

MEMOIRS

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THE MASHAMSHIRE COLLIERIES

S.W. Feather, F.S.A. (Scot.)

Amongst the voluminous papers deposited by Lady Cunliffe-Lister of Swinton at Cartwright Memorial Hall, Bradford, are letters, documents and banksman's books relating to the Mashamshire Collieries, of the Danby family. These collieries also produced a little lead. Six vellum bound banksman's books cover the period 1690-1725, when the collieries were owned by Sir Abstrupus Danby, but two unbound documents also record activity in 1622-1623. One of these documents has on its cover a note signed in 1690 by Sir Abstrupus Danby: 'An account of coals got in Mashamshire ... in the days of Christopher Danby Esq., my great grandfather. Ab. Danby ...

The Danbys had acquired a great deal of property in Mashamshire as a result of the marriage of the head of the family, Christopher Danby, to one of the heiresses of the last Lord Scrope. Later records survive which show working, not always continuous, of the collieries to 1845.

It is possible to find many interesting details in the different records, but space precludes a large selection. An item is given from the first of the six bound banksman's books which mentions the use at a very early date of powder for blasting and one or two shorter extracts from later books. An inventory of tools used in the collieries and signed for by the banksman in 1734 is given in full, and a query, unfortunately undated, from Lord Moira presumably seeking information when lead ore was discovered in one of the pits.

Banksman's Book No.1. (One entry)

1692		
May 9	Paid to Geo Nawthorp for ten dozen of candles	01 05 00
Apr.26	To Mr. Wm. Borkwith for iron and powder.	01 01 02½

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Banksman's Book No.1. (One entry) - Contd.

To Geo. Holdsworth for walling and slating ye Smithy	00 04 00
To Henry Loftus for bring a load of iron to the pits	00 00 05
To John Tollow for pulling and Coaring 5 thrave of ling to the Smithy	00 02 06
For thatching the Smithy	00 01 02
To La (?) o1. Croft and Rot. Wilson for driving the first ten yds in Darby grove	00 11 00
To Robert Myres of Eastwitton for girding up the measures	00 01 06

——-oo0oo——-

Banksman's Book No. 1. (One entry. (Part))

May 24 1692

Pd. to John Rondall of Ripon for one pair of Ropes for Sandow pit 30 p fathom	01 02 00
Pd to Joseph Nawthorp for 15 dozen & a half of candles	02 11 00
Pd to Rich. Ascough & Thos Allan for driving 20 yds in a New Groove called Allans Groove by a Bargain	02 03 00
Pd to Wm Borkwith for Iron- & stool & ten pound of powder	01 13 0½

Christopher Dawson Banksman wages 6/ - per month.

——-o0o——-

Banksman's Book No. 4. (part entry.)

May

1713 Given ye Bolton workmen in Ale when they came to see ye works to incourage them	s	d.
Dyaling Lead Pitt Levill in Ale	2	2
		6

Banksman's Book No. 4 (Part entry) - Contd.

Paid Jo. Fawcet of Marrick for 15 Ld. of Lead to Swinton at 14d ye 1d.	s d 17 6
ye Banksmans Allowance at a farthing ye corfe for 2367 corves a1	2 9 ¾

—o0o—

Banksman's Book No. 5

1714 Pd. for a Lanthorn for ye miners to go to work with at night	1 10
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—o0o—

5th October 1734.

**A Schedule of all the Worktools (and their weight) belonging
to the Hon.able Abstrupus Danby Esq. at his Colliery in Colsterdale.**


	H	S	L
20 Gavlocks Weight	2	4	8
48 Coal Picks Weight	1	7	4½
21 Iron Mellis Weight	1	4	11½
28 Iron Wedges Weight	0	4	2½
8 Hacks Weight	0	2	5
11 New Chains for ye Lads to Draw Corves with	0	0	9
1 Nail-Tool and Several pieces of Iron	0	2	6
5 Wimbles, a blasting Gavlack, & 3 pair of Tongs	0	1	11
1 Fireporr Shovel & 3 Hamers	0	1	8
1 other Pick a.nd a Hamer	0	1	8
Tot there -	8	0	3½

THE MASHAMSHIRE COLLIERIES

Also 24 Corves, and 16 Crooks belonging them, 36 Shovels, 6 watertubs one going Grind-Stone, and 8 axes to Fell Timber with —

I do hereby Acknowledge to have in my custody the above Said Catalogue of All and Every of the Tools and Uttenfills being the Proper Goods of the Honourable Abstrupus Danby Esq. and belonging to his Colliery at Colsterdale as Witnefs my hand this fifth day of October 1734.

(signed) George Cagill

Test. (signed)	}	Further Tools to be added to above Said	
Ralph Lambton		account - for which See Francis Glew's	
Francis Glew		2 New Picks	0 : 1 : 4
Henry Proctor		2 New Corves	
	}	2 New Shovels	
Francis Glew			
		Tott weight	8 : 1 : 7½

(signed) George Cagill

—o0o—

Lord Moira's Queries about Lead Ore. (undated S.W.F.)

(One sheet with one rather flowing hand and the answers written first in pencil and later inked in in a neater hand. S.W.F.)

Q. Is the Lead Ore found in the Cleft of Sparry Rock such as the piece which sticks to the Specimen of the Ore?

A. The Rider Side only has been discovered.

Q. At what depth were these Specimens found?

A. In a deep Vale and though on the Surface the Ground almost immediately rises to a considerable Height, perhaps from 8 to 12 yards.

Q. Were they enveloped in Clay, so as to be completely separated from each other?

A. Not separated but broken from the Rider Side of the Vein.

Q. If there for the appearance of a Cleft of Sparry Rock in which these Specimens were found, what is the Direction of that Cleft? Does it point into the heart of the Hill, or run as a tangent on its' Face? Is it near the summit of the Hill, & is its bearing upward or downward?

A. There is no Cleft but from the Appearance of the Rider Side of the Cleft will point into the Heart of the Hill - it is at the Distance of about 150 Yards from the Summit of the Hill and its Bearing is upward.

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Bradford City Art Gallery & Museums, Cartright Memorial Hall, Bradford, 9.

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