

MECCA NEWS

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MUSTER MEMORIES 2011



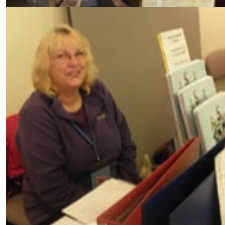
AGM
clockwise
Chairman
David Lambert;
members (2);
Nina Benson
talking about DNA
issues.



USA Visitors.
Robert Metcalfe
(M1589)
with family members
Rose Lee T. Metcalfe
Ross A. Metcalfe
Robert J. Metcalfe
Shannon R. Metcalfe
Rosalyn C. Metcalfe



Left.
Friends
of Gayle
Mill Sales
Team



Sales Ladies
left Jo Heron
right Jose
Hopper



Above. **Vivienne Metcalf** giving a talk on Nappa Hall

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December 2011

Issue No 95

The Journal of
the Metcalfe Society
produced three times a year
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The MECCA NEWS

Editor: Peter Dobson



CONTENTS

Regulars

From the Editor	5
your letters & e-mails	6
Society News	12
Chairman's Jottings	17
Membership Application Form 2012	25
Archivist Report & Membership Details	28

Features

Using the Computer Index	7
Marsdens Story	15
Nappa Hall Visit	20
Newspapers	22
The Hibernian	24
The Few	27
The Life of Henry Metcalfe.....	30
Alice Metcalfe/Gravestone Project	36

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FROM THE EDITOR



There have been a number of presentational changes to this issue of the Mecca News. The first was due to the change in printing arrangements the second monetary. The first reason also had monetary aspects!

In an effort to keep costs down the colour pictures have been restricted to the outside pages. Also the weight was affecting the postage costs so we have included some of the usual "flyers" in the magazine. I hope this doesn't detract from your enjoyment of the content.

The Society exchanges magazine journals with other one-name family history groups. I find it useful - gives me ideas for articles/layout etc! - and occasionally Metcalfe information. In a recent Alderson Roots journal I noticed a comment about a Simm Raw an unusual name I knew was associated with one of my 6x removed cousins Dorothy Pope M55. Information went off to Dorothy and in the last Alderson journal I saw an acknowledgement of Dorothy's help. Pleased to be of help.

An opportunity for those of you who have not been on the Society's web site and looked through the records (over 1000,000) we have. Margaret Hodgson has reprised her Muster talk on the Computer Index so no excuse for not seeing if you can make those elusive family connections!

2012 is fast approaching so I wish you and yours the Compliments of the season and a healthy and successful New Year.



The General Register Office for England and Wales (GRO) provides free public access to the index of events for birth, marriage, death, civil partnership, adoption and overseas records. The list of centres acting as host sites for the complete set of the GRO indexes is being extended to provide greater geographic coverage and from 14 November will include Newcastle City Library. From 28 October, the indexes will no longer be available to view at the London Metropolitan Archives.

From 14 November the list of centres holding a complete set of GRO indexes including those for more recent events will be as follows - Birmingham Central Library, Bridgend Local and Family History Centre, City of Westminster Archives Centre, Manchester City Library, Newcastle City Library, Plymouth Central Library, the British Library.

Further details on the records available can be found on the Direct.gov website <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Governmentcitizensandrights/Registeringlifeevents/Familyhistoryandresearch/DG>

Your Mecca News arrived this morning (25 August) and I have thoroughly enjoyed it. Persuaded me to send this cutting to you - no time like the present! Amazing how Metcalf(e)s keep popping up in Oz. Sad none of my Metcalfe ancestors pop up in the UK! I'm always hopeful. **Pat Pearson M1596**

(Pat provided a photograph and cutting from the South Australia Advertiser of a Karen Metcalf marrying Mal Isaac Owens in Yarra Valley Victoria 22 August 2011. Her parents are Ian & Cathryn Metcalf. If you have any Metcalfe newspaper cuttings etc don't wait send them on to me or to our Scrap Book Keeper Mrs Stephanie Fidell, The Viking, Helperthorpe, Malton YO17 8TQ. - Editor)

Thank you for publishing the article on Edward Dudley (Fruity) Metcalfe. He was an interesting character at a very interesting time in history. I enjoyed knowing more about him.

The first time I hear his name was on a BBC special about twenty years ago. The special was an interview with the Queen Mother in which she mentions Fruity as having been a close and personal friend of her and the Royal Family. I believe she mentions it in context with trip taken with the family to Scotland.

That's all I remember and hopefully others have already written you regarding the interview with more facts.

Again, thank you for the wonderful article.

Chris Metcalfe M1480

your e-mails and letters

Sorry I was unable to inform you of my absence for our annual Mecca Muster. Alas! It has been another "bad year" for us. Michael had three falls and was in Harrogate hospital for six weeks ..but (*they are*) still "baffled". Unfortunately... I too was quite ill. So please accept my apologies and I am sure you would all have had a very good day. We are both looking forward to a better year and do wish you all a very Happy Xmas. **Kathleen Ruddy M517**

(Kathleen and her husband's absence was noted at the Muster. I am sure you will join with me in wishing them a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing them at next years' Muster. - Editor)

MANCHESTER PRISON RECORDS ONLINE

Nearly 250,000 records of inmates from the Manchester prisons of Strangeways, Belle Vue and New Bailey are being made available online.

The records from the 19th century include names, prison numbers and personal details of felons during the period 1847 to 1881. Scanned and transcribed from the original records held by Manchester City Council Libraries, Information & Archives they are now online and available at findmypast.co.uk.

*Jury - a group of people chosen from the ignorant,
to judge the incomprehensible and deliver the unknowable.*

Only a genealogist regards a step backwards as progress!

Using the Computer Index

For some time now I have been one of the Assistant Archivists working with *Brian Metcalfe, the Archivist Coordinator, to draw up Birth Briefs for members and to help with research. This involves using the Society's Computer Index online. Practice has made this easier to negotiate than it was at first. After doing a brief Powerpoint presentation on this theme at the recent Muster it was suggested to me that I should turn that into a short article and so this is what I have done. Margaret Hodgson M515*

The Internet can be so useful for genealogy and I have had several years of experience of the subscription sites, Ancestry and Find My Past, together with free resources such as the IGI through Family Search. Glitches there are, as many of you will already be aware, transcription errors I think being the most common. Thus for Robert Metcalf M1882 I eventually found his ancestors, William and Mary and their three children, logged as Headcalfs on the 1851 census on the first two of these sites. Not surprisingly, given that this does not seem to be a surname at all, they were the only five in the history of the censuses! On the IGI I have come across Meltcalfs, Meatcalfs and Metcufs, none of which come up on an average search.

The good news is that such transcription errors should very rarely threaten your searches on the Society's Computer Index for the input has largely been done by David Metcalfe with his very comprehensive knowledge of Metcalfe lines and associated place names. However there are some problems associated with the moving from a very old computer program, IBM's 1980's Filing Assistant, to a search friendly internet site. Thus a few general strategies that I have found helpful:

- Put in the minimum detail at any one time to obtain a helpful result
- Work through the possibilities one by one
- Persist!!

Here are a few examples

There are currently 102489 records in the database.

Record Number

Forename

Surname

Born

Baptised

Died

Parents

Married

eg. Anne (exact match),
Anne* (as first name),
*Anne (as second name),
Anne (anywhere in the name)

- (Place Harriet in the Forename box.)
- 265 Harriets on the database – too many to search easily for my grandmother, Harriet Metcalfe. She is not one of them!
- Putting in *Harriet* produces even more, 375 in all!

Mecca

There are currently 12,345 records in this database

First Name:

Last Name:

Year:

Registered:

Search:

- Put date in both boxes
- If no success, try the year before / year after etc
- Yet still no grandmother!

Mecca

There are currently 12,345 records in this database

First Name:

Last Name:

Year:

Registered:

Search:

- Enter a parent's name. More likely to have result with father's name.
- But still no grandmother!

Mecca

There are currently 12,345 records in this database

First Name:

Last Name:

Year:

Registered:

Search:

- This is the one which works!
- She is logged under her two forenames, Harriet Pratt.
- If the entry is done as *Pratt* then nine records appear, two of which relate to Harriet.

Mecca

There are currently 12,345 records in this database

First Name:

Last Name:

Year:

Registered:

Search:

Name	Address	Date	Status
Harriet Pratt	1234 Main St, New York, NY 10001	1911-12-12	Active
John Doe	5678 Main St, New York, NY 10001	1911-12-12	Active
Jane Smith	9012 Main St, New York, NY 10001	1911-12-12	Active

- Here is the record, which also includes the previous details, the details which did not immediately trigger it.

Forename:

Surname:

Born:

Baptised:

Died:

Parents:

Marrried:

or the following wordphrase anywhere (entering your membership number will bring up all records in your line - please prefix with the letter M - i.e. M1072)

Patrick Brompton

SEARCH RESET

- This box is very useful.
- For instance, search by place

genealogy research only, and is not to be reproduced, transmitted, distributed or sold without the permission of the Mecca News website. Please quote the ID Number of the record.

251 matching records.

Names: Metcalf Sources: (M)

nick

48 at Homby of Patrick Brompton age 78

ter, Hackforth & Elizabeth (c1732-91) nee Thirkell

Kirkby Fleetham nee Joyce by banns on 02, 09 & 16/04/1797 at Homby &

- The name is highlighted in blue and thus is easy to pick out.
- This is a surprising number of results for a village with a population of never more than 200.
- It is certainly useful for looking for locally linking families.

There are currently 12489 records in the database

Record Number:

Forename:

Surname:

Born:

Baptised:

Died:

Parents:

Marrried:

or the following wordphrase anywhere (entering your membership number will bring up all records in your line - please prefix with the letter M - i.e. M1072)

Newton-Willows

SEARCH RESET

- However this entry brings up no results.
- Submitting 'Newton' leads to 611 matching records!
- Newton le Willows, missing out the hyphens usually used, brings up 120 specific records.

Born:

Baptised:

Died:

Parents:

Marrried:

or the following wordphrase anywhere (entering your membership number will bring up all records in your line - please prefix with the letter M - i.e. M1072)

M515

SEARCH RESET

- (Enter your membership number)
- This will bring up all records in your line BUT ONLY if you have submitted information to allow us to draw up your Birth Brief.

Finally:

- Our Computer Index is an extremely valuable resource comprised of years, if not lifetimes, of Members' research. Finding out more is about you ALL submitting more!
- PLEASE DO send in to our Archivist Coordinator, Brian Metcalfe, information, however little, to allow us to draw up an initial Birth Brief for you, and hopefully, give you a helping hand with possible links.
- PLEASE CHECK whether you have let us know any of your more recent family history breakthroughs so we can update your Birth Brief, which may well provide more links for yourself and other members within the Society.
- There is always plenty more research that can be done!

HOW TO Access the Society's Database

Log on to www.metcalfe.org.uk

Click on members only tab

Enter membership number and password

(if not known contact treasurer@metcalfe.org.uk)

You are (or should be!) in the members only area

Click on Computer Index and follow

Margaret's instructions as outlined in her article above.



Members
attending the
Computer Index
talk given by
Margaret Hodgson

**Mecca
Muster
2011**



Mecca bits and pieces

The Yorkshire Dalesman p30 – Nov. 2011 "In the 1750's Daniel Lascelles, the Yorkshire-bred son of a West Indian plantation owner, purchased an estate that lay between Harrogate and Wetherby. The estate was the manor of Plompton, and it included a famously romantic landmark known as Plompton [sic] Rocks. Over the next few years Lascelles designed a pleasure garden centred upon the dramatically picturesque crag. The scene was painted twice by J M W Turner and it is listed today by English Heritage as a Grade II site of outstanding interest." (*This Daniel (c1714-1784) was the grandson of Margaret Metcalfe (1655- c1690) who married Daniel Lascelles 22 Aug 1672 in Northallerton as shown in MultiMecca – see previous Mecca News.*)

The Yorkshire Dalesman p60 – Nov. 2011 Walking with Dalesman - Howgills. 6.7 miles walk which mentions Calf Ridge, Calf Beck & of course The Calf; but is some way from Calf Top.

From Richmond & Swaledale - Through Time. Published by the Dalesman. P72. Angel Hotel, Catterick Village. Vicar at St Anne's here had Nelson die in his arms. *In white freehand on btm left of card is The Angel Hotel, Catterick, York, J W Metcalfe.*

All three supplied CS Metcalfe M305.

Metcalfe's Salamander. (*Plethodon Metcalfi*) Appears to have been named after **Zeno Payne Metcalf** (1885-1956), Professor of Zoology at North Carolina State College, University of NC for over forty years. Born in Lakeville Ohio and author of many books. The amphibian is native to the Blue Ridge Mountains of NC and grows to about 4 inches in length. *Various Internet sites.*

Westmorland Gazette cuttings supplied by Judith Robinson M631.

Researching Sergeant George Medcalf (1844-1918). A Keele University student is conducting his PhD on policing in Victorian Cumbria using the sergeant from Kendal as an example. *May 19, 2011.*

The 39 Steps - comedy version ran in Bowness just before Christmas 2010. Director was **Neil Metcalfe**.

Young Meccas. Successful rider **Anna Metcalf** winning awards at Myerscough and Lakes Riding Club. *10 February 2011.*

Ulverston Dickensian Festival. Chimney sweep **Alex Metcalf**. *2 /12/2010.*

Kate & Wills Wedding. Will played by **William Metcalfe** at Levens School. *May 2011.*

Pigots Directory of Devon 1844. **John Medcalf**, blacksmith, Spillers ope, Devonport.

Society of Friends. Marsden Circuit. Marriage Register. **Mary Metcalfe** & Jacob Bright 1845. Residence & Location Little Marsh, Whalley (Ref: Church 10 Reg 1 Entry 17). Manchester & Lancs FHS.

Kelly's Directory 1939 Cheshire. Poynton Private Residents. **Eric Metcalfe** - Bowstones, Clifford Road. **Richard Metcalfe** - The Woodlands London Road South.

From a Poynton Village School by Les Durrant. School Class 1931. Miss Marsh - infants, Lord Vernon's School, Park lane Poynton - **Ronnie Metcalf**.

A letter from Dorothy Pope M55 responding to the award of honorary membership failed to arrive on my desk. Dorothy has now provided a copy of her letter dated 9 December 2010 which I am pleased to reproduce below - Editor.

May I take up a little space in the next Mecca News in order to thank the committee for awarding me Honorary Membership of the Society in our 30th year. There were many others in the early years who are no longer with us, who worked voluntarily to make the Society the success it is today and who deserved the honour much more than me. They will not be forgotten.

Nevertheless I am proud to know that my small efforts have been of some use and to know that there are now much younger members following in our footsteps thereby ensuring many more years of assistance to future Meccas researching this great family. **Dorothy Pope M55**



**After 11 Years
Jose Hopper**
has decided to
step down from the
Committee.
Our grateful thanks go to
Jose for her hard work
and contribution to the
Society over the years.

Diane Howarth M409 has
rejoined the committee after a
gap of some four years.
Welcome back Diane.

**Still looking for a Christmas
or birthday present?**
Why not purchase the Society's book
Metcalf. History of the Clan.
Available only from your Society.
See www.metcalfes-online.co.uk

Subscriptions frozen again!

Annual UK membership of your Society has again been held at
2003 rates - that's ten years at current levels!

However increasing costs may force up
subscription rates in 2013.

Why not take out a five, ten or even a life
membership now and beat any rise!

**DEADLINE for the April Mecca News
is 6 February 2012.**

Articles comments or snippets to the Editor.

YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2012



Chairman
David Lambert



Treasurer - Carol Herbert



Editor - Peter Dobson



Lesley Longworth Diane Howarth



Jo Heron



Margaret Hodgson



Vivienne Metcalfe



Elizabeth Waller



Brian Metcalfe



David Metcalfe



Martin Metcalfe

DNA UPDATE

It has been a quiet few months on the DNA front although much progress was made earlier in the year with results for some of the target Metcalfe lines and two significant lines having now been verified through two distantly related members of the branch providing matching tests. It has been difficult to find a suitable second person to test for several of the branches and for this I may be dependent on new members and therefore be patient. However I will investigate further branches which could be usefully targeted.

Martin Metcalfe M772 DNA Project Coordinator

The following information normally appears on the inside back cover (where it probably gets skipped!). So as a result of layout changes in this issue the opportunity has been taken to bring it to your attention.

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All general queries and correspondence about the society to **the Treasurer**.

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 **www.metcalfes-online.co.uk/members**.

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To check the status of the despatch of any items ordered contact **Sales Despatch**.

Send any research that you have completed that includes Metcalfes to **the Web Administrator**.

Please note : If pre-paid return postage is NOT included with any letter or enquiry, it is assumed that NO REPLY is expected.

MARSDENS STORY

Marsden Peter Holden M1513

My brother John died in 2003 and I took up his family history endeavours. Taking up an interest in one's family from a brother who has spent going on for 50 years doing the same is interesting, but not significantly productive. In the course of trying to find something new one does identify differences in approach and interest that can lead to entertaining moments but as an Inland Revenue Investigator I wanted to uncover more.

There had been comments about my Christian name from almost as far back as I can remember. What was presented as cast iron certainty was that I was named after my grandfather. The tale then went on that an ancestor had worked as a servant at Marsden Hall - that is the Marsden which is now part of Nelson in Lancs - and that had been such a satisfying position that my grandfather was given the name to honour the family (Walton) and their home. John did say in more recent times that he had found nothing to support that and was quite sure that it derived from the use of the maiden name of someone who married into the Metcalfe family. He gave me a sketchy outline.



Not making much headway in any other branches I decided to establish my credentials as the non-conformist of the family by investigating my rare Christian name, as opposed to surname. It turned out to be nothing like as rare as I had thought. The 1881 census has over 40 Christian name Marsdens in Yorkshire alone and the 1911 census has over 700 people nationally with Marsden as a Christian name.

One of the big surprises was the discovery that the nearest Marsden was not my grandfather. In fact my mother had a brother Marsden Metcalfe. This Marsden was born on 23 April 1921 at 56 Brunswick Street, Burnley. He was the second, and last, child born 8 years after my mother, when both his parents were 30. Sadly he was to die in the same house only 4 months later on 2 September of "Epidemic Enteritis". The death notice in the Burnley Express reads "*Metcalfe – On September 2nd, the dearly-loved baby of Mr and Mrs Metcalfe 56 Brunswick Street*".

I was intrigued about the "*Epidemic*" and decided to check it out. Reading through the papers of the time in the Central Library in Burnley I failed to see any evidence of an epidemic as I imagined it. What I did find was the Burnley Medical Officer's Annual Report recorded in the paper of 6 August 1921. It showed that in 1920 there were 47 deaths in the Borough resulting from diarrhoea and enteritis and 34 of them were infants. I then found the following in the Burnley Express of 31 August 1921 – just 3 days before the death of Uncle Marsden -

“Precautions against Epidemic “ “Army hut erected for Emergency “
“The Ministry of Health, having urged the Burnley Corporation to take proper precautions in the summer months for the prevention of epidemic diarrhoea, the Town Clerk reported that an army hut had been erected in the grounds of Bank Hall Hospital, at a cost of £181.3s.7d to accommodate children suffering from summer diarrhoea, and that 15 cots had been provided for use therein at a cost of £251.1s.3d.”

Clearly epidemic in this case meant it was just one of the annual summer occurrences that were common in the days before milk testing and hygiene came in and of course fridges were not available. If he was ever mentioned at home it was extremely rarely and I can't honestly say that I can remember that he was. I guess it was a sign of the upset felt by my grandparents.

He is buried in Burnley Cemetery with his mother's parents – Thomas Heyworth and Margaret, nee Brown – along with William Flynn husband of his mother's sister Elizabeth E (Auntie Lizzie). I was able to trace his grave in the cemetery records held at Burnley Library and that enabled me to find the grave in the old pleasant part of the cemetery. The headstone had become unstable and been half buried. The only names showing were those of Thomas and Margaret. I returned another day with a spade to see if Uncle Marsden's name was interred with him. I found no other entries on the headstone. A Marsden with no marked grave.

My grandfather was Marsden Metcalfe. Born on 1 August 1892 at 2 May Street, Habergham Eaves he was the son of James Metcalfe and Harriet nee Horrocks. He became a butcher - moving up to be a journeyman butcher and then slaughterman. How he came into that trade is one of those great unknowns but his uncle (see below) and his future father in law were in the trade. When wearing his working coat he had it fastened round him with string round his waist.

My remembrance is that he was tall, erect, smart - all in all a fine figure of a man. He was every inch the Guardsman I was told he had been. My sister Margaret has a much clearer recollection of him than I have. Whilst I recall him as somewhat aloof she has much warmer memories of him.

He died on 9 January 1961 at 5 Violet Street, which is the house, that I can remember him in. The cause of death was a) Congestive cardiac failure b) Emphysema and c) Chronic bronchitis. I have a sense of having seen him sitting dead in his chair with a blanket placed over him. He was 68 and is buried in Burnley Cemetery with his wife, daughter and son-in-law. Although he got a mention as my grandmother's husband his own burial was not recorded on the grave stones.

A second Marsden Metcalfe in an unmarked grave.

(To be continued.)

Another year is almost over. A year of change for me as I became semi retired from work, retiring as Senior partner and a partner. I now act as a consultant on 3 days a week – or at least I am supposed to do. I admit it was hard to adjust for the first 3 months mainly because there were ongoing matters that I needed to finish off. I soon found that you cannot cram 5 days work into 3! What has this to do with the Society? Well I suppose not a lot! However there are some links!

Chairman's Jottings

First, at this year's AGM we bade farewell to Jose Hopper from the committee. She has been over her years on the committee the one amongst us with the local knowledge and on the spot contacts in the Hawes and Leyburn area. Absolutely tremendous when we have been planning and organising our Musters, as I know Lesley will confirm, and arranging our committee meetings at the Museum. We will miss her but she can still be relied upon to help out locally if we want. May she enjoy her 'retirement' from the committee but enjoy continued membership of the Society. I was delighted that, once again, Diane Howarth agreed to stand for election onto the committee and that the members confirmed it! Diane, our newest Vice President and former secretary, promised when she stood down a few years ago that she would consider re-joining when she 'emigrated' to Yorkshire, which she and her family have now done!

Our two newest committee members, who had been co-opted to the team since the 2010 AGM, Jo Heron and Vivienne Metcalfe, have proved their worth during the year and were also elected formally onto the committee by the members. The rest of the committee agreed to stand again and were duly elected. My thanks to them for agreeing to continue to serve!

Vivienne had a larger role to play later in the day as she gave an excellent talk to the members, after the AGM, about the family and its connection with Nappa. She then conducted a tour of Nappa Hall itself after asking its new owner if we might visit it. Regrettably number had to be restricted because it's a private house and undergoing remedial and structural work. All who went spoke very highly of the visit and the chance to meet its new owner, Mark Thompson, who made them so welcome. We are very grateful to him and Vivienne. I am hopeful that in a few years time, when the work has been completed, we might be invited back and that more will be able to go then. I would like to be able to go myself!!

Whilst the Muster party was away viewing Nappa, I had an opportunity to speak to the Friends of Gayle Mill, whom we were pleased to welcome to the Muster with their stall or sales items and artefacts, including the apprenticeship papers of the first Metcalfe to be involved with the Mill - apprenticed to a gentleman with the surname of Lambert! We were able to

identify him and his line in the Metcalfe Index. As a result the Friends learnt a little more about the personalities who ran the Mill in its heyday. The Friends said that they are willing to take a party of members next year around the Mill, if we would like to arrange it and so I hope we will be able to do this for those of you interested. A party did go when the Mill first opened but we have not arranged a return visit.

One drawback of the afternoon visit was that the main hall was deserted. Most of those who remained stopped to listen, in another room, to a presentation by Margaret Hodgson on the way in which you can utilise our online search facility. A most useful and informative talk.

Special thanks therefore to Vivienne and Margaret for their help. In addition, I must thank Lesley for co-ordinating everything and Jose for finalising local arrangements, including the cheese from the Wensleydale Creamery. Special thanks also to Margaret Metcalfe who again was in charge of the raffle which exceeded last years total by several pounds. We had over 80 people attending including a large contingent from USA (Robert Metcalfe (M1589), with family members Rose Lee T. Metcalfe, Ross A. Metcalfe, Robert J. Metcalfe, Shannon R. Metcalfe and Rosalyn C. Metcalfe who drove over from York in two hire cars .

We explained to the AGM that in these austere economic times the committee had been mulling over how to contain costs, especially with the increases this year in postage and those contemplated for next April. We have not raised the subscriptions for several years, nor did we do so at the AGM. The members agreed to accept the committee's recommendation that we did not need to do so in 2012 but we may have to put forward a proposal to do so at next year's Muster. Net Membership numbers have dropped (although this is not unusual). The major expense for the Society is the Mecca News- its printing and mailing. We mentioned at the Muster that we felt we had only a little room for manoeuvre. I offered to stop writing these jottings to cut down on paper but this was (for me unfortunately) not accepted!

Should we keep the journal at its present length and style? What about trying a slightly less heavy paper without compromising the professional look and feel to our Magazine? Is it too short or long? Is the cover too thick or would you cope with a lower grade cover? Should we publish it electronically or do you still relish the hand held printed version? Should we publish it less frequently or more? Are the contents a good balance? Should we add in more articles but on different themes? If so what themes? We realise that the flyers we include in the Magazine envelope can push us over the relevant band of postage, we are looking at ways to send out messages or forms differently. At present your subscriptions cover the expense of printing and

sending out the Mecca News. Our March 2012 committee meeting is going to consider in some detail what options are available to us. If you have any views do please tell Peter our editor so he can consider what you think and bring it to our attention.

One piece of news just to hand is that the Metcalfe Society library is going to be added, on permanent loan, as a special collection to the research rooms at the Museum in Hawes. This is a particularly pleasing result so far as I am concerned. It will mean that the books are available for researchers and that they will be kept together as a collection. The agreement to do this has yet to be finalised but everything ought to be in place well before the next Muster. As we have been concerned about how to conserve the books and preserve them this is a good way to end 2011.

Christmas is over the horizon once more! I hope you all enjoy the Festive season and that 2012 will give you the family history breakthrough you seek! I will try to enjoy more retirement and some more time to do family history! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. **David Lambert M11**

Books

- ***Ravenstonedale: John Burgess Compiler. History of the High Chapel,***
- ***Ravenstonedale by Cecil E Woodger*** an unpublished typescript which
- mentions ***Metcalfe & Metcalfe-Gibson*** letters 1959-60 and memoirs of the late
- ***Anthony Metcalfe-Gibson***. RFG Hollett & Son, Sedbergh, Cumbria catalogue
- summer 2011. Provided by ***Jean Metcalfe M316***.
- ***John Metcalfe*** Christian author. published worldwide. John Metcalfe Publishing
- Trust, Penn, Buckinghamshire.
- ***Local Newspapers 1750-1920 England&Wales compiled by Jeremy***
- ***Gibson, Brett Langston & Brenda W Smith***. 3rd edition. Updated 2011.
- £5.40.
- ***Dating Old Army Photographs by Robert Pols***. 2011. £7.95.
- ***Poor Law Records for Family Historians by Simon Fowler***. 2011. £7.95.
- ***Family Pictures. How to get the best from.. by Jayne Shrimpton***.
- 2011.£16.60. Further details of the four books above and other publications
- from ***www.thefamilyhistorypartnership.com***
- ***The Yorkshire Dales by Dr George Francklin Redmonds***. Paperback 176
- pages. Published: 2 November 2011. The book uses material from Quarter
- Sessions, title deeds, wills and other documents to investigate a wide range of
- topics that touch on the lives of individuals and families, from religious dissent
- to sheep-stealing and vagrancy. There is emphasis too on the poor, showing
- the impact on families and communities of bastardy, fire, flood, violence and
- other disasters. A book written for anyone interested in the local and family
- history of the Yorkshire Dales. ***www.pen-and-sword.co.uk***



NAPPA HALL VISIT



It was a cold damp dull Dales Autumn day - the day when twenty four members of the Metcalfe Society arrived for the long anticipated visit to Nappa Hall.

The dull day was quickly banished when the group was met with a warm and friendly greeting from Mark Thompson Nappa's owner and a roaring fire in the great hall. After a short introduction by Vivienne Metcalf (M1147) - the committee's organizer for the visit - and an update from Mark on the current position and future plans for Nappa the group was allowed to wander freely around the building (*subject to some off limit areas where repairs were still to be carried out*). And what a time was had by all!

The Hall bought in 2008 had major issues around damp and water penetration (*not helped by the illegal acquisition of roof lead by itinerant metal traders shortly before the purchase*), the need for security and the stabilising of decades of neglect.

The first stage of stopping water penetration has been completed. The tower has been reroofed, the stolen lead replaced and windows and doors painted, made weatherproof and secure. Mark is now looking to start on upgrading and improving the internal areas.

Discussions have started with English Heritage and the National Park authorities on the next stage (*a Grade II listed building is subject to many constraints on what work can be carried out*). It is hoped by early 2012 the plans for replacing the floors in the west tower, the removal of the Victorian ceiling (*to show off the late 17th /early 18th century features*) and the provision of updated bathroom facilities will have been approved.



The intention is to retain as much of the original building features whilst providing a warm comfortable environment. Long term plans include letting out the west tower and providing rooms for hire as well as having a family facility in the Hall.

The inside was said by Mark to be "a mess" and could take up to 10 years and £2m to renovate.



*"VeryVeryVeryVery interesting."
Doug Cutting M855*

*"Really worthwhile".
Pat Rushworth M850*



"Real Privilege." Marsden Holden M1513



*"Beautiful. Full of furniture.
Can see the potential."
Elizabeth Metcalfe M1802*



**Visit of Society members to Nappa Hall
during the 2011 Mecca Muster**

NEWSPAPERS *a useful source for Family Historians*

The first English printer of modern times is generally recognised to be William Caxton who is credited with introducing the printing press to England in the mid 1400's. He and his compatriots - mainly French and Dutch - followed the Chinese and Italians in producing gazettas (*newsletters/pamphlets/notices with usually on one topic designed to ensure rapid transmission of the information printed*) and books. Newspapers as we know them did not appear until the early 18th century but the London Weekly made an appearance in 1620 which was more of a newsbook reporting major events with little local/general news content.



The English Civil War saw the rise of "news" mainly designed to inform (or misinform) supporters/opponents but the way was open after the restoration of Charles II for more newsworthy publications to appear - the London Gazette opening in 1665. The Daily Courant in 1702 is generally accepted as the first true newspaper of the modern age (*but there is a rival claim for the Norwich Post which started up in 1701!*). By the 1720's there were twelve London newspapers and 24 provincial papers and these were steadily added to - The Gentleman's Magazine starting printing in 1731.

These early newspapers tended to concentrate on national news and events and it was not until the early 19th century that more local news content appeared. Even so the development of newspapers as a popular method of information dissemination was slow partly due to government restrictions (Stamp Duties were used as a means of control only allowing the rich access to them) and the lack of reading skills in the general populace.

It was not until 1836 when the duty of 4d (1^{1/2}p) per paper was reduced to 1d (1^{1/2}p) that newspapers as we knew them in the 20th century truly arrived. The duty was finally abolished in 1855 after which a substantial number of local daily and weekly papers were printed. Many of the present day publications date from this time.

For the next 130 years the newspaper industry thrived - *by the 1930's, over two thirds of the population was estimated to read a newspaper every day, with "almost everyone" taking one on Sundays*¹ - but it has seen a massive reduction in titles since the 1980's with the advent of the world wide web. Since 2000 newspapers have had to contend with the growth of 24 hour news programmes and instantaneous dispensing of news /tittle-tattle through the internet/blackberry and other social media. The future looks very different for the newspaper in the coming decades.

The first papers contained little family history information except perhaps for the nobility or the notorious and even the later ones looked for news that would sell papers so your law abiding ancestor may not be easily found!

After the reduction/demise of the stamp duty local content increased. Papers started to include in depth reporting of matters that interested the local populace such as court/petty session/police matters, coroners inquests, details of assize/quarter session cases, work house issues, sport, sales, elections, 'hatch/match/despatch' matters and later as local democracy grew town and village council discussions including licensing requirements.

Photographs of local people and events were not seen greatly before the 1914-1918 war but began to be more prominent in the papers thereafter. The plethora of newspapers gave rise to concerns on content which resonates with issues around the news programmes of today. A 1938 Report on the British Press said that *"a dangerous tendency has recently been manifesting itself by which entertainment ceases to be ancillary to news and either supersedes it or absorbs it."*¹

Newspapers are a valuable and rich source of social and individual information. So where to start? With literally hundreds of newspaper titles you need to focus on those areas where you know your ancestors lived. A useful starting point could be the recently revised booklet *"Local Newspapers 1750-1920 England & Wales"* (see Books page 19 for details) which lists papers by county when they started (and finished) and where they are held. The British Library Newspaper collection holds copies of all publications and a list can be seen at <http://catalogue.bl.uk>. The collection is being moved in the next year or so from Colindale near London to Boston Spa near Wetherby. Digitisation of the collection of newspapers from 1800-1900 is underway and can be viewed at <http://newspapers.bl.uk/blcs>.

Major newspapers have now digitised their back copies and can be accessed on line - usually by subscription. The Daily Universal Register began life in 1785 and was later to become known as The Times from 1788 has a substantial archive which can be seen at <http://archive.timesonline.co.uk.to1/archive>. A recent perusal turned up some **14,000 Mecca hits**! The Guardian and Observer also have online sites. Local repositories such as libraries, county record offices and now subscription family history sites are also places to consider.

If you have not looked at newspapers as a source of family information there is no time like the present. So go to it!

¹2 en.wikipedia..co.uk. Also information from a talk "Using Newspapers for Family History" by John Benson Cheshire Archives & Local Studies given at NWG Fair Chester 6.11.2010.



The Hibernian

Bill Roe M871 writes " I thought this item may be of interest for the Mecca News. My grandfather Joseph Brown Metcalfe (1851-1916) of Kendal and Ingleton was an officer on the Hibernian. In October 1881 he met my grandmother, Anna Jane Traies Haydon when she, her father and seven younger siblings were enroute from Thorverton, Devonshire via Liverpool on the Hibernian to Halifax N.S. thence to the USA probably Baltimore, MD.

Another Hibernian officer, Anders Bull of Norway married a younger sister of my grandmother, Lucy Haydon. They did not have any children and are buried in Norway."

Here are extracts from:

"The Hurricane. A poem by W.B.M.D.

Written on board the "Hibernian" 24th Oct 1881."

(There are 18 verses - unfortunately too many to reproduce here - so the following is an attempt to give a flavour of the poem. Editor)

Verse 1

*'T was in the ship "Hibernian"
A week from Liverpool ;
We'd gales a few and cyclones two,
Bad weather as a rule.*

Verse 2

*But still a merry company
Were we on board this craft;
And laugh and song re-echoed strong
Down in the cabin aft.*

Verse 5

*The Hurricane was at its height,
Fierce hissed the seething tide,
When we shipped a sea - an awful sea,
Right on the starboard side.*

Verse 7

*It stove in the companion,
Three boats it crushed to matches,
Then onward dashed and fairly smashed
The bridge and both the hatches.*

Verse 11

*It flooded all the bed-rooms,
Loud were the cries of woe,
As dashing in and splashing out,
The stewards madly go.*

Verse 12

*To save the floating wreckage
Of hats and boots and trunks ,
All in a muck they wildly stuck
The wet things in the bunks.*

Verse 15

*Oh! that we could in words express
Our thanks to Captain Wylie;
His pluck and skill, averting ill,
We cannot praise too highly.*

Verse 16

*And here a mention make
Of our chief officer;
Of sleep bereft, he laughing left
His pipe and coffee, sir.*

Verse 17

*Though last, not least, a meed of praise
To our companions fair,
Who midst the strife, with danger rife,
Showed pluck and courage rare!*

Verse 18

*And now we're back again on land,
When howls the angry wind,
Both that dread wave and the stewards brave
Will come back to our mind.*

*The SS Hibernia was built by Wm. Denny & Bros, Dunbarton, Scotland. Launched on 11/1/1861 for the Montreal Ocean SS Co. She was a 1,888 gross ton ship, length 280ft, beam 37.7ft, one funnel, three masts (rigged for sail) and a speed of 11 knots. There was accommodation for 101-1st, 30-2nd and 324-3rd class passengers. On 19/12/1871 she commenced her first Liverpool - Halifax - Norfolk - Baltimore sailing.
From www.theshipslist.com which also has a picture of the ship.*

The Metcalfe Society Application Form 2012

Easy for you & easy for the society (no paperwork/postage)...why not pay online? Go to www.metcafes-online.co.uk & click on 'membership' on the left hand side. Overseas applications also benefit from up-to-date currency conversions.

Alternatively, complete the form below & send with payment to the society.

How many years subscription would you like to pay?

To help you and the society, you can pay subscriptions for any number of years you wish on one cheque now **at the current subscription rate**, thereby avoiding future increases in subscription rates. Please circle which year(s) that you wish to pay your subscription:

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

The current subscription rate for annual UK membership to The Metcalfe Society is **£10**. Subscriptions are due 1st January each year. Irrespective of the month you join The Society, you will automatically receive the journals already published for that year. To initially join The Society, the cost is the annual membership fee plus a joining fee, which is 50% of the annual membership, e.g. UK membership is £10 plus £5 joining fee (Total £15). The joining fee is not payable in future years unless a membership is allowed to lapse for more than a year. Those joining late in the subscription year will immediately receive all the journals so far published in that year. Members joining after 1st October will have online access to our databases for the remainder of the year, but have their membership extended to 31st December of the following year. The first Mecca News you will receive in this instance will be the following April's issue.

Personal Details (please print clearly)

Name(s): _____

Address (including postal/zip code): _____

Tel: _____ e-mail: _____

How did you find out about The Society? _____

Have you previously been a member? Yes/No Member No.: _____

£ _____ Membership Fee/s (£10 x number of years)

£ _____ + Joining Fee (50% of 1 year's membership fee)

£ _____ Total Enclosed

Please see overleaf for details of where to send your subscription & other guidance

The Metcalfe Society Gift Aid Declaration

This scheme allows charities to claim back tax paid by UK taxpayers. If you pay taxes in the UK, please sign and return the Gift Aid declaration form below. This provides an additional income to the society at no cost to you whatsoever.

Full Name : _____ Member No: _____

Address : _____

I want The Metcalfe Society, Registered Charity 1000879, to treat all donations I make from the date of this declaration, until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

Signature : _____ Date : _____

When completed send this form to the society with your payment to the Treasurer/Gift Aid Secretary.
For **Queries**, also please contact the Treasurer/Gift Aid Secretary. See overleaf for contact details.
Alternatively, ask your tax office for leaflet IR113 Gift Aid

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Return this form with your payment to **one** of the following:

If you wish to pay in **£ sterling** (irrespective of the country in which you reside), please make your cheque payable to The Metcalfe Society and send it to the Treasurer/Gift Aid Secretary:

* Ms C. Herbert, 22 Webster Crescent, Kimberworth, Rotherham, S. Yorkshire, S61 2BP, **England**

If you wish to pay in the **relevant local currency**, please make your cheque payable to the name of the agent, not the society, and send it to :

* Mrs Alison Hutton, 197 Highsted Road, Christchurch 5, **New Zealand**

* Miss Dianne Fox, 75 Rosehill Road, Lower Plenty, Victoria 3093, **Australia**

* Ms Susan C.M. Harper, 7567 Canada Way, Burnaby, British Columbia V3N 3K1, **Canada**

If you wish to receive a receipt for your subscription payment, please enclose an SAE or IRC.

Data Protection Statement

When you join The Metcalfe Society [The Society] you submit personal information about yourself such as name, address, telephone number, email address. This information is classed as 'General Member Information' [GMI] and is made available to various members of The Society, either fully or in part, to enable them to carry out the functions of The Society, such as mailing out of the Welcome Packs, Mecca News, subscription renewals etc.

You may also provide further information to The Society specifically relating to your family and research. This may include your date and place of birth. This information is used by our archivists to research possible connections to other Society members. By submitting your family tree to The Society you allow us to use such information to further our research into the Metcalfe 'family' and to publish such results for the benefit of The Society in particular and other researchers in general.

Information held by The Society is stored both physically and electronically, but in all cases is only available to authorised persons within The Society for the sole use of carrying out Society activities. Your information is never sold or released to any third parties.

Occasionally current and non-members request contact details for Society members in order to contact them regarding areas of mutual research or family tree connections. In the case of requests from members, contact email addresses, or if not available, mailing addresses, would be provided. For requests from non members the request would be passed to the recipient via The Society, with no information being given directly to the non-member. There are plans underway to implement an online system where requests for information could be made through our website directly to the member by email, without any information being released directly to the originator of the request.

If you would **NOT** like your information to be made available in this way please tick here.

You can check the information held by The Society concerning you online at

www.metcalfe-online.co.uk/members/. Access to this information is by your personal password and is not viewable by anyone else. Access to the information by Society officers is via a separate password control system. If you wish to receive a receipt for your subscription payment, please enclose an SAE or IRC.

Members paid up for the year 2012 are as follows

0001, 0003, 0029, 0033, 0046, 0052, 0055, 0063, 0064, 0086, 0087, 0100, 0113, 0126, 0143, 0148, 0164, 0182, 0186, 0194, 0213, 0215, 0217, 0220, 0231, 0251, 0256, 0305, 0351, 0379, 0398, 0409, 0438, 0440, 0444, 0472, 0490, 0491, 0506, 0515, 0529, 0558, 0567, 0590, 0604, 0630, 0653, 0655, 0676, 0681, 0694, 0706, 0719, 0743, 0744, 0772, 0776, 0831, 0866, 0871, 0882, 0885, 0904, 0905, 0941, 0987, 0990, 1030, 1037, 1051, 1056, 1061, 1073, 1074, 1082, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1120, 1156, 1168, 1170, 1189, 1214, 1217, 1234, 1240, 1250, 1288, 1295, 1369, 1378, 1381, 1383, 1389, 1398, 1406, 1411, 1415, 1425, 1438, 1463, 1481, 1482, 1510, 1513, 1516, 1521, 1539, 1554, 1556, 1571, 1585, 1589, 1597, 1609, 1630, 1646, 1648, 1650, 1655, 1660, 1668, 1669, 1672, 1679, 1709, 1711, 1724, 1726, 1759, 1761, 1773, 1776, 1777, 1783, 1789, 1803, 1806, 1817, 1819, 1821, 1822, 1826, 1827, 1834, 1835, 1836, 1847, 1851, 1854, 1856, 1865, 1887, 1897, 1905, 1910, 1911, 1913, 1914, 1915.



THE FEW

Joan Metcalfe M63 writes:

"I am enclosing a couple of photographs. They were taken at the Battle of Britain Monument to "The Few" on Victoria Embankment in London, it's more or less opposite the Eye but just a bit nearer to Westminster Bridge. It's a very moving

memorial with bronze relief panels showing both the air battle and the conditions of life on the ground at the time. Other plaques give the names of the airmen who took part from whatever country - including **Sgt A.C. Metcalfe**.

Some additional facts gleaned from the internet: the idea for the monument came from the Battle of Britain Historical Society and Westminster Council donated the site. The sculptor was Paul Day and it was unveiled in September 2005.



In total 2936 "airmen" are listed - some were wireless operators, air gunners or observers but the majority including Sgt Metcalfe were pilots."

Editor's note. Further details of where Sgt Metcalfe was stationed, his squadron, his service record etc have not been discovered. The National Archives does not hold service records if the officer served after 1922 or the airman or woman served after 1924. The records are still held by the Ministry of Defence and are only available to ex-servicemen and next-of-kin who may obtain brief details by writing to: RAF Disclosures, Room 221b, Trenchard Hall, RAF Cranwell, Sleaford, Lincs, NG34 8HB. Perhaps you know of this Battle of Britain airman - if so please forward details.

1819 Peterloo Massacre The Peterloo Relief Fund Account Book owned by Manchester University and held in the John Rylands University Library is one of the first ten books to be included in the UNESCO website www.unesco.org.uk/ukregister. The book lists 350 people injured during the massacre who received payments from the fund.

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

We did not receive any requests to investigate new birth briefs until the latter part of this session. For various reasons we have been unable to complete any of them in time for this issue of the magazine.

I'm afraid that David Metcalfe, our Computer Index Keeper, & myself, have experienced problems with our computers. David's problems have been much more serious than mine & he is now suffering from a trapped nerve, which will keep him out of action for a few weeks. We hope to get back to something like normal in the near future, so to anyone with an enquiry which has not yet been dealt with, I can only ask for your patience.

Despite these setbacks, it has been a busy period, which involved preparation for the Muster & participation in the Manchester Fair, organised by the North West Group of FHS. Your Society will be participating in The History Day 2012, organised by the North Yorkshire Record Office. They have decided to hold this event in a new venue, on Saturday 10th March 2012 at the Pavilions of Harrogate on the Yorkshire Show grounds.

Finally, I would like to repeat the point raised at the recent AGM, concerning the lack of new birth briefs. The fact that our data is now available to members online, enabling many to do their own research, does not mean that we would not appreciate receiving your findings. This would give us the opportunity to check them, to add any facts which you may have missed & connect you to any members sharing the same ancestors.

Brian Metcalfe (M1554)

NEW & REJOINING MEMBERS

M0663 Mr D U Nunns 1 Brook Court, Windermere, Cumbria
LA23 2BP unwinnunns@btinternet.com

M1909 Mrs Jacqui Tibble Copsewood, Deadhearn Lane, Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire HP8 4HG jacqui.tibble@btinternet.com

M1910 Mr Peter Turnbull, Robinia House, Bent Lane, Sutton in Craven, Keighley, West Yorkshire BD20 7AL peterturnb@gmail.com

M1911 Mr Brett Jackson, 1 Bramley View, Barrow, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 9AL brettjackson100@tiscali.co.uk

M1912 Mr Anthony Metcalfe, 98 Violet Road, Carlton, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire NG4 3QP zantymetcalfe@yahoo.co.uk

M1913 Mr Brendan G Metcalfe, 157 Rosewell Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4R 2A5 Canada brendanmetcalfe@hotmail.com

M1914 Ms Colleen Tracey, 84 Matchedash Street North, Orillia, Ontario L3V 4T8 Canada cmtracey@rogers.com

M1915 Mr Andrew Metcalfe, 18 London Road, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire MK11 1JL a.metcalfe340@btinternet.com

It is with regret we inform members of the deaths of

Mrs Clare Metcalfe M567

Died 10 July 2011

Frank Wilson M1161

Died 3 August 2011

We extend our condolences to family and friends.

Discover My Past Scotland

Issue 37 – November / December 2011 This 40-page A4 issue is packed with special features and how-to guides to connect you with your Scottish Heritage, including: Queen Victoria's Sudanese wars - a Scottish officer's story. A peek inside the closet - ancestor's shocking secrets

Fashion in Scottish family pictures. Handloom weavers of Perth - top resources for your research. The very first Scots - discover more about our earliest ancestors. Spotlight on Greenock. Expert Q&A. Family history newsround, library and events. See www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

More than one million pages of British historical newspapers are to be published online...

Launching in Autumn 2011, the British Newspaper Archive will make millions of pages of historical newspapers available online for the first time – unlocking a treasure trove of material for historians, researchers, genealogists, students and anyone interested in when, where and how our ancestors lived and key periods of historical interest. The project is a partnership between the British Library and brightsolid online publishing, and aims to digitise up to 40 million pages from the UK national newspaper collection over the next ten years.

See www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk.

The Life of Henry Metcalfe During The Period of His Military Career

(In Mecca News 94 the Discovery of Private Henry Metcalfe's Chronicle was described; this article concentrates on the 'adventures' Henry was involved with in this, perhaps the most savage conflict in British history.)

After a very stormy passage Around the Cape of Good Hope, he landed in Calcutta on the 3rd November 1849 approximately five months after setting sail. This was almost eight years before the Indian Mutiny flared-up and took hold of the nation.

These were not necessarily quiet years for Henry spent doing his duty and resting in the cool of the shade. In fact he reports of long, arduous marches. For example his first was at the turn of the year of 1850, a couple of months after arriving on the sub-continent. His Regiment set out to march to Allahabad just 500 miles away! He states, "Not a bad introduction," but the following October it was a march of 700 miles to Jullundur in the Punjab. He first went into action against, and how familiar the names are to us even today, the Afghan and Khyber Tribes in and around the Swatte Valley, where temperatures reached 115 degrees Fahrenheit (45 degrees Celsius) in the shade!

This was a mere prelude to a main event. These were just skirmishes and the odd pitched battle against frontier tribes. Nothing like what was to come, though Henry

does say that, by the 14th January 1854, they were glad to leave the area even with the expectation of being shipped to help in the Crimean campaign. Little did he realise that, in not much more than two years, 9th October 1856, the Regiment would be ordered to march to Lucknow from their mountain post near Simla in the Himalayas.



Of Cawnpore, Henry notes that at this Depot were left 3 officers, their families, 87 non-commissioned officers and men, plus about 57 women and 62 children. Most were to die in savage circumstances after General Sir Hugh Wheeler had decided not to disarm his Indian troops, after the trust between them had been built up over the many years past. It was to no avail and the mutinous troops forced the General and all the Europeans to take cover in a quickly dug redoubt and trench work. Under the blistering heat from the sun and with no shade, most of the one thousand souls, including 300 women, were picked off by the sepoys.

Balancing this atrocity, which was only one of many, the British took revenge in many ways. Away from Henry's diary there is the story

of John Nicholson, six feet tall, with deep blue eyes framed by black hair and full beard, who formed a very mobile force of Sikh horsemen. His aim was to move rapidly between the sources of the uprising in an attempt to quell and limit the mutiny. On one notable occasion his men captured 120 sepoys from which 40 ringleaders were selected. As an example to all mutineers, the forty were each strapped by their wrists to the tops of the field gun wheels, with their bodies draped over the barrel muzzles of the cannons. Simultaneously all guns were fired! As the smoke and cordite cleared, the sepoys watching their brother soldiers with other onlookers, saw only the arms of the men left in place-while around them fell charred body parts and the heads of their former comrades! Still the mutinous activities spread through the nation.

Henry Metcalfe marched on with his Regiment towards Lucknow and reports one interesting aside occurring on the journey. During some free time he and a comrade visited a hunting box which once belonged to the old ruler of Oude. Whilst discussing the works of art within, a native entered and berated them, saying the stay of the British in Lucknow would be very short-lived, and similar over-bearing comments. As a consequence Henry let him have a 'straight one from the shoulder'. (In the Diary Henry says, "Natives don't like straight ones from the shoulder!") This is very reminiscent of Clive Dunne's comment in the television series 'Dad's Army', "They don't like it up'um, Mr. Mannerling" Henry was subsequently reprimanded leaving him with the wry thought that, "I may fairly say I commenced the Campaign!"

The real fateful day in Henry's life, which turned out to be 30th May 1857, was when three native infantry regiments, a cavalry regiment and half the Native Battery artillery, broke out and, with a demonic yell, rushed for the Officers' Mess tent. Henry's Regiment countered with a volley of ball shot from half the infantry while the heavy guns fired grape shot at the oncoming horde. The mutineers soon scampered back to their own lines to 'lick their wounds' and re-group! However, General Anscombe asked Henry's Colonel for permission to go and speak with the mutineers. Very reluctantly permission was granted but, as soon as he showed himself, he was shot - the first General Officer Henry saw killed in this Mutiny, and probably in his soldiering career! A Sergeant Major in another regiment was taken by surprise while at home with his pregnant wife and children. As his wife was being attacked, the Sergeant Major laid about the rebels armed only with his service sword, killing six before his sword snapped in two and he was overpowered, but it allowed time for his wife, who had been bayoneted, and his children to escape to the safety of the deep jungle. She later lost her unborn baby after reaching safety in Lucknow.

The next seventy pages of Private Henry Metcalfe's diary continue in this vein of dire but bold, brave and bloody action, interspersed with lighter

moments such as the rescuing of the Chaplain's dog (more of which later.) It is never dull but so well written as to make it a true 'page-turner'.

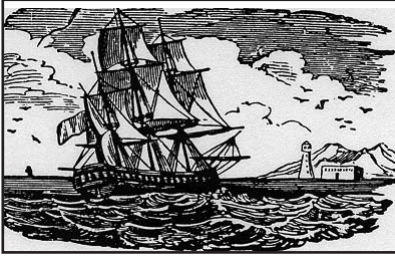
Earlier the reader and searcher for the truth were left with an inadequate termination of Henry's Diary which beset the reader with a series of questions. As we have read, however, the full Diary was ultimately brought together and, as the heading for this section indicates, the 'end is nigh.' But this relates to the fighting soldier who was Henry Metcalfe, not to the camaraderie and fellowship of the military which was and continued to be his 'raison d'etre', his life blood. The Diary quote in Chapter 2 ended, "he said we could not" and, somewhat surprisingly continues, "have done better if we were trying for a twelve month and told us, that the only chance we had was by proceeding on our voyage." This, despite the continuing threat of cholera, was what the remaining part of the 32nd Regiment of Foot and Henry did. He sadly relates the 'death by fear' of an old Sergeant who was going home to retire and receive his pension. Henry says of this man that he would readily face the "Cannon's Mouth," but the fear of cholera caused his death despite his best efforts to stay alive.



It was Henry's view that the one reported human cholera at sea was not as the sailors said, "A glorious death." To him a soldier's death was only to be found 'glorious' in or beside a battlefield! Their 'lost in transit' individual was a Troop Sergeant Major, much respected, who had fought his way through the Crimean Campaign, including Balaclava and the charge of the Light Brigade, through the Indian Mutiny, including the relief and capture of Lucknow, to end his being on Earth as "food for fishes." The sea journey was not enjoyed by land-lubber soldiers but lighter moments did occur. One of these was when the Pomona was becalmed in the Doldrums among the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and received visits from islanders in canoes and possibly the self-styled 'King of the Island'. Henry called him "this Sprig of Royalty" and the men dressed him up in "scarlet jacket, a pair of white clothes (trousers?), top boots and an old silk hat." When they placed a mirror in front of him "the capers that ebony faced individual cut were sublime."

Apart from the accurate historical and current facts reported by Henry, he also expresses clearly to us what sea-going life and transportation was like. We find him, "off the Cape of Good, rightly called the Cape of Storm. We sighted Table Bay on 1st July (they must have been at sea nearly ten weeks) and it was 3 days before we could get into port for fresh supplies and water." They were getting very short of the latter but the adverse winds and

currents kept them out of port. Similarly it was 14 days before they could get out again! It was the end of September before the Pomona ploughed through the ocean waves and arrived in "the chops of the Channel" and at 5pm on



the 25th, about the time the Lucknow residency was relieved and the siege lifted, "our Commanding Officer ordered an extra allowance of grog to the troops." The ship anchored off Gravesend on Saturday, October 11th, 1859, nearly six months after the voyage began. They disembarked and travelled by train to Dover, arriving in mid afternoon to great

rejoicing and acclamation from the towns-folk. There were flags and banners displaying the slogans, 'Welcome The Heroes of Lucknow', and 'Welcome The Protectors of Women and Children' etc.

Leaving all the excitement behind, Henry is granted a "furlough" so off he went home (to Cheshire?) to do a bit of courting, making up for lost time. However, it was six months later when he returned and married the girl. Returning to the Regiment which was now stationed in Aldershot, he was promoted to Sergeant at the age of about 25.

Very early in this tale we heard of 'Bustle', or was it 'Bussle', the dog who had become a bit of a nuisance in the ranks defending the Lucknow Residency, and who belonged to the Revd. and Mrs J. P. Harris. Henry had taken care of the dog and the situation was resolved. He last saw Bussle at "the end of November 1859 and did not see him again" the Harris's having left Lucknow to "proceed down country." It was a year later when Henry was on line duty at Aldershot when "turning to the block who should I see running towards me but Mr Harris accompanied by the dog." There was much pleasure and joy at the reunion and subsequently Henry visited the family, when 'old times' were probably at the top of their conversational agenda.

On the move again finds Henry in 1863 at the Curragh Camp in Ireland. While his Regiment was in Ireland they marched to Dublin, Waterford and Kilkenny. During this time he was absent from his Company as he studied for, and achieved, the post of Musketry Instructor. Throughout this period his wife must have been with him, for he reports that his son was born on Christmas day 1864. With his son about 18 months old, Henry was aboard ship again with his family heading for Gibraltar. Sadly an accident, fortunately not fatal, occurred on the 12th July, "previous to our disembarkation my eldest child, Agnes, was severely scalded by upsetting a tin pot of boiling tea on herself." On Gibraltar he was put on public works, but cholera intruded into his working and private life once more. Suffering, but recovering again

himself, he almost lost "my oldest girl, Agnes, but she was spared and after this my Christmas box was very near going but was also spared thank God."

Having being promoted to Colonel Sergeant, Henry and the Metcalfe family were fairly constantly on the move. Starting in May 1867 they were en route to Mauritius where on 14th September, a second daughter was born. The next voyage was a 10 day steam aboard H. M. S. Urgent to disembark at East London, on the Cape of Good Hope. Eventually in November 1871, having been posted to many locations in the territory, he passed his Board of Claims and returned to East London to embark for England. Henry's diary then becomes a 'race to the finish', calling in at Simon's Bay, St. Helena, Ascension Island, St. Vincent then crossing the stormy Bay of Biscay, thence to Plymouth and finally to Portsmouth.

Following his discharge he joined the East York Militia as Musketry Instruction and, after three and a half years, joined the 27th Cheshire Rifle Volunteers at Wilmslow. Here he spent four happy years of his career until he was promoted to the post of Senior Instructor to the Macclesfield Volunteers where his professional connection with the military eventually terminated. (He did, however, teach drill to the boys of the Macclesfield Modern School.) At the good age of 80 in 1915 he died.

These lines were quoted by Henry in his Diary
after the celebratory home coming from India.

*When War is proclaimed and dangers nigh,
God and our soldiers is the peoples cry,
But when peace is proclaimed and all things righted,
God is forgot and the soldier slighted.*

This article was compiled from the book 'The Chronicle of Private Henry Metcalfe' collected by Lieut.-General Sir Francis Toker and published by Cassell in 1953.

Leon Metcalfe M320

Did you know that?

From the Family Tree Magazine January 1998.

When remedies and cures were sold in great quantities at country fairs the vendor proclaimed their supposed value in a loud voice. This strident form of advertising was known as "quacking", the term becoming associated with medicine generally. Hence the word "quack" to describe a false medical man but sometimes used jestingly for a real one.

The best way to know that someone was not carrying a weapon was to take his hands in yours. This action eventually led to the practice of shaking hands as a sign of friendship.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

From <http://geneva.weald.org.uk>

February 24-26 Who Do You Think You Are? Olympia London SW1

March 4 Merseyside & Cheshire FH Fair, Port Sunlight

Saturday March 24. Federation of Family History Societies AGM, Wesley's Chapel 49 City Road London EC1 1AU.

28 - 31 March. The 13th Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry. 'Your Ancestors in their Social Context'. Adelaide, South Australia.

North Yorkshire County Record Office

4 February 2012. Next steps in family history. For people who may have used the internet to look at census and registration records, and are ready to explore other sources. The cost is £30.

10 March. Local and Family History Day 2012 at The Pavilions of Harrogate.

Friends of the Swaledale Museum Talks 2012

Wednesday 15th February at 2.00. June Hall, 'Folk Knitting Traditions across Northern Europe'. Hand knitting spread across northern Europe from the sixteenth century.

Wednesday 14 March at 2.00. Jane Hatcher, Local Historian. 'Isabella - A Swaledale Foundling'. Based on documentary evidence from several sources, this sad story is a mixture of a lot of facts and a tiny bit of fiction.

Wednesday 18th April at 7.30 Janet Bishop, Chairman of the Friends of Swaledale Museum, 'Alexander Fothergill and the Richmond to Lancaster Turnpike Road'

West Yorkshire Archives

The future of Sheepscar

The Archive Service has been working with Leeds City Council to provide improved accommodation for and access to the irreplaceable archive collections relating to Leeds District.

The Sheepscar building has a number of problems related to its age and construction and the National Archives has declared it no longer fit for purpose. Having explored a range of other options, none of which proved to be workable or affordable, we have now received approval from the Executive Board of Leeds CC to move out of the Sheepscar building and convert space for storage and public access at the Joint Services HQ complex at Gildersome. For the first time, nearly two-thirds of Leeds archives will be accommodated on the same site.

We are planning for the new facilities to be ready in the third quarter of 2012. There will need to be a short time when the service cannot provide a public service, while the collections are in transit. We will make information available as soon as the timetable is finalised and keep that time to a minimum. Katy Goodrum. November 2011.

Alice Metcalfe discovered

I appealed for help with Alice Metcalfe in the April edition of Mecca News, no 93, page 26, where her career up to 1901 is summarised. She was born at Copt Hewick near Ripon. I got no responses from this; here is how I found out what happened to her after 1901.

A search in the official 1911 census website for Alice, born 1869 at Copt, Yorkshire returned one result with the name Landerson living at Stockton. Including the word Hewick in the search gave no results (because it has been transcribed Hewicl). A further search for Landerson, with additional name Alice at the same place returned John Robert Landerson. Refining the marriage date parameter suggested that they were married about 1908. This information was revealed without paying for a transcript or census image.

Looking for John Robert in 1901, it soon became clear that the name was more likely to be Sanderson, and that is when the fun really began. FreeBMD gave a marriage of John Robert Sanderson in 1908 in Sunderland, with three names, two men and one bride; John's bride was missing because of incorrect transcription (corrected since then). I also found in FreeBMD a marriage for Alice Metcalfe in the Knaresborough district, Jul-Sept 1907, with three names on the page, two women and one man; Alice's husband was missing because of another transcription error. I decided that the Sunderland marriage was more likely because Alice had left home and travelled widely (Torquay) and was in Stockton, county Durham in 1911.

I bought the certificate from the Passport and Identity Service, using the GRO index reference, and it was wrong. I don't know why I did not find the 1907 John Robert Sanderson reference for Knaresborough (with its wrong page number). The Knaresborough certificate was the right one. It gave Alice's address in Harrogate where her father and sister were living at the time, a house that has been in the family until relatively recently.

An alternative way of finding the marriage certificate would have been to ask the Identity and Passport Service, giving details of the bride and groom and the year, but not giving the GRO index reference. The staff will search one year before and one year after the given year. The fee is the same; it just takes a bit longer.

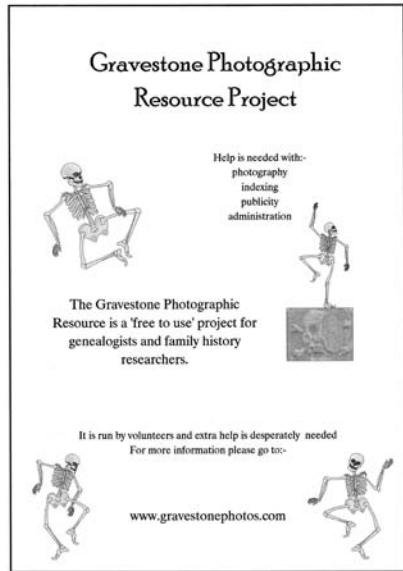
Gravestone Photographic Resource Project

This is not the end of the story however. During an idle moment I started an internet search for the name John Robert Sanderson. The response included a website which holds a photograph of the tombstone of Alice and John Robert in Stockton-on-Tees., which leads to my second contribution to this issue: **www.gravestonephotos.com**

This website is the result of the Gravestone Photographic Resource Project, run by Charles Sale in Cyprus. Charles created the website to enable

family historians to share images of gravestones. It is invaluable for people with relatives buried in distant parts of the country or overseas.

The website works like this. Volunteers submit their photos. A transcription of the names on each monument is put into a database that can be searched on the website. The photos are not visible directly. If you find a monument of interest to your family history, you can request a copy of the photo, which Charles then sends to you via email. Access to the website is free to all who find it, and photos are given freely to those who request them. Charles hopes that people who receive a photo will respond by donating others.



The photo I asked for was in my computer within a few hours. No donation is requested, although Charles does accept donations from volunteers to help pay for equipment and other costs of running the project.

At the time of writing (26th August 2011) the site has graves from 14 countries. In England, 914 cemeteries are listed with 128485 graves and 256653 names. There are about 143 Metcalfes (with a few other names) in 68 graves. There are 69 Metcalfs in 35 graves and 16 Medcalfs in 9 graves. The numbers are growing daily.

The most useful volunteer for the project is one who will systematically take photos of all the monuments in a cemetery (including inside a church), or a team of volunteers to cover large cemeteries. There is currently one school in Wales that has started an after school club which will be taking photographs in their local churchyard and indexing the results.

A similar website for accessing photographs of war grave memorials is **www.twgpp.org**. This is the War Grave Photographic Project, again run by volunteers working as a joint venture with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. If you find a grave, the site suggests a donation of £3.50 for an email copy or £5.50 for a hard copy sent by post. The request is processed when your donation is received.

Other websites can be found, such as **www.britishwargraves.co.uk**, run by Mick McCann. I have not investigated this site. It appears that you send a request for a named individual rather than looking through a list of names on the site, and photos are sent free of charge.

There is also a Scottish War Graves Project, part of **www.scottishmilitaryresearch.co.uk**.

Michael Peel M1698

Are we white or red ? - or pink & who won ?

From - Fatal Colours - by George Goodwin - 2011. With foreword by David Starkey --

" ... There were still [c 973] important regional differences of course: between North and South and the Celtic west and the rest. These differences emerge very clearly in the composition of the rival armies at Towton [1461]: the Lancastrian troops came largely from the North; the Yorkist, from the South and Wales. Moreover, Yorkist propaganda went out of its way to play on the fear of the Northern men as 'the other'. It painted them as violent predators, intent on destroying the peace and prosperity of the South. And it worked. It led, it is argued, to the extraordinary savagery of the battle, in which the defeated and defenceless Northerners were treated as an alien horde and slaughtered in droves. And it left a legacy, in 'the problem of the North', which is still with us today. ...

The white rose of York was a frequently used emblem, both in peace and war. Under Edward IV of York, who defeated Henry VI at Towton, the white rose appears on banners, coats-of-arms, jewellery, stained glass, coins, seals and paintings. On the other hand, the red rose of Lancaster is conspicuous by its absence. for the sixty-odd-year rule of the house of Lancaster, from 1399 to 1461, not a single convincing contemporary use of the red rose as a royal dynastic emblem has been found. " ***Supplied by CS Metcalfe M305***

A LOCAL CALL.

An American researcher decided to write a book about famous churches around the world. He decided to work his way across the USA from south to north so his first stop was Orlando. One his first day he was taking photographs in a church when he noticed a golden telephone mounted on the wall with a sign that read '\$10,000 per call'. Being intrigued he asked the minister what the telephone was used for. He was told it was a direct line to heaven and that for \$10,000 you could talk to God. The researcher thanked the minister and went on his way.

The next stop was Atlanta. There in a very large cathedral he saw the same golden telephone with the sign beneath it. The traveller wondered if it was like the one in Orlando so he asked a priest what its purpose was. He was again told it was a direct line to heaven.

He then went around the world and in many churches he saw the same sign. Before returning home he called in on England and went to visit his ancestral home in the Yorkshire Dales. The first church he entered had the same telephone but the sign said '40 pence per call'. The traveller was surprised so he asked the minister. "I've travelled all over the world and seen this golden telephone in many churches. I'm told it's a direct line to heaven but in all of them the price was \$10,000 per call. Why is it so cheap here?"

The Minister smiled and answered

"You're in Yorkshire now, son - it's a local call!"



*A roaring fire in the Great Hall
greets Society members
on their Nappa Hall visit*

