

## Wilkinson Monument at Lindale

The Wilkinson Monument stands on a rocky ridge on the edge of Lindale. How long has it been there is a question I set out to answer. Digitised newspapers have enabled me to find out the history of the monument.



For 20 years John Wilkinson who died in 1808 was laid in a grave in the grounds of Castlehead with the iron monument placed on top. On the sale of the estate his iron coffin was moved to Lindale Church and the obelisk was abandoned, lying on the roadside. It is not until 1890 that the Westmorland Gazette (Nov 15) mentions ‘between Castle Head Lodge and Lindal, to the right, on a knoll before entering Lindal, are the remains of that great iron-master. The inscription reads as follows:- This monument, removed from Castle Head Gardens, in June, 1863, and re-erected on this spot by Edward Mucklow, Esq’.



A report in the Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer dated *14 November 1913* stated that Wilkinson’s mausoleum and obelisk had been sold to a marine store dealer in Ulverston for £20 and it was being scrapped. The column and base weigh 30 tons and are made of cast iron. It was cast at his Staffordshire Works. The Derby Daily Telegraph of *26 November 1913* also picked up the story reporting that the monument to John Wilkinson was under threat. It was going to be removed, broken up and melted down because the obelisk lay derelict by the roadside

The day before in the Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser (*25 November 1913*) a letter from T R Wilson, secretary of the Wilkinson Memorial Fund was published lamenting the death of Sir William Bailey who had secured a permanent site for the Wilkinson Monument.

The situation did not improve as the Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer of *08 July 1914* published a letter from William B Graham secretary of the Wilkinson Memorial Fund asking for public subscriptions to the fund. Requests to industry for subscriptions had not been successful. Mr Graham praised T R Wilson who had recently died and was responsible for saving the monument.

It was reported in the Westmorland Gazette (25 Sept 1915) that the site surrounding the monument, secured by the committee and handed over to the Parish Council had just been enclosed by a wall. Suitable approaches from the road had been left at each end of the site.



By the 1980s the memorial was showing its age again and it was restored by the Parish Council in 1984. In 2008 to mark 200 years since Wilkinson's death further restoration work was carried out to ensure the monument's future and it was repainted.

Therefore the answer to my question appears to be that the site, in its present form, was created in 1915 but the monument has been there since 1863.

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