

TULLE

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The Journal of Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais Inc.

Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais Inc.

Meeting Times & Place:

ASLC meets at Stanton Library Conference Room, 234 Miller St, North Sydney, NSW, on the third Saturday in February (AGM), May, August & November each year. All meetings commence at 1.00pm. You are invited to bring a plate to share with other members at afternoon tea and fellowship which follows.

Future Meetings:

Saturday, 19 May 2018 (Oral History Workshop)

Saturday, 18 August 2018 (GS: TBA)

Saturday, 17 November 2018 (GS: Christine Yeats)

AGM Saturday, 16 February 2019 (GS: Kerry Farmer)

Find Us on the Internet:

<https://www.lacemakersofcalais.com.au>

Want to Join or Membership Subscription Due?

Contact The Hon. Secretary

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Cover : Panorama of London and the River Thames in 1845 from *The Illustrated London News*. Deptford, from where many of the lacemaker vessels departed, is on the near side of the Thames near the dead centre of this painting.

Back cover: French Almanac 1847 – see story on page 40 of this issue.

This Coming Meeting:

Saturday, 19 May 2018, 1.00pm

Oral History Workshop:

See page 5 of this edition of *Tulle* for full details.



TULLE

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**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MAY 2018 AND ALL
FUTURE MEETINGS OF ASLC (UNTIL ADVISED
OTHERWISE) WILL BE HELD AT**

**NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL'S STANTON LIBRARY
CONFERENCE ROOM, 234 MILLER ST, NORTH
SYDNEY, NSW.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm delighted to be writing this report as your President for 2018 and honoured that you, our membership, returned Carolyn, Stephen and myself as your Committee.

At our meeting in February we passed the revised Constitution. This is a very positive outcome, as it means our Society is meeting our legal requirements as an Incorporated Association. It will also enable us to explore different options for reaching out to our members who aren't able to make the trip to North Sydney each quarter. Special thanks to Stephen for preparing the document and to everyone who provided feedback and suggestions.

We do have some important decisions to make this year about our Society. Currently the role of Editor of Tulle is vacant. During our February meeting, we started a discussion about what we want Tulle to look like. In the past, it has been our primary communication tool. However, more and more, we are connecting with our members and interested researchers through our website and Facebook platforms. Our members only section of the website is coming along and will be accessible by mid-year, this will mean we have another secure communication method available to us. I ask you all to reflect on what you want Tulle to be and complete a short survey to give us your feedback. A link to the survey has been emailed to most of our members. For the members without an email address, a copy of the survey is included with this edition of Tulle.

For the past 25 years ASLC has been meeting at Don Bank Cottage and we have enjoyed calling it home. We have come to realise in recent years, that the venue is not particularly accessible, finding parking is becoming more difficult and the facilities aren't that great. Three years ago we relocated one of our meetings to Stanton Library while Don Bank Cottage was being renovated and many members felt that venue better suited our needs. The attendees at our February meeting unanimously agreed to move our meetings a few blocks north. We look forward to settling into Stanton Library for our next meeting, and many more to come.

Megan Fox
President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Our AGM was well attended. Megan Lucas was returned as President and Stephen Black as Treasurer. The position of Secretary was not filled but I will continue to assume the responsibilities till a member takes over the role. I currently retain the position of Public Officer.

The changes to our Constitution that you were asked to comment on were discussed and accepted by the Meeting.

At the General Meeting there was discussion around the digitisation of “The Lacemakers of Calais” edited by Gil Kelly. More information on how to purchase your copy is found elsewhere in this edition of *Tulle*.

Discussion also focussed around the possibility of moving ASLC meetings to the Conference room at North Sydney Council Stanton Library. This venue has much better facilities and there is a bus service to the door for those who come by train. The meeting unanimously agreed to this change from the May Meeting onwards.

The Members Only section of the website is not yet functioning. We feel more content is to be added before its launch. We also need a Webmaster who could manage the website uploading material for us. This person could be any one of our members who is unable to attend meetings but can work remotely.

The future of our journal *Tulle* was discussed. *Tulle* will continue as normal for the rest of 2018. However in the meantime your opinions will be sought as to its future. We will need an Editor from 2019 on if it is to continue in its present form.

We welcomed some new members to ASLC who attended the meeting. It is always great to meet new people and extend the knowledge of our Lacemaker past more widely.

Carolyn Broadhead
Acting Secretary

EDITOR'S COMMENT

The previous issue (May 2018) took the total number of pages of *Tulle* published since our first one in 1982 to just over 5,000 pages – a remarkable record for a small society such as ours. I think more than anything else, this record exemplifies one of the fundamental *raison d'être* for our Society, namely a desire to share. To share a common heritage, to share fellowship at meetings and to share our knowledge and research. This desire to share is also demonstrated by our dynamic new website and by the constant interchange of information which is now happening on our Facebook site.

2018 marks 170 years since our forebears migrated to this stunning country which we also share. Perhaps this is something we can celebrate later this year.

I believe that 2020 will be yet another significant year for our society in that it will be the 260th anniversary of the British lace industry, born in Nottingham as a product of the industrial revolution. I am assuming that the origins of machine lace making were founded in those adaptations which were made to the stocking frame which took place between 1760 and 1776. Others, however, may feel that the machine lace industry commenced quite some time later – perhaps in 1809 when Heathcoat's second patent first incorporated the principle of twisting threads. It is all a matter of definition. If you prefer the latter, we can celebrate the 210th anniversary of Heathcoat's development next year.

So, we have lots to celebrate and lots to be thankful for and lots to share. However, for the Society to have a long-term future it is also important that members share not only their information but also that they share in the workload which falls on just a few within our ranks. Consider taking on one of the two vacant roles on offer – that of Secretary and of Editor. I am sure that you will find contributing to our society and sharing your inherent skills very satisfying.

Richard Lander
Stand-in Editor



ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP

Saturday 19 May 2018 1.00pm

It was interesting to listen to Martyn Killion speak to us last November about the importance of telling our stories – not just of our families but the story of our Society too. Our revamped website has the capability of not only storing written content, but also video and audio content.

Many of you have said that you'd like to share your stories but don't want to have to write it all down. This is where our Oral History Workshop can help. What we need you to do is think about one or maybe a few of the questions below, make some notes and bring them with you to our meeting. We will have equipment available to record you telling your story – it will be up to you to decide how you'd like your story recorded. Ideally, we'd love to have you on video and/or audio for our website visitors to see and hear, but written stories are just as important as they will all help keep our Lacemaker history alive.

- ***How did you discover your connection to the Lacemakers?***
- ***When did you join ASLC and what's your highlight of the time you've been a member? What do you value most about being a member?***
- ***What is the most interesting piece of information you've uncovered about your Lacemaker family?***
- ***Which member of your Lacemaker family would you most like to meet and why?***
- ***Where did your Lacemaker family members end up in Australia and what did they do? Did they prosper?***
- ***Did any of your Lacemakers return to England or France?***
- ***If family members stayed in France, what became of them?***

If you can't attend this meeting, but would like to contribute we want to hear from you. There are all sorts of wonderful tools for recording these days which we would love to use with our members across Australia and the world. Please contact Megan (meganaslac@gmail.com) to express your interest - we'll organise the tools and schedule a time to record your stories.

THE NOTTINGHAM TRADE (Continued)

This article concludes the article commenced in *Tulle*, February 2018.

One of the principal drawbacks in the warp trade arises from the necessity of occasionally changing the class and pattern of fabrics produced. The process of disposing the myriad threads so as to fit them for being wrought into new combinations, is not only toilsome but tedious. Very often an alteration will keep two men working during a week, and for this they receive no remuneration what-ever. They are paid by the piece, and the week which sees no piece produced, sees no wages earned.

In the silk branch of warp lace making, the operatives suffer much during the winter season from the slackness of work. I have heard many complaints from the men labouring by shifts of the pressure of the night-toil. "After a week of it," said one of them to me, "I'm fit for nothing on the Sunday. I may go and take a little walk, perhaps, after breakfast, and then I go to bed, and sleep the rest of the day." When making alterations, some proprietors allow the men to draw a portion of their wages on account, others will not advance a farthing.

The trade, it is right to say, is at present to a great extent in a transition state. The twist machines have taken a considerable portion of the fancy work formerly wrought by the warps; but I understand that some new branches of lace manufacture are likely to infuse fresh life into the warp trade. The bordering fabrics commonly manufactured are wrought upon the warps in broad webs, and the disentanglement of each particular stripe of tatin, or pearling, forms one of the manual employments which occupy children in the lace districts, and to which I shall come speedily. The wages earned by the warp-frame workers vary widely, ranging from 23s. and 25s. down to beneath 10s. A number of workmen to whom I referred the question, after a long consultation, told me, that in their deliberate and candid opinion, the average wages earned by warp work knitters, clear of all deductions, were from 12s. to 14s. per week.

I now come to the bobbin-net, or twist branch of the lace trade. Here the most complex and expensive machinery is employed in the production of the most delicate and elaborately patterned lace. I have not, the reader will perceive, attempted to explain the mechanisms of the warp-frame. I shall still less endeavour to describe that of the twist machine, which of itself is by far the most profoundly complex apparatus existing in the range of textile mechanism, while in many cases ingenious adaptations of the jacquard give the machinery an additional degree of elaborate complication. To build a twist machine requires an outlay of at least £600. As I have already stated, steam power is now being generally applied to the working of these splendid pieces of mechanism-the number of those wrought by hand being daily decreasing. As in the case of the warp trade, the factories are not generally of great size. In fact, nothing like the vast grimy bricken (sic) box with which we naturally associate the word " factory" is to be seen in Nottingham. The twist factory rooms there are generally moderate-sized apartments.

Besides the work of placing the warp upon the beam, which I have already alluded to, there is another set of preliminary processes characteristic of the branch of lace manufacture in question. These are involved in the use of the "bobbins and carriages," which, to employ a very rough, and, in some respects inaccurate analogy, perform one function of the shuttle, and supply the weft to the warp - the machine by its own operations gradually emptying the bobbins of their contents. The charging with the thread, and final preparation of these bobbins, are processes partly performed by women, and partly, notwithstanding the dexterous and delicate manipulation requisite, by little imps of boys often under ten years of age.

The first thing to be done is the ordinary process of winding the thread from the hank upon common pirns or bobbins. Women and children perform the work, the former getting from 6s. to 8s. a week, the latter from 2s. to 3s. From the bobbins the thread is again wound upon large cylinders called drums, a great many threads from many bobbins being rolled on

simultaneously. This operation, requiring more care, is paid for at a rather higher rate, the boys who perform it earning from 4s. to 4s. 6d. weekly. The next process is the first belonging exclusively to the twist trade, and is usually performed by a woman. It consists of putting the thread upon the bobbins used in the machinery. These bobbins are flat circular pieces of brass, each about the size of a small Geneva watch, and so deeply grooved as only to be connected in the centre by a small piece of metal. Round this the thread is wound, sheathed, of course, on each side by its brass case.

The way in which the bobbins are filled is ingenious. The operator takes up a number corresponding to the number of threads upon the drum, passes the bobbins by means of a central perforation upon a revolving cylinder, and then, stretching the threads over them, slips each into its respective groove. A few rapid turns to the handle of the winding mechanism, and the bobbins, revolving at great speed, fill themselves from the ample supply of the drum. The operator then slips them off the cylinder, puts on a fresh set, adjusts the threads by passing the full bobbins delicately over the empty ones, then snips the threads in question with her scissors, lays the full bobbins aside, and proceeds again to fill the new batch. The wages earned at this species of work are about 10s. a week.

This bobbins being filled, have now to be inserted in the "carriages"-the latter, slight steel frame-works, forming the cases in which the former wheel round. Through a minute hole in one part of the frame or carriage, the other end of the thread upon the bobbin has to be passed. The inserting of the bobbins and threading of the carriages are performed by boys with a rapidity and neatness of manipulation which makes the process almost appear like leger-demain (Ed: sleight of hand). The wages of these boys are about 3s. 6d. per week.

In other respects their condition is by no means a satisfactory one, from the irregularity and frequent length of their hours. Their services are of course only required when the bobbins want refilling; but those periods are very

uncertain and continually vary. A dozen twist machines may start together, making the same pattern, driven by the same steam-engine, and with the same quantity of thread on their bobbins, yet, as accidental delays in greater or less number continually occur, it generally happens that the dozen sets of bobbins become exhausted at different times. Whenever that exhaustion occurs, however, by day or by night, the bobbin-fillers and threaders must be set to work. Sometimes these children are required to be, if not working, at least in attendance from four o'clock in the morning until after midnight. Part of this hardship might be avoided by using a double set of bobbins and carriages, and in some factories this is actually the case. These delicately fashioned articles are, however, very expensive.

The beams being duly in place, and the bobbins and carriages set in order, the machine is ready for work. In 1835, the average hours of labour in the west of England were 13; in Nottingham, Derby, and Leicester, they were and still are twenty hours per day. The relay system is, therefore, of course requisite. In the first factory I visited the machinery was wrought eighteen hours. The first man commenced operations at six a.m., working until nine a.m. The second took his place from nine a.m. until one p.m. The first man again resumed his post from one p.m. until six p.m. and the second superintended the frame from six p.m. until midnight.

The shifts equalised their respective working hours by changing turns every week. In another factory, working twenty hours, the following arrangements were adopted –A wrought from four a.m. until nine a.m.; B from nine a.m. until one p.m. A resumed his post again from one a.m. until six p.m., and B from six p.m. until midnight-an arrangement fairly dividing the twenty hours. So long as the machinery works steadily and without hitch, and there is no breakage in the multitudinous array of threads, the workman may be a mere spectator, but he must always be a vigilant one. His eye must be continually fixed upon the hundred threads, wires, hooks and wheels which throb and quiver before him. The breaking of a single filament of course involving the necessity of stopping the machine and carefully and delicately repairing the

damage. So exquisitely delicate, indeed, is the mechanism, that a few moments inattention to a single ruptured thread may lead to a smash both amid fabric and machinery which it will cost the workman days and the master pounds to repair.

A regular source of delay, and consequently of loss, to the workman is involved in the refitting and shifting of the bobbins, particularly when, as sometimes happens, half a dozen machines are exhausted nearly at the same time, and there is but one set of bobbin threaders to supply them. But a still more formidable cause of loss of time is the periodical alteration of the warp, for the purpose of placing on the machine new patterns. These alterations are seldom effected under three days, and sometimes they occupy a fortnight - the average may be something under a week. In some factories the workmen are paid an allowance while standing for alteration, of from 12s. to 15s. per week. In others they only get an advance, which is repaid by half-crown instalments, deducted from their subsequent weekly wages. This system of advances and forced repayments is considered by some of the highest authorities in the trade as objectionable, commercially and socially speaking.

If any holes or similar imperfections be found in the lace after it is taken off the machine, the men have to pay for the mending by needlework. Sometimes a regular sum is deducted from their wages for mending, in other cases they are mulcted (Ed: fined or penalised) from week to week in proportion to the actual amount of breakage. The former plan is more popular among the men, as they say that under it they at least know what to expect on Saturday night. Lace workers in factories usually pay for lights. If the men work by relays, the sum exacted is 1s. 6d. per week each. If one man only works a machine, he pays 1s. The operatives employed upon hand machines have generally to hire a boy to help them to turn, and who is paid by them about 4s. per week. The net amount of wages paid to good hands in the twist trade is considerable. There are some men at bobbin-net machines who can earn 35s. to 40s. per week. Making allowance for stoppages, a tolerably skilful hand working at fancy goods will make from 25s. to 30s. per

week. The average amount may be taken at 18s, or from that to 20s, and the lowest earned by the youngest hands is about 10s. In the first factory which I visited - one producing exquisitely beautiful fancy goods - the first workman whom I questioned stated that he was earning 27s. or 28s. per week; another, superintending the production of an imitation of Mechlin lace, said he was making 22s. 6d, and a third, engaged upon a filmy species of silk lace, was receiving about £1. The general run of wages are, however, below these.

There is no regular apprenticeship served to the twist trade. Failing eyesight is the great bane of a workman in all branches not only of the lace but (also) the hosiery trade. The vision too often becomes early impaired from the strain to which it is subjected, and men are often compelled to give up the most profitable branches of lace making while enjoying in its fullest powers every other faculty, bodily and mental.

The lace we shall now suppose to be finished and taken from the frame, whether a warp or a twist machine. It has next to undergo the processes which it receives at the hands of the presser and gasser, and those of the bleacher. The work in a dressing and gassing establishment is carried on almost entirely by women, and is exceedingly simple. The gassing process is similar to one which I have described amid the operations of calico printing. The net, or lace, when taken from the machine is full of downy fibres, which gives the meshwork a dull, semi-opaque appearance. To get rid of these, the fabric is passed quickly along cylinders and athwart a thin sheet of gas flame extending along the entire width of the piece. Four girls or women tend the machine; two feeding the revolving cylinders with the lace, two receiving it after the flame has purged off all its superfluous filaments, and extinguishing all sparks which may appear still alive upon the material. These girls are paid 8s. a week, working ten hours a day. They receive 2d. per hour if called upon to work overtime. This rate of 2d. an hour is that very commonly paid for overtime in female labour in many departments of lace making. Having been gassed, the fabric is handed over to the bleacher, who submits it to those

processes common to the blanching of all textile materials, and which therefore need not be more particularly alluded to here. The fabric is then returned to the dresser's establishment to be stiffened.

This operation is performed by passing the bleached and purified pieces through a hot mixture of gum and starch boiled together, and then submitting the reeking lace to the action of revolving cylinders, which squeeze out the surplus stiffening fluid. The labour requisite here is all but unskilled. It is generally performed by a man and two or three boys, the former earning 18s., the latter from 6s. to 8s. per week. The dank masses of lace, with their folds sticking to each other through the agency of the clammy mixture, are now hurried away to the stretching-rooms. These consist of vast extending corridors, down which runs a frame-work, something like along skeleton table, the edge bristling with close set wire points or teeth.

The girls employed, each of them armed with a little bamboo-cane, range themselves at the upper end of the room, on either side of the frame-work, while a boy carrying the clammy wreathes of lace in a basket walks slowly down the centre. The upper corners of the piece having been already fastened to the upper corners of the frame-work, the girls, following the boy down the skeleton table, fasten with nimble fingers the sides of the extending web to the rows of wire teeth, at the same time switching it with their cones or "bats," so as to get rid of all the extra starch, and to dislodge any little impurity which may have clung to the meshes. When the whole web is fixed, one of the women turns the handle of a winch. The beams of the frame-work instantly recede from each other, and the lace is extended gut as rigidly as though the "threads were iron wires.

The material is now left to dry, while the girls proceed to repeat the process in another gallery. Matters are sought to be so arranged that by the time the lace is stretched in the last corridor, it is dry in the first. Should this not be the case, however, the girls fan it with light spade-shaped implements, very broad in the blade, the sweeps of which, wielded by skilful hands, produce

powerful currents of air. When thoroughly dry the lace is disengaged, and folded in readiness to be sent off to the warehouse. In the stretching and dressing rooms the women employed are paid 1s. 6d. per day, with 2d. an hour for overwork. The regular hours are generally from eight o'clock until one, and from two o'clock until six. The temperature in which the labour is carried on is extremely high, the thermometer in a stretching room being seldom below 80°F. In some establishments the heat is more complained of than in others, and in almost all the girls have a thin, pale look.

I now proceed shortly to describe the different processes in lace manufacture carried on by the manual labour of women and children. Of these the two most important are mending and tambour, or embroidery work. The minor operations are "running," "catching-up," and "drawing." I shall first refer to tambour work. As most of your readers may be aware, it consists of embroidering plain net with flowers or fancy figures by means of a delicate hook, called a crotchet needle. Comparatively little tambour work is done at Nottingham. The manufacturers find it cheaper to disperse the labour throughout the neighbouring counties. There is hardly a hamlet in the midland shires of England where the wives and daughters of cottagers do not eke out the general income by help of the tambour frame. Indeed, the Nottingham lace manufacturers look still further for female labour. The partners of one of the first lace embroidery houses in the town informed me that much of their very best work was performed in Essex. The inferior sorts of tambouring, however, are uniformly executed in the villages around Nottingham, Leicester, and Derby.

"I can get," said a warp manufacturer to me- "I can get lace embroidered in the country for 2s. and 3s. for which I would have to pay 4s. or 6s. in Nottingham, and in the country cottages they keep it cleaner too." All round the town, however, the crotchet needle is plied in almost every second house. The lace is stretched upon a frame large enough to enable several persons to work upon it at the same time. The occupation, although in one respect graceful and feminine, is of course severe upon the eyes; and from its

perfectly sedentary nature, and the stooping position which it demands, is apt to create pulmonary and digestive complaints The great mass of the embroidery performed round and near Nottingham is managed by middle women, or "missuses," who receive the work from the warehouse of a fixed rate, and gave it out to whom they please, and take it back when finished.

Sometimes their "missuses" give the lace to women to be tamboured at home, sometimes they assemble at the (missuses) own houses as many girls and children as they can accommodate-the latter thus plying their tasks in the various departments of the trade under their patronesses' immediate superintendence. The wages of the most skilful and most industrious lace tambourers employed upon the best work, very rarely amount to 10s. a week, and still more rarely exceed that sum. The average may be from 6s. to 7s. per week, but many, especially in the country, do not earn so much. The middle women of course pocket a goodly percentage of the wages, amounting, as I am informed, to something like 2d. out of the shilling; and they always endeavour to keep up their influence and their profits by preventing any communication between their employees and the manufacturers - keeping the former in ignorance, if possible, of the warehouse for which they are working.

A tambourer whom I visited in Nottingham, was a married woman, with a family, which prevented her from earning above 3s. a week. If she had no domestic duties to perform, and stuck to the work closely, she might make from 5s. 6d. to 6s. To gain that sum would take twelve hours labour at the very least. She had her work second hand, and did not know for what warehouse it was intended. Could she have the lace direct from the manufacturer, she calculated that she could earn at least 7s. per week, but few or none of the warehouses would have anything to do with single hands. The middle women saved the former a great deal of trouble, and the workpeople paid for it. This was the substance of the account given by several tambourers visited, of their situation and earnings. They alternated to a greater or less extent their needle with their household labours. Those girls

who met and worked together I generally found assembled in clean and tidy rooms. They gave their earnings at from 10d. to 1s. 3d. per day.

The remaining kinds of lace needlework which I have enumerated are performed partly at the warehouses and partly at the homes of the workpeople. The chief of these employments is "mending," an operation requiring a quick eye and a dexterous and practised hand. The menders fill up any accidental holes in the lace with such neatness that the injured part can hardly, if at all, be recognised. Those who work in the warehouses are paid by the week at rates varying from 6s. to 10s. , and extra for over hours. The regular period for labour is from eight a.m. to six p.m., with an hour for dinner and half an hour for tea. At some warehouses from 80 to 100 girls are employed in this species of labour. Menders generally begin very young, at five or six years of age. One girl told me that she could not remember the time when she had not been mending.

They are frequently short-sighted. Black lace is especially prejudicial to the eyes. The statement of a lace-mender, visited at her home - a very squalid place, consisting of a single room - was as follows. She was paid 8d, or 1s. per piece, according to the size and number of the holes to be repaired. One week with another, she earned about 6s. or 6s 6d. She had her house to attend to. Her little girl, eight years old, gave her some trifling help. If she were working in a warehouse she could earn about 8s. Her hours, as a regular thing, were very long-from six in the morning until nine o'clock, and sometimes ten o'clock at night. She had been mending lace since she was six years old. Another lace mender stated that she was working at Mechlin lace. The price of the piece was 1s 6d. To do a piece took her over two days – sometimes more, sometimes less. If she worked at a warehouse she would have about 7s. 6d. per week. She had been a mender since she was five years old. The wages had fallen greatly within her recollection. She remembered receiving 6s. a piece, for mending which she would now get only 1s. 6d. Her hours were from eight o'clock in the morning until ten o'clock or eleven o'clock at night. Her earnings, one week with another, were about 5s.

"Running" consists in circumscribing with a thread the outline of patterns wrought in the net by the machine. The lace is stretched upon a frame as in tambour work. Four or five "runners" working together estimated their average earnings at 1s. per day each. They worked fourteen and sometimes sixteen hours. The best hands on the best work could not make more than 1s. 3d. per day, and many, particularly in the country, did not clear above 6d. For the last two years good runners had had plenty of employment. At night they lighted three candles to every four workers. Two runners - a mother and daughter, in another house - calculated that they each made 4s. 6d. per week. They worked in the winter from daylight in the morning until ten at night. They got their work from a middle woman, and were paid according to the number of figures in the pattern. These poor people were at dinner when I called. The meal consisted of bread and tea, with dripping for butter. The remaining species of work-"drawing " and "catching up" - are generally performed either at the warehouses or at the houses of the mistresses. The wages are excessively low, and the labour- being perfectly easy, particularly that of drawing, which consists merely in pulling out the thread which unites the stripes of edging material - is usually performed by children, who make from 3d. to 6d. a day. These juvenile labourers are set to work at ages sadly early. A gentleman informed me that he has seen a baby, twenty months old ,sit in a high chair at a table, and gravely employed in drawing lace.

The missuses, or middle women, have generally themselves been embroiderers or menders. They very often have money-lending trans-actions with their employees, and instances are not infrequent of their carrying on the truck system in a small and modified way, supplying bread, groceries, and candles, and deducting the amount of course with an additional percentage, from the wages paid at the end of the week. The missuses always, however, profess to supply the articles at market price, and to look to reimbursement and profit from the discount allowed by the tradespeople. ■

ST JAMES, MORPETH

St James Anglican Church at Morpeth is the Hunter Valley's first Anglican church north of Newcastle. It celebrated its 175th anniversary in July 2015.

The church was rebuilt after a fire in 1874 and was damaged in the 1989 Newcastle earthquake. Plans for the church were commenced on the battlefields of the Peninsular War in Spain. The church's benefactor, Lieutenant Edward Charles Close, one of the first settlers in the area, in the heat of fierce battle made a vow to God that if his life were spared he would as soon as his means permitted, build a church as a thanks offering. That work began in January 1837. Local sandstone and timbers were used in the construction of the church which was completed at the end of 1840.



**Figure 1: St James Anglican Church, Morpeth
(Photo RJL)**

The church was consecrated by The Lord Bishop of Australia, Bishop Broughton on Thursday, 31 December 1840. The tower, the only part of the original church remaining, was built in 1837. The Chancel and Sanctuary were added in 1864. The Nave was entirely rebuilt in 1875. The pews and chairs date from 1864; the Pulpit, a replica of that in Bishop Tyrell's Parish Church in England dated from 1286, was made by D. Yeales of Maitland. The lectern is a memorial to Bishop Tyrell. The beautiful East Window, erected in 1871, is a memorial to Lieutenant Close. The tiling in the nave aisle came from Duckenfield Park homestead and were a gift from the Eales family. The baptismal font was designed by Edmund Blacket and was positioned during alterations in 1864. After the roof fire in 1874, an architect John Horbury HUNT was engaged to oversee the repairs. HUNT built a new hammer beam style of roof which resembles the hull of a timber ship, a remarkable and appropriate feature of this wonderful old church. ▀

EDWARD LANDER – LACE MACHINE OWNER?

In my second editorial I wrote: “as I get older I find I have more and more things and people to be thankful for”. I wrote that I am thankful for beautiful music, comfortable chairs, temperate days, cool breezes, good books, air-conditioning, clothes that fit, poetry and comfortable shoes. I am thankful for crème brûlée, chocolates, excellent restaurants, ice-cream and fine wine and whisky. I said that I could not live without fresh ideas, stimulating conversation and great friends; hugs and kisses, warm showers and the smell of a Sunday roast. I queried what life be like without the colours of autumn, sunsets, or rainbows? I wrote” “can you imagine life without dishwashers, ice-cubes or holding hands?”

I continued stating that I am thankful that I live in an age when computers and the Internet can help provide much of the information we can now enjoy in journals such as *Tulle*. I am thankful to many members of ASLC for the insights into their own families which they have generously shared through our meetings and in the pages of this quarterly. I am thankful for those wonderful people who have so bigheartedly given of their time, wisdom and experience as our Guest Speakers and as members of our executive over the many years of our existence.

I am thankful to my parents for providing me with a stable upbringing, a great education, some social graces and sufficient height to see over the shoulders of most others at the football, theatre and at weddings. I am thankful for my ever supportive wife, Lyndall, in a myriad of ways each day and for my wonderful extended family with whom I share so many precious moments.

I wrote: “I am thankful to my great-great-grandfather, Edward LANDER, for having the courage and foresight to uproot his family and to bring them to Australia where my family and I live a wonderful life in one of the healthiest and most privileged nations on earth”. In this, my last effort as Editor of *Tulle*, I want to put Edward LANDER’s life into a somewhat greater perspective than has previously been possible.

Edward Little LANDER was the third child born to John Hudden LANDER and Mary Ann LITTLE. His sister, Mary Ann, was baptised at St Mary's, Nottingham on 9 September 1805; his older brother, Henry Little LANDER was born on Guernsey, one of the Channel Islands, about 1809; Edward was born on Malta on 21 March 1811. These three births in disparate places immediately pointed to a somewhat peripatetic lifestyle by their parents.

My family research led me to look for his forebears. Through reliable contacts on the internet but after of years of trying, I was eventually able to trace my paternal line back many generations. Edward's great-great-great-grandfather was another Edward. He had been born at Worth Matravers, Dorset in about 1640 and died there in about 1674 – possibly as a result of the plague as several other Worth Matravians in the small community died during the same week as Edward. He had worked as a Tithingman, responsible to the Sheriff for the law and order of ten households surrounding his home. He collected small poll taxes from these twice a year and reported to Corfe Castle with these payments. Eventually he was put in charge of a marble quarry on Downshay Farm land at Worth Matravers and some members of the LANDER family have been working Purbeck Stone and Purbeck Marble in the area ever since.

The 1881 Census Returns for Great Britain have been indexed. In England there were 1875 LANDER entries. Of these some 200 are clearly members of my family. Excluding most women and children, 65 of the 200 were identified by occupation- 52 men and 13 women [mostly widows] . Of the men, 39 or 75% were quarry men or stonemasons so it shows that the males in the family were just beginning to move into other occupations. Nearly one hundred and forty years later there are still practicing LANDER stonemasons in Purbeck, some in the same parish in which my ancestors lived and worked.



Figure 2: Richard Lander and the ruins of Corfe Castle in 2011 (LSL)

Edward LANDER (b. ca 1640) was alive and living near Corfe Castle when, in 1645, it was besieged by Parliamentarian forces during the English Civil War. This once beautiful castle was ultimately captured, blown up and destroyed.

The only known child born to my earliest Edward and his wife was William, who was baptised on Thursday 6 Oct 1664, at St Edwards Church, Corfe Castle. Because of the gaps in parish records, no other children are recorded but it is more than likely that several other offspring were born to this couple. Incidentally, St Edwards Church is named after King Edward the Martyr, King of England from 975 until he was murdered at Corfe Castle in 978AD.

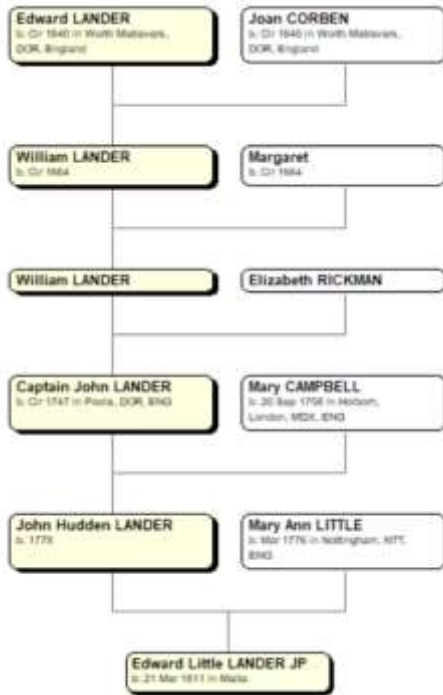
William was a husbandman - a small landholder and farmer. William and his wife, Margaret, had four children. The oldest was another William (1697-1787); the youngest was Thomas (1705-1789). William, my lacemaker Edward's great-grandfather, was the first of the LANDER family at Poole to make a break away from the land and quarrying. He became the owner and captain of various trading vessels. During part of the year he caught, dried and then sold his catch of Newfoundland cod to markets in Spain, Portugal, the Caribbean, Italy and South America. For the remainder of the year while the seas around Newfoundland became iced over, he shipped things such as corn grown in Dorset and wheat grown in Russia, to the London market. He was the first of a line of LANDER men who became master mariners working out of Poole Harbour – two of whom became Poole Harbour Masters, and Collectors of Customs for Poole. William and his wife, Elizabeth (née RICKMAN) produced nine children – four girls and five boys.

Their fifth child was Captain John LANDER, my lacemaker's grandfather. He was baptised at St James, Poole on 24 June 1747 and married Mary CAMPBELL there by licence on 22 September, 1774. Mary was the product of an aristocratic Scottish family and was just 16 years and two days old when she "married as a minor with the consent of her parents". Captain John died at Poole in June 1806 after having served as Collector of Customs and Collector and "Executive Officer for Patent Customers" at Poole for about 20 years. Mary outlived him by forty years,



dying on Corfu in 1846, aged 94 – and very much the family matriarch at that time.

These mentions of Guernsey, Malta and Corfu may have raised some questions by the astute reader. The reason proves to be simple. While



William and Margaret’s descendants took to the sea, most of those of Thomas and his wife, Mary Chinchin, remained stonemasons and quarry owners on the Isle of Purbeck. Several members of my sea-going branch became British Consuls in various ports throughout the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, including Odessa and Constantinople in addition to the places I have already mentioned.

In the 1800s, consuls were more like the representatives of merchants wishing to trade in a foreign state and thus their appointment was always to an area where Britain had significant commercial interests. I have no doubt that

there was more than just some interplay between the LANDER merchants who traded in corn, wheat, marble, Newfoundland cod, the LANDER men who became consuls, and other consuls who were related by marriage to the LANDER FAMILY. These included consuls named CALVERT, BACON, ABBOTT, CHADS, WARD, BOUCHIER, DU CAURROY, and WESTON.

Captain John LANDER’s first child, John Hudden LANDER, my lacemaker’s father, was baptised at St James, Poole on 2 December 1778, late in the same year in which the First Fleet arrived in Botany Bay. In 1810, there was a

petition to have him appointed the American consul in Malta to replace the supposedly incompetent consul who held the position at the time. On this occasion, however, the petition was unsuccessful.

My lacemaker, Edward, was born on Malta, and I have managed to track down three court cases which show why his parents were there. Each case involves different ships. The summary of the first case reads: *“With: Before the Most Noble and Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Appeals in Prize Causes : the Caroline, Christ. Andr. Amle, master, John Hudden Lander, of the island of Malta, merchant, claimant of the said ship and cargo, appellant, against Antonio Vedovick, commander of the private ship of war Atilla, his officers and mariners, captors and respondents : case on behalf of the appellant, 1811. silk, proctor for the appellant. London: printed by W. Wilson, St. Peter's Hill, Doctor's Commons.”*

Doctor's Commons, also called the College of Civilians, was a society of lawyers practising civil law in London. In the nineteenth century, the institution of Doctors' Commons and its members were looked upon as old-fashioned and slightly ridiculous. A satirical description of Doctors' Commons can be found in Charles Dickens's *Sketches by Boz* and also in his novel *David Copperfield* (in which Dickens called it a "cosey, dosey, old-fashioned, time-forgotten, sleepy-headed little family party." (Ch. 23)).

The summary of the second case reads: *“With: Before the Most Noble and Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of Appeals in Prize Causes, Santissimo Crocifisso, Luca Fienga, master, John Hudden Lander, of Valetta, in the Island of Malta, merchant, claimant of the said ship and cargo, appellants, against Edward Blaquiére, Esquire, commander of His Majesty's ship of war Ortensia, the captor, and Charles Bishop, Esquire, His Majesty's procurator general, respondents : (on an appeal from the Vice-Admiralty Court of the island of Malta.), joint appendix. [London] : Harding and Wright, Printers, [1812].”*

The third case brought against another privateer was similarly worded.

It would appear from these cases that John Hudden LANDER either owned or had chartered ships to carry cargo for him while he was based at Malta and

his ships had been captured by privateers who had then claimed his cargo. He was very involved with wheat which he purchased in Russia and which he then sold in various markets around the world so wheat may have been the cargo on each of these vessels. He was so well regarded in fact, that he was called to give expert evidence to a select committee of the House of Lords in 1827. (Report to Inquire into the Price at which Foreign Grain may be shipped in Foreign Ports, see <https://archive.org/details/reportfromselect00greauoft>)

A privateer was a private person or ship that engaged in maritime warfare under a commission of war. The commission, also known as a letter of marque, empowered the person to carry on all forms of hostility permissible at sea by the usages of war, including attacking foreign vessels during wartime and taking them as prizes. Captured ships were subject to condemnation and sale under prize law (mentioned in both summaries), with the proceeds divided between the privateer sponsors, shipowners, captains and crew. A percentage share usually went to the issuer of the commission. Since robbery under arms was common to seaborne trade, all merchant ships were already armed. During war, naval resources were auxiliary to operations on land so privateering was a way of subsidizing state power by mobilizing armed ships and sailors.

Although he was presumably sailing under the Maltese flag, as an Englishman I am sure that John Hudden LANDER would have been far from amused at these proceedings or the actions of the privateers, especially in the second case where the claimant was a British naval ship. I have no idea whether or not he won his cases.

John Hudden LANDER married a Nottingham girl, Mary Ann LITTLE, about 1802. Mary had been baptised at St Nicholas, Nottingham on 4 April 1776. This appears to be the LANDER family's first contact with Nottingham but not its last. John and Mary Ann's first child, also a Mary Ann, was baptised at St Marys, Nottingham on 9 September 1805. Her elder brother, Henry Little LANDER was born on Guernsey about four years later; and Edward Little LANDER, my lacemaker, was born on Malta on 21 March 1811.

Both Henry and Edward became lacemakers and both also married Nottingham girls. Henry married Mary ASHWORTH at St Mary's, Nottingham

on 7 January 1834 and Edward married Mary Ann SIMPSON in Gedling Parish on 11 July 1830. I was advised while researching my family in Nottingham that the LITTLE, ASHWORTH and SIMPSON names are all associated with lace machine owners in Nottingham. Sheila MASON in her informative book *Nottingham Lace 1760s – 1950s* states that Chester LITTLE owned a 60 inch wide early lace machine in Derbyshire (see page 208); ASHWORTH's ran a substantial curtain lace factory and still operate a lace factory at Arnold (MASON, page 219); and a Henry SIMPSON had an early lace factory at Sherwood St North in Nottingham and later at the corner of High Church St and Duke St in Nottingham (MASON, page 248). Of course, my LITTLES, ASHWORTHS and SIMPSONS may have nothing to do with these particularly lace manufacturers – but the possibility remains intriguing!

While Lyndall and I were staying at a wonderful B & B near Poole, our host advised us that it was common for well-to-do Nottingham families to take their Summer holidays in Poole. The Littles, Ashworths and Simpsons were all lace machine owners, not simply lacemakers so all were presumably well-off. It is possible that one or more of my Poole, Dorset LANDER men formed attachments with Nottingham ladies during the latter's summer sojourns in southern England. Unfortunately, I will never be able to establish the truth or otherwise of my hypothesis.

John Hudden Lander's younger siblings were David Osmond LANDER, Mary Campbell LANDER, Charles Alexander LANDER and Louisa Ann LANDER.

David Osmond LANDER was a Freeman, Burgess, Alderman and Mayor of Poole and the Collector of Customs at Poole from 1802 until 1830. He was married to Elizabeth WESTON, of one of the most influential families in Poole. On 22 August 1839, the British Navy's ship, "Meteor" came into Poole Harbour to prepare for the arrival of Charles X of France, his family and a huge entourage who were fleeing the revolution in France and who were to arrive the next day. David LANDER greeted the exiled King.

Mary Campbell LANDER was born at Poole in 1784, married Richard James BOURCHIER at St James, Poole in 1820 and died at Malta on New Year's Eve, 1833. BOURCHIER was Collector of Customs on Malta, Assistant

Superintendent of Grain and became Postmaster of Malta on 1 April 1848, some 15 years after Mary's death.

Charles Alexander LANDER was born in about 1786 and married Adèle DU CAURROY. She had been born on Malta about 1799. Charles was elected Coroner of Poole on 27 October 1809 and later Britain's Consul of the Dardanelles between 1828 and 1848, based at Constantinople. He was eventually relieved in the post by Frederick William CALVERT, his nephew. Both Charles and Adèle are buried in the Chanak Consular Cemetery, Çanakkale, Turkey – along with six other members of my family.

Frederick CALVERT was the second son of Charles LANDER's younger sister, Louisa Ann and her husband, James CALVERT, Esq. James was a lateral descendant of the barons of Baltimore and had been a leading merchant on Malta before becoming Collector of Customs on the island in Richard BOURCHIER's absence. Wheels within wheels!

The CALVERT's eldest son, Henry Hunter CALVERT "initially chose the navy, then moved from the military to the diplomatic corps. From 1838 on, he resided within the Ottoman Empire, serving as Chancellor in the British consulate in Erzurum in 1851 and later as British vice-consul of Alexandria, Egypt, where he remained for 25 years." (1856-1882).

Their third son, Charles John CALVERT "had joined Frederick at the Dardanelles by 1840. By 1843, he had revived the consular office of the United States there, and he served as U.S. consular agent until 1849, when he left the family enclave for a successful diplomatic career abroad. He became acting British consul at Damascus in 1850 and later at Beirut, moving to Salonica as British consul in 1856. By 1860, he was posted to Monastir (in present Macedonia), and later he was sent to Naples."

Their fourth son, Edmund CALVERT "went east and began an itinerant diplomatic career at Trebizond on the Black Sea coast of Turkey, Konya, and Kaisaria (Kayseri) in 1842. In 1852, he worked under Stratford de Redcliffe at the British embassy in Constantinople, and he later served as secretary to the British ambassador (from 1858 to 1865), and still later as the acting British vice-consul of Constantinople. After serving as acting British consul at various

posts in the Ottoman Empire, he finally became the British vice-consul at Rhodes."

Their fifth son, James Campbell CALVERT, "moved to the Dardanelles with their spinster sister Louisa Florence (1821-1886) around 1845 . . . James was trained by Frederick and often stood in as acting British consul when Frederick was away. A talented linguist, James inherited Charles's post as U.S. consular agent. After the Crimean War ended in 1856, James married Lavinia ABBOTT of Smyrna, the third daughter of a family much like the CALVERTs and LANDERS. He remained at his post until 1874, when he finally left the closed community of the Dardanelles and moved permanently to Constantinople."

James CALVERT and Louisa LANDER's sixth son was Frank CALVERT. The website <http://crimeantexts.russianwar.co.uk/topics/calverts.html> states that by 1852, Frank "was helping his brothers Frederick and James in their consular duties, writing 50 percent of the letters in French and English generated for his brothers, which they would sign as officers. He did the same in 1855, while Frederick was completely engrossed in affairs related to the Crimean War. In 1856 and 1857, he would write only occasional letters, implying increased free time. On occasion in 1856 and 1858, he stood in for Frederick as acting British consul." In 1847 Frederick had bought a farm of over 2,000 acres at Akca Koy (in Turkey) which included part of Mount Hisarlik. Frank Calvert believed that it was the site of the ancient city of Troy and carried out excavations there. After the Crimean War he confided his views to Heinrich Schliemann, who was subsequently credited with the discovery. After standing in for James, eventually Frank succeeded him as United States consular agent in 1874, an unpaid position that he held for the rest of his life. Occasionally, he served on local mixed European and Turkish tribunals, assuming from time to time the title of acting British consul."

These CALVERT men were all first cousins of my lacemaker, Edward LANDER.

The 1841 Census for Nottinghamshire shows Edward and his family living at 434 Pepper Street, Basford (Piece HO 107/856, Book 3, Civil Parish of Basford, County Nottinghamshire; Enumeration District 5; Folio 6; Page 5; Line 9; GSU Roll 438904. Those there for the Census were Edward (aged 30) Lace Maker,

Mary (30), Mary (11), Edward (7), John (4) and Emma (1). Their neighbours at 433 Pepper Street were the Widdowson family. Another family with the same name were fellow passengers on the "Harpley". The Widdowson family owned 10 bobbin net machines in the East Midlands in 1829 (Mason, op cit, p. 204). Sydney Widdowson made curtain lace with machines he owned in Station Rd, Beeston. The Widdowson family were certainly lace manufacturers, not simply lace makers. Perhaps Edward LANDER was also.



Figure 4: Edward Lander

Obituaries in Adelaide papers weren't much help in this regard. For example, *The Advertiser*, Adelaide, for Wednesday 5 June 1895 states: "DEATH OF AN OLD COLONIST.

An aged pioneer colonist, Mr. Edward Lander, died at the residence of his son-in-law (Mr. John Ottaway), Port Adelaide, on Saturday, from senile decay, in his eighty-fourth year. The deceased gentleman arrived in the colony in 1848 in the ship *Harpley*, from Calais. His father was captain and owner of the *Malta* and traded with the Baltic, while his uncle was consul at Odessa. He engaged in farming at Riverton for several years, but like many of the early settlers, he was attracted to Victoria by the gold diggings. He was a large sheep-farmer at Darlington Point, New South Wales. The relatives he leaves behind in the colonies are nearly 100 in number, including children and grandchildren. His wife is still living".



Figure 3: Edward's silver snuff box (RIL)

Not much here regarding lace making or manufacturing!

However, Edward was elected chairman of the committee which petitioned the British Government with the proposal that the lacemakers and their families be allowed “emigration to one of the British colonies, South Australia preferred where workers are scarce and labour wanted”. This task is unlikely to have been given to someone who didn’t have some political clout. Both the petition and the subsequent letter of thanks appear, to me at least, to have been in Edward’s own handwriting so presumably the words of both were his as well. Gillian agrees with my assessment (KELLY. G., *Well Suited to the Colony*, page 119).

Pushing his potential influence perhaps a little bit too far, let me also point out that Edward’s first cousin, Sophie LANDER, the daughter of Charles and Adèle LANDER, had a daughter called Mary Du Caurroy TRIBE. She was married to Herbrand Arthur RUSSELL, 11th Duke of Bedford. His great uncle, Lord John RUSSELL was Prime Minister of Great Britain in 1848. Strange things happen in politics. Perhaps some favours were asked or given. We will never know. All we know is that the lacemakers and their families, one way or another, were given passage to Australia as requested.

Edward was also well-regarded by the Brothers of the Hope Lodge of Oddfellows and the Grand Lodge of Druids in Calais as evidenced by their presentation to him of the silver snuff box in 1843 - shown above.

He and his mother were also two of only six people amongst the English contingent in Calais who had savings of more than 100 francs in French banks and who found they were unable to withdraw their money following a decree to this effect by the French government on 9 March 1848.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* of Saturday 18 Oct 1879 reported that "Edward Lander, Darlington Point, Murrumbidgee" had been appointed a magistrate by the Governor, on the advice of the Executive Council.

My theory is that Edward LANDER was more likely a lace machine owner rather than simply a lacemaker. Lace manufacturer and lacemaker were almost identical terms and thus I have little to go on other than he seemed to carry significantly more influence than a typical framework knitter or twisthand.

He seems to have been late to enter the lacemaking business in France. For example, he appears to have first gone to Calais on 30 July 1842 and it is the French records which give me the one doubt that my assessment is possibly not correct. The Calais “Registre de Livrets” show that his was the 1582nd licence issued. He was aged 31 and he was listed as an “*ouvrier en tulle*” – a worker in tulle. More concerning still for the efficacy of my theory is that he was employed by W. Press. In Calais, at least, he appears to have been an employee rather than an employer.

In my favour, however, is the fact I can find no one described as a machine lace manufacturer/owner or “*fabricant de tulle*”. People involved with the manufacture of lace seem to have all been described as “*ouvrier en tulle*”. Whatever the truth, I am enormously proud of my Edward who appears to have been helpful, perhaps influential in enabling nearly 700 lacemakers and their families to emigrate to Australia and to forge new lives for themselves and their descendants in this wonderful country of ours.

Edward used his talents to become the school teacher aboard *Harpley* (for which he was paid £3) and possibly continued as a teacher at Birkinhead and/or Thebarton schools in Adelaide on his arrival there in 1848. On 1 March 1849, he joined the South Australian metropolitan police force. He remained in the force until at least 13 February 1852 – I know this because he was involved in an arrest on that day. The police records indicate that he was married, a Protestant and that he was 5’9” tall – about the same height as my late father.

Edward bought land and a home at Thebarton on 6 March 1851 before moving his family to a farm at Riverton, to the north of Adelaide. This farm proved to be too small to support his growing family so in about 1865 they moved to new farmland near Casterton in Victoria and later still to nearby Coleraine. Ten years later they moved to wonderful Merino grazing land near Darlington Point in NSW.

After retiring from the land, Edward and his wife returned to Adelaide to live with their eldest daughter, Mary Ann Ottaway. They died at her home in 1895 and 1898 respectively and are buried in the Cheltenham (Woodville) Cemetery. ▪

DANIEL DIGGLE – LUDDITE

One of the very newest members of our society is Debbie Lawrence, our first Canadian member. Debbie hails from White Rock, British Columbia – near Vancouver on Canada’s west coast. She, like the late Bruce Goodwin, the second President of ASLC, is a relative of Benjamin Kemshall and Mary (nee Elnor), who arrived in Sydney in 1848 aboard *Agincourt*. Bruce and Debbie’s relationship is third cousins, twice removed. The following story, with minor additions and alterations, was written by David Lowe and was included in the *Nottingham Post*, ‘Bygones’ supplement on 18 September 2017. David has kindly and generously given permission for his article to be included in *Tulle*.

WHEN Debbie Lawrence began exploring her Nottingham roots she never realised the quest would take her on a journey of a lifetime. Her mother, Thelma Vera Diggle-Leinster, was given up for adoption in the Vancouver area in 1926. Debbie recalled: “For all of her life and most of mine, I knew nothing about her biological family.” Twenty years ago, just before her mother died, Debbie confirmed her grandmother Louisa (‘Cissie’) Diggle was born in Mansfield in 1891. Then the trail went cold until a few months ago when a neighbour with a passion for genealogy, offered to help her piece together her family tree. Debbie’s researcher friend, Sheila Surridge, who was born in London and emigrated to Canada over 30 years ago, spent countless hours sleuthing away, piecing together the story. To her amazement Debbie discovered her lineage linked back to the famous Luddite, Daniel Diggle, who was executed in Nottingham 201 years ago. That fact drove Debbie and her partner Irma Bijdemast, to make an emotional journey to Nottingham to walk up the steps of the historic Shire Hall – now the National Justice Museum – to visit the site where her ancestor stood trial and was subsequently hanged on 2 April 1817.

Those were turbulent times when desperate groups of framework knitters destroyed newer, faster machines which they believed threatened to put them out of work. In a bid to quash the Luddites, frame breaking was made a capital offence. On 18 March 1817, 21-year-old Daniel Diggle stood before Judge Baron Richards at the Nottingham Shire Hall, charged with the attempted murder of his employer George Kerrey, of Radford.

The court heard that on 22 December 1816, Diggle and two other men named Henfrey and Wolley had gone on a frame breaking expedition at Kerrey's home. The prosecution said that during the disturbance, Diggle fired a pistol at Kerrey with the intention of killing him. Although Kerrey was not seriously injured, Diggle thought he had killed him and fled with his confederates. He was subsequently arrested after being caught poaching near Trowell, a village nine kilometres west of Nottingham.

One of his co-poachers turned King's Evidence. Diggle, who had a young wife and child, was found guilty and the judge passed the death sentence. According to the *Nottingham Review*, his execution outside the Shire Hall was watched by a "vast concourse of people" and his "authentic confession" was printed and distributed at the time of his hanging. But was Diggle a victim of a miscarriage of justice? In 2017, visitors to the National Justice Museum were invited to watch a recreation of the case before deciding whether Diggle paid a fair price for his crime. In the atmospheric Victorian courtroom, where Diggle had stood trial, actors performed as defence and prosecution barristers and members of the public stepped forward to act as judge, witnesses and jury. A young boy stood in the dock as Daniel Diggle, and Debbie Lawrance readily agreed to act as Daniel's mother. Jocular master of ceremonies, Radford-born Frank Drayton, promised the audience a surprise ending to the trial. When that stage was reached, most people present were convinced that Daniel Diggle had been convicted two centuries ago to set an example and bring a symbolic end to Luddism.

Debbie was then invited to re-enter the witness box to reveal that she was a near-descendant of Daniel Diggle. She said: "Daniel lived in desperate times and we cannot imagine what life was like in 1817. I believe in my heart that he was full of remorse for what he did and he paid the ultimate price because the authorities wanted to set an example to others." Before touring the museum, she met deputy marketing manager Niall Browne. He explained how, with the aid of £1million Heritage Lottery funding, Nottingham's historic Shire Hall, courtrooms and county gaol – formerly known as the Galleries of Justice – had re-opened in April 2017 as the National Justice Museum. A special courtroom performance was created re-enacting the original Daniel Diggle trial. "It's an important case which gets to the heart of issues about justice and it never fails to interest the many schoolchildren, students and

visitors who come to the museum”, he said. Earlier in the day, Debbie had spent a poignant time visiting her great grandfather’s grave at Wilford Cemetery. Albert Diggle was born at Hyson Green in 1860. He married Ellen Carrick Stainrod in 1887 and they had three children together, including Debbie’s grandmother Louisa (Cissie). Albert was remarried to Lily Keward and their union produced Harold Keward Diggle.

During 2017 Debbie was able to piece together the final pieces in her fascinating family story. After working in the Nottingham lace industry and for a while at Player’s cigarette factory, Cissie joined the Women’s Royal Naval Service. Cissie’s first husband (George Taylor) and her brother Charles H. Diggle both died in the First World War. Cissie then married James H Leinster, an Irish-born man from Lisburn, a city near Belfast, who was serving in the British Navy. They had a baby named Mona, born in Deal, Kent, in 1920, before moving to Canada for a few years. Debbie’s mum, Thelma, born in 1924, was given up for adoption in the Vancouver area. Shortly after, Debbie’s grandparents moved to Hollywood, California, with Thelma’s older sister Mona. Cissie lived in the same area for the rest of her life until she died in 1966. She is buried at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Hollywood Hills. Through Sheila Surridge’s diligent online research, she was able to connect Debbie with her cousin, Philip Cox, who lives in Harwich, Essex. He was instrumental in the success of Debbie’s trip to the UK, providing her with wonderful family photos and stories and a direct line to someone who knew Cissie – his mother who lives in Ipswich.

Through Philip, Debbie learned that her Aunt Mona performed as a chorus line dancer in Hollywood, appearing in the famous Fred Astaire film *Top Hat*. Once Philip provided Debbie with the names of her Aunt Mona’s two sons, she was able to contact through Facebook her first cousin Carl, who lives in Arlington, Texas. Carl provided more photographs and stories about their grandmother. Debbie has also recently gathered more information about Samuel Diggle, whose sister married into the Kemshall line of the family in the 1880s. Samuel’s brother-in-law Benjamin Kemshall left Nottingham in 1838 because the lace industry was in dire shape. He became one of the original lace makers of Calais, France, and later relocated his family of seven children to Australia. The Kemshall family succeeded in making a good life for themselves, venturing from the lace industry to gold mining at Hill End.

Debbie has contacted two Kemshall descendants in Australia and Sheena Goodwin gave Debbie a copy of her father's book about their relatives, entitled *Lace & Gold*. Written by Bruce Goodwin, it's a fascinating and detailed historical account of the family spanning over 150 years.

Before travelling to Ipswich to meet three cousins from Harold Diggle's family, Debbie and Irma toured the sights of Nottingham, buying lace and visiting the Framework Knitters Museum at Ruddington and the Cluny Lace factory in Ilkeston. They also visited St Barnabas Church, where Debbie's grandmother, Louise Diggle, was baptised. The couple also enjoyed dinner at the *Pitcher and Piano*, the former High Pavement church where some of Debbie's other relatives were baptised. They even tried to track down the Daniel Diggle beer brewed in Nottingham. Debbie said: "Nottingham is my heritage and I feel a strong sense of connection to this beautiful city. I am very proud of my roots here and it was very emotional to walk in my ancestors' footsteps. "I loved every minute. This has all been an absolutely amazing journey. My life is finally whole".



More than 200 years on, a student volunteer at the National Justice Museum, Edward Hammond, has put together some additional information. He states: "Like many other cases of a similar nature, what is striking with Daniel Diggle's case is what he was prosecuted for. Glaringly, there is no charge directly for frame breaking, even though it had been a made a capital offence. The newspaper makes no reference to any Luddite motives, but the Nottingham Date-Book insists that it was a 'frame-breaking expedition'. Either way, Diggle had been involved in the destruction in the past, which he admitted to in his confession filled with remorse and regret, although suspiciously very literate for a frame-work knitter; the Nottingham Journal reiterated that he was 'extremely illiterate' ...The confession and court proceedings have 'all the hallmarks of a show trial'. This is much more so because Daniel had initially pleaded guilty but, having been warned of the consequences of such an action, reluctantly consented to pleading not guilty, therefore instigating a necessary trial. ■

TWISTHANDS

Many of our ancestors probably worked as twisthands in a lace industry – either in Nottingham and/or in Calais. Surprisingly, nothing has been specifically written about twisthands in the pages of *Tulle* prior to this time.

The word ‘twisthand’ originated in Nottingham where, in the process of making lace, threads are twisted together in lace machines. The machine holders or owners employed ‘lace makers’ or ‘twisthands’ (as the latter were eventually called) to operate these machines. It should be noted that the term “lace manufacturer” was commonly applied in the trade at that time to lace finishers, who, as a rule, did not own lace machines. Twisthands were the kings of the lace trade and very skilled craftsmen.

Sheila MASON¹ writes: “a man, often the head of the family, with his son(s) and/or apprentices, would work the machine(s) while women and children of both sexes would carry out auxiliary tasks such as preparing the yarn and mending. Machine operators in the twist lace and net sections of the trade in the East Midlands, and the West Country, were called ‘twisthands’, although in Scotland, and the United States of America, they were called ‘weavers’. Warp lace machine operators, too, were often called ‘weavers’ but more usually it would appear they too were called ‘twisthands’, even though they didn’t work twist machines. In the censuses all machine operators were termed ‘lace makers,’ thus making it almost impossible without additional evidence to know whether a man was working a machine on his own account or for an employer. In the censuses only makers employing a number of people styled themselves ‘lace manufacturers’.

In the early nineteenth century, twisthands learnt their trade by apprenticeships which continued for seven years, sometimes commencing when they were as young as 13. Twisthands in unionised factories were always male. In small, non-unionised factories there was the occasional female twisthand, but

¹ Mason. Sheila A., *Nottingham Lace 1760s – 1950s – The Machine-made Lace Industry in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire*, 1994, Sherwood Press, Nottingham, p.160.

these were usually family members. Mason states “even during the labour shortages of the First World War the unions insisted that the females allowed to work machines in three plain net firms were ‘machine minders’ rather than ‘twisthands’.

Other factors mitigated against the employment of women in this role. One was that each machine was worked night and day by two men working in split shifts. In the time of our ancestors the first man would start work at 4.00am and continue until 9.00am; the second twisthand would then work from 9.00am until 1.00pm. He would then be relieved by the man who had worked the first shift who then worked from 1.00pm until 6.00pm; the last shift would then be worked by the second man from 6.00pm until midnight. Both workers thus worked one shift during the night. There was a further obstacle in that women were legally prohibited from performing night work².

It was also usual for just one twisthand to operate one machine at a time in the Leavers, warp and parts of the curtain lace industry. However, some curtain lace machines were so large and contained threads which were so complex in nature that they required a twisthand plus a helper for their efficient operation. Another exception to the rule involved the plain net machines operated by some of our ancestors. These machines usually existed in pairs facing each other so one twisthand could operate the two machines (Mason, *ibid*, p.162).

Apprentice twisthands in the trade were known as ‘learners’. In the curtain section, only one learner was allowed for every three machines. There does not appear to have been a set limit in the Leavers section other than that set by the twisthand himself. Teaching a learner could dramatically slow him down in his work and therefore dramatically lessen his take home pay.

Twisthands not only had to thoroughly understand their machines but also how to thread the bobbins and how to read the draughts created by the draughtsmen. In 1825 there were no specialist lace pattern designers, but by

² Silverman. H. A.(ed.), *Studies in Industrial Organization*, 1946, Routledge, London

1832 White's directory listed eight, and in 1848 ten were included³. The leading pioneer in methods of designing and draughting was William HAINES of Nottingham who, in 1842, developed a process of recording designs accurately and enabling patterns of increasing complexity to be devised on the drawing board rather than in the machine shop. His complex system represented the position of every thread at every movement of the machine.

Sheila Mason states that "the transformation of a lace pattern from drawing board to jacquard entails three operations, designing, draughting and jacquard card punching" (Mason, op cit, p.40). The proposed pattern had firstly to be found suitable for the type, gauge and set-up of the machine on which it was to be made. The pattern was first sketched on a sheet of plain paper before the draughtsman transferred the final design to graph paper called the draught or draft (see Figure 5), and to the figure sheet.

Heathcoat's machines made plain net, the manufacture of which has remained as a distinct branch of the trade. It was unsuitable for the production of patterned lace because the threads traversed diagonally across the whole breadth of the fabric. The net, however, was often later embroidered by hand.



Figure 5: A section of a draught or draft (courtesy Mrs Jane BEALBY)

In 1813 John Leavers of Nottingham invented a lace machine on which net could be formed without the need for traversing, but some twenty years passed before the appearance of a satisfactory method of thread control, which is essential in the manufacture of patterned lace. This complementary invention was the work of the Frenchman Jacquard, whose system has

³ Church Roy A., *Economic and Social Change in a Midland Town: Victorian Nottingham 1815-1900*

subsequently been extensively applied not only in lace-making but also in weaving.

The third main type of lace machine, the lace-curtain machine, was first patented in 1846. Its distinctive characteristic is in the capacity to produce wide breadths of lace with a large-scale pattern, in contrast with the Leavers machine which is more suitable for making narrow breadths, sometimes no more than half an inch wide, repeated across the width of the frame.

The twisthand operating a lace machine was the key man in the trade because it was he who was responsible for getting the maximum production out of a machine. This was essential because the lace machines had a high initial cost and used vast amounts of expensive materials. His duties initially included supervising the threading of the machine. This consisted of putting thousands of warp and spool threads through eyelets and their respective guide-bars; and adjusting the pattern cards on the Jacquard attachment. The Jacquard was connected by hundreds of strings with the jacks in the well of the lace machine. This Jacquard harness must be of a definite length and tension. Because the temperature around the machine was constantly changing, careful adjustment by the twisthand was frequently necessary. Any broken threads had to be identified by the twisthand promptly and joined together; empty bobbins had to be replaced by him and any imperfections in the pattern had to be detected immediately and the appropriate adjustment also made by him.

It is no wonder that the twisthand was so highly regarded. In many factories the twisthand wore a bowler hat as a sign of his status and some Nottingham pubs had parlours reserved for "Twisthands Only". He belonged to the aristocracy among textile workers and this developed a solidarity and exclusiveness amongst this group of artisans.

Another slump had occurred in 1832. The wages of men in work were reduced by 30% and a relief fund was established for the unemployed. The

Chamber of Commerce collapsed and foreign competition was chiefly blamed for the lack of work, There was a Secret Committee to prevent the export of machinery (The export of the machines was still illegal, and would remain so until 1842 -43) The twisthands subscribed heavily to this (See *Tulle*, Aug 1995, p13). Repeal of the Combination Laws in 1824-1825 removed the illegality of trade unions and established the right to withhold ones labour from the market by concerted action. However, the repeal meant nothing to twisthands who during boom times were earning extremely high wages, whilst during hard times were mostly on parish relief anyway.

Yet another slump occurred in 1837. The wages of men in work were reduced by 30% and a relief fund was instituted for the unemployed. The Chamber of Commerce was dissolved and a Secret Committee was established to prevent the export of lace machinery –yet again! Although twisthands subscribed to the Secret Committee and notice was provided to almost every port in the UK, the Government was unsympathetic and the Board of Trade refused to sanction seizures. Machines were exported to Germany, Russia, and especially France. As you are well aware, there were large numbers of Englishmen in the lace trade in the Calais area. While emigration of workmen was still illegal, Calais alone contained nearly five hundred Nottingham men⁴.

In 1837 the Nottingham Mechanics' Institute was formed. This provided a new opportunity for discussion between artisans. Depression hit the trade again in 1845, this time clearly due to overproduction. The price of plaited lace fell by 75% and Leavers lace sold for as little as three farthings a yard, about the price of the thread used to make it at the time.

Within a few months that part of the trade located in Leicestershire comprising about 200 machines became extinct. Small machine owners became twisthands again. The lace makers themselves, suffering unemployment, petitioned the House of Commons to restrict working hours

⁴ *Nottingham Journal*, 2 January 1835

to sixteen a day⁵. In this they were backed by many smaller masters but the larger machine owners successfully petitioned against the original petition. All parties agreed, however, that the hours of women and children should be restricted. A public subscription for the hundreds of lace makers unemployed was very poorly supported.

The failure of appeal to the House of Commons and the competition among twisthands for limited employment resulted in the formation in 1846 of the *British Union of Plain Net Makers*. This was a modest attempt in a new model of unionism. Members paid 2d. to the local and 4d. to the national fund each week. In return, sick and unemployment benefits were 10 shillings weekly for men earning sixteen shillings a week and 12 shillings and sixpence for men earning £1 per week. The Union had considerable moral support from working people and their families generally. If an employer reduced his rates, all the women and children in his neighbourhood would bang on kettles and pans, or blow whistles or other noisy instruments every time he left his house. The *British Union of Plain Net Makers* was “a short-lived organisation which in all probability disappeared during the depression of 1847-48 but whose constitution sought to combine the roles of trade union and friendly society in the style of other progressive unions”.

As we all well know, 1847 and 1848 brought panic and depression once more and twisthands suffered great distress while at the same time immigration into Nottingham’s lace trade of refugees from a revolutionary continent seemed to herald a new era. For our ancestors this was certainly true. Fear of the revolution drove many Nottingham lace makers home. Many others sought emigration to Australia. £259. 2s. 0d. was collected towards an Australian emigration fund and, as we say, the rest is our history. ■

⁵ See Felkin, p.278

FRENCH ALMANAC 1847



Not long ago and while researching for *Tulle* articles I came across the Annual French Commercial Almanac for 1847. It is available on-line at: <https://books.google.com.au/books?id=O7tBAAAACAAJ&pg=PA401&dq=dodat+et+cie+lyon+dentelle&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEWjD797U2qvXAhXIS7wKHc9uCfwQ6AEINjAC#v=onepage&q=dodat%20et%20ci e%20lyon%20dentelle&f=false>. There has not been room in this, my final edition of *Tulle*, for any in depth analysis but I do believe it will provide lots of information for a future Editor of our noble journal.

For example (page 1142), the manufacturers of unbleached tulle (net) in Sainte-Pierre -Lès-Calais in 1847 included Arnett, Atkin, Austick, **Austin**, Baras (Ve), Barker, Beaugrand, Bélart, Beyley, Bimont-**Sergeant**, Bimont (Eugene), Boin, **Boot**, Boutoille, Bridge, **Brown**, Lakin, Capelle, Cave, Champailler, Cordier-Grou, Cordier-Lamy, **Cobb** (J), Cotte (Ach), Crespin, Croffths (Ed: should possibly read **Crofts**), Dagbert (Ant.), Debuche, Decoorte, Desgardin, **Dormer**, Dodd, Dubois, Dumoulin, Farrands (W), **Farrands Bros.**, Fermant & Leleu, Fouju, Gaillard, Gaskin (G), Gasking, Gourdin, Hall, Hough (J), **Hazeldine**, Hochede, Hogson, Hopkin (W), Jackson, James (R), Kesteman, King (R), Laporte (Ab.), Leblond, **Lee**, Lheureux (A), Louchez, Mallet, Maxton (John), Maxton (R) and Co., Muller (G), Mullié (E), Mullié (A) and Charles Bernard & Sons and Hermant junior, Obaldestone, O'Hara, Pearson (Fred) [who also made steam-powered machinery], Picot, Prilliez and Co., Pulsfort, Quillacq (A), Rault Sons, Rebier, Rembert, Rembert-Vernald, Robillard, Searcy, Smith-Rob (J), Sephard, **Stubbs**, **Stubbs** (Ve. F), **Stubbs** (H), **Taylor** (J), **Taylor** (W), Tillier, Tong, Torneur, Vaillant, Walkland, Wattré, **Webster Bros.**, **West** (Rob), **Wragg** (J) – operating a steam factory.

In Calais itself, manufacturers made *Tulle, façon anglaise* (English style net). Most manufacturers were French – the probable exceptions being Barwick, Bass and Cooper. Other manufacturers made *tulles en gros* or wholesale net. The only ones with English sounding names were Middleton, Spiers, Thompson, Sergeant (Charles) and Stevenson.

I believe this publication will prove to be a valuable and interesting find and I strongly recommend that future editors examine it in more detail. ▀

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