

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

"A Fair Swop!"

Whilst researching Barmaster's records for Matlock Liberty in the Township of Snitterton, relating to the mines on the north face of Masson, i.e. the area of O.M. Mines Research and Exploration Group's original exploration, I discovered the following entry.

August 15th 1833 (Copy) An Agreement made between Mr. John Garton on the one part and Jacob Sheldon and his partners on the other part partners at the Noon Nick Mine into which Mr. Garton has had a bull fallen down a Shaft in the Noon Nick Title. Whereas Jacob Sheldon and his partners delivers up the said Noon Nick Mine unto Mr. Garton for the loss of his Bull.

As Witness our hands - Jacob Sheldon Job. Boden Daniel Eaton
William Sheldon Job Sheldon John Pearson

Incidentally confusion arises over Jug Holes cave system and the Noon Nick Vein: it is assumed that Jug Holes cave (Willies 1983) is in fact the Noon Nick mine. This is not so, John Nuttal's plan dated 1st September, 1767 *A plan of the mines and veins of Lead Ore in the possession of the partners and proprietors of Calftail Vein*, clearly shows the Noon Nick vein lying north to south with Jugholes cave clearly marked on the southern end of the vein.

An earlier entry (September 3rd, 1823) in the same Barmaster's Book gave possession of the Noon Nick Mine to Jacob Sheldon (who was a lead miner from Bonsall) and, from the meers granted by the Barmaster and also the names of the pastures where the vein ranged, proves that it was quite an extensive vein beyond Jug Holes cave.

Yours faithfully,

Margaret L. Howard (formerly Oakley).

18th April 1999.

REFERENCES

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Willies, Lynn 1983 The Barker Family and Wyatt Lead Mining Businesses, 1730 - 1875. *PDMHS Bulletin* 8, 6. pp.331-68.
Barmaster's Book for the Liberty of Matlock No. 46 1817-1837. Chatsworth. N.E.Worley, N.E. and D.A.Nash, The Geological Evolution of the Jugholes Caves, Matlock, Derbyshire. *Trans. British Cave Research Association*, Vol.14, No 3, pp.389-401.