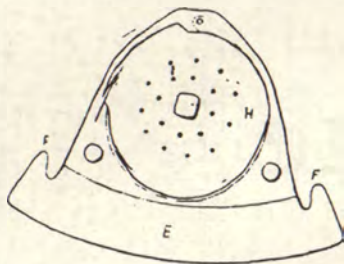


TALLC

The Australian Society
of the
Descendants of Calais



The Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais meets downstairs in the Meeting Room of the NSW State Archives, 2 Globe Street, Sydney at 1.00 pm.

THE MEETING DATES for 1984/85 are:

Saturday, 3rd November, 1984

Saturday, 16th February, 1985

Saturday, 27th April, 1985

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, 13th July, 1985

Saturday, 2nd November, 1985

Issue 9 October 1985?

1984

"Tulle" YEAR THREE! A new cover and more news, information and jigsaw pieces for our history. This edition of Tulle contains the reports from our most successful second Annual General Meeting. It was a very enjoyable day with a gathering of over fifty members. The Office Bearers were all re-elected, with a vote of thanks and confidence in all cases, and generous encouragement to continue.

Our guest speaker was Baiba Berzins, the Mitchell Librarian. I remember asking her over lunch what her job entailed. Her answer was a quiet "oh, mostly administration." By the time her talk to us had finished those words had become the understatement of the day! She must administer one of the busiest, interesting and varied jobs in Sydney! We were indeed lucky to have her talk to us, after doing her job I would just want to spend my weekend in silent retreat. Thank you Baiba once again for your time and your knowledge.

Baiba gave us a potted history of Mitchell Library. David Scott Mitchell started it with a bequest of his collection of books and documents gathered over the years, relating to Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific, Antarctica and the East Indies. Money was left in his will for the collection to continue.

The collection continues to grow with financial aid from the State Government and bequests. A notable bequest being from Sir William Dixon whose name was given to the Dixon Gallery.

The foundation Stone for the building to house the collection was laid in 1907 and the building was completed in 1910.

The Library houses books, manuscripts, maps, coins,

photographs, commemorative programmes, etc, all of which are well documented. Paintings, music, posters, films and personal collections are also continually added. There must be millions of items already catalogued - I couldn't keep up with the figures!

The Library is a deposit Library, which means it receives a copy of every printed work relating to Australia. It is part of the Joint Copying Project set up in 1974 and is also getting English documents that pertain to Australia.

Many people from all different disciplines and areas use the Library and it is also an exhibiting library, and a very good one too!

The available material includes a wide pictorial collection and present day social documents as well as the written items with which we are more familiar. There are some restrictions on access to material, but they seemed few, and in many cases solutions can be found.

Baiba pointed out that the community interest is growing and that a Library Society has been formed to encourage this interest and to raise funds for the growth of the State Library as a whole.

As often happens after a talk from someone like Baiba, we realise how much we didn't know about a very familiar institution.

There were many hints in the talk also. One that I took particular note of is to photograph the inside of our homes. Not only does this provide documentation of an era, but it can provide very pleasant memories and interesting personal reference material for the future.

Nov. 3rd 1 p.m.

We return to our usual venue for our next meeting and we can look forward to hearing from Gillian about her recent trip to England and France - hopefully we will hear about Nottingham and Calais.

Meeting Date: Saturday, 3rd November, 1984

Place: Meeting Room,
NSW State Archives,
2 Globe Street,
SYDNEY.

Time: 1.00 pm

Albert Frederick Norman Archer 1907-84

Last month I was notified of the death of Bert Archer. We offer our sincere condolences to his wife and family.

Bert was the moving force behind the formation of the Australian Society of the Lace-makers of Calais and to him we all owe an enormous debt of thanks. We will miss him and his unflagging interest in us even when he was unable to attend meetings due to illness.

Last year we were privileged to share Bert's family history - his story was always full of snippets of family or local life.

Those members who knew him well say that he wrote as he spoke. He had a wealth of knowledge and his research was far-reaching and as complete as possible. We were truly lucky to have shared this knowledge.

Although we will regret his passing he will live on in his stories and we, as members of the Society he began, will remember him warmly.

May he rest in peace.

Subs

1984/85 membership subscriptions are now due.
The \$15.00 family membership is payable to:

Mr Terence Higgins,
Villa 3,
14 Albert Street,
BEXLEY NSW 2207.

As Terence pointed out in presenting his Treasurer's Report our income from subscriptions has dropped by almost 50% over the past year. It is with regret that we point out that unless membership dues are paid by the end of October your name will be deleted from the Tulle mailing list.

President's Report.

I am pleased to report to you once again that the Society has grown over the past twelve months. Growth can be measured in many ways: membership, image and scope of activities. The Society has grown in all these ways.

The organisational characteristic of our Society is the wide geographic spread of its membership. Such a spreading of membership means that communications to members must be treated as a high priority. In this respect our energetic Editor of Tulle has performed superbly. The four issues of Tulle have been of a high class, containing informative and interesting articles on a variety of subjects. Our image and communications have been improved by Claire Loneragan and the various contributors to our magazine. The success of Tulle has strengthened the basic fabric of our Society.

Our image has been enhanced by the activities of members. William Brownlow, Marjorie Brown, Lindsay Watts, Joan Latter, Terence Higgins and Claire Loneragan have all placed the Lacemakers' name before the community by speeches and meetings or by obtaining a mention in the media. Once again Nick Vine-Hall has also been a friend to the Society by mentioning us on his radio programmes or through the Society of Australian Genealogists.

New family names are also being added to the membership of the Society. Kenshall, Polin and Wedderon have all been added to our list. The growth in the number of family names is a most pleasing aspect of our Society's progress. The total membership of the Society has risen to 86.

Whilst many members have been undertaking individual research Chris Sutton has continued her research role on the wider aspects of the Lacemakers background. I will not steal her thunder by elaborating on the research here. However, the research has been most rewarding and reveals a lot about the conditions and circumstances surrounding the emigration.

Marjorie Brown, too, has been steadily building up the background of our forebears.

The computer project is a slow and arduous process and the descendants of four families are gradually being loaded onto the data base. This project is a long term one and it will be some time before we begin to see results from our considerable effort.

Our gratitude to the Archives Authority of NSW is considerable. It has continued to allow the Society to meet at Globe Street and in so doing contribute to the development of an understanding of the history of this nation. The three meetings held since our last Annual Meeting have all been successful and I feel sure that today's meeting, on such a significant day as Bastille Day, will also succeed.

To all the members of the Society I wish you well in your research endeavours and may many of those

elusive clues come your way in the next twelve months. To the office bearers during the year I thank you on behalf of the Society, your selfless contributions have ensured a successful year.

Bob Wilson

Editor's Report.

Mariane and I have been responsible for Tulle for a year now. In that time we have made changes to the layout and size of publication to facilitate a vehicle for our members' ideas, questions and stories. As our journal now goes to five states and England and France and is housed at libraries from the National Library in Canberra to study bookshelves, we need to have a presentation that appeals and presents our Society as a credible one to as wide a group as possible. This we have tried to achieve.

We have both enjoyed a great year. We have met lovely people, enjoyed great stories and enjoyed many phone calls and cups of coffee.

Tulle has been a light happy journal to read as well as an informative one. For over a year we have been privy to the inside stories of members' families, to the formal correspondence coming to and from the Colonial Office and newspaper reports. This wealth of information has come from you, and to you we owe a vote of heartfelt thanks.

The editorial in Issue 5 hinted that I am a lover of stories and that if your journal was to be a success it had to have your contributions. They have not stopped coming - first a trickle, now a steady stream. DON'T STOP. It is your work that makes this journal work.

We talked about wheel spokes - our wheels are quite well oiled. They usually run smoothly, and with your help will continue to do so.

Claire Loneragan

Treasurer's Report.

The Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais.

Annual Balance Sheet at date 30th June, 1984

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>B/FWD</u>
Subscriptions	\$630.00	\$1087.07
Donations	18.00	
Sales (Laces & Books)	134.50	
Bank Interest (\$17.17 and \$12.28)	29.45	
	<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$811.95	

EXPENDITURE

Tulle - Printing and
Postage:

1. July '83	\$ 40.50	
2. Oct. '83	38.80	
3. Feb. '84	161.40	
4. Apr. '84	141.00	(Total \$502.83)
Federal and State Tax	2.79	
Elizabeth Simpson	368.72	
Transfer to Building Society	600.00	
	<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$1474.34	\$1474.34
	<hr/>	
	Balance at Bank as per Statement	\$ 424.68
		<hr/>
Bank - Cheque a/c ..	\$424.68	
NSW Bldg Society ..	\$600.00	
	<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$1024.68	

Of Shoes and Ships and Sealing-wax

The following article was presented to the Society as an annual report by our Research Officer, Chris Sutton.

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Guests, Fellow Members of the Society. It is with a great deal of pleasure that I report to you upon the research of the past twelve months.

Many of you are aware that for some time I have been concentrating on the search for information concerning the group as a whole, and have temporarily abandoned searching particular families. In order to do this I turned from the resources of the Registrar General to those of the Archives, the Mitchell Library and the Library of the University of Wollongong. They proved to be a goldmine of information. For I am now able to report to you that I believe we have the answer to the question that's plagued us since we first began our research two years ago. Why did the lacemakers leave France and come to Australia? No, it wasn't religious persecution, and no, they weren't particularly afraid.

If we are to discover the impact this group had upon the Social History of Australia, if we are to truly understand our cultural heritage we must become historians, we must look with wider vision at the world in 1848.

Time and again we have questioned the motives behind our forebears emigration to this country. In order to understand them it was necessary to look closely at the situation as it existed in England and France in 1848 and a few years before.

Lets place 1848 in its historical perspective. It is fifty one years since the end of the French Revolution.

Thirty three years before 1848 Napoleon had been defeated at the Battle of Waterloo.

It is seventy two years since the American War of Independence and already the USA is becoming a strong nation, attracting a great deal of immigration from England and Ireland.

France has lost the Indian colonies and the colony of Quebec to the British.

The debate upon slavery has commenced and emancipationists are causing great concern to the owners of plantations in the West Indies.

Some names of the time: Clive of India, Benjamin Disraeli is Prime Minister of England, Charles Dickens is writing prolifically and is about to publish David Copperfield. We can look to his novels as a fairly accurate, if somewhat melodramatic, picture of life in those times. William Wordsworth is Poet Laureate and will die two years hence. Jane Eyre has been published for twelve months. Elizabeth Barrett is about to marry Robert Browning.

Following the Napoleonic Wars the map of Europe has vastly changed. Russia has enlarged, France has shrunk to her traditional borders, Denmark has been annexed to Sweden, Austria has been given to Italy, in all Europe has been in a state of upheaval for over a century.

Britain in the 1700's had embarked upon an era of economic and industrial change that was to bring about a restructuring of Society. The Industrial Revolution and its transformation of England from a rural to a manufacturing nation was to bring about too much change too soon. Poverty, crime, destitution and unrest were to be its legacy.

In the years immediately preceding 1848, Britain was hit by famine. Disease ravished the Irish potato crop and thousands of Irish and English poor, whose staple diet was the humble potato, were starving. Unemployment, poverty, disease and debt were the scourges of British Society and massive efforts were

made to bring relief to those worst effected. The heaviest burden fell upon the Parish Committees who attempted to alleviate the problem through the workhouse, the poorhouse and the Poor Fund.

It was in the midst of this economic and industrial upheaval in Britain, and its ensuing misery, that France entered ten years of peace and prosperity with the reign of Louis Phillipe.

Napoleon had been succeeded by two Bourbon Kings, Louis XVIII and Charles, who had tried to re-establish the absolute power of the monarchy. In July of 1830 a revolution deposed Charles and placed Louis Phillipe on the throne.

The industrial revolution had not yet caught up with France. Little wonder when the nation had been so unsettled and public confidence was low. Now a stable government and a renewal of faith brought the changes to the economy for which the French had been striving.

It must have seemed a land of bright promise to the lacemakers who moved to Calais to help revive the lace industry. There they were assured of work and, so they thought, a future for themselves and their children. An examination of the records that we hold shows that the greater number of lacemakers were born in Nottingham and their children born in France between 1830 and 1848. While there WERE lacemakers in Calais in the late 1700's and early 1800's their numbers were not nearly as great as in the period of Louis Phillipe's reign.

Now, let's look at early 1848, month by month. In the London Times of January 3rd, 1848 a report appears of a donation of 1000/- for the relief of those "distressed by famine" in England and Ireland from Adelaide, South Australia. It comes from a committee and is signed by M. McDermott, John Stephens and C.S. Hare. A further promise of 1000/- in wheat for distribution to the starving is made with the donation.

On 5th January a trade report from Nottingham

states that there has been little alteration in the lack of lace trading, but what very little alteration there has been has been for the better.

Throughout the Times reports for the months of January and February there is a continuing debate as to the adequacy of England's defences. The Duke of Wellington has expressed concern that were the French to attack by sea England would stand little chance of repelling an invasion on land. There would seem to be concern in the minds of the English people as to the intentions of France. Which is probably a result of the disagreements between the two countries over Canada and India and a memory of the Napoleonic Wars.

On 3/2/1848 reports from Lancashire and Yorkshire give an account of the very depressed state of both the cotton and the iron industries. Manchester mills have greatly reduced their staff and mills in Oldham, Ashton and Stockport have closed down. Emigration is becoming general in those regions, mostly to the USA.

In France, trouble is looming. France's economy has begun to decline. Public confidence in the government begins to diminish. Riots break out in several centres in France. Her mistakes in other areas of Europe come home to roost. In February, 1848, with the unrest of the poor, who cannot hold office and who do not have the same voting rights as the rich, at boiling point, Louis Phillipe abdicates and flees to England. Major riots and looting occur in Paris over several days, and minor unrest for a week or so.

There is political and social confusion in France. This is reasonably normal in the circumstances. A new regime is forming and there's lots of propaganda concerning equal rights for workers and the poor. Nothing that would alarm the working class.

BUT! English workers are holding jobs that are needed by French workers. The cry "Allez les Anglais!" - "English go home!" is heard, but little wonder. We can perhaps liken the situation to that of Australia at the present, and ask what our reaction

would be if several hundred thousand emigrants were brought here to fill jobs that our young men and women need.

On 8/3/1848 a query concerning the English workmen expelled from France is made in the House of Commons. On 10/3/1848 a reply is made to that query. It states that French workmen employed in factories at Rouen have demanded the dismissal of English men and women employed in large numbers. This, it seems, was acceded to, rather vigorously and without much thought, for the workers, it is reported, were tossed into the streets with literally only the clothes on their backs. They were not able to collect their belongings, were not paid wages owing to them, and had to be supplied by the British authorities in Hague with clothing and essential items (such as bonnets). Two ships, the Dieppe and the Brighton brought the refugees from Hague, 97 persons in all, mostly women, all flax workers. A record was kept of names etc and they were to be sent to Dundee, Glasgow, Dublin and Belfast. Representations were to be made to French authorities for compensation for the loss of personal effects and wages.

In Tours and Rouen, workers on the Northern Railway downed tools and refused to work until English engineers were replaced by French.

In all of these reports, no mention is made of English workers in Calais, or of any hostility or ill-treatment of other English workers, of whom there were hundreds of thousands in France in 1848.

Bob Wilson has found a series of letters from France to England to Australia and back. They reveal much of the situation in France, and in England and Australia. One is from the laceworkers. A committee of five men, headed by Edward Lander and co-signed by Joseph James, John Clarke, John Davis and O. Lowe. In it they state:

"The present state of money affairs in this

country, added to the entire want of confidence in the public mind, has reduced trade in every department to a perfect stand, and consequently left them without the means of obtaining a livelihood for themselves and families. It is also with extreme regret that they feel it their duty to inform your Lordships, that recent events have called forth feelings of an hostile character on the part of the French towards the English, which we hoped had long ceased to exist, thus rendering their position one of both insecurity and destitutuion."

"The plan we propose is emigration to one of the British colonies, South Australia preferred, where workmen are scarce and labour wanted, our experience having shown us the great advantage they possess who live under the protection of the British Government."

The letter is dated 21st March, 1848, shortly after the problems in Rouen and Tours. It is my feeling that the events that are referred to as having caused feelings of hostility towards the English are the asylum granted Louis Phillipe and the reception of the July Revolution, as it was known, by the British Government and Press, which was very open in its disapproval. However I do not feel that this hostility was necessarily openly shown to our forebears, for a Mr Cooper, sent out by the Colonial Land and Emigration Office in March/April reported back that:

"From a statement made to him by the masters at Calais, it appears that for more than a year there has been great distress among the lacemakers in that town, and that recent events have brought the trade of lace making, like that of almost every other trade in France, to a standstill. But there has been

no attempt to force the people on question out of employment, or out of France, because they are English, nor have the employers been exposed to any annoyance on that account."

So. What do we have? We have a depression in Europe to equal, if not outdo, the Great Depression. The word just hadn't been invented yet! We have the bottom falling out of industry in England and France, moreso in France, as there has been a political upheaval and public confidence is at an all time low. Industry has virtually come to a halt. Our ancestors are out of work, or are threatened with the loss of their livelihood due to economic circumstances. They feel very insecure and want OUT! To go home is useless, for Nottingham is as dismal as Calais. There they face the poorhouse and will be a further burden on their parishes. So they suggest a solution - emigration to any British Colony, preferably South Australia.

The result you partly know. A subscription fund is commenced and the families are able to emigrate.

However, the details from Bob's letters are fascinating. Mr Cooper went to Calais not only to investigate the situation, but also to ascertain who would be allowed to emigrate.

He reported back that he had excluded two groups:

a. families with a large number of children under ten years of age. This was, he said, because of the risks of outbreaks of infantile disease that would spread to adults and lead to a high mortality rate on the voyage.

b. men and women who could not produce their marriage certificates. It seems that some of the lacemakers had deserted wives and families to go to Calais, and he was afraid that were it to be known

that they had been assisted to emigrate the Board would have to either send out the deserted family or assist them financially in some way. So marriage lines or no go!

This raises several questions. Were some older children sent out with other families because their own family were not allowed to emigrate? How many of the couples left behind, and their subsequent descendants are related by the "Calais marriages" to people still in England and in Australia?

Mr Cooper's report also answers another question that has plagued us. Why were the 'Fairlie' passengers different in character to the others? They were allowed to remain in the city, they seemed to be less destitute and not all 'Fairlie' passengers were lacemakers as were 'Harpley' and probably 'Agincourt'. Mr Cooper goes on to say that the lacemakers needed an outfit to make the voyage and as most were unable to afford this it would need to be funded by the subscription fund. He says:

"...it having been represented to our officer that great distress prevailed amongst them, and that the expense of their daily subsistence was very large, we consented to take as many as we had room for on the 'Fairlie'The number taken in the 'Fairlie' was 56, and they were selected from those who appeared to be best supplied with clothing."

So, another question answered. We know now that only 56 of the 'Fairlie' passengers were lacemakers. All of the 'Harpley' were lacemakers, and a full emigration list of these was given to the British Consul in Calais. What we need now is to find that list if it still exists anywhere, for as yet we have no true, detailed list of the 'Harpley' emigrants. I think it's going to take someone in England or France to do that. Probably England. Any volunteers?

Sorry folks, there's no mention of the 'Agincourt' in those letters. I can only assume that more lace-makers than could fit on the 'Harpley' were found to be suitable for emigration, and that their plight was so desperate that the Board decided to make another ship available for them. We'll just have to keep digging.

The letters that Bob found are a goldmine. They contain a great deal of information, and an insight into attitudes towards emigration, the type of emigrants that Australia needed and a fairly graphic picture of the dire straights in which workers in both England and France found themselves in the mid 1800's. They have answered a lot of questions, but they and the Times and Herald reports raise more.

What happened to the engineers, flax spinners and linen weavers that were forced to leave France? Were they the same flax spinners and linen weavers that were aboard 'Fairlie'? What happened to the large families with young children that could not emigrate? Did they return home, or did they stay? We know some stayed, but how many stuck it out?

So many questions answered, to raise so many more. Keep digging folks. There's gold in them th' Archives!

Thank you Chris for all the time and effort you have put into the research and also for such a readable and enjoyable report!

Chris has many strings to her bow and for those of us who are involved with computers you will be interested to know that Tulle is not the only magazine that she has written for. In the August edition of Today's Computers (available for \$2.80 at your newsagent) she has had an article published entitled "Apples on the Family Tree". It deals with how Chris went about setting up our lacemaker computer records and what sort of hardware and soft-

ware she works with. Even for this non-computerised member of the Society it is an interesting item.

And

There are some notices and requests that I would like to hand on to you from our members and other Societies.

The Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc. wishes us to publicise their fourth Australian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry to be held in Canberra on 8th to 11th May, 1986. Further news will be released from time to time which we will publish.

The following is the first news release we have received:

"INTERNATIONAL GENEALOGICAL CONGRESS

The Fourth Australian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry will be held in Canberra from 8th to 11th May, 1986. An enthusiastic committee drawn from members of the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra is already heavily involved in planning for this major International event in the Genealogy calendar. It is expected that the principal speakers will be drawn from Britain, America and New Zealand as well as from Australian States and Territories.

The Australian National University Campus will be the venue for most of the lectures, seminars and workshops.

In addition to the attraction of this Congress Canberra also has several outstanding facilities for undertaking research, such as the Australian War Memorial and the National Library."

Pam Harvey of 10 Dymock Street, Balgownie, 2519 is seeking help with her family - "WAND". Is there anyone who can help her with any marriages or family stories? The original JOHN and ELIZA WAND came out to Sydney on the 'Agincourt'. We do not have any other WAND family members on our lists, but if someone can help Pam would be very grateful.

Back copies of Tulle are available. We hope that Tulle is a valuable record of some of the growth and research that is occurring in the Society and should any member require a back dated issue please contact Claire Loneragan. It was decided at the Annual General Meeting to set a price of \$1.50 per copy.

Coming -

To look forward to:-

Some great detective work by Marjorie Brown, the Hiram Langmire Story and a new column

THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF THE LACEMAKERS OF

CALAIS

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