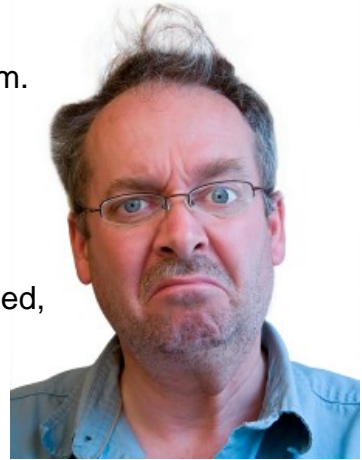


Mr. Misconduct

The municipal register of births, marriages and deaths in Hatfield, England, once recorded this name on a death certificate: “Mr. Serious Misconduct of Mill Lane, Welwyn, aged 74.” There was no dispute of her entry.

It seems that Mr. Misconduct had actually been christened as Malcolm Mactaggart. In 1939, he had a serious argument with his employer, the London Midland and Scottish Railway Company. The incident arose over his taking two weeks’ vacation, when the railway company said that he was entitled to only one week. He was fired for “serious misconduct.”

Mactaggart never forgave the railway company for firing him. He decided to adopt the slur against his character as his official name. That way, any time someone questioned his name – which was often – he had an opportunity to recall the injustice he felt had been done to him by his former employer. He used the name on all official documents, including his social security payment book, and when he died, his widow registered his death in that name.



How sad! A lifetime of bitterness kept this man chained to his past instead of seeking what the future could bring.

In the end, the long-standing grudge a person carries may very well become a lasting stain on one’s own name.

Choose to forgive, and to stay flexible in your judgment of others.

– Beecher Hunter