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MINES & MINE OWNERS IN THE CENTRAL PENNINES
Part 1. Swaledale & Wensleydale

J. Lawson

The first section of this paper has previously been published and tabulated the production figures for the mines in Swaledale, Wensleydale, Wharfedale and Nidderdale.¹ For the sake of convenience the description of the mine owners has been split into two sections, the first of which covers Swaledale and Wensleydale.

Although information has been published in part only on the lessors of the Yorkshire mines, this only partially agrees with the information given here and without further documentary research I am not in a position to correct the discrepancies that occur. The information in this account is primarily derived from the 'Mineral Statistics of Great Britain & Ireland' published by the Geological Survey, and the period covered is 1860 to 1881. Unless otherwise noted the mines were working continuously from 1860 to 1881.

Swaledale

1.1 Arkengarthdale

Little information is given about the location of these mines, but presumably they include the major mines in Arkengarthdale. In 1860 the mines were being worked by the Arkendale Co. with Thomas Coates as manager, the lessees being Jaques & Roper. In 1862 Thomas Raw became manager and agent also in 1865. In 1868 the new manager was G. Alderson with L. Wharton as agent. In 1869 two separate entries occur viz:

'Arkendale Mining Co. Arkendale, Swaledale. Mathew Woodward agent.'
'Arkengarthdale/Swaledale. Whitwell & Co. Robt Wharton manager, Thomas Mason agent.'

The separate entries occur until 1871 when they are joined as follows,

'Arkendale or Arkengarthdale, Arkendale Mining Co. Mathew Woodward and Robt Wharton agents.'

In 1872, Mathew Woodward became the manager and Jos Craig agent. In 1874 Joseph Carter became company secretary and in 1878 Craig is replaced as agent by William Peacock. In 1880 William Whitwell became company purser and Robt Wharton is no longer mentioned.

According to the Victoria County History of Yorkshire, the C.B. Mines were worked under the direction of Mr Hall by the Arkengarthdale & Darwent Mining Co. from 1800-1825. This A.D. Co must not be confused with the A.D. Co of Sir George Denys, the latter not being formed until 1873.² Mr Hall is stated to have employed 2,000 men and raised about 2,000 tons annually. In 1828 these mines were taken over by Messrs Robinson & Co, and 21 years later by Messrs Jaques & Co, who were in turn succeeded by Messrs Whitwell & Co. who worked the mines for 21 years up until 1891. This information throws light on the peculiar divisions of owners in 1868. As we have seen from 1860 to 1868 Jaques & Roper were the lessees and this agrees with the year 1869 quoted above as the year for the closing of Messrs Jaques operations. Presumably Whitwell & Co. initially only took over half the lease and then in 1871 took over the full lease.

1.2 The Hurst Mines

These mines were leased to the Hurst Company. In 1874 it became called the Hurst Mining Company. The owner of the mineral rights throughout the period is believed to be Francis Morley Esq, and the lessee C.L. Bradley & Co. Robert Daykin was the manager from 1860 to 1862. In this year R. Metcalfe became the manager and he continued in this capacity until 1881. Agents however, changed more frequently; in 1868 Robt Wharton became the agent. He was replaced in 1874 by John Hillary who continued in the job until 1880 when he was joined by W.A. Waggett. In 1875 James March became the company secretary until 1880 when H.T. Robinson replaced him.

1.3 The Blakethwaite Mines

These mines were initially leased to C.L. Bradley & Co by the owner of the mineral rights - Sir George Denys. In 1862, the Blakethwaite Co. is the lessee, and in 1867 Sir George leased the mines to his own company. In 1860-61 John & Robert Lowes were the agents; in 1862 Ralph Place became the agent until 1869 When he became manager also. This continued until 1872 When Thomas Raw became the agent with Place as manager. In 1873 the mines were suspended and remained so until 1878 when they were merged with the Swinnergill Mine (A.D. Co).

Crabtree states that the A.D. Company was formed in 1873 and the statistics bear this out, since entries for this company only appear after this date (see Swinnergill).² Raistrick, however, states that this company was formed from the old Blakethwaite Co., but before 1870, and hence is in direct contrast to Crabtree.³ The conflict between the two views is more easily explained when we consider that the original Blakethwaite Co. was wound up in 1862 and a new one formed around Sir George Denys.⁴ This resulted in R. Place being appointed the new company's agent, and also Bradley & Co. are not mentioned after this date. This new company must have continued until 1867 when it also was wound up: see (1) and (2).

The mine then fell entirely into Sir George's hands, who worked the mine until the final suspension of the mines in 1873. This also agrees with the known production figures.¹ No further work was carried out at this mine after this date, although the title was merged with Swinnergill.

I would suggest that Raistrick has assumed that the company Sir George formed prior to 1870 to work the Blakethwaite mine was in fact the A.D. Company, whereas Crabtree has assumed that all working of the Blakethwaite Mine ceased with the winding-up of the 1867 Company and there was nothing in between this and the forming of the A.D. Company in 1873. We can see from the above that Sir George himself held the lease in the years between and perhaps reaped the reward. (1867-1872 686 tons of ore). A similar situation arose with Surrender mine but we know less of the details.

1.4 The Beldi Hill Mines

The mineral lord of these mines was Thomas Smith Esq., and they were leased to the Beldi Hill Co. whose owners were Milner, Knowles and Company. Mr Ralph Milner of Reeth was manager. In 1871 the manager was James Clarkson and in 1872 he shared the job with James Alderson. Entries continue until 1876, when it is deleted, but it reappears in 1880 with the same managerial staff and is still there in in 1881.

1.5 Grinton

This is a crown liberty leased to the Grinton Moor Company, whose owners were Simpson & Co. Their manager until 1862 was T. Raw and after that date, R. Wharton who continued until 1870, when E. Alderson became the manager. In 1873 the company's name was changed to the Grinton & Ellerton Mining Co. The following year the name was again changed to the Ellerton Moor Mining Co, with Emmerson Alderson as manager. The entries continue until 1875 when the entry reads 'Abandoned December 25th 1875'. However, the entry reappears in 1878 and continues until 1881. This later entry may be a title holding only.

1.6 Old Gang Mines

The mineral rights of these prolific mines were owned by Sir George Denys. The operators were the Old Gang Co., and Jaques, Simpson & Co were the lessees. In 1860 the manager was Thomas Coates but in 1862 T. Raw became manager and continued in this capacity until 1867. In the following year Francis Taylor became the manager and Richard Peacock the agent. In 1869 the title manager is omitted and Taylor became the company secretary; this continued until 1871 When Simon Cherry took over the position. In 1872 the position of manager was filled by J.A. Clarkson and he became the company secretary in 1873, with Sam Richardson as the new manager. Also, in 1873, Simon Cherry took over as agent. In the following

year it appears that both Simon Cherry and Richard Peacock are joint agents with Sam Richardson as manager. No mention is made of the position of company secretary. The above managerial position then remains as stated until 1881. The rapid changing of agents and managers is very interesting and probably reflects the increasing influence of Sir George Denys in the Old Gang Co's affairs after 1867.

1.7 Busy Mine

This mine is quoted in 1860 only, with the following quotation: 'Mr Milner, Reeth, agent'. No evidence is given for location.

1.8 Beezy Mine

This mine appears from 1860-75 with the further information of location - Reeth, Thomas Mason - agent.

1.9 Ellerton Moor

Entries first appear in 1860, with W.S.E. Drayx Esq as the proprietor and Marmduke Wyvill as lessee. In 1870 the Grinton Moor Company hold the lease with E. Alderson as manager. In 1874 the company name is changed to the Ellerton Moor Mining Co. with Emmerson Alderson as manager. The entries continue until 1881.

1.10 Fall End or Fell End Mines

In 1860 Robt Daykin is the agent, the company being Owen Clough & Co. In 1865 the company was taken over by the Arkindale Co. with Thomas Raw as manager. In 1868 the new manager was G. Alderson, following the departure of Thomas Raw to Greenside Mine. In 1869 the company became the Fell End Co with L. Wharton as agent. In 1871 Richard Peacock became the manager and S. Cherry the agent. In 1875 J.A. Clarkson became the company secretary and entries continued until 1881. Obviously the final working of the mines was by either the Old Gang Co. or directly by Sir George Denys, using the Old Gang Co's agents.

1.11 Surrender Mine

In 1860 Sir George Denys is the lessor and the mine is worked by the Surrender Mining Co. who were owned by C. Robinson & Co. with Thomas Raw as manager. In 1864 Emmerson Alderson became manager. In 1868 Sir George's own company took over the working with Ralph Place as agent. It seems more than coincidental that the company was wound-up in the same year that the Blakethwaite Co. was, and a possible explanation is that the same shareholders held the majority of the shares in both. companies. In 1872 Thomas Raw took over as manager, and in 1877 the A.D. Co. took over the mine with W.S. Cooper as secretary. In 1880 the mine name is changed to Surrender A.D.

1.12 Whiteside

In 1860 Mr Milner of Reeth is the agent, and Adam Barker the manager, the company name being Summer Lodge Mines Co. In 1868 the company name is changed to the Whiteside Mines Co. Frans. Garth is the manager in 1874, and the last entry appears in 1875.

1.13 West Swaledale

In 1860 the mineral lessees were John and Robert Lowes operating the West Swaledale Co. with C.L. Bradley as agent. The mineral owner is Sir George Denys and others. Entries continue until 1867 when they cease.

1.14 Merrybent

This mine is included as being in Swaledale, and in 1863 is noted as Merrybent Copper mine, located at Melsonby and owned by the Merrybent Mining Co., with John Cain as manager. In 1867 the manager is S. Richardson, replaced in 1869 by J. Tattersall when the company name is Merrybent Mine Co. and it is also noted that the mine is a lead producer, as well as copper. In 1872 Anthony Robinson is manager and in 1874 the company name is changed to the Merrybent Mining & Smelting Co. with John Wade as company secretary and W.B. Welch as manager, A. Robins on being now agent. In 1876 the company is noted as being in liquidation.

1.15 Kisdon Mine

Entries appear from 1867 to 1871 under the title of Kisdon Mine, worked by the Kisdon Company with Ralph Place as agent. Entries finish in 1870 which agrees with Crabtree's statement that the mine was abandoned in January 1870.⁵

1.16 Stonesdale Mine

Entries first appear in 1867 when the mine is being operated by the Stonesdale Company with Robert Lowes as agent. Entries finish in 1872.

1.17 Swaledale South Mine

In 1867 the mine is located as being south of Harkerside and Ralph Place is the agent. In 1868 the company is named for the first time as being the South Swaledale Co, and entries finish in 1871.

1.18 Risdon Mine

Little information is given about this mine except that it appears from 1868 to 1871. It is probable that this is one of the mines worked by the Kisdon Mining Co.⁵ but as Crabtree does not name the Individual mines correctly, which of them is Risdon is impossible to discern.

1.19 Yorkshire Mine

Entries for this mine appear from 1868 to 1872 but without any more specific information. One can only assume that it is an incorrect entry and should appear under Nidderdale.

1.20 Swinnergill Mine

This mine first appears in 1873 and is listed as ‘Swinnergill (Part of Blakethwaite)’, worked by the A.D. Mining Co, owned by Mr Cooper, with Thomas Raw as agent. In 1874 the location is given as Millbecks (i.e. Melbecks), worked by the A.D. Lead Mining Co, with W.S. Cooper as secretary, Thomas Raw as manager and Robt Wharton as agent. In 1876 the title now includes Blakethwaite and by 1878 only Raw’s name appears, as manager. In 1880 the mines is known as ‘Swinnergill A.D. – Sir Francis’ and located at Gunnerside. Since the Sir Francis level was known to have been started in 1864² the above description does not entirely fit the known facts.

General Comments

The peculiar naming of Swinnergill has been commented on above. It is interesting to note that the production figures of ‘Swinnergill’ quoted previously¹ agree with the known history of Sir Francis level² for we know that the increase in lead production as shown in the yearly figures (1877-78) is associated with the cutting of Friarfold Vein in March 1877.

The movements of Thomas Raw deserve some comment. In 1860 he was working with the Arkendale and Old Gang Cos. However, he left them in 1867 to go to the Greenside mine⁶ but left there in 1871 and is back at Surrender in 1872. It is interesting to note that the A.D. Co. was formed only one year after his return and one cannot help but speculate that Sir George needed an experienced man to run the new company.

Crabtree² states that the A.D. Co, was formed in 1873 and the statistics bear this out for the company is only mentioned in the returns after this date (see Swinnergill (1)). Raistrick³ states that the A.D. Co. was formed from the old Blakethwaite Co but obviously there must have been an interim holding company. This was presumably Sir George Denys himself for as noted above, both Blakethwaite & Surrender were both held by him following the winding up of their respective companies in 1867, prior to the taking over of the leases by the A.D. Co.

Wensleydale

Where locations are given for mines in Wensleydale, these are taken from the details in the 'Mineral Statistics'.

2.1 Apedale Mine

Location - north side of the valley, 9 miles from Leyburn. Lessor: Lord Bolton, lessee: Tattersall, Willis & Co, worked by the Apedale Company. The mine appears as above from 1860 to 1874 when the mine was called Apedale Head and John Tattersall was the manager. In 1876 the company is now called the Apedale Head Mining Co, and in 1880 John Cain is the manager. Entries continue in 1881.

2.2 Aithwaite Mine

Location - 8 miles from Leyburn, on the north side of the river. Lessor: Messrs Winn. The above details are given from 1860 to 1868 when the mine name is changed to Aithwaite End and the mine is noted as being suspended. Entries continue to appear until 1876.

2.3 Aysgarth Mine

Located on the south side of the river, 9 miles from Leyburn. The lessee is Tattersall & Company, and the mine appears in the lists for 1860 only.

2.4 Aysgarth Moor Mine

Situated on the south side of the river, 9 miles from Leyburn. The lessor is H.T. Robinson, the lessee Costobadie & Co. Entries appear from 1860 to 1878.

2.5 Askrigg Moor Mine

12 miles from Leyburn on the south side of the river, the lessor being The Crown. The lessee was Thos Mason from 1862 to 1865, and Joshua Byers & Son from 1866 to 1872.

2.6 Brownfield Mine

The location is on the north side of the river, 8 miles from Leyburn. The lessor is Lord Bolton and the lessee is Dobson & Co. from 1860 to 1875. In 1876 the lessee is the Apedale Head Mining Co., with entries finishing in 1878.

2.7 Bolton Gill Mine

On the north side of the river, 5 miles from Leyburn. The mineral lessor being Lord Bolton, and the lessee Storey & Co. from 1860 to 1865. In 1866 the mine is known as Bolton Park, worked by the Bolton Park Co., owned by storey & Co. George Spenceley was the manager, and entries finish in 1872.

2.8 Bishopdale Mine

The mine first appears in 1862 and is deleted in 1872. The location is given as on the south side of the river 14 miles from Leyburn, the lessor Ralph Lodge and the lessee Sarginson & Co. (Editorial Note: location is transposed with 2.12)

2.9 Burton West Mine

This mine first appears in 1860 with the location given as on the south side of the river 8 miles from Leyburn, and the lessee as Tattersall & Co. Entries appear until 1874 when it is omitted. It reappears in 1876 as Burton West mine, at Bedale, worked by Henry Pease & Co., with John Cain as manager. Entries appear until 1881 and it is noted as being abandoned February 1882, by the Exors. of Henry Pease.

2.10 Cat Scar Mine

First appears in 1860 and ends in 1864, the location being on the south side of the river, 8 miles from Leyburn. The lessee is given as Tattersall & Co.

2.11 Keld Heads & Crenia Bottom Mine

This mine first appears in 1860 and is located on the north side of the river, 5 miles from Leyburn. The lessor was Lord Bolton and the lessee Bowman & Co. working under the title 'Keldheads & Company Mines'. In 1866 Anthony Johnson is the manager and in 1868 Thomas Kirby is the chairman. In 1869 the manager is Jonathan Coatsworth and Crenia Bottom is changed to Brownfield. In 1875 Thomas Davidson became the agent and in 1877 J.H. Rodwell is the manager. Also in 1877 the location is modified to 'Wensley-Bedale' and in 1879 Charles Rowe and J.A. Rodwell are called agents. Brownfield is deleted from the title in 1879 and in 1880 the company is owned by Thomas Dymond Esq with J.A. Rodwell as manager and Charles Rowe as agent. Entries continue until 1881.

2.12 Gavel Bishopdale Mine

This mine first appears in 1866 and is located on the north side of the river, 4 miles from Leyburn, with H.T. Robinson as lessor. In 1874 it is known as Gavel mine, owned by the Starbotton & Buckden Gavel Mining Co., with B. Lodge as secretary. In 1876 the company changes to B. Lodge & Bowdin, whilst in 1877 Bernard Lodge is noted as agent. In 1880 the title is now Starbotton & Buckden; entries continue in 1881. (Editorial Note: location is transposed with 2.8)

2.13 Down Holme Mine

This mine first appears in 1866 and is located 4 miles from Leyburn. Lord Bolton is the lessor; Dobson & Ray & Co. the lessees, the last entry appears in 1871.

2.14 Sargill Park Mine

This mine first appears in 1860 and is situated on the north side of the river 15 miles from Leyburn. The lessor is Lord Wharnccliffe & the company Sargill Mines Co., the lessee being Messrs Winn. In 1868 the mine name is changed to Sargill Side worked by Henry Pease with John Cain as manager. The location in 1877 is given as 'Hawes-Bedale' and entries continue until 1881.

2.15 Raigill Mine

This mine first appears in 1860 and is situated near Hawes. The lessor is given as the Lord Trustees of the Manor of Bainbridge and the lessee the Leeds Mining Co. Entries appear until 1881.

2.16 Thornton Moor Mine

This mine first appears in 1860 and is situated on the south side of the river, 10 miles from Leyburn. The lessor is Lord Bolton and the lessee Percival & Co. In 1873 the mine is suspended but reappears in 1874: in 1875 it is again suspended and entries finally finish in 1877.

2.17 Woodhall Mine

This mine first appears in 1860 and is located on the north side of the river 9 miles from Leyburn. The lessor is Lighfoot's Devises and the lessees Messrs. J. Winn. In 1874 the mine is noted as being suspended) and owned by the Woodhall Mining Co., with J. Raisbech as manager. In 1877 it reappears without the suspension notice but entries cease in the following year.

2.18 Virgin Mine

This mine first appears in 1860 and is situated on the north side of the river 7 miles from Leyburn with Lord Bolton as the lessor and George Harker under the name of Virgin Mines Co., as lessee. Entries finish in 1878.

2.19 How Bank Mine

First appears in 1862, situated on the south side of the river 9 miles from Leyburn, with Lord Bolton as the lessor and Cregg & Co. as the lessees. In 1869 the mine was merged with Wet Grooves.

2.20 Wasset Fell & Walden Head Mine

First noted in 1862, located on the south side of the river 13 miles from Leyburn. The lessor was H.T. Robinson and the lessee Thwaite & Co. In 1873 the mine is noted as being suspended; in 1880 the suspension is noted as lifted and entries continue in 1881.

2.21 Wet Groves Mine

This mine first appears in 1868 without any further information and in the following year is merged with How Bank. Lord Bolton is the lessor and J. Tattersall the agent. In 1871 the company name is given as John Bowman. In 1872 How Bank is dropped from the title and the location is given as Askrigg, owned by J.H. Bowman & Son with John Tattersall as manager. Entries finish in 1879.

2.22 Worton Mine

First appears in 1877 and is located at Bedale the operating company being the Worton Mining Co. In 1880 Joseph Hopper is named as manager and the location given as Bainbridge-Bedale. Entries continue in 1881.

2.23 Pen Hill Mine

This mine only appears in 1881 and is located at West Witton, owned by Hammond and Henry Cradock, with John Cain as manager.

General Comments

The author has been unable to find any details about the Wensleydale mines except those published by the Geological Survey. I hope that the details published in Table Two will stimulate further research for clearly, much more information is needed on this area.

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J. Lawson
11 Hillside Drive
Wallbridge Park
Leek Staffs.
ST13 8JQ

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