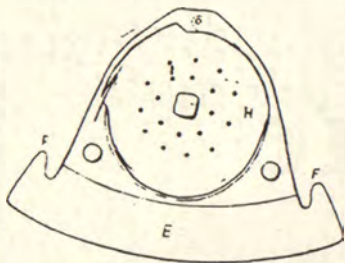




TULLÉ

The Australian Society  
of the  
Lace-makers of Calais



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

THE MEETING DATES for 1984/85 are:

Saturday, 3rd November, 1984

Saturday, 16th February, 1985

Saturday, 27th April, 1985

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, 13th July, 1985

Saturday, 2nd November, 1985

# Issue 5 ~ October, 1983

## TULLE

Welcome to our second year of publication. You are already aware of the updated format of TULLE. It is the result of help from many quarters, first and foremost Bob Wilson and Chris Sutton for the basis and care that was evident in our first year's publications. They provided us with the name TULLE and our logo, Leaver's lace making bobbin and carriage. Next we have to thank Ingrid Saywell for all her ideas and design for the cover. Her use of a grid background to give the impression of tulle is brilliant.

This year's covers will all have the Frame Work Knitters' Arms reprinted from The Machine Wrought Hosiery and Lace Manufacturers by William Felkin, F.L.S., F.S.S. sent to us by Lindsay Watts. Future years may well use other appropriate illustrations; we thought this a good beginning.

You will also note that we now have a full year's calendar set out inside the cover. This gives us all ample time to arrange attendance at the meetings. Please note that due to unavoidable miscalculation and lack of consultation with some office bearers 29 October, 1983 is not a convenient meeting date.

OUR NEXT MEETING: 5 November 1983  
AT: Archives Office,  
Globe Street,  
Sydney.  
AT: 1.00 pm

The main subject of this meeting will be a "Workshop" to try and solve some problems that we all face - not necessarily "Lacemaker" difficulties, any that



have arisen from tangents that you have taken out from our Lacemaker families.

Nick Vine-Hall taped the Commemorative Service for Phillip Geeves held at St Stephen's in Macquarie Street and has indicated to Bob Wilson that we may have a copy of this tape. We also have been offered a copy of the A.B.C. Radio 1 Eulogy that went to air the day after Phillip died. We intend to play these tapes as soon as they come to hand.

Copies of Elizabeth Simpson's interview on 2 GB on 14 June will be available at our next meeting for those who indicated that they wanted one.

This "editorial" would not be complete without a sincere thank you to Bob Wilson, Chris Sutton, Terence Higgins, Gillian Kelly and Theo Saywell for all the hours, work and care they put into the first year of our Society. From all of us who picked your brains, appreciated your talents and enjoyed your organisation - Thank you!

Our opening mailing list numbered 51. Since then we have grown to number 70. We have reciprocal arrangements with several other societies and will send copies of TULLE to the National Library, Canberra and the State Archives, Sydney. With this success in mind, we begin our second year with high standards to live up to, and hopes for a successful, interesting year ahead.

Claire Loneragan

## President's Report

I hope that this annual report to members is the first of many such reports.

The Society was founded on 12th June, 1982. We are indebted to the early work done by Bert Archer, Lenore Keays, Chris Sutton, Elizabeth Simpson and Margaret Audin who gathered together the various groups.

In the fourteen months of its existence the Society has grown in scope and accumulated knowledge. However we still have a long way to go before we can confidently say that the Society has come of age. Members will recall that the objects in our constitution are:

- \* to bring together those members of the world community who hold a common heritage i.e. the descendants of the British Lacemakers who lived and worked in Calais in the 18th and 19th centuries, many of whom were part of the mass migration from Britain to Australia in 1848.
- \* to strengthen the ties between descendants of the Lacemakers in Australia and overseas.
- \* to further research into the life and background of the Lacemakers of Calais and their descendants.
- \* to encourage interest in the history of Australia through the activities and research of the Society.

A subsidiary objective is to produce a history of the Australian descendants.

The Society has progressed along a path towards achieving those objectives. There were five meetings held during the year. At those meetings we have heard talks by the North Shore Cavalcade Group, Lindsay Watts, Chris Sutton and Elizabeth Simpson. Subjects have included lacemaking and design, methods of conducting research, family histories of the Bromheads and Stubbs, the history of Nottingham and the computer project. Discussion has been lively and the meetings enthusiastically successful.

There have been four issues of TULLE during the year and articles have been contributed by Lindsay Watts, Theo Saywell, Bert Archer, Bob Wilson and Margaret Audin.

Membership figures now stand at 73. Some of these people get in under the family scheme and therefore the figures do not correspond exactly to membership income. Two people were made honorary members during the year - they were Elizabeth Simpson and Margaret Audin. We have members from South Australia, Victoria, Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales and Queensland. Many are from country areas of New South Wales.

Our overseas contacts with Elizabeth and Margaret were enriched. Firstly by correspondence from them and secondly by Elizabeth's visit to Australia. I consider the highlight of the year to have been our meeting on 28th May at the Salvation Army Hall when most of us met Elizabeth for the first time. Not only was it memorable because of the presence of that fine historian and speaker, it was also so because of the effort that the members made.

It was planned to hold our Annual Meeting as close to that May Meeting as possible and you will recall that it was set down for 16th July. A date also significant because of its proximity to Bastille Day. Unfortunately the prolonged train strike interfered with our plans. The wide geographic distribution of our membership makes us susceptible to transport problems.

Our project for storing details of the lace-makers and their descendants in a computer file has progressed. Requests have gone out for members to prepare data on their families. A copy of the pre-1900 microfiche of Births, Deaths and Marriages for NSW has been purchased and is available for use by members. The Saywell descendants have compiled a list of over 400 names of their relatives.

Research facilities are available through

Elizabeth Simpson and Margaret Audin for further study of our families' overseas history. The Society now has copies of the passenger lists for the Fairlie, Harpley and Agincourt. Chris Sutton will gladly provide details from these lists.

A sad note to our year was the loss of Philip Geeves. Mr Geeves has done much to bring history to the common people in the last decade. How sad that he will not be here for Australia's celebrations in 1988. His popularising of our history and hence creating an interest in our culture has done much to assist this nation in identifying itself as a mature, independent and multicultural country proud of its origins and achievements.

I would like to pay tribute to his part in founding this Society. He gave our cause publicity when it was asked for. It is pleasing that we can recall that we acknowledged our debt to him by letter during the year.

I wish to acknowledge the help of the office bearers in this first year of existence. Chris Sutton, Gillian Kelly and Terence Higgins and Theo Saywell have all assisted in the running of the Society. The Society thanks you for your effort. The Society of Genealogists have also been good friends to us - Nick Vine Hall arranged Elizabeth's tour and they also gave us publicity. Lastly, thank you to the Members of the Society. Without your interest and support we would not exist. I look forward to the coming year with enthusiasm. Let us remember our objectives and strive to further them.

Bob Wilson  
1983

# Treasurer's Report

Australian Society of Lacemakers of Calais.

Balance Sheet at date 30th June 1983.

## INCOME

Subscriptions	\$1140.00	** (Inc. \$450-1984)
Donations	97.00	*** (Inc. \$12 don. at
Interest		Spec. Mtg)
	(\$2.93; \$1.55;	
	\$10.53)	15.01
Lace Sales	186.00	
Book Sales	22.00	
		<hr/>
	\$1460.01	<hr/>

## EXPENDITURE

Stationery	\$ 3.41
Simpson/Audin Gifts	
(A\$50 each + Exc.)	106.20
Postage <u>TULLE</u>	14.70
" "	18.47
Shipping List	29.70
Exs. Special Meeting	50.00
Reg. Gen. Film	150.00
Govt Tax	.46
	<hr/>
	\$ 372.94

Bank S/ment	\$1137.07	Balance at Bank	\$1087.07
Actual Cash	\$1087.07	U/P Cheque	50.00
	<hr/>		



# From the Publicity Office

Be it on your own heads that you elect me your Publicity Officer for 1983/84 and hand over to me the precious job of producing, in collaboration with Mariane Waterford, our quarterly Newsletter, TULLE. Let me tell you now, at the outset, I am not our family historian; your duly elected Secretary, Gillian Kelly is. I am just an ordinary historian, lover of stories and how and why our world came to be as it is. For me, family history is a little like a child excluded from a game unless it is put into the context of a wider history of what else was going on, and why. When you know that and acknowledge its bearing on what you are researching, i.e. your own family, then your child can enter the game and play a real part. Never forget that without people, there is no history, and your people are part of history.

With all that in mind I would like to try and provide some stories of interest to all of us about the world of our great, great grandparents. I appeal to you all to help. Let us all share the interesting, funny, even tragic snippets either of your own family stories of time past or the general ones that you find of interest. If writing them poses a problem, we can help and we will publish them in a corner entitled Of Shoes -- and ships -- and sealing wax (with thanks to Lewis Carroll!). That title gives you all the scope in the world. As this is your quarterly newsletter it is not going to be terribly interesting if Mariane and I write it all, you must add your spoke to the wheel, so that it turns well, even with a little literary class!

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  
Villa 3  
14 Albert Street  
BEXLEY NSW 2207.

## Of Shoes....Ships....Sealing Wax

### SKIPPING ROPES

Did our forefather Lacemakers use "bobbins" to hold the thread and feed it into the knitting machines? If so, what happened to them all? There must have been hundreds of thousands of them if my idea of a lace knitting machine is anything like correct.

The question has probably not passed itself into the area of "family history" research, but on a broader horizon of social history it is worth a quiet thought - "What did happen to the bits and pieces of machinery?" "Who made them in the first place?" "Who provided spare parts?" "Was the machine operator also the machine manufacturer?" "What sort of support industry did the Lace industry need?" Many questions spring to mind and could so easily be dismissed with the excuse "those days are long gone - who would have kept old bits of machines."

Thank God for small concerns like "Discovery Antiques Limited" of York, England who have done just that - kept, or either found and kept old bits considered junk. Not only are they responsible for finding such things as bobbins form the textile industry of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, but

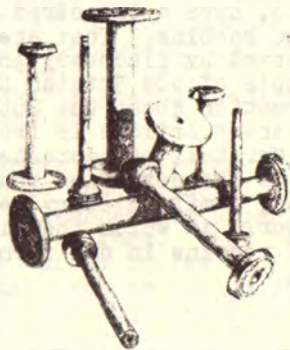
they are currently re-cycling them in the form of skipping ropes!

"Skipping ropes!" I hear you say with a little humour and perhaps fading interest; but before you skip the rest of this article and pass on to something else I want you to know that they are the nicest skipping ropes in the world! "Why?" you ask -- ah -- got you in, haven't I? Well let me tell you they are.

Think about it. In the 19th century (just about the time most of us are most interested) most of the bobbins used by the textile industry of Britain and Ireland were made in the Lakeland District of England. This area is richly endowed with trees and water power and by early Victorian times supported nearly seventy bobbin mills. Bobbins were sent out from there to supply the British Isles, Ireland and America. They were made of ash, sycamore, birch, alder and hazel-wood, turned on lathes powered by a water wheel.

When the bobbins wore out, or the design needed to be changed, the textile mills threw them out and replaced them. As there would be little opportunity for the children of the mill-workers to have "shop" toys they had to use what they could find - an iron hoop, a simple cart or a skipping rope. Two old bobbins and a length of window sash cord makes a great skipping rope. The bobbins are turned and worn so there are no splinters, and with a hole through the centre the rope moves easily. The result could well have been a highly treasured toy, one to brighten an otherwise pretty grim life.

## "BOBBINS"



"How," you ask, "do you know all this?" Because I, too, have a treasure~~d~~ skipping rope made with recycled bobbins. They are the "genuine article" collected by Discovery Antiques of York, together with a sample of old British Skipping Rhymes, and some information about the Bobbin Industry. The basis for this short article is from notes written by J.D. Marshall of Lancaster University.

So the next time you settle into the next phase of your family history research, spare a thought for the world in which they lived, and how much of it still remains in one form or another, even skipping ropes.

Claire Loneragan.

## **Elizabeth Simpson**

### Visit to the Hunter Valley

The results of a visit of such a noted historian are still being felt throughout the Hunter region. The newly formed Newcastle Family History Society gained the impetus to develop and grow into a healthy and viable group and the Maitland Historical Society has become more aware of the story behind the arrival of the lacemaking immigrants who went there in 1848.

Elizabeth was not to be deterred by a very heavy head cold and pleurisy, and fulfilled all the commitments on her schedule, commencing with an address to the members of the Family History Society on a very cold and wet Monday night. Next morning it was early rising from our beds and off to Maitland where we were met by members of their Historical Society and taken on a well conducted tour of the region. Elizabeth was deeply moved by the experience of travelling along the same road that was taken by the lacemakers when they walked from the wharf at Morpeth to their barracks at East Maitland. She could not believe



that the immigrants would have had to trudge such a distance carrying babies and baggage and she asked, "Was there no transport? Was there no compassion?" She was told that there probably was some transport at a price, but the immigrants would be guarding their pennies at this stage. To the second question the reply was that the colony was not built on compassion!

After an enjoyable lunch which was provided by Mr and Mrs Arkell, we adjourned to the Morpeth Community Hall where Elizabeth delivered her paper on the Lacemaking Industry in Nottingham. This lecture was well received and some thirty copies were purchased by those present. That evening our guest stayed with Joan Latter at Tocal and there must be something in that crisp Maitland air, for it was a bright and revitalised woman who greeted me the next morning. Elizabeth had visited the Tocal Agricultural College and Sketchley Cottage at Raymond Terrace and was fascinated by what she had seen.

But with the sight-seeing over it was down to the business of the seminar at Newcastle University. The auditorium was packed and many people were turned away because of lack of space. It would be foolish of me to try to describe Elizabeth's lecture, let it suffice to say that when Mr and Mrs Arch Grey were introduced to her at interval, Nancy Grey took Elizabeth's hand and said "Brilliant, my dear, absolutely brilliant."

No summary of the visit would be complete without some reference to the visit to Old Sydney Town. Elizabeth had expressed the desire to us to see this tourist attraction, but with concern for her health we tried to deter her. Even on Wednesday evening just prior to the seminar no decision had been made, but not to be circumvented, and with a twinkle in her eye, Elizabeth told all those present at the seminar that she was hoping that her hosts would take her to Old Sydney Town next morning.

Yes, we did go, freezing cold wind and all, it proved to be an enjoyable morning, but then it was back into Gosford and farewell to our friend. How fortunate we are that this wonderful English lady has espoused our families' histories. We look forward to her next visit, may it be soon.

Lindsay Watts.

## The Archer Story - Pt 3

We take up the Archer story after three and a half months aboard the Agincourt.

"Two hundred and sixty three refugee emigrants sailed in the Agincourt to Sydney. After arriving there, one band of one hundred and twenty one went to Bathurst and another band of one hundred and twenty eight went to Maitland, whilst fourteen remained in Sydney.

The ARCHERS only spent two or three days in Sydney. They then took eight days to cross the Blue Mountains and reach Bathurst. It rained for over a week. The Bathurst Government Immigration Depot, which was the old Ordinance Building, was overcrowded and Edward Austin's warehouse nearby was used as a temporary refuge.

FREDERICK ARCHER, senior, was engaged as a Farm Servant or Farmhand by grazier George Ranken on the "Saltram" and "Kellasheil" properties - this was about the last week of October, 1948.

Several of the other Agincourt emigrants got work at Clement's Copper Mine, Summerhill, Rockley.

The first colonial born child of FREDERICK and MARY ARCHER was my grandfather, CHARLES ARCHER, who was born at "Saltram" on 30th September, 1849. CHARLES was christened there on the 17th October, 1849 when at the same time FREDERICK FRANCIS, junior, and

CATHERINE, were also christened by the Wesleyan Bathurst Circuit Mission.

Following the discovery of payable gold in the Bathurst District, FREDERICK ARCHER left working at "Saltram" and tried gold mining, first Ophir, then at Sofala. Coincidentally George Ranken advertised in the Bathurst Free Press Newspaper that horses had been stolen from "Saltram", and that the thieves would be prosecuted. FREDERICK ARCHER had no success panning gold and on 16th February, 1852 he joined the NSW Rural Constabulary stationed at Bathurst. For a few years the family lived in William Street. About 1859 FREERICK returned to work at "Saltram" and the family moved to George Street at the top end of the town.

SARAH FRANCIS ARCHER was born on 3rd June, 1853 at William Street, Bathurst and christened by the Wesleyan Bathurst Circuit Mission on 31st August, 1853.

JAMES JOHN ARCHER was born on 11th November, 1857 at William Street and died on 3rd September 1860.

Two other sons died at birth before that of JAMES. MARY ARCHER died on 13th December, 1862 at George Street, Bathurst, after three months suffering from dysentary caused by a disorder of the colon. FREDERICK, senior, was at that time again working back at "Saltram" as a farmhand.

It was in 1863 that the Ben Hall Bushranger Gang raided Bathurst. The ARCHERS at the time lived in the last house at the top end of George Street. The Gang skirted around the eastern foothills of the Bald Hill and passes across the Racecourse area, known as "The Park", to enter the top end of the town. They hid their horses among the trees here. It was late in the afternoon when they came to the first house in George Street, occupied by the ARCHER family, which was opposite the old local cemetery, near where it encroached on part of George Street. Most of the ARCHER children were at home. Father at the

time was working at "Saltram". However, the children gave the Bushrangers something to eat. It was about 7 pm before the Gang finally rode into the Town Shopping Centre."

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.

1. Summary of a Despatch from Earl Grey to Governor Sir C.A. Fitzroy, dated 7 July, 1848:

An answer to Despatch No. 198 regarding the resources of the colony of New South Wales, and great demand for labour, particularly in the form of emigrants from the United Kingdom.

2. Summary of a Despatch from Earl Grey to Governor Sir C.A. Fitzroy dated 7 July, 1848.

An answer to Despatch No. 195 referring to demand for labour and requests for renewal of emigration to the colony. Grey goes on to enlarge upon the importance of the subject. The advantage of emigration is accepted, but a loan application for £1 million (sterling) is turned down, a refusal that is softened with anxious encouragement for the emigration ideas, and the reminder that the Governor does have the authority to raise "a moderate loan".

It continues to suggest that "some contribution



should be sought from those parties in this country who have some interest in immigration. The costs of sending a man to Australia is upwards of 20/- while the corresponding cost to America is only upwards of 5/-. This difference is noted and pointed out, with resulting implications of difficulty in obtaining emigrants for N.S.W.. Due to the fact that there are lately many more applicants for assisted passages, it has been decided to levy 1/- (experimentally) on each participant, including each child, thus waiving the clause permitting large families being part of the scheme. Greater publicity, greater knowledge of the advantages of the Australian colonies and increased number of applicants give rise to hope that emigration may be renewed with more success.

There is also a suggestion that boards of charitable organisations be encouraged to help less fortunate applicants. An example of such people is cited as "a body of workmen obliged to quit Calais in consequence of the events which have occurred this year in France."

Grey then finalises his letter with a brief description of these people and the suggestion that "there were strong grounds to consider that their introduction would be a benefit to the colony."

"They were described to me as a highly intelligent party of men, able-bodied, and although not falling within any of the particular trades or callings admissible under the usual regulations, yet well aware of the nature of their prospects in the colony, and anxious to adapt themselves to those pursuits which would be there most useful at once to themselves and the community. For the men possessing these qualifications, a contribution of 4/- a head has been paid from the Committee for the relief of British workmen, in addition to providing the requisite outfit, and I trust that this will be viewed in the colony as a favourable specimen of that immigration which the Council have expressed themselves anxious to effect by means of a joint expenditure out of

British and Colonial resources.

I have, &c.,  
(signed) GREY."

TO BE CONTINUED.

## COMPUTER INDEX DATA

Chris Sutton is keying in data on the Lacemakers families. Members should make out information sheets in the following format and send them to Chris.

FAMILY NAME:

FILE:\*

SURNAME:

CHRISTIAN NAMES:

DATE OF BIRTH:

CERT. NUMBER:

PLACE:

SON OR DAUGHTER OF:

&

SPOUSE:

DATE OF MARRIAGE:

CERT. NUMBER:

PLACE:

CHILDREN IN ORDER OF BIRTH:

EDUCATION:

RELIGION:

POLITICAL ALLEGIANCE:

MEMBERSHIP OF ORGANISATIONS:

MAIN PLACES OF RESIDENCE:

CAREER:

SPECIAL INTERESTS/ACHIEVEMENTS/COMMENTS:

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

DATE OF DEATH:

DEATH CERT. NUMBER:

CAUSE:

PLACE:

COMMENT:

\* For the oldest generation of the family who arrived on the immigrant ships place 0 in the "File" entry. The next generation will be 1, the following will be 2 etc. For generations prior to family 0 use minus numbers so that parents will be -1 and the grandparents -2 etc.

THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF THE LACEMAKERS OF

CALAIS

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