

[Note: The items included here were copied or extracted from letters received at the Greenwich Hospital's London headquarters. Many of the original letters survive in TNA ADM 65/78.]

9 Mar 1768 John Ibbetson

At a Meeting of the Directors of Greenwich Hospital at Salter's Hall on Wednesday the 9th March 1768..

A letter of this date, from the Governor of the Lead Mine Comp offering to buy the whole of the Lead Ore Dues lately advertised, at 62s pr Bing for the Bouse, and 47s or Bing for the Cutting Ore, as also the Proposals from Sir Lancl. Allgood & from Mr. James Elliott & Co. wch were transmitted in the Rece[ive]rs Letter of the 12 of last Month & for part of the Sd. Dues, having been read, the Board were inclined to accept the Companys Offer; But as the Gentlemen who were attending on their behalf refused to engage to make use of the Mill &c at Langley Castle Pasture, whilst in the Companys Possession, which was so strongly recommended by the Recers. in their aforesaid Letter; those Gentlemen were told that their said offer could not be accepted & then they withdrew.

The Board then went into the consideration of Smelting and Refining the said Dues, and being unanimously of Opinion (as a Mill & all other Conveniences are now ready at Langley Castle Pasture) it will be a more eligible measure, than to continue any longer subject to take up with the Companys Forms. - It was Resolved -

That the Rece[ive]rs. be directed to send up as soon as possible an Acct. of the Number of Smelters, Refiners, Labourers, & Persons proper to oversee them, as will be necessary to carry on the sd busyness with the Salary and Wages usualy given to such Persons, and the expense of everything that will be wanting at the first Outset;

And That they do in the mean time take the proper steps towards engaging such Persons on the best Terms possible assuring them (if necessary for their encouragement) that it is the firm intention of the Board, to continue to Smelt and to employ them, so long as the same shall be attended with success, and they shall discharge their Duty properly.

20 Apr 1768 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

To John Ibbetson Esq.

Farnacres 20th April 1768

Sir

In answer to the Boards Order of 9th March respecting the Persons necessary to be employed in carrying on the Business of the Lead Mill and Expenses attending the <Outset>, according to the best Information we can get, they are as follows.

Agents

An Agent in Alston Moor for delivery of the Ore to the Ore Carriers.

An Agent at the Mills for Superintending the Business there and keeping the Accounts thereof.

An Agent for Receiving and Sale of the Lead at Newcastle.

The Duty of these Agents we apprehend will be as follows

The delivery Agent will be obliged to a daily attendance during the Season that the Ore is generally carried from the Mines, which is about May day to Martinmas - the Mines themselves being at considerable distances from each other he will not only be fully employed for the Season, but often obliged to make use of an Horse in going from one Mine to another: his business will be to see that the Ore is duly Weighed to the Carriers, and to take an Account of the Quantities delivered to each, & from what Mine. This Account will not only be a foundation whereon the Ore Carriers are to be respectively paid, but will be a Check upon the Mill Agents Account of the Quantity of Ore received at the Mill, so that there may be no embezzlement of Ore in the Carriage. This Business is entirely separte from the Duty of the Moor Master, who, beside surveying the Mines, sees that one fifth part of all the clean Washed Ore is delivered for the use of the Lords of the Manor, and safely kept apart by the Tenant til Sold, or otherwise disposed of; but as the Heaps so delivered, frequently lay for a considerable Time; and when disposed of are gradually delivered as the Ore Carriers happen to come in, or occasion requires; the Ore is again Weighed to the Ore Carriers and the whole Quantity ought to Tally with the Moor Masters Account from whence embezzlement is prevented while laying at the Mines.

The Mill Agents Duty is to take an Account of the Sale of the Pokes of Ore delivered by the Carriers; & occasionally to weigh such of them as at happen to look Short in order to be a check upon the Carryers. To see the Ore Weighed to the Smelters and the Produce Weighed from the respective Hearths, and delivered to these Refiners, taking an Account of the Produce of the Refinery in Silver and Lead; and an Account of the Deliveries to the Carriers in order to convey the same to the Market for the Lead at Newcastle.

In the above Articles the Agent Acts as a Clerk but as a Person is generally made use of for an Agent who has been bred in some one of the branches aforementioned, and has a competent knowledge of the rest; he also Acts as Superintendant of the Smelting Refinery & Reducing; together with the working of the Slags, Tests and whatever else concerns the Manufacture of the Lead and Silver at the Mill. He also gives an Account to the principal Agents of whatever is or maybe wanted from time to time, for carrying on the Business of the Mill.

In regard to the Agent for the Sale of Lead at Newcastle, as he will not be so immediately wanted, and as our Enquiries hereupon are not quite mature; we beg leave to postpone what we have to Offer on this head to a future consideration.

We suppose it will be our business to control all the Agents before mentioned, and to attend the Settling of the Mill Accounts, and payment of the Workmen Carriers & accounting with the Directors for the Profits as is done for the rest of the Estate.

In Alston Moor the Company, besides their Agents for directing and inspecting the Mines, keep two Agents for Delivery of Ore, one at £40 p Annum, and the other at £20. Sir Lancl. Allgood has one at £30 p Annum; all these Agents do other Business in taking Account of the Receipt of Timber & Materials brought by the Carryers for the Mines; but have not to go to distant places; as will be the case with the Hospitals Agent, for this Service Joseph Hilton, Son of the Moor Master offers himself at the rate of £20 a year; but as we apprehend it is of consequence that the Hospitals Agents should appear amongst others of the same class, in a respectable Light and as he is a young Man of Great Sobriety, and qualified much beyond what this Service requires, we cannot recommend it to the Commissioners to offer less, than £25 p Annum, but rather £30, in which case, he should also be considered as an Assistant to the Moor Master, whose duty within these three years, has become so heavy on Account of the great increase of the Mines, that in fact he has been obliged to employ this young Man as an Assistant.

For a Mill Agent we have a Person very well recommended to us, whose name is Peter Mulcaster, he has for many years been, and stil is, employed by the Lead Company, as a Refiner, but who has been for a number of Years constantly in the Way of seeing the Smelting (the Refinerys bring generally contiguous to the Smelting Houses) and endeavouring to qualify himself in every part of the Business for an Agent; two of his Brothers bred in the same way having done so before him, one being employed by Sir Walter Blackett, and the other by the Company; and being himself equally Sober and attentive, we doubt not but that he will give full satisfaction. The Company at present give their Agent £30 p Year an House to live in, and Coals for Fire; they generally have two or three Acres of Land at a moderate price to keep a Cow - Peter Mulcaster is willing to serve the Hospital for the same price and advantages, but as it is expected that the Company will shortly raise their Agents Salaries, he will expect to be raised in the same proportion: and indeed considering the degree of Experience, Skill, and attention, that is necessary to form a good Mill Agent, we cannot but be surprised at the smallness of the Salary, and accordingly should have recommended it to the Directors, to have given more, had it not carried the appearance of unhinging the Agents of others.

In regard to the other Persons to be employed, such as Ore & Lead Carriers, Smelters, Refiners, Labourers etc as they all work by weight, their Number will depend upon the Quantity of Lead to be made, but to give the Directors the best Idea we can of this matter, we will suppose the Quantity of Ore, for the present year to be 3600 Bings being about one Quarter part of the Quantity raised last year, which was sold to the Governor & Co.

The Ore is carried from the Mines to the Mills entirely on Horseback; Galloways being employed carrying two Pokes of Ore, each weighing 1Cwt, that is 1/8th of a Bing, consequently a Bing is carried by 4 Galloways; therefore the Quantity above Specified

will require 14,400 teams of Galloways to carry it and at 6s p Bing will cost £1080; and about 15 Galloways are attended by one Man.

The Hospitals Mill we reckon when got fully to work, will employ 12 Smelters at 3 Hearths, which will Smelt the above Quantity in about 41 Weeks. They produce about 6 Fodders of Lead p Week at an Hearth of 24 Cwt p Fodder, and as the price p Fodder is about 6s the Smelters make about 9s p Week Wages.

The Slagg Hearth will employ two Men, and will turn out about 2 Fodder p Week, at about 10s6d p Fodder.

The two Refining Furnaces will employ two Refiners at each, and will run down about 16 fodders p Week into Litharge, for which the Govr. & Co. pay 2s10d pFodder, including the whole management of the Tests, and taking off the Silver. The Reducing the Litharge into Lead by the Reducing Furnace, will be about 1s6d p Fodder, and two Persons at one Reducing Furnace, will reduce the same Litharge into Lead.

NB above one fourth part of the Alston Moor Lead is not refineable: there are no Labourers employed at the Mill, except to Weigh the Ore to the Smelters, which is one Half penny p Bing, and to Weigh the Lead from the Smelters and Refinery which is two pence pFodder; and which Extra Service is often done by the Smelter and Refiners themselves at the above Prices; but as the Hospitals Refinery stands at about 40 yards distance from the Mill, on account of the Water, some Extra Expence will be incurred in the removal of the Lead to the Refinery.

With regard to the Expence of the Outset, the Mill, Refinery, Peat Houses and Conveniences for which we have now paid, is £1327.18.103/4, of which we shall shortly give a particular Account to the Board; and we imagine before the Mill is got fairly to Work this sum will become £1400, the Particulars of which last Estimation is Enclosed. But the Setting agoing an Undertaking of this kind, quite new, and in a new Place; consists of such variety of particulars that even those versed in the Business, would probably be far from remembering them all; whereas we, who were never concerned in such a work before, must desire stil more Latitude. We should therefore be glad to receive an Order to do the needfull, which we shall endeavour to execute upon the best Terms possible.

The Quantity of Peats that we procured last year cost £51.4 ... 1/2 and are capable of doing somewhat more than 2/3 of the Lead expected to be Smelted this year, and it would be proper immediately to put in hand the digging of a fresh Quantity, not only to complete the years Service but to go on next year, til they can be fresh procured. We shall further want for the years Service about 100 Casks of Bone Ashes, which we suppose will come to about 1/3 a Guinea a Cask, but as these together with the Peats Coals and Lime(the two last Articles being to be procured near the place need not be amassed in quantities) will be included in the Current Charges of Smelting; we do not therefore comprehend them in the Charges of the Outset.

We must beg leave to observe to the Board that Even the Expence of Building the Mill, can hardly be charged to the Outset of Smelting; because the Dues on Advertising the Mill, immediately Sold for 7s p Bing more than understood had been offered before the Mill was mentioned, which in that Year's Dues alone, amounted to above £1000; we

therefore reckon, that as the Dues have ever since sold nearer the Estimated Price, that the very name of the Mill has more than built it.

We beg leave further to advertize the Board that as the Mill is at a distance from any Village, it will not only be necessary to build an House for the Agent, but also some Cottages for the Smelters; but as we can hardly tell what conveniences of this sort will be wanted, till we begin, we shall postpone a further Account of that matter to the Board, till then.

We are Sir Your most & Humble Servts.

Nich Walton Junr

J. Smeaton

P.S. We beg to receive the Boards Commands respecting the fixing of the Mill and Delivery Agents, as soon as possible; as till that is done, we cannot get forward with the Carriage of the Ore.

23 Apr 1768 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

To John Ibbetson Esqr.

Farnacres 23rd April 1768

Sir

Inclosed you have our Account of the Expenditure upon the Smelt Mill amounting to the sum of £1327.18.10 3/4 and which together with the Sum of £80.3.4 of which you had the Estimate in our last; amounts to the Sum of £1408.2.2. 3/4 comprehending every thing we are apprised of, ready to begin Smelting.

This being a branch of Business in which our Workmen were not practised; and there being entire new Quarreys to open, & uncertainties how they would turn out; and how the heavy Materials in general could be procured; the Work also begun late in the Season, and likely to be carried on thro' the Winter in a very exposed Situation, the difficulties obliged us to carry it on by Day Works. This Method necessarily produced an Amount of the Expenditure in the form which we now lay before the Board; and that we are ourselves fully satisfied that everything has been managed to the best advantage, that circumstances could admit: under the daily care and inspection of William Labourne; whose dilligence and attendance in all Seasons we have experienced on this, as on all former occasions: yet as this method of Account, by no means shows the quantum or Value of what has been done, we have for the Satisfaction of the Board drawn out a Valuation and Distribution of the Expense of the Work, as it now Stands; and which with a Plan of the Buildings we have also inclosed.

In our Letter to the Board of the 14th June 1766 We transmitted an Estimate for building a Smelt Mill & Refinery, with all necessary Utensils & Conveniences compleat; which Estimate amounted to the Sum of £813.19.11 1/2. Upon this Estimate, we had the Board's Order of the 18th June following to proceed; which we did as abovementioned: but as the place was not absolutely fixed upon when the above Estimate was made it

could only be formed upon a general Idea; and was for two Ore Hearths, a Slagg Hearth, a Reducing Hearth, and two Refining Furnaces: the whole in one Building and to be worked by one Water Wheel.

In our Letter of the 13th January 1767 we acquainted the Board with the Progress of the Works of the Mill, and represented that from our somewhat enlarged our design, in order that everything might be as compleat as possible, and several articles having cost more than was at first expected; we should be obliged to exceed our Estimate by about £150; also praying the Directors to enable us to issue such Sums as might be necessary to compleat the same, in as frugal a way as possible, consistent with the Situation, and the necessary Strength and convenience. The Board was pleased to signify by their Minute of the 31st January, their approbation of what we had done with respect to the Enlargement of our Design, whereby some further Expence would attend the same, beyond what it was first Estimated at.

As the Refinery was not begun till Spring following, and the Duty Ore having in the mean time considerably increased; we judged that the great point of consequence, was to give the Mill & Refinery conjointly, every advantage in respect to dispatch of Business of which the Situation was capable: accordingly instead of joining the Refinery to the Mill as first proposed in order that the whole should be work'd by the same Water Wheel: we concluded to set the Refinery at a distance from the Mill, and to construct another Water Wheel for the use of the Refinery only; thereby leaving the Power of the original one to be applied to Smelting, and to construct a Reducing Furnace in the Refinery instead of using one of the 4 Hearths in the Mill, as a Reducing Hearth; by which means we got three Smelting Hearths in the Mill instead of two, and all other conveniences in the Refinery in Proportion but on these Accounts, as also to render the whole of the Refinery more Roomy & Commodious for Dispatch of a greater Quantity of Business, that Building is now made almost 2 1/2 times larger, than our first Proposal. We also found it adviseable to construct a Dam for reserving 2 or 3 days Water while the Mill is not at Work, which we expect will be of great use in dry Seasons.

These with many other smaller alterations and conveniences which the increasing State of the Duty Ore suggested; the much greater Quantity of Walling digging and levelling; arising from the inequality if the Ground, where the Mill stands; the cutting of 3/4 of a Mile of Aqueduct to bring Stublock Colliery Level Water to the Place, upon which the whole was judged most convenient for the Mill. The Superior Weight of Metal which we were advised to put into the Cast Iron Work of the Hearths, the superior Expence of the Bellows and the great charge attending the Carriage of the Materials, as well as hindrance of the Workmen, arising from the inclemency of the Season, and the great hurry in which the Mill was built, to save the Boards Engagement concerning the Mill with the Lead Company; have occasioned the whole Expenditure to amount to the Sum now laid before the Board; but as we have endeavoured to do every thing with all possible frugality; consistent with the Substantial manner in which the whole is executed; And as the whole Premises on a fair Valuation appear equal to

the Expençe: we doubt not but our endeavours herein, to Serve the interest of the Hospital will meet with the approbation of the Board. We are Sir

Your most Obedt. Servt.

Nich. Walton Jun

J. Smeaton

Estimate of the Expençe of Utensils etc, still wanting to compleat the first Outset of Langley Smelting Mill and Refinery Vizt

For Utensils for the Smelting Mill, such as Pokers Shovels, Pigg Pans etc for 4 Hearths at £4 p Hearth.	£16
For Scales and Weights for weighing the Ore from the Carriers and to the Smelters.	£ 2 10
For cutting additional Watercourses to collect several Springs of Water and bringing the same into the Dam or Reservoir made near the Mill. 880 roods at 7d.	£25 13 4
For making two Barrow Ways with Wheel Frames or Carriages for conveying the Lead from the Smelting Mill to the Refinery. at £10 each	£20
For Utensils for the Refinery such as Tests, Cast Iron Potts, Pokers, Shovels, Pigg Pans etc for the two Refinery Furnaces at £6 each and for the Reducing Furnace at £4.	£16 £80 3 4
For building the Mill, Refinery and Conveniences, making a Dam etc and for Cast Iron Hearths Bellows & Carriage of Materials	£1327 18 10 3/4 £1408 2 2 3/4

Farnacres 20th April 1768

Nich Walton Jun

J Smeaton

26 Apr 1768 Nicholas Walton to Thomas Airey

To Mr Thomas Airey.

Farnacres. 26th April 1768

Sir

We have this moment received your Letter of this day informing us you are willing to undertake the Sale of the Hospitals Lead and run all risque yourself on having an allowance of two pCent; or that you will Sell the same, having an allowance of one pCent, the Commissioners running the risque; at the same time we presume you mean to take the Charge of all Lead as it shall come to Newcastle, and to be accountable for such Lead as shall be sold from time to time, or remain in your Custody. When we have consulted our Principals upon these Proposals, you shall immediately hear from us, and we are

Sir your most Hble Servts
Nich. Walton Jun
J, Smeaton

PS. We propose giving you a call on Thursday morning.

26 Apr 1768 John Smeaton to John Holmes

To Mr Holmes.

Farnacres 26th April 1768

Dear Sir

Mr. Walton and myself, join in Compliments to you, and knowing how much you are engaged, would not have troubled you if we could have recollected any body else in Town that was likely to have done the Business we want. As you have Connections with the Silver Refiners, we shall take it as a favour if you will enquire out the principal Makers of Bone Ashes; we are going to begin a considerable work for Smelting the Lead Ore Dues belonging to Greenwich Hospital; and as we have erected a Refinery for taking out the Silver, we shall want about 100 Casks of Bone Ashes Annually, containing about 2 Winchester Bushels each; if you find it convenient, we shall be glad youll buy any Number of Casks from 20 to 100, in case you are satisfied you have them at the Market Price; and in this case please to give Notice thereof by a line to Mr. Salter in North Street Westminster who will be desired to call upon you and will Ship the Ashes on Board a proper Vessell for Newcastle, and for which we will immediately remit you the Value. We are

Sir your most Hble Servts
Nich. Walton Jun
J Smeaton

27 Apr 1768 Nicholas Walton to John Salter

To Mr John Salter

Farnacres. 27th April 1768

Dear Sir

The Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital having determined to Smelt their Duty Ore and to extract the Silver from the Lead which is refineable, we shall want about 100 Casks of Bone Ashes annually for that purpose each containing two Winchester Bushels of loose Ashes. We yesterday wrote to Mr. Holmes, Watchmaker near Somerset House, a friend of Mr. Smeatons desiring he would enquire out the principal Makers of Bone Ashes, that we should want the Quantity abovementioned annually; and if convenient to him, that we should be glad that he might buy any number of Casks from 20 to 100, in which case he was to give Notice to you, but as Mr Holmes is very much engaged, and particularly at present, we should be much obliged by your calling upon him, and after you hear from him where the Makers of Bone Ashes are to be found youll be so kind as purchase the aforesaid Quantity as soon as you can with convenience, and that you'll Ship them directed to us to the care of Mr. Airey, and we will immediately remit you the Value. They must be kept dry. We are

Sir your most Hble Servts
Walton & Smeaton

27 Apr 1768 Nicholas Walton to Jonathan Hilton

To Mr. Jona. Hilton.

Farnacres. 4th June 1768

Sir

I desire that you and Joe may come to Hexham on Thursday against dinner, and that youll bring with you the distances of the several Mills from Rampgill Lead Mine as also the Prices paid for Carriage by the several owners of the Mills from the several Mines; but I shall hope to receive a duplicate of the Measures and prices of Carriage at Farnacres before Thursday, and I should wish to consider them myself before I see you. I am

Sir Your Affect. Hble. Servt
Nich. Walton Jun

29 Apr 1768 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

To John Ibbetson Esqr.

Farnacres 29th April 1768

Sir

As we were obliged to leave Short our Account of the Sale Agent for Lead at Newcastle in our General Account concerning the management of the Smelting Business, we now beg leave to supply that deficiency.

The Agent for Sale of the Lead at Newcastle takes Accot. of the Lead received from the Mill by the Carriers & disposes of the same to Merchants and others, in the best manner he can, according to the price of the Markett, accounting with the principal Agents for the Money from time to time received in the Accounts above mentioned. It is necessary that this kind of Agent should not only be resident at Newcastle, but in such Way of Life as regularly to attend the Exchange to be in the Way of Orders; and at the same time a person of the best Credit to be responsible for the Sums of Money necessarily coming into his hands. The Lead Company & M Errington and Company, employ Agents of this kind; some of the lesser Miners sell their Produce directly to the Merchants, and thereby in the first instance save the Commission to the Agents, but this in large Concerns we cannot recommend; for if a Merchant buys a large Quantity of Lead, for which he may have no immediate demand he must employ a Capital in this Trade from which he will expect a Profit at least equal to the Agents Commission; we therefore think that it will not only be adviseable but by far the clearest way, to employ an Agent for the Sale of the Lead; and who, acting on a certain Commission sells the Lead for the best price he can get according to the Markett, and is responsible for the Lead remaining in his hand and the Money for the Lead Sold.

It also seems requisite as the Affair stands, related to Greenwich Hospital, that the Sale Agent should not only be accountable for the Lead in hand, and the Money received for Lead Sold; but should likewise stand the risque of bad debts; in short, that the Value be insured to the Hospital after brought to Markett.

With this view, we have applied to Mr. Thos. Airey Mercht. of Newcastle, a person in every respect Qualified to perform this Service: he acquaints us that 'he is willing to undertake 'to sell the Lead belonging to the Hospital, and run the risque the 'Commissioners allowing him two pCent; or one pCent without risque, and 'will engage on no other Terms.'

We can only say further that on Enquiry we believe that one pCent is paid by the Governor and Company for such Lead as the Agent sells, but we dont find that he or any one stands in the risque of bad debts: He has only 1/2pCent for such Lead as he does not Sell, but only Ships on board to the Company's Order at London.

It is to be noted that a great deal of the Lead here Sold, goes immediately into foreign Countrys and that Mr. Aired has frequently Orders from abroad; this is a good circumstance for promoting the Sale, but is an additional argument, why he should insure the Payment.

We are Sir your most Obed. Servts.

Nich. Walton Jun

J. Smeaton

11 May 1768 John Ibbetson

At a Meeting of the Directors of Greenwich Hospital, at Salter's Hall on Wednesday the 11th May 1768.

The Receivers Letters of 20th, 23rd, 26th, 27th & 29th of last Month, together with the several Accounts and Papers which accompanied the same having been read;

Resolved:

That they be acquainted that the Board are very well satisfied with the reasons they have given why the Expenditure upon the new Smelt Mill & Refinery at Langley Castle Pasture (including the amount of the Estimate of the cost of the Materials stil wanting to compleat the same) will amount to the Sum of £1408.2.2 3/4 notwithstanding it so much exceeds their former Estimates; and that they entirely approve of their Judgement, care, and attention in the execution of that Work; as it appears that the same has been compleated upon a much more perfect and substantial Plan and is much better calculated for the dispatch of Business than was originally intended.

Resolved:

That they be directed to cause such further Quantity of Peats as may be wanting, and also the necessary Quantity of Bone Ashes, Coal and Lime to be provided, with whatever else may be needful for the commencement and carrying on of the business of Smelting and Refining.

Resolved:

That their account of the Money already expended amounting to £1327.18.19 3/4 and their Estimate of the Expence of the Materials stil wanting, be sent to the Clerk of the Checque; for his Information and guidance when their General Account comes to be examined.

Resolved:

That the Boards reasons for having Ordered the said Mill & Refinery to be built together with such of the Receivers Letters as relate thereto, to be laid before the next General Court; by which it will appear of what advantage that measure has been, and may be, of to the Hospital by enhancing the Value of the Duty Ore, insomuch as to have already nearly defrayed the Expence of those Erections; and (as a matter likely to be productive of still greater advantages) that their authority be desired for the immediate commencement of Smelting and Refining such of the said Ore as now is, or hereafter shall be, on hand so long as the undertaking meets with the expected success; and also for establishing, at the Salaries and with the Allowances proposed by the Receivers, the Agents, recommended by them and such other Persons as shall be necessary to carry on the Work with spirit and advantage.

26 May 1768 John Ibbetson to Nicholas Walton

At a General Meeting of the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital which was held at the Admiralty Office on Thursday the 26th of May 1768.

The Court approved of the Directors proceedings with respect to the Building of the Smelt Mill and Refinery & of their Proposals to Smelt and Refine the Dues of Lead Ore, on the Hospitals Account; and authorised them to appoint the proper Agents and Workmen, with the Salaries and Allowances proposed or such others as shall be judged reasonable; and to do whatever else may be proposed necessary to carry on that Undertaking with Spirit and Advantage.

Copy Postscript of Mr Ibbetsons Letter of 26th May 1768

If it will be attended with any inconvenience to wait till after the next Meeting of the Directors, I think you may with safety (under the Gen Court Minute) engage with the Persons you have recommended for Agents, & also with Smelters etc etc as I will venture to say, tho' it is left in a general manner to them, that they will make no alteration in what you have proposed.

J.I.

31 May 1768 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

31st May 1768 Mr Peter Mulcaster wrote to, to come to Farnacres as soon as he conveniently can.

14 Jun 1768 Nicholas Walton to John Salter

To Mr John Salter.

Farnacres 14th June 1768

Dear Sir

We received your obliging Letters about the Bone Ashes and take the first opportunity of informing you, that we have received 50 Casks; we shall hope to receive the remainder or rather 75 more when convenient, to make the whole 125. We are much Obligated to you for the trouble you have already had on this Account, and return our best thanks. We are

Sir your most Obed Hble Servts

Nich. Walton Jun.

J. Smeaton

15 Jun 1768 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

Part of Messrs Walton & Smeaton's Letter of 15th June 1768 to John Ibbetson Esq.

Sir

We find it absolutely necessary to have a House and Stable built near Langley Mill for the Mill Agent, and therefore inclose an Estimate of the Expence thereof, as also for the Repair of an old Peat House formerly occupied by one Mr. Bacon by permission of the Derwentwater Family, which as it will not cost much and being conveniently situated on the Common as a Store House for the New Mill, we recommend being put into good condition. We think ourselves extreemley happy that what we have done respecting the Smelt Mill has met with the approbation of the Board. We are

Sir your most Obed Servt

Nich. Walton Jun.

J. Smeaton

PS. We beg leave to acquaint the Board that in order that the necessary preparations for Smelting might be made in time, we have engaged Peter Mulcaster as Mill Agent, and Joseph Hilton as Clerk for the Delivery of the Ore at the Mines, and as an Assistant to the Moor Master, in the Hospitals Service.

We forgot to mention before, that when the Mill Agent travels from home on the Hospitals Business, he is to be allowed his travelling Expences.

The Ore Carriers have been treated with, but we have not as yet been Able to come to an Agreement with them.

An Estimate of the Expence of Building a House, Toofall and Stable for the Agent at Langley Mill; and repairing an old Peat House formerly built on Langley South Common by permission of the Derwentwater Family for the use of a Lead Mill belonging to one Mr. Bacon, as follows.

A Dwelling House 40feet by 19 outside & 14 feet high including foundation to be covered with Slate.	£90 18 8	
A Toofall 15feet by 7 inside & 7 feet high including foundation, to be covered with Slate.	£ 9 19 8	
A Stable 15 feet by 13 inside and 9 feet high including foundation to be covered with Slate	£16 5 6	£117 3 10
Repairing the Peat House 40 feet long by 19 Wide Outside.		£ 18 5 2
		£135: 9....

Note.....The Peat House to be covered with Heath

Farnacres 15th June 1768

Nich. Walton Junr.

J, Smeaton

Note also The Above Estimate is exclusive of Carriage of Materials.

22 Jun 1768 John Ibbetson

At a Meeting of the Directors of Greenwich Hospital at Salters Hall on Wednesday the 22d June 1768.

Resolved;

That the Receivers be acquainted that the Board approve of their having hired Peter Mulcaster as Mill Agent and Joseph Hilton as Clerk for the delivery of the Ore at the Mines & as Assistant to the Moor Master and that they be directed to pay them the Salaries proposed in their Letter of the 26th of April last viz

Peter Mulcaster as Mill Agent £30 pAnnum

Joseph Hilton as Clerk of the Deliveries and Mill Agent. £30 pAnnum

Besides which the former is to be Allowed his travelling Charges when he Travels from home on the Hospitals business.

Resolved;

That they do cause the House, Stable etc. which they recommend as absolutely necessary for the Mill Agent to be forthwith Built near the Mill: and also the Old Peat house to be repaired for a Store house as they have proposed; taking care that the Estimate they have transmitted amounting to £135:9.. for the Expence thereof be not exceeded.

4 Jul 1768 Nicholas Walton to Christopher Bell

To Mr. Chrisr. Bell.

Farnacres 4th July 1768

Sir

I entirely agree with what you propose with regard to the railing, and desire you and Peter Mulcaster with William Labourne will do what appears most proper in securing the Barn and Peats. Pray let me know in your next, I mean by the first Post,

how long you think Bacons Moss would last to cut no more Peats in it than would fill the Old Peat House Annually. I am

Sir your Hble Servt.

Nich. Walton Jun.

P.S. I desire to hear from Willy Labourne every Sundays Post with an Ans. how all goes on.

Pray tell Mr Mulcaster I will send him a Standard 4 Stone, 1 Stone, 1/2 a Stone, 1 Pound Weight from Newcastle on Friday.

I beg youll send the inclosed Letters by the very first convenient opportunity.

4 Jul 1768 Nicholas Walton to Joseph Hilton

To Mr. Joseph Hilton.

Farnacres. 4th July 1768

Mr. Hilton

I desire to hear from you about the Carriers the latter end of this Week without fail, with your Opinion whether we shall get forward without giving the prices Asked; if you are of Opinion we shall not get forward so well as we ought to without giving the additional Prices 6s and 6s6d. I think the sooner we give them the better, and in such case I would have you and Mr. Mulcaster immediately give it out that those will be the prices we shall pay; but this is not to be done of you see there is a probability of the Carriers moving for a less price and perhaps 5s9d and 6s9d might please them. I am

Your Hble Servt & Affect Fr.

N Walton Jun

P.S. I find Brown and Robson are intending to carry at our Prices which may be the Occasion of others doing the same.

I would have Peter Mulcaster send to Hexham on Monday Morning, as I shall write again on Sunday and give my Sentiments to him and you in a joint Letter after I receive yours, which I desire may be sent to the care of Mr. Bell so that it may come to Newcastle by Hexham Post on Sunday.

15 Jul 1768 Nicholas Walton to Henry Errington

To Henry Errington Esq.

Farnacres 15th July 1768

Sir

On considering your application yesterday by Mr. Donkin I do not think that the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital will now receive my Proposals for the Duty Ore as they have determined to Smelt, and in consequence thereof Agents are engaged,

who have been assured they will continue to Smelt, and employ them so long as the same shall be attended with Success, and they shall discharge their Duty properly. I am for P'tner & Self

Sir your most Obed Hble Servt

N Walton Jun

15 Jul 1768 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

Part of Mr. N Walton Juns. Letter of 15th July 1768 to Mr Ibbetson

The Ore Carriers begun Work on Monday Sennit? and we shall, I hope, now get forward very well.

At a Meeting of the Directors of Greenwich Hospital, at that place, on Saturday the 23rd of July 1768. The Directors took notice of the Ore Carriers having begun Work.

18 Jul 1768 Nicholas Walton to John Smeaton

Part of Mr. N Walton Juns. Letter of 18th July 1768 to Mr Smeaton

As I thought you would like to know how the Lead Trade is going on at Langley Mill I send you above Copies of the several Letters from the Agents since you left his place, by which youll see there have been some unfair Practices and which have partly occasioned our giving the Prices asked by the Carriers. There must be one Cottage Built for the Smelters this year, for I am afraid if we let them lye in the Store Room they will not be so careful of their Fire as they should be. I have this day sent 2dozen Crucibles for Mr Mulcaster, so he will now be at or about compleately fitted out. I like him much; he is very attentive to his Business; and I hope we shall find ourselves happy in the choice we have made both as to him and the other Agents. I had the other day an application from Mr. Donkin on behalf of Mr Henry Errington; he desired to know whether it would be agreable to the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital and us to sell the Duty Ore for a Term of Years, the price to be regulated by the Average price of Lead in every Year, and told me Mr Burrell had intimated that something of this kind might be acceptable to the Directors; I wrote to Mr Errington and informed him that I apprehended the Directors would not now receive Proposals for the Duty Ore as they had determined to Smelt, and in consequence thereof we had engaged Agents, who had been assured that they would be employed so long as they behaved themselves properly, and the Undertaking met with Success.

2 Sep 1768 Nicholas Walton to Christopher Bell

To Mr. Chrisr. Bell.

Farnacres 2nd September 1768

Sir

Corbett and Johnson having refused delivering the Lead into the Warehouse at Newcastle unless we pay the Labourers for carrying it from the Waggon to the Warehouse we desire no more Lead may be delivered to any Person if they want to agree to take 13d pPig for Carriage from the Mill to the Warehouse and delivery thereof into the same. We are

Sir your most Hble Servt

Nich. Walton Jun.

J. Smeaton

P.S. Pray let us hear from you & desire Peter Mulcaster will mark the Ticketts for the time to come at 13d pPiece delivered into the Warehouse. After you have read this Letter send it to Mr Mulcaster.

5 Sep 1768 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

Part of Messrs. Walton and Smeatons Letter of 5th September 1768 to John Ibbetson Esqr.

Mr Errington having applied to know whether it would be agreeable to the commissioners of Greenwich of Greenwich Hospital to receive Proposals for the Purchase of the Dues of Lead Ore for a Term of Years, the price to be governed by the price of Lead at Newcastle, he had for answer, that it was apprehended the Commissioners would not take any Proposals for the Duty Ore as they had determined to Smelt and in consequence thereof Agents were engaged who had been assured of the Commissioners intention of continuing to Smelt so long as the Undertaking should be attended with Success.

We have the pleasure to acquaint the Board that the Lead Mill has now been at Work about Seven Weeks, and that every thing is likely to Answer. It has made about 15 Hundred pieces of Lead, some part of which is got down to Newcastle. Our Produce hitherto, as is usual in a beginning Work, has not been equal to what it should be by computation, and of which we have apprized the Board in our former Letters on this Subject; but we doubt not that in due time, it will turn out the full Produce that is to be expected.

At a Meeting of the Directors of Greenwich Hospital at Salter's Hall, on Wednesday 14th September 1768.

The Board approved of the Answer the Receivers gave in relation to Mr Erringtons Proposal to purchase the Dues of Ore for a number of years and were pleased to hear that every thing is likely to answer at the Smelting Mill.

At Hexham preparing for and making the Lead Mill Pay the 29th 30th & 31st October 1768. Pay on the 31st.

26 Sep 1768 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

To Peter Mulcaster.

Farnacres 26th September 1768

Mr Mulcaster

When the large Beam came from the Mil, I expected the Scale Boards, Chairs & Hooks had accompanied it; but upon enquiry at Newcastle this day, I find they did not: I therefore send this Letter to desire youll take care they come by the very first Hexham Carrier directed by Mr Airey in Newcastle.

Pray let me know in your next Letter how much Lead is delivered at Newcastle.

The large Beam instead of being made better by Isley was really rendered quite useless so that we have been Obligated to get it altered and adjusted here. I shall be glad to hear you get well on at the Mill, and am for P'tner & Self,

Sir Your Frd & Servt.

Nich. Walton Jun.

7 Oct 1768 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

To Mr Peter Mulcaster.

Farnacres. 7th October 1768

Mr Mulcaster

I have ordered William Laybourn to take off a small Chip from every Pig of Lead at Dilston, which I desire youll run together in a Ladle and make two Assays each of one Pound Weight, as soon as possible afterwards, as I believe it will be our best way to send this Lead to the Mill at Langley to be refined in case the Assay turns out which indeed I cannot say I doubt. After you have made the Assays pray send me them by the Hexham Post; and at all times I would have you send those kind of things and Letters rather by the Post than any other way as I am sure to get them when they are sent that way, if Graham comes again and behaves the least amiss I insist upon his being Discharged, as I not only wish that every thing should be carried on with the most advantage to the Hospital, but also to support you in exerting a proper authority over such Persons as come under your direction, which will at all times be expected from

you; I do not mean to put you upon being harsh with the Men; but they must Obey your Orders or there will be nothing but confusion. I am

Your real Well wisher & Hble Servt.

Nich. Walton Jr.

P.S. I would have you deliver all the Common Lead which is Smelted as fast as possible; and pray press the Carriers to get it to Newcastle.

7 Oct 1768 Nicholas Walton to Newham Nicholson

To Mr Newham Nicholson.

Farnacres. 7th October 1768

Mr Nicholson

Care should taken when the Lead is delivered, I mean that which is Sold, to take down the Numbers and Weight of every Ten Pieces as they are Weighed, which will be a Checque upon the Account kept at the Mill. I am

Your &c

N. Walton Jun.

8 Nov 1768 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

To Mr Peter Mulcaster.

Farnacres 8th Novemr. 1768

Mr Mulcaster

When we were last at Hexham, you desired to know at what Periods we would have the Silver taken off; in answer to which this us to acquaint you, that we desire it may be done Monthly til further Orders; and you are desired to deliver the Silver to Mr Bell, who will send it from time to time by his Carrier Corbitt directed to us at Mr Gab Marleys in Gateshead.

For the Time to come it will not be necessary to Number the Pieces of Lead; and you must Mark the Common Lead immediately from the Ore G.H.O. as you have already done that kind of Lead; the Common Lead from the White Slagg G.H.O.S. And the Lead immediately after being Refined G.H.L. And as to the other Sorts which may afterwards come in the way, you must consult with us what marks to give them.

We propose buying you a Pair of Small Silver Scales for Weighing your Assays, the first convenient Opportunity. We are

Sir Your Hble Servt

Nich. Walton Jun

J, Smeaton

P.S, The Silver must be carefully put up in Boxes from time to time.

8 Nov 1768 Nicholas Walton to Christopher Bell

Part of Messrs Walton & Smeatons Letter of 8th Novr. 1768 to Mr Chr. Bell.

We have desired Mr Mulcaster to deliver you the Silver from time to time taken off at Langley Mill which we beg you will send by such Person as you shall judge will deliver it safely into the hands of Mr Gab. Marley in Gateshead. It must be directed to us to his care.

11 Nov 1768 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

Part of Recers. Letter of 11th November 1768 to John Ibbetson Esqr.

We also beg leave to inform the Board, that in pursuance of their Order we have entered into agreement with Mr Thomas Airey & Son for the Sale of the Lead, on the Terms mentioned in our Letter of the 29th April last.

At a Meeting of the Directors of Greenwich Hospital, at Salter's Hall. On Wednesday the 16th November 1768. The Board approved of the Receivers having entered into Agreement with My Thomas Airey & Son, as before proposed, for the Sale of the Hospitals Lead at Newcastle.

20 Nov 1768 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

To Mr Peter Mulcaster.

Farnacres 20th Nov. 1768

I reced. your Letters, as also all the Receits which were wanting by Mr. Labourne, by whom, I was much concerned to find you had been so very ill, however I hope this will meet with you as well as can be expected and that you will soon be perfectly well.

As you propose coming down to the place, with the first piece of Silver, I should like that might be when Mr. Smeaton, and I are here together, and I will give you notice as soon as I know sheen he will be here; I expect it to be about the latter end of this Month, or beginning of next.

I would not have any Slagg Lead sent from the Mill yet; but the Reduced Lead GH 1 you may send away as fast as you think proper.

The Assay of Greengill Hush Ore I recd. safe; and after melting it in a Ladle & cleansing it, I think there was fairly 10 Ounces left. I send about 9 Ounces of it by Mr.

Labourne for an Assay (when you have Leisure) for Silver I have not yet got you a pair of Small Scales and Weights, but will get them as soon as I can.

As to the difficulties we are under with regard to the Smelting we must do as well as we can for the present; and I have no doubt we shall in due time come to a proper bearing. When we see you we may talk this matter over, and indeed as matters stand I think it is absolutely necessary that we should see you, and consult together about his Business I am glad that the Works at the Refinery go on well. I am

Your real Frd. & Well wisher

Nich. Walton Jun.

P.S. The Refined Lead has been tryed and (as I believe you have already heard) is as good as can be. I am sure this will give you pleasure, as it must do to all concerned. 1500 Pieces of Common Lead are Sold and Delivered: and 5 pieces of Refined; so that our Warehouse is quite Empty.

1 Dec 1768 Henry Errington

I propose to the Honourable the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital to take a Lease from them for Seven, Fourteen or Twenty one years from Michs. 1768, of all their Dues of Lead Ore which shall be raised in the Manor of Alstone Moor and to pay for the same as hereaftermentioned Viz

To fix the Price of Lead at the Standard or rate of Fourteen Pounds Seven Shillings and Six Pence the Newcastle Fodder, and at that price to pay for the Ore at the rate of Two Pounds thirteen Shillings PBing and so in Proportion as Lead shall be higher or lower at Newcastle Markett.

The Price of Lead to be settled Annually at some Time in every year betwixt the first day of May and the 29th day of September by two different Persons Conversant in the Lead Trade at Newcastle upon Tyne and there residing The one of them to be named by the Commissioners or their Agents and the other of them by myself and if such two Persons cannot agree that then the same be Referred by the said two Referees to such third Person as they shall think proper to chuse And that his determination shall be conclusive as to the price of Lead.

I further propose to take a Lease of your Smelting Mill for the above Term And pay you for the same after the Rate of Fifty Pounds pAnnum.

Dcebr. 1st 1768. Heny. Errington

7 Dec 1768 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

Part of Mssrs. Walton & Smeatons Letter of 7th Dec 1768 to Mr Ibbetson

In our Letter of 15th June we acquainted the Board that we found it necessary to Build an House and Stable for the Mill Agent at Langley Mill and inclosed an Estimate for that purpose amounting to £117.3.10, as also for Repairing an Old Peat House Estimated at £18.5 2 amounting in the whole to £135.9.....for which Expenditure we afterwards had an Order of Board; but during the time we were carrying on these Buildings we were advised that a Cottage with a Chamber over it, for the Smelters to lodge in, while they continue at their Work, would be more Expedient than the additional Peat House; we therefore considered what might be saved in the proposed Erections by covering with Heath instead of Slate; and found that the difference would together with the omission of the Peat House more than compensate for the additional Charge of the Cottage; as will more fully appear by the inclosed comparative Estimate. We therefore proceeded accordingly which we hope will meet with the Boards approbation. And as we have as yet been able to do without the Old Peat House which was to have been repaired, we still remain £2.9.2 short of the Boards Order.

An Acct Shewing the difference in Expencc between making the Buildings for Mr. Mulcaster, and Repairs of an Old Peat House for the use of Langley Mill as recommended in our Letter of 15th June last, and the manner in which they are done.
Viz

Building a Dwelling House as Estimated in June

then intended to be covered in Slate	£90 18 8	
The same being one Covered in Heath	80 15 10	£10 2 10

A Toofall being Covered with Slate as far it
proposed makes no difference

Building a Stable as Estimated in June then intended to
be Covered wth Slate & no Loft or Chamber above £16 5 6

The same being now covered with Heath and raised a Sufficient Height for a Chamber	15 9 8	15 10
---	--------	-------

Repairs of Peat House to be postponed for the present	18 5 2
---	--------

£29 3 10

Building a Cottage for lodging the Smelters in
with a Chamber above; the size 15 feet Square,
inside measure & covered with Heath.

26 14 8

Expended less on the present footing than first proposed £ 2 9 2

Farnacres 7th Decemr. 1768. NWJn.

17 Dec 1768 John Ibbetson

At a Meeting of the Directors of Greenwich Hospital, at that place, on Saturday 17th December 1768.

The Board approved of the Recers. having, for the reasons they have given, erected a Cottage at Langley Mill with a Chamber over it for the Smelters to lodge in while they continue at Work, instead of the additional Peat House before Ordered.

A Letter of the 1st instant from Mr Henry Errington was read inclosing a Proposal to take a Lease of the Smelting Mill & Lead Ore Dues for a number of Years, the price of those Dues to be governed by that of Lead at Newcastle; The Board did not think it would be adviseable to accept thereof; however they Ordered it to be referred to the Receivers for their consideration in case there should be any new matter which may induce them to be of a different Opinion since their Letter of 5th September last upon that Subject.

30 Dec 1768 Nicholas Walton to Christopher Bell

To Mr Chrisr. Bell.

Farnacres 30th December 1768

Mr Bell

I desire youll pay Mr Mulcaster what Money he wants and take his Receipt on Account for Langley Mill; and pray let Mr Mulcaster know this as soon as you conveniently can. I am

Your most Hble Servt.

N Walton Junr.

11 Jan 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

To Mr Peter Mulcaster.

Farnacres 11th January 1769

Mr Mulcaster

This day I received your Letter of the 9th Instant with the Operation from the outset to the 24th December 1768 which now so far as I can see is right except that in adding up the Stock of Slags at the Mill you make ?

	Fod	Cwt	Sto	lbs.
Refineable.	22	1	7	8
Unrefineable.	26	15	4	
equal to	48	16	3	8
shd. Be	48	17	3	8

this you will alter as it is only a miscasting and after this is done I believe we shall be quite right. As soon as I can I will return you all the Operations sent by you but before you receive them I must have the whole made out separately by you and Signed, agreeable to those sent herewith that is you are to Copy them in case you find them right which I don't doubt you will do, and for the future all Papers which come from you should be Signed - Langley Mill - Witness my Hand - Peter Mulcaster, you must expect we shall always look for your being as exact as possible but tho I say that, we cannot suppose you can be so much so at present as you will be after a little Practice and considering the great hurry there has been attending a new Undertaking and your being unacquainted with Accounts before this I have no doubt you will do all things in the most Exact and Methodical manner in a little Time. I am sure I shall always be ready to Shew you any thing in my power and so I am certain will my Partner as we are satisfied of you doing every thing to the best of your care and judgement and upon those we rely.

As the Washing of the Ore appears to be attended with advantage it may be followed 'til Rampgill Ore is all Smelted and I should like that Middle Cleugh Ore was Smelted as soon as it can be consistant with what you find convenient. In all things where you see advantage to the Hospital don't hesitate to put in practice what you think is most proper; but where any thing new is to be introduced we must Expect to be Consulted; There does appear the least objection to Smelting Greengill Ore whenever you please.

When you have made a full Tryal of Middle Cleugh Ore & that of Rampgill mixed pray let me know; youll consider that the Produce of those Ores should be considered separately. I mean each, for in case we lose in Rampgill as much as we gain by Mixing, we may as well or perhaps better Smelt them by themselves. I mention this as a thing which appears to me proper but suppose you have already done it; and that you will be satisfied before this reaches you of what is right to be done.

After the Tryal of the Weighed Slags I desire to hear from you and I also desire that we may have Tryal made of the Produce from all our Slags of different kinds as opportunity serves; with regard to the Slags which have been dirtied no Tryal can be made of them.

I am surprized when you ask me whether Rampgill Slag Lead should be Refined or not as I some time ago wrote to you that it must be Refined but as to Middle Cleugh 1st & Sun Veins Slag I have no Assay and therefore cannot judge of that. When I wrote to you that Rampgill Slag Lead was to be Refined I sent to you a Copy of the Weights of the Several Assays sent by you 13 December but least you may have never received

that Letter I now send you them inclosed. Indeed I cannot say but I should like to have another Assay of Rampgill Slag Lead as the two Assays made differed so much from the first being 5oz 16 Dwt 9 G[rain]s to the Fodder and the last made the 13th December -- 7.11.24 6/10. I would not have the Slag Lead mixed with Lead immediately from the Ore, in Refining, as it is intended that the Refined Slag Lead should be kept quite Separate & therefore til we get as much Slag Lead as it will be worth while to Refine altogether I think it must lye til we have as much as will make a Cake of Silver of some tolerable size.

As the Refiners are only just set to Work I shall not expect a piece of Silver til the latter end of February or beginning of March.

I have tryed the Assays which you sent me and find them as follows

	G[rain]s
1st Weighed	1 68/80
2nd. Do	1 68/80
Weighed together	3 45/80

According to the Weighing Separate

	Oz dwt gns
I find the Produce pFodder to be	8 15 4 <5>/10
and weighed together	8 14 13 5/10

the former should produce for 64 Fodders	560 11 4 8/10
the latter should produce for 64 Fodders	558 12
the real produce was only	516
difference from former	44 11 4 8/10
difference from latter	42 12

how this very great loss has arose I realy am at a loss how to account for, and desire this thing may be well considered, and let me hear from you. 43 Ounces at 5s 11 1/2d £12 16 2 1/2.

There were three Assays made of Rampgill Lead before & after the first Cake of Silver was taken off and taking the Medium of those Assays the Cake from 68 Fodders should have been all 548 1/2 Ozs but it exceeded Seven Ounces, it's Weight being 555 1/2 Supposing the last Cake of Silver to be produced from the like Lead as the first it should be 516. 2. 16.

I desire for the future youll go no lower in your reckoning the Quantity of Slags than Cwts. as the Stones and Pounds may as well be left out, it not being necessary to be so nice in a matter of mere guess Work. I am wishing you many happy years.

Your real Well wisher

Nichol. Walton Jun

Your Hble Serv.

N Walton Junr.

Bings	Cwt		Bings	Cwt	St	Lb	Oz	Drams
571	7	Of Rampgill Ore produced 2012 pieces of 1 cwt	5	7	6		1	12 1008/2012
9		Of MiddleCleugh Do produced 44 Do	4	2	2	12	11	10 8/44
14		Of Do and Rampgill Do produced 63 do	4	5	2	9	5	5 1/3
170	2	Of Do 1 st & 2 nd Sun Veins produced 804 Do	4	3	4	8	5	11 564/804
87	6	Of Thortergill & Thortergill Sun Vein Ore produced 419 Do	4	5	5	6	9	5 33/419
568		Of Cowhill, Cowslitts Cross Vein & Carrs Ore produced 1828 do of 1 ½ cwt	4	2	6	4	15	5 908/2742

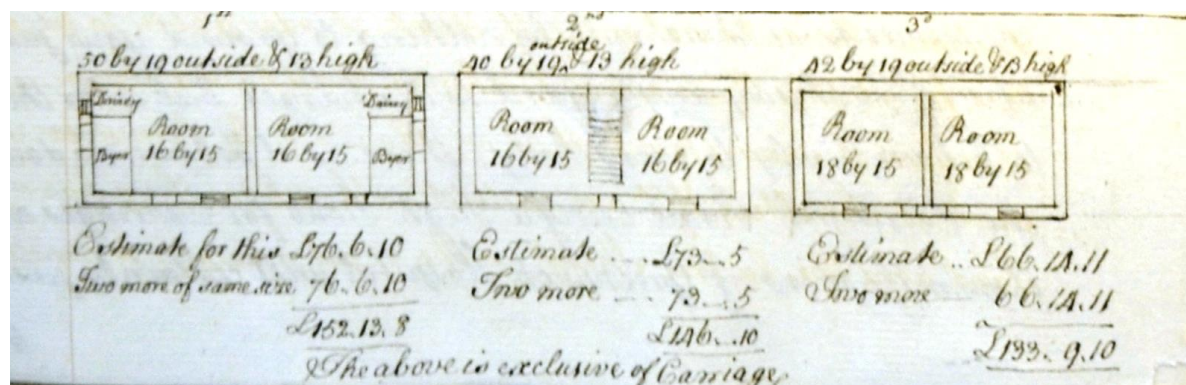
Farnacres 15th January 1769

Nich Walton Junr

NOTE Middle Cleugh by itself seems to be the best Produce

25 Jan 1769 Nicholas Walton to John Smeaton

Part of Mr. Walton Junrs. Letter of 25th January 1769 to Mr. Smeaton



Above I give you three rough Sketches of Plans for Housing at Langley Mill for Smelters etc. upon which I should be glad to have your Opinion. The first 50 by 19 feet Outside and 13 high is upon an Idea that the Persons living in them are to have Cows & the whole Apartmts. for each Family in this way will be

One Room on the Ground Floor 16 by 15 feet

A Milkhouse or Closet on Do. 4 by 6 feet.

A Byer or 2 Stands for Cows on Do. 11 by 6 feet.

One Room above to communicate with the lower Room by a Step Ladder 22 by 15 feet
£152.13.8

The Second have no Conveniences for Cattle but have a Stair Case Common to each House. The Apartments, as follows for each Family

One Room on the Ground Floor 16 by 15 feet

One Room above 16 by 15 feet £146.10

NOTE. There will be a place under the Stair Case & another above it & it is proposed that the Families living in two Cottages shall each take one of these Conveniences You'll observe that in this way the two Houses lye very much open to each other, which is an objection certainly and you'll see the only reason of doing the thing in this manner is to save expences. But still to save more and surely more agreeable to mere Cottagers who like to live by themselves is the third - the The Apartments for each Family will be

One Room on the Ground Floor 18 by 15 feet One Room above to communicate with the Ground Floor by a Step ladder. 18 by 15 feet.

£133.9.10

in every case the upper Rooms are to be Ciel'd & four are now wanted.

I find the Men are some of them very desirous to have little pieces of Ground to enable them to keep Cows and that is the reason of my sending you the first Sketch but tho' they are desirous I would not myself think it adviseable to encourage this for at this Rate every Workman must have a Farm and therefore it seems to me that we should only furnish conveniences such as Smelters etc are content with where they have no Land and the latter Sketch is the most agreeable to my Conception of the matter. It may, and will it is most probable, be necessary to build more Conveniences of this kind, and as such it is the more proper for us to be Careful not to Introduce a thing by which we may have a difficulty, and even supposing that it should hereafter be found an adviseable thing to accommodate the Workmen with pieces of Land Housing may be built for their Cattle without any material loss. When I hear from you on this head I shall write the Board immediately as those Erections should be begun as early in the Spring as possible.

28 Jan 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

To Mr Peter Mulcaster.

Farnacres. 28th January 1769

Mr Mulcaster

I have tryed the Assays and find them good Weight

Viz

Oz Dwt Gs

MiddleCleugh

1st & 2d Sun Veins Slag Lead	1 1/2 Gr[ain]s sh produce	7 7	pFo[the]r
Rampgill Slag Lead	1 9/20	7 3 2 4/10	
Thortergill	1 4/5	8 16 11 6/10	
Greengill and Hush	2 2/5	11 15 4 8/10	

As you find the Washing attended with advantage I beg it may be continued and it will be necessary to be particularly careful of Greengill Ore that we get the best produce possible, as the Lead is Valuable; you will therefore wash it and any other sort where you see an advantage in short I would have you pursue this Method (I mean washing) throughout in case we can make a better produce after considering the Extra Charge of Washing. In case you can get any of the Refined Lead from which the last Cake of Silver was Extracted I desire youll make two Assays of one pound each as I think I have heard you say that the Silver sometimes runs off with the Litharge and that it is as nice a part of a Refiners business to judge when the Test runs Silver or Lead (I dont remember which) with the Litharge as any one thing, and as I recollect you told me some Workmen could never learn this part of a Refiners business, but tho I dont suppose our People of that kind, it Is possible the difference might arise by some inattention, or in the way you mention. I am glad the Reducer gets better forward than hitherto & hope the Produce will stil be better, the difference already, in favor of the Undertaking (by a Change of the Coals I suppose) is considerable. With regard to the Slags I defy any Man to form a Judgement but from any Experiments and after all the richness or poorness of the Slag will be better known by attending to the Produce of Lead from the Ore than I believe by any other Method, notwithstanding it will stil be necessary to make experiments or there will be nothing to ground your judgmt, upon. Dont pay any regard to discharges but Order the Men to behave Civilly to every body; there is I believe no doubt of the Elrington Road being a High Road for Carriages and the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital will certainly justifie their Carriage Men in passing along that Road which you, will give and in such manner as that it shall appear you have Order for doing so.

Instead of Cwt Sto & Lb youll make use of Cwt Qr & Lbs as the latter will be better; the reason for my making the mistake was by my attending too much to your Account of the Numbered Lead. Some more pieces have come marked only G H but no disadvantage can arise yet as all the Lead which comes unnumbered must be Refined.

Pray tell all the Carriagemen who have had Common Lead delivered to them that unless they immediately bring all the Common Lead which remains in their Custody to Newcastle, we shall not employ them any more in the Carriage of Lead. It will be the same thing to them whether they carry Common or Refined Lead and therefore no hardship to insist upon their doing this.

If there is anything so difficult as to embarrass you in following the precedents I have sent you, follow your own method rather than that pointed out by me til after the

next Pay; but where you find what I have proposed to you agreeable to your own Idea of the matter so as to clearly understand the thing and not create you a difficulty you will in such case follow the precedent as I should be equally glad to have things carried on in the way you have been used to as in my way provided the things are but Clear, for that is all I mean, and I have all the reason in the World to think you mean the same thing. I am

Yours &c N Walton Junr.

P.S. I cant tell you what to say about leaving off Working Slaggs but in case you see we are losing by employing the present Man in that Way I would rather chuse he was employed in Smelting as he is a good hand in that Business, you say; And you will be looking out for a Man who understands Slagg Working.

29 Jan 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

To Mr. Peter Mulcaster.

Farnacres. 29th January 1769

Mr. Mulcaster

As the 25th of March is a Saturday I desire our Accounts for the Pay may end including that day.

Mr. Labourne I have ordered to make another Buddle with all possible expedition and am Your Hble Ser

NWJunr.

April 10th 1769 Lead Mill Pay, fixed 25th Janry 1769

7 Feb 1769 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

Part of Messrs Walton & Smeatons Letter of 7th February 1769 to John Ibbetson Esq.

In conformity to the Boards Commands, we have taken Mr, Erringtons Proposals under our consideration and as no new matter appears to induce us to alter the Opinion given in our Letter of the 5th September last, we advise the Commissrs. not to accept of the same, but to continue their resolution of Smelting and Refining the Dues; And as it is necessary to build at least four Houses for Workmen this Season, we inclose you an Estimate for four amounting to £143.1.9 which you are desired to lay before the Board of Directors.

P.S. We return you Mr. Erringtons Proposal. [Dated 1 Dec 1768]

Estimate of the Expençe of Building Housing for Workmen employed at Langley Smelting Mill as follows:

Building two Houses 46feet long by 19 Broad outside measure and 13 feet high including foundation to be covered with Heath

£71.10.10 1/2

Building two others of the same dimensions also to be Covered with Heath

£71.10.10 1/2

£143. 1. 9

NOTE. The above is Carriage exclusive

Farnacres 7th February 1769

Nich. Walton Junr

J. Smeaton

8 Feb 1769 Nicholas Walton to John Smeaton

Part of Mr. Walton Junrs Letter of 8th Febry 1769 to Mr. Smeaton.

With the Boards Minutes of the 17th & 28th Decr. & 7th Janry came Mr Erringtons Proposals and Jona Wrens Letter both to which there an Answers in the Letter to Mr. Ibbetson inclosed with this Packet and I shall be glad to hear you approve of what is said therein, & of the Estimate for the Workmens Housing and in such case that you will Sign and forward them with the said Proposals & Wrens Letter to. Mr. Ibbetson. With regard to the Buildings for the Mill, I can now inform you that Thomas Brown will let us any Quantity of Ground for the use of the Smelting Mill which we think proper at the rate of 6s6d pAcre provided he has the Cottage which you must remember stands a little to the South East of Mr Mulcasters House and an Opening for his Cattle to go out at the Gate South of the said Cottage near to the East of the little hollow which runs nearly North and South at the East end of the Peat Garth I believe this will Answer all the purposes we shall want and nothing can be better situated. I had Thomas Brown with one as also George Thompsons Son of Langley Castle about Selling us Ground to the Workmen and I told G Thompsons Son that if we could be accommodated by Brown we should not have occasion for any part of his Farm but desired that he would make a reserve* for us in case we could not agree with Brown this he promised me on the part of his Father shd. be done, so I am satisfied we shall have no difficulty in getting Ground and when you come I shall have no doubt every thing of that kind will be settled agreeably.

9 Feb 1769 Nicholas Walton to Christopher Bell

To Mr Chrisr. Bell.

Farnacres 9th February 1769

Mr Bell,

We propose being at Hexham on Sunday the 26th of next Month in the Evening and shall receive the Rents the two following days on Wednesday Thursday and Friday at the Lead Mill and in the Neighbourhood of Hexham and on Saturday go to Alston; on the 9th of April we shall return again to Hexham and the 10th make the Lead Mill Pay, the 11th View Wears etc and the 12th Return Home. You are desired to give the necessary Notice immediately.

I was much surprised to hear that Mr Tweddle of Threepwood had discharged George Jackson from carrying Lead by way of Ellrington but indeed very much more so when I was informed that George Jackson had been so imprudent as to ask Mr. Tweddle leave to come that way - he might with equal propriety have asked Mr. Tweddle leave to go along the Turnpike between Hexham and Haydon Bridge. However as the case stands I desire youll go to Mr. Tweddle with Mr. Smeatons and my Compliments and inform him that the Way which our Lead comes is a Highway for Carriages and therefore we hope that he will not give us any further trouble as we should be sorry to have any difference with him but quite the contrary and shall be glad of his Company at Dinner on the Monday or Tuesday of the Receipt Week at Hexham. The particular Days you will mention to Mr. Tweddle and when you have seen him let me hear from you I am for Ptner and Self

Your Huble Servt.

Nich Walton Junr.

10 Feb 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr. Mulcaster.

Farnacres 10th February 1769

I reced. yours with the Operation Papers but some mistakes appearing in those I send you I desire youll look them over and return them at any time convenient to you with such Alterations or Memorandums upon them as shall seem to you necessary.

When you have time I wish you could consider the expence of Smelting and Refining at our Mill upon a Fodder of Lead and I will inclose you an Account of the several Articles with Blanks for you to fill up and in case of my having omitted any Article may add them. I desire this may not in the least interfere with any business that is going forward at the Mill.

I have tryed the produce of Rampgill Ore last Smelted and find it to be as follows:

137 Bings 4 Cwt produced 548 Cwt wch. is equal to 5 bings 2 cwt 17 lb 2 oz 1- 536/543 drams pr Fodder and supposing 7 Bings deducted for Tails will leave 130 Bings 4 Cwt producing 548Cwt is equal to 5 bings 13 oz 1 156/548 drams.

I would not have you engage with any Slag Hearth or any other Man who is not at Liberty as that would introduce nothing but Confusion, and therefore let us do as well as we can 'til some better Man can be had without interfering with own Neighbours.

From what I have heard, I doubt we shall not gain by Washing Greengill Ore, however, make a Tryal till you are Satisfied, & follow that Method which is seen to be best.

The Lead Mill Pay will be on the 12th day of April & we shall be with you some days before (I believe the 29th & 30th of March) to assist you in getting the Account to ready. When you can come here without inconvenience to the Work or yourself I shall always be glad to see you and am Your real Friend and Servant.

Nichos. Walton Jr.

P.S.

When you have Smelted all the Slags produced from Rampgill Unwashed Ore I desire youll let me know how any pieces of Lead of 1Cwt each of you get from them & at the same time youll let me know how many Cwt of Lead was produced from the Rampgill Unwashed Ore and how much of the said Unwashed Ore there was Smelted and if you have the Thortergill Slags by themselves pray inform me how any Cwt of Lead they produce when you Smelt them.

Dont let the Smelting Stop on any Account I would rather have you begin with Carrs Cowhill and Cowslitts Ore again than do that, but if you can go forward with Smelting all the Refineable Ore before you touch that I should like it best.

I am sorry the Reducer does not make so good produce as he did but I hope you will find that breaking the Coals small will be of advantage and that those coals now used will be found to answer.

I would not have you to Wash too much of Greengill Ore before you make a Tryal of the Produce.

NOTE the following Papers included for Mr.Mulcaster
The operation from first Outset to 24th December 1768
Do from 24th Dceember 1768 to 29th January 1769
Stock of Ore, Lead & Slags at the Mill, 29th Do

Before you begin Smelting Unrefineable ore will it not be right to draw off the Hearths quite clean and begin them again with Slag Lead rather than leave good Refineable Lead in them. I only mention this &c as I am entirely Ignornat whether it will be of Service or not. I may very possibly be much out of the way in thinking it will be attended with advantage.

15 Feb 1769 John Ibbetson

At a Meeting of the Directors of Greenwich Hospital, at Salters Hall, on Wednesday the 15th February 1769.

A Letter from the Receivers, dated the 7th instant, was read, containing their Reports upon Mr Erringtons Proposals to take a Lease of the Lead Ore Dues and also upon a Letter of Mr. Daniel Wren Concerning his dispute with them about some Dues of Lead Ore raised by him, which was not duly accounted for to the Hospital..

Resolved,

That Mr Errington be acquainted, that the Board upon full consideration of his said Proposal, do not think fit to accept, thereof, being determined to continue their Resolution of Smelting and Refining the said Dues.

The Board were satisfied with the Report upon Daniel Wrens case, and think he has been very justly compelled to pay the amount of the Dues in question, with Costs.

Ordered

That they do cause the four Houses for Workmen which they represent to be necessary at Langley Smelting Mill to be built; taking care that the Estimate of the Expence of Erecting the same, amounting to £143. 1. 9 be not exceeded.

Adj[ourne]d. to this day Sennit at this place.

A Copy pr Mr Ibbetson.

15 Feb 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

[Note: Day not given but assumed to be a few days after the one of the 10th referred to. 15th used here.]

Mr. Mulcaster

Farnacres February 1769

I recd the small pieces of silver by Mr. Laybourne and with it your Letter of the 10th instant inclosing the Assays wch I find as follows

	Grains	Per fodder Oz Dwt Gs
1 lb Refineable Lead from		
Wch the Cake was Extracted	1 69/80 equal	9 2 12 6/10
Do	1 69/80 equal	9 2 12 6/10

Do	1 67/80 equal	9 1 8/10
	The mean is	9 1 17
1 lb of Do after Refined	10/80 equal	12 6
1 lb of Thortergill Slagg	2 25/80	11 18 21
Lead This better prodc than Ore lead		
by calculation from the assy the cake should be		654 3
but it weighed		656 10
	difference more	2 7
by your weighing at the Mill		
viz 45 lb 3 oz avoirdupoise		658 18 17 13/16

I wish you could get through with Middle Cleugh Ore as it is a troublesome thing and encourage the Workmen by telling them when it is done they will have easy work, as it appears to me they will. I have no doubt you will do your best & we must leave it to you to act in this as you find most proper.

My Laybourne says he thinks that the Washing might be contsnt if we had pumps laid from the Dam and I beg that may be done unless you see there is any inconvenience which should be avoided; he will be with you in a little time and then you may consult together.

I hear Middle Cleugh is turning out rich in the great Lime and the Ore good and of a different Nature a good deal from that we now have. I am

Your real Wellwisher

NWJunr.

* I have spoke to Mr. Labourne about the Tub and he will inform you what we have agreed upon. Pray let me know in your next whether you have yet received the old Bone Ashes which I bought here.

20 Feb 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres. 20th February 1769

I would not have you give yourself any trouble about the particulars of the Expencc of Smelting etc pFodder, but only to observe the Stock of Coals, Bone Ashes, Lime, Peats etc at the time of finishing the Smelting etc the Ore which was brought in last year.

Nothing must be done at the Buddle above the Dam, til we ourselves come up, but I would have you buy the Slaggs you mention of the Man near Allendale Town if they are found upon, being seen to be of a proper sort and fit for the intended purpose. When Mr. Labourne comes, you will consult with him abt. bringing them to the Mill,

and he will endeavour to get you a Buddle made at the West end of the Bingsteads as soon as possible.

When you make up your Accounts for the Pay or some time before we will let you have the Particulars of what was paid each Carriageman upon the 31st October last. I am

Your real Wellwisher

NWJunr.

PS. I desire you'll let me have an Account of the Quantity of Lead delivered for Newcastle, at the Mill, to the 10th instant inclusive shewing the Numbers of Pieces delivered to each Person, and of what kind of Lead.

5 Mar 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres. March 5th 1769

Mr. Labourne brought me your two Pacquets with the several inclosures Safe, and upon examination, the Operation Papers to the 24th December now all agree with one another.

I have tryed the Assays of Thorngill Slagg Lead & find it will not answer for Refining, you will therefore pile it with the Cowslitts & Carrs Slagg Lead til further orders.

I would not have you think of engaging any other Washer til we get another Buddle and we shall see you before that time it's likely but as to the Smelter your Brother says they can Spare at Nenthead I desire you'll ask Mr, Tweedales leave & if that can be got, take the Man and as to the People you have now if you see proper at any time to discharge them, do so without Ceremony if you can get others with leave from their Masters to supply their places.

I am sorry Elliott is Ill but hope he has got so well as to be able to Work again.

Dont take any Silver off til the 25 inst. I am Your Hble Servt

NWJunr.

5 Mar 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres. 5th March 1769

As I wrote before in a very great hurry & have now an opportunity of writing you a few Lines more I cannot let it Slip.

In addition to what I said concerning the Smelters who you think it right should be dismissed I must observe that in case any of them have behaved so as to deserve being turn'd off I beg they maybe set adrift immediately as we will not suffer any Man to be

at Langley Mill who you think it improper to have there, and this may serve you as directions for the time to come, for all Persons who may come under your care.

With regard to the Slaggs I really am of Opinion that the whole of each kind should always be Smelted before you Report any to be Smelted for instance 42Fod 17Cwt of Carrs Cowslitts & Cowslitts

Cross Vein Slagg Smelted produced pieces of 1 1/2 Cwt each 72 Pieces and to reckon them as Stock til the whole of each sort are Smelted for it is the most ridiculous thing in the World to suppose it possible that 29Fo 9Cwt of Slags can produce 60 Pieces & that 21Fo 8Cwt of the very same sort of Slags shall only produce 12 but a Man may readily suppose it possible that the whole Quantity of 42Fo 17Cwt are only capable of producing 72

I am Your Hble Servt.

N Walton Junr.

13 Mar 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres. 13th March 1769

I am much concerned for poor Elliot and fear he is in great danger advise he is having the best Man that can be got as a Surgeon. The Bark would it is likely be of great Service to him and I desire you will mention this to the Surgeon he employs.

If you think the Liddles are sensible of their mistake & they continue to behave well you may help one or both as you see most proper but by no means allow any Man to Stay who will not observe your directions.

You will continue to Report the Slaggs as usual til the 25th instant and you shall have directions what to do further when we come up, in this particular as also about laying the Refineable Slags together or separate. The Slags now Sunk into the Ground must undoubtedly be taken clean up when we prepare the place for Flagging.

Let Marmaduke Forest to Smelt Ore when you will.

I am glad to hear the Washer has got to well forward & and hope he will get a great deal done this Week as the Weather Is now promising and I desire he may continue Washing all or any sort of Ore where after Tryal you find it advantagious and as to the Tails you would not keep them separate further than Refineable & Unrefineable Ore except Greengill Ore or any which seems to be near as Rich.

I am Your real Frd. & Hble Serv.

Nich. Walton Junr.

PS. When the Silver is taken off let it be Boxed up and sent to Mr. Bells in Hexham to lye there til we see it at Hexham. I should like that Assays were always made of the Lead after Refined as done last time.

The Middle Cleugh Slag Lead must be Refined as it produces near 7 Ounces by the Assay.

		Pr fodr		Oz	Dr	Gns
Capelcleugh 3 assays	1 lb	2 4/80	Refinable	10		21 6/10
	1 lb	2	Do	9	16	
	1 lb	2 4/30	Do	10		25 6/10
Blagill 2 assays	1 lb	1 48/80	Do	7	16	19 2/10
	1 lb	1 43/80	Do	7	10	16 2/10
Thorngill Slagg 1 assay	1 lb	1 14/80	Not refineable	5	15	3 6/10
Lead from wch last cake of silver was taken	1 lb	1 56/80	Refineable	8	6	14 4/10

25 Mar 1769 Peter Mulcaster to Thomas Brown

Due to Thomas Brown.

Langley Mill 25th March 1769

For Carriage of 1583 Loads of Coals at 2d P Load £13 3 10

Reced 10th April 1769 of Messrs Walton & Smeaton the Contents above
1583. Thos. Brown

45 Overcharged at 2d.

7 6

1538 at 2d

12 16 4

Due to Thomas Brown.

Langley Mill 25th March 1769

For Carriage of 1538 Loads of Coals at 2d PLoad £12.16.4

Reced 10th April 1769 of Messrs Walton & Smeaton the Contents above

17 Apr 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 17th April 1769

In answer to your Letter of the 14th instant this is to acquaint you that we would have the Refined Slag Lead marked as you propose as also the Litharge Slag Lead and youll continue to do so unless you receive Orders to the contrary. The last Cake of Silver weighs 768 Ounces. but we have not had time to try how it turns out by the Operation. We propose being at Hexham on Tuesday Evening the 25th instant and desire you will give Notice to all the Carriers that we beg to see them together the following Morning abt. 10 oClock in order to settle the last years Accounts for the whole Quantity delivered from the Mill from the beginning to Smelt to the day the last

Quantity was delivered and to put the Carriagemen into a regular Method among one another. You must get Mr. Bell to assist you in giving the above [below] Notices which must be done by a Letter to each Person to the effect inclosed. Immediately after the above Meeting with Carriers, Orders will be given to begin the Carriage. We are

Your Hble Servts.

N Walton Junr.

J Smeaton

List of Persons who are to have Notice to attend the Meeting at Hexham the 26th of April 1769 on Accs of the Carriage of Lead from Langley Mill to Newcastle.

Joseph Fidler
John Corbett
George Jackson
James Johnson
Thomas Jameson
Nicholas Bell
William Addison
Thomas Purvis
John Kirsop
Thomas Robson
Thomas Corbett Priest Popple
John Havelock
William Corbett
Joseph Toppin
Stephen Thompson
Isaac Hall
William Pattinson
John Wren
Robert Vasey
Ralph Little
Thomas Corbett Gilliegate
Thomas Ions

Langley Lead Mill Apr. 1769

Mr John Corbett

Messrs Walton & Smeaton have given the Orders to let you know that they desire to see you at the Golden Lion in Hexham on Wednesday the 26th of this Month at Ten oClock in the Morning to settle and pay for the Carriage of the whole of the Lead delivered to that day and to put the Carriage of the Lead for the time to come on a better regulation. I am

Your Hble Servt

[struck out: ' N. Walton junr'] Peter Mulcaster

PS. Immediately after the above Meeting the Carriage will be set forward again.

12 May 1769 Nicholas Walton to John Salter

To Mr John Salter.

Farnacres 12th May 1769

Dear Sir

As we are again in want of Bone Ashes we take the liberty to apply to you to Order and send us 150 Casks each containing two Winchester Bushels of loose Ashes and we should be glad to receive 50 Casks as soon as they can be had and the rem. as soon after as Convenient. In doing the above you will much oblige

Dear Sir Your most Obed. Hble Servts
Walton & Smeaton

PS. Youll be so good as charge us with the amount in Lord Ravensworths Account.

14 May 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 14th May 1769

As I think the Matter respecting the Ground you are to have shd be settled between you and Mr Brown as soon as possible. I now take the opportunity of Writing to you in answer to yours of the 10th instant.

I am of Opinion you must be the Hospital's Tenant for your Close from the 12th Instant at the Rate of 6s 6d P Acre and you will from me tell Mr Thomas Brown that as the Ground cannot be inclosed this year Mr Smeaton and I expect he will oblige us so farr as to take this Ground of you and pay you 6/6d P Acre for it from the 12th inst, to the 12th May 1770 and Let you as much Grassing as you have occasion for upon such Terms as are reasonable. This Affair cannot as I see be settled in any other way without entire confusion. As to the Mill Pasture the Fence must be got compleated at the Hospitals Expenxe as soon as possible and I think this Fence on the East of the Mill shd stand wholly on the East side of the Hollow that the Water runs down from the Waste of the Dam. With regard to the Fence in the North side of the Mill Pasture, get it done on such Ground as you shall be of Opinion is best after considering the thing; I own myself I look upon it the Fence should stand on the Firm Ground on the North side of the Mill Pasture Boundary.

I wish much we could make some kind of Estimate what Produce we have made from the first Outset to the time of finishing the Smelting the Ore got in last Year & therefore desire you will make as near an Estimate of the Value of Peats Coals and

other things which are liable to immediate consumption that shall be then in hand as you can; at the same time I desire you'll make out an Account of the Particulars of the Expences of Smelting and other Charges at the Mill from the last Pay til the Time of finishing the above Ore in the same manner as if we were going to make a Pay and also an Operation and Stock Paper from which and the other Operation Papers we shall be enabled to make out a General Operation Paper shewing the Produce from the beginning til the time of finishing as abovementioned. If you find it necessary to have assistance in doing the above work employ anybody you think proper at the Hospitals Expence.

Pray will Hop Bags be of use to you if you think so let me know immediately and you shall be supplied without loss of time.

You are at all events to finish the Ore got in last year before you begin upon the New and you'll remember there was 11 Bings more got from Carrs than ought to have been which I should be glad might lie in a Bingstead by itself and be reckoned as part of this year's Quantity in the Accts. of Smelting.

Carrs Ore and the Ore from Wilkinson's Mines should be kept Separate. I am. Your Hble Servt

Nich Walton Junr.

PS. The last Cake of Silver answers very to the Assay, it comes within 10 Ounces and that Over.

The Front of the new Bingstead Walls should be laid with Moss as I observe the Lime perishes and falls down among the Lead Ore.

Great care ought to be taken of the Peat Mosses and it is expected that you have a particular regard thereto, tho' by that means we may get worse Peats; and I entirely approve of what you propose concerning this Matter.

It appears very satisfactory that there is no Advantage in Washing the Unrefineable Ore and as to Henry Smith when we have no Washing he cannot Expect to be Employed.

I wish you could Pick up a good Slag Hearth Man that is disengaged or could have liberty but that as well as the Engaging of any other Workmen which you see necessary is left to your own discretion and care.

Don't let the Carriage of Materials for Buildings etc interfere wth the Carriage of Lead.

21 May 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres. 21st May 1769

I yesterday reced. your Letter of 17th instant and since that time have seen Mr. Labourne who I have desired will consult with you, what is most proper to be done with regard to the conveying of the Water you mention, for the purpose of Washing

Guddamgillings Ore; and I have also desired him to consider with you any other matters which comes within his Province and I shall agree to any other thing that is thought right by you both. I will take care to send you a Supply of Lead Carriage Ticketts, as soon as I hear from you again, for til that Time, and til I receive a Leaf out of your Book I cannot get any Printed not having kept a precedent.

As Barnet the Refiner will now be out of Work at the Refinery, he must be employed in such way as is convenient, either in Smelting or Washing Ore, particularly the latter, as I remember you told me he was a good Washer, but I leave the whole entirely to you, and have no doubt of you doing the best.

I wish much to receive the Silver as soon as possible, and desire you'll send it down in Friday, at the same time you'll send me as Assay of the Lead from which it was taken, and the Quantities of each sort of Slag Lead.

I have sent to London for 150 Casks of Bone Ashes and expect to receive 50 very soon.

I would like to have a Trial made of Smelting the Litharge Slag in the Slag Hearth, as desire it may be done as soon as you find it convenient, and it will be well to have the Test Bottoms Smelted too.

You say the Mill must not be kept at Work while the Dam is Lining, I think rather differently about the Matter, & Mr Labourne will tell you what are my thoughts about it.

Great care should be taken in smelting the Smitham Ore not to give it too great a Blast, or otherwise there will be great Loss; Indeed I often thought that the Smelters should be better regulated in the management of the Bellows, for upon that a great deal depends, not only in the produce of Ore, but the Bellows themselves by being sometimes put to too great a Strain, must inevitably receive damage, and I think it is particularly necessary, that the Smelters should be obliged to give notice to one another, before they begin to draw their Hearths, in order that the Quantity of Water maybe lessened upon throwing off any Bellows. I remember being at the Mill myself when a pair of Bellows was thrown off without Notice so that instead of driving 3 pair of Bellows the same Water had only 2 pair to drive, and on going into the Bellows House, I observed the Force so great, that it almost surprized me the Bellows did not Burst. The above is so Material a thing, and so farr requires attention, both as to the Saving of Water and Bellows and Produce of Lead, that I beg you'll make a Point of it with the Workmen, that is, you must insist upon their Observing your directions, and in case of their non compliance it is not fit they should be there.

I am Your Hble Servt.

N Walton Junr.

PS in the Account of Ore reced. last year I would have you reckon Carrs Quantity 11 Bings less than you received and add the 11 Bings to this years Quantity. You may deliver such sort of Lead as is most convenient only let me know when you begin delivering GH.OS and GH.R.

21 May 1769 Nicholas Walton to Newham Nicholson

To Mr. Newham Nicholson. Farnacres. 21st May 1769

Mr Nicholson

I believe they will begin delivering Slag Lead at the Mill very soon and I therefore think it necessary to inform you the Refined Slag Lead which I took up it as nearly as good as the the best Refined Lead is marked GHR and the Common Slag Lead GH03.

I am Your Humble Serv.

Nich. Walton Junr.

21 May 1769 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

Part of Postscript to Messrs. Walton & Smeatons Letter of 21st May 1769 to John Ibbetson Esq.

As we shall frequently want Bone Ashes for the Refining of Lead we should be glad to have the directions of the Board whether we are to Insure the Value to Newcastle from time to time as we cannot have them but from London. We did not Insure last Year. The Annual Value will be about £60 - supposing the Quantity of Lead Ore to continue as at present, and £20 worth or thereabouts will come at one Time.

At a Meeting of the Directors of Greenwich Hospital at Salters Hall, on Wednesday 7th June 1769.

Ordered That the Recrs. be acquainted that they need not insure the Value of the Bone Ashes that they may have from time to time from London for the use of the Refinery.

5 Jun 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres June 5th 1769

On Saturday I wrote in a very great hurry concerning the Bingsteads, and least I should not have expressed myself fully on that head I now think it necessary by way of preventing mistakes to inform you that Mr Smeaton and myself are only Sollicitous to have every addition made as compleat and convenient as possible, when it appears necessary that an addition should be made, and that being now very satisfactorily to us the Case, the only Question that remains is, the Situation and Situations of that, as you are constantly upon the Spot, and cannot but see where the additional Conveniencys will be most properly placed, you must necessarily be a Competent Judge, and tho' the

difference of Situation may create a difference of Expence, if that should not be considerable, I desire you may proceed in that way which seems best calculated to answer the end and without the least delay.

As you express a desire of having an Assay Furnace in the Office, by all means get one made, but with the utmost attention let it be done in such manner as to avoid all possibility of it being the occasion of setting Fire to the Building.

I desired to know the Quantities of each sort of Slag Lead from which the last Cake of Silver was taken; you tell me that could not have been done without loss to the Undertaking; I am therefore satisfied in not receiving it; and whenever I ask a thing the giving of which is to occasion more harm than good, I shall ever rest contented when I don't receive it.

I have not ordered any Hop Bags and you will therefore do as well as you can without them.

If you have not made application to Mr. Tweedale for a Slag Hearth Man I desire nothing of that kind may be done till you hear further.

How it happens I cannot conceive, the Silver taken from the Slag Lead falls short of the One Pound Assay 10 Ozs 2 Dwt 5 2/10 Grs. and of the 1/2 lb Assay 23 Ozs 18 Dw & 13 9/10 Grs it also falls short of the Weight you make it 10 Ozs 5 Dw & 10 Grs .

I am Your Hble Serv.

NW Junr.

PS. For the future mark the Ticketts for delivery of Lead GHO. GHL. GHO3. GHR. as the sort shall be and not say Common Refined or what the sort is as we know the sort by the mark.

12 Jun 1769 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

Part of Mr, N Walton Junrs Letter of 12th June 1769 to John Ibbetson Esqr.

One third part of the Bone Ashes wanted for this year are Safe arrived without Insurance.

13 Jun 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 13th June 1769

Your Letters of the 6th & 9th instant are now before me and in answer to that part relating the Bingsteads I must desire you'll get them fixed so as in your Opinion will be most convenient and answer the end best.

I have not yet had time to look into the Mill Accounts.

As to Marmaduke Forest I think it is nonsense to try him further where his ignorance is so manifest and I desire nothing more may be done as to the Litharge Slags and Test Bottoms til you gave further Orders which will be in about a Week.

The Hedge on the East side of the Mill you must fix and set out on such Ground as you see most proper taking in some more Ground than first proposed. I am

Your Hble Serv.

NWJunr.

P.S. Your Sealing Wax is so bad that your Letters come open sometimes. I send you two sticks.

Pray send the inclosed Letter forward by the very first careful Carriers with a strict Charge to deliver it as soon as possible to Mr Joseph Hilton.

17 Jun 1769 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres. 17th June 1769

Dear Sir

Yesterday Indrew a Bill upon you for £228.18.9 payable to Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Airey & Saint Ten Days after Date being for 768 Ounces of Silver at 5s11¹¹/₄d POunce£228 and for Carriage from Newcastle to London 18.9 [total:] £228. 18.9

The Bill will not come from Newcastle til Tuesday next.

By this Week's London Carrier I have sent three Pieces of Silver, one of which I take to be as fine as the first you had, but an Accident happened to the Furnace by which the two others were rather dirtied, the small Piece wholly so, and the other partly, of this Mr. Smeaton has I find informed you. We shall be glad to hear from you respecting the Value of the Silver POz after allowing 11s6d for Carriage and distinguishing the Quantitys of Fine and Dirtied ; I hope youll find the latter sort less hurt than to me it has the appearance of. I had not time to Weigh these pieces so exactly as I ought to have done but suppose there will be about 520 Ounces in the whole, of this youll be kind enough to give me an Account as soon after the Arrival of the Box as you can, keeping the Weight of the larger piece, and that of the others, separate.

I most heartily congratulate you on your again entering into the Matrimonial State and wish you and Mrs, Holmes many happy years.

I am Sir your most Hble Servt

N W Junr.

P.S. I expect Mr & Mrs Smeaton here to Morrow Evening.

I shall be obliged to you for informing my Ptner and I what we can have a pair of good Scales with Copper Bottoms Iron Chains and a Beam for weighing to the length of 1000 Ounces; without Weights, as we have Plenty.

Youll direct to Messrs Walton & Smeaton at Farnacres near Newcastle.

Farnacres 16th June 1769

Dear Sir

Ten Days after Date Pay to Messrs. Bell Cookson Carr Airey & Saint or their Order Two Hundred and Twenty Eight Pounds Eighteen Shillings and Nine Pence Value received as advised by Dear Sir Your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes..Watchmaker. near Somerset House. London

[annotated:] NOTE This Bill delivd the NCastle Bank the 16th June 1769

19 Jun 1769 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

Part of Messrs Walton & Smeatons Letter of 19th June 1769 to John Ibbetson Esqr.

Our Engagements in the several Branches of the Hospitals Business (particularly the Lead Mill) having prevented making out a General Account for last Year we propose with the Directors permission to include the last and present years in one Account.

20 Jun 1769 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 20th June 1769

Dear Sir

We have consulted together about your Proposal of taking the Hospitals Silver in proportion to the Refiners Price or at the Market Price and agree that you take it in proportion to the Refiners Price as it shall happen to be the day it is delivered at your House in London you paying the Carriage (which we believe for the future we can leave to pay on delivery) or you repaying us the Carriage when we find it necessary so to do and we desire that you will state to us the price that you propose to give us after paying the Carriage in proportion to the Refiners Price. We believe it will be near upon two Months before we shall send you any more Silver and our Mill has lately been at Work upon Refineable Lead.

We understand the Matter in this Way that on the Recet. of the Silver you advise us of the Quantity and Price, on which we draw upon you for the Value at Sight or at such Date as we think proper. indeed it will be necessary that those Drafts should

be at very short dates; because as we receive Cash for the Silver for what we sell at Newcastle in delivery, these will at the soonest be a difference of three Weeks which Credit us to be Subtracted out of the Additional Price that you allow us. If you do not thus understand the Matter, or if you do, you will please to advise us thereof; and that if there is any difficultys to you or to us that we don't foresee we desire you will freely state it to us; as in matters of business it is impossible to be too clear as you yourself say. We are

Sir your most Hble Servts
N Walton Junr.
J Smeaton

20 Jun 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

To Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 20th June 1769

Sir

As you inform us that Duke Forest did not yet get well away with the Litharge Slag and Test Bottoms so as to be ordered back to the Ore Hearth we think it will be proper for you to apply in our Names to Mr Tweddell to see if he can lend us a Man or two to dispatch this Business in the doing of which you will be pleased to Inform him with our Compliments that we shall think ourselves obliged.

The letting of our Dam is a matter of such consequence & so very prejudicial to us that as it cannot have been done with any other motive than that of doing a prejudice to our Works we are determined to Punish in the severest manner if we can possibly lay hold of the Offenders and for this Purpose we desire that you will get the Affair called at Hexham and Allendale Town Marketts and Haydon Bridge; and at Whitfield Chapels or any other place you see proper a Copy of a Form for that Purpose you have inclosed. As to the Bingsteads observe what we said when last at the Mill which is now your own Opinion; And as to the Affair of the Pig of Lead lost by Pattison we are determined to look very strictly into every fraud in that Article and therefore shall make all the Enquiry we can when we are up in the Country but at present your Information is not Sufficient to ground an Information.

You are desired to send down Ten Pieces GHRS as soon as you can and you may send down the Remainder of that & Unrefined Slag as you have opportunity.

With regard to the Assay Furnace as you say it may be done without hazard of Fire the sooner you get an Assay Furnace fixed in the Office the better; there is no need to disturb the other in the Refinery.

We are your Hble Servts.
Nich Walton Junr.
J Smeaton

Whereas some Evil Minded Person or Persons has or have from Time to Time drawn up the Sluice of the Dam made at the Level Mouth of Stublick Colliery for the purpose of collecting Water for the Works at Langley Lead Mill whereby the said Works have been greatly Injured This is to give Notice that any Person giving information of the Offender or Offenders so as he she or they be convicted of the said Offence shall receive a Reward of Five Guineas from Messrs Walton & Smeaton

7 Jul 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres. 7th July 1769

Your Letter of the 12th instant now lies before me and in answer thereto I desire to receive the Silver as soon after it is taken off as it is convenient and all in one Piece. With regard to the Furnaces as they are to be done with Stone I beg the greatest care may be taken in tempering them for if the Fire is not increased very gradually and gently I am sure the Stone will fly in Pieces. We call this Operation annealing? the Furnaces. I am glad to hear we have got some Sandy Clay in Allendale which it is expected will stand the Fire as well as that of Dukesfield; if upon further Tryal you find it will do it, will certainly be right to take a Lease of the liberty of getting it; in the mean time I desire we may not be Subjected to an Action for getting it without leave. I should like to know in what particular part of Allendale this Clay or Sand is got, whether upon the Common or Inclosed Grounds whether Freehold or Copyhold and if not upon the Common who is the owner of the Estate; in the doing of this care must be taken not to give Room to any Person to think we look upon the having this Sand or Clay as a Valuable acquisition. I have tried the Assays and find Guddamgillmoss Produces from 11lb of Lead 2 & 55/80 pts of a Grain which is 13 Ozs 3 Dwts & 9 Grs pFodder; Greengill 2Grs & 70/80 pts of a Grain which is 14 Ozs 1Dwt & 18 Grs pFodder; Rampgillh 2Grs 18/80 pts of a Grain which is 10 Ozs 18 Dwts & 1 2/10 Grs pFodder. I think you are right in what in what you propose Concerning the Carriage of the Lead but in addition to it I would advise that no Persons who have Lead lying West of Hexham should have any more delivered to them til they carry that in, to the Carriers who are to take it forward to Newcastle.

I send by this Week's Carrier 256 Ounces of Brass Troy Weights and 100 Ounces of the same sort in Lead, all agreable to the Standard; from these you will be enabled to make as many as you want in addition, in Lead. I desire to hear from you when convenient and am

Your Hble Servt

NWJnr.

PS. I am thank God, got almost quite well, but dare not Walk yet.

7 Jul 1769 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres. July 7th 1769

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 1st instant came in due course and the contents are observed.

As I think it will be quite right by way of keeping the Accounts distinct, not to draw for the Value of the two dirtied Pieces til it is known what they lose in melting I shall defer sending you a Bill for their Value til I hear again from you but as to the large Piece 328 Ounces and 5 Dwts I have this day Drawn upon you for its Value at the Rate of 5s/11 1/2d P Ounce amounting to £97.15.10 and for Carriage of the three Pieces. 11. 6 [Total:] £98. 7. 4

[added in margin:] See Copy of Bill on Page 52

I have made the Bill Payable Ten Days after Date & I believe we shall seldom if ever draw at a Shorter Date.

Youll be so Obliging as buy a pair of Scales such as you mention and have them ready at your Shop til called for, and the Value may be deducted out if the Bill we draw upon you for the two dirtied Pieces of Silver.

I have had the misfortune to fall from my Horse wch now confines me to my Room but thank God I look upon myself to be out of hazard and hope to get abroad again in a week or Ten Days. I am

Your most Hble Servt.

Nich. Walton Junr.

P.S. A Friend of Mr Smeatons & mine has applied to you by way of Mr Hawthorn for a Wath [watch?]; the Gentlemans Name is Stewart; he desires it may be of the same sort as my Horizontal one, and insists that your Name shall be upon it.

NB Mr Salter wrote to, desiring he would call upon Mr Holmes and send the above Scales to Newcastle.

9 Jul 1769 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 9th July 1769

Dear Sir

In my Letter of the 7th instant I omitted desiring you would get the Note for the Beam and Scales made out in the Name of the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital and I therefore give you this further trouble and beg youll be so kind as observe the inclosed Form and that you will send the Recet at the same time, as you write me how the dirtied Pieces of Silver turn out. I would have the Beam and Chains put up in a Box

but as to the Copper Bottoms they may be Packed with Paper and the whole directed to Messrs. Walton & Smeaton to the care of Mr Airey in Newcastle. Youll be so obliged as to take the trouble of seeing that the Scales are properly adjusted. Since I wrote you I have had a Letter from Mr Smeaton and have the pleasure to inform you that he and Mrs. Smeaton are both well. I am getting better again very slowly. I am for Mr Smeaton and Self

Dear Sir your most Obliged Hble Servt
Nicholas Walton Jr.

PS. Mr Salter will call upon you abt. the Scales going on Ship Board.

The Honble. The Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital Bod. Of

1769

July

Reced. July 1769 of Messrs. Walton & Smeaton the Contents above by.

Farnacres 7th July 1769

Dear Sir

Ten Days after Date Pay to Messrs. Bell Cookson Carr Airey & Saint or their Order
Ninety Eight Pounds Seven Shillings and Four Pence Value received as advised by
Dear Sir Your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes..Watchmaker. near Somerset House. London

NOTE This Bill delivd the NCastle Bank the 12th July 1769

18 Jul 1769 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 18th July 1769

Dear Sir

I have this day drawn upon you for £49 15.4 being in full for 189 ounces 11 dwt of silver at 5s/11 1/2d p ounce after deducting therefrom Six pounds fourteen shillings which you have disbursed for the Scales; and as the quality of the dirtied silver appears not to be so good as the other, on that Account, tho' you desire me to draw as before, I have made up the present Bill payable Thirty days after Date.

My partners and I are much obliged by your Expedition in getting the Scales and I hope to receive them very soon.

I expect a Piece or cake of Silver some time abt the beginning of next Month which will be immediately forwarded to you.

I am stil confined to the House but thank God able to Walk a little and in expectation of getting out this week

I am Dear Sir Your most & Hble Servt

N Walton jnr

PS. I intend sending you a Pair of Assay Scales which I desire youll be kind enough to put into proper hands to gte adjusted and put into good condition and returned as soon as possible by the same Conveyance as I send them; the Fly. I have assay weights sufficient and a Case for the Scales to Hang in. The Fly will take them tomorrow morning.

Farnacres 18th July 1769

Dear Sir

Thirty Days after Date Pay to Messrs. Bell Cookson Carr Airey & Saint or their Order Forty Nine Pounds Fifteen Shillings and Four Pence Value received as advised by Dear Sir Your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes..Watchmaker. near Somerset House. London

NOTE This Bill delivd the NCastle Bank the 18th July 1769

28 Jul 1769 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 28th July 1769

Dear Sir

By this Weeks London Carrier I have sent directed to you a Box containing 606 Ounces 5Dwts of Bullion which will I hope arrive Safe on Saturday the 12th of next Month at which time I shall be glad to hear from you. I am

Sir your most Obed. Hble Servt.

N. Walton Junr.

8 Aug 1769 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 8th August 1769

Dear Sir

On the 28th Ult. I wrote you an Acct. 606 1/4 Ozs of Bullion sent by London Carrier. I forgot to mention the having paid £- 13s6d Carriage.

The reason of my Writing to you at this Time is to desire you will send me the Assay Scales as soon as they can possibly be got ready as our Works are rather at a Stop

for want of them. The other Scales are arrived but I have not had time to unpack them yet. I desire youll excuse the trouble I now give you and believe me to be

Dear Sir Your Obliged etc,
NW Junr.

PS. I hope you reced. My Letter of the 18th July.

8 Aug 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr. Mulcaster

Farnacres 8th August 1769

As the Small Quantities of Ore you mention are much in your way and look as if they would do without Washing it will certainly be right to get them Smelted but in future I desire youll take care not to Smelt Ore which requires Washing; I certainly should have liked that all the Old Ore was Smelted before the New was begun with, but surely you never could understand me that you were to Smelt the Old Ore if it appeared unfit for Smelting. I must now beg of you not to follow directions when you can give a good reason and sufficient for not following them & such I think you had ready in the present Case supposing you had directions, but I dont recollect you had; indeed as you are upon the Spot and see how things turn out you must necessarily be the best Judge, and as we put an entire confidence in you and have not the least doubt of your doing your best on all Occasions you ought often to Judge for yourself, without consulting us, however it will be proper at such time just to inform us what you have done.

I shall be glad to hear the Furnace continues good .

I cannot try the Assays you last sent til the Arrival of the Assay Scales which I sent to London to get Cleaned & Adjusted.

The Operation Paper is come safe & also the Account of Stock at the Mill.

If there is one Henry Arthur employed at Langley Mill as a Carriage. Man or in any other way, dont let him have any Money on Account unless you have particular Orders for that purpose. I am

Your Hble Servt
NWJunr.

8 Aug 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres. 8th August 1769

Since writing to you before this day I find we have an immediate Demand for Common Lead GHO (and therefore send this to acquaint you that you must as soon as possible get to Work on the Unrefineable sort of Ore and send the Lead produced

therefrom in such manner as to come in the most expeditious way to Newcastle and in case there is any GHO lying upon the Road, which I should be sorry for, endeavour to get it down as fast as can be.

Pray tell Mr Laybourne I shall not be up at the Mill til Mr Smeaton and I come together and I desire you will get full directions from him about any things you may want to have done after he goes away again as he must attend his business in the West Country, You may let him know I shall expect to see him here on Saturday Evening the 19th Instant, or at any time before that if he should find it more convenient. I am etc.

NWJunnr.

14 Aug 1769 Nicholas Walton to Joseph Hilton

To Mr Jos. Hilton

Farnacres 14th August 1769

Dear Joe

I inclose you Arnisons Notes which I desire youll make out afresh and send the new ones with Recets Signed by him, or return those now sent so as to be here on Sunday.

Let Mr Mulcaster know he may Smelt the Small Quantities provided they dont take more than a days Work or two, and after that he must get as much done as possible in Smelting and Sending Off GHO and give express directions to the Carriers to get it to Newcastle with all imaginable dispatch.

I wish you a good Journey and am with best respects to all Friends in which I am Joined by my Wife and Father

Dear Sir Your Affect. Hble Servt

NWJunnr.

18 Aug 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Accts. of Assays

Time when

Assays made

1769.	Oz Dwt. Gr.
26 July. Lead from which Silver was taken PFodder.	8 12 17 4/10
Windy Brow.	3 13 12
Crossgillhead.	8 6 14 4/10
7August Do	9 19 16 8/10
Peatstackhill.	2 18 19 2/10
Fletcherass.	17 13 2/10

Mr. Mulcaster.

Farnacres. 18th August 1769

Above you have Assays of the Sev Sorts of Lead abovementioned the Produce of which PFodder I have calculated very exactly. - Youll observe (Peatstackhill and Windy Brow are not Refineable ; but you say Peatstackhill was not a fair Assay. I hope by this time you have got compleatly to work upon the Unrefineable Ore & shall be glad to hear the Alteration of the Chimneys answers the End.

I spoke to Mr Laybourne about employing the Refiners and Reducers and hope he will find out something for them to do while you are busy with the Unrefineable Ore.

There is no doubt I think now of the Stone Furnaces answering ; but it will certainly be proper when we have occasion to Rebuild them, to consider of Cramping them in such a way as to prevent their giving way as much as possible. This we shall judge best of on the Spot.

I expect Mr Smeaton and I shall be at the Mill, in about Ten days, in our Way to Alston, we shall its most likely dine at your House. I sent you £30 by Wm. Laybourne when you want more we shall be ready to supply you. I am

Your Hble Servt

NWJunr

PS. You may order the Iron by the <Heys > or in any other way you think more proper. They must certainly be good Judges.

19 Aug 1769 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 19th August 1769

Dear Sir

Your Letter of the 12th instant now lies before me and I have this day Drawn upon you for £181.4.8 being the amount of 606 1/4 Ounces of Silver at 5s11d3/4 POunce and including 13s6d for Carriage, after deducting 13s8d for Carriage of and Repairing Assay Scales, as P Account below.

I am much obliged by your kind congratulation on my Recovery and in return I have very great satisfaction when I congratulAte you on your late narrow escape which I now do most Sincerely and am with best wishes to yourself and whole family

Dear Sir Your most Hble Servt

N Walton Junr

PS. I have not heard a Syllable from our friend Mr Smeaton for some time, he & Mrs Smeaton are yet in Scotland.

I have reced. the Assay Scales and am very much obliged to you for the trouble you have had.

606 1/4 Ounces of Bullion at 5s 3/4d POz	£181 4 10 1/4
Carriage to London	13 6
	£181 18 4 1/4
Deduct Carriage & Repairs of Assay Scales	13 8
Bill payable 10 days after date for	£181 4 8

Farnacres 19th August 1769

Dear Sir Ten Days after Date Pay to Messrs. Bell Cookson Carr Airey & Saint or their Order One hundred and Eighty One Pounds Four Shillings and Eight Pence Value received as advised by Dear Sir Your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes..Watchmaker. near Somerset House. London

NOTE This Bill delivd the NCastle Bank this day

20 Aug 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 20th August 1769

I am glad to hear you have got the Chimneys finished and that you have reced. the Silver Scales Safe as I am also that you have got to Work up in the Unrefineable Ore which you must continue til further order. Dont take off the Silver yet as the Quantity of Lead is so very small, unless you think or find it will be more convenient to do so than otherwise in which case I would have you keep the piece of Silver at your own House or perhaps it may be as well to put it in a little Box and send it to Mr Bells to lie there til another Piece is taken off when they may be Posted together and sent down to Newcastle by the Carrier, any way will be agreable that you see right.

I very much approve of removing the Tails and Hearth Ends to the place you mention. I am Your Hble Servt

NWJunr.

22 Aug 1769 Nicholas Walton to John Salter

Mr John Salter.

Farnacres. 22nd August 1769

Dear Sir

This days Post brought me your obliging favor of the 19th instant informing that you had sent 50 Casks of Bone Ashes on Board of the Choice, and desiring to know how many more will be wanted in answer. I take the earliest opportunity of

acquainting you, that we wish to receive 50 Casks more, and the sooner they come the better as the roads to our Lead Mill soon break up, and are very bad afterwards. Those now desired will make up the whole Quantity for this year. 150 Casks being the Number you wrote Mr, Smeaton and me you had bespoke upon the 16th May last. I am

Dear Sir Your much Obliged & most Obed. Servt.

NW Junr.

26 Aug 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres August 26. 1769

I send this to inform you that Mr Smeaton and I shall be at Langley Mill on Monday Morning or rather Noon on the 4th of next Month being Monday Sennr. and advise youll speak to the Smelters to come to Work so as that we may see them at Work.

As it is troublesome sending Victuals from Hexham pray Provide some Dinner for us, a little Leg of Mutton roasted, with Potatoes to be ready at one or 1/2 past one will do very well. I am

Your most Hble Servt.

N W Junr.

PS. The Dinner must be at our Expence.

22 Sep 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 22nd September 1769

Your Letter of the 18th Instant now lies before me and in Answer I am now to acquaint you that you may let Mr George Ridley have 1/2 a Fodder of Refined Lead at the Rate of Fourteen Pounds PFodder and having nothing to do about the Carriage which is equal to allowing him one penny PStone for the Carriage. It must be paid for on taking away.

With regard to the Slags the whole us left to your Management and I have not the least doubt of your doing your best.

Pray let me know when I may expect a piece of Silver and how much it will Weigh as you guess tho' I before wrote you on this head. I dont mean to put you out of the usual course of working and therefore dont hurry on a Supposition I want the Silver. I am

Your Hble Servt.

N Walton Junr.

PS As the Lead Mill pay is to be upon the 31st October I wish Mr Hilton and you would get together and settle the Accounts as soon after the 30th Instant as you possibly can and I desire to see Mr Hilton with the Accounts at this place as soon as he can come after that is done. We shall pay all in full to the 30th Instant inclusive except the Lead Carriage; we will only pay them on Account. I think on considering it there must be a Cake of Silver taken off the latter end of next Week.

The Lead Carriage Account must be drawn out in the same manner as if we were to make a clear Pay. It will not be necessary to stop the Lead Carriage except upon the 30th and 31st of October.

31st October 1769 Lead Mill PayFixed 23rd September 1769

6 Oct 1769 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 6th October 1769

Dear Sir

This day I delivered to the London Carrier a Box directed to you containing 660 Ounces of Bullion which will I hope arrive Safe on Saturday the 21st instant when my Partner and I shall be glad to hear from you. I have paid for the Carriage which is 15 Shillings. I am

Dear Sir Your most Hble Servt
N Walton Junr.

6 Oct 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 6th October 1769

Both your Letters are now before me, and in answer this to inform you, that I have received the piece of Silver and sent it away as 660 Ounces ; it is a very pretty piece as I ever saw.

I do not approve of your going to Alston to settle Accts and must insist upon every thing of that kind being done at Langley Mill for the time to come.

I think your agreement with Spark a proper one, and tho' we pay 12s I hope our Masters will find this Account in our doing so. The Agreement will stand as it does til Mr Smeaton comes here.

The first Time I see Mr Charnley I will Order you some Paper but as the Time is Uncertain you may furnish yourself as well as you can til we send you some.

If Joseph Cragg can have leave to enter into the Hospitals Service I should like much that he was Employed at Langley Mill, but not otherwise, you will therefore make such application as you see most proper.

I intend Weighing the Assays to morrow and will write to you by Sundays Post. I am

Your most Hble Servt
N Walton Junr

PS. I dare say Mr Smeaton will not disapprove of the Agreement with Sparke.

There does not appear to be any Objection to employing Robson as a Smelter, and if on further considering this you think it right you will set him on accordingly.

As I lost the Post last Night I send you the Produce of the last Assays on the other side by which you will see Thorngill Slag stil continues Unrefineable.

I have Observed that the Lead produced from the Ore by Assay generally, indeed I believe almost always, produces less Silver than the Lead taken from the Ore in the great Work and therefore, tho' it may appear by Assay of Lead taken from the Ore in a Crucible, that it is not worth Refining yet til the Tryal is made from the Lead in the great Work, no certainty can become at.

Guddamgillburn	2 Ozs.	2 Dw.	21 Gr.	PFodder
Cowhill	3 Ozs	18 Dw.	9 6/10 Gr	
Thorngill Slag	5 Ozs	11 Dw.	11 9/10 Gr	
Lead last Refined	10 Ozs	16 Dw	19 8/10 Gr	

By computing what sort of Lead should have been produced I reckon the last Cake of Silver ought to have Weighed only 581 Ozs 9Dw 18Ga but by the Assays made from a Chip off each Pig I make it out that it should have been 699 Ozs 10Dw 9 Ga and its real Weight was 660 Ozs from which it appears it runs over the calculation of Particulars 78 Ozs 10Dw 6Ga and falls Short of the Assay from all the sorts Smelted together 39 Ozs 10Dw 9Ga.

We shall hope to hear the Smelters are all got to Work again and are Your Hble Servts

Nich Walton Jnr
J Smeaton

PS. We inclose you an Abstract of the Smelters Acct as settled to last Pay.

6 Oct 1769 Nicholas Walton to George Douglas

Part of Mr Walton Junrs Letter of 6th Oct 1769 to Mr G Douglass

I send this to Inform you that I have paid Mr Airey & Son One Hundred and Two Pounds Thirteen Shillings & 31/2 for 98 Pieces of Lead including the Charge of Shipping, sent you to Berwick; we will settle the amount when we have the pleasure of meeting at Whittingham.

PS You have a Copy of the Acct below.

Mr George Douglass. To Thomas Airey & Son Dr

1769	F C Q Lb	
April 21 To 56 ps of Refined Lead wt	4 1 14 at 14 6/8	£59 5 3
To shiping		4 6
August 9 to 42 ps of Refined Lead wt	3 21 at 14 2/8	£42 17 6 1/2
To shiping		6 -
		£102 13 3 1/2

Reced. 2d October 1769 of Mssrs Walton & Smeaton One Hundred and Two Pounds Thirteen Shillings and 31/2 the Contents above in full.

by Thomas Airey & Son

5 Nov 1769 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres. 5th November 1769

Dear Sir

We recd. Mrs Holmes favor of the 20th Ult. in due Course but being then on a Journey we now take the first Opportunity of writing in consequence thereof to inform you that we ha e drawn upon you for £200.2.6 being the amount of the Ounces of Bullion at 6 -1/2d POunce and 15s for Carriage. The Bill is dated the 6th and made Payable Ten days after date.

We are glad to hear of Mrs Jenkinson's safe arrival in London to whom as well as Mrs Holmes, Mrs Walton desires her best Compliments and we are with great regard.

Dear Sir your most Hble Servts
Walton & Smeaton

PS. Next Friday's London Carrier from hence will bring you 484 Ounces of Bullion but the Carriers Name we cannot yet tell you.

Farnacres 5th November 1769

Dear Sir Ten Days after Date Pay to Messrs. Bell Cookson Carr Airey & Saint or their Order Two hundred Pounds Two Shillings and Six Pence Value received as advised by
Dear Sir Your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes Watchmaker Strand London

NOTE This Bill delivd the NCastle Bank 11th Nov 1769

14 Nov 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 14th November 1769

We recd your Letter of the 5th & 6th Instant in due course and now take the first convenient opportunity of acquainting you that as John Barnatt has behaved so Ill we must leave it to your discretion to discharge him or not as you shall think right & to employ such Person in his stead as you see most proper for the good of the Undertaking.

The Assays have been Weighed and the Produce is found to exceed the calculation by the 1lb 5 Ozs 15 Ds 4 8/10 Gs and by the 1/2 lb 13 Ozs 4 Dwts 15 6/10 Gs. The Whole Weight of the Cake 484 Ounces agreeing with the Operation Paper sent by you. In your next we desire to have the Quantities of each sort of Lead from which the Silver was taken.

We shall hope to hear the Smelters are all got to work again and are Your Hble Servts

Nich Walton Junr
J Smeaton

PS. We inclose you an Abstract of the Smelters Acct as Settled to last Pay.

15 Nov 1769 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 15th November 1769

Dear Sir

By the London Carrier who set out from Newcastle on Saturday last we send you 484 Ounces of Silver which we hope you will receive Safe on the 25th Instant when we shall be glad to hear from you and are with best respects to yourself and Family.

Dear Sir your most Hble Servts

NW Junr
JS

18 Nov 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

To Mr Peter Mulcaster.

Farnacres 18th November 1769

Mr Mulcaster

We duly received your Letter of the 12th and 13th Instant and as in our last we gave you directions that you were at liberty to dispose of Barnatt to your liking, we need not repeat it now. We don't believe he is capable of being amended, so that when you cannot get on with the business on account of his deficiencies, you will be obliged to dismiss him in your own defence.

The Affair that you tell us is certainly a very odd one. That Elliot should mention on Barnatts return that he had put two pieces of Lead in the Dish among the Assays and that neither of them shd immediately after be found, is the thing very Surprizing; and yet that Elliot could have any Ill intention in such an information which he knew must turn out otherwise is as difficult to conceive. As to the little Bitts of Silver they seem to be nothing but such as are thrown out by the Vulcano's in taking off a Piece, which undoubtedly fly about in all directions and by some chance might possibly get into the Dish of Assays: there were a thousand such upon the Surface of the last piece of Silver some of which we Picked off with our Nails. We dont see what end it could Answer to put in those small Pieces into the Dish as they would fall to the bottom of the Dish and even Supposing them put into a Ladle along with the Chips of Lead as the same Heat would not melt them as the Lead, they would swim on the Surface and be taken off with the Scum consequently never come into the Assay Test at all. However to prevent any abuse that may arise from any thing of the like kind we are of Opinion that a Strong Chest ought to be provided to hold the pieces of Lead drawn off at the conclusion of each Test, that they ought to be drawn off in your presence, cast into a proper form if necessary and immediately Weighed and deposited in the Chest; and the Weight noted down and a duplicate left with the Refiners; the Chest to have Two Locks with different Keys one to be kept by you, the other by the Refiners, and when the pieces are taken out in order to have the Silver taken off, to be weighed back again and you see the Silver taken off as usual.

This we think should be agreeable to the a Refiners as it relieves them from all anxiety let the Assays turn out how they will. If you approve of this dont delay getting it put in execution if not let us know your reasons.

We have tryed the Assays of the Test Bottom Lead which turn out alike and by our Scales 7 oz 9 D 10 8/10 Gs PFodder.

We are Your Hble Servts

N. W Junr JS

PS. We suppose a little piece of Lead is taken off each Pig by way of trying what might to be the produce of Silver but if that is not done we think it will certainly be proper to have it so for the time to come and it seems to us necessary to Stir the Lead about very well in the Ladle after the pieces are melted.

25 Nov 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 25th November 1769

I have reced your Letter of the 25th Instant and duely note its Contents. Above you have a Copy of the Letter which you mention has lossed it's way to the Mill - for the future I shall be glad to find Mr Laybourne and Mr Bells Messengers are more punctual, and I must beg you will find out the Persons Name to whom this Letter was delivered for tho the present one was not of consequence to make any bustle about, yet it may be proper for us to know who neglects upon such an Occasion, that we may give directions for their not being trusted again.

I shall consult Mr Smeaton upon the Subject of your last Letter, after which you shall hear from me, in the mean time it will certainly be right to go on as usual.

The Assay of Nenthead field North Vein weighs 3 12/80 Grains which is equal to 15 Oz 8 D 16 8/10 G PFodder.

I am for Mr Smeaton & Self Your most Hble Servt
NWJunr.

25 Nov 1769 Nicholas Walton to John Smeaton

Part of Mr Walton Junrs Letter of 26th November 1769 to Mr Smeaton

I inclose you a Copy of Mr Mulcasters last Letter by which you will observe he wishes to have a Relation employed as a Refiner. I have wrote him that I shall consult with you upon the Subject of his Letter, after which he shall hear from me, and 'in the meantime' as an alteration appears at present impracticable 'things to go on as at present' - I do think that Barnott is a Man we cannot depend upon at any rate and it will certainly be well for us to breed up Workmen in this branch of Business or we may probably continue in the same Situation we are at present and Indeed I am of Opinion it is likely Barnotts Ideas may be elevated too much by his being as it were the Sole manager of the Working part but yet I do not see how we can be benefited by taking a Person at present who is an Entire Stranger to the Work. I must notwithstanding confess I wish to Oblige Mr Mulcaster in his request. I am almost at a loss what to say upon this point Do you think it would not be proper in Case we have another experienced Man in the Room of Barnott to discharge him immediately or otherwise continue at present? It should be understood if another Man comes there is to be three Men employed as Refiners at all Times, and the being the Case such Man cannot have any Interest in supposing that the third Man is introduced by way of being ready in case of his Misbehaviour for it only shew our Intention of always having three Men employed in the Refining only. This cannot be so well done if Barnott continues as he will naturally turn jealous of his not being regarded should there be an alteration made from the present Method. I am of Opinion Mr Mulcaster is perfectly right in giving an entire Confidence to the Workmen which is perhaps the only Method to keep them honest, as you observe from what he States their Opportunitys, should they include to

be dishonest are such, that there is no preventing their taking advantages but by making Assays as a Check upon their Operations.

Part of Mr Walton Junrs Letter of 4th December 1769 to Mr Smeaton

I have wrote to Mr Mulcaster agreeable to your Sentiments as my own entirely coincide therewith.

28 Nov 1769 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes

Farnacres 28th November 1769

Dear Sir

I have this day drawn upon you for £146.15.2 being the amount of 484 Ounces of Silver at 6s 1/2d. The Bill as usual Payble 10 days after date. My Wife joins in best respects & I am

Dear Sir Your Obliged Hble Servt
Nich. Walton Junr.

PS. The above Sum includes 18s for Carriage of the Silver.

Farnacres 28th November 1769

Dear Sir Ten Days after Date Pay to Messrs. Bell Cookson Carr Airey & Saint or their Order One hundred and Forty Six Pounds Fifteen Shillings and Two Pence Value received as advised by Dear Sir Your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes Watchmaker Strand London

NOTE This Bill delivd the NCastle Bank this day

4 Dec 1769 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 4th December 1769

Your Letters of the 21st 22d 23d & 24th Ult. were received in due course; and on the Subject of Barnetts Behaviour, we are now to inform you in answer in yours, that if he is able, careful and diligent, when he is at Work, it is no Affair of ours now he spends his Money, provided the Work does not materially Suffer in those intervals; when it does, there is sufficient Reason for discharging him, and on this footing there appears

no necessity to stand upon much ceremony, whether by any fair Steps taken by the Agents he is disobliged or not. You are therefore (without having regard to what a Effect it may have upon Barnatt or any other) at liberty to take in your relation, or such other Person as you see proper, whenever you please and think the Work will be served by it. I may not however be amiss to postpone this matter til after Christmas, and in the meantime, you can be enquiring whether the Young Man can come, which does not yet seem to be ascertained. It is not improbable but the taking on a Learner may be the likeliest means of preventing Barnatt making his Breaks, but let that be as it will we must not plague ourselves with a Man, who it appears, we shall be obliged, sooner or later, to dismiss. Your Letter of the 1st Instant is come to Hand and we shall be glad to see you at the Time mentioned. We desire there may be no Lead delivered at the Mill after the 23rd Instant, and the Operation must be made out including that day.

It is necessary that we should have a compleat List of all the loose Materials etc, and Stock of all kinds at the Mill at Christmas in every year; such as Bellows, Hearth, Stones, Pokers, Shovels, Barrows etc. Tests and Refinery Materials, Bone Ashes, Peats, Coals, Cynders and Lime, Smith Shop Materials, Fire Grates etc in Office and your House; Tub and Materials for Washing Ore, or anything else you think of. After Mr Walton has fixed with you the Time you must give Notice to Mr Joe Hilton, who will come over and Assist you in doing this Business about which Mr Walton will give you particular directions when you come to Farnacres at Christmas.

Mr Walton has not yet heard whether the Silver is arrived, but supposes it is as your Letter is received.

Your employing an Additional Washer, as also the getting a pair of Additional Scales, is approved, and in general we must inform you that we shall have no objection, to your doing at all times, what shall appear to be for the good of the Undertaking which is under your management. We are

Your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

22 Dec 1769 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 22nd December 1769

Dear Sir

By last Week's London Carrier I sent you a Box contain g 486 1/2 Ounces of Silver which will I hope arrive Safe on Saturday Sennit. I paid the Carriage 11s/6d. When you get it I shall be glad to hear from you.

This Family join me in wishing you and yours many happy returns of the Season and I am. Dear Sir

Your most Hble Servt

NWJunr

PS. I expect another Cake in about a Week.

2 Jan 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 2d January 1770

I inclose you a Paper with some Memorandums upon it Showing the manner in which the Stock is to be set down which will I hope answer the end proposed.

I mentioned what happened between you and myself at this place to Mr Smeaton and we agree that it will be very proper for you to take your Nephew when he can be had without inconveniencing the Work he is now employed in and I think I understand you he might be at liberty at any time.

The Cake of Silver last sent is a pretty one and weighs 572 3/4 Ounces good Weight. I am for Ptnr & Self

Your Hble Servt

N Walton Junr

3 Jan 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres. 3rd January 1770

Dear Sir

Last Night I was favoured with your Letter of the 30th December and I have this day Drawn upon you for £147.10.9 payable Ten Days after the Date being for 486 1/2 Ounces of Bullion at 6s 1/2d POz and £. 11s6d Carriage.

By this Week's London Carrier you will receive a Box containing 572 3/4 Ounces of Bullion.

My Wife joins me in wishing you and Mrs Holmes and Mrs Jenkinson and all the Family many happy years and I am for Mr Smeaton and Self

Dear Sir Your most Obligated Hble Servt

N Walton Junr.

Farnacres 3rd January 1770

Dear Sir Ten days after date pay to Mssrs Bell, Cookson, Carr, Airey & Saint or their Order One Hundred and Forty Seven Pounds Ten Shillings and Nine Pence Value received and place it to Amount as advised by Dear Sir Your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes Watchmaker Strand LONDON

Delivered the Bank 8th January 1770

24 Jan 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres. 24th January 1770

Dear Sir

I reced your favor of the 20th instant and have this day Drawn upon you for One Hundred and Seventy three Pounds Twelve Shillings and Ten Pence being for 572 3/4 Ounces of Silver at 6s - 12d £173- 4 and for Carriage 12.6 £173.12.10

I shall write to the Mill Agent to cut the Silver into four Pieces for the Time to come but I am not quite certain whether there will not be a piece sent from the Mill before my Letter arrives. I am

Dear Sir, Your most Hble Servt

Nich. Walton Junr.

PS My Wife joins me in best Dear Sir respects to you Mrs Holmes Mrs Jenkinson and all your family.

Farnacres 24th January 1770

Dear Sir. Ten days after date pay to Mssrs Bell, Cookson, Carr, Airey & Saint or their Order One Hundred and Seventy Three Pounds Twelve Shillings and Ten Pence Value received and place it to Amount as advised by Dear Sir Your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes Watchmaker Strand LONDON

Delivered the Newcastle Bank this day

4 Feb 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 4th February 1770

Dear Sir

By the London Carrier David Jackson who set out from Newcastle yesterday I sent you a Cake of Silver cut into four pieces and one piece broke off weighing together 563 1/2 Ounces the Carriage and extra Package for which I paid 12s/6d and I hope you will receive all Safe and in due Course.

My Wife Joins in best respects and I am Dear Sir your most Hble Servt

N Walton Junr.

18 Feb 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres. 18th February 1770

I inclose you several Operations corrected from yours which I desire youll examine and if you find them right that you will Copy them and send the Copys Signed, together with those now sent you. This you will do at your Leisure as I am in no hurry about them; tho' at the same time I must own I would like to have them as soon as your convenience will permit.

We have bad Weather now and I fear as it is Windy the Race will be blown up. I am for Mr Smeaton & Self

Your Hble Servt

N. W Junr.

19 Feb 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 19th February 1770

We have fixed to pay the Lead Carriers on the 22nd of March being a Thursday when all the Carriers will be at home and on the day following we shall make the Lead Mill Pay, being the 23rd of March, of which we desire you will give immediate Notice. The Lead Mill Pay must be made to the 18th March inclusive at which time we would have the Operation made out and no Operation for February, it will be that Langley Mill Operation from 27th January to the 10th of March 1770.

The Lead Carriers who have had Lead in their Custody must be pressed exceedingly to get it to Newcastle before the 10th of March for if that is not done, we mean, if all the Lead is not delivered at Newcastle before that day we will not make a Lead Carriers Pay til Michs. And we desire you will get as Exact an Account as possible of the Quantity of Lead now in the Carriers hands, in whose Custody, and where it is lying; and send it to us as soon as you can get it ready.

No Lead must on any Acct. be delivered at the Mill til we give you Orders. Tho' you will not find the Operation Papers sent you yesterday agree with those which you sent we believe they are right upon the whole unless it is in the best Operation for January 1770, in the Lead Stock and Delivery. If the Carriers can't get the Lead in themselves they should Hire.

Pray send us as soon as you can an Exact Acct. of all Lead of different Sorts which has been delivered at the Mill since the 26th of April and to whom you need not take notice of the days of Delivery except mentioning when the Delivery begun and when it ended. Thus

An Acct. of Lead delivered to the following carriers at Langley Lead Mill from the 26th day of April to the [space left] day of 17 [space left] Viz.

GHL	GHO	GHOS	GHRS	Total Pieces
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We are Your Hble Servts
Walton & Smeaton

PS. The Carriers should have Notice to be at the Golden Lion on the 22nd of March in the Morning at 8' oClock

20 Feb 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres. 20th February 1770

Dear Sir

This day's post brought your letter of the 17th instant and I have this day Drawn upon you for £170 16.7 for 563 1/2 Ounces of Silver at 6s - 12d and for Carriage 12s 1d

As I do not find the least inconvenience in having the silver cut I shall certainly continue to get it cut agreeable to your desire.

My wife joins in best regards to all your family and I am

Dear Sir, Your most Hble Servt

Nich. Walton Junr.

PS I believe it will be at least the middle of April before you get another piece of Silver

Farnacres 24th January 1770

Dear Sir. Ten days after date pay to Mesrs Bell, Cookson, Carr, Airey & Saint or their Order One Hundred and Seventy Pounds Sixteen Shillings and Seven Pence Value received and place it to Amount as advised by Dear Sir Your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes Watchmaker Strand LONDON

Delivered the Newcastle Bank this day

26 Feb 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Smeaton

Part of Mr Walton Junrs Letter of 26th of February To Mr Smeaton

I have ordered all the Lead in the Warehouse and Yard at Newcastle to be Overhauled and after the Carriage is done, that is, after all the Lead which was delivered to Christmas last, when the Carriage was Stopped is got to Newcastle we must have that Overhauled too in order that we may know whether there is any

awaiting or not. This will not cost anything extraordinary, as they will Weigh it at the same Time, and Pile it ready to be delivered when Sold. So Mr Nicholson tells me.

I think we are doing better at the Lead Mill a good deal than last Year and have no doubt the Hospital will in a general way get more Money by Smelting than Selling their Ore.

27 Feb 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 27th February 1770

This day I reced. your Letter with the selv. Papers inclosed. You will take off the Piece of Silver all in one piece as you mention and afterwards cut it into four Pieces and Box it up in as little Room as you can I would have the Box so made that either Top or Bottom may be taken off. I think you are quite right in what you propose as to the Washing. The Lead Carriers must Hire and get in all the Lead against the 20th of March if possible. I am

Your Hble Servt

N Walton Junr.

[annotated:] See Copy of Letter to Mr Holmes & Bill. Page 73 [refers to letter and bill of 20 Feb 1770]

2 Mar 1770 Nicholas Walton to Newham Nicholson

To Mr Newham Nicholson.

Farnacres. 2nd March 1770

Mr Nicholson

I desire youll send me by the Bearer, who will wait for it, a particular Account of the Stock of Materials belonging to the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital in the Lead Warehouse Viz

A Weigh Beam with Chains and Wood Bottoms framed wth Iron
Weights of Cast Iron with Rings weighing Cwt Qrs at 12 s p cwt
Small weights Weighing lbs at 1 1/2d P lb
A Pair of Triangles and an Iron Swivel
If there is any thing else you will add to it.

I find Thomas Ions is in distress about a Demand made by the Duke of Northumberland of 4d P Ton for all Lead laid down at Newburn. Pray let him know that we cannot expect he is to pay this out of his own Pocket and that he must bring down our Lead with all possible expedition. We will see him paid his Disbursements

on this Acct. at home or his Man should be seen this day or in case you cannot see either you may send him two Lines by some of the Newburn People who may be in Newcastle this day. I am

Your Hble Servt

NWJunr.

PS I expect you will receive about One Thousand pieces of Lead between this and the 10th instant.

2 Mar 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 2nd March 1770

If it should so happen that the Carriers cannot get the Lead to Newcastle by the 10th instant you must Spur them to get it there against the 16th but this I would have you do as from yourself in the following manner. Go to Hexham on the 10th and make a particular Enquiry whether there is any Lead left between the Mill and Hexham, at Hexham, and between Hexham and Newcastle; if you find all gone to Newcastle your business will be Over but in case you find any left, tell the Carriers that they must exert all their force in getting it to Newcastle upon or before the 16th and you will endeavour to get Messrs Walton & Smeaton to excuse their not doing so by the 10th as desired and to make a Pay on the 22nd instant if they will finish all against the 16th. Don't on any Acct whatever let this transpire til you see it absolutely necessary, that is, don't mention it to any Man unless you find there is Lead remaining on the Road upon the 10th. Such Lead as shall be brought to Newburn on the 10th we shall reckon the same as if it was at Newcastle.

There are above 40 pieces of Lead in the Warehouse at Newcastle that have only CH upon them; it is supposed they are all Refined Lead.

I am sorry for poor Henry Arthurs loss and it is a pity to have to push him when he perhaps cannot do what is required; do endeavour to get him some assistance if he has not got it himself.

I am etc.

NWJunr.

18 Mar 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

Mr John Holmes.

Hexham 18th March 1770

Sir

Yesterday was delivered to set out the same day 995 Ounces of Bullion to the Newcastle Waggon which we hope you will receive in due Course; the Cake was cut in

four Pieces and the Box was damaged by a fall before delivered to the Waggoner & We are

Sir Your most Hble Servt
NW Junr
JS

13 Apr 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 13th April 1770

Dear Sir

We have this day Drawn upon you for Three Hundred and one Pounds Thirteen Shillings for 995 Ounces of Silver at 6-1/2d and including Carriage etc.

We are Dear Sir your most Hble Servt
Nich. Walton Junr
J Smeaton

Farnacres 13th April 1770

Dear Sir. Ten days after date pay to Mssrs Bell, Cookson, Carr, Airey & Saint or their Order Three Hundred and One Pounds Thirteen Value received and place it to Amount as advised by Dear Sir Your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes Watchmaker Strand LONDON
Delivered the Newcastle Bank the 14th Apl 1770

14 Apr 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

Part of Messrs Walton & Smeatons Letter of 14th Apr 1770 to J Ibbetson Esq

We have been applied to by some of the principal Lessees of Mines in Alston Moor to lay it before the Board of Directors that they should contribute with them towards making convenient Roads in Alston Moor for the Carrying of the Lead Ore. The Governor & Company Wilkinson's Company and Sir Lanc. Allgood have already upwards of £400 in this Work of which Roads the Hospital has equally the advantage in the Carriage of their Ore while the Hospital Sold the Duty there could not properly be any call upon the Hospital on this Account because the Lessees are to deliver it at the Mines clear of all Charges; and it was not to be expected that the Purchasers of these Dutys for a year would become Voluntary contributors; but now that the Hospital are become Smelters it seems reasonable that the Hospital should contribute to a benefit enjoyed in common with the Lessees. A Piece of Road has been pointed out

to us as necessary to be made at Nenthead where the principal Mines are and which will connect the principal pieces of Road already made together: it measures 528 yards extending from Rampgill Shop to Nenthead Smelt Mill and is estimated to cost £50 -- and we are assured that it will be Undertaken for that Sum or less: we therefore recommend it to the Directors to contribute that Sum of Money towards the making of the Carriage Roads in Alston Moor to be laid out in the place above mentioned or elsewhere as shall be seen as most convenient and without Specifying the particular place.

At a Meeting of the Directors of Greenwich Hospital at Salter's Hall on Wednesday the 25th April 1770.

A Letter from the Recrs. dated the 14th Instant was read. Resolved That they be empowered and directed, for the reasons they have given, to contribute the Sum of £50 towards the making of Ore Carriage Roads in Alston Moor; to be laid out on the place mentioned in their said Letter, or elsewhere, as shall be found most convenient.

15 Apr 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 15th April 1770

As the Weather seems now promising we hope the Lead Carriage may very soon be got to Work; but dont set them on till you see the Roads so dried as to make it in your Opinion proper to begin. Mr Hilton will call upon you in his way to Alston and inform you which of the Carriers are to be discontinued we shall notwithstanding here repeat what was given him. Thomas Corbett John Kirsopp John Wren and Wm Wren are not to carry Lead either from the Mill or otherwise of which you are desired to give all the Carriers Notice. Isaac Hall is not to be allowed to carry any Lead except what he himself takes up at the Mill and carries thro' to Newcastle or Newburn. Thomas Robson tho' his behaviour was not agreeable last year is to be tryed again in hopes that his future Conduct will intitle him to be continued. The Ticketts you will remember we agreed upon to carry a Value you must therefore be very particular in giving the several Carriers Notice of what follows. The Mill Ticketts delivered by you to the several Persons who take up Lead at the Mill will be four Pence for each Piece of Lead contained in them, which four Pence PPiece is to be understood for their delivery at Hexham for the proof of which it will be absolutely necessary for them to take Receipts from the Persons at Hexham to whom they turn them over for that if any Pigs should be lost between Hexham and Newcastle they may know who is Chargeable therewith other wise them that first take them up at the Mill, will have no Remedy against the Negligence of the succeeding Carrier to whom they deliver them but in case of the loss of a Tickett without we are made Sensible that the Lead is delivered and that the

Tickett shall never after appear for Payment the Money must be lost by the Person losing the Tickett. If any Person takes up Lead at the Mill and carrys it to Newcastle or Newburn any such Person must keep his Lead Mill Tickett. The Ticketts delivered at Newcastle are to carry the Value of Nine Pence for each Piece contained in them and the Carriers producing such will be paid accordingly except Thomas Ions & the Receivers will Engage that all Carriers delivering Lead to him shall be paid Eight Pence PPiece, but it is to be clearly understood that such Carriers are to repay thereout, all such Bank Leave as shall be paid to His Grace the Duke of Northumberland at Newburn in proportion to the Quantities of Lead which they shall respectively deliver at that place. The Bank Leave at present is 6d for every 14 Pieces. In case of any Newcastle Ticketts being lost the same Rule is to be observed as above mentioned in relation to the loss of Mill Ticketts.

Your Letter of the 11th Instant we reced yesterday by your Brother James. As to Barnatt we must be entirely rid of him his behaviour being such as not to admit of a Excuse. Yesterday we made application to Mr Richmond for a Refiner but though he told us he shd be glad to oblige us and would make Inquiry whether they could Spare us a Man or not we dont think from what passed that it is likely we shall Succeed in this application, and yet we believe it might be done without inconvenience to Sir Walter Blacketts Works. Mr Richmond must however be the best Judge of that, and it would be improper in as to desire him to do such a thing if he finds upon Enquiry that it may prove inconvenient.

Pray cannot the Refineable Lead be laid aside til after the Unrefineable Ore is all Smelted and you will then it is likely have got some Refineable Ore from the Mines and be enabled to go forward with the Refining Business as by that time we may hope to get Barnatts place <supplied,> indeed we can scarce doubt of your getting a good Man before the new Ore comes in, and should there be an Opportunity, it must not be lost, tho' there might be some inconvenience when our Work does not supply Refineable Lead; we mean for want of Employment for the Refiners.

You may take off the Silver whenever you see proper,

We should like to have a thorough trial made of taking away the Litharge upon Shovels and it would be well when the Refinery is at a Stand to have everything made Compleat for that Purpose; at the same time the Stamp Mill may be finished.

It gives us pleasure to hear your Nephew goes on so well and with your Assistance, we have no doubt of his soon becoming a good Workman; care and diligence, with proper directions, must always produce an agreeable Effect. We are

Yours Etc

Nich. Walton Junr

J Smeaton

19 Apr 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 19th April 1770

Barnatt met us yesterday as we were going to Throckley with a very Penitent face indeed. All the Answer we gave his Supplications were, that we could give him no Encouragement, but should write to you upon it, and in the mean time advised him to go home. We don't imagine that he will ever be otherwise than he has been and therefore cannot expect any lasting Reformation, however if you think it will serve the present purpose to give him another Shift we have no Objection to your doing therein as you would do had you nobody to consult but yourself.

You say you are pretty sure you could immediately get a Man on applying to Mr. Tweddle. If you think you can fix yourself with one to your liking we have no Objection to your applying. We have no dislike to the being Obligated to Mr. Tweddle , only we would not apply without a necessity; if therefore you think you will loose your Chance of a good Man by taking on Barnatt another Shift, that is til he makes another break, we think it would be unwise in that case to show Barnatt so much Courtesy; but on the other hand you think that you can serve the present turn in taking him on, and give yourself an Opportunity of looking out for a Man to be ready against the next failure, which we cannot but look upon as equally certain to happen as the Seasons of the year. We have as already said, no resentment against the Man, we are only sorry for his own Sake that he has no more government. We are

Your Hble Servt
Nich. Walton Junr
J. Smeaton

19 Apr 1770 Nicholas Walton to Thomas Airey

An Accnt of Lead sent to Newcastle from Langley Mill 1768 & 1769

No of Pieces	
Refined Lead or GHL	7393
Refined Slag Lead or GHRS	366
Common Lead or GHO	5169
Common Slag Lead or GHOS	104
Total.	13032

To Mr Thomas Airey & Son.

Farnacres 19th April 1770

Gentlemen

Above you have an Account of the Quantitys of Lead from Langley Lead Mill to Newcastle from the Commencement of the Undertaking to the 31st of December last which we desire you will get Mr Nicholson to compare with the Amount of Lead Sold

and Delivered so as that we might be enabled to Settle the Acct of Stock resting before the Delivery of the present year begins. We are

Gent. your most Hble Servt

Nich. Walton Junr

J. Smeaton

PS. When we were at Keswick we recd a Letter from Mr Nicholson informing us he had spoke to a Free Porter to Engage in taking an Amount of the Lead as the Carriers bring it in and we shall be obliged to you Gentlemen for Considering between this and Saturday what such a Person may deserve p Annum supposing the Annual Quantity 10,000 Pieces.

21 Apr 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 21st April 1770

Dear Sir

By this Weeks London Carrier we send you a Cake of Bullion weight 474 Ounces which we hope you will receive Safe on Saturday the 5th of May.

We should be glad to know whether you look upon it that the Silver, as soon as delivered to the Carrier, is at your risk or the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital.

Mr Smeaton proposes setting out for Austhorpe tomorrow. We are Dear Sir

Your most Hble Servt

Nich. Walton Junr

J. Smeaton

PS. The Carrier being gone earlier than Common you will by that means receive the Silver a week later.

23 Apr 1770 Nicholas Walton to Christopher Bell

Part of Messrs Walton & Smeaton's Letter of 23rd April 1770 To

Mr. Chrisr Bell

The Lead Carriers seem to be throwing out that they expect more price, or they will not carry any more Lead, be this as it may we are determined not to make the least alteration in our prices, and if we are driven to alter the Channel in which our Lead comes to Markett the Hexham Carriers may possibly wish they had continued carrying on the present footing. The Hospital have Tenants in the Neighbourhood of Hexham

and they will insist on being assisted by them if that should become necessary. We would not have you say a Word to the Carriers without you hear them say anything and then speak as from yourself and not having directions from us. We are not now in any hurry at all and if another Pig does not come from the Mill this Season we are resolved not to alter the Terms. The first time you have convenient opportunity you may let Mr Mulcaster see this.

Pray inform Willie Laybourne that he is to set forward with two Cottages at Langley Mill Housing immediately. They are to be built at the South End of the present Row of Cottages and one above the other, that is two Rooms under one Roof, and a Stone Stair Case must be fixed on the Outside to get into the upper Room. The sizes of each to be 18 feet by 15 inside measure.

23 Apr 1770 Nicholas Walton to Newham Nicholson

To Mr Newham Nicholson.

Farnacres. 23rd April 1770

Mr Nicholson

I would have you see some of the Carriers this day as by Accident and you may let them know that we did want a small Quantity of Lead brought down with all Expedition as we had promised it but that if they should disappoint us in the delivery it will not be any inconvenience to us further than that as we should be always glad to Oblige our Customers, when we can, and their Sternness at present will entirely prevent our obliging them we cannot think our Carriers Behaviour at all proper. And you may add that we are in no hurry about the Lead coming in except that small Quantity and that you are satisfied we will not make any alteration in the price. I am for Self and Mr Smeaton

Your most Hble Servt.

Nich. Walton Junr

PS. Pray make Enquiry about the lost Pig of Lead, it may possibly cast up some time this Season.

25 Apr 1770 John Ibbetson

At a Meeting of the Directors of Greenwich Hospital at Salters Hall on Wednesday 25th April 1770

A Letter from the Receivers dated the 14th Instant was read. Resolved That they be directed and empowered for the reasons they have given, to contribute the sum of £50 towards the making of Ore Carriage Roads in Alston Moor to be laid out on the place mentioned in their said Letter, or elsewhere as shall be found most convenient.

28 Apr 1770 Nicholas Walton to Thomas Brown

N Walton Junr will be obliged to Mr Brown for informing him whether Mr Bell and he can accommodate the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital with a place for their Lead conformable with their Agreement with the Corporation; and if they can, whether they (Mr Bell and Mr Brown) could let the Lead be brought to the place immediately, or they must have some, and what time til that may be done.

Farnacres 28th April 1770

4 May 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 4th May 1770

Your Letters of 22nd and 30th Ult. are now before me.

I think what you have done about Barnatt perfectly right and we must leave it to you to do your best in future as circumstances shall happen but if you have opportunity of engaging a good Refiner I would be clear of Barnatt whenever that comes in the way.

It was strange that the last Operation fell so short in Silver; is it not possible that a good deal of Unrefineable Ore might by some mistake or other be turned into a wrong Bingstead. As the Produce according to the Assay was tollerable exact I can scarce see how it could happen otherwise and yet I think it not at all likely to have been in that way.

Mr Bell would inform you about the Lead Carriage. Corbett and Johnson might one would have thought behaved better than they do but don't trouble your head about them and if they chuse to engage each other they are certainly at liberty so to do. We are determined not to alter the price and that you may say as from us, whenever you see it necessary.

After your Brother has made the Tryal of Picking the Slags I should like to hear how he comes off.

The Reducing Furnace I have not the least doubt but you will get done much more compleatly than she was done at first and dare say neither care nor pains will be wanting in your part, When Willy Laybourne comes I will order you some more Iron and give directions for Plates for the Litharge to run upon.

As the Dawsons are Unhealthful they had best go together and I join with you in Opinion in what you propose concerning their places being Supplied.

Youll not forget that all the Lead which is delivered this Year must be marked 1770.

I don't know which of the Thomas Corbetts it is that we ordered to have no Lead but I now inform you that it is he who failed. I am. Your Hble Servt

N W Junr

PS. At the time of finishing last years Ore an Operation Paper must be made out and a Pay Bill in the same manner as last year. We have had Cold Weather for Three days and this Morning all here was white with Snow.

6 May 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 6th May 1770

I expected to have seen Wm. Laybourne the latter end of the last Week but as he is not yet come I have this day Ordered Cast Iron for the Litharge to run upon and you will receive it as soon as possible. I am

Your Hble Servt

N W Junr

22 May 1770 Nicholas Walton to Jonathan Hilton

To Mr Jonat. Hilton.

Farnacres 22nd May 1770

Sir,

Soon after the application of the Lessees of Lead Mines in Alston Moor for the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital to contribute towards the making of Roads for Carriage of the Lead Ore from the Mines we wrote the Secretary of Greenwich Hospt and have the pleasure to inform you that the Board have been pleased to impower us to contribute Fifty Pounds towards the Expense of the Ore Carriage Roads within the Manor Generally; but to be laid out on the place mentioned to us or elsewhere as shall be found most convenient and there is no doubt we shall fix upon the application of the Money so as to Answer the Purpose of the Request made when we were last in the Moor. We are

Sir your most Hble Servt

Walton & Smeaton

23 May 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Smeaton

Part of Mr Walton Junrs Letter of 23rd May 1770 to Mr Smeaton.

I have agreed for a Lease of a Cellar or Warehouse in Sandgate for Fourteen Years and you are joint with me; we are to be free on twelve Months Notice. It is for lodging the Lead in and will I dare say hold any Quantity we shall ever have occasion to put into it. The Rent is £8.8 p Annum and a Person constantly on the Spot of whom it is

taken will keep an Account of the Lead brought in by the Carriers from time to time for £10 p Annum each Party being free on Three Months Notice. The Carriages may go to the Cellar Door. Mr Peters has prepared a Draft and will have the Lease and Counterpart Engrossed very soon. We are to Pay that Expence.

I have desired Mr Holmes to purchase a Beam for Weighing Lead as that we have is not a good one: it is to Weigh one Ton at each End and I have desired it to be plain and rather Stout for the Purpose.

23 May 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 23rd May 1770

Dear Sir

Your Letter of the 12th Instant I was favoured with on my return from a little Journey I had been taking Northward.

I have this day Drawn upon you for £142.2.9 Payable as usual Ten days after date Particulars as follows:

474 Ounces of Silver Bullion at 6s - 1/2d	£143.3.9
Deduct a Miners Compass	1.1
	£142.2.9

I do not charge you with any Carriage this time, it having been paid by a Person in Newcastle with whom we have not yet settled. it may be taken Notice of when the next Cake is sent.

The Miners Compass gives great Satisfaction and my Partner and I are much obliged by the trouble you have had. I must further desire youll be kind enough to get a good Beam for the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital which will Weigh One Ton at each End; I would have it plain and rather stout for the Purpose. There is no Occasion for Scale Boards or Chains. When it is ready Mr Salter of North Street Westminster will send it on Board some of the Newcastle Colliers and you will therefore let him know when it is got. The Directions must be to Messrs Walton & Smeaton at Mr Aireys in Pilgrim Street Newcastle. We are much in want of it. When you take a Recet. on the Note for the Beam you will be pleased to Word it as follows. Recet the Contents in full by -

My Father wishes to know where a Steel Yard is to be had for Weighing large Waggons such as the London Carriers Travel with, and how much such a one as will Weigh Four Tons will cost, if you can Inform me of this you will Oblige me much.

With regard to the risk of the Silver I can say nothing more at present as Mr. Smeaton is not here but dare say when we are together we shall not have any difficulty in fixing everything relative to that matter in such a way as to be agreeable to you.

I have made Enquiry about the Quantity of Lead you mention and am informed that you may have it at the followg. Rate.

Charges at Newcastle Refined p fodr Unrefined p fodder	of 21 cwt	of 21 cwt
One fodder of lead	£14 10	£14 5
Shipping	6	6
Waterage (rrrther uncertain but cannot vary materially)	1	1
Custom House charges 2s6d for 100 to 600 pieces each containing 1 1/2cwt but how much for 14 pieces I do not know		
Freight to London	7	7
Exclusive of Custom House charges	£14 18 9	£14 13 6

If you think proper to give an Order, I will take care you shall have the Lead upon the Lowest Terms the Markett will Afford, when your Order arrives, & I believe I may venture to say the Lead will be as good Quality as any.

My Wife and Family join in best respects to you and yours & I am

Sir Your most Obliged Hble Servt

Nich Walton Junr

PS I believe we shall not have any Silver of Consequence for some time.

Dear Sir.

Farnacres 24th January 1770

Ten days after date pay to Mesrs Bell, Cookson, Carr, Airey & Saint or their Order One Hundred and Forty Two Pounds Two Shillings and Nine Pence Value received and place it to Amount as advised by Dear Sir Your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes Watchmaker Strand LONDON

Delivered the Newcastle Bank 24th May 1770

1 Jun 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Smeaton

Part of. Mr Walton Junrs Letter of 1st June 1770 to Mr Smeaton.

Mr. Mulcaster writes me that the Stamp Mill cannot go when the Refinery is at Work it takes when the Work together more Water than will Work four pair of Bellows and the Troughs which carry the Water to the Refinery Wheel will not even

contain so much Water as is necessary to Work the Stamp Mill and Refining bellows at one Time.

3 Jun 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr. Mulcaster.

Farnacres 3rd June 1770

Your letter of the 29th Ult I received on Friday last and in answer take the first opportunity of informing you that I think it will be most convenient in every respect to go in with the Unrefineable Ore til you see the contrary.

We have never had a right Tryal made of Old Cowslitts Ore whether it will refine or not, I suppose it will not but it will certainly be right to give it a full Tryal when we have plenty of Ore of that sort to Work by itself.

I am glad to hear you have got the Reducing Furnace Bottom so well done and hope the Labour and Expence will soon be repaid by an Extra Produce.

As to the Stamp Mill it must be Worked at times when the Refinery is not at Work til we see it and in agreeing with the Workmen about the Slags as we have no doubt of your utmost care, that is left to yourself to make the best bargain you can.

I wish to receive the Accts to finishing last years Ore and some kind of Estimate what may be expected from the Hearth Ends Ore Tails Slags etc - but I desire (tho I should like to have it soon) that you will not put yourself to any inconvenience or neglect any other Work on Account of this.

It is likely you will not see us til July or the beginning of August.

I am Your Hble Serv.

N. Walton Junr.

8 Jun 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres. 8th June 1770

I desire youll inform me as soon as you can how your Stock of Bone Ashes stands and how long you expect those you have will last til you ought to have new.

Tho' you may perhaps think we have not observed what you recommended as to the Dam in the hollow above the Mill, you may rest assured it is not forgot and will be considered the first time we see you. I am.

Your Hble Serv

N. Walton Junr

10 Jun 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 10th June 1770

I have tryed the Assays, and the piece of Silver Answers exceedingly well to them, but this Cake, as well as the last, falls considerably Short in Quantity pFodder, compared with former Operations. We can however expect no more than the Lead itself will afford, and as the Quantity of Silver answers the Assays we must rest assured that the Work has been properly done.

I think you are very right in taking no Notice of the Stamp Mill in your Account. I am

Your Hble Servt.

N Walton Junr.

10 Jun 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 10th June 1770

Dear Sir

Yesterday I sent by the London Waggon Francis Finley 450 Ounces of Silver Bullion, the Carriage of which is not paid. I hope you will receive it Safe (at the risk of the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital) on Saturday 23rd instant. I am in haste

Dear Sir Yours etc

NWalton Junr

18 Jun 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Salter

To Mr John Salter.

Farnacres 18th June 1770

Dear Sir

Since receiving your Letter of 26th May, for which we are much obliged to you, we have made Enquiry what Quantity of Bone Ashes will be wanted this year and find One Hundred Casks will do; you will therefore be so good as Order that Quantity. If they arrive at any Time before the latter end of October, it will Answer the End, but we shall like to receive the first Fifty Casks rather sooner. We are with best respects

Dear Sir your much Obliged & most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

PS. We lately applied to our Friend Mr Holmes in the Strand, to get us a Beam for Weighing one Tun good Weight, when you go that way be so kind as give a call as we

have desired him to apply to you for a Ship when it is ready. If the last 50 Casks arrive before the end of November it may do.

24 Jun 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres. 24th June 1770

The Lead Mill Pay will be on the 29th October being a Monday and the day following we shall pay the Lead Carriers.

I have Ordered 100 Casks of Bone Ashes and expect to receive them before Winter some time.

I doubt we can scarce depend upon our present Carriers to take off our whole Quantity; indeed they seem determined to try whether we can make use of the Hospitals Interest with the Tenants or not. If we make that Experiment, some Carriers will wish they had asked otherwise and it seems likely we shall try it very soon.

It gives me pleasure to hear our Workmen are to your Satisfaction, and that they themselves like their Employ, while they behave well they may depend upon every reasonable Encouragement. I am for self and Mr Smeaton

Your Hble Servt

N Walton Junr

PS. Pray forward the enclosed by some very carful hand, there is no need of a Special Messenger, but I wish it to be delivered as soon as convenience will permit.

You must send nothing soon but GHO

3 Jul 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

[Note: entered into the original book much later in the year, between copies of letters dated 16th and 26th December 1770]

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 3rd July 1770

Dear Sir

We have this day drawn upon you for £136.8.6 being for 450 Ounces of Bullion at 6s . 1/2d and Carriage 9s/9d. There is another Small Piece at Newcastle but whether we shall be able to send it this Week or not we yet determine.

Mr Walton us much Obliged by your Attention to the Steel Yard and for your information in regard thereto and we are the same for the trouble you have had concerning the Beam; the Value of the Beam may be deducted out of the next Cake of Bullion and youll be pleased to send us the Receipt for it when you acknowledge the arrival of the next Bullion.

Respecting the risque of the Silver as you say there is none but the insolvency of the Carrier, but you know this is possible. You say you are willing to refer it to us but allege that as the Hospitals Profits are better than yours, you would like the Hospital to bear it. We don't find that making Silver any more than Selling it is the most profitable of all Trades; and youll be pleased to consider that it is only for the Sake of what you give us more than we can Sell it for at Newcastle that there is any risque at all if therefore you give us a penny more and we give or Spend to a penny insurance you leave us where we were however as we apprehend it is for a mutual advantage we think that fairly and honestly the risque should be equally divided, which will in itself be a Kind of Insurance. We are with best respects to yourself and Family

Dear Sir Your Obliged Hble Servts

Nich Walton Junr

J Smeaton

Sir

Ten days after Date Pay to the Order of Messrs Bell, Cookson, Carr, Airey and Saint One Hundred and Thirty Six Pounds Eight Shillings & Six Pence.

Value received as advised by Sir your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes. Strand London

Delivered the Bank 4July 1770

9 Jul 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres. 9th July 1770

I have reced your letter of the 5th instant inclosing the Operation Paper and Assays of Old Cowslitts Ore.

You are right in the 450 Ounces you had it 450 1/16 in your Letter but we could not make more than 450 of it neither do we go so near in the Weighing as Sixteenths.

The other Piece by your Operation and Letter weighed 373 3/16 if it had Weighed 373 4/16 we should have reckoned it 373 1/4 Ozs: but as it fell Short of the Quarter we only called it 373.

I entirely approve of your raising the place for the Peats in the manner you mention but thing there should be some dry Rubbish such as small Stones or small broken pieces of Bricks etc wch come out of the Furnaces. Do you think covering the Turf might be useful.

I dont know but I shall be at the Mill about the beginning of next Week I cannot however be certain of that.

I will make Enquiry about the Fume of the Lead. In the meantime it will certainly be proper to take care of what is produced at Langley Mill.

I am Your most Hble Servt
Nich Walton Junr

PS. Old Cowslitts Ore is not Refinenable. I take it for granted the Assay was made from Lead made at the Hearth. I desire Thorngill Slag Lead may be Refined for the Time to come. And, I desire youll take a Chip off every piece of Common Lead til which and til you get a Line from me how the Assays turn out I would have you deliver Refined Lead.

9 Jul 1770 Nicholas Walton to Christopher Bell

	Number of carriages
William Todd and Edward Nicholson	1
John Snowball & Tenants	1
Michael and Thomas Brown	1
William Charlton	1
Thornbrough tenants	2
Mr Jobling of Newtonhall & Mr William Jobling	1
John Jourdan	1
	8

To Mr Chrisr Bell.

Farnacres 9th July 1770

Mr Bell

After having considered the Carriage of Lead from Langley Mill we find it absolutely necessary that the Hospitals Tenants abovementioned should among them furnish Eight Carts for the Carriage of Lead from the Mill to Newcastle or Newburn as they shall find most convenient to themselves. You will therefore on Recet. hereof call upon and inform them that they must immediately prepare themselves with what is necessary upon the Occasion and begin to carry as soon as possible. If the Tenants at Dilston could agree amongst themselves to set up a Waggon and one Cart it perhaps might answer their end better than in any other way, but they will best judge of that. You will let us hear from you about this business as soon as convenient.

We are Your Hble Servts
Walton & Smeaton

PS. It is believed John Jourdan has set up one.

15 Jul 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 15th July 1770

I reced your Letter of the 12th instant including the Assays as desired in mine of 9th from whence it appears as above that Wear & Tear not considered the Lead that we now deem Common leaves 3s/11d after considering all Expences except Wear and Tear. I desire you will carefully examine and take notice in a particular manner whether I have taken on every Article of Expence, and if I have, whether I have made a Sufficient Allowance, and if not, hope you think it should be put to Show the real Expence and difference between Selling this Sort of Lead as Common or Refined for I would not think of our Refining it til we can be clear in our Computations and as Common Lead seems now more wanted than any other Sort, I would have you deliver the Lead produced from Old Cowslitts Ore singly til you come to the Parcel from which the Assays abovementioned were made and in the mean time before you try the two next Operations and as soon as you can to give me your Opinion upon the above Computation and what you think necessary to add to and take from it, and also what you think the Wear and Tear pFodder may reasonably amount to. Those things I cannot expect you to do exactly til you make a Tryal.

It seems absolutely necessary for us to know the real Expence of Refining and Reducing as without that it is impossible to make Computations with Exactness and therefore at any Expence we must have the most accurate Amount of the two next Operations of Refining and Reducing Showing the Expence in every Article, the Wear and Tear must be guessed at as near as the thing will admit of.

As the Season is so very uncertain I wish to see how our Assay is got before I come up but shall certainly be with you very soon: as to provision I beg youll make none; we can always bring a Joint of Mutton with us from Hexham. I am

Your Hble Serv

N W Junr.

PS. I shall be glad to receive your Computation or Observations upon mine by next Fridays Post and if I have missed the mark pray dont hesitate to tell me freely. You may send Common and Refined Slag after Old Cowslitts Lead is all come away. I am possitive that some part of the Cowslitts Ore must be well worth Refining & I desire that Mr Wilkinson may be told so and that you may write to Mr Hilton abt this and tell him to mention it to Mr Wilkinson. This Shows the Impropriety of mixing the Lead altogether.

Computation Shewing the difference between Selling the Lead from which the two last Assays were made, as Common Lead and Selling the same after it is Refined, supposing Common Lead to Sell at £14 pFodder.

One fodder of lead immediately from the ore	£14
Refined lead from Do would sell for	£12 19 7
5 1/5 oz of bullion	1 11 2

£14 10 9

Charges of Extracting and Reducing vizt	
Carriage of lead between mill and refinery	2
Refiners wages	2 10
Bone ashes one bushel	1 8 1/2
Coal 2 loads	11
Reducers Wages	1 6
Coals 3 loads	1 4 1/2
Weighing Lead	2
Carriage and package of silver	1/2
	8 8 1/2
Charges of Carriage &c saved by	
lead lost in refining	1 10 1/2
this you need not trouble yourself about	

£14 3 11
3 11

25 Jul 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 25th July 1770

Dear Sir

Yesterdays Post brought me your favor of the 21st Instant and I have this day Drawn upon you for £104.13.2 being then Balance of Amount as below.

The Beam is Safe arrived but I have not yet seen it. The Receipt for it is quite right & my Partner and I are much obliged to you.

Mr Smeaton had indeed a very severe attack of the Gravel but I have the pleasure to acquaint you that he was got quite well again before he left this place and by a Letter I have from him in Scotland he is now perfectly well. His stay in Scotland will be above a Fortnight; a Letter will meet with him at Herse House near Falkirk.

I am glad to hear your Family are in good health and in return I have the Satisfaction to inform you mine are the same,

I am Dear Sir Your most Hble Servt

N W Junr.

373 Oz of Bullion 6s 1/2d	£112 13 6 1/2
Carriage	7 3
	£113 9
Deduct what you pd for the Beam	8 7 6
Balance	£104 13 3

Farnacres. 25th July 1770

Sir. Ten Days after Date pay to the Order of Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Airey & Saint
One Hundred and Four Pounds Thirteen Shillings and Three Pence. Value received as
advised by Sir your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes Strand London

Delivered the Newcastle Bank this day.

29 Jul 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 29th July 1770

In addition to what I wrote you about the Lead Carriers I now take the first
opportunity of acquainting you that instead of their laying the Lead upon the side of
the Nubbock & Ellrington Roads, I think it will be better where leave can be had to lay
it within the Hedges of the Grounds adjoining those Roads, as that will prevent any
advantages which ill- natured People may take on Acct of the Lead lying in the way of
Passengers. As to George Jackson he cannot get to the Mill without first going upon the
Hexham Turnpike Road but surely every Man has a good right to bring any
Commodity from the Westward or Eastward and lay it upon his Farm, openly I would
have to have the Lead laid that is at so great a distance from the Hedge of the Ground
joining the Hexham Turnpike Road as that all manner of passengers may see it, and he
may continue to go to the Mill, take up Lead, and lay it down on his own Farm, when
he will, and at his pleasure take the same to Hexham or elsewhere. I am

Your Hble Servt

N W Junr

30 Jul 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Smeaton

30th July 1770. Postscript of Letter to Mr Smeaton

I am satisfied we must raise the Carriage of Lead one penny pPiece but will make no
alteration til I see you

3 Aug 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 3rd Aug 1770

I have reced your Letter and think there is an Awkwardness in Refining
Unrefineable Lead as we have stiled it and desire you will take Notice in the Operation
when the Refining Trial is compleated that the Lead Refined was denominated

Unrefineable in former Operations but Refined by way of Tryal as it seemed to promise some more advantage in that way than to sell it as common Lead.

I think all Persons who are alike circumstanced with Geo. Jackson may do as he does but I do not judge it to be a parallel case where he gives leave to others to lay their Lead on his Ground and tho' I am inclined to believe the Turnpike Commissioners have no right to prevent our laying or Leading the Lead as we will provided we dont use upon their Turnpike more Horses than three with a Cart or Carriage having two Wheels I would endeavour to give no room for disputes I therefore am of Opinion it will be improper for Jackson to give leave to anyone to lay Lead upon his Ground, notwithstanding his doing it himself, but this only til further Orders: All Persons who are obliged to come upon the Roads before they go to the Mill are most certainly upon a different footing as to any dispute which may arise than those who lye so as to be enabled to go to it and lay down their Lead without ever coming upon the Road at all, those may clearly do as they will, that is, lay down their Lead short of the Turnpike Gate upon Grounds adjoining to the Roads leading from Nubbock Ellrington or other roads before they join the Turnpike Road and use as many or as few Horses as they will, their Names, as well as that of all others, however should be put upon the Carts and in general they should and must inform themselves to the General Law relating the Roads in the whole of the Kingdom. You will perhaps be at a loss here what to say to them. It is not necessary to explain to them anything further than that they must behave themselves well and give way to passengers. If any of the Carriers have done what they ought not to have done so as to fall within the Act and thereby to incur Penaltys we cannot Justify them but if they have not and certainly will be Supported. You must tell them all to be careful and in case they will be wrongheaded it will necessarily follow that the consequence will fall upon themselves.

As you dont tell me the distances of the Lead Mills etc from the places of Carriage I cant form any Judgement of the Prices. I am

Sir Your most Hble Servt

N Walton Junr

PS. As to the Quantity to be carried upon a Carriage dont mind the Turnpike Man at all, nor do you be assiduous about the Carriers removing the Lead from the Turnpike sides as that would look as if they had done amiss in laying it there, this we positively deny, if it is laid so as not to incommode Travellers in Carriages or otherwise. Send Refined Lead. Let the Carriers have Money on Account as you judge proper but with great Caution.

15 Aug 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 15th Aug 1770

We propose being at the Mill on Wednesday Evening the 22nd instant and intend staying with you til Friday after dinner; during our stay we desire to see the Reducing Furnace twice Charged with Litharge, to the drawing of the Furnace, twice compleated the Refining we would have going on at the same time and the Litharge we would beg to have in the same state or condition as you usually have it when the Furnaces is Charged, that is, according to the common Course of your working, we must see the Stamp Mill at Work but that is not to interfere with the Reducing and Refining. If our coming on Wednesday afternoon so as to see the Stamp Mill at Work then will be attended with any convenience, you will let us know and we shall certainly be with you at such time as you appoint. You are desired to set about contriving in the best manner how we can see the whole of the above without embarrassing the <Work> and you will oblige.

Your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

PS. If you have no other sort of Lead to Refine you may continue Refining the same sort as last which came from Mr Wilkinsons Ore or however so much as to enable us to see the above Operations, but if you have begun to Smelt Refineable Ore we would rather have that sort of Lead than the other if you have a Sufficiency.

The sooner we know the event of our late Tryal of Mr Wilkinson's Lead and all the circumstances relating thereto, the better.

26 Aug 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Keswick 26th August 1770

We are very sorry that we forgot before we left you to order something for a Drink for the Workmen at Langley Mill tho' we fully proposed it; we therefore desire that youll give them half a Guinea or a Guinea whichever you think right amongst them and we are

Sir Your Hble Servts

N Walton Junr

J Smeaton

14 Sep 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Smeaton

Part of Mr Walton Junrs. Letter of 14th September 1770 to Mr Smeaton

I enclose herewith a Letter which I reced by this days Post and also Copys and extracts of Correspondence and Minutes about the Lead Mine and Lead Mill Agency. Tho' I think with you it would have been lucky if we had not had Occasion to mention

an increase of Salarys so soon after their being fixed at the present Rates yet as the principal reason why an advance is asked is that the Governor and Company and other Lead Mine adventurers have raised their Agents salaries it seems to me as if the present time might Suit better to communicate our Sentiments to the Board than deferring it to a future Period. My Opinion concerning Mr Mulcaster is that he should have £50 P Ann. His brother it is said has £40 and has only the care of a Smelting Mill without a Refinery but you know the Agents are not willing to give an Acct what Salarys they have since the advance took place, it therefore may be more or less than Forty, however Mr Mulcaster at Langley Mill most undoubtedly must have an advance of whatever appears to be given by the Governor and Company to their Mill Agents and he is clearly entitled to something more than that as having more Duty than any Agent of the Company. As to Jos. Hilton I must confess I am rather at a loss what to say about it, if his Salary should be increased it can scarce be added to without bringing it to £40 P Annum and that would make him equal with the Moor Master there would be great impropriety in this but as all the Agents Salarys in the Moor have been increased, should not the Moor Master be considered and put upon a respectable footing with others? [annotated in margin here: 'The Cos. & others Agents have from £40 to £60 P Ann for this kind of Employment.'] I must say that it seems to me reasonable that Joes Salary should be advanced to £40 P Annum and tho' Mr Hilton Senr has never said anything further than that their Salarys, meaning himself & Son, are lower than any other Agents, yet I think he should be advanced to £50 P Annum. I desire dear Brother you will consider this fully and give me your Sentiments particularly and freely as I am desirous to be corrected if I have said or thought improperly upon the Subject two Relations being the objects of attention out of three Agents Salarys to be recommended.

The Turnpike Barr Man has actually stopped some of the Lead Carriages and <> now lies before Mr Fawcett for his Opinion what we have a right to do and what remedy we have against the Barr keeper in case we are right.

I inclose you a Sketch of what Wm. Laybourne proposes as to the alteration of the Movement in the Refinery Wheel instead of Barrelling and shall be glad of your Sentiments as soon as you can respecting this alteration. The Kamms are proposed to be at the same distances from each other by the Plan now sent as at present.

All our Lead is Sold and we could sell several Thousand pieces more if we had it at Markett.

The last Tryal of Refining took as nearly the same proportion of Fuel and Materials as that which had been made of Mr Wilkinson & Cos. Lead, as possible, our calculation rests as it did.

16 Sep 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 16th September 1770

I reced your Letter with the Account of the last Operation & think the Expenditure of Coals etc comes remarkably near the first Tryal in proportion to the Quantitys Refined but you have lost more Lead this Operation than before in proportion.

The Case of the Lead Carriers now lies before Mr Fawcett and as soon as he has given his Opinion you shall hear from me.

The Lead Mill Pay will begin on the 19th October on which day we propose paying the Ore Carriers and Lead Mill Workmen and the following day the Lead Carriers.

It will be necessary to have the Lead Mill Pay Bill made and so that we may know what Cash to keep and therefore we beg you will have it ready and bring it to us on Sunday the 21st in the Evening or Monday the 22nd of October. I am

Your Hble Servt

Nich. Walton Junr.

PS. I made 459 1/2 Ounces of the last Cake of Silver. You will hear we are measuring all the Lead Roads in the Country.

16 Sep 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 16th September 1770

Dear Sir

On the 24th of last Month by our Order a Box of Bullion containing 310 Ounces was delivered at Newcastle and you have as follows a Copy of the Reced. for the Carriage

Reced. 24 th August 1770 of Messrs Walton & Smeaton Six Shillings for Carriage of a Box to Mr J Holmes Watchmaker in the Strand London containing Bullion 24 Lb at 3d - £ 6[s].

Francis finley for Matthew Lee

As we have no Accts from you of the delivery of the above Box or are uneasy lest there may have been a miscarriage and in case it is not arrived at your House you will immediately make enquiry at the Newcastle Carriers Warehouse in London and write us by return of Post without fail.

Yesterday we sent in a Box directed to you Watchmaker near Somerset House Strand London 459 1/4 Ounces of Silver Bullion, the Carriage is not paid. The Carriers Name is David Jackson and he will arrive in London on Saturday the 29th Instant.

Our best Compliments to yourself Mrs Holmes and the Family and are Dear Sir

Your most Hble Servt

Walton & Smeaton

20 Sep 1770 Nicholas Walton to Newham Nicholson

To Mr Newham Nicholson.

Farnacres 20th September 1770

Mr Nicholson

As we have not yet had any advice of the Box being reced at London which you last delivered to the London Carrier I desire you will make Enquiry when the London Waggon arrives whether they delivered the Box or not. As I suppose Matthew Lees Waggon will be at Newcastle this week you will probably be enabled to see Matthew Lee this Afternoon and I shall be obliged to you for sending me the most early intelligence after you have seen him. You have as follows a Copy of the Recet. which you took for the Carriage.

Reced. 24 th August 1770 of Messrs Walton & Smeaton Six Shillings for Carriage of a Box to Mr J Holmes Watchmaker in the Strand London containing Bullion 24 Lb at 3d - £ 6[s].

Francis finley for Matthew Lee

I am. Your most Hble Servt
Nich Walton Junr

21 Sep 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 21st September 1770

On the other side you have a Copy of the Letter wrote to Mr Hunter by this days Post, being the first opportunity we had since receiving Mr Fawcetts Opinion; and we desire you will tell the Carriage Men to offer their Lead at the Turnpike Barr when and as often as they will and particularly that they are not in the least to Suppose that they have not a right to go thro' the Turnpike Gate as often as they please in a day without paying more than once if they have the same Horses and Carriage with which they pass thro' the Gate the first time the same day.

[annotated in margin: 'if they are obstructed they must do as Matt. Reed did except they have Witness as below.']

For your information, but to be kept entirely to yourself, I send you the State of the Case with Mr Fawcetts Opinion and if you see anything improperly stated or short Stated I shall be obliged to you for your Opinion. As to a Plan I think you know the thing so well it is not necessary to send you one, and as to the Act of Parliament you must take Mr Fawcetts word.

I should be glad to know whether Matthew Reed, or any, and what others, can prove their being Obstructed, and by whose Evidence, it can be proved, and what was said by the Barr keeper when they were Obstructed passing the Barr, as also the particular days when they were obstructed and the proofs of their having before paid Toll the same day for the same Carriage and Horses And lastly I beg that some of the Carriers who you can depend upon (or think you have a confidence in if you cannot depend on any) may be immediately desired to Offer Lead at the Gate with some Creditable and discreet Person to Witness and Note down what the Barr keeper says and how often the Carriage pays in a day. You will observe by this that when the Barrkeeper asks Carriage more than once he is to be paid our having Witness that he takes it more than once and how often for the same Carriage and same Horses, but otherwise the Lead had best be laid down as Matthew Reed did on the West side of the Gate when he was first obstructed. If the proofs of Matthew Reeds being obstructed or <Wear> or any others are clear (after having paid the same day for the same Carriage and Horses) I shall be glad to know them as we may proceed upon these Proofs if they are clear, this you will do as soon as you can. I am

Your most Hble Servt

Nich Walton Junr

PS. The Case and Opinion are sent you in entire confidence and must not be made known to anyone.

You shall certainly have Money when we see Mr Laybourne and if he does not appear before Sunday or then at farthest you must and shall have a Remittance by Tuesdays Post

21 Sep 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Smeaton

To Mr Smeaton.

Farnacres 21st September 1770

Dear Brother

As it is almost Eight I have only time to inform you that the Silver is Safe arrived and that you will receive herewith the Copys of Case and Opinion and Letter to Mr Hunter about the perverse Behaviour of the Barr keeper indeed I think probably without directions from the [Commissioners']. I have given Mr Mulcaster full Orders respecting this matter and believe we shall not have much difficulty but there is no such thing as judging where we have a parcel of Moles to deal with.

The Companys Mill Agents Salarys addition commanded at Mudsummer except one, this I had from Mr Tweedale, after asking it; at the same time I told him we had no right to ask what the advances were as I understood that was a thing which they chose to keep to themselves and certainly we had not the least right to expect an Answer if we made the request; he did not seem inclined I found if I had moved it to him what were the advances.

I have been so hurried today that I have no doubt when I tell you so that you will excuse all the blunders etc and am

Sir yours very sincerely

Nich Walton Junr

PS. Rampgill & Carr and the Cash Book

We all join best respects.

21 Sep 1770 Nicholas Walton to William Hunter

To Mr William Hunter.

Farnacres. 21st September 1770

Sir

Having received certain information that the Turnpike Barr keeper on the Glenwelt Road West of Hexham has obstructed the Carriers of Lead employed by the Governors of Greenwich Hospital on Acct. of those Carriers refusing a Toll every time they pass loaden thro' the Barr tho' with the same Carriage and Horses and in the same day, we have upon this occasion thought proper to take Councils Opinion and are clearly advised 'That no Person is liable to pay the Tolls for passing thro' the Turnpike Barr more than once in the same day with the same Carriage and the same Horses how often soever he hath occasion to pass thro' the same.'

We give you the trouble of this Letter to desire you will inform the Commissioners of the Glenwelt Road with the above and that the Question whether those Carriages are liable to pay more than once in the same day or not, is intended to be tryed by proceeding against the Barr keeper and this you will be so obliging as do as soon as possible.

The Commissioners will be pleased to consider that great damages may happen to the Governor of Greenwich Hospital by that Lead being prevented getting to Markett which must be expected to be made good in case it should be determined that the Carriers are not liable to pay more than once in a day and there seems little doubt of such a determination. If therefore the Commissioners think proper to give an order to the Gate keeper to let the Carriages pass taking an Account of the several Times they do so in a day til the matter is determined; we will on behalf of the Carriers undertake to pay for the several Times they pass more than once in a day if the Question should be determined against them.

It is possible that the Barr keeper has asked in the above manner without directions and that the Commissioners may disapprove of the measures he has adopted, if so, and matters are set right immediately we shall let what has been done pass without notice but otherwise the loss by the Obstructions already made will certainly come under consideration. Your early Answer will very much oblige

Sir your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

22 Sep 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 22nd September 1770

Dear Sir

Yesterdays Post brought me your favor of the 18th instant acknowledging the Receipt of the Box which we wrote about the 16th instant and I have this day drawn upon you for £93.28.11 being for 310 Ounces of Bullion at 6s 1/2d P Ozs & Six Shillings for Carriage.

We shall have another Cake of Silver by the latter end of this Month about the above Size but of that I am not yet quite certain not having had an Assay made. I am

Dear Sir

Your most Hble Servt

Nich Walton Junr

Farnacres 22nd September 1770

Sir. Ten days after date Pay to Mssrs Bell Cookson Carr Airey & Saint or their Order Ninety three Pounds Eighteen Shillings and Eleven Pence - Value received as advised by Sir your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes – Watchmaker London

Delivered the Bank this Day

23 Sep 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

To John Ibbetson Esqr. (A Part).

Farnacres 23rd September 1770

Sir

The Carriers of the Hospitals Lead have lately been obstructed in passing along the Glenwelt Turnpike Road near Hexham in their way from Langley Mill to that place but we are in hopes of getting the matter very soon settled: we notwithstanding think it necessary to acquaint the Board with what has been done as the Directors may think it proper to be advised further. A Case has been Stated by the Hospitals Solicitors in this part of the Country and laid before Councillor Fawcett who has given an Opinion in consequence of which we have wrote to the Secretary of the said Road a Copy of the Letter to the Secretary and of the Case & Opinion you have inclosed and we shall be glad what we have done is approved by the Board.

The Act for the Glenwelt Road was passed in the <_> of George the Second and is intituled 'An Act for Repairing and Widening the Road leading from a part of the Road (directed to be repaired by an Act passed, in the last Session of Parliament from Carlisle to Newcastle upon Tyne) near Glenwelt to another part of the said Road so making from Carlisle to Newcastle) upon Shildon Common in the County of Northumberland.

23 Sep 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Smeaton

Part of Mr Walton Junrs. Letter of 23rd September 1770 to Mr Smeaton

I have attentively considered that part of your Letter relative to the Mill and Mill Agents and so entirely concurr with you in Opinion that I think it cannot be put better than in the way you mention. In the meantime I will endeavour to be informed what the Company have done by getting some Person to make the Enquiry, without you think we might ask Mr Tweedale the Question notwithstanding his appearing averse to let us into the Secret. I should like to have your thoughts on this point.

Willie Laybourne came here very Opportunely this Morning and I have given him directions about the Ring of the Wheel for fixing the Kamms and it will be made Six Inches thick, and the points secured with Bolts and Nales indeed the latter was intended at first but is not properly expressed in the Sketch sent you. There is no doubt of Room for the Kamm Wheel and we have fixed upon Eight Kamms. The Treddles are at present so fixed that the Kamms take when they come to the Center and we think it will be only necessary to Shorten the Treddles and the Kamms will take hold thereof as soon as they get down to the Center as at present. If we are wrong you will be so good as give us another hint for as to my own part I am but a poor Mechanic and suppose we may misunderstand the matter.

25 Sep 1770 Nicholas Walton to Christopher Bell

Part of Mr Walton Junrs. Letter of 25th September 1770 to Mr Chris Bell

Til some answer is got from the Commissioners of the Glenwelt Road I think it will be perfectly right for the Carriers to ommit offering the Lead twice a day or as often as they please; the first time they come to the Barr each day I suppose they will be let thro' paying for the Carriage and Horses; the Second time they will I apprehend be stopped without they pay a gain and so on. Now I would have the Carriers after being refused the Second time to to unload their Carriages and lay their Lead upon any Ground near the Turnpike Barr where they can get leave from the Owners and immediately to return got more Lead and offer a third, it as many times more as they can, conveniently, doing as last mentioned every time they are refused passing without paying after the first time the same day with the same Cart and same Horses. Pray let

Mr Mulcaster know this immediately if you can come at the foundation for giving the Barr keeper Orders to make the Lead Carriers pay twice or as often as they come thro' the Barr loaden pray do. Perhaps you may hear something from Mr Hunter and you may have an opportunity of asking him any time you meet him by accident. If the Carriers have not a right to go thro' the Gate as often as they will in a day with the same Cart and same Horses paying only one. There is no such thing as a Law about the Glenwelt Road

25 Sep 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Jobling

Part of Mr Walton Junrs. Letter of 25th September 1770 to Mr Jno. Jobling

I desire youll be expeditious as possible in getting the measures of the Roads compleated and let me know how the distances turn out. The Weather is indeed so bad that there's scarce doing anything.

25 Sep 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 25th September 1770

I have sent you (or rather desired Wm. Laybourne to pay you) Thirty Pounds and indeed upon considering your Letter on second reading I think I should have sent you One Hundred Pounds for as you have laid out £100 more than you have had on Account you ought to have had that - I desire for the time to come you will always call for Money when you want it as it is at all Times ready for you.

You must see Mr Bell about the Carriage, as I have wrote him by Mr. Laybourne and you may then consult together, til then follow your last Directions. I am

Your Hble Servt.

NW Junr.

PS Neither of the Sorts of Slag Lead you last sent Assays of are Refineable and you may send them to Markett as you find most convenient.

27 Sep 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr. Mulcaster.

Farnacres 27th September 1770

As the Man at the Turnpike Gate has Orders to let the Carriages pass taking notice how often they do so in a day and only to take pay once a day there is no Occasion for

you to do any thing now but get an Account from the Carriage Men how often they pass every day In order that we may be enabled to check Mr Benjamins Acct.

I have reced your Letters and think what you have done in consequence of my Letter inclosing the Case etc quite right and I very much approve of your case about the Litharge the last Quantity is indeed amazingly rich. I am

Your Hble Servt

Nich Walton Junr.

28 Sep 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 28th September 1770

I have this day tryed the Weight of the Assays and find the Produce to be as follows:

	Oz	Dwt	Gns
No. 1 per fodder	7	16	19 2/10
No. 2 per Do	28	18	4 8/10
No. 3 per do	345	16	8 4/10

From this it is Evident that all the Litharge which comes from the Silver Test should be kept by itself and Refined over again and it shows that the several Tests (from which the pieces are drawn after afterwards those put into the Silver Test) should not be drawn too low, for if that is done a Quantity of Silver must come off with the Litharge, and indeed by way of curiosity I should like that you would keep parcels of the last Litharge which runs from every Test in the next Operation before such Tests are draw and make Assays of each Quantity. I am

Your dear Hble Servt

Nich Walton Junr

PS I should like to know how much Lead may be produced from the Litharge taken from a Silver Test containing the Silver of 160 Fodders and therefore desire youll give it a guess.

28 Sep 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Smeaton

Part of Mr Walton Jnrs Letter of 28th September 1770 to Mr Smeaton

Copy of Walton & Smeatons Letter of 28th September 1770 to Mr Ibbetson

Extract from Mr Mulcasters Letter of 24 September 1770 to NWalton Junr relative to Assays made from Litharge Lead.

The above were sent Mr Smeaton along with sd Letter to him.

I have wrote to Mr Mulcaster and told him I think the several Tests from whence the pieces are taken which are afterwards put into the Refining Test should not be drawn too lon before those pieces are taken lest some of the Silver should come off with the Litharge and have desired he will keep some parcells of the last Litharge which comes off those Tests and make Assays of them.

The Produce of the Assays referred to in Mr Mulcaster Letter of 24th September is as follows

	Oz Dwt Gns
No. 1 per fodder	7 16 19 2/10
No. 2 per Do	28 18 4 8/10
No. 3 per do	345 16 8 4/10

I am glad to inform you Mr Sparke has actually discovered a promising Vein of Lead Ore in carrying up a Level for Dryburn Copper Vein and has sold an Eighth of it for £200. The Lead produced from Mr Sparke's Ore gives according to his Account better than 20 Ounces PFodder.

28 Sep 1770 Nicholas Walton to Robert Lowes

[Note: See plan abstracted from TNA 65/78 included with John Ibbetson's account of the GH director's meeting of 6 Oct 1770]

To Mr Robert Lowes (a Part).

Farnacres 28th September 1770

Dear Sir

We inclose you a Sketch showing the Situation of the Roads and Carriers Farms, between Hexham and Langley Mill, and some Memorandums how the Lead Carriers are circumstanced and desire you will attend the first Meeting of the Commissioners of the Glenwelt Road and endeavour to get every thing so fixed that the Hosple. Lead Carriers may have no further interruption. We are etc

Walton & Smeaton

30 Sep 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 30th September 1770

Since I received your Letter inclosing the three last Assays, I have often thought about the Litharge taken from the Silver Test, and am in some doubt whether putting the Litharge into a Test again, before it is Reduced into Lead, is so proper as to reduce it first; so as the Litharge Swims upon the Surface of the Melted Lead in the Test, the Rich Litharge may be blown off at the Gate before it leaves the Silver, this would undoubtedly in a great measure, if not wholly, be prevented by Reducing the Rich Litharge into Lead before it is put into a Test again; and I should think in all cases where the Tests are observed to run Lead (which I have understood it requires judgement and a constant attention to prevent) that the Flats of Litharge ought to be laid by themselves, and Reduced to Lead before an attempt is made to come at the Silver in them. I think the Silver which comes off with the Litharge, when the Test does not run Lead, is itself converted into Litharge, if that is a fact, or if it is in such small Particles as to be Suspended by the Litharge of the Lead, you will consider with yourself, whether it may not continue so after being put into the Test in the State of Litharge, if it does, it must unavoidably come off without leaving the Silver behind. Upon the whole I must observe that it seems to me proper to consider those matters very well and to Refine such Lead as comes from Rich Litharge in the Silver Test. I am sure you will give the above all due attention and am

Your most Hble Servt

NW Junr

5 Oct 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 5th October 1770

Above I send you an Extract of a Letter reced here on Tuesday last and desire you will take care that the Silver is taken off as clean as possible at all Times. I have not yet heard how the Gentlemans Assay turned out, when I do, you shall be Informed til then it is not certain whether the Cake was fine or not; but I suppose there will be ground of Complaint tho' Small. I am

Your most Hble Servt

NW Junr

5 Oct 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres. 5th October 1770

Dear Sir

I reced your favor of the 29th Ult by last Tuesdays Post and am sorry to find there is a likelihood of our Bullion not turning out so fine as it ought. I have given directions to our Workmen & hope for the time to come we shall find all right. If the Assays you have sent to the Server should not prove fine we must make you an Allowance of the difference that has been Occasioned, and in time to come for such difference as may be occasioned by any thing of this kind. I shall be glad to hear from you how the Assays turn out and whether there is any and what allowance to be made for the two last pieces <Viz> that of 310 and that of 459 1/4. I believe there is a Cake of Bullion come by this days Carrier to Newcastle and it is possible you will receive it by to Morrows London Waggon.

This day I have drawn upon you for £138.14.7 being for 459 1/4 Ounces of Bullion at 6s 1/2d P Ounce.

I had a Letter from Mr Smeaton yesterday and as he says nothing about his Family I take it for granted they are all well. I am

Dear Sir your most Hble Servt

Nich. Walton Junr

Farnacres 5th October 1770

Sir, Ten days after date Pay to Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Airey & Saint or their Order One Hundred and Thirty Eight Pounds Fourteen Shillings and Seven Pence. Value received as advised by

Sir your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes. Watchmaker. London

Delivered the Bank 7th October 1770

6 Oct 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

To John Ibbetson Esq.

Farnacres 28th September 1770

Sir

Since meeting you on the 23rd instant we are informed that Orders are given to the Turnpike Barr keeper to let the Lead Carriages pass, only paying once a day til a meeting of the Commissioners of the Glenwelt Road is held, when it is supposed every thing will be Settled in a manner agreeable to the Carriers. We are

Sir your most Obed. Servts

Walton & Smeaton

6 Oct 1770 John Ibbetson

At a Meeting of the Directors of Greenwich Hospital at that place on Saturday the 6th October 1770

The Board approved of what the Receivers have done with respect to the Carriers of the Hospitals Lead having been Obstructed in passing thro' Glenwelt Turnpike Road near Hexham, in their way, from Langley Mill to that place on Account of those Carriers refusing to pay a Toll every Time they pass laden thro' the Barr, and hope to hear the same will be properly settled at the next meeting of the Commissioners

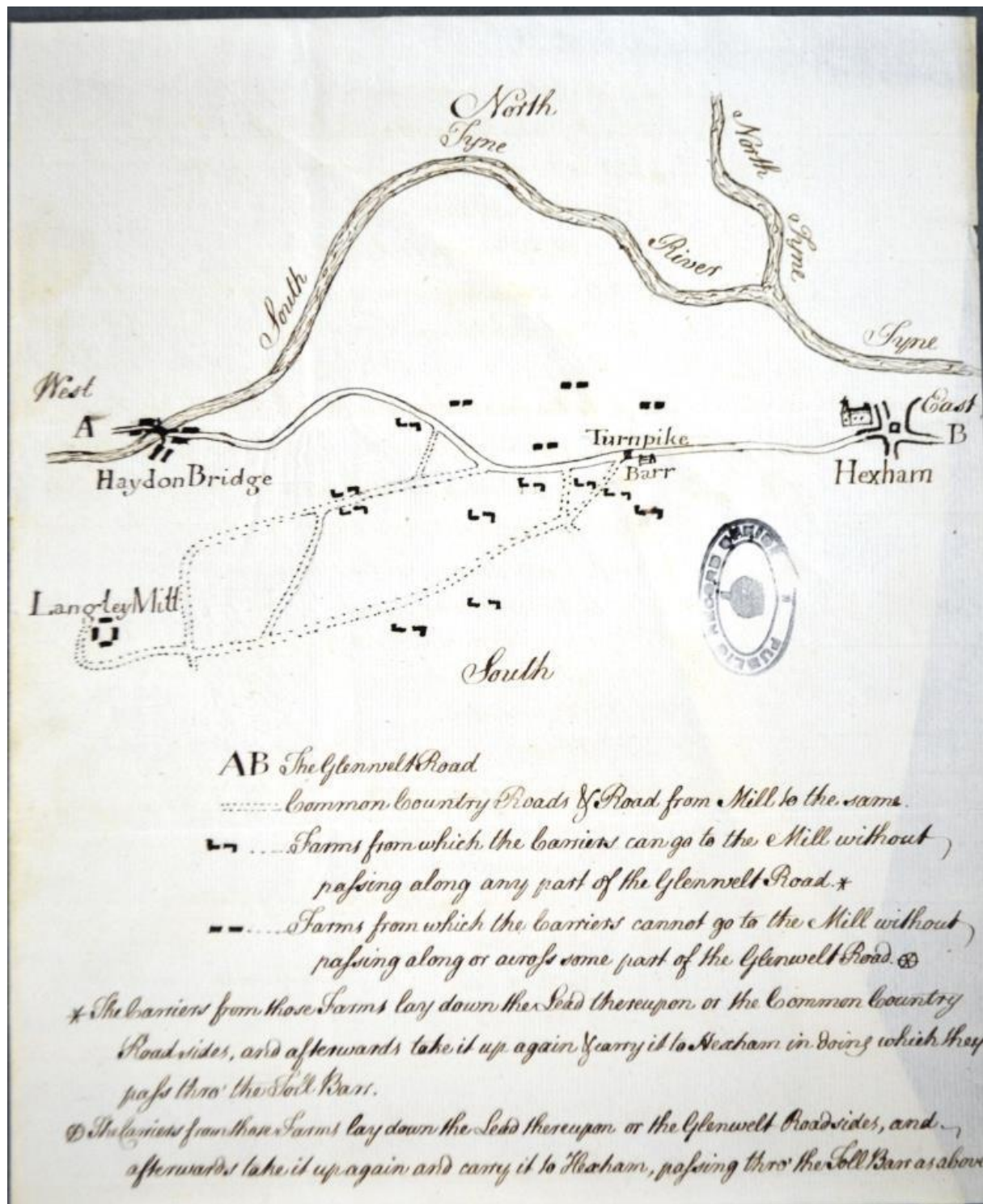
Some Carriers bring the Lead from the Mill (on their Road to Hexham) in Carriages and lay it down on the Grounds which they Farm and by the sides of the Common Country Roads, adjoining and leading to the Glenwelt Turnpike Road, but so as not to Obstruct the Passages or Passengers of any kind. This those Carriers of the Lead do without ever coming upon the Glenwelt Road at all, and after they have got a stock of Lead in hand at home, or upon the Roadsides as abovementioned, at their convenience they take the Lead up again, and carry it to Hexham, in doing of which they pass along part of the Glenwelt Road and some days will make two or more turns to Hexham thro' a Toll Barr erected on the said Turnpike Road. Vide Plan.

Other Carriers bring the Lead from the said Mill and lay it on their Farms and by the sides of the Glenwelt Turnpike Road, but do as not to obstruct the passage therein; Those Carriages with Lead pass along part of the Glenwelt Turnpike Road to and from the Mill, but not thro' the Toll Barrs; and after they have got a stock in hand at home or upon the Glenwelt Road sides they at their take up the Lead again and carry it to Hexham as above.

The Carriers generally use three Horses in their Carts in bringing the Lead from the Mill to their Farms and the Road sides but only make use of two in Common to draw the Cart from thence to Hexham.

NB. IN some instances the above Carriers employ Persons living in Hexham to take up the Lead lying in the above places to carry the same to Hexham with Carts or Wains; in doing of which they pass along the Glenwelt Turnpike Road, and thro' the Toll Gate twice or oftener in some days, with the same Carriage and Horses.

The Persons carrying the Lead insist they ought only to pay once a day for each Carriage passing thro' the Toll Barr and that they have a right by the Act to pass as many times as they please in a day, paying once.



14 Oct 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 14th October 1770

I desire youll fix the matter with Mr Naisbett as you think proper only in all dealings at the Mill nothing less than ready Money must be expected and I think we

should not Sell any of Crossgillhead Lead Ore. I have reason to believe you will soon see Mr Hilton, as I am sorry to inform you his Brother is Dead. I am

Your most Hble Servt

Nich Walton Junr

15 Oct 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes

Farnacres 15th October 1770

Dear Sir

On Saturday sennit I sent you by the London Carrier a Box containing 384 1/2 Ounces of Bullion, including a small piece uncut, which from the colour will I hope prove very fine. I expect the pleasure of Mr Smeatons Company here this day. I am with best Compliments

Dear Sir your most Hble Servt

Nich Walton Junr

PS. The Carriage of the above Box is not paid.

22 Oct 1770 Nicholas Walton to Newham Nicholson

To Mr Newham Nicholson.

Hexham 22nd October 1770

Mr Nicholson

As we propose making the Lead Mill Pay upon Monday and Tuesday the 29th and 30th of this Month we must desire you will be so obliging as not to fail sending us an Amount of what Lead has been delivered at Newcastle since 23rd March last and by whom and this you will do by the Post of Sunday first.

If the Carriers should deliver any Lead on Monday the 29th you will give us an Account thereof by Corbett or any of the Hexham Carriers that come to Newcastle that day and if by any accident the Carriers should go from Newcastle before you have an opportunity of delivering this last mentioned Account a Messenger sent to Denton Burn on Monday Evening will find the Carriers at that place.

You mentioned to Mr Walton that some Pigs appeared to be Short when the Warehouse was last overhauled; if you have reason to Suspect any Carrier or Carriers of reporting more than they really delivered, you are desired to inform us thereof together with the grounds for such Suspicion. We are

Your Hble Servts

Nich. Walton Junr & J Smeaton

PS. The Bone Ashes should be sent up to the Mill immediately if they are not already come away.

3 Nov 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 3d November 1770

We inclose herewith your Recet. for Fifty Pounds and according to Promise have sent you a Ream of Papers by Corbett.

The Assays No. 13 and 14 turned out as below.

	Oz	Dw	Gn	
No. 13	33	11	7 2/10	p Fodder
No. 14	440			p Fodder

The Assays for Operation ending the 27th give 7 oz 14 dwt 8 4/10 Gns P Fodder. The Piece of Silver Weighed 582 1/2 Ounces, to have answered the Assay exactly for 76 Fodders should have been 586.10.14 4/10 which is 4 oz 14 4/10 gns short and very good Work too. As to the Assays of the Litharge taken [sic] from each Working Test they only Weigh 58 Eightieth parts of a Grain together which is just Equal to 1 oz 15 Dwt 12 6/10 Gns P Fodder.

We are Your Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

Reced 7th October 1770 of Messrs Walton & Smeaton Fifty Pounds for which I promise to be Accountable. Witness my Hand

Peter Mulcaster

4 Nov 1770 Nicholas Walton to Christopher Bell

Part of Messrs Walton & Smeatons Letter of 4th Novemr, 1770 to Mr Chr Bell

Upon looking over the Lead Carriers Accounts we find James Johnson is paid 10s too much and Wm Pattison 10s too little being only mistakes in the casting up of their Accounts. It will oblige us if you will take the first opportunity of acquainting those Carriers with the above mistakes and that we shall expect to have them rectified at the next Pay or sooner as shall be found most convenient.

5 Nov 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes

Farnacres 5th November 1770

Dear Sir

We have this day Drawn upon you for £46.3 being the amount of the last Silver received by you Viz. 384 1/2 Oz at 6s..1/2d.

By last Saturdays Carrier we sent you a Box containing Five Hundred and Eighty two and one half ounces of Bullion which will be at London on Saturday <Sennit?>. The Carriage is not paid.

Youll Observe we have not made the Allowance of 7s/8d this time; we intended to have deducted it out of the Value of the last Silver you received but forgot it til the Bill was drawn and Copied, you will therefore excuse us til we draw for the Bullion now on the Road. We join in best respects to yourself Mrs Holmes and the Family and are

Dear Sir your most Hble Servts

Nich Walton Junr

J Smeaton

PS We have been so much engaged lately that we have not had time to enquire about the price of Silver at Newcastle but you may depend upon being informed in our next.

Farnacres 5th November 1770

Sir, Ten days after date Pay to Messrs Bell, Cookson, Carr, Airey & Saint or their Order One Hundred and Sixteen Pounds Three Shillings Value received as advised by Sir your most Hble Servants

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes. Strand London

10 Novm pd to Bank

9 Nov 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 9th November 1770

We have examined the several Operation Papers since the 26th of May last and find the following Mistakes which we have rectified and desire youll do the same with the Copies kept by you in case you find the Alterations agree with your Accounts.

In the Operation ending the 26th May you had set down 331 Pieces of Refineable Slag Lead as made within the Operation ending then and 1123 Pieces as Stock which if you had really made 331 pieces would have been right but as it appears you only made 231 Pieces the Stock should have only been 1023 and the Quantity made 231. The

Quantity of 1023 added to 102 made in Operation ending 30th June makes together 1125 which is the Quantity that appears to have been Smelted and Refined.

In the Operation ending the 26th May the Stock of Refined Lead was 3180 pieces. Lead Refined the following Operation 814 pieces together 3914.

Sent to Newcastle 1989 &

sold at the Mill 1990

1924 Stock you have it 1925

Your stock of Refined Lead 28th July is 1327 & shd be 1326

Your stock of Refined Lead 25th Aug is 1347 & shd be 1346

Your stock of Refined Lead 29th Sept is 1357 & shd be 1356

This mistake being found out makes up the loss of one of your pigs and if Pattison got the others all is right. We are

Your hble servts

N. Walton Junr

J. Smeaton

The stock of ore 29th Sept 1770

Rampgill 446 bings 4 cwt examine whether it shd not be 450.4

The whole quantity delivered from Rampgill by the last Operation

bings cwt

804

Smelted by Operation ended 25th August 108.4

Do 29th Septem 245 353.4

Shd be stock 450.4

10 Nov 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

Part of Messrs Walton & Smeatons Letter of 10th November 1770 to

John Ibbetson Esq

In our Letter of the 20th April 1768 giving an Account by the Boards Order of the Agents necessary to be employed in establishing the Lead Mill, together with their Salaries, we particularly mentd. That the two new ones would be necessary, Viz a Mill Agent for taking Charge of the Works at the Mill, and a Clerk of the Deliverys of the Ore at Alston Moor; To the former we recommended Mr Peter Mulcaster, and respecting his Salary, expressed ourselves as follows 'The (Lead) Company at present give their Mill Agents £30 PYear an House to Live in, and Coals for Fire: they generally have 2 or 3 Acres of Land at a Moderate price to keep a Cow. Peter Mulcaster is willing to serve the Hospital for the same price and advantages, but as it is expected that the Company will shortly raise their Agents Salaries he will expect to be raised in the same

proportions and indeed considering the degree of experience skill and attention that is necessary to form a good Mill Agent we cannot but be surprised at the Smallness of the Salary, and accordingly should have recommended it to the Directors to have given more had it not carried the appearance of unhinging the Agents of others.

We have now had between two and three years Tryal of Mr Mulcaster and believe him perfectly honest. He is Sober, Diligent, Careful, Attentive, Sensible and Tractable, quite Master of the Refinery Business, in which he was bred, with as much general knowledge of the other Branches as we could expect in any Person, who had not been an Agent before. In short we look upon the Commissioners and ourselves as happy in the Choice of this Person, having the pleasure to think that the Hospitals Lead Mill notwithstanding its new establishment, is upon as good a footing and the busyness done upon as good Terms, as any in this Country, and are not without hopes we shall still further improve it by the care and attention of our Agent to the Minutest Article.

We now beg leave to acquaint the Board that having received undoubted intelligence, that the Lead Company have raised the greatest part, if not all of their Agents Salarys in these parts, and particularly those of their Mill Agents Mr Mulcaster being engaged by the Boards order, upon the Terms abovementioned seems naturally entituled to a rise of his Salary, for which he has applied.

We apprehend he would be contented for the present by a rise of £10 a Year, but as he has more busyness upon his hands than any single Mill Agent that we know of in this Country; and gives up his whole time and attention to it, we look upon it, that it would be for the Hospitals Service to raise his Salary at once to £50 a year; which would make him quite happy and fixed in his Situation; and prevent the necessity of troubling the Board again upon this head, in a short space of time, and as the Companys Agents have affected a kind of Secrecy respecting this matter, so that we do not directly know what they have done yet have good reason to think that some, who are not Agents at their principal Mills, have £40 a year, they cannot blame the Board of Directors, if it should happen that the Hospitals Salary should a little exceed their own and considering the general rise of the necessarys of Life has been so great in this Country, within the last half dozen years something of this kind seems absolutely necessary to enable the Agent to live a degree better than the Workmen employed under him.

On this Occasion we also beg leave to mention the Clerk of the Deliveries of Ore in Alston Moor whose Salary on Account his being an Assistant to the Moor Master the Board was pleased to fix at £30 P Year which was indeed the highest Salary we at that time thought it necessary or proper to recommend as being somewhat upon a Par with the like Agents of the Company; but as he has been obliged to keep an Horse on Account of the Distance of the Different Mines which the Companys Agents, on Account of their having their districts Assigned them, and their Work being more in a place, are not under a necessity of doing; as the Companys Agents in Alston Moor have be raised as abovementioned and as Mr Joseph Hilton has proved himself very useful and assisting in every branch of his department and ever ready on all Occasions and in reality is a Young Man of real Merit, we beg leave to acquaint the Board that we look

upon it for the Hospitals Interest to fix such a Man in their Service and for the reasons abovementioned beg leave to recommend that £10 P Ann. should be added to his Salary. The only objection we see to this will be a sort of impropriety that he will then be equal to the Moor Master that is, the Moor Master and his Assistant are Father and Son, and upon the best Terms, the above may be obviated by the addition of Salary being granted to the Moor Master whose appointment in future will then be no more then on a respectable footing and on condition that this addition be paid from the present Moor Master to the present Deputy which will preserve the proper balance.

Part of PS to the above Lre

We understand that the additional payment of the Company's Salary was made at Midsummer last

12 Nov 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

Part of Messrs Walton & Smeatons Letter of 12th Novemr. 1770 to Jn Ibbetson Esq

We understand that the Commissioners of the Glenwelt Turnpike Road at an advertised meeting for taking into consideration the mode of carrying Lead thro' Summerrodds Barr in order to avoid Payment of Tolls have come to a resolution of taking the Opinion of two of the most Eminent Council in the Kingdom, but that the case is to be communicated to us before it is sent. We have already apprized the Board of the merits of this Affair in our Letter of 23d September last with Councillor Fawcetts Opinion upon a Case stated here, and as the Act of Parliament says expressly 'that no Person shall be liable or compelled the same day to pay the said 'Tolls more than once' we cannot advise the Hospital to Subject their Lead Carriers Voluntarily to pay the Toll twice thrice or four times a day for going two Miles upon the Road when any other Person pursuing the Road can go 17 Miles for the same Toll: nay so Sollicitous have the Commissioners been to raise a Toll by catching every body as much as possible, that the three Barrs, which are the whole upon this Road whose Total length is 25 Miles, are all within 4 Miles of Hexham.

Inclosed we have sent a Short State of the Lead Mill Accounts wherein tho' there are some lesser matters that depend on Estimation, as must always be the case in a Work going on, yet as we have chosen such a Period as brings the whole into the smallest compass possible, we flatter ourselves that this concise View of the Understanding will enable the Directors to judge of the several matters proposed concerning the Lead Mill Agents in our last Letter of the 10th Instant better than any further Enlargement thereon only we beg leave to observe that the last bidding of the Lead Company was but 52s P Bing when Lead sold for £14.15 P Fodder whereas the average price almost ever since being about £14 we chose to fix the Price upon what it has actually Sold for, all biddings before hand being matters of Speculation, in which the bidder may be over or under as it happens to turn out from Changes and Chances to him unknown.

An Acct Showing the Produce from Langley Lead Mill from the Outset to the 29th May 1770 and taking in the Expende of Smelting & all Charges on the Lead Ore received from the Mines in Alston Moor the years 1768 and 1769.

Value of Lead, Bullion etc Produced	£24,532.18.10
Deduct	

Charge of Carriage of Ore Smelting, Refining & other Charges at the Mill, Carriage of Lead and Bullion to Newcastle and Commission and other Charges at Newcastle including the whole Expenditure on the above Account.	5,644.18. 2
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Net produce from 6951 bings 4 5/10 of ore	£18,888. . 8
---	--------------

The above ore according to the price of Lead should Have sold as follows

6678 bings 3/10 Cwt of Bouse ore at 52s	£17,362.17.11
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273 bings & 4 2/10 cwt of Cutting ore

At 47s per bing	642.15. 8	£18,005.13. 7
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Profit by Smelting and Refining.	£882. 7. 1
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NB The Mill being built by the Hospital in order to enable the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital to Sell their Dues to the best advantage, the Mill Rent is not considered in the above Sum; but if 5 PCent upon a Capital of £2000 be applied as a Rent of the Mill, the Wear and Tear being principally accounted for in the above Expenditure, then for Two years Rent deduct.

200

Profit remaining after all the disadvantages of a beginning Work	£682. 7. 1
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Farnacres 12th November 1770

Errors Excepted

Nich Walton Junr

J. Smeaton

PS to Mr Robt Lowes 13th November

We should be glad to know as much as ought to be known without Books, what was enacted at the Turnpike Meeting concerning the Lead going thro' Summerrodds Barr to avoid the Payment of Tolls.

14 Nov 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

Part of Messrs Walton & Smeatons Letter of 14th November 1770 to John Ibbetson Esq.

The Lead Mill Agent represents that as the Weather often proves so precarious, as if to admit of Winning one years Stack of Peats every Summer, and on that Account it being necessary to have been a considerable Quantity before hand; it would be a great saving in the use of them if one had Peat Houses to contain a double Quantity to what we have Housing for at present, there being necessarily a great Waste in using those in wet Seasons, which are Stacked out of Doors on Account of the Wet Spoiling a considerable part of them. We Estimate an additional new Peat House of 36 feet long by 24 wide inside measure, and Seventeen feet high, including foundation, being equal in capacity to the two that are there at present to cost £61.7.8 exclusive of Carriage of Materials and which we recommend to the Directors to put in Execution as the ensuing Season will admit of.

16 Nov 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 16th November 1770

Your Letter with the Operation for last Month came safe to hand and having examined the Operation we stil find you have one piece of Refined Lead more in Stock than you should have considering the Quantity made according to your Account and the Quantity delivd. and Sold at the Mill. The Stock of Rampgill Ore in the last Operation is 319 Bings 2 Cwt by the Quantity received and Smelted it should be 323.2 agreeing with the Observations in our last Letter. As there were 2 Bing 4Cwt of Old Cowslitts Ore overcharged in former Operations, the Quantity Smelted to leave 82 Bings 6 Cwt shd. have been 949B 4Cwt Viz.

			B Cwt
Ore reported to be recd from Mr Wilkinson's Mines			953 2
to 19 Sep 1770			
Deduct overcharged in Old Cowslitts			2 4
			950 6
Recd from Do from thence to 27 October			81 4
			1,032 2
Smelted as of operation 30 June	455 3		
28 July	375 3		
25 Aug	121 2		
Overmuch by	2 4	118 6	949 4
Stock by Operation of 27 October			82 6

after you have considered those remarks and also those contained in our Letter of the 9th instant pray let us hear from you and we will set the whole to right.

We shall write to the Commissioners about an additional Peat House and are
Your Hble Servts

Nich Walton Junr

J Smeaton

PS We have wrote to the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital in behalf of your application to us for an Increase of Salary.

16 Nov 1770 Nicholas Walton to Christopher Bell

Mr Chriss. Bell.

Farnacres 16th November 1770

Mr Bell

As soon as our other Business would permit we took under our consideration the Lead Carriage between Langley Lead Mill and the Hospitals Warehouse in Newcastle and have determined to make an advance of One Penny Per Piece, the prices and conditions as below and you are desired to acquaint all the Carriers with this alteration. We are Sir your most Hble Servts

Nich Walton Junr

J Smeaton

PS You must inform the Carriers that the Lead Carriage from the Mill will be Stopped at Christmas til the whole of the Lead delivered to that time shall be got to Newcastle and the sooner the Carriers get that done the better for them as we shall make a clear Pay immediately afterwards, let the Time be when it will.

	Per piece d
From Langley Mill to Hexham	4 1/2
From Hexham to warehouse in Newcastle	9 1/2
From Hexham to Newburn	8 1/2
NB The Bankage at Newburn must be paid out of the 8 1/2d	
From Newburn to the Warehouse at Newcastle	1

The above alteration to take place from last pay
Duplicate of the above sent Mr Mulcaster at same time.

24 Nov 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 24th November 1770

Dear Sir

I reced. your obliging favor of the 19th instant by Thursdays Post and have this day drawn upon you for £175.11.7 being the Balance of Account due from you as below. I take no notice of the Five Penny Weight as I intend to let them remain for any small deficiencies which may hereafter come in the way.

Silver now Sells at Newcastle for Six Shillings POz and has done so for many Weeks but how long I cannot learn yet.

I believe we shall scarce send another Cake of Bullion til the new year comes in, our Works having been Stopped lately by some alterations in the Machinery. I am for Mr Smeaton and Self

Dear Sir your obliged Hble Servt
Nich Walton Junr

528 1/2 ounces of Bullion at 6s 1/2 d	£175 19 3 [struck out '1/4']
Allowance for piece weighing 310 Oz on	
acct of its not happening to prove fine	7 8
Balance	£175 11 7

Farnacres 24th November 1770

Sir Ten days after date Pay to the Order of Mr Chr. Stevenson One Hundred and Seventy Five Pounds Eleven Shillings and Seven Pence. Value received as advised by Sir you most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes Strand London
Delivered the Bank this day.

2 Dec 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Smeaton

Part of Mr Walton Junrs Letter of 2nd December 1770 to Mr Smeaton

The Weather has been tollerable last Week. Monday a fine day - Tuesday Snow and Sleet all day - Wednesday, Thursday and Friday fine - Saturday Cold but fair til about Seven o Clock when it began to rain and continued til past Eleven when I went to my Chamber. This day fine, but promises some kind of Fall before tomorrow morning. In general the whole Week Colder than Common at this Season. They have already had more Snow at Langley Mill than at any one time before since Mr Mulcasters arrival there.

I am now naturally led to turn my thoughts to our Operations at the Lead Mill and as I think every thing has turned exactly right at the Stamp Mill but yet that Mr Mulcaster does not altogether seem to be of the same Opinion. I notwithstanding send

you the Paragraph in his Letter, by which it appears what we meant to do, has been executed according to directions. He says 'We have tryed the Stamp Mill and Refining to go together and find that now the Refining will be as much too slow for the Stamp Mill as it was too Swift before, however it is the better way of the two for the Stamp Mill will be doing something while the Refining is at Work whereas before she could do nothing; had the Refiners had only Six in the room of Eight Kamms I believe they would have gone pretty regular together; however as they now are the Troughs are capable of carrying Water enough for both Works, for the Stamp Mill is going at her common Working pace, the Refiners for their Washing have not Occasion to add any more Water as the Refining can do with when it and the Stamp Mill are both at Work together.'

Robson the Washer at the Lead Mill who had the small Pox was, when I heard from Mr Mulcaster, in a hopeful way of Recovery.

9 Dec 1770 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 9th Decemr. 1770

I received your Letters of the 25th and 28th Ult as also the Operation for November and approve of what you propose about the Refining; I think if it had been otherwise settled than you have done it, it would have been wrong.

From your Account of the Alteration of the Refinery Wheel every thing turns out exactly right and as Mr Smeaton proposed and must remain so til we see it necessary to alter it which I do not expect. The Stamp Mill will surely do half as much Work when she Works with the Refinery as when she works by herself and that was all we intended and you will not perhaps suppose that if there were only Six Kamms in the Refinery Wheel it would take a full third more Water to Work the Refinery and Stampers together than it does now.

I am glad to hear John Robson is getting so finely and very much approve of your getting an Assistant in his room til he is so well as to be able to Stand the Work.

If there is any particular inconvenience in the Stamp Mill going slow pray inform us.

I have often heard that it was reckoned good for the Grey Slags to lie some time before Smelting that they might mellow by the Action of the Air upon them, how this matter really is I cannot pretend to say but it may be that by their lying in the open Air they may burst and by that means get clear of the Lime which I have understood to be prejudicial to the Slag Hearth, that is, that the Lime is reckoned to do harm. One suppose you take a parcel of Grey Slags and Weigh them afterwards Stamp and Wash and then Smelt them in the Slag Hearth. Then take an Equal Weight and Smelt them as usual and compare the difference of Produce. This Experiment I would most certainly have you to try at any time when you find you can do it with convenience as I cant say but I have hopes of it proving advantagious to the Undertaking.

I think there is not the least Objection to the Smelters going on with the Ore as expeditiously as if there was Sufficient to last til May day for tho' they will have nothing to do after the Ore now at the Mill is finished til new Ore comes in, yet their being allowed new and at all times to make good Wages will induce them to keep themselves disengaged til new Ore does come in, and in my Opinion our Acting at all times in this way will be the likeliest to Secure a good set of Workmen

You dont mention whether you have got a place made for putting the Rich Litharge in but I notwithstanding suppose you have. I am for Mr Smeaton and Self.

Your most Hble Servt

Nich Walton Junr

PS. We should not Pay so much for Carriage of each Box of Silver from Hexham to Newcastle One Shilling or Eighteen Pence seems Sufficient; try whether you and Mr Bell cant get the price lowered the first time you accidentally fall together at Hexham.

16 Dec 1770 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 16th Decemr. 1770

Dear Sir

By the London Carrier who set out from Newcastle yesterday we sent you a Cake of Bullion Weight 401 Ounces which we hope you will receive Safe on Saturday the 29th instant.

The Family here who are all well, join me in wishing you Mrs Holmes and Family the Compliments of the ensuing Season and I am

Dear Sir your most Hble Servt

N Walton Junr

PS This Cake comes sooner than was expected and you will receive another about the middle of January.

Be so good as let me know how much it would cost me for a Thermometer of the best kind, with the frame and every thing as plain as possible.

26 Dec 1770 Nicholas Walton to Thomas Tweedale

To Mr Thomas Tweedale.

Farnacres 26th Decemr 1770

Dear Sir

As we are in want of an Experienced Workman in the Refining way at Langley Mill we take the liberty of making application to you and desire you will be so obliging if it can be done without inconvenience to the Governors and Companys Works, as let us

have one of your Workmen, qualified as above and willing to enter into the Service of Greenwich Hospital. We are

Dear Sir your most Hble Servt
Walton & Smeaton

7 Jan 1771 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres January 7th 1771

Dear Sir

This day I draw upon you for the last Cake of Silver amounting as below (Carriage inclusive) to £121.11 there was a mistake in the Person who delivered the Box not marking it Carriage paid.

Youll be kind enough to excuse my writing before this time as I waited til I could tell you with certainty when you would receive another Cake of Bullion: I can now inform you that I shall send one by this Weeks Waggon, which sets out from Newcastle on Saturday its Weight will be above 470 Ounces but how much I cant yet tell as I have not Weighed it myself. I am

Dear Sir your obliged Hble Servt
Nich Walton Junr

401 Ounces at 6s 1/2d	£121. 2.9
Carriage.	8.2
	£121.11

Farnacres 7th January 1771

Sir Ten days after Date Pay to Mr Chris Stevenson on his Order One Hundred and Twenty One Pounds Eleven Shillings. Value received as advised by Sir your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton
To Mr John Holmes Strand. London
Delivd. the Bank 8th Jan 1771

8 Jan 1771 Nicholas Walton to Newham Nicholson

To Mr Newham Nicholson.

Farnacres 8th January 1771

Mr Nicholson

Yesterday I received a Letter from Mr Mulcaster Agent at Langley Lead Mill acquainting me that he has received only 32 Casks of Bone Ashes and that there only now in the Carriers Hands 15 making together 47, these are what the Carriers say, all

they have received at the Warehouse, so there should, by this Account, now be in Mr <Laton's> custody in the Warehouse no less than 53. Total Do <recd> from London 100.

I desire you will make immediate Enquiry into this matter as for the Account you sent me, you make 19 more delivered the Carriers than they admit. Youll let me hear from you as soon as you have compleated this Enquiry.

I dont hear of any Carriers having had Bone Ashes delivered them but Corbett and Johnson. I am

Your Hble Servt

Nich Walton Junr

13 Jan 1771 Nicholas Walton to John Hodgson

To Mr John Hodgson.

Farnacres 13th January 1771

Sir

I desire youll send a Pot to Langley Mill by Corbett or Johnson Hexham Carriers, the sooner it goes the better as it is most wanted. The Size must be 10 1/2 Inches deep by 19 Inches Diameter; the thickness rather more than common, and take great care it is perfectly free from any flaw, this we depend upon you for. I am

Sir your most Hble Servt

Nich Walton Junr

24 Jan 1771 Nicholas Walton to Jonathan Hilton

To Messrs Jona. and Joseph Hilton

Farnacres 24th January 1770

Gentlemen

We reced. your report of the Lead Mines and Observe the Contents.

Joe said nothing about Hartside Colliery when he was last here; pray let us know what is doing & done at the Levell for, laying the Coal dry which was last found & how you go in otherwise.

We inclose a Paper showing the Dues wch. were wanting at Langley Mill after finishing the Carriage in 1769 & are

Your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

25 Jan 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

[Note: annealing is a heat treatment that alters the physical and sometimes chemical properties of a material to increase its ductility and reduce its hardness, making it more workable]

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 25th January 1771

I reced. your Letters of the 1st & 5th instant & think the Governor and Companys Agents have behaved very civilly upon our late application; I also think you have acted prudently in taking Joseph Wilkinson, and hope you will find him worthy of being continued. The last Cake of Silver Weighed 473 3/4 Ounces and was a very pretty clean looking piece as I have seen. By one of the Assays it shd have been 446 oz 17 Dwt 14 4/10 gr, by the other 466 9 14 4/10 so it exceeds the highest calculation about 7.5 and from its appearance it was certainly quite fine. Mr Nicholson says he was mistaken and that there are 53 Casks of Bone Ashes now in the Warehouse at Newcastle ready to be sent when the Lead Carriage begins if you can with real convenience wait so long for them. I ordered you a Pot for the Refiners to be cast rather Stronger than common and hope you will receive it soon if it is not already arrived. It is of the size you mention. Great care must be taken in the Annealing it. I shall be glad to hear the alteration of the Bellows answers the end proposed. I am for Ptner & Self

Your Hble Servt

N Walton Junr

PS. I hear some Lead has lately arrived with no mark whatever upon it.

28 Jan 1771 Nicholas Walton to Newham Nicholson

To Mr Newham Nicholson.

Farnacres 28th January 1771.

Mr Nicholson

I have examined all the Castings and find them right, or so nearly so, that they dont require being altered except the last Quantity delivered to Edw. Mosley Esq & Co. which as I have taken it down, is as follows

Decr 28th Edwd Mosley Esq & Co L 600 43 fo 3 cwt 3 qtr at 14 2/8	£613 5 10 1/2
By our casting we make it	£615 5 10 1/2

you will let me know how it should be and I will set it right.

In an Acct. I took from you on the 11th Nov. last it appears as if there was 48 pieces of Refined Lead Sold between the 24th August & the 11th Novemr. at £14.10 & Weighing 3.9.3 wch. are not taken notice of in the Acct I got last, be so obliging as

examine the whole and send me the particulars of all Lead Sold since we last Settled and including the whole Sold for which the Hospital at Greenwich have not yet been paid.

The Quantity in the last Acct I got at the Office in Pilgrim Street is 4989 Pieces from the 36th July to the 21st December both days inclusive amounting in Value to £5,101.13.5 ½ if the above are mistakes shd be the 48 pieces £52 .4.7 ¾ more [total] £5,153.18. 1 ¼

I am for Mr Smeaton and self Sir your hble Servant

N Walton Junr

PS In December when I got the acct of lead sold 11 November last the fair book where the lead Sold is entered was not then completed the whole of the lead not being then delivered.

28 Jan 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 28th January 1771

In examining your last operation for December I find by the Quantity Smelted your stock of Cowhill & Cross Vein & Old Cowslitts and Cowslitts Cross Vein shd be 3bings 3 cwt whereas it is only 3.2.

The stock 24th November	82 6
Smelted in Operation ending 29 December	79 3
Remains	3 3
But if there was really smelted 79B 4 Cwt deduct a cwt	1
	3 2

When you have looked into this pray let me know how it should be & I will set it right.

I wish to receive this Month's Operation as soon as your convenience will permit but am not in a hurry abt it. I am your Hble servt

N Walton Junr

PS. You have never said how the Sieve Bottoms Mr Smeaton sent answer; if you chuse any more let me know what sorts.

The 29th December Operation I observe has 325 Cwt pieces made from Mr Wilkinson's mines but I think you should make an Assay before they are Refined.

You have not taken notice of the particular Quantities of Cutting Ore reced from each Mine last year – that shd have been done but don't now trouble yourself about it: I would however take notice of this in future years.

If you can without much trouble let me know how much boase and how much cutting ore you reced from Middlecleugh in 1770, and the sme from Middle Cleugh Sun Veins. I should like it & the sooner the better.

28 Jan 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 28th January 1771

Since writing you yesterday I have weighed the Bullion and find it answers exactly to your Weight which is 701 $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. I have also weighed the Assays the one weighs 2 $\frac{7}{80}$ grains & the other 2 $\frac{5}{80}$ grains the average of which is 2 $\frac{6}{80}$ grains so that supposing we had worked up to the Assay the Cake of Bullion including what is in the Litharge laid by to be wrought over again, should have come to 778 $\frac{3}{4}$ Ounces or thereabouts ; from this it is clear we have not got so much Bullion this Operation as we ought to have done according to the Assay. Pray Mr Mulcaster should not we save more Litharge to work over again when the Lead is tollerable Rich in Silver than when it only produces five Grains & a Quarter P Fodder? I should think we ought but of that you are certainly the best Judge. I would not have let the above transpire to the workmen or an body else as it would only confirm the false Ideas that may be entertained in consequence of the Idle report spread since Barnatt left us; but I would most undoubtedly encourage the Workmen to use their utmost endeavours to show they can do the Work as well as ever it was done in Barnatts time or better and with your Assistance and teaching of the Workmen we now have I doubt not but we shall shortly have as good a Sett of Workmen as any in the Country. I send you an Acct of the several produces since we began Refining from which it is very evident that there is a considerable uncertainty attending the produce compared with the Assay. I expect we shall for the most part find it so and all we can look for is care added to experience and that I am satisfied of has not been nor ever will be wanting on your part. As to Barnatt trouble not yourself about him, his irregularities would have justified sever treatment he however met with a contrary behaviour from every one concerned and tho' he has at some times seemed to be very thankful for the Indulgencies granted to him yet it is probable he is not sensible of any Obligations on that or any other Acct. I notwithstanding believe him to be a good Workman and pity him exceedingly that he should be so very unfortunate in his Conduct.

The Lead Mill Pay will be done some time in April but I cannot fix yet. The Lead Carriers I will pay whenever they gat all brought in which was delivered to the end of 1770. I desire youll tell them so and hasten them to bring all in. I am for Mr Smeaton and Self

Your Hble Servt
Nich Walton Junr

PS The last Cake was a very beautiful one indeed.

An Acct showg. the produce of Bullion at Langley Mill compared with yr Assays.

Dates of operation	Quant of lead refined	Weight of each assay		Produce by assay			Real Produce		Over or (Under) the assay		
	cwt	Gr	80 th pt	oz	Dwt	Gns	oz	Dwt	Oz	Dwt	Grns
1768											
Nov 26	1428	1	50	541	9		555	10	14	1	
Dec 24	1344	1	63	560	11	4 8/10	516		(44	11	4 3/10)
1769											
Feb 25	1512	1	68 1/3	654	3		656	10	2	7	
Mar 25	2100	1	56 1/2	836	1	11	768		(68	1	11)
Apr 29	804	1	58	315	5	13 5/10	328	5	12	19	10 5/10
May 20	592	1	36	200	7	5 2/10	189	11	(10	16	5 2/10)
July 29	1512	1	61	544	1	16 2/10	606	5	62	3	7 8/10
Sep 30	1350	2	17	699	5	5 1/10	660		(39	5	5 2/10)
Oct 28	1281	1	47	474	11	8 3/10	484		9	8	15 7/10
Nov 25	1260	1	54	492	9		486	10	(5	19)	
Dec 23	1260	1	72	558	12		572	15	14	3	
1770											
Jan 27	1218	2	2	575	10	2 4/10	563	10	(12		2 4/10)
Mar 10	2268	1	59	919	9	16 8/10	995		75	10	7 2/10
Apr 28	1680	1	19	485	2		474		(11	2)	
Jun 30	1357	1	34	450	7	10 2/10	450			(7	10 2/10)
	1229	1	34	408	9	12 6/10	373		(35	9	12 4/10)
Aug 25	1257	1	5	311	12	15	310		(1	12	15)
Sep 29	1344	1	36	454	14	9 6/10	459	5	4	10	14 4/10
	1512	1	13	410	2	14 4/10	381		(39	2	14 4/10)
Oct 27	1596	1	46	586	10	14 4/10	582	10	(4		14 4/10)
Dec 29	1596	1	11	423	12	2 4/10	401		(22	12	2 /10)
	1344	1	36 1/2	456	13	8	473	15	17	1	16
1771											
Jan 26	1600	2	6	772	14	14 4/10	701	5	(71	9	14 4/10)
Short of the assay upon the whole									154	4	16 3/10

Corrected Page 138 [see letter/entry of 10 May 1771]

1 Feb 1771 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 1st February 1771

Sir

Your letyter of the 26th ulto I recd by last Tuesdays Post and have this day drawn upon you for £143.2.2 being the amount of 473 3/4 ounces of silver bullion at 6s 1/2 d p oz. I made the weight one penny weight more than you and had so fixed it in our Lead Mill accounts.

I beg my best respect to Mr and Mrs Smeaton as also yourself and family; Mr Smeaton must be so obliging as excuse my writing as I am just now setting out to attend the Funeral of my Father in Law and most worthy Friend Mr Airey who died

last Monday night to the very great concern of all connected with hime – This you will be so Obliging as communicate to Brother Smeaton and desire he will be so good as forward the Papers inclosde immediately. I am very glad to hear our good Friends arrived in Health which I most sincerely with them long to enjoy and am

Sir your most Hble Servt

Nich Walton Junr

Farnacres 1st February 1771

Sir Ten days after Date Pay to Mr Chris Stevenson on his Order One Hundred and Forty Three Pounds Two Shillings and Two Pence . Value received as advised by Sir your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes Strand. London

15 Feb 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 15th February 1771

Since receiving the three Assays you last sent I have tryed their Weight and find the Lead from whence they were taken is Refineable Viz The Test Bottom Lead now at the Mill, and 325 Cwt pieces of Mr Wilkinsons Lead, which proves richer than before.

I send you herewith an Account showing what Quantities of Middle Cleugh and Sun Veins Ore were paid Carriage for and also showing the Quantities delivered each Carrier taken from Mr J Hiltons Account, by this it appears you should have received 876 Bings from those Mines. You will set this matter right with Mr Hilton. I would not have you write to him til after you have examined the Account now sent, as you may possibly discover where the mistake is by doing that, and the sooner you do it the better.

I got your Letter of the 6th instant when I was at Hexham and have no doubt of your having heard before this time of the orders I gave there about the Carriage of the Lead.

I did observe the produce from Guddamgill Moss to be very bad but it has been nearly as bad before. I am

Your Hble Servt

NW Junr

PS. The Lead Mill Pay will be upon Thursday 26th April next and I would have the Accounts to be made up at the finishing of the Smelting of last years Ore.

26 Feb 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 26th February 1771

Your Letter of the 21st instant came to my hands on Sunday Evening and I am much concerned at the Acct of Mrs Hilton junr being so poorly but as Mr Joseph wrote to me on 23rd instant and says nothing about this I hope Mrs Hilton may be better again.

I would have you close your Accts on the last Saturday of March which will be on the 30th. If you can get all the Ore brought in last year and also the 25 Bings from Blagill Smelted against that time it will be quite agreeable that you should do so and included in the Pay Bill but if you cant compleat that Quantity I mean the 25 Bings dont touch it and only compleat last year's Quantity which I would have done at all Events ag. the 30th. As to the Tails or anything else in Stock remaining of former Quantities of Ore brought to the Mill the product must be computed as usual and as our Pay Bill will take in all to the compleating of last years Ore that will save the trouble of making out another Pay Bill as hath been heretofore done.

With regard to MiddleCleugh Ore you must do the best you can. I am for Mr Smeaton and Self

Your Hble Serrvt

NW Junr

PS If you Smelt the 25 Bings the Carriage of the Ore must be included in the Pay Bill.

27 Feb 1771 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes

Farnacres 27th February 1771

Dear Sir

I reced. both your Letters and am obliged to you for the Account you gave me of the Silver not arriving according to my first information. As to the trouble you mention giving me I had none; but am sure you had by my sending advice of the Cake going from Newcastle sooner than it realy did; however you must be kind enough to excuse that, as I realy did not know of its not going agreeable to my first intimation til the day before I wrote to Mr Smeaton acquainting it would come a Week later than I first wrote him.

I have this day drawn upon you for £211.16.8 being the amount of 701 1/4 Ounces of Bullion at 6s-1/2 and am

Dear Sir Your most Hble Servt

NW Junr

PS. I am just setting out for Berwick wth. wch. youll be so good as acquaint Bro Smeaton.

We have a good deal of Lead Soot or Fume from the Refinery at our Lead Mill but the demand for it at Newcastle is so small that we dont think it wd. it would be prudent to remove it from its present Situation unless we could see a better prospect of Sale. It has been tryed for Common <use> for Painting and found to have a much better body than white Lead. If you would at any convenient time learn what the Refiners in London settle things readily for what & Carr and to what Market you would much oblige me.

We all join in best respects to you Mr Holmes & Family & Mr & Mrs Smeaton.

Farnacres 27th February 1771

Sir Ten Days after date Pay Mr Chrissr. Stevenson or his Order Two Hundred and Eleven Pounds Sixteen Shillings and Eight Pence. Value received as advised by Sir Your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes Strand. London.

7 Mar 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 7th March 1771

I desire youll not make out the Operation til the 6th day of April inclusive which will then take in Six Weeks and I would have the Lead Mill Pay Bill to take in all to that day except you receive any Ore between this and then and I wd have that not even entered in the Operation but included in the Succeeding Operation. There must be a Computation made of what we may expect will be produced by the Litharge Slags and other Slag Hearth Ends, Ore Tails, Test Bottoms, etc remaining at the ending of the Operation the 6th of April, and I hope youll get better forward than this Weather promises, as the more you get done the less there will be to calculate. The Assays you sent turned out as follows

		Oz Dwt Gns
Operation ending the 23 ulto	1 58/80 =	8 9 1 2/10 p fodder
	1 52/80 =	8 1 16 8/10
		16 10 18
	Mean	8 5 9 p fodder
Refined led	6/80 =	7 8 4/10
No 1 Litharge	1 66/80 =	8 18 20 4/10

2 do	1 75/80 =	9 9 21
3* do	1 48/80 =	7 16 19 2/10
		26 5 12 6/10
	Mean	8 15 4 2/10 p fodder

*shd this not have been No.1

The Cake of Bullion should have been by the mean weight of Assays 694.11.12 it weighed 678 1/2 Short of Assays 16.1.12.

Wm. Laybourne is gone to get some Iron and Deals for you this day and they will come to Hexham I suppose by Mondays Carrier.

I think what you say about the Washing very proper but I fear this Weather will stop that kind of Work; if it does cannot you be Smelting those small parcels that you have so long had the trouble of entering on the Operations as Stock til Fresh Weather comes. This day is fine and fair but a hard Frost as one can expect when there is so much Sun.

I am glad you are satisfied about the two Bings of Cutting Ore you mention to have been delivered by Matthew Wilkinson Junr. as I am to hear that Mrs Hilton is better than she was. I am Your most Hble Servt.

NW Junr.

PS in your making out the Pay Bills formerly the Accts for Smelting Ore are thus.

	Refineable Lead		Common Lead	
	Fodders	Pieces of 1 cwt	Fodders	Pieces of 1 1/2 cwt
William Liddle	20	4	39	1 1/2 at 6s P Fdr

For the future let it be

	Refineable Lead		Common Lead	
	Fodders	cwt	Fodders	cwt
Wm Liddle	20	4	39	1 1/2 at 6s P Fdr

You are stil one piece over in Stock of Refble. wch I suppose to be right.

8 Mar 1771 Nicholas Walton to Jonathan Hilton

To Messrs. Jona. & Jos. Hilton.

Farnacres 8th March 1771

Mr Hiltons

As I dont know how soon the Accts of Lead Ore delivered at Langley Mill last year may be wanted by the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital I desire you will no longer delay sending it to me as the Michs. Accounts must certainly be finished now; if

they are not I beg you will take every step in your power to get them finished & send them with the above amount of delivery as soon as you can.

The Devil has undoubtedly cast his Club over Hartside Colliery & I heartily wish we had never seen her. Do as you propose at as little expence as possible.

I am glad to hear by Mr Mulcaster that Mrs Joseph is gott better again, I hope you will be able to inform me in your next of all Friends being well. I am Gents

Your Affect. Hble Servt

N W Junr

PS. Joe will remember the Acct of delivery to Langley Mill must show the Dues of each Mine in Bouse & Cutting Ore. The Delivery from each. Mine in Bouse & Cutting Ore ; and what is wanting from each Mine in Bouse & Cutting Ore for Dues in one year ending at Mich 1770.

10 Mar 1771 Nicholas Walton to Christopher Bell

Part of Postscript of Messrs Walton & Smeatons Letter of 10 Mar 1771 to Mr Chr Bell

I beg to know by return of Post what Lead is in Hexham and on the Road between the Mill and there and between Hexham & Newburn as near as you can come at it; & I desire youll get all down as fast as possible. If the Dilston and Thornbrough people can give us one day more a piece from Hexham I should like it, but dont desire it without you see it necessary. You may tell the Carriers that unless they use the utmost dispatch we will not make a Lead Carriers Pay til October & then only pay for what was delivered to the latter end of December last when the Carriage was stopped at the Mill

N Walton Junr

11 Mar 1771 Nicholas Walton to Joseph Hilton

To Mr Joseph Hilton

Farnacres 11th March 1771

Dear Joe

We intend having the Lead Mill Pay at Hexham on Thursday the 25th of next Month and desire youll give Mr Mulcaster such assistance as he may have Occasion for in preparing the Pay Bill.

You are desired to give Notice to Mr Soppett that we shall not be at Alston this Spring Recet & therefore he is to bring or send the Lowbyer Rent to Hexham against Monday or Tuesday the 22nd & 23rd of next Month when we shall be Receiving the Rents at that place.

You will be at Hexham on Tuesday Evening the 23rd of next Month as we shall the day following have to make every thing ready for the Pay, and as soon as the Lead

Carriers have finished the Carriage of last years Lead, a Pay will be made them, at which we must have your assistance. That will I expect be some time this Month and you shall have Notice as soon as the Carriage is compleated. We are

Your Hble Servts

W & S

17 Mar 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 17th. March 1771

I propose making the Lead Carriers Pay on Wednesday the 27th instant of which I desire youll give Notice to all the Carriers immediately. You must bring your Books with you wherein the Carriers acknowledge to be accountable for the Lead they receive and the Books wherein the Tickets and Checks are.

As to the Stamp Mill or any other Work that is done before the Lead Mill Pay which does not relate to what Ore we receive this Year I would have you include it in the Operation ending the 6th of April, & consequently in the Pay Bill; and with regard to the Silver you may take it off all together.

The Lead Mill Pay Bill will certainly be on the 27th of April.

Your Hble Servt

NW Junr

PS I think it will be right to give publick Notice of the Lead Carriers Pay at Hexham on the Markett day (Tuesday first.) & desire youll do so pray see Mr Bell ab. this as I have wrote to him ab. it.

17 Mar 1771 Nicholas Walton to Christopher Bell

To Mr Chr Bell

Farnacres 17 March 1771

Mr Bell

The Lead Carriers are to be pd. on the 27th being Wednesday Sennit and I desire youll give Notice to such Carriers as come in your way immediately. I am

Your Hble Servt

NW Junr

PS Pray send the inclosed to Mr Mulcaster tomorrow as he is desired to give publick Notice of the Lead Carriers Pay on Tuesday. If by any means he sh be prevented coming I desire youll give publick Notice that the Lead Carriers will be pd on Wednesday the 27th inst and that they are all desired to attend at the Golden Lion on the Morning of that day at 9 oClock.

30 Mar 1771 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes

Farnacres 30th March 1771

Dear Sir

Your Letter of the 23d instant is now before me. I have this day drawn upon you for £204.19.3 being the amount of 678 1/2 Ounces of Bullion at 6s 1/2d P Ounce. I am etc

N W Junr

Farnacres 30th March 1771

Sir Ten days after date Pay Messrs Bell Cookson Carr & Co or their Order Two Hundred and four Pounds 19s & 3d. Value reced and place it to Acct as advised by Sir Your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes. Watchmaker Strand. London
Delivd. the Bank this day

31 Mar 1771 Nicholas Walton to Christopher Bell

To Mr Christr. Bell

Farnacres 31st March 1771

Mr Bell

I have looked into the Lead Carriers Accounts and find that John Corbett was paid 13 d P Piece for 18 pieces of Henry Arthurs the 23rd of March 1770 and at the same time Wm Addison was paid <13d> for 32 pieces. Henry Arthur said at Hexham when I was last there that he brought the 18 pieces to Hexham and that he carried the 32 from a little above Hexham to Newburn so he seems to be entituled as below. I desire youll get this matter settled if you can.

I am Your Hble Servt

N W Junr.

From John Corbett 4d PPiece on 18 pieces	£ 6
From Wm Addison 8d PPiece on 32 pieces this wd have	1 1 4
been 9d PPiece but there is a penny PPiece deducted.	
wch. was pd. Ions for waterage to Newcastle.	
	1.7.4

PS James Johnson wants 4d being a short casting in his Acct last settled at Hexham of which I desire youll inform him & pay him the 4d.

31 Mar 1771 Nicholas Walton to John Salter

To Mr John Salter

Farnacres 31st March 1771

Dear Sir

I desire youll be so obliging as Order One Hundred and Fifty Casks of Bone Ashes for Mr Smeaton & myself all of which we should be glad to receive as soon as convenience will admit of it in some of Mr Aireys Ships.

I am Dear Sir Your most Obliged Hble Servt
N W Junr.

13 Apr 1771 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr Holmes

Farnacres 13th April 1771

Dear Sir

I this day delivered to the Carrier Fras. Ridley who will arrive in London on the 27th instant a Box contg. 1089 Ounces of Bullion which will I hope arrive Safe.

I am etc
N W Junr

PS Youll Observe part of the sides of the abovementioned Bullion is Soiled which happened just when it was taking off but I hope the Quality of the Silver will not be hurt by this; if it should, we must make an allowance.

4 May 1771 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes

Farnacres 4th May 1771

Sir

We beg leave to acquaint you that we have this day Drawn upon you at ten days after Date payable to Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington and Saint or their Order £328.19.4 being for 1089 Ounces of Silver at 6s 1/2d.

Respecting the fixing the price of the Silver we are very agreeable that it should be as on the day of its arrival in Town; and indeed we always ourselves took that for Granted but as you say it can do no harm to have this matter perfectly understood betwixt us. We are both very well as also our Wives and familys so far as we know.

The hurt that Mr Smeaton received upon his Shin sometime before he left home is now perfectly well. We are

Sir your most Hble Servt

N W Junr

J S

Farnacres 4th May 1771

Sir Ten Days after date pay Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington and Saint or their Order three Hundred and Twenty Eight pounds Nineteen Shillings and four pence for Value received as advised by Sir Your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes Strand London

Delivered the Bank this day

7 May 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 7th May 1771

We reced your Letter of the 1st instant wth. the several Inclosures all Safe. Cowhill Cross Vein Lead No 1 Assay 7 oz 15 Dwt 13 8/10 Gns pr fodder No 2 do 6 13 12 6/10 which is very well worth Refining but at the present price of Lead the Black Slag will not answer however there is no hurry about it and in case Lead should fall it will do to Refine amongst the Refineable Slag from the Grey Slags you will therefore take care to let us know some little time before you begin Refining the Slag and Test Bottom Lead and you shall then have full directions what to do.

Your Computation for supposed Stock of Slags Hearth Ends etc answers our end very well.

It is certainly right to make another Tryal of Running the Litharge Slags in the Slag Hearth and we shall be glad to hear the Result of it, as you mention, as soon after it is finished as your convenience will permit. We are

Your most Hble Servts

NW Junr

JS

PS Pray how does the Ore Carriage get on.

10 May 1771 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

Extract from Messrs Walton & Smeatons Letter of 10th May 1771 to John Ibbetson Esq.

In obedience to the Boards order of the 1st Decr. last requiring an Account of the Produce and expenditure at Langley Lead Mill from the commencement of the Work to that time distinguishing the several Articles therein particularly mentioned we beg leave to lay before the Board the Inclosed Account; which we have taken the liberty to make out to the 6th Ult. for the following reasons; that on the 1st of December a great Stock both of Ore and Lead was resting at the Mill, upon the Road, and at Newcastle; and a large Quantity of Slags and other Articles of produce were unworked up, so that a considerable proportion of the whole Value would have necessarily depended upon Computation whereas by carrying on the Account to the 16th April we were enabled in the natural course of Business to bring matters much nearer a clearance; and therefore suppose it would be more satisfactory to the Board.

In this Account which is extracted from a number of particulars we have included every Article of Charge upon the Undertaking both current and incidental; and as those parts which depend upon Computation are according to present appearances taken so as to be rather in disfavour of the Balance than otherwise; we think it may be depended on as the Net produce.

It is to be observed that in the Abstract of the Mill Account to the 29th of May 1770 which we sent to the Board in November last the Balance was then £682.7.1 in favor of the Undertaking and the 6th April 1771 it is £1791.10.4 3/4 this difference of the proportion of produce in favor of the last Balance may be accounted for as follows:

1st. The whole loss and disadvantage incidental to a new Work of this kind is equally included in both Balances but being applied to a much lesser Sum in the former case than in the latter it will diminish the losses more in proportion than the greater.

2nd. To improvements made in the methods of carrying on the Work; and every Person and thing growing better adapted to place, the business has been really carried on upon better Terms in the last than in the first Year.

3rd. More Value of the Account depended on Computation on the former Balance than the latter and the real produce of the Computed Articles turned out better in point of Quantity than Computation, which would equally diminish the former and increase the latter Balance.

4th. The price of Lead continued the same Viz. at £14 & £14.5 the greatest part of the Time comprehended in the Account; but as we thought it Safe to compute the Value somewhat under the current price; the Lead therefore Sold for more than Computation. Lead now Sells for £15 & £15.5 and in consequence we have raised the Computed price of a Stock in hand but which tho' still kept under the Selling price equally contributes to raise the present Balance.

Mr Thomas Airey Merchant at Newcastle being dead; with whom and his Son Henry Airey then in ptnership with him we entered into Agreement for the Sale of the

Hospitals Lead which was approved by the Boards Minute 16th Nov. 1768; Henry Airey Succeeds his Father in Business; and therefore now stands sole in this Contract; but Mr Jonathan Airey also a Merchant of Newcastle being desirous to be joined in Contract for Sale of the Hospitals Lead with his Brother Henry and which being agreeable to both Partys; as this will be a means of strengthening the Hospitals Interest as well as security in the Sale of their Lead we recommend this proposal as proper to be accepted.

10 May 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

[Note: The table includes detailed corrections to the table included with the letter of 28 January 1771]

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 10th May 1771

We have this day received your Letter of the 7th inst including Two Assays of Lead from which the last Cake of Bullion was extracted as also a Paper showing the produce of the Litharge In point of Weight compared with the Lead Refined and we desire youll make another Tryal of the same kind.

With regard to the Litharge Slags as it appears the difference in produce in favor of the Hearth is not considerable that our Bellows may be hard, and that the Lead is not so good in Quality as when Stamped; we think it will be well to drop Smelting those Slags, in the Slag Hearth, til further; but notwithstanding, if you incline to make a further Tryal, we have no objection.

As to Blackshield Bog Coals, get them as reasonably as you can, and such a quantity, as to make a Sufficent Trial; and the same as to Low Stubblock Coals & particularly observe the appearance of, as well as the produce from each.

Cowhill Cross Vein Lead must be Refined. We are

Your Hble Servts

N W Junr

JS

PS We send you the Comparison of the Assays with the real produce.

An Acct showg. the produce of Bullion at Langley Mill compared with yr Assays.

Dates of operation	Quant of lead refined	Weight of each assay		Produce by assay			Real Produce		Over or (Under) the assay		
		cwt	Gr 80 th pt	oz	Dwt	Gns	oz	Dwt	Oz	Dwt	Grns
1768											
Nov 26	1428	1	50	541	9		555	10	14	1	
Dec 24	1344	1	63	560	11	4 8/10	516		(44	11	4 3/10)
1769											
Feb 25	1512	1	68 1/3	654	3	14 4/10	656	10	2	6	9 6/10
Mar 25	2100	1	56 1/2	836	2	12	768		(68	2	12)
Apr 29	804	1	58	323	12	15	328	5	4	12	9
May 20	592	1	36	200	6	2	189	11	(10	15	2)
July 29	1512	1	61	621	16	4 8/10	606	5	(15	11	4 8/10)
Sep 30	1350	2	17	696	18	18	660		(36	18	18)
Oct 28	1281	1	47	474	10	1 8/10	484		9	9	22 2/10
Nov 25	1260	1	54	492	9		486	10	(5	19)	
Dec 23	1260	1	72	558	12		572	15	14	3	
1770											
Jan 27	1218	2	2	575	10	2 4/10	563	10	(12		2 4/10)
Mar 10	2268	1	59	919	9	16 8/10	995		75	10	7 2/10
Apr 28	1680	1	19	485	2		474		(11	2)	
Jun 30	1357	1	34	450	14	4	450			(14	4)
	1229	1	34	408	9	12 6/10	373		(35	9	12 6/10)
Aug 25	1257	1	5	311	12	15	310		(1	12	15)
Sep 29	1344	1	36	454	14	9 6/10	459	5	4	10	14 4/10
	1512	1	13	410	2	14 4/10	381		(29	2	14 4/10)
Oct 27	1596	1	46	586	10	14 4/10	582	10	(4		14 4/10)
Dec 29	1596	1	11	423	12	2 4/10	401		(22	12	2 /10)
	1344	1	36 1/2	456	13	14 4/10	473	15	17	1	9 6/10
1771											
Jan 26	1600	2	6	772	14	14 4/10	701	5	(71	9	14 4/10)
Feb 23	1764	1	55	694	11	12	678	10	(16	1	12)
April 6	2436	1	57	973	7	16 8/10	1089		115	12	7 2/10
Short of the assay upon the whole									128	15	6

14 May 1771 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes

Farnacres 17th May 1771

Dear Sir

This Weeks London Carrier brings you 433 1/4 Ounces of Bullion which will we hope arrive Safe on the 1st of June.

Youll observe the Weight of the several pieces is marked on the back of each with Ink as we could not get a set of Stamp figures in Newcastle; if you find it answers in the way we shall continue to do it in the same manner but in case it does not youll be so good as furnish us with a set of figures and we shall from the Time we receive them Stamp the Weight on each piece of Bullion. If you should think it necessary to send a sett of figures they will come safe and readily to this place by leaving them with a Mr

Salter in North Street near St Johns Church Westminster directed to us at Farnacres to the care of Mr Airey in Newcastle. We are with best respects to yourself Mrs Holmes and Family.

Dear Sir your most Hble Servts
Walton & Smeaton

PS we shall be glad to hear the product of the last Cake in your next.

19 May 1771 Nicholas Walton to William Charnley

To Mr Wm Charnley

Farnacres 19th May 1771

Dear Sir

I desire youll order to be got ready with all convenient dispatch a Book Bound in rough Calf & ruled as the sheet sent herewith and that youll send it by the Hexham Carrier John Corbett on Friday directed to Mr Mulcaster at Langley Lead Mill to the care of Mr Chrisr. Bell in Hexham. I am

Dr Sir yr ser. NW Jr.

PS. The above Book must contain 2 Quires of your best English Fools cap.

19 May 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

To Mr Peter Mulcaster

Farnacres 19th May 1771

Mr Mulcaster

The Bullion came Safe and its Weight was 433 1/4 Ounces, not 434 1/2, so youll observe go make it agree with the real weight when you make out the Operation.

Your Letter of the 15 inst I received last Night and have given directions for a Book agreeable to your desire and conformable to the precedent sent one.

On further considering about the Refining the Black Slag I think it will be right to refine it along with the Refineable Slag and Test Bottom Lead and in the doing of this I would have you mix the Lead so that there will be an equal proportion of Black Slag and Test Bottom Lead mixed with the Refineable Slag Lead in each working Test which will make the Lead all come out of the Reducing Furnace alike in Quality. I would have you attend to this particular in all future operations of the like kind.

Anything you have to offer to us about the running of the Litharge Slags or anything else we shall be glad at all times to hear from you as it is the wish of Mr Smeaton and myself to try all experiments which promise an advantage to the Work and tho' we may in some instances lose this ought not in the least to discourage us.

I shall make enquiry about James Bowes and let you know in my next.

You did very properly in letting Mr Bullock have the Lead. The price is now £15.5 pFodder at Newcastle. The Weight as you make it is 21Cwt 9lbs but it must be only reckoned 21Cwt & 7 lbs. The Rule at Newcastle is that nothing less than Seven Pounds is reckoned. If therefore 14 pieces shd. Weigh at that place 21 & 6 Pounds we only reckon the Weight 21 Cwt. If 21 and 9 lbs 21 & 7. if 21 & 16 – 21 & 14. if 21 & 27 lbs - 21 and 21 lbs.

21 Cwt and 7lbs at £15.5 ... £15.5.10 3/4

you shd I think have £15.6 for what Mr Bullock got.

You need not be in any hurry about making the Second Tryal of weighing a Test or two of Litharge and desire it may be done when most convenient to yourself. I am for Mr Smeaton & Self

Your Hble Servt

NW Junr

28 May 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 28th May 1771

We have had some flying Showers for these two days but the Wind keeps so high that we cannot expect Rain til it abates I hope that will be soon, as the Drought is now very great indeed.

I observe the produce of Litharge etc and am a good deal surprised at the difference between this and the last Trial, there surely must have been some mistake in the former Trial and I therefore would have you make another at some more convenient time than it can be to you now.

As the produce from the Reducing Furnace is exceedingly material we must get Nicholas Temperley to work some more of the Coals in the weaker part of the Seam and pray cannot you reserve some part of the Lesser Peat House to lay them in if you have not Room otherwise & then they may not be spoiled by lying out.

I am sorry to see the produce from Capel Cleugh North Vein so indifferent and desire youll give Mr Hilton about the Washing bother, not only there but at all the Mines.

The behaviour of Mrs Ords Steward is very ungenteel and I think any person who can Act so, is unworthy our Notice.

You may continue to deliver Lead as fast as the Carriers chuse to take it, til you have further Orders.

The Test Bottom Lead last Assayed is to be sure very poor in Silver but we had once some Test Bottom Lead which produced above 8 Ounces to the Fodder and that we have none is as well worth Refining as the last Lead of Mr Wilkinsons was I would however have you try your Experiments for it is a matter of indifference to us how we

make Profit either Lead and Silver or Lead alone will do & therefore let us make Trial and follow the method which is found best after that is done.

I desire youll let me know as soon as you have seen James Bowes whether you are likely to get him to take any Lead. It will most undoubtedly be better for him to take the Lead at Barn Burn than at Haydon Bridge.

The last Cake of Silver was a little dirty at the Edges pray how does this happen? as to the weight falling short of yours it might easily do that for you know it is a very easy matter to mistake one Ounce in the adding up a few figures together. I am pretty certain we were right in Weighing it for we weighed each piece separate and all the four together and there was only 1/16th of an Ounce difference.

I think what you said to the Carriers about our expecting them to carry the Lead to Newcastle perfectly right. Corbett and Johnson don't know when they are well.

I am for Mr Smeaton and Self Your Hble Servt

NW Junr.

1 Jun 1771 Nicholas Walton to Christopher Bell

To Mr Chrisr. Bell

Farnacres 1st June 1771

Mr Bell

As you say there is no hazard in giving Geo. Johnson another year I desire youll allow him that time if it stil continues to appear to you in the same light.

I have this day had one Jonathan Ryle with me who says he could engage to carry ab. 1500 pieces of Lead from Aydon or Corbridge to Newcastle and that he would allow 2s PFodder from Hexham to Aydon & 18d from Hexham to the Limekiln which joins the Turnpike Road a little on this side Corbridge. If you can assist him I beg youll not fail doing it and in case you think John Jobling can help him pray speak to him. I am

Your Hble Servt

NW Junr.

PS. Youll ask how many pieces Ryle expects shd be reckoned a Fodder and let me know after you have done the needful in this Affair to wch. I wish there may be great attention.

3 Jun 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 3rd June 1771

Your Letter of the 29th together with the Bullion came safe to hand on Friday last and the Weight of the Cake is just 447 3/4 Ounces wch. exceeds the Assay.

I observe your produce is farr from good indeed, the last Operation and we must have at all events the Coals we want; if there are any difficultys, which there ought not to be, pray let me know, because they ought to be removed or we may otherwise be greatly hurt. But if the Lessees of High Stublick Colliery cannot furnish us with the Coals we want to be sure we must not expect them to do it; when that is the case I beg youll inform us in order that we may take such steps as shall enable us to supply ourselves, and in general I must desire you will acquaint me whether Nicholas Temperley has designedly thrown any difficultys in the way of the Experiments we have been and are now trying. I realy Mr Mulcaster cannot but think there is some misunderstanding between your Brother and you concerning the produce for tho' I am satisfied he would not deceive you yet I apprehend it very possible as the method of working at Blaydon is different from our Mill by reason of the Sifting of the Litharge that the proper allowances on that Account may not be made I shall therefore call upon or send to your Brother some afternoon and talk this Affair over with him. Your Observations on the Elliots are very just.

The Litharge saved, the Weight of which you have mislaid, was 8Cwt ...3lbs. I am for Mr Smeaton and Self

Your Hble Servt

NW Junr

PS I inclose herewith an Acct of the State of your Assays.

Ore from the following Mines appears to be Refineable from Assays made at Langley Mill which have been Tryed at Farnacres.

Mixed Ore.

Qu[er]y

Carrs, Cowhill and Cowslitts (Old Cowslitts Cowslitts Cross Vein Cowhill Cross Vein Cowhill & Carr Cowhill, Cowhill Cross Vein, Old Cowslitts, and Cowslitts Cross Vein

SR MiddleCleugh 1st and 2nd Sun Veins

SR. Rampgill MiddleCleugh and Sun Veins

SR. Greengill and Hush

The Slag from those marked SR is Refineable. Those marked Quay must be reckoned uncertain til further Tryal.

Unmixed Ore

SR. Rampgill

SR. Same by 2d Assay

SR. Same by 3D Assay
SR Greengill Hush
SR. MiddleCleugh
SR. Thorngill by 3 Assays
SR. Thorngill by 2 Assays very good
SR. Blagill by 2 Assay
SR. Capel Cleugh by 3 Assays very good
SR. Guddamgill Moss very good
SR. Greengill the same
SR. Rampgillhead the same
SR. Fletcherass the same
SR. Nentheadfield North Vein the same
SR. Crossgillhead by 2 Assays
SR. Windy Brow
SR. Carrs by 2 Assays
SR. Cowhill Cross Vein by 2 Assays
SR. Capel Cleugh North Vein

All the Test Bottoms so far produce Refinable Lead & some very good. Black Slags produce Lead barely Refineable to the present time.

Ore from the following Mines not Refineable but the Assays ought not to be depended on til further Tryal.

Peatslackhill
Cashburn
Guddamgill burn
Cowshill
Old Cowslitts

Ore from the following Mines which has been or will be carried to Langley Mill this year no Assays have yet been made.

Rampgill Sun Vein
Thortergill Hd
Do Cross Vein
Cowshill Cross Vein
Carrs South End
Dowgang
Longholehead
Capel Cleugh Sun Vein
Cornriggs
Rodderup Cleugh

Brownleyhill
Dryburn

7 Jun 1771 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes

Farnacres 7th June 1771

Dear Sir

Your Letter of the 1st instant was duly reced and I this day draw upon you for £130.17.6 being the amount of the last Cake of Bullion reced. by you weighing 433 1/4 Ounces at 6s. 1/2d.

As the trying the pieces last sent, as to their Quality must undoubtedly occasion you some expence, & desire youll let me know in your next, that I may deduct this from the Value of the Cake of Bullion now on the Road, for it would be unreasonable to expect you to be at any loss on account of our deficiencies; and in case you find there is a loss in the Cake now drawn for, I beg youll inform me, that I may make the necessary allowance. The Bullion now on the Road, weighs 447 3/4 Ounces together but separately I make it only 447 11/16 Ounces, as below. I shall give directions to our Workmen to cutt off the edges, if any more should be discoloured in taking off.

The pieces shall all be marked with Ink for the time to come; it is not attended with any trouble I beg leave to assure and am

Dear Sir Your Obliged Hble Servt
NW Junr

109 7/16

116 14/16

98 11/16

122 11/16

447 11/16

Farnacres 7th June 1771

Sir Ten Days after date Pay to Messrs Bell Cookson, Carr Widdrington and Saint or their Order One Hundred and Thirty Pounds Seventeen Shillings and Six Pence. Value reced as advised by Sir your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr Holmes. Watchmaker Strand. London.

Delivered the Bank this Day

7 Jun 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 7th June 1771

On considering what you mention about Corbett & Johnson I think it is to be wished that they may get the Carriers to agree to give up the Halfpinny PPiece to Hexham and therefore it will be proper for us not to interfere in this matter in the least, but to continue to tell all the Carriers that we expect them to see the Lead they take up at the Mill carried to Newcastle. I am in hopes the Elswick Men will carry 2000 pieces for us Annually.

If you happen to have any more Cakes of Bullion dirtied on the Edges I would have you cut the dirtied part off and melt it in a Test in the Assay Furnace & send it with the Cake to which it belongs.

Nicholas Temperley behaves oddly, if you find he continues in the same mood pray let me know particularly, that I may try whether Mr Bell can't set him to right. I am

Your Hble Servt

N W Junr.

10 Jun 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 10th June 1771

Have reced your Letter and am now perfectly clear as to your being right abt. the produce at Blaydon. I therefore think it quite unnecessary to see yr. Brother ab. this Affair; I am however wishful that we could be better fitt with Reducers and am only sorry (on their Acct) that our present Workmen cannot do as well as any others. There cannot be any change made til further and it would be on that Account improper to lett the least transpire at present. I heartily pray for Rain both on your behalf and on that of the whole Country. I am

Yr Hble Servt

N W Junr

22 Jun 1771 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes

Farnacres 22nd June 1771

Dear Sir

Your Letter of the 13th instant now lies before me and I have this day drawn upon you for £135.5.2 being the amount of 447 3/4 Ounces of Bullion at 6s. 1/2d. As to the falling short of the Pieces amounting to 2s/10d including Charges. I shall make that up to you as follows. You will receive by the Carrier who will set out from Newcastle on

Saturday Sennit a Cake of Bullion which Weighs in separate Parcels 313 2/16 Ounces and together 313 1/4 Ounces, this I shall only Charge you 312 1/2 Ounces being 5/8ths of an Ounce less than the Weight in Parcels. When Mr Smeaton comes we will consider whether the Silver cannot be melted down and sent you in Ingots as you desirous are shall not only always be glad to do what is agreeable to you but to carry on our Works in such manner as to make our Commodity as Merchantable as possible. Our Workmen shall certainly have a sub on Account of their want of care in taking off the piece of 433 1/4 Ounces. I am with best respects for Mr Smeaton and Self

Dear Sir Your most Hble Servt

NW Junr

Weight of Cake which will be sent by the Carrier from Newcastle on the 29th Instant

68 8/16

68 4/16 sharp weight

102 9/16

73 13/16

313 2/16 Weight of the whole in Parcels. Weighed together 313 4/16

Farnacres 22nd June 1771

Sir Ten days after date Pay to Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington and Saint or their Order One Hundred and Thirty Five Pounds Five Shillings and Two Pence - Value received as advised by Sir your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes Strand. London

Delivd. the Bank this day.

23 Jun 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres. 23rd June 1771

Your Letter of the 17th instant I reced on Friday and yesterday went to Town to weigh the Bullion which is 313 1/4 Ozs but as our large piece and the one which succeeded it did not prove to contain of fine Silver so much as we reckoned I deducted 3/4 of an Ounce from the present Cake which will make up that deficiency so that you must reckon the present Cake only 312 1/2 Ounces being 2/8 less than you made it by your Weighing; so you see upon the whole our loss is very trifling. The Black Slag Lead Weighed 83Cwt & 4lbs. The Cake wch. Weighed 433 1/4 Ounces proved very faulty not only on the edges but in the inside and the Gentleman who buys our Silver acquaint us that there had not proper care been taken in taking it off. I think it necessary to inform

you of this and am sure I need not say more about it. I would have you make Tryal of cutting off the foul edges and melting them in the Assay Furnace. The Cake now at Gateshead looks very well and I dare say quite fine; but it answers to the Assay quite badly it being no less than 25 Ozs 19 Dwts short; the whole taken together has however answered Refining very well. Lead now sells for £15.10 PFodder Refined and we have Sold all at Newcastle except about 220 pieces of Refined. Our G H R S OS & LS all gone at £15.5. Your Produce has been very good in Lead this time which is surely owing to the Slag Litharge not falling so much as the other kind does. I have given Orders that John Corbett have no more Bone Ashes til he makes a proper Submission. He shall not be paid more than 4d I assure you. Pray how has your Lead turned out upon the delivery for as all is now taken from the Mill you can tell whether the Quantity made and the Quantity delivered Agrees. I desire youll let me know this as soon as you can. I would not have you alter your set day upon any Acct for tho' the Hexham Carriers do not behave as they ought to do I would not have it said that we throw a difficulty in the way of Carriage of Lead. When Mr Smeaton comes I will consult with him about the Reducers in the meantime you must go on as well as you can; I expect he will soon be here. I am for him & Self.

Your Hble Servt

NW Junr

PS I have since writing the above looked in to the Memorandum made at Hexham abt. Carriage of Bone Ashes; and the prices fixed by Mr Smeaton & myself, by which we must abide, are

	S d
From Newcastle to Hexham P Cask	1 4 1/2
From Hexham to the Mill P Cask.	5 1/2d
From Newcastle to the Mill.	1 10

In the Operation Paper ending 25th May 1771, the last; I have altered the number of Test Bottom Lead made to 80 and the Stock of that kind to 245. I have also made the Total of Lead in Stock at the Mill to correspond with that alteration Viz 6369 instead of 6368.

1 Jul 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 1st July 1771

Your Letters of the 27th & 29th Ultimo are now before me and I have no doubt but you will at all times take as much care as possible in extracting the Silver in the best manner & to be sure we must expect accidents similar to those which have been taken notice of; but as it is to be observed that all the loss we have already sustained on Acct

of a want of perfect fineness ? only amounts to £. 10.6 (exclusive of the Piece of 189 Ozs 11 Dwt which happened to be dirtied by an accident and lost in melting over again 14 Pennyweights) it does not seem that the Gentleman we deal with has made any objections but what there is the best reason to believe are proper and I think Friendly to us all. Your Observations on cutting the Bullion in Pieces, and cutting off such dirtied parts as may hereafter happen, are just; however I would have you go on in cutting each piece into four til you receive Orders to the contrary as I look upon the risque to be very little and scarce to be attended to; and with regard to cutting off the dirtied part, it will be considered when Mr Smeaton and I are together whether you should do it or not for to be sure the Cake coming to us without the Edges being cut off is an absolute discharge to you whereas if they are cut off and melted over again we must give you credit for the second operation and report of Quantity: we shd have no doubt in doing that in our own case, but as we are asking for others, it may perhaps be as well to go on as we have done, and endeavour to keep as clear of accidents as we can. I observed the Assays for the last Cake when I weighed them to look very suspicious and from their appearance I really think it probable they are not perfectly fine.

I am glad to hear you have got some of the right sort of Coals again it is plain we must stick by them. Our loss by Blackshield Bogg Coals is something less than One Tenth; by Low Stublick near about one Eleventh; and by the Weak part of the Yard seem near about One Thirteenth.

I think it would not be amiss if you was to try running Middle Cleugh Ore with some of the kinds that run easily such as Mr Wilkinson's Ore: a Tryal may be made at a small loss, if it should not answer; and I really would make it as soon as you find it convenient.

As you cannot possibly furnish the Hexham Carriers with any Lead at the Mill, in the way you are now going on, I desire your set day may be only once in fourteen days, instead of Weekly; and that youll give them and all the Carriers immediate Notice of this: And I look upon it as ridiculous that they should have it in their power to disturb your rest, when they please I would surely have it understood that the delivery is not to begin til a certain time in the morning as you see most proper.

If John Corbett continues to behave as he has done he shall not carry any thing for us and we must expect his making submission for what he has already Shewn he wants to be at (that is) to direct the whole Carriage. We will give any price to others rather than be under the direction of ungrateful or foolish Men.

Thomas Ions has found Three pieces of Lead at Newburn since the last years Quantity was carried in, which makes the Quantity in his hand, and what was delivered at the Warehouse before the last Lead Carriers Pay (taking in the whole of the Lead delivered from the beginning to deliver to the end of delivery from the Mill at Christmas last) to exceed the Quantity delivered Three pieces. You will consider how this will affect the mistakes which happened in your sometimes being over and sometimes short in your Stock at the Mill. Upon the whole it looks as if we were somewhat over. It is not at all necessary to take Notice of this to any body. I am for Mr Smeaton and Self

Your Hble Servt
NW Junr

PS. I am glad to hear Brownleyhill Vein is likely to turn out well. It is surely advantageous to take off a large Quantity of Silver together as our large Cakes of 995 Ounces & 1089 Ounces answered the Assays better than the smaller ones but I know we cannot always with convenience take off such Pieces as those and indeed I can scarce see how the size of the piece shd make any alteration in the produce; will you give this a thought and let me have your Opinion

I hope to hear you have got in your whole Quantity of Peats as the Weather has continued very dry ever since you wrote me on the 24th of June and still continues so.

8 Jul 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 8th July 1771

Your Letters of the 2nd & 5th instant are now before us and for the reasons you have given we have determined to take the Cakes of Bullion from Langley Mill as they come from the Test but only with this difference that you cut them in pieces so as to answer the Weight of 100 Ounces each piece a little over or under as it may happen it is not material which. For instance if a Cake should weigh 450 Ounces cutting it into Four will do - of 480 or 500 - 5 pieces, 580 or 600 - 6 pieces & so on as in the Sketch sent herewith.

As we find the Smoke at the Mill sometimes hinders the Workmen at the Peat House we think it would be well to let the Smelters work Night Shifts instead of working in the day time and therefore desire that may be done if you find it will not be attended with such inconvenience that it had better be let alone.

We are pleased to hear you got so well away with Carrs Ore and hope the Tryal with it and Middle Cleugh Ore will Answer the end proposed, but if you find any difficulty in making this Tryal on Acct. of a want of Water you had best proceed in Smelting some other sorts til a favourable opportunity comes in the way.

The Lead made and the Lead delivered at Newcastle to the ending of lost Lead Carriers Pay including what was Sold at the Mill has answered so nearly that we are quite satisfied with your care in the delivery.

As you cannot be certain of furnishing all the Carriers that come for Lead by putting off the delivery to once in fourteen days you must only deliver once in three Weeks til it accumulates so as to enable you to deliver oftener.

Carrs Lead produces 5 Oz 17 dwt 14 4/10 Gr P Fodder which as the price of Lead now is will scarce bear refining. You will hear further about this in about a Weeks time and til then go on as you are now doing. We are

Your Hble Servt
NW Junr

JS

8 Jul 1771 Nicholas Walton to Joseph Hilton

Mr Joseph Hilton

Farnacres 8th July 1771

On considering the Affair of taking the Pieces of Lead Ore, besides conforming yourself to the directions given you by Mr Walton we take this Opportunity of adding that as we cannot well refuse Ore delivered to us in such a State of cleanness as the Tenants take it away for their own used to prevent any Temptation to serve us worse than themselves we would be glad that you would as often as possible avoid taking away an heap by way of Dues; because this gives them an opportunity of Washing the proportionable Quantity better for themselves than us; and in consequence giving us a Quantity of Stony Matter instead of Ore: that is; we desire that as often as it is practicable you will take our proper proportion from every heap; and this as a general rule we would rather have adhered to, even where there may be a small disadvantage, as we may receive in the end a much greater disadvantage by frequently deviating from it. We are

Your Hble Servts
NW Junr
J Smeaton

14 Jul 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 14th July 1771

As the Weather stil continues dry I hope you have nearly if not wholly finished the getting in of the Peats and that your new House is now covered in, or will be so, in a very little time.

We have hastily cast up the produce from Carrs by itself and Middlecleugh and it mixed and find your calculations and ours to correspond very nearly. I am much pleased to see the produce so good as it will encourage us to try experiments when we are in a difficulty even when appearances are against us. The Works of Nature are not to be bottomed by our efforts but we have more reasonable expectation of improvement when we make tryal of something new than going on with work under such circumstances as we have before experienced not to produce any thing favourable. You will go with Carrs as you have done mixed equally with Middle Cleugh til it (Carrs) is all gone and then you may try Middle Cleugh & Cowhill Cross Vein Ore mixed as you see proper equally may perhaps be as well as any other way

In your last Operation you say Middle Cleugh and Sun Veins 210 B 5Cwt produced 957 Cwt. I shd. have wished to know how much Middle Cleugh Ore was included in

that 210.5 and what it produced and how much Sun Veins Ore and what it produced: and if you can let me know this with convenience and without occasioning expence of Weighing etc. I desire you will, but otherwise it is not so material as to require any thing further than what the Operation shows.

You are now quite right about the Carriage of the Lead.

I am Your Hble Servt

NW Junr

PS. I have not seen Mr Gibson, one of the Surgeons of the Infirmary, since last Saturday; but he then told me he doubted not to make Henry Smith perfectly well in about a Month. I sincerely hope he will do so.

15 Jul 1771 Nicholas Walton to Henry Airey

To Messrs Henry & Jonathan Airey

Farnacres 15th July 1771

Gentlemen

On considering the Offer of Messrs Hall & Nesbitt to take 2000 Pieces of Refined Lead at £16 P Fodder I cannot say but I have a strong inclination to accept thereof; but there is a circumstance which makes me determine not to engage this Quantity, and it is, that we can by no means ascertain when we shall be able to deliver such a Quantity; and therefore, upon the whole, it will certainly be right to sell our Lead for the best Price that can be got, as it comes to the Warehouse, including, in Summer, the Quantity at Newburn, for we can have that at any time, on a few days Notice.

I am for Mr Smeaton & Self Gentlemen Your most Hble Servt

NWJunr

PS We reced the Agreement yesterday W & S

17 Jul 1771 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes

Farnacres 17th July 1771

Dear Sir

I have this day Drawn upon you for £94.8s being the Amount of 312 1/2 Ounces of Bullion at 6s 1/2d POunce.

Before I received yours I had got a set of Pennywts seeing it would be better than in Sixteenths & am glad to find our Ideas on this matter have kept pace with each other.

For the time to come I will mark the pieces cut from each Cake with Nos. and send you the Weight of each by Letter referring to those Numbers and this I can do with

more convenience than marking every piece with its Weight for I find if I have not a good Pen the Ink is apt to run into Blots upon the Bullion. I am

Dear Sir Your most Hble Servt
NW Junr

PS. I had the pleasure to leave Mr & Mrs Smeaton at Berwick in their way to Scotland on Thursday the 11th inst both exceeding well.

Our People as I have understood it never use Water in Cooling the Bullion

Farnacres 17th July 1771

Sir Ten Days after date Pay Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington & Saint or their Order Ninety four Pounds Eight Shillings. Value received as advised by Sir Your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton
To Mr John Holmes Strand. London

23 Jul 1771 Nicholas Walton to William Laybourne

To Mr William Laybourne

Farnacres 23rd July 1771

Mr Laybourne

I reced your Letter of the 26th instant (wch. I suppose should have been dated the 19th) and observe the Contents.

The price asked by the Lead Carriers, tho' less than what we have either paid or offered, is yet too much; for why should we pay more for Carriage of a Cask weighing 11Stone than a Pig of Lead weighing 12 Stone and particularly as it is back Carriage? it surely ought in reason to be less without there is more trouble in carrying the one than the other. I have this day given directions that no more Bone Ashes be delivered at the Warehouse til further orders, and as soon as I hear again from you I will settle this matter. I desire youll acquaint the Carriers that you have spoke to they shall have 1s7d P Cask, but we will only give this price for the present year and expect the Carriers will engage to deliver all safe at the Mill before Winter. I must have their Names before you go North and for otherwise I shall not be able to tell Thomas Ions who he is to deliver the Casks to & I wish Pattison the Lead Carrier might have part.

I am glad to hear you have got the Lead House finished, as I am that your works are well forward this Season.

In your way to or from the North you must call at Mr Bullocks new House and measure the work so as to ascertain how many Fodders of Stones he has got from Meldon Quarry; and I desire youll get on as fast with Mr Dobsons as possible. I am

Your Hble Servt
N W Junr

PS Pray have you done any thing at the <Lees> Wear

There will be about 75 Casks to come up this Season. I hear you have set the Oven at the South End of the Row of Housing at Langley Mill if so it must be removed or we shall otherwise have all the Housing Burnt. As I remember I ordered it to be set considerably to the South East from the Housing so as to be quite by itself. I shall see the Oven before any thing further is done.

23 Jul 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 23rd July 1771

Your Letter of the 17th instant on Sunday & desire you'll try Mr Tweddles Coals which he says will answer; if we find they prove right we may compare with our own which indeed it is probable will prove the best every thing considered. We must pay for them.

I think you cannot get the Iron Doors better any where than at Swalwell and therefore approve of your desiring your Brother to bespeak them for us they will come best to Newburn and by some of the return Carriers from thence to the Mill.

You have been lucky in a Peat Season and I wish there had been more got; however we have now a fine Stock.

I understand there is an Oven built at the South end of the Housing where the Cottagers live and I think it a most dangerous situation. I certainly ordered it to be set South East at some distance from the whole of the Housing. Pray Mr Mulcaster consider this matter well and if you see there is hazard let the Oven be removed and placed so as to be clear of all objection and til then not to be used.

I dare say it was mentioned either by yourself or some other Person that it was improper to cool the Bullion with Water, but to prevent all mistakes I now desire that the Bullion may be left to cool without using any Water. I am for Mr Smeaton & Self

Your Hble Servt

NW Junr

PS As I shall be at Hexham shortly the Oven had best be let alone using or any thing done further til I see it.

3 Aug 1771 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

Mr Holmes

Farnacres 3rd August 1771

Dear Sir

By this Weeks Carrier I have sent you a Box containing (considered as one Cake) 719 1/4 Ounces of Bullion which I think looks exceeding well. The Weight in Parcels as follows:

	Ozs	Dw
No 1	67.	17
2	77.	9
3	136.	14
4	161.	13
5	91.	9
6	79.	2
7	102.	6
Small piece	2. 12.	719. 2

Some of the above weights are 1/2 a pennywt better than set down.

I am for Mr Smeaton & Self Dear Sir

Your most Hble Servt

NWJunr

4 Aug 1771 Nicholas Walton to William Laybourne

To Mr Wm Labourne

Farnacres 4th August 1771

Mr Labourne

I wish to see you here the latter end of this Week as I have a small job to do at Farnacres and I wish you to be here when we are doing it. We shall begin on Monday the 12th inst.

I am sorry to hear we are likely to be disappointed in a Brick Maker at Langley Mill this Season the consequence in case we are disappointed may be very material to Greenwich Hospital and therefore it is necessary every body concerned for the Hospital should exhort themselves to prevent this happening.

There must be a new Bakehouse built as soon as possible at Langley Mill new Housing covered with Slate and placed so as to be out of the way of all hazard let the difficulty of getting to it be what it will; that already built will do for a Byer for the two last built Cottages. I am

Your Hble Servt

NW Junr

PS I have fixed the Carriage of the Bone Ashes.

If a Brick Maker is not got this Week I have ordered Mr Mulcaster not to trouble himself about the Man at Derwent Coal any further.

The Situation of the Bakehouse I have ordered Mr Mulcaster to fix.

4 Aug 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr. Mulcaster

Farnacres 4th August 1771

I reced the Bullion safe and have sent the whole for London including the small piece. I made the wt. of the whole 719 1/4 Ozs.

I think from what Mr Tweddell says (I saw him at Newcastle) that the Coals he tells me of are likely to answer for Reducing; he says they are lean exceedingly so and burn vastly open.

It gives me pleasure you are satisfied that the Quantity of Peats are sufficient.

Directions are this day sent to Mr Labourne to build another Bakehouse at such a distance as to be out of all hazard & I desire youll fix the place yourself; this I have told Wm Labourne you will do. The House already Built may be converted to the use you mention.

As to the Bricks I realy am quite astonished but as we are fairly in for it we must make the best of a bad bargain we can. If you dont get the Man this week you will look elsewhere for we cannot do without Bricks. The Man might be punished if your contract can be proved and perhaps it may be well to threaten that which induce him to come but after all don't look for him longer than til the end of the present Week as it is plain you cannot depend upon him in the least. Mr Lanourne seems to have neglected this business; indeed I think so and desire youll tell him so if you think proper.

Both your Letters and the Operation came safe and I observe what you say abt. the produce of Middle Cleugh Ore mixed with Cowhill Cross Vein and also with Thorngill and desire youll go on Smelting it with Thorngill til that Ore is finished and in that time some more Carrs may come in; it is plain we have an advantage in mixing it with any of those free running Ores with which it has been tried. I am

Your Hble Servt

NW Junr

29 Aug 1771 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr Holmes

Farnacres 29th August 1771

Dear Sir

I have this day drawn upon you for £217.5.6 being the Amount of 719 1/4 Ounces of Bullion at 6s1/2d P Ounce.

The Bullion being cut into so many pieces will I doubt make it more difficult to Pack, so as to prevent its moving than before but we will take care to pack what comes in future, better than that last sent for I observed it was very loose in the Box which was too large for it.

I have been very poorly for some days and am yet farr from well. I am with best respects to yourself and Family.

Dr Sir. your most Hble Servt
NW Junr

PS I have not heard from Bros Smeaton and Sister since the 7th instant when they were both well in Scotland. I expect to have the pleasure of seeing them here in about 14 days or 3 Weeks.

Farnacres 29th August 1771

Sir Ten days after date Pay Mssrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington & Saint or their Order Two Hundred and Seventeen Pounds five shillings and Six pence. Value received as advised by Sir Your most Hble Servt

Walton & Smeaton
To Mr John Holmes Strand. London
Delivd. the Bank 30 Augt

9 Sep 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 9th September 1771

Your Letters of 7th August and 2d & 5th instant are now before me and I wish much to have a Tryal made of Mr Tweddells sort of Coals you mention in the former of those Letters and that as soon as your convenience can admit of it.

I am glad to find your produce so good last Operation and hope it will continue to be as good in future, and have no doubt of your best endeavours to that end, though we cannot always expect it I see.

I have made a Computation whether it is proper to continue Refining Mr Wilkinsons Lead or not considering Lead at £17 P Fodder GHO which is the present price and I find there is a Balance against Refining on 60 Fodders of £1.13.6 1/2 but there is to make up that deficiency the Value of the Litharge which will be saved out of 60 Fodders for Refining over again & also the Value of the Test Bottoms and Litharge Slags, which I sh. suppose must be more in Value than £1.13.6 1/2 after deducing the Charges of bringing them all into Lead, but that you'll consider and let me have your Opinion. A all events it seems proper to keep such of Mr Wilkinsons Lead as you now have or may make entirely from his Ore til you have as much as the above mentioned Quantity, and then take a Chip off each Pig to try by Assays whether it will bear refining or not for you see the calculation seems very near run as Lead now Sells so that if there should be the least falling short of Produce in Silver it would certainly be right to Sell the Lead as Common rather than Refined. In the calculation I have made I reckon upon losing an Eleventh part in Refining and Reducing so that if we dont lose

so much the difference saved will be to be added to the Value of the Litharge saved and Slag & Test bottoms. I think we can scarce lose by continuing to Refine this Lead but it is right for us to be as careful as possible.

You say in your Letter of the 2d Septemr. inst. that the Cake of Bullion weighs 217 1/8 Ounces but I make 717 1/2 and I believe it to be quite fine notwithstanding the edges are a little dirtied. The Assays differ a good deal in weight, by one the Cake shd have been 652 Ozs 2 dwt 13 8/10 Gs, by the other 755 Ozs 12 Dwt 19 8/10 G the mean of which is 703.17.16 8/10. The sooner you get the Furnaces rebuilt I think the better.

I am not pleased to hear the Company intend raising their Smelters Wages and indeed I am of opinion they had better attend more to the Washing which it is probable might prevent any occasion of advance however if they do advance I see we must follow or they may perhaps get our best Workmen from us.

I cannot yet attend to business so much as to examine your last Operations when I can I will let you know how I find they answer til then I shall think you are right in your report about the Ore brought from the Mines.

Would it not have been proper to have Washed both Carrs and Middle Cleugh Ores at the Mill when you observed they were neither of them so good as you had them before when tryed together. I only offer this for your consideration when anything of the same kind comes before you again.

The Pay Acc must close with the end of this Month that is taking in the 28th but I am rather at a loss to judge whether the Ore Carriers shd be paid at the Lead Mill Pay as I fear they will not have compleated the Carriage by the time we shall make the Pay which to be sure will be about the latter end of October or beginning of November so you and Joe Hilton will judge of that best when you see each other.

So farr from thinking you meddle with business you ought not to trouble yourself about when you give me the hint in your Letter of the 5th inst I look upon it Mr Smeaton & I are obliged to you and you certainly did very properly to acquaint Mr Bell who I will doubt not take the necessary steps. I am

Your Hble Servt

N W Junr

9 Sep 1771 Nicholas Walton to Thomas Ions

[Note: Date not given but probably between previous (9th Sept) and subsequent (16th) letters. 9th Sept was a Monday and is the date used here.]

To Mr Thomas Ions

Monday Night

Mr Ions

I desire youll call upon me here tomorrow Evening (Tuesday) with an Acct of the Number of Pigs of Greenwich Hospital Lead that have been delivered at Newburn since the last Lead Carriers Pay was made in which Number you must include the

Lead which you found amongst the Sand, three pieces as I remember. You must not fail letting me have this Account tomorrow as I shall not wait upon the Gentlemen at the Audit til I get it. If you could send it by the bearer without stopping him more than 1/2 an hour it would save you the trouble of coming here but otherwise you must come yourself. I am

Your Hble Servt

N W Junr

16 Sep 1771 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes

Farnacres 16th September 1771

Dear Sir

On the Sixth inst I delivered a Box of Bullion to the Carrier containing 717 Ozs 10 dwt which will I hope come safe to your hands on Saturday first. The particular Weight of each piece you have as below; but as I sometimes find it difficult to get all the pieces Weighed Separate, without losing a Weeks Carriage & as you say in your Letter of the 19th Ult that there is no need of sending the particular Weights, but only the Weight of the whole together after cutting, you will therefore for the time to come receive it in that way. The reason of this trifling matter of the Weighing, being so circumstanced as to give us so little time is that the Carriers which bring us the Bullion arrive at Newcastle on the Friday, that being a Busy day here, generally we cannot, or do not, go to Newcastle til the Saturday morning.

The London Carrier safe out from that place always on a Saturday morning, and we are sometimes so straightened for time, that we can scarce open the Box and give it a new Direction til the London Carrier is setting forward. I am for Mr Smeaton and Self

Dear Sir Your Obed Hble Servt

N W Junr

PS I expect Mr & Mrs Smeaton at this place abt. the latter end of the Week.

My Wife joins in best respects to yourself, Mrs Holmes & Family.

No		Oz Dwt
1	81 18	good weight
2	66	good weight
3	86 14	
4	95 1	
5	109 4	
6	130 14	
7	147 18	good weight
	717 9	
	717 10	together

22 Sep 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 22d September 1771

We have reced your Letter of the 15th inst & deserve it's Contents.

With regard to Mr Tweddle's Coals we do not see any great hurry at all necessary and therefore youll not do any thing further about them til we see you or give you some other directions.

It will certainly be proper to use the Coals which Nich. Temperley gets us for Reducing for that purpose only.

If Old Cowslitts Ore proves as by former Assays it is most assuredly unrefineable and may therefore be at a hazard made into 11/2 Cwt pieces but as to the other of Mr Wilkinson's Ores they may very safely be made into 1Cwt pieces for if there is not a material alteration in the property between the Years Ores and last they must be Refineable notwithstanding the present price of Lead is so high.

Longholehead Ore is Refineable so it must be made into 1 Cwt pieces.

As John White behaves so as to give content we wish to have him employed at all times when need requires. We are

Your Hble Servt

N W Junr

27 Sep 1771 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 27th September 1771

Dear Sir

I was duly favoured with Mr Holmes obliging Letter of the 21st instant and have this day Drawn upon you for £216.15 for the last Cake of Bullion weight 717 1/2 Ounces.

Mr & Mrs Smeaton left this place yesterday Evening and propose being at Austhorpe on Saturday Night. This Mr Smeaton desired me to acquaint you with.

My Wife joins me in every good wish to you Mrs Holmes and Family and I am

Dear Sir Your most Hble Servt

N W Junr

PS. The Letter you inclosed to me was carefully sent to Mr Smeaton as you find by his answering the Recet. of it on Friday last.

Farnacres 27th Septemr. 1771

Sir Ten days after date Pay Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington & Saint or their Order Two Hundred and Sixteen Pounds Fifteen Shillings. Value received as advised by Sir Your most Hble Servants

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes Strand. London

7 Oct 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 7th October 1771

Your Letter of the 3rd us now before me as also that of the 30th Ult. which I received at Newtonhall when at Mr Joblings.

I am glad your produce turned out better than you expected in the reducing way last Operation and doubt not you will get the Furnace repaired with all convenient dispatch.

The Black Slag Lead is Refineable, it gives more than 6 Ounces P Fodder.

The produce of Silver this Operation is very good according to the mean of the two Assays, but I have not yet had time to go to Town to Weigh it.

It is really strange that there should be so much difference in the Quality of Middle Cleugh & Carrs Ores pray let Mr Hilton know it must surely be partly owing to that but only a natural defect we must be content for where little is much cannot be expected. I am for Mr Smeaton & Self.

Your Hble Servt

N W Junr

PS. I desire youll address all your Letters about the Mill for this place to Messrs Walton & Smeaton.

13 Oct 1771 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes

Farnacres 13th October 1771

Dear Sir

There was a Box of Bullion delivered to the Carrier yesterday containing 642 3/4 Ounces which we doubt not you will receive safe on Saturday the 26th inst. We are 10th but respects to yourself Mrs Holmes & Family

Dear Sir Yr. most Hble Servts

W& S

PS. Mr Holmes will be so obliging as send N Walton Junrs Watch to Mr Hawthorn the first convenient opportunity after it is done - he takes it for granted Mr Smeaton has delivered it.

Since writing the above the Family here have drank success to the Ravensburn Water with our hearty wishes to the present Proprietors.

9 Nov 1771 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes

Farnacres 9th November 1771

Sir

Yesterday we drew upon you for £194.3.4 being the amount of 642 3/4 Ounces of Bullion at 6s 1/2d P Ounce; and by this days Carrier we send you a Box containing 606 Ounces more, good Weight. You will observe a small parcel in the Box directed to Mr John Ibbetson Esq which you are desired to be so obliging as send by a careful Person to him at the Admiralty Office on the Monday after you receive it or as soon after that as your convenience will permit. We are with best respects

Dear Sir. Your most Hble Servts

N W Junr & S

Farnacres 8th November 1771

Sir Ten days after date Pay Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington & Saint or their Order One Hundred and Ninety four Pounds Three Shillings and four pence. Value received as advised by

Sir Your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes Strand. London

10 Nov 1771 Nicholas Walton to Newham Nicholson

To Mr Newham Nicholson

Farnacres 10th November 1771

Mr Nicholson

Wm Bell did not appear at the Pay at Hexham and therefore inclose you his Tickett to be delivered to him when he calls for it, and am. Your Hble Servt

N W Junr

PS. Every thing so far as we could judge appeared to be right at the Pay but we cant say exactly how it is til the bottoms are wound up.

Received Oct 25th 1771 of Wm Bell Two pcs of R S and Fourteen Pieces of Refined Lead from Langley Mill. Witness my Hand for Mr H&J Airey
Newm Nicholson

12 Nov 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 12th November 1771

Your Memorandums and Letters of the 8th and 9th instant are now all before us and we now take the first opportunity of writing to you since our getting from the West Country except a few lines we sent you by Mr Hilton.

The Cutting Ore we desire may be washed if you think it requires it and beg it may be done in such way as there will be the least Work. You will therefore, in case you find it proper to wash it, provide the necessary conveniences and in such manner as to prevent loss as much as possible.

If the Repairs of the Bellows cannot be so well done by a Shoemaker as by a professed Bellows maker we would have you employ the latter as we always wish to have our business done in the best way, and we entirely approve of the manner in which you have secured the Bellows Pipe except that a Plate of Iron nailed over the end of the Bellows would have been better than Lead so you do the others with Iron; & Mr Smeaton says you mistook him if you understood him you were to make use of Lead, dont however alter that which you have done without you find it necessary.

By way of securing Water as much as possible we desire you will get one of the Old Pits (in a proper situation for turning Water into as near the Main Drift as you can) Walled from the Stone head like a Draw Well and sufficiently secured at the Bottom and great care must be taken that the communication for the passage of Water is compleat between the bottom of such Pit as you shall fix upon to Wall and the Coal Level or Main Drift and that the Passage may be come at by Workmen to clean it out as occasion may require. in this Nicholas Temperley will assist you.

With regard to Henry Smith, as you are constantly upon the spot and see the Work he does from time to time we must desire you will let him have Money upon Account as you shall judge proper in the doing of which we are sure you will not miscalculate very far at any period.

The first time we see Mr Laybourne here we shall have directions to get him the Iron you want, in the meantime let us know the quantity of sorts you which you will have occasion for, the size of that for Gavelocks shall be particularly attended to.

You have done right in your report of the Quantity of Ore received from the Mines this year, and we must call upon Mr Wilson to make good the Three Bings two Horse of Rampgill Ore.

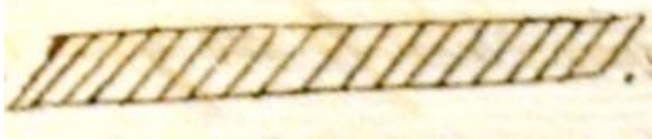
When you have made a full Tryal of your drying Kiln pray let us know the result of it.

We have ordered a Pot for the Reducing Furnace; but cannot you secure the Crack of the present Pot by putting a Screw or Plain Hoop about it? When it is necessary to fix the new Pot be very careful in tempering it gradually before you use it.

You may let John Corbett have the Quantity of Ore for Potters at £4.4 P Bing but don't sell any of the sorts of Ore which are useful in fluxing our other Ores which are difficult to Smelt.

The Lead Carriage we would have to cease upon the 29th of this present Month and you may let the Carriers know immediately.

The Fence to be run across your Field we desire may be Stone dry Wall, but before it is begun you are to consult with some Workmen what it will cost P Rood, and let us know. The Coping Stones we should like to have laid upon the top of the Wall thus



The length of Fence we make to be 42 Roods.

We approve of what you have done about <Ab?> Steel, and desire he may be made quite sensible that he is to be under your direction for we can have to do with nobody but such as will.

Let the Lead Carriers know at the time of ending the Carriage, that as soon as they have brought in all the Lead (delivered at that time at the Mill) to Newcastle we will make a clear Pay & we beg youll let us know how much Lead has been delivered to each Carrier from the 28th September to the 29th Novr as soon after that days as you can.

Our Produce in Bullion last Operation is better than common for the sort of Lead and answers the Assay very well, the whole Cake Weighed 606 Ounces good Weight.

Carrs and Cowhill Cross Vein Slag are neither of them Refineable but Blagill Lead is Refineable. Please Your Hble Servts

NW Junr

J S

12 Nov 1771 Nicholas Walton to John Hodgson

To Mr John Hodgson

Farnacres 12th November 1771

Sir

As we are in immediate want of a Pot for running Lead into from the Reducing Furnace at Langley Mill we must desire you will as soon as convenience will permit get us one cast and that youll send it by John Corbett or James Johnson Hexham Carriers with a Bill of the Charge to Mr Peter Mulcaster at the said Mill. Be so good as take care it is quite clear of Flaws. The size 20 inches wide at Top and 12 Inches deep inside measure. Let it be rather stronger than common. We are

Sir Your Hble Servts
N WJunr J S

15 Nov 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 15th November 1771

I have examined all your Operations from the 6th April last to the ending of the last Operation and have made several alterations to correspond with which, in case you find them right, I desire you will correct the Originals now in your hands as follows.

Operation ending 25th May

Test bottoms smelted prod for refining 1cwt each 80 pieces

1260 pieces of 1 cwt each produced silver 447 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz

Test bottom lead 1 cwt 245 pieces

Thortergill Sun Vein cutting 7 $\frac{4}{5}$ cwt

These last alterations must be made because no Ore whatever has been delivered from Thortergill Vein this year. So you must alter your Operations so as to show that the whole of the Ore reced from the Thortergills has been from the Sun & Cross Veins.

Thortergill Sun & Cross Vein & Fletcherass 55Bings 3Cwt

Operation ending 29th June.

Only add Sun Vein to Thortergill in the Accts of Ore brought in and strike the first word [underscored: 'and'] out in the Acct of Stock at the Thortergill & Fletcherass.

Operation ending 27th July.

Add Sun Vein to Thortergill in the Accts of Ore brt. in and strike the second Thortergill out in Accts of Stock of Ore at the Thortergills & Fletcherass so as to make the line read Thortergill Sun & Cross Veins & Fletcherass.

1827 pieces of 1Cwt each prod. Silver 719 $\frac{1}{4}$ Ounces.

Operation endg. 31st Aug Do as last directed about the Thortergill Veins.

764 pieces of 1Cwt each prod. Silver 717 $\frac{1}{2}$ Ounces

In Acct of Ore brought in

Rampgill Bouse 100 Bings 4Cwt Cutting 37

instd, of Bouse 100. Cutting 37.4

Operation endg. 23 Septemr. Same as lastment abt Thortergill Veins.

You have the Ore of Carrs & Middle Cleugh mixed

141 Bings 2Cwts shd be 241.2. Total of Ore Smelted you have 219.6 shd be 319.6 This is in Acct of Ore Smelted.

1428 Pieces of 1Cwt each prod Silver 642 3/4 Ounces

Oct 26th Operation

Observe directions as to Thortergill Veins as ment[ione]d for Operation ending 29th June.

In Acct of Ore brought in you have Middle Cleugh Sun Veins Bouse 5Bings Cutting 13 Bings 2 Cwt shd be Bouse 5 Cutting 13.4. In sd Acct you have Rampgill Bouse (7 Cwt formerly charged cutting shd been Bouse) shd be Rampgill Bouse without the Parenthesis as the alteration made in Operation end 31st August sets Rampgill Quantity quite right with Mt Hilton's Acct.

You observe the above alterations dont affect the whole Quantity brought to the Mill in the least & are only made to correspond with Mr Hilton's Ore Acct.

Instead of Thorngill Hush make your Operation Thorngill East End; and Thorngill as you have it, must be made Thorngill West End. There is no Hush at Thorngill now.

There is one difference between your Acct & Mr Hilton's which I cannot reconcile til I hear from you.

	Bouse	Cutting	together	
In his Acct of Carrs Ore he makes delivered	301	11.6	312.6	In your Acct
you reckon to have reced at Langley Lead Mill				
in September	243	5.2		
October	52.6	11.6		
Total	295.6	17		
	17			
Together	312.6			

wch agrees with Mr Hilton's Total Quantity only you have 5.2 of Cutting Ore more & 5.2 of Bouse less than he has. I wish to have this settled between you & Mr Hilton and to hear from you about it but I am not in the least hurry and therefore take your time and let me hear from you when it is convenient to you.

I am for Mr Smeaton & Self Your Hble Servt
N W Junr

PS I omitted to mention that in your Stock of Ore last Operation you reckon you have Thortergill East End 3 Bings and have nothing as Stock for Thortergill West End which is certainly wrong as you received 1B 4C of Bouse & 5B 6C of Cutting Ore from Thortergill West End in October which is not yet Smelted therefore your Stock of Thortergill East & West End shd be 10.2 so upon that line where Thortergill Hush 3B stands strike out Hush and add East and West End & make the figure 3 in the Bing Column 10 and the Blank in the Cwt Column 2.

25 Nov 1771 Nicholas Walton

The Govrs of Greenwich Hospital Newcastle November 25th 1771

Bought of I Baker and Company
12 Barrs Square Iron 6.3.26 at 20/s £6 19 7 1/2

The Governors of Greenwich Hospital Newcastle November 25th 1771

Bought of Willm Nesbitt
1 Bundle strong Hoops 0.3.26 at 22s/ £1 1 7
1 Do. Nail Rods 2. - at 21/ 10 6
1 12 1

6 Dec 1771 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes Farnacres 6th December 1771

Dear Sir

I reced your Letter of the 23rd Ult and have this day drawn upon you for £183.1.3
being the amount of 606 Ounces of Bullion at 6s 1/2d P Ounce. I am Dear Sir

Your most Hble Servt

N W Junr

PS. I expect soon to send you another Cake of Bullion.

Farnacres 6th December 1771

Sir Ten Days after date Pay Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington & Saint or their
Order One Hundred & Eighty Three Pounds One Shilling and Three Pence. Value
received as advised by Sir Your Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes. Strand London

6 Dec 1771 Nicholas Walton to John Salter

To Mr John Salter Farnacres 6th December 1771

Dear Sir

Some time ago it was usual for the Receivers of the Derwentwater Estate to make
presents of Mustard to the Brother Officers but on account of the badness of the

manufacture that was dropped our old friend at Greenwich Mr John Maule has however often reminded us of their want of Mustard. It now happens that a new Manufacturer of this Comodity is begun at Hexham at which they so far excel their neighbours that they have a great run and we are therefore induced to make another Tryal and have sent you, who, tho not immediately connected with Greenwich Hospital, we look upon as one of our best Friends, a small parcel which you will oblige us in accepting. It comes directed to you to the care of Mr Prime in a small Box on Board of the British Queen Captain Shipley.

We have had dreadful havock made by the late terrible Flood and more of the Newcastle Bridge is falling daily there are now four Arches compleatly gone; one standing with an Arch gone on either side of it, which is expected to fall, or must be taken down; and another on the Gateshead side so ruinous that it is feared it will fall in a little time. The Rubbish lying in the River is a great detriment to the Navigation at present but steps are taking to remove it without loss of Time and a Temporary Bridge is to be erected with as much expedition as possible.

As Ralph Bresseys Recet for Bone Ash Casks is not Signed we take the liberty of returning it and desire youll get him to Sign the Rect. under the Note and Mr Finch to Sign the Recet. on the Backside of it & that youll be kind enough to send it any convenient time under Cover to Mr Walton Senr.

For the time to come when you are do obliging as do, this friendly Office of getting Bone Ashes for us would it not be well to have it understood that the Person who furnishes the Ashes is to furnish Casks too at 2s P Cask and then we have only the Bone Ash Man to deal with which would prevent both you and us the trouble of having two Receipts.

We are etc

Walton & Smeaton

6 Dec 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 6th December 1771

Your Letters of 22d & 29th Ult are now before me in answer to which this is to acquaint you that I think it will be proper to leave a Blank in every operation paper for the Weight of the Bullion til it is Weighed here and then it may be filled up with the proper Weight. The Operation Papers to the 26th October last will now all agree. I am glad you think there might yet be an advantage by drying the Coals... moderation is good you see in all instances or however in most. Your produce of Bullion answers to the Assay very well including the price you mention to have to refine and the produce is better than Ten Ounces P Fodder you observe. I dare say Nicholas Temperley is right in what he says abt Walling the Shaft from the bottom, and think John White may be a very proper Man to do this Work. An Arch should be turned at the top of the Water way at the bottom of the Shaft and I beg great care may be taken to secure this part

well. There is no objection to Wm. Pattison's having Lead in the way you mention but he must not carry it farther than his own House upon any Account til the Carriage is set forward again and take great care of it there. His Proposals about Leading appear to me reasonable enough. John Martin will certainly be a very proper Man for Winning the Stones. With regard to Mr Laybourne I dare say the great Flood has cut him out a Winters Work. I was glad to hear when at Hexham that you had received the Iron Pot and also the Barrs of Square Iron and two Bunches one of Nail Strings the other of Hoop Iron. I inclose you Copies of the Notes and Weight of the three latter parcels that you may compare the Quantities reced with the Charges. You calculated your Lead to a <Hair> Your reasoning upon the Washing of Rampgill is very good and what you are doing is very proper, but I am sorry there should be occasion to Wash it at all. The Bullion I heard was arrived at Newcastle this morning and I ordered it to Gateshead. I have no objection to your coming to see your Brother at Blaydon but I would by no means agree that you should lie in the House where he lives or in any other which has been Flooded for as you live so high in the atmosphere you will be very susceptible of cold in such a habitation, much more so than those who live constantly by the Waters edge. You may be assured I shall be glad to see you here and am

You Hble Servt

N W Junr

7th December 1771

I have consulted with Mr Smeaton about the Bellows who is of Opinion that no Lead should be used but only a Plate of Iron, just so much in Diameter as to show itself upon the end of the Bellows Head, above the piece which you fix upon the Pipe to keep it from shoving into the Bellows, and then there will be a part of the end of the Bellows Head always open to wedge as occasion may require. Pray give the Man at Dilston Turnpike Barr One Shilling for his care of a Pig of Lead which some of the Carriers had lost; you may do this in your way to Bladon: Take the Man's Recet. The Bullion Weighs 720 3/4 Ounces and I this day sent it off to London. Upon farther considering the Walling of the Shaft I would not have you do any thing about it til I see you here.

I am Your Hble Servt

N W Junr

10 Dec 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 10th December 1771

I received your Letter of the 10th inst inclosing the Operation for last Month which so far as I can judge is quite right in every respect.

In my last I desired you might not do anything til you came here, as to the Walling the Shaft but if there should be any inconvenience in not getting it done immediately I would have you proceed and you may take any Stones you can get at the old Peat House. I desire none of Dilston old Wood may be used in it but that you will consult with and get Mr Laybourne to cut you a Tree (by Mr Bells permission) which will answer the round of the Shaft.

If you can get the Wall done at 5s P Rood it will do very well I however doubt you will not get it done for that. Tho we are always against things being expensive yet we wish to have all our Works done in a substantial manner & I mention this to you that you may attend to that and if necessary add a little to the Price abovementioned.

By no means ommit trying the Staward Stones; if they should answer it will be a great convenience to have them so near.

The Tryal of drying the Coals has most undoubtedly been attended with risk to the whole Buildings at the Refinery & therefore let it be laid aside til we fix whether to have a little Kiln on purpose or not.

With regard to the Rampgill Ore I dare say you are doing every thing that is proper and the washing it is plain must be continued.

As to the Affair of the running over of Middlecleugh Ore it must certainly be owing to a quantity of some other kind of Ore being turned over into the Bingstead where it laid indeed I cannot imagine it to be in any other way and youll probably find some other Ore fall Short.

The Account of Lead delivered came safe to hand with the above Letter.

When Mr Smeaton and I were at Hexham we heard that the Persons who were employed at Fallowfield in running their Slags were at or about a finish there at the same time it was intimated to as that it was likely they might be got to Langley Mill if we had occasion. The matter resting thus we desire you will consider and let us know whether you think we are in such a situation at present with our Slag Men as to make it prudent for us to continue as we are; or whether it may not be proper to make a Tryal of those Men in case they can be had. You may, it is not at all unlikely, have heard how they have done at Fallowfield and whether, besides an immediate advantage, there may not be a prospect of our learning something from them. You will see it necessary to make some enquiries about this Affair in which Mr Robert Allgood will assist you and I am sure I need not caution you to do this prudently. I am

Your Hble Servt

N W Junr

12 Dec 1771 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes

Farnacres 12th Decemr 1771

Dear Sir

On Saturday the 7th instant we delivered to the London Carrier a Box containing 720 3/4 Ounces of Bullion in Nine Pieces, two small ones, which we doubt not you will receive safe on Saturday the 20th instant and are Dear Sir

Your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

PS Mr Walton Senr is the bearer hereof.

13 Dec 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 13th December 1771

The Evening after I wrote you last viz the 10th inst I reced your Letter of the 9th and think it will be proper to agree wth John Davidson to do the Work, upon the Terms you mention as I really think the price is, tho sufficient, not too much to have all finished as it ought to be; and I desire youll lose no time in getting an Agreement made for there will certainly be a scarcity of Workmen on Account of the great damages by the Flood. I am sorry for the accident which has befallen Thomas Brown but I hope with care he may soon do well again. I think William Pattison had best be agreed with for leading the Stones. Dont report the Lead you deliver him in the Operations til the Carriage begins again but he must Sign the Book as usual. I am Your most Hble Servt

N W Junr

27 Dec 1771 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes

Farnacres 27th December 1771.

Dear Sir

I reced the favor of your Letter of the 21st instant and have this day drawn upon you for Two Hundred and Fifteen Pounds Nineteen Shillings and Six Pence being the amount of 720 3/4 Ounces of Bullion at 6s 1/2 d P Oz after deducting £1.15 for the Gun Powder which you have been so kind as pay Mr <Belland> for.

By this Weeks Carrier we send you a Box containing 488 Ounces of Bullion in five large & Three small Pieces & I am D Sir. your most Hble Servt

N W Junr

Farnacres 27th December 1771

Sir Ten days after date Pay Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington and Saint or their Order Two Hundred and Fifteen Pounds Nineteen Shiilings and Six Pence. Value received as advised Sir. Your most Hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton
To Mr John Holmes Strand London

30 Dec 1771 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 30 Decemr 1771

The Bullion including the 12 Ounce piece weighed just 488 Ounces so you will enter it all in the Blank for Operation ending the 28th December inst. I shall be glad to hear you got well home & am

Your Hble Servt

N W Junr

PS You said nothing about the Plate of Iron for the Bellows instead of Lead and I quite forgot it myself but I dare say you understand how it is to be fixed so as to admit of Wedging.

1 Jan 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 7th January 1772

I reced your Letter of the 31st Ult. together with the Assays for Operation ending the 28th Ult and Plan of Mill Close etc.

The last Cake of Bullion when reckoned to weigh 476 Ozs falls short of the Assays 23 Ozs 16 Dqt but when the 12 Ounces are added as appears by the Operation 488 it will then be short 11 Ozs 16 Dwt.

The Hedge or Stone Dyke rather, as you set it out by the abovementioned Plan will I think answer very well so you will proceed as fast as you can.

It will certainly be right for us to go on as we are without thinking further about the Fallowfield Slag Men at least til some more favourable lights can be had and to give our own Men every due encouragement.

What you have done with regard to the Washing is proper and you may be assured we shall at all times make any further allowances which you judge reasonable when bargains are made too low.

I am in no hurry about the Stock of Materials but I would have the Accts of Stock to bear date upon the 31st December at which time I would always have it taken in future Years.

I have consulted my Father about Carrying down the Water in a Box and he judges it absolutely necessary; so you will do it accordingly. The Top of the Shaft should be covered so as to admit of nothing to be open but the Top of the Box. I am for Mr Smeaton & Self

Your Hble Servt
N W Junr

15 Jan 1772 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes

Farnacres 15th January 1772

Dear Sir

I have this day drawn upon you for One Hundred and Forty Seven Pounds Eight Shillings and Four Pence being the amount of Four Hundred Eighty Eight Ounces of Bullion at 6s 1/2d P Ounce. We shall scarce be able to send you another Cake before the beginning of February.

My Father desires me to return you thanks for your obliging enquiries after him; he arrived safe and well and joins me in wishing what you desire. He is indeed very active at his years. I am with best respects for Mr Smeaton & Self

Dear Sir Your obliged hble Servt
N W Junr

Farnacres 15th January 1772

Sir Ten Days after date Pay Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington & Saint or their Order One Hundred and Forty Seven Pounds Eight Shillings and Four Pence. Value received as advised by Sir your most Humble Servts

Walton & Smeaton
To Mr John Holmes Strand. London

18 Jan 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 18th January 1772

I reced your Letter of the 13th inst on Wednesday & herein send you an exact Copy of the Stock of Materials at & belonging to Langley Mill. I thought it necessary to do this as a certain way of your having an exact duplicate of what we now have.

We have no inducement to alter our method of Smelting Slags and I am glad you can give us so agreeable an account of our present Workmen in that way and that they get so well away with the Litharge Slags and Test Bottoms.

There is now a most intense Frost here & the River Tyne at Newcastle has been barely passible this day. The Ferry at Newcastle is quite stopped & all will be closed with Ice tomorrow if the Frost continues as it now is. The Snow is about three Inches thick upon a medium. I am for Mr Smeaton & Self

Your Hble Servt

N W Junr

PS Your Letter is dated the 13th January 1771 instead of 1772. In the Accts of Stock you often make use of the words - in all - at the end of the Line, there is no occasion for it & therefore youll ommit them in future.

4 Feb 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 4th February 1772.

I reced your Letter of the 26th Ult by Mr Labourne and observe its contents. I have examined the Operation and find it quite right and approve of your having omitted the Refining.

As to the Silver I would have you take it off at twice.

We have a very hard Frost and about 5 or 6 Inches in thickness of Snow. I am

Your hble Servt

N W Junr

10 Feb 1772 Nicholas Walton to George Carr

To. Mr George Carr

Farnacres 10th February 1772

Sir

If Corbett or Johnson shd bring a Box of Bullion I desire youll be so good as order it to Mr Henry Aireys in Pilgrim Street and at the same time I beg you'll be so obliging as tell them that all the Bullion they bring for the time to come must be delivered at Mr Henry Aireys instead if Gateshead. I am

Sir. your most hble Servt

N W Junr

10 Feb 1772 Nicholas Walton to Henry Airey

To Mr Henry Airey

Farnacres 10th February 1772

Dear Brother

I have ordered the Bullion to be delivered at your House instead of Mrs Marleys in Gateshead and as it is a valuable commodity I beg you'll be so obliged to you for informing me thereof by Letter directed to me at Farnacres near Gateshead and put into the Newcastle Post Office. Youll be so good as excuse the Liberty I have taken with you on this Occasion as the bringing the Bullion over to Gateshead is not only

troublesome but attended with an additional Expence on acct of the Ferrying over the Water. I am Dear Brother

Sincerely Yours

N W Junr

10 Feb 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 10th February 1772

I have reced your Letter of the 6th inst and think you did perfectly right in stopping the Work on Acct of the Frost. I suppose you are now going currently again as all the Snow is gone with us and the Weather quite mild.

I reced yours of the 26th of January with the Operation inclosed which I acknowledged the Recet of by Letter dated the 4th inst. I then desired the Bullion to be taken off at twice which I now repeat and you must til further orders direct the Boxes of Bullion to Messrs Walton & Smeaton to the care of Mr Henry Airey in Pilgrim Street Newcastle.

I am Your Hble Servt

N W Junr.

16 Feb 1772 Nicholas Walton to Jonathan Hilton

Acct of Assays of Stanhope Lead

Sort of lead assayed	By whom assayed	Weight of assys		Weight of lead assayed Pounds	Produce p fother		
		Gra	80th		Oz	Dwt	Gr
Stanhope Float Lead	J.M	1	7	½	10	4	13 8/10
	P.M	1	7	½	10	4	13 8/10
	P.M	1	7	½	10	4	13 8/10
Do Slag Lead	P.M		50	½	6	2	12
	P.M		52	½	6	7	9 6/10
Do Sheet lead	P.M		71	1	4	6	23 4/10
Do *	P.M		43	1	2	12	16 2/10
Do	P.M		36	½	2	8	4 8/10

To Mr Jona Hilton

Farnacres 16th February 1772

Dear Sir

Above you have the Weights of the several Assays and the produce P Fodder calculated by our Tables & I shall be glad they answer your end. I am

Sir your affect hble Servt
N W Junr

PS We are much in the situation in the Family way as when I wrote last and glad to hear all Friends at Alston are well particularly yourself.

Joes of the 20th came to hand & the proposals sent away after being signed. A Furnace does not seem intituled to any favor, & I think his submission cannot be accepted with any propriety; the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital must however determine what is to be done in this Affair. In the mean time I hope you are not afraid of consequences tho' Joe is.

21 Feb 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Farnacres 21st February 1772

Mr Mulcaster wrote to and desired to inform Messrs Walton & Smeaton what Quantity of Bone Ashes to order this Year

22 Feb 1772 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

22 Februry 1772

Mr Holmes acquainted that a Box of Bullion will be sent him next week.

28 Feb 1772 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr Holmes

Farnacres 28th February 1772

Dear Sir

This Weeks London Carrier brings you a Box containing 501 3/4 Ounces of Bullion in five pieces which will I doubt not arrive in London on the 14th of March

I am Dear Sir your most hble Servt
Nich Walton Junr

1 Mar 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 1st March 1772

The Bullion came safe to hand and weighed 501 3/4 Ounces. It looked well and is I dare say quite fine. I have not yet tried it by the Assay.

This day is frosty but the finest one by farr that we have had those Six Weeks. There has not been so bad a Season since the famous year 1739/40. We have no snow lying now.

We shall certainly make a Lead Mill Pay some time about the latter end of April or beginning of May and we wish to have the Slags etc as much worked up as possible before the ending of the Acct.

I am for Mr Smeaton & Self Your hble Servt

N W Junr

PS Pray order the Lead remaining to be got in with all possible dispatch as I shall make a Lead Pay as soon as the carriage is finished.

I observe your loss is better than 1/11th & an half the last operation as mentioned in your Letter of the 15th Ult.

3 Mar 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 3rd March 1772

I have received your Letter of the 28th February and have since weighed all the Assays including those for the last Cake of Bullion.

The Bullion answers the Assay very well as it is, within 19 Pennywt 19 3/10 <Op> of being exactly agreeable to calculation and Weighed 501 3/4 Ozs.

Cowhill, and Cowhill cross Vein and Cowslitts cross Vein must be refined; Old Cowslitts and Litharge Slag & Test Bottom Lead will not answer.

I shall take care to order 150 Casks of Bone Ashes.

What you propose respecting the cutting Ore is most certainly right, and also what you intend as to the Refiners, and I have no objection to obliging our Friends particularly when there is no inconvenience attending it and I am sure, Mr Smeaton would have none if he was here, but quite the contrary; you will therefore contrive to let them go to Stanhope as soon as they can be spared. The Lead saved from the Silver Tests, I mean the Lead produced from the Litharge saved, Mr Smeaton and I wish to have Refined by itself, and the Silver taken off also by itself, in order that we may see the effect of what has been done, and this must be done before the Refiners go to Stanhope.

I am glad your produce from Mr Wilkinsons Ore is so good and am for Mr Smeaton and Self.

Your hble Servt

N W Junr.

PS

We shall make the Lead Mill Pay upon the 1st or 8th of May I am not certain which and I beg you will do as much as possible in getting the Slags etc Smelted up against

that time. I have some Greengill Hush Ore which is not yet reported, you may report it & it must be Smelted before the Pay & the carriage pd at the Pay.

Tell the Lead Carriers to get all finished as fast as possible & I will make a Pay immediately after they have done.

3 Mar 1772 Nicholas Walton to Henry Airey

Mr Henry Airey

Farnacres 3 March 1772

Dear Sir

As I purpose attending a Dock Meeting tomorrow I wish it might be convenient to you and Brother Jonathon to settle for the last 2000 pieces of Lead sold to Messrs Hall & Nesbitt tomorrow morning. I would not chuse to settle for more than the above at present & desire youll be so obliging as have everything ready ag. I call upon you which I expect will be ab. Eleven.

I am Dear Sir your very Aff Bro

N W Junr.

6 Mar 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 6th March 1772

I reced your Letter of the 21st instant and have since examined the Operation which I find right.

Where Contractors have hard bargains it is right to make allowances and if it should appear in that light to Mr Smeaton & myself in the case of Davidson & Pattinson we will take care they shall not be losers I would however keep this to yourself.

I am exceedingly glad to hear you have found out the mistake about Mr Wilkinsons Ore and think it absolutely necessary you shd make an acknowledgment to Mr Wilson for your mistake.

It is now fine Weather and I hope you get well away with the Washing.

I am your hble Servt

N W Junr.

Farnacres 6th March 1772 Mr Salter wrote to and desired to send 150 Casks of Bone Ashes to the care of Mr Airey.

9 Mar 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 9th March 1772

I reced your a letters of the 5th & 6th inst. last Night & upon the supposition of your getting this tomorrow send on purpose to catch the Hexham Carrier.

I am told Davidson has a considerable quantity of Lead in hand pray tell him he must let the other Carriers have some of it rather than <> our getting all in as we wish to be enabled to make a Pay as soon as possible.

Your continuing to think the Smelting the Litharge Slags and Test Bottoms together, will be attended with advantage, gives me much pleasure.

If you include more than a Months Work for the present Months Operation, tho' it has been before done, it is not so regular, and as our Pay will probably be upon the 7th of May, I think this time we had best make out two Operations and include all the Work in the Pay Bill to the 25th of April which will be the day for the ending of that Months Operation. After you have done Smelting the Ore cannot you have two Slag Hearths going at a time this I mention for you to consider and wish it might be done if you see no objection or inconvenience to prevent it.

Rodderhope Cleugh seems to be very bad to deal with indeed, I am however not sorry to hear they are getting Ore there, as in time we may be able to find out its trim.

You may report the Ore etc reced from Nenthead Mill, as Waste Ore and other refuse from Nenthead Smelting Mill, & you must report Mr Wilsons Ore as reced within this Month wch I forgot to tell you in my last.

I desire youll send a Cask of Fume as clean as you can pick it directed to me to the care of Mr Geo Carr <F Cay> Mercht Newcastle to lie there til called for. One of the Bone Ash Casks will do to send it in and youll take care to secure it as well as you can. Tell Corbett to charge the carriage to Mr Smeaton and me.

Among the Assays sent in your last Dodberry only is Refineable all the rest being a good deal short. I am

Your hble Servant

Nich Walton Junr

13 Mar 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 13th March 1772

If you have not smelted the Waste Ore and other refuse reced from Nenthead Smelting Mill before you receive this Letter I desire it may not be Smelted til after the ending of the Acct up in the 25th of April because it would otherwise not agree with the Accounts of last year none of which take notice of it and we do not chuse to have any thing Smelted til after the 23rd of April but what belongs to last years Account and

if even it should be Smelted I would have you take no notice of it in any of your Operation or Pay Bill but let it come in after the 26th of April.

14 Mar 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 14th March 1772

I have received you Letter of the 11th and as soon as I find the Lead is all come in I will write to you and fix a day for paying the Carriers.

I entirely concur with you in opinion as to the Slag Hearth for the reasons you give and desire the Hearth we now have may be worked as you propose so as to do the most work at it we can before the Pay and then our Computations will be attended with more certainty. I wd even after the ending of the Acct for the Pay carry on that work with all convenient expedition til all our Refuse of every kind is worked up which I hope may be before new Ore comes in as to be sure the carriage cannot begin very early this Season. We have now as bad weather as ever but the Snow it is to be hoped cannot lye at this Season of the Year however not long. We have been quite white for those two days & I suppose you have much more Snow than we.

I am glad you have got the Shaft finished; as to the Level we shall see Nich. Temperley about it at the Pay as you mention, and will then determine what appears to us proper upon its falling out of Repair.

I am obliged by your readiness in sending the Fume, it is intended to be given to some of our Friends who deal with us in the Lead way and who may perhaps recommend the Sale of it but that you have remaining in hand I wd have you try what Lead you can get out of it. I am not able to advise the best method of doing that but must leave that to your discretion & determination.

As to the Ore viz at Nenthead Mill it had best lie til the Ore Carriage begins as I would not have it come into last years Account.

I am Your hble Servt
N W Junr

PS. I have a Letter from London abt the Bone Ashes which will be sent as soon as they can be got ready.

20 Mar 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 20th March 1772

As I think we cannot fail of having every thing ready by Wednesday the 1st of April to make the Lead Carriers Pay I desire youll give notice immediately to all the Carriers to be at the Golden Lion in Hexham early in the morning of that day, that is by Eight

o'Clock. It will be necessary that all the Lead should be delivered in by Friday the 27th instant because you know we ought to have a few days before the Pay to settle every thing and compare our Accounts at Newcastle with the Delivery from the Mill and this cannot be done properly til all the Lead is brought to Newcastle. I am

Your hble Servt

N W Junr

PS. Bring your Ticket Books and Book of Delivery of Lead signed by the Carriers on taking up the Lead, with you to Hexham the 31st inst in the afternoon abt Three o'Clock.

Give Mr Hilton notice to attend at the same time with you.

20 Mar 1772 Nicholas Walton to Henry Airey

Mr Henry Airey

Farnacres 20th March 1772

Sir

Having considered the Freight of the Bone ashes from London to Newcastle I think it will be the best way to fix it at £2.2. for every 50 Casks and I have therefore made out an Acct below which may be included in the settling for the Three Hundred Pieces of Lead sold to Mr Fish. I think Two Guineas quite sufficient and hope every one will be satisfied with it being settled in this way. I am

NW Junr.

Due to Mssrs Henry & Jonathan Airey for Freight of Bone Ashes from London to Newcastle the Waterage from Shields to Newcastle (8s4d for every 50 Casks) having been before accounted for and Paid.

1770	Oct 16	50 Casks	P the Providence	£1.13.8
	Dec 8	50 Do.	P the Prince Frederick	£1.13.8
1771	May 11	50 Do	P the Thames	£1.13.8
	June 10	50 Do	P the Mary & Elizabeth	£1.13.8
	Sept 14	50 Do	P the Eagle	£1.13.8
				£8. 8.4

20 Mar 1772 Nicholas Walton to John Smeaton

Copy Postscript of Mr Walton Junrs Letter of 20th Mar 1771 to Mr Smeaton

Pray inform Mr Holmes I have reced his favor of the 14th & shall this day draw upon him for £151.11.5 being the amount of 501 3/4 Ounces of Bullion at 6s- 1/2d be so good as do this in writing as without that it is not so regular in the transacting of this business and at the same time please excuse my writing to Mr Holmes.

Farnacres 20th March 1772

Sir Ten days after date Pay Mssrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington & Saint or their Order One Hundred and Fifty one Pounds Eleven Shillings and Five Pence Value received as advised by Sir Your most hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes Strand. London

Delivered the Bank 23 March 1772

22 Mar 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 22nd March 1772

I reced your Letter of the 18th yesterday and am, sorry to hear you have been so poorly. I heartily wish you soon well again.

As we want under 200 pieces of Lead I hope we shall certainly get all to Newcastle by Friday first at farthest but I have some thoughts we shall get all by Tuesday. I shall write to Willy Labourne to make enquiry in the neighbourhood of Hexham and get him to see all is brought away and I shall desire him to come down here on Wednesday & observe whether there is any then left between Hexham and Newburn and at Newburn and I will myself make enquiry as to what happens to be between Hexham and Newburn & Newcastle I shall certainly, God willing, be at Hexham on the 31st in the Afternoon or Evening but I shall not dine there.

I am in no hurry about the Tryal as to the Fume & think with you it is the best way to do as you propose. I am

Your hble Servt

N W Junr

PS. Pray how far forward have you got with your Walling matters; we have had such weather there is no such thing as Standing at the Door here

The Tryal of the Fume puts me in mind of making a Tryal of the Slime Ore in the Redwing Furnace. when therefore you have done Refining and Reducing the Lead that is made from all the other sorts of Ore I desire a Tryal at be made by laying a quantity of Slime Ore into the Reducing Furnace and giving it such a heat as to make it so far run as to keep together in a Lump then draw it out into pieces in proper sizes for Smelting when cool & run it in the Ore Hearth. This Mr Smeaton and I think would prevent the Blast blowing away the small particles in such quantity as cannot be

prevented in the present method. By doing this you will be prevented Refining the Lead produced from the Slime Ore til after the Pay but I desire you will not consider that as an objection and I wish to have this tryal made before you try the Fume. It will be necessary to Smelt some in the common way as without that the comparison will not hold good as quantities formerly Smelted might not be of the same quality of that now to be Smelted.

The Litharge Lead saved from all the Silver Casks should be Refined and the Silver taken from it in a Cake by itself and this I desire may be done before you begin your Tryal of running the Slime Ore in the Reducing Furnace and then the Litharge produced from that Lead may be reduced before the 25th of April.

The Slime Ore should be weighed before being put into the Reducing Furnace and after it is taken from thence & cool If the Tryal should prove it will certainly be worthwhile to erect an Air Furnace for the particular purpose of preparing Slime Ore for the Ore Hearth.

22 Mar 1772 Nicholas Walton to William Laybourne

Willy Labourne

Farnacres 22nd March 1772

As we intend making the Lead Mill Pay on the first day of April I desire you will immediately after you receive this make an exact and careful enquiry what Lead is between the Mill and Hexham, and between Hexham and Newcastle if you can hear of that, & give orders for its being brought in with all possible dispatch. You may perhaps be able to catch some of the Carlisle Carriers as they come down and if you hear of any Lead between Hexham and Newcastle or at Hexham get them to take it up and bring it with them to Newcastle where they will I suppose come against Tuesday. On Wednesday morning I desire youll set out early and come along the Turnpike as far as the lane to Newburn and examine the road all the way that nothing is left, then follow down the lane to Newburn and do the same and see if Ions has any left at Newburn, if he has order it down to Newcastle directly, then return up the lane to the Military Road and examine it to Elswick where you must enquire of Thomas Ingo & Jonanthan Rile whether they have any Lead & if any order it to Newcastle then return to the Military Road again where you took off to Elswick and examine the remainder of the road to Westgate. This done you will proceed to Farnacres & give me an Acct of what you have done. I am

Your hble Servt

N W Junr

PS. The Lead which has been taken from the Mill since beginning to Lead Stones for the Wall at Langley Mill Close you are to take no notice of.

22 Mar 1772 Nicholas Walton to Joseph Hilton

To Mr Joseph Hilton.

Farnacres 22nd March 1772

Dear Sir

I have reced your's of the 15th & 16th with the Agreement of Tynehead Farm and Acct of Ore wanting from the Mines wch agrees with that I sent you on the 12th inst.

I have weighed the inclosed Assays and the produce from each is as follows

The Half Pound Assay4 Ounces 5 Dwts 18 Grains

The Quarter Pound Assay.....4 Ounces 18Dwts -Grains

you will acquaint Mr Wilkinson with the above and at the same time present my best compliments.

We have had miserable stormy Weather indeed, nothing but Snow Blow and Rain. We have some streaks of Snow yet in sight East of the House which is very uncommon with us at this time of the year.

I am Your hble Servt

N W Junr

PS. The Lead Carriers Pay will be on the 1st of April at Hexham, of which Mr Mulcaster will give you notice.

The Mill Pay about the 7th of May; not get fixed absolutely.

23 Mar 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 23rd March 1772

The Lead Mill Pay is to be upon the 6th of May and the Lead Mill Pay Bill you must make out upon Monday Tuesday & Wednesday the 27th 28th & 29th of April & bring it & your Books along with you to Hexham upon Thursday the 30th of April where you will meet us in the Evening. Give Mr Joseph Hilton immediate notice of the above.

We are Your hble Servts

W & S

3 Apr 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

The Lead Carriage must not begin til further orders.

I am Your hble Servt

N W Junr

Farnacres 3rd April 1772

10 Apr 1772 Nicholas Walton to Christopher Bell

Mr Chrisr. Bell.

Farnacres 10th April 1772

Mr Bell

I have got Tickets for 36 pieces of Lead delivered by Mr William Bell of the Highshield and desire you will pay him £1.8.6 for them in part of the £1.14.1/2 left in your hand for him; you will then have £-.5.6 1/2 left to be pd him when he delivers you a Tickett for Seven Pieces. I wd have you keep that Ticket & Davisons til we see you.

I am Your hble Servt

N W Junr

PS Upon considering further I think you had best send us the Ticketts as soon as you get them. Davison's I understand are going by Corbett, so you will probably have got them by this time.

21 Apr 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 21st April 1772

I reced your Letter of the 13th on Friday last & the following day weighed the Bullion which I only make 577 1/4 Ounces being a 1/4 of an Ounce less than your Weight.

I think what you have done preparatory to the Trial of running the Slime Ore into a kind of regulus in the Air Furnace, before Smelting, is very proper.

We shall expect to receive the Slag Lead Silver & also that from the Litharge saved during the course of the Week. I am for Mr Smeaton & Self

Your very humble Servt

N W Junr

7 May 1772 Nicholas Walton to Henry Airey

Mssrs Henry & Jona. Airey.

Langley Mill 7th May 1772

Sirs

We take this opportunity of informing you that we propose to set on the Lead Carriage from Langley Mill on Monday first; and we desire you will be so obliging as particularly to attend to it, that the Lead of the present year be kept separate from that

of the year past, til the whole of the past year is sold, that we may see how it turns out.
We are etc

NWJunr

JS

10 May 1772 Nicholas Walton to Henry Airey

To Mssrs Henry & Jona. Airey.

Penrith 10th May 1772

Dear Sirs

We have just received yours and think it will be proper to Sell the 100 Fodders for £14.15 or £14.10 if you cannot get the price you offer it at; but as there may be some designing in circulating the Accounts about the Quantities at the London Marketts and as the price is so greatly lower than last year we should apprehend it adviseable not to sell any more than the above Quantity til the State of the Trade can be better seen into.

We are Gents your obliged hble Servts

N W Junr

JS

11 May 1772 Nicholas Walton to Henry Airey

To Mssrs Henry & Jona. Airey.

Keswick 11 May 1772

Gentlemen

As we had scarcely time to answer your Letter after receiving it yesterday at Penrith, before the Post went out, we had not time fully to advert to the Proportion between the Newcastle & London Fodders if therefore you have not already sold the parcel of Lead mentioned we desire that you will not Sell under £14.15. the price you offered it at and particularly so as we find that when Lead is £14.10 at London the Newcastle Fodder will be worth £15.12 there & consequently of the same value at Newcastle to send immediately into a foreign Country. We are

Gentleman your most hble Servts

NWJunr

JS

29 May 1772 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

Mr John Holmes

Farnacres 29th May 1772

Dear Sir

We have this day drawn upon you for One Hundred and Seventy four Pounds Seven Shillings and Six Pence being the amount of Five Hundred and Seventy Seven and One Quarter Ounces of Bullion at Six Shillings & One half penny P Ounce.

By last Saturday's Carriers we sent you a Box containing 439 1/2 Ounces of Bullion of which Mr Smeaton has advised you it will be a Month at least before we can send you any more.

Mr Tibthorpe writes us he had paid into your hands on our Acct £11.16. in your Letter to Mr Smeaton you say £11.13 had been paid you by Mr Everest on our Account - you will be so obliging as let us know whether it was £11.13 or £11.16 as it is plain there is a mistake somehow about it. Mr Everest & Mr Tibthorpe are Ptners. We would not have any notice taken to Mr Everest or Mr Tibthorpe about this enquiry. We are Dear Sir

Your most hble Servts
Walton & Smeaton

29 May 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

To Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 29th May 1772

Sir,

As William Labourne has got into some very great misunderstanding in regard to providing Bricks for the Furnaces and as your Operations we observe are suspended, for the want of them: we desire that you will let them stand til you get the Bricks expected. Tis true they will come very high by the time they get to Langley Mill, but you will be pleased to use them for such places only as are absolutely necessary, safely keeping the remainder, with the Clay for future operations, and as we doubt not of your frugality in these respects, we further desire that you will not be over frugal by pinching the use where you are dubious whether they shd not be put in.

In regard to the Land conditionally agreed for with Thomas Brown, you are at liberty to let the Cottagers know that our Agreement is for 6s6d P Acre measured good and bad Hedges and Ditches all away together and that we took this trouble merely for their accommodation, as we understood how very desirous they were to have Allotments of Grounds in their own hands; that a further part near the Mill will be fenced off, as spoiled by the Mill, and applied to the Mill Account at the same average Price of 6s6d P Acre, but that as we do not expect to be either losers or gainers by the agreement nor can an additional Expence be laid upon Greenwich Hospital, so they have to consider (with you) whether it can be so divided, according to its value, as to pay the average price of 6s6d P Acre and Interest for the Money to be expended by the Hospital in Fences etc, and also, something that may be an equivalent to you, for the loss it will be to you. If it will not be of value to them to make up these several Articles, the Agreement had better be given up, however as we have ordered a Surveyor to measure it, we shall defer the giving of it up til it is measured, and set out, and it is

seen how it looks, but even then we shall give it up; unless it is clearly made out to us, that it will be of real Advantage to the People: for we shall not, chuse after so much trouble as this will give us to have them complaining of hard Bargains; tis far better they should complain for want of Land, than by having Land by which they are loosing. In <fine> we shall always take real pleasure in doing real service to those under us; but we cannot take them to please in attempting this we shall never have done.

In regard to the Fume we desire you will contrive to keep it til we have made a further Tryal to dispose of it in kind, and in the mean time send word at what price in your opinion we might Sell it for at Newcastle, including Carriage & Package in Bone Ash Casks, so as to be preferable to that of Smelting it.

We are Your hble Servts

NW

JS

29 May 1772 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

Mr Holmes

Farnacres 1st June

Dear Sir

As you are particularly acquainted with Mr Buckley the Painter we beg leave to let you know that in the course of our Refinery Business we produce a quantity of what is here called Fume; which appears to be a species of White Lead and having been fully tried is found to answer all purposes thereof except colour; and to make a more durable Paint for outside Works than even the best White Lead itself. It is an Ash colour but is not very uniform in its hue it has sometimes a blueish and sometimes a yellowish cast, but neither of them bright. It seems therefore to be capable only of supplying the place of White Lead where it is used for the first coats or where it is used as a body for a Darker colour, Putty etc and what makes it is the less saleable in this Country is, that it is difficult to grind so as to give it the necessary degree of smoothness in laying on. We make a certain value of it by reducing it into Pigs of Lead; but if we could make a little better of it by selling it for Paint Putty etc for which it is fit without further operations, we should be induced so to do by a very moderate difference. And that Mr Buckley may be able to better judge of its value we propose to send him a Cask thereof which will contain one or two Hundred Weight. If it should so turn out that Mr Buckley finds it useful but too troublesome to make fine by grinding in their common way, yet saleable to the Trade at a certain price if so ground; it might be worthwhile to Mess Smeaton & Holmes, not only to take what is produced at the Hospitals Lead Mill, but to collect what is produced at other Works in the Country, and erect a proper Machine for grinding it by Water at Deptford, at times when there is plenty of Water, and when their Lessee there has no right of working. In

the mean time it would be a satisfaction to us to know at what Price White Lead is sold by the Hundred by the White Lead maker.

We are etc

NW Junr

JS

Farnacres 29th May 1772

Sir Ten days after Pay Mssrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington & Saint or their Order One Hundred and Seventy four Pounds Seven Shillings and Six Pence - Value received as advised by Sir your most hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes Strand London

1 Jun 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 1st June 1772

We desire youll send down a Cask of Fume of the best sort; we dont mean that it should be picked or sorted so as to be particular but a Cask of the general run of the best kind. You will take care that the Cask is well hooped and put up it being intended to send to London for a sample and unless will put up will get shaken to pieces before it gets thither. You will send it down in such way as to get expeditiously to the Warehouse at Newcastle where we would have it left and you will write to us when you send it off. We are

Your hble Servts

N W Junr

JS

7 Jun 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 7th June 1772

We reced your Letters of the 29th May & 2nd inst and observe their Contents.

You are certainly right in deferring the Smelting of Middle Cleugh Ore til you can get Ore to mix with it.

The Black Slag, by Assays No 1& No 2 was well worth Refining. The Operations in Refining the Slag lead and Lead produced from the Litharge saved from Silver Tests have answered exceeding well, compared with Assays for Silver; the latter has produced 14Ounces, full, P Fodder. The Fume Lead is not Refineable by far, nor could we expect it, but it was right to make an Assay. The Assays of Keswick Lead Ore will

enable us to judge of some matters relative to it, that we could not determine upon til that was done.

You have acted prudently about yr Pig which was broken. We have not yet heard whether the other broken pieces arrived or not.

We are not surprised at your distress on Acct of not receiving the Bricks, & Wm Labourne only is to blame, but we, hope you are now relieved, as we understand 1000 were sent off by Corbett on Monday last or Friday & they are undoubtedly now at Hexham or with you. Your remark is just & proper, and it is the duty of us all to endeavour to have everything done in the best manner and without loss of time. We are

your very hble Servts
W&S

PS The Operation is received along with your Letter of the 2nd instant but have not yet examined it.

The Stock of Litharge was omitted in the former Operation.

13 Jun 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 13th June 1772

I have received your Letters of 7th & 8th instant and duly note the Contents I have also received the Operation for last Month.

The Cask of Fume I dont yet hear is come to Newcastle but suppose it is. I have made no enquiry about it but shall tomorrow or next day.

It gives me pleasure to hear you have finished the Reducing Furnace so far as relates to the new Bricks & hope to hear your Refinery Furnaces are going forward in your next Letter. I hope you will find the new Bricks answer for both sorts of Furnaces very well. The Anealing properly being a grand point you justly say we must not mind the time spent in doing that. It widely differs from time lost.

I am glad Mr Swinburn has been with you as he is to be here on Monday. We shall then perhaps be able to judge how the Land will lie. As to leaving it to the Cottagers poor things how can they be expected to judge. I am clear if we keep the Land, and am for doing that, that it must be divided in some way, but perhaps it may be proper to have two Common Pastures the one on the Northside of the Mill and the other to the South of the Ground where the stone wall was set out by Mr Smeaton and myself or to be set out by you according to your opinion I dont remember which, and I should be glad that it has been set out so as to keep us clear of the Mill reek complaints. I think it could not be so well fixed by us as by you & have no doubt you have not only done your best, but, that you have done properly, when I see it marked out in the Plan.

Rampgill Ore has done very well.

The Lead being now all delivered it is to be hoped you will be allowed some more Sleep in the mornings. I have been very poorly this Week but have thank God got finely again. I am

Your hble Servt

N W Junr.

19 Jun 1772 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 19th June 1772

Dear Sir

I reced your favor of the 6th instant in due course & my Ptner and I are obliged to you for the information you give us of the value of White Lead. There is a Cask of Fume sent on Board of the Collier Ship Mary and Elizabeth Mr Henry Wilson Master which as I hear Sailed for the Pool this morning. The Cask weighs upwards of 14 Stone indeed the Fume weighs 14 Stone & 10 Lbs exclusive of the Cask. It is directed to Mr Buckly Painter and we have taken the liberty of sending it to your care.

I have this day drawn upon you for £144.11.4 being the amount of 439 1/2 Ounces of Bullion at 6s 1/2d POz and £11.16 which you reced of Mr Everest on the joint account of Mr Smeaton and myself, pticulars as below. You said in your last you had reced of Mr Everest £13.16. If so there will be 40s to return Mr Everest as our demand upon him was only £11.16. You will be kind enough to inform us of this in your next.

I am Dear Sir Your most hble Servt

NW Junr

439 1/2 Ounces of Bullion at 6s 1/2d	£132.15. 4
Cash reced of Mr Everest.	11.16
	£144.11. 4

It will be three Weeks or a Month before we can send any more Bullion.

Farnacres 19th June 1772

Sir Ten days after date Pay Mssrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington & Saint or their Order One Hundred & Forty Four Pounds Eleven Shillings & four Pence. Value received as advised by Sir Your hble Servts

Walton& Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes Strand London

5 Jul 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 5th July 1772

I reced your Letter of the 29th and with it the Operations for the two last Months; the other sent for May I have destroyed.

The measures you sent me as to the Well fully answer the end I meant them for.

I think if you can let the Winning & Walling for 4s and the Leading for 1s6d the Wall should be gone forward with directly, if not pray let it rest til Winter.

On Tuesday I wrote to you by which you would see I had received your Letter abovementioned. If you have an opportunity of Selling any Lead at the Mill, £1 PPiece of 12. Stone is quite sufficient you will therefore observe this as a Rule, til you have further Orders, instead of taking 20s & 6d.

The Reducing Furnace Bottom contains a great deal of Lead more than I had any Idea of.

I shall be glad to hear how the whole of the running of Brownleyhill and Middle Cleugh Smelted together answers as soon as you have done the tryal.

I am glad to hear you think the Reducing Furnace will answer.

You shall hear from me about taking off the Silver very soon. I am

Your hble Servt

N W Junr

12 Jul 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 12th July 1772

I have reced your Letter of the 8th instant & think what you propose saying to the Man the first time he comes about the price of the Lead is right but if he returns for more I wd let him know you will assure him he shall pay only 20s PPig for the whole.

As to Thomas Brown or any body else I desire youll not trouble yourself for if the Wall is not to be done for 4s Winning and Walling and 1s/6d Carriage it shall not be done at all.

You have certainly done right in Smelting Brownleyhill and Middle Cleugh Ores mixed as they work more kindly together than separate and produce more Lead mixed than separate tho' that is a very trifling difference for in 78 Bings 6Cwt it is no more than 8Cwt 1 Qr & 2lbs in favour of the mixture.

I am glad you are getting your Peats so well & that you are likely to get some good Bricks made at Langley Mill. I am only in fear of one thing, which is, that in case our own people are made Masters of the Brick making Art they may turn rascals like the rest of the Tribe. I am however in hopes, under your care, that we shall make honest Brick makers of them. With regard to the Drought affecting our other Works, we must not repine at that, for as the several branches in the business require a variety of

Weather, we must always rejoice, when we get that which is so suitable, as upon the whole to answer the several purposes of the Undertaking.

Your mentioning the Drought puts mind of the several things which I have requested of you Viz That you will have all our Works going forward on Monday morning the 20th inst. the Smelting from Ore and Slags at the four Hearths Refining and Reducing Stamping Slags and Washing Ore I would have all those going forward and rather than be disappointed I desire as much Water may be saved this Week as to enable you to show us all your branches. The Stamping and Washing may be discontinued immediately after they have been seen if that should be found necessary by you and need not be begun til we are at the Mill. I shall be with you on Sunday the 19th in the Evening and desire youll dine at Hexham that day when I expect you will meet with two or three Gentlemen and myself who will lye at your House that Night in the two Beds where Mr Smeaton and I lie. You will be so obliging as let us have a Cold Veal Pye and a Loin of Muttton roasted also cold to be sure of which I wd have the Pye baked and the Mutton roasted the day before. The Bullion if possible I beg may be taken off on Monday morning the 20th instant at any time from Seven to Ten o Clock, not later than Ten and the sooner after Seven the better.

I am surprized at the Quantity of Lead in the Reducing Furnace bottom: the piece of 1 cwt 22 lb you are right in keeping & it may be melted down & mixed with Slag Lead as you propose.

I am your hble Servt

N W Junr

The produce of Middle Cleugh and brownleyhill Ores I find to be as follows:

	Cwt	Qr	Lbs
Middle Cleugh by itself p Bing	4	-	5
Brownleyhill by itself	3	2	14
Medium	3	3	17 5/15
Middle Cleugh & Brownleyhill mixed	3	3	25
Middle Cleugh 46 1/2 bings at	4	-	5
if they had been smelted by themselves shd have produced	138	-	8 1/2
Brownley hill 32 1/4 bings at	3	2	14
if they had been smelted by themselves shd have produced	116	3	7 1/2
			Did produce 313 1
			In favour of the mixture 8 1 2

24 Jul 1772 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

To Mr John Ibbetson Esq

Farnacres 24th July 1772

Sir

Inclosed we send you the Lead Mill Account from the 6th April 1771 to the 25th April last upon which there is a Gain of £912.3.11. You will be pleased to observe that on counting our Stock last year there appeared to be one piece more than by Account of Lead made at the Mill and therefore we concluded that as the piece could not be there unless it had been made at the Mill, it was accordingly given credit for on our Account but on delivering out the Lead to the Carriers we found we had one piece less than expected it is therefore evident that this difference has been occasioned by counting one piece more last year than there was which being taken into Account would occasion a deficiency of one piece this Year; this error being rectified in the present Account increases the Balance by £1 8 1/2d & diminishes the former Balance by a like Sum. We also inclose you an Account showing the Quantity of Duty & Hush Ore raised in the Manor of Alston moor between Michs 1767(since when the Duty and Hush Ore has been Smelted at Langley Mill) and Michs 1771 distinguishing what part thereof has been delivered at Langley Mill and what remained at the Mines after the ending of last Years Carriage. We are Sir

Your most obed Servts

NW Junr

JS

31 Jul 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 31st July 1772

We have reced both your Letters, one of the 22nd and the other of the 27th inst the latter inclosing the Operation for the present Month. The Bullion weighs 506 Ounces but, there is a part which we doubt will not prove fine we beat a piece of Slag or Clay out of a hole in it ourselves.

You did very well in giving Nicholas Temperley and Thomas Brown some of our Rum.

As the Cottagers seem so bad to deal with we desire youll tell them that hearing of what they have given out we are, determind to let the Affairs of Farming for them alone. This will probably bring out the truth and let us see who is to blame for the misbehaviour you mention and then we shall be glad to hear from you, til which time we shall defer giving up the Ground again to Thomas Brown. This hint of the Workmen is a sufficient reason for letting them have nothing but Grass Land. Thomas Browns behaviour on this occasion, tho' perhaps excusable, is of a piece with his conduct in general unaccountable

What you propose concerning the Ore Tails is very proper and you will act accordingly.

It is difficult what to say respecting the advance of Wages on Account of the Ore Smelting worse this year than before but we think it will be the best way to assure the

Smelters that they shall have an allowance on such Account equal to the additional Labour they have by the difficulty in Smelting. Upon this Idea the Smelting Wages are kept as they are, at Six Shillings P Fodder and the allowance appears in this way to be clearly for the extra Labour. It will therefore be necessary to observe carefully what the extra labour is and to inforce in the strongest manner to the Workmen the greatest care and attention to their duty to entitle them to this allowance. The allowance at our Mill shd not be equal to the advance price given at Nenthead as we have an opportunity of mixing the Ores to make them run better which the Company cannot have, you must be the judge of the difference and you may be assured of our being satisfied with what you fix upon after you have fully made your observations how the Workmen got on & considered the difficultys which they will have to encounter.

The Fume you may Sell for Six Pounds pFodder, if you cannot get that at the Mill dont Sell any. We are

Your hble Servts

W & S

PS. Mr Walton will be at the Mill God willing some time within a Week after the Newcastle Assizes are over.

11 Aug 1772 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes

Farnacres 11th August 1772

Dear Sir

On Saturday the first inst. we sent you a Box containing 506 Ounces of Bullion good weight. There is a part which does not seem to be quite fine but we hope the over weight will make that good, if it does not, we will make an allowance out of the value of the next Cake. We are with best respects

Dear Sir your most hble Servt

W & S

PS Pray have you heard how the tryal Mr Buckley is making of the Lead Fume or Soot turns out for indeed Mr Smeaton and I shd like to know as soon as Mr Buckleys convenience will admit of it what he can afford P Cwt or Ton for it & in case it is no particular inconvenience to you shd be obliged by your giving him this intimation. N Walton Junr.

11 Aug 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 11th Aug 1772.

On Sunday Evening I received your Letter of the 6th inst and take the very first opportunity of writing to you about the Fume. I wd not have you dispose of more than two or three Casks of it because we expect to receive a Proposal from London very soon in consequence of sending the last Cask there, wch we received from you. As to the Chimneys I understood I had clearly ordered that they should be raised and I desire they may be set forward without loss of Time and raised as much as you think necessary. The next Cake of Bullion is not to be taken off til after < 30th. I think I have hit off something expecting the Cottagers which will do & I shall propose it to them when I come to the Mill which will be upon Sunday Morning the 23rd inst God willing & I propose dining with you that day. My Company will be I expect including myself consist of about four. Dont say any thing more to the Cottagers til I come. I am glad to find the Land at Langley Mill is not ungrateful. I am

Your hble Servt

Nich Walton Jun

19 Aug 1772 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

Mr John Holmes

Farnacres Aug 19th 1772

Dear Sir

I have this day drawn upon you for One Hundred and Fifty Pounds Fourteen Shillings and Eleven Pence being the amount of 506 Ounces of Bullion at 5s 11 1/2 P Ounce.

I expect another Cake will be sent you from Newcastle upon the 5th of next Month. I am Dear Sir Your most hble Servt

N W Junr

Farnacres Aug 19th 1772

Sir Ten days after date Pay Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington & Saint or their Order One Hundred and Fifty Pound Fourteen Shillings and Eleven Pence Value received as advertised by Sir your hble Servt

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes. Watchmaker near Somerset House Strand. London

31 Aug 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 31st Aug 1772

I inclose you a Plan of the Ground as divided & set out for yourself and the Workmen at Langley Lead Mill as also an account showing the Rents set upon each

Farm and I desire you will immediately on Recet. hereof or as soon after as your convenience will permit Shew the Men both the Plan and Account and let me know their resolution. It is proposed to alter the Cottage and Helm into Four Byers and to inclose the several Fields which will cost about Fifty Pounds, whatever it costs the takers must pay Five pCent as interest by way of increase Rent in proportion to the following Sums.

Mr Mulcaster	£1 5
Farm No 1	3 4
Farm No 2	3 10
Farm No 3	3 6
Farm No 4	3 9

£14 14

for instance suppose the expence to be Fifty Pounds the Interest will be 50s for one year Then say if £14.14. give 50s what will be the proportion of Rent for £1.5..

[laid out as long arithmetic in original:] $£14.14 \times 20 = £294$

$£1\ 5s \times 20 = £25 \times 50s = 1,250\ 4s\ 3d$ the additional Rent to your Farm in that case and is in proportion for the other Sums

$1,250 - 1,176 = 74 \times 12 = 888\ 3\ [s?] - 882 = 6$

The Cottagers must agree to give up bringing their Cows into the Ground where your House stands and they must also agree to keep the Fences and Housing at the Helm in repair & in case of any leesses being laid up in the Farms they must make good that Sum by paying a Rent equal to the Tax in addition but it is expected by us that Thomas Brown will pay all Taxes to the end of his Term.

I have reced your Letter with the particulars of Lead last Refined and expect to meet with the Bullion this day at Newcastle. I am

Your hble Servt

N W Junr

PS. The Refiners etc who propose taking the Ground must cast lots for their choice of the Eight Closes the 2 Nos. 1 to go in one lot No 2 in another Nos 3 in a third and Nos 4 in a fourth Lot.

31 Aug 1772 Nicholas Walton to John Reay

To Mr John Reay

Farnacres 31st Aug 1772

Sir

Agreable to my promise I now take the first opportunity of acquainting you that you may have the Quantity of Lead you want for £13.10..pFodder. I am Sir

Your most hble Servt

N W Junr PS

In case you take our Lead you will be so obliging as apply to Messrs Henry & Son & Airey Merchants in Newcastle who gave the disposal of it.

2 Sep 1772 John Smeaton to John Holmes

Farnacres 2 Septemr 1772

Mr Smeaton advised Mr Holmes that a Cake of Silver Bullion weighing 1116 3/4 Ounces would be sent from Newcastle by the London Waggon on Saturday yr 5th inst.

6 Sep 1772 Nicholas Walton

An Account or State of the Rents to be paid Thomas Brown for 82A 2R 8P of his Farm as now spoiled by the Smelting Mill and Refinery Smoke and taken up by the Buildings & necessary works, as now occupied by Mr Mulcaster as a Farm & proposed to be added thereto, as also of four little Farms intended for the Workmen inhabiting Cottages built near the said Mill to enable them to keep Cows.

A R P

77 1 8	of Ground taken of Tho Brown	at 6s6d pAcre	£25.2.6
5 1	of Do	at 4s pAcre	1.1
			£26.3.6
		Abated	3.6
	Rent to be paid Thomas Brown		£26.-.-

Made up thus

The Hospital must at all events pay for the spoil of Ground wch amounts to 21A 2 R 31P at 6s6d. £ 7

Mr Mulcaster & the Workmen for the remr Quantity of Ground which is 60A 3R 17P it is proposed they shall lay the following Rents

Mr Mulcaster for his Farm	£ 6. 2.6
The Workmen for their four little Farms	13. 7
	£19. 9.6

£26. 9.6

Deduct 9s6d proposed to be applied towards
paying five p Cent upon such money as shall
be expended in Fences.

9.6

£26.-.-

Farnacres 6th September 1772

NW Junr

J S

6 Sep 1772 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

To Mr John Ibbetson Esqr.

Farnacres 6th September 1772

Sir

For these two years past, we have had repeated applications from the Smelters and Refiners at Langley Lead Mill, to have pieces of Ground to enable them to keep Cows for the use of their Families; alleging that amongst those that keep Cows now, having every thing to buy, it comes so expensive to them, that they cannot bear it, and being far from a Town or Neighbourhood they are under difficulties in making provision for themselves. We saw the reasonableness of this request, and that it would be of benefit to this undertaking that they should be accommodated with Ground; but as all the Hospitals Lands are under Lease, it could not be done except by Treaty with the Tenant: accordingly we applied to and have made a conditional Agreement with Thomas Brown of Langley Castle, who rents the Premises surrounding the Mill; to take from his Farm 82A 2R 8P of Ground including what is spoiled and occupied by the Mill, and already occupied by Mr Mulcaster as a Farm amounting to 27A 2R 18P which were formerly agreed for at the price of 6s6d p Acre: there will therefore be an addition of 53A 3R 30P of which 9A 35P must be further taken to amount of spoil by the Mill, which has gradually extended itself beyond its first bounds; so that there will remain 45A 2R 35P which is proposed to be divided into four little Farms, for the Workmen occupying Cottages built at the Mill; with a small addition to Mr Mulcaster; for which Farms after being parcelled out, they have agreed to pay a Rent that will make up the additional Rent to be paid Thomas Brown, and something to spare towards paying 5pCent for the Interest (which they agree fully to making good) of such Sum of Money, as may be laid out in dividing and inclosing the said parcels and in converting a Cottage and Holm now upon the Premises into proper conveniences for the said Farms; which Cottage & Holm, it is agreed shall be given up by Thomas Brown & the Rent thereof included in the price for the Lands. We estimate those alterations including the Fencing which last it is proposed to plant with Quicks and Rail with Refuse Weedings of the Hospitals Ward at £40. We inclose a particular slate of the

Rents which you are desired to lay before the Board when you communicate the above and we are

Sir your most obed Servts

NW Junr

J S

6 Sep 1772 Nicholas Walton to Thomas Brown

To Thomas Brown

Thomas

You must immediately give over Leading any thing along the Ground which is agreed for and confine yourself to pass along the Turnpike made to the Mill or, otherwise we shall certainly employ some other Person to lead the Coals etc to Langley Mill; we are however of opinion it will be agreeable to you to oblige us and not to put us under the disagreeable necessity of employing another.

We are your very hble Servts

W & S

Farnacres 6th Sep 1772

PS We shall keep the Ground agreed for and the Rent will be £26 p Annum.

7 Sep 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

To Mr Peter Mulcaster

Farnacres 7th Septemr 1772

Mr Mulcaster

Under Cover herewith you will receive directions for fixing the places of the Boreholes for discovery of Coal near Langley Mill, which you are desired to observe when the Borers come. I expect that will be soon now. Youll assist them in getting Lodgings.

I am for Mr Smeaton & Self Your hble Servt

Nich Walton Junr

PS. When you see Mr Hilton pray let him know I expect to see him soon at Tinmouth where I am going for 14 days or three Weeks and set out this day.

Directions for fixing the places of the Boreholes near Langley Mill and their intended Depths Viz

Depths of Holes Fathoms

The first to be in the place as now fixed	22
The Second to be 15 Yards Northward from the place where now marked	22
The Third to be as now fixed on the South side of the Inclosure	22
The Fourth to be Six Yards further North than at present marked out	25
The Fifth to be Thirty Two Yards further North than at present marked out	25
The Sixth to be Forty Seven Yards further North than at present marked out	22
The Seventh to be Twelve Yards further North than at present marked out	22
The Eighth to be as now fixed on the North side of the Refinery near the Barn	22
Total Fathoms proposed to be Bored	182

The Borehole near Dean Raw is to be fixed at Thirty Yards Eastward across the Ridges from the place in the Pasture where the old Pit Heap is and this Hole is to be bored to the Coal in case the Borers should meet with a Coal in boring 20 Fathoms or under. This Borehole is to be first done.

Farnacres 8 September 1772

Nich Walton Junr

10 Sep 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

10 Septem 1772

On Friday Night the 23d of October we shall be with you at Langley Mill if Thomas Browns Oats should be cut against that time & will set out the Hedges for the Little Farms etc the following Day but if the Oats should not then be cut it must be let alone til some future day I should however imagine there is scarce a doubt but they will be cut and Ledd by that time.

25 Sep 1772 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 25 Septem 1772

Dear Sir

I have this day drawn upon you for £332.14 being the amount of 1116 3/4 Ounces of Bullion at 5s 11 1/2d pOunce.

I am obliged to you for the trouble you have taken about the Fume and when Mr Smeaton and I are together we shall consider what Mr Buckley says as to the price. I doubt it will not answer to sell it at the rate he mentioned. I am for Mr Smeaton and Self with best Compliments

Dear Sir Your most hble Servt
N W Junr

PS My Brother Mr Airey wd be glad to receive his Watch as soon as your convenience will admit of it.

Farnacres 25th September 1772

Sir Ten days after date pay to the Order of Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington and Saint Three Hundred and Thirty two Pounds Fourteen Shillings Value received as advised by Sir your most hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton
To Mr John Holmes Watchmaker Strand London

4 Oct 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 4th October 1772

I have your Letters of the 26th & 30th Septemr now before me the former of which I acknowledged the Recet of from Newtonhall.

The Bullion I have not yet seen as I only got home yesterday against Dinner if it proves of the weight you mention it is just within 5 Ounces 8 Pennyweights and 21 6/10 Grains of coming up to the highest weighted Assay which is very good work. The two Assays differ prodigiously for it over runs the lower weighted one 236 Ounces 12 Pennyweights and 7 2/10 Grains.

I was mistaken when I said you had lost a Tenth in the last Operation for I find it upon second Tryal to be rather less than one Eleventh part.

I am very sorry the account you give of the produce from the years Ore is so likely to prove disadvantageous to the undertaking and to the Workmen but if it arises from the nature of the Ore and nothing more can be had than we get at present we must be content and make the best of it we can. Mr Hilton would tell you my sentiments about the washing 50 or 60 Bings of Middle Cleugh Ore in the way you mention or in any other way you think more adviseable I am satisfied it is proper for us to make this Trial after you have compleated it pray let Mr Smeaton and I know the result of it that we may determine what is next best to have done. Indeed Mr Mulcaster I am not only sorry on Acct of the Hospital and the Workmen but also on your Account because tho' a Man does the best and to the uttermost of his power yet to see his endeavours not crowned with that success which he wishes this must be attended with anxiety and uneasiness.

The Refining Furnace being done with the Newcastle Bricks is certainly proper.

When Mr Rawling applies to us to pay Money upon Acct to his Men we will write to you and give you directions what to do

The Lead Mr Carrick sends for he may have at 20s P Piece.

Since writing what is contained on the other side I have made a calculation up in the price which you mention to have been paid to Mr Errington for his Edmond Byer Slags and at that price it will not be worth while to deal with Mr Cox. It may perhaps be improper to deal with him at any rate which he can afford because you will take notice that in case we should Sell our Grey Slags we shall have no Black Slags to flux the Test Bottoms and Litharge with. I am for Mr Smeaton and Self

Your hble Servt

N W Junr

4 Oct 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 4th October 1772

As we shall be at Langley Mill on Friday Night and stay with you til Sunday after dinner you need not bring your Books and Papers with you to Haydon Bridge when you come to dine with us there at the Court. You will provide some Victuals for us as usual. I shd not have said so because you always provide too much. Between this and then I shall send some Brandy and Rum and Wine and some Tea and Sugar. Pray let Mr Hilton know when we propose being at the Mill and that we shall settle the Pay Bill on Saturday and Sunday the 24th and 25th at your House, you will at the same time let him know we shall be glad of his Company at Haydon Bridge Court Dinner.

The Cheese wch is much liked weighed 12lbs 1920Grains and I own myself indebted to you for it and at the same time I am obliged by your letting me have it.

I am

Your hble Servt

N W Junr.

6 Oct 1772 Nicholas Walton to Henry Airey

To Messrs Henry & Jona. Airey

Dear Sirs

On examining the Account last settled for Lead I find there is a mistake. The 28 May Ra Carr Esqr. had 14 pieces of Lead delivered him at £14-10 P Fodder which comes to £14-11-8 1/2

In the Account last settled you only have it £14.1.8 ½ Balance due to Walton & Smeaton 10s

We are Dr Sirs Your most hble Servts

W & S

Farnacres 6th October 1772

8 Oct 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 8th October 1772

I have Weighed the Bullion and find it 782 Ounces; it looks well and is I dare say very fine.

In the Operations sent me I find the following mistakes as I apprehend. The Stock of Middle Cleugh 1st Sun Vein is 16.3 the 27th June shd have been only 16.1 D[itt]o 25 July 58.7 should have been only 58.5 as you will see from the slate below and you will also observe that you have been reckoned more by 2Cwts of Middle Cleugh first Sun Vein Ore Smelted than there was received.

	Bings Cwt
From 30 May to 27 June recd of Middlecleugh 1st S.Vn	79
Smelted that operation	62 7
should have been Stock 27 June	16 1
From 27 June to 25 July recd of Middlecleugh 1st S.Vn	42 4
None smelted - should have been Stock 27 June	58 5
From 25 July to 29 Aug recd of Middlecleugh 1st S.Vn	37 2
	95 7
Smelted that operation	96 1
Reported to be smelted more than recd	2

If you find the above right you will make the necessary alterations in the Copys you keep and let me know, as you will also do respecting the following:

Stock of Refineabel led at the Mill 25 Apr 1772	18
Made from 25 April to 30 May	282
Stock agrees with Operation	300
Made from 30 May to 27 June	1253
Stock agrees with Operation	1553
Made from 27 June to 25 July	1255
	2808
Refined	1346
Stock agrees with Operation	1462
Made from 25 July to 29 Aug (you cast it up only to 1350)	1360
	2822
Refined	2100
Stock in the Operation should be	722

The rest I believe to be very right

In my last I omitted taking notice to you that the Ore we now get from Middle Cleugh Sun Veins comes from the Great Limestone and the Ore we got before came from some upper Sills; this may account for the difference in Quality between last years and this Years Ore.

Corbett will I expect bring you a recruit to our Stock of Liquor at Langley Mill as also some Sugar & Tea particulars as follows-

2 Gallons of Brandy

2. Do. Rum

3. Do. White Wine

1. Do. Port

1/2 a Pound of Green Tea

1/2 a Pound of Bohea Tea. Pray keep these dry

A loaf of Sugar.

Mr Rawling tells me the Borers will set out on Monday indeed I feared we never should have got them to go at all. I am

Your hble Servt

N W Junr

9 Oct 1772 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 9th October 1772

Dear Sir

By this Weeks Carrier you will receive a Box of Bullion containing 782 Ounces. We are with best respects to yourself Mrs Holmes and Family Dear Sir

Your most hble Servts

W & S

10 Oct 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 10th October 1772.

Mr Rawling who I expect will be the Bearer of this Letter will let you know what Substantance Money you are to let the Borers have and therefore you will act according to his directions . The Recets you will draw in the following form.

Reced. 1772 of Mssrs George & Thomas Rawling by Payment of Mr Peter
Mulcaster Pounds. Shillings on Account for Boring for discovery of Coal near
Langley Lead Mill by
I am Your humble Servt
N W Junr

3 Nov 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 3rd November 1772

I send you inclosed the four last Operations wch I desire you will compare with
those you have and make yours to agree with those now sent as I believe them to be
right.

I am your humble Servt
N W Junr

Dates of Operations above referred to

1772 June 27th
July 25th
Aug. 29th
Oct. 10th

PS. After you have done as above, return the inclosed the first opportunity.

7 Nov 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 7th November 1772

We would have you make tryal of Reducing the Refinery and Reducing Furnace
Fume as soon as you can with convenience, we mean the fine part of it as it was
dressed for the Painters and desire you will be particularly attentive to the expenditure
of Fuel etc. & Wear & Tear. The Refinery Fume and Reducing Fume must be tryed
separate, as according to the produce of each we shall find out their respective Values
which we could not do if they are reduced together.

Your Letters of the 4th instant are both reced and the Contents duly noted.

The Bullion we have not yet seen but if it weighs 656 Ounces which we have no
doubt of it is good work according to the Assay.

Having now compleated our calculations in consequence of the Tryal made of
Middle Cleugh Ore we find it will be better to continue the Washing so you will act
accordingly.

From the tryal of roasting Cowhill Ore it does not appear to be attended with advantage sufficient to induce us to continue it. The Assay of the Black Slag Lead shows it to be Refineable but as you say it was not as Assay wch could be depended upon you had best make another at your leisure.

Mr Hilton received John Stonebanks money.

You will hear from us about the Hedging on Monday or Tuesday

We are your hble Servts

N W Junr

JS

7 Nov 1772 Nicholas Walton to Hall

Mssrs Hall and Hudson Agents to the Govr & Co in Alston Moor

Farnacres 7th Novemr 1772

Gentlemen

We have for some time past observed that the Ore brought from the Companys Mines in Alston moor was not dressed in such manner as to make the best produce in Smelting and more particularly that from the Middle Cleugh Veins however as were informed that the Company Smelted their own Ore in the same condition as they delivered the Duty to us we were unwilling to say anything til we had made such a tryal as should fully satisfy us of the advantage to be gained by a more perfect degree of washing. We therefore now beg leave to inform you that having delivered 50 Bings of Middle Cleugh Ore to be Re washed; and weighed Bing for Bing with 50 Bings of the same Ore delivered to be Smelted as it came from the Mine, we found that the produce from the 50 Bings of Ore Smelted after washing was considerably greater than what was sufficient to pay for the Washing and all Contingent Expences attending but as besides the Expençe of Washing it the refuse per 50 Bings amounted to above £1-3- in Carriage from the Mines to the Hospitals Mill and as the Lead Mine Leases require the five parts to be all well Washed 'and dressed after the best manner and made fit for Smelting' we think ourselves obliged in justice to Greenwich Hospital to acquaint the Company's Agents that we cannot continue to take the Duty of Middle Cleugh Mines in the condition that it has been hitherto delivered to us.

We propose also to make a similar tryal of Rampgill Ore after which you will hear again from us.

NB. The Ore was Re washed at the Hospital's Mill by separating the different kinds and letting in the Smitham

We are Gents Your most hble Servts

NWJunr

JS

9 Nov 1772 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes

Farnacres 9th November 1772

Dear Sir

Since our return from our rounds we have taken an opportunity of enquiring into the state of the Silver Trade at Newcastle and we are well informed that the price paid there for several Months has been the same that we have received from you and so continues. The fact is that the Silver bought at Newcastle is in general worked up there so that if the demand there for Manufacture exceeds what is brought to that Markett they can afford to give even a better price than the London Markett as they must then bring down the difference from London. Sir Walter Blackett we find sends part of his Silver to London and sells part at Newcastle as we suppose according as he finds the best Markett. We cannot by any means desire or expect you to dispose of the Hospital's Silver to your loss or without a proper profit at the same time you are sensible we cannot be vindicable to our Principals if we do not sell our Silver at the best Markett we know of. We have just now a Cake come down from the Mill Weighing about 656 Ounces and cut in 6 pieces and will be the last we shall take off til about Christmas but as you say you have the greatest part of what we last sent on hand we thought proper to let it lie til we have your answer; that is to say we will either send it or take a trial of what we can make of it at Newcastle as will be most suitable to you; and it strikes us that as you may have a better opportunity of disposing of Silver in Quantity, at one time than at another; that without confining yourself to any given rule that if you will from time to time advise us what you can afford to give, we will send it to you when ever we can make as much by doing so as by selling it here as you are sensible for the reasons we have stated, there will at times be a difference between the two Marketts.

In regard to the last Cake undrawn for as you had it previous to our enquiries we shall not draw for it at more than 5s11d and as we have not done it so soon as we have been in use to do, that will make you some further recompence for the particular hardship you have suffered from unforeseen causes; though we find that the ready money price at Newcastle has been and still is at 5s11 1/2d. We shall be glad of your answer as soon as you can with convenience and are

Dear Sir your most hble Servts

NW Junr

J S

PS. Tomorrow we propose to draw upon you at the usual date for £231.6s 10d being the amount of 782 Ounces of Bullion at 5s 11d POunce.

Farnacres 10th November 1772

Sir, Ten days after date Pay to the Order of Mssrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington & Saint Two Hundred and Thirty One Pounds Six Shillings and Ten Pence. Value received as advised by Sir. your most hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes Watchmaker London

13 Nov 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 13th November 1772

We omitted mentioning in our Letter of the 7th in answer to yours of the 4th, our opinion of your suggestion of trying what the Middle Cleugh Ore unwashed will do by roasting Viz that you ought to try what that Ore when washed will do by roasting also for tho' so great an advantage is not to be expected after washing as without it, yet without this cheque experiment, we shall not be able to judge what the proportional advantage of each process will be; we therefore desire you will act accordingly.

We find on trying the Assay of Cowhill Lead that it proves not Refineable we therefore desire you will make and send down a couple more of Assays of that Mine by a chip from each Pigg. The Black Slag is clearly Refineable.

The mistake in the Pay Bill may easily be rectified in the next pay, by addition of the Quantity omitted to the work of the Smelters who were short.

We inclose you a Sketch of a Section of the Hedge as we would have it done and after you have made tryal by days Works should be glad to know what it will cost P Rood including Quicks. We do not mean that the back of the Cast should be faced up with Sods. Pray let the Quicks be as strong as you can get them and well rooted. We are

your hble Servts

W & S

20 Nov 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 20th November 1772

We have received your Letters of the 11th & 16th instant and duly note their contents.

You will take your own time to make the Tryals of the Fume and particularly we would not have you attempt it til you have convenience to do them as they ought to be done, nor would we have the Furnace heated on purpose.

What you propose as to weighing an equal quantity of each sort of <Fine> Fume is perfectly right as without that no comparison can be made that will answer our

purpose. The coarse part may be run mixed as all we want from it is to get the most Lead out of it we can.

You understand the directions we gave you about Muddle Cleugh Ore so you proceed upon it at your convenience.

The breadth of the Ditch 3 feet at Top the Depth (which is certainly set down upon the Sketch sent you) 2 Feet the breadth at bottom 8Inches. The Sketch is laid down upon a Scale of one Inch to a foot and you may readily find out all the dimensions, where not particularly set down, 60 or 63 Quicks to every Rood is the common Quantity. You must desire Mr Bell to take a look at the Hedging now and then we expect that from him as being within his district so you will let him see this Letter when you go to Hexham and we doubt not he will give you assistance.

Cowhill Lead is certainly unrefineable. The slag and Cowslitts cross Vein Lead are refineable. The Assay you mention, about which you suppose there has been some mistake, was quite hollow and we are satisfied we need not trouble further but get the Lead run into 1 1/2 Cwt pieces; the three Assays are within 1/80th part of a Grain of each other which proves they are true made. The extra produce of Cowhill Ore is very agreeable to us, that will pay handsomely for melting it and casting it into 1 1/2 Cwt Pigs and leave something for Profit compared with what that Ore has done before and therefore dont let us fret for having done what was thought best; indeed when one does for the best in any case & the event proves not so well as was expected, tho' it cannot be agreeable, yet it is a great consolation to say I did what I thought was right.

We are your very hble Servts

W&S

PS. We are sorry to hear the Borers have lost a hole, for want of Boxes; we have given directions to Wm Laybourne to let you have Wood for Boxes and to make them and he will soon be with you.

Til further orders you need not cut the Bullion in pieces but send it whole as heretofore.

We wish to have all the Lead in as soon as possible & desire no more be delivered from the Mill this Season.

20 Nov 1772 Nicholas Walton to Christopher Bell

To Mr Chris Bell

Farnacres 20th Novemr 1772

Mr Bell

We beg you will forward to Lead Carriage as much as you possibly can and let the Carriers know that a full Pay immediately after all is got in and we expect they will all exert themselves in getting the whole to Newcastle and Newburn. We are your hble Servts

W & S

PS Pray give Mr Mulcaster your advice and assistance abt the Hedging at Langley Mill and we must expect you will now and then take a ride to see how they get on.

27 Nov 1772 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr Holmes

Farnacres 27th November 1772

Dear Sir

I have been from home or you shd sooner have heard from me requesting your favour of the 13th instant. The day after I reced. it I went to Mr Langlands a Silver Smith in Newcastle and asked him what he could afford to give for Bullion he told me 5s11 1/2d P Ounce but as he had bought a considerable Quantity within the present Month that had exhausted his Cash so much that he could not pay conveniently for such a quantity as 656 Ounces in less than a Month and I agreed with him upon those Terms. He assures me that the most considerable part of the Bullion he buys he Manufactures into large Plate but that he does send some to London and receives in exchange the smaller kinds of Articles in the Plate way none of which are Manufactured in Newcastle.

We shall be glad to hear from you Monthly and upon any sudden risings or fallings in the prices of Bullion and when the prices of the London Markett will allow of a profit to you, it will give Mr Smeaton and myself great pleasure to resume the dealing with you or to do that occasionally as the times and circumstances may suit you & us. You will be so good as excuse the trouble we give you upon this occasion and be assured that we shall at all times have great satisfaction in hearing from you and of your welfare.

I am for Mr Smeaton and Self Dear Sir your most hble Servt

N W Junr

3 Dec 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 3rd Decemr. 1772

Upon examining the Lead Carriers Accounts I find that we have not Thomas Browns recets which he took from the Carriers to whom he delivered his Lead and as I suppose he must have them desire you will immediately make application for them to himself they are as follows.

For 62 to Rowland Smith

267 to John Corbett

21 to Wm Wear

350 The Quantity he reced from the Mill.

I would have you make this enquiry immediately and if you can come at the Recets pray send them the first convenient opportunity.

In your Operations for the time to come I would have you set down the marks of the Lead sent for Newcastle or Sold, that is, whether LS. OS.L. O. or whatever the Mark may be.

For the reasons you give I would have you in next operation to report Cowhill Ore as Smelted and the Lead made into 1Cwt pieces for Sale; if we think it necessary afterwards to melt and cast them into 1 1/2Cwt pieces that may be taken notice of in a future Operation and then say so many pieces of Lead of 1Cwt produced from Cowhill Ore melted down & cast into 1 1/2Cwt pieces produced so many of that size - I do not however think but we may sell them in 1Cwt pieces tho' I cannot yet tell you. What you say to Mr Smeaton and myself upon this occasion is very agreeable, as it shows your attention, every instance of which gives great pleasure to us; the ommitting the report of Cowhill Ore as Smelted, for the present Operation is quite right. The Smelters must undoubtedly be paid in proportion to the Lead they produced from the Ore.

Mr Bell acquaints me that there are about 302 pieces of Lead at Hexham. I hope they will be all at Newcastle and Newburn by the beginning of next Week; as soon after that as possible I will come up to Hexham and make a full Pay and believe a Thursday will be the best to take in all the West Country Carriers as well as the Hexham Men. Since receiving your Lettters of the 25th 28th & 30th I have got every thing ready for the Pay and only want now to know how the Lead delivered at Newcastle will answer to your Account of delivery at the Mill, as without knowing that we should not be able to charge the Defaulters in case of loss.

We do not want Mr Bells opinion about any other manner of planting the Quicks or making the Hedges at Langley; all we want of him is to see from time to time that the Work is going on properly according to the Plan as sent you. If you can agree for it at 7d or 8d P Rood it will do very well: 8 we must not exceed. Mr Bell does not mention the Hedging in his Letter to us. The Quicks should be all planted by the beginning of April but if the Hedging is finished by May day (1st May) it will answer the end.

I will endeavour to see Mr Rawling about the sharpening of the Tools; til you hear further do as well as you can and I approve of what you have done and are doing. Mr Laybourne will I doubt not furnish the Men with what Boxes they want and I hope that is already done, if it is not he has disappointed me.

You have certainly done right in getting another Washer & I hope he will perform well and it will undoubtedly be proper to get forward with Middle Cleugh Ore

The Tryal of the Fume has not proved according to expectation, for tho' we apprehended a difference between the Refinery and Reducing Fume yet it was never expected it wd be so great as it is. From what has been done we are now enabled to make a calculation what is most proper to be made of it. The two small pieces will come very well in among the Common Slag Lead.

The Operation is I believe right in every particular and I have filled up the Blank for the Bullion with 656 Ounces the Quantity I weighed it to

Tomorrow I shall expect to hear what you have found out as to the Lead in the Carriers hands at Hexham and on the road between there and the Mill.

The Bullion you will send as soon after you break up for Christmas as your convenience will permit.

I wish the Ore Carriers cou'd be paid when the Lead Carriers are, as Mr Smeaton and I dont like to be in Arrears with any body when we can do otherwise; consult Mr Hilton about this and desire him to get the acct. ready directly in case he thinks it may be done. I hope the Lead Carriers Accounts will soon be settled as every thing seems in great order and full Memorandums are made about each Carriers Account.

I am for Mr Smeaton & Self Yr most hble Servt

N W Junr

PS. I have seen Mr Rawling who desires youll be so good as get the Chisels sharpened at as low a rate as you can which I doubt not you have done and will continue to do.

4 Dec 1772 Nicholas Walton to Christopher Bell

Mr Chris Bell

Farnacres 4th Decemr 1772

Mr Bell

I was glad to receive, at last, yr Letter about the Lead and I hope you will be enabled to get all from Hexham and every part of the Road and at Newburn and at Newcastle by Tuesday next: Whenever it is, I would have you tell Willy Laybourne to come down the Road and examine it to Newburn and from thence to Newcastle, and then come to me and let me know what is left upon the Road and how much at Newburn and at Newburn he must tell Ions to get all in as fast as possible as til that is done no Account can be settled with the Carriers. I doubt Havelock and Corbett have not behaved well because I find they or however Corbett, make difficulties about letting other Carriers have their Lead to bring in and I think Pickerings 10 were lying at Mr Jacksons Door when we made the Pay. Let any of the Carriers have Lead as long as it lasts on their giving proper Recets as without that it is the case we may wait til May day before any of the Quantities are brought in.

As you have seen the Hedging at Langley Mill, should like to know how they are going on, and on a fine day now and then, desire you will not ommit viewing, and letting us hear from you about this Work; You will at the same time have an opportunity of seeing your undertaking at High Stublock, which is no bad thing you know. I have no Account yet about the Farms but they are certainly all Let by this.

I am for Mr Smeaton & Self Your hble Servt

N W Junr

8 Dec 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 8th Decemr 1772

As upon the most exact calculation I can make I now find that supposing Lead to continue at its present Price, Cowhill Lead can scarce fail of making a Profit by refining, but I believe it will be so small that if it had been run into 1 1/2 Cwt pieces it would most undoubtedly have been more prudent to sell it as common Lead than refine it; however to try the experiment & as I do not wish to have any Cwt Lead to come to Markett when it can be avoided, I desire you will refine it by itself and let an Account be kept of the Coals Bone Ashes and Fern Ashes used and then we shall be able to see how near the Wind we can run. I dont know how this expression may suit Refining but it is a common one among Sailors that the nearer a Ship will sail to the Wind the better. I am for Mr Smeaton & Self

Your most hble Servt

N W Junr

15 Dec 1772 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 15th Decemr 1772

I intend making the Lead Carriers Pay on Monday the 21st instant and also the Ore Carriers & desire youll give immediate notice to both.

There is no occasion for Thomas Brown to trouble himself further about the Recets for the Lead.

I fear we shall fall somewhat short.

When I come to Hexham I shall talk with you about the other matters contained in your Letters from the 5th to the 8th inclus. not having at present time to say more. I am
your hble Servt

N W Junr

PS. There is none of the West Country (that is Carlisle & Haltwhistle) Carriers that we shall want to see at the Pay but Rowland Smith.

2 Jan 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 2nd January 1773

I was very much concerned when I read your Letter of the 30th Ult. giving an Account of the untimely death of Thomas Brown. It will be certainly necessary immediately to acquaint the Family with his engagements to us and I doubt not they

will fulfil them but I have some fears as well as you that we may be worse off than when Thomas was living. When you acquaint the Family with the Agreement made for the Carriage of the Stones for the Walls you must take notice that you suppose they know we have taken the Ground near the Mill for the Smelters etc and let me have their answer. It is lucky we have this Agreement in Writing and it will be proper for you to tell them we have. Pray do not spare to give your best advice to the Boys. When the Stock is compleated I shall like to have it as soon as your convenience will permit. I am

Your very hble Servt
N W Junr

PS. The Bullion Weighed 651 Ounces and it is as fine a piece as I ever saw.

The piece they took off at Stanhope I thought looked very ill; I saw it at the Silver Smiths.

Let me know whether Thomas Brown has made a Will or not, I suppose he has not made one.

3 Jan 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 3rd January 1773

I have since you were wrote to weighed the Assays and find them a good deal different in weight one of them being $\frac{3}{8}$ ths of a Grain less than the other. By the larger one the Cake answers within 7oz 11 Dwt $4\frac{8}{10}$ gr[ain]s of what it ought to have been to have got all the Silver clean out which is good work we shall therefore pay no regard to the smaller one.

I am sorry you were prevented coming to see your Friends at Bladon and particularly so for the occasion of it. I hope I shall at some convenient opportunity see both your Brother and you here which will give me much pleasure.

The Winter seems to set in pray how is it with you and how has it been since the last Pay. I am for Mr Smeaton & Self

Your most hble Servt
N W Junr PS

I have examined the Operation and think it is very right in every particular.

15 Jan 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 15th January 1773

I have reced your Letter inclosing the Accts of Materials and have filled up the Blanks the first time we come to the Mill shall bring the Account with us and make that you have kept a Copy.

It gives me some pleasure to hear there is 13 Inches of Coal so near the Mill as we may probably think of working it in case we do not find a better Seam nearer the Mill.

We have open Weather here and hopes your Washing goes well on.

Your Letters of the 7th & 9th are both before me and I am obliged to you on behalf of Mr Smeaton & myself for what you have so punctually executed relative to the Ground taken of Thomas Brown. It will perhaps be necessary for Mr Brown to Administer but there is no occasion to say any thing about that yet, you will therefore not mention it; but if you hear there is any intention of that sort in the Family at Langley Castle let me know the first Post afterwards - Pray had Thomas Brown parted with his Estate upon which you had the Mortgage or it stil remains unsold.

At the request of the Cottagers I consent that for the present no Lane to be made between the North & South Closes.

I am not pleased to hear of the rise at Stublick Colliery but we must expect the same treatment of other People unless we can relieve ourselves otherwise.

Don't Sell any Lead for less than 20s P Pig. I am

Your most hble Servt

N W Junr

24 Jan 1773 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr Holmes.

Farnacres 24th Janry 1773

Dear Sir

The Silver Trade is now so dull at Newcastle that we can sell none almost and are only offered 5s 10 1/2d P Ounce payable one or two Months after delivery. Shall be much obliged by your acquainting us with the present price in London & whether you think it would be worth your while to have a piece sent you at the price there (or at what price) which weighs 651 Ounces. We have hoped to hear from you for some time past. We are with best regards to you and yours

Dear Sir Yours etc

W & S

25 Jan 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 25th January 1773

We reced your Letter of the 18th inst with the Operations and Assays respecting Cowhill Lead which you will observe has left a saving of £11.4.6 3/4 beside the saving of 1/4 P Piece Towns dues on the Quantity lost 9 1/4 and Commission also on that Quantity; so that it is clear we can when Lead is at £14 afford to refine when the Lead will produce in the Work 4 oz 17 dwt 1 6/10 grns P Fodder or by Assay from 4 oz 10 dwt to 4 oz 18 dwt P Fodder which is 1oz 2 dwt less than former Refiners have reckoned would answer. The Cake weighed 182 Ounces only.

The Weather has been so open of late that we doubt not the Washing goes well on and when you have compleated the Trials of Middle Cleugh Ore, which we desire may be done at your convenience shall be glad to have the result.

We are sorry last years Ore turns out so badly in the washing but hope this year we shall find it much better.

Whatever you think Pattinson will deserve you will give him for washing the Tails you mention.

Mr Rawling will deliver you this and we stil hope to discover something better than has been yet met with.

The Hedging of the Lane at the request of the Cottagers may be let alone for the present.

We shall be glad to hear you are getting forward with the Carriage of the Materials for the Wall.

As it will be necessary for Mrs Brown or some of the Family to Administer pray tell them we say so & as soon as that is done we shd be glad to be informed that is as soon as an Administration is granted youll inform us & who has administered. We are

Your very hble Servts

W & S

PS If you see Mr Hilton pray tell him I must see him here as soon as possible.

Saving by the inclosed acct	£11 11 10
Charges in Mr Mulcaster's acct omitted	
Carriage of 37 1/2 foddors of lead from mill	
to Refinery at 2d	6 3
Carriage and package of bullion 3 6	9 9
	11 2 1
To which add	
What the bullion sold for more than by	
Mr Mulcaster's estimate	2 5 3/4
Savings upon the whole	11 4 6 3/4

31 Jan 1773 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes

Farnacres 31st January 1773

Dear Sir

We were favoured with your Letter of the 27th inst by yesterday's Post and by the next Carriers for London, who will set out from Newcastle on Saturday the 6th of February will send you a Cake of Bullion which weighs 651 Ounces. By keeping, it has lost its brightness but as we never saw a more beautiful piece when it came from the Refinery we doubt not its being fine. Whatever price you find it worth your while to give for it shall be agreeable to us.

Walton & Smeaton

8 Feb 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 8th February 1773

I received your Letter of the 1st instant as also the Operation for last Month but have not yet had time to examine the latter.

I am very sorry the Middle Cleugh Ore has not proved so good as was hoped for but as I doubt not all possible care has been taken we must be content and hope to do better in future.

As Mr Hilton tells me you have discovered another Quarry I hope that will make the bargain to Browns people answer better than was expected if it should appear notwithstanding that they have a hard bargain we must not allow them to be sufferers.

It gives me pleasure to hear that you have got some Water in the last hole. I hope it will continue, if it does, the Borehole should be carefully covered and a Conduit made as proposed so as to secure it in the best manner and if the Borers advise to a Box should be put in from the place where they Sunk to, to the Stonehead to prevent to hole running.

When you have compleated the trials of Middle Cleugh Ore roasted and unroasted shall be glad to hear from you.

We have Frost here and I doubt your Washing is entirely stopped, that we ought to submit with chearfulness because we cannot make it otherwise, indeed if we had it within our power I dare say we should cut a sorry figure if we altered it.

Tho' I date my Letter from Farnacres I am now in Newcastle and have been for a Week past when I return home you may depend upon having a Copy of the Operation you mention in return for which pray send me a Copy of this Letter as I have not time to make one. I am for Mr Smeaton & Self

Your very hble Servt

N Wa Junr PS

If it shd come on a hard frost and continue a few days during such time I should wish to set on the carriage of Lead till the Mill is cleared but don't let them carry when the Road will be hurt by it.

12 Feb 1773 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 12th February 1773

Dear Sir

Last Saturday I sent you a Box containing in one piece 651 Ounces of Bullion. I am sorry it was not cut into pieces, the reason it was not is, that we expected to Sell it in Newcastle. I doubt not you will find it a very clean piece notwithstanding it being soiled by keeping for I never saw a more beautiful piece in my life when it came from the Refinery.

I am etc N W Junr

15 Feb 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 15th February 1773

Having now examined the Operation for January I find the same is right; and along with this Letter you will receive a Copy of the Operation ending 28th November last, agreeable to your desire.

Your Letters if the 8th and 10th are both come to hand and the Contents observed.

I think it is clear from the Tryals made of roasting the Ore that it will not be elligible to do any thing more in that way unless we get some new lights.

As we are so forward with our Work in the Smelting way we need not hurry till the Frost and Snow are abated.

The Silver you will take off at the time you mention and let it be cut into pieces as usual before the last two pieces came away.

As to the Water, dont trouble yourself about the loss of it; as we know where it is, we can probably persuade it to come to us again. When the Borehole is finished pray let me know.

I am glad to hear Browns people are getting well on with the Leading of the Stones, as I am also, when you tell me, they are Winning the Stones very fast.

With regard to Coals and Cynders we must expect the same treatment at Stublick as the rest of the Country meets with unless we could be better otherwise supplied. You have done properly by informing us of the alteration of the prices.

What you propose about the Lead Carriage will do very well, send only refined Lead

You have done properly in keeping the Slags of the last 100 Bings of Middle Cleugh Ore by themselves and it will undoubtedly be right to go on with the Litharge Slags and Test Bottoms til they are finished. I am for Mr Smeaton & Self

Your real friend

N W Junr

16 Feb 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 16th February 1773

I have seen some very curious pieces of Lead of various colours exceedingly thin and cut into Stripes about the breadth of Ribbons. I believe they are taken from the Ore Hearth after drawing out the Bouse. The way to keep them from being ruffled is to cut a number of thin Strips of Plained Wood into pieces so as to be rather broader and longer than the piece of Lead and to lay the Lead between those pieces of Wood and after that is done to tie them carefully together so as to keep the whole firm. If you can procure Mr Smeaton and me about three dozen of those beautiful pieces of Lead it will be very agreeable to us and the sooner you send them the better.

There are 58 pieces of Lead come to Newcastle but as the Thaw is come on so strong I suppose you are given over carrying. Another opportunity will scarce offer but if it does I would have you make use of it.

I am Your hble Servt

N W Junr

19 Feb 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 19th Febry 1773

The inclosed Letter I have received from William Brown and think he wishes to be quit of his small Farm, because he can otherwise suit himself - I should be glad if you would give me your sentiments fully upon the whole of his Letter, and desire you will, and that you will at the same time return it to me. What he says respecting the Fodder, I am realy surprised at, and wonder you should not take notice to the Browns when they removed it from the place where set up. Thomas Brown expressly promised me that the Straw should all be eat at the Cottage where the Corn was Stacked and all the Manure left for the Tenants who were to have the Ground which was taken of him and you may depend upon it if they do not use what now remains, upon the spot, and bring Manure in lieu of the Straw taken away. That we shall make them pay 40s p Acre if he did not keep his word about eating the Straw at the Cottage

and leaving the Manure he might expect our carrying every thing to the utmost as to the 40s p Acre [struck out: 'for tearing out the Ground without leave and I told Thomas Brown'] which is to be considered as a cheque upon such kind of proceedings and this I beg you will communicate to Mrs Brown and her friends immediately and tell them that if the Manure is not brought directly in lieu of the Straw removed they will not have an opportunity of making the matter up. I am

Your sincere Well wisher

N W Junr

PS. There must be 2 Fodders of good and well rotted Manure brought in lieu of every Fodder of Straw taken away. The sooner I hear from you the better. Pray if William Brown should be allowed to give up his Ground will the others or any of them take it at the Rent set upon it.

23 Feb 1773 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 23rd Feby 1773

Dear Sir

I desire youll be so obliging as deliver the inclosed Letter to Mr Smeaton and that you'll be kind enough to forward the Letter to Mr Prime by the Penny Post.

Yoursof the 20th is just come to hand and I shall draw upon you this day for £191.4.7 1/2 being the amount of 651 Ounces of Bullion at 5s10 1/2 P Ounce. The Bill will be payable 30 days after date. I expect there is another Cake of Bullion at Newcastle about 750 Ounces weight which is cut in pieces as before and I propose send it by this Weeks Carrier. I am joined by my Wife and Father in Compliments to yourself and Family & am

Dear Sir Your most hble Servt

N W Junr

PS I have wrote to Bro Smeaton about the Lead Fume but it proves so trifling a Quantity that it does not seem worth while for any of us to take the least additional trouble about it. The Cover will not I find take Mr Primes Letter without being above Privilege.

Farnacres 23rd Feby 1773

Sir

Thirty days after date pay to the order of Mr John Smeaton One Hundred and Ninety one Pounds four shillings and Seven Pence. Value received as advised by Sir Your most hble Servt N WaltonJunr

To Mr Jno Holmes Watchmaker. London.

23 Feb 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 23rd Febry 1773

This day I reced your Letter of the 19th and have since weighed the Assays. The Cake of Bullion falls short of the Assay more than common for some time past; it is near 23 Ounces under what it ought to have been; but you know we are certain that the Assays are not always to be depended upon. I have not yet seen the Silver.

Old Cowslitts Cotn Riggs & Dowke Burn Lead is Refineable and the produce by the mixture has certainly answered very well.

What you have done as to the Lead Carriers is perfectly right.

The Borehole must be carefully covered with a tollerable stout flat Stone not large, and take care nothing tumbles into the hole, and then covered with Earth for two feet or so and let it remain in the way til we come to the Mill. I'll warrant you we will get the Water again.

I was indeed much shocked when I read the amount of poor Routledges misfortune in the papers and your confirmation of it; but I am surprised more accidents of the kind dont happen as I have observed them often extremely careless.

Our Hearths being kept cool will certainly be the occasion of your being likely to fail in getting the Lead of fine colours and therefore I should be glad if you could procure some of the finest sorts from Acton. I wish much to have them and as it will also be very agreeable to Mr Smeaton I desire you will take some pains to get them and of the finest sorts. They are intended to be sent to the Secretary of Greenwich Hospital. I am for Mr Smeaton & Self

Your most hble Servt

N W Junr

23 Feb 1773 Nicholas Walton to John Smeaton

[Note: Dates by the later date shown at foot of the tables]

28th Novem 1772. Computations respecting Refinery & Reducing Fume

Refinery Fume fine sort

7 cwt and 19 lb produced of Lead 3cwt 1Q 23lb

at £13 10s p fodder

£2 4 5

Charges viz

s d

Coals and cynders

2 1/2

Workmanship and Wear and tear

5

Carriage of lead & expenses attending the Sale 4

11 1/2

Remains for the value of 7 cwt 19 lb of Fume

£1 13 4 1/2

Which is equal to 4s 7 3/4 p cwt or £4 17 6 3/4 p fodder

Reducery Finery Fine sort

7 cwt and 19 lb produced of Lead 1cwt 1Q 19lb

at £13 10s p fodder

£ - 18 3

Charges viz

s d

Coals & cynders & Wear & tear as above

7 1/2

Carriage of lead & expenses attending the Sale

1 6

8 6 1/2

Remains for the value of 7 cwt 19 lb of Fume

£- 9 8 1/2

Which is equal to 1s 5 3/4 p cwt or £1 8 5 1/4 p fodder

The prices paid by Mr Coxes <p Ines> Mr Cranford are according to mr Joseph Hilton's acct £3 & £3 10 for the Refinery Fume for Fluxing

2 5 for the Reducery Fume ditto

The value of the Fume at the Mill according to the above computations will be

		Refinery Fume	Reducery Fume
		s d	s d
when Lead is	£13 10	4 7 3/4 /cwt	1 4 3/4
	13 15	4 9 1/4	1 4 3/4
	14	4 10 1/2	1 5 1/4
	14 5	5	1 5 3/4
	14 10	5 1 1/4	1 6 1/4
	14 15	5 2 3/4	1 7
	15	5 4	1 7 1/2
	15 5	5 5 1/2	1 8
	15 10	5 6 3/4	1 8 1/2
	15 15	5 8 1/4	1 9 1/4
	16	5 9 1/2	1 9 3/4
Carriage, freight & package		2 2 1/2	2 2 1/2

The annual quantity produced at Langley Mill will be about 10 cwt including the coarse pt which amounted in four years to 9 cwt

Copy of the above sent Mr Smeaton 23rd Febry 1773

1 Mar 1773 Nicholas Walton to William Brown

To William Brown at Langley Mill.

Farnacres 1st March 1773

William

In answer to your Letter about the Allotment Ground at Langley Mill I send this to acquaint you that is is our fixed resolution not to allow of any Plowing in the little Farms intended for the Workmen inhabiting Cottages at Langley Mill except in the Ground lying Southwest from the Helm where the Well is and that only will be allowed in case upon consideration when Mr Smeaton and I are upon the spot appears proper even to admit of that. It is also our determination that each Person who has an Allotment or small Farm may be clear at the end of any year upon six Months notice, and that the Commissioners of the Greenwich Hospital or whoever may be the Lessors may also be clear of any Tenant at the end of any year upon six Months notice. Each year to commence upon the twelfth day of May and that the first year to commence upon the twelfth of May 1773. I think it also necessary to acquaint you that the Ground was taken particularly with an intention to accommodate the Refiners and Reducers and that they must consequently be always preferred. You have said you were agreeable to take one of these small Farms and you tell me which of them has fallen to your lot, at the same time you intimate that it will be hard to accept it upon the Terms which you knew would be insisted upon and acquaint me you have no doubt you can get something more fit for you and for a Term of Years, I therefore desire you will immediately let Mr Mulcaster know whether you desire to be quit or not and I now inform you that you are at liberty to be off.

With regard to the Straw we shall take care that it is brought back again or Manure in lieu of it. I am for Mr Smeaton and Self.

Your well wisher

N W Junr

1 Mar 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 1st March 1773

Your Letter of the 22nd ult is now before me and in answer thereto I am now to acquaint you that it seems proper for us to be clear of Brown the first opportunity that offers but I am sorry we never before heard of this character; if we had any thing of it to be sure he would never have had an offer of a Farm at Langley Mill; as to the being apprehensive of consequences by discharging him don't ever let such an Idea enter into your head; by such a rule if we should get a set of Pick Pockets and Thieves as Workmen settled among us we must keep them all. I would however and caution in the affair and so long as the Man behaves justifiably in his work and otherwise conducts himself properly I do not see we can get rid of him decently; but if a Refiner

should Marry, then he must go out in course, or he may perhaps get himself accommodated elsewhere, this I hope he will, but as you do I think it likely he will not find that so easy as he immagines. He must give an immediate answer whether he gives up the Farm or not, and if he does, he must have notice to quit the Cottage he lives in, such notice I mean as we are obliged by our Agreement with the Cottagers, to give. You know that best yourself, and if he can be properly got away at Mayday and we can have some other of the Smelters to take the Cottage and Ground together that will be the most agreeable thing to us, for otherwise we shall have a Farm upon our hands. I do not however suppose there can be any difficulty in the other three taking this Farm among them til it can be Let, so you will in case find it necessary propose that to them and endeavour to get them or Liddell to take it. With regard to the Corn removed I think we should forgive Browns people in case they bring back the Straw but I can only speak for myself and am sure if they do not keep religiously to their promise I shall not excuse what has been done. You will take notice what quantity of Corn they remove in order that you may know what Straw they should bring back.

You may Smelt Brownleyhill Ore as you find it most convenient to the Work. I am

Your humble Servant
N W Junr

PS. Let me hear from you and make a particular Memorandum of what passes between Brown and you, and you'll let me know what notice it is necessary to give the Cottagers so as to oblige them to give their Cottages. I suppose if Brown gets accommodated elsewhere he will be for leaving his Cottage at Mayday in course. Pray have any of Browns Family yet administered? and if they have I desire youll let me know. I inclose you a Letter to William Brown which you will read, and then Seal and deliver it to him, and if you think fit you may take a Copy of it.

2 Mar 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Abstract of Mr Walton Junrs Letter to Mr Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 2nd March 1773

Yesterday I wrote to you and sent you a Letter for William Brown which I hope youll receive before, or with, this.

The recet of the pieces of coloured Lead acknowledged and offer made to pay him for the Book in wch they were Packed.

If Mr Brown should still continue in the mind of giving up the Cottage and Ground I desire youll Let them to Frank Robinson or any other you may think more proper; but be clear that Brown is to quit at Mayday (12th May) before you lett them to anybody,

but do nothing in this til you get my directions about Brown which I sent you the 1st inst (yesterday)

Corn Riggs Old Cowslitts & Dowkeburn Lead is refineable and you may Smelt Brownleyhill when you will. I am sorry you are so Poor - I can send you some Money by Mr Hilton so you may send a Recet for what you want. I am

Your hble Servt

N W Junr

2 Mar 1773 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr Holmes.

Farnacres 2nd March 1773

Dear Sir

Last Saturday I sent you a Box by the London Carrier containing 751 3/4 Ounces of Bullion and I have this day sent Mr Smeaton a Bill upon you for the last Cake which weighed 651 Ounces. I am with best respects.

Dear Sir your most hble Servt

N W Junr.

4 Mar 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 4th March 1773

I have reced yours of the 1st instant and observe its contents. The Bullion weighed 751 3/4 Ounces and I dare say is very fine, at least it looks so. The Operation is right and the reporting Cornriggs etc Lead as made into 1 Cwt pieces is better than as 11/2 Cwt Pieces.

I am etc N W Junr

8 Mar 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Private.

Farnacres 8th March 1773

Your Letter of the 3rd instant now lies before me and in answer thereto I now take this opportunity of acquainting you that I have wrote you a Letter which you are to show to William Brown and to send me an answer the first convenient time after you gave done so, the Letter is inclosed herewith. As upon the consideration of this Affair it seems to you that some alteration may be properly as to Rents to be paid for the Farms at Langley Mill for the first six years and as I approve much of the Idea you have

of it that matter will certainly have our particular attention when Mr Smeaton and I are together but there is no need to mention this at present.

I cannot recollect when Thomas Brown first promised me that the Straw should be cut but when he happened to be at this place about Dean Raw Farm and that was before the last Lead Carriers Pay I put him in mind of the promise and desired he would take care and keep to it and he then assured me I might depend upon it. It is quite a matter of indifference whether they fulfill the promise or not I know what is to be done.

In your next pray let me know the Name of the Administratrix who I suppose Thomas Browns Widow.

The whole of the Lead from which you sent me Assays in your last is refineable.

I am Your most hble Servt

N W Junr

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 8th March 1773

I have reced your Letter of the 3rd instant and it appears to me William Brown will not be easy with his Farm at Langley Mill or satisfied in any respect. As he can be accommodated otherwise and has said he had given it up and that Frank Robinson had his free leave to take it I would by all means have him not to trouble himself with it but to give it and the Cottage up directly so as to leave both upon the 12th of May; I am sure if he does not do so it will be quite disagreeable to Mr Smeaton and me for I repeat it, it does not appear to me he can be satisfied if he stays. You may show him this Letter and I desire to hear from you the first opportunity.

I am Your very hble Setvt

N W Junr

PS. Youll observe to Brown that if we were never so strongly inclined we cannot possibly give him an assurance of his keeping the Farm above a Year, at a time, for the reasons which I before gave him.

Rents to be paid for small farms at Langley Mill

Seven years Rent to 12th May 1780 at £14 14s £102 18

Farm No 1 1st Year £2

2nd Year £2 10

3rd Year £3

4th Year £3 10

5th Year £4

6th Year £4 4

7th Year £3 4 £22 8

Farm No 2 1st Year £2 6

2nd Year £2 16

3rd Year £3 6

4th Year £3 16

5th Year £4 6

6th Year £4 10

7th Year £3 10 £24 10

Farm No 3 1st Year £2 2

2nd Year £2 12

3rd Year £3 2

4th Year £3 12

5th Year £4 2

6th Year £4 6

7th Year £3 6 £23 2

Farm No 3 1st Year £2 5

2nd Year £2 15

3rd Year £3 5

4th Year £3 15

5th Year £4 5

6th Year £4 9

7th Year £3 9 £24 3 £102 18

Five p cent upon the money expended in making hedges &c is to be paid by the Tenants of the above farms in manner as set forth in Mr Walton jnr's letter to Mr Mulcaster of 31st Aug 1772

19 Mar 1773 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 19th March 1773

Dear Sir

In my Letter of this day to my Brother Smeaton I desired he would acquaint you I had reced your Letter of the 13th & drawn upon you for the Cake of Bullion last sent, but thinking it more regular that this shd come from me byway of Letter I now give you this trouble to inform you that I have this day drawn upon you for £220.16.6 being the amount of 751 3/4 Ounces of Bullion at 5s10 1/2d POunce. The Bill is payable 30 days after date to the Order of Mssrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington & Saint. About

the latter end of this Month I expect we shall have another Cake larger than the above which I purpose sending to you.

I am Ys etc.

N WJunr

PS Be obliging and forward Mr Salter's Letter by Penny Post

Sir.

Farnacres 19th March 1773

Thirty days after Date pay to the Order of Mssrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington and Saint Two Hundred and Twenty Pounds Sixteen Shillings and Six Pence. Value received as advised by Sir your most hble Servts Walton & Smeaton
To Mr John Holmes Watchmaker. London

19 Mar 1773 Nicholas Walton to John Salter

To Mr John Salter.

Farnacres 19th March 1773

Dear Sir

We shall be much obliged by your ordering & sending us One Hundred Casks of Bone Ashes, the sooner they come the more agreeable it will be to us but we are in no hurry.

We are Yrs etc

W & S

PS Pray dont trouble Meadows with any of them.

22 Mar 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 22nd March 1773

I have reced your Letters of the 16th and 18th and think you have done what is necessary respecting Brown only it should be clearly understood that tho' we are to be quit of each other on six Months notice, the quitting must be at Mayday because otherwise the Tenant may, by giving notice to quit at Martinmas, get a Crop of Hay for half a years Rent and the Landlord would in such case have to make up the difference to the succeeding Tenant, who would at first only have the winter half Year and consequently no Fodder to feed his Cattle with.

The Borers I would have to make the sixth Hole 26 Fathoms deep and also the seventh and the seventh Hole must be directly at the West end of the Refinery. The Eighth Hole you will fix upon the Pasture above the Shrubby Wood near the North

side of the Wood and fix it so that a line drawn from the sixth Hole to the eighth shall pass thro' the seventh Hole.

The sooner the Lead Carriage is got on the better and I desire you will tell Johnson that if any of his Men behave ill for the time to come he must expect something very disagreeable to happen. I think what you propose about the carriage perfectly right and desire you will act accordingly. I am

N W Junr

26 Mar 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 26 March 1773

I have tried the Assays which you have sent me and find Windybrow is Refineable, barely so, and the rest Viz the Slag etc Lead is unrefineable. As to Brigal Burn I return you the Paper for the Assay, for I am sure from its appearance there has never been an Assay in it; that is not material, as you say it is without dispute refineable. The Fume Lead just produces 1Oz .14D. 7 2/10 GR pFodder which is more than any one would expect; but as I have often said there is no judging of the operations of nature except by experiment and by that we find there us Silver in the Fume of Lead, we would not be otherwise convinced.

Nothing that comes in after this must come into the Account at the Pay; but do as much as you can as to getting every thing brought into Lead which belongs to the Ore now at the Mill and what has been before Smelted because we always at the end of every year would be glad to know the produce as exactly as possible. When I say this I do not see you ought to be prevented proceeding with the fresh Ore only taking particular notice that it is not to come into the Account & keeping the produce of Lead, Slags etc all separate from the preceding Quantities.

You may fix the Borehole at any way within 15 yards West from the Refinery but you must consider the Line to be drawn from the 6th Borehole Northward to pass through a point within 5 yards of the Refinery end. I am

&c NWJunr

2 Apr 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 2nd April 1773

On Saturday 24th inst we propose taking a Bed at Langley Mill & I intend going forward to Alston the next morning early. On Wednesday the 5th of May we expect to be at Langley Mill in the Afternoon or Evening & shall probably stay with you til Sunday the 9th so as to get to Hexham that Evening & the Pay you will fix to be at Hexham on Wednesday the 12th of May.

All the Ore now delivered from the Mines must be smelted so as to come into the Pay Bill & the Carriage of it is to be included in the Bill.

Let all the Work which relates the above mentioned Ore & what was reced before come into an Operation ending the 1st of May & what relates any new Ore let that be included in the succeeding Operations; by which you see I mean to keep the two Accounts as much unmixed as possible by carrying the ending of the operation forward from the 24th of April to the 1st of May give you an additional Week to get all the old Work as much finished as you can within the last operation before the Pay.

I have tryed Brownleyhill Assay by which I find the Lead should produce at the rate of 10 Ounces 14 Dwt 9 Gr p Fodder

Mr Hilton is the bearer hereof & I have fixed with him that the Ore carriage may begin as soon as he can be at Liberty to attend it the price is to be 5s PBing for what is to come in after this time. I am

Your hble Servt

N W Junr PS

Yours with the Operation for March is come to hand.

4 Apr 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 4th April 1773

I have examined the Operation. Ending the 27th of March and find it right in every particular except the Refineable Slag Lead. You report 157 Cwt in Operation to have been made [inserted in margin in a different hand: 'shd be 159 in Operation'] which added to the Stock of the Operation ending 27th of February which was 673Cwt makes 830Cwt but in the last Operation you have set down 832Cwt being 2Cwt more than you report to have been made [inserted in margin as above: '832 right']. I desire youll let me know how it ought to be

In Operation ending 27th June 1772 you have Brownleyhill 37B 2Cwt shd be Brownleyhill and Guddamgill Burn Cross Vein and in Operation ending 25th July 1772 you have Brownleyhill 32B 2Cwt in both Cases should be Brownleyhill and Guddamgill Burn Cross Veins so you will add what is necessary or otherwise our Accts and Mr Hiltons will not agree. By Mr Hilton's Accts there was 3Bs sent from the Cross Vein.

You report too much of Carrs Ore to have been reced as Bouse by 2B 4Cwt and too little as Cutting by 2B 4Cwt so that tho the Quantity is upon the whole right yet your Account and Mr Hiltons does not agree, you have only to mark down upon either of the Operations ending 25 July or 29 Aug that 2. 4 Cwt of either of the Quantities reced in those Months was Cutting Ore and then youll agree with Mr Hilton and you must let me know in which of the Months you make the alteration.

The Refineable Slag Lead must be Refined before the first of May as must also the Litharge kept from the Silver Tests or however done so as to come into the Pay.

I am your very hble Servt
N W Junr PS

We shall Pay no Lead Carriers this Pay. You will soon see Mr Rowling who will endeavour to regain the Spring that was lost.

5 Apr 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 5th April 1773

I have just got your Letter of the 3rd and in answer desire you will get every thing that relates the old Ore, that is, the Ore now got in, (Greengill excepted which I would have you do with as you propose) as much compleated as possible by the first of May and every expence relative thereto must be included in the Pay Bill.

I will write to Brown's people about the Corn.

The Assays show that all the Lead is Refineable even the Black Slag but that is barely so however I wd have it refined.

Am glad the Weather is so favourable and that you get so well on with the Lead Carriage. I am your hble Servt

N W Junr

13 Apr 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 13th April 1773

I have received your Letter as also the Bullion which you will set down 1154 Ounces in the Operation and that exceeds the calculation nearly 50 Ounces; indeed I always observe we get the most Silver when we take off the large Cakes, compared with Assays.

You are 1Cwt wrong in your last quantity where you reckon to have lost by Refining and Reducing. You have it 209.2.5 it shd be 208.2.5

I shall take care to alter the Operation last sent as to the Slag Lead and the rest may remain til we come up.

Though your reasoning is good about the Borehole I stil hope the Water may be regained; if it should not the Expence of a Trial to get it will not be great.

When you compute what Lead you imagine to be in the Tails etc which will remain unsmelted at the end of the Operation 1st May I would have you as hitherto give us the best estimate you can of the expence of bringing those Tails etc into Lead.

The Litharge Lead for Refining must be refined by itself and the Bullion taken off also by itself. I am your most hble Servt

N W Junr

PS I believe Mr Smeaton will not be with me upon the 24th instant as I expect he will meet me at Keswick. Mrs Brown has not been as yet wrote to about removing the Corn and Stacking it at the Door and I therefore desire you will apply to her. I shd be glad to know whether there is any Straw brought back again or not and pray tell her I have asked you. The number of Fodders in the whole including what is now at the Helm should be reckoned 24 so you will compute as near as you can what is not removed and make her bring as many Fodders as to make up the deficiency.

23 Apr 1773 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 23rd April 1773

Dear Sir

By last Saturdays London Carrier I sent you a Box containing 1155 1/2 Ounces of Bullion but as it is a little dirtied at the edge I only reckon it 1154 Ounces to you. I hope it will arrive safe on Saturday the 1st May. I am etc

N W Junr

PS If the allowance should not be sufficient pray make it so.

25 May 1773 Nicholas Walton to Henry Airey

To Mssrs Henry & Jona Airey.

Farnacres 25 May 1773

Sirs

We have had a Mr Selby with us who wants as he tells us 500 pieces of lead; he is a Plumber in Edinburgh but is a stranger to us and we know nothing of his circumstances neither for or against; you will therefore yourselves judge whether you are to deal with him or not.

We are Gentm. Your most hble Servts

N W Junr J S

29 May 1773 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 29th May 1773

Dear Sir

We have this day drawn up in you for £337 - 5 being the amount of Eleven Hundred fifty five & one half Ounces of Bullion at 5s 10d POunce. The Bill is payable twenty days after date.

Upon this day Senn.t you will receive a Box containing 382 1/2 Ounces of Bullion in eight pieces. We are with best Compliments to yourself and Family

Dear Sir Your most hble Servts

NWJunr J S

Farnacres 29th May 1773

Sir Twenty days after date pay to Mssrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington and Saint or their Order Three Hundred and Thirty seven Pounds & five Pence. Value received as advised by. Sir your most hble Servts Walton & Smeaton
To Mr Holmes Watchmaker. London

29 May 1773 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

Extract from Mssrs Walton & Smeaton's Letter to Jno Ibbetson Esq 29th May 1773

As the Establishments at Langley Mill are considerable we beg leave to suggest to the Board whether an Insurance from Fire shd be gone into; the buildings are not in their nature or use more than commonly liable to this accident and are as much as possible detached from one another & we do not know of an Insurance of the kind; notwithstanding we thought it proper to mention this matter to the Board.

29 May 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 29th May 1773

We are glad that you are likely to find with a Quarry to your mind and hope it will answer to expectation.

Respecting the Smelters Wages we now inform you that we shall always think it right to give you every reasonable encouragement, if they in reality have any hardship to complain of we should be glad to have things fixed upon a fair and equitable footing; but in so doing we must consider other people as well as ourselves; if either People give better Prices than we, there is no doubt but we must increase ours if we mean to keep our best Hands; but if our prices for the best Smelting Ores are the same as other Peoples if we have a greater quantity of refractory Ore than others, the most fair and equitable way is to make them an allowance upon the refractory Ores, keeping the prices of the more feasible Ore the same as other people pay. We suppose Middle Cleugh, Rampgill and Capel Cleugh North Vein to be of the refectionary kind; those of Carrs, the rest of Adam Wilkinsons and some others that you can specify better than we, are of the most feasible kind: we would therefore have you talk with them upon this Lead without acquainting them that you have wrote to us, and endeavour to draw

from them such a proposition as (you can let them know) you can venture to recommend to us.

In general we believe it may be said that the Smelting Wages are the same now as twenty years ago, yet so much improvement has been made in the Smelting Art and Machinery for that purpose that the despatch of business will in some measure countervail the increased price of Provisions.

The larger Cake of Bullion weighed 326 1/2 Ounces and the smaller one including the two pieces and one fined in Assay Test 56 together 382 1/2 Ounces. We have not yet had time to try the weight of the Assays we reced when at the Mill and therefore cannot say any thing about the produce of them P Fodder.

The trial made of Vauce Coals show us clearly we ought to go no more there.

As soon as you can with convenience should be glad to know how the prices of the Hedging will be likely to turn out by the Rood and you shall then have full directions what to do. It cannot be done properly by days works.

If the Ore which comes from Middle Cleugh after this time or indeed any other Ore should be found to work ill we must try washing because without that we shall not be able to find out whether the difficulty arises from the nature of the Ore or from mismanagement in the Washing and we think there should never be above 100 Bings brought from any Mine til Trial is made of the Ore and when at any time a clear mismanagement is discovered a stop to the delivery must be put from such Mine til the quantity then remaining at the Mine shall have been rewashed and made fit for Smelting and this you are to observe as a general rule in all future times, and you will acquaint Mr Hilton with this immediately.

We are sorry the Boring has upon the whole been attended with no better fortune but we ought not to be uneasy as we have done our best in hopes of discovery and in which we have not been totally disappointed. We are

Your most hble Servts

N W Junr JS

6 Jun 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 6th June 1773

I have reced your Letter of the 4th instant and duely note the contents which are very full respecting the matter of the Smelting Wages. Mr Smeaton and I shall be together before the end of the present Month and we will then consider and determine upon what appears most proper upon the occasion.

Though you cannot come at it exactly I should be glad if you would give some kind of guess what the Hedging will cost P Rood. If you should be out in your calculation I shall certainly excuse it because I know you will do according to the best of your judgement.

Mr Bell has directions to let you have Wood for Gates from Dinnetley but he will not be able to set it out til after the 13th inst.

You may take down the Boring Geer when you will and I must desire you will if you can send me the particulars of what you have expended on account of the Boring as also the Receipts you have taken by Mr Chrisr Bell who I expect will be here on Wednesday or Thursday and I will send you a Recet by him for the amount of the Money expended. We cannot settle with Mr Rawling til we have this Account and Vouchers.

I am Your very hble Servt
N W Junr

PS. Pray enquire of Mr Hilton what Quantity of Ore he expects we may get from Browneyhill and Guddamgill burn cross Vein this Summer, as I remember he told me he expected that Ore would be very good to run.

6 Jun 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 14th June 1773

I have not get examined the Operation for May but you will hear from me after I have examined it.

Mr Wilkinson's Slag Lead is not Refineable but the Farnberry is very good the lesser Assay produces 10 [oz] 21 6/10 [grains] P Fodder and the bigger 13[oz] 2[dwt] 3 6/10[gr] P Fodder.

I think from the trial you made of Washing Middle Cleugh and Rampgill Ore, it had been Washed at the Mines as well as we could expect such sort of Ore. I am
your very hble Servt
N W Junr

10 Jun 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 10th June 1773

As we ommitted setting the Operations right when at the Mill I have set them right since I came home & desire you will make the following additions in Black Ink (which I have wrote in Red Ink) to those now in your custody.

Operation ending 27th June 1772

In Acct of Ore brought in Brownleyhill & Guddamgill Burn Cross Vein Bouse In Acct of Ore Smelted Brownleyhill [in red: '& Guddamgill Burn Cross Vein'] Bouse
In Acct of Ore smelted Brownleyhill [in red: '& Guddamgill Burn Cross Vein']

In Acct of Stock of Ore Brownleyhill [in red: '& Guddamgill Burn Cross Vein']

Operation ending 25th July 1772

In Acct of Ore brought in Brownleyhill [in red: '& Guddamgill Burn Cross Vein']

Carrs Bouse [in red: '46.6 Cutting 2.4']

In Acct of Ore Smelted Brownleyhill [in red: '& Guddamgill Burn Cross Vein']

Operation ending 29th August 1772

In Acct of Ore brought in Brownleyhill [in red: '& Guddamgill Burn Cross Vein']

Operation ending 10th October 1772 the same

Operation ending 28 November 1772 the same and

In Stock of Ore Brownleyhill [in red: '& Guddamgill Burn Cross Vein']

Operation ending 26 December 1772

In Stock of Ore Brownleyhill [in red: '& Guddamgill Burn Cross Vein']

Operation ending 30 January 1773. Same

I have got your Account of Money disbursed for Boring amounting to £36.16.10 for which Sum we will be accountable to you.

The Boring holes may be filled up when you will. I cannot say more at present being much hurried.

I am your hble Servt

N W Junr

11 Jun 1773 Nicholas Walton to Henry Airey

To Mssrs Henry & Jona. Airey.

Farnacres 11th June 1773

Gentm

Mr Walton Junr will be in Newcastle to morrow and will be glad to settle for the Lead not yet reced for and which was delivered before the first of April. The whole will be only 363 Pieces amounting to £365.16.8.

We are Gents Your most hble Servts

W & S

15 Jun 1773 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr Holmes.

Farnacres 15th June 1773

Dear Sir

The days Post brought me the favor of yours of the 12th instant and I have drawn upon you for the last Bullion taking one Ounce and an half which by mistake was overdrawn for upon the 29th Ult. The Bill is dated this day and payable 20 days after date for £111.2.6 being the amount of 381 Ounces at 5/10d P Ounce. In our Letter of the 29th Ult we made a mistake in saying you would receive the last Box of Bullion upon the 5th instant for you received it in due course the 12th indeed we wrote so much in a hurry upon the 29th Ult that you must be kind enough to excuse both blunders. I am sorry the Silver Trade is in so bad a state at present but hope the price will advance and the demand increases; if the first happens it must be however owing to the latter. I expect a Cake of Bullion from our Works about the latter end of this Month but cannot guess at its size. I am with best respects to yourself and Family

Dear Sir your most hble Servt

N W Junr

Sir.

Farnacres 15th June 1773

Twenty days after date pay to Mssrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington and Saint or their Order One Hundred and Seven Pounds Two Shillings and Six Pence. Value received as advised by Sir your most hble Servts Walton & Smeaton
To Mr Holmes Watchmaker. London

20 Jun 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 20th June 1773

I have just time to tell you that all the Assays you sent last turn out to be Refineable, but if it had been otherwise and supposing that Guddamgill Burn Cross Vein was a flux for Middle Cleugh, yet it might have been worth while to have mixed them because of the difference of produce occasioned by the mixture.

What you have done about the Hedging I much approve and also of what you propose in your attention to that matter, and what you have determined as to the Bone Ashes is agreeable to what we had before fixed; you must remember we never intended that Corbett or Johnson should have any Carriage of the kind after their misconduct and they only smuggled their last Cargo; it is even a matter of consideration whether they ought not to be punished for their improper behaviour upon the occasion.

I am Your hble Servt

N W Junr

1 Jul 1773 Nicholas Walton to James Mulcaster

To Mr James Mulcaster.

Farnacres July 1st 1773

Mr Mulcaster

Sir

Your Letter of the 15th Ult was duely received but we have not had an opportunity of consulting together upon the request contained therein til within these few days and now take the first opportunity, since that, of writing to you in answer.

As it will at all times give us pleasure to oblige the Company when we can properly do it and as your Brother acquaints us we can spare one of our Slag Hearth Men for a while without loss to the Undertaking at Langley Mill you may have one for such time as your Brother thinks he can be wanted without inconvenience; and as the Men may be somewhat averse to going to Nenthead Mill we shall write to your Brother along with this Letter and desire he will as from us request one of them to go and make tryal of your Slags.

We are Sir your most hble Servts

NW Junr J S

2 Jul 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

To Mr Peter Mulcaster.

Farnacres 2nd July 1773

Mr Mulcaster

Your Letters of the 21st 25th & 28th are come to hand and the contents observed.

We inclose you a Letter for your Brother which you will forward to him and you are desired to acquaint the Slag Hearth Men that as we can spare one of them for a while it will be very agreeable to us that one of them goes to Nenthead Mill to make a Tryal of Smelting the Slags there; indeed it will not only be agreeable to us on the Companys Account but also on Account of your Brother; that one of them then goes, we must however at the same time observe that we cannot by any means think it will be proper absolutely to insist upon one of them going, and we hope we may expect they will oblige us, without coming to such an extremity.

The Cake of Bullion weighed just 858 1/2 Ounces and falls short of the Assays 11 Oz 9Dw 19 2/10 Gr, which is, notwithstanding, good work.

We are glad to hear Middle Cleugh and Guddamgill Burn Cross Vein Ores work well mixed and as we shall have so much of the better sorts of Ores this year more than last we shall hope all foundation of expecting an increase of Wages will vanish; we are in hopes of having heard something from you in consequence of a Message sent you by Mr Hilton about this matter. We expect 1000 Bings from Brownleyhill Company in the

course of the year and as Capel Cleugh North Vein Ore is much altered in appearance for the better and the Quantity likely to be considerable those are material considerations to induce as to hope that an increase will not be necessary we therefore think it proper to postpone coming to any resolution respecting the Smelters Wages 'til it is seen how those Ores turn out and if after that it should appear proper to make an advance it must certainly be done as we should be glad at all times to give the Workmen every degree of encouragement which they appear to be deserving of.

We have not yet had time to examine the last two Operations.

The Recets relating to the Boring are now compleat and we are to be accountable to you for the six small Fir Trees amounting to Twelve Shillings besides the £36.16.10 mentioned in our Letter of the 10th Ult - in the whole £37.8.10.

We observe you will have sold a Pig of Lead to the Bridge Builders for 20s; the price is sufficient but if they come for any more you may let them know that Slag Lead is by far the best to run Cramps in with.

We are Your hble Servts

N W Junr J S

You may take down the Borers Tackle. Pray distribute the Hand Bills sent herewith.

2 Jul 1773 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

To Mr John Ibbetson Esq.

Farnacres 2nd July 1773

Sir

We inclose the Langley Lead Mill Account from 25th April 1772 to 1st May 1773 upon which there appears to be a Balance of £320.5.1/2 in favour of the Undertaking. You will observe that the profit of this year falls considerably short of the profit of the last year which may in great measure be ascribed to the following causes Viz

1st that the Ore of Middle Cleugh which the last year makes between a third and a fourth part of the whole Quantity has been not only more in quantity but turned out more refractory in the Smelting than in former Years in consequence the allowing for this Ore, as in purchase, more than in reality it was worth in proportion to its produce this difference will directly apply itself to reduce the profit. Nor have we been singular in this matter as according to our information the Govs & Co have not made a better if so good a produce and have been obliged to increase the Smelters Wages upon that Ore by one third and we expect that we shall be obliged in future to do something equivalent.

2dly The fall that has this year happened in the price of Lead and Bullion must equally affect the profits of this as an Undertaking as if the Duty Ore had been bought and Smelted by any private Undertaker. The Duty Ore bring valued at 50sPBing according to the price of Lead and prospect of the Trade at the beginning of the Account whereas had the Duty been valued according to the price of Lead at the end of

it, it could not have been more than 46 or 47 P Bing and though this fluctuation will always in proportion affect the profits of the Lead Mill as an Undertaking yet it will not ways affect the real produce of the Hospitals Dues for the more that is allowed for the unsmelted Dues the less will be the profits of the Lead Mill and vice versa.

It appears that the Lead lost by Refining is less in our Work the last year than the preceding and indeed less than we have any others give out; the common calculation of loss being 1/14th past.

We are Sir Your most obed Servts

N W Junr JS

2 Jul 1773 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 2nd July 1773

Dear Sir

By this Weeks Carrier who will set out for London on Saturday first (tomorrow) we shall send you a Box of Bullion containing 858 1/2 Ounces.

We are sorry to find that Markett for Silver is so bad and doubt it will still be lower. Whatever the price may be with you we would be glad you should never give us more than you can afford as the Markett may happen upon the arrival of each parcel of Bullion you will therefore fix the prices accordingly and as we may at some times perceive an opportunity of getting a better price of others than your Markett will afford in such case we hope you will not take it amiss if we should sell to others; we believe, however, that this will very seldom happen. We are with best respects to yourself Mrs Holmes and Family

Dr Sir Your most hble Servts

N W Junr JS

11 Jul 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 11th July 1773

We have reced your Letter of the 5th instant & and think you have done right as to the Slag Smelters. We hope they will prove more successful in their trial at Nenthead Mill than they seem to apprehend and that they will be useful to the Company and answer every wish your Brother can entertain

It gives us pleasure to find Guddamgill Burn Cross Vein answers as well as a flux; to be sure it cannot be expected that we shall have a sufficiency of this Ore to mix with all our stubborn sorts but as the difficulty of working will be greatly decreased by mixing so far as it goes, and as, upon the whole, the Ore of this year will certainly be much better than for a few years, two years at least, back, we look upon it that the

Smelters would be unreasonable in expecting an advance and indeed we cannot take upon us to make an advance without very good and substantial reasons for so doing. You will observe the difference of times between 40 years ago and now cannot be brought into the question by us because other Manufacturers In the same branches have not thought it proper to make any difference on this point and as we are not the most considerable it would seem imprudent in us to take the lead and make an alteration on this Ground without at least consulting with some of the principal owners of like kind of works.

We are glad to hear the Hedging goes on so well and doubt not of your diligence and care in getting the whole compleated with all expedition. Upon the whole it will come as low as we ever expected. As you have old Iron you may fix the Rails as you propose but you must keep an exact amount of the Quantity of Old Iron and Lead used which must be charged in the Hedging Bill, the Iron at 12s PCwt and the Lead at 11/2d P Pound the making and fixing the Staples you will of course also charge in the Hedging Bill. Let the Staples be run in with the hardest Lead you can find at the Mill.

Pray let us know in your next what Quantity of Bone Ashes you have at the Mill untouched and what remains at Hexham; and you will acquaint the Bone Ash Carriers that we have lent the ten Casks of our last Quantity which arrived at Newcastle so they will only have 40 to bring up 'til we can be repaid the Ten and we apprehend that will be before the carriage is stopped, wch it is to be wished might be at such time as that all the Lead should be got in before the October Pay and we therefore think it will be best to stop the carriage about the beginning or middle of September and after the Pay to set it forward again til the Mill is cleared. We should be glad to have your sentiments about this.

We are your most hble Servts

W & S

19 Jul 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 19th July 1773

I reced your Letter of the 14th instant on Thursday last and now take the first Opportunity of writing to you, since that time.

The account you give of the success of the Slag Smelters at Nenthead Mill is very indifferent but as I hear by Mr Hilton they have made a further tryal I shall hope to hear that has been attended with more agreeable circumstances.

You are certainly right in being silent as to the Smelters Wages as long as they remain so.

It will be necessary to acquaint the Lead Carriers with our Intentions as to the making of a clear Pay in October and that we expect they will exert themselves in getting the Lead to Markett as fast as possible so as to be enabled to any time to get all in upon fourteen days notice or less.

Directions are given to send six Bags for the Peats by John Corbetts Wagon this day. If the Bags will hold each three dozen send that quantity of each sort but if they will not hold so many then fill them with as many as you can get in and Number the Bags so as that you may know where to get the Peats which answers to each number in case any should be wanted in future and I would have you keep a couple of each sort of Peats and tie them together; you will also put a label to each sort with the number answerable to the number in the Bag to which the sort belongs and expressing the Moss where gotten. The Bags must be directed to Mr Langlands Gold smith Side Newcastle or rather write a Letter to Mr Langlands acquainting him you send him Peats by our desire and on the back of the Letter said with six Bags.

PS I intend dining at Langley Mill on Sunday the 25th inst. abt Two (Sunday next) and taking a Bed that Night & perhaps the following one. Mr Hilton & Mr Stevenson will be with me I expect.

21 Jul 1773 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

Dear Sir

Dear Sir your most hble Servt
N W Junr

Sir. Farnacres 21st July 1773
Thirty days after Pay to Mssrs Bell, Cookson Carr Widdrington and Saint or their Order
Two Hundred and Forty six Pounds Sixteen Shillings and Four Pence. Value received
as advised by Sir Your hble Servts Walton & Smeaton

9 Aug 1773 Nicholas Walton to Christopher Bell

To Mr Chris Bell.

Farnacres 9th August 1773

Mr Bell

As I find John Corbett has a considerable Quantity of Lead by him. I desire you will acquaint him that unless he is very expeditious in getting it to Newcastle he shall have no more Lead this year neither from the Mill nor from the Carriers who take it up at the Mill. I am

Your hble Servt

N W Junr

9 Aug 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 9th August 1773

I have reced your Letter of the 6th as also the Ooperation for last Month which I have not yet examined. Mr Bell is wrote to by this days Carrier about John Corbett.

You are to lead the Stones and Slates, as also the Lime, for the little Cowhouse at your own expence and therefore you may do it in what manner you please. The Wood and Building to be at the expence of the Hospital as also the Carriage of the Wood.

I am glad you have a good Crop and that you have gotten it well. I am

Your hble Servt

N W Junr

29 Aug 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 29th Aug 1773

Upon the whole of what you state respecting the washing of the Wastes I am of opinion that it will be most proper & more for the interest of the undertaking at Langley Mill to Lett them to Thomas Pattison, than to Henry Smith or to him and Pattison together and therefore desire you will Lett them to Pattison accordingly; at the same time I cannot help pitying poor Henry Smith for the situation he is in, it is however to be observed that we have been of great service to him and now that he is become so unable to work it cannot be expected that we should continue to employ him upon such Terms as to enable him to support himself and an extravagant inconsiderate Family, all he ought to expect is Wages equal to his Work and if that proves insufficient to support himself and Family they must necessarily fall upon the Parish and however our feelings may be upon the occasion it cannot be avoided.

I am for Mr Smeaton & Self

Your very hble Servt
N W Junr

PS When ever you give Mr Smeaton and me intimation about your Nephews intentions Wm Brown shall have notice to quit. I think both Smith Smith and Robson behave extremely ill in saying any thing to Pattison by way of disheartening him and I can scarce excuse it; if you think it proper to say it yourself to them pray tell them so.

4 Sep 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 4th September 1773

All the Lead being come in I intend to make a Lead Carriers Pay on Wednesday the 15th instant of which I desire youll give immediate notice.

By mistake the 50 Casks of Bone Ashes were sent to Newburn 10 of them are for us and 40 for arm Monkhouse. The sooner our Ten are got to the Mill the better.

I would have you take off the Silver as you propose at the closing of the Account. The Account for the Pay must end upon the 16th of October and I would have your Operation to take in from the 28th August to the 16th October. The Mill Pay is to be upon the 27th of October and we shall be at the Mill on the 22nd in the Evening and stay there til Sunday the 24th in the Evening.

The Hedging had best be paid for when we make the Lead Carriers Pay so you will take care to have all ready.

The Hedging on both sides of the Lane from the Holm to the Fell I would have in a separate Note or Notes.

When I make the Lead Carriers Pay I will give you directions what to do about Wm Brown or speak to him myself as I suppose he will be at the Pay on acct of the Hedging.

I am your hble Servt
N W Junr

PS Mr Hilton will level the Ground you mention.

9 Sep 1773 Nicholas Walton to Henry Airey

Farnacres 7th September 1773

Lead in the warehouse 16 Dec 1772 when the genl acct was settled	1804
Do left at Newburn 16 Dec 1772	2
Do delivered at Langley Mill since 16 Dec 1772	6925
	8731

Lead sold incl 1000 ps to Mr J Sorsbie & 200 mr Selby 6349

Stock in warehouse a/c to acct sent NW Junr	2375	
Short	7	
	8731	
Lead in warehouse &c as first aforementioned		8731
Stock as above	1804	
Recd at the warehouse a/c to ticket book	6923	
Short a/c to this way of reckoning by which it		
Appears 3 ps have been lost out of the warehouse	4	
		8731

To Messrs H & J Airey.

Farnacres 9th Sept 1773

Gents.

From the above accounts it appears that the Lead is short seven Pieces. Three of which are fallen short since you have reced them at the Warehouse and four which the Carriers seem to have fallen short in the delivery; but I am realy apprehensive the Stock in the Warehouse is not exactly taken, I therefore beg it may be gone through again with the utmost care and an account sent me by the Hexham Carrier on Monday directed to the care of Mr Chrisr Bell in Hexham to lye til called for; but if it could be done so as that I get a Letter on Saturday Evening or sooner I would have the account sent to this place. Thomas Ions tells me there was a difference of four pieces between his Account of the Quantity sent and in a Keel the 3rd inst. and Mr Nicholsons Tickett; he reckons he sent four more than Mr Nicholson admits, if Mr Nicholson should be wrong in this, our account of delivery and the Ticketts will agree exactly.

I am Gentlemen etc

NWJunr

The Stock in the Warehouse the 7th to make both you and us right shd be 2382

11 Sep 1773 Nicholas Walton to Anthony Hopper

[Note: Mention of Mr Monkhouse strongly suggests this was Anthony Hopper, who shared Allendale Smelting Mill with Wm Monkhouse in the 1780s]

To Mr Hopper.

Farnacres 11th Septemr 1773

Sir

As you have ordered Bone Ashes sufficient to answer your own occasions, it seems to me that it will be the best way for us to take the whole of those now at Newburn, & you may repay us in kind when your first fifty arrive from London, by delivering ten

Casks into our Warehouse; this will, I think, put an end to all difficulties, if you think so too, I beg it may be so fixed.

£13.5 P Stockton Fodder of Lead is just equal to £12.12.11 1/4 P Newcastle Fodder. We now sell at £13 and £13.2.6 P Newcastle Fodder and could buy Lead at Stockton at that rate.

I shall be glad to hear from you and am with Compliments to Mr Monkhouse.

Sir Your humble Servt

N W Junr

12 Sep 1773 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 12th September 1773

Sir

Your favor of the 31st came duely to hand but I could not conveniently write to you before this time and therefore desire you be so good as excuse my being so late in answering it.

We shall have a pretty large Cake ready by about the middle of October which I will send to you and desire you will fix the price upon its arrival as the Markett shall then answer and so as to leave you a proper profit.

When I heard from Mr Smeaton which was upon the 3d instant he was very well but much fatigued with his engagements in Scotland. Mr Smeaton proposed to set out for Ireland on Thursday or Friday last but at the same time he observed it may be the 15th inst before he leaves Scotland. I am joined by my Wife and Father in every good wish to you and yours and I am

Dear Sir Your most hble Servt

N W Junr

16 Sep 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Newtonhall 16th Sept 1773

I desire youll set the Lead Carriage on immediately, the prices to be 4d P Piece from the Mill to Hexham, 9d P Piece from Hexham to Newcastle, 13d P Piece from the Mill to Newcastle, 12d P Piece from the Mill to Newburn & 8d P Piece from Hexham to Newburn and pray tell Isaac Hall that unless he gets a recet from Ions every time he goes to Newcastle he shall carry no more Lead for us.

I am Your hble Servt

N W Junr

21 Sep 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 21 Sept 1773

We are to have the Fifty Casks of Bone Ashes now at Newburn and therefore the sooner they are got up to the Mill the better. I am

Your hble Servt N W Junr

PS I shall be glad to hear how the Lead Carriage is likely to get on.

1 Oct 1773 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

Mr Holmes.

Farnacres 1st October 1773

Dear Sir

By this Weeks London Carrier so send you a Cake of Bullion weight 618 1/2 Ounces; it comes sooner than expected as we found it would make too large a Cake to let alone taking off one til the middle of this Month.

When I wrote you last I had sold a small Cake of Bullion at Newcastle for 5s.9 1/2 POunce which I forgot to mention to you then.

I am N W Junr

9 Oct 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 9th October 1773

I have examined the two last Cakes of Bullion and found the produce to be very bad as below.

The mean weight of the Assays 30 July 7oz 15Dwt 13 8/10 Gr P Fodr which multiplied by 80 Fodders the Quantity refined amounts to 622.6 the real produce was only 574 Ounces Short 48.6.

The mean weight of the Assays 21 September 7.14.8, 4 P Fodder which multiplied by 84 Fodders the quantity refined amounts 648.5.9, 6 the real produce was only 618 1/2 Ounces Short 29.15.19, 6 Short in the whole 78 Os.1Dw.9Gr, 6 according to Assay.

I am glad to hear the Lead Carriage goes on well.

I think what you have done about Isaac Hall perfectly right. I am

Your hble Servt

N WJunr

3 Nov 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 3rd Nov 1773

The Operations for July & August have been altered agreeable to your Letter of 30th Ult.o and now stand as follows.

Operation end		This month		Formerly		Total	
		Bings	Cwt	Bings	Cwt	Bings	Cwt
July 31	Thorngill W End bouse 35 B Cutt 1 4/5 cwt	35	1 4/5	3		38	1 4/5
	The total of all the ore will be	564	3/5	1004	2	1568	2 3/5
	Thorngill W End the Stock					15	4/5
	Total Stock					700	4/5
Aug 28	Thorngill W End bouse		1	38	1 4/5	38	2 4/5
	The total of all the ore will be	186	5	1568	2 3/5	1754	7 3/5
	Thorngill W End the Stock					15	1 4/5
	Total Stock					669	2 4/5

The Iron you will receive by John Corbett who took it from Newcastle on Monday last.

You determine properly in paying George Maighan what was left short at the Pay.

We are &c W & S

PS We have not yet had time to examine the operation ending 16 Ult.o.

8 Nov 1773 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr Holmes

Farnacres 8th November 1773

Dear Sir

Your Letter of the 16th Ult now reced when we were out upon the Recet of the Rents of Greenwich Hospital and their business together with Mr Smeatons severe attack of the Gravel which confined him to his Room from Wednesday morning early til Saturday Night had prevented our having the pleasure of writing to you til now.

The Bill upon Mr Thomas Newton has been presented and is, or will be, paid, and when we draw for the next Cake you shall have Credit for the amount; we shd certainly have deducted the amount out of the Draft for the last Cake of 618 1/2 Ounces but not having taken a Copy of the Bill when we left it in the hands of a Friend at Hexham we cannot distinctly recollect the Sum it was for.

We have this day drawn upon you for £175.4.10 being the amount of 618 1/2 Ounces of Bullion at 5s8d P Ounce, for tho' you say we may draw at 5s9d yet as you observe that will be such a price as barely to give you something or perhaps only save yourself and as you have given us the value of fine Silver compared with Standard

which amounts to no more than 5s8d 1/4 we could not think of drawing for more than 5s8d. We beg leave to inform you that it is not a matter of consequence to us whether we receive 5s8d or 6s 1/2d P Ounce not but that we wish Bullion to keep at the best price; the principal matter with us is to be able to show the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital from our Accts that we Sell their Silver from time to time at the Markett price and we must not expect you to deal with us upon any other terms than you would do with any other Person who could furnish you with the like Commodity.

By the London Carrier who set out from Newcastle on Saturday last we sent a Box which we hope will come safe to hand.

We are etc

N W Junr J S

Sir Farnacres 8th November 1773

Twenty days after date Pay Mssrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington and Saint or their Order One Hundred and Seventh five Pounds Four Shillings and Ten Pence. Value received as advised by Sir. Your Humble Servants Walton & Smeaton
To Mr John Holmes London

10 Nov 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 10th Novr 1773

We have examined the Operation ending the 16th Ult and find it right in every particular.

The last Bullion according to our weights came to 693 Ounces which is 16 Ounces more than you reckoned it and 13 Oz. 7Dw. 9 6/10 GR more than by Assay it ought to have amounted to. This will partly make up the loss P last Cakes.

We are Your hble Servts

N W Junr J S

14 Nov 1773 Nicholas Walton to William Monkhouse

To Mr Monkhouse.

Farnacres 14th November 1773

Dear Sir

I inclose you the two Assays which you gave me yesterday and find they each of them weigh 1Gr. 29/80 and that being produced from 1/2 a Pound of Lead will be equal to 13Oz.7Dw.1 2/10 Gr P Fodder of 21 Cwt.

I am. Dear Sir Yr hble Servt

N W Junr

PS The Assays are as near of a weight as can possibly be expected for they are almost within a One Hundred and Sixtieth part of a Grain of each other. We observe at Langley Mill that the produce of Bullion generally falls short of the Quantity it ought to be by Assay but sometimes it will run over a little that is however very seldom.

16 Nov 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 16th November 1773

We have your Letter now before us respecting a Smelter in lieu of John Price and in case you had not mentioned it Fras Carr wd not have been forgotten by us and we desire he may be fixed in the room of Price and if you see no objection to it you will fix one of John Robson's Sons who you think most likely to answer the end in the place of Carr. It gives us pleasure that yrs & our Sentiments agree as for Carr.

You have done right in letting Barrow & Craig have leave to go to Dufton.

The Black Slag Lead is not Refineable but Scaleburnmoss gives 9 Oz. 9Dw. 21Gr P Fodder and consequently very well worth Refining.

We desire you will send forward the inclosed the first convenient opportunity by a careful hand.

We are yr hble Servts

W & S

PS. Let Mrs Brown know that we shall be glad to oblige her but that we think her advantages by the Mill at present fully sufficient & therefore she ought to be satisfied. The Letter to Mr Hilton shd not be later in getting to Alston than Friday.

24 Nov 1773 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 24th Novem 1773

Dear Sir

We have this day drawn upon you payable 30 days after date for £196.7- being the amount of 693 Ounces of Bullion at 5s8d P Ounce And Are

Dear Your most hble Servts

W & S

Sir.

Farnacres 24th Novemr 1773

Thirty days after date pay to the Order of Mssrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington & Saint One Hundred and Ninety Six Pounds Seven Shillings value received as advised by Sir Your hble Servts Walton & Smeaton

To Mr Jno Holmes. London

26 Nov 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 26 Nov 1773

I have reced your Letter of the 21st instant and am perfectly satisfied with what you have done as to the Smelters and Labourer.

The Assays of Windy Brow Lead produce as follows

	Oz	Dw.	Gr
Grey Ore Lead P Fodder.	9	18	-
Common Ore Lead P Do.	10	5	19 2/10

I shall be at Hexham on Tuesday Evening and if it is not inconvenient to you shd be glad to see you there but dont come unless it is quite convenient. I am

Yr hble Servt

N W Junr

PS. I think the produce of Windy brow Limestone coloured Ore is better than there was reason to expect.

10 Dec 1773 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 10th Decr 1773

Dear Sir

This Weeks London Carrier from Newcastle will bring you 781 1/2 Ounces of Bullion which when reced we will draw upon you for after deducting what we have reced of Mr Newton on your Acct which is £11.6.6. We did promise to deduct it out of the last Cake but had not then reced the money as it was only paid us upon the 30th of last Month.

We are etc W & S

21 Dec 1773 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 21st Decemr 1773

The Bullion weighed 781 1/2 Ounces and I have filled up the Blank in the Operation agreable thereto.

In examining the Operation ending the 27th Ult I find the following apparent errors
the latter I am clear is one & most probably the former.

The Stock of Refineable Slag Lead Oper.n ending 16 Octr is	162
Produced as P Operation ending the 27 November	101
You have the Stock 27 Novr 371 should be	263

The Stock of Litharge saved for Refining Oper ending 16 Octd	35.2.23
Produced, or saved, as P Operation ending the 27 Novemr	8. 17
You have yr Stock 27 Nov 33.3.12 should be	43.3.12

you will let me hear from you about the above at your convenience.

I am Your hble Servt

N W Junr

PS As I hear the Robsons all like hunting I beg you will give such of them as come in
your way a strong caution to avoid that practice.

2 Jan 1774 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr Holmes.

Farnacres 2nd January 1774.

Dear Sir

Your Letter of the 14th Ult was duely received at Austhorpe as was also that of the
25th Ult at this place and in Friday Evening we reced a very fine Quarter of Lamb for
which I am much obliged to you and return many thanks. It proved excellent Eating
and our friends were not forgot on the occasion.

When I was at Austhorpe my Brother and I thought we had not time sufficient to
take your Letter of the 14th Ult under consideration and give you an answer during my
stay there afterwards which would be very short and we therefore determined to let it
alone til we were together at this place; and, as I expect, it will be about the latter end of
the present Month before that happens. You will be kind enough to excuse our writing
to you til Mr Smeaton comes here for the above reasons. We shall defer drawing upon
you for the Cake you last received til that time.

We all join in wishing you Mrs Holmes and Family many happy years and I am
Dear Sir

Your obliged hble Servt

N W Junr

PS. I find upon enquiry at Newcastle that the prices of Bullion there have been Aug 5s
91/2d & 5s /9d Sep & Oct 5s /9d & 5s /8d. November & beginning of December 5s /8d
and they now talk of 5s /7 12 the Money to be paid one Month after delivery. I expect

there is a Cake of Bullion now at Newcastle about 700 Ounces but am not quite certain it is arrived. I intend however going there to morrow or the next day and if I find it is come shall try it at that Markett which will sometimes be higher than yours because the Silver Smiths cannot do without fine Silver and when scarce here it will sell best.

5 Feb 1774 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr Holmes.

Farnacres 5 Febry 1774

Dear Sir

Now we are together it comes in course of business to consider the contents of your two Letters of the 14th and 25th December. We are sensible the change of times and trade are such, that the original basis upon which our dealings with you for Silver were to be regulated, is quite removed and altered; and therefore it becomes necessary to find out new grounds to found our dealings upon. We have not the least doubt but that you give us credit for thinking you have all along gone to the very stretch of price that you could give us, so as to have a reasonable profit, and of late even beyond it; and that it has been equally our wish to give you the preference whenever we could do it consistent with our duty to Greenwich Hospital; and as there have been the fundamental sentiments which have all along activated both Parties, we are equally desirous of continuing to proceed thereupon.

Whenever therefore the prices at London are such as that you can take a Cake of Silver with profit to yourself, we shall do ourselves the pleasure to send it to you; but as Newcastle is also a considerable Markett for Silver, whenever it will sell for a price here beyond what you can take it at with profit; then it will be best to sell it there; and as this seems the way to do fully our duty to the Hospital, and likely the best to suit all sides, we will endeavour to propose a mode of execution.

It seems from what you state that the price of Standard Silver at London is not a fixed thing, even of the same day; and therefore without fixed data all calculations made therefrom will be variable; we would therefore propose, if you think well of it, that as near as we can judge of it 14 days before a Cask of Silver is ready to take off, we will advise you thereof; and you to give us a return what it will suit you to take it at 28 days after the date of our Letter and as we can constantly know the price of Silver here, we shall by that means, on the arrival of the Silver at Newcastle, have the option of the two Marketts. Your price being so regulation as to pay carriage and all charges upon the Silver as you have done: only as you will be put to a constant charge of Postage, and answering our Letters as a Correspondant deal or deal not, we shall be very glad to pay the whole Postage of our Letters, and make you what further recompence you please for your trouble in giving us intelligence and in fact we had rather get less of you for our Silver when you have it, than not have the option of the two Marketts.

Indeed the method now proposed is putting you into some speculation respecting Silver; but we dont desire you to offer more than you think it will afford you a

sufficient profit at the time of delivery according to the prospect of its rise or fall, and therefore as you will be as likely to get more than that as less, we look upon it, the risk upon the whole will not be material: and it does not seem, that we can take the risk of what it may rise or fall between the time of your advice and the delivery of the Silver, without having recourse to the price of Standard at the two times, and which, tho' fixed within limits sufficiently near, to regulate a mans own private bargains yet, as you have already lead us to observe does not seem sufficiently fixed to regulate prices between Man and Man. However if you chuse to avoid all risk, and can propose any fixed rule to be governed by we shall content ourselves to be informed of the price of Standard, and what you can give on the day you advise; and be paid in proportion to the rise and fall of the price of Standard on the day of delivery; but if done in this way you will be pleased to instruct us a little further concerning your mode of computation for in yours of the 14th December you say.

Dw

By a single Assay at Goldsmiths Hall the Cake was	15 better
By a single Do the Tower	15 1/2
By a dble Do of a Private Assay Master	16

You take Tower Assay (by which you say Silver is always sold) as an average of the whole; and indeed may very well be so considered as coinciding with Tower report by which they whole is guided: but we apprehend a true average should be made by setting down the double Assay twice which would be 15,625 better; this however by the way; but what totaly sets us fast is that supposing it 15 1/2 Dwt better, you say there will be in a Pound of it 12 Oz 16 Dwt 7,350 Gr. You did write us a Letter towards the beginning of our correspondance that might probably have unravelled this, but it is either mislaid, or by mixing subjects, is in Mr Smeatons Office at Austhorpe, we have turned it all ways we can but cannot make out how 15 1/2 Dwt better should become in the lb 16dwt 7,350 Gr better.

Inclosed you have a Paper showing the price of Silver at Newcastle and London for some time last by which you will see that the prices at Newcastle have in general exceeded those we have drawn upon you for, the last being set down at the price to draw upon you; for as you say in yours of the 25th that it cannot be disposed of for more than 5s7 1/2d after carriage and charges are deducted, you will have little left for profit. It is true that though Silver here is a ready Money trade, yet upon the two Cakes specified to be sold Mr Langlands we gave him 6 Weeks credit; but as considering the time of the carriage of Silver to London and the dates at which we have drawn upon you after delivery, there will be little odds as to interest of Money.

We expect a Cake of Bullion at this place in about a fortnight and shall be glad to hear from you at that time as to the price you can afford for it supposing it to be delivered at London upon the 5th of March.

This day we have drawn upon you at Ten days Date for £206.16.10 being the amount of 781 1/2 P Ounce after deducting £11.6.6 for Mr Newtons Bill which we reced on your account.

We are Dear Sir Your most obed. Servts

N W Junr J S

Mr Langlands Prices	Mr Holmes prices
[s d]	[s d]
1773	
	17 July 5 9
X 1 August 5 9 1/2	
Do 5 9	
Sepr 5 8	16 Oct 5 8
Novr 5 8 1/2	20th Nov 5 8
Decr 5 8 1/2	25th Dec 5 7
X 3 Jan 1774 5 7 1/2	

Those marked X are cakes sold by Messrs Walton & Smeaton to Mr Langlands

Sir

Farnacres 5th Frebry 1774

Ten days after date pay to the order of Mssrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington and Saint Two Hundred and Six Pounds Sixteen Shillings and Ten Pence. Value received as advised by Sir your most hble Servts Walton & Smeaton
To Mr John Holmes London

6 Feb 1774 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 6 Febry 1774

We duly reced your Letters of the 26th Decemr and 10th 19th 26th & 31 st Ulto.

The Cake of Bullion last sent fro the Mill weighed 684 Ounces which is just 21 Oz 12 Dw short of the Assay.

Your Operations with the alterations which have pointed out will now be exactly right.

The Acct of Materials has not yet been examined but we doubt not its being right in every way particular.

We were much concerned to hear of poor Liddle being so ill but we are happy in hearing by Mr Hilton that he is in a likely way of getting soon well again.

If George Glenwright has an intention of offering to take any Colleries in your neighbourhood pray tell him he is at full liberty to do so and the sooner you do this it will be more agreable to us.

Yesterday we sent you Eighty Pounds by Mr Jos Hilton which hope you will receive safe by him.

This day is a strong Thaw and we shall be glad to hear it is so with you.

We shall be glad to receive a Cake of Bullion by Fridays Carriers of the 18th inst.

We are

Your hble Servts

N W Junr JS

10 Feb 1774 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 10th Febr 1774

We have received your Letter by Geo Glenwright.

As to the Bullion send it when you are ready with your usual quantity but write to us and let us know as near as you can when you are within a fortnight of its arrival at Newcastle

As we have Mr Hiltons Recet for the Eighty Pounds he may as well keep it; You are certainly right in not paying the Carriers anything on account and we think he shd pay you the Sum you have of on account to the Carriers. We are

Your hble Servts

W & S

18 Feb 1774 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr Holmes.

Farnacres 18 Febr 1774

Dear Sir

I was favoured with your obliging Letter of the 11th inst in due course which gave me much pleasure & I heartily congratulate you as to the Agreement.

As upon the whole we have each of us expressed our not having been instructed in the manner of calculating the quantity of Standard Silver from time to time supposing the Assay to be reported 15 1/2 better, I really think it will be proper for us to have a Book and you will therefore be so good as send one along with my Brother Smeaton when he comes and as I should be glad to have four Copies at the same time of a Book intituled 'An easy method of assaying and classing Mineral Substances etc. To which is added 'a Series of Experiments on the Fluor Sparorus or 'Sparry Fluor abstracted from the Memoirs of the Royal Sweedish Academy of Sciences for the year 1771 - by John Rheinhold Forster. F.R.S 8vo- 1s/6d Dilly 1772. You will be kind enough to send me those Books at the same time and make my Brother pay for them all; he should have got the latter when he was last in London.

Since I reced your Letter I have not been 20 yards from the House and have not had an opportunity of making enquiry after the prices of Bullion at Newcastle before July last but I shall certainly do so as soon as I can and let you know the result. The last time I enquired at Newcastle as to the price of Bullion which was abt 14 days ago I was told 5s/7d was as much as could be afforded then; what they offer now I know not. I think it wd be by far the best way for each of us to be regulated by the price of Standard at the time of the arrival of every Cake in London and if upon considering that with my Brother when he comes into the Country the Proposal you have made of taking the Bullion at 5s P Ounce more than Standard appears to us in the same light that it does to me now I realy think it will be the best way of settling the price and til that time I shall send the Bullion which we produce upon those Terms, unless I should hear from you to the contrary up in any alteration of the Trade which may make that necessary.

My Wife & Father join me in best respects & I am Dr Sir Your most hble Servt
N W Junr

PS At any convenient time youll give the inclosed to Mr Smeaton.

Prices of Bullion at Newcastle and London compared

			Mr Holmes price p oz		Mr Langlands price p oz	
			s	d	s	d
1763	Dec	3 & 31 2 cakes		X	5	11 ½
1769	Jan				5	11 ½
	Feb	13		X	5	11
	June		5	11 ¼ & ½		
	Aug		5	11 ¾	5	11 ½
	Nov		6	½		
	Dec				6	
1770	Jan		6	½	6	
	Feb		6	½		
	Apr		6	½	6	
	May		6	½	6	
	June		6	½		
	July		6	½		
	Sept		6	½	6	
	Oct		6	½		
	Nov		6	½		
1771	Jan		6	½	5	11 ½
	Mar		6	½	6	
	Apr		6	½	6	
	May		6	½		

	June	6	1/2		
	July	6	1/2		
	Aug	6	1/2	6	
	Sept	6	1/2		
	Oct	6	1/2	6	
	Nov	6	1/2		
	Dec	6	1/2		
1772	Jan	6	1/2	6	
	Feb			6	1/2
	Mar	6	1/2	6	1/2
	May	6	1/2	6	1
	June	6	1/2		
	Aug	5	11 1/2		
	Sept	5	11 1/2		
	Oct	5	11	5	11 1/2
	Dec		X	5	11 1/2
1773	Mar 17	5	10 1/2	X	10 1/2
				5	
	Feb 20	5	10 1/2	5	10 1/2
	May 1	5	10		
	Jun 12	5	10		
	July 17	5	9		
	Aug 1		X	5	9 1/2
	Aug			5	9
	Sep			5	8
	Oct 16	5	8		
	Nov 20	5	8		
	Nov			5	8 1/2
	Dec 25	5	7		
	Dec			5	8 1/2
1774	Jan 3		X	5	7 1/2
	Feb			5	7 1/2

Those marked X are the prices of Cakes sold by Messrs Walton & Smeaton to Mr Langlands.

4 Mar 1774 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr Holmes.

Farnacres 4 March 1774

Dr Sir

By the London Carrier who will arrive here upon the 7 inst I shall to morrow send you a Box containing 641 Ounces of Bullion which will I hope come safe to hand; and on the other half of this Sheet you have the prices of Bullion at Newcastle and London

compared from which it appears that your prices have almost universally exceeded Mr Langlands til the latter end of 1772 and that his prices have in general exceed yours since Septembet 1772.

I observe that in Lloyds List which comes to Newcastle twice in every Week there is the prices of pieces of Eight which I suppose are the same thing as Dollars; there is also the price of Silver in Barrs, pray is that Standard? or what difference is there in the price P Ounce between Silver in Barrs and Standard? I shd be much obliged by your informing me of this when you write next.

I am etc. N W Junr

7 Mar 1774 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 7th March 1774

Your Letters of the 26th and 28th Ulto came to hand in due course and also the Operation and Assays; the former I have examined and find it right but the latter I have not yet had time to weigh and therefore cannot tell you how the Cake of Bullion answers to the Assay. The Cake of Bullion weighed exactly 641 Ounces.

I would not have any of the Ore of the present year to come within the next Pay Bill but would have you go on Smelting the Ore now at the Mill and Working up all the Slags, Silver Litharge Hearth Ends, Ore Tails etc til every thing relating what is now at the Mill is as much finished as possible at the ending of the Operation to which the Pay Bill is to be made out and in case any new Ore should come in before you get all that fine then you may include what relates to it in the Operation you make out next after that which ends with the Pay Bill. The Stock of Lead now at the Mill with the Lead which will be produced from the Ore now there will be a large Cake but it had best be taken off all together, and the Refineable Slag and Litharge Lead must be taken off separately as usual.

I shall be glad to receive the Assays of Mr Wilkinsons Ore as you propose.

I cannot say I am a judge when the most proper Season is for pulling Heather but think the first fit opportunity that presents itself should not be lost in preparing what is necessary for putting your House into the best state and therefore desire you will do what is necessary by way of preparation and til that is done and til you get the work compleated which must be after Mr Smeaton and I have seen it, do as well as you can.

I am Your hble Servt

N W Junr

11 Mar 1774 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 11th March 1774

The Lead produced from Mr Wilinsons Cowhill, Cowhill Cross Vein, Cowslitts Cross Vein and Old Cowslitts is very well worth Refining you will therefore get it made into 1Cwt pieces.

I am Your hble Servt

N W Junr

PS. The last Cake of Bullion runs short of the Assay 22Oz 6Dw 18Gr. I think upon the whole we oftener run short than we used to do and you observe the above quantity is a considerable falling short.

31 Mar 1774 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 31 Mar 1774

I have reced your Letter of the 28th inst with the Operation inclosed for the present Month.

The Operation for the Pay had best end up in the 30th of April and if you shd not happen to get all compleated which shd come into the Pay Bill til after the middle of May such things may notwithstanding be brought into the Operation ending the 30th of April.

I have no objection to your going on with the new Ore as you propose.

Yesterday I ordered you a Ream of Paper which will come by Corbett to morrow.

The time of the Pay I cannot yet tell but you observe as above the Account for it must end the 30th of April.

I am for Mr Smeaton & Self Sir your most hble Servt

N W Junr

PS Set on the Lead Carriage on Monday.

3 Apr 1774 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 3rd April 1774

On Wednesday the 27th of April instant in the Evening I purpose being at Langley Mill and taking a Bed there the next morning shall set out for Alston and on Saturday the 7th of May Mr Smeaton and I intend being at your House in the Evening, shall stay

there til Sunday after dinner and then go to Hexham. The Mill Pay is to be upon the 11th of May.

I am Your hble Servt
N W Junr

PS I wd have you give it a consideration whether it would not be worth while to send our Litharge to Newcastle as I find Litharge now Sells as high as Refined Lead and a vast demand for it.

6 Apr 1774 Nicholas Walton to John Langlands

To. Mr Langlands.

Farnacres 6th April 1774

Sir

I send you herein your Note for the Fine Silver Sold you the 3rd January last and desire you will be so good as excuse my being so late in doing this. It had realy slipped my memory.

I am Sir Your hble Servt
N W Junr

6 Apr 1774 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr Holmes.

Farnacres 6th April 1774

Dear Sir

I duly reced your Letter of the 19th Ulto and shd have wrote you before this time had I not been very much engaged ever since.

The prices at Newcastle much the same as when I last wrote you but suppose 5s/7 3/4d or 5s/8d the most.

I am obliged to you for your information respecting Dollars and Barrs and as you acquaint me Barrs are somethings finer and sometimes coarser than Standard it might perhaps be a proper mean for us to go upon in our transactions together. I only mention this for your consideration and should be glad when my Brother and I are together that we may be enabled to fix the matter in such a way as shall be satisfactory to us all.

On Tuesday I intend sending a Salmon by the Newcastle Coach and desire Mrs Holmes will be so obliging as accept it. I hope it will come sweet and good. I have given particular directions to have it carefully packed. I am Dear Sir

Your most hble Servt
N W Junr

PS. Pray be so good as give Mr Smeaton a Memorandum to bring Castings Book and John Reinhold Forsters Translation respecting Assaying etc. I have this day drawn upon you for £181.12.4 (payable 20 days after date) being the amount of 641 Ounces of Bullion at 5s/8d P Ounce.

Sir
Farnacres 6th April 1774
Twenty Days after date Pay to the Order of Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington & Saint One Hundred and Eighty One Pounds Twelve Shillings and Four Pence. Value received as advised by Sir Your most hble Servts Walton & Smeaton
To Mr John Holmes London

10 Apr 1774 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster. Farnacres 10th April 1774

On examining Mr Hiltons Account of Ore delivered last year at Langley Mill I find the following Errors in your Operations which I desire you will set right.

In Oper.n ending 27 Nov 1773 Thortergill Bouse shd be Cutting B Cwt
In Do 25 Dec 1773 Thortergill Bouse 1B 6Cwt Cutting 2 - = 3.6
shd be Bouse 4 Cuttn 3 2 = 3.6

all the rest agrees with Mr Hiltons Account.

I am Your hble Servt

N W Junr

PS I shall hope to hear of Liddles being come to Newcastle to morrow. Pray how is John White.

17 Apr 1774 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster. Farnacres 17 April 1774

In my Letter of the 10th inst for Thortergill in my remark as to yr Operation ending the 25th Decr last read Rampgill and then all will be right & I observe you have made yr alteration in the Operation now returned you ending 25 Decr last so as to correspond with that now here.

The Bullion weighs 981 Ounces and looks very well. I have not yet had time to try the Assays.

We shall not pay the Lead Carriers til all the Lead is carried to Newcastle after giving over this years Carriage which will be I suppose abt the time we made <> all pay last year but that will depend upon the time of giving over and upon the time of getting all to Newcastle

I am etc

N W Junr

Mr Mulcaster desired to meet N Walton Junr at Hexham the 28th ag[ains]t Noon.

25 Apr 1774 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes

Farnacres 25th April 1774

Dear Sir

By the London carrier who set out from Newcastle on Saturday I sent you a Box containing 981 ounces of fine silver.

On the 13th instant I sent you a Newcastle Salmon which I hope arrived safe and proved good. It was a day later than I had intended on account of my not being able to get one the day I had fixed upon.

This day I write to brother Smeaton who is I suppose at Austhorpe or upon the Road between London and there.

All here join me in best respects and I am Dear Sir

Your most hble servt

NW Junr

12 May 1774 Nicholas Walton to Robert Hornsby

[Note: Possibly to be identified with the man named as a landholder at Catton in Allendale under the planned enclosure of the common there in 1793.]

Messrs Walton & Smeaton present their compliments to Mr Hornsby and in answer to his application to Mr Walton now take the opportunity of informing him that they understand his circumstances are such as very much to set him above the sphere of life as a common Refiner; and tho Mr Hornsby's views of Industry are in themselves laudable, yet as the person that serves Greenwich Hospital in this way must necessarily be under a kind of subjection and restraint, which they cannot expect from a man of fortune, it is impossible for them to think of employing him in such a service; and doubt not but Mr Hornsby on further reflection will see that they have determined in this matter in such a way as will best suit both himself and them.

Langley Mill 12th May 1774

24 May 1774 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes

Farnacres 24th May 1774

Dear Sir

We were duly favoured with your letter of the 7th inst and have this day drawn upon you for £279-19-10 being the amount of 981 ounces of silver at 5/8 ½ p ounce, and we are glad to hear the silver market seems upon the advance

It gives us pleasure to hear the mustard proved an agreeable present & Mr Walton is glad the salmon came fresh to Town and that the losing of a day in sending it ws so lucky.

By the London carrier who will set out from Newcastle on Saturday you will receive the Bullion which Mr Smeaton mentioned to you

We are with best respects Dear Sir your most hble servt

NW Junr JS

PS Mr Smeaton is very well, he expects not to be able to get down from hence til about Sunday Sennit.

Sir Farnacres 24th May 1774

Twenty days after date pay to the order of Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington & Saint Two Hundred and Nine Pounds Nineteen Shillings and ten pence. Value received as advised by Sir your most hble servts Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes London

31 May 1774 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 31st May 1774

As we cannot make our cash account and cash upon the Hexham Rece.s to agree must desire you will carefully examine your accounts and Cash and try whether you find they have been properly settled at the Pay and at Farnacres. We are in doubt whether you might not receive the Money you had paid on Account to the Smelters &c when we were at Hexham, except Henry Smiths money which you had paid him on Account & Lionel Charltons on Acct of leda carriage. After you have considered the above let us hear ofrm you and at the same time send us a List of the several persons to whom you had paid money on account before the last pay including what you had paid to the ore carriers and what you had paid to Lionel Charlton which as I recollect in the whole amounted to £35 18.

When you write us pray give us an account of what your nephew has learned as to Arithmetic &c and send us a specimen of his Writing and you will then let us know

what Age he is and whether active or not as it is necessary we should know those matters or otherwise we may be at a loss in case should be asked any questions should any thing offer.

We are &c NW junr JS

PS

	Oz	Dwt	Grs
The slag lead silver is short of the assay	39	6	19 2/10
And the litharge lead do	6	1	9
Short in the whole	45	8	4 2/10

Weight of slag lead cakes large and small	287
Do litharge lead do	61
Total	348

31 May 1774 Nicholas Walton to Joseph Hilton

Mr Joseph Hilton.

Farnacres 31st May 1774

Mr Hilton

I am surprised you should so much misunderstand us about Mr Mulcaster as to think he had done wrong in employing Wm Wilson our direction to you being that he was not in future to take any of the Companys or any other Persons Smelters without leave unless there was a necessity and you were told that leave had been given to Wilson which tho' not given in any genteel way we yet thought it proper to take it in the way it was given and to employ him at Langley Mill.

Our Cash Account we cannot by any means get set right and your Cash Memorandums at Hexham at the Pay are done in such manner as rather to confound us than the contrary Sums being set down as paid which should have been set down as reced and some not set down at all, but there is one thing I should be glad if you could recollect and that is whether Mr Mulcaster was repaid the Money at Hexham which he had advanced on Account to the Smelters etc. I know you paid him what he advanced to the Ore Carriers amounting, as I remember, to £6.4[s]. If Mr Mulcaster was repaid the Money he had advanced, when at Hexham, he will have received that twice, as he was paid it at Farnacres. The sooner you let us hear from you the more agreeable it will be to us.

We are etc

N W Junr JS

I observed that in the Account drawn out by Mr Mulcaster of Money Lent you had crossed the Sums he had paid on Account of Ore Carriage and after the casting up of this Account which

amounted to £35.18
as I recollect you wrote as follows 6. 4
29.14

Not yet pd

H Smith.	£2.11	
L Charlton.	1. 1.	3.12
		26. 2

this looks as if there had been an intention at least of paying Mr Mulcaster the £26.2- at Hexham.

3 Jun 1774 Nicholas Walton to Anthony Hopper

To Mr Hopper. Farnacres 3rd June 1774

Sir

Some time ago Mr Monkhouse spoke to me to take some Bone Ashes which had been got for the Brownley Hill Company more than they had occasion for. I could not at the time give Mr Monkhouse a satisfactory answer but the other day I called at your Office in the Side & acquainted your Clerk that if there were any Bone Ashes yet remaining which you wanted to be clear of, as a convenience to you and Mr Monkhouse we would take them provided they came at the same price as we could get Bone Ashes from London. Your proposition is that we should take them at the price you paid for them and that we are welcome to have them at that rate. The prices we pay for 50 Casks are

100 Bushells of Ashes at 3s	£15
50 Casks at 2s	5
Cartage	10 6
Wharfage	12 6
Charge at London	£24 3

Freight etc from London to NCastle

& Charges at Newcastle	2 4 8
	23 7 8

If you chuse to let us have the Ashes at the above rate, we shall stil take them tho' you have put the proposition upon different grounds from what was expected, but if you think the price offered was insufficient, there will be no disappointment as there are 100 Casks of Ashes now at Langley Mill; you will therefore observe that the intention is convenience to you Gentlemen and that it cannot be looked upon Mr Smeaton and I are under any obligation even in your Letting us have the Ashes at our own price.

I am for Mr Smeaton & Self Sir Your hble Servt
N W Junr

PS. Shall be glad of your answer when convenient.

13 Jun 1774 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 13th June 1774

Your Letters of the 9th and 11th were reced at this place by Mr Hilton yesterday.
The Lead you sell at the Mill may be at the same price as last fixed.

I am glad to hear the Reducers have done better this Operation than common and hope they will continue to do as well in future but I doubt that.

You should not give yourself any uneasiness about Wm Brown. As to his ingratitude, such a Being as he is, cannot be capable of the contrary, for his whole Mind seems bent upon making himself and others uneasy but it is only with people who have fears about them that he can succeed in this. I am perfectly satisfied with the adjustment of the Rents, and I am also perfectly satisfied we have done right in discharging Brown from the Work at Langley Mill, and he was told when at Farnacres that you had our possitive directions to be clear of him, because we thought him an improper Person to be employed there; he wanted particulars; we would not give him any. If you can get any proof who let the Water off it would be very agreable and therefore I desire you will give Public Notice at Hexham to morrow; & on Sunday at Haydon , Whitfield and Allendale Churches that any person or persons giving information of the Offender or Offenders shall upon conviction of such Offender or Offenders be paid the Sum of Ten Pounds Ten Shillings. I have wrote to Mr Bell to see Brown and acquaint him that the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital will maintain their right to the Ground at Langley of which he threatens to pull down the Fence and that he may depend upon it if he commits any act of that kind or any other which affects the interest of the Hospital he will be punished with the utmost severity.

If any thing offers, your Nephew shall not be forgotten.

Should Brown after all pull down the Fence he mentions take sufficient Evidence of the fact. None of the Tenants of the little Farms nor yourself can be Evidences upon it because you are all interested but your Servant and any others not interested who happen to be the way will do very well.

I have purchased 44 Casks of Bone Ashes at Newcastle, they came from London and are of the same sort as those we got last year; with these and 50 more which I intend ordering from London we shall have quite sufficient I expect and to spare.

I send you Fifty Pounds by Mr Hilton for which I desire youll Sign and give him me the inclosed Recets. I am

Your hble Servt
N W Junr

PS You have a precedent for Notice about Letting of the Water and therefore I dont send you one.

If possible I wd be glad that it was found out when the Incroachment at Langley Mill was made. Geo. Thompson is likely to know.

14 Jun 1774 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr Holmes.

Farnacres 14th June 1774

Dear Sir

This day I have packed up in a Box directed to you near Somerset House London 853 Ounces of fine Silver which will be sent by the London Carrier who sets out from Newcastle on Saturday first.

The instant I had wrote the above I reced your Letter of the 11th and have drawn upon you dated this day payable 30 days after date for £98.12.. being the amount of 348 Ounces of Bullion at 5s/8d POunce. I am sorry to find Silver is again on the drop but we must take that as it happens from time to time.

I return you thanks for your kind attention in giving me an Account of the intentions of the Deputation as to their time of setting out as also of the Persons who it seems likely will be fixed upon.

My Wife joins me in every good wish to you and yours and I am

Dear Sir Your most hble Servt

N W Junr

PS It will be probably 6 or 7 Weeks before you receive any more Silver.

Sir. Farnacres 14 June 1774.

Thirty days after Date Pay to the Order of Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington & Saint Ninety eight Pounds twelve Shillings. Value reced as advised by Sir Your most hble Servts Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes London

14 Jun 1774 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 14th June 1774

I understand the Lead Carriers West of Hexham have considerable Stocks of Lead in Hand & that they require the Hexham Carriers to come and fetch it from them without allowing any thing to the Hexham Carriers to Hexham. Let that matter be as

it may among them it certainly is not proper that the Lead should lie and therefore I desire you will it deliver Lead to any except the Hexham Carriers including Mr Bell of the Highshield and such Carriers as are to the East of Hexham til every Pig now in the Hands of the Carriers West of Hexham shall be carried as far as Hexham at least and then take further directions from Mr Smeaton & myself.

I am Yr hble Servt

N W Junr

PS We would not have any more Silver taken off til the middle of July or perhaps a few days later

20 Jun 1774 Nicholas Walton to John Salter

Mr Salter

Farnacres 20th June 1774

Dear Sir

I am much obliged by your kind attention to the Bone Ashes. I could not til now fix the quantity which we would want for the present year and I find 50 Casks will answer our end fully you will therefore be so good as send that quantity as soon as convenient. The Family here desire to join me in best respects to you and yours & I am

Dear Sir Your obliged hble Servt

N W Junr

24 Jun 1774 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 24th June 1774

We have reced your Letters of the 19th & 20th June 1774 and note their contents; we also reced yours inclosing one from Mr Hilton.

If there is occasion for a learning Smelter at Langley Mill and upon further enquiry you find Thomas Hendersons Character good we have no objection to your employing him but as you can best judge of this matter we shall leave it entirely to your discretion to do as you think proper, the good of the Work being our only object.

Let the Refiners go on 'til you have further orders abt taking off the Silver for there must be none taken off til Mr Smeaton and I are with you in our return from Cumberland which may possibly be August.

What you propose as to the Lead Carriers is certainly right as also what you have done.

When the Mill was built at Langley Thomas Brown told me the inclosure had been made considerably above 20 years as I remember 27 years.

We expect Mr Barnes a Viewer of Collieries will be Stublick Colliery on Monday morning early to View that Colliery for Greenwich Hospital and you will take an opportunity of seeing him as soon as you can after he gets there and acquaint him with the sort of Coals they may sell of that sort yearly at Stublick we shd be glad you would acquaint him.

As we shall probably be at the Mill some time about the beginning of July we hope to see the break in Elliots Wall repaired and all other little Jobs done which may want help.

We are Your hble Servt

N W Jr

PS We have found out the Error in the Cash at the Pay.

6 Jul 1774 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr Holmes.

Farnacres 6th July 1774.

Dr Sir

Yesterdays Post brought me your favor of the 2nd inst by which I am sorry to receive so indifferent an Account as to the Silver Markett. I have this day drawn upon you for £238.2.7, Payble thirty days after date being the amount of 853 Ounces of Bullion at 5s/7d P Ounce. I find upon the enquiry at Newcastle that 5s/8d was the price there on Monday last and Mr Langlands bought a quantity of fine Silver that day.

I am obliged by your attention to Mr Smeaton & myself concerning the deputation as also for the information you give me respecting that matter & I hope the Gentlemen will not be in the Country til towards the latter end of this Month as Mr Smeaton unluckily happens to be called to York to attend the Assizes.

It gave us all much concern to hear of Brother Smeaton's severe attack but I hope he is by this time quite relieved. His last Letter to me was dated the 29th Ulto so your Acct is a later one than mine. I am joined by my Wife & Father in best respects and am

Dr Sir Your most hble Sevt

N W Junr

Sir

Farnacres 6 July 1774

Thirty Days after date pay to the Order of Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington & Saint Two Hundred and Thirty eight Pounds Five Shillings and Seven Pence. Value received as advised by Sir Your hble Servts Walton & Smeaton

To Mr John Holmes London

26 Aug 1774 John Smeaton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Hexham 26th August 1774

We have reced yours of 24th inst and now take the first opportunity of acquainting you that you are to refine the whole Cake over again and certainly the Lead produced from the Litharge we saw put into the Reducing Furnace is the most proper to be used in this operation for the reasons you mention. The Cake we would have Refined at twice so as to make two Cakes and when done sent to Newcastle as usual, but in two Boxes instead of one.

From this circumstance of all the Litharge from the Silver Test proving Refineable we think you shd keep the whole which is in future produced from every Silver Test only in the doing of this you should keep it in two parcels the first of which will contain the Litharge produced from the beginning to Work the Silver Test til you suppose the Litharge is become so rich as to be worth Refining and the other that which is supposed to be clearly refineable as has hitherto been practised by which means it will be found out what further quantity of Litharge it will be necessary to save than what we now do, in every operation of taking off the Silver.

You say nothing abt the last tryals you made in consequence of our last Letter one of which was going on in the Assay Furnace when Mr Ibbetson & Mr Walton saw you last from whence we are apprehensive some Letter has miscarried. We are

Your hble Servts

W & S

4 Sep 1774 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 4th Sep 1774

We reced your Letter of the 30th Ulto on Friday and yesterday sent off the Bullion for London. It weighed as follows. The Cake No 1 658 Ounces the small pieces from 1 to 7 inclusive 9 1/2 Ounces and the Cake No 2 665 Ounces in all 1332 1/2 Ounces. The Gentlemen are highly satisfied and we have pleasure in acquainting you they are so.

You have done right as to the Peats.

The several Assays have been weighed & produce as follows..

Thortergill Syke	13. 14. 9 6/10
Black Slag Lead	7. 3. 7 8/10
Litharge Lead of Silver Test	6. 12. 7 2/10
Lead from whence the Silver was extr	11. 12

We are Your hble Servts

W & S

4 Sep 1774 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 4th Septemr 1774

Dear Sir

Hester we sent by the London Carrier two Boxes of Bullion No 1 containing 665 Ounces pt of wch wrapped up in small paper. No 2 containg 667 1/2 Ounces 91/2 Oz in one paper & a few small pieces in another paper.

In all 1332 1/2 and we hope they will arrive safe and come to a better Markett than late appearances give us room to expect.

We are etc

N W Junr

J S

PS The Boxes are directed to you as usual.

21 Sep 1774 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr Holmes.

Farnacres 21st Septr 1774

Dear Sir

This day I have drawn upon you for £377.8 - being the amount of 1332 Ounces of fine Silver at 5s8d P Ounce. The Bill is payble 40 days after date.

I dare say you have reced all the Bullion which went from Newcastle for though one of the Papers confirmed 9 1/2 Ounces yet.

I believe the other two did not contain more than 1/2 an Ounce & as to the 1/2 Ounce short upon the whole that must have been owing to my mistake.

In about Three Weeks I expect you will receive another Cake or perhaps it may be a Month. The size I cannot guess at.

We have compleated the Survey and are much obliged by your kind wishes. I am with best respects to you & Mrs Holmes & Family.

Dear Sir Your most hble Servt

N W Junr

Sir

Farnacres 21st September 1774

Forty days after date pay to the order of Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington & Saint Three Hundred and Seventy Seven Pounds Eight Shillings. Value received as advised by Sir Your hble Servts W & S

To Mr John Holmes London

24 Sep 1774 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 24th Septemr 1774

On Thursday the 24th of October in the Evening we purpose being at the Mill and shall hold the Court at Haydon Bridge the following day and return to the Mill in the Evening; the day following shall prepare for the Mill Pay and on Sunday the 30th of October intend getting to Hexham in the Evening. Monday & Tuesday the 31st October & 1st Novem we purpose receiving the Rents at Hexham the 2nd anniversary finish preparation for Pay 3rd Pay the Mill Folks & Ore Carrier 4th Pay the Lead Carriers & 5th Saturday get home.

The Lead Carriage must be immediately stopped & pray tell the Carriers we expect all the Lead to be at Newcastle by the 8th of October without fail for if that is not done we shall not be able to pay the Carriers til towards Christmas. You may carry on the next operation to the 8th or 15th of October which ever you like best yourself and fix it so as to having every thing ready prepared against we come to the Mill on Thursday Evening the 27th of October. Yours of the 20th is come to hand but the Silver not yet seen. Pray forward the inclosed for Mr Hilton by a special Messenger from the Mill which charge in your contingent Account as also the expence of the Messenger who brings you this. When you have compleated your trials about the Litharge we shall be glad to hear from you.

We are Your hble Servts

W & S

27 Sep 1774 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 27th Septemr 1774

Inclosed you have a Paper showing the Weights of Assays of Litharge Lead from Silver Tests from which it appears that after No 5 all is Refineable; but in all future savings we would not begin sooner than after No 6 and we think we shall then be sure of having nothing but what is clearly Refineable. You are destined to make another Assay of No 3. From the above you will observe that the No of last Operation 6 is to be kept for Refining but in all future operations No 6 is to be thrown amongst the Unrefineable Litharge.

If the Smelters apply, we shall give them an Answer but cannot give any encouragement for an advance.

We are Your hble Servts

Walton & Smeaton

Assays made from Litharge saved from Silver Tests each Assay from 1/2 a Pound of Lead.

Produce p fodder deduced from assays of Oct 1770 & Sept 1774				Assays made Octob 1770				Assays made Sept 1774			
No	oz	dwt	grs	80th	oz	dwt	grs	80th	oz	dwt	grs
1		13	11,4	8		19	14,4	3		7	8,4
2	1	8	4,2	12	1	9	9,6	11	1	6	22,8
3								55	6	14	18
4	2	17	13,8	20	2	9		27	3	6	3,6
5	3	8	14,4	28	3	8	14,4	28	3	8	14,4
6	5	12	16,8	46	5	12	16,8	75	9	3	18
7	6	13	12,6	48	5	17	14,4	61	7	9	10,8
8	7	13	3	64	7	16	19,2	61	7	9	10,8
9	7	16	19,2	58	7	2	2,4	70	8	11	12
10	8	6	14,4	62	7	11	24,6	74	9	1	7,2
11	9	4	23,4	1,4	10	5	19,2	67	8	4	3,6
12	14	2	23,4	1,38	14	2	23,4				
13	33	11	7,2	3,34	33	11	7,2				
14	440			45	440						

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 27th Septem 1774

We fully intended to have mentioned in our Letter of this day wherein the Assays of Litharge Lead are taken notice of, that it will be proper in all future operations to save the Litharge Slags by themselves which belong to the Litharge which is kept for Refining and to run them wth Test Bottoms and Black Slag which is supposed the richest in Silver & then we shall be sure of the Lead produced in that way to be refineable

We are Yr etc
W &S

12 Nov 1774 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

Mr Holmes

Farnacres 12th November 1774

Dear Sir

We were duly favoured with your Letter of the 22nd Ulto but have been so much engaged ever since that we have not had a convenient opportunity of writing to you til the present time. We have this day drawn upon you for £170.6.5 payble Thirty days after date being the amount of 596 3/4 Ounces of Silver Bullion at 5s8 1/2d P Ounce. We understand from the Agent at our Refining House that an accident happened upon the taking off this Bullion, for just as they were drawing the Test out of the Furnace, a

small quantity of the Lead Soot fell from the Chimney, which being by the heat of the Silver in some degree fluxed, it stuck to the Surface of the Cake but the quantity was so very small that we hope the injury which the Silver received is only in appearance, if however it should prove otherwise, we must make such allowance as shall appear to be necessary to make up any deficiency which may arise to you, on account of the Silver not being perfectly fine.

There is a Cake of Bullion at Newcastle which we propose sending for London by this or next Weeks London Waggon it weighs upwards of 590 Ounces.

We have taken the Liberty of desining Mr Everest to call upon you for Money for his Draft on us, the amount will be about £12 or £13 which you will be so obliging as Pay & the amount may be deducted from the next Cake of Bullion after you make the Payment.

Mr Smeaton desires to mention, that on the 4th inst he drew a Bill upon you dated at Hexham & payable to Mr Adam Walker or order, for £20.

We heartily join in congratulating you on the recovery of your young folks and are with best respects

Sir Your most hble Servts

N W Junr J S

PS. Mr Walton has been so unlucky as to break a Collar Bone by his Horse falling with him but hopes soon to get well again.

Sir Farnacres 12th. November 1774

Thirty days after date Pay to the Order of Messrs Bell, Cookson, Carr, Widdrington and Saint One Hundred and Seventy Pounds Six Shillings and Five Pence. Value received as advised by Sir Your hble Servts Walton & Smeaton
To Mr John Holmes London

12 Nov 1774 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 12th Nov 1774

We have received your Letter of the 9th inst and with it the Operation for last Month & Mr Smeaton's Cork.

What you have done as to the engaging Wm Brown and Robt Telford is what we approve and as to Thomas Robsons blusters they only show that we judge right in having no connection with him at Langley Mill. If you see him you may tell him that Greenwich Hospital will defend the enjoyment of the Ground now occupied along with, and for the use of the Persons employed at Langley Mill, against him and every other Person whatever. As to Bill Brown's Wife she is not to be minded.

After the Mill is cleared dont deliver any more Lead til further orders.

We are Your hble Servts
W & S

PS. Thos Robson is very ungrateful as he has been used with great tenderness we now find he has ill deserved such treatment. If he offers to pull down the Inclosures he must be discharged & let us know immediately, but we do not expect he will be so imprudent.

21 Nov 1774 Nicholas Walton to Henry Airey

To Messrs Henry & Jona. Airey.

Farnacres 21 st Novr 1774

Gent.

You are desired to Ship immediately, for Mr George Douglass of Berwick upon Tweed, 28 Pieces of our Refined Lead, on Board of the Eleanor James Hall, Master now lying my at Newcastle Quay. You will give Mr Douglass notice when the Lead is Shipped and may draw upon him at a short date, but we think it would be well not to draw the Bill at a shorter date than one Month.

We are Your hble Servts
Walton & Smeaton

2 Dec 1774 Nicholas Walton to John Jobling

2 December 1774

Mr John Jobling wrote to and desired immediately to order 1 doz. of Charcoal to be delivered at Langley Lead Mill as soon as convenience will admit of it. The dozen to consist of 80 Winchester Bushels or 8 Sacks of 10 Bushels each. Price 35s.

PS Mr Jobling acquainted that Ready Money will be pd for the Charcoal on delivery at Langley Mill.

2 Dec 1774 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 2nd Decemr 1774

I have ordered one Dozen of Charcoal to be delivered to you at Langley Mill. The price it is expected will be 35s. The quantity 80 Bushels. Ready Money must be paid on delivery. It must be kept dry. You will receive directions when Mr Smeaton and I are together which I expect will be shortly.

Your Letter of the 30th Ultio is now here with the inclosed Operation and Assays.

Thomas Robson will not dare to do as he threatened and I am sure you need not fear either him or the other Man; what you have ordered respecting Ths R is proper.

There is no objection to the report as to the Cake which I find is now at Newcastle and whenever you find it most convenient we shall be glad to receive another Cake let it be great or small.

The more you keep the Smelters at Work the more agreeable it will be to myself & Mr Smeaton and therefore what you propose (if it can be done in an agreeable manner to the Boys who like Holy days some times) is what wd please us as we hope you will be enabled to get the present quantity of Ore Smelted by the [underlined: 'middle of April']. 1815 Bings 6 Cwt. No small object.

I desire you will, in the best manner you can, form a judgement how long the Smelting Bellows we have at present may last according to the rate of going since the Mill started and let Mr Smeaton & me know; at the same time we shd be glad to know particularly how the alteration made by Mr Smeaton, th last time we were at the Mill, answers. I am

Your hble Servt

N W Junr

5 Dec 1774 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 5th Decemr 1774.

I acknowledged the Recet of yours wth the Operation and Assays, on Friday last, and on Saturday the Bullion was sent off for London it weighs 694 3/4 Ozs but is short of the Computation by the Assays almost 30 Ounces indeed it is so by computation from the Assay of the least weight. I do realy think Mr Mulcaster we do not get so much Silver in proportion to the Assays as we used to do and therefore I would have you try Assays of the Refined Lead in the two next Operation by taking chips of Lead of the Refined Pigs here and there til you get a Pound or better so as to be sure to have a Pound Assayed for each Operation and this will show us whether there is any defect in the work or not.

Having now examined all your Operations to the 26th November inclusive I find all is right and have great satisfaction in acquainting you with this and I am sure you will gave pleasure to hear they are all exact.

I cannot help thinking the Litharge Slags wch come from the Litharge saved from the Silver Tests will be very rich in Silver and tho' at a considerable distance of time before we shall have any I now mention it as I would wish to have an Assay made from them by washing a few of them so as to get a Pound of Lead from them and make an Assay of the Pound. What you proposed as to taking care of the Test Bottoms of the Silver Tests and keeping them by themselves was certainly right and I would stil carry it farther and take care of the Black Slags which shall be produced from the Litharge

Slags and Test Bottoms of the Silver Tests. I think this is as farr as we can go and dare say this last object will be found very small.

There is great complaint of the L.S. Pigs of Slag Lead being liable to break in two which is I am sure owing to its being put out of the Pan too soon, that is, before it is cool enough. I therefore beg some more Pans may be got for the Slag Hearth so as fully to answer the end of not being put to a necessity of moving the Lead from the Pan til it is sufficiently Cooled. I am for Mr Smeaton & Self

Your hble Servt

N W Junr

7 Dec 1774 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

Mr Holmes.

Farnacres Decemr 7th 1774

Dear Sir

This day I am favoured with your obliging Letter of the 3rd inst and have drawn upon you for £155.17 - being the amount of 593 Ounces of Silver at 5s8 1/2 d P Ounce after deducting £13.8 which you paid Mr Everest and you will be so good as send me the Recet. when you receive the Cake of Silver now on the Road; it weighs 694 3/4 Ounces. We are much obliged to your making the Payment to Mr Everest. The Bill now drawn is payble Thirty days after date.

I am Dear Sir Your most hble Servt

N W Junr

Sir

Farnacres 7th December 1774

Thirty Days after Date Pay to the Order of Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington and Saint One Hundred and Fifty five Pounds Seventeen Shillings. Value received as advised by Your most hble Servts Walton & Smeaton
To Mr John Holmes London

10 Dec 1774 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

To John Ibbetson.

Farnacres 10th Decemr 1774

Sir

You will receive under cover herewith the Langley Lead Mill Account from the 1st May 1773 exclusive, to the 30th April 1774 inclusive, upon which there us a balance of £804.5.41/4 in favor of the Undertaking after allowing £130 by way of Rent for one year; being somewhat more than 5 P Cent upon the whole Expenditure for Buildings, Machinery etc and Fencing the little Farms near the Mill for the Agent & Workmen.

At the foot of the above Account you will observe there is a Note showing the Gain by the Undertaking from its commencement to the 30th April 1774 from which it appears that the Net Profit amounts to £3827.3.11 3/4 or £667.17.3 3/10 Communitus Annis.

In our Letter accompanying the last Years Account, we had occasion to acquaint the Board, that from an increase of the proportional quantity of Middle Cleugh Ore which was not of so good a quality as the other Ores the produce had been hereby diminished that the Governor and Company for Smelting this Ore had been obliged to increase the Smelters Wages by one third, and that we expected we should be obliged in future to do something equivalent.

Since the time of that Letter as well as before, our Smelters have complained of the great length of time they were obliged to stand to Work, in order to produce their Weekly quantity of Lead chiefly owing to the proportion of Middle Cleugh Ore and Ore from others of the Mines which by being worked deeper than formerly is become more Stubborn and more difficult to Work.

The latter end of September last we had a formal application from the Smelters in a body for an increase in Wages and on maturely considering considering what they alledged, we thought it reasonable, so far to comply with their request, as to allow them 8d P Fodder of 21 Cwt in addition to their former price of 6s up in the whole quantity; and which we thought more adviseable, than to make an addition upon particular Ores, as that might be productive of confusion and discontent. Indeed we an increase necessary in order that we might keep our best Workmen who tho' they discreetly made no declaration of their intentions to leave as yet we could readily perceive a refusal would be productive of that effect; and as this addition will at an average amount but to about £30 P Ann upon the whole quantity this seemed a consideration no way equal to the risk of putting the Hospital's Lead Mill Affairs out of order.

We inclose you an Account showing the Quantity of Duty and Hush Ore raised in the Manor of Alston Moor between Mich 1767 and Mich 1773 for Smelting at Langley Mill & distinguishing what part thereof has been delivered at the said Mill each year and what remained at the Mines in Alston Moor after the ending of each years Carriage.

We are etc

N W Junr J S

An Account showing the Quantities of Duty & other Ore raised in the Manor of Alston Moor for Smelting at Langley Mill as also the Stock of Ore remaining at the Mines after the delivery of each Year to Langley Mill as follows

	Bouse Ore		Cutting Ore		Total	
	Bings	Cwt	Bings	Cwt	Bings	Cwt
Duty & Hush ore raised in 1 yr ending at Mich. 1768	3681	3 27/30	128	7 6/30	3818	3 3/30
Received at Langley Mill in 1768	2704	6			2704	6
Stock at the mines after finish carriage in 1768	976	5 27/30	128	7 6/30	1105	5 0/30
Duty & Hush ore raised in 1 yr ending at Mich. 1769	3439	28/30	201		3640	28/30
	4415	6 25/30	329	7 6/30	4745	6 1/30
Received at Langley Mill in 1769	3973	2 9/30	273	4 6/30	4246	6 15/30
Stock at the mines after finish carriage in 1769	442	4 16/30	56	3	498	7 16/30
Duty & Hush ore raised in 1 yr ending at Mich. 1770	3362	4 6/30	189	24/30	3451	5
	3705	22/30	245	3 24/30	3950	4 16/30
Received at Langley Mill in 1770	3037	1 12/30	232	18/30	3269	2
Stock at the mines after finish carriage in 1770	667	7 19/30	13	3 6/30	681	2 16/30
Duty & Hush ore raised in 1 yr ending at Mich. 1771	2600	3 7/30	119	1 6/30	2719	4 13/30
	3268	2 17/30	132	4 12/30	3400	6 29/30
Received at Langley Mill in 1771	2882	2	125	7 24/30	3008	1 24/30
Stock at the mines after finish carriage in 1771	386	17/30	6	4 18/30	392	5 5/30
Duty & Hush ore raised in 1 yr ending at Mich. 1772	2749	1 11/30	97	6	2846	7 11/30
Duty & Hush ore raised in 1 yr ending at Mich. 1773			12	1 18/30	12	1 18/30
	3135	1 28/30	116	4 6/30	3251	6 4/30
Received at Langley Mill in 1772 & to March 1773	2836		112		2948	
Stock at the mines after finish carriage to Mar 1773	299	1 28/30	4	4 6/30	303	6 4/30
Duty ore w 12 B[ouse] 1 18/30 Cutting above raised in 1 yr ending at Mich. 1773	3234	3 14/30	123	4 6/30	3357	7 20/30
	3533	5 12/30	128	12/30	3661	5 24/30
Received at Langley Mill in 1773 after March	3011	7 24/30	144	1 24/30	3156	1 18/30
Stock at the mines after finish carriage in 1773					505	4 6/30

15 Dec 1774 Nicholas Walton to Samuel Lawton

To Mr Saml Lawton

Farnacres 15th December 1774

Sir

On the 1st instant we recd your letter of the 23rd Ulto offering your service to take care of the rect of the Lead belonging to Greenwich Hospital, at the Warehouse in Sandgate, upon a Salary of Twenty Pounds p Annum.

In ansvere to the above we now take the first conv't opportunity of acquiinging you that we do not want any such Agent at present but in case such a Person was wanted we doubt not Mr Lawton is very well qualified. We are

Sir You humble servts
NW Junr JS

20 Dec 1774 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 20th December 1774

Having now tried the weight of the Assays inclosed in your Letter of the 14th inst (which are exactly of the same weight) you have as above the weight P Fodder left in the last Refined Lead as also in all the other Parcels of Refined Lead from which we have had Assays since our beginning to Refine at Langley Mill from those you will observe a considerable difference between the Work now and formerly. We are sure we need not say anything to you by way of inducing you to do every thing in your power to put the Workmen into a right way, for it cannot now admit of a doubt but that the fallings short of late must have been owing to some errors in the Work. We shall, as soon as it can be conveniently done, make out an Account showing the produce of Bullion at Langley Mill compared with the Assays and send you a Copy. We are

Your hble Servts
N WJunr JS

Assay of Lead after refined at Langley Lead Mill

	Weight Prodn pr Fodd	
	Gr	Dwt Gr
1769 Feby 8	10/80	12 6
Mar 17	3/80	3 16,2
Mar 4	4/80	4 21,6
1770 Aug 23	4/80	4 21,6
1771 Feb 21	6/80	7 8,4
1774 Decr 15	15/80	18 9

20 Dec 1774 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 20th December 1774

From a Letter reced since we wrote about the Charcoal we find you will not receive it til about March next.

In the Experiments with the Charcoal, when it does arrive, we would have you observe the following directions.

The quantity of Litharge to be reduced for each Experiment to be from Four Fodders of Lead, being the quantity produced from one Working Test; and the Charcoal for every experiment must be broken with a Wooden Mallet or Paving rammer so as to be reduced as nearly as possible to the same smallness as the Coals which are now used.

Experiment 1st - Let the Litharge be mixed with Charcoal in the same manner as now with Coal; then charge the Furnace and during the Operation throw in Charcoal in the same manner as Coals are now thrown in 'til the charging is worked out.

Experiment 2nd - Let the Litharge be mixed with Charcoal and Coal in equal Quantities in the same manner as now and charge and throw in Charcoal and Coal in equal Quantities during the Operation as above mentioned in Experiment 1st til the charging is worked out.

Experiment 3d - Let the Litharge be mixed as in Exp2d then charge and throw in Charcoal only, during the Operation, til the charging is worked out.

Experiment 4th - Let the Litharge be mixed with Coal as now and charge and throw in Charcoal only during the Operation til the charging is worked out.

The above quantity of Litharge is fixed upon as being supposed a full charging, if it is not sufficient for that, we would have you in each Experiment to use as much Litharge as is usual for a charge in the present way, & each quantity must be from the same Number of Pieces of Refineable Lead; we would also have you to make an Experiment No 5 in which Let the Litharge be mixed with Coal and worked in the same manner as now practised.

We are obliged by the Opinion you give us as to the Casting of the Bellows.

Mr Smeaton says you are right in saying that before the alteration was made in shortening the Chains the Bellows were going at the rate if 19 or 20 Strokes in a Minute and 14 after the alteration. Mr Smeaton is clearly of opinion that an alteration must have been made by letting the Chains down again at one end or the other or otherwise the Bellows would not go either 19 or 20 Strokes; and when you grow scarce of Water it will certainly be proper to take up a Link again; and in case it should be found, that it does not answer so well at 14 Strokes as 19 or 20 - 5 Camms must be put in when the Axis is Barrelled instead of four.

We are sorry to find the Middle Cleugh Ore proves so refractory but hope you will get better away with it after a little further tryal as we do also that Scaleburn Moss will prove better than you expect and we must wash where necessary and are sure you will do the best for the Undertaking.

There is not much objection to the Slag Lead being some of it a little above and some under weight and as we hope the advantage arising by having the Lead set up when not too hot will be something considerable as to the character of it we think that will counter Balance every objection to the uncertainty of weight and desire you will proceed in such manner as to have the Lead set up as cool as possible.

We shall be glad to see you here whenever it is convenient but if you would be here on Monday the 26th inst you will then meet with us both together and we shd like that if it occasions no inconvenience to you. We are

Your hble Servts

N W Junr J S

23 Dec 1774 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 23rd Decem 1774

It will give us satisfaction to know from what Seams or parts of Seams of Stublick Colliery the Coals and Cynders that are used at Langley Mill are gotten. That is to say, in Case the same Coals are not used at all, to what particular use, each Seam is respectively adapted; and what, as nearly as you can Judge, may be the Quantity used of each P Annum. Also whether any particular Quality is required for the Coals which are used in the reverberating Furnaces of the Refinery and Reducery other than that of producing heat; and whether any particular quality is required in the Cynders that are made use of in the Slag Hearth, for tho' some Coals may be more profitable to make Cynders of than others; yet we wish to be informed whether an equal Quantity of Cynders, when made, do or not produce an equal effect. We shall also be glad to know what Quantity of Cynders a given measure of Coals will produce. The sooner we hear from you on the above the better.

We understand Stublick Colliery is likely to fail sooner than was expected which is the reason for our desiring the above particulars.

We inclose you an Account showing the produce of Silver at Langley Mill (compared with the Assays) from the 6th April 1771 to and with 26 Nov 1774, which with the Account sent you the 10th May 1771 show the whole since the commencement of the Undertaking.

We are etc

NW Junr J S

An Account showing the prod. of Bullion at Langley Mill compared wth yr Assays <>
Litharge for Refining over again has been kept since 6th April 1771

Dates of Operation	Qty of lead refined cwt	Weight of each assay		Produce by assay			Real produce		Over (short of) the assay		
		Gr	80 th pts	oz	dwt	gr	oz	dwt	oz	dwt	gr
1771 May 25	1764	1	79	406	9	2,4	433	5	26	15	21,6
	1260	1	25	385	17	12	447	15	61	17	12
Jun 29	1089 ½	1	26 ½	339	4	1,2	312	10	(26	14	1,2)
Jul 27	1827	1	63 ½	764	13	12,3	719	5	(45	8	12,3)
Aug 31	1764	1	56	699	14	9,6	717	10	17	15	14,4
Sep 28	1428	1	69 ½	622	3	8,4	642	15	20	1	15,6
Oct 26	1344	1	77	615	8	19,2	606		(9	8	19,2)
Nov 30	1512	2	6	732	1	4,8	720	15	(11	6	4,8)
Dec 28	1260	1	53	488	15	12	488		(15		12)
1772 Feb 29	1596	1	28	502	14	19,2	501	15	(19		19,2)
Apr 25	1839	1	28	578	15	10	577	5	(1	10	10)
Slag lead	1198 ½	1	16 ½	336	18	2,7	335	15	(1	3	2,7)
Litharge ld	153	2	68	102	8	4,4	103	15	1	6	19,6
Jul 25	1346	1	54	525	5	14,4	506		(19	5	14,4)
Aug 29	2100	2	12	1053	10		1116	15	63	5	
Oct 10	1596	2	9	786	13	21,6	782		(4	13	21,6)
Nov 28	1491	1	72	661		4,8	656		(5		4,8)
Dec 26	1764	1	33	581	7	16,8	651		69	12	7,2
1773 Jan 30	785	1		182	18	16	182		(18		16)
Feb 27	1680	1	78	766	4		751	15	(14	9)	
May 1	2269	2	5 ½	1094	15	15,6	1154		59	4	8,4
Slag lead	1098	1	22	326	18	25,2	326	10	(8		25,2)
Litharge ld	70	3	44	66	11	19	56		(10	11	19)
Jun 26	2016	1	68	870	4	19,2	858	10	(11	14	19,2)
Jul 31	1680	1	47	622	5	4	574		(48	5	4)
Oct 16	1764	1	46	648	3	9,6	618	10	(29	13	9,6)
	1596	1	65	674	19	12	693		18		12
Nov 27	1680	1	79	779	2		781	10	2	8	
Dec 25	1680	1	64	705	12		684		(21	12)	
1774 Feb 26	1596	1	62 ½	663	6	8	641		(22	6	8)
Apr 30	2390	1	59	696	1	22	981		11	18	2
Slag lead	1007	1	31	326	6	19,2	287		(39	6	19,2)
Litharge ld	70	3	52	68	3	18,5	61		(7	3	18,5)
May 28	924	2	24	901	12		853		(48	12	
Jun 25	756										
Aug 27	2667	2	20	1400	3	2	1332		(68	3	2)
Oct 8	1659	1	52 ½	649		16,5	596	15	(52	5	16,5)
Oct 29	1680	1	48	627	4		593		(34	4	
Nov 26	1428	2	18 ½	743	9	11,2	694	15	(48	14	11,2)
	56827			23269	15	9,8	23037	5	352	5	16,8
Silver produced from the Litharge saved from Silver Tests									220	15	
Short of the assay upon the whole									11	15	9,8
									(584	16	2,6)

24 Dec 1774 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr Holmes

Farnacres 24th Decr 1774

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 17th was reced on Tuesday last and this day we have drawn upon you for £198.5.10 being the amount of 694 3/4 Ounces of Bullion at 5:8 1/2 the price Silver now sells for at Newcastle. The Bill is payable Thirty days after date.

We are Dr Sir Yr etc

NW Junr J S

PS Be so good as let us know in your next the charge of the Compasses and Mr Waltons Watch, which may be deducted from the amount of the next cake of Bullion we expect to be enabled to send you one next Week.

Sir

Farnacres 24th Decemr 1774

Thirty days after Date Pay to the Order of Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington and Saint One Hundred and Ninety Eight Pounds Five Shillings and Ten Pence. Value reced as advised by Sir Your hble Servts Walton & Smeaton
To Mr John Holmes London

6 Jan 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr Holmes.

Farnacres 6th Janry 1775

Dear Sir

I reced your favor of the 27th Ult in due course and since the Lamb which was exceeding good and for which you have our hearty thanks. The Watch and Compasses arrived here this day all safe I dare say for as the Watch is so and the Compasses don't appear by their outward appearance to have had the least derangement, I take it for granted all is right. The charge for the Watch is 8s/6d which as also for the Compasses shall be deducted out of the amount of the Bill for the next Bullion; in the mean time you will be so obliging as pay for the Compasses and get a Recet which you will be kind enough to send when you acknowledge the arrival of the Bullion that is to be sent from Newcastle to morrow in a Box directed to you containing 708 Ounces and will, we expect, arrive in London the 21st inst. Mr Langlands being desirous to have a Cake of Bullion from our Works, I have promised him the next we have, and hope it will be agreeable to you that we shd oblige him on this occasion. My Wife and Father join me in wishing yourself, Mr Holmes and Family, many happy returns of this Season and I am

Dr Sir Your most obliged hble Ser

N W Junr

PS As the Agreement now stands as to your taking the Bullion, we are both of us to be regulated by the price of Standard that is, as I understand it, when the Bullion arrives in London and supposing the Standard Silver to be 5s1d P Oz we are to have 5s/6d being 5d P Ounce add if 5s2d- 5s.7d and so on without having any regard to the Newcastle Markett at all. The Newcastle Price has been never more than 5.8 1/2 for some considerable time past, this, I thought, you would like to know.

6 Jan 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 6 January 1775

I have reced your Letter of the 21st January [underlined: '1774'] and I am glad you got well home and found that Wilkinson was in a fair way of recovery and I think it will certainly be right to keep him from work as long as we can do it without real inconvenience & after he does come he ought to be cautioned to be careful.

It happened that I was, I find, rather Prophetical in what I said respecting Craig but it looks as if his want of health was the only occasion for leaving us and he is undoubtedly excusable in taking any step which he thinks likely to prolong his days.

The Work now most assuredly requires rather a Workman of experience than a learner & therefore the necessity of the thing must occasion our getting such a Person; indeed we see upon all things of this kind that other People are not so scrupulous as we are and if we don't take such steps as to be enabled to have proper Workmen, we shall none of us have any credit in the Undertaking I would however have us to be careful, but not so scrupulous to others as to neglect ourselves and upon the whole I look upon it under the present circumstances to be justifiable to take such proper Person as thinks himself at Liberty to offer himself to us, and consequently it must be understood that you shd contrive to have it known in the Country that a Man is wanted but this with as little bustle as possible at the same time I would not on any Account have it considered as conveying a Secret.

I have acquainted my Father with what you mention as to your Nephew and he will expect to hear from some of you soon. I am

Your Hble Servt

N W Junr

23 Jan 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 23rd January 1775

On my arrival at Newcastle yesterday from Cumberland I received your Letter of the 13th instant inclosing the Account of Stock at Langley Lead Mill of Materials etc of various kinds. You desire to have some Iron and I shall certainly send you some of the sorts you mention for the use of the Mill as soon as possible but as to that which will be wanted for the Barrelling there is no hurry. I am sorry to hear of George Robinson being so poorly but am pleased when you acquaint me that John Wilkinson is got so well again. I am sure Mr Smeaton and I shall be satisfied with whatever you do as to the supplying any deficiencies which happen in the number of our Workmen and therefore you will act as you see most proper.

My Father desires to see your Brother James and his Son at this place on Friday first in the morning at or before Eight o Clock and I on that Acct have requested Mr Bell to forward this Letter so as to be with you on Tuesday without fail. I am

Your hble Servt

N W Junr

24 Jan 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 24 Janry 1775

On enquiry at Newcastle I find flatt Sweedish Iron can be had of Three Inches broad and from Three Quarters of an Inch to a whole Inch thick if the last size will do we need not look further; but if any other size would suit better I desire you will let me know as I can have Iron best at Mr Crowley & Cos. at Swalwell either Square or flatt of any dimensions and lengths. I shall not order any Iron til I hear from you. I am

Your hble Servt

N W Junr

25 Jan 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

Mr Holmes.

Farnacres 25th January 1775

Dear Sir

Yesterdays Post brought me the favour of your Letter of the 21st inst. and this day I shall draw upon you for £199.1.6 being the amount of 708 Ounces of Bullion at 5s/9d P Ounce, after deducting Four Pounds one Shilling, paid by you on Mr Smeaton's Account for Miners Compasses, and £-8.6 due to you from my Father for Repairs and cleaning of his Watch.

Upon the 5th of February last we gave you our Sentiments about the Silver Trade and in consequence thereof you write us the 11th of that Month etc gave us our choice either of your taking the Silver at 5d P Ounce more than the price of Standard Silver or that you would write to us regularly as we proposed. By the latter it was proposed, by us, that we should write you when a Cake of Silver was ready, and that you were to give us a return of the Price at which you could take it, 28 days after the date of our Letter, that by this means, we might have the option between the London and Newcastle Marketts. On the 18th of the same Month I wrote you that I thought it would be by far the best way, for each of us to be regulated by the price of Standard, at the time of the arrival of every Cake in London, and if upon considering that with my Brother when he came into the Country, the Proposal you had made of taking the Bullion at 5d P Ounce more than Standard, appeared to us in the same light that it did to me then, I really thought it would be the best way of settling the price; and til that time I should send the Bullion which was produced upon the Terms, unless I should hear from you to the contrary, upon any alteration of the Trade which might make that necessary. Those circumstances have occasioned my having an Idea that it had been fully agreed upon, you were able to take the Bullion from the time of your making the proposition, at 5d P Ounce above Standard, on its arrival in London, unless you wrote us to the contrary; whereas, I find, as abovementioned, that was only proposed by myself to be the regulation til Brother Smeaton and I consulted together on his arrival at this place after my writing the 18th of February last; and nothing having been said since, except what I mentioned the 6th inst I must own I have made a mistake, and that the regulation which I approved, conformable to your offer, did not take place as an Agreement, further than to the time of Brother Smeaton's arrival here. This being the case, I desire you will be so obliging as let me know in your next, whether it is agreeable to you to take Bullion produced at Langley Mill, on the above Terms, for the time to come, each Party being at liberty to put an end to the Agreement, as circumstances may occur in the Trade to make that necessary; and in case you should not approve of this regulation, you will be so obliging as put the matter upon some other fixed Ground; for as Mr Smeaton and I act only as Agents, it may be expected from us to show you upon what Terms our Agreement stands with you; and this is the only reason of your having so much trouble upon the occasion. I shall be glad to hear from you, when convenient, and am with best respects and good wishes to yourself Mr Holmes and all Friends in which my Wife and Father join

Dear Sir Your most hble Servt
N W Junr PS.

About the middle of March you may expect to receive another Cake of Bullion. The Bill will be payable 30 days after date. My Fathers Watch goes very well.

Sir. Farnacres 25th January 1775 Thirty Days after Date Pay to the Order of Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington and Saint One Hundred and Ninety Nine Pounds One

Shilling & Six Pence. Value received as advised by Sir your hble Servts Walton & Smeaton
To Mr John Holmes London

27 Jan 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 27th January 1775

Sir

We duly reced your favor of the 25th by your Brother this morning and approve of what you have done with respect to the taking Joseph Rodham as from what your Brother and you have said of him he appears likely to answer for us.

It gives us pleasure to hear J Wilkinson gains strength and Spirits and we are glad Robinson is got together again.

In your first Letter pray let us know what lengths breadth and thickness would suit best for Test Reins & whether Hard or Soft Iron is best.

This morning it has rained and is now a fine fresh Weather day.

Your Brother and Nephew are gone up to Ravensworth Castle along with Mr Walton Snr and your Nephew is expected back again in abt 14 days to remain.

We are Your hble Servts

W & S

10 Feb 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 10th Feby 1775

Your Letters of the 2nd and 8th inst came here in due course and the Contents are observed we must leave it entirely to you to do the best you can with respect to the supplying the number of our Smelters deficient by those we have employed leaving us. With regard to Henderson we can only say that where it is perfectly clear the person who offers is likely and happens to be Son of a Tenant of Greenwich Hospital that his being so circumstanced should not operate as a reason why he should be employed or the contrary. For we would have it understood that the Hospitals Tenants are not to have any Ideas of a right to expect to have their Sons or Relations employed and then their applications will be civil and the behaviour of the Persons who come recommended from them will also be civil, whereas, if they have the least notion that we must right or wrong employ them they will in effect become our Masters. After having said so much you will, we are sure, act in this Affair so as to suit the Work best and keep things going on in that irregular manner which we have always experienced from you but we think it would be well to wait another Week to try for an experienced Workman, rather than engage a learner.

The Iron according to the weight we paid for was 6.2.3 you make it only 6.1.22 which is 9 Pounds less. The price is 19s P Cwt and we hope it will prove good.

You did right in letting Corbett have a loading of Lead and we wish to receive all the Lead at Newcastle as soon as possible having made a considerable Sale but dont deliver any more from the Mill yet. Lead is now £14 P Fodder.

It didd proper that Greengill Lead Ore which came last in should remain unsmelted and unreported til last years Quantities are all finished and then to be reported as belonging to this years Quantity.

We have been trying the produce of the Ore brought in last year compared with the produce of former years and find that 2586 Bings Smelted to the end of last Operation having produced (upon an average of the whole since the beginning) upwards of 180 pieces of 1Cwt more than the proportion.

We are etc. W & S

13 Feb 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr Holmes.

Farnacres 13th Febry 1775

Dear Sir

This day I was in Newcastle and I find by Lloyds List that Silver in Barrs is 5.4 1/4 which is 1/4d more P Ounce than when I last wrote you, which makes one imagine that fine Silver may have got a rise since I wrote you; I shall therefore be obliged to you, if you will acquaint me by the first convenient opportunity, what price fine Silver bears, when this arrives; and the price it bore at your Markett at the time of writing this Letter. I am told that 5s8d 1/2 is the highest price that has been paid at Newcastle for some considerable time, and that is the price now offered there.

I am Dear Sir. Your most hble Servt
N W Junr

PS I have been very far from well for some time and am now very indifferently not having the least Appetite or Spirits. All here join in best respects to you Mrs Holmes and Family. We have a Cake of fine Silver now at Newcastle which is that reserved for Mr Langlands but if I cannot get 5s9d for it at least, it shall certainly take its chance at London.

14 Feb 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 14th February 1775

I have received your Letter of the 11th inst & the Bullion also, which weights 970 Ounces which is within 12Oz 13Dw 21 6/10Gr of getting the whole of what we reckon it

should have been by Assay and this is very good work compared with the Assay; but notwithstanding there appears by the Assays of Refined Lead to be 14Dw 16 8/10Gr of Silver P Fodder yet left in the Refined Lead which is too much. The Assays from the Refined Lead weighed 3/20th parts of a Grain.

Pray let the Carriers know that we shall as soon as possible after the Lead, now delivered from the Mill is all delivered at Newcastle, set forward the Carriage again and indeed we wish them to be very alert in getting what they have in their hands either to Newcastle or Newburn.

Your Operation for January is very right.

I am Your hble Servt

NW Junr

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 14 February 1775 part given

I have reced your Letter of yesterday and would not have you hesitate employing Thomas Craig; as matters stand as to the manner of this offering to come and our necessities are great, we are well justified in taking him.

I am Your hble Servt

N W Junr

15 Feb 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes

Farnacres 15 February 1775

Dear Sir

Last night I reced the favor of your Letter of the 11th inst and on behalf of Mr Smeaton and Self I do agree to deliver you the Bullion produced at the Lead Mill of the Greenwich Hospital at the price of Five Pence P Ounce more than Standard price for each Cake. The Standard Price to be regulated by Castaignes Paper of the Friday preceding the arrival of the respective Cakes of Bullion. The above Agreement to continue til you, or Mr Smeaton and myself find it necessary to give notice to the contrary.

I shall give orders that the Mill Agent put the Boxes made Lighter than they have been, I am Dear Sir Your most hble Servt

N W Junr

20 Feb 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

To Mr John Ibbetson Esq.

Farnacres 20th February 1775

Sir

It is with the utmost concern when I acquaint you, that in the Night between Saturday and Yesterday the Hospitals Smelting Mill has been broken into & the Smelting Bellows, all of them, so much cut as to be rendered totally unserviceable til repaired; and the Water turned upon the Wheels in such quantity than one of the Refining Furnaces is damaged and the Bone Ashes washed out of a Test which was therein ready for annealing.

Mr Mulcaster the Agent at the Mill is now here and gives the above Account. I intend to set out for the Mill immediately and shall consult Mr Fawcett the Hospitals Council in my way and consider with him of the proper steps to be taken. And I shall endeavour to get Mr Peters the Hospitals Sollicitor to accompany me that nothing may be left short to make a discovery and we will set about getting every thing put into order again without loss of time. Mr Mulcaster says he thinks the damage will be full Forty Pounds but that must be very uncertain til every thing is minutely examined.

You may depend upon hearing the further particulars as soon as possible and I am for Mr Smeaton & Self

Sir Your most hble Servt

N W Junr

PS. The Refining Bellows are safe.

To Mr John Ibbetson Esq.

Farnacres 20th February 1775

Sir

I have since I wrote you this morning called with Mr Peters upon Mr Fawcett who having advised an Advertisement without a moments loss of time, I have got Hand Bills printed off same as the inclosed which are intended to be distributed at the Markett Towns etc in the Neighbourhood of Langley Lead Mill and also to be incerted in the Newcastle Papers til I receive the directions of the Board what addition or alteration to make to the Advertisement and in particular I beg leave to recommend a considerable reward being offered for discovery. I shall hope to hear from you the very first opportunity and am

Sir Your most obed Servt

N W Junr PS

Mr Fawcett seems to think that the Offence is not Felony but that an Indictment will lye for the Trespass in case of a discovery.

23 Feb 1775 Nicholas Walton to Christopher Bell

To Mr Chr Bell.

Farnacres 23rd Febry 1775

Mr Bell

The bearer hereof Michael Spencer is a young Man but he is the person who makes and repairs all Mrs Crowleys Bellows and I am assured is a very good workman. I desire you will let him have a Lodging and that you will set out with him for Langley Mill early tomorrow morning that as little time may be lost as possible in taking dimensions for the pieces of Leather which will be wanted for the Repair of the Bellows and that it be afterwards cut off, curried [sic] & sent to Langely Lead Mill with all possible expedition. He will want a Shoemaker or two who I doubt not you will have ready in consequence of what I said to you but they will not I suppose be wanted til the Leather is got Curried. I am sure I need not desire you to give any other assistance in your power because I am confident you will do that

I am Your hble Servt

N W Junr

23 Feb 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 23rd Febry 1775

The bearer Michl Spencer is tho' a Young Man I am assured a very good Workman and he is the Person who makes and repairs all Mrs Crowleys Bellows. He is desired to be as expeditious as possible and I hope he will be so. We are to pay his Expences to and from the Mill and 2s6d P day which you will do accordingly. I desire that as soon after the Man gets to the mill as you can Two pieces of Leather may be taken from the North and South sides of the South Bellows in the West Bellows House in order that in case of the two pieces of Leather which are wanting being found in any persons custody the Tallys may be preserved entire. If any of the pieces which you will have to take off the Bellows (except the two abovementioned) will serve to repair other parts of any of the Bellows that ought to be carefully attended to before the Leather is cut off from the Hides and in taking dimensions for what will be wanted new I would have you be certainly over rather than too scrupulously saving because one disappointment would loose both time and more money than allowing something for Waste.

I am Your hble Servt

N W Junr

PS Some Bellows Nails will be wanted & Iley I suppose can make them very well.

24 Feb 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

John Ibbetson Esq.

Farnacres 24th February 1775

Sir

In my Letters of the 20th instant I acquainted you with the damage that had been done to Langley Lead Mill and what steps I had taken previous to my setting out from Newcastle. On Tuesday Morning I went to the Mill and the following particulars contain a full state of this matter.

On Saturday last about half last Six in the Evening Mr Mulcaster the Hospital Agent at the Mill after having weighed over the Lead made by the Workmen that Week, as usual, saw the Mill Refining House and other Buildings all shut up and Locked and left every thing in good order. The next day about one o' Clock as two Girls (one a Servant of Mr Mulcaster and the other a Servant of his Nephew John Mulcaster one of our Refiners) were coming from Church by the Mill, they observed more Water than usual to be running from the Dam and immediately on getting home acquainted John Mulcaster with this circumstance (Mr Mulcaster being gone to Church to Allendale where he dined). John Mulcaster instantly ran down to the Mill and put down the Sluice to prevent the Water running along the Troughs and then went to examine the state of the Mill, Refinery etc. He soon found that the Bellows House of the Smelting Mill had been broken into by forcing upon one of the Windows which was bolted on the inside and the Bellows every one of them cut, he then proceeded to the Refinery House to which no damage has been done except by the Water being set off in greater quantity than the Troughs could contain and running over within the House upon one of the Furnaces and washing the Bone Ashes out of the Test as mentioned in my Letter of the 20th inst. but the Furnace is little or nothing worse. No further damage had yet appeared.

After John Mulcaster had examined the Mill and Buildings belonging to it a Message was sent to Mr Mulcaster acquainting him with what had happened and he came home at half past four o' Clock and as soon afterwards as he could set out for this place where he arrived on Monday Morning as I before acquainted you.

There are Twenty one pieces cut out of, and seven Slits made in, the Leather of the four pairs of Bellows and two of the pieces of Leather the one 5feet 2 inches long by about 3 1/4 Inches mean breadth and the other 4feet 7 Inches long by about 2 3/4 Ins mean breadth, cannot be found, and therefore it is supposed that those two pieces may have been taken away by the Person or Persons who did the Damage but we have as yet come at no circumstances to satisfy a Warrant for searching. The Leather from whence these two pieces were cut are ordered to be taken great care of as Tallys in case of the pieces being found in any Persons custody.

It seems probable that some Person well acquainted with the Mill has been the perpetrator of this malicious act, and it is not unlikely but the mischief has been done by some of the Workmen who have been discharged from the Hospitals Service on account of their ill behaviour or want of abilities; and this supposition is the more

confirmed as one of the Workmen whose name is Marmaduke Forrest was discharged on the Thursday preceding the Bellows being cut on account of his ill behaviour and for some time past making an exceeding bad produce of Lead, but tho' a suspicion falls upon those, yet nothing can be done without circumstances which apply themselves immediately to the fact of committing the damage we are therefore, in the carefullest manner we can, endeavouring to find out where the Persons suspected were, at the time of the damage being done, and if any Informations can be come at to lead a discovery, they shall be duly attended to.

When the Housing for the Mill Agent, and the Cottages for the Workmen at Langley Mill, were built, it was thought necessary to situate them at a distance from the Mill to prevent the poisonous quality of the Smoke hurting the Inhabitants, so that they are about 350 yards from the Mill and consequently it is not possible that any noise made in breaking into the Mill could be heard as it was very Windy all the Night between Saturday and Sunday and indeed the distance is so considerable as to make it very unlikely that any thing could have been heard if it had been a calm Night. This has led us to consider of building two Cottages at the Mill, the one at the West End and the other at the East End. The situations will undoubtedly be extremely unwholesome but by Letting the Occupiers have them Rent Free, and allowing them Coals and Peats for their Fires, it is hoped that some of the Workmen may be induced to inhabit them, and then there will be somebody instantly upon the spot. It is very disagreeable to have occasion to make those erections when it is known that the Health of the Inhabitants of them must be greatly hurt; but the necessity arising from this atrocious act of damaging the Mill in a secret manner, and an expectation of further attacks, certainly justifies their being made and it is therefore recommended to the Board, to have them compleated without loss of time. It is computed that those Buildings will cost Fifty Pounds or thereabouts but I hope they will be done for less, and the damage to the Mill will, I dare venture to say, if nothing further appears, be made good for Thirty or Thirty five Pounds at most.

Mr Fawcett not having been able to find any Act of Parliament which hath inflicted any particular Punishment upon the Offender in Cases of the Nature of the Offence committed at Langley Mill, conceives that it is on conviction only punishable by Fine and Imprisonment or only the Action for the Trespass; if so, with the greatest deference I submit it to the consideration of the Directors, whether it may not be proper to apply to Parliament to make such kind of Offences, as that committed at Langley Mill, Capital in future.

I do not know, yet I apprehend, if two Cottages were built at the East and West Ends of the Lead Mill, that afterwards the Mill and Buildings connected therewith, would be considered as under the protection of the Inhabitants of those Cottages and as such, any Person entering into and doing damage, in any part of the Premises, would be subject to the same Punishment as a Person guilty of Burglary; and this I beg leave to offer as a matter for the Board to be advised upon: if it should be so, it will operate strongly as an additional inducement to Build the Cottages but at all events it seems necessary that they shd be built.

I am for Mr Smeaton & Self Sir your most ob Ser
N W Junr PS

I desire you will me to repeat my wish to have a considerable Sum offered as a reward for discovery, and I most earnestly beg your directions the very first opportunity. Hand Bills have been distributed at the Markett Towns and in the Neighbourhood about the Mill, and a Watch is set every Night to prevent further damage; and every thing is in a way of being reinstated without loss of time.

24 Feb 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 24th Febr'y 1775

I have reced your Letter of the 22nd inst and as I have been much engaged since I saw you, and particularly so since I received your Letter, I cannot help being brief.

It gives me pleasure to find you are so well in the Refinery and I would have you get on there immediately and refine all the Lead which is ready, both the Lead from the Ore and the Slag Lead, and you may get the Silver Litharge reduced and the Lead refined.

The Cottages are recommended to be in the places you advise.

Pray endeavour to find out as many particulars as you can, relative to WB...n [William Brown?] M...d...ke. F...t. [Marmaduke Forrest] Th....s R....n [Thomas Robson?] & H....y S....h [Henry Smith?] and let me hear from time to time.

I am satisfied about John Elliot.

As there cannot be a better opportunity for Barrelling the Axis of the Smelting a Mill Wheel than the present, I have ordered Wm Laybourne and John Riddell to cone to you to consider that matter, and if you find it can be done now, I desire it may. The Wood must be cut any where close upon the Banks of the River Tyne, in Land Ends particularly and the Trees must be cut about four feet from the Ground or rather six feet.

I am Your hble Servt
N W Junr

24 Feb 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Smeaton

Mr Smeaton.

Farnacres 24th February 1775

Dear Brother

From what is wrote on the other side, you will see the state of our proceedings respecting Langley Mill and I hope in God we shall make a discovery tho' I much

doubt it, as I think it is probable only one has been concerned, however that is it is certainly right to offer a great reward.

The Post Boy is waiting so I must conclude and am with the utmost sincerity

Your very Affect Brother

N W Junr

PS As this would be a good opportunity to Barrell the Smelting Mil Axis, I desire you will let me hear from you immediately and give me your Sentiments about this, if you think any thing further is necessary, then what you gave Mr Mulcaster directions alone.

27 Feb 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 27th February 1775

I have reced your Letter of the 25th and observe its contents. The Bellows I would not have clouted on any Account and therefore desire that method may be laid aside and I beg they may be done in the most effectual manner as the extra expence cannot possibly be an object to prevent that.

I wish you or Mr Bell had asked Bill Brown who he saw after he was with Mary Blenkinsop and who knew of his being at Cold Rowley all Night; for as he came to exculpate himself, he gave the best opportunity without giving him the least offence of being asked every question which might lead to a discovery or absolutely to clear him & I do think, in consequence of what he has said, that some enquiry should be made he cannot possibly take it amiss for he has put us upon doing it; but that may be let alone til I come up without you think any thing can be better done before that time, for I cannot be with you sooner than Thursday about one or two o' Clock in the Afternoon and it is more probable I think that I shall not get to the Mill sooner than Friday morning or at two Afternoon at farthest.

You will want Iron for the Barrelling and that should be sent for to Newcastle as soon as possible. I have mentioned this to W Laybourne.

I am Your real well wisher

N W Junr

PS. Pray forward the inclosed as it is desiring Mr Hilton to meet me at the Mil, and the sooner he gets it the better.

27 Feb 1775 Nicholas Walton to Joseph Hilton

Mr Jos. Hilton

Farnacres 27th Febr'y 1775

Mr Hilton

In consequence of my desire to you I expected to have had a calculation of the Quantity of Ore for the Year before this time and I beg you will not fail to meet me at Langley Mill on Friday next, with it. I shall, I believe, be there in the morning, or perhaps it may be one or two in the Afternoon - I am much surprised at your not having been there before now, it shows a want of attention I did not expect. I am

Your affect hble Servt

N W Junr

PS. Mr Fryer is quite at a stand for want of answers and instructions as to the Memorandum I gave you. could not you come along with me from the Mill and settle this.

27 Feb 1775 Nicholas Walton to William Laybourne

Mr Laybourne.

Farnacres 27 Febr'y 1775.

Iron will be wanted for the Barrelling and it shd be immediately ordered, and I beg you and John Riddell will be as expeditious as possible in getting the Barrelling finished. I am

Your hble Servt

N W Junr

4 Mar 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

To Mr John Ibbetson Esq.

Langley Lead Mill 4th March 1775

Sir

Yesterday your Letter of the 25th Ult inclosing a form of an Advertisement, for discovery of the Offender or Offenders at this Mill, was received and conformable to the Boards order, the Advertisement immediately incerted in the Newcastle Papers. Six Hundred Hand Bills have been printed off, alike with the Advertisement, and as I am now at the Mill, I am putting them into proper hands, for having the whole distributed, in the Country around the Mill, and for that purpose to morrow, being Sunday, Persons are to attend at all the Churches and Chapels in the Neighbourhood, to disperse them amongst the several Congregations, after divine Service; and on the Markett Days at Hexham, Allendale and Alston, on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, the

whole of the remainder will be distributed. I sincerely hope that so large a reward as Fifty Pounds will make a discovery, and I beg you will assure the Directors that no steps shall be wanting on our parts. The repair of one of the Bellows is finished and the Workmen are going on very well with the others and setting everything to rights, and I expect the Mill will get to work again by Wednesday or Thursday Sennt. Ever since this malicious Affair happened, we have thought it prudent to keep watch at Nights, which it is found will be an expensive thing as we are under a necessity of employing two Persons at 12d a piece, and therefore it is much wished for having directions for Building two Cottages as recommended in my last letter to you.

If any particulars should transpire respecting this Affair, you shall certainly have the most early information and I am for Mr Smeaton & Self

Sir Your most obed Servt

N W Junr

5 Mar 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Newtonhall 5th March 1775

I beg you will attend in a particular manner to what I read you over in Mr Stevensons Letter Viz the Commissioners desire of our taking every step in our power to discover and bring to Justice the Persons concerned in the atrocious crime at Langley Mill. It is only because I think it is my Duty that I repeat this thing to you. I am sure Mr Mulcaster you have everything relating the Mill so much at Heart, that you consider yourself as much engaged in the discovery as a Man can be, and consequently that you will do everything in your power to come at particulars. I wish every matter for the future to go on in a manner the most agreeable to yourself and am

Yours very truly

N W Junr

Ps. If there is any difficulty about the Kams fixing pray send Willy Laybourne down with the Model upon which the Paper is pasted, but say nothing of this unless a difficulty should arise.

6 Mar 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 6th March 1775

I have this day weighed the Bullion which is 420 1/2 Ounces being just 3 Oz 11Dw 5 3/10 Gr short of the Assay which is exceeding good work compared with the Assay; but stil the Refined Lead contains more Silver than it ought to do for it has no less in it than

17Dw 3 6/10 Gr P Fodder. Brownleyhill North Vein Lead by Assay has 11 Oz 16 Dw 10 2/10 Gr of Silver P Fodder in it.

Mr Stevenson, who is the bearer hereof, will bring any particulars which you may be able to send me relative to the Mill or the Persons suspected; and I hope you will have heard something material in consequence of the reward I most sincerely and heartily wish it I assure you.

I am Your hble Servt

N W Junr

PS D- F [Duke Forrest?] has I doubt not been enquired. after Abr Steel was certainly the properest Man to be employed in that Service. I have left a Bunch of Keys either at the Mill Office, at your House or at Newtonhall; if you find them, be so good as send them by Mr Stevenson.

8 Mar 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres March 8th 1775

This Letter only relates to the Recets etc & I shall write you further on Friday. On Monday & Tuesday the 10th & 11 of next Month Mr Smeaton and I intend receiving the Rents at Hexham and the day following dine at the Mill and stay there perhaps to the 13th after dinner and go to Alston; but if the business at the Mill should require it, we will stay til the 14th in the morning and go to Alston that day, being Friday, abt Dinner.

I am Your hble Servt

Nich. Walton Junr

PS We shall make no pay 'til after the Recet some time.

10 Mar 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 10th March 1775

I have reced your Letter of the 6th & approve of what you have done and I tend doing and am glad you are likely to meet with a good deal of Holly for Kams etc you know I was of that opinion when I gave directions to get it cut. It should be brought to the Mill without loss of time. I shall certainly (God willing) be at the Mill on Monday and stay til I see all at work again. Bill Brown appears perfectly clear of the suspicion which naturally fell on him and indeed I am glad it is so clear. When I come up I will bring you the particulars Mr Stevenson not having time to Copy them.

I am Your hble Servt

N W Junr

11 Mar 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr Holmes.

Farnacres 11th March 1775

Sir

This days London Waggon from Newcastle will bring you 420 1/2 Ounces of fine Silver and I think it will be about the latter end of April before you receive any more, as we have had a very sad misfortune at our Lead Mill, some malicious Person or Persons having broken into it, and cut and spoiled the Leather of four pair of Bellows.

I am Sir Your hble Servt

N W Junr

PS. I sold the Silver I mentioned to you to Mr Langlands for 5s/9d P Ounce.

17 Mar 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 17th March 1775.

As I should think it likely that the Mountain Ash, or Wicken Tree as it is more commonly called, would make good <Stampen> for the Stamp Mill, I desire you will get some Person to ask Wm Labourne abt that, and if it is thought the Wood will answer, let it be cut accordingly and as the Holly and other Wood will pack better in the House and take up less room if blocked out for the use it is intended, I would have that done as soon as the whole has got to the Mill. I have reced your Letter about Abraham Steel and approve of what you have done & am

Yr hble Servt

N W Junr

17 Mar 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

Part of Letter written to John Ibbetson Esq 17 March 1775

On Monday last I went to Langley Mill, and returned from thence last Night; and I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that every thing was got into good order & the Mill set to work again on Wednesday morning. I find the loss to the Hospital will be somewhat less than Thirty Pounds including the Advertisement and Hand Bills.

During the time of repairing the Bellows, we took an opportunity of making an Improvement in the manner of working them and I have the pleasure to inform you that it answers very well and we shall by this means be able to do more Work than

hitherto, but notwithstanding this, it will be necessary to make an addition to our Works of two Hearths for Smelting Ore at; for the quantity of Duty Ore this Year, we hope will not be less than 2000 Bings more than last and it is therefore recommended to the Directors to have this Work carried into execution immediately. It will also be necessary to have a new Stamp Mill. The Plan for those erections cannot be fixed til Mr Smeaton's arrival here which is the occasion of my not sending you an Estimate of the Expencc but as soon after he comes here, as possible, that shall be settled and you will then be acquainted what the Work is computed to cost. In the meantime I shall give directions to have Stones washed & other preparations made, which will I doubt not, meet with the approbation of the Board.

Nothing has yet come out to give us any hopes of a discovery by whom the damage was done at the Lead Mill.

Under cover herewith you receive our Contingent Account from the 31st August to and with the 21st November last amounting to £259.1.4 as also two Proposals for Lead Mines which you are desired to lay before the Board. I am. etc

N W Junr

The following was wrote on a Slip of Paper & sent in the above Letter.

Directions for the Cottages at the Mill by way of security against further attacks, are much wished for

18 Mar 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 18th March 1775

I desire you will let me know as soon after you receive this, as you can, howmuch the Centre of the Gudgeon of the Refinery Wheel lies below the level of the Floor of the Refinery, and I wish you to be very exact.

When Mr Barnes comes up, you will get him to take the Level from the Refinery Tail Race to the Burn North of the Stamp Mill. I believe I forgot to mention this to Mr Barnes this day, but have no doubt he will do it when you apply to him. You will also let Mr Barnes see the Coal at Harsondale. He will be at the Mill on Tuesday or Wednesday first.

I am Your hble Servt

N W a Junr

PS You will also let me know how many Strokes the Refinery Bellows strike P Minute and how many Kams there are in the Cogg Wheel for each Bellows. The present Bone Ash House must go & the new one will I think stand best at the North West Corner of the Refinery.

18 Mar 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Smeaton

To Mr Smeaton.

Farnacres 18 Mar 1775

Dear Brother

I inclose you a Sketch of what I think will answer the end best in point of situation for the additional Buildings at Langley Mill, which I desire you will be so good as give a consideration and that you will bring it with you when you come here in April as I have no Copy

You also receive inclosed a Copy of any Letter to Mr Ibbetson of yesterdays date. I am joined by my Wife in best respects and good wishes to you Sister and Family and am

Dear Brother Yrs very sincerely
N W Jr

PS You will remember that the Centre of the Axis of the Refinery Wheel lies considerably below the Floor of the Refinery. I think 5 feet. I understand that Mountain Ash is often used for Coggs and Rounds I shd be glad of your opinion as to this and whether you think this Wood will make good Stampers for the Stamp Mill. The Stamp Mill is proposed to be built at the Tail of the Refinery Water Race.

21 Mar 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 21st March 1775

As there will be probably be occasion for a greater quantity of Bricks at Langley Mil, this Year than usual, I desire you will make preparation accordingly. The upper part of the Chimneys for the new Hearths must be Brick you know and some part of the Chimneys for the Cottages also Brick.

I wish much to hear you have got some light into the Affair of the Bellows cutting but indeed I am afraid it will not come out.

I am Your hble Servt.
N W Junr

21 Mar 1775 Nicholas Walton to William Laybourne

Mr Labourne.

Farnacres 21 March 1775

You must be preparing Stones for the new Buildings at Langley Mill, as it is most probable we shall not only build two Cottages but Room for two Ore Hearths at the Refinery and a new Stamp Mill and Bone Ash House.

I am Your hble Servt
N W Junr

28 Mar 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

Mr Holmes.

Farnacres 28 March 1775

Dear Sir

This day I am favoured with your Letter of the 25th inst and have drawn upon you payable one Month after date for £122.4.1 being the amount of 420 1/2 Ounces of Bullion at 5s9 3/4d P Oz.

I am Dr Sir. Your most hble Servt
N W Junr

Sir

Farnacres 28th March 1775

One Month after date pay to the Order of Mssrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington & Saint One Hundred and Twenty two Pounds Four Shillings and one Penny. Value received as advised by Sir Your hble Servts Walton & Smeaton
To Mr John Holmes London

28 Mar 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Salter

To Mr Salter.

Farnacres 28th March 1775

Dear Sir

I desire you will be so obliging as bespeak us of Mr Finch 100 Casks of Bone Ashes and desire they may be sent by any of the Newcastle Traders who Ship only Merchants Goods for we find there is a saving at London by their coming in that way rather than by the Colliers in the Cartage and Wharfage and it is more convenient to us in the delivery at Newcastle Quay instead of being delivered at Shields, and even in the Freight little or no difference. The sooner we receive them the more agreeable, but we are not in an absolute hurry. I am for Mr Smeaton & Self

Dear Sir Your most hble Servt
N W Junr

31 Mar 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 31 March 1775

I very much approve of what you have done with respect to H. Smith and of your sentiments and what you intend doing as to him but I think it may be proper to let the matter rest til Mr Smeaton & I are together at Hexham and by this days Post I shall desire Mr Bell to give you Notice to Noble and Dixon to pay their Rents on the Monday when we shall have time to talk to them - but it has just struck me that perhaps it may be better to let them come without sending and just when they think proper, as giving them Notice some time before hand, may put them upon speaking in the Neighbourhood where they Live and having some things put into their heads which otherwise would not enter.

Upon the whole I think the Carriage had best go on til the Mill is cleared and then insist upon getting it to or towards the Markett at least as far as Hexham and not deliver more, except to us as have carried all their Lead so far or farther

It really vexed me to see you are so plagued with Scaleburn Moss Ore but we are like to make the best of it if we can and it appears to me that the difficulty arises almost wholly from the bad quality.

What I meant with regard to the Holly etc was that the straight Wood should be left last because if any should be thought proper to be put up unblocked, it had best be the straight pieces as taking up less room; and the largest Hollies, I mean those of the largest diameter, should not be blocked as some of them may perhaps be more useful other ways than for Coggs, Rounds or Kamms

I am glad you have got Screws for one pair of Bellows and desire they may be got fixed the first opportunity & you give me much pleasure in saying you think the Slag Hearth Bellows will work so as to answer. You are right in getting no more Screws for the present as I dare say Mr Smeaton will be able to improve upon what you have done

I am Your hble Servt

N W Junr

PS Possibly some of our Tenants or some part of their Families might be at Duke Forrests on the Night of the 18 of Febr'y; enquire ag. we come to Hexham. We shall hope to see you at Hexham on Sunday Evening the 9th Apr (Sunday Sennt). Tell Willy Labourne I have reced his Letter of the 30th inst.

31 Mar 1775 Nicholas Walton to Revd Scott

The Rev Doctor Scott
Sir

Farnacres 31st March 1775

On Monday and Tuesday the 10th & 11th of next Month (Monday and Tuesday Sennt) we intend receiving the Rents of Greenwich Hospital at Hexham and shall be

very glad of the pleasure of your Company on either of those days most convenient to you to take a Dinner with us; in the mean time we wish you health to enjoy your new appointment under Greenwich Hospital and are

Sir Your most Obed Hble Servts

W & S

2 Apr 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Langlands

To Mr John Langlands or Mr Jo Hutchinson

Farnacres 2nd April 1775

Sir

As we shall receive the Rents of Greenwich Hospital at Mrs Marleys in Gateshead on Friday first the 7th instant if convenient to you, should be glad to receive for the Bullion sold you the 18th February last. The Money will be £279.3s3d being the amount of Nine hundred and Seventy One Ounces at five shillings and nine Pence P Ounce. We now sell our Bullion at 5s9 3/4d. We shall hope to have the Pleasure of your Company at Dinner at Two.

We are Sir Your Humble Servants

Walton & Smeaton

28 Apr 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

Jno. Ibbetson Esq.

Farnacres 28th April 1775

Sir

Inclosed you will receive a Computation of the Expence of Buildings etc in addition to the Smelting Mill and Conveniences at Langley Castle Pasture, on acct of the increased produce from the Lead Mines in the Manor of Alston moor amount to the Sum of £229.4.3 1/2. In Mr Walton's Letter of the 17th Ult it was suggested that an addition of two Hearths would be necessary; but on considering this matter attentively, we propose to try what can be done by the addition of one Hearth til it is seen whether the increase of Duty Ore is likely to continue; at the same time we propose to erect it in such a way that another may afterwards be added in case it is found proper. One of the Cottages proposed at the Mill is now Building, and we expect will be ready for a Tenant by the 12th of May, but as we cannot easily situate the other, without being rather inconvenient to some of the Works, we think it best to postpone that til we see further. We have engaged a Tenant for the Cottage now Building. As what we now propose seems unavoidable, we have endeavoured to avail ourselves of the early part of the Season by making the necessary preparations, which we flatter ourselves will meet with the Boards approbation. We apprehend that in case the quantity of Ore

continues, that an additional Peat House will be necessary, but this we postpone for the present for the reasons already given.

We are etc

NW Junr J S

Langley Lead Mill 22nd April 1775

Computation of the expence of Buildings etc in addition to those already computed, on account of the increase Produce of Duty Ore from the Lead Mines in the Manor of Alston Moor as follows

Mill House for one pair of Bellows the whole Building to be 26 feet long by 18 feet wide outside measure & to be covered with Slate	£60 4 7	
Bellows, Cast Iron for Hearth, Machinery & fixing	£63 7 8	
Altering the present Bone Ash House into a Bellows House	6 2 -	
		£129 14 3
Three Bingsteads each 20ft by 15 inside measure and 7 ft high in the back part and 2 ft high in the front	£18 15 -	
Six Do. each 8 feet by 6 inside measure & 4 feet high in the back part and 2 feet high in the front	7 4 10	
		£25 19 10
A Lime House 18 feet long by 15 broad inside measure and 9 feet high including foundation the North Wall to be three feet thick		17 5 4
Bone Ash and Test House 15 feet square inside measure and 13 feet high including foundation		22 3 7
		195 3 -
Carriage of Materials for the whole		34 1 3 1/2
		229 4 3 1/2

Farnacres 28th April 1775

N W Junr J S

28 Apr 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 28 April 1775

We have reced your Letter of the 26th and in answer, think you should agree with W Pattison at 1 3/4 <d> P F<n>.

It gives us pleasure to hear the Buildings are going on so well and we inclose you Plans for the new Mill House etc and directions and measures thereon and desire you will tell Mr Labourne that we wish every thing to be got as fast forward as possible and beg the Lime may be well worked. Deliver the Plans to Mr Labourne.

The Assays of Scaleburnmoss 8 . 6. 14,4. P Fodr Refin.ble

The Slag Assay Cowslitts etc 3.18. 9,6 P Do. Unrefineable

As soon as you call for Water we expect soon to have a seasonable Rain as it generally has happened so, when you have wrote upon that subject.

We inclose you a Letter which was reced when we were at Langley Mill but tho' we are not quite certain of that we think it might be forgot to be mentioned; and in case of our wanting another learner shd be glad of your sentiments as to Ed. Bell at the same time we cannot help expressing that we think him an improper Person on Acct of his Age and not being in appearance healthy either of which seems a sufficient objection.

As soon as you can we would wish you to try the Brokenhaugh Coals(the clean part of the Seam) for Reducing as also the Fell end Coals the whole of which Seam is as we understand clean; we likewise shd like to have the Tryals of Reducing with Charcoal as some time ago directed carried into execution all and every of which we are in no absolute hurry about & desire they may be done so as to suit your convenience most.

The Lead Carriage we doubt not goes well on as the Weather is so dry, that it must notice every body to get forward with it. We are

Your hble Servts

N W Junr J S

28 Apr 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

Mr Holmes.

Farnacres 28th April 1775

Dear Sir

We reced the favor of yours of the 22nd isn't yesterday and we are much obliged by your information concerning the Holly we apprehend therefrom, that there is room to make an adventure by sending a part of it to London and shall be further obliged by accepting your offer in Brokering it for us; it may probably be some Weeks before we can get it sorted and sent to Newcastle but on Shipping it, shall send you an account consignment. We now write principaly to give you some further trouble; which People willingly and of capacity cannot escape. In the year 1766 we had 6 pair of Bellows for our Smelt Mill & Refinery from Messrs Rust and Maylin Bellows Makers in the Minorys: not having any occasion to deal with them since, we cannot be perfectly certain whether the business is yet carried on in the large way it then was, by the same House; which occasions our giving you the trouble of enquiring: and on proper information to order for us a pair of Smelting Bellows of the following dimensions, that is 6 feet long in the Board from the middle of the Joint to the Butt End: 3Feet 3In

extream breadth and 1 1/2 Inch Diam. in the Nose pipe inside we would have it made of the best Materials, and expect it to cost somewhere between £20 and £30; and desire you will learn the price, we should be glad if the extremity of the Nose Pipe may be made to point a small matter downward from the general direction: and to prevent mistakes, we mean the Bellows to be of the kind called double Bellows, making a continual blast, such as are used by the Smiths in common. The Bellows when compleated, which we wish may be with all expedition, are to be sent with one of the Newcastle Trading Merchant Ships, directed for Messrs Walton & Smeaton to the care of Mr Airey Newcastle

We also beg the favor of you, as early as possible, to send us down the Tweed Fishery Bill, as it was sent up to the House of Lords, that, if possible, we may see what is in it before it passes the Lords.

We are etc

N W Junr J S

5 May 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 5th May 1775

We think if you can make it convenient, when you are short of Water, it will be best to lay off the Slag Hearth; as those Bellows, we judge, take as much power as any two of the others, and not only that, but oblige the rest to Work to a disadvantage, by their not making full Strokes; the rule is, you see, when the Slag Hearth is on to take up, til it will do its business at 18 Kams P Min and to adjust the rest to it: but when the Slag Hearth is off, it will be best to take up the Ore Hearth Bellows til, either they make full Strokes, or the Wheel sets fast by too slow a motion, as happened when I was there: the thing is, the slower the motion of the Wheel (tho' you are obliged to increase the Stroke in proportion) yet it makes the more of the Water: and so on, til the Wheel, by going irregularly, makes a stop: and the reason why it will bear to go slower, without the Slag Hearth than with it, is that the irregularities are not so great, nor so far as under, being repeated every three Kams of the three pair of Bellows, that is to say, the same irregularity recurs four times in one round of the Wheel.

The Bullion we have not yet weighed, but the Refined Lead has less Silver in it this Operation than any since we began to make Assays after Refined which shows the Work to have been well done.

Pray acquaint Edward Bell that we cannot think him a proper Person to be employed as a Smelter at Langley Mill.

You may build a a Wall on the front of the little Bingsteads 2 feet high with Posts of Stone as you recommend and we approve of what you propose as to the Division Wall in one of the Three West of the Refinery. The South side of the back Wall of those three Bingsteads, is to range fair with the front Wall of the Refinery and provision must be made for having Buddles placed in a proper Situation for them as you mention.

We have ordered you a Ream of Paper.

Great care should be taken to have a Person to go along with the Waggon when they carry the Coggs and Rounds to Dilston and get them put into the Barn immediately, or otherwise many of them may be stolen after they get to Dilston.

We would not have the Ore brought in this year to be reported in the Operations 'til all the old Work is compleated and therefore desire you will send out another Operation leaving out that Ore, and you need not make out any more Operations til all the Work is compleated for last years Ore etc.

The Lead Carriage from the Mill must be stopped, and you will let all the Carriers know, that we shall make a Lead Carriers pay at the same time as the Mill Pay is made and they must take care to get all in as soon as possible to Newburn and Newcastle, without which we shall not be enabled to pay them.

When at the Pay, shall fix every thing with John Corbett about Dilston Barr etc.

John Robson is in Arrear £13 and shd pay £5 of this Arrear at the next pay, which we desire you will acquaint him with immediately, and you may let him have Money on Account only taking care that there shall be sufficient left for this purpose. We are

Yr hble Servts

N W Junr JS

6 May 1775 Nicholas Walton to Joseph Maylin

To Mr Maylin No 113 in the Minories London

Farnacres 6 May 1775

Sir.

We have this day reced yours of the 3rd inst and you are very right in the dimensions, only you mention one circumstance which we think you have apprehended wrong, you say 'Pipe to drop a little on the lower side', now the Pipe is to drop a little on the upper side in order to throw the blast downwards, the bore is to be round, or nearly so, being for Smelting Bellows.

Since the Year 1766 we have got some experience therefore take this occasion (if not too late) to desire you, in putting on the Leather, to give a greater play than usual to the lower Board, in Bellows of these dimensions, tho the doing that should occasion its being taken from the upper Board. We would not care if the play of the lower Board was near as large, as in large Smelting Bellows of two feet longer, even tho the play of the upper Board was not more than 2/3rd of that of the lower but stil we would keep to the same total height in the Leather as the breech, as is usual in the Bellows of the six we have ordered.

The Bellows we had of you in 1766 have turned out very well, but about 3 months since all the four pair of Smelting Bellows were cut in the Night, by some evil minded Person or Persons that we have not yet found out; so that they have cost between 20 and 30 Pounds to repair them.

We applied to Mr Holmes to enquire for you not knowing, at this distance of time, whether the business might be carried on in the same Channel.

We are etc

N W Junr J S

9 May 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 9th May 1775

We understand that some of the Carriers West of Hexham have got great quantities of Lead in hand particularly Forster of Yarridge and we therefore desire you will give the whole notice, that unless they get their Lead carried to Hexham, Newcastle or Newburn, and with all possible expedition, we shall give orders for other Carriers to take it from them, and never employ them more as Carriers. We are

Your hble Servts

W & S

PS As soon as you can take Bone Ashes into the new Room above the new Ash House, pray let us know, as there are 50 Casks now in the Warehouse at Newcastle, and 50 more days expected every day from London.

None of the fine Holly must be sent down to Newcastle, 'til the Bone Ashes come up.

11 May 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 11th May 1775

In answer to your Letter of the 8th I still we take the first opportunity of acquainting you that we approve of what you propose as to the Smelting of the Slags and paying the Slag Smelters on Account, til all their work belonging the last years Ore is finished.

The Silver weighed 769 1/2 Ounces.

We are glad to hear you have got on so well at Langley Mill with the Buildings.

It certainly will be right to continue letting Wm Pattison have Lead while he goes for Wood, according to agreement, but none other shd have any. We are

Your hble Servts

N W Junr J S

12 May 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr Holmes.

Farnacres 12th May 1775

Dear Sir

By last Saturdays London Carrier we sent you a Box containing 769 1/2 Ounces of Fine Silver which doubt not you will receive on Saturday Sennt.

We are much obliged to you for your services respecting the Bellows as well as the Holly etc. We have wrote to Mr Maylin in further explanation of some matters in which he seemed likely to be the better for further information. We are getting the Holly overhauled, and as it will answer no end to send it for the Button mould makers at 1d P foot, we propose to cut out what seems any ways defective sending every thing above 10 Inches long and above 4 Inches Diamr and every piece will be marked with the solid content and numbered, but nothing to be sent of so small a size as 4 Inches Diamr unless it be clean and [underlined: 'well coloured']. We propose to send it all in the round; we measure it by girting it, the same as Oak or Elm: if by [underlined: 'square measure'] you mean any other method of measuring, we should be glad to know. We are further obliged to you for sending us the Tweed Fishery Bill, and have the satisfaction to find, as we expected, that there is nothing in it that will affect the Hospital's Estate or Interest. We are Sir

Your most hble Servts

N W Junr J S

Mr Smeaton desires his Compliments to Mr Masterman : and begs to acquaint you, that he expects to get home to Austhorpe on Tuesday next and at present proposes to set out for London by the Fly on Saturday the 27th.

16 May 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 16th May 1775

In my last I forgot to mention that a disappointment had been met with us as to the Charcoal which was intended to have been delivered to you at Langley Mill for the purpose of the Trials to Reduce with it and I therefore now write to desire John Turnbull may be sent into the Hag Bank to examine whether we cannot get as much Wood of the proper kind for Charcoal from the Tops of what we have felled such as Birch etc. (but no Holly) and if we can then to look out for a proper Person to gather it together and make and Burn one Pit for the use of the Mill. Mr Laybourne or Mr Bell may possibly recommend a Proper Man: if they cannot, desire Mr Bell to write to Mr Jobling of Newtonhall to look out for one for us.

You not say that Trial has ever been made of the Holly Chips for Smelting with, but if it should answer, it may perhaps be worth while to bring all the Tops to the Mill, to

be used as far as they will go, & therefore the sooner the Trial is made the better. I am
in great haste

Your hble Servt

N W Junr

PS If we should burn any Charcoal the Pit should be in such a situation that a Carriage
may be got to it and then it may be brought to the Mill in a Coup Wain or Cart. Pray
let us know when you think you will get all ready to begin to make out the Pay Bill
(Slag Smelting excepted) because Mr Stevenson and I will come up as soon after that as
possible and I think the Pay may be made on giving a Weeks notice do you apprehend
that will do?

19 May 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 19th May 1775

I have reced. your Letter of the 18th and with regard to the Charcoal, can give no
directions what is to be done either with regard to Cording or preparing the Wood for
Coaling. I suppose the Workman who we get to burn it for us will be the best judge of
that. I would not have more than one Pit burnt, til we see how the experiments answer,
nor would I wish to have any fresh Wood cut on any Account. Such part of the Wood
that is brought to the Mill as is fit for the Mines, & not fit for the use of the Mill, must
be cut out for the use of the Mines, and then we shall sell it to some of the Alston moor
Adventurers.

I am in no hurry to know when you will be ready to make out the Pay Bill, but I
hope you will be enabled to get better forward in a few days than you have hitherto
done as I wish the Pay to be as early as possible. Neither the Refiners nor Slag Smelters
can be paid in full, til the Slag Smelting is all finished and the Lead Refined, and I
would not have the Silver Litharge reduced, til the Slag Smelting and Refining is all
finished. I am

Your hble Servt

N W Junr

PS I wish to know when Mr Laybourne expects to get the new Mill covered in, and
when the Room above the Bone Ash House is ready I shall be glad also to know as, til
then, we must keep the Ashes in the Warehouse at NCastle which is rather
inconvenient.

Your last Operation is quite right.

26 May 1775 Nicholas Walton to Henry Airey

One Pair of Smelting Bellows Shipped on Board the Success Geo. Robinson Master for Newcastle 20th May 1775.

Mark W&S To the care of Mr Airey of Newcastle

Messrs Walton & Smeaton's Compliments to Mr Airey, and send him the above to inform him of a pair of Bellows being Shipped for Langley Mill; which they desire he will be so obliging as make immediate enquiry about, and as soon as they arrive, to get them carefully put in to the Warehouse and dispatched by Corbett or Johnson, to the Mill, as soon afterwards as possible. Mr Airey is desired to pay the Freight etc.

Farnacres 26 May 1775

Upon considering, Messrs W&S think it may be more convenient for the Bellows to remain in the Ship til the first Hexham Carrier Day after she gets in, as they will go immediately from the Ship to the Waggon. The Bone Ashes now in the Warehouse it is desired may be sent by Corbett & Johnson the first opportunity equally delivered to each.

26 May 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 26 May 1775

Yesterday I had advice of the Bellows being Shipped at London the 20 of this Month so I shall expect them every day and they shall be sent to the Mill without loss of time after they get to Newcastle. Mr Laybourne I expect will get the Mill House covered in by the latter end of next Week and I hope they will soon afterwards get the Machinery fixed and all things forwarded as fast as possible. If you want any Cast Iron for the new Hearth pray let me know as soon as you can with the names & dimensions of the whole.

We have had a fine Rain and I flatter myself you will have got a good supply of Water by it; but as the Ground was so very dry before the Rain came I doubt you will scarce have got what you think sufficient.

As on considering the trouble & Expence of making a Pit of Charcoal at Hagbank, I think it will cost full as much or more than Charcoal may be purchased for we must give up thoughts of trying Hagbank Wood.

When you have got an Acct. taken of the Wood fit for the Mill, for Cart Wrights, and for Grove Wood, desire you will send it to me, besides the quantity of those sorts brought by Pattinson, there are some other pieces, which were brought from Hagbank, and some from Low Hall, all of which I wd have distinguished from each other. The Fellie Wood may be sold to the Cart Wrights for the best price that can be got for it and

the sooner the better & I wish the Sett Wood to be worked up as fast as possible and sent to Greengill where they will give us the usual price we being at the Expence of Carriage and as the Carriers when they come to the Mill loaden with Ore will take it as back Carriage, it should be done cheap on that account; the price P Dozen must be left to yourself to fix as well as you can. Mr Laybourne will sell etc Fellie Wood.

The Bone Ashes will be sent the first opportunity and I desire to know whether you think 100 will do for this year.

Robt Pearson is at liberty to cast a small quantity of Peats in the Purley Pot Moss paying the same Acknowmt he did last year.

As it is very expensive getting Wood from the Hagg Bank I do think it will be the best thing we can do to drop all thoughts of entering into the expence of bringing the Refuse Wood to the Mill for Smelting with.

When you have finished the Trial of Fell End Coals will be glad to have the result and after you have compleated this Tryal you will then get some Brokenheugh Coals.

I send you Thirty Pounds by Mr Laybourne for which he has on your Account given a Recet so you need not trouble sending one.

The Bingsteads West of the Refinery may be fixed as you and Mr Laybourne find will answer the end best and indeed I am quite satisfied they will be found most convenient as you and he intend them. I am for Mr Smeaton & Self

Your hble Servt

N W Junr

26 May 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 26th May 1775

Dear Sir

On Tuesday last I was favoured with your Letter of the 20th and this day have drawn upon you for £219.8.9 being the amount of 769 1/2 Ounces of Bullion at 5s10d after deducting £5 reced in your sd Letter by a Newcastle Bank Note. I am etc

N W Junr

Farnacres 26 May 1775

Sir. One Month after date Pay to the Order of Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington & Saint Two Hundred and Nineteen Pounds Eight Shollings and Nine Pence. Value received as advised by Sir. Your Humble Servt Walton & Smeaton
Mr John Holmes. London.

31 May 1775 Nicholas Walton to Joseph Maylin

To Mr Joseph Maylin
No 113 Minories London

Farnacres 31 May 1775

Sir.

We were duly favoured with your Letter of the 22nd instant with an Account of the Bellows being Shipped and hope soon to receive them as they are wanted or will be so in a few days.

Under cover herewith you receive Bell and Company Bill on Hallifax and Co. for £25.15- being the amount of your charge for the Bellows including Packing and Shipping and for which we desire you will Sign and return the Recet at the foot of the Invoice sent herewith and this you will do the very first Post after you receive this Leter.

We are Sir Your hble Servts
W & S

Invoice Of a pair Bellows for Smelting

May 20th 1775. Shiptd on Board the Success George Robinson Master for Newcastle

One pair Smelting Bellows 7 foot 6 Inch long without pipe/ 6 foot in the Board to the Joint of Staple, by 3 foot 3 Inch wide in the Breath Bore of Pipe 1 1/2 Inch wide. At

	£25. 0.0
Packing in Hair Cloth etc.	15 -
	£25.15.-

Mark W & S

To the care of Mr Airey of New Castle

Reced 31 May 1775 of Messrs Walton & Smeaton Twenty Five Pounds Fifteen Shillings being in full of the above Contents.

by

£25.15...

Newcastle Bank 30th May 1775

Twenty Days after Date pay to the Order of Messrs Walton & Smeaton Twenty five Pounds fifteen Shillings. Value received For Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington & Self Jos Saint

To Messrs Hallifax Mills Glyn & Mitton London.
No 3184

31 May 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Salter

Mr Salter.

Farnacres 31st May 1775.

Dear Sir

I desire youll be so good as order 100 Casks more of Bone Ashes to be sent down to Newcastle in manner as the last came by the London Traders; we are in no hurry but wish to receive them as soon as convenient.

I am Dear Sir etc

N W Junr

PS Be so good as forward the inclosed by the Penny Post.

3 Jun 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 3rd June 1775

I have reced your Letter of the 1st and in answer thereto take the first opportunity of acquainting you that the Slag Smelting must be got forward with as well as you can after the old Ore is Smelted, til all the old Slags of every sort are finished. The Bellows I expect every day from London but the Wind has been unfavourable for some days past which keeps them back. The Hearth Stones will I believe be ready for the Carriers on Friday but I think of not sending them then unless the Bellows arrives by that time. I wrote you by Tuesdays Post which as you take no notice of I doubt you have not received; it was to desire that none but good Bricks may be used for the new Mill. I am

Your hble Servt

N W Junr

PS. I shall probably be with you at the Mill about the beginning of the Week after next but shall not set out til I hear the old Ore is finished. You are desired to forward the inclosed.

5 Jun 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 5th June 1775

The Bellows are arrived at Newcastle and I expect you will receive them by Corbett.

If you want any Iron for the fixing the Treddles etc I desire to know by Fridays Carrier and I shall endeavour to send what you want along with the Cast Iron for the Hearths which will I dare say be ready for the Carrier on Friday morning.

The Lead I hope will be all at Newburn and Newcastle by the latter end of this Week and the whole at Newcastle by the middle of next Week but indeed it should when I consider this a little further be all at Newcastle by Saturday the 10th at furthest because otherwise I shall not be able to settle the Warehouse Acct before I come to the Mill and consequently would not have it in my power, in such case, to make the Lead Carriers Pay when the Lead Mill Pay is made.

I propose the Lead Carriers Pay to be on Thursday the 15th and the Lead Mill Pay on Friday the 16th inst and desire you will give notice accordingly, but at the same time I would have you let the Lead Carriers know that they cannot expect to be paid unless they have all in at Newcastle by Saturday next. I am

Your hble Servt

N W Junr

PS. I intend being at the Mill on Tuesday Sennt against Dinner & possibly I may get there the Evening before; but I rather doubt I shall not have time to do that. I will stay at the Mill til Wednesday Evening the 14th inst. Give Mr Hilton notice to be at the Mill on Monday Evening the 12th inst

5 Jun 1775 Nicholas Walton to Christopher Bell

Mr Bell.

Farnacres 5th June 1775.

I desire you will let such of the ead Carriers as fall in your way, know that they must have all in at Newcastle by Saturday next and tell Ions he is to have all his Lead at Newcastle upon the same day, for as I am to be at the Mill if possible on Monday next and the Carriers Pay is to be on Thursday Sennt I shall not be able to settle the Warehouse Acct in time for the Pay unless all is brought in by Saturday first.

The inclosed Mr Mulcaster must have to morrow Evening at farthest.

I am Your hble Servt

N WJunr

PS The Lead Carriers Pay is to be upon the 15th the Lead Mill Pay upon the 16th

6 Jun 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 6 June 1775

This day I sent Mr Stevenson to Newburn and Hexham to enquire in what state the Lead Carriers were as to quantities of Lead in Hand and find there is so much at Newburn and Hexham that it will be impossible to have all in without giving another Week I shall therefore defer coming to the Mill til Sunday the 18th inst in the Evening

shall stay there til Tuesday Evening following and make the Lead Carriers & Mill Pays on Wednesday and Thursday the 21& 22ins Lead Carriers to be paid on the Wednesday. You will therefore give directions for the Lead being all got in [underlined: 'as soon as possible'] and let Mr Hilton know he must be at the Mill on Sunday the 18 instant instead of Monday the 12th inst. I hear there is a Letter from you by this days Post but I have not yet reced it.

I am Your hble Servt

N W Junr

PS. Ions says he never had notice to get the Lead in from Newburn to Newcastle, if it is so, there certainly was a mistake in not acquainting him.

13 Jun 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 13 June 1775

I sometime ago reced an Account from you showing the Quantity of Lead delivered at the Mill for Newcastle from 7th November to and with 17th May and as I shall want the quantities delivered to each Carrier since 17th May on Friday I desire you will send me that Account by Corbett on Friday.

I am Your hble Servt

N W Junr

18 Jun 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr Holmes.

Farnacres 18 June 1775

Dear Sir

Yesterday I sent a Box to the London Carrier cont 684 3/4 ounces of Silver which I hope you will receive safe on Saturday Sennt. Silver having been sold lower than the rate set down in Castaignes Paper when you receive the last Cake you paid abt one halfpenny or better P Ounce for that Cake more than you ought to have done and as Silver has continued at a lower rate than that at which you purchased the last Cake I think it reasonable that you should be allowed One half penny an Ounce on the present Cake in lieu of the difference and desire you will charge it accordingly that is whatever Standard is when it arrives you will reckon 4 1/2 P Ounce more instead of 5d P Ounce.

I have reced Mr Smeatons Letter as also the Boards Minutes the latter of which only arrived the Evening before his Letter and I desire you will be so good as let my Brother know he shall hear from me as soon as I return from the Lead Mill where I am going this day and propose returning about Friday next. I am etc

N W Junr

PS You will see by Loyd's List Restoration Capt Pinkney arrives but I flatter myself you have before this got the Holly.

23 Jun 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

I desire the greatest Caution may be given Forster respecting the Gun & it must not be used except in defence, but give this advice only to the Person in whose possession it may be, for it should be understood in the Country that it is to be used if any Body comes to the Mill at an unreasonable hour. I am etc

N W Junr

Farnacres 23rd June 1775

26 Jul 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 26th July 1775

Dear Sir

I was duly favoured with yours if the 1st Inst. and should most certainly have acknowledged the recet of it long before this Time had I not been very much engaged.

You have made a great Bargain for the Holly and I am much pleased to find our Adventure has turned so well out for Greenwich Hospital. As to the loss of the Foot & Twelfth, it is nothing.

With regard to the altering the Mode of fixing the future Prices you will hear further from Bro. Smeaton & myself when he comes to this Place, and I think it is not likely we shall have any Silver to send 'til after that Time for we are so affected by the great Drought, Works are much stopped for want of Water as is also the case with our Neighbours.

The Bricks are arrived at our Mill & I have given directions to have them tried, with a different sort of Fire Bricks made at New Castle, and I have no doubt we shall have a Tryal and a true report, as the Agent at the Mill is a Man without prejudices, likes trying Experiments and his Judgement good.

I have this Day drawn upon you for £194...3 being the Amount of 684 3/4 Ounces of Bullion T 5s 8 3/4d P Ounce. The Bill is payable 20 dates after date. I am etc

N W Junr

Sir.

Farnacres 26th July 1775

Twenty days after date Pay to the Order of Messrs Bell, Cookson, Carr, Widdrington & Saint One a Hundred & Ninety four Pounds and Three Pence. Value received as advised by Sir Your hble Servts W & S

To Mr John Holmes London

28 Jul 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 28th July 1775

I have reced your Letter of the 24th with the dimensions for an Iron Chest and am glad to hear by Mr Hilton that you have reced the two Weigh Beams and the Iron, as I am also to find the Bricks are arrived. Some Time before you think the Furnaces will be to rebuild I would like to know and will then send you 1000 of our Newcastle Fire Bricks, to try with the others. I know a great many of the Bricks you have received were broken before they got to Newcastle, and as I suppose they are not of a hard kind, I am rather surprised no more have been broken. I apprehend Mr Laybourne is now at Langley Mill setting out the Cottage which I doubt not will be finished with all expedition. If any difficulty should arise about getting a Person into the Cottage, where Thos Elliot now is, let it in such case remain empty, and let it be understood that Thomas is to have the new Cottage at the West End of the Refinery and the whole of the Farm he now has, til Mayday next, he paying Rent for the Cottage he is now in, to the Time of his Quitting it and the full Rent for the Farm til May Day; when what relates the Farm may be settled in that way which is found most proper. So you will see by this means, we may take Craig with the part of the Farm you mention, and Thomas Elliots Cottage, Craig paying Rent for both, and being allowed for the Rent which he will have to pay for the Cottage he now has. Or we may have Elliots Cottage in hand after his entering upon the new Cottage, and Time between this & May to get some Person to take Elliots present Cottage with a part of Thos Elliots Farm, or not, as may best suit. You want Rain, so do we at this Place, you will therefore suppose we are hearty when we wish for Rain, and I hope most heartily you will have a full share, as I really wish to have last Years Account settled, as I dare say you do too. I am

Your hble Servt

N W Junr

11 Aug 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To the same

Farnacres 11th Aug 1775

Dear Sir

Having examined the castings as the last Cake of Bullion sent you we find that the mistake you mention has been made and that we are right to have drawn for £196.3 -

instead if £194-3, and we are obliged at your pointing out the error wch shall be rectified when we draw again. This Weeks Carrier or the Carrier of next Week will bring you a Cake of fine Silver of nearly the same size of that you last had; it is now at Newcastle. You will soon hear from us respecting the regulating the price of the Bullion wch you receive from us & are

Dr Sir Yr etc NW Junr J S

23 Aug 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr John Holmes.

Farnacres 23rd August 1775

Sir

On Saturday last we sent you a Box containing 689 3/4 Ounces of fine Silver, and this Weeks carryer will bring you 512 Ounces all which will we hope come safe to hand; and on the prices respectively arising desire you will fix the price in such way as you can afford to take them at. Mrs Smeaton & Miss Smeaton and Mr & Mrs Walton who are all well join in best wishes & we are

Dear Sir Your most hble Servts

Nich. Walton Junr J Smeaton

PS You will hear further from us respecting yr regulating the price of the Bullion which may active after the above prices.

10 Sep 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 10 September 1775

We have ordered Willy Laybourne to get Deals for the Mill and 1000 Fire Bricks with Clay for Setting 2000 as the South Country Bricks should be set in the same manner as the Newcastle Bricks and we expect you will receive all by Fridays Carrier.

The Wood for Pick Coal Rake & Shovel Shafts cannot be cut til October and therefore if you should want in the mean time and cannot get it from some Wood which lies in Dilston Barn you must buy where you can get best and cheapest supplied. We have mentioned to Willy Laybourne the Wood at Dilston Hall but as there is little of it we doubt you cannot be supplied from thence.

With regard to the Smelters you will act agreeable to what we said when at the Mill. Robt Coulson James Henderson and James Robinson seem very proper Men; and any other who you think will suit, we have no objection to your engaging.

The Cottage late Thomas Elliots is to remain unoccupied til some Person approved of offers to take it and in such case it may either be Let with or without half of Thomas Elliots Farm as shall be found most convenient and proper

The Cart Felly Wood must be Hewn & Sawn and put into the House; the breadth of the Fellies when dressed fit for use, shd be Six Inches so it must be Hewn & Sawn accordingly, but not Sold for some time.

You may alter the hanging of the West Door into the Refinery Front when ever you will.

You will remember our having mentioned a Cut being made to bring the Water produced by Showers from the Cleugh which we cross in going to Threepwood near the Gate leading to the Limekiln at Langley and we now desire you will get it done immediately; the Water must be taken off directly below where you repaired the Road near the Quick Sand and carried into Mr Falls Pasture at the Gate where the Carriages enter the sd Pasture and in that part a Bridge or good Conduit should be made for the Carriages to cross the Cut which will effectually prevent their breaking in the sides of the Cut; from thence the Cut must be carried cross the High Ground and Conduited so as to deliver its Water into the Hollow into which the Quarry Water would naturally run if not carried from thence to the Lead Mill Dam; and at or near the Quarry to be taken out of the hollow and carried along with the Quarry Water to the Mill. The cut we know will be required to be made 5 or 6 feet deep near the Gate, and be sure to make it deep enough so as to answer the end. Perhaps you will find it more easy to take off the Water above the Quicksand, but in this way it will be necessary to make a Conduit where it will cross the Threepwood Road & another just before the Pasture Gate.

We are etc. NW Jr J S

12 Sep 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 12 Septemr 1775

We have reced your Letter of the 10th and inclose you herein the Pay Bill with the Castings made agreeable to that which we have and amounting in the whole to £661.4-

You also have inclosed the Wood Pay Bill amounting to £90.2.2.

It gives us pleasure to observe that the loss by Reducing and Refining is of late less than usual or rather it has been less for some time.

You are very excusable in not having made Assays of the Refined Lead you mention.

The Prime Lead Assay is 3.19.15P Fod

If any of the Felly Wood should not answer for 6 Inches it may be cut out for Wheels for Barrows such as will suit that and if it will neither suit Barrows nor 6 Inch Fellies it may lie uncut up. We are

Your hble Servts

N W Junr J S

PS. In future would have you keep the Fume of the Refining Chimneys by itself, as the Lead from it may prove Refinable

17 Sep 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 17 Sepr 1775.

	Ounces
The Silver of the Slag Lead weighed.	384 1/2
Silver Litharge Lead.	127 1/2
Last Operation.	848 3/4

We have the pleasure to acquaint you that the Profit of the Mill for last Years Ore Turns out much to our satisfaction and greatly to the advantage of Greenwich Hospital.

[struck out para, presumably copied in error from another letter: 'The circumstances relative to this affair have been already stated at length to the Board in our letters of the 2nd February and 2nd June 1774 to which we beg leave to refer, and we are now to observe, that having employed Mr. Jos']

We expect you will receive 1000 Bricks from Newcastle by to morrows Carrier and Clay for setting 1000. We did intend to have had Clay for setting 2000 but on application for that were refused and I must therefore make the quantity we get do for 2000. You will, we beg of you, take care to divide the Clay equally between the South Country Bricks and Newcastle Bricks and in the Setting, the Fire Clay in each Furnace must be alike distributed as nearly as possible and put in the Joints next the Fire and what may be necessary as Mortar for the joints of the Bricks farther from the Fire to be of such kind as you have commonly made use of.

With regard to the Water Course as we shall be with you on the 27 of next Month in the morning and stay with you til the 29th that matter will be best determined then, and we desire that the Dog may be kept in the new Stable formerly y Bakehouse til that time when we shall endeavour to fix upon some more proper place as a habitation for him as we realy doubt what you propose for such a Beast would not answer and particularly so as you receive by to morrows Carrier one that will in time be a Sweetheart for him. His acquaintances should certainly be few. Pray let him have some Straw to lie on and if you can now and then meet with a Dog Horse [sic; 'House'?] from 3s to 5s price it will we doubt not be agreeable to him to taste.

We are etc

W & S

PS On reconsidering the matter respecting setting the Bricks as each Furnace may not take 1000 perhaps the Clay sent with 1000 may be sufficient to set both Furnaces & if so

we leave you at liberty of adopting our Idea of filling the Joints next the Fire with Fire Clay and the other parts with Mortar as formerly in what degree you think convenient.

19 Sep 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Ibbetson

To John Ibbetson Esq.

Farnacres 19th September 1775

Sir

Inclosed we transmit the Years Account for Langley Lead Mill. The space of time it comprehends is somewhat more than a Year being from the 30 April 1774 to & with the 10th June 1775; and tho' the time thus comprehended is more than a Year, yet nothing more of Business was done than the Smelting of the Duty Ore raised within the year to which it appertains. The reason why it could not be finished sooner than the 10th of June was owing to the Business being retarded by the cutting of the Bellows, & at the same time an alteration in the Mechanism of the Mill from the common mode, which in the late dry Season has been attended with a remarkable good effect and at the same time the making Cupolas in each of the Mills and in the Refinery for the more effectual ventilating of the same, have all been included in the current Expence of the Year, yet the Board will see that the produce of this Year has been very considerable and more so than can be expected in common.

We also beg leave to acquaint the Board that the new Ore Hearth erected at Langley Mill this Year by order of the Board has now been at work upwards of two Months and answers so very well, that to avoid the effects of contention among the Smelters who should work her, they are all appointed to work there turn and turn about. The Bellows of this Hearth are almost one third less than our former ones and cost less by £5-15- from the Maker. When we began this work we were afraid of any material deviations from the common practice, lest a want of success owing to other matters, should be ascribed to that; or that something that we were not aware of should cause errors to arise from such deviations; but having availed ourselves of the experience we have by degrees obtained in the Smelting Business, we have been enabled to improve upon our first Plans. This new Hearth is adapted to and worked by the Refinery Wheel and the Plan so laid out as to admit of a second additional Hearth in case (as it probably may) it shall hereafter appear to be necessary. The Refinery Wheel now carries not only the two pair of Refinery Bellows and the new Hearth but the Stampers also when the Upper Mill is worked with a full portion of Water. The smallness of our loss in Refining & Reducing also shows that the Work in every part of it is carried on to the greatest advantage, as a fourteenth part has been looked upon as the least loss to be expected. With respect to the price at which we take the Duty Ore, we have always done it by one rule, that is we found what had been the price of Ore in proportion to the price of Lead at the Newcastle Markett, upon the average of 25 Years, preceding our commencement; and according to the price of Lead at the time of Year that the Duty Ore has generally been advertised to be sold, which is

nearly the same as the commencement of our years Work, we have taken the Ore in proportion; paying however a regard to the circumstance of Lead being at that time a rising or a falling commodity, and it has been only twice that we have had occasion to make any difference on this Account, Viz, in the Year 1772, Lead having been very rapidly lowered in price, we took the Dues at a price under par, and the last Year Lead appearing to be upon the rise, the Dues have been taken above par in the present <Quarter.>

After the erection of the Lead Mill with its first conveniences, we found a very considerable addition necessary for the depositing of Peats under cover, and therefore, with the approbation of the Board (& considering Peats when dry as a light kind of matter) we erected a Peat House of much more width and height than had been usual in order that it might hold as many as possible with as little Building; but it so happened in the course of the Work, that it was filled with Peats before it was Slated and the Walls being then green the weight of the Peats produced an unexpected effect, Viz in very sensibly bulging one of the Gabels, this however when the Walls were dry, we expected would go no further; yet we find on every time it has been filled with Peats, the weight of them has produced a sensible effect, and as we likewise find, that the filling it with Peats so high is both troublesome and expensive, and have lately contrived a new method of preserving Peats by Thatching them out of Doors, we propose with the approbation of the Board, before the Peat House is filled the next Year, to lower the Walls thereof, about 6 feet, by which means the Walls becoming relatively stronger, and the weight less, we apprehend we shall have no further difficulty. The taking off the Roof in order to do this, lowering the Walls, and reslating we estimate to come to £21-15-5. We are

Sir Your most Obed Servts

N W Junr J S

PS. We also inclose an Account showing the Quantity of Ore remaining at the Mines after finishing the Carriage in 1774.

19 Sep 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr Holmes.

Farnacres September 19th 1775

Sir

We duly received the favour of Mrs Holmes Letter of the 2nd Inst advising us of the receipt of a Box of Silver and that Standard then Sold at 5s3 1/2d P Ounce. We also duly received your favour of the 9th Inst advising that another Box was arrived and that we might Draw for Both at 5s 8 1/2d which we accordingly have done Viz 1195 3/4 Ounces amounting to £341.5.9 and £2.2.9 Short drawn for last Cake together £343.8.6 payable Twenty days after date.

As we look upon the price of Standard Barrs to be the most distinct Medium to form the Valuation of fine Silver upon we are glad that it happens to bear such aproportion as that you can continue to take it with advantage and that at an average it may probably in future turn out so. We therefore look upon it that till you desire it otherwise we are to go on upon this Plan. We are with best respects to yourself Mrs Holmes & Family.

Sir Your most hble Servts
N Walton Junr J. Smeaton

PS. There was a Box of Bullion sent you from Newcastle on Saturday last which will we expect arrive in London on Saturday the 30th Inst. The Weight of the Bullion 848 3/4 Ounces.

Sir
Farnacres 19th Sepr 1775
Twenty Days after Date pay to the Order of Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington and Saint Three Hundred and Forty three Pounds Eight Shillings and Six Pence. Value reced as advised by Sir. Your hble Servts Walton & Smeaton
To Mr John Holmes London

22 Sep 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster. Farnacres 22d Sep 1775

We have reced your Letter of the 18 inst and would have you lay by the Folly Wood uncut up and if any opportunity offers of Selling it either together or in parcels you will be so good as make the best bargain you can, it certainly ought to be worth 15 or 18d P Foot but if you cannot get that, you may sell it for what you can get.

It gives us pleasure to hear of your having such a good progress during the Hexham Race Week.

Pray forward the inclosed to Mr Hilton the first convenient opportunity.

We are Your hble Servts
N W Junr J S

PS On examining the Pay made last at Langley Mill, we find that Ab: Steel and John Robson were paid £1.3.1 for Smelting unrefineable Slags and that they were also paid £1.3.1 for Smelting unrefineable Slags upon the 22nd June they must therefore return us £1.3.1 at next Pay.

Lead sold at the Mill 1775.

Operation ending March 25	Mr Wm Laybourne	2 Pigs	£2 - -
June 10	Mr Bullock	1 Do	1 - -

July 1	Mr Wm Laybourne	3 Do	3 - -
		6	£6
Reced of Mr Mulcaster 22 June	Mr Laybourne	3 Pigs	£3
	Mr Bullock	1 Do.	1
		4	4
	We shall want at next Pay for	2 Pigs	£2

23 Sep 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

	Bouse	Cutting
There has been received) from Greengill	281.4	43.2
By the Operation) From Do - North String	78.2	- -
	359.6	43.2
Mr Mulcaster reckons there has been smelted	338	45 -
Bouse short	21.6 Over	1.6
Cutting over	1.6	
Short in the whole.	20 - or shd be Stock	

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 23rd Septem 1775

I desire you will examine the above & that you will at your Convenience make Copy's of the operations for 1st & 29th July as they are now altered; and that for August must be made out anew, with the above Error set right, and the Stock of Lead and litharge must be set down in it, tho' not in the others for the 1st & 29th July. As we have entered the supplemental Work, as done upon the 10th of June, tho' in fact, it was not finished till the 24th August, this is the only way I could devise to keep the Accounts clear, and ther was no other way that I could think of to keep last Years Accounts separate from this. I am

Your Humble Servant

Nichos. Walton Junr

30 Sep 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

To Mr Henry Airey.

Farnacres 30th September 1775

Sir

I desire you will ship 42 pieces of our Refined Lead on board a small vessel now taking in Goods at Newcastle commanded by one Brigs. The lead is for Mr. George Douglas of Berwick, who is to be drawn upon at today's date. I am Sir

Your hble Servt
N W Junr

30 Sep 1775 Nicholas Walton to George Douglas

To Mr Geo Douglas

Farnacres 30th September 1775

Sir

I am favoured with yours of the 28th and have ordered the Lead for you; as to the Howgate & Scremerston undertaking we have not yet got the determination of the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital. I am for Mr Smeaton & Self.

Sir Your hble Servt
N W Junr

30 Sep 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

To Mssrs Landell & Chambers.

Farnacres 30th September 1775

Gentlemen

The Iron Chest ordered for the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital is for a particular purpose and the dimensions given you will suit that particular purpose but we have no objection to the depth being increased 6 Inches; the other dimensions as to length and breadth must be kept strictly to and with regard to the odness or uncommonness of the Form we shall be content with that. We are Gents

Your most Obed Servts
W & S

30 Sep 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

To Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 30th Septemr 1775

I reced your Letter of the 25th inst and what you propose will show clearly whether sort of the Bricks is best but if one of the sorts should give way before the other some considerable Time may not that do great harm to the Furnace where the failure happens & possible occasion it to be rebuilt but I dare say you have taken care to put the two courses for Tryal in such situations as to do the least harm to the Furnaces in case of failure.

As to the Dogs, Forster and Elliot must do as well as they can with them, til Mr Smeaton & I come to the Mill, & we will then endeavour to fix a place for them.

I desire you will close the Accts as shall suit yourself best and carry on this Months Operation (in one) to that Time and as I think it wd be well to Pay the Lead Carriers on Thursday the 2d of November I desire you will not deliver any Lead after you receive this Letter but give directions to all the Carriers to get every Pig to Newburn by Friday the 13th of October or to Newcastle by Monday the 16 of October at farthest or otherwise it will not be in our power to settle the Account so as to be enabled to pay them and as we expect not to be detained after Dinner at the Lead Carriers Pay, pray be very urgent with the Carriers to come early in the Morning, and none to be later than Eleven o' Clock. The Ore Carriers are intended to be paid upon the 1st November along with the Lead Mill Pay & they shd be desired to come early. If any Ore shd be carried after the Pay it may be paid for afterwards at any other convenient a Time.

We shall bring Abra Steel and John Robson Two Rects for the £1.3.1 one of which was pd 22 June last and is so dated; and the other the 8th Septemr and is so dated.

It will be proper to go on with our present Stock of Smelters for the reasons you have given. I am for Mr Smeaton & Self

Yr hble Servt

N W Junr

PS I shall make enquiry about the Clay. Pray is there as much as we had with the last 1000 Bricks which came from Newcastle. As soon as you have stopped the Lead Carriage let me know how much Lead has been delivered to each Carrier and what sorts since the last Carriers Account was settled.

3 Oct 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr Holmes.

Farnacres 3rd October 1775

Dear Sir

I am this day favoured with your Letter of the 30th Ulto and have drawn upon you for £244.18 being the amount of 848 3/4 Ounces of Fine Silver at 5s 9 3/4d P Ounce. With regard to the Holly I must beg you will make a charge for the trouble you have had on account of it as the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital should certainly pay that and after I hear from you on this head and when the next Cake of Bullion is drawn for, that matter may be settled but indeed it seems unreasonable that we should draw for it, til you have received the Money for it.

The Bill is payable Thirty Days after Date and you will receive a Cake of Bullion by the Carrier who sets out from Newcastle for London on Saturday the 14th inst. I am joined by all here in best Compliments to you and yours and am for Bro & Self.

Dear Sir etc

N W Junr

Farnacres 3rd October 1775

Sir Thirty Days after Date pay to the Order of Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington & Saint Two Hundred and Forty four Pounds Eighteen Shillings. Value received as advised by Sir Your hble Servt W & S
To Mr John Holmes London

19 Oct 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 19 October 1775

As all the Lead is come in I desire you will begin to deliver again as soon after you receive this as your convenience will admit of it.

The Cake of Bullion last sent weighed 679 3/4 Ounces which is within 2 Pwt h 12 Gr of getting the whole P Assay of Lead before Refined, and yet there appears to be 13 Pwt 11 4/10 Grains P Fodder left in the Lead after Refined, which only shows the uncertainty we have always observed in the Assaying. I am for Mr Smeaton & Self

Your hble Servt

N W Junr

PS Mr Smeaton will be at the Lead Mill on Saturday morning the 27th inst but will probably return to Threepwood to Dinner and stay all Night and on the 28th we shall certainly both be with you and dine at the Mill and stay all Night, and part of Sunday morning.

14 Nov 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster

Farnacres 14 Nov 1775

I have looked into the last Operation and return it and I have altered Middle Cleugh and Cash Burn which makes them right and all the rest mark'd, V, are right, that is they agree with Mr Hiltons Account. The Total Account 4688.4 also agrees with Mr Hiltons Account, but those unmarked you will examine and let me know the Errors and I will correct the Operations myself Viz Thorngill West End, Brownly Hill, Greengill West End, Greengill N. String, Thorngill East End, Windybrow, Brigal Burn, Carrs, Browngill Sun Vein, Thortergill Syke, Greengill Hush, Brownleyhill N String, Shawfoot & Nenthead Field North Vein. All those from Viz I believe to be wrong

I am Your hble Servt

N W Junr PS

I also send you a Copy of Mr Hiltons Account in which thou marked VV agree with your Account as now altered and the others your Operations do not agree with.

21 Nov 1775 Nicholas Walton to John Holmes

To Mr Holmes

Farnacres 21st November 1775

Dear Sir

We have this day drawn upon you for £216.5.8 being the Balance of Account due from you for 679 3/4 Ounces of Bullion at 5s9 1/4d P Ounce and £24 for the Holly after deducting Freight and Commission, and we look upon ourselves as much obliged to you, and are sorry the Cargo was not greater as we are sensible you had the same trouble about it, as if it had been four times as much. We have inclosed a Bill and Receipt for the Freight and Commission which you will be pleased to Sign and return to us, being necessary for a Voucher.

On the 11th inst we sent you a Box of Bullion by the London Carrier containing 824 1/2 Ozs which we doubt not you will duly receive & are

Dear Sir etc

N W Junr J S

Farnacres 21st Nov 1775.

Sir. Thirty Days after Date pay to the Order of Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington and Saint Two Hundred and Sixteen Pounds five Shillings and Eight Pence. Value received as advised by Sir Your Hble Servts Walton & Smeaton

To Mr Jn Holmes London

Due from the Honble the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital To Mr John Holmes

1775 Sept 30th.

For what he paid for Freight of a parcel of Holly

from Newcastle to London. £2.3

For Commission in Selling the same. 1.4

£3.7

Reced 21st November 1775 of Messrs Walton & Smeaton the Contents above.
by

26 Nov 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

To Mr Peter Mulcaster.

Farnacres 26th Novr 1775.

Mr Mulcaster

We would have you make the further Experiments after which you will hear again from us.

1st. Lett the Litharge be mixed with Charcoal and throw in Coals to work down the Furnace Which us the way you propose.

2nd. Let the Litharge be mixed with Coal and Throw in Coals and Charcoal in equal quantities to work down the Furnaces.

3rd Make the Tryal with Coals only as heretofore practised and let us hear as soon as you can after all is compleated.

Pray did you observe whether there was any difference as to the Quality of the Lead? if there was we should be glad to know.

We have not time to say anything more on the Subject you mention so you must excuse us saying more than that we are obliged by your sending Mr Jobling's Letter to Mr Bell which by mistake has been put up in your Letter.

We are Your hble Servts
W & S

28 Nov 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster.

Farnacres 28 Nov 1775

In addition to our Letter of the 26th Inst we desire you will make another experiment beside those already mentioned Viz Let the Litharge be mixed with Coal and Charcoal in equal Quantities and the Furnace worked down with Coal only.

But in case you have not Charcoal to do the whole we would have you omit the Experiment mentd. 2ndly in our Letter of the 26th Inst unless in the course of the Experiments it will in your opinion be more proper to try it, and ommit any other.

We are Your hble Servts
W & S

1 Dec 1775 Nicholas Walton to Peter Mulcaster

To Mr Holmes.

Farnacres 1st Decr 1775

Dear Sir

We have received the favour of your Letter of the 25th Ultio and have this day drawn upon you for £240.9.7 payable thirty Days after Date being the amount of 824 1/2 Ounces of Fine Silver at 5s 10d P Ounce. We shall take care to advise you when we draw at a different date.

We are etc

N W Junr J S

PS. To morrow Sennt. we expect to send from NCastle another Cake of Bullion supposed about the size of the above.

Farnacres 1st December 1775

Sir. Thirty Days after Date pay to the Order of Messrs Bell Cookson Carr Widdrington & Saint Two Hundred and Forty Pound Nine Shillings and Seven Pence. Value received as advised by Sir Your hble Servts Walton & Smeaton
To Mr Holmes. Watchmaker London