

tmsNEWS

The Newsletter of the Metcalfe Society
No 3 May/June 2022

Comments from the Chair

Well, we seem to be on our way towards some sort of normality at long last, even though the pandemic has left its lasting mark on all of us. We have lost friends and relatives, and many of us have been left with what are probably the lasting symptoms of long Covid.

Having said that, the last few years have made incredible changes in the way we work as your Committee. Despite not being computer geeks, we now hold our meetings online, which certainly has widened our horizons. Instead of having to travel to North Yorkshire for our meetings, we have a much shorter commute to our desktops or sitting rooms, and an added bonus has been that we have been able to welcome Dianne Fox and Susan Harper – our Agents in Australia and Canada – to our meetings, despite the time differences. This is already proving very useful as they have ideas and suggestions which will help us to move forward.

It has also meant that when we held our Annual General Meeting in the last two years, we have been able to welcome more members from overseas, as well as from the more distant areas of this country who would not normally be able to make the meeting. The more members who can join us and venture their comments, the better and more inclusive our Society will be. We have decided to hold the meeting online again this year, so details will be following in due course. We hope that you will be willing to join us on Saturday 1st October, and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on that day.

As we are keen to involve more of you in the working of the Society, do you have a short story to tell about your family or your research that you would like to share with the rest of us? We have time after the Annual General Meeting, so we would like to offer you, our members, a chance to let us all know what you have learned. Short stories – 15 minutes or so will suffice, and we can coach you on how to do the presentation if necessary. Offers please, and a chance to share your stories with others and maybe make another connection.

Take care and keep safe everyone – we are looking forward to seeing you person soon.

Jo Heron

Membership reminder

If you have not yet renewed your annual subscription, we would encourage you to do so as soon as possible.

If you no longer wish to remain a member of the Society, we would be grateful if you could let us know. If you have paid in recent weeks, or via Paypal, please ignore this message, as it does take some time for payments to be notified to us. If we do not hear from you by the end of May, we will not send you any further information.

Also, if there are any changes to your record, we would like to update your record. Have you found any further information to your tree – please let us know so we can update our database.

Thank you
membership@metcalfe.org.uk

Transported Meccas

I'm a married in Metcalfe and began researching our family after my father in law showed me in 1982, an article he'd spotted in the Darlington & Stockton Times about a new family society 'The Metcalfe Society'. I joined and subsequently Nina Benson discovered our family had lived 4 miles from where we were living. That then took over the next 40 years leaving snatched time to dabble in my own fully North-umbreland side, which I've now turned to.

Researching my Border Reiver Northumbrians, an Ancestry hint popped up for one of them in a book written in 1988 by Peter Wilson Coldham 'The Complete Book of Emigrants in Bondage 1614-1775' ie transported Convicts sentenced to transportation. A fascinating read if you are interested in the human experience of living in England's past, which as family historians we all are.

Obviously I looked for Metcalfe's!

Here are those listed:

Medcalfe Adam. S Feb 1758. Ha (S is sentenced to transportation, Ha is Hampshire)

Metcalfe Elizabeth. S&T (Sentences & Transported) July 1753, ship Tryal, London

Metcalfe George. SQS (Sentenced Quarter Sessions) Northallerton Jly TB (Transportation Bond) Aug 1737 Y (Yorks)

Medcalf George. T Apr 1741 (Transported) ship Speedwell or Mediterranean. Sy (Surrey)

Metcalf James SW&T (sentenced to transportation& transported at Westminster Sessions) 1771 ship Justinia M (Middlesex)

Metcalfe John S Lent 1735 Y

Medcalf Joseph. R (Reprieved for transportation) 14yrs. Jly 1774 M

Metcalfe Michael. S Jun 1733. M

Metcalfe Simon of Preston. SQS Thirsk stealing sheep. Apr 1735

Metcalfe alias Smith, Thomas. S Feb-Apr. Transported May 1755 ship Rose. M

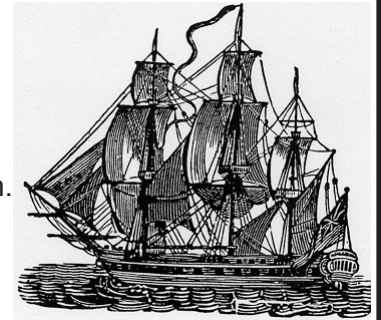
Metcalfe Thomas. S&T Jan 1769 Thornton. M

Medcalfe William. R (Reprieved for transportation) for America. July 1702 Db (Derbyshire)

Metcalfe William. S Summer 1727. We (Westmorland)

Metcalfe William. SQS Sept T Dec 1771 Justinia. M

Medcalfe William. R for Life (Reprieved for transportation) Lent 1775 Ht (Huntingdonshire).



There are a few names Metter, Metters, Metkirk too. Some of the ages and reasons for transportation throughout the book are heartbreaking, scooping vagrant children of the streets, stealing a pair of stockings, though an expensive item 250 years ago.

I know I can be flummoxed at an ancestor who seems simply to disappear from the face of the earth so finding someone has found Metcalfe's in places and records out of the blue is I'm sure something we all love to read. Similar to an archaeological find! This is yet another book I may have to buy!

Val Metcalfe (M61)

Historical Note:

The Slave Trade Act was enacted in 1807 which prohibited the slave trade in the British Empire.

It did not abolish the practice of slavery but did encourage other countries to abolish the trade.

It did not work.

Slavery was only legally outlawed in the British Empire by the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833.



Wikipedia

Birth Briefs and Members Interests

Following requests from members, we are returning to publishing members interests based on the Birth Brief returns. If you have any updates to your own Birth Brief, please let us know so we can update our records. We are awaiting returns from the following new members.

2158, 2160, 2162, 2164, 2167, 2169, 2175, 2179, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2194, 2195, 2197, 2198, 2199

Published below as a few of submissions from new members. We are still working on other recent submissions, but are awaiting other returns. If you haven't yet sent in your form, please do so, so we can help you to link in to our database.

M1726 Robert Glenn Metcalf

Alan s.o. Glenn Charles & Beth (Cole) m 20 Feb 1953, Port Lincoln, S Australia. Glenn Charles s.o. Edwin Roy & Florence Ruth Mabel (Underwood) m 5 Jun 1918, Balaklava, S Australia. Edwin Roy s.o. Charles David & Rebecca (Long) Mt m 23 Nov 1889 Norwood, South Australia. Charles David b 31 Mar 1856 Penwortham, South Australia s.o. Joseph & Mary Ann (Booth) Mt m 14 Mar 1849 Preston, Lan. Joseph b 14 Dec 1828 Preston s.o. David & Mary Mte. David bpt 26 Dec 1787 Kendal, Wes s.o. Joseph & Mary (Potter) Mte m 28 Feb 1779 Kendal. Joseph bpt 16 May 1754 Halifax s.o. David & Ann (Rothery) Mte m 19 Sep 1748 Halifax. David bpt 26 Feb 1725 Halifax s.o. David & Sarah (Greenwood) Mte m 30 Nov 1716 Halifax. **Conn. to M272, M587, M1339**

M2187 Mrs Lesley Clements

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 ? s.o. Edward & Mary Mte.

Conn. M16 M55 M173 M384 M686 M1041 M1919

M2204 Mr Michael Goldsborough

Michael s.o. Walter Goldsborough & Elsie Ann (Metcalf) m 1931 Lan. Elsie b 1899 Padiham Lan. d.o. Robert & Susan Ellen (Leach) m 1886 Burnely, Lan. Robert b. 1862 Altham Lan. s.o. William & Ann (Hacking) William b. 1834. William s.o. James & Margaret (Westwell) Mt m 8 Jul 1833 Altham. James b 28 Mar 1810 Altham s.o. William & Ann (Pilkington) Mt m 1 Mar 1802 Altham. William bpt 27 Aug 1780 Great Harwood, Lan s.o. James & Mary (Roberts) Mt m 8 Apr 1777 Great Harwood. James bpt 30 Nov 1754 Great Mitton natural s.o. Elizabeth Mt bpt 19 Mar 1731 Great Mitton d.o. John & Grace (Geldard) Mt m 5 Jan 1718-19 Great Mitton. **Conn. M21 M889 M1201 M1421**

For those of you interested in wider historical matters, **The National Archives** is holding a series of podcasts on topics largely related to their holdings. The next 3 are related to coronations.

25/05/2022 TNA - Crowning a King and Restoration: Charles II's coronation, 1661

10/06/2022 TNA - Crown & Sceptre 14.00

17/06/2022 TNA - Power & Pageantry, the coronation of King Richard III and Queen Anne
(this one could be of particular interest as Metcalfes were closely involved with Richard III)

They have had a number of family history related podcasts based on using their records, so worth keeping an eye on their website. If I hear of any more, I'll pass them on to you. **Jo Heron**

Are you skilled at reading old documents or translating from Latin?

We would be interested to hear from you as we have a small number of documents from the 15th and 16th centuries which are proving more difficult to transcribe.

Contact chairman@metcalfe.org.uk

Now Then 6

David Lambert continues his series on Wills and their associated documents with:

Grants of Representation

These documents are not always obtained or necessarily understood and this can be a mistake as they do enable one to understand why individuals are involved in winding up an estate when there appears to be no connection. There were and still are various Grants available. The more usual are mentioned below. When the relevant documents were handed over to the Surrogate (a local Church Court official) the Court would read the paperwork including the Will and satisfy themselves that all was in order.

A properly prepared Will should name Executor(s). These are the individuals tasked with the duty of identifying and collecting in the assets of the deceased, paying debts including funeral expenses, and identifying and paying the persons named in the Will as 'beneficiaries', namely the persons to whom assets are left. Executors apply for a Grant of Probate although their authority to act as such stems from Will itself not statute or common law. (When a person dies without a Will they die intestate and it is necessary to apply to the Court asking them to appoint an Administrator through a Grant of Letters of Administration. An earlier article explained what happened in those circumstances).

The Grant is issued by the Court to confirm that the Will is 'proved' to the Court's satisfaction to be the last Will and Testament of the deceased Testator/Testatrix and to have validly appointed the named Executors: the Latin phrase used by the Church Courts was 'probatum est' = 'it is proved' hence why the Grant issued by the Court is called a Grant of Probate and the procedure of dealing with the administration is called by lawyers 'probate'.

The Grant of Probate refers to:

- The name and address and status/occupation of the deceased Testator / Testatrix
- Date of death
- The names of the Executors to whom the Grant of Probate is issued and details of those who have renounced their right to act. An Executor can also elect not to renounce Probate or apply for the Grant but instead reserve the right to do so at some time in the future. This is called having 'power reserved' and the Grant of Probate will name the Executor who so elects but he is not included as an active Executor on the Grant
- The value of personal estate which passes under the Will
- Includes the authority to enable the Executors to act as representatives of the Deceased and a statement that if a later Will is discovered the Grant will be returned to the Court

An Impression of the Court Seal was attached, in wax, on the old Church Court Grants but now it is impressed on the Grant itself at its foot and signed by a court officer. If applicable, the name of the solicitor and the location of his office would be included as mentioned in a previous article in this series.

[Now Then 3]

There are various occasions when a Grant of Probate cannot be issued by the Court.

- The Will does not name any Executors or
- An Executor has 'renounced' (given up) the right to act and there are no other named Executors who can apply for a Grant of Probate or
- The Executor has died before the deceased Testator/Testatrix

In such cases an application will need to be made to the Court for a Grant of Letters of Administration with the Will Annexed ('cum testamento annexo'). The applicants are (essentially) the deceased's next of kin. There is a Will but instead of Executors being appointed, the Court appoints Administrators. They carry out the wishes of the deceased as expressed in the Will. There is little difference in the way that the deceased's affairs are wound up from what would have occurred if a Grant of Probate was issued by the Court. Unfortunately sometimes the only or the last surviving Executor named in the Grant of Probate dies before they can complete their duties and distribute the estate in accordance with the Will.

In those circumstances if an Executor who is named and referred to in the Will elected to 'power reserved' to apply to Court at a later date, they may do so to avoid the failure of the executorship. They apply for a

second Grant called 'Double Probate'. They are then able to proceed and conclude the administration. If, however, there is no executor with power reserved willing or able to act, then one of two procedures apply. First what is called the Chain of Representation can be used.

If the only or last surviving executor who proved the Will of a Testator/Testatrix dies before completing the administration and they (the executor(s)) themselves leave a Will, which is proved in Court by their Executor(s) then their Executor(s) will take on responsibility for completing the first administration without the necessity of applying to Court for a Grant. The Grant of Probate of the late and last proving Executor will be the authority to carry out the final stages of the administration through the Chain of Representation. This can be repeated as often as may be required and whilst a Grant of Probate is issued to an Executor.

If the last proving Executor does not leave a Will (they die intestate) or if there is a Will but no Grant of Probate is taken out, then the Chain of Representation comes to an end, the chain is broken. In those circumstances it is necessary for someone to apply for another type of Grant called by its Latin name: a Grant de bonis non administratis (often shortened to 'de bonis non') meaning in English 'concerning goods not administered'

Who can apply for such a Grant? If there was only one proving Executor and they die without leaving a Will or having one proved, then their next of kin will be responsible for seeking the Grant de bonis non. If there was more than one Executor but they have all died, then the next of kin of the first to die should apply. So the onus is on the deceased Executor's family to take out the Grant de bonis non to the estate of someone of whom they may have no knowledge or any connection or relationship.

To bring this article to a conclusion reference should also be made to another type of Grant which is issued conditionally by the Court. Where a minor is appointed in the Will as an executor then a conditional Grant is issued during the minority of a named executor called Letters of administration 'cum testamento durante minori aetate': the Grant is appointing an Administrator (not an Executor) to administer the estate of the deceased parent of the infant whilst the named minor is under 21 years of age (18 since 1969). The 'child' on attaining majority (21 until the year 1969) can apply to the Court thereafter to obtain the Grant of Probate enabling them to conclude the administration of the estate. If the parent had died intestate (leaving no valid Will) then Letters of Administration can be granted to the minor child upon their attaining their majority in their own name.

Books

Lady Anne Clifford

Challenging her husband, the Church, the King

Caring for the people in her community; Rebuilding her family estates

Find out about her determined fight for her inheritance, and her place in Westmorland's history.

Recording evidence to her hereditary claim in 'The Great Books of Record' (Kendal Archive Centre)

Email us to make an appointment: kendal.archives@cumbria.gov.uk

Dating By Design 1840-1915

by Stephen Gill FRPS, ASICI

A new way of dating old photographs for family historians & Genealogists

£18.95 plus p&p

Policemen in Manchester

£4.25 £5.10 inc VAT for customers within the EU

An index to the service records of Manchester police officers appointed from 1858 to 1918.

Provides details of name, age, birthplace, previous occupation, religion & marital status, as well as date of appointment, for some 8,500 officers.

Further information on officers identified in the index may be available from the Manchester Police Museum, Newton Street, Manchester.

This is also available as a download Code: DL1611 at £2.00

bookshop@mlfhs.org.uk

A Canadian Medcalf History

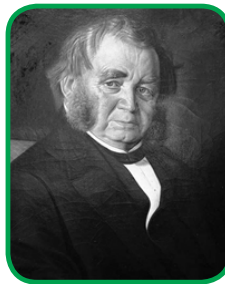
While researching Canadian Expeditionary Force members from a list supplied by Jo Heron, I came across an interesting history that began with Alfred Edward Medcalfe and went back in time through on-line records as follows. Susan Harper.

Alfred was born in Toronto in 1878 and enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces in 1915, a Major in the 91st Battalion from St Thomas, Ontario. He was sent back to Canada for medical reasons in 1917. He was married to Alice Maud when he enlisted and his occupation was shoe manufacturer. In 1921 he was enumerated on Wellington Street, St. Thomas, Ontario where he lived with his wife Alice, and two sons Edward (14 years old) and Henry (12 Years old). The information from this census indicated that his mother and father were both born in Ontario, Canada. He married Alice Maud Hewdson about 1905. Alfred died in Elgin, Toronto Ontario on 13 May 1934 at the age of 55.

Alfred Edward Medcalf's birth was registered on the 10 September 1878 at York, Ontario by parents Alfred Medcalf and Elizabeth Thompson. He was enumerated with this family in 1881 which indicated that his father was born in Ontario about 1841, of Irish descent, a founder and Elizabeth born about 1846 in Ontario of Scottish descent. Alfred had siblings Minnie born 1869, Francis born 1871, Duncan b 1873. The senior Alfred Edward Metcalf/Medcalf had married Elizabeth Thompson on the 25th of Sep 1866 at York, Toronto. The registration gave his father's name as Francis H. and his mother as Mary. This information led to finding the 1861 census that included 18 year old Alfred Medcalf with his parents F.H. Medcalfe, merchant b in Ireland age 50 (Church of England), and Mary, age 50 born in England.

The death of Mrs. Francis H. Medcalf on the 17 Apr 1905 in Toronto and her subsequent obituary revealed that her husband Francis H. Medcalf was Mayor of Toronto from 1864 to 1866 and also 1874 to 1875 and that she was a native of Burnley, Lancashire.

Francis Henry Medcalf has an entry in Wikipedia. He was born in 1803 in Delgany, County Wicklow, Ireland and died there as a Canadian millwright, iron founder and a member of the Order of the Orange Order in Canada. Much more information can be found on Wikipedia.



in Wikipedia. He was born in 1803 in Delgany, County Wicklow, Ireland and died there as a Canadian millwright, iron founder and a member of the Order of the Orange Order in Canada. Much more information can be found on Wikipedia.

A few ancestry researchers have found Francis as the second child of William Medcalf and mother nee Poole. They both were born in Wicklow, Ireland and died in Ontario, Canada. Francis Henry had a brother Theophilus Frank Medcalf b 1816 in Wicklow and died 1891 in Wisconsin, USA.

Visit the National Library of Scotland's Maps website and explore: <https://maps.nls.uk/> useful if you are trying to locate places associated with your ancestors in the nineteenth century which cannot be found with present-day gazetteers.

Cumbria Archive Service Your house, land or family history? Your town, village or industrial history? For academic research plus lots more visit us at <http://archiveweb.cumbria.gov.uk> for CASCAT (Online Catalogue). Browse our online catalogue to find out about our amazing collections. Archives Card Register for an Archives Card which can be used at all our Centres.

Swaledale Museum

(<https://swaledalemuseum.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=3ef0adb4ff84de6f4691c5541&id=c6e0cb5f81&e=1a97b5c8c7>)

On the home page we have a new feature, 'Breaking News', featuring extracts from the Museum's large collection of extracts from old local newspapers, ingeniously added by Rob Macdonald in a monthly rolling programme.

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Tour of Britain

Stage 4 starts in Redcar on 7th September and tours round North Yorkshire finishing in Duncombe Park Helmsley. It will also visit Saltburn-by-the Sea and Whitby.

Details; tourofbritain.co.uk/news

Jo Heron



Life in the 1500's



Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

- Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children, last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it.
- Hence the saying, *"Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."*

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and off the roof. Hence the saying *"It's raining cats and dogs."*

- There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.
- The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying *"dirt poor."* The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until when you opened the door it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the saying a *"thresh hold."*
-

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme, *"Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."*

- Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could *"bring home the bacon."* They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and *"chew the fat."* Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.
- Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or *"upper crust."*
-

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

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

Spotted Ashby De-La Zouch 28 February Facebook

Cholera!

A word to spread terror into a community.

Cholera is caused by the ingestion of the bacterium 'vibrio cholerae', usually in water containing the excreta of someone already infected by the disease. It is difficult to catch, and in most cases the stomach acids defeat the vibrio but without treatment it is fatal in half the cases

First recognised in India in the late 18th century it was a major problem in Bengal in 1817 when a severe outbreak was reported. From the Indian sub-continent it slowly made its way out into east Asia and by 1830 had appeared in Moscow. Trading across the Baltic saw the disease's arrival in Hamburg in 1831. The British government had recognised the spread and had made tentative plans to deal with it if and when it arrived. In August 1831 in spite of quarantine arrangements the first case and death appeared in Sunderland. The doctors soon realised that the cholera was highly contagious and reported that:

If quarantine could be strictly enforced, there cannot be the slightest doubt that it would be successful. The difficulties, however, of enforcing quarantine, between countries where extensive commercial intercourse is constantly going on, would appear to be quite insurmountable.

Locally the problem was more acute:

*The Sunderland keelmen, their livelihoods threatened by the drop in trade, were threatening to "burn the doctors".....
(North Yorkshire History Chapter 11 the Year of Cholera)*

Within weeks it was detected in London and by early 1832 it was found in a number of locations across the country. Whilst the towns in the industrial areas of the North East, Yorkshire, Lancashire and the Midlands showed the highest numbers many ports were not immune to the ravishes of the disease. Across Great Britain there were 32000 deaths reported. Yorkshire was badly effected. There were some 1960 deaths of which Leeds was the worst affected with nearly half the county's death total. Doncaster saw the first death in January 1832 and cases steadily grew in York Selby Sheffield and Wakefield: they eventually suffered the highest deaths. Bradford and Rotherham had fewer than 40 fatalities each.

In response to the outbreak, carriers' carts from Sunderland were forbidden entry to Stockton, Staindrop and Barnard Castle. However the disease continued to spread even to the smaller communities:

CHOLERA IN CLEVELAND. – *We regret to state that the Asiatic cholera broke out last week at Hutton Rudby, a manufacturing village, near Stokesley. Hutton Rudby is one of the dirtiest villages imaginable; and its inhabitants, generally, very dissolute. Leeds Mercury, Saturday 13 October 1832*
The number of cases in the village - 43, deaths 18.

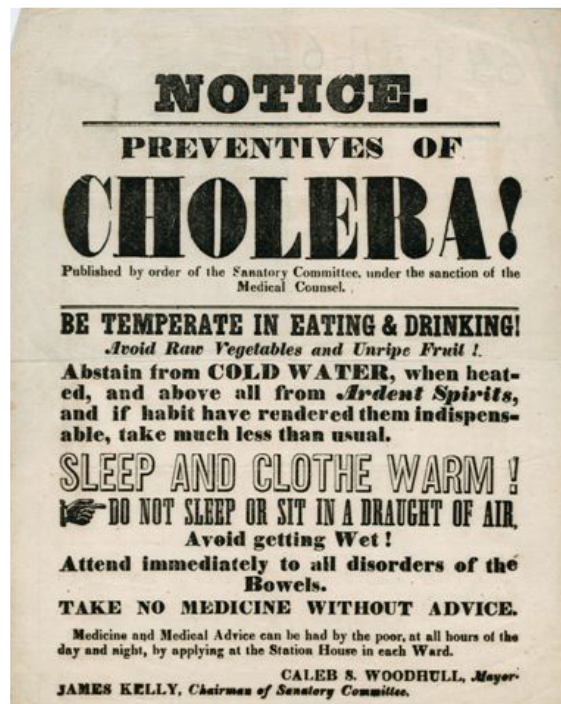
Details of Metcalfes suffering from the illness and death are few. In one **Matthew Metcalfe** of Moor Monkton near York survived after coming into contact with a John Barnes who didn't.

Anne Metcalf - Daughter of Edward Metcalf Died: 21 Feb 1831, 1 yr, Huncoat but from the Society's database there are signs that deaths were higher in 1832 but the actual cause is not stated.

The epidemic lasted until late 1832 when cases fell away rapidly. In a report of the Leeds Board of Health in 1833 they said

"We are of the opinion that the streets in which malignant cholera prevailed most severely, were those in which the drainage was most imperfect, and that the state of general health of the inhabitants would greatly improve, and probably future visitations from such epidemics diminish, by a general and efficient system of drainage, sewerage and paving, and enforcement of better regulations as to the cleanliness of the streets."

Little was done (Richmond's Medical Officer struggled for years to get proper facilities for rubbish collection. It was not until the threat of a Cholera outbreak in 1892 that Richmond created a rubbish tip).



In 1848 a Public Health Act was passed to set up Boards which would regulate building plans and ensure connection to public sewers. However it was too little too late. A full blown pandemic reached Great Britain in late 1848 and this time it took some 52000 people. The port of Liverpool was badly hit and many other towns and cities . Deaths were reported in many rural areas.

Hawes - James Metcalfe, a stonemason

Alnwick - Thirty one year old **Catherine Metcalf wife of Cornelius Mitcalf/Metcalf**

The nascent United States of America undergoing a wave of immigration in particular was badly affected. Over 150000 died. The east coast ports suffered and across the trails to the newly opened mid West many caught the disease. A large number of Dales Families left the area during the 1840's due to the declining lead industry in particular. There are stories of families losing loved ones as they travelled to a new location. One was

Elizabeth Metcalfe wife of Lister Washington Metcalfe

who after arriving in New Orleans and sailing up the Mississippi died in Wisconsin.

Again health improvements were slow or nonexistent and it was not until the third epidemic in 1853/4 that real action was taken. The number of deaths - 20000 were lower due to some of the improvements but still many across the country were affected.

In this outbreak my great grandmother lost her mother and two sisters in Tynemouth while Governor **Thomas Metcalfe** of Kentucky died of the disease on August 18, 1855.

Our database shows nearly 300 deaths in 1848 & 1849 and a smaller one in 1854. It is likely that a number of Metcalfes caught cholera and some subsequently died in the outbreaks.

After the 1854 attack there was a growing awareness of how the disease occurred and led to a number of health improvements including the provision of fresh clean water. In particular Doctor John Snow of the Royal College of Physicians carried out a detailed examination of the outbreak in Broad Street, Golden Square, Westminster. He had been trying to convince others of the nature of the transference of the disease - it was commonly thought it was airborne - and as a result of his efforts which were laid out in his publication - *On the Mode of Communication of Cholera* - in 1855 it was widely accepted that the main way of catching cholera was by sewerage tainted water supplies. His recommendations and those of other medical practitioners led to the diminution of future outbreaks and by 1893 Great Britain had seen its last Cholera fatality.

The epidemic/pandemics of 1831/32, 1848/49 and 1853/54 in particular show how ill prepared the country was at the start of the Victorian era to deal with major health problems but the expanding British Empire brought wealth and with it slow but significant improvements. The background to these events are useful from a family historian's viewpoint and well worth exploring.

There are some sources I used listed below. There are other articles and books available on the internet.

Sources ; <https://swaag.org>, <https://www.thesocialhistorian.com>
<https://parliament.uk>, <https://journals.sagepub.com>
<https://bailiffgatecollections.co.uk>, <https://johnsnow.matrix.msu.edu>



Did you see....

EURONEWS 31 March 17.30(BST) No Comment Feature showed Askrigg after the snowfall.

NEW WORLD WAR ONE PLAQUE IN AYSGARTH CHURCH

A plaque with the names of 12 more servicemen from Aysgarth parish who lost their lives during World War I has been installed on the north wall of St Andrew's Church, Aysgarth. The information about the servicemen was found by Penny Ellis during her detailed research prior to the 2018 Commemoration of the Centenary of the Armistice and was then checked several times to ensure accuracy.

The original plaque, installed by John Pickard and Son of Aysgarth just after the Great War, listed 20 servicemen. After World War II a plaque with four names was added and then one in memory of Captain Philip Guy RM who died in Iraq in 2003.

THE UPPER WENSLEYDALE NEWSLETTER Issue 282 December 2021 / January 2022

SWALEDALE MUSEUM Friends' Programme of Talks 2022
All to be held in Reeth Memorial Hall at 7.30pm

Wednesday 15th June Friends of the Swaledale Museum AGM
Wednesday 22nd June Richard Lamb 'Barney Beck Revisited: Old Gang and Surrender Lead Smelting Mills including a rare Insight into the fascinating World of Slag Mineralogy'
Wednesday 29th June Kimberley Starkie 'Researching Swaledale and Arkengarthdale using the resources at the North Yorkshire County Record Office'
Saturday 2nd July A Patchwork Day (in the Museum) with Helen Barnes - morning workshop followed by a look at the historic quilt and patchwork collection.
Wednesday 6th July Dr Christine Hallas 'Poverty & Pragmatism in Wensleydale & Swaledale 1790-1914'
Wednesday 20th July Helen Guy 'The Legacy of the Kearton Brothers'.
Wednesday 3rd August David Johnson 'Lime kilns in Swaledale & Arkengarthdale: the where, the when and the what for?'
Wednesday 17 August Prof William van Vugt 'Portrait of an English Migration: North Yorkshire People in North America'
Wednesday 21 September Will Swales Marshal-General Plantagenet Harrison: Richmondshire's fake prince of the royal blood'
Wednesday 28 September Shaun Richardson 'Removed and Revealed: Some Effects of the July 2019 Flooding on Archaeology in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale'.

COST: £4 for Friends and £5 for Visitors.
For more information or to book:
phone 07969 823232
or email: helen@swaledalemuseum.org

and finally.....

To all new members

We have not yet received copies of the Birth Briefs from all of our members. While we can let members know you have joined the Society, that will not help them or you. We cannot link you to other members without this information. If you have misplaced the form, please contact me and I'll send you another copy – and we can get moving on tracing your Metcalf/e tree.

Again, if you have new information that is not on your record, please contact me so it can be added to the database.

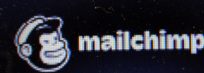
Thank you. Jo Heron
membership@metcalfe.org.uk

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

The Metcalfe Society - <http://www.metcalfe.org.uk>

Email: membership@metcalfe.org.uk | Telephone: +44 (0) 1924 260926
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