

---

## William BOND (1878-1963)

---

**George Bond's connection to South Lopham is by residency and marriage.**

**William's brother George also fought in the Great War but sadly died.**

**William BOND**, son of John BOND (1846-1929) and Mary Ann BANHAM (1847-1937), was born on 7 April 1878 in Fersfield, Norfolk - mother's maiden name BANHAM..<sup>1</sup> He was baptised on 23 June 1878 in Fersfield - parents John (labourer) and Mary Ann.<sup>2</sup>

The 1881 Census (held on 3 Apr 1881) shows William at Hall Lane in Fersfield - 2, living with parents John (34, farm labourer) and Mary Ann (33), and siblings Josiah (half-brother, (14 farm labourer), Ely (11, scholar), Jane )6, scholar) and Frederick (11m).<sup>3</sup>

At the time of the 1891 Census, William was living at Wood Lane in South Lopham, Norfolk - 12, agricultural labourer), living with parents John (44, shepherd) and Mary Ann (43), and siblings Frederick (10, scholar), George (6, scholar) and Eliza (3).<sup>4</sup>

On 12 May 1896 William was attested into the army at Diss, aged 17 years 9 months, and joined the 3rd Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment, Private 3531. He did not remain in the military for long as he was "discharged by purchase" on 10 March 1897.

[In the British Army in the 1890s, "discharged by purchase" meant a regular soldier paid a some of money to buy their release from military service before their contract ended. Costs were usually around £18 after the initial three months of service. Many recruits used this option if they disliked army life or changed their minds.]

William and **Laura LUSHER** had marriage banns published on 5 September

1909 in South Lopham - other dates banns read were 12.09.1909 and 19.09.1909, both of this parish.<sup>5</sup> He married her on 2 October 1909 in South Lopham. The ceremony was conducted by Rev. C J EASTWOOD.<sup>6</sup>

On 2 Apr 1911, (the 1911 Census), he was living at High Street in Bressingham, Norfolk - 363, farm labourer, living with wife Laura (47) and step children Alice May (12, scholar) and Herbert Charles (9, scholar).<sup>7</sup>

On 7 September 1914 William was pronounced fit for service and enlisted on 8 September at Great Yarmouth, joining the Royal Garrison Artillery, Private 2119. (It was noted that he passed a course in cooking - was he an army cook?) He served on home soil till 24 January 1917, then he joined the British Expeditionary Force in France, returning to home soil on 17 April 1917. From 19 April to 15 May 1917 he was hospitalised with pleurisy. On 6 October 1918 he was transferred to the 431st Agricultural Company, Labour Corps., Private 662118. He was transferred to the Class "Z" Army Reserve on demobilization on 1 April 1919.

In the 1921 Census (19 Jun 1921) he appeared in Great Cowbridge, Essex - 43y 3m, married, engine driver for Essex Steam Rolling. (He was living alone, his wife was living in The Street, South Lopham with her son, Herbert Charles HOLDEN, from her first marriage.)<sup>8</sup>

William was recorded on the 1939 Register living at Royal Air Force Station, Back Row in Mildenhall, Suffolk - b. 07.04.1878, widowed, roller driver.<sup>9</sup>

It is possible that at the time of his death William he was living near to North Walsham and the death was registered there in Q2 1963. There is also a possible memorial in Cromer Cemetery.

### **Spouse:**

Laura LUSHER was born circa 1863. She married Henry HOLDEN on 18 April 1884. She died on 30 July 1937.

### Sources

---

1. *CR Birth*. 1878 Q2 Guiltcross Norfolk Vol 4B Page 248. Cit. Date: Q2 1878.
2. *PR - Baptism*. Fersfield, Norfolk. Cit. Date: 23 June 1878.
3. *1881 Census*. RG11 Piece 1971 Folio 99 Page 7 Schedule 1188. Cit. Date: 3 April 1881.
4. *1891 Census*. RG12 Piece 1548 Folio 152 Page 3 Schedule 26. Cit. Date: 5 April 1891.
5. *PR - Banns*. South Lopham, Norfolk. Cit. Date: 5 September 1909.
6. *PR - Marriage*. South Lopham, Norfolk. Cit. Date: 2 October 1909.
7. *1911 Census*. RG14 PN11447 RD230 SD2 ED5 SN5. Cit. Date: 2 April 1911.
8. *1921 Census*. RG15 Piece 08953 Schedule 112 RD 193 RS 1 ED 11, 12. Cit. Date: 19 June 1921.
9. *1939 Registration*. RG101/6675F/002/26 Letter Code: TZIS. Cit. Date: 30 September 1939.