

14 Aug 1734 John Armstrong to Joseph Richmond

[Note: On the other side of the paper the letter is addressed: 'to Mr Joseph Richmond in Pilgrim Street Newcastle Post 6d'. On the wrapper is '1734 - J. Armstrong's Lre & plan relating to Wall Fell Mine'. 'Sun' means 'South'. The map referred to is now missing.]

Mr Richmond

Augt:14:1734

Inclosed I have sent you a draught of a part of Fallowfield Groves vizt. how much deeper that water Level is, than the drift wch. goes through Acomb fell wch. you'l find by the draught to be 25 fathm., to give you a draught of all the Sumps, drifts, & workings &c under this Level, is of no use because wrought out where any ore could be got, Some of the under drifts Run together others Drown'd wth. water, and therefore wd only perplex your notion, as to the carrying a drift through Acomb Comon 25 fathm. Deeper than the Drift alrdey put through that Comon wch. is 360 yards in length it wd give Mr Blacket a fair prospect of a promising Grove on wall fell, when we Sunk a shaft 12 fathom and got in the Sinking 4 or 5 bing of ore, Aftter we put away a drift, and at the End of that drift Sunk a Sump Came to a Sunside i.e. Cheak'd a strong plain Stone and the vein went fairly down by the Side of this Sill, and we were in the greatest hopes that could be, for in Sinking we got Severall pieces of ore, but as soon as we Came under the Level of that drift brought up Acomb fell, we were Drown'd out, and So She Stands, we thought of taking the advantage of a Coal [wast] to the Sun which takes all the water, but aftter found we were Allridy under that Level

I shall now compair my hopes & doubts in Relation to all the three Libertys - wall fell has (as I said above) a promising vein & A fair Streak of ground for a mile in Length in Mr Blackets Liberty, And if a drift were brought throught Acomb Liberty at the deepness Above mention'd we Should have a whole field water free for 52 fathm. Deep

But then Acomb Drift may Cost 630 pounds as youl find by the perticulars in the mapp, whether undertakers wd be at that dead Charge (if it prove dead) is a question to be consider'd

Again here is Some danger undertakers may be Incident to from Fallowfield Old Level, for if the water Should Stop in the Lowest Drift which is about 1300 yards in Length, and has not been Repaird nor not passable this 16 or 18 years, I say if the water Should Stop Since the Ginn is taken away, who could Loose it, to come in before, if it be posable to get to the Stop, whoever attempts to Loose it that way; would be Swept away if a hund[. missing] they wd. be drown'd, and Come behind it all wd. be Choak'd wth water all the hopes is that the weight of water may Press it Self away through those deep and unseen Caverns

I am Sir your Humble Servt
John Armstrong

P:S Quere if Acomb Comon doth not belong to Mr Blacket as well as wall Comon

10 Jul 1761 Andrew Adamson to John Armstrong

Friday July 10th. 1761

Sr

The slide sump goes on very slowly for want of hands now, and since the Sinkers came being upwards of 3 Months, there is only about 2 1/6 Fathoms sunk of which nigh $\frac{3}{4}$ Fathoms was Coal & Famp Renwick is at a loss to get Men, yet unwilling to quit his Bargain, he says he's a <lease> & desired I wou'd not sett others to it, According to my Orders I therefore alow'd him to'day and to'morrow to procure hands, the which if he dos not gett, I will sett on others, upon Monday. I write Mr. Cookson to this effect, and as probably you may see him to'morrow, pray know whither, or not, he is willing that Renwick shou'd give up the which I shou'd be glad to know upon sunday by a Line from your hand. Watsons people are still getting part Ore, The other places are much at a stand for want of Air, which I am endeavouring to remedy at the less Cost.

It shall always be my stuty to Act so, as Merit my Master's favour, the which I hope you'l be so good as always to assist me to by your good advice, for the which, and hitherto Instances of your favour, I shall retain a gratefull sense make what retaliation is in my power and ever be

Sr, Your most Oblig'd hble Servt
Andrew Adamson

[addressed on verso:] to Mr. Jno. Armstrong at Matfen

1 Aug 1762 Nicholas Walton to John Armstrong

[Note: The letter is addressed 'To Mr Armstrong at Matfin'.]

Farnaces Sunday Morn:1:Augt 1762

Sir

The bearer Ralph Marley Engine Wreight & Gawen Croan Engine Keeper, comes to Enter upon their respective Offices at Fallowfd. Engine the former at Ten Shillings a Week & the latter at Eight Shillings, you to provide them Houses and Fireing. R Marley is at present a Single Man, but may probably alter his Scituation, in that pticular, in wch Case he must have a House and Firing. Gawen Croan has the Same Wages, I have mentioned above, from us, & has a Family Employed under Lord Ravensworth, wch must be provided for, with work as valuable to him, as what they now have, or he will be a looser by comeing to Serve you. I must therefore desire you will take care, that the poor Man may not be a Sufferer; & I have no Doubt but both he

and Ralph Marley, will behave so well, as to deserve your Notice and Encouragement. They are both Sober Men, & I dare Say will doe all in their power.

I am Sir Your Humble Servt.

Nicho Walton

[addressed on verso:] to Mr. Armstrong at Matfin

12 Aug 1762 Andrew Adamson to John Armstrong

Fallowfield Lead Mine 12th Augt. 1762

Sir

By the bearer hereof I send you three different Papers, each shewing the Expence of the Grove & how it ariseth from the 11th. Octbr. 1760, to the 4th. of June 1762 as it is in the Books, to the which I refer you, in Case the Papers don't satisfy; it not being in my powers to make it appear more plain without Transcribing the whole of the Books.

We have had no Stopes, but one smal one, this week, for four weeks bypast and have made a pretty good progress in the Lowforehead (which Still bears a strong Brangled Ore, and seems to amend) however there must be a total stop after this week, till reparations be made of almost every thing about the Engine, & Slide<s>, they being found much neglected & thereby run almost to ruin.

Gawin Crone wants much to have his Wife here, but there is word of Pauls Peoples departing as yet. Pray bring the Papers with you upon Monday and I am

Sr Your most Hble Servt

Andw. Adamson

[addressed on verso:] to Mr. Jno. Armstrong at Matfen

12 Dec 1765 Andrew Adamson to Thomas Jones

Fallowfield Leadmine, 12th Decr. 1765

Friend Thomas,

The Barr lead I have sent you by the following Persons are as followes Viz

William Smith & Forster	2400
John Walton	425
William Cant	199
John Soppit	170
John Charlton	115
Mathw. Robson	160
Nichs. Scott	90

3559

As I have been disapointed in coming down Pray be so good as deliver the inclos'd, bring up with you the commision there in, and send it p[er] John Walton or any of these that carried our Lead. do not neglect as we stand in immediate need and I am Dr. Friend

Your mot. Hble Sert.
And. Adamson

[addressed on verso:] to To Mr. Thos. Jones at Newburn

2 Jan 1766 Thomas Jones to John Armstrong

[Note: A scrap of paper with a receipt for money received.]

By the Hand of John Armstrong.

Matfen January 2nd 1766 Received of the Owners of Fallowfield Lead mine the Sum of Thirteen Pounds Thirteen Shillings on Account of Wherry hire from Newburn to Newcastle of Lead, I say Reced. As above £13:13s: 0d

For mee – Thos. <I>ons

to 3559 peices of Lead at 1d p piece - £14:16:7

[in a different hand:] The above is to & with 12th. Decr 1765 as p[er] Mr Adamsons Acct

9 Jan 1773 Teasdale Mowbray

[Note: Mowbray, Lee and Cookson leased Fallowfield mine from Edward Blackett. See also Blackett's response on 24th April. Teasdale Mowbray was the son of George Mowbray who had been Sir William Blackett's steward at Allenheads.]

Coppy

Newcastle the 9. Jany. 1773

At a meeting held at Mr Loftus's in regard to Fallowfield Lead Mine. Present Teasdaile Mowbray Esqr. Mr Nichs. Lee & Mr Cookson.

That Sir Edward Blackett be requested to grant a Lease for 21 years from this time, on the Parties giving up & cancelling the Old Lease.

That as it is the Opinion of Mr Walton that the Expending further Sums to the East will be no ways Prudent. The above named Parties will make a Trial to the Westward about Longish & begin with it Directly.

That as it is Apprehended the Fire Engine will not be greatly Servisable at Longish but that a Water Ingine will Answer, the Concerned would request that the Materials of one may be Sold or made use of in the Other.

Teas: Mowbray / John Cookson / Nichs. Lee

9 Mar 1773 William Westgarth to John Erasmus Blackett

[Note: William Westgarth invented the hydraulic engine he recommends to J.E.Blackett for dewatering Fallowfield. He was a mine agent for Walter Calverley Blackett. An ale gallon was 282 cubic inches, very slightly larger than the later imperial gallon.]

Whiteleeshield March 9th. 1773.

Sir

I have been either so unwell of a Pain in my Head, or so very busy, since I waited on you at Newcastle Octor. the 14th. 1772, that I have never been able to get properly forward with the calculations relating Fallowfield – lead-mine, and, but for the above reasons, should be ashamed to offer my thoughts now, so late. However, I have at last taken all the pains I can, and find, from what I have observed, and have been informed of, from time to time That

Westward

From the Engine Shaft, - which is 63 1/2 fathoms deep.

	fathms	Bank level
To – where Acomb level cuts the Vein at a Shaft Called Nook Shaft, it is Nook Shaft 27 fa: deep.	259	12
To where Mr.Walton propos'd an Engine, mark'd D, in his plan Which is not so deep as Acomb-level by 11 1/2 fathoms	547	27 1/2
To North-Tyne -level mouth	973	51 1/2
To Ditto level forehead	736	
And from Acomb level-head, at Nook Shaft To Tyne level forehead	477	
Now		fathms
The Bank-level from the Engine to Tyne, being		51 1/2
The Bank-level from the Engine to Nook Shaft		12
And the depth of Nook Shaft		27
Makes the level, from the Engine Shaft top, to Acomb-level head at Nook Shaft foot		39
Which, deducted from the depth of Tyne-level 51 1/2 fa: shews Tyne-level to be, deeper than Acomb-level, only		12 1/2

Of which probably has, and will be lost, in
driving up the sd. Tyne level to Nook Shaft

2 1/2

So that, the difference at most will be only about 10 faths. gain'd, by driving, or bringing up Tyne-level 477 faths. at 3 or 4 £ a fathm. provided you keep clear of all misfortunes.

From the above measurements &c. the ground west of the Engine, may, in my opinion be sufficiently tryed, with an Engine fix'd at Nook Shaft, called, The new statial Engine, being such a one as we mostly use in this Country now, as they are, not only the cheapest, but answers the purpose best where the fall is great, as at Nook-Shaft; or indeed any fall [above] 5 faths. and is the only one I know of that would ansr. the purpose there; which I think it would do, with the Water afforded by St. Oswalds Colliery and the other feeders you might collect to work it with.

It is a trial, like the others, that I would not be fond of Encouraging you in, tho' it is certainly the most promising of any about Fallowfield-mine, that I know of, done at the least expence & undoubtedly in the least time. The Engine may be mostly made from the Materials of the old one, if you choose to take it out; And Acomb-level and Nook-Shaft might soon be opened out; which Shaft with a little alteration would Ansr. for the Engine Shaft, as well as a drawing and climbing Shaft.

Your present feeders at Fallowfield is about 65 Ale-gallons pr minute in Summer, and 104 in Winter; which feeders, tho' not great, are considerably greater than I expect you would have at Nook Shaft; feeders I expect (I mean Nook-Shaft feeders) the New Engine would draw from the depth of 25 or 30 faths. below Acomb-level, where she would land her water; but the depth would be more, or less, in proportion to the quantity of water you would meet with.

I am Sir Your most obedient huml. Servt. to command
Wm. Westgarth

24 Apr 1773 Edward Blackett to Teasdale Mowbray

[Note: The 'gentlemen' are not named but it is clear from elsewhere that they were Teasdale Mowbray, John Cookson and Nicholas Lee, lessees of the mine. See the note of the meeting dated 9th Jan 1773.]

Sir Edward Blackett presents his Compliments to the Gentlemen who met at Mr. Loftus's on the 9th. of January 1773 In regard to Fallowfield Lead Mine.

He finds that the Lease of the Grove does not Expire till the Year 1782.

He cannot wish to have the present Lease cancelled, & to grant another of 21 Years; as he apprehends a very few Years will be sufficient to make any Tryal they can wish to make

As to the proposal of taking down the fire Engine & selling the Materials thereof, he hopes they will excuse him, If he cannot consent to it; but will concur with them, In building any Water Engine they shall think proper
Upper Brook Street 24th. April 1773.

21 Feb 1776 Edward Blackett to Teasdale Mowbray

[Note: Teasdale Mowbray was one of the partners who held the lease of Fallowfield mine. He was the son of George Mowbray who had been Sir William Blackett's steward at Allenheads.]

Egham 21st. Feby. 1776

Sir.

I dare say you are very Sensible, that the Grove at Fallowfield is much damaged, & must be soon <risk'd> by the discontinuance of the working of the Engine; The Water having fill'd most of the underlevels, wch will soon <rise> together. As Proprietor of the Grove, Both in Justice to you & to myself; I think it is but right to acquaint you, that according to the lease, you are the Person that will be expected at the End of the Term, to put Everything <In> good condition, & to leave the whole In proper working order according to the Terms of the Lease.

As I would be willing on my part to do what what I can to disengage you & yr. family from these disagreeable conditions: If In a few months the debt of the grove [struck out: 'is given up'] Shall be paid & the mine, & the whole <use on the> premises be given up; I will accept of the resignation of the Lease & shall acquit you of all obligations on that account. I am wth. great regard Sr. yr most obt. Humle. Ser

EB

To Teasdale Mowbray, Esq.

[annotated on verso:]

Letters to Mr Mowbray about the Resignation of the lease of the groves. Feb 21 1776

7 Sep 1782 Edward Blackett to Teasdale Mowbray

[Note: Fair copy also sent to John Cookson. Writer unknown, but presumably the mine agent for Sir Edward Blackett.]

Copy of 2 Letters sent to Jno. Cookson Esqr. & Teas. Mowbray Esqr.

Matfen Sepr. 7th. 1782

Srs

I am desired to acquaint you by Sir Edward Blackett, that on the examination of the affairs belonging to the Grove at Fallowfield; Every thing is found In a very bad Situation; The Stewards house burnt down; most of the materials Stole; all the underground works Entirely <risk'd>.

[struck out: 'He is very Sensible'] by the covenant of the Lease the Partners are obliged to leave The Grove in working order & he is very sensible they may be compell'd to fullfill those conditions.

Altho: he must be a great sufferer by the neglect [struck out: 'of not working the <....> in not having In former years'] of the Grove's not having been work'd for some years & the Lease not being given up; yet he wishes to be as favorable to the Partners as possible; & In order to finish everything wth as little trouble and difficulty as maybe If they will pay him what is due for the Rent of the Stewards House & Smelting Mill; & acquit him of the payment of any Money due to the Bank on account of the <Robertes> he will acquit them of complying wth those covenants of the Lease, the fullfilling of wch. will be very chargeable to the Partnership.

He desires the favor of an answer as Soon as possible I am

Wh. great regard

12 Jun 1786 Westgarth Forster to Unknown

[Note: This report was probably prepared for Edward Blackett. Forster and Dickinson were mine agents for Thomas Wentworth Blackett.]

1786 June 12th: Viewed Fallowfield Mine

We are of opinion that the effectual Method of making a sufficient trial of Fallowfield Vein in the Sills west of the old Workings which are entirely whole, will be to make the old Man Level into a Horse Level, which is now already driven 237 faths. eastward from North Tyne, which may be done at 5/- a fathom, or thereabouts, after that is done to drive the present Level forehead in the same North String, which she now stands in, and upon a true Level, to the length of 100 or 120 faths. as air may allow to be driven; and then to sink a Shaft to the Level forehead, which we compute to be about 35 faths. deep, and undoubtedly will be to bore, but we believe both sinking and boring together may not cost above 70/- or 80/- a fathom at most, then a full Tryal may easy be made both ways in the whole ground, west of the old Workings, by regular crosscuts from the Level, as to the old Workings in Fallowfield Mine, we do not believe them to be worth noticing.

Westgarth Forster

Jos. Dickinson.

12 Jun 1786 John Erasmus Blackett to Edward Blackett

[Note: This note is undated but contains the same opinions as the report written by Forster and Dickinson in June 1786. For this reason it has been given the same date as the report. It is in John Erasmus Blackett's handwriting, so ascribed to him, and was possibly sent to the mine's owner, his brother Sir Edward Blackett.]

The Lead Stewards have been with me this Morning they yesterday was at Fallowfield Grove & took a View of the Old Level, they say that only 3 Fathom has been lost in the Carrying it <...> wch. they imagine was done to prevent the Tryal from getting into the Level, they recommend that it may be carried on as a Horse Level [struck out: 'wch. will be a considerable Saving & soon Pay for that Extra <Expence>'] tho attended with some additional expence will soon Pay itself [struck out: 'may be that Men will be sufficient to be employed in this Level'] The [struck out: 'Old'] <.....> Level is 237 Fathom wch. they say is of sufficient hight &c for a Horse Level & that the <espence> of [struck out: 'laying it with'] levelling the bottom & laying it wth. ash or Plain will not be above 5s p[er] fathom but that Oak will last longer that they recommend that the level be drove 120 Fathom further wch may be done at £2 p[er] Fathom it will then be necessary to sink a shaft of 35 Fathom wch will cost £4 p[er] F[athom] that the old workings will then be open & <having> sufficient trial it may then be made of the Mine at a small expence

237 Fath. at 5s p F	59 5 0
120 Fath. a £2	240 0 0
35 Fath. a £4	140
	439 5 0

17 Dec 1798 Edward Blackett to Thomas Richard Beaumont

[Note: From the content and mention of 'HE' (identified elsewhere as Henry Errington) it is clear this relates to St John Lee and St Oswalds collieries. The letter is unsigned, but in Edward Blackett's handwriting and from the content was evidently sent to Thos Beaumont as the mine's owner. It can probably be dated to mid-December 1798 given the timing of other related correspondence on the matter, included elsewhere in DD. Monday 17th is used here.]

My Dr Sir

I recd. the favour of yrs this Morning wherein you wish for my answer In regard to yr. offer of the Lease of the Collieries. I Should not have delay'd giving my answer, To any offer: but I waited till I knew yr. Intentions about them. When I had the pleasure of Seeing you at Hexham I took the liberty to tell you What I mentioned to <Sir T B>, & his answer. My Motive was; as the Collieries lay near to ours, & to our

Lead Mine, our haveing the lease of the Collieries Might be the Means of preventing any disputes; - our level I knew would be of great use to any persons who Should work the Collieries. yr. answer to me was that the bussiness In regard to the lease of the Collieries would be Settled at Newcastle the next day. - after that I heard that Mr. H.E. had made application for the lease; but he heard [inserted above: 'understood'] that I had already applyd for it he wh.drew his application & So that he woud not Interfere wth. Me about it not willing to Show less Civility & liberality than Mr. HE. I Immediately desired that It might be Signified to Mr HE that I did not wish to Interfere wth. Him so as to take that Colliery next his Brors. I only wished for that Colliery wch. was next to my own. - - -In answer to that to my great Surprise I heard that Mr. E. had orderd his Steward to bid £200 a year for the whole; & Mr. Bell had no doubt but he would have the use of our level: if Mr Bell would but have given me a line to have informed me how this affair went on It would have saved much time & trouble, I did not chuse to correspond wth my Bro[the]r about it as I did not wish for his Interference in any thing of that sort between you & me.

I had no profit In view when I ask'd for the lease & att the old rent I did not mean to have workd Longish Col. but whoever takes it att the advanced rent must Endeavour To Indemnify themselves.

I will accept of yr offer If I can prevail on Mr. Tulip who has a lease of my Colliery to join wh. me & give his assistance: I will accept of it because I think neither you nor I have been considard, & treated as we ought to have been In this affair.

I have troubled you thus far, to shew that the delay did not arise from me

I must now desire the favor that you would settle this matter just <as> it may suit best yr. convenience.

<Ly B> & my Son write wth me their most affect Regards & I am

17 Dec 1798 Edward Blackett to Henry Tulip

[Note: Undated, unaddressed and unsigned, but it clearly relates to colliery leases that had been under discussion in 1798. It is in Sir Edward's handwriting and since Tulip was asked to run the colliery for Sir Edward it is almost certainly written to him. In a letter of 24 Oct 1798 (see elsewhere in DD) to his brother Sir Edward, JEB noted that the present lease was to expire on 25th Decr, so this letter was clearly written in that month. It can probably be dated to much the same time as EB's letter to Beaumont given its content and Monday 17th December is used here.]

accepted Mr H Tulip

The affair of the Lease of the Colliery has Stood Still some time; I suppose they expected an application from me, & I expected an offer from Coll: Beaumont: a few days Since I recd. a letter from him Wherein he says I have this morning recd. a letter from my friend Mr. J Blackett who refers me to you for an answer respecting the Collieries of St. John Lee & St. Oswald. I hope you are assured I Shall be happy To give you The

preference, & will be glad to receive yr decision as soon as possible whether you are Inclined to give £200 pr ann. which has been offerd by Mr. H Errington – To Whom It is necessary to give a desisive answer as the lease is out the 25th of this Month