

The small number of letters included here touching on the lead industry are extracts from the 18th century estate correspondence of the Lord Crewe estate.

10 Jun 1767 Thomas Willey to Richard Wetherall

[Note: NRO 452/D/3/4/B/5. Mention of Miss Wetherall suggests that the recipient was Richard Wetherall (1717-73), receiver for the Lord Crewe charity, owners of Blanchland. Willey appears to have been a local steward or agent writing to one of the charity's trustees. The Thomas Marshall is a correspondent in the letters of Mrs Loraine, also included in 'Dukesfield Documents']

Blanchland 10th June 1767

Dear Sr,

I took this opportunity of giving you a hint of Mr Marshall's preferment, he's got to be mill steward for Mrs Loraine at Blackhall Mill in Hexhamshire & has set up a School there & has sent for one of my Boys that I taught four years for Nothing (to be his Usher) I here that Mrs Smith's going to send her Sons too him again. Since he was discharged Teaching at Blanchland, he recommended One Wilkins of Hexham to Smith. She sent them to him a year & since they could not learn at Hexham. She's had them in the Shire at a place called Hackford but never as much as Offerrd them to me again & when her Son was down from London last summer he told her to my knowledge that they were not so good as when they left my School.

If the trustee's meeting shou'd be, before I see you I hope you'll discharge him – whom I am Impos'd upon, with my own Scholar by his Doctrine &c. He has nothing at Blanchld that's quick (but his washer) so I think his Farm at Slaley is more convenient than Blanchld except it be for the sake of Convenience amongst the <Peastraw.>

The last flood has done sum little damage in our waterside, I beg that you'll give me a line by the bearer old Rutledge if I must repair it. Mr & Mrs Hudson presents their Complts & he cannot be down at this Visitation, he says that he will be doen in a little time.

I sent you a line last week by the post, I have not received an Answer as yet. Please to give Miss Wetherell the Inclos'd. Make my Compliments to Mr Hays and Mr Burke & let Mr Hays know that Mrs Teasdle (is by account) in a hopeful way of getting another husband, her servant Man is turning out the Refiner Johnny Makepeace. My Compliments to you and your good family & am Dear Sir your most Humble Servt
Thos Willey

24 Dec 1770 John Westgarth to John Sharp

[Note: See also Sharp to Douglas on 29 Dec, forwarding this letter]

Unthank 24 Dec 1770 nine at night

Dear Sir

I should have sooner acknowledged yr favour of the 15 ulto but waited the break of the great storms the snow went in drifted that a horse could not cross the high moors. It [missing] and blowen all this day, and continues the same still. so that I fear we shall be in the same obstruction still. I see no prospect the company have to make a mine at the trial in the <shire>. I fear if they give over and nothing be doon that it will make their claim or title stronger. The little ore they have got is not washed up but expect they will so soon as the weather will permitt. Would it be advisable to stop those <locking it away> or to do some act of ownership. They will take a discharge. I shall act <as> you and the gellemen [sic] give me orders. When I had the pleasure [missing –of your company?] and the other trustees you gave me [missing] protect the game in Blanchland lordship. I published a reward. Find one Wilson (who's a tennant and keeps a public house in Blanchland) keeps a Grey Hound and do's execution amongst the poor hares. And Robert Dixon another tennant at D[itt]o with his gun spares nothing. He was under a prosecution by Sir Thos Clavering and the <Fermacens> never to use a Gunn more [missing word] Mr <Witherall> of both those men but have had no [missing word]

I also took the freedom to remind him about looking for the title deeds of the shire <also> Burntshieldhaugh and agreed upon by you gentleman, if it were a parchas [sic – purchase?] and not a part of Blanchland then there is an end of the companys claim or right to work. I wish you and family many happy returns of the season I am
Revd Sir

Yr most obed svt Jno Westgarth

[on reverse:] To the Rev Dr Sharp. Hartburn near Morpeth

29 Dec 1770 John Sharp to James Douglas

[Note: Sent as forwarding cover note on reverse of Westgarth's letter of 24th Dec.]

Dear Sir

Hartburn Dec 29th 1770

Whatever Dr Douglas and Mr Rotheram shall think proper to be done in consequence of Mr Westgarths letter shall be concurred in by Dear Sir

Your affect humble svt

J Sharp

P.S My best respects to the ladies with wishes of a happy New Year

[annotated at top of cover above address:] 29Dec 1770

Dr Sharp to Dr Douglas with Mr Westgarth's Letter abt Burntshieldhaugh mines

To The Rev Dr Douglas Prebendary of Durham

12 Dec 1786 John Donkin to William Routledge

[Note: Recipient's name not given, but William Routledge was the recipient of several contemporary annual accounts of ore raised at Burntshieldhaugh. He was of Blanchland in 1778 (NR0 452/D/8/4/13) and possibly a steward for the Lord Crewe charity, tasked with receiving the estate's lot ore from the mine lessees, which appears to be the subject of this letter]

Sandoe Dec. 12th. 1786.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Wood in his Letter to you of the 7th Inst. appears to suppose there is some Error in the Acc[oun]ts of Ore got at Bruntsfieldhaugh Mine for the Years 1783, 84, 85 and 1786; not having specified therein what he supposes may have been got between the End of 1784 & June 1785. You will, I doubt not, easily reconcile him to believe that the Omission arises from our Misfortune and not our Fault, as no Ore was got in that Period. And indeed had it been otherwise, the Time of getting Mr. Wood will easily perceive is very immaterial to the Trustees provided they have all accompted for from Time to Time as washed or taken off the Premises, which you the best can testify has fully hitherto been done. I, am,

Your h[um]ble Serv[an]t
J[oh]n Donkin

Mr. Addams could you give no As[we]r to the Business proposed till He wrote to the Trustees.