
James KERRY (c. 1832-c. 1878)

James Kerry's connection to North Lopham is by birth, residence and death.

James KERRY, son of Samuel KERRY (1782-c. 1857) and Mary FISK (c. 1790-c. 1881), was born circa 1832 in North Lopham, Norfolk.

The 1841 Census (held on 6 Jun 1841) shows James at The Street in North Lopham - 9, living with parents Samuel (60, agricultural labourer) and Mary (45), and siblings Thomas (20, agricultural labourer), John (14), Mary (12) and Eliza (6).¹

At the time of the 1851 Census, James was living at The Street in North Lopham - 19, agricultural labourer, living with parents Samuel (78, agricultural labourer) and Mary (59), siblings Mary Ann (23) and Eliza (18), and niece Eliza (4m).²

On 27 May 1854 at Diss, James joined the 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade, Private 4220. His active service was up to 30 November 1859 (5 years 188 days), serving in the East Indies and India. At a Regimental Board held on 11 November 1859 he was deemed 'unfit for further service'. (At the board his character and conduct was noted as, "Very Good and further that he had not been entered in Company or Regimental Defaulter Book, and that he is in possession of one penny per diem [per day] good conduct pay".) He served until 18 September 1860 when he was finally discharged (an additional 293 days), His total service was 6 years 116 days.

(His being unfit for service was as a result of James being wounded at Oude on 12 April 1859. He was hit by a musket ball which fractured his right tibia and caused a shortening of his right leg. The Oude Campaign took place during the latter stages of the Indian Mutiny, when British Troops, including the Rifle Brigade, scoured the countryside around Oude and Rohilkund to suppress the remaining insurgent forces.)

On 7 Apr 1861, (the 1861 Census), he was living in North Lopham - 28,

Chelsea Pensioner, living with mother Mary (widow, 67, pauper), nephew William (7) and nieces Eliza (10) and Maria (2).³

James married **Anne LEATHERS** on 18 July 1861 in North Lopham.⁴

On 12 February 1870 there was a newspaper report:

PETTY SESSIONS REPORTS.

Diss.

Before the Revds. S. F. Bignold and C. R. Manning.

Riding without Reins. - John Beales was summonsd for riding on a waggon without reins, in the parish of Roydon, on 2nd February.

Defendant said: I got up to ride for a few yards as I saw the road was clear.

Fined 10s. and 5s. costs; in default 14 days' imprisonment with hard labour.

James Kerry of North Lopham, but who gave the name and was summoned as George Clarke, was charged with riding on a waggon without reins, on the 2nd February last, in the parish of Roydon.

Defendant, on being asked why he gave tho name of George Clarke, said: Mr. Frere frightened me, and I was not aware I had done go until my brother told me of it. I had been riding, but not when Mr Frere saw me.

Mr.Frere said : On the 2nd of February I was walking from Roydon to Diss, when I met John Balls and this man riding on waggons - standing on tho shafts. Balls gave me his name directly I asked him, and, after some trouble, this man said his name was Clarke, but refused to give me his Christian name. I took hold of him and told him I should take him to the police station if he did not tell me his Chrstian name. He then said his name wag George Clarke, and I let him go. There were three carts in the road. When I saw the two men in the distance they were riding, but when I came up to them they were walking. I have no doubt whatever about It.

After consultation the Chairman said they had considered the case, and they had no doubt when Kerry saw Mr. Frere he Jumped off the waggon. His case differed from the other Inasmuch as he gave a

wrong name. The penalty would be 20s. and 5s. costs; in default 21 days' hard labour. Committed.

At the time of the 1871 Census, James was living at Little Common in North Lopham - 40, agricultural labourer, living with wife Ann (30), and children Arthur (9), Ellen (7), Laura (4) and Albert (1).⁵

James died circa 1878.⁶ **Spouse and known children:**

Anne LEATHERS was born circa 1839. She and James KERRY had the following children:

Arthur KERRY (c. 1862-c. 1914)

Ellen KERRY (c. 1864-)

Laura KERRY (c. 1867-)

Albert KERRY (c. 1870-)

James KERRY (c. 1872-)

Rose KERRY (c. 1874-)

Emma KERRY (c. 1877-)

Florence Eliza KERRY (c. 1879-c. 1941)

Sources

1. *1841 Census*. HO107 Piece 775 Book 8 Folio 17 Page 29 Schedule 1167. Cit. Date: 6 June 1841.
2. *1851 Census*. HO107 Piece 1822 Folio 220 Page 30 Schedule 126. Cit. Date: 30 March 1851.
3. *1861 Census*. RG09 Piece 1236 Folio 150 Page 11 Schedule 55. Cit. Date: 7 April 1861.
4. *CR Marriage*. 1861 Q3 Guiltcross Norfolk Vol 4B Page 381. Cit. Date: Q3 1861.
5. *1871 Census*. RG10 Piece 1840 Folio 77 Page 28 Schedule 173. Cit. Date: 2 April 1871.
6. *CR Death*. 1878 Q4 Guiltcross Norfolk Vol 4B Page 181. Cit. Date: Q4 1878.