

# *Tulle*

*Volume 17 Number 1*

*February 1999*



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

## **MEETING DATES 1999**

Saturday, February 20, 1999  
Saturday, May 15, 1999  
Saturday, August 21 1999  
Saturday, November 20, 1999

**Donbank Cottage**  
**6 Napier Street, North Sydney**

**Meeting Time 1.00**

Train to North Sydney or bus from Wynard

**NEXT MEETING**  
**Saturday, May 15, 1999**

The return of the most entertaining  
Professor Ken Dutton  
with more stories of French emigrants to  
Australian shores.



# Tulle

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## EDITORIAL<sup>1</sup>

Wouldn't it be wonderful if, one day, it was possible to go to an index of the Lacemakers of Calais, and find a published history of each of the families who came?

The framework of their story for just a brief period of their lives is told in *Well Suited to the Colony*, but what of their lives in England? and what of their lives in Australia? What of their descendants? In our life time they have been descendants who have reached heights of public recognition: Sir Garfield Barwick and Sir James Carr. There are those who have achieved in industrial fields: the Whewell - Dixon - Holden links and Thomas Saywell. And there have been the touches with the infamous that we find with the Fosters and the Kellys.

Their stories are not so hard to follow - they earned publicity and their lives have been recorded but there were almost six hundred lacemakers - extraordinary folk in their own right, but living ordinary lives and their stories won't be told unless we tell them.

I have a copy of some memories of a non-Lacemaker forebear from Devon, in the heart of Blackmore's Lorna Doone country where she tells of her mother immunising the children against small pox, using the cowpox virus - ordinary to her, but extraordinary to us. She mentions, too, that the Doones were people to be feared - a statement made before Blackmore wrote his marvellous story.

Don't wait for something extraordinary to happen in your family because it probably won't. Don't decide your family's story is too ordinary because it isn't. I have always loved the stories Bruce Goodwin has told of his life growing up on the Hill End gold fields because it was so different to how I grew up in the rural city of Goulburn - and yet he has simply described every day living - nothing dramatic or world shattering - just the life style of the gold fields.

I have had the privilege of reading Mignon Preston's story of each of her forebears who emigrated to Australia and she has unravelled, with perseverance and the quota of luck we are all given, fascinating

<sup>1</sup> FROM THE DESKS OF... will return next issue with news of Feb's meeting

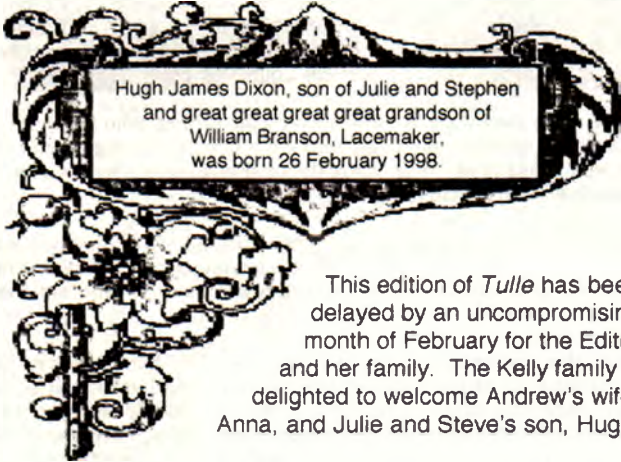
glimpses into their lives.

We have the start of a collection: the Longmires, the Landers, the Ducks, the Homans, and the Kemshalls all have published works. Through *Tulle* over the years there have been family stories for many others: William Brown, John Wainwright, Frances Saywell, Isabella Saywell, John Bromhead, Robert West, Helen Dormer, Thomas & Jane Peet, the Woodforths, Jane Susannah Shaw, Thomas Crofts, Rebecca Wells, Sarah Wells.

You will note the Bransons aren't yet on that list. Join me in making a Year 2000 commitment to getting our own family stories underway!

Gillian Kelly  
Editor

### THE EDITOR'S INDULGENCE



Hugh James Dixon, son of Julie and Stephen  
and great great great great grandson of  
William Branson, Lacemaker,  
was born 26 February 1998.

This edition of *Tulle* has been delayed by an uncompromising month of February for the Editor and her family. The Kelly family is delighted to welcome Andrew's wife, Anna, and Julie and Steve's son, Hugh.

## LOUIS PHILIPPE ARRIVES IN ENGLAND

Louis Philippe and his Consort were accompanied by General Dumas and General Rumigny, Thuret (valet to Louis Philippe), and a German attendant on the Queen. This comprised the whole party who fled with Louis Philippe.

On leaving Paris they proceeded to Versailles, where they hired a common vehicle to take them to Dreux. Here they put up at the house of a person on whose fidelity they could rely, where they passed the night. This friend, who we understand to be a farmer, procured disguises for the Royal fugitives and suite, the King habiting himself in an old cloak and an old cap, having first shaved off his whiskers., discarded his wig and altogether disguised himself as to defy the recognition of even his most intimate friends. The other disguises were also complete.

On leaving Paris, they proceeded to Versailles, where they hired a common vehicle to take them to Dreux, they started long before daylight on their way to La ferte Vidame, where Mr Packham has been building a mill on private property of Louis Philippe.

On their way they were accompanied by the farmer, who promised to see them to safety to the coast through a country through which he was well acquainted. They took the road of Evreux, from twelve to fifteen leagues from Honfleur.

They travelled principally in the night time, and reached Honfleur at five o'clock on Saturday morning. They remained at Honfleur in the house of a gentleman whom the King knew for a short time, and then crossed to Trouville, a short distance from the town.

It was their intention to embark at Trouville, but owing to the boisterous state of the weather, they were compelled to wait at the latter place two days, when, finding they could not embark, they returned to Honfleur, with the intention of embarking from that place, but the weather still continuing very rough, and the King fearing that the Queen in her exhausted condition would be unable to bear the

fatigues of a rough passage, deferred his departure until the weather changed on Thursday. In the meantime information was secretly conveyed to the Express, Southampton steam-ship, that she would be required to take a party from Havre to England.



The docks at Le Havre c 1905

On Thursday afternoon, the gentleman who sheltered the dethroned Monarch and his Consort at Honfleur engaged a French fishing-boat to convey the fugitives from Honfleur to Havre, and fearing that in this small vessel the features of the King might be recognised, the gentleman engaged a person to interpret French to the King, who, to render his disguise more complete, passed as an Englishman.

Nothing of moment transpired on the passage to Havre where the Express was waiting with her steam up, and at nine o'clock on Thursday evening the royal fugitives and suite set sail for England. The vessel reached the offing of Newhaven harbour at seven o'clock in the morning but owing to the state of the tide she could not enter the harbour until nearly 12 o'clock.

Meanwhile, however, General Dumas and General Rumigny landed in boats, General Dumas proceeding to London with news of Louis Philippe's arrival, whilst General Rumigny repaired to the Bridge Inn, and gave directions for the best apartments to be prepared for some guests about to land on the pier. This of course was done, but having ascertained that the guests were no less than the ex-King and Queen of the French, the land lady laid carpets from the entrance door to the sitting-room, and every arrangement was made to render the apartments as comfortable as their size would admit.

Shortly before twelve o'clock, the royal fugitives landed on the quay, and the moment the King set his foot on the shore he emphatically exclaimed, 'Thank God I am on British ground'. Mr Sims, the landing waiter, who handed them on shore, conducted them to the Bridge Inn. On the way thither the King was met by several inhabitants, who offered their congratulations on his arrival, and with whom he shook hands most cordially. His Majesty looked fatigued and careworn.

London Times  
March 1848

## **MEMBERSHIP**

If you haven't remembered to pay your subs for 1999, please could you do so at your earliest convenience?

**Due: \$25**

**Post to**

**Miss Barbara Kendrick  
190 Shaftesbury Rd  
Eastwood NSW 2122**

**Member's Pins are available: \$5**





## IRENE MAYER

Mrs Irene Mayer (née Foran) passed away on the 31st December, 1998. She died peacefully at her home in Bathurst.

She was the great-grand daughter of Robert MacMurray West and Ann (née Shepherd) who sailed to Australia aboard the *Agincourt* in 1848. Ann gave birth to a girl named Frances Agincourt West when the *Agincourt* was nearing the West Coast of Australia.

Irene, who was born in 1911, can remember her grandmother Frances Agincourt Armstrong (née West) who lived at Essington, 30 kilometres south of Bathurst, NSW. Frances died in 1916 when Irene was five years old.

In 1950 Irene christened one of her daughters Mignon Agincourt Maree Mayer, in memory of her grandmother and the ship on which she was born.

Kentley Mayer  
son of Irene Mayer



Robert MacMurray West

## SAMUEL STRONG 1809-1881

### Calais Lacemaker.

Samuel Strong [my great, great grandfather], was born in 1809 in Tiverton Devonshire, and most likely learnt the lacemaking trade at the John Heathcoat & Co. Ltd. factory. His father James was a weaver and may also have worked for John Heathcoat.

Samuel Strong was one of those that ventured to Calais to work as a lacemaker. He met a French girl, Louise Cooper, a milliner, whom he later married. They went across the English channel to Dover where they resided in Strand Street Lane. They were married on the 3rd June 1839 at St Mary the Virgin Church in Dover. Louise was born in Calais France on the 4th May 1820. Her father was John Cooper a mariner, and her mother's name was Marie Louise née Debeker.

The newly weds returned to France where Samuel continued to worked as a lacemaker in Saint-Pierre and resided at Quai du Commerce, Saint Pierre . Their first child James, known as James Charles was born there on the 19th November 1839. Later they moved to 33 Rue Verte Saint-Pierre where Woufoul, known as Henry, was born on the 27th March 1841. The next year another son Samuel was born on the 30th June 1842, and two years later their first daughter Elizabeth was born on the 8th May 1844.

In 1845 a double tragedy struck the family. Elizabeth died on the 8th January at 2 am, aged eight months, and Samuel died on the 13th January at 11 am, aged two years and seven months. There was nothing recorded of what caused their deaths. The following year on the 7th October 1846 Samuel [No 2] was born.

Nothing about the family was recorded during the year of 1847, but the economic situation in Europe played a major role in their future plans and lifestyle. In February 1848 a revolution erupted in France, due to economic and political change and lack of jobs for the French nationals. In Calais the English lacemakers were being forced to leave, but in Nottingham the main lace making area, there was not enough

work for the influx of lacemakers arriving. The British Government of the day decided to help finance bonded emigrants to Australia.

Samuel and Louisa with their three sons James Charles, aged 9, Henry, aged 7 and Samuel, aged 2, set sail for Australia. They left London on the 13th July 1848 with 245 other bounty immigrants, in the , arriving in Melbourne 121 days later on the 11th November 1848.

The *Nelson* a 603 ton Barque, ( a bit smaller than the Polly Woodside\*), was Clyde built in 1844. An advertisement in The London Times, describes the ship as follows:

*Nelson - A splendid fast sailing Clyde built barque, loading the London Dock full poops with beautiful accommodation for passengers."*

After they disembarked they spent thirteen days at the depot from the 28th November, until the 11th December when Samuel was employed by Thomas Stevens of Melbourne, as a carpenter, at a rate of three shillings per day, without rations. They had to live on his wages alone.

Louise at this time was 7 months pregnant and on 24th January 1849 a son John was born in Lonsdale Street. He may have been named after her father John.

Melbourne at the time was only 14 years old, and very primitive, so you can imagine what the conditions were like .Tragedy struck the family again on 25th March 1849 when John died. He was baptised two days before at St Peter's Church [built in 1847], Eastern Hill Melbourne.

A year later a second daughter Elizabeth Mary was born on the 6th August 1850, their address was "off Bourke Street" and Samuel was employed as a bricklayer. Gold was discovered in a creek near the slopes of Mt Alexander in 1851. Louisa was born in the year of 1852 and the same year, six year old Samuel died on the 21st December in Melbourne.

The gold rush to Mt Alexander was on in earnest, but this didn't attract them to the "diggings" until 1853. Samuel may have ventured up there on his own before then, to put his hand to panning for gold like many thousands of others. They eventually arrived there settling down to a life in a tent. When the alluvial gold started to get harder to find Samuel started working for a mining company as a miner.

Another son George was born at the diggings, now called Forest Creek, on the 10th December 1855 and a daughter Marianne born on the 10th January 1858 in Forest Creek. Marianne was the last child they had. In 1860 tragedy happened again in November at Forest Creek when George died of diphtheria age six.

The family stayed on at Forest Creek, renamed Chewton. One of the houses they lived in burnt down losing all their possessions, including beautiful large photographs and crocheted tapestries etc.

By 1871 Samuel was living in a hut in Adelaide Hill, Chewton and on 1st January 1882 Samuel Strong died age seventy two years. He died of "progressive softening of the brain", after being paralysed for six months in the Castlemaine Asylum.

He was buried in Chewton Cemetery on 3rd January 1882 in an unmarked grave until, October 1998, when one of my cousins Doug Strong and myself along with other relative's contributions had a head stone mounted.

Of the ten children, only five survived Samuel. They were James Charles, Henry, Elizabeth Mary, Louisa and Marianne. I had been unable to find any information about his wife Louise and their three daughters until I contacted Gillian Kelly by phone last October. Ten minutes later I was talking by phone to a cousin Hilda King in North Sydney, a grand daughter of Elizabeth Mary. I am now about to enter another adventure.

The family descendants that I have located so far (over 950] are from Samuel and Louise's eldest sons, James Charles and Henry, and when I add their wives families the descendants total more than 1550.

Ray Strong

## A NOTE FOR POSTERITY

**WILLIAM BURTON - Wheelwright.**

In 1954 the following letter was found concealed in the roof of Wollaton Hall:

September 8th-1830

*William Burton Wheelwright, the son of John and Hannah Burton of the Kings Head Public House Wollaton whose Ancesters came from London when Wollaton House was first built as Blacksmiths. Born March 4th 1798 having now worked 8 years for Henry Lord Middleton as Wheelwright hee his now in his 70th year of Age at Birdsall. The Panneling of the top of the Great Hall now Put up and the Arches Repaired & Strengthened by Iron Rods etc. The job was done in a Great Hurry upwards of 40 Hands Employed Wee got Plenty of Beer & I hope your not Short. I found no monney nor non I can Leave. God bless you & I hope hee has Got Mee when you find this-*

from  
The Nottinghamshire Historian  
No 21 Summer 1978

## GIOWER YER MARDY ODE THING

The Australian accent is usually described as being broad, with vowels that are flat, containing a sprinkling of pure Strine, and recognisable universally. There are attributes that are tagged to various parts of the nation (Queenslanders, heh?) but to the rest of the world Australian is Australian. To the average Australian, the Pom who steps off a plane has a recognisably English accent and English is English.

The Lacemakers arrived in Australia with a language that sprang from the villages of Nottingham, and was moulded by the French of the

villagers of Calais and St-Pierre. In fact, the French spoken by the laceworkers of Calais and St-Pierre was so altered by the invasion of the English and the trade that there is a dialect that belongs to them alone!

In England there is a growing awareness and pride in local dialect, and no where more so than in Nottingham. It's a subject always guaranteed to make folk smile, but it has its serious side. Ady Smart reports... It's a question asked in thousands of Nottingham households at least once a day. The old man walks in from work and his first words are: "A ya masht miduck?"

Or it's the two pals talking: "A ya gooin dernt booza? Gerruz one in then."

It's pure Nottingham. For academics like Dr Hillier of the University of Nottingham, the way Nottingham folk speak is no laughing matter. "I think it is absolutely vital that people respect the way other people speak," she says. "Ninety-five per cent of people in this country do not speak with a newsreader accent. Most have some kind of accent, it is just a question of degree." Dr Hillier grew up in Eastwood, where D. H. Lawrence was born, speaking the local dialect, and says: "I learnt to speak in a different way, just like we learn to speak French or German, but inside I am still a working class girl from Eastwood."

Dr Hillier says people should not abandon an accent that reveals their origins. "There is nothing wrong with speaking with and without a dialect: you can have them both, depending on the company, or the situation you are in. George Bernard Shaw wrote *Pygmalion* based on that."

So why the fascination for a way of talking some would call plain ugly? How can you explain the books, poems, plays, songs, articles and letters written over the years, rejoicing in phrases as "gerra grip a ye gret daft sen" - which roughly translates to "calm down" - or "ah'll goo t'foot arar" an expression of surprise.

In the 1980s, journalist Jean Davey of the Nottingham Evening Post penned an hilarious column called *Ey Up Mi Duck* in which she would test Post reader phrases like "*snided aht*" and "*shift thee ommacks*".

And she had her local heroines, Hilda and Millie, who who talked about things like the weather. It went something like this:

Hilda: *Wojja mekka't weather? Om moiled. Sotter than Jewern.*

Millie: *Paddern?*

Hilda: *I sed intit ot?*

Millie: *Giower yer mardy ode thing, it's loovleh.*

This little tale from Mrs M. Tilley, of Woodthorpe sums up the logic of Nottinghamese. She recalled a local telegraph delivery boy proudly showing her postmaster father-in-law hisbike after giving it a spring clean. He said:

*"There yar Mester Tilley, that's gorra bit more on it offon it!"*

Patricia Bancroft, of Birch Grove, Mansfield, fired back a brief glossary compiled by the Rotary Club of Nottingham to help visiting Rotarians who could not cope with the local tongue:

*Wairza booza?* - Could you direct me to the local inn

*Kawsi* - Pavement

*Mek it g'bakkuds* - Put it in reverse

*Init cowl* - Rather chilly today

*Arkattit* - listen to the rain

*Wotsup?* - Is something amiss?

*Gerroff*- Go away please

*Oo worree wee?* - Who was he with?

*Worree wee is-sen?* - Was he alone?

*Gizzarfonit* - Share and share alike

*Wigorn ev us dinnaž* - We are about to take lunch

*Arn't ya gornta eetitt?* - Are you not hungry?

*Y'allus wanna gerra susstifikut* - You should have a certificate

*Aya gorra weeya?* - Is your wife with you?

*Am gooin wimissen* - I'm going alone

*Atode im eekudd pleez issen* - The decision was his

*Yowl koppitt* - I fear you will be in trouble

*Gerrup yo, elsal bat yatabh* - Get up or I may use violence

*Kanni cum annori?* - May I come too?  
*Thiz summat up wee im* - I think he may be ill  
*Ez ee sed owt?* - Did he say anything?

The Nottingham Evening Post publishes a monthly Bygones supplement packed with nostalgia and facts about Nottingham. This article was taken from that feature and Web enthusiasts can find their electronic page at

<http://www.nottingham-online.co.uk>



## THE LACE PLACE

Way out on the eastern edge of the Western Australian wheat belt, some three hundred and fifty kilometres from Perth, is one of nature's phenomena that is readily recognised all over the world - Wave Rock.

Close by are the expected facilities of rest rooms, cafe and wildflower shop. What isn't expected is a darkened doorway, through which one is teased by soft lighting, and the suggestion of elegance and romance. This is The Lace Place.

The Lace Place is a museum especially built in 1990 to house the Blackburn Collection.



Mrs Margaret Blackburn OAM JP of Perth (1920-1990) was keenly interested in history and lace. She added inherited family pieces to her own collection from Australia and overseas, and was able to incorporate several smaller collections. (The Order of Australia Medal was awarded to her for her service to Commercial Education)

The Blackburn Collection, offered as a bequest to the Western Australian Museum, was later purchased by the Mouritz family of Hyden. The Lace Place is at Wave Rock, Hyden, because this is where the owners live.

The beautiful cabinets that furnish the museum were designed by Mrs Blackburn and Russell Mouritz and made from Western Australian Jarrah. The display was arranged by lacemaker / curator Olwyn Scott, Valerie Mouritz and Sheenagh Collins.

The Lace collection is complemented by antique gowns and wedding dresses from Valerie Mouritz's Collection. The collection of lace is glorious and includes rare and fragile pieces of unbelievable beauty, including pieces from Nottingham and classic pieces that exemplify the development of machine made lace as the Lacemakers moved towards truly emulating the bobbin lace. GK

## **HEATHCOAT'S MEN**

After the attack on Heathcoat and Lacy's factory in Loughborough in 1816, Heathcoat encouraged a large entourage of workers to walk the two hundred miles to Tiverton in Devon, where he established his new factory. While there is no definitive list of these families, the Tiverton Museum holds the Heathcoat factory logbooks which were begun in 1898 and continued until 1950. They include all manner of snippets pertaining to the factory, including a newspaper cutting from a 1939 issue of the Loughborough Echo. The article, written by A D Walsh, includes names from Heathcoat's 1838 records that identified some workers as having come from Loughborough in 1816.

Name	Parish	Trade
John Asher	Loughborough	Night Watchman
Thomas Alsop	Sheepshed	Framesmith.
Thomas Barrington	Leicester	Framesmith
James Craswell	Loughborough	Lacemaker
William Chantrill	Sheepshed	not stated.
Thos Delarew Snr	Loughborough	Lacemaker
Joseph Fowkes	Loughborough	Lacemaker
William Fancotte	Leicester	Framesmith
Thomas Gillespie	Loughborough	not stated
John Lee	Loughborough	Lacemaker
Thomas Lester	Loughborough	Lacemaker
Benjamin Oram	Loughborough	Lacemaker
Abel Oram	Loughborough	not stated
Matthew Parrott	Leicester	not stated
Thomas Peat	not stated	not stated
Richard Pegg	Leicester	Sinker maker
John Rowley	Leicester	not stated
William Smith	Loughborough	lacemaker
John Soar	Loughborough	Lacemaker
William Soar	Loughborough	Lacemaker
Edward Squires	Loughborough	Lacemaker
William Squires	Woodhouse	Lacemaker
Thomas Swift	Contisthorp	Lacemaker
John Thompson	Loughborough	Lacemaker
James Tongue	Derby	Weaver
John Tongue	Derby	Weaver
William Towndrow	Loughborough	Lacemaker
James Ward	Loughborough	Lacemaker
Joseph Whitmore	Hinckley	Setter Up.
John Yates	Loughborough	Lacemaker



**Loughborough Row, Tiverton**  
Gillian Kelly

Not far from the Heathcoat factory in Tiverton, between a busy road and what may have been a tow path, is a small group of houses known locally as Little Loughborough. These are some of the homes in which John Heathcoat is said to have housed his workers from Loughborough.

## **ANOTHER HEATHCOAT**

**Roderick Heathcoat-Amory: Soldier**  
**1907 - 1998**

Brigadier Roderick Heathcoat-Amory, who was awarded an immediate Military Cross at El Alamein in 1942, has died aged 91.

He was the fourth son of Sir Ian Murray Heathcoat Heathcoat-Amory; one brother would become Chancellor of the Exchequer under Harold Macmillan, in 1958, and another the first (and last) Viscount Amory in 1960.

The family firm of Heathcoat and Co had been started by his great-great-grandfather John Heathcoat, who in 1808 had invented the bobbin net machine, a revolutionary mechanism for making silk and cotton nets. In 1816, the Luddites, fearing the machines would put men out of work, destroyed 55 of them at Heathcoat's plant at Loughborough. As a result, he moved to the more peaceful area of Devon, taking his workforce with him. A man of vision and a model employer, he built up a prosperous business.

Young Roderick began his education at Ludgrove preparatory school. His parents visited him just once during his five years there, but that was unexceptional in those days. At Eton he paid insufficient attention to his studies, and failed to get up to Oxford.

Having heard good reports of New Zealand, Heathcoat-Amory decided to go there to make his fortune. Discouraged by his failure to do so in a short time, he returned home and obtained a commission in the Royal Dragoons.

He went out to join the regiment in India where he enjoyed polo, pig-sticking and shooting — although, as he would firmly point out, military training began at 6.30 am and continued until lunchtime. In 1935, the regiment was sent to Egypt and in 1939 to Palestine and by the time war broke out Heathcoat-Amory was back in England, halfway through the Long Equitation Course at Weedon.

After an unsuccessful attempt to transfer to the RAF, he was posted back to Palestine and served in the Western Desert, took part in the victory at Alam Halfa, and was given the task of leading the way through the German mine fields at Alamein. Later, in Tunisia, he went down with nephritis but recovered in time to land at Taranto, Italy and later to go with the Royals to the campaign in Europe after D-Day.

At the end of July 1944, they landed in Normandy and were involved in the battles to reach Arnhem (made famous by the book and film, *A Bridge Too Far*). The regiment saw some tough fighting in Holland, crossed the Rhine, fought its way up to Bremen, and at the end of the war had the task of disarming 120,000 German troops in Denmark.

**Heathcoat-Amory retired in 1956** and settled in Yorkshire, where he was joint master of the Sinnington Hounds for 12 years, helped with the point to-point races and the Pony Club, and also served on the Rural District Council. In 1971 he was High Sheriff.

A lover of all outdoor sports, Heathcoat-Amory caught his first salmon at the age of eight and his last at 90. He had a deep love of nature and after the war made many trips to Africa to see the wildlife. In 1947, he married Sonia (nee Denison), the widow of his cousin Gerald Heathcoat Amory, who had been killed in Normandy. They had a son and a daughter.

from *The Daily Telegraph, London*

### **THE LACE TRADE** - (From the Nottingham Journal.)

. . . The amount of the collections being divided, amounted to 7d. each . . . Notwithstanding this small pittance, they yet seem, "determined," and have, with a tact and perseverance not expected from the female character, resolutely introduced various reforms and checks on the collection and distribution of their money, and persevere with a desperate devotion to carry their point against the mistresses.

But the state of trade is such, that hitherto, with a few exceptions, the second and third mistresses have not given way, no doubt under the hope that the calls of hunger will eventually induce the turn-outs<sup>2</sup> to succumb. But these children of misery have too often tasted of poverty in all its bitterness to dread its further evils . . . Several of the manufacturers, we have pleasure in stating, have marked their pieces as to price given, and have felt that consideration for the intense distress of their workpeople which is an honour to themselves, and makes them truly "blessed in their generation." We are tempted to give the names of these real gentlemen, but, conceiving it would be invidious, we shall forbear."

from *The Times*, 19 December 1840. p 4 col. d

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<sup>2</sup> turnout = strike

## COVER NOTE

### Nottingham Castle - 1873

In 1873, Nottingham Castle stood on its rock above the city - a burnt-out shell of its former and present glory. Below it flowed the River Leen. The Leen had become highly polluted with the rapid growth of the city - sewers and gutters overflowed into it, with disastrous results in times of flood for those who lived on the lower lying areas.

Of the burning of the Castle, Roy Church said:

In September, 1830 Thomas Wakefield and John Heard organized a petition in support of the Reform Bill. The hopes of the twelve hundred Radicals who signed the petition were shared by many more, as the reception given to the news of the Bill's rejection in October, 1831 showed.

At a public meeting held in the Market Place the formal motions of protest gave way to window smashing and pillage, and the offices of the Nottingham Journal were attacked. The reading of the Riot Act failed to quieten the excited crowd, many of whom were in Nottingham for Goose Fair.

Accompanied by police, the militia, and several hundred extra constables who had been especially sworn in, managed to beat off many attacks on property. When a mob turned in the direction of the Castle, however, the police were left behind. The Duke of Newcastle, the unpopular owner of Nottingham Castle, was a symbol of the forces seeking to prevent reform, and, although he had long since resided elsewhere, an attack on the Castle was symbolic of an assault upon the principles for which he stood.

The crowd surged into the building, tore tapestries from

the walls, wrecked the furniture, and finally scattered firebrands to complete the devastation. They left the Castle a blazing monument of destruction, the cries and shouts of the crowd applauding their magnificent arson.

*Economic and Social Change in a Midland Town*  
Victorian Nottingham 1815-1900  
R A Church

# Lille



Lille: a prettier point of view

While Calais concentrated on the production of lace, along the Belgian border were the three great textile cities of France: Lille, Roubaix and Tourcoing. Eventually they sprawled into one, but in early days Lille was a walled mediaeval city and like Nottingham and Calais, the industrial growth caused a great surge in population, and she spilled out of her walls everywhere.

A high birth rate, the steady immigration of workers from Belgium, and the annexation of most of the neighbouring towns saw Lille change from a city of 55 000 in 1816 to a huge urban centre of 203 500 by the mid 1880s.

Despite this rapid growth, Lille's old districts, in the heart of the city remained intact, and unlike Calais, there were definite workers' districts, separate from the bourgeoisie. The most notoriously poor of these was Saint-Sauveur, which horrified every visitor to Lille throughout the nineteenth century. In 1840, Villermé painted a dismal picture of almost 4000 workers : weavers, spinners and lacemakers. From the earliest days of the machine lace trade in France, British workers moved in and out of Lille and in the end, with the miseries of the 1840s, it was at Lille that the British felt truly threatened by the Revolution.

Villermé discovered these workers lived beneath the city's streets in the notorious cellar dwellings of the district.. These people, he was told, were effectively entombed beneath the ground. The cellars deserved their notoriety. They were dug out below the footpaths of the district and entered by a trapdoor at street level. There was a narrow ladder leading down into a single room into which an entire family lived and worked. During the day the trapdoors were left open to provide some access to air and light. At night they were closed in an effort to entrap any warmth that the cellar had accumulated during the day.

This does not, however, tell the whole story of workers' domestic lives in the region at the end of the nineteenth century. Relief from crowding and misery, though temporary, was found in the ubiquitous estaminets which occupied a corner of every road. In these warm and brightly lit cafe-bars, families found comradeship, cheap food, credit, help in times of need, and, most importantly of all, a constant supply of the beer and gin which were popularly believed to wash the deadly textile dust from workers' lungs.

Furthermore, those estaminets which were run by sympathetic cabaretiers or cabaretières offered a rare haven from the prying eyes of the patronat or their minions — the priests, nuns, and police, who felt



no compunction about entering workers' homes at will on a variety of pretexts. Protective of this valuable privacy, workers rarely welcomed outsiders in their estaminets.

When Villermé peered into some local cafe-bars early in the nineteenth century, he met daunting hostility (a hostility that continues to the present day). Intent on his researches into workers' private lives, he persisted. A successful, if furtive, glimpse into the interior of one estaminet revealed a shocking sight. Women, he discovered, were drinking side by side with men. (Elsewhere in France women were prohibited by long custom from entering-bars unless they were there as prostitutes.)

Not only women, but children as well, were welcome in the estaminets of French Flanders. In fact, these estaminets were the major centre of workers' social lives at that time. But the bourgeois view of these vice dens continued to echo Villermé's concluding remarks: 'I must affirm: I have never seen, all at the same time, so much beastliness, so much misery, so much vice, and nowhere in an atmosphere more hideous, more revolting.'

Contrary to the opinions of outsiders, however, the atmosphere in most estaminets was neither beastly nor revolting. In addition to shared drink, food, local gossip, and news (frequently read aloud by the literate few), workers enjoyed both singing and the recitations of local street poets, who recorded, in the local patois, events of everyday life. According to one visitor, these poets spoke not of the vanished 'fields and woods of pre-industrial Flanders', but rather 'of life in the quartier'. Moreover, he added,

'At Lille, one cannot find even a single cross-roads without its appointed poet. All year long, these street minstrels forge their couplets, telling about the events unfolding in their narrow-world.'

They sing them in the estaminets. Then, when carnival-time comes in mid-Lent, societies are formed, of which the local bard becomes the leader.' The most popular songs told 'little stories of the streets, chastised wayward husbands or wives, or simply recorded the details of workers' humble lives.

And so, beauty is in the eye of the beholder Where Villermé, in 1848, saw the estaminets as 'hideous ant hills smelling of gin and beer,' others saw them as cosy green-shuttered meeting places, and even the infamous cellars were liked by some inhabitants.

In a song, a Saint-Sauveur poet says that he had read in the paper about a whole lot of long speeches on the cellars and alleyways...

J'ai bien compris a m'maniere  
Qu'on nous f'rot aller,  
Pour respirer la bonne air  
In haut d'un guernier . . .

In my own way I caught the  
That we were supposed to go  
And breathe good air  
Way up in some garret . . .

Y m'ont dit, ches gins habiles:  
"Vo cave est malsain."  
J'y vivos ave m'famille  
Sans besoin d'medecin . . .

They told me, these clever fellows  
"Your cellar is unhealthy."  
Well I've lived there with my family  
Without any doctor's help. . .

Allons, y n'y a point d'repliques,  
A moins qu' j'intindrai  
Les anches canter des cantiques  
Pa d'sus d'min guernier.

Oh well, there's no possible  
That is unless I hear  
Angels singing songs  
Up there above my garret.

from Lille, Roubaix, and Tourcaing in the Belle Époque

# Sarah Holmes

On 10 November 1848, a scant two months after the arrival of the *Harpley*, the migrant ship *Navarimo* arrived in Adelaide. She was an old tub, having been built in 1808 - 116 feet long, almost 30 feet wide with a meagre 5 feet 9 inches between decks and in the years 1841 and 1843 she had been used to transport convicts to the colonies.

On this voyage, however, she carried a handful of folk in the cabin, and in that mean space between decks were two hundred steerage passengers. There may well have been other Nottingham folk (see shipping list) , but William Holmes, his wife Esther and their four children were most certainly on board.

Sarah, the youngest of the four, was born in Calais in 1842 and was a six year old when she made the voyage. She later told how her father, William, had been educated at the Blue Coat school in Nottingham and had then gone into the lace business. He went to Calais as a designer and claimed that he would be locked into a room, so no one could see his work. He and his wife and children all spoke French.

The Holmes family was one that went back to Nottingham, having left all their belongings behind. They were cared for by relatives but there really was no work to be had, so William's thoughts turned to joining the others in Australia.

Neither his wife, Esther, nor his family wanted to do this, but in the end he got his way and the family boarded the *Navarimo*. Sarah doesn't remember the voyage very clearly, except that her mother cried a lot.

Their arrival in Australia probably did little to dry Esther's tears. The family lived in tents while William and the boys built their first home in Chapel Street in Thebarton. This house consisted of two large rooms divided by hessian walls.

That first summer was hot and dry. There was no good water close to the house and the boys would have to go to the Torrens with buckets on poles. Flies and ants were pestiferous and food was expensive. Fruit, except for watermelons and tomatoes, was scarce and dear, and hawkers brought what little there was to the door.

Sarah went to school - next door where the school master was a fierce man called Watson. She sat all day on a backless form and had to pay her fees each Monday. She remembered when the first train reached Adelaide from the Port. Before this a spring cart, drawn by two horses in tandem, would pass the top of the street each morning and evening. With the sensitivity of a child, she and her brothers raced off to the Adelaide Goal to see the last public hanging - climbing up on the gate to get a better view!

Like most men, William took his two young sons off to the Ballarat diggings. Whatever fortunes they found, they lost again and returned to Adelaide no better off.

Sarah married T S Hannam in 1862 at St John's Church in Adelaide. For years she lived on properties, but spent the later years of her life in Malvern. She had six children, of whom five grew up to marry - one daughter becoming Mrs Glover, Lady Mayoress of Adelaide.

It is believed that William Lawrence Holmes was related to Benjamin Bennet Holmes from the *Harpley*, but to this time, no evidence has been found to prove it!

Gillian Kelly

**Arrival of the *Navarimo*,  
Adelaide, South Australia, 10 November  
1848.**

**SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE:**

Friday, Nov. 10th - The ship *Navarimo*, 650 tons,  
R.C. Paige, master, from London 15th July and Plymouth 3rd  
August.

**Passengers -**

Mr and Mrs France and four children, Miss France, Messrs Henry  
Constable, J Miller, C.J. Berry, W. Simpson, J.W. Walker (Surgeon  
Superintendent), in the cabin; John Watson, [Peilor, J.L. Hortslet,  
Ansell, Shanklin, A.L. Ely, E. Brettingham, intermediate; W.  
Steele, J.B. Brownrig, Bakewell, W. Hooper, W. Craton, R  
McIntosh, W. Holmes wife and four children,

Hugh Nicholls, James Mayor, R. Mitchell wife and three children,  
Catherine Gay, Elizabeth Edwards, Henry Mitchell, Robert Mitchell,  
F. Symonds wife and eleven children, Thomas [Cabil] wife and two  
children, Ann Bolger, T. [Mullius], H. [Cabil], G. Bilbrough and  
wife, A. Hilder, E Wyatt wife and child, J. Beckford & wife, W.  
Carpenter, J. Dawber wife and five children,

Henry Rich, John Tardrew wife and seven children, John Morgan  
wife and four children, R.W. Vale wife and four children, Henry  
Pratt, John Pratt, Joseph Pratt, J.J. Pascoe, Thomas Tremwith, W  
Orchard wife and three children, Henry Johns, Simon Boage, Robert  
Hitchcock, T. Heaton wife and seven children, J. Pepper wife and  
four children, R. Spearman wife and two children,

Joseph White, J. White wife and child, Jane White, Mary Ann  
Moody, H.W. Ball, Henry Holder, J. Morton, James McLebland,  
Jane McLebland, J. Walker, J.A. Angus wife and two children, J.

Digby, Mrs Darwin, J. Darwin, Wm. Darwin,, Mrs Hewett, Miss Hewett, Henry White wife and three children, W. [Farler], J. Kingston and wife, Edward Phillip. W. Inskipp. J.B. Inskipp, Anne Smith, Catherine Smith and child, Henry Angus, J. Carne wife and three children, Mrs A Lean, S. Lean, Mrs Richards ~Mr Richards died en route on 11 August - married only three weeks],

William Wilcocks, W. Hannah and wife, S.S. Stokes, C. Fisher, J. Jenkins, J.C. Sanders, H. Bunn, W. Munro, G. Lawn, W. Wallace, Elizabeth Lambert, G.Beaumont, J. Roberts and wife.

*The South Australian Register.*  
Saturday, November 11, 1848.



## **THE PARISH OF ST PETERS, NOTTINGHAM**

The first church of St. Peter's was built on its present site more than 850 years ago. The life around the church was that of a busy market town. For many years the immediate buildings around the church and churchyard were small dwellings each with a little land, a few cattle or pigs and fowls; others were the homes and workshops of the artisans and tradesmen: Bridlesmith Gate where the smiths worked, Fletcher

Gate where the butchers lived and Lister Gate, the street of dyers. Further away were larger houses occupied by the merchants, physicians and lawyers.

In 1677 Celia Fiennes, on her ride around England, wrote:  
*"the town of Nottingham is the neatest I have seen, built of stone and delicate and long streetes the houses lofty and well built."*

## **The Guilds**

In the Middle Ages life centred around the church; as well as fulfilling a religious function the church accepted responsibility for education and carried out many welfare activities through its Guilds. St. Peter's has the great distinction and good fortune to have preserved intact the Guild Books of two fifteenth-century guilds whose home was in this church. The guilds, dedicated to St. George and St. Mary, were founded about 1440 - the earliest record of a guild in Nottingham is 1379; the last entry for the Guild of St. George dates from 1545-46, after which all guilds and chantries, like the monasteries, were swept away by Henry VIII.

Medieval parish life had an intensity that is hard to imagine today, and the guilds were at the heart of it. In addition to religious matters they cared for such things as mutual assistance, sustenance for the poor and sick, shelter for strangers and pilgrims, and visiting those in prison. Guilds were the provident and benevolent societies of the time; one of their concerns was with burial, in an age when this was an ever-present concern.

## **Medieval entertainments**

The guilds also made a great contribution to entertainment in the town, through the elaborate and colourful celebrations associated with the feast-days of their patron saints. The records of the Guild of St. George at St. Peter's include references to a large statue of St. George (and horse!) which was used in processions.

Such entertainments involved pageantry and mystery plays, in which bible stories were enacted. The plays were often performed on mobile

stages, which could be carried through the town, so bringing entertainment to everyone. Special performances of the plays would be given outside the homes of wealthy citizens, in a medieval equivalent of the Command Performance.

### **A seventeenth century collection**

Although St. Peter's has a list of Rectors beginning in 1240, and of churchwardens from 1559 onwards, little other recorded information is available about the Parish before the oldest Vestry notes of 1649. In 1624 a collection was made for the Easter gift to the Rector, the Revd. George Cotes.

A small book records the collection, naming the nearby streets with delightful names: St. Peter's Gate, Wheelwrights Gate, Angel Rowe, Timber Hill, Cuckstoole Rowe and Parsonage Corner.

St. Peter's like many parish churches had a good-sized churchyard round it; this was unfenced until 1641. In 1518 there were houses in the churchyard; one tenement was let for 28s 8d a year. In 1828 there were five houses bringing in rent for the Free Grammar School.

The four quarters of St. Peter's Parish all have their own character. The North side of the parish is not large, only covering the distance from the church to South Parade and Wollaton Street further away.

Much of this area in days gone by contained large private properties, but it is now exclusively shops, banks, building societies etc. The East side of the parish is equally small, only running from the church up to Fletcher Gate, an area of shops and businesses including Bridlesmith Gate, which has always been an important centre of trade. In the past the streets had small houses, gardens and small holdings.

Nowadays on the West of the parish is The Park, a large area of high class houses and flats. The history of its growth is interesting. In the seventeenth century the land was owned by the Duke of Newcastle as private property, and formed the Park of Nottingham Castle. It was mainly open land, pasture and the fish pond gardens. It was the nearest to the country for the dwellers in the town, for whom strolling



in the Park became a pleasant visit and walk in this pretty rural area.

Later the Park began to change from a rural to an urban area. By 1827 the first houses were planned and started to be built, and from 1854 the estate with Victorian enterprise comprised prestigious houses, large and elegant with coach houses and beautiful gardens. Some were the work of T. C. Hine and Watson Fothergill, the well-known Nottingham architects. The Nottingham people must have been saddened to lose their chance to walk and stroll here.

This was the time of the wealth of the lace trade and other large industries, and many a factory owner built his house here. Roads in the Park reflect the ducal connection: Cavendish Crescent, Newcastle Drive, Clumber Crescent etc. The land is now owned by Oxford University.

### **Poverty to the South**

From this affluent area, living in comparative wealth and comfort, we now come to the remaining part of the parish, on the South. The activities recorded from the earliest days of the Vestry notes reflect the care, time and money spent on the poor of the parish by St. Peter's Church. As early as 1601 the parish had its own workhouse; in the next century land was granted for a new workhouse, which was built in 1788.

But Abigail Gawthern, in her diary, recorded that her husband paid £3 for its removal in 1789 as it obscured the view of the Meadows from their house!

The care of the poor had always been part of the work of the Parish, from the time of the Guilds onwards. For centuries it was the parish officers who carried much of the burden of social and civic administration at a local level, together with the Corporation (often the same people!)

Over the years the structure changed, but whether they were "overseers of the poor" or "Board of Guardians" the responsibility

was at parish level until the reformation of local government in the later nineteenth century. They had to maintain order and take care of their own parishioners, and in particular were responsible for the unemployed or creating work for them, finding employment for orphans from the parish workhouse, and passing on those who did not "belong" to the parish to the proper authorities. It was therefore important to know exactly who did belong to the parish and so could claim benefit; William Stretton records that:

"a child was found in a back room of Bromley House (in Angel Row) where the parishes meet; the child was adjudged to belong to St. Peter's, being found on that side of the room towards that parish." This must have been in the late eighteenth century.

### **Charities and workhouses**

In the same way the parish officers were much involved with charitable foundations in the town; a good example is Martin Roe, whose monument can be seen in the chancel. He was overseer of the poor and workhouse manager (an honorary office), and also one of the trustees of Sanderson's Charity, which gave money to the poor and to the Bluecoat School.

St. Peter's has been concerned with the Bluecoat School since its foundation under the Revd. Peter Benton in 1706, and links are still strong. Similarly the General Hospital, founded in 1781, has long had connections with St. Peter's and with members of its congregation; most of the present site now falls within St. Peter's parish.

The large houses along Low Pavement had beautiful gardens. Their occupants were proud of the site and the extensive view from the back windows. Abigail Gawthorn wrote in her diary of "apricot blossom in the Paddock", of "asparagus grown in the garden" and of tea in the summer house in the gardens of the White Lead Works lower down on the Broad Marsh. One night she was awakened and looking out of the window she could "see the haystacks on fire". Another time the wind blew down and destroyed the windmill she could usually see on Wilford Hill.

But the area Abigail looked at and admired - the Broad Marsh - was rapidly changed from the beginning of the nineteenth century, with the advent of the Industrial Revolution and the surge of people who came to work in the city. To house them, tenements were built on Abigail's beautiful rural view. They were built cheaply as the rent could not be above 2/6 a week.

The area was packed with back-to-back houses in rows and occasionally in a square, with earth closets in a group at the end of the street or ash pits under the houses. A health report in 1844 said that there should be one "necessary" to 3 or 4 houses, but it was more usual to have one "necessary" for every 6 to 8 houses. Water taps were placed here and there, and all the water had to be carried to the house. Pity the people who lived on the third floor! The workers were badly needed in the factories, but also some work was "outwork" the framework-knitters were in huddled hovels.

### **St. Peter's School**

St. Peter's did valiant work to assist those living in such circumstances. A school was built in 1863 for Infants and Girls, and later expanded and developed into two departments. This school was built on the old burial ground of St. Peter's after the necessary legislation.

The church records hold accounts for feeding the sick, for soup kitchens and for a scheme to send children to country cottages. The Broad Marsh tenements, some of the worst in the country, continued to exist until the slum clearance of the 1930s. St. Peter's School, at its closure in 1906, became the Parish Hall where most of the caring work took place, until in 1935 it was reported that the area was "empty".

### **St Peters and the Lacemakers**

ASLC members readily relate to St Marys of Nottingham, but many, many of them lived in the parish of St Peters, and the continuation of the name at St-Pierre is intriguing.

## **FOR THE GENEALOGIST**

### **Murphy was an Optimist! or How I relate to that.....**

1. The public ceremony in which your distinguished ancestor participated and at which the platform collapsed under him, turned out to be a hanging.
2. When at last after much hard work you have solved the mystery you have been working on for two years, your aunt says: "I could have told you that".
3. Your grandmother's maiden name that you have searched for for five years was on a letter in a box in the attic all the time.
4. You never asked your father about his family when he was alive because you weren't interested in genealogy then.
5. The will you need is in the safe on board the Titanic.
6. Copies of old newspapers have holes occurring only on the surnames.
7. John, son of Thomas, the immigrant whom your relatives claim as the family progenitor, died on board ship at age 10.
8. Your gt-grandfather's newspaper obituary states that he died leaving no issue.
9. The keeper of the vital records you need has just been insulted by another genealogist.
10. The relative who had all the family photographs gave them all to her daughter who has no interest in genealogy and no inclination to share.

11. The one document that would supply the missing link in your dead-end line has been lost due to fire, flood or war.
12. None of the pictures in your recently deceased grandmother's photo album have names written on them.
13. No one in your family tree ever did anything noteworthy, owned property, was sued or was named in wills.
14. You learn that your great aunt's executor just sold her life's collection of family genealogical materials to a flea-market dealer "somewhere in London"
15. Ink fades and paper deteriorates at a rate inversely proportional to the value of the data recorded.
16. The 37 volume, sixteen-thousand page history of your county of origin isn't indexed.
17. You finally find your gt-grandparent's wedding certificate and discover that the brides' father' was named John Smith.

This is a direct pinch from other sources!

[Editor: Any more examples of Murphy's Laws welcome.]

## READERS' QUERIES

**DENNING  
SAYWELL  
RAGG**

John DENNING, born Leicester in 1858 was the son of John DENNING and Ann Ragg SAYWELL, who were married at St John's, Leicester in 1857. Does anyone have any information, please?

**Peter Leithead, Pentland Hill,4 Reservoir  
St, Mittagong NSW 2575**

## NUTT

I am researching this name for a friend. The earliest member of the family I know about was John Clymer NUTT married to Margaret JACKSON. Their son, John William NUTT b circa 1830 died 1903 Richmond Victoria, married Mary STEWART. Their son, Alexander NUT.T 1857 - 1919 married Ann RAWLINGS. I anyone interested in these folk?

**Val Date**

**valdate@pac.com.au**

## BIRTH PLACE: LILLE

There is good reason to suspect that many of the Lacemaker families who disappeared from Calais and Nottingham at various stages were in the trade at Lille.

A M Denis du Peage has produced a collection of genealogies of folk in Lille who were not French.

The collection, called *Genealogies Lilloises*, is held at Berkley College at the University of California, and a copy of the index to this collection is held by the Society of Australian Genealogists ( Call Number W5/95/Pam.1).

## THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RESEARCH CENTRE

This Information Gallery has online access to search for biographical information. This includes the Roll of Honour, Commemorative Roll and an enormous photographic collection. The Reference Area contains an extensive book collection, film collection, sound collection, online databases and microform collection. There is a Reading Room where original materials may be used.

The Memorial's award winning website is to be found at

**<http://www.awm.gov.au>**

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