

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

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

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Musings from the Chair

Well, hopefully by the time this reaches you, we will be well into spring in the Northern hemisphere, although our cousins in the Southern hemisphere will be getting ready for autumn and winter – it just shows how diverse the Society is with members and connections all over the world.

A very important notice is that at the last AGM, we are still short of a Secretary, and this year, our Treasurer will be retiring at the end of the financial year – April 5th. Peter has agreed to oversee our finances until the AGM when he will hand over to a new Treasurer. He has also agreed to prepare a description of the job and how much time and effort it takes. Our finances are not too complicated and should not take too long per month to keep up to date, equally, our Secretary's role is primarily minuting the meetings and fielding enquiries. If you feel that you could contribute to either post, please let me know so we can discuss it. It may be that we can split any office to make it easier and spread the load for everyone – as the old saying goes 'Many hands make light work' – the more members offer to help, the less work all round. So please do consider whether you can help – our Committee meetings are held online so you do not have to live in Yorkshire, or even in the UK for the Secretary's post. However, with banking regulations, the Treasurer will have to be a UK resident.

A little advance notice, the AGM will be held this year on Saturday 5th October, online – so a date for your diary. In the meantime, we hope to run an online event, probably repeated more than once. We are looking for topics that you would be interested in – Brickwalls, How to....?, Using online resources are a couple of topics. We are also looking for new lines of research that you would like the Society to look into. If you have a potential topic that you are interested in, we would love to hear from you.

You will be pleased to hear that steady progress is being made on the new website and we would like to invite you to submit topics you would like the Society to include on the site. We would like to expand the Projects covered, so do you have information on a topic which you think might be of interest to other members? Is there an area of your ancestors life that you would like

(continued next page)

to see more information about on the site – details of occupations or places where they lived, why and how they moved, living conditions, anything else about their lives? Recently, I was at a meeting where the speaker started with a statement that 'our today is tomorrow's history', so while stories we remember from our lives and those of our parents may be very recent and new to us, they will be history for our grandchildren and great grandchildren – well worth thinking about. They do need recording – and where better than on our website and through our publications. Your story may well hit a nerve with someone else and they can add to the information you have, you may even find an unsuspected connection. How many recent revelations have been made relating to people who worked in top secret industries during the war years – their stories would be lost unless someone could write them down. Do you have images of your ancestors or places of interest? You are welcome to add them to the Image Library.

Finally, subscriptions are now overdue. If you already have a Standing Order arrangement, please ignore this notice – it does take time for the banks to notify us of your payment.

We hope you will consider rejoining if this does not apply to you. Information on those who had already paid for 2024 and/or had Standing Orders was included in the December issue of the e-Newsletter. Otherwise, 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). [Please let us know if you did not receive notice of all 6 issues of the newsletter from 2023 so that we make sure our mailing list is accurate.]

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.

We do hope that you enjoy this Newsletter (the second issue of the year), and feel able to contribute something, however long or short, but whatever you do, do keep in touch, 2024 looks to be a busy and exciting year.

Jo Heron, M1042



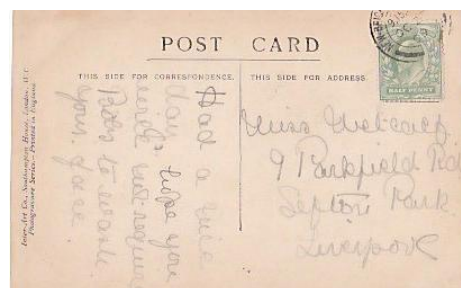
Waterfall, below the castle at Richmond, © J Heron

Postcard Story – a Liverpool Metcalf family revealed

In 2014 I received a message to our Facebook page from a man in Des Moines USA. He said that in 1970-1 he had been working as a garbageman and one day had found a box of 243 postcards outside a house. He felt it was an archive which should be preserved so took it home and stored the box for over 40 years before finding there was a Society who might be interested in taking over responsibility! We began to communicate and in 2016 I received a parcel containing the postcards. Two years later contact ceased abruptly when the Facebook profile disappeared and emails went unanswered, so I could only assume he had died and the search for a new home for the post cards had been part of a settling of his affairs.

A quick look through the cards showed that 68 had nothing written on them or were photographs of unidentified people, but almost all the rest were addressed to the same person at ten addresses in Liverpool between 1903 and 1917. From this point, the story might give others ideas as to how they can get over problems occurring in their own research.

There were five spelling variants of her christian and six of her surname, but it seemed that Christine Metcalf was the correct one. From the messages it emerged she was most likely a servant who changed employers frequently and the differences in spelling her name were mainly down to being written by the children of the families she worked for who sent her cards when they were away on holiday or fellow servants who perhaps had had a poor education. It seems she liked collecting post cards as some messages were merely, "Here's one for your collection." None of the cards indicated that they were from relatives, so the messages were no help in narrowing down which one of the multiple Christines living in Liverpool at the time was her, nor could she be found on either the 1901 or 1911 census at addresses on cards with postmarks around those years. An appeal on our Facebook page also failed to identify her family and the postcards are put aside. With the release of the 1921 census it seemed time to try again and by this time other research platforms had appeared too but, she still remained elusive.



Then last year Susan Harper thought the story would make a good article for our Newsletter and offered to help find her. In order to glean as many clues as possible, I carefully put the cards with a legible postmark into chronological order (1903-1917 with a final odd one in 1922) and read all the messages to look for relationships and make lists of addresses and names of employers, friends or family. There were three cards showing photographs of places in the US and the final card of the collection, posted 5 yrs later than the previous one was posted in Philadelphia to an address in Baltimore with a surname which had appeared on some postcards years earlier in Liverpool. There were two from different years wishing her a happy birthday so, although that didn't give a year of birth the postmarks of 20th March did narrow the search to on/about that date as post was almost always delivered the day of posting at that time if the address was in the same town/city. That reduced the search possibilities to just two IF she was born in Liverpool. By cross referencing information on the cards this quickly became one and so her family tree began to emerge. The mystery of her not appearing on the initial search of the 1911 census was solved by her working across the Mersey on the Wirral rather than within the city boundaries at that time and a distance of two or three miles put her record in a different district. Also, it turned out that Christine was her middle name, so she appeared as Elizabeth Christine on the two census returns completed by her father in her childhood (1881 & 1891). As her mother was also called Elizabeth she was probably

always known as Christine at home, so when she began to work as a live-in servant her employer would fill in the form, probably unaware of her full name.



The family was found in our society records but, in addition to the forename confusion, the relationships had not immediately been apparent due to several members having a tendency to be inaccurate about their ages on official documents! The messages on the post cards have enabled us to join a number of dots and add a lot more information to that Metcalf branch. Although we haven't yet seen a copy of her birth certificate we are now confident that she was probably born on 20th March 1880 and was the 3rd child of John and Elizabeth Metcalf living at 17, Kimnel Street in Liverpool.

Once this was established I was able to develop a timeline to help Susan with her continuing search. More about the results of the research and how the post cards ended up in the USA in the next issue.

Lesley Longworth M68

An Interesting Query

In February, I received an enquiry about a name I had never heard of.

I am trying to find out about my great great uncle, Volving Medcalf born at Nidd about 1851. Have you ever come across a name like this?

I looked on our Main Database for a 'Volving' and, surprisingly, found not one but two. Both were born in the Ripley area of North Yorkshire. One was born in 1854 to Edward and Sarah Metcalfe (nee Chapman), and one in 1882 to Richman Pinder Metcalfe and his wife Mary (nee Thorpe). The first Volving died, age 22 unmarried, while the second died while only an infant.

Edward and Sarah had 8 children, 6 sons – Volving, Richman Pindar, William, Richard, Alfred and Edwin, and 2 daughters Ann and Elizabeth. Richman Pinder (the son) and Mary had 2 sons, the second Volving and another Richman Pinder. The Richman Pinder died the year after his son Volving died and his son, Richman Pindar was born, and then his widow remarried.

Looking on our records, we only have the two Volving's and two Richman's, but a look on Find My Past shows 149 references to 'Volving' – of which 6 refer to our individuals all in the Knaresborough and Ripley area, and 11,664 references to Richman, scattered across England with 8 referring to Richman Pinder and one Richman P.

As neither of these males seem to have left any family, except the older Richman, any links are through a brother or sister of those who survived into adulthood. Unfortunately, none of those who connect to either of the Volving's or Richman's are still involved with the Society.

Do you know anything about these families? Have YOU come across an unusual name like these? If so, do let us know. J

Jo Heron

Research Tips & Links

- Did you know about this USA resource?: [Utilizing Unclaimed Letter Lists in the Newspapers](#). At Newspaper.com you can search on “Lists of Letters” and include “A Surname”.
- A Guide to Australian news sources: <https://www.nla.gov.au/research-guides/australian-newspapers#>
 - Trove, free resource to search for digital copies of newspapers, Government Gazettes, maps, magazines and newsletters. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/?q=>
- Gibraltar National Archives [Inhabitants](#) – use the search with each spelling of name, no wild cards.

Family History and Heart Disease

Family research has been an interesting “hobby” for 30 years & I have researched my ancestors in England (Metcalf), Norway (Overgaard) & McLeans & Spottiswoode families in Scotland.

Even though I had no contact with my father after my mother’s divorce in 1946, I did the Spottiswoode research & knew of the heart health challenges in this family but assumed smoking & alcohol to be the cause. Wrong.

In December 2023, I had a Lipoprotein(a) blood test done after hearing of this “genetic” challenge that 20% of people have, especially if they have high cholesterol. Only 1% of Americans have been tested for Lp(a). We would hear more about this if doctors had a drug to reduce Lipoprotein(a) but the drugs are still in phase 3 trials. Lp(a) is a genetic marker that can lead to heart attacks & strokes! It is a sticky plaque that attaches to LDL cholesterol. This genetic gene is found on chromosome 6. It is inherited from either parent. Adult high Lp(a) shows in the blood by age 5 & stays close to that level for life. Other than humans, hedgehogs are the only animal with Lp(a).

This is a genetic family curse & I feel it’s important to be aware & self educated especially if you have heart disease or high cholesterol in your families. 23 & Me would confirm if you have genes for high Lp(a) or ask your physician for this blood test. The European Society of Cardiology recommends all humans are tested once for Lp(a). Oxford found that elevated Lp(a) increases the risk of heart attacks & strokes by 70%.

High Lp(a) is >125 nmol/L. In December 2023, my Lp(a) results were 193 nmol/L so 2024 became my “diet detour” year with reduced sugar, carbs, dairy & no refined oils plus more plant foods to try & lower LDL cholesterol. I take a statin plus Niacin & look forward to better results from my blood tests in March. I am in Canada & you can only be tested once per lifetime for Lp(a) but it’s important to review lipid tests regularly. My brother, who already has a pacemaker, is currently being tested & if his Lp(a) is high, & it’s our responsibility to alert our next generation of this genetic challenge.

I wish you wellness but this is a “family” heart challenge that needs self education. For more info: www.familyheart.org

Sandi Walton M541

Celebrity Metcalf in the USA

James Francis Metcalf, was actress Laurie Metcalf's father. He was born in 1929 in Ottawa, LaSalle County, Illinois, USA. He died at Edwardsville, Madison County, Illinois in 1984 and is buried at Sunset Hill Cemetery. [Find a Grave](#) has a newspaper clipping that provided that he was the son of James Lloyd Metcalf and Pearle Marie Staddel. [\[Photo source: Playbill\]](#)



James Lloyd Metcalf was born in 1900 in Benton, Lafayette County, Wisconsin and died in 1968 in Murphysboro, Jackson County, Illinois, buried at Pleasant Grove Memorial Park. He was a custodian of military property at Southern Illinois University and previously operated a clothing store in Murphysboro. [Find a Grave](#) provides details. His parents were James William Metcalf and Anna Bewick Metcalf but Newspaper.com obituary has his mother's maiden name as Anna Buchan (born 1879, daughter of Joseph and Margaret Buchan). She died in 1958 and is buried in Benton, Lafayette County, Wisconsin. James' obit from [Newspapers.com](#) 29 Jun 1949, says that James was 73, a former sheriff and clerk of court of Lafayette county. Previously, he had operated a hardware store in Benton. He served two terms as village president.

James William Metcalf was born in 1877 in Benton, Lafayette, Wisconsin, son of Francis J. Metcalf, a butcher, born in England in 1838 and Sarah Ann. This couple married 6 May 1867 at Grant, Wisconsin. Sarah Ann's maiden name was given as Alexander. [Find a Grave bio](#) gives Francis' birth place as Gunnerside, Richmondshire, North Yorkshire, b 10 Jan 1838. He died in Madison, Wisconsin at the end of 1915. It also provides his father's name as James and mother Margaret.

Ancestry provides the 1850 census for Benton, Lafayette, taken 1 June, and shows that Francis' parents arrived in Wisconsin, probably that year, as a family with 7 children all born in England. The youngest daughter, 1 month old, was enumerated as born in Wisconsin. James was a miner, born c1809 in England. Four more children were added to the family and enumerated in 1860. By that year James senior was a well-off farmer. [Find a Grave](#) gives his birth date as 2 Feb 1808 born in Gunnerside and death 4 Feb 1882 in Dubuque, Iowa.

[Ancestry, Select Marriages](#), has James Metcalfe married on 6 Aug 1833 at Grinton, Yorkshire to Margaret Natrass. (Find a Grave only has that she was born 16 Feb 1816 in Healaugh, Richmondshire). The couple was enumerated in 1841 at Gunnerside with their first four children: Leonard, 6, Mathew, 5, Francis, 3, and Thomas, 1. James was listed as a miner. Before the family left England, 3 more children were born, James (1841), Christopher (1843) and Mary A. (1846). They arrived on the 30 April 1849 on the "Bark Saxony", from Liverpool, to New Orleans, their final destination Lafayette County, Wisconsin. Source: [Ancestry.com US and Canada Passenger lists](#).

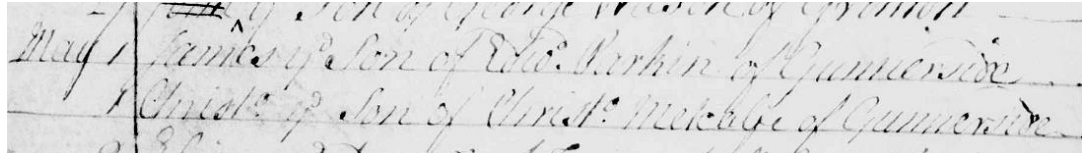
[Find My Past](#) and [Ancestry Select Births and Christenings](#) have a transcript of the baptism of James Metcalfe, 30 Apr 1808 at Grinton. If this is the right James, his father was Christopher Metcalfe. An image of the baptism provides that Christopher was "of Winterings" which is north of Gunnerside. [Free link: [GENUKI: Grinton Winterings](#)] James was likely the oldest born and other children were baptized by Christopher near there, i.e. Lodge Green, Low Whitaside and Gunnerside and one of the baptism images, for John, in 1818, shows "Christopher and Mary" as parents. A further search at [Find My Past](#) indicates a possible marriage between Christopher Metcalfe and Mary Allen at Grinton on the 6 Oct 1807.

Christopher's family was enumerated in the 1841 census at Lodge Green (close to Gunnerside). He was about 56 (b1785) a lead miner, born in Yorkshire; wife 57-year-old Mary, also born in

Yorkshire; children Margaret 25, John 22, Thomas 20, Christopher 15 and Leonard 14. Enumerated ahead of Christopher senior in a separate household with James Metcalfe, aged 50, a lead miner and possibly a brother.

Christopher Metcalfe senior died before 1851 but his widow and some children were still at Lodge Green. Mary Metcalfe, 68, farmer of 6 acres, was born in Feetham (towards Healaugh); sons John, Thomas, Christopher and Leonard were all single, all born in Lodge Green. Three were lead miners and one, Thomas, was a "farmer's son". Still next door, James Metcalfe, 61, unmarried, an annuitant (lead miner), also born in Lodge Green. James died a few years later and is buried at Gunnerside Wesleyan Methodist Chapelyard [Source: Ancestry.com]

A Christopher Metcalf was baptized 1 May 1785 Grinton



Church son of Christopher Metcalfe of Gunnerside. This entry is not indexed but found going through the images of Grinton church baptisms at [Find My Past](#). It is thought that the elder Christopher married Mary Goodwill Nov 1784 by licence in Gilling West and that he was bpt Nov 1764 in Fremington, son of another Christopher.

James' (1808) siblings:

Margaret Metcalfe baptized at Grinton Church July 1812, daughter of Christopher, of Gunnerside, married Ralph Waggett 27 Apr 1843 at Grinton. Had at least 3 children including George b 1844.

John Metcalfe born 1820 married at Melbecks, Grinton, 29 Apr 1854 to Elizabeth Tiplady. He was 34, bach, miner; she 31 spinster. They must have immediately emigrated to Iowa. In 1860 John and Elizabeth were in Julien, Dubuque, Iowa, with two sons Christopher, 5 born in Iowa and George 2 born in Iowa.

Thomas (1821) married Margaret Siddle around 1842 and the couple moved to St. Andrew, Bishop Auckland. They had several children between then and 1860.

Christopher junior (b1826) married Mary Ann Spensley at Grinton in 1867. The couple had two children: Margaret Spensley Metcalfe 2Q 1867 and James 1Q 1869, births both registered at Reeth. Sadly Christopher Metcalfe junior died 31 March 1869 at Lodge Green, Swaledale. His will was proved by the oaths of Leonard Metcalfe of Lodge Green, Miner and brother and George Waggett of Hill Top, farmer and nephew. [Sources: GRO and Ancestry.com]

Thanks to Jo Heron who provided the link to former Society Member #107. See Record 44325 for details of voyage in 1849. Member #107 was a descendant of James (b1841) son of James' (b1808) and brother of Francis (b1383) who was the ancestor of actress Laurie Metcalf.

Is this also your family? Please let us know. Susan Harper.

[Please note that, unless otherwise stated, the links this article will not work if you do not have subscriptions.]

Alfred Thomas Metcalf in South Africa

Alfred Thomas Metcalf, 26, born in Beckham, Surrey, England married Sarah Elizabeth Blomey, 23, born about 1847, in Durban, Port Natal, South Africa married on 11 March 1873 at Verulain, Natal.

Alfred Thomas Metcalf, born 1846, died 29 October 1910 and was buried at Barberton, Transvaal, South Africa. According to his Civil death certificate his usual residence was Eureka City Barberton district. He was 64, married and a mine manager. His cause of death was apoplexy for about three days. His intended burial place was Sheba Valley, Barberton.

Alfred's [Death Notice](#) (at FamilySearch.org) formed part of the administration of his estate and provided a wealth of information. He was born in London to Thomas and Maria Louisa Metcalf. Name of surviving spouse was Ellen Florence Metcalf, born in Perry. Predeceased spouse was Sarah Elizabeth Metcalf, born Blamey, who died 30 Mar 1889. Place of last marriage St. Cyprians, Durban, on the 29th October 1910.

Alfred died at the Managers House, New United Reefs, Sheba Hill, Barberton. There were no children of the last marriage. Children of the first marriage, all of whom are majors, were Margaret Ellen Louise (now Erskine, married); John Frederick Metcalfe, Ellen Isabel (now Ralfe, married); Elsie Maud (now Erskine, married); Reginald Roach Metcalf; Guy Blamey Metcalfe and Linda Kathleen Metcalf. By the time the will was probated Kathleen was married to a Stevenson.

The deceased left movable property and immovable property "not in the Transvaal, in Natal". His estate exceeds 100 pounds and a will was probated.

A search at GRO provided that Alfred's birth was registered 1847 at Camberwell and that his mother's maiden name was Fuller. An Ancestry search found the marriage of Thomas Metcalfe and Maria Louisa Fuller on 14 October 1843 at Saint George, Camberwell, Wells Way, Southwark. Thomas was a bachelor, full age, a clerk in a banking house, and his father was Joseph Metcalfe, a Gentleman.

Alfred left London after 1861 when he was enumerated at 14 as the oldest child in his family but before 1871 when he was not found in the census. His siblings in 1861 were Charles, Louisa, Isabella, George and Jesse, all born in Camberwell, the youngest daughter 3. Thomas was 55, born at Marylebone, Middlesex abt 1806; Maria was born in 1821 in Gollingwood Common, Essex.

Sadly, Maria died in the spring of 1867. Alfred's father Thomas, 65, was enumerated in 1871 with his son Charles who was 23 (b 1848) who was "too ill to work". Charles Alexander Metcalf was later enumerated in Prittlewell, Essex, in 1891, a single visitor and commercial traveler born in Camberwell; in 1901 enumerated in the Rochford Union Workhouse, Essex, as a single, 52 year-old drug chemist – possibly not the same man although his mother was from Essex. His death was recorded in Essex in 1908.

Sister Louisa married Henry Charles Salmon on 27 Dec 1870 Saint Mary The Virgin, Somers Town: Eversholt Street, Camden; Isabelle Julia married Charles Grant on 15 Apr 1869 at Saint Mary, Islington. Daughter Jessie Catherine Jane Metcalfe was born in the 2nd Quarter 1858 but a record shows that Jessie was buried at St. Giles, Camberwell, on 22 Feb 1864. George William Metcalf born 1856 was in Southwark, workhouse 22 Nov 1886 at age 29, a coppersmith, when he was discharged to Lambeth Workhouse.

Are some of these people in your tree? Maybe you wondered where Alfred Thomas ended up.

Susan Harper M0266

Australian WWII Survivor – Dick Medcalf Part 2

This is a transcription, by Denise Ewin, M2210, of a newspaper article of an interview between Dick Medcalf and Jonathon King, re-published in the Sydney Morning Herald March 15, 2008 from 15 years earlier (1993). [Note that the Dick's survival of the sinking of the Centaur was erroneously left out of Part 1. My apologies, Denise. Editor]

Survived a torpedo and sharks

DICK MEDCALF
1922 - 2008



"He saw the vision splendid
of the sunlit plains extended
and at night the wondrous glory
of the everlasting stars"

DICK MEDCALF survived the sinking of the hospital ship Centaur during World War II but the horrors of that terrible ordeal haunted him for the rest of his life. Yet as the last remaining survivor of the ship's medical staff, Medcalf felt he had a duty to tell the story of the night the Japanese torpedoed the 2/3rd Australian Hospital ship, claiming 268 of the 332 souls on board.

It was May 14, 1943. "We'd had a beautiful evening with a concert on the foredeck" Medcalf wrote in his memoirs. Two days out of Brisbane en route to New Guinea to collect wounded soldiers, the ship "was lit up like a Christmas tree", the hull's large red crosses lit by floodlights. He had retired to his bunk below for a good night's sleep.

It was 4.10 am and pitch black when there was a "a crash and a roar of flames." "I found myself reaching for the life jacket and haversack and streaking across the deck in the light of the flames to the companionway. God, two decks down. Halfway up the first flight. I hang on to the handrail like grim death as a deluge of water comes down through the gratings and stairs. My haversack is gone but I still have my life jacket and tie it as I reach the top of the second flight. I take one step out onto the deck and the waves surge across, then the ship goes down dragging me with her. I gag and swallow what seems to be gallons of fuel oil, then kick like hell and, after what seems to be ages, I start to rise then (sic) I can see clearly against the horizon and the aft third of the ship heading vertically downwards. Centaur is gone. That's all it takes, about 2 ½ minutes.

Now I'm straddling a panel of hatch grating. I hear shouts and start kicking and paddling to them. Suddenly, figures appear on a Carley float (life raft) and hands drag me on board.

Then I began the second stage of the horrific experience: trying to survive in the ocean. I am sitting, hunched on a Carley float, huddled against a shivering companion, with more shivering bodies knee to knee. We are a filthy, oil-covered few- most are naked, some in half pyjamas, one with a piece of canvas over his shoulders, but all have that vacant, shocked staring look. Later, a couple of two-man rafts are paddled to us with two more survivors on each: one badly burnt dies later. My mate next to me is naked and shivering, so, as I have on a singlet and pyjamas, I give him my life jacket. We're not cold, just very shocked. It's the morning and we realise we have visitors. Sharks. One circles each raft and rubs his back on the rope between; no wonder we've lost nearly 300 mates. Then two more survivors, one at each end of a flooded lifeboat with a shell hole straight through with sharks all around (sic).

'What was it' says a voice. 'Bloody Japs- a torpedo,' says someone. 'Not a bloody hope-God knows how I got out.' Then it all comes back, flooding over me with a rush and I shake all over, and vomit fuel oil again.

After 36 hours of hell," Medcalf recalls, the destroyer USS Mugford rescued them. When the last survivor had been rescued and taken to Brisbane, only 64 were alive of the original 322 on board. Despite the 1907 Hague and 1929 Geneva conventions protecting hospital ships, the clearly marked Centaur had been torpedoed without any warning about 80 kilometres north-east of Brisbane by a Japanese Submarine 1-177. Ironically, Centaur converted in early 1943 as a

hospital ship, had in November 1941 rescued survivors of the German cruiser Kormoran after it had sunk and been sunk by HMAS Sydney. [Photo credit](#)

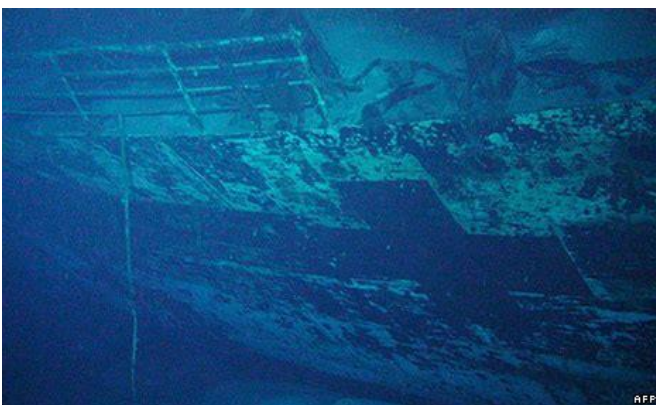


Dick Medcalf was born in the Trundle Hotel on March 21, 1922, and grew up travelling around Queensland while his father was a car salesman. After leaving Randwick Boys High he joined Phillips Lamps in 1938 to train as an X-ray technician at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. He joined the army in June 1940, working at recruitment centres in Brisbane before transferring to 119 AGH in Toowoomba then Greenslopes Military Hospital training as an X-ray and medical technician for Centaur.

After recovering from his ordeal he served at 114 AGH Townsville and for the 9th Division on Atherton Tablelands before serving in Borneo until war's end. On discharge, he worked in northern NSW hospitals then Sydney's Royal North Shore Hospital, where he met Shirley Smith, whom he married in 1948. They moved to Cuppacabumbalong Station near Canberra then to Kyola, a sheep station near Narrandera, as manager. In 1956 he bought a property near Wagga. He sold that in 1973, moved into Wagga then retired to northern NSW in 1977 until his wife died in 1989. He bought a small property in Cowra in 1990 before retiring to Murwillumbah in 2005.

He was a founding and life member of Wagga Alpine Ski Club in Falls Creek, a keen sailor, fly fisherman, horseman and representative polocrosse player and tennis player. He wrote many short stories, including *The Death of Drizabone**, drawing on recollections of early childhood, and was an avid letter writer to newspapers. His death as last survivor of the medical staff of the Centaur closes a chapter in Australian war and maritime history. He leaves four children, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Jonathon King [Original Story](#)



[The wreck of the Centaur was located off the Queensland coast late last year \(2009\).](#)

From BBC news: Images were taken more than 2 km (1.3 miles) below the sea by remote-controlled underwater camera.

.... Among the identifying features revealed by the camera were the large red crosses marked on each side of the bow.

Note that the wreck wasn't found until almost two years after Dick died in 2008.

Note also that Denise has a public [Ancestry page](#) where Dick Medcalf's genealogy can be viewed.

Teachers' Registration Council Registers

TEACHERS REGISTRATION COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION (Established by Act of Parliament and Constituted by Orders in Council). SC.

S

[Find my Past](#) has images from these registers 1914-1948 that could be useful in following your Metcalfes. Although the date range may not seem all that useful, the register includes "Experience" where the registrant may have started teaching many years earlier.

A search for Metcalfe resulted in 48 names including two Metcalfs

Register Entry concerning: **METCALFE, MARY ELLEN.**

Date of Registration: **1st November, 1918.** Register Number: **22524**

~~Address~~ Address: **14, Chapeltown Road, LEEDS.**

Attainments: **Board of Education Certificate.**

Training in Teaching:

Experience: **Assistant Mistress -**
Salem Council School, Leeds. 1885-1890;
Richmond Hill Council School, Leeds. 1890-1898;
Harehills Council School, Leeds. 1898-1926;

From Scotland to the Canadian prairie

METCALF—IRVING. — At the Presbyterian Church, Saskatoon, Sask., Canada, on the 20th Nov., by the Rev. E. C. Callup, Peter Metcalf, second son of Thomas Metcalf, Portsoy, Scotland, to Isabella, second daughter of John Irving, Esq., Firpark, Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire, Scotland.

Another Find my Past record source is the searchable [British Newspaper Marriage Notices](#).

This is from the Aberdeen People's Journal on the 6th April 1907.

Additionally, from the Banffshire Reporter on the 22nd March 1905, a snippet that Peter was a passenger aboard the Caledonian, on her maiden voyage.

Is this your Canadian or Scottish family? Let us know so that our database can be updated!

[Editor: Peter was born in Portsoy, Banffshire, in 1877 and in 1901 enlisted in the The Lovat Scouts which was "a British Army unit first formed during the Second Boer War as a Scottish Highland yeomanry regiment" (Wikipedia). Military record images are on [FindMyPast](#).]

Portsoy will be represented among the passengers who will sail by the "Caledonia" on her maiden voyage on Saturday by Mr Peter Metcalf, son of Mr Thomas Metcalf, Schoolhendry Street. Those who intend crossing the Atlantic should apply to Marcus Calder, Reporter Buildings, the local agent of the Anchor Line.

Links to Metcalfes in South Africa

We have been updating our list of individuals who were listed as living in South Africa. Obviously, we probably do not have all those who share our name, and there are some problems getting information on those in the middle to late 20th century, due to data protection issues.

One thing I have been doing has been to include the record numbers of individuals in the record of other family members to make it easier for you to follow your family tree.

This is obviously going to be a massive project with so many individual records on the database, but you can help. If you have already found one or more of your ancestors in our records, please make a note of their record numbers and send them in to membership@metcalfe.org.uk

We can then confirm you have the correct individual and line, and add any numbers we have yet to link to other members of your family. Please remember that occasionally there have been duplicate entries for an individual where the information has come from different sources. Where we find these, we combine the information into one record, so some numbers may change, although we will endeavour to ensure that a link is still made available for the additional entries.

See below an example of how it works. You can see who is related to this Armine George and follow his family, and then look for his son Armine Ernest George.

RECORD NUMBER - 9829

Forename/s: **Armine George** Surname: **Metcalf**
 Sources: PRO L1957 L2092 FMP MI
 Born: 4th Q 1868 Upwell, Cam
 Died: 4th Q 1940 North Walsham District, Nfk age 72, buried with wife Mary Bernina **109834**
 Parents: s George (c1833-) **34774** vicar, Upwell & Frances Henrietta (c1836-) nee Herring
 Married: 1st Q 1901 Mary Bernina **109834** nee Millar in Paddington District, London
 Child 1: Armine Ernest George **9828** Event: 07/10/1901 Rochford District, Ess

RECORD NUMBER - 34774

Forename/s: **George** Surname: **Metcalf**
 Died: 4th Q 1888 Wisbech age 55
 Parents: s Charles (c1797-1871) (**14835**) solicitor, Wisbech & **Mary (c1805-1872) nee Serle**
 Married: 10/01/1861 Frances Henrietta (c1836-) **32615** at St Peter Parmentergate, Norwich, Nfk nee Herring
 Child 1: Augusta Edith **10345** - Edith Augusta Event: Baptised 13/04/1862 St Peter Parmentergate, Norwich, Nfk
 Child 2: Henrietta Mary Catherine **40257** Event: Baptised 27/05/1863 Brinkley, Cam
 Child 3: Herbert Charles **41382** Event: 2nd Q 1864 Upwell, Cam
 Child 4: Henritta Lucy Beatrice **40250** Event: 4th Q 1865 Upwell, Cam
 Child 5: Anna G **7522** Event: 1st Q 1867 Upwell, Cam
 Child 6: Armine George **9829** Event: 4th Q 1868 Upwell, Cam
 Child 7: Catherine **13947** Event: 4th Q 1870 Upwell, Cam
 Child 8: Harold William **39317** Event: 3rd Q 1876 Upwell, Cam

RECORD NUMBER - 14835

Forename/s: **Charles** Surname: **Metcalf**
 Sources: M46n M1785 L1955
 Born: c1797 Wisbech, Cam
 Died: 2nd Q 1871 Wisbech age 74
 Parents: s Charles Metcalfe (c1771-1853) **14933** attorney, Wisbech & Elizabeth (c1773-1844) **77781** nee Skrimshaw
 Married: 19/10/1826 Mary (c1805-1872) **70955** of & at Gainsborough, Lin nee **Serle**

Police and criminal records

Do you have anyone in your family tree who was in trouble with the law? Were they hardened criminals or just victims of dire circumstances?

FMP has recently downloaded a large amount of data from police and court records which, apart from giving brief details of the charges and sentencing, also includes details of the individuals concerned.

These lists (over 62,000) include over 4,000 Metcalfes dating from the 18th century through to the very early 20th century. Crimes include petty larceny, physical abuse and murder - including many which would not be considered criminal acts today. Sentencing also varies, ranging from some being 'let off', short prison sentences or more seriously, transportation and execution.

For our interest, many of the lists also include a physical description of the person - so you might even spot a family resemblance!

Although it might be difficult to admit that we have a criminal in our background, it might potentially give you interesting information about an individual. What sort of condition was your ancestor/connection living in? What drove them to whatever they did? What happened to the rest of the family? What happened afterwards?

I remember one lady (not a Mecca) who very proudly boasted of having a body snatcher in her tree - he was charged with taking corpses from the nearby cemeteries and shipping them to Edinburgh, but was caught by the police and turned Queens evidence - so was given a lesser sentence.

If you find anything interesting - do let us know. Are they already on our database? Can we add them?

Jo Heron



Highway robbery. Source <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zy7nqhv/revision/6>

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I hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter. If you have any comments, research questions or articles you wish to contribute, please contact editor@metcalfe.org.uk

If you use social media, please 'like us' on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/metcalfe.org.uk) to keep up to date on our news and events.

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