

MECCA NEWS

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THE MECCA NEWS

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represent the views of the Editor or the Metcalfe Society*

A Summer Welcome to The Mecca News

Editorial Musings by Michael Pope M1919

I begin this edition No 112 with an apology related to my editorial in No 111. All cricket lovers will have realised instantly that in my tongue in cheek references to Australian cricket, I made the unforgivable error of confusing the England jinx score of 111, with that of its Australian counterpart which is of course 87, or 13 less than a hundred. I apologise for this technical mistake and also for any entirely unintended slights on Australian culture and on our Antipodean membership. Mea Culpa!

You will notice that this edition contains 32 and not 36 pages as usual, because we have no less than 5 A4 pages of inserts related to the coming AGM and Muster in September. The postage charges double if a weight of 100gms is exceeded for each journal and I considered the very significant cost burden on the Society to be unacceptable with a 36 page edition.

You will also see that there are two long articles by Marsden Holden M1513 and David Metcalfe M983 which I judged so interesting that I have published them in entirety. There is in addition, an unusually large section from our Archivist and Wills Project Leader Margaret Hodgson, which demonstrates the enormous amount of hard work contributed by the Wills Team in transcribing no less than 41 wills over the past 4 months. There are also a welcome number of **Birth Briefs** and I would encourage anyone who has not completed one to do so, as it significantly increases the connectivity of the Society. Please also contribute to **The William D. Roe Image Library** by uploading your Metcalfe photographs in the Members Room so that we can grow the pictorial resources of our clan - Diane Howarth can help you.

This journal continues my project of introducing the officers on the Metcalfe Society Committee, via self penned portrait articles, and this time the starring role goes to our Chairman David Lambert who tells us of his background and gives some highly interesting information on his tree.

My profound thanks to those who have submitted so many articles to me, and in advance, to those of you who will hopefully do so in the future. I now have material for at least three journals ahead and would ask that my contributors understand that their turn will come in the fullness of time, but also keep researching and typing and sending me such high quality and informative copy.

URGENT MEMBERSHIP FEE ISSUE

Jo Heron Membership Secretary

CALLING R.A. METCALFE in the UK

The Society is currently receiving £20 a month from two standing orders running mistakenly in this member's bank account. Unfortunately we are unable to make any changes to this situation; it has to be done by the member him/herself. Also, we cannot obtain any information from the bank as to who it might be, and who has set up the orders.

If you think it might be you, please contact me, Jo Heron, on 01924 260926 or at jo.heron@gmail.com to arrange a refund. Thank you.

For future reference for all members:

- a. We do take standing orders
- b. We do need a clear identifier on each form (**membership number**)
- c. Subscription rates are now £15.00 pa

INTERNET SECURITY

In view of the increased problems with internet security in recent months, members may be concerned about their passwords. Those who joined the Society some time ago and were given a **password** rather than a **passcode** (i.e. made up of lower and upper case letters and numbers) may wish to change their password. If this applies to you and you would like to change your password for a code, please contact me Jo Heron on membership@metcalfe.org.uk and I will sort it out for you.

Your password will not be changed without your agreement.

Jo Heron Membership Secretary

	£	Euros	\$US	\$Can	\$Aus	\$NZ
UK & Europe	15					
Overseas via Air Mail	21	25	27	36	36	38
+ One Time Registration Fee	15	19	21	26	26	28

If you are a UK member and wish to pay by a standing order, please contact the Treasurer for a Standing Order form to send to your bank, not the society.

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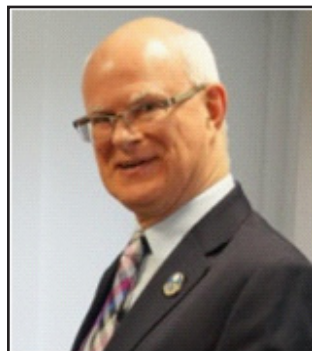
YOUR CHAIRMAN - DAVID LAMBERT

A personal portrait commissioned for Mecca News.

I was born in Altrincham 68 years ago, the first son of my parents who had met in the Second World War when they were in the army in Prestwich.

The first time I ventured into Yorkshire was in 1954. I was 5. My grandfather Cecil W Lambert had died. He had a life-long love of Yorkshire, especially the scenery around Threshfield, despite being born in Texas! I can still hazily remember a picnic lunch with my brother, my parents, uncle and aunt and cousins, sitting on the heather of Threshfield Moor and then dad and uncle going off together to carry out the appointed task of scattering grandpa's ashes whilst we children had to stay behind with mothers. After that we visited Bridge House in Threshfield. The Smith sisters and their aunts-they being connected to the Metcalfe family- lived there and the Lambert family used to visit the Smiths regularly in the summer for holidays.

I have always been interested in history. In 1971 I toyed with the idea of seeing if there was truth in an assertion that the Lamberts were descended from General Lambert of Civil War fame. As children we were told we were. An uncle allegedly paid a researcher to verify this although by the 1970s no one knew where the evidence / correspondence was. My father's brother (Uncle Derek) was also interested in history and had started to collect family photographs.



He showed me the album and for the first time I saw pictures of my great grandfather, Thomas Lambert, and his wife and children. He had married at Linton church on 17 Jun 1880, Mary ('Polly') Metcalfe of The Old Hall Inn in Threshfield. I learnt that he had more siblings than I realised and that I had several second cousins, none of whom I had heard of or met.

A short time after I saw the album, Uncle Derek sadly died. This spurred me on to see where the families had come from and has turned out to be a lifelong passion started in 1972, something I have really enjoyed and which I hope, now I am retired from work, I will eventually put into some semblance of order, before I become too decrepit!

I located Mary's birth (13 Jun 1868). No father was stated for her on her marriage or birth certificates. Oh dear, a skeleton in the cupboard at the start of my journey!

None of the family had told me that her mother, Jane Metcalfe, was unmarried when she gave birth. My great great grandmother Jane was born on 9 Jan 1837 in Stainforth, where her father William Metcalfe was the publican of the Craven Heifer. Jane never married and I have not been able to identify Mary's father. Mary lived with her mother and the family at The Old Hall Inn. When I triumphantly announced that I had discovered that great granny was illegitimate, the reaction from my aunts was –'oh you have found that out have you?' They weren't going to tell me what they already knew!

I progressed with research and discovered that Mary's grandfather, William Metcalfe was himself illegitimate, his mother being Jane Medcalfe. He was born on 7 Oct 1801 in Selside. Given the lack of a father for two of my forebears, I rather put the Metcalfe research on the backburner for a few years.

I was approached in 1980 by our Society's founders. They contacted everyone who belonged to the Family History Section of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society and who had registered Metcalfe interests. The rest as they say is history! I joined the fledgling society (member 11) and immediately realised, as did she, that the late Helen Offer was also descended from William Metcalfe of the Old Hall Inn. David Metcalfe, our current Database Index Co-ordinator, and Ruth Kay, joined within a few weeks, they too having descent from William of the Old Hall Inn. They were also stuck in 1801 with this birth to Jane.

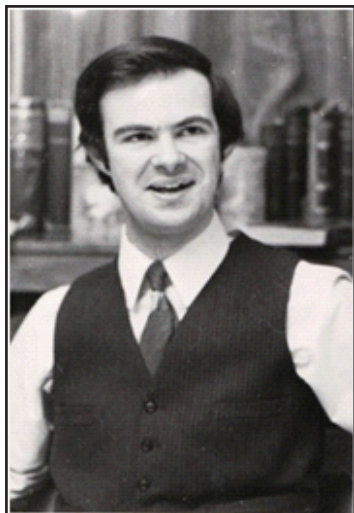
I have been extremely fortunate that Helen took on the role of our first Index Keeper and that David succeeded her and created our computer index. I have always been kept up to date with new information on our line and have not had to do any research! Ruth was herself born in Selside, so knew the hamlet, surrounding farms and families. It was due entirely to their efforts that my rather meagre chart for the Metcalfes was suddenly enlarged and is now about 6 metres in width. Several more cousins (about 10) have joined the Society, all stuck at the same place and with the same person. We believe it likely that Jane was the daughter of James Metcalfe and that she was born about 1773. We have been unable to locate a marriage for her, or appearances in any census indexes, or in burial or death registers.

The economy of the dales, mining and farming, suffered greatly in the 1880s and like many others my great grandparents Thomas and Mary Lambert left the dales and emigrated in May 1885, with two very young children.

I found them in passenger lists on board the SS Gallia. They arrived in New York and made their way to Texas, where they built a log cabin on the prairie near Goliad to take up farming. My grandfather Cecil was born there the following year either on 10th or 12th August! My grandfather always believed he was born on 10th, but when he came to obtain a British passport he contacted the Texan authorities for proof of birth and discovered he was born 2 days later, according to their records! Unfortunately a fire at the Court House in Goliad means the evidence of birth does not now exist.

When in 1887 another child was on the way, Mary reputedly told her husband she was not staying in Texas any longer and was going home. The family duly returned to Threshfield in 1887. They then left the Dales for Salford, which was where the rest of the Lambert family had gone. Several were cattle dealers, butchers and publicans. Thomas became a 'bookie' and (probably unlawfully!) took bets from employees of the Salford Cattle market. Thomas also bought and sold properties - mainly beerhouses or pubs - and as a result he was able to move to the leafy suburbs of Timperley and then Ashton upon Mersey, where he bought Ashton Old Hall Farm. He was elected to the local council and served as Chairman of the Council, becoming a JP and an Overseer of the Poor. He died in 1921 and widowed Mary died in 1926. She was remembered as an accomplished knitter and a kind granny to her many grandchildren.

What of me? For some unknown reason I always wanted to be a solicitor, despite probably not really knowing or understanding what they did. My best friend's father was a solicitor and both of us took up the law. My main problem was a very poor grasp of maths (which continues). I needed 'O' level maths and fortunately scraped it by 4 marks!



I was able to get to Manchester University in 1967, which was then felt to give excellent training for aspiring solicitors. Dame Brenda Hale, Yorkshire born and educated, and recently appointed as the first female President of the Supreme Court, was one of my youthful tutors on family law! After getting my degree, I went in 1970 to Liverpool College of Commerce, for a 6 months solicitor's finals course with several graduates from Manchester and fortunately I passed. In February 1971 I took 'Articles' as it was then called, with a partner in the biggest Manchester firm of solicitors at the time.

At the end of two years I qualified as a solicitor on 2 April 1973. I was always glad that they did not date the certificate first of that month! My certificate bears the signature of one of the great 20th century judges, Lord Denning who was Master of the Rolls. I was luckily offered a permanent position with the firm and a few years later became a partner. Following some partnership problems a group of 4 of us and 12 employees left the firm and set up our own practice in 1980. In 1996 we merged with another firm and ended up having 4 offices in Manchester and North Cheshire.

I retired as senior partner in 2011 and was then able to take life at a more leisurely pace and retire gently as a consultant, handing over clients to colleagues and visiting the office on a diminishing basis. Last year the firm merged with another and I decided not to renew my practising certificate, so I am now a non-practising solicitor. It seems strange that for over 40 years I have been 'practising' to act as a solicitor, and only when I retired am I classed as 'non-practising' - I must now be perfect! Oh, I discovered that a lack of ability to do maths did not hamper me and that frankly the majority of solicitors could not add up or take away either!

In the 1980s I became secretary, then chairman, of the Family History Society (FHS) of Cheshire. Upon retirement from that role in 1992, I was asked by the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) if I could give some legal advice. That led on to me unexpectedly becoming Chairman of the FFHS and assisting them to adopt the corporate structure they now retain. I served six years, although have remained involved ever since as their legal adviser and more recently their company secretary, a post I still hold.

I have always thought that being on a committee should have a limit on the number of years you should serve. I have not been able to follow that in the Metcalfe Society! I was elected chairman in 1998 and am still there! Help! It has truly been a pleasure and great honour to be chairman of our Society but I would like to retire eventually from the role!

Despite retirement from work I am still involved with a European network of lawyers, accountants and business consultants as their President (chairman). I am chair too of a Greater Manchester charity called Being There which supports those living with cancer and life limiting disease.

Life is still pretty busy! Some time to do family history but not enough!

'Didn't know when to say no' could perhaps be written on my epitaph- although not I hope for some years to come!

David Lambert Chairman M 11

Marsden Metcalfe (1892 – 1961) by Marsden Holden M 1513

My Grandfather Marsden Metcalfe was born on 1 August 1892 at 2 May Street, Habergham Eaves, son of James Metcalfe and Harriet nee Horrocks. He became a butcher - moving up to be a journeyman butcher and then slaughterman. Church friends of my sister in law Di, can remember him as the slaughterman who visited their father's butcher's shop.

He lived at 66 Crowther Street Burnley at the time of his marriage on 12 August 1912 to Maggie Maud Heyworth. He was tall, erect, smart - all in all a fine figure of a man - every inch the Guardsman I was told he had been. His service records show that he was living at 56 Brunswick Street, Burnley when he enlisted. He was 23 years and 8 months old and his trade was a butcher. He was 6 feet and a half-inch tall, thus meeting the guards height requirement and his chest full expansion was 40 inches with a 2.5 inches range of expansion.

His next of kin was Maggie Maud Heyworth, his wife. His only dependent was their daughter, my mother Maggie, born on 28 December 1912. My grandfather qualified for a British War Medal 1914-1919 and a Victory Medal.

Marsden rose to the rank of Lance Corporal and if I read the records correctly, he enlisted on 10/02/1916 but was assigned to the Army Reserve until 16 October 1916, when he was mobilised and posted to Caterham. There is a postcard on which he has written his address following his posting to France – Signaller Pte M Metcalfe, No 19603, 1st Battn Coldstream Guards, No 1 Company, No 2 Platoon BEF France.

He served at home until he was posted to the Expeditionary Force Overseas on 5 September 1917. He became an acting unpaid Lance Corporal on 28 January 1919 and acting paid Lance Corporal on 4 September 1919, shortly before being demobilised on 12 October 1919. All that is fact, but now comes the intriguing bit.

Shortly before my brother John died, he gave me a small CWS Cream Crackers box. John said that there were some things of my grandfather's in it. He then said that I would find some items dating from the war. He linked that with the comment that the family had been proud that he had been a good soldier and done his duty well, but were unhappy that it included killing.

I didn't open the box until later when I got home, and found that it contained the items listed overleaf.

- Two forms from the Ministry of National Insurance for 1 week - 2 days, and 4 days benefit in October 1949. The benefit was 1 pound 14 shillings eight pence and 17s 4d respectively.
- Half a document from the District Provident Society's Convalescent Home at Southport. The back bears the details of some horses he was to bet on.
- Liverpool Victoria Friendly Society – distribution of valuation surplus 1932.
- An application for the Journeymen Butchers Federation of Great Britain.
- Two receipts for purchases by Mr. J Hargreaves from B. Blackburn of Cliviger Butcher.
- A card for Mrs. Wm Finch's apartments – "Plas Annie, 25 Alexandra Road, South Shore Blackpool".
- A leaflet for the Old Coldstreamers Association.
- A Soldiers Demobilisation Account showing he was due £11 and a penny. He was paid £2 cash advance, three postal orders for £3, £3 and £2 and a penny, and an overcoat - £1.
- Notes on Post War Credits. A certified copy of his Attestation on enlistment.
- An empty envelope to the French address from his wife at 56, Brunswick Street, Burnley – SWALK (Sealed with a loving kiss)
- A letter to the Guards Division from Major-General T G Matheson, Commanding Guards Division, expressing his pride and thanks to the Guards.
- A few French coins
- 4 Coldstream Guards insignia
- A Blue Cross animal service badge – an interesting find for a slaughterman, but then my sister Margaret, recalls that he always got someone else to slaughter the lambs as he couldn't do it.
- His demobilization certificate dated 12 October 1919.
- A certificate of Employment During the War. This shows that he had been on a signalling course. He was 1st Class at Musketry Chevrons – 2 Blues. "Has done very well indeed. Very keen, hardworking and trustworthy in every way" was his general report.
- There was also a bronze plaque "He died for Freedom and Honour" inscribed Marsden Metcalfe. This last item threw me rather - but more of that in a later article.

The last four items were:

- **A cigarette packet** – Honora Cigaretten manufactured by Georg A Jasmatzi Aktien Gesellschaft Dresden. 10 Stuck 2.5 to 3.5 pf.
- **A grey shoulder epaulette** edged in a lighter – perhaps yellow colour and with a red 452 embroidered on it.
- **A rusty belt buckle** with a crown emblem inscribed "Gott Mit Uns".
- **The dog tags of a German soldier.** The inscriptions are -
Johannes Oehmigen Altenburg : S : A : Wenzelst 52 7-9-95 11 : ers : btl : j : r : 72 2Komp: nr4262 - presumably his name, home address and his date of birth

In considering all this, I was aware that Marsden's uncle was killed on 6 September 1917 - just the day after Marsden was posted to France. Did this have an effect on his approach to the business in hand? Did his trade of slaughterman have an effect on his attitude to life and death? I also wondered just why he had kept these things? The cigarette packet seems harmless enough. Taking bits of a soldier's kit as mementos is a bit less wholesome but routine and not too bad.

What I couldn't reconcile myself to was the fact that he had someone's dogtags. Surely if he had removed them it would mean that the body wouldn't be identified and the family of Johannes Oehmigen would just have received a "Missing presumed dead" report. That possibility caused me concern and I felt a duty to try to put things right if necessary.

Casting an eye over the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's web site I found the details of the German equivalent - Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge e.V. I contacted them, but all they could tell me in their reply of 2 April 2004 was that they had no record of his burial. They did say that they had passed the information and my request to an office in Berlin (Deutsche Dienststelle).

On a visit to the Lancashire Fusiliers Museum to seek details of Marsden's uncle – see below – I mentioned this to the Curator. He said that it was not unknown for soldiers to kill and to take mementos, but generally there was a great deal of compassion. He thought other possibilities were more likely, including aiding an injured soldier who was dying. The most likely scenario was that he had taken the man prisoner. He was then required to take the prisoner's dog tags and have the capture recorded for notification to the Red Cross. The curator indicated that the authorities should still have records of whether Johannes Oehmigen was taken prisoner.

My initial approach to the Red Cross didn't produce a reply. Determined to try all avenues, I contacted The Anglo-German Family History Society for advice on how to approach the German authorities. Their reply showed interest and sympathy, but they apologised for not being able to suggest much. I then wrote to the Town Hall in Altenburg with a list of questions. The response was quite impressive. In next to no time I received 3 replies from different departments. Unfortunately they were all negative apart from the fact that Wenzelstrasse 52 is still standing. The extent of 2nd World War damage to the house was unknown. There is no evidence of his being buried in Altenburg. His name is not on the memorial to the 191 Altenburg citizens killed in the 1st World War. They said that they would need a date of death to identify if he had a private burial.

They couldn't find his birth or death details in the Registry Office and couldn't find any mention of the family name at all in the city's Registration Office. I drew the conclusion that he just used the address as an accommodation address when he joined up, as the house is very near the train station. If all my suppositions about the death of Johannes Oehmigen were right, it struck me that, when my grandfather's next child died very young, he may have felt that he was being repaid for what he had done.

That was how things were left for 5 years and 8 months. Then, long after I had given up hope of any further progress, I received a reply dated the 3 December 2009 from the Deutsche Dienststelle (fuer die Benachrichtigung der naechsten Angehoerigen von Gefallen der ehemaligen Deutschen Wehrmacht). The letter was both a surprise and a real shock.

Johannes Richard Oehmichen had lived through both World Wars and only died in 1968, 7 years after Marsden's death. They had traced a nephew of his and were willing to effect the transfer of the 4 items to him.

I was overjoyed and got help from a German born friend, to write in German, appropriate letters to the office and the nephew. The mementos were parcelled up and sent off with the letters and a photo of Marsden. On 1 December I received a further communication from them. They had asked the nephew about other family members and it seems he was not in touch with any of them. The transfer of items to him wasn't going ahead. They had, however, discovered that Johannes had a daughter by his first wife. His daughter had died, but there were three grandchildren, and one granddaughter was very happy to receive the items. Putting this into the context of the other contents of the box, it shows a man much nearer to Margaret's recollection than mine. Clearly his military service was highly important in his life and he had not shrunk from doing his duty - "hardworking and trustworthy" is to be expected from a good Lancastrian of Yorkshire ancestry, but the "very keen" description added to the promotion gained, shows someone willing to do that bit more than the minimum expected. The meeting with Herr Oehmichen must have been very significant for him and was clearly a much more friendly experience than I first imagined. It's lovely that this side of his nature has been established for posterity.

As an occasional preacher, I was able to use the story above as part of a message, but the narrative continues. I mentioned the oddity that I had a death plaque in my grandfather's name, but knew that he had lived until 1961. The same evening I mentioned it to Di, my sister-in-law. In next to no time she reported that she had seen the Butcher's War Memorial in Burnley and Marsden Metcalfe was on it.

This was far too strange to leave and I dug some more.

My grandfather was the son of James Metcalfe, who was the second child and son of John Metcalfe and Mary, nee Metcalfe. The tenth child and seventh son of John and Mary was also Marsden - born on 10 December 1886 at 25 Clarence Street, Habergham Eaves. That makes him my great great uncle.

He died on 6 September 1917 at Passchendaele. There is no grave but he is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial at Zonnebeke, West Flanders, the largest Commonwealth War Grave in the world with 12,000 graves and 35,000 names on the memorial. Visitors go through the columns into circular bays where there are more plaques.

Marsden is listed in a bay on the panel for privates of the Lancashire Fusiliers - about 200 names to a panel, in 3 columns, with only the initial not the full Christian name. One other Metcalfe is listed with him.

Information sent to me by our President Nina Benson added a couple of bits of information to my knowledge and one of them was that this Marsden was married. There were no next of kin details on the Commonwealth War Graves site, unusually, and I was quite unaware of the marriage. A photo of the couple was discovered later. Perhaps the most touching aspect of it is the inclusion of a dog remarkably similar to my daughter's dog, Henry - greatly loved and missed by all the family.

Marsden, who was a butcher living at 65 Brunswick Street Burnley, married Annie Nuttall, a weaver of 30 Roebuck Street, Burnley whose father John was a grocer, on 16 May 1916 at Holy Trinity, Habergham Eaves.

Marsden's military records are frustratingly brief but the CWG site tells me that he was No 235473 and in the 1st/5th Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers. A visit to the regimental museum in Bury added that his theatre of war was France and Belgium. Intriguingly it also added that he had previously been in the Kings Own Royal Lancaster Regiment as No 202545, but I have not yet been able to unearth anything about that. The Fusiliers Curator helpfully suggested that he had probably previously been wounded or become ill and sent back to the UK to recover. He would then have been retrained and reallocated. He also told me that Marsden's Fusiliers unit was in trenches at Wilde Wood and Bill Cottage.

The attack on that day 6 September 1917 was on Borry Farm and Marsden had died attacking the farm. He was awarded posthumously the British War and Victory Medals.

The History of the Lancashire Fusiliers 1914-1918 Volume 1 written by Major-General J C Latter describes the episode under the heading "An Ill Starred Attack – 1st/5th, 1st/6th, 1st/7th, and 1st/8th Battalions".

I was very moved on reading it. Someone dying in a war is quite usual, so it wasn't that which hit me. What really struck home was what they went through before it – sleep deprivation, hard labour and noise – it sounds like torture. Members of the Society with relatives in the Fusiliers will find the complete account most illuminating and extracts below paint a grim picture.

At the end of August 1917 the Lancashire Fusiliers were moved to Frenzenberg near Ypres and on 6th September, the 1st/5th Battalion attacked Borri Farm to the northeast of Frenzenberg.

Between 3rd and 5th September, Borri Farm was bombarded by heavy guns and brought about heavy German artillery retaliation on the night of the 5th, causing serious interference with the preparations for the attack. At 7.15 am on 6th September, a heavy bombardment was opened on the objective, especially at Borri Farm. At 7.30 am the assault was launched under cover of a creeping barrage and was met by heavy machine gun and rifle fire from Vampire Farm. After going 150 yards, the attack could make no further progress in the face of this withering fire. The Germans counter attacked at about 10.45 am and 19.30 pm, compelling firstly withdrawals of the 1st/6th, which placed the left flank of the 1st/5th in the air, threatening envelopment and the necessity of the latter's withdrawal also. A further enemy counter attack at 11.10 pm was broken up by British artillery fire.

The net result of the days fighting was the gain of a shallow wedge of ground 150 yards in depth, but the casualties had been very heavy and the 1st/5th lost 7 officers and nearly 500 men.

An entry in the Burnley Express of 9 March 1918 showed that his wife had to put up with the extended grief of not knowing his fate and just having a missing tag to put up with for 6 months. His body was never recovered and he stays as "Presumed Dead". I wonder if this was another factor in the story of the dog tags of Johannes Oehmigen.

Whilst reading the 1921 Burnley Express issue of 10 September 1921, in connection with the research into Uncle Marsden, I discovered an In Memoriam entry "Metcalf – In loving memory of my dear husband, Marsden Metcalfe died Sept 6 1917. Too dearly loved to be forgotten. From his wife Annie and all at 47 Daneshouse Road".

Marsden Metcalfe M 1513

Chairman's Jottings

I write this the day after the General Election vote. Parliamentary Elections for our ancestors however, were not as we know them now.

Basically, landowners could vote in County constituencies and in Boroughs. You might recollect from school, references to 'pocket boroughs' and 'rotten boroughs'? Prior to the 1832 Reform Act, the electorate was very small - essentially male, freehold or tenement owners having a value of at least 40 shillings (£2) and who were over the age of 21. Until 1774 the voter had to live in the county in which the land giving them the vote was located.

In 1832 the franchise was extended to the following groups -

- i) tenants of land and tenements paying a rent of £50 per annum or more
- ii) holders of land worth at least £10 (which figure was reduced in the later 1867 Reform Act to £5)
- iii) persons having a life interest in and occupation of land and tenements worth over £2 but under £5 p.a. Voters to qualify had to have duly paid the poor rate and their taxes.

It was not until 1918 that some women were first allowed to vote but they had to be over 30, although this was reduced to 21 (the same as for men) by an 1928 Act of Parliament.

The Land Tax Registers (broadly speaking surviving from 1780s) were in effect used as a register of voters, naming who owned freehold land, its value and tenants. Until 1832 they can be consulted to see if your ancestor was eligible to vote. In 1832, registers of electors were compiled annually and these registers show who qualified.

Our ancestors had no right to a secret ballot, and from about 1696 until 1872, Poll Books revealing who had voted for whom were published. Several published books survive. The county of Yorkshire poll book of 1741 was reprinted by Stuart Raymond a few years ago. There were 2 candidates for the county constituency: George Fox, Esq., a Tory and Cholmley Turner, Esq. who was a wealthy landowner and supported the Whig Party. He was first elected in 1715 and represented the county until the 1740s. Fox lost that election but was returned unopposed later in 1742 as the MP for the city of York.

The Poll book reveals that 19 Metcalf(e)s voted for Fox and 37 voted for Turner. Thomas Metcalfe, living at Nappa voted for the Whig. The Bainbridge Metcalfes (2 Alexanders and 2 Johns) voted for the losing Tory.

Two slightly unusual forenames are revealed. Rheuben (sic) living in Countersett owned land at Stalling Busk (spelt Stallion Busk) which entitled him to vote. Hyanson (sic) Metcalfe resident of Burton Leonard qualified and both voted for the winning Whig candidate. Ancestry has several County Poll books available to subscribers and there is also a free online site for them - not covering Yorkshire - which you can find at

<http://www.electoralregisters.org.uk/pollbooks.htm>

Several sellers of facsimile copies of the books exist.

We are approaching the Metcalfe Society's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and elections, at the slightly earlier date in September at Tennants Garden Rooms again in Leyburn. There should not be any need this year to alter the constitution or to increase or alter subscriptions, so I hope the meeting itself will not take as long as last year.

If you have not been, do come, as it is a remarkable venue and we promise you a good day with the Society and its members. Those of you who have been before will know what to expect and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible this year. Lets aim for 80 plus delegates! The programme for the day is to be found elsewhere.

We are always looking for volunteers to serve on the committee or in a back room position. If you feel you have skills which we might find useful, do please contact a committee member or me before the Muster, or even on the day itself.

David Lambert - Chairman M11

Membership Renewals Update - Jo Heron

The following members have underpaid on their subscriptions for 2017 following the late 2016 increase in membership fee. Obviously this is an oversight, but we would be grateful if you do identify your membership number below, you could send in, or pay direct to the bank, the additional £5.00.

0068: 0070: 0134: 0242: 0256: 0931: 1252: 1352: 1391: 1464: 1505: 1580:
1630: 1943

Thank you very much for your co-operation.

From Humble Beginnings by David Charles Metcalfe M983

John Jonathan Metcalf was born in Fishtoft, near Boston, Lincolnshire and was christened there on 31 January 1818. He was my great great grandfather and also the father of Solomon who appeared in the article I wrote for the January 2017 issue of Mecca News.

John Jonathan's first wife gave him eight children, but she died at the young age of 42 years. The youngest child, Lucy Ann, was only 2 years old at the time. Four years later John Jonathan remarried and so from the age of 6 years, Lucy Ann would have been under the charge of a step mum. Whether there were some tensions between daughter and step mum we will never know, but we do know that Lucy Ann must have left home and indeed left the area whilst still in her teens.

Lucy Ann Metcalf

Records show that in 1879 Lucy Ann was residing in the Lockwood workhouse, Huddersfield, and that she gave birth to a baby, who was christened Maria on 13 July 1879 at the Lockwood Emmanuel parish church. Lucy Ann was single and 21 years of age. The church still survives today, but the workhouse was demolished around the turn of the century (the 1900s) to make way for the David Brown gear factory.

In the 1881 Census Lucy Ann and baby Maria were residing at an address in Launceston Street, Halifax and Lucy Ann was described as a "general servant". The head of house, and only other occupant, was Jeremiah Taylor aged 25, a plasterer. Jeremiah's parents were Henry and Maria Taylor of Halifax – could there be a link between his mother's name and Lucy Ann's daughter's name?

Four years later it seems Jeremiah was in trouble with the Law – he had been arrested and placed in Wakefield Prison, although later acquitted of his suspected crime, which was: "obtaining eight shillings and four pence by false pretences". He had been committed on 10 March 1885 in Halifax, and then acquitted at Wakefield Sessions on 6 April 1885. The same record does show however that he did have a previous conviction! Oh dear!

On 30 May 1885 Lucy Ann and Jeremiah were married at St John the Baptist Parish Church, Halifax. At the time of the marriage they were living on Back Street, Halifax. It was also known as Back Lane and ran from the junction of Petticoat Lane up to Bull Green. The houses have since been demolished to make way for the modern developments in the area.



St. John the Baptist's Parish Church

In 1885 Lucy Ann and Jeremiah had a daughter Lily, who was christened Lily Metcalf Taylor on 5 September 1886 in Holy Trinity Church, Halifax, but sadly passed away the following year aged just 1 year old. Then further tragedy struck when her father, Jeremiah Taylor, died at the age of 32 years old in Q1 of 1888. What were the circumstances of his death – a sudden illness perhaps, or an accident?

In the 1891 Census Lucy Ann and daughter Maria (now called Maria Taylor) were found to be living at 15 South Street. This road was just off King Street, but again has since been demolished. Apparently these were some of the oldest houses in central Halifax at the time. Lucy Ann is described in the Census as being a “charwoman”, Maria is an 11 year old scholar. Around this time Lucy Ann, still in her early thirties, must have met and subsequently married William Henry Wright in Q4 of 1893. William Henry was a labourer who, interestingly, originated from the Spalding area of Lincolnshire – perhaps quite close to Boston and Lucy Ann’s old stamping ground.

They made their home in King Street, Halifax close to St John’s Church. The very next year Lucy Ann received an inheritance: the sum of £20 had been left to her by her late uncle, and brother of her father (William Metcalf 1821-1894). That amount of money would roughly equate to £1,800 in today’s values – so it didn’t make her rich, but it must have been very welcome. I wonder how she spent it?

Also in 1894 on 8 May, Lucy Ann gave birth to twins – a boy they called Ernest and a girl called Evelyn. They were both christened on 5 September. What a year it had been for Lucy Ann!

Sadly, Lucy Ann was to lose Ernest the following year – he died just a few months old in Q1 of 1895. Two years later Lucy Ann gave birth to a baby girl – Nellie born on 23 February 1897. She was christened on 11 April 1897. Another two years on and Lucy Ann had another baby boy – Jack born on 8 May 1899, and christened on 11 June that year.

In the 1901 Census – the family were living at 63 King Street, Halifax. William Henry was described as a general labourer. Lucy Ann was running her own grocery business from the property in King Street.

It seems Lucy Ann had spent the inheritance money very wisely!

The three surviving children were now aged 6, 4 and 1 years. Also, living with them was Lucy Ann's child from her first marriage – Maria Taylor aged 21 years – unfortunately the Census does not record her occupation, but she could have been helping her mother in the grocery business.

Maria Taylor (nee Metcalf)

When Maria was 24 years old – she met and married John Garnett Fawthrop on 16 June 1904. The marriage details recorded her father as Jeremiah Taylor! And so, it does seem that Maria was Jeremiah's child, and was aware of that - the truth will out!

The following year on 26 September Maria gave birth to a son. He was christened, Roy Metcalf Fawthrop, on 15 October 1905 (seemingly in the Wakefield parish).

In 1911 Lucy Ann was recorded living at 57, King Street – presumably she had moved from number 63 King Street and given up the grocery business. She was working for herself in a "Confectionery" business from home. Living with her were daughters Evelyn (aged 16) Nelly (aged 14) and son Jack (aged 11). The two girls are described as "Spinners" in worsted manufacture and the boy was at school. There is no mention of the husband William Henry, so he was either working away from home, or not present at time of Census for another reason. Lucy Ann lived another 15 years when she passed away in 1926 at 68 years old.



The original Crossley & Porter
School South Lodge

Maria, husband John and Roy Metcalf Fawthrop were living at 7 Ingram Street, Halifax in the 1911 Census. This street still exists today. John is described in the Census as a "Warehouseman" in the grocery trade. However, he was later to work as a "Porter" at the Crossley and Porter School alongside his brother Edmond who was a caretaker at the school. And, as part of his employment he had the distinct privilege of occupying the South Lodge on the school premises.

The Crossley and Porter School started life in 1857 as the Crossley Orphanage, having been established by two local entrepreneurs (Frank and John Crossley). In 1887 Thomas Porter, another local philanthropist contributed a large sum of money towards the orphanage and school, provided his name was incorporated.

Over time the local need for an orphanage receded, and the emphasis migrated towards education per se. The school was then accepted as a grammar school. But, there was much rivalry between them and another local school – the Heath Grammar School. Later, in the 1980s it made sense to combine the two schools, and so the Crossley Heath School was born, and still thrives today.



The Crossley Heath School today

On 14 November 1914 Maria gave birth to another boy – Louis. He was baptised at St Paul's church, Kings Cross, Halifax. Sadly, Roy was only to live to the age of 25 years – he died on 16th September 1931 at their home at South Lodge, Crossley and Porter School, Halifax. His parents put a notice in the Halifax Courier newspaper describing how he had "bravely and patiently borne a long illness". He is buried in the Kings Cross Wesleyan Cemetery, Skircoat Moor Road. His younger brother Louis was 16 years of age at the time.

Louis Fawthrop

Louis became a scholar at the Crossley and Porter School – he is listed in the school archives as a past student. His father, and Uncle Edmond are also listed in the archived "former staff" lists. After he left school Louis trained to be a pharmacist and soon passed his Final MPS exams.

The Fawthrops were still at South Lodge in 1939, with John continuing to work as School Porter. Around the same time Louis was courting a girl from Norfolk called Florence Marion Hall. However, World War 2 was to intervene a little, and Louis decided in August 1941 to volunteer for the Navy – Fleet Air Arm. Louis was soon training to be a pilot.

Despite his commitment to the war effort, Louis did manage to continue the courtship and in Q2 of 1942 Louis married Florence Marion Hall.

In August 1943 Louis achieved pilot officer status, and became a sub-lieutenant.



Bristol Type 156 Beaufighter

He trained in and was flying one of the Navy's Beaufighter aircraft (see picture). The Bristol Type 156 Beaufighter (often referred to as the Beau) was a multi-role aircraft. It was originally conceived as a heavy fighter, but in service was found to be well suited to a night fighter role.

The plane featured in the Battle of Britain using its heavy armaments and early radar equipment. In later operations it served mainly as a maritime strike / ground attack aircraft, and was much employed by RAF Coastal Command.

The Fleet Air Arm operated aircraft on ships as well as being land based. Their role being to defend the Royal Navy's shore establishments and facilities. The Service was involved in a number of major operations during the Second World war including the sinking of the Bismark, although it is unlikely Louis was involved in that one.

Louis' war postings took him to Canada, Scotland, India, Ceylon, the Orkneys and Northern Ireland. Whilst in India he contracted rheumatic fever, was ill for some three months and so was posted to the Orkneys for some good wholesome Scottish fresh air! In the last year of the War he became a full Lieutenant, and then finally in 1946 he was de-mobilised.

Returning to Halifax, Louis was appointed Manager of the CWS Chemist shop in Kings Cross, Halifax.

It appears Louis and Florence did not have any children.

John Garnett Fawthrop passed away on 6 January 1948. Maria Fawthrop (nee Metcalf) lived until 1957, when she died in Q2 1957 aged 77 years. Louis Fawthrop died in Halifax in Q1 of 1991 at age 76 years, and his wife Florence Marion died the following year (Q2 1992).

From very humble beginnings these ancestors have made the best of their lives and the cards dealt to them.

Lucy Ann left home at a very young age, had her first baby as a single mum in a workhouse, lost two other babies, lost her first husband but still brought up several children and managed her own business.

Maria was born in a workhouse, lost her father when very young, lost her first born son to a terrible illness, but continued to support her husband and nurture her second son.

Louis lost his brother, and knowing all the hardships suffered by his parents and grandparents, studied hard, gained professional qualifications, risked his life as a 2nd World War fighter pilot, and on demobilisation became the manager of a main retail pharmacy.

If I were to put together a list of ancestors who I would love to meet, these three people would be high on the list.

David Charles Metcalfe M983

STAN LAUREL'S PARENTS' ROWING MEDAL - courtesy of Peter Jeffries



The Metropole Challenge Cup Medal

Stan Laurel, actual name Arthur Stanley Jefferson, was the son of Arthur Jefferson and Margaret Metcalfe and was born in Ulverston Lancashire in 1890. Stan began his working life in the box office of the Metropole Theatre in Glasgow, which was managed by his father Arthur. He later joined Fred Karno's Army Troupe and understudied Charlie Chaplin before teaming up with Oliver Hardy in the USA.

Stan's parents Arthur & Margaret (Madge), who were presumably rowing enthusiasts, presented this medal for a rowing pairs competition at the Metropole Theatre Glasgow on 6 September 1901 to a James McKenna.

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

Thank you to members old and new who have been in touch regarding details of their Birth Briefs. New member, John Gambles of Canada, has already done extensive research and shared some most interesting details about the upper Dales. In particular he is researching the Metcalfes (and there are many of them!) of Burtersett and Gayle and I am sure would be glad to hear from any other Members with this interest.

Arnold Metcalf of Australia has been a member for many years. Further research makes it quite a possibility that his 'tree' links back to seventeenth century Wensley. It is difficult to be sure but work in lead mining could account for some of the possible family movements. In my own family tree, recent research on my Rutherford line has shown how moves between some remote spots in Weardale and thence to Pateley Bridge and its vicinity, link to lead mining and stone quarrying, far from the apparently more settled lives of the previous generations in agricultural labouring.

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

BIRTH BRIEFS FROM EXISTING MEMBERS INCLUDING UPDATES – shown in bold

M343 Mr Derek Metcalfe

1 Fletchers Croft, Copmanthorpe, York YO23 3YE

S.o. James Henry & Margaret Joan (Daniels) Mte m 1941 Settle. James Henry b 14 Apr 1920 Long Preston s.o. William Henry & Ann Ethel (Wooler) Mte m 23 Jan 1916 Long Preston. William Henry bpt 10 Nov 1889 Aysgarth s.o. Thomas & Eleanor (Routh) Mte m 26 Dec 1880 Aysgarth. Thomas bpt 31 May 1847 Spennithorne s.o. John & Judith (Horn) Mte m 2 Dec 1839 Aysgarth. John bpt 8 Mar 1818 Stalling Busk s.o. William & Sarah (Dinsdale) Mte m 18 May 1811 Stalling Busk. William b 7 Feb 1789 Stalling Busk s.o. William & Anne (Tomlin) Mte. William b 18 Sep 1757 Marsett s.o. John & Barbara (Mte) (a) Mte m 12 May 1756 Hawes. John b c1727 Marsett s.o. William & Margaret Mte.

Conn. M28 et al

Continued overleaf

BIRTH BRIEFS CONTINUED

(a) Barbara bpt 31 Jul 1729 Hawes d.o. Anthony & Alice (Mte) (b) Mte m 18 Aug 1724 Ingleton Fells. Anthony s.o. Cuthbert & Barbara (Simondston) Mte m 1694 Kettlewell. Cuthbert s.o. Anthony & Elizabeth (Wynn) Mte. Anthony b c1640 s.o. Margaret Mte. Margaret d.o. Anthony & Ann (Hudson) Mte.

Conn again M28 et al

(b) Alice b c1704 Hawes d.o. Philip & Alice (Jackson) Mte m 31 Jul 1698 Hawes. Philip bpt 18 Feb 1676-77 Askrigg s.o. Thomas Mte of Hawes.

M891 Mr Arnold Metcalf

59 3/66 Clark Road, North Sydney, NSW 2060, Australia
arnoldmetcalf@gmail.com

S.o. Albert & Amy Florence (Fleming) Mt m 1 Jul 1926 North Shields, Nbl. Albert b 21 Aug 1894 South Shields, Dur s.o. Robert & Margaret (Almond) Mt m 10 Oct 1876 North Shields. Robert b 6 Aug 1854 South Shields s.o. Henry & Margaret (Wright) Mt m 8 Jul 1843 South Shields. Henry bpt 5 Oct 1823 Barton s.o. Henry & Jane (Pattinson) Mte m 19 Apr 1821 Barton. Henry bpt 17 Jun 1798 Wensley s.o. Henry Mte of Preston under Scar. Henry bpt 29 Aug 1763 Wensley s.o. William & Jane (Rudd) Mte m 9 Oct 1759 Wensley. This William ?? bpt 23 Apr 1727 Coverham s.o. George & Margaret (Geldart) Mte m 19 Aug 1721 Wensley. George bpt 16 Mar 1701 Wensley s.o. Christopher & Margaret (Reynard) Mte m 9 Nov 1697 Wensley. Christopher bpt 16 Oct 1664 Wensley s.o. John Mte.

Conn: M1180

M1832 Mr Alan W Metcalfe

3 Park Hill, Barnoldswick, Lancashire
algymetcalfe43@gmail.com

S.o. James Henry & Margaret Joan (Daniels) Mte m 1941 Settle. James Henry b 14 Apr 1920 Long Preston s.o. William Henry & Ann Ethel (Wooler) Mte m 23 Jan 1916 Long Preston. William Henry bpt 10 Nov 1889 Aysgarth s.o. Thomas & Eleanor (Routh) Mte m 26 Dec 1880 Aysgarth. Thomas bpt 31 May 1847 Spennithorne s.o. John & Judith (Horn) Mte m 2 Dec 1839 Aysgarth. John bpt 8 Mar 1818 Stalling Busk s.o. William & Sarah (Dinsdale) Mte m 18 May 1811 Stalling Busk. William b 7 Feb 1789 Stalling Busk s.o. William & Anne (Tomlin) Mte. William b 18 Sep 1757 Marsett s.o. John & Barbara (Mte) (a) Mte m 12 May 1756 Hawes. John b c1727 Marsett s.o. William & Margaret Mte.

Conn. M28 et al

Continued overleaf

(a) Barbara bpt 31 Jul 1729 Hawes d.o. Anthony & Alice (Mte) (b) Mte m 18 Aug 1724 Ingleton Fells. Anthony s.o. Cuthbert & Barbara (Simondston) Mte m 1694 Kettlewell. Cuthbert s.o. Anthony & Elizabeth (Wynn) Mte. Anthony b c1640 s.o. Margaret Mte. Margaret d.o. Anthony & Ann (Hudson) Mte.

Conn again M28 et al

(b) Alice b c1704 Hawes d.o. Philip & Alice (Jackson) Mte m 31 Jul 1698 Hawes. Philip bpt 18 Feb 1676-77 Askrigg s.o. Thomas Mte of Hawes.

M2032 Mrs Nicola J Higgins

The Granary, Skelton, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 9SE
 nxhiggi@gmail.com

Grd d.o. James Henry & Margaret Joan (Daniels) Mte m 1941 Settle. James Henry b 14 Apr 1920 Long Preston s.o. William Henry & Ann Ethel (Wooler) Mte m 23 Jan 1916 Long Preston. William Henry bpt 10 Nov 1889 Aysgarth s.o. Thomas & Eleanor (Routh) Mte m 26 Dec 1880 Aysgarth. Thomas bpt 31 May 1847 Spennithorne s.o. John & Judith (Horn) Mte m 2 Dec 1839 Aysgarth. John bpt 8 Mar 1818 Stalling Busk s.o. William & Sarah (Dinsdale) Mte m 18 May 1811 Stalling Busk. William b 7 Feb 1789 Stalling Busk s.o. William & Anne (Tomlin) Mte. William b 18 Sep 1757 Marsett s.o. John & Barbara (Mte) (a) Mte m 12 May 1756 Hawes. John b c1727 Marsett s.o. William & Margaret Mte.

Conn. M28 et al

(a) Barbara bpt 31 Jul 1729 Hawes d.o. Anthony & Alice (Mte) (b) Mte m 18 Aug 1724 Ingleton Fells. Anthony s.o. Cuthbert & Barbara (Simondston) Mte m 1694 Kettlewell. Cuthbert s.o. Anthony & Elizabeth (Wynn) Mte. Anthony b c1640 s.o. Margaret Mte. Margaret d.o. Anthony & Ann (Hudson) Mte.

Conn again M28 et al

(b) Alice b c1704 Hawes d.o. Philip & Alice (Jackson) Mte m 31 Jul 1698 Hawes. Philip bpt 18 Feb 1676-77 Askrigg s.o. Thomas Mte of Hawes.

NEW MEMBERS

M2042 Mr Phil Taylor

3 Yeoman View, New Church Street, Pateley Bridge HG3 5LQ
 Folkfinders@gmail.com

M2043 Mrs Erin Kay

39 S Main St, Unit 1A, Derry, New Hampshire 03038, USA
 erinckay@gmail.com

M2040 Mr Thomas S Benson

4 Coxwold View, Wetherby LS22 7PU
tom.benson2@virginmedia.com

S.o. of Steven Michael Metcalfe & Angela (Marshall) Benson m 5 Apr 1986 Wetherby. Steven Michael Metcalfe Benson b 20 Jul 1962 Blackburn, Lan s.o. John Michael & Nina Elisabeth (Mte) Benson m 21 Nov 1958 Darlington, Dur. Nina Elisabeth b 14 Mar 1932 Darlington d.o. Edmund Postlethwaite & Lily (Carter) Mte m 8 Aug 1925 Haughton le Skerne, Dur. Edmund Postlethwaite b 18 Nov 1901 Darlington s.o. James & Edith Mary (Postlethwaite) Mte m 20 May 1895 Waberthwaite, Cul. James b 19 Sep 1864 Colburn s.o. Edmund William & Mary (Webster) Mte m 21 May 1861 Hipswell. Edmund William bpt 20 Sep 1835 Hipswell s.o. James & Mary Barbara (Binks) Mte m 28 Mar 1825 Easingwold. James bpt 13 Jan 1793 Hipswell s.o. George & Elizabeth (Robinson) Mte m 17 Nov 1768 Coniscliffe, Dur. George b c1733.

Conn. M13 et al

M2041 Mr Bob Metcalf

605 West Division Street, Dodgeville, Iowa, Wisconsin 53533, USA
bcmetcalf62@gmail.com

S.o. Thomas W & Margaret (Rowe) Mt. Thomas b 1904 Wyoming Valley, Wisconsin, USA s.o. Alexander & Cordelia (Cora) (Perkins) Mt m 25 May 1886 Iowa, Wisconsin. Alexander b 1863 Wisconsin s.o. George & 1st wife Sarah (Woodward) Mt m 5 July 1858 Wisconsin. George bpt 4 Aug 1833 Askrigg s.o. Alexander & Elizabeth (Whaley) Mte m 15 Dec 1821 Aysgarth. Alexander bpt 9 Jun 1799 Askrigg s.o. James & Catherine (Pratt) Mte m 16 Apr 1782 Askrigg. James b c1754.

Conn: M484 M1015 M1025 M1455 M1690 M1829

M2044 Ms Teresa Metcalf

1882 San Pedro Ln, Fenton, Missouri 63026, USA
aceesa@charter.net

M2045 Ms Valerie Vayro

7 Victoria Avenue, Bishop Auckland, Durham DL14 7JH
valvay@hotmail.com

Continued overleaf.

DEADLINE for the **December 2017 Mecca News**
is **12 October 2017** for articles, comments or snippets to the Editor.

M2046 Mr John Gambles

16 Fallingbrook Crescent, Scarborough, Ontario M1N 1A9, Canada
 johngambles@rogers.com

Grt grd s.o. John & Sarah Elizabeth (Mte) Gambles m 2 Sept 1875 St Thomas, York, Yks. Sarah Elizabeth b 1847 Burtsett, Yks d.o. William & 2nd wife Sarah (Mte, nee Bushby) Mte m 10 Jan 1842 Hawes. William bpt 9 Sept 1793 Hawes s.o. Thomas & Rachel (Mte (a)) Mte m 13 Nov 1788 Hawes. Thomas b c1764

(a) Rachel bpt 24 Jan 1762 Hawes d.o. William Mte of Gayle

Conn: M1650

WILLS PROJECT - Margaret Hodgson (Project Coordinator)

A great deal of work from the transcribing team has led to a bumper list for this edition of the Mecca News. As you will see, many of these wills and administrations are from early periods and thus needed particular skills in deciphering the handwriting, syntax and vocabulary. Thanks to Jennifer Metcalf, Joan Metcalfe, Edwin Metcalf, Margaret Medcalfe and Marsden and Kath Holden for all their volunteer hours in bringing us these transcriptions.

The early wills often pre-date the extant parish records and thus provide valuable information which may not be available anywhere else. As previously, some of these documents help to sort out families in areas where there were many Metcalfes, as for instance in the parish of Stainton in Cleveland or in the parishes of the upper Dales.

I continue to make periodic visits to the Borthwick in search of more Metcalfe wills. The new technology there, which I mentioned in my last report, is so much better than the old microfilm readers and so far I have not had to queue to use it.

Finally, I would like to say a special thanks to Rosemary Brown who has been a transcriber on the Wills Project since its earliest days when it was managed by Stephen Newman. She has contributed much to the quality of the work and, with her strong background in research, I have always valued her pertinent and constructive comments. Unfortunately her eyesight has declined and she has had to step back from the reading challenges involved in this sort of documentation. On behalf of the whole Society, thank you Rosemary for your many years of volunteering.

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

Margaret Hodgson (Project Coordinator)

Wills newly transcribed and now available to view in the Members Only section of the website

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.

- 1561 Nicholas Metcalfe of Orsett, Essex
- 1566 James Medcalf of Dagenham, Essex
- 1596 Margery Medcalf of Great Totham, Essex
- 1603 Anthony Medcalfe of Islington, Middlesex
- 1607 John Metcalfe of Mountnessing, Essex
- 1659 Anthony Medcalfe of Hardraw, Yorkshire
- 1660 Thomas Metcalfe of Hunslet, Yorkshire
- 1661 James Metcalfe of Buckden, Yorkshire
- 1662 John Metcalfe of Buckden, Yorkshire
- 1663 William of Barwick on Tees (Ingleby Barwick parish of Stainton)
- 1663 John Metcalfe of Holbeck, Leeds
- 1665 Simon Metcalfe of Stainton (probably Stainton in Cleveland)
- 1666 Samuel Metcalfe of Wistow, Yorkshire
- 1671 Peter Metcalfe of York
- 1671 Thomas Metcalfe of Baildon, Yorkshire
- 1672 George Metcalfe of Horton, Yorkshire
- 1672 Michael Metcalfe of Hirst, Yorkshire
- 1673 Leonard Metcalfe of Wistow, Yorkshire
- 1674 Anthony Metcalfe of Yarm, Yorkshire
- 1674 Frances Metcalfe of Bridlington, Yorkshire
- 1675 Christopher Metcalfe of Stalling Busk, Yorkshire
- 1677 Thomas Metcalfe of Stokesley
- 1678 William Metcalfe of Leeds
- 1680 Elizabeth Metcalfe of Barwick on Tees (Ingleby Barwick parish of Stainton)
- 1680 William Metcalf of Welham, Leicestershire
- 1685 John Metcalfe of Roecliffe, Aldborough, Yorkshire
- 1698 Thomas Medcalf of Slawston, Leicestershire
- 1747 George Metcalfe of Gunnerside (administration & inventory)
- 1750 James Metcalfe of Cotterdale (administration & inventory)
- 1752 Daniel Metcalfe of Watlass, Yorkshire (administration)
- 1752 Elizabeth Metcalfe of Askrigg (administration)
- 1753 Major Metcalfe of Askrigg (administration & inventory)
- 1765 John Metcalfe of Ruswick, Finghall, Yks (administration)

Continued overleaf on page 30

- 1766 Rev. Thomas Metcalfe of Askrigg (administration)
- 1784 John Metcalfe of Bainbridge (administration)
- 1790 Isabel Metcalfe of Field Gate, Askrigg (administration)
- 1792 John Metcalfe of Lunds, Aysgarth (administration)
- 1795 John Metcalfe of Kidstones, Aysgarth (administration)
- 1797 William Metcalfe of Gill Edge, Aysgarth (administration)
- 1800 John of Woodhall, Aysgarth (administration)
- 1805 Isabel Metcalfe of Fossdale, Aysgarth (administration)

SNIPPETS

Metcalfe's Solicitors in Bristol - from Elizabeth Metcalfe M1648



Elizabeth saw this office at 46-48 Queen Square recently on a visit to Bristol. She established that the firm derives from an amalgamation of F.E. Metcalfe & Co and Peter Bennett & Co in 1989. Her researches uncovered the fact that there are no Metcalfe lawyers or employees working there - so they are "Non Metcalfe Metcalfes".

THE WAGES OF SIN!

Extracted from the St Nicholas' Parish Church Guisborough Register
- as written

Relevant to James Metcalfe Record Number 44152

Overseers of the Poor: Section 7. Bonds of Indemnity

No 16: Bond £10 - 2s

James Metcalf of Helmsley Millwright and Jacob Milner of Rivalx Yeoman
to
George Longbotham and John Toskitt churchwardens, and John English,
overseers of the poor at Guisborough, to maintain Mary Kelly's bastard
child or children by Jacob Milner. Dated 7 October 1774.

(Note - I believe Toskitt could be Postgate - Editor)

Society News

OBITUARIES

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

Violet Speak (nee Metcalf) sister of Pearl Tedds (nee Metcalfe) M149 on 13 April 2017 at Oswestry, Shropshire aged 86 years, on the 150th. anniversary of her father's birth 13 April 1867. Violet died a few weeks after her husband, Albert Speak, who passed away on 15 March 2017 aged 94 years.

Sheila Madeline Metcalfe (nee Lowe) of Glasgow and Salisbury, widow of Johnnie, on 30 March 2017 aged 95 years.

Helen Lorena Kaye (nee Metcalfe) of Norristhorpe near Dewsbury on 28 March 2017 at Kirkwood Hospice aged 75 years.

Yvonne Medcalf (nee Arundel) on 27 May 2017 in St. Catherine's Hospice Crawley Surrey.

Albert Edward (Ted) Medcalf on 16 March 2017 aged 80 years at Colchester.

GRAVESTONES



St.Michael's Sutton
Norfolk



St.Mary's Stalham
Norfolk



St.Mary's Stalham
Norfolk



St. Mary & St. John's Parish Church Hardraw Wensleydale