



The Metcalfe Society

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

2021 Newsletter No2 January

Notes from the Chairman

I would like to thank all those members who have already renewed their subscription for 2021, and especially those who have renewed at the old rate of £15 pa or have renewed for more than one year. I am taking that as a vote of confidence in the new arrangements and would like to thank you for it. I would like to assure you that we will be working hard to ensure that the Society remains active and as lively as we can make it.

We have already had a number of our overseas members volunteering to assist us, particularly in forming their own Hub to liaise and discuss issues relating to their own country. May we wish you every success and look forward to your feedback on issues you have discussed and ideas you would like us to look at.

Currently, I'm writing from a snowy and cold Yorkshire, but working on Metcalfe matters is keeping me busy, as I hope you all are too. We need to get through this pandemic as positively as possible, so have a look at your local archive centre – they may be allowing free access to records for the duration of these difficult times.

Our Wills team, both here and in Australia, are doing sterling work in transcribing wills we found in the National Archives here in the UK. Have you had a look at your own archive centre? I'm sure we will be able to find more and get them loaded on to the new Wills Project when it is ready. If you come across any other Metcalfe related items that might be of interest to other members, please don't hesitate to send them in to either me or Peter Dobson at journal@metcalfe.org.uk.

Every best wish to all of you, take care and keep safe, and we look forward to seeing some of you in the (hopefully) not too distant future.

Jo

*Have you renewed your Subscription?
If not renew Now.
At only £10 worldwide a bargain not to be missed.*

Ships that Pass in the Night

In Mecca News 121 Wilfrid Metcalfe's 'Letter from Gallipoli' caught my eye. The connection is Gallipoli. Captain George Robert Metcalfe, b1870 in Helmsley North Yorkshire, a rural lad from a completely non-maritime family became the Senior Captain of the White Star Line.

In World War 1 he was in command of the following ships, Megantic, Canopic, Ceramic, Baltic & Assistant Commander of the Olympic including taking troops to & from Gallipoli. On one occasion Megantic was chased by two submarines but escaped, evading being torpedoed, however evidence from an examination of the hull showed marks made by an unexploded torpedo.

His main route through 1914-1918 (when his wife died in the Great Influenza Epidemic) was the Med - US. Though British N America and Foreign Unspecified are also listed.

From being Mate of the Mol-y-Don in 1895 to Australia after being apprenticed aged 16 to James Davies of Port Talbot & gaining his Masters Certificate, his main routes were UK-US, UK-Aust, Med-US, East Indies, Coastal-North Europe. George Robert took Command of the Olympic, sister ship of the Titanic, on the retirement of Sir Bertram Hayes in 1924.

It is remarkable that this ordinary Yorkshire Metcalfe lad would grow up to have in his hands the safe care of fighting men during WW1, immigrants to the US & Australia streaming out of Europe, as well as the rich, famous & infamous at his table. So many Metcalfe's on board over the years would never have known it was another Metcalfe carrying them to a better life.

Val Metcalfe M61



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In this time of Lockdown restrictions perhaps a few views and images of the Dales will raise spirits!
I hope so.



Schooner Lost With Liquor - crew safe

This is a story about a Metcalfe not related to me but firmly in my sphere on Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

My grandfather Walter Metcalfe was compositor for the The Victoria Daily Times (1922-1942) and as a west-coaster, I have hiked near Bamfield. I found an article in that paper, from 26 January 1925, describing the demise of the Schooner "Speedway" as it left Victoria headed for Guatamala with a load of boxed liquor.

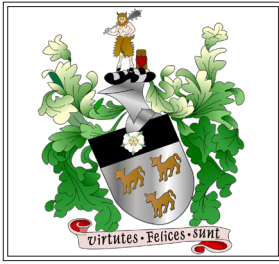
An engine room fire forced two provisioned boats to be launched, amid gale-force winds, each with seven survivors. One of them was led by First Mate **H.B. Metcalfe** of Gibson's Landing (BC mainland). Soon after they launched, with sails and oars at work, "Speedway" blew up. Metcalfe and crew made it to shore 24 hours later and hiked the Life-saving trail to Bamfield. The other boat, with Captain and crew, was picked up by a passing ship. The area has the reputation of being "the graveyard of the Pacific", so this was incredibly lucky!

Who was H.B. Metcalfe? A record search showed that **Harold Barber Metcalfe** arrived in BC in 1900, aged 17. He married Susan Nelson in Hazelton, BC, in 1908 but Susan died a week after giving birth to their daughter Josephine. He married Kathleen Walton in Vancouver 1913 and the couple settled in Gibson's Landing. Harold's occupation was given as Mercantile Marine Officer/Master Mariner until he retired in 1942. He was born in Sculcoates, Hull, Yorkshire, in April 1883, son of James Harold Metcalfe and Rosa (Kate) Barber. He died in July 1969 at age 86 in Gibson's. His daughter Josephine did not marry and predeceased him in 1943.

Susan Harper M266

References:

The Victoria Daily Times (Victoria, BC, Canada) · Mon, Jan 26, 1925 · Page 1 <https://archive.org/details/victoriadailytimes19250126/http://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy>



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The Fastest Human Being

Ralph Harold Metcalfe Sr. (May 29, 1910 – October 10, 1978) was an American track and field sprinter and politician. He jointly held the world record in the 100-meter dash and placed second in that event in two Olympics, first to Eddie Tolan in 1932 at Los Angeles and then to Jesse Owens at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, Germany. Metcalfe won four Olympic medals and was regarded as the world's fastest human in 1934 and 1935. He later went into politics in the city of Chicago and served in the United States Congress for four terms in the 1970s as a Democrat for Illinois.

Susan Wallace, M998

WILLS UPDATE

Work is ongoing on the transcription of wills, to add to the current database. We are now into the 1700's and the wills do vary in the amount of information they contain. Some are very brief – just one or two names usually of the widow or children of the deceased, but others provide a fascinating insight into the times our ancestors were living in as well as family connections.

In many cases, if a married woman received a bequest from a relative, it automatically fell under the control of her husband, and often servants were forgotten in the events following a death, but some of our ancestors took precautions to ensure that the person named in their will is the one who received the benefit, and servants were rewarded for their care of the testator.

One case is ABRAHAM METCALF of Croydon, 1844, who left Absolutely all the property of every description to his widow ANN.

HENRY STEPHEN METCALFE (1799) left all my cloths & thirty Guineas to my
Servant THOMAS TURNWOCK,
while CATHERINE METCALF (1790) of Witcomb left all my Wearing Apparel Linen and Household Furniture and what ready Money I may die possessed of to her maid servant SARAH SQUIRES.

Others remembered the Clergy, Parish Wardens and Poor of their parish. They are also throwing up the dark side of some of our ancestors, CHARLES METCALFE (d. 1825) possibly murdered by slaves on a plantation in Jamaica, as well some illegitimate heirs, and one Metcalfe who was blown over a cliff will out riding.

And there are always the stories behind wills, such as that of MARTHA GORST who eloped to marry EDWARD METCALFE in 1821, to ensure that she inherited her grandfather's fortune (see MN No. 70, followed up in Metcalfe Families Histories, published in October 2020).

Hopefully, we will have the Wills updated later this year, with those we acquired last summer, but if you have a will from your ancestor, we would be very happy to hear from you and add it to the database.

Just email me. **Jo Heron**

DID YOU SEE.....

Doctor **Michael Metcalfe** Archeologist on *The Worlds Most Scenic Railways* TV programme on Channel 5 on 15 January? It was a train journey around Mount Etna in Sicily and the doctor was describing the area. He has a big internet presence regarding the island if you wish to have a look online.

The programme's narrator is Bill Nighy and on 22 January the train journey was around our beloved Dales. If you haven't seen it why not try catch up TV?



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Family History Federation (FHF)

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Norfolk NR26 9AR
admin@familyhistoryfederation.com

DID YOUR ANCESTER HAVE A LICENCE FOR HIS DOG?

A tax for keeping a dog was first introduced in 1796 and was administered by the District Commissioners of Taxes. Local officials, they were often inefficient, irresponsible and even corrupt so much so that by 1867 the Government stripped them of this power and transferred the collection of licences to the Board of Inland Revenue.

A different approach meant that many previously unlicensed dogs were now taxed. In 1866 only 395,000 dogs were licenced but the Inland Revenue licenced over 900,000 in the first year and over a million the next year. Initially the licence fee was 7s(35p) per dog per annum (down from 12s (60p)) then 5s (25p) before being standardised at 7s 6d (37.5p) in 1878. The same fee as a Marriage licence!

*One canine owner who did not pay for his dog and was fined was **Simon Metcalf** of Bishopwearmouth Sunderland in 1878!*

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on our news and events.

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