

Newsletter

Newsletter of the Broseley Local History Society

Incorporating the Wilkinson Society



August 2013

MEETINGS

Meetings of the Broseley Local History Society are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30 pm at the Broseley Social Club, High Street, unless otherwise announced. Car parking is available at the back of the Club. Members are requested to be seated by 7.30 pm to allow speakers a prompt start. Visitors are welcome but are asked to give a donation towards Society funds.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society will be holding its AGM on Wednesday, 2 October; this will be followed by a talk by Ron Miles. As usual the agenda will include both the chairman's and the treasurer's report as well as the election of the committee. Anyone interested in putting their name forward for this is asked to contact the secretary Dot Cox on 01952 883568 or email: ericanddot@yahoo.co.uk.

PROGRAMME

- 3 Sep *Shropshire's Narrow Gauge Railways* by Nick Coppin
- 2 Oct AGM followed by a talk by Ron Miles
- 6 Nov *Fords and Ferries, Part 3* by Neil Clarke
Joint Meeting with the Friends at Coalbrookdale
- 4 Dec Annual Dinner
- 8 Jan *More Broseley Memories* with Joan Griffiths
- 5 Feb *Family History* by Geoff Harrison
- 5 Mar *Annual Wilkinson Lecture: John Rose* by Kate Cadman

Further details from Neil Clarke 01952 504135.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

- Stan Reed, Kansas, USA
- George White, Burntwood, Staffordshire

CONTENTS

Programme	page 1
New Members	page 1
Previous Meetings	
Summer Evening	page 2
Visit to the Potteries	page 3
Society Publications	page 4
Greenacres School Visit	page 5
All Saints' Church, Broseley	page 5
Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Festival	page 6
Bookshop	page 6
What's On?	page 7
Mailbox	page 7

WANTED – NEWSLETTER EDITOR

After more than 10 years in the hot seat, the present *Newsletter* editor will be retiring in October this year. This means that the Society is now looking for someone to take her place and would very much like to hear from anyone interested in this position.

There is no need to be put off by the idea of having to carry it on in its present format, the new editor would have *carte blanche* to produce it in any length or format. The most important thing is that it **keeps getting published** so that all members, in particular those unable to get to meetings, can keep up with happenings and events.

If you are interested, please contact the chairman Gillian Pope, tel: 01952 883960 or email: gill.h.pope@googlemail.com.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Summer Evening

The Society's Summer Evening was this year hosted by Jan and Chris Doody at their home in Wrockwardine Wood. On one of the few evenings in June when it managed not to rain, Society members met for a barbeque and a walk up to the remains of the Wrockwardine inclined plane.

This inclined plane was first begun in 1791 following John Wilkinson's petition to Parliament to extend the Shropshire Canal from Snedshill to form a junction with the Donnington Wood Canal. Almost 1,000 feet long its 193 tons of cast iron rails were made at the Snedshill Ironworks at Oakengates. However, it soon became apparent that subsidence was affecting the plane and in 1795 a three inch gap opened up across the engine housing, and the brickwork in the upper bay also suffered damage. Two years later, a dispute over the price of carriage on the plane led to it being out of use for a period. By 1855 it was suffering severe subsidence, while the canal it served was becoming difficult to operate due to water shortages. It was at this time that the canal manager recommended the conversion of the canal to a railway, while an Act of Parliament authorised the closure of the inclined plane in 1857.

Jim Cooper, who along with Harold Grice was one of the guides on this occasion, gave *Newsletter* this account of the evening:

In June some forty members met at Wrockwardine Wood to enjoy a wonderful evening hosted by Jan

Jim Cooper explains the history of the inclined plane to members of the Society



Some of the houses that were once owned by the Lilleshall Company and rented to their employees

and Chris Doody in their beautiful garden. Punch was served on arrival and at about seven o'clock a group set off for a short stroll over the Cockshut led by Harold Grice and myself. As we reached a footpath running alongside the eastern edge of the Cockshut, Harold explained that the path was known as the "Pig Rails" (there is a map, c 1853, in the Lilleshall Company collection at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust Archives in Coalbrookdale that shows a tram road running the length of this path). We then moved on over the Cockshut to the top of the Wrockwardine Wood inclined plane where some of the group managed to scramble through the undergrowth to view the original brick embankment. We then headed down past where there had been a tunnel under the incline for the tram road to pass through. On the way back we were able to see some of the older houses that were once owned by the Lilleshall Company and rented to their employees – there are over 2,000 surviving rental agreements from the 19th and early 20th centuries in the Lilleshall Company collection. Back at the Doodys there was a small exhibition of local historic photographs on display.

Chris our host was chef for the night cooking a wide selection of treats. Oscar, although not a member, also managed to enjoy the odd tidbit when he thought no one was looking. Actually he was only caught once despite the many temptations. Oscar? Oh, he was Jan and Chris's retired greyhound.

Altogether it was a grand night and we were all surprised at the beauty that is now to be found in what was once such an industrial area. Thank you Jan and Chris.

Footnote: A small item of interest mentioned by Harold, and which Jim may not have heard, was that Gordon Richards, the famous jockey, was born not far away. His father was a coal miner who also reared pit ponies and it was in this environment that the young Gordon developed his love of horses, riding them bareback from a very young age. Gordon went on to become possibly the greatest flat race jockey of all time, delighting the nation when he finally achieved his greatest ambition, to win the Epsom Derby, in 1953 – the year of the first ascent of Everest and the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. He was the very first jockey to be knighted.

Visit to the Potteries

On one of the first really sunny days of this summer Society members boarded the coach for the Wedgwood Museum in Barlaston and the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery in Stoke-on-Trent. Although it had seemed a pity to spend such a lovely day indoors, the Museums proved to be so interesting that nobody seemed to mind.

The first stop was the Wedgwood Museum which showcased the entire range of products developed and sold by Josiah Wedgwood's potteries. The original Wedgwood works had been founded in 1759 by Josiah Wedgwood himself, a man with great drive and energy, who was always willing to experiment with new ideas and designs; the Museum tells the story of his experiments and trials in producing new styles of pottery. His introduction of cream-coloured earthenware, for instance, so impressed King George III's wife Queen Charlotte that she ordered a complete tea

Eric Cox watches one of the demonstrators throwing a piece of Jasperware



This plate has already had its transfer pattern fired on. Now it is getting its finishing touches of blue enamel before being fired again



These tools date from the beginning of the Wedgwood manufactory and may well have been used by Josiah himself

and coffee service from him which she subsequently permitted him to call Queen's Ware. His most famous ware, however, was Jasperware which had a cameo design against varying coloured backgrounds. A fascinating and entrepreneurial figure, Josiah might best be described by a quote attributed to himself: "I have for some time past been reviewing my experiments and find such Roots such Seeds as would open and branch wonderfully if I could nail myself down to the cultivation of them for a year or two."

While the pieces on show ranged from Wedgwood's earliest designs through to tableware more suited to today, possibly the most interesting part of the Museum was the downstairs workshops, where china painters demonstrated their craft, potters showed how to throw Jasperware and visitors could see how to appliqué raised patterns.

It was then on to the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, where members were delighted to discover that a small selection of the Staffordshire Hoard was on display and this certainly was the highlight of this part of the trip. Although the artefacts were smaller than the impression given by some pictures, the workmanship was exquisite



Part of the Staffordshire Hoard, a gold sword hilt fitting with cloisonné garnet inlay

Seen in the main part of the museum, could this have been one of the first fast food outlets in Stoke?

and seemingly as beautiful as when it was made in the days of the Anglo-Saxons.

Altogether a successful and enjoyable day and thanks to Michael Pope for not only organising this annual outing but living up to his reputation for arranging fine weather!

SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

When the Society's 'broseley.org.uk' website was first set up by Steve Dewhirst in 1998 it could only include publications which were already in digital format. This meant that anything published before that date was not accessible on line. However, what was available was enough to persuade Vin Callcut and his wife Hilary to move to Broseley to be nearer the source of their enthusiasm for local industrial history.

Hardly had they moved into their house in Church Street than Vin was persuading the late David Lake to lend him a full set of early editions of the papers of the Wilkinson Society and Broseley Local History Society so that he could scan them into digital format. Once this was done they were indexed and temporarily put up on Vin's website 'oldcopper.org.uk'. Now they have been moved to his main website 'oldcopper.org'. Since then, both Google and other search engines have picked up the move and the information is still readily available and is accessed by some 500 people every month worldwide, most finding their information via the Alphabetical or Chronological indices.

The Society's Journals start from No 1 in 1973 and the issues on this site include a wealth of

information on John Wilkinson as King of the Ironmasters and his house at The Lawns. They also include useful notes on many other topics including glassmaking, boat building and the River Severn, Gilbert Gilpin, the Old Vicarage, Mining Incidents near Broseley, the New Willey ironworks and Thomas Turner at Caughley. Journals after No 19 and Newsletters after 1998 can be found on the 'broseley.org.uk' website.

Also included on the 'oldcopper.org' website are a series of Broseley Memory evenings starting in the year 2000 when members were encouraged to recall the shops and houses in Broseley's High Street as well as in Church Street, Barber Street and King Street. On one particular evening there was a lively discussion on the Jitties, while other topics included floods and dentists. Notes on these meetings have been transcribed and appear on this website.

Some other topics have been included ranging from the Bicentenary Wilkinson Tokens to Broseley clockmakers. It would be of great help if someone was prepared to update the list of Society meeting dates and topics and the alphabetical and chronological indices to the journals.

Meanwhile Vin is still working on his main 'oldcopper.org' website, albeit now at a much slower pace. It continues to be a main source of reference for the marks of makers of copper and brass products and the systems used to register designs, and is being expanded to cover many other topics. Useful comments from other enthusiasts have provided some vital information to add to the basic research work at the National Archives and Birmingham Central Library and the site now has over 300 pages in total. If anyone has information on the variety of brassfoundries that used to exist in this district Vin would be happy to add it with full acknowledgement.

The Society is extremely grateful to Vin for the work he has put in on its behalf. Meanwhile Steve Dewhirst continues to do an invaluable job keeping the 'broseley.org.uk' site up to date. Its worth to people researching their family history is indisputable, as is to be seen by the number of compliments included in the emails to the Society from people asking him for help.

GREENACRES SCHOOL VISIT

During a visit in May by a group of 8-9 year old pupils from Greenacres Primary School in Shrewsbury, Society Chairman Gillian Pope was asked to give a short talk on how the development of industry in Broseley had been linked to its geography. The children then visited the Haycop, where Adrian Miles helped them name some of the flowers and plants there, before going on to see the church and other areas of the town.

Following their visit their teacher, Rachel Howell, wrote to thank those involved in helping to make it such a memorable day. She says:

Greenacres Primary School would like to thank the Broseley Local History Society, and in particular Gillian Pope, for giving up their time to talk to us about the history of Broseley and how the town has changed over the past several hundred years. Gillian's talk was inspiring, engaging and full of valuable information for use in our school projects. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all and the children were really motivated.

Before their visit the children had analysed an old map of Broseley which the Society had lent them and compared it to modern day Broseley. Afterwards they created their very own tour guide based on the information provided by the Society – the children loved doing this!

As a Key Stage 2 teacher and a Broseley resident, I should like to say a huge thank you to the Society for the great opportunity it provided for Greenacres pupils. It could not have happened without its help and some amazing quality work has been produced by the children because history and geography suddenly came alive for them. With so much great history to discover, Greenacres will definitely be returning to Broseley. Thank you.

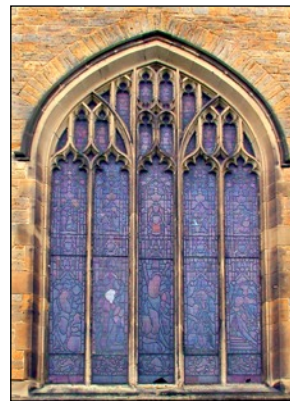
Editor: Thank you for coming, it was a pleasure to meet such an enthusiastic and interested group of children.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, BROSELEY

The Rev'd Sue Beverley, rector of Broseley's All Saints' Church, has recently produced a short guide which gives a brief history of the building of the church and a description of its interior. Of



All Saints' Church was built in 1845 from a design by Harvey Eginton



Charles Kempe's beautiful west window is now only visible from the outside

particular interest are its east and west stained glass windows, although sadly the west window is no longer visible from the inside as it is now obscured by the resited organ. It also gives some interesting information on the memorial tablets in the church.

In August 2004 an article appeared in the *Newsletter* giving some background to the people involved in the building of the church in 1845, in particular Harvey Eginton who designed the building itself and Charles Kempe who designed the stained glass west window. Below is an abridged version of this article.

Harvey Eginton, described as "an unusually serious and competent gothic designer" was the architect responsible for Broseley Church. Born in 1809, the son of Raphael Eginton, a Worcester glass painter, Harvey Eginton learned his architectural skills simply by studying the Cathedral there and absorbing information from his father.

After obtaining some early commissions, he was fortunate in gaining the attention of a Wiltshire magistrate called Ludlow for whom he undertook the building of a new church and the design of a new school at Westbury. Another personal recommendation brought Eginton the prestigious commission for the restoration of the Parish Church at Stratford-upon-Avon. At about the same time (1835) he was directing the restoration of St Lawrence's Church, Evesham. Further ecclesiastical work followed and in 1845 churches at Broseley and Dawley were built to his design, All Saints' in Broseley at a cost of £9,000.

At the same time he was supervising major works of restoration throughout the Midlands as well as completing drawings for the restoration of the Guesten Hall of Worcester Cathedral, a project that was sadly not pursued. A man of many talents, he also designed vicarages, mansions, police stations and schools as well as an extension to Worcester County Prison.

Eginton died in 1849 aged just 40. Although several of his churches have now been demolished or replaced, sufficient of his work remains to testify to the originality and inventiveness of his approach and to his care for detail and attractive decoration.

The stained glass west window in the church, now no longer visible from inside, was designed by Charles Kempe. Kempe was born in 1837 and had wanted to become a clergyman. However, a speech impediment made this impracticable and he decided that “if he was not permitted to minister in the Sanctuary he would use his talents to adorn it”.

It was to the medium of stained glass that he was particularly attracted and he eventually became an authority on mediaeval glass. Its influence on his designs may be seen in all his ecclesiastical stained glass work and “the style of design, the use of mainly green, blue and ruby glass, the delicate and detailed painting of figures and their settings, and the masterly use of large areas of silver stain, all combined to produce a new refreshing interpretation in Victorian stained glass, which quickly gained in popularity.”

His most prestigious commission was possibly the window of St George’s in Buckingham Palace. He died in 1907.

IRONBRIDGE GORGE WORLD HERITAGE FESTIVAL

The Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Festival will be taking place this year on Saturday 21st September from 12 noon until 5.00 pm with heritage talks and walks, a high quality craft and food market, live street entertainment and family activities.

Visitors will be able to enjoy a large street market along the Wharfage while local charities and

community groups will be running stands with raffles and fun challenges. In the Market Square there will be demonstrations and displays celebrating the remarkable heritage of the Gorge and street entertainment will keep the crowds amused throughout the day.

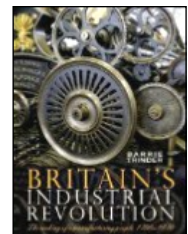
Younger visitors can take part in free, hands-on art activities in the Merrythought Village where, for a small fee, they can also enjoy a donkey ride.

Throughout the day visitors can discover more about the history of the Gorge as there will be a variety of free walks and talks which detail different aspects of the area’s rich industrial past, and follow a specially designed trail around the town.

Visitors are advised to use the free and frequent Ironbridge Park and Ride Service that operates from the top of Jiggers Bank. Station Road car park in Ironbridge will be available for accessible parking only and all other car parks will be for special permit holders. For further information visit www.visitironbridge.co.uk/worldheritage, call 01952 433424 or email tic@ironbridge.org.uk.

BOOKSHOP

Britain’s Industrial Revolution, by Barrie Trinder (Carnegie Publishing Ltd, 2013), 676 pp, paperback £19.99.



This magnum opus, by one of the country’s leading experts on the subject, was launched at a number of locations around the country, including the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, at the end of May.

The author, Barrie Trinder, has spent half a century researching different aspects of the Industrial Revolution and here in Shropshire we are fortunate to benefit from the four decades he spent in the county.

In his preface the author explains the objective of his book – to focus attention on those places, both celebrated and obscure, which directly experienced the economic and social changes between 1700 and 1870 that are customarily encapsulated in the term “industrial revolution”.

The book is in three parts: Part I looks at enabling technologies such as energy, machine making and transport; Part II deals with the manufacturing industry itself; and Part III looks at industry and society in the booming new towns of the age.

As with his previous publications, Barrie Trinder writes in a clear and engaging style. The book reflects the wide range of research into the many aspects of the Industrial Revolution undertaken by himself and others. The many illustrations are well captioned and there is an extensive bibliography and detailed index at the end of the book.

The chapter on 'Transport', my particular interest, is a masterly summary of transport developments in this country in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The publishers are to be congratulated on producing this lavishly illustrated, lengthy tome at such a reasonable price.

Neil Clarke

WHAT'S ON?

Blists Hill Victorian Town

Sunday 29 September

Harvest Festival

This Harvest Festival will be celebrated with a thanksgiving service in the Mission Church along with a display of produce.

26th October, 6.00 pm

Ghostly Gaslight

Ghostly Gaslight at Blists Hill is one of Shropshire's biggest Hallowe'en events, when the streets, shops and houses will be transformed into places filled with ghosts, ghouls and monsters. The buildings will be illuminated and fireworks will light the night sky.

Tickets must be purchased in advance. For prices and more information call 01952 433424 or visit www.ironbridge.org.uk.

Coalbrookdale Gallery

Next to Enginuity

21 June – 31 December

Pit Profiles: Re-Profiled

An exhibition of miners' portraits and their personal stories made up of evocative contemporary photographs of colliery workers

taken by Anton Want along with a selection of drawings of pit workers by H Andrew Freeth, originally published in the 1940s and 1950s. Free admission.

Coalport China Museum

28 October – 1 November

Hallowe'en Ceramic Workshops

Create a colourful ceramic monster or ghoul at the clay modelling drop-in workshop. Activities vary from day to day and carry an additional charge of £4.00 per item.

Enginuity

26th October – 3rd November

Wicked Wings family workshops

Design and create your own spooky creature from craft materials for Hallowe'en. Activities will vary from day to day and some additional costs will apply.

For further information on these and other events contact the Ironbridge Tourist Information Centre on 01952 433 424 or visit www.ironbridge.org.uk.

MAILBOX

I am trying to find a family of McGowans in

Broseley centred on a Martin born in 1866. They do not seem to appear in BMD birth indexes, but the censuses 'insist' that they come from Brosly/Brosely. They are a Catholic family originally from Ireland. Does anyone know where the Catholic baptism records would be kept? I should appreciate any help.

Phil Plant

pplant@mail.com

I am not aware of any Catholic baptism records for Broseley. The extract below from the Victoria County History suggests they would have been baptised in Madeley.

Roman Catholicism

Ten papists were listed in 1676 (fn. 30) and 7 in 1767, including Edward Purcell, lord of the manor (fn. 31). In 1869 Broseley became a preaching station; a house was used as a school and for Mass. In 1888 an iron church opened on land whose purchase was assisted by Lord Acton. St. Winifred's, west of Barber Row, was served originally from Madeley but by 1900 from Shifnal; it closed in

1913 (fn. 32). In 1962 a temporary wooden church was built in Barber Row. That was replaced by a permanent building in 1979. Never a Catholic parish, Broseley was served between 1959 and 1978 from Much Wenlock and after 1981 from Dawley (fn. 33).

There seem to have been a number of Irish families who emigrated to Broseley after the famine. It intrigues me why they chose Broseley. I would suggest you contact the Shropshire Family History Society as they may have more details.

Steve Dewhirst

I am currently researching the Glover family who originated from Broseley. I know that my 4 x great grandfather was Thomas Glover (son of Edward Glover) who was born around 1824 and, from census records, it looks like he was a 'dresser of hair' on High Street, Broseley.

I should be very keen to hear from anyone else researching the family or anyone who could assist.
Christopher Burrows

kristofa.burrowz@gmail.com

The only record I can find from the early 19th century is for a valuation of the Broseley Estate in 1793. Unfortunately it does not give the first name. "A Dwelling House with a Shop Stable Slaughter House and Appurtenances situate near the Market House Broseley the same being in tolerable order and the Annual Rent as now paid for the same being ¾ a Year for the House and £1 for the shop. Another Dwelling House nearly adjoining to the last mentioned premises in the Occupation of Glover the rent being ¾ a year."

Steve Dewhirst

I am researching my family tree and have just seen your website which is very impressive and full of information. Many years ago my family lived in Broseley where they were miners. William Jones was born in the 1790s in Madeley and his son Samuel Jones was born in 1838. I should be very grateful if anyone has any information as to where they lived or any pictures of them and other miners.

Janet Butler

jan.ebutler@yahoo.co.uk



The only picture of the mines from the time of William and Samuel is this etching, above. Jones was a common name in Broseley so it would be difficult to find out specific details about them or where they lived. If you have information from the census you may be able to find their house on the tithe map at <http://www.broseley.org.uk/tithe.htm>.
Steve Dewhirst

Thank you for your wonderful Broseley Local History Society website. I have been researching the Geary family and was directed towards your website to look at the Parish registers where I found quite a few Gearys between 1700 and 1750. I have managed to trace the family back to John Geary who was born in 1796 in Broseley, but cannot find his parents. While I have found a couple of Geary families on the parish records I have not been able to link those families to my family as I am missing a couple of generations! Do you know if the next lot of Broseley Parish records (post 1750) are available to view anywhere – either online or at a local archive/museum?

Alice Harper

aliceharper90@hotmail.co.uk

I think the parish records for this period are at Shropshire Archives. If you contact the Shropshire Family History Society I am sure they will be able to give you more information. Randall in his History of Broseley and its Surroundings mentions a John Geary:

Another is a curious puzzle jug, made for Mr. John Geary, clerk of Broseley church, who kept the "Dog," a name now changed to the "Talbot."

The pub was actually called the Talbot. It was in Dog Yard of Foundry Lane and was demolished some years ago. Apparently he kept the pub until at least 1829.

Steve Dewhirst

My name is Nina Jones neé Parsons, and I am researching my Parson ancestors who came from Much Wenlock. My great great grandfather was William Parsons born in 1808 and he was married to Mary Ann Pearce born 1804. She was from Broseley and after they were married they moved to Broseley. I believe he was a blacksmith and she was a shopkeeper.

I should really appreciate any information anyone can give me on this family.

Nina Jones

whitgas@westnet.com.au

On the website William Parsons is shown as living at Plot 89d. For the map see <http://www.broseley.org.uk/TitheMap/tithe.htm> and for the list of occupiers see <http://www.broseley.org.uk/images/tithe.PDF>. Parsons seems to have been a name local to Much Wenlock.

A William Parsons is shown in Inns and Alehouses of Broseley by B.D Shinton

Hand and Tankard

This building is now demolished. It stood on a site at or about 28 Woodhouse Road, now occupied by the council houses. The first licence was granted in 1811. John Smythyman is shown as licensee in 1835 and John Jones in 1840. William Parsons and Thomas Birch were said to be the occupants in 1847 although they may not have held the licence. James Smith was the licensee by 1850, Jane Norris by 1859 and James Aston by 1863. William Moore appears in 1868 and John Matthews 1888 - 1913, after which there is no further reference.

On Wednesday 14th April 1847 there was for sale by auction at 6 pm at the Lion Inn

“All that old established inn called the Hand and Tankard, with garden and appurtenances, and excellent malthouse adjoining, in the occupancy of William Parsons and Thomas Birch.”

Steve Dewhirst

I am contacting you regarding my Boden ancestors from the Lloyds Head/Jackfield area. I believe they were non-conformists but I have been unable to find any records for their children's baptisms. I know the Bodens go a long way back

in Broseley area history and there were many Boden families that are easily confused, but I should be grateful for any assistance.

I do not think the Non-Conformist baptism registers survive but perhaps one of our members may be able to help.

Steve Dewhirst

Editor: Our apologies that this request did not make our May issue. Hopefully it will not be too late for someone to help you.

My Bradley family on my mother's side came from Broseley, Lawrence Bradley being born in Broseley in 1691. I have been working with the Broseley Parish Registers you have online and would like to know what the 'sep.' after some entries means. Baptisms, Burials and Marriages (nuptials) have their own abbreviations. The nearest explanation I can find is that it possibly means 'septula' of which some form can be found in various languages, including Catalan, a vulgarism of Latin, to mean 'to bury or entomb'. Since 'bur' for burial and 'sep' appear on same pages, would it have anything to do with the form of burial, such as entombment or cremation as opposed to inhumation? Can anyone help me with this?

I did visit England in the late 1970s, taking the ferry across the channel and the train to Victoria Station, while I was stationed in Germany. I shall be back in 2014 and look forward to visiting Broseley.

Stanley L Reed

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Marion, Kansas, USA

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I am afraid that I do not know what 'sep' means in the registers. I would suggest that you contact Shropshire Family History Society <http://www.sfhs.org.uk/> as they are more expert on these matters than myself.

Steve Dewhirst

I am trying to trace the family line of my paternal grandmother. Her mother was born in 1833 in Broseley with the name of Caroline Aston.

In the 1841 census the writing is very faint, but there is a Robert Aston and family and a Caroline aged 10. I should be very grateful if anyone could tell me if there was a brickworks or ironworks called Barnetts, which appears to be the place where they were living.

Caroline Shannon, Rugeley
c/o steve@broseley.org.uk

The area where the Aston family lived was and still is called Barnetts Leasow – leasow is the local name for meadow. It is located just upstream of the Free Bridge on the Broseley side of the river.

The 1841 census shows that Caroline's father Robert was involved in the river trade as it states he was on a barge to Worcester at the time the census was taken. For details of the barge trade I recommend Barges and Bargemen by Barrie Trinder, published by Phillimore and Co.

The tithe map shows that the Aston family had a house and garden at plot 584b. There was a brick yard to the left, just off the map, and Ladywood brick works were at the bottom of the map below plot 577. Plot 578 is the site of Barnetts Leasow ironworks. This operated from 1797 to 1830 and was demolished soon afterwards.

Steve Dewhirst

This picture of the Dog and Duck pub is probably from the late 19th century. The Aston family house, not shown, would have been to the right behind the pub. The Ladywood brick works can be seen in the top right hand corner.



Here the Dog and Duck is on the left hand side with the Aston house behind. This picture was probably taken in the early 20th century



Does anyone know if this postcard of the top end of Broseley High Street was produced by a local publisher? I should be grateful for any information about it.

Tom Cooper

t.r.cooper@blueyonder.co.uk

I should be very interested in learning more about a Martha Kitson who had a son John when she was approximately 17. I am unable to find out about the father and assume that John took the surname of his mother Martha (Kitson). Looking at your website I found this from the Broseley tithe: Ann Cox Martha Kitson 55c 0/0/2.5 House & Garden, but I am not sure if this is the same person.

Any help would be much appreciated as my father-in-law has run into a blank in finding out about his heritage beyond his great grandfather.

James Syson

thesysons@talktalk.net

On seeing a photograph of the old Birchmeadow Chapel in one of the *Newsletters* Don Preston, who lived in Stafford, wrote saying that when he was born in 1922 he had spent the first five years of his life in Birch Meadow House which had been the manse for Birchmeadow Chapel. His interesting letter was published in the *May 2010 Newsletter*.

Now his daughter has written to say that he has recently passed away at the age of 90 but that, because he had always been very interested in the history of the area, she thought readers of the *Newsletter* might like to share some of his life story.

Don was born in Broseley in October 1922 and all his life this area was very special to him. Several generations of his father's family came from the



The Birch Meadow Chapel in its early days



The original front wall of the old Birch Meadow Chapel manse can still be seen from Birchmeadow Road

area and his great grandfather, John Preston, worked for the Darby family, living in Tea Kettle Row in Coalbrookdale in the 1840s and 1860s. His grandfather, father and uncles worked at Broseley Tileries. Don won a free place at the Grammar School in Coalbrookdale, but by the 1930s there were few job prospects for a young man even with good qualifications, so at 18 he left Broseley to become an engineering apprentice at GEC in Witton, Birmingham. His career developed as a designer of power station generation equipment and he moved to Stafford in the 1960s. He married his wife Betty in 1950 and together they brought up their family of four children. Don was also an active church member and for 40 years was a lay preacher on the local Methodist Circuit.

Don had a strong interest in the industrial history of the area of his upbringing and, although he never returned to live in Broseley, he sought to explore its industrial history and visited when he could. He was convinced that the role Broseley played in the industrial revolution has failed to be fully recognised.

Coalbrookdale and Ironbridge are justly famous for the initial stages of developing modern iron production, through the Darby's development of coal fired furnaces. However, the blast for the furnaces was still provided by water power until, at Broseley's New Willey furnace in 1776, John

Wilkinson commissioned the first Boulton and Watt blowing engine. This liberated iron production from water power and so completed all that was needed for the development of our large scale iron industry.

Don retired in 1987, and during his long retirement took up woodwork. He had developed this interest in woodwork early, as is illustrated by a report on the 1937 Broseley Show which mentions his wooden models of the Tower Bridge and Forth Bridges. Over the past 25 years he has made many beautifully crafted pieces of furniture and clocks for family and friends. This interest appears to have followed a family line as, on his mother's side, it was discovered there were a series of carpenters and wheelwrights.

Jennifer Potter

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I am trying to trace my family history. My great grandmother was Sarah Franklin, born in about 1824. She married Benjamin Boden in 1851 and he died in about 1872 in Worcester. In 1874 Sarah and her two sons Benjamin and Thomas came to New Zealand on the ship *Apelles*.

My mother was a Boden before her marriage, but we have little information except that the Bodens were in the Jackfield parish. Could anyone tell us where to find more information or anything about this town which might be an addition to our scrapbook?

Mervyn Dobson

mervyn.dobson@snap.net.nz

Jackfield was originally part of Broseley and was mainly associated with trade on the river Severn. There is a record of an Edward Boden who had a boat carrying limestone for the iron furnaces in 1847. He seems to have lived next door to Benjamin and was probably his uncle. There is also the cast iron grave slab for Thomas Boden (died 1783) in Broseley churchyard.

I see from the 1851 census that a Benjamin Boden of Jackfield is listed as a Waterman. This could explain why he ended up in Worcester as the boats from Jackfield traded with Worcester and by the time of his death the river trade had all

but ceased in Jackfield but was still very much alive in Worcester.

Steve Dewhirst

Editor: There is a mention of a Sarah Roden travelling to New Zealand on the website <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ourstuff/Apelles1874.htm>

Amberley Publishing are currently looking for new or experienced authors to contribute to our successful *Through Time* series of local history books.

In your area we have the following potential title: *Telford Through Time*. As your group is based in the local area, some of your members may have the expertise and enthusiasm for which we are looking.

The *Through Time* concept is a ninety-six page, then-and-now picture book, containing around ninety old photographs. Each photograph is paired with a new photograph in full colour to show how the same scene, or a related one, has changed over time. Each pair of photographs has a short descriptive caption.

If anyone within Broseley Local History Society is interested in producing this kind of book for us perhaps they would contact me.

Elizabeth Watts

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Broseley Local History Society will be holding an exhibition in 2014 to commemorate the start of WW1. With this in mind does anyone have any photographs or family information on these soldiers who are either buried in Broseley Cemetery or commemorated on a memorial stone on a family grave there: Arthur Reynolds, Harry Burton, Levi Evans, Joseph Edwards, James Harrison, G Abbey, Frederick Arthur Jones, William Rose Barnett, Edward Colley, Louis Alexander Nicklin, Ernest George Boden, Wilfred John Boden, Joseph Henry Barnett Onions.

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DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSLETTERS

Thank you to those members who have indicated that they would be happy to have an electronic copy of the *Newsletter*. If there are any other members who would prefer it this way, please contact the membership secretary, Janet Robinson, email: pandjrobinson@hotmail.com. Those of you who would still prefer to have it in its printed version can continue to look forward to receiving it through the post.

THANK YOU

On a personal note I should like to thank all of you who have contributed to the *Newsletter* over the past years, whether through articles, book reviews, email queries or just plain interest. Editing this publication has been a most engaging experience and I have met a lot of interesting people, learnt a lot about Broseley and its history and thoroughly enjoyed myself in the process. I wish my successor a similar experience.

Jan Lancaster

Retiring Editor

Newsletter is aware of the concerns of some correspondents who are reluctant to see their email address appear in the public domain. If there is anyone who does not wish their contact details to be published, they are welcome to make use of the Society's email address steve@broseley.org.uk. Any respondent without access to email may pass on information to any member of the committee.