
Walter Thomas HOLDEN (c. 1881-c. 1962)

Walter Thomas Holden's connection to North and South Lopham is by birth and residence.

Walter Thomas HOLDEN, son of Thomas HOLDEN (c. 1838-c. 1903) and Louisa CHENERY (c. 1838-c. 1922), was born circa 1881 in South Lopham, Norfolk.¹ He was baptised on 22 August 1886 in South Lopham, the ceremony was conducted by Rev. J F BATEMAN, Rector - born 1881, parents Thomas (labourer) and Louisa.²

Walter appeared in the 1891 Census at Redgrave Road in South Lopham - 9, scholar, living with parents Thomas (51, shepherd) and Louisa (50), and siblings Mary Ann (17), Arthur (22, agricultural labourer) and William (13, agricultural labourer).³

At the time of the 1901 Census, Walter was living in North Lopham, Norfolk - 20, living with his brother-in-law Arthur BROCK (24, farmer) and his family.⁴

Walter married **Eliza SMITH** on 6 December 1901.⁵

On 2 Apr 1911, (the 1911 Census), he was living at The Green in North Lopham - 30, farm labourer, living with wife Eliza (42) and children Eva (8, scholar), Thomas (6, scholar), Dennis (4, scholar) and Anna (1).⁶

Walter enlisted on 9 July 1916. - No.1 Depot, Royal Garrison Artillery, Fort Burgoyne, Dover, ser. no. 102422. Walter joined the 21st Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, gunner 376601. At on 11 July 1916. From 11 July 1916 to 19 September 1917 he served on home soil. From 27 March 1917 to 10 May 1917 was granted agricultural furlough. From 20 September 1917 to 11 October 1918 Walter served in France with the B.E.F. From 12 October 1918 to 24 October 1918 he had leave in the U.K. From 27 October 1918 to 4 April 1919 he served in France with the B.E.F. On 5 April 1919 returned to the U.K. On 7 April 1919 his demobilisation form shows his address to be The Green, North Lopham when leaving the military. Walter was transferred on 14 May 1919 to Class "Z" Army Reserve on demobilization.

In the 1921 Census (19 Jun 1921) he appeared in North Lopham - 40y 1m, agricultural labourer employed by Mr. James GOODERHAM, farmer, living with wife Eliza (52y 11m) and children Dennis (14y 4m, serve thatcher employed by Mr. Frederick REEVE) and Anna (11y 2m, full time scholar).⁷

On 19 August 1938 there was a newspaper report in the Norfolk and Suffolk Journal

and Diss Express:

A Cyclist's Retort.

It was stated by a police-constable that when he called on a North Lopham cyclist to stop, the cyclist did not do so. Later the cyclist shouted back, "I am going to keep riding", and then collided with the bank on the side of the road and fell off his cycle.

Walter Holden, North Lopham, a labourer, was summoned for riding a pedal cycle at Garboldisham on August 1st and was fined 10s. P.c. Gaskin who proved the case gave his evidence as stated above.

Walter died circa 1962 in Garboldisham, Norfolk.⁸ He was buried on 24 February 1962 in North Lopham, the ceremony was conducted by Rev. C E BEEVERS - aged 80 years.⁹

On 9 March 1962 there was a newspaper report in the Norfolk and Suffolk Journal and Diss Express:

MR. WALTER HOLDEN

(North Lopham)

A FUNERAL SERVICE for Mr. Walter Thomas Holden was held at St. Nicholas's Church, North Lopham, on Saturday. Mr. Holden, who was 80, had been in failing health for a year and had moved from "The Green" to the home of his youngest daughter at Uphall Cottages, Garboldisham. He had been a farm-worker all his life, apart from a period in the First World War. He had been a widower for several years.

The Rev. C. E. Beevers conducted the service, at which

Spouse and children:

Eliza SMITH was born circa 1869. She married Samuel GODDARD. She and Walter Thomas HOLDEN had the following children:

Eva HOLDEN (1902-)
Thomas HOLDEN (1904-)
Dennis HOLDEN (1907-)
Anna HOLDEN (1910-)

Sources

1. *CR Birth*. 1881 Q2 Guiltcross Norfolk Vol 4B Page 253. Cit. Date: Q2 1881.
2. *PR - Baptism*. South Lopham, Norfolk. Cit. Date: 22 August 1886.
3. *1891 Census*. RG12 Piece 1548 Folio 131 Page 16 Schedule 120. Cit. Date: 5 April

- 1891.
4. *1901 Census*. RG13 Piece 1866 Folio 11 Page 13 Schedule 94. Cit. Date: 31 March 1901.
 5. *CR Marriage*. 1901 Q4 Guiltcross Norfolk Vol 4B Page 685. Cit. Date: Q4 1901.
 6. *1911 Census*. RG14 PN11745 RD239 SD2 ED18 SN47. Cit. Date: 2 April 1911.
 7. *1921 Census*. RG15 Piece 09901 Schedule 34 RD 239 RS 2 ED 18. Cit. Date: 19 June 1921.
 8. *CR Death*. 1962 Q1 Norwich Norfolk Vol 4B Page 765. Cit. Date: Q1 1962.
 9. *PR - Burial*. North Lopham, Norfolk. Cit. Date: 24 February 1962.