
William HOLDEN (1891-1978)

William Holden's connection to North and South Lopham is by birth, residence and death.

William HOLDEN, son of Robert HOLDEN (c. 1849-c. 1925) and Fanny OFFORD (1850-c. 1924), was born on 28 November 1891 in South Lopham, Norfolk. He was baptised on 15 April 1892 in South Lopham, the ceremony was conducted by Rev. J F BATEMAN, Rector - parents Robert (labourer) and Fanny.¹

At the time of the 1901 Census, William was living at The Village in North Lopham, Norfolk - 9, scholar, living with parents Robert (51, horseman on farm) and Fannie (50), and siblings Robert (19, yardman on farm), George (16, agricultural labourer), Rose (14, living at home) and Ellen (11, scholar).²

The 1911 Census (held on 2 Apr 1911) shows William at Primrose Lane in South Lopham - 19, farm labourer, living with parents Robert (61, teamster on farm) and Fanny (60), and siblings Robert (29, farm labourer), George (26, teamster on farm) and Ellen (21, home work).³

William married **Clara Maria BAKER** circa 1916.⁴

No military service records have been found for William. From the South Lopham absent voters lists and a newspaper report of his funeral, it appears he was in the 2nd Lincolnshire Regiment, fought at the battle at Ypres on Passchendaele Ridge where he was wounded and consequently spent a considerable length of time in hospital.

[The Third Battle of Ypres, also known as the Battle of Passchendaele, was a major Great War campaign fought from July 31 to November 6, 1917. Allied forces fought the German army in Belgium for control of the ridges near Ypres. It became infamous for torrential rain, devastating mud, and horrendous casualties. Several battalions of the Lincolnshire Regiment fought during the battles at Passchendaele in 1917, notably the 2/4th,

2/5th, 7th, 8th.]

William has not been found for on the 1921 Census. From the newspaper report it says he was in hospital for almost 4 years so he could well have been in hospital at this time.

William was recorded on the 1939 Register living at The Street in North Lopham - b. 28.11.1891, farm labourer, living with wife Clara (b. 25.07.1897, unpaid domestic duties) and Edward R (b. 29.05.1824, cowman).⁵

He died on 3 August 1978 in North Lopham. He was buried on 8 August 1978 in North Lopham, the ceremony was conducted by Rev. R DARRAH - aged 88 years.⁶

On 25 August 1978 there was a newspaper report in the Diss Express and Norfolk and Suffolk Journal:

MR. WILLIAM HOLDEN

North Lopham

THE funeral service was held at North Lopham of Mr. William Holden, a First World War veteran who was seriously wounded during the battle of Ypres on Paschendale Ridge and spent almost four years in military hospitals.

William Holden, who lived at 6, Council Houses, served in the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment and after his return worked as an agricultural worker for many years, later as a gardener.

With his wife Clara, he celebrated their diamond wedding two-and-a-half years ago.

He was a lifelong member of the Royal British Legion. At the funeral service the branch was represented by its chairman Major Bill Belas and the banner was carried by standard bearer, Mr. E. Nolleth.

The immediate mourners were the widow, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Holden, Mr. and Mrs. E. Holden, Mr. and Mrs. R. Perry, masters Glen and Robert Perry, Mr. and Mrs. W. Baker, Master R. Baker, Mrs. E. Baker, Mr. R. Baker, Mr. and Mrs. E. Noble, Mrs M. Sturgeon, Mrs. J.,

Vanham, Mr. and Mrs P. Thaxter, Mr. Robert Baker, Mr. Royal Baker, Mr. and Mrs. A. Baker.

Many other friends were also present, and there were many floral tributes.

The service was conducted by the Rev. G. Darrah and Mrs. L. West was organist.

William is commorated in St Nicholas Churchyard North Lopham- "IN / LOVING MEMORY OF / A DEAR / HUSBAND AND FATHER / WILLIAM HOLDEN / 3RD AUG. 1978 / AGED 68 YEARS ALSO HIS BELOVED WIFE / CLARA / DIED 13TH MARCH 1980 / AGED 82 YEARS / RE-UNITED."

Spouse and known children:

Clara Maria BAKER, daughter of Edward Robert BAKER (c. 1873-c. 1939) and Anna Maria LUDBROOK (c. 1875-c. 1952), was born circa 1897. She died circa 1980. She and William HOLDEN had the following children:

Edward Robert HOLDEN (1924-2007)

Sources

1. *PR - Baptism*. South Lopham, Norfolk. Cit. Date: 15 April 1892.
2. *1901 Census*. RG13 Piece 1866 Folio 11 Page 13 Schedule 88. Cit. Date: 31 March 1901.
3. *1911 Census*. RG14PN11746 RG78PN649 RD239 SD2 ED19 SN9. Cit. Date: 2 April 1911.
4. *CR Marriage*. 1916 Q1 Thetford Norfolk Vol 4B Page 714. Cit. Date: Q1 1916.
5. *1939 Registration*. RG101/6588I/014/1 Letter Code: TSDI. Cit. Date: 30 September 1939.
6. *PR - Burial*. North Lopham, Norfolk. Cit. Date: 8 August 1978.