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**THE EFFECT OF LEAD MINING ON THE POPULATION OF VILLAGES
IN THE WHARFEDALE MINING FIELD 1853 - 1880.**

by

V. Davis and J.M. Dickinson.

In considering the effect of lead mining on the populations of the the Wharfedale lead mining field it is clear from the accompanying graphs that the rise and fall of the population of the villages of Grassington and Hebden closely follow the lead production of the districts. The population of Grassington is seen to grow steadily as the mines slowly expanded with a greater influx of people to the village around 1820. This increase in population was no doubt. due to the vast modernisation programme which the Duke of Devonshire introduced at the Grassington Moor Mines.

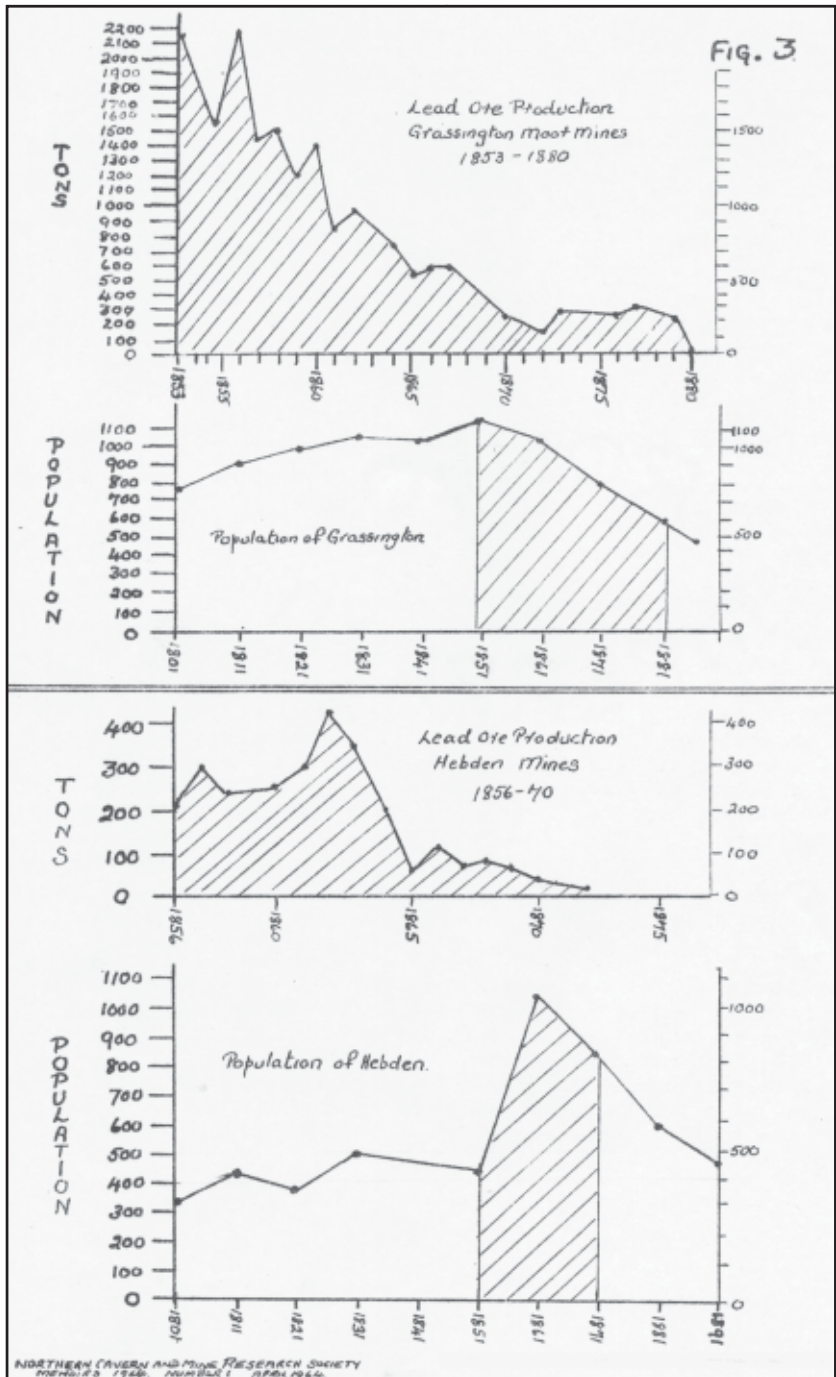
By 1825 three shift working was in operation in the mines, dressing mills and smelt mill. The effect of this intensive working is clearly indicated the population rising steadily during the eleven years between 1821 and 1831. High production continued until about 1857 when some 2100 tons per annum were being raised - after this date a rapid decline set in until in 1871 only 150 tons of ore were raised. A slight revival carried the mines on until 1879 after which ore production ceased, the smelt mill however continued working until 1885.

None of the villages further up the Dale show any significant relationship between population and ore production. This will be due to the small size of the villages and the scattered locations of the mines in the upper Dale. Kettlewell is the largest village the mines in Dowber Gill on the slopes of Great Whernside being the most developed. Even if the mines near the villages of Buckden, Starbotton and Conistone with Kilnsey had been of a more extensive nature the labour force would have been unevenly distributed entirely due to the accommodation which was available.

It is known that the greater proportion of the miners who worked at the Appletreewick Mines lived at Hartlington and Burnsall any graph showing the relationship between the population of Appletreewick and ore produced at the mines would therefore give a false picture.

This type of factor must be allowed for in work of this kind. Whether the results obtained are of any value is a matter of conjecture but the research has at least shown that in areas where the geographical location of the mines coincides with a reasonable centre of population the output of the mines was directly related to the rise and fall of the population. As a final thought, could it be that the availability of man power was a prime mover of increased production and expansion of the mines?

THE EFFECT OF LEAD MINING ON THE POPULATION OF VILLAGES



**THE EFFECT OF LEAD MINING ON THE POPULATION OF VILLAGES
IN
THE WHARFEDALE MINING FIELD 1853 - 1880.**

YEAR	ORE PRODUCTION – TONS			POPULATION		
	APP. MINE.	CON. MOOR.	CON. BUK. KETT.	APP.	CON. KETT. STAR.	CON. KILN.
1853	-	-	160	305	607	178
1854	-	-	110	305	607	178
1855	-	-	95	305	607	178
1856	-	-	157	305	607	178
1857	-	-	150	305	607	178
1858	-	-	154	305	607	178
1859	-	-	182	305	607	178
1860	-	52	128	305	607	178
1861	146	127	104	354	646	160
1862	308	185	-	354	646	160
1863	235	133	121	354	646	160
1864	240	13	152	354	646	160
1865	529	78	115	354	646	160
1866	1027	28	63	354	646	160
1867	58	11	58	354	646	160
1868	469	22	19	354	646	160
1869	368	10	12	354	646	160
1870	183	91	22	354	646	160
1871	495	122	-	358	498	186
1872	45	11	-	338	498	186
1873	-	-	-	358	498	186
1874	-	-	-	358	498	186
1875	18	-	-	358	498	186
1876	138	-	-	358	498	186
1877	402	-	35	358	498	186
1878	413	-	37	358	498	186
1879	79	-	-	358	498	186
1880	153	-	37	281	378	179

APP. = Appletreewick: CON. = Conistone: BUK. = Buckden:
KETT. = Kettlewell: STAR. = Starbotton: KILN. = Kilnsey.