

# TULLE

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

## ***Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais Inc.***

### **Meeting Times & Place:**

ASLC meets at Don Bank Cottage, 6 Napier Street, North Sydney, NSW, on the third Saturday in February (AGM), May, August & November each year. All meetings commence at 1.00pm. You are invited to bring a plate to share with other members at afternoon tea and fellowship which follows.

**Future Meetings:**      **AGM**      Saturday, 17 February 2018  
Saturday, 19 May 2018  
Saturday, 18 August 2018  
Saturday, 17 November 2018

**Find Us on the Internet:**      <https://www.lacemakersofcalais.com.au>

**Want to Join or Membership Subscription Due?**      Contact The Hon. Secretary  
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**Cover :** The famous (and delicious) Calais Cake – see page 29.

**This Coming Meeting:**      Saturday, 17 February 2018, 1.00pm.  
AGM.

**Guest Speaker:**      Because the February 2018 meeting is the Annual General Meeting of our society there will not be a Guest Speaker.



# TULLE

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was a pleasure to welcome Martyn Killion from the Society of Australian Genealogists to our meeting in November. He commended us for our focus on gathering and preserving the information that tells the story of our Lacemakers of Calais. Interestingly he commented that he feels much of the research in genealogy has been done and now it is up to those of us who have collected the information to bring the stories of our families to life. It is the stories that will engage others and inspire them to learn more.

One of my frustrations when researching has always been the gaps between the records. I often ponder what my family members were doing, what they saw, who they might be socialising with and how they lived at a point in time. One of the great things about our Society is the ability to use what we know about the lives of other Lacemaker families to infer the experiences of our own.

During the summer holidays I've been working my way through reading our Tulle archive. We are so fortunate to have this record of our families and the lacemaking industry gathered together by our members, past and present. I have enjoyed re-reading the stories and am in awe of the many hours that have been invested in collecting the information, much of it in the period before electronic resources became readily available. I've also had a sneak preview of the 1846 Calais census index, started by Jim Longmire and completed by Stephen Black. Please join me in thanking them for this work which demonstrates the close relationship many of our families had in Calais as neighbours, co-workers and friends. It will be published with the other Calais census indexes on our website.

We continue to make contact with "new" Lacemaker descendants and extend a warm welcome to all who belong to our still growing Lacemaker family.

PS Have you renewed your membership for 2018? This will be your last edition of Tulle and you will be unable to vote at our AGM on the 17<sup>th</sup> February if your renewal is not received by that date.

*Megan Fox*  
*President*

# SECRETARY'S REPORT

Our Christmas meeting was a very happy and joyous meeting for several reasons. Firstly it was Christmas (almost) and secondly we were honoured by the presence of Martyn Killion – President of the Society of Australian Genealogists. He presented an award from the British Society of Genealogists. This was a Certificate of Recognition which was awarded to ASLC, “For providing a forum for researching the migration and genealogy of Australian lacemakers from Nottingham and Calais.”. Gillian Kelly accepted this award on behalf of the Society.

A series of panels describing our history has been prepared and purchased by Gillian Kelly. She was able to use these at the Orange Family History Conference.

There was much discussion at the meeting originating from Martyn Killion's presentation around how we can preserve all the amazing information our Society has accumulated over the last decades. We are currently working on this through the website.

For our members the main message that I can share with you is that he suggests all the material and the research on your family that you have in your possession should be copied and spread throughout your family. This will mitigate the loss if one part of your family is not interested in the future. He also suggested that you record oral histories either in video or writing. Great advice!

The meeting concluded with a delicious Christmas theme afternoon tea in the courtyard of Don Bank.

I am hoping at the AGM to hand over the Secretary/ Public Officer roles to a new face. It is important that each of us contributes to the ongoing future of ASLC.

*Carolyn Broadhead*  
*Secretary*

# EDITOR'S COMMENT

Since completing my initial term as full-time Editor I have received some limited comments on the thirty two editions I produced prior to this short return to the job. Thankfully, most of this feedback has been very positive, but that from one member has been marginally critical. All feedback is very welcomed by me and I am sure that your next full-time Editor will also welcome your comments. *Tulle* belongs to all members, and as such, every member is entitled to an opinion on its form, content and future.

The criticism I have received has been that some of the articles I included were too long, too technical, in too small a font or that I didn't include enough photographs. Fair enough. However, the font used has never been smaller than is used in daily newspapers (other than the occasional footnote), and machine lacemaking is a technical subject so any worthwhile article on it is going to be reasonably technical. The printing and mailing of *Tulle* consumes a large percentage of your subscriptions so a large font size and a higher percentage of photographs dramatically decreases the amount of information (i.e. facts) which an editor can include in the publication. In my time as Editor I always tried to provide members with the greatest return on your investment, i.e. the most words which furthered your knowledge of the lives and activities of your ancestors. As such I must possibly plead guilty to favouring substance over form.

In general terms the Editors of *Tulle* to date have dealt with the history of machine lace and lacemaking in Nottingham and Calais, the people involved, the ships on which our ancestors travelled to Australia, the technical aspects of making machine lace on framework knitting machines, warp frames and Heathcoat machines, life in the colonies as well as in Nottingham and Calais in the mid-1800s, problems in the trade (Luddism, poverty, the truck system, and so on). I personally feel absolutely certain we should keep our theme lace, lacemaking and our lacemakers and not be guilty of wandering too far from these subjects. There is still lots to be discovered and written about. You, however, may have differing thoughts. If so, be sure to make them known to your executive committee and the new Editor when he or she accepts the appointment.

*Richard Tander,  
Stand-In Editor*

# AGM

## **NOTICE OF THE 36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF THE LACEMAKERS OF CALAIS INC.**

**TO BE HELD AT DON BANK COTTAGE, 6 NAPIER ST, NORTH SYDNEY, NSW**

**17 FEBRUARY 2018 – COMMENCING AT 1.00PM**

### **BUSINESS**

- To confirm that a quorum of members is present and to record and announce any apologies
- To confirm the minutes of the previous AGM
- To consider any business arising from these minutes
- To receive and consider the statements of the financial position of the Society for the year ending 31 December 2017 (see pages 27-28)
- To receive from the committee reports on the activities of the Society during 2017
- To elect the office bearers of the Society
- To discuss proposed changes to the Society's Constitution

**ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND  
ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE.**

**Following the AGM there will be a general discussion during which  
members will be invited to make suggestions to the new Committee.**

# JARDINES – AN ILLUSTRIOUS FAMILY

From *Nottingham Evening Post*, 07 January 2009

Jardine's was once one of Nottingham's biggest employers. DAVID LOWE describes how the industrial empire was founded by John JARDINE and expanded by his famous son, Sir Ernest JARDINE. John JARDINE began his working life in Nottingham as an apprentice clock and watchmaker ... but ended up founding an empire. He got into the manufacture of lace machines through a couple of partnerships but in the 1870s, decided to set up his own business. And with his engineering ingenuity — he used steel instead of brass and iron — he quickly established his company.



The Jardine name on a Leavers lace machine in Calais (Photo RJL)

By 1892 he was employing 500 people in his factories in Raleigh Street and Deering Street, off the old Queen's Drive, near the Midland Railway Station. Sometime after that the firm moved into Whitcliffe Mills, Basford.

According to the *Nottingham Illustrated*, "The appliances turned out by Mr JARDINE have always enjoyed an exceptional reputation for accurate adjustment, smooth and reliable working, and great durability."

When John JARDINE died in 1895 the business was taken over by his only surviving son Ernest (later Sir Ernest JARDINE). He took the company to a new level, spreading his interests to cover the whole operation of setting up a lace-making factory, from buying the land to building the premises and finding the people to do the work.

At the height of production, in the early 1900s, Jardine's were building more than 300 giant lace machines each year and employing 2,500 people. The

demand for lace machines decreased after the First World War although manufacture did continue into the 1960s.



Sir Ernest was an industrialist with vision. In 1917 he bought 340 acres of marshy land near Colwick Weir and established the Colwick Industrial Estate. His many interests in the businesses based there included Trent Concrete and Trent Gravel, sugar beet processing and transport.



Albert FOSTER and his father both worked for Jardine's. In the current edition of the community newspaper *Basford Bystander*, Albert reveals that it was always Jardine's dream to widen the Trent and make it navigable for larger boats.

By 1930 Sir Ernest had a substantial interest in at least 31 companies – 13 of them directly involved with lace, ranging from yarn production to machine building, lace making to lace finishing. He was also involved in the manufacture of typewriters, having become chairman of Bar-Lock in 1925.



Two years later his Basford factory was extended to cope with a Government order for 432 machines.

In 1930 the first portable typewriter was introduced. Weighing little more than eight pounds, the Bar-Let became very popular, almost 59,000 being produced before the outbreak of war. In the mid-30s, further large orders were received from the Government and, after the outbreak of the Second World War, most of the output of the new Model 20 went to the War Office.

After the war, typewriters were in such short supply that output could barely keep pace with demand. In 1951, the *Nottingham Journal* reported: "Today, more than 500 people are employed in the works, where the Bar-Lock typewriter is manufactured from start to finish, and where every 15 minutes a new standard typewriter is completed." But competition was increasing, especially from America, and Bar-Lock managers realised they had to modernise to survive.

In 1953, they announced the name was going to change from Bar-Lock to Byron and a radical new model was going to be produced. Almost £1.25m was invested to produce a first-class standard machine. The typewriter not only had a new name but a new trademark, the poet Byron's profile surrounded by a wreath, and new colours. Instead of traditional black, machines were now two-tone, dark green and light stone. The typewriter was also equipped with "finger-fit" plastic keys, shaped so as not to break the typist's nails.

As well as being a remarkable industrialist Sir Ernest JARDINE is remembered as a great Nottingham benefactor. He was also a long-serving president of Notts Football Association. He served as MP for East Somerset from 1910 to 1918 and was created a baronet in 1919. Sir Ernest, who lived in The Park, became High Sheriff of Nottingham in 1928 and died in April, 1947, aged 87.



Sir Ernest Jardine

His son, Lt Col John JARDINE, was District Scout Commissioner for South West Nottingham and he formed a Sea Scout Group in 1928 for boys from the Nottingham area. Albert FOSTER recalls: "The Jardine Sea Scouts' houseboat was moored near Willow Woods – almost opposite the old Trent Baths, which have now gone." ■

# THE NOTTINGHAM TRADE.

(From *The Sydney Morning Herald*, Thursday 30 May 1850, page 3)

The branch of industry generally known as the lace trade includes two principal departments -the warp process, in which the mechanism is still generally moved by hand labour, and the twist or bobbin-net process, in which the mechanism is now always commonly, although not uniformly, driven by steam. Subordinate to these two principal branches there exist an infinity of minor trade subdivisions in the manufacture-by twist and warp machines, constructed after different fashions of an endless variety of kind and quality of goods. The lace trade, in almost all its ramifications, however, sprung originally from the hosiery manufacture. The first approach to lace weaving by machinery was the fabrication of ornamental stockings, with eyelet holes running up the ankles. Then the stocking frames were used to knit purses, and afterwards by a peculiar arrangement of their mechanism, to construct point lace.

The first great step in advance was the invention of the warp machine, which involved to a certain extent, the principle of the stocking frame. The warps were for some time the principal mechanical producers of lace. The jacquard was applied to them, and they were found capable of turning out patterns of a complicated nature. Meantime, however, an apparatus upon a new and improved principle, for the fabrication of the most delicate and elaborately wrought lace, made its appearance in the twist or bobbin-net machine-the principal and characteristic feature of the new invention being adopted, it is said, from a connivance put in use by some ingenious person for the better weaving of cabbage-nets.

Before proceeding to describe the condition of the principal classes of lace-workers, the nature of their toil, and the fashion in which it is carried on, it may be well for me to introduce a brief synoptical statement of the statistics

of the manufacture, compiled principally from the results of the elaborate investigation set on foot at two periods, 1831 and 1836, by Mr. Felkin, of Nottingham - a gentleman to whom I am indebted not only for much published but for much personally communicated information.

The bobbin-net manufacture dates its origin from the year 1811. At that time the population of Nottingham, and of the surrounding districts and villages of Lenton, Beeston, Radford, Basford, Arnold, and Sneinton, was 47,300. In 1831, it was calculated that the hosiery trade employed fewer people than it did in 1811: and as the population in question had then increased to 79,000, the augmentation is principally to be ascribed to the rapid growth of the bobbin-net manufacture. By the last census, the population of the area I have mentioned amounted to more than 130,000. In 1831, there were at work in the town of Nottingham upwards of 1,240 lacemaking machines, and in the surrounding villages about as many more.

The number of machines then in operation in the kingdom was estimated at 4500, of which Nottinghamshire, of course, possessed more than half. In 1836, another careful inquiry was set on foot, from which it appeared that the total number of machines had decreased to 3800. A severe and long-continued depression in the trade had been the cause of upwards of six hundred of them being broken up and sold as old iron. The machinery had also been in a transition state. In many cases, two of the old narrow frames had been joined to make one broader engine, and a few had been exported.

The number of machine hands employed had of course decreased with the decrease of the engines upon which they wrought, the number being about 6,000, or less than two to every machine. The number of owners of these machines was stated at about 860. In 1831, there were 1382 owners. The decrease took place almost entirely in the owners of one or two machines a piece. In 1836, the number of machines in the town of Nottingham was 576; in the subsidiary towns and surrounding district it was about 1470; showing

that the tendency of the manufacture had been to flow from the central point of Nottingham, and to spread itself over the surrounding area.

The total number of machines in England, actually at work, in 1836, was 3547, of which again the county of Nottingham possessed 2162, or more than one half. At the period in question, 1836, the number of machines making fancy net in the midland district was increasing, and great improvements were also in the course of being introduced into the mechanism. Indeed, it was then estimated that 1000 machines had been raised, from the value of from £2 to £10 each, to the value of from £50 to £100 each; while from 1500 to 2000 men were employed in making fancy goods, over and above the number to whom work could be given in the manufacture of plain nets.

Since 1836 no census of the number of machines employed in the lace trade has been taken, but I am informed upon the highest authority in the manufacture, that the numerical amount of the machines in use remains pretty stationary but that their productive power has, by the introduction of mechanical improvements, greatly increased. Indeed, the improvement in the machinery employed in lacemaking may be conceived from the following extraordinary fact: In 1810 and 1811, a square yard of a particular kind of lace fetched £5. In 1824 its price was 16s. In 1817 it might have been purchased for 5d. Part of this astounding reduction is owing to the cheapening of the raw material, but of course the great cheapening agent was improved machinery.

The lace of Nottingham is manufactured from cotton and silk threads. These yarns are spun in Manchester and Coventry. For the manufacture of lace it is requisite that they should be loosely doubled. This doubling process is partly performed in Lancashire and Warwickshire, partly in and around the town of Nottingham. The doubling mills are worked principally by women and children, superintended by male overlookers. The processes are simple. The yarn is received from the fine-spinning mills of the North in bundles called

cops, and placed on the doubling frame. Spindles are passed longitudinally through these cops, two of the latter being transfixed on each of the former, and the threads are then by power machinery rapidly run off the whirling cops and on to bobbins, each couple of threads being doubled and loosely twisted round each other in the winding process.

Women superintend the operation, assisted by children to change and replace the bobbins and cop. The thread is next taken to the clearing-frame, where it is run through delicate metal interstices. The occurrence of any lump or inequality breaks the thread, which it is the workwoman's business to knot again so daintily and delicately as to permit it to run through the testing aperture. If thread of a particularly fine quality be wanted, the filament is next passed several times through the flame of gas, so as to burn off all downy fibre attaching to it. The fourth process consists in unwinding from the bobbins and reeling the thread into hanks or "slips" and the final operation is that of the "preparing frame," where the thread is squeezed through cylinders exerting a pressure of from 80 to 100 lbs. weight, in order to smooth and give it gloss.

The doubling factories come under the regulations of the Ten Hours Bill, and work daily for that period. They employ about four children for every ten women. The wages of the former range from 3s. to 4s. per week, those of the latter from 6s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. per week.

I proceed to the description of the simplest species of lace-making-that known as the warp trade. The warp machine, as I have stated, sprung directly from the knitting frame. In its uses the former is an extremely flexible apparatus. It is capable of making plain nets, fancy nets, and blonds, with all the tribe of lace "borderings" known as "tattins," "pearlings," "quillings," and so forth. Purses and braces of silk or any other material can be wrought upon the warp-frame. It is also used for the fabrication of strong fleecy hosiery, gloves, stockings, and under garments, and latterly it has been made to weave very good cloth. The jacquard has been applied to the warp, but I

understand that the class of fancy goods constructed by its help is now being almost uniformly made by the twist or bobbin-net machine.

The warp is, as I have said, generally wrought by hand. Formerly the manufacture was principally domestic; now the machines are very generally being gathered into factories; but as yet factory regulations are by no means uniformly applied to these concentrations of machinery. The system of obliging the workmen to pay rents for their warp-frames is a vestige of the knitting trade, from which the warp manufacture has sprung. The system, however, in this branch of manufacture is not universal. There are, in fact, two scales of wages in use, the journeymen's and the "independent" workmen's rates.

In the case of the former, the goods manufactured are paid for according to a certain scale, and no frame rent is exacted. In the case of the latter, the scale is fixed at higher rates, and a certain stipulated rent is paid weekly. This rent differs with the width and capabilities of the machine, but I am informed that a fair average is about 3s. 6d. A few of the warp-frames are charged as high as 5s. weekly. When the mechanism is not collected in factories, the work is generally received from the manufacturer and given out by middlemen. This is another relic of the frame-work knitting trade, the usages of which, both as respects middlemen and frame-rents, will form the principal subject of my next communication. If a workman be the proprietor of a warp-machine he will frequently purchase the requisite yarns from the large manufacturer and sell the lace in the best market on his own account, but the constant tendency of the trade is to concentrate the machinery in factories, or at all events to concentrate the management of it in the hands of middlemen, each of whom may superintend a dozen frames.

The warp-machines are wrought either by jerking a pair of levers, or by a rotary motion, like turning the handle of a winch. The men frequently have their children to assist them in operating upon the latter class of machines. In the lever frames the feet are used to work treadles, as in a loom. Although

the machinery looks heavy, and the frames are sometimes fully twelve feet broad, the mechanism is so nicely balanced, that the toil of putting it in motion cannot be said to be severe. In this respect, however, different frames vary materially.

A not unimportant branch of the employment consists in warping, or placing the warp thread in due order for different patterns upon the beam. When a workman labours at home, the middleman furnishes him with the beam ready warped. In factories, there are men engaged upon warping who do nothing else, and are generally paid regular wages, averaging from 16s. to 18s. per week. The girls who do the requisite winding from the skein on to bobbins - always one of the initial processes in textile manufacture - work in the factories generally about eleven hours a day, and are paid about 7s. per week. The warp factory rooms are seldom large. Six or eight frames is an ordinary number to find working together. No artificial heat is required.

In some factories the men are charged for candle or gas light; this is when the machines are worked by relays. When only a single hand is employed at a frame, as he labours principally by daylight, no such exaction is usually imposed. The relay system is one which obtains to a very considerable degree, and forms one of the characteristic features of the lace trade. I am informed that, particularly in the case of the bobbin-net machines, the value of the mechanism is so great, as compared with that of the fabric manufactured by it, that to obtain a due return for the capital sunk, it is necessary that the machinery should be kept in motion for a greater number of hours per day than in the instance of any other species of textile mechanism with which I am acquainted. Both bobbin-net and warp machines are sometimes wrought twenty hours out of the twenty-four. Two men belong to each machine, and relieve each other every four or every six hours. The shifts alternate their task times every week, so as to come in for the bulk of the night work in turns. ▪ (To be continued in *Tulle*, May 2018)

# ROCKLEY NEWS

A copy of a publication called *The Rockley Manner* by Aileen ROBERTSON which I discovered in the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society's collection, contains the following information on some families connected with our lacemakers.

Where available and pertinent, I have added additional information to the article. This is enclosed in square brackets [ ].

## BROWNLOW

William BROWNLOW, the son of John and Mary, was born in 1820 at New Basford, a suburb of Nottingham, England. He married Emma, who was born in Calais, France in 1820. Emma's parents were Charles Earle COURQUIN and Elizabeth NICHOLLS. It was surmised that the Nicholls family went to France before 1820 and that William went there in 1838 when he met and married Emma.

At this time, nearly half the lace makers in Calais were English. England was in the throes of an economic recession with many of the hand-made lace workers being put out of work through the industrial revolution. Determined not to lose their craft, some of the lace makers smuggled looms to France and set up a factory in Calais.

By 1848 France began to share the same fate as England. Work was hard to find, consequently foreign workers were forced to leave France in a hurry, leaving all their possessions behind in many cases. The lace makers petitioned the British Government to assist them to migrate to the colonies, as it was little use settling in England where conditions were still poor. After some difficulty they were successful and three ships were fitted out to transport the misplaced workers.

June 12, 1848, the *Agincourt* sailed from Gravesend wharf with William, Emma and three children aboard. William Jnr. was then seven years, Mary

five and John one. George was born on board. The ship's records state that William Jnr. was the only member of the family who could write. Two hundred and sixty two passengers, all lacemakers from Calais, France sailed on board the *Agincourt*. The ship arrived in Sydney on October 6, 1848. The immigration officials reported that the lacemakers were the most skilled body of people to have come to Australia to that time. In all probability it would only have been a matter of a few days before a contract dray took 121 of the passengers to the Bathurst area. The remainder went on to Maitland.

Mr Hanbury CLEMENTS hired some of the lace makers to work in his Summerhill copper mine, William being one of them. They received 16/- a week. Mr. BROWNLOW was mentioned throughout the Clements diaries.

In 1830 the first settler in the Burruga district was a man named SWIFT who occupied the site of the present Buckburruga. He had a dairy farm and supplied Bathurst with cheese. The distance and the slow pace of the bullock teams would have presented with perishable goods. SWIFT eventually sold out to Thomas PYE who in 1858 built *The Cradle and Coffin Inn*, but it did not last long. William Brownlow bought the property for grazing and farming, later selling to Thomas HACKNEY, a draper, who with his two sons, Henry Hunt and Thomas Payne, carried on the business.

J.D. PYE signed over parts of "Briar Park" to William in 1863. William Snr. and his three eldest sons, William, John and George, eventually owned about 5000 acres, with a lease on a like amount. In 1905, William sold his interest to his two sons, Thomas and Arthur.

After leaving Buckburruga, William and Emma lived along the banks of the Campbell River, the site is still marked by old fruit trees. The place being damp, they decided to build a large and comfortable home, consisting of eight large rooms – a detached kitchen and storeroom. The house was built of bricks made on the property above where the present shearing shed is. The interior was all cedar.

While the homestead was being built, the BROWNLOWS lived at Northholme, then known as Jumper's Flat. It was during their stay at Northholme in the years between 1874 and 1878 that the second portion of that house was added, also the stables. Northholme was sold to H.H. HACKNEY in 1888.

A large hay shed was also built on "Briar Park" with shingle roof and slab sidings. As sheep gradually phased out the wheat farming the shed was altered to suit blade shearing. Then again in 1914, shearing machines were installed, the box posts were reportedly brought from Burruga.

The Club House Hotel and adjoining shops were built by Mr. BROWNLOW. His son John being in charge of the hotel. William also built Calais Villa, named after Emma's birthplace. He was also a shareholder in the Rockley Flour Mill which was supported by local grain.



"Calais Villa" at Rockley, NSW (RJL)

William died in Rockley on February 20, 1885 and is buried in the family vault at Bathurst. The headstone in the vault was iron marble mined at "Briar Park".

Emma and two of her married daughters at that time lived in Calais Villa after the death of her husband. She was a generous, public spirited woman and a staunch, active member of the Church of England. In 1890 she laid the foundation stone of the School of Arts Hall. She died in Rockley on January 8, 1893 and is buried with William at Bathurst.

William and Emma had twelve children in all, one girl and two boys died early in life but the remainder all married and had families.



Entrance to "Briar Park" (RJL)

William Jnr. married Fanny BROWN (in 1877) and they had nine children. They went to

Dubbo where William Jnr. had a property.

George married Mary O'BRIEN and they had five children. George bought "Woodstock", a property at Dubbo.

Arthur Joseph married Elizabeth BARNES and they had five children. After Thomas moved to Victoria, Arthur and Thomas' two daughters held shares in "Briar Park". George's son, Edmund Joseph bought Thomas' daughters shares. The property was then run as a partnership between Edmund and Horace, son of Arthur, with Arthur's wife, Elizabeth as part-owner as Arthur was deceased by this time). At the death of Elizabeth, the land was then owned by E.J. BROWNLOW and the Estate of A.J. BROWNLOW. The property, "Triangle Flat", owned by Arthur was conducted in the same partnership of E.J. BROWNLOW with Horace as occupier.

This partnership was dissolved and the 5000 acres of "Briar Park" were divided into three blocks and submitted to auction sale by E.J. BROWNLOW and the Estate of A.J. BROWNLOW.



**"Briar Park" homestead (RJL)**



**The impressive interior of the "Briar Park" shearing shed (RJL)**

The homestead block of 2000 acres was purchased jointly by Edmund Joseph and his son Edmund William BROWNLOW. On the death of E.J. BROWNLOW, a new partnership was formed by Edmund William and his wife, Lorna, with their son Edmund Roy now a third partner.

Edmund William (Bill) [Ed: Bill BROWNLOW was a member of ASLC until his death in April, 2002], served in World War II in the Australian 9<sup>th</sup> Division, serving in the Middle East, New Guinea and Borneo where he was in the 2/3 Anti-Tank Regiment with the rank of Sergeant. Following his discharge after the war he joined the C.M.F. where he gained the rank of Lieutenant.

Louisa, daughter of William BROWNLOW and Emma (nee COURQUIN) married a Sergeant of Police BRENNAN, and had two children. A second daughter, Sarah, married Henry Hunt HACKNEY and they had eight children. A third daughter, Emma, married Henry WILLIAMS and they possibly also had eight children.

William and Emma's son, John, married Louisa STEPHENSON (sic) [Ed: shown as STEVENSON in NSW BDM records (1868 #1641)] and they had about four children. John took over the running of the Court (sic) House Hotel) after his father had built it. – [Ed: I think this should read Club House Hotel – there is no Court House Hotel in Rockley]

Thomas, another son, married Emily and they went on to have two children. Thomas had shares in the family properties but he and his family later moved to Ballarat.

## **SHORE**

John Thomas SHORE was a Nottingham lacemaker who had been working in Calais where he married a French woman, Adelaide. A daughter, Selina, was born in France. John and his family arrived in Sydney aboard the *Agincourt* in 1848 after being forced to flee from France. There were two more children, Eugene and Adelaide. [Eugene was born in 1849 – birth registration NSWBDM 1849 #2344 V66]; Adelaide followed in 1851 – [birth registration NSWBDM 1851 #173 V71]. Adelaide (the mother), died giving birth to her fourth child,

Isabella Bridget. [Isabella Bridget's birth registration is NSWBDM 1852 #1390 V69]. John remarried and became a publican and possibly owned the *Tradesmen's Arms Hotel* on the corner of Stewart and Keppel Streets in Bathurst. [His new bride was probably Sarah KEENAN. A Thomas SHORE and Sarah KEENAN were married in 1853 in District CW. This is the Church of England, Abercrombie District, Bathurst, see NSWBDM 1853 #817 V39C] John died in 1872. [John died in Sydney, aged 53 – see NSWBDM 1872 #3178].

Isabella married Francis GRESSIER [in 1869, NSWBDM 1869 #1792], son of Domingo GRESSIER, also a publican in Bathurst. Two sons of Isabella and Francis'; Francis Henry, aged six years, and John Joseph, aged three years, were accidentally drowned in December 1879. The Coroner's report was held in Rockley. It is thought that the graves, which are marked by white posts near the Pepper's Creek crossing on the Charlton Road, may be those of Francis and John.

## **BRANSON**

William BRANSON and Miriam CHOULERTON were married at Radford, near Nottingham, on 23 September 1838. William, his father John, and James CHOULERTON were machine lace makers. Many of the lace makers went to Calais to continue their trade there. William with his wife and family joined the ex-Nottingham group in France in 1843.

[To avoid repeating information which is already well known to all readers of *Tulle* I have omitted some material at this point].

Several families from the *Agincourt* were employed by Mr. CLEMENTS of Summerhill as he needed skilled mechanics to service and work the mine equipment. On ADELINE Amelia's birth certificate in 1863, William was shown as a miller, residing at Summerhill. On Saturday, July 26, 1856, Mr. CLEMENTS noted in his diary:

*"...let the mill to Branson on Monday last".*

In 1866 the Bransons were still living at “Summerhill” as Ann had written a letter to her sister telling her that her father had been ill for two or three weeks with the shakes and had not been able to eat. Both Ann and her mother had taken ill on Christmas Day. It wasn’t long after this that William and his family moved to Binda. William died in 1884 and Miriam in 1898.

William and Miriam’s children were:

- Adah was born in 1839 at Sandiacre, Derby. She married Henry CARR in 1861 at Kelso. [Henry CARR, the son of James CARR and Grace was born at Parracombe, North Devon in 1824. He was the second child in a family of five. Henry emigrated to Australia aboard another lacemaker ship, the *General Hewett*, on a subsequent voyage, arriving in Sydney on 24 December 1852.
- Arthur Frederick was born in 1842 at Stapleford. He died in 1937, unmarried
- Annie was born in 1844 at Calais. She died at Binda in 1882. Annie remained unmarried.
- Harry was born in 1850 at Caloola. He married Jane Temperance WEBSTER at Goulburn in 1874. He died at Binda in 1931.
- Charles was born in 1853 at Rockley. He married Elizabeth Kate MCDONALD (sic). [Ed: NSW BDM shows her name as MACDONALD – see NSWBDM 1881 #2922]. Charles died at Binda in 1939. [Elizabeth died the previous year – see NSWBDM 1938 #5891].
- William was born in 1855 at Rockley. He married Mary [Mary Maria] PAGETT [in 1883 – see NSDWBDM 1883 # 3573]. He died at Binda in 1936. [Mary predeceased him in 1930 – see NSWBDM 1930 # 9299].
- Adeline Amelia was born in 1863 at Rockley. She married Frederick McGUINNESS [NSWBDM 1903 #5883]. Adeline died in 1934 (sic). [NSW BDM states 1930 – see Death Cert. 1930 #20856]. ▀

# HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, KELSO

At a ceremony on the left bank of the Macquarie River in May 1815, Governor MACQUARIE declared Bathurst to be the name for the future settlement. The settlement he referred to was to be a military settlement on the left bank of the river, contained within what are now the Showground, Durham and George Streets and the Macquarie River. The area which was to be allocated to free settlers was to be on the right bank and was to be known as Kelso. In practice, both were nearly always referred to as 'Bathurst'.

Holy Trinity Church at Kelso near Bathurst holds the honour of being the first church to be built west of the Blue Mountains and it was this church that held a position dear to the hearts of many of the lacemakers and their families who initially settled in the Bathurst/Kelso district. Like the district, there was always some uncertainty about the precise name for this church. Bishop William Grant BROUGHTON, the first (and only) Bishop of Australia of the Church of England consecrated the church in 1836 and said it was to be known as "Trinity Church". However, within a few years the clergy and the parish had adopted the style "Holy Trinity Church". Even the long-serving rector of the parish in the mid-nineteenth century, the Rev William LISLE, was not consistent on the matter. When entering data in the pro forma registration forms for marriages of some of our lacemaker ancestors, he sometimes entered "Trinity Church, Kelso" while at other times he used "Holy Trinity Church, Kelso".

The *Government Gazette* of 23 January 1833 notified the public that allotments in Bathurst were open for purchase. However, the Church of England already had 180 acres in Kelso where they had previously established a burial ground, glebe, parsonage and a temporary church – effectively a barn! The settlers made it clear that it was here that they wished to build their church and the Governor acceded to their request.



By June 1833 the Church Committee had collected £403 and a further £96-6-0 had been promised. The following month tenders were invited for the supply of 140,000 bricks, 13,500 feet of timber of varying sizes and 600 bushels of lime. John Foster of Bathurst was contracted to build the church at a contracted cost of £1,064 and by an agreed completion date of 26 April 1835, just 18 months from the date of contract.

By April 1835 the church was complete “in all its principal details” and Samuel Marsden, representing Archdeacon Broughton, dedicated the church on Easter Day, 1835. Easter fell on 19 April in 1835 so it seems that John Foster and his team of workers completed the church at least a week before the contracted date.

The completed building was 68 feet long by 33 feet wide. Its walls were 21 feet high at the eaves and 33 feet high at the roof ridge. The overall length of the structure including the tower was 81 feet.

However, the finished church did not impress everyone who laid eyes on it. When Charles Darwin visited Sydney in HMS *Beagle* in January 1836 he made a trip to Bathurst. His diary notes included: "There is a hideous little red brick Church standing by itself on a hill". Rachel Henning, the famous letter writer and herself the daughter of a Church of England minister, writing to her sister Etta from Bathurst in 1861 described an outing to Kelso: "The church we went to stands on a hill with a beautiful view round it, but it is a very ugly contrivance in itself, red brick with a little square tower and an article on the top thereof exactly like a tin extinguisher."

Despite being not to everyone's taste aesthetically, Holy Trinity Church, Kelso was where many of the lacemaker's children were baptised, where several were married and where many were buried.

I have been able to find the following lacemaker marriages at this church:

- Betsy SARGENT (*Fairlie*) married Robert John HARRISON (also *Fairlie*) there on 7 December 1848. In *Well Suited...*(p.116) Gillian writes that they "...were surely sweethearts before they left Calais. Robert travelled with his parents and siblings. Betsy's entire family was on the *Agincourt*, leaving her alone on the *Fairlie*". The young couple settled near O'Connell where Robert was employed on a property called "Milton". Betsy died on 22 December 1869, aged about 45 and was buried in a bush grave. She left a family of five relatively young children. [NSWBDM 1848 # 269 V33B – I have used the spelling of Betsy's surname used in this record]
- Mary PEDDER (a young single on *Agincourt*) married Thomas BALL (another young single on *Agincourt*) there in 1849. Mary was known by her family as 'the French lady'. She was the daughter of William PEDDER and Ellen PATTERSON. [NSWBDM 1849 # 481 V34C]
- The grandfather of former ASLC President, Bruce GOODWIN was Alfred KEMSHALL (*Agincourt*). He married Eliza Jane MADDEN at the church in 1868. [NSWBDM 1868 # 1658]

- Thomas CROFTS (*Agincourt*), son of Charles CROFTS and Jane HINGELY (*Agincourt*) married Naomi SEYMOUR, the daughter of a Kelso carpenter at Holy Trinity Church, Kelso in 1861. [NSWBDM 1861 # 1203]
- Charles Potter (see below)

Lacemaker connected burials at the Holy Trinity Church at Kelso include:

- Ann POTTER (nee Elliott, *Agincourt*) who died in 1857, aged 38 [NSWBDM 1857 # 2157 V143]
- Anne POTTER (nee Jacklin, *Agincourt*) who died on 18 April 1870, aged 44, after an 18-year history of heart disease. She had five children, two of whom died in infancy while another, Ann Eliza, died in childhood. They may also be buried at Holy Trinity. Her remaining children were Sarah Ann who was born at Kelso on 4 April 1854 and Benjamin George, born at Kelso on 13 November 1859. Interestingly, Benjamin later married Rachel CHENEY at Georges Plains (about 18km to the south-west of Bathurst) in 1880. The CHENEY family had arrived in Australia as migrants aboard the *General Hewett* on the voyage which arrived in Sydney on 12 August 1848, the same voyage which carried several members of the lacemaker PARKES family. Anne's widower, Charles POTTER, remarried in 1873 [NSWBDM 1873 # 1779]. His new wife was Mary Ann ANDREWS (nee Anderson), the daughter of another Nottingham lacemaker. Their marriage was at Holy Trinity Church, Kelso. Charles died of pneumonia aged 69 at Havannah St, Bathurst on 24 March 1895. He was buried the next day. At Holy Trinity Church, Kelso – of course.
- Maria POTTER (*Agincourt*), the daughter of Charles and Anne POTTER, married a German migrant names Peter Shirtley – probably at Holy Trinity Church. She and Peter both died at Kelso and are also probably buried at Holy Trinity. Their daughter, Marjorie (known universally as “Pops”) spent most of her 94 years living in Kelso or

Bathurst. When she died in 1992 she was buried at Holy Trinity Church, Kelso.

- Mary Selina SHORE (*Agincourt*) who died on 9 August 1892. [This information was from an article by Barbara Manchester in *Tulle*, May 2002. I have not been able to find Mary Selina SHORE's death certificate reference]. She is believed to have been buried near her father, John.
- John SHORE (*Agincourt*), Mary Selina's father, who died 19 December 1872, aged 53 from "a serious effusion on the brain from the abuse of spirits". [NSWBDM 1872 # 3178]

I am sure there are others who were baptised, married or buried at Holy Trinity Church, Kelso. For example, the churchyard also contains the graves of members of the ARCHER, BROWN, LOWE and JOHNSTON families. Others may include John DAVIS, Philip FORAN, the HAWKINS family, Noah HORNER, Cornelius JOHNSON, George MATTHEWS and Adelaide Australia VICKERY.

Also buried or memorialised there are some of the families who employed lacemakers or their descendants. These include George RANKEN of "Kellosiel" who died in London on 17 October 1860, William Henry SUTTOR of "Brucedale" and "Alloway Bank" (died 20 October 1877) and Hanbury CLEMENTS of "Summerhill" (died 11 January 1912). ▀



William Henry SUTTOR

*Richard Jander*

## ASLC - Income & Expenditure as at 31 December 2017

	2017 \$	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Subscriptions	2546	2508	3496
New Subscriptions	150	215	430
Book Sales	60		
Interest	6	6	7
Bank variance		(15)	
Sundries	5		1
Sale of Tea Towels (2016) and Lacemakers (2015)		1239	33
Donations	6	106	66
Grants (2016 for digitising <i>Tulle</i> )		2000	
Nick Vine Hall Award	100		
Reimbursement of <i>Tulle</i> expenses			44
Seed funding (2015 for new website/projector)			600
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2873</b>	<b>6059</b>	<b>4677</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Rent	128	128	96
Marketing and Promotions	308		
Sundries	142	225	425
RAHS Insurance/Subs	352	352	352
RAHS Affiliation Membership	119	119	119
Stationery			36
Postage	624	755	665
<i>Tulle</i> – Printing/Artwork	792	935	1175
Subs renewal form printing			22
Payment to G. Kelly for sales of “ <i>Well Suited...</i> ”	60		
Bank Charges	25		5
Fair Trading charges	44	54	53
Subs/Membership – Family History Organisations	110		75
Fundraising costs - “The ASLC Tea Towels”		1099	
Catering			126
<i>Tulle</i> scanning cost	2288		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4992</b>	<b>3667</b>	<b>3149</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year</b>	<b>(2119)</b>	<b>2392</b>	<b>1528</b>

## ASLC Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2017

	Financial Year 2017 (\$)	Financial Year 2016 (\$)	Prior Year 2015 (\$)
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash on Hand			
Cash at Bank	6356	8475	6083
Investments			
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>6356</b>	<b>8475</b>	<b>6083</b>

**LIABILITIES**

Trade Creditors  
 Bank Overdraft  
**Total Liabilities**

	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**NET ASSETS**

**6356**                      **8475**                      **6083**

**MEMBERS EQUITY**

Opening Balance  
 Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year

8475                      6083                      4555  
 (2119)                      2392                      1528

**Total Equity**

**6356**                      **8475**                      **6083**

**ASLC - Accounts Reconciliation as at 31 December 2017****Cashbook Reconciliation for year ended 31 December**

**2017 (\$)**                      **2016 (\$)**                      **2015 (\$)**

Opening balance as at 1 January 2017                      8475                      6083                      4555  
 Add receipts for the year                      2873                      6059                      4677  
  
 Less payments for the year                      4992                      3667                      3149

**Cashbook Closing Balance 31 December 2017**

**6356**                      **8475**                      **6083**

**ASLC Bank Reconciliation as at 31 December 2017****Bank Reconciliation for year ended 31 December**

**2017 (\$)**                      **2016 (\$)**                      **2015 (\$)**

Bank Statement balance as at 31 December                      6356                      8475                      6083  
  
 Add outstanding deposits  
  
 Less Outstanding Cheques

**Adjusted Bank Balance as at 31 December**

**6356**                      **8475**                      **6083**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES.** These statements are: (1) created and presented to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW) and Associations Incorporation Regulation 2016 (NSW) applicable to a Tier 2 association; (2) prepared on a cash basis and Australian Accounting Standards have not been applied to them. The Committee has considered the statements and confirms them as a true and fair view of the Society's financial performance and position.

**INCOME TAX.** The Committee has self-assessed the organisation to be exempt from income tax under Section 50-45 of the Income Tax Act.

# CALAIS CAKES



These traditional Calais dessert cakes - a delicious melange of *la crème mousseline au café*, almond biscuit, Brézilienne of caramelised almonds and French meringues are stunning. Lyndall and I enjoyed sharing the third one above with friends in Calais after a beautiful meal. For a menu for individual servings see the website shown and chose “Translate this page”. ■

Entremets "le Calais" - les délices de Capu  
lesdelicesdecapu.canalblog.com · Entremets ▾ [Translate this page](#)  
Oct 27, 2016 - Avant de préparer le glaçage, décortiquez votre Calais et posez-le sur une ... Versez le glaçage sur le dessus du gâteau puis lissez une fois à ...

# RADICAL NOTTINGHAM

Nottingham was not, of course, continually the scene of revolutionary tumult, but it did have a reputation for turbulence in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. After all, Nottingham had once nurtured the Luddites and twenty years later burnt down its own castle as a contribution to the Reform Bill agitation. However, how people saw things depended on which side of politics they sat.

Nottingham Whigs controlled the Nottingham Corporation. The Whigs supported a constitutional monarchy but opposed absolute monarchy. They tended to support the great aristocratic families and the established Church of England. The Tories, the opposing political force, were almost totally excluded from the Corporation and saw the town “doomed to be the scene of disgraceful outrage of every description”. The Tories political philosophy was one of traditionalism and conservatism. They were strongly opposed to the liberalism of the Whig faction.

It was then largely a question of viewpoint. They both agreed that Nottingham had a reputation for activism. However, they argued about the causes of the reputation for activism and whether or not it was a good thing.

One of the causes of activism in Nottingham was a rapidly changing town with a fast growing population. It was estimated that 17,000 people lived in Nottingham in 1779. This had increased to almost 29,000 by the first official census in 1801 and between 1785 and 1835 (50 years) the population of the town roughly trebled. The hosiery and lace trades were instrumental in attracting a large number of these additional people but natural increase was also an important factor. When economic conditions are seen as good, people tend to have larger families.

Part of Nottingham’s trouble was the absence of any major enclosure acts before 1839 and 1845. This allowed common lands, the fields to the north and the meadows to the south of the town to remain untouched while a fast-growing population was crowded into an area which hardly grew in size. The properties of the Duke of Newcastle and Lord Middleton (Nottingham Park

and Wollaton Park) blocked development to the west of the town. Most of the remaining surrounding land was controlled by the burgesses of the town (numbering about 3,000) who exercised partial property rights simultaneously with the freeholders of the land. In spite of the freeholders wish for enclosure - so they could sell their land for building purposes - no act was forthcoming before 1839.

Non-enclosure had a disastrous effect on the housing and therefore the health of the poorer inhabitants of the town, as well as turning Nottingham into a cramped, unhealthy and unsightly town.

Another part of the problem was the absence of any body or institution with the authority to recognise and to deal with such matters. The Corporation of Nottingham felt no wider social responsibility than the preservation of law and order and the administration of the Corporation Estate on behalf of the burgesses. It was the duty of individual householders to keep clean the areas in front of their respective houses. The Corporation took no interest in town improvement schemes whatsoever. Even the maintenance of law and order was a pretty low priority. A mere handful of regular constables left the town prey to disorder – especially during the period of Luddism. Much of the burden was in fact carried by privately funded and operated Watch and Ward committees.

One sphere in which the Corporation appears to have assumed a fairly wide responsibility, however, was that of charity: it was foremost in organising and contributing to funds raised on behalf of the poor or the sick. Admirable though these charitable enterprises were, they were by no means adequate to cope with the growing and changing problem. The great growth in population, almost entirely dependent on the hosiery and lace trade, the latter subject to violent fluctuations, the former entering around 1809 a forty-year period of almost permanent depression, meant that charity was an outdated solution to the problems being raised – high rates of unemployment, falling wages and rising prices. These were major factors behind the development of working class politics in Nottingham.

It was against this background of growing social problems and an absence of any machinery to solve them that Nottingham acquired its reputation for

turbulent conduct and disorder in the Luddite years of 1811-16 and during the Reform Bill riots of October 1831. However, even during supposedly quieter years, Nottingham could maintain a steady output of election riots, recruiting riots and food riots. It was clear that during these years the people of Nottingham were growing accustomed to taking the law into their own hands when they deemed the occasion warranted it. There was a general antipathetic attitude towards authority and a growing disregard of Sabbath observance laws as well.

Between 1785 and 1835 there was a phenomenal growth in the Sunday School movement in Nottingham – in which the Methodists in particular played a notable role. Sunday Schools were seen as a means of encouraging social cohesion and promoting education. The local radical, John Blackener, saw that they had a dual role, to teach “right notions of the laws of God and of the rights of man”. Many Nottingham Dissenters preferred to emphasise the latter. A person taught to read the Bible at Sunday School could also read more radical material at his or her leisure. Although more than 60% of Nottingham children attended one of the 27 Sunday Schools in Nottingham in 1834, these schools also catered for adults.

If the high politics of the town were decided in the Non-conformist chapels, the low politics increasingly found their centres of organisation in the local pubs – especially the *White Lion*, the *Flying Horse*, the *Golden Fleece*, the *Three Salmons* and the *Sun Inn*. John Bowles, a Londoner, in 1803 described these establishments as “nurseries of disloyalty and republicanism”.



**The former *Flying Horse* Public House  
- now a shopping centre**

One further factor which possibly contributed to Nottingham’s role as a centre of political activism was the degree of social fluidity which existed

within the town. It was undoubtedly the ambition of every stockinger to become a master framework-knitter. Some even became hosiers. Lace offered greater opportunities for rising through the ranks. W. H. Wylie in his book, *Old and New Nottingham*, wrote that Nottingham was remarkable that the vast majority of small bobbin-net owners were men of modest origin even if the larger manufacturers tended to be men from a higher social order. Felkin (p.339) concurs with this assessment.

Felkin, indeed, was one such success story, having risen from the humblest positions to eventually attain the highest honours the town could bestow through his ingenuity and perseverance. He commenced as an apprentice stockinger but later became a successful lace-manufacturer and Mayor of Nottingham. John Blackner<sup>1</sup> was another. He initially laboured at a stocking-frame but educated himself. By May 1812, his literary ability and political reputation were so developed he was appointed editor of the radical London daily newspaper, *The Statesman*. Soon after, he became editor of the *Nottingham Review*. Still later he became a radical politician and the author of a well-respected history of Nottingham.

Gravenor Henson, originally another stockinger, acquired sufficient education to become a trade union leader of national importance, wrote a history of the framework-knitters (Henson. G., *The Civil, Political and Mechanical History of the Framework Knitters of Europe and America*, Sutton, Nottingham, Vol. 1, 1831) and gave expert evidence to successive government commissions and enquiries. ▪

## *Richard Tander*

Note: I have used material contained in Malcolm Thomis' book, *Politics and Society in Nottingham 1785-1835*, Chapter 1 as the basis for the article above but have drawn on numerous other sources, including another book by the same author, to expand on his thesis. The following article is largely based on Chapter 3 of this same book, but again using material from a number of other sources.

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<sup>1</sup> For further information on Blackener refer *Tulle* #107, May 2010, page 19.

# NOTTINGHAM SOCIETY – THE HOSIERS AND LACE MANUFACTURERS

The health of Nottingham's economy was the particular responsibility of the manufacturers who controlled the hosiery and lace trades; their response to trade problems would help determine the welfare of most people in the town. Although there were undoubtedly exceptions, the hosiers were not generally ill-disposed towards the workmen they employed. It was 'not through desire to injure the workman, but to undersell each other' that prices were not maintained in 1817. Henson argued that the majority of manufacturers were averse to reductions but lowered their rates to remain competitive. Anyone who has run a business understands that this can be, and usually is, the start of a vicious cycle.

William Felkin lamented in 1832 that the hosiers' profits between 1800 and 1830 had proportionately declined even more than their workers' wages and that many large manufacturers had gone out of business as a consequence. The 127 hosiery firms which had existed in 1815 had fallen to 56 by 1844.

The ending of John Heathcoat's bobbin-net patent in 1824 produced a great proliferation of independent machine-owners and small manufacturers. When the boom inevitably ended, they faced problems of over-production and falling prices, and almost 500 small owners disappeared between 1833 and 1836 as a result of these pressures and the competition of power-driven machinery.

Thomis states: "This sharing of common problems is clearly shown in the attitude of the hosier to wage agreements. Wages were, in general, paid according to list prices, negotiated with as much goodwill as the situation permitted, between masters and men. The 1787 statement, followed by two decades of economic stability and relative prosperity, worked well, but from about 1809, when slumps were separated by periods of only slightly less depression, settlements lasted for only a few years each and were almost impossible to enforce. From the workers' viewpoint the trouble was the underpaying master. From the hosiers' viewpoint the trouble was the

workmen who agreed to work at rates below list-prices, and the hosiers were quite ready to shift the onus of responsibility for the maintenance of prices onto the workmen themselves. Both Felkin and Henson agreed that the preliminaries to Luddism involved agreement between a group of hosiers and representatives of the men that the latter would attempt to force up the rates of underpaying manufacturers, even restrict manufacturers in the quality of articles they were making. During the strike of 1820 the larger manufacturers contributed to the funds of the men as the strike was against those employers who were paying below the 1819 statement, the undercutting masters, the enemy of men and manufacturers alike”.

The workmen were in a difficult predicament. The alternative to working at low rates was often not working at all!

What made permanent cooperation between masters and men even more difficult was the vexed question of ‘cut-up’ production. To meet the increased demand for leg-wear which the industry was having trouble producing due to the lack of skilled workers, cheap stockings (called “cut-ups” because they were cut out of a large piece of knitted cloth and then seamed) were created to cater for the cheap end of the market.

As there was no secure selvedge edge, the material soon parted and the thread unravelled in a manner similar to the “ladders” in modern stockings. These cheap stockings, while satisfying an immediate need, undercut the market for the finer, dearer wares when the industry hit hard times.

The machines of manufacturers making “cut-ups” were especially targeted by Luddites during the most serious period of Luddism in the hosiery industry in Nottingham – between the beginning of November 1811 and the end of January 1812. Luddism came to an end not because all the perpetrators were rounded up but because of substantial improvements in the working and living conditions offered to workers – the very things which had caused Luddism in the first place. Felkin saw the hosier’s triumphs as the gaining of two shillings per dozen rise in the price of the stockings they manufactured and a temporary halting of cut-up production. However the rise was soon lost and cut-ups were reinstated once the threat of machine wrecking had passed. Nor is there anything to suggest that the stockingers and lace workers

benefitted from Luddism in the longer term. Their wages continued to fall and the grievances they had in 1812 were those they still had in 1845. However, Thomis states “if workmen did themselves no great good by breaking machines, it is also probably true that they did themselves no great harm”<sup>2</sup>.

Luddism, however, did have one disastrous effect in Nottinghamshire. There was a drastic reduction in the number of frames making point net in Nottingham, and a corresponding proliferation of bobbin-net frames manufacturing bobbin-net in Leicestershire. Many of the frames previously making point net had been converted to those making cut-ups and it was these which became the prime target of the frame breakers.

Cut-ups were never outlawed, and parliamentary regulation was not introduced, “but the view that unfettered production and trade were best, though widely held at Westminster, remained a more doubtful issue as far as Nottingham was concerned”. “The gentlemen of Nottingham”, reported the 1841 Commissioners on the export of machinery, “also state themselves to be advocates of free trade in the abstract, but claim an exemption in regard to machinery used in their own manufactures”. They saw free trade being good for corn but wanted protection from Saxon stockings and French lace. They also objected strongly to the 50% duty which the French placed on British lace.

The issue which really aroused the protectionist side of the Nottingham manufacturer was, however, the export of machinery. Although they disliked Nottingham men crossing the Channel and taking their secrets with them, they realised that this could not be stopped. Bulky lace machinery was another thing. Lace machinery had illegally left the country before 1824 but the authorities had done little to check its departure.

Our own ancestors as well as France were the obvious beneficiaries of this indifference to both man and machine. ■

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<sup>2</sup> Thomis, Malcolm., *The Luddites – Machine Breaking in Regency England*, Schocken, New York, 1972

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# Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais Inc. (ASLC)

Business Registration Y2651913

The Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais Inc. was formed in 1982 when a small group of people came to the realisation that they shared a common interest in a special group of English machine lacemakers which we call the Lacemakers. The Lacemakers were principally those originally from Nottingham and who were involved in two mass migrations in the space of little more than a decade.

The Lacemakers' first migration was to escape the poverty, unemployment, misery, disease and discomfort of overcrowded industrial Nottingham. Their migration was to the shores of France – especially to Calais – where their skills as lace artisans were initially treasured and where their employment and well-being seemed assured. However, during the 1848 Revolution in France, the political and social upheaval left most of them jobless again. Their future in France became uncertain. Most decided that making a fresh life in a new land was preferable to returning to England where it was probable they would remain destitute and a burden on their Parishes. Their second migration was to various parts of Australia.

Most of the Lacemaker emigrants sailed to Australian ports in one of three vessels, viz. *Agincourt* (destination Sydney), *Fairlie* (destination also Sydney) and *Harpley* (destination Adelaide). Other Lacemaker emigrants followed in smaller groups on other vessels. These included *Andromache*, *Baboo*, *Bermondsey*, *Emperor*, *General Hewitt*, *Harbinger*, *Navarino*, *Nelson*, *Walmer Castle* and possibly others.

Descendants of migrants who came on any of the vessels mentioned above are encouraged to apply for membership of the Australian Society of Lacemakers of Calais Inc. For more information refer to our website <https://www.lacemakersofcalais.com.au>