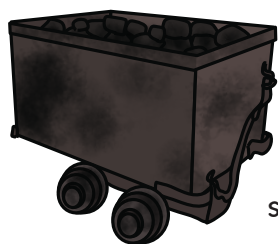




What was it like to live in the area during the Industrial Revolution?



Cinderloo Uprising

The Cinderloo Uprising: A Key Moment in Telford's History

In 1821, Dawley, a small mining town, became the centre of a significant historical event – the Cinderloo Uprising.

This uprising was named in ironic reference to the Battle of Waterloo. The Battle of Waterloo had taken place in 1815, when the British had defeated the French Emperor, Napoleon Bonaparte. In 1819 a workers' uprising in St Peter's Fields, Manchester, that resulted in many deaths became known as 'Peterloo' – in reference to the more famous battle. A few years later, the events that happened in Shropshire were reminiscent of the tragic event in Manchester, so were given a similar name.

Life in Shropshire Leading up to Cinderloo

The war with Napoleon had been good for the local iron industry as it created a demand for weapons, such as swords and cannons. However, by 1821, with the war over, the local iron industry was in trouble.

Local ironmasters, who owned and operated furnaces and mines, struggled to compete with Welsh iron producers. To cut costs, they decided to reduce workers' pay by sixpence per day. For colliers, who earned around 24 pence daily, this pay cut was devastating. Adding to the hardship, workers were often paid using the unfair "truck system," receiving tokens instead of money, which could only be spent in employer-owned 'tommy shops'.



Workers and their families faced poverty, with food prices rising and diseases such as cholera and smallpox spreading. When the pay cut was announced on 27th January 1821, miners began to strike, determined to fight for fair wages.

The Build-Up to the Uprising

On 1st February 1821, striking miners visited nearby coal pits and ironworks, encouraging other workers to join their cause. By 2nd February, the crowd had grown to over 500 people. Marching from Donnington Wood, they stopped work at ironworks in Ketley, Dawley Castle, and Stirchley by sabotaging (damaging) equipment like boilers.

As the miners marched, they gained more supporters, including women and children, swelling the crowd to around 3,000. At Old Park ironworks, the group gathered on the towering slag heaps, known as the Cinder Hills. These mounds, formed from decades of waste from the iron industry, became the centre stage for the unfolding events.





What was it like to live in the area during the Industrial Revolution?

The Confrontation

There was no police force at this time, so the Shropshire Yeomanry was called in. They were a cavalry unit made up of 70 armed men, led by Lieutenant-Colonel William Cludde.

At Old Park, on the afternoon of 2nd February, Thomas Eyton, a local magistrate, read the Riot Act ordering the crowd to disperse within an hour.

However, tensions only grew, and some protesters began throwing stones and cinders. When eight suspected leaders of the protest were arrested, the crowd attempted to free them. In the chaos, the Yeomanry opened fire.

Eighteen-year-old William Bird, a collier, was shot dead, and another miner, Thomas Gittens, was mortally wounded. By evening, the crowd had dispersed, but the events of that day would have lasting consequences.

Aftermath

In the days that followed, the Yeomanry and additional military forces patrolled the area to prevent further unrest. Many of the miners returned to work, but only after accepting reduced wages. Those arrested faced severe punishments. At Shrewsbury courthouse in March, nine men were tried for their involvement.

Thomas Palin, believed to be a leader of the uprising, and Samuel Hayward, were sentenced to death. Hayward's sentence was later reduced. Palin was hanged on 7th April 1821 at Dana Prison in Shrewsbury.

His execution was intended as a warning to others, described at the time as "an awful example."

THE RIOT ACT.

If any persons to the number of 12 or more unlawfully, riotously, and tumultuously assemble together to the disturbance of the public peace and being required by any Justice by proclamation in the King's name in the exact form of the Riot Act, I George I, Sess. 2 c. 5 s. 2, to disperse themselves and peaceably depart, shall to the number of 12 or more unlawfully, riotously and tumultuously remain or continue together for an hour after such proclamation shall be guilty of a felony.

The Form of Proclamation is as follows: -

"Our Sovereign Lord the King chargeth and commandeth all persons, being assembled, immediately to disperse themselves, and peaceably depart to their habitations, or to their lawful business, upon the pains contained in the Act made in the first year of King George the First for preventing tumults and riotous assemblies."

GOD SAVE THE KING.





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Cinderloo Uprising

After reading about the Cinderloo Uprising, retell the story using this storyboard template.

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Teacher's Pet



Historic England





The mine owners

The miners

Thomas Palin

The soldiers
(who fired the shots)

Lieutenant-Colonel William Cludde

Choose one of the labels above and use evidence from the text to justify your answer.

[illegible]

Telford



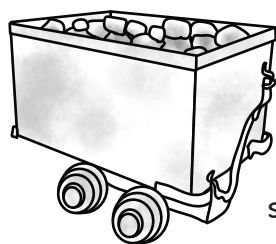
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The mine owners

The miners

Thomas Palin

The soldiers
(who fired the shots)

Lieutenant-Colonel William Cludde

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[illegible]

Local History

Historic England and Teacher's Pet have come together to bring you a collection of free resources that you can use in your local history teaching.



Historic England



Teacher's Pet

Who are Teacher's Pet?

Teacher's Pet have been providing downloadable and playable educational content to early years and primary school teachers for over 14 years. We cover all areas of the curriculum and use a team of in-house teachers and designers to create engaging and memorable concepts, that the children will love.

Why local history?

At [Teacher's Pet](#) we want to empower primary school teachers by giving them the tools they need to deliver inspiring and thoughtful lessons about the local area and its history. We believe local history teaching has such an important part to play in a child's wellbeing – helping to give children a sense of pride in where they live.

Our Local History project is designed to provide teachers across the UK with everything they need to successfully carry out a full scheme of teaching about their local area, through key enquiry questions and source led activities.

Working with [Historic England](#) gives us access to archived maps and photos for resources and information from knowledgeable local historians, as well helping us to provide the content to you free of charge.

For more information about our Local History project or to find out more about Teacher's Pet Classroom Resources, please visit our website.