
William Ernest FORTIS (1896-c. 1977)

William's connection to North Lopham is by residency.

William Ernest FORTIS, son of Harry FORTIS (c. 1871-c. 1949) and Florence Emily FLATMAN (c. 1878-c. 1949), was born on 16 April 1896 in Bressingham, Norfolk.^{1 2}

The 1901 Census (held on 31 Mar 1901) shows William at Fen Street in Bressingham - 5, living with uncle Henry FORTIS (29, ordinary agricultural labourer) and his family.³

William was baptised on 22 November 1908 in Bressingham - born 16.04.1896, base born, mother Florence FORTIS.⁴

At the time of the 1911 Census, William was living at Valley Farm in Bressingham - 15, labourer on farm, living in the household of George PEARCE (69, farmer) and his family.⁵

William was attested into the military on 10 January 1916. - Yorkshire Regiment, Private 24263. On enlisting, William's father was given as Harry FORTIS, resident in North Lopham. William was transferred on 9 June 1916 to West Riding Regiment, Private 5872. From 15 June 1916 he served in France. From 20 November 1916 he served on home soil. He was transferred on 23 June 1917 to 411th Agricultural Company of the Labour Corps, and later to the 472nd Company. He was transferred on 25 July 1919 to Royal Army Medical Corps, Private 161212. He was discharged on 27 August 1920 return address: 13 North Street, Bridgetown, Cannock Chase.

In the 1921 Census (19 Jun 1921) he appeared at 3 North St, Bridgton in Cannock, Staffordshire - 25y 2m, clay wheeler, boarding in the household of Willie MITCHELL (56y 11m, jobbing bricklayer) and wife Mary Elizabeth MITCHELL (55y 2m) and their children Fred Charles (19y 7m, rope runner in mine), Jo Henry (18y 1m, gripper in mine) and Lily (24t 3m, assisting mother). (Willie's daughter Lily was to become William's wife.)⁶

William is shown on the 1920 and 1921 electoral registers as resident in North Lopham.

William married **Lily MITCHELL** on 19 June 1923 in Cannock.⁷

He was recorded on the 1939 Register in Cannock - b. 14.04.1998 (query accuracy), clay worker and feeder, living with Lily (b. 27.03.1898, household duties) and William MITCHELL (b. 21.07.1864, retired).⁸

He died circa 1977 - Civil Register showing dob as 16.04.1896.²

Spouse and known children:

Lily MITCHELL, daughter of William MITCHELL (-), was born circa 1897. She died circa 1970. She and William Ernest FORTIS had the following children:

Florence Lily FORTIS (c. 1925-c. 1925)

William Ernest FORTIS (c. 1927-c. 1927)

Sources

1. *CR Birth*. 1896 Q2 Guiltcross Norfolk Vol 4B Page 246. Cit. Date: Q2 1896.
2. *CR Death*. 1977 Q2 Cannock Chase Vol 30 Page 0547. Cit. Date: Q2 1977.
3. *1901 Census*. RG13 Piece 1865 Folio 111 Page 15 Schedule 104. Cit. Date: 31 March 1901.
4. *PR - Baptism*. Bressingham, Norfolk. Cit. Date: 22 November 1908.
5. *1911 Census*. RG14 PN11447 RD230 SD2 ED5 SN22. Cit. Date: 2 April 1911.
6. *1921 Census*. RG15 Piece 12981 Schedule 29 RD 368 RS 2 ED 9. Cit. Date: 19 June 1921.
7. *CR Marriage*. 1923 Q3 Cannock Staffordshire Vol 6B Page 1064. Cit. Date: Q3 1923.
8. *1939 Registration*. RG101/53871/012/31 Letter Code: ORKL. Cit. Date: 30 September 1939.