

[Note: [Isaac Hunter II](#) (1737-96) succeeded his father as the Dukesfield Mill agent in 1764 and held the post for 32 years, responsible for the smelting mill and transport logistics of ore carriage to the Blackett mills, and for lead carriage from the mills to the Blaydon refinery and staithes. This book containing his copy of outbound business letters covering the years 1766-72 is the first of three which have been found to survive. The first and the third are in an anonymous private collection but have kindly been made available for transcription. This PDF will be added to as further batches of transcripts are completed.]

**30 Dec 1767 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Mr. Richmond Newcastle

Dukesf'd 30th Dec'r 1767

Sir

Herewith you'll receive p[er] Ra Little a box w[i]th two plates (as p[er] inclosed Acco[un]t) and once the Litharge slags are wrought up (which we shall have don as soon as the Weather will permit) shall send you a General Acco[un]t for 1767.

I have not heard from Mr. Reynaldson since I was last at Blaydon, so cannot tell whether he has got in the lead that the Easthand Men had then on their hands or not, but once the Ways are travelable shall call upon him. & am

Sr Yrs &c I H Jr

**14 Jan 1768 Isaac Hunter to Robert Harrison**

Robt Harrison Rookhope

Dukesf'd Janr'y 14th 1768

Sr

I wrote you on the 14th of last Month that I would be at your Mill the latter end of the Week to examine your Stock &c & desiring the names of the Groves which you laid the Ore of in the same Binstead - both w[hi]ch Orders you have not complied w[i]th, as for the first you got out from the Mill the very day that it was most likely for me to be there on that Acco[un]t & as for the latter you have not thought it worth while to give me an acco[un]t off. What you expect f[ro]m such behaviour I know not - but I know that if you do not pay more regard to what I desire to be don for th future that I shall make Mr. Richmond acquainted w[i]th your carelessness as to yo[u]r Father's Business. I told your Stock when at the Mill on the 19 Ulto & by the Smelting & Month Acco[un]t made it short 12 Ps therefore desire to know whether I had made some mistake in it or not ? If I have not, you ought with out loss of time indeavour to make out who has got it. Give notice to all your Wainmen that they must (or some for them) reckon w[i]th Mr. Reynaldson for the Lead they have carried last Sum[m]er - for he

says he has recd a good deal of lead that he does not know who to place it to, as the Men he recd it from neglected letting him whoes lead they brought.

There's Charged in your Sept'r 2'n Acco[un]t Wood got of Matt Carrey pray what use was it for? & why was not I made acquainted that you wanted such Wood before it was got? You would make me appear in a pritty light, if asked, for what use such & such things are for, and to know nothing of them till I saw them charged in the Acco[un]ts when its understood that nothing is got for any of Sr W[alte]r's Mills w[i]thout my knowlidge - therefor must tell you whenever you do the like that I shall not allow it to be charged in the Mill Acco[un]ts - by w[hi]ch the expence will fall upon yourself.

On Saturday the 23d inst I purpose being at your Mill, so again desire that you'll have the Lead &c so as one may take an exact Acco[un]t of the Stock of Lead & Ore. And that youll have your Dec'r Month & Quart'r Acco[un]ts then ready but let me hear from you before, whether you are reight in the Stock of Lead & the Names of the Groves that you lay the Ore of in the same place & am

Yrs &c I H Jr

P.S. You must mind to have yr Q'r Acco[un]ts ready on the 23rd inst

**14 Jan 1768 Isaac Hunter to John Crawhall**

Jno Crawhall Allenheads

Dukesf'd January 14th 1768

Sr

I have recd orders to make ready for a Pay w[i]th all expedition therefor desire that you'll send me your Dec'r Quart'r Month & General Acco[un]ts as soon as possible & am Sr

Yrs &c I H Jr

P.S. If you have any of Welch's Wast[e] Work to smelt (as its now fresh Weather) you may get it smelted next week so as to be able to let me have your Acco[un]ts against the 23rd inst. w[hi]ch I would not choose to be longer of receiving

**12 Feb 1768 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

[Note: B.H.Mill is probably Blackhall lead mill on the Rowley Burn]

Mr. Richmond Newcastle

Feb'y 12th 1768

Sr

Yours of 2 inst I did not receive till Tuesday night or should have ansr'd it before this. The severe Weather hindring the Black & Wast[e] Work f[ro]m being wrought up at the several Mill will make me a good deal longer in getting all read for the Pay than I intended tho once I rec've Mr R tickett w[hi]ch I'm expecting every day shall immediately begin to reckon & expect to send you the Pay bill, Rental &c against the 20 of next Month.

That I might be able to furnish you w[ith] an exact Estimate of the Quantity of Lead that's in a Ton of our 1st & 2nd Slags have had a Ton of each wrought w[hi]ch yielded Viz

|                      | Cw | cw | q | lb        |
|----------------------|----|----|---|-----------|
| 1st Coalcleugh Slags | 20 | 5  | 1 | 3 of Lead |
| 1 Allenhead do       |    | 3  | 1 | 20 --     |
| 2 Black Slags        |    | 2  | 2 | 24 --     |

As for the 3d Slags I do not think there can be 7lb of Lead in a ton of them & if you could get a Shilling or 18 p[er] Ton as they lie that they would be as well sold: & I reckon the 2d or Black Slags to take the Heap together to be also dear sold at 20s p[er] Ton - there's a few 2d Old Slags lying at the Corn Mill w[hi]ch you may venture to sell for 2s/6d p[er] Ton - the 20 Casks you speak off, Mr. Mulcaster advised me of some time ago & I let the Carriage of them to a <Ham> Carrier thats carring L[ea]d f[ro]m B.H. Mill to NCastle & have recd a part of them - Mr. Hopper sent 5s w[hi]ch I suppose is in full for his Mart[in]a's Rent for the Ground at Stanhophope Mill but as I had not had a Certain Acco[un]t what he was to pay p[er] Yr would not send him an acquittance till I heard from you & am

yrs &c I H Jr

**18 Feb 1768 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Mr. Richmond Pilgrim Street N<sup>TM</sup>Castle

Dukesf'd 18th Feb'y 1768

Sr

Mr. Marriots inclosed Bill I rec'd the other day and would gladly know how it ought to be filld up on whether its to be charged in Rookhope Acco[un]t wth the other expences occasioned by the said Road - shall refer closing that Mill Acco[un]t till I hear f[ro]m you - upon reexamining the Acco[un]t I sent you of the Black Slags on the 12th inst find I have made a mistake in the Calculation as to the Value w[hi]ch should be 2s6 p[er] Ton instead of 20s & am

yrs &c I H Jr

**18 Feb 1768 Isaac Hunter to Matthew Reynaldson**

Mr. Reynaldson Blaydon

Dukesf'd 22d Feb'y 1768

Sr

Yesterday I recd your Tickett for Dukesf[iel]d & Allanh[ea]ds Lead w[i]thout Rookhope w[hi]ch I wish I had, for I cannot reckon w[i]th the wain men w[i]th any Certainty till I get it. I have both spook & wrote to Mr. Harrison about his Wainmen reckoning w[i]th you :- so hopes you have had the greater part of them before this or at le[a]st so many as to inable you to make up the Tickett. There's 4 p's of Lead hid among the Ling on the South East side of All[en]h[ea]ds Stob & I doubt not but the other 2 p's thats wanted is also among the Ling as the Wainmen used to hide it one f[ro]m another I wish you could get these 4 p's in this week & am yrs &c

**19 Mar 1768 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Mr. Richmond N.Castle

Dukesf'd 19th March 1768

Sr

You'll receive by the Bearer Geo. White the Pay Bill, Rental & Dec'r Q'r Acco[un]ts the inclosed Bill shall according to your directions be added to the other Expences & placed in one sum in the General Acco[un]t. and am yrs &c I H Jr

**11 Apr 1768 Isaac Hunter to William Westgarth**

Mr. Westgarth Coalcleugh

Dukesf'd 11th April 1768

Sr

By Mr. Dickinsons of the 8 inst to Mr. Salkeld (w[hi]ch I recd this day) I find that if we do not get Carriers to bring of the Ore that your Workers will be idle for want of Bingstead room: and as theres no other method of getting a part of it immediatly brought f[ro]m the Grove so as to make you room then by giving the other 6d p[e]r Bing (that's making it 5s p[er] B. to this Mill) therefore must desire that you'll order Mr. Dickinson to acquaint the Carriers as they go past that they shall have 5s p[er] B. for what they carry the fore end of 4 <dys> or till they hear to the Contrary. I desire you'll call here between 10 or 11 on Sunday, if convenient, if not shall meet you at Corbridge against 12 & am

&c I H Jr

**14 May 1768 Isaac Hunter to John Crawhall**

[Note: probably John, as mill clerk, given reference to his son (Thomas) who succeeded him on John's death in 1771]

Mr. Crawhall Allenhead Mill

Dukesf'd May 14th 1768

Sr

In my way f[ro]m yr Mill last Tuesday I saw the Road you are mending w[hi]ch you cannot compleat w[i]thout you have either Wain or Cart to lead the Gravel to it so have spook to Nich[ola]s Stobbs who says he'<sup>TM</sup>ll take a Cart against Monday next & if you could get another & have all your Smelters &c on at the same time to keep them properly going might make all the parts (that wants repairing) of that road compleat in as nothing w[hi]ch cannot be don at a more proper season then now - as you cannot conveniently attend the Men upon the above road, it would be well if your son did & am

Yrs &c I H Jr

**25 May 1768 Isaac Hunter to Caleb Hunter**

Mr. C. Hunter Allenhead

Dukesf'd 25th May 68

Sr

When at Rookhope Yesterday, I saw some Ore in the Com[m]on Binstead w[hi]ch Mr. Harrison said came f[ro]m Wolfcleugh very badly Wash'd it was more like topings f[ro]m the sieve then Bouse Ore, I dessay Mr. Allgood had not seen it or he would not have allowed it to been sent [struck through: 'so badly'] in that manner, and for the Fellow (for he does not deserve a better name who lets such Ore go to the Mill) that chose to deliv'r it ought I think at the least ought to pay for the Carriage of the refuse w[hi]ch cannot be less than a third.

I beg you'll desire Mr. Allgood to let no Ore be sent f[ro]m your Groves till its well dressd, for I am ordered by Mr. Richmond to give him frequent acco[un]ts how I find the Ore dressed thats sent to the several Mills & to particularise the Groves. The Ore we have already received at this Mill f[ro]m yr Mines is far f[ro]m what it ought to be, & it will be impossible for your son Robt. to prevent the Washers f[ro]m deceiving him till you make your Ore all be washed in Tub & Sieve w[hi]ch I hope you will give order to be don for the future so as to prevent any further complaints I expected to have seen you here when your Wood went down & am

w[i]th Comp[limen]ts &c I H Jr

**26 May 1768 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Mr. Richmond Newcastle

Dukesf'd 26th May 1768

Sir

Herewith you'll receive a Box w[i]th two pieces of silver (as p[er] inclosed acco[un]t) w[hi]ch should have had sooner but the Refiner had the misfortune to burn his Foot when at Work so as not to be able to get out of the House for some time; and as there was not Killhope Lead sufficient for two plates made them work it all in to one.

Yours of the 20th inst I recevd in due time, have had the D taken of the Hammer for the Refined Lead, & the other directions therein shall be punctually observed. We have deliv[er]ed all the Com[m]on & Refined Lead from Dukesf'd Mill, I was at Rookhope on Tuesday last & I think the Lead there would not serve the Carriage that runs on above two days [to] Allenhead & has not don much, but as the other two Mills are clear I doubt not but we shall get it all over the Fells in good time, tho the <CB> does interfere w[i]th that Carriage.

The Byers at Middle Dukesf'd I am afraid will not stand another Winter, but shall have them viewed by Workmen & shall give you their opinion in a few days & am Sr

yr most h[um]ble Serv[an]t I H Jr

**1 Jun 1768 Isaac Hunter to Caleb Hunter**

Mr. C. Hunter Allenheads

Dukesf'd June 1st 1768

Sir

The deliv[er]y at the Mines & receipt at the Mills for last year does not agree at Newcastle by the Acco[un]ts we have sent there, I therefore desire that you'll send me an exact Acco[un]t of the quantity of Ore deliv[er]ed f[ro]m each of your Groves to the several Mills between the 31st Dec'r 66 & 31st of Dec'r 67 that I may be able to give Mr. Richmond an acco[un]t how the difference happen'd w[hi]ch I'm to do by Sundays post so should have an acco[un]t f[ro]m you before then - I am also ordered to desire you to give such directions for the future that an Acco[un]t of your total deliv[er]y for each year to the <sevl> Mill (between the 31st & 31st of Dec'r) be always sent to me exact as to quantity w[i]th what you send to Mr. Richmond

I expected to have seen you last Week when your Wood was going down that we might have had some talk as to the Working of the Ore &c for when at Rookhope on the 24th Ultio I saw some Ore w[hi]ch Mr. Davison told me came f[ro]m Wolfcleugh, more like Topings thrown f[ro]m the Sieve then Worked Ore, w[hi]ch I'm sure Mr. R. Allgood had not seen or he would not have allowed it to have been sent to the Mill in that Manner - and I beg you'll desire him for the future never to let any Ore be taken to the Mills f[ro]m any Grove under your charge till it's well dressed, for I am ordered by

Mr. Richmond to give him frequent Acco[un]ts (by Lre [Letter]) how the Ore is dressed thats sent to the Several Mills, & to particularize the Groves it's sent f[ro]m whether, well or, ill Dressed. And as it will be impossible for you to get it Washed but the Washers will deceive your Son Robt except you make them Wash it all w[i]th Tub & Sieve, w[hi]ch I wish you would give orders to have so don as to prevent future complaints

I am yrs &c I H Jr

**2 Jun 1768    Isaac Hunter to Thomas Maughan**

Mr. Maughan N House

Dukesf'd 2d June 1768

Sir

I desire you'll send me an exact Acco[un]t of the quantity of Ore deliv[ere]d f[ro]m your Mines last year (that is between 31st Dec'r 66 & 31st Dec'r 67) to the several Mills, for Mr. Richmond who I saw yesterday says there's a difference between the Deliv[er]y & receipt at the Mills, w[hi]ch he ordered me to acquaint him by Sundays post where it lyes - so you'll please the Acco[un]t by the Bearer - I am also ordered to desire that you'll for the future send me a Total Acco[un]t of the Deliv[er]y of each y[ea]r between the 31st & 31st Dec'r to the several Mills exacly as to quantity w[i]th what you send Mr. Richmond.

I beg you'll order those that looks after the Washing of the Ore that they take care to let none be sent to the Mill till it's well dressed, for what was sent last y[ea]r was far f[ro]m what it ought to have been. I saw some last week f[ro]m the Slit, or Dawson's Grove very well dress'd w[hi]ch I wish they may intend as a sample for the year. I am yrs &c I H Jr

**2 Jun 1768    Isaac Hunter to William Westgarth**

Mr. Westgarth Coalcleugh

Dukesf'd 2d June 1768

Dr Sr

There can be no harm in letting Geo. Wallace carry a few Catches of Kilhope Ore to Rookhope Mill to bring the Wood you have bought in Weardale.

I have not seen or heard anything from Mr. Tweedall since you & I was there so cannot say anything as to the Carriage till I know what they do, but shall acquaint you when there's any change made.

Mr. Richmond tells me there's a great difference between the deliv[er]y & receipt of the Ore last year by the Acco[un]ts he has rec[eive]d of both - Mr. Dickinson & Mr. Kidds Acco[un]ts both agreed w[i]th Mr. Salkelds, where the difference lyes I know not, therefor desire you'll send me a Copy of the quantity of Ore you have made

deliv[er]y f[ro]m your Grove (in the y[ea]r 1767) in the Acco[un]ts sent Mr. Richmond as soon as you possibly can for I'm to give him an Acco[un]t by Sundays post how it's happened.

I am yrs &c I H Jr

**5 Jun 1768    Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

[Note: copied out of sequence in Hunter's book, coming between letters of 25th and 26th May]

Mr. Richmond N.Castle

Dukesf'd June 5th 1768

I have been among a part of the Wainmen & shall go through the part that has Allenheads & Rookhope Lead upon hand & hasten them to Blaydon w[i]th it to prevent any prejudice happening f[ro]m its not being got to the Markett in time & am  
Yrs &c I H Jr

NB <Trodderman> where Wm Irwin lives belongs to L[or]d Carlisle & only leased by Irwin the names of his own Estates are Long Cleugh side & Buckhead

**9 Jun 1768    Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

[Note: The NB may simply have been a note to himself regarding his copy letters]

Mr. Richmond Newcastle

Dukesf'd 9th June 1768

NB The Lett[e]r of the 5 June Overlooked, & copied upon <over turning> 4 pages back

Sir

I have compared the delivery f[ro]m the Mines w[i]th the receipts of the Several Mills for last year (w[hi]ch is as below) and find that the mistake lyes in the Weighed off Ore, for in Mr.Westgarth's June 8th Acco[un]t sent you there is 103 3/4 B[ing]s of weigh[e]d off ore at C.C. [Coalcleugh] & 27 Bs at Mohope 49 1/2 of that at Coalcleugh was sent to D[ukes]f[iel]d Mill in Dec'r Q'r w[hi]ch Mr.W. omitted charging in the Acco[un]t sent you as the Mines had once been charged w[it]h it - the 8 1/4 B of Kilhope I suppose must be in the same manner, tho I could not when at C.C. get the exact Acco[un]t Mr. Kidd being very ill & Mr.W. could not get his acco[un]ts.

I am yrs &c I H Jr

**9 Jun 1768    Isaac Hunter to Robert Mulcaster**

Mr. R.Mulcaster Blaydon

Dukesf'd 9th June 1768

Sir

I rec'd yours of the 6th inst this morn[in]g & shall let you have a pair of our refining Bellows, tho' we cannot at this time conveniently want them, but as the tryal you want of your Water can be soon made w[i]th them you'll please to return them as soon as you possibly can, if your water prove insuficient to work them, w[hi]ch I imagine will be the case f[ro]m Acco[un]ts of it - there's some Men in your Neighbourhood that goes to Allenh[ea]ds Mill for Lead this Sum[m]er, now, if you could get one of them to come for the Bellows would be better then sending them by the Carriers here, as the will be less liable to harm, then w[it]h twice the load - the charge of a pair of Refin[in]g Bellows made by Bowman will (I suppose) be between 15 & 20£

I am    Sr Yrs &c I H Jr

**15 Jul 1768    Isaac Hunter to Robert Harrison**

[Note: forename not stated, but a January letter to Rookhope named Robert Harrison, probably the son of older John, and who is assumed here]

Mr. Harrison Rookhope Mill

Dukesf'd July 15th 1768

I desire the following Ores may be laid in a Bingstead by themselves (Viz)

Kilhope

Arshope or Greenwell

Pickstone

Elmford

Poorrookhope, Lingybrow

Greenlowes and the Guinea

Grove, Langtyhead, Welhope Moss, Sedling & Bortry Pasture be laid among the Common Ore.

I am yrs &c I H Jr

**25 Jul 1768 Isaac Hunter to Robert Mulcaster**

Mr. R. Mulcaster Blaydon

Dukesf'd July 25th 1768

Sir

I expected long ear this to have had an acco[un]t how you liked the Bellows, & whether we were to get a pair made for this Refinery, or you would send back those you got f[ro]m her, as you must have had a sufficient trial of them before this time, and f[ro]m your promise I imagine you have wrote & the Lre [Letter] miscarried, therefor beg you'll upon the rec[eip]t of this let me know your intentions. & am

Sr Yrs &c I H Jr

**1 Aug 1768 Isaac Hunter to William Westgarth**

Mr. Westgarth Coalcleugh

Dukesf'd Aug't 1st 1768

Sir

When at the Mill this morning Abra[ham] Watson & Cuth[bert] Stobbs brought in Ore f[ro]m Your place w[hi]ch I saw weighed & they wanted 7lb [scratched out: '& 9lb in a Poke'<sup>TM</sup>], but none less than 7 lb short of Weight. I therefor beg you'll order Mr. Dickinson to be more carefull for the time to come that the Carriers takes Weight, & that he makes the above Carriers when they take up or <eaâ€'!> bring as much over Weight as to make up what they this day wanted. Watson had a Horse & Stobbs 4 so they should bring 13 stone at least to make up the want. & am

Sr Yrs &c &c I H Jr

**27 Aug 1768 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Mr. Richmond Newcastle

Dukesf'd Aug't 27th 1768

Sir

You'll receive p[er] Ra Little a box containing two peaces of silv er as p[er] inclosed Acco[un]t. I have made some trials of the Flew dust w[hi]ch shall give you acco[un]t of when in town. & am

Sr yo[u]r most H[um]ble Serv[an]t

I H Jr

**5 Sep 1768 Isaac Hunter to Robert Harrison**

[Note: might have meant John H, Robert's father]

Mr. Harrison Rookhope

Dukesf'd Sept'r 5th 1768

Sr

The Kilhope Workers has got a quantity of Ore again ready for moving, so you may set on the Carriers to bring it to your Mill. & am &c I H Jr

**5 Sep 1768 Isaac Hunter to Caleb Kidd**

Mr. Caleb Kidd Kilhope

Dukesf'd Sept'r 5th 68

Sr

When I found by Yours of the 30 July that Your Quantity of Ore would be near w[ha]t it was last y[ea]r I immediatly ordered Mr. H. to set on Carriers to get a part of it to Rookhope Mill, as I could not depend upon the Carriers to All[en]head & Dukesf[iel]d Mills for carring that Quantity, & particularly when the Shire Carriers seemed to be so shy about bringing it to this Mill, tho after they did begin w[i]th it & I found they had got 542 Bs of it to Rookhop M. did intend laying them off (i.e. the R Carriers) w[hi]ch you had don, so ordered Mr. H. not to set them on again till he heard f[ro]m me as he said you had only laid them off on acco[un]t of the Wash[er]s but I this day learnd by Mr. Salkeld that you had 200 Bs ready for moving & that the All[e]nh[ea]d Carriers were as slack as those to this Mill so have wrote to Mr. Harrison to set on their Carriage, w[hi]ch you may turn off so soon as they run the Wash[e]d & ground, or sooner if you think that the other Carriers will be able to clear Your Grove in time, for I would choose that this Mill should have as much of Your Ore as could possibly be got to her.

& am yrs &c I H Jr

**17 Nov 1768 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Mr. H. Richmond N.Castle

Dukesf'd 17 Nov'r 1768

Sr

You'll receive herew[it]h by the Hexham carrier a Box containing two plates of Silver as p[er] inclosed acco[un]t.

I am affraid the Easthand Men will not be able to get all the Lead f[ro]m the Stobbs the roads being so bad, for when I was at Bladon last week there were about a Thousand pieces lying at each stob.

& am yrs &c I H Jr

**20 Nov 1768 Isaac Hunter to Hartgill**

[Note: date not fully stated but arbitrarily dated 20th here]

Mr. Hartgill

Dukesf'd Nov'r 1768

Sr

I was sorry I was not at home when you called, but if you'll wate upon Mr. Richmond at his Office I make no doubt but you may buy the Slags you speak off very reasonable (i.e.) those at the old or Corn Mill & the small heaps by the Waterside w[hi]ch Mr. Rich[mon]d will distinguish by the 3d Slags.

**20 Nov 1768 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

[Note: date not fully stated but given same date as previous letter about Hartgill's enquiry]

Mr. H. Richmond N.Castle

Dukesf'd Novr 1768

Sr

One Mr. Hartgill calld at this Mill the other day when I was from home about buying the Old Slags so have wrote to him that if he'll wate upon you at the Office you'll sell him what quantity he pleases very reasonable the Slags he wants are some old heaps lying at the Corn Mill & small heaps by the Waterside w[hi]ch we distinguish by the 3 Slags (ie) what we have gone thrice through & if he will give anything above the expence of Weigh[in]g &c you cannot be wrong, for the Lead thats in them will not pay the expence of extracting.

& am yrs &c I H Jr

**16 Dec 1768 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Mr. Richmond N.Castle

Dukesf'd 16th Dec'r 1768

Sr

You should have had before this a Trial of the quantity of Lead to be got out of the Test Bottoms but as those we had by us were lying in a heap & broke in pieces, that one could not be sure of the quantity one made a Trial of, therefor refer'd making it till we wrought 4 Test w[hi]ch were kept sepperate & wrought yesterday at the Slag

Hearth with the Tayls of Black Slags for a Flux, w[hi]ch I made be picked that there might be no Lead got but what the Test bottoms yielded (Viz.)

|                                                             | cwt | q | lb |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---|----|
| 4 Test in each of w[hi]ch there had been wrought 62 ps Lead |     |   |    |
| in all 248 ps Weigh[in]g                                    | 343 | 3 | 7  |
| Yielded at the Slag Hearth wrought as above Described with  |     |   |    |
| Black Slags                                                 | 1   | 3 | 25 |

w[hi]ch is nearly 4 Stone for each Bottom - the Litharge Slags in reducing the Litharge of 5328 ps Lead 6932 cwt 0q 21lb yielded 30 ps = 41cwt 3q 6lb so that there will be for every Ton or 21 cwt of Lead refined 14 lb 2 oz of Lead in the Litharge Slags but that will alter according to the goodness of the Viberatinory Furnace bottom; tho' the Test Bottoms, I believe, will always produce nearly 2 stone for each bottom.

Mr. Sparke was here last week & I let him a bargain of the Black or second Slags at Â£3 p[er] Ton for I understand he makes no alteration but what he does himself in the Slag Hearth; and he is for having men to Work the Hearth under his directions so I made it in the Bargain that he was to imploy two of our Workmen, w[hi]ch I hope will prevent any foul play as one of them will always be present when the Hearth is on as they being Men that may be depended upon for Honesty I wish you & Mrs. Richmond many happy returns of the approaching Season  
& am yrs &c I H Jr

**5 Jan 1769 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Mr. Richmond N. Castle

Dukesf'd Jan 5th 1768

Sr

I have sent as p[er] inclosed acco[un]t one Piece of Silver p[er] Ral. Little the Hexham carrier & shall send the General Acc[un]t of the Refinery for the Y[ea]r 68 once the Litharge Slags are wrought, w[hi]ch I expect will be don in 20 days time if the Frost does not hinder.

Mr. Sparke be gon yesterday w[i]th the Black Slags and f[ro]m the specimens he has already given I doubt his great knowldge will consist more in word then actions. I am

Yrs &c I H Jr

**4 Feb 1769 Isaac Hunter to John Crawhall**

[Note: presumably John rather than his son Thomas]

Mr. Crawhall Allenheads

Dukesf'd 4th Feb'y 1769

You'll please to make up your Dec'r Quart'r Acco[un]ts & send it me as soon as you conveniently can & am

Yrs &c I H Jr

**5 Feb 1769 Isaac Hunter to Robert Harrison**

[Note: reference to brother is unclear (Richard, at Coalcleugh in early 1760s?) but Robert, the mill clerk responsible for the accounts]

Mr. Harrison Rookhope

Dukesf'd 5 Feb'y 69

Sr

I desired you by your Brot[he]r to send me an Acco[un]t by the return of the Smelters of your deliv[er]y compared w[i]th your Stock in hand & if you had not sent an acco[un]t of it to Mr. Reynaldson that you would also send it me, but neither of these Orders you have thought worth complying w[i]th I agane desire that you'll upon the receipt of this send me the above acco[un]ts or I shall be obliged to have recourse to other methods to have my orders executed & am

yrs &c I H Jr

NB Make up your Dec'r Acco[un]t & send me as soon as you can.

**10 Feb 1769 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Mr. Richmond N. Castle

Dukesf'd 10 Feb'y 1769

Sr

The severity of the weather hindered us f[ro]m geting the Litharge Slags Washed w[hi]ch prevented me from sending you the inclosed Acco[un]t sooner. I am affraid as the quantity of Lead at the Bankf[oo]t is nearly 1100 Ps that it will not be got in before May, therefor imagine we may be puting things in readiness for the Pay. But I expect to see you in a Week or 10 days time & then shall give you An Acco[un]t of the Lead Waiting & Mr. Sparke's progress.

& am Sr yrs &c I H Jr

**10 Feb 1769 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Maughan**

Mr. Thos Maughan Newhouse

Dukesf'd 10 Feb'y 1769

Sr

Mr. Richmond desires that at the end of each year there be Acco[un]ts sent here of the Total deliv[er]y f[ro]m each Grove to the several Milns, and as we are now making up the Acco[un]ts for last Year must beg you'll send me such Acco[un]ts (at first opportunity) that if there be any mistakes in the Acco[un]ts they may be rectified before they are sent to Newcastle. I wish you would send me at the same time an Acco[un]t of the quantity of Ore (as near as you can guess) that will be to come in your Groves next Sum[m]er & am

Sr yrs &c I H Jr

**10 Feb 1769 Isaac Hunter to Caleb Hunter**

Mr. Caleb Hunter Allenheads

Dukesf'd 10 Feb'y 1769

Sr

As we are now closing the last years Acco[un]ts must beg you'll send me an Acco[un]t of the Total deliv[er]y from each of your Groves to the Several Mills last year, according to Mr. Richmonds orders w[hi]ch I think I acquainted you w[i]th last I sent.

When you give me the above Acco[un]t pray tell me what you guess the quantity of Ore to come f[ro]m your Groves next Sum[m]er will be.

& am yrs &c I H Jr

**10 Feb 1769 Isaac Hunter to William Westgarth**

Mr. Wm. Westgarth Coalcleugh

Dukesf'd 10th Feb'y 1769

Sr

Mr. R. ordered me always to have an Acco[un]t f[ro]m the Groves of their deliv[er]y to the several Mills before I closed the Mill Acco[un]ts that if there were any difference between the Rec[eipt]s & deliv[er]y we might endeavour to rectified before they were sent to him; and as we are now closing the Yrs Acco[un]t must desire you'll give me an Acco[un]t of the deliv[er]y f[ro]m your mines to the Several Mills last year.

I wish I could prevail upon you to take D[ukes]f[iel]d in your Way to or f[ro]m N.Castle the next time you go for I would like to have a little talk w[i]th you before the Ore Carriage begin & you were saying that you would change the Carriage Men if you could meet w[i]th any other. I saw Jno Eddy last week & <... he'd W> and will take all

Your up carriage upon as reasonable terms as anybody, they are good carriage Men and I der venture to say to say that if you & they agree that they will perform their Bargain - when you are here we can send for them to come & speak to you.

& am yrs &c I H Jr

**14 Feb 1769 Isaac Hunter to Robert Harrison**

[Note: probably intended for Robert Harrison, son of John (formally the agent) at Rookhope, as Robert appears to have been responsible for the accounts]

Mr. Harrison Rookhope Miln

Dukesf'd 14th Feb'y 1769

Sr

Its very odd you will never do anything one desires w[i]thout being so much intreated to it. What is the reason you will not send me an Acco[un]t of your Stock & Deliv[er]y for last years as I desired? If you do not give me a satisfactory answ[e]r on or before the 17th inst, take the consequence for I will not be any longer trifled w[i]th.

I hear you have been at Blaydon, pray does Mr. Reynaldson's Acco[un]t & your agree. I am yrs I H Jr

NB This letter was not sent.

**21 Feb 1769 Isaac Hunter to Robert Harrison**

[Note: Robert is assumed, given Hunter's letter to Richmond of June 69]

Mr. Harrison Rookhope

Dukesf'd 21st Feb'y 1769

Sr

I think you might have had time sufficient to made up your Quart[er]ly Acco[un]ts since the 5th inst. You at last thought proper to give me an Acco[un]t of the Deliv[er]y of Lead w[i]thout saying wheather it agreed w[i]th your Stock or not. I cannot make it agree neither w[i]th your Month Acco[un]ts nor the Book when last at the Mill You have been at Blaydon but you do not say whether Mr. R.'s & your Acco[un]ts answ[e]r this y[ea]r. Pray let me have your Acco[un]t this Week w[i]thout any more intreaty and at the same time a General produce of your Ores (i.e.) of those Ores you have wrought out of separate Bingsteeds besides the General produce for the y[ea]r 1768.

yrs &c I H Jr

**16 Apr 1769 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Mr. Richmond Newcastle

Dukesf'd 16 April 1769

Sr

You'll receive with this a Box containing two pieces of Silver w[hi]ch weighed Vizt No. 25th 527 1/2 ounces No. 26th 510 ounces - shall send you an Acco[un]t of the Lead &c by Tuesday's Post, for the Reduced Lead was not all weighed off, so would not miss this days Carrier as you were in want of the Silver & am

Sr yrs &c I H Jr

**3 Jun 1769 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Mr. Richmond Newcastle

Dukesf'd 3d June 1769

Sr,

I wish you would allow me to send Mr. Salkeld to Rookhope Mill for 3 weeks or a month's time. I promise you this Mill shall not be neglected in the time, for Salkelds Son is able to keep an Acco[un]t of the Receipt & Deliv[er]y & I shall take care to inspect the Workings &c once a Day during his absence for Mr. R. H. does not keep the Books &c exactly in the Manner I would choose they should be kept; and in that time Salkeld would be able to point out the Method so clearly that he could not avoid being made Master of it, and his conduct afterwards would plainly show whether he takes any pleasure in the Business or not. The Lead from this & Rookhope Mills is going quickly away but I cannot say so much for Allenheads, tho' I have acquainted all the Dukesf'd Mill Wainmen that they will get no more Lead f[ro]m her till Allenheads be cleared so expect there will be a good many Draug[h]ts at her on Monday.

& am yrs &c I H Jr

**17 Jun 1769 Isaac Hunter to Caleb Hunter**

Mr. C. Hunter Allenheads

Dukesf'd 17th June 1769

Dr Sr

Mr. Richmond wants comon Lead at Market & we have sent all that we had at the Mill, and as we have no Ores to make it off but what we get f[ro]m the Groves, therefor desire you'll send us your Ores in as fast as you possible can for the Smelters are now Smelting of it & I would like to keep them as long on it as one could, that we may be able to send a few Hundred Ps of that Lead to Markett next Month. We have smelted almost all the Ore we have got f[ro]m the Mines befor this day & to keep our

Smelters going for a few Week of your Ore would take a Hundred Bing p[er] Week. & am

yrs &c I H Jr

**21 Jun 1769 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Fairlamb**

Thos. & Ric'd Fairlamb M[iddle]. Dukesf'd

Dukesf'd Mill 21st June 1769

Sirs

I understand by Mr. Salkeld that he has sent twice desiring you to bring Lime to the Mill & that you neither time thought it worth your while to serve us. I therefor take this method to acquaint you, that if you will not forward Sir W.'s Works w[i]th your Draug[h]ts when we call upon you, that we must indeavour to get those that will in your places, so you need not expect any other Notice (if you do not be more ready for the future to serve us) to quit your Farm against May day next. & am

yrs &c I H Jr

**28 Jun 1769 Isaac Hunter to Caleb Kidd**

Mr. Caleb Kidd in Kilhope

Dukesf'd June 28 69

Sr

The Ore we have got f[ro]m you this sum[m]er both to this & Allenheads Mills has (for the most part) wanted weight & I understand by the Carriers that it was owing to the Ball[ance] you had so bespook you one as <join Claredâ€™!> w[hi]ch I expect you receive w[i]th this, & if the Weight you send be bad after you get the above named Ballance, it must then be the falt of the Weight, if so I desire youll send to Mr. Crawhall for one of his 8 Stone Weights that he got f[ro]m the Foundry & you may ad to it the Weight of the Pack. Mr. W. would acquaint you that you are not to send more than one Thousand bings of Ore to Allenheads Mill this Sum[m]er and that what you have above that quantity to be sent to D. F. Mill & am

yrs &c I H Jr

**29 Jun 1769 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Maughan**

Mr. Thos. Maughan N[ew] house

Dukesf'd 29 June 1769

Dr Sr

The Carriers to this Mill having got to the Washers at all the Mines we have ore from, so that they could at this time bring a quantity from any of Your Groves that lyes

convenient for them (viz) Guinea Grove, Sedlin, Breckinsike and Greenfield, and as taking the Ore you have at the above Groves to this Mill, would ease the Rookhope Carriers a little and inable them to stick closer to Langtyhead, I should be glad to know the quantity you think there will be to come f[ro]m the above Groves, & if there's any quantity Washed; and that you would give Orders to those that delivers it to send it to Dukesf'd Mill. I hope you have before this found good effects f[ro]m the advance &c of Langty Head & am &c

I H Jr

**12 Jul 1769 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Mr. Richmond Newcastle

Dukesf'd 12 July 1769

Sir

I have according to your desire given below an acco[un]t of the several sorts of Lead deliv[er]d w[i]th their quantities to this day and also an estimate of what we shall Smelt against the 2d Sept'r w[hi]ch I doubt not but we will deliver before the Month end.tho you must make allowance for those Wainmen that keep it in their Hand.

|                         |         |      |         |          |
|-------------------------|---------|------|---------|----------|
| Dukesfield Mill         | WB lead | Slag | Refined | Total    |
| July 11th Delivd of     | 3266    | 159  | 3911    | 7,336 Ps |
| Smelt against 2d Sept'r | 2176    | 100  | 1000    | 3,276    |
|                         | 5442    | 259  | 4911    | 10,612   |

|                         |        |        |      |       |        |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|------|-------|--------|
| Rookhope Mill           | L Lead | WB     | X    | Waste | Total  |
| July 11th Deliv[er]y    | 1235   | 7,862  | 1990 | 498   | 11,585 |
| Smelt against 2d Sept'r |        | 4,480  |      | 100   | 4,580  |
|                         | 1235   | 12,342 | 1990 | 598   | 16,165 |

I'm affraid you'll not get the 4040 ps of Allenhead that remained last Dec'r to markett against the above time tho I shall do all I can to get it to the Bankfoot before then. & am yrs &c

I H Jr

**12 Jul 1769 Isaac Hunter to Robert Mulcaster**

Mr. Mulcaster Blaydon

Dukesf'd 12 July 1769

Sr

We have made a Trial of the Test Bottoms you Sent w[i]th our powerest Black Slags, and they only yeilded 2 cwt 0q 9lb Lead. I do not think we can get them f[ro]m the Bankfoot any lower then the price you can get them there for - Please to desire Mr. Reynaldson to forward the deals, Ironstones &c to the Mills they are for once they come to his hand, and acquaint him that there's a great quantity of Lead at the Bankfoot. I am  
yrs &c I H Jr

NB in regard to the debit Robt Pearson is in to me & desiring Mr. Mulcaster to assist me in getting it.

**12 Jul 1769 Isaac Hunter to Caleb Hunter**

Mr. C. Hunter Allenheads

Dukesf'd 12 July 1769

Sr

If you have Ore at Bank, I beg youll continue some way or other to send us 70y or 80y Bings p[er] Week till the last of August; for Mr. Richmond wants a quantity of C. Lead against that time, and without you send us that quantity p[er] week we shall not be able to supply him w[i]th it & am

Sr yrs &c I H Jr

NB Let me know by the bearer if you think you can send us the above quantity p[er] week, for I'm to give Mr R'd an answer by Fridays post

**15 Jul 1769 Isaac Hunter to Robert Harrison**

[Note: assumed to be Robert as before]

Mr. Harrison Rookhope Mill

Dukesf'd 15 July 1769

Sr

I have sent you other 4 Smelters so you must put 6 to each Hearth, & let every two Men make 4 Ton of Lead p[er] Week. You'll take care they make no wast nor bad lead in their Workings but all work one to another to the Masters advantage and not in a spitefull manner one set w[i]th another to the masters loss. You may acquaint them

that if I can make it appear they are any deceit &c one w[i]th another in their Working to Sr Walters loss, shall immediatly be discharged from his Works. & am  
yrs &c I H Jr

**22 Jul 1769 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Maughan**

Mr. Maughan Newhouse

Dukesf'd 22d July 1769

Dr Sr

When at Rookhope Mill yesterday I weighed two or three pokes of Langty head Ore that was then coming in, and they all wanted about a pound of Weight therefor desire you'll give Orders to those that delivers that Ore to be more carefull as to the Weight they send for the future and that you would also order the Small of that Ore to be better dressed before they send it f[ro]m the Mine - the Ore we have got this Sum[m]er f[ro]m Slitt & Dawson's Groves are very well dressed, therefor desire if you should send any smal f[ro]m these Groves not so well washed that you'll give directions for the Clark at the Mill to be apprised of it that it may be kept separate there. I wish there was some General method taken at all the groves of adding two or three pound more Weight to a Poke when filled w[i]th Wet Ore. & am yrs &c  
I H Jr

**22 Jul 1769 Isaac Hunter to Robert Harrison**

Mr. R. Harrison Rookhope Mill

Dukesf'd 22d July 1769

Sir

I was sorry to see yesterday by the condition of the Bellows &c, that you pay'd so little attention to the most material part of your Office as that of Smelting, for I dersay you are sensible that Men cannot Work at a Hearth so much out of order (as she must have been by appearances) without great loss to the Master. Let me once more beg of you to act w[i]th spirit & resolution becoming the place you are in, as always having Sr Walters interest in view that I may have it in my power to say so much for you when ask'd w[hi]ch would give me great pleasure I desire you'll master those Wainmen that has of your Lead in their Hands to Blaydon w[i]th it as fast as possible & am  
yrs &c I H Jr

**30 Jul 1769    Isaac Hunter to Robert Harrison**

Mr. Harrison Rookhope Mill

Dukesf'd 30th July 1769

Sir

Upon recollection I find that the 5th Aug't the Day we fixed for to pay the Langtyhead Carriers upon is Hexham Fair day w[hi]ch will make it inconvenient for several of them to attend on that day, so shall make it on Friday the 4th Aug't therefor desire you'll acquaint them all w[i]th this change of the day, for I do suppose they did not no more then me imagine when Saturday the 5th was fixed that it would be the Fair day at Hexham.

Send me tomorrow w[i]th out fail an Acco[un]t of the quantity each Carrier has carried of Langty head Ore to that day, for I'm to go to N.Castle for the Money on Tuesday & Mr. Richmond must have such an acc[oun]t be fore he'll advance it.

& am yrs &c I H Jr