

tmsNEWS

The Newsletter of the Metcalfe Society
No 2 March/April 2022

Comments from the Chair

We are now, slowly, emerging from the effects of the pandemic, and life is beginning to return to something like normal. Archives and Registry Offices are starting to open for longer and for more researchers – but we still have a long way to go. Unfortunately, I think most of us will have noticed an increase in living costs, and the situation in Ukraine will affect us all still further.

There have been a number of enquiries about entitlement over recent weeks, particularly non-members, who have managed to 'trace' their line back to Lord Thomas Metcalfe of Nappa Hall. While we can probably say that as we all have the name somewhere in our past, we are all descended from those early Metcalfes, actually proving that line is more difficult, and some of the submission from the public do not even include a completed and direct line – just a list of names taken from other sources. Unfortunately, the family was prolific, and often had many legitimate children, not counting any illegitimate offspring that came along. In England, in the vast majority of cases, only the eldest son inherited any titles and lands from the father. Second, or subsequent, sons might inherit if the first/second son died before the parent, but this was less common.

It is difficult to establish a line all the way back into the distant past as records are not always available and just having the same name, or one of the variants, does not mean that we are able to make a positive and direct line. Over the years, I'm sure we have all tried to find a way through to the distant past, but once we get past the census returns, it becomes more difficult. Parish registers in the past recorded different things about the people listed. In the 1837, Parish Registers in the UK were standardised, recording fathers and mother names and as much additional information as available. Prior to that regulation, records can be very different. In some, only the fathers name may be given, or only the mothers. Sometimes only the child is listed, with or without date of birth and/or a baptismal date. Similarly for marriage records – some have both spouses, some include fathers name, spouses father name, occupation, residence, age of couple, and death records may have fathers name, age, occupation and residence. They are all varying from parish to parish, and often depending on the cleric involved.

In order to establish a link into the distant past, we need to be able to identify a direct line from son to father, to grandfather, to great-grandfather, and so on. Often the female line is not considered. Obviously, with such a varied and often scanty series of parish registers, it makes life very difficult to establish a clear and positive trail back to any individual, even for general interest.

To make a link to a title, proven connections need to be found – obviously parish registers are not enough, so wills or other historical documents need to be examined, and this is extremely difficult, largely because of the writing and often use of Latin. Two Metcalfes, in the late 19th century and early 20th century, have tried this and did manage to prove a link to a Metcalfe who had been entitled to use a Coat of Arms. Both stories are included in Metcalfe – History of the Clan. However, most of us do not have the time and leisure resources to be able to follow in their steps. Hopefully our database will help us to find our way through these difficulties and back into some interesting, if not entitled, ancestors.

Take care everyone, and keep safe,
Jo Heron

Metcalfe Wills

We have now reached the end of transcribing the wills downloaded in 2020 from The National Archives at Kew, London. With thanks to all those involved, especially **Edwin Metcalf (M980)** who has completed the last batch recently. Although these wills have not been entered into the database yet, they will be available later this year, once we have identified the individuals involved and ensured that they are included in the database. There have been some problems accessing the transcriptions of wills currently on the website, but if you need a copy of the transcription, please let me know and hopefully I can help.

Metcalfe Facebook Page Online

Following a comment about the variations of the name 'Metcalf(e)', one contributor **Bryan Fridley** wrote in: *This included Freda Metcalf English Lunsford (1913-1974) of Madison County who was a musician, originally from Tennessee. She played guitar and sang at festivals for many years and appeared on television, singing folk songs, some of which she had learned from her grandmother. Freda was the daughter of Samuel Ervin Metcalf and Hattie Cornelia (nee Mathes) and was one of 8 children. She married twice, Elsberry English and Bascom Lamar Lunsford, and was survived by 3 children and 12 grandchildren.*

Details of this record were posted on the Find A Grave website,
https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/94474983/freda-english_lunsford

We are thankful to Brian for bringing this to our attention.

Jo Heron

More than Two Hundred Postcards

About 10yrs ago I had a message to our facebook page from a man in Des Moines, Iowa. He had decided that it was time to re-home a collection of postcards which he had rescued from a bin in 1970-1 when he worked as a 'Garbage Man'. He Googled Metcalfe, found us and thought we might be interested.

There are 243 of them, all addressed to a Miss Christina Metcalf/e at a series of addresses in Liverpool between 1904-1924. Most posted in the UK but some from abroad. At the time I emailed the Committee but we were looking to home our 'library' and not wanting to build an archive of 'stuff', so I went ahead off my own bat and he posted them to me. He did not ask for payment, he just wanted them to be preserved. I was quite shocked that he spent so much on postage as a pensioner, so in consultation with Margaret Hodgson I bought some Yorkshire products/calendar and sent them to him as a thank you.

We were friends on Facebook for about 5yrs and then his page disappeared so I assumed he had died. When they arrived I checked postmarks, addresses etc for clues but Margaret Hodgson (then Archivist) was unable to find her in any of our records. Now that the 1921 Census is out I thought it might be the right time to put a post on Facebook again about them.

Here are the results so far. No progress, but a couple of new people interacting with one interesting story which may prove fruitful. One of the comments says that an American family lived at one of the addresses on the PCs, but when I googled them I found he was from a large family and retired back to the US 50yrs before the PCs earliest date. There is still a large 9 bed-roomed house called "Lowood" in Mossley Hill. It hasn't changed hands since 2012 but is currently estimated to be worth £1m plus. I presume Wyncote Sports Grounds on the Mossley Hill/Allerton border is where "Wyncote" once stood. There is no Princess Rd. but Princes Rd is a wide tree-lined street with terraced 3 + 4 storey Victorian houses which would certainly have had live-in servants up to WW2. The addresses become 'grander' as the dates progress which would tie in with her becoming a more experienced and sought after Nanny.

As they are out of sight out of mind most of the time, I have never actually sat down and completely gone through all the cards in one session creating an evidence board as they do in all the TV crime dramas, so I can't say there aren't still clues to emerge from the messages. What I have gathered is that many of them have been written by children or refer to her 'charges', so I believe she worked as a Nanny or children's nurse in large houses and the numerous addresses are because she moved on when the children reached a certain age. Maybe she moved to the US as an employee or maybe just being in Liverpool and knowing of the regular transatlantic migration, she just decided to try for a better life there? The fact her collection ended up in a bin 50yrs later could mean she never had a family of her own or just that born in the US they had no interest in her old cards/history.

Lesley Longworth

In this article some more thoughts are outlined on the process of proving a Will and the administrative procedures and documents created by the Courts; originally these were as we have seen in earlier articles the Ecclesiastical (Church) Courts and after 1858, the State Courts. There are additional tax forms to be completed in the 21st century reflecting the imposition of Inheritance Taxes from 19th century but the procedures described below have barely altered since applications were made to prove Wills.

From the 14th century until 1858 one ought to find the following documents held by the Church Courts.

- - NUNCUPATIVE WILLS (not written) (shortened to nunc.) – even oral wills may have a sworn witness memorandum of execution and terms of will
 - - WILLS – the documents themselves
 - - INVENTORIES taken after death by neighbours/relatives
 - - COURT ACT BOOK - detailing the Will, testator, witnesses, executors
 - - COURT COPY OF WILL transcribed by court officers into book.
- Often the original Will might be handed back to the Executors

From the 14th to 18th century Wills tended to be drafted in this form:

- The phrase '*In the name of God, Amen*' commenced the Will. These words were used until the 19th century and only applied to Wills. If they are found at the start of a document it means that it is a Will
- Name of the person making the Will would be stated. They are called the Testator/Testatrix (Testator when male or Testatrix when female) and their address and occupation
- Religious and formal parts at commencement then followed, possibly for 4 or 5 lines long. Reference would be made to the ill health (if applicable) of the Testator/Testatrix but ability mentally to make a Will: 'but of good and perfect memory thanks be to God'. The flowery language used did not necessarily mean that the person making the Will was fervently religious; Wills would usually be written by local scribes who used their 'precedents' including the religious text
- Funeral arrangements stating where the body should be buried: usually the local parish church
- Payment of debts by the Executors was the first obligation to be undertaken by the Executors
- Appointment of the Executors who would be named
- Then followed the gifts (called legacies, devises (gifts of land) and bequests) being the distribution of the assets to named individuals which until the end of 17th century would only be 1/3rd of the personal estate; the remaining 2/3rd would pass to a widow and children as prescribed by law. A Will often referred to such distribution although technically this was unnecessary as the property passed outside the Will
- No clause numbers in these early Wills but look out for the Latin words 'in primis' [first] that is the start of the distributions and 'item' introducing a new clause
- The date when the Will was signed and witnessed usually appeared at the end near the signatures of the Testator/ Testatrix and witnesses. Sometimes the date was included at the beginning of the document.

Following a death, if the deceased made and executed a Will and Testament (referred to in this article as a 'Will'), that document would be handed over to the Court by the named Executors. It was and remains their duty to establish that this document was a valid Will. The Executors would swear that they were the named persons and that the appended document was the last known Will.

The original Will would be handed over and some or all of the witnesses to it would be required to swear that they had witnessed the Will being signed by the deceased. A notation was added to the Will by the Court officials to that effect. Against the name of the witness the word 'jurat' in Latin would be added meaning that they had duly sworn.

An inventory of the deceased's personal goods / assets in his home, initially in some detail room by room, from the 16th century until the middle of the 18th century would be filed with the Court. This was usually compiled by neighbours and friends, none of whom were professional valuers.

In the case of farmers the values of farming and husbandry equipment, machinery, crops, dung and animals probably did reflect a realistic value: these 'appraisers' would know the values of such items from their own knowledge of prices achieved at local markets for example. Often the inventories listed money lent by the deceased to neighbours since, until the 19th century there were no Banks as we know them and wealthy individuals (often lawyers) would lend cash in return for an IOU or bond.

Where the deceased had children under 21 they often appointed guardians in their Wills. Curation Bonds would be entered into by the Guardians (called 'Curators') of children over the age of 15 if a boy or 13 if a girl. If the children were younger than 15 and 13 respectively the guardianship of the boys and girls was called a Tution and a Tution Bond would be sworn by the guardians (who were called 'tutors'). In both cases acknowledging their duty to act as guardians during the child's minority. Separate Curation or Tution inventories may survive: detailing the assets set on one side for the benefit of the child.

The Tution Bond for

AGNES METCALFE minor of Halton Gill in the parish of Arncliffe, the daughter of **Christopher Metcalfe** and his widow **Grace Metcalfe** has survived and is held by the Borthwick Institute in York. Agnes agreed to forfeit £100 if she failed in her duties as Guardian and to produce documents to the Court.

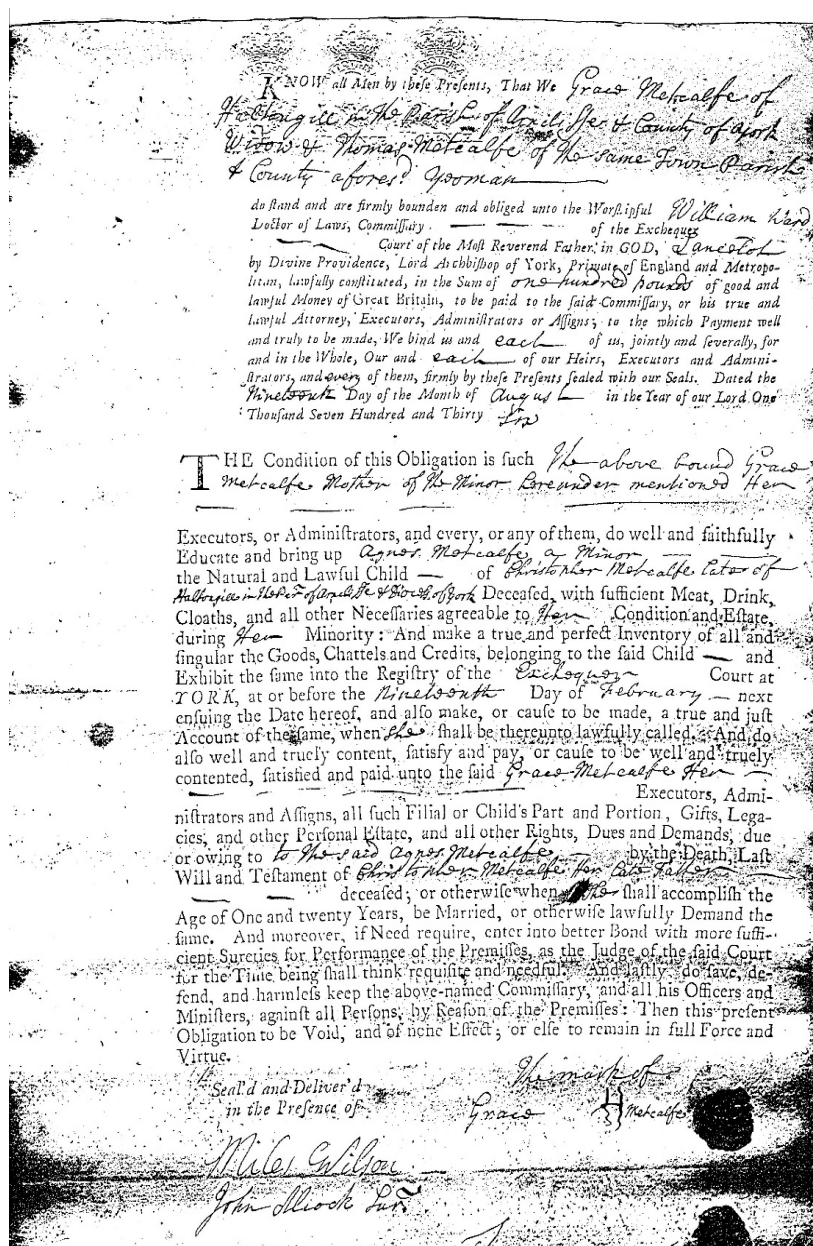
The Tution Bond was dated 19th August 1736 and required Grace to '.....well and faithfully Educate and bring up Agnes a minor the Naturall and Lawful child of Christopher Metcalfe late of Halton Gill in the parish of Arncliffe and Diocese of York deceased with sufficient Meat Drink Cloaths and all other Necessaries agreeable to her Condition and Estate during her Minority.....'

In addition Grace was required to provide an Inventory within 6 months of 'all the Goods Chattels and Credits belonging to' Agnes and to exhibit the same into the registry of the Exchequer Court at York. This was duly done and also survives.

The Court would transcribe the Will and enter brief particulars of the Will and Executors and the date a Grant of Probate was issued and to whom in the Court Act Book. It is worthwhile looking at that document.

David Lambert

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The tution bond of GRACE METCALFE 19th August 1736



POOR LAW 1834

Recently attended a webinar from TNA on the Poor Law 1834. It dealt largely with appeals against the lack of assistance offered by the local Poor Law authorities and workhouse management. Many were written by the appellants and showed a detailed grasp of their rights both legal and moral, and often quoting military service.

Rules and regulations were posted in each Poor House and also in the local Libraries - where the paupers would have access to them. Appeals were sent to the Central Commissioners, AND THEY WERE ACTED ON, although maybe not always in the way the pauper hoped.

The records are stored in large volumes in The National Archives but have yet to catalogued fully, so would be a large job to draw; through. The speaker today was Paul Carter who is a co-editor of book to be published this autumn **In their Own Write** - more details in due course.

Jo Heron

The Metcalfe Connection

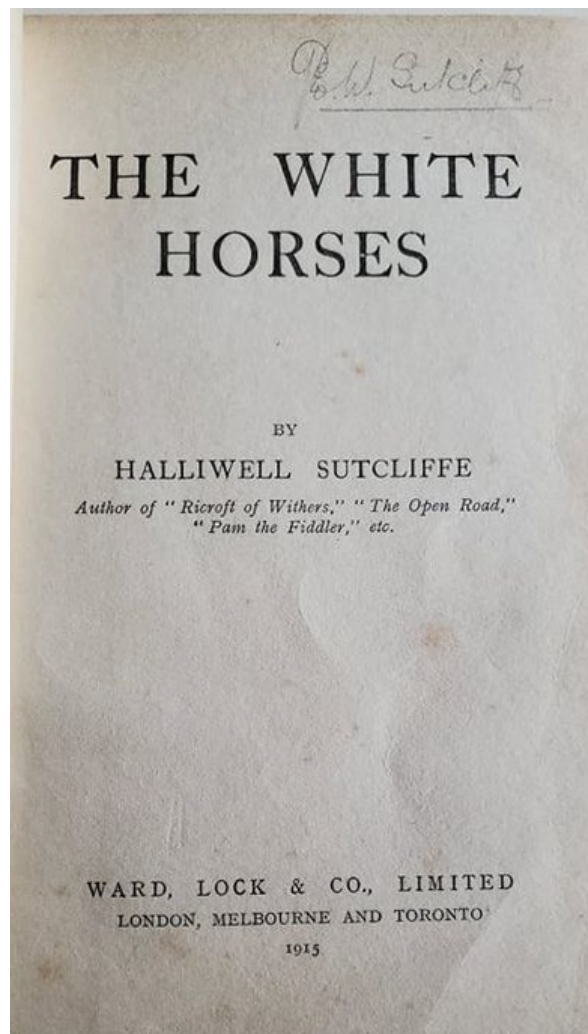
On the death of William de Hartlington in 1473, his three daughters Elizabeth, Agnes and Isabel divided their fathers lands between them. Elizabeth married **Thomas Metcalfe** of Nappa Hall in Wensleydale and his son **James Metcalfe** took Burnsall, Appletreewick and Broughton as his portion. The second daughter Agnes married and her son Richard married a daughter of **Roger Metcalfe** of Beare Parke. **Roger Metcalfe** took the manor of Kirkby Malham as his inheritance which eventually devolved to his son **Leonard Metcalfe**. This **Leonard** was involved in the rising of the North 1569 and was imprisoned for his part in the rising. However he kept his lands. His son **John Metcalfe** sold the freeholds in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, around 1592. Eventually the lands were sold by Lamberts to William Alcock banker of Skipton in 1782.

The Proctors of Craven, had close family links with the **Metcalfes** of Beare Parke Wensleydale in the Lordship of Middleham. Geoffrey Proctor, of Bordley, gained Malham Hall in the manor of Kirkby Malhamdale in 1534 after the dissolution of the monasteries. His grandson, Geoffrey Proctor, married **Winnifred Metcalfe**, the daughter of **Roger Metcalfe** of Beare Parke. The hall was sold in 1585 to John Lambert.

From The Craven Horners

www.bgwaters.co.uk/index

Books

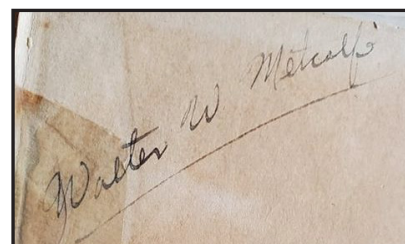


Recently I exchanged multiple messages with a lady in Canada. She began by talking about a fiction book which was posted to her Gt. gt. grandfather about 1917-18. It was first published in 1913 and remarkably, later editions have appeared

It's called **The White horses**, signed by the author, but also has the signature of a Metcalfe with a different initial from her relative.

Lesley Longworth

Based on the Metcalfe family it is a complete work of fiction which can be purchased from Amazon in Kindle or softback format.



Have you tried Google Books Record Series?

Contains old books and publications some often long out of print which have been scanned (often by American Universities) and are available in various formats including pdf. Check out <https://books.google.com>

David Lambert / Lesley Longworth

Barbara J Starmans - Farmer in the Dales.

I came across this book on line

<https://www.thesocialhistorian.com>

History of a farming family around Danby Wisk and Bolton on Swale in the late 18th century.

Interesting Insight into the times
and it also mentions a Metcalfe (briefly)!

A Chelsea Pensioner

The Ogilby Muster,
an archive collection of the British Army
<https://www.theogilbymuster.com/>
Searchable catalogue of material in regimental museums.
500 plus Metcalfe entries.
Definitely worthwhile studying the pages in detail.
Supplied by **Lesley Longworth / David Lambert**

Lesley found the site,
David discovered the Mte's
and Susan Harper came back almost
immediately with

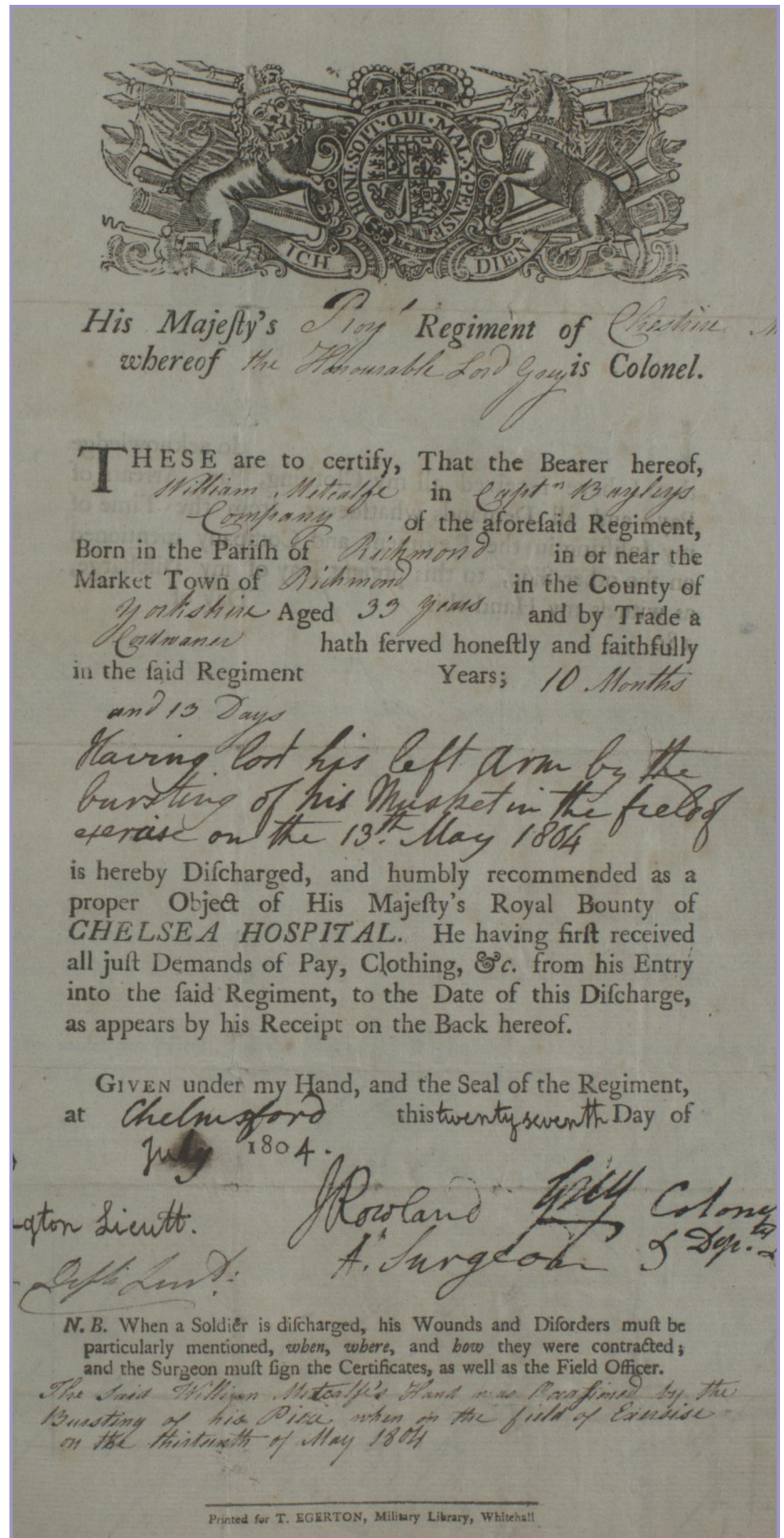
*"I just now found a William Metcalfe
b1771 in Richmond
Yorkshire, discharged from Militia in
1804 after losing an arm therefore a
Chelsea Pensioner!"*
She provided the certificate opposite.

Militia From Tudor times every parish had to provide men who would serve in the county militia. This was generally preferable to enlisting in the regular army. If a man joined the peace-time militia he was only ever expected to serve within this country, he was exempted from the obligation of spending several days a year repairing the parish highways. He was not required to serve as a parish constable or other parish office and if called on actual service his wife and children would be cared for financially. Upon his discharge he enjoyed a freedom of movement often not previously experienced and could work anywhere in England or Ireland. If wounded and disabled there was help from the Chelsea Hospital. Additionally, the 'bounty' offered to sign up was far higher than that offered to a regular soldier.
Mersea Museum.

Throughout the late 1700' and early 1800's Great Britain was in conflict either with its own colonies or its European Neighbours. As a result there was a growth of local militia units to cover for the regular army whilst it was of fighting the foreign wars.

Cheshire Militia

The regiment was organised in 1759 under Col Lord Malpas. It was known as the Royal Cheshire Militia as early as 1760, though official recognition of the title came much later as on July 30 1795, at their camp at Brighton, the Prince of Wales "begged the Royal Cheshire militia would accept a pair of colours from him, as Earl of Chester." The regimental colour, blue, bore the arms of the Earl of Chester, Prince George, soon to be George III.



In 1793 Napoleon seized power and the French expansion became a major issue for Great Britain. Its navy kept the enemy threat at arms length and eventually a stalemate was reached resulting in the 1802 of Treaty of Amiens.
However peace was not to last.

A Chelsea Pensioner 2

By 1803 the peace was over.

Napoleon mustered an army at Calais of 130,000 men together with a flotilla of 2,000 boats. It was believed the preferred landing places would be the Kent coast of Dover, Chatham and the Romney Marshes, but Essex could be a prime target with flat countryside and close proximity to London

From the records uncovered it appears that there was a general call to arms with Militias from all across the country called to raise their strength. Militias across Lancashire and Yorkshire were called to arms with regiments being sent to Essex. Chelmsford barracks was used as a mustering point and it appears that **William** was one of those called up. Why he was enrolled with the Cheshire Militia is unclear but the Cheshires had been in the East Riding earlier (in fact they were garrisoning Hull on 1 January 1805 only months after their time in Essex). The Cheshire Militia were in Essex on 22nd July 1803. As a local diarist records "*The Cheshire Militia marched from Colchester to Langenhoe Common, commonly called Abberton Green, and there encamped.*"

It would seem that **William** had his accident when they were around Chelmsford in May 1804 as another soldier of the Militia is recorded as "*on 17 April 1804, he actually started service with the Militia as a private at Chelmsford Barracks*". For **William** there would be no further military duties he was now a Chelsea Pensioner.

The Royal Hospital Chelsea

In 1681, responding to the need to look after veteran soldiers, King Charles II issued a Royal Warrant authorising "*the building of the Royal Hospital Chelsea to care for those 'broken by age or war'*".

The chosen site, adjacent to the River Thames in the countryside of Chelsea contained the uncompleted building of the former Chelsea College. In 1692 work was finally completed and the first Chelsea Pensioners were admitted.



A Chelsea Pensioner

As a Pensioner ex-soldiers would have been able to live at the Royal Hospital and receive food and lodgings and companyship of fellow soldiers forgoing any pension or be an "Out-Pensioner" who received his pension.

So far we have been unable to discover whether **William** did in fact take residence at Chelsea or return to his roots in Richmond.



Chelsea or Richmond or....
Do you know?

US Census Slave Schedules

Over 50 Metcalfes were listed as slave owners in the 1850 census – mainly in the eastern seaboard of America. Are they connected to you?

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Census_Slave_Schedules

They are listed in Alabama, District of Columbia, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia

Jo Heron

North East Cemeteries

The *Cemetery Index* (sunderlandward.co.uk) holds indexes of graves and photographs. These can be obtained by email

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Have you seen....

Blaydes Maritime Centre, Hull. Blaydes House is a Georgian house on the banks of the River Hull, built by the Blaydes merchant family with their wharf to the rear and a dry dock nearby where the Bounty of Mutiny on the Bounty fame was built as well as whalers. One of these whalers was later used as the first ship to transport convicts to Australia. Another took settlers with their tools, seeds + stock.

After being in danger of falling into disrepair, the Georgian Society bought it and then in 1999 sold it to the University of Hull who completely re-furbished it and use it for their **Maritime History section of the History Faculty**. *The Melbourne Maritime Project and the Blaydes Maritime Centre* may be useful to members for personal research queries. See bmc@hull.ac.uk **Lesley Longworth**

A book by George Redmonds, Turi King & David Hay. The revised edition called *Surnames DNA & Family History* researches names, geographical locations from the 1881 Census and uses earlier records and how DNA can be linked to provide a possible source for your originator. At £14.99 perhaps worth a perusal.

The Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society

Will be at *Family and Local History in the City*

at Manchester Central Library

on Saturday 26 March 2022

Free Entry

Why not drop in?

and finally.....

Have you renewed your membership?

If you have thank you...

If not

this will be the final newsletter we will send to you!

We hope you will rejoin and continue to receive information
about the Metcalfe Family

If you use social media please 'like us' on Facebook to keep up to date on our news and events.

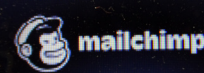
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The Metcalfe Society

...for the name, history, heritage & genealogy