

MECCA NEWS

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December 2009

Issue No 89

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The MECCA NEWS

Editor: Peter Dobson



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I am a little late completing this magazine - one of the delights of being retired I find that I can go on trips at a drop of a hat - but I hope you will find something of interest.

There are a number of different sources highlighted in this issue which might provide new fields for research and some background on how our ancestors lived and coped or otherwise.

Wills still remain one of the main ways back beyond 1840 (see p30) and we are continuing to add details to our database but there are still many more not yet transcribed perhaps you have some spare time in the winter months? If so contact Edwin Metcalf (see front cover for contact details). There is also a request for help (page33) and a question (page36) you might be able to help with.

I visited Agincourt for the first time a few days ago - a strange feeling - with Metcalfe antecedents walking the same area nearly six hundred years ago. We had a recent question seeking confirmation that Medecalfes were there in 1415 (of course they were!) but no sign of James on the www.medievalsoldier.org site. Something we will have to look into!

If you are still looking for a late Christmas present you could do no worse than visit our website and pick up Metcalfe - History of the Clan filled with interesting information about the family.

May I take the opportunity to wish you the Compliments of the season and Good Health for 2010.



DON'T go to Middleton in Teesdale. It's SHUT.

To be precise the Durham Diocesan Church of St Mary the Virgin is not open*. I had made a special trip on a Thursday afternoon to the Teesdale village to investigate a Metcalfe sighting when I found the church locked and barred. Even after trying local contacts the church remained inaccessible.

I had gone after receiving information from **Mrs Jean Ward M1597**, that the church held a chalice engraved with the notation

"The gift of Michael Metcalfe of Sidney NSW 1878".



Now Michael Metcalfe is known to the Society being born in Hull, East Yorkshire in 1813 and then a successful marine insurance and shipping agency owner in New South Wales. (See Mecca News 65 page 26, MN 72 page 27 and MN80 page 34.) but what was the connection with Middleton in Teesdale? Unfortunately due to the lack of access I haven't been able to find out. If you have any information please let the editor know.

(*The minister of the church had recently left and due to vandalism the building was locked during the week but apparently open at weekends.)

UPDATE In August's Mecca News (MN88) there was the article (How Strange page 3) concerning the finding of a stone on the Howgill Fells in Cumbria with names written upon it and how they related to one of the Metcalfe Clan families. The stone was left where it was found and descendants of Thomas Chippendale and Lilian Metcalf informed. Here is an update from the couple's son John - Editor.

I did a solitary climb up Crook today (7 August 2009). Jean, my wife, was a bit uncertain about the climbing involved so I went off on my own. Did I tell you my "Chippendale" cousin failed to find stone? - it wasn't a good day when she went up - but today the weather was perfect.

Went via Ada's seat (see MN65 back page - Ed) decided at Settlebeck Gill to keep the Gill on my right. I gained height until able to cross the Gill easily. Then it was almost a traverse to gain the cairn. Must say I looked around for quite a while before I spotted the stone. I took my tripod, so here (attached photo) is me 75 years young, born 5 years after the now famous picnic on Crook!



Using legs bred through all those generations of Metcalfe's in the Dales I came down the front of Crook, picking up the track where Grandad Metcalfe carted pipes for the town water supply, & was back at the car in 35minutes. It was an emotional expedition. **John Chippendale M186.**

Dancing on Ice the popular TV show has its own Mecca connection in the shape of make up designer **Renee Metcalfe**. Renee provided more than £20,000 worth of glitter, colour and eyelashes to performers of the show so the Radio Times reported in its issue of 17-23 January 2009.

Supplied by **Lesley Longworth M68**

Poor Law Project

It is written in the scriptures "for the poor always ye have with you..." and by 1831 some 10% of England's population were classed as paupers giving credence to the statement.

After the dissolution of the monasteries in the period after 1536 the long established dispensing of alms and relief for the poor was curtailed and the provision of help fell upon individual parishes or individuals. During the remainder of the 16th and through to the early 19th century support for those who had fallen on hard times or who were old and infirm was dictated by a number of acts. Invariably that meant it was down to local delivery and the support was often patchy, poor or harsh.

By the early 1800's mass migration from the countryside was underway and the parishes in the new urban areas were unable to cope with the influx whilst poor harvests and returnees from the Napoleonic Wars put pressure on others.

The situation required drastic action and in 1834 the Poor Law Amendment Act saw the transfer of relief from over 15000 parishes to some 700 Poor Law Unions. These were usually based on a market town and included perhaps around a dozen parishes. The requirement was for a Poor Law Union establishment (a workhouse) to be provided to house those who were in need but not many were built with relief still being made primarily through outdoor relief.

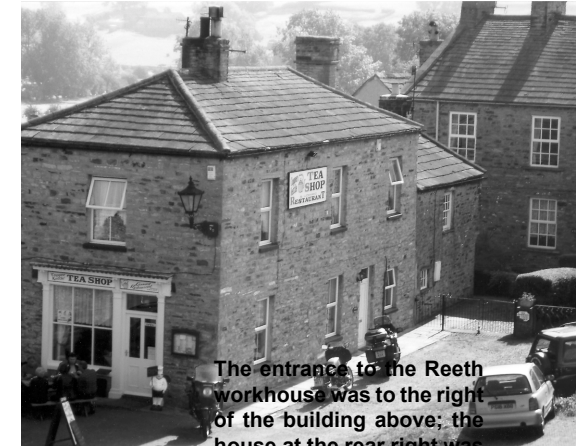
With one in ten seeking relief at any one time there may be an antecedent or two who looked for support and the National Archives (TNA) hold an Index of staff in document class MH9 with individual staff records in MH12. Currently there are no indexes for those claiming relief. This may be changing.

After the Muster I attended a meeting of the Friends of Swaledale Museum entitled "Hidden Histories Revealed" delivered by the Reeth Poor Law Group. The Group was set up after a request by TNA for local organisations to carry out a pilot study of selected poor law records held in the archives. Reeth was one of those Unions selected to digitise and catalogue correspondence between the Reeth Poor Law Guardians and the London based Poor Law Commissioners and the group started its work in 2008. To date they have catalogued two of the four volumes of correspondence with one already available on the web. The period covered is from 1834 to 1871.

The Union covered 46 parishes and townships but a number broke

away in 1840 so that by 1851 it was covering a population of some 6500 in 1851 of which around 30 were in the workhouse at any one time. Many of the records cover the bureaucracy of the system but they also contain references to the individuals caught up in the system, some of it making interesting reading with elements which would be readily included in modern soap plots!

The Group gave examples of their findings which included alleged irregularities by the local guardians, improper relationships between inmates and the workhouse master, and the treatment of the poor. The Group hope to have their work completed during 2010 and available through TNA shortly afterwards. One Metcalfe entry already posted is for Anthony Metcalfe waiting for a payment for work done in November 1853 (ref:MH12/14588/394).



The entrance to the Reeth workhouse was to the right of the building above; the house at the rear right was the master's house.

The digitisation should make more details available of those caught up in poor law net but it will not be a definitive record of all those who went into the system. Other records are often available through the County Record Office (*Northallerton hold the Minute Books of the Guardians from across the county*), from reports in the local papers of inspector's reports and guardian's meetings and personal papers.

For those of you interested you can see the Group's work already transferred to the website at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk. For information relating to other unions see Gibson Guides to Poor Law Unions Vols 1-4 and www.workhouses.org which has some useful countrywide information.

If you are in the area the Swaledale Museum holds regular meetings and a selection of the topics for early 2010 are listed as follows:

27 January: Death by Laudenham - Patent Medicines Janet Bishop 2pm

17 February: Prehistoric City in Swaledale! Helen Bainbridge 2pm

31 March: Swaledale: a Rural Backwater? Change & Decay 1890-1950

Duncan Bythell 2pm.

Cost for visitors £4 on the door. Above Meetings held at Reeth Methodist Chapel Schoolroom. More info 01748 884118 or museum.swaledale@btinternet.com



Society

News

At the recent Federation of Family History Societies AGM and seminar event at the end of August your Society was presented with the *Best Website Award - Encouraging Excellence in Family History Websites* in the One Named Society category.

This prestigious award recognises the superb website of our Society and in particular the excellent work of our webmaster **Carol Herbert** (seen here proudly displaying the award).

The Society also received a commendation (3rd place) for the Mecca News - this after winning the award last year.

On 7 November your committee is to meet to discuss what and how the Society should be acting in the future. In common with many other Family History Societies the Metcalfe Society has seen the internet become a major force in family history research which has affected membership, income and those volunteering to assist in running FHS's. We are not insulated from the ongoing changes and their effects however we are still in a unique position because of our wealth of information relating to the Clan. The committee will be looking on how to build on this position. It is intended to provide a report back on the discussions in the April Mecca News.

Metcalfe Computer Index. The process of converting the Metcalfe Society's Computer Index from Filing Assistant to a more up-to-date format has now been completed and uploaded to the website.

Members can now search through over 102,000 individual Metcalfe records - simply log in to the Members area at www.metcalfes-online.co.uk/members.

This adds to our online searchable databases for Births, Deaths, Marriages and Wills.

If you spot any errors or would like to include your own data please get in touch with **Carol Herbert** at webadmin@metcalfe.org.uk.

New Birth Brief Booklet available.

Sterling work by Brian Metcalfe has resulted in a new BBB being printed. Updated to the end of August 2009 it a valuable aid for members giving details of Metcalfe interests and contact details. Launched at the recent Muster they are available at £5 plus p&p. Go to our website and order today or contact our Archivist **Brian Metcalfe**!



Online BMD records have been updated since the Muster

The Marriage Records have been updated to now include Marriage Date, Age and Father, where known. The database includes births from UK, Ireland, India and a few miscellaneous entries.

The Death/Burial Records have been updated to now include Maiden Name, Mother's name, Father's name, Spouse, Date of Birth, Date of Burial and Cause of Death, where known. The database includes births from UK, Ireland, India and a few miscellaneous entries.

The Birth Records have been updated to now include Father's forenames and baptism dates, where known. The database includes births from UK, Ireland, India and a few miscellaneous entries. **Carol Herbert**

LISTS

A new List has been sent for adding to the database
Manchester Catholic Records 1821-1909.

Liz Waller M1189 has set herself a huge task of transcribing over 3000 shipping records. Watch this space.

We have had problems with the Metcalfe Society server during late October and early November which resulted in e-mails being "bounced". The problem has now been sorted (10 November) so if you attempted to contact the society and didn't succeed please try again.

DEADLINE for the April Mecca News is 6 February 2010

Articles comments or snippets to the Editor.

Craven Household Almanack Directory 1911 - Bordley

C Metcalfe; - **Metcalfe**, Scosthrop House; **Andrew Metcalfe**, Malham;
Parker Metcalfe, Airton.

From David Lambert M11 7



To see the range of activities carried out by the Washfold Farm Leyburn operation have a look at their website www.metcalfefarms.com. - Ed.

Thought you might like this - not many people would understand why I'd be hanging out the window of a car on the M6 to take these pictures (we were stuck in a jam, so the traffic wasn't moving too fast!). **Anita Metcalfe M1142**



your e-mails and letters

With reference to the Hearth Tax article, Mecca News August 2009, I can add a little more information.

As you say, "it was an unpopular form of tax revenue" The one thing that made it particularly unpopular was the fact that it gave powers to the Officers to enter all houses to ensure that the correct number of hearths and stoves had been declared Until then, an Englishman's home had been his castle.

Introduced in 1662, it was made an Excise Duty in 1663. The tax was repealed by William & Mary in the first year of their reign (1688), as they put it, "in order to erect a lasting monument of Their Majesties' goodness in every hearth in the kingdom".

It was replaced in 1696 by Inhabited House Duty, which included a Window Tax of 4 shillings per annum on a house with 10 or more but less than 20 windows and 8 shillings for more than 20 windows. The rates varied until repealed in 1851. This caused

many people to brick up some windows for obvious reasons and the evidence can still be seen today in many ancient buildings. There is good reason to believe that the reduced light caused a great deal of serious eye strain problems! On a separate note, in Mecca Bits & Bobs, you mention Julian Metcalfe. At one stage I actually contacted his secretary to see if we could recruit him She later replied to me to say that he was too busy but wished us success. I have three things partially, but not completely, in common with this gentleman.

The first is obviously the name Julian: I do not know of any other Julian Metcalfes

The second is the fact that he was educated at Harrow: I was educated at Harrow

The third is the fact that he is a multi-millionaire: I am still working on *my* first million! Sincere regards,

Julian Metcalfe (M902)

Last night I was reading the August edition of *Mecca News* in bed and was electrified when I closed it and saw the photos of Rigg House on the back cover.

If you flip back to Mecca News No. 23 for December 1987, you will find an article headed *Murder Most Foul* and in the next Mecca News, No. 24, you will find my contribution to the matters raised in the first article. To the best of my knowledge, there was no further comment about it from anyone and I could not get any further. I wonder if it would be possible to reprint the two articles - or at any rate, a precis - and see if, now that there are so many more Members and they are all so computer-savvy, some more information about the mysterious Rigg House might come to light? (*I will see what can be done for a future issue-Ed*)

The trouble is that Rigg House is not important enough to have had its history recorded, but it still seems odd to me that the reason for demolishing part of the house has become so clouded in myth.

Miss Snowden, in researching the Hillary owners of Rigg House for her friend, spent a lot of time working through the Hartley/Thwaite papers at the Y.A.S. and in doing so, came

across a lot of references to Metcalfes. She sent me a precis of the Will of my 5th great-grandfather, Robert Metcalfe of Birkrigg, who died in 1732/33, leaving 'my new dwelling house and stable and a calf parrock on the backside of the dwelling house to my son Robert...'

She was quite determined that Birkrigg had belonged to the Hillarys, whereas I thought a succession of my Metcalfes had owned it and we had a lengthy correspondence on the matter.

Miss Snowden died some years ago. I called to see her some time before she died and she showed me an oil painting she had done of Birkrigg from the vantage point of her friend's Rigg House across the road. I was interested in it as at that stage I had not been there. When she died, her Executor wrote to tell me and I asked her if I could buy the painting. She said that Miss Snowden would have been delighted that someone wanted it and she promptly sent it to me and it hangs over my bed, though its value lies rather in its association than in any artistic merit!

Has anyone from the Metcalfe Society trawled through the Hartley/Thwaite papers?

Shirley Withers M33

In Mecca News 81 (April 2007 News, p30) we asked why there was a plaque in Stokesley Church near Middlesbrough dedicated to the memory of the Reverend Thomas Metcalfe. **Bill Metcalfe M398** has solved the "mystery". He writes "...because his son owned Busby Hall, Stokesley."

1st Regiment of Royal Tower Hamlets Militia
Adjutant - **Jas Metcalf**
16 th February 1797 - WO/68/417/1

FFHS NEWS

The British Library has received a commitment of £33m from the Government to preserve and make accessible the world's greatest newspaper collection. The money was announced by the Prime Minister as one of a number of capital projects for the cultural and creative industries.

The British Library collects a copy of every local, regional and national newspaper published in the UK, plus 250 international titles. However the collection is currently housed in dilapidated conditions in Colindale in North London where 15% of the collection is already beyond use and 19% is in peril. The £33m investment will allow the collection to be moved to a state of the art storage facility in Yorkshire while allowing digital and microfilm access to the collection from the British Library's flagship building at St Pancras in London.

Over 190,000 Welsh wills (some 800,000 pages) have been digitised and are now available on the Library's website or direct on their online catalogue and are free to view. Wills which were proved in the Welsh ecclesiastical courts before the introduction of Civil Probate on 11 January 1858 have long been deposited at The National Library of Wales. An online index and an opportunity to view digital images of these wills within the Library building has been available for some time, however, remote users can also view the digital images following the release of a new site on 16 October. As well as being a fabulous source of information the National Library's online wills offer the ability to view all 193,000 wills free of charge, the Library only charges for providing copies of them. More information can be viewed at <http://www.llgc.org.uk/> (*Apparently only two Metcalfes-Ed*)

War Graves Photographic Project (TWGPP) This is a volunteer organisation, working with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, with the aim of photographing every British and Commonwealth war grave, individual memorial, MoD grave and family memorial of serving military personnel from WW1 to the present day and make them available within a searchable database.

The National Archives has announced that records from the General Register Office: Miscellaneous Foreign Returns, 1831-1964 (RG 32) have been added to the online service at BMD Registers. Searching the records is free, but there is a charge to download images of the original documents. The records contain largely non-statutory documents relating to births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials abroad, and on British as well as foreign ships, of British subjects, nationals of the colonies, the Commonwealth and countries under British jurisdiction. Events affecting some foreign nationals are also included.

THE ELDON TESTIMONIAL

In May 1829 several meetings were held by *"Noblemen and Gentlemen admiring the character of the Earl of Eldon assembled at Lord Arden's House in St James's Place (London) when it was unanimously agreed that the following proposal be submitted to the public."* The proposal was to set up a testimony to the Earl of Eldon to commemorate his *"long and laborious public life"*.

Subscriptions were raised and in May 1830 at a public meeting the ELDON LAW Scholarship at Oxford was inaugurated with the annual scholarship not to exceed £200pa. In addition to recording the high esteem in which Lord Eldon was held by the law profession the monies raised were to provide financial support to *"meritorious individuals"*.

Many of the City of London law practitioners provided subscriptions including **Thomas Metcalfe**, Esq, New Square, 5 Lincoln Inn in the sum of £10. Thomas is also recorded as of Portland Place and Regency Square, Brighton and in 1827 is listed on the second list of Commissioners appointed by the Lord Chancellor (Lord Eldon). He is the father of Wm Marwood, Henry Howe and Hope Cranstoun amongst others who have featured in articles in the past.

The Eldon Testimonial is still running. By 1961 the fund was struggling but the sale of the gilt investment enabled the scheme to continue and the fund was further strengthened by the raising of additional funds in 1987 and every ten years thereafter.

Lord Eldon was born John Scott of Newcastle Upon Tyne in 1751. Son of a coal merchant he went to University College Oxford. Called to the bar he successfully developed his practice and became Solicitor General in 1788 and part of Pitt's Government for the following thirteen years before achieving the post of Lord Chancellor in 1801; a post he held almost continuously for the next quarter of a century. He followed the law rigidly and was accused by his opponents of religious bigotry, standing against law reform and preventing a free system of imports. However as High Steward of Oxford University he endeared himself to the University. In later life he was a major patron of the Royal Berkshire Hospital and was married to the famous Bessie Surtees. In spite of his failings he had numerous public buildings and plazas named after him as well as the Eldon Testimonial. He died in 1838.



University College
Oxford



The Society held its 29th AGM in Hawes in October incorporated in our now annual Muster. I am always amazed at how quickly the day goes by! We had a reasonable turnout although for a variety of health reasons a few members who wanted to attend were unable at the last minute to do so.

Chairs The Museum at Hawes is a fitting location deep in the dales for our annual gathering of the Clan. I would like once more to thank the Museum for their generosity in permitting us to use their main Hall and the adjacent room for our Muster and also committee meetings. Especially after I managed to set off the burglar alarm at the last committee meeting! Not a good idea, I now know, to open the door when it was getting rather stuffy in the committee room, after being assured by colleagues the alarm was disarmed. The alarm sounded everywhere in the Museum and the whole complex had to be evacuated with the fire brigade, police and ambulance service being summoned. Certainly one of the most embarrassing "why does it happen to me moments" in 2009!

We were obviously forgiven by the Museum and extremely fortunate this year to hear a talk from the Museum Curator Fiona Rosher had selected certain Metcalfe items from their collection for us to see. In a fascinating talk we learnt how the collection was collected by those doyens of Yorkshire Dales history, Marie Hartley, Joan Ingilby and Ellen Pontefract. Anyone who has never read one of

their books could do no worse, in these dark autumnal or winter nights, than seeking out and reading their books on the way village life in Yorkshire was lived in the 19th and 20th centuries especially. The books and their indexes and bibliographies at the end are full of references to Dales families, Metcalfes of course included! Have a look!

At the AGM business proceeded smoothly as far as I could judge. It was great to see Fred Parker and Richard & Phyllis Bederberg M1369 from Minnesota. The members agreed to follow the suggestion of the committee that we should keep subscriptions at their current levels.

I was honoured to tell the meeting that we had been awarded the One Name Society Web award by the Federation of Family History Societies, as well as receiving another commendation for the Mecca News from the Elizabeth Simpson Award judges. It is especially pleasing to receive the plaudits of others, who are comparing our efforts with those of other societies. Whilst we do not set out to prepare the Website or compile the journal with the intention of winning prizes, we should derive much pleasure when our peers select our efforts for praise!

All officers were re-elected and a new volunteer joined the committee, namely Martin Metcalfe. He is a welcome new recruit to the committee. Martin is co-ordinating member's DNA research. He was kept busy at the Muster answering queries and

explaining the nature of this work. We really could do with more volunteers for this work, especially in the major Metcalfe lines. Other One Name Societies have produced some very interesting results and been able to link families, who were previously unaware of their connection. Its not too expensive and there may be ways of registering at a time when 'special offers' exist as Martin can explain. My frustration is that I cannot participate because my Metcalfe links are through the female line only!

I would like to thank your committee for their work over the last year and also those who this year were particularly responsible for the Muster arrangements: Lesley Longworth, Josie Hopper, Margaret Hodgson, Brian and Ena Metcalfe, and David Metcalfe. On a sad note you will wish to join me in extending condolences to David (and his mother Margaret) following the recent death of Alfred, his father, a few days after the Muster.

The committee agreed in July that with the changing pattern of the ways in which family history is carried out and with our 30th anniversary next year, it would be appropriate for us to hold an extra committee meeting, devoted to developing a strategy for the next 5 years of the Society. We met in November for this purpose. A number of ideas came out of our day, particularly how to conserve membership and indeed increase it. We tried to identify why members joined and left, as well as how they might be encouraged to use our resources and

become members. Given that we have 771 email addresses in the Master Membership File for past/existing members and another 320+ specific subscribers to the email notices we periodically send out you can see that a number of users and members are connected to the internet. Indeed about double the actual paid up membership number who receive the magazine. Possibly a new internet membership category should be available with some element of 'pay for view' to see records. These, as I write, are no more than the results of some 'blue sky thinking'. We have delegated the task of exploring issues raised during the strategy day to 2 small sub-committees who will report back before next March. We will discuss their recommendations at the Spring committee meeting and advise you of our thoughts before the AGM in 2010.

The Society attended the NW Group Fair in Liverpool and was able to recapture two erstwhile members and sign up a new one. I also somehow sold one of our mugs to a non Metcalfe! We will be represented on the NW group tables part of the time during the weekend of next year's Who do You Think You Are Event at Olympia, so if you are in attendance do try to visit that stand. Hopefully I will be present.

I would like to take the opportunity of wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with lots of success for your research as well as thanking you for being members in 2009!

David Lambert M11

National Farm Surveys 1940-1943

About three years ago I went with Lancashire Record Office's support group, the Friends of Lancashire Archives, on a two-day trip to the National Archives at Kew. This was my first visit and in advance of it I had a browse through the website (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk); this included a list of 200 or so documents which are consulted most frequently by family and local historians. "National Farm Surveys 1940-1943" caught my eye as many in our Metcalfe family were farmers in the Yorkshire Dales at this time and I decided that this would be my focus.

There is a very informative 8-page leaflet available on the topic and below are some extracts from it which explain clearly the reasons for the survey and its scope. *"When the Second World War began in September 1939, Britain was faced with an urgent need to increase home food production, as imports of food and fertilisers were drastically cut. The area of land under cultivation had to be increased significantly and quickly. The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries was empowered to set up County War Agricultural Executive Committees (County War Ags) to which the authority to increase food production was delegated. The Committees had powers to direct what was grown, to take possession of land, to terminate tenancies, to inspect property, and to organise mobile groups of farm workers. Much of the work was executed by district committees and sub-committees while the Executive itself maintained a supervisory role.*

One of the first responsibilities of the WAECs was to direct a ploughing-up campaign under which large expanses of grassland (in some areas land that had not seen the plough since medieval or even prehistoric times) were prepared for cultivation. To assist in this campaign, in June 1940 a farm survey was initiated with the immediate purpose of increasing food production. Farms were classified in terms of their productive state, A, B, or C; these categories related more to the physical condition of the land than to the managerial efficiency (or otherwise) of the farmer. However, it was also vital to assess the ability of each farmer to play his part in the national food production plan, and in cases of gross inefficiency or dereliction, land was taken into the control of the Committees and labour organised accordingly. Between June 1940 and early 1941 some 85% of the agricultural area was surveyed - all but the smallest farms.

*Once the short-term objective of increasing food production had been met, thought was given to implementing a more general **National Farm Survey** with a longer-term purpose of providing data that would form the basis of post-war planning. [It is these records which form the MAF32 archive held at*

Kew.] As a source for local and family historians the records of the National Farm Survey are of great value, and present an enormous database of land ownership and land usage in mid-20th century Britain.

The scope and purpose of the more extended survey consisted of 3 components:

- *Primary Farm Record for each farm providing information on conditions of tenure and occupation; and on the natural state of the farm, including its fertility, the adequacy of its equipment and of its water and electricity supplies, the degree of infestations with weeds or pests, and the management condition of the farm.*
- *The complete 1941 June 4th census returns for the farm including statistics of crop acreages and livestock numbers and information on rent and length of occupancy.*
- *A map of the farm showing its boundaries and the fields contained in it. [Maps in MAF73]*

Every farm and holding of 5 acres and more was to be surveyed, including those of market gardeners, horticulturalists, and poultry-keepers. The Survey was begun in the Spring of 1941 and largely completed by the end of 1943. It was undertaken by the district committees mostly made up of experienced, practical farmers who inspected each farm and interviewed the farmer. The notes compiled in the field formed the Primary Farm Record and were matched with the 1941 June 4th agricultural returns. Some 300,000 farms/holdings were involved at a cost of £20,000.

There was a change in emphasis from the A, B, and C classification of the 1940 survey (see above). The classification now referred much more to how the farmer managed his resources - well (A); fairly (B); or badly (C). Of the 300,000 farms, 58% were A, 37% B, and 5% C. It was quite possible to have a farmer of A capabilities managing a farm where productivity was low because of poor soils; in this case his classification would be A. Grades B or C could be given for reasons of age or lack of capital. If accorded for reasons of personal failings, these might be amplified as due to incapacity brought about by poor health or the decease of a farmer leaving his widow to carry on; lack of ambition, laziness or ignorance; and weaknesses of the flesh such as drunkenness."

MAF32's records are arranged by county and then alphabetically by parish within each county. I consulted the printed catalogues for MAF32 and found that, for example, records for Yorkshire West Riding were contained in boxes numbered 1111-1169, and that the alphabetical list of parishes with their individual code numbers followed this numbering through, 'A's beginning in 1111 and so on. The parishes (civil, not ecclesiastical) I was particu-

larly interested in were Horton-in-Ribblesdale and Litton. Horton was in box 1139 and had the parish code of 457, Litton in box 1146, parish 426. The full reference for ordering the documents was respectively MAF32/1139/457 and MAF32/1146/426. Each of these packages (marked with the parish name and parish code) was a large envelope containing 4 sets of forms for each farm, namely:

- A return of 4th June 1941 showing details of small fruit, vegetables, and stocks of hay and straw. [This form was not applicable to any of the Dales farms and was in each case marked 'Nil'.]
- A return of 4th June 1941 with respect to Agricultural land.
- The Management of Farm survey, an inspection subsequent to 4th June 1941.
- A further return, marked as Supplementary Form, showing motive power, rent, and length of occupancy.

Below is the information I transcribed with regard to the farm at Litton which the Metcalfe family ran, except for a brief spell of other tenancy in the 1930s, for many years from 1918. For the sake of brevity I have included only those entries specifically applicable to this property.



Sawyersgarth, Litton. Walter Metcalfe. Reference 426/2

Agricultural Land (as at 4 June 1941)

Potatoes, main or 2nd earlies - 1/4 acre; Turnips/swedes for fodder - 3/4 acre; Kale for fodder - 1 acre.

Permanent grass for mowing this season - 18 acres; Permanent grass for grazing (not for mowing this season) - 16 acres.

Total 36 acres Rough grazing 150 acres

Livestock

Cows/heifers in milk - 6; Bulls being reared for service - 1; Other cattle, female, 2 years and over - 10; Other cattle under 1 year (excl. bull calves) - 5. Total 22. Ewes to be put to ram in 1941 - 14; Other sheep over 1 year - 90; Other sheep/lambs under 1 year - 86. Total 190.

Fowls over 6 months - 10; Fowls under 6 months - 12. Total 22.

Labour employed (occupier, wife, domestic servants not included) None.

Management of Farm

Occupier: Walter Metcalfe.

Owner or tenant: Tenant.

If tenant, name and address of owner: L R Wager, 3 Mile Cross, Reading.

Occupier a full time farmer? Yes.

Is there any other land occupied or utilised? No.

Condition of soil - 50% medium, 50% peaty (bog).

Farm conveniently laid out? Yes.

% land naturally good or only fair? - 9% good, 91 % fair.

Situation in regard to road - Good. *Situation in regard to railway* - Bad.

Condition of farmhouse - Fair. *Condition of farm buildings* - Fair.

Farm roads - None. *Fences* - Good. *Ditches* - None. *Field drainage* - Good.

Cottages - None. *Animal/bird/pest infestations* - None. *Derelict fields* - None.

Water to farm - Piped from spring. *Water to farm buildings* - Piped from spring. *Water to fields* - From stream. *Electricity* - None.

Condition of arable land - Good. *Condition of pasture* - Good. *Use of fertilisers* - Adequate. Classification A. General comments: 165 acres rough grazing, of which 100 acres black, poor heather, overstocked, but not regularly burnt, part infested with bracken. 65 acres white land, infested with bracken. All dry land.

Grass fields ploughed up for 1940 harvest - None.

Grass fields ploughed up for 1941 harvest - 2 acres Kale (under WAEC's direction).

Motive Power/Tractors - None. *Rent paid* - £90 for 186 acres.

Number of years occupier in the holding - 1 1/4 years.



This information gives a remarkable snapshot of life on the Metcalfe family farm during the early 1940s, something which I feel would not now be known from any other source. As virtually every farm in the country was surveyed, anyone with farming family at the time would be able to see a similar description. I found the search method described in the leaflet easy to follow and would recommend investigation of this unusual source.

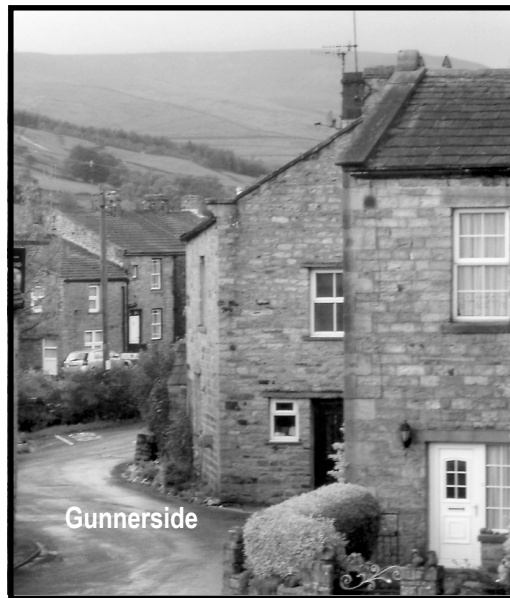
Joan Metcalfe M63

(Pictures courtesy of Joan Metcalfe)

From George Buxton M3
The Morning Chronicle (London, England)
Saturday 14th March 1818 - Issue 15247

George's Coffee House Temple Bar 6th March.

The Committee on the Miners appeal, impressed as they feel more fully, with the great importance of the subject committed to their charge having taken the Petitions submitted to them by the meeting held in the London Tavern in Bishopgate Street on 24th ultimo, into their consideration, and having heard the very important information laid before them, respecting the Distresses that do at this very moment exist in the mining Districts, in the North of England, and viewing the probability of their labours upon the great and ultimate object of their meetings wishes being protracted by the necessary delay attaining their enquires; think it prudent in the first instance to call a Public Meeting to be held at the London Tavern, Bishopgate Street, on Wednesday next at one o' clock, to consider the propriety and absolute necessity of an immediate and most liberal subscription being raised to relieve the present most dreadful and unhappy Distress of the suffering Miners.



The Committee submitted to the consideration of the public, the following Deposition of Mr Thomas Buxton, which they consider as most extremely important:- Thomas Buxton, of Gunnerside, in Swaledale, in the Parish of Grinton, in the County of York, miller, and dealer in flour & meal. Maketh Oath and saith that his wife Susannah Buxton, is a Midwife and in the course of her practise, she attended about five or six weeks ago **Christopher Metcalfe's** wife, living at Gunnerside as aforesaid in labour of her sixth child; that when the child was born they had nothing to wrap the infant

in; and that there was nothing upon the bed to cover the poor woman or child, not even a blanket or sheet upon the bed. And the bed tick was filled with chaff. That said Buxton's wife was obliged to send to her own house for the blanket

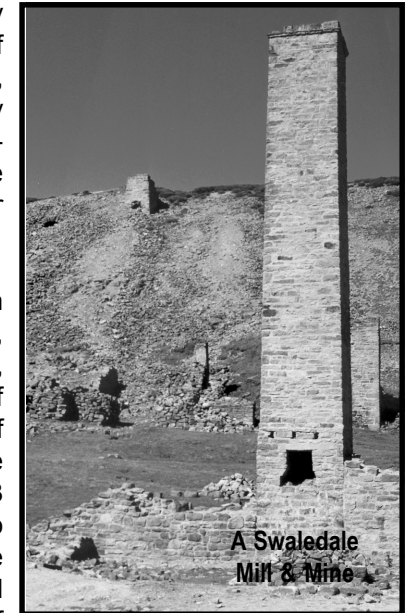
off his own bed to cover the poor woman, or she would most probably have died. That the rest of the children had no clothes, but only clouts (that is rags) upon them, and that they had nothing whatever in the house but a little of the very coarse bread made of oatmeal; no milk, beer, or particle of food, and that he went, two days before he set off for London, to see the poor woman, and she told him she had got through her month as by a miracle of God, having been supported by nothing but a little oatmeal and water during all that time.

The said Christopher Metcalfe rents some land at Gunnerside, but by distress and poverty to sell his cow on the approach of winter, and is now liable to pay poor rates and other taxes for the support of others, while he himself has little or no food, and cannot obtain relief from the Parish by reason of renting his land. That the said Christopher Metcalfe works in the Surrender Mine belonging to Lady Charlotte Denys, Mr Chaytor and others.

That Christopher Bell living in Gunnerside, having a wife and two children, was reduced to such distress and starvation, that the said Thomas Buxton was induced of his own accord, to apply to the Overseers of the township of Abbotside, in Yorkshire for the relief for the said Bell, and obtain the sum of 3 shillings per week (much too little, doubtless, to support a man and his family) and they were consequently obliged to live for four days and three nights upon a quarter of a peck of oatmeal, which weighs 0³/₄ of a pound; and that said Buxton knows many more instances of the great distress.

That he has supplied the miners in Swaledale, working in mines now tenanted by Messrs Alderson and other gentlemen, till he has lost nearly all his property in advances to the poor miners'. That had it not been for the advance of a considerable sum of money made to him by Mr. Hall to purchase bread corn for the miners, he declares upon his oath that many people would, as he believes, have been reduced to the great misery, if not actually starved to death.

Sworn at the Mansion House, London 18th March 1818
 before C Smith Esq. Lord Mayor.



A CD holding 20,000 connected individuals is now available to Members
(4,000 entries added since V1)
Multi - Mecca Tree (V3)

*This many branched tree includes a connection to the Royal Family via a marriage between the Harewood House Lascelles and the Porch House Metcalfes
- and more laughably - a connection to Stan Laurel, alias Arthur Stanley Jefferson,
to whom all below are related.*

Members known to be connected to Multi-Tree :-

4, 6, 11, 13, 28, 29, 33, 39, 41, 44, 46, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 62, 63, 65, 66, 69, 70, 73, 77, 84, 86, 90, 92, 97, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 106, 108, 119, 121, 123, 124, 127, 129, 132, 133, 135, 141, 142, 143, 155, 159, 160, 162, 165, 173, 177, 178, 180, 195, 199, 211, 212, 217, 235, 242, 246, 248, 252, 255, 256, 257, 266, 267, 268, 275, 277, 280, 282, 288, 292, 296, 297, 300, 302, 305, 307, 311, 317, 319, 321, 326, 331, 337, 338, 345, 346, 353, 371, 384, 390, 397, 398, 400, 403, 406, 410, 415, 419, 423, 427, 428, 439, 446, 449, 458, 466, 472, 475, 480, 484, 493, 501, 510, 512, 517, 521, 522, 528, 529, 538, 539, 545, 546, 547, 549, 550, 553, 554, 566, 581, 591, 594, 597, 601, 606, 608, 614, 616, 617, 623, 626, 631, 632, 637, 639, 659, 644, 646, 654, 664, 668, 670, 675, 676, 678, 700, 701, 712, 720, 731, 758, 769, 772, 777, 782, 783, 787, 790, 791, 806, 821, 824, 839, 843, 847, 849, 850, 851, 855, 856, 859, 860, 870, 871, 875, 883, 887, 896, 897, 905, 907, 908, 916, 918, 957, 958, 964, 967, 969, 970, 971, 987, 988, 989, 992, 993, 997, 999, 1004, 1015, 1020, 1025, 1036, 1042, 1043, 1066, 1076, 1077, 1081, 1082, 1103, 1122, 1127, 1129, 1139, 1141, 1145, 1148, 1150, 1156, 1169, 1173, 1176, 1183, 1189, 1195, 1197, 1209, 1218, 1220, 1227, 1229, 1230, 1231, 1232, 1264, 1265, 1268, 1269, 1272, 1274, 1276, 1278, 1280, 1288, 1291, 1295, 1313, 1319, 1323, 1324, 1341, 1345, 1352, 1354, 1364, 1368, 1371, 1375, 1379, 1386, 1391, 1392, 1393, 1404, 1415, 1417, 1419, 1430, 1439, 1446, 1450, 1455, 1484, 1487, 1512, 1513, 1517, 1521, 1527, 1539, 1550, 1558, 1562, 1563, 1571, 1585, 1589, 1604, 1618, 1645, 1665, 1669, 1671, 1672, 1682, 1690, 1700, 1713, 1716, 1721, 1729, 1737, 1756, 1779, ...

For the Multi-Mecca Generations disc, V3, send a £10 cheque, made out to 'The Metcalfe Society', to Mr B Metcalfe, 31 Chatsworth Court, 35 Devonshire Park Road, Davenport, Stockport, Cheshire SK2 6JN.

■■■■

Multi-Mecca is designed to be run by 'Generations Family Tree' which runs under 'Windows XP' and is obtainable from :-
Suppliers of Software for Family Historians, 5 Mexborough Business Centre,
College Road, Mexborough,
South Yorkshire, S64 9JP Tel 01709 580066
[http://www.twrcomputing.co.uk/store/Generations Family Tree.html](http://www.twrcomputing.co.uk/store/Generations_Family_Tree.html)

Previous purchasers of Mult1 or Mult2 need only send £2 to obtain Mult3 ; this later version is on this CD together with a copy of PAF5 - the Church of Latter Day Saints family history program - and a GEDCOM file which may not contain all the data of Mult3, but which should run with PAF and other Family History programs .

Install Generations Family Tree ; copy the data file on this CD into file 'Generations' which you have just created .
 Open 'Generations' and run. Select:- Easy Tree ; the file Mult3 ; List ; Index : then choose a name and click.

*Because of the restrictions of the Data Protection Act
dates and data relating to individuals born, baptised or christened
after 1920 have been erased.*

Charles Metcalfe M305

● **With lands of such** varied elevation and width, with such
 ● varieties of quality of moor, dale, and meadow pastures, the
 ● Medecalfs were able to import, breed, and rear improved horses,
 ● cattle and sheep.
 ● While all Medecalfs were active master graziers, horse breeders,
 ● sheepmasters, and lead miners, the Medecalfs of the Bainbrig and
 ● Thornton Rust branches were more especially eminent in legal and
 ● military leadership, and those of Swaledale were more so in
 ● ecclesiastical and educational life.
 ● *Extract from Medecalf Book by Rev Thomas Metcalf 1930*
 ● *available from www.metcalfs.org.uk*

THERE WAS A FLOWER

Provided by *Mrs Eveline Rhodes M336.*

Louisa Metcalfe was born in 1858 the daughter of Thomas Metcalfe (b1819) and his second wife Elizabeth Auton. The picture below shows the family c1880 with Louisa 2nd left.



Louisa lived in Askrigg, Wensleydale and wrote a number of poems commemorating the lives of friends who died young. The following is in remembrance of Sarah Mason of Askrigg:

*There was a flower when just in bloom,
Was called to heaven on high,
To sing and pray both night and day -
To bloom and never die.*

*She loved to sing while here below,
But now she'll sing above;
She's joined the choir at God's right hand,
To sing redeeming love.*

*She loved to be where music was-
Music was her delight;
Her voice it was both sweet and clear,
She'll now sing day and night.*

*And what a happy death she died;
She sung unto the last -
She's now gone to that home above,
Her life below is past.*

*When people called to see their friend,
They could not help but cry;
It seems so hard to see a flower
When just in bloom, to die.*

*She told them not to cry for her;
They'd more need go to God,
And ask him to forgive their sins,
And tread the narrow road.*

*She used to meet in class below,
But now she's gone above -
She's joined a Class at God's right hand
A class of peace and love.*

*She sought and found her home above,
That house not made with hands;
She'll wave her palm in his abode,
And join the glorious band.*

*She's landed safe in yon sweet home -
There's thousands gone before;
They've washed their robes and made them white
They're now on canaan's shore.*

<i>She battled on - the victory won, And fought a glorious fight; She gained the victory above, And battled for the right.</i>	<i>And what rejoicing there will be, When families meet above - When fathers, mothers, children too, Will sing his matchless love.</i>
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From the Dalesman June 2009

Article (page3) - 'Fred's love of art' about Fred Lawson of Castle Bolton. "In the 1930s Fred married **Muriel Metcalfe**, herself a talented and popular artist, and not surprisingly, daughter Sonia became a painter too...." Also article on Dougie Lampkin - Yorkshire motorbike trial sportsman - written by **Sophie Metcalfe**.

Charles Metcalfe M305

ARCHIVIST COORDINATOR'S REPORT DECEMBER 2009

Once again, I must offer my apologies for any unseemly delay in dealing with your enquiries, particularly during September & October. Ena & I moved house at the end of September, a task which I would not like to face ever again, especially when downsizing added to the problems. Please note our new address, which you will find inside the front cover. Should you need to contact either of us by telephone, our new number is 0161 456 7594. Our email addresses are unchanged.

It was nice to meet some of you at the Muster. Being able to visualise a face alongside a birth brief or address, is a great advantage. Now that the transfer of our database to an online version has been completed, David Metcalfe is busy adding lots of updates to the system, which will make it even more informative. Many of you brought information to the Muster, which you very kindly gave, so that we could check for any facts which were new to us. We are always grateful for anything which will improve the data we hold & it could always be the missing link which we are all hoping to find, when embarking on the trail to our ancestors.

We have updated the Birth Brief Booklet, to August 2009. The reprinted version is available, still at a cost of only £5. In order to avoid any potential breach of the Data Protection Act 1998, all addresses have been removed. If you would like to contact any other members, you can still do so via me. With the exception of a few members who have asked the Society not to do so, contact details will be sent to you. Should you request contact with an ex member, I will seek their agreement to release details, provided of course, that they are still at the last address recorded by the Society

Please keep your enquiries rolling in. Our two researchers, Nina Benson & Edwin Metcalf have a wealth of experience, which is readily available to members, both new & old. We may have much of the information you are seeking, if someone has already researched your line. We can also put you in touch with other members to whom you are connected, as mentioned above.

If in doubt, try us out. **Brian Metcalfe (M1554)**

AMENDMENTS & BRIEFS FROM EXISTING MEMBERS

(Additional or corrected entries within the briefs are shown in bold print)

M149 Mrs Pearl Tedds 8 Beresford Place, West Moonah, Tasmania 7009, Australia rtedds@iprimus.com.au **D.o. Squire Priest & Ivy Elizabeth (Wakeling) Mt m 27/08/1927 Nottingham District.** Squire Priest b 13/04/1867 Harrogate natural s.o. Ann Mt & Cornelius Priest. Ann Mt b 09/10/1847 Copgrove d.o. David & Charlotte Scurr (Eaton) Mte m 28/11/1844 Northallerton. David bpt 23/06/1822 Cold Kirby s.o.

David & Ann (Abram) Mt m 02/09/1811 Old Byland. David b 06/08/1784 Cold Kirby s.o. Thomas & Mary (Clarke) Mt m 13/09/1763 Stamfordham, Nbl. Thomas b c1730 s.o. Thomas & Elizabeth (Stillington) Mt of Cold Kirby. **Connects M434, M950, M1420, M1609 & M1732**

M995 Mr Roger L H Metcalf Oaklea, Mapledrakes Road, Ewhurst, Surrey GU6 7OP S.o. Frank Leslie & Hilda Edith (Barnham) Mt m 1932 Kingston on Thames District, Sry. Frank Leslie b 26/12/1900 Fulham District, London s.o. Frank & Kate (Millham) Mt m 1900 Sandhurst, Kent. Frank b 1876 Grainsby, Lin. s.o. Joseph & Charlotte (Wilkinson) Mt m 1871 Caistor District, Lin. Joseph b 10/03/1844 Ludborough, Lin. s.o. Michael & Frances (Milson) Mt m 1841 Louth District, Lin. Michael bpt 10/12/1809 Ludborough **s.o. William & Hannah (North) Mt m 23/10/1794 Ludborough.** William bpt 14/04/1765 Humberston, Lin. s.o. Robert & Ann Mt. **Connects M1773 & M1781**

M1439 Mr Peter P Metcalfe 17 Wildmoor Walk, West Leigh, Havant, Hampshire PO9 5QZ pete.metcalf@sky.com S.o. James Henry & Margaret Olivia (Cox) Mte m 19/01/1952 Don Valley District. James Henry b 21/10/1924 Stokesley s.o. William & Mary Anna (Pennock) m 1921 Stokesley District. William b 1896 Bilsdale s.o. William & Hannah (Wilson) Mt m 29/12/1894 Bilsdale. William bpt 09/07/1864 Bilsdale s.o. William & Sarah (**Garbutt**) Mt m 21/06/1862 Bilsdale. William bpt 15/03/1831 Bilsdale s.o. Alexander & Mary (Tyerman) Mt m 16/07/1825 Northallerton. Alexander b 14/12/1803 Kirby Wiske s.o. John & Catherine (Hornby) Mte m 29/09/1803 Kirby Wiske. **John bpt 17/01/1776 Topcliffe s.o. Alexander & Hannah (Wilkinson) Mte m 31/05/1773 Topcliffe. Alexander bpt ? 26/02/1737-38 Horton in Ribblesdale s.o. Thomas & Frances (Metcalf) Mte m 01/05/1729 Hawes. Thomas b? d 29/11/1770 Widdale. Connects M6, M178, M199, M275, M406, M415, M419, M538, M581, M875, M896, M1076, M1077, M1103, M1169, M1231, M1232, M1280, M1513, & M1586.**

M1794 Mr Stephen Metcalfe 1 Shelley Drive, Welling, Kent DA16 3NY spmet@aol.com S.o. Thomas Henry & Annie Elizabeth (Rumbold) Mte m 25/12/1939 St Paul, Bermondsey, London. Thomas henry b 11/01/1920 Paddington s.o. Henry James & Ethel (Robinson) Mte m 22/07/1915 Paddington R.O. Henry james b 19/08/1891 Stamford Hill, Hackney, London s.o. Thomas Matthew & Mary Jane (Childs) Mte m 17/09/1891 West Hackney, London. Thomas Matthew b 29/08/1857 Brompton, Kensington, Middlesex s.o. James & Elizabeth Maria (Slater) Mt. James b c1841 Masham, Yks. (a Private in the Royal Horse Guards in 1861)

M1807 Mrs Denise Bowes High House Farm, Ings, Nr Windermere LA23 1JR hugill81@btinternet.com Grd d.o. Joe & Ethel (nee Medcalf) Royle m **25**

1914 Bury area. Ethel b 27/05/1892 Bury d.o. James & Ann (Fitton) Md m 1873 Bury. James b 22/09/1854 Wednesbury, Staffs s.o. Edward & Elizabeth (Hine) Md m 1848 Kendal, Wes. Edward b c1829 Kendal s.o. Richard & Jane (Falshaw) Md m 20/11/1820 Kendal. Richard b 07/07/1799 Kendal s.o. John & Ellen/Eleanor (?) Md. John b c1742. **Connects M694 et al.**

NEW & REJOINED MEMBERS WITH OR AWAITING BIRTH BRIEFS

M1194 Mrs Andrea J. Lloyd 77 York Street, Garston, Liverpool L19 8ER

M1456 Mr Christopher Metcalfe 27 Hampshire Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 4DN ceejayemm@hotmail.com

M1815 Mr Charlton Booth 26 Springhill Lane, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO12 5NF charltonbooth@btopenworld.com

M1816 Mrs Maggie King 12 Westhill Terrace, Kingskerswell, Devon TQ12 5EJ maggiejking@btopenworld.com Mrs King is acting on behalf of Mrs Margaret Metcalfe (nee Child), whom we are delighted to congratulate on reaching her 100th birthday on 31st August 2009. Her birth brief is:

Wife of Albert Arthur Mte b 3Q 1911 Bradford, Yorkshire s.o. James & Florence (Marston) Mte m 1Q 1911 Bradford. James b c1886 Bradford s.o. Arthur & Sarah Ann (?) Mte. Arthur b 3Q 1857 Bradford s.o. John & Margaret (?) Mte. John bpt 18/04/1830 Bedale s.o. John & Mary (Langdale) Mte m 26/11/1807 Bedale. John bpt 21/12/1783 Bagby s.o. Christopher & Hannah (Cheeseborough) Mte m 28/10/1780 Well. Christopher b c1757 Bedale s.o. Christopher & Henrietta Maria (Reynold) Mte m 15/09/1756 Bedale. Christopher bpt 26/03.1733 Well s.o. Christopher & Anne (King) Mte m 14/07/1730 Well. Christopher bpt 27/02/1704 Well s.o. George & Eleanor (Raper) Mte m 25/07/1703 Well. George s.o. John Mte of Carperby, Aysgarth.

Connects to M170, M590, M715, M1057, M1519 & M1566

M1817 Mr Mark Metcalf 417 Leaning Tree Street, Krum, Texas 76249, USA dusty3219@hotmail.com

M1818 Ms Denise Ashe 8 Falstaff Court, Guild Street, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire CV37 6RB realmenigma@yahoo.co.uk

M1819 Mr Martin Morton 32 Hillway, London N6 6HJ ml.morton@btopenworld.com 2 x grt grd s.o. James & Susan (nee Metcalf) Morton m 06/04/1811 Old Church, St Pancras, London

M1820 Mrs Diana Metcalfe 13 Hooks Farm Way, Havant, Hampshire PO9 3DX diana@martletman.free-online.co.uk

M1821 Mr John Airey 3 St Margarets Avenue, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Tyne & Wear NE12 8LB aireyjohn@hotmail.com 3 x grt grd s.o. John & Rosamund

(Mte) Airey m 06/06/1809 Askrigg, Yks. Rosamund bpt 09/02/1794 Hardraw, Yks d.o. Ralph & Mary (Thwaite) Mte m 27/11/1789 Hardraw. Ralph bpt 03/02/1762 Hardraw s.o. John & Jane (Mte) Mte m 01/12/1750 Hawes, Yks. John b c1729 Cotterdale, Yks. **Connects M617, M619, M1375 & M1386**

M1822 Mr Harry Medcalf 17 Anderton Close, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B74 2RJ harry@medcalf.org

M1823 Mr John Plummer Lister 12 Princes Villa Court, Princes Villa Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG1 5RJ Grt grd s.o. William & Nancy (Mte) Sanderson m 4Q 1866 Easingwold District. Nancy b 4Q 1842 Spofforth d.o. James & Mary (Elsworth) Mte m 4Q 1841 Knaresborough District. James bpt 28/10/1810 Masham s.o. James & Elizabeth (Cundale) Mte m 25/11/1805 Masham. James b c1778 Aysgarth – Marske. **Connects M65, M124, M646, M787, M1364, M1558 & M1589**

M1824 Mrs Michelle Brown 92 Dellsome Lane, North Mymms, Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL9 7ND michelle.brown63@ntlworld.com

M1825 Ms Katherine Walsh 4 Arthur Terrace, Clayton-le-Moors, Accrington, Lancashire BB5 5PA katzewalsh@hotmail.com

M1826 Mr John Metcalfe Beck Dolphins, 132B Seafront, Hayling Island, Hampshire PO11 9HW john.beck@talktalk.net

M1827 Mrs Doreen Dawson Elevare, Pye Lane, Burnt Yates, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG3 3EH

M1828 Mr Peter Fidell The Viking, Helperthorpe, Malton, North Yorkshire YO17 8TQ peter.fidell@btinternet.com Grd.s.o. Frank & Elizabeth (nee Metcalfe) Fidell m 1912 Newcastle, Nbl. Elizabeth b c1885 Newcastle d.o. Francis & Elizabeth (?) Mte m ?. Francis bpt 14/04/1853 Manfield, Yks s.o. Francis & Elizabeth (Clark) Mte m 16/05/1846 Sowerby nr Thirsk, Yks. Francis b Holme nr Pickhill, Thirsk where he was bpt Francis Grasham Mte 19/08/1821. The line beyond this is subject to further investigation.

M1829 Mrs Susan Margaret Hesketh 2 Milton Grove, Orrell, Wigan, Lancashire WN5 8HT suehesketh@blueyonder.co.uk

It is with regret we inform members of the deaths of the following

Mr C.L.Metcalfe M1429

and

Mr M. Metcalfe M1566.

We extend our condolences to family and friends

Books

The Census 1801-1911: A Guide for the Internet Era By Stuart A Raymond; 52 pages; ISBN 978-1-906280-16-1; Price £5.95, by post - £7.75 in UK; £8.35 in Europe; £9.10 Rest of World. The aim of this book is to provide basic information about the census for both family and local historians: how and when it was compiled, what information it provides, where it can be consulted, and how to use it.

Coroners' Records in England and Wales (Third Edition 2009) Compiled by Jeremy Gibson and Colin Rogers; 48 pages; ISBN 978-1-906280-13-0; Price £4.50, by post - £6.40 in UK; £6.80 in Europe; £7.45 RoW. This new, thoroughly revised edition, of this indispensable guide is an attempt to itemise all extant coroner's records in England and Wales which are now in public repositories. Although there are special rules concerning access to records less than 75 years old, and material in some areas is regularly being destroyed once it is over 15 years old, a wealth of information is still available.

A Latin Glossary for Family and Local Historians (Sixth Printing 2009) By Janet Morris; 43 pages; ISBN 978-1-906280-18-5. Price £3.50, by post £5.40 in UK; £5.80 in Europe; £6.15 RoW. Prior to the 1730's many parish registers and legal documents were written in Latin, which can be something of a stumbling block to researchers who are unfamiliar with the language or handwriting. This booklet aims to serve as a glossary for most of the common words which occur in parish registers, wills, and the similar types of title deeds and manorial records, and to be helpful to beginners as well as those with some knowledge of Latin.

Parish Registers: A History and Guide By Stuart A Raymond; 61 pages; ISBN 978-1-906280-17-8. Price £5.95, by post - £7.85 in UK; £8.50 in Europe; £9.35 RoW. Parish registers are the earliest comprehensive records of baptisms, marriages and burials in England and Wales, dating from 1538. Parish registers are valuable sources for family and local historians, and may provide the only evidence we have for the existence of our ancestors. The aim of the book is to outline their history, to assess the value of the evidence they provide, and to explain how to use them.

New Cousins: How to Trace Living Descendants of Your Ancestors By Karen Bali; 31 pages; ISBN 978-1-906280-19-2. Price £3.95, by post - £5.85 in UK; £6.60 in Europe; £6.90 RoW. This book is a guide to ancestor searching - that is looking for living relatives who share your genetic heritage - members of your extended family. A 'must' for *one-namers*! Instead of searching for ancestors, descendant searching involves using many of the same research methods to search forward in time rather than working backwards chronologically. Working from a chosen ancestor or family, a researcher can trace living descendants from the same family, and link up to share information.

Researching Brewery and Publican Ancestors (Second Edition 2009)

By Simon Fowler; 48 pages; ISBN 978-906280-12-3 Pricing £5.95. by post £7.85 in UK; £8.25 in Europe; £8.90 RoW. Simon Fowler is a long established-author and editor in the world of family history publications. This, the second edition of his *researching Brewery and Publican Ancestors* will lead the researcher to the many avenues of sources available.

'Victuallers' Licences: Records for Family and Local Historians' (Third Edition 2009)

Compiled by Jeremy Gibson; 64 pages; ISBN 978-2-906280-17-7. Pricing: £4.95, by post £6.85 in UK; £7.50 in Europe; £8.35 RoW. Inns, pubs, hotels, taverns, call them what you will, licensed premises often have a longer ascertainable history than most buildings apart from churches and major houses. This new, thoroughly revised edition (the first for twelve years), tells family and local historians just what records, national and local, survive and where they can be found.

All of the above publications are published by the Family History Partnership, and may be obtained from PO Box 502, Bury, BL8 9EP.

Direct Order Line: all items can be ordered by telephone using a credit or debit card by calling 01706 281088 (or 44 706 281088 from outside the UK).

Have you got your copy of the Society's Book
Metcalf- History of the Clan?

If not don't delay, we have limited stocks
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Available from
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Who Do You Think You Are? LIVE in 2010 The UK's biggest family history event returns to London's Olympia on **26-28 February 2010** for its fourth year. The event will once more incorporate the **Society of Genealogists Family History Show**, now going into its 18th year and featuring the largest collection of family history societies in the country.

The York Family History Fair. York Racecourse Saturday 26 June 2010.
Pudsey Family History Fair. Saturday 10 April 2010 Pudsey Civic Hall.

T.V. Characters

Melvyn Metcalfe - photography - Ellery Queen Detective series.

Renee Metcalfe - Make-up designer - Dancing on Ice.

Emerdale now has a character called **David Metcalfe.** **Lesley Longworth M68**

Where There is a Will

Bernard Metcalfe M221

Some times the genealogist's journey is so, so frustrating, isn't it. I started with great expectations — and don't we all — but now look back after more than 25 years and realise that I have made no advance on my Metcalfe line.

From Day One I knew that 'my' Joseph Metcalfe was a Londoner, an oil and colourman in business near St Katharine's dock; he married Anne Blicke at St Botolph's, Bishopsgate, in 1775, and died at East Smithfield in 1820. These essential details were presented to me on a platter via a copy of the Family Register which his grandson, Joseph Cameron Metcalfe, commenced when he and his young wife came to Melbourne in April, 1853.

With such a wonderful start, I thought that I would know the names of Joseph's parents, siblings, place of birth etc., and link them all back to the Yorkshire dales in no time. Alas, not so; the Birth Brief I sent to the Metcalfe Society in the early 1990s has not required an extension so far. Nor has the explosion of data available via the internet advanced my line. The origins of my Joseph are still unconfirmed and subject to speculation.

In the early days, I tried various strategies to try to find my man, using the IGI and parish records where I had access to them. It was quite a few years before I realised that wills might assist me. After all, these London Metcalfes had business interests, and Anne's brother was Sir Charles Blicke, a surgeon at St Bartholomew's noted more for his money-making than his medical skills.

So I purchased the wills in my direct line which were proved by the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC). These filled out many details but did not advance my search for Joseph's birthplace or parents. Then I decided I could speculate by looking at the PCC wills of selected Metcalfes from mid 18th or early 19th century London who either lived in the same area, had similar given names, or were in similar occupations. My hope was that this approach might provide that vital breakthrough. From this speculation I discovered a London Metcalfe family who might still fill the bill, but even if they didn't I would have learnt much from the rich detail provided by their PCC-proved wills over three generations.

I started with the will of John Metcalfe, of Greys Inn, proved in 1733. It mentions no wife or specific real estate but names his five children: three sons (Adrian, John and Theophilus), two daughters (Davenant and Philadelphia), plus a daughter-in-law, John's wife, Sarah. He appointed his daughters as executors, but as Davenant also died in 1733, that task was left to Philadelphia alone. (She was also Davenant's executor.)

My initial response, that there might be a reason behind the non-appointment of any of the sons as an executor, was borne out when I obtained the will of the eldest son, Adrian, proved in 1742. Like his father, Adrian was a man of the law, educated at Cambridge, but he had fallen out with his siblings. Among the various legacies are the following: *'I Give to my Brother John Metcalfe I Give One Shilling to my brother Theophilus I Give one Shilling to my Sister Philadelphia One Shilling And for all their unjust Actions towards me I pray God of his infinite Mercy to forgive them'*.

Adrian named as his executor his good friend Thomas Garrard who held the post of Common Serjeant of London, the legal adviser to the Court of Common Council and sometime judge at the Old Bailey. But in the end Adrian did not get his wish because his friend Thomas renounced his executorship in favour of Philadelphia. One suspects she recovered more than one shilling from her brother's '*much lessened*' assets, especially as she took over his interest in the copyhold of an estate at Shillingford in Co. Oxford.

I then worked my way through the wills of the brothers John (d. 1742) and Theophilus (d. 1754). I found that the widowed John had named all his five living children while setting things up in a way that made legal partner, Fenwick Lydall, central to future arrangements as the children were no more than teenagers when John died. Theophilus, their uncle, was married and made good provision for his widow but, having no issue, he passed on to his executor and main beneficiary, the ever-present Philadelphia, the copyhold estate at Shillingford and the 'rest residue and remainder' of his real and personal estate.

The final links in the chain for this, the second generation, were revealed in Philadelphia's will after she died in 1757. She had already emerged as a powerful family figure, the spinster sister who was both an executor of and recipient from her siblings' estates. She was a woman who attended to the details, distributing mugs, knives, forks, coffee pots, cups, various heirlooms and small legacies to nieces, nephews, female friends and religious causes. But she also had accumulated significant assets, with copyhold estates at Warborough in Co. Oxford and at Scamblesby in Co. Lincoln, as well as some London real estate of her own. The copyhold estate at Shillingford, however, is not mentioned.

Her widowed brother John had named his children — John, Henry, Sarah, Ann and Mary Chester — the only ones of the third generation I have identified. Philadelphia, the last of her generation and the person to whom most of the family assets had come, now passed the bulk of her estates, real and personal, not to the eldest nephew John as might have been expected, but to his younger brother, Henry, while also making significant provision for her niece Sarah. Neither John nor Ann is mentioned at all, while Mary received only a small legacy. Fortunately, in the third generation at least three of the five had wills proved by the PCC — two spinsters, Sarah and Ann, and a married son, Henry — so I was able to follow these Metcalfes a while longer, over the period in which I had hoped to find my Joseph as a young man.

More of the family story unfolded when I looked at the will of Henry, an attorney of Threadneedle St who had married a widow, Jane Barker. By 1771 Henry had apparently come close to death and while he was lingering, family relations must have deteriorated as his will states, *'I have great reason to suspect my Wife after my death will be Treated by my Relations and Friends with the utmost disrespect'*. It also emerged that his aunt Susanna, the widow of Theophilus, was still alive so he made provision for her to receive the Scamblesby rents for the rest of her days. The will mentions a property dispute between Henry and his older brother John, while noting that the youngest sister, Mary Chester, was living in the care of the family solicitor, Fenwick Lyddal. (There is an 1803 petition for lunacy in her name, in the Cumbria Record Office.) In addition, Henry had settled some accounts on behalf of his sisters when concluding Philadelphia's will and he insisted that he be repaid that money. All of these factors led him to make special provision for his wife, and her daughter, and shortly after to

add a codicil to his will, removing his sister Sarah as primary beneficiary and executor, and replacing her with his 'wronged' wife.

There was a final twist, however, as his wife Jane did not complete her task as executrix and died intestate not long before Sarah died in 1794. A notation on Henry's will, dated 1809, shows that it was Sarah's executor, Sir William Leighton, Lord Mayor of London in 1806, who was ultimately appointed Henry's executor (as well as being executor for Ann and Sarah). The late changes that Henry put in place for his real and personal estate were undone by these accidents of timing which he could not control from the grave. And with that, the bulk of the family fortune remaining with Ann and Sarah Metcalfe passed to Sir William Leighton, their executor and chief beneficiary, and out of this much diminished Metcalfe family.

The wills of this family, over three generations, disclose an intricate story that is still unfolding, leading my research in many directions as I try to uncover some more details and establish if I have a link to this line. In successive generations there was an eldest son who did not take up the traditional place society bestowed upon him, and a dominant spinster sister who seems to have had considerable power within the family, and financial acumen. At the same time the number of males bearing the Metcalfe name dwindled, as did my chances of finding the Joseph I have sought for so long.

The names Adrian and Davenant, and the Shillingford manor, now point me back in time towards the Metcalfes of Louth Park in Lincolnshire, and of Bellerby in Yorkshire, as well as towards St John's College at Oxford. I also suspect I have found the will for John in the third generation, but there is more work to do before I confirm all that. The Metcalfe Society online Will collection has already yielded rewards so I look forward to the next steps, however long they may take.

I may not have found my Joseph yet, but where there's a will

NAPPA TREASURE

Oswald Metcalfe mar .. dau of Wm Parkinson, probably the Oswald Metcalfe referred to by the Earl of Northumberland in his confession after the rebellion, when he was in the custody of Lord Hunsdon, in 1572. In answer to the questions "How much money did he spend in the quarrell; and what became of his plate; and who did ayde them with money in that quarrell?" the earl said, "About 120ll saving XII he lefte with his wyfe in Lyddesdale. He laied his plate to Oswald Metcalfe, which was but a small parcell, being before the rebellion, his chief plate his wyfe hydd about Hexham, and he knoweth not what became thereof. His collar he laied to gage in York, before the rebellion, to one of York, for lxxl as he remembreth, one Thwyng, his man delivered it. He borrowed money of no man."

When some alterations were being made at Nappa Hall, early in the last century, during the lifetime of the last Metcalfe owner, a quantity of silver plate, it is said, was discovered in a closed up secret recess in the wall, where the workmen were enlarging a window. It may possibly have been the plate belonging to the unfortunate Earl of Northumberland. **Supplied by CS Metcalfe M305**

CAN YOU HELP?

At the recent Muster an appeal for help was made to help identify a WWI soldier. Perhaps you can assist with the request from **Alison Metcalfe M1522**.

My great-grandfather James Metcalfe, born in Downholme, was a shoemaker in Shildon, County Durham, where he married widow Jane Ann Manners. My grandfather James Henry Metcalfe was their fourth child, born in Shildon on 25 April 1883.

After schooling James Henry was apprenticed to his father, and on 15 June 1907 he married Elsie Johnston, also of Shildon. They had three daughters before World War I, but the first two, died of diphtheria in 1914. Dorothy (born 1911) survived. Their last two children were my father Christopher James (1914 – 1986) and Frank (1917 – 2002).

Frank's widow told me that after the outbreak of the First World War, James Henry joined up as a shoemaker who mended the soldiers' boots. He travelled with his regiment as it was posted over England, but was not sent abroad. There is a photograph of him in his uniform with three stripes, a sergeant's insignia.

I should like to find out more about James Henry's family during the First World War. Which was his regiment? Where did he go? How long did Elsie have to struggle with 3 small children on her own? I can't find my grandfather on the Ancestry WW I database, and can't identify his regiment from the buckle on his belt.

Can anyone help? Alison can be contacted via her e-mail m.a.metcalfe@ntlworld.com



REGISTRAR DISMISSED Registrars were paid according to the number of entries made. Some apparently were not adverse to improving numbers as in 1877 one of the seven registrars dismissed from their post was sacked because of 'having inserted false dates of registration in his register of births'. He was from the Askrigg (Wensleydale) district!
Family Tree - October 2009.

THE DAY OF THE MUSTER broke to fog and mist but by the time my journey ended in Wensleydale the sun was shining. It was the Society's AGM & Muster at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes.



....bags denoting ownership.

I arrived around 9.30am to find activities all ready underway. Early risers were delving into the paper records, engaged in earnest conversations with the database facilitators and the urns for the tea and coffee were under full steam. Seats in the main hall were being claimed with coats, jackets and bags denoting ownership (not a towel in sight!). All was bustle.

The AGM was due to start at 10.30 but members were still milling around too busy to leave their social or research activities and it took a bout of strong arm tactics (well mild cajoling) by our Chairman **David Lambert M11** to round up the strays (as one member commented "like herding cats") to get proceedings underway. Some fifty or more members (others were still entrenched in the research room) were there to hear the Chairman's opening remarks which included a welcome to all those attending, in particular our US visitors. With the AGM underway the various reports were considered and approved and congratulations dispensed to **Carol Herbert M1072** our webmaster who beat off strong competition to be the FFHS One Named Society website winner and our editor **Peter Dobson** for a commended award for the Mecca News.



US Visitors Fred Parker and Richard & Phyllis Bederberg M1369

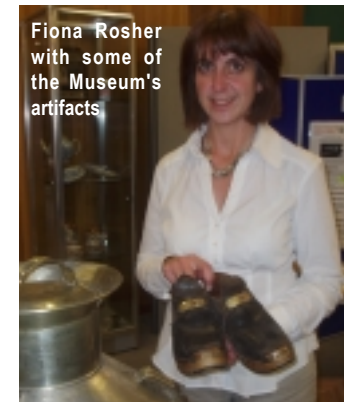
Congratulations were also in order for the Society's book Metcalfe - History of the Clan which was also awarded a commendation from the GOONS.

Martin Metcalfe M772 took the opportunity to update the meeting on the progress of the Society's DNA project and exhort male Meccas to take part in the exercise. **Carol Herbert** also announced the successful upgrade of the whole 100,000+ records database - allowing easier access and interrogation.

A mammoth task completed.

The election of the committee went quickly with the usual request for further volunteers (later Martin Metcalfe joined the committee) and the accounts accepted. The official part of the day was over just after twelve o'clock and members resumed their research or looked at the stalls and display boards including Nappa Hall (compiled adroitly by **Margaret Hodgson M515**). Lunch saw another exodus and relative calm although there were still stalwarts searching for those elusive ancestors.

The afternoon was no less hectic. No sooner had lunch been devoured and social and research activities re-engaged before it was time for the afternoon speaker. We were fortunate to have the manager of the Dales Countryside Museum - Fiona Rosher to tell us of the Museum's holdings and show some of their artifacts. The Museum had its beginnings in the 1940's primarily by the efforts of those well known Dales historians Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby who bought up items from sales and assiduously recorded fast disappearing activities. Their work has enabled modern day researchers to see how the artifacts were used and the Museum has expanded the collection to include oral contributions whilst relating them to contemporary issues. Some 365 items held by the Museum relate to the Metcalfe name.



Fiona Rosher with some of the Museum's artifacts.

Once again members rushed off to the research room but now with a little less energy and more revelled in social discourse. The temperature rose when the raffle (run by **Margaret Metcalfe M52**) was drawn but slowly matters wound down to the close. There followed the usual hectic dismantling packing and removal of the Society's stock and displays by the committee before a brief (only fifteen minutes!) meeting sent the last of the day's attendees on their way. All agreed another successful day with over eighty members, guests and visitors at the Muster.

Next year - 2010 - is the Society's 30th anniversary and the committee are looking to make it a special occasion at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes.

Details in the April Mecca News.

In the meantime note your diaries

Saturday 9 October 2010.



Julian Metcalfe M902 writes:

It may be of interest to learn that on 11th February 2010 Pamela and I will be celebrating 60 years of Holy Deadlock. Looking at my own very comprehensive tree, it would seem that nobody else has managed this.

I would be interested to find if any other current members have already reached this milestone, and indeed whether we can establish the longest known marriage. Can members assist? If so contact the Editor.

Boer War Memorial Plaque

Old Town Hall Bishop Auckland County Durham unveiled in 1903 commemorating the 134 officers and men of the 2nd Volunteer Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry who volunteered for service in the Boer War. An entry under served with Imperial Yeomanry **Pvt. J Metcalf.**

(The Imperial Yeomanry were a mounted force and included men from existing County Yeomanry Regiments. After two months training and assessment they were allocated to a Company and Battalion and shipped out to South Africa.)

Cleveland FHS Journal January 2009

Sage Observations from the 1500's from Lesley Longworth M68

(The final instalment - see also MN 87 & 88 (both pages 36).)

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whiskey. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of *holding a wake*.

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, thread it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be *saved by the bell*.

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All general queries and correspondence about the society to the Secretary.

All search queries about your Metcalfe family tree or any updates to your Metcalfe Birth Brief to the Archivist.

Send contributions for the Mecca News to the Editor.

Send subscription renewals to the Treasurer (for UK sterling payments), to your local Country Agent (for local currency payments) or go online for all payments to

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**Metcalfe's Farm Reeth Swaledale
2009 Undergoing renovations.**

Minutes of the AGM of the Metcalfe Society
 Saturday 10th October 2009
 Held at Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:

David welcomed approximately 80 members and guests to the 29th annual general meeting, in particular mentioning the presence of members from the USA.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Charles Metcalfe	June & Doug Cutting	Mary Metcalfe
Eddie Metcalfe	Marsden Holden	Robert Metcalfe
Alice Metcalfe	Carol Topham	John Metcalfe
Doug Jefferies	David Major	Janet Knowles
David Major	Susan Meecham	Thomas Metcalfe

3. The Minutes of the AGM of 2008, having been circulated, were signed as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5 & 6. REPORTS:

Executive reports for

Chairman:

Treasurer & Gift Aid Secretary:

Editor:

Archivist Co-ordinator / Library:

Web Administrator:

Affiliations:

Conference Secretary:

Secretary & New Members Secretary:

Agents' Reports:

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had been circulated in written form to the meeting. The reports were all accepted by the meeting without alteration. David congratulated Carol Herbert as the Society had received a FFHS award for the best website of a one name society, and Peter Dobson for the FFHS commendation for the *Mecca News*. The GOONS had also awarded the Society a commendation for *Metcalfe: History of the Clan*. Volunteers were requested to join the Committee.

7. SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2010:

- The meeting agreed unanimously that there would be no increase in subscription rates for the coming year.

8. ELECTIONS:

- Charles Metcalfe was unanimously re-elected as President and Mary Metcalfe as a Vice-President.
- David Lambert was unanimously re-elected as Chairman, Ena Metcalfe as Secretary, Carol Herbert as Treasurer and Peter Dobson as Editor.
- The rest of the Committee was unanimously re-elected: Margaret Hodgson; Jose Hopper; Lesley Longworth; Brian Metcalfe; David Metcalfe; Edwin Metcalf; Liz Waller

9. PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS:

The audited accounts had been circulated in written form and Carol explained further details.

10. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR:

Following due process, the meeting approved the re-appointment Kiggin & Co. as auditor.

11. A.O.B:

- Carol explained what Society records are now available via the members-only section of the website.
- There was some detailed discussion of the DNA project.
- David explained that the Committee was holding a strategy planning meeting on 7th November.

The meeting was closed at 12-10pm

12. DATE OF 2010 AGM: Saturday 9th October 2010 at the Dales Countryside Museum in Hawes