

8 Feb 1750 George Pantoune

[Note: NRO 672/A/34/9 Folder 1/4]

A Coppie of Mr Pantounes Will
Copy of the Will of George Pantoune

Will of George Pantoune

In the Name of God Amen I George Pantoune of High Sheel do make and publish This my last Will and Testament in manner and form following (that is to say) Imprimis I give and bequeath to George Marshall of Wall Town and William Soppitt of Corbridge all my Estate Real and personal and doth nomenate them sole Executors of all my lands [document torn across here] Houses at High Sheel freehold and copyhold as all my leases of lead Mines or Veins of lead in Alstone moor or elsewhere as also my Share of a certain Smelt Min cald and known by the Name of Black hall Miln in Hexmanshire They discharging all my Debts and Funeral Expences and paying my Sister Elizabeth Pantoune the Sum of thiry pounds a year as long as she lives at quarterly payments The first payment to be made three months after my decease and the said Elizabeth Pantoune to have the furnishing of two Romms out of my Dwelling House at High Sheel on consideration that she bring up and maintain Ann Norberry and Elinor Norberry till such time as they are fit for Service and maintain themselves and I hereby revoke all former wills by me made In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal theEight Day of February in the twenty third Year of the Reign of our Soverign Lord George our King and in the year of our Lord 1700 and forty nine George Pantoune Signed Sealed published and declared by the above named George Pantoune to be his last Will and Testament in the Presence of us William Hewartson Antho Hewartson Jona: Hilton

This copy Agrees with the Original Will of the said deceased proved in the Progorative Court of York being duly Compared and Examined therewith by me
Rob Jubb Deputy Register
Extract by Richd Mackley Proctor

27 Mar 1771 Jonathan Sorsbie to Mary Loraine

[Note: NRO 672/A/34/9 Folder 2/37]

Newcastle 27 March 1771

Madam

I had last night yours, and I think you seem to be a little out of Humour, upon no consideration let us quarrel, it was certainly so, that I have got 643 p/s of your common lead & 211 P/s of Slagg as I got all the Lead you then at this River, your Mills [acct] the Publick weigher in this Town, and my good Friends in London who got the lead but

these Gentlemen I would not trouble on this <acct> unles ther was a nicety for it – together must in course make out the certainty of the quality of each sort of Lead I always thought that the meaning of the bargain to have all the Lead you had at or near this River and I got as speedily down to our Quay as I coud. If you send my name sake Spark to this Town on Thursday in Easter Week you shall not be disapointed of a few hundred Pounds you know that you never was by me disapointed, if there be any difference in opinion, let us refer our case to your Friend Mr Bell who is a Judicious and an honest man and conversant in the Lead Trade as he is in Mr Richmonds office, the price of Lead getting up so high was on Acct of the Ship being stopt so long at Shields by contrary Winds, only yours of several others Lead did not sail til last week on that accot they say that they cannot expect payment so soon as bargained for,

I remain with respect Madam Your real Friend & Servant
Jonath. Sorsbie

There's 50 or 60 p/s of your Lead on our Quay for wch you may have £15 a Fo –

22 Jul 1771 William Nisbit to Thomas Marshall

[Note: NRO 672/A/34/9 Folder 1/1]

Agreement made this 22 day of July 1771 between Mr William Nisbit of the one part and Thos Marshall for and in behalf of Mrs Lorrain of the other part

Witnesseth That the said Willm Nisbit hath bough and agrees to take Thirteen Hundredd piggs of lead belonging to the said Mary Lorrain which are now upon the key, about one hundred and fifty of which are Slagg Lead which whole quantity of 1300 piggs is to be weighed off imidiately in order that the said Mrs Lorrain may get the Weight and number of her leads as well as to enable the said Mr Nisbit to send the same away as he may have occation; who promises to pay for the whole of the above 1300 piggs after the Rate of Sixteen pounds per fodder upon the 23 of September next ensuing the date hereof, as witness our hands

Wm Nesbitt Thos Marshall

NB Twenty Ten days allow'd to ship it as customary

8 May 1772 George Pickering to Mary Loraine

[Note: NRO 672/A/34/9 Folder 2/36]

To Mrs Loraine at Hexham

Nunwick May 8th 1772

Madam

I came from Alstone last night, – and the day before was at Thorngill to view the Vein they had lately cut there, & am sorry to inform you, that she does not prove to expectation but is very poor altho a fine Vein, they have rose up four Yards into Pattinsons [hole] still no better appearance; we agreed to <hole > a cross cut fifteen fathom to the East to make a further trial whether she will prove there or not and if she does not answer there will be an end of her,

I am Madam Your most Obt Humble Servt
Geo Pickering

20 Aug 1772 John Reay to Mary Loraine

[Note: NRO 672/A/34/9 Folder 2/5]

To Mary Loraine in Hexham

Aldston Augt 20th 1772

Kind Frd

I take this opportunity by the bearer to mention, That having occasion for two hundred pieces of Lead to send to London I mentioned a price to Thos Marshal when I was at Hexham last week, that he told me was not agreeable to thee to sell for as I want to have it soft Lead, a knowing the Quality of your, I shall consent to give fourteen pounds per Fother, yt I expect is better than Markett prices – I shall take it a favour if will be so kind as to lett me have an answer by the Bearer, who may call on his leaving the town – he has with him two Brace of Moor Game wch please to accept from thy real frd

John Reay

15 Feb 1775 Lancelot Allgood to Robert Allgood

[Note: NRO 672/A/34/9 Folder 2/41]

to Mr Robt Allgood at Hexham

Nunwick Febr 15th 1775

Sir

I received yours last night of the 13th and upon looking into The Deed of Trust, I find it appears to be dated 27th Febr 1762, and is therein mentioned that William Pantoune deceased left James Pantoune an Infant then of age of Seven Years or thereabouts, to whom One Hundred Pounds, & the Interest at 4 ½ percent to be for his maintenance during Infancy, and when of the Age of Twenty One Years, the principal & what Interest shall be then due, to be paid to him, upon his Conveying his Right,

Title and Interest of in & to the Premises of High Sheild etc You must consider this is a Deed of Trust made to me for the benefit of several people so if Your Sister must have the Deed she must send me a proper Receipt for the return of it to me. I would advise the searching the Register to know his exact age because by the Deed he appears to be only Twenty Years old

I am Sir, Your most Obedient

L Allgood

6 May 1775 Henry Fleck to Mary Loraine

[Note: NRO 672/A/34/9 Folder 2/14]

To Mrs Mary Lorrain Hexham

Bladon My 6th 1775

Madam

I wrote to Mr Marshall some Time ago & Inclosed a Bill on you for £11 16s 5d due to Mr Staniland desiring Ansr but, not Hearing, nor receiving and ansr since Mr Staniland this Week desired me to Write you again, and would be glad to know from you when it will be convenient for you to make or Order the payment

I am Madam your most Obligd Hble Servt

Henry Fleck

9 May 1775 Lancelot Allgood to Mary Loraine

[Note: NRO 672/A/34/9 Folder 2/15]

To Mrs Loraine In Hexham

Nunwick May 9th 1775

Madam

I received the favour of Yours of the 6th, as I have Advertised Colt Park Estate to be sold, the Purchaser cannot enter before Old Martinmas, so we must make it the week after, to pay you that Money, Therefore on the 27th or 28th of November, you may depend upon your Money being paid you. I am,

Madam Your most Obedient Humble Servant

L Allgood

13 Jun 1775 John Hartland to Henry Fleck

[Note: NRO 672/A/34/9 Folder 2/18]

To Mr Henry Fleck in Stella

Gateshead June 13th 1775

Sir

I received the favour of yr letter dated this day am very sorry you have has so much trouble, especially as you have had the mortification to be disappointed I think Mrs Loraine has behaved very ungenteely, both to you & me, nevertheless I will not write to her for the present; but will defer it a month. If she remitts it in that time, it is very well: if not, shall tell her a little of my mind – therefore if the money be paid to you, advise me of it as soon as you can: and if she sends it to me, will do the same for you I have sold to Mr Chapman of Newcastle my Scale Scale Checks Beam, Weights, Scale Boards & Triangles, which you will be so good as deliver to him agreeable to my order directed to you, an Inventory you will receive herewith as on the other side. In the mean time you will take care that every thing be right & that nothing be wanting They must be sent down without any Expense to Mr Chapman by Armstrong & Galley. For when I sold them A & Galley my Boat etc by agreement They were to deliver the above Weights, Scales Triangles, Beam & Scale Chains at Newcastle gratis

I remain Yr most humble Servt

Jno Hartland

1 Large Iron Scale Beam
1 G Large Scale Boards plated with Iron
1 Sett of Scale Chains
1 7l – cash weight adjusted
1 14l do
1 28l do
1 56l do
16 112l do
1 pair of Triangles

16 Oct 1775 Henry Fleck to Thomas Marshall

[Note: NRO 672/A/34/9 Folder 1/3]

Mr Thomas Marshall Hexham

Bladon Octor 16th 1775

Sir

Yours Recd and am wholly Ignorant of wt you have have therein advanced. It is indifferent to me whether Mrs Loraine make her Lead into Ingots or Kirk Steeples, with respect to the Terms between her & Carriage it is quite out of my way & beneath my notice; however I beg you'l remind her that I have not yet receiv'd for the Wharfage etc. of the last five hundd pss and I desire you may come down & Weigh off what you have here, as there is not an Ounce of it Weigh'd nor shall be for me without a Special

Commission for the same signed by your Mistress I expect & desire I may have no unnecessary Trouble about what is due from Mrs Lorrain on Acct of her Lead, and that she would clear the premisses of it as soon as possible, notwithstanding her Ill Treatment of me, I have risqued the Displaeasure both of my Employers & Lord of the Manr to give her Lead a place this Season.

Pray my best Compliments to Mar Thomas, to Miss Marshall And Accept the same yourself from Sir Your very Obet Hble Servt

Henry Fleck

PS I am at present so poorly in Health that I'm scarce able to hold the pen nay in deed it is Irksome to me

30 Nov 1775 James Panton to Mary Loraine

[Note: NRO 672/A/34/9 Folder 2/6]

Newcastle 30th Nov 1775

Madm

I hereby acquaint you that I am now at lodgings, the Ship being laid up for the Season and as the Money will be due to me in a few weeks, would take it as a favour if you'll send it by some save hand; otherwise let me know by your letter, the time I must wait upon you to receive the same, and you will greatly oblige. Madam

Your very humble Servant

James Panton

PS If you favour me with a line direct for me at Mr Chrisn Atkinson's at the Quarry House near Newcastle

20 Apr 1776 John Bell to Mary Loraine

[Note: NRO 672/A/34/9 Folder 2/26]

Mrs Mary Loraine Hencoats Hexham

Newcastle 20th April 1776

Madam

I arrived here about a quarter before Ten o'clock this morning and found the Young Ladies and my Wife and Children all well – I have sent you inclosed Mr Burnell's Note for the Chairs but he was rather unwilling to give me a Discharge unless the Matts were put into the Bill because he says he never has got them and they must be in the Hands of the Carrier so you will please send about them for Mr Burnell says he must be paid for them as they cost him 4s My wife is not will to make Jenny any more shifts she says one shift with two clean Tuckers is sufficient for her in a week and thatt is The

Way she intends them to be worn for as the Shifts are fine they will keep longer clean than if they were coarse Mr Sorsbie has bought no Lead of Mr Blackett since I left home on Monday and £13 ½* is the price we sold at last and I don't hear that it is expected to be lower

I am with Compliments in which my wife joins Madam Your most hble Servt
J M Bell

*£13 ½ That is £13-10-0

20 May 1776 Henry Fleck to Mary Loraine

[Note: NRO 672/A/34/9 Folder 1/2]

To Mrs Mary Loraine Hexham

Stella 20th May 1776

Madam

Understanding your Lead Carriage is now about to forward your Lead here, I write to Inform you that you must first agree with Mr Gibson & Settle Terms with him for your Admission there before I can take it In, because the Company having a wharf entirely for there own Business Mr Eyre will admit of no other lead being laid therein, Without being Accountable to him which neither my Employer's nor I mean to Subject ourselves to, therefore If you agree with Mr Gibson get his Consent, keep me Indemnified, Signifying the same in Writing to me I will endeavour all I can to Oblige you and find a Convenience for your Lead as heretofore, It is also necessary to remind you that in such a case, our Terms of Wharfage etc will be the same without Mitigation as they have hitherto been without relation to your Agreemt with Mr Gibson The taking in your Lead here will be suspended till this point is Settled and I hear from you

Otherwise if Mr Gibson & you do Quickly agree, I have another Hill in reserve whereon there is nothing laid, very Commodious (Mr Marshall knows it) there I can deposit your lead by itself by my Masters advice without control, the distance being only a little further, this no Carriage need make no Scruple about If they do, there are abundance, will take it of their hands – Hoping the favr of Your Answer

I remain Madam your most Humble Servt
Henry Fleck

27 May 1776 Shafto Downes to Mary Loraine

[Note: NRO 672/A/34/9 Folder 2/23]

Mrs Mary Loraine Hexham
[in margin:] Downe paper

27 May 1776

Madam

As I find I can have neither principal nor interest upon the bond you are engaged on with your Brother Mr Robert Allgood & his son I am therefore under a necessity of calling upon you for the money before I pre[se]nt the bond in suit which I am in hopes you'll pay of Your answer will oblige Yor humble Servant

Shafto Downes

19 Dec 1776 George Pickering to Thomas Marshall

[Note: NRO 672/A/34/9 Folder 1/6]

to Mr Thomas Marshall in Hexham

Simonburn Decb 19th 1776

Dear Sir

I am favoured with Yours and Inclosed I have sent you Twenty Four Pounds Nine Shillings being the amount of the Same unpaid in the pay Bills that is, for Capel Cleugh £14.8s.0d for Old Carrs £10.1s.0d as You are going up to Alston on Wednesday, will beg the favour of You to pay the several Persons to whom the same is due and take their Receipts for the same as they have not signed the Pay Bills a receipt will be necessary to shew they have been paid. I was for going up to pay them this week myself, but if you will be so kind as to do it will save me the Journey and I will return the favour when in my power to serve you. As matters stood at the Pay, it was necessary for me to take the whole of what Mr Hewartson fell short, that is, one half from Mrs Loraine and the other half from Sir Lancelot and then I cou'd be answerable for seeing the whole paid of which otherwise I cou'd not and for that reason I cannot see why Mrs Loraine shou'd be any way displeas'd as she might be assured of their being by me as soon as time wou'd allow me to go up to Alston to do it.

A line from You of Your having recd this and to send me the two Receipts you take from Jno Hill & Jacob Smith when You return from Alston will much Oblige him who am,

Dear Sir, Your most Obedient Humble Servant

Geo: Pickering

Capel Cleugh unpd		£ s d
to John Hill Do	5-10-0	
to Jacob Smith Do	8-18-0	14 8 0
Old Carrs unpd		
to Smith & Todd	7- 1-0	
to John Hill	3- 0-0	10 1 0
		24 9 0

[overleaf:]

NB

5 Newcastle Bank Bills <...> each 25
To be paid as on the other side 24 10 0
Balance due to G.P is 0 10 0

21 Jun 1777 L Heron to Mary Loraine

[Note: NRO 672/A/34/9 Folder 2/30]

Alston 21st June 1777

Madam

I received a letter from Mr Bell this week respecting Joseph Johnson's purchase of Mr Hewartson's premises which you have in Mortgages – it is impossible for me to forward this Business as long as the necessary persons to the Conveyances are unwilling to execute, I mean Mr John Reay and Mr Jos Westgarth. They Insist upon a Security being given them for 20l – Mr Hewartson sometime ago proposed Security for that Sum which Reay & Westgarth agreed to accept but without his signing the other won't execute The Deed of Conveyance – Reay & Westgarth are sitting very much in their own light as their revesionary Interest in the premises will be entirely swallowed up in Case you shou'd serve Declarations in Ejectment which I cannot help advising you to as by that means you will end all Disputes between the parties, and may then let Mr Johnson have the House and premises upon the same Terms he now offers,

I am with Complts to the Young Ladys Madam Yr most obedt & hble Servant
L Heron

4 Mar 1778 Anthony Hewartson to Thomas Marshall

[Note: NRO 672/A/34/9 Folder 2/27]

To Thomas Marchel in Hexham

<priys> House March 4th 1778

Dear Sir

the Bearer Wm <.>am<.>ch Is come for My Daughter Peggy which I am much obliged to you, for faver she has Received from you and your family, and all my good friends In Hexham. I am Sorry to acquaint you that [old] Carrs Is the worth present that Ever [afore] [this] I was through Every part of this yesterday and there is not any part that I can finde will worke at any price asking that will give your man B...d for his worke, I hoped the Hard Cross Cutt may make no Better when we cutt the vain We are now In the River and the water is <Sipeng> of, you menchent In your last but one my

Deciding the afare of the House in <Alston>. I have given Mrs Loraine Every oportunity in my power, the Last was thought by Mr Bell to make all <Eassy> but I find it is not agreable to any party, I was with Reay & Westgath last Sateday and they sayd If Mrs Loraine will allow them the money out of the purches money that an ?In...t..t will cost which they beleve will be Seven or Eight pounds they will Sine away all Right and property, I hope you will comp<...> with this as all <...> costs might liye upon me If Ever I <...>

I desire there may be an answer to this by the Returne of the Beare the the writings may be gotten Drawn against (mon)day to Jehfr's Jonson from your
Hbl Svt Antho: Hewartson

25 Sep 1778 Robert Allgood

[Note: NRO 672/A/34/9 Folder 2/3]

Morpeth Sept 25th 1778

Dr Sr

Wod you or any friend or any of my Creditors Choose to give away what I have without a Reasonable Consideration, Doe not you and They, see that there's no purchasers at present no money to be had If the Stocks or Funds had not been so very low I believe I cod have made a Friend but he cannot get Sold out without a monstrous Great Loss. The same thing in the Sale of Lands yet one knows not how soon times may Change In Regard to the material part of acting in this Case. If I can sell anyway near the Value, or within a Thousand pounds of the value, what I am certain my Effects are worth I Sho'd not complain but I see so plain after two attempts to sell, when sett up to be sold at less than half value, no Bidders – It is natural to think, or wod you like if it was your own Case to see your Fortune, Effects, or Estate parted with under the same cercumstances upon acct of the scarsaty of money, and partly given away for want of Purchasers – Ms Surtees and Burden cannot sell they are in possession of the lands <all or net> of Tenants and can Lett for a Year and from one year to another If I am right tell them doe so And if the Rest of the Creditors Doe not come into Terms I think if I had my Liberty by going through amongst them I think I cod get them to Consent, or give you Trustees a further time -and if one found that was not possible to come at a Reasonable time – wod it not be better for me and worse for them (and clear you Trustees of all Trouble) to obtain a Commission of Bankrupcey 'and clear them of all futur claims' the Expence and the Return to me at so much per Cent in case things Did not Sell of make up what might be expected for Lands and Effects, wod Certainly be a loss to them

The Lead mines now by all accts is so Great and by all appearance wod Enable you to go through this Difficult work If we cod Gain time and I cannot see any Great matters to hinder it which is the Cheaf Matter to be Considered, I doubt not but it wod be a Credit to you Concerned and for the benefitt of the Creditors as well as me I hope in Equity I have a Right to Sell up the Lands etc at a price that my Trustees will Stand

too And not lett the Estate and Lead mines go, under what I know is Considerably under value Let Mrs Surtees and Burden keep possession of the Estate for a year or two, and as to the Rest of the Creditors, If they had their Interest paid up I doe think it wod make the greatest part if not all Easy If my Trustees wod put their hands to help with what money may be Expected from the Lead mines next Christmas I shod not be afraid to work for time as that seems to be the thing a wanting If I was in the Place of the Trustees I wod not think there wod be any Difficulty as they have it much in their Power The Lead mines cannot be parted with at any Rate If my Trustees have any Regard for me no Body knows the Value of them They may bring in for my share 1000£ a year of more The partners has a Copartnership Deed, and has the Refusal upon a Sale of any of the Partnerships share, therefore this must be attended to: The Creditors and the Trustees wod be unpardonable if they sho'd suffer the lead mines to be sold Sir I am possitive that if my Friends wod Raise me a 1000: or 1200 £ in half a years time to take off some of the bond debts that some of my friends joined with me in to satisfie the Creditors that cod not be persuaded on to give time that it wod be 4 or 5000 £ in my and might be 3 times that afterwards way this wo'd not make the debt any more as I am satisfied how, I wo'd be with all that money If I had the value and shod be worth that <Sums> over and above paying all my Debts – I wod not think anything a trouble to serve you, as to Sunneyside it is a greater thing than many think of – the wood and Land in Regard to its Situation I think I Doe Remember of a Cercumstance, of Lands being sold, where the the Party was greaved and had Just Cause to Complain – qt whether or not upon a Complaint of this kind, To my Lord Chancelor He wod not call to acct and order the Lands to be sett up to sale again – How come the Lands etc: Dropped in the Advertisment for how long a time, and then put in again, only three weeks, before the time and I believe the day of the Sale altered, many other cercumstances may ppear – The whole matter is, as there's no likelyhood of any Purchasers, at a fair price - Lett not the Trustees Sell or Sett up the Lands etc. to sale under what Robt Allgood has sett them at. If they doe they are not using him well, as there will be more Room to make a Case of it, and lay it before the Publick – where that great confidence and Power is Vested in Trust, makes it the Greater Crime, where a Default is made or Comitted – The Land is not to be given away If no better can be lett Robt Allgood obtain a Comission of Bankrupcies in Case the Creditors will not be otherwise Satisfied Then Mr Allgood will immediatly have his liberty, to doe the best he can, and not laid up, or confind, so as to Disable him, for doing anything for imself – and then lett the Lands etc sell for what they will – He then clear himself from all future Claims or Demands of the Creditors – How came RA [some damage to the next few lines] to the <?P>reason after after having Returned Tent to the mortgagees --- The whole of the proceedings looks too much like a Designed thing, to Distress, to get The Lands at an under value, Lett the Trustees sell if they can, but but not under or low or then the price RA has Fixed and if they cannot sell at that ate let RA have his Liberty to take out a Commission of Bankrupcies as he thinks he be Intitled too: by his being a Dealer in the Tallow Chandler way and buying and selling Wood and Lead and Lead ore and is now in the lead mine ways Robt Allgood has an agreemt in writing with

Robson Chandler in Hexham for half the Tallow Chandler business of the Candles he sells, to allenheads, when RA Turned over the making of them to Robson, and all the Bills went out in RA's name, till here in late Mr James Allgood, Mr John Weddell and Mr Jasper Gibson, you are Requested and Desired that you sell up Robt Allgoods Effects and Estates to be sold on Monday the 5th of October 1778 that you will not sell up the Different Parcels at less Value to be Sold, then herein after mentioned -

1st Lott Suneyside 209 acres, arrable and wood Land one acre with another thought well worth 30sh an acre yearly Rent, worth 900£ sell it up at Eight Thousand but not less than Seven Thousand
£7000-00-00

2nd Lott Woodley Shield hich: Short Rents at 40£ a year Term Expires at Mayday 1779. He had 31 acres when he Enteres being part of works Fell to Improve with the Antient Land well worth 50£ a year and will let at that Rent Sell it up at fourteen Hundred pounds
1400-00-00

3rd Lott Woodley Shield hill: What was part of Broad Pool Common 40 acres Wm Ridley Rent has two yers to goe two years of the term from Mayday 1779 a 6£ a year to Improve, how very [?y]ear all gon through a Course of Husbandry, Valued by the Comissioners upon the Division when Divided without any Improvement at 5sh an acre, will lett after the two years Expires at 15£ a year Sell it up at four hundred pound
400-00-00

4th Lott Causey Hill 4 acres with a mile of Hexham worth 40 shillings an acre yearly Rent, the Comissioners upon the Division of Hexham Fell, Valued it at 20 :shill per acre before and Improvemt was made Sel it up at one hundred and Eighty pounds
180-00-00

5th Lott My house at Hexham, with its appurtenances Sell it up at Six hundred pounds worth Eight nobody can buy the Ground and build such another for the money
600-00-00

6th Lott Grays Field Crook bank with the Intack 24 acres or there abts with two now built Cottage houses well worth 500£ my half Jo: Joppin has the other Sell my half up as Two hundred pound
200-00-00

7th Lott Robt Allgoods 2/16 of Brown Ferry Lead mine <Re>: in Alston Moor Sell it up at Two Thousand pounds and not less, but doe not Sell or Sell it up at all if it is possible to avoid it
2000-00-00

Robt Allgoods Debt will be at or about Seven Thousand pound 7000-00-00
£4780-00-00

At liest Sell out Mr Tweddell, I took for granted was to be my Cheaf Manager what is the matter, that he files shy, – If he was a Cock of Mr Bacon Wastells he wod throw him out of the Pill – I believe I know the Cause is upon my Friend when <.> acct – nothing but sell, when there's no buyer or purchasers, Mr Hunter happens to be Bound with or for me at or abt 1000£ in Different Bonds and 202£ others 100: and some 50 or so: - apply to MR John Bell of the Vickerage Hexham, as my Sister Loraine will hear what he says, to see if he cannot prevail with her to engage in half a years time to take off this Sore – The Country know very well, I saved her, and her Family from Ruin, or being tore to pieces – now she seems to doe but little or nothing for me, when she has it in her Power If this was done I cod fight my way, without selling any Land, I am persuaded the Lead mine wod pay all my Debts in 7 years time – Suppose I gave my sister Loraine a Colateral Security out of my Estate & Effects for a Thousand pounds or Twelve Hundred,

I am Gentlemn your Huml Servt
Robt Allgood

25 Sep 1778 Robert Allgood

[Note: NRO 672/A/34/9 Folder 2/2. Unsigned and undated but assumed to be another letter from Robert Allgood written from Morpeth jail in 1778 seeking relief from his creditors, at much the same date as the other, dated, letter]

Sir,

I have thought it highly necessary to lay my situation before you and the rest of my Creditors you being one of them – Messrs Surtees and Burden of Newcastle having Security out of an Estate of mine called Sunneyside within about a mile of Hexham, and the house in Hexham for the principal sum of £2500 there being an Arrear of Interest obliged me to Turn Tenant to them last Martinmass at £110 a year Exclusive of the Woodland thinking to make them Easy the first half years Rent due last Mayday £55 Last month they thought fit to make a seizure of my Household goods and Sold till they made up the half years Rent, they had Enough or more than Enough upon the Farm for a years Rent, when it became due and Immediately sent me hence for the Remainder of the Arrears of Interest, at the same time every thing I have vested in the hands of Trustees and Advertized to be sold for the Benefit of my Creditors on the 6th of October next - Sunnyside contains 209 Acres of Land of which there is 144 acres of Arrable Land and 650 Acres of Woodland of Oak as thick as it can stand some part of it about 25 years growth and is now thought worth at or above what Money they have upon it, the 144 Acres of Arrable land so near the Town of Hexham where may be got plenty of Towns Manure may be made well worth 80s or 40s an acre being of that sort of Land now Richly worth 20s an Acre, and the 65 acres of Wood land Double that value by the Acre. The last Intended Day of Sale for Sunneyside it was set up so low as

£3000 considerably under half value, the Gentlemen present was asked round if they had any Intention of Bidding, who Declared they did not want to Purchase (I suppose only come out of Curiosity) The Woodland need no Cultivation and the Woodings bring in Money every yea, even small Rodds will make Money, the Hexham Antient Lands about the Town is lett for £3 and £3-10s and acre, and I am sure by working and manuring can Grow as much Grass and Corn as they can. I think there seems to be a view in all this before I came from home I left the <Sweepage> of a a Meadowfield at Sunneyside for 30s acre, what they could get off with the scythe there's another field Joining it as good, at or about 13 acres besides other Grass Land about 20 acres of Turnips which I hope will give £3 and acre besides Barley Wheat and Oak as good as my Neighbours –

Woodley Sheild a Freehold Farm about 71 acres let to Nick Short for Nine years the first 4 years at £40 a year and the remaining 5 years at £50 a year, there's Land in it well worth 20s an acre but the the poor fellow that has it took a great Deal of Pins in working in some Common land on with it. I abated him £10 a year out of the last 5 year Rent, he has it now till next May day at £40 a year which I doubt not but will lett for £50 and is a good Farm at that Rent Last intended Day of Sale it was set up at £800 and like as before not one to Bid a penny. I hope my Creditors will be so good as to consider for their own good as well as mine to speak or write to my Trustees Mr Jas Allgood of Nunwick, Mr Jno Tweddall of Unthank and Mr Jasper Gibson of Hexham not to let the Mortgagees take the land next sale Day for their Money what must become of my Creditors at that Rate I have 40 Acres upon Broad Pool Common in right of Woodley Shield upon a Division of that Common lett to Jno and Wm Ridley at six pounds a year to Improve being Inclosed – and thrown into Fields with a House Suitable for that Quantity of Land. Ten Acres of it was wrought for Corn before they entered, had 10 Fother of Clod Lime upon an Acre and had a great Crop of Corn upon it, now in Grass, another part this year has a great Crop of Oats and the remainder they are in hands with <Paring> and Burning, of which they have two years to come next May Day when I expect it will lett for £15 a year and sometime afterwards at £20 a year. Last Sale Day there was a Bid for this lett £180 or thereabouts, This parcel and Woodly Shield Messrs Surtees and Burden has £1000 upon them

A Close at Causey hill within about a mile of Hexham 4 acres valued at 40s an Acre now a Crop Of Wheat upon it once would suppose worth 24s. This 4 Acres once Bid between £80 and £90 so all the way through it seems to hang in one piece; if lands was to be sold at this rate for less than half Value my Creditors must suffer as well as myself The house etc in Hexham is worth £600 I doubt not but some Purchaser might be met with that might Borrow the Money to have the Lands at half value which by all appearances will be the end of it. I my Trustees is worth anything and can see, it is abominable for them to stand and look on as they have hitherot done. There may be views that I do not Understand; I believe there has been some that has taken Pains to lessen every thing, Those must certainly be some view in it, and I know a <cry> though a Country of any Designing person with a Private View lessening the value of

anything, People is apt to run away with it without giving themselves any trouble to Inspect into the True Value is often the Cause -

As to the Lead mines, They are very great and the best Judges in the Moor cannot Value them, in a few years I should not fear by all appearances my share would clear me of all Debt, let the Land to the best advantage, any myself go to the Lead mines, Inspect the work, that an Extravagant price is not given for the work, or Unnecessary work carried out, I doubt not but some Purchasors might be met with, that would Borrow the money to have the Lands etc at half value which by all appearances will be the end of it as I said before, if my Creditors do not Interfere and give further time for the Payment of their Principal by a General application to the Trustees and if my Trustees are to be called Men of Understanding under the friendship they have always pretended for me, they wou'd with what Money I can raise at Christmas next pay off all Intt then due, otherwise they will not serve either you or me there's a Considerable Quantity of Lead Ore sold to Messrs Muncap and Hopper Newcastle to be paid at that time. I think this wou'd be a Means to save my Creditors and myself from being hurt by selling land etc at half value as its plain after so many attempts to sell we have no Land Buyers, from what they say a scarcity of Money and no Inducement to Borrow Money unless they can Purchase at half value –

This I have wrote to you for your Consideration and be pleased to give me your answer what Resolution you come to as soon as you can. I have plenty to pay with, but not if things go at half value. I have wrote to purpose and I hope for a favourable answer both from you and them. To my Dear Sir

Your most Obedt huble servt

PS I do believe Messrs Surtees and Burden both very good men an would not be ill to Deal with provided they had their Intt paid up. I have stugled long to get something now by all appearances when I am likely to rise, it won't be hard to be pulled to pieces. It depends upon my Trustees as they are Men of Credit to carry me through