
Richard James MELTON (1897-1965)

Richard James Melton's connection to North Lopham is by residency.

(Richard's brother Arthur Francis MELTON may have also been in the military, a captain in the 6th West Riding Battalion but had no connection to the Lophams.)

Richard James MELTON, son of Arthur Barnard MELTON (1870-c. 1946) and Frances Alice CHAPMAN (c. 1871-c. 1958), was born on 6 September 1897 in Gressenhall, Norfolk.^{1 2} He was baptised on 24 October 1897 in Gressenhall - parents Arthur Barnard (farmer) and Frances Alice.³

The 1901 Census (held on 31 Mar 1901) shows Richard at Spring Farm in Gressenhall - 3, living with parents Arthur B (30, farmer) and Frances A (30), and brother Ernest (4).⁴

At the time of the 1911 Census, Richard was living at Quebec Farm in East Dereham, Norfolk - 13, scholar, living with parents Arthur Barnard (41, farmer) and Frances Alice (41, dairy work), siblings Ernest Arthur (14, helping on farm), Arthur Francis (7, scholar) and Harry Frederick (6, scholar), and domestic servant May KIRBY (18).⁵

On 25 January 1915 he was attested into the Army Reserve, ser. no. 12080 at Hounslow, to join the Royal Fusiliers on enlistment. Richard was discharged on 6 March because he made an incorrect statement as to age on enlistment. The address given at that time was Badley Moor, East Dereham and occupation motor engineer. He re-enlisted on 11 August 1917 and was posted to the Motor Transport Division, Royal Army Service Corps, Private 323347. Richard left Britain aboard the SS Willochra on 15 June 1918, arriving at Suez on 29 June. He joined the 648th Motor Transport Company. During his time in North Africa he suffered from malaria and spent time in hospital in Der Es Salaam and Kilossa. He was transferred to the Home Establishment of M.T. Depot Shortlands,

travelling to England on board the H.T. Veromej, leaving on 17 February 1919. He was demobbed on 17 June 1919 and transferred to the Class "Z" Army Reserve on 16 July 1919, residence given as Grange Farm, North Lopham.

In 1918 Richard was on the Absent Voters List for North Lopham, Norfolk at Grange Farm - no details given about his service.

On 19 Jun 1921, (the 1921 Census), he was living in North Lopham - 23y 9m, motor engineer, out of work, living with parents Arthur Barnard (51y 2m, manager) and Frances Alice (50y 6m, farmer), brother Harry Frederick (16y 3m, assisting with farm work), and cousin Mabel Victoria PALMER (24y 3m, home duties).⁶

Richard and **Kathlen Rose Maud HOWES** had marriage banns published on 25 November 1923 in North Lopham - other date banns read were 02.12.1923 and 09.12.1923.⁷ He married her on 26 December 1923 in Norwich, Norfolk - groom: 26, single, motor fitter, living at Grange Farm North Lopham; bride: 24, single, living in Norwich.^{8 9}

In 1925 the Electoral Register showed him living at Hill House in North Lopham - qualification by residency (living with his parents).

Richard was recorded on the 1939 Register living at 32 Ashby Street in Norwich - b. 06.09.1897, engineer fitter, living with wife Kathleen R M (b. 05.01.1899, unpaid domestic duties) and daughter Joan K (b. 13.03.1938, scholar, later PAGE).²

He died on 18 October 1965 in Norwich - aged 68 years.^{10 11}

He had his estate probated on 20 December 1965 in Norwich - "MELTON Richard James of 32 Ashby Street Norwich died 16 October 1965 at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital Norwich Administration Norwich 20 December to Kathleen Rose Maud Melton widow. £1256."¹¹

Wife and known children:

Kathlen Rose Maud HOWES, daughter of James H Demark HOWES (c. 1862-) and Susannah LARTER (c. 1862-), was born on 5 January 1899. She and Richard James MELTON had the following children:

Joan K MELTON (1928-)

Sources

1. *CR Birth*. 1897 Q4 Mitford Norfolk Vol 4B Page 268. Cit. Date: Q4 1897.
2. *1939 Registration*. RG101/6516H/002/39 Letter Code: TPNL. Cit. Date: 30 September 1939.
3. *PR - Baptism*. Gressenhall, Norfolk. Cit. Date: 24 October 1897.
4. *1901 Census*. RG13 Piece 1873 Folio 20 Page 7 Schedule 47. Cit. Date: 31 March 1901.
5. *1911 Census*. RG14 PN11516 RD232 SD4 ED2 SN34. Cit. Date: 2 April 1911.
6. *1921 Census*. RG15 Piece 09901 Schedule 102 RD 239 RS 2 ED 18. Cit. Date: 19 June 1921.
7. *PR - Banns*. North Lopham, Norfolk. Cit. Date: 25 November 1923.
8. *PR - Marriage*. St. Stephens, Norwich. Cit. Date: 26 December 1923.
9. *CR Marriage*. 1923 Q4 Norwich Norfolk Vol 4B Page 373. Cit. Date: Q4 1923.
10. *CR Death*. 1965 Q4 Norwich Norfolk Vol 4b Page 767. Cit. Date: Q4 1965.
11. *Government Probate Index*. 1965 Page 373. Cit. Date: 20 December 1965.