

George Philip HOLDEN (1886-1958)

George's connection to North and South Lopham is by birth, residency and death.

George Philip HOLDEN, son of James HOLDEN (c. 1816-) and Emily TURNER (c. 1844-c. 1925), was born on 1 April 1886 in North Lopham, Norfolk - mother's maiden name TURNER..¹ He was baptised on 5 September 1886 in South Lopham, Norfolk , the ceremony was conducted by Rev. J F BATEMAN, Rector - parents James (farmer) and Emily; living or born in North Lopham but baptised in South Lopham.²

The 1891 Census (held on 5 Apr 1891) shows George at Great Common in North Lopham - 5, living with parents James (45, farmer) and Emily (42), brother Alfred E (9, scholar), sister Florence E (1), and brother-in-law and sister Frederick W BOWELL (23, farmer's son) and Alice G BOWELL (19).³

At the time of the 1901 Census, George was living at The Village in North Lopham - 15, carpenter's apprentice, living with parents James (55, farmer) and Emily (57), and sister Florence Ellen (11, scholar).⁴

George was attested on 8 February 1904 at Diss. He was pronounced fit for duty on 12 February and was enlisted into the Royal Engineers, Sapper 13389, at Norwich, for 3 years and 9 years Reserve Service. On 23 December 1904 he left aboard the SS Dunera bound for Mauritius arriving on 17 February 1905. He served there until 1 March 1907. At the end of his agreed term of service, on 5 March 1907 George was placed on the Army Reserve. He was re-mobilised on 6 August 1914 and on 12 October 1914 left for British Expeditionary Force in France. (At some point he must have been promoted to Lance Corporal because on 2 October 1918 he had his stripes removed due to insolence to a Senior Non-Commissioned Officer.) On 2 March 1919 he was transferred to the Class "Z" Army Reserve.

George married **Annie Florence REEVE** on 22 December 1911 in Thetford, Norfolk.

On 19 Jun 1921, (the 1921 Census), he was living in North Lopham - 35y 2m, carpenter and wheelwright, living with his wife Annie (29y 2m, home duties), children, twins Philip (9y 2m, full time scholar) and Righteous (9y 2m 9y 2m, full time scholar), and stepson Eric REEVE (10y 10m 9y 2m, full time scholar) and brother-in-law Frederick REEVE (head of household, 47y 11m, farmer).⁵

George was recorded on the 1939 Register living at Church Corner, Diss Road in North Lopham - b. 01.04.1886, builder carpenter, living with wife Annie F (b. 09.04.1882, unpaid domestic duties), son Righteous H (b. 04.04.1912, grocer's assistant, A.R.P. Warden), and Frederick W REEVE (b. 10.07.1883, straw and reed master thatcher).⁶

He married **Florenve May BAKER** circa 1948.

He died on 17 October 1958 in South Lopham - aged 72 years.^{7 8} He was buried on 22 October 1958 in North Lopham, the ceremony was conducted by Rev. F W BURGESS.⁷

On 24 October 1958 there was a newspaper report in the Diss Express:

**MR. GEORGE P. HOLDEN
(NORTH LOPHAM)**

The Rector of Lopham, the Rev. F. W. Burgess, officiated at the funeral service on Wednesday at St. Nicholas Church, North Lopham, for Mr. George Philip Holden, of The Bungalow, Church Road.

Born at South Lopham, where his father farmed, Mr. Holden, who waqs 72 years of age, served in the 1914-18 war in the 13th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers in Belgium and France and he earned the 1914 Star.

A carpenter by trade, he spent a year as a carpenter in the Bowery, New York, and at one time worked for the old Merton and Turner's foundry at Kenninghall. From 1936 =until he retired, however, Mr. Holden was employed on various aerodromes. He was at one time a member of the British Legion but did not play a big part in the village

activities owing to his health.

Immediate mourners were: the widow; Mr. and Mrs. E. Reeve, daughter and son-in-law; Mr. and Mrs. P. Holden, son and daughter-in-law; Mr. T. Holden, son; Mr. and Mrs. F. Baker, brother-in-law and sister; Mr. C. Reeve, Mr. R. Reeve, Mrs. S. Reeve, grandchildren; Mr. and Mrs. H. Loveday, nephew and niece; Mr. and Mrs. G. Farr, sister-in-law and husband; Mrs. K. Pearson, great-niece.

Others present included [many named].....

Funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. P. W. Womack of North Lopham.

Spouses and known children:

Annie Florence REEVE, daughter of Righteous Reeve REEVE (-) and Elizabeth UNKNOWN (-), was born on 9 April 1882. She died circa 1943. She and George Philip HOLDEN had the following children:

Philip James HOLDEN (1912-c. 1969)

Righteous Harry HOLDEN (1912-c. 1983)

Florenve May BAKER, daughter of Frederick BAKER (1866-1947) and Frances LONG (c. 1870-1923), was born on 14 February 1896 in Hopton, Suffolk. She died circa 1996.

Sources

1. *CR Birth*. 1886 Q2 Guiltcross Norfolk Vol 4B Page 268. Cit. Date: Q2 1886.
2. *PR - Baptism*. South Lopham, Norfolk. Cit. Date: 5 September 1886.
3. *1891 Census*. RG12 Piece 1548 Folio 120 Page 21 Schedule 150. Cit. Date: 5 April 1891.
4. *1901 Census*. RG13 Piece 1866 Folio 10 Page 12 Schedule 87. Cit. Date: 31 March 1901.
5. *1921 Census*. RG15 Piece 09901 Schedule 58 RD 239 RS 2 ED 18. Cit. Date: 19 June 1921.
6. *1939 Registration*. RG101/6588I/007/20 Letter Code: TSDI. Cit. Date: 29 September 1939.
7. *PR - Burial*. North Lopham, Norfolk. Cit. Date: 22 October 1958.
8. *CR Death*. 1958 Q4 Wayland Norfolk Vol 4B Page 718. Cit. Date: Q4 1958.