

TULLE

VOLUME 24 No 1
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THE JOURNAL OF
THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF THE LACEMAKERS OF CALAIS

**MEETING
DATES**

**Saturday February 18, 2006
Saturday May 20, 2006
Saturday August 19, 2006
Saturday November 18, 2006**

**Donbank Cottage
6 Napier St North
Sydney**

**NEXT MEETING
Saturday February 18, 2006
AGM FOLLOWED BY
OUR GUEST SPEAKER**

Jo Harris, President of the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society
Jo is the power behind the Ku-ring-gai Family History
Centre at Gordon and if anyone needs help to access family
history via the internet, she is the person to see.

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**Membership Secretary
190 Shaftesbury Rd
EASTWOOD NSW 2122**



Tulle

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Friends,

Welcome to another year and may we all enjoy good health and serenity in 2006. It always delights me when a chance remark made in a conversation between friends, or during one of the opportunities I have to bring our story to various groups, a memory of a lacemaker connection is revealed. We have welcomed some lovely family members in this way and of course through that other wonderful source, the internet.

For many years the focus of our meetings has been to highlight the backgrounds of families within the society and we have listened to some fascinating talks from our members who have shared their research into a particular member or branch of their family. Gillian Kelly's fund of stories and postcards from Calais and Nottingham, too, have been inspirational and given another dimension to the lifestyles of those 1848 lacemaker immigrants to the Colonies. The stories haven't finished, we are still happy to learn of other's research, so don't hesitate to share with us, some delectable titbit from your family's past.

We have also looked beyond our own sources and have enjoyed some memorable talks that gave an insight into the type of society and conditions our families would have encountered before leaving Nottingham and Calais and then after their arrival in the Colonies in 1848. During 2005 we stepped outside these boundaries. Angela Phippen, Robyn Hawes and Michelle Edgar-Searson explored other issues that nevertheless still touched on aspects that are relevant to our society, Have you any suggestions for future guest speakers? Do bring them to our next meeting.

I know too, that you are going to enjoy listening to Jo Harris who is the President of the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society when she

will speak to us in February. Jo is the power behind the Ku-ring-gai Family History Centre at Gordon and if anyone needs help to access family history via the internet, she is the person to see. Do keep Saturday 18 February 2006 free to be inspired by Jo. Also as it is the Annual General Meeting, be inspired to offer take on one of the positions on the executive. I haven't reached long service leave status yet but I am certainly ready to step aside as your president.

Elizabeth Bolton

SECRETARY'S COMMENT

1 January 2006 marks the start of the landmark year in which 176,379 Australian born men and women turn 60. In addition to these special people born in Australia in 1946 there are approximately another 34,000 1946ers who started their Down Under lives somewhere else.

Young soldiers returning to their countries of origin following tours of duty overseas during World War II began families. The significant number of new children born between 1946 and 1961 in Australia is called the Baby Boom and the children themselves have become known as Baby Boomers. More than four million Australians, about 25% of our total population, were born between 1946 and 1961. These Boomers followed the Silent Generation (those born between 1925 and 1945) and preceded Generation X (1961 to 1979) and Gen Y (1980 to mid 1990s).

Between 1962 and 1972, Australia's adult population leapt by almost three million and many baby boomers reached voting age. The sheer volume of Baby Boomers has had a dramatic effect on the politics of this country and has led to exponential rises in the demand for consumer products, homes, cars, roads, and services.

Through the 1980s, baby boomers tamed their radical streak and settled down to enjoy the wealth and comfort of their middle age years. Today, baby boomers continue to dominate Australian culture, making it difficult for other groups to create change.

However, change is sometimes necessary for groups such as ours to thrive, indeed even to survive. The annual general meeting (AGM) of our Society will be held prior to our normal February meeting.

Election time is a time to exercise your franchise, a time to get rid of any dead-wood if the incumbents have not been up to the mark. A time to give new blood a chance if this is your wish. You have a say and you are encouraged to exercise it.

Nominations are open for all executive positions on the ASLC committee and will be accepted by your current Hon. Secretary from now until the election at the AGM. From day one the ASLC has granted the right to vote to all financial members. It matters not what your sex or colour is, nor how much or little property you might have. Age is of no consideration nor is your political leaning. You are encouraged to attend the AGM and to make your vote count.

Richard Lander (Aged 60 & 1 month)

AND FROM THE EDITOR

Is a tale ever told? This edition of *Tulle* includes two family stories written by members that illustrate once again how much we can learn from other folk's tales.. The beautifully researched story of the Mather family builds us a picture of the Mather brothers who were in Calais – and by using this approach Rosie Wileman, the author, has presented a view of her family that

illustrates cause and effect and illustrates that the dramatic plea in the 1848 petition *if therefore we return to England it will be with the certain prospect of becoming a burden to our Country men and inmates of the already overcrowded work houses*¹ was not without base.

Bev Mahoney's story of the Harrisons is equally intriguing – are her Harrisons related to those that came on the *Fairlie* and how, thirty four years later, did young Emma Harrison link up with, and marry, Thomas Brownlow of Rockley the son of Lacemaker William ? The social images of life in Ballarat are absorbing and relate to a larger group of lacemakers who found their way to the Victorian goldfields both from Adelaide and Bathurst.

Apart from being a very good read, both these stories give the researcher clues that might help them in their own work but there will always be many little quirks that can't be explained – in every family story there are gaps and holes that the researcher just can't explain - some things just are! Isn't it marvellous that we can't answer everything and that our forebears can keep some secrets?

Gillian Kelly

MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE

Please forward your subscription with the enclosed slip to

The Membership Secretary
Miss Barbara Kendrick
190 Shaftesbury St
Eastwood NSW 2122

¹ Kelly, Gillian *Well Suited to the Colony* p 97

THE MATHER FAMILY

When the Lacemakers of Calais petitioned the English government to send them to Australia, one of the reasons they gave for not returning to Nottingham was the fear of the workhouse. Were they justified in this fear?

The story of the **MATHER** family started, like so many others, in Nottingham then moved to Calais. While my own ancestor, **Thomas MATHER**, the second son of Archibald MATHER, a setter-up, was a policeman and setter-up in Nottingham and probably never left that city, four of his brothers were involved in the mass exodus across the channel; all lived for some time, with their families, in the Calais area. By the middle of the 19th century, some of the family were still in France, others had moved a little way to Belgium; while one branch of the family had emigrated in 1848 to Australia.



Three of the brothers eventually returned to Nottingham. The sixth, **Matthias**, moved to Lancashire, where he was successful.

James, the eldest son, born in 1794, was the first to go to France, at the very beginning of the saga. Church records (the brothers were all baptised at Castle Gate Meeting Independent, in the centre of Nottingham) state that he “was dismissed to Calais” in 1817. He is listed, with his wife and three children, in the 1826 census for Saint-Pierre-lès-Calais and figures on a list of “fabricants de tulle” for St Pierre in 1829, where he is noted as owning 2 Bobbin frames and 1 warp frame. By the 1831 census, his father-in-law, Thomas Letts, was living with them, but died in 1833. This coincided with one of the many slumps in trade as well as the huge rise in deaths from cholera that swept the continent and Britain. We know from the CGMI church records that James and his family went home to Nottingham in 1834, along with many of the other twisthands for whom there was no longer any work in France. James remained an enthusiastic member of the Castle Gate Meeting Independent and when he moved out to Radford he worked as a “church missionary” and was buried in the church burial ground in 1868.

Archibald, the third son, born in 1798, was certainly in Calais from 1822, where he witnessed many of the births and deaths of his English neighbours.* He is to be found in the censuses for St Pierre for 1826, 1831 and 1836; listed with his “wife” Anne Huntley and eventually seven children, born in Saint Pierre between April 1824 and August 1837. I have not found a marriage for Archibald; but we many of the lacemakers lived together as if they were married. Archibald is variously described as “*serrurier*” (locksmith), then “*mécanicien*”, (probably what we know as a “setter-up”).

From 1825 to 1828 he was a “*fabricant de tulle*”, showing that he owned or part-owned a machine. In the 1830s he was simply a twisthand, or “*ouvrier en tulle*”, so working for someone. But was he working in lace? A report in the Nottingham Journal 26/04/1839 speaks of Calais Stocking Frames: “There are now two firms in that flourishing place, for the making and working of plain stocking frames, upon the English methods, principally upon the two patent principles of Foote’s & Wakefield’s, better known as Moore and Mather’s patents ... the second consists of Pearson, Archibald Mather, and Taylor.”

I have not yet located his patent, but I have located some events in Belgium: - the birth of “Guillaume” Mather in Ostende , the death of Archibald’s wife, Ann, in Termonde in 1842 and the marriage of his daughter Emma Jane to Henri PHILLIPS in Brussels on the 19 March 1861. The Belgian gentleman who had posted this information on the internet, when thanked, produced evidence that Archibald and son Guillaume had both visited **Australia** in 1860. What happened next I do not know: he does not figure on any 19th century census for Britain, but I have the death certificate for Archibald, who died in Nottingham workhouse on 20th February 1878, at the age of 82, of “senile debility”. Sadly, the occupation section states “unknown”.

Where were his children? Last November’s “*Tulle*” gives part of the answer – they had remained in Belgium and the Calais area, where there are **MATHER** descendants to this day. One, however, did return “home” to Nottingham. **Roland Mather**, born in Saint Pierre in 1837, also a lacemaker, died in Basford Workhouse infirmary in 1916.

Why did **Archibald MATHER** visit Australia in 1860? Because the fourth brother, **Joseph Mather** had emigrated there in 1848, following many friends from Nottingham and Calais. Born in Nottingham in 1803, Joseph married **Mary Smith** in 1822.

Elizabeth (1824) and Byron (1826), were born in Nottingham, but shortly after the Methodist records state that Mary Mather is no longer a member, having “followed her infidel husband to France”!

Washington was born in Calais in 1830, but the family was back in Nottingham for the birth of Archibald in 1833 and all four children were baptised in 1834 in Saint Nicholas parish “in connection with the Protestant Dissenting Meeting House, Castle Gate.” Joseph apparently found work easily in Nottingham, working in the stocking trade rather than as a lacemaker; Orange’s Directory 1840 gave me a clue with the entry under “Framesmiths” for *MATHER Joseph Birch (patent rotary) Castle Terrace*. In the British Library patents I discovered his patent for “certain improvements in machinery for knitting stockings” and the fact that he met the Queen as a result.

Joseph remained in contact with his family and friends in France and when conditions in Nottingham became difficult in 1848, he and his whole family, and his half-sister Ann, set sail in 1848 on the “*Baboo*”, which took them to Adelaide. By this time the eldest daughter, Elizabeth, was married to George Limb and gave birth on board to a daughter, Anna Barker Limb, luckily named after the Captain, rather than the ship!

Finding themselves amongst friends seems to have helped them to make a success of their lives, and I am in touch with descendants of two separate branches. It is good to have Australian cousins! Perhaps if Archibald had stayed, rather than return to Europe, he would not have died in such unhappy circumstances.

William, the fifth brother, born in 1805, followed the others to France and there met his wife, Charlotte **Larandon**. Although she was born in Ramsgate, her family were in Calais at least from 1820 and her father, **Gabriel Larandon**, who kept an inn, was

perhaps French. Certainly Charlotte was known to her descendants as “the French grandmother”. This is a description familiar to many descendants of the Nottingham-Calais lacemakers, so it may not be true; but all the **MATHERs** were good linguists.

William and Charlotte married, like countless of our lacemakers, in the church of St Mary the Virgin in Dover in 1828. Their first three children were born in Calais, from 1829 to 1833 and the next three, from 1838 to 1845, back in the Nottingham area. Most of the children seem to have remained in England and William died in Newark in 1882. But their son **William** married in Calais and became a draughtsman there, so the contact was maintained for more than one generation.

All the **MATHER** brothers seem to have been clever with machinery and hardworking. Many of their descendants in both continents seem to have inherited an artistic or engineering ability (and hopefully the longevity gene!). In spite of a willingness to adapt and travel as necessary, not all of them ended their days in pleasant circumstances.

Their stories mirror those of so many of the lacemakers, who also showed entrepreneurial qualities. It seems clear to me that the fear the emigrants expressed, of ending their days in the workhouse, was completely justified. For Joseph and his family, the decision to emigrate to Australia paid off. James and William were lucky when they returned home, while Archibald’s family made a wise choice in remaining abroad. Archibald himself, no less clever or determined than his brothers, was just one of thousands of Nottingham folk who died in the workhouse, in unhappy circumstances, as did his son.

WITNESSES

James Mather was witness to the following events:

Birth George James Mather 23 May 1825

Death Elizabeth Smith 7 May 1828

***Archibald Mather was witness to at least the following events:**

- Birth Anne Willes 27 Sep 1822
- Birth Flora Hawthorn 12 Oct 1822
- Birth Sarah Evans 24 June 1823
- Death John Dormer 20 April 1832
- Birth Henry Tyler 5 Oct 1832
- Birth Charlotte Mather 30 Nov 1833
- Birth Frederick Tomlinson 17 Feb 1839

People who witnessed MATHER events include:

Charles Austin	28 in 1830	James Rowney	44 in 1824
George Austin	30 in 1830	George Saxton	26 in 1837
Thomas Crofts	25 in 1837	James Trees	40 in 1828
William Dewey	32 in 1825	Francis Tyler	22 in 1833
George Huddleston	24 in 1824	William Webster	21 in 1829
John Linthwaite	35 in 1833	James Wood	21 in 1829

Rosie Wileman

Coalville, Leicestershire

IT'S THE LAW

British members of Parliament enjoy numerous legal privileges, but they are not permitted to enter the House of Commons wearing armour due to an ancient edict passed by King Edward 11. (By contrast, golfers on Wimbledon Common can wear whatever they like, as long as they sport a red outer garment when teeing-off.)

TENDER LOVE

HORATIO NELSON TO EMMA HAMILTON

"I love you most tenderly and affectionately . . ."



Horatio Nelson (1758-1805). British admiral. Nelson, whose naval career began when he was twelve, advanced to the rank of commodore in 1796. A year later, he helped the British defeat the Spanish, French, and Dutch fleets at Cape St. Vincent and was promoted to rear admiral. That same year, he was shot in the right elbow, suffered through a botched amputation, and returned to active duty a few months later.

In 1798, after his victory over the French at Abu Qir Bay (the Battle of the Nile), Nelson renewed his acquaintance with the extremely beautiful and vivacious Lady Emma Hamilton (nee Lyon; 1765-1815) who was the wife of the scholar and diplomat Sir William Hamilton. Emma had helped arrange a hero's welcome for Nelson when he returned to port in Naples, Italy,

where her husband was the British envoy. Their liaison soon resulted in the birth of a daughter, Horatia, in 1801.

Emma Lyon had a spectacularly successful career as mistress to a succession of older men, finally marrying Sir William Hamilton the British envoy in Naples.

Emma achieved celebrity through her beauty, personal vitality and skills as a performer and is principally remembered as the artist George Romney's 'muse', and for her love affair with Nelson.

George Romney met her when she was only seventeen and the mistress of Charles Greville. He was clearly besotted by her and painted her again and again, becoming her friend but probably not her lover, however much he might have liked to be. As she wrote to him on 20 December 1791, *you was the first dear friend I open'd my heart to, you ought to know me, for you have seen and discoursed with me in my poorer days, you have known me in my poverty and prosperity.*

Emma fell in love with Nelson after the Battle of the Nile (1798), when she and her husband William Hamilton, the British Ambassador at Naples, offered the wounded victor hospitality. Emma and Nelson returned to England in 1800 where a daughter was born. The affair was an international scandal, but it enhanced Nelson's reputation as a romantic hero. At his death, in 1805, Nelson entrusted Emma's care to the nation, but this was ignored by the government.

On Nelson's instructions, Emma purchased a country house, Merton Place, in Surrey, outside London, and it was here that Nelson, as he writes below, was to spend many happy days. Sir William, now best remembered for tolerating their affair, died April 6, 1803, with his wife and her lover at his side.

This letter, written on board the *Victory* mid October is one of the very last Nelson wrote to his beloved Emma, before his decisive victory over the French, and his death off Trafalgar on Oct 21, 1805.

Mr. Denis request of Lt. Hargraves introduction shall be attended to but it must be considered that very few opportunities offer of ever getting on board the Commander-in-chief's ship in the Winter Months and, our battle I hope will be over long before the summer days. The wind has blown so fresh these two days that the Enemy if so disposed have not had the power of putting to Sea which I am firmly of opinion they intend. God send it for our selves as well as that of our Country well over.

*Our friend Sutton is going home for his health. Hoste has *Amphion* and Sir Wm Bolton *Eurydice* which I hope the Admiralty will approve. This is the last chance of Sir Billys making a fortune if he is active and persevering he may do it and be easy for life. Oh my Beloved Emma how I envy Sutton going home, his going to Merton and seeing you and Horatia. I do really feel that the 25 days I was at Merton was the very happiest of my life. Would to God they were to be passed over again but that time will I trust soon come and many many more days added to them. I have been as you may believe made very uneasy or rather uncomfortable by the situation of Sir Robt. Calder. He was to have gone home in another ship . . . However I have given way to his misery and have directed the *Prince of Wales* to carry him to Spithead for whatever the result of the enquiry might be. I think he has a right to be treated with Respect, therefore My Dear Emma do not form any opinion abt. him till the trial is over.*

I am working like a horse in a Mill but never the nearer finishing my task which I find difficulty enough in keeping clear from confusion but I never allow it to accumulate. Agamemnon is in sight and I hope to have letters from you who I hold dearer than

any other person in this World and I shall hope to hear that all our family goes on well at that dear dear Cottage. Believe all I would say upon this occasion but letters being in quarantine may be read, not that I care who knows that I love you most tenderly and affectionately. I send you Adam Campbell's letter & copy of those from the King & Queen. You see they would never wish me out of the Mediterranean.

Kiss Dear Horatia a thousand times for Your faithful Nelson & Bronte.

Though she inherited money from both her husband and Nelson, Emma squandered most of it and died, nearly destitute, in Calais, France. Horatia went on to marry an English clergyman and helped rear a large family.



Lady Hamilton's home in rue Française, Calais

THE HARRISONS NOTTINGHAM, CALAIS, AND BALLARAT

In June last year I read with some interest an article in "The Genealogist" by Julie Kersey regarding her lacemaking ancestors from Calais. I was interested because I believed that there was a Calais connection in my family, also, and I had never been able to find out why.

My late father, William James Harrison, began the search for Harrison ancestors some years ago and together we started to gather certificates, etc. Dad came from a large extended family of cousins, aunts and uncles but most were on his mother's side. He knew very little about his father's family, except that his father had been born in Ballarat, Victoria, and had spent much of his childhood in the Ballarat Orphanage. The Harrisons were a hard-working, pioneer family who left a legacy to us all. Here is their story, one of hardship, spirit and adventure.

James Harrison, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Harrison, was born in Nottingham around 1816, possibly in Basford. It is a little difficult to trace with such common names but that is as near as we have been able to get. James was a lacemaker and he married Mary Ann Stevenson, also a lacemaker and a native of Nottingham, in the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Dover in December, 1840. We have been unable to discover whether or not the family were residing in Calais at the time but they were definitely there after the marriage. James and Mary Ann lived on la Grande Rue in Calais and had at least three children there. Their first son, James, was born in 1841. Another son, Thomas,

was born in 1846 and died at the age of 2 weeks. A daughter, Sarah, was born in 1847, and she also died as an infant. Life for children was certainly very precarious in those days.

At some stage between 1847 and 1854, James and Mary Ann left France and made their way to Australia. There is no record of them on the 1848 ships and I have been unable to find them on other shipping records. However, in 1854 another daughter, Mary Ann, was born to them on the Ballarat goldfields. Two more children had been born before this – Sarah Ann (deceased) and Eliza, who was born around 1851. Mary Ann was born in Ballarat in the year of the Eureka uprising. It seems the Harrisons were never far from political unrest! They must have longed for a quiet life.

James and Mary Ann settled into life in Ballarat and James began mining for gold. Another daughter, Emma, was born in 1856 followed by a son, William (my great grandfather), in 1858. It appears that their first child, James, may not have accompanied them to Australia at first. His death certificate implies that he arrived in 1858, although this could be an error.

The children – James, Eliza, Mary Ann, Emma and William – grew up on the goldfields and the family lived in Humffrey Street, Ballarat East. The girls and William eventually married and James, who never married, moved to Clunes, where he worked on the Clunes goldfields. Eliza married Robert Ford and had five children in Ballarat. The family later moved to Kew in Melbourne. Mary Ann married Edward Nettle, had two children, and eventually died in Ballarat. Emma married Thomas Brownlow of Rockley, New South Wales, son of William Brownlow and Emma Courquin, lacemakers from Calais and passengers on the *Agincourt*. Emma went back to Rockley and the Bathurst area with Thomas, and had six children. She and

Thomas later came back to Ballarat, where Emma died in 1931, two years after her husband.

In 1880, both James and Mary Ann died. Mary Ann died from cancer of the uterus on 27th May, 1880. James' death followed on 27th June, 1880 due to tuberculosis. One can only imagine how these deaths impacted on the family at the time. It seems a sad end to a couple who had endured so many hardships in their lives.

William continued to live in Humffrey Street and married in February, 1883. His new bride was nineteen year old Mercy Bond, who was born in Avoca in 1864, the youngest of five children. Mercy's parents came from Parkham in Devon and had migrated to Australia in 1858. Unfortunately, Mercy's mother Elizabeth died when Mercy was only seven years old and one assumes that Mercy was sent into domestic service as soon as she was old enough. She and William were married off King Street in Ballarat East by the Town Missionary and set up their home in Chisholm Street. A son, Arthur William, was born later that year but died less than a year later and was buried with his grandparents, James and Mary Ann. Hardship just seemed to follow this family. A daughter, Lilian May, was born a year after Arthur's death in 1885 and a son, William James, (my grandfather) was born in 1886.

Life settled down for the second generation Harrisons for a little while. William worked as a miner and provided for his little family. By the beginning of 1888, Mercy was expecting their fourth child. William was working in a shaft, held on tribute from Black Hill Company, with his friend James Morris. On the 12th January, James Morris was attending to the windlass whilst William was at work below ground. When William's candle went out, he suspected foul air in the shaft and signalled James Morris

to raise him to the surface. James Morris complied promptly and William remarked to him that the air had a strong smell.

After a short rest, William once again went down the shaft. After a lapse of some time, James Morris became concerned, as he had advised William not to return underground. He called to William but received no response so, after throwing water down to lessen the foul air, a man was sent to investigate. William was hauled to the surface, unconscious, and subsequently died before medical aid arrived. His body was taken to the Royal Oak Hotel where an inquest was held the following day. In a newspaper article William was described as “a sober, hard-working young man.”

Unfortunately for Mercy, William’s death left her in precarious circumstances. She had two small children and another one on the way. There were no welfare payments in those days and although Mercy struggled along for a couple of years, she eventually had to put her two eldest children into the Ballarat Orphan Asylum which had been established in 1866, precisely to assist children who had not only been orphaned, but who had lost a father (a common occurrence in such a mining community.) In the orphanage the children were fed, clothed and educated and it was



Ballarat Orphanage c 1930, Photographer Jane Holmes

held in high esteem far beyond Ballarat.

An article in the newspaper *The Argus* in 1888 described the asylum as “a great, comfortable, home-like place singularly free of anything of the ordinary barrack or work-house or charity school settlement.....There is no better place to see the children than at dinner at well-prepared, white clothed tables with polished cutlery...the meal good, substantial and ample: no rations, no stint. The children are well clad, their rosy faces and their little bodies healthy and well developed.”

William James and Lilian May were joined by their brother, Robert, in 1892 and each of the children were released back into the care of their mother when they reached the age of fourteen, which meant they could then work and help support the family.

Mercy remarried in 1895 and moved with her children to Melbourne where she eventually died in 1929. Unfortunately she was pre-deceased by both Lilian and Robert who died in 1905 and 1909 respectively. William James married Ellen Rooney of South Melbourne in 1909 at the residence of his aunt, Eliza Ford (nee Harrison). They had five children including my father, also William James Harrison.

What an amazing story of courage and determination the Harrison's bring! Dad and I had no idea how intriguing their story would be when we set out at the beginning of this journey. From the stirrings of curiosity we went on to discover a world of lace, political unrest, financial struggles and strong family ties. I'm so pleased that Dad wanted to find out more about my grandfather's family!

Bev Mahoney, Vermont, Victoria

References:

Victorian Births, Deaths and Marriages, NSW Births, Deaths, Marriages
Familysearch.com, Census, 1841, *Ballarat Star* newspaper, 13th January, 1888

THE PLIGHT OF THE FRAMEWORK KNITTERS 1842

In 1842 the Children's Employment Commission reported on the plight of FWK's. The family concerned were living in Arnold.

May 13th 1842. Visited the family of Edward Slack, a 'stockener' with a large family of seven children. In the kitchen there were two small round tables and an old square one, all of deal.

Two or three of the children were sitting in the little garden, seaming the stockings. There were two old chairs with pieces of rope instead of a proper bottom. Scarcely any other article of furniture in the room. There is an ovan on one side of the fire. In a small room adjoining there are two frames for the man and his wife. There are two sleeping rooms ; one for the parents and the youngest child and in the other, four of the children sleep, two of the children sleep at a neighbours. There is in the front a very small piece of garden.

There are three of these houses, having one privy. The cess pool is open and exhales a most noxious smell. The privy is quite open, the door having been lost three or four years ago. In examining the state of this place we saw a woman in it. The supply of water is a spring in an adjoining street ten yards off. Mr Keck, frame manufacturer, informs me that this house is much better than many others in the village

Edward Slack, 32 years old ; Cannot read or write. Has been married 13 years. Has 7 children, six girls, and the youngest eight months old, a boy ; the ages of the girls are 12, 10-1/2, 9 7 5 and 3 years. Makes cotton stockings of the best quality. Works for Mr

Willows who is a small master or "bagman". The frames belong to Messrs Hurd and Hurst, Nottingham.

Begins at this time at 6 a.m. and leaves off at dark about 8 p.m. Sometimes later ; at the latter end of the week goes on until 12; Works on the Monday regularly. Leaves off on Saturday about 3 or 4 p.m. In the winter begins at 8 a.m. and leaves off at 11 or 12 at night. Two hours for meals. Is paid 1s 9-1/2d a pair. The weekly expenses are ; for hire of frame 1s ; masters or bagmans profit for taking into warehouse 6d ; 4-1/2d for needles.

In winter 6d for oil for the lamp. 1s 2d for seaming 7 pairs. The winding he does himself generally at mealtimes, this would cost 3d per week. Is paid 12s 6-1/2d which, after deducting expenses, leaves him 8s 9d.

There are many kinds of manufacture which are less profitable ; many stockings about here cannot earn more than 6s 6d, many less than 5s. His wife reckons to clear 2s a week after doing for the family. She cannot earn this all the year round. She loses about a month at her confinements. All the girls who are old enough to work are employed in seaming the stocking and attending to the family. They can earn about 1s 6d.

In this place it is quite common to give the children Godfrey's Cordial to still them, that the mother may work at the frame. Two years ago a child was killed by having laudenham given in mistake for the cordial. Some begin as soon as the child is born, many children are almost killed by it ; they cannot walk till two or three years old. There is a "little lass" just by who is three years old, she cannot stir a foot to walk, she sits all day long

The wages are spent as follows : Coal, 1-1/2 cwt, 1s; Candle 11lb, 7d; Soap 3/4 lb, 4d; Bread 56 lb, 7s 7d; Potatoes 1 peck, 7d; Coffee 2 ozs , 3d.

Total: 11/11 1/2d

A little assistance is derived from the garden. There is nothing to buy clothes for themselves or the children, or sheets or bedcovering, except at the expense of food. Sometimes get a little meat and have less bread and potatoes. have never any sugar, cheese or butter. last winter had a pair of thick sheets or cotton blankets give to them. Is rated to pay yearly 8s poor rates and 2s to the highways. Owes poor rates, 3s 10d and they say they will summons him without further notice if they are not paid.

Mrs Slack, 30 years old :- Can read and write. Is oblided to work at the frame when she should attend to her family. Having so few clothes is oblided to wash them on Saturday afternoon ; to do this and dry them by the fire often keeps her up to four of five Sunday morning. The clothes being dried by the fire do not last as long as if she dried them in the air.

When a girl, went to Sunday School and to a Day School, three years when a little one but she could not at the end of that time read any easy lesson. Was never taught to make shirts, gowns tc. Has had to learn since she married.

When one of her children has a frock she cannot make, is oblided to put it out ; the making costs 1s. It would have been a great advantage to her if she had been taught these things as a girl ; this is a common feeling among those in her rank of life.

Her children can very seldom go either to Sunday School or Church for want of cloths - in the winter they always stay at home, as they have no shawls, etc. Only one can read, this was sent to School by her grand father.

David E Millott

Devon

NOTTINGHAM LACE IN AUSTRALIA

BATTLE OF BRITAIN LACE PANEL AT THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

During World War II the Nottingham Lace firm of Dobsons & Browne had devoted most of its output to the production of mosquito and camouflage netting. As a means of retaining the skills and standards of their highly trained designers and draughting staff who were under-employed by the wartime production requirements, the firm took up the idea of making a large commemorative lace panel.

The design for the panel took two years and the drafting for the jacquard another 15 months. The pattern required 40,000 cards, weighing a tonne altogether. Each panel took a week to produce and required 4,200 threads and the preparation of 975 bobbins for the loom. A total of 41,830 kilometres of fine Egyptian cotton went into the making of each panel, which measured 4.5 x 1.62 metres when completed.

The panel depicts scenes of the bombing of London, the types of aircraft used in the battle, the badges of the Allied air forces involved and the floral emblems of Great Britain and the Commonwealth. Also included are the names of the firm and the craftsmen from Dobsons & Browne who created the work. At the bottom on a scroll are Sir Winston Churchill's famous words: "*Never was so much owed by so many to so few.*" A cottage and a castle are depicted to indicate that rich and poor suffered alike. The edging of the curtain is of ripening ears of corn representing the season during which the Battle of Britain took place. Interwoven with these are Tudor roses, thistles, shamrocks, and oak leaves.

Thirty-eight panels were woven before the jacquards were destroyed. King George VI and Sir Winston Churchill were each presented with one, and others were distributed to various RAF units, to Westminster Abbey, the City of Nottingham the City of London, and personnel from Dobsons & Browne. As airmen from New Zealand, South Africa, Canada and Australia had been attached to various RAF units, these countries also received a panel.

Australia's panel now belongs to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. It is not always on display, but can be viewed on request with some prior warning.

THE LACE PLACE - Wave Rock Hadyn WA

Many of Western Australia's early settlers came from the UK. Women found the pioneering bush life tough and uncivilised and longed for the comforts of home. Music, soft furnishings and the social manners of the Old World were so distant.

Lace was a symbol of that world that even the poorest could afford. Lace doilies and curtains could be seen in many a bush house through the 1930s to the 1950s.

The Lace Place collection, housed in the Wildflower Shoppe building on Wave Rock Road, is a symbol of that effort by Australians to keep their links to the world they left behind even as they built up a new, and different life here.

It contains over 2000 items dating from 1650 to the present. Many are hand made from the period 1650-1700. Lace from famous WA pioneers, the Bussel-Leake families, are displayed. Some items of Royal Lace are also included: a piece of black chantilly lace from a gown worn by Queen Victoria, a piece of

tulle from the wedding veil of the Princess of Wales, and a lace souvenir for the Coronation of Edward VII that never took place. Wedding dresses are also included. One is a dress worn by the first school teacher in Hyden in the mid 1930s, Miss Lola Woolcott; This collection is thought to be the largest private collection of lace in Australia. Lace pieces are superbly displayed in beautiful timber drawers while gowns are modelled in appropriate settings appropriate The collection was previously owned by Margaret Blackburn and is open 9.00am to 5.00pm daily.

GEORGES FAUQUET OF CALAIS

Every serious historian of Calais knew of Georges Fauquet. He was the most amazing historian of that city who I was privileged to meet in 1996. His wife Anne once told me Georges had three loves – herself, Notre Dame Church in Calais and Calais itself, and not necessarily in that order.

In that 1996 visit Georges introduced my husband and I to his Calais: the streets, the houses, the cemetery, the Citadel, the locations of the old lace factories and all with the history that put it all into context.

Above all he showed us the beautiful and bomb shattered Notre Dame – an opportunity not given to many. His Calais came alive for us with Georges.

Georges died in January and will be much missed by every one who knew him, no matter how brief the contact. His passion for and knowledge of Calais has reached all over the world and he was the kindest of gentlemen.

Gillian Kelly

THAT WHICH GOES AROUND COMES AROUND

Richard's plea for some stories and the use of the above phrase in our latest *Tulle* has prompted me to tell you of my recent experience which gives truth to this old adage" that which goes around comes around."

The year was 1976 and I had begun to get interested in my husband's family history and as my in-laws were deceased I decided to call on one of his elderly aunts to see if she knew anything about his grandparents. She knew very little but was able to produce a small cutting from an unknown newspaper with a short obituary for her Grandfather, who was my husband's great grandfather. It stated that he was born in Darlington, County Durham and had come to the colony in 1876.

I copied the obituary down in long hand and the information contained therein was most valuable as it enabled me to construct a reasonable profile of this coalminer, James Raine of Durham. Over the years this information has been passed on to many people who in turn have passed it on once again.

In July of this year I received a phone call from Elizabeth Raine of Thornleigh. She had been given my name by a person who lived in Newcastle and whose name I had long forgotten.

Elizabeth and I had a long chat about our research, and in due course I asked her if she had James Raine's obituary she said yes, she had a hand written copy and she did not know who had the original. She was greatly amused when I told her that it was my handwriting and how I obtained it.

There have been many advances made in recent years to the way we do our research such as the Internet but please don't neglect the elderly relative; just chatting to them and who knows what they may have tucked away will enrich your life. Perhaps it could set off a chain reaction such as I have described.

Lindsay Watts

WILLIAM WOOD'S DIARY

by Peter Pennington

A Book Review by Rosie Wileman

Have you ever wished your ancestor had left a written record of that momentous journey from Britain to Australia? It must be every family historian's dream – to find the diary of an ancestor, or close relative.

William and Sarah Wood sailed from Liverpool, England to Melbourne, Australia, with their baby son, on board the sailing ship “*Constance*” in 1852. Sarah's sister preserved the diary written by William. When her great-grandson, Peter Pennington, discovered it, he was persuaded that it was of interest to others whose ancestors made that same voyage.

While the “*Constance*” was not one of the lacemakers' ships, the date of this voyage is close enough in time for the descriptions to be a fascinating eye-opener. William and Sarah travelled “steerage” class, and the diary is a vivid description of the conditions and difficulties encountered.

William clearly combined a strong interest in every detail of the ship, the journey and the other people on board, with a keen eye and a flair for writing. Birth, death, sickness are all part of the journey; the weather conditions play an important part and,

perhaps most fascinating for us, he gives a real insight into such problems as queuing for food, the quality of the food and which foods immigrants should bring for the journey. He frequently gives advice, such as what clothes to bring, as if he was expecting others to follow them.

But the book is more than a first-hand description of the journey made by so many people in the mid-nineteenth century. Peter Pennington has researched the subject of emigration thoroughly in an intelligent way. He has also looked into the background of William and Sarah, the town of Macclesfield, Cheshire, where they lived and the conditions in England at that time.

He has researched the “*Constance*” itself and even discovered a picture of the ship. He spent time discovering what happened to the little family after their arrival in Australia and has also included details about some of the other passengers. A glossary, photographs, maps, statistics, a passenger list, all serve to enhance the book.

But there was one paragraph which made me cry out in surprise and delight, for I recognised the person described. It is part of the entry for Friday November 5th 1852.

“I was much pleased in conversing with the Old Gentleman whom I have referred to before of 89 years of age. I found he was apprenticed to the Strutts of Derby, Silk Manufrs and Throwsters in 1783. In 1836 he left England and in 1838 sent to Nottingham the first circular stocking loom that was ever worked in England. He has travelled in every country in Europe except Jerusalem and Turkey ... and is now on his last voyage. ... He has left some of his machines at Berlin where he and his family have resided for many years. He lives with his daughter and Grandchildren who are all with him. ... His name is Armitage.”

In researching some of the passengers, Peter Pennington discovered many interesting facts about them, especially George Armytage. Listed as “labourer” on the passenger manifest, this gentleman was in fact a pioneer of the lace and silk industries on the European continent.

There is something in this book to interest everyone whose ancestor made the journey from Britain to Australia. The Australian distributor is:

Ocean Enterprises, 303 Commercial Road, Yarram, Vic.3971

e-mail: oceans@netspace.net.au

Rosie Wileman

GENEALOGY AND COMPUTERS

In the last issue I recommended that you never consider using any genealogical recording program that did not have a GEDCOM import/export function. I wasn't joking so please heed my warning. If you are already using a program without a GEDCOM facility (and there are very few without this facility) I would be asking someone with a fair degree of knowledge about computers for help before proceeding to input much more data. I use Legacy 5.0 Deluxe Edition and Ezitree. The former enables me to import both Personal Ancestral File® (PAF) information as well as GEDCOM files. Using Legacy I can export to a GEDCOM file in various formats including Legacy, Gedcom 5.5, PAF 2.31 or 3.0, Ancestral File, TempleReady, Clooz, Basic and Generic. The user has complete control over what is included in the exported file. You can specify which individuals are to be exported as well as what information is to be included. You can export all records or specify a subset by tag level or focus group. Ezitree has a similar Gedcom facility.

I have been fortunate in that I have been able to try several family history programs and, in doing so, I have learnt that some have real drawbacks. A couple of programs that I have used have not been able to handle people with the same name! To overcome this programming short coming, the programmer has insisted that each new person entered into the program has to have a unique key or code. This is fine when you only have a handful of names in your data base but when you have 3280 records (individuals) in your data base as I have, you need to be able to deal with actual names and not codes. I have eight with the name "John Lander" and I certainly do not want to have to remember the correct code for each! Legacy enables me to enter as many people with identical names as I wish. Finding the "right" John Lander is also made pretty easy by this great program. The program seamlessly and invisibly allocates a code to each individual to ensure that each record is unique.

Rule 2: Avoid any genealogical program which necessitates you allocating a code to those you are entering.

The computer system requirements of various genealogical programs vary widely. Simpler programs demand fewer resources. Those of sophisticated programs like Legacy 5.0 require greater resources. These include:-

- A Pentium class computer
- VGA or higher display
- Windows 95, Windows 98, Windows NT, Windows 2000, Windows ME, or Windows XP. Legacy cannot run on a Mac unless you have installed a Windows emulator such as Real PC, SoftWindows or Virtual PC.
- A hard-disk drive with at least 40 megabytes of available space
- A floppy disk drive or a CD-ROM drive.

- At least 64 megabytes of random access memory (RAM). With this level of RAM Legacy will run very slowly. 128 megabytes or more is highly recommended. I run 512 megabytes of RAM.
- A mouse.

Rule 3: Ensure your computer resources are capable of running the program you choose.

Legacy 5.0 enables you to record up to 60 children per marriage, an unlimited number of spouses, events, parents and pictures per individual. The limits for the Australian program, Ezitree, are similar. These may seem like unrealistic possibilities but the aim of the compilers of these programs was to account for any possibility. If you have an unusually structured family (for example: a male step-cousin who had a child as a result of a relationship followed by a traditional marriage or two with a mixture of naturally born and adopted children then don't expect the less sophisticated programs to be able to truly record these complicated relationships. With a bit of work and imagination, programs like Legacy and Ezitree **can** and I am sure there are others that can as well. It is worth knowing that although such programs can often record, show and print reports showing these complications (i.e. in the above example the first "wife" might rightly claim that position, the first child from the relationship can still claim to be higher on the genealogical tree than his or her younger, more traditionally born siblings. It is also worth pointing out that as genealogical programs have become more and more sophisticated, the variety of information that can be recorded within them has become vast. Although GEDCOM could transfer all the information stored by the earlier, less complicated programs, this is certainly not the case today. What this means to the user, in simple terms, is that the information from a basic program should transfer with little difficulty to a more advanced program. The reverse is not the case. Some of

the more advanced programs contain information for which GEDCOM 5.5, the current version, has made no provision. That information simply is not included in a GEDCOM file prepared by the program. Rule 4 is for you if your family is a complicated one.

Another risk is using a program developed in USA which has no provision for our date format. You will become very tired of inputting a date such as 3/9/2005 and having the program tell you it has recorded it as 9 March 2005.

Rule 4: Try before you buy.

Free trial versions of most of the popular genealogical programs are available for either a limited time period or a limited number of data entries. You may wish to look at the following sites:-

- **Bill Mumford's** excellent review of many genealogical programs (admittedly mostly American)
<http://www.mumford.ca/reportcard/index.htm>.
- **Louis Kessler's Genealogy Software Links** (
<http://www.lkessler.com/gplinks.shtml>)
- **Legacy 5** (see a review at http://genealogy.about.com/od/software_reviews/gr/legacy.htm). The full working (non-Deluxe) version is available at NO CHARGE at <http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/>
- **Ezitree:** www.ezitree.com.au/ under "Downloads" (two differing trial versions are available)
- **Personal Ancestral File** (Version 5.2 is now free)
<http://www.familysearch.org/eng/paf/>

These are what I would consider to be the must follow rules before purchasing any family history program. The ultimate

choice is, of course, yours, and the one you begin to use will become your favourite.

Do your homework first to help ensure that your favourite is also the best!

Richard Lander

SOME NOTTINGHAM CONVICTS

ARCHER, William of St Marys, servant 5 Jan 1831 transported beyond the seas for the term of 7 years for stealing 16lbs opium from James **DALE**, his master.

BRAILSFORD, Elizabeth 4 Jan 1842 transported for 7 years for stealing 1 spon, 1 teaspoon, 1 sheet, 4 yds carpet, 1 yd oilcloth, 1 gown, 1 cap, 1 apron from Lettice **FARRANDS**, her mistress. (Lettice innkeeper Pelham St, Nottingham)

BRAILSFORD, William, labourer of St Marys 4 July 1832 transported beyond the seas for the term of 7 years for stealing 1 handkerchief from Samuel Lindley **GRUNDY**

BURROWS, Joseph St Marys 3 Jan 1833 transported beyond the seas for the term of 7 years for stealing 50 lbs beef, 20 lbs mutton, 18lbs pork, 1 basket & 1 apron. (Arrived per *Mary* appointed to R Lethbridge of Patricks Plains.

HARRIS, James labourer od St Marys 10 Jan 1827 transported beyond the seas for the term of 7 years for stealing 7 silk handkerchiefs, value 1/15/- from Martin **ROE** on 27 October 1826

HEMSLEY, William labourer od St Marys 10 Jan 1827 transported beyond the seas for the term of 7 years.

JAMES, Henry labourer of St Peters 11 Jan 1821 transported beyond the seas for the term of 7 years for stealing one silk handkerchief value 5/- from William **ROE**.

JAMES, William 2 July 1835 transported for the term of 7 years for stealing 200 bobbins & 200 brass carriages from John **SMITH**.

LITCHFIELD, William 3 April 1840 transported for 10 years for stealing 1 sheet & 1 chair from James **ELLERTHORNE**.

MATHER, John labourer of St Marys 8 Aug 1820 transported beyond the seas for the term of 7 years for stealing Horse collar, back band, belly band pair of leather boot pipes.

MATHER, Mary single woman of St Marys 6 Jan 1853 transported beyond the seas for 7 years for stealing a watch and chain.

PEET, George with William **PIGGOTT**, Thomas **PARSONS**, William **FOSTER** and Lorenzo **GILBERT** 2 July 1834 transported beyond the seas for the term of 7 years for stealing various goods.

PEET, John labourer of 2 July 1834 transported beyond the seas for 7 years for stealing various machine parts from Thomas **COR**.

POTTER, William labourer of St Marys 16 Jan 1822 transported beyond the seas for the term of 7 years for theft of a case of mathematical instruments and various monies.

POWELL, Joseph with William **MARSHALL** & Jonathan **WARDLEY** 21 Oct 1831 transported beyond the seas for the term of 7 years for stealing 4/-, 1 hat & 1 handkerchief.

PRATT Edward labourer of St Marys transported beyond the seas for the term of 7 years for stealing 1 work box (5/- value), 2 neck chains (4/-), 1 pencil case (1/-), 2 thimbles (1/6), 1 tooth pick (

1/-) 1 necklace (2/-), a pair earrings (2/-), 1 ivory needle case (6d) 1 bone needle case (1d) 1 fan (6d) 3 bodkins (3d), 1 pen knife (1d) 1 bodkin case (1d) 1 emery stand (1/-) 1 smelling bottle (1/-) 1 tea caddy (5/-) the goods and chattels of William **STOKES**. (per *Aurora* 1833, aged 23, appointed to Thomas Jamison Bathurst)

ROPER, Thomas labourer of St Marys 22 April 1819 transported beyond the seas for 7 years for the theft of 1 silk handkerchief.

SHAW, Henry 1 June 1846 transported beyond the seas for the term of 10 years for stealing 1 kerchief from Richard Fowkes.

SHAW, John labourer of St Marys 20 April 1815 transported beyond the seas for the term of 7 years for the theft of 50 pennies and 99 half pennies

SWIFT, James labourer of St Marys 21 Oct 1829 transported beyond the seas for the term of his natural life for stealing 30 yds of lace. (1830 aged 28 , appointed to S **BLACKMAN** of Goulburn)

WALKER, Benjamin labourer of St Marys 13 Jan 1820 transported beyond the seas for the term of 7 years for the theft of 1 pair of breeches.

WALKER, John labourer of St Marys 17 Oct 1832 transported beyond the seas for the term of his natural life for stealing 1 crown, 23 half crowns, 90 shillings, 2 sixpences, 1 penny 240 farthings and 1lb of lead.

Transcribed from the Card Index to Nottingham Burrough Quarter Session Records, Transportations 1723 – 1858 by Betty Guise Forrest (Lamb family)

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