ADDENDUM

The last decade of the lives of Thomas and John Gilbert saw the promotion of the Shropshire and Shrewsbury canals. The Bill for the former received the Royal Assent in 1788 and to this canal the Earl Gower subscribed £2,000 and the Gilberts £1,000 each. Thomas Gilbert chaired the first Committee meetings held at the Tontine, Ironbridge and both he and John and later their sons, frequently attended Committee meetings. As the canal was to be a direct link with the Severn at Coalport - an extremely important outlet for coal supplies to the towns and cities down river, the Earl Gower and Co. made the 100 yard link between their Donnington Wood Canal and the terminal inclined plane at Wrockwardine Wood at their own expense.

The Act for the Shrewsbury Canal dates to July 1793. The object of this canal was to carry coal and many other commodities to that town and intermediate wharves. The Earl Gower and his partners subscribed £1,000 each.

On the 1788 Map of Donnington Wood Colliery a 'Rail-Road' is marked, which started near to the present Central Hall in Donnington parish and near the furnaces and an end of it is shown at the end of Earl Gower's leased territory near the Fountain Inn at Wrockwardine Wood. There is some reason to believe that this was part of a much longer one which having passed and