

# MEMOIRS

## 1967



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## WHARFEDALE MINE

**J.M. Dickinson and M.C. Gill**

The mine is situated on Moor End Fell 1 mile SSW of Kettlewell in Wharfedale Yorkshire, (NGR SD952728) at an altitude of 1500 O.D. Working three East West trending veins. The western parts of the veins are in the old mineral liberty of "Grassington cum Membris" now held by the Dukes of Devonshire. To the East the veins are in the Royalty of the Trust Lords of Kettlewell. The date of the first mining on these veins is not known, but sometime prior to 1859 a mine was being worked under the name of New Providence, and was possibly started by the owners of Providence Mine at Kettlewell. In the 1850's a new Company was formed and worked the mine under the name of Wharfedale Mine. Their works consisted of a shaft 18½ fathoms deep, equipped with water powered winding gear. From this shaft a drift called Wharfedale Level was driven west in the Sun or South Vein until it was lost, a short crosscut North regained the vein (1859) which was followed and called North Vein, the eastern limit of the workings being reached in August 1862.

An adit level called Charlton's Level, was driven on Sun Vein towards the Engine Shaft from a point 18 fathoms lower down the fell side for 266 fathoms but did not connect as far as is known to the sumphs from Wharfedale Level.

Some time after 1870 the Company was trying to raise money in order to drive Charlton's Level up under the Engine Shaft to dewater the sumphs from Wharfedale level which contained good ore.

A raise put up from the forehead of Charlton's Level cut enough ore to pay for the working of the mine in the year 1870. As far as is known no further development was carried out.

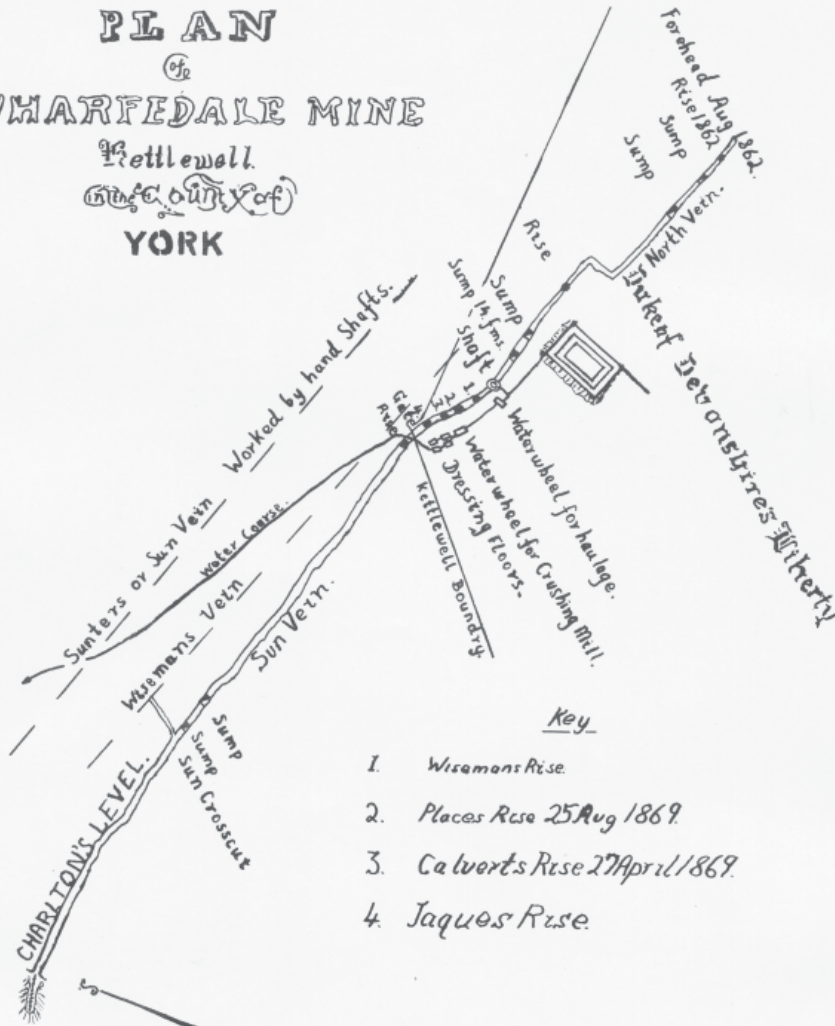
The surface arrangements for the dressing of the ore were very elaborate and quite extensive, dressed stone Bouse teams being made at the engine Shaft. Water powered Cornish rolls of the same type as those at Providence Mine were also installed, and it is most probable that some form of mechanical hotching tub or an early type of jig was used on the dressing floor.

[9]

Two references from the Mining Journal state:- "Feb., 5th 1859 Wharfedale Mine, The water wheel and crusher at this mine erected". And "Mar. 5th 1859 Wharfedale Mine, This Company who have worked with spirit for some time and who have erected machinery and got it to work, have cut a rich mine in a crosscut which was ordered to be put in, some time ago by Captain William Craig".

WHARFEDALE MINE

**PLAN**  
 of  
**WHARFEDALE MINE**  
 Kettlewell.  
*W.C. Oakes*  
**YORK**

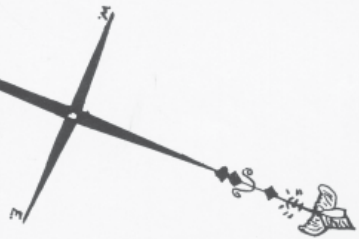
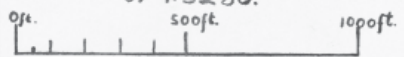


Key

- 1. Wisamons Rise.
- 2. Places Rise 25 Aug 1869.
- 3. Calverts Rise 27 April 1869.
- 4. Jaques Rise.

Scale 12 inches represents 1 mile

or 1:5280.



The strata involved in this area extends from the lower part of the Millstone Grit Series, through some of the Yoredale sediments of d3 age, to the lower Limestones of d2 age.

The Millstone Grit Series are here represented by beds of massive grit interbedded with shales and thin coal seams. This series is transgressive Southwards over underlying Yoredale beds, so that the higher beds of the latter series are progressively cut out going Southwards.

The Yoredale d3 beds here consist of massive white of grey limestones and are well exposed along the lower slopes of the valley of the River Wharfe.

The three East West veins at Wharfedale mine have all been tried, the Southern most Sunters or Sun Vein has only been worked by hand shafts. Wisemans Vein has been tried from the surface by hand shafts and by a crosscut from Charlton's Level. The main Vein North and Sun Vein was worked for a length of 2,200 ft to a depth of 36 fathoms from surface at the Engine Shaft. Four samples taken at random from the tips and dressing floors show the vein matrix to be very mixed.

- 1) Galena in clear to purple Fluorspar with Barite.
- 2) Zinc with Galena in Calcite-Fluorspar with a trace of Smithsonite.
- 3) Barytes with Amber to clear Fluorspar.
- 4) Vein Stone - Calcite, Fluorspar Barite mix, with limonite.

Ref: Foster-Smith. J.R. Springs Wood Level, Starbotton. N.C.M.R.S. Individual Survey Series Publication No.1. December 1966.

WHARFEDALE MINE

