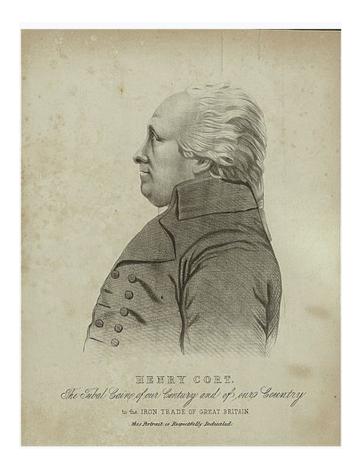
Tales of Puddled Iron

A Southern Branch Seminar

Date: Tuesday 21st January 2025 @ 19-00

For further information please contact helen@materialsfinishing.org

- Steel has been the main engineering and construction material since the late 19th Century. As metal finishers we should understand the materials that are coated.
- However, before this, in the 1780s, manufacturing processes for puddled / wrought / malleable iron were developed in the UK by Henry Cort (1740-1800), in Fontley, Hampshire. Puddled iron was the "ancestor" of steel.
- These processes included a refining process for pig and scrap iron and rolling mills for producing bars and shaped sections.
- This presentation provides a technical summary of the development and manufacture of puddled iron along with the major applications in shipbuilding, railways, bridges, machinery and construction.
- This historic story from the industrial revolution is not generally well known, but has implications today.



Henry Cort 1740 - 1800 portrait



HMS Warrior, 1860. Iron Clad Warship, Portsmouth UK



Chain cable made from puddled iron