

**Surname
Variants***Metcalfe**Metcalf**Medcalfe**Medcalf**Metcaff**Midcalf**Medecalf**Metecalf**Metkalf**Mydcalf**Midkiff**Mitcoff**Mitkiff**Meytecalfe**Matecalve**Modecalfe**Metcleff**Midcoff**Meatcoff**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**Message from the Chair**

Well, the New Year has certainly started off with a bang, and not a pleasant one. What a troubled world we live in. With a new war in the Middle East escalating - is it all in the name of democracy or something else - we all have our opinion. The war in Ukraine goes on with scant sign of ending, although not forgotten - our sympathies must be with all those affected on the ground. Funny how politicians are rarely seen in the danger zone, Ukraine PM is exceptional in that. 🇺🇦

In a recent phone call with one of our members, she complained that she had lost her diary – and I'm sure we all know how lost we would be without our own diary or calendar. She had searched her home and her car without success, everywhere she could think it might be. I suggested that she do what my mother always did when she had lost something – and say a prayer to St Anthony of Padua, patron saint of lost things. It always worked for mum so it might work for her.

The next time I spoke to her, she delightedly said that she had found the diary – after buying a new one anyway. Both she and some friends had searched her house and her car without success but having resorted to my advice, the next time she took her car out, and braked, something had hit the back of her shoe in the footwell. Looking down – there was the missing diary.

She mentioned this to her local vicar, with a grin on her face, and he asked if the recommendation had come from a Catholic – because **we** only pray to God, and not the so-called saints.

The following week, the vicar handed her a copy of John Milton's *Pilgrim's Progress*. He obviously thought she might be being recruited to another church.

We can criticise lots of individuals and religious groups for prejudice and hatred but do we need to *take the mote out of our own eye first?* *Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 7:3-5*

Jo Heron

In this issue

Message from the Chair P.1

Now Then 16: Who owned the book? P.2

Renewal Reminder P.8

Metcalfes and the Cousins War P.9

Metcalfe's Cafe P.11

A Recent Enquiry P.13

Snippets P.13

Metcalfe 'Firsts' in Australia P.14

Events of Interest P.16

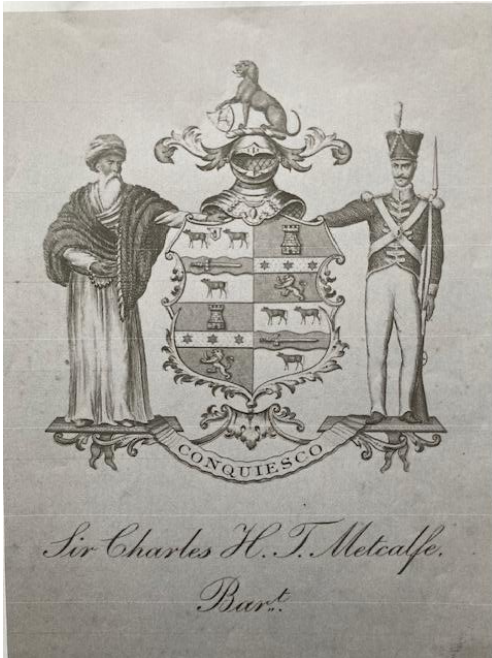
Membership Renewal Form P.17

Society Contacts P.18

Now Then 16: Who owned the book?

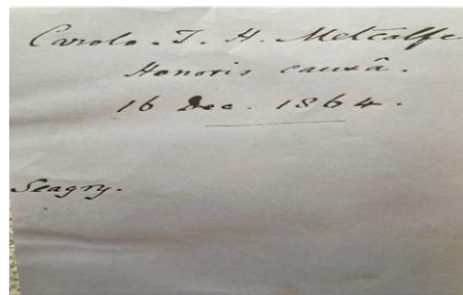
We received an inquiry last year from a non-member, via Facebook, regarding a bookplate in a book he had acquired. He was interested to learn if we knew the identity of the person whose bookplate it purported to be.

The Bookplate



The bookplate comprises a coat of arms of Sir Charles H T Metcalfe Bart.

There is a handwritten inscription '*Carolo. T.H. Metcalfe; Honoris causa. 16 Dec 1864. Seagry*'



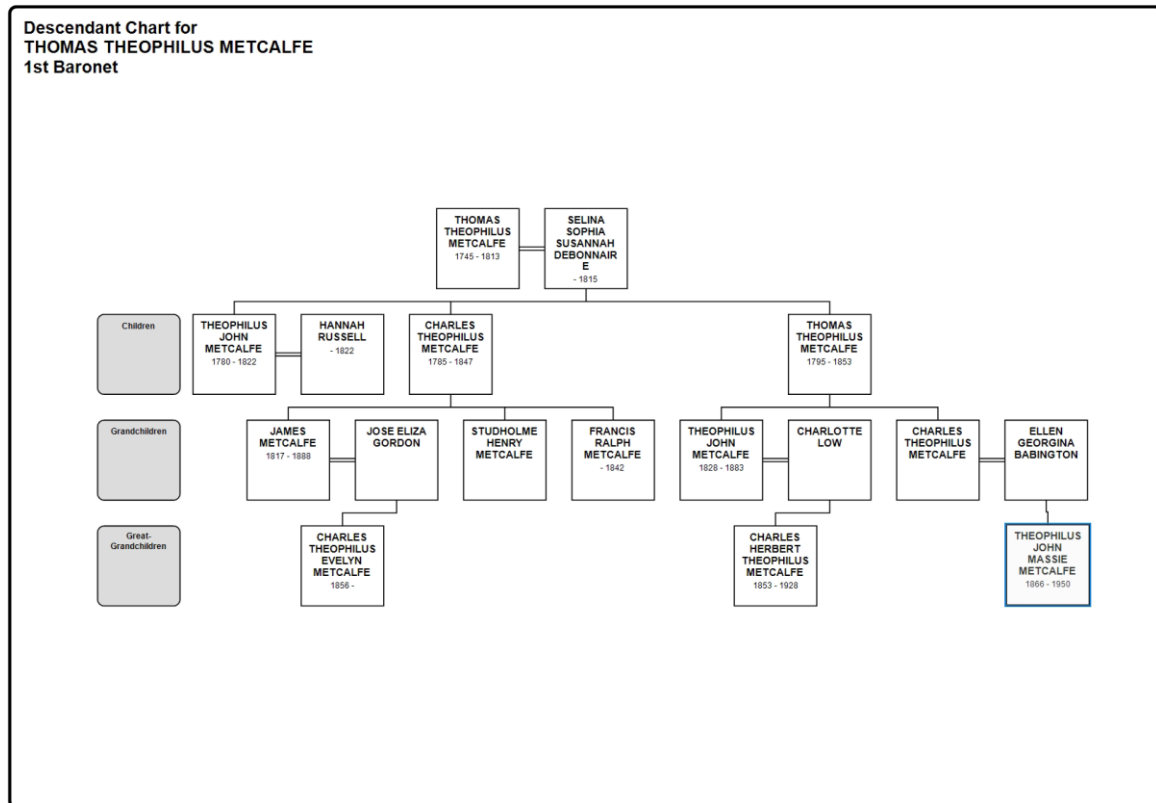
Who was this baronet? Did he live at Seagry, wherever that was?

Sir CHARLES HERBERT THEOPHILUS METCALFE was the son of the 5th baronet, Sir THEOPHILUS JOHN METCALFE. He was destined for the army but instead joined the Bengal civil service in 1848. I will refer to Sir Charles HT Metcalfe in this article as *Sir Charles* as several of his family were given identical Christian forenames and it can become somewhat complicated when trying to identify which member of the family is being considered

In the next article in this series, I will write about the family of the 1st baronet THOMAS THEOPHILUS METCALFE, who was granted a coat of arms by the College of Arms in 1802.

A short family tree might assist as the names of his succeeding generations were similar and the line of descent was not straightforward! It passed to brothers due to lack of male direct heirs.

We are dealing in this article with Sir Charles who was the 6th baronet. His great grandfather was the first baronet. For completeness the 2nd baronet was THEOPHILUS JOHN METCALFE, the eldest son. His successor as 3rd baronet was his brother CHARLES THEOPHILUS (who became the 1st and only Baron and was something of a statesman and celebrity), the 4th baronet was his brother THOMAS THEOPHILUS, who died in 1853, and he was succeeded by his son, the 5th baronet, Thomas John who we have already seen was the father of Sir Charles.



The first baronet's coat of arms looked like this.

This coat of arms includes the shield containing the coat of arms, a motto at the foot, 'mantling' (the leaves and scrolls surrounding the shield) and on top a helmet of a baronet. This is signified the fact that the owner was a baronet because the visor is 'open' unlike barons for example when it is closed. On top of the helmet is the crest of an animal holding a shield.

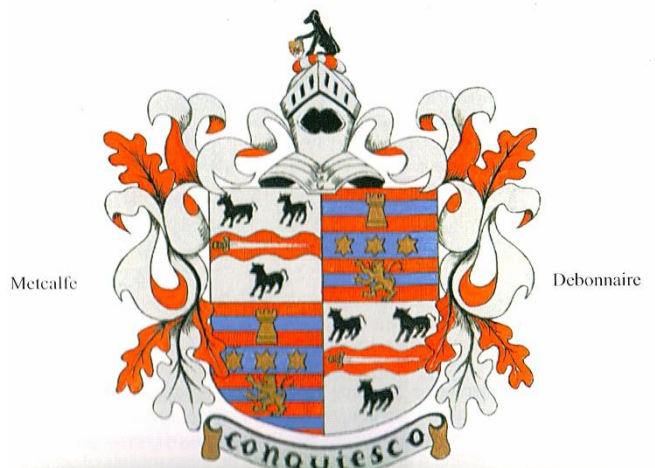
The coat of arms did not have any 'supporters' that is figures standing on each side of the shield.



Per Illustrated London News

8

Achievement of Sir Thomas Theophilus Metcalfe Bart.



Sir Charles' coat of arms does have supporters as you can see from the bookplate. The supporters were granted by the College of Arms to the 4th baronet, following the death of his brother Charles Theophilus, the third baronet who had been ennobled and become the 1st and only baron Metcalfe.

A copy of the coat of arms for Sir Charles' father, the 5th Baronet, looked like this, sadly not in colour in this image, which is from the Illustrated London News. It includes his crest on the top and the shield. It is not identical to the 1st baronet's but very similar.

You may recognise the top left and bottom right quartered arms are those of the Metcalfes about whom these articles are written: three calves with a sword between red wavy lines. The small shield in the middle denotes the arms are those of a baronet and the hand refers to Ulster.

The other two quarters involving a castle and three stars and a lion rampant reflect the arms of the Debonnaire family. The first Baronet adopted the coat of arms. He married Charlotte Debonnaire who was an heiress.

The coat of arms was adapted by later baronets slightly as I will explain. Sir Charles used his father's coat of arms, albeit with some adaptations. The bookplate coat of arms is clearly that of the 6th baronet, Sir Charles.

The society's book 'History of the Clan' includes a chapter on Metcalfe grants of arms and you can see them in colour there.

The research

Heraldry is an aspect of family history that may be worthwhile pursuing and investigating if your ancestors were armigerous, and entitled to a coat of arms. This clearly is the case here as we are dealing with a baronet.

At last year's Muster, the results of research were produced for the members, who attended the meeting. It is thought the results might be of interest to all the members.

DESCRIPTION OF THE 6th BARONET'S ARMORIAL ACHIEVEMENT

This includes the following description of the two supporters, the figures either side of the Coat of Arms.

Supporters — Dexter, a moonshee of Bengal habited ppr.; sinister, a soldier of the Bengal Native Infantry equipped and armed ppr. [ppr is short for 'proper' which means the natural colour of the object depicted].

Obviously written in heraldic Language but a 'moonshee' was a scribe or native secretary or clerk and the soldier could well be a member of the Bengal Native infantry. The description is taken from Burke's General Armory, see the link below.

[The general armory of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales; comprising a registry of armorial bearings from the earliest to the present time: Burke, Bernard, Sir, 1814-1892: Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming: Internet Archive](#) page 681 of 1884 edition of Burkes.

In addition to researching heraldic sources, the aristocratic family were well known in India and demonstrate the importance of the records available in India in the 19th century and how much information survives.

Society database records

From the society's records and database, we can see that he was born in Simla, Bengal on 7th September 1853 and that he was baptised on 10th October 1853 in the 'Station' Church of England church, in the archdeaconry of Calcutta. The church like back home in England had parishes and archdeaconries as well as dioceses. Copies of the church records are online.

British India Office records

A copy of the baptism entry has been filmed and can be seen on Findmypast. You can see the entry here if you use the link. [British India Office Ecclesiastical Returns- Births & Baptisms Image | findmypast.co.uk](#). They hold several parish registers in India and copies of records from the British

Library, which holds many muniments from the days of the Raj. The Simla registers comprise part of the Parish register transcripts from the Presidency of Bengal.

The Bengal baptism entries are similar to those in England. They show the date of baptism, date of birth, child's names, sex, parents' Christian names and married surname, place of baptism, occupation of father and name of clergy who performed the baptism ceremony.

Young Sir Charles was baptised **Charles Herbert Theophilus**, the son of Theophilus John Metcalfe and his wife Charlotte Herbert Metcalfe. In this article we will refer to his father as *TJM*. He was in the Civil Service.

Families in British India Society (FIBIS) ([Home - Families in British India Society](#))

This family history society is devoted to those who had ancestors living in British India. They say on their website home page: About Us “ *It is estimated that three million Britons lived and served in India over the three and a half centuries of British presence on the sub-continent, and it is not surprising that large numbers of family historians have discovered that they have ancestors who spent some or all of their lives in the British Empire's 'Jewel in the Crown'. A fascination with India, its culture and its people runs deep in our psyche.*”

For anyone who has 'lost' an ancestor it might pay you to research for them in India. FIBIS makes freely available their database, which you can search online. Certain records are restricted for members but many are accessible via their free search facility. There are over 90 references to the surname Metcalfe. Some baptisms and burials plus employment and military records. Travel and passenger list records plus many East India company records. Take a look!

Society records including 'The Metcalfes in India' publication by Peter Dobson, utilising research by the late George Buxton and online research.

TJM was the 5th baronet. Initially he was intended for the army but went instead to the Bengal Civil Service in 1848, joining his father in Delhi. He became embroiled in the Indian Mutiny in 1857. His father's newly erected Metcalfe House in Delhi, was one of the first properties to be set ablaze by the mutineers. The library in the building was reputed to be the finest in India and it was destroyed in the fire.

Thanks to TJM's assistance and bravery, several European inhabitants were able to escape the mutineers. TJM joined the army, giving up the civil service in the emergency and proved to be 'an invaluable assistance' to the commanding officer Colonel George Campbell of the 52nd Light Infantry. However, TJM proved to be intensely hated and feared by the natives and had a 'price on his head'. Following the mutiny, he became an assistant to the agent at Delhi and a deputy collector in 1858. He was however sent home to England in 1859 due to illness and he never returned to India. Back in England he was made a companion of the Order of Bath in 1864 and retired on an invalid pension. He died in Paris in November 1883.

An entry for his obituary can be found on Findmypast the link to which is here. [Illustrated London News 24 November 1883 Page 20 | findmypast.co.uk](#)

His father's death in 1883 meant that Sir Charles became the 6th baronet when he was 30. He was the only child of the 5th baronet. He is mentioned on pages 235 and 239 of the Society's Clan book.

Sir Charles was educated at Harrow and University College Oxford, where he gained a Rugby Blue in 1875. Oxford and Cambridge universities have details of graduates in the Alumni Oxonienses and Cantabrigienses volumes.

See this link [Alumni Oxonienses: the Members of the University of Oxford, 1715-1886/Metcalf, \(Sir\) Charles Herbert Theophilus \(Bart.\) - Wikisource, the free online library](#)

for details of: *Metcalf, (Sir) Charles Herbert Theophilus (Bart.), o.s. [o.s.=only son] Theophilus John, of Simla, East Indies, [sic] baronet. University Coll., matric. 28 May, 1874, aged 20; B.A. & M.A. 1881, 6th baronet.*

Whilst at Oxford he befriended Cecil Rhodes, after whom Rhodesia was named. He became an illustrious engineer. He qualified in 1881, not long before he became the baronet. In the 1881 census he was living, as a single boarder with a railway engineer driver and his family on Kensington Road.

Between 1882 and 1883 he was a resident engineer involved in the Southport and Cheshire lines railway and the Hesketh Marsh reclamation. He then became resident engineer on the Liverpool Southport and Preston Junction railway.

In 1885 he was admitted to the Institution of Civil Engineers and was stated to be resident in Liverpool. The Directory of members the following year gave his address as at Union Court Castle Street in Liverpool. Ancestry have digitised several records of civil engineers and the links here show his admission to the Institution and two pages of their directory including Sir Charles. [UK, Civil Engineer Records, 1820-1930 - Ancestry.co.uk](#) [UK, and Civil Engineer Lists, 1818-1930 - Ancestry.co.uk](#).

He was responsible with others for the construction of the Victoria Falls bridge over the Zambezi River. He was able to renew his friendship with Cecil Rhodes whilst living in Africa from 1892 until 1914.

Sir Charles and Sir Douglas Fox and Partners acted jointly as consulting engineers for the construction of the various lines constituting the Rhodesia railway system, which were built under the auspices of Rhodes and the Chartered Company.

He was also involved with building the Benguela Railway, along with another friend, Sir Robert Williams. It was 850 miles in length. It was reported that Sir Charles inspected the route of the Benguela Railway, much of it on foot.

His obituary giving further details of his busy and illustrious career and life can be seen using this link [Aberdeen Press and Journal 02 January 1929 Page 6 | findmypast.co.uk](#)

He died at his residence, Winkworth Hill, Godalming, on the 29th December, 1928.

He had no children and at his death, in 1928, the Baronetcy went to his cousin Theophilus John Massey Metcalfe, the son of the deceased younger brother of his father, TJM.

Sir Charles left a will and a codicil which appointed Barclays bank as his executor. The will and codicil were registered in England and re-registered in Edinburgh. The calendar of probates in Scotland are similar in format to those in England and Wales. Here is the entry for Sir Charles taken from Ancestry.

[Scotland, National Probate Index \(Calendar of Confirmations and Inventories\), 1876-1936 - Ancestry.co.uk](#)

Where assets are located in Scotland it is necessary to register an English grant. This often, until recent times, might apply to stocks and shares, where a limited publicly quoted company was registered in Scotland or bank accounts were held by Scottish banks or life assurance policies. Many banks and life assurance companies are registered in Scotland; for example, Royal Bank of Scotland, Scottish Widows, Standard Life, Scottish Provident to name but a few.

The Scottish Probate Calendar entry shows that Sir Charles had three addresses, Winkworth Hall Godalming and 28 Victoria Street London, including his London gentleman's club address on Pall Mall. His estate was valued at £118,000. This would be worth about £6,000,000 or so today according to the bank of England inflation calculator.

For more details of his career, you will find GRACE'S guide to be very informative.

Grace's guide explains their purpose and mission thus:

'This is a charitable company set up as a not-for-profit project dedicated to publishing the history of industry in the UK and elsewhere. Its aim is to provide a brief history of the companies, products and people who were instrumental in industry, commencing with the birth of the Industrial Revolution and continuing up to recent times. It provides an overview of topics and points other researchers to the source materials so they can find further information.'

Worthwhile looking at for any of your ancestors or their businesses.

Here is a link to their site [Grace's Guide - Graces Guide](#)

Below is a photograph of Sir Charles in around 1906.



[Photo has been copied from an article on Sir Charles in Grace's Guide Website available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License MW1.43NX]

The Grace's Guide project is a charity (no. 1154342) and a company limited by guarantee. Copyright acknowledged with thanks

The enquirer also asked if we knew anything about **Seagry**.

To start with I can see no references to any member of the family living at this address.

Seagry seems to be a village near Chippenham and Malmesbury in Wiltshire. Interestingly, however, there is a potential connection with the Metcalfe family through the Wellesleys. Henry

Wellesley, Earl Cowley, was related to Arthur Wellesley who later became the Duke of Wellington of Napoleonic War fame. Arthur was a good friend of Sir Thomas Theophilus Metcalfe, the first baronet, about whom more will be written in the next Now Then article. Earl Cowley bought the Draycot Cerne estate in Seagry in 1864. The estate was in 1920 sold by the Cowley family. It seems most unlikely that Sir Charles owned premises or lived at Seagry, especially as he would only be 10 or so when the bookplate is dated in 1864.

On the book plate the inscription in Latin refers to Carolo, which I take to be the Latin for *Charles T H Metcalfe* with a transposition of the initials for his additional forenames. It could have been a gift from Lord Cowley who wrote the inscription and in error transcribed the initials?

Interestingly an uncle of Sir Charles was also called Charles, he being the younger brother of Sir Charles' father. Maybe he bought the book knowing his nephew's interest in engineering? Maybe Sir Charles bought the book himself when an established engineer and put his bookplate on the appropriate page, covering up part of the handwritten inscription which could contain further evidence of whom the original owner of the book might have been?

All something of a mystery. One final conundrum is the reference to '*honoris causa*' which according to dictionaries normally refers to the granting of an honorary degree by a university.

Sir Charles was at university but when he was in his twenties i.e. 1873 or later. Possibly the inscription on the book plate page has nothing to do with Sir Charles but to the original first owner of the book? Alternatively, it may have been given as a present to Sir Charles on the attainment of his degree, albeit it was deserved and earned rather than an honorary one.

In a later article I will recount the ennoblement of the first baronet, Sir Thomas Theophilus Metcalfe and his successors to the baronetcy and refer to the ***Metcalfes in India***. Copies of the books can still be bought from the society.

David Lambert, MN0011

Membership Renewal

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2026?

HAD YOU FORGOTTEN?

It is so easy to do when we all have busy lives and there is so much going on in the world.

We would like to thank all those of you who have already renewed your membership of the Society for 2026, and especially to thank you for your support over the years. If you have not yet done so, please take a few minutes to reconsider. We will be taking your details off the mailing list at the end of the month, so that you will not be pestered by unwanted messages. We are sure you will not wish to miss out in the future.

It is easy to rejoin: Online either through the Shop on our website [The Metcalfe Society | The Metcalfe Society](#) or through the Family History Federations [Parish Chest](#). Alternatively, you can send a cheque to me at the address at the end of this newsletter.

If you need any information on the status of your membership, please feel free to contact me through the Membership address, also at the end of this newsletter.

If you pay by Standing Order (UK only), we may not have been notified by the bank yet, so please bear with us.

(See renewal form on page 17.)

The Metcalfes and the Cousins War

Probably better known as the War of the Roses, as it was dubbed in later centuries, the Cousins War, was just that – a dispute between the grandsons of Edward Plantagenet – King Edward III (1312-1377). It was the time of many 'great' battles – Crecy, Poitiers – we always seemed to be at war with France despite marrying into Franch families.

Edward III was the son of Edward II and Isabelle of France. He was deposed by his wife, Isabella, and his son was crowned as king at the age of 14. However, the country was being run by Isabella and her lover, Roger Mortimer, and the new king was virtually impotent.

He married Phillipa of Hainault in 1328, aged 16, and they had 12 children, not all of whom reached adulthood, but perhaps, the most famous was another Edward – the Black Prince, who predeceased his father, leaving his 10-year-old son, Richard II, as heir. Richard was left in the care of his uncles, and it is at this point that we really see the Metcalfe choosing sides.



They were based in the Middleham area, and initially, their loyalty was with the House of Lancaster – following their overlord, Ralph, Duke of Westmorland and Henry Bolingbroke (Henry IV, 1367-1413) – the exiled son of John of Gaunt and on his father's death - Duke of Lancaster. Naturally, following their lord, the Metcalfe were also followers of King Henry IV (Bolingbroke) (Shown at left, from [Mortimer, Ian](#) (2007). *The Fears of Henry IV: The Life of England's Self-made King*. London: Jonathan Cape. [ISBN 978-0-2240-7300-4](#).)

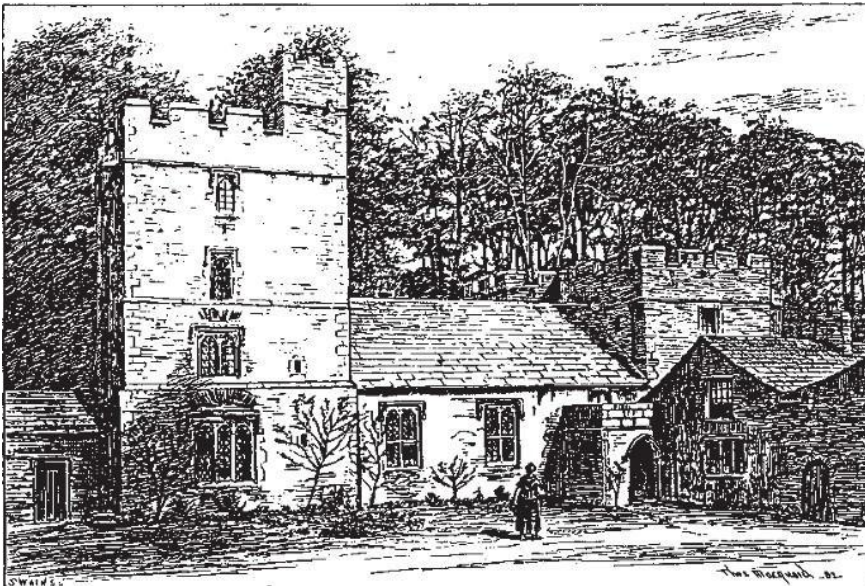
Henry IV was followed by – you've guessed it – Henry V (1386-1422) but he only reigned for 9 years. He was another warrior king, capturing Harfleur in France and then winning the battle at Agincourt. (Shown below, Henry V from *Regement of Princes*, c. 1411 – 1413.)



The many wars in France played a major part in helping the Metcalfes to prominence in the Dales area. James Metcalfe of Worton in Bainbridge followed his lord, Sir Richard Scrope of Bolton Castle, along with a sizeable band of men, and fought on Henry's side at Agincourt in 1415. James was rewarded for his loyalty and service (and the repayment of a loan by Sir Richard) with land at Nappa and probably began to build the Hall we know of in about 1459. It was probably started as a Pele tower – surely defensive, followed by another tower and a substantial ball. The building may not have been entirely James' work but James had a number of sons: Edmund 1420-1464 who did not inherit Nappa Hall, possibly predeceased his father and Thomas and James. By this stage, the Metcalfes were supporting the Yorkists and he may have been killed in battle in the 1460's.

(See sketch next page of Nappa Hall, which dates to about 1882, *History of the Clan*)

Thomas and Miles were still supporting the Lords of Middleham, which were now the Nevilles, including Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, who was supporting the Yorkists. They both held



of the Bishopric, and later to assist Richard, as Duke of Gloucester in covering the North. Thomas should have been awarded a Manor in Bedfordshire by Richard III citing:

"on account of the singular and faithful service that Thomas Metcalfe, Esquire, hath rendered, not only favouring and vigorously supporting our title to the Crown, but also for putting down malicious rebellions and insurrections" (Metcalfe - History of the Clan)

Following the battle of Bosworth, they both sued for pardon by Henry VII in 1488, but it must have been a tense time – would he penalise and/or execute them or pardon them – although potentially Miles was already dead before Bosworth. Thomas was granted pardon, and an annuity. He later became a Justice of the Peace, so perhaps Henry VII recognised his talents in administration as well as possibly his role in keeping the Dales quiet, if not necessarily, loyal to the new regime.

Thomas did marry and had three sons, James, Ottiwell and Francis as well as two daughters Cicely and Joan, so their line went on.

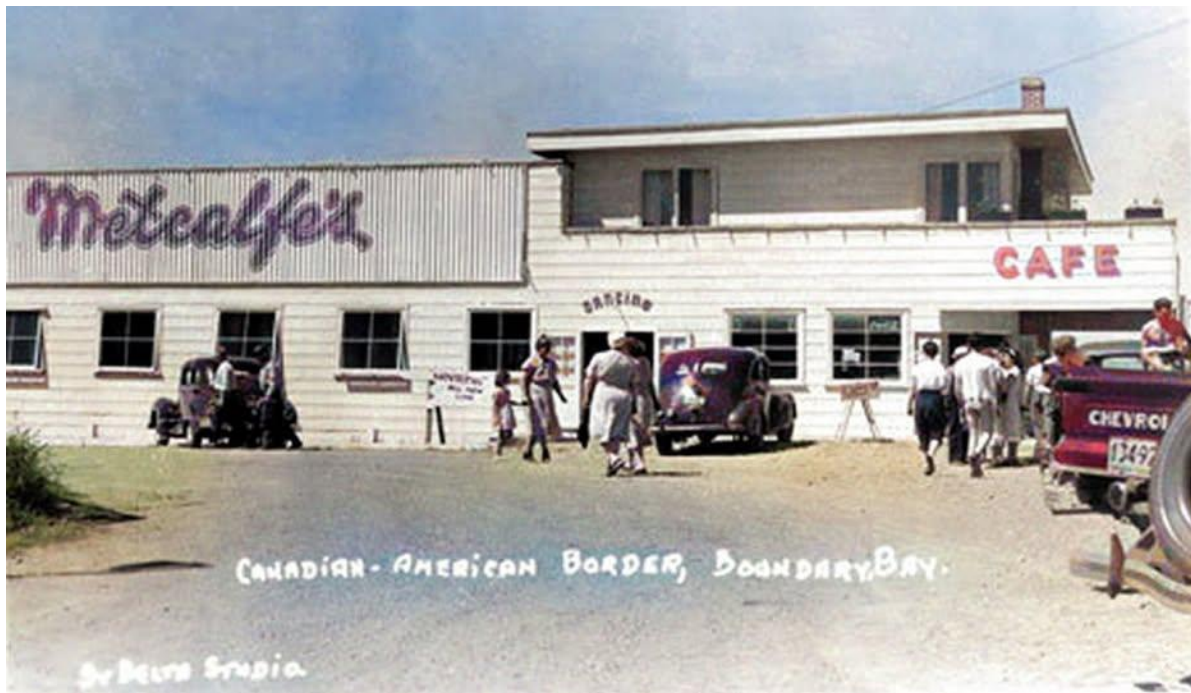
Miles does seem to have disappeared around the end of the War. He held the position of Attorney General of Middleham, under Richard Neville (Warwick). He was closely associated with the guilds in York, and as Recorder to the city, and possibly as an MP. Following the Battle of Bosworth, he seems to have been dismissed from his position as Recorder, so maybe his resentment of the new king was expressed too vocally, and he was being made an example of. He had three children with his wife, Matilda, and managed to arrange his affairs so that his family did not suffer too much from the change of Kings. He died in 1485 and his will was proved in 1486, so maybe he died of wounds sustained at the battle – it would be nice to think he died a hero, fighting for a cause he sincerely believed in – but we will never know.

Bosworth ended the Cousins War. The Metcalfes had been on the side of the remaining legitimate heirs of Edward III, the Tudors were descended from the illegitimate children of John of Gaunt, but went on to produce one of the most dangerous and successful dynasties we have known.

Jo Heron, MN1042

official positions in the government of the county and the country. They had probably known the boy who was to become King Richard III as a child, so there was probably some personal loyalty involved as well as their support through the fealty to their overlord. There is a suggestion that Thomas was a Privy Councillor and Chancellor to the Duchy of Lancaster under Richard III. They were both appointed to a Commission set up by the Bishop of Durham to survey the buildings

Metcalfe's Cafe - best border crossing on the planet



Janet Whitehead: I lied about my age to get a job at Metcalfe's; I was 12 and told Mrs. that I was 13. I waited on customers and sold pop at the dances. Mr. Metcalfe would put the potatoes in an automatic peeler out on the back porch every day and prep the big slabs of lingcod for the fish and chips. Sometimes Mrs. would serve customers wearing curlers in her hair! I would get in trouble for putting too much ice cream in the milkshakes.

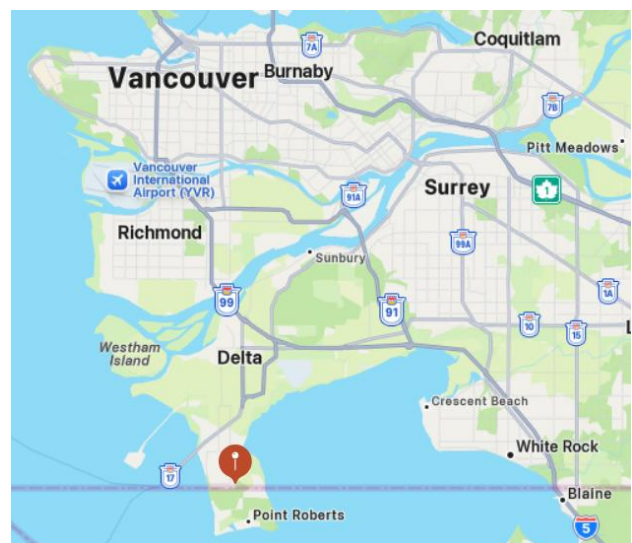
Maggie Brasier: Owners were Metcalfes. Sons were Len, Ken and Sonny. Mrs. Metcalfe and Mr. were hard workers. Good chips.

Ferenc Driver: Best border crossing on the planet. Walk through the door from the US & tada, you're in Canada.

I stumbled on this postcard of Metcalfe's Cafe and Dance Hall c1949, posted on a Facebook group "Tsawwassen: Old Photos" by Gary Cullen, and reposted on a Point Roberts photos page. The Facebook comments were interesting and useful! Boundary Bay and Tsawwassen are in British Columbia and Point Roberts is in Washington State, USA. The border is one of a few strange border situations in Canada.

"Point Roberts was created when the United Kingdom and the United States settled the Pacific Northwest American-Canadian border dispute in the 1846 with the Oregon Treaty. The two parties agreed that the 49th parallel would define the boundary between their respective territories, and the small area that incorporates Point Roberts is south of the 49th parallel." Wikipedia

Residents of Point Roberts have to drive around Boundary Bay through Canada to get to the rest of the state (i.e. Blaine on map).



Oddly, Metcalfe's Cafe and Dance Hall were built exactly on the border but in Canada. The main entrance faced Washington and stepping in or out crossed the border. Border control was a lot looser in the 1940s and 50s, especially in this location. These buildings are long gone now, but I was intrigued to find out more about the Metcalfe's who owned it.



My first bit of luck was finding one of the sons, Ken, buried in the Boundary Bay Cemetery (via [Find a Grave](#)), confirming brothers Len and Sonny. Additionally, it provided the names of his parents - William James Metcalfe, 1896 – 1972, and Anne Isabella Evans, 1898 – 1999. William was born in London, England, and his [Find a Grave](#) entry provided a picture of him in British Air Force uniform.

I was able to find his [death certificate](#) which confirmed his birth date, 28 Jan 1896, birth place, occupation restaurant proprietor, residing on "0" (zero) Avenue, Delta, BC (the border!), his wife, but unfortunately, not his parents! His wife was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia and her [Find a Grave](#) entry has an image of a news article about her celebrating her 100th birthday in 1998 and interesting details about her husband and the restaurant. The article also quotes Joy Metcalfe who is a well-known Vancouver broadcaster and writer and now

widow of "Sonny" Metcalfe whose actual name was William and who died in 2023.

A search for a marriage certificate in BC after reading that William James Metcalfe died "10 days short of their 50th wedding anniversary", produced an index entry for it in 1922 but unfortunately no image is available. That was my last hope of getting his parent's names!

From this point on, I offer a speculative possibility, based on his WWI military service in the air force and his birth date. UK, RAF Officer Service Records, 1918-1919 has this: William James Metcalfe, Rank 2nd Lieutenant, Birth date 28 Jan 1895, Military Start Date 19 Jan 1918, Military End Date 29 Aug 1919, Military Service Branch: Royal Air Force, Military Service Number 426412. Could this be him? If anyone has access to British Military service records and can find attestation papers, please let me know. Also, can anyone confirm that the picture is a British Air Force uniform or could it have been Canadian. Of course, this still would not confirm that Lieutenant William James Metcalfe is the same as the one who was a fireman in Vancouver, British Columbia, and who later ran a cafe, store and dance hall on the Canada-USA border. The research continues.

If this is your family and you have more information, please share with editor@metcalfe.org.uk



This aerial photo was taken in 1959. Metcalfe's Cafe and Dance Hall is the long building and everything to the left of it is in Washington State. Everything to the right is in B.C. The rectangle is a roller rink. The remains of a pier are also visible. It is easy to see why young people were entertained, besides using the beaches. Below is that corner from Google maps, now. The building is a condominium.



Susan Harper, MN0266 (very glad they did not let the 49th parallel slice through Vancouver Island. I live at 48.476532 in Victoria, BC, Canada)

A Recent Enquiry

A recent enquiry has thrown up problem that we may have to consider increasingly in the future. We know that our ancestors moved around the UK and so disappeared from the place we think they lived, reappearing elsewhere when they move from one area of the country to another. Maybe the only way to find them again is by being able to trace them through the census returns or subsequent information from descendants. So, when an individual or family moves from one part of the country to another, checking census returns either side of the potential move may find them again quite easily.

However, when the individual or family have emigrated from England to other parts of world, we may lose track of them altogether when they settle elsewhere. We may not even know where they have gone – they have simply disappeared. If they have gone to another country, we may not have access to records in that place.

For this enquiry, it is possibly a Metcalfe family, who originated in Yorkshire and Lancashire, may have emigrated to Canada between the 1871 and 1881 censuses in England. They are recorded as living in Whittington in 1871, but then disappear from the census rolls. The person looking for information suggested that Thomas, one of the sons, married in Canada, and she is descended from him. As he was a child aged 7 in 1871, if the family moved, then presumably, he would have gone with his parents, sister and three brothers as a teenager.

It is possible that he is connected to John Swindlehurst Metcalfe, as he has a son Thomas born on the same date. This John and his family, wife, 4 sons and daughter, also disappear from the 1881 census, so are they possibly the relevant family?

Do you have any information on this family either in the UK or in Canada?

Jo Heron

Snippets

I have been working on loading images to the Image Library. Initially, I had a lot of images from various sources such as the Clan and Histories books but I'm now working on adding those that have been included in Mecca News issues over the years.

If you have any interesting photos, preferably your own and of Metcalfe related topics, please do look in the Image Library and add what you have. Have you taken photos when you have been on holiday or when you have been tracing your family's homes? Do you have any photos of your parents or other ancestors? Have you found something related to the family that is interesting?

It is very easy to do. The main consideration is with regard to copyright issues. If you have taken the photographs yourself, the copyright remains with you unless you assign it to the Society. If you have used someone else's image, you DO need their permission to use it and acknowledge the owner of the image, i.e. a licence from them to use it..

Many photos we use are from online sources and you will need to acknowledge the source, but if you say it was from an online source, such as Wikipedia or wherever, please do acknowledge where readers may find it – e.g. say from Alamy, Google, Reuters, Getty (or other sources). Readers can then look to those sources for the original image you have used.

Often pics on Wikipedia are taken wrongly from ALAMY or REUTERS or GETYY etc.

ALAMY is set up to check pics on websites and to chase if no licence has been obtained.

Obviously if over 70 years after the death of the photographer it will be out of copyright broadly speaking. If you know the photographer or author died before 1956 it ought to be out of copyright.

For further information refer them to a link on <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/> - applies in UK only. Other countries may have their own copyright regulations.

Jo Heron

Metcalf 'firsts' in Australia

Migration, Birth, Marriage & Death

Part One

Victoria – 1834 onwards

Migration

Assisted Passengers (1839-1871)

Two records for the same person with slightly different information

No.	294
Name	Metcalf Mary I.B.O.B [Infant born on board]
Calling	Domestic Servant
Native Country	Armagh Ireland
Religious Denomination	Church of England
Education	Read and Write
Age of Adults	20
Age of Children	Infant
Disposal list	
By whom engaged	James Hunter
Address	Boroondara
Date	24 Sept
Wages	12
Term	12
With or without rations	-

No. of Agreement	5730
Vessel	Ocean Monarch 25 June 1856
Names	Medcalf Mary & Female & Inf
Age 18	
Occupation	Servant
Employers name	James Hunter Esq
Address	Boroondara
Date of agreement	24 Sept [1856]
Amount per agreement £ s p	12 0 0
Term	6 months
Rationed	With

The 'Ocean Monarch' sailed from Plymouth, [England] 27th November 1855 and arrived at Melbourne, [Victoria, Australia] 23rd June 1856. A 7-month voyage.

The infant who I presume was born on board was not listed in All UK, Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths at Sea, 1844-1890 nor in the Victorian birth index. Compulsory civil registration of births in Victoria began on 1 July 1853. Prior to this, records were primarily kept by churches (baptisms) starting from 1836 and are included in the Victorian BDM website.

Unassisted Passengers (1852-1923)

1852 was the first listed arrival of unassisted passengers but I think passengers would have come to Port Phillip and these records will be in the New South Wales indexes. On 1 July 1851 Port Phillip District of New South Wales separated to become the colony of Victoria.

On 9 July 1852, on board the 'Duke of Cornwall', Mr **Metcalf** and his wife, both adults arrived in Victoria. Occupation was listed as farmer. The ship had sailed from London and stopped in Adelaide and after dropping passengers in Melbourne continued to Sydney.

Births

Elizabeth Ann **Metcalf** born to Joseph Cameron Metcalfe and Ann nee Deeks in 1854 in Prahran, Victoria

Marriages

John **Metcalf** married Elizabeth Usher in 1853

Deaths

Anne **Metcalfe**, parents & spouses names unknown [she may not have been married] born in Leeds [England] aged 25 and died in 1853 Registration No. 867/1853

Note all these searches were done with Me*calf* to capture t d or et ed or at ad with the first * and with or without an e at the end *

Sources

Victoria

<https://prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/passenger-records-and-immigration/assisted-passenger-lists>

<https://prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/passenger-records-and-immigration/unassisted-passenger-lists>

From the Victorian Births Death and Marriages website

<https://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/search-your-family-history#1-choose-a-search-index>

Date ranges for the historical records we hold

Life event	From	To
Births	1853	100 years before today's date
Marriages and relationships	1853	60 years before today's date
Deaths	1853	30 years before today's date
Church baptisms, marriages and burials	1836	1853

To search on the Vic BDM site go to <https://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/search-your-family-history>

Go down the page and drill into

Search our records now

Dianne Fox, MN0113



Photo from [Public Record Office, Victoria](#)

Events of Interest

- BBC 1 has been running a programme called Yorkshire Great and Small - a series of walks around Yorkshire with Dan Walker and Helen Skelton. They recently covered the area around Nappa Hall so members might be interested in catching it on BBC IPlayer.
- The AGM for the Yorkshire Group is likely to be held on Saturday 13th June, possibly in Selby. This meeting could include a tour of the Abbey.
- York FHS are planning to hold a fair on Saturday 27th June at Acomb Parish Hall. The Parish Hall is an interesting building and it is beside Holgate Windmill, so perhaps a good day out as well as the FHS fair. Obviously not as big as the York Fairs we have attended in the past, but several Yorkshire Groups have already agreed to attend and there will be various companies there as well.
- Doncaster FHS are holding their fair on Saturday 18th July.
- Huddersfield FHS will be holding their fair on Saturday 26th October.
- The Guild of One Name Studies (GOONS) is joining with the Yorkshire Group of the Federation to hold a joint conference in Yorkshire in July or August 2028. At the moment, they are looking at venues in York but have not settled on any one place yet.
- 18th April - FHF Really Useful FH Show Live, St Ives, Cambridge
- Nottinghamshire FHS Local & Family History Day
- 26th April - Northampton Heritage Fair, Kettering
- 09th May - Suffolk FHS Fair, Ipswich
- [The Family History Show](#) will be held on 14th March on the 3 Counties Showground, Malvern; 9th May at Aintree race course, Liverpool and 3rd October Kempton race course, London

There will be more details available for all events nearer to the date.

For all events, please check out the relevant FHS involved or the Federation web site at [News & Events | Family History Federation](#)

Overseas:

- The Ontario Genealogical Society: [Virtual Conference 2026: From Steamships to Microchips](#) · Jun 12-14 2026
- [Nova Scotia Genealogical Virtual Conference](#) May 2-3, 2026 by ZOOM



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)
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**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.

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