

**Surname
Variants***Metcalfe**Metcalf**Medcalfe**Medcalf**Metcaff**Midcalf**Medecalf**Metecalf**Metkalf**Mydcalf**Midkiff**Mitcoff**Mitkiff**Meytecalfe**Matcalve**Modcalfe**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

Doesn't time fly when you are having fun? It is, as usual, a busy time on many fronts with Spring well and truly sprung and various organisations starting to book in Fairs and other events. See later in this issue for an event we will be attending. Please do come along and say hello – we always love to meet our members.

As far as our own meetings go, your Committee have continued to hold regular meetings- usually bimonthly, and now that we hold them online, it does make for a much easier way of connecting. Apart from not having to travel beyond our own home computer, it has the added bonus that Dianne Fox in Australia and Susan Harper in Canada can join the meetings and give us their sage advice. It makes for very interesting and motivating meetings. However, we are always open to other ideas, so if you fancy joining in, please let me know on chairman@metcalfe.org.uk.

One topic raised at the last meeting was to look into some new projects as it is a while since we took a new one on. One suggestion would be to look into the immigration records for America and Canada, and to see if any more records have been released from the WWI Archives. Occupations would also be a really useful project. Our ancestors had such a wide variety of businesses and jobs, and some of them had the strangest names – have you found any in your family? Do tell us about them. Please email editor@metcalfe.org.uk.

This year, we will be holding our AGM and Muster on Saturday 17th October. As agreed previously, this will be held online so watch out for details later in the next couple of newsletters. Again, we hope to be able to arrange an interesting programme of speakers for you and will be looking to seeing as many of you as possible on the day. Having just attended a meeting at the Merchant Taylors Hall in York, we may be able to book it for our next anniversary Muster which will be in 2030. The hall was built in the 1400's and a some of our Metcalfes were craftsmen in the city, there were surely some who were involved in the running of the Merchant Taylors Guild. It will be a fitting venue for a celebration Muster.

In the meanwhile, may we wish you a very pleasant summer and say that we look forward to hearing from you – without your contributions we would not have a Society or a newsletter, so please do continue sending items in to Susan.

Jo Heron

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Pioneering Railroad Metcalfes in the USA

This narrative chronicles the Charles Metcalf family, whose members played a significant role in the development and expansion of the railroad system across the Midwestern and Northwestern United States during the nineteenth century. Through decades of service, the Metcalf family contributed not only to railroad operations but also to the establishment of enduring labor institutions within the industry.

Early Life of Charles Metcalf

Charles Metcalf was born on 29 June 1832 in Hackney, Middlesex, London, England, to Anthony and Mary Sinclair Metcalf. Anthony was a cheesemonger who lived on Church Street in Hackney. Charles was baptized at St. John's Church of Hackney on 19 September 1832.

As a fifteen-year-old lad in 1847, Charles left England and worked his passage aboard a sailing vessel to New York. He continued westward to Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he secured employment as a molder with the Hulme Foundry Company. In 1854, he married Elizabeth Mary Hulme, the daughter of the company's owner. Elizabeth's father, George Hulme, had emigrated from England to the United States in 1848 and was reportedly a former soldier in Wellington's Army. Elizabeth was born on 1 May 1834 in Preston, near Manchester, Nottinghamshire, England.

Railroad Career and Early Achievements

As the American railroad system was emerging, Charles got a job on the railroad with the Michigan Southern Railroad in 1851. He served as the fireman aboard the locomotive *The Little Monroe*, which in February 1852 became the first railroad engine to arrive in Chicago, Illinois, from the east. This historic event symbolized Chicago's transition from a frontier settlement to a major transportation hub.

Charles and Elizabeth established their home in Marshall, Michigan, at the corner of Pearl and Monroe Streets. They raised three children: Charles Garrison Metcalf, born 30 May 1856; Frederick Charles Metcalf, born 11 September 1860; and Mary Elizabeth Metcalf, born 5 August 1867.

Charles advanced to the position of locomotive engineer with the Michigan Central Railway in 1853, a role he held for twenty-five years while operating out of the Jackson, Michigan roundhouse. During his time in Marshall, he was instrumental in the founding of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers in 1863. Alongside twelve fellow engineers, Charles participated in the organization's formation beneath an elm tree near the Marshall station. This organization became one of the first labor unions in the United States and continues today as the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen.

Expansion to the Northern Pacific Railroad

In 1878, the Metcalf family relocated to Brainerd, Minnesota, where Charles joined the Northern Pacific Railroad. At the time, the railroad was constructing a transcontinental line extending from St. Paul, Minnesota, toward the Pacific Northwest. Charles devoted thirty-five years to the operation and expansion of the Northern Pacific, ultimately retiring in 1914 after sixty-three years of continuous railroad service.

The Next Generation of Railroad Leaders

Charles's sons, Charles Garrison Metcalf and Frederick Charles Metcalf, continued the family's railroad legacy. Frederick began his career as a newsboy on the Michigan Central Railroad in 1875. Both brothers later joined the Northern Pacific Railroad in Brainerd and rose to the position of locomotive engineer in 1878.

In 1887, as the Northern Pacific expanded westward, the brothers moved to East Grand Forks, Minnesota, a rapidly growing railroad division point situated across the Red River from Grand Forks, North Dakota. Frederick distinguished himself through an exceptional career, earning numerous commendations. He served as the engineer for trains carrying every president of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Among his most notable assignments was engineering the train that carried former U.S. President Ulysses S. Grant and Northern Pacific President Henry Villard to the Golden Spike ceremony at Gold Creek, Montana, on 8 September 1883, commemorating the completion of the Northern Pacific transcontinental line.

Later Years and Legacy

Frederick Charles Metcalf retired in 1930 after more than fifty-five years of railroad service, fifty-two years as an engineer. It is said that in all those years, not a single passenger was injured on a train piloted by Fred. That same year, he was featured in *Ripley's Believe It or Not* for having traveled more than 1.8 million miles in the cab of a locomotive, many of them accumulated during daily runs between Grand Forks, North Dakota, and Winnipeg, Canada.



In 1933, Frederick was called out of retirement to operate the historic wood-burning steam locomotive *Minnetonka* into the Transportation Exhibition Hall at the Century of Progress World's Fair in Chicago. At the time, he was the only living engineer with firsthand experience operating wood-burning engines, having done so during his early railroad years on daily runs between Brainerd and Sauk Rapids, Minnesota.

Charles Garrison Metcalf concluded his twenty-two-year career with the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1902 after relocating to Belmont, Hood River, Oregon, where he spent another ten years as an engineer on the Mount Hood Railroad. After leaving the railroad industry, Charles bought land in the Belmont area and became a fruit orchardist.



Conclusion

The Metcalf family's contributions were integral to the westward expansion of the United States railroad system and to the establishment of organized labor within the rail industry. Their legacy endures in both the physical rail networks they helped build and the labor institutions that continue to support railroad professionals today.

And the Charles Metcalf family lives on today in the upper Midwest and across the United States. Frederick had thirteen grandchildren and seventy-five great grandchildren. There are now hundreds of descendants of Charles, many of whom still reside in East Grand Forks, Minnesota. In 2025, the Charles Metcalf Family had a well-attended family reunion in Hastings, Minnesota and celebrated their proud family heritage.

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- 1870 US Federal Census. Town of Marshall, Michigan. Dated 20 June 1870, Page 27, line 18
- 1880 US Federal Census. Town of Brainerd, Minnesota. Dated 16 June 1880. Page 23, line 3
- 1900 US Federal Census. Town of Brainerd, Minnesota. Dated 7 June 1900. Page 6, line 57
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- Oregon, Hood River County, US. Certificate of Death of Elizabeth Hulme Metcalf. April 9, 1923.
- Chicago Daily Tribune newspaper. (1872-1963) Chicago, Illinois. World Fair Notes. Sept 16, 1934, page 10
- Grand Forks Herald newspaper. Grand Forks, North Dakota. Page 1, June 14, 1940. Death of Frederick Metcalf
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Jim Lewis, MN 2065

[Editor's Note: Some spellings in this article are American English spellings, reflecting the author's nationality.]

Links and Events

Seven centuries' worth of history made available online. "The online collection covers from 1389 to 1858, and includes a wealth of information and personal stories." The collection, which includes parish registers as well as the wills of famous literary figures Charlotte Bronte and Anne Lister, covers seven centuries of local history and forms part of the University's Borthwick Institute for Archives. The records can be accessed free at the Borthwick Institute for Archives, while Ancestry subscribers can access them on their own devices.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cq593w27v50o>

The NGS 2026 Family History Conference will take place at the Grand Wayne Convention Center, 120 W Jefferson Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46802, 27 – 30 May.

<https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/agenda/>

<https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars?category=ocanada&language=english>

- Land Records of Upper Canada 1 of 3: Crown Land Petitions Janice Nickerson Fri, Jun 12, 2026: 8:00 AM PDT
- Land Records of Upper Canada 2 of 3: Heir & Devisee Commission Files Janice Nickerson Fri, Jun 12, 2026: 9:30 AM PDT
- Land Records of Upper Canada 3 of 3: Land Registry Office Records Janice Nickerson Fri, Jun 12, 2026: 11:00 AM PDT

Early Europeans in Aotearoa New Zealand: Settlers Before 1840 Wed, May 6, 2026: 12:00 AM PDT

<https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/early-europeans-in-aotearoa-new-zealand-settlers-before-1840?language=english>

Ontario Ancestors: Finding the Children Who Went to Canada - 13/05/2026 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

<https://ogs.on.ca/events/finding-the-children-who-went-to-canada/>

Showcasing Creative Uses of WORD for Family History with Andrew Redfern. 14/05/2026 10:30 - 11:30 am GMT <https://portal.sog.org.uk/Event/view/2388039>

Getting the Most from the Shared cM project: DNA-Based Relationship Estimators and Analyzers with Blaine Bettinger. 21/05/2026 19:00 - 20:00 GMT Online

<https://portal.sog.org.uk/Event/view/2174435>

New Family History Fair at York. Many of you will remember the York Family History Fair which was held at the racecourse in York for several years. That has now moved to the Northwest and also sprouted subsidiaries elsewhere in the country. I suppose we cannot complain as it was held up here for many years. Now [York Family History Society have organised a smaller version](#) to be held at Acomb Parish Hall, York on Saturday 26th June from 10-3. They will still have some talks and are being supported by a number of prestigious organisations – including our Society. If you are

York and District Family History Society



HISTORY FAIR

Parish Hall, Front Street, Acomb
Saturday 27th June 2026 - 10-3pm

Stalls

The Family History Federation, British Association for Local History, Holgate Windmill Society, Acomb Local History Group, Borthwick Institute for Archives, Ryedale Family History Society, Clements Hall Local History Group, Morley FHS and many more.

Plus

Break Out Family History Sessions

Conducted walks around St Stevens churchyard and talks on family history

Including our famous Tombola

Refreshments, Tea, Coffee, Cakes

Royal Canadian Air Force Training Crash

in the area, please do come along and see us. We would love to meet you – and they are serving cake!!!

From Facebook page: [RCAF Abbotsford 1942-1946](#)

At approximately 03:10 hours, Liberator EW127, code letter 'V' crashed in the Sansum Narrows on or near the shore of Salt Spring Island while flying from Abbotsford on a routine Night Navigation exercise.

The nature of the accident is to this day unknown. There were several possible reasons given by the investigating board at Western Air Command. 1. The aircraft exploded in air and caught fire and crashed. 2. The aircraft caught fire in air and Pilot dived his machine in an attempt to blow out flames, (apparently this was one of the things they were taught). 3. The pilot was doing unauthorized low flying and struck some high object tearing the fabric from control surface and subsequently caught fire in air. The Investigating Officer leans towards view that aircraft exploded in air and caught fire and pilot came down to low altitude. It would appear that he was making an attempt to land or ditch aircraft, either lost control or could not see for flames.



The crash occurred only 30 minutes after take-off killing all 11 crew-mates. The burning wreckage of the plane was reached by RCAF rescue crews travelling by both boat and plane, shortly thereafter. When rescue crews reached the scene, they found only three bodies, leading to speculation that perhaps the remaining eight parachuted to safety.

The following afternoon of the crash RCAF, officials admitted in a statement to the Vancouver Daily Province that the aircraft had, "...disintegrated to such an extent that it was impossible to determine whether the entire crew was aboard when it crashed... (and that it was further), ...established by witnesses that the aircraft was on fire before it crashed... the possibility that the bomber hit a mountain peak before it struck the shore." [VDP Oct 5th 1944]. Bold Bluff is where the aircraft is believed to have struck prior to crashing. Some years ago, a local logger walked into the Pat Bay Airforce Museum and donated a .50 machine gun believed to have come from this crash. The .50 had pierced a tree trunk barrel first and the logger found it that way in the tree which he simply cut at either end and took it to the museum. All eleven crew were students from the RAF.



JORDEN, Leslie T., Pilot Officer, 1st Pilot. Age 24 from Reigate Surrey, England.
 BARKER, Bernard G., Sgt., 2nd Pilot. Age 22 from Lowestoft, Suffolk, England.
 MITCHELL, Ewart C., Pilot Officer, Nav. Age 20 from Lancaster, England.
 METCALFE, Peter D., Pilot Officer, Air Bomber. Age 21 from Swindon, Wiltshire, England.
 DAVIDSON, Charles P., Sgt. Wireless Air Gunner. Age 21 from Gloucester, England.
 WILLETTS, Lewis P., Sgt., Wireless Air Gunner. Age 32 Son of John Joseph and Harriet Willetts.
 ROCKCLIFFE, Arthur, Pilot Officer, Air Gunner. from ?
 BIRRELL, Andrew J., Sgt., Air Gunner. Age 18 from Locharbriggs, Dumfriesshire, Scotland.
 LAWS, Frederick, Sgt., Air Gunner. From ?
 LANGLEY, Leslie M., Sgt., Air Gunner. Age 25 from Southall, Middlesex, England.
 JENKINS, William N., Sgt., Air Gunner. Age 20 from Nantybwch, Tredegar, Monmouthshire, Wales.

For many years, their names have been on the Ottawa Memorial but more recently they were added to the Abbotsford Cenotaph. What remains were found have been buried at Victoria's Royal Oak Burial Park, Sec D. Plot 19. Coll. Grave 3. (Note: all 11 names are listed, photo, at right, was taken by me recently.)



Peter D. Metcalfe was Peter Dennison Metcalfe. [Commonwealth War Grave Ottawa Memorial:](#)

METCALFE, Pilot Offr. PETER DENNISON, 165549. R.A.F. (V.R.). 4th October, 1944. Age 21. Son of George Henry and Edith Metcalfe, of Lancaster, England. Panel 3. Column 2.

His birth was registered in Kendal, Cumbria, mother's maiden name Dennison. (GRO)

Quirky Yorkshire

Susan Harper, MN0266

May

Maypole dancing – often generated great rivalry between villages who had maypoles – such as Burnsall and Barwick in Elmet. When the Barwick maypole was returned to the village, in 1966, *Flags were flying from windows and many inhabitants came out to welcome it back. The pubs emptied as crowds started to fill the street. The pole was well guarded for the remaining two days and raised on Whit Tuesday as planned.*

Scorton Silver Arrow Contest – starting in 1673 it is thought to be the oldest sporting contest in the world. The winner of the contest in Scorton, North Yorkshire is the first to score a bull, and the prize is the privilege of organising the contest for the following year. The silver arrow itself is held at the Royal Armouries in Leeds.

Well dressing takes place throughout Derbyshire and into Yorkshire in May and June, with villages wells being decorated with flowers and greenery.

The Richmond Meet is a fair and carnival held at spring bank holiday each year, raising funds for charities and good causes since 1892.

June

The biggest event is surely the York Mystery Plays, held every 10 years. Originally from the early medieval period and supported by the people and guilds of the city, it was banned in 1569 but revived in the 1950's. Each guild told one story, usually related to their guild, ship builders told the story of Noah, bakers took the Last Supper and originally, they would process through the city. Today, the event is held in the grounds of the Museum and has had famous actors and actresses in leading roles, such as Dame Judi Dench.

8th June is feast day of St William of York, who died through drinking poisoned wine while saying mass. Buried in York Minster, miracles started to happen shortly afterwards, and when there was a fire at the Minster his remains were undamaged and are now buried in the crypt. He was canonised in 1227.

Second Saturday of June is the Knaresborough Bed Race, along with many other towns and villages.

1622 saw the start of the Boroughbridge Fair. Permission granted by King Charles I, it is known for the horsefair, dealing with livestock.

Denby Dale pies have been made since 1788, and especially following the Battle of Waterloo. The pies are massive, containing several animals and fowl to fill the large pie, which was then shared with the community.

At the end of June, several villages celebrate the end of the Great Plague in 1665 with marches, bands and fairs.

Have you heard of Thump Sunday? In the Halifax area, you were allowed to thump anyone who went to the pub but didn't pay for his drink,

All from 'A Yorkshire year' by Catherine Warr, 2023.

Jo Heron, MN1042

Rugby Heritage

Anyone interested in Women's Rugby will have noticed that over the last couple of years, there have been a couple of Metcalfe sisters have been leading the fight for silver on behalf of the Welsh team.

Looking into their family it is easy to see that they are following in a long-standing family tradition.

Great grandfather, **Tom Oliver Bennett**, (1852-1905), was a founder member of Wakefield Trinity rugby union football club way back in 1873, and later became the Hon Secretary of the club. He played for the club from 1898 and also for Yorkshire. He was born and died in Wakefield, and was father of Ernest.

Ernest Walter Bennett, (1879-1921), also played for Trinity, joining the club and Yorkshire, scoring in the 1909 Challenge Cup against Hull. He scored a try in the 20-13 victory over Australia in the 1908-09 Kangaroo tour of Great Britain when there was a crowd of 23,500 spectators. His daughter, Kate, married James Metcalfe in 1931.

James David Metcalfe, (1873-1943), played from the 1890's to the 1910's for Yorkshire at rugby league and Trinity at rugby union, as well as periods at Askam, Barnsley and Featherstone. He also scored against New Zealand in the 1907-08 New Zealand tour, and against Australia in the 1908-09 Kangaroo tour.

His son, **Donald Metcalfe**, (1932-2006), played for the England Under 21's in rugby league, then at Sandal, another Wakefield rugby league team, captaining Yorkshire and Featherstone, other positions at Trinity and then coaching at Keighley. He was a maths lecturer at Wakefield College. His uncle was **Stan Smith** (1910-1978) was a Great Britain, and England international player, as well as playing for Trinity and Leeds rugby union clubs. (At right Donald Metcalfe (1932-2006) (Wikipedia)



At left: Stan Smith (1910-1978) (Godfrey Phillips cigarette card)

So, following the Metcalfe link, Donald is the father of **Nel** and **Branwen Metcalfe** who both play for the Welsh rugby team. With only 2 years between them in age, they were regular attendees at the club in Nant Conwy, their local community team. Nel joined the national team in 2023, Branwen captained the Under 20's national team, and they both played in 2025 Women's World Cup for Wales with the prospect of playing in 2026 Women's Six Nations Cup.



Branwen (left) Nel (right) Metcalfe, Wikipedia

Now Then 17

THE METCALFE BARONETS AND THEIR EAST INDIA COMPANY CONNECTIONS

In the previous edition of the newsletter, I wrote about a book owned by and on an attached bookplate, attributed to Sir Charles Herbert Theophilus Metcalfe Bart. the 6th baronet. I stated that in the next edition of the Newsletter I would add more history about the Metcalfe baronets.

In doing so, I must record my task has been aided enormously by the outstanding research carried out by the late George Buxton, written up in his articles about the Metcalfes on the Indian sub-continent in early editions of the Mecca News. Subsequently, Peter Dobson utilised some of George's voluminous research papers to write the *Metcalfes in India* book published by the Society some years ago.

It is a story of individuals who were involved in business and the government of India through their involvement with the East India Company (EIC). It was undoubtedly true that for those in Great Britain whose families were minor landed gentry or of the 'middling sort' but aspired to gain wealth and betterment socially, one route open to them was to become involved with the EIC.

The EIC itself was founded in 1600, its objectives being to trade in the Indian Ocean area. As an entry in Wikipedia states "*.... initially with the East Indies (which included the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia), and later with East Asia. At its peak, the company was the largest corporation in the world by various measures and had its own armed forces in the form of the company's three presidency armies, totalling about 260,000 soldiers, twice the size of the British Army at certain times....*"

Originally chartered as the "Governor and Company of Merchants of London Trading into the East-Indies," the company rose to account for half of the world's trade during the mid-1700s and early 1800s, particularly in basic commodities including cotton, silk, indigo dye, sugar, salt, spices, saltpetre, tea, gemstones, and later opium. The company also initiated the beginnings of the British Raj in the Indian subcontinent."

The company eventually came to rule large areas of the Indian subcontinent, exercising military power and assuming administrative functions. Company-ruled areas in the region gradually expanded after the Battle of Plassey in 1757.

Following the victory of Clive at this battle against the Nawab of Bengal, the EIC expanded its control over (eventually) the whole of India. The Dutch and the French were ousted and the EIC successfully established its monopoly over the Bengal trade.

Whilst despite his defeat, the Nawab remained leader of Bengal outwardly, in practise he was dependent upon the EIC's authority; the EIC appointed his officials and interfered in his management of the state. It is considered that the battle marked the start of the creation of the British Raj.

By 1857 most of modern India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, along with Lower Burma, was either ruled by the EIC or princely states closely tied to the company by treaties.

In 1857 a rebellion against the EIC spread with disastrous consequences for the company itself. The so called 'Indian mutiny' was "*.... fed by resentments born of diverse perceptions, including invasive British-style social reforms, harsh land taxes, summary treatment of some rich landowners and princes, and scepticism about British claims that their rule offered material improvement to the Indian economy....*" according to Wikipedia. [Indian Rebellion of 1857 - Wikipedia](#)

Interestingly some of the sources relied upon by the compilers of the entry in Wikipedia, in connection with the history of EIC and its association and impact upon India, are derived from works written by American professors on South Asian history, husband and wife, Thomas R Metcalf and Barbara D Metcalf. Lists of his works can be found here [Thomas R. Metcalf - Wikipedia](#) and hers here [Barbara D. Metcalf - Wikipedia](#). As far as I can tell they are not related to the baronets.

For those interested in the history of the East India Company and how it was run, the Wikipedia entry at this link may be of interest. [East India Company - Wikipedia](#)



© National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London, Daniel Bolt Collection Object: AAA0970 Artist: unknown Date: circa 1911 -
-One of the flags used by the EIC

It is against this background that the involvement of one branch of the Metcalfe family in India should be considered.

Baronetcies

As I intend to write about the Metcalfe baronets it seems sensible to explain what a baronet is and the records that might be used to learn more.

Probably most of you will have heard of *Burkes Peerage*. This is an authoritative guide to the British peerage. It used to be published annually and updated but now is published more irregularly. The series comprised editions listing and giving biographic details on the members of the five ranks of peerage: (in descending order of precedence): Dukes, Marquises, Earls, Viscounts and Barons. They used to be hereditary although last century life peers (barons) were created too in the Life Peerage Act 1958, allowing them to sit in the House of Lords. The creation of new hereditary peers is virtually non-existent. Members of the peerage are created by the monarch.

The 107th edition of Burke's peerage and baronetage was published in 2003. This is now online and the following link sets out the various websites where one can look at past editions and carry out searches online. [Burke's Peerage archives](#).

A search against *METCALFE* resulted in 60 entries. Many were female Metcalfes who married peers or baronets. However, details of the family of the first baronet and his issue are given in some detail.

Technically baronets are separate from the peerage. In 1611 King James 1 of England (6th of Scotland) created the new title of *baronet*. It was in effect a tax raising procedure for the King to raise funds for the Crown, originally to finance the safeguarding of Ulster settlements/plantations. Baronets would pay to the crown, direct, £1,095, which was equal to the cost at that time of paying for the maintenance of thirty soldiers, employed for three years to defend the Crown's Irish interests. In return the individual was created a baronet.

Later recipients would receive a baronetcy as an honour. Recipients would include those who were distinguished in areas of commerce, the military or the arts and sciences.

The baronetcy is created by Letters Patent and details of the Letters Patent creating the baronetcy will be found in class C66 at TNA. The creation was also announced in the government's newspaper *The London Gazette* from 1665 onwards. The baronet is entitled to style himself '*Sir [forename] then surname and the initials 'Bart'*' (short obviously for baronet). So, Sir Thomas Theophilus Metcalfe Bart. Was the first holder of the title.

Extinct peerages and baronetcies are listed in a separate Burkes' tome and are also available to research on Ancestry.

In the last NowThen article in the March/ April issue of the newsletter, I tried to explain which Baronet owned the book containing the book plate; the book belonged to Sir Charles HT Metcalfe who was the 6th baronet.

His father, Sir Theophilus John Metcalfe (TJM)(1828-1883) was the 5th baronet. I gave some details of his life in the previous article.

But who was the first baronet?

The 1st baronet

He was Thomas Theophilus Metcalfe who was born on the 8th January 1745 in India. His father was also Thomas (1695c-1778) an Army officer in India and his mother Margaret (*nee* Williams).

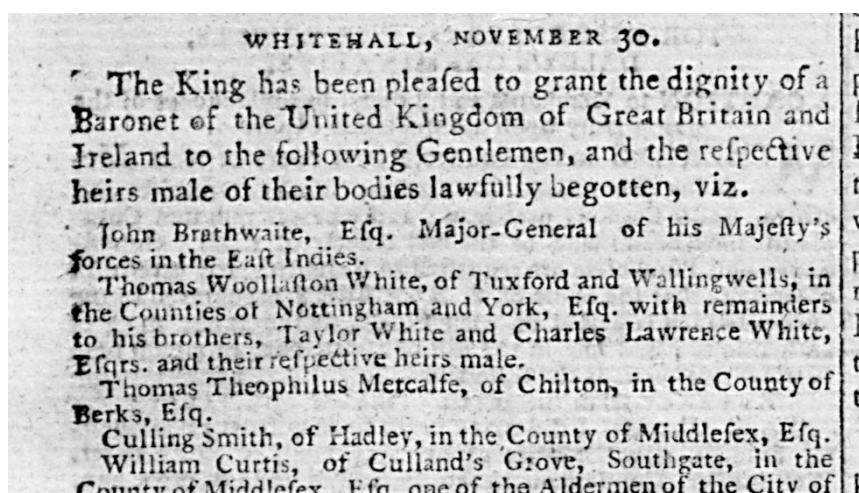
He returned to England in 1789 and purchased 49 Portland Place London. This is the current embassy of the People's Republic of China. Additionally, he bought Fern Hill Park Winkfield near Windsor. This is now a Grade II listed mansion with 200 acres of parkland on the edge of Windsor Great Park. Use this link to see more details and an image. [Berkshire History: Fernhill Park \(Winkfield\)](#)



Upon his return he became a director of EIC and attempted to return to India in 1793 as civil governor but he was not selected. In 1796 he stood unopposed as an MP for Abingdon. He lost in the 1807 and later having become the sheriff of Berkshire was ineligible to stand again in the 1809 election.

It seems that he purchased his baronetcy in 1802 with the support of William Pitt and Henry Addington both Tory prime ministers.

He was created the first baronet on 30th November 1802, for his services to the EIC. A note of his appointment by Letters Patent appeared in the London Gazette.



His political endeavours and support for Lord Wellesley (brother of the more famous Duke) created some critics and enemies! In 1810 William Hickey (a lawyer from India) writing his memoirs in a book entitled *Tell all Friend* described the first baronet as 'A *Prodigious Great Man –especially in his own opinion*'!

A search for Sir Thomas Theophilus in the society's Main Index gives details of his antecedents and wife and children plus career.

To discover it yourself, open the website and log in. Locate the search button along the top and open it. There are drop down buttons which you can use to search the Main Index, or births and baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials, wills, hearth tax records and lastly the Metcalfe List of Lists.



The first baronet's coat of arms

On the main index page insert the names of the Metcalfe you are searching for and you ought to obtain a result which gives the Record number attributed to that individual. Below the name for which you have successfully searched will be the sources used to identify and discover details of the individual as well as any members who are also researching this individual.

So, the search for the first baronet looks like this when he is located:

RECORD NUMBER =94851

Forename: Thomas Theophilus **Surname:** Metcalfe Sir

Sources: **M357 M1028 M1206** [these are the members associated with the individual located.] **MN** 28p9 **MN37p22** [Articles referring to him in Mecca News [MN] whose edition number is stated plus the page on which the reference is found] **L325 L811** etc [these being references to items in a list whose details you can locate in the list of lists search by inserting the relevant number on the search form for lists.]

There then follow, on the main index,

Born details

Baptismal details where known

Died when known

Details of **parents**

Married dates name of spouse and location of place of wedding

Notes: which contain an eclectic number of references to the individual usually biographic details of their life and occupations and if there is a surviving will, brief details of that document.

Here are the rest of details for the first baronet contained in the main index.

Metcalfe Sir, Thomas Theophilus

Record ID 94951

Forename(s) Thomas Theophilus **Surname** Metcalfe Sir

Married 18/04/1782 or 16/07/1782 Susannah Selina Sophia (89924) (1756-1815) at Calcutta, India nee Smith

Born 08/01/1745 ? India

Baptised

Died 17/11/1813 Portland Place, London or 10/09/1815-16 of Warfield Hse.Bks. *[author's NOTE as his will was proved in 1814 he must have died in 1813 not 1815-16.]*

Parents Name: s. of Thomas (90352) (c1695-1778) army officer, India & Margaret (66607) nee Williams

Married 18.04/1782 or 16/7/1782 Susannah Selina Sophia (89924) (1752-1815 Calcutta India nee Smith

Notes

Made a cadet 1767, Ensign 31/07/1767, Lieut. 23/09/1769, Capt. 10/05/1793 Made Major in Bengal infantry & subsequently a director of East India Coy 1814 will listed Leg Duty Reg PRO London 1/69 P Canterbury; exec Sir John Benn Walsh. 07/1810 Bart, Portland Place had 2 divs Cons £35 annuities unclaimed 1814. 1802 4 gen. pedigree Metcalfe of Chilton, Berks reg ? Will proved 02/1814 for £80 he of Berkshire & Wilts. Created Baronet 21/12/1802. Sailed for India aboard Lord Holland 16/12/1766. First Rohilla War 1774, Battle for St George, to command 18th Reg Sepoys 29/03/1782. Agent for Military stores in Calcutta 1782 to 06/12/1785

Child 1. Theophilus John (90206) Event 19/09/1783 Calcutta India

Child 2 Charles Theophilus (14515) 30/01/1785 Calcutta India

Child 3 Louisa Sophia (63407) Event baptised 03/08/1787 St Mary

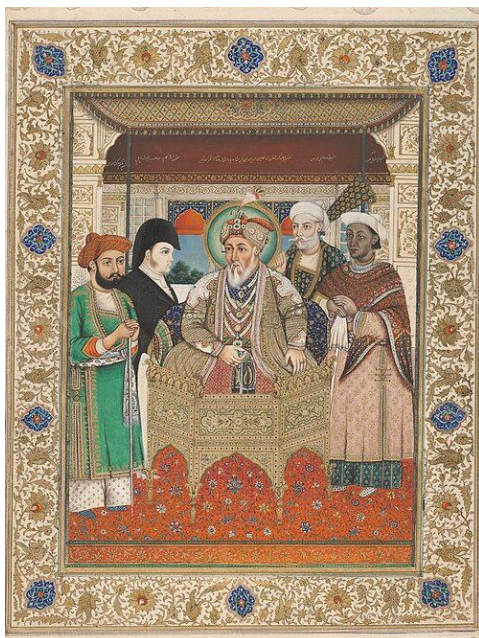
With details of in all of 8 children listed. Not copied here to save space.

A search in the **wills index** will give more details and if the society has transcribed the will, a copy of it.

2nd baronet

The eldest son, Theophilus John, became the 2nd baronet on his father's death. He had no male heirs when he died in China in 1822, which resulted in his brother succeeding him as the 3rd baronet.

3rd baronet



Sir Charles was very successful during his time in India. He led a full and active life being First Assistant to the resident in Delhi (1809), becoming the Resident of Delhi in 1819. In 1836 he was appointed Lieutenant governor of the North West provinces, in 1839 Governor in Chief of the island of Jamaica and finally Governor in Chief of the Provinces of Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia as well as Governor General of all Her Majesty's provinces on the continent of North America and of the island of Prince Edward, before he had to retire due to ill health, whereupon he returned to England.

Sir Charles is pictured second from the left with Akbar II, the penultimate Mughal emperor, portrait being painted it is believed in 1825. The original is held by Victoria and Albert Museum. The portrait is in the Wikimedia Commons. [File: Portrait of Akbar II with Sir Charles Theophilus Metcalf and court dignitaries.jpg - Wikimedia Commons](#)

He was made a member of the Privy Council in 1843 and also installed as a member of the Order of Bath. In 1844 he was created the first and only Baron Metcalfe.

The Illustrated London News on 12th September 1846 reported his death (probably from cancer as he had a growth on his face) and contained an obituary. It stated: ".... *for 43 years this great and good man devoted himself to the public service with an energy and determination that no labour or sickness could abate-with a success too that was everywhere apparent. In private life he was no less to be admired. Kind generous affable and abounding in charity he was invariably beloved by the people whom he governed and his society was the delight of the numerous friends whom and esteem drew around him.*"

A report on his will was given in the Illustrated London News and can be seen here if you are subscribed to The Genealogist [Master Search: The Genealogist](#). Alternatively, a copy can be downloaded and purchased from TNA. [Will of The Right Honorable, Sir Charles Theophilus Baron Metcalfe | The National Archives](#) The fee is £3.50. It is very similar in form to that of his brother the 4th baronet as described below. Tying the mansion and estate to the baronetcy and male heirs.

Whilst living in India he went through a form of Sikh marriage with a relative of Ranjeet Singh, the king of the Sikh Nation and had 3 sons. However, his marriage was not recognised under English law and consequently on his death, none of his sons inherited the baronetcy which instead passed to his brother, Thomas Theophilus Metcalfe who was 10 years his junior.

Baron Metcalfe's only surviving son, Lieutenant James Metcalfe was his residuary beneficiary. He joined Addiscombe the EIC military seminary in 1834 passing out in 1835. He served as interpreter to the Commander in Chief Sir Colin Campbell and went through the fighting of 1857 with him. He received 3 commendations in 1857. He rose through the ranks and retired in 1868 as a Lt. Colonel.

The other two sons of the Baron were (1) Studholm Henry Metcalfe a captain in the East Norfolk regiment of foot. He was baptised in 1813 and died in 1839. (2) Francis Ralph Metcalfe born 1814 and died 1842. He was a medical doctor and joined the EIC Light cavalry in 1839. He was initially an assistant surgeon and served in the first Afghan war 1841-42.

All three sons were sent as children from India to England to live with and be educated by their aunt. They were largely ignored by their father until just before his death, when he drew up his will and recognised his surviving son, appointing him his residuary beneficiary.

4th baronet

On Charles' death his youngest brother Thomas Theophilus Metcalfe became the 4th baronet.

As a child at Haileybury, the EIC staff training college, Thomas led a 'riot' for which he was expelled in 1811. Thanks to his father's position as a governor possibly he was reinstated the following year. This was reported in the Mecca news no. 54 in April 1998!

He too was involved in India. He held several appointments including commissioner and Governor General's agent in Delhi from 1835 until he died in 1853 in Metcalfe House.

He married twice. He built a huge new mansion, called Metcalfe House in Delhi near the Jumna River. It was set on fire in 1857 during the rioting.

Following the death of his brother Charles, he applied to the College of Arms for an addition to the family baronetcy coat of arms. He was successful in being granted the right to include 'supporters' on either side of the shield, these being identical to the supporters which had been included on the new coat of arms granted to his brother as Baron Metcalfe.

The records of the College of Arms says: ‘....a grant to Sir Thomas Theophilus Metcalfe, baronet, Commissioner of Revenue and of the Delhi territory in the East Indies and agent to Her Majesty’s Governor General there, 3rd but eldest surviving son and heir of Sir Theophilus Metcalfe of Chilton in the County of Berkshire baronet sometime representative in Parliament for the borough of Abingdon, that he may bear the supporters which were assigned to his late brother Charles Theophilus Baron Metcalfe deceased, as a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath. Dated 15th April 1850.’

He did not live that long to enjoy his enhanced coat of arms since he died in 1853.

The 4th baronet made his will on 26/05/1850. He died three years later in 1853, fortunately for him perhaps before the events of 1857, which saw his newly erected and large mansion in Delhi destroyed and ransacked.

The will itself was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury since he died owning assets in England as well as in India. It can be found in the series “*Prerogative Court of Canterbury and related Probate Jurisdictions: Will Registers.*” [Will Proved Location Delhi, India, TNA PROB 11-2194-250 Probate 07/01/1854] upon payment of the appropriate fee to TNA a copy can be downloaded. The society have however transcribed a copy, extracts of which are set out below. It can be found on the wills section of the society’s website: (Folio ID 552 Main Record ID 94950: Year 1854). So, you can read the document in full.

“I Sir Thomas Theophilus Metcalfe baronet of Fern Hill in the county of Berkshire and of No 49 Portland Place London but at present residing at Delhi in the East Indies being in good health and sound mind but ignorant how long these blessings may be continued to me do hereby make my last Will and Testament.”

Interestingly the form of the will is quite old fashioned with its references to the afterlife: ***“First I commend my sole [sic] to him that made in the earnest hope of a joyful resurrection at the last day through the above blessed saviour and redeemer amen.”*** He then states the priority of settling his affairs; his debts to be paid first ***“.... After the payment of my just debts which are few and my funeral expenses which need not be expensive [no ostentatious funeral for him!] I desire that all sums of money due to me and all government papers in my possession be appropriated.... to the benefit of my younger children or child then in England or if none of my younger children be in England at the time of my decease then I will that the above amount be given to my youngest son Charles Theophilus Metcalfe or should [he] not be living that the amount be divided amongst my surviving female children in equal proportion.”***

He leaves his stately home and lands at Fern Hill to his eldest son Theophilus John Metcalfe with all its contents. He seeks to tie the property to his successors as baronet. He says ***“It being understood that the said estate and property are to descend with the baronetcy and cannot be in any way leave the family so long as a legal male exists.”***

He left his London home ***“....in Portland Place London known as No 49....”*** also to his eldest son Theophilus John Metcalfe with ***“.... all description of property connected with its furniture, fixtures, portraits and pictures and also all shares held by me in the Globe Insurance Office and all assets held in 3% Consols”*** [i.e. UK government stocks]. His eldest son was also bequeathed: ***“.... my library (with exceptions to duplicates) which I give and bequeath to my second son Charles Theophilus Metcalfe and theological or other parties herein specified.”*** He also left his eldest son: ***“the family plate and my collection of portraits and miniatures for his use while living, and to descend with the baronetcy....”***

He goes on to provide for his Indian assets. ***“I desire that my two estates in Delhi and the furniture thereof, my own plate carriages horses be sold to the best account and the proceeds distributed in equal shares to my five children or the survivors. The amount vis 50,000 rupees payable on my death by the Universal Assurance Society Calcutta I bequeath in equal shares to my three daughters. To my eldest son Theophilus John Metcalfe I bequeath the dressing box I have in use at Delhi my large writing desk; my Gold Repeater watch; the large Cairn Gorum [sic] Cairngorm? Seal; my gold Hoo Kah [sic presumably what we would call a hookah pipe] mouth piece; my Gold antique snuff box and my Napoleon diamond ring. To my second son Charles Theophilus Metcalfe I bequeath the dressing case I have in use at the Koo Tub [possibly a reference to the Qutub Minaret ?] my gold hunting watch and seals the latter consisting of my coat of arms on a green blood stone my crest and initials on a white Gorum stone and a yellow Cornel Ianla Longue De Labsence my smallest gold snuff box and diamond hair brush. To my eldest daughter Emily Ann Theophila Bayley, I bequeath the medallions of Napoleon set round with diamonds my large diamond ring and the satin wood box containing a collection of religious works which belonged to her lamented mother. To my second daughter Georgina Charlotte Theophila I bequeath the large clock which stands in the long or southern room. To my third daughter Eliza Theophila Debonair I bequeath the clock which stands in my dressing room. To Edward Clive Bailey Bengal civil service I bequeath my cabinet of shells coins and medals. My theological library will be divided among my children and certain works in the satin wood cabinet will be divided among my three girls as per names on the several title pages.....”***

The residue is then left to the eldest son who succeeded him as the 5th baronet. The will concluded with a ***“.... desire that all my personal papers contained in the Bareilly painted boxes in my bedroom be destroyed....”*** One wonders what they included! The eldest son and above-mentioned Edward Clive Bailey were appointed executors. Probate granted to Sir Theophilus John Metcalfe baronet and Edward Clive Bayley the executors this 7th day of January 1854 by R Belchumbers Deputy Registrar Victoria by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen defender of the faith and so forth.

5th baronet

Sir Theophilus John Metcalfe, the 5th Baronet taken from the image library issued by member M1042



The father of Sir Charles Herbert Theophilus Metcalfe, (the 6th baronet) who was the subject of the article in March/April. Details are given there too about Sir Theophilus John Metcalfe, the 5th baronet and are not repeated here.

So, by reading past copies of Mecca News, using the society's search facility on the website, checking details in the *Metcalfes in India* publication, researching on sites such as FindMyPast, Ancestry, The Genealogist and searching for records at TNA and the British Library as well as on the FIBIS site and generally on Google a lot of information and records can be found.

What are Guilds, Companies and Liveries?

As Jo mentioned, we want to encourage members to look at their ancestor's occupations and contribute by doing a deep dive into the records to tell their stories. To start off, here is information about trades that became guilds, companies and liveries. Even if a trade was not associated with a guild, please consider contributing what you know about any occupation and your ancestor's involvement.

Guilds were associations of people in the same trade and were formed as early as the 10th-12th centuries. Their purpose was to regulate quality, control apprenticeships, protect trade secrets, support members (charity, funerals, widows) and to enforce local monopolies. They were not originally chartered by the Crown and were informal early on and could have been religious fraternities as well as trade bodies and often very local in scope, such as in a town.

Companies were guilds that received a Royal Charter. Such a charter granted the company legal authority, the right to regulate the trade, set standards, enforce rules, sue or be sued and often a monopoly within a geographic area.

Livery Companies were chartered companies with ceremonial status. They were granted the right to wear a distinctive "liver" (uniform) and participate in the governance of the City of London. A company that becomes a livery company has a body of senior members called the Livery. They participate in electing the Lord Mayor of London, take part in civic ceremonies, maintain halls, charities and archives. They have a hierarchical structure: Master, Wardens and Court of Assistants.

More to come on this topic.

Susan Harper, MN0266

Are you or any of your ancestors clockmakers?

Recently an interesting mid-18th century country longcase clock by **Mark Metcalf** of Askrigg, Yorkshire, came up for Auction and was sold by Cross Antiques. The details were described on the Selling Antiques website, so although the actual date of the sale was not noted, the site was updated this weekend, which indicated the sale was very recent. The clock in question was described as having an elegant slim case in pine grained to look like oak (later re-decorated) and described as being 205cm (81") high; 50cm (20") wide; 28cm (11") deep

Obviously, the name was of immediate interest, and it turns out that Mark Metcalfe is recognised as one of the early clockmakers in Askrigg, Yorkshire, and is often referred to as the "father of the clockmaking industry" in that area. He was born in 1687 and passed away in 1776, leaving a significant legacy in the clockmaking community. This particular clock was described as having been created in about 1750.

I also found reference to several other sales of Mark Metcalf clocks being sold at auction

Including this one - another longcase clock, the description in the catalogue being: An 18th Century Oak cased thirty-hour Longcase / Grandfather clock measuring approximately 86" x 18" x 10" and signed by Mark Metcalfe, C.1770

The description goes on:

Swan neck pediment over a 12-inch arched brass dial with silver chapter ring, date aperture and

engraved centre. The arch with painted plaque depicting a galleon, engraved dial borders, dummy winding holes, four pillar movement with an anchor escapement and outside counterwheel striking on the bell.

The case with triple arched door has a Brian Loomes label inside reading: 'A handsome and interesting antique clock by a much sought after maker, Mark Metcalfe of Askrigg, pupil of John Ogden and working from the 1730's until his death in 1776. The original oak case is of very sound construction in oak and has a very good colour and finish. It stands just less than 7' 2" tall'.

Both clocks had been sold!

Model Clocks "Metcalfe Clock"



I also note contemporary references to **Nick Metcalfe**, who creates cardboard kits for railway and other model makers, and part of his kits include what seems to be called the Metcalfe clock, which is part of his station kits, pictured below. Set up in 1991 all his kits are designed and manufactured in the Dales.

It seems to be an interesting profession for us to find out a bit more on how much clockmaking might figure in the Metcalfe history, and we wondered if any of our members have ancestors who were involved with clockmaking, or even contemporary relatives that we could link up with and find out more about how much they figure in our story. Do you have any stories handed down through the generations? Anything you think may be of interest that we could collate? Please email any information you might have to the society, for the attention of Ella Burton, and it should reach me then,

Thank you, Ella Burton MN0351

Enquiry

An enquiry has come in – (I think he means North Yorkshire not West)

We are planning our trip to Yorkshire/ Metcalfe area in West Yorkshire.

Please let me know if you have found a good tour service or a private person who could help on our tour about 7 or 8 July.

Can you help me as the time draws near?

Thanks,

Bob Metcalf (USA)

Metcalfe Firsts in Australia

Migration, Birth, Marriage, Death

Part Two

Queensland – 1824

Search criteria: - **me*calf***

Migration

Assisted immigration 1848 to 1912 <https://www.data.qld.gov.au/dataset/assisted-immigration-1848-to-1912>

I needed to download an Excel file and looked for all Medc* and Metc*

Emeline Metcalfe aged 18 arrived on the “Conway” 27 November 1862. Page 143, ITM1474, DR38087

https://www.archivessearch.qld.gov.au/api/download_file/DR38087 went to page 3 in the URL and found the following details about Emeline

Metcalf Emeline aged 18 a Domestic from Middlesex

This information can also be located on Ancestry.com

Ancestry also has other datasets such as: -

All Maryborough, Queensland Australia Immigrants from the British Isles & Germany 1861-91 results for me*calf*

The first person listed was:

Surname	Metcalf
Given	Lewson
Age	30
Ship/Year	Tim Whiffler 1875

Birth – 1829 – 1926

First to be born was Frederick George Andrew Metcalfe born 9 May 1867 the son of Daniel Frederick Metcalfe and Sarah Elizabeth nee Dykes

Marriage – 1829 – 1951

First to be married was Emily Metcalfe who married James Walters Walker on 21 March 1863

Death –1829 - 1996

First death to be recorded was Sarah Amand Metcalf the daughter of John Metcalf and Sophia McCormack who died on 20 October 1869

<https://www.familyhistory.bdm.qld.gov.au/>

Dianne Fox, MN0113

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**Please note this Alternate Join/Renew option at:
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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

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