

MECCA NEWS

No. 29

December 1989

First of all, I apologise profusely for the late appearance of this edition of the newsletter. This is due to frantically trying to keep one step ahead of the new (?) house falling down, combined with entertaining long term visitors from overseas. Hopefully, you will all still be full of, or recovering from the effects of the Christmas spirit and will remember that to err is human - to forgive divine. Mention of the Christmas spirit reminds me of the story of the Presbyterian minister who was known for his abstinence from alcoholic beverages. One evening, after a particularly good dinner with one of his elders, he was, however, persuaded to take just one small glass of cherry brandy. After one or two had been consumed and enjoyed, his host promised to send a couple of bottles round to the manse provided that the reverend gentleman acknowledged the gift in the parish magazine. This was duly promised and the next edition of the magazine carried the following announcement: " Your minister wishes to acknowledge and express his thanks for the most welcome gift of fruit and the spirit in which it was given. "

Whilst still on the theme of things most welcome, I must thank our readers for a little flurry of articles for the newsletter. To those of you who did write, I am extremely grateful. To those of you still to put pen to paper, I would merely say that there is no time like the present.

In keeping with the religious theme of the early part of this editorial, I will conclude with the tale of the bishop who visited one of the churches in his diocese and was somewhat put out to find that the total congregation numbered seven, including the choir. After the service was over he spoke to the vicar and complained about the small attendance, saying:

That was a very small congregation this evening. Did you tell them that I was coming? No, said the vicar, but I fear the news must have leaked out !

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HAWES M.I.s

James Metcalfe of Ashes d. April 1796 aged 80 years.

Phillis his wife d. May 1763 aged 44 yrs.

Thomas son d. Feb 1786 aged 27 yrs.

John son of Ashes Clerk M.A. d. June 1812 aged 62 yrs.

James Metcalfe of Askrigg, Surgeon d. Sept. 1825 aged 77 yrs.

Alice his wife d. Dec. 1836 aged 77 yrs.

Thomas Metcalfe d. Oct 1828 aged 41 yrs.

Wood Metcalfe d. Jan 1860 aged 68 yrs.

James Wood Metcalfe of Ashes, Clerk M.A. d. Dec. 1860 aged 77 yrs.

Hannah Wood Metcalfe d. May 1833 aged 10 days.

Thomas Theophilus Metcalfe d. 2nd Aug 1848 aged 4 yrs. 5 months.

Cover up your brother's or sister's weakness and on the day of judgement God will forget your imperfection.

Muhammad

Secretary's Notes.

Friday 20th October 1989

Just had a lovely fleeting visit from New Zealand member 81, Alison Hutton and her husband Don. After writing for many years it was lovely to chat together. Other members who have called when passing through include Australians 182 Colin Metcalf and his wife, 244 Gary Metcalf, and 369 Marjorie Unger, nice to see you all - call again !

Another AGM & Muster passed by last week end - great fun was had by all. We also took delivery of OUR COMPUTER which Charles Metcalfe demonstrated alongside his own. Charles has reached the Elizabeths and now hopes to set Helen Offer along the right tracks to help with the work. Please note NO enquiries are to go to Charles until the work is completed - WATCH THIS SPACE !

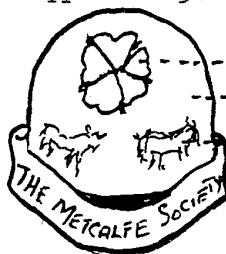
Changes to committee members are shown on the last page. John Holden wishes to retire as Chairman next year. Charity Status and Data Registration work moves slowly forward. Though a £1 increase in subscriptions was proposed, a .50p increase was passed unanimously.

A water colour of Nappa, painted and given to us by founder member Mary Metcalfe, was raffled and raised £ 80. Miss Ethel Metcalfe of Prestwich, Manchester was the delighted winner.

And - just to prove that I am just as much a sucker for compliments I herewith copy a paragraph which Mike Prior INSISTED went into this Mecca News with his Birth Brief !! 'In my experience of genealogy (spanning 10 years) Mrs Nina Benson has not only outstripped the capacities of all other peers, but has given freely of a dedicated profession'.....there you are Mike - I hide behind a blushing face ! *

Our badges have now arrived and can be obtained from me at any time. Prices are £ 1.75 on collection. £2.00 UK inc pp. £ 3.00 overseas airmail. It is a pin badge like this :-
Payments to 'The Metcalfe Society'.

Actual
Size.



--- white rose of Yorkshire
--- blue
--- two gold calves.

Merry Christmas everyone and I wish you all a successful 'Search Year' in 1990.

Nina E Benson.

MECCA MUSTER AND AGM 1990.

Nina E. Benson

Yes - already I am thinking about finding larger premises. It will be held on SATURDAY 13th OCTOBER 1990. This week I have received details from the college in RIPON and will be going there to view the facilities on Tuesday 31st October. It will cost us more - perhaps in the region of £ 8.50 per head. If there is anyone who has a better idea I would be VERY pleased to hear it !

There would NOT be any accomodation as the term will be in progress, however Ripon is full of every standard of hotel, bed & breakfast etc.

Hopefully I shall be able to give you more details in the April Mecca News - so watch this space !

* (Far be it from me to be a wet blanket - but I'd have been more impressed by a compliment from someone who could spell ' profession ' - Ed.)

BIRTH BRIEFS.

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members :-

Mb 381. Mrs Patsy Wood Lovell, 10862 Hampton Road, Fairfax Station, Virginia
22039. U.S.A.

descendant of John Mte who went to Virginia from England in 1715 (? from
Arncliffe, Yks).

Mb 382. Mrs M.C. Bullock-Anderson, 10 Dene Terrace, Ovington, Northumberland.
NE42 6DL.

Gt x 3 grandfather was William MT b in Kendal, Westmorland in 1788, married a
Margaret and lived in Carlisle from at least 1815. Their dau Margaret b 1816
Carlisle mar 30.01.1842 Carlisle to James Fell. Wm & Mgt also had sons -
William c1817. John 1819. Robert 1824. James 1827. Thomas 1833. William
was a cotton weaver and was bpt 09.06.1788 Kendal son of John & Mary (Bell)
Mte, mge 28 Oct 1777 Selside, Westm.

Mb 383. Mike Prior, 3 Burrridge Road, MS 624. Gympie 4570, Queensland.AUSTRALIA.

This is a BEAUT !

Mike's great grandmother was Ann Dockery b 18 July 1844 Preston under Scar in
Wensleydale, Yks. the natural dau of Jane Dockeray and William MTE 'the wood
chopper'.

William had married 8th Sept 1845 at Wensley to Elizabeth MIDDLEMISS (remember
this surname !) - when he gave his father's name as Thomas SIDDALL and indeed
he and his sister Mary are in Thomas Siddall's household in 1841 census return.

Mary in her turn, on her mge in 1845 to Christopher Heslop, gave her father as
Thomas Siddall. It is possible that both William and Mary were bpt in the City
of York but this has still to be checked - the IGI gives them as children of a
MARGARET MTE in 1820 & 1823.

NOW - Thomas Siddall's first mge on 27 June 1837 is to a MARGARET METCALFE ? the
same one ???

Remember the Middlemiss surname ? - this Thomas, after the death of his first
wife Margaret on 23rd Feb 1842, remarries on 21 July 1849 one Elizabeth Middlemiss,
who turns out to be his illegitimate son William's MOTHER IN LAW. Piece THAT
together !

Thomas Siddall was bpt 1795 and was the son of Thomas Siddall and his wife MARY
METCALFE who married 20 June 1779 at Wensley.

The Siddall family also fits into the family tree of Mb 303 Mrs Denny Gibson.

Mb 384. Mrs Margaret Cowley. 25 Foxford Crescent, Alderman's Green, Coventry.
Warwickshire. CV2 1QB.

Same line as Mrs Dorothy Pope mb 55 et al.

Mb 385. Mr Andy Kerridge. 86 Roman Road, Luton. Beds. LU4 9SE.

Gt x 3 grandson of Adah Metcalf and her husband John Wiley. Adah was bpt 31st
Aug 1825 at Rillington cum Scampston (between Malton & Scarborough Yks) dau of
John & Ellen (Abrams) Mt the 6th child of 10. The family had also lived at Staveley
and New Malton. John b c1795 at Ripley ? Yorkshire.

Mb 386. Miss Enid N.Cox. 73 High St. Chapeltown. Turton. BOLTON. Lancs. BL7 0EW.

Attempting to prove family links to a Manchester Metcalfe family - FRANCIS MT
of Marshall St b circa 1883. Other families ? connected are - Herbert. Bates.
Hollingsworth. Pennington. Wilkinson and Counsel.

Mb 387. Mr & Mrs Richard & Sheila Dodds, 30 The Meadows, West Rainton, Co Durham
DH4 6NP.

Sheila is dau of Winifred Annie Metcale and her husb George Allan Wear who mar 1945 in Durham. Winifred b 1917 West Rainton dau of Christopher & Annie Jane (Walker) Mte mge 1915 at Jarrow, Dur. Christopher b 1882 Sunderland son of George & Margaret (Robinson) MTE mge 1870 Sunderland. They also had son Robert b c1872/3 in Sunderland and Dick & Sheila are anxious to trace him. George bpt 26 Dec 1819 at Ripon, Yks. son of Thomas & Jane (Hewson) Mte mge July 1816 at Ripon Cathedral.

Mb 388. Mr & Mrs David & Margery Metcalfe, 110 Stratfield Road, Boreham Wood,
Herts: WD6 1XB.

David b Grimsby, Lincs son of Percy and Doris Mary (Strong) Mte mge 1931 at Misterton, Notts. Percy b Oct 1896 son of William & Adah Theresa Mte. Wm b circa 1859.

Mb 389. Mr & Mrs Keith & Margaret Metcalfe, 35 Oak Road, Ripon. North Yorks.
HG4 2NA.

Keith b Ripon son of Frederick Laws MTE and his wife Mary Jane Simpson. Frederick b 1st July 1909 bpt 15 July 1909 at Holy Trinity church, Ripon son of Christopher & Lilian Metcalfe. ? Christopher bpt 1881 Ripon son of William Pinkney Mte and Margaret his wife, he was a sheep doctor.

Mb 390. Mr & Mrs Richard & Edith Metcalfe, 16 Marine Drive, Hest Bank, Near
Lancaster. LA2 6EB.

Related to mb 58 Harold Crossfield.

EDITH is nee Maudsley and dau of Mary Alice MTE and her husb Walter Maudsley. Mary Alice b 1887 at King's Arms, Hale dau of William & Sarah (Frear) Mte mge May 1869. William b 1843 Holme Head, Ingleton son of John & Jane (Baynes) MTE mge 2nd Mar 1839 Ingleton. John b 10.02.1817 Bentham son of Thomas & Margaret MTE. Thomas was publican at the Three Horse Shoes, Ingleton.

Richard b Aughton Hall Farm son of Edmund & Elizabeth (Makinson) Mte. Edmund b c1887 Aughton, Lancaster, son of Edmund & Mary (Bibby) Mte mge June 1882. Edmund b 1858, Over Kellet, son of Antony & Mary (Tomlinson) Mte mge 21st July 1844 Over Kellet. Antony son of Anthony & Margaret (Rallinshaw) Mte mge 1805 Tunstall, Lancs.

Richard therefore also related to Mb 53 Miss Ethel Metcalfe and mb 121 Mrs Dorothy Philp. Yet another 'group' forming !

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UP-DATED BIRTH BRIEFS.

Mb 230. Mrs Angela Baker, 3 Gisborne Close, Yoxall, Staffs: DE13 8NU.

Was stuck with Anthony MTE bpt 1770 in County of York. Further research has discovered that he was bpt at YARM, Yks on 18th Nov 1770 son of John & Isabella (Simpson) Mte who married 20th Sept 1767 at Yarm and whose children were also John died 1773. William b 1778, Joseph b 1780, John b 1775 (who mar in 1799 Jane Larson) and James b 1783.

Mb 358. Michael T. Richardson, 18 Gordon Way, Dovercourt, Harwich, Essex. CO12 3TW.

Michael is beginning to have doubts ! see the separate article 'To Be or Not To Be a Metcalfe'.

Anyone any ideas how he can set about his research ?

Mb 368. Mrs Sandra Quinn, C/- PO Coen, 4871 Queensland, Australia.

Descendant of John MTE of Ilton near Masham, Yks. John bpt 18th Dec 1810 at Masham son of Thomas & Margaret (Hauxwell) Mte who married 26 Feb 1794 at Spennithorne, Yks when John was described as 'of the parish of East Witton'.

John's son John (b c1845) marries a Jane of Riplin/Kiplin Co Durham and has two children, Margaret 1869 and William 1871 born at Rimrose, Winston, Co Durham and two born at Sedgfield, Co Dur - Alice Jane 1873 and Robert 1875. In 1881 this family were in Egglescliffe, Co Durham.

Mb 371. Kennth Barrell, 21 Manor Park, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton, Somerset.
TA2 6SG.

Stuck at Jeffrey born 23rd July 1883 ? Ribbleshead Yks who married 9th Sept 1939 at Burnley Lancs. Jeffrey was born at REDMIRE Yks. son of James & Margery (formerly Metcalfe) Metcalfe - this is ex his birth certificate. However on his mge certificate he gives his father's name as JEFFREY.

Mb 380. L. Stuart Mitcalfe, PO Box 35297, NORTH WAY, 4065, Durban, Rep of South Africa.
Confirms that he is son of Llynvi Mitcalfe son of Mowbray & Eveline Frances (Webster) Mitcalfe.

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OFFICIALS PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING :-

Mb 268 Mrs Dorothy Benden of New South Wales, Australia paid her 1989 sub in August.

NEW ADDRESSES :-

*IMPORTANT***** EDITOR ***** DAVID URWIN mb 193 moved from Whitkirk to 25 Moor Allerton Drive, Leeds. West Yorkshire. LS17 6RY.

Mb 233 Michael J Medcalf from Swinton to 3 Sandown Road, Bangor-is-y-coed, Wrexham, Clwyd. LL13 0JA.

Mb 336. Mr & Mrs J.B. Rhodes to 34 Rose Meadows, Fell Lane, Keighley, West Yorks, BD22 6LW.

* * * * *

OBITUARIES

We are sorry to announce the sudden death of Mb 373 Mr Brian Metcalfe of Barnard Castle. His widow Maureen hopes to continue her membership and the family research.

News had also reached us of the death of Mrs Edward Metcalf of South Africa, wife of Mb 213.

Our condolences have been offered to both families.

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Mb 375 Miss Winifred M Metcalfe of Newcastle, Staffs recommends the novel 'Sunne in Splendour' by Sharon Penman. This is a historical novel of the times and lives of kings Edward IV and Richard III and much of the action takes place in York, Pontefract and Middleham Yks. On three occasions the Metcalfes of Nappa are mentioned.

Winifred also reports calling in at the Kirby Malham (Yks) church of St Michael The Archangel and noted, high up on the third pillar from the west on the north arcade, the quartered arms of the Metcalfes of Nappa and the de Hertlington families. She could distinguish the three calves of the Metcalfe Arms but the other was not quite so clear - maybe a Lion Rampant. Winifred wonders if anyone

knows anything about the de Hertlingtons and when they married into the Metcalfes.

Sec: - Elizabeth de Hertlington, widow of Sir William Hertlington, married THOMAS Metcalfe - father of Sir James of Nappa and Ottiwell Metcalfe of West Witton.

1990 SUBSCRIPTIONS

These become due on 31st January 1990 and your prompt payment to the Treasurer would be greatly appreciated.

At the AGM the proposition was passed unanimously that all rates of subscriptions be raised by .50p. This is to provide the capital necessary to run and eventually replace the computer when required.

Ways and means of payment have been thoroughly thrashed out and these are set out below.

1. BANKER'S ORDERS, these can still be accepted but MUST be arranged by member's with their own banks, stipulating that the membership number be used at all times. The Metcalfe Society account details are :- TSB plc, 57 Victoria Road, Earby via Colne, Lancs, BB8 6UN. Sorting Code No: 77-76-20. Account number 03796268.
2. UK Members. Perhaps the easiest method for those UK members who tend to lose their repayment slips is to pay your subscription NOW with a POST-DATED cheque for 31st January 1990. It will NOT be presented to our bank until that date. If you require a receipt please enclose SAE.
3. USA & ?. Member Mrs Barbara Fox of Wisconsin, USA recommends using RUESCH International, 1140 19th St. N.W. Washington DC, 20036, USA, which is a Swiss banking firm possibly located throughout the world. In January 1989 Barbara paid \$ 21.47 for 10 British pounds - this included a \$ 2.00 service charge. One can order by telephone (toll free) 800/424-2923. Tell them how many pounds you want sent to Britain and to whom the check/cheque is to be made out. They will tell you how much it comes to in US dollars and you send them a check for that amount plus the \$ 2.00 fee. They send the Sterling check/cheque to you at once so they cross in the mail. Thank you Barbara for this information.
4. Overseas Airmail - Individual membership - NOT available for family members. Payment can be accepted made in common currency notes but it is left to the sender to decide whether to insure against loss. Exchange rates are such that we would need to have TWO YEAR SUBSCRIPTIONS, Airmail.
20 US dollars. 25 Australian/Canadian dollars. 30 New Zealand dollars.
The exchange fee would be offset by the interest received on the second year's cash.
5. All members paying 2 years subscriptions together will benefit should the rates rise during this time.

NOW FIND YOUR REPAYMENT SLIP AND ACT NOW !!

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS FROM HORSEHOUSE (in Coverdale, Yks) collected and sent by Mrs Denny Gibson.

JOHN RICHARD son of Jeffrey and Mary Metcalfe of Gammersgill, d 25 Nov 1918 aged 29.
JEFFREY MTE d 15 Oct 1932 in his 80th year.

MARY MTE s 15 June 1936 in her 69th year.

To BE or NOT to BE a METCALF.

When I started with my interest in Genealogy one of the first things I was told by my Parents was that my Paternal Grandmother was MARY RICHARDSON nee' METCALFE. This was subsequently confirmed by a cousin on father's side of the family. Regretfully since that time they and most of the rest of the family have died and I have relied on my own researches to fill in the details. Long searches at St.Catherines House revealed no marriage between my Grandfather SAMUEL RICHARDSON and a MARY METCALFE.

I therefore searched for and found the Birth and Death records some of my Uncles and Aunts on that side of the family. The arrival of the certificate of the first born Isabel (1893 Shildon) revealed that the mother was MARY RICHARDSON formerly PETTY. An interesting item on this certificate of birth shows that it was registered by HANNAH METCALF (present at the birth). An immediate search for this marriage led to success and indeed a certificate was obtained to confirm this event in 1893 at Shildon Durham. A birth certificate for Mary PETTY born 1873 Evenwood Co.Durham was then obtained (mother HANNAH formerly Franklin) and this confirmed the findings.

Since then I have obtained the birth certificates of EDITH HANNAH (1895 Shildon) and ALICE RUBY MAY (1900 Darlington), and two boys THOMAS WILLIAM 1898 and my father WILFRED born in (1905 at Hurworth). On three of these certificates the mother is shown as MARY formerly PETTY Thos.Will. being the exception, his mother is shown as formerly Metcalfe. There was then a five year gap to 1910 when my Uncle NORMAN ED.SAM. was born in Darlington followed by Aunts AMY (1915) and FRANCIS (1917 Darlington) and on these certificates the mother is shown as MARY formerly METCALFE or METCALF.

I have now obtained the death certificate of Mary Richardson which shows she died in 1941 Darlington.

Have I therefore got a forebear of the name METCALFE or have I joined your society under false pretences. It would appear from ISABEL's birth certificate that HANNAH METCALF may have been Mary's mother assisting at the birth after a second marriage on her part. Mary then seems to have adopted that name for some of the births. If your records or any member is able to shed any light on this little puzzle I shall be delighted to hear from them.

Mike Richardson.

Mem. No. 358. 18 Gordon Way, Dovercourt, Harwich, Essex. G012 3TW.

A FIFTEENTH CENTURY LAWYER

As you may recall, in the August issue of ' Mecca News ', we featured extracts from an article by Carole Parkhouse, a non-member, which she had written for the journal of the Richard III Society, ' The Ricardian ', entitled ' The Career of a Fifteenth Century Lawyer: Miles Metcalfe of Wensleydale '.

Following this article's publication, we received the following letter from M.N. 257, Terry Allinson, of Bramlea, Wetherby Road, Bardsey, West Yorkshire, LS17 9BB.

" I really enjoyed Carole Parkhouse's article in the recent Mecca News but I fear I have to question her details from the wills of Miles Metcalfe and his wife - for I fear that a mistake, or mistakes, may have been made. Possibly I should have held this until reading Carole's full article, but there appears to be sufficient in the extracts to criticise, or discuss.

I have perused the wills (or rather a copy on film at the Borthwick Institute, at York,), before seeing Carole's piece. Frankly, I found them virtually impossible to read, except for names, which appeared to ' stand out ' from the olde english text. So I spent a little time attempting to decipher the content, simply scanning the lines until a name appeared. I noted down those that appeared reasonable clear to me.

Before stating those names, I must say that Carole has got the name of Miles' wife wrong - stating Maud, whilst the index at York itself shows Matilda. This may be unimportant, for we are aware of M.'s family name, but my next point is rather more important, I feel. Carole appears to be ' tidying up ' the names found in the wills. Miles and his wife, for example, spelt their surname with a ' K ', both Metkalf and Metekalf appearing.

Coming now to the meat, but first I must stress that whilst believing I am accurate, I also believe a third opinion is now required since I have not had a second look at the wills since reading ' A fifteenth century lawyer '. For I believe another opinion would be much better ...

I noted firstly the use of Milome for Miles. Secondly, I set down ' my son Richard and my daughter Cath ' (this probably being my shorthand for Catherine), then ' my brother Thomas Metkalf ' and ' my son James Thomas and Thomas Morley '. Finally, I have down ' Matilda ... Jacob ... ' and ' Thomas and Thomas Morley '.

On Matilda's will, my first note is ' Catherine Lambe '. Perhaps I should say here that I have a Lamb line in my ancestry and, on the same theme, mention that I thought I could also decipher John Alanson - but my note here has a question mark following it. Secondly, and this is the key part, I have down ' Sibelle Gill ' where Carole has ' George and Sybil Hill '. Skipping my next note, the possible Alanson, next comes ' Katherine ' and ' Johs Metkalf ', then ' Sib-lla Gill ' and the difficult ' father in ? - Lambe ' and finally ' Jacob Metkalf '.

To be fully honest, I should say here that I suspect I also have a Gill line, but I have deciphered this word three times, or thought so at the time ! However, I have now said my piece. I await glory or the egg on my face with equanimity, or

perhaps egg-uanimity. I suggest the key question now is - who is to arbitrate ?
I believe the Society should engage the top London expert, or similar, to ' translate '
these intriguing documents without delay. "

I suggest that one of them has been at the Christmas spirit early - but which one ?
Answers on a postcard please in time for the next issue ! - Ed.

Terry Allinson, of course, wrote the ' Dalesman ' article earlier this year which
resulted in over sixty new members for the Society.

WILLS PROJECT - THE TASK FOR 1990

During 1988/89 (writes Frank Bradley - for address, please see back page) a small
team of volunteers listed all the Metcalf(e) wills in the Probate Calendars for the
years 1858 - 1909 - more than a thousand names.

From 1858, when responsibility for the grant of probate became a civil responsibility,
an index of the grants was produced annually - printed volumes, easy to read and in
strict alphabetical order. Those for 1939 and earlier years are normally held at
County Record Offices; the last 50 years' information is in controlling Probate
Offices. C.R.O.s and C.P.O.s are not necessarily in the same place - the latter
often serve two or more counties.

An appeal for volunteers at the Mecca Muster produced two more teams, with one lost
due to Charles Metcalfe's total involvement with the extensive computer project.

Thanks are due to all who have involved themselves so far.

But there is still a long way to go - in the earlier years of the index, the ' stints '
covered a 10 or 5 year span, but in the post war period there are 120-150 names per
year and two or three years will require a few hours work.

My role as co-ordinator is to ensure that we cover the years systematically and avoid
duplication. We recored a standard shortened version of what is printed, so as to make
it easier for transferring the information to computer. So if you would like to help
in this task, which adds significantly to our Society's store of Metcalf(e) information,
please get in touch with me. I promise an early response ! The Treasurer will pass on
any offers included with your subscriptions.

If you want to test the water, why not call at your nearest C.R.O. or P.O. and see
what they have available. You can always check whether Great Uncle Giles really did
leave £ 50,000 - but please don't do any bulk recording until you have got your
official allocation/guidance.

THE MECCA MUSTER 1989

Ron Metcalfe, M.N. 13 of 31 Hawthorne Road, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham B36 0HH,
writes with this report on the Mecca Muster which took place on the 14 October 1989.

" The sun shone over beautiful downtown Skipton as the Clan Metcalfe mustered to hear happenings of the past year, to plan for the future and, perhaps, find another relative.

John Holden, Chairman, opened the A.G.M. before 73 members including a visitor from Canada. " (This must have made for an incredibly long opening ceremony - I'm glad I missed it - Ed !)

" An official version of A.G.M. matters will appear in the Mecca News. Suffice it for me to put together some random thoughts on the happenings of that day.

Updating news on Charity Status, John Holden felt that despite many difficulties the application was grinding through the mills of authority. Watch this space.

Nina, ecstatic with joy, told us that the computer had arrived - yesterday !!

Feeding in information had already started under the direction of Charles Metcalfe. More details will no doubt surface on this subject in the days ahead - me, I'm booking a course in computers, trust you will be doing the same ! Meanwhile, feeding paperwork to the computer will allow Nina to move from the garage to living in the house again.

Concern was expressed that the computer would be " hacked ". Not as in footballing " hacking down an opponent ", but as in pinching our information ! Complicated, isn't it ?

Should carding be continued ? I hope so, I've landed a contract helping Sandra ! Anybody else out there ?

Frank Bradley reported on National Wills from 1858 onwards. Me ? I'm doing 1925 - 1929 in Birmingham. If you get to St. Catherine's please spare a moment to collect information on Metcalf(e)s.

Nina told us we have about 280 active members. If our clan, in the past, could raise 300 to ride, on white horses, to help King and County, surely we can raise as many riding Fiesta's etc., to help carding, finding wills and the multitude of small tasks needed to keep our Society going. Please, go on, overwhelm Nina with offers of help. By the way the accounts are in a healthy state said Margaret Metcalfe, our Treasurer " (who sent a postcard - apologising for her absence - from the Bahamas! - Ed.) " Do check your bankers order is being paid then we may do even better. The Mecca News needs more articles, said Nina, leaving me a note to report on this meeting. Subtle, Nina !

Our gallant band of Officers were quickly elected to office for another year. They really are deserving of our heartfelt thanks for the amount of work done on our behalf.

The subscription goes up to help buy a new computer sometime in the future. A worthwhile gesture, unanimously supported. " (Hang on - I know I wasn't there, but wasn't everyone ecstatic at the arrival of a new computer only six paragraphs ago - I don't wish to appear a Luddite, but Ed!)

" Under any other business, Basil Metcalfe, every inch a Yorkshireman and a Metcalfe (it may be the other way round) wanted to know what Mecca had to do with the Metcalfe Society ?

The term Mecca was upsetting him, his family, the neighbours, the postman and the dog were none too pleased either ! Explanations abounded and Basil retired, chuckling, happy to know that Mecca News would next appear with the addition ' Journal of the Metcalfe Society '. Another identity crisis resolved. "

(Keep on chuckling Basil - but remember, he who laughs last, laughs longest - Ed!)

" Meeting over, the real business of our gathering got under way. Mary Metcalfe and Margaret Metcalfe were happily selling Metcalfe history and mementoes. Did you get your Metcalfe Society badge ? I wonder if Basil bought one ? I bought a painting of Nappa Hall to remind me of some happy days spent there in July this year.

I talked and talked with Hipswell Metcalfes - George the elusive has yet to be fitted in to our jigsaw.

Charles worked his fingers to the bone showing me and other members what was already stored in the computer.

I know I missed speaking to some members because everybody seemed to be busy doing something. For a while I sat quietly in a corner watching all before me. Little groups studying family trees; Nina, everywhere, working non-stop round everybody, fielding questions, plying information. The steady continuous hum of query and answer. The rattle of thousands of cards filling in more for a Metcalfe line.

Time for the raffle. I glanced at my tickets, purchased on arrival from a large menacing Metcalfe " (Hardly the most flattering description of Nina - Ed !), " who gave me a choice and realised I had not won this year either ! Oh well, lucky in love ! The beautiful painting of Nappa Hall, wonderfully captured by Mary Metcalfe will grace a staircase in another hall.

So this marvellous day was drawing to a close. Nina told us Member No. 1 and Member No. 388, our latest recruit, were here today. I hope both of them and our Canadian visitor enjoyed the day as much as Member No. 13 did.

Happy hunting, my friends, and I trust the bluebirds of happiness fly in the rafters above you, your families and your endeavours. "

(I do apologise for the lyrical ending - he's never been the same since he started carding with Sandra ! - Ed.)

* * * * *

CANADIAN COUSINS

Susan Liptak, M.N. 266, of 7567 Canada Way, Burnaby, B.C. Canada V3N 3K1, writes to say " I am one of those mentioned in the August newsletter, who receive the letter but have had nothing to do with the running of the Society. It may interest you to know that the B.C. Genealogical Society Newsletter for September, contained a ' special message ' from its president, which more or less echoed your sentiments. ' We must stop assuming that the B.C.G.S. is functioning well just because several dedicated members are doing the majority of the work of the Society . We must all participate in a more active, direct way ... or be prepared to face great losses. ' Susan, who is a laboratory manager and instructor at the University of British

Columbia, comes up with a number of suggestions and offers of practical help, for which I know the Society will be most grateful and which I promise to put forward at the next Committee meeting, Susan.

Amongst the suggestions Susan makes are, firstly, some points to guide members, which she feels might provide ideas for those interested in helping:

- Phone or contact a committee member you would be happy to help and ask to be on the committee's phone/mail list for soliciting help.
- If possible join the committee and keep in touch with them to be apprised of developments and needs.
- Obtain from the committee a good background of activities and know its goals and objectives, the outline of projects etc.
- Be confident about your choice of work. Confidence can be gained from knowing:
 - that your job can be done in a short period of time each week/month.
 - that your work is manageable. A singular task, not the whole project.
 - that the work is satisfying, fits in with members' lives and helps the Society to function better.

As far as ' Mecca News ' is concerned, Susan has the following suggestions as to its content.

- I read it primarily for its birth briefs. If these are not compiled (all 380 or so) into a list they should be and the list offered in every issue, for a fee.
- I also value members' submissions of M.I.s, Census, P.R., B.T., directories and other extractions. Include a request for members to send in more, in every issue. Most of us are, after all, searching for this type of record.
- Education is an aspect that should not be overlooked. Many of the members are experienced researchers but many more may be quite green and joined the Society specifically to get help. Request that the seasoned researchers write articles providing tips and suggested sources for each area of expertise. List addresses of local libraries that have collections of local history and repositories of records such as the 1837 Survey of Tithes and Apportionments, Poll books/ electoral rolls, old directories and the like. Give names of librarians that have proven to be helpful to genealogists.
- Publish biographical information. Genealogists are voracious readers. Request book reviews of pertinent material (200 - 300 words or less) or at least the name, author and short statement of subject. It should not be lengthy as interested parties can get the book.
- Offer back issue of the Newsletter for a fee.

- Advertise the Society's holdings; I am aware that such things as General Index, Lists and Copy Lists exist but I don't know how its organized, what they contain, what is available, what is the fee. Rather than forcing people to write to Officers requesting answers to those questions before they can request specific items, provide the information and an order form in every Newsletter (the newest members won't have received previous issues.) "

So that is what Susan would like to see - how about you ? Please write in and let me know.

RAMBLINGS OF A PREVIOUS EDITOR

Valerie Metcalfe, M.N. 61 of Toft, 4 West End, Hutton Rudby, North Yorkshire, who was my predecessor as editor wries " I felt I had to respond to our editor's desperate plea in Newsletter 28, though I think by now many of us will have realised that our Ed enjoys a wicked turn of phrase. (Nervous wreck indeed). " (So what were the men in the white coats with the strait jacket for then Val ? - Ed.)

" I look forward to the arrival of Mecca News and would really miss it if it ceased to exist due to apathy within the membership.

This year we were very pleased to meet Miss Muriel Metcalfe, M.N. 328; her great x 3 grandparents, Thomas and Ann (Moorhouse) Metcalfe are my husband's great x 4 grand parents and she recalled many stories of people and places in Helmsley from her childhood visits. Also through the Society we made contact with John and Jill Coulthard, M.N. 261. John is the grandson of Captain George Robert Metcalfe of the White Star Line (one of the World's finest sea captains, I have read.) and we have exchanged many letters, family stories and photographs.

In May, we visited Nappa Hall and enjoyed three days Bed and Breakfast immensley. Mrs. Thompson made us very welcome. It is incredible that Nappa is 500 years old, it is beautiful, imposing and tranquil in its unique setting and so atmospheric that the comings of its more famous Metcalfes can easily be imagined. The sun shone as we explored Wensleydale and spotted read signs for the villages only read of in Mecca News. The drive to Dent was lovely with plenty of lively discussions on which hill was Middleton Calf Top. Small towns and villages came and went, Wensley, Leyburn, Bainbridge, Askrigg, Aysgarth, Hawes, Muker, Thwiate, etc. The view of Muker was so breathtaking when it suddenly came into sight that all the cars in front (3) jammed on their brakes for a longer slower look at it. Life may have been hard for our forebears but they certainly lived out their lives in a beautiful part of the world. Whilst at Nappa I read the article in ' The Ricardian ' on Miles Metcalfe and was thrilled to discover that he was a trustee for the manor of Yarom (now Yarm) and a moiety of the Castle and Manor of Whorlton. Our branch were living in Whorlton, 3 miles from where we live, in the mid 1600's and though we are adrift here by approx 200 years it was still smashing to find a connection. Whorlton was once a thriving village serving the castle, which must have been a tremendous structure judging from the gate

house and earthworks which are all that remain. From the air a fishfarm and deer park boundary have been discovered. The Earl of Lennox and his family once owned the castle, his son was Darnley, husband of Mary, Queen of Scots. It is said that their betrothal letters were written here. This leads me to mention another castle, Bolton Castle in Wensleydale, also with a Mary, Queen of Scots connection. Do not miss a visit, the whole family loved it. We have visited many castles in our time, but Bolton Castle was unanimously voted one of the best. It felt real, not a modern facsimile as some are. The views from its upper floors really have to be seen; our two daughters 8 and 4 thought it ' brilliant ' and were terrified of the dungeons, a stamp of approval if ever there was one from a child.

Now a plea of my own. Harold and Charlotte Ellen (Coning) Metcalfe, married in 1901/1902. Where ? St. Catherines House and the Gen. Registrar in Southport have no trace. Can anyone help ?

* * * * *

WE HAVE A COMPUTER

Charles Metcalfe, M.N. 305, of 28 South Road, Hayling Island, Hampshire, PO11 9AE, writes " The Society has taken delivery of a second hand IBM PC XT at a price we could not refuse !

It's a normal XT with a single 5 inch floppy drive and a 20 Mb hard disk an RGB colour monitor and an Epson FX100 printer - for the initiated. " (Well - that lets me out - how about you ? Ed.)

With any luck the first evidence of its existence is the address label which brought this news to you. All ? addresses have been put on the system and are used to make label printing simpler and easier to update.

A start has also been made on entering the index to the hard disk, with back-up copies of course, and all cards to the middle of Elizabeth (or beyond by the time you read this) are now accessible on the computer. They are being entered in groups of up to a thousand by first name. Elizabeth of course is horrendous - about 2,000 !

Use is being made of the IBM Assistant programs. Writing Assistant for labels and Filing Assistant for the index. The big advantage of the latter is that, unlike many more expensive data systems, fields can be of virtually any size and blanks are not stored. These two points are of great benefit to us as a few individuals have lengthy notes on file and many have no information in certain fields - baptism, marriage etc. The net result is that we can get about 1,250 cards on each floppy disc instead of the 200 - 300 with some other systems.

Other advantages are already apparent; a search by name or maiden name; or place name for instance takes about 10 seconds for a thousand cards. And the results can be printed out for distribution. It is our (President Helen Offer and myself) hope that all cards will be entered during this next year.

Of course, as requested earlier, if there is anyone with access to a compatible PC

and within reasonable reach of South Hampshire (for card transportation problems)
we would be very pleased to have help in order to complete the task as soon as
possible."

* * * * *
HARDRAW M.I.s

The following monumental inscriptions for Hardraw in Wensleydale, Yorkshire, do
not include any M.I.s where all deaths took place after 1920.

Jane wife of John Metcalfe of Bainbridge Ings, Hawes,
died 17th Sept 1884 aged 34 yrs.
also their son Ralph Tiplady Metcalfe died on active service in
Italy 22nd Nov 1917 aged 33 yrs.
also above John Metcalfe died 1st Apr 1926 aged 70 yrs.

John Metcalfe of Old Cams House, died 14th Nov 1812 aged 42 yrs.
Margaret his widow died 4th Oct 1847 aged 69 yrs.

Robert son of John and Elizabeth Metcalfe of Thwaite Bridge,
died 1st May 1831 an infant.
and Edward their son died 28th Oct 1846 aged 3 yrs.

Leonard Metcalfe of Hardrow died 18th May 1855 aged 77 yrs.
((? son of Leonard bpt. 23.8.1777 Hardrow & ? mar Mary Fothergill
29.5/11.1802 Hardrow))
Mary his wife died 24th June 1849 aged 78 yrs.
Thomas their son died 21st Nov 1869 aged 62 yrs.
((M.N. 140 has info:))

Isaac Metcalfe of Hawes died 15th Dec 1914 aged 62 yrs.
Thomas Edward Metcalfe of Rigg House, brother of the above
died 5th Jan 1909 aged 59 yrs.
Alice Ann his wife died 5th May 1932 aged 77 yrs.
and Ethel dau of Thomas Edward and Alice Ann Metcalfe born 19th Feb
1897 and died 24th Feb 1897.

James Metcalfe of Sedbusk, Gentleman, died 25th May 1781 aged 72 yrs.

* * * * *
SPOUSES' SURNAMES

Sal Illingworth, M.N. 242 of 87 Phyllis Avenue, New Malden, Surrey KT3 6LB writes
" At the Metcalfe Muster it was decided to list details of spouses who had married
Metcalfes in case this jogged another Metcalfe's memory who shared the same spouse
surname - who knows, they might even be related !
If you are interested in listing your ' spouse-ancestor ' please can you send me
details in the following order.

| Name of Spouse | Married | Lived where ? | Approx dates |
|---|----------------|--|--------------|
| William Leighton | Agnes Metcalfe | Dent, Yorkshire
& Sedbergh, Cumbria | 1830 - 1900 |
| Name and address of contributor | | Member No. | |
| Sal Illingworth,
87 Phyllis Avenue,
New Malden,
Surrey KT3 6LB | | 242 | |

The number of entries you send in does not matter, as long as the person was
married to a Metcalfe.

* * * * *

METCALF, ILLINOIS

Colin Metcalfe, M.N. 182, of 54 Marine Parade, Shoreham, Victoria 3196, Australia, has unearthed the following informaton about the town of Metcalf, Illinois, in the U.S.A., which lies due south of Chicago and due west of Indianapolis.

The information, compiled by the Metcalf Centennial History Committee, in 1974, describes how " Metcalf owes its existence to the railroad passing through the township in 1872. This was known then as the I.D. and S. Railroad or Indianapolis, Decatur and Springfield Railroad ... which at that time went through the villages of Bonwell, Scotland, Chrisman, Cherry Point, Metcalf and Hume. This is known today as the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The clover leaf also known as the Nickel Place, was built in the ' 80's ', now known as the Norfolk and Western Railroad, which crosses the ties at Metcalf. It goes from Toledo, Ohio, to St. Louis, Missouri. This was a great asset to the vicinity.

The land where Metcalf stands today was surveyed by C.E. Carpenter in November of 1874 for John A. Metcalfe, from whom it received its name and who owned the land on which it is situated. He was one of the early residents and seeing prospects for a town, acted on his resolution to establish a village.

Mr. John A. Metcalfe was born in Shelby Co., Kentucky, on July 23 1811 and came with his parents to this state on October 16 1828. He married Elizabeth Whitely on the 12 September 1833. She was born at Fort Harrison, Indiana, on March 30, 1816 and came to Illinois Territory at about one year of age.

Mr. and Mrs. Metcalfe had seven children. Mr. Metcalfe was President of the village, postmaster, deputy sheriff and constable of the village. The Metcalfes lived in two different locations, at least, before the town was incorporated. They lived in the house known as the P.J. Breen home and in a small house just south of the Noah Hackett's store building. The Metcalfe farm consisted of three hundred and twenty acres.

No one seems to know when the spelling of Metcalfe was chaged to Metcalf.

* * * * *

HELP PLEASE

Still with the U.S.A., Barbara Metcalf Fox, M.N. 107, writes from 201 W. Walnut St., Dodgeville, WI 53533, U.S.A., " I haven't progressed in my Metcalf genealogy since 1984 and thought that perhaps if I sent the names of children and who they married, someone could help.

My Metcalf history begins with Christopher bpt. 5.1.1785, my great times 3 grand father (possibly his father was also Chris bpt. 11.25.1764 in Grinton). "

(It may help British readers if I remind them of the American custom of putting the month first, followed by the day of the month. Thus Barbara's 11.25.1764 above would be 25.11.1764 to us - Ed.)

" Living in Gunnerside, he married Mary Allen about 1807 and to them were born eight children: James (February 2 1808), John, Ann, Margaret, Thomas, Christopher, Leonard and Mary.

Thomas and Leonard never married. Christopher, who lived in Australia for a time, went back to England, where he and his daughter died of cancer. His son, Jamie, ran a butcher's shop in Gunnerside in 1887.

Margaret married Ralph Waggett and had four children: George, Christopher, Mary Ellen and Margaret.

Ann married Thomas Waggett, a brother of her sister's husband and they had four children: George, James, Christopher and Margaret Ann.

John bpt. 12.17.1818 married Elizabeth Tiplady and came to America in 1854. They had three children: Christopher, George and Mary Ann (Brown).

Mary bpt. 1815 married William Daykin in 1843 and they had seven children: Jonathan, Phillis, Metcalf, Phillis the second, William, John Thomas and George Washington.

Jonathan and Phillis were born in England. All the other children, except John Thomas, died young. He married Jennie Pedelty. They had seven children.

James (my great times 2 grandfather) was born February 2 1808 and married Margaret Nattress (born February 16 1816 at Healaugh) in 1833. They had seventeen children of which four died in infancy. Nine children, seven of whom grew to adulthood, were born in England: Leonard (August 4 1834 married Jane Kendall), Matthew born 1834 married Mary Ann Brunskill, Francis born 1.10.1838 married Sarah Alexander, Thomas born 4.6.1839 died in the American Civil War, James born 9.16.1841 married Margaret Alice Alton, Mary Ann born 4.23.1846 married John Harker, Margaret born 1850 married John Alexander, John W. born in 1852, Isabella born 1854 married John Lewis, Reuben born 1856, David married Phoebe Dawson and Manuel born 1860 married Miss Sweeny.

During the month of February 1849 they sailed from Liverpool to New Orleans, in Louisiana. From there they went up the Mississippi River to Galena, Illinois and then overland to Benton, Wisconsin, arriving there in May 1849.

James and Margaret Alice Alton married 1.1.1865 had Alma born 10.14.1865, married William Robson, Thomas Alton (my grandfather) born 12.18.1867 married Bertha Louise Friedrich, Leonard Allen, born 4.16.1873 married Susan Pinch, Clinton Oliver born 6.14.1876 never married, James Nattrass born 1.20.1881 married Mildred Brunskill." Barbara goes on to say " I enjoy the Mecca News and read it from cover to cover searching for distant relatives and clues to ' my ' Metcalfs. "

If any of you can help Barbara with any further information, she would be delighted to hear from you.

* * * * *

HERTFORDSHIRE INDICTMENTS

Sandra Metcalf, M.N. 134 of 14 Charles Street, Tring, Hertfordshire came across the following information in the Calendar of Assizes Records: Hertfordshire Indictments - Elizabeth I ed. by J.S. Cockburn, London, H.M.S.O. 1975.

The records from which the book is compiled are preserved in the class of South - Eastern Circuit Indictments amongst the Records of the Clerks of Assize (ref: Assize 35/1 - 45) The references in brackets are those for the assize concerned.

- p.12 Hertford Assizes 2 July 1576
before John Southcote, Judge of the Common Pleas or Queens Bench.
and Thomas Gawdy " " " "
(Assizes 35/18/17)
- 70 Gaol Prisoners. John Babthorpe, John East, Helen Chappill, Griffin Jones
(dead), Thomas Anstey, Matthew Cooke, Helen Routley (dead), Robert
Royse, Richard Webbe, John Munne, John Grene, John Smythe, John Atkyns,
William Parkyns, James Justice, George Smythe, Thomas Fuller, Richard
Lande, Francis Medcalf, David Leake, Richard Bingley (M 26)
- 71 Trial Jury for Matthew Cooke, Richard Webbe, John Adkyns, Francis Medcalf,
Thomas Fuller, Robert Royce, Robert Pytkyn. (M 12)
- 75 Medcalfe Francis, of Hertford, spinster, indicted for grand larceny. On
30 June 1576 at Hertford she stole 10d in money from the person of Margery
Fynche and a purse containing 4d in money from the person of Emma Wren.
Guilty to the value of 4d. (M 6)
Hertford Assizes 5 March 1593
before Robert Clarke, Baron of the Exchequer
and Serjeant Thomas Owen.
(Assizes 35/35/3)
- p.100 632 Kytson, William, Yeoman, Meadcalfe, Matthew, Ramsdale, Ralph, Burgess,
Henry, Alcock, Nicholas, Clarek, William, labourers and Merrytowne, Thomas,
yeoman, of Hertfrod, indicted for an escape. On the 19 Oct. 1592, they
escaped from the custody of Edward Duke, keeper of Hertford gaol.
Pardoned (M 33)
Hertford Assizes, 23 July 1593
before Robert Clarke, Baron of the Exchequer
and Serjeant Thomas Owen.
(Assizes 35/35/4)
- 104 663 Kytson, William, yeoman and Medcalfe, Matthew, Ramsdale, Ralph, Burgess,
Henry, Alcock, Nicholas, Clarke, William and Meritowne, Thomas, labourers
of Hertford indicted for an escape.
Meritowne confessed: remanded. The others are at large (mm 4v, 30)
665 Medcalf, Matthew of Royston, labourer, indicted for grand larceny on
27 July 1592 at Royston he stole 2 oxen (£7) from Richard Foxe.
At large: pardoned. (M 34)

The penalty for grand larceny appears to have been hanging, e.g. Jones, Thomas, of
Hertford, labourer, indicted for grand larceny. On 24 July 1593 at Hertford he stole
a purse (1d) containing 10s. in money from the person of Philip Mungye.
Guilty: To hang.

So either they were unable to prove that Matthew Medcalf had stoles those oxen, or
by absenting himself he got away with it. Either way he appears to have been quite
lucky ! Francis Medclaf's fate is unrecorded but it appears that those guilty of
larceny of less than £1 were usually whipped.

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£2 per visit + cost of certificate + SAE/2 IRCs.

GENERAL INDEX

Enquiries : To Mrs Helen Offer, address above. Include SAE/2 IRCs.

Lists & Copy
Lists : To Miss Sandra Metcalf, address above. Include SAE/2 IRCs.

Family Trees : To Mrs Christine Wadsworth, 1 Queen's Park Drive, Castleford,
West Yorkshire. WF10 3DE. NO enquiries to Christine.

BAINBRIDGE M.I.s

From the Friend's Burial Ground (i.e. Quakers), Bainbridge, Wensleydale, Yorks.

Mary Carter Metcalfe died 15th of 3rd month 1904 aged 74 years

James Lawson Metcalfe of Bainbridge died 26th of 7th month 1893 in the 58th year of
his age.

In memory of Elizabeth Ann Doney, eldest daughter of John and Alice Metcalfe of
Bainbridge who died January 6th 1898 aged 32 years. Also Robert their youngest son
who died in South Africa August 19th 1903 aged 25 years.
