

The Lopham Project

Criminals and Miscreants



Edward FISHER

(1777 – 1819)

Nick Woods

This story is part of the Diss Family History Group's project looking at the history of the villages of North and South Lopham.

Many thanks go to Nick Woods for sharing this story.

More information on the project can be found on the D.F.H.G.'s [webpages](#).

**The cover picture is of Norwich Castle,
the approach to which was the place
of Henry's hanging.**

On August 28 1819 Edward FISHER, who had been convicted at the previous Norfolk Assizes of stabbing William HARRISON, was hanged on the Castle Hill, Norwich. "After receiving the sacrament he long held the cup and bread with the wildest expression of agony in his eyes and features".

He left a wife and seven children to lament the unhappy end of a husband and father. It was recorded 'he was of a reserved, sullen, and gloomy temperament in his religious profession as a Methodist, and to a certain degree of unsound mind'.

Subsequent to his execution, his body was conveyed to Bressingham for burial by fellow parishioner George FORTIS for internment there on August 31 1819.

(George FORTIS sadly met his end on the scaffold in Norwich less than 3 years later for arson, following the Agrarian Riots of 1822.)

Edward FISHER was likely from South Lopham, but late of Bressingham. He had probably married Ruth BARKER at St. Andrews Church South Lopham in May 1762.

What and where the stabbing occurred is unknown to me at this time. Perhaps an avid investigator or researcher can offer details?

But based on the date of his probable marriage and children's baptisms, one would surmise he was at least middle aged plus.

Nick Woods

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