



MECCA NEWS

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Editorial

How pleasant it is to start to write my editorial knowing that I have to limit myself to just this one page. Thank you to all who have sent in articles - particularly Denny Gibson who has inundated me with material I have not been able to include everything which has been submitted but will try to do so over the next few editions. Please carry on sending them!

I am particularly interested to hear from any of our members carrying out research of a slightly different nature. There must be many of you out there with interesting stories to tell. Please share them with the rest of us. Don't worry about the length. I'll try to fit them in.

Other useful items are those little snippets of information which we all come across from time to time in our reading and researches. Please let me have them - they are very useful to fill in the odd line or two which always seem to be left on the page when an article is finished.

I am hoping for the next edition to include some photographs so, again, if you can help here I will be very grateful

A few gremlins crept into the works for the last edition, for which my sincere apologies. If your name was spelt wrongly in the Birth Briefs and New Members section it was my fault. Mea culpa, mea maxima culpa! I forgot to point out to the typist how particular we Metcalles (or Metcalfs!) are about that "e". I have consequently included again all last edition's entries, this time with the correct spellings - perhaps you can extract the offending pages from the December edition and insert the correct ones in place.

Have a good summer (or winter to our far-flung friends). Don't forget the Muster and, even more importantly, don't forget your subscriptions! Nina tells me that there are still a large number outstanding. Please help us to continue helping you by paying on time.

Stuart Metcalfe March 1992

The Mecca News is the official journal of the Metcalfe Society. This is 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:

UK membership £5.00

Overseas (Surface mail) £5.00 (Airmail) £6.00 Family membership is £1.00 extra in each category.

Secretary's (copious !!) Notes.

6th February 1992.

My apologies for my failure to send Christmas greetings to you all, I can never get used to thinking of Christmas in the middle of November. So, better late than never, I send you all my best wishes for the New Year and my sincere thanks for the many lovely greetings I received.

May we take it that you all liked the later posting of the December Mecca News? - two people let me know they did, nobody said they didn't. Thank you to those members who took the time to fill in the questionnaire, they will prove invaluable when we begin our future planning. Certainly, everyone seemed satisfied with our progress so far, I hope we continue to please you all with our efforts.

As to speakers at our AGN/Muster - the majority wished the format to stay as it has been, leaving free time for meeting old and new friends and using the records available. However that does not mean we will completely rule out the one or two ideas we have been given, they will be discussed by your Committee and if suitable persons can be found they may appear in later years. Several of you wished for talks to assist beginners so we plan to run a "Beginner's Corner" this year with a few of our "old hands" willing to answer any queries. If there is a demand for us to run a more "advanced corner" at the same time, I'm sure we could persuade some of our members to be available.

A secondary Muster in the Birmingham area has not been altogether abandoned and details are being researched at present, two members have come forward to help...we are aiming at April 1993.

We have members who would love to come to our Musters but have no transport of their own. I know Ripon is not the easiest of places to get to by rail or bus and we must bear this in mind when the time comes to move elsewhere. In the meantime, if members who are willing to GIVE a lift AND members who REQUIRE a lift contact me, I will endeavour to match them up, extra postage would be appreciated.

So to Ripon 1992 - the form is in the centre of this Mecca news and though it will be repeated in our August edition, PLEASE do remember that early replies save me a lot of grey hairs and bitten nails !! The price has risen because the costs have risen, once more we have kept the charge as low as we dare and we will need 80 to attend to break even. ROLL UP, ROLL UP. Cheques, post-dated to 1st September,

will be accepted. I shudder to even think it but IF there does happen to be a postal strike please telephone me with your bookings and bring CASH (not cheques) on the day - better to look on the gloomy side than be caught napping !

If any of you wish to raise matters at the AGM could we have details for the Agenda please. We shall, of course, be electing our Committee and if we have any new members willing to try their hands then we shall be delighted to hear from you so that you can be officially nominated. Slowly over the years most committee members have taken on specific jobs so ask yourself WHICH TALENT have you, that would help the Society - naturally, this is NOT compulsory - if you are able to come up with fresh ideas they are just as important. Presently your Committee meets on a Saturday in September and April at Harby near Colne. We began with half days but workload has increased to such a volume that we now take a packed lunch and are usually there from 9.30 to circa 2.30. Feel free to join us !

To a more sombre note - the facts need to be faced ! Frequently Members are being given (ie not paid for) page(s) of information from either other members or myself - and occasionally no acknowledgement is received - it would be nice to hear that at least it has arrived, whether or not you have been able to fit it into your family lines. Help was recently given by Lucy Rowland with some Metcalfes from North Nottinghamshire and she would like to know if it has safely arrived, if it has gone astray then she is willing to send another set.

MY CONFESSION ! I was asked by Edna Swain to put a Plea for Help into the December Mecca News and I forgot all about it. I have already apologised to Edna and promised publication in this issue :-

Mrs Edna Swain, 40 Lowtherhurst Road, Massey, Auckland 8, New Zealand.

Edna's family line stems from the Preston, Lancs area of England and so far it begins with William whose 2nd w was to Grace Bowker in 1823. Of their children :-

JOHN (b1826) m a Margaret and they had Grace 1849, Mgt Jane 1857, Jane Alice 1859 and Eliz Ann 1862.

WILLIAM (b1828) m a Mary and they had Isabella 1854, Fanny 1856, Mary Jane 1860, AnnEllen 1860 and Alfred 1870.

ROBERT (b1831) mst Ann Wilson in 1855 and they had Sarah Jane 1856 (of whom more later), ?John William in 1858 at Selby, Anne 1861

Halifax and Grace 1862/3 Halifax, more later of these two girls. His 2nd w produced Laura & Lena. JAMES (b1833) m a Mary and they had Albertha 1856 and Alice 1859.

Returning to Sarah Jane b 1856, she m 1893 at Halifax to John Slater STOTT. Of Sarah's sisters - Anne m her 1st or 2nd cousin John Metcalfe and they had Robert of Preston, Harry a tailor and Maggie who m Mr Turner of Preston and William who d in WW1. Grace m Mr Schofield and they had Horace of Cardiff and Dorothy of Camden, London.

Returning to Laura & Lena - Laura m Edward Gregson of Blackpool and they had 6 issue inc Alice, Charles, Laura & Muriel. Lena went to USA.

Thanks to fellow member Joan Metcalfe, Edna has been able to add new information but she would dearly love to write to other members of this line if they could be traced. Help would be greatly appreciated.

MY CONCERN. There appears to be many members who need help to get started on their research. Now I am no expert but if they care to write to me (+SAB) I will strive to help if at all possible.

FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES - we are pleased to announce our acceptance as full members of the Federation as from January 1992. This will mean better publicity for our Society together with the various advantages which appear from time to time. We shall be able to buy their publications at a larger discount and these will be available at our AGM/Muster. I look forward to representing our Society at the Federation AGM and Spring Conference at Hull University in April and will give you a full report in the August Mecca News.

DEEDS OF COVENANT - Val Metcalfe reports a good response as, up to date, 34 members have signed Deeds which will get us nicely started along the right road. Thank you one and all.

ST CATHERINE'S INDEX - Our collection of these vital records have received a 'shot in the arm' with some new helpers. I can now offer to search through 1870 to 1875 incl for members who need either a BIRTH or MARRIAGE. If you send me FULL names + the possible area where the event took place + PREPAID RETURN POSTAGE I will do my best.

Our sincere welcome is extended to new members & best wishes & good hunting to you all.

Anna

BIRTH BRIEFS.

Corrections....Re-joined....New Addresses/Names....Up-dates....New....

CORRECTIONS :-

M15....Mr Robert Metcalf of Thorne, correct postal code is WF3 3BH.

M142....Mr Gordon Metcalfe - CORRECT POSTAL CODE IS HG4 4BQ.

M185....Mrs Joyce Motley, 20 Boston Rd, Spilsby, Lincs, PE23 5HD.
Correction required to the entry in August Mecca News p 3. Charles & Hannah Eliz (Ashton) Mte m circa 1890 Caistor. NOT 1990.

RE-JOINED :-

M3....George Buxton - same address.

M42....W.S. (Bill) Metcalf - same address - & see UP-DATES.

M46....David Metcalfe - 22 Constantine Avenue, Colburn, Catterick Camp,
North Yorkshire. DL9 4QY.

NEW ADDRESSES :-

M144....Mrs Elizabeth Herd, from Abbeystead to 23 Hurrs Road, Skipton,
North Yorkshire, BD23 2JX.

M258....Mrs Dorothy Benden, from Bateau Bay to 5 Karani Ave, Avoca
Beach, M.S.W. 2251, Australia.

M314....Brian Metcalfe, from Harwell to Todd's Cottage, Church Street,
Kingham, Chipping Norton, OX7 6YA.

M421....Tony Carey, from Weybridge to Churchfield House, 1 London Road,
Datchet, Berks, SL3 9JW.

M502....Mr & Mrs Leo Metcalfe, from Marham Street to 9 Montrose House,
Montrose Place, London, SW1X 7DY.

NEW NAME :-

M155....Miss Yvette Dixon - now Mrs Yvette HORTON. Best wishes Yvette !

UP-DATES :-

M30....J.Clarence Metcalfe of Gloucester, Canada wishes to correct the Birth Brief Booklet entry where he is listed as Joseph Clarence - in fact he is JOHN Clarence. Also his ancestor James NT was born in 1792 and not 1797. The reference to East Witton has been ruled out and Wm & Eliz may be the couple who married at Thornton by Pocklington, East Yorkshire, 7th Dec 1791...William Mte = Elizabeth Vollans. Could Wm be the son of James bpt at Lund near Beverley on 17th April 1757 ??

M58.Harold Crossfield, 44 Brierdene Cst, Whitely Bay, Tyne & Wear NE26 4AB
Richard Mte, who married Ann Shaw circa 1848, was the son of William and Esther (Bradshaw) Mte who m 13 Nov 1802 at Bentham. William b 1777 at Thornton in Lonsdale son of William & Ellen (Yeadon) Mte who m 4 Apr 1774 at Ingleton Fell. Related to M390 Mrs Edith Metcalfe.

M284....Miss Joy Auckland, Lodge Court, Scrooby Top, Doncaster, DN10 6AX.
Dau of Theophilus John William & Ruth (METCALFE) Auckland. RUTH b 25 Dec 1903 Cotham, Notts, dau John & Eliza Ann (Lakin) Mte who m 23 Dec 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-Weedingworth, 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 BLV).

M316.Ms Jean Metcalfe, 40 Royal Oak Rd, Wythenshawe, Manchester, M23 8BD
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) Metcalfe. 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 (Swan) Mte who m 21 May 1853 at Grayrigg, Westmorland. George b 6 Nov 1826 at Garsdale, son of James, husbandman, and Fanny (Shaw) Mte m 26 Aug 1818 at Garsdale. James died between 1836 & 1851.

M431. Stanley Metcalfe, 364 Marine Rd East, Morecambe, Lancs. LA4 5AQ.
James bpt 25 Dec 1832 Kirkby Malzeard son of Matthew and Hannah (Peacock) Mte who m 26 Nov 1817 at Ripon Yks. Matthew bpt 15 June 1788 KN son of George. This ties in with the family of M163 Hazel Stothard.

M441. Misses Claire & Jennifer Mountain, 7 Spa Croft Rd, Ossett, WF5 0BU.
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 31st May 1832 son of George & Barbara (Snales) Mte who m 3rd Oct 1822, George bpt 9 Nov 1800 son of Ann Mte.

M460. Mrs V. Mary Eustace, 28 Nowbray 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 (Wainan) Mte m 1604 Wimpole. Robert s of Robert & Frances (Meakes) Mte m 1579 Wimpole.

M473. John B. Metcalf, 6 Wall Street, Taupo, New Zealand. John George born 15th Dec 1861 at Castlesides, Muggleswick, Lanchester in County Durham, England - son of George and Elizabeth (Raine) Mte mte not yet traced. George is listed in the 1861 census for Castlesides when he stated he was aged 30, cordwainer, born Crakehall in Yorkshire. At this time Crakehall was in the parish of Bedale and sure enough there he is bpt 30th August 1829 George AND Elizabeth son & dau of William & Mary Mte of Crakehall, joiner. It did not state that they were twins. As for that it gets very complicated but it is possible that William & Mary Spence 16 May 1814 at West Witton.

NEW MEMBERS :-

M499. Miss E.J. Simpson, Rose Cottage, Low Laithe, Summerbridge, Harrogate, Nth Yks. HG3 4BU. Great, gt grandparents were Thomas & Hannah (Suttill) Mte who m 14 Dec 1850. Thomas bpt 7th Dec 1817 Grewelthorpe, Yorkshire son of John & Martha (Watson) who m 3rd May 1806. ? John bpt 14 Aug 1780 at Masham, son of James & Jane (Smithson) Mte mar 6th Apl 1779, Masham..when James was described "of Kirkby Malzeard".

M500. Cyril Metcalfe, 44 Shelf Moor Rd, Shelf, Halifax, HX3 7PL, Yorks.
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, Harter's Mill, Lea Wood, Lea Bridge, Watlock, Derby. D34 5AA.

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

M502. Mr L & Miss M.D. Metcalfe, 9 Montrose House, Montrose Place, London, SW1X 7PY.

Nothing received to date (25th Feb 1992).

M503. Mrs Elizabeth Ainsley, 37 Gerald St, South Shields, Tyne & Wear, NE24 8RG.

Mother Ethel May nee Metcalfe born Cudworth, Barnsley, Yks dau of Thomas William & Elizabeth Norbrandt (Seymour) Mte who m 21 Apl 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 Metcalfe. George b 1842 South Shields, son of George & Margaret Metcalfe, (Yes this is correct !). George born circa 1800 ? Westmorland.

M504. Mrs Janet Warkcup, 3 Bertana Drive, WUDGERABA, 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 5 Feb 1790 at Lockton, Yorkshire dau of John and Mary (Pickering) Mte who m 12 June 1781. There may be connection to M197 Eunice Metcalfe of Pocklington, Yorkshire.

M505. Mrs Louise Dalton, 1 Woolacombe Rd, Blackheath, London, SE3 8QJ.
Descendant of William & Isabella (Metcalf) ILBY. Isabella born circa 1870s died ?1932 after which her widower remarried to Ethel ? then when William Iley died Ethel remarried to Jack Metcalfe. Ethel & Jack are known to have had issue, Alan, John and Tom. William & Isabella lived (in 1904) at 55 South Durham St, Sunderland, Co Durham.

M506. Robert Edward (Ted) Metcalfe, 16 Mangati Road, Bell Block, New Plymouth, NEW ZEALAND. 4602. Grandfather Ernest Robert Metcalfe 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) Metcalfe 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. Metcalfe, Director of Programmes, Tyne Tees Television 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 born 28 Feb 1874 in Hartlepool.

M508. Mr & Mrs Terence Metcalfe, 19 Garesfield Gardens, ROWLANDS GILL, Tyne and Wear, NE39 2PG.
Terence son of Joseph & Florence (McGuire) Metcalfe who m 1918. Joseph b 18th 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 Metcalfe. 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 Metcalfe, 3 Oprey 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 Bishopton son of William & Margaret (Robinson) Mte who m 22 Feb 1819 at Bishopton. David discovers he is related to Diane Howarth M409 our Vice Chairman.

M510. Mrs Barbara Stephenson, P.O. Box 768, Cheltenham, Victoria 3192, Australia. Great, great grand-daughter of George & Mary (Metcalfe) Sparks who m 27 Nov 1843 at Bradford Parish Church, Yks, England. Mary bpt Muker in Swaledale, Yks 13th March 1817 dau of John & Nanny (Metcalfe) Metcalfe. 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 :- 21st Dec 1781 dau of John and Margaret Mte, collier of Thorns OR

18th 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 19th 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 Rd, Girton, Cambridge, CB3 0PN.
Dau of Fred & Mary (Ashworth) Metcalf who m Aug 1928 at Whittle-le-Woods, Chorley, Lancs. Fred born 6th Aug 1905 Whittle-le-Woods son of William and Alice (Hopwood) Metcalf. William born 13th Feb 1880 at Whittle-le-Woods, Chorley, Lancs, was illegitimate, he was left on a doorstep with a name tag on.

M512. Mrs Win Boulledge, 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 (Seadle) Mte. Ralph William bpt 11 Dec 1865 at Brough under Stainmore, Westmorland (with his twin brother Anthony Thomas) sons of James & Ann (Peacock) Metcalfe. James bpt 13 Jan 1834 at Ravenstonedale son of Anthony & Isabella (Turner) Mte who m 16 Nov 1833 Ravenstonedale. This James had a bro Anthony bpt Oct 1846 at Brough under Stainmore and he may have emigrated to New Zealand.

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 b1907 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/Pellbeck Yks son of Peter & Mary Mte. Peter died 1853 aged 84.

M514...Mrs Mary Greensit, "Stoneleigh", Kirkby Malzeard, Ripon, North Yorkshire 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 Ilton in 1861 & 1871 census & it seems he was born 1839-42 at Fellback/Bishopside area near Pateley Bridge and may be the son of Peter b c 1771. Mrs Greensit may connect up with M513. M476 & M143.

M515...Ms Dorothy Hodgson, 14 Garsdale Close, Walton-le-Dale, Preston, Lancs. PR5 1BU. Grand-dau of Harriet Pratt Metcalfe and her husb Francis S. Hodgson Harriet b Oct 1878 dau of Matthew & Catherine (Pratt) Mte who m 24 Nov 1877 at Patrick Brompton. Matthew b 24 Jan 1855 at PE son of Thomas & Elizabeth Mte. Thomas bpt 22 Apr 1813 at East Witton son 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 Edw & June Pattison, 16 South End, Bedale, DL8 2BN. Mth Yks. June has hit this month's JACKPOT! She walked into the Muster during the afternoon knowing only that her mother SARAH ANN(B) nee 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 :- Sarah Ann bpt 30 Sep 1903, Florence bpt 1 Feb 1905 daus of Richard and Jane Ann (Powler) Mte. Richard of Green's Row, Bedale. Jane Ann was buried 30 June 1905 aged 22 years, they married 11 June 1903 at Bedale. Richard bpt 5th Jan 1878 Bedale s of Matthew & his second wife Ann (Whitfield) who m 29 Feb 1864 at Richmond, Yks. Matthew bpt 18 Nov 1832 Bedale son of Thomas & Anne (Simpson) Mte who m 10 July 1830 Bedale. Thomas bpt 19 Feb 1804 son of William & Mary (Hird) Mte who m 23 Sep 1799 at Bedale. NOW'S THAT! This line connects to M273 Stuart Metcalfe.

M517...Mrs Kathleen Ruddy, 44 Harlow Manor Park, Harrogate, Nth Yks. HG2 0HH Dau of Robert Allinson who was son of Robert Allinson and his wife Jane Metcalfe who m Masham on 1st June 1876. Also ancestors to M257 Terry Allinson. Jane Mte bpt 1855 dau of George (gardener) and Elizabeth (Poster) Mte who m at Middleton Tyas, Yks 15th May 1844. ?George born c 1812 at Easby.

M518...Mrs Blaine Hillyard, 11 Lemon Tree Close, Larkhill, Patefract, West Yorks. WF8 4RN. Eorn Normanton, Yks dau of James Edmund & Betty Robinson (Metcalfe) Tomkinson who m Oct 1960 at Normanton. Betty b 28 Nov 1933 Normanton dau of Horace Robinson & Doris (Prentice) Metcalfe. Horace Robinson b 3rd Jul 1910 ?Nicklefield son of Edward James & Harriet (Robinson) Mte who m 30 Nov 1904 at Normanton. Edward James b c 1873 Wakefield son of Edward. ? Edward bpt 12 Nov 1832 Wakefield son of Edward Bete & Jane (?) Mte. Blaine knew of the relationship to ex M339.

M519...Mr & Mrs Kenneth Metcalfe, 14 Meadow Lane, Darley, Harrogate, North Yorkshire. HG3 2PH. Kenneth was born in Ripon, North Yorkshire son of John Robert & Marion (Marsh) Metcalfe who m 1943. John Robert b 1915 at Sawley, near Ripon son of William & Edith Annie (Lofthouse) Mte who m May 1914 at Galphay near Ripon. William b 14 Nov 1873 at Aldfield near Ripon son of John & Elizabeth (Baul) Mte who m 3 June 1871 at the Cathedral in Ripon. John b circa 1845 at Aldfield may be the son of Andrew & Esther (Bland) Mte who m 29 Aug 1829. Andrew was b 1803 son of Andrew & Elizabeth (Pryer) Mte who m 27 May 1779 at Ripon. Andrew bpt 31 Dec 1743 son of Robert of North Field House, Aldfield. This line fits into that of M443 Mrs Cole & Mrs Parkinson however the connection does await confirmation.

M520...Duncan Broophead, 16 Ravenswood Drive, Cheadle Hulme, Ches: SK8 7DZ. Grandson of Frank Herbert & Gertrude Ann (Metcalfe) Cookson, who m 1902 at Ashton upon Mersey, Cheshire. Gertrude b 22 Apr 1876 Didsbury, Manchester dau of Leonard & Mary Ann Farrand (Jackson) MTE who m 3 Nov 1863 Manchester. Leonard bpt 18 Mar 1849 Firbank, Westmorland son of James & Mary (Fawcett) MTE who m 25 Nov 1848 at Kendal. James bpt 25 Nov 1827 at Middleton, Westmorland son of Leonard & Isabella (Allen) MTE who m 17 Feb 1816. Leonard bpt 23 Feb 1794 at Dent son of Thomas & Elizabeth (Powley) Mte who m 15 Oct 1787 at Dent. Thomas was a tailor of the town of Dent. ? Was he the son of John & Isabella (Shaw) MTE.

M521...Mrs B.G.A. Dussek, Little Allens, Allens Lane, Plaxtol, Near Sevenoaks, Kent. TN15 0QZ. Dau of Raymond Victor & Eliza George Ann (Collinson) MTE who m 10 Aug 1932 at Middleham church, Yorkshire. Raymond V b 1908 son of Jeffrey & Mary (Wilkinson) MTE who m 10 Nov 1868 at Lunds, Yorkshire. Jeffrey b circa 1853 son of John.

M522. Arthur G. Metcalfe, Hoe Beg, Fortingall, Aberfeldy, Perthshire
PE15 2NF, son of William & Alice (Grimshaw) MTE who m Aug 1922.
 William b 14 Jan 1897 son of Arthur & Morah (Thomas) MTE who m 1896.
 Arthur b 3 June 1871 Bradford Yorkshire son of William & Sarah
 (Kerney) MTE.

M523. Leonard G. Metcalfe, 463 West Street, Appt B-337, NEW YORK,
NY 10014, U.S.A. Nothing received to date [6th Feb 1992].

M524. John R. Metcalf, P.O. Box 19847, ST LOUIS, MO 63144, U.S.A.
 Born in Kansas City son of Lee Sylvester & Mary M. (Newman) MTE who m
 20 Apr 1927. Lee S. b 15 Jul 1903 at Wellsville, MO, son of George
 Theodore & Rose A. (Woorland) MT who m 1902. George T. b 15 Jun 1878
 Wright City, MO. s of Theodore Taylor & Mary B. (Starky) MT who m 7 Jan
 1869. Theodore T. b 25 Apr 1845 son of William Isaac & Norcissa W.
 (Jones) MT who m 17 Oct 1842. William I. b 20 Jan 1820 KY, son of
 Isaac & Frances (Jones) MT who m 18 Dec 1798. Isaac b 6 Feb 1779
 Guilford, NC, son of William & Hester/Bster (Braselton) MT who m in
 1756. William b 6 Jan 1745 Baltimore County son of John & Mary MT.
 It is believed that John came to USA from Yorkshire, England.

M525. Miss Ruth M. Simpson, Mill Hirst Farm, Darley, Harrogate, HG3 2QH,
North Yorkshire. Descendant of William & Mary (Polly) (Metcalf)
 Verity who m 15 Dec 1883 at Middlesmoor, Yorkshire. Mary b 11 June
 1859 dau of Thomas & Hannah (Suttill) MT who m 14 Dec 1850 at
 Middlesmoor. Thomas bpt 7 Dec 1817 Grewelthorpe Yks son of John &
 Martha (Watson) MT who m 3rd May 1806, when John was described of
 Kirkby Malzeard parish. Related to M499.

M526. David A. Davis, 2401 Lacosta Court, Onion Creek, Austin, Texas 78747
U.S.A. David has two Metcalfes in his ancestry - Margaret Metcalfe
 married John Tomlin 26 July 1761 at Stalling Busk in Wensleydale, Yks
 and also Jane Metcalfe who married John Fawcett 10 May 1701 at Askrigg
 though of Stalling Busk.

David is looking for an historical synopsis of the Metcalfe clan,
 particularly as related to Raydale, North Yorkshire. He has been
 advised of M. Speight's "Romantic Richmondshire" - can anyone
 suggest anything else - please send either to David or to Nina Benson.

M527. John Anthony Metcalfe, 31 Stapleford Road, Wetherfield,
Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS3 0QW. Born in Northallerton, North
 Yorkshire, son of John MTE. John b 19 Jul 1938 Middlesbrough son of
 John William MTE who was born 31 Jan 1912 at Marssett in Wensleydale.

M528. James Ogden, Tegfan, Llandre, Bow Street, Dyfed, SY24 5BT.
 Grandson of James Atkinson & Dorothy (Mudd) Ogden. Dorothy dau of
 Alexander & Alice (Metcalf) Mudd who m Aysgarth in Wensleydale
 30 Jan 1866 when Alice was 21 yrs spr of Gaylle Ing and dau of John
 Mte, farm servant. Alice was not bpt at Aysgarth though Gayle Ing is
 in that parish (situated high up in Bishopdale). Alice was bpt 12 Jan
 1845 at Stallingbusk dau of John & Judith MTE..of Bainbridge. Judith
 MTE, 56 years old, wife of John of Gale Ing, died 4th March buried 8th
 March 1862. Their headstone at Aysgarth (thanks to David Metcalfe for
 collecting same) shows that John died 8 Dec 1890 aged 73. There is no
 marriage between John and Judith shown on the IGI. However both their
 son William was bpt and Judith herself was born at Bolton Castle so
 further research may reveal other clues. The family moved around
 quite a lot. Father John is supposed to have been born in Bainbridge.
 2nd son Jeremiah at Carperby. Then Alice at Stalling Busk and Thomas
 at Spennithorne when the family lived at Bellerby or as is given in
 the 1951 Census - in the hamlet of Black Beck near Bellerby, before
 moving to Gayle Ing in Bishopdale.

M529. Mrs Eileen Howells, 11 Ridgeside, Kirk Merrington, Spennymoor,
Co Durham. Related to ex-member 319 David Dartnall. Grand-dau of John
 & Mary (Leadale) MTE who m 24 Dec 1901. John bpt 20 Dec 1879 at Kirk
 Merrington, son of James & Margaret Jane (Robinson) MTE who m 28 Apr
 1877 at Bishop Auckland, Durham. James bpt 10 Nov 1854 at Wardley,
 Durham son of James & Mary (Whitton) Mte who m 27 Nov 1847 at Bolton
 on Swale, Yorkshire when James was of full age, of Cross Hills son of
 Thomas. James bpt 23 Aug 1825 at Well in Yorkshire (of Snapel) son of
 Thomas & Mary (Bradley) Mte who m 9 Apr 1825 at Thornton Watlass, Yks.
 Thomas bpt 26 Sep ?Oct 1794 at Patrick Brompton, Yks. son of Thomas &
 Elizabeth (Dobbyn) Mte who m 26 Jun 1786 at Middleton Tyas, Yks.
 Thomas is believed to be the son of George & Margaret (Moor) Mte who m
 14th June 1759 at Ingleton (when Geo was of chapelry of Stalling Busk
 & yeoman) but his bpt cannot be traced with their other children who
 were all bpt Stalling Busk 1764 and 1779. It could be that they lived
 elsewhere before arriving in Stalling Busk -but WHERE ??

M530...Mr & Mrs Malcolm & Norma Metcalfe, 19 Willcrest Grove, Elwick, Hartlepool, Cleveland, TS27 3EH. Malcolm b Hartlepool, Co Durham s. of Harry Craggs & Elsie (Simpson) MTE m 1928. Harry C. b 1898 Hartlepool s. of Richard & Elizabeth Ann Craggs (Andrew) MTE mar Dec 1893. Richard b 1868 Hartlepool s o Stephen & Jane (Robinson) Mte m 1861 Hartlepool. Stephen b 1834 Bishopton Co Durham s o Wm & Mgt (Robinson) MTE m 1819 Bishopton. Wm b c 1794 Yks. Parents to M409 Diane Howarth.

M531...Brian J. Metcalfe, 36 Barlwood Drive, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, K9J 6R6. Nothing received to date (6 Feb 1992).

M532...Miss Preda Metcalfe, 7 Lexden Ave, Acklam, Middlesbrough, TS5 8AP.

M533...Dr Gordon Kirkwood, 1 Skene House Court, Dun Echt, Aberdeen, AB32 7BQ. Son of former member 228 Mrs Dorothy Kirkwood (now deceased) - related to M310 Georgina MacKenzie, M370 Joseph Awnack & M492 Margery Lindsay.

Great grandson of George & Harriet (Metcalfe) Robinson who m 7 Mar 1871 at the Cathedral in Ripon Yks. Harriet b 1 June 1848 Ripon dau of John & Mary Ann (Holmes) Mte who m 16 Mar 1842 Leeds Parish Church. John bpt 7 Dec 1820 at Ripon son of Thomas & Dorothy (Longthorne) MTE. Thomas bpt 30 Jun 1781 at Ripon son of John & Elizabeth (Hartley) MTE who m 23 Nov 1777 Ripon.

M534...Mrs Heather Anderson, 20 The Drive, Roundhay, Leeds, LS8. nee Metcalfe....No details received to date (6 Feb 1992).

M535...Mrs Elizabeth Metcalfe, 4 Chelmsford Road, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS5 6PH. Late husband was son of John Charles & Rebecca (Hammond) Mte who m 3 Apr 1899 at North Ormesby. John C. bpt 12 Jun 1870 Stockton son of Christopher & Mary Ann (Ryder) MTE who m 24 Nov 1856 at Marrick in Swaledale, North Yorkshire. Christopher bpt 9 Apr 1832 Askrigg in Wensleydale son of James (a corn dealer) and Betty/Elizabeth (?) MTE. Related to M258 Anthony Pearson.

PLEA FOR INFORMATION by M42 Bill Metcalf, 1 Macfarland Close, Impington, Cambridge, CB4 4LZ.

Bill is attempting to trace a THOMAS MT born circa 1780 and has the following THREE possibilities to sort out.

- 1) Thomas s/o James & Annas bpt at Hawes 25 July 1781.
- 2) Thomas s/o Thomas & Sarah (Newsham) MT of Nutwith Cote, bpt at Masham 30 Sep 1780 (though IGI gives 1781) - Thomas 21 m Sarah 20 at Masham 24.01.1780. Wit Matthew MT.
- 3) Thomas s/o John & Mary (Walker) MT of Ilton, bpt 8/9 Apr 1782 at Masham. John m Mary 15.04.1771 at Masham.

Masham marriage registers hold two marriages for a THOMAS MT otp bach. Firstly 31.01.1831 to Ann Clarkson. Secondly 24.11.1831 to Ann Wright.

DOES ANYONE KNOW ANYTHING that would prove that either marriage is of the Thomas' mentioned above? Is there any further information on any of the baptisms - like subsequent burial of the baby, or positive later marriage elsewhere?

Bill would appreciate any assistance.

NEWS for member 473 John B. Metcalf of Taupo, New Zealand :-

CENSUS RETURN 1841 ref HO 107-1250.

CRAKEHALL, folio 20.

MARY	MTE 49	Independant	Born in Yorkshire
MARGARET	MTE 26	ditto	ditto
GEORGE	MTE 11	ditto	ditto

From Nina Benson.

SALES 1992

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-----cut here-----cut here-----

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I enclose payment for _____ places @ £ 9.50 each = £ _____
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ADDRESS.....

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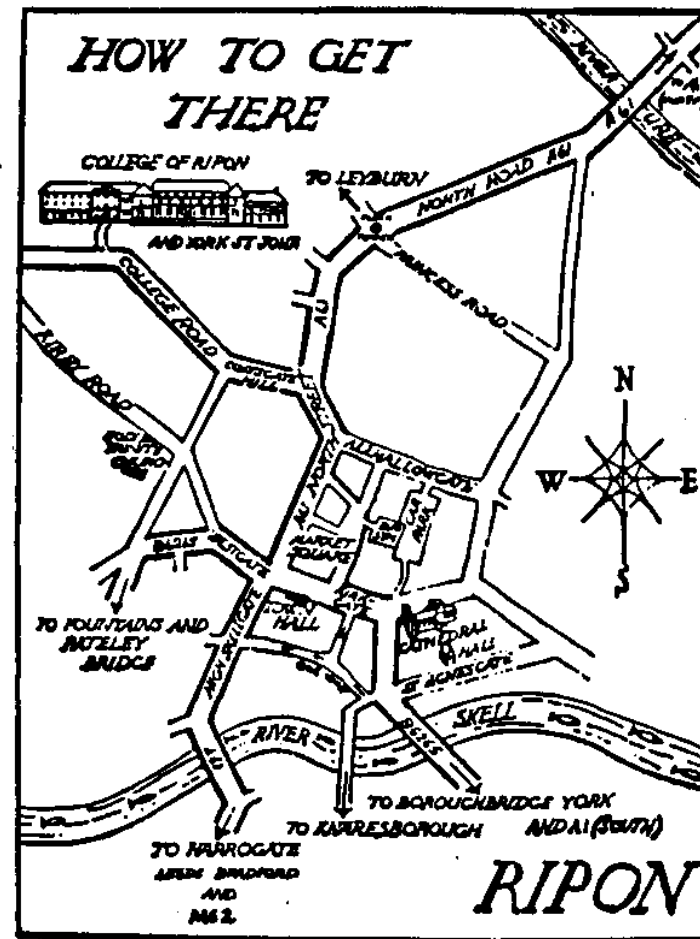
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AD 1786...A Year in the Life of William Metcalfe, Sessay Parks, Thirsk

by Denny Gibson

Why are diaries so fascinating? Perhaps, because they are the only real medium we have with which to 'eaves-drop' on the past. Diarists are the equivalent of today's 'on-the-spot' reporters, recording events as they happen.

WILLIAM METCALFE was just such a 'journalist'. In the hope that he may be recognised by some of our members, or better still 'claimed' by some, I will give what brief details we know about his family. At the time of writing the first year of his journal, 1786/7, he was a yeoman farmer, with interests in banking and was playing a very active role in his local community. His parents were still alive and living nearby in THIRKLEBY, he had at least two brothers, JOSEPH living at BAGBY and JACKY at HUTTON SESSAY. William's wife was called MARGARET, but he normally refers to her as Peggy and he mentions that her brother, LEONARD MANFIELD, lived near them at BARF. Peggy also had a sister, close by, who was the wife of JOHN TOES living at the bottom of BARF HILL. These near at hand relatives are frequently mentioned by William. From a headstone in Sessay church yard we gather that William's mother, Elizabeth, died in 1795, aged 89 years and his wife, Peggy, in 1810, aged 60 years. Unfortunately, William is not recorded on the tombstone, but we can surmise that he must have been born around 1750 and the parish registers show that in that year a William

Metcalfe was baptised, the son of JOHN & ELIZABETH (nee Ostler) METCALFE of Thirkleby. Also shown are the baptisms of JOHN on the 7th May, 1735 and JOSEPH on the 1st July, 1740, both sons of the above couple; this must surely be WILLIAM and his family. Further confirmation from the parish registers can also be found in that "Charlotte Metcalfe, wife of JOSEPH, a saddler, of Bagby was buried on the 5th April, 1812"; the following year, in December 1813, her husband, JOSEPH METCALFE of Bagby was buried, aged 75 years. Again, in the parish registers, we find what is almost certainly William's marriage on the 10th May, 1774 to Margaret Manfield. His family were no doubt natives of the Thirkleby/ Sessay district for at least a few generations before William was born in 1750, for we find references to a Metcalfe family at Thirkleby in 1611 and, later, a JOHN METCALFE is recorded there from 1699 to 1773, who may well have been William's father; his baptism appearing on the 9th September 1699 as "John the son of John Metcalfe of Hutton Sessay". So much for what we know of William's family, now to the man himself.

**THE DIARY OF Wm. METCALFE of
SESSAY PARKS - continued**

In June 1931 William's surviving Journals were in the hands of his grand-daughter, a Mrs. G. Hudson Smith of Easingwold, who gave permission for them to be published

under the title "William Metcalfe - His Book". A loan edition of this book is available from Northallerton library; members outside this area could possibly obtain same by ordering it at their local library.

A farmer, William was also a regular attender at Sessay Church, a member of the choir and later a church warden there. However, he was no bigot as he refers to some his close friends being Quakers. Many of his brief jottings are very typical of a Yorkshire farmer and individually may appear mundane but collectively paint a very real picture of his way of life; viz:- February 21st, 1786 - "Our Tommy went to Thirst for a load of coals for brother Jacky and also for a bull calf from Wm Hutton's. A very cold day. I was plowing forenoon. At Jn. Toes' in afternoon". His farm was six miles from Thirst and 18 N.W. of York and much mention is made of people, places and events in the locality:-

24th April, 1786: "At Thirst. A fine rainy day. I got sadly wet. A sad misfortune at Thirkleby Hall. The gardener had two children killed by the fall of a wall as the work people were pulling the stable down, next to the church". The journal was regularly kept and also frequently refers to business and social outings. Anyone with a non-Metcalfe ancestry in that district, may well find their forefathers every day events recorded here.

We cannot be sure how many sisters William had, but there was obviously a small family gatherin on the 7th May, 1786:-

"At Church. Uncle George & cousin Nancy Oastler at our house. They went away as soon as dined. Sister Metcalfe dined and stayed afternoon. Father returned from Burton, where he had been seeing Mary. She better. Fine day". On the 1st June, he mentions his sister going to Cheshire but

no hint as to the purpose of her visit. Much time was spent in having relatives & friends for meals, with visitors frequently staying over-night. Likewise, William often stayed the night with friends as he travelled around the countryside on business. He also enjoyed many country pursuits, e.g. 20th June, 1786:-

"Me, John Toes, Geo. Lyon, Jonah Milner, Wm Robinson & Thos. Wetherill, went to Fye to fish. We got plenty. We were in the water 6/7 hours. We drank tea, etc at Richard Sadler's. Got home about 12 o'clock".

He mentions having "my siter Morrell to stay", bringing her home with him from Thirst on the 26th June. This sister could well be the Elizabeth Metcalfe who married John Morrell of Kirby Knowle on the 8th February, 1759. Although he makes further mention of her during the stay, he surprisingly never refers to her by her christian name:-

2nd July, 1788: "Dr. & Mrs. Wasse & Mr. Place dined with us. Dr. & me went to see Willy Spence, who is very bad from ague. After they went away, I went with my sister to see Richard Skaife. He is very bad. Some showers."

The following day obviously say the end of her stay as he writes that he "carried sister Morrell to Thirst with me".

One wonders where he went to collect sea sand and what use he made of it:- 7th July: "JToes & me at Geo. Yeates' for sea sand. Got there about 10 o'clock and home about 6. Showery day, though more rain here than at Grantley". This being a village north of Ripon, one gets the impression the sea sand must have been collected from a Geo. Yeates in that vicinity. There are a number of sand & gravel quarries today in that area, so was it actual 'sea' sand that he obtained or just sand, similar to that found on beaches?

It would appear William may have 'crossed swords' at times with others:- 25th July: "Me & wife & man at T. Yeates' threshing rape seed. A fellow was throwing up my heels. Jos. Ballister thrashed him also. Our maid & W. Atkinson also there". This time of the year also found him extremely busy with hay-making, but he still found time to go to Helperby Races and go with his wife to Bagby for Sunday dinner and attend the church there. August found him still busy farming, shearing oats, etc. but the 14th August saw him going to both Thirst & Northallerton, making returns to the Justices "of poor rates, etc". The 17th, a hot day, saw what may have been some family trouble "Leonard ran away - would go to Malton to get hired, but returned at night". A week later, William was in York with Jonah Milner. He comments "the balloon went up yesterday" (23rd). He went to the races with T Swann and then drank tea and then "went to the play to see Mrs. Siddons. Impossible to get in so went & played cards". He spent the night in York and arose at 4 a.m. but was delayed an hour at Bootham Bar waiting to get his horse, nevertheless, he was home by 8 a.m. to carry on with his harvesting. August found him also going to Kilburn to buy geese - no doubt to fatten on his stubble, ready for Christmas.

September still found him busy "shearing beans", also working amongst his bee-hives. Honey was an important item for good house-keeping. He was probably thankful to report on the 8th September:- "We got Mell. I made the work people a supper...." The 'mell' was the final load carried in from the harvest field and the end of harvest was always celebrated by giving all who had helped, a good meal, known as a 'mell supper'. Around this time, he mentions attending some mell suppers given by his neighbours. On the 12th September: "Tyed our beans out. Walkt to Bagby in afternoon. Brother in liquor which,

God knows, is now too frequently the case. I came home by Jno. Toes - their Mell Supper, staid while about 10 o'clock". There are other references to his brother's over indulgence and his remonstrating with him about it. The 20th September found William "paying his work folk and Joseph Pallister got so drunk at our house that we laid him upon his cart with coals and our lads drove him home". One can sense that by October, the pressure of farm work was beginning to ease. On the 3rd, he had the tailors to make him a new coat. The 5th found him and Len, who I feel must have been his son, enjoying themselves at Boroughbridge races and playing cards afterwards. The next day he called on friends who were about to go greyhound coursing. As an Overseer, William was responsible for the repair of some of the roads & bridges in his neighbourhood and for the collecting taxes towards the maintenance of some. On the 7th October he visited locals to collect their 'highway assesment' and the 9th found him at Northallerton again "to get our highway accounts passed".

I suspect Sessay Parks was owned by Lord Downe and William was one of his tenants. Who but his landlord would invite himself as follows:- 11th October, 1786: "Mr Moore came to advise us that Lord Downe and a son of Sir. Guy Cooper, with four servants, was coming to shoot for a few days and would take up their quarters at our house." Although he does not mention it, one can imagine how busy his wife would be preparing for their honoured guests in the days before refrigeration or any form of convenience food. We can also imagine that she was beginning to feel somewhat let down by the 15th when her husband recorded "No sign of Lord Downe yet". The Metcalfe household may have remained in suspense several more days, before finding their preparations in vain, for on the 21st we find: "Lord Downe &

another gentleman came to our house....and they told me they intend to reside at Sir Thomas Frankland's instead of this place". The previous day had seen William selling his cheeses in York having lodged the previous night "at the back of the Shambles". Much cheese would be made throughout the summer months from the 'flush' of summer milk and it sounds as though Wm. took a waggon load of his cheeses into York to sell to a dealer. He was accompanied by 'Leonard' and several named neighbours. On the 22nd October church was attended and some friends & neighbours entertained to 'Sunday dinner', but possibly the party did not go too well:- "Our Peggy offended Betty Toes about nothing. I am sorry. A fine day." The last week of October found him preparing for the winter months, sending his men to get loads of coals. On the 30th he was making his way home from 'the Fair' via Bagby in order to speak to his brother about his intemperance.

Hirings traditionally took place in the autumn when the bulk of the agricultural work was completed for the year and in Spring before the busy summer months got underway. Farm servants usually 'lived in' and often the farmer only paid them twice yearly for their past services. On set days various small market towns would have hirings, where farm servants wanting or needing to find new employment stood around offering their services to the local farmers in attendance. Bargains would be struck and farmers would hire new workers, sometimes just for the coming six months, sometimes for the whole of the coming year. On the 3rd November William attended the hiring and "hired Jane Robinson, Jno. Toes' maid, for £4/17/6d her wages for the coming year". Three days later he went to another hiring at Thirsk and hired another servant girl who was "Jane's sister in law". He also reports:- "Our Tommy is hired to Jno. Welbank &

Zibah to Mr Bell". On the 11th Nov he hired Roger Pinkney's man for £10. November was also traditionally 'pig killing time' and William killed pigs both for themselves and for his Father after which the meat was salted to preserve it through the coming months. In addition to pigs, he also killed and salted a beast. On the 27th Nov. he writes "Our new servants are all come today". A few days later, he was obviously carrying out some home improvements:- Dec. 7th: James went for some bricks to Otterington to lay the dining room floor". The next day Richard Ray was there "to lay our dining room floor. I went to Sowerby after Margery Lancaster, as a person had carried her and her goods away". This last item leaves us wishing, yet again, that the diarist was more explicit. We can only assume that Margery may well have been a new servant girl who had changed her mind and decided she would rather work elsewhere and had duly tried to break her 'bargain' with William. A week later the problem must have been resolved for on the 14th Dec:- "Salted sow. Father & Mother at our house. Margery Lancaster came to get me to fetch her goods home again. Billy & me went to Sowerby to get Margery's goods". The 22nd Dec. found the family, including his parents & Jno. Toes attending the christening of Geo. Yeates' child who was called Christopher.

Christmas does not appear to have been lavishly celebrated. He went to church on Christmas eve and twice on Christmas Day. His wife did not go as she was not very well. It snowed at night and again on Boxing day when he was "jobbing about & getting turnips with difficulty for the fat beasts". In fact it may be that there was more relaxation and celebration at New Year as they had guests for dinner on the 31st and on New Year's Day he went to Bagby and played cards at his brother's until 11 o'clock when his brother was "under a state of intoxication".

Thus ended A.D. 1786.

The diary continues for the whole of 1787, then there is a gap until 1796 after which it continues until the end of the summer of 1799. Possibly a further 'instalment' of the life of William Metcalfe may follow in subsequent Mecca News editions.

D. Gibson

February 1992

1673 HEARTH TAX - NORTH RIDING

From Valerie Metcalfe mn 61

I have obtained from Ripon Historical Society Family History Group a copy of the 1673 Hearth Tax record for the North Riding of Yorkshire, Part V, the Langbarugh West, Langbarugh East & Whitby Strand Wapentakes (and are grateful to the above society for permission to reprint it here). Though as the booklet states this was not a popular tax and there was much evasion it does list the households in 98 towns and has a 35 page (A5 size) surname index, which I am prepared to use as a Spouse Index if enquiries are accompanied by a S.A.E.. The following Metcalfes are shown:

Mr Metcalfe	Tanton Hearths 6
Ano Mte	Yarome Town
Chr Mte	Ingleby Barwicke 2
Eliz Mte	" "
Ja Mte	Crathorne, Morton
Jane Mte	Upleatham
Jo Mte	Kirke Leavington, Thornaby,
Whitby Town	West Side Water.
Randall Mte	Marske
Tho Mte	Kirk Leavington, Stoxley
Wm Mte	Ingleby Barwicke 2,
Westerdale	

Valerie has used the original spellings throughout, as you will have realised.

FROM EDITH METCALFE

Dear Sir

At last I am sending you a copy of a letter, sent by my Great Aunt, to her parents at Ingleton, on her emigration to America with her husband and family.

The original was beautifully written, but was so cracked at the folds, that photocopying it was not a success.

I asked my daughter to type it for me, word for word as it was written, spelling, punctuation (or lack of it) just as it was. This is the result, I don't know whether it will be of any interest for the "Mecca News", but it is quite a story. The family settled in a place called "Alice" I think N. Dakota and did quite well, coming back to Ingleton for holidays. My sister has other letters, which tell how they made good in America.

My Great Aunt's maiden name was Metcalfe, my Grandfather's sister

Yours sincerely

Edith A Metcalfe (Mrs)

PS I think she means Lake Hudson. They evidently took their own tea and preserved butter.

Wheatlands Aug. 16th 1880.

Dear Father & Mother, Brothers & Sisters,

I write these few to you hoping to find you all quite well as I am glad to say this leaves us all at present. We arrived at Quebec on the Saturday and took the train forward to Sarnia over 700 miles and we travelled night and day until the Monday, at noon and then we took the boat on Tuesday night about 10 o'clock and sailed up Lake Huron and Lake Superior 900 miles on the Monday night following about 8 o'clock at Duluth and stopped all night at the emigrants home and took the next day

for Fargo and Wheatlands 370 miles and arrived at our destination on Wednesday at noon.

Wadeson has gone to Fargo to-day to see about something for us as Mr Hadwin wanted more for his land than we wished to give. We were at Mr Hadwin's yesterday and had our tea, we are staying in a wood shed belonging to a Temperance Hotel, and we have no stove but they boil us our water. But I hope when he comes back from Fargo we shall get a place somewhere. Old James Whitehead came with us all the way within 9 miles from his home in Canada. He left us on the Sunday night at Port Hope he was grand company for us and very kind to the children. The women had to bed by themselves and the men by themselves there were 22 in our place and when I sat up in bed I knocked my head against the top but I never undressed myself from leaving Home until I arrived here but one night nor my shoes off. We were all sea sick and it is very bad to bear, but it did not last us so long and when I was bad Wadeson tipped the steward and he gave us nice pieces of fowl and ham and a nice tart for breakfast one morning. I could not eat their butter so I had off our own and we made it last till the day before we landed and our tea I used for the tea on ship because their tea was so bitter and strong they boil it in a pan and it tastes like boiled hay.

Everything is very dear at Wheatland. Henry and Johnny has been to Casselton to-day to buy bread they walked 7 miles each way for there was none to get here and they paid ten cents per roll such as I used to make. Potatoes you cannot buy only old ones. Sugar that I used to pay two and a half for is five pence here and butter is 25 cents per lb. and it is Firkin [certain?] there is no fresh butter, nobody keeps any more than one cow just for themselves. I will write again in a few days and let you

know how we get on but I think we shall do very well you know everything seems so strange it is not like Ingleton but if the money only to be made we shall put up with little difficulties. The people in America are all very smart something like what that are at Home but not so tidy in their farmyards. The boys all send their kind love to you all and wish you all quite well. Jane Ann & Benny send their Grandfather and Grandmother each a kiss when Lilly writes back she must send me all the news and tell me who lives in our house and give all our kind love to all inquiring friends and tell them we are all quite well and in good spirits. A good harvest-man here makes 3 dollars a day you will have nearly finished the hay now. You must give our kind love to Will, Tom, Jane, Maggie, Dicky, Rhoda, Agnes, Lilly, Charlotte and accept the same yourselves from your affet. Son and Daughter

Ann & Jack

Maggie is quite well

From us at present hoping you are all well

Your affectionate

Grandson

H.T. Wadeson.

P.S. The sailors are just preparing to lower the Anchor for the mail to be taken off.

Diary Dates

10-12 April 1992 - the FFHS Conference at Humberside College of Further Education, Hull. Guild Speaker is Elisabeth McDougall

A really useful piece of information for you next!! The GOONS AGM and weekend conference will be held on either 9-10 or 16-17 May 1992 at a place to be announced!

BODY SNATCHERS IN YORKSHIRE

From mn 218

Dear Stuart

"Re your desperate plea for more articles". I was looking through my copy of "Leeds", the heart of Yorkshire" by John Waddington-Feather, and I came across the following:-

The cemeteries around Leeds were targets for highly organized groups of body-snatchers who sold to the Edinburgh Medical School. Resurrectionists these men were termed, and were very professional body-snatchers.

In 1826 a case is reported of a young Leeds carpenter called Cox who booked the transportation of a box on the Edinburgh coach from Leeds, via Newcastle. At Newcastle the box was being moved to another coach, when it burst open and out tumbled the body of Thomas Daniel, who had been interred at St John's Church, Leeds - Cox was convicted and sent for 6 months.

The body of Marthy Oddy of Armley was also stolen and traced to Edinburgh. Three men in this case were also involved with other cases in Leeds, as reported in the "Annals of Yorkshire". One was of a box deposited at the Bull and Mouth Hotel by the Duke of Leeds coach from Manchester - November 1831. The box was addressed to "The Rev'd Mr Geneste, Hull, per Selby packet. To be left until called for. Glass, keep this side up". When a curious servant opened the box, it had two corpses in!

Body-snatching was so prevalent in some areas around Leeds, that townsfolk organised "Grave Clubs" as these macabre societies were called. They performed such duties as guarding newly

interred bodies for five weeks, until they were past the interest of Edinburgh Surgeons, one of whom had a woman subject tailed for years by body-snatchers, so that her corpse could be examined and an old operation scar looked at.

At Methley, body snatching was so rife that corpses were buried twelve feet down with iron staves set at fixed intervals above the coffin.

Mrs Lillah M (Metcalfe) Chapman

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST TO MECCA MEMBERS

From mn 31

Dear Stuart

I'm writing to let you know about a new book and a new magazine which may be of interest to fellow-members.

I don't want to get free advertising, but the book was written by me, and is entitled "Place-Names of the Yorkshire Dales". It is being published by North Yorkshire Marketing on 1 May, price £5.95 (ISBN 1 873214-03-0) and should be of interest to those who want to track down the meaning of places connected with their families. Apart from meanings of over 450 names, it gives the original elements of each name (usually Anglo-Saxon or Norse), the early spelling (with date), and additional information. Nappa Hall and the Metcalfes are of course mentioned! There are brief introductory chapters on the landscape, and the history and languages of the early Dales people. I know some members expressed an interest when I said the book was being written, so they

might want to know it's available soon.

The new magazine is called 'The Yorkshire Dales Review' and will attempt to fill gaps left by the "Dalesman". It prints articles of historical, natural and personal Dales matters, and will be quarterly, starting in March or April. There may be an outlet for some members with material worth publishing. It too is published by North Yorkshire Marketing directed by Roger Oldfield at 104 Station Parade, Harrogate, North Yorks, HG1 1HQ. (tel 0423-523027, fax 0423-530729). I gather that members of The Yorkshire Dales Society (of whom I'm sure there are a few amongst the Metcalfe Society) will get the first issue sent free.

I'll understand if you think the book is too much like trumpet-blowing and don't wish to include it in Mecca news, but I do know there was interest a year or so ago amongst Mecca members. I'll leave it to your editorial discretion!

With best wishes, and thanks for all your hard work on our behalf. By the way, I think the new A5 format for Mecca News is a real success.

Yours sincerely

Peter Metcalfe (Member 31)

(Ed. It's always interesting to hear what members are doing so please don't hesitate to let us know. Far from being "free advertising" the content of the above letter will, I am sure, be of interest to many members.)

NORTHALLERTON SESSIONS, 14TH JULY, 1748:

Debtors discharged from the goal at Richmond included THOMAS METCALFE, late of Askrigg, inn-holder and JOHN METCALFE, late of York, a dealer and chapman.

St Helens Local History and Archives Library

has now acquired some additional GRO indexes on microfiche. Their holdings are: Births 1837-1930, Marriages 1837-1930, Deaths 1837-1920. It is important that researchers booking by telephone specify whether they require microfilm or microfiche.

All the above are kept on microfilm until 1912 and on microfiche after this year.

EXTRACTS FROM

'SPENCER'S DIRECTORY OF RICHMOND', 1886

(continued from last issue)

◆ CRACKPOT

Farmers - George Metcalfe, Nettlebed house

◆ WHITASIDE

J Metcalfe, farmer and cattle dealer

Mary Metcalfe

Farmers - Richard Metcalf, Low Whita

◆ GUNNERSIDE

Margaret Metcalfe

Mrs M A Metcalfe

Leonard Metcalfe, farmer

◆ FEETHAM

Anthony Metcalfe, Farmer

◆ LOW ROW

Edward Metcalfe, miner

◆ BLADES

William Metcalfe, farmer and miner

◆ MUKER

Commercial - Christopher Metcalfe,
labourer.

Farmers - H and Wm Metcalfe, Kidsons

◆ KELD

Thomas Metcalfe, coal miner

William Metcalfe, yeoman

◆ ANGRAM

Richard Metcalfe, jun, farmer, Firth

Rich Metcalfe, farmer, Smithy holme

James Metcalfe, farmer, Ellers

◆ ASKE

Robert Metcalfe, balliff, Oliver

John Metcalfe, farmer, Low gingerfield,
overseer

◆ HIPSWELL

C Metcalfe, farmer and parish clerk

James Metcalfe, farmer

Robert Metcalfe, miller and farmer

◆ COLBURN

John Metcalfe, 'Hillyards Arms', overseer
and assessor of taxes, Trustee of Plews'
Charity, Hipswell

Elick Metcalfe, shoemaker

◆ MARSKE

Farmers - Isaac Metcalfe, High Feldon

◆ PRESTON-UNDER-SCAR

Richard Metcalfe, labourer

◆ REDMIRE

George Metcalfe, gardener

◆ KIPLIN

George Metcalfe, miller

◆ REETH

Commercial - Mrs Metcalfe

John Metcalfe

Joseph Metcalfe, farmer & cattle dealer

◆ WHASHTON

Thos. Metcalfe, farmer and waywarden

◆ HURST

William Metcalfe

-----oOo-----

The Princess of Wales' Own Yorkshire
Regiment

- 1st Volunteer Battalion Yorkshire
Regiment

- RICHMOND: Serjeants - G C Metcalfe
and W C Metcalfe

-----oOo-----

The Directory reproduces a letter of
Resignation by the Common Council of the
Corporation of Richmond, addressed to
the Mayor Aldermen and Corporation of
Richmond, dated 9 May 1769.

The signatories included Bernard Metcalfe.
A footnote describes him as 'Solicitor and
Deputy Registrar of the Archdeaconry of

NORTHALLERTON SESSIONS, 14TH JULY, 1737:

GEORGE METCALFE to be conveyed
to York Castle in order to be transpor-
ted for seven years, after being
convicted of felony.

A DELVE IN THE DALES

PART TWO BY DENNY GIBSON

Although the 15th century was by no means without plague and pestilence, the population once again increased and, most significantly for family historians, surnames began to evolve and be passed on to successive generations.

As the great Norman ruling class gradually lost much of its former strength and purpose, the monasteries and abbeys proved themselves good managers of land and money. They prospered and purchased, or were endowed with, further lands, all of which increased their influence throughout the country.

In East Yorkshire, Bridlington Priory had control over much of the land around Grinton. Rievaulx Abbey, many miles away, had acquired much of Upper Swaledale. The King and hierarchy of the realm began to fear and covet the wealth of the religious houses and thus the Dissolution of the Monasteries came to pass. It is from the Dissolution Surveys that we can find the names of tenants who worked the monastic lands. In the Manor of Muker, dated 1539, nearly all the tenants of Birkdale, Keld and Angram were called ALDERSON. The MILNERS and METCALFES farmed most of Muker, Keld and Oxnap, whereas the COATES and BARKER families dominated the land around Thwaite. Researchers of Swaledale families will be only too familiar with all these surnames and know that they are still common in the dale to this day.

The Reformation was the cause of yet another great social upheaval. Huge tracts of land had to be redistributed following

the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Some estates passed into the hands of far-distant landlords who saw the opportunity created in land investment. Many smaller parcels of land were either purchased by, or awarded to, local people. No doubt some families were winners and others losers, as is the case in any major social change. Possibly those who fared badly landwise at this time turned to mining in order to support themselves. Certainly, for centuries, many very small farmers with insufficient land to provide all their needs, eked out their livelihood with part-time mining.

Towards the end of the 1600s, the major land owners started to invest in lead mining instead of leasing their mineral rights to small groups of miners who then worked the mines on a self-employed basis. With more capital investment, plus better techniques imported by the owners from other areas, the industry began to gain momentum. By the end of the 1700s, it was in "first gear". It can be envisaged that the acceleration of mining attracted labourers from surrounding dales into the valley, and this in turn produced 'new blood' into the so long-established local families. The economics of this era have caused problems for today's family historians. The local demands for labour in the mines meant that the sons of the dale did not need to move very far at all to earn a living. It was not at all uncommon for families of 10 or 12 sons and daughters to all marry, rear their own families and die without ever leaving their native parish. This, of course, led to a huge concentration of families with the same

surnames. Worse still, a high proportion of them also used the same Christian names. The sorting into correct family groups of so many people bearing identical names, often born within the same decade, can be a nightmare to any genealogist!

At this stage, we see the dale reaching its hey day - a large, inter-related, fully employed population and comparative financial security for the working mass. Few, in those days, could have envisaged the decline of the industry which, as we have already learned, started in the 1800s and paved the way to dire poverty, distress and ultimately, the largest de-population of the dale since the Black Death.

The dalesmen of the last two centuries of lead mining prosperity were, by nature stoic and above all, given to non-conformity. Perhaps the Church of England failed to look after its parishioners in far-flung dales? Perhaps, dalesfolk always had a mind of their own and were reluctant to be coerced by the established vicar into attending and supporting the religion of the land? Whatever the reason, non-conformity took off after the Act of Toleration was passed in 1689. Lord Wharton, a local landlord known to have puritan sympathy, had allowed his shooting lodge, called Smarber Hall, to be used as a meeting place for non-conformists. After 1689, he built and endowed a chapel there for the same purpose. Around this time, various other places throughout the dale were registered as meeting houses for Congregationalists and Quakers. These included houses at Paradise, near Low Row; Adam BARKER's house on the moors, two miles north of Gunnerside; Thomas ROUTH's house in Keld, and Eleanor BARKER's house at Healaugh.

The established Church of England had churches in Downholme, Marske, Marrick, Arkengarthdale and Grinton, with smaller

chapels of ease at Hudswell, Keld and Muker. Around 1850, the latter was given a higher status with full rights for baptism, marriage and burial. All these established churches continued but non-conformists, other than Quakers, had to marry in their parish church. Very few non-conformist meeting places had their own burial grounds, therefore the vast majority of the population was interred in the churchyard of the parish and appear in the Church of England burial registers, regardless of the fact that they may have been life-long member of another sect. From the few non-conformist records of baptisms I have perused, it would appear that many families had their offspring baptised twice, once in the local parish church as presumably had been customary for generations, and again in the meeting house of their new-found faith. It may be that pressure was put upon them by the local vicar and/or landowner (most of whom remained faithful to the established church). Alternatively, they were perhaps just making doubly sure their children were assured of a place in the life hereafter!

Even after the 1836 Marriage Act which gave Superintendent Registrars the power to issue licences for marriages in their offices or in a place of non-conformist worship, dales folk still normally married in their parish church, even if they were staunch Wesleyans, Congregationalists, etc. This practice appears to have continued until at least the 1880s with very few exceptions.

The earliest non-conformists tended to be Presbyterians, Congregationalists and Quakers. In 1783, a Congregational chapel was built at Reeth, followed shortly afterwards with a further chapel built on the site of the no-longer used chapel of ease at Keld. A school was attached to the chapel in 1789. This was followed by a Congregationalist chapel at Low Row in

1808, and yet another was built at Thwaite sometime after 1837. The early Congregationalists were very similar in their beliefs and mode of worship to the Presbyterians and there were times when it was difficult to know which sect was actually making use of which meeting place. In the eyes of the Established Church, all these were classed as 'Dissenters', and amongst them, there must also have been a small gathering of Anabaptists who are known to have had a meeting place in Grinton at the end of the 18th Century. The Society of Friends was a more separatist movement and was amongst the earliest sects to break away from the established Anglican Church. It is known that they were holding meetings at Healaugh and Low Row in 1653. Old Swaledale families associated with the Quakers of this era were the ALDERSONS, LONGSTAFFS and RAWs. The latter remained with this faith for several generations and were noted members of the society in the Dale. The Society of Friends attracted many educated and influential members, including Philip SWALE, who was Lord Wharton's agent in the Dales. Also, Wm. ORTON, who was steward to the Marquis of Winchester and lived in Marrick. Other Swaledale surnames appearing in the early records include ROBINSON, ADDISON, LONSDALE, HARKER, KAY, KIRBY AND PEACOCK. Many of these early members suffered much religious persecution, had their goods distrained, were heavily fined and even sent to prison for their beliefs. One of the earliest meeting places was the house of a widow CHERRY at Kearton.

As the years passed, intolerance towards these Quakers gave way to acceptance. They continued to pursue their faith but by the late 1700s, their numbers were beginning to dwindle as the influence of the Presbyterians, Congregationalists and Wesleyans increased. However, in 1776 a

Leonard RAW founded the Reeth Friends School and left money for its upkeep in his will of 1785, but within the next century Quaker activity in the Dale gradually ceased. Their demise was no doubt hastened by the influence of John WESLEY, whose followers, Wesleyans, later divided into "Wesleyan Methodists" and Primitive Methodists". A Methodist Society was established at Barnard Castle in Teesdale in 1747. A family called SPENCELY became loyal supporters. They had relatives at Blades in Swaledale to whom they introduced this new sect and, shortly afterwards, Wesley's followers started meeting at Wn Spencely's Brownsey House, near Blades. The middle of the Dale soon became a Methodist stronghold and leaders included the names CALVERT, CHERRY, PEACOCK, ALDERSON and, of course, SPENCELY. The community responded with great enthusiasm when they were honoured with a visit by John Wesley himself in 1761. He returned to them again in 1768 and wrote of their deep and lively religious work. The number of followers of Wesley quadrupled between 1760 and 1770. Wesley is thought to have paid further visits to the Dale in 1772, 1774 and 1780 - when he described them as 'loving people, increasing in grace and number'. The focal point of this faith became Gunnerside where a large chapel was built in 1789 at a cost of £600. This is one of the few non-conformist places of worship in the Dale to have its own burial ground.

(to be continued)

Denny Gibson

THIRSK SESSIONS, 15TH APRIL, 1735:

SIMON METCALFE, being found guilty of felony, to be transported for seven years to some of his Majesty's plantations in America.

Metcalfe Society Library

Anyone wishing to borrow any of these please contact Carol Arkwright (address on back page) and on return enclose stamps to cover postage plus 20p extra. Many thanks to everyone who has donated material. If anyone else has anything that may be of interest we would be only too happy to receive it.

Title	Author	Donor
The White Horses	Haliwell Sutcliffe	P.Kirkwood mn 465
The Dalesmen of the Mississippi River	David Morris	Author
The Pratt/Metcalfe Story (photocopy)	Leonard W. Pratt	Denny Gibson
Medecalf Book (photocopy)	Thomas Metcalfe	mn 194 John H Metcalfe mn 197 Eunice Metcalfe mn 417 Wilfred Medcalf
Nappa Hall and the Metcalfs	W.L.Christie (article in Dalesman)	
Wensleydale	Ella Pontefract	mn 310 G.F.Mackenzie
Wensleydale	Ernest Taylor	" "
History and Annals of Northallerton (extract)	Rev.J L Saywell	mn 115 Ron and Nancy Metcalfe
Shelf - A History of a W Yorks Township 1086-1988	Cyril Metcalfe	mn 500 the author
From Hegheling to Healing - A village History	ed John Appleby	mn 304 Eileen Carr
Dalesfolk Talking	W R Mitchell	mn 389 Keith Metcalfe
The Spirit Speaks Loud - Swaledale	Sandra K Wood	mn 411 the author
The Striding Dales (extract)	Haliwell Sutcliffe	mn 11 David Lambert

RICHMOND SESSIONS, 12TH JANUARY, 1743/4:

Richard March of Bellerby is appointed gamekeeper by JOHN METCALFE, late of Threadneedle Street, London, but now of SKIRSGILL in Cumberland, for his manor at Bellerby.

(At that time the Game Laws which affected poaching offences etc. were still very harsh. Presumably so that local JP's knew who had jurisdiction over game on various estates in their area, the appointment of game-keepers had to be 'registered' with the local Justices of the Peace; hence the reason for the above note in the quarter session records. For those who do not know Wensleydale well, Bellerby is a village between Leyburn & Richmond).

Letters Written by Richard and John Buxton

from Vera Adams

Richard and John Buxton and their families emigrated to the United States. This article, by Vera Adams is based on letters to their friends and relations in Swaledale, some of whom were Metcalfes, also from some of their replies.

Richard and John Buxton were great, great uncles of George Buxton, Member No 3, who now lives in Middlesex.

The Buxton family lived in, or near Gunnerside in Swaledale, for approximately 250 years, from 1640, where they worked as lead-miners/farmers. Today there are no Buxtons living in Swaledale.

Richard Buxton and his wife, Isabella, emigrated to the USA in 1853. Their eldest son, George, was killed in the Civil War at Bolivia Heights, Maryland near Harper's Ferry (where John Brown was hung). His other son, William, lived in Minneapolis and Rialto, near Los Angeles, where he was a greatly esteemed person.

John and his mother Hannah (Alton) Buxton and his sister Hannah, with her family, left Swaledale in the first week of February 1849. The normal method of travelling was to hire a horse and cart for the luggage and small or old people. Everyone who could was expected to walk via Buttertubs Pass; Hawes; Ingleton; Wray to Lancaster. From there they travelled by coaster to Liverpool. The cost of this was 3/- per adult, 1/6 per child and 3/5 for the luggage. If accommodation was required two addresses (which George knows of) were used in Liverpool - North Galton Street which was 'low grade' and Mrs Bowntain's which was 'very comfortable.' It was normal to

wait at least ten days before booking a passage.

John Buxton sailed to New Orleans from Liverpool in February 1849 on the ship "Saxony" - an American ship. His first letter to his brother in Gunnerside complains that the cost of emigration had risen by 10/- and quoted the case of a family of seven paying £13/6/- travelling on the same vessel but having booked a week earlier than a family who was charged £14/1/-/. (The cost per person was somewhere between £3 and £5 per adult).

The food allowance per week for each person was 2lbs oatmeal, 1.5lbs biscuit, 1lb rice, 1lb peas and 1lb pork. He also quotes the prices of brandy and rum which, he was told, he would get for 6/- a gallon and 4/- a gallon respectively but he complained bitterly because he was charged 8/6 per gallon for brandy and 4/6 per gallon for rum.

After all this the ship was held up at Liverpool due to an unfavourable wind and they were directed to lodgings in the town where they paid less than any of the other passengers did at their lodgings. They had, however, "no candle or fire and had to go into town to get their water boiled." So it was a case of roundabouts and swings. One thing they were happy about was that all the passengers (except 20 Irish) were from Swaledale and Wensleydale.

At last they got under way with a "steady" Captain who held a prayer meeting every night in the ship and John asked his brother back home to pray for them too "that the Lord might bring them safe to land."

A letter written on 29th April, the day on which they landed at New Orleans gave a vivid description of the journey. After leaving Liverpool on 25th February the journey was pleasant enough at first, as they sailed through the night, but by next morning, in sight of the Irish coast, almost all the passengers were seasick. On the 27th February they had a severe storm which lasted until 1st March, so severe, in fact, that most of them thought that their end had come and began to make preparations for that event.

By Friday 9th March they sailed out of the Bristol Channel into the Atlantic and by the 13th were confronted by another strong wind which lasted about 24 hours. By the 17th, a child who had fits, was taken ill and suffered so much that he died on the 20th and was buried at sea the same day.

Finally, they came in sight of the Mississippi on 27th April and a steam tug towed them 150 miles up to New Orleans. There they heard "that the cholera is here but not so very bad." As for their provisions "some they were out of but of others they had enough but very little to spare."

This letter was very complimentary to the ship's Captain and said the sailing was slow, sometimes they were becalmed but, on the whole, they 'had remarkably fine weather.'

Some time passed before the next letter was written (undated but about 1854) to Swaledale. Presumably the family was settling down in their new home but before Christmas this was written from Richard Buxton living in Benton, Wisconsin. In it he quotes the prices of mineral (smelted lead) about "28 dollars a thousand" (or 0.5 ton Imperial or 1000lbs) in winter but generally worth more in summer." Provisions, he said "were low in price as it is farming country

but clothes are higher priced than in England and so is firewood."

He points out how hard immigrants have to work and that some are more fortunate than others and how brother John (who wrote the first letter) had come with their mother to live near by. He had made enough money to offer to pay half the expenses of his brother in England if he would "pay a visit to this country" adding that it "would do him good to cross the ocean."

A lot of family news follows eg births, marriages and deaths, news of children and so on. One daughter married to a Cornishman has a grand-daughter still alive who corresponds with George. The Cornish miners (who were tin miners at home) went to dig the ore in the 1830's but were unable to smelt the lead ore. The reason why so many Yorkshire miners went there was because they had the technology to do this.

In this letter Richard complains of "being at a low ebb with regard to religious matters and would like to see a better day."

Richard's wife continued the letter and consoled with those back home about the hard times they were having in Swaledale and wished she could share some of her potatoes with them as "they have been sold as low as 15 cents per bushel." She stressed what a splendid summer they had had and "good crops of all kinds." She asked more of the family to join them particularly the girls as, she said "they would do so much better as there are so many wanted and they would not be treated like servant girls are in England but be made like one of the family. The girls in America," she said, "would not take it, they would not be called servants." So that was an incentive.

A draft reply to this letter, undated, but about 1865 (some of which is obliterated)

gives news of Swaledale and says they are considering giving up mining as it becomes more and more difficult to reach the ore "it is bad for the air in the mines." Instead the family is going to Ivelet Heads where brother George Metcalfe lives and plans to keep 5 or 6 cows and about 80 sheep. There was a disadvantage to that too as cattle plague was raging in many parts of England and many cattle markets were closed and it was forbidden to move a cow "without a pass from the magistrates."

He then informed them that they intended building a new Chapel at Gunnerside and pulling the old one down. They needed £700 for this and, although they have been promised a good deal of the money from various people they asked their friends in America "to help a little."

In October, 1880, Ann Buxton wrote from Ivelet Heads in Swaledale saying they were moving to a larger place at Stainmore to be near Uncle George Metcalfe where "there is about 110 acres of pasture and meadow land. We have taken about 300 sheep and 9 or 10 cows and are bringing up a few young calves."

She also reported that cousin John Metcalfe had taken a larger farm "which is both ploughing and grain land" and "would milk 16 cows and bring up a good few calves."

She told of other relatives who were moving to new farms so "that they would all be away from the old place." One was moving to Westmorland and another to as far away as London. This could well be a sign of the times as the lead mines were worked out by this time.

A letter written in December 1880 from another Metcalfe cousin Annie Fawcett, who lived in Alexandria, South Dakota, described the changes which had taken place in the 20 months they had lived there. When they were first there, she says, they had to go 64 miles to the

nearest town but now they had "just as good a town 2 miles away. It is Alexandria and the railroad comes in and brings the mail twice a day". She continued, "we have a first class market and we like it out here very well and I think some of you had better come out here and get farms of your own then you would not have to pay the rent, but it is selling up real fast around here, the land is good out here and stock does very well. We have 31 head of cattle and 6 head of horse and are getting on as well as can be expected."

Back to Benton in January 1881 when an ageing Richard Buxton wrote to his brother and said he was now alone as his wife, Isabella, was dead and his son was married and living 300 miles away in Iowa. Feeling rather sorry for himself he wrote "While I am writing I am alone and often feel desolate and forlorn but I do not complain all the nature feels. In looking back a few years what changes have taken place...and here I am left alone and a tear occasionally will trickle down my cheek" In spite of that his 11 year old grandson slept every night with his grandfather for company and his daughter, who lived nearby and was married to a cabinet maker and carpenter who also kept a furniture shop, looked after him. Sometimes he preached as he said, "I have to stand at times up before a congregation to speak a little as we are let down for local preachers and the preacher in charge has a good many places to go." He went on to regret the "low conditions of the Society as people are too worldly-minded and that a revival of religion is needed."

In order to keep himself in his old age Richard owned 80 square acres of land which he rented at 3 dollars an acre and a small garden which he attended to himself. He said, "with care and economy I can make do." He quoted the case of his brother, who lived 25 miles away, who had

been let down by a man he lent some money to, without security "and the man bust up and it was a dead loss." He bought 40 acres with the little he had left, to live on and later, another 40 which was let to grass where he kept young steers "for a year or two, gets them in good order then sells them" and so makes a living. No Old Age Pension in those days!

In June 1884 John Buxton wrote a rather distressing letter from Mineral Point, Iowa County, Wisconsin, about 9 miles from where he lived at Benton. Mineral Point was then a town of about 3000 people formerly County Seat of Iowa County. It was "a railroad town and contained six churches - two Roman Catholic, one Primitive Methodist, one Episcopal Methodist, one Presbyterian and one Episcopalian (C. of E.) and two banks." Unfortunately one of the banks had failed about two months earlier with liabilities amounting to \$70,000. Poor old John had \$50 in the bank when it closed and hoped to get 25 cents per dollar, with a bit of luck. A bank in another town, Platteville, also failed and a relative of his had \$300 in it and was not optimistic about getting much back.

He commented that some of the mines "is very poor" and the men "were digging all winter and did not make anything and some here have to toil to make a living." So life for the immigrants was not exactly a 'bed of roses' at the end of last century.

In 1885 John Buxton, at the age of 60, returned to England on a visit to see William Buxton and Sarah, his wife, (grandparents of George Buxton). He stayed with Ann, William's sister who was married to Isaiah Winter. Unfortunately for them, all they could talk about was how much money John had and wondered, as he was not married, who would get it. It was not them as he left them out of his will. As George commented "those who ask don't get."

The next letter to be preserved was dated January 1898 and the news was just as depressing as it had been in 1884. Another or two earlier crops had failed due to lack of rain therefore "money was scarce" and "the weather was bad for the labouring men". Farmers sold oats for as little as 12.5 cents a bushel last year" he wrote "but this year it is worth 17 cents a bushel and Indian Corn has been selling for 20 cents a bushel at Mineral Point."

Many farmers went into cheese-making and a group of them joined together to build a cheese factory and another a milk factory.

Calving cows were worth \$25-\$35 a head, horses too, were very low in price and had been for some years. Good farm horses were worth \$35-\$50 but he quoted the case of a stock pig sold two years earlier to \$400 (£20) weighing about 800 lbs.

He next reported that a large fire at Mineral Point had destroyed five good shops, all good stone buildings, (but all were rebuilt) which were owned and occupied by Cornish people.

The next letter in existence was written by George Buxton (Great-Uncle of the present George) in March 1898. It was full of family news and ended by saying "Swaledale's very dull, gets worse." which makes us realise how isolated people were in the 100 years ago.

After this there is a large gap in the surviving correspondence until 1901 when a letter written on 25th April reports the death of John Buxton in Platteville, Wisconsin on 19th April. The funeral was held at the church he attended, Primitive Methodist but the cemetery was a 16 mile drive away. This letter was signed by three nieces who had looked after him in his later years.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES

President : Mr John Holden, 49 Brooklands Rd, Towneley, Burnley, Lancs, BB11 3PR.

Chairman : Mr Charles S Metcalfe, 28 South Road, Hayling Island,
Hampshire, PO11 9AE.

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