

Parents:
Christopher Metcalfe & Sarah Foster
Hebden

Parents:
John & Ann

Robert Metcalfe **(1777-1857)**

Ann (Nanny) Hebden **(1781-1847)**

Robert Metcalfe was baptised at Arncliffe in 1779 while his parents lived at Halton Gill. He is described as a servant of Halton Gill in the Craven Muster Roll of 1803 and he was about 40 on his marriage to Ann (Nanny) Hebden at Kirkby Malham in 1817. She was the daughter of John Hebden, farmer of Oughtershaw. (*more on this family*). At the time of her marriage, Nanny was living at Middle House on Malham Moor where the Hebdens farmed. This was the start of a long connection between the Metcalfe family and Middle House. Robert and Nanny farmed at Arncliffe and had two sons, Christopher and **James**. At the time of the 1841 Census, Robert and Nanny were still in Arncliffe, but Nanny died there in 1847. In 1851 Robert was a retired farmer lodging in Litton on his son **James's** family farm. Robert died aged 80 at Scale, a lonely farmhouse above Horton-in-Ribblesdale, and was buried in Arncliffe.

Children

1. **Christopher Metcalfe** (1818-68) was born in Arncliffe, married Sarah Stamper of Hesketh-in-the Forest, Cumberland, and had sixteen children between 1842 and 1863. They farmed at Litton, then 1500 acres at Middle House and finally at High Trenhouse, Malham Moor. At his death aged 50 the local paper said he was 'the most extensive sheep and cattle grazier in Craven. This, in conjunction with his social disposition, made him widely known and respected, not only throughout Craven, but also in many parts of Cumberland, Westmorland, and Scotland. Few men had a more extensive knowledge of farm stock, and the accuracy with which he kept his multifarious accounts, and discharged his numerous engagements, was something remarkable'.

Their children included farmer Christopher Metcalfe who married his cousin **Jane Metcalfe** (daughter of **James and Ann** below); Joseph Stamper Metcalfe who was a butcher in Bootle; William Metcalfe, a shepherd in Draughton; Isabella Metcalfe who married a docker in Liverpool; and John Metcalfe who was a commercial traveller in Leeds.

2. **James Metcalfe** (1822-79) was born in Arncliffe, married Ann Routledge of Wetherall, Cumberland, and had seven children, the eldest being William. They farmed at Middle House, Litton, Otterburn Hall and Kirk Syke, Airton. (*see below*)



Middle House, Malham Moor

Farmers of Middle House, Litton, Otterburn and Kirk Syke

Parents:

Robert Metcalfe & Ann Hebden
Hetherington

James Metcalfe
(1822-1879)

James was born in Litton in 1822 and baptised at Arncliffe. His 1841 whereabouts are unknown, but he was living at Middle House, Malham Moor, when he married Ann Routledge at Wetherall, Cumberland in 1846. She was the daughter of William and Dinah Routledge, farmers of Low House, Wetherall. *(more on this family)*

James and Ann farmed at Middle House till about 1849, then had 300 acres at Litton till around 1854, when they took over 325 acres at Otterburn Hall. He attended Skipton Agricultural Show in 1867. By 1870 they were farming at Kirk Syke, Airton, as landowners. James died in 1879 and was buried at Coniston Cold. Their children William, Jane and Elizabeth married and left Kirk Syke by 1881, followed soon after by Robert. Ann died in 1899 and was buried at Coniston Cold.

Kirk Syke was apparently losing money by this time, and the remaining unmarried family (James Hebden Metcalfe, Mary and Annie) had moved to Hanlith Hall by 1901, then to Ingber Farm, Coniston Cold, in about 1908.

Parents:

William Routlege & Dinah

Ann Routledge
(1820-1899)



Kirk Syke, Airton

Children of James and Ann Metcalfe

1. William Metcalfe (1847-98) was born at Middle House on Malham Moor and married Margaret Rawlinson of Bell Busk at Coniston Cold in 1870. They farmed at Bell Busk, Close House (Giggleswick), Holgate Head (Kirkby Malham) and Close House, Skipton (*see below*).

2. **James Hebden Metcalfe** (1849-1911) was born in Litton and lived on the family farms at Otterburn Hall and Kirk Syke before living at Hanlith Hall with Annie and Mary in 1901. He died unmarried aged 62 at Ingber House, Coniston Cold. His signed and addressed leather wallet is still in the family. He left £44k (2015 figures) to Mary and Ann.

3. **Ann (Annie) Metcalfe** (1851-1923) was born in Litton and farmed at Kirk Syke. She was at Hanlith Hall with James and Mary in 1901 and lived at Ingber House till 1916. She almost certainly retired to Essbottom, Bell Busk, with her sister Mary and died aged 62.

4. **Jane Metcalfe** (1853-1909) was born in Litton and in 1872 married her cousin Christopher (son of Christopher Metcalfe of Trenhouse). In 1881 they farmed 1127 acres with four young children and four servants. They remained at High Trenhouse till 1884, after which they moved to Middle House as tenant for £400 pa. Christopher was on the Committee of Malham Tarn Subscription School. He sold up in 1891, but stayed at Middle House as farm manager for Walter Morrison MP, the owner of Malham Tarn Estate. Four of their children had died by this time.

While Christopher was at Middle House he was at the centre of a locally famous libel case in 1894 involving Walter Morrison and William Dawson, editor of *The West Yorkshire Pioneer* at Skipton. According to trial transcripts, Christopher Metcalfe's ancestors "were independent yeomen for many generations on Malham Moor". He was "a steady, industrious and skilful farmer" but due to a decline in wool prices and reductions in opportunity for joisting stock in summer, he was sold up by his creditors and bank. Morrison was accused of unfair eviction, but Christopher wrote a letter to the *Craven Herald* denying he had been evicted. He described Morrison as a good landlord and a true friend to all farmers, having nothing to do with his own failure. Morrison won the case.

Jane and Christopher moved to Settle and then to New Meadow Farm, Edgworth, and finally to High Pasture, a remote farm at Belmont near Bolton, but Jane was with her brother and sisters at Ingber House when she died aged 56. Christopher was still farming at High Pasture with a son and a daughter in 1911 but retired to Darwen. He was exceptionally active, visiting Settle in his eighties and walking up to Malham Moor, but died in Blackburn Infirmary after being knocked down near his home. Jane and Christopher had ten children with six surviving infancy. Of these, James Metcalfe was a cattle stockman in Hetton, later head cowman for Lane Fox at Bramham. Hebden Metcalfe was farm manager for Clifford Lister at Beckermonds, then at Sorrel Sykes, West Burton, then Halton East, finally farm manager for Frank Driver of Silsden and retiring to Skipton. Hebden Metcalfe had a son, Tommy, who lived in Starbotton and wrote his autobiography for Wharfedale Family History Society.

5. **Mary (Polly) Metcalfe** (1854-1936) was born at Otterburn Hall and farmed at Kirk Syke. She was living at Hanlith Hall with James and Annie in 1901 and at Ingber House, Coniston Cold, till 1916. She retired to Essbottom, Bell Busk, then lived with her niece Ruth Routledge at Coney Cliff, Long Preston, till her death aged 82. She left her entire estate to her niece.

6. **Robert Metcalfe** (1857-1927) was born at Otterburn Hall and farmed with the family at Otterburn and Kirk Syke until 1892 when he married Sarah Ellen Dean, a farmer's daughter from Cracoe. They had a child who died in infancy. In 1901 they were farming in Ramsbottom, very near to where his sister Jane and cousin Christopher farmed at Edgworth. By 1911 Robert and Sarah had retired to Thorndale Street in Hellifield, then dying at the substantial "Thornview" on Skipton Road in 1927 and 1938 respectively. They were evidently prosperous with Robert retiring in his early fifties and his widow leaving a will.

7. **Elizabeth (Libby) Metcalfe** (1859-1916) was born at Otterburn Hall and married her cousin, Joseph Routledge of Appleby (*more on this family*). He was a commercial traveller, railway official, timekeeper and then a brewer in Appleby. The brewery had closed by 1901, and in the census of that year they were living with two children and

thirteen boarders in Hut No. 4, Catcleugh, Northumberland, by the Scottish border. Joseph was a general labourer during the building of Catcleugh Reservoir where there was a purpose-built village of tarred wooden huts owned by the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Co. In 1911 Joseph was working as a labourer at Leighton Reservoir with the family living in Healey, near Masham. Sons William and James were steam crane drivers and daughter Jane was widowed. The family later moved to yet another reservoir site, living at Hut 11, Yewden Village, Bolsterstone, Stocksbridge. The living and working conditions took their toll as the couple died within ten days of each other, Elizabeth from bronchitis and Joseph from diabetes and gangrene.

Ruth Routledge, the eldest of their five children, became a hotel manager in Edinburgh and was a witness at the court-martial of Carl Hans Lody at Middlesex Guildhall in 1914. Lody was found guilty of sending information on British ships and faced a firing squad in the Tower of London, the first German spy to be executed during the First World War. Ruth eventually retired to Long Preston to live with her aunt Mary.

Farmers of Bell Busk, Holgte Head and Close House

Parents:
James Metcalfe & Ann Routledge

Parents:
John Rawlinson & Jane Clark

William Metcalfe
(1847-1898)



Margaret Rawlinson
(1846-1926)



William Metcalfe was born in 1847 at Middle House on Malham Moor. He moved to Litton with his parents in 1849 and then to Otterburn Hall in 1854. The family was still there when he married Margaret Rawlinson of Bell Busk at Coniston Cold in 1870. William and Margaret farmed at Bell Busk, Close House (Giggleswick), Holgate Head (Scosthrop), and finally at Close House, Skipton. William was a member of the North Ribblesdale Agricultural Association and well known at Skipton's weekly cattle market. He died aged 50 in 1898, and the family split up. Margaret lived with some of the family in Gaythorne Road, Bradford in 1901 and in Ryan Steet in 1911. She died in 1926 at 138 New Cross Street.



The widowed Margaret Metcalfe and family at Close House, Skipton

Children of William and Margaret Metcalfe

1. **Annie Metcalfe** (1870-1943) was born at Bell Busk. She married Anthony Bannister at St Stephen's, West Bowling, Bradford in 1906, after which they lived at West Dean, Abbey Park Road, Grimsby.
2. **Jane Metcalfe** (1872-1940) was born at Bell Busk and lived with her family until her father died. By 1911 she was head dairymaid at Raby Castle, Staindrop, County Durham on the estate of Henry de Vere Vane, 9th Baron Barnard. She was back with her mother and family living at 42 Ryan Street in 1911 and married Benjamin Springer of Cape Town in 1912. The marriage did not last and Jane died at 47 Harlow Moor Drive, Harrogate.
3. **Mary Metcalfe** (1872) was Jane's twin and died at a week old.
4. **James Hebden Metcalfe**, born 1873 at Close House, Giggleswick, married Ellen Hayhurst of Hellifield in 1911. They farmed at Old Hall, High Bradley and at Town Head, Silsden. James died in Harrogate in 1954. Their son was Billy Metcalfe of Silsden, who had a son, David. David had at least two sons and had a garage business in Silsden. He now lives at 14 West View.
5. **Fanny Metcalfe**, born 1875 at Close House, Giggleswick. In 1911 she lived in Ryan Street. She worked in the hotel trade and died in 1969 in Harrogate.

6. **John Metcalfe** (1877-1933) was born at Close House, Giggleswick, and worked on the family farms. In 1901 he was a butcher living in Gaythorne Road, Bradford and by 1904 was living in Melita, Manitoba, Canada, a town on the Canadian Pacific Railway just over the US border from North Dakota. He married Manie Alice Armsden in Melita in 1909 and became a Great Plains farmer and cattle dealer in the remote and deserted community of Hardy, Saskatchewan, 40 miles north of the border with Montana. John died at 47 Harlow Moor Drive, Harrogate.
7. **Elizabeth Margaret (Maggie) Metcalfe**, born 1880 at Holgate Head, Kirkby Malham. In 1901 she lived in Gaythorne Road, Bradford with some of the family and in 1904-5 was working at the Grand Hotel, Scarborough followed by the Cors-y-Gedol Hotel, Barmouth, N Wales in 1905-6. By 1911 she was a bookkeeper at Sheffield's Grand Hotel and at Christmas 1915 received a postcard from a French soldier in the First World War. By the 1930s Maggie was at 47 Harlow Moor Drive, Harrogate where she died in 1954.
8. **William Metcalfe**, born 1883 at Close House, Skipton, died aged five.
9. **Blanche Metcalfe**, born in 1885 at Close House, died aged seven months.
10. **Frank Metcalfe**, born at Close House, Skipton in 1888, lived there till the death of his father. He was brought up in Crossley & Porter's Halifax orphanage, and moved to Ryan Street, Bradford where he worked in the wool trade. He married **Helen Elizabeth Ellershaw** in Bradford, 1917 and lived at 140 New Cross Street. During the First World War he travelled on business through India and the Far East, and finally became a partner with Bauer and Thornton. Frank died in Bradford in 1960, and Helen died there in 1964.