

[This Copy Letter Book was kept by Alston lead mine agents Jonathan Hilton, for the years between 1770-8 , and Robert Hodgson, for the years between 1784-94, in relation to their work for the Earl of Carlisle and the Cleaver family's mining leases on Alston Moor and elsewhere. These comprised the mines at Greengill West End and Howblagill on Alston Moor, at Stanhopeburn and Stanhopeburn (the Smelt Mill) in Weardale, and Feldon Foot Lead Smelting Mill near Muggleswick in County Durham.

The volume was found by Mrs M. Scott when clearing bookshelves on a farm on Alston Moor, donated by her to the Alston Moor Historical Society (AMHS), and has given her permission for its contents to be transcribed and made available for research purposes. The original is now held in the AMHS Archives, where it may be consulted by arrangement via their [website](#). The book is in three sections, one for letters to agents of the Earl of Carlisle and other correspondents, one when the book is turned over and opened from rear for letters exclusively to Mr. Cleaver and his son, and some central pages used later for Feldon Foot smelt mill accounts.

Frederick Howard, the 5th Earl of Carlisle (1748-1825) held three quarters of the lease, and the Cleaver family held the other quarter. The Alston agents were responsible to both owners, directly in the case of the Cleavers and to a variety of agents reporting to the Earl of Carlisle. The overall management of the Earl's estates is dealt with in Andrew I. M. Duncan, 'A Study of the Life and Public Career of Frederick Howard, Fifth Earl of Carlisle, 1748-1825', unpublished University of Oxford D.Phil thesis, 1981 which is available for download from the [OU Research Archive website](#).]

2 Jul 1770 Jonathan Hilton to William Forth

[Note: Jonathan Hilton of Alston (d.1783) was in the employment of both the Greenwich Hospital, landlords of Alston Moor, and the Carlisle/Cleaver mining leaseholders, despite the apparent conflict of interest. He was often assisted by his son Joseph (born in 1744).

William Forth was an agent to the Earl of Carlisle at Castle Howard, as was his son the Rev John after him, but John was only 6 years old in 1770 so this was evidently his father.]

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Forth at Castle-haward

2 July 1770

Sir,

Your Favour of the 26th Ult. I received there has been Nothing done at Peatstackhill for 5 years past except picking out about 15 Bings of Ore in every Year, and that at a high price their was no Loss by hir & the Proffit very inconsiderable, neither is there any Prospect for future Tryals. I acquainted Mr. Cleaver the first of July 1769 that all

the Ore had been got at Greengill that could be raised with Proffit to the Masters & as I believed their was no encouragement for making any more Tryals, had taken care of the untentils &c & have done Nothing more at the Mine since more than raising a small Quantity of Ore by wishing the Wastiges. As to the Hush I expect it will raise about the same Quantity of Ore this Year as Last which was 40 Bings. The Hush was not begun with an intent of proffit but for the Discovery of Veins, and has been a Loosing Bargain so far but as all Veins are now Discovered that can possibly be by the Hush theirs no doubt of the Hush paying again what hath been expended. The Names of the New Veins granted to Jno. Cleaver Esq. & Company are a vein South of Law Greengill Old Vein Granted Nov. 26th 1761 A vein North of Old Greengill vein granted 13th of April 1765.

A vein called Greengill West End Granted 12 Feby 1766

A Vein called Howblagill Granted 12 Feby 1766.

The above Veins is granted by the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital to John Cleaver Esqr & Company & if I had not thought them promising should not advised Mr. Cleaver to proposed for them. I wrote Mr. Cleaver since Candlmas Last, told him that the Receivers for the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital now insisted of having the New Vein worked or given up and that he should Detirmine what should be done about the above Tryals and recommended what I thought most advisable to be done but has rec'd no Answer. As neither his Lordship or you know much of the Affair it is needless to say anything more about it until I see my Lord in the Country when will give him the best advice I can.

It is a very strick clame in the Leices of Lead Mines that any Mine that is not worked for three Months in any Year the same must be forfeited to the Commissioners, but at Mr Cleavers request saying that no new Works could be carried on till his Lordship was at Age. I have hither too prevailed on the Receivers to continue them in Mr. Cleaver & Companies Names till this Time as Answering Mr. [sic] Lord & Mr Cleaver has been considerable Losers by the Mine in this Country would be sory to make them forfeited till his Lordship had Time sufficient to determine how he intended to proceed in Future. If Mr Cleaver should decline & his Lordship think the Whole of the Veins two great an Undertaking he may have a Sufficient Partner that will take any Share his Lordship Pleases to part with.

I was at Stanhope last week there has been no Loss at that Mine since I have been concerned that is since Michas 1768 their was a Clear Pay made till Michas 1769 & all the Ore Smelted that was raised before that Time I expect their will be upwards of 100 Bings of Ore raised this Year most part of it from a New Discovery. The way that the Old mine has been carried on has as I am informed been expence to my Lord and according to my Judgement no satisfactory Tryal made in the Mine but as you say I will have an Oppportunity of seeing his Lordship shall at that Time shew a Plan of the Mine & a Computation of the Expence that will attend seting the mine on a better footing then she is at Present. There has been a Considerable Loss by Smelting of late Occasioned by the Mill being so much out of repair particularly the Smelting Bellows Water Troughs & Wheel so have smelted no Ore Raised since Michas Last as it could

not be done without Loss till new Bellows & Water Troughs are got & Wheel repard I imagion it may not be a Miss by getting a Workman & taking an estimate of the above expence but of that you may have time to inform me before his Lordship coming as also any Thing you think Necessary to his Lordship should be informed of.

I am &c Jona. Hilton

P. I intend writing Mr Cleaver desiring his Ansr whether my Lordship & he or either of them intends working the Mines they have under Grant in Alston moor or no as they cannot be Longer kept without so soon being set forward.

4 Jul 1770 Jonathan Hilton to John Cleaver

[Note: John Cleaver had a quarter share in the Earl of Carlisle's mines]

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Cleaver

4th July 1770

Sir,

I am ordered by the Receivers for the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital to writ you once more in order to know whither my Lord Carlisle & you or either of you intends to work the Lead Veins that are granted to you in this Manor or any of them, you will be so obliging as give me an imediate Answer & it will oblige.

Yours &ca. Jonathan Hilton

14 Aug 1770 Jonathan Hilton to John Cleaver

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Cleaver

14th Augst. 1770

Sir,

Your Favours of the 4th July & 2d Ins. I recd. I was at Naward Sunday Last. Mr. Lavie & Mr. Gregg asked several Questions about the Mines in Alstonmoor where my Lord Carlisle is concerned, I told them Greengill West End had not been worked since June 1769 & that Peatstackhill was not worth working longer excepting weshing the wastes where a small Quantity of Ore might be raised from them. I give them a Plan of the New Veins my Lord and you had under Grant with a Computation of the expences of Carring up Bacon's old Level to Greengill West End sinking shafts & Trying the Veins including what have been allready expended since Michos. Last £520.7.6, Do. trying Howblagill & a Vein North of Do. £200.4.6 in All 720.12. and told them that I then Expected his Lordship's Answer whither he intended carring on the above Tryals or give up; they asked me if I knew what you were for doing I told them I had reason to beleave you intended standing your shair if not his Lordship might have a partner for your Share or a half share one of the Gentlemen said they would write you

immediately & if you declined your share his Lordship would stand the whole & that I might go forwards with the above Tryals so I thought proper to give you this hint I am glad to hear you are so well recovered as to think yourself able to come hear next month.

I am & ca. Jona. Hilton

5 Sep 1770 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

[Note: Germaine Lavie 1730-81 was a lawyer in Putney, London. Originally from Bearn in France; agent for Lord Carlisle at Castle Howard and Naworth.]

A Copy of a letter sent Mr. Lavie

5th Sept 1770

I take the Liberty of informing you that Messrs Walton & Smeaton Receivers for the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital are now here. I told them my Lord Carlisle's Determination about proceeding in the Tryals in Alston Moor and as all the Veins except Greengill West End which Lye in the Ground where I recommended that my Lord should make Tryals have been sum Time forfeited they ordered that so soon as I know whither Mr. Cleaver Joined my Lord or no proposals should be made out for all the Veins of Lead Ore which shall be cut or discovered by carring on such Works at or near Howblagill as I recommended to you at Naward, which Proposals the receivers will send to the Board and recommend that they may be granted according to the Proposals of which being done there is no doubt therefore should be glad to know Mr Cleaver's determination so soon as convenient.

As such Bellows are wanted at Stanhope Lead Mill are made at London hops you will be pleased to take the trouble of ordering them as folls.

Smelting Bellows

	Foot	In
Length from the Britch to the Root of the Pipe	10	6 ½
Broadest Breadth of the Board	3	4 ½
Depth of the Leather at the Britch	5	0 ½

Refining Bellows

Length from the Britch to the Root of the Pipe	6	8 ½
Broadest Breadth of the Board	3	2 ½
Depth of the Leather at the Britch	4	5 ½

Cost as I am informed Smelting Bellows	£31.10
Refining Do.	21

Bought of Messrs Maylin & Rust Bellows makers in the Minorities London; they should be carefully forwarded by Sea to the Care of Mr. Chas. Atkinson Marcht. Newcastle, who I will desire to give me Notice of their arival; may send them as soon as convenient as can smelt no Ore till they come; please to send Mr. Turner to Value and set out Wood for the Mines so soon as he can as we have none at Present.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

P. I wrote Mr. Cleaver & after seeing you at Naward and have not heard from him since. NB Pipes for the Bellows as usual for Bellows of the above size.

31 Oct 1770 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

31st Oct 70

Sir,

I was with Mr. Cleaver the 21st Inst who is determined to continue the same share Jointly with my Lord Carlisle as he before has that is one fourth of the several Tryals for Lead Ore in Alstonmoor shewn in a Plan Delivered to you at Naward and has accordingly given me a Power to Act as his Agent. Therefore I intend Immediately to get the proper proposals laid before the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital & makes no doubt of their being granted. We are now getting some Cutting or waste Ore at old Greengill so soon as it is finished which will be about one Month after, this will send you the Amount of the Pay Bill. Stanhope Lead Mill is now all finished except the Bellows which we want but expects they are forwarded before this Time shall not make a Pay there till the Ore is all Smelted.

P. As Nothing can be done at the Alston moor Tryalls till Mr. Turner has set out some Wood for the Use of the said Tryals desires you will please to order him into Cumberland and let him do that Business the first. I will meet him at Softly any Time.

I am &ca Jona. Hilton

8 Dec 1770 Jonathan Hilton to John Cleaver

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Cleaver

8th Dec. 1770

Sir,

As Christmass is now very near & my Lord Carlisle & you have hitherto pay'd your Leadmine workmen at that Time every Year thinks it right to acquaint you that the same time should be observ'd in future, your shair to make Alstonmoor Pays will be £15 and as Immagion Cash in Mr. Atkinson's hand for your shair of Lead sold may give me an order to draw on him or otherwise as you Please, & as there will be cash

wanted to support the workmen may make the draught for £20; & as soon as the Pay is made & proper recs. sign'd will remit you Particulars after my seeing you in your Road to Newcastle I wrot Mr. Lavie that you agreed to stand the same shair with my Lord in the Alstonmoor Tryals that you had to wit ¼

I am &ca. Jonathan Hilton

8 Dec 1770 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

8 Decr. 1770

Sir,

As Christmas is now very near & my Lord Carlisle has hitherto Payed his Lead Mine Workmen at that Time every year, I think it right to acquaint you that the same should be observed in futter [future] there being no possibility of geting the Ore smelted before Next Summer the Roads are so very bad that the Bellows which are now at NewCastle cannot be removed from there before April at the soonest. Therefore have given you on the other side an Account of what ash will be wanted to make both Stanhope & Alston Moor Pays, desiring you will as soon as convenient inform me on whom I am to draw for the Amount. I have only given you the Gross Sum but as soon as the Pay is made & proper Receipts signed will remit you Particulars. There has been very little Work done at Stanhope Mine since Michs the Men being mostly employed in Washing the Ore they had raised before then, in Alston moor you will see what was expended before your being in this County since which we have opened the Boarhole shaft & are begun to open out Bacon's Level. The Pays is to be made for Work & Materials from Michs 1769 to Michs 1770 & as we have occasion for Cash to support the Workmen both at Stanhope & Alstonmoor from Michs last will at the same time as for the Balance of the Pay Bill. I wait for a Letter from Mr. Maylin the Bellows Maker so soon as it is received will draw on you for the Amount as you gave Direction to my son when in London.

Stanhope Pay Bill from Michs 1769 to Michs 1770

Including Lead Mill Repairs £516 10 -

Alston Moor Do. from Michs 69 to Mics 70 £60

3/4 of which belongs to my Lord 45

561 10 -

My Lord Carlisle's Share of Lead sold at Newcastle 399 12 1

£161 17 11

You have an Account of Cash wanted to make the Pays as above & as I mentioned before that we should want support Money for the Workmen if you think Proper to give me Directions where I must draw for £200 I will be accountable for the remainder after the Pays are made,

I am &ca Jona. Hilton

29 Dec 1770 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

29th Decr. 1770

Sir,

I wrot you on the 8th Instant acquainting you with what Cash would be wanted to make the Different Lead Mine Pays where my Lord Carlisle is concerned, requesting Directions where to get Cash to make the same. I hope you have received it & should be glad to have your Answer. Cash for Mr. Cleaver's share I have rec'd, I have this Day drawn on you payable at Twenty Days date to Mr. Jos. Maylin for £60. The Amount of the Bellows that are come for Stanhope Lead Mill. I hope you will take proper Notice of the Draft.

I am &ca Jona. Hilton

11 Feb 1771 Jonathan Hilton to John Cleaver

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Cleaver

11th Feby. 1771

Sir,

Inclosed you have a Copy of Greengill & Peatstackhill Paybills from Michos. 1769 to Michos. 1770 as also the Cash Account between you & me & the Estimate of expences to compleat the Tryals in this Manor, the reason the Pays was so late of making was the Miscarriage of a Letter from Mr. Lavie. We have opened the Borehole shift & cleared the Sludge & Deeds out of Bacon level & shall begin laying in the Wagon Rails tomorrow Expects to get the Level railed to the Forehead against Lady Day & then Intends imploying six workmen in driving the said Level to unwater Greengill West End and as soon as the weather will permit intends beginning a Level for the discovery of Howblagill vein &ca. the Man that imployed for the Company has been a joint Partner with Jos. Winsgill the last year so half of the sums charged to Jos Winsgill & Partner in the Pay Bill is due to the Company after Payment of his Wages which is nine shillings p week & he cleared the Company Last year £4.12, which I did not before accot for & have agreed with him to continue to be equall Partner with Jos Winsgill this year, in Peatstack Hill Paybill from Michos. 1768 to Michos 1769, Wm. Archer is charged for Payment of 20 Bings of Ore at 30 p Bing but was only computed so kept £6 in my hand till the Ore was delivered which was no more than 16 Bings so I am Dr. to the Company £6, you will see by the Accot. I am Dr. to you £7.3.10½ there is two Bings of Peatstackhill Ore at Stanhope Mill not smelted & 199 of Lead belonging to the Partnership not sold.

I am &ca. Jonathan Hilton

11 Feb 1771 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

11th Feby 1771

Sir,

Inclosed you have paybills for Stanhope Burn Lead Mine Repairs of the Smelt Mill & Alston Moor Lead Mines as also by my Cash Account and an Acct of the Proffits of Stanhope Burn Lead Mine from Michs 1769 to Michs 1770. Greengill West End was let to Hush at Michs 1767 for the Term of 5 Years to seven Partners at £1.1 p Bing & in May 1768 they all gave up the Bargon Except one Joseph Winsgill so I hierd a Man to Join in Partnership with Winskill in order to carry on the Hush, & after acquainting Mr Cleaver he agreed that the Man should be continued in Partnership with Winskill & the Proffits or Loss should be charged to the Company but it was thought right that the Man should be employed in my Name as thinking the Work would be better Carried on he has been a Joining Partner with Winsgill the Last Year so one half of the sums that are charged to Jos Winsgill & Partner in the Pay Bill are due to the Company after Payment of his Wages which is nine Shillings p Week. I have agreed with him to Continue Equall Partner with Winskill this Year. Proffit of Do. you have in the Account in Peatstack Hill Pay Bill from Michs 1768 to Michs 1769. Wm Accher is Charged for Payment of 20 Bings of Ore at 30/- p Bing but was only computed so kept £6 in my Hand till the Ore was delivered which was no more than 16 Bings so I am Dr. to the Company £6; we have opened the Boarhole Shaft & almost cleared the Sludge the Deeds out of Bacon's Level shall begin laying the Waggon rails to Morrow. Expects to get the Level railed to the forehead against Lady Day and then intends imploying six Workmen in order to unwater Greengill West End as soon as the Weather will permit intends begining a Level to Discover Howblagill Vein &c you will see by the Accot there have been no Loss by Stanhope Burn Lead Mine Last year to there was £22 paid towards repairing the Law Level & am sorry to tell you it is my Opinion before that level is Compleatly repaired will cost near £100 more but unless that Level is repaired the Mine will be lost. I am in no doubt but should have raised as much Ore this year as would have paid the expence of repairing the above Level provided we could have worked the West End of the flat which raise most part of the Ore we got Last Year, but cannot work that part of the flat till the Level is repaired as the Ore Lyes in the Recihopeburn & the Water that is in that Burn must be put into the mine & so convaied down the Law Level before any Ore can be got at the West End flat the East End of Do. we are now working & raises Ore as well as can be expected at 32s 6d p Bing. The above Level had been lost by the Ground falling in for want of wood to suport it happened as I am informed sum years since notwithstanding the water got away till the last summer and as there is no repairing the Level where the Ground is fallen in are obliged to drive a Level in fresh Ground at £3.3 p fathom. I expected to have the

Inspection of the Lead Mill in order to have known the produce of the Ore both in Lead & Silver as is common & necessary for all Lead Mine Agents to know but George Simpson who is Mill Agent told me that he was to make up that Account to Mr Ramshay at Naward. As is an artical to which Mr Ramshay has never been used; I cannot think him able to judge so well of the Produce of Lead & Silver made from the Ore as a Person who is intirely used to that kind of Business. I am informed by the Mill Agent that 201 Pieces of my Lord's own Lead & 199 Pieces of Partnership Lead remains yet unsold. I think it very odd as it was all smelted before Christmas 1769 and most undoubtedly might have been at Markett & sold & Cash recd for it before Michs if that had been done would have had no occasion to draw on you to make the Pays I never had any direction to enquire into the above but thought Proper to acquaint you with it & may give such orders as you judge right in future besides the Stock of Lead there is 2 Bings of Peatstackhill Ore at the Mill & 130B.1C.1P.7S. of Ore Raised at Stanhope as in the Pay Bill & 14 Bings of Cutting Ore for which the Men are to be paid £7.7 pr Fother but could not be included in the Pay Bill till it be smelted. You will see by the Accounts I am Dr. to you £71.10.10³/₄ out of which I left with the Agent at Stanhope £50 towards supporting the Workmen their the rest is for support Money for the Workmen in Alston-moor, you will observe there is Nothing Charged in the Account for George Simpson the Agent at Stanhope the reason was he said it was never Enter'd in the Lead Mine or Mill Accounts but I think in future it should be divided between the Mine & the Mill & the takeing care off the Estate in such Proportions as you think Proper; there is some Recets wanting they were left at Stanhope. I expect them in a few Days when we will inclose them to you. Please to favour me with a line when you received this. My son desires his respectfull Compts to you.

I am &ca Jona. Hilton

16 Feb 1771 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

16th Feby 1771

Sir,

On the 11th Instant my Father wrot you with Stanhope Lead Mine Pay Bills Smelt Mill repair Bill & Alston moor Pay Bills & the Cash Accot between Lord Carlisle & him which were put in your Letters. I hope have received them safe & to Satisfaction I now inclose to receipts from Mr Charles Atkinson One from George Foster one from George Crooks, One from Wm Whitfield which hopes will arrive safe and if you meet with anything in the Accot which want explained if you will be so obliging as to let us know will endeavour to do it in Plainest manner we can.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

19 Mar 1771 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

19th March 1771

Sir,

In a Letter to you the 11 Feby Last I inclosed Paybills for Stanhope Burn Lead Mine repairs of the Lead Mill and Alston Moor Mines from Michs 1769 to Michs 1770 with some other Accounts & would be glad to know if you received them as they were put in four Letters in order to save Postage the Grants for Howblagill & a Vein North of Do. Granted by the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital were forfeited by not working the same according to the above Grants but the said Commissioners are still willing to revue the said Grants on my Lord Carlisle or Mr Cleaver making new Proposals but the Commissioners cannot specify in their Leases my Lord & Mr Cleavers P'ticular shairs it would be right that my lord & Mr Cleaver should settle whither the Proposals must be maid out in my Lord Carlisle & Mr Cleavers name Equally or Wholly in my Lords Name or wholly in Mr Cleavers Name & the party that the Grants are maid to by the Commissioners may give security to the other for his shair this should be done with all Possable dispatch as no Proposals can be made till this be done I have this Day wrot Mr Cleaver to the same purpot desiring the above affair may be settled with all convenient speed. Bacon's Level will be railed to the forehead against Lady Day as I wrot you before & as soon as I let the Men Bargons their which will be about Lady Day will writ you again Greengill West End is granted to John Cleaver & Company & a lease for the same is riddy to be filled up so soon as my Lord & Mr Cleaver have agreed as above.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

19 Mar 1771 Jonathan Hilton to John Cleaver

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Cleaver

19th March 1771

Sir,

In a Letter to you of 11th Feby last I inclosed you a Copy of Greengill & Peatstack Paybill from Michos 1769 to Michos 1770 with some other accounts which I hope you have received the Grants for Howblagill & a vein North of Do. Granted by the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital were forfeited by not Working the same according to custom but the said Commissioners are still willing to revue the said Grants one your or my Lord's new Proposals, but as the Commissioners of the Greenwich Hospital cannot specify in their Leaces my Lord Carlisle & your P'ticular shairs it would be right to settle with my Lord whither the Proposals must be made out in the Names of my Ld. Carlisle & yours Equally or wholly in my Lord's name or wholly in your Name this should be done with all Possable dispatch as the Proposals cannot be made till it be settled I have this day wrote to Mr. Lavie to the same purport

desiring his imediate Ansr Bacons level will be railed to the forehead against Lady Day as I wrote you before & as soon as I have let the Men a new Bargain will write you again Greengill West End was granted to you & Compy & a lease is riddey to be filled up as soon as my Lord & you has settled as above.

I am &ca. Jona Hilton

21 May 1771 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

21st May 1771

Sir,

As I was in want of Money to pay for some waste Ore raised at Old Greengill & also would in a few Days want Cash towards supporting my Lords Workmen in Alston Moor, I made free to take Thirty Pounds of Mr Ramshay of Naward as you wrot in your Letter that I might get what Cash I wanted from Mr Ramshay or draw on you; the Bellows were got to Stanhope the 6th Instant & we are now beginning to smelt & as the smelt mill and Bellows are now in good repair& the Ore that will be raised from my Lords Mines at present cannot keep the Mill going and as it will be much better both for the Roof and Bellows if the Mill was kept going than Standing, allso we cannot be so well supplied with workmen without having a set of our own which cannot be unless we imploy them constantly therefore I would advise buying a quaintity of Ore to keep the Mill going I have taken upon me with the advice of Mr Ramshay to buy a small Quantity of Ore which I expect will be got smelted & carried to Markett this Summer but shall not buy any more without my lords or your Orders the flatts at Stanhope raise ore much better that could be expected & the law level proves much worse, I wrot you of our giving £3.3 p Fatham but are now Obliged to give £6.6 but hopes it will go at a lower Pice in a few Fathoms driving we got Bacons Level railed to the forehead against Lady Day as I wrot you, & have now drove about 10 Fathams in whole Ground, & at Lady Day begun a Level on the North side of Howblagill which is drove about 16 Faths. North West. I wrot you on the 11th Feby Last where in I mentioned some things that I should have been glad you had answered before now relaiting the Management of the Mines Lead Mill & sale of Lead also on the 19th March I wrot you again desiring Lord Carlisle & Mr Cleaver might settle the manner of giving in Proposals to the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital if that be not done soon there must be an intire stope put to the Howblagill Levels I must need say it gives me great concern that I have not heard from you in Answer to either of the said Letters therefore again Earnestly request to hear from you in Answer to them & this which hopes I will soon receive.

P.S. June 7th Wrote Mr Lavie an Abstract of a Letter sent him 19th March Last 1771.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

24 May 1771 Jonathan Hilton to John Cleaver

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Cleaver

24th May 1771

Sir,

As I was in want of Money to pay for some waste Ore raised at Old Greengill & also would in a Little Time want Cash towards supporting the Workmen at Greengill West End & Howblagill so I made free to take ten Pounds of Mr. Atkinson of Newcastle for he had my rect., we got Bacons Level Railed to the forehead as I wrote you & have drove about 10 Fathoms in whole ground & at Ladyday begun a Level on the North side of Howblagill which is now drove 16 fathoms north west I Wrote you on the 19th March Last desiring Lord Carlisle & you might settle the manner of giving in Proposals to the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital if that be not done soon their must be an intire stop put to the Howblagill Levels, I would be glad of a Line from you.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

22 Jun 1771 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

22nd June 1771

Sir,

After putting my Lord Carlisle to Expencc of repairing Stanhope smelt Mill I was in hopes that Simpson the Mill agent would have made as good produce from my Lord's Ore as is made at other Smelt Mills & in order to know that I sent three Bings of Duty Ore to the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital smelt mill at Langly & the Produce of that three Bings was Ten Pieces of Lead 8 Stone each after making the above Tryal at the Commissioners smelt mill I sent Ten Bings three Horse of the same sort of Ore to Stanhope, telling Simpson the Produce of that was made at the Commissioners Smelt Mill but heard no more from Simpson till I was at Stanhope Yeasterday & found he had Smelted the above Ten Bings 3 Horse & from the first fire had only made 13 Pieces of Lead which according to the Produce made at the Commissioners Mill should have been 36 so you may easy see the Loss to his Lordship & indeed I have great suspencion there is not so good Produce made of Stanhopeburn Ore as might be owing I believe for want of Judgement but as I told you in a former Letter that I never had any directions about the Smelting &c could not act as I would have done nither should I have done what I have if I had not seen the great Damage my Lord Sustains & now refers the above to your consideration shall not say more till we all meet as you say you intend being in the Country this Summer which I wish may be soon, & as I have taken it upon me to disire Simpson to smelt no more Ore till he have orders your immediate Answer will be Necessary as any delay would Losse the season for Smelting & geting Lead to Markett.

P.S The above Ore was wast ore & raised at Old Greengill allys [alias] Greengill East End.

I am &c Jona Hilton

24 Jun 1771 Jonathan Hilton to George Simpson

[Note: Simpson was the mill agent at Stanhope]

A Copy of a Letter sent Geo. Simpson

24th June 1771

Sir,

After consulting my self of the Produce that was made of Greengill West Ore at Langly Mill I cannot think how the same sort of Ore sent you should have fallen so far short if it had had Justice done in Smelting & as you made so great waste of the same sort of Ore before, why did you attempt Smelting so much of it now as you might have a good Tryal by Smelting one fourth part of what you have Smelted & by what I have seen have a great reason to believe that Stanhope-burn Ore may meet with the same fate. Therefore I insist that no more Ore of any sort be Smelted till you have further Orders the Slags you may Smelt. Jos. was at Naward yesterday Mr. Ramshay said he would write you this Day & I wrote you this Day, & I write Mr. Lavie last Saturday Expects an Answer in Ten Days, do not alter the Smelting Bellows till I send a Man or see it done my Self.

I am &ca. Jona. Hilton

12 Aug 1771 Jonathan Hilton to Charles Atkinson

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. C. Atkinson

12th August 71

Sir,

I was with Mr Cleaver the first Inst on his Journey to Newcastle & he said he would speek to you to Let me have Ten Pounds which if you Please to send by the Bearer Josh. Westgarth it will Oblige. Yours

&ca Jonathan Hilton

14 Aug 1771 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

the 14th Augst. 1771

Sir,

Yours of the 8 Inst I just recd & by the Contents of which I understand you do not intend being at Naward as you proposed in your last you now desire to know where we are to meet if it is convenient to you Barnit Castle I suppose will be about halfway from hear to where you now are but I desire you will fix the Time & Place where we are to meet & I will make it Convenient & as we have no other way of geting Letters from Penrith but by the Carriers which is very uncertain pray direct my Letters to be forwarded by Special messenger.

I sent another Letter to the same Propost the 29th Inst August.

I am &c Jona Hilton

5 Oct 1771 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

5th Octr. 1771

Sir,

After receiving yours of the 8 of August Last I Answered it on the 14th & directed you at Castle Haward as you Ordered and receiving no Answer I wrot you again the 29th & Directed to you at the same Place but have never since had the Favour of a Line from you & as I now despair of seeing you either at Castle Howard or in Cumberland this Season must desire you will give me orders where I may receive Eighty Pounds I have advanced Sixty Pounds from my own Cash in my Lord Carlisle Account have pay'd for washing my Lords share of Waste Ore at Old Greengill £14.3.6 & for Bought Ore £32.10 besides having 20 of my Lords Workmen to support at 10s.6d each Man pr Month and as I cannot want the Cash I have advanc'd Longer than the 25 Instant hopes you will be so obliging as give me an Order where I may receive the above sum I shall be glad to hear from you so soon as you can.

P. We have Smelted all the Ore raised from Michas 1769 to Mchas 1770 & the Lead is gone to Market, are now Smelting what has been raised since Michs 1770 I am glad to inform you their has been some Lead sold at £17.5 p Fother at NewCastle We have now got into the way of making as good a Produce in Smelting at Stanhope as at other Lead Mills The Produce of the Ore in Lead & Silver you shall have after the Flages [sic] are all Smelted. The Tryals in Alston moor go on as well as could be expected.

I am &c Jona Hilton

15 Nov 1771 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

15th Novr. 1771

Sir,

I am realey sorey to say this is the fourth Letter since I had a single Line from you indeed I thought the first might Probly have miscarried tho we seldom have any Instance of that but I cannot imagine why I receive no Answer to any I realey expected my Letters would have meet with better reception I hope however to have this immediately Answered on the other side you have an Account of Cash wanted to make the Pays at Michs Last & as it was always usual before Last Year to make those Pays in December & that's a Time of the Year the Workmen expects their Wagges I must Desire you to give me Directions on whom I am to draw for the Amount I beg this be done the verey first convenient opportunity their is now lying at NewCastle 240 Pieces of Lead unsold and as latley sold at £17 per Fother I took the Liberty to desire Mr Atkinson to dispose of it in order that the Cash might be got to make the Pays his Answer now Lays before me wherein he says none of the Buyers will at present give more than £16.10 p Fodder & desires my advice whither or no he must sell at that rate I did not think proper to Answer his till I acquainted you with it as you may know the probability of the rising or falling of the Lead Markets better than me the above 240 Pieces of Lead was Smelted from Ore raised before Michs 1770 Excepting a small quantity of Bought Ore & might have been got to Market & sold in September or the begining of October Last & if I had had any Directions about the Lead I most certainly would have recommended the selling it at that Time but as I never was desired by you to take any Notice nor did I know how the affair stood till the 4th Instant when I was at Stanhope settling account with Simpson Relating the Lead Mine & Smelt Mill & then immediately took the said Liberty to writ Mr Atkinson which hope will aprove indeed I have always desired the Lead might be got to Market & sold as soon after as possable Especially when it sells so well your immediate answer will much oblige your

Jona Hilton

P.S. You see below that there is £478.5.6³/₄ wanted to make the several Pays & as it will be Necessary to have about £70 in Hand to support the Workmen after the Pay then will be wanted £550 or if you order the Lead to be sold so as the Cash can be had before the Pay I shall want the Ballance between £550 & the Amount of the Lead sold the Ore raised at Stanhope from Michaelmass 1770 to Michaelmass 1771 will I expect be Smelted at or before Christmas next but cannot be got to Market before next may or June on Account of the Roads.

Lord Carlisle 3/4 of Expence at Sundry Tryals in Alston Moor	£330 0 0
Stanhope Lead Mine Smelt Mill &c Pays	560
Ore Bought & Carriage of Do.	137 1 4 1/2
	£1027 1 4 1/2

Rec'd by Simpson for Lead & Silver sold		£594 6 9 1/2
Paid by Do for Sundry repairs at Stan. Estate		227 1 10 1/2
Ballance in Simpsons Hand		367 4 11
Ballance in my Hand after last Pay		71 10 10 3/4
Rec'd of Mr Ramshay	110	£ 548 15 9 3/4
		£ 478 5 6 3/4

7 Dec 1771 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

Alston 7th Decr. 1771

Sir,

The above is a Copy of what I wrot you the 15th of Last Month & as I think you would ceertainly before now have Answered it had it reached your Hand & having received no Answer I have sent his by a Differant conveyance where I shall be sure of your receiving it. Therefore I once more earnestly beg an Answer, all the Leases in Alston Moor make a Pay once or twice every Year & I should really be sorey of Lord Carlisle do not pay as well as other Lessees in this Mannor especially as the Workmen took there Bargons on that account.

I am &c Jona Hilton

13 Dec 1771 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

Alston 13th Decr. 1771

Sir,

Your esteem'd Favour of 5th Instant is rec'd. I have this Day drawn on you, a Copy of the Bill below which I hope you will except my Son goes this Day to NewCastle to get Cash for it as allso to consult Mr Atkinson about the disposal of the Lead unsold so soon as he returns & the Pays made will write more Particularly.

Alston 13th Decr 1771

£300 One Month after date please top Pay Mr. Jos. Hilton or Order Three Hundred Pounds Value rec'd as advised by Sir, I am &c Jona Hilton

A Copy To Mr. G. Lavie Esqr. Silk Mercer Pallmell London

13 Dec 1771 Jonathan Hilton to John Cleaver

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Cleaver

13th of Decr. 1774

Dear Sir,

It always before last year was customary to make the Greengill Pay before Christmass the workmen expect it but I expected to have seen you before now and especially as you told my Son at Newcastle that you would see me before you left Cumberland I put of writing till I heard of your living this County, I therefore send this to acquaint you that your shair of Greengill & Howblagill will be £110 Mr. Atkinson says he has in Hand £30 I have rec'd of him £20 I had in Hand Last Pay £7 Your shair of Greengill Cutting Ore sold about £6 makes in all £63. Therefore I should have from you £50 more.

I'll be much Obliged to you if you will as soon as you can give me Directions where I am to apply for it as I have rec'd directions to draw immediately for Lord Carlisles Shair I would wish to have the Pays before the new Year.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

2 Jan 1772 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

2 Jany. 1772

Sir,

Inclosed you have the Alston Moor Pay Bills where my Lord Carlisle is concern'd the Level carrying up to Greengill West End I expect will be finished the Vein cut & Tryal made in Do. at or before Christmass next as to the Discovery of the Veins at or near Howblagill as they lay in fresh Ground cannot give any particular account about them but expects some discovery may be found on or about the Time mentioned of Greengill West End. I wrot Mr Ramshay desiring him or his son would attend my Lord's Pay in order to see the Pay Bills signed as allso to receive Cash for his Lordships Wood bought for the use of the Mines but nither he nor his son appeared so soon as I have his rect for it and some other rects wanted will send you them I intend being at NewCastle or send my Son next week & after our return intends making Stanhope Lead Mine & Smelt Mill Pays.

P.S. after settling Accounts with Mr Atkinson will draw on you for what cash is wanted

I am &c Jona Hilton

4 Jan 1772 Jonathan Hilton to John Cleaver

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Cleaver

4th January 1772

Sir,

Your Sons Favour of the 27th Last Month with a Bill Inclosed Value £50: I received in due Time the Pays you are concerned in was made the 26th Last Month but as I have not Settled with Mr. Atkinson nor do I know exactly what Cash is in his Hand, so cannot settle with you till that is done. I intend being at Newcastle or send my Son next weeke & after our Return from thence will send you a Copy of the Pay Bills & also let you know how the Sundry Tryals go forward.

I am &ca Jonathan Hilton

8 Jan 1772 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

£250

Alston 8 Jany 1772

Sir, One Month after date Please to pay to Mr. Jos. Hilton or order two Hundred & fifty Pounds Value recd advised by Jona Hilton

To Mr Geo. Lavie Silk Mercer Pallmell London

10 Jan 1772 Joseph Hilton

Received 10th of January 1772 of Mr. Charles Atkinson Fortynine Pounds twelve shillings and $8\frac{3}{4}$ being in full for John Cleaver Esqr Shair of Lead for the year 1770.

£49.12.8 $\frac{3}{4}$

Rec'd by Jos. Hilton

18 Jan 1772 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

18th Jany. 1772

Sir,

I wrote you on the 2nd Instant inclosing the Alston Moor Pay Bills which hopes you have recd you will see by the inclosed that Stanhope Lead Mine Smelt Mill, & other Pays were made the 14th Instant the Bills of Do you have inclosed the Bill to Jacob Vickers & Ptnrs £93.17.6 was all expended in repairing the Law Level & that with the Waste of Smelting the Ore as I wrot you on the 22nd June Last makes Stanhopeburn a loosing mine from Michs 1770 to Michs 1771 nor do I yet know what that Level may cost it may be £50 or 60 more but without opening that Level the Mine would have been intirely Lost we have raised about the same quantity of Ore the last Quarter from Michs to Christmass as in other Quarters since I was conserved at Stanhope & if the

Law Level was opened that we could work the Mine by all appearance Stanhopeburn may turn to advantage you will see in the Cash accot that I have £31.9.½ of Ld Carlisle in Hand but a great part of it is all ridey advanced to the Workmen for support Money but as Mr Charles Atkinson will soon receive the Ballance of Lead allridey sold & expects to sell the rest of the Lead at Newcastle soon I shall have the opportunity of receiving a supply from him.

I am &c Jonathan Hilton

8 Feb 1772 Jonathan Hilton to John Cleaver

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Cleaver

8th Feby. 1772

Sir,

Inclosed you have a Copy of Greengill West End & Howblagill Pay Bills & by the Accots you will see I have £30.12.7¼ of your Money in my Hand which I will be accountable for, I wrote Mr. Charles Atkinson Novr. Last desiring him to let me know how much of your Cash he had in his Hand his Ansr was that he had only about £30 but when my Son Ballanced Accots with him it proved £49.12.8¾ the reason he give then was that he had forgot the £20 you give him when you were Last at Newcastle the Level carrying up to Greengill West End I expect will be finished the Veins cut & Tryals made in Do. at or about Christmass next as to the Vein at or near Howblagill as they lie in Fresh Ground cannot give any Particular accot. about them but expects some discovery may be found on or about the Time mentioned of Greengill West End when any alteration happens shall let you know.

I am &ca. Jona Hilton

20 Feb 1772 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

Alston 20th Feby. 1772

Sir,

I wrot you on the 2nd & 18th of January Last Inclosing the Sundry Pay Bills recd &ca as theirin Mentioned which hops you have receiv'd before Simpson the Mill Agent at Stanhope begun refining the Lead made from Stanhopeburn Float ore Raised in 1770 I desired him to be very carefull in the doing it, as I had some Assays made of it by which I knew it would Yield 10 ounces of Silver from a Fodder of Lead he Promised me he would & at the same Time told me had made some assays which answered to the same Quantity of Silver so I expected his Produce in Refining to be equal to the Assays made but upon examining the Accounts at Stanhope Pay I found he had refined as you will Observe in the refining Bill 36 tons 18 cwt 2 <lb> 12 <oz> which is raither more than 35 Fodder & had Produced theirfrom not more than 4½ ounces p Fodder by

which you will see there has been a Loss of £50 or upwards. I Blaimed Simpson very much and discharged the Old Refiner. The Lead raised from 1770 to 1771 was lying at the Mill I according took a small piece from every Pigg and made several assays which I find all Answer above 10 Ounces p Fodder so it appears vary plain that my Lord has been cheated. Therefore I have made Interest with the agents of Greenwich Hospital to borrow their refiners to refine & Reduce what Lead is now Lying at the Mill which we shall do as soon as the Season will permitt. I supose Simpson has never had any Pticular Directions from you about the Agences & as such he has Several Times Deveated from the Directions given him by me. I allways put up with it so long as it did not much hurt Lord Carlisle's Interests I therefore now desire if you can make it convenient that you will Plese to appoint a meeting suppose at Castle Haward where Simpson & I may meet you together & than you may settle every Matter as you think Proper realative to the Business. I do wish that may be at or before May Day if Possible as we have a Quantity of Ore Lying at Stanhope Mine I would have things put on a better footing than they have been before we begin Smelting any more & the sooner we begin smelting the sooner Lead will be got to Markett.

I am &c Jonathan Hilton

5 Apr 1772 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

5 of April 1772

Sir,

I inclose you the rect for Wood Bought of the Lord Carlisle for the use of the Mines in Alston Moor, your Favour Mentioning that you intended being at Morpeth about the Middle of this Month & shall wait on you at any Time & Place you Please to fix only I desire you will Please to give me a few Days Notice.

I am &c Jonathan Hilton

5 Dec 1772 Jonathan Hilton to John Cleaver

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Cleaver

5th Decr. 1772

Sir,

I take this Oppertunity to inform you that I have taken in the accot of Expences at Greengill & the other Mines in Alstonmoor where you are concerned with Lord Carlisle & find the amount to be about £480. Your fourth shair of which will be £120 which sum I shall be much obliged to you for remitting me as soon as you can as I should wish to make the Pays the Latter End of this Month as usual after which you may expect to hear from me with a Copy of the Paybill & other Particulars relating to the Tryals.

I am &ca. Jona Hilton

P.S. I had £30.12.7¼ of your Cash in hand after last Pay & I think will be Necessary for me to keep so much in Hand this year for suporting the workmen.

5 Dec 1772 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

Alston 5 Decr. 1772

Sir,

Upon taking the Account of the Expence at the Alston moor Mines & at Stanhope & Settling with Mr Atkinson for the Amount of Lead sold I find there will be One Hundred & forty Pounds wanting to make Lord Carlisle's Pays & to leave in Hand necessary Support Money for which I thought proper to give you Notice I intend to draw on you about the 17th Instant at one Months date as you formerly directed which draft I hope you will honour with your acceptance when presented & as I never had notice of the two Notes I sent you Value £110 being paid shall be glad to have it mentioned in your next I have fixed to make Stanhope Pay on the 18th Instant & intends Alston Pays about the 30th after which & settling with Mr Ramshay I shall give you account of the State of the several Mines &ca.

N.B. the above mentioned Draft of £140 was by mistake was drawn as may be seen below for £150.

16 Dec 1772 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. G. Lavie

Alston 15th Decr. 1772

Dr. Sir,

Yesterday I drew on you for £150 Payable at one Month after Date to my son Jos. Hilton or Order which draft I hope you will duly receive & accept.

To Mr. G. Lavie Silk Mercer

Pallmell London

I am &c Jona Hilton

Sir, One Month after Date pay to Mr Joseph Hilton or order one Hundred & fifty Pounds Value recd as advised by Jona Hilton

To Mr G. Lavie Silk Mercer Pallmell London

A Copy sent Do. NewCastle

16th December 1772

22 Jan 1773 Joseph Hilton

[Note: His father's letter of 19th Feb makes clear this journal entry was by son Joseph]

Jany 22d recd a Draft from Mr. Cleaver on Messrs Hoares Value £100

19 Feb 1773 Jonathan Hilton to John Cleaver

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Cleaver

19th Feby. 1773

Sir,

I hope you have recd my Sons Letter acknowledging my rect of a Bill from you Value £100. inclosed you have a Copy of Greengill West End & Howblagill Paybills when I wrote you on the 8th Feby 1772 I then expected to have got the Level up to Greengill West End & a Tryal made of the Vein by this Time but the Old Mans borehole not being large enough for the waterblast I was obliged to Bore another Hole at the expence of £32.8 Exclusive of Candles &ca as you will see in the Paybill in driving the Level there came several Strings from the Old Vein which strings crossed the Level & went Northwards so at about 40 Fath West of where these strings crossed the Level I thought it Necessary to cut a cross cut of the Level to see if the Level in order to see if the above Strings would come together & form one Vein which they did at about 14 Fathoms North of the Old Vein & 10 Fathoms North of the Present Level this North Vein has a promising appearance in the Plate Beed but cannot be tried in the Sills till the Level is up, & as the Sills are all whole in that Vein the prospect is much better the Boaring for the Water Blast & cutting to the North vein kept the workmen from of pursuing the Level 18 weeks otherwise we should have had the Level up & Tryals made of the Veins by this Time but as there is only 20 Fathoms of the Level now to drive I expect getting it up & Tryals made in the Vein by the Latter End of May or June next. Howblagill cut sun Vein in the slate bed July last the sills were not then put on but the Level is now drove up to where the Sills are on & as soon as a shaft that we are now sinking be sunk into the Level I intend cutting out of the Level to both Veins & trying them in the Sills; This I expect will be done about the Time mentioned at Greengill West End.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

24 Feb 1773 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

24 Feby. 1773

Sir,

I have now Settled accounts with Mr Ramshay & delivered to him Pay Bills of the several Lead Mines where my Lord Carlisle is concerned as also Pay Bills of the Expence of Smelting Refining &c with the Produce of Lead & Silver made from the Ore Raised at Stanhope Burn from Michs 1771 to Michs 1772 the Law Level at Stanhopeburn was compleated in December Last and we are now making convenience in order to try the Veins in fresh Ground the Flats at Stanhope are now very Poor & by Appearances are nearly worked out so that there's no hopes of raising much Ore at Stanhope Burn this Year. When I wrot you in Jany 1772 I then Expected to have got the Level up to Greengill West End & a Tryal made of the Veins by that Time but the Old Mans borehole not being large enough for the Water Blast I was Oblig'd to bore another hole at the Expence of £32.8 Exclusive of Candles &c as you will see in the Pay Bill by driving the Level the came several Strings from the Old Vein which Strings crossed the Level & went Northwestwards so at 40 Fathoms west of where these strings crossed the level, I thought Necessary to cut a cross cut of the Level in order to try if the above strings would come together and form in one Vein which they did at about 14 Fathom North of the Old Vein & 10 Fathom North of the Present Level this North Vein has a promising appearance in the Plate beed but cannot be tried in the Sill till the Level is up & as the Sills are all whole in that Vein the Prospect is much better than the Boaring for the Water Blast & cutting to the North Vein kept the Workmen of pursuing the Level 18 Weeks otherwise should have had the Level up & Tryals made of the Vein by this June but as there is only 20 Fathom of the Level now to drive & hops we shall meet with no misfortune in the way I Expect getting the Level up & Tryals made in the Veins by the Latter end of June next.

Howblagill cut the sun Vein in the Plate beed July last but the Sills were not then put on the Level is now up to where the Sills are on and as soon as a Shaft that we are now sinking be sunk into the Level I intend cutting out of the Level to boath Veins & trying them in the Sills this I expect will be done about the Time Mentioned at Greengill West End.

I am &c Jona Hilton

P. the Pays at Greengill West End & Howblagill were Latter this year than Intended on accot of want of Cash from Mr. Cleavers Share his Money did not come hear till the 22 January Last.

21 May 1773 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

21 May 1773

Dr Sir,

I take the Liberty of acquainting you that I have received Sixty Pounds from Mr Ramshay in order to support the Workmen at Stanhope and in Alston moor. I hope in One or Two Months to have the Pleasure of giving you an agreeable accot about

Greengill West End Lead Mine the vein looks very well in the Platebed where we have cut it & I hope there is no fear of its doing well in the bearing Sills.

I am &c Jonathan Hilton

3 Jun 1773 Jonathan Hilton to Thomas Ramshay

[Note: Thomas Ramshay was the Earl of Carlisle's agent at Naworth]

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Ramshay

3 June 73

Dear Sir,

I am informed by my son that you have been applied too for the use of Stanhope Lead Mill & wanted my sentiments about it, all I can say is that as the Alston moor Tryals are so near Completed & indeed I hope there's no fear of Greengill West End turning out to advantage in a Little Time Therefore would not advise hir being let this Year.

I am &c Jona Hilton

13 Jul 1773 Jonathan Hilton to Thomas Ramshay

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Ramshay

13 July 1773

Dear Sir,

Some Time ago my Son told me he had seen you at New Castle & that you your Son & he Thought it would be right to let Stanhope Smelt Mill for One Year. I give you my oppinion to the Contrary by Letter however Since that Time I have had reason to alter as our Works at Greengill West End will be longer in being Tryed than I then expected. I have therefore taken the Liberty to grant leave to Mr Wm. Monkhouse & Compy to Smelt a Quantity of Ore at Stanhope Mill after the Smelting Refining &c Lord Carlisles Ore be finished which I hope will be now in about 3 Weeks they Paying Millage &c I shall take care that no more be carried than can be Smelted without Interfering with Lord Carlisles Ore.

I am &c Jona Hilton

15 Nov 1773 Jonathan Hilton to Charles Atkinson

[Note: Day not given. Since Hilton says he was with Lavie 'last week' this was presumably before the 17th, when he wrote to Lavie. 15th is used here.]

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Charles Atkinson

Nov 1773

Sir,

Your Favour of the 29th October came in course. I was Last Week with Mr Lavie & it is his Oppinion that we should sell at such a price as we can get the Quantity being so very small as not to be worthwhile keeping. Therefore unless you think there be a very great probability of a Considerable rise in the Lead trade I do advise you to dispose of what you have as soon as Posable & would have the Cash Paid about the 18th or 20 December at Latest. I bought a parcel of Ore which will be to pay for at Old Martinmass & as I have none of Lord Carlisles Cash in Hand will be much obliged to you if you can let my Son who will be in NewCastle on Saturday the 6th Inst have Seventy Pounds.

I am &c Jona Hilton

17 Nov 1773 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

17th Nov 1773

Sir,

You will Remember when I saw you at Naward the 23rd Last Month that I told you we were driving a Level from the Old Workings at Stanhope Burn Westwards in order to try the East & West runing Veins on the west side of same North & South runing Veins which have for several Years Past broke the East & West Veins so very much & so generally confused the whole that Nothing of certainty could be expected till we were quite clear of them & that by sinking a Shaft in order to air the Level & try the Veins which I hope would Answer to prety good Advantage especially as we had met with several Peices of Ore in sinking the said Shaft. We were prevented from finishing the shaft by haveing a very great quantity of Watter burset of sum Workmen where we had these peices of Ore to cut cross to meet the Vein in doing of which they met with very good Ore in what we call a flat which lyes in the North side of the Vein.

I was there Yeasterday & find that they have raised 7 or 8 Bings of Exceeding good Ore in Driving about 3 Yards from which I hope there is no fear of the Vein being good but from the great Quantity of Watter Nothing more can be done till the Shaft & Level be finished which Probably may not be sooner than Lady Day as the Level wants 15 Fathom & from its Hardness takes £6 p Fathom driving. The Vein we want to be at is called the Quakers Vein from its from its having been Worked forty or fifty Years ago by the Lead Company & as I am informed was given up by the Company on coming to the cross Veins above Mentioned but where we are trying for hir is 300 Yards further west than where they have made any considerable Tryal & I expect we will be quit clear of Cross Veins think there is no doubt of hir doing well Mr Atkinson has sold all the Lead which is to be payed for on the 18th December at which Time I mean to be at NewCastle in order to settle with him & at the same Time will take the Liberty to draw on you for the Cash that will be wanted to make the Sundry Pays. No Alteration in the Alston Moor Mines since I saw you.

I am &c Jona Hilton

17 Nov 1773 Jonathan Hilton to John Cleaver

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Cleaver

17th Nov. 1773

Sir,

I fulley expected before this Time to have had it in my Power to give you a better accot of Greengill West End than I yet can from exceeding hardness of the shaft & the great quantity of Watter which it afforded we were three times longer in finishing it than I expected & after it was finished the Crosscuts which were necessary to be made were so much harder than I expected than the same Plate beds which we drove at Greengill East End at 30 p Fathom do cost us at Greengill West End from £4 to 5£ p Fathom therefore it must be Candlemas before any sufficient Tryal can be made with regard to Howblagill when we came to the Place where I expected to have made a Tryal of the Veins we meat with too very strong cross veins which broke the Sills very much & threw everything into such confusion that I am obliged to drive the Level 40 Fathoms further in hopes the sills may then be sound & then we may get proper Tryals made I saw Mr Lavie at Naward last Month and intend to draw on him the 18 December next for the amount of Lord Carlisles shair of the Alston moor Pays your shair will be one Hundred & Fifty Pounds which I desire you will remitt against that Time as I shall be then in Newcastle your Bill or Cash will much oblige your &ca

Jona Hilton

23 Dec 1773 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

23rd Dec 1773

Sir,

I wrot you of the 17 Last Month of our having got some good Ore at Stanhope in what we called a flat & did not then expect getting any Tryal of the Vein before Lady Day but having lattly having had a few Days of Hard Frost which Dried up the Day Watter we got a small Tryal of the Vein which looks well so far as we have seen the other Day we had the good Fortune to cut one of the Veins at Greengill West End but has got no further Tryal than cutting a cross thorough the Vein and in that place she is exceeding good so that Stanhope & Greengill West End is at present boath in a flourishing way & may they Reimburse his Lordship the Money that has been Expended is my sincere wish.

I am &c Jona Hilton

P.S. I intend being at NewCastle on the 20 to draw on you for what Cash I wanted to make the Pays but I recd a Letter from the Gentleman that Bought the Lead that it was not convenient for him at that Time to pay I have therefore Postponed my Journey till the beginning of Jany but shall take care to give you proper Notice when I draw.

29 Dec 1773 Jonathan Hilton to John Cleaver

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Cleaver

29th Dec. 73

Sir,

I wrote you on the 17th last Month of my Intention of being in Newcastle the 18th Instant & desired you would send me a bill or Cash for one Hundred & fifty Pounds but have heard nothing from you since & as Lord Carlisles Money is ready I beg you will immediately send yours at Christmass as the Time that all the Leases make their Lead Mine Pays the other day we had the good fortune to cut one of the Veins at Greengill West End & I do assure you that there is not many better Mines in Alston moor than she is at Present but we have only just cut thorrow the Vein & may she continue as good as she now is the sincere wishess of your most Humb Sert

Jona Hilton

P.S. it was Candlemas before your Bill came to my Hand Last Year so that we were far behind others in Making our Pay hope that will not be the cause this Year.

24 Jan 1774 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

Alston 24th Jany 1774

Sir,

Your Favour of the 14th Instant came in course which gives me no small concern I wrote you the 17th Novr Last that Mr Atkinson had sold all my Lords Lead which was to be paid for on the 18th December at which Time I ment to be at Newcastle to settle with him & at the same Time would take the Liberty to draw on you for the Cash that would be wanted to make the several Pays & in that Letter give you the agreeable account of the prospect we have at Stanhope Lead Mine & on the 23rd Decemr I wrot you of our Cutting one of the Veins at Greengill West End which Vein was Exceeding good & still continues & I am in hops will; in that Letter wrote you that I expect to have been in NewCastle at that Time to have drawn on you as above but had recd a Letter from the Gentleman that Bought the Lead that it was not convenient for him to pay at that Time so had Postponed my Journey till the beginning of Jany if I had had Notice at the rect of Either of the above Letters I would have put of making one of the Pays A Month or Six Weeks longer but both these Letters came under cover to my Lord the

sum I have drawn for is no more than what was Necessary as you will see when I have settled with Mr Ramshay the Quantity of Lead we had unsold Christmas 1772 was small & have only raised 37 Bings of Ore from Michs 1772 to Michs 1773 & we only Pay till Michs & has the Workmen no support with Cash till next Pay & my Lord has now at Stanhope & in Alston moor 48 Workmen which Gets 10/6 a Month Each Man & if the Mines turns out as they are likly to do hope he will imploy Double the Number in Six Months I do assure you I never wanted to have more of my Lords Money in Hand than what was Necessary to support his Workmen but have often been £60 & sometimes £100 in advance.

Settled

I am &c Jona Hilton

24 Feb 1774 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

Alston 24th Feby 1774

Sir,

I Wrote you of the 23rd Ult. in Ansr to yours of the 14th Jany since which my Son has been in NewCastle & was told by Messrs Bell Cookson Carr & Company that my Draft on you of the 7th of January was returned & Protested for non Payment he desired them to return the Bill to London to their Friends & desire them to call on you again which I hope has been done and is allready settled. However I thought it right to write this as soon as possable after I knew of the Draft being refused payment you must undoubtedly know the People through whose Hands the Draft had past will look upon me as drawing without an Authority & before the Money was due. The Consequence of which will be that my Drafts in future will not be so acceptable to the Gentleman we deal with as they have hitherto been & Indeed if this be not Answered the credit which my Lord and Company has hitherto had in the Countrey will be hurt. When I saw you at Naward in October I acquainted you that I had been obliged by a variety of unforeseen accidents to Lay out a much larger Sum of Money in the sundry Tryals than I expected your Answer to me then was very Different from what now appears & indeed from your Friendly Civility to me I apprehended I might with safety as you had before sade draw on you for the Amount of what should be wanted. I accordingly did so but am sorry to find the disagreeable reception it has met with was I not very conscious of my having acted not only with all the care possible but allso with the closest attention to my Lord Carlisles Business I should apprehend you have a mistrust of my Behaviour if so the sooner that matter is set right the better. I am very willing that any Person of Integrity & Judgement should inspect the affairs which have been comitted to my Care.

I made the Pays belonging to my Lord Carlisle & Mr Cleaver the 7th Instant I mean to settle with Mr Ramshay on Wednesday next. The Vein we cut at Greengill West End continues good & I expect to cut another Vein on or about Lady Day & expects the

Level at Stanhope will be got up to the Vein by that Time & I then hope to give you a good account of boath the above Mines.

I am &c Jona Hilton

4 Apr 1774 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

Alston 4 April 1774

Sir,

Your favour of the 4th Last Month came in course the present date of Stanhope Greengill West End & Howblagill Lead Mines you have as follows the Level at Stanhope was Finished the 12th Ult. & on the 14th I let the following Bargains the East End to raise Ore with 8 Pickmen till Midsummer next at 25s p Bing the West End to raise Ore with the same Number of Men & Time at 35s p Bing we have no opportunity of trying any Thing as yet but Flattes but have Let one Shaft to be sunk East of the present shaft & Another Shaft West of Do. Each shaft to be worked with 4 men at 12s p Fathom till they come to the flatts so soon as these two Shafts are sunk & the Present Workings holed into them shall have Convenience to make Tryal of the Vein its common when the flatts carry Ore the Veins do the same & I hope that will be the case at Stanhope I let Greengill West End Bargons at Lady Day Last the West End Workings to raise Ore with 8 Pickmen till Midsummer Next at 12/6 p Bing & the East End Workings to raise Ore with the same Number of Men & Time at 14s p Bing you will judge by the Price given for raising Ore she must be a pretty good Mine & make no doubt that the Men will make good Wagges. I expect to have Six more Men raising Ore in the same Vein in a few Weeks I am now opening an old Mans Shaft with 4 Men and taking a Crosscut out of the present Shaft in order to Air & unwater the Old Mans Shaft which shaft & Crosscut will inable me to get into the Old Mans Works & see if he have left any Ore in his Soles. I expect to have cut a Vein before now which was discovered by the Hush & Lies a Bought 50 Fathoms North of the Old Vein But having conveniance to make for Bousesteames Weshing the Ore &ca Prevented its being cut as yet we are not now more than 6 or 8 Fathoms of Cutting it as to Howblagill I have now drove the Level so far West as I intend & is now cutting to the North to discover the Veins which Discovery the Tryal making to the Old Man at Greengill cutting to the North Vein will all be compleated I expect against the first Week in June & as there are some Things respecting the Leaces which is absolutely Necessary to settle As Greengill West End is granted to Jno. Cleaver Esqr. & Company Howblagill to the Right Honorable The Earle of Carlisle & Company & no Leases signed yet I think the Leassess should be to my Lord & he gives Mr Cleaver an Assignment for his fourth share. Therefore it would be well if you & Mr Cleaver could be hear at the same Time so as to put Things upon a proper Foundation I mention this as the Mines have been attended with a very heavey Expence & as there is now a Probability of its being reimbursed the sooner those Mattres are settled the Better. I wrote Mr Cleaver Last Post

upon the same subject & leave to you & him to fix the Time of Meeting The first Week in June will be the most proper Time as Mr Cleaver will have his 4th share of the Ore to dispose of and as the Time of the Year for selling I would advise my Lords buying Mr Cleavers Ore as I am very Ceertain Greengill Ore is about the best Ore in this Manner & making no doubt but Mr Cleaver will be content with such Prices as are Given to Others. This is yourself.

I was at Stanhope Yesterday & expects there will be 40 or 50 Bings of ore made fitt for Smelting on or about the Middle of May at which Time I mean to begin Smelting & by the Time that Ore is smelted the rods will be passable so that Ore will be got out of Alston moor to keep the Mill going.

As from the present appearance of the Mines we may raise Ore to keep the Mill going pretty constant it will be absolutely necessary to have a Mill Agent to attend constantly at the Mill as well for then Inspecting of the Smelters Refiners Reducers & other Workmen who may be employed there as also for the receiving & taking an Account of the Ore & other Things brought in & the Lead carried away from the Mill this will be impossible for Mr Simpson the Present Agent to do as relley necessary an Agent should as he has a large Farm of his own to manage & has to look to the Other of Ld Carlises Farms & does not Understand Smelting therefore as you were so obliging as give me leave when Simpson & I were with you at Naward, to chuse a Mill Agent myself I beg leave to commend a Young Man who is now Agent for Messrs Monkhouse & Co The gentleman who now rent Stanhope Mill as a Proper Person for that Agency as I know him to be Sober Diligent & Skillfull having been brought up in that Business & Mr Monkhouse & Co will have no further occasion for him.

There are several Lead Veins in my Lords freehold at Stanhope which I think promising & maybe Tryed at an Easy Expence But as Lord Carlisle has Expended a large sum I do not think it right to layout any more except what is absolutely necessary for carring on the Works till you are on the Ground to view as its impossible for you to Judge so well from any information by Letter as you may were you once upon the Premises Therefore I most earnestly desire to see you at Stanhope as well as at Alston as early in the Summer as you can with any Convenience & it would be well if Mr Cleaver could meet you at the Time you came hear I shall be glad of your Answer to the Sundry Matters mentioned on this as soon as you can conveniently as I do not think right to fix a Mill Agent without your consent.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

7 May 1774 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

Alston 7th May 1774

Sir,

I wrote you the 4th Ult & gave as particular accts of the state of the Lead Mines as I could & expected an Answer before now as I told you my intention of begining

Smelting the Middle of this Month & that the present Mill Agent Simpson could not from his other Business attend the Smelt Mill as it ought to be attended neither did I think him a Judge Smelting Refining &ca & as you were so obliging when Simpson & I were with you at Naward to chuse a Mill Agent myself I therefore Recommended a Young Man who I think as proper to fill that Office as any Person I know & as I do not like to apoint one till I have your concurrence will be glad to hear from you as soon as Possible.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

13 Jun 1774 Jonathan Hilton to Charles Atkinson

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr C Atkinson

Alston 13th June 1774

Sir,

We have now at Stanhope Mill & upon the Road 28 Piggs of Common Lead which I have ordered to be forwarded to you with every possible speed it is just 20 Futher I send this therefore to desire you will be so kind as sell it as soon as you can at a Markett Price as I shall soon be out of Cash for Supporting the Workmen & would not like to Draw any more Cash from London if I could possably avoid it your Compliance with the above will much Oblige.

P.S. The Lead looks to me Exceedingly good

I am &ca Jona Hilton

8 Jul 1774 Jonathan Hilton to Thomas Ramshay

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr Ramshay

8th July 1774

Dear Sir,

A Copy of Sundry Bargons let at Greengill West End 24th June 1774 You have as follows Rd Midcalf 8 Ptners to raise Ore in their old Workings till Michs Next at 9s 6d p Bing Andw Elliot 6 Ptners to raise Ore in the West End forehead till Do at 10s 6d p Bing Wm Thirelway 4 Ptners to raise in Midcalfs Soals till Do at 14s p Bing John Bales 3 Ptners to drive 6 Fathoms in the North Vein 20s p Fathom & 20s p Bing.

I intend to sett on 6 men under the West End forehead Next week to raise Ore I expect at a Bout 15s p Bing dead work the Law Level forehead to be carried on with 6 Pickmen Do middle Level on the North Cheeke of the Ironstone with 4 Pickmen in order to convey the Work from the West End forehead & the Working Below Do as the aBove Levels are not set on Yet no Price made 6 Men & 3 Labourers opening out the Old Mans Works Sometimes by Bargons & sometimes on Wages The vein that was Discovered in the Hush 50 Fathoms North of Greengill Vein I am afraid is all wasted in

small Strings so that Tryal will soon be at an End Howblagill the Vein looks promising in the plate where she is but how she may prove in the Sills is Uncertain & cannot Expect any Success for a good while yet as we have a Shaft Sink & the Level to drive 20 Fathoms further before we come to the place where I would like to make a Tryal in the Vein for Ore On Account of another Sill coming on we shall then have all the same Sills that the Old Man has had & we now have at Greengill West End.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

8 Jul 1774 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

8th July 1774

Sir,

A Copy of Sundry Bargons let at Greengill West End 24th June 1774 You have as folls

Rd Midcalf 8 Ptners to raise Ore in their old Workings till Michs Next at 9s 6d p Bing

Andw Elliot 6 Ptners to raise Ore in the West End forehead till Do at 10s 6d p Bing

Wm Thirelway 4 Ptners to raise in Midcalfs Soales till Do at 14s p Bing

John Bales 4 Ptners to drive Fathoms in a North Vein 20s p Fathom and I intend to set on 6 men under the West End forehead Next week to raise Ore I expect at about 15s p Bing

Dead Work

The Low Level to be carried on with 6 Pickmen Do

a middle Level to be carried upon the North Cheek of the Ironstone with 4 Men in Order to convey the work from the West End forehead & the Working below Do.

N.B. as the above Levels are not set on no Bargains are made

Do 6 Men & 3 Labourers oppening out the old Mans Works sometimes on Wagges & other times by Bargain he vein that was discovered in the Hush 50 Fathoms North of Greengill Vein I am afraid is all wasted away in small Strings so that Tryal will soon be at an End

Howblagill the Vein we have Cut looks Promising in the plate bed how she may prove in the Sills is uncertain & cannot expect any success for a good while yet as there is a Shaft to sink & the Level to drive 20 Fathoms before we come to the place where I would like to make tryal in the Vein for Ore on Account of another Sill coming when

the above Sill is on we shall have all the same Sills that the Old Man has had & we now have at Greengill West End. We had upwards of 40 Bings of Ore raised Greengill West End at Midsummer hope we shall raise rather more this Quarter.

Stanhope Bargans let 27th June 1774 as follows

Matthew Stobs 4 Pts to raise Ore in the West End forehead in Grays Vein Till Michs Next & to give them £6 for sinking 3 Fathoms deeper in the Great Limestone	at 30s Bing
Geo Gray 4 Ptners to raise Ore till Michs next in their old Workings & to give them £5 for sinking 2 Fathoms deeper in the great Limestone	at 30s p Bing
John Taylor 8 Ptners in their old Workings to raise Ore till Do.	at 35s p Bing
Tho Walton 6 Ptners to raise Ore till Do.	at 30s p Bing
Wm Riddley 2 Ptners to raise Ore in the Old Workings till Do	at 45s p Bing
Jacob Vickers 4 Ptners to sink the West most Shaft 2 Fathoms Deeper & then cut North to the Quakers Vein	at 50s p Fathom

The best & truest account I can give of the Present State of my Lords Lead Mines you have sent.

P.S. You will remember I spoke to you at Naward about Lord Carlisles executing the Lease of Greengill West End if his Lordship should be in the North soon it would be right if his Lordship Pleases to have it executed then if not I desire you will be so Obliging as request his Lordship will impower you Mr Ramshay or some other Person to execute on his behalf I Further beg you may fix your Journey into this Country as soon as you can as there are several Things both here & at Stanhope I want to consult you in which would be best done at the places where your advice is Wanted.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

18 Jul 1774 Jonathan Hilton to Charles Atkinson

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr Charles Atkinson

Alston 18th July 1774

Sir,

Please to order for Lord Carlisle 34 Caskes of Bone Ashes weighing about 1½ cwt each would not have them Larger let them be forwarded to John Walton Agent at Stanhope Lead Mill the Hundred Pound you sent by my Son I recd safe as my Lords Lead Mines & Mill Pays will Amount to a very great Sum this Year I think it advisable for you to sell at Markett Price as soon as it comes to Hand.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

N.B. at the same time advised him of 85 Bings Common Lead sent him from Stanhope Mill

30 Jul 1774 Jonathan Hilton to Thomas Ramshay

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr Ramshay

Alston 30th July 1774

Dear Sir,

Your Favour of the 25th Instant I recd and observes the Contents what you have heard about Stanhope Mill not Working my Lords Ore is not true I do assure you there has not any Ore been Smelted but my Lords since my Lord had any Ore fit for Smelting nor indeed for two Months before owing to the want of Peets We had as many old Peets as Smelted about 70 Bings of Stanhope Ore out of which Produced 280 Pigs of Lead which Lead was got to Newcastle & sold about 22nd June at £13.5 p Futher Common Lead since that got the same New peets & Smelted all the Ore that washed at Stanhope before the 10th Instant to witt 85 Piggs sent to Newcastle & sold to Weardale Chaple 2½ Tunes & is now Smelting Greengill Ore but am sadly put about for Smelters we could imploy 12 we have taken all pains we can & have not yet got more than half you may assure yourself that I shall use my best Indeavours to get all the Lead to Markitt I can as Knowing two well Drawing for Cash will not meet with agreeable Exceptance but hopes that will not be my Case this Year I have sent from Greengill to Stanhope this Year 333 Bings <Horse> & for Duty 89B 3C the Wood that I at Present want may be got at the Millburnside old wood that will not spring Let it be cut at any Season of the Year that will do for the Ribs & there may be spare got out of that wood at the Head of the planting which is all the wood I now want but at the same Time would like to have the Quantity I mentioned set out as it will save Trouble & Expencc & can cut it when the Season come son. My Son is gone to Penrith to meet 3 of the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital who Intends being here this Day & will stay in the Country a week If Friday 12th of next Month Suite will meet Mr Bell at Softly that Day but pray give me a Line next Saturday I neglected giving you a Copy of Stanhope Bargains which was let 24th June 1774 as follows.

Let Matthew Stobs 4 Pts to raise Ore in the West End forehd in Grays Vein till Michs next & to give them £6 for sinking 3 Fathoms Deeper in the Great Limestone & for all the Ore they raise at	at 30 p Bing
Let Geo Gray 4 Pts to raise Ore in their old Workings till Do & to give them £5 for sinking two Fathoms Deeper in the Great Limestone	at 30 p Bing
Let John Taylor 8 Pts to raise Ore in their old Workings till Do.	at 35s p Bing
Let <John> Walton 6 Pts to raise Ore till Do.	at 30s p Bing
Let Wm Riddley 2 Pts to raise Ore in the Old Works till Do	at 45s p Bing
Let Jacob Vickers 4 Pts to sink the Westmost Shaft 2 Fathoms & after that cut cross to the Quakers Vein	at 50 p Fathom

I am &ca Jona Hilton

7 Sep 1774 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

Alston 7th Sept 1774

Sir,

Shewed you a Copy of a Proposal for a Vein cut in Howblagill when I see you last at Naward which have been shewn to the Commissioners & excepted I have since got Mr Ramshay on behalf of the Earl of Carlisle & Mr John Cleaver to sign a Proposal for a Vein to be called by the Name of Greengill Moss which is the Vein we have got all the Ore in that we have hitherto raised that lies North of Greengill West End but is yet within the Limits of that Vein as there is 40 Yards granted on each Side of every Vein it would go by the Name of Greengill West End till it be without the above Limitts by Driving 80 Yds further west then where we are now working it will be then called Greengill Moss Vein I also intend geting Mr Ramshay to seign a proposal requesting the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital to grant a Lease to my Lord & Mr Cleaver to take a Level under the great Limestone in order to make Tryal in the above Vein called Greengill Moss near the West End of the Lease which will be 200 Yards West of where we are now working as also for all the Veins that may be cut by driving the above Level. I expect to cut one or two Veins besides Greengill Moss Vein. As you have often been so obliging as say you would refer the entire Management of the Lead Mine Works to me & be ruled by my Opinion in giving in Proposals for such new Veins as I should think Necessary I have taken upon me to get Mr Ramshay to give in the above mentioned Proposals which I hope you will approve especially as I do assure you they were absolutely Necessary however I shall be much Obliged to you for your approbation of it in your next. I acquainted Mr Cleaver with what has been done and he both by Letter & in personal conversation approved of what had been done & Intirely left the entering into fresh Works to my Direction. There has been no Tryall made in Greengill West End Vein further than Endeavouring to drain the Old Man's Works which has & is likely to be attended by a Large expence & great Danger to the Workmen by loosing such great Quantitys of Water but thank God none of the Men have suffered much yet further than by fear the Mine continues pretty good & Promising I expect by Michas we shall have raised upwards of 900 Bings of Ore which Ore I expect will all be worked & taken away from the Mine by the Latter End of October. And then will give you an Exact Account relating the Mines both at Stanhope & at Alston Moor Howblagill Works are going on but must not Expect a Tryal of that Vein for some Time yet.

I was at Stanhope the first Instant we have Latly two fresh Vein both gets Ore as well as could be expected the Smelting now goes on very well but Having no Old Peats & the Summer being so very weet put us long of As the works of Lord Carlisle both in the Mines and Smelting are now of very great Consequence I think it most absolutely Necessary you should be at Stanhope as soon as you possabley can it would most certainly would be Right for you both to be Hear & at Stanhope but however at all

events you should be at Stanhope soon there are so many Things which ought to be Settled in your Presence that I shall not enter into a Particular detail of them in this but amongst the rest the Salaries of the Late and Present Mill Agents several Things respecting the Smelt Mill & Mines which all require your being there & as soon as you can fix if you would be so kind as let me know either myself or Sun will meet you at West Auckland you may come in Post Chaise all the way to Stanhope very well. I think one of the Mr Ramshays should meet you there as such when you let me know of you Coming I will take Care to get them Notice I should not have been so very pressing of your coming but am very well convinced it must be of the greatest advantage to the Earl of Carlisle.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

13 Sep 1774 Jonathan Hilton to Thomas Ramshay

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr Ramshay

Alston 13th September 1774

Sir,

Inclosed I have you a proposal which I desire you will sign as usuall & return it by the Bearer I was at Stanhope the first Instant we have there lately cut 2 Fresh Veins both gets Ore as well as can be expected the Smelting now goes on very well but having no old Peats & the Summer being so very Wet kept us long off Greengill continued prety good we shall raise upwards of 900 Bings of ore by Michaelmas & Expects to get it all washed & taken away from the Mine by the Latter End of October.

The Above Proposal is for Leave to take out a Level in order to try the West End of Greengill Moss vein which Vein you Signed a Proposal for at Carlisle & as the Vein have got all the Ore in that we have yet raised but must go by the Name of Greengill West End till she be 40 Yards Distant from the above Vein then will go by the name of Greengill Moss Vein we have made no Tryal of Greengill West End Vein yet further than Indeavouring to drain the Old Mans Works of Watter which has been & likely to be attended with a large Expence & great danger to the Workmen but Thank God none of the Men have suffered further than by fear. Will be glad to see your Daughter hear the Time she Proposed.

I am &ca Jonathan Hilton

2 Oct 1774 Jonathan Hilton to Thomas Ramshay

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr Ramshay

Alston 2nd October 1774

Sir,

I was with Mr Lavie at Morpeth Wedensday Last he proposes coming from Morpeth to Stanhope from there to Alston & from Alston to Naward but could not then fix the

Time but sate he would write me by the post of Tuesday & fix the Time for my Son to meet him at NewCastle & go along with him to Stanhope I shall receive his Letter on Tuesday & as he desires your Son may be at Stanhope at the Time he is their. I shall let you know the Time so soon as I get the Letter.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

20 Nov 1774 Jonathan Hilton to Charles Atkinson

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr Atkinson

Alston 20th November 1774

Sir,

As my Son is disapointed in his Intention of coming to NewCastle at this Time on Account of Mr Smeaton having a call to London he will not be in NewCastle till the begining or middle of December and as I have Occasion for Cash I shall be much obliged to you & desire you will Send by Mr Hall the Bearer One Hundred Pounds I wish to have twenty Pounds in Guineas as much Silver & Half Guineas as you can get for me & the remainder Twenty Shilling Notes my Son will be down at the Time I mention and as I wish to make Stanhope Pay as soon as Possible I beg you may get in all the Money you can against his coming down I must Desire of you to sell the Lead now in Hand at the Market Price as also the Lead you know to be upon the Road and as soon as the Lead Carriage is stopped I will Take Care to send you and Exact Account of what is delivered & wish all to be sold with very speedy convenience.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

23 Nov 1774 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

Alston 23rd Novr 74

Sir,

I was at Stanhope 24 & 25 Instant & find we shall have 1000 Ounces of Silver Bullion ready for Market the 9th of next Month & as you said when hear that you would write me what you sold the Silver at p Ounce which I sent to London & give Directions whether you would have the rest of the Bullion sent to London or I should sell it at NewCastle I therefore take the Liberty of acquainting you that I should know by the Return of the Post I intend making the Stanhope Lead Mine & Smelt Mill Pays the 16 & 17 next Month & money cannot be raised from the Lead Against that Time so if the Silver is to be sent to London I desire you will be so obliging as give me an order to draw on you in NewCastle for the Amount of the above 1000 Ounces of Silver I made a Second enquirey when I was last at Stanhope Relating what Mrs Simpson said to you about the Irish Man threatening her Husbands Life by Cuting the Rope &ca this Quarrel happened in Feby last Simpson let a Bargain to some of this Mans Partners in

January & in February he took it into his Head to discharge them from working the Bargain he had let the Men would not take his discharge but told him they would work their Bargain so he took their Worktools from them and locked them up and three of the Ptners came to Alston & told me their Complaint I than wrote Simpson what they said & if the Bargain was let as they said I Thought he had no right to take it from them I went to Stanhope soon after and found the Bargain to be let as the Men Had told me and at that Time Mrs Simpson was made the same complaint against this Man as she did to you in consequence of which I called all the Men that was present when the Quarl Happened & they all declaired that he said no such Words as Mrs Simpson had told me they beleaved that the only thing that affronted Simpson was the Man telling him that that he would not be turned of work by him if he was to be turned of it should be by the Person who set him on but according to your Order I took the same Method & the Men declairing the same as before so I then told Simpson what his Wife had said to you & what orders I had from you & that no proof could be had of what his Wife had said, I then asked Simpson if the man had ever Threatened him by themselves he said no but he was a bad fellow. I told him if it was to be called a Quarral is was of his own begining for if he had suffered the Men to work their Bargain their would have been no Quarral.

Stanhope Lead Mine is at Present very poor. Greengill West End never was so good as soon we shall raise 788 Bings of Bouse Ore & 40 Bings of Cutting Ore at Greengill West End before Michas last besides paying the Duty which is one fifth of all the Ore that is raised except the Cutting Ore will be delivered before we can possibly make Alston moor Pays the whole Amount of which at 50 p Bing for the Bouse & 45 p Bing for the cutting. The Price I agreed with Mr Cleaver for his Shair amounts to £2060 I have not yet got in all the Accounts of Expences but from the Best calculations I am at Present able to make I think I can safely say the Expences at Greengill West End Howblagill & the new Level is in Garrigillburn will not exceed £1860 so that their will be a Profitt upon the Mines in Alston Moor from Michaelmas 1773 to Michaelmas 1774 of £200 On the 29th Instant we had delivered from Stanhope Mill 2011 Pieces of Lead 1½ Cwt each which are Equal to 143 Fodders & 9 Pieces I have not lately enquired to know exactly how much of this Quantity is sold as I intend either by myself or Son to call upon Mr Atkinson about the 12th of Decr to get some Cash of him to make the Stanhope Pays at the Time before Mentioned but I knew very well that the Money which will be then in his Hand will not be sufficient without the Value of the Silver Therefore I must again desire you will be so Obliging as let me know as soon as Possable what I must do with the Bullion Immediately after my being at NCastle will let you know what Lead is sold & the Time the Money is to be paid & then I hope that we will be enabled to fix the Time of making the Alston Moor Pays I hope all the Ore we have at Stanhope Mill will be got Smelted against the middle of January if we are not prevented by frost after the Ore is all Smelted we shall be enabled to know the value of the Sundry ores better than ever before.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

26 Dec 1774 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

Alston 26 Decr 74

Sir,

On the 23 last Month I wrote you requesting the favour of a Line to inform me of what you had done respecting the Cake of Bullion I sent to London as I had as I had no received an Answer from you I desired my Son to write you which he did and put into the N.Castle Post Office on Fryday the 16 Instant I have not yet Received any Answer to either of those letters which make me apprehensive that one or both of them has miscarried As such I now take the Liberty of writing to you again desiring to hear from you as soon as Convenient because the Time of Year at which we have usually made Lord Carlisles Cmpy Pays is very near & I do very much wish to make it about the same Time. The Amount of the Sundry Pays in Alstonmoor & Stanhope will be very near £3400 and the Amount of Lead & Silver sold will be no more than £2400 so that I will want One Thousand Pounds besides a sufficient sum to support the Workmen till we can get more Lead to Markit but as I had a Ballance of a bout £250 of Lord Carlisles & Mr Cleavers in Hand at the last Settlement that Ballance will Answer the Purpose of Support Money for this Year. I intend going to Stanhope the Latter End of this week when I hope all the Ore will be Smelted & the greatest part of the Lead Refined I will then let you know the Stock of Lead in Hand I hope I shall never again be under the Necessity of Drawing Money from you.

Greengill at present has most promising appearance & I hope there is no kind of doubt in her Continuing.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

8 Jan 1775 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

Alston 8th Jany 75

Sir,

On the 23rd November last I wrot you under cover to Lord Carlisle Respecting Sundry Matters but Particularly to know what I was to do about the sale of Bullion & to have directions to draw on you for the Amount part of Bullion as was to go to London as I never heard from you I desired my Son to write to you again the 16th December on the same Business I have never yet recd any Answer to either those Letters which gives me very much consern especilly as I have had your verbal Promise to let me Know as soon as you Returned to London respecting the 681 Ounces of Silver Bullion which I sent you. I am extreemly sorey for it as also the Pays in Alstonmoor except Lord Carlisles are made & his Lordships pays has never been later than the begining of Feby & as we are now very flourishing I could wish that my Lord should not know any Neglect of

ours hurt that Character which he has hitherto bore in this Country which is & I hope always will be a most excellent one I now again beg to hear from you as soon as Possable with Directions to draw for what you will see by the Inclosed Account is Wanting to Compleat the Pays & support the Workmen who will take a very considerable Sum as we have about 130 men at 10/6 Each Monthly to support from Michas last & there was a disagreeable difficulty respecting the Last Years draft on you at the NewCastle Bank I beg you may give proper Directions so That no difficulty may arise this Year as I did not receive any Answer to either of the other Letters I have taken the Liberty of inclosing this to Mr Yeats a Particular Friend of Mine who I hope will take care to have it safely conveyed to you.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

8 Jan 1775 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

Alston 8th Jany 1775

Sir,

Inclosed you have an Account shewing what Money will be wanted to make the several Pays as also Lead sold Quantity of Lead we now have in Hand & the Quantity we hope out to make of the Flaggs [ie slags] &ca likewise the Account of Silver Bullion made & supposed to be made at Stanhope I hope we shall get all Smelted & Refined & every Accot settled at or about May Day when will send you a Particular Account of the Profitt or Loss by the Mill this Year but am well satisfied it will be Profitt tho we cannot expect it much as almost everything was in worse condition than will be in future on Account of the Mill not having full employment The low or Bacons Level which is to be continued by 6 Men & a Crosscut Cut to a North Vein by 4 Men which will be about 8 Fathom The Iron & firestone Sills to try in the Present vein all yet not let but intends Leting them next Week & will after the Pay let you know Particularly the Price for which they are let & I hope by that Time we shall have some sight into the Sills so as to know the prospect and as his Lordships Mines are now very flourishing I heartily wish the Pay were made. Long Pays might hurt the Poor workmen as also the Credit of the Mines.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

22 Jan 1775 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

Alston 22nd Jany 1775

Sir,

As I have not recd any Answer to mine of the 8th Instant which I understand by Mr Yeats whose Letter I recd on the 8th was left at your House on the 14th Instant I again

send this to beg the Favour of a Line from you & also to acquaint you that I intend to go to NewCastle on the 29th Inst. & will be there till the Morning of the 7th February I mean to get all the Cash arising from the Lead & Silver sold & pay of all at Stanhope on my return home & destribute the remaining part of the Money among the Alston moor Workmen so far as it goes but it would be much better if you would please to give me Directions where to get the rest of the Money & pay all at the same Time as short payments are very disagreeable & what the Workmen in this Manor have not been used to & I do assure you it gives me no small concern to see all Pays made & my Lords not. If you please to send me a line with directions as above so as it can be at NewCastle on the 31st Instant you may direct to me at Mr Charles Atkinson Mercht in the Side NewCastle upon Tyne.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

5 Feb 1775 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

Alston 5th Feby 75

Sir,

I wrote you Sundry Times since I had the Pleasure of seeing you hear but have never had an Answer to any of my Letters indeed had ima[g]ined they had miscarried till I wrote you the 8th of Last Month inclosed to Mr Yeats which Letter as I told you in my last was delivered at your own House on the 14th & after receiving as Letter from Mr Yeats of his Delivering my Letter as above I wrote you of mine & my Sons Intention of being at NewCastle on Monday the 30th & stay there till the 7th Instant & to settle with Mr Atkinson & receive Cash for all the Lead sold that was got to Markit & make Stanhope Lead Mine & Mill Pays on the 2d & 3d of our return Home which was done & there is yet £700 wanted to complete the Alstonmoor Pays I do assure you I am very much put on by the Workmen & People that give them Credit till the Pay & indeed not without Reason as its now 5 months since the Accounts was now taken in & all other Pays in this Mannor made before Christmas I now beg leave to mention to you that it is not Convenient for you to remit me the Money a Wanting I will endeavour Myself to get Money to compleate the Pays & support the Workmen till Money can be rais'd from the Lead which is now lying at the Mill provided my Lord Carlisle will send me a power to dispose of that Lead in order to reimburse this Money this will be of no sort of hurt or Loss to his Lordship excepting the Interest of this Money which must be had at 5 p cent p annum till it be repaid as we shall dispose of the Lead equally as well as if this had not Happened the £700 that is now wanted to make the Pays is not all that will be wanted there is already lent to the Workmen at Stanhope & in Alstonmoor since Michas last £220 which cannot be taken till next Year Pays & there will be a Lending Day the Latter End of this Month which will be upwards of 60 more that will take all the Money that was in my Hand the last settling with Mr Ramshay therefore the Money which has been Received for the Lead & Silver sold together with the £700 will

be applied to compleat the Alstonmoor Pays and as the Season for Washing is now coming on the support Money will be £80 p Month & on account of the Badness of the Roads no Lead can be got to Markit before may & after Lead is sold there is generally 3 or 4 Months Credit given so that no Money can be expected for Lead Sonner than Septer otherwise than by Paying Interest as above which is very common with the most of the Lead owners. Mr Cleavers shair of the Ore that was raised at Greengill West End last year was Bought for my Lord so the whole Money wanted to make Pays & supporting the Workmen must come from my Lord as no Money has been paid to Mr Cleaver yet for his Ore & as my Lord will make 10 p Cent by lying Mr Cleavers Ore it can be no hardship to pay 5 or 6 Months Interest at the rate of 5 p cent for what Money may be wanted. As I make no sort of doubt of raising four times the quantity of Ore at Greengill West End this Year that we did last Year I am very well satisfied that we shall raise so much Money from the sale of the Lead & Silver as to carry on the Works in future with very Considerable Proffitt to his Lordship we have now at the Mill Smelted & in the Flaggs 120 Fodders of Lead & will have about 230 ounces of Silver that Lead & Silver will after paying every expence of Manufacturage & Carriage &ca raise at £13.10 p Fodder a sum of £1300 & as we are in so likely a way to do well I hope you'll comply with my request as I do assure you the Uneasiness of the Workmen & the Countrys talk makes me very unhappy.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

13 Mar 1775 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

13 March 75

Dear Sir,

I now with Pleasure inform you that my Lord Carlisles Pays are all made as follows Stanhope Lead Mine Pay 2 Feby 1775 till Michs 1774. Do Lead Mill Pay on the 3d till the 29th Oct 1774. 10 March 1775 till Michaelmas 1774 but as the Alstonmoor Pays were so late of making I was obliged to pay the Sundry for Work doen Carriage &ca which has made the Paybill much higher than it would otherwise have been & as I hope to have the Pleasure of seeing you at Naward at the receipt of the rents which is that Time that the Money Borrowed is to be payed I shall not settle with Mr Ramshay till then at which Time I expect all the Ore raised from Mich s 1773 to Michs 1774 the grey & Black Slagg will be Smelted & all Lead Refined & every other work done so as to enable us to give you a full accot of all the Proffitts of the Lead Mill but I must beg the Favour of a Line mentioning how much Money you got for the Silver Bullion you had sent to London as we cannot make up the Accounts exactly till that be known. We have a present but One refining furnace & the Year shall have Occasion for two as such I think it will be Necessary to Change the reducing Harth to a refining Furnace & Build a reducing Furnace which will be of no great expence but then place where the reducing is to be fixed must be where the Mill Agent now has his Office & there is a Necessity

for a Peat House to be built the Mill Agent may have an office at one end of that Peat House the above I hope will meet with your Aprobation & the season for making those additions is know coming on a piece I hope you will be obliging as favour me with a Line by the return of the Post of your consent of the above my son & self was at Stanhope the 4th instant that Mine Poor Greengill West End continues pretty good & Promising.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

4 Apr 1775 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Lavie

4 April 1775

Sir,

After those drifts are drove I intend cutting south to try the sun Vein you will see as above there is 16 Men Employed in sinking & rising the sum from the Ore workings in to the deep Level & 6 Men rising the Borehole Shaft all 22, 10 of which was taken out of sundry Ore Bargons & will go back to their Bargains as soon as the sump & shaft is finished 16 Men to be employed in driving forward the Low Level the other 6 in Cutting cross to another Vein which was not yet been tryed the above Borehole Shaft was the first Shaft that was sunk & was then Bored into the Law level but sunk no deeper than the top of the Ironstone as I wanted to try the Vein in the sill that we now get the Ore in but by the great Quantity of water we have loosed out the old Mans works the borehole cannot now contain the Water. A Tryal of the Iron and Firestone sills was mentioned to you in a former Letter as also cutting to a North Vein The Iron & Firestone sills were so much broke by the strongness of the vein that we had nothing but is called a douk the North Vein we have cut which has some Pieces ore in it at the Bottom of the sill & it Proabley may carry ore in the Sill but we intend Driving this Cross cut further at the random she is now at till we cut another North Vein which has not yet been Tryed as is mentioned above.

The above is the Truest & Best Account I am at Present given you & you will judge by the Bargain Let that Greengill is a pretty good Mine we support to have Raised two Thousand Bings of Ore since Michaelmas Last & expect to get all the Lead now at the Mill to Markitt by the Time the Naward Rents is lifted which will be about the 15th May next as Mr Ramshay says.

Look back to the [sic]

I am &ca Jona Hilton

21 Apr 1775 Jonathan Hilton to Charles Atkinson

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr Atkinson

21st Apr 75

Sir,

Yours of the 12th Instant I recd the advice I now give is for you to sell all the Lead that lord Carlisle has now Smelted which I beleive will be delivered you in a few Days & we cannot expect more than the Markitt Price I doubt not of your Care to get the Best price the Lead will fetch at NewCastle & as we shall have occasion for £1000 on the 15th next Month it would be very agreeable if you would advance that sum then to be repaid you with Interest when the Money for the Lead becomes due & as I expect you have Recd the Silver Bullion I desire it may be sold & that you will Please send me by James Johnston the Bearer seventy pounds & send to Geo Simpson of Stanhope Thirty Pounds by Matthew Watson Stanhope Carrier & when my son comes down he will settle with you.

P.S. Since writing the above I recd yours of the 18th Inst you seem to make a doubt whither what Doctor Hall has reported is a fact or not but you say a little Time will discover now I leave it entirely to you to act respecting the sale of the Lead as you shall see most Proper & at the same Time I would be sorey to sell so as it should be said we were the means of Lowering the Martkitt.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

25 Apr 1775 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr Lavie

25th Apr 1775

Sir,

In your Letter of 17th Feby last you mentioned that if I could Borrow the Money wanted to complete the Pays &ca at 5 p Cent till April when you would be in the Country it would oblige you in Consequence of which I did borrow it & as the Time of Payment now draws near I send this to know if you still retain the same determination of paying that Money out of the Rents my Reason for making this enquiry is that I beleive I can have the Money for such Time as we raise Cash to repay it for Lead sold if you would like that better your Answer directed to me at Mr Charles Atkinson Mercht NewCastle anytime before the 3 May will be very acceptable.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

12 Jul 1775 Jonathan Hilton to Germaine Lavie

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr Lavie

12th July 1775

Sir,

Since I see you we have had the misfortune of having the Sill we get the Ore in Thrown down by a Cross Vein the Ore in the forehead almost quite cut at which

forehead was let to Jos Renwick & Ptners at 12s p Bing as you will see in my Letter of the 4th April last & as that was the case they give up their Bargain so we let them 5 Fathom, to drive in hopes of the sill rising to its former Height but on driving that 5 fathom we lost the sill Intirely underfoot & as we could not sink to the sill for Water was obliged to come back & take a Drift out of the last Sum under the firestone sill and to boar a hole into that drift in order to clear us of Water which drift & Boarhole are now both finished & we Intend beginning to sink in to the sill & try the Vein this throw down of the sills we emagion hath been the Cause of the old Mans loosing his Workings owing to the want of Level to take away his Water. The forehead have raised very little Ore this Quarter taking 6 Men to drive the above Drift under the Firestone which Men were raising Ore in the Roofs makes the Quantity of Ore raised the Last Quarter much less than we expected we think it will not exceed 500 Bings.

The above is the truest & best Accounts I can at Present give when any thing Material Happens shall let you know.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

23 Oct 1775 Jonathan Hilton to Francis Gregg

[Note: Agent for Lord Carlisle who was promoted to replace Lavie]

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr Gregg

Alston 23rd Octr 1775

Sir,

Inclosed you have a Copy of the Bargains Let at Stanhope Burn Lead Mine which I hope will meet with your Approbation that Lead Mine at Present has a very Promising Prospect indeed more so than it had since it came under my Care I have great Reason to expect the Prospect will be realised. You have allso a Copy of the Bargons of the several Lead Mines let on Alstonmoor under Lease & Grant to lord Carlisle & Mr Cleaver which I likewise hope you'll approve tho' it would have given me much more Pleasure if I could have said as favourably of this Mine as I have said of Stanhope Burn Yet at the same Time I do say the Difficulty we have meet with were Expected both by myself & Son Greengill West End is a Lead Mine which has been worked many Years ago & by Different Undertakings who had worked all such part of the Vein as they could for the following Reasons of the Mien Yealded so very great Quantity of Water as could not be drawn without an Engine and as the Mine is situated on the top of a High Mountain no Watter could be got to work a Wheel Engine & as Coals are 16 Miles distant the Expençe of a Fire Engine would have been greater than the Prospect would admit & tho' the Mine is situated on the Top of a Mountain yet the top of that mountain is such that on our carrying up the Present Level which is now upwards of 900 Yards in length we gained no more than 66 Yards in Perpendicular Height this Level had been looked up in the former Undertakers as Two great a Tryal for the Prospect as such they could only work to a ceertain Depth on Account of Watter as I

have before said and as we always Judge by the surface appearance how Mines have been worked by way of Advantage or the Contrary & how deep by tracing out the Old Level it appeared to us upon our strict examining that Greengill West End had been good to a Certain place where the appearance changed that Change was occasioned by a Cross Vein which had thrown Down the sills or Stratum in which the Ore had been raised so much deeper than where those undertakers were enabled to work by reason of the Watter before mentioned as to prevent their working at all and when that is the Case there is generally a Peice of Deed ground I mean ground in which there is no Ore this deed ground varies frequently in its length but from the most accurate observations we are capable of making we hope it will in this Case not exceed 40 – 50 or 60 Yards till the Vein begins to carry Ore again unless some unforeseen accident happens of which we have no apprehensions you may depend on my utmost care to be as frugal in the expence of every kind as can be & it will be a continual Pleasure to me to be enabled to procure Lord Carlisle an Annual Proffitt of the Lead Mines. With the consent of Mr Lavie I purchased Mr Cleavers share of Ore raised at Greengill West End from Michas 1773 to Michas 1774 & as there was a Proffit at Stanhope Smelt Mill last Year of near £350 very near $\frac{1}{4}$ part of that Money arose from the said Purchase as such I advised Mr Lavie & had his consent to purchase Mr Cleavers share this Year which I accordingly did & does not Doubt the Proffits will Ansr the Expectations without some unlooked few Change in the Price of Lead for which I cannot be Accountable my Son would tell you at Naward that we would be under the Necessity of borrowing Money this Year to make Lord Carlisles Pays but I do not know how much will be wanted as it totally depends upon the quantity of Lead which can be got to the Markitt & that Depends upon the Weather however not more than half the quantity produced this Year can be got ridey as the Undertakings are now become of such considerable consequence & as I never a Power of Attorney to act for Lord Carlisle I beg leave to say I think it necessary & have therefore taken the Liberty of inclosing some Memorandums which as I do not properly understand the regular Method of making out myself I have taken the form of a Letter of Attorney about a Different Business shall be much obliged to you if you'll please to have it ingrossed with such Alterations as you see Necessary & request the favour of his Lordship to execute & inclose it to me as soon as you conveniently can as all the Pays in Alston Moor are made before Christmas we would wish to have Lord Carlisle Pays made amongst the rest but we cannot get than done till I have an Authority to borrow the Money Necessary. I am with all proper respect to my Lord Carlisles Sir

Your most Obd Hum Sert Jona Hilton

P.S. As to the Letting of Bargains which was sent with the above look the Bargain Book.

15 Dec 1775 Joseph Hilton to Francis Gregg

[Note: Context indicates this letter was from Jonathan's son Joseph, but is signed Jonathan, which could indicate that the Hiltons used a clerk who made a mistake on this and later occasions]

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr Gragg

Alston 15th Decr 1775

Sir,

By the Directions of my Father I send this to inform you he recd your esteemed Favour of the 5th Instant Yestarday which was as soon as it could come the most proper Time to send Letters here is on the Monday Evening in which we can have them at Alston on the next Saturday Morning or on the Fryday & we receive them on the Wednesday following the Proper Direction To Mr Jona Hilton Alston near Penrith Cumberland; you'll be so Obliging as excuse my Father's giving any Ansr to the Observations of Mr Gilbert till after Christmass The Pays where Lord Carlisle is concerned in Alston moor is to be on Tuseday first 19th Inst after that is over & the Christmass Bargons Let you may expect to hear from my Father with every necessary Account.

I am &ca Jonathan Hilton

4 Jan 1776 Joseph Hilton to Charles Atkinson

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr Atkinson

4th Jany 1776

Sir,

By my Fathers desire I send this to acquaint you that we are now here & have examined the several Bills which we intend to pay on Lord Carlisles Account as soon as we can get Money for that purpose as such we beg you will so soon as you think you can properly do so dispose of what Lead remains unsold when that is done we shall be enabled to know what further sum will be wanting to compleat the Pays.

We have recd a Letter from Mr Gregg Lord Carlisles Agent desiring us to borrow the Necessary Money upon the Credit of the Ore and Lead in which Business we beg leave to request the favour of your Assistance I intend being down at NewCastle about the 14th Instant when I can tell what will be actually wanted and then I hope we shall have it in our Power to fix the Time for making those Pays; I see by John Waltons Account he has received £20 since I was at NewCastle which makes the whole Money recd from you £5982.4.9

According to your Account which dare say will correspond with yours [ours?] we have told both Walton & Simpson not to draw any more Cash from you till after the Pays. You have recd since I left NewCastle 2 Cakes of Silver Bullion the first 734 & the next 607 Ounces together 1341 Ounces & another will be done on the 26th instant The

amount of these Cakes I hope will nearly repay you the advance you made me when I was down. Wishing you & all yours many Happy Years

I am &ca Jona Hilton

14 Jan 1776 Joseph Hilton to Francis Gregg

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr Gragg

Farnacres 14th Jany 76

Sir,

I make no doubt you have thought my Father long in sending Answers to the several remarks which you had inclosed 5th Ult & indeed I can only a Pologise for its not being done sooner by acquainting you that from the Time of your Letter arriving till the 6th Inst we were kept very Busy on attending the several Lead Mine Pays &ca in Alston moor so that till after that Time it was impossable to do any thing by way of Ansr you should have had a Letter sooner but we were in hopes of being able to send the whole Account before now; the reason of its not coming according to our expectation was a call I had to this Place on Account of my Engagement with Greenwich Hospital & I have been now here 8 Days. I can however acquaint you that we have made the Alston moor Pays & let the Christmas Bargains both there & at Stanhope & as I think there is no doubt of my getting home this week. I hope we shall be able to give you a full Answer to your Questions some time before February which I hope will Answer your purpose but we shall most certainly send the Accounts as soon as possable. Upon enquirey we find we cannot get Money from Messrs Atkinsons Templesowerby as we did last Year they having parted with all the Money they can spare for three Months. I intend before I leave this Place to enquire if we can have either & let you know in our Next.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

24 Jan 1776 Jonathan Hilton to Francis Gregg

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr Gragg

Alston 24th Jany 1776

Sir,

It would have given me the greatest Pleasure to have answered yours of the 5th Decr immediately but I was very desirous of having my Son along with me to Join in giving proper Answers to your remarks upon the arrival of your Letter the Pays in this Country were coming on which confined us some Time & after we got the Alston moor Pays made & other Necessary Business the several Bargains finished my son had a call to Farnacres on Account of his engagement with Greenwich Hospital which kept him till last week he wrote you the 14th Inst. which hope you have recd I now inclose you

Answers to the remarks & if any thing therein contained requires explanation I shall most readily endeavour to do it as clearly as I am able.

I also enclose you Copys of the Bargains let at Christmas which I dare say will Ansr every End as to the appearance of the Mine & the probability as you mention Mr Gilbert being to persue the several Accounts & having viewed the Works will from the Bargains be able to Judge how the Mines are going forward.

It cannot Possibly be immagined that this Year can be any how proportioned to the last for Proffit because if any thing turn out quite agreeable to our expectation it will be a good way in the Year before any Particular advantage can take place and as to new Discoveries if we make any the Year will be farr advanced before proper convenience can be made so as to work them advantageously. I therefore Build very little hopes on this Year but hope the next will do better.

You'll see by the inclosed Account how the Mines have been since I was concerned for the present Earl of Carlisle. You desire me to transmitt you an Account once in every two Months how the Mines go on, I beg leave to mention to that it is & always has been the Custom of this Country to let the General Bargons every three Months Viz. at Michas Christmas Lady Day & Midsummer before which lettings a more exact examination of the several Workings is taken than at any other Time & the Mines are cleared of the Work more generally in order to give the Agent an opportunity of seeing every situation in its own proper position as such take Liberty to recommend those 4 Times as the most proper for sending the generall report & I hope you will think it often enough because besides those general reports I shall most certainly upon any Material charge either for better or worse send you an Account thereof that upon the whole you'll likely hear from me oftener in this way than in the way you desired but I submit that to your own consideration & shall be glad to hear from you whenever it is convenient.

My Son made an Application at NewCastle for the Cash which he shall want to make Stanhope Pays which I beleive we will be enabled to procure but the Time is not yet fixed when we told Mr Gilbert that £2000 would be sufficient to compleat the Pays we fully expected that all the Lead which was then deliver'd would be sold & turned into Money but in that we were dissapointed & I have at Present upwards of £1500 worth of Lead lying at NewCastle & on Account of the Trade being very dull at Present we cannot sell it but at a very disadvantageous Price we shall there fore have Occasion for more Money than was then expected till this Lead can be sold my Son is going again for NewCastle & if he should find it Necessary to have our Order for Borrowing the Additional sum I hope upon hearing from him you'll Please to send the Answer as soon as you Conveniently can.

There is very little Alteration in the Works since Mr Gilbert was here only I think the West forefield at Greengill looks more Promising than it then did & I hope it will in Time flourish again. We meet with a good deal of Water in attempting to sink into the Limestone which Mr Gilbert recommended you'll see by the Bargains that it is left to 8 Men but on Account of the Water we are obliged to put 4 more Men to them which will

make it very expensive. I shall add no more at Present but you may expect to hear from me soon after we have made Stanhope Pay as may be.

I am &ca Jonathan Hilton

25 Feb 1776 Jonathan Hilton to Francis Gregg

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr Gragg

25 Feby 1776

Sir,

My Son wrote you on the 5th Inst mentioning to you that when Mr Gilbert was in this Country we expected that all the Lead which was then in NewCastle would be sold & its Value turned into Cash so as to enable us with £2000 which we would have Occasion to borrow to make the several Pays at Christmas & have Cash arising from the Silver Bullion to support the Workmen.

We also at that Time had some hopes that Mr Cleaver would rest his Money upon Interest till we could sell Lead which we expected would be about Midsummer.

We have been disappointed in the first place by not having been able to sell the Lead on Account of the little demand in that Trade so that we have 1535 Pieces in Hand which are worth at the very least £1500 the Storm prevent our Refining so much that we lost work which would have produced as upwards of £300 worth of Silver Bullion & on our Writing Mr Cleaver about the resting of his Money his Ansr was that had en [he] not previously engaged it against Candlemas he should have had no Objection to it rest it to any Time we chouse but he had promised it & therefore expected it should be paid at his Time he accordingly procured what was right to send Mr Cleavers Amounting to £650 Charles Atkinson Esq The Mayor of NewCastle has agreed to furnish us with Money if you please to give him a Power to draw it out of the first Lead which may be sold to its Amount Mr Atkinson has ever since either of us was concern'd sold Ld Carlisles Lead by Commission & he requires Nothing than your Letter mentioning that by the derections of Lord Carlisle & the Trustees & you give him an Authority to advance the Money necessary to compleat the Pays & pay himself with Legal interest out of the first of Lord Carlisles Lead which comes to Markitt.

As we have not recd any Ansr to this Letter & it was sent from NewCastle 20 Days ago we are apprehensive it had miscarried & therefore give you the Trouble of this to desire you will please to give Mr Atkinson a Line empowering him to advance the Money wanted there will not be more than £2000 Necessary besides what is now in Stock of Lead at NewCastle but Interest must be paid for £3500 till what we have can be sold the workmen are now wanting pay for all the Work done since Michas 1774 at the Mines & the smelt Mill since June last and now if the Pays were made it will only be to Michas last & the Men will be 5 Months in advance. Therefore the Credit of the Mines will be hurt as the general Practice of making the Pays is at Christmas & paying to the Michas before we hope you'll please to write to Mr Atkinson and dare say we shall immediately be supported with the Necessary Cash.

I am &ca Jonathan Hilton

5 Mar 1776 Jonathan Hilton to Francis Gregg

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr Gragg

Alston 5th March 1776

Sir,

We wrote to you on 14 & 24 Jany & 5 Feby & were in hopes of hearing you had recd ours but as we are disappointed in our expectations we trouble you with this to acquaint you we are very wishful to have Stanhope Pays now made the purpose of our Letter of the 5th Ult which respected that matter you have as follows, In ours of the 14 & 24 Ult we acquainted you we were disappointed in getting the Necessary Cash from Messrs Atkinsons Templesowerby but were in hopes of procuring it in Newcastle but that as we had 1538 pieces of Lead unsold we were under the Necessity of Borrowing more Money than we expected when Mr Gilbert was here & therefore desires you will empower us to borrow Three Thousand Pounds upon the Credit of the Lead to be paid out of the first which may come to Market: We wrote to Mr Cleaver to desire he would rest his dividend of Profits till Midsummer & we would allow him legal Interest from Xms till that Time his answer was that he had engaged his Money against Candlemas or otherwise should have been very glad to oblige us, we therefore have remitted Mr Cleaver £650 on Account of his share of last Years Profitts. Chas Atkinson Esqr (the present Mayor of Newcastle) has ever since we were concerned sold Lord Carlisles Lead as such upon every occasion of Borrowing Money except last Year we have applied to him & he has always very readily assisted us, we have spoke to him about this Sum and he is willing to assist in procuring the Money at the Bank only as the Sum Wanted will be Three Thousand Pounds he thinks we should, have your order to Borrow it before we do so we can therefore only beg please to favour us with a line granting our request as we do very much wish to have the Pays made at or about Lady Day at the latest.

We were in great hopes of hearing from you in Answer but as we have not, we again trouble you because unless the Pays are made we most certainly be under the Necessity of paying more than other Mine Adventurers not only for Work but for every Article consumed in the Mines.

We were also in great hopes of selling the Lead now at Newcastle otherwise we would certainly applied to you at Christmas and if this Lead had been sold we could have made the Pays without any further trouble to you but as we cannot sell the Lead except at a very disadvantageous price we are obliged to apply. The Credit of the undertakings has no way suffered as yet as Sr Walter Blackett the principal Lead Mine Adventurer in the Neighbourhood of Stanhope makes his Pays at Christmas and only pays to Midsummer therefore if we pay at Ladyday to Michs our pay will be as good as his, and as the Interest upon the Money wanted would amount to about Forty Pounds from Christmas to Ladyday and the Credit of the Mines would not be affected we were

no way very anxious about the Pays being made sooner than about Ladyday. however we shall now be exceedingly glad to get them made as soon as possible & therefore hope youll please to favour us with a line in Answer, We are Sir

Your mo Obed Hble Servants

J.H.

J.H.

13 Mar 1776 Joseph Hilton to John Gilbert

A Copy of a Letter sent to Mr Gilbert

Alston 13 March 1776

Sir,

Your favour of the 14th Decr should have been answered sooner but I wished much to give you an Account of the time Mr Wilkinson & myself would be with you, which I have never been able to do as yet; I saw Mr Wilkinson yesterday and he cannot think of coming into your Neighbourhood this Spring and indeed it would have been very inconvenient to me to have done so had it been convenient to him therefore we must decline the pleasure we intended ourselves till further consideration.

My Father recd some remarks from Mr Gregg in Decr which he Answered the 24th Jany and as Mr Gregg said in his Letter the Answers he sent would be laid before you, I have no doubt but that you have seen them as such shall say nothing about these matters but will give you a short detail of what is principally going forward in the Mines because as soon as Ladyday is turned Mr Gregg will have a Copy of the Bargains sent and also a particular Account how the prospect is which undoubtedly will sent for your inspection.

After you were here we found it absolutely necessary to bore the foremost Shaft at Greengill on Account if the Water we met with in Sinking and a part of the Boreing being in the Vein it made it made it very difficult & a long time in performing, however we holed on the 23 Feby and are now Sinking with 4 Men and rising with 4 Men so as to meet which we hope will be done in the course of this Month we are also Sinking with six men in the same Shaft foot in order to meet 8 more men who are cutting cross from the Low Level in order to rise and make a Sump between the upper & Lower Works when these things are finished we shall have good air so as to enable us to try the Vein 20 or 30 fathoms further West than where she has been ever tryed in the Sill & we hope to meet with success; we have a piece of pretty good Ore in the Iron Stone near where the foremost rise was when you were here but it is not now so good, and some part of the old Roofs has raised tolerably well. In attempting to sink into the Little Limestone we have met with a great deal of Water which makes that tryal very expensive indeed more so than expected, however I hope that there is no doubt but that we shall manage the Water and get a tryal of the Vein, of which I assure you we are in good hope of success.

We have made no discovery at How Blagill as yet.

At Bentyfield, which is the same as the West End of Greengill West End Lease, we have been hindred in the Sump you saw by meeting with more Water than we could sink under but however we have overcome that and are now next Week intended to try to sink to the random of where we expect to meet with Ore. the other Mines in Garrigill are much in the same situation as when you were here as we are not yet got to where we had any expectations of Success.

At Stanhope we were disappointed in attempting to Sink under the Level as such the undertaking is laid aside, my Father was there the 6th Inst and upon the whole he thinks the appearance rather better than when you were here.

When you were here we told you that with Borrowing £2000 we would be enabled to make the Pays at which Time we did suppose that all the Lead then delivered would be sold and turned into Cash before this Time, and it was then agreed that Mr Cleaver should be wrote to desiring he would rest his Money upon Interest till we could sell Lead to repay him. On writing Mr Cleaver he answered that he had previously engaged his Cash against Candlemas otherwise would have been glad to oblige us, as such we were necessitated to emit his Money & instead of all the Lead then Delivered Sold as we expected we have 1538 Pieces at Newcastle unsold which leaves us that Sum short & consequently we are not able to make the Pays.

Mr Gregg wrote us to borrow of Messrs Atkinsons Templesowerby £2000 but on our application they could not supply us we then applied to Charles Atkinson Esqr the present Mayor of Newcastle who has ever since we was concerned sold Lord Carlisles Lead who would have procured us the Cash but as the Sum wanted was a good deal more than Mr Gregg desired us to Borrow he thought it right to have another Letter from Mr Gregg to Borrow £3000 which will compleat the Pays as such we wrote Mr Gregg the 5 Feby & my Father wrote him the 25th same Month but we have recd no Answer we shall therefore take it as a particular favour if you can be the means of getting us an Answer as soon as you can with proper power to make the Pays as otherwise the Credit of the Mines most certainly will suffer.

The Alston moor Pays were made at Christmas. we should not have troubled you with this but as we recd no answer to Mr Greggs remarks we were apprehensive Mr Gregg might be out of London and the Letters not have reached him.

I am for Father & Self

14 Mar 1776 Jonathan Hilton to Charles Atkinson

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr Chas Atkinson

Alston 14th March 76

Sir,

As our lending Day will be on the 23rd Inst I desire you will be so Obliging as send by the Bearer Mr Thos Friend One Hundred & Fifty Pounds in £20 Notes & by either James Johnson or Robt Batey Fifty Pounds in Silver and half Guineas but as much of it silver as you conveniently can in all Two Hundred Pounds for which I will be

accountable of Lord Carlisle. We are a great deal surpris'd we have not heard from Mr Gregg if you hear from him about Money to make Stanhope Pays pray let us know as soon after as you can. Pray order us one Hundred Pounds of Bone Ashes to be sent to Stanhope as soon as the Lead Carriage begins which will be about the middle of next month let them be small Caskes the same as we had last year.

I am &ca Jona Hilton

30 Mar 1776 Jonathan Hilton to Charles Atkinson

A Copy of A Letter sent Charles Atkinson Esqr

Alston 30 March 1776

Sir,

Inclosed you have a Copy of a Letter I have recd from Mr Gregg desiring me to borrow the Three Thousand Pounds of you in order to make the several pays, which sum is to be paid with Interest from the produce of the first Lead which comes to Markett, I can only say that it is very much my wish to have the said pays made and if you can oblige me with procuring the Money against this Day fortnight being the 13th April I will be down at that time but must wait your Answer and hope it may be convenient at the time mentioned or very soon after. I am very desirous of you making an agreement with Mr Soresby for Four Thousand Pieces of Lead on the best Terms you can, there will be as much Refined Lead at the Mill in a Month as to make up the Quantity at Newcastle 4000 without either Common or Slag Lead and as Mr Simpson promised me to open the Carriages immediately I hope it may be at Swalwell about the first Week in May if the Weather permits and if you be in a hurry about having it brought in I will on your desiring it advance the Price so as to get it to Market as soon as possible I hope for your Answer by Mr Saints News Carrier on Friday.

I am

7 Apr 1776 Jonathan Hilton to Charles Atkinson

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr C Atkinson

7th Apl 76

Sir,

Your favour of the 4th Inst came to hand this day and from its contents I am apprehensive you have misunderstood mine of the 30th of last Month. My Son shewed you a Letter from Mr Gregg wherein he desired me to borrow £2000 of Messrs Atkinsons of Templesowerby in order to compleat the several Pays which Lord Carlisle Is concerned but upon application they had not Cash by them to that amount and on his consulting you it was not thought proper to advance or endeavour to raise the Money without a further Power which properly granted you agreed to obtain. Therefore I wrote Mr Gregg I could not be supplied by Messrs Atkinsons & on

Account of some Things I mentioned to him I would want £3000 in the whole & as you had always disposed of Lord Carlisles Lead since I was concerned you had agreed to assist in procuring the Necessary Money if properly authorised to do so and to be repaid with Interest as soon as the amount was reimbursed by the Lead & Silver from Stanhope Mill mine of 30th March was intended to request you to Join in a Note to get the Money at the Bank or some other Place where you might think better for such Time as a sufficient Quantity of Lead & Silver was sold it without having any regard to the expectation of selling the Lead to Mr Soresby. I have no kind of doubt of any risk in the Thing as I knew Mr Gregg is the principal Agent for both Lord Carlisle & the Trustees but if you have I will endeavour to get Mr Ramshay the Agent at Naward to Join in the Security. I beg the favour of a Line from Mr Saints News Carrier Fryday & it will give me very great satisfaction if you will please to assist in raising the Cash.

I am &ca Jonathan Hilton

27 Apr 1776 Jonathan Hilton to Charles Atkinson

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr C Atkinson

27th Apl 76

Sir,

I take this opportunity of acquainting you that on casting up our Accounts I find we shall have occasion for £2600 to make Stanhope Pays and lend that Months support Money there and at Alston moor as such I hope you'll be so kind as provide for me against Monday 13th May; you'll please to be so obliging as let it all be Newcastle Bank Notes and Silver because on enquiry I find the Sunderland Notes will not do. By the Accounts I have from Stanhope I dare say there's no fear of having 3000 Pieces of Lead at Swalwell on or before that Time and you'll receive a Cake of Bullion before that time. As Mr Hall has purchased the Brownlyhill Ore this year at the rate of 6s p Fodder for Lead made out of it less than last Year we may suppose the Governor & Company looks upon the prospects of the Marketts to be not more than 6/- p Fodder worse than last years price.

3 May 1776 Jonathan Hilton to Charles Atkinson

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr Chas Atkinson Esqr

Alston May 3d 1776

Sir,

I have received yours and take the most early opportunity of writing to you, when I was at Newcastle you agreed with me that in case I could send Lead to Swalwell to the Value of what I wanted you would assist me in getting that Sum in order to make Stanhope Pays. I wrote you 27 last Month that I made no doubt of delivering 3000 pieces of Lead & a Cake of Bullion before the time I proposed coming to Newcastle

which I thought of more than full Value to £2600 as such would be in Newcastle on Monday the 13th May Inst. But from the words of your Letter I am apprehensive of a disappointment in case I come down, as such I trouble you with this in order to know clearly whether I may expect the Money at the time proposed or no; I have given notice to the people that the Pay will be on the 15 & 16 Inst and if I cannot get the Cash contrary notice must be given but I hope the expression in your Letter of not daring to raise the Money has been made too hastily as my Son says he saw you yesterday and from the conversation he understood you that you would be prepared with the necessary Money and would be glad to see us at the time fixed therefore the reason of this is to know if I may be assured of having the Money on Monday the 13th May as upon that depends not only my performing according to promise but also the Credit of the undertakings. I therefore beg your Answer by return of Messenger, and will then be enabled to acquaint Mr Gregg more clearly as to the probability of the Time of making the Pays.

7 May 1776 Jonathan Hilton to Francis Gregg

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr Gregg

Alston 7th May 1776

Sir,

I do apprehend you have expected a copy of the Ladyday Bargains and an Account of the States of the Mines from me before now, but when I tell you the occasion of the delay was in order to give a more clear Account than I could sooner hope you'll excuse. It was very much my wish to have made the Pays (if Lead to that amount could have been Sold) much sooner, but as the Markets have been very dull and the Borrowing Money Interest would have been very expensive and reduced the profits of the Works I have postponed the Stanhope Pays till now and have Borrowed only such Money as was necessary to keep up the Credit of the undertakings but as we are now beginning to carry new Ore I have engaged Cash to Make the Pays at Stanhope on the 15 & 16 Inst and do intend to make them at that Time. I am desired by Chars Atkinson Esqr to beg the favour of you to wait on Messrs Truemans in London in order to try if you can sell 2000 Pieces of Refined Lead & 1000 Common at as good a price as you can get, but if you cannot get more to take at the rate of £13 the Newcastle Fodder which is 21 Cwt the prevailing report of Jamaica having been attacked by the French or Spainiards has in a great measure hurt the Lead Trade but I hope the report is not True, I shall be very much obliged to you if you'll write Mr Atkinson on this Business.

Upon the whole Stanhope Lead Mine had raised more Ore than was expected and at present looks quite as well or better than I ever saw her and hope she'll continue to do well; I beg to hear from you as soon as convenient . My Son joins in best Compts to you and I am Sir
Yr Hble Servt

7 May 1776 Jonathan Hilton to John Cleaver

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Cleaver

Alston 7th May 1776

Sir,

I expected hearing from you acknowledging the receiving my son's Letter desiring you to draw on Charles Atkinson Esqr for £650 as also in order to know when you received that sum in order to know what Interest would be due to you from Lord Carlisle from Christmas from the time you received cash for that sum. Greengill West End at the bottom of the Sill we have got the Ore in is now is now worked at 20/- p bing this is about 2 fathms West of where the Sill threw down to the West and 16 fathms East of the Sump we are sinking from the New Shaft foot into the Low or Bacons Level and we are now cutting across to the North out of the Top Drift in order to Sink & try the Vein 6 fathms West of the above Ore working. We are yet raising Ore in the Back Workings but very poor: the sump sinking into the Low Level which will be 21 fathms of which 8 fathms riseing & Two fathms sinking which is as much as could be sunk for Water till it was Bored; the Boreing was finished yesterday & the Sump let to 8 Pickmen & 2 Labourers which I expect will be finished in a month and then will be enabled to try the Vein. The Tryal we are making in the Little Limestone at Greengill proves very hard & Wet. We have made such Tryal in the Great Limestone at Taylor Sike as we could for Water have raised near 2 Bings of Ore & thinks her pretty promising we shall in 2 weeks lose the Old Mans Water & then make further Tryal. The Vein East of Garrigill Burn Old Groves we have made Tryal of it into the Great Limestone & as I think it not promising have given it over till further consideration. The Low Level at Garrigill Burn have cut some small strings but no appearance of strength worth trying, will not do much there till Lord Carlisle's agents & you are here. How Blagill all Veins are now cut I expected to cut and we are now Driving 3 fathms in each Vein. I have this day wrote Mr. Gregg nearly to the same purport of this desiring that Mr. Gilbert who is a very sensible Gentleman and a good Miner may be hear sometime between the 20 & 30 June & to give me a Line of the time of his coming so that I may have time to write you as your attendance at that time is what I much wish for. I also wrote Mr. Gregg that Mr. Gilbert had recommended to me Lord Carlisle's buying your share of the Ore at such prices as the Governor & Company give for Ore in this Manor and that you had hitherto referred the settling of your Ore to me & as the Governor & Company had now bought most part of the Ore that was to sell I therefore desired his immediate answer.

29 Jul 1776 Jonathan Hilton to John Gilbert

A Copy of A Letter to Mr Gilbert

Alston 29th July 1776

Sir,

Your favour of the 9th Inst is now before me, I am sorry I was under the necessity of in being disappointed in the visit I intended to Worsley but as I wrote you the 28th March on that head shall say no more now. My Father desires me to acquaint you he would have been very glad to have seen you in Alstonmoor, but as it seems inconvenient to you he hopes you will be so kind as to fix with Mr Cleaver (to whom he writes this day) to have a meeting some Time the first or second Week in Septr at any place you chuse and he my Father will attend you and bring the Plan & Memorandums so as to enable you to Judge (when together) of the eligibility of the several Things he would recommend to proceed with. The reason of putting the meeting so long is that all the Ore raised before last Michs is Smelted the Pay is fixed to be on the 16th Augt as such the Account will be delivered to Mr Ramshay and examined against the time mentioned for the meeting and by that Time we shall know pretty near what Ore will be raised this year and nearly the amount of this years Pay Bill.

Greengill Forehead has been much better at a Time than when you saw here but now is poor, The Tryal in the L Limestone has been very expensive & unsuccessfull & we now find the Vein too strong for the Little Sill, as such we are sinking into the Coal Sills to try if she do any better in them which Tryal we hope will be carrd into the great Limestone if you and Mr Cleaver on meeting think right; nothing of value is cut at Garrigill Burn; we have been much hindred with Water at Bentyfield but now have overcome that Difficulty and are getting forward pretty well and do hope the Tryal will turn out to advantage; There is four Veins cut at Howblagill but no Tryal made nor will be till you & Mr Cleaver have considered the Matter: Stanhope is very poor.

I am &ca

P.S. The Lords of this manor have begun a Level which will be upwards of Six Miles Long & at its termination 250 fathms deep or upwards [Nent Force Level].

29 Jul 1776 Jonathan Hilton to John Cleaver

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Cleaver

Alston 29th July 1776

Sir,

I recd your favour of the 15th May which should have answered sooner but I waited for Mr. Gilbert fixing a meeting, I never heard from him till the other Day and in his Letter he desired I may go to Worsley or anywhere within a Days Ride from Worsley. In answer to which my Son this Day wrote Mr Gilbert that I will attend either the first

or second week in Sept. whichever may be most convenient at any place you & he may fix for a meeting and will then bring along with me the several plans & Memorandums necessary for laying before you what Tryals I think ought to be proceeded with Greengill forehead has lately been very uncertain sometimes pretty good & looks promising and at other times very ill, it is now very poor. The Tryal into the Little Limestone has been unsuccessful & very expensive we find the Vein too strong for so weak a sill as such are attempting to sink into the Coal Sills which sinking & Tryal may be continued into the Great Limestone if you & Mr Gilbert think proper. We have cut four Veins at How Blagill but no Tryal will be made till you consider the matter, nothing at Garrigill Burn, or very little has been done since I wrote you, & we have been much hindered at Bentyfield by Water but now got pretty well forward upon the whole I think a meeting between you & Mr Gilbert absolutely necessary and as such do beg you will be kind enough to fix with him & if any other time after that I have mentioned be more convenient to you I hope you will fix & be so kind as let me know & I will most undoubtedly attend if Health permits as I should be sorry in not having you together the necessity of the Workes require it.

N.B. For the remainder of the Letters sent John Cleaver Esqr & the Rev. Mr. Cleaver in the year 1776 See the 18th 19th 20th & 21st pages in this book

24 Aug 1776 Jonathan Hilton to Charles Atkinson

A Copy of A Letter to Chas Atkinson Esqr

Alston 24 Augt 1776

Sir,

As Mr Gregg is now at Naward and I am wishful to have the Accounts laid before him during his stay in the North; I take this Liberty to desire you will be so kind as send the Account of Lead Sold & Delivered as also the Silver Sold and Delivered and signed in the Manner they used to be other years, The Silver Sold 24 April 1775 should be in a Note by itself; The 1575 pieces of old Lead must be in another Note, and the New Lead & New Silver also by themselves seperatly, and a seperate Account of all the Cash I have received and Interest due thereon deducting £79.12.9 for the Silver of the 24th April 1775 for which Sum I accounted to Lord Carlisle last year, the Account of new Lead should be made out as far as possible; by the Note which Mr Mandeville gave me there only appears to be 3255 Pieces of new Lead settled for; as such there should be 6302 Pieces in hand or delivered in part of some contracts I wish to have this explained. The Commn & Charges should be taken off the Lead Notes as usual & nothing but those charges in the same Notes. Those Accounts should be sent either by Robt Baty on Tuesday or by the Hexham Post on Wednesday Morning directed to me at the Golden Lyon Hexham.

3 Sep 1776 Jonathan Hilton to Charles Atkinson

A Copy of A Letter to Chas Atkinson Esqr

Alston 3d Sepr 1776

Sir,

I have recd a Letter from Mr Gilbert the Agent to the Duke of Bridgewater (who is appointed to inspect Lord Carlisle's Lead Mines) desiring that I may have the Accounts ready to shew him on or before the 15th of next Month therefore I hope you will be so obliging as get the old Lead Delivered and me your Accounts signed as usual so that they may come by Mr Saints Newsmen on Saturday the 12 next month.

8 Sep 1776 Jonathan Hilton to John Gilbert

A Copy of A Letter to Mr Gilbert

Alston 8th Sepr 1776

Sir,

My Son wrote to you on the 29th July desiring as you would be so obliging as fix a time with Mr Cleaver for a meeting and as I have never recd any answer, I now take the Liberty of acquainting you I was with Mr Gregg last Week, & as it seems the wish of both Lord Carlisle, the Trustees & Mr Gregg that you should have the Inspection of the whole of the undertaking I send this to beg you will be so pleased to fix the Meeting as soon as you can; particularly as we have not worked at Howblagill, Garrigill Burn Old Groves nor Garrigill Burn Low Level since Midsummer a forfeiture (if the Lords of the Manor think proper) must take place, and as those things in my opinion are objects worthy of pursuing & I did when you were here think you were of the same opinion, I should be sorry if they were lost by any neglect, therefore I beg to hear from you as soon as possible and you may depend on my attending at any Time you please.

I am &ca

28 Sep 1776 Jonathan Hilton to John Gilbert

A Copy of A Letter Mr Gilbert

Alston 28th Sepr 1776

Sir,

I take the Liberty of sending this to acquaint you I am very Wishful & desirous of your fixing a meeting in order to have the several Matters respecting Lord Carlisles Lead Mines settled upon a proper footing as this is the time of letting the general Quarterly Bargains it would have been very agreeable to me to have the meeting sooner but as the case stands I shall take upon me to let such Bargains as are absolutely necessary and leave the other matters as they are till you can make it convenient to have the meeting. At the same Time I must beg leave to mention to you that the

different undertakings at Howblagill and Garrigill Burn Low level have been longer unworked than is usual without a forfeiture taking place and as a large sum has been expended in making discoveries there I should be very sorry any other Person or Company should have the advantage of these Discoveries.

I have requested of the Agents of the Lords of the Manor to Indulge us with such Time without a forfeiture as till you can have an opportunity of fixing what is to be done with respect to these Matters but if that do not take place soon I am apprehensive they will not be pleased to continue the Grants in their Books but will insist on forfeiture. I shall therefore only request the favour of you to fix the meeting as soon as you possibly can but however it would be most agreeable to me if you could be here so as to view the situations and then you may undoubtedly be a better Judge of what is proper to proceed with than you can if you be not here.

At the same Time if you cannot be in Alstonmoor I will most certainly attend you at any Time and place you please and beg you will be pleased to give me a Weeks Notice. My Son wrote you from Newcastle about a Fortnight ago which I hope you have recd.

I am &c

P.S. Since writing the above I have received yours of the 22d Instant and should be glad to hear from you as soon as convenient.

12 Oct 1776 Jonathan Hilton to John Gilbert

A Copy of A Letter sent Mr Gilbert

Alston 12th Octr 1776

Sir,

In consequence of your last favour I send this to acquaint you I propose being at Worsley sometime in the Week between the 27th Instant and the 3d Novemr my Reason for being so late is on Account of getting all the Accounts to Michs last ready & the Ore raised at that time Washed and Delivered so as to know the Expence & Produce of last year. I shall write you again this Day Week fixing the Day of the Week above mentioned when you may expect me. My Son, who desires his best Compts intends to accompany me. I am with great respect

Sir Yr mo hblr Servant

Jona Hilton

19 Nov 1776 Joseph Hilton to Francis Gregg

A Copy of A Letter sent Mr Gregg

Newcastle 19th Novr 1776

Sir,

The beginning of this Month I accompanied my Father to Worsley to wait on Mr Gilbert with the Accts for the Two last years respecting the Lead Mines where Lord Carlisle is concerned and of which my Father has had the direction at which Time we told Mr Gilbert that I intended being in Newcastle during the course of last Week and would remit you (if so much Cash was in Mr Atkinsons hand) £2000 which sum we did expect would be there tho at the time we were with Mr Gilbert there remained upwards of £1700 of the Amount of last years Lead (and which was at Market in June last) unreceived on my coming here yesterday (not being able to be here sooner) I find we can only remit you £1000 which Mr Atkinson will do this day, and at the same Time I expect we shall be able to send you the other £1000 in 20 or 30 Days which is the soonest you may expect it. You'll please to acknowledge the rect of Mr Atkinson's Bill as soon as it comes to Hand.

I am Sir Yr Mo Hble Servt
Josh Hilton

29 Nov 1776 Jonathan Hilton to John Cleaver

A Copy of a Letter sent John Cleaver Esq

Alston 29th Nov. 1776

Dear Sir,

I should have wrote to you sooner but as there has been no material alteration in the Mine since you was here, I did not think it necessary till now. With respect to Greengill West End I can only observe that in about two Months we expect to be so far West as where the Old Man has raised Ore in the Float Sill & I am still in the same opinion that we shall do well in the Sill where we lately got the Ore in when we come under that place which I hope will be about the time I mention. As to Bentyfield (which is the continuation of Greengill West End Vein but further to the West) we now have very good Ore 12 Inches Wide in the Quarry Sill (which lies five Fathoms below the great Limestone) and the great Limestone Forehead is now by appearance in the way of being better so that I hope we will do well there.

My son & I was at Worsley latter End of last month settling Lord Carlisle's Accots with Mr. Gilbert: the other Tryals is postponed till the spring when I hope to see you & Mr. Gilbert here as I have expressed my wishes to him to see you here together The pays having been usually made about Christmas I take the Liberty of mentioning to you there will be about £250 wanted for your share this year but as we intend to settle the Accots next Week I shall immediately after that write you the sum wanted.

29 Nov 1776 Jonathan Hilton to Edward Cleaver

A Copy of a Letter sent The Rev. Mr. Cleaver

Alston 29th Nov. 1776

Sir,

I duly rec'd your favour of the 4th Inst. in answer to which I take this opportunity of acquainting you that Greengill West End has been for more than a year very poor and now is so but I do expect to give you a better Accot in about three months at which Time I hope we shall have got thro' what we call the broken ground and have the Sill sound that we formerly got Ore in and underneath where the Old man has raised Ore in the Float Sill; At Bentyfield (which is the same Vein as Greengill West End but further West) we have good Ore a foot Wide in the Quarry Sill (which is five fathoms below the Great Limestone) and 29 below the Sill which we got the Ore in at Greengill West End, and the Great Limestone Forehead appears to be altering for the better so that I hope we shall do well there; the other Tryals are postponed till the Spring when I hope to see Mr. Cleaver here along with Mr. Gilbert to give directions about future proceedings.

With respect to the Sparrs I can only say we have been so much engaged to supply a Collection making by some Gentr of Greenwich Hospital that we have not only sent everything we had by us but have procured all we could from our Friends as such it is impossible for us to send any immediately but you may depend on my care in procuring some as soon as possible.

When your Father Mr. Cleaver was last here I shewed him a Vein Lately discovered which along with some of my friends I had proposed for a Lease. And at the same time told him as you seemingly had a Liking to Lead Mines you might have any share you pleased he then said you should have the same share as I intended having which is one 4th but that I might write you and you would write him I am not inclined to spend much money but as I not only look upon this a likely but an easy Tryal £30 for every 4th will make a full Tryal and as we intend beginning to work at Christmas as must beg your answer as soon as convenient.

15 Dec 1776 Jonathan Hilton to John Cleaver

A Copy of a Letter sent John Cleaver Esqr.

Alston 15th Dec. 1776

Dear Sir,

In my last I mentioned we would want about £250 for your share to make the Alstonmoor pays, since which I have settled the Accot and find that £250 is the sum will be wanted for your share therefore I hope you will be so obliging as remit me the first opportunity. I have fixed to go to Newcastle on Monday 7th Jany. In order to take up Lord Carlisle's Money which is ready & I must beg of you to let me hear from you

as soon as you can as till then I cannot fix the Pays there is no material alteration in the mines since I was with you last.

28 Dec 1776 Jonathan Hilton to Edward Cleaver

A Copy of a Letter sent the Revd. Mr. Cleaver

Alston 28th Dec. 1776

Sir,

Your esteemed favour of the 5th Inst. came in due course and I should have answered it sooner only waited till I had an opportunity of knowing whether I could procure a share, and what for your acquaintance Mr. Walker; I therefor now take the Liberty of informing you that there is two different places where I intend to be concerned the One called Nent Force cross vein in which I have engaged one half so that if you & Mr. Walker think proper that half should go equally amongst us, we shall have each 1/6 share. The other Vein has yet no name but I believe it will be called Nunnery, in which I have engaged Three Sixteenths therefore if you chuse we may have each 1/16 in that Tryal; neither of the Tryals will cost much, till we shall be determined to give up or have some very promising appearance to encourage us to make further Tryal I think Twenty pounds for the Tryal at Nentforce for 1/6 & Ten pounds at Nunnery for 1/16 will make a satisfactory Tryal unless as I said before the appearance be such as to make it eligible to expend a further sum. When I have occasion for support Money I will give you timely notice. There is no alteration in the Works where Mr. Cleaver is concerned since my last.

28 Dec 1776 Jonathan Hilton to Thomas Ramshay

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr Ramshay

Alston 28 Decr 1776

Dear Sir,

Inclosed you have a proposal for Coopersdykehead Middle Vein which I beg you will sign & return by the Bearer. You'll observe it is Dated 13th June last the reason is that I applied to the Agents of Greenwich Hospital on that Day, but desired leave to let it rest without a Proposal till I saw Mr Gilbert which they agreed to, and I have not had a proper opportunity of sending to you since I was with Mr Gilbert before this.

We all Join in Wishing you all yours many happy returns of the Season.

& I am

1 Jan 1777 Jonathan Hilton to John Cleaver

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Cleaver

Alston 1st Jany 1777

Sir,

Last night my son brought me your favour of the 25 Dec. inclosing a Bill Value Two Hundred & Fifty pounds which I have paid to Messrs. Atkinson of Templesowerby & have rec'd its Value of them you may depend upon hearing from me as soon as the pay is made. I am Dr. Sr. Yr most obliged servant
Jona Hilton

8 Mar 1777 Jonathan Hilton to John Gilbert

A Copy of A Letter to Mr Gilbert

Alston 8th March 1777

Sir,

In my last I mentioned to you that I was in great hopes we should have done pretty well against Greengill West End & indeed at that time had a very promising appearance in the plate which gave one hopes of doing well in the Sill, but has not turned out to expectation, we have now sunk through the Whetstone Sill and she does not turn out so well as I wished we are now almost at a stand - and at Bentyfield we are also disappointed in our expectation - and Stanhope Mines are so circumstanced that there will be a necessity of your being there & from then present appearance of all the Works I am very wishful to see you here as soon as convenient, and particularly so as the Rev Mr Cleaver says in a Letter to me that his Father & himself intend to accompany you here in the Spring. The few Workmen are a set of very good ones who I could wish to keep but as I am quite at a stand, unless you come here soon to give directions about the further proceeding they must be obliged to seek fresh Work. The Bargains here are let the 25 March Inst so do wish to see you here if you can get here before that time.

7 Apr 1777 Jonathan Hilton to John Gilbert

A Copy of A Letter sent Mr Gilbert

Alston 7th April 1777

Sir,

I wrote you on the 8th March last desiring you would be so kind as be hear about Ladyday & as I have recd no Answer I take the Liberty of sending this desiring you may be in Alstonmoor as soon as you possibly can, for unless some of the new Works be entered into several Leases will be forfeited indeed nobody can say but that the Agents to Greenwich Hospital has been very favourable in not making the several

Leases or Grants forfeit before now as none of the 4 Leases or Grants have been Worked for Six Months past & others for above 12 Months & they allow only 3 Months before they make a forfeit the above indulgences owing to a Letter you wrote me on Octr last wherein you said that my being at Worsley you would make things agreeable to the Agents of the Hospital. they will be hear on the 13th 14th & 15th Instant & I shall use my best endeavours to keep things as they now are till you & Mr Cleaver is here which I hope which I hope will not be long. I have this Day wrote Mr Cleaver Desiring that he & you may be here together & I have also wrote Mr Gregg to the same purport telling him the Necessity of your being here and that the Alstonmoor Mines are now in the loosing way And all Lord Carlisles Lead & Silver is gone to Market is disposed of and I have settled Accot with Mr Atkinson for the same & that I wish much to have the Accots examined & settled to this time. I shall not trouble you with a Copy of the Ladyday Bargains as I hope to see you soon but as there is Water under the Level that I wish you to see you may if you please let me know the time of your being here.

J.H.

7 Apr 1777 Jonathan Hilton to John Cleaver

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Cleaver

Alston 7th April 1777

Sir,

I am very wishful to see you & Mr Gilbert here as soon as possible you can & I have this day wrote him to the same purport for unless some of the New Works be entered into several of the Leases will be forfeited but if you was here together may then do as you please only if they should be forfeited & afterwards turn out good I might be blamed. No alterations since I wrote you last we are now only about 3 or 4 fathoms of where the Old Man has had Greengill West End good and I was in hopes she would have turned out good before this time.

J.H

4 May 1777 Jonathan Hilton to George Simpson

A Copy of A Letter to Mr Simpson

Alston 4th May 1777

Sir,

As I am very desirous of having the Account of Stanhope Lead Mine from Michs 1775 to Michs 1776 I beg you will send me that Account over to Morrow or early on Tuesday Morning without fail, and I have given Directions to Chrs Walton the Bearer to send George Chapman here with it as soon as it is ready you will therefore not neglect for if it be ever so rough a Copy it will do for me; I propose going to Newcastle the latter end of this Week and wish very much to have the Lead Mine Pay made on my return, I beg

you will have the Sump followed as close as possible, I intend to write you by Matthew Watson from Newcastle on Friday.

7 May 1777 Jonathan Hilton to Charles Atkinson

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr Atkinson

Stanhope 7th May 1777

Sir,

I have recd a Letter from Mr Gilbert who is appointed by Lord Carlisle & his Lordships Trustees to have the General Inspection of his Lordships Lead Mines that he Mr Gilbert will be here to review his Lordships Works on or about the 20th Inst and as his Letter mentions the Works are intended to be carried forward with good Spirit on his Lordships Account I wish much to have Stanhope Lead Mine Pay made before he comes if you will be so obliging as assist in procuring the Money necessary I shall esteem it as a favour, and as there is of the last years Lead about 1200 Pieces and about 140 Ounces of Silver which will be Delivered to Swalwell in a few Days are now Smelting new Lead & will Deliver it immediately I hope you will make no difficulty advancing the Money wanted which will be about £1500 or £1600. I am now at Stanhope & send this by Matthew Watson and will stay here till Matthew Watson returns on Friday therefore I shall be much obliged to you for an Answer by him, I will desire him to be at Stanhope as early on Friday as he can so hope you will let him have your Answer on Thursday Evening.

I propose being in Newcastle on Sunday the 11th and will wait on you the Day following but most likely I shall not leave Newcastle till the Evening of Tuesday the 13th. My Letter of the 7th April contained an Accot of a Mistake in the Cash Account, but as I am coming down, we will put that right when I am in Newcastle.

31 May 1777 Jonathan Hilton to John Cleaver

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Cleaver

Alston 31st May 1777

Dear Sir,

I take this first opportunity of acquainting you that Mr. Gilbert left Alston last Wednesday Evening, and as some Memorandums were made when he was with Messrs. Walton & Smeaton I inclose you a Copy in order to shew you how the Lead Mine Undertakings are circumstanced and there appears to be a very good understanding between Messrs. Walton & Smeaton & Mr. Gilbert I hope every matter will be settled in such way as to be as agreeable as possible to Lord Carlisle & you. Mr. Gilbert intends a meeting with Lord Carlisle, the Duke of Bridgewater & Lord Gower at Trentham in a few weeks when the affairs will be finally settled & he will most certainly let you know immediately afterwards & fix upon a time of being here to

resolve upon the necessary steps to be taken, at which I shall be glad of your attendance.

8 Jun 1777 Jonathan Hilton to John Gilbert

A Copy of A Letter sent Mr Gilbert

Alston 8 June 1777

Sir,

We were at Stanhope on the 5th Inst and on examining Grove we must beg leave to tell you we have taken the Liberty of setting aside the Bargain you let to Ralph Sanderson & Partrs to sink a shaft in order to try a Vein South of Grey's Vein; our reasons are; There is a cross Leader 12 fathoms South of Stobb's cross cut which runs towds Sandersons String & by driving in that Leader 3½ fathoms we expect to cut Sandersons String where it and the Leader joins therefor if the Leader be of so much help to Sandersons String as we hope; it may carry good Ore: and further if Sandersons String keeps her point, and the Vein where you let the Shaft, keeps its point they will meet about 19 fathoms further to the West than where Sanderson's String and the said cross Leader joins; this we look upon will be nearly as easy a tryal as what was proposed by sinking then Shaft and we are satisfied must be a more effectual one; we have on that Acct as you will see by the Bargains let Sanderson & Ptrs to drive up a Stoup for £5.5.0 by way of proportion to do the Work we have proposed; we have another reason for altering the Bargain of the Shaft; we are sensible from observation the Sills must be much broke at then place you fixed the Shaft from which we cannot any success, and we hope from the above reasons, you will coincide with us in opinion, for if it should so happen that when the Cross Leader & Sandersons String meets there be no good prospect, a cross cut to the Vein in which the Shaft was proposed will be only about Six faths in Length & clearly in good sound ground. By the Bargain at Greengill West End you will see, the forehead appears to us in a better situation than when you were here and we hope it will continue in the mending way as it seems to set down pretty in the Soal. You will also observe we have let a Bargain to cut a Vein called Cooperdykehead Middle Vein.

13 Jun 1777 Jonathan Hilton to John Gilbert

A Copy of A Letter sent Mr Gilbert

Alston 13 June 1777

Sir,

We wrote you on the 8th Inst which we hope you have recd and we have the pleasure to inform you that Greengill Forebreast is now considerably better than when you saw her and indeed mended since we let the Bargain, we have also discovered a Vein about half way between Greengill forebreast and Garrigill Burn which we expect

to be Greengill & Bentyfield Vein though it is further to the North than where Greengill & Bentyfield Vein should be which is supposed to be both one Vein as you will see in the Plan but the Cross Veins we have in this Country may well enough make that alteration the Vein looks very well in the place she is discovered being close at the Bottom of the Moss has very kindly Sparr and some sparks of Ore in it and we have taken the Liberty to sink a Shaft in order to try the Vein in the firestone sill we shall have Five Fathoms of Moss & Shell to Sink to the Ironstone; & Iron Stone & Coal about a fathom to the Firestone Sill and as Greengill Vein has always been good in the upper Sills where she carried Ore we hope to meet with success in the firestone Sill.

J Hilton was at Stanhope on Monday the 9th Inst and settled with Mr Simpson for what Cash he had advanced to the Workmen and gave him your Letter and as he refused giving me any of the Books but the Bargain Book I took a Copy of the Cash he had Lent to the several Workmen: and acquainted the Men that he Simpson was not to transact any business in the Mining way for Lord Carlisle at present and that Mr Sellers was by you fixed and that I hoped that they would look on Mr Sellers as their Master, and they in general seemed well pleased. Jo. Hilton recd yours of the 7th Inst he is this Morning gone to meet M Walton at the Hospital Lead Mill and after acquainting M Walton of your Letter will write you.

7 Jul 1777 Jonathan Hilton to John Gilbert

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr Gilbert

Alston 7th July 1777

Sir,

I was at Stanhope the 3d Inst and find the Drift going up in the North Vein in order to cut the Shieldherst Vein Let to Wm Willis & Partrs to Drive 15 Fathoms at 30/- p fathm & 30/- p Bing is now getting some Ore. Palpayman's working in the North String Opposite to the Pump Sump is very poor, the String is turning to the Vein & how the Working may prove when the String & Vein meets time will shew. The rest of the Workings are much as when let, excepting John Bainbridge's where you observed something going off to the Sun at the South End of Norwoods cross cut & by his cutting to the Sun has met with a Flat of Ore, that may work at his price 45/- p Bing, and by Matt Stobbs & Partrs seeing the above flat they now choose to begin working the Bargain they took the 4th April last which was to sink a Shaft for a Vein South of the Quakers Vein and after sinking the Shaft and cutting the Vein to have 45/- p Bing for all the Ore they raised in 3 Months or 40s p Bing for all the Ore they should raise in six Months, but were to fix which Bargain they would have so soon as the Vein is cut.

This Bargain of the 4th April was put out when you were at Stanhope and a different one Let to Ralph Sanderson & Partrs the Shaft to be Walled but Mr Sellers & I thinking that not so good a place to try the Vein as cutting cross out of Stobbs Working in Greys Vein to the String altered it; our reasons for which you will see in our Letter of the 8th June. And as the trial of Stobb's will be near about half way from the Old mans

forebreast to where we are cutting a cross and done with no expence to my Lord but a little Wood I thought it right letting them have their Bargain.

Greengill Forebreast is much as when Mr Sellers & I wrote you last but is very bad for Air will be obliged to put in Air Boxes. My son mentioned in his last to you my intention of trying Greengill & Bentyfield Vein betwixt Pattinson Sill & the Little Limestone. I have let to Thomas Whitesmith & 3 Partrs to Drive Southwards for that purpose 10 Fathms or till they cut a Vein at 12s p Fathm: where they begin is about 200 fathoms East of the forebreast in the Great Limestone at Bentyfield. We have now got the Rails & Vogue out of How Blagill Level, & have laid 36 fathoms of those Rails in the Drift taken out of the foremast deep Sump at Greengill & intends putting in a Vogue there as that Drift must be carried up to the Forebreast to Air it. I intend setting on Six Pickmen to Drive forward the above Drift which drift will be about 18 Fathoms.

23 Aug 1777 Jonathan Hilton to Charles Atkinson

A Copy of A Letter sent Chas Atkinson Esqr

Alston 23d Aug 1777

Dear Sir,

Your most esteemed favour of the 5th Inst came in due course; It would be very great satisfaction to me to have the present Accounts settled, and I wrote you that I did suppose that Doctor Halls quantity had been Delivered and that everything might have been agreeable to you, but by your Letter I find the contrary; My Son tells me he called at your Shop and Mr Mandeville told him that Doctor Hall still wanted 36 Pieces of the Quantity which I hope before now is Delivered and if so I do beg that his Account may be settled as soon as it can conveniently & indeed I would I would rather take a Bill at a long date than defer the settling Account much later; I have intelligence that Mr Gilbert has full Power to transact every part of the Lead Mine Business for Lord Carlisle and that he will be in this Country about the Middle of next Month at the latest, before which Time I could wish to have the Pay at Stanhope made, and particularly so, as if that was done, every Account between Lord Carlisle, you and myself would be settled with Mr Gilberts presence, I beg your answer by Baty on Tuesday and am

Dr Sr

25 Aug 1777 Jonathan Hilton to John Gilbert

A Copy of A Letter sent Mr Gilbert

Alston 25th Augt 1777

Sir,

Mr Sellers is now here & our report of the present state of Lord Carlisle's Lead Mines you have as follows

The 15 Fathoms Let to Willm Willis & Partrs to Drive the forebreast in the North Vein at Stanhope at 30 sh p Fathm & 30 sh p Bing was finished the Day after Mr Sellers arrived at Stanhope but no Vein cut & was much harder in the last Two fathms than what it was in Driving the other 13 fathms. We Let them 10 fathms more or till they cut a Vein at 60 sh p fathm & 30 sh p Bing. Mr Sellers says the Vein is now more kindly than she was & has better Ore, hopes we are near cutting the Shieldherst Vein. In the Crosscut taken out of Stobb's working in Greys Vein we expected to cut Sandersons String & a Vein South of the Quakers Vein. We have cut three strings all with Ore in them but not so as to Work by Bing. On the 7th Ult I mentioned my letting a Bargain to Mattw Stobbs & Partnrs which Bargain was Let them the 4th of April last and put out when you were at Stanhope; but now stands as it was first Let to sink a Shaft at their own expence, and after cutting the Vein to have 40 sh p Bing for Six Months or 45/- p Bing for 3 Months, and in sinking 4½ fathoms they came to as a Working as we ever had at Stanhope its only three Weeks since they came to Ore & Mr Sellers thinks they have raised 10 Bings & as the Workings is promising we thought it advisable to agree with them for a certain Length of ground, as follows 15 Fathoms to the West & 10 Fathoms to the East and to go no deeper than the sole of their present Drift which about one fathom from the top of the Limestone Sill: and to give them 40/- p Bing for all the Ore they raise in the above Length. The other Ore workings are all very poor.

Greengill – Nothing or very little could be done at the forebreast since my last for want of Air: Boxes has had no Good Effect the Drift going up to Air her will not be finished in less than a Month: In the Crosscut taken out betwixt the Little Limestone & Pattinsons Sill at Greengill West End Vein near Bentyfield we expected to cut Bentyfield on Greengill West End Vein by Driving 12 fathms and have Drove 22 fathms and not cut the Vein but thinks we are now near the Vein as their was a small string cut the other Day & the Drift much harder; the above is the best & truest Account we can at present give.

We are, Sir, Your Most Obedt Hble Servts
J.H. & J.S.

Mr Walton came here on the 17th Instant & stayed four Days, he said he had recd a Letter from you mentioning you had full Power from Lord Carlisle and that he had given you an Answer, Mr Walton desired me to let you know that he hoped to hear from Mr Smeaton soon, fixing the time of his being here which Mr Walton supposed would be about the beginning of October and so soon as Mr Walton knows he will acquaint you, and it will be very agreeable both to the Agents of Greenwich Hospital and us if the Time of Messrs Walton & Smeaton being in Alstonmoor can be a convenient time for you to give them a meeting.

29 Aug 1777 Jonathan Hilton to John Gilbert

A Copy of A Letter sent Mr Gilbert

Alston 29th Augt 1777

Sir,

As it has been always customary for us to make the Pay for Smelting, Refining, Lead Carriage &ca at Stanhope immediately after the finishing that work in every year, & it is now above a year since there Workmen & Carriage Men were paid I wrote Mr Atkinson on the 3d Inst desiring he would assist me in getting Cash for that Purpose & recd his Answer of the 5th in which he desired that the Pay might be deferred till an Account with Doctor Hall who Bought the Principal part of the Lead was settled, since then my Son was at Newcastle and on enquiry found the Quantity of Lead sold Doctor Hall was nearly Delivered I therefore wrote Mr Atkinson again on the 23d and recd his Answer of the 26th to the following purport; Doctor Halls Accot is made out and will about settle our Accot but the quantity of Lead ready to come in will not Answer for the Pay, & as you expect Mr Gilbert coming I think we may contrive to make it at the Time, if he will join in the security for the remainder.

Now Sir as this has always been the usual time of making the above Pay what I would beg is that you will be so obliging as write Mr Atkinson as soon as you can with convenience and I hope then matters may be settled so as to have no stop in future application for Money to do what is necessary for the carrying forward the Works where Lord Carlisle is concerned as you expressed your intention of doing so when you saw Mr Atkinson I shall further take it as a favour if you will please to let me know when you intend being here as I wish to have every matter so fixed as to give you the least trouble possible. My Son joins me in Compts.

& I am Sir Your Most Obet Humb Servt

P.S. Mr Sellers & I wrote you on the 25th Inst which hopes you have recd.

29 Sep 1777 Jonathan Hilton to John Cleaver

A Copy of a Letter sent John Cleaver Esqr.

Alston 29th Sept. 1777

Dear Sir,

I rec'd a Letter from Mr. Gilbert of the 3d Inst. and take this opportunity of acquainting you he has fixed with the agents of the Greenwich Hospital to be at Alston Wednesday Evening the 9th October to settle about the future proceedings in Lords Carlisle's & your Lead Mine undertakings in Alstonmoor & I will be very happy to see you at the same time if possible, particularly so as I believe it is intended to begin some new Work.

27 Oct 1777 Jonathan Hilton to John Cleaver

A Copy of a Letter sent John Cleaver Esqr.

Alston 27th Oct. 1777

Dear Sir,

Your esteemed favour of the 6th inst. came here on the 15th inst. Mr. Gilbert came here on Tuesday the 7th inst. & stayed here along with the Receivers for Greenwich Hospital till Monday the 13th settling matters concerning the Great Water Level he proposes carrying on and the level to cut How Blagill Veins: after that he went to Newcastle and his way here made the pays at Stanhope Friday the 17th came to Alston on Saturday and made the Alstonmoor pays on Monday the 20th. I gave him your Letter to read, and after viewing the situation of the several mines that are in partnership he then said that their should be a boundary fixed betwixt Lord Carlisle & you which is certainly right to be done as the works he purposes carrying on must be very expensive and what I think should be viewed by you before you either give up or take any part as I am unwilling to advise till I have the pleasure of seeing you here, it seems very much Mr. Gilbert's desire to make everything agreeable to you and not to advise you contrary to your own inclinations to enter into the new works he proposes. He pays where you are concerned was made clear & all paid that due till the 20th inst. The Balance after receiving for your share of the Ore raised from Michs 1776 to Michs 1777 was £104.5.7¾ which I have advanced for you & hope you will be so kind as to remitt me as soon as you conveniently can as this is the time of the Year I generally buy in a stock of Tallow. There is no Dead Work to be carried on excepting a Level carrying on with 4 men to cut Cooperdykeheads Middle Vein which vein I expect will be cut and a tryal made in the Great Limestone by Candlemas next. Bargains Let Michs 1777 Let John Walton & 5 parts to raise Ore in Greengill West End Forehead till Christmas next at 21s p Bing. Let John Dawson & 3 parts to raise Ore in the Roofs near Greengill West End forehead till Christmas next at 24s p Bing. The above is the truest & best Accot. I at present can give.

J.H.

21 Nov 1777 Jonathan Hilton to Edward Cleaver

A Copy of a Letter sent The Rev. Mr. Cleaver

Alston 21st Nov. 1777

Dear Sir,

Inclosed you have a Copy of the Nentforce Pay Bill and we intend making a Pay for Dowgang Cross Vein about the Middle of next Month I desire you will be so obliging as remit Twenty pounds by a Bill payable at London or Newcastle: That will pay yours & Mr. Walker's share, and what you owe me otherwise and have something g for Monthly support Money after making that Pay will send an Account of particulars. We have raised very little Ore since you was here being prevented by the Sill running

down & water rising in the Works; what is done since is sinking a shaft to try the Vein in the Firestone and Ironstone Sills with 4 men & Driving a Level in the Plate Bed above the Great Limestone with 4 men in order to drain the Ore Workings in the Little Limestone and to enable us to try the Vein in the Great Limestone which is the only account I can at present give you. Mr. Gilbert came here on the 7th last Month at which time I was in hopes of seeing your Father or you here, but I rec'd a Letter from your Father Dated 6 October which he desired me to shew Mr. Gilbert your Father's Letter was, that Mr. Gilbert has acquainted him of intending to begin a Grand Level to try several Veins in Lower Sills than has been tryed in Alstonmoor, and as it will undoubtedly be a very expensive tryal your Father declined entering into so great undertaking. After Mr. Gilbert's reading your Father's Letter he said there should be a Boundary fixed betwixt Lord Carlisle & your Father relating the several Veins they now have in Lease & Grant, of which I acquainted your Father and thought it advisable for him not to enter into any contract till he was upon the Ground at which time I should be glad to see you. Mr. Gilbert made the Alstonmoor pays clear to the time he was here. The Ballance after receiving your father's share of the Ore raised from Michs 1776 to Michs 1777 was £104.5.7³/₄ which I advanced of which I wrote him the 27th last month and have heard nothing from him since which makes me think the Letter has miscarried or he is from home. There is no Dead Work carried on in Lord Carlisle & Mr. Cleaver's Mines in Alstonmoor at present but a Level by 4 men to cut Cooperdykehead Middle Vein; Greengill West End forehead is let to 6 men till Christmas next at 21/- p bing, the Roofs to 4 men till Do. at 25 & 4 men in the Old Yard is all the Men we have employed.

The Forehead at present is very poor.

My compts &c. J.H.

24 Nov 1777 Jonathan Hilton to John Gilbert

A Copy of A Letter sent Mr Gilbert

Alston 24th Novr 1777

Sir,

When you were last here you'll please to remember that in the Accot between Lord Carlisle & I there was a Ballance of £391.14.8 in my favour as also the Stock at the Mill which I made myself Accountable for in the Mill abstract. You will also remember that several Accots at Stanhope & Greengill were left unpaid and yet remain so, as I have not had any opportunity of procuring Cash to make those Payments which by the inclosed Accot you'll see amounts to £968.6.8¹/₂ To which added a wrong entry in Mr Simpson's salary which ought to have been ³/₄ of a year at Ten Pounds p Annum is £7.10 but is entered & Cast up as 7sh 10d and Thomas Armstrong for Taking care of the Pumps at Stanhope when Sinking under Level 11 Wks at 3/- as also at Greengill an ommission of Jacob Watsons Wages for attending at the Mine to take care of the Ore Washing and keeping the Levels & Drifts &ca in repair; And a small Bill for Grove

Rope makes the whole unpaid about One Thousand Pounds. You desired me to keep the Silver till you wrote respecting the Price at Birmingham but several of the Workmen & others wanting Cash induced me to give directions to John Walton to take the Silver to Newcastle sell it and bring me the Money; which amounted to about £150 but Mr Atkinson would suffer him to bring no more than £50 this surprised me no little as his reason was he lay out of a great Sum & without securing himself in that way he did not know how to get his own; I hope you'll excuse my telling you that the several Persons who want Payments are more in expectation of them than if no part of the Pays had been made for the talk of a Pay makes the Creditors of those who are interested in the Pay be more Pressing upon them thinking they have received their Demands. Now Sir what I would beg of you is that you would please to consider this matter and out things on such a footing as to furnish me with Cash against Christmas; because you know as well as I that tho there is near the Amount of what is at present wanted in the Stock at the Mill yet that Stock (except the Bullion) cannot be turned into Cash till the next Summer at soonest, and besides, from Mr Atkinson's behaviour about the Bullion it seems as if he meant to pay himself, and the Thousand Pounds we had from the Bank out of the first Lead that may go to Market, which if I mistake not was contrary to what you expected when here, for you will I dare say recollect that when Mr Atkinson & us spoke about the Money it was said he had Lead at Newcastle which would make a Ballance for the £600 I got and you desired my Son to alter the Account and keep the Value of the 243 Pieces which were part Delivered & part at the Mill as well as the Bullion by way of Paying any thing which might be needful; some of the Things which must be done are the Payment of the Ore Bought at Dowgang cross Vein: The several Offtakes and the Bills at Newcastle Amounting to about £620 and indeed everything should be Paid, but if it be not convenient to raise the whole Sum, the only Sums which must remain is the Ore & Lead Carriages; and for the above mentioned reasons I hope you'll consider this Matter and let me know from you as soon as convenient when to expect a remittance, that I may be enabled to acquaint the several Persons with the Time they are to be Paid.

In Answer to yours of the 30th Ult. respecting the Level at Cooperdykeheads Middle Vein standing I can only observe that as Mr Cleaver has been acquainted with that undertaking & agreed to be a Partner; I think it cannot be properly left off without his knowledge and besides that the Workmen were agreed with to cut the Vein before you were here, I shall promise you that the expence after the Vein is cut shall be very little till I have Lord Carlisle's & Mr Cleaver's directions how to proceed; and besides Mr Cleaver has paid his $\frac{1}{4}$ part of Expences on Account of that Tryal.

29 Nov 1777 Jonathan Hilton to John Gilbert

A Copy of A Letter sent Mr Gilbert

Alston 29th Novr 1777

Dear Sir,

I hope you recd my Letter of the 24th Inst, and on the 25th I recd your favour of the 17th Inst I left Stanhope yesterday Stobbs & Partrs in the rich Bargain had Drove the Forehead two Fathoms nearly Dead in a Shake or Douk, but yesterday the sides were put on sound, and pretty good Ore appearing in the Sole which seemed to set up into the forehead I think there is no doubt of its being good again. The String South of Greys Vein let to Ralph Sanderson & 5 Partrs does not appear to come so fast to Greys Vein as it did and cannot be Drove but at a great expence so we have given that over & as Stobbs & Partrs has only between 5 & 6 fathom to Drive to their Ground end we thought right to Sink a Shaft Two or Three fathoms West of Stobb's Ground end which Shaft I suppose will be set on next Week & I hope there is no fear of success. Palpayman & Partrs East of Stobb's Shaft has raised as much Ore as could be expected, but their Ore runs so much down that it cannot be worked much longer for Water. Now as the Old Man has Worked the same Vein and his forehead is standing at the bottom of the Great Limestone about 38 Fathoms East of Palpayman's Working and without bringing up that Drift Palpayman's Working will be lost; There is a prospect of getting ore that may pay the Expence of that Drift, but Mr Sellers will Write you next Week more particularly about it. The rest of the Ore Workings are doing as well as could be expected: but Shieldherst Vein is not yet cut.

28 Dec 1777 Jonathan Hilton to Charles Atkinson

A Copy of A Letter sent Chas Atkinson Esqr

Alston 28th Decr 1777

Sir,

As I never had any particular Account about the Lead &ca since the 30th Jany 1775 I inclose you a Copy of the Account settled then, and desire you will as soon as possible let me have an Account of what has been done since then made out in the same way as the inclosed, that is, the Weight & Peice of the Lead with the Amount on one side and the Charges & Money paid on the other side, because till I receive it I cannot make out the Mill Accounts exactly; I also desire to know to whom the Cash has been paid at every separate payment, the Amount of Interest and every other Thing which you have paid on Lord Carlisles Account or on Mine. By one of the Accounts I have recd from you ending the 20th March 1777 It appears I have got £15459.2.8½. By the other ending the 9th Sepr 1777 it appears to be £1915. And I want to have the particulars of these Two Sums, and also what has been paid since that; I hope you'll let me have it as soon as possible as I cannot till then give Mr Gilbert so clear a state of the undertakings as he desires.

21 Jan 1778 Jonathan Hilton to John Gilbert

A Copy of A Letter sent Mr Gilbert

Alston 21st Jany 1778

Sir,

Your favour of the 6th Decr last came in due course and I should have wrote to you before this but as you mentioned writing me was the only reason of my not writing you nor can I give you such an Account of the Mines as you may expect till my Son comes from Farnacres where he now is with the Receivers. All I can at present say is that there has been no Loss at Greengill since you was here. The Vein at Cooperdykeheads is not yet cut but hope it will be in a short time. Ore computed to be raised at Greengill West End from Michs 1777 To Christmas following 25 Bing at 21s p Bing & 25 Do. at 25s p Bing.

Dowgang Cross Vein Ore Bought for Lord Carlisle was Paid for the 5th Inst

	Bings	s	
Bouse Ore	40 at	52 p Bing	£104
Do. Cutting	2 at	45 Do.	4 10
			£108 10

Bargains Let at Greengill West End Christmas 1777

Let John Walton 6 Partrs to raise Ore in the Forehead and Soles till Ladyday next at 25/- p Bing

Let John Dowson & 3 Partrs to raise Ore in the Roofs tills Ladyday next at 25/- p Bing

Let Thos Swinbank & Ptnrs to raise Ore East of the first Sump risen in the Whatstone Sill till Ladyday next at 25/- p Bing

9 Jul 1784 Robert Hodgson to John Cleaver

[Note: Hodgson (1736-1808) of Alston was from Garrigill and was described as 'Esqr' when he died. He was married successively to Mary Lee (1759), Mary Watson (1767) and to Mary Hodgson in 1777. Only three of his children lived past infancy, one of whom –John- he described as at his 'princepell assistance' after he died in 1791 aged 31. His daughter, Nancy (1780-1864), married George Elstob, Landowner and Brewer, and his son Robert (1785-1855) owned the very successful Nentsberry Green lead mine between the 1820s and 1840s and moved to Salkeld Hall near Melmerby.]

Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Cleaver

Alstone 9th July 1784

Dr Sr

Yours I rec'd on the 8th Inst. I am not at all surprized by your misunderstanding with Mr. Hutchinson for this is the fifth time he of late years has been employed by different Companys thro' the Interest of old Mr. Hilton, and in a short time was allways discharged. The only Objection I have in being concerned for your Leadmines, is Mr. Gilbert, I am afraid his opinion & proceedings would not coenside with mine. If Mr. Gilbert or his Agent would reason properly towards the conducting of Greengill &c I have no Objection to act for you, if not, I can be of no service to you. I do suppose if Mr. Gilbert would not interfere, I might bring his Agent to sociable as well as adventitious terms.

Mr. Hutchinson must be acquainted from you by return of post that I am appointed to settle your Accts is a little additional Trouble, but quite necessary, having had a similar affair with him in which he was very obstinate. Please to inform me at the same time you write Mr. Hutchinson as I do not chuse to act till then. I am informed Mr. Gilbert is shortly expected here. In my next will give you a full State of his proceedings here, an Information of Greengill &c, with the Salary I require for attendance, which I suppose will only be trifling at present.

I am with great respect

S your very Hbl Servt

Robt Hodgson

31 Jul 1784 Robert Hodgson to John Cleaver

To the Revd. Mr. J. Cleaver Malton Yorkshire

To the Revd. Mr. Cleaver

Alstone 31st July 1784

I rec'd yours on the 8th Inst & wrote you the day following. I expected an answer ere this. Mr. Gilbert came here on the 14th Inst. the next morning by chance I met with him and had long conversation relative to the Lead mines &c with which he was well

pleased, and said he would be glad to see me at any opportunity; I told him there was a probability I might be concerned with him in the Leadmines here having had a Letter of late from you desiring that I would attend your affairs in this Country; he said he would be happy to hear of that taking place & wished we had had an earlier connection. On Wednesday last was the pay day, I was sent for in the morning to Nentsberry, when I informed him I expected another Letter from you very soon in answer to one I sent you. I shewed him a part of your Letter respecting Mr. Hutchinson, he asked if Hutchinson was informed of it I told him not that I knew of Mr. Gilbert immediately called Mr. Hutchinson into the Room and told him you had appointed me to transact your affairs at Greengill &c he not giving any Satisfactory acct to you concerning the Leadmines, nay not even answering your Letters. Hutchinson's answers were Evasive, having appointed his Son and he had caused the neglect. Yesterday I was in Greengill Leadmine and have fixed on a plan to sink into the Great Limestone which has Mr. Gilbert's approbation. They had begun a sump & sunk 4 or 5 fathoms on the north side of the Vein, which Mr. Gilbert is now satisfied to be wrong. Mr. Hilton sunk on the Sun Side of the Vein into the Coal Sills, if he had sunk on into the Great Lime and then cut cross to the Vein in all probability it would have answered if the Limestone took the water, if not they would have seen into the Vein, but instead of his sinking he cut cross to the Vein on the Coal Sill & loosed some water which occasioned them to give it up. If we find the water over heavy to sink with we will use Endeavours to force it back in the Crosscut that Mr. Hilton cut, if that cannot be done we intend to sink another Sump near the old one on the Sun side of the Vein. I have not had an opportunity of being in any other part of Greengill or at Tynebottom, but Mr. Gilbert has given me an Invitation. I have not yet settled with Mr. Hutchinson, he paid $\frac{1}{4}$ of the paybill & I expect there will be £22.3 in his Hand on the last year's acct. How matters were before I have not yet found out; so soon as I can get his acct settled I will send you it and a further state of the Mines with other Matters relative.

P.S. You would receive my last wrote by myself this is my Son's who usually writes for me.

R H

14 Dec 1784 Robert Hodgson to John Cleaver

To the Revd. Mr. Cleaver

Alstone 14th Decr. 1784

Yours I rec'd & have paid Paul Readshaw £2.2 on Acct of the Horse. When with you at Allendale Town I informed you it would be at or near Ladyday before we could possibly get into the vein in the G. Limestone at Greengill, but I am in Hopes as we are very successful, to give you earlier Intelligence. Nothing otherwise material concerning the Leadmine has transpired. I would have answered your last week had there been

any probability of a Conveyance, but the Storm of Snow & Quantity on the Ground entirely stopt all communication with this part.

R H

23 Mar 1785 Robert Hodgson to John Cleaver

To the Revd. Mr. Cleaver

Alstone, 23d March 1785

We have got into the vein in the G. Lime at Greengill without much Difficulty on the Plan I first proposed which takes the water, and I have sunk 5 fathoms in the vein from the top of the Sun Cheek of the Limestone, where the water appears to stand, but are now cutting cross in the vein to find the North Cheek of the Limestone, which I expect to be near four fathoms lower than the Sun Cheek, the vein is very strong, what width it is I cannot say till we find the Cheek, we have some little Ore in the Rider, but not so much as will answer to pay for working it. I hope to find a deeper sink for the Water in some part of the vein and a better Leader of Ore. We are raising some Ore in the old Workings but at high Prices, yet will help a little to defray the Expence of sinking into the G. Lime. I have got nothing settled with Mr. Hutchinson Mr. Gilbert's agent goes mostly with me into the mine and always agrees with my Proposals. Tyne Bottom Mine is poor at present, they have three veins that get Ore in the Tynebottom Limestone but they do not appear well at the bottom of that Limestone on the top of the Whin Sill. I have been in that mine at the request of the Agent to give him my opinion.

R H

10 Dec 1785 Robert Hodgson to John Cleaver

To the Revd. Mr. Cleaver

Alstone, 10th Decr. 1785

I am informed Mr. Gilbert is come to Stanhope in Weardale to make a pay & is expected here the ensuing week upon the like Business. There will be a Loss at Greengill but how much I cannot state till I recon with Mr. Gilbert. I shall advance your share of the payment and in return would wish to know who I am to draw on for the Balance. As soon as the payment is over I shall send you a Copy thereof. We have done nothing in Greengill G. Lime for some months past waiting of Mr. Gilbert's Inspection. What his determination is I'll inform you when I send the Paybill.

R H

25 Jan 1786 Robert Hodgson to John Cleaver

To the Revd. Mr. Cleaver

Alstone, 25th Jany. 1786

Inclosed you'll have a Copy of the Greengill paybill which I purposed sending some time since, but was prevented by Expectation of getting the old acct settled with Mr. Hutchinson, which is not yet done, alltho' I have applied to him several times.

	Bs	
Amt of Ore raised at Greengill as pr paybill	198	
		B C
Delivered to Sale	161 2	
Do to Duty	<u>36 6</u>	198
1/5 Duty of above	39 4 4/5	
Deliv to Do as above	<u>36 6</u>	
Arrear with Duty since I was concerned	2 6 4/5	
		£ s d
Amt of the Expences at Greengill as pr paybill	<u>799 .. 5</u>	
Your ¼ share thereof	199 15 1 ¼	
A do. Greengill workmen since the pay	6 6 ..	
To my Attendance 1½ year	<u>15</u>	
	£221 1 1 ¼	
		Bs Ct Bs Ct
By ¼ of 161.2 being	40. 2½ of Ore at 54/- is	108. 16. 10 ½
	£ s	
By Cash rec'd at Allendale	31 10	
To do. pd. P. Readshaw	<u>2 2</u> 29.8	138 4 10 ½
	Balance	£82 16 2 ¾

I have on the 21st Jany Inst drawn on you as directed for the above Balance payable at Forty days. I offered your Share of Greengill Ore to Mr. Gilbert as I before informed you on refusal from him I therefore sold it to Henry Errington Esqr. for 54/- as before stated. On dividing the Ore Mr. Gilbert received upwards of two Bings of yours which his Agent refuses paying more for than 50 pr Bing. As this is so trifling a matter I have taken no Notice of it in your Acct, but entered the whole in your Acct. at 54/-. The next Division of Ore I expect to get myself rectified. Mr. Gilbert when here along with me viewed the Situation of Greengill G. Lime and are of Opinion that it is Necessary to have a further opening in the Vein there and have at present four Workmen employed therein but should the trial not appear more promising they will be discharged in a little time as it was then agreed on. There are other eight men employed in the old Workings raising Ore at 30/- pr Bing. So soon as any material alteration happens you shall be informed thereof by R H

25 Feb 1786 Robert Hodgson to Edward Cleaver

A Copy of a Letter sent Mr. Edwd Cleaver

Alston 25th Feby 1786

Sir,

I received a Letter from a Mr. Ben. Hutton requesting me to state to you the Account between Mr. Cleaver [and] Mr. Hutchinson. I this day spoke to Mr. H who informs me that Mr. Cleaver has all the Accomps requisite to settle such matter can inform you on seeing him.

I have not been able to pocure any further Intelligence and how the affair stands between them is quite a Mystery.

To you Hbl Sart

Robt Hogson

NB Mr. Hutchinson intends Seeing you on the 28th March

26 Jul 1786 Robert Hodgson to John Cleaver

To the Revd. Mr. Cleaver

Alston, 26th July 1786

The four Men employed in Driveing in the Vein in Greengill great Limeston was discontinued in March we all along had sum little Ore but not near Equeal to the Expenche of proseedng so far as we continued.

We have 8 men Employed in Raiseing Ore in sundry place in the Old workings at 30/- p Bing I expack we shal raise about 120 Bings of Ore this year ending at Michalemas Next. I offered your shair of the Ore to Mr. Gilbert's Mill Agent wonce more who refused to by it. I have sold it lately to Henry Errington Esqr & Co. for 60/- p Bing which I think a good price for Greengill Ore. I hear no Account of Mr. Gilbert visiting us this Summer. Tinebottom Mine is poor what ore they have got is in the upermost Sill called Tinebottom Limeston. The next Sill, called the Whin, is what their great Expecttation on is not likely to Turn out well haveing nothing perticklar to inform you with at Grengill I reman Sr Your Most Hbl Sart.

Robt Hodgson

13 Feb 1788 Robert Hodgson to Benjamin Hutton

[Note: Undated but it appears to be the letter referred to as 'this day received' on 16 Feb 1788 so is dated three days previous to that]

Mr. Ben Hutton / No. 2 Angel Court / Friday Street

Yours I rec'd and have spoke to young Mr. Hutchinson who says he will endeavour to get your Accts settled with his father as soon as he possibly can, which he says shall be sent to you. Should you not receive them in time Mr. Jno. Hutchinson lives at the Loaning near Alstone Cumberland.

We have been in Expectation of Mr. Gilbert's coming here all this month, in order to make his Leadmine pays so soon as he arrives we shall get Greengill Leadmine payments made of which I'll send you the particulars thereof as well as a state of the Leadmine

I am Robt Hodgson

16 Feb 1788 Robert Hodgson to John Cleaver

The Revd. Mr. Cleaver

Alston, 16th Feby 1788

Sir,

Inclosed I sent you Greengill Lead Mine paybills for 1786 & 1787 paid the 8th Augt. Last likewise your Acct. Currnt. which states the Balance in your favour to £30.6.6 but since the Pay I have advanced to the Workmen £14.10.

Why I delay sending you the paybills immediately, after the Pay was not haveing received pay for 18 Bings of Ore sold in 1787 but not then delivered, yet now is and paid for last month. Christmas being the general time of Lead mine settlements here.

Greengill is at present very poor, although we have made some little Trials on the Old Yards sence the pay and raise Ore by 10 men after the Rate of 33/- & 40/- p Bing the trials not being at a Great Expencc, and alltho the Ore is of a poor Qualite a Gain my be expectd considering the high price of Lead.

Mr. Gilbert I find in [sic- is] not inclined to make further trial at Greengill at present, but that of picking what ore can be got out of the Old Grounds.

Your Latter datd the 23d Dember last was shewn to Mr. Hutchinson which occasioned me to wate for Answer this day recived and punctually stating that the Acct shall be settled so soune as pessable and sent to Mr Hutton as direct.

I have not sent a Statement of your inclosed Acct to Mr. Hutton supeseing that that you were most conversent in Lead mines and therefore best able to inspect them but should you wish it pleas to inform

Your Most Hbl Sart Robt Hodgson

4 Feb 1789 Robert Hodgson to John Cleaver

The Revd. Mr. Cleaver

Alston, 4th Feby 1789

Sir,

Inclosed you'll have a Copy of Greengill pay bill and a Statement of the Acct for the last year by which it appears there is a loss.

I first made an offer to Mr. Gilbert of your Share of the Ore, which he refused & then made application to sundry other Purchasers who likewise rejected it; being Ore of a very poor Quality, and Lead have lowered a little in value. I then under necessity of made interest to get it smelted, and afterwards sold at Newcastle according to the Statement.

The Ore making such a bad produce, has occasioned us to let the Raising of it for the present year by Ton after the rate of £12 to £14, which cannot prove very adventitious I suppose to the Proprietors.

The Balance due to you you'll see is £11.12.9
from Your Most Obed Hbl Servt
R H

NB You should have had the Acct sooner but I only recd pay for the Lead lately. Should be glad to hear from you when convenient.

Statement of Acct. Curr.

Rec'd from Greengill Leadmine on Acct of your quarter share	£	s	d
25Bs 6Cs of Ore which produced 3 1/2 Ton of Lead & sold at Ncastle at £21 10s is	75	5	-
Rested in my Hand last year as pr Acct sent you	30	6	6
	£105	11	6
Pr Contra	£	s	d
To 1/4 of the Payment as pr Paybill	70	9	9
To Carriage of 25Bs 6Cs of Ore at 5/-	6	8	9
To do of Lead, Quay Duty &c	4	5	9
To Smelters Wages & Fuel	2	14	6
To my Attendance	10	-	-
Bal. in your favour	93	18	9
	£11	12	9
Rested with me in 1788 as before	30	6	6
	£18	13	9

14 Apr 1790 Robert Hodgson to John Cleaver

The Revd. Mr. Cleaver

Alstone 14th April 1790

Sir,

Inclosed youll have Greengill Leadmine Paybill for 1789 which was settled 22d July last wherein there is a gain due to you of £2 18s 8½d the statement whereof should have been sent sooner but expected to have given you better Intelligence of the Mine. We had only one Partnership of men who were raising ore at £13 13s p Ton in Lead since Michaelmas to the Pay, when we offered them £13, which was refused, so at present all is totally Idle except dressing the Ore which they had got before, how soon I may be able better to inform you I cannot say.

I am your Hbl Servt R H

R. Hodgson to the Rev. Mr. Cleaver

1790 To Bal in my Hand due last)	£	s	d
year pr Acct sent you)	11	12	9
To Gain pr Paybill this year	<u>2</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>8½</u>
	£14	11	5½

No Salary as yet charged for last year
which is by way of self information

1791 March 21 Gain as will appear)			
by the Pay Bill this day Sattled)	0	11	7
1792 June 11 th Gain as will appear)			
by the Pay Bill this day Sattled)	1	13	3½
1794 April 17 th Recd of Wm. Todd & Co for)			
¼ Shair of Greengill Materals)	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1½</u>
	£24	1	7½

Robt Hodgson on Acct of Greengill Lead Mine

To the Revrnd Mr Clever Dr.

1794

Aprile 17th By an Accompt Brot forward £24 1 7½

	Contra Cr.					
To One year Attending the Mine not charged)	£	s				
in the last Pay Bill sent you in 1790)	10	0	0			
To One year Attending the Mine for the Acct)						
sattled on the 21 st March 1791)	3	0	0			
To One Year Attending the Mine for the Acct)						
sattled on the 11 th June 1792)	5	0	0			
Expences in Collecting a Cask of Spars for						
Lady E. Bentick by your desier in 17(9)3)	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>
				Ballance	£1	14 1½

24 May 1794 Matthew Dickinson

1794 May 24th Received of Robt Hodgson the above Ballance of One Pound Fourteen Shillings & 5½ for the use of the Revd Mr John Cleaver and by his Order Witness my hand

Matthew Dickinson

28 May 1794 Robert Hodgson to John Cleaver

[Note: Recipient unstated, but the receipt dated 24th May from Matthew Dickinson indicates it was for John Cleaver]

Alston 28th May 1794

Dear Sir,

Yours dated on the 14th Instant I received by Mr. Dickinson and agreeable to your desire has sattl'd my Acct on Greengill Lead Mine with him. I was very happy to find you had Ordered him to call upon me on that buseness, for my Son is Dead who was my princepell Assistance, and Old Age and informeties is cumming on, so I am mutch in the decline of buseness. Mr. Gilbert's Agents & my Self could not carry on Greengill Lead Mine any longer without an Expence and no prospect Opening that we thought proper to recommend to venter upon so we discontinued working and sold the Materals. Mr. Matthew Dickinson has Examened all my Accts conserning the Mine of which you have a Statement Inclosed hear and I have paid him the Ballance in my hand according to your Order. Mr. Dickinson and I waited upon John Hutchinson I told him that I had received a Latter from you and that it was your wish to have the Acct Sattled with him on Greengill Lead Mine, without Aplying to the Lawes of the Cuntery, he said he had no Acct and did not know how the Ballance studd. Mr Dickinson will be able to give you sum further information on this Buseness as he had another meeting with him on sum other Affaiers as wee as yours.

By the Inclosed Latter of Lady Ed Bentick's you'll be informed of her sentements of the Spars I sent, by your desier. I was Three Months in collacting them and was not at all Sattisfied with Sum of the Speciments, but could git no batter in this part of the Cuntery at that time, there is no choice of Spares hear to what I formerly had seen.

Mr. Dickinson informes me that you was in want of Sum Spares at this time. All that I have in my House I have sent of this day for your Acceptance. Mr Dickinson had a hand in puting them up but I am afraid you'll think sum of them not worth Carriage.

If I can be of any use to you in this place you may command my Assistance on any Occasion I remain

Your Most Obedt Hbl Sart
Robt. Hodgson