
Edward Joseph BARDWELL (1884-1918)

Edward Joseph Bardwell's connection to South Lopham is by birth and residency.

His younger brother, Horace Alfred, also fought in the war and thankfully survived.

Edward Joseph BARDWELL, son of Marcus Kerr BARDWELL (c. 1858-c. 1936) and Elizabeth Emily SYMES (c. 1857-c. 1916), was born on 16 October 1884 in South Lopham, Norfolk.^{1 2} He was baptised on 30 November 1884 in South Lopham - parents Marcus Kerr and Elizabeth.³

On 5 Apr 1891, (the 1891 Census), he was living at School House, Blo Norton Road in South Lopham - 6, scholar, living with parents Marcus K (33, school master) and Elizabeth E (33, school mistress), siblings Esther E (12, scholar), Maude V (11, scholar), Marcus G (8, scholar), Edith M (4, scholar) and Harry (2), and Alberta CORBLE (14, general domestic servant).⁴

In the 1901 Census (31 Mar 1901) he appeared at 24 Gresham Street in London - 15, clerk, living in what appears to be a large boarding house.⁵

From 1901 to 1905 Edward was in the 3rd (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Volunteer) - only mention of this was on his attestation papers for The Great War.

He and **Annie Maria DURRANT** had marriage banns published on 31 July 1910 in South Lopham - other dates banns were read were 07.08.1910 and 14.08.1910; both were from this parrish and single.⁶ He married her on 14 August 1910 in South Lopham.⁷

Edward appeared in the 1911 Census at 1 Waverly Villas in Purley, Surrey - 25, warehouseman, living with wife Annie Maria (28).⁸

Edward was attested on 11 December 1915. On 12 December 1915 Edward was placed on the Army Reserve.

On 20 September 1916 he was posted to Norfolk Regiment, Private, Ser. No 265837, and served on home soil until 13 June 1917. On 13 June 1917 he was discharged enabling him to re-inlist in the 63rd (Royal Naval) Division Reserve, A.B., Ser. No.

R/3064, and served in France as part of the B.E.F.

He died on 14 January 1918 in France.^{9 2}

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission grave registration entry for Edward was "BARDWELL, A.B. Edward Joseph, R/3094. R.N.V.R. "Hawke" Bn. R.N. Div. 14 Jan., 1918. Age 33. Son of Marcus Kerr Bardwell and Elizabeth Bardwell, of South Lopham, Norfolk; husband of Annie Maria Bardwell, of 3, Sunnysdene Rd., Purley, Surrey."

(The "Hawke" in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR) refers to the Hawke Battalion, a famous unit within the Royal Naval Division (RND) during World War I, named after the celebrated Admiral Lord Hawke, comprising civilian volunteers serving alongside naval ratings and soldiers.).

On 25 January 1918 there was a newspaper report in the Diss Express and Norfolk and Suffolk Journal:

DEATHS.

BARDWELL - On January 14th, 1918, on the Western Front, after wounds received in Action, Edward Joseph R. N. R., and late of the 6th Norfolks, second son of Mr. Marcus K, and the late Mrs. Bardwell, of South Lopham, Norfolk, aged 33. R.I.P.

Edward is commemorated at Rocquigny-Equancourt Road British Cemetery, Manancourt - IX. C. 28.

He had his estate probated on 23 August 1918 in London. - "BARDWELL Edward Joseph of 3 Sunnysdene road Purley Surrey A.B. R.N. Division died 14 January 1918 in France on active service Administration (with Will) London 23 August to Annie Maria Bardwell widow. Effects £291 15s 11d".⁹

Annie Maria DURRANT was born circa 1883. She died circa 1961. She and Edward Joseph BARDWELL had the following children:

Edward Mercer BARDWELL (1912-c. 1998)

Sources

1. *CR Birth*. 1884 Q4 Guiltcross Norfolk Vol 4B Page 261. Cit. Date: Q4 1884.
2. *Armed Services Deaths*. Cit. Date: 14 January 1918.
3. *PR - Baptism*. South Lopham, Norfolk. Cit. Date: 30 November 1884.
4. *1891 Census*. RG12 Piece 1548 Folio 124 Page 1 Schedule 1. Cit. Date: 5 April 1891.

5. *1901 Census*. RG13 Piece 265 Folio 117 Page 7 Schedule 9. Cit. Date: 31 March 1901.
6. *PR - Banns*. South Lopham, Norfolk. Cit. Date: 31 July 1910.
7. *CR Marriage*. 1910 Q3 Thetford Norfolk Vol 4B Page 785. Cit. Date: Q3 1910.
8. *1911 Census*. RG14 PN3278 RD39 SD1 ED7 SN140. Cit. Date: 2 April 1911.
9. *Government Probate Index*. 1918 Page4 126. Cit. Date: 23 August 1918.