

## Memorial 54

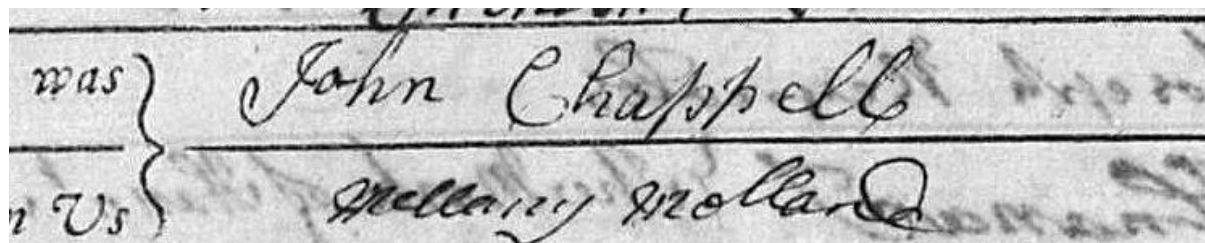
### MELONY SNELLING OF THIS CITY WIDOW DIED 21 AUG 1822 AGED 90<sup>1</sup>

Mellany<sup>2</sup> Snelling was interred in the Dissenters graveyard on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August 1822.<sup>3</sup> Mr Cox's cave was opened for her final resting place and 10 shillings was paid for this to be undertaken.<sup>4</sup> The burial register states that she died on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August.<sup>5</sup> This is also true of the 1894 transcription which states '*Melony Snelling of this city, widow 24 Aug 1822, aged 90.*'<sup>6</sup> It is more than likely that the stone has weathered badly leading to the 24 appearing as a 21.

It is assumed that Mellany was related in some way to Mr James Cox, merchant, who was the first interment in the cave in 1820 just a couple of years earlier.<sup>7</sup>

Research has revealed that she was in fact the mother of Anna, née Chappell, James Cox's wife.

Mellany Molland married John Chappell on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 1766 at St Mary Major in Exeter, they were both described as '*of this parish*'.<sup>8</sup> According to Mellany's age at her death she would have been about thirty-six when she married. We are assuming that this was her first marriage, but this has not been confirmed. Witnesses at their wedding were James Cloade and Joseph Portbury both Sexton's of the parish so probably not relations that could give us any clues.<sup>9</sup>



Although the surname Molland is well represented in Devon, no baptismal records for Mellany Molland have been found yet.

No record for Anna Chappell, Mellany and John's daughter has been found either. Based on her supposed age at death, Anna would have been born about 1769. Was she their only child?

<sup>1</sup> 2014 transcription [www.edgt.org.uk](http://www.edgt.org.uk)

<sup>2</sup> Two of the signatures we have are signed Mellany.

<sup>3</sup> Georges Meeting (Presbyterian) 1687-1823 Baptism and Burial Register. Accessed via [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

<sup>4</sup> Report and account book of Dissenters burial ground 1748-1832 (DRO3693D/0/B/1). Accessed at [www.swheritage.org.uk](http://www.swheritage.org.uk)

<sup>5</sup> As note 3.

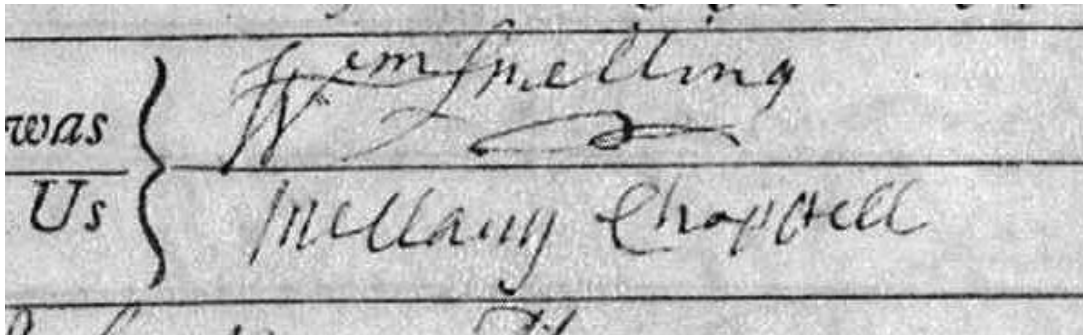
<sup>6</sup> William Henry Hamilton Rogers' 1894 transcription [www.swheritage.org.uk](http://www.swheritage.org.uk)

<sup>7</sup> See Stone 56 which includes the biography of James Cox [www.edgt.org.uk](http://www.edgt.org.uk)

<sup>8</sup> St Mary Major Parish register accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

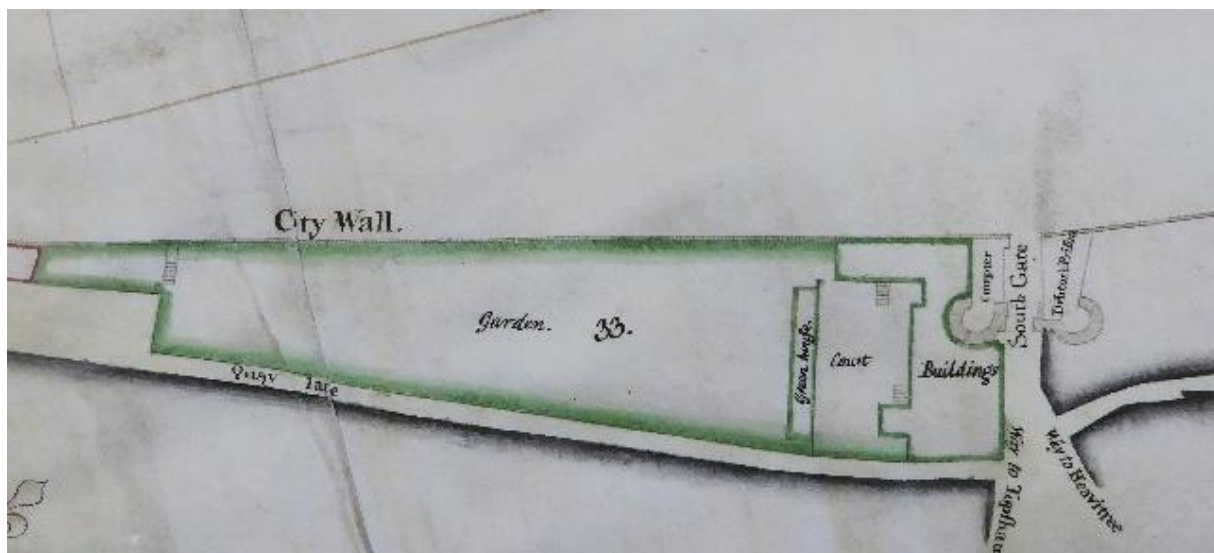
<sup>9</sup> Information from parish registers [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

Mellany Chappell, is next found as a widow when she married William Snelling of the Parish of St Lawrence in the city of Exeter at St Mary Arches on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 1780.<sup>10</sup>



An entry in the burial register of St Olaves shows a John Chapple "was buried Nov the 29<sup>th</sup> 1775." Was this John Chappell the first husband of Mellany? As we know that Mellany was a widow when she died, the only register containing a possible burial for her husband between the date of their marriage and her death is that of William Snelling on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 1788 at St. Olave's.<sup>11</sup> This William Snelling left a will but unfortunately it was one of those destroyed during an air raid on Exeter in 1942.<sup>12</sup>

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 1808 Melony took over the lease of 'A tenement, courtelage and large garden situate without and adjoining the walls of the city between Southgate (to the round tower whereof it joyns) and Kaygate.' The Lease was taken out on three lives namely Ann Cox aged 40, John James Cox aged 16 and Agnes Gould Cox aged 13. She paid 350 pounds 'consideration money' and 15 pounds clear rent.<sup>13</sup> These are probably her daughter and two grandchildren.



No 33 Leased by Mellany Snelling<sup>14</sup>

<sup>10</sup> St Mary Arches parish register accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>11</sup> St Olaves burial register accessed via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/DEV/DevonWillsProject>

<sup>13</sup> Exeter Chamber Map Book 1759 (ECA/7/1/1-59) [www.swheritage.org.uk](http://www.swheritage.org.uk)

<sup>14</sup> As note 13.

In the 1819 Coldridge map of Exeter this area was known as 'Mr. Cox's Garden' presumably after her grandson John James Cox.

Unfortunately, no newspaper or magazine reports of Mellany's death have been discovered and we do not know exactly where in Exeter she was living at the time of her death whether it was the house she had rented in 1808 or with other family members.

Two of Mellany's grandchildren were given '*Molland*' as their middle names, Melony Molland Cox (1789-1866) and Samuel Molland Cox (1790-1862), giving us a direct link back to Mellany.

There is obviously more to discover about Mellany and her two husbands in the future.

**A Amosford**

October 2021.