

TULLE

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

Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais Inc.

Meeting Times & Place:

ASLC meets at Don Bank Cottage, 6 Napier Street, North Sydney, NSW, on the third Saturday in February (AGM), May, August & November each year. All meetings commence at 1pm. You are invited to bring a plate to share with other members at afternoon tea and fellowship which follows.

Future Meetings:	Saturday, 21 May 2016
	Saturday, 20 August 2016
	Saturday, 19 November 2016
Annual General Meeting	Saturday, 18 February 2017

ASLC Website: www.angelfire.com/al/aslc

Want to Join or Membership Subscription Due? Contact Hon. Secretary ASLC
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: post Jim LONGMIRE, Editor *Tulle*,
23 Market St, Goulburn NSW Australia 2580

Cover: *Sunday School Picnic at Scone NSW* courtesy Lindsay WATTS, see p. 5

Coming Meeting: Saturday, 21 May 2016, 1.00pm
Guest Speaker: Aileen TRINDER, co-Founder & Principal,
Pastkeys

Topic: *Employment and Dispersal List: Assisted Passengers Arriving 1848 to 1854.* Aileen will discuss her recent publication and her thirty years of research in compiling lists on colonial migration.

Tulle is published by the Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais Inc. (ASLC), a non-profit entity. *Tulle* is released in February, May, August and November each year. Our journal is designed to foster family history and camaraderie amongst members and others. Original and creative content is encouraged. Secondary material must be cited. Use the author-date method as in this issue. With permission of the author(s) lengthy articles may be made available online to members in digital form with excerpts published in *Tulle*. Please submit all contributions to the Editor. We want to publish your stories and research in *Tulle*. All styles will be accepted and modified for consistency. Photographs and various other art forms are most welcome. Please submit your stories for the sake of all readers of *Tulle* and for posterity. ASLC associates with like societies.



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President's Message

I am delighted to write this message as President for 2016. Last year was a huge learning curve for me, but a lot of fun. I am thankful to all our members who have come along for the ride as we try to keep our Society moving with the times.



We are fortunate to have the continued services of Carolyn and Robbie as Secretary and Treasurer respectively through 2016. At our recent AGM it was wonderful to have a number of members express a willingness to take over these vitally important roles next year. I encourage every member, no matter where you live, to think about participating in the management of our Society. Not being able to attend meetings in the flesh does not preclude you from a role. We are a far-flung bunch but new communication methods are making it easier to stay connected over vast distances.

Our AGM saw the retirement of our Editor, Richard LANDER, after 8 years in the role. Thank you Richard. We welcome Jim LONGMIRE to the Executive. That you are reading this message confirms that you have received his first *Tulle*.

We have a diverse range of speakers booked for our meetings this year. In May we will hear from Aileen TRINDER of *Pastkeys*. In August we will learn about how old maps, land title documents, newspaper articles and genealogy can be combined to paint the picture of a town or area. In November the librarian of the Royal Australian Historical Society will introduce us to their collection, which is accessible to us all as Affiliates.

Thank you for making the investment of being a member of our society. Please continue to share the lacemaker story with anyone who will listen, they may be one of us and not even know it.

Megan Fox



Secretary's Report

Our AGM and General Meeting were well attended. Our Society is in a good financial position and all Executive positions were filled.



Megan FOX continues as our very capable and farsighted President always on the lookout for ways to make our Society progress. Jim LONGMIRE is Editor and we wish him well in this role. Richard LANDER can have a well-earned rest now having carried out the Editorship with great dedication. His contribution was acknowledged at the meeting wholeheartedly. Robbie GORDON OAM continues as our efficient Treasurer and I continue as Secretary.

The new website www.lacemakersofcalais.com.au is being built. Our Angelfire website will remain active in the meantime (address inside front cover). Richard has done a fine job with the Angelfire website after original development by Craig WILLIAMS. We have some expert volunteers doing 'The Build' and some generous donations are available to defer costs of this and other projects.

Megan showed us a program that converts names into pictures. One she designed uses all our lacemaker family names to form a sailing ship. According to our maritime expert Stephen BLACK it depicts our ships closely. This design can be transferred to tea towels, bags and so on. It is a way to raise funds and awareness of the Society.

Our President also alerted everyone to coming family history events (for details see page 19). An exciting year for ASLC is ahead as we morph into a new era hopefully with our message reaching more and more younger people to infect them with the 'Family History' virus!!!

Carolyn Broadhead



Editor's Comment



This issue of *Tulle* has a wide variety of contributions. The cover picture submitted by Lindsay and her words set the tone. Many wonderful stories are told. Thank you very much all authors.

At the 2015 AGM of our Society I indicated a willingness to edit *Tulle*. What to do having been given the informal nod that day? After chatting with Megan, Richard and others, I visited the Mitchell Wing of the *State Library of NSW* in Sydney to review old issues of *Tulle*.



Mitchell Wing of SLNSW

From Issue 8 on *Tulle* is held securely by the State Library (see photo below left). Our journal is kept in at least one other world-class public library, *National Library of Australia*, Canberra ACT.

I will aim to edit *Tulle* to the high standard set by previous editors. Included in this issue is a thank you to Richard LANDER who has been a very generous and excellent mentor to me. He, Gillian, Claire and others have produced a fine publication.



Our journal is designed for telling stories of Lacemakers of Calais, their descendants and events relating to them. This will continue. My job is to publish your stories in whatever form you submit. If you are creative I will be likewise. Please submit your stories. I am

honoured to be elected Editor.

Jim Longmire

Sunday School Picnics

Lindsay Watts

“The children participated in a game in which they had to break open a big bag of lollies resulting in a lolly scramble.” Just a few words

from the news reader and I was off down memory lane again, thinking back to the 1930s and my own Sunday school picnic days. What kind of a picnic would it have been without a lolly scramble? No hygienically-wrapped sweets but brightly-coloured boiled lollies, handfuls of them, drawn from a tin and thrown into the air. Off we would go, scrambling around picking them up, mindless of the grass seeds or anything else that may be adhering to them. How quick we were to savour those sticky delights!



While thinking on the subject of picnics my thoughts turned to a much cherished photograph taken in about 1890 (see cover). The venue for this Anglican Sunday School picnic was a park in Scone, Hunter Valley NSW. Would the children who were attending this picnic, so neatly attired in their Sunday-best be allowed to participate in a lolly scramble? The formality of the dress code and seating arrangement suggests not. It is interesting to note that the younger girls and boys are segregated.

Seated in the foreground of the picture are three of my mother's brothers (for locating the boys see p. 18). My mother Jane BROMHEAD and her older sister Eva would have been with their parents on the other side of the circle. The BROMHEAD family came to Australia on *Agincourt* in 1848 and went to Morpeth in the Hunter Valley by steamer. Over time they established land and businesses in the Upper Hunter near Scone NSW. That is where I grew up and really enjoyed Sunday school picnics.



Lacemaker Characters Who Came on *Harpley* in 1848: Part A

Gillian Kelly OAM, Research Officer ASLC



*Edited Transcript
of a Presentation to
ASLC Meeting 16
May 2015*

Introduction

Many lacemakers of Calais and their families came on *Harpley* to Port Adelaide, South Australia in 1848. This article presents stories about some of these characters and about their lives in colonial Australia.

The Crisis in Calais in 1848 for Our Lacemaker Ancestors

The machine lacemakers of Calais who were British and their families were in dire straits in early 1848. They were destitute suddenly and unexpectedly. Revolutionary fervour was strong in France and nationalists were increasingly hostile towards any British subjects living in France, although the local people of Calais were very friendly and sympathetic. The bank accounts of '*les anglais*' had been closed, most lace factories owned by them were closed, they were banned from working in such factories and suddenly they were stony broke. They had no support nor sympathy from the revolutionary French Government. The words '*a bas les anglais*' were hurtful but a reality of the time.

The greatest advantage the lacemakers of Calais possessed was to have lived and worked under the British flag before moving to Calais. Also they were fit, strong, mentally tough, had technical and manufacturing experience and their families were well-suited to the colonies. A letter was written to the Members of the British Government explaining the situation and stated: 'The plan we propose is emigration to one of the British Colonies, South Australia preferred, where workers are scarce and labour wanted.'

No reason for wanting to go to South Australia was given but there were some attractions. It was not a penal colony. Religious freedom was encouraged in South Australia. Generally Adelaide was Wesleyan, Anglican, Catholic and non-conformist. Later Lutheranism came with many German immigrants. South Australia was a new colony - only eleven years old. Building had just started in the early 1840s. The British and Foreign Bible Society advertised South Australia as an appropriate place to go to for those wanting to leave the troubled times of Europe.

Here is another theory. In 1818 an Anglican minister named John LIPTROTT was appointed to Calais and was there until the 1840s. He had a son born in London in 1818 named

Words of Wisdom from Gillian
'Stories about individuals are at the heart of family history.'

George Louis LIPTROTT. In 1841 this son pops up in Adelaide. He lived there from 1841 to 1856 if not later. A lot of the lacemakers were educated people and fully literate. Because George's father was still in Calais stories of Adelaide were likely to have been fed back and picked up by our lacemaker ancestors in France. That might have prompted some families to want to migrate to South Australia.

Once at Anchor in the Port River, 2 September 1848

Assisted passengers were given two weeks accommodation aboard the *Harpley* once at anchor in the Port River. It was not easy for them to find work. Letters were sent home attesting to this. A lacemaker on the vessel John FREESTONE and still living there in the Port River a week after arrival wrote:
'I rode with friends tonight to Adelaide to seek work. We found



Port Adelaide 1846 by George French Angas, excerpt from original at State Library of SA

none. We began to think we must have come to the wrong place. We were backwards from the ship to the town (he said six miles) in four or five days addressing all the enquiries I could until my cash was gone. Having two pounds left after 8 days I determined not to spend that going to Adelaide and to save it for the bush and not to turn back until I found work.'

The Flavour of the Presentation
'Anecdotes about these characters
are some of my favourites.'

Later on George SUMNER wrote that after a voyage of 17 weeks he, his wife and five children landed with one solitary sixpence. I left my family on board the ship

and walked five miles in search of a job and later walked and got one 25 miles further north. Several years later he writes '*The weather is now getting warmer, ants are numerous ranging from half an inch to one and a half in length and grasshoppers up to 5 inches.*' Also he talks about the fact that '*he ran into French stock*' so obviously they had kept in touch with other lacemaker people.

Several of the women married very quickly after arrival:

- (1) Emily PEET to George Surrey SMITH on 25 December 1848
- (2) Mary Anne DONNISTHORPE to John PORTWINE on 17 October 1848
- (3) Esther SAMUELS to American Charles MOSEBY on 28 November 1848
- (4) Caroline HEMSLEY to John ORANGE on 1 January 1849 and
- (5) Rebecca WELLS to William BRADSHAW on 15 February 1849.

Louisa BARNETT was born on 30 September 1848 so her mother had travelled all that time in late pregnancy and had experienced the stormy conditions the night before they were able to land.

There was just one death soon after arrival of the *Harpley*. Sadly Mary PARSONS was only fourteen and within months of arriving at Port Adelaide she died from burns she received working as a kitchen maid in *The Green Dolphin* hotel. The hotel had been run by one of the persons who came out on the *Harpley* but not a lacemaker.

Over time quite a lot of the immigrants ended up at Thebarton. This village had many mechanics and labourers and would have been like St Pierre les Calais, France with narrow streets, small industry and small terraced housing. Some of the lacemakers stayed in that area for the rest of their lives.

Four lacemakers ended up going north to Gawler about 25 miles from Adelaide.

These were John FREESTONE, Hiram LONGMIRE, Ben HOLMES and George SUMNER. They

must have known their destination at Gawler as they went to a pub there known as *The Old Spot*. It was owned by Thomas and Charles CARLTON who had been lacemakers in Nottingham and one of the FREESTONE brothers had actually worked with them. Mine hosts CARLTON were very generous and kind to them. Three of them were offered work and Hiram LONGMIRE found work not far away at Dry Creek.



The Original Old Spot hotel Gawler

A Story of Success

Firstly, here is possibly the biggest business success story of our mutual ancestors. Mr Richard DIXON was an Armenian Methodist. He was a butcher living in Deal, Kent until 1827 when his family suddenly popped up in Calais. He was working as a butcher there because the English people living in Calais preferred his traditional cuts of meat to those of the French butchers. In 1837 he changed from butchering to become a lacemaker and went back with family to Nottingham and lived at Hyson Green where the LANDERS lived.

In 1841 Mary Anne DIXON and children were still in Nottingham but Richard DIXON had returned to Calais. This happened quite frequently with people moving backwards and forwards between

Calais and the English Midlands depending on where work was to be found. But by 1846 the family was all together in rue Neuve St Pierre with Richard working as a machine lacemaker.

Then in 1848 he applied with his family to come to South Australia. He came on *Harpley* with his family and children except Caroline. She was 25 years of age and already married to William WHEWELL. She travelled on *Agincourt* to Sydney because that is the ship William's family was on. They did not stay long in Sydney and went to Adelaide. In 1860 a daughter Mary Anne was born to William and Caroline. A generation later this daughter, Mary Anne, married a man in 1881 whose first name was Henry. He was a saddler and harness man in Adelaide and formed a company specialising in leather work initially.

The company grew and progressed from being mainly a leather working family business to one building carriages and doing repairs.

As the years went on this progressed to motor cycle sidecar bodies - they definitely were happy to move with the times - and then to car bodies. In 1917 the company was renamed the Motor Body Builders and the car that they used to build bodies for was the American Dodge (the frames and the engines were made



Early Hupmobile

England and the chassis were built in Australia). That year they made 2200 bodies so the business was not small. After that they built bodies for various makes including Chevrolet, Ford, Buick, Essex and the Hupmobile. In 1924 General Motors of America contracted them to build bodies for all GM motor vehicles imported by Australia, 10,000 units a year, which was big business.

Henry died in 1925 while in charge of the company when they were selling 36,000 units a year. He left the assets to his son Edward who

now owned the buildings, the land, the production equipment and the business entity. After World War II the company set about designing the very first truly Australian car. Henry's surname was HOLDEN and in 1948 one hundred years after his great grandparents reached Adelaide the very first FX Holden rolled off the production line in Adelaide. That is a big business success story for a South Australian family into which a descendant of a lacemaker of Calais married.



FX Holden 1848

Marriage and Large Families

Thomas WELLS married Sarah CRESWELL when she was barely 16 years old and he was 31. They were living in Nottingham and their parents disapproved so they eloped to *le Havre*, France. This is about 270 kilometres SW of Calais and on the English Channel. They moved all around the *Nord de France* and by the late 1840s they were living in Calais with their ten children. They applied in 1848 to be on the list of emigrants on *Harpley*. This was approved despite them having a large family, because most of the children were over twelve and would be useful to the colony.

Their third child, Rebecca, was born in 1832 in Caen, Normandy France (about 30 kilometres SW of *le Havre*). Not long after her arrival in Adelaide when she was sixteen she was employed by William and Marilyn BRADSHAW as a housemaid. The family story is that the younger William BRADSHAW when 22 had just been thwarted in love. He was so cross that he said that he would marry the first female that walked through the door. And it was Rebecca aged 16.

She bore William 15 children. They moved around during their first ten years of marriage, initially whereabouts unknown but then in Victoria: 1857 Buninyong, 1858 Beckworth, 1861 Chatsbrook, 1866 Ballarat, 1869 Ballarat and Creswick, 1874 Bungaree, 1877 Gol Gol.



According to her descendants she made all the children's clothes and knitted all the boys' socks which is an interesting and ironic contrast to working with stocking frames. She did all the cooking and had no domestic help. There is a long interview in the *Adelaide Observer* where William talks about all the things he has done in his life and he refers to Rebecca just once, the mother of my fifteen children!

I have a special connection with Rebecca. Once I was walking through a cemetery near Wentworth NSW on the Murray River and was attacked by plovers (lapwings they were not real plovers). While taking shelter I came across this headstone 'Rebecca BRADSHAW born Caen'. There are not many people buried around Wentworth born in France so I checked and looked it was Rebecca (nee WELLS) who died in Gol Gol in 1877, buried in Red Cliffs. She has a very nice headstone, the headline being 'Wife of'. But her family has always said that she died simply from exhaustion.

Hélène DORMER: A Lady of Character

The DORMER family was amongst the earliest to go to Calais from England. They were there in 1827. George DORMER was an iron worker moulding frames for the ends of the lacemaking machines. When he got to Adelaide he obtained work at the smelting works in Albert Town (now Alberton) and later went to the goldfields of Victoria. He made enough money to buy land at Bald Hills, 80 kilometres south of Adelaide, where he became a farmer.

George had a daughter named Hélène. She was always called Hélène even though her anglicised name Ellen is on the passenger list of *Harpley*. She married her neighbour Joshua GIBSON in 1850. He opened a butchery in Victor Harbour and with another butcher they built up a really good trade supplying fresh meat to ships at Port Adelaide. They ended up being very well off and Hélène wanted a double-story house – because you have made it when you have a home with two storeys. So Joshua built her one with balconies so that they could watch out for the ships arriving. They lived with nine of

eleven children together and then Joshua died. The two eldest sons were old enough to carry on the business with H  l  ne.

There are many descriptions of H  l  ne. She was a small woman with dark curly hair. She made much of her French heritage and always said she was born in Lille, which she was not. She was born in Calais. She spoke French as her first language throughout her life. She loved drinking wine and had an active social life. She was a midwife and at least one child was named after her. H  l  ne was very strong willed.



H  l  ne GIBSON (nee DORMER)

Now her own daughter wanted to marry and H  l  ne disapproved. She cottoned on to the fact that the couple was going to elope to Adelaide and get married there. The young couple thought that Mum could not do anything about it because H  l  ne and family lived near Port Adelaide. H  l  ne jumped on to the first coach to Adelaide to be there to say that the marriage was not going to happen, her daughter being under twenty one. Somebody told the young couple so they stayed at Port Adelaide and got married there while Mum was off in Adelaide. This marriage proved to be very successful.

When H  l  ne died in 1881 after a fall down the stairs in her double-story house an old male friend described her as being ‘A woman of considerable mental endowment and acquired knowledge, a frequent, willing, skilful and observant nurse who knew a great deal about disease and treatment, strong minded and inclined to be imperious. Like most strong-minded women she was intuitive about character and treated humbug with scant respectful courtesy. She was sincere, honest and very, very indiscrete.’



Four Hundred Years Ago



Death of The Bard

William SHAKESPEARE died four hundred years ago give or take a few weeks before this issue of *Tulle* was published. Little is known of his death and the cause of it at age 52 remains a mystery. He is thought to have died on his birthday. His passing is considered by some historians to signify the end of the Elizabethan era of Britain more so than that of Elizabeth I in 1603.

The following quotations of Shakespeare are some of very many:

- (1) in *As You Like It*: “All the world’s a stage. And all the men and women merely players.”
- (2) in *Hamlet*: ‘We know what we are, but know not what we may be.’
- (3) *op cit.*: ‘Brevity is the soul of wit.’
- (4) in *Romeo and Juliet*: “What’s in a name?”

Two Hundred Years Ago

The last of the Scots Guards posted to Paris after the Battle of Waterloo were heading home via Calais. French cartoonists lampooned the uniforms of the Scots as shown here.

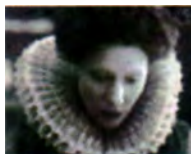


Lace in Elizabethan Fashion

Most readers of *Tulle* know well the movie Elizabeth I, starring Cate BLANCHETT. A feature is the costume



designer's interpretation of the clothes worn by Elizabeth I during her lengthy reign, especially lace. Depicted here are examples of the lace worn by Elizabeth and Spanish



envoys (excerpts of screenshots of the movie shown by the Special Broadcasting Service, 26 December 2015.)



Lace is in Mode Today

Lace is in fashion again as this issue is compiled. A recent lengthy-article on fashion by Glynis Traill-Nash was headlined 'Race for Lace', see page 16 of *The Australian* 23 March 2016. A glimpse of styles at the track or on the street will show lace is in mode today.

Welcome New Member Wendy VARIDEL (Agincourt)

We welcome Wendy from SE Queensland to our Society. Her 3 x great grandparents were Thomas and Elizabeth DUCK who came to Sydney on the Agincourt in 1848. Wendy was a nurse for thirteen years but now is a professional photographer. She also cuts paper with a scalpel to make patterns akin to fine lace, so has an artistic and a genetic link to our Society. See www.wendyvaridelphotographics.com.au



My Dear Great Grandmother's Gift

June Howarth OAM



When our lacemaker ancestors travelled from Calais to Australia they brought very little. This story is about a belonging which is a treasure.

The silk handkerchief (pictured below right and detail next page) I found among some of my Mother's 'special things'. A card was with it which read "My Dear Mother's Last Gift". This was embroidered by my maternal great grandmother Rose PRYOR (nee SAYWELL) who came to Sydney in 1848 with the lacemakers of Calais on *Agincourt*. Without even disembarking my SAYWELLS and others boarded a local steamer which took them to the Hunter River of New South Wales, about 165 kilometres North.



In the mid 1890s not long before Rose died she gave the silk handkerchief to her daughter Ada PRYOR (later HARWOOD). Quite late in life Ada married a banker from Auckland, New Zealand, Percival HARWOOD, who died before her. They had no children. After Ada's death my mother and sisters benefitted from the estate. The silk handkerchief went from Ada to my mother's family.

Rose SAYWELL (pictured below) was 18 when she stepped on to Anlaby Wharf, Morpeth on the south bank of the Hunter River in 1848. She found work in East Maitland and walked there from Morpeth to employment initially, about 6 km away. Later she met grandfather James PRYOR of East Maitland.



He was of staunch Methodist stock. The PRYORS were artistic people but like many at the time he took up land. This was at Oswald, Luskintyre just west of Maitland where the



Hunter River makes a big meander southwards. Floods were frequent as the banks of the river were low. James decided to move to Gunnedah in the North West slopes region of NSW, a 275 km trip. By a strange coincidence the property at Oswald was sold to one of my paternal great grandfathers, William LOGAN who bought it for his daughter Dorcas.

The land which James PRYOR owned at Gunnedah included the 'Blackjack Coal Mine'. Once again life was not easy for their large family. The climate was harsh and they did not prosper. James lived some years beyond Rose and came under the care of my grandmother Harriet TRANTER. My mother remembered him at this time – strict but loving. On his farm at Gunnedah there was no work on a Sunday, including no sewing. Also inside his home no alcohol was permitted nor piano and music at any time - to his regret later in life. Later their descendants became talented musicians and singers!

James gave a pet pony called Togo to my mother's family and this beloved grey ended his days at our family farm at Oakhampton, Maitland. The pony died at a very old age in 1936.

Mother told us so many anecdotes about Rose and James PRYOR and about the 'exodus' of the Saywells from France. Looking back these were told through very 'Rose-coloured glasses.' The journey to Australia and early days in the Hunter Valley had many difficulties I knew little about until after joining our Lacemakers Society.

Anyway, thank God the descendants of SAYWELLS and PRYORS were survivors, hard workers and prospered. My maternal line of mothers, siblings and daughters inherited the gifts of embroidery and an appreciation of fine arts. I feel proud to be descended from people who helped to forge this nation. The silk handkerchief is a treasure.

Sincerely, June HOWARTH



Identifying BROMHEAD Boys in the Cover Photograph



William BROMHEAD
with small black hat
and to his right Ernest
BROMHEAD with
boater



**Arthur
BROMHEAD**
to far right
of photo

Ernest BROMHEAD is an uncle of Lindsay WATTS and the father of a foundation member of ASLC: Joan LATTER. We send best regards to her.

Charles and Lucy FOSTER

See pages
26-29 of
this issue.



Chris 'Buck' ROGERS (Walmer Castle) Batting in England last July later named Australian Cricketer of the Series



And interviewed
after another
great Ashes Test
innings. What a
champion we
have amongst
our Lacemaker
descendants.



Who's Who in Our Lacemaker Family

At Our 16 May 2015 Meeting in North Sydney Library



Left to Right: Jenny BLACK, Stephen BLACK, Lyndall LANDER, Marion MORAN, Stephanie WILLIAMS, Megan FOX, Marilyn BROWN, Carol BAILEY (partially hidden), Richard NUTT, June HOWARTH OAM, Lindsay WATTS, Heather BLAZETIC, Judy GIFFORD OAM

Coming Events

August 2016: **National Family History Month** held in Australia every August at the initiative of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations. Events will be conducted across our nation with the focus on genealogy, family history, heraldry and related subjects. See <http://familyhistorymonth.org.au> or contact one of our office bearers.

9-11 September 2016 (Friday to Sunday): **Annual Conference of NSW/ACT Association of Family History Societies** at Camden Civic Centre. Full Conference \$135 (early bird rate \$120, for bookings before 4 July). Camden's place in Australian history makes this an ideal location for the annual event and we hope members of ASLC can attend and help promote our Society. Conference Convenor: Tony JACKSON 0437 651124 or www.cowpastures.com.au

22-23 October 2016 (Saturday and Sunday): **Annual Conference of Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS)** at Centro CBD Wollongong. See www.rahs.org.au/rahs-conference/ or contact one of our office bearers.



An Exodus of Laceworkers in 1816

Anthony (Tony) Jarram, Loughborough,
Leicestershire UK



John HEATHCOAT's Early Days

Following his invention of the bobbinet lace machine in 1808, John HEATHCOAT established a large factory in Loughborough in the English Midlands less than 20 miles south of Nottingham.

He came to Leicestershire (Leics) from Duffield Derbyshire in 1794 growing up on a farm in Long Whatton where the family produced woollen hosiery on warp machines. He received a good basic education at Hathern just SE of where he grew up. Initially he worked for Mr SWIFT on knitting frames before becoming apprenticed to a local framework knitter William Shepherd.

With SHEPHERD as his master the apprentice HEATHCOAT learned how to make Derby-ribbed stockings and to repair and build frames. The latter years of his apprenticeship found him at Kegworth Leics just a few miles towards Nottingham where he was taught science and mechanics by a local schoolmaster named WOOTON.

HEATHCOAT's next move was to Nottingham to work under Leonard ELLIOT. His mind turned to invention. When 21 he married Ann CALDWELL in Hathern Parish Church in 1802. First they lived in 'Long Stairs' Nottingham before moving to the 'Stone House' in Wide Street Hathern Leics. This house exists today and is heritage listed.

Ann made pillow lace and her husband would watch her finger movements before translating them into mechanised ones. The bobbinet machines he invented may have been one of the earliest robots, although with a very narrow role compared to today.



HEATHCOAT's Bobbinet Machines

The location of HEATHCOAT's first bobbinet machine is difficult to identify. Probably it was developed at "The Rookery" in Kegworth.

The success of his machines found him moving to Loughborough, Leics already a hosiery centre and home to other inventors. The Midlands of England then was a Silicon Valley of the time for new technology for lace and hosiery.



HEATHCOAT (portrait left) obtained finance from backers nearby. The premier hosiery factory in Loughborough then was owned by BODEN, OLIVER & CARTWRIGHT. These proprietors also offered backing to HEATHCOAT. But later they got cold feet and reneged.

Initially HEATHCOAT entered a partnership with Charles LACY an Irishman who was a town magistrate but had interests in the marketing of textiles. LACY gave HEATHCOAT skills in finishing and marketing. However the fiery Irishman was hard to work with so HEATHCOAT persuaded John BODEN to join him which involved his splitting from OLIVER and CARTWRIGHT.

The Loughborough factory of Heathcoat was situated in Mill Street, the present day Market Street. The Iceland & Poundland stores now occupy the site. The original factory was demolished in 1978. In 1816 the Mill Street factory contained 55 Heathcoat "Old Loughborough" bobbinet lace machines. A foundry was on site and was used to make patent machines. In total between 150 and 200 people worked at Mill Street.

HEATHCOAT was in a very sound financial position as most of his other patented machines were operating in Nottingham and receiving duty. Rather strangely he cut his worker's wages in 1816. Why?

Luddites, Risk to Mill Owners and a Hidden Chamber

The growth of “Luddite” activity must have greatly alarmed John HEATHCOAT. The death of a Yorkshire Mill owner and other deaths in 1812 would have sent shivers down his spine.



At this time HEATHCOAT had a house in Leicester Road, Charnwood, Loughborough (No. 38). The house next door belonged to John BODEN. In 2007 workmen at No. 38 found under the floorboards a large piece of flat sandstone that covered an entrance to a well-hidden chamber.

The local paper *Loughborough Echo* was informed of this and historians realised the significance of the find. This was a very good cover of an underground chamber from Luddite times. Later the sandstone had been put back and boarded over and forgotten.



Fig. 1 HEATHCOAT's Hidden Chamber at Leicester Road, Charnwood, Loughborough UK

More recently extra evidence was revealed. This showed unequivocally that HEATHCOAT and BODEN had built an underground haven should the Luddites attack them.

The Luddite Attack on HEATHCOAT

When the Luddite attack came it was against HEATHCOAT's factory and not his house. Ironically prior to the deed the attackers drank at an inn only hundreds of metres from his home. Notably the leader of the Luddites James TOWLE had recently been acquitted of another 'job' in another industry in Nottingham. Was this a paid job by the Nottingham lace masters in competition with others in the business?

Before the attack HEATHCOAT had been making plans to move from the Midlands. He decided upon Tiverton in Devon, North of Exeter and roughly equidistant from the English Channel and the Bristol Channel. This was in the 'West Country' well away from the industrial turmoil of the Midlands.

The details of the attack and the migration on foot of the Loughborough workers to Tiverton are well recorded but there is one question that needs to be answered. Why was HEATHCOAT already in Tiverton looking at a former woollen mill at the time of the attack on his Loughborough factory?

The fear of attack is an obvious reason but there is another one. HEATHCOAT's Loughborough factory was situated on the junction of two branches of a limited water source the Woodbrook. There was great demand for this water from dye works, breweries and a maltster's mill. There was not enough water for HEATHCOAT's large factory to power his machines. Tiverton had water in abundance.

The Exodus to Tiverton Devon

In the northern summer of 1816 laceworkers of HEATHCOAT'S mill and families headed on foot for Tiverton to work at his new mill. This was a walk of 320 kilometres and of some weeks. While not a long distance today it involved a major cultural shift to the 'West Country'.

Also that year had a really harsh summer. Food was scarce and expensive, the weather was unseasonably cold and general turmoil prevailed.

As the Loughborough workers and families staggered into Tiverton they left behind a huge void in Loughborough's industrial base. They had battled against the worst summer weather on record as 1816 was

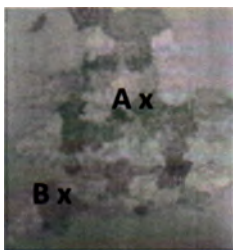


Fig 2. The 1816 Exodus, A to B

“The Year without a Summer” (KLINGAMAN and KLINGAMAN 2013 and 2016). The exceptionally cold conditions in 1816 were due to the eruption of the volcano Mt Tambora in present day Indonesia in 1815 that had smothered the upper atmosphere with ash blocking out the sun. Mount Tambora’s explosion is the largest recorded in modern history. Food shortages and the cold brought considerable difficulties for those undertaking the exodus.

Meanwhile Back at Loughborough Court

Before the judge the Luddites who led the attack at Loughborough on the night of 28 June 1816 had a far worse outcome. That fateful day a shot had been fired in the dark wounding a night watchman. Six of the attackers were hung and two more transported for life. Following a separate trial their leader James TOWLE was also hung.

HEATHCOAT’s former partner John BODEN by then another Loughborough mill owner fought for compensation for the damage caused to his asset. Although he won the case a condition was that the money be spent locally. He never took it up.



Fig. 3 HEATHCOAT and BODEN’s former lace factory in Market Street, Loughborough, 1957

Later BODEN joined HEATHCOAT in Tiverton, before setting up his own operation in Barnstaple Devon just off the Bristol Channel about 370 kilometres South West of Loughborough and about 50 kilometres NW of Tiverton. Later BODEN returned to the East Midlands and set up a huge lace operation in Derby.



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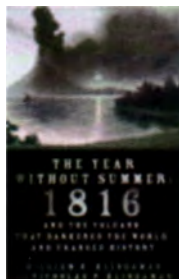
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_____, 2013 'Tambora erupts in 1815 and changes world history' *Scientific American*. 1 March & Online at: www.scientificamerican.com/article/1816-the-year-without-summer-excerpt. [Accessed 26 February 2016]

Ednote: The Year Without Summer 1816

Mt Tambora on Sumbawa, Indonesia, about 300 kilometres east of Bali massively erupted in April 1815. Some consequences were:

- (1) Across the northern hemisphere crops failed in 1816
- (2) A Shaker in upstate New York
Nicholas BENNET wrote in May 1816, "all was froze" and the hills were "barren like winter"
- (3) The New England region of the USA had a large snowfall in June, unseen previously by European settlers there
- (4) In England's markets wheat prices doubled from April 1816 to December 1816 and bread became dear and scarce
- (5) In the British Isles famine was widespread, people swarmed to cities and Irish moved in large numbers to Liverpool
- (6) Unemployment in Britain was high, especially for those returning from the Battle of Waterloo of 1815
- (7) Civil unrest increased in industrial cities including Manchester, Birmingham and Nottingham



Did the volcanic eruption halfway around the world contribute to some lacemakers of the English Midlands migrating to Calais?



When The Quiet Comes

Megan Fox

This is a fictional account of the life of my 3 x great grandmother Lucy Ann FOSTER (nee ASLING). Twelve-year old Lucy arrived on the Agincourt with her step-father, John James MOON, her mother Ann Elizabeth, older brother and baby step-brother. In 1859 Lucy married Charles FOSTER, a Lacemaker who travelled with his parents and eight siblings on the same ship. More information about the FOSTERs and ASLINGs is in Tulle 124 (August 2014).

“You know she hates it when it is quiet. We need to tell the nurses. She keeps having her turns. She gets weaker each time it happens.”

They think I am asleep. I have been listening to my girls chattering at my bedside. Hardly girls anymore, Alice is already 60 and Harriet only a few years younger. I picture them as they were at the farm, always together, just as they are now. It is hard to tell that they are sisters. Alice so much like her father, solid and strong. Harriet like me, like looking in a mirror and seeing myself in years gone by.

“What is it that makes her so frightened of the silence? How I long for peace and quiet at home sometimes.” I smile to myself as I hear Alice. Her four boys were always a rowdy bunch. Thank the Lord that her boys survived the Great War and returned safely home.

Perhaps I should tell them. But how do I explain what I don't really know myself.

“Mama! Mama! Where are you?” Henry looks at me. He has been crying. My brother never cries. Never ever.

“Henry, what is wrong? Where is mama? What time will papa be home?”

“Papa won’t be coming home, Lucy. There was an accident at the factory and he died.”

I am five years old. I don’t understand. Only old people die, don’t they? “I want mama. Where is she? I want her now!”

There is only silence. I walk into her room and she is lying on the bed, staring blankly at the roof. *Is she dead too?*

That was 80 years ago but I still remember the feeling of emptiness and sheer panic. Mama was stroking my hair and whispering my name as I lay on the floor beside her bed. I must have fainted in shock. It wouldn’t be the last time this happened to me.

For another seven years we lived in Calais, but that was the only time it was truly quiet in our home. Living beside the lace factory where my father had worked meant there was the constant thud of the looms, as steady as a heartbeat. They had stopped the machines for one day when my father died.

Maybe that’s why I felt so at home when I arrived in Pyramul, on the New South Wales goldfields. Again I heard that steady heartbeat. Not lace machines, this time it was the sound of the stamp mills crushing the quartz all day and night. I thought I would spend the rest of my days there with Charles...

The sounds of the bush are loud tonight. Everything else is so quiet. Not a breath of breeze through the trees, even the livestock are strangely silent. It is winter and the chill of night is quickly setting in.

I hear my heart start beating faster. I am warm in the kitchen, but goosebumps are spreading up my arms.

There’s something wrong.

No, don’t be silly.

Yes! This isn’t normal.

“Calm down. Breathe deeply. Charles will be back soon.”

After all, it was nearly dusk. Mutton stew is bubbling away on the stove, the perfect meal for a cold night. The table is set. The sun has gone below the hills across the creek.

Where is Charles?

The lantern flickers as I head outside. The shed door is ajar. As I pull the door open I see why Charles hadn't come in.

Suicide at Pyramul — An old resident of Pyramul, near Hill End, named Foster, committed suicide on Friday night by hanging himself in a shed. (Bathurst Free Press and Mining Journal 1899, p.2)

As we stand around the freshly dug grave, I wonder where the years have gone. It is 50 years since we arrived in Sydney. I was only a girl then, but Charles was already a man. Forty wonderful years being Mrs Charles FOSTER. It hadn't all been easy. No, nothing had been easy to be truthful. This wasn't the first time I had stood here. It had been worse before. Seeing four of my baby boys, one after another, placed beneath the soil of this harsh country had been so much worse.

Charles' brothers are standing by my side. They are all so alike, funny that they never married. They say I am lucky that they found me when they did. I would have been frozen by morning, unconscious by the shed door. I know they will sort out the farm for me. I can't stay here, not without Charles. We had talked about leaving, but now I will be going alone.

I've been happy living near the sea again. Harriet pays the rent on my cottage in Manly, she lives nearby and visits often.

I understand the reason for my fear now. But I am ready to face it.

"I'd like to go home."

Alice and Harriet are surprised that I am awake.

"Mother, we need to ask the doctors first."

"I don't want to stay here. I'm ready to go home. I am 85 years old, I've lived two lifetimes and I want to go home. Now!"

I am happy. I can see the ocean that carried me here, as a girl, from my bedroom window. I know my life is nearly over. I am ready for the aches and pains to leave my body. It is quiet and I am not afraid.



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Bathurst Free Press and Mining Journal. 1899. "*Local and General*". 14 June. p2 (NSW Newspaper: 1851-1904) and from Trove. 2 Feb 2016. [<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article63909641>]

Local and General.

ACCEPTED TENDER.—Mr. J. Dunkley's tender for finishing underground tank at Court House, Peak Hill, has been accepted; price, £95.

For Children's Hacking Cough take Woods' Great Peppermint Cure, 1/6 and 2/6.

SUICIDE AT PYRAMUL.—An old resident of Pyramid, near Hill End, named Foster, committed suicide on Friday night by hanging himself in a shed.

MR. WRAGGON'S FORECAST.—New South Wales.—Cloudy and cold generally, with rain and strong S.W. to southerly winds east from the meridian of Deniliquin; rough seas south and S.E. from Newcastle, under disturbance "Soma."

The Fate of Our Lacemaker Ships

Jim Longmire



Introduction

The demise of the ship *Harpley* prompted my interest in the fate of our twelve lacemaker ships. She had a short but colourful life extensively documented (CHANDLER 1997, HAYES and CAVENETT 2006). Less than fourteen years after bringing lacemakers to Adelaide she sunk off Realéjos, Tenerife, Canary Islands on 12 May 1862. Her cargo of iron and beer was destined for San Francisco, USA from the Clyde, Scotland.

What is the fate of the other lacemaker ships? This article gives an overview of the likely year of demise of each lacemaker ship from searching *Lloyds Register of Shipping*. Out of interest all twelve ships were considered even though the fate of three was known. Hopefully later stories will follow about particular ships and their lives after 1848 including their demise. None of the lacemaker ships exist today, except those preserved under the sea or ice but unfound.

Lloyds Register of Shipping

This search for the fate of the twelve lacemaker ships is focused on information in Lloyds Register which includes British and colonial merchant ships. It was published initially in 1764 and continues today. The Register includes considerable detail for each ship. Very infrequently the fate of the ship may be recorded with a brief overtype such as 'WRECKED', 'LOST' or 'BROKEN UP.'



FOUNDED 1760

Most issues of *Lloyds Register of Shipping* are available online now. Holdings of hard-copy issues of the Register in libraries, maritime museums and other repositories are rare or archived for protection. Microfilm is more readily available.



Considerable coverage is available online now thanks to those companies which have funded the digitising of old and rare books. *Lloyds Register of Shipping* is an annual tome which usually exceeded a thousand pages in length all hand-set for many years.

A Search in Lloyds Register by Five-Yearly Intervals

To home in on the fate of each of the twelve lacemaker ships, *Lloyds Register of Shipping* was checked in five-yearly intervals from 1830 to 1880 for each ship. This was done to outline broadly when each was in merchant service. *Agincourt*, *Baboo* and *Harpley* were included in this search even though their last years in Lloyds Register were known from BLACK (2011), CHANDLER (1996) and others.

Table 1. Presence of Our Ships in *Lloyds Register of Shipping* in 5-Yearly Intervals from 1830 to 1870

Ship \ Year 18..	'30	'35	'40	'45	'50	'55	'60	'65	'70
Agincourt				☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼
Andromache	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	
Baboo			☼	☼	☼				
Bermondsey				☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	
Emperor				☼	☼	☼	☼		
Fairlie	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	
General Hewett	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	
Harbinger					☼	☼			
Harpley					☼	☼	☼		
Navarino	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼
Nelson				☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	
Walmer Castle			☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	☼	
Total	4	4	6	10	12	11	10	8	2

Note: The icon of the ship's wheel indicates that the ship was in the *Register* of that year. 1850 is short for 1 July 1850 to 30 June 1851 and so on. For some reason *Navarino* was not registered until 1841 but she was active earlier so that is acknowledged above.



Figure 1. Lloyds Register – a Tome

After the journeys of the ships to Australia in 1848 with Lacemakers of Calais aboard most remained in merchant service through the 1850s. Only two did not. *Baboo* was sold to the Royal Navy in 1850 and had a rather short and largely-

frozen second life in arctic exploration as *HMS Assistance*. Also *Harbinger* dropped out of merchant service before 1860. *Agincourt's* merchant service into the 1880s is not shown in Table 1 for brevity. Knowing by 5-year intervals whether or not a ship was registered eases considerably the task of finding their likely year of demise.

Summary of the Fate of our Lacemaker Ships

The fate of our lacemaker ships is presented in Table 2. Overall the demise of three more to six of the twelve ships is known from the search described above with more evidence detailed in Longmire (2016). Undoubtedly more will be learned by further investigation.

Of the six ships whose fate is known, two were wrecked, *Harpley* and *Nelson* and one abandoned on ice *Baboo*. Two old ships were broken up *Navarino* and *General Hewett*, while another *Fairlie* was noted 'LOST' in Lloyds (1866). The fate of *Fairlie* is reported online without a lot of supporting evidence. When reported as 'Lost' by Lloyds what does that mean? Lost at sea? Sunk? Off the Books? Unpaid Dues? Sold as a hulk? Likewise more evidence is needed to confirm the information available about the wreck of *Nelson*.

For maritime historians and those who take an interest in our lacemaker ships, the challenge now is to dig deeper for information knowing the years of likely demise of each ship.

Table 2. The Fate of Lacemaker Ships

Ship	Year Last Registered & Age (years)	Fate
Agincourt	1885 (41)	Unknown, sold to Spanish ship owners in 1878, registered until at least 1885, see Black (2011)
Andromache	1869 (41)	Unknown
Baboo	1850 (15)	Renamed HMS Assistance 1850. In 1854 abandoned beset on ice just west of Devon Island, Nunavut Canada
Bermondsey	1865 (24)	Unknown
Emperor	1860 (17)	Unknown
Fairlie	1866 (54)	Noted 'Lost' in Lloyds Register
General Hewett	1862 (51)	Broken up
Harbinger	1856 (8)	Unknown
Harpley	1862 (15)	Wrecked on the bar Realéjos, Tenerife
Navarino	1870 (62)	Broken up
Nelson	1870 (26)	Wrecked at Seven Stones Pillar, Cornwall
Walmer Castle	1867 (41)	Unknown

Source: Lloyds (various years) and those detailed in Longmire (2016).

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Affiliate Membership of the Royal Australian Historical Society



Our Society is an affiliate member of RAHS. Consequently ASLC members are entitled to the following benefits:

- (1) Free access to the library of RAHS
- (2) Free access to some RAHS events and some discounts
- (3) Opportunities to network with others committed to promoting local and community history
- (4) Discounts to the RAHS Conference, workshops and seminars
- (5) Copies of the RAHS E-newsletter.

We also receive four editions of *History Magazine* and two editions of the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society* each year. The most recent editions are usually available to view or borrow at our quarterly meetings.

An individual membership of RAHS is valued at up to \$81, but you get the same benefits included in your ASLC annual membership.

RAHS is located in History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney. The library is open between 10am and 4pm Tuesday to Friday and holds over 60,000 items on Australian history. The library catalogue can be viewed online, see the website www.rahs.org.au.



Megan Fox



Thank You Richard Recently-Retired Editor *Tulle*

Jim Longmire

Richard LANDER edited *Tulle* from issue 99 (May 2008) until issue 130 (February 2016), 32 in total. This is eight years of considerable endeavour. As well he is a founding member of our Lacemakers Society and has been actively involved throughout. He has made a great contribution to our



Fig. 1 Richard Packing *Tulle* 130 at his Office

Society. Lyndall his wife is added to the thanks here also. She and Richard form a great team which works so well.



Lyndall Lander

Thank you Richard for researching, compiling and writing on a wide array of topics in *Tulle* and for authoring and expanding substantially our Angelfire website. You have kept us advised of new members and sadly those who have passed on. You and Lyndall have organised and made video presentations to us. Thanks to your explanations we know the

difference between a barque and a square-rigged sailing ship (which can be a barque!) and between new tons and old tons (which are measures of volume and not of weight!)

Last July Richard gave me a paper copy of almost every issue of *Tulle* that he edited. Those filled the worrying gaps on my shelves since 2008. Also this February he gave me a complete set of digital copies of every issue he edited. I have read past issues of our journal with considerable interest. Now I no longer have to visit Mitchell Library in Sydney to do that. Various excerpts from past issues will be repeated in *Tulle* from time to time. Hopefully we can find a way to make past issues available to all members, privacy is one issue.

Editing an issue of *Tulle* is not a simple task and may require over a hundred hours of professional input including many cups of coffee. If so, then since 2008 Richard (and Lyndall) have spent thousands of hours researching, contributing, editing and producing *Tulle*. Previous editors and office bearers have done likewise which makes our Society so valuable inherently. Our journal captures a lot of that value but the personal relationships between members and their unwritten stories add considerable topping.

In February this year I sat by Richard at his office at home and helped package his swansong issue. He and Lyndall were very welcoming and Richard a great instructor. Later that day we went to St Ives Shopping Centre where *Tulle* has been posted to you since 2008. See Figure 2 taken just after Richard had posted his final envelope containing *Tulle* Issue 130.



Fig. 2 Richard at St Ives Post Box, 2 February 2016

The more we know of our ancestry the more we want to know. This is the hunger which we all have for family history. In our Society's case this extends to many families connected to Lacemakers of Calais in various ways. Richard and Lyndall LANDER have sated our hunger tremendously. They have done so for all of ASLC and others with accuracy, energy, wit and style.

On behalf of all members past, present and future who have received *Tulle* or will one day 'Thanks heartily Richard and Lyndall and please keep contributing to our journal!' Three cheers to the LANDERs for all they have done for *Tulle*!



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Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais Inc.

ASLC (Business Registration Y2651913)

Who are we?

Our Society was formed in 1982 with the aim of gathering a group of people whose ancestors were machine lacemakers of Calais who came to Australia in 1848. These 'Lacemakers' were mainly from the Midlands of England who undertook two migrations in the 1800s.

The first migration or 'exodus' was to leave the English Midlands and to move to Calais France. Our Lacemaker ancestors generally migrated there in the 1820s, 1830s and 1840s. There they helped develop a European hub for machine lace. Their skills were treasured. Many children were born in Calais or nearby and marriages with French people occurred. The future seemed assured but collapsed suddenly during the 1848 French Revolution.

Most Lacemakers and families decided that a future in a new land was preferable to returning to England's Midlands. So their second exodus with wife and children was in 1848 to colonies in Australia as assisted emigrants. They were sponsored by the Colonial Office of the British Government on the condition that they never manufacture lace 'down under.' They were well-suited to the colonies.

Most emigrants sailed from England to Australia aboard *Agincourt* (Sydney), *Fairlie* (Sydney) or *Harpley* (Adelaide). Others came on the following vessels: *Andromache*, *Baboo*, *Bermondsey*, *Emperor*, *General Hewett*, *Harbinger*, *Navarino*, *Nelson* and *Walmer Castle*.

All descendants of lacemakers and others interested are invited to apply for membership. Members, families and others are invited to various activities of ASLC, to contribute to *Tulle* and to access our online material. We encourage you to enjoy our gatherings and contact. We engage actively with other like societies.

