

TULLE

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The Journal of the Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais Inc.

The Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais Inc.

Meeting Times & Place:

ASLC meets at Don Bank Cottage, 6 Napier Street, North Sydney, NSW, on the third Saturday in February (AGM), May, August and November each year. Our annual general meeting is held each February. Meetings commence at 1.00pm. Please bring a plate to share for afternoon tea.

Future Meetings:

Saturday, 15 May 2010
Saturday, 21 August 2010
Saturday, 20 November 2010

AGM Saturday, 19 February 2011

Find Us the Internet:

www.angelfire.com/al/aslc

Want to Join?

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Membership Subscription Due?

Contributions to Tulle : email : post

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Cover :

Nottingham Goose Fair
(from <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com>)

This Coming Meeting:

Saturday, 15 May 2010, 1.00pm

Guest Speaker: The Guest Speaker at our May 2010 meeting will be ASLC member, Robert French. His topic will be "The Gentleman Convict" – an address based on the life of William Talbot Sutton in Colonial Australia.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Our Annual General Meeting was held in February 2010 and I am pleased to report that all Office Bearers for 2010-2011 remain as they were for 2009-2010.

I thank those people, re-elected, for their diligent work throughout 2009. I also wish to thank them for again taking the responsibilities, which those Offices incur, in order that our Society remains active and fully functional. With these good people in charge of the progress of ASLC, we can look forward to another year of friendship, fellowship, learning and sharing of our ideas and discoveries.

Our committee is therefore for 2010, Secretary, Gillian Kelly; Treasurer, Pam Coull; Editor of *Tulle*, Richard Lander; Publicity Officer, Elizabeth Bolton; Membership Secretary, Barbara Kendrick; and Claire Loneragan is our Hospitality Officer. (Claire repeatedly disputes this title, preferring to be called "the Tea Lady" and a jolly good Tea Lady she is.) I shall remain as President for this year.

The AGM was, due to many and varied reasons, very poorly attended. I thank all those who were able to be with us. In particular, thank you to Elizabeth Bolton for her most efficient and gracious conducting (at very short notice) of the Election of Officers. In addition, thanks to Stephen Black who stepped in most willingly to attend to the security and vacating of Don Bank, as it became apparent that I would have to leave for Newcastle before proceedings concluded.

At the AGM, the suggestion that fees should rise was discussed. This topic arose because we were made aware of the fact that subscriptions have not increased for the past ten (10) years and, although the cost of printing and posting *Tulle* remains at about past levels despite recent increases in the cost of both, an anticipated increase in February 2011 will mean our expenditures

will exceed our income to an even greater extent than at present. Our Treasurer, Pam Coull, advised us that our funds were healthy and it was her opinion that the Annual Fees should not, at this stage, be changed. Her further advice was that the funds should be carefully watched from here on and any future discussion re fees should be on the Agenda for future meetings & reported in *Tulle*, so members have time to consider all pertinent parts of this matter. Should there be need for a slight change in the fees, it would be attended to at the next AGM in February 2011.

Our guest speaker for the May meeting is our very own ASLC Member, Robert French, whose topic will be "The Gentleman Convict" – an account of Robert's work in progress of the life in Colonial Australia of William Talbot Sutton. I tried to have Robert tell me a little more on this subject but his lips are sealed until he presents his address to us at the May meeting.

I, for one, with my naturally inquisitive streak always bubbling just a little below the surface, cannot wait to hear about Robert's "Gentleman William".

Do come and join us for what will be a most interesting meeting on Saturday 15 May 2010.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Fond regards & best wishes to all our "family".

ROBIN GORDON

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Oxford English Dictionary tells us that *Serendipity*, a noun, is the faculty for making unexpected and happy discoveries by accident and that Horace Walpole coined it after The Three Princes of Serendip, a Sri Lankan fairy tale.

So let me tell you of two recent unexpected and happy occasions.

The first was the discovery of an Anglican Book of Common Prayer that belonged to the Ashfield NSW church and was rescued by a parishioner from an unknown fate when that congregation had a clean up. That same parishioner now needed to down size and found the prayer book in the back of a cupboard. So why is it of interest? Because the inscription on the flyleaf states it belonged to the Anglican Church Calais SP, 1848! The SP is undoubtedly St Pierre and this book then, was in Calais at the time of our lacemakers.

The most serendipitous thing of all is that it is staying here in Australia and is at the moment on its way to me! There will be much more to this story, I am sure.

The second touch of serendipity came when I was on a recent visit to Matakoho, New Zealand where there is a magnificent museum devoted to the Kauri pine industry. In a section illustrating the early settlers is a model wearing a truly beautiful distinctively Leavers lace wedding dress and nearby is the mother of the bride with a lace sample book on her knee. The names didn't mean anything so a quick question to the very knowledgeable guide told it all. And yes, the lace sample book came from Nottingham and yes, the wedding dress was worn by the grand daughter of James Smith, pioneer to the district. Now the names did mean something! James Smith, born Calais 21 June 1828, lacemaker, ended up in New Zealand in 1865 and took with him the love of lace.

There are still so many stories out there – look for your serendipitous moments!

GILLIAN KELLY

EDITOR'S COMMENT

I have now received many more comments on the recent survey and, thankfully, your comments about *Tulle* have been universally very positive and encouraging. The stories/information/articles which you would like to see included in future editions included:-

- "Any research done on the families who stayed in St Pierre" (but perhaps Gillian may also have some information on these she can share with us!)
- "More on the "Harpley" passengers"
- "More information about the South Australian and Victorian lacemaker families"
- "More stories relating to the Saywell family"
- "Members stories about their lacemaker ancestors"
- "Genealogical information about lacemaker families"
- "Family history of lacemaker families"
- "What activities were the lace makers involved in other than their work in Calais?"
- "More about the living conditions that they experienced in the mid-1800s (wages earned; food eaten; their social life; sports played by the young and old; housing conditions including rent paid etc.)"
- "The journey and experiences of those who went to Adelaide and to Bathurst"
- "More summaries of guest speaker's presentations"
- "More articles from previous issues – especially very early ones"
- "Relevant historical stories"
- "Include a "Question and Answer" page (eg. how to find the census for Calais, etc)"
- "A list of member's surname interests so information can be exchanged between members of similar interests"

I believe that these are all admirable suggestions. However, members should supply those underlined with a wiggly line as they are your stories. Our efficient secretary has previously and will continue to supply summaries of guest speaker's presentations because we know how interesting these are to members

who cannot attend our regular meetings. I will attend to the requests underlined with a single line, especially when I receive your questions. Gillian, our main researcher, obviously puts people in touch with each other when possible, but privacy laws prevent me from publishing in *Tulle* your interest in contacting one another unless I have your specific request and permission to do so. If this is your wish then please contact me in writing detailing your request.

I raise one point regarding the first suggestion. In the very first edition of *Tulle*, it was pointed out that the *Cimetière sud* in Calais, the Southern Cemetery in Calais, contains a special section which has been set aside for the "Nottingham People" and their descendants. Some family names connected with families who migrated to Australia in 1848 appear on the gravestones located there but many more have been lost because, under French law, graves that are not maintained by the deceased's family are free to be used by others. More on the *Cimetière sud* and some of those buried there can be found in articles in *Tulle*, July 1992, February 2002, May 2002, August 2002, February 2003.

One kind member wrote in part: "Our journal, *Tulle*, is a great resource covering many aspects of our large family, not just our individual family name, but the family of framework knitters and lacemakers who make up our ancestors and who worked so hard to make a living. As a contributor, at times some of my articles need rewriting but we have a very good editor and, thanks to him, they are more readable after his has done his bit on them. So we don't have to be writers, we just have to be contributors. One line in our journal is good, two lines and you are on your way to writing an article about YOUR family. All members would love to hear more about them. Please don't just think about it. DO IT!" Thank you, Beth. I am blushing.

Thank you all for your feedback. I hope *Tulle* continues to provide you with the information you yourself hope it does. If you really feel unable to write a story for our journal, but have a fantastic idea which you feel will be of huge interest to many members, please let me know about it. I will either attempt to research the material myself, or to get someone from amongst our members who is much more qualified and experienced, to do so on your behalf.

Short, pithy contributions from members may soon be included in new column called Salmagundi. Look out for it and please contribute to it. **RICHARD LANDER**
TULLE - 107 P. 6 MAY 2010

NOTTINGHAM ECCENTRICS¹

Sydney has had its share of eccentrics. While I was at school, Bee (Bea) Miles was the scourge of Sydney taxi drivers as she refused to pay her fares. She was also known to jump into cars heading in the direction she wanted to go and then refuse to get out until she arrived at her destination.

Of equally eccentric persuasion was Arthur Stace who was also a very colourful character. Born in Sydney of Mauritian parents in 1885, he returned from the First World War a shell-shocked, hopeless, methylated spirits-drinking alcoholic who soon became a petty criminal, a scout for brothels and a 'cockatoo' for two-up schools. Stace converted to Christianity when he was about 46 and, soon after, heard a Baptist evangelist preach about the conversion of a Scottish man after seeing "Eternity" written on a footpath. Stace saw it was something he could do for God so for the next thirty-six odd years he wrote "*Eternity*" on the streets of Sydney in yellow chalk in his best copperplate writing.

In Western Australia, we still have Prince Leonard. In 1969, Mr. Leonard Casley from Kalbarri, Western Australia found himself in a disagreement with the government over what he wanted to do with the wheat produced on his farm. In the end the dispute got so out of hand that he decided to secede from Australia and in so doing he renamed his wheat farm the Hutt River Province, declared himself Prince Leonard and his wife, Princess Shirley of Hutt, and he started printing his own stamps and currency. Today he makes more money from tourism than he ever did from farming.

All around Australia we have eccentrics who wear crazy clothes to the cricket or the football, who have erected huge sculptures like the Big Banana at Coffs

¹ Sources included

<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/tts/tts1926/itinerary1926p9.htm> and William Howie Wylie, *Old and New Nottingham*, Longman, Brown, Green and Longmans, London, 1853, Chapter 9.

Harbour, the big Merino at Goulburn, the Big Prawn at Ballina and the Big Lobster at Kingston SE in South Australia. We have people who own bizarre letterboxes or property names. We also have some of the most bizarre animals on this earth, including the platypus. It was described by Douglas Adams of "Hitchhikers Guide" fame as "estranged relative of the mammal, which has a duck-bill, otter's tail, webbed feet, lays eggs, detects its aquatic prey in the same way as the electric eel, and has venomous barbs attached to its hind legs, thus combining all 'typical' Australian attributes into a single improbable creature."

But Nottingham also had its eccentrics and some of these would have been known to our lacemakers. Mrs Waterhill, being an eccentric widow of good property, lived on the High pavement. She thought that the Sabbath ought to be observed on Saturday and, dressed in her finest apparel, went to St Mary's Church on that day with the greatest regularity. She also attended church on Sunday, but wore her ordinary dress and spent the rest of the day sewing and doing other secular jobs.

There was also James Burne ("Shelford Tommy"). He earned a precarious existence by showing his skills as a ventriloquist to small crowds. Once, when seeing a wagon with a load of straw, he imitated the crying of a baby. The wagoner, thinking there was a child buried under his load, proceeded to unload his entire cart.

"Jockey John" had several illegitimate children sworn to *him*. After *his* death in the St Mary's workhouse, *he* was found to be a woman!

George Wright, a "peddling broker", lived in a home he called "Paradise". He kept a handsome polished mahogany coffin, designed for his own use, in his home. The plate on it carried the inscription, "George Wright, died when it pleased God."

Benjamin Mayo, commonly known as "The Old General", was described as a "half-wit but a great character" who lived in the St Peter's poorhouse and died there, aged 64, on 12 January 1843. He regarded himself as second only

to the Mayor of Nottingham in importance in that city and delighted in stirring up schoolchildren to take the law into their own hands. For example, if a doorstep protruded too far on to a pavement, he would have them remove the offending obstacle immediately. He was, however, open to bribery and tuppence would usually buy him off.

Ned Dawson, who drowned in the Nottingham canal in September 1828 aged 78, was another Nottingham eccentric who provided his own coffin before death. He was a staunch Tory who had the coffin painted "true blue". It served him as a cupboard for more than twenty years. Each birthday, he would dress himself in his finest suit and then stand in the coffin to see if it still fitted him. John Wheatley of Lincoln Street, who died in September 1838, was another coffin fancier. He kept it in his bedroom and stored it with choice wines which he imbibed in copious quantities.

Jackey Peet, "a half idiotic person of some notoriety in the town" also died in 1828, aged 60. "His chief peculiarity was his powerful predilection for superfluous decorations of the person" and for his excessive eating. He wore large brass furniture ornaments such as an embossed lion's head as a brooch on his shirtfront and ornate buttons.

Thomas Darker, of Darker's court, Broad marsh, died in February 1847. He came from a wealthy and ancient family but lived as a miser hermit in an attic into which no one was allowed to enter.

Peter Conroy was better known as "Blind Peter". He was a hawker of street literature. During the "agitations of the Chartists, Peter was employed to announce their meetings". On days when Nottingham was obscured by dense fogs, "Blind Peter" reaped a rich harvest by showing the bewildered wanderers in the streets the way to their homes.

RICHARD LANDER

THE LAST AUSTRALIAN KILLED IN EUROPE IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR (BOB WILSON)

There is a remarkable story associated with one of the descendants of the *Agincourt* refugees. Lawrence Saywell was a great grandson of Thomas Richard Saywell. He was to become the last Australian killed by enemy forces in mainland Europe during World War II.

Lawrence Philip Saywell was born at Neutral Bay, NSW on 1 December 1918 and so would have known his great grandfather who died ten years later. Lawrence enlisted in the 2nd AIF in November 1939, at the outbreak of the Second World War. He had poor eyesight, but was accepted into a non-combat unit of the Australian Army Service Corps attached to the 17th Infantry Brigade of the 6th Division. In his first year of army life, he trained in Australia for overseas service.

Lawrence Saywell embarked for the Middle East in January 1940. His unit spent nearly a year training in Palestine before supporting troops in the Libyan Campaign. At the end of March 1941, he embarked for Greece with the ill-fated Allied Expeditionary Force. The Allies were soon in retreat and took a stand in Crete. A series of blunders by military commanders allowed the Germans to obtain a foothold on the island and the Allies were forced to evacuate their forces back to the African mainland.

During the retreat from Crete, the Germans captured Lawrence and they incarcerated him as a prisoner of war in Stalag VIIA at Moosburg, Germany. He was later transferred to Stalag VIIB at Lamsdorf in Poland. In January 1943, Lawrence was again transferred, this time to Kommando E7010, a prison camp in Bohemia. During his time in captivity, Lawrence worked in several middle European labour camps and learned to speak German and some Russian. He made two unsuccessful attempts to escape.

Russian forces were threatening German occupied Bohemia and the Germans ordered evacuation of the prison camps. Lawrence Saywell along with three

other prisoners managed to escape from a route march near Pardubice in January 1945. Local villagers near the village of Zderaz gave them shelter and Lawrence and his companions assisted the partisans in their sabotage operations for the next four months.

The Germans had a particularly cruel reputation in Czechoslovakia. They had summarily executed the whole of the village of Lidice in reprisal for the shooting of the Governor by resistance forces. Slovenian and Czech partisan groups in the area around Zderaz harried the Germans, who in turn conducted anti-partisan operations. Although sometimes close to discovery, Saywell and his companions continued to elude the Germans. Early in May, a major national uprising against the Germans flared up in Czech lands and the German army retreated west.

On 8 May 1945, the official end of the war in Europe, VE Day, occurred. Lawrence came out of hiding and went to Miretin in Czechoslovakia. Local partisans were holding about thirty German officers in the local school. Saywell offered his services as an interpreter and succeeded in getting the officers released and disarmed. For reasons that remain unclear, a retreating German SS patrol captured Lawrence and summarily executed him by a shot to his head. He was killed after the war had officially ceased, but was the last Australian to die in the European campaign

Lawrence Saywell's body lay in state in the village school until 10 May 1945, and he was buried in the Evangelical Cemetery in Miretin. The village is now situated in the Czech Republic. The President of Czechoslovakia awarded Pte. Lawrence Saywell the Czechoslovak Military Cross for "his brave and eminent services to our State in the battle for liberation". In 2005, the Czech Republic made a further posthumous award of the Meritorious Cross. His death is still commemorated at Miretin every year, when a ceremonial procession takes place between the site of his original grave and his memorial stone.

References:

- ANZAC POW freemen in europe, aifpow.com/part5
- Australian War Memorial, <http://cas.awm.gov.au/heraldry/REL24151.001>
- Australia's War 1939-1945, www.w2australia.gov.au/vevp/
- Wikipedia, Germany's campaign in Crete

THE DIXON FAMILY – “HARPLEY” PASSENGERS (JEAN DIXON)

Amongst the passengers aboard the “Harpley” in September, 1848 were Richard Bell Dixon, his wife Mary Anne (nee Petty), both aged 48; and some² of their children, Sarah, Richard Bell, David Petty, Joseph, Joshua³ Sayer and Mary. Like their father, Richard (snr.), who may have worked at the abattoirs in Port Adelaide, the four boys all became butchers. The family initially lived in Alberton in Adelaide.

Joseph and his wife continued to live in Alberton but, sadly, a daughter of theirs was buried in Plot 112⁴ at the four-acre cemetery at St Paul’s, Port Adelaide, which had been granted to the church by Governor Robe on 17 November 1847. She had died at home as the consequence of diarrhoea and was buried on 26 November 1861.

Just five days later, David Petty Dixon, their four-year old son also died at home – he the result of dysentery and convulsions – and he was also buried in Plot 112.

On 22 January 1865, aged 65, Richard himself died and he too was buried in Plot 112.

On 15 September 1867, another grandchild of Richard and Mary Anne, a daughter of their son, David Petty and his wife, Agnes of Queenstown, was also buried on Plot 112 after dying as a result of rubella, pneumonia and debility. Grandmother, Mary Anne then leased another plot (Plot 211) at the cemetery (costing £3.12.00) and she herself was buried in it on 8 December 1871, aged 72 years.

² A daughter, Elizabeth, came to Australia years later; and another daughter, Caroline, married William Wheewall (Whewell) and came to Australia in 1848 with him and their son, Joseph, aboard the *Agincourt* with other lacemaker families.

³ Shown as “Joachim” in the Calais Census conducted on 29 June 1846.

⁴ This had been leased by Richard Bell Dixon (Snr.) at a cost of £2.14.00.

Her son, Joseph, leased Plot 281 at the cemetery on 14 June 1872 at a cost of £2.05.00. It adjoined Plot 211. His wife, Alice, was buried in Plot 281 on 8 May 1872.

Alberton Cemetery ceased leasing plots in 1874 and Cheltenham Cemetery, which opened the same year, became the local burial ground.

Joseph Dixon was buried in the Cheltenham Cemetery in 1898, having reached the age of 66 years.

These grandparents were compassionate and caring in a time of sorrow in the deaths of their three young children. Was this the character of our lace maker ancestors?

JEAN DIXON

Editor's Note: Find other information regarding the DIXON family in *Tulle*:-

- Issue 14, July 1986
- Issue 51, May 1996 (Vol 15, No. 2) pages 24 & 31
- Issue 52, August 1996 (Vol 15, No. 3) page 13
- Issue 53, November 1996 (Vol 15, No. 4) page 31
- Issue 54, February 1997 (Vol 16, No. 1) pages 32 - 36
- Issue 82, February 2004 (Vol 22, No. 1) pages 30 and 31
- Issue 91, August 2005 (Vol 23, No. 3) page 25
- Issue 92, August 2006 (Vol 24, No. 3) page 15
- Issue 94, February 2007 (Vol 25, No. 1) page 2
- Issue 101, November 2008 (Vol 26, No. 4) page 19

"On the opening of my cuddy, in my cabin I perceived an aromatic odour, as of spicy flowers, blown from the land; and going out to announce the fact, I met a gentleman coming into the cuddy, who said 'Come on deck and smell the land!' People could not at first believe it; but there it was strong and delicious...something like the smell of a hayfield, but more spicy. I expect it is the yellow mimosa which my brother Richard said we should now find in flower all over the valleys..." (from the personal diary of William Howitt, arrived Sydney in 1855 as shown on a plaque on the Welcome Wall at Darling Harbour – thank you **LINDSAY WATTS**).

THE TALE OF A WEDDING GOWN

The township of Matakohe is on the east coast of the North Island of New Zealand and it is the home of the marvellous Kauri Museum.



Lace detail of wedding gown, Kauri Museum, Matakohe, New Zealand

Part of the museum illustrates family life in the early days of the settlement and amongst the exhibits are a beautiful wedding dress trimmed with lace, and a lace sample book.

Both are quite unexpected objects from a pioneering settlement in an isolated area. The records of the museum tell that the wedding dress was brought from England for the marriage of Mary Coates to James Hardie-Neil c. 1903-07. The lace sample

book is titled *Novelties of Valenciennes* and written inside the front cover is Aikinson, Haseldine and Mandefield.⁵

It now becomes necessary to understand a little of the Matakohe district's history. In 1861 William Brame, a Birmingham Baptist minister, founded the Albertland Special Settlement Association, organizing non-conformist immigrants to go to New Zealand. They included farmers, carpenters, servants, butchers, joiners, cabinetmakers, millers, drapers, sawyers, clerks and many other trades. Early in 1862, two Non-Conformist Settlement Associates, a provincial Surveyor and five men rowing a whale boat set out from Auckland northward along the East Coast.

⁵ The provenance of the objects at the Kauri Museum was very kindly researched and provided by Kae Bond.

The explorers gained information from residents who lived on the Oruawhoro River and decided to create the Albertland settlement a few miles up where there was good scrubland and bush with kauri for building. They utilised an Auckland Provincial Council scheme which "...provided 40 acres each for a man and his wife, and 20 acres for each child between five and 18 years of age – provided they paid their own fare and stayed on the land for five years, built a house, and began farming..."⁶

He wasn't part of this first migration, but among the early settlers was a man called James Smith and his second wife, Mary Bell. James arrived on the *Nelson* with his family in 1865. James claimed his 40 acres and settled down to a rural life. James and Mary raised twelve children and, in addition, James had had three children from his first marriage to Sarah Christian. Mary Coates, to whom the wedding dress belonged, is the daughter of one of these children!

Who knew where to get a particularly beautiful lace wedding dress from England over 100 years ago? There is a clue – James named his property *Calais* because James Smith was born in Calais in 1828! He was one of the ten children of James Smith, lacemaker, and Eliza Craven. James Snr. went to Calais around 1823 and from then until 1848 jumped back and forth between Calais and Nottingham. James Jnr. was also a lacemaker and Mary Bell was a bobbin winder. From 1858 to 1861, they again lived in Calais. They were Methodist, baptising their Calais-born children at the Methodist Chapel. In fact, James' Uncle John Smith was a Methodist minister. Two of James' brothers also went to New Zealand but the rest of his family remained in Nottingham giving ample opportunity for perhaps a kind aunt to choose or even make a beautiful lace wedding gown for Mary Coates.

It is not known if the lace sample book is connected but perhaps one day its provenance will also become apparent.

GILLIAN KELLY

⁶ Wikipedia encyclopedia

References Used:

- **Kaori Museum Matakohe**, notes supplied by Museum Guide and Smith descendant, Kae Bond
- Wikipedia Encyclopedia notes on Albertlanders
- Family history notes, Gillian Kelly



James Smith and Mary Bell celebrating a Wedding Anniversary. The couple lived to celebrate their 50th anniversary and perhaps this grand family gathering records that particular event. (from ancestry.com)

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PUTTING TOGETHER YOUR FAMILY HISTORY?

Carol Baxter has published a short book titled *Writing Interesting Family Histories*⁷. In it she encourages family researchers to include in their family histories such information as they can unearth about the personalities of the people involved, the events with which they were connected; the economic, social and political life of their times; why they moved homes, etc. Worth reading. See <http://www.unlockthepast.com.au/our-team/carol-baxter>

⁷ Baxter, Carol J, *Writing Interesting Family Histories*, St Ives, c.2009 (ISBN 9780980704600)

IMMIGRATION⁸

In the mother country a general movement appears to be in progress in favour of emigration to the colonies on a more extensive and systematic scale than has hitherto been pursued. The alarming increase of pauperism has forced on public attention the necessity of having to resort to some means of mitigating the growing evil, and the capabilities of the British colonies, especially those situated in this part of the world, for absorbing the redundant population of Great Britain, with advantage to both, are at length likely to receive the attention they deserve.

Public opinion on the subject has manifested itself in London by active exertions on the part of many influential gentlemen in organising a society to encourage emigration to these colonies. We have every reason to believe that this endeavour to promote immigration will meet with complete success, as the individuals most prominent in making it, have energy and influence to enable them to accomplish their purpose, and especially from the disposition to emigrate on the part of a great portion of the British population, who prefer the prospect of leading a life of independence and comfort in the colonies to one of want and misery at home, the difficulties in the way will not be great. The prospectus of the society, which has been designated the *Labourers' Relief Emigration Society*, has reached the colony. It is rather a lengthy document, but comprehensive, and affording much information as to the advantages resulting to the emigrant to Australia. These advantages are first noticed, and for proof of them reference is made to the reports of the Land and Emigration Commissioners, and to other sources, especially to the evidence given "before the Lords' Committee of the session 1847 and 1848." The manner in which the expenses of the present immigration are defrayed is next glanced at, and many of the benefits which would result from the mother country bearing her share of these expenses, and from a modification in the regulations at present followed, are enumerated. The urgent want of labour in these colonies is then dilated upon, and the abundant resources

⁸ From "The Atlas", 19 August 1848.

they possess for affording sustenance and employment to so many as twenty thousand souls yearly. The frightful increase of pauperism in Great Britain forms a contrast to this view. The mutual advantages which could be conferred on the mother country, and upon the colonies had the large number of British subjects who settled in the United States since the year 1845, been located in the British colonies, are next descanted upon. After stating some of the grounds upon which success is anticipated by the society, and pointing out some means by which the object of the society may be advanced, the prospectus concludes by inviting public support for an association, in the words of the prospectus, "calculated to confer benefits so important to Her Majesty's subjects in all portions of the British empire."

The gratitude of the colonists is due to those gentlemen who have so zealously come forward as the champions of systematic immigration. The importance of directing a continuous stream of eligible immigrants to the colony cannot be

too highly appreciated. The future character of the inhabitants of the colony must depend in a great measure on the addition which will be made to their numbers during the next twenty to

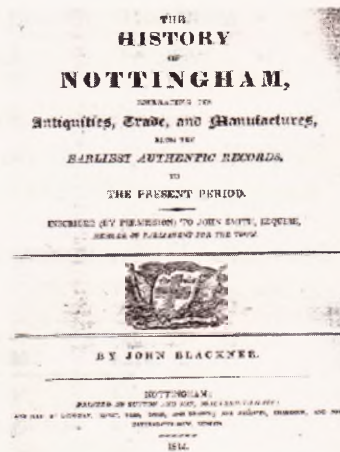


thirty years. The prospect of receiving this addition through the discriminating medium of a society of men worthy of confidence, is in the highest degree pleasing. The character of the immigrants who land upon our shores, we consider a matter of the greatest importance, and one to which the utmost attention should be paid. We wish the society, therefore every success.

J OHN BLACKNER⁹

John Blackner was born at Ilkeston, Derbyshire, about 1779. After serving his apprenticeship with a stocking-maker there, he moved to Nottingham where, initially as an illiterate youth, he gradually learnt to read and write and to become more and more politically astute. By May 1812, his literary ability and political reputation were so developed he was appointed editor of the radical London daily newspaper, *The Statesman*. Soon after, he became editor of the *Nottingham Review*.

This was during the period of machine smashing and some quote Blackner as the source of the term "Luddite". Some even accused him being involved with the Luddite movement. He is certainly accused of garnering violent political opinions and he was also a man of the greatest perseverance and force of character. However, in his book, "History of Nottingham", which he published in 1815 (shortly before his death), Blackner wrote that the term came from a youth called Ludlam who, when asked by his father to square his needles, just took a hammer and beat the needles to a heap of useless metal.



For some years Blackner was landlord of the Rancliffe Arms¹⁰ in Sussex Street, Nottingham, and he died there on 22 December 1816. He was only 47.

⁹ Material drawn largely from William Howie Wylie, *Old and New Nottingham*, p232, Longman, Brown, Green and Longmans, London, 1853

¹⁰ These arms refer to the great family of Parkyns of Bunny, the most celebrated member of which was Sir Thomas Parkyns, the eccentric baronet who lived from 1663 to 1741. He was a man who was so extraordinarily fond of wrestling that he did all sorts of things to promote its popularity, but in addition to this he did very much to ameliorate the conditions of his tenants in the village of Bunny and had much to do with the erection of the beautiful school house in that charming place. (From the Nottinghamshire History website, <http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/default.htm>)

D ID YOU KNOW?

Copper in New South Wales was first discovered on Mr. Icely's land at Carcoar in November, 1848.

There were major earthquakes at Wellington, New Zealand, on 16 October and 17 October 1848.

The three executions carried out in NSW in 1848 were those of

- Patrick Ryan, for murder, executed at Newcastle, 1848.
- Charles Henry Mackie, for rape, executed at Bathurst, 10 Nov 1848.¹¹
- William Fyfe, for murder, executed at Sydney, 4 July 1848.

1847 was a year of extreme drought and very high temperatures in NSW. These conditions continued until mid-January 1848. The rains then came and floods were experienced in various parts in January, February, March, April and December 1848.

The number of immigrants who arrived at various British colonies during 1848 was 23,904:-

• NSW	7,722
• New Zealand	751
• Queensland	-
• South Australia	7,852
• Tasmania	218
• Victoria	7,399
• Western Australia	62
• Total	23,904

¹¹ Mackie was the first of a rash of executions at Bathurst between 1848 and 1862. Others included Robert Walsh (for murder) 26 October 1849; Thomas Wilmore (murder) 14 April 1852; Timothy Sullivan (murder) 30 September 1852; Patrick McCarthy (murder) 11 April 1853; Paddy, an Aboriginal, (rape) 1853; James McLaughlin (murder) 25 April 1854; and on the same day Billy Palmer (murder); Addison Mitchell (murder) 7 May 1857; and also on this day, Henry Curran (rape); other joint executions occurred on 11 May 1859 when John Arrow (murder) and William Martin (alias Thomas Ryan) for rape and robbery with a firearm both met their end.



GRANDMA CLIMBED THE FAMILY TREE¹²

There's been a change in Grandma, we've noticed as of late,
She's always reading history or jotting down some date.
She's tracing back the family, we'll all have pedigrees.
'Cause Grandma has a hobby, she's climbing family trees.

Poor Grandpa does the cooking and now, or so he states,
He even has to wash the cups and all the dinner plates.
'Cause Grandma can't be bothered, she's busy as a bee
Compiling genealogy – for the family tree.

She has no time to baby-sit, the curtains are a fright,
No buttons left on Grandpa's shirt, the flower bed's a sight.
She's given up her club work, the serials on TV,
The only thing she does these days is climb the family tree.

She goes down to the courthouse and studies ancient lore,
We know more about our forebears than we ever knew before.
The books are old and dusty, they make poor Grandma sneeze,
A minor irritation when you're climbing Family Trees.

The mail is all for Grandma, it comes from far and near,
Last week she got the proof she needs to join the Pioneer.
A Society most prestigious, to that we all agree,
A worthwhile avocation, to climb the family tree.

Now some folks came from Scotland and some from Galway Bay,
Some were French as pastry, some German, all the way.
Some went west to stake their claim, some stayed near by the sea,
Grandma hopes to find them all as she climbs the family tree.

She wanders through the graveyard in search of date or name,
The rich, the poor, the in-between, all sleeping there the same.

¹² The first 10 stanzas were written by an unknown author and were gleaned from several sources on the Internet by the Editor. The final 7 stanzas were written by Mrs Jo Harris, Vice-President, Ku-Ring-Gai Historical Society Inc. (and a former ASLC Guest Speaker) and are included with her kind permission.

She pauses now and then to rest, fanned by a gentle breeze
That blows above the Fathers of all our family trees.

There were pioneers and patriots mixed in our kith and kin
Who blazed the paths of wilderness and fought through thick and thin.
But none more staunch than Grandma, whose eyes light up with glee
Each time she finds a missing branch for the family tree.

Their skills were wide and varied, from carpenter to cook
And one (Alas!) the record shows was hopelessly a crook.
Blacksmith, weaver, farmer, judge, some tutored for a fee,
Long lost in time, now all recorded on the Family Tree.

To some it's just a hobby, to Grandma it's much more,
She knows the joys and heartaches of those who went before.
They loved, they lost, they laughed, they wept, and now for you and me
They live again in spirit, around the family tree.

At last she's nearly finished and we are each exposed.
Life will be the same again, this we all supposed!
Grandma will cook and sew, serve biscuits with our tea.
We'll all be fat, just as before that wretched family tree.

How clever was our Grandma, to accomplish such a screed,
To have her work completed, for everyone to read.
She's taught us all to finish, to publish and be free,
Able to do other things, not just our flaming tree.

I've dusted and I've polished since my tree is now complete,
The paths are swept, the shopping's done, the garden's trim and neat.
But how I miss the research – books, fiche, films and CDs
Could I help my neighbours with their family trees?

The neighbours show no interest, perhaps there is a reason,
They'd heard me prattle on about it all, thru' season after season.
I think I'll take a bus trip to the local lib-ra-ry,
I'll find someone to talk to – about my family tree.

The library is empty, no one to help today,
Maybe the tempting sunshine has taken them away.
I'll walk a little down the road, to the local cem-et-ery,
Perhaps there's someone there to help with a family tree.

Whilst in the churchyard I found a grave of great import,
I thought I'd checked them all before, the blackberries I'd fought,
But here lies "Eliza Jane", arrived eighteen thirty three.
She's the one I'd searched for – for our family tree.

Now I can stop my knitting, take a break from housework too,
For here's a new direction, more exciting things to do.
I'll dig and delve in all the books, each ship's directory
To find Eliza's offspring – for the family tree.

I've found great uncle Rupert, he's a man of great distinction,
I've found his father and his earlier conviction.
It's wonderful to have no time, I'm busy as can be,
Growing new branches on – my beloved family tree.

--###--



**HAVE YOU HAD A "EUREKA"
MOMENT WHILE RESEARCHING
YOUR FAMILY?**

**TELL US ABOUT IT! YOUR
CONTRIBUTION COULD BE FIRST
IN A PROPOSED NEW COLUMN
TO BE CALLED "SALMAGUNDI"**

NOTTINGHAM PARISHES

From Cecil R Humphrey-Smith, *The Phillimore Atlas & Index of Parish Registers*, 3rd Edition, Phillimore, Chichester, 2003, Map 27.



NOTTINGHAM PARISHES

From Cecil R Humphrey-Smith, *The Phillimore Atlas & Index of Parish Registers*, 3rd Edition, Phillimore, Chichester, 2003, pp. 215-217

PARISH NAMES	MAP REF.	PARISH NAMES	MAP REF.
Annesley	9F	Cossall	9E
Arnold	7E	Costock	7B
Askham	5I	Cotgrave	7D
Aslockton	5D	Cotham	4E
Attenborough	8D	Cottam	4J
Averham	5F	Cromwell	4G
Awsorth	9E	Cropwell Bishop	6D
Babworth	6J	Darlton	5I
Balderton	4F	Dunham	4I
Barnby in the Willows	4F	Eakring	6G
Barnstone (see Langar)	5D	East Bridgford	6E
Barton in Fabis	8C	East Drayton	5I
Basford	8E	East Leake	8B
Beckingham	5K	East Markham	5I
Beeston	8D	East Retford	6J
Bestwood (see Lenton)	8E	East Stoke	5E
Bevercotes (see Markham Clinton)	6I	Eastwood	9E
Bilborough	8E (Q)	Eaton	6I
Bilsthorpe	6G	Edingley	6F
Bingham	6D	Edwalton	7D (T)
Bleasby	6F	Edwinstowe	7H
Blidworth	7F	Egmanton	5H
Blyth	7K	Elkesley	6I
Bole	4K	Elston	5E (G)
Bothamsall	6I	Elston Chapel	5E (F)
Boughton	6H	Elton	5D
Bradmore (see Bunny)	7C	Epperstone	7F
Bramcote	9D	Everton	6L
Broughton Sulney	6B	Farndon	5F
Bulwell	8E	Farnsfield	7G
Bunny	7C	Finningley	6M
Burton Joyce	7E	Flawborough	4D
Calverton	7F	Fledborough cum Woodcoates	5I
Calburton	7I	Flintham	5E
Car Colston	5E	Gamston (Retford)	6I
Carlton in Lindrick	7J	Gedling	7E
Carlton on Trent	5H	Girton	4H
Caunton	5G	Gonalston	6E (E)
Clarborough	5J	Gotham	8C
Clayworth	5K	Granby	5D
Clifton (with Glapton)	8C	Greasley	9E
Coddington	4F	Gringley on the Hill	5L
Colston Basset	6C	Grove	5J
Colwick	7D	Halam	6F
Halloughton	6F (D)	North Wheatley	5K
Harworth & Bircotes	6L	Norton Cuckney	8I

PARISH NAMES	MAP REF.	PARISH NAMES	MAP REF.
Hawksworth	5E (N)	Norwell	5G
Hawton	4F	Nottingham – St Mary	7D
Hayton	5J	Nottingham – St Nicholas	7D
Headon	5I	Nottingham – St Peter	7D
Hickling	6C	Nuthall	8E
Hockerton	6G	Ollerton	6H
Holme	4G	Ordsall	6J
Holme Pierrepont	7D	Orston	5D
Hoveringham	6E	Ossington	5H
Hucknell Torkard	8E	Owthorpe	6C
Kelham	5F	Oxton	7F
Keyworth	7C	Papplewick	8F
Kilvington	4D	Park Leys (ex. Par.)	5G (B)
Kingston on Soar	9C	Perlethorpe	6I
Kinoulton	6C	Pinxton (Derbyshire)	9G
Kirkby in Ashfield	9F	Plumtree	7C
Kirklington	6G	Radcliffe on Trent	6D
Kirton	6H	Radford	8D I
Kneesal	6H	Ragnall	4I
Kneeton	5E (K)	Rampton	5I
Lambley	7E	Ratcliffe on Soar	9C
Laneham	4I	Rempstone	7B
Langar	5C	Rolleston	5F
Langford	4G	Ruddington	8C
Laxton	5H	Rufford (ex. Par.)	8C
Lenon	8D	Saundby	4K
Linby	8F	Scarrington	5D (M)
Lindhurst (ex. Par.)	8G	Screveton	5E (L)
Littleborough	4J	Scrooby	6K
Lowdham	6E	Selston	9F
Mansfield	8G	Shelford	6E
Mansfield Woodhouse	8G	Shelton	4E
Maplebeck	6G	Sibthorpe	5E (J)
Markham Clinton (West Markham)	5I (A)	Skegby	9G
Marnham	4H	Sneinton	7D (S)
Mattersey	6K	South Collingham	4G
Mering (ex. Par.)	4H	South Leverton	5J
Misson	6L	South Muskham	5G
Misterton	5L	South Scarle	4G
Morton	5F	Southwell	5G
Newark on Trent	4F	South Wheatley	6F
Normanton on Soar	8B	Stanford on Soar	4K
Normanton on Trent	4H	Stanton on the Wolds	8B
North & South Clifton	4H	Stapleford	7C (V)
North Collingham	4G	Staunton	9D
North Leverton/Hablethorpe	5J	Staunton Chapel	4E
North Muskham	5G	Stokeham	4E
Strelley	9E	Wallingswells (ex. Par.)	8J
Sturton le Steeple	4J	Warsop	8H
Sutton Bonnington – St Anne	8B	Welbeck (ex. Par.)	7I
Sutton Bonnington – St Michael	8B	Wellow	6H
Sutton-cum-Lound	6K	West Bridgford	7D

PARISH NAMES	MAP REF.	PARISH NAMES	MAP REF.
Sutton in Ashfield	9G	West Burton	4K
Sutton on Trent	4H	West Drayton	6I
Syerston	5E (H)	West Leake	8B
Teversall	9G	Weston	5H
Thorney	3I	West Retford	6J
Thoroton	5E (O)	Whatton	5D
Thorpe in the Glebe	7B	Widmerpool	7C
Thorpe next to Newark	5F	Wilford	8D
Thrumpton	9C	Willoughby on the Wolds	7B
Thurgarton	6F	Winkburn	6G
Tithby	6D	Winthorpe	4F I
Tollerton	7D (U)	Wiverton Hall (ex. Par.)	6D (P)
Treswell	4J	Wollaton	8D
Trowell	9D	Woodborough	7E
Tuxford	5H	Woodhouse Hall (ex. Par.)	8I
Upton	5F	Worksop	7I
Walesby	6I	Wysall	7C
Walkeringham	5L		

Notes:

- I apologise for the fact that not everyone will have the ability to read the extremely small print on the map. However, by using the map reference given, you should at least be able to locate the approximate position of your family's parish in Nottingham. A magnifying glass might be of assistance.
- Nottingham's length from north to south is a little less than 80.5 km and at its greatest breadth it is a little less than 40.25km.
- Three principal rivers water Nottingham: the Trent, Idle and Erwash.
- A perculiar or eculiar is a place of worship in the English church that falls directly under the jurisdiction of a person or body other than the bishop of a diocese.
- The manorial court was the lowest court of law in England. It dealt with matters which the Lord of the Manor had jurisdiction over. Its powers extended only to those living in the manor or who held land in the manor. The Manor had its own laws listed in a document called the Custumal, a written statement of the customs of the manor, the services owed by tenants, and the rights and obligations of the lord. Anyone breaking those laws would be trialled in the Manor Court.
- Whilst the City of Nottingham unitary authority has a historically tightly drawn boundary which accounts for its relatively small population of 288,700 in 2009 (about 55,000 in 1848), the wider Nottingham Urban Area has a population of 667,000 and it is the seventh-largest urban area in the United Kingdom, ranking between those of Liverpool and Sheffield.

THE BIRKIN FAMILY OF NOTTINGHAM¹³

The Birkin Family is a name synonymous with Nottingham's industrial history and is the subject of a new book by John Drapkin, *The Birkins of Nottingham: A Truly Remarkable Family*.

Drapkin is a past honorary secretary of the Nottingham Rugby Club and the book can only be purchased on-line from them at www.nottinghamrugbyshop.co.uk¹⁴. He states "some years ago, when I gave up being Hon. Sec. I thought to do some research into the history of the Club. I quickly got bound up with the Birkin family, who were associated with the Club from its inception in 1877 to 1956. In trying to sort out who was who, I became fascinated with the family's contribution to the life and times of Nottingham. In rugby terms, there was captain, Alick who was associated with the Club's foundation, captain, Leslie who was the first President, Peter who was a captain, Hon. Sec. and President, his father who was also a President, and his brothers who were Chairman and Directors. And in a different sport, Tim Birkin, still today the country's most respected motor racing driver, and his brother Archie, sadly killed in the Isle of Man TT."

"A family not averse to "the unconventional", there was Freda, the mistress of Edward, Prince of Wales for something like 14 years - the liaison only to end with the arrival of Wallace Simpson."

"But, on a more sober note, members of the family made huge contributions to the civic and military life of the City and were noted for their philanthropy. A story of rags to riches, it starts with Richard, a poor calico worker from Belper, his son, also Richard, who was the entrepreneur who started the Lace enterprise and continues through Thomas Isaac who, when he died in 1922, left a fortune of £2.1m. Probably, I believe, the most Remarkable Family to have graced the pages of Nottingham's History." John Drapkin

This book might be of interest to some members.

¹³ Thank you to Tony Jarram for bringing this publication to the notice of readers.

¹⁴ Enter the shop, and then choose "Publications" from the "Categories" box on LHS.

T RACING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

As you are well aware, genealogy is the study of families and the tracing of their lineages and history using historical records, oral traditions and other means.

Records used in genealogical research obviously include birth, death and marriage records but it is important to understand:-

- How these records were created;
- What information is included in them;
- How and where they can be accessed;
- What other records might be available to the keen researcher.

Birth, Death and Marriage Records in Australia

BDMs in Australia were initially registered with churches following the practice in England. There, civil registration of births, deaths and marriages commenced on 1 July 1837. In Australia, the government of each colony, state or territory began keeping civil registration records as follows:-

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| • Tasmania | March 1838 |
| • South Australia | July 1842 |
| • Western Australia | September 1841 |
| • Victoria | July 1853 |
| • Queensland | March 1856 |
| • New South Wales | March 1856 |
| • Northern Territory | August 1870 |
| • Australian Capital Territory | 1911 |

It is easy to tell from which source the record derived without having to remember these dates. BDMs prefixed with a "V" all come from old parish/church records whereas civil registrations all contain the year of registration together with the registration number. These are generally recorded by genealogists in the following format, eg., 1907 # 8763 or (year #

registration number) or for a parish record, 1825 # 878 V8. This last record is recorded by the NSW BDM Registrar as V1825878 8/1825 and it is not hard to see the nonsense of recording the year twice!

When trying to compile a family tree, always work backwards from the known (yourself and your family) to the unknown (your ancestors). Begin by finding out what your family already knows about itself. Record their names plus the date and place of their birth, marriage(s) and death (if applicable). Never believe everything you are told and always try to discover at least two separate sources of proof for each event. Record the source for each piece of information you receive. Never trust the spelling of surnames, given names or place names and always look for possible variants of the above. Remember that everything is speculation until it is verified.

Always photocopy certificates and important documents. Keep the “originals” in a safe place and use the copies in your collection of material. Never believe family lore without backing it up with proof. We are not all descended from Henry VIII and there has never been enough Italian counts born to satisfy those who believe they are descended from one!

Never say, “I have finished my family history” because that statement is also untrue because it is impossible.

Join a family history group or society. They all have resources well in excess of those you could afford to own or to house as an individual and you will have access to new resources as they are added. Always look for additional information which will enhance your study. For example, incorporate information about the ship your family came to Australia aboard in your family story. Blend in data about the areas in which they settled. Look for major incidents which may have affected their lives (fires, floods, epidemics, droughts, social changes, etc.).

The best way to protect your valuable research is to share it with others but always share copies of your material, not original material or documentation.

Above all, always write truthfully. Jo Harris, the Vice President of Ku-Ring-Gai Historical Society and a former guest speaker to our Society tells the delightful story of an American woman who had acquired a measure of wealth and, for prestige reasons, wanted to have her family tree traced back two hundred years. Their ancestors had come to America on the Mayflower and the family included Senators and Wall Street wizards. The family decided to compile a family history, a legacy for their children and grandchildren.

She was very much a social climber and felt that it would add a great deal to her position if she could establish her family as being of true blue blood with Mayflower ancestors. Therefore, she hired an expert in this field to find out whom her great grandparents and great, great grandparents were. However, lo and behold, the expert found that her great grandfather had died in the electric chair for having committed a combination rape and murder. The expert discussed this delicate matter with the rich lady. Now the lady, I should add, was also a very "honest" woman and not one to lie. She wanted the family tree to reflect the "truth". So, the expert conceived this way out. Rather than writing that her great grandfather had died in the electric chair, he wrote instead — "Great grandfather Alexander Chumley-Smythe died while occupying the Chair of Applied Electronics in one of the nation's great institutions. He was attached to his position by the strongest of ties and his death came as a great shock".

Types of Birth, Death & Marriage Indexes

There are two types of BDM CD-ROM based indexes – DOS¹⁵ (pre-Windows) based BDMs and Windows based BDMs. The DOS based BDMs are not as user friendly as the Window based indexes but once you become used to their idiosyncrasies they can reveal a wealth of information. The more recent BDM indexes are run under a Microsoft Windows compatible program called "Digger" and these are much more user-friendly. NSW BDMs are available on line at no charge at <http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/familyHistory/familyHistory.htm>. Some Tasmanian indexed records can be found at

¹⁵ DOS based programs cannot be operated with a mouse. Use the keyboard.

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<http://www.archives.tas.gov.au/nameindexes> . The link relating to Tasmanian BDMs is the last link on this page, viz., the Colonial Tasmanian Family Links Database. Unfortunately, this site does not provide registration numbers. If your family has connections in WA look at the following URL:- <http://www.bdm.dotag.wa.gov.au/apps/pioneersindex/default.aspx>

Indexes available from many libraries or family history societies include:-

- NSW Pioneers Index 1788-1888 (Births, Deaths and Marriages)
- NSW Federation Index 1889-1918 (Births, Deaths and Marriages)
- NSW Between the Wars 1919-1945 (Deaths and Marriages)
- Western Australian Pioneers 1841-1905 (BDMs)
- Tasmania Pioneer Index 1803-1899 (Births, Deaths and Marriages)
- Queensland Pioneers Index 1829-1889 (BDMs)*
- Queensland Federation Index 1890-1914 (BDMs)*
- South Australian Birth Registrations 1842 to 1906*
- South Australian Birth Registrations 1907 to 1928*
- South Australian Marriage Registrations 1842 to 1916*
- South Australian Marriage Registrations 1917 to 1937*
- South Australian Death Registrations 1842 to 1915*
- South Australian Death Registrations 1916 to 1972*
- Victorian Pioneers Index 1836 to 1888 (BDMs)*
- Victorian Federation Index 1889 to 1901 (BDMs)*
- Victorian Edwardian Index 1902 to 1913 (BDMs)*
- Victorian Great War Index 1914 to 1920 (BDMs)*
- Victorian Death Index 1921 to 1985*
- Victorian Marriage Index 1921 to 1942*
- Victorian Marine Index 1853 to 1920 (BDMs which occurred at sea)*
- NSW Bounty Immigration 1828-1842*
- Tasmania Births 1900-1919 & Marriages & Deaths 1900-1930¹⁶

When searching for a birth of someone it can sometimes be helpful to be mindful of traditional naming patterns.

¹⁶ This is only licensed for single users so it is unlikely to be found in most libraries or family history societies. It costs about \$200 to purchase a single-user version.

* These are all Windows based, "Digger" files.

- The first son was named after his father's father
- The second son was named after his mother's father
- The third son was named after his father
- The first daughter was named after her mother's mother
- The second daughter was named after her father's mother
- The third daughter was named after her mother
- The mother's maiden name was often included in her son's or daughter's other given names.

Remember that all the DOS based information was transcribed in India where those doing the work were not as familiar with English names as we are. Many mistakes were made and these can be a source of frustration. However, it is worth persevering because the indexes for DOS based births can be sourced up until 1918 whereas Windows based birth indexes only go back 100 years (so currently only till 1909). When using DOS records think laterally; try alternate spellings or type in the last letter of the surname a few times to obtain a list of possible alternate spellings. Remember that very often given names are reversed (eg., Catherine Mary might be shown as Mary Catherine). If you cannot find a child by its father's surname, try entering its given name and the father's name and/or the mother's name. If you cannot find the child's given name, try entering the surname, and the father's and mother's given names to find a list of all the children. If you are "missing" a child that you know should be there and the rest of the family was registered at a given place, try entering that place and the surname only.

Remember that civil registration did not come in until 1856. Before that someone living in the bush might have found it too difficult to register the birth. If a child was not baptised for reasons of belief or geography, there will be no record. Even after civil registration was introduced, some people did not bother with their obligations. Remember also that the year shown in the indexes is the year that registration was recorded and it is not necessarily the year that the birth, death or marriage actually occurred. Even the most law-abiding citizen may well not record a birth in December until the January of the following year. Because there was a time frame for registration to take place, the event (birth, death or marriage) may have taken place in one area and have been recorded in another. Some are even recorded in another state.

RICHARD LANDER

SHAKESPEAREAN & BIBLICAL REFERENCES TO OUR VARIOUS INTERESTS

Did you know that “lace” appears at least four times in the Bible and several times in Shakespearean works? In Exodus 28:28 we learn.....

And they shall bind the breastplate by the rings thereof unto the rings of the ephod with a lace of blue, that it may be above the curious girdle of the ephod, and that the breastplate be not loosed from the ephod.

While in Exodus 28:37..... *And thou shalt put it on a blue lace, that it may be upon the mitre; upon the forefront of the mitre it shall be.*

The message is repeated in Exodus 39:21 *And they did bind the breastplate by his rings unto the rings of the ephod with a lace of blue, that it might be above the curious girdle of the ephod, and that the breastplate might not be loosed from the ephod; as the LORD commanded Moses.*

And in Exodus 39:31..... *And they tied unto it a lace of blue, to fasten it on high upon the mitre; as the LORD commanded Moses.*

Shakespearean references to “lace” are more numerous.....

The Winter’s Tale, Act III, Scene 2

PAULINA: Woe the while!
 O, cut my lace, lest my heart, cracking it,
 Break too.

And in the same comedy, Act IV, Scene IV...

AUTOLYCUS: Will you buy any tape,
 Or lace for your cape,
 My dainty duck, my dear-a?
 Any silk, any thread,
 Any toys for your head,
 Of the new'st and finest, finest wear-a?

Come to the pedlar;
Money's a medler.
That doth utter all men's ware-a.

King Richard III, Act IV, Scene I

QUEEN ELIZABETH: O, cut my lace in sunder, that my pent heart
May have some scope to beat, or else I swoon
With this dead-killing news!

In Sonnets LXVII Shakespeare writes.....

Ah! Wherefore with infection should he live,
And with his presence grace impiety,
That sin by him advantage should achieve
And lace itself with his society?

Antony & Cleopatra Act I, Scene III

CLEOPATRA: Cut my lace, Charmian, come;
But let it be: I am quickly ill, and well,
So Antony loves.

Romeo & Juliet Act III, Scene V

ROMEO: It was the lark, the herald of the morn,
No nightingale: look, love, what envious streaks
Do lace the severing clouds in yonder east:
Night's candles are burnt out, and jocund day
Stands tiptoe on the misty mountain tops.
I must be gone and live, or stay and die.

Although there are no mentions of tulle, Harpley or Fairlie in either the Bible
or Shakespearean works, Agincourt does make it. In King Henry V, Act III,
Scene VII

The name of Agincourt. Yet sit and see,

Minding true things by what their mockeries be.

King Henry V, Act IV, Scene VII

KING HENRY V: Praised be God, and not our strength, for it!
What is this castle call'd that stands hard by?

MONTJOY: They call it Agincourt.

KING HENRY V: Then call we this the field of Agincourt,
Fought on the day of Crispin Crispianus.

Shakespeare makes no reference to Nottingham but "Calais" appears often.
References can be found in the following:-

King Richard II, Act I, scene I

King Richard II, Act IV, scene I

King Henry V, Act III, scene II

King Henry V, Act III, scene III

King Henry V, Act III, scene VI

King Henry V, Act IV, scene VIII

King Henry VI, part I, Act IV, scene I

King Henry VI, part III, Act I, scene I

King John, Act III, scene III

Have I missed any?

RICHARD LANDER

THE RAINBIRD MURDERS¹⁷

Several "Harpley" families lived in the South Australian areas either just north of Kapunda (including Riverton) or just south of Kapunda (including the towns of the beautiful Barossa Valley). My own family worked and owned farms in both areas and my great-grandfather, John Hudden Lander, who travelled aboard the "Harpley" as an eight year old, eventually married at Bethany, near Tanunda in the Barossa in December 1867, aged 30.

It is likely that John, like many other lacemaker families, would have been aware of what has come to be known as the Rainbird Murders. Robert Rainbird from Hepworth, East Anglia, had married Mary Ann Pickett from Stretham in Cambridgeshire in 1849. Robert trained as a wheelwright and so, when he applied to be accepted as an emigrant to South Australia, his application was readily acknowledged because his skills were highly valued in the fledgling colony. Robert, his wife and son, Henry, sailed aboard the "Anglia" from London on Tuesday 13 January 1852. Young Henry died and was buried at sea during the voyage but two months after leaving London, Mary Ann gave birth to their second son, Allan. After arriving at Adelaide the Rainbird family rented a small house in Hindley Street. A few weeks later baby Allan also died.

Robert and Mary Ann left Adelaide and headed 80km north to the copper mining town of Kapunda. They settled on 82 acres (a little over 33 hectares) about 20 kilometres from Kapunda and it was here that Mary Ann gave birth to two more children; Emma in 1855 and Robert, Jr in 1858. The family lived in a relatively isolated hut on the dirt road running between Hamilton and Riverton – on one of the out-stations on a property owned by a wealthy and influential squatter called John Taylor.

¹⁷ More information on these murders can be found in *The Rainbird Murders 1861* by Peter Liddy (Peacock Publications), Norwood, 1993, ISBN 0 909209 63 4. I have based most of this article on the excellent research contained in this book. I thank ASLC member Kingsley Ireland for lending it to me some time ago and for suggesting this article.

The area was home to many aboriginals and a good number of these spoke English reasonably well and worked for local land-owners either as shearers or as shepherds. Kapunda had by this time become the largest town in South Australia outside Adelaide. The main problems that the aboriginals presented the locals with were the theft of sheep and their drunkenness. Kapunda had eleven hotels and there were other hotels in the nearby settlements of Hamilton and Allendale.

On Friday, 8 March 1851, a fight broke out amongst a group of drunken Kapunda aboriginals and a young aboriginal lad was killed. After the fight, the group set out to bury the boy at the burial ground which was near the Rainbird's home. On the Monday, Robert Rainbird left home with his bullocks and a dray to work at a neighbour's farm. A heat wave was prevailing and Mary Ann was about eight months pregnant. The Rainbirds were known as being happy to give passers by a drink of water and on this particularly hot day, she gave water to several whites as well as aboriginals in the burial party.

About 6.30pm on the Monday evening, Robert Rainbird returned home but neither his wife nor his children were there to greet him. He rode to a neighbour's hut and the two men spent the night searching for the missing family without success. The next day 20 or 30 men on foot and on horseback again looked for the family and on the Tuesday evening, after another day of stifling heat, the decomposing bodies of Mary Ann and her two children were found stuffed into a wombat's burrow.

The Adelaide Register¹⁸ devoted an editorial to the murders and forecast that *"it will be found that the miscreants who perpetrated this crime belong to a class of black fellow compared with whom the ordinary native is a civilised man – a class who hang about the townships of the interior and who, when not drunk, keep themselves from starving by beggary and theft. To this miserable class a terrible example must be set in the present case. They knew the consequences of crime as well as Englishmen themselves, and not one of*

¹⁸ *Adelaide Register*, Thursday 14 March 1861.

the villains who participated in this horrible murder must be left unhung. The rights of life and property demand this, and demand it promptly."

The aboriginals believed responsible for the Rainbird murders were gradually arrested and on Monday, 18 March 1861, the six accused prisoners were brought before the Kapunda Magistrate's Court. They were remanded in custody until the following Saturday when the preliminary examination was to be held. All six were then committed for trial at the next sitting of the Supreme Court in Adelaide. They were taken by train to Adelaide Gaol to await their hearing. On Wednesday, 15 May 1861, the six accused were brought from Adelaide Gaol and presented before the Chief Justice in the Supreme Court. When the trial began two days later, one of the prisoners, Jacky Pyke, had given the 19th Century equivalent of Queen's evidence and his name had been removed from the list of those being charged. During the case Jacky Pyke testified that he had gone to the Rainbird home with all of the accused. He had asked Mrs Rainbird for a drink (which she had given him). He testified that one of his fellow accused, Jemmy Alick, had then hit her on the head and raped her while others had killed her children; he claimed Goggle-eyed Jemmy had killed her daughter, and Kapunda Robert had killed her son. At the conclusion of the hearing the jury deliberated for only an hour before announcing they had reached a verdict.

Executions in South Australia had been held in public since 1836 when the colony had been founded. The public nature of the executions was considered to emphasise the deterrent nature of the penalty while guaranteeing that the sentence had been carried out. The law had been changed in 1858 and since that time all hangings were carried out within the walls of Adelaide Gaol. Friday, 7 June 1861 was set as the date for the hanging of those found responsible for the Rainbird Murders and it was, and remains, the greatest number¹⁹ of prisoners executed at one time in Adelaide, and possibly in Australia.

¹⁹ On 23 June 1649, 23 men and one woman were executed at Tyburn for burglary and robbery. This was almost certainly the largest number of ordinary criminals put to death in a single execution in Britain.

Robert Rainbird appears to have recovered very quickly from his family's disaster because shortly it after he had an affair with Cecilia Howlett, a married woman from Lyndoch Valley, near Kapunda. Before the end of 1861 he had convinced her to leave her husband and to travel to Victoria with him. He married Cecilia in 1865 and the following year they had a son, Henry William Goodwin Rainbird.

RICHARD LANDER

THE CLOCK OF LIFE

The clock of life is
wound but once, and
no man has the power
To tell just when the
hands will stop, at late or early hour.

To lose one's wealth is sad indeed, to
lose one's health is more,
To lose one's soul is such a loss that no
man can restore.

The present only is our own, so live,
love, toil with a will.

Place no faith in "tomorrow", for the clock may then be still.

This inspirational poem is variously attributed to:-

Robert H. Smith ©1932 and ©1982
George Candler
Etta Johnston



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The Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais (ASLC)

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

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

The Lacemaker emigrants of particular interest to members of ASLC sailed to Australian ports in one of three sailing vessels, viz. the "Fairlie" (destination Sydney), the "Harpley" (destination Adelaide) and the "Agincourt" (destination also Sydney). These three vessels carried the bulk of the Lacemaker emigrants. Other Lacemaker emigrants came in smaller groups on other vessels including the Canton, Castle Eden, Emperor, General Hewitt, Bermondsy, Walmer Castle, Charlotte Jane, Steadfast, Andromachie, Baboo, Harbinger, Navarino and Nelson. Descendants of these lacemakers are also valued members of ASLC.