

MECCA NEWS

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THE MECCA NEWS

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represent the views of the Editor or the Metcalfe Society*

Editorial Musings by Michael Pope M1919

A very warm welcome to all the members of The Metcalfe Society and indeed to any Metcalfes who have been given a Mecca News past or present to read, in the hope that they might decide to join the Clan and participate in the proceedings of our most excellent worldwide family. We probably preceded the whole concept of globalisation in the widespread nature of our diaspora and I offer particularly kind regards to our members in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the United States, and in continental Europe.

These are truly momentous times and who knows where we will be by the end of 2019 in terms of both Brexit and the constitution of the committee of this Society. "Let me be clear", is a phrase frequently and disingenuously employed by many politicians at the moment, as the Brexit steamroller trundles on, but it is about as clear as a water damaged 14th century manorial roll whither we are headed, and we may have an entirely different trading position with all the above named countries before the year is out.

The consequences of Brexit on the Society itself are difficult to predict, but might impact on exchange rates and the cost of membership, and perhaps the facility with which members researching their ancestors in the EU can access records - who knows?

What is known, is that there are very significant changes afoot in the Metcalfe Society in the coming year and by December 2019 we will almost certainly have lost accumulatively, over 75 years of experience in the top three roles of a committee which has run the organisation in a highly competent way for over 30 years. Our Chairman David Lambert has a most serious message on this matter in his Jottings later in the magazine which is essential reading in my view.

We have just lost stalwart committee members in Margaret Hodgson and Diane Howarth, and in less than a further year we will need a new Chairman and Treasurer/Vice Chairman. I will be stepping down in 2020, with the December 2020 Mecca News being my last offering as I retire from the committee.

We currently have 12 defined committee roles in the running of the Society, and although we are working on rationalising our structure, at the commencement of January 2021, only 24 months away, we will have only 5 people to run the Society.

I implore the membership to try to find some time, even if for just a few years, to volunteer for committee roles and to ensure the continuation of a club which has been the envy of many other organisations in the family history and genealogical field. This edition concentrates repeatedly on our parlous position, but I make no apologies for that fact, as I sincerely hope that the Mecca Clan can move on to a secure and worthy future with a new management team.

Also of great moment, is the fact of the 100th anniversary of the Armistice in November 1918 and as I write this editorial there are commemorations involving most of the political leaders in the west and elsewhere. The completion of the First World War project headed by Jo Heron and Peter Dobson, and the issuing of a really excellent booklet, is a landmark for the Clan and I commend the publication to you all.

Between my wife's family and mine, five of our ancestors were killed during the conflict. Both my wife's grandfathers were wounded and my paternal grandfather, who was a regular soldier and cavalryman who fought right through the war, returned utterly changed men, as did millions of British soldiers, nurses and medical staff when hostilities ended.

The sad fact is that, along the way, politicians appear to have learned little from the "war to end all wars" and heeded almost nothing of the messages left to us in print by the war poets and other writers. As soon as conflicts end the armed services are reduced and funding slashed until we start all over again. At least we have improved, and are continuing to develop, support for those who are physically and mentally wounded whilst undertaking the protection of our country, which we too often take for granted.

This edition carries an article on the superb WWI installations of the artist Dan Metcalfe as well as an excellent offering from regular Andrew Metcalfe on a Metcalfe whitesmith which, as a metallurgist, I particularly enjoyed.

I wish you all complements of the festive season wherever you live.

	£	Euros	\$US	\$Can	\$Aus	\$NZ
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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 6 October 2018

The Mecca Muster 2018 was held on 6th October for the fourth time at Tennant's in Leyburn Wensleydale and is now established as the Eastern Wensleydale depot for the annual Society jamboree.



Members and guests were welcomed by the highly efficient double act of Jo Heron our Membership, Sales and Enquiries Secretary, amongst other duties (left) and Liz Waller (right) who we were very pleased to see again at the Muster. Jo processed 64 attendees which was slightly down on last year, but the members made up for the shortfall with great enthusiasm for the day's events.

The Chairman David Lambert welcomed the attendees, outlined the usual comprehensive agenda for the day, thanked all those who had travelled to Leyburn, some from considerable distance, and opened the AGM at 1000hrs.





The Chairman indicated that the Society was fulfilling its obligations and that the financial status was secure for the moment, but that costs were rising and membership and thus revenue was not what it was some years ago. David transmitted the good news that the membership fee would stay as it was at £15 for the moment, but warned that increases were inevitable in the future.

The election of officers proceeded without a hitch and David Lambert was confirmed as Chairman, Peter Dobson as Treasurer and Vice Chairman, Jo Heron as Membership, Enquiries, Sales and Conference Secretary, David Metcalfe as Database Keeper, Martin Metcalfe DNA Project, Mike Pope Editor, and two new Trustees, Dave C. Metcalfe as Web Administrator and Sam Benson Social Media.

Margaret Hodgson, who has stepped down as Secretary after over 25 years committee service, although continuing as Archivist and Wills Project Leader, was warmly thanked by the Chairman for her years of hard work for the Society, and presented with a bouquet of flowers.



Immediately after the closure of the AGM, Editor Mike Pope gave a short presentation on the intention to move towards e-journals, indicating that from April 2019 onwards, every member would be sent an electronic pdf of the Mecca News, but that all those who wished to retain a paper copy could do so.



Jo Heron then officially launched the new World War I booklet produced by Peter Dobson and herself - see later.



Coffee, tea and biscuits were taken after the AGM proceedings, offering an opportunity to talk with old friends and swap brick wall stories.



Proceedings then continued with an excellent talk by Jackie Depelle on Manorial Records which was extremely well received and scored at the top of the satisfaction ratings for the day.

The presentation provided a valuable practical insight into the location of the records and an outline of their content and later comments indicated that many members would follow up the opportunities which this line of research presented.

Jackie also provided a sheet with details on how Manorial Records investigations could be pursued - see later.



Peter and Joan Metcalfe above, and Denny and Karen Minnitt left, relax after Jackie's talk. Peter realised he had an old colleague in Dr David Severs who was giving the afternoon presentation - another Muster link made!

During the lunch break, new committee Trustee Dave C. Metcalfe and wife Ros using strongarm tactics to market items from the Sales Table. They were eminently successful and on the day generated an incredible £490 of income for the Metcalfe Society.



Martha Canipe from the USA left and right Jeremy and Maggie Metcalfe.



Rosemary and Peter Netzel left and President Nina Benson with grandson Sam Benson, new committee trustee covering Social Media, talking with John Houghton Chippendale.



Following the lunch break, we had a very interesting presentation by Dr David Severs on Clocks, with particular reference to Wensleydale and the Metcalfe name.

David had undertaken a "lifesaving" journey back to his home in Northallerton to retrieve a second copy of his talk, following the disappearance of his presentation from the lap-top driving the Muster proceedings. We were immensely grateful for his stalwart efforts, and the talk generated quite a few questions from clock owners and metallurgists interested in both provenance and materials.

Many thanks to Jo Heron for a most successful organisation of this year's Muster, to Liz Waller for her help, and to Margaret Metcalfe and Dave C. and Ros Metcalfe for running a highly lucrative raffle, which raised a very commendable £120 and brought Muster receipts to just under £1000.



We are very grateful that Rodney Tennant again gave freely of his valuable time to conduct a tour of the Garden Rooms, commence the raffle and perform some personal valuations of member's artefacts. The chairman closed the meeting around 1630hrs, thanked all the organisers and attendees and said that he was looking forward to seeing everyone again at Tennant's in October 2019.

The event had been very successful and both speakers, the AGM, presentation on electronic journals, the displays, location and format, all scored above 75% on the satisfaction survey. **Mike Pope Editor**

Jo Heron - A Personal Portrait

Membership, Enquiries, Sales and Conference Secretary

Born and brought up on Teesside, I went to college in Leeds in the mid sixties, lived and worked in the Leeds area for over 20 years, before going to Sheffield to study for a degree in archaeology.



On graduation, I lived and worked at the University until the early noughties, when I retired early. Since then, I have moved to the Wakefield area, worked for a mobile scanning company and finally 'retired' last year.

Aside from 'work', I was Secretary for the Yorkshire Archaeological Society for 17 years, and involved with their Roman Antiquities Section for longer. I have also worked with the Medieval Section of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Huddersfield and District Archaeological Society and the Wakefield Historical Society. More recently, I have been involved with the Council for British Archaeology – Yorkshire.

My maternal grandparents always lived close to us, and they had a major impact on the lives of myself and my brothers. I spent a lot of free time with them. They had emigrated to Teesside in 1918, following their marriage, and my grandfather worked in the steel works initially and later, for the local Council as a gardener. They took me to visit our family in Ireland as a toddler, and I have strong memories of that trip – although I went again with my parents the following year and have no memory of that visit at all!!! Obviously, that first trip had a much greater influence on me.

My father had been orphaned as a 6 year old boy, and was brought up by his mother's brother – and he had no inclination to find out about his family, hence it was not until he died that I decided to try to trace my family tree. A very loose connection to Hartlepool was confirmed when I traced his father's marriage and death. I had a photograph of my grandfather in uniform with details of his regiment on the back – obviously taken when he enlisted – for WW1 as I expected. Investigations by a military researcher have shown that he joined up about 1911, signed on for an extra year and eventually left in 1916.

I spent a few days in Alnwick, which is where he came from, and found the three addresses the family had lived in, the church in which my grandparents were married, the cemetery where they were buried and dates of their deaths. That really started my enthusiasm for family history.



I had found that my maternal grandmother was called Susannah Metcalfe, although I had no other information about her. At a chance visit to the York Genealogical Fair, I came across the "Metcalfe Society' stall. Nina Benson and Diane Howarth were 'on duty' and Nina offered to find out about my Metcalfe tree. Once I had sent her the detail I possessed, she linked my descent to quite an extensive line which includes Charles Metcalfe, past President. Having joined the Society, I went along to the Muster at Askham Bryan, and have attended each one since, and have also joined the Committee, eventually taking on responsibility for the Shop and Membership, and more recently for enquiries and organisation of the annual Muster.

The Musters are a brilliant way to meet other extended family members. It is great to know that everyone attending is connected somewhere along the line, even those from vast distances away. There is such a friendly atmosphere with members exchanging their stories and news, and lots of help available if you are stuck. You haven't lived Family History until you have attended one of our Musters.

Jo Heron M1042

THE METCALFES NEED YOU



AVOID CONSCRIPTION,
VOLUNTEER AND SIGN UP
FOR A CAREER IN THE MODERN METCALFES

The Metcalfe "Regiment" **desperately** needs your help.

We have **10 committee positions**, but by **end 2020**, following
4 retirements, we will have only **5 troops** to fill them.

We need a **Chairman, a Treasurer, an Editor, a Secretary** and
one more general committee member to run the Society.
If we do not recruit, the Metcalfe Society will certainly die.

If you would like to serve your Clan
Contact David Lambert at chairman@metcalfe.org
or e-mail any committee member address in Mecca News.

Chairman's Jottings

I write this a few days before the 100th anniversary of the Armistice which resulted in the end of World War 1. During the last 4 years Jo Heron has co-ordinated our World War 1 Project and many of you have sent her details from your family history of your family's involvement.

To mark the centenary, Peter Dobson has edited, in collaboration with Jo Heron, some of your stories and available information in our latest publication entitled *Metcalfes at War: the Great War 1914-19*.

It is a fascinating assembly of information and images set against some of the main events of the 4 year War. In my opinion a worthy way to commemorate all those who lived and died during the Great War.

The first copies were sold at our October Annual Muster. We took the opportunity of including separately (on either a CD Rom or Memory Card (USB stick)) a great deal of additional specific information about members of the family, rather than incorporating such detail in the text of the book itself. If you want to learn more about your Metcalfe Ancestors buy a copy, as it has consolidated information in one place for you and could save you time.

We sold 21 copies of the book at the Muster with the USB Memory Card being the more popular format of the additional data. You can locate casualty records, images, war maps, details of Metcalfes who died, links to members' ancestors about whom we have data in our records, and North Riding Conscription Appeals to name a few of the items.

Thousands of names! An excellent booklet and well worth buying whether you were at the Muster or not.

Contact Jo Heron if you would like to buy one - it would make a good Christmas present! It currently retails at £10 for the book plus CD Rom, or £12 for the book and USB. These prices might increase in 2019 but will apply for the rest of this year.

By way of drawing our World War 1 Project to an end, I would like to recount how, after the Muster, I happened upon a fine commemorative exhibition in Ripon Cathedral entitled "Fields of Mud, Seeds of Hope" created by Dan Metcalfe and others. Amazing how one can stumble upon members of the Metcalfe Clan when not looking! Dan was the Installation Artist and Project lead and comes from a local North Yorkshire farming Metcalfe family.

He studied at Agricultural College but now is no longer in farming, having set up, as his website says, as “a landscaper in an attempt to find an outlet for his growing creativity.”

The Ripon Exhibition will have ended by the time you read this, but it comprised essentially, sculptures made from dried mud dug up on the Flanders battle-fields, into which have been sown poppy seeds. My description belies its impact, so I urge you to look at the website for a better impression: www.fieldsofmud.co.uk. If interested, you can make donations to linked charities and possibly buy part of the exhibition sculptures.

A Wall of Memory formed part of the exhibition allowing you to remember one of the fallen. I chose to remember a farmer Ralph Tiplady Metcalfe, who lived at Bainbridge Ings Farm near Hawes.

When preparing the displays for the Muster I chanced upon an index to, and the results of, appeals in the North Riding against Conscription (1916-1917). Ralph, a farmer of 98 acres carrying 26 head of cattle, 64 ewes and 70 lambs, appealed successfully 3 times against conscription, because there was no one to take over his small-holding.

Eventually however he was required to serve and sadly he died after being wounded soon after arrival in Italy. It seemed appropriate to commemorate him in 2018. There are more details about him in our Databases, available to members of course via the Website. One of our members has given details of his life and death as you can see.

Whilst searching for records about him I noted a false trail online. It was stated that he was buried at Muker, but that is wrong. He is buried in Italy in the British section of a WW1 cemetery and commemorated, as our member correctly states, on his parent's grave in Hardraw Church. Do not believe everything you see online! Nor for that matter in writing, since on one of his appeals, he is described as living at Bainbridge not Hawes!

Whilst the WW1 project has come to an end, we are starting on a commemoration of World War 2 which commenced 80 years ago next September. Jo Heron has volunteered to take the lead on this new project for us and you will be hearing more about it in the coming months.

I refer above to this year's Muster. From the comments passed to me and the committee and the replies to our feed-back forms, there was general overall enjoyment and satisfaction.

Our two speakers, Jackie Depelle on 'Manorial Records', and David Severs on 'Clockmakers' with especial reference to Metcalfes, were well received. I have written to both to thank them. They were judged the best part of the day by most, along with our editor's presentation on the proposed PDF format of Mecca News, (more about which see this edition of Mecca News).

The most appreciated part of the day was the welcome on arrival and I would second that. Jo and Liz Waller (good to see her looking so well) had everything very well organised and were great greeters!

The AGM overall even received a high rating - something unusual but possibly because it did not take too long!

There were criticisms or low ratings: lack of biscuits with teas and coffees for one, plus the lack of commentary on the valuations. This was due to the fact that Rodney Tennant was reluctant this year publicly to value the items (we had three) and addressed his comments to the owners direct.

We do consider what you say and will be organising next year's Muster shortly with your views in mind.

It will take place at Tennants on October 5th 2019.

The AGM saw the retirement of Margaret Hodgson after over 20 years on the committee, where she has been our committee and minute secretary. An enormous void has been left as a result, which we have to fill, although thankfully, whilst off the committee, she is continuing to act as Archivist and co-ordinator of the Wills Project.

Diane Howarth, prior to the Muster, advised the committee that she would be stepping down with immediate effect. She has been a powerhouse and driving force on the committee, in aggregate, for over 20 years. Another hard act to follow! Thanks to both of them for all they have done and achieved for us.

So two very enthusiastic and dynamic committee members have been lost to us.

More positively at the AGM we elected 2 new members onto the committee: Dave C. Metcalfe and Sam Benson. They were co-opted earlier in the year but now have been elected by the members. Details about both will be found elsewhere in this edition.

I am afraid that like many other societies, we are approaching the point where long standing committee members are leaving the committee and we are finding it hard to replace them quickly. This year with Dave C. Metcalfe and Sam Benson, we have been most fortunate, although neither of them are taking on the vacated roles.

We will need to find at least 3 more committee members in the coming 2 years. We will be losing Peter as Treasurer in April 2020 and Mike as Editor in less than 3 years. I also made it plain last year and repeated this year that I wish to retire from the committee as chairman in 2019. I too will have been involved with the committee for over 20 years, and chairman I think, for 20 years. Far too long as I keep saying!

It is up to you. If we are unable to replace committee members, the Society will not be able to continue and will die. Something that you, I feel sure, would not wish to happen, but it will do, unless in the next 2 years we are able to secure the assistance of more volunteers to run the Society.

On a more positive note, the committee clearly do not want this to happen and we have held a strategic planning day. We looked at how the Society should continue when it celebrates its 40th anniversary (2020) and beyond. We discussed what the Society is trying to achieve and what changes we ought to make to ensure that the Society continues to attract new members, as well as retaining long-standing loyal ones, taking into account the availability of more information and research opportunities.

Just as Rome was not built in a day, nor was a day long enough for the committee to come up with all the answers by any means! Several committee members have been tasked to report on specific topics to our scheduled committee meeting in Spring 2019. More on the 'The Way Ahead' next year!

One of the replies to the Muster questionnaire said "Profound thanks to all who spent many hours ensuring the rest of us had such an enjoyable day". Those remarks were much appreciated. May I extend those words to thank all my fellow committee members in 2018 for working so hard this year on your behalf, to ensure that the Society functions for the enjoyment and enlightenment of all of us?

Christmas will be a few days away when you receive this. I wish you all well for the Festive Season and trust you will have a very Happy and successful 2019.

David Lambert Chairman

Henry Metcalfe & Son Whitesmiths of Woodstock.

By Andrew Metcalfe M1915

In the eighteenth century, the Oxfordshire town of Woodstock (or New Woodstock as it was then known) gained a reputation for excellence in the art of whitesmithing. The man generally credited for the establishment of the whitesmithing trade there was Henry Metcalfe.

The Cabinet Cyclopaedia of 1846 provides the following definition: "The whitesmith, or brightsmith, as the term implies, is an artificer who makes and finishes articles chiefly in iron and steel with a bright surface, by means of the file and the turning-lathe, in contradistinction to the blacksmith." However, this definition fails adequately to describe the processes used by the Metcalfes in the manufacturing of exquisite jewellery in their workshop at Woodstock.



Short sword hilt decorated with Woodstock cut-steel polished studs
From Oxfordshire Museums Service

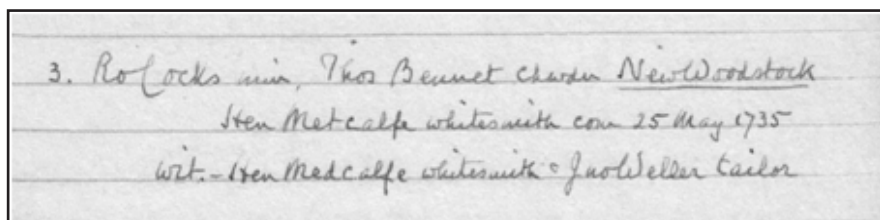
British History Online says "Woodstock jewellery was noted for its unusual lustre and its use of screws rather than rivets, which eased polishing. It was sold in London and its international reputation was spread by fashionable tourists: in 1759 buckles were ordered for the King of Prussia, and in 1768 the King of Denmark on a visit to Blenheim, bought gloves and steel.

Because of elaborate decoration even small items such as scissors were 'amazing dear', selling for 30 guineas or more.

The [Woodstock] corporation in 1802 paid c. £38 for a box in which to present to Viscount Clifden the freedom of the borough; a Garter star for the Duke of Marlborough cost 50 guineas and a 2 oz chain sold in France for £170."

Henry senior appears three times in the Oxfordshire Quarter Sessions records. Firstly in the Michaelmas session of 1720 he was indicted along with William Herbert for insulting and imprisoning one David Evans. Interestingly Henry's occupation was given as 'labourer'. Secondly he witnessed John Appletree, gent, take communion on 10th April 1726.

The establishment of the time would only give public office to Protestants and anyone wishing to apply for such an office had to prove their Protestantism by taking communion. This had to be witnessed and a certificate was issued as proof. Then, touchingly, on 25 May 1735 he witnessed his own son take communion in a similar fashion. The seventeen year old Henry junior evidently desired to take public office.



Transcript from the Quarter Sessions: Ro[bert] Cocks min[ister],
 Thos Bennet ch[urch]w[ar]d[e]n New Woodstock.
 Hen Metcalfe whitesmith [took] com[munion] 25 May 1735
 Wit. - Hen Medcalfe whitesmith & Jno Weller tailor

Henry senior died and was buried at Woodstock in April 1738 and Ann his wife followed suit in June 1748.

On 22nd October 1753, Henry junior was visited by Reinhold Angerstein, who was, as it turns out, an industrial spy from Sweden, in Woodstock to report on the whitesmithing trade there. He reported that "The principal articles made here are watch-chains, watch-keys, buckles, toe-buckles, buckles for men's shirt fronts, corkscrews, nutcrackers, buttons etc."

Angerstein wrote that he found "no more than three masters here, each with two or three workers". The three masters were Henry Metcalfe, George Eldridge (the man whom Henry senior had apprenticed in 1719) and a Mr Grantham. Grantham could well be the Thomas Grantham to whom George Eldridge promised that he could buy Eldridge's shop when he died.

It has been said that the raw material for the Woodstock whitesmithing trade was primarily second-hand Swedish steel horseshoe nails.

One could well imagine the Swedes being curious to find out where all these second-hand horseshoe nails were going. Is that what prompted Angerstein's visit in the first place?

Whilst Henry junior was in a rush to take public office, he was not in a similar rush to get married.

He was probably in his late 30s when he married Sarah. They baptised two children at the chapel in New Woodstock; Henry in 1756 and Mary in 1757. The child Henry did not make his first birthday. We know that Mary went on to marry John Horner in 1787, but tragically she died two years later aged 32.

Meanwhile Henry sat as Mayor of New Woodstock on 9 separate occasions.

It was whilst Henry was Mayor in 1794 that the town was visited by the Rev. James Hinton, a Baptist minister from Oxford. Several Woodstock families had invited the minister of New Road Baptist Church in Oxford to lead worship in a house opposite the Marlborough Arms Hotel.

On arrival in Woodstock, Rev. Hinton visited Henry Metcalfe "then Mayor of Woodstock, whose behaviour was such as I naturally expected from a gentleman and a magistrate: I claimed his protection for myself and the house, both being qualified; and having particularly informed him of the time and place of our meeting, I received the pledge that there should be no disturbance".

Somehow 50 adults and children squeezed into the house, but as the service got under way a mob broke in and attacked the worshippers who were forced to flee. Several people including a deacon who had accompanied Mr Hinton were seriously injured.

The government of the day took the matter seriously and "E.Willes esq a Westminster magistrate was sent down to Oxford and Woodstock, where he took a number of depositions".

However the Secretary of State ultimately decided not to act and instead recorded "that the matter had better sleep".

Henry went on to be a Justice of the Peace. Sarah, his wife, died in 1799 and Henry passed away in 1807. He was buried on 4 December at the chapel in New Woodstock.

His will only mentions two people: the executors were his granddaughter Mary Horner and "my friend" Henry John North. He left all his worldly possessions to "my dear granddaughter" Mary Horner.

Sources:

A Biographical Portraiture of the Late Rev. James Hinton, M.A., by John Howard Hinton

British History Online

Oxfordshire Museums Service

Oxfordshire Quarter Sessions Transcripts – Oxfordshire Family History Society

Parish Register of Spelsbury – Oxfordshire Family History Society

Parish Register of Woodstock – Oxfordshire Family History Society

The People of Woodstock Vols 1 & 2 – Eureka Publications

Wikipedia – cut steel jewellery

Will of Henry Metcalfe 1808 – summary from Oxfordshire Family History Society

Will of George Eldridge 1764 – Oxfordshire Family History Society

www.ancestry.co.uk

www.historywebsite.co.uk

www.woodstockbaptistchurch.org.uk

Andrew Metcalfe M1915. a.metcalfe340@btinternet.com

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

I am delighted to announce the ratification of two new members of the Metcalfe Society Committee of Trustees - A warm welcome to you both.

David C. Metcalfe M983, known in the committee now as Dave C. for obvious reasons, has taken the position of web administrator and will also lead projects in the future, including the current sub group working on Publications & Communications.

Sam Benson, our President's grandson, has taken responsibility for Social Media, and as an IT professional, will be providing expert advice on all aspects of information technology for the Society.

DEADLINE for the **April 2019 Mecca News**
is **10 February 2019** for articles, comments or snippets to the Editor

DAN METCALFE INSTALLATION ARTIST FIELDS OF MUD, SEEDS OF HOPE

Edited by Mike Pope

Dan Metcalfe has kindly given permission for the Society to use material from his website www.fieldsofmud.co.uk which I commend wholeheartedly to the Metcalfe Society membership to visit. We gratefully acknowledge **Ripon Cathedral's permission** to use photographs taken by David Lambert whilst visiting the installations for this year's Armistice celebrations.

We would also like to acknowledge **Joe Priestley**, who is a trained archaeologist and historian, now a visual media artist, publicist and photographer, who took the photographs on Dan's website, and **Jeanne Mundy**, artist and illustrator, who provided the excellent silhouettes of the soldiers for the installation.



David has described Dan's background in his jottings and the following article is a précis of Dan's publication on the website above, and Dan takes up his own story below.

The beginnings of an idea for this piece began four years ago when I looked at creating a work using a material with which every soldier on the western front would have been overly familiar.

Earth has a duality I am drawn to. It was used for shelter from the barrage but it also took countless lives. It was used by both sides to grow food to allow the armies at the front to continue fighting but it also became a common enemy as it clung to boots, to clothing and clogged equipment. When first researching the Great War all I saw was waste, despair and destruction and after a while began to wonder whether there was more to the story. So began a search for hope, and after a while I began to see it. Then instead of creating a memorial to honour those who had no known grave and once again giving them form as I originally intended, this more balanced piece began to form.

The subject of hope is not immediately obvious when looking at the Great War and you do have to search for it and work at it, but it is there, and the piece is about those who returned home as much as those who didn't.





Fields of Mud, Seeds of Hope occupies the space between war and peace, despair and hope. The silhouettes are no longer at war, neither are they fully at peace just yet either. I spent a lot of time in the work of Wilfred Owen and whilst remembering the pity of war I felt it was time to broaden the landscape a little and begin to look for hope.

Honour the past, live in the present and look to the future.

Our first silhouette for Fields of Mud, Seeds of Hope was that of the horse and trooper. It is based on an existing piece of silverware which belonged to the 16th/5th Lancers, which their successor regiment, the Royal Lancers "Queen Elizabeth's Own", very kindly gave us permission to use in the piece. The 16th Lancers was also my great-grandfather's regiment during the Great War and the two figures officially called "Fed up and Far From Home" have gained the nickname in our team as "Fred and Bones" after my great grandfather and his horse.



The next silhouettes were designed by artist Jeanne Mundy and depict a wounded soldier led by a nurse. The inspiration for the soldier came from John Singer Sergeant's painting "Gassed" depicting a line of blinded soldiers being led back from the front and is our recognition of the physical legacies war can leave on combatants and non combatants alike.

Our nurse was inspired by Nellie Spindler. Nellie, a nurse in the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service died when her casualty clearing station at Brandhoek near Ypres, Belgium was shelled on the 21st August 1917. We felt it was important to have Nellie as one of our silhouettes as she is a visual reminder that sacrifices were made not only by the serving soldier, but also by countless others.

"Hope" is perhaps the most important silhouette and was also created alongside Jeanne Mundy. He is integral to the whole work, as without him there would be no visual representation of hope and we would be left with a piece which focuses solely on the tragedy of war. His helmet in hand, he has a loose grip on his rifle whose barrel is no longer pointed toward the enemy. His slightly ruffled hair catches in the wind as he looks above the horizon as though he has seen the sun break the clouds or is trying to pin point a lark singing in the sky.

The work starts with the dry, sieved soil laid on the floor at differing depths. It is then thoroughly soaked and smoothed over. The water absorbs into the work with the figures, which are made of deeper mud, retaining that moisture for a longer period and therefore cracking differently from the background. Some cracks appear almost immediately and others over a period of a couple of weeks.



Around week two to three, a colour change begins as the background loses its moisture quicker than the figures, and eventually we are left with what looks remarkably like a sepia image. The bulk of the soil is taken from the site of a military hospital complex which was part of the World War One camp in Ripon. Ripon's now sleepy fields housed 30-40,000 men at any one point during the war and with 1 million men passing through over a four year period, it was one of the two largest concentrations of military personnel in the UK. The novelist J.B.Priestley and the war poet Wilfred Owen both spent time recuperating there and walking those fields.

The rest of the soil has been very kindly donated by the Memorial Museum of Passchendaele. The addition of this mud and the connotations it carries with it of struggle and hardship and danger and tragedy has been very moving. The inclusion of some of the very earth that countless soldiers from both sides waded through, fought over, lived in and for many, still lay beneath, has been immensely sobering.

Papaver Rhoeas, or the common poppy, has a hardy little seed which can lay dormant for many, many years waiting for the correct conditions in which to germinate. The Great War provided the perfect conditions.

The churning of the soil by shells and the bringing to the surface of sub soil and a long dormant seeds coupled with the lack of competition from other species enabled the fields of Flanders and northern France to flourish with all manner of wild flowers. The blood red poppy became the symbol of sacrifice and regeneration for the commonwealth, but other nations also used other species as a way to remember the war.

We want to enable people to continue this art work and its legacy for many years to come and with this in mind wanted to make the segments of earth available to the public. Segments can be kept in display boxes as keep sakes, or planted in memorial and remembrance gardens, but what we would really love to see is how people take a segment of this tangible piece of legacy and, using their creativity, work it into countless other artistic expressions allowing the art work and legacy to continue in another form indefinitely.

So many paid a high price with their youth, their health and in many cases their lives. To remember those sacrifices and honour those who made them, is the least we should do, but I believe we owe them understanding too. If we stop solely at remembrance and yet don't strive to understand, I don't believe we are honouring the price paid to the extent it deserves.

We can sometimes get stuck in the trenches too when it comes to understanding the war, often to the detriment of seeing a broader picture.

As a creative person and not a historian, it is not my job to argue whether the price was worth paying. I will leave that to those more qualified and perhaps to those of later generations further removed from the raw reality and better placed to comment. It is my job to show and not tell. To reveal with neither condemnation nor justification.

It has been a core principle of this art work to donate a portion of the money raised, to charities which deal with the legacies of conflict. Not only legacies affecting those who served, but also charities which deal with the legacies civilians encounter. Charities such as The Halo Trust, who remove weapons stockpiles and landmines from modern day war zones, are in line with the ethos we have set out with. To enable the return of former war zones to the farmer and for children to play safely where there was once only danger is one of the legacies we sought with this project.



METCALFES IN WORLD WAR II PROJECT

At this year's 2018 Muster, we launched a project to collect data and information on Metcalfes in the Second World War.

In anticipation of a much larger quantity of information and personal stories, we are starting early. I am sure every member today will either have been alive at the time (although I'm sure you were only a tiny child!), or will have relatives who were alive and active during that period.

Again, the history of the military is well documented and more information is continually being released, but we are interested in the personal stories which bring those times more graphically to life.

More women were working alongside the men, as they had done in WW1, but were also being allowed into the ranks of the military in the WRNS, the WRAF and the ATS.

- Were any of your relatives involved in active fighting?
- Members of the Royal Marine Commandos, Paras, or Special Forces
- What about the new weaponry, ships and aircraft?
- What about defence work on the Home Front?
- Dad's Army?
- ARP Wardens?
- Workers at Bletchley Park or other top secret locations who only now can tell of their experiences?
- Restricted and reserved occupations and industries?
- Young women flying aircraft between factories and the air bases?
- What about the POW camps on the continent and those here in Britain?
- Do you have any photographs?
- What about the soldiers from France and Belgium who were billeted with families here?

Your family **MUST** have some stories to tell, photos to share – will you please let us know?

Contact me, preferably by email at jo.heron@gmail.com, or by hard copy

to Jo Heron, 17 Bailey Walk, Wakefield, WF4 3QW.

I look forward to hearing from you, with your own stories.

Jo Heron WWII Project Leader

MOVING TO E-JOURNALS - EDITOR MIKE POPE

A VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE

At the October 2018 Mecca Muster, I gave a presentation on the decision of the Committee of the Society, to move speedily to the production and circulation of a **full colour pdf version of every Mecca News from April 2019 onwards**. The rationale is that we need to move forward to provide an electronic copy, circulated by e-mail, and we are **trialling that approach in this December 2019 edition**.

Although there are disadvantages in "handleability" and readability in having an on-screen version, the advantages to both the individual and the Society are considerable.

This development will provide much better picture and image quality in a full colour journal and a much improved readability for those members with sight problems, because the pdf can be enlarged at will. The journals and the individual articles will be able to be located rapidly on the members' computers and the pdf eliminates the need to store 3 paper copies per year. It is a very environmentally responsible move because it reduces the production, consumption and disposal of paper and of CO2 generation in transportation.

The cost benefits to the Society are very significant, bearing in mind that we spend between £2300 - £2900 per annum on printing and distributing the journal. If 50% of the members opt for electronic pdf copies alone, we will save over £800 per annum and if we attain an 80% conversion rate, which our aim, we will save over £1400 per year for the Society.

Commencing with the **April 2019 edition**, we will send every member with an e-mail address a colour pdf of the Mecca News. If you do not have e-mail, you will continue to receive a paper copy. If you still wish to receive the paper version, even though you have e-mail, you will still be able to have that option - **but you must signify that you want a paper copy, by 28 February 2019 latest, either using the tick box in the membership renewal form insert, sent by post to Jo Heron, or by an e-mail to Jo Heron's e-mail address on the inside front cover.**

WORLD WAR II ENQUIRY FROM EAGLE LINCOLNSHIRE

The Society has had an enquiry from the residents of Eagle in Lincolnshire who are planning a war memorial for their village and are trying to trace information on a number of airmen who were killed near the village.

One of the men was a wireless operator who was killed in a plane crash nearby on 13th February 1942, having left RAF Wigsley in a Hampden Bomber on its way to Germany.

The only information they have is that he may have been born on 8th November 1913 in Hackney London, his father a Metcalfe and mother nee Slater - but they have no further family records. He was attached to 455 Squadron, RAF Volunteer Reserve, and is now buried in Tottenham Park Cemetery, Middlesex.

The residents have found debris from the plane and have some photographs, so would like to invite any descendants of George, his wife or his family, to a ceremony of commemoration once the memorial is erected next to the WW1 memorial.

Can any of you help with this project? Please send anything you have to me either by email or in the post. They would be very grateful for any assistance we can give.

Jo Heron Membership, Sales, Enquiries & Conference Secretary

GUILD OF ONE NAME STUDIES

YORKSHIRE REGIONAL MEETING ON 9 MARCH 2019

1000hrs - 1600hrs AT

DEEPDALE COMMUNITY CENTRE, DEEPDALE LANE

BOSTON SPA, LS23 6EW

Non-members welcome

Criminals	Sue Horsman
Gypsy & Traveller History	Sue Itzinger
Welsh Family Research & Patronymics	Sue McGeever
How I do a One Name Study	Jackie Depelle

Charge £5 : Tea & Coffee provided : bring your own lunch
 Enquiries - David Burgess : rep-yorkshire-west@one-name.org
 Tel: 01132 695512

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

Thank you to those who have replied with some details of your ancestry. I hope to hear back from more of you. It was interesting to find that new member 2098 from New Zealand links with a founder member of the Society, whereas Robbie Clarke in Florida is part of a very widespread Metcalfe family emanating from the upper Dales.

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)

M2090 Ray Metcalfe

23 Sedgewick Close, Gosport, Hants PO13 9RB
raymetcalfe64@outlook.com

S.o. Alfred George & Lena (Willmott) Mte m 18 May 1940 Bristol.
Alfred George b 18 Jun 1898 Bristol s.o. Herbert & Mary Jane (Freke)
Mt m 25 Oct 1897 Twerton, Somerset. Herbert bpt 3 May 1868 Cambridge s.o. Alfred & Sarah (Chapman) Mt m 1865 Cambridge district.
Alfred bpt 13 Dec 1835 Dry Drayton, Cambridgeshire s.o. James & Sarah (Garner) Mt m 2 Jul 1832 Dry Drayton.

NEW MEMBERS

M2091 Mrs Sandra Billard

6b Queen Elizabeth Court, Raeburn Place, Sheffield S14 1SG
billard727@gmail.com

M2092 Mr Glyn Moore

12 Cherry Garden Avenue, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5LB
gdmoore@loxinfo.co.uk

M2093 Mr Ian Metcalfe

1 Mulberry Gardens, Methley, Leeds LS26 9EB
igmetcalfe@btinternet.com

M2094 Mr David Metcalf

Welcome Cottage, Birdlip, Gloucestershire GL4 8JH
davidmetcalf@hotmail.com

M2095 Mr Robbie Clarke

8835 Goodbys Trace Drive, Jacksonville, Florida 32217

robbiejax@aol.com

Grd s.o. Thomas Edward & Elizabeth (Jones) Clarke m 3 Sep 1923 Sunderland. Thomas Edward b 12 Nov 1896 Sunderland s.o. James Cooper & Mary Ann (Metcalfe) Clarke m 17 Jul 1887 Liverpool. Mary Ann b 19 Nov 1864 Liverpool d.o. Robert & Mary (Jones) Mte m 25 Aug 1850 Liverpool. Robert bpt 21 Jun 1829 Buckden, Yks s.o. John & Mary Ann (Ellis) Mte m 23 Jul 1821 Hubberholme. John bpt 5 Jan 1793 Arncliffe s.o. John & Hannah (Stoney) Mte m 10 Mar 1788 Arncliffe. John bpt 18 Jun 1760 Arncliffe s.o. Robert & Isabel (Simpson) Mte m 13 May 1751 Arncliffe.

Conn: M46 M608 M678 M839 M958 M1043 M1082 M1129 M1156 M1218 M1265 M1272 M1291 M1323 M1391 M1393 M1729 M1902 M1964

M2096 Ms Karen Metcalf

1679 Deer Springs Circle, Bettendorf 52722, USA

karencadfael@aol.com

M2097 Ms Katrina Metcalfe

14173 Belsay Road, Millington, Michigan 48746, USA

dvnqn747@gmail.com

M2098 Ms Elizabeth Metcalfe

346 Kohimarama Road, St Heliers, Auckland 1071, New Zealand
liz@theagency.co.nz

D.o. Peter Watson & Joan (Dunford) Mte m 16 Nov 1953 Pontefract, Yks. Peter Watson b 1933 Pontefract district s.o. John Taylor & Marjorie Irene (Watson) Mte m 1931 Pontefract. John Taylor b 23 Nov 1908 Pontefract s.o. Thomas & Annie (Taylor) Mte m 11 Jul 1904 Kellington, Yks. Thomas b 1884 Knottingley district s.o. John William & Elizabeth (Joliffe) Mte m 18 Sep 1866 Kellington. John William b 31 Jul 1843 Knottingley s.o. Thomas & Elizabeth (formerly Schofield nee Sheard) Mte m 7 Apr 1842 Mirfield. Thomas bpt 26 Jul 1818 Knottingley s.o. George & Amelia (Pickard) Mte m 9 Oct 1817 Pontefract. George bpt 24 Apr 1797 Sheriff Hutton s.o. Moses & Elizabeth (Ritson) Mte m 25 Mar 1788 Sheriff Hutton. Moses bpt 26 Feb 1764 Sheriff Hutton s.o. Thomas Mte.

Conn. M1 M184 M1238

M2099 Mrs Lucinda Peters

12/2506 Bundaleer Street, Belrose, Sydney 2085, Australia

lucindapeters9@gmail.com

WILLS PROJECT REPORT

Thanks to Jennifer Metcalf, Edwin Metcalf, Joan Metcalfe and Margaret Medcalfe for their work on the transcriptions shown below.

You will see that most of these wills belong to individuals who had variant spellings of the Metcalfe name, variants which had generally become formalised by the 19th century. Thus the Midcalfs of Staindrop and Darlington were all found to be related. Details in the wills have added extra information to records in the Main Index.

I appreciate the donations from Members of wills they have found in their own researches, as this has led to further transcriptions now available on the website.

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.

- 1675 Edward Meddcaff of Shildon, County Durham
- 1727 Simon Metcalfe of Bedale (administration)
- 1765 John Mitcalf of Tynemouth (administration)
- 1789 Christopher Midcalf of Staindrop, County Durham
- 1827 William Mitcalfe of Tynemouth, Northumberland
- 1833 Richard Mitcaff of Bishopwearmouth, Northumberland
- 1834 Ann Mitcaff of Bishopwearmouth, Northumberland
- 1850 Ann Midcalf of Darlington, County Durham
- 1853 Christopher Midcalf of Staindrop, County Durham

OBITUARIES

Our condolences to the families and friends of the following Metcalfes.

Dr Peter Metcalfe aged 46 from Lancaster, who was at Lancaster University working on flood prevention, and was an experienced mountaineer, died following a fall on Raven Crag in the Langdales in August 2018.

Six year old Stanley Metcalf died from a pellet gun injury, at Sproatley Hull following a tragic accident in August 2018

DISCOVERING MANORIAL DOCUMENTS BY JACKIE DEPELLE

Following Jackie Depelle's very interesting and popular presentation to the 2018 Muster, she has very kindly given permission for the Society to print her select list of books and websites.

My Ancestors were Manorial Tenants

Peter B Park Society of Genealogists 2002

Manorial Records

Eve McLaughlin Varney's, Rudds Lane Haddenham Aylesbury 1996

The English Manor & its Records

John Marsden Manchester & Lancashire FHS www.mlfhs.org.uk

How to use Local & Manorial Records

Patrick Palgrave-Moore Elvery Dowers Publications 1993

The Manor & Manorial Records

Nathaniel J Hone www.forgottenbooks.com/en www.archive.net

Using Manorial Records

Mary Ellis Public Record Office (The National Archives) 1997

Manorial Records

P D A Harvey British Records Association 1999

Manorial Records

Dennis Stuart Phillimore & Co Ltd 1992

Understanding Three Life Leases and other Post Medieval Deeds

Mike Brown Dartmoor Press 1998

Life on the English Manor

H S Bennett Cambridge University Press 1971

The English Manorial System

J W Molyneux-Child The Book Guild Limited 1987

Welsh Manors & their Records

Helen Watt The National Library of Wales 2000

A History of Kirkgate from earliest times to 1800

S. Burt & K. Grady Leeds City Council and Civic Trust 2016

Clevedon - Medieval Manor to Victorian Resort

Rob Campbell, Editor Matador 2009

Palaeography for Family & Local Historians

Hilary Marshall Phillimore 2004

Reading Old Handwriting

Eve McLaughlin Eve McLaughlin 2007 - see above

Simple Latin for Family Historians

Eve McLaughlin Eve McLaughlin 2005 - see above

Making Sense of Latin Documents for Family & Local Historians

Brooke Westcott The Family History Partnership 2014

DISCOVERING MANORIAL DOCUMENTS BY JACKIE DEPELLE continued

The Manorial Documents Register

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/manor-search>

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/manorial-documents-lordships-how-to-use-manorial-document-register/>

Cumbrian Manorial Records - use it for understanding the records, glossary, examples <http://lancaster.ac.uk/fass/projects/manorialrecords/>

British History Online - <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>

Conisbrough Court Rolls - <https://www.dhi.ac.uk/conisbrough/index.html>

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/reading-old-documents.htm>

<http://genlinks.org.uk/palaeography.html>

<http://www.scottishhandwriting.com/index.asp>

<https://familysearch.org/indexing/help/handwriting>

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SOCIETY NEWS

The website is currently undergoing an update from PHP5 (Personal Hypo-text Preprocessor) to PHP7, in order to retain support for the system from 1 January 2019. Unfortunately, this may mean that some areas of the site are temporarily unavailable or difficult to access.

We are planning some new pages and will keep you up to date with developments and new information on the site.

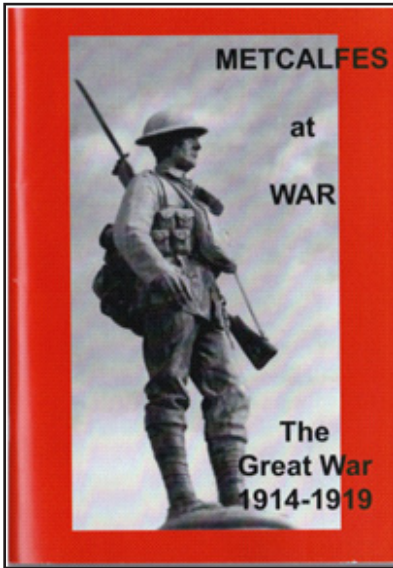
Please bear with us while this work is done.

Every best wish with your research

Jo Heron

WORLD WAR I BOOKLET

BUY YOUR COPY NOW, BEFORE WE SELL OUT!



The World War 1 project has ended with the publication of a booklet based largely on research undertaken by members, some general war information, but principally it concentrates on many Metcalfe stories during that period.

The catalogue of material which was unearthed and submitted by members was very considerable and would make a large volume on its own so, as with the India booklet, we are supplying the data on cd, so that you can access much more detail on the stories and other information collected.

We have also decided to copy the information on to a 16Gb usb card – so that you can choose between a cd or a usb.

The booklet with the cd is £10 plus p&p.
The booklet with the usb is £12 plus p&p.

Please order through the Shop at
<https://www.metcalfes-online.co.uk/metcalfe/41/Shop>

NB Our bible, Metcalfe - History of The Clan is selling out, and already there are limited numbers left after strong sales at the Muster. There will not be another printing, so buy yours now before it is too late.

New to the Metcalfe Online Shop

We are also selling a blank usb card separately, without any data, for you to save your Metcalfe research on for £8.50 plus p&p. At 16Gb, this has plenty of space to save your work, and as it carries the logo and website address, it is easily identifiable. The card is the same size as an ordinary credit card but slightly thicker, so very convenient to slip into a pocket or purse, or inside your notes folder.

Jo Heron



Margaret Jane Metcalfe's Memorial Bench in Sedbusk Wensleydale