

M E C C A N E W S



Middleton Calf Top

Nº 4

September, 1981

Dear Member,

By the time this letter reaches you, you will no doubt, have had your summer holiday. I hope you returned refreshed and full of new enthusiasms for further family research.

The Metcalfe Society is now almost one year old and has about 40 members, and is still growing.

It was mentioned in our last Newsletter that it is now possible to purchase copies of the Mormon Indexes. Several members have indicated that they thought it a good idea for us to buy a copy of the Index for Yorkshire, as there is now sufficient money in the funds. Mrs Nina Benson (address P. 2) is willing to hold this and anyone requiring information is asked to contact her enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

If anyone has any further suggestions as to how we can help each other we should be pleased to receive them.

Thanks are due to Mrs Helen Offer for all the hard work she has put in compiling a Metcalfe Index. She now informs us that she has enough cards to fill 1½ shoe boxes. We have decided to confer upon Mrs Offer the title 'Keeper of the Index.' Any information she has is available upon receipt of a S.A.E

Several members have suggested that we hold a 'clan' meeting at Nappa Hall sometime next year. This sounds like a good idea but it would not be possible for more than 6 or 8 people to be accommodated there. However, it is possible to find a ccommodation in Askrigg or Bainbridge and perhaps meet at the Hall, that is, provided the owner has no objections. We should be pleased to hear what other members think of this suggestion, also ideas as to what form such a meeting should take.

Those of you who are members of the Family History Society in Yorkshire will know that there is a Family History Conference in Leeds on Saturday 19th September. If any Metcalfe researchers are there please make yourselves known, we shall be delighted to meet you.

V.A.

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We are pleased to welcome the following new members:-

Mr Peter Metcalfe, 3, Bransghyll Terrace, Horton-in-Ribblesdale, Settle, North Yorkshire.

Mrs Nina Benson, 5, Coxwold View, Wetherby, West Yorkshire.

Mr. R.S.Storey, 938, Elsett Drive, Ottawa, Canada.

Mrs Shirley Withers, 23, Malcolm Street, West Perth, 6005 Western Australia.

Rev. T.W. Metcalfe, 14 Ellam Avenue, Neville's Cross, Durham, DH1 4PG

Mrs J.F. Johnston, "Caol-ila" 555, Yarm Rd., Eaglescliffe, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland.

Mrs E.M. Metcalfe, "Invicta" 1, Grandstand, Scapegoat Hill, Huddersfield, HD7 4NQ

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Below is an account of a visit to Middleton Calf, from Mrs Mary Metcalfe of Whitkirk, Leeds, our artist.

Heading north west to meet friends at Grange-over-Sands we set off early in promising weather. It was when we reached Kirby Lonsdale, where we had lunch, that I realised this was a chance to have a quick look at the 'middle-calf' terrain.

We first spent a little time admiring the Georgian buildings and well-kept cottages of the small town and through the churchyard chanced upon a famous view. A plaque on the wall informed us that it was "known as Church Brow from which Turner painted his famous picture of the landscape described by Ruskin in his 'Fors Clavigera' as one of the loveliest scenes in England."

Calf Top was just out of sight as it nestles between two larger fells, but we drove towards Middleton, parking near Barbon church and set off up Eskholme Pike. The footpath shown on the Ordnance Map leads towards Calf Top from there, but due to limited daylight we had to return and view it from the road near Millbeck.

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CORRECTION

Apologies are due to Mr. R. Metcalfe, 31, Hawthorn Road, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham for incorrect birth brief in Newsletter No. 1. The entry should read:-

Descended from William Edward	(1891-1939)	born York
son of Christopher	(1861-1941)	Born Hipswell
son of Robert	(1821-1900)	born Catterick
son of Robert	(1787-1850)	born Catterick
son of George	(c1733-1829)	born ?

HELP OFFERED

Mr Peter Metcalfe (address Page 2) has a lot of information on the Metcalf(e)s of Halton Gill, Litton, Foxup, Cosh, Arncliffe and Hawswick in Littondale (Upper Wharfedale), Census Returns for 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, plus ARncliffe Parish Registers. S.A.E. please.

Mrs Helen Offer, 'Far End' Chalkdock Lane, Itchenor, Sussex, holds lists of the Metcalfes in the Parish Registers of Grinton-in-Swalédale 1640-1807; alsoa copy of the Metcalfes in Boyd's Marriages in Yorkshire - Grooms 1538-1824 and Brides 1605-1748 also lists of Metcalfes in the following Census Returns:- 1841 Nether Stilton; Scawton. 1851 Stokesley Hutton; Kewick. 1861 Kilburn; Scawton. 1871 Scawton.

HELP WANTED

Mr. Peter Metcalfe, (address Page 2) is looking for the marriage of James Metcalfe born 1822 in Arncliffe to AnnRoutledge, born 1823 in Wigton or Walton, Cumberland. They were possibly married about 1847 but where?

Also the marriage of Robert Metcalfe of Halton Gill, born 1779 to Nanny? about 1817.

Also the marriage of Christopher Metcalfe of Halton Gill, born 1742 or 1753 to Sarah? about 1778.

Mrs S. Withers (address Page 2) is researching her g.g.grandfather John Wilson Metcalfe, who was probably the illegitimate son of Elizabeth Metcalfe and John Wilson, and was baptised 29th December 1796 at Hawes. He may have married Isabella Dixon on 11th January 1823 at Hawes. Her great-grandmother Elizabeth was his eldest child and married Richard Balderston at Aysgarth 18th May 1848. Other children were Ann, b.1828; Isaac, b 1832; Thomas, b. 1826 and Mabel b. 1837.

Mrs N. Benson (address Page 2) asks if anyone has any information about the marriage of a George Metcalfe to Elizabeth Robinson, whose first child was baptised at Hipswell 18th February, 1773.

Mr J.C.Metcalfe, 1167, Dorchester Ave., Ottawa, Ontario, K1Z 8E3 Canada, whose g.g.grandfather James Metcalfe emigrated to Canada in 1820 with his wife Anne Kirby, is trying to trace his family back through earlier generations. James was born in Hunslet, Leeds in 1792, possible son of John born about 1763 and Mary (nee Stephenson). John may have been born in Bellerby, Askrigg, Hawes, Bainbridge or Aysgarth. He has found nothing as yet about the Kirbys. If anyone discovers a link will they please get in touch.

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Mrs Nina Benson tells us she is pleased to report the discovery of a fourth cousin whose birth brief she found in Newsletter No.1. He is a member of our society Mr. R. Metcalfe of Castle Bromwich and both are descendants of George Metcalfe and Elizabeth Robinson (mentioned above). They have, so far, recorded 50-60 descendants and would be delighted to hear from anyone tracing their family back to Hipswell.

AN UNEXPECTED SOURCE OF FAMILY HISTORY

No doubt many of you are familiar with the book "Yorkshire Village" by Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby, the village in question, being Askrigg.

It is worth the while of anyone researching family trees in that area to read the book, as, apart from Metcalfes, of which many are mentioned, the authors write about many other people and families by name, and give a great deal of information about them. So much so, in some cases, as to be of help in tracing and linking up members of different families.

Such was my own experience when tracing my paternal family tree. Finding my particular line of Metcalfes had lived in Askrigg for generations I began to trace their collaterals. I found that my great-great-grandfather, John Metcalfe, son of Matthew Metcalfe of Askrigg, married a Mary Sykes. She was the daughter of a Samuel Sykes, grocer of Askrigg. I found from the Census Returns that Samuel was born in Crodding Brook, Cheshire in 1784, but have not yet discovered how and why he went to Askrigg.

Imagine my delight when, on reading "Yorkshire Village" finding that the authors had mentioned Samuel Sykes, grocer, several times. Could it be 'my' Samuel I wondered. On checking further I found his family was the only one in Askrigg at that time having the surname Sykes. It is certainly not an Askrigg name. (On looking him up on the Mormon fiches, I found the majority of Sykes in the Huddersfield area, where they were as numerous as Metcalfes in Wensleydale). It must be 'my' Samuel I thought, and that makes him my great-great-great-grandfather. The information I gleaned from the book about Samuel was fascinating.

Samuel Sykes, grocer and draper, occupied the shop which later became Sykes Temperance Hotel. It is there today in the market place, directly opposite the church, and is now a house and café serving tea and morning coffee. I learned also that he advertised 'the largest general stock of goods kept in Wensleydale.' There, could be purchased 'dinner services' (bought by Samuel in Staffordshire) or wineglasses, boots or hats, Japanese ornaments, or wedding rings.' He is also recorded as having supplied candles, oil, besoms and lengths of material to make surplices, to Askrigg church. How he travelled to Staffordshire and transported his dinner services back to Askrigg is not recorded, nor how long the round trip took him.

The 1851 Census Returns show Samuel Sykes, aged 68 as a retired grocer, living with his wife Margaret (nee Tinsdale) aged 74 in Askrigg. Their son John, and his wife Mary were then in charge of the shop. John and Mary had three children named Margaret Ann, Samuel and John; and strangely, their daughter Mary, who married my ancestor John Metcalfe also had three children - Margaret, Matthew and Samuel. One wonders how much confusion arose by such a repetition of names. The name Samuel has passed right down the family and my favourite uncle Sam (Metcalfe) my father's elder brother, now alas dead, owes his name not to the Metcalfe, but to the Sykes family.

On a recent visit to Askrigg, my husband and I visited Samuel's old shop for morning coffee. The present owner, whose name is Lomax informed me that her grandfather bought the business from the Sykes family, and it has been in the Lomax family ever since, she herself having just taken over from her own parents.

We looked for Samuel's grave in the churchyard and found the stone leaning drunkenly forward. We were, fortunately able to get the camera under it to photograph Samuel's epitaph.

Verell Adams.

Mr George Buxton of Ashford, Middlesex has sent us the following account of the history of his family. Although it is mainly about the Buxton family, Mr Buxton is connected with the Metcalfes and is one of our members, and we think the account will be of interest and perhaps inspire other members to write similar histories.

A SHORT HISTORY OF MY FAMILY BY GEORGE BUXTON

When I tell people that I am an amateur genealogist, I pay particular attention to their reactions. Most people only want to know if there are any skeletons in the family, and when told there are not, lose interest.

Never has anyone asked me why I started. It was because my father has several letters written by his great grandmother, grandfather, father, uncle and others. I have also been intrigued as to why a family with a Derbyshire name lived in a remote Yorkshire dale.

People soon take over from the main objective. For approximately 250 years, from 1640, my family lived in or near Gunnerside, where they carried on their occupations of leadminers and farmers. In the days before the lead trade became a staple industry, people alternated between the two jobs. Swaledale is, of course, now fully agricultural, and has been so since the lead mines closed almost 100 years ago.

One of the difficulties in tracing many of the Dales families is the custom of giving the name of the father's father to the first son. One of the first people I found any information about was William Buxton 1717-1790. He gave evidence in the Beldi Hills Trial of 1771. This was a dispute between Lord Pomfret and Mr. Smith over the mining rights on that Hill. His son William. 1760-1822 was, after a sermon given by John Wesley, brought up in early life under the awakening power of God's word. His convictions were so strong and his sorrow for sin so great that his parents and friends thought he was going mental. Whilst under these religious struggles his parents took him to a clergyman at Muker, who was unfortunately unable to be of any assistance. The deep distress of the lad led him to retire into the fields and woods to cry for mercy, which at length he found and rejoiced in the God of his salvation. For about half a century he walked with God and maintained a spotless reputation to the last.

Two incidents in his life are worth recording. At one time the Methodist cause was so low with quarrelling and strife so painfully prevalent in the society that the Gunnerside Chapel was almost forsaken. William was filled with deep sorrow on account of these things, and believing that God would have mercy upon them and visit them again he gave himself to special prayer upon the matter. Night after night he went alone to the Chapel with his lantern, to pray, a practice he kept up for some time. Soon after, God sent such a revival as never was seen before, the power and effect of which went through the whole Dale, and resulted in between 300 and 400 members being added to the circuit.

When, in 1796 it was decided to build a chapel, all the members got together to offer what they were able; but after all their efforts they found themselves £50 short of the sum required. After pondering, and no doubt praying, over this difficulty, William and four others agreed amongst themselves to work a 'Bye

Bargain' as it was called i.e. to work overtime at a certain mine and to give the proceeds to the Chapel. After toiling at this undertaking and finding nothing, the other four became discouraged and gave up, leaving William Buxton to work alone. He continued for some time longer with the same result, until one day he found a rich vein. The Committee were called and told they were to start building immediately as the required sum would be forthcoming and William himself would be responsible.

He filled the office of leader and local preacher with great efficiency and was beloved by all. His neat and clean appearance, his devout and christian spirit together with his zealous and useful labours have combined to invest his name with hallowed recollections. When he died the Methodist Magazine reported:-

"At Gunnerside in the Richmond Circuit, aged 61, Mr. William Buxton, a man eminent for piety, zeal and unselfishness. A successful local preacher for nearly 40 years, he died in the full triumph of his faith."

His tombstone, which was removed from Gunnerside Burial Ground in 1911 because it had crumbled and broken, read:-

"The memory of the just is blessed, here lie the remains of William Buxton of Gunnerside who died 12th April, 1822, aged 61 years. He was a local preacher and class leader for almost 40 years and was deservedly esteemed for his piety, zeal and faithfulness. This stone was erected as a small tribute of respect due to departed excellence by his son William Buxton, watchmaker, Bishop Auckland."

The above William who died in 1862, left the sum of £125 to the Bishop Auckland Methodist Chapel. He also was a respected clan and class leader. His son, Dr. Joseph Holmes Buxton, lived in Islington, and laid the foundation stone at Bayers Green, Methodist Church, C. Durham, as well as giving £5 to the new chapel at Gunnerside. John Morisby Buxton carried on his father's business as watch and clockmaker. Thomas Buxton went to Cambridge University and afterwards became a curate at Girton, Cambs. To the best of my knowledge Watchmaker William's line died out with his grandson, Dr. William Maberly Buxton, the son of Dr. Joseph Holmes Buxton.

My own g.g.grandfather George Buxton 1791-1825 was, in 1824 an 'exhorter' at Gunnerside. His eldest son Richard 1813-1881 was a lay preacher - he buried many of the dead at Gunnerside. One story I have heard about Richard, took place in 1851 when the Rev. W.H. Cave first went to Gunnerside. Mr Cave when on a walk with Richard was troubled with a long nail and took out his penknife to trim it. Richard said "Mr Cave, you don't trim your nails on a Sunday do you?"

"Well Mr Buxton," said Mr Cave, "this is just a split nail that is troubling me. In any case I don't think there is anything wrong with trimming my nails on a Sunday do you?"

He never forgot Richard's reply, spoken in a tone of finality, "but we do."

My own great-grandfather was a lead miner/farmer. He lived at Ivelet Heads, near Gunnerside. Ivelet Bridge was the scene of one of the tragedies to one of my family. William 1858-1874 was on his way home at Dykeshead with two of his friends. The two friends went for a swim in the river and went too far out and were caught in a current. William tried to help, but unfortunately all lost their lives.

Today no Buxtons live in the Dale. So begins the task of tracing all the members of the family. Cornelius, William's brother, went to Liverpool. Joseph and his wife Elizabeth (Harker) went

to the U.S.A. in 1863. Their son John became one of the most respected citizens of New Diggings, Wisconsin. Their son Joseph lived at Silver Plum, Colorado, where he worked in the gold mines. He too was highly respected by the townspeople. Another son, George, lived in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

William Buxton born 8th July, 1790 was the miller and baker at Grinton. Richard Buxton 1813-1881 emigrated to the U.S.A. in 1855 and his eldest son George, was killed in the Civil War at Bolivia Heights, Maryland, (near Harper's Ferry where John Brown was hanged). His other son, William 1854-1910 lived in Minneapolis and Rialto near Los Angeles, California, where he also was a very esteemed person. His son, Lynn Crawford Buxton, owned a garage in Los Angeles.

Of William, my own great grandfa ther, I know very little. He started his working life as a miner, giving up this occupation about 1865 when he became a full time farmer. When my grandfather and his brother George came of age, the owner of the land tried to put the rent up. My great-grandfather said he did not bring his sons up to work for the landowner, and left for Bleath Gill Farm.

George Buxton 1822-1892 went to live first at West Auckland, where his first wife and son George died. He married⁴⁹⁸⁰ and went to live at Trimdon Grange, where he kept a grocery shop.ⁿ William Buxton, born 1800, went to live at Baildon near Bradford. Joseph Buxton, born 1722, had a wool stapler's shop in Barnard Castle.

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Found on the Mormon microfiche two strange Metcalfe entries:-

- a) 5th June, 1625 baptism of OSWALDUS son of Johannis and Elizabeth, at St. Lawrence's Church, York.
- b) 27th May, 1593, baptism of OSWOULDUS at Coxwold.

Mrs N. Benson asks could either of these refer to the Oswald shown on the tree in Newsletter No. 3? This Oswald had a brother George of 'Hood Grange.'

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Birth Briefs of new members

Rev. Thomas W. Metcalfe son of William James b. 1881, son of Thomas, B. 1848, son of Warren, b. 1819, son of Thomas - all of Hawes.

Mrs J.F. Johnston. Ancestors include a Thomas Metcalfe of Deckendale Hall, Whickham; Neville House, Newcastle and of Nappa Hall. Thomas married Margaret Shaftoe who was baptised 4th March 1695 or 6. Their daughter Margaret married -----Fenwick.

Ms Ena M. Metcalfe, dau. of Ada Mary Metcalfe of Little Ouseburn, dau. of Daniel Metcalfe and Hannah Hauxwell. Daniel b. 1872 is the son of George 1845-1936 of Green Hammerton? and Thorpe Underwood, who was the son of Richard 1796? - 1879

Ena would be pleased to hear more details of George 1845-1936, i.e. had he any brothers or sisters?

Mr W.J. (Jack) Scarre, 41 Springhead Ave, Hull HU5 5HZ. Ancestors include Mary Metcalfe b. c1719 who married Thomas Pratt in 1736 at Askrigg. Mary may have been the dau. of either John Metcalfe of Askrigg or Thomas Metcalfe of Worton or Wolton.

Members may be interested to know how the Metcalfe Society is organised and run. We have a small committee of three - Mrs V. Adams, Editor, Mrs M. Metcalfe, Treasurer and Mrs N. Benson, Secretary; also a 'sleeping' member Mrs Helen Offer, 'Keeper of the Index' who unfortunately lives too far away from the other three to be able to meet them. We hope to remedy this omission one day.

The committee have drawn up a simple constitution. If any member wishes to add to or change this would they please submit their alteration in writing to the secretary.

Below is the Proposed Constitution.

1. The Society shall be called 'The Metcalfe Society.'
2. The aims of the society shall be to promote research of the Metcalfe surname by the circulation of a regular newsletter, and by maintaining a register of members' researches which will be available to all members upon request and payment of the required postage.
3. Membership is open to individuals who declare an interest in the study of the surname Metcalfe in all its variations of spelling.
4. All members will have equal status and a single vote in the society's affairs.
5. All members will be required to pay an annual subscription due 31st January each year, the amount to be determined by the committee at the A.G.M.
6. Any member who has not paid his subscription within 3 months of the date due shall cease to be a member of the society.
7. The committee shall consist of Editor, Treasurer, Secretary and Keeper of the Index.

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It may be of help for members to know the opening times of the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints, at 12 Halifax Road, Birchencliffe, Huddersfield. They are -

Tuesday and Thursday 1.30pm - 4.30 pm & 7.0pm - 9.30pm

Friday (evening only) 7.0pm - 9.30 pm

Bookings must be made in advance - telephone Huddersfield 43490

No charge is made but a donation may be made if desired.

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Would members please note that we hope to include a copy of the Balance Sheet in our next Newsletter.