

## Book Launch

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### From the editor.

This newsletter is intended to provide members of the Molesworth family with information about the family both historic and current. I am hopeful that in some way it will unite and inform, and with the help of those family members around the world that are interested in sharing and learning more about a family with a long and distinguished history. I will be able to fill the pages with items of interest that inform us all of those Molesworths we may never see.

This is the first of the Molesworth newsletters. I hope it is of interest to you, if so, please let other family members know about it or give them a copy of this one. This letter is being sent out free as an introduction, and to get the idea started. It is planned to send it out quarterly. If you or any other family members you know wish to receive future copies please send Aus\$10.00 for surface mail within Australia or Aus\$14.00 for overseas to cover printing and postage to Phillip Molesworth indicating for Molesworth Newsletter and I will add your name to the mail list. Or if you are on the NET send me your e-mail address and I will add you to the e-mail list free.

We are currently looking for ideas and information to put in the newsletter so if you have an item to include please send it to me and I will see what I can do to include it. I have access to a lot of Molesworth information but could never have it all. If you have any items of memorabilia why not share them with the family by sending copies, photo's etc in, so we can add them to the newsletter.

Why not dig through that old scrap book and see what you can find? Im sure there are a lot of stories about the current and recent generations that will be of interest.

I can't guarantee that all of the information will get into the next edition but will distribute as much as I can. How about some stories of current family members and their exploits.

Russell Molesworth has finished his book which is the product of Russell's research over many years. Russell was probably influenced by his father Harold's interest in the history of his family and along with his brother Lee followed on with their fathers work. Russell's son Greg is also a keen Molesworth historian making it three generations taking up the challenge. Russell's book is available soon There is a book launch at shortly after the publication of this newsletter. The cost will be Aus \$40.00 and can be ordered from (jandg@connexus.net.au) The following letter from Lord Molesworth is to appear in the forward.

## Foreword

*by the Right Honourable the 12th Viscount Molesworth*

The Molesworths are an ancient family whose line can be traced back to the Lindsays at the time of the Norman Conquest. A glance at our entry in Burke's or Debrett's, one of the longest and most complicated not only shows the wealth of the many distinguished Molesworths living today, but also their settlement of every corner of the English-speaking world. In 1999 when I had the honour to be invited to Windsor Castle to represent the family at the marriage of Prince Edward to Sophie Rhys-Jones, who is a descendant of the 1st Viscount, Debrett's famously commented that had every Molesworth attended, no other guest could have been accommodated!

This history is therefore a valiant attempt at a mammoth task. It is written by Russell Molesworth, a descendant of the 1st Viscount's youngest son, and gives a comprehensive account of the family from the earliest times to our own. Starting with topography of the English fens during the Dark Ages, where the village of Molesworth came to be established, he leads us through to the world-wide dissemination of Molesworth diaspora in modern times. Usefully, Russell describes the places associated with our ancestors as they may now be found, based on his visits to England and Ireland over some twenty years. References to historical events are fully explained, such as those appearing in the Molesworth Correspondence amply quoted here. It is also good to see a rare 19th-century history by Molesworth Jeffery, a nephew of the 7th Viscount, accorded due recognition after such long obscurity.

Russell's original intention of including the histories of each branch depended on responses to appeals for information, and inevitably these have been stronger from some branches than others. Those from North America are notably underrepresented, for instance, while the Australasians, of which Russell is a well-known member, fare better. Nevertheless, an outline of a family now spanning almost a thousand years cannot possibly do full justice to all members achieving pre-eminence: the 1st Viscount himself has spurned a minor industry of scholarship and research from the academic world over the

last forty years and will surely stand alone as the subject of his own book in due course.

Instead, Russell draws from a treasure-trove of family narrative, anecdotes and sketches, skilfully interwoven with informative historical background. Using clear layman's language, he leads us through the centuries in a readable and entertaining style. The result is a fascinating glimpse into our long and noble family, which he hopes will inspire us to delve more deeply into the rich ancestry we share, as well as to record the recollections of our immediate families while still vivid in the memory, for the benefit of Molesworth descendants to come.

**Lord Robert Molesworth Viscount of Swords, Baron of Philipstown**

## **Did you know?**

**Hickman Molesworth was the preferred defence Attorney for Ned Kelley the notorious Australian bushranger and much effort was made to gain his services by the Kelly family. While at the same time the police and Government went to great lengths to prevent Hickman from defending him.**

**The following is an excerpt from the book  
**NED KELLY A SHORT LIFE.****

**By Ian Jones**

## **'THEY WILL ONLY BE SATISFIED WITH MY LIFE'**

**12 AUGUST - 11 NOVEMBER 1880**

Back in Melbourne Gaol Ned was 'tired and depressed' and complained of considerable pain from his wounds. A bullet removed from muscles in the sole of his left foot, but many of Steele's slugs remained near his right knee, there was a rifle bullet still embedded in his left leg and his shattered left arm was almost useless. (Two months later it was reported 'that the wounds in the left arm have caused that member to shrivel up and his left hand has a wasted and crushed appearance'.) His right hand remained crippled and he would never write again.

In spite of all this, by 26 August he was fit enough to be removed from the gaol hospital to a cell, where his isolation was even more complete and Beechworth's *Advertiser* would report, perhaps with some satisfaction, that 'the premier bushranger ... is exceedingly low-spirited. I suppose the prisoner sees what the end will be, and wishes it was all over.'

That spring the vast dome of the Exhibition Building towered above Melbourne's modest skyline and the visitors flocking to the city for the Exhibition promised to make the coming spring horseracing carnival a dazzling event. The new Berry government weeded out the public service in a desperate economy campaign (the *Herald* said they were being 'Black

Wednesdays'), yet passed the Payment of Members Bill in three minutes - a £25 000 drain on the budget. The Yarra River's worst floods for almost twenty years swirled through riverside suburbs and turned Princes Bridge into a huge spillway. A towering wooden pole winched into place at the corner of Queen and Collins Streets heralded the arrival of the city's telephone system. The troubled 1870s watched the dawn of the 1880s with hope; the slow dying nineteenth century watched the arrival of the twentieth with wariness.

Unemployment remained a huge problem and a public works programme set out to help solve the problem, employing 1200 men at 6 shillings a day. The desperate nature of this remedy was revealed when the Minister for Public Works sacked 100 of the men so he could replace them with 100 unemployed. Rural unemployment was immeasurable and many selectors were in desperate plight, living on 'boiled wheat and wild rabbits'. Graham Berry, who had predicted 'broken heads and houses in flames' less than two years before, now found himself facing deputation's of unemployed and discontented people talking of 'riot and revolution'. And he might have noted that the now-frequent land war hitbacks - stock killing, the burning of haystacks and barns - had been described in the north-east as 'agrarian outrages', the term applied to Irish rebel activity

In this climate of threat and change the spectre of the Kelly trial hung like a thundercloud. It was too dangerous to stage it in Beechworth. A summons for a change of venue to Melbourne was heard before Sir Redmond Barry in chambers on Saturday 18 September. Crown Prosecutor Smyth pointed out that the intimidation of only one juror could prevent him 'finding a verdict in accordance with the evidence', thus aborting the trial; while a guilty verdict could produce reprisals against jurors and their families. Gaunson, on the other hand, protested that the change would 'prejudice the fair trial of the prisoner', who had 'a clear right' to be tried where he was known. 'It would be a farce for the prisoner to challenge jurors called to try him in Melbourne.'

Barry found the decision 'very simple'. In his view, Smyth's argument that a conviction would be difficult in Beechworth not only justified the change but *demand*ed it. Told that he would be tried in Melbourne, Ned' did not show any concern', though he must have known that the already-slim hope of an acquittal had dwindled. Nevertheless, a powerful groundswell of support for him was developing. During the Beechworth hearing, the *Daily Telegraph* reported:

Nor do the expressions of sympathy for 'poor Ned' emanate only from the larrikin and criminal classes, but many men and women who ... are designated 'enlightened citizens', freely express their commiseration ... We go further than that to say that a petition for his reprieve would be widely signed. We believe that money would be readily forthcoming for his defence.

It was almost three months before such a petition was circulated; the question of financing the defence was a more pressing problem.

Under the new Chief Secretary and Premier Graham Berry, there was some relaxation of the brutal 'no visitors' policy Ned

had a second interview with his mother and was at last allowed to see Maggie. The popular rumour that he would be able to direct her to a cache of money from the bank robberies was quickly revealed to be false. The *Benalla Standard* reported accurately, 'The Kellys and their relatives ... have not even as much as will pay for It defence of the prisoner Ned Kelly.' Gaunson was unpaid and would continue to be, but he could not appear as a barrister in the Supreme Court, This role would be filled by the formidable Hickman Molesworth, son of a Supreme Court judge, sixteen years a barrister. His fee, Molesworth told Gaunson, would be 50 guineas for the first two days and a 10-guinea 'refresher' for each subsequent day,

Sittings of the Central Criminal Court would begin on Friday 15 October. By the Wednesday it was tipped that Neds trial would begin on the second day, Monday. Sir Redmond Barry would preside, Molesworth applied to have the trial postponed and, on the Friday, presented Barry with an affidavit from Gaunson detailing how the family's attempt to raise money on Mrs Kellys land had been thwarted by the police. Barry refused adjournment. Ned would face trial on Monday.

Molesworth and Gaunson decided on a time-honoured tactic to gain the needed postponement. It is described by John Phillips:

A junior barrister, who could truthfully tell the judge that he knew nothing about the cast, would be sent to make a last-minute application for an adjournment; The judge's hands were effectively tied. He either granted It adjournment or accepted a situation where the prisoner could not be properly defended. Invariably the adjournment was granted.

Molesworth Young friend', Henry Bindon, was It perfect man for the job. He had practised as a barrister for less than ten months and had never appeared in the Supreme Court.

William Gaunson spoke with Ned at the gaol early on Monday and told him the plan for that morning's appearance. When Ned expressed concern that his jacket was looking 'shabby` after two months continuous wear, William lent him his overcoat to wear in court,

By 9 am, several thousand people had gathered at the corner of Russell and La Trobe Streets, outside It rather scrappy collection of building that then comprised the Supreme Court. Maggie, in the same black dress she had worn at Beechworth, had been glowed into the courtroom at an early hour, accompanied by Kate Lloyd,

The old court was a sombre, church-like place of dark, carved and polished woodwork with rows of pews, a fitting background for its cast in quasi-ecclesiastical costume - the barristers in their black gowns, white 'bands' and short, grey wig. Barry presided over it all in long wig, sumptuous red robe and cape trimmed with white fur, enthroned behind the Bench like a high priest under a handsome, gothic canopy

Ned was escorted into the dock and looked down at the bar table for Bindon, the young, dark-bearded man described by William Gaunson, Grey-bearded Smyth and grey-moustached Arthur Chomley, the prosecuting barristers, looked coldly up at him.

Bindon was not there. Ned was so shaken that, when being arraigned by the judge's associate, he had to be asked three times to raise his right hand. He had been charged with the murder of Lonigan, pleaded 'Not guilty', almost inaudibly, and the second charge was being read before Bindon at last entered with apologetic bows to Barry and applied for a remand, pointing out that Ned was to be defended at the expense of the Crown and there had been insufficient time to 'instruct' counsel.

Smyth rose to his feet, daunting the court with his pale, deep-set eyes. There was, he said, no valid basis for the application but he wished to avoid any suggestion that the prisoner had been 'improperly prosecuted or harshly treated' and would agree to 'four or five days' postponement. When Barry announced that he would be at the Castlemaine Assizes until 27 October, Smyth agreed to an adjournment until Thursday week, 28 October.

'It is very becoming on the part of the Crown', Barry said.

The day after the hearing Tom and Maggie visited Bill Skilling in Pentridge. Maggie probably discussed with her husband the possibility of raising money on their selection to help finance Ned's defence. The three went on to discuss what were called 'private matters' - perhaps the fact that Maggie and Tom, devoted cousins drawn even closer together by the tragedy of Glenrowan, had fallen in love. Certainly Skilling accepted the relationship on his release three years later, and left the couple to raise a family.

In the week before the trial Gaunson battled for more money The Crown was providing a paltry 7 guineas for counsel and 7 guineas for a solicitor, amounts described even by the anti-Kelly *Ovens and Murray Advertiser* as 'wholly inadequate'. The Attorney General refused to provide more, though the fee *might* be increased *after* the trial if 'sufficient grounds' could be shown. Molesworth and Barry were both involved in a case until Saturday. (A Mr McIntyre was suing the *Age* for libel, claiming £3000 damages. He would win and be awarded £150) On the following Monday, told that only 7 guineas was available for his fee, Molesworth declined to defend Ned.

It is hard to believe that neither Gaunson nor Ned's family could raise the additional 43 guineas that would have secured Molesworth for two days -the top-up reduced to 36 guineas if Gaunson contributed his fee to the cause - yet by Monday not one additional penny had been found for Ned's defence.

The failure to find more money seems inexplicable, as does Gaunson's next move. Late on Monday night, two days before the trial, Gaunson gave the eighty-five-page brief to Henry Bindon. Apart from being 'the most inexperienced barrister in the colony', Bindon had not even been in Victoria at the time of the Stringybark killings (nor, in fact, for most of the Kelly Outbreak) and therefore knew less about the case than almost every man, woman and child in the colony.

Gaunson had probably decided that his only hope of success lay in a further adjournment, giving him more time to raise the money to lure back Molesworth or find an adequate

replacement. His best hope of securing an adjournment was to present Sir Redmond with a barrister who could not only plead the now-well-worn excuse of inadequate preparation time, but also a lack of background knowledge.

If this was Gaunsons strategy - and there seems no other explanation for his selection of Bindon - it represented a desperate gamble. If it worked, he had won precious time to mount an effective defence; if it failed, Ned Kelly would face the Supreme Court defended by a man almost uniquely ill-equipped for the job. It is a matter of history that this gamble failed.

On Thursday 28 October 1880 Ned Kelly stood trial for his life in the Supreme Court defended by Henry Bindon, whose one strong point seems to have been a powerful, though ill-founded, belief in his own ability.

Sir Redmond Barry's attitude was very plain. As the *Herald* had reported two weeks before, 'The trial of Ned Kelly ... will be disposed of as soon as possible, arrangements having been made for lighting the court with gas after dusk. 'On the day of the trial the *Herald* would claim that Barry was willing to sit until midnight. He was keen to wrap up the wretched business in a single day's sitting, a possibility strengthened by the Crown having stripped the case down to a single charge - the murder of Lonigan. This was a wise move in view of McIntyre's damaging admission that he could not swear Ned had shot Scanlon.

Henry Bindon launched into the trial by describing the negotiations with Molesworth, the time-consuming chain of correspondence about the fee with the Sheriff, Crown Law Office and the Attorney-General. He then pleaded ignorance of the case and lack of preparation time, fumbling and bumbling so badly that Barry had to ask, 'What is your motive?' Told that Bindon was seeking a further remand, Barry asked Smyth's opinion on the matter. No one was surprised when the remand application was refused and the trial proceeded.

The fact that Ned Kelly was on trial, not for the murder of a policeman but as an enemy of society, was made very clear at the outset by the Crown Prosecutor's outline of evidence. Smyth claimed that he would put before the jury 'such facts as directly bore on the case' and proceeded to deal with the Fitzpatrick incident, Stringybark, the bank robberies, the murder of Aaron Sherritt, the siege of Glenrowan and Ned's Last Stand. Bindon would try, ineffectually, to restrict evidence to 'what had taken place at the killing of Lonigan'. The parade of witnesses -sixteen in all - plodded through a replay of the two hearings at Beechworth with new faces - Constable Richards and bank manager Tarleton from Jerilderie, Detective Ward and Sergeant Steele.

The great contrast between this trial proper and the lower court hearing lay in the ineffectual cross-examination by Bindon. Even when firing shots loaded by Gaunson, he missed the mark. Since he didn't fully understand the questions he asked, he could not make capital from the answers, however inadequate they might be. He would even confuse the deaths of Lonigan and Scanlon, claiming that Lonigan 'met his death in a fusillade'.

There were a few minor shocks for the Crown. Jerilderie bank manager Tarleton proved to be an embarrassing prosecution

witness when he presented a splendid summary of the defence while quoting Ned:

'It is all very well to say that we shot the police in cold blood. We had to do it in self defence.' He also said that he had been driven to become an outlaw.

Bank manager Scott from Euroa would also irritate the prosecution by pointing out that Mr Kelly had been a thorough gentleman' and 'had not used a single rude word' in front of Mrs Scott, prompting Ned to wink at the jury. Gloster, the Gangs undercover ally from Euroa, gave Ned's version of the police killings in fine style, but McIntyre had presented his by-now carefully orchestrated account of Stringybark virtually without challenge, even reverting to his claim that Ned had shot Scanlon. Senior Constable Kelly would take his Glenrowan evidence further again, producing Ned's armour and even donning his helmet, while Steele would manage to give his testimony without a single reference to the death of Lonigan.

It all dragged on until 6.05 p.m., when Barry asked Smyth if the case could be completed that night. 'I am prepared to sit until midnight to clear it,' he offered hopefully, confirming the *Herald* story already being read in the streets and homes of Melbourne. Told there were eight witnesses still to give evidence, Barry was philosophical and adjourned until 9 a.m. the next morning. Ned was returned to his cell and the jury was conducted across the way to spend the night under lock and key at the Supreme Court Hotel.

## Memorabilia corner.

*Do you have an item of interest you want to share? If so please send it to me. (Ed)*

### *Walter de Molesworth*

#### *The first Molesworth. Or was he?*

**I received the following from the Rev Robert Mackinnon Molesworth. It is the results of his investigations and I believe should cause some discussion about the origins of the Molesworth name. Have you an opinion or theory on the subject? If so why not send it to me for future issues. (Ed)**



The church at Molesworth – the older part is on left



When I was at Oundle School in Northamptonshire (1938 – 1940) I cycled over to the village of Molesworth which was not too far away and had a look in the church there. In the floor of the nave I found an engraved stone memorial slab which was very worn so that it was hard to decipher what was on it. Probably it originally had an effigy in its centre and around the edges I thought I could pick out the words ‘Hubert (or something like that) de Molesworth’. I was fairly certain of the ‘de Molesworth’ part though not so sure of the first name, but Hubert did seem to be as good a Norman name as any. This suggested to me that this was one of William the Conqueror’s knights who had been given the lands of Molesworth for his help and valour in William of Normandy’s conquest of England in 1066.

Last year my wife and I, while back in England visiting family and friends, went again to the ‘church on the hill’, which is what I am told the Anglo-Saxon name of ‘Molesworth’ really means, and had another look at the memorial stone. The sixty years since I had last seen it had reduced the writing’s legibility to such an extent that it was only with imagination and wishful thinking that I could still pick out letters that may have spelt ‘MOLESWORTH’.

Now if my supposition was correct that this memorial was indeed dedicated to the very first Molesworth, perhaps around the year 1100, the Sir Waulter de Mouldsworth who appears in the illustration in the No.1 issue of the *Molesworth Newsletter* could not be that of the truly first Molesworth.

Sir Walter, the caption states, accompanied Prince Edward to Palestine. This would have been on the last of the Crusades, 1270 to 1272. Prince Edward was then heir to the throne of England, and King Henry 111, his father, was nearing the end of his life. Henry had been a weak ruler, not a king by nature, and in later years it had been his valiant and far more king-like son, Prince Edward, who had won the battles and brought some semblance of stability to the rebellious factions within the kingdom.

Henry died at Westminster after a long illness on 16<sup>th</sup> November 1272, and Edward, in his absence, was proclaimed king. He had concluded a truce with the Sultan after an ineffectual campaign in the Holy Land and had started on his way home to England which he finally reached, after several diversions en route, in August 1274.

Whether Sir Walter had remained in his company throughout the four years he had been away from England I have no way of knowing. But I have seen a Molesworth family tree which traces our ancestry back to Edward 1<sup>st</sup>, which I think may have been in a biography of John Edward Nassau Molesworth, D.D., written by my great, great uncle, Sir Guilford Molesworth, the engineer responsible for railway designs in Ceylon, India and East Africa (*vide ‘The man-eaters of Tsavo’*). This suggests that possibly Sir Walter may have subsequently remained at Court and married into Edward’s family.

Anyway there’s food for thought. If anyone else can enlighten us further, I, for one, would be most interested to hear about it. I called in at the local hostelry, the Cross Keys in Molesworth village, when we were there and was told that a number of

*Molesworths* from America and Australia had been there over the years looking for the origin of their name. So perhaps others may have managed to read more of the inscription on the memorial stone than I did. I assume it would have been in Latin.

**The Rev’d Robert (Bob) Mackinnon Molesworth**

## **New births.**

I Missed one in the last newsletter. Tanikka Jean Martin 12 November 1999. A small oversight as she is my granddaughter.  
Welcome Tanikka

We have none to report again this month. But I am sure there are some on the way in a family this size. Please send me details on the new family members so we can include them in future newsletters.

Please include all of the appropriate details that the ladies like to find out.

Such as weight, length, colour of hair, (if any) date and time of birth, where the dimple is located and of course the happy mothers and fathers names. Oh and of course is it a boy or girl. (I suppose that is important too) maby even the baby photo.

## **Marriages.**

I have no other news in this section but if you send me information on who and when I will include them in the next letter.

## **Deaths.**

**Report From Margaret Seymour Molesworth**

Selwyn Hilton Molesworth, born in 1917, died on 11<sup>th</sup> December, 1999. He was a general medical practitioner until he retired in 1982. He was the son of Eric Mackinnon Molesworth (also a doctor) and a descendant of the 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount’s fourth son Edward. Selwyn was always known as Tony as his father thought he looked like an Italian when he was a baby; he was dark and had the Molesworth nose. He was interested in game and sea fishing from an early age and he loved fishing for all his life. His other great interest was photography, especially of wild life such as birds, butterflies and plants. He served in the army during the war in the Royal Artillery returning to medical studies at Manchester University in 1946. I was at the university by that time and we met because we both played badminton. After hospital jobs Tony took up General Practice, like his father before him. Tony had a practice in Lancashire for 12 years before we moved to a practice on the borders of Devon and Cornwall in south west England. When he retired he spent even more time fishing!

To Margaret Seymour Molesworth Our condolences and best wishes go out to you on the loss of your husband Tony.

## Aniversaries

While I have a lot of aniversaries in the family tree I don't want to upset anyone by publishing information that is not current or is sensitive. If you are happy for me to include your aniversary please write and let me know.

## Items to include

Do you have an item you want to share with the family? It could be about a member of your family. Maby you have a succesful sports person or schollar in the family or you might have a story about previous generations and what they did.

## Letters to the editor.

This is your oportunity to share a note with the family. If you have something to say please send it to Phil, but please keep it short there is a limit to how much space I can allocate to each letter.

## Bookshelf

Coming soon. The History of the Molesworth's by Russell Molesworth. I should have more information for you in the next edition, but I suspect it could be published by Christmass 1999.

## Poetry and dities

## Reporters Wanted

I would like to be able to include items from the Molesworths or their descendants from around the world in future editions. To achieve this I need reporters. Do you have a nose for news? If so, why not collect some gossip and send it to me for inclusion. Please be sure the information is correct and the person it is about agrees with it being published. I don't want to start any wars. The news may be in the form of a story and could be even accompanied by a photo. (I am able to scan photos, slides or negatives) You may have attended a gathering of family members in your area. Why not get a group photo and send it with a report on the reason for the gathering etc. Family groups on an outing, a birthday or wedding for example. Please contact me if you're interested.

The following article is from Tod Molesworth it makes interesting reading. Thank you Tod, I am sure your article will be enjoyed by many.

### **William Molesworth**

### Drummer of 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Foot

By Tod Molesworth

I'm an American that has had certain genealogical information that has been handed down along with some old research done by someone else that I've tried to confirm. Through my ongoing research and from that family history this is what I know of my gr-gr-gr-gr-grandfather, William Molesworth.

William was born in Birmingham, England and baptized April 5, 1779 in St. Martin Church. His parents were Emanuel and Rebecca (Harley) Molesworth who were married in the same church October 17, 1770. He had three older sisters Mary, Sarah and Rebecca.

William enlisted Christmas day of 1798 when the Regiment was stationed in Limerick, Ireland. 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment re-enactors (historians really) theorize that he was probably with the militia sent to Ireland because of the "Irish" problem. The Regiment embarked for Canada August 17, 1799.

The 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment was at Fort Malden near Amhurstburg, Essex County, Ontario, Canada from July, 1805 to July, 1809 and again from August, 1811 to when they abandoned the Amhurstburg in late September, 1813. I have copies of William's pay vouchers, in late 1811 from Fort Malden. This pay record sheet that he was on was miss-copied so I don't know which company he was in yet. But according to other sheets the only companies at Fort Malden at that time were the Grenadiers and the 8<sup>th</sup> Company. So at least that is narrowed down. I've also found that he was awarded prize money for participating in the capture of Detroit.

He is actually mentioned in the memoirs of Thomas Vercheres, a merchant in Amhurstburg. *"But to return to hostilities. On Tuesday evening, August 7<sup>th</sup>, a vigorous alarm was sounded, the drummer who patrolled the streets beating the call to arms. I was at dinner with the gentlemen who were staying with me, and I hurried out to ask the drummer what he meant by his racket. His name was Molesworth, of the Forty-first Regiment. He replied that Major Muir was about to cross the river to Brownstown with several companies of soldiers and a large number of Indians to intercept the Americans coming from River Raisin to Detroit with provisions for their army."*

According to family legend, he married an Indian woman. This doesn't seem to be the case unless she was the daughter of a Frenchman and an Indian woman as her name is Ellinor Fleury. This scenario seems to be backed up by the fact that, if he had married a white woman, she would have been included in the regimental strength. This is according to the Welch Regiment Historian in Wales. According to him he would not have received official permission to marry an Indian woman so he would have married her "off strength". There are no records indicating a wife with the Regiment.

While William was stationed at Fort Malden, he and Ellinor had three children; Sarah, christened March 2, 1806, Emanuel, christened on July 2, 1809 and Margaret, christened October 6, 1811. They were all baptized in the St. John's Anglican Church in Sandwich, Ontario. Sandwich, which is now called Windsor, was the settlement for the soldiers of Fort Malden and St. John's was the only church there at that time.

A detachment of the 41<sup>st</sup> was sent out with the British Fleet in Lake Erie. After the defeat of the fleet by Oliver Hazard Perry, General Henry Proctor decided to abandon Fort Malden due to the control of Lake Erie by the victorious American fleet and no chance of supplies. At the present day Fort Malden there exists a prisoner list from the Battle of Lake Erie and William Molesworth's name does not appear on it.

General Proctor abandoned Forts Detroit and Malden on September 27, 1813 and began marching up the Thames River toward Burlington, Ontario. Accompanying the British troops was the great Shawnee Chief Tecumseh and one thousand of his warriors including Sioux and Chippawa as

well as the Shawnee. Tecumseh was furious at what he thought was the abandoning of the Indians in the area.

On October 5, 1813 the Americans caught the heavily burdened British column despite some brilliant rear guard action by Tecumseh and his warriors at McGregors Creek the day before. The ground that they were holding had a swamp on the right and the river on the left. Tecumseh and his allies took position in the swamp. The American Cavalry charged the exhausted British troops and carried the British line. The Indians were amazed to see the British troops just fire two volleys and then surrender. According to a journal by one of the survivors of the Battle of Thames River, all the survivors did so by running back through the swamp to lose the victorious Americans. In this battle the Great Chief Tecumseh was mortally wounded by a gunshot wound to the chest. He was buried secretly by his warriors in the same swamp that the survivors of the British Army had escaped into. Again, at the present Fort Malden, there is a list of the prisoners taken at the Battle of Thames River and William Molesworth's name is not listed. He was one of the very lucky ones as before prisoners were exchanged at the end of the war, William's Regiment only numbered about 150.

The Forty-first Regiment of Foot was ordered France at the end of the war to help fight Napoleon. They embarked on June 12, 1815 and headed to France, not knowing that just six days before they left, Napoleon was defeated at Waterloo. The 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment spent very little time in France and then were shipped back to England. William Molesworth, Drummer of the 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Foot, was discharged on July 20, 1819.

When the 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment shipped out, his family was left behind. His son, William Molesworth II, was born while he was gone. This is according to the Anglican Parish Church records in Perth, Drummond Township, Lanark County. Lanark County fits as it is just above Fort Niagara, where the rest of the action of the Regiment took place before the end of the war. William II was born on November 27, 1815 and baptized on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 1822. No doubt Ellinor was waiting for William to rejoin them before baptizing their son.

Again, according to family legend, William signed to a merchant ship that was going to Canada. When the ship arrived on the St. Lawrence he jump ship to rejoin his family. He is named in the 1820, 1821 and 1822 military census of Drummond Township, Lanark County, Ontario in which the household consisted of one woman, one male child and two female children. William Molesworth received 100 acres for his service to the Crown on April 9, 1824, which was described as NE ½ lot 21, Concession 5 of Drummond Township. For reasons not given and unknown, the Sheriff's Office sold this land to the highest bidder on December 19, 1829. William then again received a second 100 acres from the crown on November 12, 1838, which was described as Lot 27, Concession 10, Drummond Township. He or possibly William II sold this land on January 17, 1845 to Charles Stewart of Beckwith Township. William's address on this document is given as the Township of Whitby, York County, Ontario.

William never applied for the Military General Service Medal Class "Fort Detroit" which was issued in 1847. I haven't found his date of death so it's possible he was already deceased. He would have been 69 years of age, ancient by the standards of the day. If he was still alive it's also possible that he was unaware of the medal, didn't care, or maybe was worried about jumping the ship and getting in trouble for it. We may never know. William is buried somewhere in Canada.

This Molesworth family moved to Sanilac County (just north of Port Huron) Michigan, by rowboat, somewhere in between March 1881 and early 1883. I currently live about 8 miles from where William's son is buried in Speaker Township, Sanilac County.