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## Robert Leonard BLOWERS (1896-c. 1939)

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### **Robert Leonard Blowers' connection to North Lopham is by residency and death.**

**Robert Leonard BLOWERS**, son of Robert James BLOWERS (c. 1861-c. 1944) and Matilda ROUSE (c. 1857-c. 1930), was born on 20 December 1896 in Colchester, Essex.<sup>1</sup> He was baptised on 14 February 1897 in Colchester - parents Robert James (publican) and Matilda.<sup>2</sup>

The 1901 Census (held on 31 Mar 1901) shows Robert at The Whig Inn in Boxted, Essex - 4, living with parents Robert James (39, beer retailer and farming) and Matilda (39).<sup>3</sup>

At the time of the 1911 Census, Robert was living at The Kings Head Inn in North Lopham, Norfolk - 14, scholar, living with parents Robert James (49, publican) and Matilda (49).<sup>4</sup>

Very little has been found about Leonard's military service. From a North Lopham 1918 absent voters list he is shown as "71263 Gnr., 153rd Hvy. Batty. R.G.A." He caught malaria and was hospitalised from 20 October 1918 to 14 October 1918 in No. 84 Stationary Hospital, No. 3 Convalescent Depot, situated at Le Tréport, in France, noted with 2 years service. Presumably, then, Leonard started his service around 1916.

On 19 Jun 1921, (the 1921 Census), he was living in North Lopham - 24, unemployed grocer, living with parents Robert James (59, licensed victualler) and Matilda (59, home duties).<sup>5</sup>

Robert married **Grace Catherine (Kate) SOLLY** on 29 June 1931 in North Lopham - groom, 34, single, grocers assistant; bride 36, single.<sup>6 7</sup>

On 3 July 1931 there was a newspaper report in the Diss Express and Norfolk and Suffolk Journal:

### ***NORTH LOPHAM***

**WEDDING.**

*The Rector, the Rev. C. J. Eastwood officiated at a very pretty wedding at North Lopham Church on Monday, when Miss Grace Catherine Solly, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Solly of Box Villa, North Lopham, was married to Mr. Robert Leonard Blowers, son of Mr. and the late Mrs. Blowers, also of North Lopham.*

*The bride, who was given away by her brother Mr. Edward Kerrison Solly, wore a dainty ankle length dress of flowered ninon with coatee and hat to match and carried a bouquet of roses and fern. She was attended by her sister Miss Evelyn Solly who wore a dress of blue flowered silk marocain with hat to match and the Misses Beryl and Eileen Fox in pink silk dresses with mob caps. Each bridesmaid carried a bouquet of sweet peas and fern and wore a string of pearls. The duties of best man were carried out by Mr. Frederick Stevens. Miss I. Stevens was at the organ and accompanied the hymn "The voice that breathed o'er Eden".*

*The reception was held at the home of bride's parents after which, Mr. and Mrs Blowers left for Yarmouth where the honeymoon is being spent.*

The Norfolk Public Houses website gives Robert as the landlord of the King's Head from 1933 to 1939. He took it over from his father, Robert.

Robert was recorded on the 1939 Register living at The Kings Head Public House in North Lopham - b. 20 December 1896, licensed victualler, living alone.<sup>8</sup>

He died circa 1939 in North Lopham - aged 41 years.<sup>9</sup> He was buried on 6 December 1939 in North Lopham<sup>10</sup>

**Spouse:**

Grace Catherine (Kate) SOLLY, daughter of Frederick Kedrrison SOLLY (c. 1868-1953) and Alice ALDIS (c. 1872-c. 1959), was born circa 1895. She died on 3 June 1939.

## The Lopham Project (Family Historian Report)

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### Sources

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1. *CR Birth*. 1897 Q1 Colchester Essex Vol 4A Page 663. Cit. Date: Q1 1897.
2. *PR - Baptism*. Colchester, Essex. Cit. Date: 14 February 1897.
3. *1901 Census*. RG13 Piece 1717 Folio 44 Page 10 Schedule 63. Cit. Date: 31 March 1901.
4. *1911 Census*. RG14 PN11745 RD239 SD2 ED18 SN15. Cit. Date: 2 April 1911.
5. *1921 Census*. RG15 Piece 09901 Schedule 45 RD 239 RS 2 ED 18. Cit. Date: 19 June 1921.
6. *PR - Marriage*. North Lopham, Norfolk. Cit. Date: 29 June 1931.
7. *CR Marriage*. 1931 Q2 Thetford Norfolk Vol 4B Page 808. Cit. Date: Q2 1931.
8. *1939 Registration*. RG101/6588I/014/10 Letter Code: TSDI. Cit. Date: 30 September 1939.
9. *CR Death*. 1939 Q4 North Walsham Norfolk Vol 4B Page 189. Cit. Date: Q4 1939.
10. *PR - Burial*. North Lopham, Norfolk. Cit. Date: 6 December 1939.