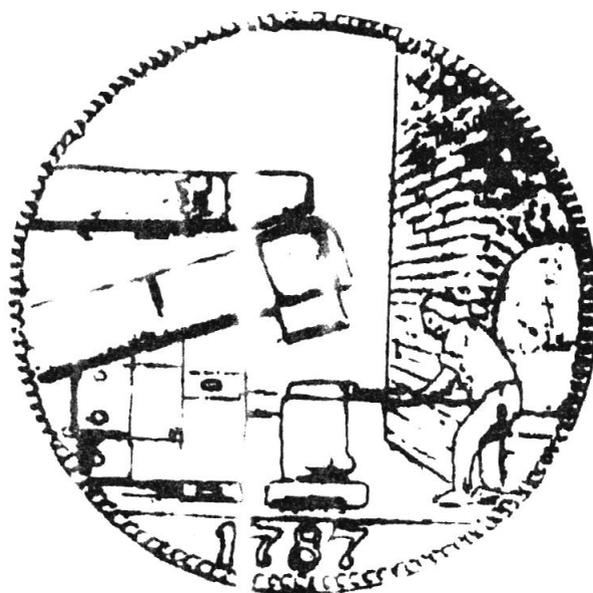


# THE JOURNAL OF THE WILKINSON SOCIETY



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No. 10 : 1982

C O N T E N T S

	Page No.
The Wilkinson Society ... ..	1
Notes and News ... ..	1
Leonard Lead : a Shropshire charcoal burner in the Industrial Revolution, by Peter Lead ... ..	3
The Wilkinson Monument at Lindale ... ..	9
Broseley Hall and Thomas Farnolls Pritchard, by Veronica West ... ..	10
Frank Turner : an obituary ... ..	12

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Editor : N.J.Clarke

## THE WILKINSON SOCIETY

The Society was formed in 1972 to meet the need for an organisation to preserve the material and documentary evidence of Broseley's industrial past. Since an important part in this industrial past was played by John Wilkinson, who lived for a time at "The Lawns", it was decided that the organisation should be known as The Wilkinson Society.

The aims of the Society are :-

- (i) to act as custodian of any relevant material and information and to make such material and information available to interested individuals and organisations;
- (ii) to promote any relevant preservation activity and to assist individuals or organisations in such activity where deemed appropriate;
- (iii) to provide a link with the community of Broseley for individuals or organisations undertaking local historical research.

Any available material will be added to the existing collection of Broseley and Wilkinson relics part of which will soon be on display at Broseley Hall.

Administration of the Society is by an annually elected committee. Membership is open to anyone interested in the Society's aims and activities. These activities include illustrated lectures, social evenings, researching and exhibiting the collection, field trips and coach tours. Members are kept informed by newsletters, and this annual Journal presents articles on the history of the Broseley area, John Wilkinson, and industrial archaeology in general.

### NOTES AND NEWS

#### The Year's Activities ( 1980 - 81 )

The eighth Annual General Meeting was planned for Friday 24th October, 1980, but at the last minute it had to be postponed by Chairman's action owing to the unavoidable absence of the President, the Secretary and the Journal Editor. The talk, by Mr. Ralph Pee, describing discoveries made at the New Willey site during the summer of 1980 by Mr. & Mrs. Banks whilst landscaping part of the site, went on as planned and was extremely interesting.

The postponed A.G.M. was held on Friday 28th November, 1980 in the Church Hall, Broseley, as a prelude to the Joint Meeting with the Broseley Society. The Officers and Committee were re-elected for a further year, with the addition of Mr. C. Pointon and Mr. M. Pemberton, the latter representing I.G.M.T. as ordinary members of the Committee. The Joint Meeting took place immediately following, an illustrated talk by Mr. M. Stratton entitled "Broseley Tiles", which gave members of both societies a new look at this very popular subject and was highly appreciated.

The annual Joint Meeting with the Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum took place at the Severn Warehouse on Wednesday 17th December, 1980. The films and slides were highly enjoyable and the mince pies and coffee went down well on a cold evening.

The Social Evening held at "The Lawns" on Friday 27th February, 1981 was not well attended, the weather that night being extremely wet and windy, but the dozen

or so members who did turn up enjoyed the sherry and the examples of "Broseley Bygones" that were brought along by those who did brave the elements.

The Joint Summer Outing with the Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum on 11th July, 1981 was, in contrast, a great success. The two Societies between them filled the coach that had been booked, and the trip to see S.S. Great Britain and the historic city of Bath was greatly enjoyed by all who took part, on a perfect summer's day.

In addition to the above, committee meetings were held on 14th October, 1980 and 24th September, 1981.

#### Programme of Events for 1982 - 83

- 5th March : Members' social evening in the Church Hall.  
(1982)
- 7th May : A guided tour through the Tar Tunnel, Coalport.
- 12th June : Annual summer outing: joint visit with either the I.G.M.T. Friends to the Black Country Museum, Dudley, or Telford Historical & Archaeological Society to the Welsh Folk Museum at St. Fagans, Cardiff.
- 9th July : Visit to Maw's Tile Works, Jackfield.
- 15th October : Tenth A.G.M., followed by talk - "Wem Cow Club and Other Curiosities of Insurance in Shropshire" - by Mr. Chris Whall
- 9th November : "Broseley Pipes and other interesting things" - talk by Mr. Ivor Southorn.
- 8th December : Joint meeting with the I.G.M.T. Friends at the Severn Warehouse - an oral history evening.
- 18th February : Members' social evening in the Church Hall  
(1983)
- 18th March : "The Parish Chest" - talk by Rev. L.F. Peltor.
- June - July : It is hoped to arrange a summer outing in association with the I.G.M.T. Friends or Telford Historical & Archaeological Society.

#### The Journal

The editor wishes to apologise for the delay in the appearance of this issue.

Further copies of the Journal and back numbers can be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Freda Spickernell, 11 High Street, Broseley.

Contributions to future issues would be welcome, and should be sent to the Editor, N.J. Clarke, 'Cranleigh', Little Wenlock.

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*Congratulations to Dr. Neil Cossons on his appointment as Director of the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich! Neil has been at Ironbridge for almost 12 years and the high reputation the Museum has achieved has largely been due to his vision as director.*

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## LEONARD LEAD : A SHROPSHIRE CHARCOAL BURNER IN THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

In legend and folklore the charcoal burner sounds the forlorn note of faerie, and in reality the men who once carried on this lapsed trade, remain just as anonymous. As Mary Hill, the County Archivist for Shropshire, has said : "it is so rare to find anything positive about this profession, which took its members all over the area wherever coppice wood was ready for cutting" (1). In view of this statement the records that have survived of the life of Leonard Lead are especially valuable, as they provide a rare insight into the life and work of an eighteenth century charcoal burner, whilst at the same time they provide a case study of how one handicraftsman adapted himself to changing economic conditions. The character of the Industrial Revolution as a human achievement should never be overlooked, nor should the individual contributions of working-people be neglected.

Leonard Lead was born at Wellington in Shropshire, in 1755, the son of Leonard Lead (1731 - 1807) and Sarah Lead (née Brown). The trade of charcoal burning was well established in the family, as a letter written by Leonard in 1795 indicates :

*"for generations back, both of fathers side and mothers, have followed the above business (of) coaling and cording line" (2).*

The family appears to have originated in Scotland, although the name appears in the south-eastern part of England by the early part of the sixteenth century. Odd references are found in parish registers throughout the Midlands during the seventeenth century, which is in keeping with the family trade. The first mention of the name in the Wellington area, concerns Leonard's grandfather, who was baptised at Wrockwardine in 1709, and was described as the son of William Lead : "wood-collier of Wrockwardine Wood" (3). Subsequently, there are numerous entries relating to the family in the Wellington registers. The names of some individuals are found only once, which suggests that they are simply passing through when they had need to call on the services of the church.

There has long been a tradition in the family that William Lead of Wrockwardine Wood had some business connection with Abraham Darby I and his Coalbrookdale works, although documentary evidence is not forthcoming. Dr. Raistrick has outlined the attractions which the Coalbrookdale site had for Abraham Darby, among which he includes the still well wooded nature of the area, so that supplies of charcoal would be available for as long as Darby had need of them (4). Darby's innovation in the use of coke for iron smelting does not appear to have affected the local demand for charcoal, and this is reflected in the continued presence of the Lead family in the Wellington area. Only in the period 1750 - 1760 does the number of entries in the Wellington registers fall off, and members of the family are hereafter found further afield in pursuit of their trade. Only three furnaces, outside Coalbrookdale, are known for certain to have attempted to smelt with coke before 1750, and this, taken with the fact that there was no printed account of the process, would account for the continuing demand in Shropshire for charcoal.

During the 1750s new coke furnaces were put into blast in the Coalbrookdale district, at Willey, Ketley, Horsehay, Lightmoor and Madeley Wood. As a response to these local developments, something like a half of the family left the area, although Leonard's immediate family continued to use it as a centre for their activities. Charcoal burning was a seasonal occupation, and during the winter months the men pursued secondary occupations; like John Lead, who is identified as a baker in the Newcastle-under-Lyme registers of 1768 (5). Leonard himself had a secondary occupation, that of a clerk, and in 1795 he was to advertise for a position of that kind (6).

By the time Leonard began to practice his trade, sometime between 1776 and 1780, it was necessary for him to operate in the adjacent parts of Staffordshire, to the north of the Black Country. At Wheaton Aston he established his home, after his marriage to Mary Bailey at Lapley on 3rd December 1781, and this was to remain the family home until 1795 when he removed to Derby (7).

Derbyshire was at this time rather backward in the nature of its iron industry, so much so that the first coke furnaces were not erected in the county until 1780, when those at Morley Park were put into blast (8). The opportunities in this county were therefore more promising for the charcoal burner, and in addition there was a healthy demand from other industries in the county. One of these was the pottery industry, which required charcoal primarily for use in firing the enamelling muffles. Professor W.H.B. Court has written that by 1788 there were no longer any charcoal furnaces in Staffordshire, and so it is unlikely to have been purely coincidental that in the same year Leonard began his business association with William Duesbury of the Derby China Factory (9).

This association was formalised in an agreement, dated 20th May 1790, which, together with six letters written by Leonard between 1788 and 1795, provide a rare fund of information on the business of charcoal burning at this time (10). A study of these papers reveal that the main concern was the scarcity of seasoned wood, a problem which had beset charcoal burners since the early years of the sixteenth century. Joseph Soresby, who seems to have acted as a purchasing agent for Duesbury, wrote to his client in February 1792, advising him to accept cord wood at almost any price as it was "an article that was not likely to drop in value". To overcome his difficulties, Duesbury was not above sharp practice and this often proved to Leonard's disadvantage. Such an incident led to Leonard writing to Duesbury to complain that

*"They dont put the wood up in Shottle so well as they Do at Grangefield, and me taking my tools so fare and you Removd me not letting me finish the job, it will be very much out of my way. It will Entirely Spoile my Somers work and I ham very certain it will not be to your advantage to part with the wood above any other" (11).*

However, on the 11th May 1795 the Derby line of the Derby Canal and Railway was opened for the conveyance of coal (12), and this development caused Duesbury to abandon the use of charcoal in the firing of his kilns. Duesbury had obviously been considering this move for some time, as in April of that year Leonard had drafted an advertisement for inclusion in the Derby Mercury :

*"I Haveing Been all my Time Brought up in the coaling and cording line, Should sute as clerk at a Forge, Being well verst in the workmanship and measurement of cordwood. This last Seaven years Back I have Coald for Mr. W. Duesbury of Derby. But he has Quite left of useing Charcole. I for Generations back Both of Fathers Side and Mothers have Followd the above mentioned Business therefore if such a person is wanted my Carector will Be undeniable from my present Master likewise from Several Others - I Ham Sir your Servant, Leonard Lead".*

The day before the opening of the Derby Canal, Leonard had written to Duesbury asking if he could find him additional employment, in order that he could continue to support his family and at the same time not be forced into seeking employment elsewhere. Some sort of temporary employment had obviously been found for him around the factory, but Leonard was really looking for employment as a clerk or as a book-keeper (13).

The result of this appeal is unknown, but he continued to be employed at the Derby China Factory until October 1796. At this time William Billingsley left Derby to become a partner in the china factory at Pinxton, and Leonard was among the small band of Derby workpeople who accompanied him (14). At Pinxton, Leonard acted as a woodcutter and charcoal burner to the factory. He first appears in the factory wage book on 23rd December 1796, when he was paid 1s 6d in regard to his expenses; and at the same time his daily wage was recorded as being 2s 4d. In addition to his wages, he had the occupancy of one of the seven cottages, which comprised part of the factory buildings. The whole of Leonard's family accompanied him to Pinxton; and by March 1797 his eldest son, John, then aged thirteen, had begun working in the factory. John's wage as an apprentice flower painter was 4d per day, which was increased to 6d in August 1798. According to George Mellor, who was employed at the factory at this time, both of Leonard's sons, John and Leonard Junior, were apprenticed at the factory. In fact both brothers are mentioned in an entry in the Factory Book for February 1799, when "last payments" were made to them. Meanwhile, their father had left the factory in March 1798, when the following entry appeared:

*"24th March 1798, Leonard Lead: 7½ days at 2s 4d. (This is the last day at the Factory for Leonard Lead, who has acted as woodcutter. Richard Irishman now becomes the woodcutter.) £0 17s 6d (15).*

Leonard had in fact returned to Derby, where he had found employment as a clerk to William Harrison, a Derby whitesmith, who was to continue to employ him until 1810. His sons meanwhile completed shortened apprenticeships at the Derby factory, which had passed into the control of Michael Kean, following Duesbury's death in 1797. The younger Leonard had to complete an apprenticeship of only six years, which he did at the age of nineteen in 1805 (16). He was to remain there until 1848, when the factory closed, unlike his brother, John, who went to the Worcester China Works in 1810 (17).

It has already been stated that the opening of the Derby Canal had been responsible for Duesbury's decision to abandon the use of charcoal, in favour of coal; therefore, it seems ironical that the canal company should become Leonard's new employer. For in 1810 he was appointed, at the age of fifty-five, as the Company's Agent and Toll Collector at Little Eaton (18). This was the place where the Company's railways, or "Gangway" to use the local term, met with the Derby Canal and as such was the focal point of this system. This tramroad has been dealt with adequately elsewhere, but the records concerning the employment of Leonard on the line were considered to be unique by the late Bertram Baster (19).

The vacancy at Little Eaton had arisen through the death of Thomas Ward, who had held the position of Toll Collector and Agent at Little Eaton since the line had opened in 1795. Leonard was to receive the same salary of £40 per annum, plus the occupancy of the Agent's house and garden at Little Eaton. Since 1809 the duties of the Agent had included a general responsibility for the maintenance of the railway, a duty specified in 1811, in an order that he was:

*"to go up the Railway to Smithy House at least three times every week to examine the state of the railway and to keep the labourers to their work and that he write down his observations thereon in a book to be kept for the purpose and to send the same to the Committee previously to every meeting" (20).*

The Committee of the Company do not appear to have found Leonard to be a completely satisfactory employee, for in January 1812 he was "displaced from his situation"; only to be reinstated in the following month as the reason for his dismissal was not of "the most urgent". However, he had to give the Committee an assurance that he would "in future pay the utmost attention to his duty". In the following year his duties were extended to include actual labour on the railway and not merely to supervise the labourers, who were proving troublesome at that time. Mention is made of their tendencies to leave off work and wander off, as and when the mood took them (21).

The new commitment to active labour on the railway necessitated his absence from Long Eaton for long periods of time, and during his absence his wife had to carry out his duties. She did not receive any payments from the Company, who instead paid Leonard £5 per annum for "his wife's trouble". Despite his wife's assistance he still had to keep detailed records of traffic on the railway and the tolls paid; in addition to this he still had to deal with matters more in keeping with his role as agent. Nowadays we are used to seeing trackside allotments. However, they had their predecessors, for in 1818 Leonard was required to approach an Abraham Whittaker who had a garden by the railway and *"promised to pay to the Company four shillings for one years rent on the first day of June next"* (22).

Leonard Lead died on the 6th February 1821, aged sixty-six years of age. Within six days a new Agent had been appointed and Mary Lead, his widow, was granted a gratuity of £5 and required to vacate the Agent's house at Little Eaton (23). She went to live with her son, Leonard junior, at Little Chester near Derby, where she died in January 1831 (24).

### Conclusion

The evidence of Leonard Lead's career illustrates a series of distinct changes in the nature of his terms of employment. Firstly, he pursued the family trade, within a definite framework of family co-operation (25), much as the three preceding generations of the family had done. His response to changing economic and technological conditions in Shropshire and South Staffordshire had been inter-regional migration; which was not a new expedient in the family, for his great-grandfather had settled at Wrockwardine after such a migratory movement in 1709. Duesbury's agreement with Leonard in 1790 (26) marks a distinct change in the pattern of his occupational activities, for it effectively tied him to Duesbury's interest. It is the sort of regulation which was necessary for the efficient working of a factory based industry, but from Leonard's point of view it must have only been one step from the standing of a wage-earner. Leonard's employment by Duesbury in an unspecified capacity; his employment at the Pinxton factory; and his employment by William Harrison comprise the second stage, that of the fixed wage-earner. The third was that of a salaried person, which he achieved by entering the employment of the Derby Canal Company in 1810.

Professor P. Mathias has written that : "Migrant labour (during the Industrial Revolution) flowed naturally to the 'pressure points' of the economy, where demand for labour was greatest and the supply in particular categories of jobs most lacking" (27). Leonard's movements are in keeping with this

statement, although the case of a charcoal burner involves consideration of certain factors, which have already been mentioned. The Lead family appear to lend themselves to a study of migratory movements in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, on account of the comparative rarity of the surname. This will be something of a mammoth task as references in parish registers are well scattered throughout the Midlands, which is only to be expected from a family engaged in the trade of charcoal burning. Such a study would represent an exceptional case study rather than the norm, but in order that the human dimension of the movement we call the Industrial Revolution can be more fully understood, it will be necessary to undertake such projects of research. Leonard Lead was a craftsman and one who lived through some of the most violent convulsions of the Industrial Revolution; he was one of many, but is distinguished from the myriad by the fact that his life is well documented (28).

### Acknowledgements

The writer is indebted to the many people who helped with the collection of information on which this paper is based; especially to John Leonard Lead, Mary C. Hill, David Coke-Steel and Mr. R.E. Martin. He also wishes to thank the staff at Derby Local History Library, Shrewsbury Public Library, William Salt Library, Stafford, Shropshire Record Office and the Derbyshire Record Office.

### References

1. Mary C. Hill, personal communication (18 November 1968).
2. Duesbury Papers (hereafter Duesbury), Local History Library, Wardwick, Derby. Uncatalogued letter, dated 6 April 1795.
3. Wrockwardine Parish Registers; 21 November 1709
4. Arthur Raistrick, *Dynasty of Iron-Founders: The Darbys and Coalbrookdale*, London, 1953. Re-printed by David and Charles, Newton Abbot, 1970; page 25.
5. Burial of Elizabeth Lead, daughter of Jonathan Lead, 6th June 1768.
6. Duesbury, 6 April 1795.
7. C.B. Williams, personal communication (12 November 1968). Information from the Lapley parish registers, 1767 - 1810.
8. Frank Nixon, *The Industrial Archaeology of Derbyshire*, Newton Abbot, 1969, page 34.
9. W.H.B. Court, *The Rise of the Midland Industries, 1600 - 1838*, London, 1938, page 179.
10. Duesbury: the first letter was written from Hanley (Handley) Wood, near Belper on 29 August 1788; and the last at Derby on 10 May 1795.
11. *ibid* : letters dated 5 February 1792 (from Belper) and "May 1792".
12. Derby Canal Company, Minute Book.
13. Duesbury : letters dated 6 April and 10 May 1795.
14. John Haslem, *The Old Derby China Factory*, London, 1876 : see section entitled "The Pinxton China Factory".
15. David Coke-Steel, personal communication (27 May 1969) : the Coke-Steel family of Trusley Old Hall, Sutton-on-the-Hill, have in their possession the Factory Book from the Pinxton works; entries for 11 August 1798, 23 February 1799 and 24 March 1798.
16. E. Gore, personal communication (16 September 1965). In this letter Miss Gore states that he "joined the 'Fox and Owl' benefit society in 1805", having completed his apprenticeship.
17. Derby Mercury, 30 January 1856, page 5.
18. Derby Canal Company, Minute Book : 26 February 1810.
19. J. Ripley, *The Little Eaton Gangway, Lingfield*, 1973. Bertram Baxter, *Stone Blocks and Iron Rails (Tramroads)*, Newton Abbot, 1966, pages 75, 93 - 94.

20. Derby Canal Company, Minute Book : 26 February 1810 and 17 July 1811.
21. ibid : 14 January and 11 February 1812, 13 July 1818.
22. ibid : 6 March 1815 and 11 May 1818.
23. ibid : 12 February 1821.
24. Transcript of burial register of St. Alkmund's Church, Derby, in Local History Library, Derby. This register covers the period 1800 - 1836; entry dated 3 January 1831.
25. For example Zachariah Lead was working with Leonard in the Belper area in February 1790, when the former married Mary Taylor at Duffield parish church.
26. See Appendix.
27. Peter Mathias, The First Industrial Nation : An Economic History of Britain, 1700 - 1914, London, 1969, page 197.
28. A typescript set of notes, entitled 'Notes on the life of Leonard Lead, 1755 - 1821' has recently been deposited in the Local History Library at Derby; and a further set will be deposited in the Local History Library at Shrewsbury.

### Appendix

#### Agreement between William Duesbury and Leonard Lead

*Memorandum of an agreement made this Twentieth day of May one thousand seven hundred and ninety Between William Duesbury of Derby in the County of Derby, China Manufacturer of the one part and Leonard Lead of Belper in the said county of Derby, Wood Collier of the other part.*

*First the said Leonard Lead for the Considerations hereinafter mentioned doth hereby agree and promise to and with the said William Duesbury that he the Said Leonard Lead shall and will from time to time so long as the said William Duesbury shall chose to employ him for that purpose burn and manufacture and convert into Charcoal in a good and workmanlike manner all the Cordwood which the said William Duesbury shall have occasion to have converted into Charcoal and which he shall give order and Directions to the said Leonard Lead so to do accordingly And shall also not nor will during the time he shall so continue in the Service of the said William Duesbury work or employ himself with the burning or manufacturing of Charcoal for any other Person or Persons When he shall have in hand for the said William Duesbury or on that Account delay or put off the converting into Charcoal or Cordwood belonging to the said William Duesbury without his consent being first obtained in writing but on the contrary shall and will so soon as he shall receive the said William Duesbury's Directions for the converting of parcel or parcels of Cordwood and by no means delay the work on pretence of any other Engagements. In Consideration of which the said William Duesbury doth hereby agree to and with the said Leonard Lead that he the said William Duesbury shall and will well and truly pay or cause to be paid unto the said Leonard Lead Seven Pence per Quarter for every Quarter of Charcoal which the said Leonard Lead shall manufacture in a good and workmanlike manner*

as aforesaid such Charcoal to be measured when delivered at the manufactory of the said William Duesbury in Derby aforesaid And for the true performance of this Agreement each of the said parties bindeth himself his heirs Executors and Administrators unto the other his Executors, Administrators unto the other his Executors Administrators and assigns in the penal sum of Fifty Pounds of lawful British Money.

As Witness their Hands the day and year aforesaid ----

Witness  
Nathl. Edwards

Wm. Duesbury  
Leond. Lead.

PETER LEAD,  
BA, FRGS, AR HistS.

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#### THE WILKINSON MONUMENT AT LINDALE

*The following is the introduction to the 'Report on the current state of the Wilkinson Monument at Lindale, Cumbria - and some suggestions for its restoration' by C. McCoombe in 'Foundry Trades Journal', 1981. There is a copy in the I.G.M.T. Library.*

The cast-iron obelisk commemorating the death of the notable iron master, John Wilkinson, is a remarkable memorial to a flamboyant individual's lifetime faith in the application of cast-iron to a wide range of engineering and decorative uses. It also played no small part in the astonishing saga resulting from Wilkinson's determination to be interred in a cast-iron coffin. The obelisk was erected, subsequent to his death in 1808, over a grave in the grounds of Castlehead, the family estate in Cumbria. Upon the later sale of the estate, the monument was dismantled and, apparently after many years of neglect, re-erected in 1863 on its present site to the south of the village of Lindale in Cumbria. The monument occupies a prominent position on a rocky knoll, the triangular site being flanked by the public roads and a farm lane.

To-day the cast-iron obelisk is in need of restoration, especially remedial attention to halt the effects of rust behind the several memorial plaques and within major cracks.

What follows is a report on the current state of the exterior of the monument and some suggestions for its restoration. The document also includes an Appendix showing details of the obelisk's deterioration.

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*Proposals to restore navigation on the River Severn between Stourport and Shrewsbury would involve the construction of 13 weirs and their associated locks (the majority at sites proposed by William Jessop in 1785), and would raise the level of the water by about 5 feet.*

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## BROSELEY HALL AND THOMAS FARNOLLS PRITCHARD

*As mentioned elsewhere in this journal, part of the Wilkinson Society's collection is soon to be on display in one of the cellars of Broseley Hall, which is open to the public every Thursday afternoon and Bank Holiday week-ends from May to September. Mrs. West kindly supplied the following information about the Hall and Pritchard's work there.*

The Broseley Estate originally stretched from the centre of Broseley down to the banks of the River Severn, including Jackfield and Coalport, and the land was mainly leased to tenants for industrial purposes such as the mining of coal, clay and iron ore. The Estate was in the ownership of one family and its descendants from at least 1766 until 1955, but the major part of the land was sold off in 1913. Throughout most of this period the house was not occupied by its owners, but tenanted. A map of 1626 shows a village duckpond, a church and a large hall in the vicinity of the present Broseley Hall. Research into the early history of this Old Hall before the building of the present house (in about 1727) is not yet complete. The earlier Hall is believed to have been demolished in the 1840s at the time the present church (known to be at least the third on this site) was built.

In 1766 Ann Brown, widow, left the Broseley Estate to her brother, who at the same time inherited the Allesley Estate in Warwickshire from his uncle Francis Blithe. Francis Turner then adopted the family name and became Francis Turner Blythe. He lived at Broseley Hall until his death in 1770, and it was he who commissioned Thomas Farnolls Pritchard's work there.

Edward Blakeway then lived at the Hall until his death in 1811, aged 92. He was a partner in Blakeway and Rose who controlled the Caughley Chinaworks and the Coalport Chinaworks. He was buried in Broseley Churchyard and there is a plaque to his memory in the church. Blakeway was married to a sister of the wife of John Wilkinson, the famous Iron Master, who lived for a short while at The Lawns nearby. Both Blakeway and Wilkinson were subscribers to the Iron Bridge.

In 1851 a Mrs. Favell Lee Mortimer rented the Hall. She was a writer of religious children's books. In a novel of the period it is mentioned that her husband returned to Broseley Hall - a dark mausoleum of a place - to die!

Around the 1900s the Hall was rented by the Thorn-Pudseys, and it was during the First World War that the white wooden building next to the house was erected by Major Thorn-Pudsey as the village recruitment hut.

The house is a good example of a smallish early Georgian house built for a fairly well-to-do family. It is basically unaltered, and shows the symmetry of the period, which is featured in its well proportioned windows and its two balanced rear doors. The house contains five Pritchard chimneypieces, and the formal lawns of the garden (also basically unaltered) lead down to the Pritchard Temple.

Thomas Farnolls Pritchard (1723 - 1777) was born in Shrewsbury, the son of a carpenter and joiner. He himself trained as a joiner and then expanded into the modernisation of country houses and civil engineering. His work was mainly in Shropshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Wales.

In 1746, at the age of 23, Pritchard was working for an engraver. He produced a drawing for the Royal Salop Infirmary in order to secure finance for the project. In 1749 he re-vamped a medieval church and shops in

Shrewsbury, at the same time building St. Julian's Church, where there is a tablet to his memory.

During the 1750s Pritchard worked on estate surveys, including Dothill Park House and the Shrewsbury Foundling Hospital (now Shrewsbury School). He also did a considerable amount of work in Ludlow, rebuilding the Town Jail (now demolished) and the Hosiers Alms Houses, and giving a facelift to Ludlow Guildhall in Mill Street and No. 27 Broad Street.

In 1769 Pritchard left Shrewsbury and took a lease of Eyton, where he took up farming as well as continuing his architectural work. He branched out into the design of bridges, including one at Stourport, and was Surveyor for the bridge over the River Teme near Downton Castle. He also did preliminary works for the English Bridge at Shrewsbury, and a design for the Iron Bridge, of which he was an original shareholder. Work was started on the Iron Bridge in November 1777, one month before the death of Pritchard after a year of long illness.

In 1772 Pritchard drew plans to modernise Powis Castle and for Downton Castle but the work did not materialise, although the ballroom at Powis Castle was executed by him.

Other works of Pritchard's are Tern House (the previous building on the site now occupied by Attingham Park); the re-vamping of Croft Castle near Ludlow; the building of Swan Hill Court, Shrewsbury and Hatton Grange; the interior of Shipton Hall; the chimneypieces in The Lawns at Broseley, Benthall Hall and Broseley Hall; and the sumptuous Drawing Room of Tatton Park, Cheshire. Pritchard also designed church monuments and these can be seen in Acton Round, Ludford, and Barrow Churches. His monuments are usually signed by a monograph of the entwined initials T.F.

Pritchard's designs were mainly Rococo or Gothic and later neo-classical. There is a suggestion that the ballroom in the Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury may be Pritchard's neo-classical work and not Robert Adam's as is currently claimed. Typical features of Pritchard's work are gadrooning and Canterbury Bells (chimneypieces); triple pillars (Croft Castle stair bannisters, Broseley Hall Temple, and Doorcase of Ludlow Guildhall); 'ears' on his chimneypieces and windows; and Gothic (monument Acton Round Church, chimneypieces and mirrors at Croft Castle, Ludlow Guildhall interior, Temple at Broseley Hall, and the Iron Bridge).

The skilled woodworkers employed by Pritchard until the 1760s were Alexander Vanderhagen and John Nelson, but it was not until the late 1760s that he employed Joseph Bromfield for plaster work.

VERONICA WEST

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*'The Proceedings of a Seminar on Local History Research  
in the Telford Area' - now available from Telford  
Historical & Archaeological Society.*

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FRANK TURNER : an obituary

It is with regret that we record the death in October of Frank Turner, who was an active member of our Society.

Frank Bertram Turner was born in Madeley in 1906 and spent the first half of his working life in local industry : at the age of 13 he began work in the fitting shop at the Court Works; in 1922 he moved to Kemberton Colliery where he worked as a blacksmith; and from 1935 to 1940 he was winding engineman at the Blists Hill mine. Six months after the outbreak of the Second World War Frank moved to the G.K.N. Sankey Works at Hadley and spent almost 30 years in the tool room there before his retirement in 1971.

For the greater part of his life Frank lived in Madeley, although, when they were first married, he and his wife Olive (who died four years ago) lived for a very short time in Much Wenlock, and later in 1961 they moved to Wellington. Wherever he lived Frank led a very active life, being particularly involved in the work of the Church and in sport. He was a keen cricketer and played chess for the county. In later years he travelled widely by rail.

Frank belonged to a number of local organisations, including the Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum and the Wilkinson Society. Because of his actual working experience in the area and his remarkable memory, he provided much valuable information when Blists Hill mine was reconstructed in the early 1970s. Frank's own account of the working of the mine before its closure in 1940 was published in the Society's Journal in 1975 (and later reprinted in the Shropshire Mining Club Journal), and fortunately we also have some of his reminiscences on tape. He got much pleasure from taking a turn on demonstrating the winding engine to visitors to Blists Hill.

More recently Frank was a valued member of the I.G.M.T. Transport Advisory Group, providing information on the railway siding at Blists Hill and train working on the Coalport Branch.

Frank's enthusiasm and knowledge will be sadly missed by all those who knew him. He was preparing notes on various local industrial topics at the time of his death and, when sorted, these will be deposited in the I.G.M.T. Library. An article by him on the Meadow Colliery, Madeley, will be published in a future issue of the Journal.

N.J.C.

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*The 'Spry', last of the Severn Trows, is to be moved from Worcester to the Ironbridge Gorge Museum by road during the last week-end of March. Restoration of the vessel will be undertaken at Blists Hill.*

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