Tulle

Issue 141

November 2018

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since our last meeting we've celebrated the 170th anniversary of our *Harpley* and *Agincourt* Lacemaker families. These two ships carried about 80% of the Lacemakers of Calais to arrive.

I suppose some of the families had known each other for many years across several generations before heading to Australia, but I wonder if any of them would have believed that their descendants would still be gathering together to talk about their lives in 2018!

I hope you are enjoying having access to the Members Area of our website. It is wonderful to have so many resources available at our fingertips 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Special thanks to our members who have contributed documents, stories, photographs and their own research which we can now share easily amongst our members.

Using our Calais census index and maps, I've discovered that reading about my Lacemakers' neighbours has given me some insights into their life – especially as my Lacemakers didn't appear to be great letter writers or into photography (well, writing names of people on photos anyway…and yes I have inherited that bad habit too).

Please join us for our festive season party at our November meeting. If I don't get the opportunity to see you there, I wish you a Merry Christmas and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2019.

Megan Fox
President

AND THE SECRETARY

Despite huge disruptions on the train lines and heavy traffic most members still managed to get to the meeting.

We were wonderfully entertained by Cheryl Williss and Colin Routley both Lacemaker descendants from the Goldfinch and the Crowder families who arrived in SA on the Harpley. (170 years since the arrival thereof). Their talk was titled 'Connections'. Cheryl has promised to provide an article for *Tulle* based on her talk so you can all enjoy her research. Cheryl has also written several books, one detailing the history of the Pioneers Society of South Australia and one Miss Marryat's Circle about the daughter of the first SA chaplain.

After a pleasant afternoon tea a short General Meeting was held. The main issues discussed were that Gillian would produce the November *Tulle* but the future thereafter is still under discussion. A Newsletter called *Tulle* was proposed. This led to a discussion around reduction of fees in light of not having the printing costs of Tulle. However there will be ongoing costs around insurance, rent, Membership of other societies, website maintenance and storage of data as well as postage to non emailers. Discussion continues.

It is also important that members produce their family story for the website. Gil is putting up any material that current and previous members have entrusted to her and material from her own research. Please check your family out on the website.

Discussion then ranged around the fact that we, now through Facebook and the Website, are tapping into places previously unknown to us. We also need to continue using print media and the airwaves to keep our story out there.We are also a city centric Society so we need to look at ways to meet more members in person.

The meeting closed and our members then battled the trains and the traffic again. Lucky we are 'Well Suited to the Colony' and can cope with these disruptions to our lives.

Carolyn Broadhead
Secretary

AND FINALLY, FROM THE EDOTOR

This, Ladies and Gentlemen, is the last edition of *Tulle* the way we have known it. After some thirty six years of printed publication as the back bone of keeping members together it has become time to rethink how we are to communicate.

Way back in 1982 after the first meeting of a group of folk interested in those passengers on the *Agincourt*, the *Fairlie* and the *Harpley*, a newsletter was mooted. It was to be called *Tulle*, from the French word for net – the product of the very first lace machines. .*Tulle* was eight A5 pages of information typed up and printed on photocopying machines.

It was not until mid 1991 that the journal appeared in a true booklet form. By then it was typed on a computer and produced by a copying outlet, still with the limitations of black and white images, mostly line drawings. Over the years, as technology has leapt ahead, the journal has developed into a professional journal with high quality images.

In thirty six years there have only been a handful of editors. In the first twenty four months the newsletter was produced by Chris Sutton and Theo Saywell. Claire Loneragan then took over the role of editor, followed by Gillian Kelly and Richard Lander. These three editors

the journal for some thirty four years, with Jim Longmire undertaking the next two.

Earlier this year a Members' survey indicated very clearly that *Tulle* was valued and enjoyed. Equally clearly the survey showed that there was not one person who felt they could undertake the role of editor. While this is regretted, it is also very easily understood, and in no way a criticism of our membership.

However it does leave the executive in the position of having to decide, how, in this technical world, we meet the needs of those of us who use modern technology for most communication, as well as those of us who prefer the more traditional methods.

Over the next several months the committee will be working hard at devising means that ensure knowledge is still shared, members are assisted in their research and stories are told.

Meantime, from all the past editors, may we thank you all for your enthusiasm, your interactions with us, your stories and your leads. For us it has been a privilege to share what is one of the best Australian social history stories yet told!

Gillian Kelly
Editor

REMINDER

Your 2019 membership renewal for the Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais Inc is due on or before December 31, 2018

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Christmas with Guest Speaker Christine Yeats

November 17th, Stanton Library 1pm

We are delighted to welcome Christine Yeats, President of the Royal Australian Historic Society. Christine has an incredibly wide range of interests across Australian history ranging from Irish convicts Industrial arbitration and beyond. She is an expert in Archival research and historical research in particular in early Australian colonial history and will be speaking to the Society on using the records of the RAHS.

We will then enjoy our traditional Christmas afternoon tea. Your additions to the Christmas fare will be very welcome!

AGM with Guest Speaker Kerry Farmer

February 16th, Stanton Library 1pm

Kerry has been teaching family history classes since 1997. With degrees in both science & arts, she is a board-member of the Society of Australian Genealogists and is a regular speaker at conferences and other events. She is the Director of Australian Studies for the National Institute for Genealogical Studies, and authored *DNA for genealogists* , and will be speaking to us about the latest tool in genealogy: DNA !

This will be followed by afternoon tea and the Society's AGM.

RICHARD AND EUGENIE GOLDFINCH

Richard Redman Goldfinch was born in 1814 in Deal, Kent, to Richard senior, a carpenter, and Sarah née Redman. On 30 November 1840, Richard wed Frenchwoman Eugenie Desombre, in St Augustine's Church, Dover. Their marriage certificate clearly states Richard's occupation as 'Lacemaker'. The daughter of Auguste, a painter, Eugenie was illiterate and, as was common in those times, signed her name with an 'X'.

Richard and Eugenie's first son, also named Richard, had been born in Calais two years earlier, followed by William (1841), George (1844) and Henri (1846). On 12 May 1848, the family left Gravesend aboard the *Harpley*, bound for South Australia. After 114 days at sea, on 2 September the ship at last docked at Port Adelaide. Just 2 1/2 months later, a daughter, Mary Ann, was born.

Together with other Lacemakers, the family settled in what is now the Adelaide inner-west suburb of Thebarton. In January 1851, another daughter, Annette, was born. Sadly, tragedy struck just three months later when nine-year-old George drowned in the Torrens River while playing with friends.

When gold was discovered in Victoria, Richard was quick to join the male exodus to the goldfields. In December 1851 he and fellow *Harpley* passenger Phillip Hiskey sailed to Melbourne, eager to seek their fortunes. On 28 April 1852, Richard returned to Adelaide on the aptly named *Hero*. For the time being, Phillip stayed on in the goldfields, but on 5 May six ounces of gold, consigned by Phillip for delivery to Richard, arrived in Adelaide under Police Commissioner Alexander Tolmer's second gold escort. Now fetching three pounds an ounce, the quantity was

significant. Perhaps the pair were equal partners in the find. Later escort records are no longer extant, so we do not know the extent of Richard's fortunes. But it appears he travelled back and forth on a regular basis.

In June 1853 Eugenie gave birth to the couple's third daughter, Charlotte. By July 1854 local council records list Richard as a freeholder. But in February 1855 – and pregnant again – Eugenie and her five younger children entered Adelaide's Destitute Asylum. Eugenie had been working as a charwoman and living in Gilbert Street in the south-eastern corner of Adelaide, 'near Mr Ross's garden'. It seems that Richard was away again, and it is possible the family home had been rented out to make ends meet – a common occurrence during the gold rush days. In October another daughter was born, Eugenia, affectionately known as Janey. But eventually the family returned to Thebarton, and in March 1858 Richard was elected a Councillor in their local district of West Torrens.

Aged 62, Richard died of consumption on 18 April 1876, but Eugenie lived another 22 years. She died on 20 August 1898, leaving three sons, four daughters, 36 grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren.

Back in 1840 when a young Eugenie Desombre wed Englishman Richard Goldfinch, she could neither read nor write. Over half a century later, and now on the other side of the world, Eugenie Goldfinch signed her name to the petition of 11,600 names which in 1894 gave South Australian women the right to vote *and* stand for Parliament, the first in the world to achieve both. It would be another half a century before the women of her birthland would be granted the same liberty. The original petition signed by Eugenie can be viewed in South Australia's parliamentary library.

Richard Goldfinch junior had made a living from fishing and general labouring. In 1867, he married Jane née Smith. After Jane's death he

married Agnes née Reading. In April 1898, tragedy struck when Richard and Jane's son Albert was killed in a work accident at Marsh's candle factory. According to the inquest Albert was aged 'between 25 and 26' and 'was not subject to fits and never drank intoxicants or smoked'. He'd been standing on a high platform – with no guard rail to protect him – and working at a copper vat, when an agitator he was using snapped, causing him to fall head first over the platform.

The coroner's verdict was:

That the deceased came to his death by accidentally falling from a platform, no blame being attachable to anyone.

But, he added:

Extra precaution should be taken in the future by the erection of guardrails.

The Mayor of Thebarton set up a public fund for Albert's young widow, Margaret, and her two small children. Margaret never re-married.Like his older brother, William Goldfinch turned his hand to fishing. In 1864, he married Margaret née Harriott. Ten years later the couple set off for the newly opened land on Yorke Peninsula where William became a successful farmer. He died in 1918.

In 1909, William's son Charles married Phyllis née Kidman, a niece of the cattle tycoon Sir Sidney Kidman. In February 1927, Phyllis died giving birth to a stillborn son. Just a few months later, William's eldest son, John, died aged 63. In August that year, Richard & Eugenie's fourth son Henri, died at the good age of 81. Henri had made a life for himself as a butcher. Like his eldest brother, he had also married in 1867, to Mary

Ann née Eldridge. After Mary Ann's death in 1886, he wed Eliza Ann née North.

Although the GOLDFINCH name lives on in South Australia, for me, the name continued as far as my maternal grandmother, William's granddaughter Clementina, who was born in July 1892 in the Yorke Peninsula farming town of Curramulka. Family legend has it that my great grandfather Clement named his firstborn Clementina just in case there were no more children – my Nan went on to be the eldest of sixteen. But everyone knew Nan as 'Tina'.Three of Tina's cousins, William and brothers John and Alfred, enlisted in the Great War. Only John returned. William was killed during the battle of Mouquet Farm, and Alfred died after contracting pneumonia. Their names feature in *Tulle*: November 1999 and February 2015.

Cheryl Williss

Footnotes:

1.Richard's cousin, Thomas Goldfinch, arrived in Sydney with his family on the vessel *Emperor*. Thomas's half-brother, John Mathew Goldfinch, was a witness at Richard and Eugenie's wedding.

2.Photographs purporting to be Richard and Eugenie Goldfinch that have found their way into various *Ancestry* family trees have been substantiated by the author and other family descendants as William Goldfinch's parents-in-law, Andrew and Margaret Harriott.

IN THE STEPS OF ROSE

The latest issue of *Tulle* prompts me to submit my story. I was delighted and interested to read the article on page seventeen of the last issue of *Tulle*, concerning St James Anglican Church, Morpeth.

On Sunday August 6, 2017 I attended Holy Communion at this historic church. I moved to *Closebourne*, Morpeth on Wednesday August 2nd, 2017 after living in Roseville for forty seven years.

Perhaps my article should have a title. It would be improper to use Morpeth and I as that is the name of the well known work of Professor Elkin. It would be grammatically improper to name it Morpeth and Me. My story is actually *In the Steps of Rose*.

I was born at Maitland and my family home was Concord, Oakhampton, built by my great grandfather William Mills in 1880.

I, June Rose Logan, daughter of John (Jack) and Gwen Logan had an older adopted sister Edna and a younger brother John Frederick William.

I joined the staff of the Maitland City Library in 1948 and was Deputy City Librarian by the time I resigned in 1970. I married Laurence Howarth in November 1970 and moved to Roseville. Our thirty eight and a half years were happy ones.

By 2017 my home of 47 years was too large for me on my own and maintaining a 1921 building and providing adequate winter heating was too expensive.

It was difficult to find a suitable alternative. On a visit to family on Maitland it was suggested that I consider *Closebourne* at Morpeth. When I left Maitland it was St John's Theological College. In the 1950s and 60s my family and I had often attended garden parties at this delightful spot, and on many occasions I had received Holy Communion in the chapel. At last I found my solution in new unit in a retirement complex founded by Lendlease.

***Closebourne* Morpeth as it was in 1970, photographer Wes Stacey**

It has been a big move and an emotional upheaval and I am inspired by my great grandmother Rose Saywell of the Lacemaker family of Calais. With her family she left Calais in 1848and they arrived in Australia on the *Agincourt*, A steamboat brought her to Morpeth and she walked to her first employment in East Maitland. She was just eighteen years old. I drive the Morpeth Rd in my bright red, air conditioned Barina!

Rose married James Pryor and they had a large family in North West NSW. Checking family records it appears that all my ancestors came

here between 1791 and 1850 - names included are: Tucker, Turner, Tranter, Saywell, Pryor, Logan, Deering, Risby and Mills.

As residents drive from our village we look down across a scene similar to a French landscape – ploughed fields, green pastures and farmers at work. A family friend and veteran of WWI used to liken the view from Hinton Anglican Church and surrounds to a French village. It seems I have come the full circle!

Maitland: 1863-1963, (Sydney: Oswald Zeigler,1963), p. 17

June Howarth OAM

THE CALAISIEN EARTHERNWARE FACTORY

OF PAIN, BAYLEY AND SHIRLEY

Established in 1807 during Napoleon's Continental Blockade, the first earthenware factory of Saint Pierre-les-Calais lasted only a few years. It was built on a large block of land between the road of Saint-Omer and the channel connecting Calais to Guînes. It became an important development, employing 35 people and producing household articles. Unfortunately, its founder, native of Calais, Antoine Brouttin Ferque, ceased production in 1815 to join Louis XVIII during the episode of Hundred Days.

The buildings had been abandoned for several years when, around 1821, John Pain, an English subject, from Deal, Kent, who was interested in the trade and manufacture of tulle, arrived from England. As early as 1822 he was named on the list of tulle makers and set up a company to manufacture it with James Dowers and Noriss Adams, both of Deal, and Richard Dangerfield of Folkestone, under the name "Pain and Co.". He was one of the first English lace makers installed in Saint-Pierre-lès-Calais who did not come from Nottingham.

In addition, the new company leased the buildings of the former pottery factory of Brouttin de Ferque, which belonged to the Hugon family, a merchant from Calais. Thanks to the support of the mayor of Saint-Pierre-les-Calais, Jean-Louis-Noel Debette, helped him with the many formalities, he obtained the prefectural authorization to reopen on June 28, 1823.

For this purpose, he created a second company with Georges Bayley, a man named Shirley, and perhaps Robert Webster, under the name "Pain, Bayley, Shirley and Co." Resumption of production began very quickly. The ovens were restored, the clay imported from England and the staff recruited in France and England. According to the statistical yearbook of Pas-de-Calais (1824), the company employed 60 people including 35 French. In another document found at the Chamber of Commerce of Calais, it mentions 78 persons, classified by nationality. French: 24 men and 15 women and English: 33 men and 6 women.

Three hundred thousand pieces of pottery were produced each year and were sold in Paris, Rouen, Le Havre and Calais, for the domestic market and the French colonies. It was noted that the pottery that came from this establishment was similar to that which was made in England.John Pain recruited several potters from the UK, including William Spiette, a 50 year old Englishman who came with his wife and four children, as well as Charles Jepet, a bachelor and later, James Birks.

It is certainly these men who created several models of original drawings, among others that of "willow pattern" or "weeping willow" which, copied from England, was the most widespread in France through other factories such as Creil, Bordeaux , Sarreguemines or Saint-Amand.

The pieces were varied, both for the household (plates, pots, teapots, coffee pots, milk jugs, oval saucers, round tureens, salad bowls, fruit compotes, oval juice dishes, fish dishes) and for the bathroom (soap boxes, beard basins), as specified in a catalog of December 1, 1823. The main pieces, such as plates or dishes, had their size in English measure and ranged from 6 to 19 inches; which is a valuable aid for their identification when they are not marked.

The majority of pieces were blue in colour, but there were also objects in green, brown or purple. At the mark of departure "Saint-Pierre-les-Calais", surmounted by a crown and two leaves on the sides printed in blue, succeeded the mark "Calais" marked hollow. The assumption of this change is that the name of Calais was more commercial and also easier to indicate. Later the signature of a naval anchor appeared.

1825 remained the year of the apogee for the founders: the Duchess of Berry, coming from England and going to Calais on August 27, visited two local companies: on the one hand the factory of tulle and lace of Robert Webster, English subject, on the other the pottery manufactory of Messrs Pain, Bayley and Shirley. These two foreign companies were the largest in Saint-Pierre-lès-Calais.

In 1826, John Pain sold his shares in six tulle machines and retired from the tulle company "Pain et Cie", presumably to alleviate the debts he had owed. In 1828,

Earthernware from Pain, Bayley & Shirley, Musée de Calais

for reasons that are not well known, the factory stopped activity; according to the oral tradition, the main cause was the poor quality of the water drawn from the canal, used to manipulate the clay, but perhaps also the debt of the partners to an English lender, John Morley, who was a merchant in Calais, and the development of the tulle that recruited the local labor at higher rates.

John Pain returned to the manufacture of tulle and figured as a manufacturer in the register of patents in 1828 and 1829, but he died in July 1830. The buildings were resold by the Hugon heirs on December 31st, 1829 to two Calaisian traders, Devot and Moleux, to install a factory for raw sugar.

All the material that was there, as well as the goods, were sold at auction on June 20, 1830 at the request of the creditor Morley. Thus ended the life of this artistic factory that had lasted five years , and some of its products can be seen in the Musée de Calais, which, despite the bombing of the two wars, has been able to reconstitute a collection of some thirty pieces.

John Pain, of English nationality, born in Deal (England) on November 21, 1788, officially arrived in Calais on May 15, 1821, as he stated at the time of his application for authorization from home a few years later. From 1822, he was on the list of tulle manufacturers. He was associated with James Dowers and Noriss Adams, both of Deal, and Richard Dangerfield of Folkestone for the manufacture of tulle by a notary contract of July 19, 1823. In November 1822, he signed a petition with seven other manufacturers including Robert Webster and Robert West, in order to obtain the signature by the Clerk of the Town Hall for certificates of origin for their goods.

He was one of the first English lacemakers in Calais who did not come from Nottingham, but had to stay after helping to transfer trades. Several compatriots, also from Deal, had arrived at the same time, such as Samuel Dobbs, Robert Mac Murray West and John Thomsett as manufacturers of tulle. In 1823, he applied for authorisation to live in Calais, stating his professions of Manufacturer of tulle and earthenware

He puts back in activity, in association with Georges Bailey, Shirley, and perhaps Robert Webster, an old faience factory in Saint-Pierre-les-Calais, founded in 1807 by Antoine Brouttin de Ferques. In 1825, he appeared as a witness at the baptism of Mark Pain, son of William Pain, baker from Deal and arrived in Calais in 1825.

He died on July 15, 1830 in Saint-Pierre-lès-Calais after losing his daughter Ellen on February 16 1829. He left his widow Anne Ashington, 39 years old, a cabaretiere, and seven children, including two sons and a daughter Anne who was born in Deal in 1816.

On June1, 1848 Anne married John Moon in Dover. Anne was a widow at that time – her first husband being Henry Asling. John Moon, his new bride Anne and her three children from her first marriage then joined the Agincourt, arriving in Sydney October1848!

From *"La Manche, lien dans l'histoire du Kent et du Pas de Calais" Actes du Colloque de Wimille 30 mai 2008 (*) auteur Xavier Morillon pages 67-70.*
Notes ASLC

RELIC FROM A *HARPLEY* PASSENGER

The original dresser from the Travellers' Home Inn. It is still owned by the Longmire family.

Henry Longmire, born in Old Radford, Nottingham in 1836, accompanied his parents, Hiram & Ann Longmire, and siblings, Hiram jun. and Mary to Calais, where another sister, Elizabeth was born in 1844, and a brother, Walter in 1846. In 1848 they all came to South Australia per *Harpley*.

In the early 1860s Hiram built the *Traveller's Home* inn on the Hummocks sheep run, north of Pt Wakefield, and the little township of Lochiel later grew around it.

Henry had married Ellen Martha Frost at Riverton in 1857, and they became pioneer farmers, settling finally at Redhill, north of Lochiel, where Henry died in 1915. Ellen Martha joined him in the Redhill cemetery in 1924.

It is believed that Henry & Ellen Martha acquired the cedar chiffonier in the latter part of the 19th century. My mother, Jean Kathleen Ireland nee Cavenett (1911-2008) remembered seeing it in the Redhill house of her maternal grandparents when young.

It then passed to Henry & Ellen's son, Henry Edwin Longmire,1873-1954, farmer at Redhill, thence to his son Edwin (Ted) 1901-1988 and to his son Frank 1930-, who retired from farming to Crystal Brook, where his late wife, Patricia had it restored. It was photographed there about 2012, during a Longmire Odyssey arranged by Peter Longmire, 2nd cousin to Frank. Fortunately Frank & Pat's son, Andrew Longmire is still farming the land at Redhill.

Jessie Skye

FROM CALAIS TO HOBART VIA THE OLD BAILEY

In 1834 one Samuel Hall was indicted at the Old Bailey, London, for stealing, on the 26th of August , 1 canvas bag, value 2d.; 1 purse, value 2d.; 1 hat-cover, value 6d.; 2 sovereigns; and 185 pieces of foreign coin, called 5-francs, 38 English pounds.; the goods and monies of Benjamin Dodsworth , his master .

Benjamin was a lace machine maker, who had moved to Calais at least by 1827 and lived in St. Pierre. The prisoner had been in his service for seven months and made bobbins working in the shop with him.

On the 22nd of August Benjamin missed a canvas bag, a purse, and the money, from a box in his bed-room and then found Samuel had absconded. At the Old Bailey he was asked by prosecutor Clarkson, ‘ Did you not lose five-franc pieces?’

’Yes,’ he replied, ‘that is the proper name of the coin - the prisoner was apprehended on the 26th of August in London, at the Blossoms Inn, and brought to me - I missed money to the value of 40 English pounds in French coin, and two sovereigns in English coin - there might be franc pieces and half-francs - they were kept in my trunk in France - I did not go before the authorities there about it - I came to town to overtake the prisoner - I employed Parish, the policeman.’

Clarkson’s next question was ‘ Did you say to the prisoner, "If you will confess the robbery and restore the money, no more shall be done to you?"’Benjamin was emphatic, ‘ No ! I said, "Sam, what do you mean by robbing me?" - he said, "I don't know" - I did not offer him pardon or forgiveness, or anything to that effect - he delivered a bag of forty-one sovereigns to the officer - the officer did not tell him he would forgive him if he would restore the money, in my presence - he was unwilling to

give it up. He seemed unwilling to be searched, and moved about and pulled out the silk purse - the canvass bag was found about his watch fob - after some altercation he produced it - I have got back 41 sovereigns and 15s. from him - I lost 40 pounds - after the money was produced, I said he might go back with me and work with me again, and save his character - he had restored the money to the officer then'

Phillip Parrish, the policeman was then called and reported: 'I am a policeman. I took the prisoner to a house where the prosecutor was, and told him I apprehended him for robbing him - he said, "What I have done, I have done in France - I am not in France now, and am not amenable" - I took a purse from his left hand pocket, which the prosecutor identified - I afterwards went to his other pocket, but I could not get my hand to the bottom - I found a garter strap had been put round it to confine it - I took out 41 sovereigns - How is this? these are sovereigns" - he said, "O yes, I changed the silver for sovereigns" - he desired the prosecutor to forgive him, and said he had behaved very kind to him, and he had done very wrong.

The prosecutor said to me at the door, "I would not mind giving the poor fellow a sovereign to start him on the road, though he has used me so" - - he said before the magistrate, that he did not wish to prosecute. Sam objected ' The prosecutor said if I wished to return to France, he would take me again into his employ, and that he would give me 50shillings to go home to Nottingham.' And Ben Dosworth added that he had employed Sam Hall without a character reference – Sam had come to France looking for work and had asked Ben for a job.

And so Samuel Hall of Nottingham was found guilty of robbery and at the age of 22 he was sentenced to seven years transportation to Van Diemens Land .

Records of The Old Bailey, 04/09/1834 on line. Benjamin Dodsworth v Samuel Hall
Tas. Archives:, Convict papers CON 14-2-8 , CON 31-1-21, CON 18-1-21

OUT OF CALAIS 1940

Children acquire the nationality of their country of birth but in France they can renounce French nationality on reaching the age of majority, eighteen, and take the nationality of their father. Many children born in France to British subjects chose to do this. On the 31 December 1939 *The Census of Foreigners* recorded there were 210 British, or of British descent living in Calais itself (120 men, 88 women and 2 children).

British citizens waiting to board HMS *Venomous* at Calais May 21, 1940

Most holders of British passports were able to leave Calais before it fell to German forces on May 26, 1940 but some French born British subjects decided not to leave but to stay and and risk internment - or worse - when German forces occupied Calais. HMS *Venomous* was the last ship to move civilians out of Calais on May 21.

The presence of the small remaining English colony within the population of Calais worried the Germans. They considered the French were no longer a threat, but they were at war with England and believed that these

citizens of the United Kingdom living in occupied territory could pose a danger. The decision was made to send them to distant internment camps and without revealing the true purpose of the summons a poster appeared:

PEOPLE OF ENGLISH NATIONALITY

Those who are inhabitants of Calais or passing through this city and over 18 years of age are required to present themselves to the Kommandutur immediately. Those English who fail to do so will be considered as spies and judged according to German military laws.

Der Kommandant S Hauptmann

In July and August 1940 almost all the men over 17 were arrested and a month later deported in animal railway wagons to camps in Germany first at Loos, then in Belgium and finally Tost in Upper Silesia. The unluckiest were interned in Troyes and Vittel.

Many of these young men had taken British nationality on reaching the age of eighteen and as a result remained interned for the rest of the war. When the Soviet troops approached Upper Silesia, the Germans brought the English civilians back to Belfort, then to an internment camp at Westerinke, in the centre of a triangle formed by Hamburg, Hanover and Bremen. These internees were fortunate in that they were liberated by their compatriots when the English Army entered the area in March 1945.

Amongst those arrested in Calais from July 1940 were:

Barribal John. Born in 1885, mechanic.
Brimble Ernest, born in 1888, hotelier.
Brown Elise, born in 1881. Housewife.
Brown Frederick, born in 1883, Tullist.
Buck Eugénie, born in 1900. Housewife.
Cannings Melvyn, born in 1896, trader
Dutnall Ernest. Born in 1888, trader.
Gregson. Born in 18??, freight forwarder
Grey George. Born in 1901, team leader.
Grey Fernand. Born in 1901 (twin of previous)factory worker.
Grey William, of Calais, released 1942 with no return to Calais
Harris Jacqueline, born in 1926, typist.
Hazeldine Agnès. Born in 1864. of Cowhats.
Hicks Henri, from Escalles.
Hicks Charles, from Escalles.
Holding Olivier, born in 1899, manoeuvre.
Kearton Lucie, from Escalles.
Larkins Albert, born in 1890. Interpreter.
Mac Leod Alexander, born in 1888, employee.
Mac Leod Denise, born in 1896, used.
Mynheer Elijah, born in 1880, maneuver. Perry Albert, born in 1880, Tullist, Pont-du-Leu. to coupons.
Ratcliffe Harold, born in 1898, grocery store manager; Rayney Reginald, born in 1 897, employed at Ets Brampton..
Spencer Marguerite. Born in 1888, housewife.
Spencer Frank, born in 1891, Butler.
Staples Albertine, born in 1886, housewife.
Spencer Frank, born in 1891, butler
Staples, Albertine, born 1886, housewife **Gillian Kelly**

Moore, Robert J & Rodgard, John A *A Hard Fought Ship*

Bill Forster, Jack Hartshorn and H Ratcliffe ***whose families either escaped Calais or were interned - from Internet notes and online discussion***

THE ROGERS COUSINS

The cousins: l to r Judy Gifford, David Groves, Jean Coulton

The August ASLC quarterly meeting saw me arriving with two 'cousins', all descended from our Lacemaker William Rogers (1814–1857). William and his family arrived in Sydney 30 December 1848 per the *Walmer Castle*. He was accompanied by his second wife Harriet Hazledine and 4 children: William aged 12, George 10, Edmund 7 and Eliza 5. I am descended from William (on the left), David Groves from Edmund and Jean Coulton from George.

I have been in contact with David and Jean over the years but they have only recently met, living quite near each other on the Northern Beaches.

It is interesting that they had not met till very recently as the brothers George and Edmund married sisters - Kezia and Eliza Saunders.

George died aged 38 (from an abscess on the liver) so all the children were raised by Edmund and the two sisters.

Edmund was a wealthy man on his death in 1898, owning the Whitehorse Hotel, the site now occupied by Moore College near Sydney University.

My William died in 1901 with considerable assets. In 1885 when he bought 20 acres in Frederick St, East Gosford, he was described as a 'wealthy landowner from Woolloomooloo'. When you consider that they came as refugees from Calais, their passage paid for by the British Government, it is very interesting to speculate about the source of their good fortune. Was it the gold, discovered in the early 1850s? Was it their hard work and the mechanical and carpentry skills possibly used to good effect on the goldfields? Or a combination of all of the above?

I am very proud to have been able to bring these cousins to an ASLC meeting. When I first started attending in the early 1990s under the wing of founding member Lindsay Watts, I always had the impression that I wasn't really a legitimate lacemaker descendant as my family had not arrived 2 months earlier on one of the three main lacemaker ships — the *Harpley*, the *Fairlie* and the *Agincourt.*

However, with the help of members of the ASLC and the Nottingham FHS, I eventually worked out why William arrived after the main group. He had

married Mary Haslam in Nottingham where William and George were born. Edmund was born in Lille in 1841 and Eliza in Calais in 1843. Sadly, another daughter Ann was born in 1846, dying a few weeks later as did Mary.

So when you think of William as a widower with four young children, it is obvious that he needed a wife. So he travelled back to Nottingham and married Harriet who was 32, the same age as him. Hazeldine is a lacemaker name so they probably had known each other all their lives. She was a brave woman to be willing to travel to the ends of the earth with a readymade family. But then life was tough in Nottingham and, at the age of 32, she would have been considered well and truly 'on the shelf'. She must have been a good mother to the young Eliza as she and Eliza lived together in Woolloomooloo working as dressmakers till Harriet's death in 1895. Eliza didn't have any children and I am pretty sure never married.

My father inherited the house called *Mona Vale* that his father and grandfather built on the property in East Gosford. He farmed there during WW2, eventually selling 13 acres to the Christian Brothers for a school. The school is still there as is the house, which is now heritage listed and used for administrative purposes.

Judy Gifford

Judy in front of present day *Mona Vale*, now heritage listed and the headquarters of St Edwards College, East Gosford

A LETTER FROM FRANCE

7th August 1866 from Paris France, addressed to Mrs Nutt

I was looking through my mother Gwen Chinner's (nee Nutt) papers pertaining to the Lacemaker 'Nutt' family from the Agincourt and found a photocopy of this original letter and a type written version. I have copied this as best I can. The original photocopy is hard to decipher names especially.

This letter probably raises more questions than answers but my feeling is it is a letter to Mrs Caroline Nutt (c1802 – 1879). She and her husband James Nutt were the parents of the six children who came on the Agincourt. I'm pretty sure one of their daughters Mary Anne married a William Dunshea (Donchea) hence the compliments to them and perhaps to the eldest son George and his wife.

What I think really appeals to me is this is evidence that our forebears maintained their French connection. I am also interested in the names of the people at Government House who my great -great grandmother was asked to contact. Isn't the mystery of unlocking your past a wonderful process? What else will I find???

Carolyn Broadhead

Copied as written.

Dear Mrs Nutt,

I hope that you are quite well. When we were going around Cape Horn it was very rough and Cold. Dear friend we were thirty days to go round and all the way fair winds. We saw great

mountains of sea. And we had plenty of snow and rain. Adrienne was very sick for a month after that she ad very bad chilblains.

One of them broke and she ad a very bad toe for some ten weeks. Everybody thought that she should 'ave her toe about off if I was not with her. It was a good thing that I 'ad pieces of linen and ointment because I do not nowe what she would have done.

When we were about one month on the ship Adrienne had all her provisions stolen from her and when I went to the Captain he insulted me almost like a brute and he is the most ignorant man in the world and as for the Second he was not much better.

We reached the line in June and it was very hot we saw sharks porposes Cape Pigion albatrosses Whale birds. We arrived in London on 26 July and we stoped in England for a little while and we saw the Cristal Palace Westminster Abbey and the House of Lords and Common and we went to the theatre 5 or 6 times and to the Post Office.

Oh we have not made a very bad Passage. The Captain said it was a very good one. We are now at Putaux at Monsieur et Madame le peintre and all the family with Adrienne and I have made up my mind to stop in the same house. Will you go to Mr Duaba at Bourke st lane in Wooloomooloo and to Government house and will you tell Mrs Luabu ? the news and to Mrs Spreathres and Madame Rosalia the news that I will write to them when I am settled.

Dear Mrs Nut give my compliments to Mr and Mrs Nut and to Mr and Mrs Donchea and all the rest of the family and I have received a letter from Madame Hatthey and from my son and it said that Mr. Nut'ad arrived and he was going to England and that he asked you and your

daughter to go with him And that you would not go so I am very angry because you could have come and seen me.

Dear friend I am sorry to say that my sister is very ill I think that she will not live long because she 'as a very bad health I was so sorry that I did not see my son and I was very glad the Mr Nut'ad arrived and I was very sorry that you did not go.

My son told me he arrived ten days after my departure, Dear Mrs Nut I was very glad that my son did come and see you as writing to my son at the same time that I am writing to you. I am figity in France it'as been a very bad summer in Paris You must write to me and tell me all the Particular news.

Adress
Mon le peintre
a Putaux Pres Niully Rue Mars et Roby
Pour Remettre Madame G Oudville – Paris France

MEET A MEMBER: ROBIN GORDON OAM

Robbie and Den Gordon

Robbie Gordon was interviewed by Jim Longmire in July 2017. His transcription of the interview provides a glimpse into the journey our Lacemaker families have taken, and also the changes in our own societies over the last 70 years.

Jim introduces Robbie:

'Robin Gordon lives with her husband Den and son John at Belmont, NSW. The area fronts the north eastern part of Lake Macquarie, south of Newcastle and is only several kilometres from the ocean. Their beautiful residence and garden is shared lovingly with family and friends and some very-friendly avian visitors, including kookaburras, butcher birds and rainbow lorikeets. The Gordon family feed all birds who come a-visiting. The southerly view is a vista of Belmont Bay, where yachts were racing the day I visited.'

And Robbie continues:

'I was born during World War ll. Dad was away from home for much of the War, serving in the RAAF. Mum and I had spent most of the war with both sets of Grandparents and some Aunts, and when Dad came "home from the War", we settled for some years, in a little cottage that Dad had bought during the War, at Eleebana, a lovely little village between Warners Bay and Eleebana on the shores of beautiful Lake Macquarie.

At that time we were one of only five permanent residents there. We were pretty isolated but what an idyllic existence. No bus service, except for one service in the early morning and again late in the afternoon, to meet the needs of the workers who went to jobs in the many industries in Newcastle in those days.

Tanks for water and a generator for electricity. Candles and hurricane lamps were an essential but normal part of our lives. We carried our bath and laundry/washing water to Mum's new shrubs and flowerbeds. The tank water was too precious to waste and was needed for our domestic needs and Dad's veggie garden. My baby brother, Lindsay, my only sibling, was born, 4 years behind me, whilst we lived at Eleebana.

I commenced school at Warners Bay Public School whilst we lived there. Mum and another of the young mothers at Eleebana, used to "double" us, on their bicycles, to get us the 1 and ½ miles (2.3 kms) to and from home to the school, until we were old enough to ride our own bikes. The roads were all gravel and pretty rough.

After a happy 7 years at Eleebana, Dad bought a small mixed farm at Warners Bay, only several kilometres from Eleebana & my present home, at Belmont. Again I could ride my bike or walk to school. Dad still had a "proper" job, as well as working the farm. He was a Fitter and

Turner at Cardiff Railway Workshops and later, after years of hating the dirt and grime of industry, became an insurance assessor & inspector.

He and Mum worked hard on the farm. We all did, in varying degrees of effort and capability. We had 8 acres of orchard – stone fruit, persimmons and apples, ½ acre of citrus trees, 4 acres of small & large crops for market and 2 acres of poultry sheds and "runs". The work was constant but no one seemed to mind. It really was the very best of lives at Warners Bay.

We were free to roam and explore, the lake was only a bike ride away. Good teachers at school, children our own age to play with. We were, for the first time, close enough to the Methodist Church to attend Sunday School and for me to become part of the youth activities in the Church - the Methodist "Rays" and Girl Comrades". We had "town water" and electricity – no more tanks or generators.

We had our jobs to do on the farm and there was always some form of activity ongoing there but at fruit picking time, especially when the stone fruit was ready, it was "all hands on deck" to pick and then clean, sort and pack. Mountains of sweet smelling beautiful stone fruit to get to market & we just had to keep at it, day by day until it was all done – lest the precious fruit spoil before it arrived at market.

Mum & I packed eggs for market. We also attended to the incubator where we hatched the next generation of chickens. Mum & I and my Stevens/Ewing grandma, a good born & bred country girl, were also in charge of preparing the dressed poultry for the Christmas market. I learned a lot of good skills whilst on that farm.

I completed primary school at Warners Bay Public School in 1954 and headed to the big adventure of High School in town, in Newcastle. This was to a much desired spot at Newcastle Girls' High School and there I remained for the five years as it was then, to my Leaving certificate.

Almost straight after completing school I began my 4 years Nursing Training at the Royal Newcastle Hospital (RNH) to become a Sister at the "Royal".

Den & I married in 1964, after some years for us both, at RNH and off then, to Crown St. Women's Hospital in Sydney for yet more obstetric training for Den; he reverted then, to Resident's salary (very minimal) so I was the main "bread winner", taking Private Nursing cases of 12 hour shifts, seven days a week as we prepared to come back to join Den's Dad in the Family General Practice at Belmont.

Obstetrics was still, then, and for many years to follow, a most necessary part of the life of a General Practitioner and confinements, though no longer "home births", the frantic race to the maternity wards, in Newcastle, ½ an hour away, took up large parts of our lives, day & night. We were always grateful for the confinements to come during the night, so our busy daytime surgeries would not be interrupted by the absence in the rooms of the essential medico!!

Den or his Father alternated after hours on-duty house calls and it was a very rare occurrence, almost never, did we sleep through a night on duty. Our children grew up with this as a "normal" lifestyle. The Practice had to dictate our lives and that's just the way it was.

I became aware of my connection to the Lacemakers soon after I began Family History Research. I was alerted to ASLC by a diligent librarian in the Newcastle City Library, Local Studies Section. I made contact with the then Hon Secretary? Treasurer Enid Bastick whose name was on a flyer on the noticeboard in the library. I joined ASLC in 1994, bringing with me Dad's cousin, Aunty Doreen Ewing, nee Stevens, our lacemaker name.

My maiden name is Ewing Dad was Roland Ewing His mother was Mary Elizabeth Ewing (née Stevens). We are of the Lacemaker Stevens family. Her father, Edward Place Stevens, was born in Nottingham in 1837 and moved with family to Calais. He came with his family to Sydney aboard *Agincourt* in 1848. His father was Samuel Stevens b1807, Radford Notts. a machine lacemaker. Edward's mother, Lacemaker Samuel's wife, was Eliza Stevens née Place, b1816, Mt Sorrell, Leics., d1891 East Maitland NSW. So my Stevens ancestors are buried not that far from where I live.

*R*ecently I saw to the index of lacemaker surnames in the May 2017 issue of *Tulle*. Thank you, for that index, it assists considerably, in searching for our ancestors. It is really special to see their records from the time they were living in France. The street on which the Stevens lived in St Pierre lès Calais, France in 1846, in rue du Temple. This is shown also in the 1846 census of St Pierre. Their neighbours on one side were John and Lucy Wainwright and on the other side were John and Ann Jackson. Interestingly quite a few in the neighbourhood of my Stevens were French so my ancestors did not live in an English enclave in St Pierre. John Bromhead and wife Jane lived in nearby rue de Jardin des Plantes. ‘

The connection with the Bromheads from the early years in Maitland, must have been strong. A closeness of our two families, as they settled in Maitland was inevitable. I was delighted to find that the Bromhead lacemaker family remained close friends to our Stevens family, once in Australia. In 1861, Samuel Stevens died in King Street, East Maitland, and one of the witnesses to his burial was John Bromhead. I love that connection from way back to their days in Calais, to some of the Bromheads I have come to know through ASLC. ‘

From notes of Jim Longmire, July 2017