

Newsletter

Newsletter of the Broseley Local History Society

Incorporating the Wilkinson Society



November 2006

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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

- 6 Dec Christmas dinner at the Woodbridge Inn. See this page for details
- 3 Jan *Shropshire's Industrial History* – a slide presentation by members
- 7 Feb *Perceptions of the Industrial Revolution* by Diana Clarke
- 7 Mar *Bridgnorth and the River Trade 1660-1760* by Malcolm Wanklyn
- 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

Further details from Neil Clarke 01952 504135.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Chris and Margaret Cannon, Much Wenlock
Mel Weatherley, Broseley
Norman Wyke, Benthall

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Wednesday, 6 December

Woodbridge Inn

7.30 for 8.00 pm

£13.50 per person

The Society's Christmas Dinner is once again to be held at the Woodbridge Inn. Those wishing to attend should complete the form on p 13 and return it, together with your payment, by **not later than Friday, 1 December**. This event is always worth attending and is not to be missed.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society's AGM was held in October when chairman Gillian Pope reported on the year's activities. Highlights of these had been the Trafalgar Day Celebrations attended by Lady Forester and MP Philip Dunne and the trip to Bristol to the newly restored *ss Great Britain*.

The chairman thanked members for their continued support of the Society as well as presidents Vera Francis and Noel Ward who have come to the end of their two year term. She also wished Noel, who has recently been in hospital, a full recovery. In their place, Elsie Philpott and Ken Jones were invited to become presidents for the next two years.

Steve Dewhirst has resigned as treasurer and will also no longer be able to print and distribute the *Newsletter*. He will, however, continue to handle the website and is happy to share his vast knowledge of local history. In his place, Jim

Cooper has offered to become treasurer, while Yvonne Humphrey will help distribute the Newsletter. The rest of the committee were unanimously re-elected, retaining their existing portfolios, with Gillian Pope as chairman.

NEW PRESIDENTS



You could describe Ken Jones as a railway fanatic – some of his earliest memories, he says, are of watching the trains go past the end of his grandmother's garden.

His family have lived in the area for generations, those involved in the local china works actually coming from Broseley, although Ken himself was born in Lightmoor.

With his love of trains and a father already working for the Great Western Railway, Ken was determined to join the footplate locomotive department of the GWR, and as soon as he left school at 14 he put his name down. However, it was to be another two years before he was old enough to be accepted. Starting at Oxley Shed and graduating from cleaner through fireman, he eventually ended up at Wellington as a driver.

By 1960, however, he had had enough of being moved around and, taking advantage of a railways' retraining scheme, he left the GWR and joined the treasury department of Staffordshire County Council, naturally commuting by train from Hadley.

But working for local government, he says, was just a job, his real love still lay with the railways. So retirement was a good time to start researching his book *The Wenlock Branch, Wellington to Craven Arms*, published in 1998, and which tells the story of a line which, until its closure in 1962, serviced both the ironworks in the Coalbrookdale Valley and the transport needs of the community.

His next project was to research the social history of the Madeley Union of Parishes. This Union of 12 parishes, which included Broseley, was formed in 1836 to implement the Poor Law over a wider and more economically effective area and from that date individual workhouses were closed and people were sent to the Madeley Parish workhouse in Hodge Bower before a new workhouse, now

Lincoln Grange, was built in 1874. Ken is particularly interested in the social effects of this Union on the poor of the area and is hoping to publish a book on this in the near future.

A founder member of the Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge Museums he is presently its Vice Chairman and a member of the Board of Trustees.

Already a well known speaker at Society meetings, he will be giving a talk on *An Oral History of Broseley* in May. Don't miss it.

Elsie Philpott is a Broseleyite through and through. She was born in King Street and attended the old infants' school in Legge's Hill before moving on to Bridgnorth Road school.



Leaving there at 14 she took a two year commercial course at the old Walker Technical College in Oakengates. But getting there, she says, was quite a feat – a walk down to Ironbridge to catch the train to Buildwas; a change at Buildwas onto the 'Ketley Dodger' through to Ketley, and then a bus to the college. Coming back was even worse. There was no connecting train at Buildwas at that time of day so she and her fellow students would be unofficially dropped off at Coalbrookdale station, from where it was a stiff walk home up the hill.

From college Elsie joined a firm of accountants in Bridgnorth, with whom she worked for a number of years. She only left Broseley when she married and she and her husband, who came from Astley Abbots, went to live on various farms in the area.

Elsie, together with her husband, moved back into Broseley some ten years ago. Sadly her husband died two years later and a friend, Betty Lake, whom many will remember as a long time member, suggested that she join the Society, a move she has never regretted.

Elsie is very proud of having been born and bred in Broseley. It is, she says, a wonderful place to live with a great community spirit. Certainly her extensive memories of the town and its people have been a valuable source of information at the Society's Memories evenings.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Health Care in Broseley

This year the memories evening took a different form, with dentist Martin Brooks sharing some amusing reminiscences of his time as school dentist in Broseley.

Graduating from Manchester School of Dentistry Martin joined a dental practice in Harlow new town. His ambition, however, was to set up his own practice and he was advised to try either Madeley or Broseley where dentists, it seemed, were an endangered if not altogether extinct species! Apparently back then in the 1970s, if anyone needed urgent treatment, the only recourse was to some 'expert' in the pub who would whip a tooth out for 7/6d!

So Martin took over an old grocer's shop in Madeley. Business was slow to build up, however, and when Shropshire County Council offered him a job as school dentist in Broseley he was quick to accept – one week's pay of £24.00 for four sessions would nicely pay his mortgage of £24.00 a month.

It was not long before parents were asking for treatment too and, since there had been no resident dentist in Broseley for 150 years, there was quite a backlog of problem teeth and sepsis. Frequently these problems were huge abscesses, known as Vincent's angina, but best remembered locally as 'trench mouth' from the 1914-1918 war.

The vast majority of his work was far from today's preventative and cosmetic procedures. Relief of pain was the paramount concern of most patients and while today an extraction is usually a last resort, then it was seen as the quickest way to end any problem.

While nitrous oxide, or laughing gas, had been discovered by Joseph Priestly in 1793, the anaesthetic technique used in Broseley was still that of 'rag and bottle'. With ether dropped on a mask held over the mouth and nose, the patient was very quickly asleep but, since the cloth had to be removed for access, the time available for extraction before the patient awoke was short. This sometimes led to macabre scenes when the

Back in the 1970s, dentists in Broseley were an endangered, if not an extinct species

semi sedated patient would try to free himself of the mask, which was often strapped to his head. One such patient, struggling to remove the mask, instead removed his magnificent mop of 1960s style hair and the image of it being replaced back to front caused considerable amusement among the audience.

It was not long, however, before Martin switched to using gas supplemented by fluoroethane additive which made anaesthesia far more controllable, and patients were soon asking for 'extractions with the gas'. Living in Broseley at the time was the co-author of the MacIntosh and Bannister standard work on anaesthesia, Dr Freda Bannister. She was a consultant at Wolverhampton and, while Martin was grateful for her occasional help in his surgery, she could be a little heavy handed with the gas; patients could take a nerve-wrackingly long time to come round.

When it came to dentures, Martin said that early versions made with a vulcanite base, which were in use until the 1940s, were to be preferred over the later acrylic ones. Apparently the vulcanised rubber adapted itself to slight variations in the mouth and could give satisfactory service for over 20 years. The later acrylics had no such latitude although they did have other advantages.

After a slow start Martin's practice grew until it was employing ten dentists and four hygienists. It also encouraged students to visit from the Birmingham College of Dentistry. Unlike Shropshire, however, the water supply in Birmingham had been fluoridated for years and teeth remained in good condition. When faced with the unexpected sight of a cavity, students had been know to say incredulously 'Can that be decay?' Broseley was a different world in the 1970s.

Shropshire Archives, Past, Present and Future

Following the AGM, County Archivist Mary McKenzie gave a talk on *Shropshire Archives, Past, Present and Future*, taking the meeting through the setting up of the Shrewsbury Borough Library and Museum in 1885 to the establishment of the Shropshire Record Office, the formation of the Shropshire Records and Research Unit and the

opening, in 1995, of the Shropshire Records and Research Centre, now known as Shropshire Archives. This has an impressive collection of documents relating to, among others things, the Shropshire Quarter Sessions, business records and estate and family records, including some of the Sutherland papers.

Now housed in a purpose built repository, over five miles of historical records and publications covering the whole of Shropshire are available to the public. It also has a well equipped conservation studio and a full time conservator faced with a backlog of 1,000 year's work!

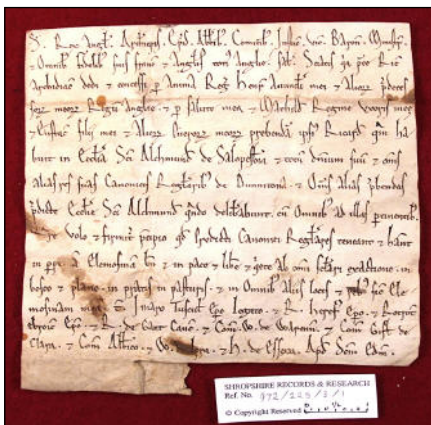
Cataloguing of material is ongoing with almost all library materials and over half of the archives ready to go on line. Volunteer support is invaluable in this area. It also offers a research service as well as help with family history.

One of its recent projects is the Lilleshall Estate Collection, with mediaeval deeds and estate maps dating from the 12th century.

In addition to its conservation and preservation activities, Shropshire Archives has been involved in the setting up of various websites. One of these is Secret Shropshire, allowing one to explore the local history, natural environment and archaeological treasures of the area.

Another is Shropshire Routes to Roots, described as a 'stepping stone' for those interested in the history of Shropshire. Designed with the Key Stages of the National Curriculum in mind, it provides teachers with a range of digital historical resources.

Yet a third is the Discover Shropshire website, an integrated online resource which allows a wide



Writ of King Stephen c 1145 which is written in Latin. One of the treasures of the Lilleshall collection

Hubert Smith, Bridgnorth Town Clerk in the late 19th century, has a real problem finding anything!



Photographs courtesy Shropshire Archives

range of users to discover the variety and significance of Shropshire's historical and cultural landscapes.

Still in the pipeline are ideas for a regional centre and mini archives around the county.

Some useful websites:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Shropshire Archives | www.shropshirearchives.co.uk |
| Secret Shropshire | www.secretshropshire.org.uk |
| Shropshire Routes to Roots | www.shropshireroots.org.uk |
| Access to Archives | www.a2a.org.uk |
| The National Archives | www.nationalarchives.gov.uk |
| Discovering Shropshire's History | www.discovershropshire.org |

At the end of the talk, chairman Gillian Pope handed over a quantity of documents belonging to a Mrs Thomas of Mill Lane, Broseley. Mrs Thomas was a great collector of local information and documents as well as being a fount of local knowledge. On her death, the Society was given a box of documents, newspaper cuttings and memorabilia relating to Broseley.

Memorabilia of a Broseley Family

This was the title of the talk given at the November meeting by Gillian Pope, Chairman of the Society. Her presentation of a series of photographs of people, places and things gave members a fascinating insight into the lives of a family which can trace its Broseley connections back for many generations.



The one year old Gillian with her parents John and Mary Dixon



The shop owned by great, great uncle Harry was in the premises now occupied by E Davis Hardware

Gill's father's family, the Dixons, were business people with premises in Broseley High Street. Great, great uncle Harry kept a grocery store in what is now E Davis Hardware while next door was a hatters, later developed into a haberdashery business by Gill's great grandmother before being taken over by a daughter Louisa.

Her grandfather Arthur however did not go into the retail trade but joined William Exley & Sons, the brick and tile works on the Ironbridge Road. He eventually rose to be their accountant and built what became the family home, The Downs, in Dark Lane. This was constructed entirely from Exley products and it was here that his son John, Gill's father, was born.

In 1938 John took over the business run by Louisa, by now a newsagents and stationers, and remembers the large number of workmen who would come into the shop for cigarettes and newspapers before catching one of the special buses to the Coalbrookdale ironworks, the Kemberton colliery or one of the other industrial works across the river. He also developed a printing business over the shop providing print requirements for the town.

The Dixon family were also connected with the Coalport China Works, Gill's great grandfather John working there as a china painter. However, it was his father, Thomas, born in 1797, who became



The Downs in Dark Lane became the family home



Above left: Valentine card painted by Gill's great grandfather John for his wife Amelia.

John worked for some time as a china painter at Coalport China Works

Above right and right: Designs painted by John's brother William who later moved to the Minton works at Stoke on Trent



well known as a painter at the China Works and was responsible for most of the best flower painting on Coalport porcelain from about 1820-1870.

The Dixons have a family vault just outside the south wall of All Saints' Church in Broseley. It has a locally made iron top and records numerous members of the Dixon family. Space inside, however, is now obviously at a premium – the last time it was opened the sexton, having climbed down to have a look, stuck his head out and pronounced “Room for just one more!”

Gill's mother's family, the Oswells, had a long association with the licensing trade having run various public houses in the area. Her great grandparents, Joseph and Mary, had kept the Dog and Duck Inn at Barnett's Leasow just up the river from where the Free Bridge is now, as well as running the ferry across the river. It was Mary who, in 1894 after the death of her husband, commissioned a new ferry boat from a local ferry builder in Jackfield.

Their daughter, Edith, originally worked in Kensington Gardens as a lady's maid to Mrs Brodie whose family were connected with the ironworks at Jackfield. Upon her marriage, however, she and her husband Archibald moved into a cottage attached to the Dog and Duck, now



*Top:
The Dog and Duck Inn at
the Jackfield ferry which
was demolished in 1939*

*Left:
Jack Owen as a baby in a
cottage next to the Dog
and Duck. Jack will be
remembered as a long time
member of the Society*

run by an Aunt Emily. This Inn was a magnificent timbered building built in 1654. Sadly a demolition order was put on it in 1937 and it was demolished two years later.

As a young man Archibald had worked in the office at the Coalport China Works but when the opportunity arose he and his wife moved to Bridgnorth where they became licensees of the Hundred House on the Ludlow road. In 1923 they moved to the Lion Hotel in Broseley, Archibald having caught an early train from Bridgnorth to Ironbridge and then walked to Broseley Town Hall to get the required licence. His wife and eight year old daughter Mary, Gill's mother, came the easy way, travelling in the furniture van later that day.

At that time the Lion was in a very dilapidated state and so cold and damp that Mary became ill with rheumatic fever. Fortunately, however, she recovered, grew up and married John Dixon. She is still living in Broseley.



*The Lion Inn
today. This
was kept by
Gill's grand-
parents and
Gill herself
was born
there*

IN ABSENTIA

Programme secretary Neil Clarke explains why he cannot always attend meetings

I am often asked to give lectures to such groups as the WI, Rotary, U3A, civic and local history societies, some of which arrange their meetings, as we do, on the first Wednesday of the month. So it happens that when there is a clash of dates I need to excuse myself from meetings which I have arranged for the Society.

The presentation I am most frequently invited to give is entitled 'Curiosities of Shropshire' (a slide show of buildings, structures and sites in the county which are in some way unusual); but I also give talks on industrial and transport history topics such as the work of John Wilkinson, William Reynolds and Thomas Telford as well as on the canals and railways of East Shropshire.

SEVERN GORGE COUNTRYSIDE TRUST Workhouse Coppice and Benthall Edge

This winter the Severn Gorge Countryside Trust is carrying out various works in Workhouse Coppice and Benthall Edge which not only contain a tremendous diversity of woodland but also considerable industrial archaeological evidence.

The work planned is aimed at maintaining the diversity of the woodland and by the end of the project the Trust should also have obtained much more archaeological information.

Improvements will include footpath surfacing, installation of new steps and bridges, view creation, cutting of holly, selective felling of trees, laying, coppicing and planting of woodland hedgerows, local oak and hazel.

Some of the timber will be used in the Trust's Ironbridge Woodland Products Community Partnership and for CARE, Ironbridge. Some will be used to enhance the amount of standing and fallen deadwood in the woodlands.

The Trust will also be producing a booklet on Workhouse Coppice to include an oral history of the area up to the acquisition of the wood by the Woodland Trust, in particular the involvement of local people in the campaign to stop its development as a site for mobile homes. Anyone

who has any reminiscences to share should contact either Mike Pooley, who is coordinating the project, on 01952 433632 or the Trust office on 01952 433880, or email info@severngorge.org.uk.

This project has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the SITA Trust and the Forestry Commission.

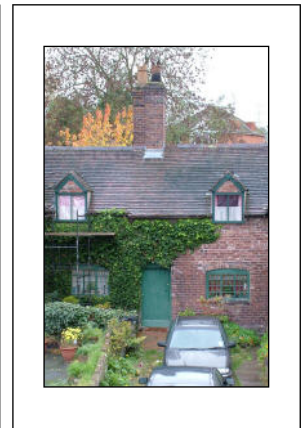
The Lloyds

As readers may know, the Lloyds has been closed for a number of months to allow for the rebuilding of a section of road in front of Lloyds Cottage.

This situation raised a number of concerns for the Trust which manages neighbouring Lloyds Coppice. One such concern was the ecological implications of the expected increase in pedestrian use of the east-west Lloyds Coppice footpath. Another was the possible detrimental impact on the landscape of the overhead routing and maintenance of electricity cables in a sensitive woodland environment.

A compromise was, therefore, reached with the Borough of Telford & Wrekin, which is carrying out the works, to site the cables in permanent ducting under a resurfaced footpath which had been rerouted to avoid, where possible, ecologically important areas. The Trust now feels confident that this work has been sensitively undertaken and will have minimised any adverse impact on the site.

Lloyds Cottage, which has suffered from subsidence for some time, has eventually had to be evacuated during rebuilding of the road



*Left: Abe Harris, pictured outside his home at 33 Duke Street in the early 1930s. This house was once the home of clay pipemaker Richard Legg and was built in 1764
Right: 33 Duke Street today*

No 33 DUKE STREET

This photograph of 33 Duke Street has been lent to the Society by Les Harris, who lived there for some 60 years before moving to his present home in Blakeway Close. The house was originally owned by Les' grandfather Abe who had bought it from Lord Forester. Abe had three children, Abraham, Edith and Harry. Abraham married Ada Meredith and brought her to live in the house together with his father, brother and sister. It was there that Les was born and lived for many years.

His grandfather had been a tile presser at Maws' factory and when he died some time in the late 1930s he left the house to his three children. Les' father subsequently bought out the other two although his brother Harry continued to live there until his marriage during World War II. Les left school at 14 and also went to work at Maws.

Les says that although he remembers his grandfather well, he never knew his grandmother. Her sister Annie Quinn lived across the road at 36 Duke Street and Les would often visit her there. Her house, however, is no longer there, the site having been redeveloped in the early 1970s. When extensions were done to this new house in 2005, excavations for footings revealed some of the old kitchen floor tiles.

36 Duke Street where Annie Quinn used to live.

The site was redeveloped in the early 1970s



WHAT'S ON?

The Industrial Heritage of the Rural Parishes around the Wrekin

Tuesday 28 November

7.30 pm

Village Hall, Little Wenlock

Public presentation consisting of three talks on the area around the Wrekin, Steeraway and the Little Wenlock Lime Industry, by Lance Smith and Roger Howells; Watling Street and the Holyhead Road, by Neil Clarke; and Updates on other Projects, the Smithies and stone quarries.

Last year, Neil Clarke gave a similar presentation on an overview of the project, which covers the parishes of Leighton and Eaton Constantine, Little Wenlock, Wroxeter and Uppington and there were talks on early coal mining in Little Wenlock and the 17th century blast furnace at Leighton.

The Industrial Heritage group will be publishing the results of its research some time next year,

funds permitting. Admission is free, but donations towards the cost of publication would be appreciated.

Blists Hill Victorian Town

9 and 10 December

16 & 17 December

Special festive weekends include carol singing around the Christmas tree.

Coalport China Museum

8 January – 2 March

Chinese New Year celebrations, in conjunction with an impressive display of colourful, Chinese ceramics not usually available for public viewing.

These cover the period from 10th-19th century and show a wide range of different ceramics, colours and decorative styles.



CLASS OF '28



Ray Johnston, who in 1928 was attending the Broseley C of E Primary school, is trying to identify one of his classmates in this photograph from that year.

If anyone can put a name to the young lad (enlarged top left) please contact Ray on 01952 586279.

Front row:

B Archer, D Mills, F Dodd, L Bebbington, L.Gough, A Meadows, M Bennet, R Oakley

Second row:

S Drewball, J Venn, R Johnston, A Barker, K Gainham, T Roberts, T Jones, T Cooper

Third row:

G Frances, S Bryon, ___?? , L Colley, D Taylor, G Thomas, A Southorn, F Hill, H Potts, J Crawford, D Preston

Back row:

E Butler, W Hollins, E Oakley, S Gallier, W Poyner, B Darlington

BOOKSHOP

Three reviews by Neil Clarke

Cinderellas & Packhorses: A History of the Shropshire Magistracy, edited by David J Cox and Barry S Godfrey, xii + 96 pp, Logaston Press 2005, £9.95.

The edited collection of five essays contains details of the duties and responsibilities of the magistracy, along with incidental details of punishments and sentences handed out to various Shropshire miscreants throughout the centuries. There are numerous illustrations of both personalities and buildings connected with the magistracy, as well as several entertaining case studies drawn from records held by Shropshire Archives.

Sheinton Shropshire: Geology, Landscape, History & Archaeology, edited by Mike Rayner, 118 pp, Naughty Mutt Ltd, 2006, £10.00.

This beautifully illustrated book is the result of the work of the Sheinton Heritage Group, which for two years explored the landscape, geology and history of the parish, holding lectures and field trips, conducting archaeological investigations and running a website. The detailed study of the area, which includes the neighbouring hamlets of Homer and Wigwig, is presented in eleven chapters by six contributors.

All round the Wrekin and Victorian Wellington, written by Marc Petty, each 14pp, Wellington Local Agenda 21 Group 2006, free.

Two excellent booklets from the *Discovering Wellington* project. The first is a heritage cycle trail linking the historic market town of Wellington with Shropshire's most famous landmark, the second a heritage walking trail which uncovers the stories of people and events in the era when Wellington turned from an overgrown village into a modern town.

MAILBOX

The Broseley Partnership Tourism Group is in the early stages of producing a new Broseley tourist brochure to be available free from tourist information centres in Shropshire. It is anticipated that this will take the form of a map with photographs of interesting places and things to see in and around the town.

The Group will be looking for both text and photographs and would like to invite anyone, both individuals and clubs, who would like to get involved to contact them. In particular they are looking for historical snippets which would encourage people to visit the town.

Paul Mortimer

Chairman, Broseley Partnership Tourism Group
01952 882043

info@broseleyhouse.co.uk

or call at Broseley House in the Square

I work for a firm of solicitors in Bridgnorth

where we have found a very old Will leaving a small legacy to the Sanatorium at Shirlett, so we are trying to find out what happened when it closed.

I have read Victoria Cox's excellent article on your website, but she does not say what happened when it closed, which was about 1960. We should like to find out if the patients were transferred somewhere else or if they were just sent home.

We have contacted the Shropshire health service, but they have not been very responsive and any help anyone can give would be most appreciated.

Caroline Dudley

Manby & Steward

Caroline.Dudley@manbys.co.uk

I first heard about Abraham Derby III when, in

1961, a colleague of my mother, Albert Hunt, having been given a brief to investigate the history of Coalbrookdale, took us to see the furnaces. Some ten years later, my parents retired to live in the cottage that the Hunts had occupied, 3 Legges Hill, Broseley. There my father would listen for hours to "old man" Heighway, a neighbour and former coal miner. Reg Heighway gave his miner's lamp to my father just before he died, and it has passed down to me.

As we walked down the road from Broseley to the Iron Bridge, my father would remark on the remains of three water wheels and ponds and describe how the water from the top pond was reused at the lower wheels, so producing a high power output for a relatively short time. I can, however, find no reference to these Broseley watermills on Ironbridge websites, and I wonder if anyone can enlighten me.

My father used to talk about the Wilkinson Society, which I guess must have been more active in the 1970s. He repeated a tale that a number of children in the neighbourhood had the Wilkinson nose.

Michael Moore
mooretheridge@compuserve.com

Steve Dewhirst replies:

These mills would be on the Benthall Brook and powered a number of sites on the Benthall Ironworks for the furnaces and boring mills. Finally they powered the corn mill just above the Iron Bridge. The Broseley Local History Society is in fact the Wilkinson Society. It was renamed some years ago. The Wilkinson nose is probably a myth as none of his known children lived locally.

Geoffrey Betton of Western Australia writes that he believes regular advertisements for Betton British oil appeared in Aris's Birmingham Gazette right up until November 1813. He would like to know where copies of these advertisements might be found. He is also looking for information on Elizabeth Betton, the last proprietor of the oil company, and her relationship to George Betton, the son of Thomas, as he is a direct descendant of Thomas' brother John.

Geoffrey Betton
betonypark@dodo.com.au

Copies of the Birmingham Gazette are available in Birmingham Central Library.

It seems a great shame that there is not a building in Broseley where the Society's wonderful collection of artefacts could be displayed – such a place would be a huge benefit both to the Society and the community. Seeing this is not the case, I wonder if the Society could create a photographic archive on their website of at least some of these artefacts, so that they may be shared with all.

Robbie Pickles

Thank you for your suggestion which is a very good idea. We will see if we can arrange to photograph them and put the pictures onto the website. This may take some time as the collection is in storage at the Jackfield Tile Museum.

I enjoy your Newsletter enormously as one of my ancestors came from Broseley. I believe he was Daniel Doughty as one of his three daughters married John Waite (a dentist surgeon) and another married William John Lamb Campbell whose son became the Earl of Breadalbane. Does the Society have a photograph of the gravestone or indeed the name of his wife or the third daughter or even the aunt that was in London?

John White, 141 Napier Street, Essendon,
Victoria 3040, Australia

Please mark envelope Personal

I have many family members descended from the Hudson, Gittins/Gittings and Pountney families of Broseley. I have found your website to be extremely useful and informative and would like to thank you for all your hard work.

I am trying to locate the parents of my great, great grandfather William Gittins/Gittings who was born on 21 May 1850 in Broseley. He married Mary Caroline Taylor on 25 August 1872 in Broseley.

Peter Caves
c/o steve@broseley.org.uk

I recently visited Broseley researching my family history and found it a delightful place with friendly locals and an exceptionally helpful librarian.

My great, great, great grandfather, George Mills, was born in the town in about 1800. He and his father, John Mills, were both potters and at some point George moved to Stoke on Trent. He married a Maria Brown and their children were all baptised into the Methodist church in Hanley.

What Methodist church records are still available for Broseley? I have looked at the ones in Shrewsbury with no success and from what I can establish these do not cover all churches in the town.

Helen Kerridge
helen@baytnaa.fsnet.co.uk

I work for the archaeology unit at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust and have recently written a report on the Jackfield Tile Museum. We did various excavations on the clay preparation buildings on the site but there are still things that are unclear. I am interested in talking to anybody

who may have worked at the factory or may have visited there when it was working and should appreciate hearing from anyone who might know more.

Sophie Watson
Archaeology Field Officer
Sophie.Watson@ironbridge.org.uk

Is there any member of the Corfield family willing to correspond with me on the subject of less recent family history? Specifically I am interested in the Thomas Corfield who was a butcher 1851-1891, as he was my great, great grandfather and I am trying to attach him to the published family tree.

Valerie Oliver
valdo6@optusnet.com.au

The Severn Gorge Countryside Trust is gathering information for an oral history of Workhouse Coppice. The aim is to capture people's memories of the time leading up to the acquisition of the wood by the Woodland Trust, particularly with regard to the involvement of local people in the campaign to stop its development as a site for mobile homes.

The project will culminate in the production of a booklet recording and celebrating the events recalled by local people. Anyone who would like to take part in this project is invited to contact us with their reminiscences about Workhouse Coppice.

Please contact either Mike Pooley, who is coordinating the project, on 01952 433632 or the SGCT office on 01952 433880, or email us at info@severngorge.org.uk.

Carrie Hallam
Severn Gorge Countryside Trust

In response to an email from Kim Sale, who believes that some of her family, the Langfords, lived at The Folly and The Rock in Broseley in the 1800 and 1900s, Steve Dewhirst replies:

The Broseley Tithe lists three Langfords at the Folly. The house at the Folly was next to a small mine so it may not have been a nice place, however it does look out over fields. I do not have any details of Langfords at the Rock.



The Folly, now one house, is down a track off the Coalport road



The Rock is on the north side of the Ironbridge Road

Kim:

Thank you for the information. I had thought that The Folly sounded quite grand (obviously not)! Do we know what dates the Langfords occupied The Folly? As for The Rock, I think it was occupied by Frederick and Sara Langford, and possibly an Edwin.

Steve:

The date of the information I sent was 1838. Frederick, Sarah and Edwin are not shown on the tithe apportionment of 1838. Please have a look at the newspaper cuttings on our website as they mention Edwin Langford and also contain an extract from 1905 on the sale by auction of household furniture and effects at The Folly following the death of a Mrs Langford.

Anyone else who can help may contact Kim Sale
KimFaz@aol.com

These tokens recently came up on eBay. They are marked up for R Southorn & Co Broseley and both are 1" (25.4mm) diameter so would be the same size as the old halfpennies. One has the initials 'R & M' raised inside the circle, the other 'T'. Both are heavily over stamped 'CTS'.

Does anybody have any information as to when these might have been issued? Were they local currency tokens or just factory tool tokens?

Vin Callcut
www.oldcopper.org



My great, great grandmother, Ada Bevington, was born in 1869 in Broseley, Shropshire, at Ladywood which I know from census returns is in Jackfield. On your website I found several references to a Ladywood but only as an actual wood, and I should be keen to know if a house or a row of houses called Ladywood still exists, and if not where it used to be. From the census I know that Ada's grandfather, Samuel Bennett, who was born in Benthall in about 1812/13, lived there for several decades until about the 1890s.

Where can I get access to church records for the Jackfield, Broseley and Benthall parishes and does the Jackfield tile factory hold workers' records of the time when it was in business? Apparently Ada's father, Alfred Bevington, is listed as a Fancy Tile Maker on her birth certificate and later on, on a census return, as an Encausue Tile Maker.

Laura Thomas

bthomas.597081@surefish.co.uk

Steve Dewhirst replies:

As you say today Ladywood is mainly woodland. At the time of the census it was an area about a mile long which ran alongside the river from the Iron Bridge to where the Free Bridge now is. Although there were never many houses about half of them have disappeared. The ones that remain are around the Iron Bridge and Ladywood House, which was owned by the Burroughs family who ran a rope walk, on the road to Broseley.

The church records are in Shropshire Archives at Shrewsbury. It would also be worth contacting Shropshire Family History Society (see the links page on our website).

I am researching the American Thunderbolt that crashed during the war and am trying to locate the site where the aircraft fell. I see from your web page that there was a local person who could remember the plane crashing and who could be of help in locating the exact site. I should appreciate anyone who has any information contacting me.

The details of the aircraft are:

7/5/44 Atcham based P-47C 41-6627 piloted by David A Finney.

Gareth Jones

garethpj2005@btinternet.com

I am hoping someone can help me with regard to my family history research. My grandfather was Thomas Bromley born in Legg's Hill, Broseley, in 1886 to Eliza Bromley (née Watkins) and John Bromley. I have found Eliza's parents, Richard and Emma, but cannot find any records at all for John.

On my grandfather's birth certificate it states that John was a coachman and family legend has it that he worked with horses. I understand that Eliza lived in Broseley all her life but I can find no record of her marriage or her husband's death although on the 1901 census she is detailed as a widow.

Shirley O'Mara

shirley.omara@tiscali.co.uk

I am trying to find out where my mother's infant brother Cyril William Colley is buried. He died on 22nd March 1929 and I know he would have been buried somewhere within easy reach of Lloyds Head at Jackfield. However, I have no idea where to start looking especially as many of the churches in the area are no longer there.

Chris Williams

willic@blueyonder.co.uk

Steve Dewhirst replies:

He is almost certainly buried at Berkeley Cemetery. I believe that formation on the graves is held by the Town Clerk. I do not have her contact details but you could try contacting the Community First Point on 01952 884378 or broseley.scf@shropshire-cc.gov.uk

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**