

MECCA NEWS

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THE MECCA NEWS

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

Editorial Musings by Michael Pope M1919

I bid you a very warm welcome to this last edition of the year 2017. It has become rather more throng than I anticipated because of the addition of a couple of stop press articles, including, most importantly, the urgent notice on the facing page.

Every aspect of our lives seems to be changing daily and the introduction of new legislation, particularly related to data and e-commerce places ever more onerous burdens on both business and general public. I have recently been appraised of the enormous strides forward in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics in an engineering context, and it appears that it will be only a few years before the editor of Mecca News is replaced by a computer holding some very fancy algorithms!

Not all developments are welcome however, and the weekly good news flashed down the broadband to us by the genealogical service companies is often counterbalanced, when we delve into the new records, by unacceptable levels of transcription errors. When we pay significant subscriptions for access to such services, it is reasonable to expect that checking and quality control processes are adequate to minimise mistakes, but it appears to me that many providers are using us researchers to undertake the job for them, by reporting errors we, not they, have found.

We are all prone to make mistakes as we are only human - this even includes your Editor - and the propensity for error is in direct proportion to the number of records we access and hold, and the magnitude of our family trees. The enormous advantages of the internet in searching for and uncovering new records is however a double edged sword. Far too many family historians are using only the internet and are copying wholesale, large tracts of family trees, without any checking or viewing original records themselves.

The consequence is that errors are simply repeated and magnified and there exist many hundreds of completely inaccurate trees on the internet and elsewhere. Taking advantage of the excellent facilities available to contact researchers with ostensibly relevant heritage does not necessarily bear fruit either, since the response rate to carefully phrased questions barely meets 15% and the replies only too often offer "I copied the record/branch/whole tree and I have no idea where the record originated".

I have also experienced an amazing phenomenon of "family historians" simply making up records to connect two or more quite correct lines and so extend the generational record much further back in time. I thought that

I must be mistaken about this conclusion and wasted hours at several record offices attempting to prove the impossible. On discussion with an archivist at another county archive however, I found out that, although not common, such execrable and unacceptable practices are not unknown.

As my mother Dorothy Pope M55 drummed into me when I began family history research - and still does - "accuracy and truth is everything, and don't believe a record unless you have actually seen the original yourself". On which rather more positive and optimistic note, I wish you all a most enjoyable festive season and a healthy and happy new year.

Mike Pope M1919 Editor

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Changes to Gift Aid Requirements

Commencing in May 2018, a new GDPR comes into force in the UK. This means that the Society can no longer hold or process your personal information regarding subscription or renewals, without your express permission.

In essence, the new requirements demand that the Society must pro actively gain agreement to communicate with every member and to be in a position to provide documentary proof of that agreement.

Early in 2018, you will receive a communication from the Metcalfe Society explaining the new legislation in detail and most importantly, what action is required by you.

There are also new requirements on Gift Aid which make it necessary to establish whether existing declarations by each member are valid. We will also be communicating with you early in 2018 to inform you of what action, if any, is needed.

	£	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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The Mecca Muster 30 September 2017

The Mecca Muster 2017 was held on 30th September for the third time of asking at Tennants in Leyburn Wensleydale and is becoming the preferred option for the Society, largely because of its excellent facilities.

The Muster was again very successful and with a 94% satisfaction score on the overall event, performed extremely well on the "Trip Advisor Scale". The feedback was very helpful indeed and a big thank you to all who filled in a satisfaction form, as this data tells the committee where we need to improve. We still need to sharpen up our organisation and timings for 1 to 1 bookings and ensure that the room temperature is comfortable next time, but the clan were overwhelmingly delighted with the function.



The agenda was comprehensive as usual and opened with a welcome from the Chairman David Lambert. Unfortunately Rodney Tennant the proprietor was unavailable this time, but the proceedings continued apace and we kept to the timetable admirably.

One of the key items of AGM business was the presentation by our Treasurer and demon amateur accountant Peter Dobson, who performs as though he has been doing the job for decades. Peter has introduced a very helpful development in providing a detailed bullet point commentary with the annual accounts, on the discrete items of income and expenditure where significant changes have occurred. This rendered the accounts so clear that there were no questions of import on the year's trading figures.



Peter explained that we had broken even on the year and emphasised that the increase in the subscriptions had been essential in ensuring that we ended with a satisfactory financial position at year end. The need to ensure that subscriptions keep pace with inflation in the future was also discussed.

The elections of officers of the society concluded with the unanimous confirmation of David Lambert as Chairman, Peter Dobson: Treasurer, Margaret Hodgson: Archivist & Secretary, Jo Heron: Membership, Enquiries & Sales, David Metcalfe: Database Keeper, Mike Pope: Editor, and Diane Howarth: Conference Secretary, Web Administrator, Volunteer Coordinator and Vice President. The team is completed with Martin Metcalfe: DNA Project and Lesley Longworth committee member. Liz Waller has stepped down after many years of service to the society and we thank her for all her hard work.

The AGM was very well attended and 72 members turned up for the day. It was also very good to see our President Nina Benson and grandson Sam Benson at the Muster.



The first of the two speakers of the day was Marion Moverley seen here with our Chairman David Lambert. Marion gave an excellent presentation entitled London Calling, on why people moved from the Dales to London, which featured much information on wills.





The second speaker after lunch was Brian Forshaw who delivered a fascinating and most comprehensive presentation entitled Blind Jack of Knaresborough - celebrating 300 years since his birth. There is no doubt that Blind Jack was a real character and his exploits as a non-sighted man were quite astonishing.

The Coffee Room again provided the important function of allowing Musterers to meet, exchange stories and have a good time.

It was particularly nice to see Diane Fox our Australian Agent at the Muster this time, which she managed to arrange to fit in with a major tour of Great Britain. We thank Diane for her splendid efforts in coordinating Metcalfe Antipodean interests.



We were also lucky to have three contingents of visitors from the United States of America and wished them a warm welcome to the United Kingdom, Yorkshire and Wensleydale.

All seemed to thoroughly enjoy the experience.





When not posing for photographs, Martin Metcalfe hosted the DNA desk!

Our Secretary and Archivist Margaret Hodgson excelled with her marketing skills, running the society goods table again and raising a huge £229.84 in sales.

Both of the fine Metcalfe plates were snapped up and the Wensleydale Creamery cheese was as popular as ever.



The famous David Lambert and Peter Dobson double act, left, conducted the raffle, which raised £162.

The display boards attracted the usual attention and behind the scenes David Metcalfe was beavering away on the Metcalfe computer records.

Jo Heron signed up four new members and two renewed their subscriptions.

Many thanks again to Diane Howarth for all her hard work in negotiating and organising another very successful Mecca Muster in September 2017 at Tennant's.



DEADLINE for the **April 2018 Mecca News** is **12 February 2018** for articles, comments or snippets to the Editor

BLIND JACK METCALF OF KNARESBOROUGH 300TH ANNIVERSARY

This year marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of Blind Jack Metcalf of Knaresborough Yorkshire who lived from 25 August 1717 to 26 April 1810. This piece represents the edited highlights of an article written and kindly made available to us by Gail Oliver of the Cheshire Family History Society.

BLIND JACK METCALF 25 August 1717 - 26 April 1810 by Gail Oliver Cheshire FHS



One of my husband's cousins inherited a white mug which had been passed down the generations from mother to daughter. On the bottom was the signature of John Metcalf otherwise known as "Blind Jack of Knaresborough", one of our Metcalfe ancestors. It was dated 1778 and had been given to Jack after he guided a messenger of King George III from York to London without the man realising that Jack was blind.

Blind Jack was a most remarkable Yorkshireman. Born 25th August 1717 in a small thatched cottage opposite Knaresborough Castle he was totally blinded at the age of six by a virulent attack of smallpox.

He began to feel his way about by hanging on to the walls of the cottage and after about six months could find his way to the end of the street without a guide. His father kept horses and despite his blindness he learned to ride, and joined in all the pursuits enjoyed by boys his own age.

After three years he was running messages all over town. Once he dived into the fast flowing River Nidd in an attempt to save two drowning men, managing to pull one out, who sadly died later. He was tall and well built and in every way a normal young man. He more than held his own at hunting, racing, fishing and wrestling and even kept a few hounds himself. He was also partial to a wager amongst friends, playing cards and bowls, trusting his friends not to cheat. On one occasion he rode his horse in a race at Knaresborough, having employed friends to ring dinner bells to guide him around the course.

He learned to play the violin at 13, becoming so accomplished that he earned a living, playing at country dances and assemblies in Harrogate, and knew the grounds around Knaresborough so well that he began acting as a guide to travellers day and night.

On one occasion, towards dusk, he guided a gentleman along the difficult road from York to The Granby in Harrogate and the traveller was incredulous to learn that a blind man had just led him across the moors.

Quote from Samuel Smiles' *The Life of Thomas Telford*:

On Metcalf leaving the room, the gentleman said –“I think landlord, my guide must have drunk a great deal of spirits since he came here.” “Why so, Sir?” “Well, I judge so, from the appearance of his eyes.” “Eyes! Bless you Sir,” rejoined the landlord, “Didn’t you know that he is blind?” “Blind! What do you mean by that?” “I mean, Sir, that he cannot see – he is as blind as a stone,” “Well, landlord,” said the gentleman, “this is really, too much, call him in.” Enter Metcalf. “My friend, are you really blind?” “Yes, Sir,” said he, “I lost my sight when I was six years old.” “Had I known that, I would not have ventured with you on that road from York for a hundred pounds.” “And I, Sir,” said Metcalf, “would not have lost my way for a thousand.

Jack was now over six foot two, and popular with the ladies, with a decided partiality for the landlord’s daughter, Dorothy Benson. When another young lady became pregnant by Jack, Dolly pleaded with him not to marry her. He had never had any intention of doing so, preferring instead to offer some financial help, but in the end he made an escape to an Aunt’s in Whitby, then London until the scandal had died down.

On his return to Harrogate he took up his fiddle again, and renewed his promises to Dolly, but after he lost £10 of his £15 savings at cock fighting she became betrothed to Anthony Dickenson, a young shoemaker. However, Jack and Dolly eloped and were married, to the considerable distress of her parents.

Jack built a house and Dolly gave birth to Christopher, named after her father, born in 1739. Shortly after the birth of their second child Tabitha in 1742, Jack became reconciled with his mother-in-law.

He had the idea of providing transport for hire round Harrogate, for which purpose he set up a four wheeled carriage and a one-horse chaise, the first of its kind in Harrogate. He then started transporting fish, on horse-back, from the Yorkshire coast to Leeds and Manchester, but this never quite produced the hoped for return, and once again, we find him playing his fiddle in the long room at Harrogate at the time of the 1745 Rebellion.

William Thornton, a Yorkshire gentleman, decided to raise a private militia to fight Bonny Prince Charlie and enlisted the help of the popular Jack Metcalfe as his recruiting agent. Within two days he had one hundred conscripts for Thornton and 64 marched with Jack at their head playing a march, to meet General Wade at Boroughbridge and thence to the disastrous defeat at the Battle of Falkirk, with Jack often taking out his fiddle to try to maintain morale in the winter conditions.

After the defeat, Thornton took refuge with a poor woman in the town and remained in hiding, and Jack determined to rescue him. He managed to infiltrate Prince Charles' camp on the pretext that he had been engaged as a musician in the Prince's army, but was rumbled by someone from Harrogate who recognised him, was promptly arrested and tried by Court Martial. He pleaded that he was merely a musician and not a military man and no real evidence could be laid against him, so on his acquittal he made his escape from the rebel camp.

On the 30 January 1746, the Duke of Cumberland reached Edinburgh and proceeded north in pursuit of the Highlanders. The Duke stopped at Aberdeen, where he held a ball, and Jack was the only musician to be found who could play country-dances. He stood playing on a chair for eight hours, receiving a present of two guineas from the Duke the next day. After Culloden Jack returned home to his young wife who had been in great fear for her blind, reckless husband.

He now hit on various schemes for making money, some legal, some not. He imported novelty items from Scotland to sell in Yorkshire, and bought and traded horses on both sides of the border. He was also not averse to dealing in a little contraband from time to time.

He settled on a new line of business as a carrier between York and Knaresborough employing the first stage wagon along that route.

He journeyed twice a week in summer and once in winter and undertook the carriage of army baggage that no-one else would handle, since soldiers had a dangerous reputation in those days, but they never did Jack any harm. By this time he had been blessed with another son, and daughter, and was making enough money to keep his family in comfort and respectability.



In one way or another his life had been pre-occupied with travel and transport, and Jack was well aware of all the inherent difficulties and the deplorable state of the country's roads.

The year before his daughter Tabitha was born Jack was in London, and was kindly entertained by a Colonel Liddell.

When the time came to return to Harrogate, Liddell offered Jack a seat on his coach, but Jack declined the offer.

He told the Colonel that he could as easily walk as far in a day as the Colonel was likely to travel in his coach. It is amazing to think that a blind man would contemplate a journey of 200 miles let alone along an unknown road, but such was the state of the roads at that time, that Jack actually arrived at Harrogate two days before the Colonel.

About the year 1765 an Act was passed to Turnpike the road between Harrogate and Boroughbridge. The surveyor was having difficulty finding someone with sufficient expertise in such a remote area to carry out the work. The ever enterprising Metcalf saw this as the first of many such roads and tendered to construct the first three miles of the road between Minskip and Fearnaby. Mr Ostler, the master surveyor, knew Jack well and had great faith in his abilities, so he was given the chance. With his customary enterprise and enthusiasm, this stretch of road was built on time and to the satisfaction of the surveyor and the trustees.

This was to be only the first of a near thirty-year career of such enterprises and Jack was, in fact, the first road engineer of distinction, preceding Telford and Macadam. He was totally self taught and his speciality was his ability to build solid roads across bogs and marshland, which no one previously had managed to do. He ordered his men to pull and bind heather in very tight bundles, lay one row on top of the other to absorb the water, and then lay cart loads of stone and gravel on top, with a cambered surface and good drainage on either side.

During his long career he constructed over 180 miles of roads including those between Harrogate and Harewood Bridge, Chapeltown and Leeds, Wakefield and Dewsbury, and Knaresborough and Wetherby. In Lancashire he built a great many roads that were becoming necessary to open up communications in the burgeoning industrial towns, including those between Bury and Blackburn, and Colne and Burnley. From 1778 he built roads in Cheshire, including a 16 mile stretch between Stockport and Mottram for which he was paid £3,200. He later also constructed roads in Derbyshire and during his road-building career he was paid a total of £65,000.

He completed his last road in 1792 at the age of 75, and retired to live with a daughter and son-in-law at Spofforth near Wetherby. Here not content with idleness he returned to his more youthful occupations of buying and selling, and superintending the operations of the farm. In 1806 he dictated his life story and in the year 1810 on 26th April, his life over, he laid down his staff and departed this world aged 93. He is buried in Spofforth churchyard and the transcript of his epitaph is shown below.



John Metcalf's headstone in
Spofforth Graveyard.
Copyright Alyson Jackson

Here lies John Metcalf, one whose infant sight
Felt the dark pressure of an endless night:
Yet such the fervour of his dauntless mind,
His limbs full strung, his spirit unconfin'd,
That long ere yet life's bolder years began,
His sightless efforts mark'd th'aspiring man.
Nor mark'd in vain High deed his manhood dar'd.
And commerce, travel both his ardour shar'd
Twas his a guide's unerring aid to lend;
O'er trackless wastes to bid new roads extend;
And when Rebellion rear'd her giant size,
For parting wife and babes on pang to feel,
Then welcome danger for his country's weal.
Reader! Like him exert thy utmost talent giv'n;
Reader! Like him adore the bounteous hand of heav'n.

Grateful thanks to Gail Oliver of Cheshire FHS

The USS Metcalf by Graeme John Metcalf M1745



The USS Metcalf was a WWII Fletcher Class destroyer. She was, as the Americans say, named for a certain boatswain's mate James Metcalf who served on the schooner Enterprise during the 1st Barbary war (1801 - 1805). Her keel was laid down on 10th August 1943 at Puget Sound Naval Yard, Bremerton, Washington. She was launched on 25th September 1944 and commissioned on 18th November 1944 under the care of Commander David L. Martineau.

She was assigned to the Pacific Fleet and set sail from Washington on 19th February 1945 to join an armada of warships heading for Ulithi, an atoll in the Caroline Islands in the Western Pacific, where she was to take part in the Okinawa campaign.

The Metcalf was deployed as an escort for Carrier Group 3 and took part in the Kerama Retto and Okinawa landings in late March and early April of 1945, where she saved several ditched pilots and aircrew. During the following 2 months she served in convoying fast cruisers and transports ready for the invasion of Borneo, arriving off Brunei Bay, Borneo on 9th June where she spent 2 days patrolling the South China Sea and then in a bombardment prior to the Australian landings at Brunei Bay on 10th June 1945.

She took part in several further engagements in the Pacific and operated in the heavily mined areas of the Yellow Sea, before leaving for the West Coast of America and home via Pearl Harbor, reaching San Diego in March 1946 and the inactive 16th Fleet. She was decommissioned that month at Long Island California from 1951 to 1960 and was "Stricken" from the Naval Vessel register on 2nd January 1971. Sadly on 6th June 1972 the USS Metcalf was consigned to the annals of US naval history, sold and broken up for scrap, but not before serving her country well, and in the process being awarded the honour of three WWII battle stars.

Chairman's Jottings

Yet another Mecca News to greet you, hopefully before Christmas, postal strikes permitting. This is written in October with its autumnal weather, including this year much above average temperatures at times and the unusual tropical storm 'Ophelia' in certain parts of the British Isles. Goodness knows what the winter holds in store!

The recently held Mecca Muster was a really good one! The numbers were higher than last year, including especially welcome members representing 3 different families from the USA and also Dianne Fox from Australia, who has for many years been our local 'agent'. Good to put a name to a face! Other items in this edition of Mecca News cover the day's events!

The AGM re-elected the committee and I would like to thank the members for your confidence in us and also for the fact that three members have indicated that they might be interested in joining the committee. They have been invited to join us in March next year to see what they make of us!

I would like to thank the Committee Members who helped to set up the Muster and on the day carried out a variety of allotted tasks and duties. I should single out Diane Howarth for the overall planning and management of the day as well as thanking Tennants for allowing us to hold our Muster in their premises.

We had two excellent speakers this year: Marion Moverley and Brian Forshaw. The former is no stranger to us and her talk this year on those who went to London from the Dales, was the first delivery by her of this new talk, with plenty of Metcalfe examples. An excellent and thought provoking lecture. We are very lucky she lives locally in the Dales and I am pleased to confirm she has joined the Society as a member and will pass on references to the family she finds in her researches!

2017 is the 300th anniversary of the birth of 'Blind Jack' Metcalf of Knaresborough, famed for his road building but as Brian Forshaw explained in his very interesting presentation, Jack had many 'strings to his bow'. Whilst delivered immediately after lunch (the graveyard slot for speakers!) I do not think anyone fell asleep because the story was so fascinating and well delivered! We had a small exhibition about Jack's life to mark the tri-centenary, much of the information coming from his biography and from a non-member, Gay Oliver, whose husband is descended from Jack. Gay has generously allowed us to copy her research and family tree, which with suitable accreditation and acknowledgment, we are adding to our databases. During the Society's existence two members have proved descent from Jack.

Other exhibitions were displayed at the Muster including some on World War 1 from Jo Heron and Mike Pope.

Did you know that the Commonwealth (then Imperial) War Graves Commission was established by Royal Charter 100 years ago by King George V? For details see <https://www.cwgc.org/about-us/history-of-the-cwgc>.

The year 1917 was remembered for the Battle of Passchendaele. Due to the inclement weather, it became renowned for what was called at the time 'the Floating Swamp'- '.....a quaking morass which gives no foothold anywhere but heaves and oozes and bubbles to unknown depths as you wade through it. The depth varied from the height of a man's waist to his chest or throat. When a man sank much above his waist he had to stay there to be pulled out, if fortune favoured, later.....' [The Times 4 September 1917]. Dreadful conditions and the War had another year to run.

The Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) - a voluntary service- was established in January of 1917. This was due to the heavy losses sustained in 1916, when it was suggested that too many soldiers were doing what a General called 'softs jobs'. Men were released to go to the Front whilst women carried out administrative duties in Britain and France, serving as clerks and telephonists, as well as waitresses and cooks. 10,000 women were required before the end of October 1917 and thereafter at a similar rate according to The Times 18th September 1917. WAACS were not part of the Army. To maintain a high standard of fitness all members had to do physical exercises daily, which a little bizarrely, included Morris dancing!

Back to 2017 and hot off the press, hopefully still available for you when you read this, the General Registry Office (GRO) have again announced that effective from 12th October 2017, for 3 months, they are running another Pilot Test of certificate data in pdf format. The announcement appears on their website at <https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/login.asp>

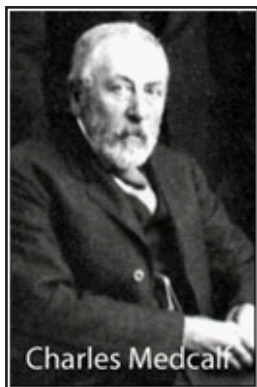
Applications for each PDF cost £6, must be made online, and include a GRO index reference. England and Wales records which are available as PDFs in this extended pilot include: Births: 1837 –1916 and Deaths: 1837 –1957. No marriages are included. Worthwhile searching at these rates in my opinion and possibly something to do over the festive season?

I conclude by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and successful 2018.

David Lambert M11 - Chairman

The Medcalfs of Rochester Kent by Valerie Jabir M1951

John William Medcalf (1808-1886) was the first of my family to come to Rochester. He opened a bakers shop in New Town, just around the corner from the mill. It was still there in the 1960s, I recall. John's father (also John) owned a shop on London Bridge, but I believe they may have had connections with the Coggeshall/Braintree Medcalfs as this is where he spent the years of his first marriage.



Edwin Charles Medcalf (Charles) (1847-1932) was John's son. At 17 he took on an apprenticeship in Rochester as a painter and decorator.

This was in the heart of the arts and crafts movement when marbled pillars, fake wood effects and gold leafing were all essential skills.

He also painted the OXO and Sunlight adverts on the sides of buildings, copying from a post-card sized gridded image.

Eventually he had his own business, but worked in this trade all his life. Family legend says he worked on Charles Dickens house at Gadd's Hill and that one toddler belonging to our family, possibly a cousin, was bounced on Dickens' knee. Charles Medcalf was an extrovert, always wanting to party. He had four children, one of which, Lewis, was my grandfather.

Lewis Spencer Medcalf (1883-1962). At 11 years, his father Charles sent Lewis for six-months naval training at Stonehouse, Plymouth. Although the Crimean wars were over, the government needed trained youth should things flare up again.

After leaving school, he spent around a year working on London barges which plied their way around the coast and across the Channel. At 17, Lewis was apprenticed as an iron moulder at Chatham Dockyard. He met his wife while playing violin in a Medway orchestra. She played viola and piano. Not long after marrying he became a tram driver and when war broke out this employment continued as it was a reserved occupation. In 1910 they had a child, Edwin, but in 1916 his wife died suddenly after eating a contaminated pork pie.



Devastated, Lewis left his son with his aunts, joined the East Surrey Regiment and served in the Somme campaign. When he returned to Kent after the war, he worked again for the dockyard and remarried a couple of years later. Times were hard, and when his son Edwin Lewis, who was highly proficient in maths, was offered a scholarship at two schools (one naval, the other public), he refused on the grounds that he couldn't afford the uniform fees. During WWII, while in his sixties, Lewis senior worked for Short Brothers who produced seaplanes. Their factory was bombed and alternative work space was created by burrowing tunnels into the chalk cliffs next to the River Medway. Lewis also learned his father's trade of painter and decorator and so the skills passed from father to son. Being more an introvert, he enjoyed painting both watercolours and oils and played the violin into his old age.

Edwin Lewis Medcalf (1910-1976). His early years with his parents were happy. When his mother died and his father was at war, living with his kind aunts eased the pain. His grandfather Edwin Charles used to arrive unannounced and take Eddie by ferry to Southend where they would ride the roller coaster together and have great fun.

His father's remarriage was not so happy for Eddie and having been denied the opportunity of the scholarships, at 14 he became a sapper in the Royal Engineers with whom he served for 8 years.

He went onto the reserve three years after getting married, and joined HM Prison Service as an engineer in 1936. His discharge testimonial says "A first-class carpenter and an excellent worker. He is clean, sober, thoroughly honest and reliable".



Three years later he re-joined the Royal Engineers when WWII broke out, despite being in a reserved occupation in the prison service. During his first year he was engaged in training recruits before being sent to France, now with the rank of Staff Sergeant. He was involved in blowing up numerous bridges in Belgium and France before retreating to Dunkirk, and was one of the last rescued. Many of his men were killed and he hid under a lorry while the beach was being bombed and strafed.

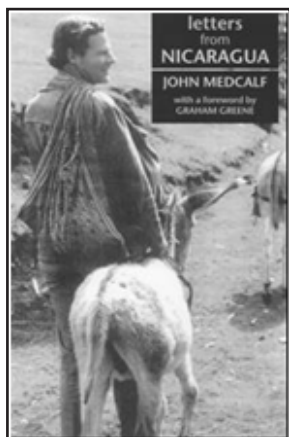
In February 1942 he was sent to Burma in units supporting the work of Major-General Orde Wingate and was seconded to a USAAF airfield cut into the forest in the north of Burma. The renowned Chindit troops were supplied from this and other airfields and Lewis' job was to keep the airfield operational, despite being bombed regularly by the Japanese.

He frequently went up in the planes, even being allowed to take the controls at times. He developed a stomach ulcer and while travelling through the jungle alone, collapsed. He was found by Burmese tribesman, who made a makeshift stretcher and carried him several miles to a village where an English surgeon worked. He was operated on under a hurricane lamp and had to remain in the village for several weeks before he could make the long journey back to England. Now unfit for service, he returned to the Prison Service. He received the Burma Star and his military conduct was stated to have been "exemplary". Lewis studied at night school until he attained the position of Clerk of Works and he and his wife had six children.

He was the architect of St Edmund's chapel at Hollesley Bay Prison, Suffolk which was built by the prisoners. During his sixties he worked out of Manchester Home Office inspecting prisons. On one occasion he was near Settle when his car broke down and needed a garage repair. He attempted to pay for the work, but the proprietor, on seeing his name was Medcalf (and even though he had a southern accent), refused to take payment and made him feel like a long lost cousin! I'm sure my father would have bought him and his mates a round or two of drinks in return.

John Lewis Medcalf (1933-2002). Edwin Lewis was determined his sons would not be denied a good education as he was. When his son John Lewis showed himself to be a good linguist, his father kept pushing him towards a mathematics degree. Instead, John did his National Service and returned to announce he was to be a catholic priest. As Anglicans, this was like an atomic bomb in our house, effecting the Reformation backwards, and Lewis did not speak to his son for years.

After seven years training John spent most of his years in South or Central America where his facility with languages came in very handy.



While living with a fellow priest on a rubbish heap among the poor, and teaching Chaucer at Lima University part time, he felt inspired to start the Rural Library Scheme. Small villages and towns throughout Peru (400 in all) would have a small library (perhaps the corner of someone's house), with books brought in from Spain, or written by locals and all financed by UK parishes. This markedly enhanced the reading capabilities of the local people and enabled Peruvians to take part in making political and social changes themselves. Libraries exchanged books across mountain passes using donkeys and llamas, and the scheme has spread to several other surrounding countries.

John Lewis Medcalf wore many hats, but one was advising Oxfam on their spending in South America. Through his writings he also helped to expose the dastardly deeds of the Contras during the Nixon era. He took after his grandfather Charles: an extrovert who loved a good party. England, when he returned every few years, seemed far too dull.

His work was featured in double-page spreads in The Times and in Italian newspapers, and he had a book published entitled "Letters from Nicaragua" by John Medcalf with a forward by Graham Greene.

Two weeks before he died in 2002, he received an invitation from ex-president Mikhail Gorbachev and his colleagues, to receive a medal and speak at a conference about his library model, because it was felt strongly that the approach could be adapted for other ventures. John certainly never sought fame or "gongs", as he called them. I (his youngest sister) was with him when the invitation came and having been a trickster all his life, he thought I was playing a trick on him. He took quite some convincing that I was not.

This branch of the family has left Rochester now, although I am sure there are many distant relatives still around. My siblings and I have travelled far and wide and I am now living in New Zealand. Sadly, there are no males in this line to carry on the name Medcalf.

Valerie Jabir M1951

York Family History Fair - Margaret Hodgson M515

The Metcalfe Society was represented strongly at the York event on 24 June, by Margaret Hodgson, David Metcalfe and Jo Heron.



The meeting was considered by the team to have been a success - our thanks to them. A lot of hard work goes into ensuring our presence and in promoting and marketing our unique Mecca brand at many similar events across the country.

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

It is pleasing to note the welcome flow of new members into the Society. I hope to hear from more of you regarding the details of your 'trees'. Edwin Metcalf has done much research on behalf of the Society but he had hit a 'brick wall' with his own line in Suffolk. However you will see below that the more recent availability of some Hertfordshire records online has changed that situation. Edwin would be interested to hear from any other members who realise that this may be a breakthrough for them as well.

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

M980 Mr Edwin G Metcalf

55 Swinton Rise, Ravenshead, Nottingham NG15 9FS
edwinmetcalf93@outlook.com

Grd s.o. Oliver William & Ellen (Weedon) Mt m 15 Jun 1907 Fornham St. Martin, Sfk. Oliver William bpt 22 Feb 1874 Withersfield, Sfk s.o. Simon & Maria (Lindsell) Md m 29 May 1871 Withersfield. Simon bpt 28 Jan 1844 Withersfield s.o. Charles & Lydia (Sparkes) Md m 1 Oct 1830 Withersfield. Charles bpt 19 Jun 1808 Withersfield s.o. George & Sarah (Copping) Md m 5 Nov 1795 Great Thurlow, Sfk. George bpt 8 Jun 1767 Great Thurlow s.o. Isaac & Elizabeth (Webb) Md m 11 Oct 1744 Great Wrating, Sfk. **Isaac ?? bpt 29 Apr 1718 Hertford s.o. Thomas & Anne (Woodfare) Md m 3 July 1706 Hertford. Thomas ?? bpt 4 Mar 1682/3 Thundrich, Herts s.o. William & Susan Md.**

Conn. M323 M980 M1204 M1434 M1445 M1499

M2042 Phil & Bev Taylor

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

Bev is 4× step grt grd d.o. Thomas & Margaret (Mte) Hopwood m 1842 Otley, Yks. Margaret b c1818 Croup House, Wharton, Wes d.o. John & Isabella (Garthwaite) Mte m 5 Nov 1811 Sedbergh. John b c1787 Ingleton.

Conn: M298

BIRTH BRIEFS CONTINUED

M2044 Ms Teresa Metcalf

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

D.o. Benjamin Franklin & Sarah Lou (Ford) Mt m 23 Dec 1962 Daville, Illinois USA. Benjamin Franklin b 10 Sep 1940 Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania s.o. Benjamin Franklin & Marie Minerva (Rodiger) Mt. Benjamin Franklin b 23 May 1913 Cristobal, Panama Canal Zone s.o. Benjamin Franklin & Rachel (Hanson) Mt. Benjamin Franklin b 22 Jan 1875 Kickapoo, Illinois s.o. Thomas Newton & Harriett Isabelle (Snell) Mt m 16 Aug 1873 Tazewell County, Illinois. Thomas Newton b c1850 s.o. Martin & Nancy (Lowder) Mt m 16 Jul 1849 Fulton, Illinois. Martin b c1818 New York

NEW MEMBERS**M2047 Mr Robert Metcalfe**

38 Fairview Drive South, Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920, USA
 rtmetcalfe@gmail.com

M2048 Mr Michael Herbert

46 Pine View Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 4HR
 herbertm2@sky.com

M2049 Mr Kevin Metcalf

7 Lancaster Mews, Westminster, London W23QE
 worm6226@hotmail.com

S.o. Ronald Lee & Teresa (Thomas) Mt m 1 Sept 1979 USA. Ronald Lee s.o. James Gaither & Alta Mae (Cornett) Mt m 1 Sept 1972 Lakeland, Florida. James Gaither b 9 May 1927 Burnsville, North Carolina s.o. Gaither James & Minnie G (McCormick) Mt m 18 Jun 1926 Forsyth County, NC. Gaither James b 10 Sep 1907 Paint Fork, NC s.o. Ellis Baxter & Minnie (Anderson) Mt m 16 Mar 1904 Madison, NC. Ellis Baxter b 31 Oct 1869 Madison County, NC s.o. James & Margaret Susan (Chambers) Mt. James b 31 July 1825 Madison County, NC s.o. Jacob Bascombe & Susan Elizabeth (Buckner) Mt. Jacob Bascombe b 29 Sep 1802 Yancey County, NC

M2050 Mr Ian Metcalfe

38 Longmead Avenue, Great Baddow, Chelmsford CM2 7EG
 il.metcalf@btinternet.com

M2051 Ms Jane Ford

31 Lower Croft, Swanley, Kent BR8 8BA
janeford66@hotmail.co.uk

D.o. Ronald Albert Henry & Pearl Mt m 4 Dec 1954 Orpington, Kent.
Ronald s.o. William Henry & Louisa Ann (Bambridge) Mt m 27 Jun 1925
Limehouse, London. William Henry b 23 Dec 1901 Stepney, London s.o.
Henry & Alice (Kitchingham) Mt m 1900 West Ham, London. Henry b 16
Dec 1876 Poplar, London s.o. John James & Sarah Louisa (Rendell) Mt m
1866 Poplar, London. John James b 18 May 1845 Poplar, London s.o. John
& Mary Ann (Speck) Mt m 28 Jul 1844 Stepney, London. John b c1815
Yorkshire s.o. John Mt

M2052 Mr Neil Metcalfe

8 Pavy Close, Thatcham, Reading RG19 4GR
njmetcalfe67@gmail.com

M2053 Ms Leanne Metcalfe

4 Galbraith Grove Rd, Yarker, Ontario K0K3NO Canada
mettieleanne@gmail.com

Grd d.o. Ronald & Beverley (Wright) Mte m Bath, Ontario, Canada. Ronald
b 30 May 1933 Amherst Island, Ontario s.o. Frederick Gerald & Gladys
Mildred (Corke) Mte. Frederick Gerald b 12 Aug 1911 Kingston, Surrey,
England s.o. Frederick Folger & Lucy Gertrude (Palmer) Mte m 28 Jul 1909
St John the Baptist, Hampton Wick, England. Frederick Folger b 19 Jul
1873 Kingston, Ontario, Canada s.o. James Henry & Margaret Jane (Clute)
Mte m Aug 1869 Frontenac, Ontario. James Henry b 8 Jan 1848 Kingston,
Ontario s.o. John & Gladwise Bridget (Matthews) Mte m 14 Jul 1846 King-
ston, Ontario. John b 14 Mar 1801 Yorescott, Bainbridge, Yks, England s.o,
James Mte of Yorescott.

Conn: M912

M2054 Mrs Roberta Anne Whitehall

8 Langridge Drive, East Grinstead, RH19 4SX
robbiewhitehall@aol.com

M2055 Ms Rebecca Whitchurch

746 S East Mountain Circle, Alpine, Utah 84004, USA
rebecca@whitchurch.net

D.o. Derek Frank & Maureen (Ottley) Mte m 5 Mar 1952 Wellington, New
Zealand. Derek Frank s.o. Frank & Anne (Greene) Mte m 22 Jul 1914 New
Zealand. Frank b 7 Oct 1888 Bolton, Lan, England s.o. Richard & 2nd wife

Margaret (Raw) Mte m 4 May 1874 Bolton. Richard bpt 30 Sep 1827 Bainbridge s.o. Richard Lawson & Elizabeth (Cockbone) Mte m 27 Jul 1825 Aysgarth. Richard Lawson bpt 12 May 1803 Askrigg s.o. James & Mary (Lawson) Mte m 13 May 1799 Askrigg. James bpt 21 Nov 1779 Askrigg s.o. James Mte of Bainbridge.

Conn: M86 M159 M177 M1982

M2056 Mr Robert E Metcalf

632 3rd Street West, Hastings, Minnesota 55033, USA
dossargentos@comcast.net

M2057 Ms Marilyn Cross

1 Middleton Close, Redditch, Worcestershire B98 0LX
marilyncross5@gmail.com

M2058 Miss J Lambert & Mrs Margaret Lambert

Bottoms Farm, 14 Bottoms Lane, Silverdale, Carnforth, Lancashire LA5 0TN
jjane.lambert58@btinternet.com

Jane d.o. John & Margaret (Rodgers) Lambert m 23 May 1953 Burton in Kendal, Cum. John s.o. John Jackson & Isabel (Dobson) Lambert m 23 Jan 1924 Silverdale, Lanc. John Jackson b 10 Jan 1898 Next Ness, Ulverston, Cum s.o. Richard George & Lydia Ann (Cole) Lambert m 5 May 1885 Egton-cum-Newland, Lanc. Richard George bpt 29 Nov 1862 Dent, Yks s.o. Lawrence & Jane (Metcalf) Lambert m 13 May 1851 Sedbergh. Jane bpt 19 Mar 1820 Sedbergh d.o. Richard & Jane (Canby) Mte m 28 Jun 1812 Sedbergh. Richard b 18 Jan 1789 Garsdale s.o. George & Isabel (Low) Mte m 13 May 1786 Hawes.

Conn: M270 M378 M844 M2029

M2059 Mr Robin Metcalfe

Hardenclough Farm, Edale, Hope Valley, Derbyshire S33 2ZL

S.o James Edmund & Joan (Oliver) Mte m 4 Dec 1954 Darlington. James E. b 29 Apr 1933 Darlington s.o. Edmund P (Ted) & Lily (Carter) Mte m 8 Aug 1925 Haughton le Skerne, Dur. Edmund P. b 18 Nov 1901 Darlington s.o. James & Edith Mary (Postlethwaite) Mte m 20 May 1895 Waberthwaite Cul. James b 19 Sept 1864 Colburn, Yks 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.

M2060 Rev. Anthony Metcalf

1127 Lodge Avenue, Evansville, Indiana 47714, USA
amm5172@gmail.com

S.o Michael Dennis & Deborah Marie (Brazeal) Mt m 25 Sep 1970 Flint, Genesee, Michigan USA. Michael Dennis s.o. Floyd Jefferson & Annette (Grammatico) Mt m 1 Aug 1938 Flint, Genesee, Michigan. Floyd Jefferson s.o. Felix Bryan & Grace Madie Lillian (Newbury) Mt m 29 May 1918 Clay, Arkansas. Felix Bryan b 26 May 1898 s.o. John William & Isabel Susan (Beard) Mt m 21 Mar 1878 Spencer, Indiana. John William s.o. Archibald W & Susan A (Roach) Md m 28 Nov 1850 Spencer, Indiana. Archibald W b c1829 s.o. John & Harriet Md. John b c1803 Kentucky.

M2061 Mrs Di Ann Tarhalla

18478 Deertrack Place, Salinas, California 93908, USA
dinca@tarhalla.com

M2062 Mrs Christine Braithwaite

Dale Contractors Ltd, Widow Hill Road, Burnley BB10 2TN
christine@dalecontractors.co.uk

Grd d.o. Alexander & Mary Ann (Tattersall) Caygill m 1911 Burnley Lan. Alexander b 1885 Aysgarth, Yks s.o. James & Ann (Dinsdale) Caygill m 1880 Hawes. James b 1860 Askrigg s.o. Thomas & Catherine (Mte) Caygill m 1849 Askrigg. Catherine bpt 26 Aug 1826 Askrigg d.o. William & Betty (Sagar) Mte m 6 Dec 1823 Aysgarth. William bpt 7 Nov 1790 Askrigg s.o. James & Catherine (Pratt) Mte m 16 Apr 1782 Askrigg. James b c1754.

Conn: M1015 M1025 M1455 M1690 M1829 M2041

M2063 Mrs Valerie Slater

4 Grenadier Drive, Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL6 1SB
val.slater@btinternet.com

Grt grd d.o. George & Catherine (Polden) Walls. George s.o. William & Ann (Coates) Walls. William b c1809 s.o. William (a) & 2nd wf. Isabella (Heseltine nee Metcalfe) Walls m 2 Nov 1807 Coverham, Yks. Isabella bpt 15 Mar 1767 Aysgarth d.o. Christopher & Elizabeth (Dinsdale) Mte m 27 Aug 1755 Aysgarth. Christopher bpt 26 Jul 1730 Askrigg s.o. George & 2nd wf Isabel (Pratt) Mte m 14 Jan 1721 Askrigg. George s.o. George Mte.

Conn: M27 M483 M965 M1699

(a) William's 1st wf was also a Metcalfe. William & Mary (Mte) m 5 Jul 1791 Coverham. Mary b c1760.

Conn: M27

M2064 Mrs Marion Moverley

26 Lyons Road, Richmond, North Yorkshire DL10 4NS
moverley.yorkshire@outlook.com

M2065 Mr James & Mrs Catherine Lewis

375 No. Cambridge Drive, Geneva, Illinois 60134, USA
jimlewis375@gmail.com

M2066 Mr Matthew Metcalfe

1 Bridge End Field, Millthorp, Sedbergh, Cumbria LA10 5SJ
metcalfe2000@icloud.com

WILLS PROJECT REPORT

Thanks again to the hard work of the transcribers, Margaret Metcalfe, Joan Metcalfe, Jennifer Metcalf and Edwin Metcalf, there is another good list of additions to the Wills Database. Soon there will be 2000 records there! I think this is a great achievement of all the volunteer effort that has gone into this resource.

As you will see, there are a number of records from County Durham. The North East Inheritance database, a project of the University of Durham, is the source of the originals which have then been transcribed. The University has linked up with Family Search to make some of the probate records available online. Those of you who have other family surnames in County Durham may well find this a good resource to check for wills and administrations of your ancestors. To look at this go to www.dur.ac.uk/library and then to 'Special Collections' and then to 'Projects'. Below is their description of their North East Inheritance project:

'The North East Inheritance project has created an online catalogue of over 150,000 wills and related archives (parts of the Durham Probate Records collection), from across County Durham, Tyne and Wear and Northumberland. The wills date from the 16th Century to the mid 19th Century (1858) and many are accompanied by inventories of the goods belonging to the deceased. They represent almost all the surviving wills and inventories proved within the region during the period, and provide an invaluable insight into North East people and communities, their family relationships, trades and lifestyles. The project is part funded with a £274,500 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.' Happy searching!

Please do keep sending any Metcalfe wills from your own researches.

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.

- 1665 Jane Metcalfe of Buckden, Yorkshire
- 1665 William Metcalfe of York
- 1668 Bryan Metcalfe of Skeckling in Holderness (nr Burstwick, E Yks)
- 1668 John Metcalfe of Holbeck, Leeds
- 1670 William Metcalfe of Baildon, Yorkshire
- 1671 Ralph Metcalfe of Kirklevington, near Yarm
- 1678 Robert Metcalfe of Leeds
- 1679 Thomas Metcalfe of North Otterington, Yorkshire
- 1682 Ursula Metcalfe of Harome, Yorkshire
- 1746 Isabell Metcalfe of Marrick, Yorkshire (administration)
- 1746 Richard Metcalfe of Carperby, Yorkshire (administration)
- 1750 Alexander Metcalfe of Stallingbusk, Yorkshire (administration)
- 1752 John Metcalfe of Lunds, Aysgarth (administration)
- 1753 Ann Metcalfe of Askrigg, Yorkshire (administration)
- 1785 Esther Metcalf of Seaton Carew, County Durham (administration)
- 1788 Mary Metcalf of Stockton, County Durham
- 1793 Ann Metcalfe of Bishopwearmouth, County Durham
- 1810 Margaret Metcalf of Durham, County Durham
- 1821 Elizabeth Metcalfe of Stockton, County Durham
- 1822 Thomas Metcalf of Barnard Castle, County Durham
- 1843 John Metcalf of Durham, County Durham
- 1851 Henry Metcalf of South Shields, County Durham
- 1851 John Metcalf of Newcastle upon Tyne
- 1874 Jacob Mitcalf (Metcalf) of Madison County, North Carolina

A FAMOUS FOOT RACER – JAMES METCALF

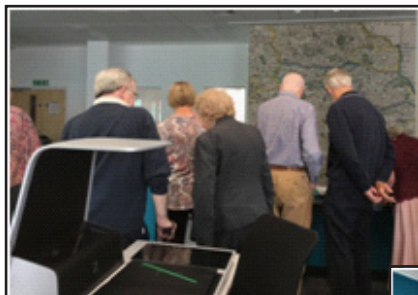
James Metcalf was a renowned athlete in the early 19th century and often started as favourite in races which attracted very heavy betting. He raced a Captain Parker in 1824 at Doncaster over 1,800 yards and won after giving the Captain 40 yards start. James was apparently dressed in pink and the captain in a tight blue jacket, white cap and buff shoes.

In 1825 he beat a Mr. Halton at York, after giving his opponent 30 yards start, and beat him again, prize 1,000 sovereigns, over York race-course giving away a 20 yards start. In 1828, he won against James Buckley, a Lancashire man, over 4 miles at Doncaster racecourse.

Yorkshire Group of Family History Societies by Jo Heron M1042

The Mecca News December 2017

I was only able to attend the first part of the meeting this year, however, the speaker was Teresa Nixon, County Archivist for West Yorkshire. She explained that county wide collections were being housed in Wakefield at the new History Centre, but those collections specific to one of the five West Yorkshire districts were being housed in the local archives in Bradford, Calderdale (Halifax), Kirklees and Leeds (Morley). West Yorkshire Archeological Society (WYAS) is negotiating with the Heritage Quay at Huddersfield University to take the Kirklees archive, which will involve an extension to the current HQ plus an outstore building on the campus.



WYAS is the largest archive service outside London. Holdings date from 12th Century to present, some of which have been digitised. They take any written material relevant to the West Yorkshire area.

The new History Centre in Wakefield holds the Registry of Deeds, 12 million title deeds dating from 18th century (the precursor to Land Registry) and such additional items as the West Yorkshire Pauper & Lunatic Collection.



The new archive has an exhibition space, currently WWI based, but this will change to an exhibition on coal mining in September. Some collections may be split between archive buildings depending on whether the material is wholly county wide or more local.

Collection guides are available online via the web site, which is searchable, and the staff are involved in a number of projects including the Anne Lister diaries. Photography is allowed at the WYAS offices using cameras and/or mobile phones, with some restrictions, such as flash, and a daily charge is made.

The History Centre is five minutes (or less) walk from Kirkgate station in Wakefield, or there is parking £2.50 per day nearby. Any further details re facilities - please let me know.

Private Samuel Edward Metcalfe A Cleveland who would not be denied Service Mike Pope – Editor

Samuel Edward Metcalfe was born in July 1896 in Dunsdale North Yorkshire, just to the north of Guisborough the principal market town of East Cleveland. Dunsdale is a small village populated in the late 19th and early 20th century, mainly by workers in the nearby ironstone mines.



He was the son of John Francis Metcalfe, originally an agricultural labourer, and his wife Agnes Teresa, both from Easingwold near York. The family had moved up to Cleveland in about 1894 for work after the development of ironstone mines in the area, and John was an ironstone miner. Edward was baptised in the Primitive Methodist Church of Guisborough on 14 July 1896.

His name appears on the war memorial outside St Nicholas' Parish Church Guisborough, as one of the many men of the area who were killed during WWI. However, his regiment is shown as The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, so how was it that he was not fighting in one of the Yorkshire or South Durham battalions? The story is tragic, though little less so than that of his compatriots who died in their hundreds of thousands in both the western and eastern theatres of the war.

By 1911, Edward was living with his Aunt Annie and Uncle William in Chilvers Coton near Nuneaton, in the Warwickshire mining district. His aunt was also born in Easingwold and so her family must also have moved to seek work, and by coincidence also in a mining area. His uncle was a colliery labourer, but Edward was working in a felt hat manufacturing factory at the age of 14 years. This occupation might indicate that he was of slight stature and not built for mine work, since there must have been opportunities for such work back home in Cleveland.



He clearly volunteered early in 1915 in the first waves of recruitment following the destruction of the BEF in France and Belgium in late 1914.

He attested at Nuneaton in the South Lancashire Regiment on 27 April 1915, occupation miner, so by then at 19 years old he must have moved to colliery work anyway.



His attestation confirms that he had a slight physique being only 5 feet 3 inches in height and weighing only 8 stones. By 21 May 1915, only 25 days into his service, he was discharged as "not being likely to become an effective soldier" by reason of being "under chest measurement and expansion".

Edward however was not to be denied and he obviously went straight out to another local recruiting office and joined The Royal Warwickshire Regiment who were clearly less particular whom they took on.



He was trained in the 9th Battalion which embarked at Avonmouth in HMT Royal Edward on 18 June for Malta, Alexandria, Lemnos and then Gallipoli.

The regimental strength was not quite at establishment level but comprised 31 officers and 922 other ranks.

On 16th July 1915 the regiment took over the firing and support trenches on the extreme left of the line at Essex Ravine from the 6th battalion East Lancashire regiment and the 7th battalion Worcester regiment. Edward did not sail with them however, as he would not have been fully trained, and he joined them in a reinforcement deployment later in the year.

On 30 September 1915 he entered the Balkans theatre of war and by November he was with the 9th Battalion at Gallipoli, which strength had already been eroded, mainly by sickness, rather than death or wounding in action, from 922 to 707 other ranks, an appalling attrition rate.

On 26 November 1915, a catastrophic event occurred which would claim the lives of Edward and many of his fellow soldiers.

The 9th battalion war diary describes the situation eloquently.

21 November

Occupied trenches. Fatigue of 100 men digging at night.
Strength Other Ranks (OR) 707

26 November

In the evening about 6pm a terrific thunderstorm came on, flooding the whole of our trenches completely, sweeping away all the parapets and paradoss, filling all the dugouts, washing away kits and burying trench stores. This storm lasted 6 hours, up to nearly midnight. Strength Other Ranks (OR) 686

27 November

Following flooding of the trenches, frost set in, putting the officers and men, who were drenched, in a very bad condition, not having been able to dry their clothing. Strength Other Ranks (OR) 680

28 November

Trenches occupied and parapets being repaired but men in a critical condition through exposure, several men dying of exposure.
Casualties: died 3 (note died, not killed), wounded 1, sick 48
Strength 625

29 November

Same as yesterday. Frost still continues, men suffering from exposure
Casualties: died 2, wounded 3, sick 45. Strength 575

Between 21st and 30th November, the battalion strength had been reduced from 707 to just 483 and this involved only 1 soldier killed and 14 wounded. Five had died and the rest were very sick as a result of the storm and subsequent freezing conditions.

Samuel Edward Metcalfe was one of the two soldiers who died, not from enemy action, but of exposure, on that day 29 November 1915 at Gallipoli. He had striven to circumvent army regulations which should have prevented him serving, and died, a very brave man, who was stubbornly intent on serving his country, far from his native Yorkshire.

He was posthumously awarded the 1915 Star and the British and Victory Medals, and recorded as killed in action. His father must have been broken hearted as he had already lost his wife Agnes Teresa, Edward's mother, in 1901.

Mike Pope M1919 Editor

The Nidderdale Brewery of Pateley Bridge by Michael Peel M1698

The advertisement shown below for the Nidderdale Brewery is from a booklet "Pateley Bridge & Neighbourhood in 1890" published by the Nidderdale Publishing Company, page 82. The back cover says "republished 1979 copyright Brian Loomes & Ian Rawson-Lax."

82 ESTABLISHED 1777.

NIDDERDALE BREWERY

PATELEY BRIDGE.



JOHN METCALFE & SON'S
Pure and Unrivalled Yorkshire Ales.

Price List	Pale Bitter Ale & A. 10 per gal.	T HESE High-class ALES will be found suitable also for good Restaurants and Hotels, ordinary private consumption, and for invalids. They are specially recommended by members of the MEDICAL PROFESSION.
	Pale Ale..... 100 14	
	Light Bitter Ale 10 14	
	Mild Ale..... 100 14	
	Stout..... 100 14	
Porter..... 10		
	In Casks of 24, 36, 48, 72, 96, & 120 Gallons. CARBONATE PAID.	

Here are a couple of quotes from current web sites.

<http://www.pateleybridgecouncil.org.uk/history.php>:

"The Metcalfe family provided much of the development of Pateley Bridge and surrounding area with its investment in mills, quarrying and breweries. George Metcalfe in particular was instrumental in bringing the railways to Nidderdale."

Continued overleaf.

<http://www.hampsthwaite.org.uk/348>:

"On the 24th June 1868 William Briggs Metcalfe (Unique record number 96387, brother of John Hawkrige Metcalfe – well worth looking up), a Brewer of Harrogate, conveyed to George Metcalfe (his brother?) of Castlestead, Pateley Bridge, a Flax-spinner, his one-half share in "the mesuage tenement or dwelling house now and heretofore used as an inn"....

In the conveyance of 1868 George Metcalfe is described as a Flax Spinner and it may be that it was the acquisition of the Joiner's Arms which set him on the path of becoming a brewer. Certainly, by 1897, that is what he became, for on the 15th January in that year we find him so described when he conveys to John Metcalfe & Son Ltd a host of properties connected to the brewing industry."

<http://www.nidderdalemuseum.com/local-history/remembrance-in-nidderdale/>

"From the 1880s, Pateley Bridge had a Volunteer Corps of young men, the fore-runner of the Territorial Army. They trained in the Drill Hall, part of the Old Brewery in Bridgehousegate, and the officers of the Corps were the landed gentry and other important people from the area, including Lieutenant John Hawkrige Metcalfe (Unique record number 58069, brother of William Briggs Metcalfe) who was one of the commanders."

Michael Peel M1698

ANNIVERSARIES

In **May 1917**, the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission** was established by Royal Charter. The Prince of Wales served as President, and **Sir Fabian Ware** as Vice-Chairman. Ware, who was neither a soldier, nor a politician, had been the commander of a mobile unit of the British Red Cross. He felt driven to find a way to ensure the final resting places of the WWI dead would not be lost forever and under his dynamic leadership, his unit began recording and caring for all the graves they could find. View at <https://www.cwgc.org/about-us/history-of-the-cwgc>

150 years ago, on **1 July 1867**, the **Dominion of Canada** was formed. One of our illustrious clan, **Sir Charles Theophilus Metcalfe** (1785–1844), First Baron Metcalfe was appointed to the post of Governor General of the Province of Canada and Lieutenant Governor of Canada West and East from 1843–1845 and of course, 190 years ago this year, in 1827 he was a member of Supreme Council of India and from 1833 - 1838 provisional Governor General of India. **David Lambert M11 - Chairman**

Society News

OBITUARIES

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

Edna May Metcalfe on 20 July 2016, wife of Geoff Metcalfe of Harrogate.

Joyce Eileen Metcalfe on 25th June 2017 aged 88. Isle of Wight County Press - sent by Peter Ednay M1244.

Kathleen Metcalf nee Richardson on 21 October 2017 originally of West Bridgeford, now Calverton, Nottingham.

Ian Reginald Metcalfe on 2 November 2017 aged 83 years, husband of Irene Metcalfe, of Weaverham, Cheshire.

GRAVESTONES



St. Mary
Burnham
Deepdale
Norfolk



St. Mary
Stalham
Norfolk



St. Margaret
Witton
Norfolk



St. Joseph RC
Mandarin
Jacksonville
Florida



The River Swale at Thwaite, Upper Swaledale, Yorkshire