



The Metcalfe Society

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

2021 Newsletter No 5 July

Welcome to this Newsletter

In this issue we highlight how wills can be informative and how they helped resolve ancestors plus records found by fellow researchers which may help to fill in those annoying gaps.

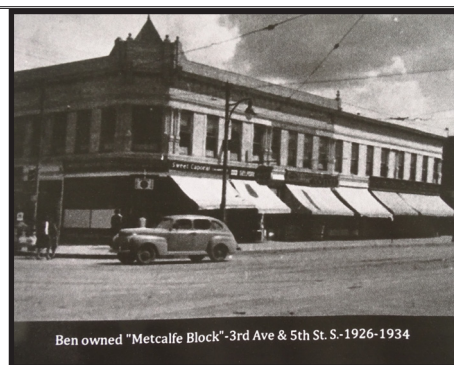
As usual I am looking for items/articles that you may wish to share with other members to help them with their research.

Don't hesitate to send me anything you believe will be useful at journal@metcalfe.org.uk

Peter Dobson

The Tale of Bertha & Ben Metcalfe's Limoge "Elite" China

Benjamin Metcalfe (1877-1957) sold the Lethbridge Hotel in 1925. He had managed many hotels in Alberta & BC after he & Joe Lee (his sister in law's brother) came to Alberta from Leeds, England in 1903. Benjamin & Joe Lee bought this hotel together in 1917. Benjamin's father had owned the Royal Hotel in Dewsbury which they sold before they moved to Canada in 1908 so Benjamin had been trained well in hotel management. Benjamin & Bertha married in Vancouver January 14, 1909. They had 4 children & after the hotel was sold, Benjamin purchased a city block in Lethbridge at 3rd Ave & 5th St. He called this property, "**The Metcalfe Block**".



In 1929, the stock market crashed! Ben didn't lose as much as many because he'd told his broker to "sell everything" after the broker left a "message" for Ben, rather than speak to Ben directly re financial matters. The depression hit in the 1930's. Food, money, and jobs were scarce. Ben & Bertha (1887-1977) lived off the rents from their city block. However, some could not pay rent in dollars but chose to give them silver, crystal and Limoges china, in lieu of rent.

Every Christmas dinner, these treasures were used and appreciated in our home when I grew up with these grandparents. In Victoria, son, Ben (mother's twin) (1918-2014) would gladly wash the Limoges dishes after Christmas dinner, providing he got a beer!

This Limoges china is rimmed in gold and needs to be washed by hand & definitely not put in a microwave, but enjoyed at special occasions.

During this Covid pandemic, I boxed up the Limoges china that I had inherited from my mother & split it between Ben Metcalfe's two granddaughters with this story attached. I hope it will be passed on to their daughters with this family story and appreciated for generations. **M541 Sandra Lee Walton**

The roots of the Yorkshire dialect are in old English or Old Norse

A recent article in the Yorkshire Dales National Park magazine

(available at www.yorkshiredales.org.uk)

refers to the 1950 Survey of English Dialects which covered the Wensleydale village of Askrigg (home of our Clan).

The weather was described as snizy (raw, cold) rawk (mist/drizzle) pash (sudden heavy rain) or hask (dry and bitterly cold). In that weather if you wore a kittel (light jacket) you might be in line for hyperthermia!

To warm up you would have collops (bacon rashers) until you were clammed (full).

How many of you recognise these dialect words and if so have you any of your own?

Please let me know at journal@metcalfe.org.uk





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Chairman's remarks

As we sit here in the UK, suffering or enjoying a heat wave (depending on your preference) while so many members are being affected by other problems across the world. Temperatures in North America have soared even higher than we have with all the attendant problems of bush fires and major fire incidents, while in Europe, severe flooding is affecting some areas. In both cases loss of life is rising and the extremes of weather are making life very difficult, and our thoughts and prayers are with those affected.

The will transcriptions are continuing, and I'm trying to link each will to an individual mentioned in our database - obviously this will mean that if someone is not in our database, they will need to be added as we go along so the Wills database will be more useful. **Jo Heron**

The Reverend William Metcalfe

The Society might be already aware about Rev William Metcalfe, but if not I thought it might be of interest for the 'Mecca News'.

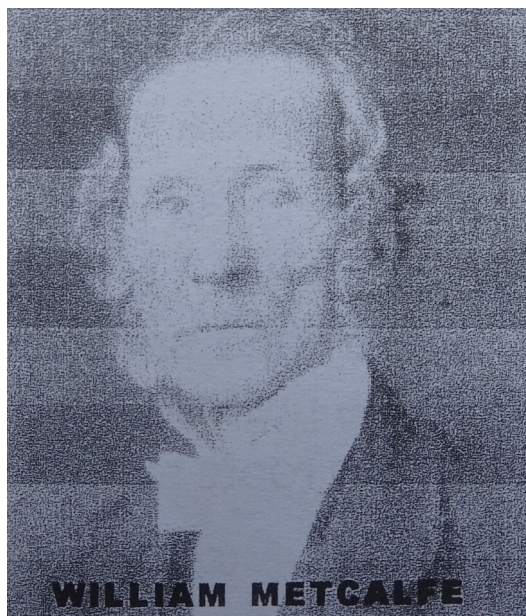
Whilst we have been in lockdown with the covid I have been doing research on my family tree and trying to wrestle with a problem I have about my Metcalfe family. My 2nd Gt Grandfather Thomas Metcalfe lived in Bingley Yorkshire, and according to the census records was born in Ravenstonedale, Westmorland about 1829. His mother Martha Peel married a Robert Metcalfe at Kildwick 07/05/1820, they had two sons Jonathan and Abraham and then Robert died 22/12/1827. All the children were baptised at the parish church at Bingley, the first two sons were given the name of Metcalfe but my Thomas wasn't. His marriage certificate states his father was William Metcalfe and in fact his first son my Gt Grandfather was named William.

Robert Metcalfe was from Ravenstonedale, Westmorland and is the brother of Rev William Metcalfe, there parents were Jonathan Metcalfe/Elizabeth Graham.

At the time of researching this I was hoping that William would be the missing farther but then I discovered that he left home at the age of 19 came to Keighley and married a Susannah Wright in Keighley and eventually they emigrated in 1817 to Philadelphia.

There is a book on his life on the internet called 'Bible Christian Church', there are pictures of the Rev William Metcalfe, he was ordained 11/08/1811 by Dr Cowherd at Salford, Lancs. And for a time worked at Addingham, Yorkshire.

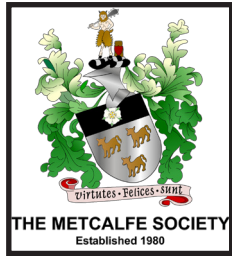
I still have my problem, I do have a relative in Canada, and I am trying to persuade him to do his DNA and join the Metcalfe Society. **Jacqueline Thornton**



In the August 2004 issue of the Mecca News (No 73) Page 4 there is an article concerning the Reverend William and his likelihood of being one of the early (even first) proponents of Vegetarianism.

To read the full story, access the back issues of the Mecca News on our website.

Jacqueline was being assisted by our Archivist Liz Waller in trying to locate her Bingley ancestors



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I had the great pleasure to have known Dorothy Pope and been her 6xgreat cousin.

Dorothy had joined the Society shortly before I did and was well into the researches around our branch of the Clan when I arrived.

As you will read she was a great researcher and a stickler for detail which has enhanced the Society's information especially of earlier Metcalfes as well as also good company at our Annual Musters.

When I became Editor Dorothy often supplied articles and if I was ever short of items she would readily help out.

A great asset to the Society and a great person. Nice to have known you Dorothy.

Peter Dobson

**Extracts from the Eulogy given on 1 July 2021 for
DOROTHY POPE
by Dr Michael C Pope**



“Dorothy Pelmear was born in Carlisle on 28 February 1918, the daughter of Charles Edwin Pelmear, a professional cellist with the City of Carlisle Theatre Orchestra and Yelva Moore from Denmark. Getting a job at 15, and after a couple of false starts in Binns Middlesbrough as a toilet cleaner, washer up in the cafe, then waitress, she had a lucky break and was taken on as a shop assistant in a high-class Middlesbrough leather goods and toy shop. She really enjoyed the work and became an expert on saddlery and

Hornby railways, quickly becoming responsible for the toys and sports departments. In 1940,she took a job as a clerk in the Civil Service Accountant General's Office. She volunteered for the Wrens in 1942, largely because she liked their uniform, but her services were declined. Two weeks later, she was called up and joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service or ATS, the postal arm of the Royal Engineers and was posted to Nottingham, slept in an old lace factory, ate in the pavilion of the Trent Bridge County Cricket Ground and was drilled on the outfield.

Through a friend from Middlesbrough, she began a long-distance correspondence with Sidney Frank Pope, who was serving in the RAF in the Middle East. When the war ended, they met, became engaged and married on 22 March 1947 in Harrogate. Their honeymoon was rather fraught as the great snows of the terrible winter of 1947 had turned into the great flood, and most of Derbyshire and the Vale of York was under water. They had to abandon their plans for Matlock and spent two nights marooned in Harewood.

She was descended from Cornish Polmears – agricultural husbandmen and copper miners, and her great grandfather Charles was a copper mine deputy who took his family up to the ironstone mines of Cleveland when the Cornish copper gave out, and established her family there.

She was a highly competent and experienced genealogist with a rigorous approach to documentary evidence which would put many scientists to shame and her competence has been highlighted by the many kind words I have received from the Metcalfe Society. She was rightly very proud of both her lineage and her researches to uncover her roots. She joined the newly formed Metcalfe Society, a one name origin family history group in 1982 and held several committee posts, being highly involved in proof reading the book “Metcalfe – The History of the Clan”. Her writing blossomed and she was a regular contributor to local Tees-side and Cleveland newspapers and historical editions such as The Way We Were.

She was a loyal and active member of the ATS Association, attending their musters and parades all over the country and wrote fine articles for the Journal of the Royal Engineers and the BBC archive on her war-time experiences. If you google her, you will find a lot more entries on her than on me, and see just how much she has contributed to local, national and military history. She took to computer technology with great



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gusto, e-mailing her relatives and friends all over the world and embraced its great power to advance her genealogical researches.

She wrote a comprehensive history of the Cornish Pelmeares and Polmeares, which she had transcribed onto disc and sent to relatives in Australia, New Zealand, the USA and South Africa, whether they wanted it or not. It was in fact received with much acclaim! In her last decade she wrote her life story, a 125-page narrative of her times in the north east, but ran out of steam, if not ideas, and has left me to finish it as best I can. I will, but it will not be in her inimitable style.



Dorothy at the front left at the 1986 Boroughbridge Muster

She was very lucky, and said so frequently, that in her last years she remained in good health, and up to her 101st birthday she could still kick her legs in the air, which she demonstrated frequently, to the embarrassment, but also the amazement of onlookers. Shortly after her 102nd birthday in February 2020 she broke her hip, right at the beginning of the covid pandemic; She broke her other hip during the pandemic and then later caught covid and recovered from both. Her seeming indestructibility did her no favours in the end though and it was a blessing when she died in her sleep on 9 June 2021 at the venerable age of 103 years."



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The Catholic Family History Society

is hoping to set up a database to which the general public can add any sightings of Roman Catholic/Papist/Recusant burials in Anglican Parish Church registers or perhaps spotted on monumental inscriptions - the last of these may only be recognised by symbols such as an anchor.

The database is still in development, so meanwhile if, in the course of researching your own families you notice such an entry, please send the details:
name, age, dates, abode, location
and anything else of interest to

catholicfhsrecords@gmail.com

1921 Census Update

The release of the Census by Findmypast is reportedly scheduled for February 2022. Scotlands People will not be releasing the Scottish census until later in 2022



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HUGGATE - The Yorkshire Wolds

'Huggate' is derived possibly from road to or near the mounds from the Old Norse haugr and gata.

I was browsing through my downloaded Yorkshire Parish Records (as you do) when I alighted on the Parish Records for Huggate. I thought I knew most of the main villages in Northern Yorkshire but had not heard of this one. It turned out to be a little gem.

In 1823 Huggate was a civil parish in the Wapentake of Harthill. The parish church was under the patronage of the King; a Methodist chapel also existed. A well, 116 yards (106 m) deep, supplied the village with water. At the end of July each year were held races. Population at the time was 413, with occupations including fourteen farmers, one of whom was also a butcher, a carpenter, two shopkeepers, a tailor, and a shoemaker. The landlord of The Chaise Inn public house was also a blacksmith and gunsmith. The ecclesiastical parish rector and curate, and the vicar of the village of Warter resided in Huggate. A carrier operated between the village and Pocklington once a week.

Baines, Edward (1823). History, Directory and Gazetteer of the County of York. p. 224.

The village is almost midway between Pocklington and Great Driffield but not on any major road.

Huggate village actually lies in a hollow, but remains the highest village on the Yorkshire Wolds at around 558 feet (170 metres) above sea level. The high spots around the village give fabulous views across the Yorkshire Wolds. The village contains many features such as the beautiful parish church of St Mary which is a grade 1 listed building, one of the deepest wells in England, which previously supplied the inhabitants of this village with water and also a well renowned local hostelry called the Wolds Inn.

In the 2001 UK Census Huggate parish had a population of 317.

Around the village lie many popular walks such as the Minster Way, which is very picturesque and often features steep-sided dales. The Yorkshire Wolds Way long distance footpath also passes to the north of the village. (Village Website).

I had no great expectations of finding any Metcalf(e)s but was surprised to find one of the earliest Parish record entries (the earliest records date from 1538) with family of a **George Metcalfe** who had four children baptised between 1547 and 1554.

Alice - 9 July 1547; **Ann** - 24 April 1549; **William** - 23 April 1552 and **Elizabeth** - 24 May 1554.

Nothing further until 1592 when burials of **Uxor** - 20 January and **Will.** - 25 February.

It is nearly 150 years later before Metcalfes again appear in the Parish records this time with the marriage of

Thomas Metcalf to an Anne Fary on 20 August 1748. They go on to have at least four children baptised:

1749 **John** - 10 August; 1752 **Elizabeth** - 31 March; 1754 **Thomas** - 26 October and 1758 **Ann** - 1 September (who dies 1763).

The family seems to stay locally with Thomas a shepherd but a poor man when he dies in 1782. Ann dies in 1786.

There then follows another four baptisms to a **John Metcalfe** and a **Thomas** (wife Ann)

before finally in 1806 the marriage of a **John Metcalfe** to a Mary Ness'

Not what you might call exciting but these little family groups might just be a missing piece for someone's family tree.



*If you could see your ancestors
All standing in a row
There might be some of them, perhaps,
You wouldn't care to know.
But there's another question which
Requires a different view
If you could meet your ancestors
What would they think of you?
Anonymous*



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NOW THEN -3

TESTAMENTARY DOCUMENTS YOU MIGHT FIND AND USE

In the last article in Now Then - 2 I explained what happened if there was no Will / testament left by a deceased from the end of the 17th century.

The Statute of Distributions laid down who got what and defined what was meant by 'next of kin'. When someone died intestate their proposed Administrator had to make an application to the court within 14 days of the death to process matters. An inventory of the deceased's assets and belongings was required preferably before the application to the court. The court's fees were assessed by reference to the value shown in the inventory which was confirmed by the administrator to be true and complete.

It is fair to say that the documents available where someone died intestate (no Will/testament) are not as helpful as where there is a Will/ testament. However in certain cases the Administration Bond can be of assistance. This was the document sworn by the person(s) entitled to apply to Court for Letters of Administration, the authority issued by the court to enable the applicant to administer the personal estate of the deceased and distribute it to the persons entitled after payment of debts. The intending Administrator(s) had to swear a Bond that they were the rightful person(s) entitled to apply to the court and to 'clear off' anyone who had a prior claim (who would have to renounce their right in writing – thereby promoting the applicant Administrator to make the claim). They swore that they would carry out the administration of the estate and guaranteed to pay a sum of money if they failed to do so. Usually two others would join in the bond as sureties to guarantee the amount, rather like bail today in criminal proceedings when a defendant is allowed home on bail and friends promise to pay a sum to court if the defendant fails to turn up in court. They lose their bail money if this happened.

The person who was able to be an Administrator was determined by a law of 1529, basically in line with the persons who were to inherit namely the widow or next of kin. Creditors of an insolvent or impecunious deceased could be given the administrator's job to pay funds to creditors. In certain cases the next of kin comprised a large number of potential beneficiaries and there would be more than one person of the same 'class' who could apply. It was not always expedient for everyone of the class to apply or perhaps some of the class were under a disability, so far as the law was concerned: primarily they were 'children' which meant they were under the age of 21 at the date of the application. So for applicants where the deceased had no surviving widow/ widower or father but only children or siblings of the deceased, this document will include, about one third of the way down the page, a statement explaining why the individuals were applying.

The Administration Bond clause says:

"The condition of this obligation is such that if the above bounden X, the brother and only next of kin and Administrator of all and singular the Goods Chattels and Credits of [the name of the deceased and his address]". So from this statement we know there was no widow or children of the deceased surviving him or that his father was alive. We know he had one brother only who was entitled to apply for the letters of administration."

In another example the clause states:

"The condition of this Obligation is such that if the above bounden Richard and Jane son and daughter and only next of kin Mary Ann and Ann their sisters being minors (i.e. under 21) and Administrators of all and singular the Goods Chattels and Credits of [the name of the deceased and his address]."

This can be useful information confirming the names and age in general terms of the siblings who survived their father who was widowed. If the minor children in this case had been actually adults and did not want to be involved in the administration of the estate, the clause would state they were renouncing their rights, thereby confirming that the individuals were adult and over 21. So the Administration bond can give proof of relationships.



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If there was a Will/testament to be proved by the Court, an application would be made under oath to the Court by the executors appointed in the Will/ testament and a Grant of Probate would be issued by the Court confirming that it was satisfied that the testamentary document was valid. If one of the executors renounced their right to apply or if they had predeceased the application then this fact would be stated on the Grant of Probate issued by the Court.

At the foot of the Grant of Probate document after 1858 the value of the personal estate would be stated as not exceeding a certain figure and importantly if a solicitor had assisted the executors to make the application to Court the name of that solicitor would be disclosed. It said 'extracted by...' and named the solicitor. The court fee for proving the Will/ testament would be based on a scale calculated by the net value of the personal estate after deducting debts. By some further research it should be possible to trace the successor practice of that solicitor and to discover if they still hold their archived 'probate files' or more likely if they had been deposited with a record office. The National Archives has a very useful guide on tracing lawyers. <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/lawyers-further-research/>

From 1775 until 1976 an Annual Law List was published in a directory format. A search of them or 19th and 20th century trade directories (and telephone directories in the 20th century) for years after the grant should show what happened to the solicitor or his firm and if it expanded or was taken over or merged. A check then at the relevant local record office may reveal if the firm had deposited files and records including possibly their probate files. A large number of firms have deposited files and papers so it is worthwhile checking this. Another way to discover what happened to the solicitor and his (it was usually a man until the latter part of the 20th century) practice is to apply to the Law Society who hold records of solicitors whose names are on the Solicitors Roll. "The Law Society has records of the Registrar of Attorneys and Solicitors, set up in 1843. These include lists of admissions from 1845 with additional lists of admissions from about 1790 for most courts and some Registers of Articles of Clerkship from about 1860." (Extract from the National Archives guide referred to above).

Using their historical collections and directories, the Law Society can help trace past solicitors and law firms which no longer exist. The fee is free for half an hour and then £30 plus VAT to utilise this service but if you are unable to establish what happened to the practice by using directories or telephone books then you might want to spend the fee to find out. The website is <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/contact-or-visit-us/law-society-library/enquiry-service#es7>

If you are lucky the probate files might exist and these could contain virtually anything. Bank statements, building society pass books, family trees to establish who was who and entitled to inherit, original baptism, marriage and burial certificates. Drafts of the papers to be sent to court including a copy of a Will/testament or a previous revoked one maybe? Correspondence with the client and family as well as with the court and tax authorities all of which might be enlightening.

Having given a talk and mentioning the above suggestion, I was told subsequently by two members of the audience that they had followed up the suggestion. They were successful in tracing the lawyers and discovered that they had deposited files with a record office. They were able to see the probate files of their ancestor's solicitors and add to their family history as a result. Whilst time consuming it could be useful if you adopted this approach. You never know what you might discover!

David Lambert

2021 AGM Arrangements

At the June Committee Meeting it was agreed to hold an online meeting due to the pandemic.

The AGM will be held on Saturday 2 October with the time to be confirmed.

Papers and information will distributed by 12 September.

All members are invited to attend.



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Mecca Comments

I enjoyed the latest newsletter No 4 for May and particularly the article on page 5 by Bernard Metcalfe.

I have been transcribing Wills from the National Archives that Jo Heron has been feeding to me and recent ones that I have transcribed are those of Thomas Abraham alias Metcalfe and his wife Elizabeth Abraham alias Metcalfe.

Like Bernard I had looked at the history about them as I could not understand how the Abraham alias Metcalfe had come about. More importantly I was particularly interested in the reference to the servant Caesar and how the wills had requested that he should be cared for by the following generations. Incidentally I could not find Caesar's final passing.

About 20 or so years ago I took my Aunt who lived

at Burwell, Cambs to the next village to her which is Fordham and I pulled into the drive of Fordham Abbey which had Metcalfe connections.

A car tried to get down the drive which I was blocking and whilst apologising to the driver I explained that my interest in the property was the Mecca connection. He invited me to go to the house and invited me in and brought my attention to an oil painting hanging there which was an early painting of the Abbey which he said was of the time of the Metcalfes showing a black person with a large dog in front of the abbey. I suspect that person was the servant Caesar.

Edwin Metcalf

*Details can be found at
www.fordhamabbey.co.uk/history*

*On the above website the painting over the fire place was
the one that I was shown.*

*The Banbury Oxfordshire and Fordham Abbey link is with Charles
Metcalfe (Data no. 15018)*

The National Archives

are reaching out to people who have never used their services before.

Find information at

<https://mailchi.mp/filnrs/fhfmembers-the-national-archives?e=9de22027a5>

THE METCALFE VARIANT. This response in following my reply to someone in relation to the Clan spelling variants !

Lesley Longworth

In the 1960s I took a pair of shoes to a cobbler in Southampton for repair, giving my name for later collection.

When I went back to collect them I told him my name and he looked along the rows of repaired shoes with labels attached.

"No shoes with that name here" he said.

I looked along the row and recognising my shoes I said "There they are, those are my shoes".

He looked at the label and said "Macduff?"

I don't think my Grandfather, James Metcalfe, the cobbler in Bainbridge in the 1940s would have made the same mistake!

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

The Metcalfe Society - <http://www.metcalfe.org.uk>

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