

[This is a collection of miscellaneous papers drawn from a number of roughly sorted Allendale Estate papers in boxes as part of the deposit NRO 2762. In each case the box number: C32, C74, C97, C105, C122 is indicated for each item.]

1 Jan 1767 Henry Richmond to unknown

[Note: NRO 2762 Box C105. Neither correspondent is named, but handwriting, date and context of this undated draft letter suggest it is from Henry Richmond. Walter Blackett, normally addressed as 'Honoured Sir' is a possible recipient. There is no mention of the account in any of Richmond's copy correspondence to Blackett in 1767]

Hon[ou]r[e]d Sir

You desired me to give you some accot. of the Lead trade, but I find it not easy to do so, there being a difference between principles & habits of action & writing about them. But such things as occur to me upon the subject I shall put together in the best way I can.

It appears from Cesar's Account that this Island was known & frequented by merchants before his Invasion of it, and from Agricola's & Pliny's acco[un]t it is plain it was so frequented for the sake of the metals it abounded with. Agricola says Gold & Silver were found in it. But Pliny speaks very particularly about the Article of Lead & tells us it was gotten in Britain with more ease & in greater plenty than elsewhere, its Ore lying near surface & the quantity gotten so great that a Law was made to regulate the getting it. What that quantity was cannot be ascertained but we may be satisfied it could only be trifling in comparison of what is now wrought when we consider that it was only for Rome Carthage Greece Egypt & some other parts of the Mediterranean that this trade was carried on whereas Lead is now exported to the remotest parts of the Globe where the conveniences of life are now as much consulted upon as they were in those antient states & by the invention of new arts a greater consumption of this metal must now be occasioned. The quantity now wrought at present is computed to be about 20000 Tons annually and the countries to which it is exported are principally the E. Indies Spain & Portugal, Turkey, the sevl. states of Italy & other lesser states in the Mediterranean. France Germany Flanders the Countries bordering on the Baltic Sea, & to Holland tho what they take is more for trade to other places than for their own consumption. Besides this exportation a very considerable quantity is used in different parts of the British dominions.

The uses both at home & abroad in which Lead is employed are chiefly for the coverings of Churches & other religious houses & of palaces & other magnificent buildings & the gutters for smaller buildings & for pipes for conveying water. These were the uses wch. the Romans had for this metal as Pliny tells us. Since their time other uses have been invented for wch. it is better adapted than anything else such as the making of glass & earthen wares & for all that and there are still other modern uses wherein nothing can be substituted in its stead such as the manufactures of white & red Lead, the refining of Gold & Silver & precious stones, with many other lesser

uses. In times of peace while convenience & luxury are indulged, while the communication of one country with another is open & easy & commerce uninterrupted Lead will be wanted for the purposes beforementioned & the demand for it will induce men to venture their fortunes freely in the search of it. But most of these uses if not all can be lessened by the consumers in times of War or when the price of Lead rises very high. And as to the Mine adventurers the obstruction occasioned by war discourages them on the one hand & on the other hand an extraordinary high price encourages them so much that many Mines are opened & tryed everywhere that during a low one by the hazardousness of them are obliged to lye dormant, till by an increase of the quantity on their side & decrease of the demand on the consumers the price comes down again to a certain level, wch. by the experience of many years has been demonstrated to be somewhere about £13.10s.0d the Newcastle Fother. At a less price than this I am of opinion very few mines in Britain can be wrought by reason of the great depth of 50, 70 & even 90 fathoms, to which the works are now sunk & the great expence of Labour, Gunpowder & Candles & the Machines to clear them of water & at this price scarce any of the mines in other countries can be wrought. For there are Leadmines in France & Germany, some few in Ireland & some lately opened in North America. As to those of France they are numerous as appears by the introduction to Monsr. Hellots translation of Schlutter but the veins are small – are incumberd mostly with water lye remote from navigable rivers & are attended with other unfavourable circumstances that render notwithstanding the encouragement given by the French Governmt. render the working of them disadvantageous while the price of Lead here does not exceed 14 or £15 the Newcastle fother, but when it gets above that we have found they can raise a quantity even for exportation. With regard to the mines in Germany they also are wrought at a great expence & as the ore abounds with sulphur which prevents its fluxing into Lead they are obliged to evaporate that sulphur by repeated roastings of the ore in furnaces constructed for the purpose before they can proceed to smelt it & after the best they can do it yields very poorly in Lead

[end of page. Text appears to be missing between here and the end of a sentence with which the next surviving page starts]

case nowadays. [drafting note indicates the rest of the para was to be inserted here; given further down page in original:] From the best acco[un]ts I can collect of Lead ores in France yield upon an average about 60 p[oun]ds in a 100 & those in Germany after all their labour not above 50 p[oun]ds in a 100 what the produce of the American ore is I have not heard.

The comon method of reckoning the produce of Lead Ore at the mines in the Counties of Durham Northumberland & Cumberland is by the Bing which contains 8 hundred weight avoirdupois consequently the ore of which 5 Bings will make a Newcastle Fother yields at the rate of 52 po[un]ds in 100 po[un]d & that of which 4 Bings will make such a fother yields at the rate of 66 in a 100. Your ore sometimes comes up to this richness but often falls short of it wch. variation cannot easily be

accounted for – probably a greater qty. of sulphur either in the ore itself or in the fuel wherewith it is smelted may occasion it – if it is in the latter there is little help for it there being no great choice of fuel in the neighbourhood of the mines, for pit coal constituting a great part of the fuel if such coal must be used as the country affords, & coal will be found sometimes fuller of sulphur than at others – If variation with the ore itself it must be owing to its being more impregnated with that pernicious mineral at one time than another & then all the remedy is by breaking the ore small & washing it carefully thro iron sieves wch. is the method made use of in the works but this cannot always be done equally well for sometimes the sulphur adheres too closely to the ore for water to separate it.

From this view of the Lead trade it does not appear to be for the intrest of this kingdom to tax this article of its produce & yet 20s a Ton is laid upon all Lead exported and there was a design in Mr Pelhams Administration of laying an additional duty of 40s a Ton upon it, wch. was defeated by the representations from the Lead owners of the evil tendency of such a step for besides that it wd. have been giving an invidious preference to Scotland over England in this article of trade since by the Union Lead Mines in that kingdom are exempt from Taxation, this being so with respect to the present duty of 20s a ton is hard enough upon England, but the additional duty would have been intollerable so much for the general intrests of this trade with respect to Britain mentioned before etc. Besides the several uses wch. the Lead is convertible & wch. give it its value as a Metal there is an additional value that most of it assuages by the silver contained it in & wch. is seperable from it by the art of refining & I believe there is not any Lead but what has moreorless Silver in it, but the expence of money & the waste of Lead attending the extracting it, renders it not worth the operation. It is generally reckoned that about 5 oz & a half or 6 oz in a fother will balance this expence & waste & that every oz above that is in a fother a clear gain of so much as the Silver will sell for by the ounce, wch. has been in my remembrance from 5s.71/2 d to 6s.2d p.ounce. There is scarce any lead in Britain that yields above 20 ounces in a fother. In France and Germany I believe there are instances of their getting more particularly in the former in the province of Bretany there is a mine whose lead yields 60 oz in a Ton. But here lead is reckoned very rich if it yields 12 or 14 oz in a fothr, for 7 or 8 oz is comonly the proportion in most of our refineries. Low CC lead abot. 25 yrs ago yielded 16 the oz for a year or two & then fell to 12. Weardale Lead yields something less than 8 oz & Allanhds is not refineable.

[note on cover:] 1767 Minutes relating to the Lead trade

20 Jun 1793 Robert Williamson to Thomas Richard Beaumont

[Note: NRO 2762 Box C74. Legal opinion notes of Mr Robert Hopper Williamson on Sir William Blackett's Will]

After an attentive perusal of a Copy of the Will of Sr William Blackett dated 14th August 1728 I am clearly of opinion that the late Sr Thomas Blackett as the first Son of Lady Wentworth took an estate-tail in the property devised and settled by that will and that he was enabled when in possession to barr all the subsequent estates limited by the will by means of a Common Recovery as to the fee simple estates, and by a fine or other competent conveyance as to the Estates held by Leases for lives. The circumstance of Sr Thomas Blacketts being born at the time of making the will does not appear to me to make any difference. The evident intention of the Testator was to give an estate trust to the first and other Sons of Lady Wentworth successively in the same manner as he had before limited the property to the first and other sons of Mr & Mrs Blackett and I cannot for a moment assent to the idea that the words 'to be begotten' excluded the eldest Son who happened to be born at the time of making the will; if these words must necessarily be taken in a future sense (which I by no means agree to) they in strictness apply to the issue male of the Son the words being 'To the use of the first and other Sons and their issue male of my Sister Diana now the wife of Sr Wm Wentworth Bart lawfully to be begotten in tail male.' Upon the whole I cannot discover any ground of objection to Sr Thomas Blacketts power of barring the entail and remainders limited in default of the issue male of Lady Wentworth: and presuming that he has taken the proper measures for that purpose I think he might dispose of the property in any manner most agreeable to himself.

R Hopper Williamson
NCastle 20th June 1793

Mr Hopper Williamson's compliments to Mr Beaumont, and has sent his opinion upon the limitation in Sr Wm Blacketts will in favour of Lady Wentworths family. If Mr Beaumont wishes Mr H.W. to look into the recovery and other <assurances> made by Sr Thomas Blackett for barring the entail He will be so good as direct them to be sent for that purpose.

Clavering Place
Thursd mornng

[Outer wrapper:]

T R Beaumont Esqr
June 20th 1793

Mr Williamsons Opinion on Sr Wm Blackett's Will [last word obscured]
C3 1326 No 37

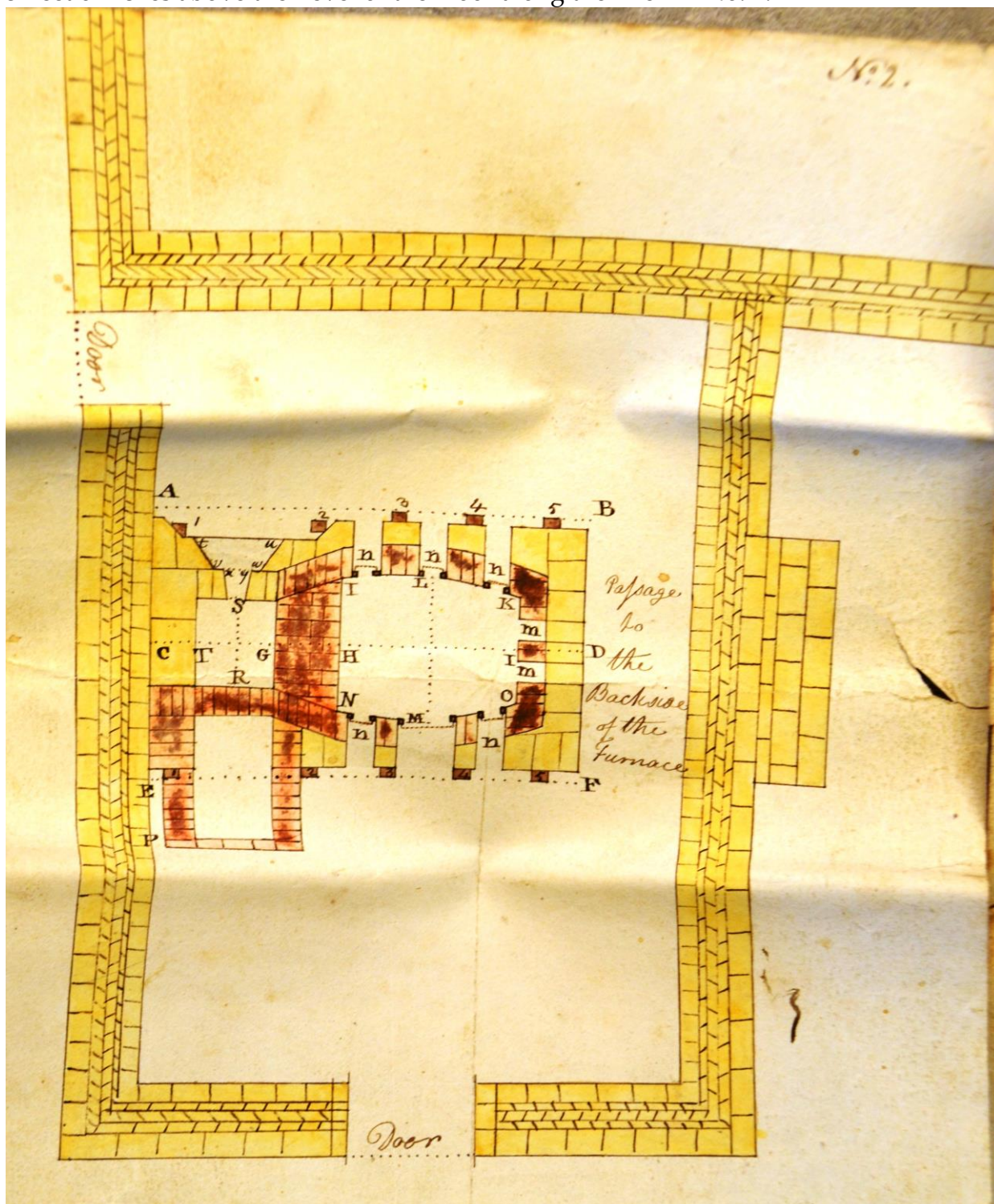
1 Jan 1807 James Cockshutt to unknown

[Note: NRO 2762 Box C105. Successful roasting trials were undertaken by John Mulcaster at the various mills in 1806 at the behest of James Cockshutt. By 1808

roasting furnaces were in construction at the smelting mills. These coloured plans and accompanying key might therefore be specifications dating from 1807]

Horizontal Section of a Roasting Furnace.

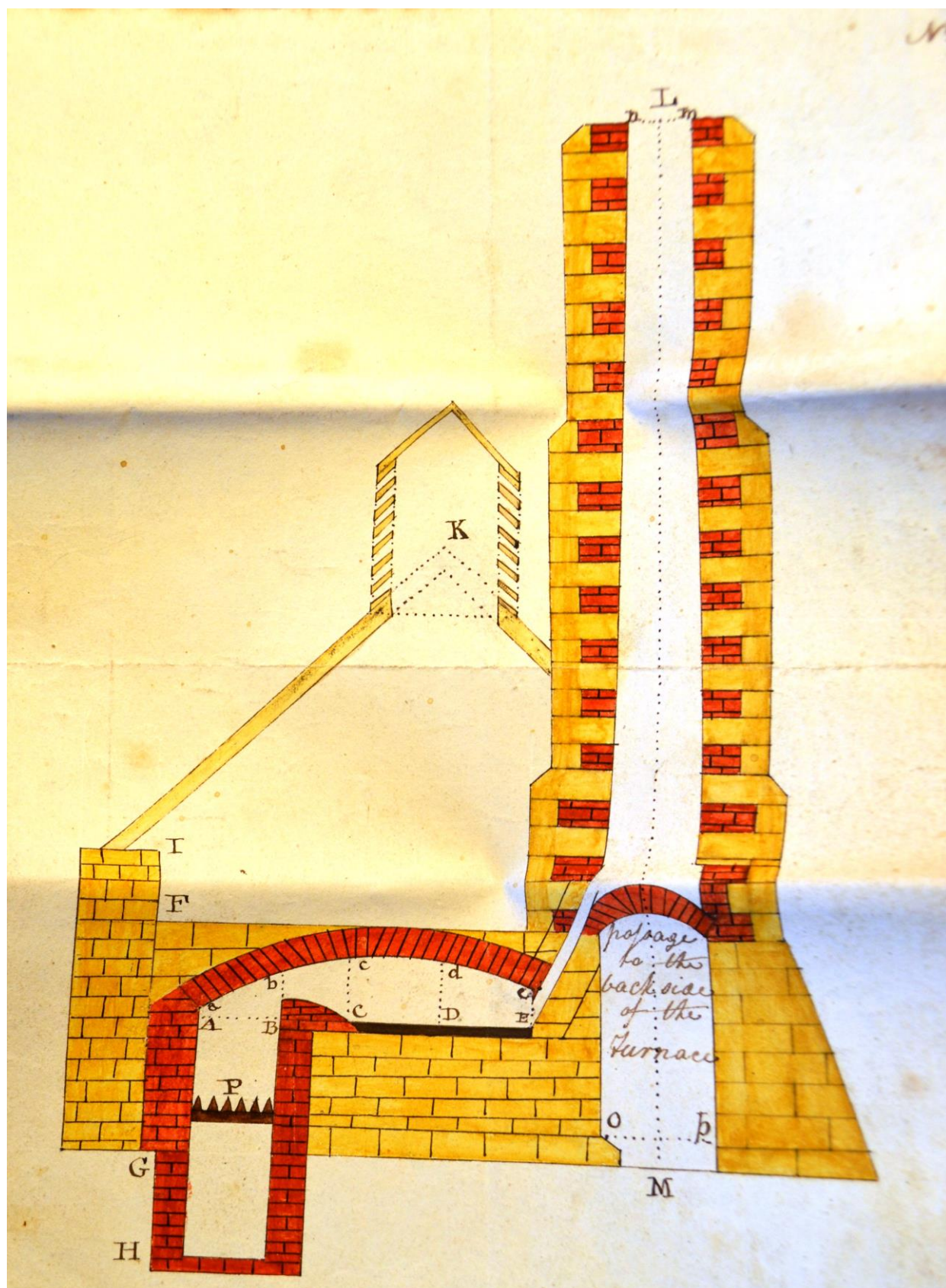
3 Feet 6 Inches above the Level of the Floor along the line AB No. 4.



The Parts coloured Yellow are Stone the Red brick and the Brown Iron.

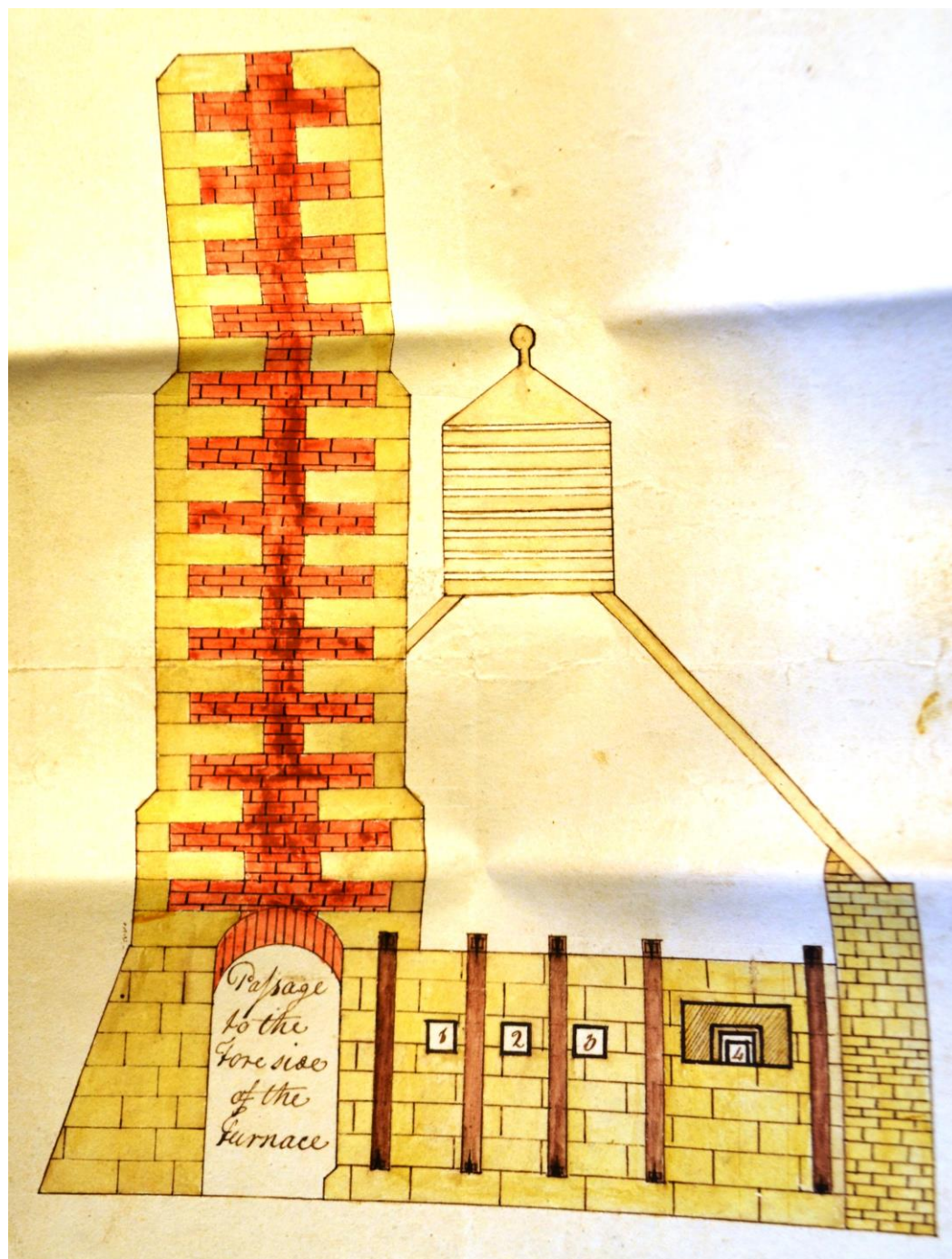
CT Casing of the Furnace 1ft. 3in. TG Length of the Fire place 2ft. 2in.
GH Breadth of the Fire bridge 1ft. 9in. HI Length of the
Furnace 5 Feet. RS Breadth of the Fire place 2ft. 6in.
NI Breadth of the Fire bridge 3ft. 9in. LM Breadth of the Furnace
at the Drawing door 4 feet OK Breadth at the Flues 3 Feet.
mm the two Flues 7 ½ Inches square
M The Drawing Door 20 ½ Inches Breadth
n, n, n, n, n Stirring Doors 11 Inches do.
S The Ignite or Tease Hole 6 Inches do.
EP the Ash hole without the side of the Furnace 2 Foot.
1, 2, 3, 4, 5. The Perpendicular Iron barrs on each side the Furnace
tu Breadth of the Tease hole on the Outside 2Ft. 6In: v to w 1Ft. 4In:
x to y 10 Inches, breadth at S 6 Inches.

Perpendicular Section of a Roasting Furnace, along the line CD No. 2



From G to A Height of the Furnace bottom above the House Floor 3ft. 6in.

Aa 4 inches Bb 1ft. 3in. Cc height of the Roof above the bottom, at the edge of the Fire bridge 1ft. 8in. Dd height at the Drawing door 1ft. 7in. Ee at the Flues 1 Foot.
GH Depth of the Ash hole below the Floor 2 Foot 9 Inches
P the Grate barrs 1 Foot above the level of the Floor.
GF Height of the Furnace 6 Feet.
LM Height of the Chimney 28 Feet.
op breadth at bottom 3Ft. " the other way 3ft. 8in.
nm breadth at top 1ft. 10in. the other way the same.
GI Height of the Side Wall 8 Foot.
IK Length of the Couples 12ft. 6in.



28 Mar 1807 Joseph Dickinson to Christopher Blackett

[Note: NRO 2762 Box C105 Annotated on cover in a different hand:]

Mr Dickinson of Dufton / Letter to Mr Blackett / March 28th 1807 /

[underlined:] Confidential Communication

[addressed to:] Chr Blackett Esq. Wylam

Coalcleugh 28th March 1807

Dear Sir,

I have just now received yours, Inclosed to Joseph Little, in my return from Letting Bargains at Allanheads this day, and note the Contents. Coalcleugh and Allanheads are both upon the reviving order, and Weredale ever since I knew these Mines, hath been upon the decline, particularly Breckonsike, the foreheads both in the upper, and under levels, hath been driving forward at a considerable expence in hopes the Vein, would again carry ore, which I learned yeasterday is not the case, and by letting these foreheads stand, together with the great level at Level Gate, would be attended with a considerable saving. Besides these there is some other tryals going forward, that are not very promising, and may be declined until a further oportunity.

If the expence incurred in the erection of the Crushing Mill at Breckonsike, had been expended at Coalcleugh, and Allanheads would put up a sufficient one at each place, and if my advice had been attended to would been the case. I expect to begin inspecting the mines in Weredale on Monday, should like to have your opinion befor[e] letting the Bargains there whither it would be advisable to put a stop to all or what part of the expence incurred in making further tryals untill the event of the tryal is known - shall send this by a Special Messenger, who will bring your answer to me in Weredale.

And remain d[ea]r Sir Yours J. Dickinson

no person knows anything of these contents

29 Oct 1808 John Mulcaster to Martin Morrison

[Note: NRO 2762 Box C105. This is the original letter from Mulcaster from which a copy –slightly different in one or two details- was entered into the book of mining reports now held as NRO 672/E/1F/1. This original contains slightly more detail than given in the office copy.]

J.Mulcaster's Report Octobr 29th 1808

Report of the State of Coll. & Mrs Beaumont's Smelt Mills and Refinerys Octr. 29th 1808

Blaydon Refinery.

The Iron Pipes which were preparing when Coll. & Mrs Beaumont, and Mr Cockshutt were last here are now all laid and the joints calked according to the directions given by Mr. Cockshutt we have laid the Pipes in such a manner that we can take the Water from either Reservoir and shut the communication with one or both at pleasure which will enable us to clean out either without stopping the Refinery. We are also at present forming the new Reservoir pointed out to Mr Cockshutt & approved of by him for collecting the Mud and Smiths ashes which are brought down from Winlaton in Floods in great quantities, it will be much easier cleaned than the large Reservoir that the water was usually collected in.

My application to Mr. Townly's Agent this term for the Water pointed out to Mr Cockshutt that runs waste at present has been more successful than the former one. We have not agreed upon the Terms he promised to write me on that subject from Lancashire which I shall communicate as soon as I receive the Information

We will by this additional water be enabled to keep our slag hearth in the winter season constantly employed which is very desirous as we have a very great quantity of old wastes laying at present quite useless at the Refinery. A new Blowing Machine will also be wanted as the Hearth is now worked by the Refinery bellows. Mr Cockshutt will please to say whether he would wish us to have Leather or Cylinder Bellows. I believe the former will require less water, and will answer our purpose very well altho the other are preferable for a Slag hearth. It will also be necessary to increase the power of the Water Wheel as the present one has as much Machinery applied as it can overcome being limited in the Diameter. I see no other way but by increasing the breadth of the Buckets. Michl. Elliott thinks that the present Wheel cannot very easily be widened, and recommends a new Cast Iron one which will be very little more expensive than a wood one & considerably more durable. If it is determined that any Horizontal Chimneys are to be erected at this place the sooner in the Spring they are proceeded with the better the advantages of such erections are now I think very sufficiently ascertained from the experiments & calculations already in the possession of Mr. Cockshutt. As we have been at very considerable expence in laying the pipes &c I wish very much to adopt that saving which will very soon repay the expence of their own erection as well as that of the Iron pipes.

The Quay rented of Miss Simpson and Lord Strathmoor is become so very bad that it is dangerous to lay lead upon some parts of it, and I fear before it can be made usefull it will have to be taken down quite to the foundation, it unfortunately happens that Coll. & Mrs. Beaumont are only Tenants at Will the lease by which it was held having expired many years ago altho' we are suffered to keep it at the same Rent, before any expence is incurred perhaps it would be prudent to endeavour to procure another lease even at an advanced Rent altho' I am afraid that will be attended with difficulty in the present condition of Miss Simpson. If the Quay is taken down I would

recommend to set it out in the manner shewn in the inclosed sketch which will give us considerable more Quay Room – we cannot dispence with less than we have at present it will therefore be absolutely necessary either to repair the present quay or build an addition to Coll. Beaumonts own which if done will not be quite so convenient as the other.

[This original letter omits the line drawing of the quay included at this point in the office copy (NRO 672/E/1F/1), evidently sent as an attached sketch, now lost]

Dukesfield Mill.

I am happy to have to report that the very large stock laying at this Mill this Summer is now all delivered and upon the Road to Blaydon except a small quantity reserved here for the use of the Refinery during the Winter season. I have desired Mr. Westgarth to employ the Roasting Furnace at this place as fully as possible this Winter and to make repeated tryals of different Lead ores to ascertain the benefits derived from that operation. If it should be found beneficial to employ the Roasting Furnace constantly at this place it will be necessary to erect a new one in a larger house as the confined situation of the present place renders it very unpleasant & probably injurious to the health of the Workmen the present house would be usefull as a Coal house and will save the expence of building one as projected.

Rookhope Mill.

The new Bingsteads are now completed and part of them in present use, so that I expect more attention will be paid to separating the different Ores than has hitherto been done, the advantages of which I pointed out in my former report. The Season being so far advanced before it was determined to extend the Horizontals at this place, nothing has been done except preparing Clay for making Bricks and Stones for the foundation, and Arches so that we shall be ready to commence the building early in the Spring.

The Roasting of the lead ore is constantly practised at this place as usual.

Allenheads Mill.

No particular observations at present necessary to make here the Work as usual being carried on to the full extent the Machinery will admit. The Roasting funace at this place is ordered to be kept constantly employed.

Allen Mill.

The Water Wheel shaft has been examined and additional hoops applied where they were supposed necessary which has in a great measure cured the Wheel of the crackling noise observed before. A small Stream of Water has also been conveyed in a Tin Pipe inclosed in a small wood box to fall upon the Gudgeons as directed by Mr Cockshutt. The Bingsteads and the new road to them as pointed out are now in hands and expect they will be ready for the reception of the Ore early in the Spring. The

Weather being so very uncertain at this place so late in the Season, we have deferred building the Counting house and Roasting Furnace until the Spring as I was doubtful they would not be able to get them covered in before Winter set in. The old Corn Mill and old low Mill House have been taken down and the Stones applied to building the Bingsteads etc.

General observations.

The Ore Carriage for this Season is now nearly completed except to Allen Mill & Allenheads Mill which as long as the Roads are not blocked up with snow can be constantly supplied from the mines. I hope that they will all be kept fully employed until we can get a supply in the Spring having nearly all of them as much Ore as will service them smelting until the beginning of May before which time the Ore Carriage generally begins.

The Lead Carriers are also beginning to leave off carrying except those that have the benefit of the Turnpike from Allen & Allenheads Mill and from Dukesfield by way of Hexham, the Dukesfield road to Bankfoot is almost quite impassible from the very heavy Carriage that has been upon it and indeed the South Turnpike from thence is in a little better state altho they have advanced the Tolls, it is still my decided opinion that unless it is indicted it will never be in a better state, if that were done either at the Christmas or Easter Sessions there would be some hopes of having a better road next Summer. I expect we will receive as much lead before the end of the year as will enable us to complete the whole of the present Sales except the last 5000 pieces to Messrs. Prestons, and that I hope we will be able to finish by the end of March.

Mr Cockshutt wishing so particularly to have the roasting of the lead ore more extensively practiced, I have desired all the Mill Agents that have convenience for that purpose to attend more particularly to that operation. I have also given directions that the Lead procured from Roasted ore shall be marked with a large letter R, which is to be continued upon the Lead after Refining, as well as upon the labels attached to the Litharge Casks by which the difference of quality (if there should be any) may be observed and pointed out.

Jno. Mulcaster
Blaydon Refinery 29th Octr. 1808

30 Jun 1809 John Mulcaster to Martin Morrison

[Note: NRO 2762 Box C105. This is the original letter from Mulcaster from which a copy was entered into the book of mining reports now held as NRO 672/E/1F/1. This original appears to have been faithfully copied, other than the inclusion here of two paragraphs at the end concerning the South Turnpike which are not included in the office copy.]

Report of Coll. Beaumonts Smelt Mills & Refineries

The Reservoirs for the water for Blaydon refinery are now all fully completed and Mr. Townly has given leave to convey the Water through his Estate which formerly ran waste and for which he charges the yearly rent of £2. 2. 0. One of the Springs we have got conveyed to the reservoir, the other and most considerable one we will not be able to procure untill a field of Corn is cut, the pipes having to pass through a part of it, the distance is very inconsiderable and can be done in 2 or 3 days.

A new water wheel, with Cast Iron shrouds, Arms and Flanges with a new Wheel case has also been finished, we have also put in a Cast Iron Cistern, the whole of the conveyance for the Water with the wheel being now of Cast Iron I hope their duration will be very considerable. We are at present making a pair of Slag hearth bellows, and wood of sufficient size for the boards being very difficult to procure, and as we shall probably be wanting more for the use of the other Mills, I have adopted the suggestion of Mr. Cockshutt and got them made of Cast Iron, which if they be found to answer, we need never be at a loss for boards as the Model will always be ready when they are wanted, the present are very good Castings and I have great expectations that they will answer every purpose.

Nothing has been done to the Quay Wall represented in my last report as being in a dangerous state, the River Jury being upon a view of the River, were shewn the situation and a sketch of the projection into the River, which they seemed to think too great an Incroachment and might probably alter the course of the River, from the present direction of the flowing and ebbing Tide and the current in a flood. I am not of the same opinion and without we can get the Quay set out considerably farther than it is at present, it would not be worth the expence of rebuilding it. But as we can for the present year dispence with the low Quay part of which has fallen down; when we have occasion for more Quay room I think we had better build an addition to the present range of the New Quay which would be upon Coll. Beaumont's own property.

Having been at considerable expence with the Iron Pipes and Reservoirs the Horizontal Chimneys have also been deferred this Season.

[Allen Mill]

Two new Bingsteads and the road across Mr. Dixon's field to the back of them has been made at Allen Mill and 2 or 3 more will be added as soon as possible, a Roasting Furnace is also in considerable forwardness and will soon be completed. The Water wheel shaft has lately again began to have a crackling noise. I have had Michl. Elliott to examine it who thinks the fault is in the shaft not being sufficiently strong which makes it bend and occasions the working of the barrelling. Wm. Robson is of opinion that it may be cured by drawing every other stave of the barreling and reducing them as he thinks that the crackling is occasioned by the barreling being over tight. But as Mr Cockshutt will probably be in the Country Shortly, I shall not do anything untill I have his directions. Timber still continuing very dear the building the Counting house here has been deferred this year.

[Rookhope Mill.]

The building of the Horizontal Chimneys at Rookhope Mill was late in commencing owing to the very uncertain state of the weather this Spring. I thought that the cheapest and most expeditious way to get them done, was to advertise the building them by proposals, and have accordingly agreed with the lowest on reasonable terms, the person agreed with is a very good Mason and very qualified for the undertaking.

Having experienced considerable difficulty last year in procuring Carriers for a sufficient quantity of Lead Ore to the different Mills and especially to Dukesfield, we have been under the necessity of considerably advancing the prices this year which yet appears to be insufficient as the Alston Moor Mine Proprietors have more considerably advanced theirs and in all probability would continue to do so if Coll: Beaumonts were again to be advanced, as many of those Miners are under the necessity of having their Lead Ore brought to Market to procure ready money to carry on their mines, and therefore will give any price to secure the Carriers. From their being such a demand for Carriers occasioned by great quantities of Ore being raised at Cross fell and in Alston Moor, which has mostly this year been carried to a considerable distance, it becomes the more necessary for Coll: Beaumont to have a sufficient number of his own Carriers that can be depended upon and therefore the more urgent necessity for enforcing as many of Coll. Beaumonts own Tenants as have convenience for that purpose to keep Carrier Galloways.

The Greenwich Hospital having nearly changed all their old Tenants and very considerably advanced their Rents, we have had very little assistance from them this year, which has also made our Lead Carriers very scarce and has obliged us to raise that Carriage considerably from Rookhope & Dukesfield Mills but I have little fear but that we shall be able to get all the Lead brought in that will be wanted.

Nothing have been done either by the Township Surveyors or the Commissioners of the South Turnpike Road towards repairing it and from the very great Carriage we had upon it last year it was in many places rendered almost impassible and the branch to Bankfoot was so very bad that the Cart Axle trus litterally touched the Road in many situations from the Wheel tracks being worn so deep. After repeated applications to the Commrs. Surveyor two or three Meetings of the Commr. took place at which I attended and stated to them very respectfully the great inconvenience Coll. B. suffered from the state of the Road, I found them equally desirous with myself to repairing the Turnpike road leading to Hexham and under the fear of an Indictment prevailed upon the Township of Prudhoe where the worst part of that Road was, to lead Stones sufficient for its repair which the Commissrs. would break and lay upon the Road.

I was sorry to find the Commr. very indifferent about repairing the Branch, and indeed it was very evident that it was the wish of some of them to keep it in its present state being very little used for any other Carriage except for Coll. B. which some of them told me they wished as much as possible to prevent from coming that way as it destroyed the other part of the Turnpike. If that part only of the Turnpike was repaired

without the other Coll. B. would not derive much advantage from it, so that after taking Mr Morrison's opinion I attended the Northd. Easter Quarter Sessions and Indicted the branch which I find has given offence to some of the Gentlemen Commrs. who will have to contribute to the repair of the Road.

Jno. Mulcaster
Blaydon Refy. 30th June 1809

10 Oct 1811 James Cockshutt to unknown

[Note: NRO 2762 Box C105]

Report on a View of the Works of Col: & Mrs Beaumont

1811 Sepr. 25 to Octr.

On a view of Blaydon. I found a small double power Engine of 5 or 6 Horse power at work, conformable to the directions given on last View 1810 for the purposes of raising Water to supply the diffiency [sic] occasioned by the escape of the Water in the old Collieries from whence a supply had been obtained. The Engine appeared very well executed and was working very well. It appears by J. Mulcasters remarks that this Engine will not require to be worked more than half its time, therefore such a Mill being somewhere wanted it was proposed to apply its power when not otherwise wanted to work a pair of stones to pulverise or grind Lead fume, of which at such intervals it would be capable of grinding a very considerable Quantity, & such a machine has been already constructed at Langly Mill, for that purpose.

At Allen Mill some improvement has been made in the Blowing Machine at this place yet the shaft continues, by its creaking noise & appearance, to be in some danger of failing, yet it may serve for a length of time having been at different periods carefully secured, & another piece of timber has been provided in case of any accident.

The Quantity of Lead recovered from the Horizontal Chimnies continues so considerable that partly to increase the quantity & partly to secure the men from the annoyance to which they are sometimes subject when the wind happens to be in a certain quarter, a chimney of much greater dimentions and height in imitation of one which has very well succeeded at Langley Mill, such another has been here constructed to the height of about 60 feet, & the Horizontal part of the Chimnies made to return once oftener, & thus gives great reason to expect that both purposes will be effected. But it is remarked by the Agent Mr Dixon that since the increase of the Smelting Hearths at this place, great part of the Land he held has suffered very much.

The projected Improvement at Allenheads instead of removing the smelt Mill as had been under consideration being pretty far advanced, I proceeded to that place,

where a more powerful Water Wheel as before directed is now in great forwardness, & made of a greater width as well as greater Diam[ete]r. with a better & improved plan of working the Bellows at this place and also considerable progress made in enlarging or rather in making a new Reservoir, to this Mill as marked out on an examination I made on a former View; and the cast pipes then determined upon to conduct the Water to the Wheel, have been provided & will altogether give a considerable increase of Power & Value to this useful Work.

Hexham Corn Mill on a 2d. view of the Progress of this Work on my return from the Lead Works, to meet Mr Thomas at his particular request, some general directions, for disposing & placing the Mill Stones &c were determined upon, to be worked in the new Mill, which is now covering in, & a new & very powerful Water Wheel in a state of great forwardness; but as the Business before performed by 4 Water Wheels is to be done it must be more than can be performed by one Wheel, the remaining part of the old Mill, at present at work with a very bad W. wheel, 'till the new Mill begins, & it will be necessary to have some work here continued or the usual business cannot be performed. But for the present Mr Thomas wished any further determinations to be suspended, 'till the new mill gets to work – But I feel no hesitation in recommending another Wheel of equal power with that now constructing, it will not greatly exceed the expence of such a one as is now at work there it will very much increase the value of this situation, where I understand there is a demand for far much more business, than can be performed unless a greater power be applied, than a Wheel of the dimentions of the old one.

On the practice of Roasting Ore it has been remarked by J. Mulcaster of which he will transmit a full Acc[oun]t showing that since the Introduction of Roasting Furnaces, the Horizontal Chimnies (tho' the Quantity of Fume continues considerable) has decreased, which I consider another argument in favour of the Roasting system.

On Allen Corn Mill. Importuned by J. Simpson to view the Field he is so solicitous to purchase at almost any price. From the very bad state of this Mill, it cannot be long before some material improvement will [be] required. An old fulling mill a little above the Cornmill has been discontinued and totally taken down, therefore the Fall at this place may be added to the Hand or fall of the Cornmill, and again I see the present Weir may be raised some feet & together will render this mill much more powerful & is a situation I understand what very well will justify such an improvement which I feel right now to state, that at a proper time it may be fully examined, & I am persuaded, it will be right wholly to remove the mill to a more convenient situation a little farther from the River, but the sale of this Field, without the consent of the purchaser it would take away the power of such an improvement.

Huthwait Oct. 10th 1811

James Cockshutt

23 Dec 1824 unknown to Christopher Bird

[Note: NRO 2762 Box C105. This office copy is found on the reverse of an office copy of the letter from John Bell to Mrs Beaumont of 7 Jan 1825]

Bedford Row Decr. 23, 1824

Sir

The Mercers Company having lately filed a bill against Sir John Swinburn & his Tenants within the Titheable places of Chollerton for the purpose of trying their exclusive right to tythes it has become necessary to amend the bill by making you as Vicar a party. I shall therefore be obliged by your acquainting me, as Solicitor for the Company, the name of your Solicitor with whom I may communicate, or his agent here.

I am Sir Your obedient Servant
Charles

P.S. I would beg the favour of your early answer

[annotated at top of page:] Jany 19th 1825 Copy of a Letter from the Solr. Of the Mercers Company to the Revd Chris.r Bird

7 Jan 1825 John Bell to Diana Beaumont

[Note: NRO 2762 Box C105. Annotated at top of page:] Jan[uar]y 18th 1825 Copy of Mr Bell's Letter to Mrs Beaumont

Madam,

When I wrote to you last on the subject of Messrs. Claytons letter, I wrote to you in haste & to save that days Post that you might have the earliest account of what was going on. I omitted to mention that in all the searches I have had occasion to make in my time I never met with any presentment of the nature of that for which Messrs. Clayton propose to search and I never heard my late Father mention anything of the sort nor do I believe there exists any such entry on the Court Rolls, I rather incline to think your Right to work the Mines is founded if not upon a separate grant from the Crown quite distinct from the grant of the Manor upon long usage in the working of such Mines you are aware yourself of Mr Tulip who I believe to be at the bottom of the present proceeding of Renting & working St. John Lee Colliery in Acomb antient Inclosed Copyhold Lands, & his late Uncle before him also rented & wrought the same and I suspect for this reason Mr Tulip does not appear in the present matters but keeps in the back Ground, although his Ground is also injure'd, as well as Mr Nicholsons Ground by the present workings the Rubbish arising from which though wrought out of Mr Nicholsons Ground, is partly laid down on Mr Tulips. Possibly it may be deemed proper to permit the search to be made which is required, even though

nothing should be found one way or the other, but at the same time hint to the Parties that though the search be permitted, yet what they want to find they will be more likely to meet with among the Records of the Grants from the Crown – without telling them whether you have any such Grant or not, but all this you will maturely consider & be well advised in, I merely suggest for your Consideration, & shall not do anything without your express Direction or by order of some Competent authority which I may not legally resist.

I am Madam Your Obedient Servant

Jno Bell

Manor Office Hexham 7th Jany. 1825

[annotated at top:] Copy of Mr J. Bell's letter to Mrs Beaumont January 18th 1825

1 May 1829 Thomas Crawhall to unknown

[Note: NRO 2762 Box C105. Exact date not given, so 1st May assumed here. The 'Mr Crawhall' responsible is assumed to be Thomas Crawhall, the then chief agent, if only because the calculation covers the lead business as a whole]

[annotated on cover:] May 1829/ Rail Road / Report of Newcastle Rail road from New[cast]le to Carlisle and advantage to the Lead Mines rec[eive]d from Mr Crawhall

The average quantity of Coll. & Mrs Beaumonts lead <c[arrie]d> down to Blaydon is from

Allen Mill	2260 Tons
Allenheads Mill	1180 do
Dukesfield Mill	2760 do
Rookhope Mill	1680 do
Annually	7880 Tons

The present charge for Carr[ia]ge of Lead from Allen Mill to Newburn is 1s/1d pr. 11 Sto[ne] ps. & 1s/2d for a 12 Sto[ne] ps. which is equal to

per Ton of 20 Cwts	0.15. 7
& for Waterage &c. from Newburn to Blaydon	0. 1. 4
Carr[ia]ge from Allen Mill to Blaydon	£0.16.11
This Sum upon 2260 Tons Amo[un]ts to	£1911.11. 8

By the Rail Road

Allen Mill to Haydon

5 Miles 2260 Ton @3s pr.Ton £339

Haydon Bridge to Blaydon pr. Railroad

The present charge for Carr[ia]ge. of Lead from Allenheads Mill to Newburn is
1s./51/2d. pr. a 11 Sto[ne] p. & 1/. pr. 8 Sto[ne] ps. w[hi]ch with Waterage to Blaydon is
= pr.Ton of 0c[wt]. £1. 2. 4 1/2
therefore 1180 Tons at £1.2.41/2d Costs £1,317.13. 4

savings thereby to Col. & Mrs Beaumont	609.13. 4
Carrd. forwd.	1,943. 5. 0

By the Rail Road		
D[ukes]f[iel]d to Dilston		
5 Miles 2760 Tons @3/6	£483. .	
Dilston to Blaydon by Railway		
14 Miles @1 1/2d pr Ton pr Mile	241.10.	724.10.
		1,276.10.

The Rookhope Mill Lead is not taken into this ac[ount] being uncertain whether any portion of it will be brought on the line of Railway. Neither does the above shew the extent of saving to Coll. & Mrs Beaumont, which would bear the same proportion on the Carriage of Goods upwards to the Mines, Mills &c. as Iron, Timber, Deals &c.

4 Jul 1839 William Bee to George Crawhall

[Note: NRO 2762 Box C97]

Lanehill July 4th 1839

Sir

I have been requested to acquaint with the proceedings of the Rated Inhabitants of the Township of Stanhope in the Parish of Stanhope. On Saturday the 22nd Day of June last in Vestry assembled respecting the liability of the said Township to repair a part of that Road leading from Redburn Gate to Shorngate Cross.

On a motion by Mr Jos Roddam - seconded by Mr Cutht Bainbridge - that a committee be appointed to collect evidence respecting the liability of the Township of Stanhope, to repair any part of a road, which they are called upon by Mr Beaumont to repair, leading from Redburn Gate towards Shorngate Cross.

That five Ratepayers of the said Township of Stanhope be appointed a committee and to consist of the following Gentlemen (Viz) Mr Thos Bain, Mr Thomas Batey, Mr Cutht Bainbridge Mr Joseph Roddam and Mr John Walton

That the above Committee collect evidence in writing and lay the evidence before a Public Meeting of the Ratepayers of Stanhope Township to be held in the Vestry at Stanhope on Saturday the 13th Day of July at 2 O'clock in the afternoon to which Day this meeting is adjourned.

I am Sir Your very Obed Servt
William Bee

To George Crawhall Esq

[on outer leaf in a different hand:]

Mr Bee to G Crawhall / Rookhope Road/ July 4 1839/ 1

9 Jul 1839 William Bee to George Crawhall

[Note: NRO 2762 Box C97]

Lanehill 9th July 1839

Sir

In consequence of two orders made by the Board for repair of the Highways in the Parish of Stanhope on Saturday the 6th inst at St John's Chapel. I beg to inform you of the proceedings at a meeting of the proprietors and Ratepayers of the Forest Quarter held in the Vestry at St John's Chapel and by an adjournment in the Schoolroom the 22nd Day of June last respecting the repair of a part of the Road leading from Redburn Gate to Shorngate Cross.

Mr Jacob Ralph Featherston in the Chair. It was moved by Mr Jno Martin and seconded by Mr Henry Morley and carried by a Majority. That the part of a Road

leading from Redburn Gate to Shorngate Cross which is situated in Forest Quarter be made.

Secondly - It was moved by Mr Jn Beck seconded by Mr Willm Thompson and unanimously carried. That application be made by the Board through the Agents of Thos W Beaumont Esq to that Gentleman for pecuniary assistance towards the making of the said Road.

The orders made alluded to at the commencement of this note are as follows (Viz)

Ordered That Mr Crawhall of Newhouse be applied to to solicit Mr Thos W Beaumont Esq in assist the Forest Township in making that portion of Road leading from Shorngate Cross to Redburn which is in the aforesaid Township.

Ordered That the Surveyor commence forthwith with the repair of that portion of Road leading from Shorngate Cross down Rookhope.

The Board hope that you will have the goodness to make application to Thos Wentworth Beaumont Esq to assist the Township of Forest in repairing and making the above named line of Road.

I am Sir Your very Obed Servt
William Bee
Clerk to the Board

George Crawhall Esq

[on outer leaf in a different hand:]

Mr Bee to G Crawhall / Rookhope Road/ 9th July 1839/ 2

11 Jul 1839 George Crawhall to William Bee

[Note: NRO 2762 Box C97]

To Willm Bee - Clerk to the Board of Highways

Newhouse July 11th 1839

Dear Sir

I received your letter of the 9th inst containing the orders at a Vestry meeting held at St John's Chapel on the 6th inst fixed upon by the Board of Highways.

The Orders are 1st - That the part of the Road leaving Redburn Gate to Shorngate Cross which is situated in the Forest Quarter be made, and carried by a majority.

2nd It was moved that application be made by the Board to the Agents of T.W.Beaumont Esq to apply to him for Assistance towards making the said Road, which was carried unanimously.

In reply to the above, I have great pleasure to inform you that T.W.Beaumont will pay one half of the expense of making the said Road, on condition that his Agents be allowed to set out the said Line of Road.

Your Obt Servt
George Crawhall

13 Jul 1839 Michael Harrison

[Note: NRO 2762 Box C97]

The adjourned Meeting from June 22nd to July 13th of the Rated Inhabitants of the Township of Stanhope was held in the vestry according to such adjournment when it was proposed to take the sense of the meeting whether the Township of Stanhope admits of the repair of a portion of a road from Redburn Gate to Shorngate Cross or not, when it was put to the vote and carried against the repairing any such Road by a Majority of one.

Signed
Michl Harrison
Chairman

[1 vote each unless otherwise stated]

For

Thos Ware Junr, N. Philipson, Wm Redshaw, C Dawson, Jno Fairless, St. Thompson, Jos Roddam, Jno Dixon, Wm Wearmouth, Rt Routledge, Jn Wearmouth, Thos Parker, Thos Ward, Edw Davison, Thos Bell, Wm Allison, Thos Stephenson, Geo Adkinson, Jn Wilson, <Nkl> Oliver, Thos Forster, <Dry> Philipson, Thos Ward Jun, Robt Hogarth, Wm Armstrong, Jos Roddam O, Geo Little, Wm Bowman, Geo Crawhall for Mr Beaumont. [Total] 32

Against

Wm Bell (2 votes), John Bainbridge, George Vickers, Wm Robinson, Jno Iley, Rob Willis (2), Wm Vickers, Francis Vickers (3), Thos Heads (2), Robt Adamson, Tho. Thompson (3), Thos Vickers (3), Jno Bell (2), John Page, Thos Baty (2), Robt Smithy, (Hen> Bainbridge, Thos Rain, Cuth Bainbridge (5), Michl Harrison [Total] 33

8 Jul 1840 Benjamin Harrison to George Crawhall

[Note: NRO 2762 Box C97]

WB Lead Office Newcastle
July 8th 1840

Dear Sir

I am sorry to hear your Rookhope Road Meeting has ended so unsatisfactorily and so very different to what we had a right to expect. I must now request you to take prompt and efficient steps by endictment to compel the Parties liable to make the Road.

I shall be at Allenheads on Wednesday come and would like to see you if you can come conveniently ride over and stop all night.

I am dear Sir Yours truly

Benj.n Johnson

Geo Crawhall Esq.

8 Jan 1842 Joseph Roddam to George Crawhall

[Note: NRO 2762 Box C97]

Newtown 8th Jany 1842

Dear Sir

As the Stanhope Township had done a great deal and wish to complete the New Road to Shorngate as soon as possible and think by continuing the Work during the Winter whenever the Weather permits the ultimate cost will be less than by contracts and be in Spring <season> when Work is more plentiful.

The general expenditure of this Township was taken into consideration at the meeting of the Board for Repair of Highways yesterday at Stanhope, we find from this and other causes connected with your present Rookhope carriage, that the Rates for this year is going to exceed what the Board could wish. It was therefore suggested at the Meeting that the three Gentlmn who were chosen on the part of Stanhope Township to settle matters connected with that Road, should be requested to wait upon you & desire that you would take the matter into consideration & use your endeavours to procure for the Township an advance of such part of the promised assistance from Mr Beaumont as you may deem proper, according to the Work done.

In consequence of this resolution of the Meeting I proposed to write you on the subject thinking it might answer the same purpose as a deputation waiting upon you.

I am Dear Sir Your Obed. Servt

Jos Roddam

To Geo Crawhall Esq
New House/ Weardale

[On outer cover:]

A9. ROADS

No. 8. 1839 -42

Mem[orand]a relating to the Rookhope Road in Weardale (completion of it to Shorngate etc)

T. S.

W. B. MINES
ALLENHEADS OFFICE.

18 Apr 1846 Thomas Sopwith to John Atkinson

[Note: NRO 2762 Box C122. Dr Richardson was industrial chemist and historian Thomas Richardson of Newcastle (1816-67). 'Lubig' was the German scientist Justus von Liebig, considered one of the founders of organic chemistry, and who taught Richardson in Hesse in the 1830s, where the latter obtained his Ph.D. In 1844, before his employment by Beaumont, Sopwith had written of Richardson that an 'extensive laboratory, with all means and appliances for study, is conducted with great ability by Mr. Thomas Richardson, in Newcastle on Tyne. Mr R was a pupil of Liebig's, and is well skilled in analytical chemistry. The extensive arrangements which he has made, are admirably adapted as a School of Chemistry in which all persons connected with mines and manufactories and agriculture may obtain instructions on exceedingly modest terms.' T.Sopwith, *The National Importance of Preserving Mining Records*, 1844, p.52.]

Allenheads April 18th 1846

Observations on the Claim of Dr. Richardson in respect of Improvements introduced by him in the Smelting Establishment of T.W.Beaumont Esq.

To J.G.Atkinson Esq

Dear Sir

At the time of my entering on Mr Beaumonts Service I learnt from Mr. Donkin & yourself that a Claim was made by Dr Richardson in respect of certain improvements the introduction of which he stated was owing to him and for which he had not received any special remuneration arguably to what he considered to be the meaning of the Agreement under which he acted.

Dr. Richardson was engaged Feb. 5th 1840 at a yearly salary of £100 for which he was to 'attend as often as requested at such of the Smelting Mills as Mr Beaumont or his agents should think fit.' His services are set forth in a memorandum which although not signed was acted upon as appears by the regular payment of his salary and by six months notice being given. I therefore in these observations treat that memorandum as a valid agreement it not being in my province to consider how far the parties then acting for Mr Beaumont approved or disapproved of its terms. Those services are distinctly specified to be

1st To give his attendance at the Mills when required (and I mention this because the mere duty of making assays is one which might be performed in a laboratory or Assay office at Blaydon or Newcastle.)

2nd To make Assays and

3rd To examine the various substances produced or employed at the said Mills.

I have very carefully considered the import of these words for on their meaning the claim of Dr. Richardson greatly depends and I think that unless the memorandum were rejected altogether it would only be fair to Dr. Richardson to take a liberal view and err on the side of generosity rather than of too hard & strait an interpretation. I was desirous to obtain correct information as to the actual amount of services rendered by Dr. Richardson and on instituting enquiries I was unable ascertain that any distinct and positive advantage to Mr Beaumonts Service had resulted from his labours except the case for which a specific claim is made. On the contrary a strong feeling was expressed that he had not supplied Assays when required etc. Finding however that some degree of personal feeling existed on one if not both sides I have endeavoured to avoid any dependence on the Statements and Opinions expressed on either side and confine myself to such evidence as is entirely free from uncertainty.

The more I have reflected on the subject the more am I satisfied that the terms of the Agreement afford ample means of judging whether any absolute right or claim exists and I will endeavour for the information of yourself and any other party you may desire to consult, to express my own views as clearly as I can.

The Agreement of Feb 5th 1840 after specifying the duties and salary of Dr. Richardson proceeds to make a reservation in his favor and the points at issue are

First: Is the Improvement in question included in the sphere of Dr. Richardsons duties as specified in the agreement. Or

Second: Is it such an improvement as comes within the spirit and meaning of the reservation And

Third: If so what Sum is to be deemed an adequate remuneration for such improvement.

I have in the first place to observe that I consider that the terms of the Agreement should be viewed in a liberal & generous spirit, that the meaning should be taken as Men of Business would commonly construe it & not confined to a hard and literal interpretation. This I understand Dr Richardson entirely approves and it is in my opinion just to all parties in such a case. If the precise and literal acceptation of the words of the reservation are taken they appear to me to be such as no prudent Agent would make binding on his Principal. They have the effect of making the £100 salary incapable of producing any beneficial result arising out of Dr Richardsons services. It is stated that if he (Dr. R) shall discover or suggest any means or process whereby any matter process or thing 'connected with Smelting & Refining 'may be improved, altered or in any way changed' so as to render the Manufacture of lead & Silver better or cheaper etc etc.

These words include every range of possibility of improvement and their exact import is the 100£ should be paid yearly to Dr. Richardson for his Attendance at the Mills - for his assays - for his examining the substances produced or employed - But that if when at the Mills - or when Assaying - or when examining any Lead or Coal etc etc he should suggest any thing that should be really useful then in [underlined: 'every such case'] he was to claim special payment. I consider this interpretation strict though it be, to be utterly at variance with the plain common sense meaning of all such agreements whether with Chemists or any other professional persons employed in a Mining or Manufacturing concern. If benefit was not to result from the attendance and examination of substances - why attend or why examine - why receive a salary of 100£ unless some benefit was to be derived? If any dependence is placed on the literal bearing of the words as implying (as the words certainly do) that every improvement - every beneficial change was to be paid for then it will be necessary to look at the other words with equal strictness and to consider - Did Dr. Richardson in the case before us 'Discover or Suggest' the improvement in question and it appears to me doubtful whether either of these words in strictness apply to the share which Dr. Richardson had in introducing the calcining process. That process as I am informed had been patented and had been used at Messrs Burnets works. It was therefore not such a Discovery as could afford to Mr Beaumont or Dr. Richardson the special advantages which are named in the agreement - viz. of Mr Beaumont having 'Liberty' to use it and that Dr. Richardson might take out a patent. These terms seem to me very clearly to point out the kind of Discovery which was to be the subject of special remuneration. That it was not for any change or improvement but for any Discovery which might give to Mr Beaumont the 'Liberty' of using a process which other parties had not liberty to use except by paying Patent rights etc. Now this process it appears was an Expired Patent - was in use at Messrs Burnets - Dr. Richardson could grant no 'liberty' to Mr Beaumont nor could he have obtained a Patent.

The 'Suggesting' of this process claimed by Dr. Richardson if considered with inference to what I consider the precise and literal tendency of the words employed, is materially qualified by the circumstances stated by Dr. Richardson himself so much so as to admit of a reasonable doubt whether even on that ground a just title could be founded. The word itself implies originating a plan. The examination of the Lead was directed by Mr Johnson. Dr. R conceived that a particular mode of treatment would perhaps answer - he received conflicting opinions from <Lubig> & others and states (Oct 17th 1845) that in Consequence of the Conflicting opinions he was (to use his own words) 'afraid to recommend the Plan being carried out.' This does not appear to me to be the kind of recommendation & 'suggestion' which demands special recompense. Mr Johnson has asked him 'to turn his attention to the Slag lead with the view of devising some plan for effecting its sale' - he corresponds with eminent Chemists and after receiving their opinions is 'afraid to recommend the Plan being carried out' - What then takes place - I use Dr. Richardson's own statement as one which he at all events cannot object to 'Mr Johnson finding the Red Lead Ovens would answer, at once

determined to try the plan as in case of failure the furnaces could be applied to another purpose.'

The experiment was tried and answered and Dr. Richardson in the manner above stated was undoubtedly the means by which the experiment was instituted. It is therefore for consideration whether if the terms of the Agreement are taken strictly the Improvement in question can be considered as having been Discovered or Suggested by Dr. Richardson.

As the general spirit and tendency of the Agreement however is that in which Dr. Richardson himself seems willing to acquiesce I take that meaning to be that Dr. Richardson was to be employed as an Operative Chemist at the Works when required (as he was in this instance) that not only was he to make Assays but also to examine and analyse any substances produced or employed at the Mills. Surely the object of such attendance & Examination must have been to produce some beneficial result - some Economy in working - some selection of more suitable coal - some improvement in quality - some removal of Defect - something as specially directed by Mr Johnson in this case that would render the Lead more saleable. For examining the substances produced or employed with a view as I conceive to such results Dr. R was to receive 100£ a year. If he pointed out some cheaper mode of working or suggested a better selection of coal or effected any improvement in the quality of the Lead etc it is certain that any improvement or Economy introduced in so large a concern would soon amount to 3, 4 or even 5 hundred pounds a year and the largest of these sums is an inconsiderable percentage on so large a produce as Mr Beaumonts and neither the means of improvement nor the amount of saving appear to me to come within the spirit of the Agreement. By Dr. Richardson's own showing the introduction of the process seems to have depended more on the experimental trial undertaken by Mr Johnson than on any confident recommendation of Dr. Richardson and I am informed that a workman was procured from Walker who attended to the details of the experiment & received special recompence for the same. Admitting therefore that Dr Richardson when requested to examine the Slag Lead performed his duty with zeal and ability - that he took an Enlightened view of the requirements of the case - that he obtained valuable opinions thereon - that he was the channel by which the knowledge of such a process was conveyed to Mr Beaumonts Agent it does not appear to me that in any of these services he attained the position indicated in the Reservation clause. He did not as I conceive originate or bring about any process to which the terms 'Liberty to employ such means etc' could apply to Mr Beaumont. Candidly viewing the manner in which this process was introduced - Mr Johnson's hap-hazard experiment notwithstanding Dr. R's being afraid to recommend the plan being carried out - taking all this into consideration it would be the height of absurdity to suppose that any clause in an agreement was necessary under the circumstances to give Mr Beaumont liberty to use the process in question. If however Dr. R had discovered some New process of such importance (and herein the whole matter hangs) as to induce him to take out a patent, he was by this agreement authorized to do so. In this case Mr Beaumont would not have had 'Liberty' to use such patented process unless a special

reservation were made. A special reservation gives Mr Beaumont Liberty to use such process and as a compensation for such liberty is to make a special payment over and above the Salary.

I do not however wish to confine the matter to the actual taking out of a Patent although it seems evident that to such case alone the term 'liberty' could apply. I do not in the case before me discover any of those marks which indicate the amount of importance of such discoveries and suggestions as I think were really meant by the parties under that agreement. The process in question as I am informed by a Competent authority had been in use many years. It was not claimed as a discovery by Dr. R. in any publication or any public announcement. It was not available as a Patent and the sum of 200£ claimed as a recompense for its suggestion to the London Lead Compy has not been yet paid though the amount is not objected to if it should be adopted in their works. These are the considerations that weigh with me even while admitting the utmost extent of improvement stated by Dr. Richardson. I have looked at it solely as a matter of claim and Dr. R. considers its being withheld as an act of Injustice.

It is extremely unpleasant to have go back into a Transaction of from 4 to 6 years ago and it would have given me a heartfelt pleasure if I could have seen my way as a matter of business to recommend the payment of his claim of £500 or the lesser sum of £200 with which he would I understand be satisfied. I have a very high opinion of his Character and Attainments & deeply sympathetic with him in the Troubles & Adventures which have befallen him. I am strongly inclined to think that if under the consideration of his having been the means of effecting an improvement which was perhaps more valuable in its indirect effects on the sale of Mr Beaumonts Lead than important in the actual money obtained for the Slag Lead - If under this consideration you would take into account that Dr. Richardson is a man who is greatly esteemed as a worthy & well meaning person and as an able and industrious man of science - that the sum he requires would be of great importance to him and that he may possibly at some future time be able to promote Mr Beaumonts Interests and I can assure you I have always looked forward to desiring advantage from his professional skill which, in the estimation of the late Mr Buddle promised to become a valuable addition to the scientific character of the North of England. On Considerations such as these I would not hesitate to recommend Mr Beaumont to make him a present of £200 as an acknowledgment of the advantage gained by his process and which though not, for the reasons I have stated due as a strict obligation, would I hope eventually prove a not misplaced generosity. A wealthier man with such an agreement signed would probably have tried his case at Law. This is out of Dr. R's power and affords I humbly suggest another reason for dealing with liberality in this case. I am well aware that some other considerations have been mixed up with this claim not immediately connected with its intrinsic merits such as the delay in its being made until notice was given that Dr. R's services were not longer required and I am inclined to believe that if he had not felt the pressure of adverse circumstances he would not have urged this claim of the justice of which he is doubtless in his own mind thoroughly persuaded

and I may observe that it is the opinion of two of the ablest scientific friends I have consulted in the matter that his claim as depending on the agreement is stronger than it appears to me, viewed as a matter of right.

It is my opinion that much future benefit may accrue to this property by the application of sound Chemical knowledge and I may mention that before I entered on this Agency I had heard for the first time of the existence of Minerals which had hitherto been unworked in these districts from Dr. Richardson. I am now in treaty for the working of some of these minerals under arrangements which promise to be beneficial and convinced as I am of Dr. R's general ability & many estimable qualities I would be very glad if you approve of leaving the decision of his claim in the hands of any third party who may be able & willing to take all these points into Consideration. I have not come to any hasty decision. I have reflected most maturely on all the details & I have endeavoured to express my generous sentiments and careful conclusions thereon.

T. Sopwith

3 Feb 1847 Robert Smith to Thomas Sopwith

[Note: NRO 2762 Box C32]

Spring House Feb 3rd 1847

Mr Sopwith,

Dear Sir,

According to your request, I take the liberty of stating the particulars of my application.

The Burntshield Haugh Mine Co. holds a grant from Lord Crewe Trustees, and also from Geo. Silvertop esqr, to work a Lead Ore vein running North & South in the liberties adjoining T W Beaumonts Royalty, bounding on the Deils [sic] water in Hexhamshire, near to Lillswood; and passing through into Hackford estates. The said vein has been worked by the Blckett, or Beaumont Family, about 100 Years ago, by a shaft sunk on the North side of the Water, which is now filled up.

The present Co. has been making a trial in the south side of the water, in the Trustees side, for above 6 years, and has now a powerful Water Wheel it wants to sink into lower sills and make a new winning, which may, if successful, be of advantage in winning the vein in Mr Beaumont's side also. If so, we will thank you, if at liberty to let the same, to let us have the privilege of pursuing the vein into Mr Beaumont's liberty, as it cannot be worked without the aid of our engine to pump out the water; and connects itself with our winning if worked at all.

In the top sills, it has been worked about 60 Fathoms, when the vein came to a clay dike which, I understand, cut her off and she was given up. This is the best information I can give you about it.

If our applications meet with your approval, we shall be glad to receive your reply; and if you want any information further I will call upon you at Allenheads.

I am, in behalf of the Co.,

Your humble servt

Robt Smith

Agent and Shareholder

(To Mr Thomas Sopwith Agent, Allenheads)

[Filing note:] From Robt Smith Feb 3 1847

25 Jul 1848 Thomas Bewick to Robert Smith

[Note: NRO 2762 Box C32 – belated reply to Smith’s letter of 17 months before. The clerk who replied on Sopwith’s behalf is not named, but the initials appear to suggest it was Thomas H Bewick, who worked for Sopwith.]

Allenheads, Haydon Bridge

July 25th 1848

Gentn

With reference to your application for leave to work a vein of Lead Ore at Burnt Shield Haugh in the Manor of Hexham I am requested by Mr Sopwith to inform you that acting on behalf of Thos W. Beaumont Esqr. he declines making any arrangement at the present time but the subject will be open for reconsideration in the course of next year if you should then desire it.

I am Gentn

Your Obedient Servt

<T.J.B.>

[struck out: ‘Mr Robt Smith’]

The Burnt Shield Haugh Mining Company

(Mr Robt Smith, Spring House, Slaley, Hexham)