

**Surname
Variants***Metcalf**Metcalf**Medcalf**Medcalf**Metcalf**Midcalf**Medecalf**Metecalf**Metkalf**Mydcalf**Mitcalf**Mitkalf**Meytecalfe**Metcalf**Modcalf**Metcalf**Midcalf**Meatcalf**Midcalph*

Me'cca' is phonetic
dialect for Metcalfe

Can you add to this
list from records you
have come across?

Please email
editor@metcalfe.org.uk



THE METCALFE SOCIETY
Established 1980

this issue

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Musings from the Chair

Well, as I write this, 2023 has just about gone and we are getting ready to welcome in 2024. It has been a very mixed year with climatic disasters and turmoil in many parts of the world, and economic problems for many. I doubt if any one of us has been totally unaffected by what has been going on. Let's hope, and pray, that 2024 brings with it hope and comfort to all those impacted by these problems.

We had a worthwhile return to a normal Muster this year and although attendance was low – we are hopeful that the further away from Covid, the more like a normal life we will experience. Our Treasurer launched the new Image and Information Library, and you are all invited to take a look and perhaps add your own photographs to the collection. The more the merrier, as they say, and the variety of subject matter loaded by others may hold something interesting for you. Do take a look at the site and contribute if you can - <https://www.metcalfe-online.co.uk/TMSImageLibrary/>

In the meantime, your Committee is looking at new projects that the Society might find useful and interesting, and would encourage everyone to get involved whether for only an hour or so, now and then. We are still collecting data – names and information – from several sources and entering and updating what we do have as soon as possible. David Metcalfe is working hard to update our records and the numbers increase on an almost weekly basis. The total is now nearly 110,000 individuals. There may be some duplicates as the information is culled from many sources, but if you spot any, do let us know and we can amend the records. Also, as you are, no doubt, still doing your own research – if you find anything more for your tree, do let us know so we can add it. The more complete the database, the better we will be able to help you further, so do keep us up-to-date.

Continued next page

Also, if you think there is an area we could look at, then please do let us know, so we can make the Society the very best it can be.

One new project will be the start of online meetings. Our Committee already meet online, which has meant that Dianne (Australia) and Susan (Canada) can join in the meetings – despite the unsavoury hours for Dianne, and this has been very helpful. We would like to increase the active membership of the Society and the Committee so that we can spread the work, and the last edition of the newsletter carried an appeal for help, which has resulted in a number of members coming forward and potentially taking on projects for us. If you have a particular interest and would like to study it further, do let us know if we can help in any way. One member has also come forward with a suggestion of a potential publication – so if you do have an idea – do let me know chairman@metcalfe.org.uk. One idea that came from the Muster was to have some online meetings on relevant topics at a range of times to suit the wide variety of time zones, or to load them to the website for a limited period. Peter Dobson and Dianne Fox have already agreed to revisit the presentations they made at the Muster, and there have been offers from others. If you have anything to offer, we would be delighted to hear from you.

In the New Year, besides new projects, we are still working on a new website and hope to launch it as soon as possible. It has been a long time coming because of problems beyond anyone's control, and our sincere thanks go to our webmaster for all his efforts despite serious difficulties, and to you for your patience. If you are having any problems logging in – please do contact enquiries@metcalfe.org.uk and we will try to help.

In the meantime, I am afraid that it is that time again, when we need to ask for your support via your subscriptions. Many of you have already renewed, and I would like to thank you. Your financial support is vital to our ongoing projects. Please check the Special Edition December e-newsletter which had a list of those who have already paid or have standing orders (UK only). You can pay via the Metcalfe Shop <https://www.metcalfes-online.co.uk/membership.html> or via the Family History Federation's Parish Chest <https://www.parihchest.com/society-subscriptions-2494.php> or by cheque to the Membership Secretary at 17 Bailey Walk, Wakefield, WF4 3QW. We thank you for your continued support and look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Your Committee would like to wish you a very happy and prosperous New Year and lots of answers to your Metcalfe family questions. Do keep us in mind when you find anything new.

Jo Heron, 31st December 2023

Lincolnshire Rail accident

This is from the Lincolnshire Echo, July 8, 1895. Seven-year-old William Metcalfe made a miraculous escape while trying to cross the G.N. Railway line near Five Arches Bridge at Retford, Lincolnshire. William and a friend wanted to go swimming in the Idle River.

KNOCKED OVER BY THE SCOTCH EXPRESS.—On Saturday, an extraordinary accident occurred at Retford, on the Great Northern line, in which two lads had a miraculous escape from instant death. The boys, William Metcalfe and William Ginniver, age about seven, at noon were about to cross the G.N. Railway main line near Five Arches Bridge, for the purpose of bathing in the Idle. They had to climb a steep embankment, and as they did so, the Scotch express approached unobserved. The buffer of the engine caught Metcalfe on the head, inflicting a slight wound, and injuring his body, and he was knocked over the embankment, falling against his companion, and they rolled down to the bottom together. Metcalfe was conveyed to the Cottage Hospital, where he now lies, but Ginniver was not seriously hurt.

Is this your relative? Newspapers are a great resource for documenting “everyday” occurrences in communities all over the world. [Source: Newspapers.com]

If you have some stories to tell, please send them in to the Society for inclusion in a newsletter: editor@metcalfe.co.uk

Medcalfs in the News

Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer 21 February 1881

BEVERLEY—MEMORIAL WINDOW.—The nave of St Mary's Church has just received a valuable addition in the shape of a stained-glass window, the gift of Mr Henry Medcalf, late postman. The subjects represented are the miraculous draught of fishes, Christ rebuking the winds and the sea, and Christ teaching out of the ship. Messrs Hardman, of Birmingham, have executed the work.

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Herts Guardian 30 June 1866

MEDCALF'S CONCENTRATED ESSENCE
OF
SARSAPARILLA & PERUVIAN BARK.

THIS Preparation will be found the best remedy to strengthen the constitution of those in a debilitated state, purifying the blood and the whole of the system.

Prepared only by B. MEDCALF, Pharmaceutical Chemist, Market Place, Ware.

Sold in Bottles, 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., and 4s. 6d. each.

FOR the relief and cure of all painful affections
Tooth-ache, Head-ache, Tic-Doloureux, Lumbago, Gout, and Rheumatism,

MEDCALF'S NEURALGIC ELIXIR.

Prepared only by B. MEDCALF, Pharmaceutical Chemist, Market Place, Ware.

Sold in Bottles, 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., and 4s. 6d. each,
by all respectable Chemists and Medicine Vendors.—
To be had wholesale from Mr. EDWARDS, Old Change, Cheapside, London; and the other patent Medicine Warehouses.

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Editor's note: This was Benjamin Medcalf, b 1817 in Ware, Hertfordshire. He was a pharmaceutical chemist who died 1896. His son Benjamin Pearce Medcalfe b 1849 became a manufacturing chemist (made "cordials") and son Ernest Sexton Medcalf b 1851 was a surgeon.

Is this your family?

Family research is soooooo interesting. It is far too easy to get carried away.

Looking through recent Memorial Inscription information online, I came across an unusual name – Rev. Armine George Metcalfe who died 29th October 1940 in Sheringham, Norfolk. He is buried with his wife, Mary Bernina (nee Millar) who died the following year. Intrigued by the name, a search started on our records to see if we had Rev. Armine George Metcalfe and what other information we had on him, and if there was anything else online.

Indeed there was!

Armine George Metcalfe was the second of the three sons of George Metcalfe, Rector of Upwell, and his wife Frances Henrietta (Herring). His father, George, was born c. 1833 and died in 1888, aged 55.

Armine and Mary Bernina had one son, Armine Ernest George (b. 1901) who was a university student visiting Beaconsfield on the 1921 census, possibly a Millar relative. Later 20th records are often missing due to copyright issues, but he may have died in 1970.



Going back, George was the third child of Charles and Elizabeth (Skrimshaw), an attorney of Wisbech. The first son was a William and the second son was Arthur – more anon. There is an Arthur Mte mentioned in our records as the brother of William and George. This family were living at Inglethorpe Hall in Norfolk. So, is Inglethorpe Hall the connection? Our records show a Charles Metcalfe as a Magistrate & Deputy Lieutenant living at Inglethorpe Hall, with sons William,

Arthur and George. (Photo credit: Inglethorpe Hall, copyright, Oliver's Travels)

We do have a number of individuals associated with Inglethorpe Hall, but no Armine George, so it is intriguing as to what the connection could be. He was the Vicar of North Walsham in Norfolk living with his wife and son Armine Ernest George. He had attended school in Great Yarmouth and went on to Selwyn College, Cambridge where he was ordained on Sunday 23rd July 1893, by John Lord, Bishop of Norwich. In 1894, he was appointed Rector of Hadleigh, Essex – where he was obviously still living and working when he died in 1940. In October 1893, a Rev Armine Metcalfe was one of the officiating clergy at the funeral of his uncle, Lieutenant Colonel Metcalfe of Inglethorpe Hall – was this the same Armine Metcalfe? So was this Lieutenant Colonel William, the elder brother? Arthur Mte is also mentioned as the brother of the deceased? When William died, Arthur would inherit, and George would move up to second in line.

In the London Gazette, 15th January 1901, an Armine Metcalfe is mentioned as the executor of the will of Arthur Metcalfe, formerly of Inglethorpe Hall, in Emneth, Norfolk, although he had obviously moved more recently to the Sackville Hotel in Piccadilly, London. In a newspaper report also online, there is indication as to their relationship. As the Executor, Armine is requesting any creditors, or anyone else with a claim on Arthur's estate, to contact W & F Gregson, Solicitors. There is a reasonable amount of information in the newspaper. Arthur had died on 30th December 1900, so perhaps only enjoying the pleasure (or otherwise) of Inglethorpe Hall for a few years. Armine was living in Hadleigh, Essex, and the notice gives warning that after February 15th, he would start to distribute the assets of the will to those mentioned in it and anyone else who came forward as a creditor.

On a lighter note, Rev Armine was present at the Mayors Ball in 1892, along with the Mayor and his wife, the High Sheriff of Norfolk and Sheriff of Norwich, as well as a number of other eminent persons – so he was obviously fairly well connected.

The newspaper collection and Memorial Inscription information mentioned are on *Find My Past* and available to subscribers – so why not have a look for your ancestors – you might be surprised as to what you can find. As per normal, we must add that other online services are also available!!!

This is all possibly conjecture, but maybe someone in the family could enlighten us as to how accurate the above story might be. If it is, Armine George connects to three members, past and present, M923/M1785/M365. [Jo Heron]

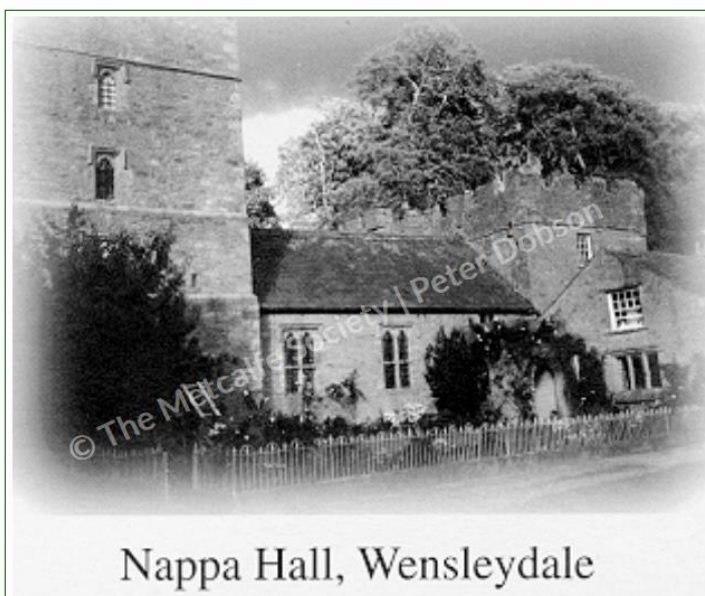
Image Library

Amid ongoing issues with our website, the Image Library is currently available at:

<https://www.metcalfes-online.co.uk/members/29/ImageLibrary>

You will have to log in to the members area first. Your options at the Image Library are to browse, add an image or manage your images.

Sample:



Ref: MTE63
Title: Nappa Hall Wensleydale
Date: Unknown.

Description:
View of Nappa Hall. Used in the book - Metcalfe: History of the Clan

Submitted by: Peter Dobson (0069)

[Download Image File](#)

All images are subject to copyright - please [click here](#) to read the copyright statement. It is very important that you understand the terms as to how you can and cannot use photos from this Image Library.

Until website issues are resolved it may be necessary for you to click on the link and check the address that appears in the address line - if you see one (or more) %20 in the address line...remove it/them and then press enter. It should take you to the intended location.

i.e. <https://www.metcalfes-online.co.uk/members/29/Image%20Library>

We apologize for this inconvenience and hope to have everything resolved in 2024.

Senator Lee Metcalf of Montana, USA

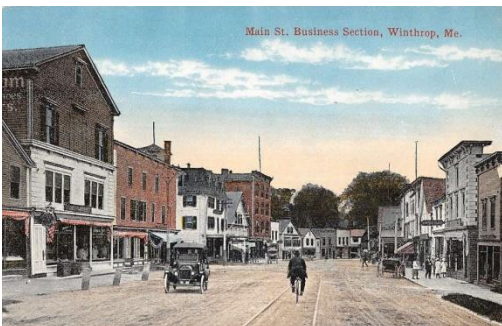
Metcalf was born in 1911 in Stevensville, Montana, USA, to Harold E. and Rhoda (née Smith) Metcalf. His father was the cashier of the First State Bank of Stevensville. He was raised on his family's farm, graduated from Stevensville High School in 1928, studied at the University of Montana, Stanford University and University of Montana Law School. His political career started in 1936 as a Democrat in the Montana House of Representatives, Ravalli County. He was Assistant Attorney General of Montana between 1937 and 1941. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and served between 1953 and 1961 when he became a U.S. Senator from Montana, serving from 1961 to 1978 when he died. [Source: Wikipedia]



According to the 1920 census of Stevensville, Ravalli, Montana, Lee's father Harold E. Metcalf was born in 1888 in Maine. In the 1900 census of Stevens, Harold was a 13 year old enumerated with his father Fred H. Metcalf and mother Alice T. Fred was born in 1859 in Maine and Alice was born 1857 in Massachusetts. Fred's brother Elmer H. Metcalfe, 38, was present, as well. [Photo: Stevensville; townofstevensville.com]

The 1860 census of Winthrop, Kennebec, Maine shows Frederic H. Metcalf, 7 months old, with parents Joseph M. Metcalf, 28, born in Maine, a farmer and Lucinda. This is an informative census as there were four Metcalf families enumerated consecutively. The oldest was Moses N. Metcalf, 60, a farmer with his wife Eliza B., 50, both born in Maine. The next oldest was Isaac V(?) Metcalf, 50, a farmer and his wife Charlotte, 47, also both born in Maine and Moses' brother. George S. Metcalfe, 30, was Joseph M. Metcalf's brother.

The above information leads to a family tree that starts with Michael Metcalf, son of the Rev. Leonard Metcalf, born 1587 in Tatterford, Co. Norfolk, England, who went to Dedham, Massachusetts in 1637. This descendancy is via Michael's son Joseph, b 1723 in Wrentham, Massachusetts; then Joseph's son Joseph b 1765 in Franklin, Massachusetts. This 1765 Joseph is the one who settled in Winthrop, Maine in 1789 and was a cabinet/chair maker. Joseph married Olive Fairbanks in 1790. They were the parents of Moses Haven Metcalf, b 1799. Moses and his wife Eliza Baker were the parents of Joseph Milner Metcalf b 1831. Joseph Milner married Lucinda Mills in 1856 and their son Frederic Hermon was born in 1859. Frederic married Alice Bearse in 1880. They were the parents of Harold Everett Metcalfe born 1887 and the father of Senator Lee Metcalf.



[History of Winthrop, Maine, with Genealogical Notes:
https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/me_collection/175/]

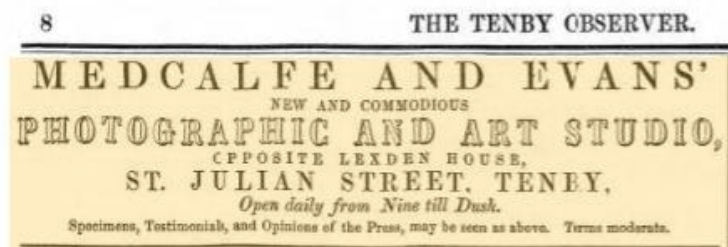
Today, Metcalf Cemetery at 17 Highland Ave, Winthrop, Maine, USA is one of four town owned and maintained cemeteries. [Find a Grave](#) lists 15 Metcalf headstones.

Photographic Artist – Henry Baron Medcalf

Although photography was invented in the 1830s in France, it was not until the 1850s that the public became general aware of it. By the 1860s and the use of albumen paper, photography became popular as a profession. The “carte-de-visite” or calling card size became popular but soon portrait businesses became prolific. Ornate backgrounds were created, often of papier-mâché columns and with velvet drapes included. These decorative strategies became a profession called “photographic artist”. These photographers also made post cards and illustrated guide books of photographs of towns and villages in order to enhance their income.

While I was pursuing an article idea about Metcalfes in Wales, I came across Henry Baron Medcalfe in Tenby, Pembrokeshire. He was a photographic artist and one of his (and his business partner Evans) photos is indexed at the [Victoria and Albert Museum](#). It was a carte de visite of the Welsh National Memorial to Prince Albert at Tenby, Pembrokeshire, Wales, built 1864-1865.

The photo depicted a crowd around the Memorial, with Tenby Castle in the background. **Image of postcard is not currently available on-line.** Photo credit: Irid Escent, CC BY-SA 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons.



Henry's business was Medcalfe and Evans on St. Julian Street, Tenby. The image at left is from 29 August 1867 Tenby Observer and found at the [National Library of Wales](#). The business is listed in the 1871 Post Office Directory of Monmouthshire & South Wales ([Ancestry](#))

Although born in London, Henry showed up in records after the 1861 census in London when he married Anne Moore in Tralee, Cork, Ireland, in September 1866. The register gave his occupation as a photographer whose father was John Medcalfe, a herald painter. The couple's oldest daughter Annette was born there. (<https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/>)

The family moved to Tenby where five more children were born between 1867 and 1873: Rosa Moore, Amy, Marian Edith, Henry Baron and Maud Eva.

Sometime before the family left Tenby. Henry's business partnership ended and he was doing portraits photography. At right is his stamp from the back of a photo found at: [Old Postcards](#)



Further research notes: In June 1876 the couple baptized a son Francis Howard at St. Thomas, Eccles, Lancashire but the child died soon after. Henry B. was listed in Slaters's Directory of Manchester in 1876-78 as photographer. In 1881 Henry and his family were enumerated in Wortley in Bramley, Leeds, Yorkshire. In 1891 the children were living on their own in Wortley at the same Layard Street, aged 18 to 24, all working in cloth mills except Henry Baron junior who was working as a labourer in a forge. None of them took up photography as a profession. (Ancestry) Henry Baron Medcalfe junior married Eleanor Wilby and they had a son Henry Baron Medcalfe who was born and died in 1892. (GRO).

Medcalf Connection of John Henry Ewin in Australia

Compiled by Denise Ewin member # 2210 of the Metcalfe Society

Part One: Introduction: My husband John Ewin is not a descendant of the Medcalfs but does have relatives who are. He has Medcalf relatives on both his father and his mother's side (Ewin and Robertson respectively.) These relatives all descended from Thomas and Stephana Medcalf. The Medcalf, Ewin and Robertson families lived in the Central West of New South Wales and it is no surprise that there were marriages between the three families. They lived on properties in districts close to each other. Some Medcalfs still live on properties in the Central West of New South Wales today.

My stories will focus on three descendants of Thomas and Stephana Medcalf.



Thomas Medcalf (1810-1874) married Stephana Ann Moule (1809-1865) at Whaddon, Cambridge, England, 13 March 1838. They had seven children, two boys and five girls. Thomas and Stephana, with six of their living children (2 boys and 4 girls) emigrated to Australia in 1853 on the "Emma Colvin". Arthur Thomas Medcalf was the eldest son of Thomas and Stephana Medcalf and it is this family line that we will be following. Arthur Thomas Medcalf (1840-1914) married Caroline Pike (1846-1925) at Albury, New South Wales, Australia, on 24 November 1864. They had ten children, seven boys and three girls.

Research on this family was relatively simple as Arthur Thomas Medcalf was a pioneer in the Central Western Region of New South Wales. Much is recorded of his life by other family members on Ancestry, My Heritage and other platforms with documentation as evidence. This obituary of Arthur Thomas Medcalf from the *Forbes Advocate (NSW: 1911-1921) Tuesday 28 April 1914* speaks for itself:

ARTHUR THOMAS MEDCALF An early pioneer of the Trundle district, Mr Arthur Thomas Medcalf, passed over to the Great Beyond on Friday last. Deceased was 74 years of age, and had been in indifferent health for some time past. He is survived by his wife, seven sons, and three daughters.

The descendants are Messrs. Arthur, Charles, William, Herbert, John, Edmund, and Robert Medcalf, Mrs. Arthur Pike, Mrs. H. Bird, and Miss "Pop" Medcalf, all of whom, with the exception of Mr. Charles Medcalf, are residents of the district. The late Mr. Medcalf was one of the hardy old school of settlers who "blazed the trail" in these parts and by their courage and perseverance showed the great potentialities or (sic) the central western portion of the State for both pastoral and agricultural purposes. It seems an easy enough task now, when the old difficulties have given place to well-fenced paddocks and smiling wheat fields, but in the early days that the late Mr. Medcalf could have told of the Trundle district was nothing short of a wild wilderness, which only men of the hardy old breed could be brought to tackle.

Mr. Medcalf came across to Trundle district in '85 or '86, from Cookadina between Albury and Wagga, where he had been store and hotel keeping for some years. He was a native of England, but came to Australia at an early age with his parents. He took up "Gillenbine" (where he died) under the '84 Act; and afterwards acquired "Woodlands," so that, with the possession of two such good properties, he had been successful in gaining some tangible return for the pluck and patient effort that were the two chief equipments of an early settler, if he would come out on top.

Deceased was of a most benevolent nature, his reputation in this respect being widespread. His charity, especially, went out to old wayfarers who had gone down in life's stern struggle, and saw the doors of a benevolent asylum gaping for them if a kind hand were not stretched out. Of these, Mr. Medcalf always had several at a time dependent upon his bounty.

The first story will be about Richard (Dick) Medcalf born in Trundle New South Wales in 1922 and died Murwillumbah New South Wales in 2008. Dick is my husband's paternal first cousin.

The eldest son of Arthur Thomas and Caroline Medcalf was Arthur Theodore Medcalf (1865-1922) who married Susan Goodwin Croft (1874-1953) on 27 February 1892 at Parkes New South Wales. Arthur and Caroline had two boys. The youngest boy, Walter Francis Medcalf (1897-1979) married my husband's paternal aunt Kathleen Ewin (1898-1983) at Condobolin New South Wales in 1921.

Walter Francis Medcalf and Katherine Ewin had three sons: Richard (Dick) Medcalf (1922-2008); Noel Peter (1925-2007); Robin Medcalf (1931-2006).

Walter and Kathleen Medcalf divorced on 9 October 1947. Both remarried.

I have no record of the second marriage of Walter Francis Medcalf but according to other family trees he had three sons by his second partner. My husband and I met one of his sons by his second marriage (Dick's half-brother) at Dick Medcalf's funeral in 2008.

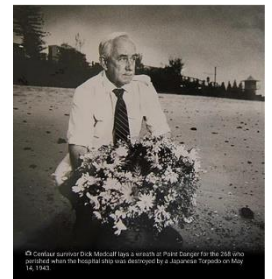


Richard (Dick) Medcalf - Sinking of the Centaur

The *Centaur*, 2/3rd Australian Hospital Ship, was a motor passenger ship converted in early 1943 for use as a hospital ship. In November 1941 it had rescued survivors of the German auxiliary cruiser *Kormoran* after it had sunk and been sunk by HMAS *Sydney*. [The Centaur Photo courtesy of the Australian War Memorial]

On 12 May 1943 the *Centaur* sailed unescorted from Sydney at 0945 hours carrying her crew and normal staff, as well as stores and equipment of the 2/12th Field Ambulance but no patients. It was sunk without warning by a torpedo from a Japanese submarine on 14 May 1943 at approximately 0400 hours, its position being approximately 27°17' S, 153°58' E about 50 miles east north-east of Brisbane.

Of the 332 persons on board, only 64 survived. These survivors spent 35 hours on rafts before being rescued. Sister Ellen Savage, the only one of twelve nursing sisters on board to survive, though injured herself, gave great help to the other survivors and was awarded the George Medal for this work.



A Polite Reminder

Subscriptions for 2024 are now due. If you have already arranged a Standing Order or made a payment in advance for this year, then please feel free to ignore this message, otherwise we hope you will consider rejoining. A list of Standing Order arrangements and those who have already paid for multiple years was included in the December Special issue.

You can pay by cheque direct to the Membership Secretary, or by PayPal through our Shop or the Family History Federation's Parish Chest, [Society Subscriptions](#) | Parish Chest or via agents in Australia and Canada (see contacts at the end of this issue).

We would like to thank those of you who have already renewed for 2024 (and future years) for your continuing support - it is really appreciated by all your Committee.

Finally, we would like to wish you a very successful year delving into your family's history - do keep us up-to-date with your findings.

Metcalfe Parish in Jamaica

Metcalfe Parish was one of the historic parishes of Jamaica. It takes its name from Governor Metcalfe (Charles Theophilus Metcalfe, 1st Baron Metcalfe, GCB PC (30 January 1785 – 5 September 1846)). It was in the north side of the island in Middlesex County but was abolished in 1866 when it became part of Saint Mary Parish.

St. Catherine, formed in 1867, was named after Charles II's Queen, Katherine. Charles II was king when the parish was formed.

<http://old.jamaica-gleaner.com/pages/history/story0013.html>



Ireland Dog Licence Registers



These registers are on [Find My Past](#). There are many Metcalf (var) registrations including Robert who registered numerous dogs between 1869 to 1888. Here is one:

Robert Metcalf bought a licence in March 1869 at Ballycarroll, Maryborough in Laois (Queen's) County, for his black and white Terrier named Sancho. In 1870 he also registered a sheepdog named Bruno.

REGISTRY OF DOGS LICENSE BOOK, pursuant to the Act 28 Vict. Cap. 50.										
Registry No.	Date when License issued	Person to whom License issued or Transfer made		No. of Dogs in each License	License Duty	Fee	Sex, Colour, Breed, and Description of each Dog			REMARKS
		Name	Residence				Sex	Colour	Breed and Description	
280	"	Robert Metcalf	Ballycarroll	2	4/6	"	"	doth	Shap	Sancho
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Bruno

A search of Ireland records found:

Robert was still in Ballycarroll in 1901 when he was 52, an English speaking farmer, enumerated with his wife Mary Jane, 44, and daughter Muriel, 8. They were all born in Queen's County and Methodists.

Muriel Ismena(?) Metcalfe was born in May 1893 at Ballycarroll to Robert and Mary Jane nee Rooke. Robert and Mary Jane married by licence at the Wesleyan Chapel in Tullamore, King's County, in November 1878. Robert's residence then was Ballycarroll and his father was Robert Metcalfe, a farmer. Mary Jane was from Beech Hill near Tullamore.

A Robert Metcalfe died at 90 years of age at Ballycarroll 1 June 1875 (born 1785), formerly a farmer, married. Emily Metcalf was present at death. Registration District Mountmellick. This might have been Robert senior.

Sources: <https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/>; <https://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/search/>

Do you have Irish relatives? Please let us know your details, if you haven't yet. The Metcalfe Society wants to continue to expand the database that holds Metcalfe records from all over the world.

NOW THEN 11 [Part one]: Examples of Inheritance Records

The article (The Mecca News Issue 23-5 Sep/Oct 2023 page 4) written by Susan Harper entitled 'George Metcalfe of Hawes, Slave Owner' piqued my interest, especially as I was going to visit Hawes after last year's Muster. Could I find the property where George resided called Rigg House? Were there other documents relating to his time as a slave owner? Who were his parents and how did the named beneficiaries in his Will fit into the picture?

I answered some of these questions but as is usually the case with family history research, the answers posed new queries! Whilst carrying out the research, it occurred to me that good examples of many of the documents and rules I have written about in the 'Now Then' series on inheritance, were available and enabled me to unravel some of the uncertainties. I also tried to find online other documents which might clarify and confirm George's life history. I soon found that many of the additional documents were not online and that you must still visit record offices in person to see them. Something that we regularly stress to new researchers: by no means is everything online!

You too hopefully will find similar documents if you research, as I did, and they could help you break down a few 'brick walls'.

So I decided to write about my research, partly to elaborate on the inheritance process and documents I have previously referred to, including an examination of George's and other relatives' Wills and its administration after his death. I also wanted to recount what I had learnt about Rigg House. The article would be too long to include in one issue of Mecca News and so I have entitled this Now Then 11 –part one. Part two will hopefully appear in the next issue.

First, I read the notes on the UCL website which deals with slavery referred to on page 4 of The Mecca News (issue 23-5 Sep/Oct 2023) [[Summary of Individual | Legacies of British Slavery \(ucl.ac.uk\)](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/legacies)].

Under the heading of Elizabeth Metcalfe: Profiles and Legacies, genealogical details of Elizabeth, the wife of George Metcalfe, President of the Counsel (sic) of Dominica and Acting Governor, are given plus details of George's antecedents too. The compensation claims made after his death (1821) refer to his birth being at Hawes and the researcher who wrote the article identifies 4 potential baptisms of a George Metcalfe in the area. Based on his age stated at death (64), the researcher correctly, in my view, selects a baptism of 7th May 1758 at Hawes. His parents were Robert and Margaret (nee Foster) Metcalfe.

I looked next for a death and Will of the father of George –that is Robert Metcalfe. I used the FamilySearch free website to do this. It is managed by the Church of the Latter Day Saints perhaps known by you as the Mormon Church. They have thousands, indeed millions, of copies of records taken worldwide from repositories and make them available to anyone not just church members. This link will take you to it. [Home • FamilySearch](https://www.familysearch.org)

For those of you have not used the site I can recommend it. You will not be pressured into joining the church and as I say it costs nothing to visit the site online. You need to 'register an account' but it is completely free of charge.

Back to the story. Robert Metcalfe was possibly baptised in Hawes chapel of ease in 1718, the son of another Robert and Margaret (nee Foster) according to FamilySearch online entries. Robert died fairly young on 6th April 1768 a few days after making his Will.

He left a widow Margaret and 4 children, namely Agnes, George, Margaret and Robert, all under the age of 21, meaning that they were in the eyes of the law 'minors', incapable of owning land or taking legacies. The land and legacies left to them had to be held on trust for them. The UCL article on slavery referred to above, refers to the children too but I wanted to cross check the details. By searching the free online FamilySearch one can see that Robert and Margaret baptised their 4 children at Hawes: Agnes 1754, George 1757, Margaret 1759 and Robert 1761.

Robert Senior's Will is dated 16 March 1768 and a copy is available online on the Ancestry Website: Yorkshire Wills: RD/AP1/143/101. The Will was indexed by the society many years ago too.

The Will was proved in the Richmond Archdeaconry Church Court. As I explained in a previous article prior to January 1858, Wills and probate documents were dealt with by the church courts. In Yorkshire parishes in the northern western part of the North Riding would usually be proved in the Richmond Archdeaconry Court. The records are held by the West Yorkshire Archive service. Ancestry has indexed and copied them. See this link. ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/5246/

Given the location of Robert's assets in the parish of Aysgarth his Will was proved in the Archdeaconry. Hawes was within Aysgarth Parish, although it had a Chapel of Ease given the distance from the Parish Church. This Chapel was demolished in the 19th century and the present church erected on its site. The old graveyard of the Chapel was retained and includes Robert's tombstone which records that Robert was living at Birkrigg and Rigg House. We know that George, when he made his will (see below) and at his death in 1821, was living at Rigg House too. Indeed, earlier in the century this house was shown to be his address in one of the Slavery records too. George and his widow are buried there near Robert's grave.

Robert's Will

Robert Will is typically worded for a moderately wealthy farmer in the 18th century.

The Will left a property called Hole House in Lower Abbotside to his son George, when he attained 21, subject to the payment, charged on the property, of a legacy of £50 to Robert's elder daughter Agnes, when she was 21. There were other provisions to provide who received the property and legacy if the children failed to reach the age of 21. I do not think this was what is now called Rigg House as Lower Abbotside is nearer to Askrigg, although the Grade II Listing referred to later is entered under 'High Abbotsford' so maybe I am wrong! Rigg House does appear to have been called that in the 17th century as we will see below.

The Will, secondly, gave a farm called Birk Rigg, with cattlegates on Appersett Pasture, to the younger son, Robert, with a legacy of £50 charged on the premises for Robert Senior's younger daughter, Margaret, when she attained 21. Similar substitution clauses dealt with what would happen if Robert Junior and Margaret did not attain 21. A *cattlegate* determined the number of animals one could graze on pastures and moors. *Sheepgates* determined the number of sheep permitted.

Other legacies were left essentially providing cash for Robert's widow, Margaret (nee Foster), including a legacy of 40 shillings a year, from shop premises 'recently acquired from Henry Davison', in Hawes, and the sum of £10 payable out of Robert's Birk Rigg estate which he says '...[he] desire[s] she will accept in lieu of dower or widow right....' I have written previously about a widow's legal rights, on her husband's death, to receive 'dower' or one third of her husband's lands and this is a good example of how in practice a widow's right to one third of the land could be overridden by the substitution of a legacy.

The residue was divided between the widow and children equally, subject to a bequest to Robert Junior of a Silver tankard and clock. A proviso was included at the end providing for the children's education and maintenance with a final proviso that '.... my son George be brought up a scholar.' I looked to see if George went to University at Oxford or Cambridge but could not find any reference to him doing so in available lists. You can search for these online.

Birk Rigg farm is closer to the River Ure, opposite Rigg House. I was able to locate Rigg House on the A 684 a short way along from Cotter Scale on the right hand side of the road in the direction of Sedbergh and attach a photograph I took. (See photo at end of article. Ed.)

Interestingly the property was advertised for sale in 2011 and details can be found on the site [Microsoft Word - Sales Particulars.doc \(onthemarket.com\)](#) where the agents' details include plans and photographs. The house is a Grade II listed building and the entry for Rigg House states as follows:

"HIGH ABBOTSIDE A 684 SD 89 SW (north side) (Cotter Riggs)6/142 Rigg House 25.3.69- II".

It says the house was the birthplace of Sir William Hillary (1771-1847), equerry to the Duke of Sussex, created baronet 1805, and founder of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution in 1824. The agents say that the house was dated back to the 17th Century, being extensively remodelled around 1800. This could be when George took up residence?

Interestingly, the Hillary family in the 17th century had marital connections with Metcalfes. A William Hillary married an Anne Metcalfe only child of Trinian Metcalf of Birkrigg and Rigg House which explains how the Hillary family acquired the two farms. Also in 1803 a Richard Hillary owned a Jamaican estate and served on the Island's House of Assembly. Another Dales link to the slave trade. Possibly George knew him through his distant family relationship? Sir William (1771-1847) was the last Baronet and the title expired on his death. The above details come from Google books, which contains a copy of the ancestry of the Hillary family. See this link for details: [A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Peerage and Baronetage of the ... - Google Books](#)

Google books enable one to read books which have mainly been copied in USA. I do not comment upon whether they are subject to copyright but it is always worthwhile seeing if extracts of texts (which would usually be free of UK copyright) are available.

George in West Indies

A search on the Discovery Catalogue of The National archives (TNA) can be fruitful. If TNA does not hold records but other archives do, there will be a link. I searched against *George Metcalfe* and came up with several entries for persons with those names.

'Our' George is referred to in his capacity in 1801 as a Judge of the Criminal Court in Dominica. He wrote on July 10th 1801 to the Governor of the Colony following the conviction for murder of one Private Patrick Rooney on July 9th.

George had, as judge, sentenced him to death to be effected the following week. In his letter he stated that the jury when reaching their guilty verdict had asked for clemency given the circumstances of the crime (not instanced).

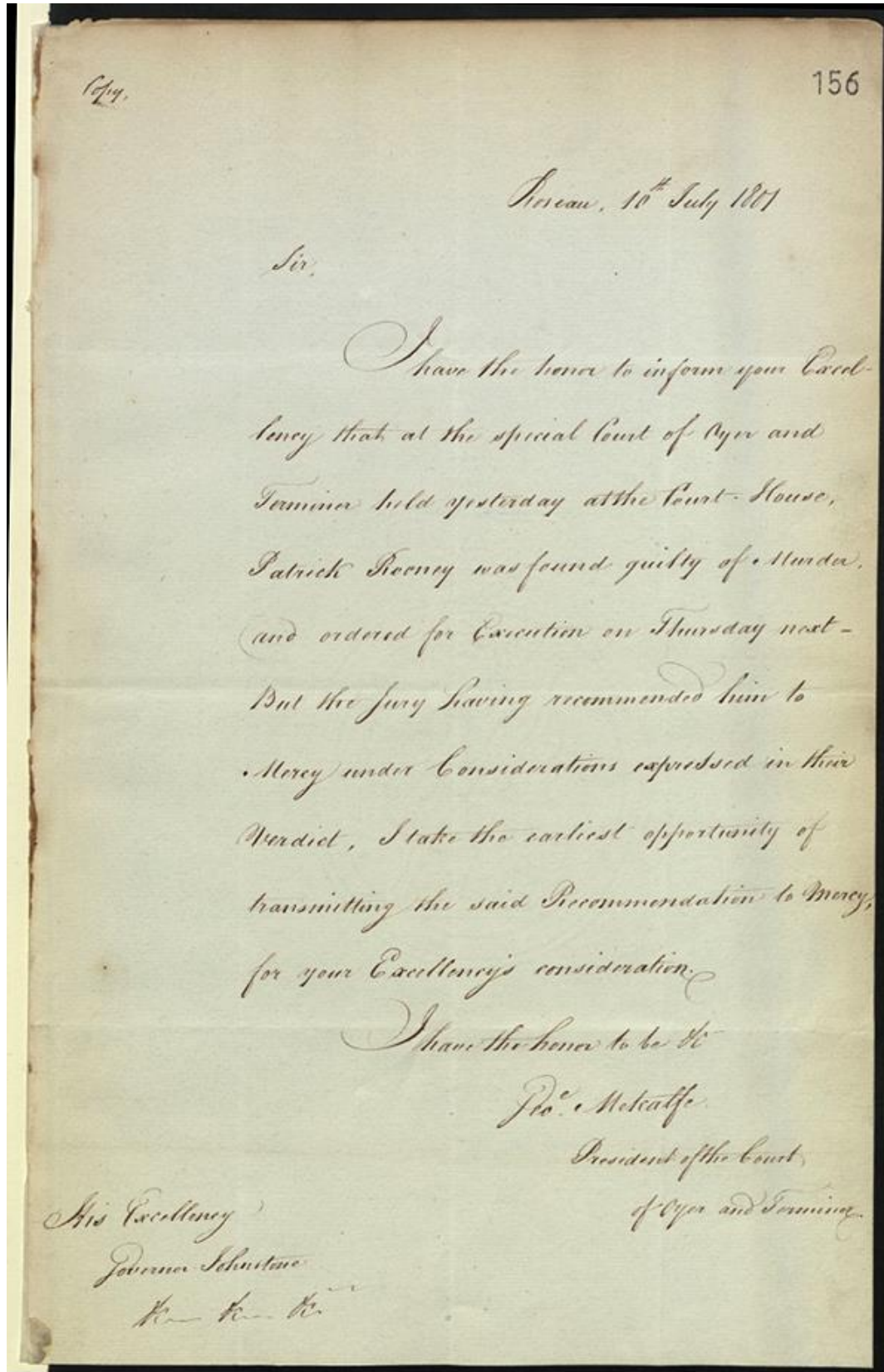
His letter was followed up by one from the Governor who granted a stay of execution whilst the plea for clemency was considered back in England.

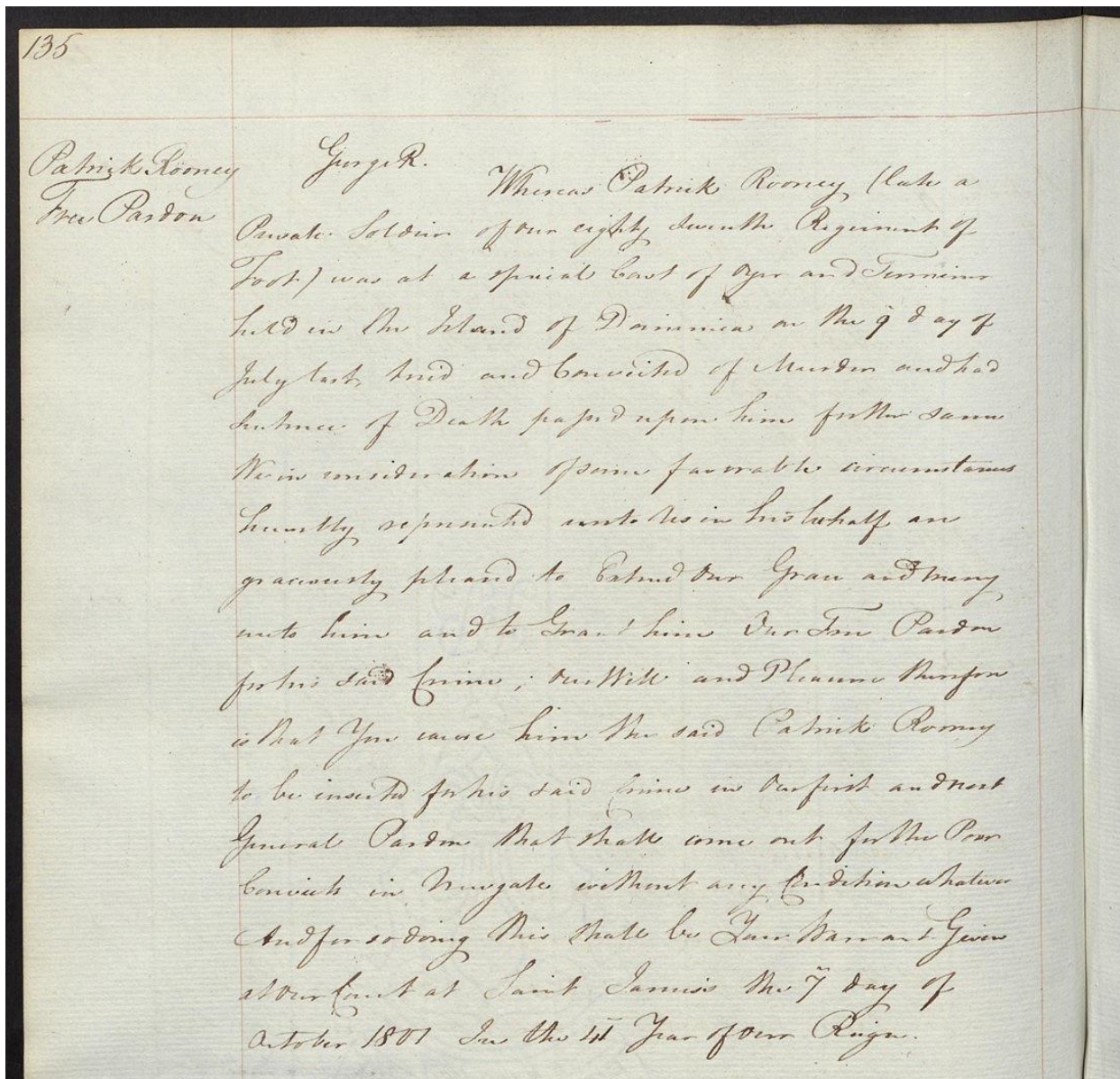
The final letter in this series was from No.10 Downing Street asking the King to grant clemency.

Copies of the letters are held at TNA (record series HO 47 26/17 folios 156-161). We are fortunate that FindMyPast have been able to digitise them and a search with references to HO 47 Dominica

and 'President of Court' should locate the entries. It took me some time but eventually they popped up! It seems that the convicted murderer was not executed and, in fact, pardoned.

I attach a copy of George's letter and acknowledge the copyright of TNA and of Ancestry to the digital copy (HO 47 26/17 folios 156-161) followed by the pardon from FMP digitised copy of TNA records HO 13 for years 1782-1871.





As Susan says in her previous article quoting from the UCL slavery documents there are two further collections of documents relating to George and his activities in Dominica. These are mentioned on Discovery too.

Lancashire record office has two collections (DDX239/3-14 and DDX 428/5) for George who is described in their catalogue as 'sugar planter and slave trader'. These are 1804-1836 'deeds, papers, letter books relating to slave trading voyages and management of his estates in Dominica'.

In addition Manchester University Library has 'personal accounts and statistics' for George's rum crop and slaves during the period 1809-1813 (ref: Eng MS 894).

It will be necessary to visit the two archives personally to see what their collections contain.

George's Will

George signed his Will on 21st September 1820, eight years after his marriage to Elizabeth (nee Davis) in July 1812 in Gargrave.

Again I would refer you to the previous article by Susan and the UCL papers on slavery, which contain in their references to George and his wife, Elizabeth, a transcript of his Will and codicil

prepared by Denny Minnett, one of the friends of Dales countryside museum. [Summary of Individual | Legacies of British Slavery \(ucl.ac.uk\)](#)

A copy has also been transcribed by the Society independently and should be found in our Wills transcription collection on the Website. Unfortunately, I was unable to access the research section of the website which is undergoing work as I write this.

The Will includes a codicil (an afterthought) and is quite complicated and indeed the administration after his death was not straightforward!

Putting the terms simply, George stated that he was in reasonable health but thought it appropriate to make his Will. He left everything initially to Elizabeth his soon to be widow for life. She was only entitled therefore to the income not the capital. He refers then to his three legatees who would inherit the assets on her death as 'tenants in common'. They each received one third share which they could pass on to legatees on their death.

The Will transcript says: ".....to my beloved wife Elizabeth for and during her natural life and at her decease I bequeath Birk Rigg Estate, Rigg House Estate, Mossdale Moor Estate, Gayle Estate with all my property in Hampton Court Estate, Negroes and all my estate Negroes and houses in the Island of Dominica to *Robert Atkinson* now in Richmond To *Thomas Davis* now in Gargrave and to *Isaac Metcalfe* now in London each one third as Tenants in Common....."

There is however a 'sting in the tail'. George who had no legitimate children was clearly proud of his Metcalfe heritage and keen that the surname should survive him. He therefore imposed a condition on those two legatees not bearing the surname Metcalfe that they change and adopt the surname Metcalfe before they could inherit.

The Will says :

"....Robert Atkinson and Thomas Davis [must] assume and bear the name of Metcalfe and qualify at the Herald's Office before they enter into possession...."

The College of Arms (the 'Heralds Office') was a place where one could register a change of name at common law.

The Will included a further restriction on Elizabeth remarrying. "....I further will that my dear wife shall not marry again and that should she marry the whole of my property shall [devolve] as heretofore devised....." She did not remarry and died a widow as we shall see next time in 1843. I have previously pointed out that married women upon marriage effectively lost control of their land which was taken over by their husband. So if Elizabeth had remarried her second husband would have enjoyed all the income from George's lands and properties. Hence why George sought to stop this by this clause.

A number of legacies were given to ".....Margaret Coats £50, Nancy Atkinson £100 and if she marries well £100 more. One shilling per day to George Atkinson during his life and £10 to Isaac Atkinson now in Dominica....."

Query if Nancy did 'marry well' and recover her additional legacy?

He appointed as executors "....W T Roberts Esquire, London, Mr John Davis of Liverpool, Anthony Davis in Philadelphia son of Thomas, and Mr John Routh of London to be to be my executors and I bequeath £1,000 sterling to each of them from the Hampton Court Estate as a reward for acting zealously....."

An onerous task considering the complexion of his estate. £1,000 would be worth today taking into account inflation about £90,000 according to the Bank of England. [Inflation calculator | Bank of England](#)

Ironic that none of these persons actually took out the grant of probate! Elizabeth actually did so!

W. T. Robarts was a wealthy London based merchant and a director of the Bank of England, as well as an MP elected shortly before his untimely death on 9th December 1820. George was not to know that Mr Robarts would die three months later.

The History of Parliament website contains a short summary of his life and early demise. One must assume that he was known to George through his business activities. For more details see [ROBARTS, William Tierney \(c.1786-1820\), of Old Broad Street, London and 8 John Street, Berkeley Square, Mdx. | History of Parliament Online](#)

His acquaintance with Robarts shows the circles in which George moved.

John Routh of London may well have been related to the Routh family of Gayle, who one researcher asserts were founders of Gayle Mill. His website shows his descent from a Thomas Routh of Gayle and refers to Gayle mill. [Haigh - Basic Ancestry Chart \(ianhaigh.co.uk\)](#)

In his Will George refers to a 'Gayle estate' so as he owned property there will have known the family it seems to me.

Whether John Davis and John Routh renounced because WT Robarts the person who would have been able to handle George's business affairs, had died I do not of course know but it could be the case. I think John Davis was related to Elizabeth and no doubt supported her in any event. It is unusual to find so many of the executors renouncing.

Robert signed his Will at Rigg House on the twenty first day of September 1820. His witnesses were Chris Moor, Alexander Metcalfe, Mary Hunter.

He at the same time added a codicil which reflected his clearly strong desire that the properties he owned should be 'kept in the family' by the legatees in their new names. He said that: ".... the male heir of each of the legatees to the estates after the death of their father and if it be descended to a person not named Metcalfe that then the said person shall qualify and take the name of Metcalfe before he shall enter into possession and I recommend to each of the three principal legatees to curtail by will the said properties to the heir male of each....."

In other words, he wanted the premises to be held by the three legatees in what was called 'tail male'; he was seeking to provide that the land was owned by male heirs only. It would be entailed. In the last Now Then article I dealt with 'estates' of freehold land and explained that land was held so it could be inherited by anyone ('fee simple absolute') or 'entailed' so that the land could only be inherited by a limited class of persons – usually the eldest son upon whose death the land would descend to his eldest son. Primogeniture was the way in which most wealthy landowners tried to ensure that their estates were passed on to their male heir outside of any Will or subject to trusts created by a Will such as in George's codicil.

The Prerogative Court of Canterbury was chosen as the appropriate court in which to prove the Will. Partly due to privacy: the Will was proved in London not Richmond. Also Wills with overseas properties were usually administered through the Church Courts' senior court.

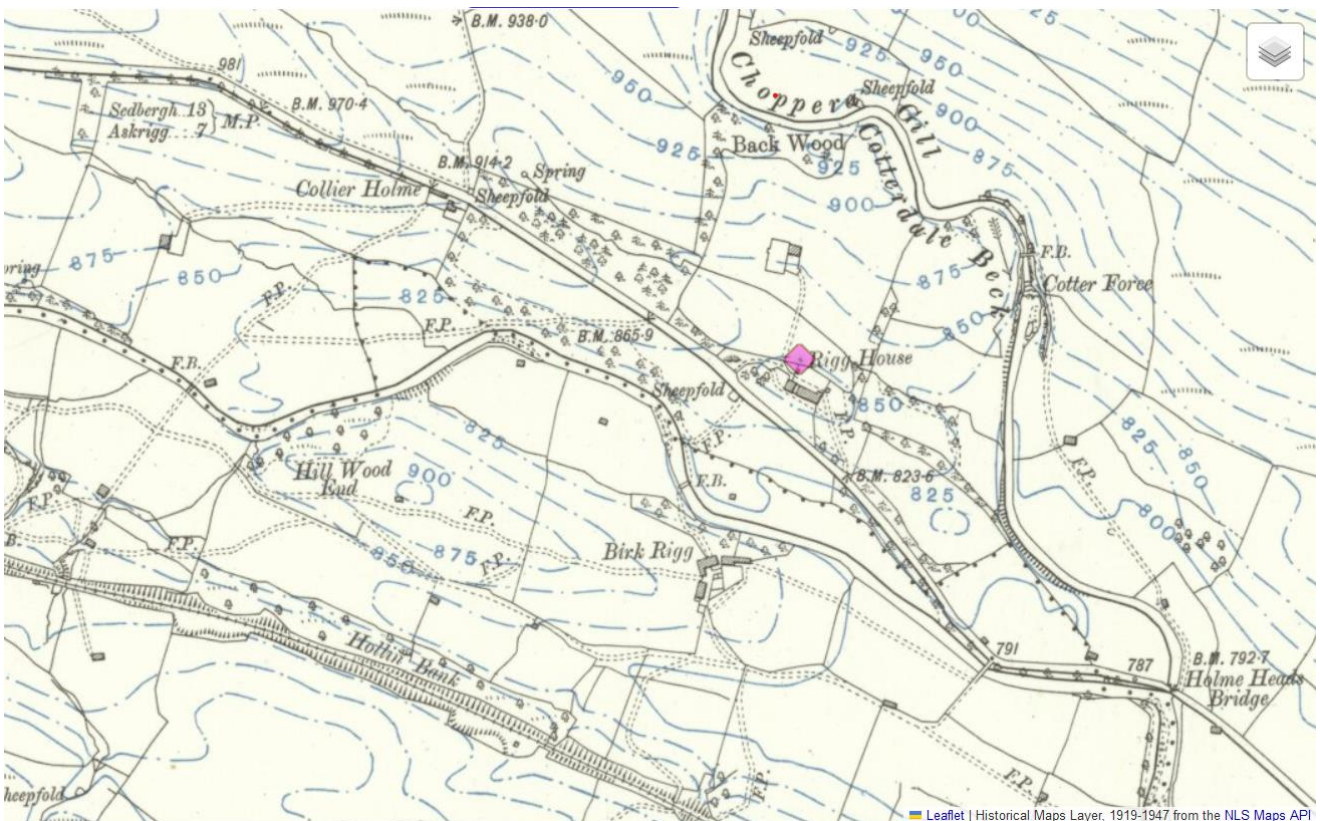
The documents in the court state that W.T. Robarts had died, John Davis and John Routh renounced probate (declined to act). Anthony in Philadelphia ignored requests for him to act and court papers were unanswered so he was excluded.

The grant was really a grant of letters of administration with the Will annexed rather than a grant of probate. Previous articles have explained this in more detail. The Court issued the Grant on 21st February 1822.

Following his death his executors began the process of collecting in his assets and disposing of them.

We shall see next time how this proceeded and what records we can find. In addition we will learn a little more about the family in the 19th century and what happened to some of the legatees.

David Lambert



[Map added by editor from GENUKI.ORG.UK map search for Rigg House (2.4 miles or 3.9 km NW of Hawes on A684)]

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