

# BROWNS

## The Statham family and the Wilmslow building firm



*Document written and compiled by Richard Statham, Cathy Parkes and Julie Orrell, great grandchildren of C.W.S. in tribute to the legacy of Browns and the Statham family.*

*Information and images freely available and credited to source, with thanks.*

## Browns of Wilmslow : a brief history

The first hundred years of the builders Browns of Wilmslow, 1860 to 1960 A brief history based mainly on newspaper sources, by Cathy Parkes.

The building firm L Brown and Sons of Wilmslow was founded by Levi Brown, a leading Cheshire master carpenter and joiner of his time who lived 1833-1902, buried at Wilmslow church. By tradition in the Statham family who were to become managers of Browns, Levi's business, in an early phase, was conducted in a workshop attached to the former *Farmers Arms* in Mobberley (where the Barrows, later related to the Stathams by marriage, ran the public house).

In 1874 Levi Brown and his wife Ann Brown of Wilmslow were established in Water Lane, Wilmslow, and Levi was offering his services as 'Joiner and Builder' (*Alderley and Wilmslow Advertiser*, Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 1874, 1). In a fatal accident in 1880 one of the Brown's sons, Ernest aged 11, was struck by an express train while playing at a footway level crossing not far from Wilmslow Station (*Manchester Evening News* Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 1880, 2). The family continued to live in Wilmslow, Levi conducting the Wilmslow String Band, and playing the violin together with son James, giving local concerts for charitable causes as at the Oak School in Styal in 1885 (*Alderley and Wilmslow Advertiser*, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 1885, 5).

During the next decade Browns were also dealing in building materials, and providing funeral services, and were based in Station Road in Wilmslow (*Runcorn Guardian*, Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1889, 1). The business also included asphaltting before 1910 when a tender to surface playgrounds was successful (*Alderley and Wilmslow Advertiser*, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June 1910, 5). The Station Road premises were in Station Mews, as indicated by a notice of 1909 that a coach hiring business had moved to that site, formerly occupied by Browns (*op cit*, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October 1909, 5). It's likely that this was the year when Browns moved to their more extensive base in Macclesfield Road beside the railway at Wilmslow. Early aerial photographs show the large yard there with timber stacks, and several houses of the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century very probably built by the Browns.



EPW038616 Wilmslow 1932, *Britain from Above*, courtesy Historic England.  
Browns Yard, running parallel with the railway station complex, is centre photo.

The houses beside the Macclesfield Road yard included Sandroyd (later demolished for a new road), home of Levi and Ann Brown's son James, master craftsman and head of the firm. James is recorded as living here in Kelly's trade directory of 1924 (the house name is given in that source as Sanroyds). The house was sold in 1950 when James died and it became the home of the present writer's grandparents, Larry and Alice of the Statham family who had taken over management of Browns.

Already before the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Browns may have been building large houses. Hillside, Wilmslow, with four entertaining-rooms, six bedrooms, and spacious cellars, in a good garden with stables, was advertised to be let by Levi Brown, builder (*Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser* Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September 1898, 10).

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Browns work extended to large public buildings. In 1904 they constructed a new home for convalescents at Sandley Bridge, Warford, near Alderley Edge. The building was designed by Worthington architects. It featured, in 'the central gable facing the forecourt .... A low broad door, with the motto 'Pax Intranti Salus Exeunti' - rest to the coming, health to the departing .... Men and women will have their own entrances to and from the grounds.' (*Manchester Evening News*, Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May 1904, 6). The home served as part of Ancoats, a voluntary hospital for working people in Manchester, founded in 1828 at Great Ancoats Street, and funded by subscribers and benefactors. The Warford site was given by the David Lewis Trust, and the home was built using money donated by Mrs. Crossley. It was closed in 1967 by which time urban conditions had improved sufficiently to make two weeks' convalescence in the country no longer a necessary part of hospital treatment (The National Archives, ref: M325/2/6,7). The home has been converted for residential use; its contemporary lodge is a Grade II Listed Building.



Ancoats Convalescent Home, built by Browns in 1904, Worthington architects.

Five years later Levi Brown and Sons secured the contract for the new County Council Schools at Wilmslow, to cost about twelve thousand pounds and provide for nearly a thousand scholars (*Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser*, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 1908, 2).

After the Great War, Browns carried out the specialist carpentry and carving for Bramhall Methodist Church's War Memorial. Part of this is noted in the War Memorials Register of the Imperial War Museum: ornate oak panelling with a carved inscription. As designed by Mr CO Halliday of Halliday, Patteson and Agate architects of Manchester, and created by Browns, it included three elements - the pulpit, the screen dividing the choir from the dais, and the communion table.

Along the top of the screen Browns inscribed: 'To the Glory of God, and in loving memory of the young men of this church who fell in the Great War', and below in the centre of a carved panel, the dates '1914-1918' were given, followed by the names of nine men (*Alderley and Wilmslow Advertiser*, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 1923, 4.)

The Statham family connection with Browns began before 1919 when Charles Wilfred Statham attended a funeral as a representative of Browns (*Alderley and Wilmslow Advertiser* Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 1919, 2). It may post-date 1914 when James Brown was President of the Alderley Edge and Wilmslow Master Builders' Association (*op cit*, Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 1914, 5). CW Statham was a Wilmslow businessman of Grove Street with a shoe and boot business which he maintained after becoming manager of Browns, as documented in the 1924 Kelly's Directory. Browns building works of this period include the two-storey Alderley Cottage Hospital, approached by a winding drive from Heyes Lane. The hospital incorporated an operating theatre, wards, and new premises for the earlier-established District Nursing Association (*op cit*, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 1924, 7).

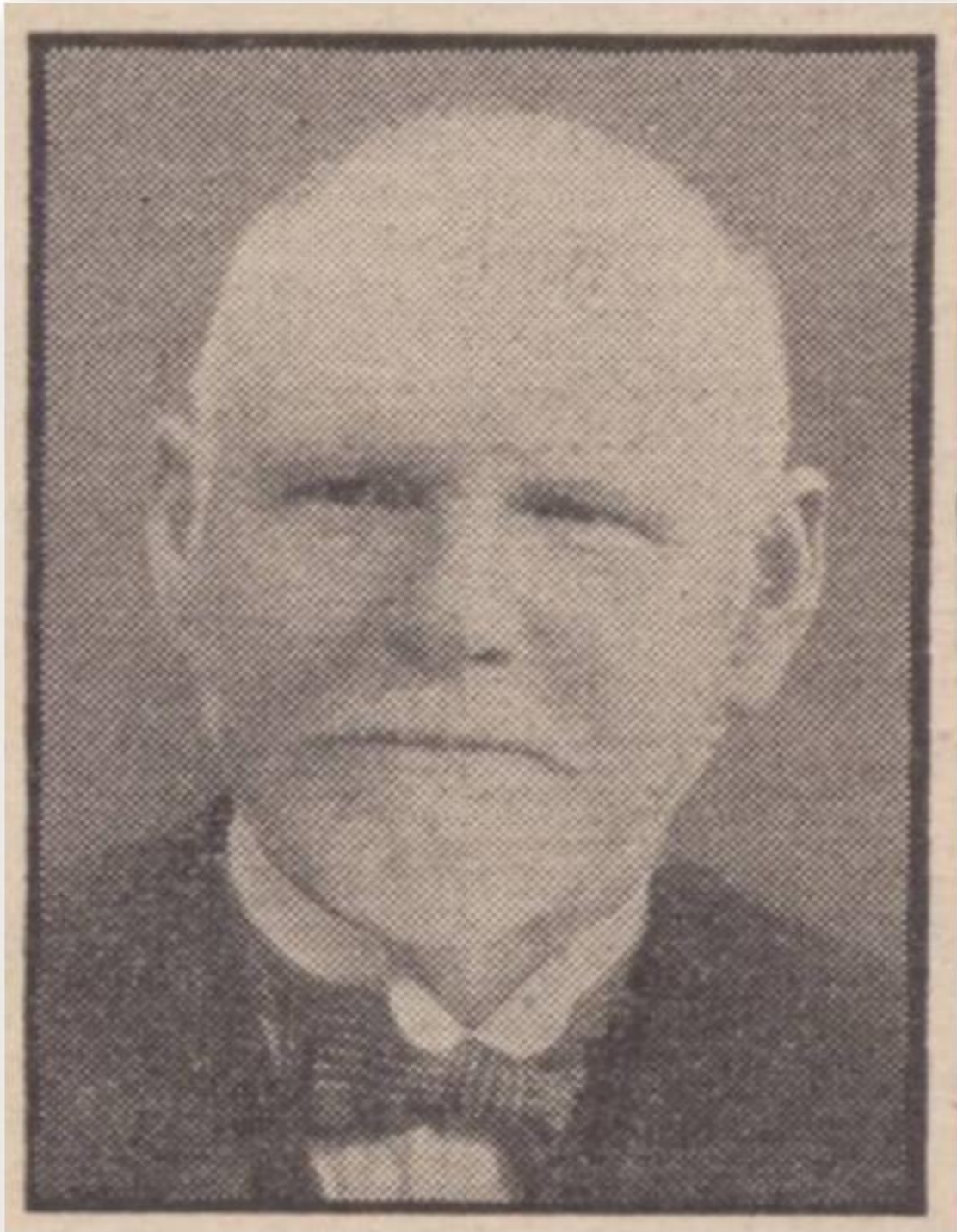
Residential building work both before and after the Second World War was widespread, and was widely valued for its quality. Estate agents' advertisements, issued decades later, identify Browns houses in the first line of descriptions. Among many were a 'Marine Residence, Rhos-on-Sea. A quality Detached Bungalow built by Browns of Wilmslow some 14 years ago' (*North Wales Weekly News* Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 1971, 5); and '....A most attractive semi detached house, constructed by Browns of Wilmslow, builders of high repute....' (*Macclesfield Express*, Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 1986, 22).

Post-war repair work to historic buildings included restoration at Little Moreton Hall for the National Trust (Richard Statham, formerly of Browns, pers comm) where grant aid was given by the Ministry of Works in 1955 (*Crewe Chronicle* Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April 1955, 16), and rebuilding of the chancel roof at the Grade II\* Listed church of Middlewich. Here the firm devised a temporary canvas cover for their extensive works. The canvas was lifted by a storm, and visitors to the works were stuck by the sight of the sky from the chancel, not seen since medieval times, as well as by the display of some of destroyers of the ancient timbers, death watch beetles in a bottle (*Winsford Chronicle* Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1950, 10). Parish fund raising for the £4,500 repairs included an appeal for jam-jars to sell for a penny; the response was such that the Vicar filled his garage with jars and had to leave his car out overnight (*op cit*, Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September 1950, 6).

Under the headline 'The Man Who Loved Oak', the role of the firm in maintaining craft skills and quality in carpentry after the war was noted during restoration of Manchester Cathedral in 1947. The works were part of the preparations for enthronement of the new Bishop, Dr WDL Greer, attended by a congregation of 1,500 which 7,500 people had applied to join. Browns supplied and fitted in the cathedral choir hand-carved panels of oak from Cheshire-grown trees, which had been seasoned for quarter of a century.

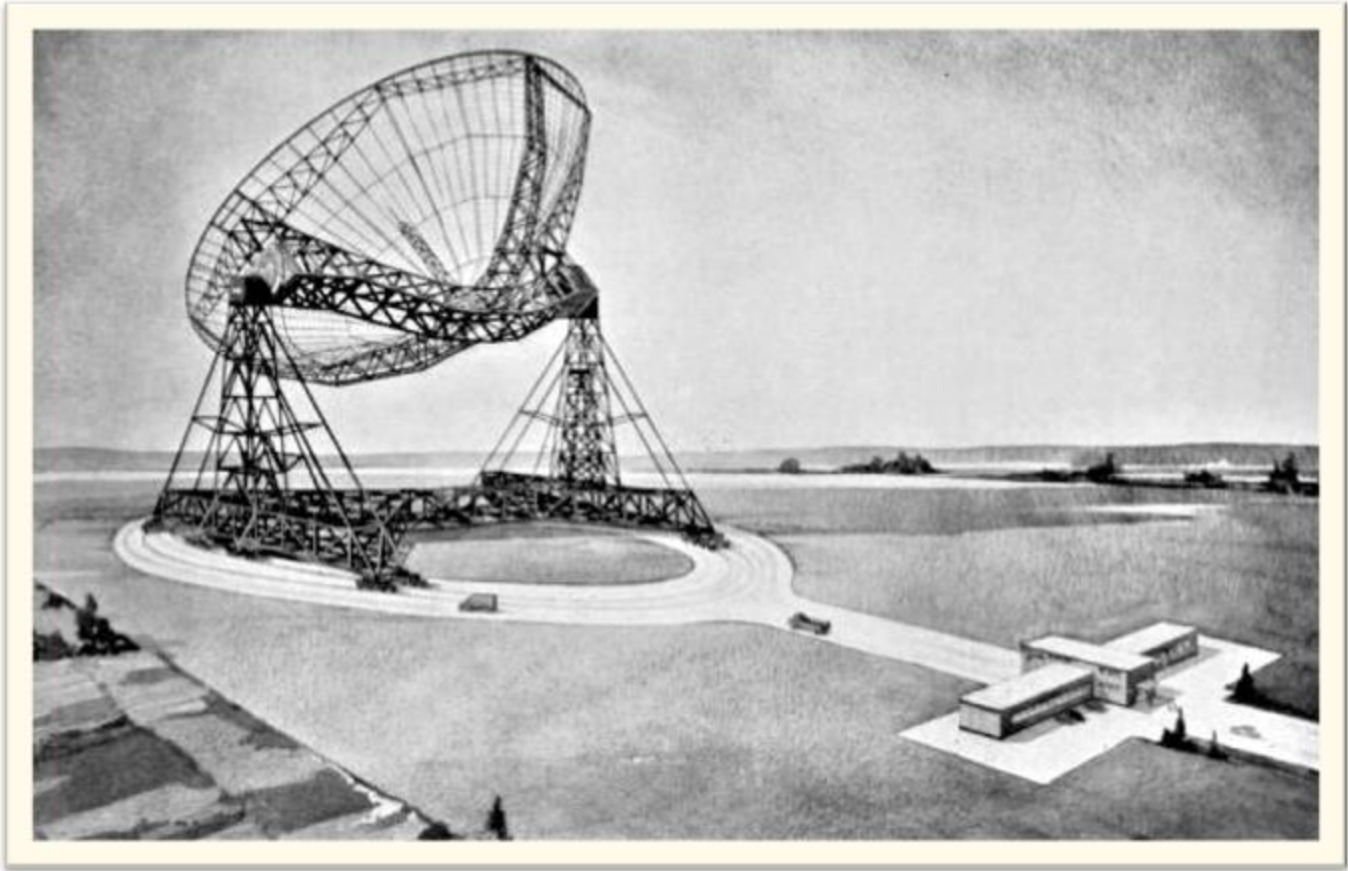
The carvings were by young craftsmen trained by 87-year-old Mr James Brown, son of Levi, who'd visited the choir after it was wrecked in the blitz and found in the challenge of restoring its roof

“something to live for”. James visited the work at the Cathedral as it neared completion in place (against doctor’s orders). He died just a few days later, and was buried the next week in a simple oak coffin he’d designed, carried into Wilmslow Parish Church by four workmen (*Manchester Evening News*, Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 1947, 8).



*The Man Who Loved Oak*; James Brown, son of L Browns’ founder Levi, as pictured 1947.

Post-war modern buildings attributed to Browns include the control centre for the steerable radio telescope at Jodrell Bank in Cheshire (Richard Statham, pers comm.). This was the successor, as largest radio telescope in the world, to the earlier fixed one at that site. Its paraboloid aerial was 250 feet in diameter. The project was led jointly by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Nuffield Foundation. The Appleby-Frodingham Steelworks, of Scunthorpe, secured the contract for the vast steel installation (*Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer* Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1952, 1). The control buildings appear in a scale drawing in national publicity where it was stated that the instrument was two and a half times the size of St Paul's dome, and that it was hoped to build the complex in less than four years (*The Sphere*, Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1952, 8).



Scale drawing of 1952 of the planned Jodrell Bank telescope, with control centre to right.

*Thanks to the British Library for the great online resource, the British Newspaper Archive*

Construction of the telescope started in September 1952 with the sinking of 90ft (27m) into the ground, which took until May 1953. The next stage was to lay circular railway tracks for the telescope to rotate on. Work on the tracks took until March 1954, with construction of the dish and towers continuing until early 1957. The telescope moved for the first time by an experimental inch on 3 February 1957. Engineers designed some parts of the telescope around 2 bearing assemblies taken from 15-ins (38cm) gun turret mechanisms. These came from the World War 1 battleships HMS *Revenge* and HMS *Royal Sovereign*, which were being broken up at the time. Equipment from the battleships became part of the telescope's altitude rotator bearings - the machinery used to tilt the structure. The telescope's 'first light' was on 2 August 1957. 'First light' in astronomy means the first time a telescope takes an image after it's been constructed. The Lovell Telescope's first light was a scan across the Milky Way. The project took 3 years to complete, at a cost then of £700,000. The structure has been upgraded several times since it was built. Recent work has included a complete resurfacing of the dish in 2003. *Information from ICE website*



## Great Grandfather C.W. Statham

Charles Wilfred Statham was born in March 1875 in Bostock, Northwich, Cheshire. He married Emma Statham (born Grant) who was born in 1874 in Chelford, Cheshire.

Charles was a nominee for Wilmslow Council in 1919 and in 1924 Charles was appointed treasurer of the Wilmslow Carnival. C.W.S. (as he was commonly known) has many, many entries in the Alderley and Wilmslow Advertiser in the 1920s, mostly relating to selling boots and advertising as a footwear specialist in Grove Street. References also appear in the Advertiser in this period to bricklaying services. C.W.S. became clerk and bookkeeper to James Brown in the business at Station Road, Wilmslow.



C.W.S. entered into a purchase agreement with James Brown for business and land for the sum of £117 in 1904. C.W.'s son Larry Statham - our grandfather- joined the business, as did Charles Grant Statham and his wife Bessie. Larry and his wife Alice Statham moved into Sandroyd, Macclesfield Road, which was adjacent to Browns Yard. Charles Grant and Bessie Statham lived next door, and Larry and Alices' children, Tony and Joan, had houses nearby.

Charles was regarded as the successful Edwardian entrepreneur, buying plots of land to develop for housing. These strategic land purchases included a very significant plot in the centre of Wilmslow which was sold in 1957 to the owner of Finnigans - now Hoopers - as a departmental store with flats adjoining. Other parcels of land were part of the RAF Wilmslow base adjoining Wilmslow Park when it was decommissioned in the early 1950's, this was developed as a residential housing estate and for many years when there was a lull in securing traditional jobs the workforce was kept busy by building houses on that site. Another was a farmers field in Dean Row - a house was built there BUT on the wrong field. Apparently, the project still managed to show a profit!



Photo from <http://www.whatsin-wilmslow.co.uk>

The family's input into the business extended with Larry's son Tony Statham and Tony's son Richard Statham joining the firm. Recollections from Richard Statham to follow.

In his will, proved 13<sup>th</sup> May 1946, Charles established a charity to fund the purchase of prayer and hymn books in Wilmslow. *Charity Commission.*



## Projects of note

The firm undertook a large range of iconic building and renovation projects, for an impressive list of clients.

Timber framed buildings such as Little Morton Hall, Gawsorth Hall and The Shambles in Manchester:



and stone built buildings such as the iconic Barclays Bank in Wilmslow and Quarry Bank Mill and schools such as Wilmslow Grammar School.



## The Cheshire County Police Headquarters, Chester



The contract for Chester Police HQ, now sadly demolished, was awarded in 1966, to a value of some £674,000. An iconic building, it divided architectural opinion.

County Police Headquarters was designed by the County architect, Edgar Taberner and built between 1964 and 1967, at the astonishing cost for the time of over half a million pounds.

The 'sculpted' ends of this otherwise drab block were designed by W. G. Mitchell, these were made by pouring concrete onto polystyrene moulds. They won a National Civic Trust award in 1969, even though the local branch objected to the building's design. Three decades later in the pages of *2000 Years of Building*, they praised it again: "It makes an important and positive townscape contribution... a particularly successful link with the castle opposite."

Architectural commentator Nikolaus Pevsner wrote of the building: "Extremely objectionably sited, an eight-storey block immediately by the propylaea of the castle and turning towards it a windowless wall with an aggressive all-over concrete relief".

The Royal Fine Art Commission criticised the design around the same time. However, Donald Isall, in his influential report of 1968, cited the building as "*an example of beneficial change within the city*". He found it to be "*well related to Grosvenor Street and the Castle.*"

Following the decision to move the Police Headquarters in 2001, a decision over the future of the building needed to be made. Chester Civic Trust were "cautious" about the prospect of outright demolition and were said to recognise the value of a building "so clearly of its time". In 2006, after much debate, the building was demolished.

Information taken from <https://chesterwallsinfo>



## Radbroke Hall

In 1976, Tony Statham was a director for Browns of Wilmslow and responsible for constructing Block 10 at Radbroke Hall for Barclays Bank, at a cost to Barclays of some £2 million at the time. It was his last major contract.



Richard Statham recalls that as his son he worked on the project in a quantity surveying role on behalf of Browns, calculating how much concrete was required for the next delivery of ready-mix towards the construction of the concrete frame, taking the minutes of the site meetings and then ordering lunch at the Whipping Stocks for the Barclays architect, Quantity Surveyors and Clerk of Works!

Photos below by kind permission of Estates Office, Radbroke Hall, Barclays Technology Centre, Knutsford



## **Catholic church, Holy Angels, Wicker Lane, Hale Barns, Altrincham**

*Description; from Taking Stock website, Catholic Churches of England and Wales*

'The magnum opus of architect Arthur Farebrother, who was a parishioner. The church is executed in monumental Gothic style and has a powerful and little-altered interior which owes a debt to Dom Paul Bellott's design for the Benedictine abbey of Quarr, Isle of Wight. The parish was formed in 1958 and fundraising for building a church started almost immediately.... the contractors were Browns of Wilmslow, a firm with a high reputation particularly for woodwork and carving. The building was finally opened in 1964.'

'Holy Angels is a building of great presence, of pale brick executed in free early Gothic style with Romanesque overtones. It has a powerful pylon-like west tower, transeptal chapel, attached southwest baptistery with conical copper-clad roof, and a plain presbytery attached on the north side. The interior is dominated by the powerful brick arches which continue into the ceiling as vaulting. Narrow processional aisles and ambulatory. The north side confessionals are framed by a timber surround. Elevated forward altar with choir seating around in an arc. The simple modern furnishings are probably original.'

*Photographs; from Modern Mooch website, page dated April 2020*



Wilmslow Parish Hall was one of Grandfather Larry's last projects for Browns, with a contract value of £200,000.

## **Richard Statham – personal recollections of working for Browns**

My first job with the company was working as an apprentice joiner at the age of 14. I was paid the sum of £5.50 for working a 40 hour week, my task was hand planing an oak truss for a cruck frame of a house belonging to a Mrs Nugent of Coronation Street fame.

I remember the blisters on my hands and was given some brass washers as compensation!

Having progressed through A levels, I studied firstly quantity surveying which I found Intensely dull and then I studied Environmental Architecture at Nottingham University, graduating as an Architect.

I had work experience working in the office of LBS under the supervision of my father in 1976. I can recall designing a staircase for an office for British Nuclear Fuels at Risley. I also remember discovering the woeful accounting of the projects within LBS office, some invoices were paid twice! I was rewarded with a salary increase to £35 per week.

Then the Office consisted of:

Charles Grant Statham as Managing Director

Larry Statham as Director

Tony Statham as Director and principal estimator for contracts and tenders

John Goulding as Director – albeit part time – my Grandma Alice’s brother

Bessie Statham as Company Secretary – Charles’s wife

Surveyors – Ralph Williamson, Bernard Higgins and David Roberts

Contract supervisors – Percy Gerard, David Bailey , Keith Bailey and others

Designer/Draughtsman – Gordon Butler

James Brown – Office Manager (no relation to the James Brown who sold the business to Great Grandfather CWS) and 3 support staff plus 2 secretaries

In charge of the Mill and Joiners Shop was Collin Ford – related to the Hulme family who worked at Browns over 3 generations

George Saxon – Transport Manager.

I can recall my father, Tony Statham, telling me that LBS had some shire horses and carts, followed by three steam traction engines which were later sold for scrap and replaced by petrol-driven lorries.

Road locomotives found a significant amount of use hauling timber from where it was felled to timber yards. Preservation of these machines and celebration of their working past continues at rallies and fairs today.



*Photos for illustrative purposes only*

Cheshire Steam Fair  
[visitcheshire.com](http://visitcheshire.com)



My Uncle Charles' expertise was in sourcing oak trees from farms in Cheshire – cutting them into planks and then seasoned on timber slats for two to three years. Any timber that was warped in this process was chopped into logs and distributed amongst the directors at Christmas. Sawdust from the Mill was bagged into hessian sacks and was exchanged for manure from my Grandma's brother's farm in Mobberley for distribution to directors' gardens.

Browns reputation in the building industry was simply outstanding and very enviable which no other building company in the North West could rival. Architects were very keen that Browns were on the tender list as they knew that the work they commissioned would be of the highest quality in respect of craftsmanship for all the trades of the industry; carpentry and joinery in particular. Oak and even Cuban mahogany, Douglas Fir and all softwoods were well-seasoned oak for as long as 3 years – and air dried in the Yard to the correct moisture content before use.

The company philosophy of being the best meant that maintaining an annual turnover of some £2 million with a workforce of at least 190 people, procuring work was relatively straight forward. An invitation to tender for work and a brief telephone call was all that was necessary, principally due to Browns highly respected reputation and well-established business. Many clients gave the company repeat business over many years e.g. Barclays Bank, Cheshire County Council, National Trust, deVere Hotels, British Nuclear Fuels and many architects.

Each director had the responsibility of running the projects and liaising with the Client also with the assistance of quantity surveyors and site supervisors:

Larry Statham – Church work and houses and extensions for private clients

Tony Statham – All major contracts in particular Barclays Bank, Schools for Cheshire County Council and National Trust.

John Goulding – Church work and Manchester Cathedral

The employees were highly skilled craftsmen – joiners, carpenters, bricklayers, plasterers and labourers who were well able to carry out the full range of building work.

It is possible that Browns were also involved in work on the roof of Coventry Cathedral after World War 11, Judy Statham recalls seeing a photo of Charles Grant Statham and Tony Statham examining the roof in 1974 and remembers going to Coventry Cathedral with her father.

## **A touching legacy**

Carved by a master carpenter from Mobberley working for Browns and Son Builders of Wilmslow. Mr Brown, a man who loved oak, commissioned the organ casing in Wilmslow Parish Church as a memorial to his wife. The carvings are in keeping with those behind the main altar depicting beehive, dog, lion and strawberry. The spoons and scissors were to remember Mrs Brown sewing while she enjoyed a cup of tea. The workmens' tools were the trade mark of the master craftsmen involved in the creation of this organ casing.  
*Information from wilmslowparish.co.uk*



## **The end of an era for Browns of Wilmslow 1860–1985**

Browns of Wilmslow was sold in 1980, and again in 1985 and continued as Browns Construction Group under a parent company until 2011, when it was placed into administration. The original sale document, dated 14th March 1980, was prepared by our grandfather Larry Statham as the then Chairman of Browns. The asking price was £900,000 and a sale was eventually agreed with a Welsh company for £474,000. This building company had made money whilst redeveloping Cardiff Docks and had a desire to become a national building company by purchasing Browns. It is noted in the conditions of sale that the continuing employment of some 197 employees should be retained.

**Appendix 1:** List of shareholders at the time of the sale of the firm (it should be noted that the shares in Browns were widely distributed, those loyal and dedicated members of the workforce were given shares, albeit a modest number).

PRESENT MEMBERS

LIST OF PAST AND

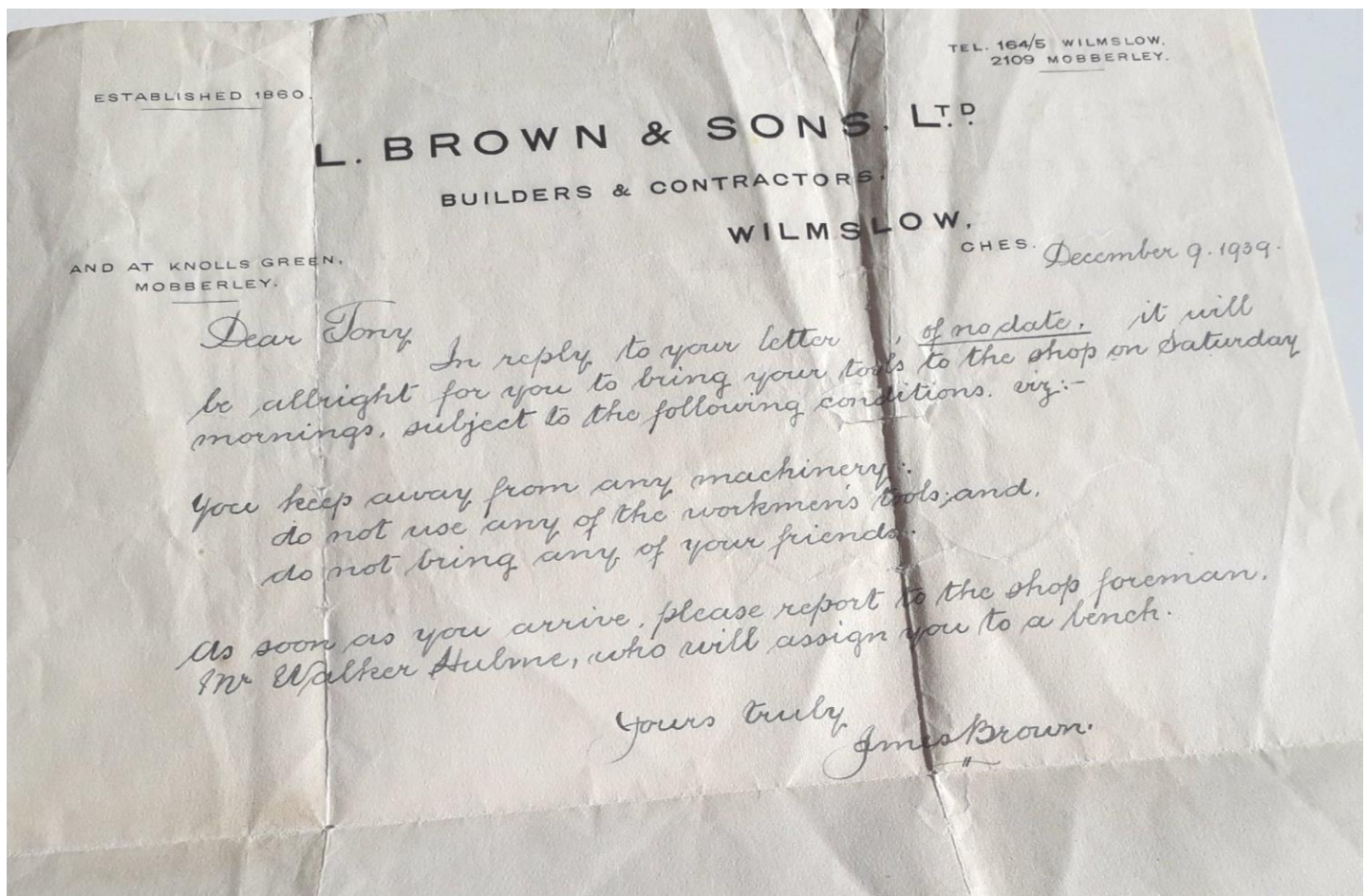
to which the Return is made) List of Members or of Changes only.....(a)  
 the date of the last Return, or Shares or Stock in the Company on the fourteenth day after the Annual  
 19....., [or if no A.G.M. has been held, on the date up

Number of Shares held by existing Members at date of Return (1) and (2)	Pa Re ce iv e d	NAMES AND ADDRESSES (b)
1,245,250 Ord.	2 Pre	
3321.	85	Charles Grant Statham, 3, Macclesfield Rd, Wilmslow.
1120. 393. 1564.	85	Larry Statham, 5, Macclesfield Road, Wilmslow.
1119. 393. 3555.	176	John William Goulding, Five Gables, Racecourse Rd. Wilmslow
761. 214. 1531.	65	Bessie Lilian Stathas, 3, Macclesfield Road, Wilmslow.
875.		Eleanor Clayton, 401, Loughboro' Rd. BIRSTALL, Leics.
625.		Christopher Alexander Woodham, 65, Church Rd, Lechlampton Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
92		Thomas Leslie Mayrill, Weston, 11, Hawthorn Ave. Wilmslow.
92.	275	Harold Hulme, Lynbriar, Lindow Common, Wilmslow.
93.		Insul Straker, 29, Lacey Avenue, Wilmslow.
82.	200	George Edward Saxon, 2, Bollin Hall Farm Cott., Wilmslow
1237.		John Barrow Goulding, 43, Shirehampton Rd. Stoke Bishop. Bristol.
104.		Charles Derek Statham, c/o Deran, Windsor Ave. Wilmslow.
	92	Alice Statham, 5, Macclesfield Rd, Wilmslow.
	92	Doris Norbury, Swiss Cottage, Hall Lane, Mobberley Ches.
100.		Alfred Kenneth Barrow, Vale House, Ring Street, Stalbridge, Sturminster Newt Dorset.
100.	100	David Campbell Bayley, 3, Granville Rd, Wilmslow,
100.		George Cedric Brown, 11, Westward Rd, Wilmslow.
250.		Richard Poynton Wilkinson, 14, Elm Rd, Didsbury, Manchester
100.	85	Ralph Williamson, 24, Belmont Rd, Bramhall, Stockport.
4257.		George Davies, 81, Fountain St. Manchester. Walter Terrance Hall, 81, Fountain St. Manchester. Freda Mary Ripper (nee Statham) Eyarth, Rosemary Lane, Beausaric
3000. 1000. 16078.	1275	<b>TOTAL 19,353</b>

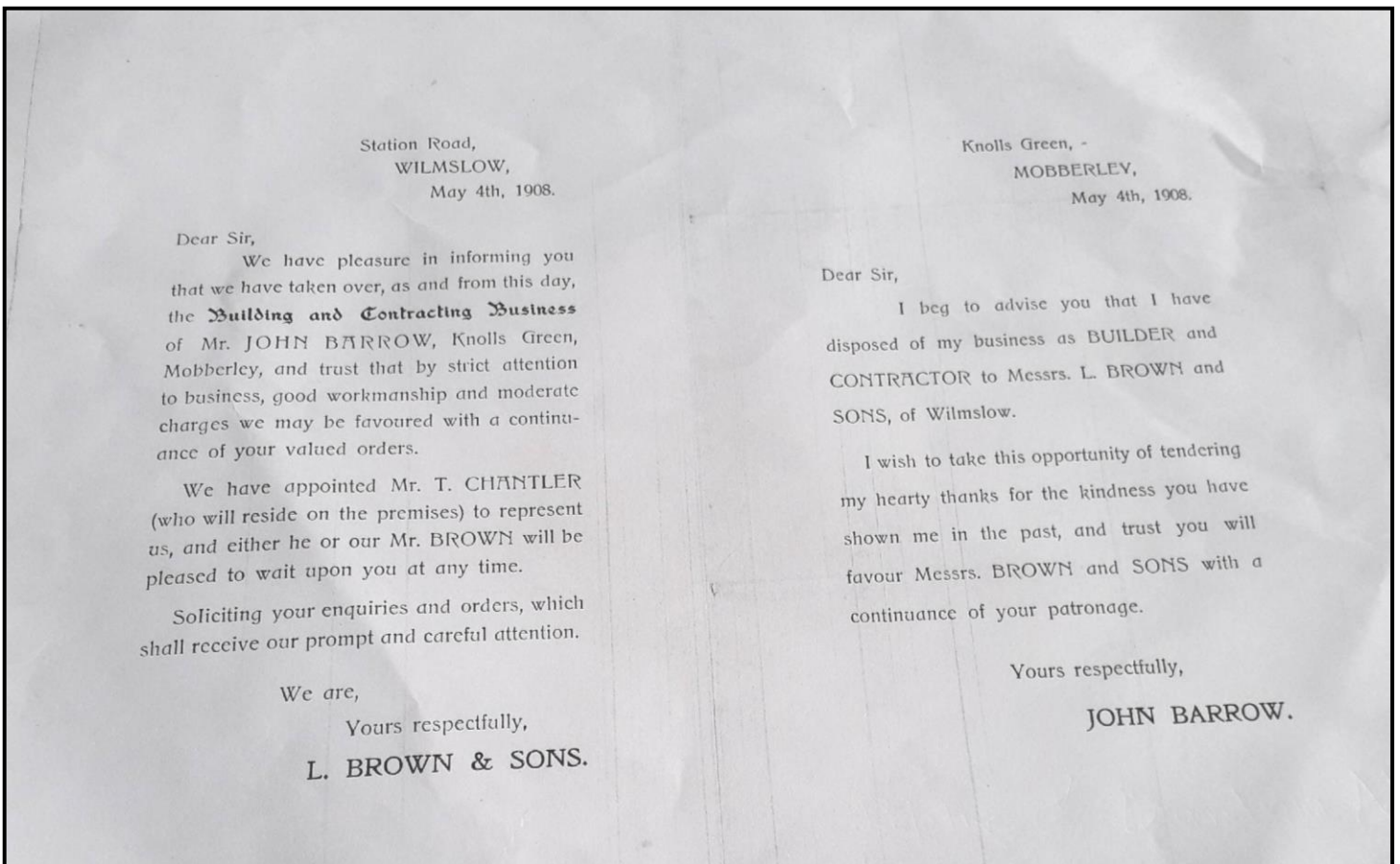
NOTES

the two immediately preceding years has given as at the date of that Return the full particulars required  
 (1) The aggregate number of Shares and the Shares and Stock held and transferred by them, only such of the particulars need be given as  
 with the number of Shares or amount of or becoming Members since the date of the last Return and to Shares transferred since that date or to  
 applicable only when the full list of Members in the amount of Stock held by a Member  
 not arranged in alphabetical order, an index sufficient to enable the name of any person to be readily

**Appendix 2: Letter dated December 1939 from James Brown to Tony Statham**



**Appendix 4: Letter dated 1908 acquisition of building business of John Barrow**





Appendix 5: Browns Yard with carnival boat Tony and Joan Statham in sailor costume 1930s



## **Appendix 6: Recollections of Prescott – Richard Statham.**

I recall that my father together with grandfathers Larry Statham and Fred Hallworth, my mother's father, were responsible for building most of the house with the possible exception of the bricklaying. The plot of land was sold to us from the Browns land holdings. I cannot recall the exact figure – maybe £5,000 /£10,000 – and the house was completed in 1953.

It is interesting to note that because of the rationing of building materials after the war, my father opted to reuse and recycle old Cheshire bricks.

My cousin Penny has reminded me that grandfather Fred was a highly skilled carpenter and very much enjoyed working for Browns prior taking over the blacksmith business of his father in Woodford.



## Appendix 8: Sandroyd

Sandroyd was originally the home of Levi and Ann Brown's son James, master craftsman and head of the Browns firm. James is recorded as living here in Kelly's trade directory of 1924. The house was sold in 1950 and it became the home of Larry and Alice of the Statham family who had taken over management of Browns.

Architect Sir (John) Hubert Worthington is documented as having worked with L Brown and Sons on some projects, reported to include Sandroyd. Note that the roof covering was flagstone slabs and as such very unusual.



Appendix 9: Browns Workforce original photograph

