

# Tulle

*Volume 16 Number 4  
November 1997*



Sydney Harbour from Watsons Bay  
F C Terry c 1862

*The Journal of  
The Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais*

## MEETING DATES

Saturday, November 15, 1997

Usual venue for Meetings:

### Don Bank Cottage

6 Napier Street, North Sydney

Meeting Time: 1.00pm

Train to North Sydney Station

or

Bus from Wynard

## NEXT MEETING

**Saturday, November 15, 1997**

**Christmas Time:** Many folk have Christmas memorabilia or a Christmas story that appeals to them. Bring along a little bit of your Christmas tradition to share.

**Raffle:** The Raffle Queen desires bits and pieces with a Christmas theme to make a Christmas Bonanza to be drawn at the meeting. All donations gratefully accepted!

**Afternoon Tea:** Can we run to a Christmas theme here to, please?



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## AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Sydney  
November, 1997

Dear Friends,

Next year is the sesquicentenary of the arrival of our forebears in this country. They came as a result of upheaval of both the social order and the financial world that they knew in their adopted country of France. They came with a certain spirit of adventure, of wanting a new beginning, and probably a sadness that they had come so far from their families and dear ones left behind in either England or France.

One hundred and fifty years later, we, as their descendants have set aside four occasions to celebrate their arrival in Australia. It will also serve to celebrate our discovery of them, our continued interest in their lives and times and the fellowship that the research that we all do brings. It has resulted in the discovery of families, formation of lasting friendships and a vast increase in knowledge.

The formation of the Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais some fifteen years ago was the result of several people recognising the benefits of sharing information and resources with the common aim of gathering 'our story'. The society to date has a growing membership of over 120 people, and we intend making a concerted effort to increase this - a move that can only benefit us all. We have members in every state and territory of Australia, in New Zealand, England and Franc. We are in the happy position of feeding information back to

Europe, such is the strength of research in this country.

We intend celebrating on :-

21 February: The launch of our second book, by Gillian Kelly.

16 May The French connection with a luncheon and special attention to the folk of the *Agincourt*

15 August: The English lot and the folk of the *Harpley*

4 October Our Great Get-together. Thanksgiving Service at St Peters Church, St Peters, with the Rev Tom Halls of the West family. Family picnic and memorabilia displays.

We invite each one to take the opportunity to join us, renew friendships and to celebrate. We are in the process of compiling a special guest list. If you have any suggestions, we would be very pleased to have them as we don't want you miss any one.

We would also welcome any further suggestions you may have.

We have an active 1998 Committee, working on your behalf and it is open to any and all of your valuable contributions. This might include suggestions that some gather in another state, or that notable guests be included odour invitation it. The only requirement is that we finalise arrangements by December this year.

We intend advertising widely, and we recognise the value of Tulle as our communication link with all members and potential members. I would encourage you to write for Tulle and to share your story to encourage others and to enrich the tapestry of our journal. It is a heavy burden to publish each quarter, and doing it without enough contributions puts a heavy load on our editor. Have a go! We will be enriched by your story.

I am in the process of compiling an information kit for folk coming to Sydney for the first time, or again after an absence, which I hope will be of help.

I look forward enormously to meeting many of you next year, old friends, and to making new ones.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Loneragan

*Thank you*

*to all who have sponsored our bid to be self  
sufficient.*

*Your faith and trust in the Society has guaranteed  
our success.*

*Your support has been a true indicator that we are  
more than just a family history group.*

*CEL*

## AND FROM THE SECRETARY'S

Pens flew addressing a multitude of letters containing the brochure advertising Well Suited to the Colony. The main focus of this activity was to inform all historical and genealogical societies within Australia of the approaching publication of the book. Many members also sent brochures to their relatives. There was great excitement evident now that the long awaited event is finally much closer.

As you will have read in the last Tulle, members were asked to make sure they had contacted everyone they could think of as well as undertaking a an interest free loan to ensure the publication could go ahead without external financing.

The Society has had an unbelievable response to the latter! We now need to concentrate on book sales. If you have missed any family members, an extra flyer is included with this Tulle. All libraries in Australia are now the centre of our attention. If we have missed a sales point, please let Gillian or me know and we will attend to it.

Other business centred around advertising the Society at venues such as the Newcastle Family History Society Conference. Several member will man a booth at this conference in October to advertise our story, encourage membership and promote book sales.

Speaking of the next meeting: Could members please bring some goodies for the Christmas Hamper monster raffle - tickets to be sold at the meeting and the winner drawn there!

Carolyn Broadhead  
Secretary.



## AND FINALLY, THE EDITOR'S

I edited my first Tulle in July of 1991 and now six years later it is just a way of life in this household. I have learnt an enormous amount about the processes - I still have an enormous amount to learn. I have learnt an enormous amount about history - not historical matter, but about the field of history, and knowing that I developed a belief system about history a very long time ago, I looked back to see if I'd written about my beliefs before. I had. In 1991 I said:

*I was reminded of an assignment I was once set: What is History? It seems such a simple question. We all know what history is. Or do we? ... It is about Governments and wars, exploration and adventure, but above all else it is about people... I can't differentiate between the needs of the Local Historians among us, and those of the Genealogists, and those who perceive history as the story of all events...*

Well - I haven't changed my mind - *Well Suited to the Colony*

is full of people so that you are able to make the connections that belong to your family. It is full of a complex set of events that twisted together to form the rack of lace that was their lives and it is about places - in England, in France and in Australia. The research for this story has given me a richness in friends and experiences that I would not have believed in 1991!

Of overwhelming importance has been the financial support so many of you have given to this project. It is with a great sense of humility that I say thank you for your vote of confidence in the project. The knowledge of your generosity and trust often flagged my failing spirits as I ploughed through to the final proof reading! It is my most fervent wish that the finished product will have a great deal in it for all of you.

May Christmas be joyous and safe and I look forward to putting faces to names in 1998.

Gillian Kelly



## THEO SAYWELL

Two notable descendants of the Saywells have died recently.

One, Sir Garfield Barwick, received considerable publicity in life and death. I want to talk about a fine man, **Theo Saywell**, who may not have attracted all the fame and notoriety of his third cousin, the politician, but who was a delight to have known.

Theo Saywell, who died 20 August 1997, aged 84, was a friendly man with an enquiring mind and a great love of history. Who can forget the tall man with a twinkle in his eyes as he swapped anecdotes with people at the early Lacemaker meetings? I know I won't. Theo and his wife Jean, were founding members of the Society. He was also a contributor to early issues of Tulle, and to The Lacemakers of Calais, and was the Society's first Publicity Officer.

I remember that Theo always had an interest in machinery and would tell stories of the smuggling of parts out of England to Calais in loads of scrap-iron. He would tell you that the original machines were hand cranked, lubricated with graphite and had no seals or bearings. Theo would then go on to talk about the conversion to steam, and, later, electricity. I think this fascination for machinery was part of the Saywell tradition. The Saywells were very energetic in using the latest machinery methods in their investments in mining, transport and manufacturing. Theo's father, Cecil, was the manager of the South Clifton Colliery, which, in its day, was seen as one of the most modern in the southern hemisphere.

Theo started work as an apprentice mine surveyor but was dismissed in the Depression. Family connections do not seem to have protected him from that economic horror. He left home at seventeen, studied, and became a high school teacher. Theo rose to the position of headmaster at Birrong High School and spoke fondly of his teaching career. He leaves a wife, Jean, and a daughter, Ingrid. It is a pleasure to have known this lovely man.

Bob Wilson\  
August 1997

**Theo Saywell** was the Society's Publicity Officer during its first most important year of existence, 1982 - 1983, and was an active member for a great many years. From my memory of the very first meeting, Theo had an historical grip on the Lacemakers that most of the rest of us were yet to learn. He was one of the first members to have visited Calais to see the streets where our forebears lived and worked.

The news of his passing was conveyed to me by many, many members and most of them were not Saywells - a certain indicator of the esteem and affection his family, friends and colleagues held for him. The Society conveys its sincerest sympathy to Mrs Saywell and Ingrid and to all of the Saywell clan.



The stories of the Saywell family descendants are worthy of a book of their own. George and Jasper Saywell were brothers, and with their wives and children, were on board the *Agincourt*.. In Theo's words:

*After George's second marriage in England he went to Calais, and was later joined by Jasper who was a smith and machinery fabricator. George was a competent designer and an expert in setting up steam driven mechanical lace making machines - a technology gained from experience in Nottingham.*

With this background family members branched into coal, tobacco, gold, farming and engineering. Later generations, including Theo, were represented in agriculture, architecture, education, grazing, law, medicine, mining engineering and the Public service!

Gillian Kelly

## Committees

Oh, give me your pity,  
I'm on a committee,  
Which means that from  
morning to night  
We attend and amend  
and contend and defend  
Without a conclusion  
in sight.

We confer and concur,  
we defer and demur  
and reiterate all of our thoughts.  
We revise the agenda with  
frequent addenda  
And consider a load of reports.

We compose and propose,  
we suppose and oppose  
And the points of procedure  
are fun!  
But though various notions  
are brought up in motions,  
There's terribly little gets done.

We resolve and absolve,  
but we never dissolve  
Since it's out of the question  
for us.

What a shattering pity  
to end our committee,  
Where else could we make  
such a fuss!

(Anon) but thank you Kate!

## NOTTINGHAM NOTABLE

### Arthur Jepson 1915 - 1997



Around Nottingham in northern-central England affection is usually noted by shortening someone's name and sticking an 'O' on the end. Shipstone's beer was always Shippos, the county cricket team has always been full of Robbos and Hendos, and at the Trent Bridge yesterday as the test match got underway, there was undoubtedly a great deal of reminiscence about dear old Jeppo.

Arthur Jepson, who has died aged 82, was pure Nottinghamshire: phlegmatic, lugubrious and dry. He was a remarkable all-round sportsman

in an age when that was still possible. A miner's son, he left his pit village to play for the county just before the war, and quickly developed a reputation as a medium-pace bowler and a low-order slogger. He also kept goal for Stoke City, Lincoln City, and during the war, Mansfield. Mostly he bowled at the other end from Harry Butler, who was sharp. Jepson could not match Butler's pace, but swung the new ball in a manner that seems to have gone out of fashion

among English pros. He took 1050 wickets, more than virtually anyone now playing first class cricket. The figure would have been far higher but for the loss of six war years.

It was after he retired in 1959 that Jeppo had his second coming. he moved onto the umpires' list, was a solid enough decision maker to stand in four Test matches and - in a quiet way - established himself as a bit of a card.

His most celebrated anecdote relate to the 1971 Gillette Cup semi-final at Old Trafford, which went on until almost 9 pm. Jack Bond, the Lancashire captain is supposed to have complained about the light. 'What's that up there?' asked Jeppo. 'The moon.' said Bond. 'Well, how far do you want to see then?' came the dismissive reply. The game continued and Lancashire achieved one of the most famous of all one-day victories.

And the English cricket coach David Lloyd was once bowling for Lancashire when Jeppo told him: 'I hope you don't mind me mentioning this, but you're the worst bowler I have ever seen. Fred Price was a bad'un, but you're worse than him.' The opening 'I hope you don't mind me mentioning this' was pure Jepson.

*The Guardian*, 8 August 1997

*Apart from the obvious Nottingham connection, as well as cricket with which our family is heavily involved, I was amused at the mention of 'O' at the end of a shortened name.*

*My husband is known to all as Giffo. Others on his staff are Dillo (Dillon), Tritto (Tritton), Hicko (Hickman), Whatto (Watson), Stevo (Stevenson), and Richo (Richards).*

*Does this very seemingly Australian usage emanate from the Midlands?*

Judy Gifford.

## Currency Lads and Lasses



Currency lads and lasses were the first generation of children born on Australian soil. All races of people have surrounded childbirth with their own particular rites, but for one, the birth of a Currency lad was without any ceremonial dignity.

*There are some extraordinary records of mothers giving birth in lonely homestead, sometimes many miles from the nearest medical help and not even another woman. They delivered the baby on their own, or with the help of their husband or their other children.*

*Harry Hodge tells the story of Mother Peisley. Her husband was absent at work and Mrs Peisley was home alone on the banks of the Macquarie River. This was an isolated home. The only way to reach it was by horse or by foot. To reach Peisley's Island the traveller had to reach Hill End along twelve miles of steep and winding bridle track.*

*Collecting some drift timber for fire wood, Mrs Peisley had taken a wheel barrow some distance along the river bank. When about a mile from home the baby started to arrive. There was nothing she could do but give birth on the river bank. She cut the cord, attended to herself, wrapped the baby in her coat, and put him in*

*the barrow and wheeled him back home. The baby survived to become a shopkeeper in Hill End in the 1920s. (The Hill End Story by Harry Hodge)*

Patricia Selby, would have envied Mrs Peisley her solitude. In a letter to Mother back in England, Patricia said: *I am going to increase your store of grandchildren in August. I would never have done such a thing if your other two daughters had thought it proper to get married and begin having a family. How I shall get the affair over only time shall show, but I have no doubt that I shall manage as well as my neighbours. I have serious thoughts of doing as the cows do here, just separate myself from the family for three or four days and then return with my calf bellowing at my side. (No Place for a Nervous Lady by Lucy Frost)*

Bruce Goodwin



## THE STIRRER

### Mrs Emma Skipworth-Rodda

This straight-backed, hard hitting grandmother, showing not so much as an inch of naughty pink flesh below the resolute jut of her chin, is Emma Skipworth Rodda, an Australian whose outpourings to the newspapers between the turn of the century and the mid 1920s earned her the unenviable title of 'The Stirrer'.

Her early letters to the editors were meek and mild by comparison with the post war years when she wrote unsparingly and often, keeping officialdom on her toes. Practically every topic that made headlines, from the 'abominable sight of near nudity in the streets' and the 'Godless Sabbath' to the more mundane matters of the price of flour, had the attention of her pen.

Without doubt the hardest whack from her big stick was felt by the Mormans. She was so furious with the governments of the world for so being so lax in allowing young girls to be kidnaped and shipped to Utah that she took to soap-box oratory in an effort to rouse the public and the politicians.

She even brushed with the law, hitting out with their umbrella when a policeman tried to dislodge her from her street corner platform. Although the blow from her broly was as good as a lash from her tongue, causing the law to retire with a sore hand, her thunderings in print provoked columns of argument, if no great amount of dramatic action in high places.

The old lady was most certainly a stirrer, keeping the rebels forever on their guard. When it came to protecting her most cherished orange tree, she used harsher methods; she resorted to stringing fishhooks from its branches to keep the school boys away from its luscious fruits!

She was married twice: first to George Skipworth and in 1903 to Thomas Rodda, from then on calling herself Mrs Skipworth-Rodda. Her two daughters from her first marriage married Thomas Rodda's two sons, and Emma, the older of the two girls took after her mother and wrote copious letters to the newspapers.

The old lady was a great one for lecturing people in and out of print. She lectured her grandsons one young men should behave when courting, advising them, when approaching young ladies to be very cautious, prudent and wary, since to physically touch a girl could arouse a passion of strong emotion.

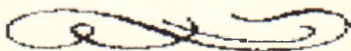
Despite her proud boast that she never allowed grandfather to touch her during their courtship, she did let her terrible secret be known that on the night before their wedding, she permitted George Skipworth



the privilege of kissing her on the cheek with the solidity of the garden gate between them!

Emma Head  
1986

Emma Skipworth-Rodda was Mrs Emma Head's grandmother, and the grand daughter of Edward and Mary Ann Lander from the *Harpley*.



## Working for William

James Read from Wiltshire was employed on Brucedale by William Suttor as a smith. He wrote:

*I arrived in 1840, with seven children; my wife died on the passage. I was engaged by Mr Sutter (sic), as a smith; my three daughters were in the service of Mrs Sutter; two are now married. I get £30 wages and rations. I am well off; have several privileges. I can tell you one thing of Mr Sutter, he is particularly upright. I have watched him closely but never saw self interest drive his will. he has no paltry marks; he is a pretty sensible man. He never stops from a poor man if he is so unfortunate as to lose a few sheep.*

Twenty years later James Read was still in the district and was known as 'Old Read'. He was enough of a family retainer to be mentioned several times in the diary of Jessie Francis, William Suttor's niece, who holidayed frequently on Brucedale.

One wet day in October 1864, when Jessie, with others walked to get the mail, it began to rain, and

*'Old Read got chairs for us in his verandah, where we sat and read our letters until it cleared up.'*<sup>1</sup>

A week or so later . there was an incident when part of the family took a ride in a dog cart., when one of the wheels went into a bog, nearly upsetting the cart.

*Lottie was tossed out just as neatly as if she had been a bundle of clothes just lying on the back seat...Old Read was in a great state seeing Lottie driving. He said, in his usual quiet manner, 'Tis very wrong of Mr Suttor to allow that precious child to risk her neck with that horse.'*<sup>2</sup>

On 16 April 1865 there was a house guest named Miss Rye at Brucevale. Jessie wrote in her diary

*We introduced Miss Rye old Read as, being a queer old fellow, we thought she would be amused with his original remarks. He was mightily taken with her - and asked her to send him a wife from England.'*<sup>3</sup>

James Read appears to have died in Bathurst aged 75 in 1872 without having ever remarried.



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<sup>1</sup> Norton J & H, Dear William, pp 177

<sup>2</sup> pp178

<sup>3</sup> pp 219



1998

*The Members of  
The Australian Society  
of the  
Lacemakers of Calais  
celebrate the 150th Anniversary of  
the arrival of their forebears on  
Australian shores*



## *Celebrate 1998*

**21 February** : Lunch with friends and family in the historic Mitchell Library. Friend and fellow researcher Anne Fewkes from Nottingham will be our guest and *Well Suited to the Colony* will be launched. Pre paid copies will be available and, ofcourse, the book will be for sale! Your invitation is opposite, and we do beseech you to let Barbara Kendrick know of your intended numbers, for catering purposes!

**16 May:** Calais and the "Little ships".  
Details and invitation in February *Tulle*.

**15 August:** The *Harpley* and Adelaide.  
Details and invitation in February *Tulle*.

**October 4: Our Great Get-Together.** A gathering of families in Sydney. For out-of-towners there will be information and support about accommodation, the paths the Lacemakers trod, old Sydney, opportunities to meet culminating in Sunday when there will be:

### **A Grand Picnic in the grounds of St Peters \***

preceded by a **Thanksgiving Service** at St Peters Church, St Peters with the Rev Tom Halls (West descendant) officiating.\*

**A memorabilia display** : Bring along your family's story to share in display format. You will find new family and friends every where!

**A small selection of mementos** to take home, including the opportunity to develop your own sampler from especially drafted designs.

\*We have chosen to stay close to the church because of the availability of shelter in the hall should Sydney's weather be unbecoming!

\*\*St Peters is one of Sydney's oldest churches and so appropriate with its nomenclature links with St-Pierre !

*The Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais*  
cordially invites

*its*

*Members and Friends*

*to luncheon with our Nottingham guest*

*Anne Fewkes*

*to launch the story of the Lacemakers*

***Well Suited to the Colony***

*on Saturday 21 February 1998*

*at 11 am*

*in the Dixon Room*

*Mitchell Library*

*Macquarie Street*

*Sydney*



*Luncheon: \$15*

*R&ST 7:*

*30th January 1998*

*Miss B Kendrick*  
*190 Shaftesbury Rd*  
*Eastwood 2122*  
*02 9874 5492*

## Coming to the Book Launch & Luncheon?

Please let Barbara Kendrick know.  
Details previous page.



## Coming to the Grand Sunday in October?

We will seek more detailed information closer to the date so we can arrange Sydney kits, support in finding accommodation, etc, for visitors; but to assist in the general planning, could you **all** let us know your tentative plans on the enclosed form and return it to

Miss Barbara Kendrick  
190 Shaftesbury Rd  
Eastwood 2122  
02 9874 5492

## Kate, the sister of Ned, and the Lacemakers



Kate Kelly

Most Australians not only have knowledge of Ned Kelly but usually have pretty firm opinions about him too. Villain or hero he is most definitely etched into the annals of Australian folklore. Born in Victoria to Irish convict Red Kelly and his wife Ellen, Ned was one of six children, the youngest being Catherine.

Ned's exploits are legendary and throughout the legends of his lifetime there is always the shadowy picture of his little sister Catherine, to become known as Kate. On Thursday 11 November 1880 Ned Kelly was hanged. Kate was seventeen years old.

*...far from being the last act of the Kelly tragedy, Ned's death was the prologue to a complex saga to the present day.*

and while Ian Jones, in his 1995 book *Ned Kelly: a Short Life*, has put to rest many of the doubts and questions about the life, crimes and death of Ned Kelly, for the Lacemaker there are questions still unanswered.

By 1888 Kate Kelly was working on a station near the New South Wales town of Forbes...

The Foster family from the *Agincourt* had settled in the Bathurst area and moved with the gold. Frederick, born in 1836 in Nottingham, appears to have followed the rush to the discovery on Twaddell's huge holding in the area to become known as Forbes. He married there and his second son, William, was born in 1867.

William became a blacksmith, and in 1888 he married the young Kate Kelly. Kate died ten years later in 1898 under circumstances that are still hard to unravel. Some local stories would have it that she developed 'milk fever' and that she killed herself in the state of depression known as 'baby blues'.

Others believed she committed suicide after seeing a stage play of Ned's life in which she, too, was portrayed. Jones believes that she was an alcoholic. Her sister Maggie had died two years earlier and this had depressed her greatly. With three young children she drank hard and often spoke of suicide.

Her daughter Catherine was born in May 1898 and according to Jones, Kate was left alone by her husband William before she had even left the childbed. He had work at Burrawang, several hours' ride away.

On 5 October he rode away to work, leaving Kate with the little ones and the new baby. She asked her neighbour to look after the baby and disappeared. Nine days later her body was found in a lagoon.

Now, William Foster had a father in Forbes and a widespread family across the gold fields, but it was from the Kelly family that help was sought. Kate's brother, James, the most settled of the Kelly clan, drove a hooded buggy to take Kate's children home to their grandmother Ellen at Eleven Mile Creek in Victoria.

By the time James had reached Forbes the baby Catherine had died.<sup>4</sup> Ellen and Uncle Jim raised the remaining three children: Frederick aged 9, Gertrude aged 8 and Maude aged 3.

Fred was a favourite of Ellen's who considered him to be the most

<sup>4</sup> Baby Catherine died 15 December 1898, BDM records.



handsome of young men. In April, he was killed on the battlefields at Pozierres. He probably never knew of his connections with this war torn land, but perhaps someone does know what drew his mother Kate from Victoria to the goldfields of New South Wales.

Gillian Kelly

From the notes of Ray Kent, Foster descendant  
and *Ned Kelly : a short life*; Ian Jones, Lothian Press 1995

## The Bulletin and its Editor

...will you drop in and see me at your earliest convenience, as I'd like to have a long talk to you about a lot of things. I shall be glad to have from you any topical Australian verses which may come into your head and you would do me a great favour by trying your hand at writing for us weekly some short sharp snappy paragraphs - two, three or four lines each, no more - suitable for production under any one of our headings.

As you no doubt see, the *Bulletin* aims at being an Australasian rather than a mere Sydney or NSW publication, so we endeavour to get matter which, while acceptable to the reader in this city, will also suit his brother at Cape York and the other fellow down at Cape Otway or Perth.

The remaining chief items in our policy are to 'howl for the undermost dog' - all the rest of the press are generally engaged in sooling on the pup that's got the grip - and to print all the awkward things procurable.

*J E Archibald Editor of the Bulletin to Banjo Paterson 1886*



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*62 & 63 Gracechurch Street, London*

MARTIN & CO.

Nos. 62. & 63. GRACECHURCH STREET, LONDON

**Be to inform EMIGRANTS and SHIPPERS of GOODS  
TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA,**

They have always on hand Warranted Agricultural Implements

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 Bills  
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 Spades  
 Shovels  
 Coopers'  
 Shipbuilders'  
 Carpenters'  
 Curriers' and other Tools  
 of every description.

*Warranted steel mills, for grinding*

Wheat,  
 Coffee,  
 Indian Corn,  
 Malt,  
 Beans,  
 Peas,  
 Oats,  
 Barley,  
 Pepper,  
 Rice, etc

*N. B. - Wheat Mills and Flour Dressing Machines, and Sieves, are almost indispensable for Emigrants to New South Wales, and Van Dieman's Land.*

Orders for any of the following articles executed at the Birmingham and Sheffield factor's prices and discounts : -

Plated Wares  
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 Japan and Britannia metal-wares  
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 Military and Gilt ornaments  
 Jewellery  
 Needles  
 Fish Hooks  
 Harpoons  
 Combs  
 Tunery

Guns  
 Pistols  
 Percussion Caps  
 Powder  
 Shot  
 Swords  
 Cutlasses  
 Whips  
 Saddlery  
 Iron and Brass bedsteads  
 Cooking Apparatus  
 Ovens  
 Stoves, Grates  
 Fenders  
 Fire Irons  
 Nails  
 Screws  
 Ironmongery etc

## William Felkin

One hundred and thirty years ago William Felkin published his *History of the Machine-Wrought Hosiery and Lace Manufacture*, and it is still THE standard work on the industry because of Felkin's intimate working knowledge. he was there and he knew the inventors, designers and stirrers.

His *History* is a monumental tome of almost six hundred closely printed pages that unfold the story as it happened. Anyone who seriously needs to know about the development of the trade, with a great deal of Felkin's own beliefs thrown in, has to read it.

But who was William Felkin?

Felkin was a Derbyshire man, born in Ilkeston in 1795. He remembered his birthplace as a village where ' streets were dirty and unpaved, save by a simple stopping stone, or "Derbyshire causeway"; many of the houses were little better than huts inside or outside, and were noisome and destitute of most of the conveniences of life. Of the population, the greater part were coal miners, almost without education and coarse and rude in manners.' (Felkin p vi)

Felkin's father was a framework knitter, but in 1795 he began to involve himself in the pastoral service of the Evangelical Baptist Church. In 1799 he was ordained into the Baptist ministry and took his family to live at Kegworth in Leicestershire.



William Felkin

It was at Kegworth that Felkin received his education, learning to read under the tutelage of Benjamin Wooten, the village tombstone carver. His first move into the outside world occurred when he was twelve when he went to work as an apprentice baker at Castle Donnington.

His father terminated the bond a year later when it was found that the twelve year old's sixteen hour day included trekking from village to village through snow that had almost stopped the entire community.

From Kegworth the young Felkin went to live with his grandfather at Bramcote, where against his mother's dying wish, he was to become a framework knitter. His grandfather was one of the elite in the framework knitting trade. He owned his own cottage and traded directly with Heard & Hurst, one of the two major Nottingham lace houses.

Mr Hurst was so impressed with the young Felkin's commitment to learn the trade well that he took William into his employ as an apprentice. In the times when merchant hosiers usually charged initial premiums of from one to two hundred guineas to train and apprentice, the size of this generous gesture can be understood.

He grew up through the Luddite era and even took part in a mission to save the frames of Heard & Hurst in the last bleak days of 1811. In the previous weeks the grievances of the Luddites had led to the destruction of many frames, and Heard & Hurst had some 3000 in the surrounding districts. William Felkin, almost seventeen, was directed by his employers to convey the information that if their frames were spared from the destruction with which they were threatened, one shilling per dozen would be paid the following Saturday and would be continued whether others paid it or not.

*It was a dreary afternoon with heavy rain and winter sleet. He rode hard, and at Basford, Bulwell, Eastwood, Heanor, Ilkison, Smalley, Sawley, Kegworth, Gotham and Ruddington, delivered to their head framework knitters the joyful news offered advance. The wintry storm, although uncomfortable for the rider, tended greatly to the success of his message. It prevented for that night the marauding parties*

*employing themselves; these frames had been undoubtedly doomed, for an example, as belonging to one of the most influential houses in the trade. The promise was faithfully performed; not one of their frames were injured, and no further fears were excited as to their safety. (Felkin 233)*

By 1823 Felkin was working for Heathcoat and moved to Tiverton for a period, but returned to Nottingham where he formed a commission agency partnership with William Vickers. This partnership lasted until 1848 and soon his own son, William, worked with him in a large factory enterprise.

He was entrepreneur and adventurous, but at the same time, a compassionate man who saw the suffering of his fellows as the stocking trade fell into decline and then destitution. He involved himself in religion and politics as well as business, and his word in all three facets of life is accepted as valuable, but his most amazing legacy is his *History*.

While it was undoubtedly the furthestest thing from his mind, in the index of his *History* he has left the genealogist of the Midland counties with a goldmine of names: sometimes with Christian name, sometimes whole family lines, and sometimes infuriatingly not enough information to be of assistance. For the curious, from the index of William Felkin's *History of the Machine-Wrought Hosiery and Lace Manufacture*, the following lacemaker names have been extracted:

Allcock, Thomas	Boot
Allen, J R	Bown, Serjeant
Atkin	Bradbury
Bagley, John	Branson
Woodhouse	Brown, Alfred
Bailey, John	Brown, John
Bailey, William	Brown, Jonathon
Ball, William	Brown, Robert
Barnett	Burton, Elizabeth
Barton, Luke	Burton, Jonathon
Barton, Samuel	Burton, Samuel
Bell, John	Clarke, James
Bennett, John	

Clarke, Samuel  
Clarke, John  
Clarke, William  
Cobb  
Coleorton  
Cope  
Croft, William  
Crowder  
Crowder, Joshua  
Davis  
Dawson, Thomas  
Dawson, William  
Denman  
East, Francis  
Elliott, Leonard  
Elliott, William  
Foster, John  
Foster, W  
Gamble  
Gascoigne  
Gray  
Hall, Lawrence  
Hall, Samuel  
Hardy, William  
Hardy, James  
Harris, Richard  
Harrison  
Hemsely & Co  
Henson, William  
Henson, Gravenor  
Hind, John  
Holmes, John  
Hopkins  
Hutchinson, James  
Jackson  
Johnson  
Kirk  
Lee  
Litchfield, John

Litchfield, Joseph McArthur  
Morley, Edward  
Morley, William  
Needham  
Nicholls  
Oldham  
Oldknow  
Parkes, Josiah  
Peet  
Read, Richard  
Robinson, John  
Robinson, Thomas  
Robinson, William  
Roe, John  
Rogers, John  
Roper, Joshua  
Roper, Thomas  
Sansom, S  
Selby, William  
Shaw, Ferdinando  
Shepherd, William  
Smith  
Townsend, M  
Sneath, James  
Sneath, William  
Streets, Sumner, William  
Taylor  
Vickers, William  
Ward, William  
Wells, T S  
West  
Widdowson  
Wilson  
Wragg, Joseph  
Wright  
Young

These references are just that - references - but often, in conjunction with other names they offer leads that have not been discovered. Sometimes there is an age, sometimes a location and sometimes a family relationship.

The unfortunate part of Felkin is that he has become a rare book! There is an 1867 copy at the Mitchell Library, that can be viewed if your local library belongs to the Inter-Library loan system. It is worth checking. I have also viewed a 1967 edition this way.

Occasionally an edition turns up at the second hand dealers. One fortunate member found his Franklin Mint edition at Messrs Berkelouws of Berrima, while your editor's 1967 reprint came from England!

GK





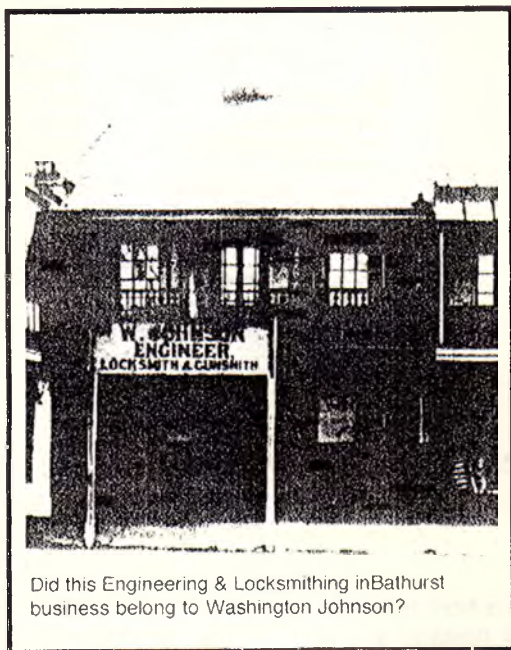
## *Well Suited to the Colony*

*Gillian Kelly*

is available from the Society at the pre-publication price of \$28 + \$6 postage and handling. Postal orders will be dispatched in the week prior to the launch on February 21st.

This is a limited edition. Secure your copy by ordering now!

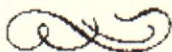
## FOR THE GENEALOGIST



### The Lander Connection

Mrs Linda Lander has been a member of this Society since its very earliest days and has rarely missed a meeting. She inherited her Lacemaker interest through her husband Cecil and since his death has continued her interest with her son Richard.

Imagine her delight, therefore, when in the last *Tulle* she discovered a Lacemaker link of her very own. The article written by Bruce Goodwin on the links between the Suttors and the Kemshalls brought to light a marriage between the daughter of Angelina Suttor (née Kemshall) Ellen and William J Mattick. It is with the Mattick family that Mrs Lander has family connections!



## Little Nottingham beyond the seas

Society Member Mrs Rosie Wileman had enquired long ago about the presence of her Mather family in Calais and St-Pierre. Scattered amongst the births from 1824 on were the births of the children of three brothers, and a clear indication that a fourth had resided there.

Rosie's initial interest had stemmed from her involvement in local history. It was an easy decision to choose the links with Calais as the subject for her dissertation for the Advanced Certificate in Local History through the University of Nottingham. This paper was presented with the sub-title *Were the early Nottinghamshire lace makers in Calais Smugglers and Spies of Entrepreneurial Europeans?* earlier this year and was awarded a distinction!

Our congratulations to Rosie for such a prestigious result in a subject area so close to our hearts!

The paper traces the lace makers in Calais through the period from 1815 to 1848+ and includes reference to OUR lace makers departure. Sometimes it questions (as does *Well Suited to the Colony*) conventional wisdom and it is with enormous pleasure that this Editor reads amongst the Acknowledgments names of those who know us :

**From the Midlands:** Barry Holland, David Ross (member), Mick Siddons, Elizabeth Simpson and Arthur Watterson (Choulerton family)

**From Calais:** Eliane Legrand, Georges and Anne Fauquet and Michel Caron

and Anne Fewkes of Nottingham and Judy Gifford, Australian (members)

We sit well amongst a group of folk who are professional in their outlook on the preservation of history and I believe we can confidently feel a part of their work. Over six hundred people left Calais for Australia, and now the Australian Contingent does not fall into a black hole of the unknown. We are the third shape in the puzzle.

Perhaps the final bonus for Rosie: She joined our Society because of her interest in the subject. Her family fortuitously gave their children unusual names, so when a Washington Mather popped up in some Western Australian records, it bore investigation.

**Beth Williams has been able to trace this family:**

In November 1848, on the *Baboo*, the brothers Byron, Washington and Archibald Mather all arrived in Adelaide. Travelling with them was an Ann Mather. They were the ideal emigrants: young, single and presumably fit. The time of their departure from England is consistent with the Lacemakers; it is extremely doubtful they would have had the where-with-all to pay their full fares; beyond reasonable doubt they were part of the special deal with the Colonial Secretary and the government. So Welcome, Rosie, as an Australian Lacemaker in your own right!

Gillian Kelly

## The Bathurst Advocate

The First edition of the Bathurst Advocate appeared on February 5, 1848. Those who advertised in that edition give us a glimpse of the township

### **Bathurst Royal Mail Coaches, The *Mountaineer* and *Rose***

**Four horse coaches from Bathurst, Hartley, Penrith & Sydney. Booking Offices at:**

**Mr Rotten's Queen Victoria Inn Bathurst**  
**Mr Collett's Rose Inn Hartley**  
**Mr Perry's Rose Inn Penrith**  
**Mr Titterton's George St. Sydney**

Where the rate of fares and all other particulars may be ascertained  
The proprietor pledges himself to do all in his power for the comfort  
and convenience of passengers travelling by the above named coaches  
but will not be responsible for any accidents or delays that may be  
occasioned by the weather or bad state of the roads.

^^

### **Other Advertisements in Bathurst Advocate 5/2/1848**

**Syer's and Mockett's Mills:** Flour Fine 11/- per 100 pounds  
**Syer Brothers** William & Durham Sts. Wines, Produce, Hides & Sheepskins  
**T.M.Sloman** opp the Scots Kirk Auctioneer & Commission Agent.  
**George Flower & Co** General Stores Next to Mrs Black's Golden Fleece Inn Durham St- General Dept, Ironmongery, Drapery.  
**Henry Rembert** the Staffordshire Warehouse-Crockery-Near Mocketts Mill  
**The Bathurst Livery Stables** Queen Victoria Inn Bathurst  
**L. Freeman** Boot & Shoe Warehouse William St.  
**William Mc Laughlan,** Coach maker at the Old Military Barracks

^^

## **NEW MEMBERS**

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TERREY HILLS NSW 2084

Mrs J Morey  
P O Box 166  
RIVERWOOD NSW 2210

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Mrs P Horstman  
25 Leichardt St  
TOOWOOMBA Q 4350

### **WAND**

Mr Sean Wand  
24 Leonard Ave  
TOUKLEY NSW 2263

### **GENERAL**

Sue Boyland  
5 Bow Court  
ESPERANCE WA 6450

*Office Bearers*  
*Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais*

**PRESIDENT** Mrs Claire Loneragan  
42 Lavarack Street  
Ryde, 2112  
Ph: 02 9878 5492

**SECRETARY** Mrs Carolyn Broadhead  
PO Box 946  
Batemans Bay 2536  
02 4471 8168

**TREASURER** Miss Barbara Kendrick  
190 Shaftesbury Road  
Eastwood, 2122  
Ph: 02 9874 2330

**EDITOR** Mrs Gillian Kelly  
P O Box 1277,  
Queanbeyan, 2620  
Ph: 02 6297 2168

Mrs Elizabeth Bolton  
4/165 Victoria Road  
West Pennant Hills 2125

**PUBLICITY  
OFFICERS** and

Mr Richard Lander  
17 McIntyre Street  
Gordon 2072  
02 9498 3337

