

MECCA NEWS

THE JOURNAL OF THE METCALFE SOCIETY

www.metcalfe.org.uk



THE METCALFE SOCIETY

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April 2012

Issue No 96

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

The MECCA NEWS

Editor: Peter Dobson



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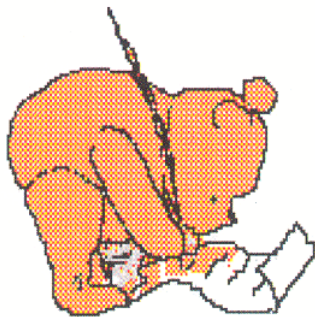
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FROM THE EDITOR



It is not often in a one name society that a major new source of material appears. Most of the BMD's and census records together with a large number of parish records have been copied and made available to the membership. So when a large batch of information becomes available it opens up endless possibilities to tie up "loose ends". This is one of those occasions.

George Buxton M3 has been beavering away in the British Library since the mid 90's looking for Mecca individuals in the India Office records. The records are voluminous and contain the minutia of the East India Company in particular and the British Colonial powers after the Indian Mutiny.

George's efforts have uncovered a wealth of individual Mecca information from the highest (Charles Theophilus Metcalfe was a Governor General) to the ordinary private in the army in India. We intend launching a booklet and accompanying CD at this years Muster and are hopeful of a positive membership response.

These are interesting times for family history societies with commercial operations now taking over the role that the FHS's have held for the best part of thirty years. Many societies are finding their membership dropping (and income along with it) and are seeking new ways and means to reduce costs and improve sales.

Your society has looked at reducing the cost of the Mecca News and its associated postage charges. There are suggestions that the Mecca News should go electronic but this is not widely favoured. It has been further suggested that more use of the e-newsletter for general information should be made and the Mecca News be more article related (and perhaps smaller in size). What do you think?

Are there any areas of family history you would like your magazine to cover? Let me know at editor@metcalfe.org.uk

Peter Dobson M69

CORRECTION: Somewhat enthusiastically I typed an additional zero on to my note in the last magazine. For those of you who thought we had suddenly acquired rather a lot of additional records the figure should have read ... (over 100,000). **Editor**

**YOUR INVITATION TO THE
METCALFE SOCIETY
ANNUAL AGM & MUSTER**

**Saturday 6th October 2012 - 10am to 4.30pm
at The Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes,
Wensleydale, North Yorkshire DL8 3NT**

Events on the day will include the following:

Speaker and the possibility of a visit to Aysgarth Church (to be confirmed).

The Annual AGM at 10.30am

a chance to hear and join in what is happening in your Society.

A great opportunity to meet fellow members to whom you may be connected

Browse the Metcalfe Society Merchandise including

Metcalfe - History of the Clan book - "Highly Commended"

by the Guild of One Name Societies;

our **CD's** of previous issues of the **Mecca News**;

Metcalfe Wills Books; Certificate Folders to store those valuable documents;

Metcalfe Mugs , Key Rings, Bookmarks, Coat of Arms in colour;
and **Wensleydale Cheese.**

Introducing Swapshop - bring your spare/unwanted certificates.

Our Research Team will be available to help you
search our online database or you can browse through paper records

Explore the Dales Countryside Museum

including their **Local History Studies Room.**

ALSO

The launch of

METCALFES IN INDIA

Part II 1700-1947

The stories and background to the Metcalfe family in India available
in a 64 page booklet together with a major research undertaking
by George Buxton M3 running to over 900 pages on CD.

RESERVATION / LUNCH OPTIONS FORM is overleaf

Please return by 22nd September 2012

MUSTER RESERVATION / LUNCH OPTIONS FORM

Please return by 22nd September 2012

I wish to reserve the following number of places at the Muster

Please place an X against A plus one of B, C, D or E.

(A) Entrance to the Muster (which is free) includes complimentary tea or coffee;

(B) Will bring own packed lunch;

(C) Two course lunch at the Wensleydale Pantry

(1st floor restaurant on the main street in Hawes);

(D) Buffet at Beckindales (Restaurant adjacent to the entrance road to the Museum);

(E) Selection of sandwiches etc available in the village.

You will able to select from the menu available on the day at the Wensleydale Pantry.

Though we do not require any advance payment for either restaurant we do have to give them the number of people intending to eat there.

YOUR NAME..... Membership Number.....

Address.....

email:..... Telephone.....

Names of people in your party:

(1).....Membership number / Guest.....

(2).....Membership number / Guest.....

(3).....Membership number / Guest.....

Send the reservation form and all queries relating to the Muster to

Mecca Muster 2012

Mrs Lesley Longworth

57 Westbourne Avenue

Hull HU5 3HW

☎ +44 - (0)1482-342516

email: muster@metcalfe.org.uk

*T'was in the year of '89 on that old Great Western line,
When the winter wind was blowin' shrill,
The rails were froze, the wheels were cold,
then the air brakes wouldn't hold,
And Number 9 came roaring down the hill -- oh!*

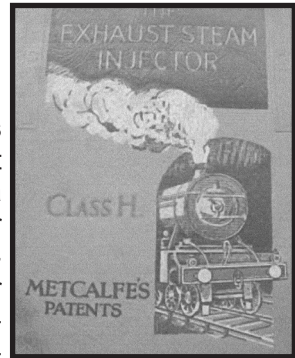
*The runaway train went over the hill and she blew,
The runaway train went over the hill and she blew,
The runaway train went over the hill
and the last we heard she was going still,
And she blew, blew, blew, blew, blew.*

The Shipton-on-Cherwell train crash was a major disaster which occurred on the Great Western Railway. It involved the derailment of a long passenger train at Shipton-on-Cherwell near Kidlington, Oxfordshire on Christmas Eve, 24 December 1874, and was one of the worst ever disasters on the Great Western Railway. The subsequent public enquiry of the Board of Trade highlighted several safety problems, including wheel design, braking and communications along trains. The accident came in a decade which saw many terrible accidents on the rail network, and culminated in the Tay Rail Bridge disaster of 1879. The basic cause was established as a broken tyre on the carriage just behind the locomotive, but that failure was worsened by the poor braking system fitted to the train. The engine brake caused the failed carriage to be squashed, and the carriages behind derailed near the Oxford Canal. There were 34 deaths and 69 seriously injured in the carriages which fell from the bridge over the canal.

Perhaps the accident would have been lessened if a superior braking system had been used but this was some years off. In the earliest days of railways, braking technology was primitive. The first trains had brakes operative on the locomotive tender and on vehicles in the train, where "porters" travelling for the purpose on those vehicles operated the brakes. Some railways fitted a special deep-noted brake whistle to locomotives to indicate to the porters the necessity to apply the brakes. All the brakes at this stage of development were applied by operation of a screw and linkage to brake blocks applied to wheel treads, and these brakes could be used when vehicles were parked.

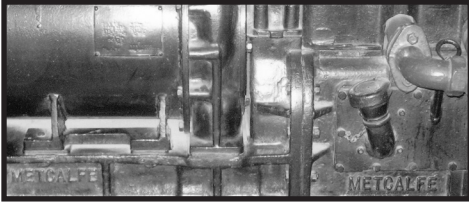
The braking effort achievable was limited, and an early development was the application of a steam brake to locomotives, where boiler pressure could be applied to brake blocks on the locomotive wheels. It was also unreliable, as the application of brakes by guards depended upon them hearing

"RAILWAY ENGINEERS TO THE WORLD"



and responding quickly to a whistle for brakes.

As train speeds increased, it became essential to provide some more powerful braking system capable of instant application and release by the train driver, described as a continuous brake because it would be effective along the whole length of the train.



On to the scene came a Romiley, Stockport based company which had developed a number of patents associated with the railway industry. The patent for the braking system was developed and refined over the years and so suc-

cessful was the design that over one hundred years later the vacuum brake system continues to be used. The system is the standard British Railways automatic air brake controlled from each rail car by **Davies & Metcalfe** E70 electronic pneumatic disc brakes.

This air brake system can be seen on modern trains across the world including New Zealand, South Africa and sprinter trains in Victoria Australia. British Rail class 56 locomotives use them and an example can be found at the National Railway Museum in York where a high speed prototype proudly shows its brake system.



Davies and Metcalfe Ltd was not formed until the latter part of the 19th century when it started activities in Romiley Cheshire. It was founded by James Metcalfe who had been born in Oswestry on the Welsh border in 1847. James's antecedents were miners in the local collieries and it would appear that this is where James got his engineering interests. By the time he was of an age to work the railway age was sweeping Britain with numerous plans, some extremely ambitious, to link ports, country and towns were being proposed.

One such plan had received the backing of Parliament in July 1860 was the Manchester & Milford Railway (M&MR) designed to link Milford Haven with the burgeoning metropolis of Manchester. It was always struggling to be implemented and only some fifteen miles in central Wales were built. One of the backers was David Davies a Montgomeryshire entrepreneur. Born in 1818 his father was a tenant farmer engaged in wood related activities. David followed suit but by the mid 1840's was buying land and farms in

mid Wales. In 1850 he undertook his first civil engineering project and as his experience grew so did his fortune. Davies interests moved into coal and he backed the extraction of a particularly rich seam in the Rhondda. His wealth grew.

The railways were a logical step for his engineering work and he was soon financing plans around mid Wales included the ill fated Manchester & Milford Line. Another backer of the line was Edward Hamer, a successful local businessman from Llanidloes - the terminus of the M&MR. Hamer became the General Manager of the line.

James Metcalfe took up an apprenticeship with Sharp Stewart and Company in Manchester. The business set up in 1828, at the Atlas Works to manufacture textile machinery and machine tools was by 1852 manufacturing parts for the railways; one of their manufactures being the French designed Giffard injector for which the company had sole British manufacturing rights. In 1867 James finished his apprenticeship and returned home to join the M&MR as a locomotive driver working from Aberystwyth.

Evidently James's experience with Sharp Stewart and especially with the Giffard injector, had given him some ideas on the development of a more efficient steam engine. In 1875 together with Edward Hamer he registered a patent for an exhaust steam injector which allowed greater fuel savings than that delivered by the Giffard pure live steam injector. Hamer and Davies involvement with M&MR and their financial backing provided James with the wherewithall to set up The Patent Exhaust Steam Injector Company in Aberystwyth in April 1878 to manufacture their inventions.

The steam injector was highly successful and led to the expansion of the business and the transfer to Romily, Stockport in the 1890's. The company name was changed to Davies & Metcalfe shortly afterwards. The business grew over the next ninety years with numerous patents being registered and subsequent products being manufactured. The business was highly regarded in the railway equipment industry.



In 1978 the Stockport Express reported:

"Wherever in the world you may travel by train, be it driven by steam, by a diesel engine or pulled by an electric locomotive, you can almost be certain the safety devices, the braking system on the coaches and on the engine and the 'dead man's handle' in the driver's cabin were

*supplied straight from Romiley.....
throughout the British Isles the Metcalfe device has been used for
the past 100 years, with the firm, a true family business,
headed throughout the century by a Metcalfe."*

However this was the zenith for the company. The railway industry under pressure from emerging third world producers saw a frenzy of amalgamations and takeovers in the late 1980's and 1990's which swept up Davies & Metcalfe. They were taken over in 1987 by the Telfos Group of Leeds who were in turn acquired by the Austrian transport group Jenbacher in 1992. In 1994 the Injector Works of Davies & Metcalfe in Romiley was closed. The workforce which had reached 500 by the late 1970's was transferred to smaller premises with many of its activities spread around group businesses.

The old works was earmarked for housing development but delays and machinations meant that the site lay abandoned for nearly ten years until 2003 when building work started. Now nothing remains of the Davies & Metcalfe Ltd name in Romiley except apartments named Metcalfe Court and Davies Court. How many of the occupiers know where the names come from?

The railway industry has not forgotten Davies & Metcalfe. They went through further amalgamation and change and are now part of the Swedish Air Brake (SAB) and US Westinghouse Air Brake Company (WABCO) business. They still retain their name under the arrangement as SAB Wabco Davies & Metcalfe Ltd with premises in Leek Staffordshire from where their products are distributed. A far cry from the large manufacturing operation in Romiley. However the injectors/air brakes etc are still in demand by steam preservation society groups and are used in the modern rail industry today. A quick look on the internet site of a heritage railway manufacturer showed a list of Davies & Metcalfe patterns running to 26 A4 pages!



If you visit the National Railway Museum at York or are having a day out at one of the steam preservation railway sites like the Vale of Rheidol Railway (*opposite*) or have time waiting for a train take a look at the braking system - you may find the equipment was invented by a member of the Clan!



Sources: **Charles Metcalfe M305** - background info (primarily from Davies & Metcalfe: Railways Engineers to the World 1878-1940) and Metcalfe database; and the internet inc wikipedia.co.uk. Photographs of brake system, steam injector and APT at York courtesy of **Alan Boardman M1430**.

METCALFE: History of the Clan

Copies are selling steadily.
No new printing planned so when they've
gone they've gone. If you haven't already
got your copy of this remarkable book
don't wait, go to
www.metcalfes-online.org.uk today!

WANTED Committee Member

Vacancy arising in October.
If interested please contact
chairman@metcalfe.org.uk for details.



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or not notified the Society of one you already have?**

If so you could be missing out on our e-newsletter and
other current Society information.

To keep in touch send details of your email address (and membership
number and name) to **webadmin@metcalfe.org.uk**

**The Committee is pleased to announce the forthcoming
release of METCALFES IN INDIA Part II 1700-1947**

This will be a limited opportunity to secure the history of the Clan in the sub continent
as only 50 copies are to be printed. A 64 page booklet outlining the British involve-
ment and stories concerning the Metcalfe family in India will be available together
with an accompanying CD running to over 900 A4 pages listing hundreds of Mecca
individuals. This major research undertaking has been undertaken
by George Buxton M3 over some fifteen years and may well provide information
concerning "lost" Clan individuals.

The booklet and CD will be available in a presentation pack
together with the earlier produced Part I 1600-1700.

Further details in the August Mecca News.

UPDATE: Mecca News 95 Newspapers p23.

From the time I wrote the article The Times Digital Archive
has moved from a free service to a subscription website.

You can join for £2 per week via
www.thetimes.co.uk/Times_Online
or access free at most local UK libraries. Editor.

MARSDENS STORY (Part II)

Marsden Peter Holden M1513

(In Mecca News 95 Marsden explained that there was a lack of clarity concerning the source of his forename and described that he had traced back two earlier members of his family bearing the name. The search for the origin continues back to the fourth generation of Marsdens. Editor)

I mentioned the oddity that I had a death plaque in my grandfather's name but knew that he had lived until 1961 to Di, my sister-in-law. In next to no time she reported that she had seen the Butchers War Memorial in Burnley and **Marsden** Metcalfe was on it.



This was far too strange to leave and I dug some more.

My grandfather (born 1 August 1892 – see Mecca News 95 page 16) was the son of James Metcalfe who was the second child and son of John Metcalfe and Mary nee Metcalfe. The tenth child and seventh son of John and Mary was **Marsden** - born on 10 December 1886 at 25 Clarence Street, Habergham Eaves. That makes him my Great Great Uncle.

The information sent by Nina E Benson of the Metcalfe Society added a couple of bits of information to my knowledge and one of them was that this Marsden was married. There were no next of kin details on the Commonwealth War Graves site unusually and I was quite unaware of the marriage. A photo of the couple was discovered later. Perhaps the most touching aspect of it is the inclusion of a dog remarkably similar to my daughter's dog, Henry – greatly loved and missed by all the family. He married Annie Nuttall, a weaver of 30 Roebuck Street, Burnley. Her father John was a grocer. They married on 16 May 1916 at Holy Trinity, Habergham Eaves. He was a butcher and living at 65 Brunswick Street Burnley.



His military records are frustratingly brief. The CWG site tells me that he was No 235473 and in the 1st/5th Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers. A visit to the Lancashire Fusiliers Museum in Bury added that his theatre of war was France and Belgium. Intriguingly it also added that he had previously been in the Kings Own Royal Lancaster Regiment as No 202545. I have not yet been able to unearth anything about that. The Fusiliers Curator helpfully suggested that he had probably been wounded or become ill and been sent back to the UK to recover. He would then have been retrained and reallocated. He also said that his Fusiliers unit

was in trenches at Wilde Wood and Bill Cottage. The attack that day was on Borry Farm and Marsden had died attacking the farm.

The History of the Lancashire Fusiliers 1914-1918 Volume 1 written by Major-General J C Latter describes the episode under the heading "*An Ill Starred Attack – 1st/5th, 1st/6th, 1st/7th and 1st/8th Battalions*". I was very moved on reading it. Someone dying in a war is quite usual so it wasn't that that struck me. What really struck home was what they went through before it – sleep deprivation, hard labour and noise – it sounds like torture.

"The First-Line territorial battalions spent the greater part of the summer opposite the Hindenburg Line near the extreme right of the British line. But towards the end of August 1917 they moved to the Ypres district taking their place in the line near Frezenberg. The share allotted to the 125th (Lancashire Fusiliers) Infantry Brigade was the capture of Borry Farm, Beck House and Iberian Farm which lay to the northeast of Frezenberg.... The key to any attack on Iberian Farm was Hill 35 which was 300 yards to the north of it.... The attack was ordered for 6th September and was to be carried out ... by the 1st/5th Battalion (Lt Col. P V Holberton, Manchester Regiment) ... Two companies of the former were to take Borry Farm. The artillery preparation was thorough. On 3rd and 4th September Borry Farm was bombarded by 6 and 12-inch howitzers and by 15 inch guns. Further shelling took place on the 5th and brought about heavy German retaliation between 9.30 and 10.30 that night causing serious interference with the preparations for the attack.....

On the night of the 5th/6th the 1st/5th dug an assembly trench which was occupied by C and D Companies who were to carry out the attack. At 7.15 am on 6th September a heavy bombardment was opened on the objective, especially at Borry Farm. At 7.30 am the assault was launched. On the right C and D Companies of the 1st/5th with A and B in support moved forward under cover of a creeping barrage only to be met at once by heavy machine gun and rifle fire from Vampire Farm, close to the Ypres-Zonnebeke road south-east of Borry Farm and from some dug-outs south of the latter. After going 150 yards the attack could make no further progress in face of this withering fire. It was now the turn of the Germans. At about 10.45 am some three companies of them delivered a counter attack.....

The net result of the days fighting had been the gain of a shallow wedge of ground 150 yards in depth on the right and tapering down till it joined the original line in the centre. The casualties had been very heavy. The 1st/5th lost 7 officers and nearly 500 men... The decorations awarded include (1st/5th) Military Cross –2 and Military Medal – 9".

This Marsden also merited the British War and Victory Medals.

He died on 6 September 1917 at Passchendaele. There is no grave but he is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial at Zonnebeke, West Flanders. This is the largest Commonwealth War Grave in the world with 12,000 graves and 35,000 names on the memorial. Marsden is listed on the panel for privates of the Lancashire Fusiliers - about 200 names to a panel in 3

columns with only the initial not the full Christian name. One other Metcalfe is listed with him.



The Burnley Express of 9 March 1918 shows that his wife had to put up with the extended grief of not knowing his fate and just having a "*missing*" tag to put up with for 6 months. His body was never recovered and he stays as "*Presumed Dead*".

The third Marsden Metcalfe with no marked grave.

Much later I discovered the following in a book by Lyn Macdonald entitled "*They called it Passchendaele*". I recognise it is a bit gruesome - and as Marsden was one of the ones not identified, quite affecting for me - but it is real and gives a true picture of the awfulness.

The 2nd/5th East Lancashire Regiment were given a job. "They were to go to the Frezenberg Ridge and bury the bodies of the successive waves of soldiers who had been killed there in the fighting of the two months before Borry Farm and Beck House had fallen on 20 September".

Lt P King writes: "We were each told to take a section of men and one NCO, draw rubber gloves, sandbags, and an extra rum ration for the men, and take our sections out to the battlefield area to bury the dead. It was an appalling job. Some had been lying there for months. We had to open their tunic pockets to get out their AB64's, which we had to put separately in a sandbag. If they had any identity discs, then we marked the grave - just put the remains in a sandbag, dug a grave and buried him. Then I had to write it on a list and give the map reference location. It was a terrible job and it was deeply distressing for the men. There was no sign of civilisation. No cottages, no buildings, no trees. It was utter desolation. There was nothing at all except huge craters, half the size of a room.... full of water."

There was a second Marsden Metcalfe in this generation. Mary, the mother of the Lancashire Fusilier (*above*), was the daughter of James Metcalfe and Margaret nee Close. This family is partly shown as Branch 8 in the History of the Clan. James was the first child of William and Elizabeth. Their sixth child and fifth son was a Marsden (*who is written about in the next episode*). He had a son Anthony born in 1871. Anthony married Alice Lund on 25th January 1902 in Keighley. Their son, Marsden, was born on 17 November 1902 at 44 Southampton Street, Bradford. He died in the same house less than three months later on 14 February 1903. The cause of death was convulsions. (*To be continued.*)

I do not know if you agree but it does seem as if the years fly by more quickly than ever. I am amazed that we are celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. I knew it was coming but it seems to have sneaked up on us and arrived suddenly! Likewise the Olympic Games which will be held less than 6 months how quickly that seems to have arrived!

I can well recall the Queen's Silver and the Gold Jubilees and indeed a little of the Coronation in 1953. I remember some of the anticipation of the June event. I had a Union Flag to wave and one on my tricycle, together with a number of coloured cardboard cut-outs of the procession, with soldiers in scarlet jackets and bearskins and cavalymen with swords on horseback along with the coronation coach. I distinctly recall seeing a television for the first time.

We (presumably mother or father) went across the road to the house of a wealthier or maybe more modern thinking neighbours and sat around the room watching the pictures on a relatively small, grey screen in a wooden box. I do not remember really what was happening, or who was in the room, where it was dark as the curtains were drawn to aid viewing presumably. There were a lot of chairs set out around the perimeter of the room filled with adults and this odd box with pictures on it!

As I write this it has occurred to me that during the last 175 years, we have had 2 Queens reigning over us for a total of 124 years? We have had 4 Kings in the remaining 51 years if my maths is right!

Now for a series of chairman's challenges! ***Chairman's Jottings***

Do any of you have any family stories about the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897? I feel I am on safe ground saying that we will not have any members born before then who remember it! It is likely though that some of your ancestors did recount tales of what happened to celebrate the event. Why not write and tell us. We can include yours in our Muster displays in October.

Those of you who read Tom Wood's column in Family Tree magazine will know how he reports on strange facts and occurrences every month and updates on previous challenges.

I wonder who amongst us (if anyone) has the earliest born Metcalfe grandparent? Could anyone have a Metcalfe grandparent born earlier than 1837, when Queen Victoria came to the throne? I would not have thought so but we shall see! Give me or Peter our editor, their name with details of their date and place of birth. I will update you in August and December.

I have just been involved in The Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) competition as a judge. A very interesting task especially as there were over 120 entries to read! There were plenty of excellent entries.

One constant theme which was referred to in approximately 25% of the entries, was the number of times, a bereaved husband, remarried shortly after the death of his beloved wife. For it was a sad truth that many

wives died young, in or shortly after child birth, leaving their widowers with a handful of young children. It was common, expedient and clearly acceptable for the husbands to remarry perhaps within 6 months to help look after his young bairns. Several contestants had ancestors who married 2 and 3 times, often with more children. Victorian families were notoriously large and many included half brothers and sisters looked after by step mothers. Was this what happened to your forbears? Who has the Metcalfe with the most spouses ? I would guess 4 or 5 is the likely maximum! Let us know!

I have just returned from Who Do You Think You Are Live! at London Olympia. It was a fascinating experience. I could not help but notice this year how dominant the well known commercial companies were. Their stands were in central positions and were large! Their services were well presented and slick. They all were very busy answering queries, giving presentations and marketing on the 2 days, out of the 3, I attended. Family History Societies were present too, but possibly fewer in number than previously. This is sad. The Northwest Group (to which we belong) were there answering questions every day and the London Group of Yorkshire Family History Societies were well represented too. Our leaflets were on both stands.

The FFHS stand was very busy particularly when the competition winners were awarded their prizes. I was able to leave our society leaflets on the stand and handed out several to passing visitors. We also had a presence, thanks to Diane Howarth and Jo Heron, on a PowerPoint display which the FFHS hosted on its stand for its member societies, who were not able to be present. It is a good representation of what we do and we can reuse it to promote ourselves at events we will be attending in the year.

As the committee met earlier in March than previously, I am able to comment upon one or two items which we discussed. First, we agreed to make a few changes to committee roles. Brian Metcalfe our archivist has given early notice of his desire to step down in October. Margaret Hodgson has agreed to step up from assistant archivist to become our archivist, for which we are all most grateful. There will be handover around August. Jo Heron will become our assistant archivist. Diane Howarth has agreed to become responsible for external promotion of the Society. Liz Waller has been working on a leaflet explaining what the Society does and the committee was shown a mock up with which we were very pleased. When it is completed, the leaflet together with Diane's PowerPoint, which we used at Who Do You Think You Are -Live in London, will give us additional promotional guides for fairs, museums, record offices and libraries. Brian has been our Fairs coordinator and wishes to give up the hard work of this. We will be at Harrogate next week as I write this and at York in June. We might not be able to attend as many Fairs in the future.

Peter Dobson, our editor tabled a draft of 'Metcalfes in India- Part 2' which he had been working upon for some time. It is compiled from George Buxton's mammoth research at The British Library. We plan to have it avail-

able for purchase at the Muster.

We considered carefully last year's Muster and made some preliminary decisions for this year. We are proposing to make some changes to the layout of the room with a number sections for small displays rather than as we have done in the past. The possibility that you will be able to bring framed photographs of your ancestors and hang them (the photographs not the ancestors!) is something we are hoping to organise. We are trying to organise a series of suitable short talks, workshops and demonstrations, in conjunction with the Museum and local organisations, on a rotating basis for those who wish to remain in Hawes all day. The research room will of course be available with the usual research facilities and computers. We will be advising you of the full programme in August but preliminary notice is to be found in this edition of Mecca news. Do please mark it in your diaries **NOW!**

Much of our committee time was spent on thinking about the strategy for the future of the Society. The Society has adapted over 30 years and is different from what was set up in 1980. We all feel that family history societies and one name groups like ourselves have reached a turning point. By and large our hobby is one for the generally older part of the population and membership of societies like ours is either remaining statistically constant (those who leave are equalled by those who join) or dropping. In our case, longstanding members like me are no longer in the first flush of youth even though we might seek to deny it! For some our green and salad days have past! Quite a large number of the Society's members are in their 70's and some in their 80's or older. Whilst financially we are solvent, with adequate reserves, unless we can increase membership and therefore revenue and contain expenses we will not be able to continue in the long term. We spent a considerable time discussing the printing of the Mecca News and the forthcoming increases in postage.

Iraised the possibility of a new member wide project for the 2014 Muster based upon the fact that the centenary of World War 1 will fall then. This centenary is likely to be a national event of some magnitude. We agreed to give this more thought and we will report on our conclusions after the July committee meeting.

Decisions on how the Society will operate and what research projects it should carry out in next 3 to 10 years are important, if we want it to continue to have a vibrant and sustainable membership, enabling it to fulfil its charitable objectives, which our founders and first members set for us. The strength of the Society is that it has been fortunate to have committee members who were talented and farsighted. The Society has never been slow to adopt new methods. It has adapted popular ideas and that is right, if we want it to continue. We need to encourage members to stay and new ones to join, allowing us all then to benefit from more extensive and comprehensive data. Interesting times!

David Lambert M11

Old Mecca Bits & Pieces

Richmond Parish Church.
Churchwardens 1739-1800
1767 Dep Registrar. Mr. **Bernard Metcalfe**
1780 Mr **Anthony Metcalfe**
1799 Mr **Thomas Metcalfe** (mason)
1800 Mr **Thomas Metcalfe** (mason)
From Cleveland FHS Journal January 2011.

North Riding Quarter Session Records
(Published by The North Riding Record Society 1886)
List of Jurymen 1657/77:- **Anth Metcalfe**, Gunnerside
1677/1717:- **Anth Metcalfe**, Dikehead
Present for Grinton:- 1625, Oct 12. **Anth Metcalfe**
1625, July 15. **Anth Metcalfe**
1619, July 20. Infant son Peter of Peter Thornton late of Browne Moor
(Wensleydale parish of Askrigg). Charge the parish with child.
Anth Metcalfe & others have the livings of the said father by grant
from him arranged to John Robinson who will bring up
the children of Peter Thornton.

Lincolnshire Parish Records
Sedgebrook (near Grantham)
(Philimore Parish Record Series Vol LXX 1907)
Marriages 1559-1801
1561 **Thomas Metcalfe** & Catherine Dansey
1570, 22 Oct. **Anthony Metcalfe** & Elizabeth Arden
1594, 4 Feb. Robert Clare & **Agnes Metcalfe**
1610, 6 Apr. Richard Eller & **Margaret Metcalfe**.

www.British-history.ac.uk
William Metcalfe b1534 Thame Oxfordshire d 1608 Woodstock.
Will dated 15 December 1607, proved 4 March 1608.
Alderman left 8/- (40p) a year for a sermon on the Sunday after
Candlemass. In 1639 William's son **William** transferred
responsibility for sermon to Corporation.
William Metcalfe Alderman left £2 to the Corporation to buy a new bell.
Friswide Metcalfe dau of William the Mayor of New Woodstock.

Universal British Directory - Departments of State 1793-98
Preacher at His majesty's Chapel Whitehall
J Metcalfe DD (from Oxford).

From Beasts and Bravery to Bradford and Bainbridge

Armorial bearings won, earned or claimed have been used almost throughout time to indicate the carrier's allegiance to other members of a family or a group, and to warn opponents that the bearer is not to be messed with !

The College of Arms, the royal corporation of heralds, founded in 1483, has proved pedigrees, and for centuries has granted or denied all manner of individuals or groups the right to bear such distinctive and recognisable badges. Not all, however, are for long-term use or recognition. For example, where we live, the hamlet is called Spriggs Alley, a name which is reputed to be a corruption of Spriggs Holly, the bush which most proliferates in our hedgerows. It achieved its name during the Civil War of the seventeenth century when the Parliamentarians were encamped on the Chiltern hilltops to the south of Oxford, while Prince Rupert and his royal cavalry harried any troops with thoughts of threatening or attacking the King in Oxford. To identify themselves, the Parliamentary troops chose 'sprigs of holly' to wear in their helmets. This was their short-term, but very practical, armorial bearing of distinction.

As Metcalfes we, well a few of us, have the right to bear Arms. Nevertheless, we all feel associated with, and some like to use those three little calves which embellish our shields and banners with a pride of connection. Do you know why these gentle, friendly creatures should be our 'signal to all the World'? We could make an intelligent guess. We may think we know the facts. We surely have heard much speculation on the subject.

Whilst browsing through one of my treasured books, (this one being the second series of "Yorkshire Legends and Traditions as told by her Ancient Chroniclers, her Poets and Journalists" by the Rev. Thomas Parkinson, F.R.Hist.S., 1889.) I discovered how that proud woollen town of Bradford was awarded, after earning, its ancient armorial standard.

Starkly in College of Herald's terms, or flamboyantly and richly in Mr. Everyman's terms, the armorial is described as, '*Gules (red in heraldry), a chevron or between three bugle horns strung sable (black) Crest, a boar's head with tongue erased.*'

Thinking of our gentle heraldic calves and the Metcalfe traditions, it brought to mind the horn-blower of Bainbridge and it being the ancient job of the Metcalfes to blow a horn to 'call in' and mark the path to safety from the fear-some, frightening forests which, in these ancient times past, were cover for the most terrifying of the unknown beasts who roamed out there beyond the

village limits.

The wild boar would be just such a beast, which would put fear into the heart of the tardy traveller in these wild places. Yet here one is on the Arms of Bradford. There must be a story behind it and truly there is. In the time of John of Gaunt, in the latter half of the fourteenth century (John being the Duke of Lancaster and fourth son of Edward the Third), it was rumoured that an immense boar was running wild and terrorising the locals of Cliffe Wood near Bradford. King Richard, on hearing of their fear and concern, offered a reward for the destruction of the boar.

A brave youth in the neighbourhood vowed to serve his fellowmen, please the King and gain the reward, so he stalked the massive beast until he knew its habits and its regular drinking place and time. On an occasion when it was pre-occupied with quenching its thirst, drawing deep draughts from the pool, which is still called Boar's Well, the youth ran the massive beast through with his hunting spear, killing the boar outright. The brave young man leapt for joy. The reward would be his and, to prove it, he cut out the tongue of the now still but bleeding boar, and made off through the wild wood to display his trophy in exchange for the bounty.

However, he was not the first to stake a claim. A hunter had come upon the body of the now dead boar and, knowing of the bounty, he rushed to claim it with the head of the boar as evidence. He received only abuse and dishonour, for it was soon realised that the youth who arrived a little later with the tongue of the troublesome boar was the true saviour of the town, and to him the reward must be given. This consisted of lands in Yorkshire to be held by him and his heirs for evermore, and a request that he should give one blast upon a hunting horn on St. Martin's Day. Also he was to pay attendance, with spear and dog, to John of Gaunt whenever the latter was passing through the town on his way to Lancaster.



The Bradford Shield

The original Bradford City Arms of 1847 depicted the tongueless boar's head above the shield which displayed an emgrailed gold chevron between three huntin' horns. The present day heraldic fountain in the chevron replaces the original depiction of the well. The eleven white roses on this modern 1974 shield and the golden fleece replacing one of the horns were all incorporated when the eleven local councils merged.

After this brave and passionate story of the glory which became the basis for the town's Arms, then perhaps the closely related, in some respects, three little Metcalfe calves could have a brave, bold and true basis.

The version of the right to display the Metcalfe calves as an armorial is based on a story set in the wild, dense and ancient woodland at the head of Wensleydale, even beyond Bainbridge and the horn-blowing tradition of the Metcalfes.



The Metcalfe Crest

Atop the device is the brave hunter, a satyr of ancient times - confident and ready to cope with whatever may confront him. The white rose of Yorkshire displays his primary allegiance and the three calves ensure that the name is not forgotten!

As with Bradford, unknown wild and ferocious beasts were rumoured to roam the thickly- wooded, steeply-sloped upland region, which were our roots. We now know that the areas frequented by these denizens are called Raydale and Bishopdale. Strange shapes had been observed and even stranger disembodied animal noises were frequently heard. All in all there was enough evidence to put the fear of the lord into the local villagers, especially as they were afraid not only for their own lives but also for those of their domestic animals. A crisis meeting was held by the dalesmen, and all manner of methods of ridding the area of these fearsome beasts was discussed and argued about. At last 'a wise counsellor proposed that two of their number should proceed to the woods and by stealthy observation, endeavour to discover what kind of animal or hobgoblin, the disturber was.' The proposal was applauded and the difficult job of selecting the right personnel was now their major concern. This was soon resolved, however, as Oswald, a man highly regarded among his peers, volunteered by pointing out, "I am unmarried and it is a dangerous business, and if evil should befall me there will be no one to mourn my loss." After hearing this laudable offer, Wilfrid, another landowner with much at stake, consented to join Oswald in the enterprise.

The following dark and gloomy autumnal afternoon saw the two brave men leave the village clearing and head into the impenetrable forest to seek out the troublesome beasts or hobgoblins. They were armed only with 'boar-spears'. As they walked they, perhaps foolishly, discussed what might confront them as time passed and they penetrated deeper into the dense forest. Was it a lion, no that could not be, but perhaps it was something equally fearsome not yet known to man, a barguest, evil-spirit or the devil himself?

A little further on, was that a noise they heard a rustle or a roar? Oswald led the way as they turned up a narrow glade leading from where the sound was emanating. Quite suddenly they came upon a glimpse of an animal-like creature advancing towards them. Hands tightened on their spear shafts and

knuckles whitened with the tension. "There it is!" whispered Wilfred, "It is a lion!" 'Down went his hunting-spear' and up went his heels as, in an awful terror, he fled back through the woods.' Arriving at the village he soon spread the word, "It is a lion!" There was no sign of Oswald who had been left behind, unable to escape and, no doubt, was devoured!

Back in the wood Oswald had bravely stood his ground. In fact he advanced fearlessly towards the point of danger. As he moved closer he saw less and less to be feared of, but still held his spear in readiness. Each approached the other, neither giving fear or favour to the creature opposing them.

This went on until full recognition was revealed to Oswald, at which point he dropped his strongly-held spear and roared with laughter, but not until he had a grasp of the animal. Was it a red or was it a black calf? (Reports differ.) On his return to the village with his 'fierce foe' firmly controlled, he was heralded by his neighbours who hailed him as 'Oswald Met-calf'. Poor cowardly Wilfred on the contrary lived out his days and passed on to his dynasty the name of 'Wilfred Lightfoot.'

In both of our armorial examples we have our fellow-men fearful of the 'beast of the forest' the unknown enemy. They display the triumph of the single-minded brave human who, by positive endeavour, overcame all that confronted him for the greater benefit of their neighbours and townsfolk. The rewards for their deeds were comparable the permission to bear Arms, depicting creatures they had faced and overcome, plus the honour of being a horn-blower, harking back to the time of valour and earning the respect of their peers down through the ages. **Leon Metcalfe M320**

Greenland Captain

*1749 French sloop of war Le Lion D'or captured
by Liverpool privateer. Renamed Golden Lion.*

Captain Metcalfe of the Golden Lion was presented in 1753
with a "...noble punch bowl. Painted blue with a representation of
the ship inside the bowl. On the completion of the second successful voyage
in the Greenland Whale Fishery."

*"The vessel after being commanded for a long time by Captain Metcalfe, was lost,
whilst a full ship,... after coming out of the ice."*

The ship's berth near the south west corner of the Old Dock at Liverpool
was known as the Golden Lion berth.

History of Liverpool Privateers 1744-1812 by Gomer Williams

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

Thank you for responding to our plea for birth briefs, though we would like even more, so please keep sending them in. As I said in a previous report, there are two reasons why we are glad to have the opportunity to see them.

1) We are able to compare your research with our own data, thus ensuring that you are on the right track.

2) It gives us the opportunity to add new information to our existing database.

Then there is always the service which we offer to all members, that of doing your research for you, starting with any information you may have. I'm saying this with fingers crossed, but we hope that the computer problems, which were causing delays earlier, have been resolved. Like all machines, they are wonderful when they perform as expected, but when they go wrong.....ugh!

Having said that, none of us know what tomorrow holds, which is sometimes a good thing.

Brian Metcalfe M1554 (Archivist Coordinator)

BIRTH BRIEFS FROM EXISTING MEMBERS

M663 Mr Douglas Unwin Nunns I Brook Court, Windermere, Cumbria LA23 2BP

S.o. Walter Douglas & Margaret (Mt) Nunns m 17 Jul 1922 Bowness, Wes. Margaret b 15 Jun 1893 Kendal, Wes d.o. James & Christina (Railton) Mte m 19 May 1888 Kendal. James bpt 1 Apr 1866 St George's Kendal s.o. James & Isabella (Copeland) Mte m 3Q 1851 Carlisle district. James bpt 15 Apr 1827 St Mary's, Carlisle s.o. William & Margaret (?) Mt. William bpt 9 Jun 1788 Kendal s.o. John & Mary (Bell) Mt m 28 Oct 1777 Selside, Westmorland. **Conn M382 & M1841.**

M1196 Mr Rex H Metcalfe

S.o. Alfred Edward & Dorothy Beatrice (Hempel) Mte m 30 Jun 1934. Alfred Edward b 7 May 1906 Winston, Victoria, Australia s.o. Albert Edward & Mary Louisa (Farrar) Mte m 8 Apr 1903 Castlemaine, Victoria. Albert Edward b 1 Aug 1880 Castlemaine s.o. Joseph Cameron & Ann (Deeks) Mte m 29 Nov 1852 Croydon, Sry. Joseph Cameron b 18 Aug 1826 London s.o. Joseph & Elizabeth Mary (Smith) Mte m 31 Aug 1816 Greyfriars, Newgate, London. Joseph b 22 Jul 1785 Lambeth, London s.o. Joseph & Ann (Blicke) Mte m 11 Nov 1775 St Botolph's, Bishopgate, London. Joseph b c1750. **Conn M221 et al**

M1834 Mrs Beryl Heggs 26 Tannery Court, Water Street, Abergele, Conwy LL22 7SH heggskbh@talktalk.net

Grt grd d.o. Mary Metcalfe bpt 12 May 1839 Ingleton Fells. Mary d.o. George & Elizabeth (Atkinson) Mte m 4 Dec 1822 Cartmel. George bpt 13 Feb 1791 Ingleton Fells s.o. George & Agnes (Burkitt) Mte m 23 May 1785 Ingleton Fells. George bpt 2 Jul 1758 Ingleton Fells s.o. John & Dorothy (Brown) Mte m 3 Jul 1749 Dent. John b c1709. **Connects M259 M1453 & M1490**

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

Grt grt grd d.o. Edward & Mary Ann (Fussell (name by first marriage) nee Metcalf) Long m 4 June 1870 Hampstead. Mary Ann b 13 June 1834 Soho, Westminster d.o. Thomas & Sarah (Ellis) Metcalf m12 June 1826 Westminster. Thomas b 11 Mar 1805 Marylebone s.o. Joseph & Elizabeth Metcalf.

M1915 Mr Andrew J Metcalfe

Grt grd s.o. George Mt bpt 15 Dec 1867 Chesterton, Oxf s.o. George & Ann (Townsend) Mt m 22 Feb 1859 Chesterton. George bpt 6 Feb 1825 Chesterton s.o. George & Ann (Castle) Mt. George bpt 10 Apr 1791 Charlton on Otmoor, Oxf s.o. Richard & Elizabeth (Jeset) Mt. Richard buried 4 Jul 1795 Charlton on Otmoor.

NEW MEMBERS (WITH OR WITHOUT BIRTH BRIEFS)

M1916 Dr Christopher Kirkness Metcalfe 18 Bishopdale Close, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire HG5 0LR

M1917 Mr Peter Metcalf 2 Long Park Close, Chesham Bois, Amersham, Buckinghamshire HP6 5JY pm@thmetcalfs.co.uk

M1918 Mr Peter Stillingfleet Metcalfe Taigh A Luana, Loch Avich, Taynuilt, Argyll PA35 1HJ

M1919 Dr Michael C Pope 39 Charles Avenue, Scotter, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire DN21 3RP Micheal.pope1@homecall.co.uk

S.o. M55 & 4 x grt grd s.o. Thomas & Margaret (Mte) Raw m 7 Jul 1796 Muker. Margaret bpt 13 Jan 1776 Muker d.o. Revd Lister & Isabella (Simm) Mte m 22 Oct 1764 Sedbergh. Lister bpt 14 Jan 1740 Hawes s.o. Anthony & Alice (Mte) (a) Mte m 18 Aug 1724 Chapel le Dale. Anthony s.o. Cuthbert & Barbara (Simondston) Mte m1694 Kettlewell. Cuthbert s.o. Anthony & Elizabeth (Wynn) Mte. Anthony b c1640 s.o. Margaret Mte d.o. Anthony & Ann (Hudson) Mte. **Conn M28 et al**

(a) Alice b c1704 Hawes d.o. Philip & Alice (Jackson) Mte m 31 Jul 1698 Hawes. Philip bpt 13 Feb 1676-77 Hawes s.o. Thomas Mte

Also Thomas & Margaret (Mte) Calvert m 14 Apr 1751 Muker. Margaret bpt 24 Apr 1729 Muker d.o. Alexander & Hannah (Raw) Mte m 18 Apr 1727 Muker. Alexander bc1700 s.o. Edward & Isabella (?) Mte. **Conn M16 et al**

M1920 Mr Timothy Metcalf 144 Whites Way, Hedge End, Southampton, Hampshire SO30 2JY tcdmetcalf@aol.com

Timothy s.o. Dent Collin & Winifred (Oakley) Mt m 1965 Leeds. Dent b 1937

Wensleydale s.o. Dent Henry & Florence (Danby) Mt m 1927 Leyburn district. Henry b 1885 Middlesbrough s.o. Benjamin Brockell & Mary Anne (Dent) Mt m 5 May 1873 Kirby Ravensworth. Benjamin b 1845 Bedale s.o. William Langdale & Martha (Brockell) Mt m 28 Aug 1844 Spennithorne. William bpt 19 May 1816 Tanfield, Durham s.o. John & Mary (Langdale) Mt m 26 Nov 1807 Bedale. John b 19 Dec 1783 Balk s.o. Christopher & Hannah (Cheeseborough) Mt m 28 Oct 1780 Well. Christopher b c1757 Bedale s.o. Christopher & Henrietta Maria (Reynold) Mt m 15 Sept 1756 Bedale. Christopher bpt 26 March 1733 Well s.o. Christopher & Anne (King) Mte m 14 July 1730 Well. Christopher bpt 27 Feb 1704 Well s.o. George & Eleanor (Raper) Mte m 25 July 1703 Well. George bpt 3 Jan 1720 Well s.o. John Mte of Carperby.
Conn M170 M590 M715 M1057 M1519 M1566 M1816

M1921 Mr Robert Metcalfe 2 Church Cottages, Church View, Great Smeaton, Northallerton, Yorkshire DL6 2EH robertmetcalfe5783@hotmail.co.uk

M1922 Mrs Eleanor Scarr Coleby Hall, Askrigg, Leyburn, North Yorkshire james_scarr@btinternet.com

M1923 Mr James Shepherd Ridgeway, Trelowth Road, Polgooth, St Austell, Cornwall PL26 7BG shepherdjam7@aol.com

M1924 Mr David Metcalfe 34 Winds Lonnen Estate, Murton, Durham SR7 9TG PIKEMEC@HOTMAIL.CO.UK

M1925 Mr Lyn Metcalf PO Box 1045, Bridgtetown, WA, WA6255, Australia lynmet@wideband.net.au

M1926 Mr Brian Gerald Metcalfe 47 Woolpitch Wood, Chepstow, Monmouthshire NP16 6DR murielbrian80@btinternet.com

S.o. Gerald & Elsie (Denton) Mte m 20 May 1939 Wokingham, Berks. Gerald b 26 May 1912 Banbury district s.o. Arthur William & Jemima (Sturdy) Mte m June 1901 Northallerton district. Arthur b 1873 Glassonby, Cumberland s.o. Thomas & Sarah (Tinniswood) Mte m 1872 Penrith district. Thomas b 1847 Glassonby, Cumberland s.o. John & Hannah (Bleamires) Mte m 26 Nov 1831 Addingham, Cumberland. John b 1 Jan 1804 Glassonby s.o. Anthony & Mary (Sanderson) Mte m 21 Aug 1786 Orton, Westmorland. Anthony bpt 15 April 1758 Ravenstonedale, Westmorland s.o. William & Isabel (Fothergill) Mte m 2 May 1748 Kirkby Stephen. William b c1717.

Conn. M117, M667, M719, M805, M1022, M1389, M1727

M1927 Mrs Elizabeth Ella Barningham Tranby Lane Farmhouse, Tranby Lane, Swanland, East Yorkshire HU14 3NG trevor@barningham.karoo.co.uk

M1928 Mrs Ann Sandra Davies 2 Greenslopes Drive, Raymond Terrace, New South Wales, 2324, Australia ray.dav@bigpond.net.au

M1929 Mr Jason Metcalfe 8 Cliffestone Drive, East Morton, Keighley, W. Yorks. BD20 5RR JLLROOFING@LIVE.CO.UK

Hello and kia ora from NZ

Just received my copy of the Mecca News and while reading page 18 and 19 couldn't help thinking of the cost in postage to send this to those of us in far flung places.

I love the feel of paper published items such as books and newspapers but this IS the 21st century and in this age of e-magazines and newsletters (as well as digital e-readers) surely it is time to consider electronic media for your publication?

I'd be happy to receive my copy online and in terms of both the environment and containing of costs it would seem to me to be sensible to consider this. Best regards.

Stephanie Santaana M1308

A friend of mine has recently joined the society, and she asked me what does the term "MECCA" mean. I heard the explanation once sometime in the past, and have now forgotten. Are you able to give me an explanation please?

David Metcalfe M583

It is a simple abbreviation for Metcalfe and all other mini-minor forms of the name, which was used to yell for yours truly in his youth!

CS Metcalfe M305

This is to add some comments on David Lambert's paragraph in the Jottings about Mecca News (95) and the cost of producing it.

I believe the present length and style is ideal; it's certainly not too long. More pages would be enjoyable, but that's more work and also adds to the postage cost. Also I think the minimum is three issues a year, but four too expensive. But please let's stick with the printed version!

I wouldn't like to see any change to the quality of the cover, both as regards the weight and the gloss of the paper used and the colour pictures. I think this is evidence of your, and the Society's, commitment to professionalism of which we are all rightly proud.

Would it be significantly cheaper to have the inner pages both lighter and non-gloss? Would the reproduction of black/white photos on this sort of paper be a problem? Photos are an integral part of the News now.

The contents do provide a good balance between all the aspects of family history in general (Newspapers, for example, in issue 95) and Metcalfe matters in particular together with Society reports and news.

Is the mailing business big enough to warrant getting cost quotations from Royal Mail's competitors? Or even asking Royal Mail if there is any way to make savings?

To sum up – keep Mecca News as it is as far as possible, but make savings on the paper used for the inner pages. **Joan Metcalfe M63**

your emails and letters

Whilst reading the Mecca No.95 article on the use of old newspapers to aid research, it reminded me of my recent look at the Westmorland Gazette from 5th January 1850. I'd been looking at it online, as part of the recent availability of newspapers available on the internet. On its front page was an official notice from the Actuary of the Kirkby Lonsdale Bank, a certain John Metcalfe. The article reads ;

'Kirkby Lonsdale Bank'

In pursuance of the rules of the bank, and in compliance with a direction of the commissioners of the national debt, all persons having money in the said bank are requested to produce their deposit notes to the trustees and managers at the bank on Monday the 28th day of January instant, or any of the five following days, between the hours of ten and one o'clock, in order that the same may be compared to the ledgers.

John Metcalfe, Actuary. Kirkby Lonsdale 3 January 1850.

It struck me firstly that times of national financial trouble are obviously not a recent thing. But can you imagine your bank manager summoning you to attend with your account details in order for them to be checked, in order to be compliant with the 'Commissioners for the reduction of the national debt'?

My newspaper search was interesting, and although I did have a paternal great great grandfather, by the name of John Metcalfe, born in Casterton the neighbouring village to Kirkby Lonsdale in 1813, his circumstances where like most, rather humble and he's unlikely to have risen to the lofty position of a bank's Actuary. I would however stress the possibilities that old local newspapers have for family researchers.

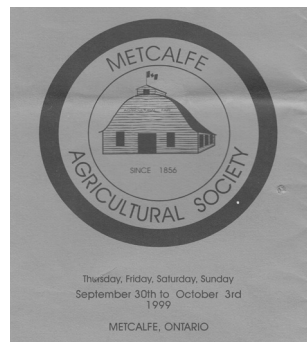
Regards, **John Metcalfe M1888**.

I put this bye - 10 years ago - in a sorting session found it this week (5/1/10).

I didn't want to appear in a rush!

E W Dodding M331.

(via CS Metcalfe M305)



WILLS PROJECT

For some time, **Rosemary Brown M756** has been doing sterling work in transcribing wills for this Project. Following the Muster in October several more Members volunteered to take on some transcription. It was good to welcome back **Edwin Metcalf M980** to this work. You will remember that he led this project until ill health meant he had to give up this responsibility. He has been joined by **Jennifer Metcalf M1754**, **Frances Glanville M1887** and **Marsden and Kath Holden M1513**. **Liz Metcalfe M1802** has also volunteered to become involved this year.

Together the group have made some excellent progress as you will see from the box (*opposite*) showing the list of new additions of will transcriptions to the website. It is hoped to make an additions list a regular feature of each Mecca News.

Currently most of the wills on which we are working are from the Diocese of York records held at the Borthwick Institute, which is now located on the campus of the University of York. There I photocopy wills from micro-filmed copies of the contemporary copies which were written into bound volumes. I have been informed that, in this area, most of the original wills were returned to the families on completion of the probate process. Several photocopies, some lighter, some darker, might be required of each will in order to give the transcriber the best chance of reading the entirety, for many parts of the bound volumes have suffered damage by age and seepage of the old ink through the page, blackening some sections and obscuring parts of the writing on the reverse of the page. The handwriting used by the clerks would generally have been very clear had it not been for this page damage.

The photocopies are posted out by me to the transcriber volunteers and they email me their transcriptions when they have had the time to complete them. The aim is always that they should only have to work at a pace which suits them and their own personal circumstances so there is no pressure to take on more than each individual wishes. **David Metcalfe M46** then loads each transcription on to the Members Only area of the Society website, indexing it there so that it will fit into the search processes that Members can use. He also checks for detail which can be added to the Computer Index, for instance family members or dates mentioned in the will not previously recorded by the Society.

So, as you will see if you visit these resources on line and I would certainly encourage you to do so, the collective effort is paying dividends.

Margaret Hodgson M515

*Wills newly transcribed and now available to view
in the Members Only section of the website*

The date here is the date of probate.

*Wills are often earlier than the year of probate so it is best to use
the search + or – 2/5/10/20 years if not found immediately by name or place.*

- 1827 *James Metcalfe of South Otterington*
- 1829 *Morehouse Metcalfe of Gainsburgh, Lincolnshire*
- 1830 *William Metcalfe of Ampleforth; Leonard Metcalfe of Keighley;
William Metcalf of Stockton; Ann Metcalfe of Stockton*
- 1831 *Dorothy Metcalf of Settle*
- 1832 *Christopher Metcalfe of Thirsk*
- 1833 *Joseph Metcalf of Shireoaks, Worksop;
Elizabeth Metcalfe of Stockton*
- 1834 *Francis Metcalfe of Righton;
Elizabeth Metcalfe of Myton, Kingston upon Hull*
- 1835 *Richard Metcalf of Swinton; Joseph Metcalfe of Maltby, Stainton;
Thomas Metcalfe of Myton, Kingston upon Hull;
John Metcalfe of Madras, India*
- 1836 *Richard Metcalfe of Middleton Tyas*
- 1838 *William Metcalf of Bradford; Barbara Metcalfe of Norton;
Elizabeth Metcalfe of Norton*
- 1839 *William Metcalf of Lockton; Edward Metcalfe of Austwick;
Thomas Metcalfe of Pateley Bridge*
- 1840 *John Metcalf of Ripon;
Mary Metcalfe of Carlton in parish of Coverham;
Isabel Metcalfe of Pocklington*
- 1841 *Robert Metcalf of Barnoldswick;
Joseph Metcalfe of Holly Park, Kirkdale;
Thomas Metcalfe of Leeds*
- 1842 *Harriet Metcalfe of Kingston upon Hull; John Medcalf of North
Cave; Richard Metcalfe of Layerthorpe, York*
- 1843 *Thomas Metcalf of Beverley*
- 1844 *Charles Metcalf of the gaol in Kingston upon Hull;
William Metcalf of Burley Woodhead*
- 1845 *Elizabeth Metcalfe of Rigg House, Aysgarth;
Leonard Metcalfe of the living of Kirkbride*
- 1846 *George Medcalf of Bridlington; Leonard Metcalfe of Bingley*
- 1848 *Margaret Metcalfe of Stokesley; Jane Metcalf of Masham;
Mary Metcalfe of South Otterington; John Metcalfe of Hawnby;
William Metcalfe of Bradford*
- 1849 *Teresa Metcalfe of Barnborough, Yorkshire;
Leonard Metcalfe of Alne, Yorkshire*
- 1850 *Elizabeth Metcalfe of Kingston upon Hull*

FFHS News

The main public facing telephone number for the General Register Office (GRO) will be changing from 5 January 2012. From that date, GRO will cease to publish the current 0845 603 7788 telephone number for customers who wish to make an enquiry about, or place an order for certificates. Customers who previously contacted GRO via the 0845 number will be asked to contact 0300 123 1837. This aims to be a particularly memorable number for customers as civil registration was introduced in England and Wales in the year 1837. *Calls to 0300 numbers are not free and should not be confused with 0800 numbers.* Roger Lewry FFHS.

Church records from the Church Courts of the diocese of York can now be searched online. The records range from the 14th century to 1858 and include over 13,000 individual cause papers and record cases concerning marriage, slander, Church proceedings and probate etc. The original records are held at the Borthwick Institute and are amongst the most extensive in the United Kingdom. It is a rich collection recording the lives of people from Yorkshire and further afield and will be a great resource for family and local historians. www.hrionline.ac.uk/causepapers

HELP WANTED

I am sending this photo (*below*) believed to be some of our Metcalfe ancestors. I wonder if this photo could be published in the next Mecca News so that others may see it and be able to help identify the others.

I really feel that this would be of interest to the M539 line. This photo was sent to us from a second cousin in England.

We do not know much. The elderly gentleman with the white beard is our grt grandfather JOHN METCALFE 1845-1926. That we know for sure. We think the lady sitting next to him in the dark clothing is his wife BETSY nee PROUD. 1850-1914/1915. We think the photo was probably taken about 1900 at Fadmoor, Yorkshire. Wished that I knew more.

Thank you for any help we might get. Kind regards.

Shirley & G.B. Metcalfe M439





*Pam Jarmaine (centre) with her Metcalfe cousins
Jean on the left and Enid on the right*

Metcalfe Family Get-Together

My Father, Percy Metcalfe was born in 1903 in Wallsend (*Northumberland, England*) and was one of twelve children born to Ralph Metcalfe and Dora nee Spark. One of his younger brothers, William Frederick Metcalfe born in 1912 emigrated to Australia in 1928 and later married Margaret Mary Beale, a young lady he met during the voyage to Sydney.

William (known as Bill) and Margaret had eight children, and these are my Australian cousins. Sadly only six are alive now, but they all have children, grandchildren and in one case a great grandchild. Prior to the “get-together” I had actually met five of my cousins, but not many of their families.

My cousin Bob (the youngest of Bill and Margaret's children) and wife Cheryl organised the event which took place over a long weekend at the Sandy Hollow Tourist Park which was north of the wine producing area of the Hunter Valley. Although there was a wide choice of accommodation we opted to stay in the motel, which was a wise choice as the weather was very wet and cold and we needed the heater on most of the time! This was the weekend at the beginning of October when there was apparently a heat wave in the UK!!!!!!!!!!!!

We left Tumby Tumby after an early lunch borrowing Christopher's car for a drive that took some time mainly because we didn't know where we were going and also we went the long way round. Sandy Hollow is a small residential area miles away from anywhere with only about a dozen houses, a pub, which in Australia is called a hotel, and a garage. The garage was in

fact where we had our evening meal! Besides the restaurant, it was a shop and post office. The food wasn't cordon bleu, but we enjoyed the fish and chips with Bob and Cheryl and caught up with family news. The majority of the family weren't due to arrive until the following day. We then crossed the deserted highway to the pub which was like something out of the film "Crocodile Dundee"! So noisy and one expected a fight to break out any minute. The food they served did, however, look better than we had eaten at the Garage!

Our visit to Sandy Hollow coincided with the 150th anniversary of the existence of what they called the town and celebrations were well on the way the following morning. The rain was even heavier which obviously put a damper on some of the outside events, but lots was going on in the local school. We were amazed how many people there were in view of the fact that there were so few houses, but apparently people who had grown up in Sandy Hollow were back for this special occasion with their children and even grandchildren. The whole atmosphere was like that of a village fête in the UK. Children under feet running around everywhere while groups of older people sat at small tables chatting and drinking tea. There was the usual cake stall and farm produce, wine bottled especially for the occasion and a huge selection of local honey and other jams and chutneys. There was an excellent display of photographs showing the history of the town and displays of handicraft as well as paintings done by the children on display in the school room. Everyone seems to know each other, and I think I was surprised at the atmosphere of this Australian small town, so different from anything else we had experienced in that country.

By lunch time the majority of the Metcalfes had arrived, so many family members for us to meet and try and remember where they fitted into the family tree. Cousin Enid's great grandson, Logan, was the newest member of the family and only a few months old, and cousin Jean born in 1934 was the oldest member of the family. Cousin Richard, wife Ann, their three children and eight grandchildren only came for the day, but most stayed until either Sunday evening, or like us until Monday morning.

Like most similar places in Australia, there was a huge barbecue area with tables and chairs partly under cover and an adjoining kitchen with gas barbecues, sinks and everything needed for a huge gathering like ours. Everyone bought their own food, but we were amazed at the size of the steaks some of the family were cooking and eating. We had bought modest sized pieces of chicken and salad. Obviously lots of beer and wine was consumed, but we still were very cold despite the shelter over our head, but with three open sides. Jean's two grandsons who worked on a cattle farm decided a bonfire might help, so all the men including Ron collected wood

from the nearby scrub-land and soon we were all huddled around a huge fire as fortunately the rain had stopped.

Many of the family returned to the barbecue area the following morning to cook sausages and bacon for breakfast, but we decided we would stick to our usual light breakfast in our warm room as we were to eat out lunchtime.

We then joined a cavalcade of cars off to do some wine tasting in a couple of local wineries. This is always a good experience in Australia as all the wineries are very competitive and keen to sell you wine from their cellars. Lots to taste, which you are not suppose to swallow, but as I don't drive I ignored this suggestion! We did in fact purchase a dozen bottles of Merlot without labels so at a bargain price. Bottles without labels are known as clear skins!

On then to lunch in a Chinese restaurant in another small town before returning to Sandy Hollow and our warm room away from the cold and rain. Not quite so many Metcalfes at the evening barbecue, but still massive steaks were hungrily consumed by many of the group not to mention gallons of beer. We are not use to eating and drinking such large quantities but there was a great atmosphere, and it was a good social occasion.

At last an improvement in the weather Monday morning with the sun shining and not so cold. We joined the group barbecuing huge breakfasts again, but just really to say goodbye and join them for coffee. Its rather overwhelming meeting so many of one's family en mass. Difficult to assess whether we were similar in appearance or personality. Certainly cousin Jean and I got on very well together and I would say had similar ideas about most things. Most of us had long drives home so once the barbecue area and kitchen had been cleaned we were all off to our various homes in New South Wales.

We took a shorter route back to Tumby Umbi but stopped off en route for lunch in the town of Cesnock. It was a public holiday, so not many shops open, but we did find a café where we enjoyed scrambled eggs on toast. After stretching our legs, buying some shopping in Woolworth and filling up the car with petrol, we were on our way again. It had been a good weekend despite the weather and a good opportunity to get to know some of my Father's family.

Pam Jarman M61

**DEADLINE for the August Mecca News
is 6 June 2012.**

Articles comments or snippets to the Editor.

Mecca Sightings

Radio 4 Today programme 17 November 2011 8am. Chair of Immigration **David Metcalfe** discussing the entry of immigrant family members into the UK.

Northern Briefing 2012 held at Follifoot Harrogate 2 March. One of the speakers **David Metcalfe**, managing partner of Metcalfe Farms, a Yorkshire based farming and agricultural contracting business.
Supplied by Richard Metcalfe-Gibson M854.

New catalogue of ready cut card kits from the Skipton based **Metcalfe Models**. October 2011.

English Heritage Angel Awards November 2011. Best Rescue of an Industrial Site or Building. The Friends of Pleasley Pit for their restoration of Pleasley Colliery Mansfield Notts.
Founding Friend - **Robert Metcalfe**.
Telegraph Weekend 5 November 2011.
Supplied by Charles Metcalfe M305.

Costa Concordia sinking 14 January 2012. British Dancer **Rose Metcalfe** reported to help in the evacuation of passengers and one of the last to leave the ship.
Mail on Sunday 15&22 January and Radio 4 15&16 January.
Lesley Longworth M68 & David Metcalfe M46

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 21 April Sheffield FHS Fair 10-4 www.sheffieldfhs.org.uk
Saturday 28 April 2012 Family History Day, Pudsey 10-4.30.
www.yourfairladies.co.uk

Saturday 30 June 2012 Yorkshire Family History Fair 10-4.30.
York Racecourse Admission £4.50

Saturday 22 September 2012 Doncaster & District FHS
Family History Day and Fair. Speakers & stalls.
www.doncasterfhs.co.uk

Saturday 29 September East Yorkshire Family History Society. Hull
Family History Fair.

Saturday 6 October 2012 Metcalfe Muster & AGM 10-4.30. Dales
Countryside museum Hawes Wensleydale.
muster@metcalfe.org.uk

SUFFOLK MECCAS

Bury & Suffolk Herald 22 June 1831

*A most ludicrous occasion took place on Monday week at St Peter's Church in Sudbury. A young couple of the names of Joseph Beer and **Hannah Medcalf** attended for the purpose of being united, they were accompanied by Robert Beer, brother of the bridegroom as Daddy, but by some untoward means instead of Joseph being married to his beloved Hannah she was spliced to Robert and the error was not discovered until the parties had retired from the altar. It is needless to add that the ceremony was performed over again and Joseph was eventually blessed with Hannah.*

Bury & Norwich Post 7 February 1838

Considerable depredations have been made on the preserves of game at Kentwell Hall and Melford Hall, the keepers have been strictly watching for some time past and about 2 on Wednesday morning they heard a report in the coverts, they mustered a considerable force and surrounded the preserves, the poachers found themselves hemmed in and made for a weak corner and with their bludgeons dreadfully beat a keeper named Medcalf who made a brave defence, his fellow keepers came to his aid and succeeded in taking two persons who have been committed for trial, the two prisoners with air guns had shot 10 brace of pheasants.

***Samuel Medcalf**, underkeeper, said they were lying near Kiln grove when they heard two shots, they went for assistance and surrounded the wood, during that time they heard shots and heard pheasants falling, soon after they saw five men coming out of the wood, witness laid hold of the first man and was knocked down immediately, he heard one man say "cut away" witness flung himself on George Day and a struggle ensued, Day calling out "this is he" while another kept beating him, he held Day until Mitchell came up with his three partners the three poachers made off but Still was taken with a brace of pheasants in his pocket.*

Edward Hawkins, assistant keeper, said he was knocked down by a poacher and stunned, when he came to Harry Still was lying on the grass and he took him to Kiln Farm. Charles Harlock produced a bludgeon and a pump for an air gun which he found where the affray took place, Mr Almack deposed that it was Kiln Grove not Kill Grove, (Mr Prendergast said he was not aware of the Suffolk pronunciation of the word Kiln) and tried to raise objections but was overruled by the Judge. Committed to Bury goal Harry Still and George Day charged with being in an enclosure at night time with three others at Melford and violently assaulting a second gamekeeper named Medcalf.

28 March 1838. Harry Still and George Day were charged at Suffolk Sessions with being armed with guns and bludgeons in an enclosed preserves

*belonging to Hart Logan of Kentwell Hall at Melford, **Samuel Medcalf** underkeeper to Hart Logan said he was watching with Beard the head keeper in Kiln Grove and they heard two shots, Medcalf said when he came to, he found Harry Still lying on the ground and he took him to Kiln Farm and took three pheasants from his pocket, Mr Almack for the prisoner said Kiln Grove was the name of the wood not Kiln Wood. Transported for 7 years.*

The Beccles Weekly

20 March 1866. *Penny Readings in Assembly Room, filled by working class people: upwards of 360 'quiet behaviour & attention - how much they appreciate & enjoy them'. Stringed piece by Monsieur Pringee. A Glee. Rifle Band. John Clarke read from Lord Macaulay's Poems. **Dr Metcalfe** read the Trial scene in the Merchant of Venice. (**Dr Robert Ives Metcalfe** - Metcalfe Society database Record 84475.)*

26 June 1866. *Theft: Some thieves broke into **Dr Metcalfe's** garden on Friday night last & stole a quantity of potatoes.*

10 March 1868. *AGM of Library. **Dr Metcalfe** appointed Treasurer.*

16 September 1868. *Parade of 4th Suffolk Artillery Volunteers, nearly 70 men under **Captain Metcalfe (Doctor)** to Yarmouth by Railway for Brigade Inspection. On return marched to Assembly Room where Dinner was provided.*

9 February 1869. *Council Election. **Dr Robert Ives Metcalfe, MD** elected Town Councillor left vacant by the death of Dr Peskett.*

31 December 1889. *Mr G Stevenson's prize, a sportsman's knife, for the largest roach caught during 1889 is awarded to **Mr C. Metcalfe** for a roach weighing 2 lbs. (**Claude Metcalfe** - Metcalfe Society database record 16675.)*

September 1891. *A lawn tennis match between **Mr C. Metcalfe's** team and Beccles Lawn Tennis Club results in victory to the former by 92 games to 27.*

Lincolnshire Archives.

Henry Barnes of Edenham, aged 24, found guilty on 15 October 1833 at Kesteven Quarter Sessions of stealing 5 lamb hogs. He was sentenced to life and transported to Van Diemen's Land on the **William Metcalfe**.

Edwin Metcalf M980

(The Suffolk newspaper references are put on a site by the Foxearth & District Local History Society.)

SERENDIPITY.

I love that word because it has happened to me several times in the course of my Family research. One particular event had no bearing on the Metcalfes of my line, but thought it may be of interest to our members.

When I was a young girl many years ago in the 1920s I often stayed with my Father's brother's family in Guisborough. Uncle Stanley a teacher was the choirmaster and organist of St. Nicholas Parish Church. In the choir was a young Master from the Grammar school, one Nicholas Polmear whose Father was born in St. Ives. Our name was Pelmear and my Gt. Grandfather came with all his family, including my Grandfather, to N.E. Yorkshire from Cornwall in the 1860s, Nicholas Polmear was a friend of my family and the older members apparently had often wondered if there was any relationship, but they did not have the research facilities then to find out. My cousin Margaret Pelmear at 14 years old was 2 years older than me and had a crush on the good looking young Nicky Polmear who looked like Patrick Knowles, a British actor of that time. She used to tell me lovely stories of how she and Nicky would marry and live happily ever after. All pie in the sky of course.

We now move forward 50 years when I began research into my Pelmeares and I discovered that our name was originally Polmear, but one of my ancestors had spelt it with an E instead of an O on his marriage certificate when civil registration first came into being, and then all his branch followed suit, so the likelihood of us being related was very real. Further research revealed that we were a one name group, the name deriving from the iron age settlement of Porthmeor in Penwith, West Cornwall. The Cornish pronunciation of the name is 'po-MEAR' with the accent on the second syllable and the L silent.

Another 20 years on, my son Michael and his wife Anne, who live in Lincolnshire, went to a concert in Gainsborough. All they knew then was that there would be 2 classical musicians and a speaker. On arrival at the hall, they found from their programme that the artists appearing were one Jeremy POLmear a classical oboist and his wife Diane [Ambache] pianist, who also had her own chamber orchestra in London, plus Jenny Agutter, who would be giving readings from various authors of prose and poetry. Mike decided that he would try to speak to them in the interval or at the end of the programme but this was not possible. He then sent the programme to me because Jeremy's name and address was given on it, and also the fact that Jeremy and his wife had recorded a lot of music and had their own recording outlet for their own and other musician's work.

I duly wrote to Jeremy and from his reply I learned that his Father's name was Nicholas Polmear born in St. Ives and that he had lived in Guisborough for a few years! My reply to him asked if by any chance his Father had been a Grammar School master in Guisborough. Back came the amazing news that yes his father had been at the Grammar school there in the 1920s but later left to be an Educational Officer in Canterbury. I had found the son of my cousin's long lost dream man. Sadly, Nicholas had died some years ago, as had my cousin Margaret so I was not able to tell her that I had found Nicky's son.

There was a sequel to all this in that I was able to give Jeremy his family tree back to the early 19th century and I was able to obtain some of his music on CDs. Not only that, Mike and I were able to meet Jeremy and Diane up in Helmsley where they were giving another concert; and to my son's great delight, also Jenny Agutter to whom we were introduced. Jenny is a lovely lady who was delighted to meet Jeremy's distant cousins and Mike could take pictures of her to enable him to brag about it at my 90th party.

There must have been cases of serendipity in many other members research so maybe we can hear of those. **Dorothy Pope M55.**

SERENDIPITY - *The faculty of making happy and unexpected discoveries by accident.*
The Concise Oxford Dictionary.

Yorkshire Surnames - Lister

The Country's largest concentration of the name Lister is in the West Riding, especially the area including Wakefield, Dewsbury and Halifax. This isn't surprising really, given the meaning of the name and the type of industry which has developed in the region over many centuries. For Lister was once originally an occupational name for a dyer. It's from a Middle English word 'litster' which meant 'female textile dyer'. Early evidence of the name is a record for a Ralph Lister in the Court Rolls of Wakefield of 1286. *From The Dalesman.* Provided by **CSMetcalf M305**

Newly born Mecca receives generous gifts of cash from his relatives and dad decides to put them into an ISA (*a modern tale*).

The application asks for young Mecca's details including occupation.

After some moments of deliberation father writes "*Town Crier*"!

Soldier Mecca receives his pay chit from the regimental paymaster and notes he has been overpaid by 30/- (*old tale*) but says nothing. However during the following week the efficient army paymaster notes the discrepancy and deducts the overpayment.

Private Mecca complains about the deduction. The paymaster responds by pointing out that Mecca should have noticed the overpayment and reported it. Mecca said he had noticed the first mistake and he gave the paymaster the benefit of the doubt but whilst he could allow one error he couldn't overlook two!

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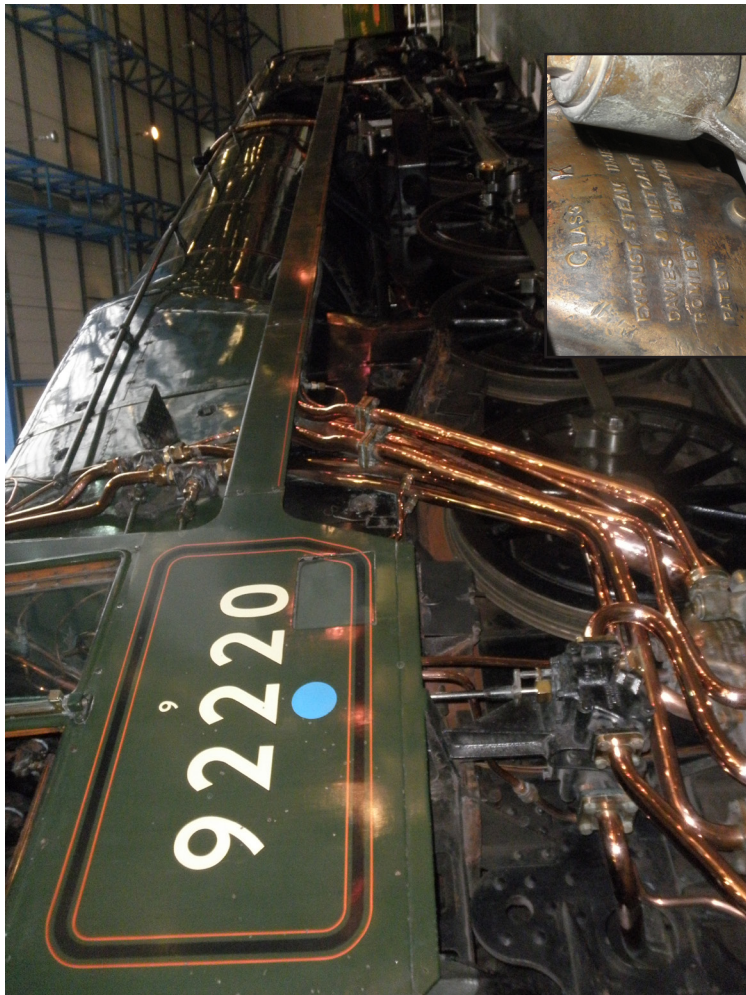
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Send any research that you have completed that includes Metcalfes to **the Web Administrator**.

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



*Old & New
See page 10*



Picture Peter Dobson M69

The Evening Star
The last steam locomotive
to be built for British Railways
has the Davies & Metcalfe
exhaust steam injector fitted.