

NOTTINGHAM

Tulle

Volume 17 Number 2

May 1998



CALAIS

AUSTRALIA

NOTTINGHAM LACE.

An my first attempt mechanically to make Bobbin Lace, the bobbins were arranged in a fan-like order on pinions, and thus radiating they were made to twist round each other, and a row of pins forced up the crossing to close the mesh.

These pins were fixed on a bar, but they spread out and contracted: lying between guides, they expanded on receding, and contracted when brought into contact with the work, forcing up the twist to the crossing, until the meshes became of the right size and shape.

JOHN HEATHCOAT 1785-1861



The Journal of
The Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais

Sesquicentenary of the arrival in Australia of the English Lacemakers from Calais

MEETING DATES

Saturday, May 16, 1998 ~
Calais - St-Pierre - the Little Ships
Luncheon, Guest Speaker, Donbank Cottage, 1.00pm

Saturday, August 15, 1998
The Harpley Celebration
Donbank Cottage

Sunday, October 4, 1998
THE GREAT GET TOGETHER
St Peters Anglican Church and Grounds

Usual venue for Meetings is **Don Bank Cottage**

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, May 16 at Donbank Cottage
Lunch and guest speaker,
Professor Ken Dutton

Professor Dutton is the head of Newcastle University's Department of Modern Languages and has recently been awarded the City of Paris Medal in recognition of his contribution to French - Australian cultural relations. He shares with us, a fascination for history and proposes an intriguing discussion!

Luncheon cost \$10

RSVP to Barbara Kendrick by May 9 is essential
for catering purposes

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Tulle

Volume 17 Number 2 May 1998

From The Right Worshipful Lord Mayor of Nottingham.....	2
From the Desks of.....	3
Michel Caron.....	6
Calaisiens and Lace, Micel Caron.....	7
Letter from Australla, Nottingham Review, 1850	15
Phone Chatter.....	19
1914 - 1918.....	20
William IV.....	23
About People,	24
Address given at Book Launch,Gilian Kelly.....	27
The Lace Working Party.....	30
For the Genealogist.....	32



CITY OF NOTTINGHAM

*THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE LORD MAYOR ON
BEHALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND CITIZENS,
SENDS GREETINGS ON THE OCCASION OF THE
AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF THE LACEMAKERS OF
CALAIS 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR ARRIVAL
IN AUSTRALIA.*

*IT IS MY WISH THAT YOU ACCEPT THIS SCROLL TO
COMMEMORATE THE GOODWILL AND BOND OF
FRIENDSHIP HEREBY EXTENDED TO YOU*

*SIGNED
LORD MAYOR OF NOTTINGHAM*

24 January 1992

DATED



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, we did it! We launched THE BOOK, and we did it in style, in good company and with great joy. The speeches were great, the guests of honour were all nervous, and Gillian most of all! It was a great day, one many of us had dreamt about, (and ended up having nightmares before the event) for such a long time. But as Col. Pickering said to Henry Higgins "By George! WE DID IT!"

To be a little more descriptive for those of you who were unable to be with us:

We met on a glorious late summer day at Mitchell Library and in the company of Anne Fewkes, the Consuls-General of France and England, members of our families and we launched Gill's baby into the literary world. It was wonderful to see so many members, some of whom had made a special effort to be at the event. As a beginning to our Sesquicentenary year, it was very fitting.

The launch was followed by a lovely lunch, champagne toasts and the cutting of a truly wonderful cake made and iced by Beth Williams for the event, featuring the illustration of a knitting frame etched into the icing. It was not only a work of art, but a lovely tribute to Gill, and all our forebears. The feeling of 'family' was very strong among us all, not just because we were again together, but almost because we were giving life to members of our own families who although dead, are far from forgotten. They did seem to be quietly watching from some close corner, with pride, I am sure.



Our next meeting, the Annual General Meeting, to be held at Donbank, will remember the French connection, again with good food and more celebration. By now you will know so much about life in Calais in the first half of the last century, having read *Well Suited to the Colony*, but please don't think there is no more to hear. Already new stories that add to the old are coming out of the ether. It will be another great day, and we look forward to seeing you there. Please respond as soon as you can to the invitation elsewhere in this publication, so we can cater for you. We have a great guest speaker, Professor Ken Dutton, a very French style luncheon and a continuation of the wonderful feel of warm friendship that was so palpable at the book launch.

This meeting will include a brief, postponed AGM. All positions will be declared vacant, and I invite you to take this opportunity to take a more active role in the Society. The work of the Executive is usually conducted in an atmosphere of warm hospitality and good hearted banter. It is neither arduous, nor political, so why not think about giving it a go?

It would seem that our summer is finally coming to a rest and with it the fierce heat and humidity, and lack of rain. I have recently travelled through the southern part of this State and I have been saddened by the tragedy of drought. I feel confident in speaking for all our members in sending our warmest encouragement and best wishes to our country members. You are in our thoughts even if you cannot attend meetings. If any of you would like to come to Sydney for the celebration, please ring me ...there are lots of options available. I look forward to seeing many of you in May.

Claire Loneragan.
President

FROM THE SECRETARY

Our usual meeting was not held on 21st February due to the grand occasion of the launching of the book, *Well Suited to the Colony*, by Gillian Kelly.

Over 100 people attended and were treated to a fascinating insight into the Nottingham lace industry by Anne Fewkes, an historian from Nottingham who came to launch the book for us.

Tom Halls, Master of Ceremonies provided an entertaining continuity to the event. Judy Gifford introduced Anne Fewkes and Richard Lander presented a Vision for the Future and an introduction to the Cross Stitch Sampler. Claire Loneragan closed the proceedings with a President's toast to Gillian. A "work of art" cake, decorated by Beth Williams was then cut by Gillian. What a wonderful beginning to a year full of celebrations as we enjoy learning more about our ancestors.

Our next meeting will be preceded by the AGM postponed from February. If you wish to nominate any person for an Office Bearer role please forward it to me prior to the meeting.

Carolyn Broadhead
Secretary

AND THE EDITOR

I had wondered where to from now, having, in my own head, sorted out where we've been. I need not have wondered. Some answers are clear. No story from history is ever completely told and already little snippets of how things happened are appearing. We will go on collecting.

Two years ago we had nothing of the story directly from those who were there at the time. First John Freestone's letters were found, then a marvellous Bathurst correspondent picked up the name of Shirtley and unfolded Maria Potter's recollections of her arrival in Bathurst. Now, post book, Doug Webster has forwarded to *Tulle* from Barry Holland in Nottingham, another letter written in 1850.

It is a frightening to realise that so much has been lost in only 150 years. The detail of how things happened was what I wanted to tell you in *Well Suited to the Colony*, but there can never be a definitive 'how things happened' and each family will go on adding details.

One of our major objectives this year is to reach those families with whom we don't have contact. The electronic age is upon us, and I now add an email address to my correspondence. With no effort on my part, several members have found me via this medium, to say hello.

I believe that as well as hard bitten historians and genealogists many of the younger generation will use the Net to explore their histories. By the time the next *Tulle* is out I hope we have our own Home Page out there in cyber space. It is worth pausing to remember, that no matter how up-to-date we are in these last years of the twentieth century, the only way of extracting our past is from the traditional methods of the time: letters, newspapers, official records and oral history. Nothing can replace them and all the modern strategies do is simplify searches and make toady's communication instant!

Gillian Kelly
Editor

Michel Caron

Michel Caron is an historian of the lace trade in Calais from its earliest days until now. To my knowledge, he is the first historian to record the history of the trade, as distinct from the history of the town and country, since the beginning of the century. Michel has written two of a trilogy:

Les Calaisiens et la dentelle 1906 / 1950 (December 1995) and
Du Tulle à la Dentelle Calais 1815 / 1860 (November 1997).
He is working on the third, to cover the period 1860-1906.

Of added significance is the fact that Michel is the descendant of an English lacemaker, Alfred Hadfield, born Nottingham 1818, the son of William and Millicent, and who went to Calais in December 1847.

Our knowledge after 1848 is Australia-based, but the trade in Calais went on and so it is with great pleasure that we present Michel Caron's short history of the trade in Calais:

Calaisiens and lace

Michel Caron
Saint-Pierre

At the time of the abdication of Napoleon I and the end of the Continental Blockade, English entrepreneurs, restricted by the size of their population but stronger in industrial development than the Continent, crossed the Channel in search of new markets for their goods.

As a result, the frame work knitters from the Nottingham district braved the British prohibition of the export of looms, and the French prohibition of the import of lace, to establish themselves in the north of France close to land and sea borders, in order to set up looms and smuggle in English tulle.

Progressively, French man-power and capital became invested in this industry, particularly in Calais and its satellite town of St-Pierre - close to England and up until then, little developed industrially.

But manufacture was still confined to the simple web background, and decoration had to be embroidered by hand. After 1837, the adaptation by Samuel Fergusson of the apparatus invented by Jacquard to the Leavers loom assured the dominance of that kind of lace and allowed the tulle manufacturers to become lace manufacturers. This event



accelerated the industrial development of St-Pierre les Calais under the July Monarchy, the Second republic, the Second Empire and the beginning of the Third republic to the point of bringing about its union in 1885, with the town of Calais, under this single title.

Prosperity

Until the beginning of the 20th Century, confidence in the continuing expansion of the lace industry led the people of Calais to invest in the purchase of Leaver looms that were even wider and of better performance. In 1901, 426 manufacturers owned 1 885 looms. In 1906, these figures were 545 for 2 471 looms. In only five years, 119 new manufacturers had been established and the number of looms grew by 586 of which 249 were in the single year of 1906.

This same year saw the Calais lace industry reach a record turn over of 115 million francs. The 249 looms coming into service represented



Tophams Factory, rue Neuve c 1860

an investment of about 6 300 000 francs, or about 5.5% of the total sales for the year. The acquisition of new looms was accompanied by an investment in associated workmen and in buildings to house them.

With a few exceptions, looms were set up in huge collective factories for which the owner, called the 'usinier', provided the power which operated the machinery by means of a steam engine fed by a boiler situated in the centre of the factory. There were fifteen

'usiniers' in 1901 and thirty six in 1906.

The whole of the St-Pierre district was a vast commercial centre in which, around the industrial buildings, grew offices and middle class and working class housing. At that time the lace industry enjoyed a level of employment and prosperity that the town of Calais would not enjoy again.

First Difficulties - World War I



Packing the lace - factory Calais-St-Pierre c 1906

From 1907 the lace industry met with difficulties which led to decline. It was a question of the evolution of fashion and especially of the growth of the American lace industry. For several decades dresses and been long, full and lavishly decorated with lace and embroidery, covering generously decorated underwear. With the arrival of the modern era, women's clothing became more austere at the expense of industrial textiles in general and embroidery and lace in particular. Calais was greatly affected by this and all the more so as this evolution coincided with a dramatic fall in sales to the American market, which,

in 1906 with 47 million francs in imports, accounted for 41% of Calais production.

Since the end of the 19th century, American entrepreneurs had equipped themselves with Leavers looms, but the Calais manufacturers doubted that they would one day become serious competitors. However, the world production of lace fell to 90 million francs in 1908, of which a third was attributed to the United States.

It was January 1909 that the Calais manufacturers actually realised the danger of their market, essential to their survival, slipping away from them when they learnt of the partnership of one of their own with an important US company which was equipped with a large number of Leavers looms. In 1911 world production fell to 70 million francs and the sales to the United States to only 19 million francs; is only 40% of the figure for 1906. This fall led to unemployment for the workers and difficulties for the employers.

While the year of 1913 augmented the renewed growth of 1912, thanks to the creative efforts of the lace manufacturers, the war of 1914 ruined any hope of returning to the prosperity of the beginning of the century.

All through the four painful years difficulties increased. Manpower was lacking, as well as raw materials; coal, essential to fuel the boilers necessary for heating in winter and for factory power in all seasons, was scarce; outlets were restricted, couriers were restricted and the enemy was close.

Owners and workers, united by adversity, maintained with the help of the city, the Mayor and the Chamber of Commerce, a level of productivity that assured the day to day survival of the families.

Post-war Problems

In 1919 the Spanish flu prolonged the ravages of the War and the transition of a war economy to a peace-time economy was a painful and laborious process. Foreign markets opened up very slowly and the return of the demobbed men brought with it an over supply of

manpower which the industry could not absorb. Living conditions were sometimes harsher than they had been during the conflict. Industry was unsettled by social problems due to the disproportion of salaries to the new economic realities.

The most serious problem for the manufacturers was caused by monetary instability. For an industry dependent on imported raw materials, the calculation of factory prices was difficult. Competition, especially on a staple product like Valenciennes lace, made sales prices subject to bargaining and this threatened profits.

This situation stabilised after 1922, only to become worse again in 1926 when the French franc lost, in the month of July, almost half its value in relation to the US dollar and the UK pound. The return of Raymond Poincare to the presidency of the Council resurrected the franc which recovered in December 1926 to its normal course. After 1927 a revival in lace brought with it an improvement in living conditions for the people of Calais.

The crisis of the 30s

The Wall Street Crash on Black Thursday 24 October 1929 ushered in the darkest decade for the lace industry.

The economic crisis, starting in the United States, spread to all industrialised countries, and each one of them, in order to protect themselves, applied protectionist policies. The most powerful industries organised themselves into pressure groups and exerted telling influence on governments and on negotiations for commercial contracts. In this struggle, the lace industry carried little weight in comparison to agriculture, iron and steel smelting or the automobile industry and the people of Calais had the feeling of being abandoned to an inevitable fate.

Machine lace, an export industry, could not be sustained solely by the domestic market. World instability, whether it was political, economic or worse - all three at once, was prejudicial to it. From 1931 sales to the USA, which remained the main client of Calais manufacture, foundered and with them, world production. One after the other,

foreign markets shrank or closed down. Unemployment worsened week by week, debts piled up and part of the population emigrated to the Paris region to find work there. The town ran into debt and became poorer; the crisis spared no one.

Jointly the trade unions of the workers and owners, along with the local government and the Chamber of Commerce, increased their pleas to the government for them to find a remedy for their difficulties and to give them some help.

It was only after the signing of a commercial agreement in May 1936 with the Washington government and the revival of the American economy following Roosevelt's 'New Deal' that exports to the USA gained some volume, bringing with it from the beginning of 1937 and in 1938 an improvement in the lives of the people of Calais.

The year of 1939 began brilliantly and despite the menace rising in the East, few people believed that a world war was imminent. In the shelter of the Maginot Line which they believed to be impregnable, the people of Calais, like all the French, clung to the hope or rather the illusion that the dictator who dominated central Europe, was sincerely seeking peace.

The War and Occupation

The first few months of the war, from September 1939 to April 1940 hardly disturbed the lace industries whose main sales were made in the USA, but the German offensive from 10 May 1940, the rapid occupation of France and the Armistice of 22 June forced the people of Calais into a new era of major difficulties.

In spite of the omnipresence of the German army and the control of the administration of all the activities it was necessary to make secure the daily lives of the male and female workers as well as to assure the survival of the irreplaceable fabric. There was no longer any cotton or natural silk - only artificial textiles - rayon and synthetics. Coal was scarce, electricity rationed and production was limited to a single outlet - the domestic market.



Factory of Vampouille & Duquesnoy, rue des Quatre Coins, totally destroyed by the first British bombs on 15.09.40. Photo R Chaussois - from *Les Calaisens et la dentelle 1906/1950*. M Caron

Calais were forced to evacuate their town at the end of September and it was to a town in ruins that they returned a few days later.

A new beginning mid-century.

Of the 1681 Leavers looms that existed in Calais in 1939, 312 were completely destroyed during the War and there remained 1369, most of which hadn't worked for four years. This equipment had to be returned to working order, primary materials had to be restocked and markets reopened, with that of the USA as a priority.

The Americans were great purchasers of Calais lace, but they wanted it

No official figures exist for business revenue at that time, but rising salaries and other indicators confirm some activity in the lace industry until 1942, a decline in 1943 to become sporadic to the eve of the Normandy landing in 1944. This evolution naturally followed the rhythm of the War.

When at the beginning of September 1944, the Allies arrived at Calais, few factories had been destroyed, but the English bombs and Canadian shells caused in a single month more destruction than the town had suffered since May 1940. The people of

in cotton, not synthetics or rayon. Producers were only able to purchase cotton spasmodically from the spinners. This was the only curb to a rapid recovery in the lace industry. The market demand was there but could not be satisfied.

The situation improved appreciably at the beginning of 1947 and especially in 1948, when the Washington government put into operation the Marshall Plan. But in 1949 the Cold War and Berlin Blockade brought with them a wave of fear about flagging sales and the future. The object of desire and veneration when business was good, of worry and frustration when business was bad, the Leavers loom, because of its noise, and sometimes because of its silence, was omnipresent throughout the city.

In fifty years techniques have changed little and sons work just as their fathers did. The people of Calais remain persuaded that the Leavers loom has attained such a high degree of perfection that it will never be possible to manufacture any other lace but theirs. However, most Leavers looms date from the beginning of the century, or even the end of the 19th Century.

The Calais lace industry has always been dependent upon export sales and above all upon a dominant market: that of the USA. The town of Calais, dependent itself on a single industry, has survived according to the rhythm of the American economy, of its periods of crisis and prosperity. In 1948 the USA still absorbed 48% of the production from the Leavers looms of Calais.

in 1950, when primary materials became available and when a new era was ushered in, the question was asked whether the world economy was entering a period of free trade, or if it was going to return to the between-wars protectionism so luckless for Calais and its industry.

In the decade 1950-1959, Leavers lace faced two new challenges: the introduction of nylon thread and the birth of the Raschel loom, but there was new reason to believe in the future with the signing of the Treaty with Rome on 25 March 1957, creating the EEC.

The Nottingham Review

16 August 1850

The Anglo-French Emigrants.- One of the Calais lace-makers, a native of this town, who emigrated to New South Wales in the *Agincourt* in June, 1848 has sent us a letter, from which we extract the following:-

“We arrived in Sydney harbour on the 6th of October, 1848, just four months from the time we sailed from Blackwall. We had a beautiful passage, and I was not in the least sea-sick.

Soon after casting anchor, commissioners came on board, and gave us the names of three places, from which we had to make a choice of one for our settlement. No other person being allowed to come on board, we were unable to make any enquiries as to which place offered the most advantages, and we therefore made choice of Goulburn, a town distant from Sydney about 150 miles.

Our party, consisting of 53 men, their wives, and children, were occupied eight days in travelling to the adopted locality, sleeping out at night. On this journey, for twenty-four hours we were exposed to a pitiless storm of rain. Having reached Goulburn, we were ushered into the emigration barracks, where there was not a bedstead to be seen, and we made our beds on the floor, one beside the other.

The following day our dormitory was visited by parties desirous of engaging servants, for, with the exception of shoemakers, joiners, tailors, and blacksmiths, there is no trade in the place. I engaged as gardener, and my wife as cook, for £18 per year each, including board and lodging. We had again to travel 140 miles further into the interior to our situations. We soon discovered that, despite our engagement, we must

succumb to the dictates of our employers. For my £18 per year, I had to milk two cows, fetch wood and water, and shepherd. If any sheep were lost, I had to pay for them.

My labour began at sunrise and terminated at 'sun-down'. I lived in the bush, where a stranger is not seen for months, and probably eight miles from the nearest hut; my provisions consisted of salt beef, tea, potatoes, greens, onions, and 'damper' (flour mixed with water, and thrown on to wood ashes to bake). Apples are grown only for the rich.

The country is very fine and healthful. In summer we have no rain for four or five months, and were it not for the shade of the trees, there would not be a blade of grass to be seen. During the summer you are obliged to wear crape over you eyes, to preserve you from the flies and the 'blight' (disease which affects the eyes, causing blindness for two or three weeks, and frequently permanently injuring the sight). In the winter it rains for weeks together.

Snakes are numerous, and their bite is deadly. Ants, one or two inches in length, are a great nuisance, for you suffer four or five days after being bitten by them. Other insects are annoying, for the swelling arising from their bites incapacitates the limb from ordinary exertion.

I have not enjoyed the pleasure of sitting in a chair for a long time, a block or stool being generally used instead. The price of a small glass of ale was ninepence; rum, 12s half-a-pint; gin 14s half-a-pint; tobacco, 7s per pound; a pair of fustian trousers, such as you might buy in Nottingham for 5s. I paid 12s. for; for shirts, shoes, &c. an exorbitant price is charged. What we have endured, were we to attempt to tell you, would put your faith to the test, and our powers of description to their utmost limit."

Page 4, Column f, Nottingham Review, 16 August 1850

Paragraphing inserted by the Editor to ease the reader's task!

A Suggestion of Identity

From this marvellous piece, we gain a further insight into the Lacemaker's in Australia. We now know that at least one traveller enjoyed the voyage, and it was without incident. The letter confirms that there was no system for allocation to towns and that life in Australia was difficult to start with.

But who was the mystery author? . He :

- mentions his wife, but no children
- was employed as a gardener at £18 pa
- undertook tasks associated with the roles of shepherd and general servant
- was literate
- was accurate in his distance from Goulburn

The Ship Return for the *Agincourt*¹ is quite clear in its record of the distribution of passengers and only one couple seems to fit most of the author's description. Against each adult passenger's name is the destination, the employer, the position and the wage per annum. There is circumstantial evidence that supports that Humphrey John Wainwright was the author of the letter.

Excluding the small group who remained in Sydney, the *Agincourt* passengers were employed in Maitland and Bathurst EXCEPT Humphrey John Wainwright and his wife Lucy. Alone, this couple nominated Goulburn, and were employed for six months by a Mr Maurice of Binda as gardener and cook and laundress. Wainwright was to earn £20 pa and Lucy £10.

Goulburn was most certainly 130 miles from Sydney and the letter

¹ Governor's Despatches Oct-Dec, CY2022 Mitchell

indicates that was the route taken.² Binda is a mere 44 miles north of Goulburn but by 1852 Wainwright appears to have been living at Gundaroo, north of the present site of Canberra.³ If he had made that move at the end of, or during his six months with Maurice, then Wainwright's round trip from Goulburn to Gundaroo was a legitimate 150 miles.

Humphrey was a fluent writer. In 1873 he opened a school at the Stone Hut. Over the years he corresponded frequently with the Department of Education and his clearly expressed and beautifully written letters are preserved.⁴ His hand was beautifully shaped copperplate and he would have been very capable of producing the letter published in Nottingham.

Our party consisting of 53 men, their wives and children... The Bathurst contingent from the *Agincourt* comprised less than 40 men, including single, employable youths and just over 30 went to Maitland. In four days the *Earl Grey*, the *Agincourt*, the *Castle Eden* and the *Charlotte Jane* all reached Sydney Harbour, all carrying assisted emigrants.

According to the *Goulburn Herald* of 20 October 1848 'a draft of emigrants, who arrived by the *Charlotte Jane*, made their appearance in Goulburn last MondayAnother draft is expected shortly.....shepherds are employed at £18'

The reference to the very heavy rain places the author's party on the road at the same time as those going to Bathurst and it would be reasonable to suggest that the author hasn't clarified that the party of

² In 1849 Dr Strutt's 'Decent Set of Girls' made the journey to Goulburn and beyond. They commenced their trek from Parramatta, which had been established as the initial staging post for all travellers to the Interior. It is reasonable to presume the correspondent did so too.

³ In 1851 the wife of the keeper of the Gundaroo Inn had a child, Andrew - the last of six born very close together. Andrew's mother died not long after, and local records indicate that Lucy and Humphrey Wainwright raised this child from infancy, placing them in the district as early as 1851.

⁴ AONSW Department of Education, Stone Hut School records.

53 men, and their wives and children, with whom he travelled to the Interior were not from the *Agincourt*, but from one of the other three ships that spilled hundreds of emigrants onto Australian soil, and with whom he and his wife were grouped at Parramatta.

Please, enter the debate - would anyone in your family be a likely author of this most interesting letter?



PHONE CHATTER CAUSES COMPLAINTS

TUESDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER, 1899: There has been a sharp rise in complaints to the Postal Department over the growing problem of 'engaged' telephones, it was announced today. The Postmaster General, Mr Crick, has vowed to find a remedy to what today's *Sydney Morning Herald* describes as the 'engaged telephone evil'.

Mr Crick is blaming the problem on the fact that 'telephones are largely used by some people for the purpose of carrying on frivolous conversations.'

'It is a frequent occurrence for a subscriber to ring up some number, and to receive the answer that that number he desires to communicate with is "engaged",' Mr Crick said in the *Herald*. 'Occasionally it happens that for fully a quarter of an hour it is not possible for the switch attendant to give any other answer', he added.



Mr Crick said he wanted to lobby Members of Parliament to consider legislation introducing timed telephone calls. One suggested proposal is a three-minute limit on calls in the city and five minutes on calls in the suburban areas. Emergency services would be exempted from such regulations.

1914 - 1918

In 1914 Andrew Fisher, Prime Minister said, 'Australia will stand beside her (Britain) to the last man and the last shilling', and there must have been times when it seemed that the war would consume that last man.

It is an ironic twist of fate that saw many of the descendants of the Lacemakers return to the country that had supported their forebears. The Stubbs boys, at least, knew enough of their heritage to renew their family ties in Calais, where they were given a warm welcome.⁵

Much has been written and filmed of the stories of war. Perhaps the diary of a young New Zealander, Robert Edward Harris who was wounded on the Somme adds to the picture of those times:

Burying a man who has been killed in the open is usually done by shovelling a few shovels of earth over the body where it lys(sic) and the hands and feet are often left exposed. In the trenches the German dead are thrown down one of the numerous dugouts, as soon as our men get time, and the entrance sealed with earth. There is no time or opportunity to do anything else in a place like the Somme.

For days the battalions practised the attack on the hill in wave formation. They were lectured on bayonet fighting by Major Cameron, a British expert, who said, 'It is a splendid thing to die for one's country, but it is much better to live for it.'



⁵ Lucy Siffort, oral history

Late in the afternoon of September 14, each man received two Mills bombs, 200 rounds of ammunition, and a large number of smoke bombs. They were played off by the brigade band playing *Boys of the Old Brigade*, and at about midnight they reached the assembly trench. We lay down in the trench or in shell holes...It was too cold however to sleep as we had left our overcoats at the rear.

Dawn brought an artillery bombardment that preceded the attack. About 6.30 we left our trench and went forward to the attack. We did not hurry but just walked steadily forward, picking our way between the shell holes. Everything looked so uncanny and unreal, like a terrible dream. The sight of so many men strolling over the open ground, within a few yards of the German line, as if they were going across a paddock in New Zealand, accompanied as it was by the din and roar of the bombardment with its flame and smoke of bursting shells was a sight so amazing as not to be easily forgotten⁶.



⁶ Somme, September 15, 1916 - Robert Edward Harris, from *The Digger who came back from the dead*, Norman Harris, Readers Digest, April 1998

ROLL

SOLDIER	UNIT	LACEMAKER
Branson, Douglas	18 Bn AIF	W Branson KIA, Hangard, France 15.04.1918
Bromhead, George	54 Bn AIF	J Bromhead KIA France 07.03.1917
Brownlow, Leonard		W Brownlow KIA Men Gate 1917
Douglas, Walter		J James Served France
Foster, Frederick		J Foster KIA, France 15.04.1917
Freestone, Albert		J Freestone
Freestone, Henry		J Freestone
Freestone, Walter		J Freestone
Kirkbright, Ben		G Sumner KIA France 10.08.1918
Kirkbright, Ernest	48 Bn AIF	G Sumner KIA, buried at Vignacourt
Lander, Herbert	56 Bn AIF	E Lander KIA France 05.12.1916
Rogers, George		Ja Foster Died Salisbury, 02.06.1917
Saywell, Charles	5 Bn AIF	Geelong KIA, Gallipoli, 17.07.1915
Saywell, Hedrich	36/33 Bn	G Saywell Returned 1919
Saywell, Thomas	23 Bn, AIF	Geelong France, returned 09.03.1919
Shirtley, William		C Potter KIA, France 11.04.1917
Sivyer, George	18 Bn AIF	J Wand Served Western Front, returned 31.01.1918
Sleader, Frank		J James Wounded Gallipoli
Stevens, Walter		S Stevens Wounded France
Stringer, Arthur		KIA, France 02.04.1918
Tanner, Albert		F Archer Served France, died England 1917
Tiller, Wesley		H Longmire
Wand, Percy		J Wand Served France
Wand, Vivian		Mil. Intelligence

Some Lacemaker descendants who returned to France in WWI:

There are many, many more. Please continue to add to this roll as you make discoveries, by sending details to the Editor.

William IV



Full steam ahead on a port time trip.

Newcastle's own *William the Fourth* is the only steamer of its kind still in use. She is of the type that plied between Sydney harbour and Newcastle, and up the river to Parramatta. The coal-fired steam ship is a prime example of 1830's technology in action. She was the first ocean-going steam ship ever built in Australia. She carried to Newcastle at the time of the Lacemakers' arrival, and you can visit her today!

The *William the Fourth* cruises at 10am and 2pm every third Sunday of the month. She leaves from the Merewether Street wharf innocuously and while on the cruise you will have the opportunity to visit the engine room and see how a steam engine works.

She is available for charter. Ring Captain Ian McLeod on 02 4926 1200 for information on the port cruises or charters!

About People

Green of the Dunbar Whilst at the National Gallery for Rembrandt I picked up a copy of Antiques magazine (Dec 77, p 44). An article on the loss of the Dunbar mentioned Captain Green was a veteran of eight visits to Sydney as mate of the Agincourt and Waterloo and commander of the Waterloo, Vimeira and the Dunbar.

Warrill Evans.

William Gascoigne was born in Nottingham in 1814 the son of William Gascoigne and Mary (probably Eaton). Ellenor Kendrick was born in Staffordshire in 1818, the daughter of William Kendrick and Sarah. her sister Elizabeth was born in 1824.

In 1832 the Kendrick family was in Nottingham where their son William was born. By 1832 they had moved to St-Pierre. Mother Sarah had died and William's new wife was Mary Spley. William's children, Thomas, Elizabeth, William and married daughter Ellen(or) Biddulph were there. Ellen was a widow and had a two year old son William Biddulph, born in Leicestershire. Boarding with them were William Gascoigne, Charles Brown, John Brown and Joseph Mosey.

By 1842 William Gascoigne had married Ellen Biddulph née Kendrick, and they lived in rue Vauxhall where their son Thomas was born. In 1845 Ellen's sister Elizabeth married William Ward, and in 1848 William & Ellen Gascoigne, William and Elizabeth Ward and the boarder Charles Brown were all passengers on the *Agincourt*.

Harriet Davis (aged 4) arrived on the Agincourt in 1848. She married William Foy in 1867. When William died in December 1908 he left an estate of £3012/3/0 which was considered quite a large amount of money in those days. After a few bequests the remainder of this estate went to his wife Harriet.

However, when Harriet died in March 1910 only fifteen months later, her estate was £16,270/2/6 which included at least nine houses. Assuming she had little money of her own when she married William

Foy it would appear that even in those days businessmen put their assets in their wives' names to avoid paying creditors in case of bankruptcy.

But whether this assumption is correct or not and Harriet had acquired considerable assets by the time she married William Foy - either way she died a wealthy lady - a far cry from the child who took part in that historical walk from Morpeth to the barracks at east Maitland in the pouring rain.

Kate Foy

Mary Ann Hiskey was a widow who ran a boarding house in rue Eustache. her sons Philip and John and her daughter Emily lived with her. Among her boarders in 1841 was Fred Archer. Philip and Fred, both married by 1848 , and Philip's sister Sarah were all 1848 migrants.

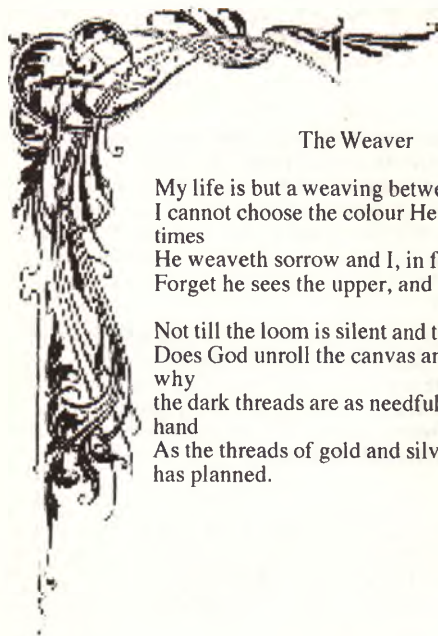
John Wand had a sister Elizabeth, born 1798, who married Joseph Radford at Nottingham St Marys in 1826. By 1841 Elizabeth, a widow, was living in the residence of her brother John and his wife Eliza Spinks in St-Pierre. On the night of the census, John was there, his two children Eliza b 1835 and John b 1837 were there. His sister Elizabeth was there, but his wife Eliza and two year old daughter Sarah were missing.

Ryan When the Bathurst contingent made its first stop at Penrith, they received their victuals from James T Ryan, of that village. James, in 1848, was already a second generation Australian. His grandmother was Elizabeth Pulley, reputed to be the naughtiest girl on the entire first fleet and credited with having given birth to the first non Aboriginal child born on Australian shores.

Sarah Stubbs, born in Quorndon about 1805, to Thomas and Ann Mays, does not appear in the baptismal registers of the day. Sarah married George Stubbs and they came to Australia on the *Fairlie* with eight of their children . There is a curious baptismal registration in an

1850 register: Sarah, wife of George Stubbs - Entry 1428, Volume 35.

George Stubbs, in 1842 witnessed the registration of the birth of Ann Branson, daughter of William, in Calais. In 1996 Christopher Kelly witnessed the baptism of Haydyn Woodward in Queanbeyan. Both events are common place for their eras. The link? Haydyn Woodward is a direct descendant of George Stubbs, and Christopher Kelly is a direct descendant of William Branson, and in the intervening 154 years, the twain had never met!



The Weaver

My life is but a weaving between my Lord and me
I cannot choose the colour He worketh steadily oft
times

He weaveth sorrow and I, in foolish pride
Forget he sees the upper, and I, the underside

Not till the loom is silent and the shuttles cease to fly
Does God unroll the canvas and explain the reason
why

the dark threads are as needful in the skilful weavers
hand

As the threads of gold and silver in the pattern he He
has planned.

ANON

Address given at the Launch of *Well Suited to the Colony* 21 February, 1998

I don't believe you can take events out of people's lives and call it history - this is why we all know that MacArthur raised merinos, someone hid under a bed and Adelaide was Light's vision - but we often don't know much more about these events.

Fifteen years ago a number of people began to realise there was more to the arrival of the *Agincourt* and *Harpley* in 1848 than met the eye. Bert Archer, Bill Brownlow, Lenore Keyes, with the assistance of Elizabeth Simpson in Nottingham and Margaret Audin in Paris all began to make connections.

In 1982 the first scholarly piece on the story appeared in print - Doug Webster wrote a very accurate record of the arrival of William Branson, and the motivation behind his immigration - it appeared in *Descent*, the journal of the Society of Australian Genealogists.

Somewhere here I became interested, and then addicted. A society was formed and I remember quite clearly someone saying that in 1998 it would be 150 years since they arrived - and I think I can credit that to the late Theo Saywell.

Here we are today and it's February 1998 - exactly, to the day, 150 years since the eruptions in Paris that reflected the state of the economy, not only in France, but across Europe. Today we begin the celebration of our gratitude for the immigration with the launch of *Well Suited to the Colony*.

I didn't ever start out to write a book. I love editing *Tulle*, and collect voraciously for it. I endeavour to produce a journal that has something for everyone in it. Over the years I've been given by

generous historians, and collected for myself, hundreds of pieces of the story. Gradually the pieces began to blur into each other, until the story, as I understand it, began to emerge - and then I found I just had to seek out the missing bits.

To find those bits I have the pleasure of being married to a special man who has been willing to walk the walk with me - we've had some magic experiences and met some very special people:

- we've stood in the lace markets of Nottingham amongst specifically designed buildings of beautiful architecture
- we've stood in the Branson framework knitters' cottage in Caythorpe
- we've seen St Mary the Virgin in Dover
- we've been seasick crossing to Calais
- we've walked the streets of St-Pierre
- we've enjoyed the absolute indulgence of seeing a Lever's machine at work in St-Pierre
- we've stood on Parramatta wharf and Morpeth wharf
- we've pace John Street in east Maitland
- we've crossed the Blue Mountains on the Old road
- and I've cried in the Maritime museum in Adelaide

We've met

- a twist'nd from 'ethcutts in Tiverton
- Anne Fewkes in Nottingham, and some terrific Choulerton men
- Eliane in Calais and a marvellous group addicted to the history of their city
- and Kingsley Ireland in Adelaide

And so we have *Well Suited to the Colony* - I found very early in the peace I couldn't tell it all, so set the limit of the gold rushes here. On 14 October 1848 the Editor of the Bathurst Advocate said they appeared to be a class of immigrants well suited to the colony.

The discovery of gold altered forever the close knit community of the lacemakers of Calais. The lives of the Lacemakers were like the

bobbins of their trade. From the beginning of the machine made lace industry their lives had swung closely alongside each other, twisting and transversing, stopping and moving on, weaving a complex web of life just as the bobbins moved to weave the complex web of lace.

the major changes of moving from Calais to Australia had not altered the movement. Their lives continued to twist and transverse. The pattern of the fabric was changed, not the threads weaving it. The discovery of gold altered all that. The bobbins of the Lacemakers' lives swung out and away from each other, twisting and transversing the colonies. The close knit community of the Lacemakers of Calais had disappeared into the fabric of the developing Australian Society. The last rack had been made, and it was made with golden thread.

I hoped to tell you a story that you can fit your family into and to you all I say thank you:

Thank you to:

- the Lacemakers for their generosity of spirit and knowledge;
- The 1998 Committee for their unstinting support and love;
- Carolyn and Rob for getting me straight when it seemed impossible;
- Doc Rennie for sorting me out when it was;
- Max Fiddler of Magazine Associates for his tolerance, patience, advice and interest;
- Claire for her unwavering support;
- Gordon for absolutely everything;

We are a unique group of people who share a bond that is 150 years old. Not many people know who their families were friends with 150 years ago - it intrigues me that that bond still exists. Today we have with us quite a few of the next generation - may those bonds continue.

Gillian Kelly
February 1998

The Lace working party

The Working Party of the Cotton Industry, set up by Sir Stafford Cripps, was such a success that it was followed by a whole series for other industries, including the lace industry....the Cripps working parties were bodies charged to examine the industry and make recommendations.

The pattern was an equal number of representatives in the industry, of trade union representatives, and of independent members, one of whom was appointed chairman. The Chairman of the Lace working party was Lucy Sutherland, later to become Dame Lucy. At the time of the inquiry, Dame Lucy was head of Lady Margaret Hall, one of the women's colleges at Oxford University. In later years, the following account of the inquiry was recorded in the Lady Margaret Hall 'Brown Book'

In the course of their work members of the working party visited several centres of production where they were kindly and hospitably received. The most memorable visit was to France. Paris had not recovered from the stringencies of the War (this was the autumn of 1946) and cigarettes and coffee were the currency for tipping. Two cigarettes got your shoes cleaned. Nothing else would.

Our return from one visit on a dark wet evening was prolonged by frequent stops; our taxi driver's head would appear at the window saying ominously 'On ne marche pas,' and then disappear into the engine. Further south it was different. in Le-Puy-en-Velay our factory visits were sandwiched between and excursion to their magnificent cathedral perched on a hill top and a tour of their distillery, where the local liqueur hung in sweet, sticky icicles from the barrels, before we were whisked off for a nine-course lunch. Dame Lucy's savoir-faire remained equal to all occasions.

Thanks to her unobtrusive firmness and talent for organising the Working Party produced within nine months a report which was, at the very least, the first detailed study of the industry since William

Felkin's History of the Machine-wrought hosiery and Lace manufactures, 1867. As secretary, I greatly admired and benefited from Dame Lucy's gift for turning the whole thing into a privileged social occasion, at the same time working everyone, including herself, very hard.

Her master stroke was to invite the entire Working Party to Margaret Hall ten days before Christmas to stay there until it had completed its report. In this elegant setting different points of view were gradually reconciled with the aid of Dame Lucy's facility for suggesting such non-committal phrases as 'women workers' in place of such emotive terms as 'female labour', and of the weather - it snowed hard on the Friday morning, threatening to leave the whole party snowed up in Oxford for Christmas if they didn't get away soon - so that the report was triumphantly signed on December 19th.

Esther Potter

This article was forwarded to the Society by Kenneth Sutherland, a cousin of dame Lucy's, who read of our society in the *Northern Herald* in February.

Reminder

MEMBERSHIP of the

Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais

Your membership fees are now due. If you have not already attended to this matter, please would you forward the amount of \$25 to our Treasurer

**Miss Barbara Kendrick
190 Shaftesbury Road
EASTWOOD 2122**

Barry Holland - Researcher

Over the last few years the pages of *Tulle* have regularly carried the finds of Barry Holland of Nottingham, as he has searched the early years of the Nottingham Review. We have Barry to thank for the Freestone letters, and in this issue, for the letter from the *Agincourt* passenger. Over the years he has put together a very intriguing and comprehensive set of indices that could well provide a great deal of background for your Lacemaker family.

Across the Ocean Wide Persons sentenced to transportation in Notts 1784-1867, published by Notts Fam Hist Soc as Records Series Vol 103 (1995), plus an index of every name on every card in it.

Ashes to Ashes Inquests and reports of death [Not weekly death notices] 1800-1850 in Notts newspapers

Rogues and Vagabonds Notts transportation 1630-1783

Scales of Justice All persons tried at Notts Assizes and Quarter sessions 1800-1850

Bound for Botany Bay Lincs transportation 1784-1867

In Place of Death Derbys Transportation 1784-1867

Convicts In Chains Leics transportation 1784-1867

Workhouse Misc of Nottm Union Workhouse

The Idle Apprentice Absconding apprentices, debts, husbands repudiating wives, runaways leaving families a burden on the parish etc.

He has now decided to do research in the Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire records professionally. His charges are: £3.50 per hour, £12 per half day of 4 hours and £20 for the whole day plus expenses for travel outside the city of Nottingham. For enquiries into the Indexes: £5 for all the information on one name in Across the Ocean Wide. For the other indexes, which do not contain as much information; £2 for one surname, £3 for 2 surnames, £4 for 3 surnames & £5 for 4 surnames; photocopies for any entry 50p each and all above plus 2 International Reply Coupons (IRCs, available from the post office to cover postage). His address is

For your research in Nottingham, contact

Mr Barry Holland
Flat One,
360 Radford Rd,
NOTTINGHAM NG7 5GQ,
ENGLAND

Lacemakers and the Internet

It was always going to happen - there are folk out there on the Internet searching for our lacemaker families. Within the next month The Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais will have a Web page so that those searching their family history electronically can find us.

It is proposed that the site will have a synopsis of our history and a list of all surnames. This list will connect to shipping lists and have an email contact. A searcher can browse the list, and find a name in which they are interested, let's say, Branson. By clicking on Branson, the searcher will be taken to the *Agincourt* shipping list where the details of the Branson family will give enough information for the searcher to be able to identify a connection. If the searcher is

further interested, then with email, he will be able to make direct contact.

Meantime, there is a small band of enthusiasts already using email. From this edition on we will attempt to keep you up to date on those members who can be reached by email.

Lacemakers on the Net

BRANSON	Gillian Kelly	dentell@atrax.net.au
FREESTONE	Marlene Kilminster	mjk@cygnus.uwa.edu.au
SAYWELL	Craig Williams	craig.williams@s054.aone.net.au



INTERNET Sites to Explore

France

IMAGES DE LA FRANCE D'AUTREFOIS - Pictures of France from another era

<http://france.mediasys.fr.8060/>

This site is actually an advertising site for a company specialising in pictures from all over France, categorised by town and canton. For some ideas of Calais at that time, , click on the map on the top left hand area (red), then on Pas de Calais and then on Calais.

England

NOTTINGHAM LOCAL HISTORY

<http://innotts.co.uk/~pansoft/local/notframes.htm>

This site displays a very old map of Nottingham in sections, shows a great deal of the local history of the city and has some brilliant graphics, all free for use providing you acknowledge the source! A site well worth an exploring.

Australia

AUSTRALIAN FAMILY TREE CONNECTIONS

<http://www.aftc.com.au>

This is the site of a monthly journal of the same name which offers the researcher a great deal of support and connections to other useful sites

New members

GENERAL INTEREST

Illawarra Family History Group
PO Box 1652
SOUTH COAST MAIL CENTRE 2521

GENERAL INTEREST

Mrs Wendy Woods
WATTLE FLAT NSW 2795

SAYWELL

Mrs Margaret Cameron
41 Hastings Rd
WARRAWEE NSW 2074

Lost, Stolen or Strayed,

George, George, Elliott's mother seems to have been mislaid,⁷ and so do a lot of other people's mothers. The following list is those from the *Agincourt* ⁸ for whom we still seek information. Can you help? Would you publicise this list in your local Genealogy Societies please.

Agincourt

Joseph Haywood and Sarah Topham
Richard Husband and Laura Clarke
Oliver Lowe and Eliza Fox (Eliza died 1848)
John Moon and Anne Asling née Payne
William Nicholls and Mary Anne Worthington
Thomas Pettit and Josephine Mattong
John Powell and Maria Pratt
Richard Robinson and Mary Anne Duckworth
John Taylor and Elizabeth Wright
William Vickers and Sarah Hiskey
Thomas Wood and Emma McDonough
George Barry
John Bath
Charles Brown
William Harris
John Harding
John Hide
Samuel Hutchinson
William Moon
Henry Taylor
George Elliott & Eliza Vinton (Wollongong)
Thomas Huskinson & Sabina Elliott
John Martin & Mary Roberts
Robert Martin and Emma Elliott

⁷ Apologies to A A Milne

⁸ *Harpley, Fairlie* and small ships in next issue

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Greetings from England

Congratulations to the Society of Australian
Lacemakers of Calais descendants on the 150th
Anniversary of their Arrival in Australia
with all good wishes from
Nottinghamshire Family History Society

Congratulations and Best Wishes
from the Loughborough branch of the
Leicester and Rutland Family History Society

Front Cover:

Presentation to ASLC by Anne Fewkes Parchment and Lace, hand decorated