

John Edward BAKER (1892-1953)

John Edward Baker's connection to South Lopham is by birth and residence.

Brother of Thomas James Baker and William Robert Baker.

John Edward BAKER, son of Benjamin BAKER (c. 1870-c. 1927) and Ellenor LUDBROOK (c. 1872-c. 1962), was born on 9 May 1892 in North Lopham, Norfolk.^{1 2} He was baptised on 16 October 1892 in North Lopham - parents Benjamin (farm labourer) and Ellen. The ceremony was conducted by Rev. R W PITT, curate.¹

The 1901 Census (held on 31 Mar 1901) shows John in North Lopham - 8, scholar, living with parents Benjamin (31, farm labourer) and Ellinor (29), and brothers Thomas James (7, scholar), William Robert (4, scholar), Arthur Ernest (2) and Benjamin (2m).³

At the time of the 1911 Census, John was living at The Green in North Lopham - 18, working on farm, living with grandfather James (widowed, 68, farming), aunt Sarah (46, housekeeper), and siblings Arthur (12, scholar) and Mary (6, scholar).⁴

No service record has been found for John. The only references to his military service is an absent voters entry for North Lopham, "200398 Pte., 1/4th Nfks." and a stay in the 19th General Hospital on 12 October 1917 for 4 days suffering with sandfly fever. From this it is likely that John was part of the British Salonika Force in the Balkans during the Gallipoli Campaign for some of his service.

On 19 Jun 1921, (the 1921 Census), he was living in North Lopham - 29, labourer), living with parents Benjamin (51, agricultural labourer) and Ellenor (49), and brothers Arthur (21, labourer), Benjamin (20, labourer), George (19, labourer), Horace R (16, labourer), Roger (13), Jesse (12), Royal (9), Frederick (7), Samuel (4) and James (2).⁵

John was recorded on the 1939 Register living at Ivy Dean, The Green in North Lopham - b. 09.05.1892, farm labourer, living with mother (widowed, b. 24.08.1871, unpaid domestic duties) and brothers Arthur E (b. 30.12.1898, farm labourer), George (b. 13 July 1902, farm labourer), Jessie (b. 07 January 1909, farm labourer), Royal (b. 07 July 1911, farm labourer), Samuel (b. 26 September 1916, farm labourer) and James (b. 10 December 1919, farm labourer).⁶

He died on 26 October 1953 in Norwich, Norfolk⁷

On 6 November 1953 there was a newspaper report in the Norfolk and Suffolk Journal and Diss Express:

**MR. J. E. BAKER
(NORTH LOPHAM)**

The funeral took place on Saturday at North Lopham Church, of Mr. John Edward Baker, who died after a short illness at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital at the age of 61. The eldest of thirteen sons, he had spent all of his life in North Lopham except when he served his country in Egypt during the 1914-18 war.

The service was conducted by the Rev. K. Liley and the organist for the hymns "Lead Kindly Light" and "Abide With Me" was Mrs. L. West.

The immediate mourners were Mr. and Mrs. W. Baker, Mr. A. Baker, Mr. and Mrs. B. Baker, Mr. G. Baker, Mr. H. Baker, Mr. and Mrs. R. Baker, Mr. J. Baker, Mr. R. Baker, Mr. and Mrs. F. Baker, Miss G. Baker, Mr. S. T. Baker, Mr. and Mrs. J Baker, Miss N. Baker, Mrs. B. Ransome, Mrs. M. Nolleth, aunt, Mr. J. Baker, uncle, Mr. Ray Garnham and Mr. L. Baker. His mother, now approaching 82 years of age, was unable to attend.

Others present included Mr. Harry Holden, Mr. Rudd, Mr. R.C. Frost, Mr. J. B. Gooderham, Mr. Albert Carman, Mr. A. Crook (also representing Mr. and Mrs. H. Crook), Mr. C. Baker, Mrs. F. Bussey, Mr. V. Smith, Mr. O. Shilling, Mrs. T. Reynard, Miss O. Brock, Mrs. C. Gibbons, Mrs. R. Bowhill and Mrs. B. Napthen.

Among the many beautiful floral tributes received were the ones from his former employer and his work-mates.

John had his estate probated on 4 December 1953 in Norwich - "BAKER John Edward of Ivydene North Lopham Norfolk died 26 October 1953 at Norfolk and Norwich Hospital Norwich Administration Norwich 4 December to Ellenor Baker widow. Effects £417 12s 9d."⁸

Note: Sandfly fever, or "pappataci fever" (a 3-day fever), was a significant, non-fatal viral illness causing severe headache, fever, and muscle pain among soldiers in World War I's Mediterranean theatre.

The Lopham Project (Family Historian Report)

Sources

1. *PR - Baptism*. North Lopham, Norfolk. Cit. Date: 16 October 1892.
2. *CR Birth*. 1892 Q2 Guiltcross Norfolk Vol 4B Page 262. Cit. Date: Q2 1892.
3. *1901 Census*. RG13 Piece 1866 Folio 5 Page 2 Schedule 10. Cit. Date: 31 March 1901.
4. *1911 Census*. RG14 PN11745 RD239 SD2 ED18 SN41. Cit. Date: 2 April 1911.
5. *1921 Census*. RG15 Piece 09901 Schedule 86 RD 239 RS 2 ED 18. Cit. Date: 19 June 1921.
6. *1939 Registration*. RG101/65881/017/2 Letter Code: TSDI. Cit. Date: 30 September 1939.
7. *CR Death*. 1953 Q4 Norwich Norfolk Vol 4B Page 546. Cit. Date: Q4 1953.
8. *National Probate Calendar*. 1953 Page 319. Cit. Date: 4 December 1953.