



The Metcalfe Society

...for the name, history, heritage & genealogy

2021 Newsletter No3 March

Notes from the Chairman

Writing from a bright and sunny Yorkshire, life does look as though it is looking so much better. Having gone through the coldest period for some time, followed by really strong winds, the weather does seem to have calmed down and it is definitely feeling spring like in the Northern climes. However, our cousins in Australia and New Zealand are now looking forward to winter – hopefully it will not be too bad for you.

Hubs are now working in Canada and Australia – working on topics they are interested in and records they can access more easily than we can in the UK. We are awaiting the setting up of a third in America, which we hope will be functioning in the next few months.

Massive amounts of information are coming through from the various archive centres and the commercial companies that deal with family history, so we are busy collecting new information – and checking that it is accurate – before we consider loading it to the website. This has always been the main criteria for entering information to our database, so if you are working on your own tree and find that there has been a mistake made, PLEASE do let us know so we can check and amend the records we hold.

Have you found that you are busier than normal online since the lock downs and shieldings have been going on? If your family is like mine, online meetings have taken over from some telephone calls and face-to-face visits. While we cannot replace the physical contact being with family and friends, at least being able to see and speak to loved ones so easily helps – however traumatic they may be. At least, with governments getting to grips with the virus, there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and hopefully we will be able to have a cuddle in the not too distant future.

Many of the local societies had monthly meetings with committee meetings once a quarter or so until recently. I am now finding that committee meetings are more frequent as we can all meet online without the need to travel anywhere, and it is especially great to have overseas members at the meetings. It can be difficult to arrange the timings, but we are enjoying the additional contact and advice from Dianne Fox (Australia) and Susan Harper (Canada) and have high hopes for a much more inclusive future.

Our latest publication, Metcalfe Family Histories, will be available through the Shop site shortly, and we look forward to an increase in sales.

David Lambert and I will attend the Really Useful Family History Show on Saturday April 10th, so we hope that you might come along and join us. There will be a series of talks throughout the day on a variety of topics – so something for everyone. Check it out at www.fhf-reallyuseful.com

Hope you are all taking care and keeping safe. **Jo Heron**

The Fastest Human Being Update

Further to the piece from the last newsletter concerning **Ralph Harold Metcalfe Sr.** the American track and field sprinter and politician. Here is a photograph of the plaque outside the Federal building named after him in Chicago.





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NOW THEN: 1 THE BRICKWALL

A large number of us come up against what our colleagues call 'brickwalls' when we are stuck and cannot trace our ancestors or resolve which of two or three potential candidates is the right one.

Our hobby involves us locating our ancestors by reference to their surnames. Indeed it is the reason for our society's existence. How many of us realise that the names we or our ancestors might know family members by would not necessarily be treated as acceptable for General Registration of Births Marriages and Death or for the purposes of Parish Registers or Censuses and as a result this is why we cannot trace our ancestor? We rely, often to our peril, upon indexes whether we research online or, pre-Internet, on published indexes e.g. to censuses or parish registers. For example, my great grandmother Metcalfe was known as Polly but her baptism and marriage are registered under Mary since Polly is a variant of Mary.

Many ancestors were known within the family by forenames, aliases or pseudonyms other than those 'legally' given to them and this could explain why you have reached a brickwall. Elizabeth has 230 variants according to Alan Bardsley in his definitive work on first name diminutives and variants: 'First Name Variants' 3rd edition 2003 published by the then named Federation of Family History Societies (Publications) Ltd (ISBN: 978-1-86006-177-6). Still available from Family History Books online [First Name Variants - Family History Books Online (A5, 108 pages,) for a price of £5.95. Alan says in his book "Over time first names have suffered from many variations both accidentally and deliberately introduced, sometimes making it difficult to track a particular person. This book is a compilation of first name diminutives and variants and links together all those that have a relationship." You will be amazed at the variants there are and the book will help you to identify names you might not have thought of. Did you realise Sepp was short for Joseph? Evan, Iain, Ivana, Jack and Jenkin derive from John? Celia, Cecily, Cissy, Selia, Sis and Sissy are derived from Cecil or Cecilia if you did but know it.

My Metcalfe great granny, who married my great grandfather Lambert, had two daughters. They were known within the family as Nellie and (confusingly!) Bert. Their actual names were Ellen and Edith respectively. Ellen has several variants. Nellie being but one. Helen, Eleanor, Elin, Honora, Leanora and Noreen being some others which at first sight might not be treated as the same. Aunt Bert was called thus because that's what she was called at school, her surname being Lambert this seems to have been shortened by her friends to Bert. There are no records for Aunt Bert in that name of course. My maternal grandmother had a sister called Janet but at times in records in Scotland she was referred to as Jane, Jenney and Jean -all rather confusing!

Margaret has variations Daisy, Greta, Maisy, Maggie Marjorie and Peggy to name few. I had an Aunt Daisy, her given name being Margaret Davidson (surname Taylor) so no documents in her name Daisy which is what we all knew her as. My mother should have been registered with the second name Morton, her paternal grandmother's surname, but my defiant grandmother could not bring herself to register it and defied her mother-in-law by registering the name as Margaret instead.

I had a client whose mother registered his birth with the second forename Hasalgrove. His mother intended it to be Hazelgrove (a family surname) but the registrar misspelt it and his mother did not realise the error so he was stuck with it! First names are not always what you might think or spelt how you might imagine and your inability to realise the variants could be the reason for your brickwall!

David Lambert

Is this why I have a Brickwall?

"This Parish's oldest register (*around one hundred years old*) was falling to pieces for want of attention and care, was given by the Vicar in 1761 to an illiterate Parish Clerk to renew. The Clerk copied only such names as he himself could decypher and **BURNT** the original register imagining it of no use."

Noooooo. Yes!





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Other News & Information

Captain Sir Tom Moore who raised over £32m for the NHS last May was born in Bradford but his Grandfather Thomas Moore was born in 1851 in Appersett in Upper Wensleydale whilst his Great Grandmother was Jane Metcalfe from Mossdale Head and his 2x Greatgrandma was Isabella Metcalfe born in Melbecks Swaledale in 1773. (**Lesley Longworth**)
Shake a Yorkshire Family tree and often a Metcalfe will fall out!

Newsletters worth a look?

The National Archives. www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news

The Upperdales Society. www.upperdales.weebly.com

The Airedale & Wharfedale Family History Society. www.awfhs.org

Swaledale Newsletter <http://www.swaledalemuseum.org/>

Upper Wensleydale Newsletter www.upperwensleydalenewsletter.co.uk/

The Family & Community Historical Research Society (FACHRS) have produced a short series of booklets on various aspects of the Home Front during 1914-1915. The first two volumes have now been printed:

Volume 1 – Care, Comfort and Support written by Gill Clark.

Volume 2 – Industry, Agriculture, Food and Rationing written by Christine Seal. Both priced at £5.

Details from http://fachrs.com/Shop/shop_books.html

The Catholic Society has produced

The Margaret Higgins Database of Catholics and their Friends 1607-1840.

This is available to use and download from: <http://catholicfhs.online>

Stray Marriages.

29 Oct 1782 **James Metcalf** late of the Westmoreland Militia, quartered at Berwick to Ann Thomson of Berwick. Married at Mordington by Revd. Mr Smith. Berwick Parish Register

1 Jan 1807 **Harriet Metcalfe** to Francis Ivison of Dryle Holme, Dryfesdale Scotland
Kirkbride, Cumberland Register.

15 Feb 1807 **Robert Metcalfe** Westmoreland Militia to Ann Shanner. Banns. Dumfries Parish Register.
(**Jo Heron**)

Have you any Metcalfe related articles or items you would like to place in the newsletter?

*If so please send them into Peter Dobson at
journal@metcalfe.org.uk.*

*Ideally an articles should be no more than 750 words.
We hope to be able to deal with larger articles in the future.*

Do You Know what these trades are?

Currier?

Heckler?

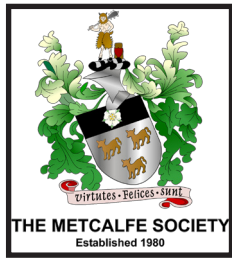
Limner?

Raff Merchant?

and finally

Writer in the Spirit Court?

Answers on the last page.



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THIS IS CENSUS YEAR

On the 21 March the ten year population census will be taken.

Mainly delivered by post and collated by modern technology this Census should be relatively easy to analyse.

However will the counting and collection cause problems similar to those encountered in the 1851 Census?

Northumberland. "The following number of persons took shelter under the Coal Pit shed. The Master of the Coal Pit counted ten persons leaving the shed on 31 March - four men, two women also 2 boys and 2 girls - he believes they were Irish beggars - numbers of such like persons take quarters every night at the same place and go forth every morning to beg around the country."

Barking Essex. "The enumeration of this district was undertaken by me in the belief that I should be fairly paid for my services . I was not aware that all the particulars were to be entered by the enumerator in a book, the work without that being ample for the sum paid, nor had I any idea of the unreasonable amount of labour imposed. The distribution, collection etc. of the schedules together with the copying of the same occupied from two to three hours for every 60 persons enumerated and for this -- the equivalent is - ONE SHILLING (5p)!!!

What man possessing the intelligence and business habits necessary for the undertaking would be found to accept it if aware of the labour involved? How then can a correct return of the population be expected? He who proposed the scale of remuneration should in justice be compelled to enumerate a large district such as this upon the terms he himself fixed."

Hopefully these issues will not occur in 2021.

In the Census Summary of 1821 from **Witton-le-Wear** the issue was more of a perceived moral nature.

"The number of illegitimate children is 22 - this lamentable increase of vice must in part be attributed to lax disciplines and to the manner in which relief is granted to paupers of this description."

DON'T FORGET TO RETURN YOUR FORMS
otherwise future family historians may find you are their brickwall!



METCALFE MISCREANTS

Anthony Metcalf, age 27, was convicted of highway robbery on 24th June 1835.
He was sentenced to Life imprisonment on Gibraltar.

Atkinson Metcalf, age 23, was sentenced to Life on 5th March 1851 in Lincoln for buggery
and very bad behaviour.

John William Metcalf, age 41, sentenced 2nd July 1903 following a long list of thefts to 4 years penal
servitude (to be concurrent with a sentence from Durham prison that he was already serving).

One wonders if any of these gentlemen survived their sentences or even turned their lives around.

Jo Heron



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Wills Project

Items of interest:

As mentioned in the last newsletter, at a time when a woman's property automatically became her husband's when she married, Caroline Lamb was mentioned in the wills of Metcalfe Russell, 1785, and the bequest was 'free of her husband's' control. Several of our Metcalfe men left monies and /or property to their female relatives or servants – often with this proviso made very clear in the will.

On the darker side, **John Metcalfe** of Virginia left two of his slaves, Leandy and Sarah, to a **Thomas Metcalfe** in 1760. Can any of our American cousins shed any light on this family, and these two slaves? No doubt in the way of life then, there is probably no further information to had about them. In the will of Thomas Metcalfe, 1828, he stipulated that some of his sons debts should be taken out of anything he should receive before he is given anything – obviously his son was a bit of a liability to the family.

Jo Heron

Happy Families

All happy families resemble each other, each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.

Leo Tolstoy

Anna Karenina Part 1 Chapter 1

MIGHT YOU BE....

..... holding on to a small fortune if you own a copy of the Society's Metcalfe - History of the Clan?

Whilst generally surfing - as you do - I happened to notice on eBay that copies of our book were being offered at prices way above our shop prices (even after postage & packaging).

For example Abebooks had two copies: one at £75 and the second at an eye watering £567 (both before p&p). Amazon were not as bad with prices starting around £65 upwards towards £200 whilst a book had been sold last year on an American site for US\$184.

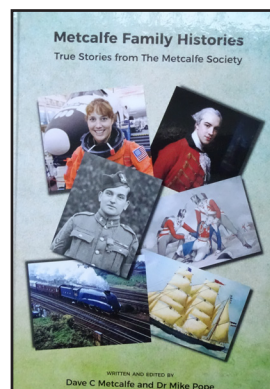
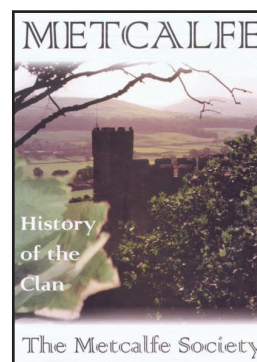
Sales of the Clan Book have been steady over the life of the second edition and since 2002 when we had some 1400 we are now down to 39. (As at 1 February and there were a number of sales since then.)

It seems that we are underpricing our precious tome, however there are no plans (Unless the Trustees see an opportunity to cash in!) to raise the price for the last few copies.

It made me think perhaps it is the time to get a few more copies bought especially if once the last ones have gone (probably in the next twelve months) it will be a sellers market!

If you haven't got a copy now's the time.
What about the Metcalfe Families Book? Less than 300 left!
What are you waiting for?

See metcalfes-online.co.uk and snap up a bargain.





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Family History Federation (FHF)

FHF REALLY USEFUL Family History Show
Saturday 10th April 2021

MORE great SPEAKERS
MORE Family History Knowledge
For more details see www.fhf-reallyuseful.com



DID YOUR ANCESTOR HAVE A LICENCE FOR HIS DOG?

In reply to the item in the last Newsletter

John Chippendale replied

"Always enjoy items from the Metcalfe Society & my comments are about the dog licence .

I remembered that we have an "Exemption to Pay" certificate in our Metcalfe Archives.

My Great Uncle Edward Metcalfe was a farmer at Riggs Intake in Millthorpe Sedburgh and he held one.

*It is dated 1891. The details are faded but read **Mr Edward Metcalfeis a farmer. and one dog is kept by him solely for tending cattle and sheep....dated this 17th January 1891...Supervisor Inland Revenue.***

Void if used for rabbiting or the butcher's trade.

When I got to licences being standardised at 7s 6d my mind went to golf!

In match play a resounding victory 7 & 6 – ie 7 holes up & only 6 to play - is known as a dog licence - at least by the older members ."

TRADE ANSWERS

Currier - Dressing and colouring of tanned leather

Heckler - A dresser of flax or hemp

Limner - An illuminator of manuscripts or portrait painter

Raff Merchant - A dealer in foreign timber, usually deal.

Writer in the Spirit Court -

Not a clue!!!! Please let me know if you do.

If you use social media please 'like us' on Facebook to keep up to date
on our news and events.

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