
William John BALLS (c. 1877-c. 1928)

William John Balls' connection to South Lopham is by birth, residency and death.

William John BALLS, son of John BALLS (c. 1836-) and Mary Ann GARNHAM (c. 1842-), was born circa 1877 in South Lopham, Norfolk.¹ He was baptised on 9 September 1877 in South Lopham - parents John (sawyer) and Mary Ann.²

The 1881 Census (held on 3 Apr 1881) shows William at Low Common in South Lopham - 4, living with parents John (43, wood sawyer) and Mary Ann (36), and uncle Cornelius (46, retired wood sawyer).³

At the time of the 1891 Census, William was living at Low Common in South Lopham - 13, scholar, living with parents John (55, sawyer and farmer) and Mary Ann (48).⁴

On 31 Mar 1901, (the 1901 Census), he was living at Low Common in South Lopham - 23, timber sawyer, living in the household of his parents John (66, timber sawyer) and Mary Ann (58), and wife Maud Marion (22),⁵

William married **Maud Marion DOE** on 17 December 1906 in South Lopham.

In the 1911 Census (2 Apr 1911) he appeared at Low Common in South Lopham - 33, commission agent, living in the household of his parents John (74, old age pensioner) and Mary Ann (69), wife Maud Marion (32), and their son Aubrey W J (3).⁶

John was attested on 24 June 1916 and was put on the Army Reserve the following day. On 2 November 1916 John called up and on 8 November he was assigned to the Royal Army Medical Corps, Private 96565, initially serving on home soil. He went to Italy, travelling taking from 6 to 10 July 1917, and served there till 12 May 1919. He travelled back home, the journey taking from 13 to 17 May 1919, then serving on home soil until

demobilization on 14 June 1919, transferring to the Class "Z" Army Reserve. He served for a total of 2 years 356 days.

The 1921 Census (held on 19 Jun 1921) shows William at Low Common in South Lopham - 44y 0m, agricultural labourer employed by farmer Mr. A J GRAY, living with mother Mary Ann (widow, 80y 5m, household duties) and son Aubrey John (12y 11m, fulltime scholar).⁷

William died circa 1928 in South Lopham.⁸ He was buried on 30 April 1928 in South Lopham

On 4 May 1928 there was a newspaper report in the Diss Express and Norfolk and Suffolk Journal:

SOUTH LOPHAM.

FUNERAL. - The Late Mr. William John Balls (49), of Low Common, was interred on Monday, the service being conducted at the parish church by the Rev. C. J. Eastwood. Those present included Mr. Aubrey Balls (son), Mr. W.R. Grant, Mrs. Driver, Mr. David Prentice, Mrs. Brock, Mrs. Fuller, Mrs. Eaton (Redgrave), Mrs. Woodrow, Miss May Brock, Miss Queenie Brock, and Mr. W. Womack.

Spouse and known children:.

Maud Marion DOE was born circa 1879 in Redgrave, Suffolk. She and William John BALLS had the following children:

Aubrey William John BALLS (1908-)

Sources

1. *CR Birth*. 1877 Q3 Guiltcross Norfolk Vol 4B Page 237. Cit. Date: Q3 1877.
2. *PR - Baptism*. South Lopham, Norfolk. Cit. Date: 9 September 1877.
3. *1881 Census*. RG11 Piece 1973 Folio 68 Page 12 Schedule 246. Cit. Date: 3 April 1881.
4. *1891 Census*. RG12 Piece 1548 Folio 130 Page 13 Schedule 95. Cit. Date: 5 April 1891.
5. *1901 Census*. RG13 Piece 1866 Folio 23 Page 10 Schedule 68. Cit. Date: 31 March 1901.
6. *1911 Census*. RG14 PN11746 RD239 SD2 ED19 SN86. Cit. Date: 2 April 1911.
7. *1921 Census*. RG15 Piece 09901 Schedule 72 RD 239 RS 2 ED 19. Cit. Date: 19 June 1921.
8. *CR Death*. 1928 Q2 Thetford Norfolk Vol 4B Page 361. Cit. Date: Q2 1928.