

MECCA NEWS

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SOCIETY OFFICERS & CONTACT DETAILS

President

Mrs Nina Benson e-mail : president@metcalfe.org.uk

SOCIETY TRUSTEES

Chairman

Mr David Lambert, 22 Lime Grove, Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 6PJ.
e-mail : chairman@metcalfe.org.uk

Vice Chairman & Treasurer & Gift Aid

Mr Peter Dobson, 143 Vernon Road, Poynton, Cheshire SK12 1YS.
e-mail : treasurer@metcalfe.org.uk; e-mail : giftaid@metcalfe.org.uk

Archivist, Committee Secretary & Wills Project

Miss Margaret Hodgson, 27 Middlethorpe Drive, Dringhouses, York YO24 1NG
e-mail : archivist@metcalfe.org.uk e-mail : wills@metcalfe.org.uk

Membership, Enquiries, Sales & World War 1 Project

Mrs Jo Heron, 17 Bailey Walk, Wakefield WF4 3QW
e-mail : membership@metcalfe.org.uk e-mail : enquiries@metcalfe.org.uk
e-mail : shop@metcalfe.org.uk e-mail : firstworldwar@metcalfe.org.uk

Back up Enquiries, Membership & Sales

Mrs Elizabeth Waller, Chesney Villa, Thornton le Street, Thirsk, North Yorks YO7 4DS
e-mail : membership@metcalfe.org.uk; e-mail : shop@metcalfe.org.uk

Web Administrator, Volunteer Coordinator, Conference Secretary, Vice President

Mrs Diane Howarth, Eastburn Farmhouse, Newbiggin, Leyburn DL8 3TD
e-mail : webadmin@metcalfe.org.uk e-mail : volunteer@metcalfe.org.uk
e-mail : muster@metcalfe.org.uk e-mail : vicepresident@metcalfe.org.uk

Editor

Dr Michael Pope, 39 Charles Avenue, Scotter, Gainsborough, Lincs DN213RP
e-mail : editor@metcalfe.org.uk

Database Index:

Mr David Metcalfe 22 Constantine Avenue, Colburn, Catterick Garrison, N.Yorks DL9 4QY
e-mail : database@metcalfe.org.uk

EXTENDED TEAM

DNA Project:

Mr Martin Metcalfe, 10 Swinnate Road, Arnside, Camforth LA5 0HR
e-mail : dna@metcalfe.org.uk

Committee member : Mrs Lesley Longworth e-mail : committee1@metcalfe.org.uk

Overseas Agents:

Australia : Miss Dianne Fox e-mail : agentsaus@metcalfe.org.uk
Canada : Miss Susan C.M.Harper, 820 Rogers Court, Victoria, BC, Canada V8X 5L4
e-mail : agentcdn@metcalfe.org.uk

THE MECCA NEWS

EDITOR: DR MICHAEL C. POPE

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represent the views of the Editor or the Metcalfe Society*

Editorial Musings by Michael Pope M1919

We are now departing the grey dark days of the winter and looking forward with anticipation to a spring and summer of dappled sunshine Metcalfe chasing, unhampered by the snowy grimness which can make visits to upper Wensleydale, Swaledale and Garsdale so "interesting" in January and February. I say grimness, because although the Dales can be breathtakingly beautiful in snow and frost for the visitor, such weather makes life extremely difficult for the farmers in operating machinery, gaining access to their land and both locating and feeding beasts in the fields.

I have been up there, and into the Ribble and Wharfe valleys and fells, a few times this relatively mild winter and it struck me forcibly what hardy folk the dales people must have been, before electricity, gas and the internal combustion engine made life and farming so much more bearable. Our ancestors of three or four centuries ago, aye and well beyond, knew well how to survive the hard winters and were thoroughly inured to often short and hard lives. As the parish records show, appalling child and mother mortality rates were the norm and husbands fared only a little better in the harsh outdoor conditions.

However, the dales folk were optimists too, and knew how to enjoy themselves when they could - dry Yorkshire wit matched the dry stone walls - so I will continue on a note of levity. This edition is number 111, which as all cricket lovers must know, given that the Metcalfe Clan originates in the best cricketing county in the world, is a "Nelson" – an old English name of particular historical note. Our Australian Metcalfe brethren consider this a highly unlucky score for the batting side, and many go into a state of suspended hysteria until the score 111 is passed, believing that it is more than feasible for all the remaining wickets to fall without any further addition to the total.

Indeed, many Aussies actually hold their breath during the period on 111 and it is not unknown for Sydney General Hospital to be inundated with blue Blueys in catatonic shock, when both batsmen are less than adventurous in adding more runs and putting everyone out of their misery.

Ancient advocates of Yorkshire cricket like your editor, brook no such superstitious Antipodean nonsense, rather placing their faith in the gritty determination of those with old, solid, "broad acre" names such as Close, Illingworth, and most dreaded of all, Frederick Swards Trueman. Whilst considering these surnames, I remembered an Australian cricketer from the late 1950s, the fast bowler Ian Meckiff, who played for his country and was extremely effective on his day.

Unfortunately, he was also the subject of great controversy because he had a questionable action and was "called" for throwing by several umpires. This is not a subject for discussion here, as the "throwing" above, is not that describing a dales farmer's technique for depositing Swaledale yows and tups in the dipping bath. No, my inadequate intellect was being exercised by the question as to whether Ian Meckiff was in fact a Metcalfe.

I tried the experiment of adopting first an Australian, then a South African accent and saying Metcalfe very quickly, rather along the lines of some of the weather persons on the BBC these days, who seem to speak "gabble" rather than English, and not the slow considered Yorkshire drawl to which I am accustomed. Metcalfe thus clearly came out as "Meckiff" and so my problem was solved! Meckiff was obviously the result of an over excited and nervous Metcalfe father at the font, when the intimidating vicar asked the full name of the child, and the parent went into gabble mode.

Or rather, when I engaged my brain and remembered what Dr George Redmonds told us at the Muster in 2015, it was not solved at all. The origin of names is an incredibly complex subject: sometimes the explanations are ridiculously straight forward and obvious, sometimes when names look simple they are tortuous and not at all easy to fathom. It has been suggested that Meckiff derives possibly from the Scots name McLeith, or from a lost village Meckliff which nobody has ever identified. It all makes Metcalfe appear easy, but enough, I will return to names in another edition.

I will end by referencing a discussion I had with my predecessor Peter Dobson, who gave me the good advice that "balance in the journal is paramount". I accept that totally, but I have the problem that I want to give as much column space to WWI as I can before 2018 or early 2019, when the centenary passes. There are still many very interesting, harrowing, but also uplifting stories to hear, and I must admit to military history being one of my principal interests. I have excellent members' contributions in my locker for future editions, but hope that I can indulge my tastes, and yet deliver a catholic journal which will interest, educate and entertain all our readership.

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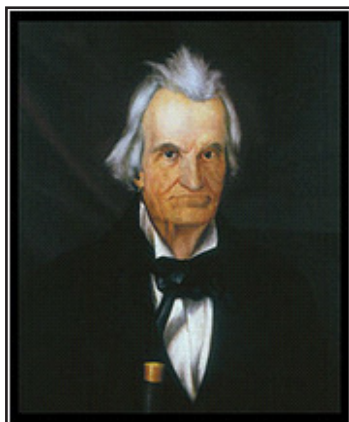
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Metcalfe County, Kentucky, USA by Michael Peel M 1698



Metcalfe County in the State of Kentucky USA, covers 296 square miles, was established in 1860 and named in honour of Kentucky's 10th governor, Mr Thomas Metcalfe. The county seat of Metcalfe is Edmonton, population 1,586 in 2010, which is situated in south central Kentucky, 113 miles south of Louisville, 124 miles south west of Lexington, and 112 miles north east of from Nashville, Tennessee on the Louis B. Nunn Cumberland Parkway.

Thomas Metcalfe (unique record number 91603) is mentioned in Metcalfe History of the Clan on page 236 para 2, and was born on 20th March 1780, Fauquier County, Virginia,, USA, son of John Metcalfe and his third wife Sarah "Sally" Dent (widow of Col. Eli Chinn). He died on 18th August 1855 in Nicholas County, Kentucky (Mecca death record 1744). Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia, has details of his life and career and the portrait of Thomas Metcalfe below.



Thomas started out as a stone-mason and then entered politics firstly at county and then at national level. His political career however, was interrupted by a spell as a volunteer in the US army during the Anglo-American War of 1812 with Britain. He married Nancy Mason and after retiring from politics, he "engaged in agricultural pursuits".

Thomas' father John Metcalfe (1724 -1799) (unique record number 51596) served in the Revolutionary War (1775 -1783) as it is known in the USA States, also known as the American War of Independence. John died on 8th May 1796.

His memorial is located in the private cemetery of Thomas Metcalfe, at his farm Forest Retreat.



According to Wikitree Ref 2, John's data is as follows:

John Metcalf 2nd was born about 1724 in Long Branch, Fauquier Co., Virginia and died on May 8, 1799 in Robertson Co., Kentucky. He had three wives; Mary O'Brien, Sarah Sally Rhoda Dent, and Sybil Farrow, and married firstly about 1745.

His children were - Beale, Charles, Hannah, Illa, Ira, Kiziah, Lucy, Rhoda, William, John the 3rd, Elias, Thomas and Sarah Metcalf.

John Metcalfe 2nd's father, from the same source, was John Metcalf 1st born about 1700 in Richmond, Yorkshire, England, the son of Theophilus Metcalfe and mother unknown. He married Diana Watkins in 1723 in Virginia.

His children were Christopher, Elizabeth, James, Mary, Nancy, Sallie, Susan, John 2nd and Martha Metcalf. He died about 1751 in Fauquier Co., Virginia. It is stated in Ref 5 that this "John Metcalfe came from Yorkshire to Virginia in 1716."

Theophilus Metcalfe was born about 1650 in England. "There were three Metcalfes named Theophilus in the early part of the seventeenth century" (Mecca News Issue no. 59, 1999 page 3).

Wikitree provides more information as extracted from Ref 3. "In the House of Burgess (Virginia) journal, p. 128 for the years 1761-65, mention is made of the right of John Metcalfe Jr. to vote on a petition as follows: John Metcalf holds 150 acres of land which was left by William Spiller to John Metcalfe, his heirs and assigns, bearing the date of Nov. 27, 1738. Said John the father, his wife Diana and the said John the son.

That the said John Metcalfe the elder died sometime in the year 1751 intestate and the said John Metcalfe Jr. hath ever since resided on the land, together with his mother, who always paid quit rent for the same. His right to vote was upheld. On p. 118 of the William and Mary Quarterly, Bk. 31 for the year 1924, a note says 'Diana Medcalf was living in 1761 and is listed under buyers of cattle and living in 1765.'

There are two interesting histories cited in the History of Kentucky Ref 4, the first from which the following has been extracted on page 652.

About the year 1795, there arrived in Nicholas County, a proud young Virginian, riding a noble steed. He was given to boasting, and by assumed airs of importance, highly irritated the wild boys of the Licking Hills. Confident of the fleetness of his horse, he bantered the neighbors for a race. It was known to a few that a couple of the best racers in the county had been repeatedly run against one another, and were of about the same speed. A poor boy of that neighborhood had, for the amusement of the owners, run them against one another—he riding both horses at the same time. The young Virginian was notified that if he would ride himself, they would run two horses at the same time against his, and would bet on their success what they could afford, which was mostly the skins of various wild animals, against anything of equal value.

The challenge was accepted, and a meadow in a creek bottom selected for a half-mile race. The day arrived; the three horses were brought forward. For the rider of the two, appeared this same poor boy, about half-grown, barefooted, bareheaded, dressed in a tow-linen shirt, pantaloons of the same material. The dress was not assumed for the occasion, but was the best his purse could bear, although neither neat nor gaudy, he was endowed with a well formed head, a keen, penetrating eye, a fearless, benevolent and cheerful countenance; and was animated with a noble zeal for the occasion, believing the honor of Kentucky was at stake. The riders mounted, the boy having one foot on each horse. The signal was given.

Away went the racers at full speed, and for about two hundred yards, it could not have been decided who was ahead. The boy, in endeavoring to run near a stump, three feet high, did not guide exactly as he intended; the stump was leaped by one of the horses, which greatly disturbed the equilibrium of the rider, but did not throw him. The Virginia horse dashed ahead. The other two ran with great fleetness, and at six hundred yards it was neck and neck. At the end of the race the pair of horses were a full length ahead, amid the shouts of the multitude.

The young Virginian paid his losses without a murmur. A big treat was proposed by those in luck, and accepted by the crowd. The successful rider was looked for, but could not be found; unaccustomed to applause, he had disappeared. The Virginian, however, avenged himself on two subsequent occasions, by beating each horse singly, they having a different rider, but he was again mortified by being beat by the boy riding at the same time both horses.

And who was that boy? It was Thomas Metcalfe, well known in after years. He held many offices of trust and honor; he was governor of Kentucky, was ten years in the House of Representatives in Congress, and a short time in the United States Senate. He fought in the war of 1812 against Great Britain, and volunteered three times against Spain. He was an eloquent man, social, hospitable, fond to the last of song, frolic, and fun.

The second story from page 628 is as follows.

The tenth governor of Kentucky, Gen. Thomas Metcalfe, in honor of whom this county was named, was born in Fauquier Co., Va., March 20, 1780. His mother was the Sally Metcalfe who was shot from her horse, on the 19th of January, 1781, by a British sentinel—whilst endeavoring to make her escape from the Elk Run neighborhood, in that county, where the American traitor, Gen. Benedict Arnold, with 1,800 British soldiers, was "exercising the most unheard of cruelty, indiscriminately on men, women, and children, and committing wanton destruction of every kind of property." (from a letter of Capt. Horace Randall to Gen. George Washington, Philadelphia, dated Jan. 20, 1781).

She recovered from the wound, and with her brave husband, a captain in the Revolutionary War, and "an acquaintance of George Washington," emigrated to Kentucky in 1785, and settled in Fayette, but removed in a few years to Nicholas county. They were poor and humble. In his early youth, young Metcalfe was sent to school only long enough to obtain a knowledge of the rudiments of an English education—sufficient, however, to inspire an ardent love for knowledge.

At 16, he was apprenticed to an elder brother (probably a half brother John, from other sources), a stone-mason. While learning his trade, his otherwise leisure hours were assiduously devoted to study and to books. What to other boys was labor and irksome, was to him relaxation and full of promise in the future.

At 19, his father died; and upon him fell a large portion of the burden - to him a cherished filial privilege - of caring for his mother and several children. As a mason he built, of stone, several court houses - at West Union, Adams County, Ohio, at Greensburg, Green County, Kentucky, in 1806 (still standing in 1873), and others, and laid the foundation of that at Paris, Bourbon County, which was burnt down on 8 May 1872, but of which his uncle John Metcalfe built the superstructure. From his trade, and his great earnestness afterwards as a public speaker, he received the sobriquet of the " Old Stone Hammer," by which he was familiarly and proudly known for 45 years.

References

The books by Peter Windham Coldham (1926-2012) (Wikipedia) on colonial American immigration might prove a valuable source of information on John Metcalfe's (and any other Metcalfes) departure to America.

1. <http://metcalfecounty.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx>
2. <http://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Metcalf-525>
3. Colonial Families of the Southern States of America by Stella Pickett Hardy, second edition with revisions and additions by the author, Baltimore Southern Book Company, 1958. A history and genealogy of colonial families who settled in the colonies prior to the revolution. Originally published New York 1911. A section "Metcalfes of Fauquier" has similar results. The full text is available at <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=wu.89062943303;view=1up;seq=6>
4. History of Kentucky, Lewis Collins, Richard H. Collins vol 2. First published by Lewis Collins in 1848, extended in 1874 by his son Richard, reprinted in 2003 by Genealogical.com.
5. <http://www.selectsurnames2.com/metcalfe.html>
6. <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=pv&GRid=90977818&PIpi=60855224>

Michael Peel M 1698

D Mark Thompson : Hardraw Innkeeper and Waterfall Provider

David Lambert our chairman, tipped me off last month that there was an article in the January 2017 Dalesman about Mark Thompson, proprietor of The Green Dragon and Force at Hardraw, owner of Nappa Hall, and friend of the Metcalfe Society. Mark has not been in the best of health recently and has reluctantly decided to put up his hostelry and force for sale. He told the Dalesman that the Nappa Project will continue, but would not be finished in his lifetime and would require significant capital expenditure. I am sure that we all wish him and Yvonne all the very best for the future.

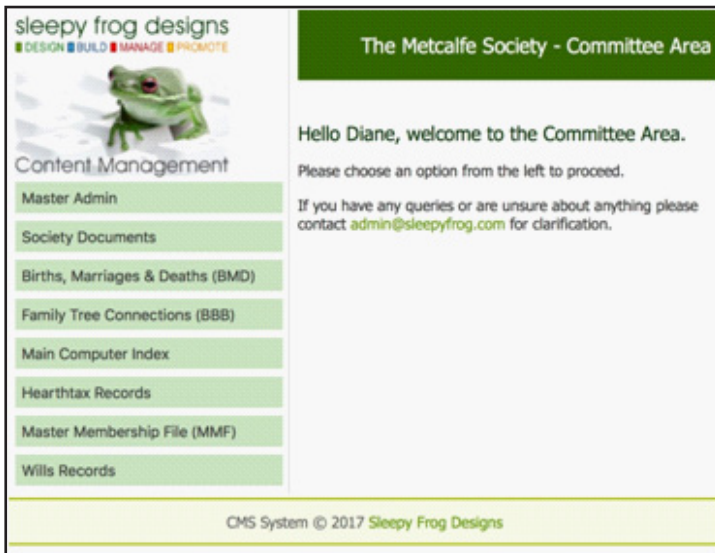
Mike Pope Editor

Society Website - Behind the Scenes

We are always aiming to improve the services and facilities available to our members. Alongside that activity, there is work going on behind the scenes to improve the management of the society. It may not be perceived as being of direct value to you, our members, but for those who volunteer to help run the society, it certainly is of great utility.

Within our website we now have a secure 'Committee Area' which is dedicated to storing data and documents and managing all the processes around running the society. This then allows each of the committee to access directly all they need and moves it all away from being held on the laptops of individual committee members. The Committee Area also helps the society to provide backup to enable society services to continue when a volunteer is not available for any length of time.

So indirectly, it will be of real value to all our members. Our thanks to Diane Howarth (M0409) and Carol Herbert (M1072) who worked together to deliver this service.



DEADLINE for the **August 2017 Mecca News** is **12 June 2017** for articles, comments or snippets to the Editor

Chairman's Jottings

When you read this we will hopefully be enjoying some springlike weather and winter will be behind us.

I am certain that you will have enjoyed reading Mike Pope's first edition of Mecca News, which was available in December after all, rather than January. If you enjoyed it let him have more 'copy' for future editions! He cannot produce an interesting News without your help!

I hope you have realized that the subscription due on 1st January 2017 has been raised to £15 from £10 - the last time it increased being 15 years ago. If you pay by standing order it is important that you contact your bank to change the amount payable. We looked at the appropriateness of offering payment by direct debit-where you do not need to take action, as the increase would be dealt with automatically by your bank and the Society. The Society would need to pay a charge for this and it was felt better to keep to the standing order arrangements.

At least it might mean you visited your local branch of the bank, something we more rarely do these days. Indeed 'your branch' may well have closed or be about to close, so this might be a golden opportunity for you to use its services one last time amidst the marbled halls and mahogany counters, before it is converted into a restaurant!

Banking has come a long way since the first banks were established, mainly in 18th century. Yorkshire had a large number of local banks not dissimilar to the position in Italy today, where there are hundreds of local town banks. With the passage of time Yorkshire local banks merged or were taken over to result in the handful of High Street banks we now know.

How many of you have read the book: Banking in Yorkshire by W C E Hartley (published by Dalesman Books in 1975) which contains a useful summary of the growth of the various banks and their mergers. John (Blind Jack) Metcalfe and William Metcalfe (tenant farmer/ banker of Sessay Park near Thirsk) are referred to in the text.

The Craven Bank, a Dales Bank operating in Settle, Skipton, Grassington and Giggleswick, eventually became part of Barclays bank via the Liverpool bank. Barclays Bank archives has Material available at its Group Archives including: letters 1790s, ledgers 1825-87, agreements, manager's diary 1866-72, early customer ledgers including those pre-1800 and shareholders' registers.

I feel certain there will be Medcalf(e)s and Metcalf(e)s in there if you dig! I propose to try, as I have discovered the archives are about 5 miles away from where I live! Watch this space for a report later in the year on the outcome! Other banks have archives too. Why not try to contact them and see what there is available and tell us of family records found. I always try to identify new record repositories and indexes.

I hope you were able to avoid the viruses which certainly were prevalent where I live: a flu-like virus with bad cough and sickness. Difficult to be rid of, returning many times during the 4 to 6 weeks it seemed to last. It reminded me that it was 100 years ago that the 'Spanish flu' epidemic started. It began in the summer of 1917 and lasted through the winter of 1920. The flu has long been considered to have originated in Kansas and spread to Europe, particularly France. It was widely reported in Spain, which is why the 1918 Influenza Pandemic was called 'Spanish Flu'.

New research considers that the disease might actually have started at the British Army bases of Etaples and Aldershot. The concentrations of new troops training at Etaples, 20 miles south of Boulogne, saw about 100,000 British and Imperial troops in residence at any one time,

"... over one million men passed through the notorious 'Bull Ring' training ground during the war. As early as December 1916, dozens of soldiers at the camp had fallen ill, complaining of aches, pains, cough and shortness of breath. Mortality amongst the sick was as high as 40 per cent, with some displaying what would later become known as a key diagnostic symptom of the killer flu: their faces were tinged a peculiar lavender colour. This condition, known as heliotrope cyanosis, was observed extensively in the ensuing 1918 outbreak. Undoubtedly, the overcrowded and unsanitary conditions of the camp, with most soldiers housed in tents or temporary wooden barracks, were ideal for the spreading of a respiratory virus." (from website <http://www-1centenary.oucs.ox.ac.uk/body-and-mind/the-etaples-flu-pandemic/>)

Were your ancestors struck down with the flu in the field or back home after the end of the war? Do tell us as it is all part of the World War 1 story which we are, as you know, researching. If you have information bring it to the Muster in September and report it to Jo Heron for our WW1 project.

Finally - in the BBC2 programme George III: The Genius of the Mad King, it was explained that both his state papers and personal letters are available. You can view them on-line on the link <http://gpp.royalcollection.org.uk/What.aspx>.

David Lambert M11 Chairman

World War I Memoirs from Nether Lodge, a Yorkshire Dales Farm by Betsy Morphet aged 14 - 17



Betsy left Selside school aged 14 and started writing a diary, recording her new life helping her mother and eldest sister to care for the family. She had five brothers and two sisters. Her eldest brother was married, living on a neighbouring farm with his pregnant wife. Betsy was sent to live with them for several months when their baby was due. Two brothers were working with their father on the home farm and two were still at school along with her youngest sister.

War was declared on August 4th 1914 but the sons of farmers were exempt war duties providing they could prove to the draft board they were needed on the farm. Her father spent a lot of time during the war attending appeals in Leeds, trying to save his sons and farm servants from the war. Also the farm horses were needed, and army vets attended sales in Settle where farmers were encouraged to take their best horses - Betsy was very upset when her favourite horse "Star" was taken. The farm men were recruited to care for the horses at the front and drive them when they carried munitions to, and injured soldiers away from, the front line.

As more of Betsy's cousins and friends went to war, she wrote letters and sent parcels, being concerned for their wellbeing. She recorded news received from them as they went through training and eventually were sent abroad. One mentions the appalling conditions they were living in, with rats running through the trenches and the barns where they slept. As more men were conscripted the farm became short of labour and the girls were called out to help with milking, feeding stock and haymaking. By 1916 manpower was so scarce she recorded that soldiers "resting from the front" were sent to farms to help at haytime. This made extra mouths to feed and as the soldiers were unfamiliar with farm-work, they were of little help and soon returned to the barracks.

I am sure the poor soldiers appreciated a few days peace and quiet in the dales and some good farm food! Many of Betsy's cousins had left the dales to work in the industrial towns. They were used to life on the farm and returned by train or cycle during their work holidays to help in the hayfields.

Her sister Alice attended a Dairy School in Garforth, Leeds for several weeks learning how to make and market cheese and butter. On her return she shared her knowledge with Betsy and they had a successful business, sending the cheese and butter by train from Ribbleshead to the grocers in Lancashire cotton towns where they had contacts.

The train played a very important part in their lives as they made frequent visits to Settle - shopping, seeing the dentist and visiting friends. Considering their isolation at the top of Ribblesdale, they had a very busy social life, either entertaining visitors or going out themselves. Walking the six miles to Horton to attend church or social events was no problem!

One notes from her diary the hours spent in the evenings: knitting, sewing or rug-making, and reading, but only reading took place on Sundays. Her notes on world events were sketchy, but we do have particular entries of major importance.

7 Jun	1916	Lord Kitchener drowned on the way to Russia
28 Mar	1917	President Wilson declared war on the Kaiser
7 Jun	1917	10 out of 18 airships brought down by English gunfire.
19 Jun	1917	My 17th birthday. At 11.00 am an aeroplane came low, right over us. First we have seen!
1 Oct	1917	A munitions factory in Liverpool exploded. Shaking the house and sounding like thunder all day.

By 1916 her brother Bertie was conscripted to join the army but fortunately he returned home unharmed at the end of the war. Those left at home held fundraising events to send parcels to the front. At Christmas they collected money from all the surrounding farms for the soldiers' Christmas Pudding Fund. The dales knitters were busy making helmets, socks and scarves for the soldiers.

Betsy's mother was Annie Isabelle Metcalfe from Old Hall Inn at Threshfield, she married James William Morphet in 1891 and had 9 children, John Richard, James Alexander, Alice, Bertie, Betsy, Harry, William, Lizzie and Arthur. She is related to M46n, M246, M1877, M1879, L1607 and L1818.

Edited by Jo Heron M1042

The Enormous Benefits of DNA Testing - Mike Pope Editor

I think that this article by **Anthony Metcalfe** below, represents an excellent review of the process and more importantly the enormous potential advantages of undertaking DNA testing. I urge as many of you as possible to read and digest the narrative below and then to jump in and give Martin Metcalfe our DNA Project Manager some work to do. The results could be of major benefit both to you as individuals and to the Metcalfe Society as a whole.

The DNA Project by Anthony Metcalfe M1390

Since joining the DNA project in December 2013, I have eagerly awaited a report on progress from Metcalfe Society members. I have also followed each automated email from the DNA site alerting me that "We found 4 new Y-DNA12 matches for Anthony Metcalf".

Martin Metcalfe's article (Mecca News January 2017) on the project's history, prompted me to share my findings, which will hopefully encourage more of you to join the DNA project. It seems that the number of Metcalfe members in the project has been static at around 75 for several months and I was wondering what is keeping our clan members away from this new way of researching our family tree.

After joining the basic 37yDNA test to follow my paternal line, I extended the search to my maternal line, by subscribing to the mtDNAtest a few months later using the same DNA swab sample.

The year 2016 has provided very positive results for me. On my parental line I have been contacted by Ann, my "second cousin - fourth cousin". The brother of my great grandfather is her great great grandfather, so we have the same great great grandparents. Ann lives in Vancouver Canada with a very interesting story of family emigration in 1958 to Alberta.

One of the documents Ann shared is the digital photograph overleaf on page 17 of the marriage in Bishop Wearmouth between Metcalfe and Oats in February 1816. This document shows our surname spelt with an e but this version of the spelling has been lost along the way.

More recently, my "second cousin - third cousin" on my maternal side, Henry, has e-mailed me from New York where he is now living with his family. His grandmother - sister to my grandmother - first emigrated to South Africa in 1902 where she married.

The family then moved to the Seychelles where Henry's father and later he himself was born. Finally he moved to the USA.

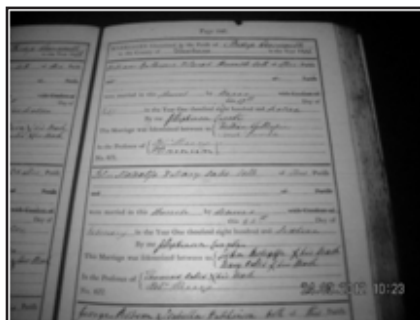
These "new" relatives illustrate that DNA links follow both male and female lines. After finding a possible link on the DNA website, these are explored by email to firm up the shared ancestors. My individuals count in Family Tree Maker is now 858 with some 274 marriages.

Without DNA samples and the matching of genes it is highly unlikely that these latest parental and maternal relatives would have been found.

Anthony Metcalf

M1390

The February 1816 marriage at Bishop Wearmouth between Mary Oats and John Metcalf



MEMBERSHIP FEE CHANGES

May I remind you that as from 1 January 2017 the annual Metcalfe Society **membership fee was increased to £15**. Please could you **check that you have paid the full amount**, that your standing order has been amended and that all your **address and e-mail details are accurate** and up to date. Any address changes should be notified to the Membership Secretary Jo Heron - see details inside the front cover.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU ADD YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER TO ALL CORRESPONDENCE, ESPECIALLY ON MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS.

Frideswide Metcalfe and the Clint Eastwood Connection by Andrew Metcalfe M1915

At first sight Frideswide may seem somewhat anachronistic, even as a sixteenth century Christian name, but it is one that should be familiar to residents of the county and City of Oxford, as it is the name of that city's patron saint.



Above is just one of many images of Saint Frideswide.

I have come across more than one instance of Oxfordshire men christening their daughters Frideswide, especially in the late sixteenth century. The Frideswide whose story concerns us here, was the daughter of one William Metcalfe of New Woodstock. She married a William Bartholomew and they had a number of children, three of whom, William junior, Richard and Henry emigrated to Massachusetts.

Many U.S. citizens (including I am told, Clint Eastwood; see <http://www.angelfire.com/mi4/polcrt/ClintEastwood.html>) trace their ancestry back to one of these Bartholomew brothers. Clint being allegedly a twelfth generation descendant of William and Frideswide.

There is much information on the internet about the Bartholomews and indeed also about Frideswide Metcalfe, but much of it is unverifiable.

I believe Frideswide was the grand-daughter or great grand-daughter of Abraham Metcalfe who was mayor of New Woodstock in 1563 (see Mecca News 107). The lease on Chappell Yarde in New Woodstock was transferred to her father William by his brother Nicholas on 28 August 1580 (Oxford Record Office ref: BOR4/4/D1/36D/1).

It seems to me then, that the baptism record for Frideswide would almost certainly be entered in the parish registers for Woodstock Oxfordshire. However, the Woodstock registers prior to 1653 have been lost or destroyed and with them the information about Frideswide's baptism.

We know that Frideswide married William Bartholomew and that is ratified by her father's will dated 5 December 1607. The entry reads "I give my daughter Fryswide Bartholomewe of Burford £5".

However, the widely quoted details of the wedding being in 1588 in Warborough are not reflected in the Warborough Parish registers, which do exist for the year 1588. It is highly likely that Frideswide was actually married in her home parish of New Woodstock, for which, as I've already mentioned, there are no registers prior to 1653.

Such is the stateside level of interest in the Bartholomew family, that in 1885 George Wells Bartholomew Junior published a well-researched "Record of the Bartholomew Family". I believe this was originally published in Austin Texas. In this he transcribed the will of Frideswide's William in full. In the will William mentions that he has seven sons and two daughters.

William goes on to name all his sons and daughters except one – William junior. The extant registers for Burford where the couple lived start in the year 1613 and these record the baptisms of three children of a William Bartholomew, Francis in 1613/4, Thomas in 1616 and Sara in 1623.

Therefore it was prior to 1613 when Frideswide gave birth to John (my eldest sonne), William, Henry, Richard and daughter Mary. William mentions Abraham, (my seaventh sonne) but mysteriously there is no record of Abraham's baptism in the extant registers, but there is a burial in the Burford register of one Abraham Bartholomew on 22 March 1646/7.

Frideswide was also well provided for by way of the inheritance that William left for her.



Group portrait of a family traditionally identified as the Bartholomews of Burford Oxfordshire

In the above portrait it is reckoned that the adult couple on the left are William Bartholomew's parents John and Margaret and the couple on the right are William and his wife Frideswide, whose children appear below. However, the information that I have is that John died in 1578, which has to be many years before William and Frideswide were married. The artist must therefore have drawn John's likeness from memory, or just made it up perhaps?

The burials of William and Frideswide are unequivocally recorded in the Burford registers: "May 6 1634 Bartholomew Mr William sen" and "December 10 1647 Bartholomew Freisweed widow of Mr William B Sen." It is possible William was buried in the 'Bartholomew Chapel' at St John's Burford.

Why did William omit William junior from his will? Some say it could have been due to his religious beliefs as a dissenter which could also explain why he emigrated, arriving in Boston "in ship Griffin" on September 18 1634. William's brother Henry also emigrated and was buried in November 1692 at Salem Massachusetts. The third emigre was Richard who "is supposed to have died in London, or on a return trip from London to Massachusetts".

William junior and his wife Anna settled and lived in Ipswich Massachusetts. He died in 1680 and was buried in Phipps Street cemetery Charlestown (now part of Boston). It is from this William Bartholomew that so many Americans trace their ancestry.

Yorkshire Group of the Federation of Family History Societies

The AGM was held on Saturday 25th March and the chair, secretary and treasurer were returned, and Sue Steele (Bradford) was elected as vice chair. Reports from the various Group Societies are now placed on the web site. If you have ancestors in other families or parts of the county – you might find this site useful – www.yorksgroup.org.uk

The meeting included a report on the questionable value of some DNA testing sites. One study looked at six companies offering testing, and compared only twins, triplets and quadruplets, as they should provide a direct match. The interesting outcome was a failure to achieve cross matching.

The Group is taking a stall at the WDYTIA exhibition at Birmingham. If any member is in the area, or planning to go along to the exhibition, do check in with stall and say 'hello'. If you have the time to help out – please let me know and I'll pass your details along to Chris Welch to expect you.

One of the most serious problems which could affect anyone using a computer is hacking. Protect yourself by backing up your data and files on an external hard drive – they are fairly cheap – but keep the back-up disc or drive away from your computer, in another room or place. Passwords should be a mixture of letters, numbers, and/or characters. The most common password is 'password' – an open invitation for an easy hack - but 'P455w0&rd' is not as easy to identify. So please check your passwords and change them to something more secure. If you should be hacked by a 'ransomware' contact, it is recommended that you delete everything on your computer and then restore from your back-up copy. Finally, hackers do go for organisations, so if you suspect that the Metcalfe site has been hacked despite our best efforts, please contact us as soon as possible so we can take appropriate action.

"pastCARING" – City of York Health and Poor Law Archives Project

This is a project funded by The Wellcome Trust to catalogue and conserve the records on the health care and poor law of York. They include the York Poor Law Union records, dating from 1830- 1950; Medical Officer of Health records 1879-1970; Department of Health records and those from the Department of Housing and Environmental Health. It also covers parts of North, East and West Yorkshire and 80 parishes. The project can be followed on Twitter @pastcaringyork or through Explore York Archives and the York Libraries and Archives web site, and is expected to finish in 2018 when the general information will be available.

Jo Heron M1042

One Man's War - Albert Metcalf (1894-1957) by Arnold Metcalf M891

My father Albert Metcalfe kept a diary and it relates that on 16 February 1918, he was sent a message to proceed to Portsmouth to join the overseas reinforcing draft. He passed a medical with no problems and although he had been diagnosed previously with asthma, he was called up on the final draft. He was issued with an overnight pass, indicating that he was already in the Army at that time.

Passing through London always meant breakfast at the Union Jack Club, this time after being delayed by a Zeppelin raid. At Haslar Barracks, Portsmouth there were route marches, medical and kit inspections, infantry and musketry drill, pick and shovel drill, gas drill, lectures on first aid, engines and search lights.

Palm Sunday, 24 March 1918, saw him arrive in Le Havre, then two days later go by boat up the river Seine to Rouen and a long march to the Royal Engineers Base.

April 7 1918 found him posted to the 5th Anti-Aircraft Searchlight Section just east of Steenbecque within the sound of gunfire.



From then until the end of October, life comprised many moves at short notice to new positions involving much trench digging, light cleaning, running telephone wires and maintenance, sleeping in tents and sometimes in the gun pit. Days were taken up by cooking duties, fetching rations and milk by lorry, packing and unpacking and washing clothes. The weather was unusually wet and cold making life uncomfortable and the ground muddy. One diary entry was seeing a German aircraft come down in flames.

There was much waiting around, then sudden moves. "What a game!" wrote my father. Leisure times included walking or cycling to the nearest village, going to the pictures, concerts or musical evenings once his violin arrived from home and had been glued back together. There was wrestling, football and swimming, despite the cold. It is rather surprising that they were allowed to move around so much off-duty. Letters to and from home were very important. Rumours of peace had been around for a few days before the Armistice was declared on 11 November 1918, but the searchlight section was travelling again.

It was not until 13 December 1918 that a move was made into newly liberated Belgium. There was plenty of engine trouble to cope with, but the journey then became a pleasure trip with billets in place of tents. By 3 January 1919 the searchlight was in Germany at Bonn on the River Rhine and they were billeted in a new museum, having German lessons, going to orchestral concerts and the theatre. The last entry was 28 January, although dates were set out as far as 23 February 1919.

Back in South Shields, jobs were very, very scarce, as now that the war was over, the industries which had been geared up to feed it, suffered massively reduced demand. So my father joined the Inland Revenue, better known as the Tax Department, and stayed there all his working life, retiring at the age of 63.

Arnold Metcalf M891

Rugby Union Metcalfes

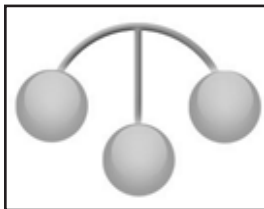
We have some distinguished Rugby Union players in our clan and I am sure that there are many Metcalfes who have participated in the "ruffian's game played by gentlemen" at a high level all over the world.

One towering example is Richard Metcalfe who was born in Leeds on 21 November 1973 and who is the UK's tallest ever rugby union player measuring on the theodolite at 7 feet or 2.13 metres in altitude. Between 1995 and 2003 he played 201 games for Newcastle, Northampton, Edinburgh and The Borders, scoring 30 points, but then had the effrontery to win 11 caps for the auld enemy Scotland, chalking up 5 points along the way. To be fair to Richard, it must be difficult as a Metcalfe to choose between the two countries, given our heritage, and we bear him no ill will for his fine performances with the Dark Blue kilties.

The second exponent of the ruffian art is Ian Metcalfe who attended King Edward's School Birmingham and St Catherine's Cambridge, where he was a double blue and later Managing Partner of Wragge & Co. one of the UK's largest law firms - we also have one or two lawyers in our ranks! Ian played for Sale and Moseley, the latter whom he captained from 1985-87. He toured with England B to New Zealand in 1985 and played four times for the Barbarians. He was appointed Chairman of the Rugby Union Professional Game Board in 2011 and stepped down recently after completing the maximum 6 year's tenure in the post.

Mike Pope M1919 Editor

Metcalf Customers of the Pawn Shops of Coventry



The history of pledging and pawn shops is ancient, most interesting and rather too long to be covered in depth here. It is reported that the practice arrived in Britain with the Normans and that later, the Medici family in Lombardy were important protagonists. It is claimed variously that the symbol of the three balls originates from the Medici family, or from St. Nicholas. I can remember as a young boy, my grandad Pope telling the old joke that it really means that it is two balls to one that you will not see your pawned property again. I did not know it then, but I later found out that he himself had pawned items of high personal importance to keep his family fed during "The Depression", including a gold ring he had bought when in the Cavalry in South Africa, and he never later had the money to redeem the ticket.

The pawn shop therefore was the last resort of the poor and those fallen on hard times, and it is said that in the 19th century there were more pawn shops than pubs. The old rhyme "Pop Goes the Weasel" circa 1850, is a relic of social history and the practice of generating some cash by pawning belongings, the forerunner of the pay day loan sharks of today.

During demolition work in Gosford Street, Coventry, Warwickshire, a builder discovered some black plastic bags in the attic of number 118. The premises had served as a pawnbroker's business, that of William Brookes, successor to William Arch. The business had been established in 1860 with a second shop in Silver Street, Coventry.

Thankfully the builder thought to contact a member of Coventry Family History Society and his find led to the society undertaking a mammoth project which took some years to complete. The culmination of the project has been the production and recent release of a CD 'Pawnbrokers Tickets', which is offered for sale by the society.

Thousands of tickets covering the period 1915-1923 were meticulously cleaned and transcribed. The colour, reference number, surname, forename and address of the customer were noted as well as the items pawned and the sum of money loaned. Among the regular customers were some Metcalfs!

A fascinating 'in depth' article about the project appeared in the September 2015 issue of Family Tree magazine and the CD is available at a cost of £5 plus £1 UK P&P. For further details contact bookshop@cov.fhs.org. This excellent project reveals much about the social history of the times and it is hard not to feel a sympathy for those forced to use the services of William Brookes. The following entries relate to tickets issued from the business at 1-2 Silver Street Coventry.

Pink ticket	871	26 Aug 1919	Bessie Metcalf
Northumberland Road		Sleeping suit	1s/6d
Blue ticket	432	16 April 1919	Bessie Metcalf
3 St. Pancras Road		2 Covers	1s/0d
Pink ticket	545	22 February 1919	Bessie Metcalf
3 St. Pancras Road		Nightdress	3s/0d
Yellow ticket	196	7 March 1919	Betty Metcalf
St. Pancras Road		Towels	2s/6d
Blue ticket	1114	15 June 1916	Harriet Metcalf
Brewery Street		3 Shirts	3s/0d

David Lambert Chairman M11 from article by Philippa McCray FFHS

METCALFES AND THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE - Mike Pope

I came across this plaque whilst on holiday with my wife in the Douro River Valley near Pinhao Portugal. We had been sampling the fine port and delightful red wines for two weeks, but I could still focus well enough to get a shot of the board singing the praises of the Quinta de la Rosa.



We had just completed a tour and a wine tasting at the vineyard, and were intrigued that one of our multitude, Charles Metcalfe, was a chairman of the International Wine Challenge. Charles captained Oxford University wine tasting team to victory twice over Cambridge in his youth and is a renowned writer on Spanish and Portuguese wines and food.

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

The access on Find My Past to photographs of the original parish records of some, though by no means all, areas of North Yorkshire has been extremely useful both in my work as Society Archivist and also in my own personal researches.

I had already been using those for West Yorkshire, found on Ancestry, for some time. The sense of the past accompanies the original in a way that a transcription can never match. Then working through the detail itself can be revealing of more than the index record had showed, for example the name of a farm, hamlet or a village.

This was the case in finding the marriage of James Metcalfe in 1833 in M2038 Helen Barker's 'tree'. The original mentioned his parish, albeit spelt incorrectly, and thus allowed his identification from the numerous other James Metcalfes in that area of Yorkshire.

Further, viewing the original detail acts as another counter to transcription error, though this error could be by the vicar himself. One Hodgson marriage in 1806 was recorded by the cleric as Jane Hotchon, with an ink splodge in the middle of the surname. That record took a long time to find! But when I saw it, I knew it fitted.

Lastly, I must mention a researcher of the 'old school' and a real gentleman, Walter H Metcalf M655 who died last November, aged 91. His correspondence was always most courteous, beautifully written in fountain pen and ink. Even into his late eighties, his enthusiasm to find out more about his 'tree' was undimmed and with that enthusiasm I am sure we would all want to identify.

Margaret Hodgson M515 archivist@metcalfe.org.uk
Postal address on front inside page of this magazine.

**THE MECCA MUSTER 2017
SATURDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2017**

HOLD THE DATE IN YOUR DIARIES NOW!

**Meet your old friends and Metcalfe relatives again at the
Tennant's Auction House at Leyburn Wensleydale.**

BIRTH BRIEFS FROM EXISTING MEMBERS INCLUDING UPDATES - shown in bold

M838 Mrs Peta Davidson – updated Birth Brief

No longer a member. However Member M843 has re-joined and this Birth Brief links closely to theirs.

D.o. Roland Hugh & Hilda (Duffy) Mte m1935 Durham district, Dur. Roland Hugh b 1908 Houghton le Spring, Dur. s.o Charles Bernard & Jane Ellen (Ormiston) Mte m 1906 Chester le Street district. Charles Bernard b 31 May 1885 Houghton le Spring s.o. Joseph & Elizabeth Mte m 1869 Stockton on Tees District, Dur. Joseph b 31 Jan 1847 Warlabby s.o. Thomas & Ellen (Ellis) Mte m 30 May 1842 Thirsk. Thomas b 18 Jul 1809 Warlabby s.o. Elias & Mary (Hunter) Mte m 22 Nov 1806 Ainderby Steeple. Elias bpt 15 Sep 1746 Thornton Watlass s.o. Thomas & Ann (Meek) Mte m 23 Nov 1728 Thornton Watlass. Thomas bpt 4 Mar 1704 Thornton Watlass s.o. Elias Mte b c1657. Elias s.o. James Mte. James s.o. Roger & Anne Mte.

Conn. M123 M127 M162 M165 M266 M480 M493 M522 M545 M616 M626 M632 M644 M843 M1269 M1313 M1341 M1404 M1487 M1682 M1831 M1874

M2036 Mr David Joy

4 Teal Lane, Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire FY8 4FQ
david.joy1@tesco.net

a). David's 1st cousin 4X removed was Margaret Joy. Margaret m John Metcalfe 28 Dec 1868 Linton in Craven, Yks. John b 1846 s.o. James & Nancy (Hammond) Mte m 26 Sept 1840 Linton in Craven. James b 4 Feb 1815 Stalling Busk area s.o. Thomas Mte.

b). David's 1st cousin 3X removed was Elisabeth Mary Hardacre. Elisabeth m John Metcalfe 26 Oct 1897 Salford, Lancs. John b 7 Dec 1860 Threshfield, Yks s.o. William & Ann (Hesleden) Mte m 1 Sept 1855 Horton in Ribblesdale. William b 23 Mar 1835 Stainforth s.o. William & Hannah (Marsden) Mte m 14 Dec 1826 Clapham. William b 7 Oct 1801 Selside natural s.o. Jane Mte of Selside.

Conn: M4 M11 M41 M46 M52 M90 M135 M195 M246 M466 M731 M790 M1827 M1877 M1879 M1943

NEW MEMBERS:

M2037 Mr Graeme Wilson

PO Box 9075, Tower Junction, Christchurch, Canterbury 8149, NZ
wilsonknightgenealogy@gmail.com

Grd s.o Albert Joseph & Mary Angela Daisy (Mt) Knight. Mary b 14 Mar 1916 d.o. Bertram Tennant & Charlotte Daisy (Thorpe) Mt m 1909 Southwark, London. Bertram Tennant b 21 Jan 1887 Leeds s.o. John George & Sarah Anne (Allen) Mt m 1881 South Shields district, Dur. John George b 15 Dec 1861 Castleside, Consett, Dur s.o. George & Elizabeth (Raine) Mte m 23 Dec 1854 Muggleswick, Dur. George bpt 30 Aug 1829 Bedale s.o. William & Mary (Spence) Mte m 16 May 1814 West Witton.

Conn: M473

M2038 Ms Helen Barker

2 Lacey Grove, Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS22 6RL
helenbarker@btinternet.com

D.o. Will & Betty (Harrison) Barker m 8 Oct 1949 Church Fenton, Yks. Will s.o. James Henry & Jenny (Mte) Barker m 2 Aug 1909 Wetherby. Jenny b c1888 Colne, Lancs d.o. William & Rose Ann (Ward) Mte m 13 April 1884 Leeds. William b 1863 Hunslet district s.o. John & Jane (Young) Mte m 1858 Easingwold district. John b 1 Nov 1835 Thormanby, Yks s.o. James & Mary (Warrener) Mte m 19 Jan 1833 Ripon Cathedral. James b c1798.

M2039 Mr Andrew Metcalfe

10 Bydemill Gardens, Highworth, Swindon, Wiltshire SN6 7BS
andymetcalfe12@hotmail.com

M2040 Mr Thomas S Benson

4 Coxwold View, Wetherby LS22 7PU

WILLS PROJECT - Margaret Hodgson (Project Coordinator)

That the list of wills and administrations is longer this time is very much due to the hard work on transcription by Edwin, Joan and Jennifer. The high standard to which each of them works is particularly appreciated. Checking each will and administration against the database has continued to provide extra detail. For example, it meant the realisation that Joseph Metcalfe of Countersett had remarried, to an Ann. Additional checks then revealed that second marriage and the death of his first wife, Mary, some years earlier.

Recently I visited the Borthwick, at the University of York library. Finding myself on an old 'reader' with extremely poor light on the very dark microfilm of decayed documents I was attempting to search, I enquired how I might better proceed. My eyesight is no longer up to that! I was told of the two new computers to which microfilm 'spools' are attached and from which a scan of a particular document can be made onto a USB stick – at the moment for free. According to the archivist the computer light on the microfilm is better, making it easier to read. Needless to say I shall be exploring this option on my next visit. I understand that these machines cannot be booked in advance but that they operate on a first come first served basis.

As ever, please do keep sending any Metcalfe wills from your own researches which could supplement what the Society currently holds.

Wills newly transcribed and now available to view in the Members Only section of the website are shown below.

The date here is the date of probate. Wills are often earlier than the year of probate so it is best to use the search + or – 2/5/10/20 years if not found immediately by name or place.

- 1698 Jane Medcalf of Welham, Leics
- 1739 George Metcalfe of Lockington cum Hemington, Leics
- 1743 John Metcalf of Askrigg (administration)
- 1743 John Metcalfe of Blean, Aysgarth (administration)
- 1744 Eleanor Metcalfe of Askrigg (administration)
- 1746 Dorothy Metcalfe of Carperby, Aysgarth (administration)
- 1750 Edward Metcalfe of Brockhill Cote, Aysgarth (administration)
- 1785 Edward Metcalf of Halloughton, Leics (now Notts) administration
- 1798 Lydia Metcalfe of Lunds, Aysgarth (administration)
- 1810 John Metcalfe of Bishopdale, Aysgarth (administration)
- 1825 Thomas Metcalfe of Worton, Aysgarth
- 1825 Thomas Metcalfe of Bowbridge, Bainbridge (refers to death in 1804) (admin.)
- 1828 James Metcalfe of Askrigg
- 1833 George Metcalfe of Burneston
- 1839 Joseph Metcalfe of Countersett, Aysgarth
- 1846 James Metcalfe of Woodhall, Aysgarth
- 1890 John Metcalfe of Narborough, Leics
- 1912 Thomas Metcalfe of Leicester
- 1926 Reginald Metcalfe, Vicar of Whiston, Northants (will written in 1896)

Margaret Hodgson M515 (Project Coordinator)

COLONEL JOHN FREDERICK METCALFE'S FIRST AND SECOND WORLD WAR EXPERIENCES

John Frederick Metcalfe was the father of the late Warwick Metcalfe, the latter who contributed so much to the Metcalfe Society during his lifetime. For the benefit of recent members who did not know Warwick, he was Head of Art at Uppingham School for over twenty years, a dedicated committee member of our society, and most importantly, a prime mover on and editor of our bible, "Metcalfe - History of the Clan".

Warwick's line, and therefore that of his father John Frederick Metcalfe, is "Branch 2" in the book, stretching back to Anthony Metcalfe of Hardraw and Anne Hudson, and is thus congruent with mine, Peter Dobson's, Marsden Holden's and many others in the society.

Back to John Frederick Metcalfe then. He was the son of Booth Hay Metcalfe - himself a career soldier and Colonel of the 83rd Regiment of Foot and later the Royal Irish Rifles - and of Jane Searle. Born on 24 March 1893 at New Shoreham Sussex, John was educated at Lancing College before joining John I. Thorneycroft, the shipbuilder and engine maker at Basingstoke.

On 30 October 1912, John had just completed a one year engineering technical apprenticeship with Thorneycrofts and became a reservist with the 3rd Battalion the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, after the latter which he later named his son.



At the outbreak of World War I on 8 August 1914, John was immediately called up and reported at Newport on the Isle of Wight on 14 August. On the 15 August he was appointed 2nd Lieutenant with the 3rd Battalion The Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

He was formally gazetted with his war commission dated 1 September 1914 and posted to Lyndhurst loW on 20 September in the 2nd Battalion, which was preparing for service with the British Expeditionary Force in Belgium and France.

The 2nd Warwicks were assigned to IV Corps under Lieutenant General Sir Henry Rawlinson, in the 7th Division commanded by Major General Sir Thompson Capper and part of the 22nd Infantry Brigade, alongside the 2nd Queens, the 1st Royal Welch Fusiliers and the 1st South Staffords. The 7th Division landed at Zeebrugge on 6 October and by 8 October the regiment was in Bruges, just as Antwerp was evacuated. They retired to Ghent and then moved toward Ypres and to the north of Armentieres by 14 October, alongside the 3rd Cavalry Division, in which resided my grandfather Trooper Sidney Percy Pope of the 1st Royal Dragoons.

Things began to hot up, and on 16 October the 7th Division of IV Corps took part in a general advance eastwards between Courtrai and Roulers and reached a line from Zandvoorde via Gheluvelt to Zonnebeke, and halted two miles due east of Ypres. On 18 October, IV Corps were ordered to capture Menin, and they dug in just outside the town that evening. Military disposition maps are extremely informative when describing the war of movement in 1914 but too detailed to show here. If you are interested please view <http://www.westpoint.edu/history/SitePages/WWI.aspx>.

On the 19 October, General Rawlinson sent the 7th Division along the road from Ypres towards Menin, but they reached only Gheluvelt 6 miles from their objective, when they were halted by heavy artillery fire from the guns of the German IV Army and had to withdraw to positions behind those they had started from earlier in the day. On the 21 and 22 October the Division was heavily engaged with an enemy which significantly outnumbered it, continually bombarded the troops with heavy artillery from the Passchendaele Ridge and they were attacked by both the 52nd and 54th German Reserve Divisions. Between 22 – 24 October the Royal Warwicks lost over 300 men and the 7th Division as a whole, suffered casualties of 45% of its officers and 37% of the men.

John Metcalfe was reported as missing in the Nation's Roll of Honour in The Daily Graphic newspaper on the 5th November 1914, right - bottom row centre. In fact he had been captured close to Zonnebeke, 5 miles NE of Ypres on the 21st October. There was undoubtedly great relief in his family when later on, it was reported by Messrs Cox & Co. in their list of "Officers taken Prisoner", to be confirmed that he was not missing, but taken a Prisoner of War, on 23 October 1914.



Unfortunately there is little known about his situation during his imprisonment, but it appears that he was being held at first in Freiburg in the Black Forest in Germany, and then in Holzminden Lower Saxony. He was promoted during his time as a PoW, but these promotions are complicated, as he was formally a member of the Royal Warwicks Special Reserve, but on capture was reassigned to the Royal Army Service Corps (RASC). Thus he was officially promoted to Lieutenant in the RASC on 1 July 1917, but had already been gazetted in the Royal Warwicks as Lieutenant on 15 May 1915 and then Captain (Reserve) on 31 October 1915.

He was released to The Hague in Holland on 5 February 1918, where he was interned for the duration of the war. His repatriation to Ripon Military Camp was dated 23 November 1918 after the Armistice, and by 23 January 1919 was seconded to the RASC as a Company Commander.

John Frederick Metcalfe had spent only 14 days in the theatre of war, but those 14 days involved some of the fiercest mobile fighting of the whole 1914/18 campaign and brought about the destruction of the old British Regular Army. Although his war had been short, he was now intent on remaining in the army, and early January 1919 marked the commencement of a long and distinguished military career, ending with the rank of Colonel in the Royal Mechanical & Electrical Engineers.

A career soldier however, if the circumstances ordain it, may be caught up in more than one battle and more than one war, and so it was to be for Captain John Metcalfe. Following his return to blighty and spells at Sydenham, Dublin and Teddington he received his permanent formal commission as Lieutenant Land Forces on 26 November 1920 whilst with the Heavy Repair Workshop Unit. He was posted to India in March 1921 - a repeat of his father's service movements - in No1 Mechanical Transport Company and served in Rawalpindi, Muttra, Rajkot and Khirgi in Waziristan.

John returned to England in December 1925 to the Heavy Transport Company, and by 1928 he had been promoted to Captain as Inspector Mechanical Transport at Woolwich and appointed Member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers in 1929. His career continued with promotion to Major and in 1938 whilst at Aldershot, was credited with the development of a rapid filling system for petrol jerry cans which made a highly significant improvement in heavy vehicle logistics, and which was very soon to become a rather critical aspect of John's military experience.

War was declared on 3 September 1939 and John Frederick Metcalfe was about to be precipitated into his second world armed conflict as a soldier, within 25 years.

More than that, he was not only part of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) again, and transported to France again, but he was to find himself stationed near Lille only a few miles away from the position in which he was captured in October 1914.



John, sitting front row third from left, was by now a Lieutenant Colonel and is shown with his unit near Lille. When the German Panzers broke through, he discovered that the French forces had left Lille without any prior warning, and he had no option but to extract his unit and attempt to avoid capture. They drove under shell fire to Dunkirk where they destroyed their lorries and sheltered on the beach with thousands of other Tommies, being shelled by the Panzers and strafed by the Luftwaffe.

The unit escaped and were sent to Milford Haven. John was promoted again and posted immediately, without his unit, to the Middle East. Warwick wrote that from the beginning of the war until his father returned in 1945, he and his sister saw him only once. The photograph is a sad one because John's second in command took over that unit, which was then sent to Crete, and most of the men were either killed or captured when the Germans overran the island, and very few survived.

John did survive, although Warwick knew nothing about his father's experiences and John never spoke about them. When he returned, he was transferred to the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers and was promoted to the rank of Honorary Colonel before he retired in August 1946.

That was not the end however, because John Frederick Metcalfe played a very active and distinguished role in the Institute of Mechanical Engineering before he died in Surrey in 1964, after a life of service to his country, full of experiences, and encompassing no small degree of excitement.

Society News

OBITUARIES

The Metcalfe Society extends its profound condolences to the families and friends of the following recently deceased Metcalfes.

Frank Capstick M 809 on 5 February 2017 at Dent, Sedburgh, Cumbria aged 90 years.

Barry Metcalfe M 1221 on 10 February 2017 at Lancaster, Lancashire aged 78 years.

Vera Metcalf nee Dawson 26 November 2016 at Hopton Care Cottages formerly of Royd Court, Mirfield aged 88 years.

Lois Dale Metcalf 18 January 2017 Longmoor Lodge Care Home Stapleford Nottingham aged 96 years.

Gail Ward nee Metcalfe 14 February 2017 Royal Blackburn Hospital aged 49 years.

Miss Margaret A. Potter M862 February 2017 of Alston Cumbria.

GRAVESTONES

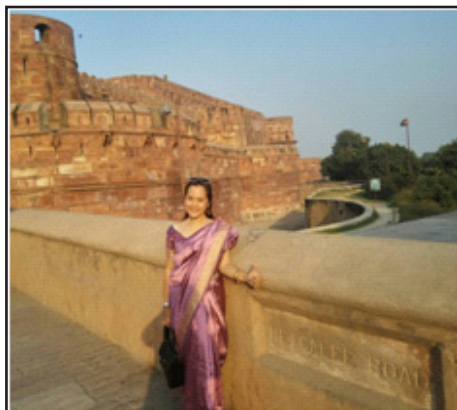
Andrew Timothy Metcalfe
St Mary's Church
Wroxham, Norfolk.



Frederick Metcalfe
& Chloe Marina Metcalfe
Great Yarmouth Norfolk



WHO SAYS THAT THE METCALFES ARE NOT ROMANTIC?



Christopher Metcalfe, who lives in Chiangmai, recently took his wife Pacharahong Mannowanna to see the Taj Mahal and came upon Metcalfe Road at the entrance to Agra Fort. The road was presumably named after Charles Metcalfe acting Governor General. Christopher also supplied the photograph below of the rather splendid tomb of Sir Thomas Theophilus Metcalfe Bart, resident at the court of the Emperor Bahadur Shar Zafar, which is situated at the splendid little church of St James in Delhi built by Colonel Skinner. Sir Thomas Metcalfe died at the age of 58, on 3 November 1853.



Two books worth reading, covering the Metcalfe time in India are :

The Tears of the Rajas by Ferdinand Mount

The Last Mughal by William Dalrymple

Christopher Metcalfe

Editor's Note - the Metcalfe Society's publication "**Metcalfes in India**" in two parts and with accompanying CD is an excellent way to investigate and study the history of our clan in the sub-continent. Just visit the shop!



St. John the Evangelist's Parish Church East Witton