



TULLE

Newsletter of the Australian Society of
the Lacemakers of Calais.

March 1983 Issue No 3.

NEXT MEETING : The meeting on 28th May will be the most important meeting of our Society. Elizabeth Simpson will be in attendance and it is in every member's interest to make this a great gathering.

Details are: Saturday 28th May at the Salvation Army Assembly Hall, Clarke Street- off Elizabeth Street near Museum Station. The Hall will be open from 9.30 a.m. It is situated on the 4th floor of the Salvation Army Building.

Elizabeth will address us in the morning on the history of Nottingham with particular reference to the lace industry. The afternoon will be devoted to informal discussion with Elizabeth. There are tables available and we suggest that you bring material relating to your family and display it. A placard with the name of your lacemaker ancestor would help the display.

Members should bring their own lunch and a plate of food for afternoon tea. Tea making facilities and cups and saucers will be provided.

To give us some idea of those who will be attending would you please complete the enclosed docket and return it to Chris Sutton. Name tags will be provided at the door. People wanting overnight accommodation can arrange to stay with some of our Sydney members by contacting Chris Sutton.

The meeting should finish about 5 p.m.

THE TREASURER SPEAKS ; We have been glad of the subs received since the inception of the Society on 15th June 1982. At this date we have 44 financial members. The annual sub of \$15 will be due in June 1983 for the ensuing year. Your attention will be appreciated.

Terence Higgins, Treasurer.

MEETING NOTES - 26th February, by Bob Wilson.

Chris Sutton spoke on the Stubbs Family. We were told how Chris started on her family search and how she solved the various puzzles that were encountered along the way. Members heard that the Stubbs family were carpenters and that they carried on that trade when they settled in Australia. This in itself is a variation on the regular view of the immigrants as lacemakers. It was wonderful to see photos of some of the original immigrants. I wonder how many people have photos of the original settlers?

The presentation was supported with overhead slides which certainly help in understanding the complexities of a family tree. Chris' talk was interesting, informative and well presented and maintained the high standard that we have enjoyed at previous meetings.

Chris also brought us up to date with the computer project. She has now programmed the computer and is ready to take entries. You will all receive forms in the mail which, after you have completed them, will form the basis for the computer data file.

The task is a mammoth one and we are fortunate to have someone skilled enough to undertake it. So please co-operate with Chris in what must be seen as an important step not only in family history but in the sociological history of this country.

The computer is compatible with that at the Society of Genealogists and we will be lodging duplicate disks with that Society.

Members will recall that one of our projects was to obtain lists of all known immigrants. The Society has now purchased from the Archives Authority a copy of the passenger list of the Fairlie. We have the Adelaide Advertiser list of the Harpley and Sheila Rogers is going to supply the Agincourt list.

The Society's next step is to buy a copy of the N.S.W. Births Deaths and Marriages pre 1900 microfiche. This will be made available to members who have fiche readers. The members will be asked to conduct a search to discover what happened to a family which is not yet connected with our Society. Of course they can also use the fiche to research their own families.

Such a project will make this Society a proper society which will bring our members together in a common enterprise.

MEETING NOTES (cont.)

I spoke at the meeting about the need to share knowledge and research problems with other members. This can be done in a number of ways. Firstly you can publish in Tulle extracts of letters or articles that have a bearing on the whole history of the Lacemakers. Any problem that you are having with your research can also be published in this magazine. I am sure we have enough knowledge within our membership to help you. Matters can also be brought to members' attention in general business at meetings and then will be recorded in Tulle.

We will be publishing extracts of letters from Margaret and Elizabeth as they become available.

NOTES FROM BERT ARCHER

The following couple of snippets might be of interest to members:-

1 Thomas Whewell

During 1854 a young man, named Thomas Whewell, became a frequenter of an inn, which had just been built by James Foster on William Henry Suttor's property opposite Ward's Hotel at the junction of Pyramul and Long Creeks, apparently near the village of Pyramul; this was sited on the northern side of the Turon River.

Thomas Whewell was said to be a decent quiet chap - said to be unmarried. He was a husky sturdy fellow, who had come nonchalantly with the hope of finding gold. (It was said that he arrived in New South Wales in 1848 by the Agincourt as a Government Assisted Immigrant).

He made himself agreeable while at the inn.

After he was gone the story was started that the agreeable stranger was 'NOTTINGHAM JACK' the noted bushranger, who had been seeking victims, such as successful miners. The New South Wales Government was offering a reward of £25 for the capture of this bushranger.

Another story was started that a local young roan horse had been seen with a saddle on, running loose.

A further story was that 'NOTTINGHAM JACK' lived in a cave up on Bogy (Bogee) Mountain at Tayan Peak, north east of Sofala, a remarkable mountain formation prominently visible for miles in all directions. However an attempt to find him there was unsuccessful. This Peak was a well known point in Sir T.L. Mitchell's trigonometrical and was situated in the County of Roxburgh, at the head of the Colo River, just over 50 north east of Bathurst.

Thomas Whewell was 20 years old when he arrived in the Agincourt at Port Jackson, NSW, in 1848, with his parents Joseph and

NOTES FROM BERT ARCHER (cont.)

Mary Whewell, and his sister, Mary Ann, who was 3 years his elder. His married brother William with wife Caroline and 3 year old son, Joseph; were also passengers therein.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

The departure of the lacemakers from Calais.

Were they really refugees fearing for their lives ?

Ever since several descendants have written with rather dramatic versions of the departure in 1848, this question has been on my mind. It is obvious from some of the tales that there is confusion with the French revolution of 1789 and the terrible happenings of that period. Although there was much rioting in many parts of France in 1848, especially in big cities, with arrestations of many people, I could see no particular reason for Calais being a very dangerous city for foreign workers, especially as quite a few had French relatives.

The French workers in Calais did protest, organise processions in the streets, sing revolutionary songs and no doubt shout 'A bas les Anglais'. According to one source the British Consul in Calais stepped in to prevent French workers from molesting the English. However, this statement seems to have been made by people arriving on the 'Harpley' and is therefore not an official statement.

Mr. Albert Vion of Calais was asked for his opinion:

'So far as the English who left in 1848 are concerned, I can only give you impressions. The revolution started around the end of February and Goutier in his 'Ephémérides' published in 1888 (the author had therefore been a possible eye witness of the facts or at least received direction information from witnesses) says that from April 27 to June 6, 455 English left the town (?? on April 27 - 221 up to May 2 - 157 up to June 6 - op.cit.P.253).

'It is therefore very unlikely that they had been able to sell houses or machines, if they had any, in such a short time, all the more so as the economic conditions were very bad. No doubt they were only workers with few possessions and frightened for finally, there was no violent reaction against the English.'

Mr. Vion mentions too a diary by Henry Robinson Hartley which may have been published by now. Mr. Anderson of Edinburgh University was writing on the subject a few years ago and sent his manuscript to Mr. Vion to be checked. According to Mr. Hartley, who had lived in Calais during this period, a good number of people of the

lower classes sang in the streets on February 27. In March he mentioned that everything was "extraordinarily calm" and that he had not been molested, also that there was no disturbance in the town.

In addition a 'workers' club formed spontaneously but illegally, sent a message of sympathy to the English workers.

After reading this, which confirmed my own ideas, I looked through one or two extracts of the "Nottingham Review" and noted that, on May 12, some of the "lace hands are coming from the interior of France, whilst a few others are returning to Calais by solicitations of their former employers. - We hear of some who put their names down to go to Australia declining to proceed, when it comes to the point of embarkation." Would they have done this if they feared for their lives?

However there is no doubt that the lace makers in Calais were very worried, almost in a panic and their petition to Lord Palmerston on April 12 must have convinced him that this was so for they received a rapid reply and were offered passage back to English soil within days.

May I now give you my personal opinion, based on life in France, especially during the difficult years of 1958 and 1968 in Paris itself. The average English person, even after years in France, finds a French manifestation of protestation rather excessive - although I hear that such events now occur in England too. If one knows what happened during the Revolution of 1789 and during the terror, any of the minor revolutions such as 1830 and 1848 could frighten a family man with several children. If, too, he met people coming through Calais from Paris or elsewhere on their way to England with tales of riots, etc. and, in addition, he had no work, no money, etc. what else could he do but write an urgent letter asking for immediate help in returning to safer grounds.

The petitioners, their families and others who left Calais in this way were, therefore, technically 'refugees' but certainly not fleeing before a howling mob after their blood!

Margaret AUDIN

Margaret also wrote to say that the Town Hall in Calais is supplying copies of documents on graves about to be abandoned. We will receive a list as soon as Margaret types it.

THE IRISH QUESTION

There is always an Irish question - even in the Lacemakers! I'm not referring to our Irish Treasurer who happens to be putting the question of money on the front page of this issue.

Elizabeth Simpson wrote recently: "Now to Ireland. Margaret has a theory that our Nottingham folk left here to go to France via Ireland... sounds ridiculous at first thought- but rethinking slowly- coaches left Nottingham daily for Liverpool- boats left Liverpool daily for Ireland- passports or documents of such ilk were not required and no questions asked if you were going that way. She believes that once in Ireland they then set about a ship for France and supports her theory with a strange number of 'Irish' who cross into the kin of our Nottingham folk- many had Irish wives for instance. I am now inclined to agree with her and feel that this needs a bit more study- it is obvious that the Nottm folk going to France passing through Ireland will have influenced Irish folk too. Ireland was forever in a depressed state for working folk. What more natural than they would decide to give it a go too?"

More recently Elizabeth wrote further on the subject. "Nottingham is too far from Ireland for there to have been the kind of Irish infiltration which we accept in Liverpool for instance. However we should remember that canals were built right through the heart of England- through Nottingham in every direction- and that the major work force was Irish labourers. This could explain Irish ancestry in anyone born in the Midlands after this period- but not a 'born Ireland' person- unless mother went home to Ireland to give birth? There is a lot to do yet to prove this theory- but it is interesting isn't it?" (Nottingham Canals opened 1794-1842). Elizabeth suggested that "We should now make a collection of all those who have Irish ancestry within their kin."

At least one immigrant to Australia does not fit the France via Ireland theory although this does not mean that it is incorrect. Isabella Saywell (nee Kiscadden) was born in Wicklow, County Wicklow, in 1811. The 1841 census (i.e. 7th June) shows that Isabella was living in Parkers Row, Radford. She was already married. A few months later she went with her family to France. This of course was very late in the movement of lacemakers to Calais. There were trains every Monday running between Nottingham and Calais and it is possible that the Saywells used this new form of transport.

THE IRISH QUESTION (cont)

Our indexing project may reveal many more Irish born immigrants. I believe the Bromheads also have a touch of Irish. It will be interesting to see how many Irish born did come with the Lacemakers and whether they fit any of the theories put forward by Margaret and Elizabeth.

Elizabeth Simpson's Itinerary.

- 25 May Arrive Sydney
- 28 May Lacemakers' function
- 29 May Wollongong area
- 6 June possibly Newcastle
- 11 June Sydney
- 12 June) lectures at Genealogists
- 13 June)
- 17 June Brisbane
- 20 June Melbourne
- 2 July Adelaide
- 8 July Perth



Arrangements are being co-ordinated by the Society of Australian Genealogists. _____

MEMBERSHIP LIST (cont)

<u>Family</u>	<u>Member's Name</u>
Branson	M. Waterford
	D. Webster
	G. Webster
Bromhead	J. Bromhead
Brownlow	W. Brownlow
Horner	J. Fenton
Lander	R. Lander
Pedder	L. Keays
	W. Pedder
Roe	S. Rogers
Plummer	K. Salter

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