Missionary Society (CMS) was founded in 1799. It was an independent voluntary society within the Church of England, who sent missionaries to Africa and other under-developed parts of the world. Web: <https://churchmissionsociety.org/>

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in the evening, by the Rev. C. T. Rex-Blake, M.A., Rector of Lyng, after which £5 10s. were collected for the Society.
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13 July 1889	Downham Market Gazette	page 8
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SOUTH LOPHAM.

On Sunday last the Lord Bishop of Norwich paid a visit to South Lopham, and preached from the Gospel of the day. There was a good congregation. His lordship visited the girls' and young men's Bible classes in the afternoon, and gave an address. On Sunday evening he preached at Kenninghall Church to a crowded congregation. On Monday he visited the National School, South Lopham, and spoke very kindly to the children. A Rural-decanal meeting was subsequently held in the Albert Room, when the neighbouring clergy were present.



St. Andrew's Church, South Lopham

23 September 1889	Diss Express	page 4
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LOPHAM.

TRAINING INSTITUTION. - In accordance with the Bishop's letter, sermons in aid of the building fund of the Norwich Diocesan Training Institute were preached in the North and South Churches last Sunday 18th inst., by the Rev. F. Bateman (rector), and Rev. H. W. Pitt (curate), after which the sum of £2 10s. was collected, and has been forwarded to the Rev. Archibold.

9 April 1890	Eastern Daily Press	page 8
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NORTH LOPHAM.

WESLEYAN METHODISTS. - On Good Friday a public tea meeting was given in the Wesleyan Chapel School-room, North Lopham, at which upwards of 100

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persons attended. At the after meeting, presided over by Mr. Thomas Murton, Messrs. A. Parr, G. S. Coe, and Yates gave addresses.

11 April 1891

Norwich Mercury

page 6

NORTH LOPHAM.

"JOHN NELSON," a service of song⁷, was given on Tuesday in the Wesleyan Chapel, by the Choir. Mr. T. W. Womack presided at an American organ, and Mr. Coe, of Kenninghall, was the reader. The rostrum and platform was decorated with flowers and evergreens, and the windows were filled with pot flowers. The choir was up to the mark. The collection. £1. 5s. 6d., was devoted to the Sunday School Clothing Club.

1 November 1895

Diss Express

page 4

LOPHAM.

THE LATE RECTOR. - In the November number of the Parish Magazine for North and South Lopham, the late Rector writes: - "On the 17th of October, the 34th anniversary of the day that I was instituted to the Rectory of Lopham by good Bishop Pelham, I resigned the Benefice, but remaining few days more in the Rectory House, I was glad to preach what are commonly called "Farewell Sermons," viz , the North Church in the morning of the 20th, my text being "Grace be with all them who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity," and at the South Church in the afternoon, my text being "Now the end the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned." I have thus made an "end" of the exhortations and sermons, of the words of warning and words of encouragement, which I have uttered from the pulpits of your two Churches. My last word has been spoken as your Rector, and I leave the results to God. Conscious as I am most painfully of my short comings and failings in spiritual matters during these many years, I humbly hope that God may bless to the advantage of my successor some of the material improvements and reforms which I have been allowed to take the lead in, and especially do I pray that he, being much younger man, and an entirely fresh man, may soon win all your hearts, and especially the hearts of the young men of these parishes. I think many of you know that my determination to resign the living was taken as long ago as April in last year, and never once have I seen reason to doubt that God has been leading me aright for the benefit of the two parishes. At the same time I must say how deeply I value the kind feelings of regret at our departure which so many of you have expressed. And now I commend you to God's gracious care and guidance, and we will never cease to pray for His blessing upon you and your children." - The Autumn meeting of the Rural Deanery of Rockland was held at the

⁷ John Nelson Derby (1800-1882) - https://eprints.glos.ac.uk/3192/1/545745_Redacted.pdf

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Albert Room, North Lopham, on Wednesday, October 16. The Rev. W. C. Safford, R. D., presented, in the name of the clergy of the Deanery, of whom twenty-one were present, very handsome chiming clock to the retiring Rural Dean, the Rev. J. F. Bateman, who was also resigning the Rectory of North and South Lopham after thirty-four years' incumbency. Mr. Bateman, in returning heartfelt thanks for the quite unexpected and valuable present, spoke of the happy meetings of clergy and laity over which he had presided during the past nine years, and asked their prayers for God's blessing and guidance in his future home in West Hampstead.

- The Rector is the Reverend John Fitzherbert Bateman.

10 January 1902	Diss Express	page 5
LOPHAM.		
<p>PARISH TEA. - On New Year's Day the parishioners of North Lopham were invited to tea by the genial Rector (the Rev. C. J. Eastwood) and Mrs. Eastwood at the Albert Room⁸. About 107 persons attended. An entertainment followed, a programme of vocal and instrumental music being carried out by the Rector and Mrs. Eastwood, the Bawden family, Mr. T W. Womack, Mr. Bardwell, and the school boys. A similar tea and entertainment at which 120 persons attended, took place South Lopham School on Jan. 2nd. Mr. Jesse Yates provided the tea.</p>		

18 October 1902	Norfolk Chronicle	page 6
NORTH LOPHAM.		
<p>On Sunday last special sermons on behalf of Foreign Missions were preached in the Wesleyan Chapel, North Lopham, in the morning by Mr Jesse Yates, and in the evening by Mr F. P. W. Robinson. The annual foreign missionary meeting was held on Tuesday evening in the school- room, Mr Jesse Yates presided, and addresses were by Mr C. Carier and the Rev A Brooks.</p>		

20 October 1905	Diss Express	page 5
LOPHAM		
<p>CHURCH ASSOCIATION. - On Sunday last sermons on behalf of this Society were preached at North Lopham in the morning and at South Lopham in the evening by the Rev. E. G. Bowring, M.A., Organising Secretary for the North-Eastern Division of the country. Mr. Bowring took for his text in the morning the closing verses of the first lesson, Jer. V., 30, 31, "A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means, and my people love to have it so; and what will ye do in the end thereof?" The preacher asserted that this was God's way of writing of the decline</p>		

⁸ The Albert Room was once the National School, built in 1871 with a master's residence, at a cost of £700, on a site given by Mrs. G. E. Buckenham.

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of and fall of a nation, and went on to prove that at the present time we were suffering from the threefold evil of false teaching, priestcraft and lukewarmness on the part of the laity. In the evening the subject was taken from the Psalm xi., 3, "If the foundations be destroyed what can the righteous do?" On Monday evening a lantern lecture was given in the Albert Room. North Lopham, by the Rev. E. G. Bowring, on the subject of "What England owes to the Reformation." The room was crowded, every available seat being occupied and many of the audience having to stand. The Rector (Rev. C. J. Eastwood) presided and manipulated the lantern. A Lodge of the National Protestant League for Lopham was formed, Mr. T. W. Womack, of North Lopham, consenting to receive names and act as secretary. Several joined the League at the close of the meeting.

20 October 1906

Cromer and North Norfolk Post

page 2

NORWICH CONSISTORY COURT.

At the sitting of the Norwich Consistory Court⁹, held on Saturday at the Cathedral, several items of business held over from previous Courts were disposed of by Mr. Chancellor Blofeld.

SOUTH LOPHAM

An application was made by the Rev, Charles James Eastwood, rector of South Lopham, on behalf of Mr. Thomas Buckenham, for a faculty to enable the filling in of the south-east window of the Church with stained glass, as a memorial to the late Mrs. Louisa Buckenham. The design, which had been unanimously approved by the vestry, illustrated the subject of Dorcas. The application was advanced a stage.

20 July 1907

Downham Market Gazette

page 6

LOPHAM.

At the Norwich Consistory Court on Wednesday, before Mr. W. P. Eversley, sitting as surrogate for the Chancellor, Mr. T. W. Hansel applied on behalf of Mrs. Georgina Bateman for permission to erect a white marble tablet in memory of her late husband, the Rev. John Fitzherbert Bateman, for 34 years rector of the parish of North and South Lopham. The tablet is to be erected in the chancel of South Lopham Church, the expense being borne by Mrs. Bateman. All the formalities having been complied with, citation was ordered to be issue.

⁹ A consistory court is an ecclesiastical court within the Church of England, one found in each diocese. It's presided over by a judge called the chancellor. These courts have jurisdiction over matters such as granting faculties for changes to church buildings, and also hear cases related to moral and spiritual discipline within the diocese

2 August 1907	Diss Express	page 5
<p style="text-align: center;">NORTH LOPHAM.</p> <p>WESLEYAN SUNDAY SCHOOL. – On Sunday, July 21st, anniversary services were held, two sermons being preached by Mr. W. A. Youngman, of Stanton. In the afternoon the children gave recitations, etc., and in the evening a flower service was held, a collection of blooms being brought by the children. On Monday evening a meeting took place, presided over by Mr. Youngman, and the Rev. C. Pitt, B.A., gave an interesting address. Good congregations attended, and the collections were in excess of last year. Miss Norah Shaw presided at the organ. On Wednesday, 24th ult., the children, teachers, and friends were taken in wagons, kindly lent, to Uphall, Garboldisham (by kind invitation of Sir. G. Roe), whereto the company, which numbered upwards of 200, sat down to tea. An enjoyable day was spent.</p>		

26 September 1913	Diss Express	page 5
<p style="text-align: center;">NORTH LOPHAM.</p> <p>THE PARISH CHURCH. - On Friday afternoon last a very interesting ceremony took place at the Parish Church, when the Bishop of Norwich¹⁰ attended to dedicate a new window. This is the gift of Miss Bale, a former resident of Lopham, and is in memory of the donor's sister, Mrs. Buckenham, who for many years lived in this parish. The window, which is placed at the East end of the church, and is a great addition to the building, is of stained glass, the three lights representing the Crucifixion of our Lord. The afternoon was beautifully fine, and there was a very large congregation, which included a number of clergy from the surrounding villages. The service was conducted by the Rev. C. L. Kennaway, Rector of Garboldisham, and the Rev. C. J. Eastwood, Rector of Lopham. A shortened form of evensong was used, special Collects being made by the Bishop, who offered the following prayer after the unveiling the window, "We humbly beseech Thy Majesty to bless and hallow this window now offered to Thy glory and the adornment of Thy holy house (in memory of Georgina Buckenham) and to vouchsafe all who look upon it with true faith in Thee may perceive the manifold beauty of Thy glory." The Bishop also delivered an address - The Harvest Festival was united with the dedication service, the hymns including "The Sower went forth sowing," "For all the Saints," and "Praise to the Holiest in the Height," all of which were extremely well rendered, also the anthem, "King of Kings." Mr. T. W. Womack presided at the organ.</p>		

¹⁰ At the time of this article the Bishop of Norwich was Bertram Pollock, born 6 December 1863, consecrated on 25 April 1910, retired on 24 June 1942 and died on 17 October 1943.



Bertram Pollock, Bishop of Norwich

3 October 1913	Norfolk Chronicle	page 6
<p style="text-align: center;">NORTH LOPHAM</p> <p>The east window of the parish church has been filled with stained glass by Miss Louisa Ellen Bale, in memory of her sister, Mrs. Georgiana Elizabeth Buckenham, who spent the greater part of her life at "The Limes," North Lopham. She was a benefactor to the village and the church, in both of which she always took the deepest interest. She lived a life of simple Christian piety, and the crowded church on Friday, when the window was dedicated by the Bishop of Norwich, testified to the marked respect and affection the parishioners entertain for her. The service was conducted by the Rev. C. L. Kennaway (rural dean), of Garboldisham, and the Rev. C. J. Eastwood Rector of Lopham. The Bishop preached from the text, 1 Cor, xv., 24 "Then cometh the end," and in the course of his discourse made reference to the saintly life of Mrs. Buckenham. After the service Miss Bale and Mr. Edward Cornish entertained a number of guests, who included the Bishop of Norwich, the Rural Dean, the Rector of Lopham, and Mrs. Eastwood, the Rector of Eccles, the Rev. R. Ridge Hornsey, Mr. Knott, Mr. Burd (London), Miss Buckenham (South Lopham), and many others. - The subject of the window is taken from St. John xx., 11-15, and depicts an incident in the Resurrection of our Lord in three panels. The panel on the left represents Mary weeping at the tomb, the panel on the right Mary and the Angels, and the central panel the interview with the Risen Lord, Who bears in His hand the banner of love and victory. In the background the day is breaking, whilst above are the letters Alpha and Omega amongst lilies surmounted by the Cross with a golden crown.</p>		



"The Limes", North Lopham

20 March 1931	Diss Express	page 5
<p style="text-align: center;">NORTH LOPHAM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BELL RINGING.</p> <p>Members of the Norwich Association of Change Ringers rang on the bells of North Lopham Church on Sunday, the first peal of St. Clement's Fob Triples heard in Norfolk.</p> <p>The ringers stood as follows: A. G. Harrison (Diss) treble; F. S. Clarke (North Lopham) 2nd; and A. J. Berry (Thornham Magna), 3rd; C. F. Goodman (Banham); 4th; G. A. Blaxell (Stowupland) 5th; N. Golden (Diss). 6th; E. G. Bennett (Garboldisham) 7th; W. Gibbons. (Kenninghall) tenor. The Peal occupied two hours and fifty-three minutes.</p>		

11 November 1949	Diss Express	page 4
<p style="text-align: center;">The Lophams</p> <p>RETIREMENT OF THE REV J. T. POOLE. - The Rector of North and South Lopham, since 1940, the Rev. J. T. Poole has retired after 46 years service in the Ministry. Mr. and Mrs. Poole received many farewell presents and gifts from the parishioners of both villages and the Church departments. Their new home will be at Barton Turf, parish with which Mr. Poole was formerly associated.</p> <p>Mr. Poole succeeded the late Rev. C. J. Eastwood in the Lophams, after being Rector of Wilby for 18 years. Educated at Cambridge. he was ordained priest in 1904, and held curacies at Fulham. New Maiden and Blechingley until the 1914-18 war, when he served as a chaplain in submarines and convoy vessels. For three years after that he did special work for the Church of England Men's Society in the Midlands, and. after serving in Nottingham was appointed Rector of Wilby with Hargham and was chaplain to Wayland Hospital.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Twells POOLE, born 6 Sep 1879, married Rosamund Allen Hunt in 1906, died c. 1965.		

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- 1939 National Registration¹¹: John T POOLE, b. 6 Sep 1879, Clerk in Holy Orders, living with wife Rosamund A (b. 20 Feb 1875, unpaid domestic duties), Joanna R T (b. 16 Apr 1917, unpaid domestic duties), Mary B HUNT (b. 29 Sep 1867, private means) and Alice S HUNT (b. 9 Sep 1869, private means, retired social worker), all living at Wilby Rectory, Wilby, Norfolk.

15 June 1951	Diss Express	page 4
<p style="text-align: center;">The Lophams</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTING. - An enjoyable day was spent by the scholars (forty-five of them), Rector, teachers, parents and friends of the North and South Lopham Church Sunday School, when they went by bus to Clacton on Saturday. Each child received 1s 6d.</p> <p>The buses left The Lophams at 8.30 a.m., leaving Clacton at 6.30 in the evening, arriving home safely and happy, but tired.</p> <p>Thanks are accorded to all who so willingly helped the funds.</p>		

30 September 1955	Diss Express	page 4
<p style="text-align: center;">The Lophams</p> <p>HARVEST FESTIVAL - After the harvest services at South Lopham Church the vegetables and fruit were sent to Wayland Hospital. At the services, which were conducted by the Rector (Rev. K. Liley), the choir sang anthems.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>HARVEST FESTIVAL -The Rector of East Harling, the Rev. K. Child, preached at Evensong at the harvest festival at North Lopham Church on Sunday. The Rector (the Rev. K. Liley) preached the morning service. The Church was appropriately decorated and the choir sang anthems. Later the fruit and vegetables were sent to the Wayland Hospital.</p>		

29 November 1957	Diss Express	page 4
<p style="text-align: center;">North Lopham</p> <p>METHODIST CHURCH. – The Guild arranged by Mr. S. Sillett took place on Wednesday last week and took the form of a “Psalmody” evening, A number of the Guild members took part, both in singing and reading. Mrs. Vernon was the pianist.</p>		

27 June 1958	Diss Express	page 4
<p style="text-align: center;">The Lophams</p> <p>VISIT TO ATTLEBOROUGH. - Thirty-two parishioners from Lopham were taken to Attleborough by the several car owners on Sunday to hear the Bishop of the</p>		

¹¹ 1939 National Registration: RG101/6591A/005/22 Letter Code: TSER

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Niger preach. Collections at the Sunday School festival on 6th July at Quidenham and South Lopham are to be devoted to the bishop's work in the Niger diocese.

15 February 1960

Diss Express

page 6

North Lopham

METHODIST CHURCH. - Four members of the North Lopham Methodist Sunday School, Betty Austin, Dorothy and Judith Baker and Jean Keer, met Thetford Methodists in the second round of a Bible quiz contest at Diss on Saturday evening, defeating them by 98 points to 88. They will now meet a team from the Attleborough Methodist Circuit in the third round.

19 October 1973

Diss Express

page 24

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Harvest Festival services were held recently at the North Lopham Methodist Chapel.

Rev. T. Hamer and Rev. M. Broadhurst preached at the Sunday services, and Mr. Ward of Wilby preached on Monday evening.

20 December 1991

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The Lopham

CHRISTINGLE¹²: St Andrew's Church was packed for the Carols and Christingle service on December 15. The local Four Parish Choir sang two hymns by Bishop Timothy, retiring Bishop of Thetford, during the proceedings. The Christingles, which were made by the youngest children at St Andrew's School, were carried in procession round the candle-lit church before everyone sang 'Away in a Manger' by candlelight.

¹² A Christingle is a symbolic object used in Christian services, particularly during Advent and Christmas, to represent Jesus Christ as the light of the world. The word itself is thought to be derived from "Christ's light". A Christingle typically consists of an orange with a candle inserted into it, a red ribbon around the orange, and sweets or dried fruit attached to the orange with cocktail sticks.

Courts, Crime and Punishment:

Not everyone in a village was a “good boy” and so the law had to intervene in times of need. Theft was a frequent misdemeanour as times were often hard for the working families and a little extra was often hard to resist. Bankruptcy and family maintenance were also dealt with. At present no “serious” crimes have been found, such as murder.

23 July 1880	Diss Express	-
<p style="text-align: center;">SOUTH LOPHAM.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The East Harling Petty Sessions Tuesday.</p> <p>Susannah Elmer, of South Lopham, a girl aged 13 was brought up in custody, having been apprehended in Derby, to which place she had seconded, and charged with stealing from the dwelling house of Elizabeth Debenham, an old lady upwards of 80 years age, with whom she lived, of stealing £3 12s 6d. The prisoner, who pleaded guilty, was adjudged to be imprisoned in Norwich Castle for six weeks' hard labour.</p>		

22 July 1891	Norwich Mercury	page 3
<p style="text-align: center;">SOUTH LOPHAM.</p> <p>At the Ipswich Bankruptcy Court on Thursday, before his Honour Judge Lea, Arthur Gibson, miller and farmer of South Lopham, applied for his discharge. The receiving order was made September, 1890, and the assets realised £80, the greater part of which were recoverable amounts of fraudulent preference, and some expense had been incurred on this account. The Official Receiver (Mr. F. Messent) commented on this offence of the bankrupt, and also upon the fact that no books were kept, and that he had continued to trade and contracted debts after knew he was insolvent. The estate paid 9s. 8d in the £. The Judge made an order suspending discharge for two year.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arthur D Gibson; born 5 October 1834 in Wortham, married Edna Allen in 1862, died in 1917. • 1881 Census¹³: Arthur GIBSON, 47, miller and farmer of 12 acres employing 1 man, born in Wortham, Suffolk, living with wife Edna (38) and children Albert E (16, miller), Ernest A (12, scholar), Louisa A (10, scholar), Gertrude M (6, scholar) and Martha (3), living at The Windmill, South Lopham. • 1891 Census¹⁴: By 1891 Arthur and family had moved to Redgrave in Suffolk: Arthur GIBSON, 53, farmer, living with wife Edna (48) and children Martha 		

¹³ 1881 Census: RG11 Piece 1973 Folio 71 Page 18 Schedule 276

¹⁴ 1891 Census: RG12 Piece 1459 Folio 82 Page 1 Schedule 6

The Story of a Village

(12, scholar) and Spencer (7, scholar), all living at The Common, Redgrave, Suffolk.

7 August 1891

Norfolk News

page 4

NORTH LOPHAM.

SLEEPING OUT. On Saturday last a man named John Balls, an old offender, was charged before Major Keppel at the Occasional Court-house, Old Buckingham, with having no visible means of subsistence. Police-constable Jesse G. Aldis said he found the prisoner asleep in a shed North Lopham on Friday evening. He was sentenced to fourteen days' hard labour.

10 June 1893

Norwich Argus

page 11

NORTH LOPHAM.

GROSS CRUELTY TO A CRIPPLE. - At East Harling on Monday Rebecca Emms, of North Lopham, married woman, was charged by Inspector Starke of the N.S.P.C.C., with ill treating her stepdaughter, Isola Caroline Peverett Emms, a dwarf and a cripple. Mr Reeve, who worked for the society, said that five cases were taken, as defendant could not be charged under the Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act on account of the child being just over 16 years of age. The girl was a dwarf, suffering from curvature of the spine, and had undergone a great deal of ill-treatment. Isola Caroline Peverett Emms said she thought she was 17 years old. During the last few days she had been living with Inspector Starke, but prior to that time she lived with her father at North Lopham. She saw Starke on May 27th, and in the week previous her step-mother came upstairs and pulled her hair and knocked her against some rails. On Sunday, the 21st, her step-mother kicked her on the side, and also struck her with her fist. On Monday, the 22nd, defendant got hold of her ears and twisted her round and round the table, and then laid her down and kicked her. On the following Sunday her mother pushed her against the copper-hole and burned her arm. On May 29th her mother also assaulted her with a buckle-end of a strap. Dr Foster, Attleborough, had testified to examining the child and finding the marks of burns. Rebecca Taylor, wife of George Taylor, North Lopham, spoke to hearing the defendant beat the child. She had heard Mrs Emms say that Isola was worth more dead than alive and witness had also heard defendant say the child was insured. Inspector Starke having given evidence as to taking the child away, and to her good behaviour at his house, the Chairman severely reprimanded the defendant for her inhuman conduct, and sentenced her to 12 weeks' imprisonment with hard labour - 21 days on each of two charges, and 14 days each on the other three.

- **Rebecca REEVE**; born in 1861 to Ellis (1834-?) and Maria (1833-1920), married Thomas Emms on 21 October 1887 in North Lopham and died in 1947.

The Story of a Village

- **1891 Census¹⁵:** *Rebecca EMMS, 29, born in Winfarthing, living with husband Thomas (35, agricultural labourer) and children Isola (10), William F (3) and Sarah E (11 months), all living in The Street, North Lopham.*

4 October 1895	Diss Express	page 5
SOUTH LOPHAM.		
<p>ALLEGED FOWL ROBBERY. - At the Occasional Sessions, Kenninghall, before Mr. C. T. Molyneux-Montgomerie and Major Keppel, William Walter Pearce, fowl dealer, of South Lopham, was charged by Mr. Chas. Wright, Superintendent of Police, with having stolen 6 chickens the property of Mr. Henry Stiles, of the same parish. Pearce was remanded until the next Petty Sessions.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walter William PEARCE; <i>born in 1862 to William (1826-1891) and Mary Ann Legood (1830-1893), married Emily GOODDARD (1860-1949) in South Lopham, and died in 1925.</i> 		

10 November 1905	Diss Express	page 4
NORTH LOPHAM.		
<p>THREE MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT FOR FALSE PRETENCES. - At the Norfolk and Norwich Assizes on Wednesday, before Judge Grantham, Arthur Brock (32), farrier, surrendered to his bail to answer charge of obtaining from George Reeve 4 coombs of barley and 4 sacks by means of false pretences at Wymondham on October 3rd. Mr. Wild prosecuted, and Mr. North defended. It was stated that on the 3rd of October prisoner called upon Mr. Reeve, farmer, of Sutton, near Wymondham, and said he wanted to buy some barley. He said he was a farmer and hay dealer of North Lopham, and farmed about 20 acres, and kept three horses, and had two vans. He also said he wanted the barley for his pigs. Believing that story Mr. Reeve let him have four coombs of barley, which he asked for, and the prisoner promised to come and pay for it the following day. He took the barley away and the prosecutor had never seen the money. Mr. Reeve made inquiries as to these representations, and found that prisoner lived at North Lopham, but instead of having twenty acres he had less than five acres, and instead of there being three horses on the premises there were two; and instead of two vans there was only one, and this bore the name "M. A. Brock," the name of prisoner's wife. There were some pig styes, but no pigs. Above all that there was a bill of sale over the whole of the assets. The consequence was that having got credit from Mr. Reeve on the representation that he had all these things in the first place he had not nearly so much as he said, and then it was found he had nothing at all except the bare land. - Mr. Womack, assistant-overseer, produced the rate book, which showed that the Prisoner had under five acres of land in North Lopham. - Police-</p>		

¹⁵ 1891 Census: RG12 Piece 1548 Folio 113 Page 8 Schedule 56

The Story of a Village

constable Andrews and Police-constable Mason gave evidence as to what stock, &c., there was on the defendant's farm, and a County Court bailiff named Frederick Smith, produced copy of a bill of sale lying at Eye under which Arthur Brock assigned his goods to his wife, Mary Ann Brock. On the 31st of December witness arrested the prisoner on a commitment for debt. In reply to Mr. Wild, the witness said there was no commitment if there were goods to distraint upon, unless it was the wish of the plaintiff. He had four commitments against the prisoner, who served 42 days. - Prisoner gave evidence on his own behalf, and stated that he occupied about five acres of land at North Lopham. In South Lopham he hired eight acres of grass and rushes from his father at £1 a year, and also six acres from other persons, whilst he had an allotment of four acres. He told prosecutor he wanted ten coombs of barley, four coombs to take with him, and he would come for the rest in three weeks' time, when he would pay for the lot, or if the prosecutor wished, he could have the money for the four coombs that day. He did not tell the prosecutor what horses, vans, &c., he had. In cross-examination he could not say whether there were 16 warrants of commitment against him. He had not seen any; if he did he paid them they came in. There was no written agreement with respect to the hire of land at South Lopham. - Frederik Brock, the prisoner's brother, gave evidence to the land he hired, about 23 acres in all. - Mr. North, in defence, said that not one of the prisoner's statements had been shown to be false. It was true that lived at North Lopham, and that farmed 23 acres. Where was the false pretence? The jury found the prisoner guilty, and Superintendent Dunn said that since he was apprehended he had received complaints from other farmers in his division of the prisoner obtaining corn by false representations. The Judge passed sentence of three months hard labour.

- **Arthur BROCK**; born 23 November 1873 in North Lopham to Frederick (1835-1912) and Mary Ann TAYLOR (1840-1924), married Mary Ann HOLDEN (1874-1956) in South Lopham, and died 7 December 1940 in North Lopham.
- A coomb is a measure of volume. Its exact original details are not known. In 13th century England it was defined as 4 bushels It was in use in Norfolk as a dry measure: The 4-bushel bag was the standard international shipping unit for grain, and the coomb was in common use in farming in Norfolk and Suffolk until well after the end of World War II, for as long as grain was handled in sacks, a practice which ended with the introduction of combine harvesters which had bulk grain tanks. Yields were referred to in coombs per acre. A coomb was 16 stone (100 kg) for barley and 18 stone (110 kg) for wheat. (From Wikipedia)

9 January 1914

Diss Express

page 5

SOUTH LOPHAM.

MAINTENANCE ORDER. - At East Harling Sessions on Monday, John Kerry, of South Lopham, farmer, was summoned by the Guardians of the Wayland Union, who applied that an order might be made against him to contribute towards the maintenance of his parents. - Mr. A. A. Gompertz, collector to the Guardians, gave evidence that the old people lived at Kenninghall. They were 66 years of age, in a bad state of health, and were allowed 5/- per week from the Wayland Union. - Defendant was the owner and occupier of about 33 acres of land at South Lopham. He was able to contribute towards the maintenance of his parents, and had done so till recently. Another son was also able to contribute. - Defendant said he had paid 2/- per week to his parents, and should have continued to do so except for something said, which caused him to leave off paying. He was now willing to pay 1/6 per week. - The Bench made an order that defendant should pay 3/6 per week and 17/9 costs.

- **John KERRY:** born on 30 August 1869 in Fersfield to George (1847-1924) and Maria BOYCE (1846-1874), married Sarah BRADSTREET (1863-1943) in 1890 in South Lopham and died on 2 April 1950 in Rochdale, Lancashire.
- John's father **George** married twice, the second time on 4 November 1875 to Harriet MUSK (1847-?)

Education:

School life was a large part of most children's education. Not all was of the cane wielding schoolmaster feared by all. There were many times when the school was the centre for more social events.

10 September 1870	Diss Express	page 6
LOPHAM -----		
<p>SCHOOL TREAT. – The children's annual treat for the two parishes took place on the following day (Friday), and after partaking of a bountiful tea, the children, being joined by several of the local gentry, entered with high spirits into the various games provided for their amusement; and as evening drew near they drew up in double file receiving a supply of Cake. A fine balloon was sent up from the grounds, but unfortunately it was stopped by a tree, and did not show to advantage. A verse of "God save Queen" was then sung, and there was great cheering for Mr. and Mrs. Bateman; also for Mr. H. Wilson. The day was altogether a pleasant one.</p>		

5 August 1876	Bury Free Press	page 8
LOPHAM		
<p>The Anniversary of the Lopham School took place on Wednesday last at the Rectory, South Lopham. The children arrived at 4 o'clock, cricket, swings, and various games being provided for them. After partaking of a bountiful tea supplied by the Rev. G. F. Bateman, they returned to their amusements. Many of the inhabitants were invited to meet the children. As the shades of evening came on, the children and visitors sang the first verse of God Save the Queen, after which the children received prize books and cake, finally leaving the grounds highly pleased with the arrangements made for them. Votes of thanks with hearty cheering, were given to the Rector, Miss Bateman, and the Rev. Shaw, for the part they had kindly taken to amuse the children. Lady Albemarle and some of the local gentry were present on the lawn.</p>		

22 March 1890	Dereham and Fakenham Times	page 5
SOUTH LOPHAM		
<p>LOCAL SUCCESS. - At the recent examination for the Bacon Exhibition, valued at £12 per annum, held at Redgrave, William Sare, son of Mr. William Sare of South Lopham was first on the list. This boy has attended the National School at South</p>		

The Story of a Village

Lopham, of which Mr. M. K. Bardwell, is the master. This is the second boy who has taken the Exhibition from the South Lopham School

- **William SARE:** born on 28 November 1877 in South Lopham to William (1838-1911) and Sarah Ann RUSH (1849-1939), married Frances Louise COLEY on 15 October 1901 in Liverpool, Lancashire and died in 1929 in Liverpool.

2 August 1895

Diss Express

page 4

NORTH LOPHAM

SCHOOL BOARD. - A meeting of this Board was held at the King's Head Inn¹⁶ on Monday evening, when there were present, Mr Jesse Yates, chairman, Messrs. W. Faster, Geo. Land, J. Emms, and Stephen Holden. - The Clerk reported the Government grant to £70 15s. 6d., and the fee grant for the quarter, £11 10s. - The Inspector's report was duly considered, and more books and test maps, and three desks were ordered to be purchased, and the question of ventilation and improvement of infants' room discussed. The Board, on the proposition of Mr. William Foster, seconded by Mr. Stephen Holden, decided by a majority to re-hire the present school from the trustees of the North Lopham Wesleyan Chapel for three years from 1st September next, at £12 per annum, subject to certain improvements being made by the trustees. The usual summer holidays were ordered to commence on the 9th August, and the school to re-open on the 9th September next. The schoolroom was ordered to be whitewashed, coloured, and cleaned.

¹⁶ Norfolk Public Houss: <https://www.norfolkpubs.co.uk/norfolkn/northlopham/nlophkh.htm>

Fire!:

The Lophams appeared to have had their fair share of fires in the villages. Some may well have been accidental, but some were probably set up by an arsonist, or “incendiary” as they were sometimes called. Some of the articles below could have been included in the Courts, Crime and Punishment section. There was also an article calling into question the efficiency and capability of the Diss Fire Brigade!

6 November, 1880	Downham Market Gazette	page 5
NORTH LOPHAM.		
<p>FIRE. - On Saturday evening much alarm was created in this neighbourhood, by a fire breaking out on the premises of Mr. Crowe, farmer, North Lopham, which in spite of all efforts to save them, resulted in the entire destruction of three barley stacks. The fire engine was despatched from Diss, and under the superintendence of Mr. W. Haylett, rendered good service, preventing further damage to adjoining property. A good supply of water and help was at hand. The origin of the fire is unknown. We believe the loss is fully covered by insurance.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Date of fire was 30 October 1880.</i>		

6 November, 1880	Daylight: an Independent Weekly Journal	page 11
<p>WHO IS RESPONSIBLE for the conduct of the Diss Fire Brigade? Surely some better management than that at the fire in North Lopham, on Saturday night last, could be put into practice. The proceedings were simply disgraceful, and might have led to serious results. We hope these unseemly proceedings will not occur again, or we shall be compelled to name the delinquents publicly.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Date of fire was 30 October 1880.</i>		

1 January 1881	Bury Free Press	page 9
NORTH LOPHAM.		
<p>FIRE. - This village was alarmed on Monday night last, about nine o'clock, by an alarm of fire which broke out in barley stack standing with two others in a field abutting on North Lopham street, near the blacksmiths' shop, belonging to Mr. Thos. Womack, of the Park Farm. There was plenty of water in the pit close by, and many willing hands soon got to work to extinguish the fire. They sent for the Kenninghall engine, but through some mismanagement they could not get any horses, so they had to send to Mr. Womack for them. Much valuable time was thus lost. The stack consumed contained about 80 coombs of barley, which was insured. There is no doubt the fire was work of an incendiary.</p>		

26 February 1881	Downham Market Gazette	page 6
NORTH LOPHAM.		
<p>FIRES. - Several fires have occurred in this little village of late. Only a fortnight ago one occurred upon the premises of a respected inhabitant, when the efforts of the volunteers of the fire engines to extinguish the flames were suddenly thwarted by some cowardly rascal cutting the hose. No clue, whatever, to either the incendiary, or the dastard, has as yet been obtained, although every exertion has been made. On Sunday, about 10.30 p.m. a fire broke out on the premises of Mr. Sam Beales, of the King's Head, North Lopham, a large straw stack being on fire. A messenger was at once despatched to Kenninghall for the fire engine, which was quickly on the spot, but although every exertion was made, it was not until twelve o'clock that the flames were extinguished. As the horses were being harnessed a bright glare was perceived in another direction, which proved to be a fire on the premises of Mr. Charles Brown, of the Lodge Farm, Lopham. The fire brigade at once proceeded there, and found a large barley stack, the produce of fourteen acres, on fire, but although the men worked with the pluck of real Englishmen the fire could not be extinguished until all was consumed. The police, under the superintendence of Sergeant Tuddenham, were promptly on the spot, but up to the present, no clue has been obtained. Mr. Brown is, we are informed, fully insured.</p>		

26 February 1881	Norwich Mercury	page 7
<p>John Gooch, of North Lopham, blacksmith, was charged with having set fire to a stack of barley in the straw, the property of Mr. Charles Brown, of North Lopham, farmer, on the 13th instant. Prisoner was remanded until the 1st of March. Mr. Brooke, solicitor, Attleborough, appeared on his behalf.</p>		

26 February 1881	Norfolk News	page 7
<p>EAST HARLING. – INCENDIARISM. – At the Occasional Court-house, on Saturday, before C. T. M. Montgomerie, Esq., John Gooch, of North Lopham, blacksmith, was brought up in custody, having been apprehended by Police-constables Lockwood and Wilkin on the charge of setting fire to two stacks at North Lopham, on the night of the 13th inst. He was remanded to the Lock-up till Tuesday. Bail was refused.</p>		

25 November 1899	Downham Market Gazette	page 5
SOUTH LOPHAM.		
<p>On Sunday a straw stack was partially destroyed by fire at South Lopham. The stack was situated very near the buildings of the White Horse Inn, and it was feared that they might have been destroyed, but, fortunately, with the help of the</p>		

The Story of a Village

Kenninghall Fire engine, half the stack was saved, and farther damage averted. Captain F. T. Turner and his men were very energetic. Mr. Arnold Beales supplied the horses. The origin of the fire was found to be children playing with matches.

6 October 1905

Diss Express

page 5

NORTH LOPHAM.

FIRE. - A fire, resulting in the destruction of barley stack owned Mr. Thomas Womack, of the Park Farm, occurred on Thursday in last week. The stack, which was in a field near the Black Horse, was the produce of 7 acres. It is supposed that it was the work of an incendiary, the stack was found to be ignited in two or three places. Mr. Herbert Womack, of South Lopham Hall, son of the owner, was quickly on the spot, and a band of workers at once set to get the flames under control. A good supply of water was obtained from a pit close at hand but it was impossible to save the stack. The fire started at about half past seven and lasted till daybreak.

For Sale:

Newspapers were the main place to advertise the sale of all sorts of things. They were also the place where auctioneers advertised their sales. Not only sales, lettings were also noted.

9 October 1875	Bury Free Press	page 5
<p>MICHAELMAS, 1875.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>CONTINUATION OF SALES, BY ELLIOTT, SON, & MUSKETT.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>SOUTH LOPHAM</p> <p>-----</p> <p>On SATURDAY, October 9th, 1875, THE FARMING STOCK and EFFECTS of Mr. HAILES.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>GREYHOUND INN, SCOLE.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>On MONDAY, October the 5th, 1875, THE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and EFFECTS of Mr. ROBERT BALLS, leaving the above Inn.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>LANGMERE.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>In October, the FURNITURE and EFFECTS of MRS. BARTRAM.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>NEXT DISS STOCK SALE, FRIDAY, October 15th, 1875.</p>		

8 September 1882	Diss Express	page 4
<p>SOUTH LOPHAM.</p> <p>TO LET, a very Desirable SMALL FARM, on the Road to Garboldisham, containing 40 Acres with House and Premises, occupied Mr. E. Witton, senr. - Apply to Mr. Edward Witton, Junr., Farmer, South Lopham.</p>		

Happy Circle:

Lopham Happy Circle was formed in 1949, originally called the over 60's club, which later became known as the Happy Circle

11 November 1949	Diss Express	
The Lophams		
OVER 60s CLUB. - A club for the over 60's has been started in the Lophams and the first meeting was held on Tuesday. An address was given by Miss Culley of the W.V.S., and it was agreed to hold meetings each month, alternately in the Eastwood Hall and the Methodist School room. Tea was served and there was discussion on future plans. There was a good attendance but mainly from South Lopham. Those who could not walk were fetched in cars and others wishing to attend should inform the chairman Mrs. W. Baker or Mrs. Farrow and Mrs. Witton in North Lopham or Mrs. Reeder, Mrs. Huggins and Mrs. Johnston In South Lopham.		

18 May 1951	Diss Express	Page 4
The Lophams.		
HAPPY CIRCLE. The Happy Circle met on Thursday week when twenty-four members were present. Games were played and arrangements made for the rally at Great Yarmouth in June. A stall provided funds for the outing. Tea was served by the committee, and birthday presents were distributed. Community singing was accompanied by Mrs. M. Huggins and the meeting closed with a hymn.		

17 July 1953	Diss Express	page 4
The Lophams.		
HAPPY CIRCLE. - The Happy Circle met In the Village Hall and various frames, including whist, were played. Tea was served by the committee and birthday presents distributed. Prizes were won by Mrs Duncum, Mrs. Holden. Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Cook. Community singing was enjoyed, music provided. by Mrs. M. Grant. The meeting closed with the National Anthem.		

27 July 1956	Diss Express	page 4
The Lophams.		
Happy Circle. - Members of the Happy Circle met in the Village Hall on Thursday last week, when a moment's silence was observed in memory of a late member,		

The Story of a Village

Mr. W. Crowe. Two new members were welcomed, and later a coach took members for an outing to the Abbey Gardens at Bury St. Edmunds. On the return journey a stop was made at Thetford for refreshments. Members agreed that they had spent a very enjoyable day.

21 February 1958	Diss Express	page 8
The Lophams		
<p>HAPPY CIRCLE. - Mr. Oddin Taylor showed films of the province of Kashmir and the mountain scenery of the Jelum river valley, many of them in colour, and gave a running commentary to members of the Happy Circle at their last meeting. He was thanked by Mrs. Baker. An excellent tea was provided by the committee.</p>		

27 March 1963	Diss Express	page 5
The Lophams		
<p>LADIES from the Diss Salvation Army Home League attended and entertained at the recent meeting of the Happy Circle. The chairman and the Rector thanked Mrs. Waller and her party for their generosity. Easter eggs, given by Mrs. Sparrow, were presented to Mrs. Marlowe, Mrs. Austin and Mrs. Bond, and there were birthday gifts for Mrs. Straw and Mrs. .</p>		

5 November 1971	Diss Express	page 3
LOPHAMS		
<p>The Lophams Happy Circle held their 22nd birthday party at Eastwood Hall recently. Members were invited from Bridgham, Kenninghall and Bressingham. Lophams W.I. entertained by putting on a play. Mr. Woolams was pianist for the games and singing.</p> <p>The Autumn Fayre raised £20 for Christmas party funds</p>		

Hatches, Matches and Dispatches:

As today, many births, marriages and deaths are given, along with obituaries and reports of Church services.

22 January 1878	Bury and Norwich Post	page 7
<p>NORTH LOPHAM.</p> <p>WE RECORD in our obituary the death, at the advanced age of 94 years, of Mrs. Beales, mother of Messrs. R. and S. Beales, of North Lopham. A member of the family writes: - "When her first grandchild was born it had the following relations: - Father and mother, two grandfathers, two grandmothers, four great grandfathers, four great-grandmothers, and fifteen uncles and aunts, all residing at that time in the said parish.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Ann GOOCH, born in 1786 in North Lopham to John WOMACK and Elizabeth GOOCH, married Jeremiah BEALES (1759-1847) on 17 July 1805 in North Lopham and died 16 January 1878 in North Lopham. She and Jeremiah had 9 children. • 1871 Census¹⁷: Mary BEALES, 85, born in North Lopham, living with sons Robert (63, linen manufacturer) and Stephen (55, linen Manufacturer), and general servant Eliza COBB (17), all living at The Street, North Lopham. 		



Stephen Beales (1815-1896)

2 May 1890	Diss Express	page 5
<p>NORTH LOPHAM.</p> <p>SUDDEN DEATH. - On Wednesday night a man named Long, living at North Lopham, went to bed early and left his wife downstairs. As she did not come up in</p>		

¹⁷ 1871 Census: RG10 Piece 1840 Folio 71 Page 16 Schedule 96

The Story of a Village

due course he went down and found her sitting on a stool quite dead. Mrs. Long suffered from heart disease, and was some time ago under treatment by Dr. Wilson, of Kenninghall.

17 September 1892	Norfolk News	-
NORTH LOPHAM.		
<p>FUNERAL OF THE LATE MR. W. W. ROLFE. – The funeral of the late Mr. W. W. Rolfe took place on Saturday last at South Church. The funeral cortège started from the Limes, North Lopham, and en route many blinds were drawn as a mark of respect to the deceased, who was well known and highly respected. The coffin, which was of plain oak with a brass plate and furniture, and was made by Mr. J. Walker of North Lopham, was borne to its last resting place in an open hearse. Amongst the mourners in the three carriages were Miss L. E. Bale, Miss H. Rolfe, Mr. W. W. Brooke, Mrs. Berry, Mr. G. Rolfe, sen., Mr. and Mrs. Fordham, Mr. H. Rolfe, Mr. G. Rolfe, jun., Miss E. Bale, Mr. Crowe and Mr. Crick (tenants). As the coffin entered and left the church Mrs. Bateman played a funeral dirge on the Organ. The Rector, the Rev J. F. Bateman, performed the obsequies. Several beautiful wreaths were placed upon the coffin. Mr. Thomas W. Womack, draper, of North Lopham, had charge of the funeral arrangements.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William Walter ROLFE: born 23 May 1825 in North Lopham to John (1789-1865) and Lydia WHARTON (1788-1863), never married, and died on 3 September 1892 in North Lopham. • 1891 Census¹⁸: William Walter ROLFE, 65, single, retired farmer, living alone at The Street, North Lopham. 		

25 February 1893	Norwich Mercury	page 14
SOUTH LOPHAM.		
<p>SAD SUICIDE. - On Friday last an old man named George Wallis, aged 62 years, committed suicide in a turnip house on Mr. Henry Holden's farm at South Lopham. The deceased had been ailing for some time past and was very dejected. He fastened a strap to the turnip cutter, and put in his head and hung himself. An inquest was held on Saturday by Mr. R. H. Wilson, Deputy-Coroner, and a verdict "That deceased committed suicide whilst in an unsound state of mind" was returned.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George WALLIS: born in 1830 in South Lopham to John (1797-?) and Elizabeth CHENERY (1799-1872), married Sarah BRUNDLE (1837-1861) on 1 May 1858 in South Lopham with 2 children, married Louisa BOGGIS (1845-1919) on 10 November 1862 in South Lopham with 15 children, died on 17 February 1893 in South Lopham. 		

¹⁸ 1891 Census: RG12 Piece 1548 Folio 112 Page 6 Schedule 39

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- **1891 Census¹⁹:** *George WALLIS, 60, agricultural labourer, born in South Lopham, living with wife Louisa (45), children Elizabeth (24), John (16, agricultural labourer), Lavina (13), Walter (11, scholar), Rosa M (9, scholar) and Spencer G (6, scholar), and grandson Sydney C (3 months), all living at Redgrave Road, South Lopham.*

22 November 1895	Diss Express	page 4
SOUTH LOPHAM.		
<p>WEDDING. - The marriage of Mr. Walter Edward Pearce (son of Geo. Pearce, Wood Farm, Bressingham) and Miss Mary Holden (daughter of Mr. Henry Holden, South Lopham), took place on Tuesday in South Lopham Church, the Rev. W. W Tyler. Vicar of Kenninghall, officiating. The service was choral, Mrs Keeble presiding at the organ. The presents were very numerous. The bride's wedding dress was of peacock blue and she was attended by two bridesmaids, Miss Ruth Holden, sister of bride, and Miss Jenny Pearce. Mr Pank of Diss supplied the carriages. The bride and bridegroom left by train from Diss, en route for Felixstowe.</p>		

25 January 1896	25 January 1896	page 5
NORTH LOPHAM.		
<p>THE death is announced of Mr. William Wharton, farmer, of North Lopham. The deceased was 85 years of age, and died from old age. Deceased only came to Lopham last Michaelmas, and had previously lived at Gasthorpe, Croxton and Hopton. He was a very quiet man, and was highly respected. His body was interred at Riddlesworth.</p>		

12 March 1898	Downham Market Gazette	page 5
NORTH LOPHAM.		
<p>MEMORIAL SERMON. - At the Wesleyan Chapel, North Lopham, on Sunday evening a special sermon was preached by the Rev. W. H. Holmes, B.A., touching on the sad and somewhat sudden death of Mrs. Yeates, the loved wife of the Circuit Steward. There was a large congregation, and the service was very impressive.</p>		

23 December 1899	Norfolk News	page 8
NORTH LOPHAM.		
<p>A man named Richard Cattermole, who lived alone at North Lopham, was found dead in his cottage on Sunday. Efforts were recently made to get him to go</p>		

¹⁹ 1891 Census: RG12 Piece 1548 Folio 131 Page 16 Schedule 119

The Story of a Village

into the Workhouse, if only to get a bath, but stoutly refused, saying had never had a bath in his life.

Monday an inquest was held by Mr, R. H. Wilson, deputy coroner for the liberty of the Duke Norfolk, on the body of Richard Cattermole, who was found on Sunday afternoon. Mr. G. W. Newson was the foreman of the jury. A verdict of "Natural causes" was found.

20 October 1906

Cromer and North Norfolk Post

page 7

NORTH LOPHAM.

The funeral of the late Mr, John Womack took place in the parish churchyard, North Lopham, on Sunday. The Church was filled with mourners, friends, and parishioners. The rector (the Rev. C. J. Eastwood) officiated. The choir preceded the coffin to the grave.

17 December 1909

Diss Express

page 5

NORTH LOPHAM.

MEMORIAL SERVICE. - The morning service at the Parish Church last Sunday took the form of a memorial service in memory of the late Mr. Thomas Womack, The Park, North Lopham, who was laid rest in Kenninghall Churchyard the previous Thursday. There was a large congregation, consisting of relatives of the deceased gentleman and of many others who desired to show the very high esteem in which Mr. Womack was held by them. The hymns sung were "Ye servants of the Lord! each in his office wait," "Now the labourer's task is o'er," and "For ever with the Lord." The Rev. C. J. Eastwood, M.A., Rector of Lopham, preached from the words, Job xix., 23-27, "Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book! That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever! For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth; and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God; Whom I shall see for myself and mine eyes shall behold, and not another," and dwelt specially on the words "I know that my redeemer liveth." In the course of the sermon the Rector referred to the consistent Christianity manifested by Mr. Womack in his interest in religion, diligence and uprightness in business, courtesy to all, and unostentatious kindness shown in many acts of loving consideration. The parish had lost friend, but there had been left to it a great example worthy of being remembered and followed.

11 August 1911

Norwich Argus

page 7

SOUTH LOPHAM.

The marriage took place at the parish church, South Lopham, on Monday, of Mr. E. S. Bowhill, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bowhill, and Miss Emma Sare, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Eare, of Lopham Post Office. The Rev,

The Story of a Village

C. J. Eastwood (rector) officiated, Mr. C. Keeble being at the organ. The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr. William Sare (Yorkshire), wore a dress of white silk, trimmed with old lace, tulle veil embroidered with silk, and a wreath of orange blossoms. She carried a lovely white shower bouquet of lilies, carnations and geraniums, and was attended by six bridesmaids, the Misses Bessie and Gertie Sare (twin sisters), the Misses Gertie Fenn and Eva Sare (nieces of the bride), May Noble (niece of the bridegroom), and Ruby Pearce, each carrying baskets of sweet peas, and wearing gold brooches, the gift of the bridegroom. Mr. C. Noble, of London, acted as best man. There was large number of useful and valuable presents.

5 June 1914	Diss Express	page 5
SOUTH LOPHAM.		
<p>WEDDING. - A very pretty wedding was solemnised in St. Andrew's Church, South Lopham on Wednesday last, the contracting parties being Mr. W. Crowe of the Mills, North Lopham, and Miss E. Kerry, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Kerry, of Pearce's Farm, South Lopham. The bride was attired in a white striped silk dress with veil and orange blossom, and carried bouquet of roses. She was attended by two bridesmaids, Miss E. Bowell and Miss R. Goddard, who wore saxe blue dresses and mob caps to match; they carried bouquets of roses, and wore gold brooches the gifts of the bridegroom. The bride was given away by her father, and Mr. Gordon Kerry acted as best man and bore the expense of the carriages. The Rev. C. J. Eastwood officiated. The presents, which were numerous and valuable, included a gift of gold from Lawyer Jones, bride's father cheque, bride's mother household linen, from the members of the Lopham United Football Club, (for whom the bridegroom has acted as Secretary ever since the club originated), double silver inkstand, etc., etc.</p>		

Health:

Occasionally there are reports about epidemics and accidents that befell local people.

27 December 1890	Diss Express	page 4
NORTH LOPHAM ICE ACCIDENT. - On Monday last a somewhat severe accident on the ice befel Mr. Mann, the Schoolmaster of North Lopham Board School. Mr. Mann was skating on a pond in the village, and falling, severely cut his eyebrow.		

30 January 1892	Norwich Mercury	page 6
NORTH LOPHAM. The Influenza is on the wane in both North and South Lopham. The more serious cases have had a turn for the better, and no fresh cases are reported		

Military:

Mainly as a result of the Great War and World War 2, military events were noted. Many of these related to deaths and woundings members of local families.

10 January 1902	Diss Express	page 5
SOUTH LOPHAM.		
VOLUNTEER RECRUITING. - Through the instrumentality of the Rector, the Rev. C. J. Eastwood, a smoking concert was held in the school-room on Wednesday, with a view to the enlistment of recruits in the Harling Company of the 4th V.B N.R. There was a good assembly, which included men in uniform from East Harling and Kenninghall. Captain E. Mornement, of East Harling, presided, and spoke of the advantages of young men joining the movement. A good programme of music was carried out and refreshments were liberally served during the evening. Captain Mornement addressed the company. The Rector signified his intention of being enrolled himself, and he would place the large rectory barn at the service of the detachment for drill, &c. Several men also intimated their intention of joining.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The V.B N.R is the Volunteer Battalion Norfolk Regiment.</i>		

17 July 1903	Diss Express	page 5
NORTH LOPHAM.		
VOLUNTEER MOVEMENTS. - The members of the D Company. 4th V.B.N R-, under the command of Captain E. Mornement, mustered near the Cherry Tree Inn, on Thursday week, and, headed by the band of the company, marched to South Lopham Hall, the residence of Mr. H. Womack, where the company was put through a series of skirmishing movements, after which they were hospitably entertained by Mr and Mrs Womack. The band played several selections, and hearty cheers were given for the host and hostess before leaving.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The V.B N.R is the Volunteer Battalion Norfolk Regiment.</i>		

21 May 1915	Diss Express	page 4
NORTH LOPHAM.		
The following letter has been received by Mr. W. Mann, formerly schoolmaster of this parish.		
Serg H. Grant, s/4/060582. A.S.C., 247 Depot Unit of Supply, No. 1 Forage Magazine, British Expeditionary Force, c/o G.P.O., London 7/5/15.		

The Story of a Village

Dear Mr. Mann,—I have been in France since 12/4/15. I am not allowed to mention my destination. I found a active bit rough at first, am getting accustomed to it now. I have slept on platforms, in railway tracks, lived on bully beef and biscuits. I am in excellent health, enjoying the Army life; it makes a man of anyone. My candid opinion is, “that every available young man ought to join.” At Aldershot we had rifle drill, bayonet drill, swimming parades, roots marches. I also attend the School of Instruction, studying supply work. I am on the office staff now, its figures all day. I am prepared for any adventure. You ought to see me pacing up the railway to the Major’s Office at 6 a.m. each morning. I sincerely hope you are all enjoying good health. Please write. I am always longing for Lopham news; it breaks monotony.

Now must close,—I remain,

A (Tommy) H. Grant

18 August 1916	Diss Express	page 4
SOUTH LOPHAM.		
<p>LANCE-CORPL A. H. KERRY, 2nd Essex Regt., third son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Kerry, of Pearce's Farm, South Lopham, was wounded in France on July 1st, and is now in the V.A.D. Hospital, Birmingham, where he is doing well.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1911 Census²⁰: Arthur Kerry, 12 scholar, born in Quidenham, living with parents John (41, farmer) and Sarah (48), and siblings Edith Bradstreet (23, dairy work), Eliza (20, dairy work), Gordon (17, working on farm), George (14, working on farm), Walter (10, scholar and Sydney (4), living at Blo Norton Road, South Lopham. 		

25 January 1918	Diss Express	page 5
SOUTH LOPHAM.		
<p>MRS. L. SMITH, of South Lopham, has received further news that her youngest son, Arthur Gordon Smith, serving with 4th Norfolks in Egypt, is now at 44th Stationary Hospital, Kantata, Egypt, suffering from gunshot wound in the right eye, received on 11th December last.</p>		

²⁰ 1911 National Census: RG14 PN11746 RD239 SD2 ED19 SN11

Miscellaneous:

In this section are any articles that do not fit well into any of the other categories. Many unusual articles appeared such as a bull with heatstroke, an old house that fell down and a lady and her award winning butter!

29 May 1880	Ipswich Journal	page 7
NORTH LOPHAM.		
UNITED PATRIOTS NATIONAL BENEFITS SOCIETY. - The 87th anniversary of the North Lopham Branch of this society was celebrated on Frida, the 21st inst. The members assembled at nine o'clock in the morning, and headed by the Hockering brass band paraded the village, returning to the meeting house (the Bell) at two o'clock. About 50 of the members sat down to dinner, a most bountiful supply of good things being provided for their enjoyment by Host Pearce, to which ample justice was done. In the afternoon the band, followed by the members, marched to South Lopham, some of the members taking part in the ploughing match thereat, and returned to the Bell in the evening, where they sat down to substantial supper. Mr. Philip Barham, branch secretary, briefly called attention in the course of the evening to the particulars of the North Lopham Branch, which was making slow but steady progress, now numbering sixty-three members.		

7 February 1885	Thetford and Watton Times	page 4
SOUTH LOPHAM.		
P.-c. Cox. - Most of our readers will be pleased to hear that Constable Cox, who so gallantly carried the parcel of dynamite from the crypt in Westminster Hall, when it exploded, is a native of South Lopham. He was one of a large family, and has several brothers now at South Lopham. Constable Cox left South Lopham in 1862 to join the police force. His friends and acquaintances, and all who knew him, are justly proud of their townsman, and all sincerely hope that he may speedily recover from his injuries.		

10 November 1894	Norfolk News	page 8
NORTH LOPHAM.		
COLLAPSE OF AN OLD MEETING HOUSE. - On the 30th ult. an old cottage situated in the King's Head Lane at North Lopham, from old age and decay, entirely collapsed. The old place has played a unique part in the history of the great Methodist movement in Norfolk. Ever since the great revival by the Wesleys Methodism has flourished at North Lopham, and it was one of the few places that eagerly embraced the spirit of Wesley. No serious opposition was ever offered to		

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the itinerant preachers any time. The old cottage - originally a barn - was one of the first Methodist meeting-houses in county of Norfolk. It was built by Mr. George Wharton. It was in this Chapel in 1809 that Mr. W. M. Harvard, as young man, preached his first sermon after he became a minister. Mr., afterwards Dr., Adam Clarke believed to have preached here when stationed at Norwich.

7 March 1896	Thetford and Watton Times	page 5
NORTH LOPHAM.		
<p>END OF THE CHASE. - Mr. Green`s Staghounds had a good run on Monday last. The hounds met at Walsham-le-Willows, and a good ran followed. The Stag led her pursuers to Kenninghall and Lopham, and eventually run to bay in a shed on the Noddle Farm, North Lopham, where she was left in peace for that day at least.</p>		

20 June 1896	Bury Free Press	page 8
NORTH LOPHAM.		
<p>A BULLOCK STRUCK WITH SUNSTROKE. - On Monday last a bullock was struck with sunstroke belonging to Mr. Charles Brown, of North Lopham Lodge. The animal was let out with others, and was noticed to stagger and ultimately fall down. It was got into the shade, and everything was done to resuscitate it, but it soon afterwards expired.</p>		

28 August 1897	Thetford and Watton Times	page 5
NORTH LOPHAM.		
<p>THE PROPERTY MARKET. - On Tuesday, August 17th, at the Swan Hotel, East Harling, Mr. Caleb Barker disposed of three lots of land and buildings at North Lopham. The sale was remarkable on account of the practical and vivid "object lesson" it conveyed as to the great depression in Agricultural land value in the last quarter of a century.</p> <p>Lot 1 consisted of a double tenement with barn, stables, and other buildings, and about 2a. 0r. 18p. of excellent land, abutting next the road from Garboldisham to North Lopham Church. Part of the land is copyhold of the Manor of Lopham Rectory, the remainder freehold. Lot 2 was described as a very valuable piece of freehold accommodation arable land, containing about 2a. 0r. 28p., near North Lopham Church and next to the road. These two lots were knocked down to Mr. John Nunn, Garboldisham, at £59 and £34 respectively. Lot 3, a capital freehold inclosure of accommodation arable land, containing 2a. 3r, 39p, sold to Mr. Samuel Beales, of North Lopham, at £30. All the property had been held by the same owner from the year 1874, when it was bought at auction, and then Lots 1 and 2 were purchased at £340 and Lot 3 at £145. At that same time £250 was lent on security of Lots 1 and 2, and £115 on Lot 3, by the trustees of the Oddfellows` society at East Harling, by whom the property is now sold</p>		

The Story of a Village

under their mortgage. These figures show an actual loss of capital to the owner amounting to £362, or 75 per cent, and to the mortgagees £242, or 66 per cent.

7 October 1899	Thetford & Watton Times	page 5
LOPHAM.		
<p>MID-ANGLIAN LIGHT RAILWAY. - The Lophams' Committee of this project met at the South Lopham School on Monday evening. There were present Mr. C. T. Molyneux-Montgomerie (in the chair), and Messrs. T. Buckenham, Mr. C. H. Martyn, Mr. H. Burrows, Mr. J. Nunn, Mr. B. Beales, and Mr. M. K. Bardwell (secretary). Some correspondence from the solicitor was read. Before asking for subscriptions it was decided to obtain further information. It was decided to nominate Mr. Thomas Buckenham as a member of the General Council. A line of route through the Lophams was suggested. Assuming the line to come from Redgrave, the Committee mapped out a-line through what is known as the "frith" and suggested that the station should be erected at a little to the west of the school. The Committee took some trouble over the matter in order to avoid the fen foundations so common in this village. The Committee co-opted to their number the following gentlemen: - Rev. C. J. Eastwood, Rev. C. L. Kennoway, Mr. T. R. Pymar, and Mr. T. W. Womack.</p>		

20 October 1906	Norfolk Chronicle	page 2
LOPHAM LINEN.		

AN EXPIRING INDUSTRY		
<p>An interesting reference was incidentally made at the Norwich Consistory Court on Saturday to a once famous Norfolk industry - the Lopham linen manufacture. The rector (the Rev. C. J. Eastwood) said, in reply to Mr. Chancellor Blofeld, that the industry had, practically speaking, gone.</p> <p>The Chancellor said he was extremely sorry to hear this. The linen manufactured at Lopham was excellent, and it became famous throughout the kingdom. The Lopham carts, sixty years ago, used to take it all over England.</p> <p>The rector said this was so, but it had almost entirely disappeared.</p> <p>Those who are interested in our village industries, will share the regret the Chancellor has expressed. At North and South Lopham there were several looms for the manufacture of linen cloth, and for the weaving of sheeting, diaper, huckaback, damask, etc., which were sold by the manufacturers, who hawked them in their own carts. At Sturbitch fair, near Cambridge, where dealers in different wares assembled in large numbers, some of the principal of the great stalls belonged to the Lopham manufacturers.</p> <p>An old friend of ours who lived in Bedfordshire as a lad, has related to us several occasions his recollections of the Lopham carts going through that county hawking the Lopham linen. The hawkers were well known and highly respected,</p>		

The Story of a Village

and were welcome visitors to the remote villages in those days. Many years afterwards this friend of ours hunted the Lopham country, and used to say that whenever he rode in the district, he always recalled the Lopham carts which went down to Bedfordshire in his boyhood.

Diss Express

16 October 1908

page 5

NORTH LOPHAM

NORFOLK BUTTER AT THE LONDON DAIRY SHOW. - We are pleased to note that Mrs. J. Gooderham, of North Lopham (formerly of Diss Heywood), scored a remarkable success for Norfolk butter, at the Dairy Show, Islington, last week. Mrs. Gooderham obtained first prize for fancy or ornamental designs in butter, also first prize for slightly salted butter (88 entries), and second for butter free from salt (77 entries). When it is considered that many districts have finer pastures than Norfolk, and that leading creameries and private dairies in Great Britain and Ireland competed, the success of Mrs. Gooderham is especially commendable.

Politics:

Even though a rural part of South Norfolk, the Lophams had some contact with politics. Meetings for the two main parties were sometimes held locally for representatives of Parliamentary and the County Council.

19 December 1891	Norwich Mercury	page 3
<p>POLITICS IN MID NORFOLK. MR. CLEMENT HIGGINS, Q.C., AT NORTH LOPHAM.</p> <p>On Tuesday a meeting under the auspices the East Harling Liberal Association was held in the Albert Room, North Lopham, to hear an address from Mr. C. Higgins, the Liberal candidate for Mid Norfolk. There was a good attendance. When Mr. Higgins entered the room he was heartily cheered. Mr. McGowan presided.</p> <p>The Rector (the Rev. G. F. Bateman), Rural Dean, speaking of the name that had been given to the room, said they would see on the walls pictures of Prince Albert, the Bishop of Norwich, Lord Salisbury and Lord Beaconsfield, and it had occurred to him that if he brought them another picture – (hear, hear) - it would make them feel more comfortable. He wished them to hear both sides of politics, and judge for themselves then hung on the wall portrait of Mr. Gladstone, amid cheers. He added that he was not going to stay for the meeting, but he wished them pleasant gathering.</p> <p>Mr. C. Higgins, Q C., who on rising, was received with applause, said that he came before them to help Mr. Gladstone – (hear, hear) - and to do something for the benefit of the working man. The Unionist party was a composite party, and Tory was a staunch supporter of the Established Church, and also one of those who supported “the greatest benefit for the greatest number.” but their number was generally “No. 1.” on the subject of the population of Ireland he said that, speaking roughly, in 1841 it was 8½ millions, and 50 years afterwards it was 4¾ millions. That showed that Ireland had not prospered, or been happy. From 1871 to 1881 there was a further 4½ per cent, reduction. In the last decade out of which the present Government had had about six years, the reduction was 9 per cent, and yet their opponents were putting forth that they had done so much for Ireland, and that it was now peaceable and prosperous. He (Mr. Higgins) did not think the redaction showed prosperity. Referring to the Allotment Act of 1887, he said that the idea of compulsory acquisition of allotments belonged to the Liberal party. There had only been two cases of compulsory purchase, and Norfolk had been favoured with one. That had produced 11 acres, and he believed, but he was</p>		

The Story of a Village

not quite sure, that it had cost £1,600. Mr. Higgins strongly advocated the formation of parish councils, which should have power over charities and over rights of way, to purchase or hire land for allotments, small holdings, or to build cottages, with fixity of tenure. They should have power over the liquor traffic and village schools, and to raise money to meet expenses. He would have a limit fixed, and an appeal to a higher authority when extra money was required. Mr. Higgins wound up his remarks asking those present to think upon those matters, to talk them over amongst themselves, and if they thought he could serve them in Parliament he was willing to do so.

Mr. G. S. Coe, in few pithy remarks, proposed "That that meeting, having heard Mr. C. Higgins, pledges itself to use every legitimate measure return him to Parliament at the next election."

MR. Warby seconded, and criticised the doings of Mr. Gordon, the present member. That gentleman had stated that he had not changed his opinions, but Mr. Warby could not understand how it was that Mr. Gordon had voted in the Conservative lobby, during the present Parliament, 32 times out of 38 if were still a Liberal.

The Rev. P. H. Davis supported the resolution.

The Chairman asked for questions to be put to Mr. Higgins.

Mr. BAILY rose and asked if Mr. Higgins was in favour of workingmen magistrates, one man-one vote, not merely on Parliamentary matters, but in Parochial and Guardians election; whether he was in favour of international arbitration, and the abolition of the property qualification in all parochial elections?

Mr. Higgins rose and said that he was in favour of international arbitration in all cases where it was practicable. There were immense armies in Europe, and nations were ready to fly at each other's throat. Mr. Higgins paid compliment to the present Government by eulogising their action in providing a good army, and especially replenishing the Navy. He was in favour of the Guardians' election being by ballot, and against the continuance of the property qualification. Half the present Guardians were elected by the Lord Chancellor virtually as all Justices of the Peace were ex officio Guardians. The other half were elected by men who happened to have the most property in the district, and they could vote up to six. Their object was not to look after the poor, but to guard their pockets. If they wanted good Guardians they should get representatives of the poor on the Board. He was in favour of one man one vote. That was a great question; 12 per cent. Of the votes recorded at the last election were given by dual votes.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and declared unanimously carried.

Votes of thanks to the Chairman and to the Rev. J. F. Bateman terminated the proceedings.

25 May 1894	Diss Express	page 5
<p style="text-align: center;">SOUTH LOPHAM.</p> <p>GARBOLDISHAM AND SOUTH LOPHAM UNIONIST CLUB. - On Monday evening last at a meeting of the above club, held at the White Horse Inn²¹, South Lopham, Mr. Alderman Montgomerie gave a descriptive lecture on the Local Government Act, 1894, setting forth the details of Parish Councils. There was a good attendance. Several questions were asked. C. T. M. Montgomerie. Esq., was unanimously elected as president of the Club; Mr F. B. Lawrence was elected as hon. secretary, and Mr Geo. Eaton as treasurer. Several new members joined the Club. At the close a vote of thanks was given to Mr Montgomerie for his address.</p>		

23 March 1907	Downham Market Gazette	page 5
<p style="text-align: center;">SOUTH LOPHAM.</p> <p>Mr. E. Mornement, the newly elected County Councillor for the West Guiltcross Division of Norfolk, met his supporters on Wednesday evening at the White Horse Inn, South Lopham, when a successful smoking concert, which had been organised by Mr. H. Womack and others, took place. The chair was filled by Mr. J. Cadge.</p>		

24 December 1937	Diss Express	page 4
<p style="text-align: center;">THE LOPHAMS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LABOUR PARTY ORGANISER LEAVING.</p> <p>Mr. W. B. Goodbody attended a meeting of the Lopham and District Labour Party and thanked the members for their support during the time he had been in office as organiser, and spoke of the progress the branch had made since its formation April 1936. Starting with twelve, its membership now stood at sixty and the branch was rapidly developing into one of the strongest in South Norfolk.</p> <p>Mr. W. Smith (the Lopham secretary) said they were all very sorry to lose Mr. Goodbody, for he had been a splendid organiser. and had rendered the movement ,many services.</p> <p>Mr E. Mundford (Chairman) presided, Mr. Jack Brocksbank, secretary and organiser of the Norwich Labour Party congratulated the local branch on its progress.</p>		

23 January 1948	Diss Express	page 4
<p style="text-align: center;">The Lophams</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE WOMEN CONSERVATIVES</p>		

²¹ Norfolk Public Houses: <https://www.norfolkpubs.co.uk/norfolks/slopham/slopind.htm>

The Story of a Village

Lopham Conservatives, Women's Branch, held its annual general meeting in the Village Hall on Wednesday week, and Mrs. Farrow was elected chairman; Mrs. Pascoe, hon. secretary; and Mrs. M. Huggins, hon. treasurer. The committee was elected en-bloc. A good year was reported with increased membership. After business meeting Miss K. Gaymer gave an inspiring address and in her opening remarks she paid tribute to the late chairman Mrs. Willoughby, whose passing was a great loss to the branch. Mrs. Farrow proposed vote of thanks. Mr. H. J. Hazelwood, agent, also spoke. Tea was served and a happy afternoon was brought a close by the singing of the National Anthem.

1 November 1957

Diss Express

page 4

The Lophams

CONSERVATIVE BAZAAR. - Mrs. Farrow presided at the recent bazaar organised by the North and South Lopham Branch of the Conservative Association in the absence through illness of the chairman. Miss Norris. The bazaar was opened by Lord Fisher, Western Area chairman of the South Norfolk Conservative Association, who congratulated the branch on always paying their quota. Buttonholes were presented by Miss Jill Hogg and prizes for the competition were presented by North Lopham to Mrs. E. Hammond, Mrs. Devereaux, Mrs. G. Corrie and Miss Henzley.

23 February 1962

Diss Express

page 2

The Lophams

THE LOPHAM BRANCH of the South Norfolk Conservative Association held a successful qualifying whist drive in the Village Hall, Lopham, on Wednesday evening of last week, when the players qualifying were Mesdames Marlow, Berry and Manuela, of North Lopham, and Mesdames C. Sutton, of Kenninghall, G. Fulcher, of Hopton, and I. Spier, of North Lopham. Miss Battersby acted as door steward; a competition was organised by Mrs. Hoskins, Miss Battersby and Mrs. Reynolds; and the duties of M.C. were carried out by Mr. Pearce.

Sport:

Many villages had teams playing many sports, often playing friendlies or in leagues. Sometimes the fixture was between the two Lopham villages. From newspaper reports the Lophams certainly played football, cricket and tennis.

19 May 1939	Diss Express	page 4
<p style="text-align: center;">THE LOPHAMS FOOTBALL CLUB DINNER.</p> <p>The first annual dinner of the Lopham United Football Club, was held at the Bull Inn²² North Lopham. on Friday evening, when Mr. James Alston jun. the President, presided over an attendance of more than fifty members and guests. He was supported in the chair by Major G. Hamilton and Mr. G. Turner, vice-presidents: Mr K Smith, club chairman, Mr. M. Birkbeck. Mr. R. C. Frost and Mr. A. B. Crook. Hon. Sec.</p> <p>Following the dinner. Mr. Frost gave the toast of the Lopham United Football Club, a response being given by Mr. Smith who paid a tribute to the enthusiasm and sportsmanship shown the players during the season.</p> <p>The "Visitors" was given a toast by Major Hamilton and suitable responses were made by Mr. F. Oxer, Kenninghall, and Mr. W. Holman, Banham. Mr. Frost proposed the toast of the host and hostess and the chairman, was made, and to this Mr. Alston and Mr. and Mrs. Crook responded.</p> <p>Mr A. B. Crook presented a balance sheet, which showed there was a credit balance of £9 12 6. The speeches were interspersed with musical items, the entertainers including Mr. E. Williamson, piano accordion solos, Mr. E. Baker, (jun), Mr. Jesse Baker, Mr M. Crook, Major Hamilton. Mr. J Baker (sen), Mr W. Hogg and Mr. W. Aldous.</p>		

10 August 1870	Norfolk News	page 6
<p style="text-align: center;">LOPHAM</p> <p>CRICKET MATCH. - On Thursday, the 1st inst., a cricket match was played on the Rev. J. F. Bateman's ground, between North and South Lopham, the former gaining an easy victory. An excellent dinner and dessert was provided by the rector in the barn, which was tastefully decorated, some the principal farmers dining with the cricketers. After due attention had been paid to the good things set before them, the Rev. J. F. Bateman remarked that this was not the time to make speeches and give toasts, but for refreshment, he would therefore give but one, very comprehensive toasts, including the Queen, Army and Navy, and</p>		

²² Norfolk Public Houses: <https://www.norfolkpubs.co.uk/norfolkn/northlopham/nlophbu.htm>

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ourselves Englishmen (namely Old England). The Rev. H. Wilson, the late curate, responded and said it was with much pleasure he met them that day, thanking them most heartily for the kind manner in which they had received him, and hoped to meet them many years to come at their annual cricket match. He then proposed the health of Mr. and Mrs. Bateman, which was drunk with much applause.

28 August 1897	Thetford and Watton Times	page 5
NORTH LOPHAM.		
LAWN TENNIS MATCH. - A match between players from Diss and North Lopham took place on Saturday at North Lopham. After some smart play the score was three sets to two in favour of Lopham.		

10 March 1911	Diss Express	page 4
SOUTH LOPHAM.		
CRICKET CLUB. – A general meeting of the South Lopham C.C. was held at the White Horse ²³ Inn on Tuesday last, which was well attended, Mr. Herbert Womack presiding. The hon. sec (Mr. W. Pitchers) presented the balance sheet, which was considered very satisfactory. The election of officers followed. The hon. sec. will be pleased to arrange fixtures with other clubs.		

31 May 1913	Downham Market Gazette	page 6
SOUTH LOPHAM		
UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB. - The first annual tea of the Lopham United Football Club was held at the Chequers Inn ²⁴ on Thursday 22nd, when about fifty sat down to an excellent repast, provided by Host and Hostess Wharton. Mr. Bardwell provided. The toast of "The Lopham United Football Club" was proposed by the chairman, and responded to by Mr. W. Crowe, who said he had been very pleased to be captain over such a team of good sportsmen. Although they had lost 13 matches out of 17 played, they had always shown a good sporting spirit. Mr. Stanley Bowhill also responded. A vote of thanks to Mr. Womack for the use of the playing field was cordially received. Songs were contributed by Messrs. Bardwell, A. Chinery, Witton, J. Holden, T. Stevens, H. Crook. W. Dorkins, Sergeant Johnson, and J. Bowhill. Miss Goddard acted as accompanist on the organ.		

28 January 1949	Diss Express	page 2
LOPHAM SUPERIOR.		

²³ Norfolk Public Houses: <https://www.norfolkpubs.co.uk/norfolks/slopham/slophwh.htm>

²⁴ Norfolk Public Houses: <https://www.norfolkpubs.co.uk/norfolks/slopham/slophch.htm>

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Against Lopham at home on Saturday Eye Games Centre met their strongest opposition of the season, and dropped two League points. The introduction of new blood on the left wing proved a dismal failure. In a hard fast game Lopham were the masters and worthy winners, but the three goals they got were of a scrambling nature and, but for the keeper being unsighted, might have been saved. In ideal football weather Lopham opened the score after 25 minutes, getting the second some ten minutes later after good combined work.

The Games Centre improved after the interval and fought back, but could not break down the solid defence of Lopham. The weakness on the left threw extra work on the other forwards. Whittle on the right narrowly missed with a glorious drive. With only twelve minutes to go Lopham got their third. Eye Games Centre 0, Lopham 3.

30 March 1951

Diss Express

page 4

The Lophams

CRICKET CLUB MEETING. - The annual general meeting for the Lopham Cricket Club was held in the Village Hall on Tuesday week. Mr. J. D. Alston was invited to be president and the Rev. G. A. H. Cooksley was elected chairman, Mr. D. Huggins of Mailings Farm. South Lopham, secretary, Mr. T. Williamson treasurer. Mr. E. Potter is to be the groundsman and Mrs. Napthen was chosen chairman of the women's committee. Thanks were expressed to Mr. W. E. F. Speer, the retiring secretary, for his work. Thanks were also expressed to Mr. Ford and the ladies of the committee for their great help. The wicket is being prepared by professional groundsman in readiness for the season. Friendly matches are to be played this season.

23 September 1955

Diss Express

page 5

CAPTAINED LOPHAM

A former player for both Diss Town Football Club and Diss and District Cricket Club, Mr. Pascoe is the chairman of Lopham Playing Field Committee, and was skipper of Lopham Football Club when that team topped the South Norfolk League several seasons ago. He also captained Lopham Cricket Club for a time.

It is in the athletic world, however, that Mr. Pascoe is best known. He is team manager of the Norfolk Association, and also a member of the County's Amateur Athletic Association Committee and Selection Committee. His work in coaching and advising members of the Diss Athletic Club has been of tremendous value and the many fine achievements of Diss Athletes during 1955 bear testimony to all he has done for the club.

A committee member of both the Norfolk County School's Athletic Association and the Norfolk Schools, Mr. Pascoe has always kept a close eye on promising

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youngsters and went with the county team to Belle Vue, Manchester, earlier this year. He is connected with the Diss Schools' Athletic Association.

The quiz contests, both sporting and general knowledge, arranged by Mr. Pascoe, have always proved a great attraction. The contests have been staged at Diss, Garboldisham, East Harling, Kenninghall, Bressingham, North Lopham, Fersfield and Attleborough, and have raised money for all sorts of clubs, village halls and other causes.

8 March 1974	Diss Express	page 24
BAD BOUNCES FOR LOPHAM		
Corpusty 4		
Lopham United 0		
Lopham came unstuck against the Norwich and District League leaders Corpusty, in a match which turned out to be a very uninteresting affair.		
The pitch was very bumpy and Corpusty's Physical style suited the circumstances better than Lopham's man to man passing.		
The home side scored three times in the first half, two of the goals resulting in bad bounces for the Lopham defence. They scored again just before the end of the game.		

W.I.:

"Women have been granted the vote, British women have climbed Everest for the first time and the country has elected its first female prime minister. The Women's Institute has been a constant throughout, gathering women together, encouraging them to acquire new skills and nurturing unique talents." (Queen Elizabeth II)

"Formed in 1915, the Women's Institute was originally brought to life to revitalise rural communities and encourage women to become more involved in producing food during the First World War. Since then the organisation's aims have broadened and the WI is now the largest voluntary women's organisation in the UK." (W.I. website)

Amongst the names which crop up regularly in the Lopham W.I. are Aldous, Baker, Garnham, and others, names which also show up in many other groups.

13 October 1928	Diss Express	-
<p>THE LOPHAM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE gave a concert in South Lopham School on Friday, when two well-acted sketches were contributed by Mesdames Betts, Cutter, Doe and Huggins, and the Misses Cockrill, Eastwood, Grant, Minns and E. Woods, while Mrs W. Brock and Miss J. Wenham earned hearty applause for a dialogue. Mesdames Bussey and Cutter, the latter in character, contributed songs, Gladys Booty Highland dances, and Miss Kemp humorous recitations. The Lopham Coons!) gave an excellent second half of the programme. Miss Cockrill acted as accompanist. The stage decorations were in the hands of Mrs. Twiddy and Miss Wenham, while Misses Eastwood and Cockrill, Rev. C. Eastwood, and Mr L. Twiddy were responsible for the general arrangements of the room.</p>		

11 October 1936	Diss Express	-
<p>THE FLOWER SHOW in September raised over £2 for their funds. Mrs. Huggins told the 16 members who attended the October meeting of the Lophams Women's Institute. She thanked all who had supported the venture and paid tribute to those who had helped make the recent Group meeting such a success. Mrs. Farrow had birthday buttonholes for three members, and the Sunshine visitors gave their reports. Introduced by the president, Mr. Alison, of British Railways, showed travel films of North Wales and Norway, and a vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs Sage. The monthly competition an autumn arrangement was judged by Mrs. Ford and the first prize went to Mrs. Sage, the second to Mrs. Keer. Mrs. Howard won the "rolling parcel" competition. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Muncilla, Mrs. Potter and Mrs. Keer, and at the end of the meeting Mrs.</p>		

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Huggins announced that there would be a bring-and-buy stall for Institute funds at the next meeting, and added that she hoped there would be a good attendance at the annual general meeting.

20 April 1946	Diss Express	page 4
THE LOPHAMS ----- BEETLE DRIVE.		
<p>A most enjoyable afternoon was spent at a Beetle drive organised by Mrs. Baldwin on behalf of the Women's Institute at the Village Hall on Tuesday afternoon. The prize winners were; Mrs. Brock, Miss Cartwright. Miss Baldwin Mrs. Willoughby, Mrs. Bowell. Master Bilham Woods, Mrs. Marlow. Miss Reeder, Bertie Haseman; consolation, Miss M. Briggs and Mrs. K. Huggins. After tea a very brisk trade was done at the "bring and buy stall" and a competition organised by Mrs. Drury realised £4 3s 7d and was won by Mr. West. As a result the Forces Home-Coming Fund will benefit by the gratifying sum of £12 10s.</p>		

22 February 1957	Diss Express	page 7
THE LOPHAMS		
<p>Lophams Women's Institute celebrated their 31st birthday on Tuesday last week with a party at which about 40 members and friends enjoyed an excellent four course dinner.</p> <p>The Kenninghall Players entertained with a very amusing sketch and Mrs. Bally organised games and dances. Music was played by Mr. R. Baker.</p> <p>The president,. Mrs. Farrell, expressed the hope that new members would join this year.</p>		

19 July 1985	Diss Express	page 26
LOPHAMS		
<p>AT the Lophams WI July meeting members stood in silence for a minute in remembrance of founder member Mrs M. Baker, who had died the previous week.</p> <p>Mrs Baker was an active member for 47 years.</p> <p>Members watched a film on breast cancer and were taught how to check their bodies and encouraged to do so regularly.</p> <p>At next month's meeting on August 6 members will hear about paper sculpture. Prospective new members are always welcome.</p>		

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