

MECCA NEWS

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CONTENTS

Editorial	1	From Dorothy Benden	14
Secretary's notes	2	Sources of Information	15
Birth Briefs	4	Promotional Sales Items	16
New Members	5	Commit it to the Cobwebs	17
Webb Connections?	8	Society Surnames	18
A Delve in the Dales	9	For the Family Album	18
Computer Keeper's		Lawrence Oates	19
Comments	12	The Oldest House in	
Ripon Cathedral P.R.	12	Northallerton	21
Murdered Gamekeeper	13	The Story of my Life	22
Blind Bowlers	13	Names and Addresses	27
Spencer's Directory - Richmond	14		

Editorial

May I start this edition of the Mecca News by extending a warm welcome to our new members. Membership numbers are well past the 500 mark as can be seen by the article on new members. This does not mean, of course, that we now have over 500 members. Unfortunately, we lose a number of members each year but we do not re-assign their membership number, partly in the hope that they may re-join but also because so many of our records refer to membership number.

However, an influx of twenty new members since the last edition (and twenty more before that) is a healthy sign. Obviously our Society can offer a real and valuable service which attracts new members so regularly.

New members are, of course, the life blood of any society but I would suggest that for a family history society they are even more important. Nina Benson, our Secretary, notes that many of our new members' family trees are beginning to link in with those of existing members. Indeed, one of our new members shares the same ancestors with myself as well as at least two other members. As our membership grows it should become easier and easier for us to

share the research and thereby help each other. In the four years that I have been a member I have received a great deal of help from other members and, with our newly computerised record-keeping the help which the Society can offer has been greatly increased. Please help us to extend our membership in whatever way you can. By doing so, who knows, you may be helping your own researches.

I mentioned that we lose a few members each year. Presumably this is because people think that the Society has no more to offer so far as research is concerned. Nothing could be further from the truth! Those of you who attended the Muster in October will know just how much the Society can offer. I was unfortunately ill and so could not attend but I know, from comments by those who did attend that it was once again a huge success due in no small measure to our indefatigable Secretary, Nina. She and all the committee are to be congratulated on another successful year for the Society.

Dare I conclude with my usual plea? You've heard it before!! More articles, please. Please keep them coming!!

Stuart Metcalfe Dec 1991

The Mecca News is the official journal of the Metcalfe Society - a family history society dedicated to encouraging research into the family name of Metcalfe in all its derivations. The journal is distributed three times a year (August, January and April) and is free to members.

Annual subscriptions to the Society are:

- ◆ U.K. membership £5.00
- ◆ Overseas (surface mail) £5.00
- ◆ Overseas (airmail) £6.00
- ◆ Family memberships £1.00 in each category

SECRETARY'S NOTES

4 November 1991

BIRTH BRIEF BOOKLET

It's cold, wet and windy - not a day for gathering monumental inscriptions so I was delighted to receive a package from David Metcalf M52 of Catterick in Yorkshire with MIs from Ravenstonedale, Kirkby Stephen, Outhgill in Mallerstang, Orton, Coulby Garrett, Great Ashby, and Brough - all in the county of Westmorland: Downholme, Bellerby, Leyburn, Wensley, Middleham, Coverham, East Witton, Harmby, East Hauxwell, Finghall, Thornton Steward, Tunstall, Catterick, Hornby and Patrick Brompton - all in North Yorkshire. Add to this list those passed to me by Dorothy Pope at the Muster which cover Muker, Gunnerside Methodist church, Grinton and Stallingbusk - again all in North Yorkshire - and we have a lovely new set of information which has already helped one member. Thank you Dorothy and David. If you'd like me to search through for your ancestor, send me a prepaid SAE.

To say that I was disappointed, when nobody offered to help arrange a Muster South West of Birmingham, is to put it mildly. The plea goes out again on the Subscription/Questionnaire, if we cannot raise anyone to assist then there will be NO muster in that area. We give all members (paying UK Income Tax) another chance to fill in a Deed of Covenant but this time can I URGE you all to sign up - we need the money! We try something new with this December Issue - to avoid the postal chaos over Christmas - and to help members with prompt renewal of subscriptions, despatch will be withheld until 2 January 1992. If you do not like this, let me know and if the majority vote for the return to December postage - so be it.

This edition of the Mecca News comes with a complementary copy of the booklet you have all been waiting for! At least this applies to our UK members. Copies for our overseas members should be with them shortly, we were unable to send them by airmail due to the very high costs involved, so they were despatched in November by surface mail.

If you need to up-date your own entry please send the details direct to Diane Howarth whose address appears on the back page.

INDEX TO LISTS

This publication has now been corrected and up-dated and can be ordered from the Sales Department (address on back page) OR your order can be sent back with your 1992 Subscription Slip. We have not given Airmail prices for this booklet but I can tell you that (at present) for Can/ASA it is £2.32p and for NZ/Aus it is £1.80p - add this to the cost of £2.00.

May I record all our sincere thanks to Diane Howarth and to Susan Liptak both of whom have worked extremely hard to produce these two publications.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1992

At our Annual General Meeting your committee recommended that there be an increase through all the rates of 50p only. This was passed unanimously.

We enclose the renewal slip with this Mecca News and incorporated with it is a

questionnaire/Deed of Covenant form and an order form for sales and/or publications. Whilst we should like all FOUR forms to be filled up, please ENSURE THAT THE SUBSCRIPTION SLIP IS COMPLETED AND RETURNED WITH YOUR CHEQUE. We now have over 350 members and none of us should expect our Treasurer to keep regulation records without cooperation. THANK YOU.

DEEDS OF COVENANT

As mentioned by our Secretary please do try to help swell our funds by deciding to enter into a Deed of Covenant - available to all UK tax payers. In this instance the completed form can be returned with your subscription, saving you another stamp, we will undertake to send them in batches to Mrs Val Metcalf.

Those kind people who have already joined the scheme will need to complete a new form because of the slight rise in subscription rates, it is unfortunate that we could not foresee the increase! Thank you.

ADVERTISING LEAFLETS

We plan to enclose with this Mecca News a few leaflets for each member and we should be delighted if you would all take these along to places where you think they will reach the biggest audience. Your local family history society meetings/the reference library or general library/hospital waiting rooms and such like! Your help in spreading the word will be greatly appreciated.

MUSTER & AGM

We did enjoy ourselves! The business part was soon over and was quite painless, leaving us all to browse to our hearts

content through all the new publications and attractive things for sale. Carol Arkwright and Margaret Metcalf with their team of helpers did a magnificent job dealing with all of their customers. We should like to thank Mary Metcalf who brought along some of her superb cards and pictures and also Warwick Metcalf for bringing prints of another Metcalf artist - as yet untracked but if the last artist is anything to go by, we will soon know "all".

The food and service was, if anything, better than last year though the queue for the buffet took up too much of our precious time - mention of this has been made to the catering department so it should not happen next year.

The computers were red hot! Not literally - just operating at a steady pace all day long, thanks to Charles Metcalfe, Diane Howarth and David Metcalfe. Another favoured feature was the print-out of the up-dated version of the 1988 IGI. The video of the Dales - set up by Denny Gibson was also very popular.

Business wise - we have a new President in John Holden, the rest of the present committee were re-elected en bloc. Provisional accounts:-

Receipts.....731.00
Payments.....719.81.....giving surplus of £11.19p

We knew it would be tight due to the increase in VAT but it was a near thing, without doubt the rate must rise next year. Highlight of the day? To my mind, the afternoon visit of Jean and Frank Bradley, so lovely to see them both again. THANK YOU Jean and Frank for making the effort to join us.

SEE YOU ALL AGAIN IN 1992 (and new members we hope) SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER.

Nina Benson

BIRTH BRIEFS

CORRECTIONS:-

M142...Mr Gordon Metcalf - CORRECT POSTAL CODE is HD4 4EQ.

M485...Mrs Joyce Motley, 20 Boston Road, Spilsby, Lincs, PE23 5HD.

Correction required to the entry in August Mecca News p3...Charles & Hannah Elizabeth (Ashton) Mte m circa 1890 Gaistor. NOT 1990.

UP-DATES:-

M284...Miss Joy Aukland, Lodge Court, Scrooby Top, Doncaster, DN10 6AX.

Dau of Theophilus John William & Ruth (METCALF) Aukland. Ruth b 25 December 1903 Cotham, Notts, dau John & Eliza Ann (Larkin) Mte who m 23 December 1886 Laneham, Notts. John b 03.10.1864 Haddenham, Cambs, 2nd s of Elijah & Elizabeth (Darwood) Mte who m 06.08.1861 Haddenham. ELIJAH b 1837/8 Haddenham 5th s of John & Susan (Anderson) Mte who m 14.10.1828 Haddenham. JOHN bpt 19.04.1807 Haddenham, 2nd s of Thomas & Sussanah (Daggett) Mte who m 14.10.1806 Holywell-cum-Needlingworth, Hunts. THOMAS bpt 29.05.1782 Haddenham, 3rd s of John & Elizabeth (Sutton) Mte who m 06.11.1776 Haddenham. JOHN bpt 08.08.1756 Haddenham 1st s of Thomas & Mary (Adams) Mte who m 15.10.1755 Haddenham. Thomas buried 07.11.1772 and Mary remarried 09.05.1775 John Freeman. (Note from Sec: SCH Index reveals Elijah born Sep quarter 1837 at ELY).

M316...Ms Jean Metcalf, 40 Royal Oak Road, Wythenshawe, Manchester. M23 8BD. and M351...Ms Ella Burton, 34 Redland Cres: Chorlton cum Hardy, Manchester. M21 2DL.

Daus of Edward L & Edna (Spears) Mte.

Edward son of Samuel Brown & Eliner (Eggar) Metcalf. Samuel B. born Mar 1887 Ulverston son of James & Susannah (Brown) Mte who m 5 Nov 1878, in Morecambe, Lancs. James b 25 Aug 1855 Penrith, Cumberland son of George & Ann (Ewan) Mte who m 21 May 1853 at Grayrigg, Westmorland. George b 1827 some of James Metcalf, husbandman.

M441...Misses Claire & Jennifer Mountain. 7 Spa Croft Road, Ossett, West Yorks. WF5 OEU

Now have a copy of their great grandfather's birth cert. THOMAS Mte born 8th May 1873 at Wheldrake, Yorkshire, son of George Blucher & Sarah (Varley) Mte. George Blucher bpt 31 May 1832 son of George & Barbara (Smales) Mte who m 3 October 1822 George bpt 9 Nov 1800 son of Ann Mte.

M460...Mrs V Mary Eustace, 28 Mowbray Road, Cambridge, CB1 4SY.

William Mte bpt 23 May 1629 Boxworth son of Samuel & Marie (Thurston) Mte of Caxton. Samuel b 1605 son of Robert & Winifred (Waiman) Mte m 1604 Wimpole. ?Robert s of Robert & Frances (Meakes) Mte m 1579 Wimpole, Cambridgeshire.

Metcalf Sinner

"For that James Metcalfe doth not ly in sureties for his appearance at the Assizes to answer, etc. for the breach of a former recognizance upon the relative of Sir Thomas Metcalfe, knight, therefore to be committed etc.."

From transcript of the Richmond Quarter Sessions 14.07.1606

(etc. is usually substituted in transcripts where the next or remaining phrases are merely standard legal jargon.)

NEW MEMBERS

M499...Miss E J Simpson, Rose Cottage, Low Laithe, Summerbridge, Harrogate, HG3 4BU. Nth Yks.

Descended from Thomas & Hannah (Sutill) Mte who m 14 Dec 1850. Thomas bpt 7 December 1817 Grewelthorpe, Yorkshire son of John and Martha (Watson) who m 3 May 1806. ?John bpt 14 Aug 1780 at Masham, son of James & Jane (Smithson) Mte Mar 6 April 1779, Masham when James was described "of Kirkby Malzeard".

M500...Cyril Metcalfe, 44 Shelf Moor Road, Shelf, Halifax, HX3 7PL Yorkshire. Son of Thomas 1885 - 1936 who m in 1908 Lillian Harland, at East Brook Methodist Church, Bradford, Yorkshire. Thomas was son of William and the families lived in West Bowling, Bradford.

M501...George Wigglesworth, Hatter's Hill, Lea Wood, Lea Bridge, Matlock, Derbys, DE4 5AA

Grandson of George W & Mary Alice (Metcalf) Wigglesworth. Mary Alice was born 6 Sept 1867 at Ingleton, Yorkshire dau of Richard & Jane (Morphet) MTE who m 3 Jul 1862 at Chapel le Dale, Yorks. Richard bpt 4 April 1830 at Dent son of Thomas & Margaret (Baines) Mte who m 6 April 1828 at Ingleton, Yks. Thomas b circa 1791 in Yorkshire.

M502...Mr & Mrs Leonard Metcalf, 34 Westminster Gardens, Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4JD.

Nothing received to date (28 October 1991)

M503...Mrs Elizabeth Ainsley, 37 Gerald Street, South Shields, Tyne & Wear, NE34 8RG.

Born at Cudworth, Barnsley, Yks dau of

Thomas William & Elizabeth Norbrandt (Seymour) Mte who m 21 April 1924 at South Shields, Co Durham. Thomas Wm born 18 Feb 1903 at South Shields son of Walter Bowman & Mary Elizabeth (Buckingham) MTE. Walter B b 1868 South Shields son of George & Margaret Metcalf. George b 1842 South Shields, son of George & Margaret Metcalf, (Yes this is correct!). George born circa 1800? Westmorland.

M504...Mrs Janet Warkcup, 3 Bertana Drive, MUDGEERABA, Queensland 4213, Australia.

Janet's husband, Norman Warkcup is great, great, great grandson of Francis and Hannah (Metcalf) Warkcup who mar 14 May 1814 at Pickering, Yks, England. Hannah bpt 6 Feb 1790 at Lockton, Yorkshire dau of John and Mary (Pickering) Mte who m 12 June 1781. There may be connection to M197 Eunice Metcalf of Pocklington, Yorkshire.

M505... Mrs Louise Dalton, 1 Woolacombe Road, Blackheath, London, SE3 8QJ.

Descendant of William & Isabella (Metcalf) ILEY. Isabella born circa 1870s died ?1932 after which her widower remarried to Ethel? then when William Iley died Ethel remarried to Jack Metcalf. Ethel & Jack are known to have had issue, Alan, John, and Tom. William & Isabella lived (in 1904) at 55 South Durham Street, Sunderland, Co Durham.

M506...Robert Edward (Ted) Metcalf, 16 Mangati Road, Bell Block, New Plymouth, NEW ZEALAND. 4602.

Grandfather Ernest Robert Metcalf married Alice Myers in 1903 at or near Thirsk, Yorkshire, England. They sailed to New Zealand on the Ionic in the same year.

Ernest Robert was son of John and Annie (Bell) Metcalf and they are known to have had two other sons - John and George; believed to have come from the Richmond/Thirsk area of Yorkshire.

M507...Adrian P Metcalf, Director of Programmes, Tyne Tees Television Ltd, The Television Centre, City Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 2AL

Born in Bradford, Yks, son of Hylton and Cora (Nicholson) Mte Hylton b 1914 son of Harry Cleghorn Mte who was born 28 Feb 1874 in Hartlepool.

M508...Mr & Mrs Terence Metcalf, 19 Garesfield Gardens, ROWLANDS GILL, Tyne and Wear. NE39 2PG.

Terence son of Joseph & Florence (McGuire) Metcalf who m 1918. Joseph b 18 March 1895, son of Joseph and Jane (Murphy) Mte who must have married prior to 1886. Joseph born circa 1863/4 is known to be son of Patrick Metcalf. Joseph also had two other brothers John/Jack and Patrick and they were Cumberland Wrestling Champions. Joseph wrestled under the surname of SMITH and the family is believed to have arrived in Byker, Newcastle, when Joseph was a young man - supposedly from Carlisle way.

M509...David Metcalf, 3 Osprey Close, Leeds. LS17 8XE. West Yorkshire.

Born in Leeds son of Stephen and Nancy (Weighill) Mte who m 1940 in Newcastle upon Tyne. Stephen b 1895 West Hartlepool son of John William and Jane (Ross) Mte who m 1890 at Greatham. John William b 1866 son of Stephen and Jane (Robinson) Mte who m 1861. Stephen b 1834 Bishop-ton son of William & Margaret (Robinson) Mte who m 22 February 1819 at Bishop-ton. David discovers he is related to Diane Howarth M409 our Vice Chairman.

M510...Mrs Barbara Stephenson, PO Box 768, Cheltenham, Victoria 3192, Australia.

Great, great grand-daughter of George & Mary (Metcalf) Sparks who m 27 November 1843 at Bradford Parish Church, Yks, England. Mary bpt Muker in Swaledale, Yks 13 March 1817 dau of John & Nanny (Metcalf) Metcalf. The family were of Ivelet Heads, and John was a miner. They m 12 April 1803 Grinton, Yorkshire, when Reubin and George Mte were witnesses.

NANNY is confusing us! She could be one of two baptised at Muker:- 21 December 1781 dau of John and Margaret Mte, collier of Thorns OR 18 Aug 1786 dau of Thomas and Agnes Mte, mason of Dikehead. Does anyone know anything further on either of these - PLEASE HELP if at all possible....

JOHN is also proving difficult to trace - we know the family lived in or near to Ivelet/Ivelet Heads/Calvert Houses. However the JOHN buried on 19 May 1842 aged 67 is NOT this John. A copy of the will for John buried 1842 reveals he is without wife or children and leaves all to the children of his LATE brother GEORGE (if anyone connects with this George, who married Ann Harker and they would like a copy of his will, send £1.75 plus a large stamped addressed envelope to the secretary - cheque made out to Nina Benson).

HAS ANYONE ANY CLUES THAT MAY HELP? Please contact Nina Benson or Barbara Stephenson.

M511...Mrs Enid M Bradshaw, 93 Cambridge Road, Gorton, Cambridge, CB3 0PN. Dau of Fred & Mary (Ashworth) Metcalf who m Aug 1928 at Whittle-le-Woods, Chorley, Lancs. Fred born 6 August 1905 Whittle-le-Woods son of William and Alice (Hopwood) Metcalf. William born 13 February 1880 at Whittle-le-Woods, Chorley, Lancs, was illegitimate, he was left on a doorstep with a name tag on.

M512...Mrs Wln Routledge, 6 Rowan Court, Darlington, Co Durham, DL3 7GN.

Dau of John James & Lizzie Jane (Bainbridge) Mte. John James b c1896 at High Greenside, Ravenstonedale son of Ralph William & Ruth (Beadle) Mte. Ralph William bpt 11 December 1865 at Brough under Stainmore, Westmorland (same day as his twin brother Anthony Thomas) sons of James & Ann Metcalfe.

M513...Mrs Christine Surfleet, 4 Gordon Lane, Backford, Chester CH2 4DG.

Dau of John & Florence Adamson (Thompson) Mte who m 1933 at Swinton, South Yorks. John b 1907 Mexborough, Yks, son of George & Ellen (Stones) Mte who m 1902. George b 09.10.1878 Leeds, son of George & Sarah (Harrison) Mte, who m 1866 Otley, Yks, when he was "of Dunkeswick" near Leeds. George believed to be b 28.01.1838 son of Thomas & Elizabeth (Smith) Mte who m 17.01.1831 at the Cathedral in Ripon, Yks. Thomas bpt 31.12.1811 Sawley/Fellbeck, Yks, son of Peter & Mary Mte, Peter died 1853 aged 84.

M514...Mrs Mary Greensit, "Stoneleigh", Kirkby Malzeard, Ripon, North Yorks, HG4 3SD.

Born at Beckermonds Farm, Buckden, Skipton, Yks dau of Matthew & Jane (Thackray) Mte. Matthew b 31 Mar 1876 at Laverton near Kirkby Malzeard son of Edwin & Mary (Ascough) Mte. Edwin appears to be in lton in 1861 and 1871 census returns and it seems he was born 1839-42 at Fellback/Bishopside area near Pateley Bridge and may be the son of Peter b c1771.

Mrs Greensit may connect up with M513, M476 & M148.

M515...Ms Dorothy Hodgson, 14 Garsdale Close, Walton-le-Dale, Preston, Lancs PR5 4BU.

Descendent of Matthew & Ann (Sadler) Mte

who m 19.01.1807 at Topcliffe, Yks. Matthew bpt 08.03.1775 at East Witton in Wensleydale son of Matthew and Elizabeth (Topham) Mte who m 02.04.1759 at East Witton. Matthew B circa 1731. This line may connect with that of M368.

M516...Mr & Mrs Edward & June Pattison, 16 South End, Bedale, North Yorks, DL8 2BN.

June has hit this month's JACKPOT! She walked into the Muster during the afternoon knowing only that her ancestor SARAH ANN(E) Mte was born in Bedale circa 1903 and that she had a younger sister Florence, at whose birth their mother had died. From the Bedale parish registers so far recorded we were able to arrive at the following tree: Sarah Ann bpt 30 Sept 1903, Florence bpt 1 Feb 1905 daus of Richard and Jane Ann (Fowler) Mte. Richard was of Green's Row, Bedale. Jane Ann was buried 30 June 1905 aged 22 years, they had married 11 June 1903 at Bedale. Richard bpt 5 Jan 1878 Bedale s of Matthew and his second wife Ann (Whitfield) who m 29 Feb 1864 at Richmond, Yks. Matthew bpt 18 Nov 1832 Bedale son of Thomas and Anne (Simpson) Mte who m 10 July 1830 Bedale. Thomas bpt 19 Feb 1804 son of William & Mary (Hird) Mte who m 23 Sept 1799 at Bedale. HOW'S THAT! This line also belongs to M268 Dorothy Benden in Australia.(Editor: and to mine!)

M517...Mrs Kathleen Ruddy, 44 Harlow Manor Park, Harrogate, Nth Yorks, HG2 0HH.

Dau of Robert Allinson who was son of Robert Allinson and his wife Jane Metcalf of the Masham area of Yorkshire. More news awaited.

M518...Mrs Elaine Hillyard, 11 Lemon Tree Close, Larkhill, Pontefract, West Yorks, WF8 4RN.

Born Normanton, Yks dau of James

M499...Miss E J Simpson, Rose Cottage, Low Laithe, Summerbridge, Harrogate, HG3 4BU. Nth Yks.

Descended from Thomas & Hannah (Sutill) Mte who m 14 Dec 1850. Thomas bpt 7 December 1817 Grewellthorpe, Yorkshire son of John and Martha (Watson) who m 3 May 1806. John bpt 14 Aug 1780 at Masham, son of James & Jane (Smithson) Mte Mar 6 April 1779, Masham ..when James was described "of Kirkby Malzeard".

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M503...Mrs Elizabeth Ainsley, 37 Gerald

WEBB CONNECTIONS?

FROM: WEBB ONE NAME REGISTER

ADRIAN JAMES WEBB
HONORARY SECRETARY
9 DRYSDALE CLOSE,
MILTON,
WESTON-SUPER-MARE
AVON BS22 8HH

Dear Mrs Benson

I hope you do not mind me writing to you but as a fellow member of G.O.O.N.S. I thought that you may be interested in the following information.

I recently came across a 'Book of Remembrance' belonging to Dorothy Catherine Westcott, which has details covering the period 1818 - 1974. The majority of surnames that appear in the book are Frampton, Tremear, Palfreman, Sanders and Webb, and the only places mentioned are all in the county of Devon.

Two entries that will interest you are Annie H Medcalf 21 May 1862 and Percy Metcalf 29 11 1866, drowned August 1885. I was wondering if you have any record of the above and in particular where they lived which might help me glean some more information on the book.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Webb

(Editor: Nina has replied to this letter, passing him on to our computer department. However, if any of you have further information I am sure Mr Webb would be pleased to hear from you.)

More Metcalfe sinners and sinned against!

A warrant was issued for the arrest of Christopher Metcalfe "who has broken the peace and forfeited his own recognizance". Richmond Quarter Sessions 10.07.1607

"George Dinsdale, late of Gayle in Wensleydale, husbandman, for stealing the wool off a gimmer hogg, value 2d at Wyngate Hill, Bainbridge, of the goods of Thomas Metcalfe etc". From same Quarter Sessions. Thanks to Denny Gibson for all the "sinners and sinned against" entries in this issue. Any more from other members?

A DELVE IN THE DALES

by Denny Gibson Member No 303

(Editor: Denny, who is also a member of the Cleveland FHS, and a prolific writer, has kindly allowed me to reprint this article of hers which appeared in the Cleveland FHS Journal. Although it is not specifically directed at Metcalfes the area it covers was home to many of our members' ancestors. As it is such a detailed article I intend "serialising" it in three parts. Part two does, in fact mention some Metcalfes.)

There must be thousands of people who have some of their 'roots' in SWALEDAL, for this very beautiful valley was once the heartland of the lead mining industry. Work was once plentiful, not only for the local populace, but also for labourers from surrounding dales both in the mines and related trades. Undoubtedly a hard life, but as long as there was a demand for lead, Swaledale prospered. Numerous sturdily-built stone cottages, once the homes of miners, still remain. Many are now used as holiday accommodation or 'second homes'. Amongst the humbler dwellings are several substantial houses of fine architecture. These were once the homes of the land and mine owners who gained considerable wealth from their interests.

In the early years of the last century, one can picture a dale teeming with life: a fairly large population giving rise to huge family gatherings at their weddings and funerals. The population of the dale in 1821 was 8,279, possibly a peak figure for thereafter it began to decline, and after 1851 the area was depopulated at an alarming rate. By the end of the century, the population was down to 3,061. By 1961 it had reduced to 2,357 inhabitants, and it has since fallen still further. The drift started from around 1826

onwards when there was a 'slump' in the price paid for lead. Although the industry continued with several peaks and troughs, it never regained its previous momentum and was doomed to cessation by the end of the century. The reasons are complex, but initially competition from Spanish lead mines, which could produce and export lead more cheaply than British mines, was the first 'nail in the coffin'. This was followed closely by the Industrial Revolution which saw the advent of large-scale iron and steel production, and the demand for lead dropped accordingly. The use of coal to fuel factories, foundries and steam engines created a need for skilled miners and many Swaledale men left for the coalfields of Durham, West Yorkshire and Lancashire. Others abandoned the declining lead mines for work in the wool and cotton mills of Lancashire and Yorkshire, whilst others opted for the railway workshops, comparatively close by in Darlington and Shildon.

Alongside lead mining, Swaledale was also noted for its hand knitters who produced huge quantities of knitted hosiery and other garments, predominately the task of womenfolk, although many of the old-time miners were also skilled knitters in their limited spare time. This industry suffered a depression alongside the lead mining as new factories could produce the goods more quickly and cheaply on machines. The combination of these two factors made the mass exodus of the Swaledale population very understandable. Many unmarried girls, who would previously have remained at home knitting and caring for the menfolk, now had to seek employment elsewhere in mills, factories or domestic service. Poverty is a hard master and it drove many of the more adventurous to seek a better life over

seas. The lead mining skills of Swaledale found a ready market in the lead mining areas of the USA, where a rapidly expanding economy was created by a vast demand for home-produced lead. Probably the first to try their luck in the Gallena Mineral Point district of Wisconsin and Iowa were the single young men who emigrated from around 1830 onwards. They usually travelled on foot carrying all their meagre possessions, plus provisions like cheese and oatmeal for their voyage from Swaledale to Liverpool. There they took ship, in considerable discomfort, for the east coast of America. No doubt they sent back word of the considerable opportunities available in both mining and farming in that region of the USA. This, coupled with reports of the poor conditions in the coal mines and sweat-shop factories of yesteryear, prompted a flood of Swaledale emigrants to set out for the district around Benton in Wisconsin.

As the new railways made their routes across England, the flood became a torrent. Many families climbed the few miles over the high moorland between Swaledale and Wensleydale to embark on trains at Askrigg and Hawes for the journey to Liverpool and thence the ships for America.

Not only miners made the move. From around 1840 onwards, tempted by the prospects of large tracts of land which could be secured very cheaply, the higher produce prices of the American market, and the fact that they would be surrounded by their kinsfolk, several farming families also took ship and made their way to the Wisconsin/Iowa area. As their enterprises flourished, they in turn often wrote home offering employment to strong, single farm 'lads' from families known to them.

How many family historians world-wide have discovered, or have yet to discover, their

Swaledale roots and wondered what kind of place their ancestors left? Today, Swaledale once more has a booming industry - tourism, fuelled by the popular "Vet" films based on the books by James Herriot and enjoyed the world over. Many of the scenes in these films were shot in Swaledale and leave viewers with no doubts about the outstanding beauty of the valley. But what of its early days, long before the advent of the cameras of film makers and tourists?

We know that Romans mined lead, certainly at Hurst, and possibly elsewhere, in the dale. Probably the main influx of settlers, at the end of the ninth century, were Norsemen who, favouring mountainous areas like their native land, started settlements in the Lake District and the western dales. Swaledale place names are predominantly Norse in origin - Thwaite, Gunnerside, Melbecks, to name only a few. The district too is very similar to that of the Lake District, both being laced with words of old Norse affinities. It can be assumed that most of the old established families of the dale had a high proportion of Norse blood in their veins, possibly intermingled with some of Roman origin. Obviously, there is little recorded history of the dale during its occupation by the Roman and the Norse settlers: we can only pick up the clues left on the landscape, the place names and the dialect.

The Norman Conquest inevitably wrought huge changes throughout England. Isolated Swaledale was not immune. The Domesday Book records the country beyond Grinton as being "waste", so it can be presumed that the villages of the upper dale, Fleeth, Muker, and Thwaite, were probably tiny hamlets of very little consequence. The origins of Richmond, the market town at the very foot of the dale, are almost certainly Norman. King William granted vast feudal estates covering much of the area to Alan Rufus who had helped suppress the Rising of the

North in 1069-70. This Rising by the native population against their Norman conquerors, was particularly cruelly put down. Throughout the north-east of England, crops and villages were burned, and men, women and children were slaughtered. As soon as the natives had been well and truly beaten into submission, chosen Norman noblemen like Rufus were assigned huge estates by the King, and encouraged to colonise and rule over them like small kingdoms. The first task was to establish a centre for administration, a centre fortified against any further uprisings, and for this purpose, the Norman castle was built. Rufus chose a high, rocky enclave on the banks of the Swale as the site for his castle. This was followed by dwellings and shops to service the needs of the residents, and thus the town of Richmond evolved. The castle and a vast amount of surrounding district remained in the hands of Rufus' descendants for almost three centuries until Henry IV granted it to Ralph Neville, Earl of Westmorland in 1399.

One can assume that the natives of Swaledale were ruthlessly ruled by their Norman overlords. Rufus' huge estate was known as the Honour of Richmond, and Swaledale formed only a small portion of the same. For many years the Lords of Richmond Castle kept Arkengarthdale, a small off-shoot valley of Swaledale, in their possession as a favoured hunting ground, much of which was forest. The remainder of Swaledale was split into several subordinate lordships, with the largest being the Manor of Healaugh (pronounced 'He-law'). It consisted of the whole of the valley from Grinton westwards, and comprised 52,000 acres. Other smaller Manors of Marske, Marrick and Downholme were formed and placed under the jurisdiction of prominent Norman families chosen initially by Rufus. For several generations, all these Manors passed through the hands of the descendants of the same families. Throughout this time,

the local population lived very feudal lives, paid their dues to their overlords and masters and survived by subsistence farming. A fair proportion of the dale's workforce was probably miners, slavishly unearthing and smelting lead for the benefit of the Lord of the Manor in which they lived.

The population increased until around the year 1315 when disastrous weather resulted in vast food shortages. Malnutrition and disease were the result. Four years later, a severe cattle plague nationwide killed off almost all the cows and oxen, and this surely aggravated the situation. Added to this, Swaledale had further troubles to endure. As the rulers of the Kingdom began to relax their military strength to concentrate more on the economies of the land, Scottish raiders took advantage of this situation and carried out devastating raids into England as far south as Richmond and Swaledale. In 1322 a letter to the Pope described the Diocese of Richmond where most of the religious establishments and local villages had been reduced to ashes. It is known that these raids continued almost unchecked until around 1329. We can scarcely imagine the horrors our ancestors had to contend with at this time. Nevertheless, though reduced in number, they survived, and were probably just beginning to recover from the effects of this period when the Black Death struck the locality in the year 1349. Probably those who outlived the traumas of this era did so purely on the basis of the survival of the fittest and went on to become the forefathers of a very hard race of dalesfolk. *(to be continued.....)*

(Editor..For any member who hasn't already come across it, and who likes their fiction romantic as well as historical, can I recommend "Adam Brunskill" by Thomas Armstrong. Based on the area around Swaledale it recreates the lifestyle of nineteenth century leadminers in a fascinating and entertaining way. There's even a Metcalfe in the story who, of course, is a "baddie"!)

COMPUTER KEEPERS COMMENTS

The Mecca Index now holds 24,000 records and contains 7,500,000 characters of information. Two years ago this data filled President Helen Offer's car boot with cards en route to the Muster. Today 4 small floppy discs carry more data!

There is still an enormous backlog of data to be added to our Index - many Lists (the information you have collected) and much data contained in Family Trees and letters. WHERE are the members with time and access to a PC??

The Metcalfe Society now has a half price new machine - in addition to the 'old' IBM PC XT we bought second hand 2 years ago. The new PC is an IBM PSI with printer, the pride and joy of our Secretary, as displayed and used at the Muster this year.

This now means that we have for Index input, machines with Helen Offer, Kathryn Metcalfe, David Metcalfe and myself which are all working hard in order to stop going backwards! That is we're trying to keep ahead of your input of information so that queries may be answered from all data available to the Society. As always - volunteers with access to an IBM compatible PC are required.

However, it is of course of interest, and possibly of use to the Society, to hear of members activities on other systems. Bernard - M221 - for instance is going to send some data from Victoria, Australia even though he uses a Macintosh PC.

Queries from members are currently averaging one each week and the only charge is a stamped addressed envelope, but please keep the requests in a sensible format.

A request for data on all Thomas's between 1800 and 1819 would result in a list of nearly 200 entries for instance, so please be as specific as you can. Members are also asked to remember that two requests per year (with all searches at the Muster being free) are allowed, with a suggestion that further requests in any one year are accompanied with a requester's choice of donation to the Society.

C S METCALFE

P.S.

The letter from M221 Bernard, in Australia, has provoked the thought that computers are now becoming commonplace and more people have the ability to keep their own records on one.

He asked how he could transfer records of Victoria Mite's to our system.

For him and hopefully others:- The Society uses an IBM PCXT with the ability to read either 360K or 1.2M 5 1/4 inch or 760K 3.5 inch discs. We use (for cost and capacity reasons) the IBM Filing Assistant program and unfortunately there is no conversion program, as far as I am aware, to take files from other data base programs to the Assistant series.

Please write (address on back page) if further information is required.

Ripon Cathedral P.R.

22.08.1847 marriage George Mite 38 bach weaver of PB son of Edward - farmer to Sarah Feasby 34 spr of PB dau of John -farmer wit. William Burnett
08.01.1855 George Mite 44 bach weaver of Low Bishopside son of Edward - farmer to Sarah Feasby 40 spr of Fellbeck dau John - farmer wit. John Grainger, Robert Gill

FROM MEMBER No 430

Chris Ekeblad

Murdered Gamekeeper

The Whitby Gazette's "100 years ago" feature is always popular but a Brolton reader, Mrs Christine Cuthbert, took a special interest in the tragic account of the murder of Loftus gamekeeper, Thomas Metcalf in January 1884.

For the gamekeeper was Mrs Cuthbert's great, great uncle and she has a photograph of him, looking every inch the part with a dog at his heel and a dead rabbit at his feet.

He was working for the Marquis of Zetland when he met his death, shot by poacher John Lowther. But proof that the family was not forgotten by his employer lies in another of Mrs Cuthbert's memories - an invitation for his widow, Mrs Mary Metcalf to attend the coming of age celebrations of Lord Ronaldshay, the son of the Marquis and Marchioness, at the Assembly Hall, Saltburn on 28 October 1897.

By a curious and macabre quirk of fate, reported at the trial, John Lowther's father, 30 years previously, had also shot and killed a gamekeeper in Mulgrave Woods. He was sentenced to death but it was afterwards commuted to penal servitude for life.

Mrs Cuthbert said that an elderly aunt, Mrs Hilda Spaven, now aged 86, remembers that one of the Lowthers, probably the son who killed her uncle came home to die as an old man in Brolton hospital.

It seems likely therefore, that history continued to repeat itself and he too, gained a reprieve from the death sentence.

From Member 239

Nellie M Keens

Victoria, Australia

Blind Bowlers

Extract from Bowls Encyclopaedia by John P Monro BA.

John Metcalf, of Knaresborough, Yorkshire, lost his sight through illness at the age of six years, and was one of the most extraordinary men of all time. He was a famous road maker and builder of bridges and a great athlete. He fought at the Battle of Falkirk in 1746, fiddled at the Duke of Cumberland's Ball at Aberdeen in the same year, was a first rate wrestler, followed the hounds and even took part in horse-races. He was also an expert pedestrian, and once walked from London to Harrogate (a distance of 200 miles) in 6 days, beating Colonel Liddel, who rode in a carriage, by two days. On one occasion he won a singular horse race over a mile distance. The course was half a mile in length, and circular, and was marked by posts. Metcalf borrowed the dinner bells from the inns at Harrogate (where the race was run) and stationed a man with a bell at each post. By the sound of the bells which rang in succession as each post was neared, Metcalf accomplished the exploit. How "Blind Jack of Knaresborough" played bowls as well as he did was a mystery even to those who knew his method. He relied upon his hearing, which was exceptionally acute. One friend stood at the jack, and another about the middle of the green, and from the answers of each in turn he gauged the distance by the sound and played an excellent game. Metcalf was born in 1717, and died in 1810 aged 93 years.

(Editor: I have another very interesting article about Blind Jack, written from a Civil Engineer's viewpoint, sent by Steve Metcalf, MN448. Do I have permission to reproduce it, Steve?)

Spencer's Directory of Richmond, 1886

Submitted by J G K Bell, M306

◆ Richmond

Richmond Borough - Public Offices
Inspector of Nuisances - G.C.Metcalf
School Attendance Officer - G.C.Metcalf
Richmond Union - Guardians: Colburn
John Metcalf

Private Residences - Mrs Metcalf
Newbeggin

Appraisers and Valuers - John Metcalf,
Frenchgate

Bakers and Confectioners - Geo C Metcalf
High Row

Cabinet Makers and Paper Hangers -
John Metcalf, Frenchgate

Coal Leaders - James Metcalf, Castle Hill
Farmers - John Metcalf, Low Gingerfield

Joiners - Robert Metcalf (and wheelwright),
Black Flags

Laundresses - Miss Metcalf, Maison Dieu
- Mrs T Metcalf Tower Street

Masons and Builders - Matthew Metcalf
Cornforth Hill

Refreshment Rooms - G C Metcalf,
Market Place

Timber Merchants - R Metcalf, Black Flags

◆ Leyburn

Public Officers:
Surgeon to Dispensary - R Metcalf
Private Residences - J H Metcalf

Daisy Hill
- Richard Metcalf (MD)
St Matthews Terrace

Commercial - Richard Metcalf, surgeon

◆ Downholme

Commercial - Leonard Metcalf

◆ Walburn

Commercial - Thomas Metcalf, farmer,
Wathgill

◆ Gilling

Commercial - Henry Metcalf, farmer

◆ Fremington

Commercial - James Metcalf, joiner and
Cartwright

◆ Healaugh

Commercial - George Metcalf, grocer and
butcher,

Farmers - Mary Metcalf

(to be continued in next issue)

FROM DOROTHY BENDEN

5 Karani Ave

Avoca Beach

NSW 2251

Australia

Dear Mrs Adams

I am enjoying the Newsletter very much, I
can not wait for the next one.

So please note my new address above, so I
will not miss out.

Could you enter my great grand father's
family names in the next issue of the
Newsletter please, there may be a new
member that may be connected, I would
love to write to a relative.

My great grand father's name was:

William Ramshaw Metcalf

His father John Metcalf

His mother Elizabeth Ramshaw

His children Elizabeth born 24.01.1829

Margaret 14.01.1831

My great grand father William 21.04.1832

John 19.05.1834

Johnathon Dowler 24.11.1835

All born Burneston, Yorkshire, England.

Elizabeth and John married on 15 Novem-
ber 1827 in Burneston, Yorkshire, England.

My great grand father migrated to Australia
in 1854 and worked on the Peel River gold
fields in New South Wales, he made a
fortune and lost it. He started an undertak-
ing business which was carried on by his
son and then my father.

Hoping to hear from some one.

Yours sincerely

Dorothy Benden

Sources of Information

As mentioned in the August '91 Mecca News, we now have a number of new publications available. To help you understand how these, and the existing publications can help you here is a summary of all the sources of information held by The Metcalfe Society.

Wills Booklet 1

All wills held at West Yorkshire Archives, Sheepscar, Leeds from 1540 to 1857.

Wills Booklet 2

All wills held at the County Records Office, Preston, Lancashire from 1545 to 1857.

Wills Booklet 3

All wills held at the Borthwick Institute, York from 1389 to 1857; wills held at the Department of Palaeography and Diplomatic, 5 The College, Durham 1540-1857; and wills held at the Library of Cornish Studies, Redruth and the County Records Office, Truro, Cornwall 1383-1857.

Birth Briefs Booklet

Description of all the birth briefs submitted to the society by members both past and present, to September, 1991. The birth briefs are in order of membership number, and include the full name and address of the member. An alphabetical index of members is included at the back of the booklet for easy reference. As this is the first edition of the booklet, we are sure there must be many errors and/or old information. So we are asking ALL members to check their own birth brief and send any updates to Diane Howarth M409.

Index to lists to July 1991

The second version of the Index is now available. Whenever a member submits any information as a result of their research, it becomes a LIST, and is allocated a number. We now have over 1200 of these lists! So that we can make you aware of all this very valuable information, and hopefully save members wasting time and resource on duplicating research, we have INDEXED all of these lists.

The document consists of 5 indexes. Following is a description of each of the 5 indexes, an example of 2 entries in INDEX1, and an explanation of what they mean.

Index 1

See next page.

Index 2

Parish records in alphabetical order by area. This list contains all of the parish records (baptisms, marriages, burials). The parish records for each area are listed in alphabetical order.

Index 3

Census returns in alphabetical order by area. This index contains all of the census returns (1841, 1851, 1861, 1871 & 1881). The census returns for each area are listed in alphabetical order.

Index 4

Wills in alphabetical order by name. This index contains all of the wills for individual people. The wills are listed in alphabetical order of the person's first name.

Index 5

All lists available in numerical order by list name. This index contains the same lists that are in Index 1, but are in numerical order. This will help you if you need to make a cross-reference to any of the above indexes.

Sources of Information (cont.)

Index 1

All lists available in alphabetical order by area.

List no.	Area	County	Doc Code	Principal Names	Begin-End date	Status	Scope
0903	Marrick	NRV	PR	M/Mte	1721-1769	Incomp	Bpt 1721-1769 Mar 1711-1747
0207	Marsett	NRV	Will	Thomas Mte	1766-1793	Comp	Will of Thomas 1766 & 1793

List 903 contains the Parish Records of Metcalf/Metcalfes in Marrick in North Riding of Yorkshire from 1721-1769. It includes the baptisms for 1721-1769, the marriages from 1711-1747...., but the information is incomplete.

List 207 contains the will of Thomas Mte of Marsett, North Yorkshire, dated 1766. The list also contains the will of Thomas Mte of Marsett dated 1793. Both wills are complete.

PROMOTIONAL SALES ITEMS

The Metcalfe Society now has the following interesting items on sale to members. All proceeds go towards the further development of the Society.

Society Badges

A pin lapel badge, one inch in diameter. The badge is of a white design on a blue background, depicting a white Yorkshire rose with two calves and the words "The Metcalfe Society".

Nappa Hall Pictures

A photograph of Nappa Hall, Wensleydale which has been treated so that it gives the effect of being an old sepia photograph. The photograph is in two formats:

- ◆ On quality paper so that it will fit into any standard 8" x 6" frame
- ◆ On an A5 folded card so that it can be used as a notelet, gift card or greetings card for any occasion.

Metcalfe Coat of Arms

The Metcalfe of Nappa coat of arms consists of 6 quadrants. The coat of arms is available in either black and white or colour, and in two formats:

- ◆ On quality paper so that it will fit into any standard 7" x 5" frame
- ◆ On an A5 folded card so that it can be used as a notelet, gift card or greetings card for any occasion.

Diane Howarth

For prices of all the above information booklets and other items for sale, please see accompanying leaflet with this issue of Mecca News.

Commit it to the cobwebs.

from Denny Gibson

"The battered trunk in the attic" - the phrase to bring a glint to any family historian's eye - the place where 'gems' are found! I knew my trunk had no such treasures, hence the reason it had waited for years, not months, to be 'spring cleaned'. In fact it held much that any more orderly soul would have consigned to the dustbin decades ago. Amongst the 'ketterment'*** were some of my old school books. I opened Form IV POETRY! Odd what memories such relics can recall - I could almost smell the polish used on our desks and floors, mingled of course with chalk dust and bottled ink! How I can remember our dreary English mistress enthusing over this one and thinking to myself that Southey must have been an even drearier individual to have written a poem about 'the dead' of all things. I recollect envisaging him as 'a dry old stick, ancient as Methuselah', but then I started to re-read "The Scholar".

My days among the dead are passed;
Around me I behold,
Where'er these casual eyes are cast,
The mighty minds of old:
My never-falling friends are they
With whom I converse day by day.

With them I take delight in weal,
And seek relief in woe,
And while I understand and feel
How much to them I owe,
My cheeks have often been bedewed
With tears of thoughtful gratitude.

My thoughts are with the dead; with them
I live in long-past years,
Their virtues love, their faults condemn,
Partake their hopes and fears,
And from their lessons seek and find
Instruction for an humble mind.

My hopes are with the Dead; anon
My place with them will be,
And I with them shall travel on
Through all futurity;
Yet leaving here a name, I trust,
That will not perish in the dust.

Hey! This could be applied to me or any other family historian browsing around a churchyard or delving into a dusty archive. In fact, the poem could be renamed "The Genealogist".

Never in Form IV did I ever imagine this work by Southey as ever being remotely relevant to me; not unless I was so old I had one foot in the grave. I comforted myself with the thought that in those days I did see anyone over the age of forty as being elderly - well, almost!

Perhaps the next page would hold something to recapture those teenage days? I turned over to find Alexander Pope's "Ode to Solitude", which concludes with the verse:-

Thus let me live, unseen, unknown,
Thus unlamented let me die,
Steal from the world, and not a stone
Tell where I lie.

I hastily decided to call a halt to this trip down memory lane. My hand hovered over two piles - "to go out" and "to go back in". The dog-eared exercise book went "back in".

And so my battered trunk could well remain undisturbed in the attic until a descendant following in my footsteps might delve into it with glee and say "I even found some of great-grandma's old school exercise books."

***"Ketterment" - a dialect word much used in the dale where I was brought up, meaning 'rubbish'.

Society Surnames

The list of members names in the 1991 Birth Briefs booklet has inspired member Terry Allinson to verse! He says in his letter... "It may fill a little corner in Mecca News, hopefully without offending anyone." Are there any more budding poets out there waiting for inspiration?

There's a Major and there's Metcalf
There's a Minnitt and there's Medcalf
But the biggest name of course in our society
Is Metcalfe, the spelling with a final 'e'.

There's Martin, there's a Medcot
There's a Mason and there's Mitcalf
Which like the largest grouping in this company
Also has the spelling with a final 'e'.

We've a Davies, and we've Davy
We've Dixon and we've Deane
What we haven't got is cowboys
In this great community.

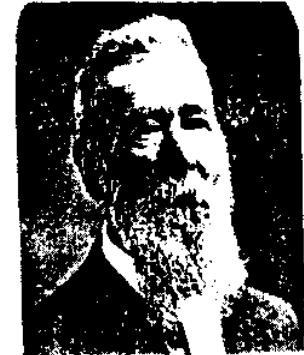
There's an Adams and an Arkwright
A Boddy and a Blum
This association's friendly
You'll never find it glum!

Some names are useful to a bard
Others not so Goode
For example we've an Ekeblad
And more than that of Wood

Strange the surnames one may use
If one can only screw up courage
Shafto, for example, Kriesch and Doust
Shultz, Kruger, Krowec and Kerridge!

Metcalf Sinned Against!
From Richmond Quarter Sessions
14.7.1606 "William Dinsdale, labourer for
assaulting and beating Cecilia Metcalfe,
widow, with a stick at Hardraw."

For the family album



Thomas Walter Metcalfe

b. 25.9.1850 married

Sally Leara Pearce

b. 1.8.1872



Their son, John Francis Walter Metcalf was born 17.2.1882, the 7th child of 10. Thomas Walter Mt. was the 5th child of 8 of William Mt and Mary Ann (Beasley) who married on 14.3.1844. Their 6th child David Francis Augustus b. 1858 is ancestor to m.420, 421 and 477. William arrived in South Australia 20.9.1839 on the "Anna Robinson". He was born c.1812-17 in Norwood, Yorks but which one?

Lawrence Oates

(died in Antarctica 16.03.12)

(Editor..Member David Major sends this fascinating article about the famous Captain Oates who died with Scott returning from the South Pole. Perhaps here is one "Metcalfe" who could be classed as a "saint" to balance out all the sinners referred to elsewhere in this edition of Mecca News.)

David Major prefaces his article with the following comment....."Before World War II began, as a boy I visited South Africa with my mother Edith Buckton Major (nee Metcalfe) to stay with my grandfather Alfred Metcalfe and family. He gave me a biography of his cousin, Lawrence Oates, by L.Bernacchi entitled "A Very Gallant Gentleman". Getting very little help from Oates' formidable mother Bernacchi was bound to be at a grave disadvantage. But it was this book which lit my interest in exploration and adventure. Not until 1982 did there appear a fully researched biography "Captain Oates - Soldier and Explorer" by Sue Limb and Patrick Cordingley. These brief notes owe much to that book and may be said to comprise a belated review of it. It was published by Batsford price £12.50."

It was the month of January 1886. The Oates family were rounding off their trip to South African sunshine by visiting some cousins in Caledon, Cape Colony. These "cousins in Caledon" would probably have included Alfred Metcalfe who was later to head the respected Cradock firm of Solicitors Messrs Metcalfe & Co - still there at 80 Friere Street. Alfred's grandfather was Joshua Metcalfe; he had a sister Mary, and their father was John Metcalfe of Leeds (the one who married Mary Farrer). Mary was to marry Edward Oates of Meanwoodside, Leeds, of whom young Laurie Oates was grandson. While at the Cape the Oates' had called on other cousins, the Burdetts.

Driving over the mountains to Hants Bay with its white sand and sapphire blue sea stretching south to the icy Antarctic, Laurie made friends with his cousin Jack Burdett. But what, I wonder, were his thoughts as he gazed at the distant horizon? Still only five years of age, some twenty six years were to pass before "Titus" Oates, as he came to be called, walked courageously to his death on the South Polar party's return journey.

Under doctor's orders Oates had been sent to the Cape for a chest complaint; his brother and two sisters left behind with their nannies. He was under the keen eye of his mother and much travelled father, William Edward Oates FRGS then of Putney, but originally of Leeds. His rather stern mother was Caroline Ann, daughter of Joshua Buckton of Meanwood, Leeds. But it was father's line that they delighted in tracing back.

There was an Oates on the battle roll at Hastings. An early ancestor was Thomas Oates (b.1554) of Thornhill, Leeds who had a brother Lawrence owning property in Wooley. The Oates family home Gestingthorp Hall, Sudbury, Essex, eventually came down to Oates' father.

News of the outbreak of the Boer War reached England around October, 1899. By then Oates' father had died and the nineteen year old, having left Eton, was in London having one last try at the examinations for entry to an Oxford college; he was unsuccessful. He experienced similar difficulty in seeking a commission in the Militia. However, on 6th April 1900 Oates was commissioned into the 3rd Prince of Wales Regiment and by May was gazetted into the 6th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards ("the best Heavy Cavalry Regiment in the British Army" he proudly wrote in a letter to his mother).

By January 1901 his troopship was nearing Capetown. The unit, on landing, was at once put into action against the Boers, but after some very active service Oates was invalided home with bullet wounds and received a hero's welcome in England on June 22nd.

After peace was declared Oates was declared fit enough to rejoin his regiment and saw service with the Inniskilling Dragoons in Egypt followed by a posting to India in 1908. There the army's peaceful pursuits were much to his liking and included polo and hunting to hounds. Oates possessed his own pack but also a sizeable menagerie of wild animals. His cavalry experience and love for horses were to stand him in good stead in the next few years of life remaining to him. By 1910 Antarctica was already calling.

It was in that year that Oates came to hear of an intended exploration, and he applied successfully for leave to accompany Captain Robert Falcon Scott RN on his voyage and bid for the South Pole. Reporting at the West India Docks in London Oates was enrolled as midshipman on the "Terra Nova" where he soon acquired the nickname of "Titus" and "Soldier". Scott gave Oates the job of organising the ponies. Much doubt has been cast on the fateful decision to take ponies rather than dogs on the polar expedition. Another member of the team was sent to Russia to obtain the ponies, but the choice wasn't wisely made and Oates found that poor quality ponies had been bought. The ship set sail from Cardiff on 5th June 1910 and it was the turn of the year before they reached the base camp on the shores of the Antarctic.

The five explorers, led by Captain Scott, wintered in what is still known as Scott Base

and survived the long slog to the Pole and most of the way back. But evil weather and wicked frostbite got the better of them. One, (Evans), had already died by the time that Oates himself had to admit what a terrible hindrance his increasing disabilities were causing the rest of the team. "Death, long prayed for had evaded him", as one commentator puts it. When Oates woke up one morning it was blowing a blizzard. "I am just going outside," he said to the others, "and I may be some time." A companion wrote: "We can testify to his bravery. He has borne intense suffering for weeks without complaint. To the very end he was able and willing to discuss outside subjects. He didn't - wouldn't - give up hope to the very end."

"A VERY GALLANT GENTLEMAN"

David Major

John Metcalfe = Elizabeth Rycroft
of Wensleydale

John M. = Mary Farrer
of Leeds

Joshua =Elizabeth Beadle	David =Sarah Blackburn	Mary = Edward Oates
John = Bell	John	William Oates
Alfred Metcalfe (Grandfather to David Major M324) d.1943		Lawrence E. G.Oates (of Antarctic) d. 1912

Metcalfe Sinned Against again!

Richmond Quarter Sessions 14.07.1606
"Alex Dinsdale of Gayle in Wensleydale for a felonious assault with intent, in a close called Birkhawe at Gayle, on Isabella Metcalfe, of Gayle, she a virgin, etc." It sounds as though the Dinsdales didn't like the Metcalfes!



The Oldest House in Northallerton

Porch House, situated on the High Street of this old market town in North Yorkshire, directly opposite the medieval church of All Saints, has many intriguing historical connections. A series of articles in the *Darlington and Stockton Times* this year (sent in by Muriel Johnstone M445) tell a fascinating story.

Of most interest to our members is the fact that it was built for Richard Metcalfe, great great grandson of Thomas Metcalfe of Nappa Hall (he who had been Chancellor and Privy Councillor for Richard III (see *Mecca News* No 34)) in 1584. Porch House is now a guest house belonging to Peter and Shirley Thompson but, unfortunately few of its Elizabethan characteristics remain.

However, in 1647 its most famous guest stayed there - Charles 1, as a prisoner of the Scots was held at Porch House until a £400,000 ransom was paid. The room in which he stayed remains unaltered except for the addition of an en-suite shower room!

It is said that the receipt for Charles' ransom was signed at Northallerton, perhaps even in Porch House. The ransom was carried in 36 carts and took 11 days to count!

Returning to the Metcalfe connections, the grandson of the original owner was William Metcalfe who married Ann Marwood of Busby Hall, Carlton-in-Cleveland. The Marwood's family home could only be inherited by their descendants on condition that they changed their name to Marwood.

And so the house was absorbed into the Marwood estate where it remained until 1969. The last Metcalfes lived there in the early to mid-nineteenth century. Since that time it has been used as a solicitors office and also by the ARP and the Conservative Association at different times although part of the house has always been used as living accommodation.

The house came into the sole possession of Major Marwood in 1969 and it is thanks to his researches that so much is known about the history of the house. The Thompsons bought the house from Major Marwood. They have in their possession a copy of the oldest known deed relating to Northallerton which is thought to be several decades older than the house itself. The deed, written in Latin, covers the gift of land for the building of Porch House. Signatories include Sir Richard de Romundebay, Adam de Kirkeby and William Durand de Aluerton. I wonder if there were any Metcalfe signatures on that deed? Perhaps some of our members may stay at Porch House while pursuing their researches and could find out.

THE STORY OF MY LIFE

by Rev. Joseph Metcalf written about 1883

There is perhaps no subject upon which a man is more liable to fall into exaggeration and misrepresentation than in writing his own autobiography. The events which he records were so terribly real to him at the time they transpired and made such an indelible impression upon his mind that he is almost sure, in all his retrospective glances, to behold them in a highly magnified and distorted form. As the record I am about to make will be chiefly concerning those external circumstances which have contributed largely to the formation of my habits and character, and not concerning my internal thoughts and feelings, I trust I may be enabled to avoid the common snare and present my reader with an unvarnished account of the experiences through which I passed....

....I was born on the 12th day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty six. I have not got a complete register of my birth before me, but, if my memory serves me well, I have been informed that it was about four o'clock in the afternoon that my advent took place: an evident proof that my life is to be an unsuccessful one, according to a maxim commonly believed at the time of my birth that those lives alone are successful which begin early in the day. Whether this maxim is to be true in my case or not, the sequel of my life must show.....

.....All that I know of my parents before the time they had attained the meridian of life is hearsay. I am however well informed that like Jacob and Rachel of old, they had an honourable courtship of seven years duration...Thus did my father on the eve of his

thirtieth birthday enter upon the married estate with a wife two years his junior.....

.....My father had provided a home for his bride by hiring a small farm and house....Before one short year of hard but happy toil had passed, my father's farm was for sale, and as all my father's money had been invested in stocking the farm and making needful improvements he was unable to buy it, but had the mortification of seeing it knocked down to his nearest neighbour, who of course wished to farm it on his own responsibility and gave my father discharge. This was the beginning of trouble; before the end of the year a son was born to increase the joy, the care and the toil; another farm, like the one he was leaving, my father could not find; his stock had to be sold at a disadvantage; he hired a cottage to live in for a while hoping that something would turn up, but the desired something did not come. When the affairs of his farm were settled with the exception of his horse and perhaps a few farm implements which he retained, he found that he had nothing left, the hard earned savings of his single life had been invested and lost.

With his horse and a few implements my father now sought employment wherever he could find it as a higgler, that is to do carting, ploughing and harrowing for those who had such work to be done, but did not keep horses themselves. At this business my father eked out a scanty subsistence for quite ten years, during which time three other children were born to increase the family joys and augment the family care; to add to the family stock and subtract from the family purse. Indeed it was at the end of

the seventh year of wedded bliss and wedded toil that I, the fourth child and second son appeared with robust health, powerful lungs and enormous appetite, crying aloud for food to eat, raiment to wear, and shoes to put on my feet withal. At the time of my birth my father had removed into the house of a bachelor brother....my mother being the mistress of the house besides her dairy and poultry..In addition to the duties already enumerated she would make all the clothing which she and the four children required and probably the greater part of my father's clothing too.

A new house, however, was obtained before I had completed my first year, where the family of father, mother and four children were the sole occupants....It was a thatched house as I remember, that we used to call a "mud and stud" house. There was, however, a dairy at the end. The house contained one large room which served as dining room, sitting room, kitchen and scullery. A sleeping parlour on the ground floor and two other rooms upstairs; as only one of these had that illuminator called a window, the second was quite dark and was only used as a storeroom....It was about this time that my father and mother passed through their keenest trial of poverty and want....

.....One thing which took place at this time and which will serve to show the family poverty I do remember. My father, not having a cow and not being able to buy milk and treacle to use as a change with our bread instead of lard, was informed that treacle might be made from mangold wurzels; a recipe was given and he resolved to try. I can see him now, his tall, broad-shouldered form stooping over a large dish and grating these roots. Is it a wonder that I remember this for truly in my childish hopefulness I imagined there would be an end to the interminable bread and lard, interspersed occasionally with dry bread, if

we could only manufacture treacle from the mangolds grown on our own farm. But, alas, the treacle was not a success....

It was about this time that my father sold his horse, much to the regret of us youngsters.....no sooner had he sold the horse and bought a cow than times began to improve; he also at this time hired another grass field which enabled him to keep a few sheep.

My second brother and fifth child in the family was born at this time. I was sent to the village school, a distance of three quarters of a mile from our house. I was in my eighth year when we moved to the new house [described in detail in the full document]..... As I became older each year found me oftener employed on the land chiefly our own or uncle's and my term at school became shorter until it was restricted to three or four months in the winter, and then, at last, when I had attained the age of ten years and six months, I bid farewell to weekday school and took my position as permanent day boy at a farm nearly a mile from our house. This distance I used to walk in a morning before six o'clock in the summer and before daybreak in the winter, and the return after six in the summer and dusk in the winter. The wages I received for this were five shillings a week when I was not prevented by rain or anything else from making full time; i.e. I had ten pence per day for every full day I worked. Later in the year this was raised to one shilling per diem. My father...used to give me, out of every six days labour, one day's wages for myself....This money was carefully put by to purchase cloth out of which my mother would make my clothes and shirts.

After holding this position of day boy for twelve months and having given full satisfaction my master thought he would like to have me as his servant to live in his house,

groom his horse, clean his boots and generally make myself useful in the yard and farm. It was therefore one morning in the middle of May in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty eight that my mother gave me an unusually close and tearful hug, and I, full of bright hopes, and exceedingly proud of my position left the parents' roof to take up my abode in a farmhouse as the youngest of three men servants, I myself being eleven years and six months old. The wages which I was to receive for this first year of servitude amounted to three pounds sterling.

I need not weary my reader by detailing the events of this year, suffice it to say that being constantly employed and being under a considerate master who would never complain when his servants did their duty, and furthermore being able to visit my home every Sunday morning for about an hour, I managed to extract as much sweetness out of this one year, with as few bitters, as I am conscious of having extracted from any either before or since. And here let me say that having been acquainted with many different grades of society, I am persuaded that happiness is pretty evenly distributed; but if there is any advantage, the honest toiler, who lives on plain food obtained by his own industry, has that advantage.

Well my first year of service ended satisfactorily to all parties and it resulted in my being hired for a second year to receive four pounds and five shillings...I had a few days holiday as was customary and I remember how proud I was to go home with three bright sovereigns in my pocket, the result of a year's toil....and with this amount my father opened an account for me in my name in the Boston Savings Bank...

....The most important event which took place during my second year in service was the fact that I was then brought to religious

decision and became a member on trial of the Wesleyan Society. Mr.Bryant was at that time the leader of a class in my father's house and I began to attend that class.....This was near the end of my second year and only a few weeks before my master left his farm, having taken a larger farm about thirty miles away. To this farm he removed taking me with him about one month before my second year expired....

.....At the end of this year I left the situation and engaged myself to the Rev.F.M.Willan of Auburn Rectory as groom and general servant. This village was about fifty miles from my home so that I was now away from my home a whole year. At this situation I was compelled to attend church and was never allowed to enter the Wesleyan Chapel, which was a great trial to me; I remember sometimes after the evening service at Church I used to run over to the Wesleyan Chapel and stand near the door or window to listen to the eloquent utterances of the plain preacher...or the earnest petition of the people as they supplicated the Throne of Grace in the after prayer meeting...I have on more than one occasion preached in this chapel since, to the evident delight if not profit of the congregation. I was not impressed with the religion of the Church of England, whilst living in this house; the strict regard which I had been taught at home and in my former situation, to pay to the Sabbath, I found not enforced but violated here. And many other small matters led me to believe that my master was by no means a man of honour, such as I had expected to find a clergyman of the Establishment.

At the end of my first year I left this situation and engaged myself to another clergyman, who was living in a small village near Lincoln, as curate when I first went, but being presented with a Living about fifteen

miles away he removed to take charge of it and took me with him. I believe this clergyman was a truly Christian man, but being of a mild disposition and having a wife who was just his opposite I was rather the servant of Mrs. Monkhouse (for that was the name) than Mr. Monkhouse. A proud haughty lady who delighted to talk about her rich relatives even though the chain of relationship was a long and very circuitous one, whereas her poorer ones, which were decidedly in the ascendant as regards numbers, were never mentioned. She had, however, some good parts and would have done more good if she had had more money, but she had not that happy art of doing good out of nothing or out of very little. I am well persuaded that there is no position in this world which affords a better sphere of labour for doing real good than of a clergyman and his wife in an English village....

..As I was anxious to have a little more independence than I was able to get in yearly service I resolved to leave my situation and seek employment by the week in the firm of Clayton & Shuttleworth, Lincoln.

Through the influence of my brother I obtained employment in the brass moulding shop where I was to receive sixteen shillings per week and be instructed in the business....but the sudden change from country life, where I had generally been riding, driving or gardening to a confined atmosphere, where there was a strong smell of sulphur, produced a disrelish and brought on a short sickness....I did not return to the foundry, but accepted my cousin's offer and after a few weeks trial was bound apprentice to be instructed in the business of a shoeing and general blacksmith. I was then in my sixteenth year and my apprenticeship was to terminate on my twenty-first birthday, so that I had five years and a few

months to serve....

....Our hours of labour were from six in the morning until seven at night, with short breaks for breakfast, dinner and tea; this was the routine all year round, summer and winter; my work was hard but my appetite was good and our food very substantial; hence if I went to bed a little tired I was alright after a good night's sleep....The one great advantage I had while here was that my Sundays were entirely my own, a blessing which cannot be too highly appreciated and which I availed myself of to very good purpose. The first Sunday I went to the Sunday School where there were about eighty scholars and ten teachers. I was put to teach the second Bible class...for four years, I think, I prepared the children for their Scripture examination at the Anniversary, and taught them other pieces to recite for the delight of their fathers and mothers, for whatever may be said against the system of recitations at school anniversaries it is undoubtedly the surest way of making an anniversary a success in the country.

I also renewed my membership of the Wesleyan Society, at the beginning of my stay in this village, which had been interrupted by my two years in the service of clergymen of the Establishment. I had here also the advantage of attending the week-night prayer meeting, i.e. by sacrificing my supper I was enabled to get there; my work in the shop finished at the same time as the prayer meeting commenced, I had therefore to wash quickly and run off without any supper in order to get into the prayer meeting by the time the Leader had just repeated the Lord's Prayer and given out the second hymn....

....During the winter after I had completed my seventeenth year I first began my career as a preacher. At the time we were holding special services at the small village chapel

and had greater difficulty in getting preachers than congregations....one evening about six o'clock I was informed that I must take the service that night at seven o'clock: either preach or lead a prayer meeting, whichever best accorded with my mind. How blessed is the confidence and zeal of youth! I preached from the 11th of Matthew and the 28th verse "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest".....God helped me of a truth and I preached for about twenty minutes to the evident surprise of all present and I trust to the profit of some....The following Sunday of course I must address the Sunday School, but I found it more easy to preach to a congregation of adults than to address children, as I have generally found it since....I was employed occasionally in this way as a "supply" for about a year then my name was placed on the plan among those on trial...and I soon became known as a preacher of some promise in the villages....

....A month before the Quarterly meeting preceding my twentieth birthday I had to go into Lincoln to preach a trial sermon; this was my first appearance before a town congregation....The Rev.W.R.C.Cockill heard me and gave a good report of my sermon. It was with some small degree of fear that I went up a month afterwards to take my examination. I had not been much in the society of preachers at that time and I believed them to be such learned august beings that I could only stand in front of them in terror....In fact my examination was a complete success and the brethren unanimously agreed I should be received as a fully accredited local preacher....Reports soon began to circulate that I was a likely candidate for the ministry...After my apprenticeship expired I moved back to Lincoln which gave me the opportunity of becoming acquainted with the whole of the Lincoln circuit. I was very soon asked if I did not think I ought to enter the ministry and

devote my whole time to preaching the gospel....I consented to become a candidate at the March Quarterly meeting of the year 1878 when I was in my twenty-second year....A few days before the District meeting I wrote to my Super that I could not possibly present myself as a candidate for the ministry....but when the time came round again the ministers assured me that they had the fullest confidence in my ability to do that work....and so....I was recommended to be received into the Richmond Branch of the Theological Training Institution on the 8th September 1879, where I spent three very happy and profitable years which might have been much more profitable had I applied myself more diligently to the work set before me.

At the end of my third year I was appointed to Stuartstown in the Natal district. An appointment which did not accord with my wishes or expectations, my whole desire having been set upon going to the East to grapple with the hoary-headed religions and philosophies which have for centuries held dominion over the Hindu and Chinese mind.

I have written sufficient to answer my present purpose to recognise the good hand of God in the way in which I have been led; I pray that He may enable me to show my gratitude by daily service. (Editor: This fascinating account of rural life in nineteenth century England was sent in by Dr. Carol Metcalf M262 of South Africa. She also submitted a family tree which shows a number of the family settling in South Africa. Among her ancestors is an Ann Oates who died 22.11.1932 the widow of another Joseph Metcalf. Is there a connection here with Lawrence Oates, the subject of a preceding article in this issue? I have edited the article quite substantially to make it more readable to modern eyes. The full version will be lodged with the Society librarian should anyone wish to read it.

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