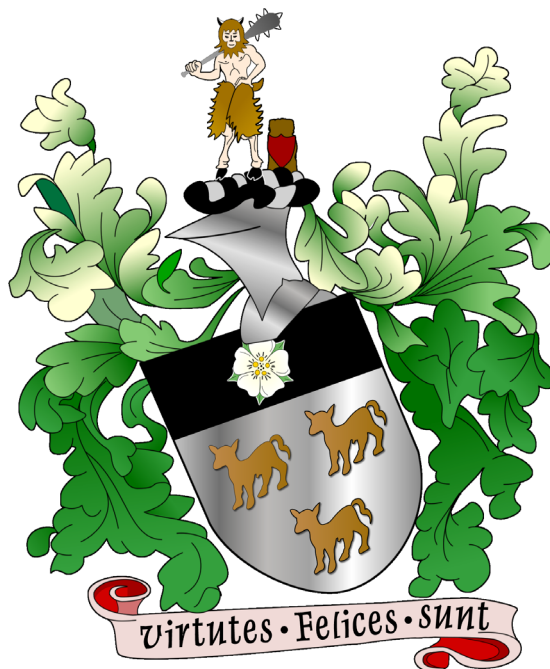


MECCA NEWS

THE JOURNAL OF THE METCALFE SOCIETY

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THE METCALFE SOCIETY

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represent the views of the Editor or the Metcalfe Society*

Editorial Musings by Michael Pope M1919

Easter greetings to all our members wherever you are, and more in hope than expectation I trust that you are all well and safe in these currently highly turbulent and troubled times. The past 4 months have been truly dire in almost every area of the globe. The terrible fires in California and Australia were followed by floods in the latter, and Western Europe and Scandinavia have been beset by an unusually warm winter, unremitting very heavy gales and such over-abundant rainfall that February has been declared the wettest on record by the UK Metreological Office.

Many areas of the country have been severely flooded in what is becoming a recurring and seemingly inevitable pattern. Aside from the awful damage to property, failure of businesses and stress to individuals, crops have been destroyed wholesale and farmland damaged for months and even years to come. For a change, the Metcalfe heartlands of upper Wensleydale and Swaledale have not been as badly affected as some of the low lying country fed by the southern and slower moving Yorkshire rivers. Just as we thought winter was coming to an end and things were drying up a little, we now have Corona Virus to contend with and I wish all our members everywhere the very best of luck in dealing with this now global pandemic.

All of this is completely overshadowing Brexit, which it seems is at last going to happen at the end of this year and, although it is relatively of much less concern, there is going to be an enormous amount of change which will have to be dealt with over the next three or four years.

Another event of great consequence for some has been the stepping down of the Duke of Sussex from his princely position, and the decision of Harry and Meghan to remove themselves from the responsibilities and duties of the royal household. It was interesting to see that the Queen took a very firm line indeed on what she was prepared to accept in terms of the position and status of that couple and also on her son Prince Andrew's situation and representative duties, given his embroilment in the Epstein case.

History can have an unfortunate habit of repeating itself and I imagine that her majesty never contemplated that she would have to deal very sternly with "royal trouble" as her father did with Edward VIII, after the latter abdicated and caused such constitutional and political upheaval. No doubt all will be resolved in the fullness of time and, irrespective of personal opinions on either the individual members of the royal family, or on the relevance of the institution in the 21st century, I think that almost everyone feels that being born into such a life cannot be a great deal of fun.

It is an historical truism that monarchs often do not turn out as expected. Edward VII was a great believer in fun and spent a life of spectacular if discrete debauchery whilst awaiting kingship, to the horror and dismay of his mother Queen Victoria. When eventually crowned, he astonished all with his sagacity, popularity and a wonderful talent for diplomacy, particularly with the French, which nation he won over and with which government he established a rapprochement which laid the basis for France and Britain's joint opposition to the demented war-mongering of Victoria's grandson Kaiser Wilhelm.

Edward's son and successor George V transpired to be emotionally and intellectually challenged, unimaginably dull, sired a wastrel son in Edward VIII and distinguished himself only by refusing to accept the principle, agreed by the government, that sanctuary should be offered to his cousin Tsar Nicholas and family after the Russian revolution, and left them to the fate of their murder by the Bolsheviks. Interestingly, Lloyd George and Churchill, both of whom were intimately involved in forming policy on the Tsar's position, had divergent opinions on what should be done with Kaiser Wilhelm in 1919. Lloyd George wanted him hanged, but Churchill, perhaps surprisingly demurred, which was probably an aversion to the concept that heads of state might be subjected to capital punishment if all went wrong.

Charles I, who was one of the worst examples of arrogant, totalitarian and religiously intolerant English monarchs, did pay a capital price, but Oliver Cromwell, who was party to the decision to execute him and not the prime mover, as many erroneously believe, took a very long time to come to that ultimate view. Cromwell at least, had the merit of leading the moves toward the establishment of parliamentary democracy and, unless you were an Irish catholic, to religious tolerance and pluralism. He and the Commonwealth however, because there was no precedent or model to help them, failed to ensure that they had a viable successor, an executive, or a system to ensure continuity, which in a rather more minor sense, brings me to the parlous state of the Metcalfe Society for much the same reasons.

	£	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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Chairman's Jottings

Editor's Note - please be aware that the Chairman's Jottings were completed well before the current Covid-19 emergency and much has changed in the meantime. Please refer to the Special Message on page 10.

2020 is a landmark year for the Society. We were founded by Mary Metcalfe (member no.1) and the late Vera Adams (member no.2) in 1980 and so have entered our 40th anniversary year.

In January 1980 Vera Adams wrote to members of the Family History Section of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, who had indicated a Metcalfe line in their published birth briefs. She enquired if they would be interested in forming a Metcalfe Society, three persons having by then indicated they would be willing to do so. "I feel we would have much to offer each other in our research" she said.

I was one such recipient and became member no.11 following my willingness to become involved. I knew very little about my Metcalfe great grandmother, Mary (known too as Polly) who had married my Lambert Great Grandfather and nothing really about her forbears save the fact that she was the grand-daughter of a William Metcalfe who was born illegitimately in Sel-side, parish of Horton in Ribblesdale in 1810.

I received, virtually by return of post, Newsletter no. 1 from Vera and Mary Metcalfe which included genealogical details of all those who were joining the nascent Society. I was overjoyed to see that another (Helen Offer) shared my line back to William and immediately wrote to her and she to me confirming that we were indeed cousins. Thus started what has in effect been my lifelong interest in the Society, which soon flourished to become the largest one name study society in the UK.

During those early days I soon also connected with David Metcalfe (our Database co-ordinator) and the late Ruth Kay all of whom have the same line of descent. They have provided me with excellent details of my line although we have never been able to identify the father of our illegitimate William.

Others joined us over the years and we have had approximately 7 or 8 members on our same line, several sadly now deceased. Other early members of the Society had similar success in linking up with cousins and many remain members still 40 years on.

We intend to celebrate the 40th anniversary event at our Muster in Leyburn in October and I do hope that as many of you as possible will attend what we plan to be a special occasion. The committee will be finalising the events in a meeting at the end of March and you will be informed of the arrangements as soon as possible.

On a less happy note we have not had any volunteers to take on the roles of chairman, treasurer or editor and I despair that none maybe forthcoming. If that is so I cannot see how the Society can continue after October in its present form. We have two individuals who are prepared to serve on the committee and other volunteers to assist in a 'back room' capacity but no one to take on the 3 offices I refer to above.

It is so sad that in our anniversary year we might have close and I know it is very demotivating for the committee and no doubt to you our members too.

We fully appreciate that through the passage of the years it is becoming more difficult for several members (now in their seventies, eighties, nineties and even one hundreds) to help. This is fully understood and indeed is part of the problem. The spirit is willing but it is impracticable for them to assist. They rely on the Mecca News for information about the society's activities, but without a new editor this link with members going right back to newsletter no.1 will be broken.

In April we will report on the outcome of the committee's deliberations as promised at the AGM . We will email those for whom we have email addresses (about 90% of you) and post a letter to those for whom we do not.

As I write these jottings the news is being devoted to two main events: flooding and further away in China the Corona virus with the attempts to stop it spreading worldwide.

Looking at the British Newspaper Archive, which is in partnership with the British Library website, shows unsurprisingly that flooding is not a 21st century phenomenon. Newspapers can contain surprising information which leads to further lines of research or 'puts flesh on the bones' of your family history.

The floods in 2020 have been caused by two bad storms in successive weeks and now in the third week very heavy rain landing on land which is already saturated. Horton in Ribblesdale (where my Metcalfe ancestors hailed from) is reportedly cut off and no motor vehicles can reach the village.

Flooding around Settle and Skipton is causing problems too as well as elsewhere in the Dales.

The newspapers over a century ago contained similar reports of floods. For example on 30th March 1889 the Craven Herald reported that 'Destructive flooding' had occurred in North Ribblesdale as a result of heavy rain and the melting of '.....a vast accumulation of snow to the North of Settle.....'. The river Ribble had flooded to an extent '....as has not been known for a long time past.....'

The present threat of the Corona virus spreading and becoming a worldwide epidemic was to an extent foreshadowed in the 19th century by outbreaks of cholera, particularly in the 1830s. There are many reports in the historic newspapers. The threat of smallpox too was continuous in the nineteenth century but by then the authorities had hospitals for contagious diseases (fever hospitals or isolation hospitals) where the sick were isolated and kept in confinement until it was felt safe to release them. Rather like the recent isolation of travellers on the cruise ship off the coast of Japan and their quarantine back in UK for a further 2 weeks.

On 14th January 1893: there is report in the York Herald: '.....THE SMALLPOX EPIDEMIC YORKSHIRE. Smallpox has made its appearance in a lodging- house at Bentham, near Settle, two tramps being the sufferers. They were removed to the fever hospital.....'

And in Glasgow, on 19 September 1900, the Western Times reported '..... Yesterday's official bulletin regarding the plague [smallpox] outbreak at Glasgow reports a death from plague in Belvedere Hospital, the victim being the grown-up daughter of the family removed on Monday. The cases of plague now number 21, ten of the individuals under observation have been released, but six others who had been in contact with cases reported on Monday have been isolated.

Persons under observation yesterday numbered 110.....'. In 1911 a parliamentary answer revealed the numbers of 'isolation or fever hospitals' in the country- for example there was one in Wensleydale at Aysgarth.

The Newspaper website can be reached via findmypast (of course a paid site) who manage the site in collaboration with British Library.

See the website addresses: <https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search/british-newspapers> and <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> and <https://www.bl.uk/collection-guides/british-newspaper-archive> .

Over 20 million searchable pages are available. The initial searches are free of charge on the British Library and findmypast sites but a fee is payable to see the entries revealed. They cover the period from the early 18th century to the middle of the 20th century. They are now expanding the service beyond the British Isles to include Canadian newspapers. Local and national news can be found.

The use of local newspapers has much to recommend itself as here you can see personal details and stories not necessarily to be found elsewhere. Your ancestors' public notices (births marriage and deaths and obituaries) plus notices of bankruptcy or proceedings for debt with details of court proceedings and references to imprisonment as a debtor for example. You can follow them up in other archives.

A regular notice was posted annually of persons who had Game Licence, twelve Metcalfe(s) were listed in 1839 (Sheffield Independent Paper). Partnership and business notices are regularly found plus advertisements of auction sales of houses, farms and businesses. Business advertisements are regular and recurring. Passenger lists lead one to emigration and immigration records held elsewhere. Court cases at local level are entertaining and interesting. They can lead one to criminal cases and papers held in the Quarter Sessions records and assizes papers plus prison records.

For example in 1913 my great grandmother's uncle Robert the licensee of the Old Hall Public House in Threshfield was summonsed I learnt by the Fishery Board to appear before the magistrates for causing sheep dip to enter a nearby stream and poison fish. He was fined 20 shillings and costs. This was reported in the Leeds Mercury and the Yorkshire Evening Post.

Some years previously in 1886, Robert's three colts were harmed by a local lad who threw stones and caused serious injury to their eyes. He was sent to prison for a week then a reformatory for two years.

Coroner's inquests are often reported and since not all inquest records have survived they might be the only place you will find out what had occurred where a fatality had taken place. Sporting events and Agricultural shows in rural areas are commonly reported, with references to your ancestor's participation and prizewinning. Uncle Robert's, wife Sarah, was regularly winning prizes for her oatcakes and butter!

Details of how our ancestors lived their lives. Be warned they are very addictive and you can easily spend time on the search! Please do look if you have not done so yet and tell us what you find!

Chairman David Lambert

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND THE COMMITTEE

CORONA VIRUS, MUSTER / AGM AND the FUTURE of the SOCIETY by The Chairman David Lambert

I write this on 28th March following our committee meeting.

There can be no one who is unaware of this pandemic disease and its effect on daily life for all UK citizens and indeed worldwide populations. Due to restrictions on free movement to try to reduce the numbers infected, we were unable to meet, face to face, as had been planned at Hawes. The venue for our meeting was to have been the Dales Countryside Museum but they have had to close to the general public.

We therefore 'held' our meeting virtually, courtesy of Zoom. The on-line video conference call went very well and indeed cut the length of our meeting by a half! We will use it again! The meeting enabled us to make some significant decisions.

1. MUSTER.

We have decided to defer the planned 2020 annual Muster to sometime in 2021, when hopefully Tennants will be open for us. We have been in communication with them and they have kindly agreed that we can select another date. To an extent it assists them, as they are hoping to hold weddings postponed this Spring and Summer in October and November if, of course, they are allowed by then to open for business.

As things stand, no one knows when restrictions will be lifted and the committee felt it was unsafe to proceed with our selected date for that reason. We will negotiate a new 2021 date with them and advise you the date we have chosen. If any of you have made plans to go to the Dales to coincide with our October 2020 Muster, we regret that this will not be possible and apologise for any disappointment. We will advise you of the new date here or later in the year.

2. AGM.

As you will realise, we have for most of the life of the Society, held our AGM as part of the Muster. We are required by our constitution to hold every year an AGM, 'ordinarily in October', however the AGM can be held separately from the Muster, in accord with Charity Commission regulations.

We are looking at ways in which we can involve everyone as fully as possible. During these unprecedented times the Charity Commission have confirmed that they will understand that the letter of the law written in the constitution might be unattainable. We are looking at the possibility of creating proxy voting and possibly writing to you all with the proposals which we want to discuss and take a vote upon. A virtual meeting might be possible too and we are exploring this eventuality. We will write more fully during the summer about this. We do hope that the AGM will be held, albeit maybe in a way different from previous years.

3. NEW BOOK.

To celebrate the 40 years of our existence, we have given the final approval for a new 'coffee table' Book, which Dave C Metcalfe and Dr Mike Pope, assisted initially by Jo Heron, have almost completed. It will be published on 3rd October come what may. See the flyer later in the Mecca News for more details. Having read the draft, I can tell you it is a major, worthwhile work, full of interesting stories and facts and photos.

4. THE FUTURE.

At our AGM last year, I promised on behalf of the committee, that we would consider what options are open to us for the future running of the society and to report our conclusions in April.

I am pleased to report that the committee have decided that there might be a way to continue to run the society and that it would not be necessary to close it down at the end of this year, or to seek a merger or takeover by associated charities, or to form a CIO. We will give you much greater detail during the summer months and in the August Mecca News.

Basically, we would seek to amend the constitution. We would remove the need for a committee consisting in the officers and persons as now. We envisage a triumvirate of trustees and an extended team of 'workers' to carry out the tasks involved in managing the society.

Jo Heron has said that she would be prepared to be elected the chairman of the trustees. Peter Dobson would deal with the book-keeping aspects of running the society and he would stand as a second trustee. I have been persuaded to be the third trustee in effect without any portfolio. We would propose inviting you to abolish the need for subscriptions. Unfortunately, as we have been warning, unless we find a new editor for Mecca News by November, we will be compelled to stop publishing the journal.

This is one reason for dropping the payment of subscriptions. Just as the committee used online technology for its committee meeting, we will increase the use of online access for everyone. It is appreciated that several of you as a result, will not be able to enjoy the benefits of belonging to the society and we regret this.

We hold email addresses for nearly 90% of the membership, so a majority have access to the internet. Access to the society databases for current members would remain, as is the case now, free of charge, but new members of the society will probably be asked to pay to see the databases. It is only fair that you the loyal members should continue to have the right as you do now, to see the databases free of charge.

The statistics show that only 16% (about 60 persons) of our eligible members have logged on to the website in the last 3 months. 15 individuals are active members, but 2 of them are committee members, 1 is an overseas agent and 1 is a member of our wills project team.

We will therefore explore the development of a new website to make it more attractive to all the members. During the week ending 3 February 2020 we had 354 people 'reached' on our social media Facebook page with 204 of them 'engaged', and two weeks later these figures had increased to 415 people being 'reached' and 264 'engaged'. We need to find a way to encourage such non-members of the society to become engaged with it and we will look into this during the summer.

We could continue to hold a Muster or similar event and maybe arrange visits to places of Metcalfe interest.

The finer details will be revealed as they are developed this summer. You will be advised and encouraged to contact us with your ideas. The committee wants to keep the society going, recognising that it cannot survive in the long term if it remains as it is now. Membership numbers are declining and will continue to do so unless some drastic measures are adopted.

'Watch this Space'!

Finally, the committee hopes each and every one of you will stay well and avoid the Corona Virus Covid-19 and that with true Yorkshire tenacity and grit overcome the travails of the 'lockdown' which presently assail us all. We feel certain that we will survive thanks to our determination and the heroic and professional actions of all health service professionals to care for us and our superb communities who are rallying round. Maybe volunteering will become more acceptable and desirable at the end of this emergency, resulting in more people being willing to help undertake tasks for our society?

Forty glorious years!

The time has come

Let's celebrate

The Metcalfe Society is forty years old this year - and that is something to celebrate!

We are announcing a brand new Metcalfe Society publication!



A superb selection of some of the best Metcalfe stories previously submitted by our members - most with exciting new information and up to date colour photographs! All presented in a 'coffee table' style book, with over 250 pages containing some 55 fascinating stories, numerous snippets, a brief resume of how the society started and in excess of 200 photographs, many in full colour.

On sale this autumn and will be launched at the beginning of October ... a 40th anniversary limited edition - available only while stocks last, don't miss out!

Details of how to pre-order will follow shortly.

Robbery and retribution: the true story of James Metcalfe and his transportation to Australia

Written by Mary Slater and submitted by David Metcalfe M46

On Saturday 7 April 1827 George Burrow, a yeoman of Westhouse, near Ingleton, was going home at 10 o'clock, slightly the worse for wear after an evening at the Fountain Inn at Burton in Lonsdale. Paul Barker, a twine spinner, accompanied him part of the way, as far as Threaber Farm, before returning to the Fountain where he lived.



Previously The Fountain Inn at Burton in Lonsdale

Further along, about a third of a mile from his home, Burrow was overtaken by another man whom he could see vaguely in the moonlight, but didn't recognise. This man threatened Burrow with a stick, saying "I want your money. I will knock your brains out if you do not give it to me".

He pulled off Burrow's hat and searched his pockets for money, and then forcibly pulled off his coat (which had a red and yellow handkerchief and a pair of gloves in the pocket), waistcoat, shirt, neck cloth and braces. He was about to relieve him of his trousers as well, but Burrow pleaded that he would be cold, at which the stranger gave him back his waistcoat and half the pair of braces. The man then told Burrow to go home and threatened to kill him if he resisted.

The next morning, Sunday, Burrow returned to Burton and sent for the deputy constable, John Bateson, out of Burton Chapel.

As a result of some information received Burrow, Bateson and some others including Samuel Batty, a cotton spinner of Burton, went to Forelands, the house of William Metcalfe, a farmer, and his wife Esther, in Bentham township.

A man, a woman and some girls were there, but the constable and Batty went upstairs and found William Metcalfe's son James in a bedroom, and a bundle of clothes. Batty had a stick in his hand, and James Metcalfe said to him "Lay that stick down and I will be quiet". Batty did so and Metcalfe said "I will go out of the country and never be seen again here, if you will let me go away".

They all came downstairs where Burrow identified his clothing and said to Metcalfe "Are you the man who took these things off my back near Westhouse?" to which James Metcalfe replied "I am". After agreeing to go quietly he was taken into custody, the clothes were tied up in the handkerchief and he was taken by the constable, Burrow, Batty and the others to Bentham to consult Hornby Roughsedge, a Justice of the Peace for the West Riding. They then returned to the Fountain Inn at Burton where the bundle was given into the safekeeping of the innkeeper's wife.

A day later, on 9 April, all the witnesses gave their sworn statements before two Justices of the Peace, Roughsedge and William Carus Wilson. Burrow identified his garments – one was actually marked with his name – but as to money, he was not sure how much, if any, had been in his pocket.

"I had put 8 to 10 shillings in my pocket when I left home on Saturday morning, but I believe I had nearly spent it all. Some of the liquor was given to others. The rest I drank. I was not quite sober when I left the Fountain on Saturday night". But despite the huge outlay on drink he could still say "I knew very well what I was doing when I went home". James Metcalfe had been seen in the Fountain that evening, and the barmaid and others had seen him leave about 10 minutes after Burrow. Paul Barker, on his return to the inn from walking part way home with Burrow, had noticed that Metcalfe had left.

As a result, James Metcalfe was kept in custody that night and committed the next day, charged with feloniously assaulting George Burrow on the King's Highway at Thornton in Lonsdale, putting him in bodily fear and taking from his person the various articles (which Burrow valued at a total of 6s 2d) described above. He appeared at the York Assizes which commenced on 28 July 1827 before the Hon. Sir John Hullock, and was found Guilty. A death sentence was inevitable for highway robbery. However, clemency was shown and it was commuted to transportation for life.

At this period transportation, which peaked in the 1830s, was felt by the British government to be an effective and humane punishment which had the benefit, in the case of younger criminals, of providing productive labour for the new colony of Australia (a view not entirely shared by the colonial authorities).

Records show Metcalfe at the aptly named prison hulk Retribution, moored at Woolwich, by 16 September, where the gaoler reported his character in the one word – ‘bad’. He left London for Port Jackson (Sydney), New South Wales, on 23 November by the ship Asia, a brig of 536 tons, with 99 other male convicts (fourteen of whom were between 14 and 16 years old).

There was also on board a small military guard, a few other non-convicts including women and children, and a cargo of government naval stores. Despite various illnesses including cholera, dysentery and pneumonia, and a badly fitting and damp water closet recorded in the Surgeon’s log book, and having given every attention to cleanliness and ventilation, he deemed the ship to be very suitable for its purpose with all the convicts arriving safely in Sydney on 13 March 1828 after a passage of 111 days.

The indent then for the prisoners on board ship gives us, for the first time, a fuller picture of who Metcalfe (now listed as Metcalf) was and what he was like. He was 5 feet 7¼ inches tall with fair hair, brown eyes and a fair to ruddy complexion. He had a small scar at the corner of his right eye, near the temple.

He was Protestant and single, had had no education and no previous convictions, and he had been a farm servant. He was stated to be 22 years old, although we know from baptism records in his home area that he was born in September 1804, making him a year older. On coming ashore at Port Jackson he was ‘disposed of’ to Col. Wall, a military man who had been at Waterloo and who had first come to New South Wales in 1822 with a regiment, had settled there and was now farming. There was a census in November 1828 and Metcalf was listed as a ‘government servant’ (a convict by another name), a ‘farmer man’ working for Col. Wall at Wallsgrove, Melville, which is now in suburban Sydney. His age was now given as 29 years.

We next catch sight of Metcalf, now listed as 41 years old, in a general muster of convicts in New South Wales made on the last day of 1837. He was by then assigned to L Macalister of Goulburn district. Only a few days later, on 13 January 1838, he absconded.

A notice, including his personal description, was issued by the Principal Superintendent of Convicts and published in the Government Gazette on 31 January. 'All Constables and others are hereby required ... to use their utmost exertion in apprehending and lodging (absconders) in safe custody'. Lachlan Macalister was another ex-military officer now building up a large farming acreage in the Picton and Goulburn area, and he was also in charge of the local mounted police and a magistrate.

Metcalf must have been rounded up as eventually he was recommended a 'ticket of leave' by Goulburn Bench in July 1840, awarded in the following November. This would have allowed him to work for himself as long as he remained in the local area and reported regularly to the authorities and if possible attend divine worship every Sunday.

However, it came too late. A Coroner's report listed his death on 11 November 1840 reported by the police magistrate (Macalister) – cause of death 'accidentally killed – intemperance'. Drunkenness was frequently cited as a contributory cause of the many violent deaths. The Anglican Parish Register at Sydney recorded his burial the following day in the parish of Stonequarry (renamed Picton shortly after) which is around 80 km southwest of central Sydney, at the age of only 36 years. A short life and not a happy one.

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The Metcalfe Society wishes to express its grateful thanks to Mary Slater for her kind permission to print this article.

DEADLINE for the **August 2020 Mecca News**
 is **23 June 2020** for articles, comments or snippets to the **Editor**

The Diary and Life of a Victorian Army Officer – Booth Hay Metcalfe by Mike Pope M1919

Editor's Note

Two articles appeared in Mecca News editions August 2008 No 85 and April 2009 No 87 contributed by Lieutenant-Colonel G.C. Jones who was Warwick Metcalfe's M256 brother-in-law and which had been compiled from Warwick's grandfather Booth Hay Metcalfe's personal diary for 1868.

This piece has been extracted from those actual diaries and certain errors rectified to present a review of Booth Hay's army career, which provides a picture of the way the life of officers in the British Army changed radically towards the end of the Victorian era and into the 20th century.

The article is one of the many which appear in the new Metcalfe Book entitled 40 Years of Metcalfe Stories which will be on sale later in the year and is an extremely good read and great value for money'

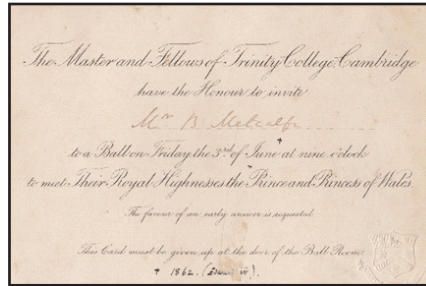
Booth Hay was born on 17 February 1843 in Muker Swaledale Yorkshire, the grandson of the Reverend Lister Metcalfe my great x5 grandfather and who is the ancestor linking myself, Peter Dobson, Marsden and the late John Holden and Warwick Metcalfe.

Lister Metcalfe was vicar at Muker St. Mary's Parish Church from 1773 to his death in 1797 and he is commemorated by a very large gravestone along the north side of the knave. Lister's seventh child, also born in Muker, was Lister Washington Metcalfe who married Margaret Williamson in Liverpool in May 1833 and was a very successful Liverpool Merchant.

Lister was aged 56 when he and Margaret married and she was 31. They had six children, four sons and two daughters, all born in between 1834 and 1845 in Muker, and Booth Hay was the fourth son and penultimate child. None of his brothers lived beyond the age of 44 and neither sister beyond 10, and ultimately after Lister Washington's death in 1846 when Booth Hay was only three years old, Booth Hay inherited all of Lister Washington's estate of £14,000, a not inconsiderable sum in those days.

Booth Hay was educated privately at Richmond and then was sent to a private school Dasselling House in Whorlton County Durham just upstream of Winston on the River Tees. The small school had only 6 male pupils in 1861 and was run by Rev. Arthur W. Headlam the curate of Whorlton parish Church. As Booth Hay was 18 at this point it seems likely that Dasselling House was intended as a preparator for entry to Cambridge University.

Booth Hay Metcalfe went up to Cambridge in 1862 and The invitation to the June Ball of 1862 shown below demonstrates that attendance at a Cambridge College in those days was likely to provide an opportunity to meet royalty, and in this case the Prince and Princess of Wales, the former to become King Edward VII in the next century.



Booth Hay was an athletic student and a keen rower in the Trinity eight shown below, apparently one of the best college boats of its time and he also excelled at boxing and cricket, which might be considered obligatory for a Yorkshireman.



He graduated with a B.A. Honours Degree in 1865 and immediately joined the British Army by purchasing a commission for £450 as an Ensign in the 83rd Regiment of Foot, being gazetted on 2 June 1865. Within a year the 83rd was moved and spent the year 1866 in Armagh and The Curragh Ireland, which at that time was part of the British Empire.

In 1867 the regiment was posted to Gibraltar where on 10 May, the Honourable Lady Airey presented new colours to the 83rd Royal County of Dublin Regiment, to give it its full title, handing the Queen's Colour to Ensign Wyndham and the Regimental Colour to Ensign Metcalfe.

On 14 September that year Booth Hay was gazetted Lieutenant in the 83rd Regiment and by January of 1868 he was keeping a diary, which portrays an interesting picture of the life of an officer in the British Army in the 19th century. One of his entries is transcribed below.

January 1868 – On New Year's Day, mail from England. District Court Martial then signed the accounts. Grand Ball up at Convent. Too tired to go - early to bed.

He rode twice with the Calpe Hounds in the first week then applied for leave and sailed on the P&O Steamer Mapillia for Southampton on 12 January. He recorded that he went to pantomimes and the theatre and saw lots of New College chums, before ending the month with a shoot at Thomas Grissell's Norbury Park.

In early February, he took the train up to the Metcalfe house in Richmond Yorkshire where he spent most of February and March, hunting three days a week, playing billiards, attending church on Sunday and enjoying the social life. In April he went "up to Town" (London) and attended the Oxford vs Cambridge Varsity Boat race which he described as "one of the most feeble exhibitions ever witnessed by 500,000 people" which might have been a sour reaction to Oxford winning "in a common canter." He went to Durham to ride his horse Lancaster in the Durham Hunt Cup and was beaten by only a length at 12st 4lbs weight. At the end of the week at Catterick, he was beaten by a head for second place, again on Lancaster.

May took him to London and The Derby and then in June on to Wiltshire and via Bristol and Dublin to the West of Ireland, before returning to Yorkshire to watch the cricket, and then London for Eton vs Harrow. In mid-July he sailed back to Gibraltar and returned to regimental duties and training, and sailing yachts in his spare time.

September saw the shooting season begin and the Calpe Hounds were hunting again through into October. Booth Hay's diary conjures up a picture of a very pleasant officer's life in which socialising was heavily punctuated by shooting, fishing, hunting to hounds, watching sport and sailing, and it is notable that he had been absent from his regiment for over 6 months during this year.

This was entirely normal in an army in which the officer class were amateur gentlemen soldiers, who bought their positions and took significant periods of leave when there was no conflict to be detaining them.

In 1870 the regiment was detailed to Bombay and Poona in India and Booth Hay was promoted, by purchase, to the rank of captain in the 83rd Regiment of Foot on 30 November 1870.



Captain B.H. Metcalfe at his bungalow Poona India 1871.



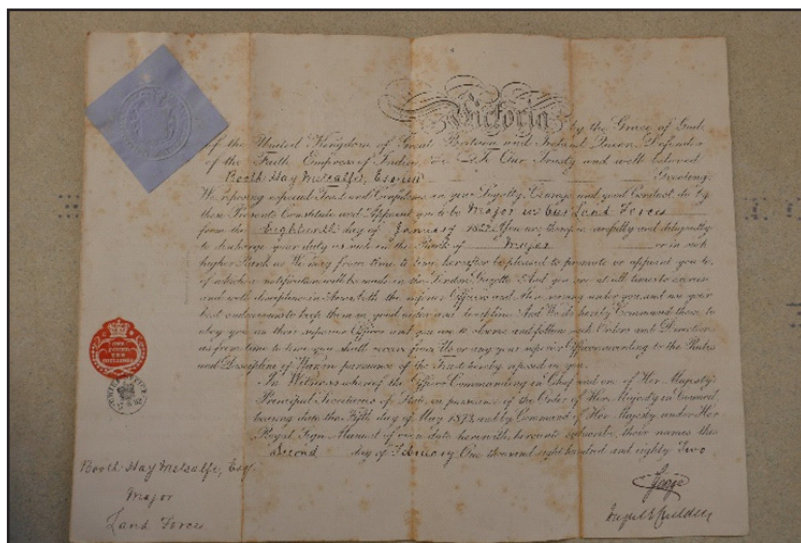
Officers of the 83rd at Poona with Booth Hay Metcalfe second left

The regiment moved up to Ahmedabad, Mount Aboo and then Deesa in 1873, but by June 1876 he was suffering from frequent attacks of "Ague" and rheumatism which weakened him significantly. He was prescribed two month's sick leave and a battery of medication including "poppy head fermentations, anodyne liniments, leeches, iodine, gentian, syrup of phosphate of iron and quinine". On 26 October 1876 he was ordered back to England to join the depot of his regiment and excused any duties whilst on the troopship home.

By 1877 he had recovered sufficiently to be given the depot command of the sister regiment of the 83rd, the 86th Regiment of Foot in Aldershot and thence to Dublin and Belfast. In 1881 he re-joined the 83rd and went out with them in January to South Africa in the Troopship HMS Crocodile at the outbreak of the First Boer War. The regiment saw no direct action as it was engaged in rear area labouring duties. In mid-1881 the regiment returned to England and Depot in Dover.

Between 1868 and 1870 the Cardwell, and subsequently in 1881 the Childers reforms, changed the face of the British Army. Regiments were amalgamated in a regional/county structure with a permanent professional soldiery and officers selected on merit, not purchase. Thus, in July 1881 the 83rd Royal County of Dublin Regiment of Foot was amalgamated with the 86th Royal County Down Regiment of Foot to form the Royal Irish Rifles, which regiment was envisaged to be Belfast based, although at the time still in depot in Dover.

On 18 January 1882 Booth Hay was gazetted Major of British Land Forces, for the first time by selection not purchase.



Booth Hay Metcalfe's Majority Commission 1881

The regiment continued at Dover in 1883 and at this time Booth Hay must have begun seeing a woman by the name of Jane Searle who hailed from Clapham in Sussex. In the 1881 census she appeared in the Fever Hospital in Islington London as a patient, her occupation ladies' maid.

On 16 Jan 1884 a son Birdie (not a misprint!) Thomas Metcalfe was born at Milton Road, Herne Hill, London to Booth Hay and Cora Jane Metcalfe. Birdie turned out to be something of a character to say the least and his story demands a book in itself. He was a career soldier, the co-respondent in a very public divorce, an accomplished cathedral organist, author of several novels and as a testament to his creativity as a writer, a Metcalfe family history which was significant only in its stunning inaccuracy. He fitted well the epithet "we shall not see his like again".

A second child George Kenneth Metcalfe was born 2 September 1887 in Shoreham Sussex. George Kenneth later entered the Royal Navy but seems to have bought himself out or resigned at a fairly early juncture, because he spent the vast majority of his life as a Gentleman with no particular profession.

The third and final child was another son John Frederick Metcalfe born 23 March 1893 in New Shoreham Sussex. John Frederick, who was

Warwick Metcalfe's father, was a very successful career soldier and has been written about previously in Mecca News.

Warwick Metcalfe M256, son of John Frederick, and grandson of Booth Hay Metcalfe and Jane nee Searle was entirely unable to find the record of the marriage of these grandparents in the 1880s and this remained a puzzle and a major thorn in his genealogical flesh for years.

The mystery was solved however by Dorothy Pope M55, who worked frequently with Warwick on their joint Metcalfe line, and in doggedly refusing to surrender the search, finally unearthed that the couple had married on 6 August 1903 at the Register Office in Holborn London, Booth Hay being 60 and Jane Searle being 52 at that time.

They had clearly gone up to London away from prying eyes on the south coast where they lived and rendered both their union and their hitherto "illegitimate" sons, legal. Jane gave her age correctly and did not use her assumed additional christian name Cora, but she could not resist reporting her father George Searle (deceased) to be a Timber Merchant, when in actual fact he was an agricultural labourer and sawman in a woodyard.

The mystery was solved and now Warwick understood why a some members of the family had many years before, referred to Jane as "that barmaid from Dover". The two had probably met either in a hotel, or perhaps more likely at the home of one of Booth Hay's military friends where Jane was a maid, and struck up a relationship. That would explain how she knew well how to deport herself, having been in service to landed gentry or minor aristocracy and was apparently a very intelligent and engaging lady. It was astonishing how Booth Hay managed to cover up the fact that he was not married to Jane, especially as a major in a fine regiment where socialising amongst officers and their wives would have been essential. If the fact had become public, he would undoubtedly have been obliged to resign his commission with unfortunate consequences.

Warwick believed that the marriage was precipitated by the family solicitor, who warned Booth Hay that in the event of Booth's untimely death, the will and probate circumstances would be highly complicated and might also have very unfortunate consequences for the inheritance of their three sons.

Warwick himself thought that the whole story was an absolute hoot and took it all with his typical great sense of humour, but other members of the family were horrified and took some time to believe that it was all true.



Badge of the 83rd
Regiment of Foot



Badge of the Royal Irish Rifles

The transition from the 83rd to the Royal Irish Rifles (RIR) was completed in 1882 and Booth Hay began to perform his role as a major in this now professional regiment. The RIR remained in Dover in 1883 and in 1884 was posted first to Guernsey, then Gosport Hampshire in 1885/86 before transferring to Mullingar County Westmeath in Ireland west of Dublin.

It is clear that Jane was having the second and third of their three sons at the family home base in Shoreham Sussex and not moving to the various depot locations. Booth Hay retired on 31 December 1887 at the age of forty- four, with the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel and settled down to life as a gentleman.



Booth Hay Metcalfe circa 1885

A second diary exists for just 4 months of 1890 and is striking in that Booth Hay spent virtually no time at all at home in Sussex with his family, but was sailing almost every day from the south coast. Sailing was certainly his passion and he had a number of quite large boats in which he passed his retirement.



Booth Hay Metcalfe's Schooner Prima Donna in Weymouth Harbour

Booth Hay Metcalfe died on 5 February 1924 at Beechwood on the Isle of Wight and his epitaph appeared in The Times on 19 February 1924.

A much-respected member of an ancient and typically Yorkshire family has passed away in the person of Lieutenant-Colonel Booth Hay Metcalfe of Muker and Beechwood Ryde, who died at Ryde last Friday at the age of 81. He was one of the oldest surviving graduates of the early 'sixties at Trinity Cambridge where he made a name in perhaps the best college boat of the period. He was commissioned to the 83rd Regiment, now the Royal Ulster Rifles, in 1863, retiring in 1889. Many years of his service were spent in India, with which country his family is closely connected, and he saw service with his regiment in the First Boer War. He was a good cricketer and a better boxer – some of us have had the Cambridge of his time placed graphically before us in the course of reminiscence. A keen shot, he made good practice with the birds until, at the age of 75, the injury which led to his death, finally manifested itself. Like all men of his family, he loved horses and rode well but most of all he loved the sea, owned a succession of well-known yachts and was one of the oldest members of the Royal Victoria and Royal Cinque Ports Yacht Clubs. He leaves a widow and three sons. A man of most generous nature, his loss will be deeply felt, not only by his contemporaries and friends and connexions in the North Riding, but by many of us of a younger generation to whom he has stood as a representative of the best type of English gentleman.

Thus, Booth Hay Metcalfe, Yorkshireman, Gentleman, sportsman, soldier and sailor, departed, having lived a full and very interesting life through a major transformation in the organisation British Army – truly a Metcalfe of some significance. Four years later his wife Jane also died.

ARCHIVIST REPORT

Thank you to all who have sent in details so that you gain a Society Birth Brief. I hope your research has progressed over the winter. If you have found out more about your Metcalfes then please do pass on to me any updates.

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)

M2120 Mrs Jane Kierans

P.O. Box 841, 6 Settlers Court, Niagara on the Lake, Ontario L0S 1J0, Canada

pjkierans@gmail.com

D.o. Earl & Margaret (Judd) Bretzlaff m Oct 1944 Shawville, Quebec, Canada. Margaret d.o. Robert Wilson & Elizabeth Amy (Mt) Judd m 24 Oct 1916 Greenmount, Quebec. Elizabeth Amy b 29 Feb 1889 Liverpool, Lan d.o. Charles Henry & Ellen (Midgley) Mt m 13 May 1878 St Mary's, Edgehill, Lan. Charles Henry b 7 Dec 1857 Liverpool s.o. **William & Sarah Ann (Bird) Mt m 23 Sep 1855 St Michael's, Toxteth, Lan. William bpt 7 Oct 1832 St Nicholas's, Liverpool s.o. John & Mary Ellen (Sutton) Mt m 1 Jul 1832 St Michael's, Toxteth, Lan. John bpt ?? 20 Apr 1810 St Peter's, Liverpool s.o. Matthew & Ann (Luke) Mt m 10 Mar 1807 St Peter's, Liverpool. Matthew Bpt 4 Jun 1786 St Nicholas's, Liverpool s.o. Christopher & Mary Mt.**

NEW MEMBERS

M2134 Mr John Medkeff

2313 W.16th Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19806, USA

jlmedkeffjr@gmail.com

S.o. John Louis & Patricia Ann (McGough) Medkeff m 4 Feb 1962 Wilmington, Delaware, USA. John Louis b 23 Jan 1941 Wilmington s.o. Samuel Logan & Mary Philomena (Boyle) Medkeff m 23 Feb 1925 Wilmington. Samuel Logan b 2 Nov 1902 Wilmington s.o. Samuel Brown & Ida May (Bell) Medkeff m 1 May 1889 Wilmington. (Samuel Brown changed his Metcalf surname to Medkeff around 1884). Samuel Brown b 4 Mar 1865 Rockland, Delaware s.o. Thomas Wilson

& Mary Jane (Logan) Metcalf m 1845 Delaware. Thomas Wilson b 7 May 1822 Rockland s.o. Thomas & Mary ('Polly') (Zebley) Mt m post 1813 Brandywine Hundred, Delaware. Thomas Mt b c1779 Yorkshire, England. He arrived in New Castle, Delaware in Sep 1809.

M2135 Miss Alison Metcalfe

11c Fairfield Square, Droylsden, Manchester, Lancs M43 6AD

M2136 Mrs Beverley Stevens

1 Thomas Close, Pocklington, East Yorkshire YO42 2RL

bev.stevens@hotmail.com

M2137 Mrs Inga Ramsay

7 Brut Lane, The Vines, WA 6069, Australia

ingaramsay@yahoo.com

Grd d.o. Clifford & Elizabeth (Chadwick) Mte m 20 Jul 1935 Chorley, Lan. Clifford b 1907 Newchurch in Pendle, Lan s.o. Thomas & Jane (Starkie) Mte m 10 Mar 1906 St Mary, Newchurch in Pendle. Thomas bpt 20 Jan 1884 St Chad's, Rochdale s.o. Anthony & Mary Elizabeth (Kershaw) Mte m 15 Sep 1878 St Peter's, Newbold, Lan. Anthony b 9 May 1853 Littleborough, Lan s.o. Isaiah & Elizabeth (Kennion) Mte m 14 Jul 1852 Littleborough. Isaiah bpt 4 Jan 1824 Littleborough s.o. Richard & Mary (Alton) Mte m 13 Oct 1812 Grinton. Richard bpt 22 Sep 1789 Grinton s.o. Isaiah & Dinah Mte. Isaiah b 9 Dec 1761 Gunnerside s.o. Richard & 2nd wf Monica (Sunter) Mte m 15 Jan 1749/50 Grinton. Richard b c1727 Grinton parish s.o. Anthony & Ann (Whar-ton) Mte m 13 Jan 1718 Grinton.

Conn: M119 M246 M255 ?M408 M631 M701 M782 M1081 M1280 M1369 M1371 M1586

M2138 Ms Patricia Kierans

P.O. Box 841, 6 Settlers Court, Niagara on the Lake, Ontario L0S 1J0, Canada

patricia.kierans@gmail.com

Grd d.o. Earl & Margaret (Judd) Bretzlaff m Oct 1944 Shawville, Quebec, Canada. Margaret d.o. Robert Wilson & Elizabeth Amy (Mt) Judd m 24 Oct 1916 Greenmount, Quebec. Elizabeth Amy b 29 Feb 1889 Liverpool, Lan d.o. Charles Henry & Ellen (Midgley) Mt m 13 May 1878 St Mary's, Edgehill, Lan. Charles Henry b 7 Dec 1857 Liverpool s.o. William & Sarah Ann (Bird) Mt m 23 Sep 1855 St Michael's, Toxteth, Lan. William bpt 7 Oct 1832 St Nicholas's, Liverpool s.o. John & Mary Ellen (Sutton) Mt m 1 Jul 1832 St Michael's, Toxteth, Lan. John bpt ?? 20 Apr 1810 St Peter's, Liverpool s.o. Matthew & Ann (Luke) Mt m 10 Mar 1807 St Peter's, Liverpool. Matthew Bpt 4 Jun 1786 St Nicholas's, Liverpool s.o. Christopher & Mary Mt.

M2139 Mr Calvin Metcalf

Apt 304, 501 N Roadrunner Pkwy, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88011, USA
Calmet84@msn.com

M2140 Mrs Jane West-Price

100 Thorpe House Avenue, Sheffield S8 9NH

Lady_howards_ratter@hotmail.co.uk

D. o. Walter & Mary (Mt) West m Conisborough, Yks. Mary d.o. William & Gertrude (Goldspink) Mt m 4 Aug 1895 Swinton, Rotherham. William b 2 Jun 1895 Swinton s.o. Ernest & Anne (Roebuck) Mt m 22 Dec 1892 Swinton. Ernest b 7 Feb 1868 Goole s.o. Joseph & Ann (Greenwood) Mt m 5 Feb 1855 Sculcoates, Hull. Joseph bpt 3 Apr 1825 Owston, Lin s.o. James & Hannah Maria (Hibberd) Mt m 23 Mar 1823 Owston. James bpt 13 Jan 1799 Misterton, Ntt s.o. Joseph & Mary (Stamford) Mt m 22 Nov 1791 Horkstow, Lin. Joseph bpt 2 Jul 1772 Elsham, Lin s.o. Thomas & Elizabeth (Manby) Mt m 14 May 1767 Elsham. Thomas bpt 22 Nov 1741 Hibaldstow, Lin s.o. Jeremiah & Alice (Vessey) Mt m 10 Dec 1735 Barnetby, Lin. Jeremiah bpt 24 Mar 1707 Barnetby s.o. Thomas & Mary (formerly Baldwin nee Gibson) Mt m 17 Jun 1704 Barnetby. Thomas bpt 22 Nov 1668 South Kelsey, Lin s.o. John & Ellen (Parker) Mt m 6 Jun 1664 South Kelsey. John bpt 16 Mar 1633 Linwood s.o. William Mt.

Conn. M45 M936 M1307 M1796

M2141 Mr David Stringer-Calvert

1 Hawthorne Street, Unit 21E, San Francisco, California 94105-3983, USA
dave@stringer-calvert.com

M2142 Mr Norman Wilson

6 Hillcrest Close, North Baddesley, Southampton SO52 9HJ

normanwilson27@hotmail.co.uk

S.o. John William & Cora (Mte) Wilson m 28 Sep 1948 Whitley Bay. Cora b 14 Jan 1929 Ferryhill d.o. William & Annie (Ward) Mte m 13 Dec 1913 Bishop Auckland, Dur. William b 9 Dec 1893 Coundon Grange, Dur s.o. James & Margaret Jane (Robinson) Mte m 28 Apr 1877 Bishop Auckland. James bpt 10 Nov 1854 Heworth, Gateshead, Dur s.o. James & Mary (Whitton) Mte m 27 Nov 1847 Bolton on Swale, Yks. James bpt 23 Aug 1825 Well s.o. Thomas Ford & Mary (Bradley) Mte m 9 Apr 1825 Thornton Watlass. Thomas Ford bpt 1 Aug 1795 Thornton Watlass s.o. James & Ann (Ford) Mte m May 1794 Hornby. James b c1776.

Conn: M319 M529 M1020 M1189 M1417 M1779

M2143 Mr Andrew Denholm

27 Beech Parade, West Cornforth, Ferryhill, Co. Durham DL17 9PH
andydenholm@gmail.com

M2144 Ms Krista Metcalfe

17961 St Andrew's Road, Caledon East, Ontario L7K 2E2, Canada
 kristametcalfe@hotmail.com

WILLS PROJECT REPORT

This is my final report on this Project. I have practically finished the wills which I can reasonably readily access, so this seems a suitable time to close my involvement in the Project. There are now 1235 will transcriptions in the Society database, thanks to the work of volunteer transcribers over many years. I wish to particularly mention the four stalwarts of the Project in recent years, Jennifer Metcalf, Edwin Metcalf (who was also a previous coordinator of this Project), Joan Metcalfe and Margaret Medcalfe and to thank them on behalf of the Membership for their dedication and for the quality of the work in transcription which they have done.

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.

- 1664 Richard Metcalfe of Askrigg, Yorkshire (administration & inventory)
- 1693 James Metcalfe of Capley Green, Aysgarth, Yorkshire
- 1693 George Metcalfe of Thornborough, Romanby, Yorkshire
- 1696 Michael Metcalfe of Warlaby, Yorkshire
- 1697 William Metcalfe of Barwick, Stainton in Cleveland
- 1698 Sir Gilbert Metcalfe of York
- 1726 James Metcalfe of Redmire, Yorkshire (administration)
- 1727 Margaret Metcalfe of Preston under Scar, Wensley, Yorkshire
- 1732 Giles Medcalf of Redmire, Yorkshire
- 1733 Ruth Metcalfe of Cubeck, Aysgarth, Yorkshire (admin & inventory)
- 1736 Jane Metcalf of Thornthwaite, Yorkshire
- 1739 John Metcalfe of Thoraby, Yorkshire (administration)
- 1756 Thomas Metcalfe of Thornthwaite, Yorkshire
- 1790 John Metcalf of Leeming Stile, Hampsthwaite, Yorkshire
- 1791 James Metcalfe of Lunds, Aysgarth, Yorkshire
- 1794 John Metcalfe of Burtsett, Aysgarth, Yorkshire
- 1799 Margaret Metcalfe of Gayle, Yorkshire
- 1807 Thomas Metcalfe of Padsie, Hampsthwaite, Yorkshire
- 1812 Thomas Metcalfe of Bainbridge, Yorkshire (administration)
- 1817 Thomas Metcalfe of Hipswell, Yorkshire (administration)
- 1840 John Metcalfe of Birkrigg, Aysgarth, Yorkshire (administration)
- 1855 Margaret Metcalfe of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, USA
- 1856 John Metcalfe of Thruscross, Yorkshire

Metcalfe Teachers Michael Peel M1698

The Clan Book has on page 192 an account of "Metcalfe, the misses" running a school. Here is another Metcalfe family involved in the education of young ladies.



Saturday, January 5, 1861:
ESTABLISHMENT FOR THE BOARD AND EDUCATION OF
YOUNG LADIES
17, BATH BUILDINGS, HUDDERSFIELD.

"THE MISSES MATCALFE beg to inform the inhabitants of Huddersfield and the vicinity that they have entered upon the above establishment, lately conducted by Mrs. E. Hirst, and trust that the system of education which they have hitherto pursued with marked success will enable them to give entire satisfaction.

They undertake to impart to their pupils a thoroughly sound and English education, the course of instruction including Ancient and Modern History, Geography with the use of the Globes, English Grammar, Composition, Writing and Arithmetic, with Music, Drawing and the Languages. The rudiments of Latin, if desired. French taught daily, both conversationally and grammatically.

The most careful attention will be paid to the moral and religious training of the pupils entrusted to them as well as to their mental culture and deportment, and their health studiously cared for, due regard being had to the ventilation of the School-rooms and sleeping apartments, and every domestic comfort afforded which can be consistently conducted with school discipline.

Masters will attend the advanced Pupils for Music and the Languages if required."

Advertisements with similar wording during a few years before 1961 show the Misses Metcalfe setting up a school first in Frenchgate, Richmond (Leeds Times September 25, 1858, page 4) and at Newbiggin, Richmond (The Leeds Intelligencer, July 7, 1860 and the Richmond and Ripon Chronicle 4th August 1860). Newspaper pages are provided by britishnewspaper-archive.co.uk



Frenchgate in Richmond, long a Metcalfe Stronghold.

The Misses Metcalfe are easily found in the 1861 census at the above address in Huddersfield, namely Annie age 33 (schoolmistress), Jane age 23 (governess French Music) and Emma Francis (should be Frances) age 18 (governess drawing etc), all unmarried born at Richmond.

The school has a visitor Robert Metcalfe, a 21 year old cabinet maker, born at Richmond. Robert William (his full name) turns out to be a brother. The family is known to the Metcalfe Society. Their parents are James Metcalfe, (Unique Record Number 44773) tailor and piano tuner of Richmond and Mary Woodward. The data base has a full account of the family up to 1861. Robert William has number 84626.

By 1871, Emma has become a governess (in Abingdon in 1871, named Emma A Metcalfe, and in Thornton le Beans, Northallerton in 1881). Emma married John Thomas Thompson Q4 1883. This can be verified by the 1891 census for Richmond, where we find pharmacist John Thomas Thompson (43) and Emma Frances Thompson (47) with niece Florence Jane Metcalfe (15) – the latter is a daughter of the above Robert William.

Annie Metcalfe died 20th February 1873 at Frenchgate, Richmond aged 44. The death certificate tells us that she was a daughter of James Metcalfe, tailor (it does not give Annie's profession). The informant was John Metcalfe, upholsterer and cabinet maker of Frenchgate. He is clearly Annie's brother from census records 1841-1871. Where was Annie in 1871?

There is an Annie Mitcalf age 43, domestic servant to a publican, widow Nancy Lord in Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire. But the place of birth is recorded as Oswaldtwistle. I have seen servants working somewhere wrongly given a birthplace where they are working, and I cannot find, in the 1861, census, any Annie Metcalfe of the right age born in Lancashire. What happened to the school?

The Huddersfield Chronicle

AND WEST YORKSHIRE ADVERTISER.

THURSDAY AND
FRIDAY MORNING

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1868.

PRICE 3d. Unstamped.

Saturday April 18, 1868 page 4, under "Sales by Auction":
"NEAR HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, WESTFIELD, HUDDERSFIELD.

By Mr. Thornton, on Thursday and Friday, the 23rd and 24 days of April, 1868, upon the premises of the Misses Metcalfe (under a deed of assignment), the whole of the Drawing-room, Dining-room, and Bedroom FURNISHINGS, Bed and Table Linen, Brussels and other Carpets, Kitchen Utensils, and EFFECTS, comprising in part 12 iron bedsteads, with mattresses, sheets, blankets, and coverlets; feather and flock beds, painted washstands, dressing tables, chests of drawers, dressing glasses, toilet ware, Kidderminster carpets, stairs carpets, stairs rods, kamptulicon, iron hat and umbrella stand, two hall chairs, six walnut chairs, in green damask; ladies' and gentlemen's easy chairs, two mahogany loo tables, sofa, in mahogany; mahogany sideboard, six mahogany chairs, mahogany bookcase, engravings, in frames; brilliant toned pianoforte, in walnut, 6¼ octaves; cottage pianoforte, 6 octaves; Brussels carpets, hearth rugs, fenders and fire irons, chimney ornaments, kitchen requisites, and numerous other EFFECTS; also, about 100 vols. of books. Sale at Eleven o'clock each day."

Bath Buildings in Huddersfield is now known as Bath Street, and is not far from Trinity Street, where Holy Trinity Church is situated.

A deed of assignment is a "legal agreement to give an asset or to sell a debt to someone else" (<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/>), for example, an agreement under which some or all assets of an insolvent debtor are assigned to a trustee, for selling them and distributing the sale proceeds equitably among the creditors." (www.businessdictionary.com). Is this what happened to the school? Or was the sale of assets for some other reason? I could not find out what happened to Jane Metcalfe.

by Michael Peel

OBITUARY

The Metcalfe Society extends its profound condolences to the family and friends of Gladys Dorothy Mould (nee Metcalfe) who died in Mississauga near Toronto, Canada on 26 June 2019 in her 84th year, daughter of the late Joel James Metcalfe and the late Mabel Dorothy Burton. Gladys was born and raised in Brockville, proud of her United Empire Loyalist heritage and an avid genealogist.

Report to Committee from FFHS Yorkshire Group Jo Heron M1042

The meeting began with an update from Teresa Nixon of West Yorkshire Archive Services. She announced that the Service has now employed an archivist for 12 months specifically for the cataloguing of the John Goodchild collection, to make it available to the public.

John was a local historian who collected material from many sources in the West Riding of Yorkshire area from the medieval to the Modern day. It comprises 3,200 archive boxes, covering Poor Law records, Settlement and Apprenticeship records, Bastardy books, Militia lists, Minute books for a number of organisations, mining, colliery, railway and transport records.

The Service is open most days, and there will be an Open Day on May 20th at the History Centre in Wakefield. The current archivist is only employed for a year, funded by John's estate and donations, and they will be fund-raising to extend the contract for another 2 years. Supporters can sponsor an archive box for £100 each to help extend the project.

A major success of the Service has been the transcription of the Anne Lister diaries – subject of the BBC television programme 'Gentleman Jack'. The funding for a project transcribing and digitising the diaries is being done by the writer of the television series, Sally Wainwright, and donations from supporters and the public. There are 120 volunteers working on the transcription – all working online, and more welcome. The aim is to make the digitised records freely available via the website. There will be a celebration in April with a number of events at Halifax Archive Centre.

In Kirklees, there are discussions on a major development to make a Cultural Centre in Huddersfield – this would include the archive centre. Generally, many original documents will still be covered by copyright regulations until 2039. More usefully for Family Historians, the Service aims to digitise 'name-rich' records, and are prepared to discuss with local Societies accepting their record collections.

From the AGM and meeting: The current officers were re-elected for 2020-2021.

Huddersfield FHS has taken possession of George Redmond's library and volumes are on sale through their web site.

The Yorkshire Group intended to take stalls at a number of Fairs, but the programme is now uncertain.

Unexpected Meetings with Family Historical Buildings by Mike Pope M1919

Most people these days are lucky enough to travel, and some very widely so, and it is a characteristic of family historians that the search for ancestors frequently demands driving prodigious distances both inside and outside the UK to hunt down the records, gravestones and houses of our forbears and perhaps photograph the genealogical object of our desires.

That cannot be said of the photograph opposite top, which I took in Amsterdam in November 2016 on a purely leisure oriented four days visiting a capital which offers a great deal of interest historically, architecturally and artistically. My wife and I were strolling along the street beginning to think about a fine lunch, or at least a glass of beer, when I espied, across the quite busy road, the Amsterdam City Archives. This modern building displayed a vibrancy and jazziness not often found in the UK, unless one considers the highly avant garde British Library building, and I could not resist photographing it for later use.

The photograph opposite centre does fall into that category and I took it in September 2018 in Thornbury Gloucestershire en route for Bristol where I was both Pope searching and meeting Pope cousins, and to the Zennor and St. Erth areas of Cornwall, for a holiday and some Pelmear hunting, I being descended only three generations ago from copper miners and husbandmen of the county. As the blue door was firmly shut, I could not establish whether it was possible to register a birth or marriage and collect skate, chips and mushy peas on the way out, as some sort of diversification project in the town, but in any event, it was also a fine building and very attractively decorated.

The final shot, bottom opposite, was snapped in Pately Bridge in March this year after a very pleasant night at the Yorke Arms at Ramsgill where the excellent food of Michelin Starred Chef Frances Atkins both delighted our palates and seriously depleted our bank balance. The financial pain was well worth it, as was the scenery up Nidderdale and along our tortuous 230 mile route up from Lincolnshire, which took in Teesdale, Long Marton, Brough, Kirkby Stephen, Cautley, Sedbergh, Hawes (including the Creamery), Starbottin in Wharfedale and finally the posh noshing shop above, on a glorious early Spring day. The following morning, after a very fine and substantial breakfast, we drove back down to Pately Bridge for a head clearing stroll and came across Folk Finders, which seemed to offer the holy grail of family tree research, but as it was also closed, we could not possibly comment! No doubt it is well known to some of our members.



The City of Amsterdam Archives



Thornbury Gloucestershire Old Register Office



Pateley Bridge Nidderdale Family History Store



THE CROSS KEYS CAUTLEY: DICKY METCALFE'S OLD INN ON THE SEDBERGH TO KIRKBY STEPHEN ROAD