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VIGNETTE ON “ELGAR”

R. Von Arx

Baronet Sir Pryse Pryse of Gogerddan in the county of Cardigan on 17th January 1873 signed a lease with Surgeon Richard Gilbertson and Solicitor Hugh Hughes, both of Aberystwyth, granting them the right to dig for lead, argentiferous lead, copper, tin and all other ores and metallic matters to be found in and under the messuage or tenement farm and lands commonly called “Elgar”, situated in the parish of Llanfihangel Geneurglyn and containing 225 acres 2 roods and 37 perches, in the tenure of John Davies and David Owen. The term of the lease ran from 25th June 1870 for 21 years and the dues to Sir Pryse Pryse amounted to 1115 of the monies produced from the sale of the ores.

The lease contains the following rather farsighted environmental proviso: Any waters arising or brought to the lands and used for washing or dressing ores must be purified by the most approved and efficient means to deprive them of all deleterious and noxious matters so as to render them harmless and innocuous to man, beast, bird and fish, animal and vegetable life as maybe practicably possible.

The Elgar mine actually lies on the Hafan Vein, about 1¼ miles west of the village of Elerch and 3 miles by road from Llandre station.

It is doubtful whether Gilbertson and Hughes actually engaged in mining at Elgar, because on 15th July 1873 they already assigned their lease to Francis Edward Bingley of 118 Cannon Street, London, and mine agent John Trevethan (presumably of Cornish ancestry) of Maesbangor in the parish of Llanbadarnfawr in the county of Cardigan, at a price of £2000 with all the rights, easements and appurtenances thereunto belonging for the residue of the unexpired term of 21 years from 1870. The obligations included the payment of the royalty of 1/15 to Sir Pryse Pryse. The “consideration money” of £2000 was paid on the same day the Assignment was signed.

In the middle of 1873 the Elgar Silver-Lead Mining Co. Ltd. was being formed with a capital of £20,000 in 1 £ shares under the trusteeship of James Jones, the latter having signed an agreement with Bingley and Trevethan on 22nd July 1873. This allowed the company to start its activity at Elgar. A share certificate (reproduced here) issued in 1874 shows Bingley and John Adams as directors and James Jones as secretary. Bingley and Jones also acted in the same capacities for at least two other Welsh mines: The Snow Brook Silver Lead Mining Co. Ltd. (on certificate of 1875) and The Central Van Lead Mining Co. Ltd. (on certificate of 1877).

Following a previous agreement (exact date not filled in on the original document) Bingley, now of 84 King William Street, London, and Trevethan formally assigned the mining rights at Elgar to the London share dealer Granville Sharp of 2 Gresham Buildings, London, on 27th April 1877. The witness to Trevethan’s signature was Solicitor Hugh Hughes who was a partner to the lease of 17th January 1873. Granville

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Sharp was at that time also managing director of The West Craven Moor Lead Co. Ltd. in Yorkshire.



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