



Our next meetings

July 18th

**The Remediation of the Avenue
Coking Works, Wingerworth – the
biggest Environmental Clean-up in
Europe**

Clive Paxton and David Stewart
Valley.

August 15th

**Water Voles in Derbyshire: the
story of one of Britain's most
endangered mammals**

Christine Gregory

Meetings are held at the St Thomas Centre, Chatsworth Road commencing at 7:30pm.
Members free, visitors £3.

Chesterfield Men and the Military General Service Medal

The battle of Waterloo was only one of the battles in the period between 1793–1814 a period which included the French Revolutionary Wars, the Napoleonic Wars and the Anglo American war of 1812.

By 1809 Britain had been at war with France for 15 years mainly with the possessions of France and its allies. Everything changed when France became involved in the Iberian Peninsula, conquering Portugal in 1807, and replacing the Spanish king with Joseph Bonaparte. The two countries sought the aid of Great Britain. At this time Great Britain maintained garrisons in England, Ireland, Scotland, the Channel Islands, Africa, British North America, Cape of Good Hope, Ceylon, Gibraltar, Heligoland, India, Malta, New South Wales, Sicily and the West Indies.

Although men fighting at Waterloo received a Waterloo medal, there was no recognition of the efforts of the men who fought in these wars until the 1840s when pressure grew for some sort of recognition. Sometimes erroneously known as the Peninsular War Medal, the Military General Service Medal was a campaign medal issued to officers and men of the British Army involved in military actions from 1793-1814. An order approving such a medal was issued in 1847 and the first medals were issued in 1848. Sadly tis meant that many men died before the medal was issued although next of kin could apply for it. In July 1849 Captain Capel, inspecting officer of the Sheffield district, presented the medal to men from Chesterfield and district.



The issues of the *Derbyshire Courier* for 14th and 21st July 1849 reported on the occasion, together with information about the men or relatives who received the medals.

The medals had clasps attached depending upon the battles in which they had seen action but there were not clasps for all the battles.

The medal for Charles Mountenay (Mountney, Mounteney) had clasps for Corunna, Orthes and Vittoria. He was born in Alferton and enlisted in the 18th Light

Dragoons (a cavalry regiment) on 3rd October 1807 at Burton on Trent. In September 1808 he went to Portugal with Sir John Moore. However, the British and Portugese troops were outnumbered by the French and eventually they were forced to retreat to Corunna with the cavalry covering the retreat. They embarked for England in January 1810 where they remained for three years before embarking once more to join the army commanded by Arthur Wellesley (created Duke of Wellington in 1814). The regiment served in Portugal and Spain before crossing the Pyrenees for the battle at Toulouse at the end of the Peninsular War. The regiment returned to England and was stationed at Canterbury until 1815 when it crossed the Channel once more. Arriving at Quatre Bras late in the day it covered Wellington's retreat to Waterloo. Again, it was late in the day when they entered the battle, charging the guns.

He originally signed for ten years but stayed on for an additional two years. Discharged after Waterloo Charles returned with his wife to live at Maynard's Row on West Bars following the trade of hatter. In 1843, Queen Victoria visited Chatsworth. The Duke of Wellington was also a member of the party. Charles was enrolled as a special constable and when he was on duty at Chatsworth House the Duke noticed him wearing his Waterloo medal and went to speak to him. Charles continued to live in Chesterfield until he was admitted to the Royal Chelsea Hospital where he died in 1873. He was buried in Brompton Cemetery.

Another Light Dragoon was **William Lenthall**, a serjeant in the 13th Light Dragoons. His medal had clasps for Albuera and Vittoria. Born in Brampton, he enlisted in October 1806 and embarked for Portugal in January 1810. The regiment disembarked at Lisbon and had a particularly hard time at Busaco and Torres Vedras. As a light cavalry troop, it was in covering the operations the main body, and it was, more than others, exposed to frequent and long continued bivouacs and long marches. It was involved in the retreat from Burgos; under the walls of Badajoz; at Albuera, Vittoria, Pampeluna in the Pyrenees, and at Toulouse. After Vittoria the 13th and 14th Light Dragoons were involved in the capture of the baggage train of Joseph Bonaparte, including many items of treasure and furniture, as he fled. Lenthall was also at the battle of Waterloo, where he was wounded in the bridle arm. The ball was not yet extracted. He was discharged October 1816, after ten years of limited service. He returned to Brampton, marrying Elizabeth Silcock also of Brampton in 1823. His life as a farmer on New Road was very different to his life in army.

Meeting the Duke of Wellington was surely an experience that the ordinary soldier would never forget. When the Duke visited Chatsworth in 1848 it was the turn of **John Jackson**. He was born at

Eccleshall Bierlow in 1788 and in 1808 he travelled to Nottingham to enlist in the 7th regiment of Foot (which later became the Royal Fusiliers). The regiment set sail for Copenhagen which was being besieged. When Copenhagen was taken the regiment also captured several ships and a large amount of ropes and tackle. From there the regiment was sent to Halifax, Nova Scotia and then to capture Martinique afterwards returning to Halifax. In 1810 the regiment was sent to Portugal to join Wellesley's army returning to England in 1812. Jackson was discharged in 1814 but was called up again in 1815 following Napoleon's escape from Elba. Following the Battle of Waterloo, Jackson was discharged once more but in 1821 he was called up again as a result of the 'commotion occasioned by the trial of Queen Caroline'. Finally, he was awarded a certificate exonerating him from further service. Eventually he found employment on the Chesterfield to the Peak Forest (Hernstone Lane Head) turnpike-road. It was on this road that Jackson held a conversation with the Duke of Wellington, who was visiting Chatsworth in 1848, and who gave him a sovereign in remembrance of old times. Jackson died in Bakewell in 1872. His medal had clasps for Martinique, Busaco and Albuera. A detailed account of his service appeared in the *Derbyshire Courier* 21st July 1849.

Four men served with the 59th Foot. The first to join was **Matthew Wheatcroft**, Private. His medal had a clasp for Java. He joined his regiment at Gibraltar in 1784 when just 17. After remaining some time at Gibraltar, the regiment was ordered home, and in 1799 was despatched to Holland, for the Duke of York's disastrous campaign. On their return home they were ordered to St. Vincent's, where they remained upwards of seven years and lost the greater part of the men through the influence of the climate. After returning to England they remained at home two years, and their complement of men was made up. They were then ordered to the East Indies, and on their way joined the forces at the taking of the Cape of Good Hope. They landed at Madras, and were engaged in suppressing the Vellore mutiny and the mutiny at Seringapatam. The regiment was sent to take Mauritius in 1810, and then to invade Java in 1811 and then to India where from 1815 to 1818 the regiment was in action against native princes. In 1820, when the natives of Ceylon rebelled, Wheatcroft's regiment was ordered there, where it remained some time. In 1825 he was with his regiment at the siege of Bhurtpore, India. Wheatcroft was discharged in 1827. Through all his dangers he escaped almost unhurt, and until within a very short time of his death, was a hale and stalwart man. This veteran did not live to receive his medal; it was given to his sister; he died only about a month before it reached Chesterfield, being then 82 years of age.

John Woodroffe, Private, 59th Foot enlisted in 1806. He joined the regiment at Madras, in the summer of 1807. His career followed that of Matthew Wheatcroft and like Wheatcroft his medal had a clasp for Java. In 1828 he returned to England and was discharged. He was in service upwards of 22 years, and only received a slight wound in the leg from cannon shot.

Noah Mather, Private, 59th Foot. Java. Noah, who really looked like one of the Patriarchs, lived at Walton. He was 16 years in service. He was at the taking of the Cape of Good Hope in 1806; the Isle of France in 1810; and at the siege of the Mauritius. His regiment distinguished itself greatly at Java, at the taking Batavia, and Noah narrowly escaped with his life when a mine blew up whilst they were seizing one of the numerous redoubts which were thrown up. Mather was 14 years in the Far East and two in the West Indies. He was 42 when he was discharged.

In 1808 a second battalion of the 59th Foot was raised in Derbyshire. **John Fogg**, private, 59th Foot. In 1812 the regiment went to Spain where it took part in the battles of Vittoria and San Sebastian.

He was at the siege of Bayonne in 1814 when the regiment suffered much after three days engagements being reduced to 75 effective rank and file and Fogg received a musket wound in his left shoulder. From there the regiment was sent to Ireland before being sent to Belgium after Napoleon returned to France. He was at, Waterloo and afterwards he was at the storming of Cambrai which became the Duke of Wellington's headquarters for the British Army of Occupation from 1815 to 1818. The regiment was disbanded in 1816. His medal had clasps for Vittoria and San Sebastian.

Robert Tetley, Private. He volunteered out of the Militia into the 1st Foot as a private in 1813 and in 1814 went to Brussels. Ancestry shows that he enlisted into the 2nd Light Company of the 1st Regiment of Foot. They were at Quatre Bras and later at Waterloo, where they were involved in the defence of Hougoumont under almost continue attack from the French. An ensign of the 1st Foot Guards said that the division was filled with young soldiers and volunteers from the militia who had never been exposed to the fire of the enemy. It's hardly surprising that, after this experience, he sought his discharge. He returned to Chesterfield living in the Saltergate/Glumangate area and working as a shoemaker, before he died in 1859. The 1st Foot became the Grenadier Guards after Waterloo.

James Glossop, Sergeant, Royal Artillery. Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz, Salamanca. In 1797 he enlisted at Southwell, in Nottinghamshire. In the winter of 1802-3 he embarked for Gibraltar where in 1804 the plague broke out. He was there about four years. In 1808 he embarked with the expedition to Portugal to join the Iron Duke, then Sir Arthur Wellesley. After the convention of Cintra, he went to Cadiz; but was speedily called back to Lisbon at the formation of the second army. He was Quarter Master for two years and fitted out the brigades arriving in the country before he was ordered to Badajoz. On his return from Badajoz, he marched to Salamanca, and in the engagement there was wounded in the head. He was at the siege of Madrid, advanced to Valladolid and from there to Burgos. At Vittoria he was taken ill of the Spanish ague and was discharged in 1814, having seen much and varied service during the five years lie was in the Peninsula. He narrowly escaped shipwreck on the voyage home. In 1814 he received a pension of 1s per day which was increased to 1/6d in 1817. In 1851 he was living at Rose Cottage next to St Thomas Church, Brampton.

Samuel Simpson, Gunner, Royal Artillery. His medal had claps for Albuera, Salamanca, Vittoria, Pyrenees, and Toulouse. Enlisted at Chesterfield in 1808 and in 1810 went to Portugal where he was actively engaged in the Peninsula contest from the battle of Albuera until the army crossed the Pyrenees, and gave the final blow to the French army at Toulouse. After remaining few months at Toulouse, he went to America and was at the battle of Plattsburgh. He remained in America till 1817, when he returned to England, and the same year went to Ireland, where he was in active service against the disaffected. In 1821 he went to Malta and in 1831 went again to America before returning home in 1835 when he was discharged. He had served nearly 27 years, yet was never wounded.

John Storey, Gunner, Royal Artillery. Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz. A native of Woodall, near Sheffield, he entered the artillery in 1807 and was discharged in 1814. In 1817 he enlisted into the 80th foot. In 1820 they briefly moved to Ireland before being posted to the garrison at Gibraltar. They were subsequently stationed in Malta and the Ionian Islands before returning to England in 1831 when

Storey was discharged. He settled in Chesterfield. Despite the dangerous affairs of outposts in Spain and Portugal he was never wounded.

Nathaniel Stenton, private, 68th Foot. He was in the Nottingham Militia in 1800, and in 1812 volunteered into the 68th Foot, and was sent Portugal, where the regiment was part of the 7th Division. Was at Vittoria, at the Pyrenees and at Orthes. Came back and was discharged at Dublin in 1817. Lived at Brampton where in 1851 he was a weaver.



Visit our website –
<http://www.cadlhs.org.uk/>



Follow us on Facebook -
<https://www.facebook.com/CADLHS/>