

Harry FORTIS (1871-1951)

Harry Fortis's connection to North Lopham is by residence and death.

Harry's son Stanley Lancelot and (step?) son William Ernest both fought in the Great War and thankfully they both survived.

Harry FORTIS, son of William FORTIS (c. 1843-c. 1883) and Maria WITTON (c. 1847-1909), was born on 26 December 1871 in Bressingham, Norfolk.^{1 2} He was baptised on 26 March 1872 in Bressingham, the ceremony was conducted by Rev. G H C BIDWELL, Rector.³

In the 1881 Census (3 Apr 1881) he appeared at Chequers Lane in Bressingham - 9, scholar, living with parents William (38. agricultural labourer) and Maria (34), and siblings Emma S J (13), Edith E (6, scholar), Florence E (4), Ernest W (2) and Albert J (6 mos).⁴

Harry enlisted at Great Yarmouth, Norfolk on 1 September 1887 - stated he was 18!, to join the Norfolk Regiment, service numbr 2113. He joined the Norfolk Regiment (Ser, No. 2116) on 1 November 1887. From 11 March 1889 he served in the East Indies, first serving in Wellington, moving to Rangoon on 02.03.1891, Imballa on 02.03.1894, Dagshai on 01.04.1894, Imballa on 27.10.1894, Dagshai on 27.03.1895 (including a period in hospital from 27.07.1895 to 06.08.1895 with dyspepsia), Deolali (a transit post) on 25.09.1895, leaving the East Indies on 10.10.1895 on the S.S. Victoria, back on home soil on 20.11.1895. He was transferred on 24 November 1895 to the Army Reserve.

He married **Florence Emily FLATMAN** on 21 July 1897 in South Lopham, Norfolk - groom, 25, a labourer, his father William, a labourer, bride, age not given, her father Herbert, a farmer. The marriage was witnessed by John FORTIS and Annie FLATMAN. The ceremony was conducted by Rev. A CALDECOTT.^{5 6}

He was discharged on 31 October 1899 on the termination of his period of engagement.

On 13 March 1900 he joined the Corps of the Royal Reserve Regiment, attested at Norwich, and joined the Corps at Aldershot on 05.03.1900.

He appeared in the 1901 Census at Fen Street in Bressingham - 29, ordinary farm labourer, living with wife Florence (23), son Stanley (3), and Nephew Willie (5).⁷

On 2 Apr 1911, (the 1911 Census), he was living at Great Common in North Lopham, Norfolk - 39, farmer, living with wife Florence (31) and children Herbert (10, scholar), Doris (8), Nellie (7), Mildred (6), Olive (4) and Linda (2).⁸

Harry was attested and embodied on 6 October 1914 to the 4th Bn. Norfolk Regiment. Harry was promoted on 28 November 1914 to Corporal (provisional), confirmed on 02.12.1914. He was promoted on 26 December 1914 to Sergeant.

He was transferred on 28 July 1917 to the R.A.F. Wyton base in Cambridgeshire. He was transferred on 1 April 1918 to the R.A.F. He was transferred on 12 March 1919 to the R.A.F. General Reserve. He was discharged on 30 April 1920.

He appeared in the census on 19 June 1921 in North Lopham - 49:9, labourer working for S Worby farmer, living with wife Florence (44:1), children Stanley (23:8, labourer), Herbert (20, labourer), Doris (18:8), Linda (12:8, full time scholar), Harry (8:3, full time scholar), Queenie (6:11, full time scholar) and Jack (2:6), and boarder Sidney EMMS (26, labourer working for J LAND farmer).⁹

He was recorded on the 1939 Register living at 3 Council Houses, Kings Head Lane in North Lopham - b. 26.12.1871, part time gardener, living with wife Florence (b. 29.05.1878, unpaid domestic duties) and children Herbert K (b. 01.06.1901, builder's labourer), Horace H (b. 19.03.1913,

land worker), Queenie M (b. 20.07.1914, domestic servant) and Jack (b. 01.12.1918, land worker).²

He died on 9 March 1951 in North Lopham.¹⁰ He was buried on 14 March 1951 in North Lopham.¹¹

Spouse and children:

Florence Emily FLATMAN, daughter of Herbert FLATMAN (-) and Emily FLATMAN (c. 1859-c. 1878), was born on 29 May 1878 in South Lopham.²

On 16 April 1896 she gave birth to son William Ernest. He was always known as FORTIS so maybe his father was Harry FORTIS who had not at that time married Florence.

She died circa 1949.

Her father is uncertain. She names him as Herbert Flatman on her marriage record, but he could be made up. Born out of wedlock, mother died giving birth to Florence.

Florence Emily FLATMAN and Harry FORTIS had the following children:

- Stanley Lancelot FORTIS (1897-1975)
- Douglas FORTIS (c. 1898-c. 1899)
- Herbert Kitchener FORTIS (1901-c. 1983)
- Doris Rose FORTIS (1902-c. 1923)
- Nellie Selina FORTIS (c. 1904-c. 1979)
- Mildred FORTIS (c. 1905-c. 2002)
- Olive Mary FORTIS (c. 1907-c. 1990)
- Linda Elvina FORTIS (1908-c. 1979)
- Harry Redvers FORTIS (c. 1911-c. 1912)
- Horace Harry FORTIS (1913-c. 1991)
- Queenie M FORTIS (1914-c. 2005)
- Garnet Verdun FORTIS (c. 1916-c. 1916)
- Jack FORTIS (1918-c. 1998)

Sources

1. *CR Birth*. 1872 Q1 Guiltcross Norfolk Vol 4B Page 243. Cit. Date: Q1 1872.
2. *1939 Registration*. RG101/65881/004/1 Letter Code: TSDI. Cit. Date: 30 September 1939.
3. *PR - Baptism*. Bressingham. Cit. Date: 26 March 1872.
4. *1881 Census*. RG11 Piece 1971 Folio 91 Page 20 Schedule 1146. Cit. Date: 3 April 1881.
5. *PR - Marriage*. South Lopham, Norfolk. Cit. Date: 21 July 1897.
6. *CR Marriage*. 1897 Q3 Guiltcross Norfolk Vol 4B Page 475. Cit. Date: Q3 1897.
7. *1901 Census*. RG13 Piece 1865 Folio 111 Page 15 Schedule 104. Cit. Date: 31 March 1901.
8. *1911 Census*. RG14 PN11745 RD239 SD2 ED18 SN143. Cit. Date: 2 April 1911.
9. *1921 Census*. RG15 Piece 09901 Schedule 126 RD 239 RS 2 ED 18. Cit. Date: 19 June 1921.
10. *CR Death*. 1951 Q1 Wayland Norfolk Vol 4B Page 1072. Cit. Date: Q1 1951.
11. *PR - Burial*. North Lopham. Cit. Date: 14 March 1951.