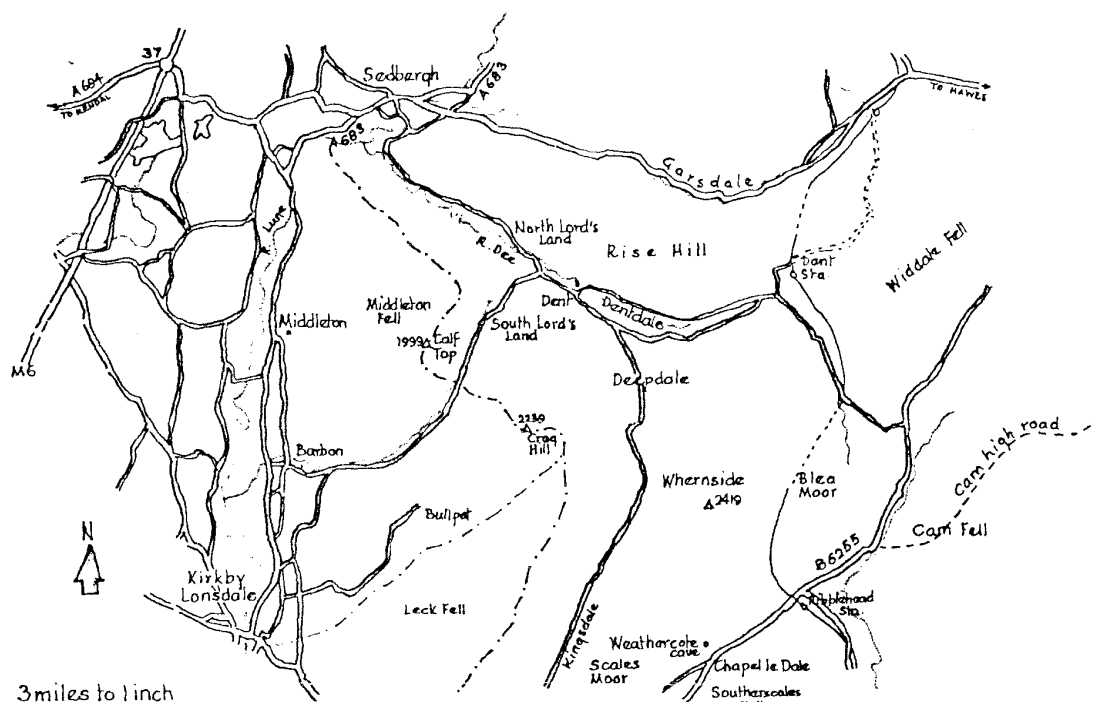


M E C C A N E W S



No 3

April 1981

The onset of spring with all its activities often brings about new enthusiasms for genealogists, especially those who have to travel some distance in order to carry out their research.

Mrs Helen Offer, of 'Far End,' Chalkdock Lane, Itchenor, Sussex, has done much to relieve some of the hard work for the rest of us by compiling a Metcalfe Index. She gives a full explanation on the next page, and we are extremely grateful to her for all her efforts. Already she has been able to help some people and we hope many more will be helped in the same way. Mrs Offer is still collecting Metcalfe information and any new discoveries may be sent to her at the above address. Many thanks Mrs Offer!

A suggestion has come from Mr David Galloway of Winchester who informs us that the Mormon Index is updated every two years, the next time being September 1981. He says it is possible to obtain photo copies of the entries at 25p for the first page and 15p for each subsequent page. As there are 200 pages of baptisms and marriages for Yorkshire alone, a copy of these entries would cost about £30. Mr Lambert suggests that members may be interested in a proposal to purchase a copy of this information to be held by the Society for reference purposes, and to be available to all members. We should be pleased to know what members think about this idea.

Finally we would like to report that the Society has burst into print in the form of a report in the Yorkshire Evening Post (the Leeds newspaper), resulting in several enquiries and some new members.

A very happy Easter to all members.

U.A. & M.H.

METCALFE INDEX

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As reported in the last Newsletter Mrs Helen Offer of Itchenor, Sussex offered to compile a Metcalfe Index from the information sent to her by members.

She has sent the following account of how she has organised the index and is anxious for still more information from members.

As you will see she has already been able to find links between different people researching the name and hopes to be able to help more people in this way.

Our very grateful thanks are due to Mrs Offer for undertaking what must be a mammoth task.

THE METCALFE INDEX

The Index is arranged in three parts - 1) The family pedigrees; 2) The names index; 3) The county index.

The family pedigrees are given a number and this number is given in the top right hand corner of each card recording those Metcalfes in the tree, and is also recorded on a card giving the name and address of the compiler. The pedigrees are kept in a box file, but if for any reason this or the pedigree should be mislaid or lost the information is thus with the card index.

In the names index, the Metcalfes are arranged alphabetically under the first forename in, as far as can be ascertained, time sequence up to the present. For those with the fullest information, the birth and death years are given on the top line next to the name for ease of identification and research. After this comes his work or profession; his parentage; full date and place of birth/baptism; his marriage; his children; and his death date and place of burial. If a will has been found short details are entered and also any other information very briefly.

On the cards only recording one entry, say in a parish register, and which is not in any pedigree the letters P.R. are put after the details of the entry are given, or if a member submitting a pedigree has given this record his pedigree number with the letter 'N' indicating note is written on the card. C.R. and year indicates it was a census return.

The county index is divided into the old counties, not the recent new county divisions, with, at the moment, one division for the rest of the world. The towns or villages are arranged alphabetically and the details of the Metcalfes recorded in that place are preceded by the year date and are limited to being able to identify that person in the general index.

From this it will be seen that when lodging their pedigrees, the more information the compiler is able to give, the more likelihood of other researchers being able to trace a lost ancestor or being able to add to the knowledge of the whereabouts of a forebear at a certain time, is thus much greater.

An instance of this is that from the very full pedigree of Mr G.W. Buxton, I was able to tell Mrs V. Adams that it appeared that her great, great, great, grandfather had gone to America. However as she has found his grave in Askrigg churchyard he had obviously returned. Two items adding to the knowledge of two compilers.

Another instance, again from Mr Buxton's notes was his recording of the grave of a James Metcalfe of Kirk Syke, 1879. He has written to Miss Caryl Metcalfe with this information but I was able to tell her of an entry in the census returns of 1851 for Linton of a James Metcalfe, farmer, whose wife and child tallied with the information given on the tombstone, and thus perhaps give her a lead for her further research.

So, please, members and compilers, as much information about your Metcalfes as possible and also every Metcalfe you find in registers, census returns, Mormon printouts, wills, etc. etc., even if they have no connection with your family tree. He may be someone else's long-lost forebear.

HELEN OFFER.

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY RECORD OFFICE

It will be of interest to members researching at Northallerton County Record Office in North Yorkshire to learn that an admission charge must now be paid for 'consultation of any information in the search rooms.'

Below is some of the information from their leaflet No. SR 2 giving a list of charges.

Admission Charges For consultation of any information in the search rooms there will be an admission charge of -

£1. 50p for a session or any part thereof
£2. 50p for a day

Each day will be divided into two sessions at 1 p.m. A charge of £2.50p will be made for a visit which extends into any part of two sessions in one day.

It is also necessary for all visitors to make appointments to consult records. Visitors who do not have an appointment will not normally be able to consult records. Appointments can be made by telephone - Northallerton (0609) 3123 ext. 455.

Appointments may normally be made for the following days and times as space allows - Mon. Tues. Thurs. 9.0am-4.50pm
Wed. 9.00 am - 8.50 pm
Fri. 9.00 am - 4.20 pm

The office will normally be closed for lunch. It will usually be possible, however, for those who have been working in the office during the morning and wish to continue working between 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm, to make special arrangements to do so with the search room staff, but it will not be possible to order additional documents for consultation during that period.

The office is closed all day Saturday.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs Pat Palmer has moved from Shrewsbury to - 54, Douglas Drive, Douglas Park, Dunfermline, Fife. We wish her every happiness in her new home - and new country.

MEDECALF

"Medecalf" written in 1930 by the Revd. Thomas Metcalfe, vicar of Mytholmroyd W.R. 1906-1924 is dedicated to 'all interested MedecalFs' and its purpose 'to enable MedecalFs to gain a truer appreciation of their ancestors and collaterals.'

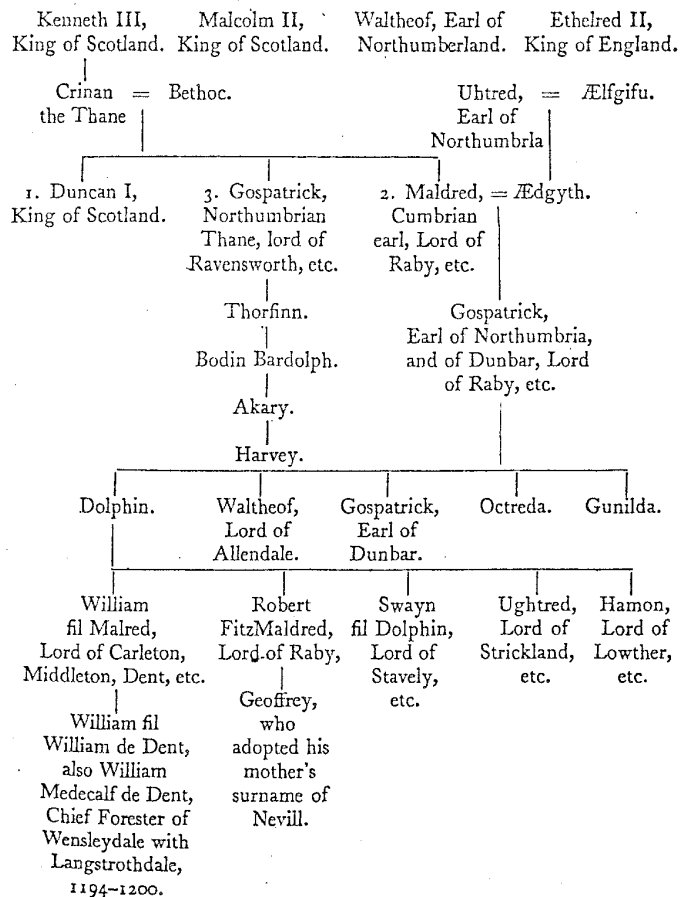
When, in the 12th century the newly formed counties of Westmorland, Cumberland and the West Riding of York were formed the boundaries ran along the tops of the ranges of hills passing along Holme Fell, Middleton Fell, Middleton Calf Top and Cragg Hill. (See map on page 1)

The occupier of Middleton Calf Top then was one William de Dent who became known as William Medecalf de Dent, Chief Forrester of Wensleydale with Langstrothdale. So the origin of the surname Metcalfe in all its variations of spelling is said to be derived from Middleton Calf Top.

William Medecalf de Dent was the son of William fil Maldred de Dent whose grandfather was Gospatrick, Earl of Northumberland and Dunbar. The Earl was a direct descendant of Kenneth III, King of Scotland in the 10th century.

Gospatrick's son Dolphin, lord of the land of Carlisle, who in 1092 was driven out, became prominent because of his connection with the Sheriff of Yorkshire's expedition against William the Lion in 1174. Dolphin had five sons of whom William was one. He made settlements of land on all his sons and William held land at Dent, hence his name.

The descendants of William the Chief Forrester of Wensleydale through his son Richard and great-grandson Adam, who became Chief Steward of Middleham, cleared and occupied that portion of the Forest of Wensleydale within the old parish of Askrigg, from where it joins that of Dent. These were the MedecalFs who went south of the Old Cam Road and Cam Fell, and to the east and south of Wither Fell. They descended from the heads of the rivers Ribble, Wharfe and others to the south of Penyghent, then eastward along the dales of the Wharfe and Nidd to Uredale (Wensleydale) from Bainbridge towards Middleham.

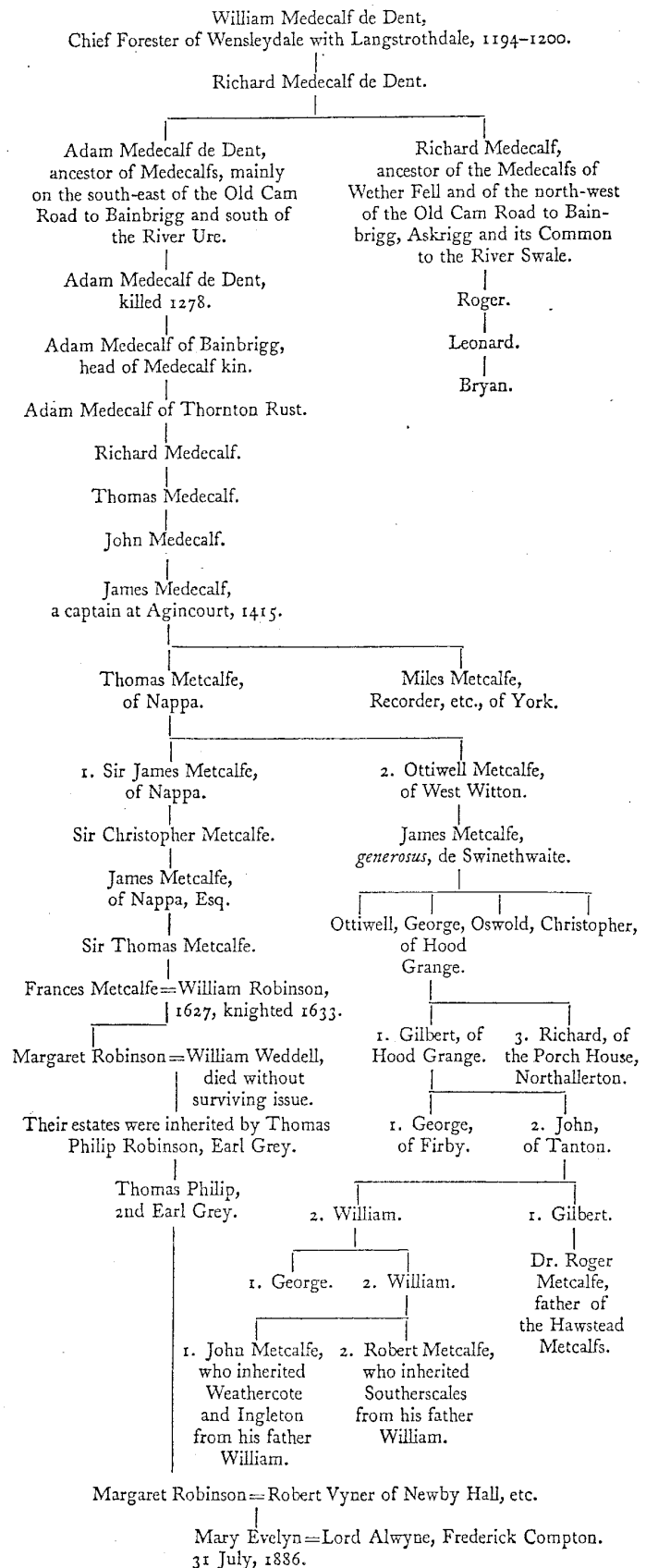


The descendants of Richard, grandson of William Medecalf de Dent went to the north of the Old Cam Road and cleared and enclosed that portion of the Forest of Wensleydale which had for its western boundary in the north, the head of the Ure from where it runs past Mossdale Moor, Widdale Head to Grove Head in the south; its boundary then turned north-east past Wether Fell to Bainbridge, then by Stag's Fell to the Ure Head, all in the old parish of Askrigg.

The lands occupied by the MedecalFs, although mainly within the Forest of Wensleydale with Langstrothdale stretched many miles beyond, and among the Medecalf descendants were well-to-do heads of various branches of the One Family which "in 1586 was reckoned and in 1607 was counted the most numerous in England."

William Medecalf de Dent was supposedly the cousin of Geoffrey Fitzmaldred, lord of Raby, later called Geoffrey Nevill, according to the Revd. Thomas, writer of the book. If this is indeed so then a large number of MetcalFs, if not all, will be descendants of the royal lines of Scotland. The difficulty is for each and every one of us to prove this descent. The only way to justify such a claim is for each of us to prove it in our own case, but unfortunately for the majority of us it will not be possible.

The assertion that MetcalFs do derive from the royal houses of Scotland, England and Denmark in the 10th century is supported by scholarly argument and evidence, much of which the Revd. Thomas Metcalfe assembled and most of what he contends for is quite definitely agreed by authorities and school of heralds.



HELP WANTED

Mrs S. Walls, 54, Overlea Drive Hawarden, Clwyd is looking for the marriage of a Christopher Metcalf in the Dales prior to 1766 when his first child was born at Aysgarth, and also the date of his death after 1769. She is also interested in the death of a George Metcalfe of Aysgarth or Askrigg (18th century only).

Miss Flora A. Metcalfe, 812-470 George St., S. Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, is looking for the marriage of her g.g.g. grandfather James Metcalfe, to Ann (sometimes called Nancy) Sawyer, about 1782 or 1783. Their eldest son, James, was baptised 6th Feb. 1784 in Bolton Parish, Cumberland. She can find no trace of their marriage in either Cumberland, Westmorland or Yorkshire. If anyone comes across it while researching other counties would they please inform Miss Metcalfe or she is willing to cover the cost of a search in marriage registers.

Mr. J.W. Metcalfe, 7, Roundcroft, Romiley, Stockport, Cheshire, SK6 4LL, is trying to trace an Alexander Metcalfe who married a Catherine Bradley. He was a plasterer and had a son William whose grave is at Skipton. Alexander and Catherine may have been married at Burnsall on 10th February, 1783.

Mrs P. Russell, 35, Thackeray Drive, Vicar's Cross, Chester, CH3 5LP needs help in the search of the birth or baptism of a John Metcalfe about 1700 who married Grace Gelderd at Mitton, Lancs. on 17th August, 1719.

HELP OFFERED

Mrs S. Walls, (address above) writes that while researching the parish registers of Llanarmon yn ial in the old county of Denbyshire she realised that there were a number of Metcalfes included, all spelled in different ways. She saw several entries spelled Macaff, Mecaff and Medcaff. She concluded from these that an immigrant arriving from Yorkshire in the 18th century speaking with a Yorkshire accent would probably pronounce the name something like that and the parish clerk would record it as it sounded. Mrs Walls has enclosed the following entries from that parish and is willing to search for earlier variants of the name for anyone interested.

Baptisms: Thomas son of Robert and Ann Metcalf 1752
Elizabeth dau. of Robert and Ann Metcalf 1754
Robert son of Thomas and Elinor Metcalfe 1778
Margaret dau. of Thomas and Elinor Metcalfe 1782

Marriages: Thomas Medcalf and Elinor Lloyd of Llanfair by licence 1777
Robert Metcalf and Elinor Jones 1776
Hugh Jones and Ann Metcalf 1770

Burial: Robert Medcaff, schoolmaster, 1801

Mrs M. Collins, 30, Calthorpe Road, Walsall, West Midlands, WS5 3IX, holds copies of all Metcalfe entries in the following parishes - Hardraw 1759-1835; Grinton 1641-1867; and Askrigg 1655-1871. These are in addition to those listed in the last newsletter. She has also a list of twins and triplets in various registers.

Mr. Harold A. Metcalfe, 29, Grosmont Place, Bramley, Leeds, LS13 3PA has in his possession the will of George Metcalfe of Southery/scales in the parish of Bentham, dated 1786. Beneficiaries were - his wife Elizabeth? and at her death the principle to be shared into nine parts - John Metcalfe,

HELP OFFERED Cont'd.

George Metcalfe, Agnes Rawes, Catherine Bibby, Elizabeth Blant, Margaret Twaites and Antony Metcalfe - all lawful children. One ninth to be divided among the three children of his late daughter Isabel Ward and one ninth to the children of his son Joshua. The Executors were to be his sons John and George in the presence of Henry Ellershaw and Robert Metcalfe. He also holds a letter dated 1818 from George Metcalfe, Private, 68th Regiment of Foot serving in Fermoy, Ireland, to Agnes Metcalfe who was probably his mother.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:-

Mrs. Patricia Russell, 35 Thackeray Drive, Vicar's Cross, CHESTER.

Mr. J.W. Metcalfe, 7 Roundcroft, Romiley, STOCKPORT, SK6 4LL.

Mrs. R. Metcalfe, 124 Otley Old Road, LEEDS, LS16 6JS.

Miss E. Metcalfe, 2 Woodview Mount, Dewsbury Road, LEEDS, LS11 6LG.

Mr. K. MacLaughlin, 59 Plymbridge Road, Willowdale, North York, ONTARIO, Canada.

INFORMATION GIVEN IN BAPTISM REGISTERS.

It may be of help to members to know what information they may expect to find in Baptism Registers.

Before 1837 the date of baptism not birth, is shown and delay between birth and baptism could vary from months to years.

Up to 1812 Baptism Registers consisted of blank sheets on which the Parish Clerk wrote details of each baptism. From 1st January 1813 registers consisted of printed forms with columns for the date of baptism, christian names of child, parents' christian names, father's surname, abode and profession and by whom the ceremony was performed.

Some baptisms are not of children, but of adults.

Some baptisms are missing for a variety of reasons.

For instance, parents may have left the parish or become Non-Conformists or Quakers. The parish clerk may have been negligent and not entered the baptism. Some children were never baptised at all and some families baptised all the children at one and the same time.

INFORMATION GIVEN ON CENSUS RETURNS.

The dates of the four censuses of which the returns are available to the public are as follows:-

7th June 1841; 30th March 1851; 8th April 1861; 2nd April 1871.

In 1841 the householder's name is followed by his dependants, but relationships are not given.

Enumeration marks are very important.

A single line marks the end of a household.

A double line marks the end of a building.

The exact address is rarely given, only the name of the street.

The exact ages for children up to, 14 is shown, but thereafter the ages are shown in five year groups 15-19, 20-24, etc.

Occupations are given, but not the exact place of birth only whether or not born in the same county, YES or NO.

The 1851, 1861 and 1871 returns include exact addresses, ages. birthplaces and relationships to head of household.

THE CALENDAR CHANGE OF 1752.

Until the 1st January 1752, the year began on 25th March, so January 1750 followed December 1750.

The Calendar was reformed in 1751 and the year started with January in 1752, so 1751 was nearly three months short.

To avoid confusion, it is advisable to put both old and new style dates.