

Newsletter

Newsletter of the Broseley Local History Society

Incorporating the Wilkinson Society



February 2007

<i>Chairman</i>	Gillian Pope
<i>Secretary</i>	Dot Cox
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jim Cooper
<i>Curator</i>	David Lake
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Janet Robinson
	26 Coalport Road Broseley TF12 5AZ 01952 882495
<i>Programme Secretary and Journal Editor</i>	Neil Clarke
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Jan Lancaster
<i>Publicity</i>	Michael Pope
<i>CD archiving</i>	Vin Callcut
<i>Website</i>	www.broseley.org.uk
<i>Email</i>	steve@broseley.org.uk

NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Peter Martin	Broseley
Judy Padfield	Broseley
Nuala O'Kane	Broseley
Ian Baker	Broseley
Derek and Heather Armstrong	Broseley Wood
Gordon and Norma Morris	Jackfield
Tony Mugridge	Madeley
Frank Sharman	Wolverhampton
Chris and Jenny Pawsey	Lichfield
Bridget and Paul Handley	Ayleburton, Gloucestershire
Edward and Sheila Jones	Bexley, Kent

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.

PROGRAMME

- 4 Apr Annual Wilkinson Lecture – *Thomas Farnolls Pritchard* by Julia Ionides
- 2 May *An Oral History of Broseley*, Ken Jones shares recordings of people's memories of the town
- 6 June Site visit to the Lloyds led by Neal Rushton (see details on this page)
- 7 July Trip to North Wales to see some of the achievements of Thomas Telford and John Wilkinson (see details on this page)

Further details from Neil Clarke 01952 504135.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Visit to the Lloyds

Wednesday 6 June, 7.30 pm

For our June meeting Neal Rushton has offered to show members around the work going on at the Lloyds. Members requiring a lift should meet in the Social Club car park at 7.00 pm while others may go straight there for 7.30 pm. Neal advises that the only available parking will be from the Blist's Hill end, through the 'Road Closed' sign; park beyond the house on the left. Protective clothing will be available but please wear stout shoes.

Trip to North Wales

Saturday 7 July

Dep: Broseley 8.00 am

Coalbrookdale 8.10 am

Arr: Coalbrookdale 19.00 approx

Broseley 19.10 approx

Cost: £22.00 per person

This year's July outing will be to North Wales to see some of the achievements of Thomas Telford and John Wilkinson in and around the Dee Valley.



The Llangollen Canal over the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct

The coach will leave Broseley at 8.00 am and pick up at Coalbrookdale before driving on to see the 62 ft span Telford aqueduct at Longdon on Tern. From there we shall travel along Telford's Holyhead Road which, stretching from London straight through the heart of North Wales and on to the port of Holyhead on Anglesey, is the only major highway in the whole country to have a footpath along its entire length.

Arriving at the Llangollen railway station, which was opened in 1861, we shall join the first steam train of the day travelling up the valley between the Holyhead Road and the River Dee. There will also be a prize of a footplate trip on this part of the tour. At Corwen we rejoin the coach for the short trip to Llangollen Wharf. There we board the *Thomas Telford* narrow boat for a scenic trip along the Llangollen Canal, over the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct (opened in 1805) to Froncysylte Wharf. A ploughman's lunch or quiche salad will be available on the boat at a cost of £4.95, but this should be booked and paid for beforehand or you can bring your own. Refreshments will be available at the bar.

From there the coach will take us to Bersham Museum where we will be welcomed by Steve Greuter of Wrexham Museum and given a guided tour of the remains of John Wilkinson's ironworks.

This tour is now fully booked.

GARDEN OPEN DAY

Sun 20 May, 2.00 – 6.30 pm

Rivendell, 2 Dark Lane, Broseley

Admission: £2.50

Gillian, chairman of the Society, and Michael Pope will be holding an open day at their garden at Rivendell, Dark Lane in May. This will be the second year that they have done this, last year

raising over £1,200. This year monies will be divided between the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust and Broseley and Barrow parish churches. Parking will be available in the Fair Field, Dark Lane.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Christmas Dinner

Once again the Society's Christmas dinner was held at the Woodbridge Inn where these pictures tell their own story.



January Meeting

This year the traditional Memories Evening took a different turn when Steve Dewhirst gave a fascinating presentation of old photographs of Broseley's shops, places and people.

One of these shops, James Davies' store in King Street, apparently sold everything, from drapery and house furnishings to pianos, motor cycles and cars. In 1904 they were advertising a 5 hp Humber for 125 guineas which, they claimed, would not only take you out but bring you back as well! Another was Matthew Davis' butcher's shop in King Street which had been tiled inside and out with tiles from Craven Dunnill. This can still be seen although, as it has stood empty for some years, it is no longer looking quite so smart.

Round the corner in Duke Street was the button factory which in 1955 had a weekly output of 250,000 metal mattress buttons and 150 gross of medals and badges. Not all establishments were quite so successful, however. Further down the road Noah Hill, landlord of the Lord Hill, had once been found guilty of adulterating a pint of milk, while Elizabeth Roberts, landlady of the Cape of Good Hope Inn in Cape Street, had been fined £3.00 and costs for watering down the brandy.

Of particular interest were the various tileries which had once formed such an important part of



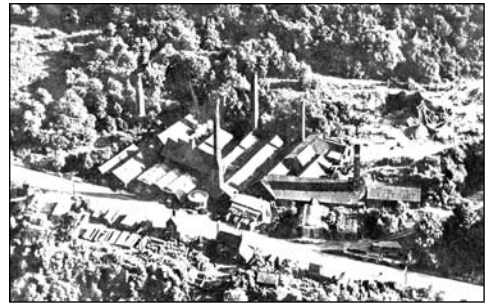
Mathew Davis' butcher's shop in King Street is still there



James Davies' store in King Street sold just about everything

Broseley's industries. Probably the oldest of these, Ladywood Tileries, situated on the left of the Ironbridge Road just past the junction with Ball's Lane, was established in 1761. In 1862 the company won a medal for producing 100

Ladywood Tileries were demolished in 1963



Broseley Tileries were founded in 1828 by John Onions II



different types of architectural crest and roofing tiles while during the 1920s vagrants were grateful for the roadside kilns which gave them somewhere warm to sleep. The works closed in 1939 and were finally demolished in 1963. Some ruins remain but the only complete surviving building is the two storey office block across the road which is now a private house.

Milburgh Tileries off Calcutts Road, where Oakengates Corrugated Sheeting now have their stock yard, was the first planned roofing tile factory in the area. Established in 1871, in 1908 its production totalled four million Broseley roofing tiles. It closed in 1938 when it was taken over by an aluminium foil recycling company supplying ingots for aircraft production.

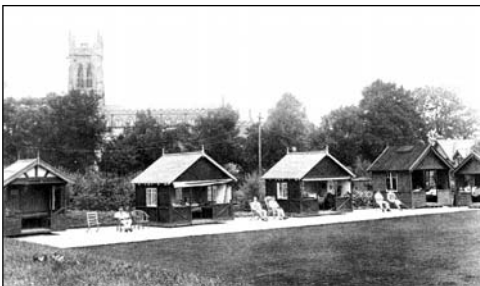
Another important concern was Broseley Tileries, situated on what is now known as The Tileries housing estate along the Coalport Road. Founded in 1828 by John Onions II it produced bricks, roofing tiles, encaustic and glazed decorative tiles. Tiles for the floor of the Royal Academy in London were produced here. It closed in the early 1950s.

The Coalport Tileries, established in 1891 by William Exley & Sons, was situated between the Severn Valley Railway and the river, on what is now the site of a water treatment plant. The first to introduce mechanised processing, they were also said to use a special type of clay for their roof

tiles on which moss would not grow, a fact to which former chairman John Freeman can attest, living as he does in the one time home of the Exley family and which still has some of the original tiles.

In the early 1900s two hospitals were opened in the area. The Lady Forester Hospital, on the corner of Church Street and Ironbridge Road, was built in 1907. In 1912 two wards were dedicated to the new radium treatment with cases coming from all over Shropshire. Records say applications were from 30 minutes to 24 hours, with results varying from 'wonderful' to 'not so satisfactory'! During WW1 the grounds of the hospital served as a convalescent home for wounded soldiers, where the sleeping huts could be rotated according to the direction of the wind. Now the Lady Forester Care Centre, it is still providing a vital service to the community.

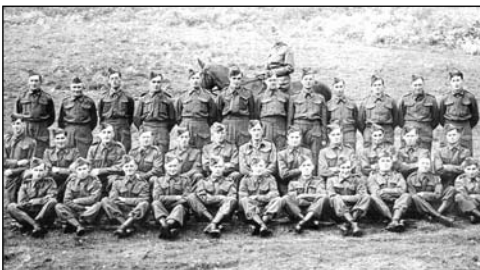
Another facility was the Shirlett Sanatorium, built on land donated by Lord Forester and officially opened in 1911 by Princess Alexandra of Teck.



These sleeping huts could be rotated depending on the wind direction



The Shirlett Sanatorium was opened in 1911 by Princess Alexandra of Teck



Willey Home Guard during WW2

Steve concluded his presentation with pictures of the people of the Broseley area, among them one of the Willey Home Guard who, on an exercise in 1941, were told not to forget that the enemy could attack from any direction and that they should wear caps and carry their gas masks and haversack rations at all times.

February meeting

Perceptions of the Industrial Revolution was the title of a presentation given by Diana Clarke in February. The talk was supported by a selection of extracts and images representing a range of different viewpoints from professional writers and thinkers, through artists, travellers and working people and entrepreneurs who were living through the period of rapid industrial growth between 1700 and 1830.

The aim was to explore perceptions of the early years of the industrial revolution through the eyes and ears of contemporaries, to try and get a glimpse into the way they saw their world.

THE PIECE OF THE TREE

The piece of the Tree donated to the Society last year has finally been put to good use. Turned to make a lectern base



by Peter Gillard (see *August 2006 Newsletter*), it has now had its top fitted by Broseley resident Chris Bonsall, and was used for the first time at the March meeting. The Tree is, of course, the lovely beech tree which used to span the Broseley to Much Wenlock Road and which had to be felled in 2005 because of a fast acting fungus (see the *November 2005* and *February 2006 Newsletters*). It is a pleasure to know that even just a small part of this landmark will live on in the Society's possession.

JOHN RUSKIN AND BROSELEY SCHOOL

Members may already know that John Ruskin visited Broseley in 1850, staying at Broseley Hall, the home of his friend John Pritchard. What they may not know, however, is the possible influence Ruskin had on the design and building of a National School in Bridgnorth Road, now the Library and Health Centre. Ruskin's philosophy

was to introduce something aesthetically pleasing into the lives of ordinary people, at the same time improving their prospects through a better education. The building of the school in 1855 may well have been prompted by him expressing these views to his host.

Frank Sharman has sent us this website www.localhistory.scit.wlv.ac.uk/articles/Albrighton/Ruskin/Ruskin.htm which offers some more information.

CLASS OF '28



Ray Johnston's plea for information about his Broseley C of E Primary School photograph (November 2006 Newsletter) has

produced positive results. Tom Roberts, who also appears in the photograph, was quick to recognise the missing name as that of Robert Davies.

VICTORY MEDALS



Seen on eBay these medals were awarded to 13303 Pte J E Brazier, Shropshire Light Infantry.

John Elliott Brazier was born in Willey, Salop. He served in France from 28 September 1915 and was killed in action on 14 July 1916 whilst serving with the 7th Battalion. He was aged 23. The son of Mr and Mrs R Brazier of 6 Rough Lane, Broseley, Salop he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

NEW CARRIAGE FOR OLD STATION

The old railway station at Coalport, at the bottom of the Severn Gorge, has just acquired another piece of rolling stock – 45 years after the line was officially closed.

Steve Rawlings, who lives in what is now Coalport Station House, has for several years had one old railway carriage in his garden which he lets out as a holiday home. Now he has taken delivery of a second.

Backing round the S bend of the old railway bridge



Rolling the carriage off the trailer and on to a temporary stretch of track



In place at last!



Getting the carriage down there, however, was not without its problems. Because of the height restriction on the Coalport Bridge the only access was by the Coalport Road, where there is no space to turn round at the bottom. So it was decided to back the horse and trailer carrying the carriage down the hill rather than having to back it up.

Once safely down the hill, the problem then came of getting the carriage off the trailer onto the existing piece of track. Lack of easy access and soft ground meant that a temporary stretch of track had to be laid. The carriage was then rolled on to this before being finally towed into position.

Meanwhile the logistics of the whole operation certainly provided the crowd of fascinated onlookers with a Sunday afternoon's experience of a very different kind.

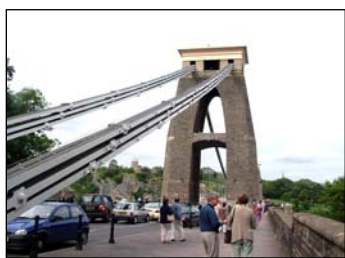
AN ALMOST NAMESAKE

Seen on a recent visit to New Zealand, Clifden Suspension Bridge, alongside SH 99, was built in 1899 from totara and Australian hardwood. Its concrete



towers were made to look like stone and, with its 28 steel cables, was a significant engineering achievement. One of the longest bridges in the South Island it is no longer open to traffic.

Its almost namesake, but preceding it by some years, Clifton Suspension Bridge in England was completed in 1864 to a design by



Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Intended to take only light horse drawn traffic, today it can still handle some 12,000 motor vehicles crossing it daily.

WHAT'S ON?

Severn Gorge Countryside Trust

The SGCT has a new manager, Russell Rowley, who took over from James Power last year.

Russell has, for the past twenty five years, been working in the public, private and voluntary sectors all over the UK. A professional land manager by training, he has degrees in land management, geography and environmental forestry. He has also worked as a consultant and contractor.

In addition to its full programme of volunteering activities the Trust has arranged the following events.

Sat 28 April, 1.00 - 3.30 pm

Spring Flower Walk at Benthall Edge

Wed 2 May, 8.00 - 10.00 pm

Moth survey and bat watching at Ropewalk Meadow

Sat 5 - Sun 13 May

Gorgeous Walks – Ironbridge Gorge Walking Festival

Tue 22 May, 7.30 pm

Sutton Maddock Hall

Open Evening and talk by Steven Miller, CE of the IGMT, *Signs of cultural history on the Trust's sites*

Thu 24 May, 10.00 am - 3.00 pm

Orchid survey at Patten's Rock Quarry

Fri 25 May, 10.00 am - 3.00 pm

Butterfly monitoring at Dale Coppice and Rough Park

For further details and the full summer programme contact 01952 433880 or visit info@severngorge.org.uk.

Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust

Coalport Teapot Exhibition

March – October 2007

Coalport China Museum

A colourful display of early Coalport teapots, giving an insight into the social history of tea drinking in Britain in the 18th and early 19th centuries, will be held



from late March to late October at the Coalport China Museum. The exhibition will show a wide variety of teapot shapes and will represent as closely as possible the full range of patterns used on Coalport porcelain in the early 19th century.

Porcelain teapots dating back to between 1796 and 1820 will be on display with examples by both John Rose and Thomas Rose. A selection from other factories such as Caughley and Worcester will provide comparisons and illustrate the styles that were influencing Coalport products.

Further information from 01952 884391 or visit www.ironbridge.org.uk.

MAILBOX

My great grandmother, Maria Jones, was born in Back Alley in Broseley. Is this as bad as it sounds? I should be really grateful if anyone knows anything about her.

Janie Goldring

janegregatflo@ukonline.co.uk

Back Alley was at the rear of the High Street and has now been demolished. I suspect that the houses were of poor quality and probably

*The rear of
the High
Street
The houses
along Back
Alley would
have been
on the left*



somewhat unsanitary. However the rear of the houses looked out over open fields, so perhaps that would have been some consolation.

I am not aware of any old pictures of the alley. This picture was taken in 2000 and shows the rear of the shops on the High Street. I suspect that Maria would have lived in a house to the left of the picture.

Steve Dewhirst

Thank you so much for that and for your picture. I have now discovered all sorts of other things. Maria Jones who lived in Back Alley married a Romany, Joseph Somerset Locke, and eventually had my grandmother. His sister was Esmeralda Groome née Locke, quite infamous in her time, I believe. She was sold to Hubert Smith*, the town clerk at Bridgnorth, and ran away with Francis Hinds Groome, a Romany expert.

Janie Goldring

**Hubert Smith was the grandson of Thomas Turner of Caughley China fame, see p10.*

Society member Norman Wyke remembers the Romany Lockes from the 1930s. He says they used to travel around the farms in the Wall-under-Haywood area near Church Stretton peddling such articles as clothes pegs. One of their catchphrases was "Can your mother skin a rabbit? I'll skin her one for ninepence." The whole family, from grandmother down, lived in a caravan and always had piebald ponies. They were regarded as respectable people who did part time work on the farms potato picking.

I refer to the item in the November 2006 Newsletter about the American P47 Thunderbolt aircraft which crashed in Broseley on 7 May 1944. This aircraft, serial number 41-6627, took off from the USA Airforce base at Atcham near

Shrewsbury. This type of aircraft was rumoured to be difficult to handle and tended to suffer from nose drop. In this instance the pilot was Lieutenant David Akers Finney and it was sadly to be his final flight. After not more than about an eight mile flight, at about 10.00 am he came down nose first into Mr Roberts' field at the top of Barratt's Hill on the right as you go towards Much Wenlock. The actual site of the crash was about 70 yards into the field from the original stile which is still there. The site is also about 70 yards due east of the only house that stands at the top of the field.

As a nine year old school boy I was on the scene by 11.00 am to find very little of the aircraft left amid the fierce flames and exploding ammunition. A clear sign was pinned onto the stile warning people of this.

I believe the body of the pilot was laid out in the barn of the nearby farm of Mr and Mrs Roberts (both now deceased).

About 16 years ago the Wartime Aircraft Recovery Association took me to the site and Mr Roberts and myself were able to pinpoint exactly where the airplane came down. With the help of metal detectors various artefacts were recovered, including bullets and the entry tube of a Mae West. These artefacts are probably in a small museum in High Ercall. I still have just one bullet given to me by the above Association. The pilot was buried at the American military cemetery near Cambridge.

Further information can be sought from Tom Thorne 01743 718270.

Ron Miles

01952 882683

Two replies to the item about the Southorn tokens seen on eBay (November 2006 Newsletter) indicate that they were tallies and not local currency.

There are a number of these tokens at Broseley Pipe Museum and I even dug one up in my garden at Broseley Wood. They were used by Southorns when they ran the Legge's Hill factory (and employed upwards of 70 people) as a means of tallying how many pipes the individual workers made. It is said that every time the employee made

a gross he was given an appropriate token. The tokens had individual initials stamped on them which apparently related to the different types of pipes they were making or at least the category into which the pipes fell. The workers were paid fractionally less for shorter pipes, more for longer, trickier pipes. As Southorns were making up to 100 different types at any one time it would be impractical to have hundreds of different tokens, so I think they were applied to categories of pipes.

Working out the initials has been difficult. The CTS on the tokens may possibly stand for Celebrated Tipped Straws. I have an SDS token for, I think, Short Dutch Straw. There are also SC (Short Churchwarden) and LP (Long Pipe?) tokens. The museum has Edwin Southorn tokens as well as William Southorn.

The term gross varied. The employees had to make a 'worker's gross' which could be anything from 13½ dozen to 15½ dozen; the extras were to allow for breakages and blocked pipes. The R&M and T in relief is, I think, the maker of the token.

Rex Key

rex.key@ukonline.co.uk

I am sure Graham Southorn will confirm this, but they are worker's tallies, put with the products as they passed through production. They could well be for clay pipe manufacture, but as the Southorn family have, since coming to Broseley, had many diverse business interests, from engineering to milk deliveries, it would be difficult to date them. They are certainly not currency tokens.

Tony Mugridge

marris@hotmail.co.uk

My late father Harold was born at Hilltop, Madeley in January 1899, the son of James Norry. In the *Wellington Journal* for 5 January 1901 it states that my grandfather had preached at Broseley Wesleyan chapel on that day. I do not remember my father mentioning any family history so, as I am now a Methodist preacher myself (in the Stockport area), it was a complete surprise to find out my grandfather was one also.

Iris Kiernan (Née Norry)

iris.kiernan@ntl.world.com

J Norry (Methodist preacher) is also mentioned in 1894, 1895 and 1930. There was also a George Norry from Ironbridge who preached at the Baptist Chapel in 1905. I see from the 1901 Census that James was an ironstone miner. It is quite probable that he worked at the nearby Brick Kiln Leasow or Meadow pits.

Hill Top is the area at the top of the Severn Gorge opposite Broseley. On an OS map it is around grid reference SJ 683 041. There are only a couple of old houses there now as the area is covered by 1930s and 1970s estates.

Steve Dewhirst

My great, great, great grandfather, Thomas Bennett, was born in Broseley around 1814. In 1839 he married Mary Ann Morris, also born in Broseley around 1818, in Dudley church. He and his wife lived the rest of their lives in Coseley. He was a miner and my theory is that he was forced to move to the Black Country to find work as the Shropshire coalfields were becoming worked out by the 1830s.

I have not had much luck in researching my ancestors. Broseley's parish data from 1798-1825 was no help while Thomas was born before the Duke Street Methodist records of 1817-37. Would anyone know if the miners in the early 19th century were more likely to be Methodist or Baptist or irreligious and therefore did not have children baptised at all? One tantalising lead I have from your website is an entry from the 1838 Tithe map which does record a Thomas Bennett renting a small house from Lord Forester. It may have been my great, great, great grandfather just before he left the area.

David Bennett

david@bennett8705.fsnet.co.uk

The house in Church Street where David Bennett believes one of his ancestors may have lived



Steve Dewhirst replied, attaching the portion of the Tithe map showing plot 188d listed as occupied by Thomas Bennett (approx grid reference SJ 675 016) and sending him the picture on the previous page, which he believes is plot 188d. He also said:

I would think that all children would have been baptised and, like you, think it likely that miners would have been non-conformist. I am not aware of any other chapel records but I would suggest that you contact the Shropshire Family History Society as they are the experts.

I am trying to trace the Shaw family of Benthall

and am particularly interested in Richard, born 1801, and his wife Mariah, born 1796. They lived at Gnathole Lane in 1841 and Benthall Lane in 1851. Richard was a farmer and pipemaker.

Shane Bates

shane-carol@southhead210.fsnet.co.uk

The Benthall Tithe Apportionment of 1844 shows Richard Shaw at plots 183, 184, 237 and 238. The Nuffield Survey of Benthall has the following to say about the site and Richard Shaw:

“The site now occupied by Benthall Villa Farm appears to have been used as a small family workshop in the first half of the nineteenth century. It is a particularly late example of pipemaking being undertaken as a small scale domestic industry, in conjunction with other activities.

“Richard Shaw is first recorded as a pipemaker in 1812 and appears as such in trade directories until 1859. Although given as a pipemaker in 1844 he also held four adjacent pieces of land, and was presumably operating a smallholding. In the 1851 census he is recorded as a farmer employing three men, and by 1861 as a coalmaster employing six men and five boys. Only two incomplete examples of his marks are known, but they appear to have been relief stem stamps reading R SHAW/IRONBRIDGE. Why the place is given as Ironbridge is not certain, and raises the possibility that other makers marking their pipes Ironbridge were not actually working there.”

Steve Dewhirst

In response to Robbie Pickles’ suggestion regarding the photographing of the Society’s

artefacts, (November 2006 Newsletter) curator David Lake has this to say.

Robbie Pickles’ interest in the Society’s artefacts is very welcome. We have been close to securing a place for a display on several occasions, most recently with the late Ivor Southorn’s offer of a home in his proposed Broseley Visitor Centre, but our luck has never held. Our need is for secure accommodation as well as for manning and it should be remembered that a society with only subscriptions for income is naturally reticent about taking on regular commitments for such things as rent and insurance.

However, I am sure that the committee will support the creation of a photographic archive of the more photogenic artefacts, especially if we can look forward to Robbie’s continued interest in creating it!

David Lake

Curator

Would anyone know if there was ever a garage or petrol station in Broseley in the 1930-1940s owned by William and Gladys Oakley? I believe they had two daughters Charlotte and Sheila. I also enclose a photograph of a farm in the Much Wenlock area, which was owned by my mother-in-law’s uncle and his wife, Charlie and Lucy Cowan. I wonder where exactly it is and if it is still there.

Could I just say how wonderful your site is, especially all the photographs.

Corrine Symons

corrine@symonsc.fsnet.co.uk

There is a garage in the High Street which was owned by the Oakley family. I have a reference of auction in 1929 for the garage and other businesses run by F J and E Oakley (I think they were brothers). In the 1940s the garage and scrap yard next door were run by Frederick’s sons Edwin, Jack, Fred and Will. Perhaps some of our



members will be able to identify the farm in your photograph.

Steve Dewhirst

Charlie Cowan’s farm in the Much Wenlock area

My great, great grandparents (surname Davies) used to own the Half Moon Inn at Jackfield. The pub was then taken over by one of their daughters Lillian and husband Jo Norton. My great grandfather's name was Arthur Skitt, a worker at the Coalport China factory. He had two brothers, Ernie and Harry, but I have been unable to find out any more on the Skitt side of the family. Could anyone help with information on either the Half Moon Inn or the Skitts?

James Mills
jimstoft@yahoo.co.uk

This extract about the Half Moon is from Inns and Alehouses of Broseley by B D Shinton

"This house stands at 174 Salthouse Road, Jackfield. Although the first licence was granted in 1802, the first traceable landlord was George Richards in 1835. . . . Benjamin Bowen held the licence by 1870 and Hiram Hill by 1879. Hill's trustees sold the place to Benjamin Garbett in 1897 and John Roberts was the owner and licensee by 1901 when the house consisted of four rooms up and four down. . . . The Half Moon was well known because of the large earthenware jug of local manufacture capable of holding about 36 gallons. This was reputedly made as a wager and now stands in the Jackfield Tile Museum. The legend is that the landlord was not a generous man. He promised to buy customers a drink if they brought a beer pot which they had made themselves. He must have been surprised!"



I am trying to find information about 31 High Street, Broseley where my grandfather, William James Cowan, died in 1945. I should also like to trace any photographs of that address around that time. I should be very interested to know what it now is.

Phil Cowan
philipcowan@hotmail.co.uk

I am trying to find information on the Burton family who came from the Broseley and Jackfield area. The name appears on the 1851, 1861, 1871, 1891 and 1901 census listings as living in,

respectively, Rough Lane; Harris Green; Tuckies Field, Jackfield; Broseley Wood, Hockley; and Calcutts Rails, Jackfield. I believe the family were still around Jackfield in the 1930/40s.

Chris Pawsey
nikki@exsertus.com

Steve Dewhirst suggests Chris looks at the Tithe map apportionment on the website which also lists Burtons.

Hubert Smith, town clerk of the Bridgnorth Corporation in the late 19th century (see *November 2006 Newsletter, Shropshire Archives Past and Present*), was the grandson of Thomas Turner, of Caughley China fame. In 1772 Turner went into partnership with Ambrose Gallimore, the lessee of the Caughley China works. Together they expanded the works and by 1775 were producing the famous Salopian China. Turner's daughter Katherine married a John Smith and it was their son Hubert, born in 1822, who became Bridgnorth town clerk.

Norman Wyke
Broseley



New Road House, in Bridgnorth Road, where Hermione Baddeley once lived and which has been the subject of correspondence in the May and August 2006 issues of the Newsletter

Hermione Baddeley (right) on a visit to her old home, some time in the 1950s. On the left is Mrs Bayfield who was living in the house at the time



Photograph courtesy of Gillian Pope

Newsletter is sympathetic to the concerns of certain of its 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.

**See the Newsletter in full colour!
Visit the Society's website broseley.org.uk
and click on Newsletter**