

## Gerald John O'CONNOR (c. 1860-c. 1918)

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**Gerald John O'Connor's connection to North Lopham is by residency.**

**Gerald John O'CONNOR**, son of Garrett B O'CONNOR (c. 1830- ) and Mary UNKNOWN (c. 1837- ), was born circa 1860 in Weedon, Northamptonshire.<sup>1</sup>

He appeared in the census on 2 April 1871 at High Street in Aldershot, Hampshire - 10, living with parents Garrett B (41, newspaper reporter) and Mary (34, milliner and dressmaker), and siblings Margaret (14), Maria C (8), Charles P (7) and Annie (5).<sup>2</sup>

Gerald enlisted on 8 May 1883 and joined the King's Royal Rifles, Private 933. He was posted to the 2nd Company K.R.R. on 1 Dec 1890 and promoted to sergeant. On 10 May 1892 he re-engaged to complete 21 years service. He moved to the 3rd Company on 10 May 1892 and then to the 9th on 6 Nov 1892. He was promoted to Colour Sergeant on 2 Jun 1896. Gerald transferred to the 3rd Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment on 5 Sep 1899. On 8 Aug 1900 he transferred to the 2nd West India Regiment and was Company Sergeant Major. His period of service were:

08.05.1883 - 27.11.1883: on home soil (204 days)

28.11.1883 - 29.05.1886: Egypt (2 years 183 days) [Gerald took part in the Eastern Sudan campaign in 1884, launched to protect the Red Sea port of Suakin and relieve besieged Egyptian garrisons following a major Mahdi uprising.]

30.05.1886 - 04.11.1892: Gibraltar (6 years 159 days)

05.11.1892 - 21.08.1900: Home ((7 years 290 days) [There was an army base at Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight, which was a historic station for the King's Royal Rifle Corps, and Gerald was married there in 1893, so he may have been serving there.]

22.08.1900 - 29.12.1902: St. Lucia, West Indies (2 years 130 days) [The 1st and 2nd Battalions of the West India Regiment were the main infantry force stationed at Morne Fortuné (Fort Charlotte). They were mainly

soldiers of African descent led by British officers and were there to protect the Caribbean and British colonial interest. In 1902 the Garrison played a vital role in providing humanitarian care to refugees following the eruption of Mount Pelée.]

30.12.1902 - 28.04.1903: Africa (120 days)

29.04.1903 - 31.08.1903: Home (125 days)

Total service: 20 years 116 days

He was discharged on 31 Aug 1903, being medically unfit for service.

Gerald married **Ellen BUCK** on 20 September 1893 in Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight.<sup>3 4</sup>

He appeared in the census on 2 April 1911 at Mill Cottage in Botesdale, Suffolk - married, 50, army pensioner and poultry farmer, living alone.<sup>5</sup>

Between 1913 and 1915 the Electoral Register showed him living at Yewtree in North Lopham, Norfolk - qualification by land and tenement.

Gerald died circa 1918

### **Spouse and known children:**

Ellen BUCK was born circa 1864. She and Gerald John O'CONNOR had the following children:

Katherine O'CONNOR (1894- )

Eileen Gertrude O'CONNOR (1896- )

Charles Patrick O'CONNOR (1897-1960)

Gerald O'CONNOR (c. 1900- )

## The Lopham Project (Family Historian Report)

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### Sources

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1. *CR Birth*. 1860 Q3 Daventry Northamptonshire Vol 3B Page 89. Cit. Date: Q3 1860.
2. *1871 Census*. RG10 Piece 816 Folio 97 Page 33 Schedule 190. Cit. Date: 2 April 1871.
3. *CR Marriage*. 1893 Q3 Isle of Wight Hampshire Vol 2B Page 1112. Cit. Date: Q3 1893.
4. *PR - Marriage*. Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight. Cit. Date: 20 September 1893.
5. *1911 Census*. RG14 PN10716 RD210 SD2 ED1 SN95. Cit. Date: 2 April 1911.