



The Metcalfe Society

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

2021 Newsletter No 4 May

Welcome to our fourth Newsletter of 2021

In this issue we highlight how wills can be informative and how they helped resolve ancestors issues plus records found by fellow researchers which may help to fill in those annoying gaps. As usual I am looking for items/articles that you may wish to share with other members. Don't hesitate to send me anything you believe will be useful at journal@metcalfe.org.uk

Peter Dobson

THE SIR TOM CONNECTION

David wrote the following prior to supplying this article. *I can add some alterations to Captain Sir Tom Moore's ancestry which I will contact cousin Lesley Longworth about. It appears his grt grt grandmother Jane migrated with the family from Appersett to my native Kettlewell where she is buried and I remember Capt Tom recollecting about coming to Kettlewell in his youth to watch motor bike trials on the famous hill climb of Park Rash, which now surfaced, leads to West Scale Park farm where cousin Lesley lived. My alterations to his ancestry link him back to the late M62 John Balderston who just happened to be myself & Lesley's step-grandmother's cousin !*

As a result of the third newsletter I have been doing a bit of "digging" regarding the ancestry of Capt. Sir Thomas Moore (1920-2021). It transpires he is related to at least 15 members, deceased & ex-members and indirectly through our late maternal step-grandmother to myself & Lesley Longworth. Basically Alexander Metcalfe & Jane Metcalfe were married 08 Mar 1794 at Hawes, both ancestors of **M62, M155, M317, M423, M577, M591, M769, M824, M897, M908, M1056, M1585, M1837, M1838, M1980 & M2113**. Their first child John Metcalfe was baptised 07 Jul 1795 at Hawes and married Rose Thwaite on the 16 Sep 1826 also at Hawes. In turn their first child Jane Metcalfe was baptised 29 Apr 1827 at Hawes and married William Moore on the 23 Mar 1849 also at Hawes.

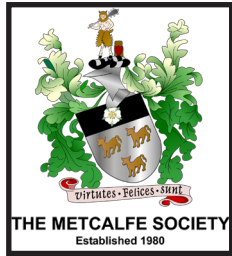
William & Jane (Metcalfe) Moore settled initially in Appersett where they had 2 sons John Moore baptised 04 Nov 1849 & Thomas Moore baptised 30 Mar 1851 both at Hardraw. Sometime between 1852 & 1853 they migrated to Kettlewell in Upper Wharfedale where they had another son Alexander & daughter Elizabeth. Sadly just a few months after Elizabeth's birth, Jane (Metcalfe) Moore died & was buried 12 Dec 1855 aged only 28 in Kettlewell churchyard.

William Moore with the help of his sister in law Rose Metcalfe brought up Thomas, Alexander & Elizabeth in Kettlewell in 1861, presumably John had left home. In 1871 he is still in Kettlewell with just Alexander & Elizabeth. On 27 Oct 1877 son Thomas Moore married Hannah Whitaker at Burnsall, when he is described as a mason of Keighley. By 1881 father William & brother Alexander had also migrated to Keighley and were living with Thomas & Hannah and young family at 16 Carlton Street. Father William Moore returned to Kettlewell to be buried on the 03 Jan 1886, presumably next to his wife, when he is described as of 5 Beatrice Street, Keighley.

By 1891 Thomas & Hannah were living with 2 sons & 2 daughters at 6 Granville Street, Keighley & according to the 1911 census this was the complete family. Their youngest son Wilfred somehow became to be known as Wilson Wilfred Moore and was born 3rd Qtr 1886 Keighley. He was the only child left living with his parents in 1911, his father being described as a builder & Wilfred as a builder's foreman. In the 2nd Qtr 1916 Wilfred Moore married Isabella Hird in the Keighley District and on the 30 Apr 1920 William & Isabella had a son called Thomas Moore, the late Captain Sir Thomas (Tom) Moore.

David Metcalfe

Looking at some of the newly shared records on a commercial site, there is apparently only one Metcalfe, a child of 3, who died in the Floods in Louth in Lincolnshire in 1920. I remember the floods of 1953 along the East coast, when I had to walk along the railway line with my mother and brother to reach my grandparents' home. We children thought it was very exciting, especially to be so high above the main road between the two townships, although I'm sure my parents and grandparents were not so happy. Does anyone else have any memories of the 1953 floods? **Jo Heron**



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NOW THEN: 2 WILLS

Most members will realise that for many years the Society has been carrying out a Wills project, transcribing Wills of our ancestors, which members can read online. What might not be appreciated is that only perhaps 20% of the population made a Will and therefore the vast majority did not. Even today probably fewer than 60% make a Will. Until the end of the 16th century there were legal reasons why few wills were made. I explain further below what happened to the possessions of those who didn't leave a Will?

It should of course be borne in mind that our ancestors had fewer assets than we do so there was less to leave by Will and often goods were handed over and shared within the family without resorting to the church courts which dealt with the proving of Wills until 1858. This would save fees!

First, technically what we call a Will is actually a Testament. Wills dealt only with land holdings or tenures. It became possible to dispose of some freehold tenures by Will under the Statute of Wills 1540 and after 1661 all freeholds were capable of being disposed of by Will. Feudal land law meant that the 'Lord' wished to control his 'tenant' and did not want the tenant to be able to pass on the holding without intervention of the Lord and usually the Manorial Court. Often fees were payable to the Lord to permit a transfer (surrender and admittance).

So primarily from the 15th century assets capable of being left by a Testament were anything apart from freehold land. These assets were called your 'personal estate'. Cash, household articles of furniture such as beds, tables, dressers, kitchen equipment such as spits and ranges plus pots and pans, often pewter sometimes silver, trade tools such as clothiers' looms, blacksmith's anvils and bellows, a farmer's items of husbandry and his animals such as cows, sheep and horses, their wagons, hay (often in the barn), bee hives and dung heaps! Books owned by the wealthy. In addition debts due to the deceased called 'bonds'. Until the 18th century there were no banks and wealthier farmers, tradesmen, lawyers etc. would lend money to neighbours secured by a bond; an IOU in effect.

Until 1692 only a small proportion of your personal estate could be left by Will or Testament. The laws of inheritance which applied were those of forced heirship, derived from Roman Law. These rules applied across England and Wales. It was only in 1725 that London fell into step with the rest of the country permitting freedom of testamentary disposition. Under the rules prior to 1692 in Yorkshire under the forced heirship rules a widow would automatically receive one third of the articles comprising the deceased's personal estate as described above. Any children of the deceased would receive another third jointly. Do not forget that often men remarried having children by their first late wife and those children would inherit too on their father's death.

It was only the final third that could be left freely by a testament. This was essentially what the testamentary document dealt with. The wording of a testament however repeated the rules I set out above. A 1634 Will/ Testament for my Lambert family expressly states: ".... my personal estate be divided into 3 parts, one part I give to x my wife according to the custom of this Provinceanother third I give unto my children to be equally divided amongst them....one other third part I give" and then he leaves the final part to various individuals. This final third was called the "deadspart". If people didn't leave a Will dealing with the "deadspart" it went to the poor of the parish. So Testaments could only freely dispose of one third of the deceased's possessions.

By the end of the 17th century further changes were introduced the result of which was to provide what happened if a deceased did not make any Will/ Testament at all. The pre 1692 1/3 split was adjusted and distribution of the estate was similar to what we now call the rules of intestacy. Someone who died without a Will or testament had their personal estate distributed amongst their next of kin.

If a wife died before her husband then he got all her assets: in the eyes of the law a married couple were one person but the husband was that one! He owned her assets on marriage.

So on her death everything was his already.

Marriage settlements particularly in the 18th and later centuries were possible and protected some of the wife's assets prior to the wedding.



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If the husband died first with no Will and he was survived by his widow then she would inherit a portion which depended upon who else survived the deceased.

If there were children of the deceased then the widow got 1/3rd and 2/3rd went to his children equally.
Grandchildren took the share that would have gone to their late parent

If there were no children or grandchildren then the widow took ½ and the remaining ½ went to the next of kin.
If the deceased father was alive he was the next of kin and took the ½ share.

If the father did not survive his son then next kin who took the half share would be the deceased's mother, brothers and sisters as a class equally;

If none of them survived the deceased but there were nephews or nieces of the deceased alive then they took the half share as next of kin equally.

If there were no such next of kin then the widow took the entire personal estate.

If there was no surviving widow but children of the deceased they inherited equally.

If there was no surviving widow or children then the next kin as defined above took the estate in the order of priority stated.

Should there be no next kin surviving the deceased then the assets passed to the Crown as 'bona vacantia'.

In the Duchy of Lancaster they went to the Duke of Lancaster (the monarch) and in the Duchy of Cornwall to the Duke (the Prince of Wales).

These rules continued until 1892 when for the first time the widow received a fixed statutory legacy of £500 and ½ of the assets. The other half went to children/grandchildren whom failing to next of kin (as defined above) or passed as bona vacantia. The rules altered in 1925 to essentially what we now call the rules of intestacy. So one should bear the above in mind when looking for a will and not finding one.

In a future newsletter I will explain what documents might survive and be if use even when no will was made.

David Lambert

WHY DON'T YOU

HAVE A LOOK AT THESE BOOKS.....

A new book **Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors 1600-1800?** It aims to assist those with Irish Presbyterian ancestors and further details can be found at www.booksireland.org.uk/store/all-departments/presbyterian-ancestors.

A book from The National Archives online shop by Roger Hutchinson, called **The Butcher, The Baker, The Candlestick Maker?**

It is a history of the of censuses from the very earliest times through to the present day, and the struggle early supporters had to set up a national survey here in the UK. The early census', were very brief and basically a headcount of individuals, in some cases only men over a certain age but the later ones have become much more detailed,

DID YOU KNOW THAT.....

The UK's 1921 census will not be available until January 2022; however the UK's 1950 Census will be released in April 2022 – nearly 30 years early. Will you be in it??

HAVE YOU LOOKED AT THESE WEBSITES.....

covering Yorkshire

<http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/yorkshiredales/>

<https://www.thenorthyorkshiregallery.co.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/northyorkshiregallery/>

<https://imfromyorkshire.uk.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/ImFromYorkshireLTD/>

<https://i-yorkshire.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/iYorkshire>

<http://www.the-yorkshireman.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/theyorkshiremanmag>

and Wensleydale Past and Present?

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1324433117608222>

From Jo Heron



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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS

This email was received from Tony Pitt of the Guild of One Name Studies
(Researching the Swinfen surname).

I am contacting you because one or more of your registered
ONS surnames appears in the index to the book.

I have in my possession a volume entitled "Admissions to the College of St John the Evangelist in the University of Cambridge", part III, covering July 1715 to November 1767. It was published in 1903 and edited by Robert Forsyth SCOTT, M.A., Fellow and Senior Bursar of the College.
(Other volumes in the series can be found on the Internet, but at least at the time of writing this volume cannot.)
The preface indicates that the author worked from the College registers, along with various other written documents. He obtained some information from the descendants of members of the College.
There are few references as to where he obtained particular bits of information.

Attached is a transcript of the relevant entries,

1. **MEDCALF, Matthew, son of Anthony MEDCALF**, husbandman Yorks; born at Thorp near Skipton; bred there and afterwards at Threshfield (Mr HEWIT); admitted sizar for Mr RICHARDSON, tutor and surety Mr POWELL, 14 June 1748, aet. past 20.

Matthew MEDCALF (or METCALF) was ordained Deacon 24 May 1752, and licensed to the chapelry of Hartwith, he was ordained Priest 17 June 1753, all by the Archbishop of York.

2. **METCALFE, Richard, son of John METCALFE**, husbandman, Yorks; born at Newbald; bred at Walkington near Beverley (Mr SEDGWICK); admitted sizar, tutor Dr EDMUNDSON, November 9 1724, aet. past 20.

Richard METCALFE was ordained Deacon 21 July 1728 and licensed curate of Foxholes with a stipend of £30 a year, he was ordained Priest 16 August 1730, all by the Archbishop of York.
He was instituted Vicar of Westow, Yorks., 24 October 1752, and held the living until 1777.

3. **METCALFE, Thomas, son of Marmaduke METCALFE**, tax-collector, Kent; born at Littlebourn near Canterbury; bred first at Battle, then at Uckfield, Sussex (Mr JERNISON); admitted sizar for Mr BUGG, tutor and surety Dr RUTHERFORTH, 1 June 1747.

Thomas METCALFE was admitted a Fellow of the College 17 March 1752. He was ordained Deacon 3 March 1750/1 and licensed to the curacy of Harlow, Essex, 1 April 1751, by the Bishop of London. He was ordained Priest by the Bishop of Lincoln, in Lent 1752, with letters dimissory from the Bishop of London. He was presented by the College to the Rectory of Barrow, Suffolk, 17 June and instituted 23 August 1773. He died in May 1774 (Cambridge Chronicle, 14 May 1774). He was instituted Vicar of Milton Abbas, Dorset, 11 May 1758, ceding this on his institution to Barrow (Hutchins, History of Dorset, iv, 408 a).

Tony contacted the Society as part of the GOONS arrangement to forward any Metcalfe entries found by other researchers.
This helps to collect information in areas which perhaps the Society has not researched previously.

The House History Show is set to take place online on 15 May, 10am-4.30pm
Special online event to feature lectures and webinars from leading team of House Historians
Experts include Professor Deborah Sugg Ryan and Melanie Backe-Hansen,
consultants for BBC show A House Through Time

The full-day show is followed by an online house history lecture series through May and June
Find out more at: www.family-tree.co.uk/virtual-exhibitions/house-history-show

News from Other Societies

Ormskirk and District FHS. On Wednesday 26 May 2021 (8pm.) our AGM will be held via Zoom, followed by a talk by Dot Broady-Hawkes (our Programme Secretary). Independently of ODFHS, I'm also doing a few Zoom talks of my own, which are listed on my website: <https://katehurst.wixsite.com/kate-hurst-research/family-history-talks> please let me know if you'd like the log-in details for any of them. Kate Hurst (ODFHS Chair)



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Finding Parents for James Metcalfe MP

The website of the History of Parliament Trust records the following information for James Metcalfe, MP for Bedford in 1728–30: James Metcalfe, whose parentage has not been ascertained, acquired his Bedfordshire property after 1715. In 1727 he stood unsuccessfully for Bedford, but on petition a compromise was arranged, under which he was declared duly elected. It says that he had a brother, William, 'afterwards of Roxton', and a cousin, another William, of Trinity College Oxford, a son of James Metcalfe of St. Andrew's Holborn. According to this sketch, James Metcalfe MP had one daughter, named as Sarah in his will.

The 'Missing' Parents

In February our president, Jo Heron, sent me a small list of Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) wills for transcription. One was probated in 1794 for Elizabeth Metcalfe of Drayton OXF, and it turned out to be a huge will with five codicils and a postscript: 17,000 words and 36 pages. That will started me on a journey deep into an extended Metcalfe family in Oxfordshire, back to 1677 and stretching now to 1826. Most of the family lived in or near Banbury and Drayton with some in London (St Andrew's, Holborn). Recently I've followed others to Roxton, BDF, ending up with James Metcalfe, a little-known MP for Bedford, 1728–30. Following through on people named in Elizabeth Metcalfe's will, I now have 20 PCC wills tied to this family. There is little sign of research into these Oxfordshire Metcalfes on the Society's website, in my old copies of Mecca News, or online, suggesting there may be no or few direct descendants. However, by using the rich information in these many wills, I now have found parents for James Metcalfe M.P. who died at Roxton, BDF in December 1730. From the wills, it is clear that this James was a son of Charles Metcalfe who died in 1709, and Charles was a son of Banbury apothecary Thomas Abraham alias Metcalfe, and his wife Elizabeth.

The wills of Thomas (1677) and Elizabeth (1695) name six children: sons Thomas, James, Charles and Henry, and daughters Elizabeth and Christian, though Henry seems to have died before 1695. The will of Charles in the next generation names his children as James and William, Anne, Sarah and Carolina. We also learn from the wills that Charles' brother James, a goldsmith in Holborn, London, had a son William of Trinity College. He is not named in his own father's will as he was not the eldest but he is named and described as 'of Trinity College in Oxford' by his cousin James, M.P. Clearly this is the William mentioned in the summary we can read on the History of Parliament Trust website.

Various properties bequeathed near or in Banbury and Drayton or in London link family members together. They are also linked by people named in multiple wills. One was lawyer Richard Edwards of Staple Inn, London, who appears in the wills of Sarah (1711), James (1712), and finally for James (1730) as the M.P.'s witness to his signature in 1726. The other person who confirms the link between the 'Abraham alias Metcalfe' line in Oxfordshire and London with James Metcalfe M.P. in Bedfordshire is a man named as Caesar. The will of Charles Metcalfe (d 1709), father of James Metcalfe M.P., names Caesar as his 'Black', a man in Charles' service for whom he made financial provision. Charles also requested that Caesar be retained within the family, either by his wife Mary and/or his son James.

"Five pounds per Ann to My Black called Caesar for his Life and my beloved Wife or Son James to keep him as long as he lives with one of them as a Servant ..."

Twenty years later, we find in the will of Charles' son James, further provisions for Caesar:

"and I do recommend it to my said Brother [William] to entertain my Servant Caesar in his Service at Seven Pounds p ann Wages And if my said Servant Caesar shall go from my Brothers Service or my Brother dye then and in either of the said Cases I give my said Man Caesar seven pounds of lawfull Money of Great Britain p Annum for his Life payable quarterly and free from Taxes..."

The History of Parliament Trust is now aware of James Metcalfe' parentage. Their volunteers are currently working on a different period but will update the website when they return to the early 18th century.

The wills continue to give up their treasures!

Bernard Metcalfe

1 <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1715-1754/member/metcalfe-james-1730>

2 See PROB 11/641/213; probate granted 30 Dec 1730 to William Metcalfe (brother) and George Buckby. For more on the Metcalfes of Roxton, see <http://bedsarchivescat.bedford.gov.uk/Details/archive/110518236>

3 Curiously, some styled themselves as 'Abraham alias Metcalfe' while others opted only for 'Metcalfe'. I've put that line of enquiry aside for now.

4 Apothecary Thomas Abraham als Metcalfe of Banbury OXF; probate granted 20 Dec 1677 to wife Elizabeth. Elizabeth Abraham als Metcalfe of Banbury OXF; probate granted on 26 Sep 1695 to daughter Elizabeth, with son Thomas as 'overseer'.

5 Charles Metcalfe, of St Andrew's Holborn; probate granted 6 Oct 1709 to wife Mary, son James, and Robie Sherwin (PROB 11/512/71).

6 James Metcalfe, of St Andrew's Holborn; probate granted 12 Jul 1712 to wife, Mary (PROB 11/528/46); James Metcalfe, of Roxton BDF; probate granted 30 Dec 1730 to William Metcalfe and George Buckby (PROB 11/641/213).



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Arrivals in Quebec

Margaret Mann (M156) writes: Some time ago I was involved in indexing passengers arriving in Quebec Ports on ships arriving from 1903 to 1911. We indexed over 750,000 names and there are a good many Metcalfes on the index.

The Nanaimo Family History Society's passenger list is on the Societies webpage at www.nanaimofamilyhistory.ca/passenger-list-project

If you go to that page you can put in any name you want to look up and the site will go directly to that name.

To find this person on a manifest you need the name of the person, the date of arrival, the name of the ship and the page number.

Also be aware that the writing on some of the manifests is abysmal and on others I think they had watered the ink so it was impossible to read them.

Canada used these manifests as proof of immigration but once they had decided to microfilm them they actually destroyed the originals so the unreadable ones remain just that, unreadable.

Our index is freely available to anyone and to see the actual entry on the ship's manifest go to Library and Archives Canada (LAC) website which is free or Ancestry.com. Once Ancestry put up their Canadian passenger list index the use of ours fell off as you would expect however the people at LAC continued to use our list as they said it was more accurate.

If you can extract the listed Metcalfe (and variant) names to put on the Metcalfe database that is fine with the NFHS. Otherwise a link back to the NFHS passenger list page is fine too and it includes lots of other info about the passenger list project.

Do we have a volunteer?

DID YOU SEE.....

The Worlds's Greatest Shipwrecks on Channel 5 on Monday 26 April at 9pm? It was about two sinkings around the Orkney Islands in the Great War in 1916. The first was concerning HMS Hamilton and the loss of Lord Kitchener and the second concerned HMS Vanguard's explosion in Scapa Flow. At the end of the item regarding Vanguard it interviewed a woman concerning some of the crew. She was the granddaughter of a **Henry Metcalf**. Her project was to find photographs and details of all the crew (over 800) who died and so far she had traced over 350.

The sale of a 97 year old Easter Egg through Auctioneers Hansons of Etwall Derbyshire? It was reported in national newspapers on the weekend of 6 March and was sold to a tourist attraction in Torquay Devon called Bygones for £800 plus fees. It had been owned by **Christine Lilian Metcalf** who had been given it by her aunt at Easter 1924.



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