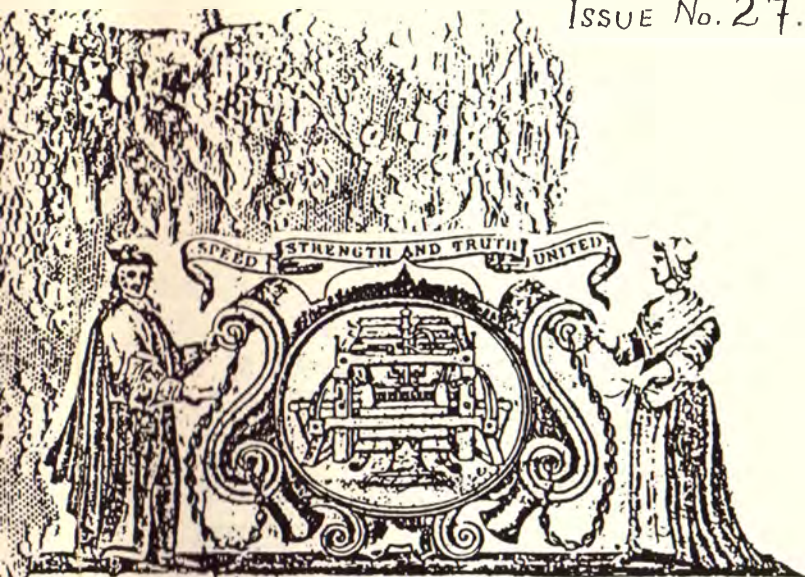


ISSUE No. 27.



Eng. by J. Currier

**TYPE**

**A.S.L.C.**





RECIPE FOR "LACEMAKERS" -- THE BOOK

INGREDIENTS:

1 Group of people (sorted into those interested in obscure historical refugee group)

Unlimited patience (spouse & family included)

Large amount of determination

Reasonable ability to read small print, Victorian English, legalise, and some French (find 1 expert for latter)

1 Expandible filing system (very expandible, don't rely on memory)

1 Large touch of madness

1 Large pinch of detective instinct.

METHOD

1. After choosing the group of people ensure each member has requisite characteristics.

2. Mix together on three monthly basis, ensuring

- adequate supply of tea, coffee and delicious nibbles.
3. Listen carefully, talk enthusiastically, keep believing and above all, have patience.
  4. Choose the busiest, maddest member of the group to compile the results of all the above.

### RESULT

*"The Lacemakers of Calais" - The Book*

To be launched with as much style, fun and enthusiasm as possible on Saturday, 4th November, at a Gala Occasion at

St Francis Xavier Hall  
Mackenzie Street  
Lavender Bay

(just behind North Sydney Railway Station - on bus and train route, and ample parking.) At 1 p.m.

The Champagne will flow to celebrate this great achievement. So come and share - it's your project brought to fulfilment. To our country and interstate members we extend a warm and encouraging welcome to come and join us.

As usual, can I request that you bring a plate, perhaps a special recipe to add to our grand one and if you would like to share any of your research, photographs, letters or lace, we would love to appreciate them, too.

I look forward to seeing you all and enjoying the ripe fruits of all your labours!

*Claire Loneragan*

CLAIRE LONERAGAN

P.S. Our printers,  
'Kwik-Kopy' at  
Macquarie  
really work  
miracles!



Thank-you, thank-you.

## THE SECRETARY'S

### REPORT



We were pleased to welcome three new members to our last meeting: Lionel and Alice Goldfinch, and Bob Peet.

Lindsay Watts said that due to the good response to her last publicity appeal, she would now wait awhile before launching another.

Gillian Kelly brought us up to date on the book's progress. It is to be called *The Lacemakers of Calais*. The meeting

, however, proposed that \$15. was a more realistic price, such allowing more margin for free copies, advertising, and slow sellers. Here I would like to acknowledge al, postal orders and advise that your receipts will be sent out with your copies. Thank you for your support., it is hoped that all members will do their best to promote this publication in their own local areas.

Our working account is \$1,477.15, and our fixed deposit account \$1,628.30.

Tickets for the landscape water colour are still available, \$2. each or 3 for \$5. So far it has raised \$42; we would like to see more support for this. The usual meeting raffle netted \$25.

After a break for afternoon tea, Beth Williams talked about her overseas trip, and showed us some of the items she had purchased on her travels.

Some members still seem to be confused about our financial year. We have brought this forward to coincide with the calendar year i.e. from January to December,

instead of July to June. This means that all subs are due at the beginning of the year, and should be paid at or before the Annual General Meeting.

Thank you for your continuing support. As this is the last issue of "Tulle" for the year, I would like to wish members all joy and happiness for the Christmas Season.

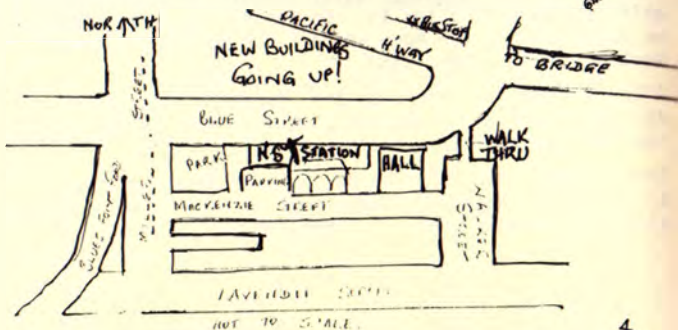
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You are cordially invited to attend the  
 Launching of our Book

# THE LACEMAKERS OF CALAIS



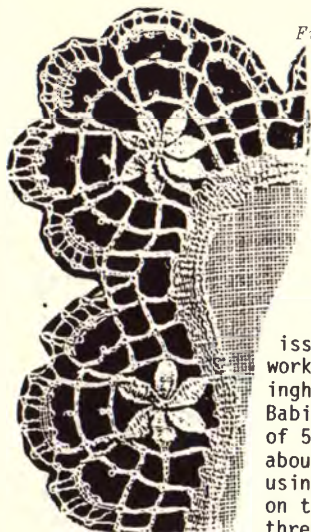
on  
 Saturday,  
 4th November,  
 at 1 pm, at  
 St Francis Xavour Hall,  
 Mackenzie Street, Lavender Bay.



## NOTTINGHAM MACHINE

### LACEMAKERS

*A Lecture by Elizabeth Simpson.*



1845 saw the Children's Commission report on conditions of work. The report made on Nottingham children makes grim reading. Babies beginning to work at the age of 5. Surviving 10 years crawling about under thundering machines, using their little hands to keep on tying and re-tying broken threads which adults couldn't

reach without stopping the machines.

These children, by their early teens, were bent, ill and near blind . . . and of course totally illiterate.

In 1846 the average age at death, in Nottingham, was 27½ years.

Over in France the English contingent had seen out several periods of bad times - trade recessions - reduced wages - dearer commodities.

But more importantly, periods of political unrest. It began to look as if the monarchy was about to fall again.

There were times when the English were far from popular with the French citizens - "a bas les Anglais" they shouted after them. If the English left, there would be more work for the French. Go home they screamed at the English.

I suppose it was the women who worried first - about their children - their menfolk and their homes.

They lived a prosperous life style. Reluctant as they were to give it all up, it wasn't any use flying in the face of grave danger. Events of 1789 were a bare 60 years back. Memories were comparatively fresh. It may well be that because they lived on the main road home from Paris to England, this influenced them. Paris had always been a central point in French revolutions and riots there were usually much more violent than elsewhere in France.

In 1848 an Englishman living in Nice or Vichy would have read of the riots in the newspaper, but not felt particularly involved. Those living and working in Paris would not only have been kept awake at night by noisy rioters, but might also have gone in fear for their lives even venturing out in daylight. This would not be because of their nationality, but because angry mobs are always dangerously unpredictable. Those fleeing from Paris then, were passing through Calais and no doubt spreading rumours as they went.

Although these tales might have been exaggerated, there was also real unemployment and shortage of money in St.Pierre.

Margaret has a charming suggestion - she likens the colony to a hive of bees, which she says will 'swarm' at the moment when the hive becomes too crowded - simply flying off for pastures new. She feels perhaps this idea of looking out for somewhere new was already in the minds of many of the Lacemakers.

It is significant that they did not feel so disposed during the minor revolution which took place in 1830 - but then the English population of Calais was not so large.

I think they began to panic about leaving France for good. It would be impossible for them to be absorbed by the trade back home in Nottingham . . . and besides they were not exactly in favour with their brothers there.



Where would they live? How would they live? At home there was unemployment, sickness and despair, on a much greater scale than they had ever seen in France.

They had sufficient family contact with the industry and conditions back home in Nottingham to be well aware of the prevailing situation.

They petitioned Parliament to help them to emigrate to Australia, and for once the Government acted remarkably quickly - within a matter of weeks three ships carrying nearly 1,000 people, lacemakers and their families set sail between April and June 1848 for distant Australia.

296 people sailed on the *FAIRLIE* arriving at Port Jackson in August, 1848,

245 people sailed on the *HARPLEY* arriving at Adelaide in September 1848,

and 263 people sailed on the *AGINCOURT* which also put in to Port Jackson in October 1848.

Port Jackson is now Sydney.

How could Nottingham possibly have absorbed these nearly 1,000 people? The exodus of these folk to Australia was a minor miracle. The newspapers for Nottingham report the story and print copies of the letters of application which came from the leaders of this vast party of lacemakers . . . and the replies received from the authorities - Parliament in London and the city Fathers in Nottingham.

As always bits are left out!

It has not been possible yet to work out whether any of them actually came home to Nottingham to bid farewell to their families or not.

It is almost certain that one at least of the boats put in at a French port . . . some may have boarded there.

The Act for making a railway from London to York, with a branch to Nottingham, to be called the Great Northern Railway, was not passed through Parliament till 1846.

It is most unlikely that the line was through and fully operative less than two years later. The journey would have had to be by road, on a coach. This could have taken anything up to 4 days from Calais through to Nottingham - was there time for anyone to do this, let alone the cash?

There is evidence that the families left France in such a hurry that they were actually kitted out with clothes on board the ships. Margaret says that some of their French friends made collections for them.

In one official letter, at least, the leaders of the party promised to repay money loaned towards the cost of the fares. This doesn't sound as if there was any money to spare at all. No wonder when they arrived in the Hunter Valley, they had no money to pay for help in carrying their baggage and trudged through that rain-storm carrying all that they had themselves.

What an arrival this must have been for them all!

There is a lot of work to be done yet on the background to this remarkable story. Descendants of these Lacemakers here in Australia are variously doing their best, I know.

This is such a unique and interesting story, it should present real impetus. No other group came in just this way - no others were bilingual - no others left quite the same inheritance to their descendants!

Many of you have incredible keep-sakes still in your possession. Faded photographs, bundles of letters from home, tiny pieces of lace, and sad little boxes of parts of intricate machinery which no one now can put back together. They must have been important enough to salvage and carry all the way to Australia - a place which could be described at the time of their arrival as totally lace-less!

Who wanted lace in this environment just exactly 60 years after the landing of the First Fleet. If lace was worn out here at all, then it would be just by those nearest the Governor.

There were certainly no lace-making machines here already and this was the one thing that the lace makers did not bring with them . . . how could they?

They had fled France in a hurry - no one had time to dismantle and pack huge machinery - indeed many of their very machines are there still, housed now in the museum in Calais!

The struggle of the lacemakers to survive this upheaval will one day make absorbing reading.

It was their immense good fortune that gold was discovered in America in 1849 and subsequently in Australia. Before they had been 3 years in Australia a boom was created through which anyone with initiative could find plenty of work, specially those capable of understanding machinery. Many of the newly arrived Lace-makers moved into Gold Mining areas - Ballarat, for instance, as many of you know already.

However, back home in Calais, although the French monarchy did fall, after an inevitable hiccup, trade began to pick up and a thriving lace trade resumed.

At the Exhibition held in London in 1851 much Calais lace was on display - and later at the Paris exhibition of 1855 even more was displayed.

The English Nottingham lacemakers continued in competition with the Calais lacemakers . . . many of them English in origin still, for not all of them went to Australia, or returned to Nottingham - John Leavers descendants stayed out in France, for instance.

Obviously those with far too much to lose - the owners of enormous machinery, perhaps whole factories - or even shops full of goods - stuck it out and stayed in France.

Today anyone going to do research in Calais should wade through the local telephone directory for "English" names. Many can still be found there - some of these people are now totally French, have been for up to perhaps 6 generations. But originally, whether they realise it or not, they were English - Nottingham folk in fact . . . and again whether they know this or not, many of them

have Australian cousins.

Many did come home to Nottingham and managed somehow to survive - possibly with help from their relatives. Many of these, indeed, went back to Calais again just as soon as the troubles blew over. There are still families in Nottingham, who recall Great-Grandparents who spoke mostly French! As too do many Australians.

I know of one family - SMITH in fact - which is now Nottingham based, and has been in the lacemaking industry for 4 generations. They know that their forebears weathered the 1848 'storm' and eventually came home to Nottingham another whole generation later!

Knowing what conditions were like in Australia in the second half of the 19th century - it is hard to picture the struggle the Calais lacemakers must have experienced. For the women, in particular, it must have been like stepping back into the dark ages!

Plucked from those neat houses.

Leaving behind . . . far behind . . . too far ever to hope to see them again . . . their loved ones back home in Nottingham.

Here was the reality of the 'Tyranny of Distance'.

Trying so hard to cope with this alien new land - with its shortages, inadequacies, roughness. But cope they just have - the long list of their descendants bears witness today to their triumph.

Perhaps it was a mercy that letters took so long to get back home from Australia and the replies from England received. Six months in each direction was about the fastest. Often, if a letter just missed a ship, it took much longer. It may have taken them a whole year to realise that they had perhaps been over hasty - life back in Calais was much the same as ever - maybe even better. It was just as well that they struggled on in ignorance of this fact.

By the time they really knew, it was much too late to change their minds anyway.

This, then, has been a tale of people and their struggle to survive. It has ranged far and encompassed some of the most important Industrial Revolutionary history of England, France and Australia. Margaret Audin has been a very great help to me over the preparation of this paper. She read the draft and made many corrections and suggestions for a better text.

Many of the words and phrases are in fact hers. She writes and thinks very much in the same vein as myself, we would make a wonderful 'double act'!

I have suggested to her that one day we should both come out to Australia and do just this - present a double act for you all!

The next important meeting will be 1998 - the 150th anniversary of the Lacemakers arrival here - Margaret says she will then be aged 72! I shall be even older!

But it would be lovely to dream ahead to this important celebration. I hope that by that time membership of the Lacemakers Association will be positively enormous. That you will have recruited all the help you need.

But more important, that you will have gained the attention of the professional historians, and thus be recognised as one of the most important facets in the History of English speaking Australia . . . taken your rightful place in fact.

Perhaps one day someone will write it all down for the benefit of the many thousands of descendants of these strange Nottingham folk who upped and went to live and work in Calais.

Folk, whose descendants today believe they are English, French, or Australian, but are, in fact, cousins of varying degree and complexity with each other still, if they only take the trouble to work it all out and communicate with each other . . . and who were all once just plain Nottingham English frame work knitters making stockings for a living.

## 'FAIRLIE' PASSENGERS



### CALAIS BIRTHS, AND DOVER & SYDNEY MARRIAGES

BRIANT, George to BONHAM, Mary Anne (or was it Agnes?)  
November, 1848, at Bathurst.

Mary was 22, a lacemaker, of Airdley Gubbins.  
George, 35, was a widower, with 5 children.  
He was a farm labourer, from Yardley Gubbins.  
George, Mary & the children were all passengers.

DEWEY, Henry to KENNY, Ellen, 11th August, 1848, in  
St. James' Church, Sydney.

Ellen, 24, flax spinner, of Meath, Ireland.

Henry, 23, a lacemaker, of Nottingham.

?? His parents (William & Anne) were still in  
Calais.

Ellen & Henry were "Fairlie" passengers as were  
their witnesses: Thomas Scotten & Mrs Eliza Molone

*Birth: 28.2.1825 Henry, son of William, 35, lacemaker,  
& Catherine Bomallie, his wife. IN CALAIS.  
There were 2 more births to William & (maybe)  
Catherine (or something else - it was different)*

ELLIOTT, George, 48, and his 4 daughters: Mary, 26,  
Louisa, 22, Julia, 17, Eliza, 16. George was  
a widower.

ELLIOTT, George, born 2.10.1844, son of George, 28,  
lacemaker, & Eliza Vinton, his wife.. Born in  
Calais.

George, 35, & Eliza, 29 (lacemaker & lacedresser)

and 4 children: Edwin 10, Anne 7, George 4 -

as above, Henry 1½ (last three born in Calais -  
only George listed.)

HUSKISSON, Thomas, 26, engine smith, and Sabina, 25,  
lacemaker, his wife. Daughter of George Elliott  
(widower).

Thomas & Sabina were married 12.6.1847 at  
St Mary's, Dover.

MARTIN, Robert, lace manufacturer, of Calais (father Thomas, a mariner) married Emma ELLIOTT (father George, a lacemaker). Witnesses: Thomas Huskisson & Sabina Elliott. Sabina is another daughter of George (widower) Robert's brother John, 26, lacemaker & wife Mary, 27, lace dresser, were also "Fairlie" passengers.

HARRISON, Thomas, 45, lacemaker, & wife, Maria, 44, lace-mender. Children: Robert John, born Calais 28.12.1824 (son of Thomas & Mary STUBBS, his wife. Witnesses: Robert, 45 & Francis STUBBS, both lacemakers.)  
23.4.1827 Alfred, son of Thomas 27, lacemaker & Maria STUBBS, wife. Witnesses: Robert & Francis STUBBS, lacemakers.  
30.6.1828 Mary Ann, daughter Thomas laceworker & Maria Stubbs, wife. Witnesses: Francis Stubbs, 26, lacemaker, & Thomas PEET, lacemaker.  
2.1.1830 Emma, daughter of Thomas, laceworker, & Maria Stubbs, wife. Witnesses: Thomas PEET  
y. 60, & Francis Stubbs, 27, lacemakers.  
23.11.1839 Maria, daughter Thomas 39, laceworker & Maria Stubbs. Witnesses: John Sansom, 39, & William Buckland, 39, laceworkers  
George, 13, & Thomas 6, also born in Calais, not recorded.

Robert John married Elizabeth SARGENT, 23, lace-makers, of Nottingham - in Kelso, 7.12.1848. Betsy's family arrived on Agincourt.

HORROCKS, William married Mrs Jemima BEER at Wesleyan Church on 9.3.1853. Her husband, William, was dead. All three had arrived on 'Fairlie'.

ROSE, Samuel, 32, lacemaker/machine maker, of Mt. Sorrell, Leicestershire, married Mary Anne, 31, dressmaker, of New Radford, Nottingham. had three children all born in Calais.  
25.11.1843 Sarah Ann, daughter of Samuel, 28, laceworker, and Mary Ann KETTLEBAND, 25, wife. Witnesses: Thomas Howitt, 33, & John Bratby, 27 laceworkers.

- ROSE (cont) 17.8.1845 Mary, daughter of Samuel, 29, lace-  
worker, & Mary Ann Kettleband, 29, wife.  
Witnesses: John Batby, 28 & Samuel Siddon, 33.  
Laceworkers.  
Son Edward, aged 1½ on passenger list as  
born in Calais - not recorded..
- STUBBS George, 42, whitesmith/rough carpenter, of  
Quordon, Leicestershire, and Sarah, 43, domestic  
servant, of Quordon, his wife. 8 Children:  
Anne, 19, domestic servant; Frances, 17, and  
Eliza 15, both domestic servants too; Lucy 12 and Jane  
10, all born in Quordon. Elisabeth 6, George  
5, and Henry 11 months all born in Calais.  
6.10.1840 Elisabeth, daughter of George, 34,  
publican & Sarah MAYS, 35, wife. Witnesses:  
Antoine Baudet, 43, of independent means, &  
Francois Beauvois, baker..  
2.10.1843 George, son of George, 37, laceworker,  
& Sarah MAYS, 38, wife. Witnesses: Henry  
Constant Lancel, 40, asst. secretary Town Hall, &  
John Mee, 23, laceworker.  
26.8.1847 Henry, son of George, 41, laceworker,  
& Sarah Mays, 44, wife. Witnesses: Andrew  
Giles, 36, laceworker & Thomas Barrowcliff,  
30, publican.
- TIMMS Zaccheus, 22, farm labourer, of Wickham,  
Oxfordshire, married Janet TURNER, dairymaid, of  
Inverkeen, Fifeshire, on 11th August, 1848, at  
St James' Church, S7dney. Witnesses: Thomas  
Scotten & Jane Corbet. All were 'Fairlie'  
passengers. Janet had an infant son, William,  
born on voyage.
- WHITFIELD, Robert Alexander, 33, blacksmith, of Newcastle-  
on-Tyne, Northumberland, married Isabella HAY,  
19, housemaid, of Inverness, Scotland, at  
St.James' Church, on 25th December, 1848.  
Witnesses: Louisa Elliott, of O'Connell Street  
(also a 'Fairlie' passenger) and W.Benner, of  
King Street.

\*\*\*\*\*



## *Of shoes and ships and sealing wax...*



As I was reflecting on what I had typed of Elizabeth Simpson's lecture to our October '88 meeting, and remembering her previous lecture some years ago, I thought that, although she had mainly given us the English side of the history background of our ancestors - that is, the conditions in England which firstly led our folk becoming involved in lace-making, then the conditions which surrounded the industry as it grew, to the conditions which finally led them to cross to France to begin a new life - and finally the immediate cause of them leaving Europe to cross 12,000 miles to a new land.

Indeed, Elizabeth wondered why 'it was the more remarkable that so many of these gifted and hard working folk migrated en masse for Australia' (seeing that so many of them were literate in both French and English)!

So I am looking for someone interested in history: perhaps a teacher whose special subject is modern European history - or someone who took history at school or university - or even someone who just likes delving into mysteries, history or otherwise, to get at the facts. Yes, I could look to Gillian, but don't you think that, at the moment, she has had more than enough on her plate with OUR BOOK? I don't wish to overburden her, nor do I wish to take away from someone else the opportunity to contribute to (a) 'Tulle' and (b) more importantly, our knowledge of our background, particularly in France.

Let me give you an idea of just what I had in mind. I would expect that the 'Detective' would go back at least to

'In seventeen hundred and seventy three  
They threw the tea chests into the sea'

in Boston Harbour, thus starting the American War of Independence - and stopping the transportation of convicts to North America, making it necessary to open up new fields -- New South Wales!

I would expect some interest in the conditions in France in 1789 and what led up to the declaration of war by Great Britain on France (or was it the other way round?) after the invasion of Holland by France. (Remember England had had a Dutch-born king 1688-1702.)

Elizabeth Simpson also mentioned George Armytage moved to France in 1802 taking his wife and 3 children AND HIS MACHINERY! Treason surely! until we remember that for a few short months in 1802 to May 1803 there was 'peace', or more truly a truce ortime for a breather between the two powers. (Treaty of Amiens it was called.) There was a short period later about 1814-15 when Napoleon was on Elba when there was again a 'peace' period, before the events leading up to Waterloo.

France had a second revolution in 1830. What was the atmosphere in France with regard to our English lace-makers in France then? What were the conditions between the Second and Third Revolutions? We know what it was like in England, but France had influenced most of Europe during the years from 1789 to 1815 - invading most of them, and forcing others to become allies in her struggle with England.

I have mentioned some big issues, and I don't expect my 'Detective' to have to cover it all - just enough to give the European background to our lacemakers leaving Europe.

Yes, 1848 was a year in which there were revolts, not only in France, but also in many of the other states (and future nations) in Europe.

Now, have I any takers? Or have I succeeded in scaring you all off?





## FOUND

Last week whilst doing some family research at the State Archives at Kingswood I found a piece of my family that has been 10 years coming

Browsing through the various books whilst waiting for special bundles from the Archives, I picked up a book on passengers arriving in U.S.A.

Turning to the back for the index, which has

become the usual mode for finding my missing ancestors lately, I was greatly surprised to find one Thomas Homan arrived, per steamer 'Oregon', on 20th January 1851; captain Pierson. This vessel stopped en route at Panama, then via Acapulco Mexico, San Diego California, and Monterey, California. Two passengers died during the voyage: a young man named Allen on 15th January, 1851 and Fowler, the Quartermaster, on 16th. The ship's cargo was valued at \$190,568 in specia and assorted goods.

This book on emigrants to the U.S.A. is one of four held by the State Archives at Kingswood. Needless to say I returned home and typed a letter off to the relevant Genealogy Society in San Francisco, and now await a favourable reply. Best wishes, Beth.

### CAPTION FOR A PHOTOGRAPH in "EXPLORING LOCAL HISTORY"

*Miss Sarah Anne Henley, aged 22, of St Phillips, who jumped off the Clifton Suspension Bridge on 8th May, 1885, found that her voluminous skirts acted as a parachute, and she floated downwards, afterwards being safely rescued. She continued to live in Bristol, her native city, until her death, at the age of 84, in 1948.*



## GENEALOGY POX

(AUTHOR UNKNOWN)

(VERY CONTAGIOUS TO ADULTS)

### SYMPTOMS:

Continual complaint as to the need of names, dates and places.

Patient has a blank expression, sometimes deaf to spouse and children.

Has no taste for work of any kind except feverishly looking through records at libraries and courthouses.

Has compulsion to write letters.

Swears mailman doesn't leave mail.

Frequents strange places: cemeteries, ruins and remote desolate country areas.

Makes secret phone calls.

Hides phone bill from spouse and mumbles to self.

Has far away look in eyes.

### TREATMENT

Medication is useless.

Disease is not fatal, but gets progressively worse.

Patients should attend Genealogy workshops.

Subscribe to Genealogical magazines and be given a quiet corner of the house where he or she can be alone.

### REMARKS

The usual nature of disease is: The sicker the patient gets -- the more she or he enjoys it.

FOR THIS DISEASE THERE IS NO KNOWN CURE

## Information ...



Early issues of the 'Bathurst Advocate', first published in 1848, contained a number of articles complaining at the lack of rural labour. One article deplores the fact that some emigrants destined for Bathurst were being "poached" by Penrith landowners.

The 'Bathurst Advocate' dated Saturday 23rd October, 1848, under the heading of 'Emigrants', states: 'Last evening about 5 o'clock a batch of imigrants arrived by six drays, which had been 8 days coming from Sydney, and there were 3 other drays behind, which may be expected in this day. Those who came in last night were kindly sheltered by Mr Austen in his large store. They were doubtless well pleased to be housed again for their journey must have been very uncomfortable. A great deal of rain has fallen and some of them seemed exceedingly frail and care worn, but they may now look forward to a little rest and comfort, as there is no doubt, if their expectations are moderate, they may speedily be engaged and comfortably settled.'

There is no definite information that connects this group of people with the Kemshall family. However, as the Kemshalls had arrived in Sydney on 6th October, 1848, this group arriving in Bathurst on 21st October could have been part of the 'Agin-court's' complement.

---Bruce Goodwin.



# THE LACEMAKERS OF CALAIS



*The Book.*

*I would like order*

*..... copies at \$15.00 each. I  
enclose a cheque for \$.....*

*NAME: .....*

*ADDRESS: .....*

*.....Postcode....*

*Please post/hold at the November  
meeting.*

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Your order with your cheque/money order  
should be sent to our Secretary NOW! to  
be sure of obtaining your copy.



