

Newsletter

Newsletter of the Broseley Local History Society

Incorporating the Wilkinson Society



February 2006

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NEW MEMBERS

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Ade Blount, Broseley
Mrs Boden, Cannock
Mr & Mrs Charnell, Broseley Wood
Pauline Hannigan, Jackfield
Ros Havard, Broseley
Helen Hill, Much Wenlock
Beth Jones, Broseley
Sheila Keenan, Broseley
Nora Moloney, Broseley
Paul Mortimer, Broseley
Chris Rayner, Cressage
Chrystabel Richardson, Leegomery
Mrs Wilkinson, Congleton

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

- 1 Mar *Lord Dundonald*, annual Wilkinson Lecture, by Paul Luter
- 5 April *An Evening with Ron Miles* – further examples of the inimitable wit and humour of this well known local historian
- 3 May *The ss Great Britain – its history and conservation*, talk by Shane Casey and Richard Baister of Eura Conservation Ltd, Halesfield
- 7 June Visit to the Lawns – see page 2 for details
- 8 July Coach trip to Bristol – see this page for details

Further information from Neil Clarke 01952 504135.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Visit to Bristol

Saturday 8 July

Depart: 8.00am Broseley Square

8.15am Coalbrookdale

Museum car park

Return: Approx 9.00 pm

Coach and boat trip £14.00

Lunch (optional) £6.50

Entry to *ss Great Britain* £7.50 (£6.50 concessions)

This year marks the bicentenary of the birth of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, one of the most audacious and inspirational engineers of the 19th century. To celebrate the achievements of this great man the Society, in conjunction with the Friends of the Ironbridge Gorge, has organised a coach trip to Bristol for Saturday 8 July to see



some of the sites and engineering feats associated with Brunel.

The day will start with a visit to the famous Temple Meads Railway Station before boarding a glass roofed tourist boat to take the party across the harbour to the *ss Great Britain*. A pre-booked ploughman's lunch and drinks will be available on board, or you can bring a packed lunch. We shall then disembark at the *ss Great Britain* for a tour of the ship and a visit to the adjacent Museum where light refreshments are available. The Dockyard Industrial Museum is also nearby.

The *ss Great Britain*, the world's first iron hulled, screw propelled steam powered ship, was launched by Prince Albert in 1843. It has recently undergone an extensive conservation project costing over £11 million and one of its attractions is the descent under the glass 'sea', where one can stand below the magnificent hull and propeller.

Another attraction is the nearby state of the art interactive Maritime Heritage Museum containing a special Brunel 200 Exhibition, *The Nine Lives of I K Brunel*.

On the way home we shall visit the famous Clifton Suspension Bridge which was opened in 1864.

Accompanying the tour will be John Powell, Librarian at the Coalbrookdale Museum, and Robert Turner who has worked on the conservation project in Bristol for three years.

Places are limited, so please book early by completing the form on page 11 and returning it, together with your payment, to Michael Pope, Rivendell, 2 Dark Lane, Broseley, TF12 5LH.

For further information contact Michael Pope, 01952 883960.

Visit to the Lawns

On Wednesday 7 June members of the Society will have the opportunity of touring the house and grounds of the Lawns, once the Broseley home of John Wilkinson. As many of you will know, this property was recently bought by well known artist Mel Mars, who has been enthusiastically and sensitively restoring it to its former greatness.

Mel is keen to learn as much as possible about the history of this house and has invited members to come and share with him some of their memories of its more recent history. He has also asked that if anyone has any recorded memories of people who have lived there to make copies available to him.

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Christmas Dinner

This year Society members met at the Woodbridge Inn for Christmas dinner where Dot Cox and Janet Robinson provided some light entertainment by reading extracts from old copies of the *Wellington Journal*



Dot Cox, left, and Janet Robinson caused some amusement when they read out excerpts from old newspaper reports

and Shrewsbury News. Some of these extracts, covering the years 1899-1912, may be viewed at the Library, while the years 1890 and 1898-1912 are on the website; the link is <http://www.broseley.org.uk/cuttings.html>. Still to come are the years 1880, 1890, 1894-1899 and 1922-1924.

At the dinner, Chairman Gillian Pope presented John Freeman with an interesting looking bottle as a token of appreciation for all he had done to raise the profile of the Society in his four years in office.

From one Chairman to another. Gill Pope presents John Freeman with a token of appreciation



Memories of a different sort

The January meeting was a departure from the usual Memories Evening when John Freeman presented a nostalgic picture of the outings which the Society had made during his four year term as Chairman. From the tour to the Apedale Drift Mine to the visit to John Wilkinson's house at Castlehead last July, we were taken on a memorable tour of the Society's many external activities. This summer will see a continuation of these with visits to the Lawns and to Brunel's *ss Great Britain* in Bristol.

Coalport – a new town of the 1790s?

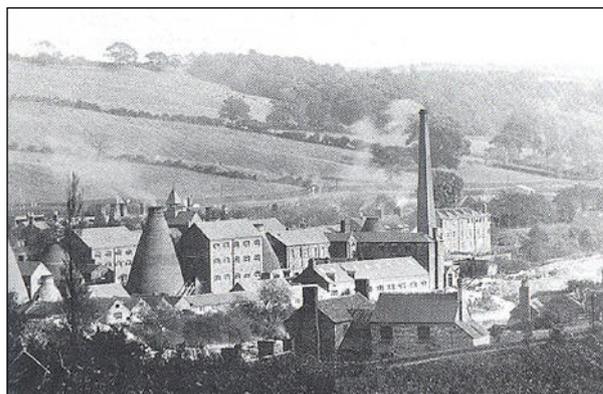
This was the title of the talk given by Marilyn Higson at the February meeting. Marilyn is Principal Librarian, Central & Southern, Borough of Telford & Wrekin.

In her talk, Marylin said that the coming of the Shropshire Canal to Coalport in the 1790s had made this settlement a likely area for development, an opportunity which William Reynolds had been quick to seize. Having been given land along the river by his father Richard, he set out to develop this as a port to handle the goods being transported along the canal and the River Severn.

Possibly influenced by the models of Mellor Mill and Stourport, Reynolds also encouraged the setting up of various industries and, aware of the unrest in France and America, thought to keep his workers content by building structured housing, thus avoiding the industrial slums which had developed elsewhere.

Although Reynolds may originally have had an overall plan for the development of this area, his Quaker ethic of ploughing back profits into industry and housing stopped with his death in 1803. From this time the town, which had developed and thrived under his direction, ceased to grow and by 1840 had actually suffered a decrease in both population and industry.

There were several reasons why Coalport stagnated. One was the fact that land tenure was held by only two families, the Darbys and the Reynolds, so that there was no private land



Coalport China Works



Workers at the Coalport China Works

available for new industries, shops or amenities. This meant that the people preferred to live in neighbouring towns where such facilities did exist.

Also by this time the china factory was dominant in the area and since most of its workers were women, and therefore second wage earners, they lived where their husbands worked. Those men who did work there were by this time skilled workers recruited from elsewhere in the Potteries, who would not have stayed long enough to help expand the community.

Another factor was the town's physical location. Constrained on all four sides, it simply had no room to expand.

Marilyn argues that although Coalport could have been called a 'new town' in the spirit of the age, the early death of William Reynolds was a blow from which it did not recover, and were it not that it is now a conservation area and part of a World Heritage Site, it could well today be nothing more than a few houses 'down by the river'.

The full text of this talk appears in William Reynolds 1758-1803, Proceedings of the Events held in June 2003 to commemorate his Life and Achievements, available from Neil Clarke, Cranleigh, Wellington Road, Little Wenlock, TF6 5BH, tel: 01952 504135, cost £5.00 + 75pp&p.

Photographs courtesy of Ironbridge Gorge Museums

SOCIETY ARCHIVES

Vin Callcut, who has spent many hours archiving the Society's publications, reports that the Journals of the Wilkinson Society and the Broseley Local History Society are now temporarily available for inspection at http://www.oldcopper.org.uk/Broseley/broseley_archives.htm. These include the Journals up to No 19, 1997 and the Memory Meetings up to No 7. The Journals from No 20 onwards, as well as the Newsletters, are already on the Society's website www.broseley.org.uk.

All the material was scanned and despite corrections and some enthusiastic proof reading by David Lake there may still be some errors which occurred during scanning.

Comments are welcome while the pages are still on the temporary site. They will then be transferred to the Society's site.

The material has been indexed both chronologically and alphabetically, using the list compiled for Journal No 25 that marked the first thirty years. From these index pages it is easy to click on the title to go straight to the issue or article that is wanted. A chronological list of Society meetings has also been compiled and added. Some additions are still needed.

In looking through this material, it is fascinating to catch up on the history of the Society and its members. One can also appreciate the tremendous amount of work done by enthusiasts researching and reporting much archive material, organising meetings, membership and excursions and assembling the collection of artefacts.

Many of the names that occur are still well known. We can only be grateful for all this very hard work.

OBITUARIES

It is with great sadness that the Society learned of the recent deaths of Ivor Southorn and John Hallett. Members will surely wish to join the *Newsletter* in offering their families our condolences.

Ivor Southorn

Ivor Southorn was Broseley born and bred, and ran various businesses in the town before finally becoming landlord of the Cumberland Hotel.

A man of many interests, he is perhaps best known for the unique collection of Coalport china which he not only built up but used both in the hotel and in his home. He was also a keen sportsman, playing cricket for Broseley in his younger days.

Since his retirement he had been working on setting up a museum in the town, not just to house his personal collection of china and antiques, but to make more widely available some of Broseley's fascinating history.

David Lake, who knew him well, recalls how he and his late wife Betty first met him.

It must have been when Betty and I had not long been in this part of the world, still struggling to finish our house at Nordley and probably thinking we were entitled to a treat, that we were recommended to try a meal at the Cumberland.

What an eye opener that was! Until then we hadn't taken much notice of Broseley, a little town in a time warp that we bypassed as we headed for Coalbrookdale or Stoke. But how striking was the Cumberland; Ivor Southorn's restaurant was truly a great work of art.

Ivor was justifiably proud of his and his family's achievements in running the hotel. To us he was the perfect host, forthcoming and welcoming. We also felt proud of the Cumberland and took our guests there. Parking by that lovely old frontage, going into the superb lounge with its splendid fire in winter, then into the dining room with the dazzling Coalport china and, if we were lucky, that gorgeous round table – everything was perfect for the occasion.

Ivor had worked for everything. When he finished wartime service in the RAF he started up a milk round, then a High Street grocer's, worked at the family Pipe Works, and ran The King's Head.

His love of the colours of Coalport and the building up of his breath-taking collection was a lifelong passion, but certainly not the limit of his interests – these included everything to do with Broseley and Broseley folk, whom he rightly judged to be short-changed in district and county matters. Ivor could be very sharply to the point when necessary, and Westgate probably didn't see him as the easiest man to deal with, though one hopes that even they had some idea of his tremendous contribution to the reputation of the town and indeed the whole district.

Ivor was a long-standing and contributive member of our Society. One remembers most recently our Memories meeting on Broseley Ceramics, when popular memories were not flowing as freely as expected, but the contributions of Ivor, Roger Edmundson and Mel Mars gave us another great occasion. Thank you Ivor for so much.

David Lake

David John Hallett

After sustaining a long illness with great courage, John sadly passed away on 18 January, aged 61 years. A native of Wolverhampton, John obtained his teaching qualifications at Hull and eventually became a lecturer in business studies at the University of Wolverhampton. He and his family lived in Shifnal for many years before moving to Priorslee.

On retirement, John was able to spend more time on his many interests, which included photography, painting, cycling and European travel. He also researched the business records of the Lilleshall Company, publishing an erudite article on the Donnington and Priorslee Collieries' accounts in the Journal of the Telford Historical & Archaeological Society; he also, with his computer skills, helped in cataloguing the Transport Trust library housed at Coalbrookdale.

John regularly attended our meetings, although deteriorating health enforced his absence in recent months. Distinguished by a fine well-groomed moustache, John was a big man with a gentle character and a helpful nature. The Society was represented at his funeral by Neil Clarke, a close friend of John in his later years.

Neil Clarke

BLEAK HOUSE

Watching the recent BBC television production of Bleak House, one is reminded that in depicting the never-ending case of Jarndyce & Jarndyce in the Court of Chancery, Dickens may well have had in mind the experiences of the Wilkinson family. As Frank Dawson related in his annual Wilkinson Lecture in 2004, the brothers John and William spent the middle years of the 1790s disputing the ownership of Bersham ironworks in Chancery; and we know that, following John's death, his heirs (legitimate and illegitimate) spent years awaiting an outcome in Chancery of their respective claims to his estate. Writing in the Society's Journal in 1995, Michael Berthoud claimed that in all probability Thomas Jones Wilkinson (John's nephew) provided the inspiration for Dickens's 'man from Shropshire' in Bleak House.

THE TREE

Readers will have seen the report in the November *Newsletter* about the splendid beech tree along the Much Wenlock road which had become infected with a fast acting fungus and would have to be felled. Now, sadly, there is a big gap in the skyline since the actual felling took place late last year.

The giant polypore fungus which had infected the Tree can clearly be seen



The picture overleaf shows just how severely the fungus had invaded the base, making it a highly probable danger to traffic.

The Tree, however, did not fall without protest. Candles burning around the base kept silent vigil, while this anonymous elegy was found fastened to the trunk.

For one night only

*Your high and leafless branches
touch a last time
the deep night,
and with their spreading
zig zag's reach
pin stars among the thinnest twigs.*

*Autumn's orange gold
is now a gaping
silver latticed arch
above the road.*

*You are the people's Landmark Tree,
your rings life journeys.
Your form takes root in childhoods,
becomes a foundation
for our travelling years,
with a presence anchored in goodness.*

*For one night only
a vigil of candles marks your girth,
and stepped between meshed roots
farewell flowers are preciousely placed.*

*Your fine location,
which is our joy,
is to be your downfall.
Tonight's bright moon
casts your shadow
over tarmac and field.*

*Tomorrow that shadow
will be you
and stars will fall.*

The good news is that some of the seedlings will eventually be planted along Arlescott Farm drive. In the meantime, the Society has been given a sound piece of wood from the Tree suitable for turning and would welcome suggestions as to what artefact could be made from this.

UPPER FORGE SITE, COALBROOKDALE

Readers may have wondered what has been going on over the last few months at the Upper Forge site in Coalbrookdale. Paul Belford, Senior Archaeologist at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, explains.

After five seasons of working in Coalbrookdale the first cementation steel furnace in England was uncovered. The furnace dates from c1619 and was built by Sir Basil Brooke – an eminent industrialist and ironmaster who operated several iron furnaces and forges.

In 2005, together with students from the UK, Canada and the US under the guidance of directors Paul Belford and Ron Ross, an extremely large area at the Upper Forge site, halfway down Dale Road between the Museum of Iron and the Museum of the Gorge, was opened up revealing the whole building footprint.

Three main phases of site occupation were identified.

The steel furnace

This was built in 1619, subsequently modified and extended and then later (probably c1630) joined by another furnace of the same sort of size and dimensions. The furnace was circular in form, approximately 6 m (19 ft) in diameter, with two separate flues on which a coal fire was lit to heat the cementation chest. The wrought iron in the chest would have been packed with charcoal and the carbon from the charcoal absorbed into the iron to make steel. The furnaces went out of use in the

Excavations at the Upper Forge site in Coalbrookdale revealed a 17th century steel furnace



1680s. This date – which was suggested by the documentary sources – was confirmed by finds recovered from the demolition fill of the furnace flues.

The malthouse

From the late 17th century the site underwent several changes in ownership and design. By the 1730s the steel furnace had been demolished and the buildings surrounding it adapted for use as a malthouse. Settling tanks, the base of the kiln, and several varieties of drying floor tiles were found. The settling tanks were fed from the pond via a wooden trough which survived *in situ*.

Tenement housing

By the late 18th century a rather ramshackle range of tenements had been added to the western side of the malthouse. In the 1840s the malthouse itself had been converted into a row of 12 back-to-back houses. These survived in use until the 1960s. While the work was being done, the site was visited by people who had lived (or whose ancestors had lived) in the houses.

The site has now been backfilled, problems of low-lying ground and conservation issues in the longer term making the keeping of the site open impracticable. The remains will better be preserved under layers of sand and protective membranes.

The site is to be returned to its former use as a picnic area and elements of the remains uncovered will be outlined in the landscaping; interpretation panels will also be erected.

Backfilling in operation. Interpretation panels are to be erected at the site



SEVERN GORGE COUNTRYSIDE TRUST

Following their tree inspection programme the Severn Gorge Countryside Trust is currently carrying out tree maintenance and safety work at Ladywood. This work will give a graded margin to the woodland's southern boundary, while strips of coppice habitat will be provided for woodland invertebrates, butterflies and birds. The work will also provide a more open and inviting approach to the Iron Bridge area.

Management plans are being prepared for other areas of Trust land within the Gorge. These include Lloyds Coppice, The Crostan, Lincoln Hill, Dale Coppice and Oilhouse Coppice. Smaller SGCT sites will have a management brief prepared. These plans will be available to the public for viewing from mid March 2006.

Please contact 01952 433880 for a copy.

WHAT'S ON?

Broseley Past and Present

Sunday 14 May from 11.00 am

Hurstlea, Queen Street, Broseley

This charity event is being staged by the Southorn family to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Relief in recognition of the support given to Ivor Southorn during his final illness.

The day is planned as a celebration of Broseley and its history and the events and displays will reflect this. Among the attractions will be vintage vehicles, motorcycles and stationary steam engines, a pig roast and traditional sideshows as well as children's activities.

Friends of Shropshire Archives

Local History Conference

Saturday 6 May

Shirehall, Shrewsbury

This conference will follow the pattern of the successful days held in 2002 and 2004 with keynote lectures at 10.30 am and 2.00 pm by well known historians. The morning talk, which will be on the Domesday Book, will be given by Dr Philip Morgan of Keele University while George Baugh will be giving the afternoon talk on the documents

of the Dukes of Sutherland. There will also be displays put on by local history groups.

Admission is free, further information from Sylvia Watts 01952 460777.

**Coalbrookdale Gallery,
adjacent to the Museum of Iron**

3 April - 22 September 2006

Exhibition of Coalbrookdale Ware.



One of the beautiful pieces of Coalbrookdale Ware made between 1820 and 1840

Coalbrookdale Ware, manufactured between the 1820s and 1840s, is renowned for its exotic and ornate forms, fine hand painting and skilful additions such as birds' nests and flowers.

The exhibition is drawn from an extensive private collection and will include comparative items made at other factories such as Samuel Alcock, Minton and H R Daniel. A highlight of the display will be a rare traveller's book from the 1840s containing designs and watercolour drawings of the range of Coalbrookdale Ware offered during that period.

Admission is free, but call the Information Centre on 01952 884391 or visit www.ironbridge.org.uk for opening times.

The Ironbridge Gorge Walking Festival

Saturday 29 April – Sunday 7 May 2006

This nine-day event includes twelve themed guided walks varying in length from 45 minutes on mostly level ground to a more strenuous three hours with some steep climbs. Coordinated by the Green Wood Centre the aim is to make the

woodlands and gorge accessible to everyone as well as to encourage people to enjoy the area when it is at its best in the spring.

Many of the walks are free while some carry a small charge. Booking is essential for certain of the walks. To reserve a place contact the walk organiser; dogs on a lead are welcome.

For a copy of the festival programme or for further information call 01952 432769, email courses@greenwoodcentre.org.uk or visit www.greenwoodcentre.org.uk.



An early picture of Broseley Church featuring the Rev Orlando Weld Forester as a child, taken by Lucy Bridgeman, one of the earliest female photographers. This picture forms part of an album of photographs taken in Shropshire in the 1850s, which was last year sold at auction for over £5,000

BOOKSHOP

Barges & Bargemen: A Social History of the Upper Severn Navigation 1660-1900 by Barrie Trinder
xiii+178pp, 245x165mm, 95 photographs, 8 maps, hardback, Phillimore & Co Ltd, Shopwyke Manor Barn, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20 2BG, 2005, ISBN 1 86077 361 3, £19.99

An acknowledged authority on the history of industry and of towns, the author has in recent years written a number of books and papers on transport themes, including *The Iron Bridge*, *Thomas Telford's Holyhead Road* (both jointly authored) and *Early Shropshire Railways*. This book, clearly the result of many years' research, is not a conventional waterways history but a study

of the people and places that formed a linear community along the banks of the Upper Severn Navigation. The latter is defined as the unimproved section of the river between the Worcestershire ports of Stourport and Bewdley and the medieval weir at Pool Quay near Welshpool, Montgomeryshire, the uppermost limit of boating. It included the Shropshire river ports of Bridgnorth, the Severn Gorge and Shrewsbury.

The barge-builders, owners, watermen and women of riverside communities and the variety of cargoes traded along the river are analysed from a wide range of documentary, archaeological and pictorial sources. The value of the classic texts (Perry 1758, Hulbert 1836-7 and Randall 1858) is assessed and extensive use made of the Gloucester Port Books, probate inventories, company records and censuses.

A clear picture emerges of river trade from the late 17th century through its heyday during the Industrial Revolution to its decline in the late 19th century. Although trading patterns changed over 200 years, in 1850 Severn Gorge ports were still sending some coal, pig iron and bricks downstream; the traditional upstream trade from Bristol in tobacco, wine, sugar and other groceries had by then been lost to canals and railways, but grain traffic from Gloucester continued to use the river. The last recorded commercial voyage on the Upper Severn was by a barge carrying firebricks from the Gorge which sank when it hit one of the piers of Bridgnorth bridge in January 1895.

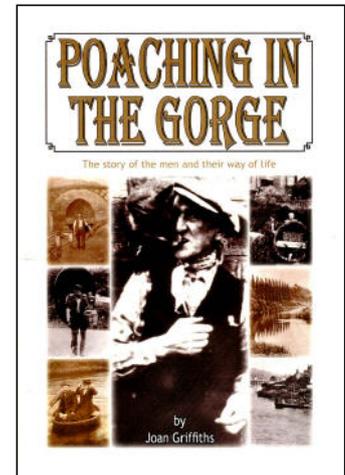
The book is well presented, with a wealth of appropriate illustrations, though some of the photographs are perhaps rather small. A comprehensive index, detailed references and extensive bibliography make the work a source book for further research, suggestions for which are given in the last chapter. The author's hallmarks – clarity of argument, skill at synthesis and readability – are evident in this work. The book makes a valuable contribution to waterways' history and will appeal to specialist and general reader alike.

Neil Clarke

Poaching in the Gorge, the story of the men and their way of life by Joan Griffiths

48pp, spiral bound A4, illustrated. Available from E Davis & Son, High Street, Broseley or from the author 01952 883074, price £5.00.

This book is a collection of stories of the men whose way of life was the River Severn and the opportunities it gave them for poaching in the Gorge. Among them were members of the Rogers family, well known throughout the area as coracle builders as well as



for their poaching activities. It includes numerous anecdotes as well as photographs and gives a fascinating insight into life in the Gorge from the mid 1800s.

There are also old photographs of well known places in the area together with a description and some snippets of local history. Unfortunately these photographs are not always dated, but are nonetheless interesting when compared with what stands today. Well worth dipping into.

Jan Lancaster

ONCE UPON A TIME

The following item has been extracted from reports which appeared in the Wellington Journal and Shrewsbury News during 1898. These and other items now appear on our website www.broseley.org.uk.

6th August 1898

ACCIDENT.— On the evening of the 29th ult. a sad accident occurred to a boy named James Davis, about ten years old, son of Mr. George Davis, jun., of Church Street, Broseley. It appears that the lad was amusing himself (with other boys connected with the Broseley Church Sunday

School) at a game called "See Saw," in a field adjoining the New Road, when he fell to the ground and broke his arm. His father took him to Messrs. Jacobsen and Holt, surgeons, Broseley, and had the arm set.

MAILBOX

John Beddows is looking for memorials for **Bertram Beddow(s) and J H Beddow(s)**, who were both killed in World War I and are recorded in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Neither of these names appears on the Broseley or Jackfield memorials. Anyone who can help may contact him at johnbeddows@hotmail.com.

I am trying to find out more information about the early life of my great grandmother, **Rebecca Owens**, who was born in Ironbridge and was christened on 28 June 1830 at Birch Meadow Baptist Chapel in Broseley. Her parents were William and Harriet Owens. The next time she appears in public records is in 1849 when she was married to my great grandfather, James Jackman, and living in Sheffield.

Would there be a record of this baptism as I would like to discover her father's occupation and an address? Perhaps the 1841 census may provide more information. I am trying to find out why the young Rebecca ended up in Sheffield married to James, the son of a sailor, from Greenwich in London, and information on her early life may help.

Stewart Jackman
stewjackman@yahoo.co.uk

Steve Dewhirst replies:

I have a print out of the baptism which shows her parents as coming from Benthall, which is adjacent to Broseley and did not have its own chapel. There is no occupation or address listed.

As you will probably have seen a Francis Owens, son of James and Elizabeth, appears in the Broseley parish registers for 1700-1750 so perhaps these were relatives. The Benthall tithe apportionment (1840) which is in Shropshire

Archives may show William but it does not list family members. They may also have the 1841 census.

How she met a sailor from Greenwich is difficult to explain. It is possible that the family was involved in trade on the river. Barges regularly went down the Severn to Gloucester and Bristol and some boat owners/crew came from Benthall.

The one suggestion I can give is to contact the Shropshire Family History Society who may be of more help (there is a link on the Society's website www.broseley.org.uk).

With reference to the letter in the November Newsletter from **David Roberts** I should like to thank the Society for including his letter and the photograph. My mother and an aunt worked for his family. I have now contacted David and he has shared a number of happy memories of his childhood in Broseley. Many of us will remember his mother, Anna, a very flamboyant young woman, who is now 78 years of age. His father, Freddie, sadly died 10 years ago. He was a great supporter of the town including the Tennis Club and Broseley Athletic Football Club. He was also an organiser of the annual Carnival. David is currently gathering together some of the many photographs his father took of the street parade for us.

Brian Davies.

Ann Johnston is looking for details of her family. Her grandfather, whose name was **Ernest Levi**, was born in Broseley and although he moved to Lancashire many of his family stayed in the area. Ann's great grandfather was called James Bagley and his sister Annie worked as a servant in Benthall Hall for the Maw family in about 1871. Another sister owned a haberdashery in the High Street and one of his granddaughters, Clara, was a tobacco pipe maker at the pipe factory in Broseley.

Ann may be contacted at trikeybabe40@aol.com

Editor: If anyone can help in any way, please copy the Newsletter at steve@broseley.org.uk so that we may all share in any information.

BRUNEL BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

COACH TRIP TO BRISTOL

Saturday 8 July



Name(s): _____

Cost of transport £14.00 per head
(coach and boat)

Address: _____

Ploughman's lunch £6.50 per head

No of persons _____ No of lunches _____

Total amount £ _____

Post code: _____

Coach pick up point _____

Tel: _____

I enclose cheque for £ _____ made payable
to Broseley Local History Society

Please return to Michael Pope, Rivendell, 2 Dark Lane, Broseley, Shropshire, TF12 5LH