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MINES & MINE OWNERS IN THE CENTRAL PENNINES
Part 2. Wharfedale & Nidderdale
with Airedale

J. Lawson

This account is derived from the information published in Mineral Statistics of Great Britain & Ireland, edited by R. Hunt and published by the Geological Survey. The period is 1860 to 1881, and unless otherwise stated the mines were working throughout this period.

Part one of this article dealt with the mines of Swaledale and Wensleydale.¹

Wharfedale

31.1 Appletreewick

In 1862 this mine is described as being 9 miles from Skipton and being worked by the Appletreewick Company, with Thomas Wiseman as manager and John Blackburn as company secretary. In 1867 the agents are Thomas Dalton and Thomas Wiseman, and in 1872 Wm. Newbould is the company agent. The following year, however, although the company secretary is Thomas Marshall, the mine is said to be suspended. The next entry is under Nidderdale and for further details see there.

3.2 Blubberhouses

In 1864 this mine is described as being situated at Otley without any further information. The following year it is deleted and the next entry is in 1867 when lady Frankland is noted as the lessor and Thomas Sykes the lessee and manager. The following year W.S. Winn is the manager. In 1872 the agent is Wm Stead and the company working the mine is the Blubberhouses Mining Co. The last entry is in 1873, although this mine may be the same one as the Perseverance (see 3.21).

3.3 Buckden Gavel or Gable

In 1860 this mine is incorrectly situated at Cononley but in 1862 it is more correctly described as being 20 miles from Skipton and in Wharfedale. The company working the mine is C. Lodge & Co. with C. Lodge as manager. In 1864 Charles Lodge is the agent and the next change is in 1872 when Bernard Lodge is the manager for the Gavel Mining Co. The last entry is in 1879, though ore production is recorded up until 1881.²

3.4 Burhill 1 & Burhill 2

These two mines are listed separately. In 1860 Thomas Woodmas was the agent for 1 and John Whitehead for 2, both mines are described as being at Pateley Bridge. In 1862 the mines are located in Wharfedale and 11 miles from Skipton. In 1868 mine number 2 is deleted and number 1 is being worked by the Burhill Mining Co. with Geo. Demain as manager. In 1878 Ed. Press is the agent and in 1879 Ben. Burrell the company secretary. In 1880 Ed. Press is now the agent and entries continue until 1881.

3.5 Cam Scar

In 1863 the mine is located 16 miles from Skipton. In 1864 the mine is being worked by Bell & Co and the last entry appears in 1811.

3.6 Coniston Out Moor

In 1860 the company working the mine is the Coniston Out Moor Co. with Robert Place as agent, and the location is 16 miles from Skipton. Ralph Place is the agent in 1869 and the last entry is for 1871.

3.7 Cracoe

In 1860 Metcalf & Co. are working the mine with Thomas Wiseman as the agent. The mine is said to be 7 miles from Skipton. The last entry is in 1867.

3.8 Craven Moor

This mine, in 1860, is located at Pateley, worked by the Craven Moor Mining Co. In 1862 it is further described as being 13 miles from Skipton in Wharfedale with Capt. Thomas Barron as the agent. In 1865 the agent is William Barron and in 1867 M. Newbould is the manager. The next entry is in 1871 when it appears under Nidderdale (see Table 4).

3.9 Elbolton

In 1864 the mine is said to be 7 miles from Skipton and being worked by Wilkes & Co. with James Ray Eddy as the manager. In 1872 Joshua Mason is now the manager and it is now described as being a lead/zinc mine and located at Linton/Skipton. In 1876 George Farley is the agent and the entries continue until 1881.

The later history of this mine has been recently described in part.³

3.10 Grassington

In 1860 the mine is located at 11 miles from Skipton, the operating company being the Duke of Devonshire and his agent James Ray Eddy. In 1876 Thomas Trevethan is also an agent. Entries continue until 1881.

3.11 Grimwith or Grimswith

This mine is first mentioned in 1863 when it is being worked by the Grimwith Mining Co and is said to be 14 miles from Skipton. In 1864 Thomas Sykes is the company secretary. In 1866 he is given as the manager, but in 1868 he is again the secretary with Wm. Hawley as the agent. John Appleby is given as the agent in 1872. Wm. Hawley is again agent in 1873 and in 1876 W.A. Nowell is the agent. In 1875 the company is noted as a limited liability one and no agent is named. The last entry appears in 1879.

For the detailed history of the mine, a paper was published by Dickinson.⁴

2.12 Hawswick

This mine appears in the period 1859 to 1868, without any further information.

3.13 Hebden Moor

This mine is entered under Wharfedale in 1860 and it appears here until 1872 when it is placed in Nidderdale (see 4.10). In 1862 it is described as being 11 miles from Skipton, worked by the Hebden Moor Mining Co. with Thomas Job as agent. In 1864 the agent is now W. Barron. In 1867 it is Jos. Heslop and a further change takes place when William Hill becomes the agent in 1868.

3.14 Kettlewell or Silver Rake

Located in 1860 as being 16 miles from Skipton with J. Vipond as the agent. In 1872 J.F. Mapin is the operating company and J.R. Place is the agent. In 1873 J.F. Masser is working the mine and J.R. Place is the manager. In 1874 the mine is known as Silver Rake, Kettlewell, the last entry appearing in 1880.

3.15 Limehead

This mine appears in 1860 and in 1864 is described as being 16 miles from Skipton. No other information is given.

3.16 Moor End

In 1860 the mine is located in Wharfedale with Robert Place as the agent the mine company being the Wharfedale Company. The last entry is in 1866.

3.17 Middles Moor

This mine appears in 1860 when its locality is given as Skipton. In 1864 it is being worked by the Charlton Company, and the last entry is in 1867. It is presumably located SSW of Kettlewell.

3.18 Mossdale

In 1862 this mine is described as being at Skipton, worked by the Mossdale Mining Co. with Robert Place as agent. In 1864 it is located 16 miles from Skipton. In 1870 it is deleted, but reappears in 1872 when it is being worked by the Conistone Out Moor Company, with John R. Place as the manager. In 1873 it is described as 'Mossdale, Conistone, Kettlewell, Moordale Mining Co, John R. Place manager'. In 1875 W. Gibson & Co. are working the mine. In 1876 John Place is the manager and agent. The entries finish in 1878.

3.19 New Providence

In 1868 this mine is being worked by the Charlton Co. and its location is given as being Skipton. The last mention of this mine is in 1874.

3.20 Old Providence

The first mention of this mine is in 1860 when it is being worked by the Leeds Mining Co. and is described as being 17 miles from Skipton, the agent being Ralph Place, in 1868. In 1873 W. Sykes Ward is working the mine with John R. Place as manager. The last mention of this mine is in 1877.

3.21 Perseverance

This mine first appears in 1872 and is located at Blubberhouses the lessee being Lord Walsingham, the manager being W.S. Winn. In 1874 the company secretary is W. Stead, and in 1876 the company is now called the Persevering Mining Co., with W. Stead as secretary. The mine name is also changed to Persevering, and W.S. Winn is the manager. (See 3.2). The last mention of the mine is in 1877.

3.22 Silver Rake or Brackenthwaite

The first entry is for 1860 and the last is for 1873. Apart from a location of 16 miles from Skipton, in Wharfedale, given in 1862, there is no other information.

3.23 Starbotton Cam

First appears in 1860, with no details. In 1862 it is located 18 miles from Skipton, and in 1869 the company agent is named as Charles Lodge. In 1876 the company is named as the Gavel Mining Co, Bernard Lodge, Skipton. The last entry is for 1878.

3.24 Starbotton Moor End

First mentioned in 1862 when it is described as being 17 miles from Skipton and being worked by the Wharfedale Company. Robert Place is the agent and the last entry is in 1871.

3.25 Wharfedale

This mine first appears in 1870 when it is noted that Ralph Place is manager. In 1872 it is further located at Kettlewell. In 1873 the ownership is given as Wharfedale Mining Co, with W.H. Burrell as secretary and J.R. Place as agent. In 1879 a note is added that W.H. Burrell is the liquidator. It reappears in 1880 still under liquidation, but this is the last entry.

3.26 Yorkshire

Some confusion occurs in the lists over this mine. It is first mentioned in 1868 (as opposed to the Nidderdale one) as being in Swaledale but in the following year it is moved to Wharfedale where it is recorded as being worked by the Leeds Mining Co. with R.W. Bainbridge as agent. It is said to be located 14 miles from Skipton. In 1872 the London Lead Co. appears as the working company and entries continue until 1881. The title Yorkshire was used for the London Lead Co's mines in the county, and it appears to have been confused in the records with another mine of the same title.

General Comments

J.R. Place seems to have been the main driving force behind many of the mines in this area during the period under review. Raistrick considers that he was instrumental in reviving the Conistone Moor mines.⁵

The history of the Grimwith Lead Mining Co. has been related in part⁴ and the figures given here agree with the published account. The Wharfedale mine has been described in two separate accounts^{6,7} but there appears to be a confusing situation with regard to this mine as neither description explains the full facts.

Nidderdale

4.1 Craven Coop

First appears in 1864 when it is described as being at Pateley Bridge with Mathew Newbould as agent. However, in the next year it is deleted. Its next appearance is in 1867 without any further information.

This mine is not mentioned in the survey of the Greenhow mines.⁸

4.2 Cockhill

The location is given as Pateley Bridge and the first mention

is in 1860 when the mine was being worked by the Cockhill company and M. Newbould is the agent. In 1864 the mine is described as Sunside Cockhill and for further details see that entry.

4.3 Appletreewick (New)

The first mention of this mine is in 1875 when it appears under Nidderdale and is described as being at Skipton, worked by the New Appletreewick Mining Co, with Jas. Leith as secretary and E. Dunkin as manager. In 1877 'New' is dropped from the title and the mine is now described as being at Burnsall-Skipton. The company is now a limited liability one and A. Hargraves is the company agent. Entries continue until 1881.

4.4 Appletreewick Gill

In 1875 this mine is described as being at Skipton and being worked by the Appletreewick Gill Mining Co. with W. Newbould as the agent. In 1877 the name is changed to the Appletreewick Gill Heads mine and the company to the Appletreewick Gill Heads Mining Co. In 1878 the mine is described as Winns Level and in 1879 Samuel Pullar is the company manager. In 1880 the mine is described as Middlehill Level and Storey's Shaft.

4.5 Craven Cross

The mine is first mentioned in 1868 when it is being worked by the Craven Cross Co. with J. Snells as agent and W. Newbould as manager. In 1869 John Snell & Co. are working the mine and the last entry appears in 1870.

4.6 Craven Moor

The first entry for this mine is under Wharfedale (table 3) but in 1871 it appears in the Nidderdale list and is described at Greenhow Hill, Pateley Bridge, John Snell & Co. are working the mine and the agent is W. Newbould. In 1873 the mine is described as being at Appletreewick worked by Messrs Sharp, with David Williams as the manager. In 1875 the name is changed to Craven Moor West and entries continue until 1881.

4.7 Craven Moor East

First mentioned in 1879, being worked by the East Moor Co. with David Williams as agent. Entries continue until 1881.

4.8 Blayshaw Gill

This mine is first mentioned in 1875 when it is described as being at Pateley Bridge and worked by the Blayshaw Gill Co. with Robt. Lotty as secretary and J. Appleby as agent. In 1878 John Appleby is company secretary and agent, and, in 1879 he is joined by Jas. R. Peacock as joint agent. In 1881 John Appleby is the manager and Robt. Lobley the agent.

4.9 Forest Moor

In 1862 this mine is said to be at Pateley Bridge worked by the Cockhill Mining Co. with Mathew Newbould as agent. The last mention of this mine is however, in 1868. It has been said⁸ that these mines were exhausted by 1760, but this is obviously not so.

4.10 Holebottom & Hardcastle

These mines are first included in 1867 and are described as being worked by the Nidderdale Mining Co. with Thomas Sykes as the company secretary. In 1868 Hardcastle has been dropped from the title and this is the last entry until 1876, when Hardcastle reappears as being worked by the Sunside Mining Co and entries continue until 1881.

4.11 Hebden Moor

This mine is first listed under Wharfedale (table 3) but in 1872 it appears under the Nidderdale lists. In this year it is being worked by the Hebden Moor Mining Co. with William Hill as the agent. In 1878 J.W. Close is noted as the secretary and the last entry is in 1880.

4.12 Merrifield

The first mention of this mine is in 1860 when it is described as being at Pateley Bridge with William Champion as the manager. In 1864 it is being worked by the Nidderdale Mining Co. with T. Sykes as the company secretary and Wm. Marshall as the agent, in 1868. In 1871 it is added to the title of the Sunside Mines (q.v.)

4.13 Nidderdale

This mine is described in 1860 as being at Pateley Bridge and worked by the Nidderdale Mining Co with Thomas Sykes as the company secretary. In 1868 Wm. Marshall is the manager and the mine is now noted to include the titles of Prosperous, Providence and part of Merrifield. In 1871 it is listed under Sunside, but in 1875 the entry Nidderdale reappears and is stated to include Prosperous, Providence, part of Merrifield, and Sunside. The company is now a limited one and entries continue until 1881.

4.14 Pateley Bridge

This mine first appears in 1875 when it is being worked by the Pateley Bridge Lead Mining and Smelting Co. W.T. Lavington is the secretary, J. Blenkinsop is agent and Charles Williams is the manager. In 1879 the mine is said to include Sunside and Cockhill and T. Hutchinson is the agent. In 1880 Williams is no longer included and entries continue in 1881.

4.15 Pateley Bridge West

In 1879 the mine is described as being worked by the West Pateley Bridge Co. with David Williams as agent. Entries continue until 1881.

4.16 Sunside

In 1860 this mine first appears but without any further details. In 1862 it is said to be at Pateley Bridge with Mathew Newbould as the agent for the Cockhill Co. In 1864 the mine is joined with Cockhill mine and entries continue in this way until 1871 when Merrifield is added to the title. The working company is now the Nidderdale Mining Co. with William Marshall as agent. In 1872 the company is now changed to the Sunside Mining Co. In 1874 the title includes the Nidderdale Mines i.e. Prosperous, Providence and a part of Merrifield. In the following year Nidderdale appears as a separate entry (q.v.) and the company is now the Sunside Mining Co. with T. Hutchinson as the manager. In 1879 the title is now reworded as the Sunside & Merrifield mine, worked by the Sunside and Merrifield lead Mining Co. with Thos. Sykes as agent. This is the last entry.

4.17 Prosperous

The mine is first noted in 1860 without further details. In 1862 Stoney Groves is added to the title. In 1864 they are separated and Wm. Marsh is the agent for the Prosperous Company. The last entry is in 1868 although it now appears under Nidderdale.

4.18 Providence

First mentioned in 1862 when John Ashworth is the agent and the last entry is in 1867.

It has been said⁸ that Providence and Prosperous were worked by the same company at this time but as they had separate agents, it is possible that this was not so.

4.19 Stoney Groves and Ransgill

This mine is first mentioned in 1862 when it is listed with Providence. In 1864 it is a separate entry with Mathew Newbould as manager. In 1866 the Nidderdale Mining Co. hold the lease with Mathew Newbould as manager and in 1871 the Stoney Groves Co. hold the lease with Thomas Sykes as the company secretary. In 1872 Burnaby and Hutchinson hold the lease with Wm. Newbould as the manager. In 1874 the title is changed to the Stoney Groves and part of Merrifield, worked by the Ransgill Mining Co. with D. Williams as manager. The following year the mine name becomes Ransgill, worked by the Ransgill Mining Co. with David Williams as manager, and entries continue until 1881.

4.20 Yorkshire

First mentioned in 1862 when Mathew Newbould was the agent and the company working the mine was the Yorkshire Mining Co. In 1871 J. Gledhill is named as the company secretary. In 1877 the agent is Samuel Simpson and in 1874 is added a note 'now driving a level nearly 1 mile long', presumably California level. The last entry is in 1880.

General Comments

It has been said⁷ that the Hebden Moor Mining Co. was wound-up in 1874 and the production figures tend to bear this out. As the table gives the closure as 1880 this may be due to title holding or non-productive exploration.

A similar situation arises with Nidderdale as it is said⁸ that this company was wound-up in or by 1872; the production figures confirm this, but the tables give 1881 as the last year of work, in the period covered by this account.

Other Areas

5.1 Braithwaite

In 1860 the mine is listed but no other information is given and in 1862 the mine is described as being at East Wilton with J. Bell as agent. In 1869 the working company is Jos. Wighley with the same as agent. In 1872 Thos. Rumbold is agent and in the following year the mine is suspended. Entries continue until 1877, but in 1876-7 suspension is not mentioned.

(Editorial note: this mine is probably located at East Witton in Coverdale.)

5.2 Cononley

From 1860 the lessee and lessor is given as the Duke of Devonshire with James Ray Eddy as agent. Entries appear until 1878 when the note is added 'advertised for sale Dec. 1878'.

5.3 Cowling

First mentioned in 1860 When it is said to be 6 miles from Skipton in Airedale. In 1864 the company name is Horner & Co and in 1868 T. Ward is the manager. In 1874 the company's name is deleted and. this is the last entry.

5.4 Lunehead

In 1861 this mine is described as being in Teesdale, the lessee being Mr Bowes, the lessor the London Lead Co. and their agent R.W. Bainbridge. The last entry is in 1878.

5.5 Ray Gill

In 1876 this mine is described as being in Lothersdale worked by the P.H. Spencer Co. With J. Lodd as the agent. The following year it is described as being a barytes mine and is wrongly entered under Wharfedale. Entries continue until 1881.

5.6 Skelhorne or Rimmington

In 1876 this mine is described as being at Rimmington worked by Baynes and Colville with R. Baynes as the agent. In 1878 it is incorrectly entered Under Swaledale and it continues there until 1881.

5.7 Teesdale

Mentioned in 1861 and 1862 as being worked by the Governor and Co. without any further information.

5.8 Whitwell

This mine in 1869 is described as being in the Higher Division of the Forest of Bowland worked by the Whitwell Mining Co. with John Lewis as the secretary and William Hayle as manager. In 1874 John Fowler is the company secretary and the last entry is in 1879.

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