

**Surname
Variants***Metcalfe**Metcalf**Medcalfe**Medcalf**Metcalf**Midcalf**Medecalf**Metecalf**Metkalf**Mydcalf**Midkiff**Mitcuff**Mitkiff**Meytecalfe**Matealve**Modealfe**Metcleff**Midcuff**Meatcuff**Midcalph*

'Mecca' 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**In this issue**

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Message from the Chair

Well, the fuss and hype are all over by the time you receive this, and we need to settle down to a New Year. We hope you have all had a peaceful and pleasant holiday, although looking round the world, it is debatable whether we will really have a peaceful time in the nearby future.

Our thoughts were with those affected by the shootings that have happened, in America and now in Australia, and the wars that are going on across the world with a potential threat to Europe via the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Perhaps all we can hope for is that we stay safe and can continue with our lives as best we can and be there for those in trouble.

Before Christmas, harking back to a period of conflict here in England, I attended a couple of meetings which may have been relevant to some of our ancestors. I thought I would pass on some new information which will certainly have affected some of those early family members (see below).

We would also like to remind you that subscriptions are due as of 1st January. If you have paid for a number of years in advance, or use a standing order debit in the UK, then you need do nothing. Please check the information at the end of this issue for details. Perhaps the easiest way to pay at the moment is either by cheque to the address on the form or via the Family History Federation's [Parish Chest](#). Just click on the link and search for Subscriptions and The Metcalfe Society. Thank you for your support in the past and we hope that you will continue to support us.

We wish all of you have a healthy and successful 2026 and look forward to seeing your contributions to our family research during the year to come. Please do let our Editor have your stories – they are interesting to all of us and maybe you will find someone who is connected to you through sharing.

All the very best for 2026. We wish you a healthy and happy year.

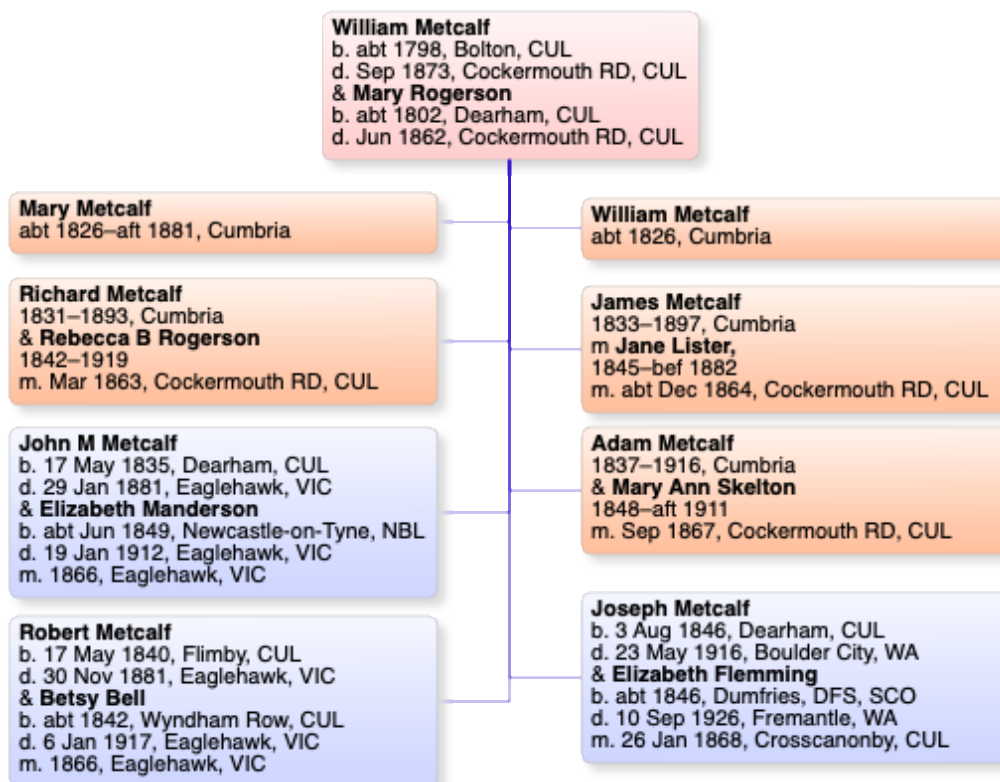
Jo Heron, Chair

From Coal to Gold: Metcalfs in Eaglehawk, Australia

During the 1860s, three Metcalf brothers with Cumbrian coal-mining experience arrived separately in Eaglehawk, in the colony of Victoria.¹ Alluvial gold was first found in the area in 1851 but by the time the Metcalfs arrived, surface gold finds were rare and Eaglehawk was home to just some of the many mines across the Sandhurst area, then the richest in the world. The colonial government of Victoria had ample funds to build new infrastructure so they most probably travelled to Sandhurst via the railway from Melbourne, opened in 1862.

Eaglehawk had grown rapidly from late 1851. Thousands of early tents and slab huts had morphed into a substantial town which, while close to the main town of Sandhurst (Bendigo), remained separate, with its own local authority and public buildings. Even today, you have a sense that you are coming into a separate community, distinct from the city centre you have just left.

Into this well-established scene came the coal-mining brothers, John, Robert and Joseph Metcalf. English census records, confirmed by Victorian death records, show they were the sons of William and Mary (Rogerson), possibly Mary Hestam Rogerson.² The date of John's arrival in the colony is not clear but both he and Robert married alongside each other in Victoria in 1866, six years after Robert



arrived on the *White Star*. Robert married Betsy Bell, also from Cumbria (Wyndham Row), while older brother John wed the teenaged Elizabeth Manderson who had left Durham with her family

¹ Eaglehawk was one of the many gold mining settlements of the Sandhurst area, now the city of Bendigo, around 150 km from Melbourne. There were 37 gold-bearing quartz reefs on the Bendigo goldfield, giving rise to settlements like Eaglehawk, Golden Square, Kangaroo Flat, Ironbark, Dead Man's Gully, Quarry Hill, Sheepshead Gully, Jackass Flat, and California Gully.

² Some Victorian records indicate that the younger sons may have been sons of a different Mary Metcalf, with Hestam (or similar) as her maiden name. However, the UK Census records support the view that there was only one Mary married to William Metcalf as they show Mary's age in 1841 and 1861 was consistent with that of her husband. She was deceased by 1871. The Victorian records provide various spellings — Hestem, Hestham, Heston, Harton and Hestam, and one of the many grandsons had 'Heaston' recorded as his second name.

and arrived in Melbourne on the *Great Britain* in February 1865.³ Joseph arrived on the *Great Britain* too, four years later in 1869.⁴

Becoming gold miners

Over the next 15 years, these Metcalf brothers were involved in various mining operations as miners and shareholders, demonstrating their skills, energy and leadership. By the early 1870s, John was manager of the Ellenborough mine, on what was known locally as 'Snobs Hill'. In January 1880, by which time he and Elizabeth had six children, John was honoured at a dinner for his contribution to the Ellenborough Tribute Company. However, just 12 months later, on 29 January 1881, he died aged 45. His death notice carried the tag, 'Carlisle papers please copy'.⁵ His estate was substantial, and those assets would have supported his young family. Elizabeth, widowed in her early 30s, soon married John Armstrong Highmore. Aged just 24 but already a successful mine manager, John was later a councillor and mayor of Eaglehawk.⁶ However, Elizabeth had no further children.

Into the role of manager of the Ellenborough mine stepped John's younger brother Robert, by that stage the father of seven children surviving from the nine to whom Betsy had given birth. However, ten months later, on 30 November 1881 at age 41, Robert was also deceased, taken suddenly by inflammation of the lungs. His death came just after the birth of their tenth and final child. As John had done, Robert also left an estate that could support his young family. Betsy remained a widow for the next 36 years.

The *Bendigo Advertiser* paid tribute to them with these words:⁷

In the death of these two brothers not only Eaglehawk but the whole district has lost two residents to whom it owes a great deal, for had it not been for their indomitable perseverance and pluck in carrying out what seemed at the time to be a work that must end in failure, the Ellenborough reef would not yet have been cut, and the claims on Snob's Hill would still have been as idle as they were two years ago.

In the early 1880s, the Ellenborough was the first mine in the world to install electric lighting underground. The energy, skill, drive and financial commitment of these Metcalf brothers led to discoveries and yields that re-animated the whole area.⁸

His older brothers may have died but youngest brother Joseph was still hard at work in the Ellenborough mine. Married in Cumbria in their early twenties, Joseph Metcalf and his wife Elizabeth (née Flemming), arrived in Melbourne aboard the *Great Britain* in October 1869, with their infant William. They were in Eaglehawk by early April 1870 when Mary was born. Over the next 21 years, a further 10 children followed.

³ As the Victorian marriage certificate numbers are successive (1867, Nos. 3016 and 3017), it is likely the two marriages were in one ceremony.

⁴ A further member of this family arrived in Eaglehawk in 1890, John Metcalf (1863–1923). He was the eldest son of Richard Metcalf, an older brother of John, Robert and Joseph.

⁵ His brother-in-law John Brown, an underground manager at the Ellenborough mine, died suddenly a few months later, also aged 45.

⁶ Elizabeth's new husband, John Highmore, was from the same area of Cumberland as her first husband. Successful as a young miner, John became a local councillor, a Justice of the Peace, and was Mayor of Eaglehawk in 1897. Eaglehawk is no longer a separate council area but is now part of the City of Bendigo. Since 2021, the mayor of the City of Bendigo has been Councillor Andrea Metcalf.

⁷ *Bendigo Advertiser*, Thursday, 1 Dec 1881, p 2

⁸ Eaglehawk and Bendigo Heritage Study – Significant Areas, 3-196. www.bendigo.vic.gov.au

On 23 April 1883, there was a fatal accident at the Ellenborough mine when a fall of earth caused the deaths of two men. Joseph Metcalf, as underground manager on that shift, gave evidence at the inquest about what had, and had not, happened with timbering required in the mine shaft. In his evidence he stated he had been a miner for about 25 years and had three years' experience as an underground manager.

Joseph moved on to the Prince of Wales as mine manager. In February 1885, he was again giving evidence at an inquest as two more men, Holburn and Heine, died in a mining accident. Again he was exonerated, and in fact received a bravery award for his rescue attempts. Joseph's character was attested to in the *Bendigo Advertiser*, albeit in rather tortured prose:⁹

... whilst to Mr. Metcalf too much praise cannot be given. The labors of this gentleman have not yet ended. He being a member of the Christy Minstrels, intends to appeal to that body on behalf of Mrs. Holburn, who has seven children, the youngest of whom is nine months old, to support.

In 1898, Joseph was still manager at the Prince of Wales mine but not for much longer.

Spreading out

By 1900 there were around 20 surviving offspring among these three Metcalf families, and their movements reflected the changing social and employment trends of the time. A few remained in Bendigo, some moved to Melbourne, others moved to Western Australian gold mining areas, while several went to remote Broken Hill in western New South Wales to mine lead, silver and zinc. Companies which started in the rich Victoria fields had invested in these new areas and offered continuing work opportunities for experienced miners.

Four of John Metcalf's six adult children stayed in Eaglehawk, while two settled in Melbourne. Two sons, Thomas and George, ventured to Western Australia but neither stayed long. Thomas married in Kalgoorlie in 1901, but by 1903 he was back in inner Melbourne, working as a timber and coal merchant. His brother George lost his legs in a mining accident in a Kalgoorlie mine in 1904. After a significant battle over compensation, he too returned to Victoria. In 1908 he was licensee of the All Nations hotel in Eaglehawk but he died in 1913, aged just 38.

There was a different pattern in Robert's family as each of the eight living children moved away, leaving their mother Betsy in Eaglehawk. Three moved to Western Australia while three unmarried ones didn't move quite so far. Like some of their cousins, these siblings moved to the inner suburbs of Melbourne associated with factories and the growing railway workshops. They lived together in Footscray, not far from their widowed eldest sister Mary who had also spent time in Western Australia before returning to Victoria.

In Joseph's family there was a similar pattern to the one we see among Robert's children. Led by Joseph himself, almost all moved away from Eaglehawk. Only Joseph's eldest son William stayed in Victoria, working as a train conductor on the prestigious Melbourne–Sydney route. By the early 20th century, Joseph and at least half of his family were 1,700 miles away, living and working in the hot, harsh country of the Western Australian goldfields. Working there as a mining manager, Joseph was with his wife Elizabeth, their two younger children and two married daughters, while second son, Adam, moved west around 1905. Two other sons, Jack and Robert, went to Broken Hill as miners, both dying young. Joseph was again involved in a mining fatality and inquest, as had happened twice in Eaglehawk.

⁹ *Bendigo Advertiser*, Saturday, 28 Feb 1885, p 2

After suffering a stroke, Joseph died in Western Australia. His passing there was fully reported back in Bendigo.¹⁰

The many friends of Mr. Joseph Metcalf will regret to hear of his death, which took place at Boulder City, W.A., on May 23, at the age of 69 years. The deceased was well known in Eaglehawk, where he resided for many years. He came to the colony 50 years ago, and was at one time manager of the South Prince of Wales. He left here with his family 15 years ago for West Australia, where he enjoyed good health, until a paralytic seizure overtook him, and from which he never recovered. He leaves a widow and grown-up family of six.

These Metcalf brothers left their parents and multiple siblings in Cumbria and came to the richest goldfield in the world in the 1860s, bringing their coal-mining skills, energy, and a capacity for leadership. And they were blessed with wives who could support them while bearing many children, and in two cases, then having to cope with early widowhood. From that beginning, while few remained in Eaglehawk or Bendigo, many descendants spread across the southern states of the new country of Australia.

Are any of these descendants now members of the Metcalfe Society I wonder?

Sources

Note: All internet sources were accessed in 2025.

Bendigo Family History Group – <https://www.bendigofamilyhistory.org/> . I wish to acknowledge their generous assistance with Eaglehawk records.

Cemetery records – various

New South Wales Birth Death and Marriages – <https://www.nsw.gov.au/births-deaths-marriages>

Trove – <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>

Victorian Birth Death and Marriages – <https://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/>

Victorian Public Record Office – <https://prov.vic.gov.au/>

Western Australian Birth Death and Marriages – <https://bdm.justice.wa.gov.au/>

World War I – <https://www.naa.gov.au/explore-collection/defence-and-war-service-records/army-world-war-i-1914-18>

World War II – <https://www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search/people>

O'Donohue, Annette and Hanson, Bev. *Eaglehawk and District Pioneer Register*, Vol 4, Maiden Gully, 2001

Metcalf Society

Metcalf Society ID for these brothers from Cumbria : Richard Metcalf #81549, James Metcalf #44129, John Metcalf #55949, Adam Metcalf(e) #493, Robert Metcalf #83330. It's possible that William and Joseph are not yet in the database. The older children in the family were Ann (possibly Ann Hesford?) and Mary who may not be in the database.¹¹

Bernard Metcalfe, M0221

¹⁰ *Bendigo Independent*, Saturday, 8 Jul 1916, p 8

¹¹ The 1841 Census for Maryport sub-district lists: William Medcalf (sic), 41, coal miner; Mary, 35; Ann, 20; Mary 15; William, 15; Richard, 11; James, 8; John, 6; Adam, 3; Robert, 1. Ann and Mary were still unmarried in 1851. It is likely that Ann was William's daughter from a brief earlier marriage to Elizabeth.

The Battle of Wakefield December 1460

You will probably be aware that the Metcalfe family were closely involved with the Duke of York and his family during the 'Cousins War'— which was christened 'The War of the Roses' a few centuries later.



Richard, Duke of York

The Duke of York was a Plantagenet, one of four sons of King Edward III. The early Metcalfes were involved in fighting for the Edward III in France, probably under the York banner, for which they were rewarded with land at Nappa, and owed allegiance through the Scropes of Bolton Castle to the Yorkists. As was the practice at the time, boys were sent to other knightly homes to train to be knights in their turn and the boy who would become Richard III was brought up at Middleham Castle under the care of the Neville family and has the closest links to the Metcalfe family. He would have been trained in horse riding and fighting with various weapons, as well as being educated as befitted a nobleman. He would have grown up wearing suits of armour and riding for hours on end across the varied terrains of North Yorkshire, so must have been reasonably fit and able to fulfil his role as a knight.

In 1460, Richard was a boy of about 8 years old when his father was killed by Lancastrian forces under the leadership of King Edward III's, Queen Margaret of Anjou. The Duke's oldest son and heir, Edmund, was also killed and their heads were mounted on pikes on one of the gates into York afterwards. His older brother, Edward, inherited his father's title and became the effective leader the Yorkist forces, which eventually captured the king and took the throne.

However, this is where the story gets a little murky.

Traditionally, we are told that, Richard (the father) led a foraging party out of Sandal Castle or went out to assist/rescue a foraging party that had already gone out under a truce arrangement. He was ambushed by Lancastrian forces of potentially 15,000 men appearing from nearby woods and killed in battle, along with about 3,000 of his men. His head was cut off by the Lancastrians on the field of battle. His son and heir, Edmund, was caught and killed at, or near, the Chantry



Sandal Castle as it potentially was in 15th century, and today.

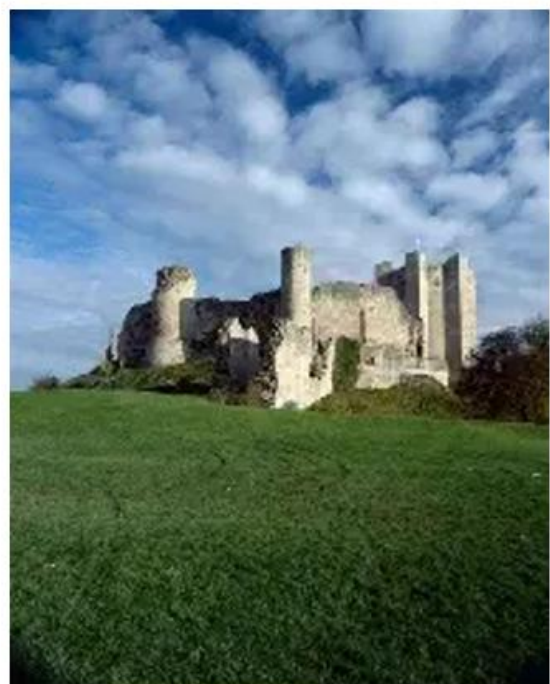
Chapel on a bridge into Wakefield. The heads of both were displayed on Micklegate Bar in to York.

Recent research has been carried out on the Court Rolls for Wakefield Manor Court, the basic, and legal, records of the manor along with other documents written at the time but now archived in the Richelieu Library, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, in Paris. These were all written from 1460 to 1463 and would suggest that the story we think we know may not have been an accurate record of the event. The bias of the authors of the documents in France is unknown, although the Court Records should be fairly accurate and record the situation at the time as per other court records. The 'stories' we think we know about were actually written well after the event, such as Sir Thomas More and William Shakespeare among the authors in the Tudor period and others even later.

These new researchers have assessed the readiness of Sandal Castle to accommodate a force of knights as described by the 'stories' and what might have actually been an accurate situation. It would appear that the castle may have been unprepared to accommodate a large force of men, certainly in the numbers suggested by Tudor writers. They have also thrown doubt on whether Richard, Duke of York, had ever reached Wakefield when he was attacked, or whether he was on his way there. They also query the size of his force. They are suggesting that he may have had many fewer men with him – whether this included all the associated servants or just the knights, is not clear.

The new theories are based on the potential lack of preparation at Sandal Castle to accommodate the Duke and his entourage. Food stores would have been insufficient for a force of any size, and armament stocks may have been low based on the records of items held as listed in the Court Rolls and the new documents in France.

It is suggested that Richard, Duke of York, was heading to York via Sandal Castle on the outskirts of Wakefield from his castle at Conisborough, about 16 miles away and it was not a 'proper' battle but an ambush. They believe that the Duke was travelling with about 60 knights, whereas the Lancastrians had a considerably larger force, probably of 1,000's) and attacked the Yorkists nearer to the castle at Conisborough. The Duke, and possibly his heir Edmund, were outnumbered and captured, probably on the 29th of December, and may have been taken to



Conisborough Castle when complete, and today. Images above copyright English Heritage

Pontefract Castle (a Lancastrian stronghold) where they were beheaded in cold blood and without trial, most likely on 30th of the month - and the story, as told by Tudor propaganda, follows on from there as previously thought with their heads being mounted on Micklegate Bar in York.

As I'm sure you know, the second son of the Duke, Edward, took on his mantle and defeated the Lancastrians, possibly at Towton - although the researchers are also considering whether that is the correct site for this battle. He reigned from 1461 until 1483, in what was at times a turbulent period, but later became much more settled. He promoted his two brothers, Clarence and Richard to important positions in his government, along with his wife's relative – the latter causing the problems that became very obvious after his death.

Richard's loyalty was to his family, especially his older brother, Edward IV, and through Edward, he became a serious power in the North. He was created Duke of Gloucester and supported his brother, fighting at Barnet and Tewkesbury as a teenager of 18. Following his prowess in battle, despite his supposed disability, he was created 'Lord of the North' with administrative powers to govern virtually the whole of the North of England, and later 'Lord Protector' of the young boy who would have succeeded Edward IV. Richard married Anne Neville and they had one son, although both had died before the battle at Bosworth Field in 1485. Some researchers suggest that he was probably the best king ever to reign in England, enacting a number of reforms which are still in use today. He was High Sheriff of Cumberland and could raise levies to fight along the border with Scotland, Constable of England and a successful military leader – fighting in France, Scotland and England, and capturing Berwick from the Scots.



Edward IV



Richard III – copyright National Archives, Kew

As many of Richard's contacts would have been in the Dales area of Yorkshire from childhood, the Scopes and the Metcalfes were amongst many who were promoted by him even before he was crowned King. Thomas and Miles were with Richard at Bosworth, and others held high office under Edward IV and Richard III in national and county government – so I guess we have a vested interest in the story of these kings.

Unfortunately, in trying to legitimise their reign, the Tudors were very effective in blackening the reputation of the Yorks and Richard in particular.

Interestingly, Henry VII who was the victor at Bosworth does not seem to have joined in these attacks, although subsequent Tudors and their followers were very vocal, including Sir Thomas More (when he was in favour with Henry VIII) and especially William Shakespeare in his play about Richard. Hollywood and tv have gone to town depicting what was a 30-year man as a much older person and a cruel villain. Sour grapes or were they scared of potential retribution? Where they seriously concerned that the challengers to their regime actually had a better claim to the throne than the Tudor line which was descended through the distaff (illegitimate) line?

Would the disability confirmed by the discovery of his skeleton have really affected Richard in battle? Many researchers would now agree that as he trained in armour from an early age, he

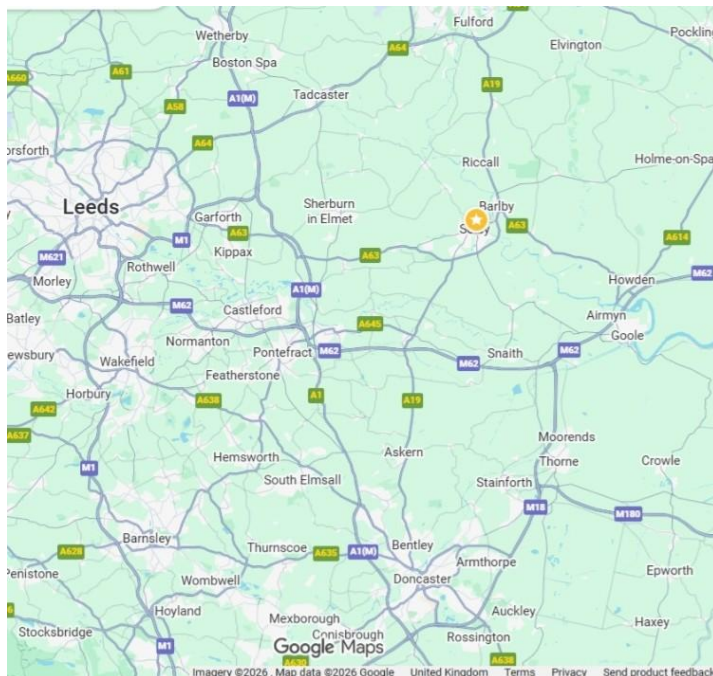
would not have been at a disadvantage - on horseback, although could possibly have tired very quickly fighting on foot – so obviously more research does need to be done.

I think we need to watch this space for more information to be revealed. With the passage of over 600 years and so much misinformation around the period – it will be difficult to find although interesting if/when found. Obviously, the extension of this research will involve the mystery that surrounds Richard's nephews, the sons of his brother Edward IV, but that is another story. More to come, I'm sure.



Wakefield Bridge and Chantry Chapel: Battle of Wakefield on 30th December 1460 in the Wars of the Roses: picture by Philip Reinagle, features in the story of the death of Edmund of York.

I've managed to get the map below which might be better. Wakefield is left of centre with Sandal just to the south. Conisborough is just above the Google Maps logo. Pontefract is right of Wakefield and York is just off the map, above Fulford.



References - There are many books about this period, but sites directly relevant to it are:

[Battle of Wakefield 1460](#)

[The Battlefields Trust - Events - The Battlefields Trust](#)

Battlefields Trust Online Talks - info@battlefieldstrust.com

Also look to Richard III Society - [Homepage - Richard III Society](#)

Jo Heron, M1042



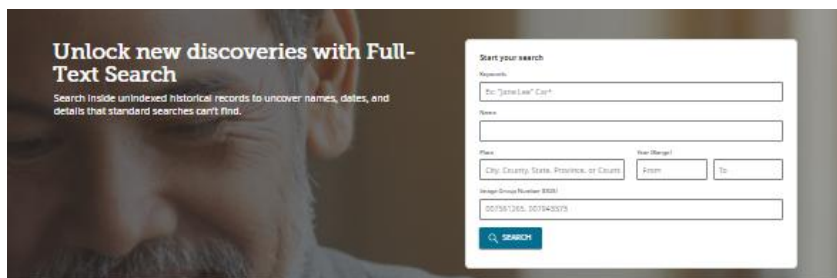
Full Text search

Out of the Lab phase

We are now constantly hearing about AI, and the FamilySearch Full Text search facility is out of the development stage and in the Search drop down facility on their main web page. I really think this has taken family research to another level as you can now search the whole page for any word.

Firstly, get yourself a free login for FamilySearch if don't already have one.

Where to find the new search facility → along the top menu bar beside the Logo click on search and look at the drop down list the second one is Full Text.



Watch the video at the bottom of the page to get a good idea on how to use it

At the very bottom of the page [not shown here] is a Frequently Asked Questions section.

You can search within a database or look at all the databases by using words to find information you are searching for.

What sort of records are included: baptisms, marriages, burials, Wills & probates, land documents, newspaper & gazettes, books, family histories and may others.

Records are being continuously added to the collection.

Searching from home or from an affiliated library. More records are available in an affiliated library not all are available at home.

Each record has a Transcript, although not perfectly transcribed they are very useful.

Search for a specific collection

Narrow your results by searching within a single collection of historical records. Start typing, and we'll suggest matching titles.

Collection title

Search for a specific collection title
e.g. Alabama, Will and Probate, ca. 1700-1917

BROWSE ALL COLLECTIONS

Tips for successful full-text searching

"Too many results?" Try these strategies to focus your search:

Find an exact word or phrase

Use quotation marks. Example: "Henry Jones"

Include a specific word or phrase

Use the * symbol. Example: *Jacin

Exclude a specific word or phrase

Use the - symbol. Example: John

Find different spellings

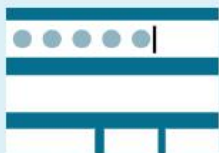
Use the ? symbol. Example: Jensi? will return Jensen and Jensen

Find different forms of a root word

Use the * symbol. Example: Car* will match car, cars, cartage, carpenter, etc.

How to use FamilySearch Full-Text Search

In most cases, a single keyword is enough to start. Then, depending on your results, add or remove words or apply filters to refine your search.



This can be a name or any other detail you think might help you find your ancestor.



These are located on the left side of the screen, below your search terms.



Adjust filters or keywords until you have the right balance of quality and quantity.



How Full-Text Search transforms your research

- Save time while uncovering details not available to you with other searches.
- Gain early access to records by searching collections that haven't been indexed yet.
- Not sure about your ancestor's name? Try a place, date, event, or other detail that might be connected to them.
- Search every word contained in the record, including any notes.

Transcript



Click on the pencil and you can then correct any mistakes.

Interesting items I have located with full text searches.

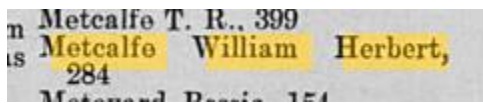
Keywords: +"metcalfe William herbert"

Using the following collection located one record

Filters CLEAR FILTERS

Collection: Australia, New South Wales, Legal, 1960 (2) ✕

NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE GAZETTE INDEX—1914.



This is image 364 of 1,071

So, I then need to find page 284 which was image 527

"New South Wales, Australia records," images, FamilySearch

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK5-7S26-1?view=explore> : Jan 4, 2026), image 364 of 1071;

. Image Group Number: 008156006

284		NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE GAZETTE.		[17 JUNE, 1914.	
Watches and Jewellery Reported Stolen, Missing, Etc.—continued.					
Date.	Owner's Name and Address.	Description.	Reference.		
13 "	William Herbert Metcalfe, 180 Victoria-street, Darlinghurst.	Lady's gold hunting watch, chased shell design, small dent in back case; a gent.'s silver open-face watch, No. 4 over 61537, chased case, "6 Rubies" on inside back case; a lady's black silk guard; a gent.'s gold curb-link albert, medium size link.	1143		

"New South Wales, Australia records," images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK5-7SKP-Y?view=explore> : Jan 4, 2026), image 527 of 1071; Image Group Number: 008156006

Changing the search to found two entries

Keywords: +"William herbert metcalfe "

PUBLIC SERVICE LIST, 1933. 103

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,

Name.		Date of Birth.	Office.	Division.	Date of Appointment.		Salary.	Allowances in the nature of Salary.
Surname.	Christian Name in full.				First Appointment to the Service.	To Present Position.		
Isould	William Herbert	28-8-77	Principal Librarian	P	1-8-12	1-8-12	£ 959 11 10	£ s. d. ...
Metcalfe, B.A.	John Wallace	16-5-01	Deputy Principal Librarian	P	1-12-23	12-12-32	490 17 6	...
Leeson, B.A.	Ida Emily	11-2-85	Mitchell Librarian	P	27-8-06	12-12-32	544 15 8	...
Kibble	Nita Bernice	8-6-79	Principal Research Officer	P	20-11-09	12-6-10	482 18 6	...

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

"New South Wales, Australia records," images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSKP-PSJN-5?view=explore> : Jan 4, 2026), image 61 of 85; Image Group Number: 008156035

So, this document is not William Herbert Metcalfe but John Wallace Metcalfe, B.A. who was the Deputy Principal Librarian at the Public Library of New South Wales in 1933

The second one was page 284 for the New South Wales Police Gazette as above.

Another type of search

If I now delete the filter and just search for "William Herbert Metcalfe", I have found 24 entries from around the world.

William Herbert Metcalfe who at aged 20 applied to be naturalized in Michigan, USA is 8 of those entries



this application was made 2 May 1923. William was a Laborer, born in Canada on the 14 Sep 1902. He had arrived from Windsor, Canada of the Canadian Pacific Ry [Railway] and was now residing at 2304 Clifford St. Detroit, Michigan. He had been single at the time.

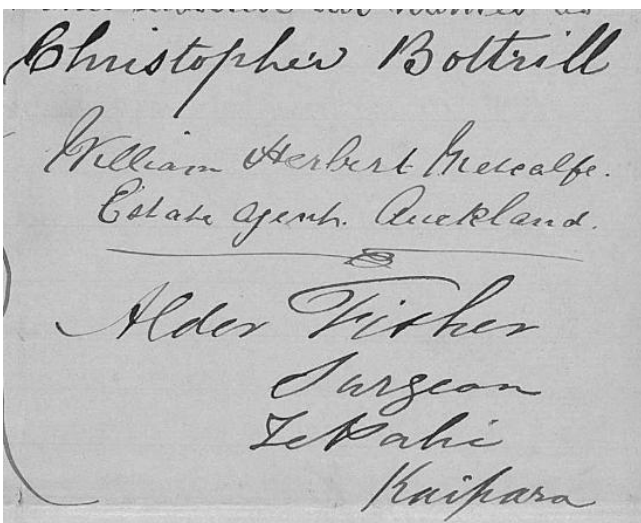
By the time he had applied he was married to Evelina Margaret who he married December 29, 1925 in Lemieux, Canada. And they had one child Helen Margaret born in 1928 at Royal Oak.

"Michigan, United States records," images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS9H-C9X5?view=explore> : Jan 4, 2026), image 1077 of 1775; Image Group Number: 007794975

Then there is a burial in Crookes Cemetery register of burials in Sheffield, Yorkshire, England – this turned out to be a Charles Metcalfe a labourer at 44 who died at the Royal Hospital and was buried 12 August 1931 he was from Sheffield.

5519	4451	Inoorhouse	William Herbert	Painter	Labourer	50	50, Coombe Rd	8	Sheffield	642	7	G Portion
5520	4452	Metcalfe	Charles	Labourer		44	Royal Hospital	12	Sheffield	5247	6	G Portion
5521												

"Sheffield, Yorkshire, England, United Kingdom records," images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-8937-2X7R?view=explore> : Jan 5, 2026), image 225 of 361; . Image Group Number: 005683297



Then an Auckland [New Zealand] probate record where the above William Herbert Metcalfe was a witness to the Will of Christopher Bottrill in 1882.

Interestingly Alder Fisher, Surgeon was William Herbert Metcalfe's father in law.

"Auckland, New Zealand records," images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C91S-ZYFW?view=explore> : Jan 4, 2026), image 361 of 463; Archives New Zealand. Image Group Number: 101348822

New South Wales. Society Records 1890 - 1913

William Herbert Metcalfe age 64 Manufacturer
 Oxford House 45 Phillip St. late of Lodge
 Albion No 2003 G.L. Pro by Wor Bro Gregory
 Sec by Bro P. Jolly. There being no further business

"New South Wales, Australia records," images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-95LL-3DRT?view=explore> : Jan 5, 2026), image 279 of 300; New South Wales. Masonic Grand Lodge. Image Group Number: 004895142

Auckland probate record [New Zealand] for George Oswald Metcalfe who was the brother of William Herbert Metcalfe.

4. THAT besides myself the said deceased left him surviving three brothers that is to say:- CHARLES JAMES METCALFE aged 71 years resident at Young in the State of New South Wales Insurance Agent **WILLIAM HERBERT METCALFE** aged 69 years resident at the City of Sydney in the State of New South Wales Paint Manufacturer and **FRANK ERNEST METCALFE** aged 65 years resident at Harlesden in the County of Middlesex in the Kingdom of England Steam Laundry Proprietor and no sisters

"Auckland, New Zealand records," images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSMM-V7ZT-V?view=explore> : Jan 5, 2026), image 417 of 439; Archives New Zealand. Image Group Number: 101442779

Durham, England Voting registers

1054	Rw	Dw	Merrington, Eliza	South view
1055	R	—	Merrington, William Herbert	Do.
1056	Rw	—	Metcalfe , Laura	Building, Winterton
1057	R	O	Milburn, John Morrison	Westerton, Winterton
1058	R	O	Milburn, John	Westerton, Winterton

Polling District GG
 Parish of Sedgfield

"Durham, England, United Kingdom records," images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C39F-RQZR-2?view=explore> : Jan 5, 2026), image 1380 of 1485; Image Group Number: 008477914

LETTERS PATENT.
No. 3488.
NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

THIS is to notify that I have this day accepted the Complete Specification of **William Herbert Metcalfe**, of Livingstone Road, Marrickville, Sydney, in the State of New South Wales, Gentleman, for an Invention for "Improvements in and connected with the Manufacture of Manures from Waste Animal Materials," which Specification is now open for inspection.

Given under my hand, this 25th day of August, 1902.

R. M. JOHNSTON, Registrar of Patents.
Patents Office, Hobart.

Howard Buton, Patent Agent, Launceston, Agent for Applicant.

The Hobart Gazette [Tasmania Australia] where William Herbert Metcalfe is notify that he is applying for Letters of Patent

"Tasmania, Australia records," images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G98N-SWFC?view=explore> : Jan 5, 2026), image 174 of 884; Archives Office of Tasmania.

Image Group Number: 007537049

Some records did not have the William Herbert connected to the Metcalfe but will still be of interest to the Metcalfe Society such as

3035	Winterbottom William Herbert	Infant	14 W 16 Country Rd	H
3036	Metcalfe Thomas Henry	Do	60 Ws Handsworth Hill	H

"Darnall, Yorkshire, England, United Kingdom records," images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QSQ-G96J-WCQF?view=explore> : Jan 4, 2026), image 509 of 621; Image Group Number: 007566962

Ward 3. **Ward 3.**

Parliamentary, Parochial and County.—Division 1.

EAST DIVISION.—No. 3 POLLING DISTRICT—COLLEGE. **Householders.** 157

Names of Electors in full, Surname being first.	Place of Abode.	Nature of qualification.	Description of qualifying Property.
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4245 Pullen, William Herbert	127 Great College street	dwelling house	127 Great College street
4246 Metcalfe, John	131 Great College street	dwelling house	131 Great College street

"St Pancras, Middlesex, England, United Kingdom records," images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-P3JK-XN2Y?view=explore> : Jan 4, 2026), image 275 of 532; Image Group Number: 008843103

				<u>Loss.</u>			
				<u>Discharged. Expiration of Service.</u>			
1	Wm. A. Donovan	1st Lt.	"A"	29mch.02	7th Dragoon	Character "Excellent"	
2	Sidney W. Cure	" "	" "	6mch.02	" "	" "	" "
3	William Jarvis	" "	" "	8mch.02	" "	" "	" "
4	Herbert L. Metcalfe	Serge.	" "	9mch.02	" "	" "	" "
5	Wm. J. Thorp	1st Lt.	" "	16mch.02	" "	" "	" "
6	Michael E. Remondo	Serjt.	" "	17mch.02	" "	" "	" "

"United States records," images, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-L3NL-V748?view=explore> : Jan 4, 2026), image 309 of 638; Image Group Number: 008814071

Many of these records are on Ancestry.com but this search searches for every word: Names, place names not just the name of the person but every word on the page so find many for instances of a person who is a witness or just mentioned in an article and on FamilySearch it is free.

By Dianne Fox MN113, 2x great granddaughter of William Herbert Metcalfe born in 1848 at Chawston [near Roxton], Bedfordshire, England; lived in Guernsey Channel Islands for about 15 years; married Auckland, New Zealand and lived here for about 30 years and lived for about 40 years in New South Wales, Australia where he died in 1931.

Membership News

Find My Past have recently released lists of Metcalf/es who served as police officers across the UK. There has not been time to include this new information in the main database but if you suspect that your ancestor did join the police force, then drop me an email and I'll have a look to see if s/he is included in their list or ours. There is also a list of those who served in the Metropolitan Police Force in London. Both listings include spouse and children, and some are 20th century records, so individuals may have been known to you. There must be some interesting stories handed down through the family, so do let us know.

Are any of you related to Walter Harvey Metcalfe or Herbert Eustace L Metcalf? They were both listed as engineers in the UK but died in 1963 and 1968. Are you connected to either of them? We would love to have more information about either of them. What did they work on? a building, a road, something mechanical? What about their family? Did they marry? have children? Do tell us their story.

Dianne Fox is now working on those Metcalf/es who travelled to Australia. Some of us in the UK will remember the '£10 Pom's' programme in the decades after the WW2, when many people in the UK went to Australia on cheap £10 passages. Did your ancestors use this method of getting away from war-torn Europe? Did they return to the UK or make a good life for themselves in Australia? A similar programme had been running for decades, so maybe your ancestors went out in the 18th or 19th centuries. If so, please let us know how they got on, what their lives were like, and where, and what, they worked on, how the family flourished and grew. We would love to hear from you. (Families of emigrants to other part of the world - we will get to you but wanted to make a start with one country at a time)

We would like to make your e-newsletter something you eagerly await each issue, and the best way will be to include something that might be relevant to each of you. There must be a lot of stories handed down through our families over the years, or ones which you have discovered during your research. Please share them with us. Family History should not be just a list of names and dates. The people behind those names have a story to tell and share with all of us, so we all feel connected to a great and historic family.

Jo Heron membership@metcalfe.org.uk

How stories are twisted - and why

When I started researching my father's ancestry, I quickly discovered a Metcalfe connection - through my Great Grandmother Suzanna Metcalfe of Thornton le Beans. She married Thomas Richmond and settled in Darlington initially before moving to Hartlepool. Their daughter, Laura, married Cuthbert Heron - hence my family name change.

The tale I was told about Laura was that she was a performer on the stage, and the implication was that she may have been a bit of a showgirl and perhaps 'not exactly nice'. The only people who would have really known her and the rest of the family, were her brothers and their wives.

Unfortunately, both Cuthbert and Laura both died in the 1920's within a few years of each other, leaving my father, aged 7, to be brought up by his uncle, Joseph, and his wife - the latter being the only source of any information about his mother still alive into the 1960's-1970's. No doubt, my father had heard this tale about his mother having been a showgirl.

I was, eventually, given a few photographs of my grandmother, which suggest a different story and subsequent research has turned it on its head.

She did indeed appear on stage, but in productions of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas and five of the photographs were of her in costume. I'm not sure whether this would have been considered slightly risqué at the time, and I have not found out much detail about the productions, but as she does not appear to have left Hartlepool for any length of time, I suspect that they were amateur productions and were performed in local theatres. She is mentioned frequently in newspapers at the time as having sung in church and at religious events, singing arias from the 'Messiah' and other major religious works - so I hardly think 'disreputable' could be applied to her. Was it just sour grapes from someone less attractive? or annoyance at having been left to bring an orphan?

I'm very grateful to a distant cousin for sending the newspaper clippings that have 'cleared' her name, but would love to find out more about the Gilbert and Sullivan productions. If anyone in the Hartlepool area has any information, I'd love to hear from you.

Jo Heron, M1042



It is time for renewing your membership, and we hope that you will be pleased that, once again, we are not increasing the subscription rate – keeping it £10 UKP. We hope that you will consider renewing again. See the info on the following pages.



The Metcalfe Society Annual membership Renewal Form 2026

Please follow the guidance overleaf to complete the form

Please check overleaf for the status of your membership. There are specific actions you may need to take.

Have you paid for 2026 already? Have you set up a UK bank Standing Order? If you are a UK taxpayer, have you signed a Gift Aid declaration?

If you are unsure, please contact The Membership Secretary or the Canada/Australia agent, contact details below.

Your subscription has been held at £10 (UKP) for further year

How would you like to pay your annual membership? (please circle)

1. By standing order (UK members only) – see instruction overleaf for existing or new standing orders
2. By UK £ sterling cheque
3. By other local currency cheque to our agents in Australia and Canada

Alternatively, you can renew your membership online at: [www. https://www.parishchest.com/](https://www.parishchest.com/)

How many years of membership would you like to pay?

To help you and The Society, you can pay membership for any number of years now.

Membership to start from year (state year): 2026 for how many years (state number): _____

Personal Details

Please complete to ensure that The Society holds your current details:

Name 1: (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Dr) _____

Name 2: (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Dr) _____

Full Postal Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Membership Number: _____

Email: _____

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please be aware that from May 2018, The Society is subject to new EU legislation under a General Data Protection Regulation. This means that we cannot hold any information on members without your specific permission to do so. You will have to 'opt In' to The Society for us to continue to hold your personal information. This will mean that without this permission, we may not be able to send you any communications from that date onwards. We would request that you tick the 'opt In' box on this form and return to the Membership Secretary as listed below, so we can continue to send you *Newsletters* and any other communications.

I wish to opt Into The Metcalfe Society

Send this form & payment to the Membership Secretary below, to whom you can also address any queries.

We have two local agents who can take currency cheques for their country:

- Ms Dianne Fox (M0113) (Australia only)

e: agentaus@metcalfe.org.uk, post: 20 Old Eltham Road, Lower Plenty, Victoria 3093, Australia

- Ms Susan C M Harper (M0226) (Canada only)

e: agentcdn@metcalfe.org.uk, post: 820 Rogers Court, Victoria, BC, V8X 5L4, Canada



The Metcalfe Society

Annual membership Renewal Form 2026

Please check the status of your membership below

Can you all please check your membership status for accuracy and report any queries to the Membership Secretary.

If your membership is listed here, you have already paid your membership for 2026:

0046, 0409, 0490, 0506, 0515, 0941, 1002, 1056, 1091, 1214, 1234, 1250, 1361, 1390, 1398, 1661, 1697, 1703, 1886, 1889, 1923, 2059, 2100, 2115, 2120, 2138, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254

Action required: No further action is required; your membership will continue on.

Please check below even if you have already paid for 2026, you may need to take action regarding a Standing Order and/or Gift Aid

If your membership is listed below, you have already set up a Standing Order:

0015, 0042, 0068, 0123, 0169, 0316, 0519, 0581, 0615, 0631, 0684, 0792, 0854, 0861, 0977, 0980, 0983, 1040, 1070, 1076, 1464, 1467, 1521, 1522, 1562, 1620, 1632, 1651, 1653, 1696, 1704, 1848, 1875, 1915, 1919, 1943, 1989, 2026, 2050

Action required:

If you have an existing Standing Order, please check that it is for the correct amount (£10.00) and please contact your bank to either change the amount or the date of the Order to 1st January 2026 (and each 1st January thereafter). Please advise the Membership Secretary that you have instructed your bank regarding any changes.

If you would like to set-up a Standing Order, please complete the Form which is available on the website, or by post to the Membership Secretary.

If you believe the above information is incorrect, please contact the Membership Secretary.

Gift Aid

Paying your subscription through Gift Aid means the Society can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give. It will not cost you as a member, or taxpayer, any extra. This is only available to UK taxpayers. Charities can claim Gift Aid on most donations, but [some payments](#) don't qualify. (D. Lambert)

Thank you for your additional support.

If you find any discrepancy between the details above and what you think is correct, please let us know at the address below.

Now, please complete the Membership Renewal Form overleaf or online and please tick the opt In box if you wish to continue receiving communications from The Society.

The Metcalfe Society – www.metcalfe.org.uk
 Email: membership@metcalfe.org.uk Telephone: +44 (0) 07866 202785
 Post: The Metcalfe Society, 17 Bailey Walk, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF4 3QW, UK
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Trustee: Mr. David Lambert, email: see above

Extended Team

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email: agentaus@metcalfe.org.uk. Note that e-transfer email will be different. Please confirm.

Canada: Susan Harper, 820 Rogers Crt, Victoria, BC, Canada, V8X 5L4, email:
agentcdn@metcalfe.org.uk. Note that e-transfer email will be different. Please confirm.

**Please note this Alternate Join/Renew option at:
the [Parish Chest, Society Subscriptions](#)
using your credit card.**

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](#) to keep up to date on our news and events.

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

Email: membership@metcalfe.org.uk | Telephone: +44 (0) 07866 202785

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