

A SURVEY OF LEAD MINING IN WIRKSWORTH WAPENTAKE, 1650

transcribed by R. Slack

Abstract: A transcript of PRO E317/Derb/29A, a survey of the lead mining industry in the Wapentake of Wirksworth, carried out in 1650. Names the steward, chief barmaster and the deputy barmasters, describes the extent of the jurisdiction of each deputy barmaster, and gives the value of each "division", comprised of lot, cope and other income. There are descriptions of the barmasters' duties and the customs of the industry.

A survey of the proffitts and duties of the Lott and Copp of the Mynes of Leade, And alsoe of the Barmasters office within the Wapentake of Wirksworth in the Countie of Derby lying dispersed in severall Reakes and veines of Leade oare in severall places of the grounds within the said Wapentake called the Kings Fields And which were late pcell of the possessions of Charles Stuart late king of England in right of the Dutchy of Lancaster made & taken by us whose names are hereunto subscribed in the Month of July Anno Dom Stilo Anglie 1650 By vertue of Comission grounded upon the Act of the Commons assembled in Parlyat for the Sale of the Honnors Mannors & Lands heretofore belonging to the late king queen & prince under the Hands & Seales of Five or more of the Trustees in the saide Act named and appointed.

The proffitts & perquisitts of ye Court Leets & Court Barons of the Barmoot alias ye Barmasters Court holden att Wirksworth For the Govermt of the Mynes & Myners within the said Wapentake Fines & Amerciamts of Courts & all other Fees proffitts and advantages aunciently & of right belonging to the Barrmrs within the Wapentake aforesaide Wee value to bee worth to the present Farmer and Cheif Barrmrs or their Steward Ralph Allsopp gentl whoe now keeps the Barmoot Corte (annually) £6

Ralph Poyser: Undertenant

One small Cottage situate in Wirksworth aforesaide att the North end of ye Towne there & comonly called ye kings Coe & is now in the possession of Ralph Poyser one of the under Barrmrs of the Wapentake aforesaid wch Cottage hath tyme out of Minde belonged to the Farmers of the Lott and Copp or their Barmasters to measure oare therein And it is of the Yearlie value of 15/-

John Abell UnderBarrmr.

All that the Lott and Copp of those Mynes Reakes of Leade Oare within the Wapentake aforesaide Whereof John Abell is nowe att present UnderBarrmr whose Division and Jurisdiccon is lymited and confined within the Townes of Matlock Wensley & Snitterton only, And it is thus bounded and doth extend (viz) ytt runns along By the Towne and Feilds of Matlock East and the Towne of Wensley West And is bounded with the Townfeilds of Bonsall South And with the Village of Snitterton North And allsoe all that the Future and casuall Benefitt by Forfeitures for Fellony And by concealing of Oare or otherwise together with such Meers of ground halfe Meeres and Primme Gapps wch by finding a new Veine of Oare may by possibilitie accrew to the Farmers of Lott and Copp or their Barmasters wee vallue to bee worth (annually) £80

Will Needham UnderBarrmr

All that the Lott and Copp of those Mynes Reakes and Veines of Leade Oare within the Wapentake aforesaide whereof William Needham is now att present UnderBarrmaster whose division and Jurisdiccon is lymited and confined within the Boundaries of the Towne and p(ar)ish of Bonsall only extending itselfe in & throughout the same and Alsoe all that the future and casuall benefitt by forfeitures for Fellony and by concealing of Oare and otherwise together with such Meeres of Ground halfe Meeres and Prymme Gapps wch by finding a New Veine or Oare may by possibilitie accrew to the Farmers of the Lott and Copp or their Barrmrs Wee vallue to bee worth (annually) £40

John Willson UnderBarrmr

All that the Lott & Copp of those Mynes Reakes & Veines of Leade Oare within the Wapentake aforesaide whereof John Willson is now att present UnderBarrmr whose division and Jurisdiccon is limited and confined within the Boundaries of the L(ordshi)pp and Towne of Elton in the p(ar)ish of Youlgrave extending itself in & throughout the same only And allsoe all yt the future & casuall benefitt by Forfeitures for Fellony and by concealing of Oare or otherwise together with such Meeres of Ground half Meeres and Prymme Gapps wch by finding a New Veine of Oare may by possibilitie accrew to the Farmers of ye Lott and Copp or their Barrmrs Wee vallue to bee worth (annually) £20

Rich Marshall Underbarrmr

All the Lott & Copp of those Mynes Reaks & Veynes of Lead Oare within the Wapentake aforesaid whereof Richard Marshall is now att present underBarrmr whose division and Jurisdiccon is lymited and confined within the Towne feilds of Middleton iuxta Youlgrave extending itself in & throughout the same only And it is thus Bounded & doth extend (Viz) itt runns alonge & is bounded with the Towne & Feilds of Youlgrave South And is Bounden with the Towne & Feilds of Gretton upon the North & East pte And with the Towne Feilds of Hartington upon the West And alsoe all that ye future & casuall Benefitt by forfeitures for Fellony and by concealing of Oare or otherwise togeather with such Meeres of Ground half Meeres and Prymme Gapps which by finding a new Veyne of Oare may by possibilitie accrew to the Farmers of the Lott & Copp or their Barrmrs Wee vallue to bee worth (annually) _____ £14

Ralph Poyser UnderBarrmr

All that the Lott & Copp of those Mynes and Reakes & Veynes of Lead Oare within ye Wapentake aforesaid whereof Ralph Poyser is now att present UnderBarrmr whose division and Jurisdiccon is lymited and confined within the Towne Feilds of Hopton Caldlowe & pt of Wirksworth only And itt is thus bounded And doth extend (Viz) ytt runs alonge and is Bounded with the Townfeilds of Cromford North with ye Feilds of Caldlowe South with the Feilds of Middleton iuxta Wirksworth West & upon pt of Cromford Moore East And alsoe all that the future and casuall benefitt by Forefeitures for Fellony And by concealing of Oare or otherwise togeather with such Meeres of Ground halfe Meeres and Prymme Gapps wch by finding a new Veine of Oare may by possibilie accrew to the Farmers of the lott and Copp or their Barrmrs Wee vallue to bee (annually) _____ £36

Wm Blakewell UnderBarrmr

All that Lott & Copp of those Mynes Reakes and Veynes of Lead Oare within the Wapentake aforesaid whereof William Blackewell is now att present UnderBarrmr whose Division and Jurisdiccon is lymited & confined within the Towne Feilds of Brassington Bradbourne Tissington Allsopp in le Dale Eaton Mapleton Thorpe Bentley and Kniveton, extending itself in & throughout ye same & every of them And itt is thus Bounded and doth extend (Viz) ytt runs alonge & is bounded with ye Townfeilds of Kniveton East with ye p(ar)ish of Hartington West with the Ryver of Dove South And with ye Feilds of Wirksworth North And alsoe all that the Future & casuall Benefitt by forfeitures for Fellony & by concealing of Oare or otherwise togeather with such Meeres of Ground half Meeres of Ground and Prymme Gapps wch by finding a New Veine of Oare may be possibilitie accrew to the Farmers of the Lott & Copp or their Barrmrs Wee vallue to be worth (annually) _____ £61

Wm Hardye UnderBarrmaster

All that ye Lott & Copp of those Mynes Reaks & Veynes of Leade Oare within ye Wapentake aforesaid whereof Wm Hardye is now att present UnderBarrmr whose Division & Jurisdiccon is limited and confined within the Townfeilds of Cromford in ye p(ar)ish of Wirksworth & of Willoughbye in ye p(ar)ish of Matlock only and itt is thus Bounded and doth extend (Viz) itt runns alonge and is bounded with Cromford Moore East with a place called the Hall Acres West With ye Plott of the Dovegaine South And with the Feilds of Wildersley North And alsoe all that ye Futurte & casuall Benefitt of Forfeitures for Felony & by concealing of Oare or otherwise togeather with such Meeres of Ground half Meeres & Primme Gapps which by finding a new Veine of Oare may by possibilitie accrew to ye Farmers of ye Lott and Copp or their Barrmrs Wee vallue to be worth (annually) _____ £20

Tho: Spenser UnderBarrmr

All that ye Lott & Copp of those Mynes Reaks & Veynes of Leade Oare within ye Wapentake aforesd Tho: Spenser is now att present UnderBarrmr whose Division and Jurisdiccon is limited & confined within pt of ye Feilds of Wirksworth only And itt is thus Bounded & doth extend (Viz) ytt runns alonge & is bounded with ye Towne of Wirksworth South and with the Feilds of Bonsall North with the Feilds of Cromford East & with ye Townfeilds of Hopton West; And alsoe all that ye future & casuall Benefitt by forfeitures for felonie & by concealing of Oare or otherwise togeather with such Meeres of Ground half Meeres & Primme Gapps wch by finding a new Veine of Oare may by possibilitie accrew to the Farmers of ye Lott & Copp or their Barrmrs Wee vallue to bee worth (annually) _____ £29

Memorand(um) that ye Circuite of ye place called ye Plott of ye Dovegaine is not included in ye Lott & Copp of any of the UnderBarrmrs Divisions aforemenconed For thereof Wee shall give an Accompt in pticular by itt selfe.

Memorand(um) that king James by Indenture under ye Dutchy Seale dated ye seaven and Twentieth day of June in ye one and Twentieth yeare of his Raigne over England etc did in Consideracon of ye Surrender of a former Lease And of One hundred & ten pounds in hand paid Devise and Lease to Robert Parker Esqr the Mynes of Leade with the Lott & Copp within the Soake and Wapentake of Wirksworth togeather with the Office of ye Barrmrshipp al(ia)s Bearmrshipp within the Soake and Wapentake aforesaid with all the proffitts Comodities and advantages thereunto belonging To have and to hold the premisses from ye Five & Twentieth day of March then last past For the Terme of One and Thirtie yeares yeilding and paying therefore for ye Lott and Copp £72 p Ann And for the Barrmrs Office 26/8d Ann

payable att Lady Day and Mich(ael)mas And the Interest in this Lease is by severall meane Assignm(en)ts conveyed to John Millward and John Gell Esqrs whoe nowe enjoy the same.

And there are uppon ye 25th day of March next Three yeares to come and unexpired in the said Lease.

Memorand(um) alsoe that ye late king Charles by Indenture under the Dutchy Seale Dated ye Seaventh day of May in the Seaventh years of his Raigne did in consideracon of good service devise and Lease to David Ramsey gent ye Lead Mynes and the Lott and Copp togeather with the Barrmrs Office within the said Wapentake of Wirksworth To have and to hold ye premisses For one & Thirtie Years to beginn imediatelie after the expiracon or surrender of the former Lease made to Mr Parker Yeilding and paying therefore the like Rent of £72 for the Lott and Copp And for the Barrmrs Office 26/8d p Ann payable at Lady Day & Mich(ael)mas And wee are credibly infórmed that the Interest in this last Lease expectant uppon the determinacon of the former Lease is by severall meane Assignemts conveyed to Thomas Cooke Esqr whoe claymes the same.

Soe that there are uppon the Five & Twentieth day of March next Foure and Thirtie yeares to come before the saide Lease of ye premisses wilbee determined and expired

The Barrmasters Office

The Farmer of the Lott and Copp is comonly cheife Barrmr And made by L(ette)res Pattents under the Dutchy Seale and the underBarrmrs are appointed by him or elected by ye Myners And the Barrmaster hath noe Fee or Sallary certaine Butt some proffitts at ye Measuring of ye Oare, And other p(er)quisitts hee hath by making of Arrests And serving att the Barremoot Court For his Office is in the nature of a Bayliff to warne the Myners to the Court, And hee is to keepe the Standard Dish for measuring of ye Oare And to see it measured And to see that ye king or Farmer have his Lott and Copp And the Church its due, And to collect the Fines & Amercia(men)ts of ye Courts And hee is to seise uppon all such Oare as is forfeite to the king which shall be kept Foure Monthes in ye Earth unmoulten And if any Myner bee slayne or Damped in ye Earth The Barrmr is to have ye veiw of ye Body and not the Coroner of ye Countie, And uppon finding of a new Veine of Oare hee is to see the Meeres of Ground measured and allotted to ye Finder and others according to right & many other things appteine to his Office wch are unnecessarye to bee hereinserted.

A Meere of Ground is to containe Nyne and Twentie yeards in Length in ye Wapentake of Wirksworth And ye Myner or Grover is to have Foure yeards of Ground uppon either side thereof to cast upp his Rubbish thereon.

A Primme Gapp is a pcell of Ground Less than halfe a Meere & in all Mynes new found & in all old Mynes alsoe the king is to have the Prymm Gapps.

The Customes of the Mynes

If any man finde a Veine of Oare in a new feild never wrought hee is to have the Twoe first Meeres of Ground to him & his heires And ye king is to have the Third Meere or els twoe halfe Meeres one halfe Meere uppon each side of the Finders Meere att the Barrmrs eleccon; And the Finder is to pay one Meere Dish of his first Oare to the king for his Twoe Meeres of Ground Butt if hee finde a Veine of Oare in an old feild form(er)lie wrought hee is to have but one Meere of ground & to pay Nevertheles a Meere dish therefore. After yt ye finder and ye king have their Meeres measured out then any man that first can sett doune his Tooles to snick a Grove or Pitt shall have a Meere of Ground or halfe a Meere allotted him And soe successivelie as longe as they will come And they may pitch in any mans grounds Butt they shall pay Lott and Copp therefore to ye king throughout ye whole Wapentake of Wirksworth whosoever owns the Soyle; And if any man leave his Grove or Pitt when itt may bee longer wrought any other may come and Worke it And any Myner may build a Cottage upon his Reake But hee shall injoy itt noe longer then hee workes in the Myne.

Wherefore ye Lott is payd

The Lott is every Thirteenth dish of Oare gotten & this belongs to ye king or his farmer And for this the king ought to allowe the Myners Timber and Wood to Stowe their Groves withall both above and under ye Ground Butt if ye king have noe Woods thereabouts the Myner is to finde it himself & to pay ye duties of the Lott Nevertheless.

Beside every Thirteenth Dish to ye king the Myner is to pay the Tenth dish to ye Church for Tyth and ye Standard Dish is made of Brasse and kept in the Towne of Wirksworth And all other Dishes the underBarrmrs keepe are to bee conformable unto that And itt containes in Measure Foure Quarts or thereabouts And a Dish of Oare when it is washed is worth now att present 2/6d or more or less according to ye Goodnes of it and the price of Leade.

Wherefore the Copp is payd

The Copp is in ye Wapentake of Wirksworth six penc for every Loade of Oare Nyne dishes making the Loade And this is payd to the king alsoe And for this The Barrmr ought to see

their way cleared to the water to wash their Oare And also from their Grove to the Highway through the kings ground to sell it where they will Butt if the king will give as much for itt as any other hee is to have the Preemption & not otherwise Nevertheles they are to pay ye duties of ye Cop to ye Crowne

There are yearly foure & Twentie men chosen which are as itt were Grand Jurors to enquire of offences concerning the Mynes And noe man may leave a worke unless Twoe of them or the Barrmr see that it bee thoroughly wrought And there are divers other Customes concerning the Mynes and Myners As by the Article Booke in Print may appeare.

An Abstract of the Proffitts of the Leade Mynes in the said Wapentake of Wirksworth belonging to ye State.

The pquisitts Fines and Amerciats of the Barrmote Courte p Ann _____ £6
The Vallue of ye Cottage called the kings Coe p Ann _____ 15/-
The proffitts of ye Lott and Copp with the other casuall Benefitts in all ye divisions of ye severall Barrmrs within the whole Wapentake p Ann _____ £103

The Survey of the proffitts of ye Lott and Copp within the Wapentake of Wirksworth aforesaide is a true and pfect Survey taken by us whose names are hereunto subscribed to the best of our skill and knowledge according to our oathes and Instrucons in Witness whereof Wee have hereunto sett our Hands the 26th day of August Anno Dom Stilo Anglie 1650.

(Signed) Willm Tracy Abell Richardson George Southcotte John Thorne
Ex. p. Will: Webb Supvsr Genrll