

1911 Census return for Royston Cole & family

In the 1911 census Royston Cole is still listed as resident with his parents, but their address is by now named as "Chelsfield". This would mean that he could well have lived at home with his parents, when not on duty at Quernmore School, if indeed he had become a school master in those intervening ten years.

In the category of "Personal Occupation", under Royston's entry, it states "Homs" This sounds a very strange name until one thinks of his job as "housemaster" at the school, which is what he is listed as being on his marriage certificate in 1919. The 'Ho' could be a shortened form of "House", and the 'Ms' as an abbreviation of "Master".

This is the first written evidence we have of him working before the First World War. We also now have the copy of the Exemption Certificate he was issued with when he reported for service at Buxton in early 1916, where he is listed as a house master, but his home address is given as "Woodland Cottage, Chelsfield". This was quite possibly his parents' home at the time, but he may have moved out of the family home by then. The certificate gave him until the 21st April to report for military service.

After the war, while he was still in the army, his old headmaster of Quernmore was so anxious to get him back that he wrote to Royston's superiors to ask if he could be released to return to his old job as soon as possible. The letter was written on December 24th 1918. We do not know how soon after this he was demobbed, but he was certainly in residence at Quernmore by the June of 1919, when he married Constance Price, also of Chelsfield.