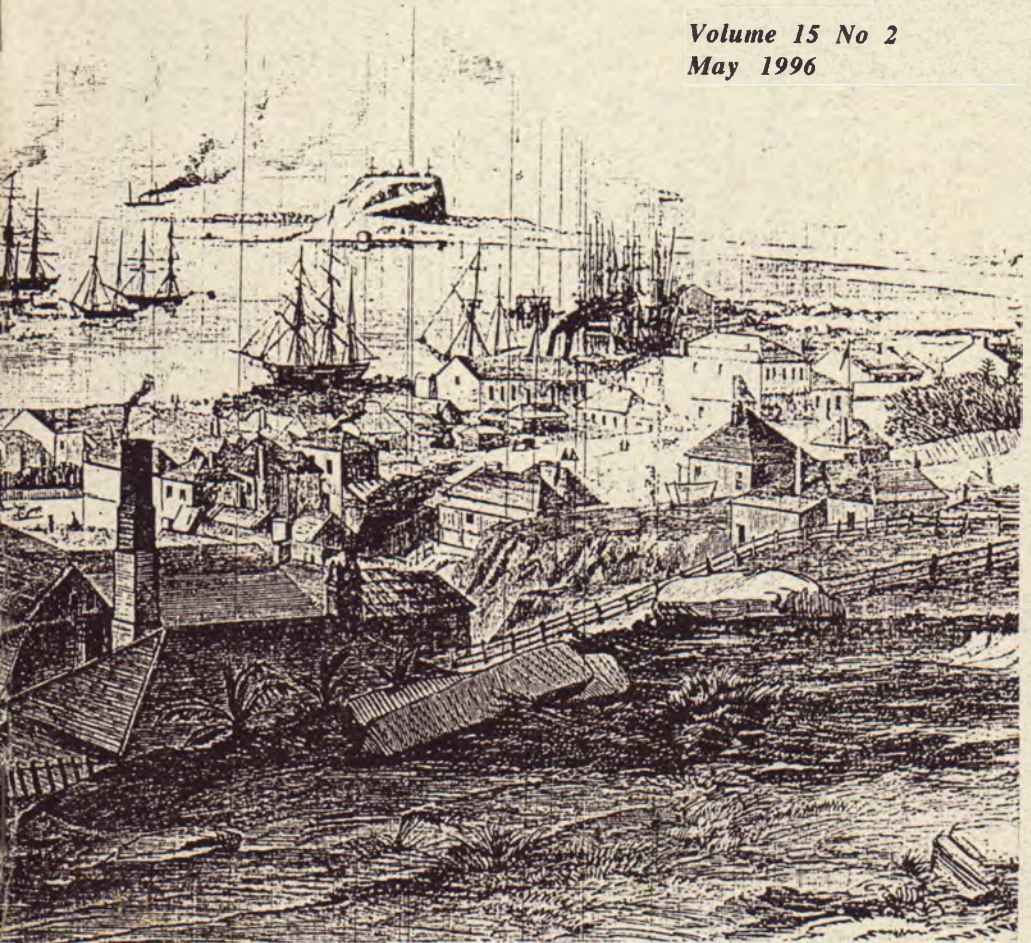


Tulle

Volume 15 No 2
May 1996



The Journal of
The Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais

MEETING DATES

Saturday May 18, 1996
Saturday August 17, 1996
Saturday November 16, 1996

Venue for all 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 May 18, 1996

Show and Tell.

Bring along an item of interest, from the past, to share with your colleagues

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Tulle

Volume 15 No 2 May 1996

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



It occurred to me, as I picked up the phone to ring America last weekend, how lucky we are living with such technology that allows us to speak to someone half a world away. I was able to gain the information I needed and have a quick chat about life in miserable, snow-bound Cleveland. It was all over in less than ten minutes. It was a warm, happy phone call that made us both feel cheered to hear the other's voice, but it was very quick.

My family, later, wanted to know all about the news- I had to recount word for word if possible, my conversation. In months to come my memory will be the only recourse I have to that conversation.

Part of this talk, with a wonderful lady of nearly 80, was to encourage her to either write, or talk to a tape, and tell of her life. Her memories must go back to the days of the First World War, the Great Depression and the days of Macarthyism. She has seventeen grandchildren. One of them, atleast, will value her recollections.

With the frequent and convenient use of the telephone the need to write letters has dwindled. It has not quite gone - business, research, formality and even cost still require the written word, but the "keeping in touch" letter has all but gone. This does not bode well for our great grandchildren, who in 2096 will eagerly look for letter, annotated photographs and diaries to know what life was like "back then".

I recently opened a box that had come from my mother's home. I found all the tapes I had sent back from my years spent in England and Eurpoe twenty years ago. Even in that time dramatic changes have taken place. The Berlin Wall has come down, bubonic plague has been destroyed and Yugoslavia is no more.

There is a more down to earth benefit: now that my daughter is

twenty, it helps me remember what it was like!

To conclude on a more positive note - the gentle art of letter writing, or more personally, diary keeping, may well become a treasure in years to come - not just for future generations, but for your own memories. And it doesn't have to be a "Dear Diary" full of confidences - try a "Garden Diary" or "It happened today" or "A History of the HUse" Have a go! It could be the best thing you ever do!

Claire Loneragan
President.

FROM THE NEW SECRETARY

Welcome, Carolyn!

As Doug Webster said in our last issue of Tulle "Our Society continues to flourish". This fact was well demonstrated by the attendance of 27 members at our AGM who elected the ongoing and new Office Bearers.

Claire, Gillian and Barbara are kindly continuing as President, Editor and Treasurer. New Office Bearers are myself as Secretary and Elizabeth Bolton and Richard Lander as Publicity Officers with the 1998 planning committee remaining as is.

We are ofcourse very gratefule to the outgoing members. Doug Webster's quiet, efficient manner will be missed along with Lindsay Watt's and Beth William's superb efforts at connecting our Society to the outside world!!!

We also appreciate the efforts of the continuing committee, especially Barbara for her fine handling of financial matters. She reported thatour funds were in good condition. We currently have \$4567.

Gillian's approaching journey to the haunts of our shared forebears

was the main item on the General Meeting's agenda. An amount of \$250 was decided upon to assist Gillian to purchase any materials that may be pertinent to our special history.

Joël Brismanil in Calais is to receive a donation to assist financially in his endeavours to seek French connections for us.

Also in discussion were the latest plans for the book Gillian is to produce for 1998. It is hoped that it will be available for pre ordering before Christmas 1997.

The Nottingham Family History Journal has arrived and will be available for the May meeting.

Carolyn Broadhead
Secretary

Meeting May 18, 1996

Show and Tell

We all have interesting bits and pieces that have travelled down the years. Bring along something of interest that you can share with your fellow members at the May meeting and see how many memories can be stirred!



AND THE EDITOR

I have recently taken a great deal of delight in journeying through the life and times of John Dunmore Lang, from his own very prolific writings that were collected together by Archibald Gilchrist.

John Dunmore Lang kept diaries, wrote letters to every one from Governments to newspapers, controlled a paper in Sydney, travelled Australia - and indeed the world - and publicly expressed his very biased opinions on everything

There was very little that John Dunmore Lang did not have an opinion on, but no one else there in 1848 has told me that the Bathurst plains were lightly treed, that postage Sydney to Bathurst in 1850 was 10d for a letter under the half ounce, that the inn keeper and his wife at Bowenfells were quite wrecked from drink and that by 1851 the convict population had almost gone from NSW - there being only 2606 males and 97 females still in custody.

No one else has been quite so highly opiniated either! Reproduced elsewhere in this issue is Lang's opinion on women having the right to vote. He wasn't alone in his thinking and it seems a fitting reminder of the attitudes of the times as we read the eulogy given at the memorial service for our oldest member and most fascinating personality, Mildred Brunton. Mildred died in February this year, and up until very recently had been an active member who rarely missed a meeting. The Society extends their sympathy to all members of the Bromhead family.

By the time you are reading this, I shall be in Nottingham, where I am speaking to the Nottingham Family History Society about the Lacemakers and our Australian Society. I hope also to get a better grip on Nottingham and with the advice of Anne Fewkes, I am sure I will. We leave Nottingham and head for Calais where I am lucky enough to be staying with a French friend who has a great interest in the history of old Calais and who has gone to endless trouble to help me there.

I hope to have the opportunity to meet Albert Vion, social historian, who is the author of the local history books on Calais that I use as my main source of information. Mr Vion was the founding

president of "The Friends of Old Calais", has won awards for his historical writing and has to be the most knowledgeable of people on the history of Calais.

I hope the next *Tulle* will bear much fruit of my wanderings!

Gillian Kelly
Editor

While willing to give insertia to intelligibly expressed opinions we do not identify ourselves with the sentiments of our correspondents.

Bathurst Times, Wednesday
June 4, 1879

The Editor would be delighted to give insertia to all correspondents, and, along with the readers, actively identifies with all sentiments. The Lacemakers story is untold, and is ours!

Nottingham in 1848

The overthrow of Louis Philippe of France in February 1848 started a wave of uprisings across Europe, though the aspirations of rebels were not uniform from country to country, nor from group to group within one country and quite often initial gains were whittled away as governments re-asserted their authority. In France there was a socialist hiccup before Louis Napoleon became President of the Second Republic and then turned himself into Napoleon III and founded the Second Empire.

In England the rapid growth of the factory system and of industrial towns had seen a complete change in the way of life of the majority of workers. The Reform Act of 1832 was the first of a series of parliamentary reforms that was to continue for a century but it left 5/6ths of men (and of course all women) still without a vote.

The new Poor Law of 1834 was intended to promote the increase of workers' wages but in the short term its effects were disastrous - parishes (which were the providers of the social welfare of the day) were joined together to maintain a "Union" workhouse where husbands and wives would be separated and work for the fit provided only under the harshest conditions. No relief for the able-bodied was to be given outside the workhouse, a provision that handloom weavers found particularly oppressive as they had previously depended on subsidies from the parish to see them through seasonal hard times.

Widespread dissatisfaction with the social and economic conditions of the working class coalesced in the launch of The People's Charter at a meeting in Birmingham in 1838. It proposed six points of parliamentary reform: annual parliaments, secret ballots, adult male suffrage, payment of members, equal electorates and abolition of the provision that parliamentary candidates had to be property owners. Over the next ten years support for Chartism fluctuated but it was always seen as a threat to the conservative status quo.

Reports in The Nottingham Review allow us to see how these concerns were felt in the city in 1848 and how they must have

affected the thinking of Nottingham families facing another crisis in Calais.

An editorial of 31 Mar 48 said: . . . The people of this country have hitherto been merely *spectators* of this Revolution; we pray that they may never be called upon to be *actors*. But there is a growing conviction, that in some way or other, a change must come. Great Britain has not so much to complain of as Austria, or France, or other continental states had; but she too is not as she will have to be. Their trade embarrassed, their employments and means of livelihood lessening every day; their faces not yet recovered from the haggardness of last year's famine, their shoulders blistered and stung by the burden of a national debt already too grievous to be borne,- is this a time, we ask, when the poor people of this country [should suffer various inequities]. . . is no extension of the suffrage needed, or is it nothing that the direction of the vessel should be almost entirely in the hands of an oligarchy, which manages the helm for its own class-interest, caring comparatively little for the welfare of the crew? Would it be surprising on the whole, if these abuses, being *felt* strongly, as they are, be *represented* strongly, as very possibly they may be? We are convinced her Majesty's Ministers and their friends are not quite aware of their real position. They, too, are inclined to nail down the earthquake.

Again in March, ratepayers and property owners in the parish of Radford petitioned Parliament protesting against inequities in the assessment of poor rates, saying that they were paying a disproportionate amount in comparison with the thirteen other parishes in the union. (NR 24 Mar 1848 p3)

I.C.Wright, a prominent Nottingham citizen who took a leading part in the committee to raise money for the lacemakers in Calais, sought the opinions of other citizens on the extent and causes of poverty in Nottingham and a dozen of the letters he received in reply were published. The following extract is typical:

From: The Rev W.Milton,Incumbent of Radford,near Nottingham,

...briefly,however, I would state that the condition of my parish of 5,000 people has been growing more and more deplorable for the last two years, until they seem to be now reduced to the lowest condition of poverty. In many parts one half of the houses are now unoccupied. In the lane which I have to pass through to go into my parish, five out of seven houses on one side are empty, while in the best row of houses in the place, four in succession are without tenants. The poorer sort have been driven from the cottages into the Unions and those in the better condition are unable to pay the very heavy poor rates, amounting as they do now to 12s.6d. or upwards in the pound.

I have before my mind several cases of decent and industrious men (of about 40 years) who for a long period, some of them upwards of a year, have been supported entirely by the labour of their wives and children. Still, I do not think that the poorest are the most disaffected, although for this cause that the ranks of the disloyal are greatly increased, poverty -or starvation rather, being the reason assigned for the desiring of a change in the Institutions and Government of the country. My own observations, as well as the testimony of the working men themselves lead me to think that a few active mischief makers are the mainspring of the present excitement. Indeed I believe that the active and violent politicians will almost invariably be found not amongst the poor unemployed operatives, but men in tolerable circumstances, and many of the well off. Still the miserable and destitute are the materials upon which they work: nor do I wonder when I witness the severe and long continued distress which exists, that there should be a disposition to embrace anything which promises improvement; my marvel is that the people generally have not been desperate long ere this...(NR 21 Apr 1848 p7)

Chartism reached its peak in April, 1848 when a march on London and a giant protest meeting at Kennington were organised. Feargus O'Connor, the Radical MP for Nottingham was to present an enormous petition to Parliament. Mindful of what had happened in France, the 79 year old Duke of Wellington was recalled to defend the capital. He packed London with troops and special constables but avoided a confrontation; O'Connor was separated from the protesters (who were not as numerous as expected) and the petition's credibility was damaged by obviously false signatures. Revolution was averted and protest became fragmented.

DBW.

The Rights of Women or Moses' Instructions

It would seem that Miss Anne Knight and Mrs Mildred Brunton, with one hundred years separating their struggles, had much in common. It would also seem that they had little in common with the philosophies of John Dunmore Lang.

At the time of writing, Lang was in England, but was back in Australia not long after. He was a staunch non conformist minister and spent much of his time preaching and lecturing. Maitland and Bathurst were frequently graced with his company. While his views seem outlandish now, it must be remembered that he was not alone in his beliefs and this was the climate that pervaded society of the middle nineteenth century.

The Rights of Women. Miss Anne Knight, a lady of considerable fortune and a member of the 'society of friends'

(in other words a quakeress), had taken up the question of the rights of women with such enthusiasm that she actually went to France during the revolutionary year of 1848 to get up societies among French women in favour of her great idea. A petition to the national assembly of France was drawn up and she requested M. Coquerel, an eloquent presbyterian minister who was one of the representatives of the city of Paris to present and advocate it in their assembly. He declined, however, to accept Miss Knight's commission.

I had been writing a series of letters on the events of the day in a popular London periodical. She did me the honour to correspond with me and later to meet with me at my lodgings in London, earnestly requesting advocacy of her cause.

I told her I was accustomed to deduce my political views from the word of God and that if she could produce any instance in the bible that would justify me in doing so I would be most happy to oblige her. I referred her then to the law in which only males are represented as sustaining a political relation to the Hebrew state.

Moses Instructed. When the nation of Israel was assembled on the plains of Moab previous to entering the promised land, Moses and Eleazer the priests were divinely instructed to take a census of all the males above twenty years of age, and to divide among these males, who were thenceforth to constitute the body politic of the nation, the whole available territory.

Grand national assemblies were held in ancient Israel to elect kings Saul, David, Jeroboam and Joash. A virtually democratic constitution, in which every male over the age of twenty years had a vote in the affairs of the nation, was divinely conceded to people whose forefathers had been serfs for generations.

Unless Miss Knight could explain to me why Moses and Eleazer were divinely restricted to males over twenty years of age, excluding all the women and children of the nation, I seemed unable (however much I might sympathise with her in her patriotic effort) to advocate the rights of women. "I see", said Miss Knight, " thou hast a strong reason for thy opinion. As thou canst not assist us, I must take my leave of thee. "

John Dunmore Lang, p 430
Part 13, Section D

Mildred Elsie Brunton née Hoy 1903-1906

Mildred was born in Maitland on August 1, 1903 and died in Sydney on February 10, 1996. Her mother's parents, named Weingartner, were German immigrants who came to the Hunter Valley in 1850 and produced fifteen children in the next 20 years.

Her father's forebears, named Bromhead, were lacemakers in Nottingham. The Bromhead family of three generations, including her grandmother, Sarah, aged two, emigrated on board the Agincourt and reached Sydney on October 10, 1848. They joined the steamer Maitland the following day for dispatch to the Hunter River. The family settled in Maitland.

In due course Sarah's son, Herbert Hoy, met and married Margaret Weingartner. Four children - two girls and two boys were born of the marriage. They lived in the High Street in Maitland where her father ran a barber's shop. One of Millie's early memories was how she listened to a performance of Dame Nellie Melba through the backyard fence which joined the Town Hall.

The family moved to Petersham in Sydney where Millie grew up. Her father left and times were very hard. Her brothers sold newspapers on the trams, her sister had to leave school early and at

the age of twelve Millie won a bursary to attend Sydney Girls' High School. This was the greatest pride of her life. The school was situated on the David Jones' site in Elizabeth Street at that time. She continued to attend Old Girls' functions until two years ago.

Her mother decided to move the family to Manly in 1920 and Millie lived in this district for the rest of her life. She married John Brunton in 1946. The marriage was a big secret because in those days women had to resign from the Public Service upon marriage. John died in 1978 aged 99. Millie is survived by six nieces and one nephew.

She worked for the Public Works Department for 43 years until her retirement at 60. Her position was Salaries Clerk. She had an amazing memory for figures and on her retirement it was said that an electronic computer would have to be installed to take her place, but this was rejected by someone who said computers make mistakes and have no sense of humour.

During her career she took up the early fight for 'equal pay for work of equal value' as she used to phrase the cause. Her serious involvement with this cause began in 1942. During the war, women, ofcourse, took on the men's jobs, and thus the movement towards equal pay was well and truly born. She would argue women had had to run the country and had proved themselves competent so there was no going back. She worked tirelessly to obtain just pay awards for women. In 1947 she joined the Sydney club of the Australian Federation of Business and Professional Women and through this organisation, as secretary, worked for equal pay for women for many years. Her day came when she attended Parliament House to witness the passage of the Industrial Arbitration (Females Rates) Amendment Act in 1958. This was her fulfilment of many years effort.

Millie's retirement sparked off a whole week of activities beginning with a function given by the Chairman and Members of the Public Service Board. Her Departmental colleagues fêted her for the rest of the week until her final departure on October 29, 1963.

She was awarded the MBE for her service to the cause of equal pay for women which was achieved while she was the leading

representative of women employed in the New South Wales Public Service. She valued this honour very highly and with one of her nieces travelled to London three years ago, aged 89, to attend a Commemorative Service of the Order of the British Empire in Saint Paul's Cathedral.

She was a member of the Royal Blind Society Braille Writers' Association and for many years gave her time to transcribe printed books into Braille

Her wide interests, personality and spirit made her a very special person to her family and friends. She taught we nieces different things such as how to catch a wave at Manly, the words of the Marseillaise in French, botanical names for Australian flora and two verses of "My Country" by Dorothea McKellar, who was really her theme for living.

*I love a sunburnt
country,
A land of sweeping
plains,
Of rugged mountain
ranges,
Of droughts and
flooding rains.*

*I love her far horizons,
I love her jewel sea,
Her beauty and her
terror-
This wide brown land
for me.*



She was a great Australian woman who has left a great legacy to today's woman.

Margaret Vaughan
February 21, 1996

MUTUAL AID SOCIETIES AND THE ODD FELLOWS

A ‘Friendly Society’ as understood in British usage, is a society formed for the mutual benefit of its members whose chief purpose is to provide financial benefits at times of sickness, unemployment and the death of a member. A few societies, existing today, were founded before the end of the seventeenth century. At that time there were some 5000 societies enrolled under the Act of 1793.

Most of these societies were purely local with their membership coming from a single village or a restricted area within a town. Many of them were financially unsound and there was a great deal of criticism of them.

One of the oldest was the order of Oddfellows. It began in the first half of the eighteenth century as a secret benevolent and social society which had mystic signs of recognition, initiatory rites and varying grades of dignity and honour and subsequently assumed the role of a friendly society. The name is said to have been adopted at a time when the social divisions into sects and classes was so wide that people who truly believed in social union and mutual aid were the exception - or rather odd fellows.

In the early days the lodges were supported by each member or visitor paying one penny to the secretary on entering the lodge. Special sums were voted to any brother in need and if he was out of work, he was supplied with a card and funds to reach the next lodge. He went from lodge to lodge until he found employment. Many lodges were broken up towards the end of the century on the suspicion that their activities were seditious, but the wishes for self - help remained and the concept of support organisations continued and the Order of Odd Fellows survived. The movement which had first made itself felt at the beginning of the 19th century, had developed little by little and by 1840 had brought together some 12500 members. The societies were of modest proportions, some having no more than 20 members, others rarely growing beyond 100, but they had assumed an important role so it wasn't surprising to see

the first groups forming in Saint-Pierre under the influence of the various inhabitants who were originally British.¹

Albert Vion tells us

...the French lacemakers, due to their association with their English colleagues, quickly recognised the value of the help provided by these lodges during strikes or illness and as a result of their requests, the Odd Fellows created lodges catering for the French.

In England there were several Odd Fellow movements differing in rite and obedience which sometimes caused on-going rivalry between their followers. This engendered friction which hampered their efficiency. The French lodges did not escape this.

The first lodge, Hope, was established in 1834, following the Kent ritual. The second, created in 1844, was the Grand Lodge of the Ancient and Imperial United Order of Nottingham. This was more structured and created smaller lodges called Union (1847) and Perseverance (1851). Alongside each lodge was a mutual aid society called a "charitable society". They were solely for the benefits of lodge members and joining was obligatory for each member at the age of 40.

If there existed a certain rivalry between the two orders of the Old Fellows, at least the rules of their charitable societies were very similar: an entry fee of between 10F and 20F, and a weekly contribution of 50 centimes. For this, the brothers received medical and pharmaceutical care as well as financial aid.

In 1846 there was also a lodge called Charity in the Order of the Great Eustace.

The lodges enthusiastically joined in festivals and acts of charity, organising fund raising drives and collections for the poor. Their members were recruited essentially from the relatively comfortable middle classes (tradesmen, artisans, lacemakers and manufacturers) the relatively

1

It is interesting that M Vion refers to the workers as former English - this is a clear indicator that those who had lived in Calais for a long time considered themselves French

large entrance fee preventing others from joining.

The slightly esoteric nature of the Odd Fellows led to their demise at the end of the Second Republic; they became a victim of police harassment, their registers were seized and they disappeared at the end of 1851.

by **Albert Vion**

Translation by Lyndall Lander from
Calais et Saint-Pierre au XIX^e Siècle

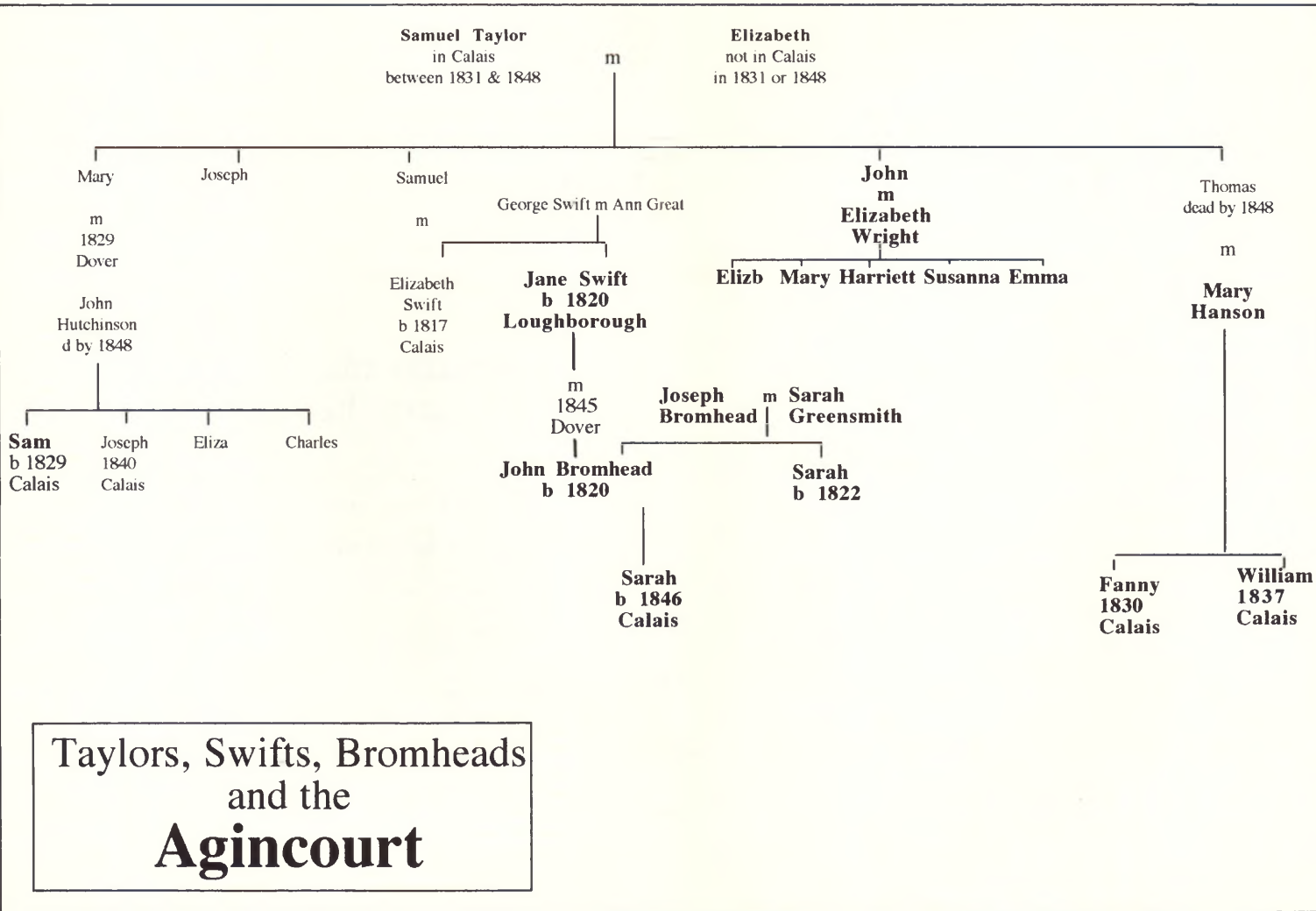
Edward Lander, great-great-grandfather of Richard Lander, was a member of the Hope Lodge of Oddfellows and the Grand Lodge of Druids of France in Calais in April 1845.

Bromheads, Swifts, Taylors and the Agincourt

The mysteries of family relationships continue to unravel. Joël Brismanil's work on the 1831 Calais census has highlighted a hitherto unknown family connection.

It would seem the Taylor family was large, and their connections with the lace trade were long founded. Samuel Taylor was in Calais in 1831 and in 1848, but his wife wasn't. With Samuel were his daughter Mary, married to John Hutchinson, his son Samuel married to Elizabeth Swift, his daughter in law Mary Hanson with two small children, and his son John married to Elizabeth Wright.

In 1831 Samuel Taylor had his son Joseph and his grandson Samuel Hutchinson living with him. By 1848 this young Sam was 19, and on board the Agincourt with his Uncle John and family, his Aunt Mary and cousins and with his Aunt Eliizabeth's sister Jane Swift - married to John Bromhead along with his family. Robert Taylor, on the Harpley, may have been Mary's son, and there is a strong connection to the Smiths. Quite a family gathering!



Taylor, Swifts, Bromheads
and the
Agincourt



Who Calls for the Good Old Days ?

Adah Branson cried when she first saw hers.² Bruce Goodwin amused himself by cutting designs in his mother's and then filling them with molten lead, to make trinkets and bangles.³ John Freestone⁴ was depressed on his wife's behalf about theirs, but Adam Lindsay Gordon remembered how:..

The old hands told me how to build a clean dirt floor,
Beat it hard with spades and tread of feet
Then soak with green cow dung and sweep
And sometimes strew with cool green leaves,
Sprinkle and sweep it twice a day,
Until clean and sweet and hard,
It gleams, black, polished like a board.

LW

² From Grace Armstrong, Adah's daughter c 1956

³ Bruce Goodwin, *Gold & People*, p7

⁴ Letters from Adelaide, *Tulle* Vol 14 No 4

Let's Celebrate

1848 ... 1998

The last committee meeting resolved to involve Members more closely by reporting back regularly through Tulle. The committee would be delighted to hear from everyone who has new ideas or suggestions to improve on old ones!

This group meets quarterly, between member's meetings.

Ideas in hand:

The meetings in 1998

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| February | Nottingham and Anne Fewkes. |
| May | Adelaide and <i>The Harpley</i> |
| August | Calais and, reminiscent of Caythorpe, not forgetting the "little ships" |
| October | Bathurst, Maitland and the <i>The Agincourt</i> |

The Publicity

To be tackled in 1997, with Richard Lander, through all State Genealogy Societies, and as many others as possible. Other thoughts are RSVP column in the Herald, and other local newspapers.

The Sampler

There are many members who indulge in the fine art of cross stitch, either on canvas or as counted thread work. Designs are being put together to assist you to plan a family sampler that tells the story of your lacemakers . They will combine borders, lettering, maps, symbols (the bobbin etc) figures, and pieces French, English and Australian. More information on availability as it comes to hand!

The Book.

Well Suited to the Colony

The 1988 book was always to be a working start to the Lacemakers' story. Just eight years later, enough information has been accumulated to write a social history of this fascinating immigration. While it will not be a family history book in that it will not tell the whole story of individual families, it will be a history of the families and will include as many people as possible. For example, the section that deals with the journey over the Blue Mountains will most certainly relate Mrs Crofts' child birth. It will tell of the rain and the waggon driver who wouldn't stop to put cover over the immigrants, leading to Eliza Lowe's illness and death before she left Austin's store.

Recently a member discussed with the Editor family stories that have a bearing on how some of the Lacemakers lived. Many of them stayed together and drew strength from the ties they had had all their lives. She knew of bushrangers and brothels and sly grog shops - and while this kind of information will need to be handled so no one can possibly be hurt or embarrassed it will make this book the story of the Lacemakers, and not just a history book. Many families have snippets of stories that will add to the total picture - please add yours by contacting the editor.

There was discussion on the mode of printing and the method and timing of marketing, with some thoughts being given to a publication date of November, 1997 so it is available for the whole of 1998.

FAMILY FILE

Mary Rushton and Mr and Mrs Hopkins



Mary Hopkins



Mary Rushton

The Adelaide Register claims the arrival of Humphrey Hopkins⁵, his wife and adult daughter Mary on the *Harpley* in September 1848. Humphrey Hopkins, the fifth and last child of Humphrey Hopkins and Sarah Hallam married Mary Orril, and his sister Elizabeth married William Stubbs. William and Elizabeth were fellow travellers on the *Harpley*.

Humphrey died at Happy Valley, SA in 1876 and his wife died in 1888, also at Happy Valley. (This cemetery is now under the waters of the Happy Valley Reservoir)

But young Mary was not Mary Hopkins: she was Mary Rushton, with no explanation of her journeying with the Hopkins.

Mary Rushton was born in Strelley, Nottinghamshire, in January 1829, the daughter of John Rushton and Sarah, apparently to non-conformist parents. There is no evidence of her family being in Calais.

In 1852, at O'Halloran Hill Mary married William Henry Rankin, aged 1827 and the son of Andrew. Three children resulted from this union, but it would seem they were to be difficult years for

⁵ A family tree for the Hopkins family, with an article on the family is available from the Editor.

Mary. Their first child William was born in 1854, but died six months later mid May, 1855. A few weeks later William Henry Rankin was admitted to the Happy Valley Congregation Church.

Two more children followed: Mary Jane 1856 and Sarah Anne, 1857. But then William's membership to the church was withdrawn on account of his yielding to the temptation of drinking to excess. Mary's membership was withdrawn with her husband's.

In the February of 1861 William died. At that time he was Poundkeeper at O'Halloran Hill, and the family lived at Noarlunga. Within six months Mary Rankin née Rushton married for a second time. Her husband was widower Thomas Hales, the son of Thomas Hales and Elizabeth Webb. Thomas was eleven years Mary's senior and had eight children from his first marriage, making Mary an instant mother to ten youngsters. This family quickly grew with the birth of Robert in 1862 and William in 1863.

Upon her remarriage the now Mrs Hales was unanimously received back into the church. She was admitted as a member between the births of her two last children. A third child was to follow, and both the babe and Mary perished.

Thomas Hales was given £1 from the sacrament money to help defray the costs of his wife's funeral and Mary was buried in the church cemetery. He, being now a widower twice, and father and protector of twelve, married yet again, but this time the family did not grow.

From the notes of Colin Litchfield

Notes:

From private correspondance: Mary Hopkins, née Orill, was related to George Bell who was a builder of Alfred Street Central Nottingham. She had a brother Stephen who lived at 1 Tyler Street, Nottingham in 1876 and she communicated with Mr J Hummell, rue Verte, St Pierre les Calais .

From the Editor: James Hall, also on the *Harpley*, was married to Mary Ann Hazledine, née Bell, and Richard Dixon's second name was Bell, a name he handed down to his eldest son.

The Best Nottingham Could Do

Messrs Thomas Adams & Co.'s Lace Warehouse in Stoney Street, Nottingham, is a remarkable instance of the regard shown by many employers for the welfare of their people. The building is very large and planned so as to give as large a frontage as possible to the outer air, a point of great importance. A large room is set apart as a dining-room for those who do not go home, and used for this purpose by about a hundred daily, and for tea by nearly all. A woman is employed to prepare and serve their meals, there being a steam oven and all proper appliances for the purpose, teacups, &c. being supplied. Close by is a room for washing before leaving work, as well as white delft washing places, purposely left open to view, and a separate closet, in each work room. There is another tea room for the men. During meals the work rooms are closed and the windows opened, for which the overlooker is responsible.

There is a chapel and a chaplain, and the work begins each day with a short service, which is attended by nearly all, and is understood to be part of the system of this palce. There is also a school-room provided with books, maps &c., in which the chaplain has classes for religious and other instruction in the evening; a book club; a sick club, a payment of 1d a week which entitles one to medical attention; a sick fund for further perposes and a savings bank.



Alterations have been made in parts of the building to increase its

Alterations have been made in parts of the building to increase its healthfulness ... It appears, however from the statement of the girls that the windows cannot be, or are not, opened, and that the girls suffer from the heat and bad air. The establishment is commonly spoken of as one in which arrangements of all kinds for the wealfare of those employed have been carried to their fullest extent.

Rev Edward Davies, chaplain to the establishment, is of the opinion that the moral character of the work people has improved in a remarkable manner in the last few years. He said: Formerly girls often had to leave from being with child, but this is now very uncommon. There is a good deal of kindness shown by them one to another. Whenever a girl is ill and without friends of hew own to nurse her, her companions collect money and will give up their own work in turns to attend her ay and night. Unhappily illness is not infrequent. Consumption is unusually common amongst the girls here. In the last month I have attended four cases of this disease amongst them, of which two have ended fatally, and there are two or threother cases of a like character. Cases of wekness of the chest and general debility are very common indeed. These do not, however, generally go to the hospital.

Annie Lawrence, aged 13. "Rolls", that is, she turns a roller for pressing lace. It is very hard work if the lace is thick and wants a deal of pressing. Has rolled for two years, doing other work sometimes, eg. 'joining' - iefastening pieces of lace together, and at another place before. It tires her more than it use to. Feels very tired at night when she has rolled all day and it makes her side ache sometimes. Never was very strong, 'but there are many weaker'. Went out to lace drawing when 7. Often is not late for chapel for many weeks together; forfeits 1d if she is and a young woman 2d.

The proper hour for leving work is 6.30; if they have tea it is 8. It was 8 nearly all summer, and sometimes, but not often, 9 and two or three times even 10. Has 5/- set wages and 1d a night for working until 8. Mother lets her have her overtime. Has been to a Mathodist school and chapel on Sunday for eight or nine years, except when hermother isnot so well, and sheunderstands what she hears there. Went to a day school for three or four years, but did not like it as she wanted to come to work so as to earn something. Mother is going to send her to the People's Hall (night school) in a week or two; she

will have to pay 2d. Can read short words, write a little, and do some short sums.

Children's Employment Commission
1st Report (1863) pp 195-196;

To the Editor **Nottingham Daily Guardian**

Sir,-I have been a lace warehouse girl about thirteen years, and should know a little about the regulations of warehouses. Is there not an Act which compels the masters of factories to let children leave their employment at six o'clock at night? If there is, can anyone tell me why this Act is not applied to lace warehouses, which are heated with steam, for children and women are kept there at work from 8 in the morning till 7, 8 and 9 o'clock at night, for about 3/6 to 8/- per week, which, in my opinion, is worse than slavery in South America, for I do not think they work above twelve hours a day; and if they do, they are better off than a portion of the warehouse girls in Nottingham, who have to work in cellars not fit for pigsties, much more for human beings.

When I use the word cellar, I mean the lowest room of the warehouse, which is 8 or 9 feet below the foot-road; but to do justice to the lace masters in general, there are only a few who make their girls work in these holes. In rainy weather you can rub the wet off the walls; in dry weather they smell fusty and unhealthy. When the hands complain of the damp, the master or man orders the work to be taken upstairs, where it is dry. He does not think of the constitutions he is ruining; the work is of more consequence than the lives of his work girls. When they have caught the rheumatism or cold on one another, which is the cause of half the consumptions, they have a recommendation for the infirmary given them as a salve. Hoping, for the sake of humanity, you will publish the above, I remain, Yours, *A Well Wisher*

Report of J E White, **Children's Employment Commission**, First Report, page 243, 186

VICKERS & HINE LTD



In 1918 the Lace Manufacturing Firm of Vickers & Hine, formerly W. Vickers, celebrated one hundred years of production. Even in 1918 100 hundred years was not considered an extraordinarily long time in British Commerce but given the fact that the mechanical inventions that made this company possible were also one hundred years old, it is quite remarkable.

To celebrate the occasion a small booklet was produced for the current employees, and for those who might hold future interests in the subject. In 1996 it bears closer scrutiny for Australian Lacemakers. Undoubtedly there are forebears who were employed by Vickers.

LACE

The Jacquard was invented in 1801

Mr Heathcote patented the plain net machine in 1808, and the

Leavers lace machine was completed in 1814.

These three inventions are at the foundation of the Nottingham Lace Trade

EARLY NOTTINGHAM IMITATION LACES

The most delicate laces of France and Belgium, those of Mechlin and Malines, were the first types chosen for imitation by Nottingham manufacturers.



The extreme costliness of the real lace was largely due to the labour expended in making by hand the lovely net upon which the designs were displayed.

Mr Heathcote succeeded in very early days in producing nets which imitated the real with marvellous perfection, and the Nottingham lace manufacturer set himself the task of copying the designs of the real laces upon these machine-made nets by means of hand embroidery. The goods produced were of course very expensive indeed when judged by modern standards, but they were cheap in comparison with the hand-made originals, and commanded a ready sale.

WILLIAM VICKERS

The manufacture of these laces was the business of William Vickers, the founder of our firm, who was born in 1797, and who, after seven years apprenticeship with Mr J Page, on Standard Hill, started business in partnership with Mr Hy Frearson, in the year 1818. The warehouse was in Clinton Street.

The Embroidery was done by women in the country villages of the Midlands, and old pattern books still in our possessions, prove that thousands of designs were produced by them, and testify to the extraordinary skill and industry of the workers.

The young firm developed very rapidly, and eagerly pushed their connection in the most distant markets. An old stock book reveals the fact that in 1835 - the age of sailing ships - they already had extensive depots in New York and Melbourne, and even in Lima.

The firm closely followed the development of the lace trade, and experimented with all types of machinery and all kinds of yarns and of fabrics. Indeed Mr Vickers often said that the lace machine could make anything from cobwebs to great coats.

Mr Frearson retired about 1840 and Mr Vickers soon afterwards removed his business to Weekday Cross, where he purchased a site adjoining the Old Town Hall.

The buildings included an excellent residence and a large triangular block of workshops, cottages and other premises belonging to the old goal between Middle Hill and Garners Hill. These premises were adapted to the business and here machine shops, designing, finishing and sale rooms were established

Mr Vickers, who always took a great interest in public affairs, entered the Town Council in 1835. He became an Alderman in 1838, and served the town as Mayor in 1843-1844. He was largely instrumental in the formation of the Nottingham Chamber of Commerce in 1860 and was its president for the first three years of its existence.

The immediate question, leading to the establishment of the Nottingham Chamber, was the introduction of the new French Treaty, which, while leaving our market free to the French, imposed a heavy duty on Nottingham goods entering France. This duty seemed likely so seriously to injure the trade of manufacturers, who like ourselves, were doing a large business in France, that several firms removed their machinery to Calais, and Mr Vickers was very much disposed to do the same.

Happily the English trade survived, and our firm's French returns for the past twenty years have probably exceeded in volume those of our predecessors in the pre-treaty days.

From Vickers and Hine Ltd
Published Nottingham 1918

FOR THE GENEALOGIST

STRAYS

The following Lacemaker names have appeared in the Registers of Victoria and Western Australia.

LANDER, Mary: born Cork 1796, died Victoria 1871

NEEDHAM, Emma: married James Alfred Robinson, Victoria 1857

COPE, Edwin: married Adela Jane Woodger, Victoria 1866

DIXON, David: born France, married Mary Martin, Victoria 1877

SANSOM, Henry Harrison: born 1827, died Victoria 1886

KEMPSELL, John: born Nottingham 1830, died WA 1902

SHEPHEARD, John Thomas: born Nottingham 1862, son of John Thomas Shepheard & Elizabeth Brooks, died WA 1901

WELLS, George: born Nottingham 1831, son of Joseph Wells & Anne Deacon, died WA 1900

MATHER, Washington: born France 1825, son of Joseph Mather & Elizabeth Davis, died WA 1903

FROM JOËL IN CALAIS

If you have an idea that one of your family marriages was celebrated in Calais, or anywhere in France for that matter, then it is well worth pursuing a certificate. There are some French records on the IGI, or make a request, through Tom Hall to Joël .

To indicate their value, the marriage certificate for Victor Hemsley gives a wealth of genealogical information.

*The Marriage at Calais on
August 28, 1857, between*

VICTOR LOUIS THOMAS HEMSLEY

21 years and 5 months old, lace worker, born at Calais March 2, 1836, son of

Thomas Hemsley, 50 years and 3 months, "absent without news about his whereabouts for about 15 years" and of

Margaret Flore Compienne, died at Saint-Pierre June 4, 1848,

grandson (on his father's side) of

William Hemsley, died at Saint-Pierre on March 16, 1838 and

Sarah Cameron who died at Saint-Pierre on March 17, 1839.

and grandson (on his mother's side) of

François André Compienne, died Saint-Pierre April 12, 1833 &

Marie Françoise Denzel, who died at Calais on July 13, 1832

and

FRANÇOISE ROSALIE DEVOT

24 years and 7 months, born at Fiennes on December 25, 1832, the daughter of

Louis, who died at Calais on May 5, 1848 and

Rosalie Boulogne, 48 years old and living in Calais.

WITNESSES:

LOUIS PHILLIPE DEVOT, 21, locksmith, wife's first cousin

THÉOPHILE DELPLANQUE, 45, lace worker, husband's friend

LOUIS BROUILLARD, 39, laceworker, husband's friend

ALEXIS VACHERET, 48, lace worker, husband's friend

Of further interest in this story is a death registration;

Died at Saint-Pierre on June 4, 1848, **MARGUERITE COMPIENNE**, 39 years and 4 months, lace worker, born at Calais, daughter of the late **François André** and the late **Françoise Florentine Denzel**, wife of **Thomas Hemsley**, lace worker, missing. She died in hospital. Witnesses **Pierre Paquie**, 82, former weaver and **François Bodlet**, 65, former potter.

HOLMES FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

For those members interested in the family name Holmes, there is a society in England whose aim is to help people research that name with its various spellings. The society is run on donations. A membership fee is charged although this is only to cover the cost of producing and posting the quarterly journal.

This journal contains a Holmes Stray's Index, all new member's interests, records of unwanted certificates etc. Membership is £7 overseas, airmail. Cheques need to be in sterling and made payable to Holmes FHS. They happily accept Australian dollars CASH. The membership secretary is:

Mrs Jean Watts
93 Stubbing Lane
Worksop, Notts S80 1NF

READERS' QUERIES

Does anyone know of the marriage of Joseph and Mary **Needham**. Son William was born at Egleton, Rutland, November 6, 1808. William married Martha **Woodford** at St Giles, Northampton in 1838, stating his father Joseph was a butcher. Contact Mrs M Needham, 1 Chantry Lane, Lexden, Colchester CO3 3QR

The Inhabitants of Saint-Pierre from the 1831 Census.

Joël Brismanil has searched the 1831 census for inhabitants of Saint-Pierre he suspects to have been of British origin. The list gives Sections, census numbers and household numbers, but no actual addresses. The following extract includes Lacemakers and those who may be related.

| | | | | |
|-----|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|----|
| 180 | Laken | John | Lace maker | 27 |
| | Underwood | Maria | Mother | 28 |
| | Laken | Elizabeth | Daughter | 6 |
| | Laken | Thomas | Daughter | 4 |
| | Laken | Anne | Daughter | 1 |
| | Parker | Julie | Servant | 23 |
| 274 | Cooper | John | Mechanic | 38 |
| | de Becquet | Marie Louise | Mother | 37 |
| | Cooper | Marie Louise | Daughter | 12 |
| | Cooper | John | Son | 10 |
| | Cooper | Charles | Son | 7 |
| | Cooper | Lucie | Daughter | 2 |
| 318 | Courquin | Charles | Mechanic | 47 |
| | Nicholls | Elisabeth | Mother | 48 |
| | + 4 children | | | |
| 372 | Swift | George | Lace worker | 37 |
| | Great | Anne | Mother | 38 |
| | Swift | Elizabeth | Daughter | 14 |
| | Swift | John | Son | 12 |
| | Swift | Jane | Daughter | 10 |
| 381 | Luard | Francis | Lacemaker | 35 |
| | Morteley | Mary | Mother | 34 |
| | Luard | Caroline Louise | Daughter | 1 |
| | Morteley | William | Cousin | 14 |
| | Knight | Nathan | Lace worker | 26 |
| | Hinkeley | Sarah | Servant | 29 |

| | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|-----------|-------------|-----|
| 399 | Bannister | John | Lace worker | 25 |
| | Bacon | Maria | Mother | 28 |
| | Bannister | Samuel | Son | 4 |
| | Bannister | John | Son | 2 |
| 420 | Swift | Thomas | Lacemaker | 29 |
| | Gibson | Fanny | Mother | 26 |
| | Swift | James | Son | 6 |
| | Swift | Elizabeth | Daughter | 4 |
| | Swift | John | Son | 2m |
| 461 | Huskinson | Thomas | Lace worker | 42 |
| | Smith | Anne | Mother | 43 |
| | Huskinson | Joseph | Son | 12 |
| | Huskinson | Thomas | Son | 9 |
| 737 | Donisthorpe | Charles | Lace worker | 37 |
| | Smith | Mary | Mother | 27 |
| | Donisthorpe | Mary Anne | Daughter | 7 |
| | Donisthorpe | Thomas | Son | 5 |
| | Donisthorpe | Henriette | Daughter | 3 |
| | Donisthorpe | George | Son | 18m |
| 742 | Taylor | John | Lace worker | 22 |
| | Wright | Elizabeth | Mother | 22 |
| | Taylor | Elizabeth | Daughter | 8m |
| 767 | Hemsley | William | Lacemaker | 50 |
| | Cameron | Sarah | Mother | 47 |
| | Hemsley | Thomas | Son | 25 |
| | Hemsley | Joseph | Son | 20 |
| | Hemsley | Mary | Daughter | 18 |
| | Hemsley | Anne | Daughter | 15 |
| | Hemsley | John | Son | 12 |
| | Hemsley | Matthew | Son | 7 |
| | Hemsley | James | Son | 5 |
| | Hemsley | Caroline | Daughter | 3 |

| | | | | |
|-----|------------------|-----------|-------------|----|
| 816 | Barry | Henry | Teacher | 59 |
| | Cristian | Elizabeth | Mother | 47 |
| | Barry | Henry | Son | 25 |
| | Barry | Elizabeth | Daughter | 22 |
| | Barry | Rhoda | Daughter | 19 |
| | Barry | Mary Anne | Daughter | 15 |
| | Barry | George | Son | 13 |
| | Barry | Jenny | Daughter | 11 |
| | Barry | Emily | Daughter | 8 |
| | Whiting | Letty | Servant | 60 |
| 817 | Cobb | John | Lacemaker | 80 |
| | Mather | Martha | Mother | 64 |
| | Cobb | William | Son | 34 |
| | Cobb | Joseph | Son | 32 |
| 822 | Seabrook | Thomas | Indep Means | 50 |
| | Stevens | Elizabeth | Mother | 44 |
| | Seabrook | Elizabeth | Daughter | 15 |
| | Seabrook | Catherine | Daughter | 12 |
| 823 | Goldfinch | Thomas | Lacemaker | 50 |
| | Darby | Lucy | Mother | 40 |
| | Goldfinch | Suzanna | Daughter | 20 |
| | Goldfinch | Thomas | Son | 18 |
| | Goldfinch | Martha | Daughter | 14 |
| | Goldfinch | John | Son | 11 |
| | Goldfinch | Lynch | Son | 9 |
| 915 | Shore | William | Lace worker | 44 |
| | Robertson | Sarah | Mother | 36 |
| | Shore | Thomas | Son | 15 |
| | Shore | James | Son | 13 |
| | Shore | Mary | Daughter | 11 |
| | Shore | Suzanne | Daughter | 8 |
| | Shore | Sarah | Daughter | 7 |

To be continued next issue

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View of Newcastle and Harbour, 1853

From the Illustrated Sydney News
Steamers transporting passengers from Sydney to the Hunter region rounded Nobbys and continued up river to the busy port of Morpeth.