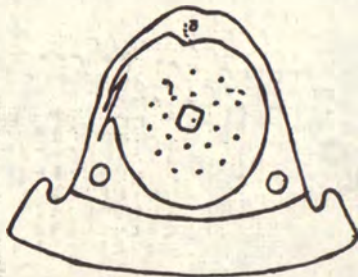


6  
TALL

The Australian Society  
of the  
Lace-makers of Calais



The Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais meets in the Meeting Room, downstairs in the NSW State Archives, 2 Globe Street, Sydney at 1 p.m.

THE MEETING DATES for 1984 are:

Saturday, 18th February, 1984

Saturday, 28th April, 1984

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, 14th July, 1984 (Bastille Day)

Saturday, 3rd November, 1984

*Calais*

## Issue 6 ..... February, 1984

You may remember that among the objects in our constitution are two that encourage us to;

"further research into the life and background of the Lacemakers of Calais and their descendants", and

"to encourage interest in the history of Australia through the activities and research of the Society".

To this end, the articles in "Tulle" aspire, and with your continued support will achieve. In this issue, as well as the reports from Secretary and Treasurer, and the continuation of the "Papers Relative to Emigration" and the "Bert Archer Story" we have an article from Marjorie Brown about "Luddites".

The topic for the next meeting of "Lacemakers" is to be a display of lacemaking by Miss. Lorna Hastman, a topic which should interest us all greatly.

OUR NEXT MEETING: 18th February, 1984  
AT: Archives Office,  
Globe Street,  
Sydney.  
AT: 1.00 pm

In writing out the "Bert Archer" Story, I have been constantly charmed by his little asides to the story of his family's life in what at first seem irrelevant comments, but read it again and you realise that not only are you privy to tiny snippets of folk history, the stuff of real people, but you have been privileged to witness the ability of a wonderful man who, at the age of seventy five, has set down all that he knows, remembers and has found out about his family in relation to their lives in Nottingham, Calais and

Australia. Quite apart from allowing us to share his story, we must applaud him for his historical research, and offer him thanks for sharing it all with us. Bert Archer has given us great example, one that we should all examine and see how we can follow. As I pointed out when I was elected, I am a historian who loves stories of how and why of people. It is up to us to write what we can remember of our families now while it is clear in our mind. What went on while we were children will be history by the year 2000.

How many more stories are out there waiting for publication? May we share them, with your recollections and asides? Bear in mind that at least two families intermarried that I know of. The Brownlows and Bransons both came out on the "Agincourt" and they are surely not the only families to be joined by marriage. If you can tell your story, unwittingly you may be helping a fellow member Lacemaker to untangle their historical maze. You will also be increasing our knowledge about our forebears and their way of life. If you have been hesitant to write your "family history" perhaps "Tulle" could provide you with a good springboard. Try it and see - we'd love to help and share.

Claire Loneragan

## Subscriptions

1983/84 subscriptions are now overdue. Anyone who has not yet paid \$15.00 per family and wishes to do so can send your subscription to:

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

# Luddites

Remember a request for information regarding DUDDTES and TUTTING? Well, from three sources here is the "gen" on LUDDITES.

About 1811, industrial distress was acute, especially in the Midland countries of England, and particularly in Nottingham and Leicestershire. Bodies of unemployed went about breaking machinery, which they regarded as the cause of their misfortunes.



7. SPINNERS DESTROY HARGREAVES' JENNY.

The riots continued in 1812 and broke out again in 1816, extending into Lancashire, Yorkshire, and other parts of the country. (By accident, the rioters became known as LUDDITES, from Ned Ludd, a boy living in a Leicestershire village -- although there is some doubt about this origin, and the leaders were called Captain Ludd.)

One such factory destroyed was HEATHCOAT'S, of Loughborough, a town in Leicestershire, where they wrecked his machine.

John Heathcoat, born at Duffield, Derbyshire, 1783, was an inventor. He started a business as a lace and net manufacturer, in Loughborough, and in 1808/9 produced his great invention, a machine for making imitation pillow lace. (Note: same Encyclopedia, elsewhere states "It was invented by John Leavers, a Nottingham mechanic".)

After the Luddites destroyed Heathcoat's machine in 1816, he moved to Tiverton, Devon, where he set up again as a lace maker. (First clue came from "Lace and Bobbins". "A History and Collector's Guide", then in "The Concise Universal Encyclopedia"). Shall

keep chasing TUTTING!

Marjorie Brown.

## From the Editor

Now that we have produced one "Tulle", some suggestions have come in, and one or two spring readily to mind. For those of you who would really like to see your family story in print but do not know how or where to start you might like to speak to someone who knows how you feel. Do you know how many times I start when I write for "Tulle"?! As I am at most meetings and am on the phone I am pretty accessible if you would like some encouragement.

A suggestion has come from a member for future "Tulle" copies:

Small entries about the types of laces - starting with HONITON - i.e. where made, when first made (if possible to find out) and brief description of same. Also: history of lace-making (from early times - which goes back to B.C. - I think.) M.B.

Can anyone help? Ed.

Now that my address is available on the cover, and the years' meeting dates also, could all contributions please be available for printing to my address six weeks before the next meeting date. And talking of contributions where are they? I can't write it all it would be very boring - this is your newsletter not mine. Come on write!!

Due to unforeseen difficulties the cover design has had to be changed but the framework Knitters' Arms will be held over and used next year.

Claire Loneragan.

P.S. I gratefully acknowledge all the help I am given in putting "Tulle" together

Ch.

# Book Reviews

THE FAMILY TREE DETECTIVE, By Colin D. Rogers (Manchester University Press, 145 pages).

Colin Rogers lectures at Manchester Polytechnic and has broadcast on the subject of family history. His experience in problem solving has given him the capacity to write a book which shows the researcher a variety of ways to solve the puzzles inherent in the adventure of family research.

All of the conventional basic steps for research in England and Wales are set out. However, Mr. Rogers then goes further and proffers alternative steps and commonsense suggestions to avoid the dead ends which so frustrate the amateur researcher.

Mr. Rogers writes in an entertaining style and illustrates his points with practical examples. If you are going to England or are planning to engage a researcher, then this book is a must.

PROTEST AND PUNISHMENT, By George Rude (Clarendon Press, 270 pages).

This is not a book about lacemakers. However, it is a book that touches on the turmoil that was Britain in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. The same turmoil that first drove the Lacemakers to travel and then to Australia.

The "Protest" section is an account of the various rebellions and civil disturbances which wracked England, Ireland, Wales and Scotland. Ribbonmen, Whiteboys, Fanians, Chartists, Rebecca's Daughters and Luddites all protested in some fashion against the oppressive conditions of their homeland. Their "Punishment" in the context of the book was transportation to Australia.

Whilst the "Fairley", "Harpley" and "Agincourt" were the Lacemaking ships, we find that the "Fortune", "Indefatigable" and "Earl Spencer" were the Luddite

ships. The "Agincourt" even features as bringing out some Chartist in 1844.

The Luddites originated in Nottingham and the movement quickly spread across England. At one stage, over 12,000 troops occupied the rebellious districts between Leicester and York. This was a larger army than Wellington took into the Peninsular Campaign. Many of the Nottingham Luddites and Chartists came to Australia and one wonders whether the Lacemakers made contact with them and their descendants.

For those looking for background to their families this book gives illustration of conditions in Britain before the Lacemakers commenced their travels.

Bob Wilson.

## Of Shoes and Ships and Sealing Wax

SYDNEY 1848

Sydney of 1848 was often a surprise for those who arrived here from a troubled Europe. Set on undulating hills around a very beautiful harbour, the city had a charm quite unexpected in a penal colony.

Sydney of 1984 has retained that charm and beauty and has the added excitement of a busy twentieth century city buzzing with people and activity. But if you want to look for it, the Sydney that our ancestors came to is still very evident.

In 1848 the worst of the 1840's depression was over, in fact the glint of gold was beginning to show here and there. Reports of a "show" at Lithgow, Bathurst and Wellington had begun to tickle people's imaginations. The fact that the American gold-rush came before Australia's did not hamper this country, it only delayed our gold-rush for four years.

Sydney was the gateway to the colony that had several years before, rid itself of the stigma of "Penal



colony". In 1842 Sydney achieved city status. The Sydney Morning Herald, had a daily circulation of 3,000 carrying advertisements and leading articles and was a "much respected paper". There were nine other papers all circulating less frequently. Both David Jones, a Welsh merchant and Joseph Farmer a silk mercer, linen draper and haberdasher had set up their stores. Mrs. McCathie and Mrs. Horden has also opened stores in Pitt Street, which together with George Street constituted the retail centre of the city. George Street was considered the "Pall Mall" of the colony.

Sydney was well serviced by "public houses", but the first of the "grand hotels" the Royal, was at the foundation stage in 1848,

St. Andrew's Cathedral was well on the way to completion, also lending Sydney an air of conservatism and respectability. Joseph Fowles in "Sydney 1848" records splendid theatre evenings in Sydney, even comparing them to Bond Street and Drury Lane.

Banking was well under way. Eight banks catered for servicing the financial needs of the people of Sydney and the colony's major export, wool. £24 million worth of prime fleece was exported from Sydney each year from a harbour that had been greatly improved by Colonel Barney's Semi Circular Quay. ~~providing~~ providing a deep water berth for the town and had rendered the rise and fall of the tide inconsequential by 1848. This effectively closed in the mouth of the Tank Stream which had become polluted by laundry water and chamber pots, which changed a once fresh water stream into a sewer. The rock used to construct the quay had been cut from the Argyle Cut, at once providing a through road from one side of the Rocks to another.

By the middle of the nineteenth century the Hyde Park Barracks provided lodging for immigrant arrivals. Free assisted migrants from England, Scotland and Ireland were given food, lodging and often counsel from Caroline Chisholm before they found work and lodgings of their own.

By 1843 the "Ferry Queen" plying between Blues' Point and Millers Point following in Billy Blues' tradition. This gave St. Leonards, a township of about 400 people, and the northern farmers, a regular transport to the city.

It is not difficult to close one's eyes and dream about Sydney of yesteryear. It is not really so far away. On a quite Sunday morning, it is quite easy to find again. One wonders how many ghosts wander the old corners of the city, gently keeping us aware of what our city once was.

For those who want to know more, try North Sydney 1788 -1962 by Isadore Brodsky, Highways of History by Geoffrey Scott, Essays from Nineteenth Century Sydney ed. by Max Kelly and The Sydney Scene 1788 - 1960 by Alan Birch and D.S. MacMillan.

Claire Loneragan

## The Archer Story ..... Pt. 4

Burt continues his story about his family living in the mid 1860's in Bathurst.

After his mother's death JANE took over the running of the George Street house FREDERICK FRANCIS - (Frank Jr.) took on house painting and became a responsible tradesman establishing his own private business. CATHERINE (KATE) was still only 15 years old still attending school. She was an attractive teenager, active and vivacious, never lost for conversation (Photos taken even in her 50's and 60's show that she was a beautiful woman). After the bushrangers left the George Street home, she could not stay still and had to rush round to De Chorrett (sp?) Piper Street Inn nearby to spread the news. CHARLES my grandfather was 13 years of age he was a quite humble chap, in many ways his nature was quite the reverse of KATE'S. He enjoyed fishing in the Macquarie River and its tributaries. SARAH was about 9 years of age; naturally the surname of ARCHER meant

a lot to her. Even at school the alphabet taught her "A stands for ARCHER who shot at a frog; but he missed and the frog jumped into the bog". And ARCHER had just won the 1861 and 1862 Melbourne Cups, and wrongly she was led to believe that her father FRED ARCHER was the renowned English jockey, the last of the Straight backed riders.

JANE ARCHER (born 11th March 1843 in Calais ref. issue No.4 "Tulle". ed.) married GEORGE CARR at Reedy Creek (near Parkes NSW) on 24th April 1875 after living for a few years with her brother CHARLES who was farming there and who claimed he had found a gold reef but had never worked it. No further info. re JANE known.

FREDERICK FRANCIS (Frank Jr.) was a keen rifle - shot. When about 28 years old he was out duck shooting with a mate, GOERGE BOYNE, his partner in their business of house, signwriting and decorative painting. Whilst getting through a fence at Orange he had part of his jaw blown away. It was his mate's gun that exploded, Doctor Kirkland extracted pieces of broken jaw bone and sizzled the flesh wound to prevent it turning septic, the operation being carried out without any anaesthetic agent. He grew a beard to hide the wound. He carried out big building contracts for the Government in the Orange-Bathurst District.

A (ADAM) DEIN, a German and friend of the family had a Bathurst Greengrocery business with a household delivery. He asked FREDERICK junior to do some signwriting on his cart. Being a foreigner in error "18" was painted instead of "A.DEIN"!

TO BE CONTINUED.

## Papers Relative to Emigration

### A HISTORY OF NEGOTIATION BETWEEN CALAIS, LONDON AND SYDNEY.

Information from these papers will be summarised where there is no great relevancy, and reprinted in

full where they are relevant. A complete set is held at the State Archives, Sydney and a complete copy held by the Society.

3. Summary of a letter from H.MERIVALE for EARL GREY to HON F. SCOTT, dated May 20, 1848.  
An answer to a proposal for a Society to promote private contributions towards emigration to Australia. An assurance is given of Lord Grey's desire to co-operate and this letter is offering advice in areas where difficulties have already occurred in order to direct the gentlemen's attention and efforts where it is of most practical use. He then goes onto list the pre-laid conditions.

Expenses which fall on Govt.

Passage money, maintenance at depot,  
Agency for Selection etc. = 15/- per head  
Change made of each by Commissioners  
Outfit, conveyance to place of embarkation  
(called bedding money) = 5/- to 6/-  
Total = 20/- to 21/-

It is pointed out that any contributor therefore bears a quarter of the cost, often unhappily. The writer then goes on to compare the cost of assisted passage to North America (5/-) and points out that while Australia has good labour prospects, America has similar benefits to offer and at a much reduced cost, and that benefactors may be understood for choosing America over Australia.

Another difficulty brought to the gentlemen's attention is that of the necessary class demarcation, and the distinctions that would need to be made if two distinct classes were given passage under either similar or different regulations. The suggestion is made that class definition and state that all persons accepting assisted passage and are accepted as emigrants be "placed in every respect on exactly the same footing".

Note is made that from time to time such changes as deemed necessary made be made to the regulations and changes. The choice of applicants must be left to the discretion of the Commissioners, although it is hoped that it will be from the group of industrious labourers rather than those suffering most severely from want (who presumably lacked industry! ed.)

There is a further suggestion that any contemplated society might lend the necessary money to an emigrant and regain the loan, plus interest on a later date in the colony; This however could not be done by a Government Agency.

## The Saywells ..... Pt. 1.

John Bunyan immortalised the name Saywell in Pilgrim's Progress where the character Saywell was so named because of his propensity to talk a lot. A prophetic reference to our President Bob, who is capable of talking a lot or "saying" well!...We take up Bob's story in Nottingham.

### NOTTINGHAM

In the last decade of the eighteenth century the Saywells moved with the swelling tide. They moved from Cambridgeshire to Nottingham.

Nottingham was the growing centre of industrialisation in the eastern midlands. The town was already a centre for the textile industry before the major inventions of the late eighteenth century. It had been the birthplace of the machine hoisery trade. In 1589 Reverend William Lee had invented the first mechanical means ever employed for producing a looped or knitted fabric. The framework knitters since then had worked in

their cottages on frames hired from and with yarn supplied by their masters, men with capital who merely organised the trade. Thus the organisation of the Nottingham economy had developed early into a capitalistic one. There existed a social structure waiting for new methods, methods that involved capital outlay and energetic organisation. The new methods came in the form of inventions by Hargreaves, Arkwright, Crompton and a host of others.

Hargreaves invented the spinning jenny in 1765. This machine allowed a large number of spindles to be operated by one wheel. Hargreaves moved to Nottingham and started a small mill. Four years later Arkwright, also associated with Nottingham, patented a machine for spinning by rollers worked by water power. This machine pioneered the factory concept as the machine needed to be centred on the source by inventing ancilliary machines which worked on other portions of the textile process. Ominously all of Arkwright's inventions were light to handle and could easily be operated by children - a great attraction to factory owners. In 1779 Crompton's mule further improved the quality of the threads produced by the earlier machines. This resulted in England being able to match the hand spun muslin of India and helped to secure for her the dominance in the world textile trade.

With the invention by Watt of the steam engine in 1782 the stage was set for the industrialisation of the textile towns of the midlands, and Nottingham, with its coal deposits, was admirably suited to be in the van of the new development. Modification of the stocking frame led to a lace mesh produced by mechanical means and the town soon led the world in this industry. Nottingham later became the centre for a large tobacco processing industry. Coal, lace and tobacco - products which were to play a significant role in the history of the Saywells.

So it was to this growing town that William Saywell junior came, probably in the last decade of the century which had spawned so many inventions significant to the future of the town. A move, as we shall see, which

started the family on a wandering existence for over one hundred years. Unlike the Bedouins, however, each move seems to have been made with the idea of settling down in their new land. William settled in Radford, an industrial suburb, to the west of Nottingham. Radford had once been a sleepy village but it was now one of the suburbs which contained what could be best described as shelters for the workers.

William became a framework knitter and, with the declaration of war in 1798, would have joined the industry at a time of boom. The war increased demand which could not be met by production capacity. Domestic prices rose for both farm and manufactured goods. The town itself was not without problems. Its population had risen from 10,000, in 1750, to 25,000 in 1793. The town limits were clearly defined and it was not possible to expand the town into the surrounding park. Whilst wild crocuses carpeted the meadows right up to the town and windmills spread their sails along the northern ridge, the increased population had to use the existing town area. The only solution was to build cramped and insanitary working class hovels. These conditions did not produce a contented populace. By 1798 there had been seventeen riots in the previous seventeen years.

There was a great deal of concern, amongst those in power, that the French Revolution would spread across the Channel. In 1800, riots again broke out over high food prices. Things then took a turn for the better. There was consternation in the farming community when a brief peace halved food prices. However "the patron saint not only of farmers but of landlords"<sup>1</sup>, Napoleon, came to rescue those who benefit from war. With the outbreak of war in 1805 food prices rose steadily. The people continued to voice their feelings about poor conditions. Byron, a friend of the workers, described

1. Prothero. "English Farming".

the town in 1806 as "that political Pandemonium, Nottingham". A pandemonium that was to continue for another thirty-six years.

In 1807 William married Christiana Burley at Radford thereby generating a family legend of being related to Lord Burghley. How well off were the young couple? Well their contemporaries were certainly in trouble. The economy was in a turmoil. Whilst wages were much higher than in the country the living conditions in the town were appalling and prices were high. Workers had to submit to an impersonal discipline handed out by brutal overseers and petty masters. After working a fourteen or fifteen hour day, often in unhealthy conditions, the workers dragged themselves home to crowded slums like Radford. This was a far cry from the peace and beauty of Cambridgeshire.

Bob Wilson.

## Treasurer's Report

We currently have \$990.69 in the Kitty; this will improve with in-coming 1984/85 Subscriptions. As a result of an interview on 2BL City Extra between Mr. Vine-Hall and Terence we have five new members to whom a warm welcome is issued. Thank you to the ABC for the opportunity to talk about "Lacemakers".

We offer Mrs. Higgins our best wishes for a speedy recovery. She has had a quick trip to hospital lately: we hope she recovers fully very soon.



# Secretary's Report

Meeting 5th November, 1983.

- \* A letter-head will be devised to be used for all correspondence carrying the tittle "The Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais", and possibly a small design of our logo-the lace bobbin.
- \* Contact will be made with the appropriate body in Adelaide regarding the reprinting Elizabeth Simpson's talk given earlier this year to this society and also it would seem to the South Australian group.
- \* Back copies of "Tulle" and Elizabeth Simpson's talk are available for a small charge. In this way new members can be fully conversant with all information that has been printed and can catch up on earlier installments of contributors work.
- \* If there are any mistakes on your correspondence could you please drop either Gillian Kelly or Claire Loneragan a note so that we can correct it.
- \* All comments regarding the cover, lay-out and contents of "Tulle" will be greatly appreciated.

# Secretary's Report

Meeting on November, 1953.

A letter-head will be revised to be used for all correspondence carrying the name of "The Australian Society of the Lace-makers of Paris", and possibly a small design of our logo on the face of the book.

Contact will be made with the appropriate body in Australia regarding the printing of the book. The given edition of the book to this society and also in world war to the South Australian group.

Back copies of "Paris" and Elizabeth Simpson's book are available for a small charge. This way new members can be fully conversant with all information that has been printed and can catch up on earlier installments of contributors very.

If there are any mistakes on your correspondence could you please drop a note to the Editor or Claire to arrange a note so that we can correct it.

All comments regarding the cover, layout and contents of "Paris" will be appreciated.

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CALAIS

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