
Samuel Richard BETTS (1892-1944)

Arthur Thomas Betts' connection to South Lopham is by birth and residency.

Two of Samuel's brothers also fought in the Great War; Arthur Thomas sadly was killed but thankfully Thomas William survived.

Samuel Richard BETTS, son of Thomas BETTS (c. 1859-c. 1904) and Hannah Wright DOWNING (1858-c. 1932), was born on 4 September 1892 in South Lopham, Norfolk.^{1 2} He was baptised on 28 October 1892 in South Lopham , the ceremony was conducted by Rev. J F BATEMAN, Rector - parents Thomas (labourer) and Hannah.²

Samuel appeared in the 1901 Census at Rectory Road in South Lopham - 8, scholar, living with parents Thomas (42, threshing engine driver) and Hannah (42), and siblings Margaret M (14), Elsie Jane (13), Arthur Thomas (11, scholar), Bessie Hannah (9, scholar), Thomas William (6, scholar), Henry Albert (3) and Kate Thirza (1).³

No 1911 Census entry could be found for Samuel and he was definitely not a resident in South Lopham. He was shown to have been in military service in 4 different regiments (see below) so he may already have started his military career by the time of the Census.

The absent voter list for South Lopham shows Samuel serving as "T/2058 Sgt., 2nd (H.S.) Suffolks". From this service number he is found on a Pension Ledgers and Index Cards entry showing service with the East Surrey Regiment, Norfolk Regiment, Suffolk Regiment, M.P.S.C. (Military Provost Staff Corps), and Labour Corps, and with a home address of Corner Farm, South Lopham. The First World War Campaign Medals listing gives service numbers for Norfolk Regiment Private 7685 and the 2nd H.S. Garrison Battalion Suffolk Regiment Private 35335, and also gives a disembarkation date (?) of 16 August 1914. Another Service Medal And

Award Rolls Index gives a third service, East Surrey Regiment Private 12742.

At the time of the 1921 Census, Samuel was living at Low Common in South Lopham - 28y 9m, army pensioner, living with mother Hannah (widow, 62y 6m, household duties), brother Henry Albert (24y 1m, engine driver), and boarder Samuel Downing (70y 6m, old aged pensioner).

Samuel married **Annie Elizabeth CRISP** circa 1932.⁴

He died on 5 January 1944 in East Harling, Norfolk - age 51 years.^{5 6}

He had his estate probated on 12 July 1944 in Norwich, Norfolk - "BETTS Samuel Richard of 16 The Crescent East Harling Norfolk died 5 January 1944 at Garboldisham-Lopham-road East Harling Administration Norwich 12 July [1944] to Annie Elizabeth Betts widow. Effects £55."⁶

Spouse:

Annie Elizabeth CRISP, daughter of Arthur CRISP (-), was born on 31 March 1888 in Roudham, Norfolk.⁷

Sources

1. *CR Birth*. 1892 Q4 Guiltcross Norfolk Vol 4B Page 236. Cit. Date: Q4 1892.
2. *PR - Baptism*. South Lopham, Norfolk. Cit. Date: 28 October 1892.
3. *1901 Census*. RG13 Piece 1866 Folio 21 Page 5 Schedule 35. Cit. Date: 31 March 1901.
4. *CR Marriage*. 2943 Q2 Thetford Norfolk Vol 4B Page 711. Cit. Date: Q2 1932.
5. *CR Death*. 1944 Q1 Wayland Norfolk Vol 4B Page 274. Cit. Date: Q1 1944.
6. *Government Probate Index*. 1944 Page 451. Cit. Date: 12 July 1944.
7. *CR Birth*. 1888 Q2 Wayland Norfolk Vol 4B Page 270A. Cit. Date: Q2 1888.