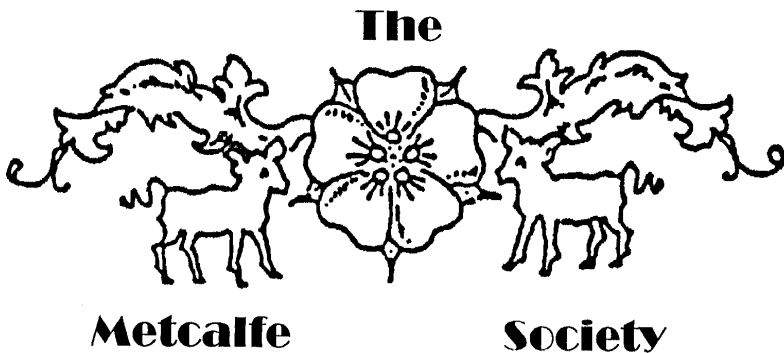




MECCA NEWS

THE JOURNAL OF THE METCALFE SOCIETY

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The MECCA NEWS

**The Journal of the Metcalfe Society
produced three times a year in April, August and December**

Issue No. 53

December 1997

Editor: Peter W Dobson

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FROM THE EDITOR

As I put this issue to bed and finalise the presentation before sending it off for printing, I realise that there is a sea change in the air (if that isn't mixing metaphors) in the events of the Metcalfe Society. We have come a long way in our Society history and are now starting to enter a new era, perhaps appropriate with the millennium approaching. We have a new Chairman, and are on the way to deciding whether we print the biggest financial project the Society has embarked upon in its seventeen year history. The articles in this issue reflect this.

The Metcalfe Book article (starting on page 6) fully explains the position regarding the book and your comments are crucial. Also we have produced a new birth brief and this is showing up more of the links between members. It is required reading by all members. Because of these items, articles I was hoping to place in this News will appear in later issues. On that point I expect to put in the next issue a resume of a paper prepared by **Dianne Fox (M113)** called Unknown Cousins which I hope will lead you to other information, as well as a further article on Dales Churches.

The Muster was again a great success and this time had a somewhat different conclusion. It showed your committee members in a previously unrecognised role as 'singers'. I use this term generously as those of you who saw the performance would report. Led by **Freda White (M784)** the rest of us joined in as best (or worst) we could. I know one or two photographs were taken and I would ask if copies could be supplied, not to be destroyed, but for inclusion in the next Mecca News.

Thank you for your letters of support and the articles supplied they will appear in the future. I hope you enjoy this current issue and I would like to take the opportunity to wish you and yours

The Compliments of the Season and a Successful and Healthy 1998.



Received from **Joe Metcalfe (M24)** an unwanted death certificate for Alexander Metcalf who died 22 May 1839 in York Street Chorlton-upon-Medlock, Manchester, Lancs aged 74. If it is of interest a sae to the Editor and it is yours.

MYSTERY SOLVED



In the last Issue (No 52 page 30) we showed the above picture and asked if members had any further information concerning Mrs Kearton to supplement the meagre details the Society held. Well the membership did not let us down because back came further information from **Jean Kingston (M627)**.

Mrs Margaret Kearton was the daughter of John Metcalfe the blacksmith at Bainbridge who married Sarah Dinsdale at Askrigg in 1809. The picture was taken outside East End Farm (now called East Farm) Newbiggin in Bishopdale (not Askrigg). Mrs Kearton did not leave the farm after the photograph was taken and after a short illness died on 5 February 1909. It is still the home of her great granddaughter Miss Grace Hodgson.

The younger lady was Margaret Dinsdale her granddaughter who was born at the old lady's house in Thwaite because her mother, Mary felt the leaking roof at the Newbiggin farm was not suitable. The car was thought to be the first one in the Dale and belonged to either the photographer (J.B. Smithson) or the local doctor.

Wonders Will Never Cease

As any genealogist will appreciate one does not know from day to day what the postman will bring. Having just received, from my cousin **Joan Teale (M73)**, Issue 52, I would have loved the gem of a photo of Margaret Kearton (page 30) to have been part of my "Families of Kearton - Yorkshire and Yonder" published after 18 years of research into the Kearton group of families.

Margaret (nee Metcalfe), who prior to her marriage worked as a school teacher in Bainbridge, was married to William Kearton (1818 - 1892) a cordwainer / shoemaker, who was the sixth son of John and Mary (nee Alderson) Kearton who married at Muker in October 1809. William and Margaret's headstone is still standing in Muker Churchyard.

Basil E Kearton XM77

Chairman's Report

As mentioned earlier this year, Charles S. Metcalfe stepped down as Chairman for personal reasons. As vice chair, and stepping into Charles' shoes, I would like to thank both Charles and especially Nina Benson for their support and keeping me on the straight and narrow over these last few months.

I would now like to introduce myself as the society's new Chairman, or for those who wish to be politically correct - Chairperson!! I was born a Metcalfe, some 36 years ago, (see the new Birth Brief Booklet for my full lineage!)....and if everything goes according to plan, I will be buried in the family Metcalfe plot!!, but not in the foreseeable future I hope. So as you can guess, my Metcalfe name and my Metcalfe roots are very important to me. Although born in the north-east, I have spent my working life 'down south' for IBM in various marketing capacities. My life is organised around working 3 days a week for IBM, spending 2 days totally with my 3 year old daughter Pippa, and catching up with my husband Andrew at the weekend as we either visit friends and family, usually 'up north', or endeavour to fit in 'jobs' that always need doing, especially of the gardening variety, our joint hobby! So my week-day evenings are usually spent either on a netball court or in the study using the computer facilities available to me to meet my Metcalfe Society commitments.

From those early beginnings with a few enthusiastic members, all of which are still involved in the society today, The Metcalfe Society has come a long way in the past 17 years. If you want a nostalgic trip over the past 17 years buy a few copies of the old Mecca News over the timeframe. The society started off with details of a few Metcalfes on a card index, which then became computerised, and we now have over 63,000 records - equivalent to the size of a town's population. In addition, we can now offer our members all sorts of research information and facilities - all of which are available to you now on request, and were also available to those attending the Mecca Muster. All of this has been provided to benefit you, the members, by a few key people - mainly the committee and what I would like to call, the Extended Team - such as the despatch department (Ron & Gwen Metcalfe M13), New Member Secretary (Dorothy Pope M55) Covenant Secretary (Val Metcalfe M61), Conference Secretary (George Buxton M3) - the list goes on. Over the next few issues, I would like to tell you about what some of these people do on your behalf, so that you can hopefully appreciate, what work is involved to bring these benefits to you.

As I mentioned, we have come a long way over the last 17 years. This year has been a VERY busy year as we have had a number of projects in progress - the Metcalfe Book, General Registration Index, 1881 Census Return Index etc. Our committee meetings, twice a year, are getting longer every single time! We are currently taking 6 hours each meeting! I see this next year as a very important year for two specific reasons :

* Over this coming year there will be some changes to key personnel who have helped the evolution of the society a great deal as already announced the retirement of Charles S. Metcalfe as Chairman and his appointment as President, also the forthcoming retirements in 1998 of our Honorary Secretary Nina E. Benson, and Treasurer, Margaret Metcalfe.

* We are finalising the biggest and most expensive venture the society has ever undertaken - the Metcalfe Book.

These changes of direction are all part of the maturing of this evolution. As you read in this issue, and over the next year, the momentum continues. Obviously we are all extremely proud of what has been achieved and are able to provide to you. But it is when other people recognise this work, this is what helps us to carry on. As mentioned at the Stockport fair, the Metcalfe Society is seen as one of the most organised societies. Peter Dobson was very proud to announce that the Mecca News was a finalist this year for the Elizabeth Simpson Award for best journal. As it is the first time a one-name society has reached this stage, and given the opposition, it is an absolutely magnificent achievement.

So as chairman, I am very proud to represent and show off all that our members have achieved. The society is doing well. We have lots more projects that we would like to do, but as ever, we need more volunteers, even if it is just a couple of hours a month on a specific project. Every little helps. As my parents have always said to me since I was small ... in whatever job you do, just do your best....a promise I have always kept, and will continue to keep in my new role as Chairman of the Metcalfe Society.

Diane Howarth (M409)

MECCA NEWS DEADLINES

The deadlines for inclusion of articles etc in the Mecca news is as follows:-

April	-	6 February
August	-	6 June
December	-	20 October

As members will appreciate receipt of the items by the due date will not necessarily guarantee inclusion in that issue but don't let that put you off sending in those articles comments or snippets!

It was recorded that Muker in North Yorkshire was once so inbred and so many people shared the same name that all sorts of colourful names evolved including Rough and Strong Metcalf.

From the Cleveland FHS Journal October 1996.

The Metcalfe Book

As outlined in the Chairman's report, the Metcalfe Book is the largest and most expensive challenge that the Metcalfe Society has ventured. As at the Mecca Muster a few weeks ago, all members are eager to know the progress on 'The Book' - what is its content, when will it be available, how much will it cost, how can I order it? All will be revealed, and more!!!

The writing of the book is a massive task, which just cannot be quantified to give it justice. It then has to be reviewed, edited and printed. Alongside these gigantic tasks, the whole financing and marketing of the book needs to be addressed. So how exactly are the Metcalfe Society getting this book to market? (This is a summary of the marketing & financial strategy for the Metcalfe Book. If you wish to receive full details of this document, please send a S.A.E. to Diane Howarth, M409). The Book Committee (Warwick Metcalfe, Joan Metcalfe, George Buxton, Charles S. Metcalfe, Peter Dobson, Diane Howarth, John Holden) have the unenviable task of making it all happen.

Objective

The objective of the Metcalfe Book is to provide content which is of interest to a reasonably widespread family history audience, that it is perceived as a quality product, and positioned at a reasonable market price for comparable products. The aim is to have no financial gain & limited financial liabilities to The Metcalfe Society.

Content

The content of the book is in three sections : History, Trees and Occupations.

The 'History' part of the book is a fusion of the only two authoritative works on the history of the Metcalfes that have come down to us:

a) 'Medecalf' by the Rev Thomas Metcalfe, published 1930 by William Clowes and Sons Ltd. Very scarce and difficult to find. A pioneer work, first to attempt to unravel the very early history of the family pre-Nappa Hall and deal with the topic as a whole. Debunks the notion that we all derive from Nappa but in the nature of things deals with an era where a great deal of research still needs to be done and much is open to question. Even if it can be obtained it lacks the maps/diagrams needed to make sense easily of the highly involved series events it relates.

b) 'Metcalfe Records' by Walter and Gilbert Metcalfe, fellows of the Society of Antiquaries of London. Published privately in 1891, limited to fifty copies and therefore rare in the extreme. A scholarly work limited to the Nappa branch, the earliest to have a recorded history. Reliable with references galore but really intended for the scholar, with large extremely boring extracts from old legal documents and the need to know some Latin!

The Metcalfe Book

The aim has been to unite them into a straightforward enjoyable account for the contemporary reader whilst making every effort to preserve the essential facts and research of the originals. This has involved a complete rewrite and presentation of their content in tune with today plus the introduction of many features, previously absent, to assist the reader eg maps and illustrations plus some sixty superb colour photographs of locations associated with the events described, together with extracts from original documents when needed.



Warwick Metcalfe explaining the Family History Book content to the AGM

The 'Trees' section is extremely valuable. This contains not only the Nappa branch to which at least four living members of today's Society belong but sixty-eight trees belonging to other branches/groups related by ancestry have been identified amongst current members. Within these readers may find vital clues to their own Metcalfe forebears. This holds true regardless of whether the reader is a citizen of the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India or any other country where Metcalfes have emigrated and settled. For though the book is about the early beginnings and ramification of the family in the home country it is by no means intended solely for those who are privileged to continue living there. However short or long their history abroad may be nothing can alter the fact that all Metcalfes are extensions of the whole, whose blood ties ultimately lie rooted in the hills and dales of the North Yorkshire Pennines all those centuries ago.

The 'Occupations' section deliberately avoids the better known Metcalfes such as Blind Jack the roadmaker or Lord Charles Theophilus Metcalfe acting governor-general of India. The object is to provide a random selection derived from our members, illustrating the limitless variety of experience encompassed by the Metcalfe surname. The history of a nation is simply the story of the families writ large!

The Metcalfe Book

Market & Product Research

Research has been conducted into the presentation of the book, ie how it should look and be priced, demand from current members, what other audiences would be interested in this book, and what routes are available to reach these audiences.

The result is that the book will be a hardback A4, of quality presentation. The immediate audience is obviously current, and possibly ex-members. The wider audience is predominantly the overseas market who have Metcalfe family interests, followed by family history organisations. The routes to reach these audiences are either directly to current and ex-members, and indirect via family history magazines and organisation periodicals, Internet, libraries and record offices. A one page flyer to highlight the book, what it offers the reader, and how to order it will be used to reach those indirect audiences. A vendor has been chosen to print the book based on a tender to 4 printers.

Financial Liabilities

This is very important to the society as we are not a business, but a charity. This project should not jeopardise the society financially, so caution is prevalent. Given economies of scale in producing any item, either 500 or 750 will be printed, but the decision will not be taken until March 98 based on the level of early demand for advance copies from current members. The following pricing strategy is based on the estimate that we only sell 250 books, and the remaining 250 are held by the society in the form of finished books. This would mean that the maximum financial liability to the society is £5,600. The book committee received the approval from the membership at the recent AGM for this potential financial liability. But this is the worst case scenario, for which we have to be prepared. If demand is higher, then the committee can review the feasibility of a higher print run.

Pricing

- * Suggested price = £22.50 per book
- * Advance order price prior to 31 March 1998 = £20 per book
- * Multiple orders (ie 5 and above) get 10% discount before 31 March 1998 = £18 per book

All costs are exclusive of postage and packing as it is variable dependent on number of books ordered and destination.

The Metcalfe Book

Timeline for Rollout of Metcalfe Book

1998

Jan - March	Promote advance orders of book to all audiences. Editorial review of content.
end March	Committee to review orders, approve print run volume & commitment of funds and hence commitment of funds.
Mar - May	Final changes, then go to printers for setup.
June	Printing of book.
August	Book available (at latest). Fulfil advance orders.
September	Promote to wider audience as Christmas present.
October	Book available for sale at Muster.

1999

March	Review financial and marketing plan at committee meeting, and agree next actions.
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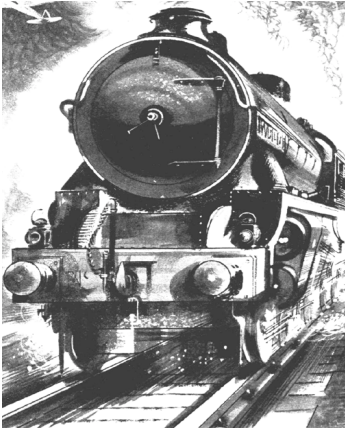
How to Order

To help make the Metcalfe Book a success, as you can see from the above, we are dependent on advance orders from current members. Although we did not proactively offer it, some members attending the Muster were so impressed, they ordered and paid for a number of books there and then!!! So here is your opportunity. It is simple! Please complete the enclosed order form and return it to the Society as instructed, along with your remittance, to arrive by 31 March 1998, and you will be eligible for the advance order price. And if you order 5 or more (for relatives for next Christmas) you get an even better discount! Full ordering, payment and delivery details are on the Advance Order Form.

Win a Free Copy of The Metcalfe Book

How would you like to win a copy of the Metcalfe Book free!! We have always referred to it as "The Metcalfe Book", but we have not decided on the actual title for the book. This is your opportunity. When you return your advance order form, you can automatically enter the Metcalfe Book Title competition free of charge. Along with the information supplied about the content of the book, use your skill and judgement to come up with a title for The Metcalfe Book. The book committee are not eligible to enter, as we are the only people who know the full content of the book. Otherwise anyone who orders and pays for an advance copy is eligible. So start thinking and you could win a copy of The Metcalfe Book, with your title, acknowledged to you inside the book, absolutely free!!

See the Advance Order Form for full details.



The Early Railways

The Transport Revolution started prior to 1750 driven by the need to get raw materials, mainly coal, to market. The first problem was digging out the material - the deeper the mine the more likely problems, such as flooding. Also as industry's demands

increased, better and more efficient transport methods were needed. One solution led to another.

In 1765 Watt discovered the condenser which led to an efficient steam engine able to pump water out of the mines. This was later developed for driving small river boats and more importantly tramways - roads from mines for coal tubs, usually to rivers for onward transportation by water. The early tramways saw tubs pulled by horses but with the Napoleonic Wars (1793-1815) the price of horse feed rose and other methods of transporting the tubs was sought. This resulted in the development of static steam engines to pull the tubs by way of a rack rail. The idea of the moving steam engine was developed at Wylam on the Tyne in 1812 by William Hedley, who worked for the coal owner Christopher Blackett and went into service in 1814.

At this time George Stephenson was completing his first locomotive for a mine at Killingworth. He had been born at Wylam by the waggonway, so grew up with a background knowledge of transporting waggons on tracks. As the decade progressed Stephenson improved his steam engines producing more efficient machines but the engines were often aided by stationary steam engines - such as at Hetton Colliery and all were solely for transporting raw materials.

As the 1820's approached the idea of a national network of tramroads was expounded with the idea that the power would be provided by steam locomotives. The coal from the Durham coalfield needed to be carried efficiently to Darlington and Stockton and in May 1822 work was started on the route by George Stephenson. The railway was opened officially on 27 September 1825 when some 50,000 people were reported to have watched the proceedings. The locomotive pulled 21 waggons fitted with seats followed by a further 24 waggons drawn by horses. The trip from Shildon to Darlington and Stockton was conducted at speeds up to 15mph and John Dobbin's famous 4ft 4in wide painting (in Darlington Museum) graphically shows the scene.¹

At many important episodes in history Metcalfes were present and the first steam railway was no exception. Whilst the first public passenger waggons were running at Shildon in 1825 the first running of the steam engine for the railway occurred some time before. In 1824 George Stephenson's no 1 engine Locomotion was taken by road to Heighton Lane for trials. After water was pumped into the boiler there was no light for the fire and a man was despatched to Aycliffe for a candle lantern. Now working on the railway at this time was Robert Metcalfe later of Darlington. Robert had been badly injured the previous winter when he was caught in a mud slide breaking a collar bone and both his legs. However Robert was back working on that historic night when the Locomotive was to be fired up for the first time. Becoming impatient at the delay he lit his pipe, then using the glowing embers, set fire to the dry oakum used for fuel before putting it into the fire box thereby powering the first steam engine to run on a public railway line. What was said about Robert's actions are not apparently reported but he worked on the railway for many years and lived to be over 77!²

There were many other Metcalfes employed on the railways around the North of England in particular. If you have any railway ancestors you will wish to find out about their service and perhaps the railway companies they were employed by. A useful starting point could be the directory of staff records in the UK and overseas provided in the Federation of Family History Societies publication -

Was your Grandfather a Railwayman?

A copy of this is available from the Society's library. To see the book you will need to contact our librarian Carol Arkwright (address inside the front cover) or of course from the Federation.

Another publication which might help is a guide to the staff records of England and Wales for the period 1822 - 1947 by David T Hawkins called

Railway Ancestors

Published by Alan Sutton / Public Record Office at £25. It provides references of records at the PRO. For a copy contact the PRO at Kew Richmond Surrey TW9 4DU. (Tel no 0181 392 5200)

There was a recent item in the Family Tree Magazine which might also be of interest to those with Railway ancestors. It is an index of Railwaymen who fell in the Great War of 1914 - 1919 numbering nearly 19000 entries listed by name, Railway company, military rank and honours and civilian occupation. It is held by Mr J. Brian Harrison Jennings, 21 Fulstone Road, Stocksmoor, Huddersfield, W Yorks HD4 6YD who would be prepared to do a search for a fee. If you find any Metcalfes let the Society know for its records.



¹ The Archaeology of the Transport Revolution 1750 - 1850 by PJG Ransom

² Supplied by **Delphine McDonnell (M497)**





C O M M I T T E E N E W S

Earby, September 1997

Computer Index. David Metcalfe reported that he had entered information up to List 1890 and had about another four hundred lists to complete. He was seeking help with the entry of member's family trees.

Internet. Diane Howarth explained the facilities on the Internet and showed a selection of the documentation available on Family History. She was to draft an Internet page for the Society and show it at the next committee meeting.

Mecca News. After the success in the 1996 Elizabeth Simpson Award the Society were expecting to enter a copy of the Mecca News for the 1997 award.

Publications. A new birth brief booklet bringing all the entries up to date was being prepared and was expected to be available at the Muster. The printing of the Index to Lists would be deferred until the Software Strategy Task Force met this winter.

Library List. To be updated and included in a future issue of the Mecca News.

General Registration Project. Patrick Malham reported that the births were complete up to 1912, marriages to 1920 and deaths to 1910. The work was ongoing. Copies would be available at the Muster.

1881 Census returns. All of England, Jersey and the Royal Navy had been copied leaving the remainder of the Channel Islands, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

Exhibitions / Fairs. Diane Howarth and Peter Dobson were to attend the Stockport Fair on 4 October. Nina and David Metcalfe had represented the Society at the Northern Fair at York in June. This had been well attended. It was proposed to go to the 1998 Fair planned for Saturday 27 June.

Subscriptions. These were to be maintained at the current levels.

Myddleton Place (ex - St Catherine's House) Visitor. The post was still vacant and a volunteer - a member who regularly goes to the GRO or who lives close is being sought. There were no candidates at present.

G.O.O.N.S. / NW Group of FHS / NE Group of FHS. The Society's representation on these bodies was to be maintained.

The next meeting was planned for Saturday 28 March 1998.

Other matters were discussed including the arrangements for the Muster, the Family History Book and reports from officials. These are covered elsewhere in the News.

OBITUARY

it is with great regret we announce the death of M142

GORDON EMSLEY METCALFE

who died 18 October 1997

**A member since 1985 and a committee member
1988-1990.**

We extend our sincere condolences to his family.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

At the AGM the committee's recommendation that there should be
no changes to the subscription rates for the coming year
was accepted.

The rates for 1998 are therefore :-

UK Individual	£ 8
UK Family	£ 9
Overseas Surface Mail Individual	£ 8
Overseas Surface Mail Family	£ 9
Overseas Airmail Individual	£ 9
Overseas Airmail Family	£10

All payments should be returned to the Treasurer
Mrs Margaret Metcalfe.

**Don't forget your name and address and membership number
with your remittance.**

See the Subscription Renewal Form with this issue of The News.

.....Dear Editor.....Dear Editor.....Dear Editor.....Dear Editor.....

I believe most members will be aware of Ashley Metcalfe the Yorkshire cricketer who has been playing for Nottinghamshire over the past two seasons - I saw him play at the Oval this last season. But I wonder if many members have noticed that another cricketing Metcalfe is well on the way to fame?

In the Times of 18 August I read that England were playing South Africa in the women's one day cricket international at Taunton and one of England's top scorers was a Sue Metcalfe with 44. England lost that match but the match three days later they won with S Metcalfe not out 49!

Ray Metcalfe (M394)

I have spoken to the Crown Derby Curator about William Metcalfe (see Issue 52 page 40) but she could not find out any thing about him in their records. She suggested that he had perhaps not been there long. Burton-on-Trent may know about Bretby Potteries I will let you know what I discover.

Eunice Herring (M050)

Can I suggest an idea or two for the Mecca News? (*Any ideas gratefully considered - Ed*) Firstly a Metcalfe record breaker eg the member with the largest number of children in any of their ancestor's families. Can anyone beat the 16 I have in one of my lines? Secondly my father met his half brother and sister for the first time in 75 years. Can anyone better that?

Brenda Thompson (M660)

(Well Brenda has thrown down the gauntlet can anyone beat the records she has set out above? Have you any records of your own? Perhaps you have the oldest Metcalfe in your family tree - although Robert Metcalfe on page 19 might take some beating. Now's your chance let me know what your family's claim to fame is. Editor.)

I wonder if the members have come across a pleasant book called 'Sunnybank'. It is an account of the early life of Jean Metcalfe the broadcaster. I understand she is now unable to write or travel due to arthritis.

Gina MacKenzie (M310)

THANK YOU

for the donation of £250
towards the expenses incurred in collecting
the 1881 Census Indexes received from
an Australian member
(who wishes to remain anonymous)

On behalf of the Committee and the other members of
the Metcalfe Society
thank you for your generosity.

MUSTER '97



Preparing for the AGM



Nina and Diane moving the AGM along

MUSTER '97

Thoughts from
Lynda Simpson M791

I guessed this Muster would be special. My Mother and children Carolyn and Michael had agreed to attend.

The logistics of transporting four busy people from Scotland to Ripon would have frightened the Captain of the Star Ship Enterprise - nevertheless we made it!

The AGM opened proceedings. A "Metcalf Book" report followed. Warwick's tome is eagerly awaited by all members one of whom can win a copy by submitting a worthy title.

Diane Howarth executed her role - as Chairman designate - with skill and enthusiasm. Cousin Nina kept us all in line frequently! Any Metcalfe relocating to Huntingdonshire will gain her approval. Apparently it is "Metcalfeless".



A delicious lunch

MUSTER '97



*The committee's performance
(of "Young Jim Mecca was a very brave fellow")
led by Freda White was unmissable!*

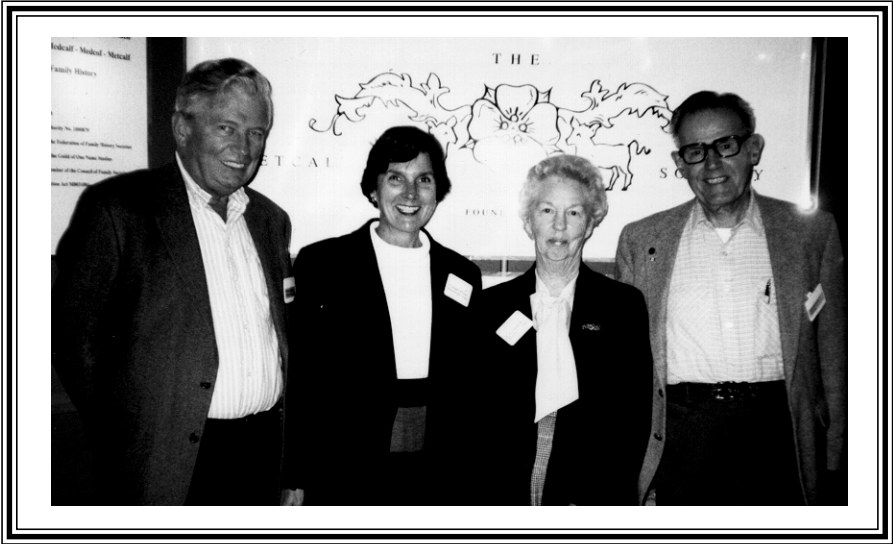
Congratulations go to Peter Dobson for remarkable competition success with the "Mecca News". Impressive too was the news of the size of our computer data base and the need for us to contribute support to our Society to further enhance its success.

The committee's performance led by Freda White was unmissable! Let's have a CD as well as a book??

A delicious lunch and association with Hipswell cousins were further highlights. The *Metcalfe* in my family is dilute. Geographically we are distanced from Yorkshire so our Metcalfe interest could easily die. This Muster forged links with past and future. It brought mother closer to her unknown Grandmother and nurtured interest in Carolyn and Michael.

This muster generated an atmosphere in which the Metcalfe legend can live on in my family.

MUSTER '97



*Our American Visitors
Richard Barroll, Page Roe Barroll, Elizabeth Roe
and William Medcalf Roe M871*



The Raffle - Prize winners make their choice

Another successful AGM and Muster safely over. It was exhausting for some of us "oldies" but by the sound of your comments IT WAS THE BEST EVER ! This year it was followed by a dinner with twelve of us sitting down at 7pm at the Ripon Spa Hotel, which was a lovely way to round off the day. Next day Michael & I were at the Christening of three of our grandchildren, the twins Thomas and Samuel and their sister Katy, another happy event. Today it has been difficult to come back down to earth !

This year's Muster had, thanks to Diane Howarth, 4 sets of the printed copies of our collection of the GRO indexes 1837 to 1900 Births, Marriages and Deaths all arranged in alphabetical order of Christian names and then chronologically within those names - so easy to search - thanks to Patrick Malham. Hence they are now also much easier to photocopy - requests for individuals to me please, with all known details and return postage costs.

As I begin my sixteenth and last year as your secretary I look back at our humble beginnings with some satisfaction at how we have all worked together and continued to progress and trust that, with some forward planning, no hiccups will occur as work is handed over to younger blood. Please think long and hard about how YOU could help us to stay in the forefront of One Name Societies. My telephone number is listed elsewhere and I would be delighted to hear from you.

Nina E.Benson

Robert Metcalfe (1818 - 1916)

In Issue 49 **Christine Surfleet (M513)** wrote about Robert Metcalfe who had been born at Pateley Bridge on 4 May 1818. At the recent Muster more information came to hand plus this picture of Robert. When he died in 1916 the local Anglican Church at Ilkley Parish Church rang its bells which was unusual for a Catholic.



Christine placed a synopsis of her article in the local papers including the Skipton & Craven Herald and the Ilkley Gazette which resulted in a descendant of Robert's brother Jonathan - Charles Metcalfe of Bradford - writing to inform her that a grandson of Robert - Arthur Walter Brown - became Lord Mayor of Bradford during 1933/34. Subsequently a descendant of Robert's eldest daughter Mary has joined the Society - **Dr John Alban Metcalfe (M867)**.

What's New in the Birth Brief Booklet 1997

All new members receive the current Birth Brief Booklet when they join the Metcalfe Society. The booklet is a narrative summary of members' lines of Metcalfe ancestry. Feedback from many of you have revealed that the majority of members do like to read it. Why? Because you can see other Metcalfe lines, and with anticipation, you hope that one of them will somehow fit into your own line....and hey presto, you have a new-found relative!

So why should you buy the new one, which was published at the recent Mecca Muster? The Birth Brief Booklet has had a major overhaul, and can now provide you with the following benefits:

- * All members, past and present, M1 to M884, have their updated birth brief included. 78 members responded to the request for updates (April 97 issue) - the booklet highlights who these members are, and the information is included. It is not published elsewhere.
- * A more complete list of who is connected to who at the end of each individual birth brief is now included.
- * There is also a new alphabetical list of members' names for easy reference, especially if a member number is not known.
- * Even if your information has not been updated, all birth briefs have been rewritten in the same manner so that they can be read, and understood, in a more meaningful way.
- * Hence, all siblings of main Metcalfe lines have been removed for easy reading and understanding. This has been replaced by outlining the number of siblings, eg '3rd of 8'. So only the direct Metcalfe lines are outlined. So some members may find their birth brief is actually somewhat briefer than before!
- * The addresses of all current members (at time of going to press) are included. Addresses of ex-members are not included. Instead of the address, the information provided is "ex-member, left 19xx" to show how long ago it is since the member left the society.
- * A complete and standardised set of abbreviations are used throughout the booklet, including the Chapman County and Country codes.

So what are you waiting for the new edition of the Birth Brief Booklet can be ordered direct from our Sales Department (Carol Arkwright) for £3.95 (UK p&p paid) or £4.50 (Overseas surface mail p&p paid). Also as a reminder, if you do update your own Metcalfe line, please send the updates to the society, directly to the Editor.

The Biggest Turnout Yet

The Group of North West Family History Societies is one of the best organised family history groups in the country. Being an active member, The Metcalfe Society has exhibited at their annual Family History Fair each Autumn for the last four years it has been held. Being the second largest family history fair in the country after the London event held each May, it is an important fair to all societies, companies specialising in historical and genealogical material, and individuals who are interested in family history.

October 1997 saw the biggest turnout yet with 110 exhibiting tables at the fair at the majestic Stockport Town Hall. One of those tables was The Metcalfe Society, ably supported by **Chairman Diane Howarth (M409)** and **Editor Peter Dobson (M69)**. We certainly looked one of the most professional exhibitors as we used our society exhibition stand. A steward also commented on how nice it was to see one of the most organised societies again. A compliment indeed!

Most exhibitors use these fairs as a money-making exercise by selling publications. Many county family history societies were represented, especially the northern counties. One could buy presentation folders to keep/display your precious documents, all sizes and shapes of forms to keep your record your research, copies of old maps of the UK counties.

The Metcalfe Society exhibits at this fair and the York Fair (held in June) for three reasons :

- * Most individuals interested in the Metcalfe name will be found in the North East and North West.
- * These are the two biggest fairs in the north as usually over 1,000 people will visit the fair on a single day.
- * As a specialist society, we need to maintain the awareness of the Metcalfe Society in genealogical circles.

Hence, we have found that most people visiting our stand fall into the following categories :

- * Are either current or ex-members and want to say hello, or do some specific research.
- * are either directly interested in the Metcalfe name, or know someone who is. So they take one of the 'Are you interested?' leaflets.
- * Enquiries about one name societies in general - and so we normally direct them to the GOONS.

We do tend to sell some of our merchandise - badges, pictures, notelets etc. and gain just 1 or 2 new members at the fair itself with a 2-3 joining thereafter.

At Stockport we were visited by one of our original members **M24 Joe Metcalfe**, who lives locally, and just popped along to say hello before going along to see his favourite football team - Manchester United. **M660 Brenda Thompson** made a specific trip from the Wirral to visit our stand see if we could help her fill some of the missing gaps in her Metcalfe tree using the society's computer records. Brenda could not get home quick enough with the wealth of new information. She even took the trouble to write and say thank you for the time and trouble. It was a pleasure Brenda - this is what we are here for. **M520 Duncan Broomhead** also stopped to say hello. We were also able to help in a small way **M694 Lynda Husband**, from Liverpool, who was looking for some possible Kendal links using the new GRO material. We had the equivalent of half of St Catherine's House under our desk as we now have recorded all Births, Marriages, and Deaths 1837-1900 for Metcalfes (and spelling variations, naturally).

In his capacity of Federation Chairman, **David Lambert (M11)** welcomed everyone to Stockport, which was hard to do in such a vast hall when the microphone system did not work! Peter Dobson was one of the small organising committee for the whole event, alongside actually manning the society stand. So all in all, the Metcalfe Society was very well represented at the second largest family history fair in the UK.

Federation of Family History Societies

On 5 April 1997 the Chairman of the FFHS (our own **David Lambert**) was presented with the Patent of the grant of Arms at the FFHS conference at Chichester. The Arms (which are in rich colours which unfortunately we are not able to reproduce) represent the original eleven founder societies and the family trees we all aim to produce. The crest is a crane - the bird of learning whilst the figures represent an artisan and an agricultural labourer to represent the majority of our ancestors. All member societies, of which we are one can display the arms in our journals and letterheads.



There has been some questions raised by the FFHS with the appropriate Government Department regarding the availability of the Census records after 1891. The stated position is that they are closed for 100 years and will not be released earlier. It has not yet been decided if the census material held by the Registrar General (ie 1921 and subsequent returns) will be microfilmed or the originals retained. Discussions are ongoing between the Registrar General and the PRO on preservation. The FFHS has asked to be consulted before a final decision is taken.

1881 CENSUS RETURN COUNTY INDEXES

We are pleased to announce that thanks to **David Metcalfe M46 and Nina Benson M29** we now have copies of ALL the Metcalfes and variants from all the Counties of England plus the Royal Navy and Jersey in the Channel Islands.

Can anyone continue with the other Channel Islands, Wales and Scotland?

Photocopies are all we need. Generally we found it best to photocopy the main name variants of Metcalf and Metcalfe and wrote out the other variants which usually had very few. Occasionally we found Medcalf was predominant so we also photocopied them.

The ONLY county in England without any Metcalfes at all was Huntingdonshire. Cornwall came next with a lone Metcalfe who was boarding with Eliza Pengelly at East Looe - JOHN, a widower aged 68 and born at Norton in Co Durham.

We were delighted that we had four sets of these super records at our Muster and by the crowds sat researching, they were apparently VERY popular !

Enquiries for that missing person to Nina Benson - FULL details together with an SAE please.

CHANGES TO OUR ORGANISATION

Nina E. Benson

Our plea for NEW workers in the August issue of the Mecca News had a NIL result. When this was announced at our March Committee Meeting :-

1) **Carol Arkwright** - already coping with a full time job, family and our Sales and Library departments offered to take over from Dorothy Pope as **New Members' Secretary** as and from 11th October 1997.

2) **Margaret Hodgson** - also already coping with a full time job and Minutes & Publicity Secretary offered to take over work concerned with the Committee i.e. preparation and despatch of Agendas and Minutes etc. and will take over this work as and from 11th October 1997.

Who was it who said "if you want a job done well, ask a busy person" ?

The early appointment of these two valuable members enables us to now concentrate during the remaining 9 months available to us (as at Dec 1997) to find help to cover the other areas of work. Discussions took place during the AGM '97 and although no NEW helpers came forward, we may have some alterations to announce in the next Mecca News.

Membership Details

CORRECTIONS

M694 MISS L.J.M. HUSBAND (not MRS) and for some reason her new address, given in our August 1995 issue, was repeated. Apologies.

M875 is MR CHRISTOPHER C.DENARD (not Henard), 22 Mountway (not Mounty Way), Potter's Bar, Hertfordshire (not Herefordshire), EN6 1EP. More apologies!

NEW ADDRESSES

M126 MRS RITA CAWTHRA from Bradford to :- 133 Scholes Lane, Scholes Cleckheaton, West Yorks. BD19 6LY.

M554 MRS JO GOULD, from Hale to :- 6 Blueberry Rd, Bowdon, Cheshire, WA14 3LR.

M630 MRS JOAN E. GRUNDY from Wath upon Dearne to :- 24 Sorbus Way, Lepton, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD8 0EY.

REJOINED MEMBERS

M278 MR GARY R.MEDCALF, Cnr Foleys Quarry Road & State Highway 1, R.D.2, Albany, Auckland, New Zealand.

M474 Ms LINDSEY WARDLE, 11 Palace View, Bromley, Kent, BR1 3EJ.

BIRTH BRIEF SECTION -

Abbreviations :- MT = Metcalf : MTE = Metcalfe : MD = Medcalf : MDE = Medcalfe : dau = daughter : d.o = daughter of : s.o = son of : m = married : b = born : bpt = baptised : d = died.

UP-DATED BIRTH BRIEFS

M870 Mrs Jennie G.Mould, 2429 Goodison Ave, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, L5H 1W6. Dau of Joel James & Mabel Dorothy (Burton) MTE. Joel J. b 1905 Leeds County, Ontario, Canada s.o Alexander & Minnie May (Smith) MTE. Alexander b 25.03.1859 Leeds County s.o William & Sarah (Clark) MTE. ** William bpt 16 March 1791 Newark upon Trent, Nottingham Eng s.o Alexander & Mary (Sibey/Sibley or Taylor) m 3rd Sep 1786 Newark. Alexander & Mary also had Ann Sophia bpt 02.07.1787; George* 11.06.1796; & Samuel 28.09.1798 all at Newark. *George, THE SOCIETY CAN ADD :- m 16.02.1823 Ann Stevenson & had issue Ann 25.08.1823

& Jane 20.10.1826 and in 1851 Census Returns Ref HO107-2137-260 the family is at "Odd House" Newark, George is a bricklayer 55. Ann 65 b Kelham, George B. Winter grandson 11 scholar b Spalding, Lincs. ** There may be some discrepancy here, if William was born in 1791 he would be aged 68 when his son Alexander was born in 1859 - is this correct Jennie ?

BIRTH BRIEFS - NEW MEMBERS to whom we extend a hearty welcome.

M885 Mrs Anne Merry, 12 Crofton Close, Kimbolton Road, Bedford, MK41 8AJ. Grand-dau of John William & Ethel (Metcalf) Ainscough. Ethel 2nd d.o George Taylor & Ellen (Mason) MTE m 13.06.1868 Leeds. **THE SOCIETY CAN ADD** :- George Taylor b ca 1846 Knottingley, Yks s.o Edward & Eliza (Golden) MTE m 22.02.1824 Huddersfield, Edward bpt 21.04.1794 St Peters, Leeds s.o Edward & Sarah (Crowther) MTE m 15.08.1791 St Peters, Leeds. Edward bpt 21.06.1770 Leeds s.o Edward of Meadow Lane & Susannah (Clifton) MTE m 29.11.1767 Leeds. **See also M244 & M487.**

M886 Edmund B. Metcalfe, 41 Pentland Ave, Redcar, Cleveland, TS10 4HB. Born in West Hartlepool Co Durham s.o George Edmund & Georgina (Glennie) MTE m 1934. George E. b 31.12.1910 West Hartlepool s.o William & Elizabeth (Greenfield) MTE. **THE SOCIETY CAN ADD** :- William bpt 01.12.1867 Richmond Yks 6th of 9 children of Edmund & Martha (Addison) MTE m 02.08.1858 Richmond. Edmund, licensee of the Talbot Inn, Richmond, was bpt 04.05.1834 Finghall near Leyburn in Wensleydale s.o Matthew & Elizabeth his 1st wife (Hill) MTE m 07.11.1825 Finghall. Elizabeth d 1844 & Matthew m 17.05.1848 Lydia Bushby. Matthew had a total of 10 children & was bpt 19.01.1802 Hudswell*, Yks s.o James & Elizabeth (Kirkbride) MTE m 17.01.1792 West Witton, Yks. James b ca 1768. *this bpt is also recorded on the same day at Downholme.

M887 Mr & Mrs Alan Foster, 74A Barrett St, New Plymouth, New Zealand. Alan is great grandson of Robert & Jane (Metcalf) Allinson m 01.06.1876 Masham Yks. Jane d.o George & Elizabeth (Forster) Mte **THE SOCIETY CAN ADD** :- 15.05.1844 Middleton Tyas, Yks. Confirmation of a connection to the Hipswell family line awaited. **Connected to M29 et al.**

M888 Miss Lynn Wilson, 68 Abbotsbury Road, Broadstone, Dorset, BH18 9OD. Great x 4 grand-dau of Bartholomew & Margaret (Metcalf) Stapleton. **THE SOCIETY CAN ADD** :- m 17.06.1837 Scruton, Yks. Margaret bpt 26.11.1814 Scruton 7th of 10 children of George & Elizabeth (Wells) m 18.11.1798 Scruton. George bpt 12.03.1777 Danby Wiske, Yks s.o George & Margaret (Ewebank) MTE m 15.03.1775 Danby Wiske. George b ca 1753. **See also XM162.**

M889 Mrs Denise Mason, 2 Carnation Drive, Winkfield Row, Nr Bracknell, Berks. RG42 7QT. Grand-dau of William & Rebecca (Metcalf) Aspen m 04.02.1928 St Mary's RC Church, Clayton le Moors, Lancs. Rebecca b 25.07.1893 d.o George William & Catherine (Heywood) MT m 20.05.1882 St Joseph's RC Ch, Blackburn, Lancs. George Wm b 22.09.1859 s.o Haworth & his 2nd wife Alice Russell m 30.10.1858 St Marys, Enfield, Lancs. (Haworth's 1st wife was Alice Whittaker m 1848 Altham). Haworth b 16.10.1825 Altham s.o William & Margaret/Peggy (?) Metcalf m pre 1821 ?Altham, Lancs.

M890 Ms Shirley Zanin, 1086 Alenmede Crescent, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2B 8H3. Dau of Dorothy Mae Metcalfe who was d.o Alex & Jane Anne (Scott) MTE. Alex b 1866 s.o David & Elizabeth Eliza (Maclean) Mte m 03.04.1856 Riceville, Ontario, Canada. David b 06.06.1835 Riceville, Ontario, Canada s.o Henry & Mary (Copley) MTE m 05.08.1816 Royston, Yks. England. Henry b ca1779 Yks ? bpt 02.05.1780 Aysgarth, Yks s.o Christopher & Margaret (Chapman) MTE m 23.01.1777 Aysgarth.Christopher bpt 06.01.1742/3 Arncliffe, Yks. s.o Thomas & (?) MTE of Halton Gill. ?Thomas bpt 09.04.1713 Arncliffe s.o Christopher of Halton Gill. **See also XM27, XM138, XM225, XM583, M744, M773.**

M891 Arnold Metcalf, 2 Fern St, Pymble, New South Wales 2073 Australia. Born 1929 Riddlesden, Keighley, Yks. Eng. s.o Albert & Amy Florence (Fleming) MT m 1924 North Shields, Northumberland. Albert b 21.08.1894 South Shields, Durham s.o Robert, a grocer, & Margaret (Almond) MT m 10.10.1876 North Shields, NBL. Robert b Dec Qtr 1854 South Shields, DUR s.o ??? Henry b ?1824 s.o ? Arthur & Isabelle (?) MT. Arthur ?b1788 Wales.

M892 William Frederick (Bill) Wright, 4 Doxford Avenue, Hetton le Hole, Tyne & Wear, DH5 9PX. Great grandson of Thomas & Sarah (Metcalf) Wright m 21.01.1858 Kilburn, Yks. Sarah bpt 21.04.1833 11th of 14 children of Richard, shoemaker & Hannah (Cooper) MTE m 11.06.1811 Kilburn. **THE SOCIETY CAN ADD** :- Richard b ca 1791 Skinningrove Yks bpt 03.07.1791 Brotton Yks s.o Thomas & Catherine (? Simonson m 19.12.1773 Coxwold) MT from whom the other big families of Kilburn descend. **See also XM49 & XM190.**

M893 Mrs Margaret Mary Howell, 53 Roper Ave, Leeds, LS8 1LG. Grand-dau of John & Mary (Metcalf) Musgrove m 1898 Leeds, Yks Mary b 1877 Leyburn, Wensleydale Yks d.o William & Sarah (Curtis) MTE m 03.08.1868 Wensley. William b 1842 Leyburn s.o James & Mary (Atkinson) MTE m 03.11.1838 Wensley. James b 1816 Preston under Scar s.o James & Ann (Leyburn) MTE m 23.07.1810 Wensley. James b 1787 Preston u Scar s.o William & Jane (Rudd) MTE m 09.10.1759 Wensley. William b ca1729 buried 31.12.1814 Preston u Scar aged 85. **See also M537 & M578.**

M894 Mrs Alison Collin, 828 La Jennifer Way, Palo Alto, California 94306, United States of America. Nee Metcalf - nothing received.

M895 Mr Will Stevenson, 4519 Foxhall Cres, NW Washington DC 20007, United States of America. Descendant of Edward Gibson & Jane Metcalf. Jane b 1812 Monkwearmouth, Co Durham, Eng. d.o Matthew & Mary (Redhead) MT m 28.04.1790 Sunderland. Matthew bpt 01.11.1767 Wickham s.o Andrew & his 2nd wife Mary Holy m 07.12.1766 Sunderland. (His 1st wife was Dorothy Cook m 04.12.1761 Bishopwearmouth). Matthew bpt 27.07.1740 Wickham s.o James & Elizabeth (Croser) Midcalf m 01.06.1735 Wickham Co Durham. **See also M565 & XM602.**

M896 Mrs Sandra Dunne, 1A Malsbury St, Bicton, Western Australia 6157, Australia. B 1945 Burnley, Lancs, Eng. d.o John James & Edna Martha (Holland) MTE. John James b 14.06.1925 s.o John James & Edith (Richardson) MTE. John James b 26.05.1899 Burnley, Lancs. **PLEASE, CAN ANYONE HELP SANDRA ?**

M897 Mr & Mrs Alan Thwaite, 235 Liverpool Road, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 7HL. Alan has THREE main Metcalfe branches ! Born in 1941 he is great grandson of James & Sarah (Metcalfe, LINE 1) Heseltine m 15.12.1860 Stalling Busk (=SB). Sarah bpt 26.02.1837 SB d.o James & Priscilla (Peacock) MTE. **THE SOCIETY CAN ADD** :- m 19.01.1836 Aysgarth. James, a joiner, bpt 15.08.1813 SB s.o William, a mason & Sarah (Dinsdale) MTE m 18.05.1811 SB. William bpt 08.02.1789 SB s.o William & Anne (Tomlin) MTE m ? William bpt 13.05.1759 SB s.o John & Barbara* (Metcalfe) Metcalfe m 12.05.1756 Hawes. John b ?1739 s.o William & Margaret (?) MTE. *Barbara bpt 31.07.1729 Hawes d.o Anthony MTE of Gayle. **See also M6, M28, M55, XM58, M63, M69, M178, M303, M406, M410, M539, M550, M676, M859.** LINE 2. Grandson of James & Margaret Alice (Heseltine) THWAITE m 03.03.1897 SB. James THWAITE b 13.12.1874 s.o Simon & Mary Ann (Metcalfe) Thwaite m 02.09.1865 Hawes. Mary Ann b 19.09.1841 Mid Mossdale d.o Ninion & Isabella (Mason) MTE m 19.03.1825 Dent. Ninion bpt 30.12.1798 Ingleton Fells s.o Alexander, yeoman of Mossdale & Jane (Mte) MTE. Alexander bpt ? 22.01.1770 OR 24.08.1767 Dent s.o ?John & Eleanor MTE of Dent OR s.o Richard & Elizabeth (Dinsdale) MTE of Hawes. **See also XM62 & M809.** LINE 3. Son of Isabella May nee Sykes who was grand-dau of John Scarr & Sarah (Metcalfe) Foster m 01.07.1830 Askrigg.

M898 Mrs Diane Robbins, 14 Abernethy, Ouston, Chester le Street, Co Durham, DH2 1RX. Great x 3 grand-dau of John & Ann (Metcalfe) Buckton m 09.06.1834 St Cuthbert's Church, Barton nr Richmond Yks. Ann b 31.08.1809 at Spennithorne **THE SOCIETY CAN ADD** - but it needs cross checking ! d.o Thomas & Elizabeth (Raw) MTE m 31.05.1803 Hauxwell. Thomas bpt 16.12.1781 s.o James & Mary (Croft) MTE m 15.05.1781. James bpt 01.10.1758 s.o Thomas & Elizabeth (Plewes) MTE m 13.11.1757 Hauxwell. **See also XM624.**

M899 Ms Janyce A.Mann, 82 United Square, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada, M1B 2C2. Nee Metcalfe d.o Bryan Christopher MTE b 30.06.1906 Hammersmith, London, s.o Bryan Biggar & Violet Tomlins (Hedderly) MTE m 1904. Bryan B.b 13.02.1875 Richmond, Yks s.o George Christopher & Margaret (Biggar) MTE m 27.05.1865 St Clement Danes, London. George Christopher bpt 29.11.1839 Richmond s.o William & Charlotte (Farr) MTE m 17.12.1838 St Clement Danes, London. William bpt 28th July 1811 Richmond, 8th of 10 children of Christopher & Ann (Galloway) MTE m 25.05.1795 Richmond. Christopher b ca 1772. **See also M447, M474, XM536, XM584, M764.**

M900 Mr & Mrs Charles W. Alworth, 502 Cumberland Road, Tyler, Texas 75703, United States of America. Descendant of Alexander & Mary Ann (Summersgill) MTE. **THE SOCIETY CAN ADD** :- m 29.03.1845 Linton in Craven, Yks, Eng. Alexander, a plasterer gives his father as Robert MTE plasterer. Alexander bpt 02.06.1822 Colne/Bacup Lancs s.o Robert & Susannah (Shiers) MTE m 22.06.1818 Rylstone, Yks. Robert bpt 21.10.1793 Linton in Craven s.o Alexander & Catherine (Bradley) MTE m 10.02.1783 Burnsall, Yks. Alexander b ca 1756. **See also M24.**

M901 Garth Metcalfe, 5 Rye Close, Leighton Buzzard, Beds, LU7 8YO. Nothing received.

M902 — confirmation awaited —.

M903 Mr Lloyd Ellis Metcalf, RMB 218X, Tamworth, New South Wales 2340, Australia. Son of Charles Tasman & Rachel (Jones-Ellis) MT. Charles Tasman b 1871 Bathurst N.S.W s.o Alfred & Susannah (?) MT. Alfred b 20.01.1822 on the Tamar River, Launceston, Tasmania d Bathurst NSW 1886 s.o James & Maria (Canney) MT m approx 1819/20 ? in Chelsea, London, Eng. James b ca 1789 ? Maidstone, Kent, Eng. **See also M804 Mrs Lisa Bartlett** who is delighted to discover Lloyd.

DID YOU KNOW ?

- 1) That on 27th Nov 1732 Martinus Metcalfe of Newcastle gained Citizenship of Rotterdam in the Netherlands.
(Supplied by John Sanders M819)
- 2) That Certified copies of STILLBIRTH registrations from 1st July 1927 can be issued only with the Registrar General's permission applied for in person to the Office for National Statistics at Southport.

Bad Press?

In Issue 50 (page 16) Fred Metcalfe from Ingleton wrote of his experiences in Canada leaving as the Economic Depression of the 1930's started here. He indicated that the pamphlets given to would be emigrants showed fields of wheat and prosperous looking farms reality was apparently somewhat different.

In the October 1996 issue of The Banyan Tree excerpts from an 1835 letter from Adam Herron in Canada to his brother in England said "The times in this country have been bad ... There is plenty of work but money is bad to get inI know of four or five bricklayers who have been obliged to give up their trade.....If you have any prospects to live at home..... I think you will find England the best."

Little seemed to have changed in the hundred years between the two. Whilst we do not know what happened to Adam Herron, after a difficult start Fred settled, got a farm and later a store and successfully brought up a family who still reside in Canada. So it cannot have all been bad!

Letters are a useful source of family/social history and if you can find them keep them but don't take the comments as being the situation prevailing all the time.

LISTS

Through these columns I would like to thank all those members who have sent us new records for our database. It is increasingly difficult to reply individually but we do appreciate your efforts.

NEB

Thank you

MORE BAD PRESS

It looks like Canada is not the flavour of the emigrants
(or in this instance their relatives).

In the Huddersfield & District FHS Journal (April 1996) was this item :

Don't go to Canada unless you have some capital. You have got to work hard there and the hours are long. There are no good open coal fires like there is at my daughters house here (in Bradford). Said by 90 year old Mrs Tom Jebson returning from her children's homes in Canada in May 1939 to "die in Dewsbury".

DEEDS OF COVENANT

I would like to thank those of you who pay your annual subscription under
Deed of Covenant.

It will be of interest to see how much the Society has 'clawed back' from the Inland Revenue since the scheme began in 1992 without any additional burden on the covenanting member.

Year ended	5 April	1992	£54.65
		1993	£82.76
		1994	£85.77
		1995	£101.12
		1996	£157.47
		1997	£164.00
		a grand total of	£645.77

If you are a UK taxpayer please consider paying your subscription under a Deed of Covenant. The Inland Revenue refund to the Society the amount of tax they have taken from you at the basic rate of Income Tax which relates to the subscription you have paid. The Family subscription of £9 net they deem to have had £2.84 tax deducted which they hold but will under a deed refund (only) to the charity you have paid your subscription to. The £8 single membership fee is deemed to have had £2.53 tax deducted. As long as you pay at least this amount of tax the Inland Revenue will refund it to the charity. As you are going to pay your subscription anyway this a completely painless way to help your Society raise more funds.

Points to note :

- .. A deed must run for 4 years but thereafter runs on with no further form filling.
- .. Pay your subscription promptly so that it can be included in the tax claim for that year. Any subs paid very late ie after 5th April cannot be included in the claim, in practice the Inland Revenue are asked if they will relate them back but they are entitled to refuse.
- .. If you decide to terminate the Deed just write and tell me, that's all that is needed.
- .. If under a family membership one spouse dies this terminates the deed, if the remaining spouse wishes to continue then they must complete a new deed in their own right.
- .. When quoting your membership number please add the letter 'C' after it.

**Many thanks to you all
Valerie Metcalfe.**

(Valerie's address is in the inside of the front cover)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

January 1998. Tyne & Wear Centre for Continuing Education University of Newcastle. (0191 2225680). Advanced Genealogy - Estate and Manorial records.

28 March 1998. Glamorgan, Gwent and Somerset and Dorset FHS's get together at Chepstow for 'The Somerset Trail to South Wales'. A chance to discuss the how and why and where of this cross channel movement. Details from any of the societies.

17 -19 April 1998. The Federation of Family History Societies AGM Council Meeting and 1998 Cheshire Conference "*A Moving Experience*". Transport and movement of people. To be held at the Crewe Campus of Manchester Metro University. Booking form from Mrs D Brown 7 Westway Heswall Wirral L60 8PJ enclosing a SAE.

Saturday 27 June 1998. The Yorkshire Family History Fair, York Racecourse. To be attended by the Society.

Saturday 10 October 1998. Mecca Muster at the College of Ripon & York St John, Ripon. Make a note in your diary now!

10 October 1998. The NW Group of Family History Societies Stockport Fair at Stockport Town Hall.

8 - 11 April 1999. Hampshire FHS will host the FFHS AGM, Council Meeting and the 1999 Spring Conference entitled '*Cabbages and Kings*' at Spasholt College near Winchester.

PUBLICATIONS

Yorkshire Archaeological Society Parish Record Section has published ***Masham Parish Register 1599 - 1716***. 404 pages. Available at £20 p&p UK £2, Overseas surface mail £3. From Claremont, 23 Clarendon Road Leeds LS2 9NZ.

Tracing Your Irish Ancestors by John Grenham, Gill & MacMillan Dublin 1992. 282 pages. Available from FFHS, 2 - 4 Killer Street, Ramsbottom, Bury Lancs, BL0 9BZ @£12.55 (UK inc p&p), £15.85 Overseas air mail.

Bishop Leyburns Confirmation Register of 1687. First Catholic episcopal confirmation tour of England after the Protestant reformation. Cost £20 from the Treasurer NW Catholic History Society 10 Ellesmere Road Pemberton Wigan WN5 9LA. Cheques payable to North West Catholic History Society.

Army Service Records of the First World War by Simon Fowler, William Spencer & Stuart Tamblin. PRO publication 56pages £5.99. Indicates where to look for WWI service records in the Public Record Office.

Yorkshire Snippets Vol 1. Personal announcements from the 18th and 19th centuries appearing in the Leeds Mercury and Bradford Observer. Available from Jean K Brown 180 Hill Top Road, Thornton Bradford West Yorks BD13 3QL. £3.25 UK, £3.60 - surface, £4.00 - airmail. Remittances payable to Jean K Brown.

Yorkshire Snippets : Volume 2 by Jean K Brown and Brian Jones is now available terms etc as above.

CHESHIRE COUNTY ARCHIVES

The Cheshire County Council Archive and Local Studies Service has become the first to put its 75,000 wills dating from 1492 until 1857 on the Internet. A researcher can tap into the Internet to see which wills are available and either e-mail, fax or post their requests to the Record Office in Chester.

The Cheshire Family History Society is helping with the scheme by setting up a help and advice desk for the family historian and on the second Wednesday of every month will make available two experienced members to give free help.

(Macclesfield Times 7 August 1997)



This inscription is on a tombstone situated by the west wall of the porch at the entrance to St. Oswald's Church Ravenstonedale and was spotted by member **M809 - Mr Frank Capstick**. From the Society's records (from the Parish Burial records) she may be Mary (nee Fothergill) wife of Anthony Metcalf and was buried on 16 January 1786 aged 50. They were married 16 February 1757 at Ravenstonedale.

It is a good job that not everyone feels the same way otherwise our role as Family Historians would be infinitely harder than it is. I wonder why the inscription was made - one presumes by her husband - was there an estrangement after nearly 30 years of marriage, a falling out with his wife's relatives or another reason? We will likely never know but if anyone has any ideas I would be keen to hear them - Editor.

And finally..... about four miles outside of Dunsop Bridge, on the way to Lancaster, at the end of September was spotted a mobile snack bar called **'Metcalfes Mobile Snack Bar'!**

Parked on the side of the road dealing with the passing Sunday trade it was not there during the following week so no further information available.

Do you have any details concerning it? If so write and let the Editor know.

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We welcome any articles or letters on the Metcalfe name in all its derivations, together with articles on family history research in general. Material should be sent to

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