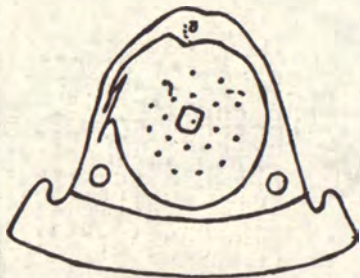


TULLE

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

Blaise

Issue 7 April, 1984

Contributions have begun to trickle in to break the editorial monotony. Thank you to Marjorie Brown, Lucy Bates, Lindsay Watts and Pat Stewart. Kingsley Ireland has also written including some family history from the Langmire Family. This will be reproduced in an article in the next edition of Tulle. I have made contact with the Australian Lace Guild (NSW Branch), and have been invited to their Lace Day on 15th April at St Patrick's College, Sutherland. It runs from 10 am to 3.30 pm, with talks, workshops and a raffle. If you are interested, give Lija Wettstein a ring on (Sydney) 9494126.

I have been in contact with several restaurants and a catering group in connection with the proposed lunch for 14th July, 1984. If you have any suggestions please bring them to our next meeting on:

28th April, 1984
AT: The Archives,
2 Globe Street,
Sydney.

*(Gillian Kelly will
talk about the
Bransons)*

AT: 1.00 pm,

or perhaps you could give me a ring on (02) 869 1670.

Any more comments or suggestions about any aspect of Tulle would be greatly appreciated. Some of the suggestions to date are:

* Small snippets of family history (humorous anecdotes) particularly of our lace-maker families.

* Interesting happenings of present day lace-maker members as they find new information about their ancestors - especially by unusual means!

* I think someone said there were still Saywells in Calais - so I expect there are other French cousins of other families there too, so would someone who can write French be prepared to write to a representative of their family in Calais, and ask how the family has progressed (and if any are still in the lace industry). Phone books/OTC/GPO/French Consulate may help. This may be another way of learning more of our ancestors and their way of life and may be suitable for translation for Tulle. (Editor's Note: Not me - my total French is Non, oui, Madame, Mousier, Capachino, also Merci!!!)

* Photos of an 1848 lacemaker arrival - or of their home or possessions - with details sufficient for a caption paragraph. I (Marjorie Brown) will start it off with Frances Saywell.

* Do any of our members correspond with English cousins - particularly those who live in the region from which their ancestors originated? Would the English cousin be prepared to write an article for Tulle - perhaps about the history of the region. Chances are that more than one of our families came from the same area/town/village, particularly if in the Nottingham district, so that more than one of us would be interested.

* Maybe we could have a day when we brought in any photos of those who arrived in 1848, or any possessions which they brought with them - china, jewellery, ornaments, embroidery (the women did a lot on their way out here) and particularly any LACE - even if it's crochet or tatting.

(Many thanks for all the above, Marjorie Brown!)

Kingsley Ireland would like to suggest a research project for the Society which arises from an article in the South Australian Register concerning the "Harpley", but which would surely be relevant to all the Calais folk:

a) Could a Memorial to Lord Palmerston from Calais, 12th April, 1848 survive in the Public Record

Office or Parliamentary Records, England?

b) A copy of Lord Palmerston's reply which was received three days later.

c) Mr Cooper's scrutiny into the characters and circumstances of the memorialists.

d) Records of the Benevolent Committee at the Mansion House under Lord Ashley.

e) Speech of Mr Commissioner Wood aboard the "Harpley" at Gravesend - this may have been reported in a London newspaper.

Kingsley suggests that, as this research is quite expensive, and this information may be of benefit to many members that a fund could perhaps be set up for this purpose.

Lindsay Watts suggests that we should have a section called Profile, with or without a picture. Each issue could contain one profile or Lacemaker history. Also there must be a lot of good obituaries which we could reprint.

Many thanks for those suggestions. Once again it is over to you. Please don't feel that a contribution has to be lengthy. A paragraph or two is more than enough.

Claire Loneragan

Of Shoes and Ships and Sealing Wax The Boy from Cork.

It is curious how we manage to find out who our ancestors were and in many cases a tangled web in which we find ourselves. It is worth noting where Pat Stewart went for information for this article.

This story is not about a lacemaker, but it concerns a young man who married a lacemaker's granddaughter; a story that brought me into the fascinating world of family history, and so to the Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais.

The lacemaker was George Saywell, and his granddaughter, Fanny Summerhayes of Young, NSW, married the young man of my story.

He was my grandfather, Gerald McGee. I remember him from my childhood as a tall dignified old man, who played Cribbage; and bought presents for his grandchildren at Christmas. He was a quiet man, and I think, a sad one ... after sixteen years of marriage he lost his beloved Fanny, and was left to rear seven children.

My mother was his daughter, Kathleen. I grew up in the knowledge that her mother had died when she was eight; and that her father "came from Cork".

She outlived her brothers and sisters, and towards the end of her life often wandered back to events of her childhood. One day I heard her say, "Dad said that the brown eyes of his little Kathleen were his greatest comfort." I have spent the last four years learning more about this quiet, gentle Irishman.

One of my first discoveries was that he was born in County Carlow, so if he "came from Cork" it could only mean that the ship to Australia sailed from there! I spent an entire day looking at shipping records on microfilm and decided there had to be an easier way!

I knew my grandfather had a brother, John, who had lived in Brisbane, so I located his granddaughter, and now quote from her letter telling me how the McGee family

"travelled to Australia, the two brothers working their way as tradesmen on the ship and they paid the passage of their parents. North Queensland was the first part of Australia they touched and according to my grandfather they saw Bowen after it had been devastated by a cyclone, and went to settle in Sydney."

A friendly voice from the Bureau of Meteorology

in Sydney told me over the telephone that Bowen had been flattened by a hurricane on 30.1.1884. A subsequent visit to the Queensland State Archives was a disappointment; all that I learned was that 1884 was the Year of the Big Flood, and all records had been destroyed by the flood waters.

Back in Sydney, Electoral Rolls and Postal Directories confirmed that the McGees had arrived in Sydney early in 1884.

On 6th February, 1984 I went to the NSW State Archives and requested Reel 459, the shipping records for January to February, 1884. I scanned all the records of ships coming from Queensland, until I came to the Steamship "Cunajong", from the port of Rockhampton, which arrived in Sydney on 10th February, 1884. There recorded in the neat writing of the Master, J.E. Butcher, were the names of my great-grandparents and their two sons.

At last I knew when they arrived in Sydney! ... but will I ever know if they sailed from Cork, or maybe London where the sons had been working? Did they leave in a steamer or sailing vessel? Did it go as far as Rockhampton, and if not, how did they reach there from Bowen?

Perhaps they had intended to settle in Queensland. If it had not been for that hurricane Gerald may never have seen Sydney. It is unlikely he would have gone to work in Young ... or married Fanny. And I would not have been the great-great granddaughter of a lacemaker.

Patricia Stewart
March, 1984.

Living by the River.

Written by Lucy Bates and Lindsay Watts this is the story of what the immigrants found when they got

to New South Wales. This new start meant they were no longer lacemakers, but shopkeepers farmers and labourers. Life was going to be very different.

As seasonal changes dominate the life of any rural community, so it was with many of the Lacemaker immigrants who came to the Hunter Valley on the steamer "Maitland" in 1848. Their ship entered the Hunter River through the port of Newcastle, they travelled past the swamplands we now know as Hexham and along fertile river flats until they reached the town of Morpeth. The beauty of their new homeland may have been lost to many of the newcomers as they bustled about in preparation for disembarkment and the long walk to their barracks at Stockade Hill, East Maitland.

As they walked along the road that follows the river's path, little did they dream just how much this stream would influence their lives. The local newspaper recorded their arrival and tells how they were drenched by a sudden downpour. Was this an omen? A foretaste of the vagaries of the colony's weather?

Heavy rains, floods and freshes have always been part and parcel of life in Maitland, it was the floods which had provided the river flats with such rich alluvial soil and this in turn drew the free settlers away from the government town of East Maitland, which was flood free, but had poor soil. With good yields of crops and thriving livestock the town of West Maitland prospered and became the major stopping place for the ever increasing number of north bound travellers.

Substantial dwellings were erected along this north road and it became known as High Street and it was in this street that John and Jane Bromhead established their home and business, choosing to live on the river side and near the embankment. Not a very wise choice as it later proved to be.

In those early days the immigrants had to contend with the problems associated with minor floodings of the Hunter River, but it was a boating accident which brought the realities of the dangers of dwelling by the river home to John and Jane. After sharing the joys of Christmas with their family, tragedy struck. On 27th December, 1857 their little daughter Jane was drowned. The Mercury records:

A CHILD DROWNS

"A melancholy accident occurred last evening in the river. It is difficult to glean the particulars of what happened from the bystanders, but appears that a party of youngsters were in a boat, and one of them had in his arms Mr John Bromhead's daughter, of about 18 months. By some means the child suffered to fall overboard, it was about 7 o'clock. Boats were soon procured and the river was dragged, but we did not hear last evening that the body had been found."

The Mercury also reported John Bromhead's involvement in another river drowning in 1861. It would appear that he was at Mr Bromhead's barber shop at 8.30 pm and although somewhat enebriated he was able to walk, he left the shop and was not seen alive again. Next morning his body was found, stiff and cold at the rear of the shop. He had slipped down the embankment and drowned.

In 1864 Maitland, ^{experienced} a major flood and yet again there is reference to the Bromhead family in the Mercury. It is recorded that:

"Mr John Bromhead's house was badly undermined by flood waters, large pieces of the river bank fell from under and along side of the house, four of the six rooms overhung the river after the landslide. It was feared that the house would go bodily if left any longer and so to save the material of which it was made Mr Bromhead had the

back portion taken down."
He later removed the rest of the house.

John must have had enough of living on the river's bank, because he then established his business and home on the other side of the road, on the spot where the present Administration Building now stands. This was not a flood free area, but at least the foundations for their premises were more stable. As a Christian John should have known that a wise man always builds his house upon a rock.

The floods continued right through the 1870's and 1880's, culminating in the most devastating one of all in 1893. The river raged through the town and rich farmlands, causing loss of life and property. When the waters subsided it was found that the river had actually cut itself a new course, eliminating the horseshoe bend and the embankment that verged on High Street. This part of the old river bed now forms part of Maitland's Sports Ground. Despite such trials and tribulations, the town thrived and grew, bringing prosperity to those who had the tenacity to withstand the worries and sorrows that came with living by the river. This included my ancestors and probably many others who came on the "Agincourt".

Lucy Bates
Great, great granddaughter of John
and Jane Bromhead.

From the Editor

I would like to set up a reference resource file that could be made available to all members for help with their historical research. Mind you, I have never tackled anything like this, but it does seem a good idea, and a sensible way of sharing with other members the work that individuals have done. This means I will depend on you to send me the names

of reference materials that you have found helpful and on what topic/topics it was most informative. Then I shall endeavour to cross reference all the material so that on request I shall be able to give a list of areas for you to try. Already I have a small reference library of my own and am building up quite a file of information into the divergent areas of Lace, Machine-made lace, Nottingham and the Industrial Revolution. The Book Reviews will be included. In order for it to be a success you will all have to share. The resources do not necessarily have to be books. People, pictures, houses, letters and government papers all tell stories. Don't forget to help the older members of your families to "remember the old days" on tape or in written form, then use that resource in your own work.

P.S. Don't forget that the Claire Loneragan meeting on 14.7.84 is our A.G.M. We look forward to seeing as many of you all as possible.

Book Reviews

by Marjorie Brown

POPULAR DISTURBANCES AND PUBLIC ORDER IN REGENCY ENGLAND, by Frank Ongley Darvall, first published 1934, reprinted in 1969 with new introduction.

An account of the Luddites and other disorders in England during the years 1811-1817 and of the attitude and activity of the authorities.

Three other books, by J.L. Hammond and Barbara Hammond tell about the way of life of the working man. They are:

THE SKILLED LABOURER, first published in 1919, then 1920 and 1927. A new edition with new introduction and bibliographical note published in 1979.

THE TOWN LABOURER

This is an account of the condition of the urban working class during the Industrial Revolution based on contemporary sources.

THE VILLAGE LABOURER

This is a detailed account of the condition of the rural working class during the Industrial Revolution.

Both Dr Darvall's and the Hammonds' books have a lot of notes and references - and Dr Darvall's book has a long Bibliography, which may be of help if anyone wishes to delve further into the days of the Luddites.

The Archer Story Pt.5

We left Frederick Francis (Frank) working as a sign writer in Bathurst ... Burt continues.

FREDERICK FRANCIS (Frank) ARCHER, junior, b. 1845, married ELLEN HILTON on 29th May, 1868 at North Sydney, and went to Orange to live. They had twelve children, half of whom were born in Orange. About 1880, the family went to live in Bathurst and the rest of the family were born there.

Their fourth child, MARY ADA ARCHER, who had been born in 1874, became a choir member of the Bathurst "All Saints" Church. When 18 years old she died of diptheria on 2nd April, 1893. From 1880 on, most of the family became active members of this Bathurst church and were a main-stay thereof. FREDERICK was a substantial subscriber to the "All Saints" Church belfry tower building fund, in spite of a temporary disagreement with the church treasurer. The tower had a peal of six bells. The

"Sloman Papers" list FREDERICK ARCHER as a bellringer.

From about 1885 the ARCHERS lived at 90 Piper Street in a row of terraces known as ARCHER TERRACE. Here the ARCHER boys, as a prank, used to tie string to door knockers across the road and pull! When the door was opened to the knock, the occupant would find no-one there.

One of these ARCHER boys, a 23rd generation member of the clan, was ERNEST GEORGE ARCHER who became a well known singer and friend of Dame Nellie Melba.

Most of the sons of FREDERICK FRANCIS (jnr) took up the painting trade, as also did several of the grandsons, and even today in 1983, we find two Bathurst members of the clan are painters, namely: BRIAN JOHN ARCHER (b. 1935) and PETER CHARLES ARCHER (b. 1942).

CATHERINE (Kate) ARCHER b. 1847 in France, married WILLIAM TANNER, a draper's assistant, in the Church of England at Orange on 18th October, 1871, the Reverend Allan W. Gardiner attending. They had eight children, two of whom died before their mother. WILLIAM TANNER had been born at Victoria Barracks, Paddington, Sydney. His father was a soldier stationed there who resigned shortly after WILLIAM's birth and moved to Orange to become an innkeeper. WILLIAM became the proprietor of "Melbourne House", a drapery in Summer Street, Orange, opposite the Commercial Bank. The family home was in Sale Street, named "Calais", in honour of KATE's birthplace - it has only recently been demolished. Their eldest child was born on 22nd July, 1872, and given his father's name. The TANNERS became a well-known and respected family in the Orange district.

WILLIAM TANNER, senior, was an associate of the Daltons - for a period he was Secretary of the local Agricultural Show Society - during 1892 and 1893 he was Mayor of Orange - he managed a gold mine in the district.

KATE and WILLIAM moved to Sydney in about 1911 and lived in the Dulwich Hill - Eastwood area for some years. She died of chronic bronchitis and asthma on 11th August, 1917, and is buried at Rookwood. (Alan Theak, 13/14 Jenkins Street, Collaroy, is a great-great grandson of KATE's.)

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 is held by the Society.

March 25, 1848. Letter from EARL GREY to T.F. ELLIOT, an Emigration Commissioner. A request for a memorandum from the Emigration Commission regarding action that could be taken for the English refugees in Calais to be presented to the Committee which has been formed for the relief of the said people.

March 23, 1848. Letter from VISCOUNT PALMERSTON (Foreign Office) to EARL GREY. Covering letter accompanying a dispatch from the British Consul at Calais requesting free emigration to Australia for a "body of English workmen, refugees from France.

March 21, 1848, from Calais. Letter from E.W. BONHAM British Consul at Calais to VISCOUNT PALMERSTON. Dispatch 17: A letter reporting the probable early forced departure of all the English workers and their families from Calais, and the probable burden they would produce on their parishes in England on

their return. The letter points out that the people are wanting to emigrate to a colony and that they are "men of respectability ... generally with large families" and that as mechanics they are not entitled to a free passage, but under "special circumstances" they might be offered free passage. He describes the emigrants as "strong, able-bodied men in the prime of life, industrious and intelligent ... well able to turn their hands to anything" with their main desire "to avoid going to the poorhouse in England."

A second letter on March 21, 1848 from Calais:
Dispatch 18: Gives details of the number of individuals:

Men	147
Women	129
Children over 10	144
Children under 10	222
642 Persons in all.		

He goes on to suggest that "probably the most simple method would be for a vessel to call and embark them here and thus avoid the extra trouble and expense of their going to England ... nearly all the above are out of work, and daily falling into a more destitute state."

The Saywells Pt. 2.

In this episode Bob continues to enlighten us about conditions in Nottingham in the early 1800's. The Luddites feature prominently, thus adding to our knowledge of this group. We left William and Christina Saywell in 1807 living, not very comfortably, in Radford.

1808 and 1809 saw the invention and development, by Heathcoat, of the bobbin machine. Unfortunately the prosperity generated by such inventions was en-

joyed by only a few. Robert Owen, the great socialist philosopher, who later did so much to alleviate the problems of industrialisation, said of the conditions "man is not good or evil by nature but largely as a result of the environment in which he grows up." Certainly conditions were bad at this time. Drunkenness, immorality and prostitution were symptomatic of the life people were forced to lead.

In this environment William and Christiana brought up their family of eleven. The children were: George (born 1810), John (1816), William Burley (1818), Jasper (1820), Josiah (1821), Samuel (1825), Elizabeth, James and Robert (1828), Edward (1833) and Sarah (1838)

At this time it was normal for children from the age of five or six to be employed in the evil conditions prevailing in the factories. There is no reason to believe that the Saywell children, as they became old enough, were not subjected to this special evil.

By 1811 the country had suffered four bad harvests in succession, so that wheat stood at famine prices. The town that gave England the inventions of Lee, Hargreaves, Arkwright, Crompton and Heathcoat now produced the mythical Ned Ludd. Late in 1811 there arose, in Nottingham, a movement which was to spread across England. The origins of the uprising came from a reaction by the workers to shoddy goods flooding the market. Ned Ludd was the name under which the anonymous leaders operated. Actions were first taken against the manufacturers of second rate goods. The Luddites wrecked the machines that manufactured such articles; however as the people's situation got worse so the saboteurs broadened their attacks to include other machines. From here the revolt to other counties and other types of machines.

In Nottingham there was grave concern at the doings of the followers of the mysterious Ned. The magistrates, who had refused to support the labour laws which would have protected the workers, were

quick to act on behalf of the owners. In November, 1811, they issued a warning in the form of a letter, which read:

"Magistrates' Letter to the People of Nottingham.

There has now existed, in the neighbourhood of Nottingham, for a considerable time, a most outrageous spirit of riot and tumult. Houses have been feloniously broken into and a great number of stocking frames have been broken and destroyed, by an armed multitude, accompanied with menaces to the lives of those who endeavoured to interfere in preventing the mischief, various threatening letters have been sent, arms have been feloniously demanded and seized, stacks have been fired and private property destroyed, and contributions have been levied under the pretence of applications for charitable relief, but under the real influence of terror. These are acts of so flagrant a nature and leading to insurrection and such fatal consequences, that the magistrates as legal guardians of the public peace have the duty incumbent upon them of suppressing the evil by the civil and military force, and by putting the laws in execution on the offenders, many of whom have committed crimes for which the law demands forfeiture of their lives."

This letter failed to check the machine smashing. These actions were well planned, but often mixed with spontaneous food riots. Conciliation was then used but proved to be too late. In the first week of 1812 many more frames were broken, including fifteen at Radford. For a time the men were successful and wages were raised by two shillings a dozen pair. Nine men were charged for their parts in the riots and seven were transported, luckily there had been a

humane judge who did not try them on the capital charge of burglary.

In March, an Act of Parliament was brought down making the breaking of a stocking or lace frame punishable by death. Byron, who had had first hand knowledge of the conditions in the town in which he had spent a considerable part of his youth, eloquently opposed the Bill: "these men, as I have seen them - meagre with famine, sullen with despair, careless of life, which your Lordships are perhaps about to value at something less than the price of a stocking frame!" Even if the Bill were passed they would still need to find "twelve butchers for a jury and a Jeffreys for a judge". The people proved to be with the raiders and, despite the offering of substantial rewards, only six Luddites were caught and subsequently hanged. Luddism finished in 1817 with the changing economic conditions.

Secretary's Report

A welcome to new members - Mr and Mrs Goodwin (KEMSHALL) and Miss Bell (POLIN).

Mr Bill Brownlow's paper on Lacemakers given to the Bathurst Historical Society is available.

Miss Laura Hartmann spoke on the art of lace-making, showed us examples of her work and demonstrated the techniques of making pillow lace which brought home the realities of the impact that the machines had on the lace industry.

A letter explaining our activities and inviting contact was sent to the South Australian Society of Genealogy and Heraldry in January. To this date (April) there has been no acknowledgement.

The computerising of members' families is progressing well, and Chris will soon be in need of extra discs.

Those of us who have access to a microfiche reader are making use of the BDM indexes. The purchase price of suitable readers is to be investigated.

Gillian Kelly

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CALAIS

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