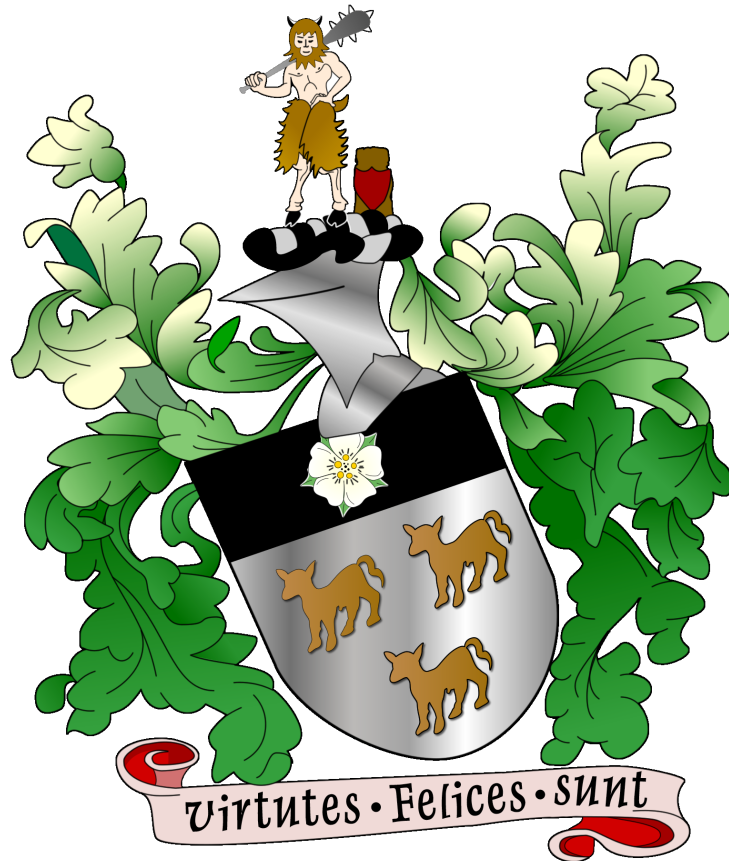


MECCA NEWS

THE JOURNAL OF THE METCALFE SOCIETY

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THE MECCA NEWS

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THE JOURNAL OF THE METCALFE SOCIETY
PRODUCED THREE TIMES A YEAR
IN APRIL, AUGUST AND DECEMBER

CONTENTS

Article & Contributor	Page
<i>Editorial Final Musings : Dr Mike Pope</i>	4
<i>Jottings and Plans from the Chairperson - Jo Heron</i>	5
<i>Timeline of Key Metcalfe Society Events</i>	6
<i>Dissent in the Northern Dales and Beyond - Peter Dobson</i>	7 - 10
<i>The First 100 Metcalfe Society Members - Dave C. Metcalfe</i>	11 - 12
<i>The Metcalfe Museum - Michael Peel</i>	13 - 15
<i>Mecca Muster Anniversary Photos - Mike Pope & Peter Dobson</i>	16
<i>Cross & Shovel - Michael Metcalfe</i>	17 - 19
<i>Obituary for Patrick Malham - Lesley Longworth and Mike Pope</i>	20
<i>Reminiscences of an Ex-Chairman - David Lambert</i>	21 - 22
<i>The New Book - Metcalfe Family Histories - Dave C. Metcalfe</i>	23
<i>Metcalfe Society Committee Members from 1980 to 2020 - Mike Pope</i>	24 - 25
<i>An Historical Society Perspective - Mike Pope & David Lambert</i>	26 - 28
<i>When in Command - Command! - Graeme J. Metcalfe</i>	29
<i>Mecca Muster Photo Roundup 1980 to 2009 : Mike Pope & Peter Dobson</i>	30 - 31
<i>Reminiscences from the Membership - Joan Metcalfe & Valerie Metcalfe</i>	32
<i>Metcalfe DNA Project - Where to Next? - Dave C. Metcalfe</i>	33
<i>Archivist Report - New Members & Birth Briefs - Margaret Hodgson</i>	34 - 35
<i>The Reverend Lister Metcalfe and my Metcalfe Connection - Mike Pope</i>	36 - 41
<i>Mecca Muster Photo Roundup 2010 to 2016 : Mike Pope & Peter Dobson</i>	42 - 43
<i>Melbourne to Gallipoli - Bernard Metcalfe</i>	44 - 46
<i>Mecca Muster Photo Roundup 2017 to 2019 : Mike Pope & Peter Dobson</i>	47
<i>Back Cover : Autumn Colours in the Howgills near Dent - Mike Pope</i>	48

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*The views and material published in the Mecca News do not necessarily
represent the views of the Editor or the Metcalfe Society*

Editorial Musings by Dr Mike Pope M1919
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I bid you all the best greetings of the festive season and wish you a happy Christmas and a New Year of rather more health and happiness than we have experienced in this truly awful Covid19 affected year of 2020.

This is the last of my Mecca News as editor, after nearly five years and twelve editions, and I must say that I have enjoyed every moment of putting together this excellent journal of an absolutely admirable genealogical and family history society. Most unfortunately, it is also the last Mecca News for the foreseeable future, since nobody has come forward to take over the mantle of editor and so sadly, the members will lose a truly edifying vehicle, which for forty years has enabled the dissemination of Metcalfe facts and information, to the benefit of the membership and the accumulated history of the Metcalfe line.

The end of the summer also saw the termination of over two years of endeavour, working alongside Dave C. Metcalfe as we wrote and edited the new society book Metcalfe Family Histories which was published in July. I would like to pay tribute to Dave's vision, leadership, drive and irrepressible optimism which kept us going over that long period and congratulations to him that we appear to have produced a work of not insignificant quality. It was a real pleasure working with him, even though I have done no personal family history over all that period and my garden is a disaster. He has been equally pro-active, energetic and innovative on the committee, a real asset to the society and will be missed now he has stepped down, as will his culinary skills which are considerable.

On the subject of the book, I am happy that over 150 members ordered a copy of Metcalfe Family Histories during August and early September at the discounted price. For the remaining 150 members who did not, I urge you to purchase a volume anyway now, as it is a most worthwhile and engaging publication which showcases many very interesting Metcalfes, and records a great deal of the setting up and history of the society. It is also an excellent birthday or Christmas present for children, grand children and great grandchildren, who might one day in the future be encouraged to take up genealogy and discover more about their own Metcalfe line and the early history of the name. Dave has inserted a more full marketing piece later in the magazine.

I have tried, in this 40th anniversary edition, to strike a balance between the inclusion of new articles and having a retrospective on the origins and progress of the society, showing photographs of bygone musters and including some comments from influential members on their reminiscences and some snippets which members wrote in to tell of how membership of the society has helped their research and the pursuance of their family roots.

Peter Dobson has contributed an excellent review of non-conformism in the Dales and I am particularly pleased that we have an article from Bernard Metcalfe in Australia, one from Michael Metcalfe in the U.S.A, the latter who I think is presently serving in the American military establishment, and another US contribution from Graeme J. Metcalfe, all on my favourite military themes - thank you all. Another very heartfelt vote of thanks to those who have sent me articles over my period in the job; you made my task so much easier and I am indebted to you all. In particular I must commend Michael Peel, Andrew Metcalfe, Christopher Metcalfe and Dave C. Metcalfe, each of whom have written me several pieces on disparate subjects over the years and all of such admirable quality.

I would like to pay tribute to the hard work of my committee member colleagues over these five years and thank them for their help, forbearance and good humour - it has been a pleasure running the society with you - a very enjoyable experience which I would not have missed for the world and there would be no society without you. I am highly indebted to our President Nina Benson, Archivist Margaret Hodgson, retired Chairman David Lambert, and previous Editor and current Treasurer Peter Dobson (who does not understand the concept of retirement, but taught me all I know) for their individual and combined support, help and encouragement, particularly in my early months in the role. Although this is now beginning to sound like an Oscar acceptance speech (in your dreams as my wife would say) I would like to thank member Joan Metcalfe for all the help she has given me on wills, on other transcriptions, with general advice and very pleasant conversations on family history.

I wish Jo and the newly organised team all the very best in the coming months and years and hope that they succeed in an increasingly difficult environment for genealogical societies and that the Metcalfe Society continues to offer such a high quality service to its members.

My research on Metcalfe will continue, and I am interested in developing sufficient competence to investigate and critique the work of Walter & Gilbert Metcalfe in "Records of the Family of Metcalfe" and of the Reverend Thomas Metcalfe in "Medecalf", as no research is ever perfect, members of the College of Arms are not omnipotent, being merely highly specialised historians, who as we know, are more than occasionally proved wrong, and I believe there has been too little work done in this area. My own Popes, Sturdys, Bendelows, Moores and Pelmeares are also in need of some serious revisiting, so I will bid you farewell and leave you with my best wishes for a healthy, successful and safe future.

Dr Michael C. Pope

Jottings and Plans from the Chair by Jo Heron

As you will be aware by now, some major changes have occurred within the Society this year. At the AGM, David Lambert, our chairman for the last 21 years finally managed to escape and pass on his mantle (or shoes) to me. It will take some effort to match the contribution that David has made over those years, and I am very pleased to say that we will not lose his expertise completely, as he will remain as a trustee for the Society.

We also said farewell to our Archivist Margaret Hodgson, and our Editor Dr Mike Pope. Once again, their sterling work on behalf of the society is very much appreciated and they will be sadly missed. Their contribution has helped to make the society what it is today. Dave C Metcalfe will also be taking a back seat for a while this year, and we thank both him and Mike for the immense effort they put into creating the latest volume to hit the shelves under the auspices of the society – I hope you have all now ordered your copy of this magnificent volume?

As for the rest of the committee, Peter Dobson will continue as our financial advisor, and David and Martin Metcalfe will continue in their roles as database manager and DNA project organiser. We are also welcoming Lesley Longworth back, managing our Facebook presence as she has done for some years now, and Liz Waller is taking over the archivist role and will be preparing the birth briefs of new members.

I am very keen that we should involve our overseas members more in the running of the society, and to this end, we will be looking at ways in which we can involve Dianne Fox (Australia) and Susan Harper (Canada), our overseas agents, more in the work of the committee and activities in their respective areas.

You will also be aware that this will be the last hard copy of Mecca News for some time. We will, however, be sending you a newsletter with the latest innovations and some stories over coming months, possibly bi-monthly – so watch out for details of that in due course. Do keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates and information.

We will be looking to increase the scope of our website, to include more images, more wills and transcriptions and more research – to include more names, places, occupations and stories – but the committee and the few members who already contribute through Mecca News, are not enough. We need YOUR help to fill up the pages of our website with interesting and stimulating items.

So please help us to make YOUR Society the liveliest and most vibrant Family History organisation in the World. We are in a unique position covering, as we do, the whole world with members in so many countries, with so many stories. We need them all and we need your assistance to find them.

In the meantime, if you are still in lock-down or isolating, can I ask that you spend your time doing research into Metcalfe and the many variants of the name and let us have what you find?

If you are still, or again, in lock down or self-isolating, keep safe and take care.

Every best wish for 2021

Jo Heron (Chairperson) M1042

VITAL COMMUNICATIONS - EMAIL ADDRESSES & SUBSCRIPTIONS

ALL MEMBERS IN THE UK & OVERSEAS - please note that as Mecca News is ceasing, almost all future communications, including the now very important **Metcalfe Society Newsletter**, will be by email and it is **essential** that you check that the society is aware of your **up to date email address**.

If you are not receiving any Newsletter communications in 2021, please **contact membership@metcalfe.org.uk**.

The **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE** has now reduced to a flat **£10 per annum** for both **UK and overseas members**. Please **CHANGE YOUR STANDING ORDER** with **IMMEDIATE EFFECT** before the **1 January 2021** payments are taken.

The Metcalfe Society was established in 1980 by its founders Mary Metcalfe and Vera Adams and a group of like minded individuals who were members of the Family History Section of the Yorkshire Archeological Society, in Leeds Yorkshire, when they realised that they, or their family were of Metcalfe descent. They can hardly, at that time, have contemplated that the organisation would become so successful. Forty years and over 2000 members later, the society encompasses a Metcalfe diaspora over four continents, holds hundreds of thousands of records and scores of family trees and has connected this one name family across the generations, to the great benefit of the membership. The table below places the development of the society into its own chronological and historical context.

Timeline of Key Metcalfe Society Events

Event	Date
The Metcalfe Society formed	1980
First Mecca News published	1980
Metcalfe Index launched	1980
The society's constitution drawn up	1981
First 50 members achieved	1982
First Mecca Muster	September 1982
First Metcalfe Society computer	November 1989
Metcalfe - History of the Clan	April 1998
First time on the internet (World Wide Web)	October 1998
First 1,000 members achieved	1999
25 Year Anniversary of The Metcalfe Society	2005
The Metcalfes in India - Volume 1	October 2005
The Metcalfe DNA Project launched	2005
The Metcalfes in India - Volume 2	March 2012
100th Mecca News published	August 2013
First 2,000 members achieved	2015
New Metcalfe Society website launched at the muster	October 2015
Metcalfes at War - The Great War 1914-1919	July 2018
Mecca News goes digital (pdf format)	December 2018
120th Mecca News published	April 2020
Metcalfe Family Histories book published	July 2020
40 Year Anniversary of The Metcalfe Society	December 2020
Mecca News discontinued	December 2020

Religious Dissent in the Northern Dales and Beyond

Peter Dobson M69

Religious Dissent is not a new phenomenon. In the 14th century the LOLLARDS attempted to change the religious attitude of the governing classes but were ruthlessly put down. However, dissent never fully went away and during the reign of Henry VIII it had an opportunity to resurface.



Image courtesy of en.wikipedia.org

King Henry's split with the Roman Catholic Church in 1533 was the catalyst for ongoing religious dissent during his reign which is still experienced today.

The "civil war" (in all but name) continued throughout Henry's reign and that of his children Edward, Mary and Elizabeth. Henry's "Church of England" took over the buildings of the "Old Church" (apart from the abbeys, cathedrals and those worth selling to fill the king's coffers) and engaged new clergy, throwing out any incumbents who resisted the changes.

In 1559 Queen Elizabeth passed an act effectively outlawing practitioners of the "Old Church" (who became the CATHOLICS). The Catholic faith went underground and was held in country houses, private dwellings and secret locations. The old worshippers became the new dissenters.

There was a strong Catholic community around Aysgarth especially amongst the landowners. After the failure of the "Rising in the North" in 1569 a Catholic school was set up in the village.

Some sent their children abroad for a Catholic education; few returned to take up teaching as an occupation. However, some did.

Thomas METCALF born Aysgarth 1586. Captured in his father's house, but escaped to the continent and was ordained. Returned to England 1613. d.1651.

John METCALF alias Collingwood, born Richmond. Son of John and Eleanor. Baptised by his Uncle Thos. Collingwood S.J. Ordained St.Omers 1687. In England 1690. Died 1729.

In the Dales the established church held sway with its main churches. Swaledale's "mother" church was based in Grinton whilst the "daughter" church, erected in 1580 to serve the Upper Dale was in Muker.

The villagers between the two had a choice of travelling to either and attendance (or otherwise) depended on diligence of the local church laity. Upper Wensleydale's church at Aysgarth was the largest parish in the country and it was not until the 17th century and later that chapels of ease appeared at Lunds, Hardraw, Hawes, Askrigg and Stalling Busk to save parishioners many miles of walking. The churches at Wensley, Castle Bolton and Redmire were provided under the auspices of the Scrope family.

Since no one knew just what the new church stood for (apart from the obvious) it allowed various interpretations of what was Christianity. In the early 1600s the Church of England was still finding its religious path and with the lack of firm direction numerous sects arose, which were mainly strains of CALVINIST PROTESTANTISM. These appeared in many forms across the country, often classed as SEEKERS which included ANABAPTISTS, BROWNISTS, INDEPENDENTS and various local minister's sects.

The demise of the Tudor dynasty in 1603 ushered in the Stuarts. Influenced by their Scottish roots religious attitudes started to evolve.

One of the earliest dissenting voices was that of George Fox. His beliefs were developed in the 1630s and his followers became known as QUAKERS.

Established in the East Midlands, one of the earliest groups formed outside the area was at Grinton in mid Swaledale.

They had Friends Meeting Houses, as their places of association were called, at Sedbergh, Coutersett, Hawes, Bainbridge, Richmond, Hipswell, Bedale and Middleham amongst others. Never a large community they were non-the-less influential.

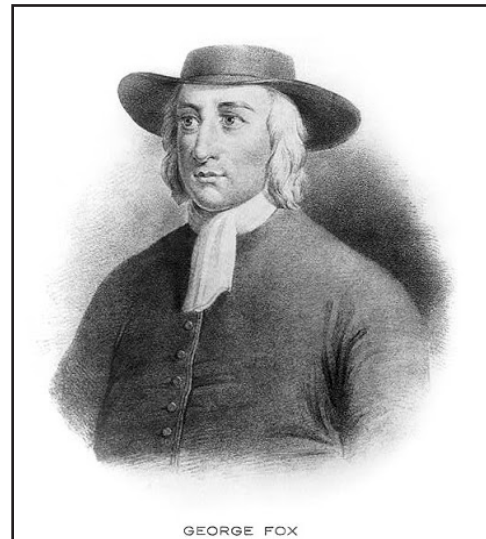


Image courtesy of en.wikipedia.org



Firbank Knott between Kendal in the Lake District and Sedbergh in Lunedale is considered to be the birthplace of Quakerism as it was there, in 1652, that George Fox gave his great sermon to inspire over a thousand 'seekers' from the whole of the north of England. The Quaker Meeting House at nearby Brigflatts shown on the left is the oldest in the north of England. (Photograph: Peter Dobson)

These changes together with the breakdown of trust between the King and Parliament sowed the seeds of the ENGLISH CIVIL WAR. The Civil War was as much religious as it was about political governance. Many of the worshippers felt the established church had reneged on its Protestant roots and they sought a return to the early days of reform. Collectively known as PURITANS they included a wide range of sects. Amongst these were the Baptists whose beliefs were strongly supported by Cromwell's soldiers.

Zion Baptist Church in Mortlock Street, Melbourn is one of the earliest Baptist Churches in Cambridgeshire. Its first minister - **Benjamin Metcalfe** – was appointed in 1675, but there are also records of Baptist 'Dissenters' gathering in 1653. In 1672, Benjamin obtained a licence to preach in his own house and from 1689 they met in the farmhouse of **William Metcalfe**. Sourced from Melbourn Baptist Church website.

After the return of the monarchy in 1660 many dissenting churches had their activities restrained; many were persecuted and their clergy expelled from office and often fined. However, there were some who were prepared to continue with their Non-conformity.

The Presbyterian Thomas Whateley preached at Woodstock, Oxfordshire in the late 1660s and in 1672 William Metcalfe applied for a meeting house licence. By 1738 the rector reported that there were hardly any dissenters. Quakers were especially persecuted. The main persecutor in Swaledale and Wensleydale was a James Metcalfe who appears as a strident pursuer of both Catholics and Quakers.

In 1665 **Francis Metcalf** of Gayle and **Margaret Metcalf** of Marsett were fined. Whilst **Thomas Metcalf** of Northallerton, a lawyer, was involved in appeals against the fines. **Francis Metcalf** appears in the records almost continuously during 1670 when he is fined £1 with his daughter for attending a meeting at the house of Thomas Fawcett in Hawes along with a **John Metcalf** who was also fined £1. Francis continues to appear in the list of dissenters throughout the year with his fines rising steadily. An entry at the beginning of 1671 sees his cow worth 40/- (£2) seized.

The constable who enacted the seizures was shortly afterwards at another house, was heard to curse the Quakers and then fell dead over his breakfast! This book is well worth a look for all the local names if nothing else. Collection of the Sufferings of the People called Quakers, Volume 2 1753.

Following the Act of Tolerance in 1689 new sects appeared. One of the earliest Protestant assemblies was a PRESBYTERIAN church at Blades set up in the 1690s under the auspices of Lord Whar-ton (a well-known PURITAN and a friend of Oliver Cromwell).

Throughout the following years INDEPENDENTS appeared in Swaledale and Wensleydale mainly worshipping in people's homes or out buildings. One of the earliest and most influential were the INDEPENDENT CONGREGATIONALISTS who had a congregation in Low Row, Swaledale. They established a church in Reeth in 1780 after holding meetings around the Dale.



Photograph of Blades by Peter Dobson

In Gayle in Wensleydale a new sect was established. John Glas a Scottish preacher felt the church north of the border was not providing the right teaching and he set up his own church. His son in law Robert Sandeman followed his father-in-law's ideas and in the 1760s set up the chapel at Gayle. It later split, some of them becoming INGHAMITES. There are a number of Metcalfes associated with the chapel and Metcalfe gravestones are to be found in the small cemetery.

The Church of England had by the 1730s become somewhat moribund and there arose a general movement which looked to make the religion more relevant to ordinary people.

Where they felt it was not possible they formed their own churches. Arguably the most influential religious group in the two dales were the METHODISTS. Originally activists seeking to change the Church of England, they eventually were forced to become a separate church.



John Wesley 1703 - 1791 English Cleric, Theologian and Evangelist. Courtesy en.wikipedia.com

The early members of this new sect included John WESLEY. His now famous journeys across the country included numerous trips to the North of England.

He first visited Wensleydale in 1743 but did not reach Swaledale until some ten years later. Wesley often travelled into Swaledale either from the north (he had many friends in Teesdale and Newcastle) or the west (from Westmorland) and along these routes can be seen many Methodist Chapels.

The first meeting place at Blades established on the old Presbyterian chapel was not however set up by Wesley but by the Spensley brothers from Weardale who had relations in Blades. The nascent society grew quickly and soon moved to Low Row in Swaledale where it became the hub for the dale.



Gunnerside Chapel Swaledale North Yorkshire by Peter Dobson

The largest congregation was at Gunnerside (above) where the chapel ran Sunday schools, day schools and temperance societies. They had some 600 adherents from the village and surrounding areas and in 1865 over 250 children and young people attended the Sunday School.

Wensleydale was well served by the established church, often under the auspices of the major landowners, which restricted independent congregations. However, the Quakers had Meeting Houses in Hipswell, Middleham, Bedale and Bainbridge (the latter continuing to the present day), whilst Methodist chapels were established in Middleham, West Burton, Scorton, Leyburn, Gayle, Hawes, Askrigg and Aysgarth.

The **CATHOLIC** Church continued effectively to be banned until the 1790s after which they set up their own churches and schools in Richmond, Bedale, Northallerton and Ripon

The dissenting churches are a rich ground for research (if you have the inclination!).

Peter Dobson M69

The **NORTH YORKSHIRE RECORD OFFICE** holds information on the various Dales religious groups and a start could be made at archivesunlocked.northyorks.gov.uk

Try also

archive.org/details/28688356.1865.emory.edu/page/n3

(Which is a copy of Methodism in Swaledale by John Ward published in 1865 detailing the growth of the chapels in the Dale.)

genuki.org.uk/big/eng/YKS/NRY/Grinton/Low-RowCongChurch

For general information have a look at

www.genuki.org.uk / quaker.org.uk / nationalarchives.gov.uk (non-conformist BMD's)
outofoblivion.org.uk/vill_layouts.asp / babel.hathitrust.org

In Wesley's Weardale Footsteps - Methodist Recorder 1898 / British History Online - Protestant Nonconformity / John Wesley's Journals

Also available through the Metcalfe Society

Quaker Records Bainbridge 1693-1776 / Catholic Recusants 17th century / Lord Wharton / Ministers Ejected from Cumbria 1662
Upper Dales Methodists / Wensleydale Methodists

The Pioneers - the Metcalfe Society's first 100 Members

Mem No.	Name	Location
1	Mr & Mrs Alan & Mary Metcalfe	West Riding of Yorkshire
2	Mrs Vera Adams	West Riding of Yorkshire
3	Mr George Buxton	Middlesex
4	Mrs Helen Offer	Sussex
5	Mrs Barbara Kent	West Midlands
6	Mr John Holden	Lancashire
7	Mrs Linda Crowther	Avon
8	Mr David Galloway	Hampshire
9	Mrs Marion Collins	West Midlands
10	Mrs Pat Palmer	Fifeshire
11	Mr David Lambert	Cheshire
12	Miss Caryl Metcalfe	Nottinghamshire
13	Mr & Mrs Ronald & Gwen Metcalfe	West Midlands
14	Mrs Mary Ingham	West Riding of Yorkshire
15	Mr Robert W Metcalf	West Riding of Yorkshire
16	Mrs Ann Crabbe	Devon
17	Mr Harold A Metcalf	West Riding of Yorkshire
18	Mrs Rose Metcalf	West Riding of Yorkshire
19	Mrs V Midwood	
20	Mr James Mowbray Metcalfe	Oxfordshire
21	Mrs Pat Russell	Cheshire
22	Mr J A Buxton	Middlesex
23	Mrs C Burnett	County Durham
24	Mr Joseph W Metcalfe	Cheshire
25	Mr Ken McLaughlan	Ontario, Canada
26	Miss Flora Metcalfe	Ontario, Canada
27	Mrs Shirley Walls	Clwyd
28	Miss Edna Metcalfe	West Riding of Yorkshire
29	Mrs Nina Benson	West Riding of Yorkshire
30	Mr John Clarence Metcalfe	Ontario, Canada
31	Dr Peter Metcalfe	West Riding of Yorkshire
32	R Storey	
33	Mrs Shirley Withers	Western Australia
34	Rev Thomas W Metcalfe	County Durham
35	Mr Derek Metcalfe	Heckmondwike, West Riding of Yorkshire
36	Mrs Jenny F Johnston	Eaglescliffe, Stockton on Tees, Co.Durham
37	Mrs Margaret C Stoll	Rochford, Essex
38	W J Scarre	Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire
39	Mrs Sharon A Milton	Russell, Ontario, Canada
40	Mr Ronald N Metcalfe	Co. Durham
41	Mrs Ruth Kay	West Riding of Yorkshire
42	Mr William S Metcalfe	Cambridgeshire
43	Mr John R Metcalfe	Cheshire
44	Squadron Ldr Arthur Metcalfe	Cambridgeshire
45	Mrs Lucy Rowlands	Derbyshire
46	Mr David Metcalfe	Middlesex
47	Mr Alan S Cookson	California, USA
48	Mrs Alison Rogers	Queensland, Australia
49	Miss C Pattison	Hawkes Bay, New Zealand
50	Mrs Eunice Herring	Derbyshire
51	Mrs Maisie Birch	Staffordshire
52	Mrs Margaret Metcalfe	Lancashire
53	Miss Ethel Metcalfe	Cumbria
54	Mr Roger Clough	Lancashire
55	Mrs Dorothy Pope	Lincolnshire
56	Mr & Mrs N & M Metcalfe	Lancashire
57	Mr Richard L Woolfall	Essex
58	Mr Harold E Crossfield	Northumberland
59	Mr Frank Bradley	West Riding of Yorkshire

The Pioneers - the Metcalfe Society's first 100 Members continued

Mem No.	Name	Location
60	Mrs Laverne Christianson	Canada
61	Mr Peter & Mrs Valerie Metcalfe	North Riding of Yorkshire
62	Mrs Stella Balderston	Hampshire
63	Mr William & Mrs Joan Metcalfe	Lancashire
64	Mr Peter W Kruger	Queensland, Australia
65	Mr Harry Metcalfe	North Riding of Yorkshire
66	Mrs Joan Schmidt	East Lothian, Scotland
67	Mrs Betty Metcalf	Warwickshire
68	Mrs Lesley M Longworth	East Riding of Yorkshire
69	Mr Peter W Dobson	Cheshire
70	Mrs Rita Banks	Cornwall
71	Miss Valerie J Shafto	Nottinghamshire
72	Mrs Leonie E Hiller	Sussex
73	Mrs Joan Teale	New Zealand
74	Miss J. Metcalf	London
75	Mr L S Metcalf	Western Australia
76	Mrs H. Metcalfe Rae Cooper	Leicestershire
77	Mr Basil Kearton	New Zealand
78	Miss Sheila Metcalf	London
79	Mrs Pat A Wiggins	London
80	Mr James Metcalf	West Midlands
81	Mrs Alison Hutton	New Zealand
82	Mrs Carole A Topham	North Riding of Yorkshire
83	Mr Philip A Holland	Cheshire
84	Mr Derek Metcalfe	Lancashire
85	Miss Dorothy Nash	West Midlands
86	Mrs Carol & Mr David Arkwright	Lancashire
87	Mr David F Tunstall	North Riding of Yorkshire
88	Mrs Beryl F Davies	West Midlands
89	Mr Douglas E Metcalfe	Ontario, Canada
90	Miss Janet E Metcalfe	Lancashire
91	Mrs Joyce Thomason	
92	Mrs Gillian A Morrison	North Riding of Yorkshire
93	Mrs Katherine Davey	Middlesex
94	Mrs Patricia Gibson	New Zealand
95	Mrs Barbara Murray	London
96	Mrs Jean Forrester	West Riding of Yorkshire
97	Miss Linda Huntingdon	Lancashire
98	Mr Roger Bellinger	Norfolk
99	Mr Thomas W Metcalfe	North Riding of Yorkshire
100	Mr Nigel R Metcalfe	North Riding of Yorkshire

Metcalfe Family Histories Book Errata

We apologise that the following corrections need to be made in the Metcalfe Family Histories Book.

Percy Metcalfe - artist and sculptor - Chapter 10, page 149

Percy Metcalfe was born the second of four sons in Alverthorpe, Wakefield, Yorkshire on 14 January 1895. His parents were John Metcalfe an engine fitter/mechanic and Hannah (nee Thorpe). Percy's grandparents on his father's side were John Graham Metcalfe originally a butcher, and later a police constable, and Elizabeth (nee Coverdale).

His grandfather died in 1888 at the age of only 46, some seven years before Percy was born.

Appendix VII - page 299: Answers to Mecca News Teasers - 2. The hypochondriac - old medical terms

The description of 'Debility' should read as follows: Debility - lack of movement/staying in bed

The Metcalfe Museum by Michael Peel M1698

James Metcalf and Augusta Isabella Corson signed a marriage licence on the 11th day of November 1905 in Day County, Oklahoma, United States of America. The licence shows that they were both born in Kansas. James was 31, son of Thomas Metcalf and Lida Bruntz. Augusta's parents were Edward Grundy Corson (not named on the licence, a military gravestone shows he died 4th February 1903) and Mary Ann Davidson.

Edward was an injured veteran of the American Civil War (1861-1865). The accompanying marriage certificate shows that James and Augusta were married the next day in nearby Hemphill County, Texas. Day County, (later Roger Mills county) was one of the original counties of Oklahoma Territory in the western part of the state, along the Texas border (Wikipedia). The farm was about 6 miles east of the Texas border. James and Augusta had a son Howard Drummond Metcalf (1906-1999) who married Helen Klingman (1908-1994); this marriage took place on 5 November 1945 in Riverside, California.



James and Augusta were divorced soon after the birth of their son, following which, Augusta "added an 'E' to her name Metcalf to distance herself from her ex-husband".

She became a proficient, well known artist, supplementing the family farming income with this activity. Augusta and her son named their home The Break O'Day Farm which is now a museum, art gallery and activity centre dedicated to her art, **the Metcalfe Museum**. She is known as the "sagebrush artist."

The life story of Augusta Isabella Metcalfe, nee Corson, is recounted on the website of the Metcalfe Museum, whence the quotations above are taken:
<http://www.metcalfmuseum.org/history.html>

The Oklahoma Historical Society also has details, including a documentary film featuring the voice of Augusta reflecting on life in the west and on her art:

www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry.php?entry=ME019#content

This note attempts to follow the Metcalf side of the story. We can find references in the US census to a James Albert Metcalf from Kansas who might fit the data for Augusta's husband.

The 1900 census of Day County, Oklahoma, township of "Precinct 1, Square School House", shows that a James A Metcalf was born in Kansas in April 1874. James was a farm labourer. Augusta and her parents are on the same census page; how do we verify this is her husband when there is no 'A' on the marriage certificate? Let's look at Howard first since it is easier.

Howard's WWII draft card gives his birth date as 21st August 1906. In response to the question "name of person who will always know your address", he gives his mother Augusta Metcalfe of Durham, Roger Mills, Oklahoma.

He was self employed as a farmer at the same address. With his grey eyes, brown hair and light complexion, he joined the war effort on 6th October, 1940. He served "nearly three years in the South Pacific with the United States Army Air Force, during World War II"; quoted from:

www.findagrave.com/memorial/96611054/howard-drummond-metcalf

where a photo of Howard and Helen can be found on their gravestone.

The obituary stored there names his parents as above. He never left the farm except for national service and for summer work in Michigan. The essay concludes: "He was survived by two half sisters, Aline Lewis, and Kathleen Henderson and husband, Henry, and one half brother, Jim Metcalfe and wife, Mary Lou." Karen Harman seems to be the author of the obituary.

These names enable us to identify a family of James Albert Metcalf with wife Lola in the top right of this table:

James and Lola 1930 Copan town, 1940 Jefferson township, Oklahoma									
		cen	mar	cen	WW1	cen	cen	cen	WW2
METCALF	birth	1900	1905	1910	1910	1920	1930	1940	1940
James Albert	Kansas	26	31	?	45	?	44	67	
Lola Burgess	Oklahoma	(9)		(19)			39	49	
Aline	Oklahoma						2y6m	18	
James A jnr	Oklahoma							13	
Kathleen	Oklahoma						1y4m	11	
Howard Drum.	Oklahoma								34
Joseph Howard	Oklahoma			3		13	23	33	
Augusta I Corson	Kansas		24	28		38	48	58	
Mary A Davison	Pensylvania			71		81			

But just a Minute! Augusta's son is named Joseph H, Joseph Howard, and later Howard in the census images. Where does the name Drummond come from? It appears on his WWII enlistment card and is used in the websites named above. He is listed in two lines in the table to make this point.

But just another minute! James' age is recorded as 44 in 1930. This cannot be right. About 56 fits with his age in the other columns.

This census has "age at first marriage" which is 39 for James and 21 for Lola. This makes his first marriage in 1913. The figure should be 31 to match his age in 1905 when he married Augusta. If we take 44 as his correct age, his first marriage was 5 years earlier, which could fit with the ages of the James jnr. and Kathleen. There is an unsourced suggestion that Lola and James were married on 10th February 1921; a newspapers.com obituary index agrees with the year 1921. The data gives her first marriage as 1912.

The earliest reference to James Metcalf is in the 1875 census for Valley Falls, Jefferson County, Kansas. He is 3 years old, with Anna Metcalf age 4 and Eliza Buits age 21, all living in the household of butcher Samuel Sawyer. No relationships are given.

Eliza and Anna were born in the state of Missouri, James in Kansas. I found no further reference to Anna Metcalfe. "Bruits" could be a corruption of Bruntz. If so, Eliza or Elizabeth Bruntz (1854-1923) married James Patrick Touhill (1854-1907). They lived in St Louis, James P. a "Corc maker." From the ages of their children in the 1900 and 1910 censuses, the marriage would have been about 1885 or 86; a US International Marriage Record confirms 1885 in Missouri state, James being born in Ireland.

The next likely document for James is the 1895 census for Rock Creek, Wabaunsee County, Kansas where he is an agricultural labourer age 22 in the household of farmer B M Heironymus.

The 1900 census is as listed above. James Albert signed his military registration form on 12th September 1919 (the date clearly written is 1819!) at the age of 45, his birthday being 28th April 1873. He was an oil field worker at this time. His nearest relative is Mrs. Lida Summerville; the nature of the relationship is not given.

After marriage, James and Lola lived in Copan and Jefferson townships, Washington State, Oklahoma, labourer on a pipe line. Finally James' grave memorial gives his dates 28th April 1872 to 23rd July 1957. Lola's grave in the name Lola Burgess Metcalf gives her dates: 24th March 1891 to 30th September 1969.

They are buried at Dewey, Washington County. Lola was a daughter of Perry Andrew Burgess (1843-1918) and Matilda Jane nee Toney (1846-1931). Perry was a civil war veteran; Matilda was in receipt of a war pension. Lola and her sister Minnie were born in Indian territory; in 1900 Perry was farming in "Township 28, Cherokee Nation, Indian Territory." Older brothers and sisters were born in Kansas and Missouri.

So we found what happened to James after his marriage to Augusta. Can we find where he came from? We have two clues to follow, one concerning Eliza Bruits/Bruntz, and the other Lida Summerville. One Warren T. Metcalf married Eliza Jane Brunts on the 29th December 1869, both of Platte, Missouri (now part of the Kansas City metropolitan area - Wikipedia.).

Assuming T stands for Thomas and Eliza Jane is the same Eliza who married Patrick Touhill, we will try to find out how Lida fits into the picture. Findagrave.com has a Summerville Monument naming Joseph A. Summerville born 4th April 1842, died 6th July 1906, buried in Valley Falls Cemetery, Jefferson County, Kansas. Another photo names Lida B. Summerville (B for Bruntz), born 20 September 1849, died 24th February 1936. The different photos appear to be of the same grave. Joseph's will, drawn up on the 8th May 1906, names his wife Lida and daughter Lucy. It also names Frank Edwards who seems to be a young man who came to work on the Summerfield farm. Perhaps the son Frank died and they took in another Frank to work on the ranch as they all got older. A marriage licence for Joseph F. Summerville and Lida Bruntz was signed 1 February 1884; the marriage took place at Valley Falls 24th February 1884.

1900: Delaware 1905: Valley Falls

SUMMERVILLE		1900	1905	Grave
Joseph F	Head	58	62	1906 age 64
Eliza/Lida	Wife	44	50	1936 age 86
Frank	son	12	17	
Lucy Maria	daur	5	10	
TOUHILL	head			
Patrick	wife	45		1907 age 53
Elizabeth	daur	45		1923 age 68

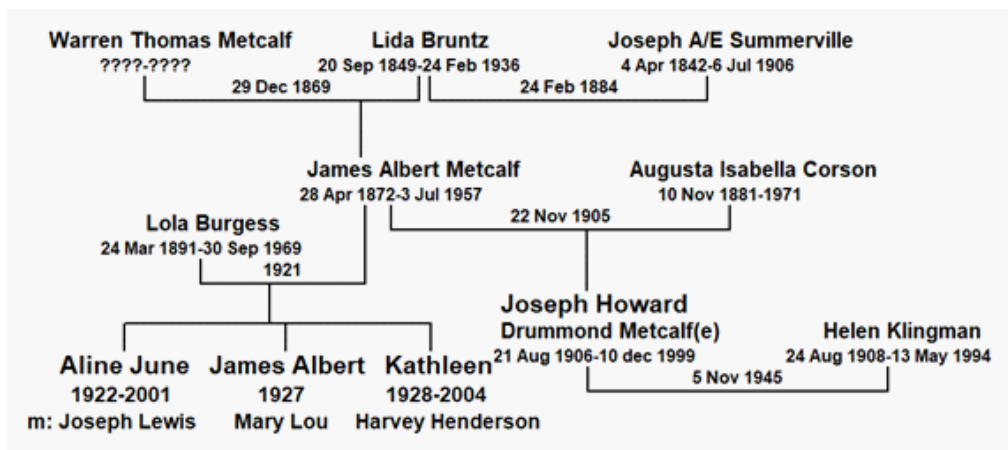
1900: St Louis city

The Kansas census data for 1900 and 1905 in the table names Joseph's wife Eliza. These items show that Lida is Eliza; Joseph's initials A and F form a discrepancy between these two pieces of evidence. There is a confusing 1895 census for Delaware showing Joseph Summerville, age 54, Eliza 40, Lucy 10 and Frank 7. The "10" probably should mean "10 months." It is clear from the 1900 census that Eliza Toohill is not the same person as Lida Summerville. The Eliza Toohill is a red herring and we conclude that Eliza/Lida is the mother of James Metcalf in the 1875 census and in his 1919 draft WWI card. Lida's birthdate on the gravestone does not match Eliza Buits' age in the 1875 census, which is a bit disconcerting; Eliza Toohill seemed to fit better!

The website www.findagrave.com is owned by ancestry.com, the US branch of Ancestry.

The Metcalfe Museum would be an ideal place for a Mecca Muster, US style.

We conclude with thanks to the East Riding of Yorkshire County Council for offering us access from home to their Ancestry Library Edition database during the Covid-19 isolation period, when this research was undertaken.



Michael Peel M1698

MECCA MUSTER ANNIVERSARIES OVER NEARLY 40 YEARS by Peter Dobson and Mike Pope

The photographs below span the existence of the Metcalfe Society from its inception in 1980 (top) through the 25th anniversary in 2005 (centre) and almost up to the current day, the bottom photograph recording the muster in 2018, because the 2019 image was not sufficiently clear. There is of course no record of the 40th anniversary muster in 2020 which could not be held because of the Covid 19 pandemic. We have presented later in the journal a selection of photographs from musters over nearly 40 years and we hope that many members will recognise themselves and their Metcalfe friends attending past meetings of the clan and recall informative and most importantly, happy and enjoyable gatherings of the past.



Muster No 1 with the Pioneering First Thirteen Members minus David Metcalfe the Photographer - Leeds 1980



Metcalfes Muster at their Wensleydale Roots
The Metcalfe Society, September 2005

The Metcalfe Society 25th Anniversary Mecca Muster at West Burton in September 2005



The 38th Mecca Muster at Tennant's Leyburn in October 2018

With Cross and Shovel
An American Chaplain's War Odyssey as told through his letters
Compiled by Rev. George Reuben Metcalf (1)
Submitted by Michael French Metcalf M2168 (2)

George Reuben Metcalf served in the US Army Chaplain Corps from 1942 until 1945. He participated in some of the most brutal fighting of the European war, including the Normandy invasion and the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes Forest. George was a prolific correspondent, and, to the extent allowed during periods of censorship, his letters flowed to and from his family. His mother, Margaret Carter Metcalf, assembled George's letters into a book entitled "With Cross and Shovel". Margaret spent the last year of her life compiling and editing the correspondence into a work that described her son's wartime odyssey. While the book was written primarily for the family "for the record," it serves as a tribute of a mother's affection for her son and provides a glimpse of an American chaplain during the war.



Chaplain Major George
Reuben Metcalf 1944

George was descended from Michael Metcalf, the Dornix Weaver from Norwich, Norfolk, who emigrated to New England in 1637, fleeing the wrath of Bishop Laud and the Church of England. Michael Metcalf settled in Dedham, Massachusetts, joining the nascent Puritan community as one of its more important citizens.

Thereafter, three generations of Metcalfs resided in Dedham until population pressures encouraged many of them to search for better opportunities in the frontier of New England. First in Rutland, Massachusetts and on to Brattleboro, Vermont, the next generations of Metcalfs settled and raised their families. Reuben Metcalf's son George Putnam Metcalf raised a son in Brattleboro, who became a respected physician in New York before migrating with his wife to St. Paul, Minnesota. Their son, George Putnam Metcalf, Jr. and his wife, Margaret Carter Metcalf raised two sons in St. Paul. The eldest was George Reuben Metcalf, born 1907.

George graduated from Harvard University in 1927. He attended Harvard Divinity School and was ordained in the Episcopal Church in 1933. As war was looming in Europe, American youth mobilized to help their nation resist the threat of Nazi aggression. George answered the call. He was commissioned as an Army first lieutenant in July 1942, after resigning from his parish position in Irvington-on-Hudson, New York.

He was assigned to the chaplain's reserve pool at Harvard University to await further orders. In August he completed chaplain's training and was ordered to Camp Blanding, Florida, joining the Twenty-ninth Infantry Division. In October, his unit sailed aboard the Queen Mary from New York, arriving in Scotland a week later; then on to barracks at Oxford in England. From August of 1942, until mid-September of 1945, Chaplain Metcalf did not see his family.

George's letters describe vividly his movements from Oxford to Tidworth Barracks near Salisbury, and onward to Cornwall for long and intensive training through 1943 and well into 1944. He then embarked by boat to Weymouth to join the gathering invasion force that would proceed across the English Channel to Omaha Beach in Normandy, France.

War correspondent Gordon Gaskill in American Magazine reporting on the Normandy landings on the morning of June 5, 1944 wrote "It was Hell's Picnic for American boys. ...

If I hadn't been there on D-Day, on what General Montgomery called "the toughest beach in the entire assault on Normandy," I never would have believed it. Like most people I had always pictured such an assault landing as one in which every American charges ashore like a hero, knows his duty, and does it intrepidly, without hesitation. But that is completely untrue. The fact is that the first few hours of assault, especially if opposed, are utter chaos. Nothing goes right. Troops land at wrong points, are scattered, can't find their officers. Vital equipment is lost or ruined. Rifles and bullets are fouled by sand and water. Communications break down. The enemy turns up in unexpected strength.

By 8 [o'clock that evening] I could walk along the beach in comparative safety, although snipers' bullets kept whining around. Nobody paid much attention to them. The beach was heaped with incredible litter. Millions upon millions of dollars' worth of equipment lay there. Smashed ships, trucks, food, flashlights, money, clothing, bullets, life belts - every conceivable item.

But this was not the greatest cost. I walked along slowly, counting the bodies. Within 400 paces I counted 221 of them—all Americans."

No, it hadn't been any picnic, or romantic Hollywood movie. (3)

George's rendition of the assault in a letter to his mother several weeks later was understated in comparison with Gaskill's narrative:

"We assaulted the beach on D-Day and have been fighting more or less ever since. It has all been terrific beyond my wildest imagination. After days and nights being scared beyond physical control and losing friend after friend, we are gradually becoming more accustomed to it all. Wonderful heroism has been shown and the newspapers will tell you more than I know. At the moment I am lying concealed in a wood by my dugout ... as artillery shells whisper overhead and planes fight above. My job is mostly around the Aid Station a few hundred yards behind the front line. There I act as a surgeon, priest, and nurse in the "shock ward." The gratitude of the wounded is pathetically rewarding. Most of the wounded leave us in a few hours and in pretty good shape. Sulfa drugs and plasma transfusions are routine. Blood donors do far more than they can imagine. Food and water are plentiful, but it was fifteen days before I took off my clothes and I'm still sleeping in holes in the ground. " (4)

Clearly, he was intending not to alarm his mother. Similarly, his first post-invasion letter to his wife attempted to assure her that all was well. After fifty-eight days in the line, Chaplain Metcalf returned to Dorset, England, for recovery. He had escaped injury, but the trauma of close combat had its effects on him, just as it had on most of those involved in the beach landing and fighting in the following weeks. He was later ordered to London, where, in November 1944, he joined the staff of General George S. Patton as the Protestant Third Army Chaplain. Acceding to Patton's insistence that an Episcopalian be assigned as his personal chaplain, the Army selected George. The senior chaplain to the general commented, "Metcalf can make a success of any job he puts his hand to." Thus began George's adventure with the head-strong General Patton.

George wrote to his mother in late November as he was reporting to his new assignment in London: "Being Protestant Third Army Chaplain is a great honour for one whose principal job has been that of simple Battalion Chaplain; the more so, because it's a crack unit and carries the responsibility of being General Patton's personal chaplain. So, hereafter when you read of him, you'll know that I was somewhere in the background. May the Lord give me strength, for I'll need it. (5)

Patton moved to Paris and then east to Nancy, where the Third Army established its headquarters.

As winter approached in November 1944, a fierce battle was developing in the Ardennes Forest to the north. Inclement weather was hampering air operations, and the Allied forces defending Bastogne were in danger of being overrun by German Panzers.

By mid-December heavy snow had fallen in the forest and a thick fog blanketed the area, effectively shielding the Nazi advance from Allied air attack. Patton had wheeled his entire Third Army to strike the southern shoulder of the Nazi armoured divisions that formed a bulge 50 miles wide and 60 miles deep. But without air support Allied resistance was crippled.

A celebrated story is told of Patton's "Prayer for Fair Weather," an episode in which Patton ordered the composition of a prayer that would petition the Almighty for clear skies over the Ardennes.

George wrote in *With Cross and Shovel* fifty years later: "The office telephone of the Third Army Chaplain rang at eight o'clock in the military caserne at Nancy on the morning shortly before Christmas, 1944. "Chaplain," came the unmistakable, high-pitched voice of General Patton. "Do you have any prayers for fair weather? Our men are having a rough time without air cover in the Ardennes, and the ceiling is too low for flying."

I assured the general that we could find something suitable, and that we should report at once when we did. (6) With the assistance of a chaplain colleague, George composed a prayer that Patton liked and issued, as part of his Christmas greeting throughout the Third Army. Miraculously, the skies cleared, air cover was provided, and the Battle of the Bulge was saved. The prayer was as follows - (7)

Almighty and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech Thee, of Thy great goodness,
to restrain these immoderate rains with which we have had to contend.
Grant us fair weather for Battle. Graciously hearken to us as soldiers who call upon Thee
that armed with Thy Power, we may advance from victory to victory,
and crush the oppression and wickedness of our enemies,
and establish Thy justice among men and nations.
Amen.



General George S. Patton 1944

George wrote further to set the record straight with respect to General Patton's demeanour during this episode:

"Unfortunately, there have been misleading stories told about this straight-forward incident. According to some accounts the commanding general demanded with curses, a prayer that would "do the job." Others picture unwilling chaplains reluctantly producing a military prayer contrary to their convictions. In truth, General Patton was never anything but courteous and considerate about religious matters in my presence; and the two chaplains were quite agreeable to laying any sort of human trouble before the throne of God for the Creator's disposal as He saw fit". (8)

The Battle of the Bulge was won and Patton's army pushed aggressively through Luxembourg toward the River Rhine and in April, the Third Army was in Trier, Germany. George had been promoted to Major and by the end of April, the army had advanced to Erlangen and first contact was made with the Russian Army. In June, the army was in Munich and by August George was on his way home to St. Paul to rejoin his wife and three children. He was discharged from the army in December 1945, decorated with a Bronze Star and Cluster, Presidential Unit Citation, Bronze Arrowhead for the initial invasion of the Normandy beaches, and European Theater Ribbon, with five campaign stars.

The Reverend George Reuben Metcalf died in St. Paul in February 1995, age 88.

References

- (1). George. R. Metcalf, With Cross and Shovel, Margaret C. Metcalf (editor) (Westwinds-by-the-Sea: Duxbury, MA, 1957). Margaret completed review of the galleys of the finished book while suffering from terminal cancer. She died peacefully the next day on August 25, 1957. This article is based on the book she edited.
- (2). Michael French Metcalf is Rev. George Reuben Metcalf's nephew. This article was prepared with assistance from Rev. Metcalf's son, Francis Wood Metcalf.
- (3). Gordon Gaskill from American Magazine, appearing in With Cross and Shovel, pp103-118.
- (4). With Cross and Shovel, pp118-20.
- (5). Ibid., p168.
- (6). Ibid., pp183-4.
- (7). See also George R. Metcalf, "Prayer for Fair Weather," Guideposts, New York, NY, Dec. 1994, 36-7. This article repeats the story as told earlier by George Metcalf in With Cross and Shovel).
- (8). With Cross and Shovel, p185.

THE METCALFE SOCIETY CAN CONNECT & ENTERTAIN YOU - LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Phil Metcalfe M710 Aug 2006 No79

I couldn't get my tree past the 1720 barrier and wrote to a number of members. Now, thanks to the society's R.D. Metcalfe M1467 and Muriel Johnston M445 I am back in the 1600s. I hope that this will encourage our members to keep digging and not give up.

Joan & Bill Metcalfe M63 Aug 2006 No79

About twenty years ago, Ruth Kay (who died in 2006) sent Dorothy Pope M55 a rough family tree including a Cuthbert Metcalfe of Kippax. Ruth's tree proved to be the way through the wall for us and for several others, and linked many society members to Anthony & Alice Metcalfe of Gayle. Ruth was not connected with any of the individuals shown and did not know how she came to have possession of this information and tree. We family historians dream of obtaining vital clues from someone's attic and in this case, it was Ruth Kay's.

Richard Metcalfe-Gibson M854 Dec 2008 No86

Thanks for a truly enjoyable Mecca Muster. The buffet lunch was extremely good and the tour of Gayle Mill really interesting. Thanks to the coach driver, I avoided all the floods by returning to Kendal via Ingleton!

Brian Metcalfe M1554 August 2012 No 97

I was contacted by a Diana Penton who was attempting to trace the history of the boat Vere, which was owned by W.C.G.Metcalf and involved in the 1940 Dunkirk small ships rescue. I was able to trace WCGM who was member Peter A Metcalfe's (M1381) great uncle and arrange a meeting between Peter and Diana.

PATRICK MALHAM OBITUARY

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Patrick William Malham M444 of Lodge Moor Sheffield, aged 86 years, who died peacefully on 7th August 2020 in hospital. Patrick will be well remembered by those who attended the annual Metcalfe Society Musters and read the Mecca News. Patrick joined the society in 1991 and served on the committee from 1995 to 2007. After first taking on the responsibility for publicity, he moved to general registration index co-ordinator. He did much work on the spelling variants of our name and formatted his own way of documenting their spread. It was also his idea to collect newspaper cuttings with Metcalfe mentions and he managed this project for many years.



In 1998, one of our overseas members wrote to Patrick congratulating him on the UK records being collected, and when Patrick visited New Zealand the following year, they met at the Auckland Museum of Transport & Technology and found that they also had a mutual interest in tramcars. After two hours Patrick had recruited Gary to compile the Metcalfe births, deaths and marriages records for the whole of New Zealand!

On Muster weekends he was one of the band who regularly turned up the day before to set up the event and is remembered as always singing happily as he worked. Other attendees who needed to stay overnight booked into local guest houses, but Patrick brought a tent and camped nearby, even when the muster date moved from June/July to October.

On the day itself he manned one of the computers and helped members search both the online and hardcopy records to discover, check, correct and confirm the validity of their own research, or to try to resolve sticking points. When we began to include a table selling local Wensleydale cheese, he was always a good customer, buying several pieces to take home. Like all good researchers, he would 'pick at a bone' until he was satisfied and when it came to open questions at the AGM could be almost guaranteed to come up with the most awkward question! Though sometimes exasperating in a limited time-slot, it was no bad thing for the running of an efficient organisation. Throughout his membership he supplied lots of information for articles in the Mecca News and the various databases. His contributions to the Metcalfe Society will be greatly missed and our thoughts are with his family.

Although the numbers allowed to visit funerals were very restricted, we were very grateful that in recognition of how much the society meant to him, his family offered one of those places to us, and Jo Heron attended and represented the Metcalfe Society.

Lesley Longworth & Mike Pope



REMINISCENCES OF AN EX-CHAIRMAN by David Lambert M11

First my congratulations and thanks to Jo Heron for taking on the chairwoman's role.

Likewise, to Peter Dobson and David Metcalfe for continuing in their roles on the committee. This will enable the society to continue for the foreseeable future, which is something we all want to see, I believe. A new leader will give us impetus in these definitely difficult times. We will have already held a committee meeting online when you read this, the fourth this year. The online AGM organised by Jo using Zoom technology proved to be a success for democracy! It was great to see and hear from so many members, several of whom were 'overseas' as us insular Britons call it!

This year's AGM location may have been new for us, but going back through the archives of the society we have held AGMs and musters in several places. Our very first muster was in Leeds at the then premises of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society (YAS) at Claremont in 1982. The next was two years later at the same venue. Appropriate given the fact that our first members were approached by Vera and Mary because they were all members of the Family History Section of YAS with Metcalfe interests, something that these days might have been difficult if not impossible due to present Data Protection rules!

I do not think we met in 1985 but certainly we did in 1986, at the Spa Hotel Ripon. We met there again annually until 1989, as the hotel could not make their premises available to us that year. We met at the Tarn House Hotel, Stirk, a village just outside Skipton, instead.

From 1990 until 1999 we met at the College of Ripon and York St John at Ripon, by then an adjunct of Leeds University; a great location with parkland and (from memory) an octagonal modern lecture/exhibition hall and excellent restaurant! It was here in 1991 that Charles Metcalfe was elected chairman and his predecessor John Holden elected our second President, my cousin Helen Offer retiring from that post in that year.

That decade was one of tremendous energy, expansion and change. In 1991 the society had an active membership of 348 and was registered as a charity. By 1999 membership had increased to 500. The Clan Book began its gestation in 1993 when the then secretary Nina Benson proposed to the committee of 18th September that the society 'should sponsor the publication of a comprehensive book about the family' and '...the whole task could well not be readyuntil the year 2000, which could be an apt time for its completion.' The committee received the idea 'with enthusiasm' as did the members at the AGM and it was published in 1998. Diane Howarth reported a good response to the updated Birth Brief Booklet which she prepared, the 1993 version being twice as large as the previous edition.

In 1994 it was agreed to put £500 towards the cost of another computer for the then editor's society use. In 1997 Charles retired as chairman and became our third president. Diane succeeded him as chairman and was able to report in 1998 that this had been the busiest year for the society. At the same AGM after sixteen years as secretary Nina Benson retired from that role. The various activities undertaken by her were split into several constituent parts. Not surprising given that she had received, during 6 months, 378 postal enquiries and 418 via email. Somewhat ironically, given his IBM background and all the effort he expended on computerising the society and its indexes, Charles was minuted as saying in 1996, in answer to a question at the AGM as to whether the society should log onto the internet that "this would be too expensive in telephone bills and with no definite benefit to the society"!

In 2001 Carol Herbert came on board as webmaster and updated, with the support of our first web-designer Susan Harper, (also the Canadian agent) our society's website.

A new muster venue was used in 2000 at Askham Bryan College, York and this continued for 4 years. Our treasurer Margaret Metcalfe retired in 2001 after serving in that role since 1984. Thanks to the generosity of IBM (for whom Charles and Diane both worked) we were able to benefit from their charitable grants and had our journal printed (photocopied) and collated free of charge for many years until that operation was sold to Kodak. This ended in 2002 so the society agreed to increase subscriptions to cover the cost of printing the Mecca News with the possibility of colour photographs! Peter Dobson had taken on the editor's role in 1994 and had long hankered to be able to give justice to photographs, black and white and coloured, which photocopying did not allow. The new printing arrangements enabled him to diversify.

It is noteworthy that when I attended my first committee meeting Nina sent me for information the minutes of the preceding meeting in 1988. Committee reports were handwritten, typed or read out. An intriguing matter arising amused me when perusing them to write these reminiscences. 'UME -The secretary refused to read out the abusive reply received. No further contact or exchange to be made'. Goodness knows what that was about! Also 'item 6: Computer- ETA still uncertain. Secretary now attending Night Classes.' We take it for granted in 2020 that access to computers is generally available and they are used to produce reports, sort out indexes and lists quicker than the human brain.

During the 1990s, computerisation and what we would now call 'good governance' under the leadership of Charles and Diane, was well under way. This involved equipment logs, roles and responsibilities papers, expenses claim forms etc. The transfer of the old Metcalfe index to the computer with the help of volunteers but primarily, as still is the case, by my cousin David Metcalfe (son of Margaret Metcalfe) proceeded steadily.

Margaret Hodgson joined the committee as minute secretary in 1994, using her cassette tape recorder to produce accurate minutes of our meetings, until 2018 when she stepped down. Our minutes and agendas reflected the increased amount of time spent on developing the society and its services. Agendas with over 20 items. Much time was spent considering ways of promoting and advertising the society far and wide to increase membership which proved in subsequent years to be very successful.

In 2005 for our 25th anniversary the muster was held in two places: at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes and West Burton Village Hall: entitled 'Metcalfes Muster at their Wensleydale Roots'. An ambitious weekend event which we could never have attempted if it had not been for the administrative skills of Diane Howarth, who took over as secretary from Nina in 1998 until 2004, enabling her to co-ordinate the muster arrangements. The weekend has been well reported so I will not dwell on it here, save to say that it was the most memorable and successful muster we have ever held and best attended too. After 2005 we continued to hold our musters at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes for the next 10 years.

Our projects continued apace and saw the publishing of 'The Metcalfes in India' book edited by Peter Dobson, who was able to utilise the extensive research carried out by George Buxton in the East India Company archives. In 2014 we organised a four year commemorative project to mark the centenary of World War One, and in 2018 Jo Heron, the project co-ordinator and Peter Dobson, as editor, published a booklet, drawing on the results of the project, with accompanying data on a USB stick, entitled 'Metcalfes at War: the Great War 1914-1919'. Our most recent publication this year brings us up to date: the 'Metcalf Family Histories: True Stories from the Metcalfe Society' written and edited by Dave C. Metcalfe and our current editor Mike Pope! All volumes are packed with Metcalfe family information and are available and worthy of purchase, if you do not have copies, or indeed want more!

In 2015, thanks to Diane's suggestion, we moved the Muster to Tennant's Garden Rooms at Leyburn which is where, until this year, we have met ever since. Indeed, we were booked to meet there again for our 40th anniversary but the Covid 19 virus thwarted us, leading us to use Zoom technology for the first, but possibly not the last time.

Committee meetings when I joined the committee were held in Thornton in Craven Village Hall, then moved to Earby Community Centre in 1992 for 10 years. From 2002 we met at Earby & Kelbrook Senior Citizens Centre in Earby until 2005. In 2005 the Hawes Museum became our regular twice a year venue apart from a couple of meetings at Brighouse Library in 2007, one at Tennants in 2015 and more recently three in Diane's kitchen at Newbiggin.

The move from the museum I stress, has nothing to do with me setting off the fire alarm at Hawes, when the museum was evacuated and the fire brigade summoned from Leyburn! They did forgive me! All because the room became very stuffy and I was assured by Josie Hopper it was OK to open the door!

It is noteworthy how gaining new committee volunteers has been very difficult. We are not alone in this. We have had only 6 new committee members since 2010, several of the remaining committee members taking on more than one role. This compares with 32 new committee members joining during the twenty years from 1990 – 2010, plus 6 invaluable overseas agents.

It is recognised that we cannot continue as before and this was discussed in correspondence and at the muster in 2019 and agreed at this year's online AGM. I have good feelings for the future as there are a large number of mini projects that can be carried out to enlarge our knowledge of the family and from where they originated and later moved to. DNA may assist us in this. There will be plenty of opportunities for you to become involved.

So, we have not had an AGM or Mecca Muster every year of our existence and have mustered in a variety of places.

Who knows what the future holds?

David Lambert M11

Sign on a farm fence near Austwick in Craven near Settle North Yorkshire.

DO NOT CROSS THIS FIELD UNLESS YOU CAN DO IT IN 9 SECONDS

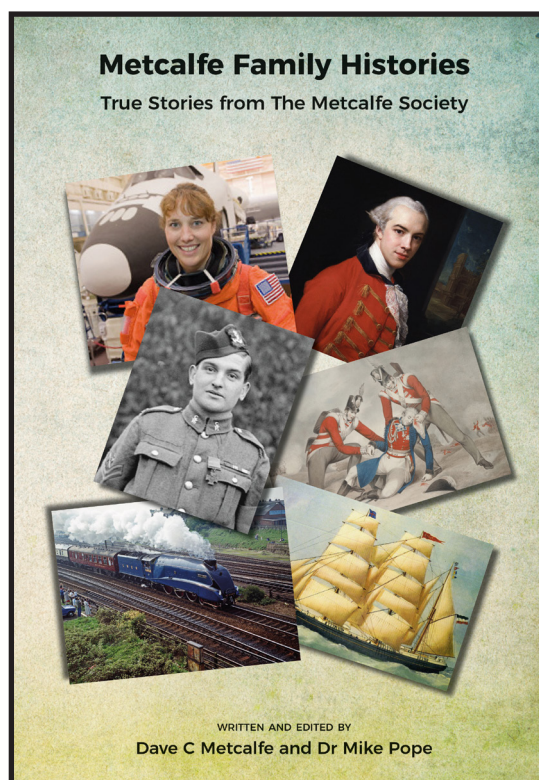
THE BULLS CAN DO IT IN 10 !

Spotted in The Dalesman - to which many thanks - by Dave C. Metcalfe M983

Forty Glorious years! by Dave C. Metcalfe co-writer & editor

The Metcalfe Society is forty years old this year and that is definitely something of which we should all be proud. As we know, we have not been able to meet 'face to face' at our usual Mecca Muster due to the essential restrictions surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic, but we can still celebrate and reflect on a great journey together. What better way to do that than to pick up a copy of our latest society publication?

"Metcalfe Family Histories" contains a grand selection of some of the best true stories previously published in our very own Mecca News, many of which have been enhanced with further research and new photographs. All presented in a 300 page 'coffee table' style volume showcasing some 55 fascinating stories, numerous Mecca snippets, a resume of how the society started and in excess of 200 photographs, many in full colour. Make no mistake it is a tour de force of Metcalfe family history.



If you haven't already purchased your own copy, please read these comments sent in by some of our early readers:

"Thank you for organising the book - it is a fantastic publication and so carefully packaged. Just settling down with a coffee for a read. Limiting myself to one chapter a day as so interesting I need to make it last as long as possible. It is an extremely well researched and presented book. Congratulations to all involved in the publication." (EM)

"The new book arrived yesterday. Well worth the wait. A lovely book that you can dip in and out of. A big thank you to all concerned." (PS)

"The book arrived today. I settled down with it, it's a very interesting read. It's a wonderful journey through time. I'm glad I have a copy for the new generations of my own family. Congratulations to all involved on a job well done." (VM)

"The book has arrived and is superb. Congratulations to everyone involved in the production of this outstanding book." (JS)

"A wonderful compilation of accounts/stories/snippets about Metcalfes from all periods in the past and all walks of life, as well as showing the development of the society over its 40-year history. It will be something to refer to frequently in the future as well as being an immediate 'good read'." (JM)

"Congratulations to you both for the production of the book - a credit to you and a great celebration of the society's 40th." (PD)

"The book is a wonderful testimony to both our founders and following contributors." (LL)

Metcalfe Family Histories is available now from our online shop. Priced at £25.00 plus p&p it is not to be missed and would make a great Christmas present for anyone in your wider Metcalfe family. Enjoy! Happy reading!

Metcalfe Society Committee Members from 1980 to 2020 by Dr Mike Pope Editor

Member	Member No.	Post	Period
Mary Metcalfe	1	Treasurer	1980 - 1984
Vera Adams	2	Editor	1980 - 1985
Nina Benson	29	Committee & Newsletter Distribution	1985 - 1991
		Secretary & List Keeper	1980 - 1998
		Family Trees	1991 - 1998
		Archivist & Birth Briefs	1999 - 2001
		President	2015 - 2020
Helen Offer	4	General Index Keeper	1982 - 1985
		General Index Lists	1985 - 1987
		President & Enquiries	1988 - 1991
Jean & Frank Bradley	59	Newsletter Distribution	1984 - 1994
Margaret Metcalfe	52	Treasurer	1984 - 2000
George Buxton	3	General Index Keeper	1985 - 1988
		Conference Secretary	1994 - 1999
		Research	2000 - 2012
Valerie Metcalfe	61	Editor	1985 - 1987
		Covenant Secretary	1991 - 1999
David Urwin	193	Editor	1987 - 1990
John Holden	6	Chairman	1987 - 1990
		President	1991 - 1997
Christine Wadsworth	169	Family Trees	1988 - 1991
Linda Meaden	271	Certificates St Catherine's Ho	1988 - 1991
Sarah Illingworth	n/k	Certificates Co-ordinator	1989 - 1991
Sandra Metcalf	134	Vice Chairman	1989 - 1990
David Lambert	11	Committee	1989 - 1997
		Vice Chairman	1997 - 1998
		Chairman	1998 - 2020
Charles S. Metcalfe	305	Committee	1989 - 1990
		Chairman & Computers	1990 - 1997
		President	1997 - 2015
Gordon E. Metcalfe	142	Committee	1989 - 1990
John C. Metcalfe	30	Committee	1989 - 1990
Joseph Metcalfe	24	Committee	1989
Peter A. Metcalfe	n/k	Committee	1989 - 1990
Stuart Metcalfe	47	Editor	1990 - 1993
Dorothy Pope	55	Wills Project Co-ordinator	1990 - 1998
		GRO Index	1993 - 1998
		New Members Secretary	1994 - 1998
		Committee	1990 - 1991
		Library & Sales	1991 - 2006
Carol Arkwright	89	New Members Secretary	1998 - 2006
		Committee	1990 - 1991
Denny Gibson	303	Committee	1990 - 1991
Diane Howarth	409	Publicity	1991 - 1994
		Committee	1990 - 1991
		Vice Chairman	1991 - 1997
		Chairman	1997 - 1998
		Secretary	1998 - 2004
		Publications, Distribution, Projects	2004 - 2008
		Vice President & Committee	2010 - 2018
		Web Admin & Conference Secretary	2016 - 2018
Stanley Metcalfe	431	Committee	1990 - 1995
Warwick Metcalfe	256	Committee	1992 - 1998
		Leader Metcalfe Book Team	1998 - 2000

Metcalfe Society Committee Members from 1980 to 2020
by Dr Mike Pope Editor

Member	Member No.	Post	Period
Richard Medcalf	563	Editor	1993 - 1994
Robert Metcalf	1726	Committee	1993 - 1998
Peter Dobson	69	Committee	1993 - 1994
		Editor	1994 - 2015
		Vice Chairman	1997 - 2019
		Treasurer	2015 - 2020
Ron & Gwen Metcalfe	674	Newsletter Distribution	1994 - 1999
Bettie Van Arkadie	n/k	St Catherine's House Visitor	1994 - 1997
Margaret Hodgson	515	Minutes Secretary	1994 - 1998
		Publicity	1995 - 1998
		Committee & Publicity Secretary	1998 - 2018
		Wills Project	2012 - 2020
		Archivist	2012 - 2020
Patrick Malham	444	Committee	1995 - 1998
		GRO Secretary	1998 - 2007
David Metcalfe	46	Committee	1995 - 1996
		Keeper of Computer Index	1996 - 2020
David Galloway	8	Assistant Treasurer	1997 - 2000
		Covenant Secretary	1999 - 2000
Julian J. Metcalfe	902	Family Record Centre	1998 - 2002
Mary Morris	147	New Zealand Agent	1999 - 2002
Dianne Fox	113	Australia Agent	1999 - 2020
Susan C.M. Harper	266	Canada Agent	1999 - 2020
		Web Administrator	2001 - 2001
Clifford Metcalfe	978	USA Agent	1999 - 2001
Stephen Newman	824	Wills 2000 Project	1999 - 2004
Doug & June Cutting	855	Newsletter Distribution	1999 - 2004
		Master Membership File	2000 - 2003
Leslie Longworth	68	Conference Secretary	2000 - 2015
		Committee Member	2015 - 2020
Alan Vickers	843	List Co-ordinator	2000 - 2003
		Gift Aid	2002 - 2003
Josie Hopper	810	Committee	2000 - 2010
Carol Herbert	1072	Treasurer & Web Administrator	2001 - 2013
Eileen Measures	1089	Archivist	2001 - 2003
Anita Metcalfe	1142	List Co-ordinator	2002 - 2013
Kevin Metcalf	1085	USA Agent	2002 - 2012
Maureen Thwaite	897	Gift Aid	2003 - 2005
		Archivist	2003 - 2005
Alison Hutton	81	New Zealand Agent	2003 - 2013
Tony & Debbie Metcalfe	577	Master Membership File	2003 - 2004
Ena Metcalfe	1554	Secretary	2006 - 2009
Brian Metcalfe	1554	Archivist	2006 - 2012
Edwin Metcalfe	980	Wills Project	2007 - 2012
Elizabeth Waller	1072	Sales Despatch	2008 - 2015
Martin Metcalfe	772	DNA Project Leader	2009 - 2020
Jo Heron	1042	Committee	2011 - 2016
		Membership, Sales & Enquiries	2016 - 2020
Vivienne Metcalf	1147	Committee	2011 - 2015
Marsden Holden	1513	Treasurer	2013 - 2014
Dr Michael C. Pope	1919	Committee	2014 - 2020
		Editor	2015 - 2020
Dave C. Metcalfe	983	Committee	2017 - 2020
Sam Benson	2001	Social Media	2018 - 2019

An Historical Metcalfe Society Perspective by Dr Mike Pope and David Lambert

In speaking together about the 40th anniversary Mecca News and what may be the final edition of this august publication, David and I thought it might be amusing and who knows, perhaps contentious, to look at some of the key aspects of the society over that period, encompassing the principal "societal influencers", the essential contributors (the downtrodden committee) and the arch providers of articles to the journal and including some "damn lies and statistics". We have both, independently, and at grave personal risk to our health, slogged through every one of the 122 Mecca News editions and amassed various statistics which throw a light on how the society has operated over this considerable period of time.

As to the tabulation on pages 24 to 25 above showing the contribution made by those of the membership who have served on the committee and driven the society, it might be said that societies are organisations which can only function as a result of significant human endeavour and the effective management of the activities which are pursued to achieve the stated objectives and goals embodied in the constitution of the body. They rely on voluntary input and on a great commitment by the officers delivering that management process, often over long periods of time and for no pecuniary reward. The Metcalfe Society is typical of the many institutions which provide a genealogical service to the membership and we felt that it was right and proper to recognise the hard work effected by the various committee members over the past forty years, and which has made the society such a success.

Listed above therefore, are the names of those who have served on the committee and the various roles they have performed over a stated time period. Please note that there may be some small inaccuracies in respect of membership number and of period in office, as the records of both are not always visible in past editions of Mecca News. We apologise for that in advance and to anybody who may have been inadvertently omitted, for the same reason.

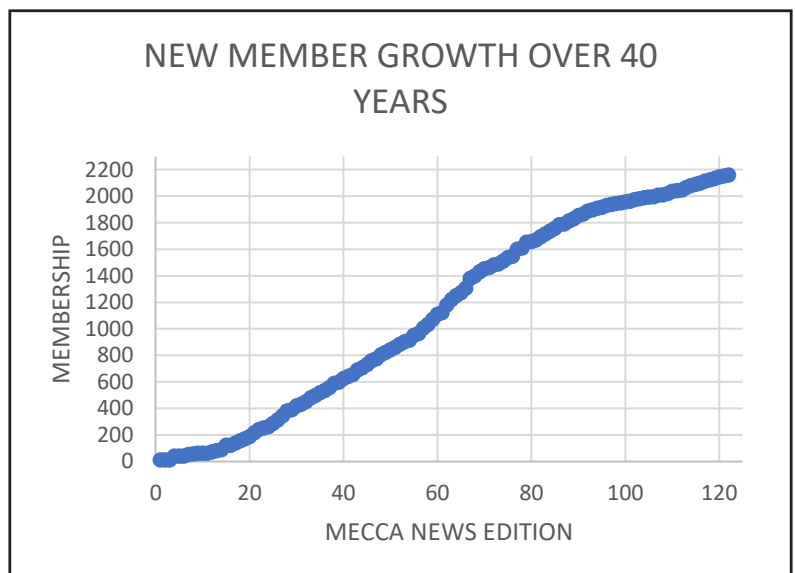
Over its forty year existence then, there have been 68 committee members, counting husband and wife duos as two contributors and it is interesting that, of the now over 2158 people who have joined the society since its foundation, the organisation has been operated by just 3.2% of the membership. David and I would like to thank all those who appear on the lists for their hard work, enthusiasm and dedication in running the Metcalfe Society. In other words, all committee members are stars, and their reward will be in heaven - thank you all. And the remaining 96.8% of the society? We know where you live, but congratulations anyway on joining our clan!

In that light it is also interesting to note that fourteen years ago in 2006, the committee comprised no less than 16 members, plus one vacancy in the wills project department and that did not include the president or the four overseas agents. The comparable figure for 2021 onwards is eight, and two of those have nearly 50 years' service on the committee of the Metcalfe Society between them!

The growth in membership over the 40 years can be seen in the graph below. It is evident that twenty years ago around 2000, (edition 60) there was a definite acceleration in new member numbers, but that rate declined by 2004 and fell further in 2010. The membership keeps growing however and there have been a flurry of Metcalfes joining over the past three years, during which the last 100 new members have come almost equally from the UK compared with overseas, and the latter have been predominantly domiciled in North America.

The problem of course has always been the low retention rate; people leaving after only one or two years and this has been exacerbated greatly over the past decade. The tendency now is for interested individuals to join the society and secure the information, records and wills which they have been seeking and then to leave. The inception of the society was predicated not only on finding out about Metcalfe roots but of belonging to an organisation which promoted contact, and with the muster and AGM as the focal point of the year and the Mecca News as an instrument of informative and enjoyable communication.

We currently stand at 2158 members but of that total, a mere 304 Metcalfes are current and that represents only 14% of all those who have historically joined the society.



Now the influencers: it is a truism that every single member is an influencer, since the very act of joining confers support to the society which manifestly could not exist without its members - our heartfelt thanks to you all.

Some are greater influencers than others of course and David and I have compiled a list of those we consider to have been paramount in the society over the years. Apologies again if your name does not appear. As reticence and admirable modesty dictated that we each omitted our own names, it then fell to the other to insert the name of the reticent colleague. Despite aiming for a really catchy "40 Key Influencers over 40 years", we ended up with 50 and so our strategy fell at the first hurdle. The list below however, embodies those who have shouldered the tasks of committee work, of important administration, of generating ideas, of suggesting the collection of new records and of other developments, and particularly those who have driven the strategy of the society to such good effect - you know who you are!

The list of these key influencers of the society, is given below and as is evident, is ordered by Metcalfe Society member number in order to protect the innocent.

MEMBER	MEMBER No
VERA ADAMS [FOUNDER]	1
MARY METCALFE [FOUNDER]	2
GEORGE BUXTON	3
HELEN OFFER	4
JOHN HOLDEN	6
DAVID LAMBERT	11
NINA BENSON	29
DAVID METCALFE	46
MARGARET METCALFE	52
DOROTHY POPE	55
JEAN AND FRANK BRADLEY	59
VALERIE METCALFE	61
JOAN METCALFE	63
LESLIE LONGWORTH	68
PETER DOBSON	69
ALISON HUTTON	81
CAROL ARKWRIGHT	89
DIANNE FOX	113
SANDRA METCALFE	134
DAVID URWIN	193
LILLAH CHAPMAN	218
WARWICK METCALFE	256
SUSAN C M HARPER	266
DENNY GIBSON	303
CHARLES S METCALFE	305
LEON METCALFE	320
DIANE HOWARTH	409
PATRICK MALHAM	444
MARGARET HODGSON	515
RON and GWEN METCALFE	674
MARTIN METCALFE	772
JOSIE HOPPER	810
STEPHEN NEWMAN	824
DOUG & JUNE CUTTING	855
WILLIAM ROE	871
MAUREEN THWAITE	897
JULIAN J METCALFE	902
EDWIN METCALFE	980
DAVE C. METCALFE	983
JO HERON	1042
CAROL HERBERT	1072
ELIZABETH WALLER	1072
KEVIN METCALF	1085
EILEEN MEASURES	1089
ANITA METCALFE	1142
VIVIENNE METCALF	1147
MARSDEN HOLDEN	1513
BRIAN and ENA METCALFE	1554
MICHAEL PEEL	1698
MICHAEL C POPE	1919

The audit of article contributions to the Mecca News was exhausting but most interesting and it is worthwhile outlining the approach taken. Articles are defined as significant pieces of work which stand alone and at least a page in length. Snippets are not included in this survey, but I would like to thank all those who have, over forty years, contributed interesting, informative and sometimes family tree shattering snippet information - the magazine would not have been the same without your help - thank you very much.

There have also been a great many snippets of jokes and quips which have added to the fun of reading the journal and although there have been several members highly active in this field of Yorkshire humour, I would like to single out and commend Lesley Longworth as the "Jokemeistress" of the period.

Looking at the league table below, it is hardly surprising that Peter Dobson came out top and by a county mile. Editor for 22 years and very evidently writing a great deal of the copy which does not even bear his name. His total of 296 is clearly an underestimate, as he declined to take the due credit for many pieces - a real tour de force Peter, from which we have all benefited hugely. David Lambert, having been a member from the off, and chairman for 22 years has contributed more than a century of pieces including seriously well researched "Jottings". I counted over 1000 individual articles from 218 contributors, 126 of whom supplied one article. I would like to pay homage to all those who have written, once or many times, for the journal and made it such a success - thank you all.

Rank	Contributor	No. of articles
1	PETER DOBSON	296
2	DAVID LAMBERT	107
3	MIKE POPE	52
4	CHARLES S. METCALFE	44
5	GEORGE BUXTON	37
6	NINA BENSON	36
7	DIANE HOWARTH	36
8	JO HERON	31
9	BRIAN METCALFE	27
10	DOROTHY POPE	23
11	MARGARET HODGSON	22
12	VALERIE METCALFE	21
13	JOAN METCALFE	19
14	LESLEY LONGWORTH	13
15	MICHAEL PEEL	13
16	DENNY GIBSON	12
17	LEON METCALFE	11
18	WARWICK METCALFE	10
19	PAT MALHAM	10
20	EDWIN METCALF	9
21	HELEN OFFER	8
22	LILLAH CHAPMAN	8
23	MAUREEN THWAITE	8
24	CHRISTOPHER METCALFE	8
25	ANDREW METCALFE	8
26	VERA ADAMS	7
27	MARTIN METCALFE	7
28	MARSDEN HOLDEN	7
29	PAM JARMAIN	7
30	DAVE C. METCALFE	7
31	SUSAN HARPER	6
32	JULIAN METCALFE	6
33	BERNARD METCALFE	6
34	ALISON HUTTON	5
35	TERRY ALLINSON	5
36	JUDITH ROBINSON	5
37	ROSEMARY BROWN	5
38	CAROL HERBERT	5
39	DAVID METCALFE	5
40	SANDY WALTON	5
41	MARY METCALFE	4
42	SANDRA METCALFE	4
43	JOHN BALDERSTON	4
44	DELPHINE MCDONNELL	4
45	GARY MEDCALF	4
46	CAROL METCALFE	4
47	DOUG CUTTING	4
48	PEARL TEDDS	4
49	FRANK & JEAN BRADLEY	3
50	LUCY ROWLANDS	3

"WHEN YOU ARE IN COMMAND, COMMAND!"
Vice Admiral Joseph P. Metcalf III
 by Graeme J. Metcalf M1745



Vice Admiral Joseph P. Metcalf III - courtesy Wikipedia

Some of you may be familiar with Vice Admiral Metcalf's naval career and indeed the very key role that he played in the 1983 invasion of the Caribbean Island of Grenada in 1983 code named Operation Urgent Fury. The article, headed with one of his key mantras is purposed to give an outline of that role and a little of the background that saw him being given overall operational command in the conflict.

Joseph P. Metcalf III was born shortly before Christmas 1927 into a wealthy wool family of Holyoke Massachusetts. He was the grandson of a Metcalf from these shores; one Joseph Metcalf of Hunslet in Yorkshire, who on investigation, is probably worth an article in this own right. Returning to the vice admiral, there is little information on his early life and the story is taken up in 1946 when he entered the US Navy and in very short order was enlisted into the Naval Academy. He graduated in 1951 as a surface warfare officer and in the same year he was married to Ruth Daniels.

One of his early appointments was aboard the USS King County which was armed with the Regulus II missile, a forerunner to the Cruise missile. Another of Joseph's commands was that of the landing ship USS Westchester County which saw him involved in the 1966 amphibious landing of US troops in Vietnam and nine years later in 1975 he engineered the final evacuation of all surface ships from Vietnam. During the following years his star continued to rise and in 1983 President Ronald Regan appointed him operational commander of all forces involved in the onerous task of invading the former British Caribbean island colony of Grenada. Moreover, he was given the amazingly short time of only 39 hours to plan the operation. Interestingly, his deputy on the mission was to be a certain General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, who later became famous for his part in the Gulf War.

The invasion itself was primarily tasked with the rescue of US citizens and the restoration of democratic government from the Marxist junta which had toppled the then Prime Minister Maurice Bishop who, along with several members of his administration, was killed during the first week of the coup. The expedition was highly controversial and conducted in spite of a United Nations General Assembly condemnation by a vote of 108 to 9 as "a flagrant violation of international law".

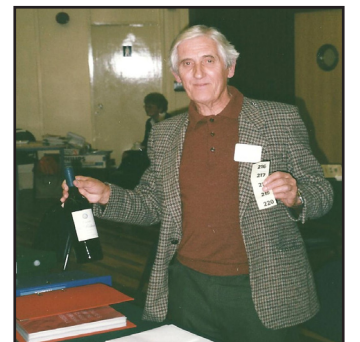
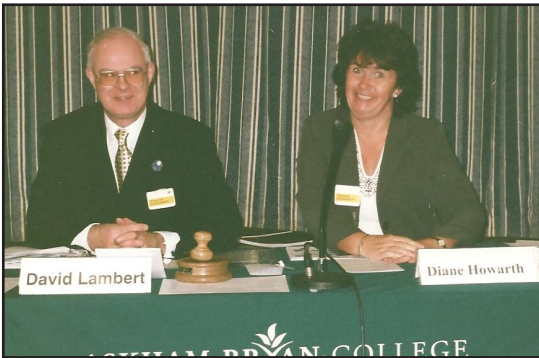
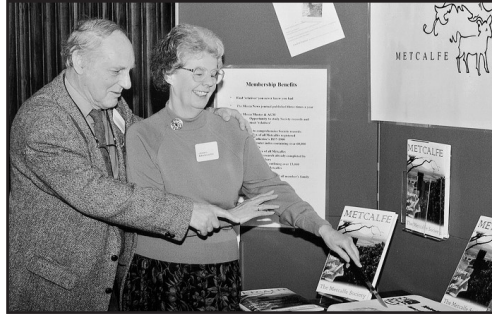
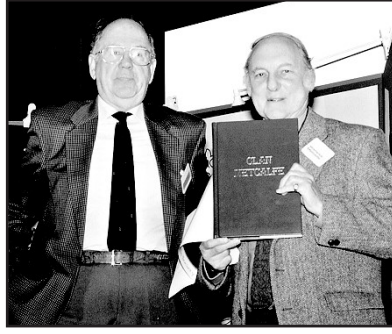
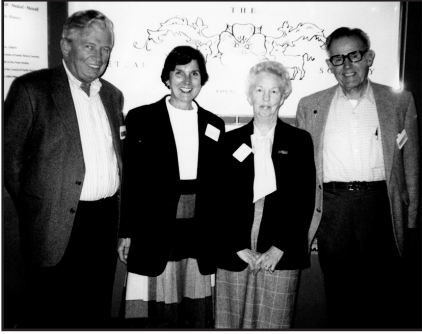
The land invasion began at dawn on 25 October 1983 and within three days the US led combined force, which numbered over 7000, had taken control of the island and captured the coup leader Bernard Coard. The US casualties included 19 killed and 116 wounded and the opposing forces suffered over 70 dead and over 400 wounded and unfortunately more than 24 civilians were killed. The operation was considered a great success, especially given that Vice Admiral Metcalf had less than two days to plan the expedition.

On his return to the US from the mission, Admiral Metcalf brought home several Soviet AK47 rifles and was unknowingly in breach of a federal law for which he received only a non punitive warning, after the supposed direct intervention of President Ronald Regan. The Vice Admiral's last active duty was as Deputy Chief of Staff of Naval Operations for Surface Warfare. During his service to his country he received many awards, among them the Distinguished Service Medal with two gold stars and the Meritorious Service Medal. After his retirement from service in 1987 he was actively involved on many boards and panels and he died in Washington D.C. on 2 March 2007 aged 79.

This has been only a brief glimpse into the life and career of the Vice Admiral and perhaps will stimulate an interest to discover more about this distinguished soldier and his life.

MECCA MUSTER ROUNDUP 1986 TO 2004

by Peter Dobson & Mike Pope



MECCA MUSTER ROUNDUP 2005 TO 2009
by Peter Dobson & Mike Pope



REMINISCENCES FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

As editor, I would like to thank both Joan Metcalfe and Valerie Metcalfe for sending in their thoughts on the forty years of the Metcalfe Society. Both have been regular contributors of articles; Valerie was editor for 3 years and covenant secretary for 9 years and Joan of course has been a mainstay of the wills project and has been a star in solving many an undecipherable text for the members - including the editor!

Joan Metcalfe M63

As a long-standing member of The Metcalfe Society (no.63) it has not been easy to keep my recollections of those years reasonably brief. Our editor has asked for details on what membership has meant in terms of social contacts, successful research and general enjoyment: for me so much has come into each of these categories.

I was first made aware of the Metcalfe Society in 1983, through Norman Metcalfe of Bury, now deceased, who was member 56. My late husband Bill (William) and I joined immediately, realising the benefits of sharing information with others interested in this one surname. The first Mecca Muster we attended was in 1986 held at Boroughbridge High School, meeting Nina Benson, John Holden, Ruth Kay and others, and thoroughly enjoying the day. Other Musters brought us into contact with Warwick and Jean Metcalfe, Dorothy Pope and Peter Dobson, with all of these people becoming good friends.

John Holden helped us a lot initially and a big breakthrough came when Ruth sent to Dorothy a copy of a family tree which she had in her possession. It had apparently been started about 1830 and gave details of descent, through various children, from an Anthony Metcalfe and his wife Alice (néé Metcalfe) married in 1724. 'Ruth Kay's Tree', as it became known, proved to be the way through the brick wall regarding our branch and for several other researchers. According to my reckoning, there are 48 current and former society members who are descendants of this couple, and for that reason they are my two favourite ancestors, although we'll never know what they looked like, or much about them, beyond being an 18th century yeoman family in Gayle.

I have always liked writing and have been glad to contribute a few articles to Mecca News over the years. In the mid-1990s the proposal to publish a Metcalfe book really sparked my interest, so (admittedly with some trepidation) I volunteered to help with it. It turned out to be about 4 years' involvement up to its launch in 1998 - not easy at times, but very satisfying to see Metcalfe: History of the Clan as a lovely hardback volume. One of my absolute treasures is a leather-bound copy which the then President, Charles Metcalfe, gave to all those concerned with its production.

Whilst we all have to concede that 'life and times' have changed dramatically during the last 40 years, meaning that (even apart from the present Covid-19 situation) nothing can be the same as it once was, I truly believe that we should also try to appreciate fully how much The Metcalfe Society has added to our families' knowledge and therefore to our own lives. Many thanks are due to everyone who has been a part of this.

Val Metcalfe M61

The Mecca News has been such a good magazine throughout its existence, always a good read and good to see landing on the mat.

When Vera Adams appealed for a new editor in 1985, even though the time was definitely not right for me, having a 4-year-old and a 6-week premature baby, I never ever regretted saying "I'll do it" and enjoyed every moment. I loved reading the stories and articles sent in and when my babies napped, I typed! Working together with everyone then was wonderful.

I would like to say a big **Thank You** to everyone over these 40 years who made it happen.

Michael Peel M1698 contributed these photos.



My brother took the photo on the left of John Metcalf Way (named after Blind Jack) which was named so earlier this year. It is part of the A658 near Harrogate. The next section of the A658 has been named after the late Arnold Kellett who was a local historian of Knaresborough. He has been mentioned in Mecca News as the author of "Blind Jack of Knaresborough." Photographs courtesy of Andrew Peel.



The Metcalfe Society DNA Project - Where to Next? Dave C. Metcalfe M983

I would like to pose a few serious questions for the society committee and our wider membership to consider. We seem to be at a something of a standstill with regard to the Metcalfe Society DNA Project, and yet when one looks across at the commercial family history websites, there is plenty of activity on the DNA front. This modern technology, which springs from our understanding of the human genome, has certainly been harnessed by the likes of Ancestry.com and they must now be reaping tremendous financial rewards. However, when one looks objectively at our society's project, it sadly appears to be going nowhere fast.

To my mind this raises some heart-searching questions, as follows:

Have we come to a hiatus because we have concentrated on the male line (for obvious good reasons) but have totally ignored the female family historians in our society? Yes, we want to pursue the male line back as far as we can - always hoping beyond hope that we will obtain a link back to the original Metcalfes of Nappa. But should we expend all our energy in that regard to the exclusion of all the feminine connections that would add much to our Metcalfe family trees? I have been a part of the Metcalfe DNA project for a few years now, and have had no obvious benefit, other than a confirmation that I have Metcalfe blood inside me - not that I ever had any doubts!

On the other hand, I also joined Ancestry.com and through their DNA testing have discovered an aunt in Australia of whom I was never aware and then a stronger tie than I ever thought, to another aunt in the UK. Looking at this from their point of view, these two ladies now know (through our joint DNAs) that they are connected to a whole raft of Metcalfes going back to the 1750s - this was most likely a revelation to them! Why can the society not see the great benefits that can be achieved by a little lateral thinking?

Our DNA project has been organised in partnership with an American family history DNA organisation called 'FamilyTree DNA'. This organisation does offer DNA testing for the female sex - should we therefore consider widening the project to cover both sexes and see what transpires? On the other hand, if we are not making much headway with even the male line - despite the large number of Metcalfes residing in America - perhaps it is time to quit that project and approach the likes of Ancestry.com to form a new alliance?

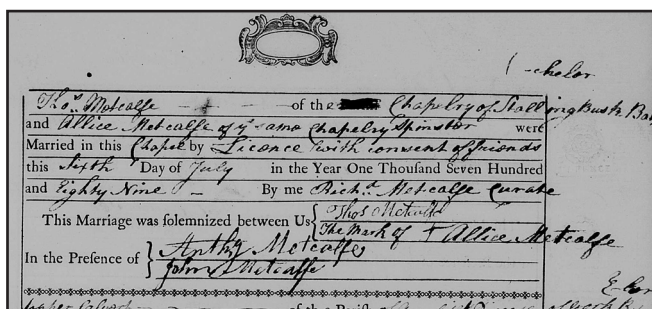
Anticipating that the society answer may well be that as a society we do in fact want to stay with FamilyTree DNA, then surely that begs the question why are we not pushing for a sub project team within North America (USA and Canada) to garner more Metcalfe DNA testers from that continent? A North American team could potentially create a whole raft of new society memberships as a result.

Ultimately, the key question is: is it not time to rejuvenate our DNA project efforts, get some new blood involved in the team, and make some much needed headway?

I do hope the committee (and the wider membership) recognise a great opportunity here - and that one day we will look back and say: "Yes, it was an opportunity exploited, rather than an opportunity lost".

An All Metcalfe Marriage

On 6 July 1789 a rather unusual marriage took place in Stalling Busk above Semerwater, near Hawes in Wensleydale in which every signatory on the Parish Church of St. Matthew register of the marriage was a Metcalfe!



This record was supplied by David Lambert who received it from Diane Sutton of the Romany and Travellers Society and was written by Peter Calver of the Lost Cousins Society.

© North Yorkshire County Record Office, used by kind permission of Findmypast

The record reads that Thomas Metcalfe bachelor and Alice Metcalfe spinster both of Stalling Busk, were married by licence. The ceremony was performed by Curate Richard Metcalfe and witnessed by Anthony Metcalfe and John Metcalfe. Thomas signed and Alice made her mark.

As is often the case, this singular event did not end happily. Alice gave birth to a daughter Betty Metcalfe at the end of 1792 who was baptised on 1 January 1793, but Alice died and was buried in the parish on 28 April 1796.

ARCHIVIST REPORT - MARGARET HODGSON M515

I am retiring from my role as Archivist, taking effect immediately following the Zoom AGM and the submission of this report to the editor. I have thoroughly enjoyed working in this capacity for the last eight years, longer if my prior time as an assistant archivist is included. I never grow weary of researching family history and I feel privileged to have been in contact with so many members over the years.

BIRTH BRIEFS FROM EXISTING MEMBERS (INCLUDING UPDATES – shown in bold)

M2132 Ms Norah Wetherill

Mayfield House, Oulston, York YO61 3RA

Direct descendant of Joan Dixon d.o. Robert & Elizabeth (Mte) Dixon m 18 Nov 1741 Sessay, Yks. Elizabeth bpt 14 Dec 1724 Sessay d.o. Thomas & Dorothy (Mason) Mte m 11 Feb 1720 Sessay. Thomas bpt 2 Nov 1695 Carlton Husthwaite s.o. Benjamin & Ann (Stead) Mte m 16 Nov 1693 Carlton Husthwaite.

Conn: M269 M931

This Birth Brief also takes that of M269 and M931 back a further generation.

M2146 Mrs Gillian Backhouse

9 Whin Green, Sleights, Whitby, North Yorkshire YO22 5AB

milestowander2@gmail.com

Grd d.o. Patrick & Winifred (McKenna) Roddy m 3Q 1935 Middlesbrough. Patrick b 26 Mar 1916 Middlesbrough s.o. Francis & Elizabeth (Graham) Roddy m 1Q 1911 Middlesbrough. Elizabeth b 28 Jul 1885 Darlington d.o. Stephen & Catherine (Mallen) Graham m 2Q 1881 Ripon. Stephen b 1856 Leeds s.o. Robert & Margaret (Mte) Graham m 9 Jun 1849 Masham. Margaret bpt 14 Nov 1827 Masham d.o. William & 2nd wf Ann (? Southern) m ? 16 Dec 1820 Topcliffe. **William bpt 18 May 1783 Thornton Watlass s.o. Henry & Sarah (Thompson) Mte m 24 Oct 1767 Well. Henry bpt 26 Dec 1745 Thornton Watlass s.o. Stephen & Ellen (Moody) Mte m 19 Sep 1734 Thornton Watlass. Stephen b c1715.**

Conn: M123 M165 M266 M480 M493 M522 M545 M616 M644 M1269 M1313 M1341 M1404 M1487 M1682 M1831 M1885

NEW MEMBERS

M2151 Mrs Joanne Kelly

244 Tramway Road, Enderley, Hamilton 3210, New Zealand

joannemk2812@gmail.com

Grd d.o. Frank & Anne (Green) Mte m 22 Jul 1914 New Zealand. Frank b 7 Oct 1888 Bolton, Lan, England s.o. Richard & 2nd wife Margaret (Raw) Mte m 4 May 1874 Bolton. Richard bpt 30 Sep 1827 Bainbridge s.o. Richard Lawson & Elizabeth (Cockbone) Mte m 27 Jul 1825 Aysgarth. Richard Lawson bpt 12 May 1803 Askrigg s.o. James & Mary (Lawson) Mte m 13 May 1799 Askrigg. James bpt 21 Nov 1779 Askrigg s.o. James Mte of Bainbridge.

Conn: M86 M159 M177 M939 M1857 M1966 M1982 M2055

M2153 Mr Thomas Metcalf

4676 Second Avenue, Niagara Falls, Ontario L2G0C1, Canada

thomas.a.metcalf@gmail.com

S.o. Michael & Kay Mt m Albion, New York, USA. Michael s.o. William Sherwood & Bernadine Loretta (Mt) Mt m c1940 Oswego, New York. William Sherwood b 21 Jun 1916 Elyria, Ohio s.o. Henry Martyn & Mary Lovina (Timbs) Mt m 24 Oct 1906 Huron, Ohio. Henry Martyn b 11 Sep 1871 Elyria, Ohio s.o. Isaac Stevens & Antoinette Brigham (Putnam) Mt m 5 Jul 1852 Dunbarton, New Hampshire. Isaac Stevens b 29 Jan 1822 Royalston, Worcester, Massachusetts s.o. Isaac & Anna Mayo (Stevens Rich) Mt m 26 Feb 1821 Royalston. Isaac b 3 Feb 1783 Royalston s.o. Peletiah & Lydia (Estey) Mt m 28 Jun 1770 Royalston. Peletiah b 13 Jun 1744 Wrentham, Massachusetts s.o. Pelatiah & Hepzibah (Mann) Mt. Peletiah b 28 Mar 1714 Wrentham s.o. Michael & Abiel (Colburn) Mt m 23 Dec 1712 Massachusetts. Michael b 25 Jan 1686-87 Wrentham s.o. Eleazer & Meletiah (Fisher) Mte m 9 Apr 1684 Wrentham. Eleazar b 20 Mar 1653 Dedham, Massachusetts d.o. Michael & Mary (Fairbanks) Mte m 2 Apr 1644 Norwich, Nfk. Michael b 29 Aug 1620 Norwich, Nfk s.o. Michael & Sarah (Ellwyn) Mte m 13 Oct 1616 Tatterford, Nfk. Michael b 17 Jun 1586 Tatterford s.o. Leonard & Amy (Thurston/Thursby) Mte m 1582 Tatterford. Leonard b c1545 Tatterford s.o. Brian & Joanna Mte. Brian b c1519 Tatterford.

Conn: M283 M455 M456 M571 M585 M944 M968 M1009 M1010 M1104 M1152 M1175 M1251 M1366 M1627 M1771 M1971 M2100 M2110 M2148

M2154 Mrs Pauline Tack

41 Caughall Road, Upton Heath, Chesterfield, Cheshire CH2 1LR

1999prt@gmail.com

M2155 Mr Adam D Toulson

4 Chapel Row, Broadlane, Sykehouse, Goole, East Yorkshire DN14 9AT

adam.toulson@hotmail.co.uk

S.o. Nigel & Karen (Fawcett) Toulson m 1979 Doncaster. Nigel s.o. John Alfred Stephen & Mary Patricia Anne (Brough) Toulson m 1951 Pontefract. Mary Patricia Anne b 1933 d.o. Harold Arthur & Edith Gwendoline (Turner) Brough m 1927 Seacroft. Harold Arthur b 1890 s.o. Robert & Hannah "Anna" Maria (Metcalfe) Brough m 1884 Snainton. Hannah "Anna" Maria b 1863 d.o. George & Jane (Steel) Mte m 5 Feb 1859 Brompton by Sawdon. George bpt 21 Mar 1836 Lockton s.o. Robert & Hannah (Linton) Mte m 25 Jan 1830 Middleton by Pickering. Robert Metcalfe b c1802 Ebberston.

Conn: M294 M703**M2156 Mr Robert Pettitt**

10 Smiths Court, Southbridge, Northampton NN4 8GH

robert.pettitt@gmail.com

S.o. Dennis & Dorothy Mary (Mte) Pettitt m Jun 1949. Dorothy Mary b 6 Nov 1929 Nairobi, Kenya d.o. William Edward & Annie Wilhelmina (Plenderleith) Mte m 12 Sep 1925 Nairobi, Kenya. William Edward bpt 15 Sep 1891 York s.o. Christopher & Mary Isabella (Stoker) Mte m 18 Apr 1888 York. Christopher bpt 20 Jan 1861 Hipswell s.o. Robert & Elizabeth (Frankland) Mte m 28 Dec 1841 Hipswell. Robert b c1822 Hipswell s.o. Robert & Elizabeth (King) Mte m 3 Mar 1818 Richmond. Robert bpt 3 Jun 1787 Hipswell s.o. George & Elizabeth (Robinson) Mte m 17 Nov 1768 Coniscliffe, Dur. George b c1733

Conn: M13 M29 M39 M66 M70 M92 M132 M133 M211 M212 M246 M248 M257 M292 M345 M346 M458 M517 M546 M547 M791 M847 M849 M855 M856 M887 M1139 M1197 M1220 M1230 M1324 M1604 M1863 M1975 M2001 M2040 M2059**M2157 Mr David Metcalfe**

6 Dovelands, Sutton in Craven, Bradford, Yorkshire BD207JP

dmetcalfe@spartasystems.co.uk

M2158 Mr Michael Metcalf

279 Birchwood Drive, Moraga, Armed Forces Europe 94556, USA

mmetcalf925@gmail.com

S.o. Richard Carter & Elizabeth Raglan (Miller) Mt m 1940 Hartford, Connecticut, USA. Richard Carter b 1910 St Paul, Minnesota s.o. George Putnam II & Margaret (Carter) Mt m 1905 West Newton, Massachusetts. George Putnam II b 1878 Syracuse, New York s.o. George Reuben & Julia Bowen (French) Mt m 1875 Mexico, New York. George Reuben b 1848 Brattleboro, Vermont s.o. George Putnam I & Harriet (Munson) Mt m 1848 Greenfield, Massachusetts. George Putnam I b Nov 1814 Hinsdale, New Hampshire s.o. Reuben & Eunice (Crane) Mt m 1789 Hinsdale. Reuben b 19 Feb 1759 Dedham, Massachusetts s.o. Timothy & Hannah (Guild) Mt m 29 Apr 1756 Dedham. Timothy b 14 Jul 1730 Dedham s.o. John & 3rd wf Grace (Williams) Mt m 29 Oct 1718 Dedham. John b 20 Mar 1678 Dedham s.o. Jonathan & Hannah (Kenrick) Mt m 10 Apr 1674 Dedham. Jonathan b 21 Sep 1650 s.o. Michael & Mary (Fairbanks) Mte m 2 Apr 1644 Norwich, Nfk. Michael b 29 Aug 1620 Norwich, Nfk s.o. Michael & Sarah (Ellwyn) Mte m 13 Oct 1616 Tatterford, Nfk. Michael b 17 Jun 1586 Tatterford s.o. Leonard & Amy (Thurston/Thursby) Mte m 1582 Tatterford. Leonard b c1545 Tatterford s.o. Brian & Joanna Mte. Brian b c1519 Tatterford.

Conn: M283 M455 M456 M571 M585 M944 M968 M1009 M1010 M1104 M1152 M1175 M1251 M1366 M1627 M1771 M1971 M2100 M2110 M2148**COTTERDALE - by Mike Pope**

Cotterdale is a short, very quiet, and secluded dale which has been the home of Metcalfes for centuries. It is situated just under four miles to the north west of Hawes in Wensleydale, accessible off the Garsdale road, and the small hamlet of Cotterdale itself sits astride the becks of West and East Gills which drain Abbotside Common and Great Shunner Fell. The lower left photograph shows the dale looking towards the north west and the lower right shot East Gill running through the hamlet before its confluence with West Gill to form Cotterdale Beck. (October 2019)



The Reverend Lister Metcalfe and my Metcalfe Connection.
by Dr Mike Pope Retiring Editor M1919

The Reverend Lister Metcalfe is my great x5 grandfather and as far as I am aware, the only cleric in the totality of all my family trees. I wrote and included much of this piece in Metcalfe Family Histories, and here have further expanded it, drawing heavily on Mecca News articles by my 3rd cousin 3x removed the late Warwick Metcalfe M256, in the August 1989 No 28 and December 1990 No 32 journals.

Lister was Warwick's great great grandfather and Warwick, in his contribution, referenced my mother Dorothy Pope (M55) for the fact that she found various pieces of information which enabled Warwick to acquire a more complete picture of his immediate line. Thereafter, they began a long association and friendship until his death in 2011. I wanted to put Lister into a personal historical context as my lines comprise, tree 18 with 7 connections of whom only myself and my mother are still members, and most importantly, tree 25 with 20 connections, of whom only my mother, Peter Dobson, Francis Townson and myself are still members. This last is Warwick's line, shown as Branch 2 in the Clan Book and made all the more interesting because he inherited items of furniture, documents and paintings from Lister and his family which will be covered later.

The ultimate forebear of tree 25 (to date) is Anthony Metcalfe of Gayle and Hardraw near Hawes who married an Ann Hudson (perhaps from Penrith) possibly around 1620 and allegedly produced two children, Margaret and Jane. It is not clear whether Margaret is their daughter, or daughter-in-law, but she had a son also Anthony Metcalfe who may or may not have been illegitimate, born around 1650. Anthony Metcalfe the elder, died in 1659 and his will, transcribed by Joan Metcalfe, bequeathed his estate to his grandson Anthony above, which was by no means insignificant and included land at Mossdale, Gayle, and Hardraw, the parish church of the latter, St. Mary & St. John's being shown below right. There are a frustrating number of uncertainties referred to in this paragraph which demonstrate clearly the problems inherent in describing accurately my Metcalfe source.

The background of Anthony the elder is utterly opaque and the origins of his line have resisted years of diligent scholarship, and it steadfastly refuses to illuminate itself beyond the mid 17th century! I spoke with Peter Dobson about our "Wensleydale Yorkstone Wall" a couple of years back, and Peter told me that it was actually my mother Dorothy Pope who established the tree from Lister back to Anthony and Ann Metcalfe of Gayle, with some help from Warwick, and also input from the late John Holden, our early chairman and president.

Dorothy could make no concrete headway and the research was really picked up by Peter (although he is too modest to claim it). He has been working away at the problem for nearly four decades and using the internet to access books and literature on the history which are held electronically in several American university libraries, but still there has been no break through. There is an Anthony referred to in Walter & Gilbert Metcalfes' "Metcalfe Records" who lived at around the same period in Aldborough North Yorkshire and he was a noted recusant. There is some evidence that Catholic Metcalfes moved up the Dales away from persecution in the Vale of York, to Hawes and Ingleton, and also a presence of potentially connectable Metcalfes in Cotterdale, but this is inconclusive. Since my joining the society in 2013, I have personally made precisely zero progress on the puzzle!



Anthony the younger, son of Anthony above, lived in Gayle just above Hawes, married Elizabeth Winn around 1670 and they had two sons Cuthbert and Richard. Cuthbert later married Barbary Simondson of Starbotton in 1694 and they produced four children, the eldest of whom, also Anthony, was baptised in Gayle in 1696.

This Anthony lived in Gayle, and in turn married Alice Metcalfe, who may have been a distant cousin. The ceremony was performed in August 1724 at the very small but beautiful parish church of St. Leonard's at Chapel-le-Dale (left) near Ingleton in Ribblesdale, the location which might suggest that their families were not particularly supportive of the union.

Anthony Metcalfe was a well off yeoman of Gayle and he and Alice raised ten children, seven boys and three girls, but they lost their first child Cuthbert on the day he was born. Their third child Philip was an antecedent of Peter Dobson's, moved north away from the Dales and began Peter's Northumberland and County Durham line.

Warwick's story began ..."Lister Metcalfe was Anthony and Alice Metcalfe's fifth child born in Gayle on 14 June 1740 and was baptised at St Mary's Parish Church Hawes on the same day.

His life therefore began in the reign of George II and spread over two thirds of the reign of George III. He was alive during the ministries of the early prime ministers Robert Walpole and both Pitt the Elder and the Younger. His span included such events as the War of Jenkins Ear, War of the Austrian Succession, the Jacobite Rebellion, Quebec, General Wolf and the annexation of Canada, Clive of India and the founding of the Indian Empire, the Seven Years War, the American War of Independence, and the French Revolution.

They were exciting years through which to live, but no evidence is available of what impact, if any, these great political events had upon Lister Metcalfe's outlook. The papers which have come down to me suggest on the contrary that his theological concerns were partnered by a strong interest in the literary achievements of the day and natural science, rather than military or political.

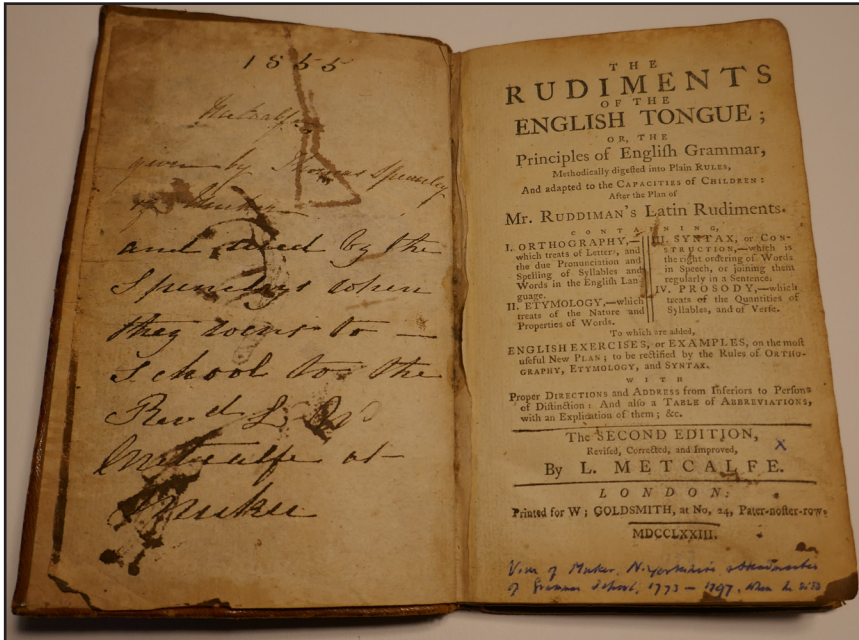
I inherited two particular treasures from Lister. The first is a fine bureau in the Chinese Chippendale manner (complete with small secret compartment which really is difficult to find) and the second is an old wooden box with hinged lid approximately 9 inches square whose contents are the subject of the rest of this article."



The bureau is shown in the left hand photograph and the painting on the wall above the bureau is of Warwick's paternal grandfather Lieutenant-Colonel Booth Hay Metcalfe, a graduate of Trinity College Cambridge who served with the 83rd Regiment of Foot and later the Royal Irish Rifles from 1865 to 1887 in Gibraltar, India and South Africa.

The right hand photograph shows Booth Hay's father, Warwick's great grandfather, Lister Washington Metcalfe who was born in Muker, Swaledale and became a very successful Liverpool cheese merchant and was one of ten children born to Reverend Lister Metcalfe and his wife Isabella nee Simm.

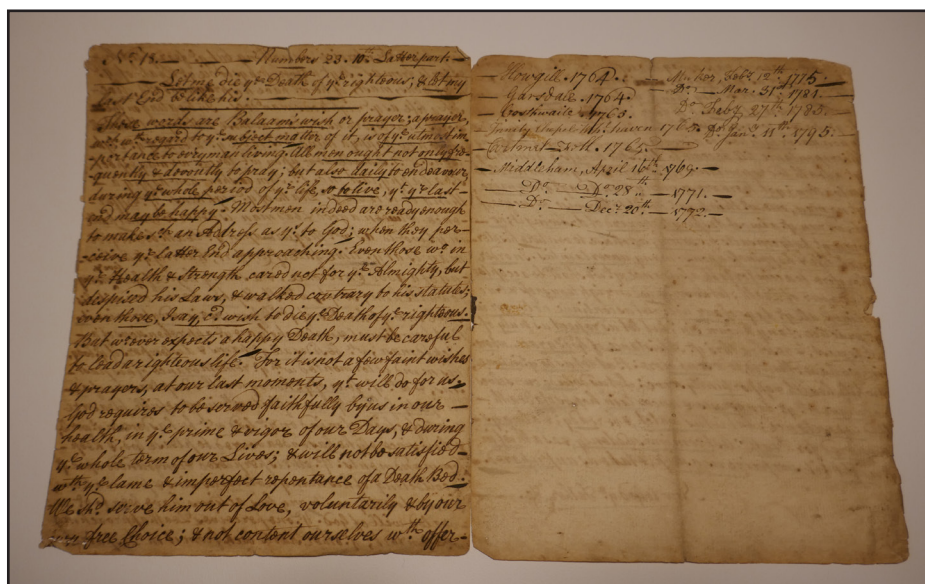
Warwick wrote "In the old wooden box I found a copy of a rare English grammar which Lister had revised and printed in 1773, the year he entered his ministry and the mastership of the grammar school at Muker. Tucked inside is a letter to his publishers in Lister's hand, evidently correcting the proofs.



The copy (photograph by the editor shown above) is a second edition – the date of the first is unknown to me - but this particular copy apparently belonged to a boy called William Spenceley who was at school at Muker in 1780, as he informs us in a well-formed if childish hand in the flyleaf, together with other inscriptions. The only other copy known to me is at the British Museum.

The next objects of interest were an occasional book full of verses and epigrams culled from literary figures of Lister's day. Oliver Goldsmith, Dr. Johnson, Dryden, Congreve and others feature, along with doggerel in characteristic 18th century style which I suspect is Lister's own concoction. There were also two notebooks containing scientific observations on organic animal and vegetable life and a 'chronological table of historical events' which begins with the birth of Adam in 5,508 BC and appears to be copied from W. Emerson's chronology produced in 1770. All these were written out in a neat copperplate hand with quill pen.

But the real treasure, from my point of view, was a package done up with old tape of some 92 sermons. So far as I can tell these are not standard copies from a book, but are originals composed and written by my great great grandfather in his neat copperplate, and preached at various venues during his ministry between 1763 and the year of his death 1 May 1797. The photograph below (taken by the editor) depicts Lister's Sermon No. 18 and on the right page is written that he first delivered the text at Howgill, followed by Garsdale, Crossthwaite, Whitehaven in Cumberland, then Cartmel, Middleham (three times) and Muker, between the years 1764 to 1795.



The parishes covered include Garsdale, Howgill, Middleton, Ingleton, Sedburgh, Crossthwaite, Cartmel Fell, Middleham, Bonas (Bowness), Whitehaven, Grinton, Firbank, Hatton, Crook, Kendall, Lowsby and Silton amongst others, as well as Muker. Each sermon comprises several folio sheets stitched together about the size of an exercise book, varying from six to eight sheets, making a dozen to eighteen sides and there are no covers.

The names of the parishes where each sermon was given, together with the dates on which it was preached are mostly noted at the end, though occasionally on a separate page. For example, No.7 first given at Howgill in 1764, is also shown as having been repeated at Cartmell Fell in 1765, 1789 and 1795. So, Lister was evidently careful to give his congregation plenty of time in between to forget what he had said on the previous occasion!"

Howgill Church shown below left is very small and sits just outside Howgill village, which in reality is more of a hamlet. Lister Metcalfe's name as curate appears on the wooden plaque in the church below right and two curates later, there is recorded a John Metcalf about whom I know nothing - Editor. (photographs by the editor)



Warwick continues ... "The two earliest sermons which survive are shown as having been preached at Garsdale in 1763 when Lister was 23 years of age. Number 23 appears to have been delivered at Sedbergh on Good Friday 1764; his marriage to Isabella Simm (aged 21) took place in the same parish in October of the same year.

One sermon delivered at Crossthaite in 1765 caught my eye because Lister made a note alongside the date stating 'this was the first sermon I preached after my fever'. Curious to learn how he might have reacted to what had evidently been a traumatic experience, or he would hardly have made such a note." (Warwick's comments are highly apposite to today's covid pandemic situation and may well be relevant to some of our membership - Editor.)

"Lister must have travelled between these places across the Northern Dales of Yorkshire, Westmorland and Cumberland on horseback or on foot; quite likely the latter - anyone familiar with Dorothy Wordsworth's diaries will be aware that she and her brother William thought nothing of walking 30 miles in a day.

Several interesting documents relate to Lister's career as a schoolmaster. One dated 1760 is an application to the Bishop of Chester from the inhabitants of the Chapelry of Howgill in the parish of Sedbergh to elect Lister to the mastership of their school. A similar document in the same year describes Lister as 'late schoolmaster in Middleton' and seems to be a testimonial as it describes him as 'duly and properly qualified to support the office of a schoolmaster', and is signed by the incumbents of Hawes, Hardraw, Garsdale, Middleham and Mansergh. Since Lister could have been no more than twenty at the time of this testimonial, it seems reasonable to assume Middleham was his first post and Howgill his second.

Two other documents throw more light on Lister's career. The first is a letter from the churchwardens of Crossthaite to the Bishop of Chester stating that Lister resigned the curacy of their parish in 1767, which implies a move of some kind in that year, whilst a second letter addressed to the same diocese (but to a different Bishop) in 1774, is signed by the curates of Hawes, Hardraw (as well as somewhere illegible) recommending Lister as 'a person duly and properly qualified to support the office of a curatorship'. As this is in the year following the date given for his ministry at Muker it seems to imply that his ordination was not automatic, but through some form of election which required confirmation.

The pattern produced by these documents indicates Lister's youth was spent at Hawes as the son of a yeoman farmer, with a move during his late teens to become a schoolmaster at Middleham. Where he received his own education is not clear, but it surely must have begun at Hawes and perhaps Sedbergh School.

In 1760 he moved to Howgill near Sedbergh as schoolmaster, the latter where he married in 1764. In 1765, he was at Crossthaite when his eldest son was born and he gave up the curacy there in 1767, eventually arriving at Muker in 1773, where he remained as curate and master of the grammar school until his death twenty four years later. The old vicarage at Muker and the grammar school buildings fortunately survive, though much altered."

Editor - The timeline of Lister's birth, education and later ecumenical career may thus be approximately as follows -

1740	Born in Gayle, Hawes, Wensleydale
1745 - 1756	School in Hawes and then Sedbergh School
1756 - 1758	Pupil Master in Sedbergh or Hawes
1758 - 1760	Schoolmaster in Middleham Wensleydale
1760 - 1764	Schoolmaster and curate at Holy Trinity Howgill
1764 - 1767	Curate and schoolmaster at St Kentigern Crossthwaite near Keswick
1768 - 1773	Curate and schoolmaster at St Mary & St Alkelda Middleham Wensleydale
1773 - 1797	Curate and schoolmaster at St Mary's Parish Church Muker, Swaledale

There is still much to research and hopefully details to uncover implicit in this interpreted timeline and not least how and where Lister obtained his clerical training and where he was ordained, since there is no suggestion in the records which Warwick inherited, or in the researches of my mother Dorothy Pope, that he attended an Oxbridge College, which was a common path to an ecumenical calling and the securing of a living in the eighteenth century.

VICARS of MUKER and CURATES in CHARGE		
The Rev. Richard Kendall	- - -	1593-1600
" " John Morland	- - -	1600-1606
" " Wetherell	- - -	1606-1638
" " George Atkinson	- - -	1638-1659
" " Thomas Drinkle	- - -	1659-1685
" " Michael Wagget	- - -	1685-1689
" " Henry Docker	- - -	1689-1694
" " James Moore	- - -	1694-1703
" " Thomas Goubling	- - -	1703-1713
" " Christopher Forster	- - -	1713-1772
" " Lister Metcalfe	- - -	1773-1797
" " William Richardson	- - -	1797-1808
" " James Bannister (Curate)	- - -	1808-1811
" " " (Vicar)	- - -	1811-1815
" " John Clementson	- - -	1815-1820
" " Isaac Fidler	- - -	1820-1822
" " Richard Louthier	- - -	1822-1863
" " W. Vancrossen Dawson	- - -	1863-1864
" " Ed. Hudson Edman	- - -	1864-1865
" " Jonah Peter Nicholson (Curate)	- - -	1866-1873
" " John Caldwell	- - -	1873-1882
" " Jonah Peter Nicholson (C. in Ch.)	- - -	1882-1885
" " " (Vicar)	- - -	1885-1891
" " James Cooke	- - -	1892-1905
" " Joseph Edward Gaskill	- - -	1906-1920
" " Arthur C. Holme	- - -	1921-1930
" " D. Bagster Wilson	- - -	1931

Lister's arrival in Muker with Isabell, as schoolmaster and curate, placed him into a series of august Swaledale clerics in the village, as recorded in this plaque left, which Warwick obtained from St Mary's Church which is shown in the photograph below.

The couple had their first two children in Middleham - Simm born in August 1765 who became a grocer in Richmond and Alicia born 1767 and died in Muker 1798. Their third and fourth were born in Crossthwaite, Eleanor in 1769 and Isabella in 1771, who also died young at only 19.

Lister and Isabell then had a further six children in Muker, James in 1773 who also died in 1798, Margaret 1776, Lister Washington 1777, Agnes 1782, Elizabeth 1785 and finally Ann in 1787. Margaret Metcalfe 1776 was my great x4 grandmother and Lister Washington Metcalfe was Warwick's great grandfather. The deaths of Alicia and James in the same year of 1798 may just have been coincidental, but may suggest that there was some sort of infection or virus in the family and perhaps also in the village.



The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin in Muker Swaledale

A chapel of ease had existed in Muker in the early 16th century. The present church was built on the site in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I in 1580 and incorporated a graveyard which relieved the residents of the area from having to transport their dead down the Dale to Grinton parish church and graveyard.

Returning to Warwick's story - "Lister was buried in Muker churchyard on 31 May 1797. A large pair of memorial slabs fixed to the outer wall of the north side of the chancel commemorate Lister, his wife, Isabella and eight of their ten children, plus three grandchildren. A daughter (Eleanor) is buried at Arkengarthdale and a son, Lister Washington Metcalfe (my great grandfather) who may have been responsible for erecting the monument, has his own memorial slab with extensive inscription, alongside his parents' grave."



The fading memorial slab to Lister in red stone above, is situated half way along the left hand wall of the church shown in the photograph on the previous page. The slab at the bottom of this photograph laid horizontally and transversely, and shown in the right hand photograph above, is that of Lister's son Lister Washington Metcalfe.

Inside the church, below left, is a brass wall plaque, below right, to the memory of Lister Washington Metcalfe and his wife Margaret, by their son Lieutenant-Colonel Booth Hay Metcalfe mentioned earlier, recording that the latter had restored the church in 1890.



Following Lister's death in 1797, Isabella remained in Muker until she died in 1811. Lister Washington and Margaret had six children in the village and although Lister Washington's business was in Liverpool, he was buried in Muker in 1846 and his wife Margaret in 1886, after which this particular line of Metcalfe names had all departed from Muker.

My grt x4 grandmother Margaret (P40) married a Thomas Raw in Muker in 1796 and my grt x3 grandmother Alice Raw was born in 1804 in the village. Alice in turn married a John Calvert (thus my tree also holds two very common Swaledale names Raw and Calvert) and they had children in Muker (including my great great grandfather, also John) before moving to Normanby in Cleveland where John senior worked in the ironstone mines. His son, my great great grandfather John was also an ironstone miner at California, Eston and married a Mary Ann Smith, originally from Caldbeck in Cumberland. They had my great grandmother Isabella in 1855, but Mary Ann and her newborn daughter died in 1859, following which John was killed in a fall of ironstone in Skelton Shaft Mine in 1866. Isabella married a Cornish copper miner George Pelmeare in Eston in 1880 and they had four sons including my grandfather Charles Edwin in 1884 in Middlesbrough, before she died of tuberculosis in 1892. Charles Edwin became a professional cellist and married my grandmother Yelva Moore, born in Elsinore Denmark, the daughter of a superintendent boiler maker from County Down Ireland, before Charles also succumbed to tuberculosis in 1923. My mother Dorothy Pelmeare was just five years old and her father's death left Yelva in penury - a not uncommon situation in those days.

My Metcalfe line is thus tenuous by comparison with most of the members of the society - 6 generations before I hit a Metcalfe, and a history of a transition from wealthy yeomen farmers and a gifted cleric, into poverty. Clearly though, this rather diluted Metcalfe branch has thankfully recovered significantly in the last 100 years!

MECCA MUSTER ROUNDUP 2005 TO 2009

by Peter Dobson & Mike Pope



From Melbourne to Gallipoli by Bernard Metcalfe M221

During the early months of COVID crisis I spent some of my spare time on a self-designed Metcalfe project, setting out to find and record all the Metcalfes who came to the colony (later state) of Victoria between 1850 and 1950. (1) My own ancestors arrived in this period, from London in April 1853, and then went to the rich goldfields in central Victoria, though not as miners. In my own family and others, many of the next generation moved away, seeking employment as gold mining dwindled.

To date, the project has identified well over 2000 names and many stories like this one, the story of a young man who by 1914 already had deep roots in the new nation of Australia while retaining a strong connection to Britain.

The Anzac — John Atkinson Metcalf

Many of the Metcalfes who were in Victoria in July 1914 when war was declared were either born in the British Isles or were children of recent immigrants. Many who joined up served under senior officers who were British, not native-born. As Australia, the newly minted nation, was only 13 years old, it is no surprise that many people thought of themselves as British rather than Australian.

John Atkinson Metcalf, however, was an exception to the ‘recent immigrant’ pattern on both sides of his family. His maternal and paternal grandparents had married in the colony of Victoria before 1872, and as a small boy he knew his maternal great-grandmother Sarah Schafer, widow of Carl, a German-born accountant who had settled in the colony of South Australia in the 1840s. They had married in Adelaide in 1848 and arrived in Melbourne by 1856, with John’s grandmother Marion as a small child. What John did share with those more recently arrived from Britain was a strong sense of duty and of commitment to the British cause. Recruitment started in Melbourne in early August 1914 and within three weeks he had signed up for service in the fledgling Australian army.

John’s paternal grandfather, also John Metcalf, was an Englishman who had worked in the civil service in India before coming to the colony around 1850. John was not drawn to the new goldfields in central Victoria however, but remained in the farming district of Colac, about 100 miles south-west of Melbourne. He took up land on the edge of the township. His Indian experience must have been valued as he became the Colac Shire pound keeper and inspector of weights and measures in 1878, posts he held for many years. He married Mary Duffy in 1867 and they had four children, though none stayed in the Colac area. John was an active pound keeper, and the local newspapers record regular complaints from stock owners, especially about his diligence in confining their stock and the rates he levied.

George Metcalf, the eldest of their four children, moved from Colac to Melbourne where he became a civil servant, as his father had been. In January 1894, he married Lillian Maude Atkinson, daughter of a headmaster, and John was born in the inner Melbourne suburb of Windsor in March the following year. There were two more children, George and Doris, and the ‘Atkinson’ family name was attached to all three. John Atkinson Metcalf was aged 19 years and five months when he enlisted. As an early recruit, it was almost inevitable that John would be among the troops of the 5th Battalion A.I.F. who landed at Gallipoli on 25 April, 1915, the day commemorated in Australia and New Zealand as Anzac Day. (2)

On 2 May, John was reported as missing in action. In fact, he had been killed shortly after coming ashore in the second wave on 25 April, then carried back to the beach for burial. Of the 16,000 Australian and New Zealand soldiers who landed that day, John was one of the 2,000 killed or wounded.



Australian War Memorial Painting



Anzac Cove 1915

Given the chaos of war and the intensity of the fighting, much of the detail was not established until a Court of Enquiry was held 18 months later at Étapes, France, on 3 November 1916. A Lance Corporal Kirwood gave evidence, summarised by the Court in these words:

"Metcalf was killed on the day of the landing. Witness was near him at the time and word was passed along that Metcalf had gone. This occurred at the top of Monash Gully in the advance. At the Roll Call a few days later various men made statements to the effect that they had seen Metcalf killed. Metcalf was dark-complexioned, lively popular fellow."

This physical description matches that on his enlistment papers: brown eyes, black hair, dark complexion, and 5 feet 7 inches tall. We also learn he had been in a reservist military force for two years while working as a farm labourer in the Victorian rural areas of Horsham and Shepparton. John named his younger brother George as next-of-kin, something he intended to change but which later led to much confusion as young George signed up in July 1915, after John was posted as 'missing'. In all the correspondence that followed, George senior had to battle against this mistake his son John could no longer rectify.

And there is quite a bit of correspondence on John's file. We learn that the Army did not send confirmation of John's death to George until February 1917, and then his identity disk a year later. This clearly confused the orderly mind of George senior who wanted to know why notification was so long after John's death, and why he received the disk but nothing else. (3) The response from Army Records on 16 February 1918 gives us some insight into the chaos but also the hasty, stealthy withdrawal from the costly Gallipoli theatre of war.

...so far as the return of the identity disk is concerned, judging from other similar cases, it was probably discovered amongst the miscellaneous collection of equipment etc., hastily taken from Gallipoli at the evacuation, and it is very doubtful if at this late date, there is any possibility of ascertaining how it was discovered. (4)

George kept up his correspondence with the AIF, requesting items of his son's possessions, especially a service revolver that had been stolen by another soldier in Egypt back in 1915 and then recovered. George pursued this and other matters such as his son's final resting place, with all his letters clearly cross-referenced to earlier correspondence. The AIF took it seriously, and a letter from a brigadier general, writing from London in September, 1918, records that material from earlier enquiries into John's death was destroyed by shell fire on 19 October 1915. Politely, the general points out to George that 'it seems hopeless to proceed further'.



The Honour Plaque at Malvern Presbyterian Church

As a sad footnote to a sad story, John's brother George Rupert Atkinson Metcalf enlisted in July 1915, at the even younger age of 18 years. (5) The required letter of parental permission is on his file (though not on John's), and we learn there that on 9 July his mother was so unwell she could not sign her name to George senior's letter. She died just days later on 5 August, aged 44, at their Malvern home, just a few minutes' walk from where I am writing their narrative. (6)

Moving on

While her two brothers died young and unmarried, their sister Doris married Charles Morvell in 1922, himself a damaged veteran of the Great War, and they returned to the country area he was born in, near Swan Hill on the Murray River and the border with New South Wales. They may have had a daughter but that is not certain. Charles died in 1937 while Doris passed away in New South Wales in 1969.

Their father, George, had remarried in 1917 and remained in Melbourne until his death in 1950. George was the only one of his family left in Victoria as his siblings took a different path altogether. As the Victorian land boom burst and an economic depression hit from the mid 1890s, George's sister Ann and her husband, as well as George's two brothers, all moved to Western Australia. The work in the new mines that opened up there in the 1890s was hard, and it took a toll on the family. George's younger brothers, John and Joseph, were both dead before the Great War commenced.

The story of the first generations of this Metcalf family in Victoria illustrates a typical pattern seen in many of these families: settling down to work, then the next generation leaving the area under economic pressure, either for the city of Melbourne or to other states in the young nation. This was a path my own grandfather trod. Being united in war helped to break down many of the old colonial boundaries and forge the new nation. This pattern also brings with it many puzzles and challenges for those of us trying to track down our ancestors today.

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Note: All internet sources were accessed in 2020.

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(1) The focus is on the names Metcalf and Metcalfe, Medcalf, Medcalfe and their spouses, with a few 'strays' as well. Original documents may be hard to read at times but, sadly, indexers are often hasty so we find 'Metcaff', 'Metclaf', 'Metclaft' and other variants, with the closing 'e' almost seeming optional at times. I will use 'Metcalfe' in place of all the spelling variants.

(2) The 5th Battalion was among the first infantry units raised for the AIF during the First World War. Like the 6th, 7th and 8th Battalions it was recruited from Victoria and, together with these battalions, formed the 2nd Brigade. The battalion was raised within a fortnight of the declaration of war in August 1914 and embarked just two months later. It proceeded to Egypt, arriving 2 December. It took part in the landing on 25 April 1915 as part of the second wave. Source: <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/U51445>

(3) Other personal effects like John's pipes, handkerchief, prayer book etc. eventually turned up from AIF storage in London.

(4) For the military file on John Atkinson Metcalf, see <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/>

(5) George Rupert Atkinson Metcalf arrived in France in October 1916 with the 6th Field Ambulance, and was gassed in September 1917 at Ypres. This left him with lung damage and an extended convalescence. He returned to Australia in July, 1919, and died in Brisbane, Queensland, on 1 September 1925, aged 28. See <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/>

(6) At least five Metcalfe men who enlisted in Victoria died in the Great War. Frederick Butler Metcalfe, also aged 20, died just days after John Atkinson Metcalf. Frederick was killed at Gallipoli on 3 May 1915.

MECCA MUSTER ROUNDUP 2017 TO 2019
by Peter Dobson & Mike Pope





AUTUMN COLOURS BRING OUT THE BEAUTY OF THE HOWGILL HILLS AROUND THE ORIGINAL METCALFE STRONGHOLD NEAR DENT