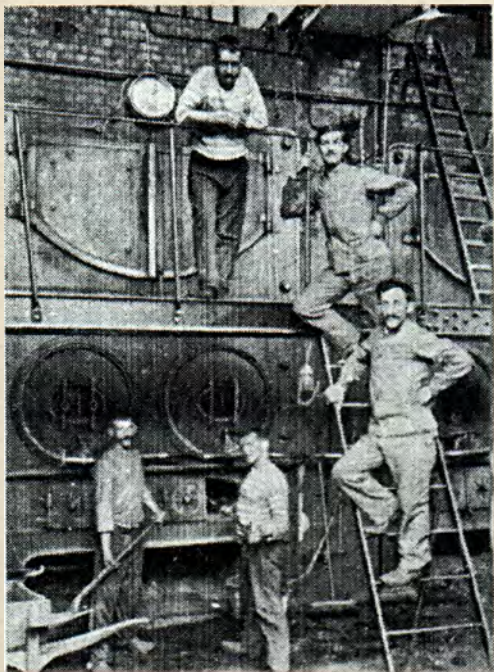


*Volume 15 No 3
August 1996*

Tulle



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

MEETING DATES

Saturday, August 17, 1996
Saturday, November 16, 1996

Venue for all Meetings:

Don Bank Cottage

6 Napier Street, North Sydney
Meeting Time: 1.00pm
Train to North Sydney Station
or
Bus from Wynard

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, August 17, 1996

What We Saw and Did and Who We Met in Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Calais - Gillian Kelly

This plagiarised and glib title doesn't convey the richly rewarding time experienced. This address will attempt, with photographic evidence, to explain a little of the worlds through which the Lacemakers moved.

Cover: Calais: The Lace Industry - The Boiler room.
From Post Card Grand Bazaar Lafayette, No 17

Collection G. Kelly

ISSN. No. 0815-3442



Tulle

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

In the past few days I have been made aware of both great change and a surprising similarity. First the similarity:

We, in 1996 tend to use international travel as a tool in life, particularly in our business lives. To fly to Europe and America involves atleast sixteen hours flight; trips to Asia are shorter but no less challenging. Even to fly to the other side of Australia involves atleast three hours. We tend to take precautions against jet-lag, climate changes, time differences and food and water differences - and complain in the process.

Those of us who delve into the lives of our forebears recognise they had often spent three months in a little wooden sailing vessel in cramped conditions in less than salubrious conditions. We spare them a thought or two, mentally congratulate them, thinking "rather you than me!" We tend to think that having arrived they would not want to repeat the performance. But they did, sometimes often.

Our lacemakers moved to and from France; they made the voyage to Australia, and some made return journeys : Joseph James (Harpley) returned atleast once on family matters.

Once in Australia they travelled to goldfields both in NSW and Victoria and grave sites indicate a fanning out all over Australia. We are not alone in our capacity or desire to travel - the 1990s are no different to all the decades that have gone before.

But there have been changes. I was recently at a meeting where both men and women were discussing old letters of the "hope this finds you as it leaves us " variety compared to those that gave intimate insights into others' lives. This led to a discussion on what was and wasn't socially acceptable topics of conversation. We soon decided the old taboos of God, politics and sex now generate some of the liveliest conversations - they always did, but are now acceptable. One conversation led to an hilarious recollection of a trip to theatre for a particularly delicate, but definitely desirable operation that involved previously never-to-be-mentioned "plumbing" One suspects that while such discussions took place behind women's doors, it was frowned upon in mixed company.

We are all sons and daughters of time, and time continues to roll on, the same but different. It is a comforting thought.

Claire Loneragan

AND THE SECRETARY'S

Well, by now our Editor has returned ready to regale us with wonderful stories of her adventures overseas at our August Meeting. We did indeed miss her presence at our May Meeting!!! As usual the meeting was well attended. We especially welcomed the Prestons from WA who had been to Ballarat researching the Wells family.

Our publicity officers have been busy. Elizabeth Bolton became a radio star on 2BL's community announcement segment one Sunday Morning. She is also pursuing opportunities in the printed media to publicise our group. Let's hope we find more of our forebears. There must be so many people we know out there who are related to us.

The "Show and Tell" section of our May Meeting was very enthusiastically received. Everyone has a story to tell or something to show that they own. Times such as this open up the hidden treasure of people's own stories. We all just love to hear them.

Lindsay had a wonderful chart of the connection she has found between the Swift and the Bromhead families. She also shared a wonderful album about her Scone grandfather- a Bromhead.

Doug talked about a book by Barry Holland which contained a list of all those transported from Nottingham 1784- 1867.

I showed some Whitework lace made by a granddaughter of my "Agincourt" relatives. This tangible link is very precious to have. Mignon Preston talked about her current research. Claire showed a beautiful family album made by Gillian for her. I think we should all get to work and do the same for our families. What a resource! Richard Lander finished the session by reading both the petition sent to the British Government for ships but also the most beautifully worded letters of thanks to the Government and the British consul in

Calais. I don't think anyone tired of listening. Keep looking and finding and telling. I, for one look forward to hearing more of YOUR stories.

Carolyn Broadhead
Secretary

AND THE EDITOR

I met a man in Tiverton who I thought had been a laceworker for Heathcoats. But I was wrong - he had been a "twist'nd at Ethcuts" - and so my education in the world of the lace industry really began.

I find it impossible to convey the magic of this trip - the absolute warmth of welcome and kindness and generosity of spirit that we met in Nottingham and Calais was overwhelming .

Anne Fewkes was an absolute miracle in Nottingham. The Family History people were charming and the folk on the streets were friendly, helpful and fun. A little part of my heart has always belonged in Nottingham.

In Calais we met for the first time Mme Eliane Legrande - a delightful Calaisienne who opened the doors of Calais, St-Pierre and the world of the laceworkers to us in a way that we could not possibly have done alone. It was a most exciting and fruitful time! and now I find *un petit morceau de mon coeur apparteni à Calais-St Pierre aussi..*¹

While this was very much my own personal gain, with the help of the ladies Fewkes and Legrand it has reaped enormous benefits for the Society and I am greatly excited by the directions it is all taking. Through following issues I will share with you many of the findings.

Gillian Kelly
Editor

¹ pour Eliane

Let's Celebrate

1848...1998

The Meetings reviewed:

February

- Anne Fewkes
- English Origins
- Launch of *Well Suited to the Colony*

May

- The French Connection
- Calais
- French Luncheon

August

- The Harpley
- Adelaide and South Australia

October

- The Agincourt
- Sydney, Maitland & Bathurst
- Thanksgiving Service at St Peters, Sydney, Lunch

Well Suited to the Colony

The format has now been determined and an approxiamte costing is being prepared. In this issue of *Tulle* you will find a stamped return envelope with a survey sheet in it. Even if you can't answer the questions for your family , please could you return the survey.

The Sampler

Designs are being translated by computer into stitching patterns. A sample of ideas was shown at the Committee meeting, so plans are well under way

TRADE, COMMERCE AND MONEY.

The Nottingham trade continues dull. The turn-out of the cut-up hose hands seems likely to be continue some time longer. In the midst of the agitation of this dispute, another large house has attempted a reduction of the wages of the rib-top hands, who having struck, the master has placed boys in the frames.

The journeymen, aware of this, have taken away some essential part of the frames, for which they pay rent, but the hosier has threatened to institute proceedings against them, on the ground that the frames being in the master's shop, they have no right to take any part of them away from the premises.

The silk glove branch, though dull, is in the same improved state when compared with the past year. The cotton glove trade, though rather in a retrograding position, is more improved to what it was last year in this month. The silk hose branches are in a most lamentable state.

Letters have been received from the stockingers who embarked

with the expedition in Turkey; they complain heavily of the conduct of the agent, who not only neglected to provide them with necessary accommodation, but refused to pay them their wages according to agreement from the time they were hired, but has given them such low wages as to bring upon them the contempt of the Turks and Armenian Greeks, who regard them as dastards and people of no spirit or principle.

They have been so pinched as to be compelled to apply to the British Minister at Constantinople for a remedy. It appears that the frames are not at Posa but at a manufacturing village about six miles from the metropolis of the Turkish empire.

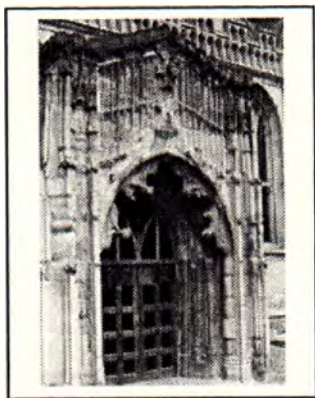
The bobbin net trade is in a stagnant condition, but there is a little activity in some of the large factories, which will in all probability increase. The silk lace trade is in a better condition than the cotton and as the traverse method will probably be introduced by the returned English from Calais, this branch will undergo a considerable change as circular bolt machines will be requested in fancy laces.

NOTTINGHAM and CALAIS AT LAST !

Having recently returned from a visit to England and Europe I can honestly say that the highlights for me were my very short stays in Nottingham and Calais.

I was fortunate to be able to attend the monthly meeting of the Nottingham Family History Society and was warmly welcomed by Anne Fewkes, who we know from her visit to Australia. She took me under her wing next day. She despatched my daughter and grandson to the Robin Hood Centre and then hurried me to the Archives. She had already found two rellies and I found the birth of my convict ancestor, so that was rewarding.

After lunch, I visited the Lace Centre and St Mary's, where most of my forbears had been married and baptised. Nottingham is a large city with a new shopping complex called Broadmarsh, built on the area just down from the Castle and near St Nicholas' Church. There are many sandstone caves below the shopping area which can be visited and are very interesting. In earlier times they were used as places for tanning leather, as pub cellars and as Air-raid shelters during WW2.

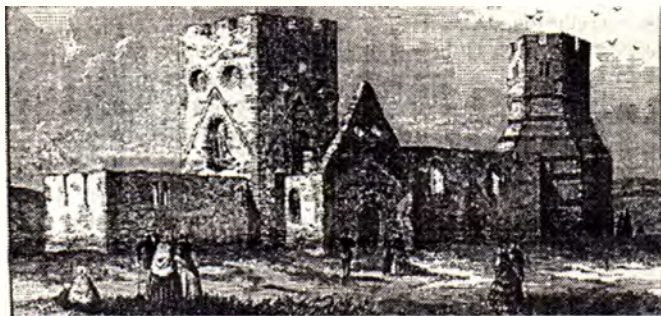


Doorway, St Marys.

Then to Calais, via Cambridge and Dover. On arrival at our Bed and Breakfast on Marine Parade, right opposite the waterfront at the Eastern Docks, we were puzzled by the constant loud noise. I told my daughter it could have been a squadron of Spitfires if the war

hadn't been over for fifty years. On close observation we discovered that it was the arrival and departure of the Hovercrafts coming and going across to Calais. Our B&B was situated at the foot of the White Cliffs, which brought back memories of Vera Lynn's famous war-time song "The White Cliffs of Dover."

Perched high up on the top of the cliffs is Dover Castle. It was originally a simple wood and earth fortification built by William the Conqueror and replaced by a stone castle in 1180 AD by William's grandson, Henry II. It was completed by 1256 AD and its appearance has not changed since. We were interested to see the old church, St Mary in Castro, built by the Saxons, who used bricks and stones from earlier Roman buildings. It was repaired last century and is used today by the Garrison stationed nearby. The lighthouse or pharos, built by the Romans, circa 150 AD, is now in ruins. It is the tallest Roman building still standing in England.



St Mary in Castro, Dover Castle

Next morning I was "off to Calais" with no more French than "Bonjour monsieurs" and "Merci beaucoup". The Channel was very calm and the crossing took less than half an hour. The local bus was at the quay and I was soon at the railway station. The Town Hall is opposite and a most imposing building it is, too. Inside and up to the Archives on the 3rd floor and there I found Joel - I suppose we could call him our official researcher in Calais. He was able to show me the entries in the old leather-bound Record Book and I saw the birth

record of my long lost great grand-father, James Cameron Hemsley. Of course, he had been recorded as Jacques, and that is why I was having no success when I asked for James. I was not thinking laterally, was I!

After lunch in the Park I found the two streets where some of the Hemsleys were living at the time of the 1831 Census. At the corne of the Rue du Boit des Dignes I encountered M. Clerbout, who probably asked if he could help me (remember my lack of French). I showed him the plan of Calais from Tulle and said "Nottingham, Calais, Australie, ma famille". He was delighted and hurried me further up the street to meet an elderly lady.



St-Pierre Park

She had a lady friend visiting and between the three of them talking in rapid French I could understand that Madame Vincent, who is 88 years old, is the great grand-daughter of either James or William AUSTIN². James and his wife, Mary Lowe and their four children were listed just above my Hemsley family on the Census. What a small world! Mme Vincent was so excited and treated me like a long lost rellie! I wonder if any of her ancestors came to Australia and if someone reading this is a relative? If so, contact me and I can give you her exact address.

² James Austin married Mary Lowe and had four children living with them in 1841: Mary, Samuel, Wiliam & Oliver. Mary Lowe was the sister of Oliver Lowe who, with his wife Eliza and children, was a passenger on the Agincourt.

Back in the main street I bought some Calais lace and then to the bus and took the return Hovercraft to Dover. I was disappointed that "our" church, St Mary the Virgin, in Dover was closed and I was unable to contact the Vicar. That was where my great great aunt, Mary Hemsley married George Selby in October 1838. She died in Calais in May 1839. The Opera House in Calais is now situated on the site of the "old" cemetery, which is rather sad. Maybe our late ancestors are "Phantoms of the Opera House".

Marion McLeish
née Hemsley



CONVICTION FOR PLAYING AT MARBLES ON SUNDAY

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - I again forward you an extract from the *Nottingham Mercury*:-

“Justice-room, Mansfield, Thursday.
“John Lowe was convicted before the Magistrates sitting in Petty Sessions for playing at marbles on Sunday, the 29th of January last, along with John Ivers and Joseph Dutton, who were convicted a month ago. Lowe was reprimanded, and ordered to pay costs.”

I remain Sir, respectfully yours,

VIGILANS

London Times, February 1847

The Church of England in Calais and St-Pierre



Trinity

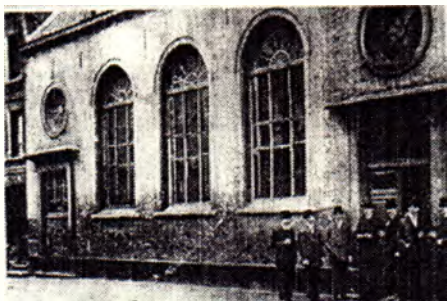
France was a predominantly Catholic country but there was a Church of England presence in Calais as early as 1319. The Reverend John Liptrott and his wife Frances took up residence in rue des Prêtres and turned a room in their home into a small chapel for the use of English protestants and visitors.

In 1825 the British Government appointed a Consul to the city and made this chapel the official Consular Chapel. Liptrott was named Consular Chaplain and paid £72 towards a stipend.

The chapel became too small very quickly, with the growing English population and in 1826 a meeting of all the British in Calais was called with the Consul in the Chair and Liptrott presiding. As a result a M. Mallett converted a shop he owned at 6 rue Prêtres into a chapel. A vestry courtyard was built with a door into the chapel. On May 27, 1827 this, the Episcopalian Chapel of Saint George, with seating for 350 opened its doors for the 2500 English then in Calais.

It was still in use in 1844 when a gallery was built and an organ hired at F200 per annum. Until then music had been produced from a harmonium. The closing date is vague, but it was in use again in

1880 when it was bought by M Celestin Darvell, priest of Notre Dame for 4000F and called "Cercle St Joseph"



John Liptrott continued as chaplain until 1841 when Rev Thomas Clark relieved him. Clark was followed by the Rev St Hill who recognised that by the 1850s most of the Anglicans lived in St-Pierre. A single room chapel was opened above a café in route de Boulogne (now Gambetta) but was quickly found to be unsuitable and the congregation committed themselves to building in rue du Moulin Brulée on land donated by an Englishman. Funds were donated willingly by the local community, but there was also a generous donation from England. The foundation stone was laid in 1862 and in 1864 Trinity Church was consecrated.

1877 was the last year the Church of England supported the church in St-Pierre . The British Government withdrew its subsidy and closed the chaplaincy. At the last minute the Colonial and Continental Church Society came to the rescue and supported Trinity from then until 1940.

During the Second World War the church was closed, but the Germans respected the building. After the war the British community had all but disappeared and as no one was interested in the building it gradually fell into disrepair. In 1955 the neighbouring gas company bought the building and after deconsecration in 1956 it was demolished after serving the community for 94 years. The spiritual needs of the Anglican communities are being, as in 1819, met in a small simple chapel.

The records of these early churches will assist Lacemakers in their genealogical research. The records of Liptrott's Chapel of St George in Calais would have belonged to the Diocese of London and been returned there when the Chapel finally closed.

The baptismal and burial records of Trinity have survived two wars and are now carefully preserved in a private collection in Calais. The continuation of family names makes many of the entries interesting to today's descendants. I am indebted to M Dubroëucq for his very gracious gesture of allowing me to view them and copy information I found interesting. Included in these handwritten records of **deaths** are:

Year	Surname	Given Names	Age
1860	PEET	Henry Sumner	19mnth
1860	JACKSON	Ann	74
1862	REVELL	Francis	74
1864	PEET	Ann	59
1869	HUSBAND	John	49
1873	MOON	Edward	51
1888	STUBBS	Henry	76
1889	EAGLE	William Fred.	84
1892	HUTCHINSON	Joseph	73
1892	DIXON	Edmund	84
1892	STRONG	William	60
1895	JAMES	Samuel	70
1896	JAMES	Emmeline	63
1899	NUTT	Hannah	72
1899	CROFT	Isaac	82
1901	NUTT	Alfred	80
1904	EAGLE	Matilda	93
1907	ROBINSON	Benjamin	67
1909	SHORE	Wm Georges	67
1910	WORTHINGTON	Edward	92
1912	STUBBS	Francis	64
1914	SHORE	Ann Eliza	73
1917	HOLMES	Eliza	73

1918	HUMPHREYS	William	64
1920	WORTHINGTON	Ann	93
1920	MATTHEWS	Angelina	79
1924	SAYWELL	Jasper Chs Alf Wm	67
1928	EAGLE	Sarah Ann	79
1928	STUBBS	Caroline	81
1929	SAYWELL	Clara	71
1932	MARVIN	Emily	77

Amongst the **births** are:

Year	Surname	Given Names	Parents
1858	PEET	Henry Sumner	William & Eliza
1860	PEET	William	William & Eliza
1862	PEET	Alfred	William & Eliza
1860	PEET	Kate	George & Annie
1864	LOWE	Jane	John & Mary
1864	TAYLOR	Richard	Richard & Elionie
1864	MATTHEWS	Mary Agnes	Wm & Angelina
1868	WIDDOWSON	Eliza	Wm & Elizabeth
1868	POTTER	Alice	John & Maria

From papers held in private collections of:
 L'Eglisé Reformé, St-Pierre
 and M. G Dubroecq, Calais,
 and with thanks to Mme E Legrand



The Plot Thickens

The theory that the religious following of our Lacemakers bound at least some of them together, was given strength this week when mail from Albertain in New Zealand crossed the Editor's desk. From the brief outline received it would seem that in 1862 a large group of non-conformists immigrated from England to the area now known as Albertain in New Zealand.

The writer says "For the most part these people had been seriously affected by the 1861 civil war in America, and it was the bicentenary of the expulsion of the non conformists from the Church of England, so a movement for migration decided on New Zealand as being the next best alternative. "

Many of those settlers came from around Nottingham, and the following settlers bear the same names as our Lacemakers.

ARCHER

BACON

BALL

BARNETT

BARRY

BENNET

FOX

KIRK

LEE

LOWE

MATTHEWS

MARTIN

MARVIN

MAY *

ROBERTS

ROBINSON

ROSE

ROGERS

SHAW

SHEPHERD

SMITH

GAMBLE
HALL
HANSON
HARRIS *
HARRISON
HASLAM
HOLMES
HOPKINS
HINKLEY *
HUBAND *
HUTCHINSON
JACKSON
JAMES
JOHNSON

NICHOLS
OLDFIELD
LITCHFIELD
LONGMUIR *
OLDHAM
PARSONS
PAUL *
PAYNE
PETTET
PIKE
PLACE
PLUMMER
POTTER
POWELL
RICHARDSON

STEVENS
STREET
TAYLOR
UNDERWOOD
WAINWRIGHT
WALKER
WARD
WATSON
WATTS
WEST
WILCOCKSON
WOOD
WOODCOCK *
WRIGHT

* Denotes a variation of spelling.

Shear coincidence? It may be, but many of us may also have cousins across the Tasman!

Gillian Kelly

LACE-MAKING BY MACHINERY

To begin to understand the lifestyle of the Lacemakers it is essential to understand the complexity and intricacy of the industry in which they were involved. The following article, while lengthy, is exceptional in its description of the trade. It was written in 1878, at a time when the history of the industry had not been written and rewritten.

THE INVENTIONS OF HEATHCOAT, LEVERS, AND OTHERS OF NOTTINGHAM LACE FACTORIES.

David Bremner c 1878

Soon after Lee's stocking frame had been brought to perfection, attempts were made to adapt the machine to the making of lace and net such as was produced by hand on the cushion. None of these attempts were successful, however, until an appendage called the point net machine was added to the stocking-frame.

With this an imitation of cushion-net was made, but not of a very satisfactory character, " as," says Dr. Ure, " the net made of cotton-thread was greatly inferior in strength, durability, and transparency to the proper lace fabric. To remedy these imperfections became, therefore, an object of pursuit to many ingenious artisans, and liberal encouragement was afforded towards its attainment by the lace manufacturers of Nottingham and particularly by Mr. Nunn. Any person who undertook to construct, on feasible principles a machine capable of making bobbin-net lace", was zealously patronised. Most sober-thinking persons, however, regarded the COTTON—BOBBIN-NET LACE project as akin to the perpetual motion—a thing not to be realised."

Considering the complication of movements necessary to the production of lace on the cushion, this despairing view of the case was not to be wondered at. After many men had ruined themselves or broken their hearts in the effort to devise a satisfactory lace machine, Mr. John Heathcoat, a machine-maker at Loughborough, who had devoted close attention to the efforts of others, took up the investigation, and succeeded, in the year 1809, in producing and patenting a machine, which proved highly successful, and brought fortunes to the inventor and his partner, Mr. Lacy.



Heathcoat

Numerous attempts were made to prove that Mr. Heathcoat had not invented anything, but had merely adapted and combined the inventions of others. These attempts failed, however; and Mr. Felkin settles the matter finally when he says:—"No model of those or any other parts of Heathcoat's machine can be shown to have been previously put together upon which bobbin net, twisted and traversed from side to side, could be or ever had been made."

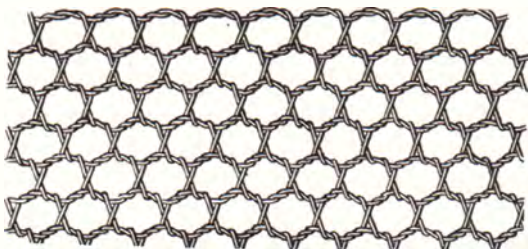
The factory which Messrs. Heathcoat and Lacy established at Loughborough was burned by the Luddites in 1816, and machines to the value of £10,000 were destroyed. After this, Mr. Heathcoat removed to Tiverton, in Devonshire, and there set up a factory, from which he amassed a large fortune. He continued his mechanical pursuits, and patented several inventions.

His death took place in 1861. In the course of his life he saw numerous modifications made in his bobbin-net machine, but none of them touched its essential principles. To show the change in cost to consumers which has been effected by the introduction of machinery into the lace trade, it may here be mentioned that when Messrs. Heathcoat and Lacy established their factory they obtained five guineas a yard for bobbin net of a quality which now sells at sixpence.

Mr. Felkin, in summing up Mr. Heathcoat's services to the lace

manufacture, says:—" This successful mechanic occupies a most important position in the manufacture of lace by machinery. Standing midway between the crowd of able men who, as inventors, preceded him about the close of the last and opening of the present century, and the numerous body of clever and usefull mechanics who have followed him down to the present time, his invention restored and strengthened the foundation of the lace trade of Nottingham decaying through the falling away of the manufacture of point-net; and thus, by the substitution of bobbin-net machinery, developing its productive powers, dispensing benefits to the neighboring traders and workpeople, and by its rapid increase becoming an important branch of national industry."

If a piece of bobbin-net of the coarser quality be closely examined, it will be seen that the meshes approach an hexagonal shape, and that they are formed by the crossing and intertwisting of three threads—one of which traverses the fabric from end to end, while the others cross it diagonally in opposite directions.



Bobbin net lace

The difficulty of producing work of this kind by a machine will at once be apparent. It is an exact reproduction of the ground work made by the pillow lace workers, the intricate movements of whose hands the most ingenious man might despair of imitating in mechanism.

" Bobbin-net," says Mr Ure, " surpasses every other branch of industry by the complex ingenuity of its machinery. A bobbin net frame is as much beyond the most curious chronometel as that is beyond a roastingjack."

In the first net made on machines the meshes were formed by looping or knotting, and not by twisting as in the case of pillow-lace. The distinctive feature of Heathcoat's machine was that it formed the meshes by twisting, in exact imitation of the pillow-made fabric.

This was accomplished by arranging one series of threads in a vertical position, to form as it were the warp, and twisting round these other threads, which traversed them diagonally from left to right and right to left. On either side of the vertical warp are curved metal plates, or "combs," the teeth or grooves of which correspond to the number of interstices between the warp-threads. In these grooves the bobbin-carriages travel.

The latter are triangular plates of steel, corresponding in thickness to the size of the meshes to be made; for a moderately fine mesh they are about the thickness of a well worn shilling. In the centre of the plate is a circular opening, in which the bobbin, which is of the same thickness as the carriage, is mounted. The bobbins are made of two thin circular plates of steel about two inches in diameter, fixed on a spindle, and each is capable of containing about 100 yards of thread. The bobbin is held in the carriage by means of a spring, which also regulates the strain on the thread.

When the machine is set in motion, the carriages—of which there are two sets—are pushed through the warp-threads from one comb bar to the other, and at each such movement the comb-bar is moved one space to the right in the case of one set of bobbins, and one space to the left in the case of the other, so that when the carriages are again pushed through the warp the threads which they carry are twisted round the latter, and it is by a repetition of this motion that the meshes are formed. In the making of onerow of meshes the bobbins have to pass through the warp six times.

On reaching the edge of the web there is a switch motion, which causes the carriages to travel back in the reverse order to which they last moved; and so on till the supply of thread is worked up. The meshes are regulated and consolidated by a comb, which serves the purpose of the reed in a loom. The machine, by its multiplicity of parts and delicacy and beauty of construction, is a triumph of mechanical art, and to be fully appreciated would require to be seen at work. There are several varieties of bobbin-net machines in use,

but, as already stated, their essential parts are on the principle of Heathcoat's invention.

Dr. Ure says:—" The persons who have distinguished themselves most in the development of lace machinery, as a part of the factory system, are Mr. Heathcoat, Mr. Morley, Mr. Sewell, Mr. William Jackson, and Mr. William Henson. William Mosely, of Radford, attempted to work the lever machine by a rotary motion without success: others who made a similar attempt with the pusher and warp traversing machines met with no better fate." Dr. Ure did not fully recognise the merits of one of the principal machines now employed in the lace manufacture—namely, that invented by Mr. John Levers.

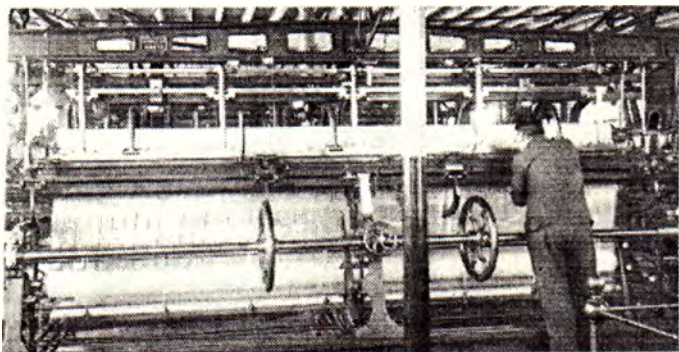
Probably, at the time he wrote it had not shown promise of being developed to the high degree of perfection it has now attained; and he merely refers to it as bearing a strong resemblance to Heathcoat's machine; but he admitted, apparently with some reluctance, that though it was "awkward, its movements complex, and its adjustments delicate," the good quality of its work made it find favour with lace manufacturers. Levers was engaged in business as a frame smith at Nottingham when the success of Heathcoat's invention was being demonstrated, and he was one of many persons whose inventive faculties were stimulated by the occasion. How he set to work to devise an improved lace machine, and other particulars concerning him, will be learned from the following passages copied from Mr. Felkin's book:—

" In carrying out the invention, Levers worked in a garret at the top of a building situated in a yard on the northern side of the Derby Road, Nottingham, and so quietly and secretly as not to be seen by anyone, even of his own family. 'The carriage and bobbins—things which presented so much difficulty to Mr. Heathcoat—with some of the inside parts, had been made as thin as was requisite by a relative, Benjamin Thomson, an extraordinarily clever workman in metals. He was never permitted to see the machine in progress, but was the first, except its constructor, to witness its completion.

Levers had no son, but two brothers and a nephew, John. All worked afterwards with him, and the nephew always stated that they saw the frame for the first time when it was ready to work. They found it to be eighteen inches in width, waiting for materials and prepared to

start, which it did without difficulty. The entire isolation of the inventor during this period was a remarkable feat.

Levers had expended his available means in the lengthened experiments and necessary expenditure incurred during the years 1812-13. The house of John Stevenson and Skipworth, carrying on a lace business in Nottingham, was induced to furnish the funds required for producing more machines, upon what terms is now not known. Several were built, one of which was retained by Levers for experimenting upon.



Levers Machine in Nottingham about one hundred years after its invention.

The others were worked in a shop on their owner's premises in St. James' Street. It is probable that the then existing patent rights on the one hand, and the profits daily realised by Levers and his patrons on the other, were the reasons why no patent was obtained to secure what was new in his method; for it seems to have been the prevailing notion among the mechanicians of the time that a patent must be taken out for all the machine and not, as might have been, for any parts or combinations only which were really new.

In 1814 John Farmer, with another hand, worked one of these machines, fifty-four inches wide, each taking five-hour shifts, the machine working twenty hours a day. The production was four pieces of ten racks each weekly. The wages were 5s. per rack—i.e.

£5 for each workman a week.

Levers left Stevenson and Co., but for what reason the connection was broken is not known. In 1817 he worked in a shop in the higher part of St. James's Street, and it was at this time that he altered the arrangement of his frames. They were at first made to work in a horizontal position, but he now made them to work in a vertical one, as at present in use. In 1821 Levers went to France, and set up his machines at Rouen, and there died.

He is said to have been a friendly, kind-hearted man, and a great politician. He was fond of company, music, and song, and was bandmaster of the local militia. He sometimes worked day and night if a mechanical idea or contrivance struck him, and would then quit all labour for days of enjoyment with chosen boon companions. He was frequently heard to say that the machine he had constructed was only in its infancy, because of the great facilities it afforded for alterations and improvement."

The Levers machine, according to Mr. Felkm, is by far the most delicate—its inner parts working in the smallest space, and requiring the most careful adjustments and finish—of any amongst those bobbin net frames which are principally used. It is, therefore, when put together for fancy work, the most expensive in its construction. It admits of adjustment to nearly all kinds of work; and is fitted with the Jacquard apparatus and driven by power, its usefulness cannot be too highly regarded.

One of the most perfect forms of this machine was exhibited at South Kensington in 1874, and attracted much attention. It was of large dimensions, being thirty feet in length and nine feet in height and it was shown at work upon a lace two and a half inches wide, of which sixty pieces were woven at one time. The machine was furnished with nearly three thousand bobbins and carriages, and upwards of a hundred warp beams. It was driven at the rate of 120 picks per minute, and at that speed produced a yard of lace at each head in an hour, or a total length of sixty yards. As seen in the machine, the lace seemed to be one large web, over four yards broad, this appearance being produced by the lacing-threads which united each width of lace to its neighbours, and ensured equality of work, besides serving, other purposes. on being removed from the

machine, the lace, still united by the lacing-threads, is bleached and dressed, and then the superfluous threads are cut out, and the separate widths of the fabric wound on cards.

When a return was made to Parliament in 1875 as to the number of factories in the kingdom and persons employed in them, there were 311 lace factories in operation. These contained 3,462 machines, and gave employment to 10,373 persons, of whom 6,945 were males and 3,428 females. The factories are dispersed over six or eight counties, but the chief seat of the trade is at Nottingham. It will be gathered from what has already been said that the lace machines are expensive appliances, costing, from £500 to £1,000 each.

The majority of those used in Nottingham are capable of making lace four or five yards in width, and even wider, as there are machines in the trade which make lace seven yards wide. They are all driven by steam-power, and stand in factories built specially strong to sustain the tremendous weight put on each floor.

Some of these factories are exceedingly fine buildings, the rooms being lofty, measuring from twelve to fourteen feet in height, and the space across the rooms, from window to window, thirty-two feet. The windows are made as large as possible, as the best light is needed to carry on the manufacture.



Factory area Radford

The custom is for the owners to let out standings for the trade, for which from five-and-sixpence to seven shillings per week each

standing is charged, the owner also providing steam-power. Each standing extends from window to window, the breadth being from six and a half feet to seven feet. The engine starts at four o'clock in the morning, and runs on till mid night, a day of twenty hours. But to enable this to be done without overtaxing the energies of the workmen, two sets of hands are employed.

The first set go on at four in the morning, and work till nine, when they are relieved by the second set, who work till one. The first set then again appear, and work till six, when the second set once more come on, and work till midnight. The next week the men change shifts, those who began at nine o'clock the previous week now beginning at four. By this mode the men work only ten hours a day each, except on Saturday, when the engine stops at one o'clock.

Prior to 1805 linen and silk threads were the only materials used in lace-making. In the year named, Mr. Samuel Cartledge, of Nottingham, effected an improvement in the production of fine numbers of doubled cotton yarn, and introduced the same to the notice of the lace manufacturers.

The cotton thread, after some resistance on the part of interested persons, came into general use, as it had qualities which specially recommended it. For example, it is more elastic than linen-thread, and so less liable to break in working, and the articles made of it have a brighter appearance. Another important recommendation is that it is much less costly. Messrs. Houldsworth, of Manchester, devoted them selves to the production of this fine cotton-thread, and found it a very profitable business. Their price list for the year 1805 shows that they charged for No. 200, £3 3s. 6d.; No. 220, £4 1s. 6d.; No. 240, £5 6s. Gd.; No.260, £7 3s. 6d.; No. 280, £9 9s. 6d.; and No. 300, £12 8s. 6d. per lb.

The prices remained unchanged for many years, and as finer numbers were produced still more extraordinary prices were obtained for them. It is said that this firm sold in one year £70,000 of fine yarn for lace purposes alone. In 1812 No. 320 sold at £15 2s and No. 352 at £27 8s. per lb. Improved machinery has since changed this state of matters and now lace-thread can be purchased at a price which looks ridiculous when compared with the figures given above.

In the days of hand-spinning the making of lace-thread was considered the highest department of the art, and the names of some of the more expert spinners have been handed down to posterity. In order to secure the advantage of a humid atmosphere and escape the trouble caused by currents of air, the lace-thread spinners of France and Belgium used to work in damp underground cellars, and their occupation was consequently a very unhealthy one.

Bremner David, Great Industries of Great Britain, Cassell, Petter, Galpin & Co; London, 1878

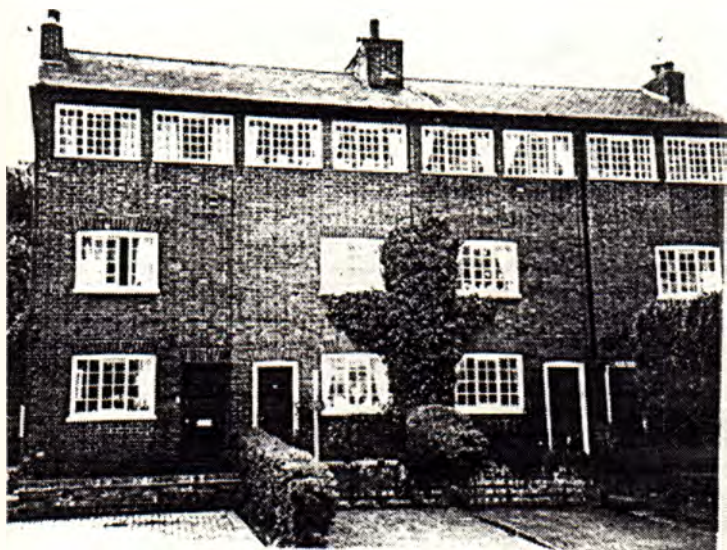


The Stapleford Windows

A group of four cottages which stand opposite the junction of West Avenue and Nottingham Road are believed to have been built in the late 18th century.

These cottages are of special interest because they were associated closely with the lace industry, one of the town's commercial outlets in those days. These three story cottages had a special room on the top floor with a window which spanned the length of the room to enable the lacemaker or mender to gain maximum daylight while at work.

Evol Watkins



CONVICT LINES

William Brownlow was sentenced to life at the Nottingham Assizes on 29 July 1819. He was 5'7 and 1/2" tall, with a sallow complexion, brown hair and hazel eyes. He was born c.1799 and arrived per "Mangles" in August 1820. He married Selina Hacott at Narellan in 1834 and they had three children who between them produced 24 grandchildren, all of whom were born at Binda. William died at Binda c.1853.

Conditions of penal servitude in NSW could be extremely harsh, especially at places of secondary punishment like Moreton Bay and Norfolk Island. But so too were conditions in English factories and mines, in the ranks of the Army and Navy, in the new industrial slums and especially in the workhouses. "Our" lacemakers sought relief from the dislocation and adversities of fluctuating employment in an industrializing society by moving to a foreign land: to France, the traditional enemy with which Britain had been at war almost continuously for the 25 years preceding Waterloo. It was a desperate and risky solution to their problems as the 1848 Revolution proved.

For others at home, perhaps less enterprising, the occasional report in a newspaper or letter about a convict who had made good at Botany Bay, must have lessened the deterrent effectiveness of transportation and some may have even come to regard it as an acceptable, if desperate, solution to a desperate situation.

Barry Holland, who has generously provided so much valuable information from the 1848 issues of *The Nottingham Review* (including the Freestone letters) expects to have his Index to people sentenced to transportation in Notts published by the NFHS shortly. No doubt, other Lacemaker names will appear in it.



DBW

The Inhabitants of Saint-Pierre from the 1831 Census (concl)

These entries are extracted from the Protestant residents in Calais in 1831. We are indebted to Joël Brismanil for his patience and work. The numbers refer to household numbers. Space precludes printing all entries. Any reader who has an interest in other names, please contact the Editor

In future issues there will be extracts from the 1841 census, and this brings to light interesting family connections.

- 823 GOLDFINCH Thomas Lacemaker 63
 DARBY Lucy Mother 40
 GOLDFINCH Suzanna daughter 20
 GOLDFINCH Thomas son 18
 GOLDFINCH John son 11
 GOLDFINCH Lynch son 9
- 915 SHORE William laceworker 44
 ROBERTSON Sarah mother 36
 SHORE Thomas son 15
 SHORE James son 13
 SHORE Mary daughter 11
 SHORE Suzanne, daughter 8
 SHORE Sarah daughter 7
- 928 BASHFORD, Ann, laceworker, mother, 32, widow of Basford
 BASFORD John son 14
 BASFORD Enoch son 12
 BASFORD Elisa daughter 10
 BASFORD Sophie daughter 6
 BASFORD William son 4
 BASFORD Ann daughter 8 mois
- 975 WALKER John boarder with Francois Ducrocq, 42

- 978 MARTIN, Elisabeth rentiere mere 47, widow BAYLEY
 BAYLEY, Elisabeth daughter 19
 BAYLEY, Jane, daughter 16
 BAYLEY, Georges son 13
- 996 AUSTIN, Jane, laceworker sister 23
 AUSTIN, Frederick brother 18
 AUSTIN, Mary sister 13
- 999 ROSE , Joseph baker father 43
 JAMES , Jane mother 33
 ROSE, Emma daughter 14
 ROSE, Joseph son 4
- 1170 BROWN, William, laceworker, Father 46
 WATERS, Ann, mother, 49
 BROWN, Thomas, son, 24
 BROWN, John, son, 22
 BROWN, Charles, son, 19
 BROWN, Mary Ann, daughter, 17
 BROWN, Sarah, daughter, 14
 BROWN, James, son, 10
 RICHARDSON, Josué, boarder, 20
- 1181 SHAW, Isaac, laceworker, 48
 HART, Sarah, mother, 44
 SHAW, Jobe, son, 16
 SHAW, John, son, 14
 SHAW, Elisa, daughter, 3 months
- 1210 TOWLSON, Edouard, laceworker, father, 32
 SNAIL, Sarah, mother, 26
 TOWLSON, Edwin, son, 9
 TOWLSON, John, son, 7
- 1246 TAYLOR, John, laceworker, father, 22
 WRIGHT, Elizabeth, mother, 22
 TAYLOR, Elizabeth, daughter, 8 months

- 1247 PEET, Thomas, private means, father, 62
 HATTEY (sic) Flora, wife, 65
- 1252 HARISSON, Thomas, laceworker, father, 31
 STUBBS, Mary, mother, 30
 HARISSON, Robert John, son, 6
 HARISSON, Alfred, son, 4
 HARISSON, Mary Anne, daughter, 3
 HARISSON, Emma, daughter, 2
- 1255 SANSOM, John, laceworker, father, 32
 STUBBS, Mary, mother, 27
 SANSOM, William Henry, son, 2
- 1257 STUBBS, Francis, lacemaker, father, 29
 PEET, Flora, mother, 29
 STUBBS, Thomas, son, 7
 STUBBS, Francis, son, 5
 STUBBS, Mary Eliza, daughter, 3
 STUBBS, Robert Henry, son 1
 STUBBS, Matilde, sister, 18
 BLACK, Henry, boarder, 17
 BOUGHT, William, boarder, 22
- 1280 WEST, Robert, lacemaker, father, 44
 FRIEND, Francis, mother, 38
 WEST, Robert, son 16
 WEST, Richard, son, 14
 WEST, Valentin, son, 9
 WEST, William, son, 8
 WEST, Fanny, daughter, 7
- 1310 DORMER, George, laceworker, father, 32
 GRAY, July, mother, 30
 DORMER, Mary, daughter, 6
 DORMER, Helene, daughter, 4
 DORMER, John, son, 2
- 1357 SMITH, James, lacemaker, 40
 TAYLOR, Ann, Mmother, 31
 SMITH, William, son, 18

SMITH, John, son 7
SMITH, Thomas, son, 5
SMITH, Mary Ann, daughter, 3
SMITH, Maria, daughter, 4 months

1479 DIXON, John, lacemaker, father, 37 *
PETTY, Mary Ann, mother, no age given
DIXON, Mary Ann, daughter, 13
DIXON, Elizabeth, daughter, 11
DIXON, Henriette, daughter, 9
DIXON, Caroline, daughter, 6
DIXON, Sarah, daughter, 4
DIXON, Richard, son, 2
BROWN, William, laceworker, boarder, 16
DOSSINS, Maria, maid, 16

* This must be Richard Dixon. Daughter Caroline, gave her father's name as Michael when she married Whewell, in Dover, but stated Richard was her father on the shipping indent. He travelled on the *Harpley* as Richard Bell Dixon. Who was he - Richard Bell Dixon, Michael Dixon or John Dixon - and why such trouble with his name?

Readers' Queries

Gillian Kelly has a theory that there were strong family and friendship ties between our lacemaker immigrant ancestors. I have yet to find any connection with my Rogers family, even though they were from Nottingham as all their connected names were, they lived in France (Lille and Calais) from atleast 1840 til 1848. Where the family differs from the majority of our members is that they did not come on one of the three main ships but a couple of months later, arriving on Dec 30, 1848, per the Walmer Castle.

To recap my details quickly, William Rogers, (b 1815 Nottingham) married Mary Haslam 1836 at St Marys. Young William was born in 1836, George 1838 at Sneinton, Edmund 1841 at Lille, Eliza 1843 at Calais. A 5th daughter was born and died at Calais, as did her mother. I think I have proved my theory that William was not one of the three main ships as he needed a mother for his four young

children. In fact, he married in Radford, Harriett Hazledine just two weeks before emigrating.

There were Hazledines in Calais. Other Nottingham names associated with Rogers were SMEATON, SHACKLOCK, LOVESEY. Has any body come across these names?

I don't know a great deal about my lacemaker William Rogers after his arrival except that he seems to have remained in Sydney. On the Walmer Castle the only other natives of Nottingham were his single brother Edmund, a tailor and John Pepper, a butcher. These two young men married sisters from the Aldous family who were also on the boat. William was witness at his brother's wedding in Sydney in January 1850. The only other thing I know is that he died in Dungog in 1857 aged 42. The death notice in the Herald a week later was much more helpful than his death certificate. "On Monday November at Dungog, Mr Wiliam Rogers, native of Nottingham, of King Street, aged 42, after a long and painful illness, much regretted by a numerous circle of friends."

What was he doing in Dungog when he lived in Sydney and he was not well? Dungog isn't far from Maitland where many of our Lacemakers were sent. The place of death is Bendolba, Parish of Tiligra, County of Durham; occupation Tobaccanist, cause of death "overflow of blood in the brain". He was buried at Andey's Flat, C of E and the witnesses were Robert and William Hanna.

Do any of these details ring a bell with anyone? If so, I'd love to hear from you.

Judy Gifford
12 Gloster Close
East Gosford 2250

AUSTRALIA'S IMMIGRATION WALL OF HONOUR

Have YOUR ANCESTOR'S or YOUR arrival into Australia permanently recorded on

AUSTRALIA'S IMMIGRATION WALL OF HONOUR.

This wall is situated at the entrance of Natureworld, Hervey Bay Queensland. The official unveiling by T.V's Rob Brough (Family Feud) of stage one was March 19, 1995! - as part of the Irish Immigration Celebration.

It will be the focal point for Immigration INTO ALL STATES of Australia from ALL COUNTRIES with NO RESTRICTION for dates of inclusion. e.g. if you arrived in 1988, your name also can be included.

The wall, fashioned after the Immigration Wall on Ellis Island in New York which already contains over half a million names - is to become a major tourist attraction in Australia. For \$20.00 per entry you can record for posterity your details and /or the names of your-Immigrant Ancestors, their birth Town or County and Country, the Name of the Ship, Year and Port of Arrival.

Even if you do not know, at this stage in your research, how your ancestors arrived in Australia you can still honour them by including their names, place of origin, approx. year of entry and port .

A listing of all immigrants and the subscriber will be computerised and copies held by the Hervey Bay Family History Library and at Natureworld Kiosk. If a non-subscriber finds their ancestor on the wall they may wish to find the relative who nominated this entry. This will then give them a chance to find other living members of their family. However if you do not want your name and address given out, a privacy clause is included.

If you are interested in further details, please contact:

Janet REAKES & Eileen JOHNSON
Australia's Immigration & Family History Centre
PO Box 937 HERVEY BAY QLD 4655

**ARCHER
BROWN
LOWE
PRIESTLEY
WAKEFIELD** Following an outline of ASLC in the Nottingham Family History Society Journal, Mrs J Goodman, 57 Windermere Road, Long Eaton, NG10 4DQ seeks information on these families. She believes a John Lowe may have been transported to Australia for stealing a length of ribbon.

**BAMFORD
WEST** Mr M Bamford, 8 Grange Close, Park Lane, Lambley, Notts, NG44 QJ, has an interest in the Wests and Bamfords. In Calais there were two West lines - one from Kent, and one from Nottingham. Those from Notts were framework knitters from the Bulwell area. Joseph West and Mary Dove had sons Joseph and John both of whom went to France. The Bamfords were traditionally coal miners in Derbyshire.

**SIDDONS
SLACK** Mr M Siddons, 48 Abbey Road, Edwinstowe, Mansfield, Notts, NG21 9LH is a descendant of Samuel Siddons and Mathilda Slack. This couple was in Calais where the birth of two children were recorded, but Mathilda appears as a widow with her children in the 1861 British census. Thirty years later Samuel reappears as her husband. Where was he all those years?

**JACKSON
WRIGHT** Juan Carlos Amengual Jackson of Andres Torrens 20 5B, 07011 Palma de Mallorca is a descendant of John Jackson, b 1788, lace manufacturer. This John had children Thomas Storer and John Walter Evan who married the daughter of Nathaniel Wright of Nottingham in 1847. In Nathaniel's will he disposed of lacemachinery.

**STREET
HOLMES** Ms Julie Nicks of 20 Northampton Cr, Elizabeth East, 5112, South Australia, seeks information about Thomas Street and Emma Holmes. Emma was the daughter of George Holmes and Emma.

**SHAW
SIMPSON**

Alan Smith of 34 Covert Close, Hucknall, Nottingham, NG15 7RH, England, seeks information about John Shaw and Dorothy Simpson. They married in Nottingham in 1818. John and Dorothy had a daughter Elizabeth born in Calais in 1828. Any leads would be most gratefully received.

**BOWN
EALING**

Lynette Davies of 90 Bugden Ave, Gowrie, ACT is seeking information on the family of Bown. John Bown and Sarah Ealing were passengers on the Harpley, but the name Ealing doesn't seem to appear in Calais, Nottingham, Leicestershire, Derbyshire or Kent. Caroline Bown, as a widow, married Hiram Longmire, widower.

MRS. JANE ROSE

(From Our Correspondent)
DURAMANA, Tuesday. — The death occurred in Taree recently of Mrs. Jane Rose, mother of Mr E. W. Rose, who was teacher at the local school for several years. The deceased lady resided here with her son and daughter-in-law, and was loved and esteemed by all who came in contact with her. She had not enjoyed good health for some time. One son, Mr Clive Rose, predeceased her by about three months. Four sons survive, to whom sincere sympathy is extended.

MR. CALEB STUBBS

(From Our Correspondent)
WARREN, Tuesday. — Mr. Caleb Stubbs, of Warren, an old and highly esteemed district resident, passed away at the Orange Base Hospital. The late Mr. Stubbs, who was 66 years of age, was taken to Orange a few weeks ago and underwent an operation, after which he gradually became weaker. His wife and son (Mr Neville Stubbs), of Warren, survive. The remains were conveyed by train from Orange and laid to rest in the Church of England portion of the cemetery.

from Western Times, Wednesday 30 April, 1941

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