

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 Don Bank Cottage, 6 Napier Street, 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, 17 August 2013

Saturday, 16 November 2013

AGM Saturday, 15 February 2014

Saturday, 17 May 2014

Find us on the Internet:

www.angelfire.com/al/aslc

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Cover :

A section of a piece of Leavers lace – a copy of Mechlin lace. From a booklet prepared by Birkin and Co. Ltd of Nottingham in about 1900. (NCMG 2005-121/4 © Nottingham City Museums). Enlarged.

This Coming Meeting:

Saturday, 17 August 2013, 1.00pm

Guest Speaker: The speaker for our August meeting continues this year's connection with the sea. The Sydney Heritage Fleet, which is based in Sydney, restores and maintains vessels with a heritage connection to Sydney. Bruce Shying, a member of the Fleet presents a light-hearted and amusing talk called "Women and the Sea". It covers the history of women including their role as patron saints of seafarers, through the early days of sail, up to and including women who are still setting world records. The talk also includes words that sailors brought ashore with them and which we have now absorbed into our everyday speech.

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President's Message

A few weeks ago my cousin and ASLC founding member, Lindsay Watts, wrote to me. She told me she had attended a meeting at which the guest speaker had spoken about genealogical blogs. Lindsay wondered if the ASLC utilised them.

I began to think about how we communicate nowadays. Once we sent letters in the morning and they were delivered in the afternoon; however, those days are long gone. Letters have been largely replaced by email, Facebook and Twitter - all almost instantaneous forms of communication. We can also find a huge amount of information on the Internet. Books and journals are still being published every year in the hundreds of thousands. We just need the time to read them. It seems to me that we now have more ways to communicate with those we wish to than at any other time.

This brings me back to blogs. I admit that I had to think about what blogs are and how they are being used. If you are youngish, or very computer literate, you will wonder what I'm on about. However, for many of us born before 1980, the world of electronic communication can sometimes be a "brave new world" to enter with trepidation. Blogs are everywhere and people use them to communicate about a myriad of subjects, including genealogy. ASLC does not have a blog and I'm not sure that we could sustain one, though our editor somehow finds a staggering amount of information to fill up our fabulous *Tulle* every three months.

Do you read blogs? How about websites that you have found helpful in expanding your knowledge about your families? What about interesting books that you have read? I am currently reading a book about the journeys that our immigrant ancestors made from England to the colonies and it implies that those journeys were not all hardship and misery and death, as I have believed.

Why not tell us about the books, blogs and websites which you have found indispensable in your research? Sharing your information will benefit us all.

Stephen Black
President

Secretary's Report

At our May meeting everyone thoroughly enjoyed a fascinating talk by Mr Kieran Hosty from the Sydney Maritime Museum. He spoke firstly about the historical background to his talk which was titled "*Lost on a Passage to India*". It was interesting to hear that in the late 18th and early 19th Century, India was a very important trading partner with the colony in Australia. Goods such as alcohol, tea and fine materials were sent to the colony by enterprising Dutch and Portuguese Indians who knew the needs of colonists. Initially little returned from the colonies but as time went on timber, coal, seal skins and horses were traded with India. Not only were goods returned, but soldiers who were excess to the needs of the colony were transferred to India. One such ship carrying soldiers was the focus of his talk. The '*Fergusson*', which was returning with 170 soldiers and men, was shipwrecked on The Great Barrier Reef in the Flinders Island Group in 1841.

His talk then switched to the modern day as he told us about the archaeological trip he undertook earlier this year to locate any artefacts from this wreck. Much sophisticated gadgetry was used and many items were located, photographed and measured.

Early in his talk Kieran mentioned the fact that in a 30km x 30km area which they examined there were 36 shipwrecks. How intrepid or desperate our forebears must have been to embark on such a perilous journey from Great Britain, when it was obviously known that ships often did not make their destination?

We do urge all our members to attend the meetings whenever possible. There is no end to our learning and the exposure to the constant stimulation to "find out more" which follows every talk from such interesting and passionate presenters.

Carolyn Broadhead
Honorary Secretary

Editor's Comment

The knowledge about our lacemaker ancestors has been like a river. Back in 1982 our knowledge was no more than a trickle. However, as various founding members contributed snippets of information about their families and the lace industry in general, the babbling brook became a healthy stream.

By 1990, the stream was sufficiently strong to be dammed and our collective knowledge resulted in the publication of our first book. Edited by Gillian Kelly, *The Lacemakers of Calais* contained the stories of many of our lacemaker families.

The stories continued to flow and as new resources were brought to our attention, the pages of *Tulle* continued to grow. Our river of knowledge traced new paths, diverted here and there, tested and probed for weaknesses in our theories. Occasionally, it even changed direction for a while; but it flowed relentlessly onwards.

In 1998, with another book added to our treasures, we proved we were all *Well Suited to the Colony*.

Now we are an older river, at times finding new fields to explore, at others, revisiting old channels but perhaps with even greater depth. Our river, although not flooding, is still running high on the banks. Our sources of information are more numerous now, so the main river is well fed by many tributaries.

It is our job to ensure that as many people as possible enjoy our rivulets of information and that we don't simply silt up and die. I encourage all existing members to consider giving a gift membership subscription to another member of their family for Christmas. You just may encourage your new stream to carry your family's legacy forward for many more years.

Richard Lander

Editor

Trove - An Australian Treasure

I hope that by now most members of ASLC have experienced the wonders of *Trove* (<http://trove.nla.gov.au>). Even if you have already done so, revisit it. *Trove* continues to grow and, with a little bit of experience and fearless experimentation, it can reveal to the researcher a lot of material on their families. As your Editor, I regularly use the first (Digitised Newspapers) of the ten categories of material offered by this wonderful site to source material for *Tulle*. The ten categories are:-

1. Digitised Newspapers 1803-1954 and the Australian Women's Weekly to 1992
2. Journals, articles & data sets
3. Books
4. Pictures, photos, objects
5. Music, sound & video
6. Maps
7. Diaries, letters, Archives
8. Archived websites (1998-now)
9. People & organisations
10. Lists

In this article I am looking at just the first category – digitised newspapers. The first digitised newspapers were released on line in July 2008. The first twenty years of the *Sydney Morning Herald* (*SMH*) were made available on 1 November 2009 and by July 2011 those issues of the *SMH* which were missing from the original release had been manually scanned by National Library of Australia (NLA) staff and added to the collection.

Both new users and those who have tried using *Trove* but who have searched without success, may find the following comments helpful. Your frustration is understandable because even the newspaper section now contains many millions of scanned pages. Some hints may be of assistance to your searches. My suggestions are:-

1. Always use the “Advanced Search” option – found as a hyperlink below the green “Search articles” button. This facility enables you to search for specific topics without having to learn complicated Boolean operators. For example, if you wanted to search for Elvis Costello and not be overrun with information on Elvis Presley, put

“elvis” (without inverted commas) in the “All of these words” box, “costello” in the “Any of these words” box and “presley” in the “Without these words” box. It is best to always use lower case with your search terms because this way you can be assured that you are searching on any combination of lower and upper case versions of your search request. The “Advanced Search” option also gives the searcher much more control over what is searched for, as well as where (which papers, states, sections of the paper, article length, etc.).

2. My family came from Darlington Point in country NSW. There is an unrelated family who lived at Darlington in Sydney. To avoid being faced with a host of material on their family or other Lander family members who might have lived at Potts Point or Point Piper, I simply put ‘lander “darlington point” ’ in the “All these words” box. Putting a phrase or string of words in inverted commas limits the search to this actual phrase or string. As a supplementary search I would also try ‘lander “darlington pt” ’.
3. Although you may be tempted to exclude searching “Advertising” under “Article Category” I caution against doing so. Some articles in newspapers have been incorrectly categorised. For example, family notices may sometimes be found as advertising and many death notices were considered as advertising. Approximately 50% of people who had a funeral notice placed in the SMH prior to the First World War had no death notice placed in the paper. Advertisements also cover sales of property, probate notices etc., so if you had included “21 meredith street homebush” under “All these words” but excluded ‘Advertising’ you would have missed the two probate notices published. Incidentally, “21 meredith st homebush” would also have returned no hits. The string in inverted commas is taken quite literally.
4. Searching is based on OCR (Optical Character Recognition) which the NLA refers to as ETT (Electronically Translated Text). As newspapers with narrow columns make much use of hyphens to accommodate longer words across lines, Trove uses “fuzzy logic” to search for most

words which are so affected. Trailing blanks and abbreviations such as “M^{sr}” can cause problems with searching in some instances as a consequence. For example, searching for o’connell plains will result in no hits whereas o’ connell plains (with a space after the inverted comma) will result in 76,123 hits as will o connell plains. Mac names can also be a problem. McDonald returns 593,708 hits; but mc donald only 143,441 hits. McDonald in older papers was often written M’ Donald. Be experimental with such names.

5. The cut-off for scanned papers is currently 1954 because there are no copyright restrictions which apply to papers of this vintage. Only the *Australian Women’s Weekly* is available after 1954 on *Trove*.
6. Remember that inquest records for inquests prior to 1942 are no longer kept by NSW State Records. Old papers may be your only source of information if you believe an inquest was carried out following the death of one of your ancestors. Using *Trove*, I was able to find the report of the death of baby Adelaide Lander as reported in *The South Australian Register* for Saturday 19 May 1849.

- a. *In the afternoon of the same day (16th), there was an inquest at the 'Wheat Sheaf,' public-house, Thebarton, on the body of Adelaide Lander, aged 12 months, who was found dead in bed the previous night. It appeared from the evidence, that the child was weaning, and her sister, who lay with her, had been kept awake by her restlessness, and on observing a sudden cessation of her breathing, became alarmed, and on getting a light discovered the child was dead. Dr Nash stated the child had no marks beyond the usual discolouration from gravitation of the blood. It had been in a weakly state from previous illness, and he attributed her death to exhaustion. The jury returned a verdict of 'Natural death.'*

7. Funeral notices published in papers can also be an interesting source of information. Look for the list of people who attended the funeral and try to work out who they were.
8. Be aware that the letter “L” in old newspapers can look like and be interpreted by ETT as an “S” because it looks to many observers like a

lower case “f” without the cross bar (f̄). Lander is sometimes shown as Sander for this reason (e.g. see <http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/fh/passengerlists/1848HarpleyPassengerList.htm>). The letter “i” is sometimes interpreted by ETT as “l” (lower case “L”) or even the number, “1”. The letter “O” can be interpreted as zero (0) and vice versa. Lower case “c”, “e” and “o” are often confused as are “b” and “h”.

9. Have fun with different combinations. For example, I combined “lander” with each of the family heads aboard the *Harpley* for some interesting results. For example:
 - a. From the *South Australian Register*, Thursday 21 February 1856. Cricket – A match of cricket was played on Monday upon the East Park Lands, between the Kent and Sussex and the Thebarton Clubs. The day was beautifully fine and there was consequently a considerable number of spectators. The German brass band was in attendance. It will be seen from the following score that the Thebartonians were beaten hollow. The return match is arranged to come off on Monday week, at Thebarton.

THEBARTON – FIRST INNINGS

Swift	15	b. Ayling
Middleton	5	b. Ware
Penly	2	run out
Lowe	6	b. Ayling
Lander	3	c. Cox
Jaques, sen.	0	run out
Pearson	1	b. Ware
Ingham	11	not out
Jaques, jun.	8	b. Ware
Barnett	4	b. Ware
Harrold	0	b. Ware

It may be completely coincidental but the names in bold are all lacemaker names and there were Lowe, Lander, Barnett and Harrold family members aboard the *Harpley*! It would be nice if these men playing cricket were all friends from Nottingham or Calais. I believe they were.

- b. Combining Barnett with Harpley found me the death notice of John Barnett, family head aboard the Harpley, in the Advertiser (Adelaide) for Wednesday, 22 November 1899.

BARNETT.—On the 6th November, at his son's residence, Gumbowie¹, of influenza, John, widower of the late Harriet Barnett, in his 87th year, leaving 2 sons. 5 daughters, 60 grandchildren, 40 great-grandchildren. Arrived in ship *Harpley*.

10. Remember that some entries will be in the form Surname followed by First Name. By doing an advanced search for "lander edward" using the inverted commas and ignoring the comma which I found after lander, I found that Edward Lander had been appointed a magistrate at Darlington Point on Saturday, 18 October 1879 (SMH).

Enjoy Trove. It is a wonderful resource and I have no doubt you will find information on your own family when you get used to it.

Richard Lander



The words a father speaks to his children in the privacy of the home are not overheard at the time, but, as in whispering galleries, they will be clearly heard at the end and by posterity.

Jean Paul Richter, writer (1763-1825)

A boy needs a father to show him how to be in the world. He needs to be given swagger, taught how to read a map so that he can recognize the roads that lead to life and the paths that lead to death, how to know what love requires, and where to find steel in the heart when life makes demands on us that are greater than we think we can endure. - Ian Morgan Cron

¹ In the Coonawarra region of South Australia.

Hand-made or Machine-made?



Hand-made lace and Leavers lace copies side by side. These examples are from a booklet prepared by Birkin and Co. Ltd of Nottingham in about 1900. In each pairing, the left-hand version is hand-made while the right-hand version is machine-made. The pair at the top are both Mechlin (Malines) lace whereas the pair below are both Point de Flandres lace. (NCMG 2005-121/4 © Nottingham City Museums).

From: <http://www.dressandtextilespecialists.org.uk/Lace%20Booklet.pdf>

St Leodegarius Church, Basford

In the early days of research into my Shore Lacemaker family, the records I had gave the location of marriages and baptisms as the Parish of Basford - the name of a church didn't appear.

Recently I was catching up with some research, and re-checking Parish Registers using FreeReg (<http://freereg.rootsweb.com/>). I found that John Shore, and most of his siblings were baptized at the church of St Leodegarius at Old Basford. His parents, William Shore and Sarah Robinson were also married there.

St Leodegarius was such an unusual name and as I had never heard of it, I did some quick Google searches and found it is one of only four churches in England with this name – the others are located at Ashby St Ledgers in Northamptonshire, Hunstin in West Sussex and Wyberton in Lincolnshire.



St Leodegarius C of E Church,
Cnr. of Church St & Western Boulevard,
Old Basford, Nottingham, NG6 0GA.

St Leodegarius (or St Leger) was a French saint, who is now the patron saint of millers and of blindness and eye diseases².

The parish church of St Leodegarius at Basford may have featured in the lives of many Lacemakers as it appears to have been the only church in Basford until the early part of the 19th century.

From White's Directory 1853:

"Basford (Old) Village is situated in the vale of the Leen, two and a

half miles N.N.W. of Nottingham. The scenery around it is beautiful, being

² Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leodegar>

well clothed with wood, and thickly studded with modern mansions. At the Bowling Green Inn is a spacious green, tastefully fitted up with harbours; which is the resort of numerous parties from Nottingham in the summer season. The stone bridge, which here crosses the Leen, was built in 1831. The church, dedicated to St Leodegarius, has a handsome tower, and a spacious nave and side aisles; but the ancient armorial bearings that formerly decorated its windows are gone. ...”

Later, in the mid to late 19th century, several other churches were established in Basford: St Aidan (Anglican) c.1905, St Augustine, New Basford (Anglican) c.1877 and St John, Carrington (Anglican) 1843.

A check on Google Earth shows the church still standing in what appears to be a small pocket of land surrounded by railway lines, busy roads and industrial areas.

The church has had a chequered history of falling into disrepair, being damaged and then being repaired and the full history is well worth reading. Below are some notes and excerpts from two interesting historical websites describing the church's history. These websites also give information about the Vicars, some of whom may have baptized or married members of Lacemaker families.

In the website: “Historical Articles on the Nottinghamshire History Resources for local historians and genealogists”, Robert Mellors writes about the church at Basford.³

“The Church at Basford dedicated to St. Leodegarius dates back to 1127, or nearly eight hundred years (Ed: now nearly 900 years). It has been several times restored, and formerly had a spire steeple. The main walls are old, and contain some good Early English work, and it retains many objects of interest, including a fine Gothic doorway, a low side window —erroneously called a

³ <http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/mellorsarticles/basford1.htm>

leper window—a credence table, a kissing stone, in honour of some Pope unknown, the base of a holy water stoup, etc. The windows were formerly decorated with armorial bearings. Robert de Basford, grandson of Safrid, one of the men who came with the Conqueror, gave the Church which he had built, and dedicated to a French saint, with its lands and tenements to the prioress and nuns of Catesby, in Northamptonshire, of which Priory he was the principal founder. The Church was then probably a thatched building, with reeds on the floor, and without seats. St. Leodegarius, or St. Leger, as he is usually called, was born in 616. He became Abbot of St. Maxertius, in Poitiers, France, and afterwards Bishop of Autun or Verdun. In 670 he incited many canons, chiefly for the reformation of the monasteries. In a revolution in 678, the city of Autun was attacked, and Leodegarius to save the city gave himself up, and his enemies put out his eyes, maimed his tongue, cut off his lips, and two years afterwards beheaded him in a wood, lest he should be honoured as a martyr, which honour, however, came three years after his death.

Two of the bells are dated 1606, and one is much older. The largest bell bears the inscription—

"As sweetly tolling men do call
To taste on meat that feeds the soul."

Further information is given at the website: "Southwell & Nottingham Church History Project".⁴

At the beginning of the 18th century the church had deteriorated and repairs were undertaken and at the same time a new north aisle built. In 1818/19 there were more repairs and additions. By 1850 the church became dilapidated again and more repairs carried out, but just before it reopened the tower collapsed and it had to be rebuilt along with extensive restoration work. The church was reopened in 1860.

⁴ <http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk/basford-st-leodegarius/hhistory.php>

“Robert Stanser was one of the most interesting vicars, during his 53 years in charge from 1759. He lived in the parish, was conscientious and even instructed a few gentlemen in his own house. In 1770 he was made a Burgess of Nottingham and in 1778 he was appointed domestic chaplain to the Earl of Abingdon. He had the north aisle re-built and the churches in his other parishes of Bulwell and Edwalton were greatly improved in his time. By contrast Thomas Hosking, vicar from 1818 to 1840, hardly ever came to Basford. In 1832 Archdeacon Wilkins wrote to him ‘that as the parish is in a most deplorable state and the spiritual concerns there have been grossly neglected’ he would remedy them ‘by placing a clergyman of zeal and activity in the parish.’ Thus Robert Simpson was installed. He was only at Basford for seven years but made many improvements, including a new burial ground. It was to be expected from the man who, in 1836, published a pamphlet entitled ‘State of the Church in the County of Nottingham with hints for its Improvement.’

Narelle Richardson

Ed: Many thanks for your contribution to Tulle, Narelle. At least one member of my own family was baptised at St Leodegarius at Old Basford, viz. Louisa Lander, the daughter of Henry Little Lander, a Nottingham and Calais lacemaker and the brother of Edward Lander, my great-great-grandfather. Her baptism took place on 10 May 1835.

I believe that Nottingham Archives at West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP hold deposited records for Basford St Leodegarius Baptisms from 1561 to 1920, Marriages from 1568 to 1963 and Burials from 1561 to 1925. Narelle's reference to Parish Registers using <http://freereq.rootsweb.com/> is to an exceptionally handy website. If you haven't visited this site already, I strongly suggest that you do so or note it for future exploration.



There are a thousand thoughts lying within a man that he does not know till he takes up a pen to write.

William Makepeace Thackeray, novelist (1811-1863)

The Bells of St Leonards, Naremburn

When I think of Loughborough, I either think of the town in Leicestershire where John Heathcoat established a factory manufacturing lace, or I think of his second machine, the "Old Loughborough". Loughborough, like Nottingham and Calais, is synonymous with lace. However, Loughborough is also home to John Taylor and Co, the makers of the world's finest bells. The business has been in the hands of the Taylor family since 1784 and they carried on a line of bellfounding established by Johannes de Stafford in the area in the mid-14th Century. This business is now the largest bellfoundry in the world.

Easter 2013 marked the centenary of the laying of the foundation stone of St Leonard's Catholic Church at Naremburn in Sydney. To celebrate the centenary, a peal of six Taylor bells was installed in the bell tower under the spire which was added to the church in 1955. These bells were cast in 1866 and previously hung in a church in Bangor, Wales. St Leonard's is the third Catholic Church in Sydney to have 'a peal of bells', following those at St Mary's Cathedral (1844) and St Benedict's Broadway (1851). In campanology (bell ringing) a 'peal' is the name given to a specific type of performance of change ringing.

Taylor claims to have cast more large bronze bells (more than 200 bells each weighting more than two tonnes) than any other bellfoundry in the world and many of these have found their way to Australia. These include the Hour Bell at the General Post Offices in Adelaide (cast in 1874) and Sydney (1891); one at St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney (1881); St Mary's Church, West Maitland (1886); five bells in the carillon at the University of Sydney (1928); Brisbane Town Hall hour bell (1928); St Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide Tenor of Peal bell (1946); St Peter's Church, Murrumbena (1946); and five bells in the National Carillon, Canberra (four in 1968 and one in 1970).



Taylor's 10-ton 'Great Peter' of York Minster

For those following the 'lace trail' around Nottingham, the Council House, Nottingham, has "Little John", a Taylor bell weighing more than ten tons. It, and the Loughborough War Memorial's carillon bass bell, (a Taylor bell cast in 1923 and weighing more than four tons) are fine examples of impressive Taylor bells. (RJL)

Men of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire

In 1924, Robert Mellors wrote and published *Men of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. Being biographical notices of five hundred men and women who were born, or worked, or abode, or died in the County or City of Nottingham, and who, in some way, were distinguished for usefulness to others.* A search of its pages for the word "lace" has uncovered entries on the following:

ABEL SMITH, Junior, (d. 1779) was in 1775 elected M.P. for Nottingham, and he was carried through the town in a chair decorated with white lace, followed by the whole body of framework knitters, preceded by a flag having painted on it a stocking frame with the words "Strength, fortitude and unity surmount the greatest difficulties."

ROBERT WILKINSON SMITH, (d. 1907) was a Lace Manufacturer in Nottingham, and described as late of Bunny Park, who left about £220,000 with directions in his will with four codicils, for a Charity scheme to be formed under which grants are made to respectable and necessitous women. About three hundred and eighty-five persons are recipients, but there are usually 2,700 applicants on the books. The annual grants are of £40, £26 or £20 a year. There are also ten very pleasantly situated almshouses in Chestnut Grove, Nottingham. It may be safely said that no other similar personal Charity in Nottingham is doing so much good as this one. The executors were directed to provide a stained glass window to be placed in Bunny Church, with which his ancestors were connected.

JOHN LEAVERS, (Bab. 1786-1848), born at Sutton-in-Ashfield, and removed to Radford. He was a framesmith—"a setter up." In a little street between Derby Road and Ilkeston Road, called St. Helen's, is a tablet on a house recording the fact that he resided there in 1813. In an upper room in that house, or in a shed adjoining, since removed, he practically shut himself up for two years experimenting in constructing point net and warp lace machinery. His improvements were of enormous value to the lace trade, one branch of which is called by his name, but of little value to himself, probably owing to his personal habits. He appears to have carried on business in connection with Mr. J. Fisher and others for several years, and then, in 1821, he went to France, and there remained, assumably building lace machines, at Grand Courenne, near Rouen, where he was bandmaster of the National Guard Volunteers, and played with considerable skill on the French horn. He appears to have owned at the time of his death a house and workshop with two gardens and a piece of ploughing land,

together containing about three-fourths of an acre, situate on the Grand Road of Rouen to Caen, and which the son Edward, living in Nottingham, authorised William, a Manufacturer of cards at Courenne, jointly with "Mrs. Widow John Leavers, their mother," and Sarah, their sister, to mortgage up to 2,000 francs. He died on September 24th, 1848, and was buried with military honours. As Leavers improved on the skill of Heathcoat, so many other machine builders and users improved on Leaver's invention, and now the modern lace machine is of wondrous complication and ingenuity, producing articles of great beauty, and forming a practical lesson of the triumph of thought, method, skill, perseverance and energy of many minds over several generations—an evolution of brain power and the survival of the fittest.

JAMES FISHER, (about 1775-1849), the son of a Cumberland farmer, went to London in search of employment, which he found in a haberdasher's shop, and afterwards became traveller for the disposal of Buckinghamshire Lace goods. He acquired a knowledge of men, and with a correct taste and judgment of quality and value, he ensured a profit. Punctual himself, he required punctuality on the part of the travellers he employed. After the expiration of Mr. Heathcoat's patent in 1823, he built a factory at Radford, and then began a series of improvements in lace machines, in connection with John Leavers, the nephew of the inventor, and William Crofts, the latter of whom took out eighteen patents, including thirty distinct constructions, on his principals' account, and in 1835 Crofts took out a monster patent, the specifications of which filled 149 pages, and 49 sheets of drawings, costing Mr. Fisher to take out the patents, £4,000 to £5,000. Mr. Fisher was great in method and business determination. He willed success, and won it, for he came to a well-earned prosperity. He died at Dulwich.

JAMES FISHER, of Scotholme House, was son of the above, and after being a highly educated and talented graduate of Cambridge University, he carried on the factory and machinery for making bobbin net lace at Radford, but some of the other departments declined. He died in 1877, aged seventy.

WILLIAM CROFTS in the decline of life was not in the enjoyment of those pecuniary results which his mechanical talent undoubtedly deserved, but this does not appear to have been due to Mr. Fisher. (Felkin).

JOHN HEATHCOAT, (d. 1861, aged 78). John Heathcoat was one of the greatest benefactors that Nottingham has had; great not in intention or monetary bequests, but in the invention and development of an industry that has supplied to thousands

of people the means of getting an honest livelihood. So the Corporation thought that some acknowledgment should be made of his services, and a cheap way to do this was to name a street after him. Beck Lane could no longer retain its rural name when it had been opened out into a spacious street. Heathcoat had worked in a hosiery machine shop between Broad Street and Beck Lane, so here was a street to be named in his honour. The Corporation painter seems to have thought that "cote" was a better suffix than a tailor's "coat." It was more appropriate and poetical, for does not Milton say:

"Watching where shepherds pen their flocks at eve
In hurdled cotes"? and there it is, "cote " to this day.

John Heathcoat was born at Duffield in 1783, and was in several respects a remarkable youth and man. He had a village school education at Hathern, but he became the intimate friend of a schoolmaster at Kegworth—named Wootton—and by association acquired knowledge. His father was of limited means as a small farmer, and owner of several machines, and he became blind, but he had a splendid mother, who kept the home agoing. He was apprenticed to a stocking-maker and framemill owner—William Shepherd—and he put his heart into his work, studied machinery, and even at sixteen began to think about inventing a machine. He watched the things about him, and then pondered their meaning. He would have made a good Boy Scout if he had been born a hundred years later, for he saw a woman from Northamptonshire making lace upon a cushion, and "acquainted himself fully with the manner of proceeding in this beautiful, but intricate art," and it became a study how to invent machinery to do the necessary work. When out of his apprenticeship, he became journeyman to Leonard Elliott, a skilled mechanic, whose workshop was between Broad Street and Beck Lane, Nottingham, at twenty-five shillings a week. But Elliott soon saw that he was worth to him three guineas a week, and gave it him, for Elliott said, "he was inventive, persevering, undaunted by difficulty or mistakes, . . . patient, self-denying, taciturn," but full of confidence that he could and would succeed. He had soon saved sufficient money to buy the business, which Elliott sold to him, with the tools and good will, and here he obtained the confidence of the best machine-owners and mechanics for good work. He is said to have lived on Long Stairs, which is an ascent from Narrow Marsh to what is now called Commerce Square.

Soon after he was twenty-one he married Ann Caldwell, of Hathern, an active, thoughtful, clear-minded woman, a good manager, wife and mother. And now came

the pressure of his business and his inventions. "I worked, and I invented," he afterwards related, and there was not only the pressure of business but the difficulty as to secrecy of his work. So he decided to dispose of his business, and his wife's brother, Samuel Caldwell, being a skilled mechanic at Hathern, they two at that place, took out a patent for a new apparatus to be attached to warp frames. Then followed two or three years of study and experiments in overcoming the difficulties encountered, and a second patent was in 1809 taken out, and this was successful. One eventful Saturday—Mrs. Heathcoat is telling the tale years afterwards—her husband returned home and she enquired, as often before, "Well, will it work?" and his reply was "No! I have had to take it all in pieces again." She was constrained for once to sit down and cry bitterly, for great personal self-denial was necessary, but recovering herself her brave heart cheered and encouraged him, and in a few weeks more the desired result came, and at twenty-four years of age he was the inventor of "a machine for the making and manufacturing of bobbin lace . . . by which means such lace would be made to much greater advantage than by any other mode hitherto practised, at less cost, time and labour, and which he conceived from repeated experiments would be productive of great public utility.* Yet this was one of the most intricate in the whole range of textile mechanism that the world has ever seen.

And now came prosperity, and with it, trials harder to bear than those of adversity. His partner, Charles Lacey, put £40,000 to £50,000 into his pocket, and plunged head over heels, and lost all. The patent was attacked, and infringed in various directions, necessitating extensive law proceedings, costly and irritating, but out of which he came triumphantly, for both judge and jury declared Heathcoat to be the true inventor. The workmen could earn £5 to £10 a week, but outside was a mass of starving people with little work, low wages, dear bread, and no hope. They had no combination, and no votes. Government did little, or nothing, for them in the direction of education, housing, sanitation, the development of natural resources, or otherwise. All its efforts were directed towards repression, and punishment for wrong-doing. The result naturally was that many of the very poorest of the people became surly, resentful, desperate. Their idea was that machinery having made more goods than would have been made by hand, the excess had diminished what work was left, so the machinery must be smashed, and then the work would be more evenly distributed. For five years this destructive work went on, and culminated in 1816 in the destruction at Loughborough of thirty-seven lace machines in the factory of Messrs. Heathcoat and Boden, and for shooting at and attempting to kill one of the

workman six men were hanged and two transported for life. An action was brought against the Hundred of West Goscote, in which Loughborough is situate, and a verdict obtained for £10,000 damages. But Mr. Felkin says, "The magistrates required that the sum when handed over should be expended locally." He does not, however, explain that they had no power to make such a requirement, (or Nottingham Castle would not have remained a ruin). Mr. Heathcoat was disgusted, and said "his life had been threatened, and he would go as far off as possible from such desperate men as these frame-breakers were," so he did not go to the High Court to enforce the order, and the money was never paid. He went to Tiverton, in Devonshire, and bought a large mill there, where the machinery could be driven by the water power from the river Exe running down from the hills, which are haunted by the great red deer in the "Lorna Doone" district. Very soon he had the mill restored and extended, the best of the workpeople transferred from Loughborough to Tiverton, and three hundred machines at work.

We cannot follow Mr. Heathcoat in his inventions and developments, for as of old he kept on inventing and working. He took out a number of patents for various purposes. The business was extended to the Continent, and largely at home, until there were at Tiverton about 2,000 workpeople. Schools for the children were built, and other social efforts made. In 1832, on the passing of the Reform Bill, Mr. Heathcoat was elected Member of Parliament for Tiverton, and so remained for twenty-eight years, his colleague during the greater part of that time being Lord Palmerston, who was twice Prime Minister. In politics he was a practical man, a home reformer, free from self-seeking, patriotic and independent. When he retired from Parliament in 1859, his workpeople presented him with a testimonial.

There is in the Art Museum at the Castle, a good portrait of Mr. Heathcoat, painted by William Gush, and presented by Miss Heathcoat. He there looks as when painted, to be about fifty years of age, and the figure is that of an intelligent, gentlemanly, kindly-hearted man. There are also models of his early machines.

Of course Mr. Heathcoat's invention of a machine for making net dealt a crushing blow to the pillow-made net workers of Honiton lace. Mr. Jackson's "History of Hand-made Lace," (page 170) says:—"In the last century the hand-made net was very expensive, and was made of the finest thread from Antwerp; in 1790 this cost £70 per pound, sometimes more. At that time the mode of payment was decidedly primitive; the lace ground was spread out on the counter, and the cottage worker covered it with shillings from the till of the shopman. As many coins as she could

place on her work she took away with her as wages for her labour. It is no wonder that a Honiton lace veil, before the invention of the lace machine-made net often cost a hundred guineas." After Heathcoat's invention there was "great depression for twenty years, the art of handmade lace net became nearly extinct." Such changes and disasters are inevitable, and there is the consolation that a hundred ladies may now be adorned where one only was before-time, and by the efforts of the Royal family the old industry has to some extent been revived.

SAMUEL CARTLEDGE, (d. 1865), was a Cotton Spinner in Nottingham. He, in 1805, so improved the manipulation of cotton yarn that it became for the first time of service in lace machines, replacing linen yarn, being easier to work, much cheaper, and presenting a, better appearance. Ten years later a meeting of Buckinghamshire lace manufacturers unanimously adopted a vote of thanks to Mr. Cartledge "for his invention of cotton thread used in the manufacture of British lace, and for his introduction of the same to the trade on liberal terms." This improvement was not only of use in Nottingham but Mr. Cartledge had succeeded in making a specially prepared cotton lace yarn to be adopted in pillow lace in Bucks and Northamptonshire, Honiton and France. This doubled cotton yarn of fine thread, gave a rapid impulse to the demand, and gained for Mr. Cartledge a considerable fortune—a well-deserved reward for his ingenuity and persevering enterprise. (Felkin, p 169). Blackner says, "the invention has added thirty thousand pounds annually to the productive labour of the country." (page 249).

THOMAS R. SEWELL, (d. 1879, aged 86), Carrington, was a self-taught artisan, who became a lace manufacturer. He improved every opportunity of obtaining general, and especially scientific knowledge, by using which, he acquired considerable skill in mathematical, chemical, and other branches of science and art. "He drew his own patterns, many of which were in excellent taste, embodying ideas derived from the careful study of the enrichments of Greek architecture." He took out patents for various inventions, for which see Mr. Felkin's "History." With suavity of manner and integrity of character, he was highly esteemed. In the evening of his life he went to Australia. His gravestone is in Carrington churchyard.

THOMAS ADAMS, (1807-1873), was a Lace Manufacturer and Merchant, and his firm built the large and handsome warehouse in Stoney Street, Nottingham. He was born at Worksop, and apprenticed at Newark. He displayed considerable interest in the welfare of their four hundred workpeople. A chaplain conducted a religious service in the basement of the warehouse, which service he attended every morning at eight

o'clock, and the half hour occupied was paid for to the workpeople as warehouse time. He was also a great benefactor of churches and schools. "I can make money," was one of his remarks, "but I cannot make a speech." Stained glass windows to his memory are in St. Mary's Church, and in Lenton Church. St. Philip's Church, in Pennyfoot Street, was designed as a "Thomas Adams Memorial Church," built at a cost of £8,000, but since that time the greater part of the houses in the parish have for sanitary reasons been demolished in what is called "the Carter Gate area," thus creating a very difficult position not only for the church, but more still for the very poor people expelled, for whom no housing provision had been, or since has been made.

LEWIS HEYMANN, (d. 1869), Stoney Street, Nottingham, and West Bridgford Hall. There was no man who did more to extend the lace trade of Nottingham than Lewis Heymann. He was a German, and Manager of A. J. Saalfeld & Co. He had no money, but he had what is better—character, joined with energy, good taste, and agreeable manners. Mr. Alexander, a Hamburg capitalist, had confidence in him, which he justified, and very wisely he married Mr. Alexander's daughter Julia. He had designers in his warehouse where he could supervise them several times a day, S. W. Oscroft being at the head, and not only did he widely extend the trade in Nottingham goods by his knowledge of languages and of houses abroad, but he developed taste and skill to such an extent that the "Arts Journal Illustrated Catalogue of the International Exhibition of 1862" declared that "the productions of Nottingham now surpass those of France." Mr. Heymann won the Gold Medal of the Exhibition. He may be considered the pioneer of the curtain trade about 1850, for he created the demand, and then supplied it. He had successfully exhibited in the Great Exhibition of 1851, when Mr. Richard Birkin was one of the judges, and one of the articles he exhibited was a design of Mr. Samuel Oscroft, who was then in his employ, in which the rose, thistle, and shamrock were successfully entwined.

RICHARD BIRKIN and his son Sir Thomas I. Birkin, and his sons have for one hundred "years carried on a lace manufacturing business at New Basford, employing in normal times eight hundred persons, including many highly skilled ones. This enterprise has, of course, been conducted for personal advantage, but has been also beneficial to the workers, the locality, and the State. The operations include every branch of the trade. Richard Birkin, who died in 1870 at Aspley Hall, was born at Belper. He commenced work in the lace trade just before the great boom of 1823, in which many speculators were ruined, but he by industry, skill, and economy survived, and

later joined in partnership Alderman Biddle. He afterwards purchased Plumptre House and grounds in Stoney Street, which were for a period used by the School of Art, and later the street called Broadway was formed through the grounds. He was four times Mayor of Nottingham, was a Borough and County Magistrate, and a Director of the Midland Railway. His widow died two days after him, and both were buried in the same grave.

THOMAS BAYLEY, of Lenton, Leather dresser, and **BENJAMIN WALKER**, Lace manufacturer, desiring to encourage their workpeople in habits of thrift, formed, in 1863, a Committee for establishing and managing the Lenton Co-operative Society, and one of them acted as Chairman for eight years, and the other as Secretary, and attended the meetings, and brought their business capacity to bear until the "baby" could walk. That Society, now called the Nottingham Cooperative Society, had, in 1921, over 22,000 members, and a turnover of a million pounds.

WILLIAM GEORGE WARD, (1825-78), J.P. twice Mayor of Nottingham, has his memorial not so much in the house where he lived, No. 5, Newcastle Drive, nor in the factory at New Basford, nor in the Rock Valley in the Church Cemetery, nor in the portrait in the Guildhall, painted by Redgate, by order of the Town Council, nor in the stained glass window dedicated to his memory in Christ Church, where he attended, but it is rather in the Institution of the Castle Art Gallery and Museum. For when he was Mayor, in 1871, and Chairman of the School of Art Committee, he communicated with the Authorities at South Kensington as to an Art Museum, and the year following an Art Exhibition was held in the Exchange Hall and rooms, being the first permanent provincial museum formed in connection with South Kensington. From that time until his death Mr. Ward was largely occupied in negotiating for a lease of the Castle and grounds from the trustees of the Duke of Newcastle, in persuading the Town Council to adopt its conditions, and make a grant of £6,000, in begging for donations towards a fund, £12,000 of which was promised, his firm giving £1,000, for transforming the ruins and desolation of the building and its grounds, and adapting them to their present purpose; in securing from the Government such aid as was practicable, and in making arrangements for the formal opening by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, on July 5th, 1878, but he died nineteen days before that event. Mr. Ward was born in Nottingham, but brought up at Stapleford, where his father was overlooker at Mr. Street's Lace Factory, and afterwards was a partner in the firm of Whiteley, Ward & Stevens, and he was both a Wesleyan and Parish Churchwarden. The boy went to a good school at Trowell Moor, and afterwards attended Mr. Biddulph's School at Willoughby House, Low Pavement. He made himself thoroughly proficient in Pitman's

system of Shorthand, so that at eighteen, and for two years afterwards, he was engaged to form classes and lectures upon Phonography in the principal towns of Lancashire, and in the South of England. This was useful educationally, but poor financially. He then went into a lace warehouse at £50 a year salary, and at twenty he entered the service of Copestake, Moore & Co., in Hounds Gate, where he remained ten years, beginning at the bottom, and ending by having the management of the concern. Mr. William Cope, Lace Manufacturer, had his machines in a factory in Broad Marsh, dark and unhealthy. He was a clever mechanic, but needed someone with commercial ability, and the capacity for managing workpeople. The firm thereupon became Cope & Ward. Shortly afterwards Robinson Son & Sissling, of New Basford, who were at the head of the manufacture of Lace Curtains, had unwisely entered also into the Botary Hosiery trade, for which they had not sufficient capital, and W. G. Ward bought up the whole concern. This enormously extended the business of his firm, who thereupon removed their machinery to New Basford, and Thomas Robinson, junior, became cashier of the firm and so continued forty years, greatly to the firm's advantage. At that time Basford was a big neglected village, not paved, sewered or lighted. By great energy Mr. Ward secured the adoption of Local Government; Basford being the first village in the Midland district enjoying that benefit. In 1859, W. G. Ward was Sheriff of the town, and the year following he aided in the formation of the Chamber of Commerce, and gave evidence in Paris as to the commercial treaty between England and France. He assisted Mr. Mundella in the formation of Boards of Conciliation and Arbitration. In 1869 he was elected to the Town Council, and the year following, to the first School Board, of which he became Vice-Chairman, and was made Chairman of the School of Art Committee, and Mayor in 1871, as already named. He afterwards took part with others in the establishment of the University College. In a speech of much ability and comprehensiveness he proposed the extension of the Borough boundaries by the inclusion of Lenton, Radford, Basford, Bulwell, Sneinton, the Park, and parts of Wilford and Gedling, and the absorption of their Local Boards and Authorities, and when this was accomplished in 1877, he was elected first Mayor of the extended town, which was then estimated to have a population of 157,310. In the June following he, with his son, was returning from a ride in the country, (riding being one of his favourite exercises, and he prided himself on being a good judge of a horse) when near the foot of the Castle Rock he fell from his horse, and died the next day. There was at the funeral a great procession to the Church Cemetery, of the Magistrates, the High Sheriff, the Corporation, the Police and their band, the Robin Hoods (450 in number) and their band, representatives of the Guardians, the School Board, and other public

bodies, the workpeople of the Firm, and an immense concourse of probably thirty thousand spectators. On the night of the opening of the Castle Museum by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, there were extensive fireworks, among which were the fiery portraits of the Prince and Mr. Ward, and in the following month the succeeding Mayor, Alderman Oldknow, was knighted in honour of the enterprise successfully inaugurated. He was a great admirer of good paintings (having studied Ruskin—his favourite author) and he collected many, and it was to him a great delight to describe to his children, and to friends, the points of beauty, with a view to develop in them a love of the beautiful in both nature and art. He was a forceful speaker, and carried conviction with his advocacy. He had improved his style of address by taking an active part in the Mechanics' Hall Discussion Class where he read papers. In games, chess was his special delight, and he could hold his own with any local player.

WILLIAM VICKERS, (1797-1882), was a Lace Manufacturer carrying on business in Weekday Cross, Nottingham, occupying the warehouse with an overhanging colonnade, the site being where the tanners in the olden time laid up their leather. He was born at Mansfield, and sent to work at seven, but by self-effort he became a well-educated man. He taught in George Street Sunday School, and was one of the teachers who walked to Arnold and back on Sundays, and established and instructed a school of two hundred children. At twenty-one he was in business in the firm of Frearson & Vickers, then producing the finest specimens of lace. He married Miss Mary Rogers, one of a family of seventeen; her father was the eldest of twenty-four, and her brother, Alderman Rogers, had fourteen children. Mr. Vickers was, in 1835, elected one of the first members of the new Corporation, in three years became an Alderman, and in 1843, when Queen Victoria was to pass through the town, he was made Mayor, and received the Queen and Prince Albert, who opened Queen's Road. He was the chairman of the Board of Guardians who determined in face of bitter opposition to build a new workhouse with garden land, to replace one that may be described as a den, excessively crowded, filthy, and unclassified. When Chairman of the Charitable Trustees he devoted much time to the removal of the Grammar School from Stoney Street to the new building in Arboretum Street. As Chairman of the Bridge Committee he promoted steps to the building of a new Trent Bridge. He was an active magistrate. For many years Superintendent of the George Street Boys' Sunday School, he was one of those who joined in building Derby Road Chapel, of which he was a deacon. He was great grandfather of Captain Vickers who in 1916 won the Victoria Cross.

JOHN RUSSELL HIND, (1823-1895), Astronomer, was born in Nottingham, his father being a lace manufacturer. At twelve years of age he began to observe the heavens, and at sixteen became a regular contributor on astronomical subjects to the "Nottingham Journal." He obtained a situation in the Greenwich Observatory, and afterwards took charge of one in Regent's Park. He discovered ten asteroids, two comets, fifteen new variable stars, etc., and wrote four books, and many articles, on astronomy.

JOHN FARMER, (1835-1901), was a musician, and came of a musical family, for his father, although a lace manufacturer in Nottingham, was a skilled violinist, and his mother, who kept a milliner's shop the next door to the Talbot Inn, on Long Row, was musical also. His grandfather, John Farmer, was a glee singer, and kept the "Crown and Cushion Inn," Weekday Cross, with a music hall in the rear.

WILLIAM THOMPSON, (1811-80), who was born in New Yard, Parliament Street, his father being a skilled lace-maker. The lad took a wild course, but was fond of fishing, skilled in sports, and being trained as a boxer, at twenty-one commenced his career as a prizefighter. In 1835 he defeated Ben Caunt, and later beat Langan; Deaf Burke; Ben Caunt a second time; then Tom Paddock, and so he was Champion of all England. When thirty-nine he retired from the prize-ring, but he had contracted the habit of excessive drinking, and so he went down, down, until he had during twenty years, been convicted by the magistrates, and sent to jail, twenty-eight times. Hearing Richard Weaver, "the converted collier," preach, he became converted too, and under the care of Jemmy Dupe, he had a hard struggle to overcome his appetite, and separate from his companions, but he succeeded, and went on the platforms in many large towns, and told his story to immense audiences. He died at Beeston, but was buried in Fox's burial ground (St. Mary's Cemetery) in his mother's grave, and a life-sized recumbent lion in stone was his monument. In the State of Victoria, Australia, a city and county was named Sandhurst, after a former governor, but the inhabitants refused the name, and adopted that of "Bendigo," in honour of his pluck, and by that name it is now legally known. (C. Bonnell).



ROBERT HALL, (1756-1827), lived at Basford Hall, his works being near the site of the Midland Railway Station. He was a Spinner of cotton yarn, and of cotton and wool—called angola (sic); and a bleacher. Being a scientific man he either discovered, or was one of the first to use, chloride of lime in bleaching hosiery and lace goods, so that whereas bleaching in the open air would take a month, the work can now be done in one or two days. He built for his workpeople a Methodist Chapel, which has recently been taken down. His works were accidentally destroyed by fire in 1820. He was a great walker, and every Sunday walked from his house to and from Parliament Street Chapel twice, 12 miles. He had eight children, Samuel being the eldest, and Marshall the sixth.

SAMUEL HALL, (d. 1863), worked with his father at Basford in spinning and bleaching goods, and in 1817 he invented a process of singeing off the floss on cotton goods by gassing, or passing rapidly over hot cylinders. This was an enormous success, resulting (according to Felkin) in Hall's income from this process becoming £10,000 to £15,000 a year. He was overconfident, and declined Mr. Heathcoat's offer to pay him £5,000 a year, the result being that the goods were sold ungassed, and the profit thereby lessened. He gave many licenses to work his patent, which undoubtedly was a great benefit to trade. He had another invention which was very beneficial, namely, the bleaching of starch by employing chloride of lime in its preparation. The advantage of this he gave to his brother, Lawrence.

LAWRENCE HALL'S Patent Starch was a success for many years, and secured him a fortune, while it was greatly prized by housewives.



After the game, the King and the pawn go into the same box - Italian proverb

The idea is to die young as late as possible – Ashley Montagu

And they die an equal death – the idler and the man of mighty deeds – Homer, *Iliad*

1848-1788=60; 60+1848=1908

As we are all aware, white settlement in Australia commenced in 1788, exactly 60 years before our own ancestors came to this marvellous country. Many of those who came aboard the sailing vessels which are equally well-known to us were still alive in 1908 – exactly 60 years after their own arrival. What was happening then?

- 1 January 1908 – Ernest Shackleton sets sail from New Zealand on the *Nimrod* bound for Antarctica.
- 24 January – Robert Baden-Powell's *Scouting for Boys* is first published (in London) effectively commencing the Boy Scouts.
- 21 March – French aviator Léon Delagrange pilots the first passenger flight. He took Henri Farman for a short flight.
- 21 April – Henry Cook, an American explorer, claims to have reached the North Pole, nearly a year ahead of Robert Peary who is however, officially credited with the feat.
- 26 May – the first major commercial oil discovery in the Middle East is made at Masjid-al-Salaman in southwest Persia.
- 30 June – the "Russian Explosion" or Tunguska event – the largest meteoroid impact event on or near Earth in recorded history.
- 8 August – Wilbur Wright flies in France demonstrating true controlled flight for the first time in Europe.
- 17 September – Thomas Selfridge becomes the first person to die in an aeroplane crash. Orville Wright is severely injured but recovers.
- 27 September – Henry Ford produces his first Model T car.
- 6 November – western bandits Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid are supposedly killed in Bolivia.
- 9 November - Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, first Englishwoman to qualify as a surgeon, also became Britain's first female mayor.
- PM Billy McMahon, Rex Harrison, Bette Davis, Nelson Rockefeller, PM Harold Holt, LBJ and Donald Bradman were all born during 1908.
- Penny Post is established between the United Kingdom and USA.(RJL)

Mail Deliveries prior to the 1850s

These days we take for granted our excellent reliable postal services and how we are able to email messages to one another and to have the opportunity of receiving a reply within a very short space of time.

Alternately, we can simply pick up the phone and call one another - and with Skype we are able to see each other while talking. There are also video conference services and additionally, becoming "old hat", there are facsimile services.



But what did our Lacemaker Families have available to them when they arrived in NSW in 1848? Not that the postal services were any different from whence they had come, as postal services in the then civilised world were very much in their infancy and progressively were developing to provide a reasonably reliable and efficient service.



To a very large extent what happened in New South Wales with postal services followed what was taking shape in Britain, although Australia had its relatively small population thinly dispersed over a wide land mass with only rudimentary roads or tracks connecting population centres with one another. In 1848 one of the most reliable means of travel between coastal population

centres was by ship and moving inland along coastal rivers. It was not easy to move from "A" to "B" in those days.

Australia's postal service was born on 25 April 1809 (it was not, of course realised that 25 April would become a National Day of great significance in the next century, i.e. Anzac Day).

However, on 25 April 1809 a former convict, named Isaac Nichols, was appointed to

take charge of all mail arriving in what was then the Colony of New South Wales. Isaac Nichols opened Australia's first Post Office in his home in George Street, Sydney. He advertised in the Sydney Gazette a list of names of those citizens fortunate enough to receive mail. Those people listed could then collect their mail from Nichol's home by paying one shilling per letter. Parcels and other heavy items cost more and were often delivered by personal delivery.



Early letters were simply written on a piece of paper, folded and secured with a wax seal, sometimes imprinted with the sender's coat of arms or special design. Envelopes were invented later. Mail routes were established in the 1820s with packhorse and coach deliveries from Sydney to nearby townships such as Parramatta, Liverpool, Penrith and Windsor. Mail routes to other towns were quickly established with further Postmasters being appointed. The first Postmen, known as "Letter Carriers" began delivering letters around established towns. In the 1830s the first primitive posting boxes appeared. Postage Stamps had not yet appeared as it was the responsibility of the person receiving the mail to pay for the delivery of the letter.

A world first in postal history occurred in 1838 in Sydney with the introduction of pre-paid letter sheets and so pre-payment of postage. In this same year an overland mail service was established between the Port Phillip Settlement (Melbourne) and Sydney. The mailman, John Conway Bourke, would ride on horseback through rugged wilderness from Melbourne to Yass in New South Wales where he would exchange mail with the mail coach which had travelled from Sydney.

In the 1840s the mail routes were expanded to settled areas throughout the developing Australia; more Post Offices were established with better township mail deliveries.

Pre-paid adhesive stamps were introduced in Victoria and New South Wales in the 1850s with those stamps becoming compulsory in 1852 in Victoria. Of course, in the 1850s came the era of the "Gold Rush" and with it an avalanche of population growth and a spurt in the need for Post Offices and services. Often the first Post Office established in those "Gold Rush" communities was a very primitive building which was later replaced by grandiose buildings as those communities grew wealthier on the back of the gold mining ventures.

The rapid development of the colonies and the dispersal of people produced a number of problems for the postal service in the delivery of letters. What did they do with undelivered letters? Today, we have what is called a "Dead Letter Office" where dedicated staff try to get the letter delivered to the intended recipient or to return it to the sender, so that he or she is aware of the delivery problem. In say 1848 it wasn't quite as straightforward. Letters were mailed with scant delivery addresses. So, what do you do when you are faced with a letter addressed to Mrs Hannah, back of Moore's Wharf? Or Angus McInnes, Near Hunter's River Wharf?

The solution was for the then Post Master General, GPO, Sydney, James Raymond, to publish a "list of Letters lying in this office, unclaimed, accumulated since the publication of the last list." Such lists were published in the New South Wales Government Gazette.

So, in the New South Wales Gazette No. 153 dated Tuesday, 13 November, 1849 we find a letter held unclaimed to one of our Lacemakers, namely George Saywell, Maitland. George was my Great-Great-Grandfather. I am agog with curiosity! Did he ever receive the letter and what was the news contained therein? Was it good or bad news? Or was it another account to pay as is so often the case of the unwelcome mail we receive in this era?

John S Saywell.

The World in 1848

The tallest man-made structure on earth in 1848 was Strasbourg Cathedral in France. At 142 metres (466 feet), it was the world's tallest building from 1647 to 1874, when it was surpassed by St. Nikolai's Church, Hamburg. Today it is the sixth-tallest church in the world and the highest still-standing structure built entirely in the Middle Ages. Today, there are more than 30 buildings in Sydney alone which are taller. Australia Square Tower (well-known to many and completed in 1967), is ranked #14 of these and it is 170 metres (558 feet) tall or 28 metres (92 feet) taller than Strasbourg Cathedral. The tallest building in the world is now Burj Khalifa in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. It is a staggering 830m or 2,722 feet tall.

Lord John Russell served his first term as Prime Minister of England from 30 June 1846 until 21 February 1852. Perhaps the most important piece of legislation passed under his stewardship, affecting Australia, was the Australian Colonies Government Act, formally known as the Act for the Better Government of Her Majesty's Australian Colonies (1850). This was legislation enacted by the British House of Commons separating the south-eastern Australian district of Port Phillip from New South Wales and establishing it as the colony of Victoria. It was passed in response to the demand of the Port Phillip settlers, who felt inadequately represented in the New South Wales Legislative Council and who resented their revenues being channelled to the New South Wales area. The Act, which took effect on 1 July 1851, provided for a Legislative Council of 20 elected members and 10 members appointed by the governor. This body was given jurisdiction over all but crown lands and could pass any legislation not in conflict with English law. The Act also recognized the desire for progress toward self-government elsewhere in Australia, and similar constitutional provisions were applied to Tasmania and South Australia. Russell died on 26 June 1866 during his second term as Prime Minister (29 October 1865 – 26 June 1866).

James K. Polk (1795-1849) was the eleventh president of the United States. Polk was born on 2 November 1795, near Pineville, North Carolina and served as US President from 1845 until 1849. Polk was the first president who decided not to seek a second term in office. In 1845, Polk convinced Congress to declare war on Mexico to continue the expansion of the US westward (the Mexican War lasted from 1846-1848). During his term, much of the Southwest and California became part of the United States. Polk died on 15 June 1849 in Nashville, Tennessee, only three months after leaving office.

Making Sense of Census

The decennial censuses in England and Wales, giving personal returns from 1841 onwards, should be one of the surest routes for tracing ancestry: it is generally acknowledged that coverage was close to universal, so it should be possible to trace an individual back through the 19th century, finding him or her ten years earlier, same name, same birthplace, just ten years younger, and back into his or her parental family. In theory. In practice there are many pitfalls. Some arise from particular circumstances:

- In the case of a married woman, no maiden name is recorded, so tracing her back to her parents' household is not so simple.
- In many industrial areas, particularly South Wales and the clothing districts of Lancashire and Yorkshire, certain surnames are so common, and the range of Christian names used so limited, that a person's full name, age and birthplace are often not unique. Hosts of coal miners called John Williams or Thomas Jones thronged the valleys, so it is almost impossible to distinguish one from another.
- Then there are the people who were away from home at the time of the census - in the army or navy, sailors, fishermen, prisoners, navvies, paupers in workhouses, and so on.
- Although a single nuclear family can usually be traced back census by census, the very large slice of the population who did the meanest of jobs, (servants, casual agricultural labourers, shop assistants in lodgings) are rarely at the same place ten years before, and their identification depends more on judgments as to the rarity of their name. If Solomon Thundercloud is aged 52, born in Shelton, in the 1861 census, there is reasonable certainty that he is the same Solomon Thundercloud, aged 42, born in Shelton, in the 1851 returns. But a John Smith, aged 52, born in London, recorded in 1861, will have several contenders in 1851.

So, if tracing back through the census returns is not always so easy, what can be done to solve the problems which arise? And is there more to be gleaned from the census returns than the simple snapshot of a household at intervals of ten years?

Until recent years, the key earlier census returns - 1851, 1861, 1871 - were largely unindexed. More indexing was done on the 1851 census than any other, partly because it was released to the public earlier, but also because it was the earliest return to record relatively precise birthplaces, a chance to get a hook back into the parish register sources for people who were already old in 1851.

With the rise of the Internet, there has been a goldrush to stake out uncharted territory: census indexing has been done rapidly and often outsourced to non-native speakers; inevitably, the results are patchy. An independent survey of Internet census indexes found that up to 40% are mistranscriptions. Equally, although many of the original returns are calligraphic in their beauty, others were compiled in execrable scrawls, and would have been hardly decipherable by the writers on the following day. The fact that in many cases occupation names and common placenames were misspelt by the enumerators, and that the same surname can be spelt in two or three ways in the record of a single household, indicates that some enumerators were cavalier about such niceties.

If you are unable to find a particular individual in a particular return, what can be done? There are two considerations. Before the rise of the Internet, large swathes of the returns were indexed by local family history societies. These indexes have, in theory, been superseded. However, if the index relating to the year you seek is missing from the Internet, it may be beneficial to search for it by means of a local family history society, or some similar body. The local family history people who compiled the original indexes knew their territory well and knew what surnames were the most likely. They worked at the records conscientiously and diligently and are much less likely to have made mistakes.

The second consideration relates to the heart of what can be wrung out of the census records. When you are researching anyone from the past, there are four key elements to consider: family, house, job and religion. The genealogists' cardinal sin is to concentrate on the first, i.e. family, to the exclusion of the three other key elements. This explains why so many 'genealogies' are simply fragments of unrelated pieces of ancestry cobbled together like fragments of DNA.

The other elements are almost as important as family names. When you find someone in a census return, you find them not as a disembodied person, but where they lived, worked, worshipped, and people they had as friends - some of whom may have been their current or future relatives. There, in the census return, you have laid out before you the intimate details of a whole locality.

A few decades ago, when the London census returns were virtually unindexed, a major genealogy company had traced a family for a client back to the 1851 census. The client also wanted to trace the maternal line, but all that was known was the great-great grandmother's maiden name, her father's name and occupation, and that she had been born in London. It was clearly important to trace her father's family in the 1851 London census, but there was no hint of where he lived: he did not appear in the trade directories. The client was told that the only way would be to work through the whole of the London census, a very expensive undertaking. The client agreed, the search took place, and the father's family was found - living next door!

This brings home vividly how important it is to make a note of who was living in the neighbouring houses when you have found an ancestor in the census returns. It is a simple thing to do, just a matter of a little bit of diligence, and it often proves invaluable. If a family has been found at a certain address in, say, 1861, and at different addresses in 1851 and 1871, you should always trace the original (1861) address in the 1851 and 1871 returns: again, the rewards from this little bit of diligence are often very great, revealing other parts of the same family at the one address. To do all this requires a precise understanding of where any address was actually located. Places change, house names change, street names change, and streets are often re-numbered. So another important part of a census return is the cover sheet, the first page of the enumeration book, because it specifies exactly the area covered by the enumerator. It may be as vague, in the countryside, as 'The Township of Newton', or in a town give a whole list of street names and numbers, mentioning various key landmarks such as public houses or churches. With the help of a contemporary map it is then possible to locate precisely not only where the ancestor's house was, but the boundary of the enumeration district. That area, so delineated, is the first to look to for workplace, chapel or church, school, graveyard - all of which may have records relevant to your search.

Although the registration districts and sub-districts, being those used by the registrars of births, marriages and deaths, changed little in the 19th century, the enumeration districts, particularly in towns, were redrawn for each census. If there is any difficulty in locating a precise address in the next or preceding census, it cannot be assumed that the enumeration district number will be the same. Again, the cover sheet of the enumeration district books indicates the precise boundaries - essential so that no household was omitted, and none counted twice.

In Victorian times there was a great surge in the building of Anglican churches. Rather than creating new Anglican parishes, ecclesiastical districts were formed, and the census administrators were given the task of allocating population statistics accordingly, wherever new ecclesiastical districts had arisen. This had to be done down to street level, and in consequence, each enumeration district book cover specifies the ecclesiastical district, and if more than one, which streets fell in which district. The same information is usually given on the top of each sheet of the return. These new Victorian churches - many of which have since become redundant - have baptism, marriage and burial registers too late to be duplicated by Bishop's Transcripts, and too late to be covered by most computerized indexes. When they were brand new, spacious edifices they attracted huge congregations, had their own parish magazines and organizations - knowing the ecclesiastical district in which an ancestor lived is a first key to exploring this resource.

(From: The Original Record: Census Secrets, <http://www.theoriginalrecord.com/>)

William White's Gazetteer and Directory of Nottinghamshire and Nottingham, 1832

The book written in 1832 by William White the full title of which is *History, Gazetteer and Directory of Nottinghamshire and the Town and County of the Town of Nottingham*, provides a staggering amount of information on our areas of interest. Using the "Family of Interest" supplied by members when renewing your individual memberships of ASLC, I have been able to extract the following from its pages. Those referred to may have no connection with your particular family other than sharing a surname. I have ignored references to occupations not connected to lacemaking for the more common surnames. The copy I was able to search on the internet is not there in its entirety and that may explain why some member's families are not mentioned in the following list. You might like to conduct your own search at http://books.google.com.au/books?id=Q3cHAAAAQAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q=crofts&f=false. My own family is not mentioned in the part of the book available.

- Archer: Archer, Saml., bobbin net mkr, Montford St, New Radford
Branson: Branson, Thos., warper, New Radford (p586)
Bromhead: Bromhead Rd Stone Masons, Westgate (p542)
Bromhead, Mrs Ann, Montford St, New Radford (p 586)
Broomhead, George, Grocer & draper, Sutton (p444)
Brown, Wm: Brown, Wm, Tailor, Sutton-Upon-Trent
Brown, Wm., framework knitter, Nether-Green
Brown, Wm., Holland St, Hyson Green
Brown, Wm., lace dresser, Mansfield Rd
Crofts: Crofts, Thos., bobbin net maker, Bridgeford East Parish
Crofts, William, bobbin net maker, Lenton Parish
Crofts, Wm., Machine maker & framesmith,
Davis: Davis, Henry, trimmer & presser of hosiery, Page's Bldgs
Davis, Ann, trimmer & presser of hosiery, Nicholas St
Davis, Wm., trimmer & presser of hosiery, Mount East St
Davis, Wm., **, Babbington St
Davis, Wm., **, Mortimer St
Gascoigne: Gascoigne, Thos. , Parliament Street, hosiery mfr (p237)
Johnston: Johnson, John, Lace mfr, Nottingham Place, Sneiton

	Johnston, Edward, farmer, Caythorpe (p678)
Longmire:	Longmire, Edwin, **, Barkergate.
Mather:	Mather, Wm., Bobbin & carriage maker, Parliament Row Mather, Eml. , Sheridan Row, Hyson Green Mather, James, Frame and machine smith, Beeston (p 558) Mather, John, Lace pattern designer, Holland St
Nutt:	Nutt, James, machine maker, Broad St (p248)
Rogers:	Rogers, Joseph, Frame smith, Mansfield Rd
Saywell :	Saywell, Thos. Warper, South St, New Radford (p587)
Shaw:	Shaw, John, **, Babbington St Shaw, Robert, **, Derby Rd
Stevens:	Stevens, Edw., Warper, Forest St, New Radford
Walker:	Walker, Wm., bobbin net mkr, Pelican Street, New Radford Walker, Thos, bobbin net mkr, Aspley Terrace, New Radford
Wand:	Wand, Stephen, Hosier, Cartergate (p620)
Wells:	Wells, Samuel, Sinker maker, Gregory St, Broxtow Hundred Wells, James, Framework knitter, Blooms Grove Wells, Thomas, FWK, Prospect Place

** = lace net maker who sold his net in the brown to merchants and manufacturers

More lace videos on line

- <http://www.britishpathe.com/video/nottingham-lacemakers-meet-the-queen-aka-lacemaker>
- <http://www.britishpathe.com/video/10-000-lace-workers>
- http://www.britishpathe.com/video/lace-making_1
- <http://www.britishpathe.com/video/fashion-says-it-with-lace>

For Knitters

- How To Knit The Lacey Eyelet Rib Stitch
(<http://www.videojug.com/film/how-to-knit-the-lacey-eyelet-rib-stitch>)
- How To Create A Lace-Like Stitch (<http://www.videojug.com/film/how-to-create-a-lace-like-stitch>)

Miscellaneous

Connections between lacemaker families.

- William Frederick Goodliffe was born in Rutland in 1835 and lived in Woodthorpe House from 1880 to 1892, with his second wife Elizabeth Hardy Cooper, and the six children from his first marriage to Eliza Ann Brownlow. He was a hosiery manufacturer (Gascoigne and Goodliffe). (Refer <http://www.sherwoodcommunitycentre.btck.co.uk/History>)
- Duck/Litchfield (refer <http://duckfamily.webs.com/>)

Mr Kingsley Ireland of South Australia is one of our foundation members and is still an active member of ASLC. Kingsley has a long record of service to those researching their family histories. He was bestowed the honour of Fellowship of the Society of Genealogists, London, in 1974; he presented the Opening Address at the First Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry in Melbourne in 1977; he is a former President of the Genealogical Society of South Australia; and he represented Australia at the World Conference of Documentary Records at Salt Lake City, Utah in 1980.

Nottingham Parish Records for Marriages at St Mary's, 1566 to 1763

<http://www.mesarfhc.org/books/Nottinghamshire%20Registers/942.52-N1%20K29n%20v.1.pdf>

The above link is to a PDF file which can neither be saved nor printed but can be searched using the command <ctrl> + F. I believe my find will be an exciting one for many members who are involved in researching their lacemaker families. The preface to this first volume (published in 1900) states that the succeeding volume will contain marriages to the end of 1812. It further states *"the parish of St. Mary, Nottingham, comprises the whole of the ancient borough, with the exception of the two small parishes of St. Peter and St. Nicholas in the centre of the town. The registers of St. Mary's are especially important and interesting to the genealogist and local historian. This arises from the circumstance, that in time past, when Nottingham rather than London was the fashionable resort of the local gentry, many of their town residences were situated in St. Mary's parish, so that we find in its registers an unusually large number of weddings of notable Nottinghamshire families. Moreover, the central position of the town, and the size of St. Mary's parish, rendered that church a peculiarly suitable one for the solemnization of clandestine weddings, a large number of which both before and after Lord Hardwicke's Marriage Act of 1753 took place there. The registers are, therefore, of more than local interest."* I found references to many lacemaker names while perusing this site. Old spelling can be challenging. Good hunting. RJL.

An Ancient Air - Book Review

An Ancient Air by Harald Penrose (Airlife Publishing, Shrewsbury, 1988) portrays the hitherto only briefly recorded life of John Stringfellow of Chard (1799-1883), the first man in the world to demonstrate that engine-powered winged flight was practicable. Whereas earlier general aviation histories tend to discount Stringfellow's work, *An Ancient Air* reveals that his absorption with aviation was lifelong, starting with the construction of balloons, recorded here for the first time. Though professionally a lace-machine specialist, he was interested in all aspects of scientific development - he was a foundation member of the Chard Institution for educational lectures, pioneered local photography, devised medical apparatus and even patented an armoured gun-carriage. This book seeks to demonstrate the relationship of Stringfellow's work with that of his colleague, William Samuel Henson. They worked closely together on various aeronautical projects between the years 1835 and 1847, and the author puts forward evidence that it was Stringfellow who was entirely responsible for the historic 1848 monoplane, the first ever engine-driven model aeroplane to make a free flight. After Henson emigrated to the USA in 1848, Stringfellow continued to design revolutionary aeroplane models, such as the triplane he entered in the 1868 Crystal Palace Exhibition. In his old age Stringfellow maintained his interest in aviation and passed on his enthusiasm to his son, Frederick John Stringfellow, who later built a model biplane and a multi-plane. *An Ancient Air*, meticulously researched by Harald Penrose, an acknowledged authority on aviation history, presents for the first time a detailed account of Stringfellow's historic discoveries and sheds further welcome light on the pioneering days of aviation.



Chapter 1 (Age of Industrial Development) and Chapter 2 (Days of the Reform Bill) will be of most interest to members.

This book is available as a PDF for reading or download at no cost on line at <http://www.lakesgc.co.uk/mainwebpages/eBook%20Library/Batch%201/AN%20ANCIENT%20AIR.pdf> . (RJL)

Rt. Hon. Margaret Bondfield PC

With the relatively recent death of Baroness Margaret Thatcher, my thoughts turned to other leading female politicians. The Right Honourable Margaret Bondfield PC (17 March 1873 – 16 June 1953) was an English Labour politician and feminist, the first British woman Cabinet Minister and one of the first three female Labour MPs. Her father, William Bondfield, was a lace designer. She writes about him in her biography, *A Life's Work*. (London: Hutchinson, 1948)

Who was that old man who died on the *Harpley*?

The *South Australian Register* for Wednesday, 6 September 1848, in reporting on the arrival of the *Harpley*, refers to the death on board of an “aged and ailing man (in his 67th year) who was unwilling to be separated from his family”. As I am also in my 67th year and thus probably also considered “aged and ailing”, I feel great compassion for him and the anonymity of his passing. I, too, would greatly resent being left behind in similar circumstances. If he was 66 or 67 in 1848, he was presumably born in 1781 or 1782. The father of my lacemaker, Edward, viz. John Hudden Lander was born in December 1778 but I have no idea when or where he died. I had wondered whether it may have been John who died aboard the *Harpley* but this seems a little unlikely given the dates.

However, it is almost certain that the aged man was the father of one of the lacemaker family heads on the *Harpley*.

Who was he?

Richard Lander

The only instance of death among the adults was an aged and ailing man (in his 67th year) who was unwilling to be separated from his family, and to whom the Commissioner humanely granted a free passage. He died in traversing the Bay of Hecate, the only instance of mortality besides, being a delicate infant of three months old. A sea-apprentice and a young sailor named Pateman fell overboard during the passage, but both were saved by a well directed life-buoy until they could be picked up. During the passage the ship only sighted the Cape Verd Islands and St. Pauls. The passengers, who were constantly becalmed on the Line, suffered little from heat in the Tropics, and as little from cold in the Southern Hemisphere, 30° S. being the most southerly latitude attained. There was no case of serious illness during the greater part of the passage, and 236 souls have arrived in excellent health, in a remarkably clean and well-commanded ship; manned by a fine crew. During the passage Mr Spencer the Surgeon-Superintendent read prayers every Sabbath when the weather permitted.

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Who are we?

The Society was formed in 1982 when a small group of people came to the realisation that they shared a common interest in a special group of English machine lacemakers which we call the Lacemakers. The Lacemakers were principally those originally from Nottingham and who were involved in two mass migrations in the space of little more than a decade.

The Lacemakers' first migration was to escape the poverty, unemployment, misery, disease and discomfort of overcrowded industrial Nottingham. Their migration was to the shores of France – especially to Calais – where their skills as lace artisans were initially treasured and where their employment and well-being seemed assured. However, during the 1848 Revolution in France, the political and social upheaval left most of them jobless again. Their future in France became uncertain. Most decided that making a fresh life in a new land was preferable to returning to England where it was probable they would remain destitute and a burden on their Parishes. Their second migration was to various parts of Australia.

Most of the Lacemaker emigrants sailed to Australian ports in one of three vessels, viz. *Agincourt* (destination Sydney), *Fairlie* (destination also Sydney) and *Harpley* (destination Adelaide). Other Lacemaker emigrants followed in smaller groups on other vessels. These included *Andromache*, *Baboo*, *Bermondsey*, *Emperor*, *General Hewitt*, *Harbinger*, *Navarino*, *Nelson*, *Walmer Castle* and possibly others.

Descendants of migrants who came on any of the vessels mentioned above are encouraged to apply for membership of the Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais Inc.