

The Hawstead Hatchments: 5



The final – and most recent – of the Hawstead Hatchments cannot be positively identified. It clearly commemorates a member of the Metcalfe family because of the familiar three calves 'passant' in the centre. It is also clearly a woman – see the ribbon-work at the top rather than a helm – and the presence of a 'lozenge', or diamond shape in the middle rather than a shield, together with the lack of any vertical division here or in the black background all point to a memorial for a spinster.

This means that it could be for either **Ellen Frances Metcalfe**, eldest daughter, or **Sophia Metcalfe**, second daughter of **Christopher Barton Metcalfe** and his wife **Sophia**. Neither of these sisters were married and they both share a monument on the South wall of the nave.

They both also lived to a good age – longer than any of the others represented by the Hawstead hatchments! Ellen was born in 1788 and lived to the age of 70 (she died in 1858), whilst Sophia was born a year later and died in 1855, aged 66.

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