

Colchester Men

who fought at

The Battle of Waterloo

18th June 1815

At the time of writing this, we have three men who are known to have fought at the Battle of Waterloo. Two were born and bred Colchester men and another, a Sussex man who settled and spent most of his life in Colchester.

JESSE JONES (1788 – 1868)

Jesse Jones was born in Ripe, Sussex, and at the age of 18 (he was actually 17) joined the army as a Private, rising to the rank of Serjeant, but later to be made a Captain.

He is listed in the medal rolls for the 1st Regiment of Foot Guards, an extract of which are shown below.

1 st Regiment of Foot Guards										Remarks
No	Names and Rank	Hoop or Company	Command	Barrosa	S ^t Sebastian	Stavelle	Stive			
31	Howard Tho ^s	4 th Co. Rantink	✓							
33	Hazle John	" Martin	✓							1 1/2
9	James George	4th Co. Rantink	✓							
11	Jones Edward	" Davis	✓							
25	Jones John (by injury)	" 4th Co.	✓							
29	Islet George	" Rivers	✓							
31	Johnson Joseph	" Hyton	✓							

He is shown three up from the bottom, of 4th Company, with a check against Barrosa and a note stating 'This man allowed in the officer's list'. Note that these Medal Rolls show him as Serjeant Major, not simply Serjeant.

The following (date unknown) 'Return of Officers' document confirms that our man rose to the rank of 'Captain and Adjutant or the Essex Militia' (later to become the Essex Rifles), shown as 'formerly Serjeant in 1st Foot Guards', again mentioning Barrosa, a battle fought on 5th March 1811.

Return of Officers continued. 20			
Names & Rank	Regiment and Rank in which the Claimant formerly served.	Battles and Sieges at which the presence of each Claimant has been verified by the Board	No of Actions admitted in each Case.
828 Johnson W. A. Lieut. Col.	Major. 32 nd Foot.	Rolida. Vimiera Corunna	✓ 3
9 Sagar Obathaw ✓	Lieut. 32 nd Foot.	Thames. Minster. Min. (other)	✓ 1
2 Jackson Basil late Major Roy. Magazine Train.	Sub. R. W. Train.	Nov, Orthes, Toulouse. Corunna Vittoria. Pyrenees.	✓ 3
3 Jones Jesse, Capt. & Adj. East Essex Militia.	Serjeant. 1 st Foot Guards	Barrosa	✓ 1
4 Jones Thos. Capt. & Adj. Essex Militia	Serjeant 1 st Foot Guards	Corunna.	✓ 1



Barossa 1811

The Waterloo Medal Rolls refer to him as 'Serjeant Jesse Jones of the Light Company 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards under Lieutenant Colonel Pack's Company'.



As to how Jesse moved from Serjeant to Captain, seems to be explained by a letter to the local press in Colchester, from his eldest son, many years later and after Jesse's death (as is shown below). There, it was stated that, 'the first engagement he [Jesse Jones] was in was the Battle of Barrosa in Spain, on 5th March 1811, where he was promoted on the field for securing the colours of his battalion, tattered and torn.

The letter tells us that, afterwards he fought at Badajoz: then at Bergen up Zoom (where he was wounded); and afterwards at the Siege of Cadiz, which was the fiercest engagement he was ever in); in various skirmishes in Holland and Belgium under the late Lord Lyndock; and finally at Waterloo, when he was knocked down by a musket shot within an hour of the termination of the war. After some years he retired from the Guards with a long distinguished and meritorious service pension, and

was then appointed Captain and Adjutant of the East Essex Militia, which was at that time the only commission in the services signed by the reigning Sovereign's own hand and given to an old soldier for distinguished services.'

The Statement of Service shown on the following page tells us that he enlisted in Sussex in the First Regiment of Foot Guards, at the age of 18 years, in January 1804, and for an unlimited period of service. His colonel was His Royal Highness the Duke of York.

His total period of service 20 years and 294 days, that comprising 2 years and 322 days as a Private, 3 years and 299 days as a Corporal, 14 years and 38 days as a Serjeant.

Apportioning these service periods to actual dates, we get,

January 1804 plus 2 years 322 days giving us November 1807,

When he gets promoted to Corporal, taking us to:

November 1807, plus 3 years 99 days, giving us February 1811.

When he gets promoted to Serjeant.

That fits fairly well with the family story that he was promoted in the field during the Battle of Barrosa on 5th March 1811. He then went on to serve for 14 years and 38 days as Serjeant.

He was discharged on 12th April 1823 with the rank of Serjeant, in consequence of 'Rheumatism and being wounded through the left side at Waterloo'. It states that he had never been court martialled and that his general conduct was good. The document suggests that he was accorded 2 years of service, referenced under Waterloo. It also suggests (written in pencil) a further 10 years of (nominal?) service under the rank

42 Essex

1st Grenad. Regt.

HIS MAJESTY'S



of Foot Guards

Whereof His Royal Highness The Duke of York & Albany is Colonel.

These are to Certify,

I. **Age and Enlistment.** THAT Jesse Jones born in the Parish of Ripon in or near the Town of Leeds in the County of Supers was enlisted for the aforesaid Regiment at Leeds in the County of Supers on the 17 Day of September at the Age of Eighteen for Unlimited Service.

II. **Service.** THAT he hath served in the Army for the space of 17 Years and 4 Days, after the Age of Eighteen, according to the subjoined

STATEMENT OF SERVICE.

IN WHAT CORPS.	PERIOD OF SERVICE.		Serjeant Major.		Qr. Mast. Serjeant.		Serjeant.		Corporal.		Trumpeter or Drummer.		Private.		Total Service.	
	From	To	Yrs.	Days	Yrs.	Days	Yrs.	Days	Yrs.	Days	Yrs.	Days	Yrs.	Days	Yrs.	Days
<u>Foot Guards</u>	<u>25 June 1804</u>	<u>14 April 1823</u>					<u>12</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>29</u>			<u>2</u>	<u>322</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>294</u>
<u>Waterloo</u>							<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>							<u>2</u>	
Total of Service....							<u>14</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>29</u>			<u>2</u>	<u>322</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>294</u>
In East or W. Indies.																

III. **Authority and Cause of Discharge.** THAT by Authority of H.R. Highness The Duke of York dated 12th April 1823, HE IS HEREBY DISCHARGED in consequence of Accumulation & being wounded through the left breast at Waterloo

IV. **Not disqualified for Pension.** THAT he is not to my knowledge, incapacitated by the Sentence of a General Court Martial, from receiving Pension.

V. **Character, &c. &c. &c.** THAT his general Conduct as a Soldier has been good

VI. **Settlement of all Demands.** THAT he has received all just Demands of Pay, Clothing, &c., from his Entry into the Service to the date of this Discharge, as appears by his Receipt underneath.

VII. **Acknowledgment of the Receipt of all Demands.** I Jesse Jones do hereby acknowledge that I have received all my Clothing, Pay, Arrears of Pay, and all just Demands whatsoever, from the time of my Entry into the Service to the time of this Discharge.

Certified by Thos Christie Sergeant

Signature of the Soldier. Jesse Jones

VIII. **Description &c. &c. &c.** TO prevent any improper use being made of this Discharge, by its falling into other Hands, the following is a Description of the said Sergeant Jesse Jones. He is about thirty seven Years of Age, is 5 Feet 8 Inches in height, light Hair, grey Eyes fair Complexion, and by Trade or Occupation a Labourer

Given under my Hand, and the Seal of the Regiment, at London this 17 Day of April 18 23

Signature of the Commanding Officer

of Serjeant Major. However, we would need expert verification of this latter information to be clear about what is written. The document also suggests (written in pencil) that he served one of those years under-aged.

There is a date in pencil of 17th September 1804, which could indicate the true start date of service, when he had attained the age of 18, fixing his birth date as 17th September 1786. He was baptised 21st October 1787, so, indeed, he was 17, not 18 when he enlisted. Did they pay him in full, after discovering his lie? The document states that they did – but they wouldn't have known that then, would they?

Upon leaving the Grenadier Guards, he was appointed Captain and Adjutant of the East Essex Militia, as mentioned previously, and he removed to live in Colchester.

Non-commissioned officers in the infantry were sergeants and corporals. In addition to the direct leadership of the rank and file entrusted them, the commissioned officers happily surrendered the routine administration of the companies and regiments to the sergeants. Senior non-commissioned posts, such as colour sergeant, introduced in 1813, and sergeant major, were strictly speaking not ranks, but appointments. Appointment as sergeant major was the capstone of a successful career as non-commissioned officer, symbolised by an officer like uniform. Selection for this post was based on capability as a drill instructor, but to the same extent also of skills at writing and counting. About ten percent of officers had first served in the ranks before being commissioned. Old and experienced sergeants were often commissioned, in order to get competent disciplinarians or administrators. Adjutants were often promoted from the ranks. Most of them had many years of service behind them and it was very difficult for them to be promoted to higher ranks. This seems to agree with Jesse Jones' story.

In 1829, he was a member of the 40 Thieves, in Colchester, an association created to combat crime in the borough. This would have fitted well with his job as adjutant in the British Army system. See the newspaper cutting. Dated 2nd September 1899, here.

Following this heroic period of his life he settled in Colchester, at some time after 1841, becoming a farmer in Abberton. By 1851, he had, presumably, given up his military service as he is described as a farmer and with no mention of his military connection. He is shown in the 1841, 1851 and 1861 censuses, as follows.

The 1841 census for St Botolph, Colchester, shows him, with his wife Mary living in Military Road, Colchester, he described as 'Army Captain', as follows.

The CHAIRMAN proposed "The health of the Secretary and Solicitors." He said that the success of this Association for many years had depended upon a generation of Churches. (Laughter.) Mr. Church's uncle was a well-known member and Secretary of the Society, and his brother, the father of the present Mr. A. E. Church, also held the office of Secretary, and in their present Secretary they all agreed they had a most efficient aid to the Society. (Applause.) Mr. Church was perfectly indefatigable, and the details of the arrangements for this meeting were so engraven on his mind that he (Mr. Moy) believed he could not leave anything undone that ought to be done. (Laughter.) It was impossible also to speak too highly of the solicitors of the Association; his experience was that they conducted their cases with great success. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. CHURCH, in response, said this Society did not only prevent crime, but it at the same time created a good feeling amongst its members, for whenever they assembled at those dinners they did not care what political or religious views they took, they all met on the same level. The Chairman had spoken as to the largeness of the balance, and he might mention that it was the largest since 1842, which spoke well for the Association. He also mentioned that he and his predecessors in the family had been connected with the Society for 57 years. With reference to good old Colchester names that had been connected with the Society, he might mention that on looking over the books he found that the Committee appointed to revise the rules after the year 1828, included the names of Fenton, Mr. Edward Daniell, and Mr. John Chaplin, father of Mr. Samuel Chaplin. In 1829 there was an old Waterloo veteran appointed on the Committee, viz., Captain Jesse Jones, the father of Mr. Henry Jones. (Applause.) He humorously mentioned that the Society was very often called the 40 thieves, but in consequence of the large increase in their number, they were now called the 240 thieves. (Laughter.)

Mr. JONES humorously replied, remarking that owing to this Association a great deal of the work of the lawyers had practically gone, for during the whole year there had not been a single prosecution at the Quarter Sessions at the expense of a single person who belonged to this Society, so the thing cut both ways. (Laughter.) The fact was, he believed, no one would rob members of this Association. Boys might commit petty depredations, but full-fledged criminals abstained from robbing members of this Society. (Laughter.)

Mr. PRIOR also replied in a jocular speech. Mr. DANIELL gave "The Committee," for whom Mr. ARGENT returned thanks, and the company dispersed.

PLACE	HOUSES		NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born	
	Uninhabited or Building	Inhabited		Males	Females		Whether Born in same County	Whether Born in Scotland, Ireland, or Foreign Parts
Military Road			Sarah Elean		5		✓	
			William Elean	37		W. Elean	✓	
			Mahale Dr		19		✓	
Do			Jesse Jones	50		Army, Capt	✓	
			Harry Dr		50		✓	
			Celia Dr		16		✓	
			George Dr	15		Butcher	✓	
			Thomas Dr	12			✓	
			Y. Dr	30		Miller	✓	

The following newspaper item dated 23rd January 1849, appeared in a Colchester edition.

We understand that Captain Jones, of this town, has just received from Lord Fitzroy Somerset, military secretary to his Grace the Commander-in-Chief, a silver medal and clasp, for his services in the battle of **Barrosa**, Spain, 1811, in which action he was promoted on the field for securing the colours of his battalion, the centre of which was almost entirely destroyed, and when the company to which he belonged had no less than 56 killed and wounded in about an hour and 20 minutes.

The 1851 entry (below) notes that he was a farmer of 100 acres, at an address on the Fingringhoe Road in St Botolph parish.

Fingringhoe Road	Jesse Jones	Mar	63	Farmer 100 Acres	Sursey Pipe
	Mary 50	Wife	60	Farmer's Wife	Suffolk, Ipswich
	Thomas F. 10	son	22	Template Worker	Essex, Colchester
	Alfred J. 6	Son	20	Farmer's Son	do 1 st
	Elizabeth 4	Servt	21	House Servant	do, Fingringhoe

In 1852, his wife Mary died and he remarried the following year to Rebecca Lee, some 43 years his junior, as evidenced by the 1861 census.

1853. Marriage solemnized in the ^{Totterdean Fields} District Church of St Mary in the Parish of St John the Evangelist in the County of Gloucestershire

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
265	November 30 th 1853.	Jesse Jones	44 ^{yrs}	Married	Baronet	21 New Street	John Jones	Labourer
		Rebecca Lee	44 ^{yrs}	Single	—	22 Buckingham Cottages	James Lee	Labourer

Married in the ^{Fields} District Church of St Mary according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England after Banns by me, Wm. Baradour

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Jesse Jones in the Presence of us, Thomas Jones and Mary Ann Jones
Rebecca Lee

There is some element of doubt about his first wife's identity. We have a Mary Nye and a Mary Beal. The 1851 census tells us that she was born in Ixworth, Suffolk, yet we can find baptisms for neither of them having been born there (birth certificates did not exist in those days). Also, the children's birth dates do not add any further clues, Jesse and Mary Jones being quite common names.

The 1861 entry (below) shows him to be a farmer and notes that he was 'formerly with the army'.

of	HOUSES		Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born
	Inhabited	Uninhabited (A.), or Building (B.)				Male	Female		
1			Jesse Jones	Head	Mar	75		Farmer (formerly in the army)	Essex; Nibley
			Rebecca Jones	Wife	Mar	45	1	Farmer's Wife	Essex; Langenhoe
			Ann Ed. Bullock	Serv	W	45	1		Bucks; Windsor
			Harriet Jones	Serv		7	1	Scholar	Essex; Langenhoe
			William C. Jones	Serv		14			Essex; Langenhoe
			Ann Jones	Serv		2			Essex; Langenhoe
			Elizabeth Wright	Serv	W	15	1	House Serv	Essex; Langenhoe
1			George Kennedy	Head	Mar	37		Polic Constable	Essex; Langenhoe
			Stephen Jones	Wife	Mar	38	1		Essex; Langenhoe

His family tree, gratefully shared with us by Jesse's descendant Richenda Naylor, shows us that he was prolific. He had 12 children by his first wife Mary (née Nye or Beal) and a further 4 by his second wife Rebecca (née Lee), the last child born in Jesse's 74th year.

His obituary (as transcribed below) repeated much of what we have already stated.

Essex Standard - 27th November 1868

Death of a Waterloo Veteran – In our obituary we have had to record, at the ripe old age of 81, the death of Captain Jesse Jones, a name well known and deservedly respected in this town. The deceased officer entered the army at the early age of 18, and was present with his regiment, the Grenadier Guards, throughout nearly the whole of the Peninsular Campaign, at the storming of Bergen-op-Zoom (where he was slightly wounded), at various other engagements, and finally at Waterloo, where at the latter part of the last day of that ever memorable engagement he was shot through the breast by a musket ball, and had to be removed from the field of battle. The ball referred to passed out at his back, and being then well spent lodged in his clothes, where on undressing the gallant officer it was found, much flattened, and he always felt great pride in showing it, with other trophies, to his friends. On leaving the Grenadier Guards he was appointed Adjutant to the East Essex Militia (now the Essex Rifles), and on resigning his commission in which, the authorities, from regard for his long services, awarded him full pay to the day of his death. He

was in possession of the Waterloo and long service medals, and several clasps. His remains were this day interred in the family grave in St Botolph's Churchyard, in the presence of a great many spectators and private friends.

But the story doesn't stop there, for one of Jesse's sons was destined for great things in Colchester. The formidable Henry Jones (one of Andrew Phillips' 10 Great Men of Colchester) became a Colchester solicitor, was a member of Colchester Council for 13 years, was Town Clerk for three years and was active in many other areas. Henry would often refer to himself as being the son of a Waterloo veteran. Richenda Naylor adds:

My line is through George Jesse Jones, brother of Henry. Unfortunately Henry went on to be a lawyer whereas George Jesse was a bit of a bad boy. Two of George Jesse's sons also join the army. Octavius Jones had a long career while Henry (my great grandfather) becomes a drummer and was invalided out after 13 years (with a heart condition).

As far as the rest of Jesse's children go, two sons emigrated to Australia. We know what happens to one while the other disappears. His elder daughters make good marriages in Colchester and are linked to the Tetrells and the Priors (of Asher Prior Bates solicitors). Arguably the Priors are more successful than Henry Jones, but the family seems to have bred far too many lawyers and barristers!

So far as Jesse is concerned. He was born in Ripe in Sussex. His father was John Jones and mother Sarah. There are at least three brothers, Thomas, David and Jesse, and three sisters. Jesse joins the 1st Foot. In the records there are also Thomas and David listed and I think it would be reasonable to assume that all three of them joined up at the same time.

We have a transcript of Jesse's will. In it he refers to a medal from the Battle of Barrosa, and the musket ball with which he was wounded, both of which are bequeathed. I think he must have been promoted from the ranks and he becomes a "Chelsea pensioner" and is settled in Colchester in the 1841 census, as we know and becomes Adjutant of the Essex militia. He left an estate of approx. £3000 which was significant at the time - mostly in trust for his offspring.

On the following pages we include a few newspaper items that add to Jesse's life story. One of these mentions how Jesse Jones was added to the committee of a group known as the '40 Thieves', a group that is still, to this day, alive and well, having been continued by the elders of the town over these past many decades.

We know from the newspaper obituary that Jesse was buried in the family plot in St Botolph's churchyard, but where exactly. We probably have the answer due to a re-organisation of the churchyard grounds in and the discovery of a buried monument by the Colchester Archaeological Trust. Their notes read:

Following the removal of a shrub in the eastern part of the churchyard, the remains of a low grave monument (F3; Fig 2 & Plate 2) were exposed. This consisted of a stone slab, which measured 1.93 m by 1.17 m and was aligned east-west. It was set on at least two courses of brick. On the slab were the remains of a marble kerb, which measured 1.62 m by 0.8 m. Within the kerb were several loose gravestone fragments, which were not in their original positions and were placed flat. One of these was a weathered headstone which read:

‘TO THE MEMORY OF
MARY THE WIFE OF
CAPT JESSE JONES
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
THE [?] DAY OF AUGUST 18[52]
AGED [61] YEARS
SINCERELY LAMENTED’

This monument, in pitiful condition at that time, has since been consolidated and the headstone incorporated into the plinth.



Colchester Library has a collection of handwritten books of monumental inscriptions that were transcribed around 1890 and which, because of the lack of acid rain and general weather deterioration of the gravestones that has occurred over more than a century, gives the modern day researcher very useful additional information about deceased persons. In this case, we were able to determine the following details of Jesse Jones’ family monument as follows:

In memory of
William youngest son of
Capt. Jesse Jones
And Mary his wife
Who died 29th March 1847
Aged 13 years & 6 months.

To the memory of

Mary the wife of

Capt. Jesse Jones.

Who departed her life

The 14th day of August 1852

Aged 61 Years

Sincerely lamented

In affectionate remembrance of

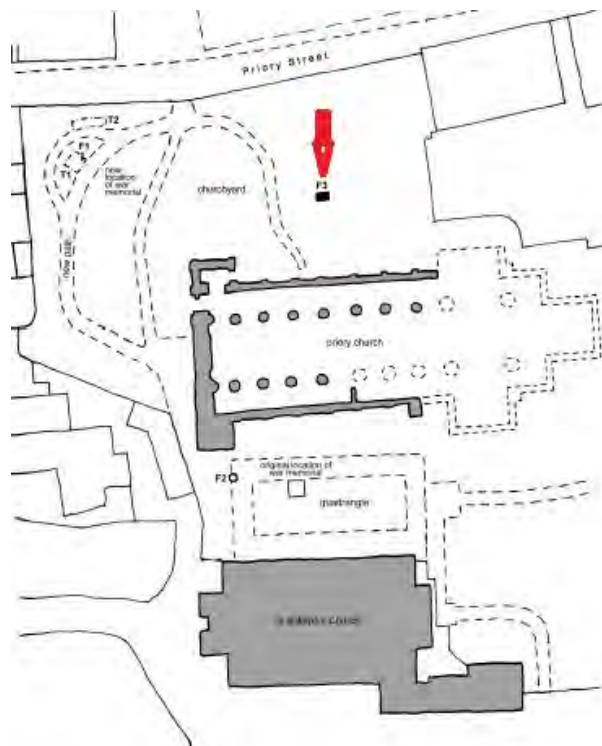
Jesse Jones, late Captain

And Adjutant of the East Essex Militia

Who departed this life Novr 20 1868

Aged 81 years.

Peace to his memory.

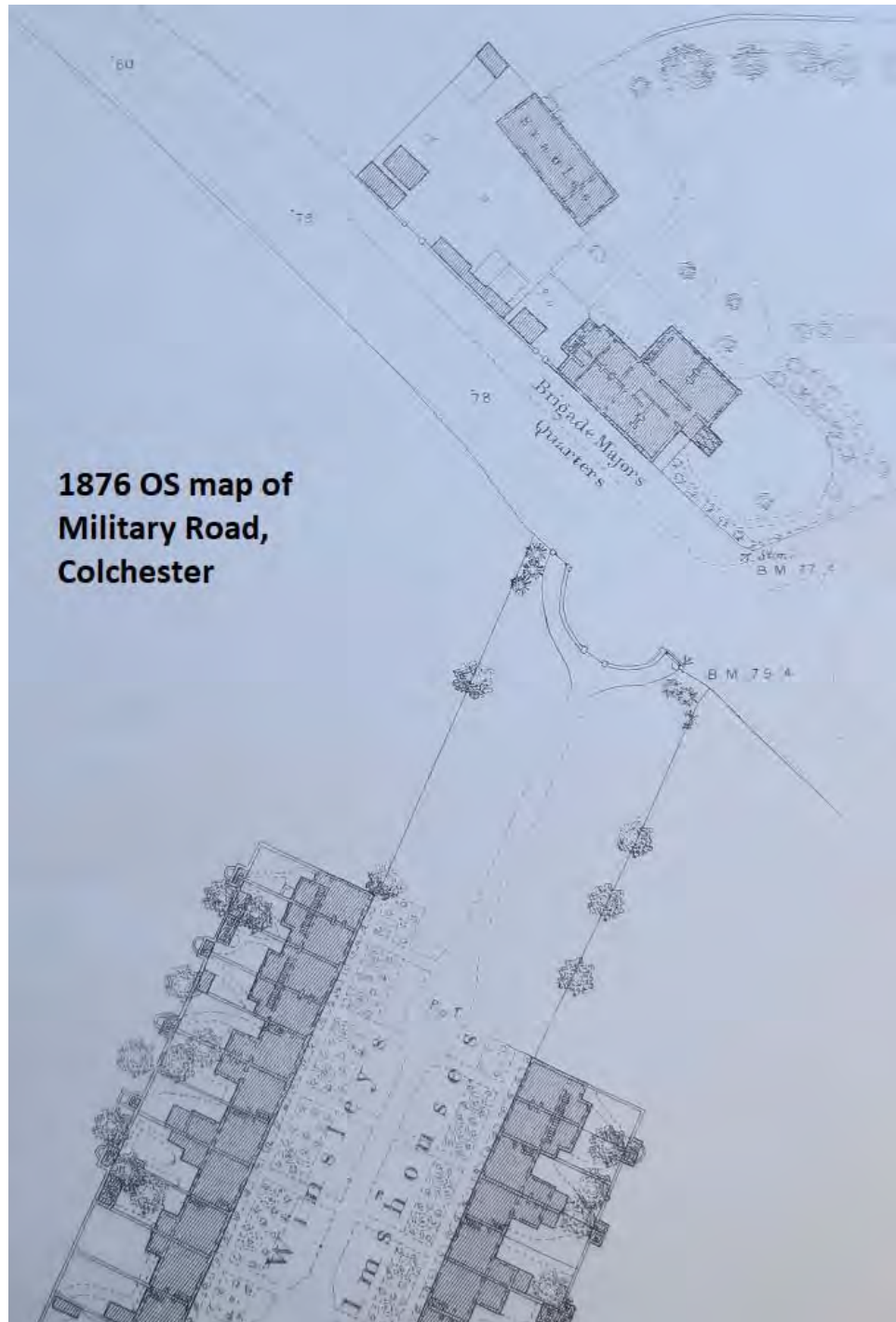


In his will, Jesse Jones described himself as 'late of Abberton, Gentleman'. His effects were under £3000, and he had no leaseholds. His executors were his widow Rebecca and his son-in-law Alfred John Prior. As well as several cash bequests, to his wife he left his Barrosa medal, perhaps a measure of his pride in the item. To his daughter Caroline Prior he left his Waterloo medal. He mentioned that he had heard no tidings of his son Frederick Thomas Jones and that the money bequest would remain open for two years. To his son Jesse Luke Jones he left his gold watch and chain. In a codicil he disinherited his sons George Jesse Jones and Frederick Thomas Jones. We can only surmise that the former because of his bad behaviour (numerous newspaper reported court appearances bear that out) and the latter due to his long absence. Had he gone to seek his fortune in Australia?

This is an example of the medals that Jesse Jones would have received.



Note the reference to Jesse Jones' residences in North Hill, Military Road and Old Heath Road. The Old Heath buildings no longer exist, but we can see them on the following map. The bullet passed, at a later date, to Mr Asher Prior, according to a newspaper clip, dated 2nd September 1899, which follows here.



This newscutting from the local press dated 26th October 1889 reports the death of Henry Jones, one of Jesse's sons. It gives further snippets of information about his father's life.

Death of Mr. Henry Jones, of Colchester.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Henry Jones, solicitor, of Colchester, which took place on Sunday, at his residence, Shrublands, Stanway, after a short but severe illness.

For some little time past Mr. Jones had been unwell, and had consulted Sir Andrew Clark from time to time for difficulty of breathing, and it has been apparent to his friends that he was what is termed "breaking up," though it was not considered there was any cause to apprehend any immediate fatal results. However, on Wednesday week, October 24th, he was suddenly taken very ill, and his local medical attendant, Mr. Edwin Worts, of Colchester, was called in, and found him suffering from an embolic clot in the artery of the leg, coupled with a bad condition of the heart and lungs, and the vessels generally. The symptoms were at once seen to be very grave, and occasioned the greatest anxiety on the part of the family and friends; and, notwithstanding all that medical skill and good nursing could do, Mr. Jones's condition continued most critical. On Wednesday evening, the eminent Dr. Wilkes was brought down from London, and visited the patient with Mr. Worts; but it is stated that he fully concurred with Mr. Worts on the gravity of the case, and he was unable to give the slightest hopes of recovery. Mr. Jones gradually grew worse, and though he rallied slightly from time to time in the struggle with the disease, there was practically no hope at all. He died at about 8.15 a.m. on Sunday.

Mr. Henry Jones was certainly one of the best-known lawyers, not only in Colchester and the district, but throughout Essex and the adjacent Counties, and his fame extended even beyond those limits. His career, too, was a most remarkable one in many ways. He was the eldest son of Capt. Jesse Jones, an old officer, who, to his honour be it said, made his way up from the ranks, and during his service took part in the Peninsula Campaign, at the storming of Bergen-op-Zoom, where he was wounded, and was present at Waterloo, where he was shot in the breast, and he afterwards became Adjutant of the East Essex Militia, afterwards the old Essex Rifles. When his wound was dressed by the surgeons, it was found that the bullet, after passing through his chest, had lodged in his clothing, and fallen thence into one of his boots. The bullet is an heirloom in the family. This brave old officer died at Colchester in his 82nd year, having retained in extreme old age the martial bearing and erect figure of his earlier days. At one time—about 60 years ago—Mr. Jones, sen., resided on North Hill. He afterwards removed to the house on Military Road now occupied as Trinity House School; and subsequently to what is now known as the Brigade Major's Quarters, on the Military Road, opposite Winsley's Almshouses. The subject of the present notice, who, at the time of his death, was nearly sixty-three years of age, having been born at Trinity House on the 28th November, 1826, was educated at Mr. Bare's School, in Crouch Street, and on leaving school, after filling one or two

Also shown is an announcement of the death of Jesse's daughter Caroline, published in the local press on 2nd September 1899, which also mentions Jesse Jones.

DEATH OF MRS. ALFRED JOHN PRIOR.—We regret to record the death of Mrs. **Caroline Prior**, wife of Mr. Alfred John Prior, of St. John's Terrace, Colchester, and mother of Mr. Asher Prior, of Havelal House, who was Mayor of the Borough in 1889-90. Mrs. Prior died at her residence at 2.30 a.m. on Thursday. Three years ago she was attacked by paralysis, and which partially deprived her of the use of her limbs. In February last she had a second attack, and from a third, with which she was seized on Wednesday, she never rallied. She, however, retained consciousness to the last and passed away peacefully in the presence of her husband and her three children.—Mr. Asher Prior, Mr. Alfred Jesse Prior, and Miss C. M. Prior. The late Mrs. Prior was 78 years of age and was a daughter of the late Captain Jesse Jones, formerly of Colchester and Abberton, who served under Wellington in the Peninsular War, being present at Talavera and other engagements; and also in Holland, where he was present at the storming of Bergen-op-Zoom, and was wounded. He was also present at the battle of Waterloo, where he received a bullet wound in the chest. The bullet was in possession of the late Mrs. Prior and is bequeathed to Mr. Asher Prior. Captain Jesse Jones was afterwards for many years Captain and Adjutant of the Essex Rifles Militia. The late Mrs. Prior was a sister of the late Mr. Henry Jones, solicitor, of Colchester, who was for many years Town Clerk of the Borough. She was of a very kindly disposition, and during her serious illness was more solicitous about the sufferings and troubles of others than about her own.

On the 18th June 1815, 200 years after the Battle of Waterloo, the Colchester Remembrancer, members of the Jones family, civic dignitaries and other interested persons, gathered at a refurbished Jesse Jones' grave in St Botolph's graveyard.



JOSEPH PUDNEY (1790 – 1881)

We first found Joseph Pudney and his Waterloo connection from a newspaper article dated 1876 where our man had appeared in court over an incident where he had landed a punch on a boy who had been one of a group that had been regularly teasing our man and his dog. At that time he was so deaf that he could barely understand the proceedings. From there we find him in census records, where in 1841 he was an agricultural labourer living in Stanway with his wife Hannah and five children. By 1851 he was with his wife and three children in Stanway, described as a pensioner and as being born in Fordham, also with the note that he was deaf. By 1861, he was with his second wife Mary Ann, a laundress, he described as being a Chelsea Pensioner. By 1871 he was living at High Road, Stanway, with his wife and he described as an annuitant. By 1881, he was living at High Road, Bacon End, with his wife and he described as an army pensioner aged 91 years. A few months later, in 1881, he died and an appeal was made to help his widow. He was buried in Stanway and a newspaper article below described the funeral proceedings. He was clearly a highly thought of man.

CRUEL ASSAULT.—*Samuel Mead*, a lad, living at Stanway, was summoned for assaulting John Pudney, a pensioner, and a Waterloo veteran, of the same parish, on the 17th October.—The complainant, who said he was in his 87th year, was so deaf, that it was with the greatest difficulty that he could be made to understand what was going on. It appeared from his evidence that he has a favourite dog, and that it is the habit of a set of idle boys like the defendant to tease the animal, greatly to the poor old man's annoyance. They also throw stones and other missiles at his door, and altogether contrive to be a great trouble to him. On the day in question some boys had been amusing themselves in this way, and the defendant, bolder than the rest, approached too near the complainant, who launched out at him and struck him with his fist. The defendant thereupon rushed at the old man, and struck him so violently in the eye as to blacken it, and to nearly knock the old man down. This was the assault complained of.—Mr. Houlding, Relieving Officer, proved the constant annoyance the boys were to the complainant, and spoke to seeing the assault complained of.—In reply to the CHAIRMAN, witness said he believed the complainant struck the first blow.—Defendant said complainant struck him first.—The Bench adjourned the case for a month, the CHAIRMAN severely reprimanding the defendant for his cruel conduct, and cautioning him as to his future behaviour.

The church records show that Joseph Pudney, husband, was, 'war pensioner late 73rd Foot, fought at Waterloo, Union House, but not as a pauper', buried 29th November 1882, aged 91 years, R H Hill.

According to the Chelsea pension records, Joseph was in the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) - 42nd & 73rd Foot (as was John Leus/Louis later shown. Did they know each other and were they both at Waterloo together?).

During Napoleon's final campaign of 1815 both the 42nd and the 73rd which were to become respectively the 1st and 2nd Battalions of The Black Watch played significant parts. They were first in action together at Quatre Bras on the 16th of June where they were hard pressed by French cavalry. Mistaking them for allies the 42nd had not time to form a defensive square and had a tough fight repulsing them. Two days later at the Battle of Waterloo it was the 73rd which was in the thickest of the fighting and subject to heavy losses from the French cannon.

Picture – The Black Watch at Bay – 16th June 1815



Chancel.

STANWAY.

FUNERAL OF A WATERLOO VETERAN.—The village of Stanway was the scene of an interesting ceremony on Tuesday afternoon, the occasion being the funeral, with military honours, of Joseph Pudney, aged 91, a pensioner from the 73rd Regiment, who was present at the Battle of Waterloo. By three o'clock, a large crowd had assembled in the vicinity of the Church, and shortly afterwards the shrill and measured strains of a funeral march were heard as the *cortège* appeared in sight, headed by the drums and fifes of the South Wales Borderers. The firing party consisted of a Sergeant and 13 rank-and-file of the same Regiment, and the plain oak coffin, surmounted by a brass plate, and covered with the Union Jack, was borne on a gun carriage drawn by horses of the Commissariat and Transport Department. The procession was met at the gates of Stanway Churchyard by the Rev. Canon Hill, D.C.L., Rector of the Parish, who read the solemn Service in a most impressive manner. The scene at the grave was, for a quiet country Churchyard, unusual and striking, and will, doubtless, be long remembered by the villagers. At the conclusion of the Service, three volleys were fired in the air over the grave, as a farewell salute to one who had served his country well, and outlived most of his comrades in arms. The widow of the deceased veteran, who is by his death deprived of the pension which supported them both, is very highly spoken of by all who know her, and (as will be seen by advertisement) a small fund is being raised with a view to keeping her out of the workhouse for her few remaining years.

To commence at 8. No Collection.

"The Late Waterloo Veteran."

THE late JOSEPH PUDNEY, Pensioner from the 73rd Regiment, who died on the 24th ultimo, at Stanway, aged 91, has left a Widow, for whose benefit a small sum is being raised in order to keep her out of the Workhouse for the few remaining years of her life.

All Subscriptions will be thankfully received by the Rev. Canon HILL, D.C.L., Rector of Stanway.

Sums already received.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Major-Gen. Batcliffe, C.B.	1	0	0	Captain Mott, A.D.C.	0	5	0
The Rev. Canon Hill,				Comary-Genl. Smith	0	5	0
D.C.L.	0	10	0	Colonel George	0	5	0
Col. Waller, A.-A.-Genl.	0	5	0	Mrs. Mott	0	5	0
Major Morison, Brig.-Mjr.	0	5	0				
							[3211-2

Now compiling in Two Volumes, the

HENRY JOHNSTON (1792 - 1856)

In Fordham churchyard there are head and foot stones to the memory of Henry Johnston. He was a Private in the 2nd Battalion of the 3rd Regiment of Foot Guards that defended the Hougoumont Farmhouse, the first place Napoleon attacked that morning. Accounts tell us they held out all day until the end of the battle. It was said that their brave defence swung the battle in favour of the Allied forces. Afterwards he was hospitalised with ear trouble, for three months in Ostend and in London for seven months. He became a Chelsea out-pensioner and lived in Fordham for a further 41 years, being buried in Fordham churchyard on 16th March 1856, aged 64. Census records tell us that, in 1841, he was living 'Nr Lower Hill' as an agricultural labourer, with his wife Mary and seven children. In 1851 he was still in Fordham with his wife and two sons, with the additional information that he was born in Aldham and she was born in Fordham. Sadly, little more is known of him, but surely, his close Fordham connection with Joseph Pudney must suggest that the two men knew each other - and perhaps planned to join the army together.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Scots_Guards_\(1805%E2%80%931813\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Scots_Guards_(1805%E2%80%931813))

In March 1815, 'Boney' returned to France from his exile in Elba eventually retaking France from Louis XVIII. The 2nd Battalion, 3rd Foot Guards, who were stationed in what is present-day Belgium, took part in, on the 18 June, one of the most famous battles in history, Waterloo. The battalion, was part of the two battalion 2nd Guards Brigade, under the command of Major-General Sir John Byng, the other battalion being the 2nd Battalion of the Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards. The 3rd Foot Guards were positioned on the ridge just behind Hougoumont Farm, while the light companies of the two battalions, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel James Macdonnell, garrisoned the Farm, a place, on the right flank of the British and Allied army, that would be a key position during the battle.

Just after 11:00am, the battle commenced, with a French division, under the command of Prince Jérôme Bonaparte, beginning the assault on Hougoumont, with the Farm coming under heavy artillery fire. The French assaulted the farm, but the Guards' stout defense repulsed the first French attack. A second attack happened, and during that attack, the French attempted to push through the main gate. Despite the gallant efforts of the British Guardsmen to shut it, a few dozen French troops broke through before the Guardsmen managed to shut the main gate once more. What followed was a fierce hand-to-hand fight between the Guardsmen and French, until eventually all the French, minus a drummer boy who was spared by the Guardsmen, were killed.

The third attack came from the east of the farm, at the orchard. A few companies of the 3rd Guards subsequently confronted the French troops and, after some hard fighting, drove them from the orchard and back into the woods. The fourth attack soon came, this time with the use of a fearsome howitzer, and thus, the Grenadier Company of the 3rd Guards was sent into the woods to destroy the howitzer, but were faced with a superior French force and were forced out of the woods. The 3rd Guards were then sent to repulse the French from the orchard which they duly did, driving the French back into the woods once more.

Further attacks occurred on the farm, and the gallant defenders never wilted in the face of such French attacks, and held the farm against all odds, even when the farm was set ablaze by howitzer fire, the defenders still repulsed all French attacks. The elite Guards had proven their professionalism and valour once more in the field, and contributed greatly to the British and Allied victory at Waterloo, gaining the praise of the Duke of Wellington in the process. The defenders of

Hougoumont suffered over 1,000 men killed or wounded during the Battle for Hougoumont, with the 3rd Guards suffering well over 200 men killed or wounded; while the French suffered many thousands of casualties in their numerous attempts to capture the farm. Napoleon was defeated and as before, he was exiled, this time to the British territory of St. Helena, where he would remain until his death in 1821.

The 2nd Battalion then joined the Army of Occupation in France where they would remain until 1816 when they returned home to the UK. In 1824, both battalions of the 3rd Foot Guards deployed to Dublin, Ireland, and in 1826, the 2nd Battalion deployed to Portugal until returning home in 1828. Also in 1826, the 1st Battalion deployed to Manchester during troubles there. In 1830, William IV ascended to the throne, and the following year gave the regiment a new name, the Scots Fusilier Guards.

Waterloo Medal Rolls - 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards

Lieutenant Colonel Charles Dashwood Captain Edward Boydger Fairfield M ^r . William James M ^r . William Frederick Hamilton }				Captain Lieutenant Ensigns
John Bondford Timothy Bradburne James Parker James Matthews Foster Kops James Lither David Bachan	George Miller Thomas Griffiths Thomas Lee James Morris Robert Duff James Quinton	William Stafford		
Anthony Kemp Edward Ashworth Thomas Hobott John Allen John Bonnavent	John Holland John Seafeld Arch ^d . Seafeld Thomas Ireland George Johnston	Michael M ^r . Kenby Joseph Shaw James Wayne John Ruddock George Foggins		

1851 census extract

40	Anderson	Henry Johnson	Head	Mar	58	58	George Johnson	Head	Mar	58	58	George Johnson	Head	Mar	58	58	George Johnson	Head	Mar	58	58
		Mary Johnson	Wife	Mar	58	58	Elizabeth Johnson	Wife	Mar	58	58	Elizabeth Johnson	Wife	Mar	58	58	Elizabeth Johnson	Wife	Mar	58	58
		George Johnson	Son	W	14	14	George Johnson	Son	W	14	14	George Johnson	Son	W	14	14	George Johnson	Son	W	14	14
		Robert Johnson	Son	W	14	14	Robert Johnson	Son	W	14	14	Robert Johnson	Son	W	14	14	Robert Johnson	Son	W	14	14
		Thomas Johnson	Head	Mar	58	58	Thomas Johnson	Head	Mar	58	58	Thomas Johnson	Head	Mar	58	58	Thomas Johnson	Head	Mar	58	58

In Fordham parish church's graveyard stands an ornate topped headstone with angel and footstone with an inscription that reads as follows:

Underneath
rest the remains of
HENRY JOHNSTON
served in the 2nd Battalion of the 3rd
Regiment of the Guards and fought at the great
battle of Waterloo on the 18(--) of June 1815
after which he lived in this his native village
to enjoy the blessings of peace 41 years
and died March 9th 1856
aged 64 years
Reader
fight the good fight of faith
lay hold eternal life
Tim VI Ch 15 V
This stone is erected as a means
of affection by his son
HENRY JOHNSON
Footstone: H J / 1856 /



(Research shows Henry served in the 2nd Battalion of the 3rd Regiment of the Coldstream Guards and fought at the great battle of Waterloo on the 18th of June 1815. The inscription is not clear and some of the transcription information appears to be wrong.)

PENSIONS

In 1874, following concerns about the poverty that often existed in a soldier's old age, a pension of a maximum 1s 6d a day was awarded. However, this did not extend to their widows, who were often placed in a very difficult situation after the death of their husband.

One of the most painful sights which occasionally present themselves to our view, is that of an old Waterloo veteran who has nobly shed his blood on behalf of his native land, and yet is allowed by his grateful country to spend the remnant of his days in poverty. It is true the march of time is rapidly freeing us from such sights, but still from time to time a case or two is brought to light even now. The public will therefore learn with pleasure that a warrant has been issued by Mr. GATHORNE HARDY by command of the QUEEN, under which the Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital are empowered in future to grant a pension of not more than one and sixpence a-day to any such veterans as

may be brought under their notice ; so that in future there will be no further need for appeals to a charitable public on behalf of old Waterloo heroes.

OTHER POSSIBLE COLCHESTER MEN AT WATERLOO

Here follows a list of 16 men whose ages range from 1788 to 1797 and who all have a Colchester connection. This information is taken from the National Archive but it does not tell us, if and who might have fought at the Battle of Waterloo.

First name(s)	Last name	Birth year	Birth parish	Regiment	Series
John	Adams	1790	Colchester	Devonshire Regiment - 11th Foot	WO121
WILLIAM	ALLENFORD	1789	COLCHESTER	Lincolnshire Regiment - 10th Foot	chelsea pensioners british army service records 1760-1913
JOHN	BROWN	1790	COLCHESTER	Worcestershire Regiment - 29th & 36th Foot	chelsea pensioners british army service records 1760-1913
John	Brown	1789	Colchester	Royal Regiment of Veterans	WO121
John	Brown	1791	Colchester	36th Foot, 3rd R V Batt	WO121

GEORGE	CHURCHAM	1794	COLCHESTER	Royal Sussex Regiment - 35th & 107th Foot	chelsea pensioners british army service records 1760-1913
WILLIAM	KNOWLES	1797	COLCHESTER	Royal Staff Corps	chelsea pensioners british army service records 1760-1913
WILLIAM	LEE	1788	COLCHESTER		chelsea pensioners british army service records 1760-1913
JOHN	LEUS	1791	COLCHESTER	Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) - 42nd & 73rd Foot	chelsea pensioners british army service records 1760-1913
GEORGE	PARKER	1793	COLCHESTER	Royal Artillery	chelsea pensioners british army service records 1760-1913
JOHN	RUTTER	1789	COLCHESTER	Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire Regiment) - 19th Foot	chelsea pensioners british army service records 1760-1913
WILLIAM	SCOTT	1788	COLCHESTER	Light Dragoons - 13th	chelsea pensioners british army service records 1760-1913
JAMES	TOTTERDILLE	1797	COLCHESTER		chelsea pensioners british army

					service records 1760-1913
JOHN	BAKER		COLCHESTER		chelsea pensioners british army service records 1760-1913

JOHN	BALL	1790	FORDHAM	Royal Regiment of Veterans	chelsea pensioners british army service records
JOSEPH	PUDNEY	1791	FORDHAM	Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) - 42nd & 73rd Foot	chelsea pensioners british army service records 1760-1913

NB Henry Johnston (or Johnson) does not appear in these computer lists, although he must appear somewhere. He is certainly acknowledged in original records.

We have cross checked all of these to try to establish whether any were present at the Battle of Waterloo but with no conclusive evidence. However, five names were shown on the Waterloo Medal roll, although we cannot tell whether they are Colchester or Fordham men.

William Knowles – killed at Waterloo

John Leus (a John Louis was at Waterloo)

William Scott

John Baker

John Ball

We know of only three Colchester men who were present at the Battle of Waterloo. Further research is needed with the regimental museums, locating graves and medals

Finally, Colchester has a borough councillor whose ancestor also fought at Waterloo, but on the French side. We are therefore delighted to be able to include details of Nicolas Driart, 1782 to 1853, great great grandfather to Councillor Theresa Higgins, Mayor of Colchester for 2015 to 2016 and therefore a particularly appropriate year of office for her. We show the details of Nicolas Driart below and thank Councillor Higgins for providing this information about another hero of Waterloo.

L'église

L'église actuelle est du 14^{ème} siècle. Comme les églises antérieures l'ont toujours été, elle est sous l'invocation de St. Remi.

Ogilivale du 14^{ème}, nef unique et transept, le portail ouvre d'un arc tiers point avec ébrasement à plusieurs moulures, tympan ajouré. Les murs sont bâtis en lits alternatifs de pierres et de briques, soutenus par des contreforts, chapiteaux à crochets et figures grossières.



Dans l'ancien cimetière
quelques tombes
intéressantes ont été
conservées dont celles de

Jaques Richelet, né à Sugny, officier de l'empire. Engagé en 1798, sous lieutenant en 1809, blessé à la bataille d'Essling, mis à la retraite le 15 décembre 1815 dont il profita pendant 45 ans,

Sur sa pierre tombale sont présentés les attributs du cuirassier sur canon et boulets, avec baïonnette, lance et sabre. Les aigles impériales ornent le drapeau de la victoire. Ses campagnes et sa carrière sont inscrits sur la pyramide coiffant sa tombe.

Nicolas Drilard, grognard né à Sugny ayant participé à douze campagnes de l'empire de 1805 à 1815, dont Iéna, Eylau, l'Espagne, la Russie où il est fait prisonnier en 1814, puis Fleurus et Waterloo où il est ramassé blessé en 1815. Prisonnier des Anglais, il n'est rentré chez lui qu'en 1816. C'était un homme apprécié de sa famille dont l'affection transparaît dans l'épithète gravée sur sa tombe. Combien de milliers de kilomètres a-t-il parcourus à pied ?





jaj 28th April 2015, revised 8th July 2022