

**Surname  
Variants***Metcalf**Metcalf**Medcalf**Medcalf**Metcalf**Midcalf**Medecalf**Metecalf**Metkalf**Mydcalf**Mitcalf**Mitkiff**Meytecalfe**Matcalve**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](mailto:editor@metcalfe.org.uk)



**THE METCALFE SOCIETY**  
Established 1980

**In this issue**

|                                      |
|--------------------------------------|
| Chairman's Musings P.1               |
| Yorkshire Barn Restorations P.2      |
| DNA Talk and Q&A via Zoom notice P.3 |
| Now Then – 11 Part 3 P.4             |
| Robert G. Medcalf, MLA, NSW P.8      |
| From Dales to America P.11           |
| The Mezzo Soprano P.13               |
| The Metcalfes from Cornwall P.14     |
| Monthly Snippets P.17                |
| Children's Force Migration P.18      |
| Birth Briefs P.19                    |
| Letter from Gallipoli P.20           |
| British Service Pension Records P.22 |
| Society Contacts P.23                |

**Musings from the Chair**

June saw the official opening of the British Normandy Memorial at Ver-sur-Mer overlooking Gold Beach, where many of the British troops landed on D Day 1944. The ceremony was heart-breaking – to think of all those young men, mostly in their late teens and very early 20's who were killed on 4th June, or shortly afterwards, however it was wonderful to see the survivors, all around the 100 year old mark, who were so lively and active even now. Their stories of the day, and the aftermath, were harrowing and there are, no doubt, many more stories out there that will be lost in the next few years as the last of these brave, and lucky, young people pass on. The conduct of the war, the planning and actions are well documented, but what these men saw and took part in, will be forgotten forever unless we do something about it.

Many of you will be like me and only heard some of the stories second hand, from fathers and grandfathers who were there. Some will obviously be difficult to think about, but I also think many of them will be amusing and heartwarming and will tell the real story of what was happening to our families, both on the warfront and at home. How about writing them down, and sending them to us, so we can collate them to document the reality of the war and what our menfolk went through, and what was happening to the families left at home.

A couple of my family stories: My grandparents lived on Teesside and had a dog which was the best early warning sign that bombers were approaching – being 10-15 minutes ahead of the sirens going off and heading out to the shelter. My father was shipwrecked in the Indian Ocean in a sea covered with burning oil – his legs were so badly burned, he never wore shorts for the rest of his life, having said that he did tell of an amusing incident watching men loading a ship by running up the gangplank in an India dockyard. As long as they kept in step with the man in front of them, they were fine. If they mis-stepped, they caused the gangplank to bounce an extra time and they would all fall off into the water of the dock, men and the goods they were carrying, much to the amusement of the watching sailors. (continued →)

Back on a more domestic note, we are making great progress on the new website and would like to recruit a small group of members to test it out. This will not be live to all members so if you would like to take part in the testing, please let me know through [metcalfe.membership@gmail.com](mailto:metcalfe.membership@gmail.com) to join the testing team. There will be a limited number of places, so do let me know as soon as possible.

You will be supplied with login details and instructions on how to access and move through the site, and we would like your comments, criticisms, complaints and complements – so why not contact me to join the testing panel. We look forward to hearing from you.

In the meantime, details and paperwork for the AGM will be available with the next e-newsletter, so we hope you will join us online on Saturday 5th October.

With every best wish for the season

Jo Heron, Chair, M1042

### Yorkshire Barn Restorations



Peter Reynolds: The Butching Garth at Nappa in mid-Wensleydale is a stone's throw from Nappa Hall, an imposing fortified manor house built by the Metcalfe family in the 15th century. You can see the hall in the background of this photo (taken in 2018 by Peter Reynolds).

James Metcalfe fought for King Henry V of England at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, and was rewarded for his service with land at Nappa, upon which Nappa Hall was built. Nappa Hall is grade I listed and described by Historic England as being

“probably the finest and least-spoilt fortified manor house in the north of England.”

Butching Garth itself is a highly unusual building, being a 19th century former slaughterhouse of which very few comparable examples exist. Its traditional stone roof collapsed about 10 years ago, resulting in the loss of much of the first floor internally. However, following restoration involving structural repairs and the provision of a new lightweight roof structure, the building has been put into a safe condition to be re-used as a sheep shelter. (At right: Butching Garth in 2022. Photo by Gaby Rose.)



Submitted by Susan Harper M266

<https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/examples-of-recent-barn-restorations/>

<https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/heritage-and-retro/heritage/two-18th-century-historic-stone-barns-and-victorian-slaughterhouse-in-the-yorkshire-dales-brought-back-to-life-3759743>

## Yorkshire Today Image

From Facebook post from the [Yorkshire Dales National Park](#)

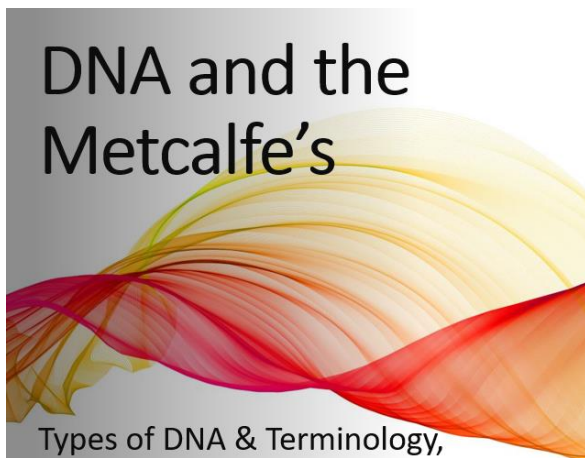
It's nearly the weekend!  
We enjoyed this view last week looking over Wharfedale and hope you do too 🙌🏻

📷 Wendy McDonnell I  
#PicOfTheDay  
#YorkshireDales #Dales  
#NationalPark #TGIF



## DNA Talk and Q&A via Zoom

### DNA and the Metcalfe's



Types of DNA & Terminology,  
Ancestry DNA,  
Traditional trees & your DNA matches

If you are thinking about doing your DNA or have already done but don't have any ideas about how to use it in your research, then this talk may help you on your journey. Even if you have some experience, you are sure to learn a thing or two.

The presentation will be approximately one hour and then 45 mins of question time and discussion.

**Presented and hosted by Dianne Fox, M113**

**Please apply by the 22 July or 25 August to receive your Zoom link via**

[metcalfe.membership@gmail.com](mailto:metcalfe.membership@gmail.com)

**Presented via Zoom**

**Melbourne, Australia times**

**Wednesday 24 July 2023 at 7pm**

*Times around the world*

9pm New Zealand  
5pm Western Australia  
11am South Africa  
10am London  
5am New York  
2am Vancouver

**OR**

**Tuesday 27 August 2024 at 10am**

*Times around the world*

12noon New Zealand  
8am Western Australia  
2am South Africa  
1am London  
8pm 26 Aug New York  
5pm 26 Aug Vancouver

## Now Then – 11 Part 3

### George Metcalfe's will and its effects plus a discussion about 'entails'

In the previous two parts of this article under the 'Now Then' title, I have been focussed upon the lives and deaths of certain members of the Metcalfe family in Hawes and its environs. They provided examples of how eighteenth and nineteenth wills were written and how the laws of inheritance, especially of land, applied. George Metcalfe, the President and Deputy Governor of Dominica, as well as a plantation and slave owner, provided the first will I looked at. It raised questions for me about why he favoured three individuals, only one of whom bore the Metcalfe surname. Were they somehow related to him or only his widow? I will write about that in another article to be part 4 of Now Then number 11!

We have seen in previous articles in the 'Now Then' series that English land law was based on feudal law, introduced by the Normans. As a reminder and very briefly, the sovereign owned all the land and granted 'tenures' to tenants who in return had to comply with services owed to him as 'tenants in chief'. They in turn created tenures, usually of manors, to 'mesne' tenants who became lords of the manor. They granted tenures themselves of parts of the manor to tenants in return for compliance with feudal dues and services. Eventually by the 16th century the feudal system, as originally operated, had largely fallen into disuse and by the restoration of the monarchy, in 1660, most of the feudal services were abolished, following Charles 1 use (some might argue misuse) of feudal services and dues to raise funds without Parliament's involvement. Freehold land had become the predominant free estate by which land was held, no longer subject to feudal services and dues.

As an aside, there continued to be laws related to manorial or copyhold tenure in a large number of manors and this system continued until 1925 when copyhold land was converted to freehold. I hope to write about the copyhold system in a later article. In this one, however, we will only be looking at freehold land tenure.

It was inheritable. I have explained how freehold land could be inherited outside a will and left by will in earlier articles.

Freehold land could be held for one of three estates, the longest and consequently the best, being an estate 'in fee simple absolute' with no limit on its duration or how it could be inherited or devised by will.

The word 'fee' meant that the tenure was inheritable, so the land tenure could be inherited on death and after 1540 it became possible to leave it by will to persons not necessarily the deceased's next of kin. Males were preferred to females and 'primogeniture' meant that the eldest son would inherit not his siblings in most parts of the England and Wales.

The second manner in which freehold land could be held was for an estate in 'fee tail' was also called an 'entail'. The effect was that the land was held subject to a condition, namely that it could only be inherited by the heir of the landholder. The restriction lasted whilst there were heirs.

Devotees of 'Pride and Prejudice' by Jane Austen or more recently the TV serial Downton Abbey will have come across entails! Mr. Bennett's heir for the entail of Longbourne is Mr. Collins. In Downton, Mathew Crawley becomes the tenant in tail (or heir) to the Earl not his three daughters because the estate was entailed by an earlier Earl. Mathew dies but has a son, who would succeed to the estate when his grandfather eventually dies. For a less legalistic, informative and probably clearer explanation than mine see: [The "Entail," Primogeniture, and Why Matthew Inherits Downton Abbey - Pints of History](#) .

Putting it simply, entailed land was held by three owners: (1) trustees for the benefit of (2) the present landholder, who would be in possession of the property ('a tenant for life') and (3) the eldest son of the tenant for life (called 'the tenant in tail') who would then inherit on his father's death, but only also for life, subject to the right of his eldest son to inherit in a similar manner and so on.

The conveyance deed would limit the length of ownership by using specific words "to A (the new owner's name) and the heirs of his body male". The underlined words were the vital ones imposing the condition and limiting the duration of ownership of the freehold. These words would be included in that part of the deed which started "TO HOLD ...." This was usually restricted to a male and called a 'tail male', since the land must pass to a male heir, although very rarely the land might be limited to females instead – which was called a 'tail female'.

It meant that in aristocratic families the premises could only descend to a male heir. The duration of the holding was dependent upon there being lineal descendants of the person to whom the land holding was first granted. There would be a series of succeeding life interests.

As I have explained, the individual to whom the land was granted originally only had an interest in the land for his life. The heir, who was called 'a tenant in tail', would be the eldest son. He would have to have attained his majority of 21 in order to inherit.

He would inherit on his father's death, whereupon he became the life tenant and his eldest son, became the tenant in tail, who would inherit the land when his father died and so on. Eventually when there were no male lineal descendants, the entail would end and estate would pass to an ultimate beneficiary, who could be selected by the last tenant for life. In modern times a number of National Trust properties have been selected as the ultimate recipient! The creation of entails effectively ceased in 1925, although land could still be put in trust and held on the restrictive terms of a settlement under the Settled Land Act 1925.

Where land was held subject to an entail, the tenant for life and his eldest son needed to co-operate (which they frequently did not do!) due to the fact that it became possible from 1285 to 'bar the entail' – in other words to cancel the entail thereby creating a fee simple. Barring the entail required both father and eldest son to agree. Very often, when the tenant in tail attained his majority, the father and son would bar the entail, bringing it to an end, thereby entitling them to sell parts of the estate or re-mortgage the land. They would then immediately resettle the land on similar or better terms, ensuring that the family retained the property. Sales whilst the land was entailed were not possible.

Barring the entail was achieved by completing documents and procedures called 'fines and recoveries' and later a 'common recovery'. The actual documents and the strange legal fictions involved in these processes need not concern us here.

Let us return now to George Metcalfe. He seems to have been singularly unfortunate in trying to settle his affairs after his death!

As we have seen, he married Elizabeth Davis late in life and they do not appear to have had any children. He left 1/3rd of his residuary estate to a Metcalfe 'kinsman', Isaac Metcalfe, and the remaining 2/3rd to two relatives of his wife Elizabeth, namely Richard Atkinson and Thomas Davis. I think that Richard Atkinson was a cousin of his wife (and maybe of George too) and that Thomas Davis was his brother-in-law.

It was not unusual for parents and the parties to a marriage to enter into a marriage settlement before the wedding. This would provide what would happen to the matrimonial assets derived from

the bride's parents, if there were children of the marriage, or more importantly what was to occur if there was no issue and the husband died.

I suspect (admittedly without proof) that George might well have entered into an informal arrangement or contract, whereby he agreed with his Davis in-laws that he would leave his estate for Elizabeth to enjoy the income during her life time and then on her death, in the absence of children, the capital would pass to Isaac Metcalfe, Richard Atkinson and Thomas Davis. It is a little strange that he chose these three gentlemen, given the fact that there was no shortage of Metcalfe 'kinsmen' in Hawes, who might otherwise have expected to inherit. Maybe George wasn't on good terms with his kinsmen generally and preferred to defer to his in-laws and wife's relatives? In his will he says: ".....with this proviso that Robert Atkinson & Thomas Davis assume and bear the name of Metcalf [sic] and qualify at the Heralds Office before they enter into possession....."

He wrote on his will, after it had been signed and witnessed, as an afterthought, in his own handwriting, a codicil, which his lawyers did not draft, at the end of the will. I expect that this would have caused some consternation to his lawyers! To achieve his aim he would have been better to have asked his solicitors to write the appropriate clauses! Perhaps an indication of stubbornness on George's part coupled with a feeling that he knew better and what he was doing?

I remind you of what it said:

"A Further Will by way of Codicil that the male heir of each of the Legatees shall be entitled to the estates after the death of their father, and if it descends 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 entail by Will the said properties to the Heir Male of each...."

He clearly wanted to perpetuate the family surname as is obvious from the extracts quoted in his will and codicil.

As we have seen, in the codicil he 'recommends' that the three remainder men settle their shares by 'entailing' them in their wills. He tries to give effect to this in his codicil, by providing that a deceased residuary beneficiary's eldest son would inherit in place of his father. This was not a binding commitment or condition precedent to them taking the residuary funds. It was merely a recommendation.

It does not seem that Robert Atkinson or Thomas Davis adhered to the request that they change their surname fully and yet they seem to have acquired their shares of the residue when Elizabeth died in 1846.

It would be possible to ask the College of Arms if there were any such applications for a fee, but wills, census returns, tithe awards and electoral rolls could be used to see if they did so more quickly and easily and this is what I have tried to do.

George had compounded matters by writing the codicil himself. The court required extra clarification that George had written the codicil.

The court records include affidavits from two of George's friends or work acquaintances, James Laing of Streatham in the County of Surrey and Skeffington Robinson of New Broad Street Mews London Merchant, saying that they recognised 'the manner and character of handwriting and subscription [i.e. signature] having frequently seen him write and write and subscribe his name'. I assume that they were involved with his business affairs in London given their statement that they recognised his writing and signature.

The court as we know, subsequently agreed to appoint Elizabeth, his widow, as the administrator of his will in the absence of executors agreeing to prove his will. The court accepted that he had validly executed the codicil and incorporated it in the grant of letters of administration with the will annexed.

What of the recommendation to his three beneficiaries to entail their one third shares of the residuary estate when Elizabeth died?

Their inheritance was delayed until after Elizabeth, George's widow, died which she did in 1846, thereby entitling them as the three residuary beneficiaries, or their next of kin in one case, to inherit the capital funds from which she had been deriving her income.

Did the residuary beneficiaries entail their shares?

- Isaac Metcalfe died young, unmarried and with no male heir or children.
- Robert Metcalfe Atkinson married twice but had no issue, so no male heir.

So neither of them was able to entail their shares.

As far as I can see Thomas Davis, George's brother-in-law, had two sons:

- Anthony about whom I wrote in the previous Newsletter. He emigrated to Philadelphia and did not contact the court when it wrote asking him to prove George's will.
- William whose existence I have only just discovered. He survived his father Thomas, who made a will and a codicil, so I have applied for copies from the Borthwick Institute in York where the Exchequer Court Wills are kept. It will probably take a month or so to obtain copies. I know his will and codicil was proved there after checking the Death Duty Register indexes. The entry is the correct one as it refers to Holme House near Gargrave as the address for his son, which is where I know Thomas had resided, although at his death he was living at Skibeden in the parish of Skipton. It is for the year of his death (1846). The indexes are online on Findmypast and assist in identifying the church court where wills were proved prior to 1858.

Possibly Thomas did not consider it worthwhile or appropriate settling his share on his son Anthony, given his inability to contact the family? Tying up the interest would require Anthony's co-operation and this might not have been forthcoming. His son William was I think younger than Anthony so could not become Thomas' heir. All supposition which might be clarified when I can see Thomas' will.

We know from his sister's will that he owed her money and that she forgave him and cancelled his debt to her. Maybe he was short of cash because he did not take up his share under George's will, since he did not want to change his name? Having said that we know that he successfully joined in making compensation claims from the government for loss of slaves in the 1830s, and Find My Past maybe he had spent it all?

So George's dreams of tying the money and property up for future generations of the Metcalfe family (actual or after a change of name) seem to have come to naught!

In my final article I will hope to show how looking at a large number of wills can assist you in working out family relationships and how it might solve the question of who Isaac Metcalfe was and also if Robert Atkinson was the same person as Robert Metcalfe Atkinson. Additionally I will consider if Rigg House sold at auction and if Thomas Davis did entail his share of George's will. I will also explain further who ultimately benefitted from George's will.

David Lambert, M11

## Robert George Medcalf MLA, NSW, Australia

Robert (Bob) George Medcalf MLA ( Member of the Legislative Assembly NSW ) (1887-1963)

### Personal Life:

Robert George Medcalf was the 9th of 10 children of Arthur Thomas Medcalf from Hertfordshire England and Caroline Pike of Goulburn New South Wales. Robert (Bob) was born in Forbes, New South Wales on 17 July 1887. His father had moved to the Forbes district in the Central West of New South Wales sometime after 1885. Prior to that, his parents and family had lived in the Riverina District where Arthur had the licence for the Cookardina Hotel on the Albury to Wagga Road in the Ten Mile Creek District.



In the 1913 the Electoral Roll from the Fifield Polling Place in the Lachlan District, the following family members were recorded as living at a property called Gillenbine out of Trundle in the Central West of New South Wales. **Trundle** is a small town in [Parkes Shire](#) in the [Central West](#) of [New South Wales](#), [Australia](#). It and the surrounding area had a population of 335 in the 2021 census.

- Arthur Thomas Medcalf and his wife Caroline Medcalf
- Alice Medcalf, sister of Arthur Thomas Medcalf
- Albert Henry Medcalf (son) and his wife Ida Joyce Medcalf
- John Cole Medcalf (son)
- Robert George Medcalf (son)
- Alice Sarah Medcalf (daughter)

Gillenbine was a 12,000-acre wheat property which was sold in 1926 and cut up into seventeen smaller wheat farms.

The Land Newspaper Friday 24 September 1926 (left) Clearing Sale of Gillenbine Friday February 4, 1927- The Forbes Advocate Newspaper Friday 7 January 1927 (right)

**"Gillenbine" Sold.**

The Farmers and Graziers' Co-op. Co., Sydney, report having completed the subdivisional sale of "Gillenbine" Estate of 12,000 acres near Trundle. This property has been in the hands of the Medcalf family for over 40 years and has been cut up into seventeen wheat farms, five of which have been purchased by young men from overseas, who have, for the past few years, since their arrival in this State, been gaining experience in the wheat areas.

---

Damage to crops to the extent of millions of dollars has been caused by the overflow of the Illinois River.

**CURRENT TOPICS**

**"GILLENBINE."**

The agents in the clearing sale at "Gillenbine," Trundle, on Friday, February 4, advertise full details in to-day's "Advocate." This is one of the biggest sales of its kind advertised at Trundle, and is sure to attract a lot of attention.

Continued →

On the 5th May 1917, Robert George (Bob) Medcalf married Elizabeth (Bette) Catherine Robertson (my husband's maternal aunt) at Bathurst New South Wales. I'm not sure where Bob and his wife lived after they married. A family member states it was at a property called "Woodlands" out of Tottenham. I have found various newspaper articles in 1915 stating that "Woodlands" Tottenham was a government owned wheat property. Perhaps Bob was the manager of the property. At some stage, he purchased or inherited "Woodlands" Tottenham, and it is still owned by a Medcalf family member today. I have no record of who owned it after 1915. The 1930, 1935 and 1937 Electoral Rolls have Robert George Medcalf, grazier and Elizabeth Catherine Medcalf, home duties, living at "Woodlands" Tottenham.

In the electoral roll of 1943, Robert George, Elizabeth Catherine and Edward John Medcalf are recorded as living at "Woodlands" Tottenham. Bob and Bette didn't have any children. Edward John is the son of Bob's brother Edward Ernest Medcalf. Edward John Medcalf served in the RAAF in World War 2 as a Leading Aircraft Man. His address on his enlistment form in 1941 is "Woodlands" Tottenham and his occupation is listed as Station Hand. In the electoral roll of 1949, Robert George Medcalf, Elizabeth Catherine Medcalf, Edward John Medcalf and Frances Jean Medcalf (Edward's wife) are listed.

Bob and Bette also had a house on ten acres in Condobolin (which is about 100 km from Tottenham). Condobolin and Tottenham are both situated in the Lachlan Shire. Bob was involved in local government from 1927 until 1947. In 1950 he became the Country Party member for Dubbo and he and his wife moved to Dubbo. They are listed on the electoral rolls of 1954, 1958 and 1963 as living at Stirling Street Dubbo. Bob was still listed as a grazier. See following link for information about Dubbo:

<https://www.yourcouncil.nsw.gov.au/council-data/dubbo-regional-1696393585/>

Bob Medcalf died at Dubbo on 9 June 1963. Death notice from newspaper below:

*MEDCALF Robert George Death notice 09 JUN 1963 Death at Dubbo, late of Trundle, formerly of Condobolin Sydney Morning Herald 10 JUN 1963*

He is buried in Plot 9 Anglican H -Trundle General Cemetery Trundle, Parkes Shire New South Wales.

The property of "Woodlands" stayed in the Medcalf family, firstly with Edward John Medcalf and his wife who were still listed on the electoral roll in 1980 at "Woodlands". That is the latest record available in Australia for electoral rolls. According to Ancestry records, Edward John and his wife had two children, but it is not their son who now owns "Woodlands". The current owner is Arthur John Medcalf OAM (my husband's maternal 1st cousin 1 x removed) who is the current Deputy Mayor of Condobolin. Known as John, he is the great nephew of Robert George Medcalf and grandson of Bob's brother Edward Ernest Medcalf.

*Uncle Bob and Aunt Bette, as known to the family, are remembered for their kindness to family members. Their homes in Condobolin and Dubbo were there for family members who had to attend High School away from home. Trips to "Woodlands" in Uncle Bob's car was a special treat for my husband and his siblings who lived in Condobolin. Family members were often helped out financially by Bob and Bette.*

Bob Metcalfe was also the great uncle of Dick Medcalf (my husband's paternal 1st cousin).

See Issue 24-2, March- April Mecca News Page 9: Australian War Hero WW2 Survivor Dick Medcalf Part 2.

Continued→

**Political Life: transcribed from the Parliament of NSW website-**

[https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/members/Pages/profiles/medcalf\\_robert-george.aspx](https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/members/Pages/profiles/medcalf_robert-george.aspx)

Mr. Robert George MEDCALF (1887 - 1963)

Date of Birth: 17/07/1887 Place of Birth: Forbes, New South Wales, Australia Date of Death: 09/06/1963 Place of Death: Dubbo, New South Wales, Australia

**Parliamentary Service**

Member for Lachlan 3 May 1947 to 22 May 1950- 3yrs 20 days

Member for Dubbo 17 Jun 1950 to 14 Jan 1953- 2yrs 6mths 29 days

Member of the NSW Legislative Assembly 3 May 1947 14 Jan 1953- 5yrs 8mths 12 days

**Political Party Activity** Country Party.

**Qualifications, occupations and interests**

Farmer and grazier. Educated privately; inherited farming and grazing property at Tottenham; stud sheep breeder from 1926, 1200 acres of wheat; member of Condobolin Pastures Protection Board from 1921 until 1947, chairman for eight years; member of Condobolin Repatriation Committee

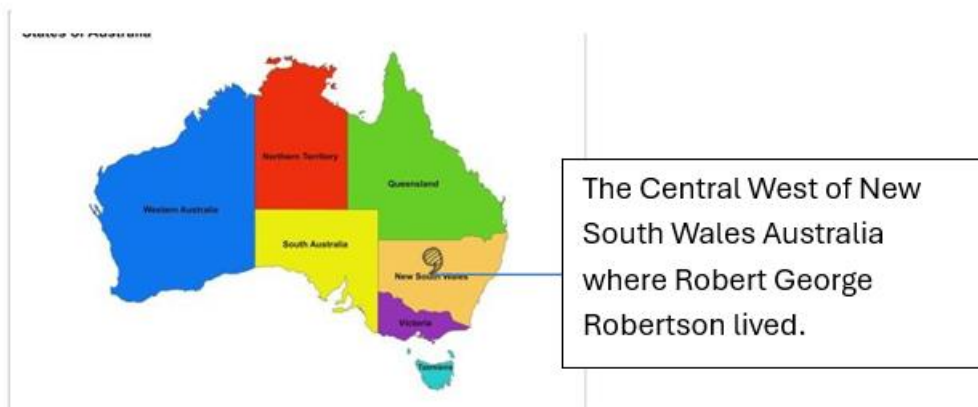
**Local Government Activity**

Councillor of Lachlan Shire from 1924 until 1947, President in 1935, 1942 until 1943, 1947. Foundation councillor of the Central Tablelands County Council until 1947, and of the Lachlan Regional Council from 1944 until 1947.

**Personal**

Son of Arthur Thomas Medcalf, grazier, and Caroline Pike. Married Elizabeth Catherine Robertson on 5 May 1917. Church of England. Funeral at Trundle cemetery from Church of England Church.

*My husband remembers Uncle Bob as a "man of the people" when he was Member for Lachlan. Bob's "office" was the taxi rank where people could sit and talk to him.*



Denise Ewin, M2210

## From the Yorkshire Dales to America

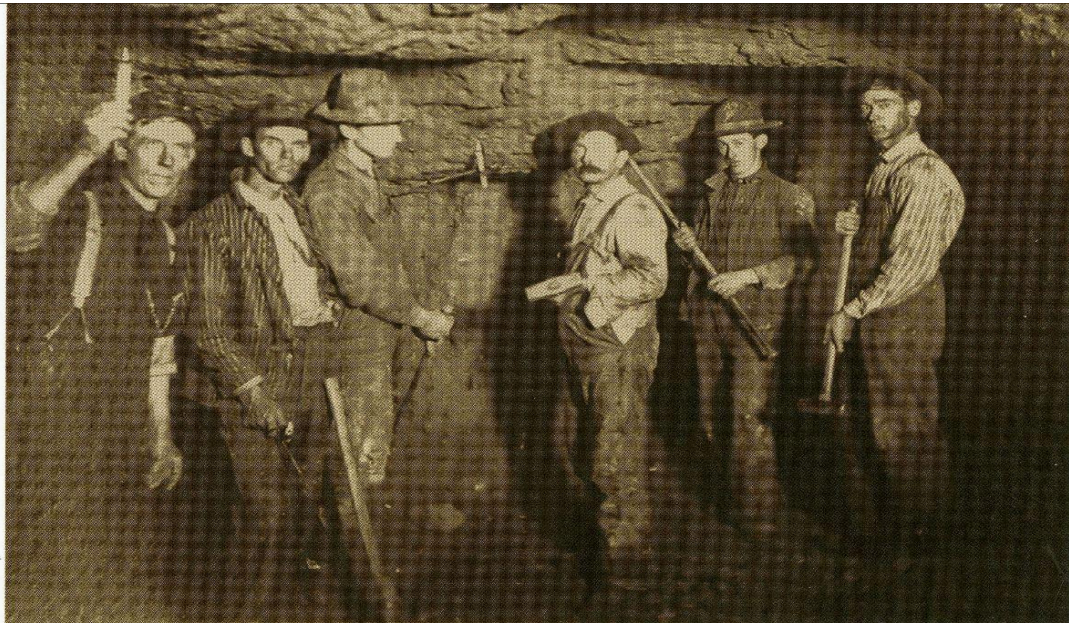
Excerpted with permission of <https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/>

*A depression in the mining industry from 1870 caused many mining families to move away from the Yorkshire Dales. Families moved to the Durham coalfields, Lancashire cotton towns and West Yorkshire mill towns. Others took the decision to emigrate.*

*By 1880, cheap imports had caused a steady fall in lead prices and many mines closed. A fall in farming incomes also led many Dales families to emigrate to America and Canada.*

*Emigrants faced a difficult journey on land and by sea.*

*Once in America, this was followed by steamboat travel to an area of rich lead bearing limestone set partly in Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa. Here there was not only lead mining work, but also the possibility of good farming land.*



*Several of these men working at Metcalf Mine, Illinois, in 1904 had emigrated from Swaledale. (David Morris collection, Swaledale Museum Archive)*

*Those who left Swaledale in the mid 1820s included Ambrose Hugill, Robert Waller and members of the Harker family. Many sold the majority of their possessions to fund their trip and first days abroad before they found work.*

*They took oatbread, flour, dried meat, cheese, tea and essentials like a cooking pot and candles. They travelled from the Dales, on horseback, by cart or on foot, via Lancaster to the Port of Liverpool.*

Do you have any Dales linked stories to tell that we can share?

We would love to hear from you.

Please email [dcm@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:dcm@yorkshiredales.org.uk)

Continued →

This is obviously of great interest to us – especially as there are so many places with the name ‘Metcalf’ in North America, both the States and Canada. So, what was behind the story? And do you have any stories we can share with other members and the Dales Museum – do let us know.

Many of our Metcalfe ancestors living in the Dales area of North Yorkshire worked in mining with a very small piece of land outside to provide additional food and income to the family. The men worked in the mines – often in groups to protect each other from the inherent dangers of mining – which built up very close partnerships with their neighbours. In the early 1800’s, new methods of working were introduced which resulted in many changes. Market prices varied and in addition, the miners were often paid quarterly or half yearly, which meant that for most of the year they were effectively relying on whatever they could produce on the land around their cottages or on credit from the mine owners. Many suffered severe poverty leading to starvation. In one report, a midwife had attended the wife of one Christopher Metcalfe in the birth of her 6th child, went home and told her husband that the family had nothing to wrap the baby in, they had no blankets or sheets, and the other children were dressed in rags and they only had ‘a little very coarse bread’ to eat. The problem of these poor and hungry masses were ignored by the Government of the day.

Hearing stories of the wealth of those who had fled to the America, many sold everything they had and borrowed from friends and family to raise the money to buy passage to America, sometimes just the father or men of the family, sometimes whole families, sometimes whole groups of neighbours. Many left from Liverpool heading for the farmlands and mining areas of the Mid-West, but the journey was fraught with danger, many of the ships going down in Atlantic storms. Deaths on board, particularly children, were common, but many did get through, including the family of a Thomas Metcalf. On another ship, the Hottinguer from Liverpool, were George Metcalf (age 53) and his sons Giles, Matthew and Richard (in their 20’s). Giles was a cooper and the other sons were miners.

Some men joined established mines or started up on their own if they had the financing to do so. They did not always strike rich immediately – John and George Metcalf reported being ‘unfortunate’ as they had sunk a third shaft without major success.

So what did these brave people do in America? Previous issues of ‘Mecca News’ have illustrated the wide range of occupations from mining and farming (traditional in the Dales) to construction of buildings and furniture, pharmaceuticals, food and supplies industry, milling and textile manufacturing, engineering, the military, as well academic and religious fields.

Today, their legacy also includes inventors, space exploration and the film and media industry – all of which must have been way beyond the imagination of those early refugees from the struggle in the Dales.

For more details see ‘Metcalf – History of the Clan’ and ‘Metcalf Family Histories’ both from the Society. Further information: ‘Portrait of an English Migration: North Yorkshire People in North America’, William E Van Vugt, McGill Queens University Press, 2021 and ‘Those who left the Dales’, ed. Glenys Marriot, 2010

Continued →



Men of Lead, Miners of the Yorkshire Dales by David Joy – photo left

Nothing changes - Miners at Nut Hole Mine in Foggergill, Arkengarthdale, c. 1910, Lead mining in the 18th & 19th centuries, I S Pensley, Yorkshire Dales History 2021



Jo Heron, Chair, M1042

[Editor: Rands & Metcalf Mine, Greenfield, Macoupin, Illinois was a coal mine; have not found who this Metcalf was.]

## The Mezzo-Soprano

Born Susan S. Metcalfe in 1878 in Florence, Italy, the daughter of Dr. Frank J. Metcalfe, a Manhattan, New York City physician, her mother was Helene Rochat, a member of New Rochelle, New York society. In later years Dr Metcalfe practised in Florence, Italy, and Susan was born there in 1878. She was educated in Conservatories in Italy and France. She became highly respected in Lieder and concert recital.

In 1904 she met the cellist Pablo Casals, gave a recital with him (Casals on piano). In 1908 Metcalfe embarked on a European tour which included singing for the British royal family. They met again after Casals had given a concert in Berlin, and were married on April 4, 1914, at New Rochelle. The marriage lasted until 1928, when they were formally separated, but they did not divorce until 1957.



Susan lived in Paris from 1929 and her last known recital was there in 1951. She moved to the USA to live with her sister. Susan (Metcalf) Casals died in 1959 in Rochelle, New York.

Further:

Wednesday, May 14  
Florence, Italy, April 19, Rev. Mr. Vannest, Dr. Frank J. Metcalfe of N. Y. to Helene, dau. of L. Rochat of Florence.

[Her parents married in 1873 in Florence, Italy. Dr. Frances Johnson Metcalfe was born in 1850 in New

York. (His father was Dr. John Thomas Metcalfe (1818-1902) and his mother was Harriet Augusta Colles (1822-1863)). Frank died in 1892 at the age of 41 in Florence, Italy. Ancestry has that his lineage dates to John Metcalfe b 1680 in Richmond, Yorkshire, was the first of the family to arrive in the USA. He married Diana Gwatkins in 1723 and died in 1751 in Fauquier County, Virginia. Further, it suggests that John's father was Theophilis Metcalfe, b 1617 in Richmond, Yks, died in Virginia, USA, and was the son of a Francis Metcalfe] Submitted by Susan Harper, M266

For further reading: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susan\\_Metcalf\\_Casals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susan_Metcalf_Casals); [The Singer](#)

## Down a Rabbit hole - The Metcalfe's from Cornwall, England

### A lesson in Genealogical Methodology

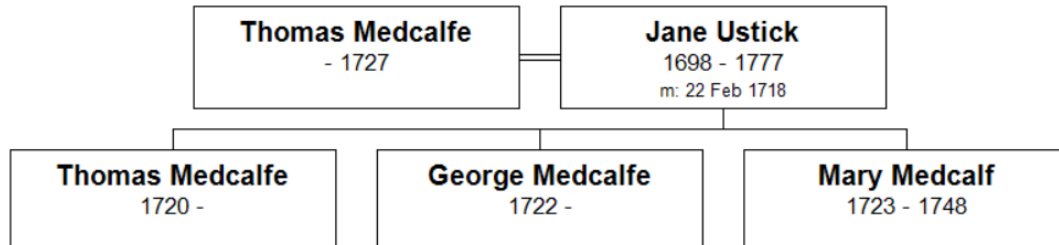
I had been doing a lot of research in Stoke Climsland, Cornwall as I have 6 5xgreat grandparents who lived there. I was using the Cornwall Online Parish Clerk site <sup>1</sup>, Wills which can be found in the FamilySearch Catalogue<sup>2</sup> and any other sources I could find such as old books which have been scanned and are now online<sup>3</sup>.

But it was time for another article for the Mecca Newsletter and I thought I should check to see if there were any Met/dcalf/e families who lived in Cornwall before the 1850s and what sources were available to find details.

The Cornwall Online Parish Clerk site has a Search Database for baptisms, marriages and burials and a tab for Extra Searches which has about 20 tabs for things like Emigration, Land Records and Wills Index. I looked up me%calf% [% is a wildcard on this site] and found one entry in 1748 in the Parish of St. Just in Penwith for a Mary Medcalfe, there were further details that she was a spinster and the film number 2220890 and reference AP/M/2423.

I looked up the film on Family Search and found the Will at Image number 17 where Mary names a brother Thomas Medcalfe now living in London and her mother Jane Medcalfe who was a widow and living in St Just. The Will was written on 18 Mary 1748.

And searching further for baptisms, marriages and burials in Cornwall I found Mary's fathers name and an additional brother.



Mary was baptised and buried without the 'e' but in her Will was named:

and signed her name

On our Metcalfe Website I was able to find the Will of Thomas Medcalfe which was written in 1727 and probated in 1732

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cornwall-opc-database.org/search-database/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.familysearch.org/en/australia/>  
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog>

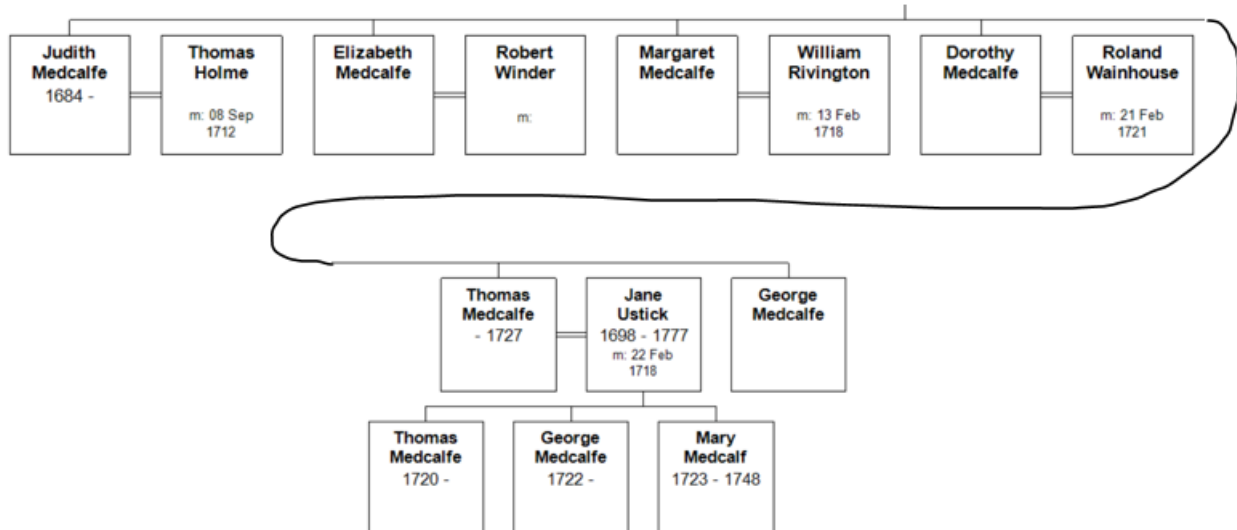
Original wills, administrations and inventories for the Consistorial Court of the Archdeaconry of Cornwall, 1579-1859  
 Authors: Church of England. Archdeaconry of Cornwall. Consistorial Court (Main Author)

<sup>3</sup> Internet Archive <https://archive.org/>

<sup>4</sup> FamilySearch FHL film no 2220890, reference AP/M/2423

The beneficiaries of his Will were: - son Thomas Medcalfe, dau Mary Medcalfe, wife Jane Medcalfe, bro George Medcalfe, sis Judith Holmes, sis Elizabeth Winder, sis Margaret Rivington, sis Dorothy Wainhouse.

So, children, wife and siblings' information helped to grow the family tree. And with a little further searching for marriages of Me\*calf\* to Holmes, Winger, Rivington & Wainhouse the tree looked like this: -

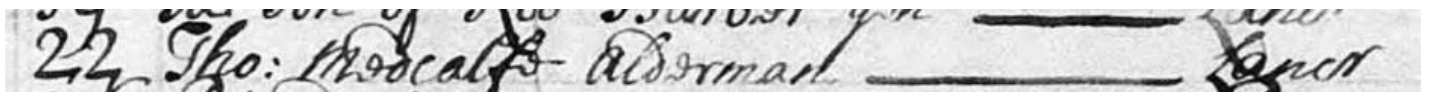


Thomas died in Cornwall but had his Will proved in Lancashire so one can assume he had assets in Lancashire so need to prove it in this jurisdiction.

A search on the Metcalfe website located Thomas Medcalf married to an Alice with children Judith, George, Ann, Thomas, Elizabeth, William, Margaret, George & Dorothy all baptised at St Mary, Lancaster, Lancashire.

I then located via Google Books "Autobiography of William Stout, of Lancaster, Wholesale and Retail Grocer and Ironmonger, a Member of the Society of Friends. A.D. 1665-1752".<sup>5</sup> On page 38 Thos. Medcalfe is described as an alderman and draper [1694]. On page 85 "In the 12<sup>th</sup> month of this year [1712] Alderman Thomas Medcalfe died [the 12<sup>th</sup> month in the Quaker calendar prior to 1752 was February].

This burial took place in the year 1712/13 and Thomas Medcalfe of Lancaster an Alderman was buried 22 February 1713 at St Mary's, Lancaster, see below for a copy of the parish register.<sup>6</sup>



William Stout, unexpectedly, was named as one of two executors in Thomas Medcalf's Will.

5

[https://books.googleusercontent.com/books/content?req=AKW5QacRx0\\_HCoZlYbBF7lZBfV8XLw\\_12GaPPPMpKkqAK\\_O9Hk0VTS\\_iFcQKsAlo6EMGoB1A7Z0Oy8P6uz-YX-ZPrpkFOLBvG8LUpZ6rjBmDYHu2eSQrsCKs9NTzuJsBEa9QgxMc3z0QWSEyP7Orr4sX2bAv-Mt9DoS4UxxJJO1\\_tNvqhQpTpQp-R2mVvZMsYjmFgWQRXslbLXKyseAxE9D1ftqwxlArl4z6qi56vUtdDZtCxeY2uLxpcTRWu69r1CTyyE3OiOcwMHUF7XGI1ZVIWvmwD\\_Npl\\_xtwqTNI8laKJRHWtcU4vKK4](https://books.googleusercontent.com/books/content?req=AKW5QacRx0_HCoZlYbBF7lZBfV8XLw_12GaPPPMpKkqAK_O9Hk0VTS_iFcQKsAlo6EMGoB1A7Z0Oy8P6uz-YX-ZPrpkFOLBvG8LUpZ6rjBmDYHu2eSQrsCKs9NTzuJsBEa9QgxMc3z0QWSEyP7Orr4sX2bAv-Mt9DoS4UxxJJO1_tNvqhQpTpQp-R2mVvZMsYjmFgWQRXslbLXKyseAxE9D1ftqwxlArl4z6qi56vUtdDZtCxeY2uLxpcTRWu69r1CTyyE3OiOcwMHUF7XGI1ZVIWvmwD_Npl_xtwqTNI8laKJRHWtcU4vKK4)

<sup>6</sup> Description Year Range: 1710-1719

Source Information: Ancestry.com. Lancashire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812 [database on-line]. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012.

Original data: Lancashire Anglican Parish Registers. Preston, England: Lancashire Archives.

William Stout said that Thomas Medcalf “sent his eldest son Thomas to London, to be preferred by his cousins George and Francis Metcalfe. The first was a solicitor for the commissioners of the customs in London, and the latter collector of the customs at Southampton, -- who got him instructions in the managing that business, and in the beginning of this year procured him the place of collector of the customs at Penzance, in Cornwall, worth £100 a year, and also of the salt duty, worth £50 a year.... He [Thomas Medcalf] left three sons and four daughters. The eldest, daughter Judith was married to Thomas Holme, the schoolmaster and curate at Lancaster. The second daughter, Elizabeth, was married to Robert Winder, a draper .... His second son, William, was brought up at sea, very hopeful and improving. His legacy of £50 we paid, and soon after [he] died, upon a Guney [Guinea] voyage. His youngest son and two daughters were underage, and we got them a good education.”

I am pleased to learn how Thomas ended up in Cornwall and have more to discover about his family and his siblings and their families. I will also search for more information about the cousins George and Francis Metcalfe of London and Southampton but this will have to wait for the next newsletter.

Any queries or questions about the sources or links to these families please contact Dianne Fox via [agentaus@metcalfe.org.uk](mailto:agentaus@metcalfe.org.uk)

### New Birth Announcement Index

This from Newspapers.com: “We are happy to announce the launch of the [Newspapers.com™ Birth Announcement Index](#). This searchable archive contains over 70 million birth announcements printed in the largest online newspaper archive spanning three centuries, making it easier than ever to narrow your search to birth announcement results.

Who might you discover?”

[Ed.: Subscription required to view; free to search]

### Mecca Muster

## SAVE THE DATE ... The 44th Annual Mecca Muster & AGM 2024

We are delighted to confirm that the 44th Annual Mecca Muster and the AGM will be held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2024 online at 10am UK time. Further details will be circulated with the next Newsletter and on our [Facebook page](#) as details of the event are confirmed.

Here are some very good reasons why you should join us for a most enjoyable day!

- We will be holding a “Brickwall” session and hope to clear some of your problems.
- An introduction to the new website
- You might even ‘see’ some ‘relatives’ you never knew you had online

## Monthly Snippets

### July

Throughout the summer, several villages have races involving carrying heavy weighted items – such the **Oxenhope Straw Race** around 9th, where two competitors have to carry a bale of straw between them from one pub to another over 2 miles apart, raising funds for charity – over £300,000 so far.

A cure for **Whooping cough** from the 19<sup>th</sup> century was to pass the child around a donkey, over and under it. I wonder if it worked, and more to the point if the donkey stood still and didn't cause any injury to the child!

**Mother Shipton's Well** in Knaresborough (home of Blind Jack Metcalfe) is a popular place for leaving items to be turned to stone under dripping water rich in calcium. Many items relate to injuries or ailments suffered by those leaving the items.

**Brides should not wear green** on their wedding day – it is supposed to be very unlucky

**If a newborn baby visits** you, you should give it an egg, some salt and a piece of white bread or cake. In East Yorkshire, they add a match to the list – for the baby to light their way to heaven. Hopefully the latter is not needed although many of our Metcalfe families did lose a lot of babies in their first years. The items do seem to have a connection with the New Year Eve First Footing when a dark male should be the first to cross the threshold, carrying some salt or sugar, a silver coin and a piece of coal – symbolising health, wealth and comfort. Maybe this is just a tradition further north and nearer Scotland

**A bride should throw a cake** from an upstairs window to those outside. The more pieces it broke into, the luckier the marriage.

And we all know about **talking to our bees** and letting them know of anything affecting the family and major news stories.

### August

In 1846, the corn laws in England were repealed and the village of **Denby Dale** decided to bake a pie to celebrate. The first one consisted of 1,120 lbs of beef, 180 lbs veal, 112 lbs mutton, 60 lbs lamb, 20 stone of flour 24 lbs lard, 24 lbs butter and 30lbs of suet. The pie took more than 6 hours to cook and weighed in at over a ton when cooked. It is still celebrated every year in August.

A tradition around **Muker** was for the bride to ride to her wedding on a white horse.

The seaside town of **Whitby** has held a regatta every year since mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is still a very popular event today.

Another popular event, commemorated in song, is **Scarborough Fair** which lasted from August through September, from 1253 and ended in 1788. The song asks the hearer to perform a number of impossible tasks and was made famous by Simon and Garfunkel in the 1960's.

A Saturday around 24th August is the date of the **Saddleworth Rush-bearing Festival** when carts piled high with rushes are toed through the town, with someone on top of the pile of rushes. To qualify to sit on top of the cart, one needs to be able to balance well and have a high tolerance of alcohol as the carts stop at every pub *en route* to the church where the rider is plied with 5 pints of beer.

The **Burnsall Fell** race is held in August and is the oldest race of its kind to be held in Britain, believed to have started in the reign of the first Elizabeth. It involves a steep climb up and down and is a very popular event.

30<sup>th</sup> August is **St. Margaret Clitheroe** day. Margaret was born and brought up in York, living in the Shambles where her home is now a memorial to her. At a time of religious turmoil, she was a Catholic who refused to give up her faith and was pressed to death. Although we do not know where her body is buried, it is believed that her right hand was taken away by fellow Catholics and is now exhibited in the Bar Convent, just outside Micklegate Bar in York.

Submitted by Jo Heron M1042

### Children's Enforced Migration

From the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century until the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, over 130,000 children were sent overseas from the UK to Commonwealth countries, ranging from toddlers to older teenagers. The grim poverty and conditions prevailing at the time led the authorities to think that they would send these children to a better life – even though it was away from family and friends. Some were orphans and some were adopted by loving families in their new countries, but not all of them were so lucky and many had very hard and unhappy lives.

Many were moved to isolated farms or other organisations and were treated as cheap labour, sometimes they were kept together with siblings but more often they were not, and some suffered physical abuse. Children were often sent through the Dr. Barnardo's Home or Church organisations.

A quick look through online records has identified seven Metcalfes (or var.) who were sent to Canada, although they may not be recorded as Barnardo's children or as emigrants to Canada, and of course, they may have changed their names to get away from this very sad episode.

If you have any information on children who were forcibly migrated, and wish to share, please let us know by emailing: [metcalfe.membership@gmail.com](mailto:metcalfe.membership@gmail.com)

Jo Heron, M1042



[Ed.: Photo credit: <http://central.bac-lac.gc.ca/.redirect?app=fonandcol&id=3521627&lang=eng> "Boy ploughing at Doctor Barnardo's Industrial Farm" in Russell, Manitoba, Canada.]

Other links:

- [Archives Canada: Home Children Records](#) – searchable – 29 Metcalfs, 49 Metcalfes, 3 Medcalfs, 2 Medcalfes]
- [British Home Child Group International](#) (lots of info but not all areas developed yet)
- [National Museums Liverpool – Child Emigration Information Sheet](#)

## Birth Briefs

### **M1514 Heather Smethurst**

D.o. Helen Mte & John Philip Clarke m. 23 Apr 1962 Urmston, Manchester. Heln b 6 Jul 1938, Urmston, Lan. d.o. Leonard & Lucy (Bradfield) Mte m 7 Jul 1928, Burnley, Lan. Leonard b 20 Jan 1903, Burnley, Lan. s.o. JohnThomas & Ada (Smith) Mte m 24 Dec 1901 Burnley, Lan. John Thomas b 23 May 1878 Burney, Lan. s.o.. Ellen Mte b 12 Feb 1852 Mereclough, Cliviger, Lan. d.o. William & Isabella (Whitehead) Mt m 23 Aug 1848 Burnley. William b Apr 1886 Burton in Lonsdale s.o. Adam & Mary (Dodgson) Mte m 26 Dec 1809 Thornton in Lonsdale. Adam bpt 24 Dec 1786 Thornton in Lonsdale s.o. Thomas & Betty (Tomlinson) Mte m 27 Jul 1782 Clapham. Thomas bpt 10 Apr 1748 Ingleton s.o. Nanny Mte.

**Conn. M15**

### **M2226 – Sue Murray**

(a) 5 x Gd.o. James & Thomasin (Mte) Mte m 19 Jun 1731 Muker. Thomasin bpt 8 Aug 1708 Muker d.o. Jeremiah Mte of Angram (see below)

(b) 4 x Grt gnd James Mte & Ann (nee Cottingham). Ann d.o. John Cottingham & Margaret Mte, m. 10 May 1738. Margaret do William Mte & Elizabeth ? (2nd wife).

(c) 4 x gd Margaret Mte & Thomas Calvert, 5 x Grt grd s.o. Thomas & Margaret (Mte) Calvert m 17 Apr 1754 Muker. Margaret bpt 27 Jan 1732-33 Muker d.o. James & Thomasin (Mte) Mte m 19 Jun 1731 Muker. Thomasin (see above)

**Conn M436**

### **M2236 – Paula Scully**

M46 Grd d.o. Emily bpt 29 Oct 1871 Bradford d.o. John William Henry & Eliza (Hardaker) Mte m 10 dec 1870 Bradford. John William Henry b 25 Nov 1838 Bradford s.o. Ralph & Martha (Moseley) Mte m 6 Feb 1837 Shipley. Ralph bpt 26 Jan 1815 Gunnerside s.o. Christopher & Ann (Milner) Mte m 26 Mar 1811 Grinton. Christopher b 10 May 1789 Gunnerside s.o. Thomas & Annas (Binks) Mte m 16 Oct 1769 Grinton. Thomas bpt 14 Apr 1745 Muker s.o. Thomas & Margaret (Cottingham) Mte m 5 Jun 1737 Muker. Thomas bpt 26 Aug 1708 Muker s.o. Thomas Mte of Gunnerside.

**M46 et al**

### **M2238 – Sarah Wheatley**

Gd.o. Jack Ennerson Longland & Elsie Irene (Rene) Mte (Mte) m Jan 1851 Wisbech, Cam. Rene b Jul 1927 Wisbech d.o. Paul & Hilda Lydia (Washbrook) Mte m 1914 Woodstock District, Oxf. Paul bpt 22 Jul 1889 Great Thurlow, Sfk s.o. George & Julia (Haylock) Mt m 1888 Withersfield, Sfk. George bpt 9 Jun 1861 Withersfield s.o. George & Amelia (Jacobs) Md m 12 Nov 1859 Withersfield. Geore b c1832 Withersfield s.o. Thomas & Caroline (Jefferys) Md m 3 Jul 1830 Withersfield. Thomas bpt 14 Oct 1810 s.o. George & Sarah (Copping) Md m 5 Nov 1795 Great Thurlow. George bpt 8 Jun 1767 Great Thurlow s.o. Isaac & Elizabeth (Webb) Md m 11 Oct 1744 Great Wratting, Sfk. Isaac b c1720. ?? Isaac bpt 29 Apr 1718 Hertford, Hrt s.o. ?? Thomas & Ann (Woodfare) Md m 3 Jul 1706 Hertford. Thomas bpt 4 Mar 1682-1683 Thundridge, Hrt s.o. William & Susan Md.

**Conn M323 M980 M1204 M1434 M1445 M1499**

### **M2239 - Nancy Lovins**

3 x Grd d.o. Margaret Mte & Benjamin Stevenson m. 23 Dec 1846 Burneston. Margaret b 29 Nov 1824 Catterick nr Leeming d.o. Richard & Anne (Herring) Mte m 16 Feb 1824 Catterick. Richard bpt 18 Feb 1794 Burneston s.o. Francis & Margaret Mte. Francis bpt 12 Sep 1761 Burneston s.o. Richard & Mary (Chambers) Mte m 22 Feb 1759 Burneston. Richard s.o. Richard Mte.

**Conn. M46 et al**

**Still awaiting birth briefs from M221, M2222, M2225, M2228, M2228, M2234, M22037, M2240, M2241, M2242** We look forward to you joining our main family tree!

[Editor: For logistical/formatting reasons the font on this page is smaller than usual.]

## Wilfrid Metcalf – letter from Gallipoli

My father – Wilfrid Metcalf – was born in 1884 in Prestwich near Manchester, s/o Thomas Metcalf and Clara Ane Chadwick. For reasons I don't know, he found himself in Australia at the outbreak of the first world war. He was particularly proud to have been the very first person to have signed up with the Anzacs to fight at Gallipoli.

Amongst the very few things I have from my parents is a well-worn letter he wrote in June 1915 to his niece (Marian Wilson) who was at boarding school in Surrey.

I deduce that he was feeling somewhat traumatised and very lonely at the time; the talk of bullets and 'Nickel Birds' flying around – but all within the constraints of the censor (the 'man with the big eyes') – is indicative of a need for companionship and sharing.



*My dear Marie*

*I was so pleased to receive your letter and have now had the opportunity of writing to you a letter although I cannot say much because the censorship constraints are very tight. Well Marie [Correctly, Marian], I have been here in the Dardanelles for 7 weeks and have been right through the thick of it and, my word, what a time we have had. I suppose you read in the papers about our landing, how we had landed on an area of open beach in face of terrific rifle and shrapnel fire. It was awful and shall never forget it, if you can imagine a narrow beach with hills several hundred feet high rising straight up from the sea and the Turks entrenched all the way up the hills with machine guns etc it will give you a slight idea what we had to face. Of course, we could only land in small boats and pontoons etc from the transports and as fast as we came in near the shore the Turks simply mowed us down, chargers(?) were put out of action even before they set foot on the land. However we all leapt from the boats waist high in the water and made some sort of a line, fixed bayonets and made a charge up the hills, the boys never waited for an order from the officers but took it on their own hands. Well, you should have seen the Turks, they scattered in all directions. I don't think they liked the idea of solid steel through them. Trench after trench was taken and as we had no machine guns or big guns to cover our charge we had to stick to it the best we could, all this was going on xxx a little – of rifle and shrapnel to say nothing of the machine gun fire and our poor chaps were dropping like rabbits but it made no difference to us . . . we . . . reached the top of the hills where we made ourselves secure until they brought ??? for ???, guns etc to say nothing about the water and food.*

*Well Marie, I could go on for ever about this but the "man with the big eyes" will probably not dispatch this letter if I say too much. Am sorry to say that five of my best friends in my corps have been killed. Five were killed the second day we landed, poor chaps were shot through the head and only lived a few seconds it was awful, the Turks were using explosive bullets and are simply playing havoc amongst our fellows, they will have to answer for it though, they will get it all back - with interest.*

*Three weeks ago, the Turks asked for a 24-hour armistice to bury their dead. Well, we only gave them 9 hours and I don't mind telling you that it was like heaven for that time to be able to move about freely without Nickel Birds flying around you.*

*Well Marie, if a man is spared out of this lot what an experience and what a story he can tell when he arrives home. I could go on writing a book about my experiences since landing – I don't mean on the face(?) but with bullets went right through my breeches pocket and riddled my handkerchief without touching my leg. Am keeping the handkerchief as a memento, have several of those already and expect to have more before pushing(?) this lot.*

Continued→

*We are having a few day's spell at present in what they call "rest gully". It is great I can assure you after having six solid weeks in the trenches without a spell, one thing we can have is a ??? each day as we are very close to the sea, this is appreciated very much. I don't mind telling you it was the first bath I had for 6 weeks and as for a change of clothes that was out of all question. One has to put up with a lot at this game.*

*One thing we get very good "???" considering of course we have to cook everything ourselves in the ??? of the world, scouting around for wood to light the fires and dodging the bullets and the ??? ???, we get ??? of fresh meat, ham, bacon, etc. we have great ??? cooking it. I shall be able to qualify for a chef's job at one of the London hotels if I return!*

*I am keeping OK and feel very well and happy. A man gets as hard as nails at this game and as long as he keeps fit and able to dodge the bullets and shrapnel he will be as happy as a schoolboy.*

*Fancy this being your last term at school. You will be quite a big girl now. I suppose. What a lovely house it must be at Petersfield. I had a letter from your mother [Gertrude] telling me all about it. I should dearly love to be there now where one could sit and hear the birds singing in peace etc. I don't mean ??? ones. I hope you will write to me often.*

*Marie, you don't know how much one looks forward to letters from home when he is in the trenches as you can imagine our ??? is very much perturbed. The only thing we can send? Is field service ?? and postcards I sent you last week more as a novelty as anything else it is rather fancy having all your correspondence provided don't you think.*

*I hope you can read this letter Marie and that you will excuse dirt etc. but you will understand the conditions under which it is written. I have written this on 9th June, but goodness only knows when I shall be able to post this as we can't get envelopes for love nor money I'm afraid. I shall have to post this without and just fold the ends in so goodness knows what sort of state it will be in when you receive it.*

*Well Marie, I must switch off now and don't forget to write please.*

*With much love and kisses*

*Yours affectionally*

*Wink [his family name].*

*Note at bottom: Managed to get an envelope.*

Wink was eventually promoted to the rank of Warrant Officer and discharged from the army in 1919. In 1931, he married my mother (Dorothy Snowdon – the daughter of a tugboat captain on the Tyne). The marriage took place at All Souls in Langham Place; I am regularly reminded of this as All Souls is featured on the BBC News virtually every night. I was born in 1937 and we moved to Hooe, near Bexhill in Sussex. He never really recovered from the trauma of Gallipoli and both he and my mother died in London within two weeks of each other when I was 12 y.o.

Finally - a request:

In the 1911 Census, Wilfrid Metcalf is listed in New Brighton (across the Mersey from Liverpool) as the 'Manager of the Electric Theatre (Pictures)'.

Does anybody know anything about this: what was/is it (possibly a very early cinema?).

W.S. (Bill) Metcalf M42  
Cambridge

## Royal Navy & Royal Marines British Service & Pension records 1704-1939

*Find My Past* recently released a number of British Service & pension records for the men who served in the [Royal Navy and Royal Marines](#) – some dating back to the 1700's.

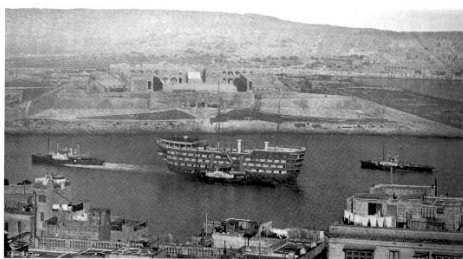
The stories they tell, although in most cases only related to when they were able to collect a pension, do give some insight to life in the armed forces in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, and all the pensions were paid out through the Naval Hospital at Greenwich.

Amongst the Metcalfes are: Rawson Metcalfe (in our records as No. 80998) had served 8 years but lost 5 fingers. Others are recorded as having a 'lame' hand, while Thomas from Cottingham, nr Hull, had lost his left leg. Another Thomas was injured by an arrow(?) and a William was wounded in the breast bone. Occasionally, a wife is mentioned but many of the men were widowers. Not all the birth dates are given and not all the home places, so it will be an exercise in the value of the census' from the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries to find these men.

One that is particularly interesting is for Henry Wray Metcalfe who is already on our database.

He was born about 1864 in Geneva, Switzerland, and married Dora Henrietta Metcalfe on 1st March 1893 at Wendover in Buckinghamshire. He studied at the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth in 1881 (Census) aged 16, and then moved on to work on HMS President – 1887, HMS Hibernia in Malta in 1887 as an Engineer, then HMS Audacious, HMS Imperieuse, HMS Apollo, HMS Penbrooke and then HMS Apollo again and HMS Northampton. To quote from our records; *he spent 34yrs in the Royal Navy & during WW1 was in the anti-submarine branch. Invented the Metcalfe Indicator to measure turbine revs. 1919 awarded CBE for inventions to protect ships against submarines.* He later served as a local Councillor for bridge Rural District Council in Kent. He died on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1937 in his home in Harbledown, Canterbury Kent at the age of 73, leaving his estate to his widow Dora.

HMS Hibernia leaving Malta for the Breakers Yard in 1902 – he must have served on this ship.



LEAVING HER MOORINGS.  
*The "Hibernia" going to be broken up, after being sold out of the Navy.*



A.D. 1901. H.M.S. "AUDACIOUS".



A.D. 1901. H.M.S. "IMPERIEUSE".

His next ship was HMS Audacious which was sunk several years later in WW1. Another ship he sailed on - HMS Imperieuse at right.

Jo Heron, M1042

Thank you!

I would like to give a huge thank you to all who have contributed to this issue (and to past issues since I volunteered to produce the Mecca News last year). Jo, David, Dianne, Lesley, Denise, Bill, Melody, Gail, Judith, Sandi, thank you for your work making News interesting to members! I hope your example will inspire more people to contribute. Susan Harper, M266, editor.

## Society Officers & Contact Details

President: Mr. David Lambert, email: [president@metcalfe.org.uk](mailto:president@metcalfe.org.uk)

Vice-president: Mrs. Margaret Hodgson

### Trustees

Chair: Mrs. Jo Heron, 17 Bailey Walk, Wakefield WF4 3QW. email: [chairman@metcalfe.org.uk](mailto:chairman@metcalfe.org.uk)

Treasurer: Mr. Peter Dobson, email [treasurer@metcalfe.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@metcalfe.org.uk); [giftaid@metcalfe.org.uk](mailto:giftaid@metcalfe.org.uk)

Database Index: Mr. David Metcalfe, email: [database@metcalfe.org.uk](mailto:database@metcalfe.org.uk)

Trustee: Mr. David Lambert, email: [d22lam@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:d22lam@hotmail.co.uk)

Trustee: Dianne Fox, email: [agentaus@metcalfe.org.uk](mailto:agentaus@metcalfe.org.uk) / [diannefox8@hotmail.com](mailto:diannefox8@hotmail.com)

### Extended Team

Membership, Enquiries & Sales: Mrs. Jo Heron, emails: [membership@metcalfe.org.uk](mailto:membership@metcalfe.org.uk); [enquiries@metcalfe.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@metcalfe.org.uk); [shop@metcalfe.org.uk](mailto:shop@metcalfe.org.uk)

DNA Project: Mr. Martin Metcalfe, email: [dna@metcalfe.org.uk](mailto:dna@metcalfe.org.uk)

Wills, Membership & Enquiries Assistant; Mrs. Liz Waller, email: [wills@metcalfe.org.uk](mailto:wills@metcalfe.org.uk)

Facebook Co-ordinator: Mrs. Lesley Longworth, email: [committee1@metcalfe.org.uk](mailto:committee1@metcalfe.org.uk)

Newsletter Editor: Susan Harper, email: [editor@metcalfe.org.uk](mailto:editor@metcalfe.org.uk)

### Overseas Agents

Australia: Dianne Fox, 20 Old Eltham Road, Lower Plenty, Victoria, Australia 3093, email: [agentaus@metcalfe.org.uk](mailto:agentaus@metcalfe.org.uk)

Canada : Susan Harper, 820 Rogers Crt, Victoria, BC, Canada, V8X 5L4, email: [agentcdn@metcalfe.org.uk](mailto:agentcdn@metcalfe.org.uk)

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](mailto: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.

Our website: <http://www.metcalfe.org.uk>

Email: [membership@metcalfe.org.uk](mailto:membership@metcalfe.org.uk) | Telephone: +44(0) 1924 260926

Post: The Metcalfe Society, 17 Bailey Walk, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF4 3QW, UK

© 2023 The Metcalfe Society

Disclaimer: Please note that all links to external websites are given for information only.

The Metcalfe Society has no Connection or Control over these websites and is, therefore, not liable for any content therein or consequences of interacting with such websites.

You are receiving this message either because you are, or have

previously been a member of The Metcalfe Society, or you have previously opted in to our mailing list. Please notify the Society if you no longer wish to receive it.

