TULLE

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

The 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, 18 February 2012

Saturday, 19 May 2012 Saturday, 18 August 2012 Saturday, 17 November 2012

Find Us on the Internet: www.angelfire.com/al/aslc

Want to Join or Membership

Subscription Due?

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Cover: Lace workers in Calais.

This Coming Meeting: Saturday, 18 February 2012, 1.00pm

Guest Speaker: Richard and Lyndall Lander have recently returned from a family history trip to Calais, Nottingham, Poole and other points of interest to him in England. Following the AGM and regular General Meeting, Richard will show a video of the Calais leg of his trip. This includes footage of lace machinery producing lace complete with the hypnotic sound of these wonderful old machines. Also included are many shots from the Calais Lace Museum.

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President's Message

We are now well into the new year of 2012 and that means our Society has been going strong for 30 years. We are planning for a celebration at our November meeting and while a small committee is putting together ideas for that gathering, please feel free to contact any of the office bearers to add your suggestions for the celebration of 30 years together as our society.

Last year we enjoyed interesting presentations at our May, August and November meetings. This year at February's annual general meeting, Richard Lander, the editor of *Tulle* will be presenting a video that he has compiled from images and sounds he recorded during his recent visit to Calais and England. This video includes footage of Leavers machines actually making lace so I urge you to get along to the February meeting and not miss something that is at the core of our society's existence. I would also welcome your suggestions for speakers at future meetings.

As it is our "30th year" it should be a big year for us. Over those 30 years the Society has been fortunate that a core of members have put in huge efforts to keep the Society running. However, we not only need new members, we also need active members who are keen to take on those roles which will help ensure our society can keep going. The coming annual general meeting is an opportunity for all members to demonstrate their willingness to take an active role in running our Society. I urge you to attend and present your thoughts on the Society's future directions. Richard Lander has expressed his willingness to help any potential Editor take on this important role. Richard has already expressed his readiness to stand down next year if and when a suitable replacement Editor can be found so this is your opportunity!

Finally I remind you that subscriptions were due on 1 January last and if you have forgotten please forward it now to our membership secretary, Barbara Kendrick.

Stephen Black

Secretary's Report

2012 marks the thirtieth birthday of ASLC and this is no mean feat. In 1982 Bert Archer and Bill Brownlow had conferred about the oddities of French connections in their families – both of whom arrived on the *Agincourt*. Bert wrote a small par for *Descent* (journal of The Society of Australian Genealogists) and from this small start big things grew.

We met one wet and cold Saturday afternoon at the Globe Street Archives – all of us blundering around in the genealogy darkness of thirty years ago with absolutely no idea of what we would uncover – and here we are thirty years later with a marvellous story to tell that encompasses the world. It has been a fabulous journey – and one that has created the most abiding friendships and connections.

So where to in 2012? We are a rare combination of genealogists and socials historians. We are unique in that our families came from the one nation: England, to the one city: Calais and then together emigrated to another country: Australia.

The social history will go on being developed, and while there are still many unanswered questions, the bones are there.

Genealogy is a generational thing. It takes just one generation of keen family historians to get their story sorted – those persons then become the experts and the younger generations see the work is done and their responsibility is to keep it all up to date.

So how do we keep a Society such as ASLC alive? What will make it important for the coming generations to stay in touch with those their families shared a lifetime with?

Gillian Kelly

Editor's Comment

The November issue of Tulle contained an article regarding the Alexander Henderson Award which is presented to the person or people who produce the best Australian family history published in Australia and submitted to the judges for consideration. It was amiss of me to fail to mention that the second ever Alexander Henderson Award, that for 1975, was in fact awarded to an ASLC member of long-standing, Mr. Kingsley Ireland of Angaston, South Australia. He wrote "The Family History of Hiram Longmire, 1814-1880", for which he received this prestigious award.

In many ways, Kingsley's book was the inspiration I needed to put together the material for and to publish the first edition of my own family history in January, 1988. I am proud to number Kingsley amongst my friends and I am thankful to him for encouraging an abiding interest in family history which remains as strong today as it was nearly thirty years ago when I commenced my own research.

One of the things I have discovered as a family genealogist is just how little I have got to really know any of my ancestors. Sure, I know when and where many of them were born, married and died. In some cases I know what they did to earn a living. But that is about all. I know virtually nothing about their characters; their standards; their ambitions; their experiences; their spirituality; their shortcomings; their accomplishments; the impact their lives have had on others; the strength of their marriages or their relationships with their children; their vision or their future plans. I believe that ultimately it is the character, ability and experience of those that have preceded us that have affected our own lives. You can't buy courage and decency which, I believe, ultimately determine a person's character. Aristotle recognised this more than 300 years before the birth of Christ when he stated: "Character is that which reveals moral purpose, exposing the class of things a man chooses and avoids."

I hope that any future edition of my family history might try to record the characteristics of those nearest and dearest to me so those who follow might know and understand just a little more about their own character. I encourage you to do the same in your own family histories.

I wish all members of our Society a Happy Thirtieth Birthday.

Richard Jander

William Brownlow - Agincourt Passenger'

Tulle for February 2010 (Issue 110) provided readers with some insight into the Brownlow family. This article provides some further information and insights into this interesting family.

William Brownlow and his wife, Emma Sophia Courquin, were married at Calais about 1838. They, and their children, William², Mary, and John³, all travelled to Australia aboard the Agincourt in 1848. Another child, George Agincourt Brownlow , was born at sea aboard the Agincourt. George died at Dubbo. Another seven children were to follow as shown below.

Sarah Susannah Pye Brownlow was born at Bathurst on 25 September 1850 (NSW BDM 1850 # 3371 V35). She was baptised there on 29 October that year. She married Henry Hunt Hackney at Kelso, near Bathurst, on 7 August 1873⁶, and she died at Carcoar in 1888 (NSW BDM 1888 # 7890).

Thomas Brownlow was born at Bathurst in 1853 (BDM 1853 # 3666 V39A). He married Agnes Thomson Dobbie at Bathurst in 1877 (BDM 1877 # 2185).

Emma Brownlow was also born at Bathurst - she in 1855 (BDM 1855 # 4776 V428). She married Henry Williams at Bathurst in 1879 (NSW BDM 1879 # 2433).

Alfred followed in 1858, Bathurst (BDM 1858 # 4568); Arthur J Brownlow in 1860 (BDM 1860 # 4950); Frederic⁸ in 1863 (BDM 1863 # 4872); and finally, Louisa in 1865 (NSW BDM 1865 # 5328).

Some information has been sourced from "Bathurst Pioneers", Family History Group of Bathurst Inc., Bathurst, 2007 (ISBN 9780980354904)

William married Fanny Elizabeth Bronn at Bathurst in 1877 (NSW BDM 1877 # 2123) and they produced a family of 5 boys and 3 girls. More information at http://www.harrowercollection.com/brownlow.html

³ John married Louisa Stevenson at Bathurst in 1868 (NSW BDM 1868 # 1641)

George Agincourt Brownlow married Mary Elizabeth O'Brien at Bathurst in 1880 and for some inexplicable reason the marriage has two registration numbers (1880 # 2634 and 1880 # 2635)

George's birth is recorded in NSW BDM record 1848 # 1495 V33A. George was the grandfather of ASLC foundation member, the late Mr Bill Brownlow.

⁶ Sarah is shown as "Brownlaw" in this record (NSW BDM 1873 # 1877)

⁷ Alfred died in 1863 at Bathurst (NSW BDM 1863 # 2854)

⁸ Frederic also died in 1863 - the year he was born (NSW BDM 1863 # 2853). As he and his brother, Alfred. share consecutive death registration numbers, their deaths must have occurred almost simultaneously.

William Brownlow initially worked at the copper mine owned by Hanbury Clements — a very interesting character. Clements was an Englishman, born in 1793 at Dublin in Ireland, who joined the Royal Navy in 1806 and who served as a clerk on board *HMS Marne Fortunee*. In January 1812, Clements, then on board *HMS Laurel*, was captured and taken prisoner by the French after the sinking of the frigate in Quiberon Bay, off the coast of France, near St. Nazaire. He remained a prisoner of war in Verdun, France from 1812 until 1814. He was released by the French at the end of the war in 1814 at which time he journeyed principally on foot from Verdun to Portsmouth. In 1826, he settled in Australia where, although only a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, he became known as Captain Clements because by now he was the owner of several ships.

Those of you who have travelled from Sydney to Forbes by road would no doubt remember passing the site of the stagecoach hold-up at Eugowra Rocks. It was in 1862, at Escort Rock, five kilometres north of Eugowra, that Frank Gardiner and Ben Hall ambushed the gold escort coach on its way from Forbes to Bathurst. The huge granite boulders behind which the bushrangers laid in wait were on land owned by Clements' son, also named Hanbury Clements and it was he who gave first aid to those the bushrangers had wounded and who alerted the police in Forbes that the robbery had occurred! In fact, Hanbury Clements junior also built the *Fat Lamb Hotel* at Eugowra. Hanbury Clements, senior died on 13 June 1847, at "Summerhill", Rockley, near Bathurst, N.S.W.

William Brownlow bought a property called "Buckburraga" at Burraga, near Oberon, in 1858 for grazing and farming, but sold it later to Thomas Hackney, the younger brother of Henry Hunt Hackney (his son-in-law). He then lived for some time at "Northholme" at 16 Market Street, Rockley, which he sold to H H Hackney in 1888. In 1863, J D Pye signed over part of "Briar Park", Rockley to William and his family. One of the ASLC's foundation members, Bill Brownlow, was living at "Briar Park" until his death. William Brownlow also built the Club House Hotel and adjoining terrace of shops at 4 Budden Street and 16 Market Street, Rockley and had a share in the Rockley Flour Mill at 12 Budden St. In addition, he built "Calais Villa", at 9 Phantom Street, Rockley, which he named after his wife's birthplace.

Richard Jander

Stragglers, Strays, Absentees & Deserters

Although I haven't been able to find any record of any stragglers, strays, absentees or deserters from any of the lacemakers vessels in 1848, these transgressions probably did happen even then. From as early as February 1852 such misdemeanours began being reported in the *New South Wales Government Gazette (NSWGG)*. They were probably becoming much more numerous by then as a direct consequence of the discovery of gold in NSW.

In the NSWGG of 4 May 1852, a £5 reward was offered for two able-bodied seamen from the "Agincourt", viz. Daniel Davidson, 5ft 7½", fresh complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, and crucifix on left arm; and Thomas Williams, 5ft 8½", fair complexion, brown hair, anchor and bracelet on the left hand.



In the NSWGG of 27 May 1863, a £3 reward was offered for seven able-bodied seamen and one ordinary seaman from the "Fairlie". These were Antonia Veial, A.B., 5ft 7" high, dark complexion, hair and eyes, sharp features, bushy whiskers; an Italian; John Rogers, A.B., 5ft 3" high, dark complexion, brown

hair, dark eyes, smooth dark features; Jacob Depenillo, A.B., 5 ft 2" high, fair complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, smooth dark features and stout; Nicholas Lessene, A.B., 5 ft 6" high, dark complexion, hair and eyes, dark curly hair, an Italian; William Brown, A.B., 5 ft 4" high, dark complexion, hair and eyes, slim smooth features; Olef Engman, A.B., 6ft 1" high (wouldn't he have stood out like a beacon in the waterfront bars!!), dark complexion, hair and eyes, very dark bushy whiskers; J.P. Hulth, A.B., 5 ft 7" high, dark complexion, light brown hair, blue eyes, no whiskers, a Swede; and Carl Asmus, O.S., 5 ft 2" high, florid complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, stout build.

A £3 reward was offered for two able-bodied seamen from the "Castle Eden" whose desertion was reported in the NSWGG of 22 September 1852.

There were many desertions from the "General Hewitt" which, from my readings, seems to have been the unhappiest of all the lacemaker ships. These were reported as follows. In the NSWGG of 31 May 1852, Peter Paterson, a Norwegian, fair complexion, stiffly built, dark hair, height 5ft 5 in, reward £5. Also, John Anderson, a Norwegian, 20 years of age, slightly built, sandy hair, about 5 ft 6 in., reward £5; and William Baker Newson, an Englishman, 23 years of age, light complexion, brown hair, 5 ft 3 in, reward £5 and John Euster Spelling, an Englishman, 22 years of age, fresh complexion, brown hair, 5 ft 5 in., reward £5. Another five were listed in the NSWGG of 16 February 1852; one in 8 March 1852; another six on 3 February 1853; nine on 8 February 1853; another six on 18 March 1853; and sixteen on 23 March 1853 by which time, nor surprisingly, the reward offered had fallen to £2 per head

I have not found any reports of desertions from any of the other lacemaker vessels at any time.

Richard Jander

GUEST SPEAKERS NOT TO BE MISSED.

MAY 2012: A STATE RECORDS SPEAKER WILL TALK ABOUT THEIR ARCHIVES & HOW TO ACCESS THEM.

AUGUST 2012: CASSIE MERCER, THE EDITOR OF INSIDE HISTORY MAGAZINE.

The Hosiery and Jace Trades

The following text is from: Old and New Nottingham by William Howie Wylie, Longman, Brown, Green and Longmans, London, 1853, Chapter XIII, "Trades and Manufactures", pp 293-305 (Google Books). Spelling & punctuation used is as per the original text.

Dr. Deering and John Blackner are the earliest historians who have attempted to give an account of the frame-working trade. The principal work on the subject is that by Gravenor Henson, entitled "The Civil, Political, and Mechanical History of the Framework Knitters, in Europe and America." William Felkin, esquire, has published many useful papers on the hosiery and lace trades, which must prove invaluable to the future historian, and of which we have availed ourselves in the following pages.

The petition of the framework knitters to Cromwell, claiming to be incorporated under the great seal like the other trade companies of London. along with the charter they then obtained, is the earliest document connected with the history of the hosiery trade. The construction of the stocking-frame was first contemplated in 1586; it was completed in 1589. Singularly enough it had its origin according to some historians, in disappointed love. The Rev. William Lee, curate of Calverton, in this county, (a native of Woodborough, near Nottingham, and heir to a considerable estate,) paid his addresses to a young lady, whose capricious temper or positive indifference prompted her, whenever he was present, to pay more heed to her knitting than to the reverend lover. The curate thereupon became disgusted, and in revenge set about devising a scheme that would effectually supersede the favourite employ of the cold fair one. He sacrificed everything to the new idea. To the original feeling of revenge was soon added anticipation of success, and visions of ample fortune drove the once-loved one from his heart, and all her subsequent endeavours to get back his favor proved ineffectual. The curacy was despised and soon abandoned, as gigantic prospects rose upon the view. This version of the story Henson gave on the authority of an ancient stocking-maker who died in Collin's Hospital,

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Nottingham, aged 92, and who was apprenticed in Nottingham during the reign of Queen Anne; the tale was likewise supported by the testimony of other veterans, and in some measure by the arms of the London Company of frameworkknitters, which consist of a stocking frame without the wood-work, with a clergyman on one hand and a woman on the other as supporters. Mr. Lee's first apprentice was Sir William, afterwards Lord, Hunsdon, whose powerful interposition with Queen Elizabeth failed in procuring for the inventor a grant of money. Lee's bright anticipations were never realized, and his unfortunate career closed in Paris in 1610. Subsequently his brother James returned to Nottingham, where he was joined by an "old confederate," Aston the miller. Having discovered the method of making frames with lead sinkers, they were favorably situated at Thoroton—Sherwood Forest producing a kind of sheep covered with wool of the largest staple. In 1641, which witnessed the practical inauguration of the second Charles's charter, Nottingham and its neighbourhood contained more than one hundred frames, and two hundred workmen. Charles II., by his charter, restricted the manufacture to a metropolitan company, but a spirited Nottingham artizan successfully resisted its claims in a court of law, and ever since the stocking manufacture has continued to be open.

The machine for making "tuck ribs" was introduced between the years 1735 and 1742. Between 1732 and 1750 eight hundred frames were brought from London to Nottingham. About this time the manufacture of silk gloves and mitts was introduced from Spain, and it was prosecuted chiefly in Nottingham. In 1758 Jedediah Strutt produced the Derby rib machine; from this invention has risen the making of open-work mittens, gloves, pantaloons, shirts, and fancy articles. In 1745 the London hosiers had frames built at Nottingham, which they put into the hands of journeymen as superintendents. Mr. Charles Villiers, a descendant of George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, the favorite of James I., was a master stocking maker, and kept a large shop of silk frames. It was by his exertions chiefly that the English silk and cotton stockings became decidedly superior in shape to those of any other country.

Between 1727 and 1753, the frames in Nottingham increased from 400 to 1500. At the latter date the charge of frame-rent was first imposed upon the journeymen. In 1730, a workman, named Draper, residing in Bellar gate. made the first pair of cotton stockings produced in England. For infringing the Derby rib patent several Nottingham hosiers were prosecuted. In 1773, Mr. Need, of Nottingham, became a partner with Mr. Strutt. Mr. Morris, of Nottingham, was the first patentee of the tuck presser with the rib machine, invented at Mansfield. The wooden platting machine being sold to Fellows, of Nottingham, he built a factory at the Weekday cross, and obtained a patent for the method, which eventually led to the discovery of making bobbin lace by machinery. Robert Frost, of Arnold, near Nottingham, afterwards invented an improved slide tickler; and in 1778, a person named Broadhurst, of Nottingham, discovered a very superior way of making the cylinder tickler net machine, which was eventually carried to France. Hammond, who invented the dogs to the tickler machine, and his wife were drunkards. The couple were together at a public-house, when an idea struck Hammond as his eyes rested on his wife's cap, which had a broad lace border and caul, that he could make cauls to imitate those she wore. He took himself to his frame in the Rookery, and before night, with the aid of his wife, produced three caps. In this circumstance originated the making of lace from the stocking-frame, the spoon tickler is ascribed by some to Thomas Taylor, a framesmith, of Nottingham; by others to John Lindley, senior. For taking point net by machinery, Taylor obtained a patent, which he soon sold to Mr. Morris. That gentleman sold his business to three brothers, from Ashbourne, in Derbyshire, named John, William, and Thomas Hayne. So small a value did Morris set upon the patent he had purchased from Taylor, that he made a present of it to the young firm. John or William Hayne effected great improvements on the point net machine, by which the net was made a sound fabric, and came into extensive demand. William Hayne, who took > himself the credit of these improvements, in his speeches to the workpeople was wont to display his hands, exclaiming, "Remember, these fingers first ran lace." The Messrs, Frost also effected some valuable improvements. Though the invention was originally introduced in England, the foreign manufacturers soon produced a superior article, and French lace was actually bought by the Nottingham

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manufacturers. Mr. Thomas Frost, brother to Robert, went abroad, and devised the most ingenious machine for making figured point lace of any required pattern; and, subsequently, discovered a new method of making lace by combining the tuck presser, and a new method of delivering the loop, called a knot. According to tradition, a man, named Bradder, who practised from about 1755 to 1785, was the first setter-up. The machine for making square net was built upon the principle of William Green, an ingenious setter-up. This species of net was made into mitts, gloves, purses, handkerchiefs, and wig linings; the last frame, employed in Nottingham, ceased to work in 1812. It is necessary that the general reader should know that all these varied results were produced from the stocking-frame built upon the principle of William Lee, and which, by still further modifications, eventually led to the fabrication of the machinery now used for the manufacture of point and warp lace.

The knotted stocking-machine was greatly improved by Centlivre Stevenson, of Nottingham. The patentees of the knotted stockingframe had an establishment at Nottingham, where the invention was soon pirated, but without success. Debarred from using the knotting-machine, but desirous of fabricating an article resembling the knotted work, a poor Nottingham workman, named Brockley, ingeniously contrived to effect his purpose by the aid of the tickler machine: he applied to it as many ticklers as needles, and unwittingly inaugurated a new era in the hosiery manufactory. Robert Ash subsequently produced an elastic twilled fabric from the tickler machine. Samuel Hague, a person who had received an excellent education, and pursued the avocations of baker and schoolmaster, successfully devoted his genius to the perfecting of these fabrics. His invention was termed stump work, and was sold for a small sum to the Messrs. Watson, eminent hosiers of Nottingham.

A patent was obtained for the mesh tickler machine by John Eaton and John Shackleton. Hague's relations were wont to relate that he and Eaton mutually agreed to obtain a patent for the invention, but that by some indirect means

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it was taken out in the name of the other party; the result being that he sustained considerable loss and died very poor.

There had been lately introduced into this trade the objectionable practice of employing parish apprentices, but the work they produced was so inferior that the unpopular innovation was abandoned.

About 1776, 300 frames were broken near Nottingham, because they were employed upon spurious or under-fashioned work. Notwithstanding all the skill, industry, and capital employed, the hosiery trade, though enlarging the number of its frames and the amount of its production, has during the last fifty years suffered many depressions in the rate of wages, unattended by corresponding improvements in speed. In 1812 Blackner enumerated 29,590 frames; though in 1811, owing to the extreme privations of the hands, 687 machines had been destroyed by Luddism. A list of 101 inventions up to 1828 has been compiled by Mr. Gravenor Henson, and to that list probably as many more might now be added —including the ingenious rotary steam knitting frame of Mr. Whitworth (which is the only one nearly, if not entirely, constructed on other principles than those of Lee), Mr. Thorburn's, a curious one said to be Mr. Brunell's, and some others. Hose, entirely fashioned by the scissors, are made by steam, and many frames are putting on to work by power. In no trade have more unremitting, better directed, or, on the whole, more successful efforts been made; the entire machine-wrought lace trade has sprung from them. Owing to the marked superiority of foreign goods over those of this country, the home trade became so much depressed that riots and general distress prevailed, and foreign manufactures had to be forbidden admission into the country.

In 1776-7 an extensive association of workmen was formed to enforce the bye-laws of the long inoperative company, and so powerful was the branch in Nottingham that they had the entire control of returning the members to parliament.

In 1778 D. Parker Coke, esquire, M.P. for Derby, presented a petition from the framework-knitters of Nottingham, representing that "notwithstanding their

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utmost industry, they were incapable of providing the common necessaries of life." Inadequate wages and frame-rent were the evils complained of. The long mooted, and, till the present moment, much vexed question of framerent created the most painful excitement. It was complained by the workmen that rent amounting to 14 per cent, on the cost of the frames was charged, while the wear did not exceed 4 per cent. It being thought by the employed that the hosiers did not pay sufficient attention to their claims, they held "indignation meetings." at which the masters were lampooned and denounced in unmeasured terms. The copper coin of deteriorated value, then in circulation, was also made the subject of indignant remonstrance. In 1779 the framework-knitters once more asked for legislative interference. Mr. Smith, the member for the borough, brought in a bill, but it was thrown out. The most alarming disturbances now occurred, and a great number of frames were broken. The magistrates were stunned by the tact, rapidity, and systematic movements of the mob. Only one rioter, a man named Mephringham, was brought to trial. To the alarm of his friends he was charged with a capital offence, but the only witness of importance, Benjamin Leavers, was carried off in the dead of the night to Charnwood Forest, and subsequently to Essex, where he was detained till the trial was over; and Mephringham was acquitted.

In 1768 two persons, Cranes and Porter, obtained a patent for making brocade work upon the stocking frame; this branch of manufacture is now obsolete.

During the reign of Luddism, extending from 1811 to 1816, one thousand frames were destroyed in Nottinghamshire by the operatives. Lace machines were also broken. The sole object of the rioters was an advance of wages. The plan adopted by these midnight prowlers was to assemble in parties, disguised and armed, of from six to sixty, under a supposed leader, styled "Little David," afterwards "Ned" or "General Ludd." In 1811 an act of parliament was passed, making it death to break a stocking or lace frame. In March, 1812, seven framebreakers were sentenced to transportation. In April, Mr. Trentham, a manufacturer was shot near his own door, but happily the

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wound did not prove mortal. In 1814 the Luddites attacked the house of Mr. Garton, at Basford, but he, being apprised of their intention, returned the fire of his assailants. One of the Luddites fell, and the rest retreated, and in their flight shot dead, at his own door, Mr. Kilby, who lived close by. On the 9th of June, 1816, the Luddites broke nineteen lace frames in the houses of Mr. W. Wright and Mr. Thomas Mullen. This was the last act of Luddism, its mistaken votaries having discovered that their destructive practices were in the end more injurious to themselves than their employers, whose losses had to be borne by the county rate. The state of Nottingham during this period may be judged from the number of unemployed families who were relieved in the three parishes on the 30th of January, 1812; these amounted to 4,248, consisting of 15,350 individuals, or nearly one-third of the population. In 1831 the hosiery trade employed fewer hands in Nottingham, Lenton, Beeston, Radford, Basford, Arnold, and Sneinton, than it did in 1811, when there were 2,600 frames in the town, and 900 in Old and New Radford. According to a return, compiled by Mr. Felkin, there were in 1845 in Nottinghamshire, 14,875 stocking frames in use, and 1,500 lying still. As all the latter are now in operation besides a considerable number of new ones, there cannot be fewer at the present moment than 17,000 machines used in the county.

The introduction of the circular frame, in 1851, ascribed to M. Claussen, has had the effect of centralizing the hosiery manufacture. Hitherto small workshops and large warehouses have been the characteristic features of the Nottingham lace and hosiery trades—the poor rooms of small dwellings have been the most numerous of the workshops: but Claussen's roundabout has led to the establishment of many large factories; and now, instead of being scattered in the detached dwellings of the operatives, as was the case with the old-fashioned frame, the stockings can be manufactured by steam power. Thus the amount of hosiery has increased, while at the same time an immense pecuniary saving has been effected. The factory of Messrs. Hine, Mundella, and Co., in Station street, one of the handsomest buildings in the town, is the best specimen of the new class of factory yet erected.

On the introduction of the new circular machinery it was thought that wide stocking-frames would go out of use, and in some instances they were laid aside; now, however, all in working order are not only fully employed, but considerable numbers of them that were worth little more than the price of old iron a few months ago are in the hands of framesmiths for the purpose of being recruited. Some of the manufacturers could find employment for twice the quantity of frames now working to them, but neither additional hands nor extra machinery can be met with.

At the Industrial Exhibition of 1851 prize medals were awarded to the following Nottingham hosiers: Allen and Solly, who exhibited a selection of articles showing the improvement in the trade, especially in the materials used at the dates 1700, 1790, 1804, 1810, 1812, 1815, 1826, and 1848; Hurst and Sons; R. and J. Morley; and Thurman, Pigott, and Co. Honorable mention was made by the jury of John Lart and Son, inventors and manufacturers, for articles of clothing fashioned to fit the bust and waist of the wearer; R. and J. Musson, John Shaw, of Radford, and John Richards, junior, of Riste place, the maker of hose exhibited by R. and J. Morley.

On Christmas day, 1852, the Nottingham trade correspondent of the "Times" described in glowing terms the present prosperity of trade and the happiness of the workpeople, averring that if the average weight of the stocking-makers of the midland counties had been ascertained seven years ago, and contrasted with their weight at that present time, there was not the slightest doubt but they would "average from two to three stones heavier, while the comfort of their condition had gone very far to eradicate mischievous political and theological dogmas from their minds."

Fifty years ago Lace made by machinery was mostly from the point-net and warp-machines, both modifications of the original stocking-frame. Since then incredible sums of money have been expended, valuable lives sacrificed by intense study, a great number of patents taken out, and nearly as many differently constructed machines built for the production of plain and ornamental lace of every description. In none of the textile fabrics have there been so many combinations of machinery used to effect the purpose as in the

making of lace. All of these, except the warp machine, disappeared when the bobbin-net machine was introduced. Several ingenious men—among whom we may mention James Tarratt, Robert Brown, George Whitmore, and Edward Whittaker—successively attempted to produce net composed of threads twisted round one another by machinery, showing the same result as lace made upon the pillow. At length, in 1809, Mr. John Heathcoat, of Tiverton, then of Loughborough, put together and patented the ingenious machine which has become so extensively known as the bobbin-net machine. Its use was at that time circumscribed by the cost of production, but now its nature has been so simplified, and its productive powers so increased, that the quantity which was formerly sold for thirty shillings may now be purchased for three-pence. Several important improvements have also been effected by the family of the Leavers, by Mr. Roe, Mr. William Croft, and Mr. John Bertie. The plait-net machine was the invention of the unfortunate criminal, Jeremiah Brandreth.

Up till 1808, the practice in the trade was to measure lace by the rack, but, being deemed unjust to the hands, it was abandoned in 1810.

In 1810 there were at least 15,000 frames at work, affording employment to from 10,000 to 15,000 persons. During the French war the people of the town would probably have famished but for this point lace. Yet when Blackner wrote, its inventor was in poverty. In 1808 the manufacture of cotton point lace was at its zenith. More than 600 frames of the first quality were employed in it. In 1815 scarcely a yard of it was made.

In 1823, when Mr. Heathcoat's fourteen years' patent expired, all Nottingham went mad. Everybody wished to make bobbin-net. For more than two years ruinous speculation prevailed. Machines and houses sprang up like mushrooms, and hundreds of mechanics poured into the town. The markets were soon glutted, and the bubble burst in 1825, when many of the London and country banks came down. In 1823-4-5 Leavers machines sold at from £90 to £100; a year or two afterwards they were thrown piecemeal into the streets; and in 1834 one-third of all the machinery had passed out of the hands of the original owners.

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The first person who produced cotton net was Mr. Page, of Nottingham. After repeated efforts on the Leaver, circular, pusher, and traverse warp machines, in 1831-2, plans were adopted to purl and bullet-hole the edges of narrow laces; the same was done on the pusher and circular machines. At this period, also, a patent was taken out by William Sneath of Ison Green, and sold to James Fisher, of Radford, for spotting on the circular machine; and soon after another was taken out by Richard Birkin, of Basford, for spotting on the Leaver machine. About 1839 a pusher machine was worked with cards the width of the net, by Mr. Wright, of Radford: the same application was made to the circular machine by Mr. Crofts, who has taken out several patents for various improvements in nearly every description of bobbin-net machinery. The application of the Jacquard progressed slowly till 1841, when a plan. discovered by Hooton Deverill, was bought and patented by Messrs. Biddle and Birkin, for applying the Jacquard to the guide bars. At the present time there is scarcely a machine at work, except those adapted purposely for plain net, to which the Jacquard has not been applied. The plain net made and patented in 1838 by Mr. Crofts was not extensively manufactured till the successful application of the Jacquard. Such an impetus did the trade receive from this that hundreds of useless or "worked up" machines were brought into active and profitable use, many of their owners after spending from £80 to £100 being able to realize this outlay in three or four weeks. New sources of manufacture speedily developed themselves, such as flounces, scarfs, shawls, and window curtains; but a drawback was experienced from the circumstance of manufacturers having for a long time to resort to the continent for designs. The evil was, however, remedied by the cordial assistance which the government afforded to the establishment of a school of design, and Nottingham has now a large body of clever local designers. At the Exposition of 1851 the jury in class 19 reported as follows: "Nottingham, long celebrated for her machine-made lace, has, on this occasion, furnished indubitable proof that her manufacturers and artisans have been progressing in the same ratio as those in most other branches of industry during the last half-century."

At the present time, among the infinite variety of articles manufactured by the bobbin-net machines, are: Black silk piece net ornamented, shawls, scarfs, flounces, trimming laces, blondes in white and colors, cotton edgings, laces, and insertions, linen laces, muslin edging and laces, fancy piece net, spotted net, plait net; curtains, bed-covers, and blinds employing above 100 machines; silk and cotton, plain net, Mechlin grounds, blonde, Brussels, or extra twist, employing upwards of 2.000 machines.

The machines at present in use are the following: The "Leavers," so called after John Leavers, the original constructor, a specimen of which at work was shown in the Great Exhibition by Mr. Birkin; the "pusher;" the "circular," originally constructed by Mr. Morley, of Derby (late of Nottingham); and a few "traverse warp machines." There is a smaller number of machines now than in 1836, but, though numerically less, the power of production is materially increased. Arrangements have been made in many of the machines for completely finishing, or embroidering, the produce, thus dispensing with "lace-runners." In 1852 the number of bobbinnet machines in full operation was 3,200; total number of quarters, 34,382, giving employment to 5,556 men, 6,859 women and children, and representing a capital of £1,329,445. This is exclusive of buildings and machinery for working the same, and also of machinery and stock for silk-throwing, cotton-spinning, dyeing, bleaching, and dressing; for smiths, bobbin and carriage, guide, comb, and point makers, embroidering, carding, mending, &c., estimated at £1,616,500, in which occupations 113,300 hands are regularly employed. Total capital, £2,965,945. Number of hands employed, 133,015. Annual amount of business returns, £2,300,000.

Mr. Richard Birkin, lace-manufacturer, who in the year 1851, was mayor of Nottingham, and who from an humble position in life has raised himself to an honorable and useful eminence among his fellow townsmen, was reporter of the jury for class 19, in the Great Exhibition. In the report of that jury we find an excellent account of the lace trade. We also find that many prizes were bestowed on Nottingham manufacturers and designers. Prize medals were awarded to Ball, Dunnicliffe, and Co., for a warp lace machine; R. Birkin, for a

bobbin-net lace machine, with Jacquard. In the supplementary report on design the jury make especial mention of designs exhibited by H. Heald, (designer), Heymann and Alexander, and R. Birkin. A council medal was awarded to Ball, Dunnicliff, and Co., Nottingham, for velvet and Simla lace; and prize medals to the subjoined Nottingham manufacturers and designers:—Fisher and Robinson, Greasley and Hopcroft, B. Heald (designer), Heymann and Alexander, Mallett and Barton, Reckless and Hickling, Thomas Robinson (for curtains exhibited by Heymann and Alexander), H. Steegmann and Co., William Vickers, Whitlock and Billiald. Honorable mention was made by the jury of Adams and Sons, Henry Heald (student at the government school of design), Thomas Herbert and Co., and Samuel Turton (designer).

The colors dyed in Nottingham do not generally equal those of the colored and silk goods dyed for the London, Manchester, and Coventry trades, but it is satisfactory to know that it is practicable to effect this improvement, as there is water in the district well adapted for securing the desired brilliancy of color. In 1808 eighteen hundred point-net frames were at work in the neighbourhood of Nottingham. About this time Brown and Pindar made silk lace from what they termed an upright warp frame: in 1810 one hundred and twenty of these were at work in the town, the wages of the workmen being never less than fifty shillings per week. In a short period lace was made from the horizontal warps, and the uprights became useless. Brown and Copestake invented what was called Mechlin net, which soon superseded the point net. In a short time 430 frames were making it; the wages of the workmen averaging four guineas per week, and the cotton costing fifteen guineas per lb. Kirkland made an imitation Mechlin lace called "two-course" net, and Daycock invented another kind of silk lace known as " blonde." The latter still forms a considerable branch of the lace trade: at first the workmen engaged in it made ten pounds per week. In 1819 the Mechlin disappeared. Driven from the plain by the bobbin-net, the warp inaugurated the ornamental. Boot, Roberts, Herbert, and Copestake were the earliest in the field. " Mock-twist," an imitation of the rival bobbin-net, was produced. From these sprang the tatting trade, which gave a wonderful impulse to the warp trade: this was at its height in 1830-31. Machines were now constructed on improved principles,

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and rotatory action successfully applied. In 1835-6, the silk blonde and cotton tattings became greatly depressed, and the bobbin-net machine again outrivalled its forerunner by producing superior ornamented laces.

In 1839 the Jacquard was applied to the warp by Draper of Nottingham. A new class of products, of elaborate design, was manufactured, such as shawls, scarfs, mitts, falls, laces, &c. Latterly the products of the twist machine have to a great extent supplanted them.

Great improvements have been made in dressing silk lace. Mr. Dunnicliff first followed the French method of working the silk in the single thread, and in the raw state, instead of the organzine which had previously been used.

Within the last few years many new kinds of manufacture have been attempted from the warp. Elastic woollen cloth for gloves and other purposes was first made by Henry Dunnington of Nottingham. Many new kinds of elastic fabrics for gloves, both in silk and other kinds of material, have been made by Messrs. Ball and Co. A patent for velvet lace was obtained in 1845 by Dunnicliff and Dexter. The making of velvet, however, was not brought into practical operation till 1849, when Messrs. Ball and Dunnicliff and Messrs. Haines and Hancock succeeded in making piece velvet suitable for gloves. During 1851 the same parties obtained a patent for making velvet in combination with lace, and other novel weavings, specimens of which were shown in the Great Exhibition. Of the 1,400 warp frames supposed to be now in operation 400 are in Nottinghamshire.

"Tambour" lace is made extensively at Nottingham.

The manufacture of bobbin-net was successfully introduced into France by Nottingham workmen, who established themselves at Calais in 1817 and 1819.

In the manufacture of cotton yarn, or twist, Mr. Samuel Cartledge did much, rendering this country independent of foreign nations for the thread of which bone lace (the making of which used to give employment to a large number of females in Nottingham, previous to the introduction of framework-knitting)

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is made. In 1805 Mr. Cartledge spun thread sufficiently fine for bobbin-net. It was calculated that his invention added £30,000 annually to the productive labor of the land.

The following gentlemen have contributed to the importance of Nottingham by their inventions of various kinds in the manufacturing of lace: Mr. William Crofts of New Lenton; Mr. Stephen Bates, New Radford; Messrs. Redgate and Cropper, New Sneinton; Mr. Alderman Birkin; Messrs. Ball and Dunnicliff, Castle gate; Messrs. Reckless and Hickling, St. Mary's gate; Mr. William Cope, Broad marsh; Mr. Daniel Gill, Ison Green; Thomas and Edwin Ellis, Sneinton; Mr. Olive Moore, New Sneinton; Mr. John Sissling; George Freeman, esquire; John Brown; James Clark; Joshua Roper; John Lindley; William Barnes; Joseph Crowder, &c.



A word is not a crystal, transparent and unchanged, it is the skin of a living thought and may vary greatly in colour and content according to the circumstances and the time in which it is used. -Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., jurist (1841-1935)

There's nothing to writing. All you do is sit down at a typewriter and open a vein.
- Walter Welleslev "Red" Smith

A word is not the same with one writer as with another. One tears it from his guts. The other pulls it out of his overcoat pocket. - Charles Peguy

It is necessary to write, if the days are not to slip emptily by. How else, indeed, to clap the net over the butterfly of the moment? For the moment passes, it is forgotten; the mood is gone; life itself is gone. That is where the writer scores over his fellows: he catches the changes of his mind on the hop. - Vita Sackville-West

I am returning this otherwise good typing paper to you because someone has printed gibberish all over it and put your name at the top. - English Professor (Name Unknown), Ohio University

Where is the Life we have lost in living? Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information? -T.S. Eliot, poet (1888-1965)



Mather Family - Baboo Passengers

Rosie Wileman wrote: "I finally got round to opening my latest Tulle (Aug 2011 ed'n) last night - we have been in France and busy since we got back a week or so ago."

"That was a mistake! I couldn't put it down and had to read it in detail from cover to cover. It's always interesting but I was late to bed and late to rise as a consequence. I found the Select Committee stuff fascinating to re-read, since though I studied it when writing my dissertation. I never had a copy - and thanks for the web address, which I shall certainly look at soon."

"The other piece I read through a second time was on the small ships, especially about the *Baboo*. The entry in the shipping lists for my MATHER family is a little misleading: Byron (born Nottingham 1826), Washington (born Calais 1830) and Archibald (Nottingham 1833) were also the children of Joseph Birch MATHER and his wife Mary (née SMITH). Perhaps because they were older - (22, 18 and 15 - and possible employees as soon as they landed in Australia - they were named separately. The three children not named were all born in Nottingham: Frances, 1837, Sarah in



Hannah Barker Limb

– born aboard the Baboo

1838 and Henry James in 1841. We have a birth certificate for Henry James. Another son, James, born in 1835, died in Nottingham in that same year. Ann MATHER, who accompanied the family, was Joseph Birch MATHER's half-sister, recently orphaned, aged 30."

"What the shipping lists don't even hint at, is that there was an older child, Elizabeth, also travelling with them and with her husband, George Turner LIMB, and their young son, John, born in late 1847. Elizabeth was pregnant when the *Baboo* and gave birth to a baby daughter, Hannah

Barker LIMB, at sea, on 7 November 1848. Her middle name was in honour of the Captain of the *Baboo*. Elizabeth and George LIMB went on to have six more children in Australia. Hannah married Frederick James Pascoe in 1869 in Adelaide; they had eight children."

"The other MATHER children all married and had families of their own."

"Byron married twice and had nine children; Washington married once and had four children; Archibald, two marriages, six children; Frances had twelve children by her first husband, John Louis William Polle; Sarah had ten by her first husband James Swann; Henry James had five by his first marriage and five by his second. Ann also married and had a daughter. There are a lot of MATHER descendants in Australia!"

"One of them, Jim MATHER, found a journal kept by someone who travelled on the same ship. He transcribed and edited it and sent me a copy. It's quite fascinating, with many insights and I will ask his permission to quote excerpts. What a pity the author doesn't mention my MATHERs."

"There's usually something that sends me scurrying off to check my research too! - such as Charles BARTON, 19, whitesmith, who sailed on the *Andromache* - I think you might want to keep him in the "family", as the 1831 Census for Saint-Pierre-Lès-Calais gives James BARTON, mécanicien, wife Elizabeth WYATT [elsewhere WAIT] + 3 children, William, 8, James, 6 and Charles, 2. In 1836 (Ref: 2936-644) James BARTON and Elizabeth WEAT have 6 kids, including Charles who is now 8."

"In 1841, when we get addresses, the very large family is living in Rue des Fontinettes; father is a "fabricant de carriages", as is William; of the 9 children at home, Charles is now 12. (3347 - 4 - 764)"

"In 1851, they are still living in the Rue des Fontinettes (415 - 2 - 15) but only the six youngest are at home - Charles has left and is nowhere in Calais. Incidentally, James BARTON snr always signs, as does son William, but son James does not! They were a very important lacemaking family, from Nottingham and they mostly stayed in Calais - James (mécanicien) married Eugénie Tronet, and William (also mécanicien) married Françoise Eugénie Saint-Georges and founded something of a dynasty - I have met several descendants, including Ludovic Mulard, leading light (and young) of the Amis du Vieux Calais."

Rosie Wileman

Proofread carefully to see if you any words out. - Author Unknown

Saywell's Eagle Jobacco Factory

The following article appeared in the "Illustrated Sydney News" on Saturday, 16 October 1875 and was drawn to my attention by Gillian Kelly. Saywell's Eagle Tobacco Company was founded in 1880 by Thomas Saywell. As an eleven year old boy. Saywell came to Australia in 1848 aboard the "Agincourt". As an adult, as well as catering for smokers, Thomas quickly realised that a great future was destined for Sydney and thus he invested heavily in city and suburban property. He was the founder of the Sydney suburb, Brighton-le-Sands; he acquired the lease of the Beaconsfield Estate at Alexandria from the estate of Sir Daniel Cooper; and owned the Old Albert Cricket Ground at Redfern. He constructed and equipped a steam tramway from Brighton-le-Sands to Rockdale and later converted it to an electrically driven system. Thomas Saywell also invested heavily in coal mines and became the sole owner of the Clifton and South Coast Collieries as well as the Zig Zag Colliery at Lithgow. He was also a big shareholder in the copper mines at Cobar. His other commercial enterprises included substantial holdings in R.L. Scruttons Ltd. iron and machinery manufacturers and merchants; Batchelor and Co Ltd., furniture warehouse and the City Finance Co Ltd. The article on The Eagle Tobacco Company reads as follows.

We present our readers this month with an illustration of the large tobacco factory belonging to Mr. Saywell, which has been erected in Clarence-street. The building, though not of a very ornamental nature, is evidently the work of a skilled architect, and contains every possible appliance for the machinery connected with the manufacture of tobacco. It is four stories high, and each separate floor is lofty and well ventilated.

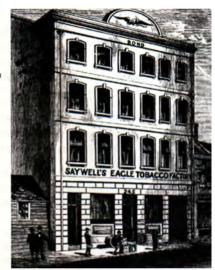
Water is supplied by pumping into tanks placed on the top story, and no fire is allowed to be used on any but the basement floor where is the furnace for the engine. In all other cases heat is supplied by steam pipes. Having been conveyed to the top of the building by a powerful steam lift, capable of hoisting four tons, which is used for conveying what may be required from any one floor to another, we found ourselves in the *département* where the first operation, chemically I termed casing, is performed. Here all round were large packages of the raw tobacco as imported, called respectively hogsheads and tierces. Some of these had not yet been divested of their covering of wood; others were already undergoing the first process, which consists of each leaf being separated, and the whole carefully liquored, so as to make

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it sufficiently pliant to be manipulated without breaking. On this floor is a vacuum pan for boiling the liquor which is composed of a mixture of Virginia paste and sugar. a process requiring great nicety to attain the same degree of consistency at all times. There is also on this floor, a powerful crushing machine or pair of iron rollers which are worked by steam as is all the machinery on the premises. In connection with this department is a large drying floor or roof specially constructed for drying out of the leaf every superabundant moisture. Descending by the lift to the next story, the descent being performed in answer to a boy pulling a string, we find ourselves on a large floor, divided into two compartments, the first we enter being what is called the plug makers' room. Here a number of men and boys are manipulating the cased leaf which has reached them from the upper floor through shoots, into plugs, rolling the leaves into the requisite thickness with great celerity; they cut, with knives provided for the purpose, each piece or plug to a gauge the requisite length, the piece is then weighed, each hand being provided with a pair of scales, uniformity of weight being insisted on; and is then neatly covered and in a condition to be sent to the presshouse. On the other compartment of this floor the process of cutting and preparing the cut tobacco, and pressing and finishing the Gold leaf, Aromatic, and fancy tobaccos is carried on. In this department are some hydraulic and a number of very powerful screw presses, and a large tobacco cutting machine with steam stove for stoving the cut tobacco. Next to this and running from top to bottom of the building is what is called a stove, or rather a series of heated rooms, in which the manufactured tobacco is placed for a considerable time according to the particular description. The heat maintained varies from 130 deg. to 150 deg. Fahrenheit, Again descending, we find a floor similar in appearance to that from which we have just come, and this is devoted to the twisters, and the finishing and boxing of the Negro head and Cavendish tobacco, here we also find men and boys manipulating the tobacco leaf, but under their hands it assumes a different form to what is being manufactured on the upper floor, here it is that Negrohead or fig tobacco is produced, and it is noticeable how regular the figs are made. In the other compartment of this floor are to be seen twelve screw presses of a more powerful character than those on the upper floor, and here we find the tobacco, twist and flat, under-going the last packing, and notice some of the operatives busily engaged in transferring the tobacco from the heavy iron boxes in which it is pressed to the wooden ones in which it is marketable; others packing the fig tobacco in round tubs called half and quarter tierces, and others again nailing up and finishing off the packages ready for market, and this brings us to the last process. Prior to leaving the factory, the boxes are branded by stencil plates having the particular name of the tobacco, which is put on

the package with weight of contents. Going to the floor level with the street is the press house, and here are some of the most powerful hydraulic presses in the colony capable of sustaining a pressure of 400 lbs. to the square inch, the whole of which are pumped by a donkey engine specially constructed; here are also ponderous and

powerful machinery for retaining the pressure after the tobacco has been removed from under the hydraulic presses. There are also tramways in all directions upon which trucks run for transporting the heavy quantities of tobacco hither and thither as may be required. There also is a weigh bridge upon which every load or package of goods received or delivered is weighed. Passing through a door at the back we find a yard and then a series of buildings at the rear connected with the front building by a bridge, here is snuff making machinery and steam circular and rip saws, also planing and



moulding, and other machines all of which are driven by steam power and used in making boxes and packages for tobacco. Here is also a Cigarette Factory, girls being employed in this manufacture, under the supervision of a male operative. Returning to the main building we descend to the basement and here find a splendid steam engine and boiler of 20 horse power the fuel for which is supplied by the vale of Clwyd mine which is owned by Mr. Saywell. This is the only building of magnitude ever erected in the colony specially for a tobacco manufactory and has been fitted with every appliance to facilitate the work, and as the proprietor would gladly allow any persons to go over and inspect it, we have no doubt numbers will avail themselves of the permission. This factory employs about 150 hands in the various departments, and each department is in charge of a skilled workman.

Book Review "Narrow Marsh" by A. R. Dance"

I have often thought of writing a novel about my lace-maker ancestors – perhaps you have too. Alan Dance also has lace-maker ancestors and he has therefore studied in detail the history of Nottingham in the early 19th century. Rather than tell his family's story, he has constructed a satisfying <u>fiction</u>, set in the town of this period, spanning the years 1811 to 1821, a crucial period in the history of the machine lace industry.

While the novel is largely set in Nottingham, the hero spends some months in Calais, to avoid imprisonment for a crime he did not commit. It is a romantic story and he is soon able to return home to Nottingham and his sweetheart.

The strength of his book, in my opinion, is that he conveys convincingly the Nottingham of the period, the geography and the political atmosphere, as well as historical events, such as the rise of the Luddites and the Pentrich Revolution.

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⁹ Ed: Narrow Marsh was known as Red Lion Street after 1905. It ran along the northern boundary of the Narrow Marsh area, just below the sandstone cliff of High Pavement. However, in the 1920s, a Housing Committee report recommended that the slums in this area be demolished and that the streets and houses in the area be reconstructed. This was achieved progressively. The Loggerheads pub at 59 Cliff Rd, Nottingham roughly equates with Narrow Marsh.

¹⁰ This book was reviewed by the Editor in Issue 102, February 2009. However, because it is well worth reading for the several reasons provided by Rosie Wileman, I have decided that it is fitting that a new review of Alan Dance's book be included in the pages of *Tulle*. References to Narrow Marsh itself can be found in several issues of *Tulle* including the following:-

[•] Issue 47, May 1995, page 13

Issue 55, May 1997, page 34

Issue 72, August 2001, page 26

Issue 80, August 2003, page 20

Issue 101, November 2008, pages 18, 23, 26, 27

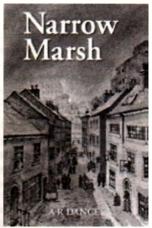
[•] Issue 102, February 2009, page 8

[•] Issue 109, November 2010, pages 26, 27, 29

People from all over the East Midlands were attracted to the apparently flourishing hosiery trade in Nottingham, but the rapid expansion of the town had led to severe overcrowding in back-to-back housing and Narrow Marsh was the worst of these slum areas. Alan shows us the hardship faced by the framework knitters of this period and how everything conspired to make the

lives of the working class fraught with difficulties. He captures cleverly the bitter social unrest which was such a feature of these years, as the working class began to be educated and think for themselves. The geography of the town, quite unique with its castle set above the caves, is described in such a way that you can visualize it and the book also shows the importance of the waterways at this period.

This book has filled in much of the background of my Nottingham ancestors' lives and I am looking forward to the sequel, which should be out later this



year¹¹. You could obtain a copy direct from the author at Arundel Books, 2, Audon Avenue, Chilwell, Nottingham, NG9 4AW for £10.50 (£6.99 for the book, plus postage to Australia), (www.arundelbooks.co.uk); but in view of the high cost of changing money, why not try ordering through Amazon, which should charge roughly the same, while Alan will still get paid the correct amount.

Rosie Wileman

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¹¹ Ed: Rosie submitted her review in early 2011 and this sequel, titled "Leen Times", has subsequently been published. For a review of "Leen Times" or to purchase this book refer to http://www.arundelbooks.co.uk/leentimes.htm.

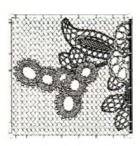
Tace Fencing

Just when perhaps you thought that lace had had its day and would be limited to the doily under Gran's favourite china teapot, Joep Verhoeven, a student at the design academy at Eindhoven in the Netherlands, asked himself whether chainwire fencing could be made more attractive by applying a pattern. He researched the



ancient art of lace-making and developed it into an industrial concept. Verhoeven wove intricate patterns, inspired by traditional Dutch lace-making techniques, into an intricate screen of foliage and flowers. Lace Fence shows that something which was meant to be purely functional can also be decorative. Hostility versus kindness, industry versus craft.

The design is created at De Makers Van at Rotterdam and "woven" in its factory at Bangalore in India. An almost limitless range of designs and end uses are available. These encompass security, safety and many other industrial, domestic and commercial applications.





Sidney Herbert's Female Emigration Scheme

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE GUARDIAN, THURSDAY, 1 MAY 1851

THE FEMALE EMIGRATION SCHEME – The committee for carrying out Mr Sidney Herbert's scheme for promoting female emigration have circulated a report of the proceedings in the first year of their labours, to the 31st December last. The amount of subscriptions was £22,500. During the year 409 females were despatched to various colonies; among them were 32 dressmakers; 3 governesses; 19 needleworkers; 2 schoolmistresses; 169 servants; 11 shirtmakers, and 1 teacher of languages. The class of "servants" includes many poor women who, when out of service, have attempted to obtain a living by means of needlework. The women have been well received in the colonies; not one remained unhired four days after arriving at the colonial depots.

The Canada emigrants were all engaged before they arrived at their destination. The committee declare, that "if supported by the liberality of the public, they can, with the greatest benefit to the poor and suffering female population of London, expend in emigration every year a sum of at least £6,000 or £7,000; and if their operations were extended so as to embrace the female population of other large cities, they might expend double this amount advantageously and well." On Saturday, the thirteenth consignment of emigrants – thirty-six in number – embarked at Gravesend for Sydney.



"For many reformers, the needlewoman personified the so-called "redundant woman." Sidney Herbert, a government minister attributed the over-stocked labour market in the needle trades to the "surplus population" of women, which exceeded the male population by five hundred thousand. ... he advocated the removal of this surplus through emigration. At a meeting of slopwomen, and in a subsequent letter to the editor of the *Morning Chronicle*, Herbert proposed a scheme to give assistance to women wishing to emigrate to the colonies, where he believed they might find husbands as well as gainful employment, particularly in domestic service (*The Times*, 6 Dec 1849, 3). Supported by fashionable London society, Herbert's plan was inspired by Caroline Chisholm's Family Colonization Loan Society, which

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aimed to improve colonial society by the encouragement of family life. Herbert's Society for Promoting Female Emigration was the first organization to promote the emigration of single women. To ensure that single women would fulfil a domestic and civilizing mission in the colonies, a Home was established to screen the applicants' domestic skills and moral character prior to embarkation (see Hammerton pp92-123). The case of the needlewomen was instrumental, therefore, in fuelling the debate about the "redundant woman" and in inspiring a number of Victorian charitable and reform schemes to shift their efforts from rescue work to emigration."

Source: Helen Rogers, ""The Good Are Not Always Powerful, nor the Powerful Always Good": The Politics of Women's Needlework in Mid-Victorian London", (1997) Victorian Studies, Vol. 40, No. 4, pp. 589-623

Research by Judy Gifford

NO WONDER THEY WERE CALLED "THE GOOD OLD DAYS"!



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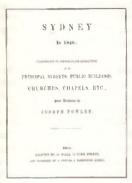


ALCOHOL & OPIUM DROPS FOR ASTHMA

Sydney in 184812 (In Part Only)

Sydney, the capital of New South Wales and Metropolis of Australasia, is situated on the southern shore of Port Jackson, at the distance of seven miles from the Pacific Ocean, in lat. 33° 55' S. and long. 151° 25' E.

It is built at the head of the far-famed "Cove;" and, with Darling Harbour as its general boundary to the west, extends, in an unbroken succession of houses, for more than two miles in a southerly direction. As a maritime city, its site is unrivalled, possessing at least three miles of water frontage, at any part of



which vessels of the heaviest burden can safely approach the wharves. The stratum on which it stands is chiefly sandstone; and, as it enjoys a considerable elevation, it is remarkably healthy and dry. The principal thoroughfares run north and south, parallel to Darling Harbour, and are crossed at right angles by shorter streets. This, at first, gives the place an air of unpleasing sameness and formality, to those accustomed to the winding and romantic streets of an ancient English town; but the eye soon becomes reconciled to the change, and you cease to regret the absence of what is in so many respects undesirable.

Sydney occupies a space of more than two thousand acres; but from this must be deducted fifty-six acres, reserved for recreation and exercise, and known as Hyde Park or the Race Course. By the Census taken in 1846, the number of houses in the city was seven thousand one hundred; there are now, at least, two hundred more. But, independently of the city itself, the suburbs have, during the last few years, steadily increased in size and importance. To the eastward is Wooloomooloo (sic); to the southeast, Paddington and Surry Hills; to the south, Redfern and Chippendale; to the south-west, Camperdown, Newtown, and the Glebe; to the west (across Darling Harbour), Balmain; and, to the north, the township of St. Leonard's (sic). All these, except the two last, are more or less connected by streets with

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For the full text of this book see: http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks06/0600151h.html

the parent city; and, in 1846, contained one thousand seven hundred and fifteen houses: they now probably number two thousand.

Sydney is divided into four Parishes--St. Philip's, St. James', St. Andrew's, and St. Lawrence's; and was, in 1842, incorporated by Act of, Council, and municipally divided into six Wards: viz. Gipps Ward, Bourke Ward, Brisbane Ward, Macquarie Ward, Cook Ward, and Phillip Ward. Each of these divisions is represented by four Councilmen and an Alderman, of whom one retires annually by rotation. The Mayor is chosen from their own number, by the Aldermen and Council.

The Population of the city, in 1846, was 38,358; and, adding the average annual increase, taken from the five years previous to that year, must now be 41,712. The suburbs also, in 1846, returned as 6832, from their very rapid extension may be safely stated at 7500--making a total of 49,212.

The Public Institutions are numerous and flourishing. There are four Banks of Issue--the Bank of New South Wales, and the Commercial Bank, both Colonial; and the Union Bank of Australia, and the Bank of Australasia, Anglo-Australian. Besides these, there are--the Savings' Bank, the Royal Bank of Australia, the British Colonial Bank and Trust Company, the Scottish Australian Investment Company, the Bank of Australia, and the Loan Company, We have also an Australian Gas Light Company, an Australian Sugar Company, a Sydney Fire Insurance Company, and a Sydney Marine Insurance Company. The Literary and Scientific Institutions are--the Australian Subscription Library, the Mechanics' School of Arts, the Australian Museum, the Society for the Promotion of the Fine Arts, and the Floral and Horticultural Society. In connexion with the last-named Institution, it may not be irrelevant to allude to the Botanical Gardens, which are subject to the management of the Government, and are kept up at the public expense. Besides these, there are numerous Lodges of Free Masons and Odd Fellows, and several Religious, Social, and Benefit Societies.

Education, though not regarded with all the attention it demands, is nevertheless not wholly neglected; for we have, in Sydney, a very fair proportion of well frequented Academies, although the majority are of a private nature. Those considered as *public*, are—the Sydney and Australian Colleges (each a School under the control of a Committee), the Anglican

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College at Lyndhurst, the St. James' Grammar School, the Archiepiscopal Seminary at St. Mary's, and the Normal Institution. Of Schools, of somewhat humbler pretensions, such are known as Parochial, we have--six Anglican, seven Presbyterian, six Roman Catholic, and one Wesleyan: all of these are assisted by Government. The Independents and Baptists have also their corresponding Schools; but, from conscientious motives, decline any assistance from the State.

That part of George Street facing the eastern wall of the Barrack Square comprises some of the best built houses in Sydney. The portion of the City which forms the continuation of George Street, southerly, from Hunter Street to the Post Office, is chiefly occupied by wealthy tradesmen, whose stores and shops are fully equal to those of a principal street in an English city. More than this we cannot say; where so much spirited enterprise and improvement is visible, it would be invidious to praise a few. In this quarter land has of late years sold for a very high price, and often found ready purchasers at £20 per foot. Yet, within the memory of man it had scarcely a nominal value; we are even assured that the site of several houses near the Bank of New South Wales was exchanged for a bottle of rum within the last thirty years! So rapidly has our metropolis advanced in spite of every discouragement and difficulty.

Proceeding along George Street in a southerly direction, and passing Hunter Street, which abuts on it on our left, we have on the opposite side for some hundred yards a blank wall, at present enclosing the Barrack Square. The extensive quarters provided for the military in the early formation of the colony, at that time bounded the town, and, by their vicinity and commanding position, afforded the protection called for by the peculiar nature of its population: having, however, been gradually surrounded by buildings till they occupied the centre of the city, the valuable locale could ill be spared from the space required for the increasing population, and it was found necessary to make provision for the accommodation of the troops in the outskirts of the town. Commodious buildings having been erected at Darlinghurst, the head quarters have been removed thither; and we trust soon to see the straggling and dilapidated erections of the primitive colony

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replaced by elegant and useful edifices adapted to civil purposes, and the site pierced by the thoroughfares so much required for the circulating current of commercial activity Returning to the corner of Hunter Street we find upon our left hand, or upon the eastern side of George Street, a block of buildings with some architectural pretensions, substantially constructed of brick with stone dressings--the angle occupied by Mr. Skinner's commodious Tavern. Amid a row of elegant and well-stored shops is the office of the Australian General Insurance Company, and at a short distance the massive and oldfashioned stone house occupied by the Bank of New South Wales--the oldest institution of that description in the colony, and a strictly colonial undertaking, established in 1817, with a capital of £400,000. We must not leave unnoticed the office of the Atlas, weekly journal; -- originally projected with a view of advocating the pastoral interests of the colony, and at one time powerfully supported by numerous and able contributors. The editorial department has undergone numerous changes, but has always been remarkable for the warmth of style which it has employed in giving expression to its views. The typographical portion, under the able management of Mr. Welch, the proprietor, has all through been remarkable for its excellence.

A short distance further southward ... we now arrive before one of the most important buildings of the colony, not merely as regards the structure, but as being the centre and focus, the heart, as it may be termed, from which the pulse of civilization throbs to the remotest extremity of the land. We mean the Post Office. The projected improvements, commenced last year, in which is contemplated the re-edification of the whole building on a scale commensurate with the growing wants of the community, have not yet progressed beyond the erection of a handsome portico. Six Doric columns support an appropriate entablature and pediment, with the royal arms (executed by Mr. Abraham, an able sculptor resident in the colony,) in the centre of the tympanum¹³. The whole effect is chaste and severe, and much more befitting the aspect of a place of business than a more ornamental and

¹³ In architecture a recess, especially the recessed space between the top of a door or window and the arch above it, or between the cornices forming a classical triangular gable pediment

gaudy design would be. When the Barracks are removed the portico will afford a noble termination to the street which will be opened forming a vista in the front of the building.

In the earlier days of the Colony, the Settlers were necessarily left dependent upon chance opportunities of conveyance, for the interchange of the scanty correspondence which sufficed for the primitive nature of their commercial transactions--direct barter being, for many years, almost the only mode of trade. It was not therefore until 1828, forty years after the first formation of the Colony, that its growing wants required the aid of a Post Office, which, from the modest extent originally given to it, has expanded into the important and daily increasing Establishment, over which Mr. James Raymond so ably presides as Postmaster General. At the outset, daily Mails were despatched only to Parramatta and Liverpool; twice a-week to Windsor, Campbelltown, and Penrith; once a-week to Bathurst; while one solitary sailing vessel formed the medium of communication between Sydney and Newcastle, which now affords full occupation for so many splendid Steamers. The entire distance annually traversed by the Mails amounted to 40,500 miles, exclusive of the water carriage. Since that period the number of the Post Offices has been augmented from 8 to 102; the distance travelled over to nearly 600,000 miles, besides water carriage. The communication now comprehends a Mail twice a-week to Melbourne, a distance of nearly 600 miles; once a-week to Adelaide, almost double the distance; while, to the northward, it reaches Moreton Bay, and in a westerly direction extends beyond Wellington, comprising a journey of upwards of 260 miles towards the interior of this vast island-continent.

Continuing our walk southward, we pass the handsome Offices of the Commercial Banking Company, lately reorganised; a new Company having been formed, with a capital of £120,000 in 4,800 shares, upon the winding up of the old Company, in consequence of the effluxion of the time of the partnership licensed by the original Deed of Settlement.

We now arrive at the corner of King Street, which, running from east to west, from the Government Domain to the shores of Darling Harbour, completely

intersects the City. Having reached the centre of the town, let us pause for a moment and look around us. Few strangers, we imagine, could do so on their first arrival in the metropolis of New South Wales, without the most lively emotions of surprise. In place of a paltry town, which many of them are led to expect, they find shops and warehouses which would do credit to an European capital, offering for their convenience every article of comfort and luxury; while, in every direction, are to be seen unequivocal indications of progress and improvement. 'The handsome equipages¹⁴ that dash past, the elegantly clad females, and the stylish groups of gentlemen, point out the seat of amusement and gaiety. The heavily laden wains¹⁵--the crowds that sweep past, in every direction--the hasty step of some, the thoughtful brow of others, betokening the purpose of intense occupation--all speak of extensive trade and untiring commercial activity.

We wish our space allowed us to quote more largely from the repeated testimony in favour of the general morality and hospitality prevailing throughout the Colony, borne by one whose minute enquiries and extensive opportunities of observation render it of so much value, while at the same time he may fairly be considered to have written without prejudice or bias. Another foreign gentleman, who enjoyed the best opportunities of becoming acquainted with the state of society amongst us, M. Delessert has published a pleasing sketch of his rambles in the Colony, in which he records his grateful sense of the kindness and hospitality which greeted him everywhere, and the highly favourable ideas which he formed of the manners and morals of the Colonists. Is it not scandalous that we should be compelled to appeal to foreigners against the calumnies heaped on us by our own countrymen?

The intersecting lines of George Street and King Street—the former from north to south, the latter from east to west—divide the City into four parts;

¹⁴ A horse-drawn carriage with attendants or the carriage itself.

¹⁵ A farm wagon or cart.

¹⁶ The French explorer Eugene Delessert first visited Australia 1844-1845. His work, "Voyages dans les deux oceans Atlantique et Pacifique 1844 a 1847" has not been published. The original is held by the Fryer Memorial Library, The University of Queensland, Call No. DU21 .D36 1848.
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the divisions of the streets, at this point, being designated by the points of the compass. Turning to the left, from George Street, we proceed up King Street East, a line of thriving shops, some of them of considerable importance. Passing Pitt Street, Castlereagh Street, and Elizabeth Street on our right and left, we reach a group of public buildings. On the right hand, the Supreme Court of the Colony, and St. James's Church: in front, the pile of building called Hyde Park Barracks, formerly tenanted by the convicts in Government service. Although none of these edifices have much architectural pretension, being constructed entirely of brick and devoid of ornament, yet, the proportions being good, the masses broad, and the lines bold and unbroken, they form an imposing and dignified whole.

St. James's Church is a building of considerable dimensions, the foundation of which was laid on the 7th October, 1819. The spire, surmounting the brick tower at the west end, not only takes away from the heaviness of the edifice, but also forms a conspicuous object from every part of the City and its neighbourhood. The interior, which is commodiously fitted up, received considerable improvements about two years ago; the galleries were altered and enlarged, and the Church now affords sittings for 1500 persons. There is a well toned and powerful organ, and an excellent choir under the direction of Mr. James Johnson, to whom the Colony is indebted for the first introduction of this branch of music.

Opposite the north-eastern angle of St. James's Church is the Office of the Bishop's Registrar, the vicinity probably of which, combined with the advantages of locality, and the superior accommodations of the building, renders St. James's, although not the Diocesan Church, the seat of the most important transactions connected with the Church of England.



Besides the noble art of getting things done, there is the noble art of leaving things undone. The wisdom of life consists in the elimination of nonessentials.

-Lin Yutang, writer and translator (1895-1976)

Emigration to Australia

The following article appeared in *The Ballina Chronicle*, Ballina, the second largest town in County Mayo, Ireland, on 5 December 1849.

Emigration to Australia

In a recent letter the Bishop of Adelaide gives the following advice to emigrants to this great colony:-

I will now detail what steps are taken in the colony for the assistance of emigrants. Captain Brewer is the emigration agent, whose duty it is to board the vessels as they arrived, and, after examining the condition and discipline of the passengers, to offer such counsel as may be needed for their guidance. In the case of persons destitute of means he is empowered to pay the expense of their journey to Adelaide (eight miles) and the transport of their baggage. There is a row of cottages, built by government, at Port Adelaide, for the temporary accommodation of emigrant families, should they fail to procure situations before compelled to quit the ship. Fourteen days are generally allowed on ship board, after reaching the port, during which they are provisioned.

"The Colonial Labour Office" has been established in Adelaide, opposite the Post Office, in King William street, for the hiring of servants and labourers. This is supported by voluntary subscriptions and has been most useful. A secretary is in constant attendance, who registers all applications, leaving the parties to make their own agreements. In case of single unprotected female servants, the protector of aborigines, Mr. Moorehouse, is directed to receive, lodge and ration such as are in want of refuge on their arrival. There is accommodation for one hundred; and at this depot, which is close to the government house and park lands, the Irish orphan girls are lodged until provided with situations. Notwithstanding the late arrival of 450 of the latter no difficulty occurred in procuring places for all the respectable young females in the Florentia. So many marry that they are always in demand as

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domestic servants. There is a "Stranger Friend Society," intended to relieve distress arising from sickness among the newly arrived; and there is a fund, dispensed by a government board, for "destitute persons," - widows, orphans, &c. Provided the females and others, who are sent for the House of Charity are able, willing, and respectable, the "Colonial Labour Office" and the "Government Depot" supply all the assistance they need towards settling themselves. I may add that there is much distress and disappointment felt by a very numerous class of educated persons, who arrive without capital, and with very few pounds in their pockets. Immigration has proceeded latterly at the rate of 1000 per month and above. Unluckily, also, the ships have arrived two or three at a time, instead of at intervals, 500 persons came in last Saturday, and this on the heels of the Posthumous, Florentia, Sir E. Parry, and the Inconstant, bringing 200 Irish orphans. In fact, it is quite wonderful how they have been absorbed and where they are dispersed. Wages still are high, and there is no fear of starvation, with meat at 2 1/2d the pound, sugar 3d, tea 2s, and bread 1 1/2d. The natives in fact, live upon the sheep's heads, &c., ox heads and tails, which are given them for any trifling service they perform. Servants of all work, plain cooks, farm servant girls, and nurse girls, are the females most wanted, but people will not engage without seeing. Wages are from £12 to £18. Respectable servant girls are sure to find employment. The government emigrant ships are more respectably conducted than passenger ships, on board the latter the sale of spirits is the ruin of numbers.

AUG. ADELAIDE.

Yours faithfully.

Adelaide, July 30, 1849



Faced with the choice between changing one's mind and proving that there is no need to do so, almost everyone gets busy on the proof.

-John Kenneth Galbraith, economist (1908-2006)

The path of least resistance makes all rivers, and some men, crooked.

-Napoleon Hill, author (1883-1970)

Richard Silink & the Work of the Historic Houses Trust of NSW

Members present at ASLC's November meeting were fascinated by an address given by Richard Silink, the Portfolio Manager of the Historic Houses Trust of NSW. Richard said:

"The Trust was established in 1980 to run Vaucluse House and Elizabeth Bay House and has now grown to manage fourteen diverse sites and properties including houses, public buildings, a farm, gardens, parklands, a beach and urban spaces. Readers will be familiar with its large collection of properties within the Sydney area: Elizabeth Bay House, Meroogal, The Mint, Elizabeth Farm, Vaucluse House, Museum of Sydney, Government House, Rose Seidler House, Hyde Park Barracks Museum, Rouse Hill House and Farm, Justice and Police Museum and Susannah Place Museum".

He went on to say that perhaps the Trust's most intriguing work is that known as the Endangered Houses Fund. This section saves buildings that are historically important although not at all on the scale of the likes of Elizabeth House. They are generally in such disrepair that the wise would not even attempt such a rescue and as a result the private sector will not touch them.

The properties are identified as being at risk and they are saved from unsympathetic development and then offered back to the community as historically unidentifiable and inspiring places to live and work. The funds from their sale are then re-cycled back into the next project.

Glenfield

The home of Dr Charles Throsby, *Glenfield*, was the first to be rescued by this scheme. It was built in 1817 and was in a shocking state of disrepair caused by vandalism and neglect. It is now a 14-room homestead, with garden and stables, a dairy, and a tennis court and views to the east – it will be sold and become a family home once again.

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Figure 1 Glenfield Homestead, c1988, photographer Solomon Mitchell

With generous donor assistance the Foundation fully funded the conservation of Glenfield and all proceeds from the sale of its long-term lease will be used to save other houses.

Ongoing projects of the Historic Houses Trust of NSW include:-

Beulah at Appin- an early colonial homestead complex still in its original landscape setting. The 1835 property was being squeezed by modern development, neglect and vandalism. The combination of convict-built homestead, entry bridge and outbuildings in an original setting and surrounded by Cumberland Plain woodland gives Beulah unusually high significance.

Throsby Park, Moss Vale - It was granted by Governor Macquarie to Dr Charles Throsby in 1819 and was the earliest land grant outside the County of Cumberland. This grand property has been home to six generations of the Throsby family and is intimately connected with the legendary Throsby Park Riding School. The property was kept in a museum-like state for 35 years. Major works will once again allow the property to be used as a family home.

St Stephens Presbyterian Manse, Moruya – built in 1864 this unpretentious little building is a catalogue of domestic wallpaper and paint finishes from the 19th and early 20th centuries. The property was endangered because the delicate conservation required was beyond the average purchaser.

The manse is currently in extremely poor condition and the challenge is to create domestic comfort while conserving the fragile interior finishes. This project is an opportunity to share the Trust's passion for conservation in a new region and save an amazing relic of the South Coast.

Exeter Farm, Glenwood - In north-western Sydney, Exeter consists of two modest timber slab cottages. It was originally a rural landscape but is now surrounded by suburbia. The buildings had been uninhabited for decades and were in an appalling condition, suffering severe damage from vandalism and termites. It is almost beyond belief that Exeter Farm could be restored to an attractive and useful domain once again and it is this concept, Richard Silink says, that inspires the Endangered Houses group to keep going!

Gillian Kelly



All that mankind has done, thought or been: it is lying as in magic preservation in the pages of books. - Thomas Carlyle

A house is not a home unless it contains food and fire for the mind as well as the body.

- Benjamin Franklin

The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home. – Confucius

You are a king by your own fireside, as much as any monarch in his throne.

Cervantes

Woman, the more careful she is about her face, the more careless about her house.

– Ben Johnson

The ornament of a house is the friends who frequent it. — Ralph Waldo Emerson

The Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais Inc. Office Bearers 2011-2012

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The Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais (ASLC)

The ASLC 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. The Lacemakers in whom they shared an interest 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. During the 1848 Revolution in France, the political and social upheaval left most of them jobless again. Their future in France seemed uncertain. Most decided that making a fresh life in a new land was preferable to returning to England where it was likely they would remain destitute and a burden on their Parishes. Their second migration was to various parts of Australia.

The Lacemaker emigrants of particular interest to members of ASLC sailed to Australian ports in one of three sailing vessels, viz. the "Fairlie" (destination Sydney), the "Harpley" (destination Adelaide) and the "Agincourt" (destination also Sydney). These three vessels carried the bulk of the Lacemaker emigrants. Other Lacemaker emigrants came in smaller groups on other vessels including the Andromache, Emperor, General Hewitt, Bermondsey, Walmer Castle, Baboo, Harbinger, Navarino and Nelson and possibly others.

Descendants of these lacemakers are also valued members of ASLC. Descendants of migrants who came on all vessels mentioned are encouraged to apply for membership of The Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais.