



MECCA NEWS

No. 26

December

1988

Well, no sooner is the Mecca Muster over than Christmas is upon us once more. Perhaps I should not be surprised - after all, we have had Christmas cards in our local shops since the beginning of October. No doubt Easter eggs will be appearing on the shelves within the next few weeks ! I am sure that I never really understood what my parents were talking about, when I was younger, when they said that Christmas was becoming more and more commercialised each year. I fear that it may be a sign of my own advancing old age that now leads me to agree with the view that to perceive Christmas through its wrapping becomes more difficult each year.

I am reminded of the story of the British Ambassador in Washington, a few years ago, who was delighted to be contacted by the local T.V. station, just before Christmas and asked to name the thing that he would most like for Christmas. After a few moments thought, he replied " Well, if you absolutely insist, I would like a small box of crystallised fruits ! "

He thought no more of their conversation until Christmas Eve, when he turned the television on to hear the presenter say " We asked a number of visiting ambassadors to name the thing that they would most like for Christmas. The Russian, French and Polish Ambassadors said a greater understanding between East and West, the New Zealand and Swedish Ambassadors said a reduction in nuclear weapons and the Australian and Canadian Ambassadors said a greater concern for the environment. The British Ambassador said that he would like a small box of crystallised fruits. "

It is, perhaps, only human to want to indulge ourselves a little over Christmas, which, after all, ' comes but once a year ', but in wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year, I would ask you to also remember in your prayers those who are less fortunate than ourselves and, wherever possible, to do what you can to make their Christmas a happy one too. 1.

Editor.

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NOTES ON THE METCALFE CLAN

Mr. J.E. Metcalfe, M.N. 190, of Edwalton, Nottingham, has sent the following notes, entitled ' Notes on the Metcalfe Clan - Lent by Mr. G. Ridsmill Smith; written by his friend ' (apparently a Metcalfe).

The Metcalfes " settled on land between the hills Great and Little Calf, River Dent and the name first appears in something approaching its modern form in 1271 when Adam de Medcalf was slain by a man of Dent. The clan name obviously derives from the place Mid-Calf and has nothing to do with the silly legend built up from the coat of arms ... a ' punning ' coat quite frequent in mediaeval times.

We are thus undoubtedly a clan - said to be the only English one. Leland thus refers to us (temp. Queen Elizabeth) - ' a sometimes forceful and always gentle race ' and either he or Camden adds that when Sir Thomas of Nappa was Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (which then included the North Riding) he had an escort of 300 Metcalfes of known consanguinity with his own all mounted on white horses. (Hence, as he told me, Haliwell Sutcliffe's title of his novel about the family, ' The White Horses '. They were probably Yorkshire greys, a very nice type of Dales pony.)

Most public interest has, of course, been centred upon the Nappa branch - mainly because of the pretty little castellated Hall with its romantic associations - some of which, I fear, may be fanciful rather than real. It is, of course, my own branch - until my father's death we still had land all roundabout. The Hall passed out of our hands to the Vyners in settlement of a debt to a Metcalfe's father in law nearly two hundred years ago, in my great grandfather's time. Which really is the senior branch of the clan I really don't think anybody can know when there are all those centuries of prolific breeding (' the most prolific familie in this realme ' says Camden) before 1425. " " I have extracts from the will of Henry Metcalfe, last Metcalfe to die at Nappa of our branch - by the way, they always put in a farmer Metcalfe as tenant to this very day - a very kind gesture! "

8th November 1988

We really had a wonderful Mecca Muster in October, my thanks to all 75 for coming and my special thanks to 'The Workers'. Sandra Metcalf was the lucky raffle winner of Lillah Chapman's picture of Nappa Hall, which raised the magnificent sum of £139. Although the 'Garden' room at the Spa Hotel was quite satisfactory during the AGM, when everyone was seated, I was of the opinion that during the 'free for all' session after lunch we were rather crowded. With this in mind I tried to book the ballroom for October 1989 - to no avail - we are not a 'Function' so we cannot have it! Hence work is going on to find another venue, hopefully in the Skipton area. WATCH THIS SPACE. Many thanks to those members who sent me kind letters after the day. Someone left behind a stiff book cover (12½" x 5½") with names and some addresses on it, headed by 'Mrs Freda Whittingham'. If you want it back before the next Muster please send me .26p in stamps.

Apologies are due to many members who have written to me since September - my husband had a heart attack on the 17th Sept and since then my backlog has risen daily. He is progressing satisfactorily but not expected to return to work until the New Year - please accept my apologies and be patient.

Gosh, is it really? Yes - it is!! Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous and Healthy New Year, to you all.

Nina E Benson

New Addresses.

- Mb 16. Mrs Ann Crabbe to :- 48 Brook Meadow, South Molton, Devon EX36 2BN.
 Mb 51. Mrs Maisie Birch to:- 19 Knowles Hill, Rolleston-on-Dove, Burton-on-Trent.
 DE13 9DY.
 Mb 121. Mrs Dorothy Philp to:- 136 Spring Meadow, Leyland, Preston, Lancs. PR5 2LY.
 Mb 191. Mrs Mavis Cunningham to:- 10 Park Road, Bakewell, Derbys: DE4 1AX.
 Mb 232. Mrs Jean Ward to:- Beech Wood, 18 Grove Gardens, Market Drayton. Shropshire,
 TF9 1HG.
 Mb 242. Miss Sara Illingworth to:- 87 Phyllis Avenue, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 6LB.

MEMBERS listed in the August Mecca News as LEFT in 1988 - but their subscriptions have now been paid :-

- 117 - Mrs Jane Parker, Canada. 150 Mrs Susanne Metcalfe, Canada. 187 Don Halliday, Devon.
 204 - Mrs Mary Armitage, Huddersfield. 213 - Edward Metcalf, South Africa. 219 - Trevor Metcalfe (new address) - 907 Jarnahill Avenue, Yaroomba, Queensland 4560, Australia.
 231 - Mrs Vera Mellor, Loughborough. and 261 - Mr & Mrs J.M. Coulthard, Wimborne.

MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOW RE-JOINED. AND THEIR BIRTH BRIEFS.

- Mb 100. Nigel Metcalfe (new address) 12 Whitefields Gate, Richmond, North Yorkshire.
 DL10 7DD.
 Grandson of Sidney & Madge (Kidd) Mte. mge 1913 Bridlington Yks. Sidney b Feb 1878 North Leeds, Yks, son of Moor Nichols & Ellen (Jury) Mte. Moor Nichols bpt March 1843 Stallingbusk, Yks s.o. Joseph & Jane (Hopper) Mte, mge 6.5.1833 Stallingbusk.
 Mb 174. Mrs Diana Park, 'Ryecroft', Whitegate Lane, Marton le Moor, Ripon. North Yorkshire.
 HG4 5AT.
 Grand-dau of Arthur Tom Mte b 1855 Retford Notts, son of Anthony Mte and his 2nd wife. Anthony bpt June 1813 Hawaby, nr Helmsley, Thirsk, Yks. s.o John & Mary Mte. John ? of near Coxwold Yks bpt 3.11.1772 Coxwold s.o John (& ? Isabella Prince mge 1767 at Topcliffe, Thirsk).

These two re-joined as a direct result of the publicity about the Muster. Many of the new members came as the result of the excellent article in the Dalesman by Terry Allison.

UP-DATING OF BIRTH BRIEFS.

Mb 81. Mrs Alison Hutton, 197 Highsted Road, Christchurch 5, New Zealand.

Great Grandparents were George Mte and Elizabeth Gatenby whose mge has now been traced at Bedale on 21st May 1859. George bpt 23.7.1837 Bedale Yke s.o George and Margaret (Barwick) Mte mge 8.12.1832 Bedale. George bpt 3.12.1809 Bedale s.o. William and his 1st wife Betty/Elizabeth Gale mge 1st January 1807 Bedale. William bpt 21st May 1786 Bedale s.o William & Ann (Turbot) Mte mge 22.11.1775 Bedale.

Mb 164. Mr John Hyndes, 20 Cornland, Putnoe, Bedford. MK41 8Hz.

Gt.Gt. Grandson of William Mte b circa 1832 Newcastle on Tyne, s.o William & Ann. William bpt 15.8.1796 Great Ayton, Yks. so. John & Jane (Ward) Mte mge 16.05.1795 Great Ayton, Yks.

Mb 244. Gary & Christopher Metcalf, 66 The Strand, Newport 3015, Victoria, Australia.

William son of Edward & Eliza Metcalf was baptised 3.12.1826 at Huddersfield, Yks.

Mb 266. Mrs Susan Liptak, 7567 Canada Way, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada, V3N 3K1.

WILLIAM has been found ! Baptised NOT at Ripon Yks, but in RICHMOND, Yks. son of Henry (an Ostler) and Mary (Lumley) Mte mge 26.05.1857 Richmond, when Henry states that he is of full age and son of JAMES MTE, plumber.

NEW MEMBERS BIRTH BRIEFS.

Mb 287. Mrs Janet Cox, 6 Staplehurst, Woodenhill, Bracknell, Berks. RG12 4DB.

Gt x 2 Grand-dau of William Sedgwick b 4.4.1824 at Arncliffe, Yks. William son of John & Mary (Metcalf) Sedgwick, who mar 19 Oct 1822 Arncliffe. Mary Mte born circa 1790.

Mb 288. Miss Anne Metcalfe, 36 The Maltings, West Gate, Chichester, West Sussex. PO19.3DW.

Dau of Birdie Thomas Metcalfe, eldest son of Booth Hay Mte and hence related to Mb 55 Dorothy Pope, et al.

Mb 289. Mrs Debby Rose, 14. Hannibal Rd. Staines. Middlesex. TW19 7HH.

Gt Grand-dau of Arthur Cooper & Elizabeth Jane (Metcalf) Farrow, mge 22.11.1908 at Christchurch, Bridlington, Yks. Elizabeth Jane b 28.1.1885 or 6. dau of JOHN MT.

Mb 290. Mrs Dorothy Deane, 127 Highbourne Rd. Toronto, Ontario, Canada. M5P 2J5.

Dothory visited Yorkshire this year, attempting to trace her Metcalfe ancestors, dau of Richard Henry & Emily Effron (Kelly) Mt. Richard Henry born 10.8.1855 Canada son of George & Jane (Morphet) Mt who mar 8.6.1835 Clapham, Yks, Eng, they lived at Newfield House near Austwick before going to Canada in 1845. George born 1.9.1808, North Cote near Selside, son of John & Maria (Tiplady) Mte. Dorothy would dearly love to trace their marriage - can anyone help ?

Mb 291. Mrs Florence M. MacIver. 18 Kestrel Place, Glen Innes 6, Auckland. New Zealand.

Gt-grand-dau of William & Elizabeth (Metcalf) Proctor mge 21.10.1856 at Milltown, Co Armagh, Northern Ireland. Elizabeth born 21.10.1837 in Clonmacate, Armagh, dau of James & Mary (Forbes) Mt. whose mge is sought.

Mb 292. Mrs Lilian Lawrence, 2 Dormer Close, Crowthorne, Berkshire. RG11 6JH.

Dau of George Donald James & Olive Alice (Hebdon) Mte. G.D.J. b 22.9.1905 Hipswell Yks. son of George Herbert & Lilian (Firth) Mte of Hipswell. George H bpt 9.9.1877 Hipswell son of George & Elizabeth (Moses) Mte mge 30.9.1875. George bpt 23.1.1842 Hipswell, son of Robert & Elizabeth (Frankland) Mt mge 28.12.1841 Hipswell. Robert b.c.1821 son of Robert & Elizabeth (King) Mte mge 3.3.1818. Robert bpt 3.6.1787 Hipswell son of George & Elizabeth (Robinson) Mte. George born circa 1733.

Mb 293 Mr & Mrs Keith F. Metcalfe, 6 Laithe Bank Drive, Holmebridge, Huddersfield, Yks.

Nothing received.

Mb 294. Mrs Claire & Miss Julie Taggart, 5 Botheby Wood, Skipton. North Yorks. BD23 1NE.

Descendants of Frederick & Alice Hannah (Hall) Mte mge 22.11.1897 at Yedingham, Yks. Frederick b 1872/3 at Snainton, Yks, son of George & Jane (Steel) Mte mge 5.2.1859 at Brompton by Sawdon Yks. George b 1836 Lockton, Yks son of Robert & Hannah (Linton) Mt mge 25.1.1830 Middleton by Pickering, Yks. Robert b circa 1803 at Ebberton.

Mb 295. Mrs Alice Alcock. 39 Ash Grove, Cottingley, Bingley, West Yorks. BD16 1LU.

Dau of Robert Mte of Arkengarthdale, son of 'R' of Wensleydale, who married Miss Longstaff and lived at Whaw in Arkengarthdale, Yks.

Mb 296. Mrs Christine Sykes, 'Greystones' Sedgefield. Stockton on Tees, Cleveland. TS21 3DS.
and her cousin

Mb 297. Mrs Shian Waugh, Mountain Road, R.D.3. Te Awamutu, North Island. New Zealand.

Descendants of Margaret Sophia Mte born 14.8.1883, Bainbridge Yks. Siblings were Matthew Wm b 13.2.1874 (Butcher, went to Canada.) Frances Elizabeth b 4.9.1875 (went south), Emma Jane b 6.1.1877 = Jim Oliver, lived Chester le Street, Co Durham. Alica Lousia b 8.3.1879 mar & lived Blackpool. Doris Annie b 10.2.1881 died early. John James b 4.8.1885 (Butcher in South Shields Co Durham) Eveline Mary b 11.12.1887 died young. Thomas Richard b 22.9.1890 (Blacksmith at Bainbridge). Sec: 'A copy of any of their Birth Certificates would reveal parents names & mother's maiden name.'

Mb 298. Albert Metcalfe, 8 Lockwood St. Saltaire, Shipley, West Yorks. BD18 3JY.

son of John Thomas & - (Kendall) Mte. John T. born 5.10.1886 Saltaire, son of Samuel & Hannah (Halliday) Mte.

Mb 299. G. Peter Metcalf. 103 Robin Hood's Walk, Boston, Lancs. PE21 9LQ.

Son of Stuart & Helen Metcalf of Lincolnshire descent.

Mb 300. Thomas Pratt, 16 Hartford Road, Darlington, Co Durham. DL3 8EY.

Descendant of Thomas, stone mason, of Bainbridge, Yks and his wife (?Binks) Agnes. Became proprietor of the Kings Head. Their dau Annas born in 1781 married 30.04.1799 at Grinton to William Pratt.

Mb 301. Miss Vera Metcalfe, 282 Livesey Branch Road, Blackburn, Lancs. BB2 4QL.

Dau of Victor & Louisa (Davies) Mte. Victor born 25.5.1900 West Burton, Yks (lived in Bainbridge Yks) son of John & Mary Jane (Harland) Mte. Victor and many of his siblings were placed in a home/?workhouse in Bainbridge after the death of his mother circa 1904. Does anyone know about any 'homes' or 'workhouses'.

Mb 302. Stephen Graham. 27 Church Hill, Royston, Barnsley. South Yorks. S70 4NQ.

Gt Grandson of John & Mary (Metcalf) Graham mge 8.11.1876 Newcastle upon Tyne. Mary bpt 18.8.1855 Bowes Yks. dau of Robert & Mary (Smith) Mte. Robert bpt 9.2.1817 Barningham Yks. son of Thomas & Elizabeth (Alderson) Mte mge 18.11.1805 Barningham. Thomas son of Thomas & Annis (Binks) Mte mge 16.10.1769 Grinton in Swaledale Yks. Thomas b circa 1745.

Mb 303. Mrs Denny Gibson, Hunter's Hill, Crakehall, Bedale. North Yorks. DL8 1LA.

Nothing received.

Mb 304. Mrs Eileen Carr, Mulberry Lodge, 27 The Avenue, Healing, Grimsby. Lincs. DN37 7NB.

Grand-dau of Robert Charles & Eliza (Holmes) Mte mge Oct 1895. Robert C. born 11th Oct 1862 Stokesley, Yks. son of Robert & Mary (Calvert) Mte mge 24.12.1855 Grinton in Swaledale, Yks. Robert born 12.8.1827 Thornton Rust in parish of Aysgarth, Yks.

Mb 305. Charles S. Metcalfe, 28 South Road, Hayling Island. Hampshire. PO11 9AE.

Born Ripon, Yks. son of Charles Hert & Martha (Preston) Mte mge 5.1.1927 Richmond Yks. Charles H. born 5.9.1899 Scorton Yks. son of William & Mary (Blackburn) Mte mge 22nd May 1884 at Sandhutton near Thirsk Yks. William born 20.7.1859 Thornton le Moor Yks son of Robert & Hannah (Parvin) Mte mge 24.11.1849 North Otterington, Yks. Robert ?? born Langton on Swale - possible son of George & Susannah - Mte. George bpt 20.8.1795 Langton son of Christopher & Hannah (Brown) Mte mge 17.7.1781 Langton, Yks.

Mb 306. Mr J.G.K. Bell, 1 Westwood Gardens, Barnes, London, SW13 0LB.

Descendant of William & Alice (Metcalf) Bell mge 25/29 May 1774 Muker in Swaledale, Yks. when Alice is stated 'of Ivelet'. ?? Alice possible dau of Christopher bpt 2.2.1748/9 Muker. ?? Christopher mge 10.1.1739/40 = Elizabeth Wilkinson. Christopher bpt 5.10.1715 Muker son of James.

Mb 307. Mrs Joan Hughes. 11 Winsford Grove, Bolton. Lancs. BL3 4QD.

Dau of Mary Elizabeth nee Metcalfe who was born 8.2.1893 Marsden, Nelson Lancs. dau of Matthew Allen & Mary (Thwaite) Mte, mge 29.11.1890 at Hawes, Yks. Matthew Allen born 1.1.1868 Hawes son of Robert & Elizabeth (Allen) Mte. mge not yet traced, Eliz was a Quaker. Robert bpt 4.7.1837 son of William & Elizabeth (Marsden) Mte mge 6.10.1817 at Slaiburn Yks. Joan's line ties in with other members and she would like me to record her thanks for all the recording work that has been done.

Mb 308. Mrs Rachel Cranston, 7 Meadow Walk, Ryton, Tyne & Wear.

Dau of George Mte who was bpt 4.12.1864, Wensley, Yks. son of John & Rachel Esther Mte. John born Thirsk, Yks circa 1830.

Mb 309. Mr & Mrs Thomas Metcalfe, 32 Floral Avenue, Leeds, West Yorks. LS7 3DP.

THOMAS born Wortley, Leeds son of Ralph & Mary (Blackburn) Mte mge 4.8.1923 Beeston, Leeds Ralph born 14.7.1895 Boston Stump, Lincs, son of Alfred Rhodes and Emma (Backhouse) Mte mge and bpt of Alfred urgently needed - CAN ANYONE HELP ?

PATRICIA (Mrs Thomas Mte) dau of Smith and Emily (Robinson) Mte mge 11.11.1933, Darley near Harrogate Yks. Smith born 27.10.1904 Ramsgill/Middlesmoor Yks son of George and Ada (Moor) Mte mge 11.4.1898 Middlesmoor, Yks. George b circa 1874 son of George.

Mb 310. Mrs Georgina MacKenzie & sister, Mrs Elizabeth Asser, 98 Kingston Road, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 7BT.

Grand-daus of James & Maria Holmes (Metcalf) Lindsay mge 5.6.1877 Friends Meeting House, Redcar, Yks. Maria born 7.6.1856 Ripon, Yks dau of John & Mary (Holmes) Mte mge 16.3.1842 Leeds Yks. John bpt 7.12.1820 Ripon, Yks son of Thomas & Dorothy (Longthorne) Mte mge 1.1.1803 Ripon. Thomas bpt 30.6.1781 Ripon, son of John and Elizabeth (Hartley) Mte, mge 23.11.1777 Ripon Yks.

Mb 311. Mrs Joyce Simpson. Mill Farm, Kewick, Thirsk. North Yorks. YO7 4BH.

Mother's maiden name, Laura Metcalfe b 6.5.1906 Coundon Co. Durham dau of Robert and his 2nd wife Mary Myres. Robert had, in 1860, been presented with a 'Lord Wharton' Bible when aged 13 by Rev Thompson, vicar of Easby (near Richmond, Yks). Family stories said he had been brought up in Richmond. Following all these clues gave us Robert and his 1st wife 'Elizabeth' and dau Mgt or Mary in the 1871 & 81 Census for Coundon, when he gave as born - SKEEBY. It seems that Robert was bpt 24.12.1848 at Easby the son of Margaret Mte; the 1851 census for Skeeby gives him with his mother, grandmother Mary Mte (born Middlesex) and great grandmother Fanny Mte aged 80 b Skeeby. Grandmother Mary is widow of Anthony Mte and is nee Metcalfe - mge 15.11.1820 Easby. Work continues !

Mb 312. Mrs Barbara Metcalfe, 8 The Paddock, Burton Salmon, Leeds. West Yorks. LS25 5NE.

Nothing Received.

Mb 313. Mrs Dorothy Boothroyd. 6 Well House Drive, Leeds. West Yorks. LS8 4BX.

Gt Grand-dau of James & Margaret (Metcalfe) Barraclough mge may have been in Bradford, Yks. prior to June 1851.

1989 SUBSCRIPTIONS

DUE 31st JANUARY 1989

All rates have been increased (at the Annual General Meeting) by .50p to keep pace with costs and proposed developments.

You are now able to pay by Banker's orders, see the re-payment forms enclosed.

If you have forgotten your membership number, it normally appears on the top left-hand corner of the address label.

Please complete ALL details carefully and return to the TREASURER as soon as possible. THANK YOU.

GENERAL INDEX

- CHANGES ! CHANGES ! CHANGES ! CHANGES !

We were all delighted when Helen Offer, our President and founder of the Index, agreed to take over again. Thank you Helen.

This is how the new system will work. See back page for all addresses.

ENQUIRIES - All to HELEN OFFER. SAE or two IRCs (Stamped Addressed Envelope, or from overseas members two International Reply Coupons). Helen will house the General Index, will incorporate all the cards written out by her assistants, will deal with member's enquiries for the Index and for copies of 'Lists'.

LISTS - All to be sent direct to GEORGE BUXTON, who will, with help from Sandra Metcalf and Kay Davey, write out the cards which will then be sent to Helen Offer. NO ENQUIRIES to George.

FAMILY TREES All to be sent to MRS CHRISTINE WADSWORTH, who will write out cards for sending to Helen Offer. NO ENQUIRIES to Christine.

To get a copy of any 'LIST' - write to Helen Offer (+SAE/IRCs) asking for estimate, then send all monies and orders to her - making any cheques payable to 'Mrs D.H. OFFER'.

PLEASE REMEMBER AT ALL TIMES - if there is no return postage included with any enquiry, you will NOT get a reply. ALSO if there is nothing in the Index to answer your enquiry, no reply will be sent - then, if something new comes in that may help you, your SAE will be 'in your file' and you will receive the new information.

APPERSETT ANCESTORS

Following the article in the August Newsletter about Metcalfe nicknames, the need for these is reinforced, probably much to the dismay of those of you with ancestors from Appersett, a small hamlet to the west of Hawes, by the news that a gentleman alive in 1943 recalled that his grandfather could remember no less than seven people, all bearing the name of 'Thomas Metcalfe' living in Appersett at the same time.

8th October 1988.

The Chairman, John Holden, opened the proceeding, welcoming everyone and thanking the Secretary for all her work on behalf of the members.

The proposed new constitution was thoroughly discussed and is to be submitted to the Charity Commissioners for approval, before being presented for adoption.

Changes to the keeping of the General Index were announced. Elections of Officers and Committee took place and the results were :-

Chairman - John Holden. Secretary - Nina Benson. Treasurer - Margaret Metcalfe.
Editor - David Urwin. General Committee :- Joseph Metcalfe, Stockport, Cheshire.
Sandra Metcalf, Tring, Herts.
John C. Metcalfe, Skipton, Yks.
Gordon Metcalfe, Masham, Yks.
David Lambert, Altrincham, Cheshire.
Dorothy Philp, Preston, Lancs.

The Accounts were approved and Frank Bradley adopted as Auditor for 1988/89. The Society's thanks were recorded - to Frank Bradley for this work in 1988, to Jean and Frank Bradley for their work with newsletter distribution, and to Dorothy Pope for her work with the publications.

Subscription Rates - an increase of .50p on all rates was proposed by Nina Benson, seconded by Vicky Young and adopted unanimously. Helen Offer expressed her thanks for the honour in being confirmed as the Society's first President.

The next Annual General Meeting and Mecca Muster is Saturday 14th October 1989.

COMPUTER REPORT.

Precise position is unclear at this time - due to the illness of the Secretary's husband. Nina attending NIGHT CLASSES !! The situation will be watched closely.

PUBLICATIONS - NOW AVAILABLE. - SEND YOUR ORDERS WITH YOUR 1989 SUBS.

WILLS - Book 1. Those held by Leeds Archives at Sheepscar, Leeds. 1540 - 1857

WILLS - Book 2. Those held at Preston, Lancs, proved at CHESTER. 1545 - 1857.

Both books priced at £ 1.75p. each including packing and postage. to U.K. MEMBERS
OVERSEAS orders - sent Airmail - £ 2.00p each (Sterling).

PROJECTS

Wills - YORK - those held at the Borthwick Institute - almost completed.

Wills - Hull - Being recorded by member 68, Mrs Lesley Longworth of Hull.

Wills - General Index to National Wills, post 1858 - Co-ordinators Jean & Frank Bradley (address on back page). Volunteers needed throughout the country.
Do contact Jean & Frank if you can help in any way.

INDEX to GENERAL REGISTRATION - sometimes called 'St Catherines Index' - covering Births/Deaths/Marriages since 1837 - available throughout the country. This is a mammoth task which will take many months to complete. PLEASE try and help, even if you are only able to 'cover' a short span of time. Contact Miss Sara Illingworth, 87 Phyllis Avenue, New Malden, Surrey. KT3 6LB. Sara has a supply of special forms to make the job of recording quite simple.

INDEX TO LISTS

Nina E. Benson.

What is it ? where is it ? how will it help members ? What is a LIST ?

These are the most frequent of questions which come my way, so I thought I had better TRY and answer some, if not all.

What is a LIST ?

Full details of those Metcalf(e)s recorded by members and collected from various information sources such as Parish Registers and Census Returns. For example, RIPON CATHEDRAL BAPTISMS 1821 - 1900. This means that all Metcalf(e)s baptised at Ripon Cathedral between the years 1821 to 1900 have been recorded and the list sent to the General Index.

What is 'The Index to Lists' ?

54 pages (so far) carrying details of each List - the place concerned, the years covered, the records consulted. Now put into alphabetical order for the benefit of members and for ease of consultation. Our thanks go to Kay Davey for her initial work on the 'Index to Lists' - it has now gone to Dorothy Philp, who is putting it onto a word processor so that it can be up-dated as new LISTS come in. So this also answers the question 'Where is it ?'. Naturally we plan to publish it just as soon as possible.

How can I get a copy of a 'LIST' ?

Write to Helen Offer (address on back page) - say which town or parish you are interested in and enclose S.A.E. or two IRCs. Helen will then send you details of what (if anything) has been recorded plus costs involved. Send the full costs due to Helen and you will receive the copy Lists in due course. Make any payment out to Mrs D.H. Offer.

I do hope this clears up a few misconceptions - please always remember that all the Society's officers are volunteers, they all have homes and/or jobs, be patient and courteous at all times.

POSTAGE COSTS

Nina E. Benson

The increases in all postal rates, both UK and overseas, has once again highlighted the high cost, to the Society, of replying to all enquiries.

To attempt to reduce this cost, those enquirers NOT sending SAE or two IRCs will have their questions answered in the next publication of the Mecca News.

Because of the increasing amount of work involved, those members who kindly send a batch of stamps (and this is ALWAYS much appreciated) must now be prepared for these to be gratefully accepted as a donation to the Society - BUT NOT EXPECT FREE replies in the future. It is now quite impossible for me to keep account of them stamp by stamp ! I do trust you will all understand my predicament.

For the attention of Mb 156. Margaret Mann, Alberta, Canada. - Do see the up-dating Birth Brief of your 'cousin' Alison Hutton mb 81, contact her for further details. Regarding Bedale M.I.s - I have contacted the Rector who says they have NOT been recorded. ANYONE ABLE TO DO THIS JOB ??? Take your wellies !

BEDALE NON-CONFORMISTS

Those members whose Bedale ancestors were non-conformists may wish to know that the Public Record Office has the baptismal registers for Bedale Baptist Ebenezer Chapel from 1785 to 1827, for the Roman Catholic Aiskew Chapel from 1812 to 1840 and for Bedale Wesleyan Methodist Chapel for 1827 to 1857.

THE METCALFES OF FERN HILL

In the last newsletter, Sandra Metcalf, M.N. 134, of Tring, Hertfordshire, wrote about the Metcalfe family of Fern Hill. In her article, Sandra told the story of Charles Theophilus Metcalfe's career in India, leading to his appointments as Governor of Jamaica and Governor General of Canada. She concluded the first part of her story by referring to Sir Theophilus John Metcalfe Bart. of Fernhill, whose service took him even further afield than his younger brother. Sandra now continues where she left off - with the discovery of Sir Theophilus John Metcalfe's will:

" This is the last Will and Testament of me Sir Theophilus John Metcalfe Bart. of Fern Hill, Berkshire and President of the Select Committee of Supra Cargoes at Canton in China and I do hereby revoke two former wills made by me one will signed in Calcutta and dated March 1816 one ditto signed in Canton and dated 20 Feb 1818. "

Life in China for British traders would have been quite different from that in India at the beginning of the nineteenth century. The Chinese were sure that all ' Fan-quis ' (foreign devils) were coarse, uncivilized, morally and intellectually uncultivated and in every way inferior to the Chinese whose civilisation and Empire were more than two thousand years old. Ideally all foreigners would be required to remain in their own provinces, but the traditions of Chinese courtesy imposed compassion for these barbarians in need of the benefits of civilisation. However all contacts must be brief and virtually all business between China and the West was conducted between a group of Chinese merchants called the Co-hong and the few European Traders were tolerated on the offshore island of Macao (where the Portugese had been permitted to establish themselves in the sixteenth century) and at Canton during the summer months - when winter came the merchants from the West were required to close up their stores and counting houses and sail away to Macao.

At Canton they were confined to a small water front foreign quarter outside the town. These constricted trading stations - warehouses, offices and living quarters - were known as the European ' factories '. The largest, sometimes simply called ' The Factory ' was that of the British East India Company, which employed far more men than any of its rivals. The factories were bounded on the south by the Pearl River and to the west and north by the port and suburbs of Canton. Seen from the river the factories looked small, having very narrow frontages and the whole line extending not much more than a thousand feet, but they all stretched back nearly four hundred feet to Thirteen Factories Street which seperated them from the suburbs in the north. They were divided into four blocks by three alleys: New China Street, Old China Street and Hog Lane, whose openings were so narrow as to be nearly invisible between the national flags that flew in a row between the factories and the river.

One regulation strictly enforced was that no foreign women must ever be allowed in the factories and many batchelors were perfectly contented with life in Canton on those terms.

Besides, when the shipping season ended all the foreigners had to return from Canton to Macao and there were women enough there. The boats set sail to the sound of beating gongs and firecrackers, to the burning of hundreds of strips of red paper as a propitiation to the gods and on Macao waited parties and dances, musical soirees, theatrical performances, receptions in the Portugese govenor's residence and dinners everywhere.

Trade for the East India Company was emphatically one sided consisting largely of exports - rhubarb, tea and silk, of the cotton fabric from Nanking known in Europe as nankeen and of growing quantities of fine Chinese porcelaine and laquer ware for which a huge demand had developed in Europe. Rapidly as these exports were growing, there was no way of increasing demand in China for European manufactured goods to balance the trade. Exports had to be paid for in silver and any imports that could be sold were subject to the most erratically variable customs duties imposed by the Canton officials - through the Hong merchants - and which sometimes rose as high as five times the rate fixed by the central government. To trade at all at Canton it was neccessary to submit to the most flagrant impositions and pay constant bribes. From the Emperor's financial representative, through the customs officials, the interpreters and the pilots who guided ships up the Pearl River to the compradors who acted as agents in buying supplies for the factories, everyone expected the appropriate bribe or illicit commission.

Nevertheless, a Chinese Writership with the East India Company in 1800 was the surest way to a fortune in a short space of time. In 1784 the duties on tea had reduced from over 100% to 12% increasing the quantity sold from just under six million pounds in 1783 to over fifteen million pounds in 1785. Tea could be procured only in China (the first consignment of Assam tea would not arrive in London until 1838) and at this time only the East India Company could trade with China - in the early years of the nineteenth century tea from China provided one tenth of the total revenue of England and almost the whole profit of the Honourable Company. Appointments at the Canton Factory were so few and so lucrative that they were largely reserved for the sons of the Company's directors - a fact of which Major Metcalfe took full advantage: in the spring of 1800 he despatched his eldest son, Theophilus John, much against that sociable young man's wishes, to " Far Cathay " - he was just 17 !

The Metcalfes of Fern Hill are nothing to do with my family. Shoemakers from Holbeck are not impossible relatives for a Govenor General of Canada - but more than a little unlikely in this case. Yet I am hooked, Emily's journal is fascinating even if I find her rather too fulsome to be likeable. I am intrigued by what seems to me to be a little short of an obsession with the name Theophilus. But most of all I would like to know more about this eldest brother of what appears to me to be a remarkable family. The ' East India Registers and Directories ' for the years between 1801 and 1823 reveal that he spent the majority of his career (and consequently most of his adult life) on the ' List of the Honourable East India Company Established at Canton in

China. ' From a Writer he became a Supergargoe, then a Member of the Select Committee and finally, at the age of 36, in 1819, President of the Select Committee when George Staunton retired. His time in India was spent visiting his family there, which is presumably how he came to make a will dated in Calcutta in March 1816.

Because Theophilus John Metcalfe died ten years before Emily was born he is never mentioned in ' The Golden Calm ' which reveals so much about the rest of the family; the only pieces of personal information I have about him are from the passing references to him in John Kaye's book about his younger and more famous brother Charles; from Charles' own journal, including:

" My eldest brother, Theophilus John, was yesterday married to a charming young woman, Miss Hannah Russell " (1804)

And in 1810: " My brother has lost his darling wife, she left an only child Eliza Debonnaire ".

And from the will, some tantalising glimpses of an unknown life. Theophilus John appointed his brother Charles as one of his executors. The main beneficiary is his daughter Eliza Debonnaire who is commended to the care of her Grandmother, Mrs. Thomas Russell of Dover, but extensive and careful provision is made also for " my friend Anna Maria Rosario " and " my reputed daughter Anne baptised by me 5 April 1818 " and for a second child which Anna Maria was expecting at the time the will was made - life in China, it seems, had produced a few compensations for that reluctant young man.

Sandra Metcalf c 1988.

Sandra has provided a full bibliography as an appendix to her article, which, alas, we are unable to publish due to lack of space. A copy of this can be obtained, on request, from the Editor.

BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND DEATH CERTIFICATES

Readers are reminded that all postal applications for birth, marriage and death certificates, formerly obtainable from St. Catherine's House, London, should now be made to: The General Register Office, Smedley Hydro, Trafalgar Road, Southport, Merseyside PR8 2HH, England.

Personal applications should still be made to St. Catherine's House where indexes to the certificates are still available for inspection.

MARKING TIME

An article in a 1943 copy of the Dalesman magazine, by N.V.Dinsdale, refers to John Ogden of Bowbrigg, near Askrigg, Yorkshire, a Quaker and a friend of the famous George Fox, who is believed to have made the first Dales clock in 1681.

Ogden's apprentice was Mark Metcalfe, said to have lived from 1687 to 1776. Like his master, John Ogden, Mark was a maker of somewhat leisurely clocks, with one

hand, with calendar work. There was little need for a minute hand in the Dales in those days, but the calendar was really useful. With the time to the nearest quarter of an hour and the day of the month, what more was needed ?

Mark, who passed his skills on to his two apprentices, James Wilson and Christopher Caygill, also made watches, as well as clocks. However, the only known specimen of his watches that still remained in 1943 belonged to a Mr. Horne of Leyburn. Whether it still exists, or where it is, if it still does, is, and is likely to remain, a mystery.

* * * * *

THE DORNIX WEAVER - THE SEQUEL

One of the Metcalfe clan that I was delighted to meet at the recent Mecca Muster was Warwick Metcalfe, M.N. 256, of Uppingham, Leicestershire.

Warwick turned out to be the owner of a most amazing amount of Metcalfe memorabilia. One item from his collection of papers that Warwick had been prompted to bring with him to the Muster, by the item in the last newsletter about Michael Metcalfe, ' the dornix weaver ', who is said to have been the first Metcalfe to arrive in America, is the letter, reproduced below:

" Mendon, Co. of Worcester, U.S. of America

April 1 1848

To the Parish Clerk of Richmond Askrigge, Yorkshire, Eng.

Dear Sir,

Being engaged in collecting materials for a correct genealogy of the family of Metcalf and learning from a correspondence with the late Lotd Metcalfe, while he was Govenor General of Canada that much information would probably be found among the records of your Parish, I am induced to write you this letter, making enquiries touching the subject in hand.

From the late Lord Metcalfe I learned that about the year 1480 there lived in the Parish of Askrigge one Thomas Metcalfe who was married to Elizabeth Heysand, grand daughter of a citizen of London. That about that time Simon, who was a brother of Thomas, and who was a Catholic priest died at Rome and left in England two sons who were sent to their uncle Thomas and baptized by the names of Francis and John. This Francis and John married and became the fathers of a numerous family each, the Register of whose baptisms, marriages and deaths are said to take up a considerable portion of your ancient records.

Now I desire to get as correct a genealogy from your books as can be readily furnished of the name of Metcalf, noting any thing which may be known of any one of them which may be worth preserving.

Especially I desire to be able to find the ancestors of one Michael Metcalf who was a citizen of Norwich Eng. by trade a weaver of table cloths (dornix weaver as the ancient record has it) and who, being persecuted by Bishop Wren and his Chancellor Dr. Corbet for nonconformity, emigrated to America, arriving in Boston June 17, 1637. This Michael was born in Tatterford, Co. of Norfolk, Eng. A.D. 1586 - married Oct 13 1616 to Sarah ----- who was born in Wayham, June 17 1593. *

Now if I shall be able to trace the ancestors of Michael to the Francis and John abovementioned I shall then have an unbroken descent from Thomas Metcalfe who was the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in the reign of Richard III and who died of wounds received in the battle of Bosworthfield, and behind whom I do not expect to be able to trace our pedigree.

Anything you may be able to furnish from your Records or any other information you can impart on the subject of this communication will be thankfully received.

Like many of our countrymen I am not hunting up our ancestry for the purpose of setting up a claim to some great estate in fatherland, but simply because I am curious to learn more of the ancient stock from which we spring.

I remain Respecty Yours

Jno. Geo. Metcalf

N.B. Should you be unable to fulfil my desire in this matter will you hand this communication to some one, curious in these things, with the request that they will attend to the subject at their earliest convenience.

* They lived in the City of Norwich and there had 11 children born - 4 in St. Benedict's list and 7 in St. Edmund's list. "

Hopefully, Warwick will be letting us have a further insight into his collection of ' Metcalfia ' in future editions.

HELP PLEAS(E) !

We have a number of cries for help in this month's edition. The first of these comes from Anthony Pearson, M.N. 258, of 435 Norton Road, Norton on Tees, Cleveland TS20 2QQ, who writes " Having traced my Metcalfe ancestors back to the mid eighteenth century, I have run into serious difficulties. Three marriages in Askrigg have created this impasse, viz. James Metcalfe (a slater d. 16 Mar 1808) and Margaret Tiplady, marr. 6 Dec. 1755. James Metcalfe (a butcher) and Jane Kettlewell marr. 6 Sept 1756 and James Metcalfe (a yeoman) and Elizabeth Aron marr. 8 Sept 1757. "

Anthony is fairly certain that the latter James of these three is his ancestor, from a subsequent B.T. baptismal entry, but wonders if he will ever be able to trace this James Metcalfe's father with any degree of certainty. Can anyone out there help him - possibly through a will ?

Jim Nicholls, M.N. 283, of 48 Lee Avenue, Simcoe, Ontario, Canada, N3Y 3K5, is trying to obtain a copy of ' Medecalfe ' by Thomas Metcalfe, Vicar of Mytholmroyd S.O. Yorks 1906 - 1924, published by William Clowes & Sons Ltd, Beccles 1930. Can any of our members suggest where he could obtain a copy of this book please ? If you can help Jim, please write to him direct, at the address above.

Elizabeth Morey, M.N. 255 of 2/9 Fairleigh Avenue, Mt. Albert, Auckland, New Zealand, who is related to Vi Simpson of Huntly, New Zealand, says " My great grandfather was James Metcalfe, b. 2 Jan. 1866 Muker, Yorkshire and Vi's grandfather was James'

brother, George William Metcalfe, b. 1868 Muker, Yorkshire. They had another brother, Francis (b. c1875) and a sister, Elizabeth (b. c1871). It has taken us three years to find the birthplace of James and George William Metcalfe. We would love to hear from anyone who thinks that they may be connected with our Metcalfes". Finally, Miss N.R. Roberts, a non-member, of 56 East Union Street, East Brighton. 3187, Victoria, Australia, writes to say she is trying to trace her great grandmother's line; her great grandmother's maiden name was Stringer and her christian name was Susannah. Susanah's younger sister, Elizabeth, was born on the 27 April 1828 and died on the 11 September 1906, in Kent. Elizabeth was married on the 30 May 1854 at St. Pancras Church, Middlesex, England, to William Metcalf of Richmond, Surrey, the son of Joseph Metcalf. William joined the Bengal Militia (East India Company) as an Ensign on the 6 January 1841 and eventually rose to become a Lieut. Colonel. He retired from the Indian (Bengal) Army on the 17 March 1871 and died on the 27 August 1875.

Miss Roberts is anxious to contact anyone who may be connected, through the above William Metcalf, with her great grandmother's family, the Stringers. If you can help her, please contact her direct.

A PROPHET FAR FROM HOME

The Parish Registers of Bedale, Yorkshire, contain the following entry for October 1759.

" Revd. Thomas Metcalfe, Rector of Narborough and Vicar of Tilton in Leicestershire. "

HEAVENLY CONNECTIONS

Not content with having a number of Vicars in the family, it seems that some Metcalfes may be able to go one better and claim a blood relationship with a Saint.

Mr. J. E. Metcalfe, M.N. 190, of Edwalton, Nottingham, came across an article in an old, unfortunately undated, copy of ' The Yorkshire Post ', concerning Sir Thomas More, 1487 - 1535, scholar, statesman and saint. Sir Thomas was appointed as Lord Chancellor of England in succession to Cardinal Wolsey, but resigned his appointment in opposition to King Henry VIII's religious plans and refused to sign the Act of Succession which denied Papal supremacy. He was subsequently executed on the orders of King Henry VIII. He was canonised in 1935 and his story was later used as the basis for the film " A man for all seasons ".

The article describes how the last male lineal descendant of Sir Thomas More, another Thomas More, who died, a Jesuit, at Bath on the 20 May 1795, had a sister, Bridget, who inherited the More estates in Yorkshire, marrying first Peter Metcalfe, of Brigg, Lincolnshire and secondly Robert Dalton of Thurnham Hall, Lancashire.

Her son, Thomas Peter Metcalfe, married Theresa Throckmorton and had two children.

One of these, also named Thomas Peter Metcalfe assumed by Royal Licence - 24 June 1797

- the name and arms of More and lived at Barnborough Hall, Yorkshire, the old seat of the More family.

He died unmarried and was buried at Coughton in 1838, leaving the Metcalfe and More estates in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire to his sister, Maria Teresa Metcalfe, who married the late Charles Eyston, of East Hendred.

* * * * *

FROM SAINT TO SINNER

Lowering the tone slightly is Joe Metcalfe, M.N. 24, of 7 Round Croft, Romiley, Stockport, Cheshire, SK64 LL, who writes regarding a jail bird amongst his ancestors. Joe, himself, however, obviously has the patience of a saint, having continued to search for further information about the ancestor concerned for the past three years. The gentleman in question was one Alexander Metcalf, of the Parish of Linton, who was married to Catherine Bradley at Burnsall Parish Church on the 10 February 1783, one of the witnesses at their wedding being his brother, Thomas.

As far as Joe is aware, Alexander had three sons, John, bap. 19 August 1784, Robert, bap. 21 October 1793 and buried at Linton in July 1862, aged 72 and William, bap. 10 December 1797 and buried at Rylston in August 1811, aged 12.

Alexander, who was a plasterer by trade, was indicted at Skipton on the 19 July 1796 on a charge which read as follows. " an Afsault and Battery by him committed within the said Riding " (the West Riding) " upon the Body of Peter Gooden of Skipton in the said Riding Baliff when in the Execution of his Office of Baliff. "

The actual indictment read as follows: " THE JURORS for the Lord the King upon their Oath present that Alexander Metcalfe late of Linton in the West Riding of the County of York, Plaisterer on the eighth day of April in the Thirty sixth year of the reign of the Lord the now King George the Third with fforce and arms at Linton in the said Riding in and upon one Peter Gooden (then) being one of the Baliffs to the Most Noble William Duke of Devonshire in the Peace of God and our said Lord the King and in the due Execution of his said Office of Baliff then and there being did make an Assault and him the said Peter Gooden did then and there greatly threaten either with the Lofs of his Life or some other bodily hurt, and other injuries to the said Peter Gooden then and there did to the great damage of the said Peter Gooden and against the peace of the said Lord the now King his Crown and Dignity.

And the jurors aforesaid upon their oath aforesaid Do further Present that the said Alexander Metcalfe on the same eighth Day of April in the Year aforesaid with Force and Arms at Linton aforesaid in the said Riding, in and upon the said Peter Gooden in the Peace of God and of the said Lord the King then and there being did make an Assault and him the said Peter Gooden did then and there beat, wound and evilly beat so that his Life was despaired of. And other injuries to the said Peter Gooden then and there did to the great damage of the said Peter Gooden and against the Peace of the said Lord the now King his Crown and Dignity ! "

No doubt the jurors of the time understood this just as clearly as I do. However, the upshot of it all was that Alexander was sentenced to one month's solitary confinement at Wakefield jail. Unfortunately, for Joe, the detailed House of Correction records at Wakefield only start in 1800. If you can help with any further details of Alexander, Joe would love to hear from you.16.

BLACK SHEEP

Charles S. Metcalfe, M.N. 305, of Hayling Island, spotted this article by Brian Loomes in the ' Yorkshire Ridings ' magazine for August 1967, about black sheep in the Metcalfe family.

" Like most Yorkshire families the Metcalfes have had their troubles, though in the past a man was often regarded as a criminal if he held the wrong political or religious views.

Oswald Metcalfe of Hornby Castle near Leyburn seems to have dabbled in various illegal activities. After being found guilty of counterfeiting foreign coins in 1552 (then legal tender) and being pardoned, he was later in trouble for political activities. In 1570, the Sheriff of Yorkshire issued a warrant for the seizure of his goods and lands because he had ' joined with the rest of the rebels ' in the rising of the North. Leonard Metcalfe - no doubt a relative of Oswald - was convicted for high treason and sentenced to death for his part in the same uprising, but was pardoned in 1571.

At least some of the Metcalfes seem to have stuck together in adversity, as for example in 1544 when a Christopher Metcalfe found himself involved in legal proceedings at York, his kinsman, Ottiwell Metcalfe, is alleged to have dropped a casual hint to one of the jurors, that if he looked favourable on Christopher's case, he would slip him a ' crowne ' for his trouble. Unfortunately for Ottiwell, proceedings were then started against him - for bribery !

The Metcalfes suffered like many families for their religious beliefs, being fined heavily for non-conformity - even worse.

In 1600, for instance ' another gentleman of good account named Anthony Metcalfe ' of Aldbrough was beaten down from his horse and barely escaped with his life. In those days failure to attend church services was regarded as being as serious a crime as cattle - stealing - for which Gilbert Metcalfe of Fryton and Elinor his wife were prosecuted in 1563.

There were some odd cases involving Metcalfes. In 1639 Alexander Metcalfe of Leeds, a ' gentleman ' was taken to court for being 10s. in arrears with his taxes and the very next year he was in trouble again. This time with an accomplice who was a butcher he was prosecuted for assaulting William Eastwood at Castleford and stealing of all things a leg of veal valued at two shillings.

Also in 1640 we learn indirectly of the plight of Stephen Metcalfe of Sheffield, a cutler, when John Shemelde one of his apprentices applied to the justices to be turned over to a new master - because his own master ' lyes in prison in London and hath done for a year and a half, whereby he neglecteth his trade. '

One of the many Metcalfe legal disputes was settled in 1619 when the courts decided that the disputed house and land occupied by John Robinson was legally Robinson's property. But that did not satisfy Sir Thomas Metcalfe who three weeks later got together a band of sixty men, armed with ' musquitts, calivers, pikes, javelins, long - bows and arrowes ' and beseiged the house to try to take it by force. Robinson held out from Wednesday night till Saturday afternoon, when a sergeant at arms arrived from

York, brought by Robinson's mother. She had escaped after being beaten by the rioters and left for dead. Sir Thomas was fined £ 1,000 and sentenced to be imprisoned in the Tower.

In another legal conflict at York in 1534, William Smythe complained to the King about being manhandled by citizens of Tadcaster when going there to arrest three of them. He was beaten, locked in the tollbooth without food or drink and chained in the stocks, then taken to Topcliffe and kept a prisoner there for twenty days.

In these lengthy proceedings he cites Francis Metkalff of Nappa for gathering three hundred men ' with bowes, billes and other invinsable wepins ' for the purpose of preventing his rescue. However, the allegations were totally denied and Smythe was discredited as a ' suspecte person '. The oucome of the case is not recorded, but one imagines that this was one Metcalfe who got away with it."

(Note: I imagine that the Tower referred to in Sir Thomas' case was in fact Clifford's Tower at York and not the Tower of London - but then I could be completely wrong ! - Ed.)

* * * * *

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