Tulle

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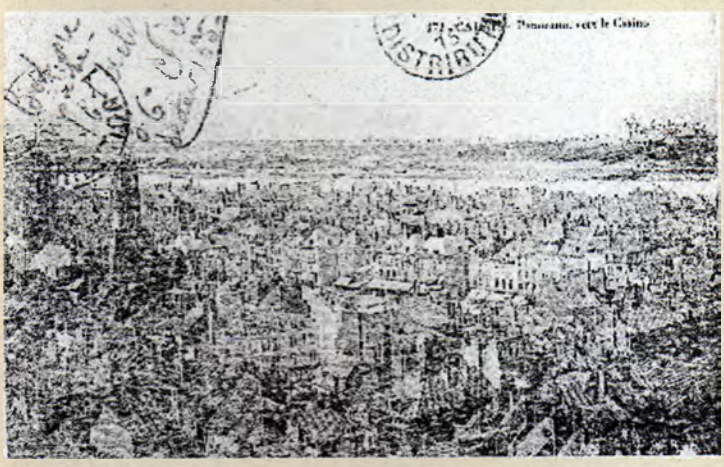

Calais at the turn of last century

The Journal of
The Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais

MEETING DATES 2004 and 2005

Saturday November 20, 2004
Saturday February 19 2005
Saturday May 21 2005
Saturday August 20
Saturday November 19 2005
Donbank Cottage
6 Napier Street, North Sydney
Meeting Time 1.00

NEXT MEETING

Saturday November 20 Guest Speaker: Professor Carol Liston

Come and enjoy this fascinating speaker and a Christmas afternoon tea to finish the year.

Looking for us on the net?
www.angelfire.com/al/aslc/

Want to join? Membership due?
Annual Fees $30, to
Membership Secretary
190 Shaftesbury Road
EASTWOOD NSW 2122

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Tulle

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Friends,

I continue to be amazed at the way technology plays its part in the story of our society. From the time of William Lee, who in 1589 created a machine that was able to produce a coarse worsted stocking, to John Heathcote who won the fierce competition to design an intricate machine that would perform the elusive twist to turn tulle into lace, to today when we use technology to enrich our daily lives.

I spoke recently to the Epping Ladies Probus group (thank you Margo Wagner for arranging the invitation) and took along my trusty tape deck so that I could introduce my talk with snippets from the wonderful Horizons program that went to air last year. It certainly brings to life the sounds of departure from Calais, complete with seagulls and creaking ships as background 'colour'. The descriptions of the workmen's cottages in Saint Pierre gives the impression that we were actually standing in the tiny street taking part in the discussion about the life styles experienced by our families. My Horizon CD and taped program have, I'm sure, enriched my talks!

I do hope that you too, enjoyed listening to that marvellous program that Gretchen Miller produced with some very talented assistance from Gillian Kelly and Richard Lander. Her interest goes back to the time when we were promoting our sesqui-centenary celebrations and she interviewed Gillian for a feature article in the now defunct Northern Herald supplement. The article appeared on Thursday 5 February 1998, but Gretchen was intrigued by the story and wanted to explore in greater depth, the reasons why these lacemaker families escaped from technology-led unemployment in Europe and took a 20,000-kilometre journey to the other side of the world.

Technology continues to play its part in the unravelling of some intriguing aspects of our story. Those members who were present at our August meeting were given a glimpse of more of Gillian's painstaking translation of some death records from Calais. This revealed that when our families left France, in some instances, a family member did not leave but stayed in Calais, because of marriage or other commitments. The internet is certainly a treasure trove of information.

Our next meeting, Saturday 20 November will be our final gathering for the year, so do come along to Donbank Cottage to share in the festive spirit.

Elizabeth Bolton
President.

SECRETARY'S COMMENT

Moving! I've done it. I've had it. I'm over it!

Lyndall and I have moved about three kilometers after 25 years at Gordon. We have had to divest ourselves of a generation of junk. We have had to endure two days of garage sales – agreeing to drop the price of things we paid many, hard-earned, après-tax dollars for to next to nothing. We have had to strain every muscle in our ageing bodies packing stuff – for the church op. shops and, in some sad cases, for the transfer station. We have lugged, dragged, rearranged and then re-rearranged furniture in our wonderful new home but I'm not really complaining.

Imagine then how our ancestors must have felt when they contemplated their long sea-voyages trip to Australia in 1848! They were leaving not only their homes, but also many of their friends and their jobs. They couldn't take all the little knick-knacks that make our houses our homes. They had no possibility of taking wonderful pieces of furniture that may have been passed down through several generations. They didn't have the expensive sound-systems, DVDs, plasma-tube TVs, mobile phones, refrigerators and microwaves that some of us see as indispensable parts of our personal inventory today.

What they came with were the very basics for a sea voyage lasting about three months and very little else. Under the Government Emigration Office Regulations (February 1848) certain conditions had to be met by the intending emigrants, e.g.:-

Note 16: Before the Embarkation Order, entitling them to a passage, is issued, £1 must be paid for every person above 14, and 10s.for every child above 1 and under 14, which will be retained to meet the expense of bedding and mess utensils which will be supplied for them.

Note 19: Provisions and cooking utensils will be found. The emigrants will also be provided with new (woollen) mattresses, bolsters, blankets and counterpanes, and with canvas bags intended to contain one month's linen, etc.; likewise with a knife and fork, two spoons, a metal plate, and a drinking mug, the whole of which articles may be kept by the emigrant after arrival in the colony. But they must bring their own sheets and towels, and also a minimum supply (two pounds) of soap.

Note 20: The emigrants must bring their own clothing, which will be inspected at the port by an officer of the Commissioners; and all parties are particularly desired to observe that they will not be

allowed to embark unless they provide themselves with a sufficient supply for their health during the voyage. The lowest quantity that can be admitted for each person is as follows:

FOR MALES	***FOR FEMALES***
Six shirts	*Six shifts*
Six pairs of stockings	*Two flannel petticoats*
Two pairs of shoes	*Six pairs of stockings*
Two complete suits of exterior clothing	*Two pairs of shoes*
	Two gowns

The Regulations went on to state: *"As a general rule it may be stated that the more abundant the stock of clothing, the better for health and comfort during the passage. The usual length of the voyage to the Australian Colonies is about three months, and at whatever season of the year it may be made, the Emigrants have to pass through very hot and very cold weather, and should therefore be prepared for both".*

The *South Australian Register* reported as follows: "because of the generosity of the 'Benevolent Committee', our emigrants wanted for little and the Commissioners' Agent for Nottinghamshire, Mr. Commissioner Wood, who *"visited them at Gravesend previous to their departure, (and) addressed to them an admirable speech full of kindness and encouragement, assuring them they were proceeding to a land where honesty and industry seldom failed to find their proper reward"* had no hesitation in giving them the necessary Embarkation Order."

If someone gives me another embarkation order in the next few years, I am staying put!

Richard Lander
Secretary

AND FROM THE EDITOR

Last year I became interested in the thesis work of Christian Benoit in which he explored the make up of the English laceworkers in Calais. His conclusion is that those who went were not from the big end of town – they were the ordinairy workers who saw a chance to do well for themselves.

The industry in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire was big business with the little man providing the manpower and often the brains. They often made good wages, but the real riches went to the owners and financiers. Their move was quite like today's small business man – and might even be compared to those who take their companies off shore to increase profit!

Benoit's theories led me to really look at the patterns of births, deaths and marriages of the English in Calais. They very clearly support his theories, with a trickle of English laceworkers in Calais in the 1820s, building slowly through the 1840s to 1848.

In that period the impact of the English leaving Calais must have been immense. The almost-700 who came to Australia were the tip of the iceburg. Those who stayed, or returned quite quickly were the owners of the factories – the Wests, Farrands, Tophams, Deweys, Stubbs and Austins were among them.

By then, after several generations in France, they must truly have been French, just as those who came to Australia would very quickly have considered themselves truly Australian.

Gillian Kelly
Editor

A MEMBER'S STORY

Centenary Medal to Barbara Kendrick

In the year 2000 the Commonwealth Government, created the Centenary Medal to commemorate the Centenary of Federation. The design of this medal shows the seven pointed Commonwealth Star, representing the six Australian states, with the seventh point representing Australia's territories. At the centre of the Star is an indigenous styling of Aboriginal traditions at the heart of the continent. The colours of the ribbon are crimson for Federation (founding father Sir Henry Parkes spoke of "the crimson thread of kinship") and blue and gold for the beginning of the 21st Century. The 100 dots around the rim of the medal symbolise 100 years of federation.

This medal was awarded to many Australians who were recognised for the contribution they had made, either in their professional life or through their work within their local community. The Prime Minister, Mr John Howard presented the medals to the recipients in Bennelong on Friday 13 June 2003.

The citation for Barbara Kendrick says simply " For service to the community".

What it doesn't say is that almost from the moment she retired from a career spanning forty years in nursing in 1988, Barbara joined the band of dedicated men and women who distribute Meals on Wheels. Rain, hail or shine, Barbara has taken meals, not only to people

within the Ryde area, but also to those living in the inner city suburbs of Waterloo, Redfern, Chippendale and Newtown.

Nor is there any mention of her long involvement with the Country Women's Association. Barbara has been active in the local branch, for many years as Vice President and Cookery Officer; as Publicity Officer for Northern District Branch and as International Officer for Philip Group.

She has given up counting the years she has spent making scones at the local Rest Centre and working up to her armpits in flour at the Royal Easter Show. As part of the Ryde Council Australia Day celebrations in 2002, Barbara was short listed for the Citizen of the Year award in recognition of her dedication to her local community. She is also part of the local Neighbourhood Watch and does her share of newsletter distribution.

Congratulations Barbara Kendrick for this well deserved and unique Centenary Medal.

MEMBER'S STORIES

Do you have a story to tell about today's Lacemakers? So often today's achievements aren't known until tomorrow! Please share with us all the achievements of your family – they don't need to be huge – just the stories that give us an idea of how the Lacemakers of today make up our Australian Society. Please your contribution to:

The Editor
PO Box 1277
Queanbeyan 2620

or email

4mchtn8@funnelwebinternet.com.au

THE ODDFELLOWS AND THE LACEMAKERS OF CALAIS

Membership of a Lodge was a very important part of the lives of many of the Lacemakers. They took Lodge life with them to Calais and introduced it to their French colleagues. At the meeting the lace workers held on February 21 in Calais French members of the Oddfellows Hope Lodge stood by the English hoping to emigrate to Australia. They said:

We would never allow you to be driven from the country if you wish to remain, and as long as there is any bread to be got in the trade, we will share it with you..[1]

In Australia there is ample evidence of the lacemakers continued their historic involvement with the Oddfellows. It becomes of interest, then, to understand this important social development and the survival of its humanitarian principals for literally over a thousand years.

The earliest Guilds in England can be traced back to the 8th century and followed the establishment of the Christian Church in Britain, which strongly advocated the setting up of local fraternities for mutual support and protection. These early guilds were purely benevolent organisations, enabling members to assist each other materially and socially. The arrival of the Normans in 1066 brought a marked change in the role of English Guilds.

From the 12th century onwards these came to have a significant function in regulating markets and trade. The earliest were known as Merchant Guilds - representing all tradesmen from a particular town. With the expansion of trade, individual trade guilds began to spring

[1] Bonham to Lord Palmerston , Calais 21 April, 1848

up, which had responsibility for the proper training of craftsmen and they introduced three separate 'degrees' of membership.

These were Apprentices (the trainees), Fellows (the wage earners or 'journeymen' - from the latin term for 'day' - as they were paid by the day) and Masters (the bosses and owners of business'). Each guild was headed by a Grand Master whose role included judging the completion of training by the Apprentices, each of whom had to submit a sample of their work - a Master-piece - to the Grand Master to prove their skill.

By the 13th century, Trade Guilds had been established in every city, town and village in the country. Guild meetings were usually held in churches - the only public buildings large enough to hold such gatherings - but more prosperous Guilds began to build their own Guild Halls for their meetings and feasts.

During the 14th century, a serious split developed in the Guild organisation. Originally, every apprentice could expect to become a Fellow on completion of their training, and Fellows could expect to become Masters in due course, thereby running their own business.

But with the growth in trade there developed a distinct merchant class of Master Craftsmen who not only owned their own business but wished to pass it on to their children. Furthermore, to protect their market share they wanted to prevent too many of their paid employees (the Fellows) setting up rival businesses. Thus began the first industrial disputes.

The Masters decided to exclude the lower orders from the Guild by introducing expensive uniforms and regalia (or 'livery') which members had to buy and wear in order to attend Guild meetings. Because the wage-earning Fellows could not afford such regalia, they found themselves excluded from meetings (the original 'closed shop'?)which became the exclusive preserve of the Masters who went

on to pass Rules (or 'Ordinances') giving themselves greater powers and further excluding the wage-earning Fellows.

To combat this nefarious practice, the Fellows started to set up their own Rival Guilds. These were commonly called Yeoman Guilds as distinct from the 'Livery Guilds' of the Masters. This led inevitably to the first organised industrial actions - and attempts to suppress the Yeoman (Fellows) Guilds.

In time, the Yeoman Guilds became viewed as respectable, law abiding organisations. In smaller towns and villages, however, there were usually insufficient numbers of Fellows of a particular trade to form dedicated guilds. So Fellows from all trades in a town banded together to form one Guild - these Guildsmen could be called Odd Fellows because they were fellow tradesmen from an odd assortment of trades.

From the 14th century onwards, members of the Oddfellows have been subjected to persecution, usually from the fear (often well-grounded) that ordinary people joining together to better their lives might also band together to organise themselves against injustice and oppression.

The attitude of kings, governments and civil authorities towards the Oddfellows through its history drifted from an approval of working people 'clubbing together' to provide for their own needs and thus reducing demands on the Poor Rate (a tax on all landowners to meet the costs of providing for local paupers) to a fear of working people planning a revolt against their conditions.

The next big thing to happen to Guilds came with Henry VIII's break with Rome, because of their then integral connection with the Roman Catholic church. In 1545 all material property of the Guilds was confiscated by the Crown.

With the expanding international nature of trade, and the loss of their assets, the locally-based Guild system was already beginning to fail. The reign of Elizabeth I saw a Statute of Apprentices being passed, which took away from the Guilds the responsibility for regulating apprenticeships. By the end of her reign, most Guilds had been suppressed.

For most ordinary men and women, the suppression of the Guilds removed an important form of social and financial support. In major cities some guilds survived by adapting their role - Freemasons and Oddfellows being two such examples. Both of these organisations had their base in London but established other Branches called 'lodges' across the country.

The earliest surviving rules of an Oddfellows Lodge date from 1730 and refer to the Loyal Aristarcus Lodge in London. It met in the Oakley Arms in Southwark, the Globe Tavern in Hatton Garden or the Boar's Head in Smithfield. There are many pubs in Britain today which are named 'The Oddfellows' or 'Oddfellows Arms'. Invariably these are past meeting places of lodges.

At that time, attendance at an Oddfellows meeting was compulsory. In the Loyal Aristarcus Lodge, failure to attend meant a hefty fine of six shillings and eight pence. The meetings included a number of toasts (at least three a night) and the lodge was instructed to keep each members' cup replenished during the evening. No wonder then that many Oddfellows meetings resulted in much revelry and, often as not, the calling of the Watch to restore order.

The 'Glorious Revolution' of 1688 - when the Catholic King James II was deposed in favour of the Dutch Protestant William of Orange - caused a big rift across British Society - and the Oddfellows themselves. The Order split into two factions: The Order of Patriotic Oddfellows (in favour of William and the Whig Party, and who had most support in London and the Home Counties) and the rival

Ancient Order of Oddfellows (whose supporters favoured the Stuarts and the Tory party, and took their support from Scotland and the North of England).

With the failure of Bonnie Prince Charlie's uprising in 1745, hopes of a return to the Stuart dynasty faded and old animosities gradually forgotten. In 1789 the two rival factions formed a partial amalgamation as the Grand United Order of Oddfellows - abandoning all political and religious disputes and committing itself to promoting the harmony and welfare of its members.

Then as now, the Oddfellows has no religious or political affiliations and accepts members from all walks of life regardless of sex, colour or belief.

The penal laws affecting societies like the Oddfellows in the 18th century meant that many documents were deliberately destroyed to protect members from identification and arrest. Membership of a society like the Oddfellows at that time was a criminal offence! Events in France had badly scared the authorities in England who did not want to witness a repeat performance on their side of the Channel.

Therefore, gatherings of ordinary working people were automatically considered a threat and as a consequence organisations such as the Oddfellows developed elaborate schemes to protect themselves and their members. Passwords were introduced at meetings (no password, no entry) and members could only be introduced by existing members who knew and trusted them - which usually meant close family and friends only.

During the closing years of the 18th century, with the French Revolution in progress, suspicions about the motives of the Oddfellows and other societies reached fever pitch and an Act of Parliament was passed suppressing 'all societies which administer

oaths and correspond by signs and passwords'. To make this effective the Government employed spies and informers to infiltrate lodge meetings to gain evidence for magistrates of illegal activities.

Meeting dates and times were therefore passed in code - so only members of a particular lodge could decipher the message and find the right place. Meetings were usually held in a number of locations to throw the authorities off the scent.

Fear of revolution was not the sole reason for persecution. Friendly societies like the Oddfellows were the 'parents' of modern-day trade unions and could organise effective local strike action by levying all of their members for additional contributions for their benevolent funds out of which payments could be made to the families of members who were on strike.

In 1810, members of the Oddfellows in Manchester area became dissatisfied with the way the United Order was being run by the 'Original Oddfellows' (see above) and broke away to form an independent Order with the title 'Manchester Unity'.

With their improved organisation and rules, they encouraged many other lodges across the country to leave the old Grand United Order and join the Independent Order under the 'Manchester Compliance'. It was the Manchester Unity which was to become the the Oddfellows of today.

The Oddfellows subsequently introduced a number of novel benefits for members. These included the Travel Warrant, which allowed members seeking work to stay overnight in an Oddfellows Hall, anywhere in the country, free of charge. The Oddfellows also introduced standard protection policies (or 'tables') to which people could subscribe to protect themselves. Many people joined friendly societies like the Oddfellows to obtain protection against unemployment and sickness.

The Tolpuddle Martyrs

Persecution tailed off as the Oddfellows grew in numbers, prosperity and respectability. However, the unexpected conviction and transportation to Australia of six men at Dorchester in 1834 for membership of an illegal friendly society (The Tolpuddle Martyrs) caused renewed fear and panic in the ranks of the Oddfellows.

In their Annual Movable Conference of that year - held in Hull - the Grand Master and Board of Directors hastily abolished the traditional oath of mutual support and replaced it with an 'obligation' in order to evade the penalty of the law. As a result the Oddfellows in America declared their independence from the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows and became a self governing Order - the Independent Order Of Oddfellows - which established lodges across the world. The two Branches of worldwide Oddfellows now work in co-operation to promote the principles - and especially the golden rule - Treat others as you would wish them to treat you.

THE PARKES FAMILY

Isaac Parkes was born c 1785 in Mansfield, Notts, to Hesketh and Elizabeth Parkes. Hesketh was a machine maker[2] and Isaac followed in his father's trade. Isaac married Dorothy Ward (born , the daughter of and known as Dolly) and they produced nine children.

Of these five were born in Derbyshire. They were Hannah born 1806, Susannah 1810, Charlotte 1811, Heathcoat 1812 and Frederick in 1814. Isaac and Dolly, with these five children, left Nottingham for Europe.

Their next child, Robert, was born in Brussels in 1816, indicating that the family's move was made straight after the end of the Napoleonic Wars to Belgium. Elizabeth was also born in Brussels in 1821, then John in Deudermond, Flanders in 1824 and Charles in 1829 in Lille, France.

It was their fourth child Frederick who married Marie-Françoise Sophie Waeghebaert on December 21 at Lille. They, in time, had five children, all born in Lille: Frederick 1838, Alexander 1840, Victoria 1841, Celine (Selina) 1843 and Charles in 1845. Alexander died on December 12, 1840, Marie-Françoise died on 26 October 1845 aged 42 and baby Charles a few weeks later on November 11.[3]

Within three years the revolution brought France to a standstill. Lille was one place where the English were threatened and the lacemakers in that city were ordered to leave everything and go. Isaac Parkes appears to have made his way to Calais where he was accepted as part of the migration to Australia, despite his advanced years.

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[2] In 1785 in Mansfield this would have been a stocking frame maker.

[3] It would appear that childbirth was the cause of Marie-Françoise's death.

The family arrived in Sydney at the end of 1848 on board the *General Hewitt.* The shipping list shows Dolly and Isaac's ages to be considerably less than they really were, but it can be assumed that the number of healthy young adults travelling with them assured their passage. The shipping list also shows Frederick had a wife Johanna Sophie Schietekate, but so far there is no evidence of a formal marriage.

Most of the family settled in East Maitland. Seline married Benjamin Forbes Poole in 1865. Their seventh child, Emily, born 1876 married Percy Emerton Seymour Sinfield in 1896. Emily was my grandmother.

Isaac Parkes died on January 2, 1867 aged 82 and was buried at the Church of England Cemetery, West Maitland – known as Cambell's Hill.[4] Dolly died on October 4, 1879, aged 95 and was buried in the same grave as Isaac.

Susannah Parkes married Frederick Morse in 1852 and died in 1883. Her sister Charlotte died in 1896 and both daughters are buried with their parents. Robert Whitehall Parkes died in 1886.[5] There is a headstone for Isaac and Dolly, but not Sussanah, Charlotte or Robert.

Heathcoat Parkes died in Lille. Hannah died in Port Stephens in 1858.
Frederick died on July 11, 1894 and was buried in an unmarked grave in the Independent Cemetery, Rookwood. Johanna, his second wife, died on March 23 1887 and is also buried at Rookwood as Sophie Parkes, but in a different grave to Frederick.
Eric Sinfield.

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[4] Grave: Section 2B grave no.s 3 & 4
[5] Grave: Section 4C

JACK CLIFFORD
1919-2004

On July 8 this year, Jack Clifford, gentleman, and long time member of the Society lost his battle with cancer and left a great hole in the lives of those who knew him.

Jack was the kindest and gentlest men of men who was passionate about the stories of his forebears who willingly shared his knowledge of his family with us all.

He was one of the very few Lacemakers' descendants whose life overlapped that of one of those original travellers. He knew Maria Potter who arrived as a five year old on the *Agincourt* in 1848 – and in fact Maria is one of the few who recorded some of her memories of that arrival.[1]

Jack's earliest Lacemakers connect his family back to Robert Webster who took the original machine to Calais so the lace trade was well and truly in his blood.

But Jack Clifford was a man of his times, and as such will be sadly missed by us all. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife Dorothy and son Tony.

Laced with Intrigue

The Story of John and Eliza Wand and their Children

by Pam Harvey

Our congratulations to Pam Harvey who has committed the story of John and Eliza Wand to print. The story travels from Leicestershire to Calais to Australia and is the perfect presentation, without being an onerous text, for future generations to understand just where their families came from and what they did.

Pam has presented the story in A5 format and it is 80 pages full of history. She has included photographs of people and places – so essential in an impermanent society - and family lines, so tomorrow's children will be able to place themselves amongst the Lacemakers in years to come.

Well done Pam, and may you inspire many others to follow! **Gillian Kelly**

THE DEATHS OF NAOMI CROFT AND THOMAS CAPLES

In Bathurst in June 1867 heavy rains caused the Macquarie River to flood with such force that within an hour citizens who lived on the banks watched both bridges, Denison's and Ranken's, collapse and wash downstream.

At this time there was a ferry service in rowing boats operating between the Kelso and the Bathurst sid., The boatman who operated one such service was James Maloney and on the afternoon of July 3rd, he pushed off from the Kelso side with two women and three or four men as passengers and a cargo of some parcels. Midstream the boat met the full force of the current and overturned, drowing one of the women and one of the men.

The body of the man, Thomas Caples, was found within a week, and an inquest held. The body of the woman, Naomi Crofts, wasn't found for three weeks, and her husband, Thomas Crofts of the *Agincourt,* was only able to identify his wife by her shoes – hand made by himself. Naomi and Thomas had been married since 1861 and had three little girls. Naomi had crossed the river to visit her parents at Kelso, and for some reason, perhaps because of the state of the river, had not take her daughters with her, as was her usual custom.

The inquest on the body of the other victim, Thomas Caples, returned a finding of *drowning through accidental swamping of the boat in which he was crossing the river Macquarie.*[6] This was not a popular verdict and caused a great deal of controversy in the town.

The first witness at the inquest was Maria Potter of the *Agincourt.* Having been sworn in, Maria stated that there was a carpet bag in the boat and five passengers – The boatman was in the boat when Naomi Croft stepped in and Maria followed her. They sat together on one side of the boat facing the boatman. Two men got in next and the deceased got in last. The deceased sat on the bottom of the boat between the ladies and the boatman and the other two sat behind the boatman, one on the bottom and one on the end. After the boat left the Kelso side, the man at the end was rocking the boat. The

[6] Bathurst Times, July 18, 1867.

boatman told him to stop, but he replied 'the best drop of water in the world won't touch me'. Maria did not know him, thought him a little fresh, but not drunk. She said the boatman told him several times to stop rocking the boat, but he was ignored. While he was speaking water washed into the side of the boat where Mrs Croft and Maria were sitting and the boat went down, throwing them all into the water.

Maria felt the bottom of the river twice when her foot got tangled in a rope. She grabbed the rope with her hands and was eventually dragged out. She said it was about ten past six and reasonably dark and that she would not recognise the man in the back of the boat again.

The next witness was John Boyle, a blacksmith in the town. He said John Tooey, Joseph Murray and Thomas Caples, as well as two young women, were all in the boat. The women and Caples were at the front, he was immediately behind the boatman and Joseph Murray was next to him. John Tooey was at the front of the boat with the women and Caples. Boyle swore that he didn't feel any rocking, didn't hear Joseph Murray say that the best drop of water couldn't touch him and didn't hear the boat boatman call out to stop rocking. He believed the boat swamped because it was not properly trimmed.

John Tooey swore that he was a traveller, met Caples at the river, had drank with him for about an hour before the ferry left. He felt there were some packages in the stern of the boat and that the bow was deeper in the water than the stern. When the boat went into the current, it gradually took on water. One of the men stood up and took of his coat and was told to sit still.

The boatman, James Maloney, gave evidence that the boat was some fifteen feet long by three feet wide by about twelve inches deep. He

was an experienced boatman and believed it was safe. He did call out for those behind him to sit still, but not to anyone in particular, although he did say the boat would not have taken in water if it hadn't been rocking and that it must have been at the fore end where he couldn't see.

So what was the truth? Within days the editor of the *Bathurst Times* recorded that the inquest, rather than clearing up the accident, had served only to render it more mysterious and doubtful.

The general public of the town perceived Maria Potter's story as being the most accurate and that she could not have imagined such statements as ''the best drop of water in the world won't touch me'.

It was perceived that the boatman's version corroborated Maria's without implicating anyone else. The editor asks '*is it possible to reconcile the other conflicting statements? And answers himself: Yes – by supplying the little that is required in the evidence of the four men to make it harmonise and vibrate in one thread of narrative. It is very easily comprehended why witnesses in such a case should be unwilling to tell all they know. They do not perjure themselves. They merely answer what questions are asked of them and nothing more. They do not volunteer any evidence, so we do not obtain a result such as the present enquiry has terminated in, - a result, which as we have said, is eminently unsatisfactory to the public, and which has produced a general conviction that Miss Potter has given the most correct version of the upsetting of the boat by which Mr Caples and Mrs Croft lost their lives.*[7]

Bathurst Times, 1867

[7] Bathurst Times July 20, 1867

BATHURST HERITAGE WALL PLAQUES

Along the Macquarie River in the heart of town, Bathurst boasts a glorious park and at the lower end of William Street there is a Heritage Wall that through bronze plaques, commemorates the lives of families from the district.

The plaques are 200mm square with cast lettering. The number of words is limited to 30 excluding the headers and the footers. They are quite expensive at $394.90, but the cost shared around a family makes a very lasting memorial to those families who went to Bathurst.

Already the families of William Brownlow , Charles Crofts and William Sargent are represented.

Unveiling ceremonies can be arranged with the assistance of the Bathurst Historical Society and the Visitor Information Centre will help in any way it can.

For further information and application forms, contact

Bathurst Historical Society
PO Box 237
BATHURST NSW 2795

WHAT A GREAT WAY TO CELERY-BRATE

The Union flag and French tricolour flew in the heart of Nottingham on August 13th to mark the darkest day of a famous general... and his finest hour. Marshal Tallard's darkest day came 300 years ago yesterday when he botched the Battle of Blenheim. His finest hour came when, as a prisoner of war in Nottingham, he introduced Britain to celery.

Compte de Tallard had been the French Ambassador in London during the reign of William and Mary. As Marshall of France he was one of the top generals of King Louis XIV's army which had been undefeated for 50 years.

His military career came to an abrupt halt during the War of the Spanish Succession, at the Battle of Blenheim (now Blindheim, Germany) on August 13, 1704. Tallard's 60 000 strong Franco-Bavarian army was surprised and crushed by a mainly British and Austrian force of 52 000 led by the Duke of Marlborough and Prince Eugene of Savoy.

At the cost of 12 000 casualties, 18 000 enemy soldiers were killed or wounded. Another 13 000 were captured. Among them was Tallard, held prisoner first in London and from 1705 until 1711 in Nottingham because it was well away from the coast and the escape routes to Europe. Repatriated he was created a Duke by Louis XIV and died in 1728.

While in Nottingham he was held under parole at Newdigate House – then quite a substantial property with large gardens , and, being a sensible man, he settled down to live a happy and useful life amid his erstwhile enemies.

His courtesy and innate goodness soon made him popular, and to him our forefathers owed many novel and useful innovations. The greatest gift owed to him is was a green stalky plant he had known in France, and sadly missed it in England, where its use was unknown.

He found it growing wild in the marshes of the River Leen at Lenton, and cultivated it in his garden, which still remains, and whose wall is shown in the picture

It was celery - familiar to the chefs of Paris, but not to the cooks of provincial England. Tallard is known to have shared other culinary arts with the inquisitive of Nottingham - preparing salads and baking bread in the French style, and he taught the men to grow roses.

Newdigate House is now the home of Nottingham's United Services Club and members celebrated the battle with lunch in their Blenheim Room. It was an Anglo-French affair, starting with onion soup. The British won the main course, with ten roast beefs on the club president's table and just two coq-au-vin orders. Dessert was a closer affair - six créme brulée requests to five bread-and-butter puddings!

From Jeremy Lewis of the *Saturday Evening Post*,
August 14, 2004 Nottingham
Forwarded by Anne Fewkes, Nottingham

WEDNESBURY, STAFFORDSHIRE

Wednesbury was the birth place of many who made their first move in the migration chain to Nottingham. Here their skills involved them in the lace trade but one would have to wonder why one would exchange one large industrial city for another.

Conditions in Wednesbury (which is near Birmingham and Walsall) were never good, and this part of 'the Black Country' became heavily industrialised. Medieval Wednesbury was a rural community; in the 17th century pottery and clay pipes were an important local industry, but by the 18th century the main occupations of this small town were coal mining and nailmaking.

Rapid population growth in the 19th century generated over-crowded slums and a permanent cocktail of industrial waste. It is said that Queen Victoria ordered her staff to pull the curtains on the Royal train as it made its way through the area. She said she found the smoke and dust pouring out of the great chimneys a 'disgusting view'.

A contemporary report in White's 'Gazetteer and Directory of Staffordshire' (1851) advises:

"The town is irregularly built and is very indifferently paved and drained, and it has a scanty supply of water which has often to be brought from a distance in pails and barrels. The town suffered severely during the cholera epidemics of 1832 and 1849, owing to its total want of drainage."

MARRIAGE
February 1811

At Norton, near Gautby, Lawrence WINSOR, a noted fiddler and itinerant brazier and chief of a gang of gypsies, aged 86, to Johanna SKELTON, of Coaton in the Elms, aged 22.

WILLIAM HENRY SANSOM

William Henry Sansom was born on June 24 1828 in Calais to John Sansom and Mary Ann Stubbs. With his parents and siblings, he arrived in South Australia aboard the *Harpley* in 1848.

IN 1857 William married a girl named Elizabeth Smythe and then moved to the goldfield area of Victoria, settling at Daylsford. Three children were born there: Gertrude in 1859, Emma in 1861 and Francis Henry in 1863. In 1865 William and an Elizabeth had a daughter Letitia who died soon after birth. The family then disappears to reappear in 1880.

Now they are living in Almedo California and there is no doubt that it is the right family. His census record says he immigrated to California in 1866 and states:

William Henry born in France, his parents being born in England, with daughters Emma and Gertrude both born in Australia, their mother being born in Scotland. With him is his wife Elizabeth, born in Australia and children all born in California John born 1869, Olivia 1871, Louise 1874, Letitia 1877 and Wilbur 1879.

It would seem that William Henry had two wives, both named Elizabeth, one being born in Scotland and the other in Australia. There is no real evidence of either the death of the first, or the marriage to the second

In 1900 William is living in San Jose Avenue, Almedo with Elizabeth but by 1910 he is widowed, and living in his own house in San Antonio Ave, Almedo, on his own means, but with several boarders.

STOP PRESS NOTTINGHAM
Barry Holland in Nottingham

From the Nottingham Review, August 6, 1830 – a description of the uprising in Paris in 1830.The following is an extract from a letter dated Calais August 2, received by his relatives, from a young man, a native of Nottingham:

Paris is now in a dreadful state, every street is barricaded with stones, tubs, carts &c. to stop the horse soldiers; they have pulled up stones from the street to fire over; the mob is well armed, and have succeeded in driving the soldiers out of the city into the champs elysée.

I was very anxious to get out in order to send you a letter, knowing the alarm you would be in when you heard it; so on Wednesday morning I made my way to the British Ambassador's to get my passport signed: the streets were full of soldiers getting out cannon &c.

I was detained there for three or four hours and this was the time I really was in very great danger; the principal streets I was obliged to avoid, there being a regular fight going on in them: and now behold me in the streets of Paris, lost my way, running from the balls of soldiers, sometimes mixed with the mob and sometimes not; no door would open to receive me though I tried hard at one or two.

At length I got to the Hall and Bled, a large building where wheat is deposited and only a street's length from where I lodged; this was in the possession of the mob. I found it impossible to get to my home, their being a fire kept up in the street from the soldiers at one end and the mob at the other and I don't know what I would have done if a

friendly barber's shop had not received me and there I stayed until the battle was over.

There are a many killed two or three thousand they say. I have seen some horrible sights. I was determined to get away as soon as possible so on Friday I set out in the company of another Englishman, we walked part of the road until we at last got a diligence which brought us here. It is perfectly calm here and here I shall stay awhile.

The diligence was a huge carriage with four classes of seating: One could travel in a small enclosed compartment at the front, designed to make the passenger feel as though he were in a private carriage, or in the main cabin with five or six others, on the running boards at the top, or above the private section – dry, comfortable, but hard to reach!

FOR THE GENEALOGIST

A few years ago a Mrs Sheila Jenkins published an article titled 'Did One of Your Lost Relatives Marry an ATKIN of Stapleford'. May I pass on my sincere thanks to Sheila for opening a whole new world of history for me. No doubt you may have guessed that I am part of that huge ATKIN family and descendant of Moses ATKIN and Elizabeth JACKSON, married Stapleford 1686.

ANTHILL, ASPINSHAW, ATTENBOROUGH, BAGGALEY, BAGULEY, BARROWCLIFF, BEDALL, BEND, BRAMLEY, BROWN, BUTLER, DALLEY, DALTON, DAYKIN, ELLIS, ENGLETON, EVENS, GREASLEY, GREENSMITH, GUNN, HARRISON, HOPE, HUDSON, INGLETON, JACKSON, JERVIS, JOHNSON, MATHER, MORLEY, NADIN, OLDERSHAW, PEARSON, FEAT, PURDAY, SAMPSON, SAXTON, SHAW, SHEPERD, SILL, SMEDLEY, SMITH, SPENCER, THOMBS, TOPPS, WALLIS, WALTERS, WHITE, WILD, WILLOUGHBY, WILSON, WOODHOUSE, WRIGHT, YATES

Mr Alan Atkin, 42 Lathkilldale Crescent, Long Eaten, Nottingham, NG10 3PE

DEATHS IN CALAIS

Translated from the films of the original registers produced by the Church of the Latterday Saints.

BROWN, Mary died 26 April 1847 aged 77,born Windley Derbyshire, daughter of Henry Brown and Ann Keys, both deceased, husband Robert Stubbs living rue Eustache,; witnesses William Stubbs and Henry Stubbs, both sons

FARLEY, Mary died 12 April 1846 aged 32, born Dover, daughter of John Farley and Elizabeth Doorne, wife of Thomas Goldfinch, boarding house keeper rue Neuve, witnesses Henry Cartwright 29 laceworker & George Lakin

HASLAM, Mary died 5 September 1846 aged 35 born Nottingham , daughter of Samuel Haslam and Mary Grey both living in Nottingham, husband William Rogers; witnesses William Morley & Henry Cartwright

HOLMES, Sarah died 5 March 1845, aged 36y 9 m, born Nottingham, daughter of Samuel Holmes and Sarah, living with Widow Pepper rue de Vic

HOPKIN, William died 28 August 1847, aged 54, lacemaker born Nottingham son of George Hopkin and Hannah Glew; first wife Mary Ann Clarke, second wife Mary Mawley, living rue de la Pomme d'or.

JACKLIN, Elizabeth died 15 November 1851, laceworker aged 22 born Nottingham daughter of Thomas Jacklin and Elizabeth Bowmar, wife of George Cave living rue de l'hospice; witness George Jacklin, 23 brother

ROGERS, Ann died 20 September 1846 aged ten weeks born St Pierre, daughter of William Rogers and the late Mary Haslam (qv); witness William Morley aged 31

SWIFT, Elizabeth died 25 July 1851 aged 34 years and 2 months, born Loughborough, Leics, daughter of George Swift and Ann Greet, husband Samuel Taylor rue Vauban,; witness John Swift 31, laceworker, brother

SWIFT, George, died 3 October 1851 laceworker born Shepshead,Leics, son of John Swift and Elizabeth Johnson, wife, Ann Greet, rue de Vic; witnesses John Swift, 31 laceworker, son & Samuel Taylor 37 laceworker, son in laws

WALKER, Samuel died 30 March 1845, aged 4 born Nottingham, the son of Samuel Walker and Jemima Keeton

WALKLAND, Eliza Caroline died 8 August 1851 aged 13m, born Calais, daughter of James Walkland and Eliza Cressons; witness George Walkland, lacemaker aged 50, uncle of deceased

WEST, Robert died 9 May 1847 aged 53, lacemaker, born Enderby Leics, son of William West and Mary Thibbalds, wife Mary Bannister

SOME MARRIAGES FROM CALAIS

Translated from the films of the original registers produced by the Church of the Latterday Saints. It is of interest that where an English man married a French lass, the initial marriage often took place at Dover. The English marriage certificate was then presented to the Mayor of Calais and the details recorded precisely as they appeared on the certificate. These records are much briefer than the French form and therefore are not as helpful from the genealogical point of view. There is no evidence of marriages in Dover when a girl of English ascent married a French man. These marriages appear only in the French registers.

AUSTIN, Henry, born St Pierre April 6, 1827 younger son of George Austin, textile manufacturer, living in Philadelphia and Louisa Russel who died Calais may 3, 1838
Married in Calais on April 24, 1850
BAUDE, Marie Madeline, born Guines July 20, 1817. Witness to marriage William Austin, cousin of the groom.

BROWN, William, laceworker born September 2,1815, Nottingham the son of William Brown and Ann Brooks, whereabouts of both unknown,
Married November 2, 1857 at Calais
CARPENTIER, Alexandrine, laceworker, born Ambletousse April 29, 1819, the daughter of .....Carpentier and Alexandrine Thoron,

aged 63, both living St Pierre. The marriage legitimizes the births of their children:
George 1844, John 1846, Elizabeth, Clemence, and Alexandrine

DEWEY, Caroline Catherine born Calais September 16, 1827 the daughter of William Dewey, laceworker and Catherine Bomalee, both living at St Pierre
Married at Calais on December 2, 1851
GORRE Louis Joseph laceworker, born January 22 , 1830 at St Pierre, son of August Gorre and Marie Delahart,both living St Pierre

DEWEY, Henriette born Nottingham March 8, 1835 the daughter of William Dewey, laceworker living St Pierre and Catherine Bomalee died St Pierre January 30, 1852
Married at Calais March 7, 1855
FOURNIER, Hubert

GASKIN, Samuel aged 49, born Sutton in Ashfield, Nottingham 22 April 1798, silk mechanic, son of Samuel Gaskin who died Sutton in Ashfield 24 January 1818 and Hannah Cowell who died Sutton in Ashfield 1815, widow of Mary Bostock who died in St Pierre les Calais April 9, 1846
Married at Calais May 11 1847
DUWATTEZ Marie Josephine, born Northkerque 28 November 1816 daughter of Charles Duwattes and Marie Willhauline

HOPKIN, William born Lille 3 September 1823 the eldest son of William Hopkin who died in Calais April 28 1847 and Mary Ann Clarke who died at Armentières December 14, 1834
Married October 11, 1848
OSWIN, Anne born Calais February 13, 1832, the eldest daughter of James Oswin, lacemaker of Calais and Dorothy Shuttlewood who died Calais November 6, 1842

LAKIN, Elizabeth, born Loughborough 30 March 1826, dau of John Lakin, died Calais 3 April 1843 and Maria Underwood, lacemaker
Married at Calais on August 19, 1845
De St STIBAN, Louis, Under brigadier of customs, born Etaples December 7, 1818, son of Louis de St Stiban and Julia Echardt, both living in Etaples

MALONEY, Patrick aged 29 years and 10 months, bleacher born Bunratty, Co Clare Ireland, son of Michael Maloney deceased and Allas Torpy deceased
Married at Calais 28 January 1846
O'HANLON Eliza aged 24 years and 4 months b Market Hill Co Armagh, Ireland on 10 September 1829 the daughter of William O'Hanlon, painter and Elizabeth Courtney, both living in St Pierre[8]

NICHOLLS, aged 19 years and 6 months, born Calais, the younger daughter of Richard Nichols, absent for many years and Jeanne Helene Naessens, dressmaker living in Calais.
married at Calais on 29 September 1840
CHALOUX Honor Jules Marie, aged 21 years and 8 months,laceworker born Rochefort, younger son of Peter Chaloux, tailor living Saxeme, Loire

SWIFT, George, laceworker, born Calais July 21, 1832 the son of George Swift who died in Calais October 3, 1851 and Ann Greet, still living in Calais
Married in Calais January 21, 1854
COCQUELOT, Victoire born Calais 23 August 1830, daughter of Louis Cocquelot, 59, laceworker and Rosalie Joseph Cornet.
Witnesses John Swift, laceworker, 34, brother of groom.

[8] Per *Fairlie*

WEST Frances Ann born Calais October 15 1824, eldest daughter of Robert West cabaratier and Frances Friend both living Calais. Witnesses to marriage were Richard West, brother of brdie, living at Guines and William Smith, friend of groom
Married at Calais11 July 1848
CLEMENT Henry laceworker born Calais December 12 1821, son of Louis Antoine Clement, carpenter and Marie Marie Sophie Pointez, both living Calais

A GENEALOGIST'S CHRISTMAS EVE[9]

Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even my spouse.
The dining room table with clutter was spread
Stacks of pedigree charts and with letters which said..
Too bad about the data for which you just wrote
It sank in a storm on an ill-fated boat."
Stacks of old copies of wills and the such
Were proof that my work had become much too much.
Our children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugarplums danced in their heads.
And I at my table was ready to drop
From work on my album with photos to crop.
Christmas was here, and of such was my lot
That presents and goodies and toys I'd forgot.
Had I not been so busy with my grandparent's wills,
I'd not have forgotten to shop for such thrills.
While others bought gifts that would bring Christmas cheer;
I'd spent time researching those birth dates and years.
While I was thus musing about my sad plight,
A strange noise on the lawn gave me such a great fright.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the drapes and then yanked up the sash.

[9] The original version of this much loved verse first appeared n 1848.

And then in a twinkle, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of thirty-two hoofs.
Our TV antenna was no match for their horns,
And look at that roof with those hoof prints adorned!
As I drew in my head, slamming it on the sash,
Down the cold chimney fell Santa - KER-RASH!
Dear Santa came down looking like a wreck.
Tracking soot on the carpet, (I could wring his short neck!)
Spotting my face, good old Santa could see
That I had no Christmas spirit, you'd have to agree.
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work
And filled all the stockings, (I felt like a jerk)!
Here was Santa, who'd brought us such gladness and joy;
When I'd been too busy for even one toy!
He spied my research on the table all spread
A genealogist! he cried! (My face burned bright red!)
Tonight I've met many like you," Santa grinned.
As he pulled from his sack a large book he had penned.
I gazed with amazement - the cover it read
Those Genealogy Lines for which you have pled."
I know what it's like being a genealogy bug,"
He said as he gave me a great Santa Hug.
While the elves make the sleighful of toys that I carry,
I do my research in the North Pole Library!
A special treat I am thus able to bring
To genealogy folks who just can't find a thing.
Now off you must go off to your bed for a rest,
I'll clean up the house from this genealogy mess!
As I climbed up the stairs full of gladness and glee,
I looked back at Santa who'd brought so much to me.
While settling in bed, I heard Santa's clear whistle,
To his team, then they rose like the down of a thistle.
And I heard him exclaim as he flew out of sight,
Family History is Fun! Merry Christmas! Goodnight![10]
With thanks for this version to Ron Hawthorn, descendant of Lionel Hawthorn of Calais

10 With thanks for this version to Ron Hawthorn, descendant of Lionel Hawthorn of Calais

Office Bearers
Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais

PRESIDENT

Mrs Elizabeth Bolton
4/165 Victoria Road
West Pennant Hills 2125
eabolton@bigpond.com

SECRETARY

Mr Richard Lander
17 McIntyre Street
Gordon 2072
02 9498 3337
richardlander@ozemail.com.au

TREASURER

Mr Craig Williams
PO Box 209
Terrey Hills 2084
email: craig.williams@s054.aone.net.au

EDITOR

Mrs Gillian Kelly
P O Box 1277,
Queanbeyan, 2620
Ph: 02 6297 2168
email:
4mchtn8@funnelwebinternet.com.au

PUBLICITY OFFICER

Mrs Judith Gifford
8 Berry Ave
Green Point 2251
email: giffos@hotkey.net.au

MEMBERSHP SECRETARY

Miss Barbara Kendrick
190 Shaftesbury Road
EASTWOOD 2122