



Descendants of the Lacemakers of Calais

<https://www.lacemakersofcalais.com.au/>

What were they known as?

Search the records for Calais and St Pierre-lès-Calais and you'll find some interesting details about the residents. These records, available to researchers of the archives of the current French département of Pas-de-Calais, include the accounts of births, marriages and deaths usually written on the day the event was reported, as well as census records and a register of livrets.

Usually these records note the occupation of the resident at the time the record was made and, being French records, they are written in French. Possible English translations are shown but when it comes to lace work it's not always possible to make a direct or simple translation of the French term and sometimes the work done changed with time. The following are some likely translations:

French term m/f	English description
<i>brasseur/brasseuse or fabricant de bière</i>	brewer or maker of beer
<i>cafetier/cafetière</i>	café owner or manager
<i>couturière</i>	dressmaker
<i>cordonnier</i>	shoemaker
<i>dévideur/dévideuse</i>	
<i>dessinateur</i>	winder - winds cotton onto a wooden spool or reel from hanks of spun cotton. The reel is then used by the bobbin winder.
<i>esquisseur</i>	designer and/or sketcher of the lace fabric design
<i>fabricant de rouleaux</i>	reel or spool maker
<i>fabricant de tulle</i>	tulle maker
<i>fileur/fileuse</i>	spinner
<i>mécanicien</i>	machine mechanic
<i>ménagère</i>	housewife or housekeeper
<i>ouvrier en tulle</i>	lace worker
<i>perceur</i>	piercer of the Jacquard cards
<i>perruquier</i>	wigmaker or hairdresser
<i>plieur/plieuse de tulle</i>	lace presser
<i>raccommodeuse</i>	mender – makes good any faults in the fabric
<i>remonteur</i> [In Calais called the <i>armonteur</i>]	bobbin fitter – removes empty bobbins from the carriages and fits the filled bobbins. After checking each bobbin/carriage assembly, he fits the assemblies to the machine.
<i>tamboureur/tamboureuse</i>	embroiderer
<i>wapeur or wappeur</i>	winds cotton threads onto a long metal roller that is fitted across the width of the machine. These threads become the warp threads of the fabric.
<i>wheleur/wheleuse</i>	bobbin winder - winds thread onto a bobbin. The cotton in the bobbin is then used for the weft threads of the fabric.
<i>visiteuse</i>	material checker who marks faults for the menders