

**29 Aug 1792 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesfield 29<sup>th</sup> August 1792

Sir,

Isaac would acquaint you that the flood on Sunday night took away 1/3 of the Dam here, the water was in the new mill and among the Waste Work &c but the damage done there trifling; the waters were so high that I could not see the other Mills till yesterday, the Dam at Allenheads Mill much injured and the races all wrecked up; Rookhope Dam quite swep't away and races wrecked. I order'd men to be set on to clear the Races at the Mills and once the waters are so little that men can stand to work in them shall set People to make temporary repairs at the Dams. The good affect of the purchase of the Stapples is now felt, for we had made a cut in that Estate to gain a greater head of Water w[hi]ch we Yesterday opened; by which we shall be able to repair the Dam at this Mill without the Works being stop'd a single day.

Mr Oakes the Engineer was here last Thursday and has undertaken to improve the Cylinder Bellows and erect at Allenheads Mill 2 Cylinders that will work the four hearths with less water than with the present Leather Bellows. His terms &c I shall acquaint you more fully w[he]n we meet. I am w[i]th due deference

Sir your mo[st] H[um]ble Servt,

Isaac Hunter

John Erasmus Blackett Esq, Westgate St, Newcastle

**29 Sep 1792 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesfield 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 1792

Sir,

At the meeting yesterday the Committee and Surveyor produced a Plan and estimate of the intended road pointing out the improvements to be made and the expense of each, w[hi]ch amounted to the whole £6500 s d; it's to go by Marley Mill / wth a branch to Pont Burn. Subscription was opened & £4000 subscribed [sic] (as on the other side): another meeting was fix'd on the 15<sup>th</sup> Octobr at Wolsingham at which the Committee are to acquaint the meeting with the additional subscriptions, being desired to apply by lre [letter] to those they thought wished well to the Road and the Subscribers then to settle the places for the Toll gates and other clauses of the Bill & choose their Solicitor w[hi]ch they may do by lre in proportion to the sum sub[scribe]d none under £50 to vote. Mr. Ormsby of Darlington & Mr Peter Hunter of Durham are the Candidates. there's not a doubt but a Bill will be carried into Parliament and if Mr. Beaumont does not subscribe at the next meeting his Agents cannot wth propriety propose any clauses to be inserted in the intended Act. That a good road through that Country to Alston will undoubtedly be a great advantage to the Country in general & to Mr. Beaumont's Works there by provisions &c coming cheaper. The Trustees ought to be limited in their power in the Act or the Road will be long of being finish'd for several of the

gentlemen at the meeting seemed [sic] shy to have it any further then Chapel and as there'd not above 5 or 6 Gentlemen above Wolsingham qualified to be Commis[ione]rs the whole of the Business will be directed by the Commis[ione]rs East of Wolsingham so that the west part will have the disadvantage of Turnpike Gates without a Good Road; as has been the case of several Turnpikes if not prevented by the Act. Mr Peter Hunter beg you'll name him as a Candidate for Solicitor to Mr Beaumont, hoping of his being acquainted wth his Brother the Cap[tai]n now in Friday that he'll honour him with his Interest. I am

Sir

Your most H[um]ble servt  
Isaac Hunter

Subscribers

|                 |      |                    |       |
|-----------------|------|--------------------|-------|
| Alstone Moor    | £550 | Brought forwd      | £3050 |
| Mr Tweddell &c  | £300 | Mr Hall            | £100  |
| Mr Curry        | £300 | B Fenwick for      |       |
| Mr Wright       | £200 | Mr Scafe/Seafe     | £100  |
| Mr Clavering    | £400 | do Dr Huntley      | £100  |
| Revd Mr Dent    | £100 | do Revd Mr Ellison | £100  |
| Mr Burdon       | £100 | do M. Swinburn     | £200  |
| Mr Greenwell    | £100 | Tho Rowell         | £ 50  |
| Revd Mr Harding | £200 | Jose Watson        | £ 50  |
| Revd Mr Wilson  | £100 | Crs Emerson        | £100  |
| Mr Manners      | £200 | Thos Chapman       | £ 50  |
| Mr Wren         | £100 | Jno Emerson        | £ 50  |
| Jackson & Smith | £100 | Mr Walis           | £ 50  |
| Mr Dighton      | £100 |                    |       |
|                 |      |                    | £4000 |

**7 Oct 1794 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesfield 7<sup>th</sup> October 1794

Sir,

Isaac shall return to your office when ever you please to order him for I never meant that he should have left it if not agreeable to you and it must be much more desirable to me, to have him in an Office where he's receiving an Salary than with me with none; I wish you could let him stay till Carriage close at the several Mills as I am not yet able to travel on Horse Back but am gaining strength daily; that I hope I shall not be long of being so. I shall always acknowledge your Friendship on this acco[un]t w[i]th the greatest gratitude w[hi]ch I doubt will be all the return that I can ever make for your many favours that I have rec[eive]d f[ro]m you.

It surprised me to find by yours that the Refinery had don less work in this than in former years knowing that the Refiners (working by the piece) are as anxious as soe can be to work a large quantity of Lead in the yr made me look into the acc[oun]ts & have below given you the quantity of Lead reduced each year to the 3d of October for the last 4 yrs by which you'll see that it has don more this year then any of the other 3 yrs owing to the Furnaces not wanting repairs this yr within that time. I shall do what's in my power to forward the Lead to Blaydon before winter tho we always have a slack in the Lead carriage in Corn Harvest & Wheat see time both of which I hope are nearly over. I am

Sir your mo[st] Obliged and H[um]ble servt  
Isaac Hunter

No p[iece]s Reduced fm Jan to 3d October

|      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1791 | 1792 | 1793 | 1794 |
| 8549 | 8264 | 8673 | 9216 |

Jno E Blackett, Charlotte Square, Newcastle

**25 Oct 1794 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesfield 25<sup>th</sup> October 1794

Sir,

Yours of the 23<sup>rd</sup> I rec'd yesterday and shall attend to the contents as to forwarding the Lead to Markett by every means practicable at this season have wrote to Mr Emerson to know how the East Carriage men are affected, whether they will continue to take it f'm the Bankfoot as long as we can get it there; w[hi]ch I think they ought to do, from the indulgence they have; we are sending refined lead as it's made, and the Refiners does not less a Day. There's more Ore at the Mills than can be smelted before the spring except Allanheads and if the Winter should be frosty even there. I cannot form any certain Idea what quantity will be wanting to kepp the Refinery at Blaydon working till the Carriage start in the Spring, not knowing what they work in the week or the sorts of Lead now upon the Roads; but should suppose that whats on the Roads of Refinable Lead and will be taken f'm Rookhope this latter end of the season will keep Her going till the Carriage start in the Spring.

Isaac shall return once the Carriage stops when if my health would permit me to do the business he should remain; which I now fear for since my last lre to you have been at Hexham and tho' in a Carriage the effects of the journey I felt for several days, but may be grown too timorous, which time may remove on the 17<sup>th</sup> of Nov[embe]r I hope to be able to come down for the Subsistance M[one]y (w[hi]ch must be £200 or 150 at of least) when we can talk the matter over in regard to Isaac. Your friendship respecting which I must ever remember wth respect & gratitude. I am

Sir your mo[st] Obliged and H[um]ble servt  
Isaac Hunter

**20 Feb 1797 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

[Isaac Hunter senior had died while out amongst his haymakers at Dukesfield in August 1796]

Dr Sir,

Yours las night

I do remember our conversation at Newb. Respecting the Monthly [sic] accts which has since given me much uneasiness & the more so you having had occasion again to repeat your Orders, but do assure you their not being sent was not from inattention but owing to their being sent back to Rookhope to correct, Mr. Smith had sent me them but on my going to Rookhope found a great Quant[it]y of Lead had been taken up at the Mill by Thos Pringle & laid down on the opposite side of the Burn; I had it led back informed Mr Smith his accts that after filing & telling it might be added to the Stock in hand.

The sudden death of my Father who's Finances it was necessary for me to enquire immediately into & not being acquainted with his own affairs, took much of my Time; tho I cannot admit the above justified my not send[in]g punctually the Allen Mill Accts but trust to your forgiveness, & sh[oul]d they not arrive punctually in future, to convince you the Neglect does not fall on me

I am Dr Sir

Yr Ob[edien]t Servt

I Hunter

Dukesfd 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 97

To Jno E Blackett, Charlotte Sq, Newcastle

**16 Jul 1798 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dr Sir,

I this day sent H Bulman a piece fine Silver weighing 955 oz

[added underneath in a different hand:] H.B. 752 ½

On the 23d will wait on you for Subsistence for Col Beaumont's Workmen, When I shall trouble you for £300.

I am Dr Sir

Yr Ob[edien]t Servt

I Hunter

Dukesfd 16<sup>th</sup> July 98

PS. I have sent what Refined & Comon Lead we had at this mill to Blaydon

To Jno E Blackett, Charlotte Sq, Newcastle

**8 Aug 1798 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dr Sir,

I recd a line from Mr <P.> Harrison requesting to have 10 tons of the Old Metal, he proposes giving £4 pr Ton delivered at Blaydon. I shall bring his letter with me on the 17<sup>th</sup> inst for your opinion; & at that time will thank you for £300 for Col Beaumont's Workmen.

I am Dr Sir

Yr Ob[edien]t Servt

I Hunter

Dukesfd 8<sup>th</sup> Aug 1798

To Jno E Blackett, Charlotte Sq, Newcastle

**8 Oct 1798 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Crawhall**

Dr Sir,

Have enclosed you an Acct of the Rents & Land Tax &c. Mr Sparke has been very remiss, or wd have got it sent sooner, I applied twice by Letter & yesterday sent a Servant but Mr Sparke was from home as also the Collector.

Yesterday I saw a great many of the Carriagemen & today intend to go to Whittonstall & Fotherlys.

I am Dr Sir in haste

Yr Obl Servt

I Hunter

Dukesf 8<sup>th</sup> Oct 98

Lintzgarth Farm is held by Lease of the Bishop of Durham & pays 5s4d Land Tax, Crook Oak leased of Mr Silvertop, Land Taz for it is 4s4d: I did not but those into the Acct thinking W Blackett wd not purchase the Land Tax of them . Stanhope to be leased of the Bishop also pays no Land Tax. If W Blackett wd to have it made in any other form than the one sent will readily alter it. I have sent you the silver acct & by next week will send you another plate.

Mr. Tho Crawhall

Col Beaumont's office

Westgate St, N'castle

**5 Nov 1798 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dr Sir,

I have rec'd a line from Mr. Sparke informing me that the North Chimney at Allenheads Mill was blown down about 11 O'Clock this morning, he does not say what damage the Building has otherwise received, the Workmen are no worse, intend being there in the morning & get the Chimney covered in, or rebuilt.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> will wait on you at Hexham for subsistence, when I shall be obliged to you for £300.

I am Dr Sir

Yr Ob[edien]t Servt

I Hunter

Dukesfd 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 98

To Jno E Blackett, Charlotte Sq, Newcastle

**30 Jan 1799 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Crawhall**

Dr Sir,

Yours dated the 26<sup>th</sup> inst I rec'd last night the Land Tax for Lintzgarth is allowed but not for Crook Oak. There are no other Estates in Rookhope but Lintzgarth that comes into my rental that pays Land Tax. The Redburn Mr Bell has the management of, I have sent a Servant to him acquainting him with the purport of your Letter

I am in haste

Dr Sir Yr Obl Servt

I Hunter

Dukesfd 30 Jan 1799

Mr. Tho Crawhall  
Col Beaumont's office  
Westgate St, N'castle

**26 Sep 1799 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dr Sir,

I am sorry you should have given Col Beaumont the trouble of writing to me respecting the lead carriage. I am confident I always obeyed your orders as punctually as lay in my power & that every attention has been paid towards forwarding the Lead as expeditiously as possible. I have adopted every method I could devise for that purpose: when Col Beaumont's Lre [letter] came to Dukesfield I was amongst the Carriagemen on the northside of Derwent. Mr Smith took the Southside what I saw

promised to have what they had on hand to Blaydon in the course of next month & should suppose Mr Smith wd meet with the like success.

I wd wish, if you are agreeable, to have an acct of the Rec[eip]t of the Rookhope Lead monthly to compare with the delivery at the Mill, the Carr[ier] by that means whose Lead was not at Blaydon, wo[ul]d be refused having more at the Mill until his Tickett was produced, it wo[ul]d also be the means of preventing them from so frequently taking one anothers lead I think it wd rather increase the Number of Carriagemen than decrease them, many who are very careful of their Lead have it picked up near the pays by those who seldom looks after it until the eve of the pay.

Yesterday I saw a Carr[ier] of the Comp[an]y & two of Greenwich Hospital I think I wd let them a 1000 or more by Hexham to Newburn in a Fortnights time if you are agreeable to have any sent that way at a 1d pr piece advance.

We had a very heavy rain in the Night of Saturday wch continued all Sunday, this Water was very high but fortunately highest from 8 o'clock until 3 in the Afternoon, all the workmen near came to assist in saving the Wood, Metals and other Utensils belonging the Mill which they effected near £30 worth of Cinders were taken from the New Mill Door owing to the Low Dam giving way, the stress of Water then coming across the end of the <fold> & to the end of the new Mill: the Corner of the Dam at Allan Mill is also gone & the races nearly filled with Gravel, today I expect they will have them cleared again. The damage there I think trifling

The Wears at the Steel are standing but much impaired. Mr Hall & Co's new Dam is entirely gone.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> next month I will wait upon you Subsistence Money & hope to make £250 answer at this time: on the otherside have given you an acct of lead delivered.

I am Dr Sir

Yr Ob[edien]t Servt

I Hunter

26 Sept 1799

|                               | Slag  | Ore Lead | Reduced |
|-------------------------------|-------|----------|---------|
| Dukesfield Mill               | 3290  | 18467    | 9897    |
| Delivered from Bankfoot       | 14987 |          |         |
| To Blaydon                    |       |          |         |
| Rem[ainin]g in the yard       | 180   | 15167    |         |
| Dukesfd 12 stone lead deliv'd | 6028  |          |         |
| Rem[ainin]g in the yard       | 1068  |          | 7096    |
|                               |       | <hr/>    | <hr/>   |
|                               |       | 3300     | 2801    |

I have no acct of what has been sent but by the Bankfoot, the greatest part of the above I expect at the Yard by the 7<sup>th</sup>