

Thomas COX (1842-1906)

Whilst quite sure that all this information is about the same person, there is some discrepancy in the year of birth - range from 1838 - 1842.

Thomas COX, son of James COX (c. 1786-c. 1871) and Elizabeth (Betsy) FISK (c. 1803-c. 1882), was born on 21 April 1842 in South Lopham, Norfolk.

On 30 Mar 1851, (the 1851 Census), he was living at Low Common in South Lopham - 10, scholar, living with parents James (60, agricultural labourer) and Elizabeth (49), and siblings Eliza (24), John (16, agricultural labourer), Walter (14, agricultural labourer), Edward (12, scholar), William (8, scholar) and Robert (6, scholar); surname given as COCK.¹

Thomas appeared in the census on 7 April 1861 at Low Common in South Lopham - 22, agricultural labourer, living with parents James (74, agricultural labourer) and Elizabeth (57), and siblings Henry (36, agricultural labourer), John (28, agricultural labourer), Walter (26, agricultural labourer), Edward (24, agricultural labourer), William (20, agricultural labourer) and Eliza (34); surname given as COCK.²

On 1 December 1862 he joined the Metropolitan Police Force, A Division, Scotland Yard

He appeared in the census on 2 April 1871 at King Street in Westminster, London - 29, Metropolitan police constable, boarding at King Street, Westminster, London.³

At the time of the 1881 Census, Thomas was living at 22 King Street in Westminster - 38, Police Constable, lodging at 22, King Street, Westminster, London.⁴

On 24 January 1885 Thomas, a policeman, was present when a bomb went off in Parliament and was injured. On 2 February 1885 Thomas was promoted to Police Sergeant

On 20 February 1885 there was a newspaper report in the Diss Express:

THE WESTMINSTER EXPLOSIONS. - In our inside columns will be found a paragraph stating the sums awarded to the two policemen, Cole and Cox, (the latter a native of South Lopham), from the Royal Bounty Fund, the Boe Street Reward Fund, and other sources, in recognition of their gallant conduct in connection with the dynamite explosions at the Houses of Parliament. It will interest our readers to learn that the Rev. J. F. Bateman, Rector of South Lopham, saw Thomas Cox at Westminster Hospital, on Tuesday last, and had

an interesting account of his marvellous escape. Cox is much better, but still rather deaf from the effects of the explosions. He said he had hardly got rid of the horrid taste of dynamite out of his mouth, and for the first few days it made everything he ate or drank taste loathsome! His friends in Norfolk are proud of his bravery and will gladly hear of the substantial rewards conferred him and his brother officer, and of their promotion to the rank of sergeant in the police force.

On 7 April 1886 Thomas retired from the Metropolitan Police:

***METROPOLITAN POLICE
Number on Pension Register: 6335
Whitehall Division
22nd April 1886
REPORT of PARTICULARS transmitted, by direction of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, to the Receiver for the Metropolitan Police District, relating to the undermentioned person Pensioned by order of the Secretary of State,
Thomas Cox
late a Police Sergeant Resigned from this Division on the 21st day of April 1886 with pay to the 6th day of April 1886, to which which day inclusive he has been paid, and he is entitled to a Pension of £78 0s. 0d. per Annun, commencing on the 7th day of April 1886.***

At the time of the 1891 Census, Thomas was living at Low Common in South Lopham - 50, farmer, boarding with Sophia COX (49, living on means).⁵

In the 1901 Census (31 Mar 1901) he appeared at Low Common in South Lopham - 57, police pensioner, living alone.⁶

Thomas died on 4 August 1906 in South Lopham.⁷ He was buried circa 1906 in South Lopham - No record of Thomas's burial has been found but there is a memorial.

He is commemorated in South Lopham churchyard - "Sacred to the memory of / THOMAS COX / who died August 3rd 1906 / Aged 68 years / On the 24th January 1885, Mr. Cox performed / a most heroic act in endeavouring / to prevent / a dynamite explosion at the / Houses of Parliament. / Where your treasure lies there / will your heart be also."

He had his estate probated on 2 October 1906 in Norwich, Norfolk - "COX Thomas of South Lopham Norfolk police-pensioner died 4 August 1906 Administration Norwich 2 October to Robert Cox farmer. Effects £2058 6s. 1d.".

Sources

1. *1851 Census*. HO107 Piece 1822 Folio 238 Page 16 Schedule 57. Cit. Date: 30 March 1851.
2. *1861 Census*. RG09 Piece 1236 Folio 170 Page 14 Schedule 94. Cit. Date: 7 April 1861.
3. *1871 Census*. RG10 Piece 126 Folio 60. Cit. Date: 2 April 1871.
4. *1881 Census*. RG11 Piece 117 Folio 44 Page 9 Schedule 240. Cit. Date: 3 April 1881.
5. *1891 Census*. RG12 Piece 1548 Folio 130 Page 13 Schedule 93. Cit. Date: 5 April 1891.
6. *1901 Census*. RG13 Piece 1866 Folio 23 Page 10 Schedule 69. Cit. Date: 31 March 1901.
7. *CR Death*. 1906 Q3 Thetford Norfolk Vol 4B Page 213. Cit. Date: Q3 1906.