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## CALDBECK FELLS STATIONERY

R. Von Arx

### SYNOPSIS

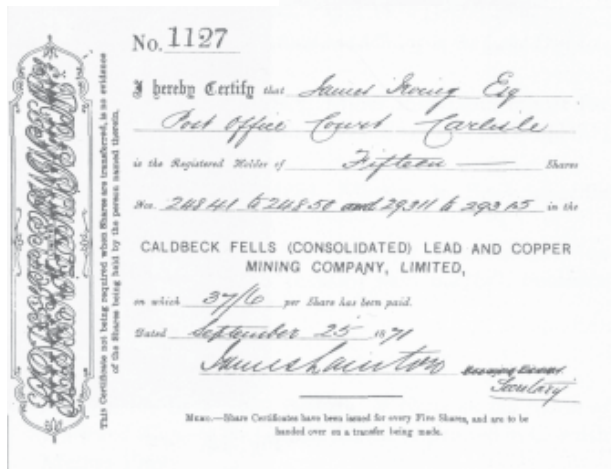
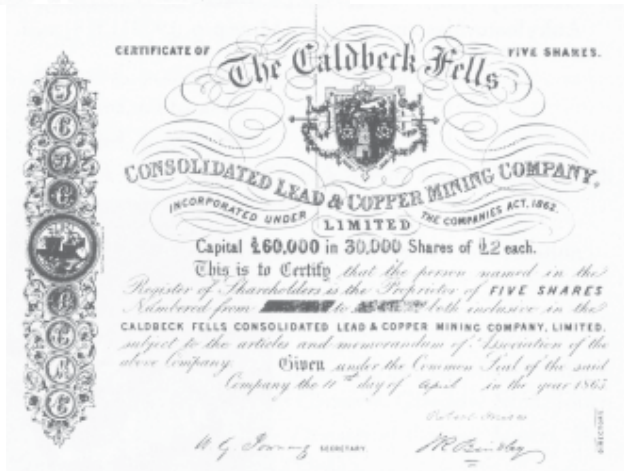
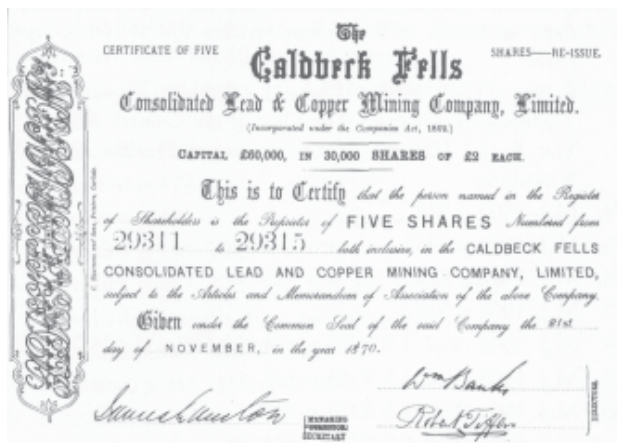
*Perusing a batch of papers spanning the period of 10 years from 1865 to 1875, it was found that the information in The Cumberland Mineral Statistics 1845-1913 (Burt/Waite/Burnley) can be partly confirmed completed and corrected. As shown on the illustrations the only name used in this period was The Caldbeck Fells (Consolidated) Lead & Copper Mining Company Ltd. Here presented are some items of mining company stationery, a facet of mining that is normally ignored by mining historians:*

In 1865 (and this pre-dates Statistics) the Secretary, stationed at the London Office, was W.C. Powning. During the 10 years under consideration the books of the Company were audited by James Irving who held 15 shares and lived at 5 Old Post Office Court, Carlisle, very near to the new Company Offices. James Lainton was Managing Director in February 1870. We can assume that at the Annual General Meeting of the shareholders on 25 February a number of staff changes were made, because by December 1870 Lainton signed as Secretary. Also at this time the share certificates were exchanged against new ones of “a more convenient form”, which presumably means that the old large-size certificates were replaced by the smaller ones. Lainton remained Secretary until 1872, when his place was taken by Walter Gath until liquidation in 1877.

The half-yearly General Meeting of the shareholders of 29 February 1872 was chaired by Sir Robert Brisco, Bart. Also present were the directors William Banks, Mulcaster, Brown, Dr Cowan and Dr Robert Tiffen. The chair at the half-yearly Meeting of 27 August 1874 was held by Lieut. Col Salkeld who owned 50 shares bought in 1871.

There was a connection between The Caldbeck Fells Co., the Mid Cumberland Mining Co. and the East Cumberland Co. (Pots Gill mine), all situated in the Caldbeck region. In 1870 the Caldbeck Fells Co. also owned the Roughtengill mine (correctly spelled here). The Manager of the Mid Cumberland mine, William J. Vercoe, informed “The Shareholders” on 24 September 1870 (pre-dates Statistics) of a very promising end in the deep level, but water was still rising at Deer Hills, most probably coming from the Barytes Vein. He mentioned further that with Captain Hawke’s permission he had surveyed the Eastern part of Roughtengill property, known as Mexico or Crown Point, to trace the Roughtengill Lode into their property.

On 9 February 1872 Vercoe of Mid Cumberland mine wrote to James Irving that they had met with a lode running nearly E - W while driving on the Ingray Gill Lode. The crosscut towards Newhead Lode and Short Grain Lode showed favourable “appearances”, being spotted through with blue lead. June 1874 saw Vercoe meeting Captain “Polglase” Games Polglase according to Statistics) at the Mid Cumberland mine. It would appear that the latter company did not have a printed letterhead.



## CALDBECK FELLS STATIONERY

According to Statistics James Irving, the auditor of the Caldbeck Fells Co., was also Secretary of the Mid Cumberland Mining Co. from 1871 to 1877. William J. Vercoe in turn was also Manager at the East Cumberland Co. from 1868 to 1878, while Captains Hawke and Polglaze were active at The Caldbeck Fells Co. as well as at Roughtengill. Secretary of the latter mine in 1873 was Waiter Gath of The Caldbeck Fells Co.

The field of activity - including a smelter-of The Caldbeck Fells (Consolidated) Lead & Copper Mining Co. lies at the top of a valley about 7 miles N-N-E of Keswick, 11½ miles E-N-E of Cockermouth, 9 miles almost due north of the northern end of Thirlmere Lake and 7 miles N-W of Troutbeck station in Cumberland. (Thanks to Mr Justin Brooke for the above location).

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