

# TULLE

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

# ***Australian Society of 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 1.00pm. You are invited to bring a plate to share with other members at afternoon tea and fellowship which follows.

## **Future Meetings:**

Saturday, 16 November 2013  
**AGM** Saturday, 15 February 2014  
Saturday, 17 May 2014

## **Find us on the Internet:**

[www.angelfire.com/al/aslc](http://www.angelfire.com/al/aslc)

## **Want to Join?**

Contact The Hon. Secretary

## **Want more information?**

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## **Cover :**

A section of a room in which lace is being washed and bleached in wooden tubs. The lace is pounded by heavy wooden dollies by machinery. Caustics, soap and soda are used in scouring the lace.

## **This Coming Meeting:**

Saturday, 16 November 2013, 1.00pm

**Guest Speaker:** The Guest Speaker at our November 2013 meeting will be Mr Ian Hoskins, the Council Historian at North Sydney, based at the Stanton Library, where he writes about local history and helps manage two small museums, a heritage centre, archives and a historic cemetery. Ian has a PhD from the University of Sydney. His latest book, *Sydney Harbour: A History*, was published in 2009 and it went on to win the Queensland Premier's Literary Award in 2010. Ian will provide a fascinating account of the history of Don Bank Cottage and of the development of North Sydney.

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# President's Message

One of my hobbies is making model boats and ships. The models use threads of various thicknesses to replicate the rigging. Recently I dropped a bundle of thread and it turned itself into a knotted mess. I set about untangling it and while doing so I began to think about some of our ancestors whose job it was to repair the lace after it had come off the machines. My task was a minor annoyance while their tasks were arduous, continuous and done while hunched over their work. It destroyed their posture and their eyesight. Today we have government regulations that protect our lives during our work including good ventilation, lighting and sanitation. Unlike a member of my Bromhead family, no one dies of typhoid fever in Australia today.

My thoughts turned to the hardships endured by our ancestors as they tried to make better lives for their families, which includes us today. We should be forever grateful that they made the journey to Australia and we can repay their efforts by researching their lives and sharing our findings with our own descendants and the Society's members. At the August meeting, the members present voted to add a concessional membership rate. The 50% discount applies to members of your family for the first year of their membership in our Society. In his comment in the August edition of *Tulle*, our editor encouraged us all to give a gift membership to our family members for Christmas. With Christmas fast approaching and our generous discount rate now in place, I urge you to consider taking up our Editor's suggestion. What better way to encourage your family members to learn about their lacemaker ancestors, help our Society grow and continue to discover new facts and information about our families and their lives?

This coming November meeting will be our early Christmas lunch and for those who cannot be there, I wish you all good cheer and season's greetings for the coming festive time.

Stephen Black  
President

# Secretary's Report

We were well and truly entertained at the August meeting. Bruce Shying, who is a member of *The Sydney Heritage Fleet*, delivered his "Women of the Sea" talk. Various women throughout history from Aphrodite to Jessica Watson have been connected with the sea either as a protector of those at sea or those who adventured on amazing journeys.

His talk then took a different tack (notice the nautical term) where he regaled us with the unbelievable number of words and expressions that have "come ashore", slush fund, junk food, square meal, touch and go and lots more. Those of us at the meeting were able to purchase a little publication full of the stories behind these expressions. We look forward to Bruce returning at some later date to give us another chance to be the recipients of his research around boats or is it ships....he did correct me when I used the wrong term!!!!.

At our meeting a motion was passed concerning an opportunity for members to be able to access a discount for members of their families to join the ASLC. You can read more about this elsewhere in *Tulle*. We do hope many members will take advantage of this offer.

As you will also read elsewhere we are so proud to hear that our member Margot Wagner has been awarded an OAM. What fine people make up our Society! Congratulations Margot.

Our next meeting will be the last for the year. 2013 has been a great year for ASLC with new members, outstanding speakers and wonderful friendships being forged and strengthened.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and an exciting 2014.

Carolyn Broadhead  
Secretary

## Editor's Comment

The motion to which Carolyn alluded in her report and which I had pleasure in helping formulate was put to those members present at the August meeting.

*It was moved and subsequently approved that "For the first year of membership only, existing members of the Society can receive a 50% discount on second and subsequent subscriptions for members of their family. The discount applies only to the second and/or subsequent subscriptions and applies only if the subscription(s) for the new member(s) is/are received together with the annual subscription applicable to the existing member".*

Clearly, my intention was that the discounted memberships were to be gifts from existing members of the Society to others in their families. By so doing the member's generosity is rewarded by the discount, the new member benefits by the generosity of their sponsor and the Society benefits by the increase in its membership. I obviously hope that sponsored members will continue to pay their full subscription themselves once their first year of discounted membership is completed. Some examples of subscription fees which are now applicable for next year are as follows:

- Existing member: Existing subscription of \$35
- Existing member paying for themselves and one new member: Existing subscription of \$35 plus one new half-membership \$20 = total of \$55 (includes \$5 joining fee)
- Existing member paying for themselves and two new members: Existing sub \$35 plus two new half-membership \$40 = total of \$75 (includes 2 x \$5 joining fees)
- Existing member paying for themselves and one existing member: \$70
- Existing member paying for themselves and two existing members: \$105

I encourage everyone to avail themselves of this offer and wish all members a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas holiday period.

Richard Lander

Editor

## Margo Wagner, OAM

As a small Society, we are indeed fortunate and proud to be able to claim at least seven members with various Australian Honours. The latest of these which has been brought to the attention of your Editor is the Medal of the Order of Australia awarded to Mrs Margo Wagner on 10 June 2013. Margo is a Goldfinch family (*Emperor*) descendant. Her citation reads as follows. Mrs Margo Anne WAGNER, North Epping NSW 2121 for service to farming communities. Margo established a donor network in Sydney for used clothing, organised the collection, sorting, cleaning and packing of donated used clothing. She also organised free freight for distribution of clothing from Sydney to rural areas in need and was involved in public speaking and networking about the organisation. Margo visited the rural areas to support the local community helpers and assess further needs. As well as helping establish the Tambar Springs 'Emporium' clothing shop, established to sell the donations from Friends of Farming Families, Margo was the New South Wales winner of the NAB Volunteer Award, 1997. She is Past President of Epping Ladies Probus Club, a Member of the Fundraising Committee, Poplars Community Hospital, Epping and a Member of the Ladies Auxiliary and Canteen Committees, during her son's schooling. She is also an active member of the Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais. Margo, on behalf of all members of ASLC, please accept our warm and sincere congratulations on the well-deserved awarding of your honour.

Other members who hold Australian Honours of whom I am aware (in alphabetical order) are Mrs Judy Gifford (OAM granted 13 June 2011 for service to nursing mothers through the Australian Breastfeeding Association); Mrs Robin Gordon (OAM granted 26 January 2013 for service to the preservation of social and local history and to the community); Mrs June Howarth (OAM granted 26 January 2006 for service to the community through the Australian Red Cross, and for contributions to cultural, religious and welfare organisations and the Centenary Medal, awarded 01 January 2001 for service to the community through the Roseville Branch of the Australian Red Cross); Mrs Gillian Kelly (OAM granted 09 June 2008 for service to the community in the area of social and local history and genealogical research through the Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais); Ms Barbara Kendrick (Centenary Medal, awarded 1 January 2001 for service to her community); Mr John Saywell (OAM granted 14 June 2004 for service to veterans and their families through the Royal Australian Navy Radio Mechanics Association); and Mr Paul Wand (AM granted 08 June 2009 for service to the Indigenous community through the development of cross cultural relations between traditional land owners and the resources sector). Are there other members who have been honoured with similar Australian Honours and whom I have missed? If so, please let me know. (R/L)

## 200 Years Ago. What was happening in 1813?

- “The bobbin-net machine of Heathcoat became the foundation of enormous business, and the inventor reaped both honour and ample pecuniary reward for his remarkable ingenuity. His frame has been modified by many inventors, but the most important improvements were effected by John Leavers in 1813.” (*Tulle*, July 1986)
- Lacemakers weekly earnings were £10 (*Tulle*, Oct 1987)
- “There are, it is estimated about twenty thousand weddings recorded in St. Mary’s register, between its commencement and the year 1813, when Rose’s Registration Act came into force.” (*Tulle*, Oct 1988)
- In 1813 magistrates banned merry-go-rounds as “disgraceful and dangerous machines.” (*Tulle*, July 1991)
- John Woodforth married Elizabeth Cramp, 15 March 1813 (*Tulle*, Nov 1993)
- Thomas Barber Goldfinch was born 4 March 1813 and baptised at St Leonards, Deal (*Tulle*, Nov 1996)
- Jasper Saywell’s wife, Rossanna, was born 28 January 1813 (*Tulle*, Feb 2001)
- Sarah Creswell, the daughter of David Creswell and Rebecca Hilditch, was born in Nottingham in 1813 (*Tulle*, Feb 2002)
- James Archer, son of Frederick Archer and Ann Wilkins, was baptised at St Marys, Nottingham, on 24 October 1813. (*Tulle*, Aug 2003)
- “In 1813 due to the tenacity and determination of Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth, four servants, five dogs and four horses, the barrier separating the early colony from the western slopes was finally crossed”. (*Tulle*, May 2004)
- John Barnett and Eleanor Russell’s son, John, was born. Twenty years later he married Harriet Needham at Sneinton. (*Tulle*, May 2007)
- John West, later a lacemaker at Nottingham and Calais, was born. (*Tulle*, May 2008)
- About 20,000 weddings have been recorded in the register of St Marys, Nottingham since its commencement in 1813. (*Tulle*, Nov 2008)
- Bathurst, NSW, was named after Henry, third Earl Bathurst, Secretary for the Colonies from 1812 to 1827. The name was given by G.W. Evans who reached the plains to the west of the main range in 1813 and set up his camp on the present site of Bathurst. (*Tulle*, Nov 2010)
- Luddism and frame-breaking continued despite three Acts of Parliament each imposing severe penalties. The first Act in 1811 made frame smashing a capital offence. However the 1813 Act became the operative law. This laid down transportation for life, or for not less than seven years upon conviction. (*Tulle*, Nov 2012)



# The Sydney Morning Herald, 11 October 1848

This particular edition of the *Sydney Morning Herald* contains a leader and an article both of which are relevant to our ancestor's predicament. The editorial reads as follows:-

**"Sworn to no Master, of no Sect am I."**

**"FRANCE-ENGLAND-AUSTRALIA."**

"The appalling transactions in Paris during the month of June last were enough to make angels weep. The streets of that gay and fashionable metropolis streaming with human blood - thousands of her citizens slaughtered in a few hours, and thousands more cruelly wounded and mutilated - the ordinary occupations of life abandoned by all ranks and conditions of her affrighted inhabitants - the entire fabric of society threatened with instant demolition - and all this brought about, not by the destroying angel of tempest and earthquake, nor by the irruption of foreign enemies, but by the fierce passions of her own sons, lashed into the fury of mutual vengeance, and poured out in the blackest horrors of civil war - what a picture! Who can look upon it without a shudder? Who can permit his imagination to dwell for a moment on that stupendous tragedy, without a sigh for the widows and orphans consigned to desolation, without a blush for the brutality of his species, and a heightened value for the restraining powers of government and law?

And who can reflect without a thrill of terror on what might have been the consequences, had the issue of the murderous conflict been the reverse of what it was? Those consequences would not have been confined to Paris, nor to France. The example of mob triumph would have told with tremendous energy on all the mobs of Europe. It would have goaded the discontented millions of every land into similar aggressions. The brute force of the masses would have been roused, with tenfold violence, to onslaughts upon the rights of property, and upon all other rights guaranteed by the social compacts of civilised communities. These considerations suggest feelings of thankfulness that the struggle, dreadful as it was, ended as it did. The Government neither exceeded nor fell short of its duty. The National Assembly, in whom the lawful powers of the nation were centred, acted wisely in delegating, at so portentous a crisis, the whole executive power to a single individual; and,

thus entrusted with the destinies of his country, General Cavaignac had no alternative but either to abandon his country to anarchy and ruin, or put down the insurgents with a strong hand. He and his brave troops had a heart-rending task to accomplish; but heroic patriotism nerved them to the work; and a bloody victory crowned their valour. The Duke of Wellington has said that he scarcely knew which was the more depressing to the soldier's spirits, the day of defeat, or the day after a victory. The magnanimous men who saved France on this memorable occasion, no doubt realized the truth of the sentiment. Amid the plaudits of Europe and of the whole civilized world, they must have mourned for the bleeding thousands of their fellow-citizens.

It is manifest that this frightful out-break was not altogether of a political character. Hunger and destitution had no small share in exciting those frenzied passions, and sustaining those almost superhuman exertions. And how France is to remove these still existing causes of disaffection, which have been woefully aggravated by the rash experiments of her own Provisional Government, is a question more easily asked than answered. The mainsprings of her industrial prosperity have been broken, and nothing but the most prudent legislation, seconded by a long course of domestic peace and order, can repair the damage.

The same causes are at the bottom of all the popular commotions of England. The political grievances set up by Chartist agitators are mere prettexts. Englishmen know that the institutions of their country, take them for all in all, are nearly as perfect as anything human can be made. But Englishmen shivering with cold and nakedness, pining for bread, and surrounded by famishing wives and children, are not to be quieted by assurances of that sort. They perish for lack of food, and in quest of food it is that they range themselves under insurrectionary banners, instinctively satisfied that for them no change can be for the worse, and any change may be for the better. Give them the staff of life, and they will fling the staff of rebellion to the flames.

But England possesses resources of which France is destitute. She has colonies - those vast outfields wherein her redundant masses may find the sustenance which they cannot find at home. Her statesmen are now beginning for the first time to see these resources in their true light - to appreciate them at their full worth. The fact is thundered into their ears by

millions of voices, that in Emigration alone can they discover an effectual relief for the miseries which forms of government cannot touch, and which poor laws only aggravate. But statesmen are dull scholars. They pick up knowledge by grains - they grow wise with the tardy growth of the oak. When they see that a thing must be done, they content themselves at first with doing it by halves. Thus with Emigration. They are sending their poor to Australia in a variety of forms - the ordinary emigrants provided for by our established regulations, with the addition of French refugees, Irish orphans, British exiles, and the wives and children from whom these exiles have been severed by penal law. And after boasting for a while of the boon they were about to confer upon us by thus replenishing our labour market, and exciting hopes that the work of emigration was at length to be carried forward on just and equitable principles, they all at once turn round upon us with the insulting declaration that emigration, in whatever shape it may come, and by whatever means its expenses may be defrayed, is not to cost the British Treasury one farthing!

Exileism is not emigration; and therefore we make no rash assertion when we charge this wretched parsimony upon the British Government. The exiles are to repay their passage-money out of their own savings under colonial employers; and the fund so raised is to be applied, in the first instance, to the expenses of that free emigration which Ministers have pledged themselves to effect as a counterpoise to the ills of exileism; and, in the next place, if there remain a surplus, to the eking out of a portion of the expenses of removing the aforesaid wives and children, leaving the other portions to be provided for as luck may allow. But the French refugees who would have been, and the Irish orphans who were, a charge upon their respective parishes, and whose transfer from the old country to the new is for the undoubted benefit of the former, are to be brought across the world at the entire expense of the colonies! In the name of our fellow-colonists, in the name of all that is right between country and country, between man and man, we protest against this exorbitant, this most flagitious demand."

Then, on page three there is the following article:-

### **DISTRESSED BRITISH ARTISANS FROM FRANCE**

(From Bell's Messenger, June 17.)

The *Agincourt*, the last of three ships chartered by the Emigration Commissioners for the conveyance to Australia of the distressed British workmen emigrating from France, sailed on Monday from Gravesend; and as the circumstances under which these persons have received free passages from the government are peculiar, we think that a recapitulation of them will be found interesting to most of our readers.

Shortly after the termination of the last war, a small body of lace-makers from Nottingham settled in the neighbourhood of Calais, to teach our French neighbours the art of making cotton lace. The progress at first was slow, but within the fifteen years last past cotton lace had, under the patronage of Louis Philippe, grown much into favour, and in the district above alluded to alone not less than half a million sterling was invested in its manufacture, giving employment to upwards of 5000 men, women, and children. Until this year commenced there had been in France for some time a cessation in the demand for cotton lace, and the machines were kept going only at short time. But with the new year came fresh orders, and night and day all was bustle and activity. Full work and high wages had filled the Basse Ville with hope, and with the expectation of a good summer's work before them, none of its inhabitants had prepared themselves for the change which a few weeks was to bring upon them. Suddenly and unexpectedly, however, came the crash of the revolution in Paris, and with the confusion and anarchy confidence immediately perished. Almost the same post which brought the news of the establishment of the Republic in Paris, brought positive countermands of the orders before received, or filled the minds of the masters with such distrust that they declined to fulfil them. Immediately, the engines were stopped, and the hands thrown out of work.

The recent earnings of the workmen were quickly dissipated, and their savings were quickly dissipated, and their savings were unavailable, as they were locked up in the savings banks, which, by the orders of the republican government, had stopped payment, and it was under the starvation and ruin which presented themselves immediately before them that they appealed to their native country, to the government, and the public, to relieve them by removal at once to the Australian colonies.

As soon as their distressed condition was made known, Lord Ashley, Lord Robert Grosvenor, and other influential noblemen and gentlemen, under the

auspices of the Queen and Prince Albert, headed a subscription for their succour, and to aid them in their wishes, a large sum of money was speedily collected. Lord Grey, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, directed the emigration commissioners to render such assistance as might be found practicable, and this board forthwith despatched a gentleman to Calais with the offer of a free passage to such as might be found adapted to the circumstances of Australia. In two days 700 applications were received, and in less than a fortnight the first party had sailed to Sydney in the *Fairlie*, emigrant transport ship. Subsequently a second and larger party were despatched in the *Harpley*, and the third and last division, numbering 250 souls, have now started in the *Agincourt*.

In the *Fairlie* about 50 only were despatched, but in the *Harpley*, a Van Diemen's Land built ship, of 547 tons, taken up expressly for the purpose, about 254 souls were provided for. The departure of this vessel was marked by some most interesting circumstances. A more than usual anxiety was felt respecting their accommodation and comfort for so long a passage, and before the ship left the river last month, Mr. C. Alexander Wood, one of the emigration commissioners, accompanied by Mr. Walcott, the secretary, proceeded to Gravesend, and attended by Lieutenant Lean, R. N., the emigration officer, personally inspected the ship, and inquired into the wants and wishes of the emigrants, when Mr Wood, having found everything in the most satisfactory condition, addressed the colonists in a very feeling and effective speech. The passengers of the *Harpley*, it was most pleasing to find, were not insensible to the kindness of the commissioners; but, on the contrary, evinced their humble gratitude in cheers and blessings, and in every way in which they could possibly show it, and before the ship sailed they spontaneously drew up the following address to Lieutenant Lean and Mr. Cooper (the gentleman sent to Calais to make the selection of the emigrants), and through one or two of their body, presented it to these gentlemen - We are requested, on the part of the emigrants of Calais to return you our best thanks for the exertions you have made in our behalf. Speech-making, you are aware, does not belong to persons in our class of life; you will therefore take the will for the deed, and give us credit for feeling that it is out of our power to express; but of this be assured, that we shall think of you with gratitude to the latest hour of our lives. We can only say, in conclusion, that should it please God to grant us a safe passage, there will be very few hearts in Australia who will not couple your name with every good wish, and may

God's blessing fall thick and fast upon yourselves and old England when we are thousands of miles away.

The equipment of the *Agincourt*, a remarkably fine vessel, of 669 tons burden, the property of Mr. Dunbar, was not undertaken with less care and attention, nor was her departure from the river marked with less unaffected gratitude on the part of the emigrants.

An influential member of the relief committee, Mr Alderman Salomons, whose active benevolence is so well known, accompanied by the secretary, Mr Haly, visited this ship on Friday, at Gravesend, and inspected all the arrangements, the provisions, &c , provided for the passengers, together with everything requisite for their comfort, health, and due accommodation, when with the whole they expressed themselves greatly pleased. Both Mr. Salomons and Mr. Haly addressed the emigrants, pointing out the exertions of the emigration commissioners, and the benevolence of the subscribers to the relief fund, especially alluding to the interest which Lord Ashley had taken in establishing the society, and giving them wholesome and excellent advice as to their conduct on the voyage, and their course of proceedings on their arrival in the colony.

The addresses were listened to with the utmost satisfaction and thankfulness, and their appreciation of what had been done for them may be seen in the following record which they have left behind them -

The emigrants on board the *Agincourt* to Lord Ashley' s committee, and the government commissioners -

Gentlemen, Before taking our final departure from the land of our birth, it is our duty to express our warmest thanks for the many favours and great kindness we have received at your hands. The benefits you have conferred upon us, and the extraordinary interest you have taken in our welfare and behalf, are entirely unmerited on our part and infinitely exceed our means of repaying them. All we have to offer in return, is our gratitude and thanks, for your kindness and honour and esteem for the nobleness of heart from which it springs; and these sentiments we hope and trust are sincerely felt by us all.

And now that the same kind Providence, under whom we rely for a safe passage to the land of our adoption, may also grant to you health and happiness and every other blessing throughout a long and honourable life, is our humble and most sincere prayer.

Signed on behalf of the emigrants, by the constables appointed for the preservation of order in this ship.

Nothing can exceed the cheerful, happy spirit which prevails amongst these emigrants. They are full of hope, and are surrounded with every comfort that their circumstances and the good arrangement of the Emigration Board will admit. With each other they show excellent feeling, and of this we may give one pleasing illustration. A family had come over from France, the heads of which were not married. By the proper rules of the Emigration Commissioners these people could not be admitted, although there was no other reproach on their character. As soon as the rejection of this family was known amongst the emigrants, they entered into a subscription, and by their pence, for few of them had more to give, they raised a sum of money which, with the aid of the contributions of a few gentlemen on board the ship, was sufficient to enable the parties to be married by license, and proceed with their companions."

Ed: To my mind, these articles are interesting in that they raise some questions:

- Were our ancestors the first to be sent to Australia at least partly at the expense of the colonies?
- Did free passage only apply to the lacemakers who came aboard the *Agincourt*, the *Harpley* and the *Fairlie*? In other words, did those who came aboard the *Walmer Castle* etc., have to pay their own way?
- Can anyone answer these questions?



A warm welcome is extended to the following new ASLC member:

David Groves

(Rogers family)

*Walmer Castle*

# Origins of the Saywells<sup>©</sup> - Bob Wilson

*Editor's Note: Bob Wilson, the foundation President of our society, a member of thirty years standing and one of many Saywell descendants in the ASLC has generously made available to all members a copy of his family history, Adventures in a World of Change: Stories of the Saywells. On your behalf I thank him for it. This document has been written exclusively for the members of the Saywell Family and as a reference work for members of the Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais. Please note that the following material is the copyright of Robert E Wilson. Chapter 1, Origins of the Saywells, reads as follows:*

My wife and I once visited a mountain pass in the remote Kingdom of Bhutan. The pass was high up in the Himalayas and was decorated by prayer flags fluttering in the strong breeze. A heavy mist surrounded us bringing a feeling of reverence and mystery to the place. The Buddhists believe that the flags sent prayers all over the world. They flew out through the mist to touch everyone with their message.

The stories of the Saywells are like those prayers. They have been sent out into the fog of time, but they may not have touched those that cared. This is an attempt to capture as many stories as I can that have been loosed into the world. Some stories have been written down and others are mere sounds gradually fading into history. The faces of the tellers are often etched more clearly in my memory than the threads of the story. Like the Buddhists, I hope I have started something that may grow.

Family history is more than mere genealogical tables, although these do give a perspective on relationships. Family narratives are built around the historical background in which the characters lived, and any actions that may have been inscribed about the family in the historical record. However, it is a mistake to think that history is based only on written records. History and our



culture come from the oral tradition that brought us Abraham, Helen of Troy, Jesus of Nazareth, King Arthur and the stories of Aboriginal Dreaming.

Oral history exists today in the memories, imagination and stories of families. It is this oral tradition that adds colour and substance to a list of ancestors and turns it into a story. This is what I hope to achieve in this paper.

Of course, written records are important also. I have relied on the excellent research undertaken by Gillian Kelly to provide much of the historical background on which I can recount the stories of the Saywells. The journal of the Australian Lacemakers of Calais Tulle also contains many important stories about the Saywells and the society in which they lived. In fact, the Lacemakers are like those prayer flags on the mountain pass in Bhutan.

The narrative will not be a balanced one as it relies on the things that caught the attention and the memory of the originator of the various tales. The Saywells tend to have a lot of memorable incidents as they have told stories of England, Ireland, France, Greece and Australia. Some Saywells are loquacious, like the Saywell in John Bunyan's 'Pilgrims Progress', and others are reserved and cautious. This latter group will be hard to portray. My own interpretation of tales I have been told will also create an unintentional slant. That is a good reason for setting them down on the written record, it can draw responses. It is what story-telling is all about.

A story that comes from this oral tradition concerns the origin of the surname. It is believed that the Saywells came from that much-persecuted group of people, the Huguenots. These French Protestants were betrayed and persecuted by the counter-Reformation forces of Catherine de Medici, the Guises, and the Duke of Alva who, when not fighting amongst themselves, managed to unite in attempting to wipe out any Protestants in their demesnes.

According to a family story, the name Saywell was originally Séyuil. It is said that the family fled from the Spanish Netherlands in 1604, at the end of the

reign of Elizabeth I. Elias Jasper Saywell also did some research on the Anglicising of a French name, but I possess nothing of the results of his research other than a scrap of paper inscribed with the names 'Saywell, Seyul, Sewell and Saville'.

Many Huguenot lacemakers escaped from Flanders and Northern France and took refuge in the eastern part of England. These were the traditional cottage industry lacemakers who used a cushion and bobbins. They are not to be confused with the machine-lacemaking which was the occupation of later Saywells. Approximately 100,000 people left Flanders in 1567 when the Duke of Alva became head of the Spanish Catholic Army. Others fled from Lille after the Massacre of the Feast of Saint Bartholomew in 1572. Huguenot emigration continued until the Edict of Nantes in 1598. The name 'Sawell' features amongst the Huguenot names of the lacemaking emigrants.

Descent from the Huguenots seems to be an ambition of many genealogists. I am unsure how much faith we should put in this story. The Saywell name was certainly in England well before the Saint Bartholomew's Day Massacre. Many references exist in the older records. On the other hand, the first of our identifiable ancestors appears in the records of eastern England in 1640, which is 36 years after the family story tells of the flight from the Spanish Netherlands.

There is evidence of the name in Anglo-Saxon records. A Siuuoldus of Somerset appears in the Doomsday Book (dated 1086). In Old English, that is prior to the Norman Conquest in 1066, Sigeweald or in Old Norse Sigwaldr appears. The name means victory ruler. Both occur in Middle English as Sewal, a form that is indistinguishable from derivations of Sæweald.

Saville or Seville is an old Norman surname of the East Riding of Yorkshire. By 1379, Robertus Sayvill, Johannes Seyuyll and Johannes Sayuyll appear in the Poll Tax records for the West Riding of Yorkshire.

Closer to the Midlands, the name appears in Nottinghamshire in Tudor times, and prior to the supposed exodus from the Spanish Netherlands in 1604. In the Parish of Sutton-cum-Lound, Anthony Savell married Anne Cooke in Scrooby village in 1551 and Cordall Saywell of that same village married Susanna Shakelton in 1582. The transcriber of the parish registers comments: Sutton registers give an excellent example of the adoption and persistent continuance of the name of a local magnate as a Christian name. On 27 June 1574 the Archbishop of York had granted a lease of Lound Wood to Sir William Cordall. Directly after this entry there is a reference to a Mr Cordall Sayvell or Savile living in the parish, probably a relative of Sir William, who acted as his steward. His wife Mary is mentioned as buried on 8 March 1580/1.

This is a positive record of Saywells in the general area from which the Australian family originates, and they are performing tasks and are just not names in a book. We know from further parish records that Cordall Saywell married again after the death of his first wife and we know his occupation. Is this an ancestor acting as a steward to the lord of the manor? It well may be. As we shall see, there are stories of Saywells and lords getting into all sorts of relationships.

None of the Saywells mentioned above can be connected directly to those members of the family who came to Australia. The name may have been picked up from one of these early people and adopted by the forebears of our family, or these historic figures may be our ancestors. It may still be that they are people who escaped from the Spanish Netherlands in 1604.

The forebears of the Australian Saywells are to be found in the records of the counties in the East Midlands of England. The first Saywell that we know anything about was Charles Saywell who was born in about 1640 in Skillington in Lincolnshire. He was a yeoman farmer. Charles and his wife Jane had nine children, all of whom were baptised at the late Saxon/early Norman church of St James, Skillington. The family farmed near that small village until at least 1687. Charles died that year.

The third child of Charles and Jane was Ralphe Saywell who had been born in 1669. His elder brother John would have inherited the family farm so Ralphe looked elsewhere. It was exceptional in Lincolnshire for farm workers to remain in the county for long periods. Farm labourers or farm servants were often lured across the border into better paid employment. When he was in his early twenties, Ralphe moved across the border to Rearsby in Leicestershire. He found himself in an area of low undulating hills and rich dairy country that was made famous by the production of Stilton cheese. It was in Rearsby that Ralphe married a girl from Skillington named Mary in 1691. The second of their four children was named Jasper. It was a name that was to become traditional in the Saywell family.

I have recently revisited the various genealogical sites in search of Saywell ancestry. My excitement grew when I found a picture purporting to be of Ralphe Saywell born in 1668. As I probed further I found representations of other Saywell forebears. It appears that a descendant has found illustrations of the dress fashion for periods when these Saywell ancestors lived. In order to add reality to her story, she has used these illustrations to show a representation of our ancestors. The problem is that the dress is of someone living in an urban environment, and our early ancestors were rural folk.

The Saywell family remained in Leicestershire for the next hundred years. How did these early ancestors live? The English landscape of the first half of the eighteenth century consisted of villages surrounded by large open fields without hedges or fences. Rearsby was a typical rural village. The people worked in the fields for most of the day and supplemented their income with some weaving in their spare time. Society and the economy were governed by the natural cycle of the seasons. A bad spring and summer meant hard times; a good growing season meant some relative comfort. These conditions and this landscape were about to change forever.

Jasper the son of Ralphe and Mary remained in Rearsby and he and his wife Elizabeth Ripplin had six children. I assume they worked on a dairy farm. Once again, there are illustrations in the genealogical records of town-garbed

people purporting to represent what Jasper and Elizabeth looked like. These are in contrast to the typical dairy employees of the period.

The freedom of the farm labouring families to enjoy the countryside started to disappear in the mid-eighteenth century. The Enclosures Acts rationalised rural production and at the same time stripped many rural workers of their rights. Farm lands, where once villagers had free access by common right, were fenced and the common folk were restricted to a lesser number of roads and footpaths. Town commons had traditionally been used by farm workers to graze a cow or plant a small crop. These lands as well as many of the roads and paths were sold to substantial land-owning farmers.

Agricultural productivity was improved by the Enclosures. New farming methods were introduced and this led to a reduction in farm worker employment. Many farm labourers were put out of work and those who remained could no longer supplement their income by using the town common. The Agricultural Revolution made the large farmers richer and the farm labourers destitute. Traditional rural society had changed forever, and many of the labourers and their families looked to the towns for employment.

There was nothing for it; the Saywell family needed to seek a future in the county town. Jasper's and Elizabeth's youngest child was Thomas Saywell who had been born in January 1724 at Rearsby. Thomas decided to abandon the rural life, and he moved to the town of Leicester. He married Elizabeth Gibson at St Margaret's Church in Leicester on 12 July 1775. The couple had three sons: John, William and Jasper. All were born in Leicester. Mary Gibson was also from Leicester.

Industrial development occurred early in England. William Lee, the Nottingham parson, had invented the stocking frame machine in the sixteenth century. During the early eighteenth century, towns of the East Midlands like Leicester, Hinckley, Derby and Nottingham became centres of the hosiery manufacturing industry, which was based on Lee's technology.

The Saywells joined the hosiery industry in Leicester, which provided work for all the family. Thomas became a framework knitter while Elizabeth and the children worked on the auxiliary tasks of seaming and stitching. This was work that they had undertaken in a more casual manner on the farm to supplement the family's income. The weaving skills that the family members learned in their farm cottage now became intensified by the demands of manufacture in the towns. The family was experiencing the first effects of capitalism.

The hosiery trade was organised on a capitalist basis. The high cost of the frames and the expensive raw materials required investment capital. Frames were rented to framework knitters who collected the yarn from the hosiers' warehouses. After producing the stockings on the frames in their own homes, the stockings were returned to the warehouse where the knitters received payment on a piece basis. The consequences of capital controlling production in the towns was not that much different from the organisation of rural England. In the latter system, the rigidity of the class structure was enforced by the control of land. Nothing had changed in the rural social structure since the Civil War in the seventeenth century until the Enclosures. The Enclosures reinforced the strength of the property owners and made agricultural workers weaker. At least in the industrial revolution in a period of transition from old methods of work to new, there was an opportunity for movement between classes.

By the end of the eighteenth century, changes were occurring in the hosiery industry. These changes were not in Leicester, but further to the north in Nottingham. William Lee had invented the technology, on which the industry was based, in Nottingham 200 years before. During the depression in the industry from 1758 to 1783, the Nottingham framework knitters developed a versatility of output produced from the frames. A new style of machine, the warp machine, was also producing lace by the 1790s. These inventions resulted in a wide range of fancy hosiery, point net and simple lace nets that dominated fashion. The result was that Nottingham far outshone its Midland neighbours and competitors.

## ASLC Friendships - Judy Gifford

I began corresponding with ASLC member Rosie Wileman who lives in Leicestershire about 20 years ago. After reading an item in the GRD, she had contacted me about our common interest in our lacemakers. She is descended from the MATHER family who came on the *Baboo*, one of the so called 'little ships'. As my ROGERS had come on another such ship, the *Walmer Castle*, we had an extra link. Rosie's mother was French so she is bilingual which is a great advantage. She also lives close to Loughborough and Nottingham and is a close friend of Anne Fewkes, from Nottingham, with whom I have been corresponding for even longer. Rosie visited Australia in 2007 and met many other ASLCers and spoke at one of our meetings. Anne, our only Life Member, has visited Australia on three occasions including our 150th celebrations.

So when my Christmas letter to them both said that my husband, John, and I were planning a trip to England this year, there were immediate offers of hospitality. We stayed two weeks in Leicester with Rosie and John who took us to many local places of interest, off the usual tourist track, though we did have day trips to Stratford on Avon and Lincoln.

A highlight was meeting with Anne at the Framework Knitters Museum in Ruddington, on a very cold day. This museum is in a former factory and is beautifully cared for with many working machines, demonstrated by passionate people. Anne then drove us to Nottingham where we stayed overnight. It was damp the next morning so we visited the Nottingham caves and then wandered round Sneinton, where most of my ancestors as well as those of Anne, lived and worked. Anne showed us the building where her father worked, selling lace. St Mary's Nottingham where many lacemakers attended is beautiful and undergoing renovations.

We caught a bus back to Loughborough, a really enjoyable trip through narrow English lanes, everything so green and through the village of East

Leake from where the BROMHEAD ancestors of our president Stephen Black and foundation member Lindsay Watts come.

We then spent a week in London sightseeing though quite a bit of time was spent at Lord's cricket ground (more of that anon).

After that it was the Eurostar to Paris and a 13-day bus trip around France, seeing all those sights I had learnt about as a teacher of French. Then a wonderful 3-day tour of the World War 1 battlefields, most of which are in Belgium. This finished in Lille, where my ROGERS ancestors lived briefly before moving to Calais. I know this only because a child was born there in 1841. We then caught a train to Calais where we were met by the wonderful Anne Fauquet. Anne is English and not a lacemaker descendant as such but her late husband was a local historian known as *Monsieur Calais*. They now know a lot about our history as so many descendants arrive in Calais on the trail of their ancestors. Anne knows Rosie and Anne Fewkes well.

On Editor Richard Lander's recommendation, we stayed at a wonderful bed and breakfast called *Le Cercle des Malines*, the former home of a lace factory owner. This is situated close to the post office and the main street, as well as being in the suburb of St Pierre. We wandered down streets where they lived, some with English names. Unfortunately the house where my ancestors lived has been demolished but many houses still remain.

Anne Fauquet drove us to the port of Calais where we saw a ferry arriving from Dover. Then we visited the wonderfully ornate city hall, in beautiful grounds which also boasts the powerful Rodin sculpture, *Les Bourgeois de Calais* (the six Burghers of Calais), commemorating the siege of Calais in 1347.

Our final day was spent at the wonderful Calais lace museum. There are working machines which are demonstrated regularly. They are very noisy and can be heard through the whole very large museum. (Did our lacemakers end up deaf?!) There are displays of lace garments, lace samples, bobbins and the



like. The museum shop has some lovely items. I could easily have spent triple what I did.

So, to sum up: writing to people with similar interests for 20+ years certainly helped make our trip on the ancestor hunt very memorable, Thank you to Rosie and the two Annes.

## *Judy Gifford, née Rogers*

PS. I knew that Gillian Kelly was also travelling in England and France at the same time and by a freakish chance, we saw each other for all of 30 seconds, in Venice of all places. She and Gordon were boarding the launch that we had just got off!

Why did we spend so much time at Lord's? My nephew, Chris Rogers, so therefore a lacemaker descendant, is a professional cricketer. He is captain of Middlesex, whose home ground is Lord's. We had timed our trip to be in London the first week of June as we knew he would be playing in a 4-day county match and a 40-over game. It was a terrific experience as he scored 181. When nearby spectators and the ushers (the men in the white coats) realised who we were, we were royally looked after, because of the respect in which he is held. (John's Akubra and my red hair were a bit of a giveaway). One of the ushers once actually lived in our area so he gave us the grand tour of the Long Room, the museum and other items of interest.

After we had booked our trip, we had the exciting news that Chris had actually been picked in the Australian team as the 'surprise' selection at the ripe old age of 35. We arrived back a day before the Tests started so have had a few broken nights' sleep since. My brother and his wife were there for all the Tests so we have been privy to lots of extra information. It is gratifying that in a very tough series for the Australians, Chris was one of the success stories. After the Tests, he was back playing for Middlesex and we expect he will be playing in the return series of the Ashes in Australia starting at the time of our November ASLC meeting. Fingers crossed. 🍀

# J.B. Walker - Curtain Lace Factory

I am indebted to Mrs Jane Bealby (Walker Family) for the following information on her family's involvement in the curtain lace industry and for the interesting and relevant recipe which follows. Four generations of Jane's family were involved in the curtain lace industry from its very beginnings.

The firm of B. Walker and Co is believed to have commenced in Lenton, Nottingham in the 1840s. Benjamin Walker, the son of William Walker and Anne Harrison, originated from Stretton near Burton on Trent and he started making curtain lace with a few early machines. Shortly after the birth of his son, also a Ben, in 1843, Ben Snr. formed a partnership with Joseph Elsey and they built a factory in Commercial Street, Old Lenton. By 1851 they were employing 123 people, but by the mid-1850s Elsey appears to have left the partnership to establish his own business in Russell Street, Radford while Walker continued at Spring Close, Lenton. By the 1880s, Walkers were employing up to 300 people. Benjamin Jnr., his brother William Heap Walker and their cousin, John Benjamin Walker, were all helping Ben, Snr. run the business.

In 1884, after the death of his uncle, Benjamin Walker, Snr., John Benjamin Walker moved his machines to Sandiacre and established J.B. Walker while Benjamin Jnr. and his 59 machines remained at Lenton.

John Benjamin Walker ("J.B.") was apparently a real character. His Uncle Ben's staunch Non-Conformist views and Temperance Movement attitudes were not for him and he is said to have led a life of "riotous activity" including grouse shooting at Buxton and later at Thornhill in Dumfriesshire. However, he also possessed a community minded spirit. He was Sheriff of Nottingham in 1885-86 and had a great deal to do with the establishment of the Stoke Bardolph sewerage farm.

J.B.'s third son was Robert Dudley Walker, Jane Bealby's grandfather. He joined his father's business as a young boy about 1890 and, in due course, he ran the J. B. Walker side of the business as a lace curtain producer. This

business was highly successful until about 1908, in particular enjoying large orders from major customers in the United States and Canada. These orders were substantially reduced in that year as restrictive duties were imposed on imported lace products by the U.S. and to an even greater extent in 1914. In 1914, the U.S. imposed heavy tariff restrictions to protect their local lace production lines which had been established by companies such as Sheraton Lace, Queen City, Quaker Lace and Columbia Lace. The outbreak of World War I did nothing to help J. B. Walker's already parlous position.

When J. B. Walker died in 1921, his Will made no provision for two of his sons Robert Dudley Walker (who was by then running the business) and Austen Walker. His entire estate was shared by the other two siblings, viz. Lewis (a Doctor of Medicine in Sussex) and Hilda. After a family rift appeared certain, Lewis split his portion with his two brothers but Hilda – married to a wealthy husband – would not do the same. Robert Dudley Walker was forced to borrow heavily to acquire the business he had been running. His firm continued through the 1920s without notable success but, by the start of the Depression, Dudley was ill with a serious ailment, trading was very difficult and by 1933 he was dead. His partner in the business, Claude Newham took over J. B. Walker & Co and combined it with an associated sales company, Henry Mallet & Sons. Jane Bealby's father, viz. Dudley Walker's son John Andrew Walker, became a Director with a one-third share in the business, helped financially with support from his uncle, Dr. Lewis Walker.

In 1935, John Walker and Claude Newham dissolved their partnership. Newham retained the Henry Mallet business (which was mainly concerned with selling Leavers lace to customers in Australia, Canada and South Africa) while John Walker reformed J. B. Walker & Co Ltd making curtain lace products at Sandiacre. With the outbreak of World War II looming, the business was once again threatened by rising costs and falling business levels.

Strong associations of lace manufacturers were set up which were determined to establish and maintain given prices for defined products and these continued with some success until the outbreak of hostilities. Under wartime conditions trading became very difficult as more and more

restrictions and supply shortages reduced the ability to operate satisfactorily. Discussions with the Board of Trade and the Minister of Production finally produced a breakthrough. War meant there was a vast demand for mosquito and sand-fly netting which could not be met by the traditional plain net manufacturers. By 1941, a satisfactory substitute could be produced on 10pt, 12pt and 14pt lace curtain machines by some firms. These were effectively taken over by the British Government for the period of the war and combined as the British Lace Federation (BLF). Cotton yarn, wages and maintenance of the lace machines were procured and paid for by the BLF. Each production unit capable of producing the approved mosquito nets was maintained in production and made satisfactory returns. Those companies without the necessary machinery or skills were closed down.

The British Lace Federation was a unique operation which lasted until near the end of World War II. It had paid its members a satisfactory return while having produced some 65 million square yards of essential netting for the war effort – including a vast quantity of lace rails in white for the Russian forces fighting in Arctic conditions.

Trading was difficult after the war owing to supply shortages but in the 1950s things improved for a while. The new knitting machinery developed by Karl Meyer began to take the place of the older Leavers and lace curtain machines.

However, by January 1990 it was obvious that it was not possible to continue trading. It was decided that an orderly close-down of the factory would take place and closure was to be completed by July that year.

Jane Bealby has been instrumental in putting many reminiscences of her late father together in a book titled *The History of J. B. Walker & Co. Ltd* and I thank her for permission to use material from her book in this article. She was recently visited by the son of one of her father's employees, who had worked for John Andrew Walker at Sandiacre as a lace designer. He presented Jane with some lace design 'drafts', some lace samples, paper cuttings, books etc. Amongst the books was a cookery book which had a recipe for "Lacemaker's Cake" in it. This was also known as a Cattern Cake.

## Lacemaker's Cake or Cattern Cake

25 November is celebrated in the UK as St Catherine's Day or Lacemaker's Day, while in France it is a special day for young unmarried women. St Catherine is the patron saint of spinners, weavers and lacemakers. She was Catherine of Alexandria, and was reputed to be one of the most intelligent and beautiful women of her day, but she was martyred on a wheel in 310 AD because she was a Christian. Her fame reached Europe with the return of the Crusaders; the Catherine Wheel firework and Catherine or Rose Window were both named after her. The wheel of her death later became the emblem of the lacemakers.

In Britain, Cattern Cakes, derived from Catherine, were traditionally made by lacemaker families on 25 November each year while in France young unmarried women called "Catherinettes" are encouraged to pray for a husband on this day. Family and friends make them outlandish hats in vivid colours such as yellow for faith or green for wisdom and the young women are expected to wear them all day as a "crown" of their spinsterhood. The Millinery trade in France has also chosen this day to show off their latest hat designs.

Cattern cakes are spiced with cinnamon, lightly fruited and flavoured with caraway seeds and they were traditionally made by the English Nottingham lacemakers for the festivities on their special feast day. The recipe goes back to Tudor times, and has changed little over the centuries, although they are sometimes made with yeast dough. They were traditionally washed down with hot pot - a hot mixture of rum, beer and eggs although many prefer their cakes with a cup of tea! These delicious little cakes are more like a soft and slightly chewy biscuit.

The recipe discovered by Jane is as follows:

- 1 lb. Bread Dough
- 4 oz. butter or lard
- 4 oz. Sugar
- 4 oz. currants
- 1 oz. caraway seeds
- 1 Egg

Knead the butter into the dough along with the other ingredients. Allow to rise, then bake in a greased tin at 425°F (220°C) or gas mark 6 for about 20 minutes. They are better eaten the next day. Jane suggests they be sliced and buttered.

An alternative recipe is as follows:

9 ounces self-raising flour  
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
2 ounces currants  
2 ounces ground almonds  
2 teaspoons caraway seeds  
6 ounces caster sugar  
4 ounces melted butter  
1 medium egg, beaten  
extra sugar, for sprinkling  
extra cinnamon, for sprinkling



1. Mix all the dry ingredients together in a mixing bowl: flour, cinnamon, currants, ground almonds, caraway seeds and sugar.
2. Add the melted butter and the beaten egg and mix well to form a soft dough.
3. Roll the dough out on a floured board, into a rectangle about 12" x 10" - 30cm x 25cm.
4. Brush the dough with water and sprinkle with the extra sugar and cinnamon to taste.
5. Gently roll the dough up like a Swiss roll, not too tightly, and then cut the rolled up dough into 3/4" - 2cm slices
6. Place these slices on to a well-greased and lined baking tray or biscuit/cookie sheet, making sure that they are spaced well apart.
7. Bake in a pre-heated oven 200C/400F/Gas 6 for about 10 minutes, or until golden and crispy to the top.
8. Allow the cattern cakes to cool on a wire rack. Sprinkle with extra caraway seeds, sugar and cinnamon if you like.
9. Store in an airtight tin for up to 7 days.

Thank you, Jane, for bringing the recipe to our attention and for enabling details from your family history to be published in these pages of *Tulle*. (RJL)

# Henry James Mather

*The Advertiser*, Adelaide, 3 March 1937. Death of Gawler Pioneer.

Mr. Henry James Mather, died at his home, Queen street, Gawler, this morning in his 96th year. Mr. Mather was born at Nottingham, England, in 1841, and with his parents arrived in the sailing vessel *Baboo* at Port Adelaide in 1848. The voyage was a hazardous one and took five months<sup>1</sup>. The family later reached Adelaide by bullock cart, and lived in Gawler place. The Mather family were all engineers, and engaged chiefly in the supply of mining and milling machinery. Mr. Mather was a fund of information on the hectic days of gold rushes to the other States, and the triumphant return of the successful ones. Young Mather arrived in Gawler in 1858, and except for a period in Sydney, where he gained knowledge of the engineering trade, had lived here for the remainder of his life. He was first employed by James Munroe at Bassett Town, Gawler, then by T. & G. Martin, in Murray street, and finally entered the employ of James Martin & Company. He continued with that firm until it closed down. Mr. Mather was a staunch supporter of the Tod street Methodist Church, and a member of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows for 75 years. In company with Mr. Will Morcom, he made the drum which he played in the first public appearance of the late William Rigg's famous Gawler Band in 1860. Mr. Mather was a foundation member of the Gawler Bowling Club and was an active member until 1935, playing each year in the veterans' matches in Adelaide. Although frail he insisted on attending the Gawler Centenary Pioneer Day in the celebrations last October. He attended the pioneers' gathering at Gawler on December 28. Mr. Mather has left a daughter, Miss Amy Mather, Queen street, Gawler and four sons. Messrs. H. J., Torrensville (S.A.), A. W. B. (N.S.W.), A. B. (Perth. W.A.), and S. G. (Geelong. Vic).

## For the Genealogist

Mr. Calais Brownlow, who underwent an operation for appendicitis a week ago, is making a rapid recovery at Hopetoun Hospital. (*Dubbo Liberal and Macquarie Advocate*, 27 January 1925, p.2)

Twelve lives were lost by the bursting of a reservoir at Calais on Monday, eight of the victims being children at the school which was flooded. Another reservoir which had threatened to burst has been emptied. (*The Mercury*, Hobart, 7 April 1882, p.2 of the Supplement).

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<sup>1</sup> In fact *Baboo's* journey took 103 days or less than 3½ months (24 August – 5 December 1848) or 10 days less than *Harpley* for the same trip.

# Nottingham - Some Facts

According to White's *History, Gazetteer and Directory of Nottinghamshire, 1832*, page 61, and his similar *Gazetteer for 1864*, the population of England and Wales in 1831 was 13,894,574; the population of Scotland was 2,365,807 and of the Army and Navy, 277,017 thus the population of Great Britain was 16,537,398; consisting of 8,161,618 males and 8,375,780 females. Ireland is not mentioned. The population of Nottingham in 1831 was 226,440, 249,810 in 1841 (an increase of 10.3% for the decade) and 274,895 in 1851 (a further increase of 10% for that decade) distributed as follows:-

HUNDREDS, ETC.	MALES 1831	FEMALES 1831	PERSONS 1831	PERSONS 1841	PERSONS 1851
Nottingham Town & Castle Liberties	23,636	27,091	50,727	53,091	58,529
Bassetlaw Hundred	20,402	20,652	41,054	44,268	49,363
Bingham Hundred	6,246	6,196	12,442	13,967	14,927
Broxtow Hundred	32,534	32,765	65,299	74,796	83,082
Newark Hundred	8,394	9,034	17,428	17,912	20,082
Rushcliffe Hundred	6,019	5,990	12,009	12,062	12,701
Thurgarton Hundred	13,714	13,767	27,481	33,714	35,971
TOTAL	110,945	115,495	226,440	249,810	274,895

While a growth of 10% sounds very large, Sydneysiders can compare it with the growth experienced within their own city. The official Australian Bureau of Statistics population of Greater Sydney as at June 2011 was 4,627,345 or just over 20% of Australia's population. Sydney's population has grown by 499,000 people in the decade since 2001, representing a growth of about 12.1% for this period.

Figure 1: The map to the right shows the administrative subdivisions of Nottinghamshire (Hundreds or Wapentakes) in 1832. Originally, when introduced by the Saxons between 613 and 1017, a hundred had enough land to sustain approximately 100 households.





# New South Wales State Records

Online indexes and resources now contain even more information. Search for your elusive ancestor today at <http://investigator.records.nsw.gov.au>

- More probate packages are now available. To ascertain whether a package relating to one of your ancestors is available, key in the above URL, go to 'Simple Search', key in the surname of your ancestor followed by a space and the word 'death', then press "Search". If you wish to find an index to all the material held by State Records on your choice of name simply omit 'death'. For example, entering "Honan" finds five records, four of which are probate records. Searching for "Duck" turns up a myriad of records but "Duck death" returns twenty-nine records, all with the date of death of the individual concerned. This index also searches on a person's middle name which can be handy. For example, if you were searching for the death of a person called George Bales Cooper, NSW Birth, Deaths and Marriages will find 204 George Coopers who died between 1788 and 1980. It records two George B Coopers, neither of whom are the man we are chasing. The State Records lists only one George Bales Cooper and we can ascertain that he died on 9 November 1877 and that probate was granted on 29 April the next year. By then returning to NSW BDM records, we can be reasonably certain that he is one of two George Coopers who died in 1877, one at Carcoar, the other one at Grafton.

The State Records are a goldmine of information. For example I was able to discover the following activities all occurred in 1848 by a simple search for "1848".

- The Native Police force was established in 1848 following a recommendation from Sir Charles Fitzroy that aborigines be employed outside the settled districts to help enforce law and order. He believed that this measure would reduce conflict between the

European Settlers and the Aborigines and 'hope that it may prove one of the most efficient means of attempting to introduce more civilized habits among the native tribes'. Their horsemanship, capacity as trackers, and physical prowess proved invaluable in the difficult task of policing the more remote areas.

- 'School education is the provision of education for children and adolescents from kindergarten to university entrance level.' In the early years of settlement, all formal education was dominated by the State, although supervision was mainly exercised through the Clergy. However by the 1820s, the Churches became organised and the State withdrew to a considerable degree from educational activity until 1848 when state elementary schools were established. On 4 January 1848, Governor Fitzroy appointed the National Education Board to undertake the task of creating government schools under Lord Stanley's National System of Education. The provision of education services in New South Wales was formalised with the passing of the National Education Board Act in June 1848. The three members of the Board were the Catholic Attorney-General J.H Plunkett (Chairman), W.S. Macleay, who was a classical scholar and the speaker of the Legislative Council, Charles Nicholson. The members of the local community were expected to contribute towards the costs of establishing and maintaining a school (including the teacher's salary) in their area and to constitute a committee to manage the affairs of the school. In 1848, the Kempsey National School was the first to join the government education system. Opposition to the State system from Churches led to the establishment of the Denominational School Board on 5 January 1848 to manage government subsidies to church schools.
- On 6 August 1846 a public meeting in Sydney elected a provisional Committee to survey the Southern and Western districts of the Colony with a view to commencing railway development. The Provisional Committee petitioned Parliament on 2 March 1848 to establish railways in accordance with recommendations. At the same meeting of the Legislative Council, Charles Cowper proposed that a

Select Committee of seven members take into consideration the practicality and expediency of introducing Railways into this Colony; and report to the Council within two months. The Report was completed on 6 June 1848 and covered the identification of localities where railway lines would be most beneficial, the cost of construction, labour availability, revenue likely to be derived, and capital raising.

- The Newcastle Gaol was closed on 31 December, 1848 and the prisoners were transferred to Maitland Gaol.
- The Barristers Admission Board was established by an Act to regulate the admission in certain cases of Barristers of the Supreme Court of New South Wales Act 1848.
- In 1848 the Registrar General assumed the responsibility for collecting the returns and the New South Wales Statistical Register was first published in 1859. The Statistical Branch of the Registrar General's Department undertook this work from 1858 to 1886.
- In 1848 the Sydney Church of England Cemetery Company was formed. The company was established by the Deed of Settlement of the Sydney Church of England Cemetery Company dated 12 July 1848. The Directors entered into a contract for the purchase of upwards of ten acres of land at Camperdown, which they intended to prepare for interments. The conveyance of transfer of the land was dated 23 September 1848. The land was consecrated on 16 January 1849. Between 1849 and by September 1867 there were 15 734 burials.
- In 1844 the duties of the Colonial Engineer of superintendence of roads, bridges wharves and quays were added to those of the Colonial Architect and in October 1848 military buildings and works were placed under his charge. From 1856 the Colonial Architect's Department came under the control of the Secretary for Lands and Public Works and from 1860, with the separation of Public Works from Lands, under the Secretary for Public Works.

*Richard Lander*

# Report on the Nottingham machine-lace trade

In *Tulle*, issue 119, May 2013, I included a report by the United States Consul in Calais on the lace industry in that town as it existed in 1905. What follows is the report by Consul Frank W Mahin on the lace industry in Nottingham at that time.

**KINDS OF MACHINERY EMPLOYED:** The first machine on which lace was made (a modification of the stocking or hosiery frame) was constructed in Nottingham more than a century ago, and nearly all the improvements, modifications, and later developments of these complex and intricate machines have developed here.

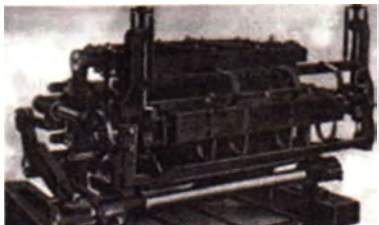
The kind of machinery now employed varies greatly. It is difficult to state the average life of a machine, but it is a well-known fact that in the city of Nottingham a great many machines have been in use for a quarter of a century or more. The initial expense of a machine is so great that a manufacturer is very reluctant to discard it as worn out, since it would realize but little more than the value of the metal. Furthermore, the regulations of the labour union, fixing the price of labour, are more favourable to the old machines than the new ones, the latter being wider and more productive, but requiring more attention. The result is that the old machines are repaired and renovated from time to time and worked indefinitely.

The machines now made in this district are of four classes: lace-curtain machines, Leavers, or fancy lace machines, plain net machines and warp lace machines.

No complete technical description of these machines can be obtained. The only textbook on the subject is thirty or forty years old, and needs to be supplemented by the unwritten record of development manifested in the machinery since built and now being built. The machine builders profess their inability to furnish any written description and have no descriptive catalogues for distribution. The purchasers of their machines understand the business thoroughly and order machines to be built according to their particular specifications and requirements.

In a very general way, it may be said that the first three machines above mentioned have the same fundamental general principles, being based on John Heathcoat's bobbin net machine with the improvements added by John Leavers; the warp lace machine, however, is an adaption of the knitting or hosiery machine.

**LACE-CURTAIN MACHINES:** The lace-curtain machines are now made from 250 to 430 or 440 inches wide, on the metal, and the gauge, that is the number of warp threads to the inch, varies from 5-point to 16-point, or even, in exceptional cases, 18-point, the gauge increasing one point at a time. The prices range from £550 to £1,000 (\$2, 677 to \$4, 867<sup>2</sup>).



**Plate A. Top Jacquard for a lace-curtain machine**

The finer the gauge of the machine the more expensive it is. The fine-gauge machines are not usually made so wide as the coarse-gauge. The width of the machines is usually determined by the number of curtain breadths it is desired to make at one time. For instance, six widths of 60 inches (the usual curtain width) could be accommodated on a 360-inch machine, since a machine has always a few inches more than the stated width, and this difference allows for the necessary separation of the several widths. The machine has a jacquard attachment (Plate A). One man, or twist hand as he is called, looks after one machine only.



**Plate B: Leavers lace machine stripped**

**FANCY LACE MACHINES:** The Leavers or fancy lace machines now being built are of two varieties, the Leavers and the Leavers go-through. The Leavers go-through is merely an improvement on the Leavers, which is now considered by some old fashioned and is slow in movement in comparison with the Leavers go-through. These machines vary in width from 154 to 222 inches on the metal and in gauge from 7-point to 16-point (increasing in size by half points). The costs range from £600 to £1,000 (\$2,920 to \$4,867). This machine, like the lace-curtain machine, has a jacquard attachment and needs the undivided attention of one twist hand. Plate B shows a Leavers machine stripped.

<sup>2</sup> These are contemporary conversions so in 1905 £1 = US\$4.87. Currently £1 ≈ US\$1.56.

**PLAIN NET MACHINES:** The plain net machines are now usually made from 200 to 340 wide, on the metal, and vary in gauge from 5 to 14 points (increasing in size by half points). The cost ranges from £650 to £1,300 (\$3,163 to \$6,326). The increased expense in all machines is not due to any material difference in the frame, but to the higher value of the internal mechanism, which by being condensed into a relatively smaller compass, necessarily requires greater skill and care in manufacture and construction.

There are two varieties of these machines – the double locker and the rolling locker. From outside appearance there is very little difference between the two and they will produce much the same class of goods, though it is claimed that the double locker will produce a greater variety. The principal difference probably lies in the shape and action of the



**Plate C: Double-locker plain net machine**

carriages and bobbins. The double locker is preferred by some in the finer gauges. One twist hand can usually attend two of these machines, as he has not to give care and attention to a pattern and jacquard. His compensation, which, like that of all operatives in a lace factory, is based on piece-work, is not so much as that of the lace curtain or the Leavers machine twist hand. A photograph of a double-locker plain net machine is shown in Plate C. These machines are made with special attachments, and a jacquard for producing spotted net. The price of such a machine may be given roughly as £1,400 (\$6,813).

**WARP LACE MACHINES:** The warp lace machines, or crochet lace machines, as they are sometimes called, are made from 90 to 212 inches wide, and in gauge from 9-point to 22-point, or 9 to 22 needles to the inch. There are three forms of these machines; the fast warp machines for making lace nets, purls, etc.; the steel bar or fast tating machines for making lace edgings, and the crochet machines, making the so-called crochet or American lace. The prices are approximately £250 to £700 (\$1,217 to \$3,407).

Two other kinds of lace-making machines are used (but not built) in Nottingham to some extent. They are the embroidery machine and the Barmen lace machine.

**EMBROIDERY MACHINES:** A fair sample of an embroidery machine for making embroidered net and lace is that manufactured by the Vogtlaendische Maschinenfabrik Actien-Gesellschaft (formerly J. C. & H. Dietrich), of Plauen. This machine is made with shuttles or needles either one inch or one and a half inches apart, commonly called 4'4 or 6'4 rapport. Some of these machines are also made with the needles two inches apart, and are called 8'4 rapport. In 6'4 machines, 4½ metres (177 inches) wide, there are 224 shuttles, and in 4'4 machines there are 336 shuttles. Machines are also built to embroider six yards in width. Up to 125 stitches can be obtained in one minute. A foundation of wool, silk or cotton net (and sometimes either wool or silk net is used with cotton net) is stretched on the machine from one roller to another and embroidered upon with silk or cotton by means of a pantograph. The design can be either for a trimming lace or a fancy all-over net. In the former case the several breadths require separating and clipping and scalloping. Embroidery with cotton can also be made on a foundation of wool or silk, and the animal substance afterwards dissolved without injury to the vegetable substance. Nottingham, having refused this machine in a rudimentary state many years ago, has allowed the Continent to secure the trade and now obtains only the crumbs. Women operate the machines in Nottingham, but as business is often very slack, it is difficult to retain skilled hands. It is also claimed that the scale of wages is higher here than on the Continent.

**BARMEN<sup>3</sup> LACE MACHINES:** The Barmen lace machine is also used here to a small extent. It is a circular machine and the bobbins, moving to the inner and outer side of one another in a plaiting or braiding movement, produce an exact imitation of handmade lace, however, only one breadth at a time. This lace has seriously interfered with the demand for handmade torchon, and with all imitations of it made on the Leavers machine. On the Barmen machine, by the simple operation of changing a few bobbins, it is possible at once to make excellent wool lace, which is used for the edging of ladies' dresses, etc. On a Leavers machine it would be very difficult to make such a change. Mr. T. I. Birkin, of Basford, Nottingham, holds the patent rights for Great Britain of a French modification of this machine, which is worked with a jacquard. The machines are in operation here, and the lace produced is sold in this country as "real imitation" torchon lace.

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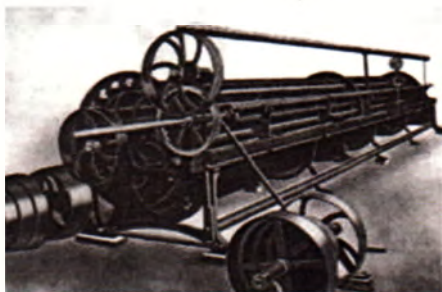
<sup>3</sup> Often erroneously referred to as Barman lace in modern literature.

All the lace machines in this district are operated by steam power. The kind and range of goods produced by the machines built in Nottingham are as follows:

On the lace-curtain machine can be made all kinds and widths of curtains that can be accommodated on the machine, from the familiar ones 60 inches wide by 3½ yards long to the vitrages or long panel lace curtains made for French windows, and the short half-length window curtains. Bedspreads, pillow shams, antimacassars, and collarettes can also be made, and fancy all-over nets that are used for dress purposes. A very fine-gauge machine can also be made to turn out lace trimmings and edgings in breadths. There is a large scope for this machine, not only in the various classes of lace goods but also in the great variety of possible designs. More of these machines than of any others have been exported to the United States.

The Leavers machine will make all kinds of lace in breadths for trimmings, ranging from a narrow edging of half an inch to a flounce a yard wide, and in all the varieties known, such as torchon, Valenciennes, fancy lace, etc. Fancy all-over nets for dress purposes can also be made on this machine.

The plain net machine makes all varieties and qualities of plain nets, from the coarsest mosquito net, or the cape net (used for millinery foundations and linings), to the finest-meshed cotton Bretonne or Brussels net, used for embroidery purposes, etc., and these varieties can



**Plate D: Warping Mill**

be made in all textures, from the coarse cotton mosquito net and the thick embroidery net to the finest silk illusion net. It also makes net for the so-called Swiss curtains. The double-locker machine will, as before stated, produce a greater variety of goods than the rolling locker, and will make breadths of plain net known as "quillings" or "footings". The rolling locker will not make breadths, but will only work the full breadth of the machine. Figured goods can also be produced on both machines, and by the addition of special appliances to the rolling locker spotted net can be made.



The warp lace machine produces laces that are variously known as crochet laces, tattings or pillow laces. It also makes the very narrow lace edging known as "purl edging". The warp laces, however, are usually thick, flat, and somewhat heavy; they are used as edgings for curtains, bedspreads, and pillows, and for any underwear requiring a heavy, substantial lace. They are sometimes called American laces. They are extensively used in Russia for church purposes.

**MACHINE MAKERS:** The business of building lace machines is now in the hands of a few, as it requires an expensive plant and a large staff of workmen, many of them highly skilled. Only men and boys are employed and the wages run high; for instance, the men who finish, straighten, and "true" the slender carriages which contain the bobbins (a most important part of the machine) earn on average by piece work £1 (\$4.86) a day.

The following Nottingham firms build these lace machines to order, in all widths and gauges and supply all the accessories: Swift and Wass, Victoria Works, High Church street, New Basford; John Jardine, Deering street; Newton & Pycroft, Alfred Street Mills; E. Reader & Sons, Phoenix Works, Cremorne street; the Hosiery Machine Building Company (Kiddier Bros.), Bell Street Works (warp lace machines); William Hooton Continental Works, Great Eastern street.

**PRODUCTIVE EFFICIENCY:** The productive efficiency of these various machines depends on a number of things, such as the gauge, the width, the quality, and the class of the machine, the condition of the yarn, and the skill of the operator. In a fine-gauge machine, or in a wide one, the operator has more to look after, owing to the increased number of threads dropping or breaking, and this detracts from the speed. While the coarse-gauge machines are undoubtedly quicker, and would therefore be expected to produce more, they entail additional labour and loss of time in replenishing the quickly exhausted bobbins, spools, etc.

One expert has given the following estimate: on the lace curtain machine from 400 to 600 racks can be made in a week (a rack is defined in a subsequent paragraph). A week in Nottingham means twenty working hours every week day except Saturday, when the limit is twelve hours. On the Leavers machine from 200 to 250 racks per week would be a good output. On the plain net machine from 500 to 600 racks can be turned out in a week.

The firm of John Jardine has kindly furnished the following particulars of the production of what they term a "common quality lace" on one of their 172-inch Leavers go-through machines:

*The actual average amount of this lace that has been produced on a Jardine 172-inch machine in five weeks, one hundred and twenty hours per week, has been 340 racks. With good management and help the quantity would be increased; with indifferent or bad management and help the quantity would be decreased. The sample is 88 carriages wide – that is, there are about 37 breadths made at one time on the machine. It is made 18 inches to the rack – that is, 18 quality.*

*The weekly production for one hundred and twenty hours is 37 breadths x 18 = 666 x 340 racks = 226,440 inches or 6,290 yards of lace 88 carriages or 4½ inches wide, on one 172-inch Jardine go-through machine.*

*The quality of lace made on the machine varies very much. It is sometimes made 3 inches as sometimes as common as 60 inches to the rack. You will understand that the production depends upon the quality; for instance, if you were making 54 quality – 54 inches to the rack – the amount of lace produced would be three times the amount of 18 quality.*

*In the Nottingham district two twist hands (men) work one machine. They take shifts, dividing a day into four parts. That is, assuming the day is twenty hours, one man whom we will call A, comes in the morning and works five hours; then B works five hours; then A comes again and works five hours; then B five again. The price that would be paid in the Nottingham district per rack for the twist hand would be 6d. [12 cents] per rack; so the two men would earn in the week, assuming that they made 340 racks, £8.10s, or £4.5s [\$21.90] each.*

*The pattern contains 137 bars and 336 cards. A fair price for drafting the pattern is 2d. [4 cents] per bar per 100 motions, say £3 19s [\$19.23]. As low as 1½d. [3 cents] is paid, sometimes as much as 2½d. [5 cents], but we take 2d. [4 cents] as a fair price. The cards weigh about 20 pounds per 100, so we will reckon that these cards weigh 70 pounds. The best quality card, at 2½d. [5 cents] per pound, would cost, say 14s. 7d. [\$3.55]. Punching and lacing the cards, at 4s. [97 cents] per 100, would cost 13s. 7d. [\$3.30]. The price of this work also varies, as it can be done as low as 3s. [73 cents] per 100, but this particular pattern cost 4s. [97 cents] per 100.*

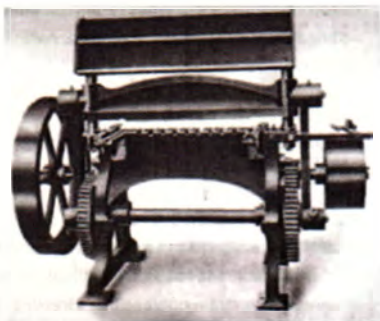
Each rack of sample lace weighs 5 ounces. The yarn used is of the following counts, and the proportions are shown in the percentage column:

Character of Yarn	Count	Percentage
Gassed and prepared	2/100	13½
Reversed and gassed	2/100	11½
Brass bobbin yarn, plain prepared	2/140	38
For thick threads	3/30	37
Total		100

**A MODEL PLANT:** A model plant should have a variety of machines, so that all classes and qualities of goods could be produced to supply the changing demands of more than one market. One maker has expressed the opinion that it would be inadvisable to purchase machines of a lower gauge than 8-point. The least number of machines to be worked economically is half a dozen, and the increase of staff for twelve machines would be very small, merely the extra twist hands for the additional machines.

The machines are so valuable that they are in some places run night and day. Here in Nottingham they are run twenty hours of the twenty-four. The men work in shifts, so that each lace curtain or Leavers machine takes two men and each two plain net machines two men. One shift commences work at 4am and works five hours (until 9am), and is then relieved by the other shift, which works four hours (until 1pm); the first man returns and works five hours (until 6pm), when the second man comes on again and works until midnight, when the machines stop. Every week the two shifts change their hours.

In Nottingham men only are employed on the lace machines, though it has been proven that women can operate them as well as men, provided that the machines are so erected that they can, when necessary, get at the threads beneath the machine. Women's fingers are certainly better adapted than men's for this purpose, especially as all the



**Plate E: Power Jacquard Card Punching Machine with selecting machine.**

labour is now done by the machine and the twist hand has merely to control it and carefully watch the threads and tie them up when broken.

A plant of 12 machines would require the following staff: a general manager; a designer; a draftsman; a reader or calculator (these last two being necessary to adapt a design to the machine after it has been made); a puncher and a card lacer (for the manufacture of the pattern cards for the Jacquard); the punching would necessitate, for a lace-curtain machine, a power card-punching press, costing, roughly, \$1,000 (see Plate E) while for the Leavers machine a piano card puncher, costing about £200, would suffice; 24 twist hands for the two shifts for twelve lace curtain or Leavers machines, or 12 twist hands for the two shifts of plain net machines; one man to run the warping mill (see Plate D; the cost of this machine and the jack for the bobbins would be approximately \$500); 4 women for the wood-bobbin winding engine and brass-bobbin winding engine (these two machines would cost, respectively, about \$300 and \$150); 3 or 4 boys for placing the bobbins in the carriages and threading them; 2 or 3 women for mending the lace as it comes from the machine; and, finally, a good mechanic or an expert twist hand to look after all the machines. In all, not less than 40 persons would be needed, exclusive of those required in the engine or power room.

The work on these machines is difficult and trying, on account not only of the noise and heat, but also the strain on the eyes from intently watching a moving maze of fine threads.

As will have been noted, quite a number of accessory machines are necessary, and it has not been possible to mention several others less important or less expensive. The machine builders, however, supply all these on demand.

**BLEACHING, FINISHING, ETC.:** So far, all that has been said refers only to the making of lace on the machine. Afterwards come the mending, as threads drop and other accidents occur, and these defects have to be rectified by hand before the fabric undergoes the strain of bleaching, dressing, dyeing, and all the finishing details.

In Nottingham, which is the centre of all the lace and net bleaching, dyeing, dressing and finishing, these processes are usually separate industries, and a lace maker is rarely a bleacher, a dresser, or a finisher. The processes of bleaching, dyeing and dressing are usually associated and performed in factories in suburbs where ample space is more easily obtained. The lace finishing, however, which is mostly manual or

hand-machine work, is carried on in this district in buildings in the so-called Lace Market, in the heart of the city.

Bleaching and dyeing, with all their several processes of steeping, washing, bowking<sup>4</sup> with lime, scouring, chlorinating, etc., are already so well known in other textile industries as not to need description of either the methods or the machinery employed. For lace and net, however, two other processes should be mentioned. The first is "gassing", which is singeing off the floss or fibres from lace or net by passing it through delicate blue flames of coal gas, which are drawn up through the web by means of a vacuum above. The other process is dressing, which is the full extension of the meshes to their proper shape and the stiffening of the fabric to prevent its collapse. The bleached or dyed goods are passed through a hot mixture of gum and the action of revolving cylinders. The lace, in a damp, heavy mass, is then taken to the stretching room, which is long and wide enough to allow several frames being placed side by side. The fabric is fastened by clips or pins on a frame, which is generally widened by means of a winch until the lace is fully extended.

In curtains and laces the extension in dressing does not exceed the width of the goods as made on the machine. Net, however, is an elastic fabric which can be stretched out two or three times its original width, and greater skill is therefore required with this class of goods. The amount of "dress" or stiffening depends upon the desired stiffness or weight, and also upon the colour, clearness, elasticity, etc., that is necessary for the goods. These various kinds of "dress" range from the simple water dress through all the gradations of stiffness to the firm "cape net", whose edges would cut like a saw. The stretching rooms have artificial heat and revolving fans to promote rapid drying.

The finishing processes consist principally of the following:

Lace curtains require their edges to be bound with tape or to be corded, which is done by a special sewing machine, which at the same time scallops the edges.

Lace, being made in breadths attached lightly one to the other across the width of the machine, requires the draw string across the several breadths to be removed. Also, on the under surface of the lace or figured net, the connecting threads have to be clipped and the indented edges of the lace breadths scalloped. This is all done by hand. The lace is then carefully examined for defects and whenever possible mended.

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<sup>4</sup> Bowking (Lime boil) Lace is layered with cream of lime and laid in a wooden keir. The boiling lasts 8 hours.

Required lengths are then wound by jennying machines onto cards (except when the lace is intended for countries where the duty is assessed by weight, in which case cards are not used). These cards of lace are then flattened by hydraulic pressure, tied up with ribbon and fancy paper, and put into cardboard boxes ready for sale.

Nets require little finishing, beyond cutting up into desired lengths and breadths, and wrapping up and boxing for sale.

**THE RACK:** The standard of measurement of labour in every department of lace manufacture and of every length from the maker in selling to the finisher is the "rack". Every movement of the lace machine is recorded by means of a tooth and pinion wheel, and for the Leavers lace machine 1,920 such movements constitute a single rack; for the lace curtain machine there are 1,440 motions to the rack, and for the warp lace machine only 480 motions to the rack, while for the plain net machine a standard rack consists of 240 holes. A rack varies in length according to the quality and fineness of the work, and a number of details have to be taken into consideration, such as the amount of thick threading and the kind of "clothing" (i.e., close work), etc., in the pattern. The width depends on the width of the machine and the amount of that width that is utilised. Racks vary in length from 4 inches in exceptionally fine work, to 80 inches in very coarse open fabrics. Medium quality goods, which may be considered as the average, range from 36 to 42 inches to the rack; and on a machine 222 inches wide, utilising its whole width, a rack would be 222 inches x 36 inches = 7,992 inches ( $6^{1/6}$  square yards), or 222 inches x 42 inches = 9,324 inches ( $7^{1/5}$  square yards). An 8-point lace curtain machine 270 inches wide was recently seen making 42-inch racks, or 8 square yards to the rack.



## Shipping List for *Baboo*

*Baboo* carried five members of the Mather family to Adelaide in 1848. Owing to the wonders of *Trove*, the shipping list for this voyage of *Baboo* can be found in the pages of the Adelaide paper, the *South Australian*, Friday 8 December 1848.

Refer <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/71613125?>



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