

[[Isaac Hunter 'junior'](#) as he styled himself in these letters, was the second chief smelting agent of that name for the Blacketts at Dukesfield Mill and Hall. His father was still alive until 1780, hence the 'junior'. These transcripts are taken from an old volume of office copies of business letters, with a few loose-leaf drafts found amongst the pages. They date from between 1773 and 1794, mostly from the second Isaac Hunter and – towards the end- some from his son, the [third Isaac](#). The volume was part of the estate of the late Arthur Roberts of Lunedale and was given to the [Friends of Killhope](#) charity by his widow, which kindly made it available to be photographed for transcription. As of late 2024 it has been agreed that the Friends of Killhope Archive will be moved to The Story, the Durham County archives service, where the volume will eventually be made available for research access.]

**8 Feb 1773 Isaac Hunter to Isaac Walton**

[Note: Isaac Walton was in charge of Rookhope smelt mill. He and other agents reporting to Hunter were recipients of many of the letters in this volume and a guide to them is provided [here](#).]

Dukesfd. 8th. Feby. 1773

Mr. Is. Walton Rookhope

Sir

I desire you'll make up your Decr. Quarts. Accot. & send me as soon as possible, for I have recd. orders to get ready for the Pay wth.out Loss of time.

I have sent the Bearer Ra. Stephenson to his old work again (i.e. to work again wth. his Father as he may be assistance to him) let Chatt get his Work for this Week among them & tell him to call upon me here when he gets home & I shall provide for him else where I have several thing to do that demand a amediate dispach, that I'm affraid I shall not be able to get over so soon as I could wish, there for if theres any thing Wanting you'll please to communicate it by Lre  
& am yrs &c IH Jr

**16 Feb 1773 Isaac Hunter to Anthony Surtees**

[Note: Newbiggin near Blanchland was the home and estate of another Anthony Surtees, a relative of Anthony Surtees to whom this letter is addressed. The rich widow is as yet unidentified.]

Dukesfd. 16th Feby. 1773

To Anthy Surtees Esqr.  
at Ackworth near Pontefract in Yorkshire

Talking wth. Mr. Richmond a few days ago of the Lead Ways &c, I named to him what you told me in regard to your Lane at Apperley 'that if Sr. Walter Blackett or the Lead Compy. was to apply you would let a Lease of it since which I have recd. orders to treat wth. you about it for Sr Wr. If He shold take it, means to make a good Turnpike through it, wch. will cost between 30 & 40£ therefor would not choose to have it for a shorter Term than 21 yrs. you'll please to favour me wth. a Line in a post or two of your lowest Terms.

I am in great hopes you'll have a new Cause to Visit at Newbiggin when you come next into the North for he's in pursute of a Rich Widow of a Neighbouring County where he makes frequent Visits wch. gives us reason to believe tht. the Lady has made some impression & that he has got his own cause wch. I'm <led> to imagine to have been the thing most wanted in his <former [obscured]>

**16 Feb 1773 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Crawhall**

Dukesfd. 16th. Feby. 1773

Mr. Crawhall Clerk at Allenhd. Mill

Sir

I desire you'll make up your Decr. Quartr Accot. as fast as possible & send me; if there's any of the up Carriage &c that you are at a loss how to charge you may put down the Quantity or No. of Fothrs. In your Accot. & I shall add the price here. I wish you could let me have them the end of this Week or the begining of the next as Mr. Richmond is very pressing to have them sent to him. & am yrs. &c IH Jr

**16 Feb 1773 Isaac Hunter to Caleb Hunter**

Dukesfd. 16th. Feby. 1773

Mr Hunter at Allanheads

Sir

I was surprised to find in yours of the 4th. inst. no other accot. than that the Clerks at Allanhds. & Rookhope Mills Accots. agreed wth. yours, & that you expected Dukesfd. woud do the same, when you know that Mr. Richmond requires of me to have a General Accot. every year of the Quant[ity] of Ore sent in the year to the several Mills fm each Mine that if any difference should happen we might ha[ve] them adjusted before either the Mines or Mills Decr. Qr. Accots. are sent to him, as he chooses that the Mills & Mines Accots. should agree as near as possible at the end of the year. I saw Mr. Salkeld to day & he says he has not recd. an Accot. fm Mr. Allgood for last yrs. Ore, therefor must again desire of you to send me the above required

Accot. (ie such an Accot. as you have sent me for these 3 or 4 yrs. past) and that you'll order Mr. Allgood either to come or send Mr. Salkeld immediately an Accot for He (Mr R) cannot make up his Decr. Accot. till the Receipt be properly settled & Mr. Richmond is pressing on me for them wch if I do not get to send to him the latter end of next week, will be obliged to write him the real case of the Stop.

I wish you would for the future always send me your annual Accot. as soon as the years out, as it would give me more time to get any differences that may happen put to rights. & am yrs. &c

I.H.Jr.

**24 Feb 1773 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Crawhall**

Dukesfd. 24th. Feby. 1773

Mr. Crawhall Allanhd. Mill

Sir

If the Ore that's at your Mill be so dirty or badly Dressed that it cannot be smelted with out loss to the Master, you must get it better Washed but you are to judge of that, & not the Smelters & am

Yrs. &c Isaac Hunter Jr.

**25 Feb 1773 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd 25th Feby. 1773

Mr. Richmond N.Castle

By the inclosed (wch. I recd. last post) you'll see the great Rent Mr Surtees sets upon his Lane at Apperley. I do suppose one might make between 4 or 5£ a year for the WayLeave of other Draughts that would use it besides Sr. Walter's and there's a probability of reducing the present price 1/4d p[er] Pig in case one had the above Lane notwithstanding I think 10£ a yr. a great rent for it. But shall wate your directions as to the Answr. To be given.

Have sent a piece of Lead wth. the impression of the Letters for the Refined Lead, that you may judge whether they are of a proper size or not & am

Yrs. &c IH. Jr

**8 Mar 1773 Isaac Hunter to Isaac Walton**

Dukesfd. 8th. March 1773

Mr. Isaac Walton Rookhope Mill

Sir

I have sent the Bearer John Noble to supply the place of Jno. Steel who I have taken to this Mill, you may let him work wth. Edwd. Foster till I come over & if we then see that we can fix them otherwise more for the advantage of the Master shall alter them.

I recd. yours as to the Stephinson's breaking my Order first, but you do not say whether they run the Lead too hot by it, or not, for it was to prevent that that ca[u]sed the Order, nor do you give any reason for their doing it at this time; wch. I find on inquiring to have been f'm having the Hearth to build – the order never was [struck out: 'intended'] ment other than to break them of the method they were then got into, & there are no exceptions, by the approbation of the Clerk, & his seeing that the Lead was not run too hot – wch. makes me doubt your complaints of them proceeds more from a private pique or ill-will you have taken to them, than f'm any harm they have don to the Master, and I cannot help telling you, that I am very sorry to think you should make the least use of your Power as Clerk at a Mill in revenging any little private grudge or Peek you may take to any of the Men imployd. I do assure you that I would discharge every Man f'm the Work reather than they should be under no subjection to the Clerk – but I would not have you to think that I mean other wise than wth. regard to the Business at the Mill, when ever their actions clash wth. the interest of Sr. Walter's Works

and I am sensible tht a Clerk may have his Men in proper subjection & their Esteem at the same time; it gives me no exalted opinion of the conduct of a Clerk, to find him & his Workmen at Variance, for its an certain Axiom wth. me that the Clerk of Smelt Mill who's plans of carrying on the Work are solely influenced by the intrest of the Master must be a Friend to the Smelters – there's one thing wch. this reminds me of to desire that you will give order to prevent your Sistr. going to the Mill to find falt wth. the Men. &c

IH Jr

**15 Mar 1773 Isaac Hunter to Anthony Surtees**

Dukesfd. 15th March 1773

To Anthy. Surtees Esqr.  
At Ackworth near Pontefract in Yorkshire

Dear Sir

Mr. Richmond being Struck wth the Palsy last week prevents my giving an Answr. as to your Lane at Apperley, but once he's so well as to talk about Business (and by the

Accot. last post I hope it will not be long) shall wait upon him & will be able at the same time to have Sr Wrs Sentiments upon it as he's expected home in ten days time & if your Terms be then approved off, shall immediately wait upon you wth. a proper Lease for you to execute tho' I am afraid the Rent will be thought too much, and I wish you would allow me to call it 10 instead of 15£ & then I think I wuld prevail upon Sr. Walter to accept it.

The Inclosing of Commons is now become so general that I hope you'll have no objection to a clause being in the Lease, in case that the Common there should be Divided before the expiration of the Lease to allow Sr. Wrs Lead to be laid down wth.in your allotment adjoining to the High Way & am yrs. &c

IH Jr

**5 Apr 1773 Isaac Hunter to Anthony Surtees**

Dukesfd. 5th April 1773

To Anthy. Surtees Esqr.  
At Ackworth near Pontefract in Yorkshire

Dear Sir

Mr. Richmond who I was with yesterday has had a Letter fm. Sr. Wr. with his agreeing to your Terms as to your Lane at Apperley therefor shall wate upon you wth. a Lease on the 16 or 17th inst if convenient to you & am &c &c yrs.

IH Jr

**11 Apr 1773 Isaac Hunter to Ralph Heron**

Mr Heron Hexham

11th April 1773

Dr. Sr.

Last night I had a Ltr f'm Capt. Surtees in regard to his Lane at Apperley where in he retracts fm his former Terms, by the following poor apology tht. he had forgot to mention ' That I do not mean to let the Road to Sr. W in exclusion of all other [Lead Proprietors']'. You need not ingross the Lease till further orders. I der almost say that Sr. Wr. will not take it wth.out that exclusive right I have sent the L[ea]se to Mr. Richmond by this Days post or you should have seen it & am wth Comps to Mrs Heron yr sincere &c

IH Jr

**11 Apr 1773 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd. 11th. April 1773

Mr. Richmond N.Castle

Sir

The inclosed Recd. last night by wch. you'll see in what manner Mr. Surtees shrinks f'm his former terms as to the Lane at Apperly, wth. the pitifull evasion of having Forgot. I wrote to Mr. Heron to prevent his ingrossing the Lease till he hears further. I hope we shall be able to frustrate Mr. Fenwick notwithstanding the above disappointment, in what manner I expect to be able to point out to you when I send the Accots & Pay Bill &c. wch. will be in less than Ten Days time. I hope you continue gaining ground of your Disorder & that you may wholly conquer is the sincere wish of  
Yr. mo. Hble Servt. IH Jr

**18 Apr 1773 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Crawhall**

Dukesfd. 18th. April 1773

Mr. Thos. Crawhall Allanheads Mill

Sr.

I recd. your last night of the 10th. inst. wth. An accot. of your having let the Hill to cut the Race through at 14s. p[er] Fathm. its I think high, tho I do suppose you cannot get any to take it at less therefor desire that you'll confirm the Bargain & get them to set to it & get it don wth.out loss of time; shall depend on you for setting it out in the most proper part of the Hill so as to be out of harms way of the Burn undoing it I am obliged to be at N.Castle & other places this Week or should like to have seen it before it was begon wth. but as will loss a Week wch. must not at this season – you must not send any Lead till I am up or you hear further & am  
Yrs &c IH Jr

**23 Apr 1773 Isaac Hunter to Caleb Hunter**

[Note: 'son' Mr Allgood presumably meant son-in-law, married to a daughter of Caleb Hunter. Robert Allgood was an agent at Allenheads until 1775 when dismissed]

Dukesfd. 23d. April 1773

Mr. C. Hunter Allanhds

Sir

The Smelt Mills Pay is fix'd on Thursday the 13th. of May & we are to go to N-Castle on Monday the 10th when I hope you'll accompany us wth. your Fire Arms in Order. I saw a Letter this day f'm your Son Mr. Allgood in regard of Richd. Dixon's ill behaviour as to some Ore he had for this Mill, and as I find its not his first Offence in regard to the Carriage do desire you'll discharge His taking up any more Ore at any of your Mines till he bring you a Line. We'll expect your Son Robt. will come with you & should be glad if Mr. Richd. Allgood would also accompany us to N-Castle & shall pass my Word that he shall receive no harm f'm the Wenches in a certain Markatt. I am wth Comp

&c yrs. IH

P.S. Being obliged to make some engagements to Mr. Lowes in behalf of his Tenant Thos. Bell, therefor beg you'll give orders to Mr Allgood to let him have a Catch of Ore (after it becomes scarce) in the Weeks f'm your Groves besides the set Days.

**23 Apr 1773 Isaac Hunter to William Westgarth**

Dukesfd. 23d. April 73

Mr. Westgarth Whiteleeshield

Dr. Sr.

Our Pay is fixed on Thursday the 13th. May & we go to N.Castle on the 10 when I hope we shall have your Compy. I wish you would come here a few Days before (however on the Sunday) for I want to apply to the Hospital Agents for a small favour & would like to have you wth. me as I'm unknowing to any of them; we could call upon in our Road to N.Castle

Richd. Dixon of the Corn Mill has been guilty of some capital offences as to the Ore Carriage therefor desire you'll give such Orders that he gets no more Ore f'm any of your Mines till he brings you a Line of his having made attonement for them. Thos. Bell of R. Green is arrears wth. his Landlord Mr R.Lowes & I was obliged to make some promises to Lowes or he would have distressed him, he has a Large Family & I believe he's a Honest Man. I would have you to give such Orders that he might get a Catch or two of Ore in the Week of the Set Day & when the Ore is scarce at the Grove &

I am wth. Compts. &c Yrs. IH.Jr.

**23 Apr 1773 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Maughan**

Dukesfd. 23d April 1773

Mr. Thos. Maughan Newhouse

Sir

The Smelt Mills Pay is fix'd on Thursday the 13th. May when we shall be glad of your Company – if it suted you as to your Lenning Days would be glad to meet you at N.Castle on the 10th in the Evening at Mr. Winds in Pilgrim Street, and ad the strength of the Body-gard – you'll please to make the Day known in your Neighbourhood & am yrs. &c IH Jr.

**23 Apr 1773 Isaac Hunter to Isaac Walton**

Dukesfd. 23d. April 1773

To Mr. Walton & Mr. Crawhall  
Clerks At Rookhope & Allanhds

Sir

The Smelt Mill Pay is fix'd on Thursday the 13th. May, you'll take care to give notice to all that has anything to receive on accot. of your Mill that they attend here on the above day when they will be paid. & am

Yrs. &c IH. Jr.

**25 Apr 1773 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Dukesfd. 25th April 1773

Mr. R. Morrow Blaydon

Sir,

Yours of the 23d is just come to hand, I find you have not fixed either time or place for us to meet the Carriagemen that you may have time after this comes to hand (tho one cannot say that you may get it so soon as one might expect & to prevent any disappointment by that) shall wate upon you at Blaydon on Friday the 30 inst. between 11 & 12 O'Clock and we can then go to whatever place you appoint wth. the Carriage men, for they'll not attend till towards the Even[in]g tho one should fix the fore part of the Day. Should have readily accepted of your kind offer but am so Busy till, the Pay is over, that I have not a Day to spair.

& am wth. Compts. &c IH Jr



**25 May 1773 Isaac Hunter to Anthony Surtees**

Dukesfd. 25th. May 1773

To Cap. Surtees York

I recd. yours of the 18 inst a few Day ago. You surely cound [sic] not be at any loss to find the Case of your not hearing anything f'm me in regard to your Lane since I wrote that I would wait upon you on the 16th of last Month wth. the Lease, when your answr. To that Lre was so contradictory to your former Terms, wch. you very Politely introduced by having 'Forgot &c'. But if you think anything of letting Sr. Wr have a Lease of it on the Terms proposed in your Lre of the 18 Feby ie. Sr. Wr. to have an exclusive right in the Lane as to Lead proprietors, during his Term shall acquaint him wth. it & if he thinks proper to take it so shall either send or wait on you at York wth. the Lease, as there was one nearly finished before I recd. yrs. of the 8 April. Capt. Surtees has not been at Alnwick this Meeting but he talks of going on Sunday. I am yrs &c IH Jr

**25 May 1773 Isaac Hunter to John Bell**

Dukesfd. 25th. May 1773

Mr Bell N.Castle

Dr. Sr.

If you thought of the Slaley Tithes when in the North should like to hear what Answr. you got, and in what manner you would advise me to proceed to procure them, as they are so used that one might manage them wth.out any inconvenience or hindrance to my Business & if one could make 10 or 15£ a year by them would make the Trouble &c appear Leighter, there's Capt. Bainbridge & several that was to them he told me yesterday that he had applied & that he spoak to Silvertop who told him that he was don wth. them – the sooner you give me your opinion &c the better as I would loss as little time now as possible.

Inclosed you'll have Surtees's Bill wch I have examined & find right – if you go to the Foundry to pay I desire you'll remember the Clerk of the Pig Pan I ordered when last in Town & if its not sent of[f] that you'll hasten him wth. it – I am yrs. &c. I.H.Jr

**1 Jun 1773 Isaac Hunter to John Bell**

Dukesfd. 1st. June 1773

Mr. John Bell N.Castle

Sir

This morning I was wth. The Refiners & fix'd Thursday for their taking of the Silver, so that you may wth. certainty expect & receive two Plates by the Fridays Carrier – the Note of Iron got in 1771 of Hodgson & Co. was Charged to them in that yrs. Accot. & the Cash rests in my hand owing to some old Iron Castings they got f'm this Mill wch. are not accounted for, I called upon Mr. Hodgson the 15th of Last June & he could not settle it then the Books being at the Forge but that He would examine them the first time he was there & we were to settle it the next time we meet, but have not seen him since shall call upon him next week & put an end to it. Am obliged to your for your advice wch. I would have immediately followed if I had not seen Mr. Forster at the Fair who promised hr would speek to Mr. Trevelyan this Week but if I do not hear f'm him soon shall wate upon him myself – I have found the mistake of the Sum wanting in the Check-Book all to 13d. I am wth. Compts. &c

**3 Jun 1773 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd. 3d. June 1773

Mr. Richmond Newcastle

Sir

You'll herewith receive two Plates of Silver as p[er] inclosed Accot. I have also inclosed you two Lres f'm Capt. Surtees the last of wch. I recd. last night by wch. you'll see he has in part withdrawn the excepted clause & I do think if he would let it to Sr. Wr. in exclusion of Ld. and all Materials for Smelt Mills & Mines the other carriage that would pass that way would be very trifling – shall see you on the 7th or 8th. inst & then have your instructions in regard to it – I hope this Fine Weather has had great affect on yr Health & am yrs. &c I.H. Jr.

**12 Jun 1773 Isaac Hunter to Robert Allgood**

Dukesfd. 12 June 1773

Mr. Robt. Allgood Allanhds

Sir

Richd. Dixon was here yesterday & has mad [sic] submission for his Falts there for you may let him have Ore again at your Mines as other Carriers, wth. this difference,

that he's to be the last loaded at the Mine for 6 Weeks time as an example to the other Carriers.

I am wth. Compts. Yrs IH Jr

**12 Jun 1773 Isaac Hunter to William Westgarth**

Dukesfd. 12 June 1773

Mr. Westgarth Whiteleeshield

Dr. Sir

Ricd. Dixon has been here & acknowledged his falts & therefor desire youll order those that deliver the Ore f'm your Mines that he has Ore again wth the other Carriers but with this difference (as an example to others) to be the last Loaded for 6 Weeks time. I hope you have keep well since I saw you & am wth. Compts. to Mrs.

Westgarth yrs. &c

IH Jr.

**21 Jun 1773 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd. 21st. June 1773

Mr. Richmond N.Castle

Sir

I have here wth. sent you the Lease of Apperley Lane executed by Mr. Surtees & also the last Month accots. wch. I forgot to send before I went into Yorkshire. You'll please to keep Mr. Surtees's post till I'm in Town for I promised to keep it for him till he came in to this part of the Country. I have this day wrote Mr. Hall the Compy's Head Agent acquainting him that Apperley Lane was taken & that if he did not give me a Line that he would fullfill the promise of his predecessor (Mr Tweedale) made to me to join Sr. Wr. in the Support of the Publick Way between Apperley Bank foot & Hedley, that I should stop the Compy's Lead f'm passing along the sd. Lane, if he did that we should treat wth him about Terms and should allow the Ld. to pass for a few days for his Answr. & am yrs. &c IH Jr

**21 Jun 1773 Isaac Hunter to John Bell**

Dukesfd. 21st. June 1773

Mr. John Bell N. Castle

Sir

I only got home f'm Yorkshire yesterday or should have answd. yours of the 15th. inst sooner in regard to Elizth. Reed who's Complaint to Sr. Walter is in part true – the Facts were thus – Her Son Richd. on the 1st. of April left a Horse of ore on the Moor (probably f'm the reason She gave) wch remained there till the 20 when I order'd another Carrier to bring it to the Mill, wch then wanted 2 stone of Wt. I immedeately discharged him fm the Carriage till he made an atonement for the falt. His Mother came to me the week before the Pay (as I recollect) and offered to make satisfaction for the Ore Lost, I told her that it was more for an example to other Carriers than for the Value of the Ore, but if her Son would come on the Pay Day and acknowledge himself in the wrong that he should then be set on again – a Day or two before I went to Yorkshire wth. the Lease he came & acknowledged that & a former falt of delivg. A Horse of Sr. Walter's Ore to the Compy's Mill. I then promised that he should have Ore again at Sr. Wr.s Mines but under the following restriction of being the last loaded at the Mines when any other Carriers were there & wrote to the Agents at the Mines accordingly & he has been at the Mill wth. ore since.

I am yrs. &c IH Jr

PS I have wrote to Mr. Richmond wth. the Lease &c. if his gon to Buxton I wish you would get the Lease executed by Sr. Wr. & also his opinion whether I have don right as to the Lead Compy wch. you'll see by my Lre to Mr. Richmond.

**21 Jun 1773 Isaac Hunter to Mr. Hall**

Dukesfd. 21st. June 1773

Mr. Hall Agent to the Lead Company  
at Alston

When I had the pleasure of seeing you at Blanchland you promised to acquaint the Compy. Wth. the Verbal agreement between their late Agent Mr. Tweedale & me in regard to the Highway leading f'm Apperley Bankfoot & Hedley (Vizt) that the Co & Sr. Walter Blackett were to join in the support of the sd Road: that you was going to London in a little time & would there use all your influence with the Co. to persuade them to fulfil the sd. ingagement, and once you returned that you would acquaint me wth. the result of it. I hear you have been at home for some time tho' I have not had the pleasure of hearing anything f'm you in regard to the sd. Road I thought it was proper to acquaint you, that Apperley Lane is taken of Mr. Surtees & in case you'll give me a

Line that you will fulfill the above Verbal agreement of Mr. Tweedale's in regard to the Road; shall treat with you after about the Terms that the Co's Lead may pass along Apperley Lane for but shall suffer it to pass for a few Days in hopes of your Answr. Yrs. &c IH.Jr

**21 Jun 1773 Isaac Hunter to Robert Mulcaster**

Dukesfd. 21st. June 1773

Mr. Mulcaster Blaydon

Sir

I have here with sent you two Pans with Letters on their Backs wch. I hope will please, if you'll send your Old Ones shall Letter them & send you that you may be provided against any misfortune that may happen by the Lead getting between the Letter Plate & Pan – You'll advise me if the Ld. for your Refinery does not come in fast anuff for you, or if you have the least doubt of being stopt for want of Lead that I may set on more Carriers to carry Refinable Ld. for I want to send the Common first so as to keep your Refinery going.

I am yrs. &c. IH Jr

**2 Sep 1773 Isaac Hunter to Mr. Hall**

Dukesfd. 2nd Sepr 1773

Mr. Hall Agent to the Lead Company  
at Aldstone

Sir

Last week I had some talk with Mr. Richmond in regard to the Lane at Apperley, and the Publick Highway leading f'm thence to Hedley; who is willing to treat with you for the Co's Lead to pass along Apperley Lane, on your fulfilling the late Mr. Tweedale's agreement in regard to yr. Support of the said Publick Road; but would be glad if you would give him a call when in N.Castle in a Month or three Weeks time (for he's now at Tynemouth & will be at Home against the sd. time) that you and he might settle the Matter. If you'll give me a line when you think you'll be at N.Castle shall endeavour to meet you there. & am

Yrs. &c IH. Jr.

**2 Oct 1773 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Dukesfd. 2d Octobr. 1773

Mr. Morrow Blaydon

Dr. Sr.

This Day was delivd. fm this Mill Refined Lead made fm Slag Lead, it beeing of an inferiour quality f'm whats made f'm Ore Lead (i.e. Lead got at the first Fire) have marked it wth. LS that you may distinguish it fm the other Refined Lead so as to be able to keep them separate. & am

Yrs. &c IH JR

P.S. The Late Rains prevents me f'm fixing any time as yet for the Draughts. to attend at Apperley Lane. Once the Weather Settles again that one can do any good at it shall Write you to send them

**6 Oct 1773 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Crawhall**

Dukesfd. 6th. Octobr 1773

Mr. Thos. Crawhall Clerk at Allanhds. Mill

Sir

I have examined the Bargain Book & find that Burch was to have had a Guinea p[er] Ton for what Lead he could get out of the three Heaps of Tayls lying at your Mill the Master at the Expce of Smelting & Fewel at both Hearths and he (Burch) to make the Tayls fm them so poor that none could work them after him at 10£ p[er] Ton. You may let Stobbs the single Heep that we spoak off yesterday at the above terms and make a Mem.dum of the Bargain wch. he ought to Sign. the Tontale Lead f'm Cutting Ore &c f'm Coals Cleught you must Mark wth. CL and all the other Wast Lead that's made to your Mill for the future f'm [Poor Metals] (I e. that's got f'm Poor Tayls &c) you must mark wth. S along wth. the Common mark & am

Yrs. &c IH Jr.

**14 Oct 1773 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd. 14th. Octobr. 1773

Mr. Richmond N.Castle

Sir

Here with you'll receive a Box containing two Plates of Silver as p[er] inclosed Acot the latter plate you'll find not so large as the other in proportion to the Quantity of

Lead that its made f'm, owing to the great quantity of Slag Lead wch. is poorer in Silver than the Ore Lead – we have wrought up all the Slag Lead, and Marked the Ld made fm the Litharge wth. an LS according to the directions you gave last Novr. I advised Mr. Morrow of it that he might keep it separate fm the other Refined Ld. I wrote to Mr. Hall the Co's Agent in Septr. acquainting him that if he would call upon you at N.Castle you would settle the affair of Apperley Lane & if he would give me a Line when he would be at N.Castle should meet him there but have not heard any thing fm him.

& am yrs. &c IH. Jr.

**17 Oct 1773 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Crawhall**

Dukesfd. 17th Octobr 1773

Mr. Crawhall Allanhds. Mill

Sir

The Setting on of your Slag Hearth will make you an od Smelter, therefor have sent the Bearer <Jno> Bowman Jr. as he will be very usefull in keeping the Mill in repair as to Cams &c. You may set him to smelt wth. which of the Smelters you think will be the properest capable of to Learn him the Art of Smelting. When I'm at the Mill shall fix the time he work on Servers Wages – you may acquaint the Man you set to him that if he instruct him well he will be intitled to 2/3 of their Earning for a while. & am yrs. &c IH Jr

**5 Nov 1773 Isaac Hunter to Isaac Walton**

Dukesfd. 5th. Novr. 1773

Mr. Walton Clerk at Rookhope Mill

Let the Bearer Robt. Forster Jr. go to the Slag Hearth again. Phillipson may continue at the Ore Hearth & Isaac Murray Serve Forster at the Slag Hearth.

& am yrs, &c IH Jr

**15 Nov 1773 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd. 15th. Novr. 1773

Mr. Richmond N.Castle

Sir

Inclosed you have the Month Accots. for the Several Mill [sic] by which you'll find that the Deliv[er]y of Ld. f'm Dukesfd. & Allanhds. mills this year amounts together to 20779 ps. wch. will take near 460£ (including the Rent) to pay wch. was to be paid p[er] agreement once the lead were all got to Blaydon – its been all f'm the Bankft. for this some time so that I expect it will be at Blaydon soon, & once I hear f'm Mr. Morrow of its being all there shall acquaint you of the time will call upon you for the Cash. I am yrs. &c &c IH Jr

**25 Nov 1773 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Dukesfd: 25th. Novr. 1773

Mr. Morrow Blaydon

Dr. Sr.

On the 12th. inst I wrote to acquaint you of the quantity of Ld. Delivd. fm Dukesfd. & Allanhds. Mills & wch. Letter I find to day had never been sent owing to the negligence of a Servt. Lad that left me this Mart[in] the Quantity Delivd. are (Viz)

Dukesfd. 19.901  
& Allanhds 878  
20.779

If you have recd. the above quantity exclusive of the found Pigs would have you wate upon Mr. Richmond to know when it would be agreeable for him to pay the Money & then you may fix a Day wth. the Carriage men & advise me of it; I promised Mr. Richmond when I wrote last that I would give him notice of the Time we wd. call upon him, but I think it would be better for you to fix with him before hand least we should happen to light upon a Day that would be inconvenient for him to pay the Money on. You should take an Accot. wth. you when you wate [sic] upon Mr. Richmond that he may see what Cash will be wanted after the Rents are deducted & am yrs. &c

IH Jr.

**27 Nov 1773 Isaac Hunter to Isaac Walton**

Dukesfd. 27th. Novr. 1773

Mr. Walton Clerk at Rookhope

Sr.

Let Mr. Richardson serve Robt. Forster at your Slag Hearth, & Isaac Murray may come to the Slag Hearth at Dukesfield. & am yrs. &c IH Jr



**27 Nov 1773 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Crawhall**

Dukesfd. 27th. Novr. 1773

Mr. Crawhall Allanhds.

Sr.

I have sent Thos. Purvis One of the Emigrants f'm this Mill to Smelt at your Mill this Winter as a punishment of his Folly, & you must put him & <Jno.> Bowman to Work together & let Bowman then enter to half Shift. You may tell Nichs. Stobbs that he may have Purvis's Work for this Winter at Dukesfield Mill if he chooses & am yrs &c IH Jr

**18 Dec 1773 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Crawhall**

Dukesfield 18th Decr: 1773

Mr. Thos. Crawhall Clerk of Allanhds. Mill

Sir

Pray let me have your June & Septr. Quarts. Accots. as soon as possible, and you may put your Decr. Accots. forward after send the above, that you may be able to send it at a few days notice after you get Orders to close it. You'll push your Smelting when the Weather will allow as much as you can, that there may be as little Ore at the Mill against Mayday as possible; or your Quantity of Ore will be less against another Year. Let your Neighbour Jos. Currey have of the 8 Sto. Lead to Carry to this Mill wch. you'll please to acquaint him, for I was from home when his Son came to ask leave. & am  
Yrs. &c IH Jr.

**16 Feb 1774 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Maughan**

Dukesfield 16th. Feby. 1774

Mr. Thos. Maughan Newhouse

Sir

The Storm I do suppose has prevented you f'm sending the General Accot. of the Ore delivd. f'm your Mines last Year to the several Mills, as the Fells are now passable do thus remind you that in case there should be any differences between the Mines & Mills Accots. that they may be adjusted before Decr. Accots. be sent to N.Castle. I am yrs.

&c IH Jr

P.S. Mr. Surtees who got the late Geo. Surtees Esq's Estate desired I would acquaint you that he intends cutting some wood off an Estate in your Neighbourhood wch he wishes you would take a look off. I have forgot the name of the Place, but as there are not many Wood near you, do imagine you'll find it out as you got the have <got the bark got fm the> place before

**16 Feb 1774 Isaac Hunter to Caleb Hunter**

Dukesfd. 16th. Feby. 1774

Mr. C. Hunter Allanheads

Dr Sr.

As the late Fresh has made the Fells passable beg you'll send me your general Accot. of the Ore delivd. fm your Mines (in 1773) to the several Mills. Pray do not send your Decr. Accot. to N.Castle till the Mistakes (if any) between the Delivs. & Rec.ts at the Mills be properly adjusted. I shall write you once I receive the above if any mistakes but would it not be as proper if you sent Mr. R. Allgood to Reckon wth. the Mill Clerks before you make up out the Accots. I am wth. Compts. &c

Miss Hunter yrs. &c IH Jr.

**16 Feb 1774 Isaac Hunter to William Westgarth**

Dukesfd. 16th. Feby. 1774

Mr. Westgarth Whiteleeshield

Dr. Sr.

Supposing that the communication between your Place & this now open, I take this method to remind you to send a General Accot. of the Ore delivd. last yr. f'm your Mines to the Several Mills. I was sorry that your Health prevented us of the pleasure of your Compy at the Pays, and to hear that you had had so poor a Winter; I should have accepted your invirtation when at Allanhds if I had not had to set Mr. Blackett into a known Cuntry; wch. was very lucky, or we should have been two Invalids together. I am wth. Compts. to Mrs. Westgarth yrs. &c IH Jr.

P.S. I wish you would come & stay a Week or ten days wth. us here, as I'm almost sure that this good Air would be of great service to you

**17 Feb 1774 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd. 17th. Feby. 1774

Mr. Richmond N.Castle

Herewith have sent you the Mills & Ref[iner]y's Q[uar]te[r] Accots. for March, June and Septr. We have been so much hindered by the Frost that it will be some time before you'll get the General Accots. of the Mills &c. the Mills are all got to work again, and shall forward things as much as I can that we may be ready for the Pay against the usual times but am afraid tht. we will be later. & am yrs. &c IH Jr.

**4 Mar 1774 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Dukesfd. 4th. March 1774

Mr. Morrow Blaydon

Sir

Have below given you an Accot. of the Lead delivd. f'm Rookhope Mill last year. You'll let me know as soon as you can whether the Whole be got in, if not, what quantity of each kind (I mean the 11 & 8 Stone Pigs) and I shall send you An Accot. of the Quantity that each Carriageman took f'm the Mill wch. will inable you to know the defaulters, and if any of them should happen to live in your Neighbourhood that you'll hasten them in wth. it, as I'm wanting to get forward wth. the Accots. for the Pay. & am yrs. &c

IH Jr

11 Stone Lead	14.026
8 Do-	9.084

**14 Mar 1774 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Dukesfd. 14th. March 1774

Mr. Morrow Blaydon

Dr. Sr.

I have inclosed you the Mill Accot. of the Delivy. Of Ld. to the several Carriagemen last year, by wch. I hope (if the second undertakers has given you the names of the Firsts when they brought in the Lead) you'll be able to make out the aggressors whome you'll please to advise me off – on the other side you'll have an Accot. of the Back Carriage pd. to Nixon - & am

Yrs. &c IH Jr

**19 Mar 1774 Isaac Hunter to John Bell**

Dukesfd. 19 March 1774

Mr. Jno. Bell N.Castle

Dr. Sr.

The Ash Wood cut at Broomhaugh for the use of Sr. Wm's Smelt Mills is 22 Trees wch. were then Marked, but not measured, was the reason of my not acquainting you of it till I could give you an Accot. of the No. of feet they contained; wch. you shall have before its taken off the Ground I order'd the Men that cut it to give an Accot. to the Tenant of the No. of Trees they cut & the Mark put upon them I have just let the Slate Quarry you speak of to the Sons of the late John Currey of Garesfield (who first discovered it) for one year at 15s to commence at Candlemas last past there has been some small parcels of good Slates got out of her, but f'm the present appearance she makes I think she'll not be any thing capital, tho you are certainly right to have her wrought by one Person, as he will Work her with less wast than when everybody comes to serve themselves

I am &c IH Jr.

I ordered Robt. Currey who took the Quarry, to discharge those that were working in her, he tells me that they are for taking up what they have uncovered before they will leave her. Pray can he hinder them?

**27 Mar 1774 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

[Note: 'N.notes' probably stands for 'Newcastle notes', banknotes issued by Newcastle banks]

Dukesfd. 27th March 1774

Mr. H Richmond N.Castle

Sir

I Have here with sent you the General Accots. for the three Smelt Mills & their Decr. Month Accots. as allso the Refinery's Accot. of Silver &c. I doubt you find the Delivy. of ore f'm the Mines not to agree wth. the Mill Accots. so nearly as they ought tho I have don what I can to have the differences adjusted.

I expect to send you the Quarts. Accots., Pay Bill & Rental against the 18th of next month and from what calculation I can now make I think we shall take (including the N. notes wch. you generally pay) about 5600£ to make the pay & am

Yr. mo. hble servt.

**15 Apr 1774 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd. 15th. April 1774

Mr. Richmond Newcastle

Sir

I have here wth. sent you the Pay Bill Rental & Quarty. Accots. wch. I hope you'll find Right. I have not deducted the 1..2..4  $\frac{3}{4}$  fm the Yrs. Accots. as you ordered, for that over charge in the last Yrs. Accots. were in the Bills you paid & I accounted to you in the Genl. Accot. for them as charged in the Accots. wch. can make no difference in the Ballances. But shall alter it when in Town in what Manner you think proper & am  
Yrs. &c IH Jr

**23 May 1774 Isaac Hunter to Caleb Hunter**

Dukesfd. 23d. May 1774

Mr. C. Hunter Allanhds

Being ingaged to Mr. R. Lowes for his Tenant Thos. Bell Raw Green, I desire you'll order Mr. R. Allgood to let him have Ore twice a Week f'm Your Groves for this Season. I shall not admit of any excuse for Mr. Allgood's not complying wth. the above request, knowing that it can be no inconvenience to him to let a Man have 12 H's of ore in the Week as he only drives 6 Horses. & am  
yrs &c IH Jr.

**23 May 1774 Isaac Hunter to Westgarth Forster**

D.f. 23d. May 1774

Mr. W. Foster at Coalcleugh

Sr.

I desire you'll forward Thos. Bell of R[aw].G[reen]. a catch of Ore a Week for this Season  
IH Jr.

**23 May 1774 Isaac Hunter to C. Kidd**

[Note: Undated but assigned the same date as previous letter in sequence]

Mr. C. Kidd Kilhope

I desire if you have any Ore Ready that you'll send it here as soon as possible for Mr. <R> wants some of that Ld. & we have a Weeks Work at the Mill you'll please to let Thos Bell have a catch of Ore in the Week this Season f'm yr grove & am  
yrs. &c I Hunter

**30 May 1774 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd. 30th. May 1774

Mr. H Richmond N Castle

Sr.

I have taken f'm the Accots. the Charge of the Peats at Rookhope Mill f'm the Year 1760 to the p[as]t year and the quantity of Ld. made at the Ore Hearth in the sd. time, and find that the Peats has cost upon an average 18 ½ d p[er] Ton of Lead. I suppose there's several Days charged for Wet Peats &c wch. I have not in the Accot for I took nothing but what was expressly so mentioned in the Accots. The Quantity of Ld. made at the Ore Hearth between the 31st Decr. 1760 & 31st. Decr. 1773 12.573 Tons .3 p[iece]s the expense of the Peats £975..5s..8 3/4d when Mr. Walton entered in 1770 there was few or no peats at the Mill the Lead made since then to the 31st Decr. last past at the Ore Hearth 4643.10 the Charge of the peats 368.8.2 ¼ the Peats at the Mill I believe will bring them (in Mr Walton's time) a little below the above calculation p[er] Ton & I have agreed (if you approve of it) wth. a set of People to supply the Mill wth. Peats for 3 yrs. at 16d p[er] Ton of Ld. made at the Ore Hth. they to be at all the Expences of the Wet Peats & getting them into the Mill for the Smelters. We have smelted 53 ¾ B[ing]s of Ore f'm Allanhds. new Vain call'd Knoplaw wch. yielded at the Ore Hth 192 ps wch. is 4 1/4 11/12 B to the Ton 16 ps =22cwt

I made an Assay of the Ld. for Silver it was not so fair as one as I could Wish or should have sent it, but shall make the Refiner make you one I think it will not Answr. To Refine. I am afraid we shall fall a deal short of last Yrs. Quantity of Ld. for Market this Yr. for the Ore comes but slowly – shall be in Town on the 6th. June to order the things wanted for the Mills when you'll please to let me have Some Subsistence Money – the inclosed Accots. I should have given you when last in Town – pray pardon the neglect & am

Yrs. &c IH Jr

**30 May 1774 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

[Note: The 'Co.' is the London Lead Company]

Dukesfd. 30th. May 74

Mr. Morrow Blaydon

Dr Sr.

When at Apperley Lane the other Day I found that some of the Carriage Men play Tricks wth. the Woman that keeps the Gate there by getting some of the Co.s Draughts through the Barr wth. them. I desire that youll acquaint them all, that who'ever of them any way deceives the Woman there or is any way aiding the Co's Ld to pass the above Barr or connives at its passing along that Lane, shall be immediately discharged f'm Sr. Wm.s Carriage

Pray inquire frequently of your Wainmen (and let me know) if they see any of the Co's Ld. pass along that Lane but the Apperley Tenants who I gave leave to) for there can none go wth.out some of them knowing. I am sure there's been Tricks plaid if you can find any of your Wainmen (after this notice) that does not acquaint you when they see any of tht. Ld. passing on the Lane turn them directly of[f] the Carriage & am Ys. &c IH Jr.

**7 Jul 1774 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Crawhall**

[Note: 'R.G.' is Raw Green]

Dukesfd. 7 July 1774

Mr. Thos. Crawhall Allanhds. Mill

Sr.

I have below given you the Names of the Carriers that's to Carry yor. 8 Sto.[ne] Lead to this Mill, two or three days in the Week. I think will <Keap> the Ref[in]ery here going – you may fix the Days &c as you think proper and if any of them does not obey your Orders, or takes any Ld. f'm the Mill at unlawfull Hours, or when you are absent wth.out acquainting some of your Family of it you'll please to Acquaint me & I shall discharge them the Carriage & am yrs. &c IH Jr

Robt. Errington  
Jno. Chatt Dalton  
Jno. Chatt Snr  
Geo Armstrong  
Jos. Armstrong

Thos. Neving  
Jos. Bell Hill hs  
Wm. Winter  
Thos Bell R.G.  
Edw. Dixon

Geo, Thirlwell  
Thos. Askew sometimes  
Jos Currey  
Jos Carrick sometimes  
Wm. Welch  
Currey G. <Street> sometimes  
Bullman sometimes

**10 Aug 1774 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Dukesfd. 10th. Augt. 1774

Mr. Morrow Blaydon

Dr. Sr.

Yours of the 6th. inst. I recd. yesterday mornng. & have given such orders to the Wainmen that Carry the ld. fm this mill that will I hope remove the falt you complain of for the future, but if they should not have the effect youll please to advise me a line. As to the Lead you have got this season being short of Weight I think you must be mistaken: the Dukesfd. Refined Lead am sure you are for 50 ps. you say seldom reach 69 Hund.d wch. is  $\frac{1}{4}$  Hund.d over weight and I have examined the Accots as to the refd. Ld sent to Blaydon this season & find the over weight of 4619 p[iece]s (wch. is the quantity delivd.) to amount to 77 cwt 2 qr 14 lb there for hope you are also mistaken as to the Common Lead – however am obliged to you for your good intent, and do desire when ever you find any short that you'll acquaint me. I bespoke again of Bellow pipes at Crowley's Factory the beginning of June for this Mill wch. was to be sent to your care, as we are in want of them, desire youll remind them of them for I do suppose they have forgot them & forward them here as soon as possible & you'll oblige

Yor. hbl Servt. IH Jr.

**23 Aug 1774 Isaac Hunter to William Westgarth**

Dukesfd. 23d. Augt. '74

Mr. Westgarth Coalcleugh

Dr. Sr.

On the 15th. inst I was at Allanheads Mill where I saw Ore from Coalcleugh most shamefully dressed, the most so of any that I ever saw come f'm her since you was concerned; it was all alike, for I cannot say whether the Round or Small was worst. I thought it had been some that the Carriers had taken wth.out Orders but Mr. Crawhall told me that it was all much a like tho he did think what had come last was the Worst. What we have got to this Mill of late is not so good as usual (tho much better than the above) and particularly the Round Ore. I beg you'll give Orders to prevent the like for the future & am Yrs. &c

IH Jr.



**25 Aug 1774 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Maughan**

Dukesfd. 25th Augt 1774

Mr. Thos. Maughan N.House

Dr. Sr.

The Small quantity of Ore sent f'm Sedling to this Mill is very badly dressed; I cannot say that whats gon to Rookhope Mill this Summer is so well as it ought to be, tho far superior to that sent here, its little better than Ore Tails. I beg you'll order that no more be sent till better dress'd and that the Ores to be sent to Rookhope may also be made as clean as possible before they are taken f'm the Groves & am

Yrs. &c I:H:Jr:

**26 Aug 1774 Isaac Hunter to Isaac Walton**

Dukesfd. 26th. Augt. 1774

Mr. Isaac Walton Rookhope

Sir

I imagine by this time that you'll have very little of your 8 Sto. Lead left, therefore would have you to smelt 8 Stone pieces for a Week or so. Mr. Morrow complains that your Common Lead is much out of proportion as to weight some pieces very heavy and other very light I desire you'll order your Smelters to make all their Lead as near a Weight as possible and to mind that none of them be short of Weight. I understand by your Peat Carters that they have fill'd one end of the Peat House; you must Move or Stack the Peats thats in the other end close up together (so as you can know when you come at them again) that they may be able to fill the Remainder of it wth. new Peats, and clean out the Stack Walls that they may stack those at the Door that the House will not hold. & am Yrs. &c IH,Jr.

**6 Sep 1774 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd. 6th. Septr. 1774

Mr. Richmond N.Castle

Sir

Inclosed you have the Month Accots. by wch. you'll see that there's very little Lead at any of the Mills, and indeed the Quantity of Ore for the Season of the Year has not the best appearance for another year tho I hope this Month may do something towards laying in a Stock of Ore for Winter at the Several Mills. Shall be in Town the latter end of the Week when I hope youll let me have Subsistence Mo. & am

Yrs &c IH Jr

**5 Nov 1774 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd. 5th. Novr. 1774

Mr. Richmond N.Castle

Sir

You'll here wth. receive p[er] Hexham Carrier a Box containing 2 plates of Silver as p[er] inclosed Accot. have also sent Mr. Salkelds month Accot. & shall send Rookhope & Allanhds. once they come to hand wch. I expect in a Day or two's time. Youll see by Mr. S Accot. that the Stock of Ore at his Mill is small for the Season of the Year. & am yrs. &c

IH.Jr

**3 Dec 1774 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Dukesfd: 3d. Dec:r 1774

Mr Robt. Morrow Blaydon

Dr. Sr.

I hope <ere> this, that all the Dufd. & Allanhds Lead is got in, and as the time draws near when we were by Agreement to pay for the Carriage of it fm the Bankft. have be low given you an Accot. of the Quantity delivd. f'm each Mill; and if its all come to hand would like to hear f'm you that I may give Mr. Richmond of the notice of the Pay as long before as possible; for I would no choose that we should not to be behind the time promised making of it, in case the Lead be all got to Blaydon you may at also let me know what you want of each kind (ie 11 & 8 Sto pieces) of the Rookhope Lead. I am

Yrs &c IH Jr

Dukesfd Lead 15,700 Allanhds 1332 ps  
Rookhope 11Sto 13.163 & 8 Sto 9014 ps

wrote again 18th. Decr.

20 Dec 1774 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond

Decr. 20th. 1774

Mr. H Richmond N.Castle

I have inclosed the Month Accots. & shall bring you the Quartr. Accots. when I come for the Cash to pay for the Carriage of the Ld. between the Bankfoot & Blaydon wch. I expect will be soon; it was to have been this Week by agreement but have heard nothing f'm Mr. Morrow wch. makes me suspect that its not all got to Blaydon

Below you have the Quantity of Ld. delivd. f'm each Mill this yr. to Blaydon, by wch. you'll see that to pay the Carriage of the East Stage of the Dfd. & Allanhds Lead Will take £354..16s..8d

I am yrs &c IH Jr

Dukesfd. Ld.	15,700		
Allanhds	1,332		
Rookhope	13.163	8 Sto ps	9014
	30.195		9014

6 Jan 1775 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Crawhall

Dukesfd: 6th. Jan:y 1775

Mr. Crawhall Allanheads Mill

Sir

I desire that you'll on the rect. of this Write to Jno. Forster of Lilswood that he may come to your Mill to Smelt. You may set him to one of your Old Smelters for He's a Stranger to the Business as a Servt (i.e. to have Servts. Wages) for the first Qr. wch you'll please to acquaint him with before he starts for I do not know that He will Submit to it at His time of Life we cannot imploy him otherwise

I am yrs &c IH Jr

6 Feb 1775 Isaac Hunter to Isaac Walton

Dukesfd. 6th. Feby. 1775

Mr Isa Walton Rookhope Mill

Sir

I have examined the agreement & find that Currey & Collingwood are to have 16d p[er] Ton (16ps. to the Ton of the 11 Sto. & 22 ps. of the 8 Sto to the Ton) for the Peats &c. pray mind your Smelters when they are making 8 sto. Pieces, that they make

Weight; for there's I understand a large quantity of that Lead gon to Blaydon the latter end of last Season short of Weight. Acquaint all your Smelters that those of them that commits the same falt again that they will be discharged the Work; for I have ordered Mr. Morrow when he finds that Lead short again that he sorts it by the Smelter mark & let me know the mark that's low of Weight. Bell's Son of H.Wood will be coming to your Mill to serve Charles Allan once the Weather's Friesh; you must tell Charles that he must make room for him by setting off one of the Hands he now has serving him. & am

Yrs. &c IH Jr

**1 Mar 1775 Isaac Hunter to Isaac Walton**

[Note: The same letter was sent to Thomas Crawhall at Allenheads Mill]

Dukesfd. 1st. March 1775

Mr. Walton Clark Rookhope Mill

Sir

That none of your Carriagemen &c. may have to Alledge on the Payday that they did not know any thing of the Reckoning till it was over (wch. some of them did last pay) I desire you'll acquaint them all that I intend begining to Reckon on Monday the 20th inst. and continue till the End of the Month so that they must come wth.in the said time I am

Yrs IH Jr.

Mem.dum wrote to Mr. Crawhall to the same effect at the Same time.

**13 Mar 1775 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd. 13th. March 1775

Mr. Richmond N.Castle

I have here wth. sent you Septr. Qr. Decr. Month and General Accots. for the Three Mills & Refinery; should have sent them sooner but wanted to have the differences between the Delivry. & Receipt of Ores rectified as much as possible before we closed the Year Accots. I hope you'll find them to agree pritty nearly wth. all the Mines except Allan. and there by part of the Weighd over Ore having been sent to this Mill, wch. I understand is not put so in the Accot. sent you. I am afraid that the Accot. of Silver will not agree wth. yours, for I have mislaid the Accot. you gave me of the Weigt. of the 2 plates sent in June, & cannot say whether I corrected my accot. on the rect of it or not. shall forward the Accots. &c as fast as possible & once I can tell (nearly) the

Sum that will make the Pay will acquaint you. I expect to be able to send you the Pay Bill Rental &c by the Middle of next Month. & am yrs. &c IH Jr.

**3 Apr 1775 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd. 3d. April 1775

Mr. Richmond N.Castle

Sir

Have sent you the Pay Bill, Rental & Decr. Quartr. Accots. I am not affraid of any mistake in regard to the produce of Coalcleugh Ore last year, as that Ore was all Smelted before the Accot. was made up. the Ore that came f'm Kilhope last Summer must have been got a very poor Mine, & there was some white Ore came fm her very poor of Lead wch. after making Trial of I desired Mr. Kidd would send what they had, & might get of it, to Allanhds. Mill as it would save carriage wch. was accordingly don. I do recolect your telling me that you would not have the Clerk at Rookhope to make up accot. of the produce of the Weardale Ore wch. I also acquainted Mr. Walton but the Accot. of produce in his General Accot. was my doing, tho he had set out the Proportions.

as the Roads are clear of the Dukesfd & Allanhds. Lead may we deliver Lead fm these Mills as soon as the Wainmen choose to start? I am yrs &c &c IH Jr.

**5 May 1775 Isaac Hunter to Robert Allgood**

Dukesfd. 5th. May 1775

Mr. Robt. Allgood Allanhds

Sr.

The Ore that we are receiving f'm your Place is badly dressed & wants Weight both wch. faults I beg you'll remedy for the future. I was in hopes (fm what you promised me) that we should not have any cause for complaint of your Ore after you got quit of the Over year Ore, wch. I suppose you have don some time ago & whats coming now is worse if worse can be than what we received a month ago. I am yrs. &c

IH Jr

**21 May 1775 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd. 21st. May 1775

Mr. Richmond N.Castle

Inclosed have sent you the Month Accots. for the three Mills, & a copy of the charge of fetching the Money for the Pay as you desird.

One of our Refiners has been ill so that you'll not get the two Plates of Silver so soon as might be expected, but I expect he'll be able to go to his Work to morrow. The Ore Carriers are standing out for an advance of Price for this Mill fm Coalcleugh & Allanhds Mines the Quakr. Compy have not advanced their Ore Carriage (as their Agents tell me) tho' all the Carriers are on Carrying their Ore & Lead. If you think proper shall propose to make them a Pay for what they carry before Lammas in Octobr. as we did in the yrs. 69 & 70 when Carriers were bad to get - & the Lead Compy paying the Carriage of their Ore & Lead the latter end of the yr. is a means of their getting more Carriers than We the begining of the Season, when the Wages are Equal wch. I believe to be the case at present, tho' cannot say that the above proposal will do at this time without an advance, how ever think it advisable to try it for a short time as the Season is but young & am

yrs. &c IH Jr

**12 Jun 1775 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd. 12th. June 1775

Mr. Richmond N.Castle

Sir

Here wth. have Sent you a Box wth. 2 plates of Silver (as p[er] inclosed accot) and the Month accot. for Dukesfd. Mill. I did not meet wth. Mr. Marchall when I went to Hackford Mine, but was told that He's to be there to day so Shall take a ride there & discharge him agreeable to your Orders. & am

Your Most Hble Svt. IH Jr.

**20 Jun 1775 Isaac Hunter to Westgarth Forster**

Dukesfd. 20th June 1775

Mr. W. Forster Coalcleugh

Sir

I have frequently complained this Season of the Want of Weight in the Ore recd. f'm your place & finding at several times when at the Mill that there were some of the

Carriers that I then had wd that some had & others wanted Wt. made me order all the Ore that came last Week to be weigh'd and an accot. kept of the deficiency; wch. amounted in the Week f'm your Grove to 444 lb near 2 Horse of Ore; I have inclosed the Names is of the Carriers & the Quantity each wanted that you may make them make up the deficiency. Whether the falt is in the Person that delivers the Ore or the trickishness of the Carriers I know not, however, the delivr: ought to be more attentave to prevent any taking up Ore short of Wt. for the future & am  
yrs. &c IH Jr

**20 Jun 1775 Isaac Hunter to Robert Allgood**

Dukesfd. 20th. June 1775

Mr. Robt. Allgood Allanhds

Sr.

The frequent complaints I have made this Season in regard to the Want of Wt. & the falt not removed made me order all the Ore recd. last Week be weighed, & find that the Quantity short f'm your Grove was 177 lb. tho' after the 2 first days there was none had short Wt. (but Robt. Archer & he 33 lb in 3 1/2 Bings) but several over Weight, wch shows that the falt is in the Person that delivers the Ore not looking properly to the Carriers when they Weigh their Ore. wch. I beg you'll give Orders to prevent for the future. I am sorry that I cannot commend the Ore (as to its being well dres.d &c) as I expected I might have don f'm the promises you made on that Head when last together, for I find it very little better than what you sent the begining of the Season – pray let us see that you can do better for the time to come & am

Yrs &c IH Jr.

**24 Jun 1775 Isaac Hunter to Robert Allgood**

Dukesfd. 24 June 1775

Mr. Robt. Allgood Allanheads

Sir

Jno Neving's Servt. was here wth Ore fm your place yesterday, 24 lb short of Weight should like to know where the blame lies, for we never that I can recolect had so often short Weight f'm the Mines as this season, and if its intentional or negligence in the Carriers would make an example of one or two of them for a caution to the Rest. & am

yrs &c IH Jr

24 Jun 1775 Isaac Hunter to C. Kidd

Dukesfd. 24th. June 1775

Mr. Kidd Killhope

Sir

Crag & Peart were at the Mill yesterday with Ore f'm your Mine, which wanted in the Whole 11 Stone & <6> Pound, wch. defficiency I desire you'll make them bring the first time that they take up Ore at your place & that you acquaint Mr. Salkeld by a Line when they bring it that he may give them Cr <for> the rect. of it. You'll please to prevent the like happening for the future. & am

Yrs &c IHunter Jr.

3 Jul 1775 Isaac Hunter to Walter Blackett

[Note: A loose draft letter within the letter book. Two lines interleaved in the draft marked here by '/'.]

Dukesfield 3d July 1775

Sir

On the 6th Feby. last I appointed the Eldest Son of Thos Bell's of Hunstanworth as a Servt. at Rookhope, / appears to be be about 16 or 17 yrs of age / whose between 16 & 17 years of age / that He might be in the way of improving himself for a Smelter, wich I intended to make him, once I [struck out: 'thought'] think Him fit & one wanting. I suppose He must be the Person that Mr. Hudson has applied to you for; [struck out: 'as he is the Eldest'] & shall take the first opportunity of puting Him forward. & am with due defference

Your most Obliged & Hbl Servt.

Isaac Hunter Junr:

To Sir Walter Blackett Bart.

3 Jul 1775 Isaac Hunter to Jonathan Sparke

[Note: A loose draft letter within the letter book next to the letter from Hunter to Blackett. A few characters lost on right edge of the leaf]

Dukesfield 3d July 1775

Sir

Sir Walter Blackett Bart has appointed you to be clerk at Allenheads Mill where he choose that you should enter immediately. <You'll> please to call here in your way to the Mill. I am wishing you health & success in your new place Sir

Yr Hble servt Isaac Hunter jnr



To Mr Jonathn Sparke

**5 Jul 1775 Isaac Hunter to William Westgarth**

Dukesfd. 5th. July 1775

Mr. Westgarth C.C.

Sr.

I have frequently complaind of the want of Weight of the Ore sent this Season f'm Coalcleugh wth. out affect for Yesterday Wm. Bell <Sn. fd> brought in 9 Horse wch. wanted 11s: 8lb & several other Carriers that were wd. had sharp Weight indeed the Carriers f'm C.C. of late have most of them brought short Wt. I beg you'll give such Orders as to prevent it for the future. If you find after you have inquired in to the affair that the falt is owing to the trickisness [sic] of the Carriers shall willingly make an example of two or three of them as a caution to Others – but surely it showist great negligence in the Person that Delivd. the Ore to suffer so many to cheat him after so many cautions & am yrs. &c

IH Jr

**28 Jul 1775 Isaac Hunter to Isaac Walton**

Dukesfd. 28 July 1775

Mr. Isaac Walton Rookhope

Sir

I have sent the Bearer John Reay to be a Smelter at your Mill, as Noble & he are near Neighbours you may let them work together, & set Elliot to Ra. Stephinson & am  
Yrs. &c IH.Jr

**22 Aug 1775 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd. 22d. Augt. 1775

Mr. Richmond N.Castle

Sir

Inclosed you have the two last Month Accots. for the Several Mills wch. I keep agreeable to your Order till I heard that you was return'd f'm Tynemouth, where I hope you have Reapt the expected advantage.

I was Sorry to find by Mr. Sparke that I had not fulfilled your Orders in Regard to his appointment to the Clarks place at Allanhds Mill, but I do assure you it was not with any intention, but only f'm my not perceiving them in that light. I recd. yours in regard to the Quantity of Refineable Lead to be sent to Blaydon this Season & shall take care that the Quantity named shall be sent. shall be obliged to trouble you for Subsistance Money in three Weeks or a Month's Time. & am yrs. &c.

IH Jr

**23 Sep 1775 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd. 23d. Sepr: 1775

Mr. Richmond N.Castle

Sir

I would have before this given you an Accot. of the Sum that will be wanted to make the Pay in Octobr. for the Carriage of Ore to this Mill, but the Agreement wth. the Carriers depended in part upon the Quaker Co. as to the time that they paid them to; and the Q[uake]rs. had their Pays this Week & I find that they paid the Ore Carriage to Midsummer last, there for the quantity of Ore recd. at this Mill between the 31st Jan & 31st of June is (Viz)

B[ing]s

Fm Allanhds	1217 1/2 =	202.18.4
C.C	882 1/2 =	176:10 -
Kilhope	60 1/2 =	13.12.3
		£393: -:7

Shall bring a particular Accot. of each Carrier's quantity of the above, when I come for the Cash to pay them for the Carriage, wch. I shall do any time next week Month that's most agreable to you & Mr. Blackett & am yrs. &c IH Jr.

**23 Sep 1775 Isaac Hunter to William Westgarth**

Dukesfd. 23d. Sepr: 1775

Mr. Westgarth Whiteleeshield

Sr.

The thunder & rain last Thursday prevented me f'm making a complaint at Whitelees[hie]ld of the Ore that has been recd. of late at Dfd. & All[enhead]ds Mills f'm Coalcleugh being badly dressed; both the Small & Shattered Ore – but particularly the

shattered – for there's several pieces of it the size of two Fists and scarcely 1/3 part of them is Ore – there's a deal of the Whitewd. Vain Ore (wch. came in the Other day) that's nothing but Sieve Topings & them very poor. I beg you'll give such Orders as will prevent any Ore being sent fm your Mines to the Mills till properly dressed. I have taken a few pieces both of the shattered & what I call sieve Topings taken up at random out of the Bingsteed that you may see them when you come down. I think your Washers have either taken an example at the [Allen] Heads Washers or you have got some of them to Coalcleugh to instruct yours in their method. & am yrs.

&c &c IH Jr:

**9 Oct 1775 Isaac Hunter to William Leighton**

Dukesfd: 9th Octobr. 1775

Mr. Wm. Leighton Shotley Church

Sir

I had a complaint fm the Clerk at Rookhope Mill when last there, that Pringle did not bring sufficient Loads neither of Coals or Cinders to that Mill fm your Pit and that He brought several Loads both of Coals & Cinders in single Packs that would scarcely hold a Hexham Bush.l. as I have some reason to believe that the above complaint, is more f'm malice than any just cause but as I should be as sorry to punish wth.out a Falt as to overlook One when told of it, I therefore beg you'll give me a Line how the matter really is; and whether you perceive any alteration in the Loads for the Worse since he first began to carry the Coals & Cinders to that Mill – for I can rely on your report of the Matter; knowing that your Integrity is not to be biased by any little pane that it can be of to you

& am ys. &c IH Jr

P.S. Should like to have your answr. Before I visit the Mill wch. I purpose doing the latter end of the Week

**9 Oct 1775 Isaac Hunter to Robert Ward**

Dukesfd. 9th. Octobr. 1775

Robt. Ward <Bucks Holt>

Sr.

I am sorry to be obliged to write a second time in regard to the Deals &c that you undertook to carry f'm Blaydon to Rookhope Mill, to reprove you for the neglect but if you do not get all the Wood, Iron Castings &c thats for that Mill there against the next time I am there (wch. will be in 10 or 15 Days time) that I shall order some other

Carriage Man to take them up where ever He can find them, for I find by Mr. Morrow that you have got them all f'm Blaydon  
& am yrs. &c IH.Jr.

**12 Oct 1775 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd. 12th. Octobr: 1775

Mr. Richmond N.Castle

Sir

You'll receive herewth. a Box containing two Plates of Silver as p[er] inclosed Accot. & also the Month Accots. for the Smelt Mills for September Last.

In my last I gave you an Accot. of the Sum that it would take to pay the Ore Carriage to this Mill to MidSummer last, & that they were to be paid by the Agreement in Octobr: & that I would come for the Cash whenever you pleased to appoint. not hearing f'm you since makes me suppose that it has escaped your Memory, therefor should be glad if you would fix the time when you give the Accot. of the Silver being come to Hand & am yrs. &c IH Jr

**18 Oct 1775 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd. 18th. Octobr: 1775

Mr. Richmond Newcastle

Sir

Have fix'd Saturday the 28th. Inst. to Pay the Ore Carriers on, & shall come for the Money on Thursday the 26th. & am

Sir yrs, &c IH Jr.

**18 Oct 1775 Isaac Hunter to William Westgarth**

Dukesfd: 18th. Octobr: 1775

Mr. Westgarth Coalcleugh

Sir

I am sorry to find that my last have had no effect, as to getting the Ore f'm your Mines better dressed, for I do assure you that the Ore f'm C.C. has never come to this Mill so badly dressed since you was concerned as this year – as to the want of Weight am still of opinion that it must be the falt of the Person that delivrs. the Ore to the Carriers. I have don what I can to deter the Carriers f'm bringing in Ore to the Mill

short of Weight by discharging some, wch. did answr. while the Carriage was scarce, but they are relapsed to their Old way, so have ordered Mr. Salkeld to keep an Accot. of the short Weigt. & to deduct it at the end of the year f'm the whole Quantity recd. I wish you would Stop the Delivery or take some method to prevent the Ore being sent to the Mills so badly dressed or I shall be obliged to make a report of it, for I am very sure that the produce of Ld. will be greatly short of former yrs. & am

Yrs. &c IH Jr

**18 Oct 1775 Isaac Hunter to Westgarth Forster**

Dukesfd. 18th. Octobr. 1775

Mr. Westgarth Forster Allanhds

Dr. Sr.

I have frequently complained to you this Summer of the Ore f'm your Grove being badly Wash'd. & wanting Weight - & am sorry to find wth.out the desired effect, for I think the Ore comes worse & worse dressed (if possible to send it worse <of> dressd. state) if I say there's 1/3 part of the Quantity sent refuse, I am sure I am wth in bounds. You are sensible that the blame will ly upon me when the Accot. of the produce of Ld. is shown for suffering the Ore to come to the Mill so badly dress'd wth. out making a complaint wch. I shall be obliged to do in case you do not immediately put a stop to sending Ore to the Mills till properly dressed – as to the Want of Weight we still have case to cry out of but have Ordered Mr. Salkeld to keep an Accot. of the short Weigt. wch. we shall deduct f'm the quantity recd. at the end of the Yr f'm the Rect. of Ore & am

Yrs. &c IH Jr

**11 Nov 1775 Isaac Hunter to Jonathan Sparke**

Dukesfd 11th. Novr. 1775

Mr. Jonathn. Sparke Clerk at Allanhd. Mill

Sir

I have sent the Bearer Jno. Currey to be a Smeltr. at your Mill. as he has had little practice in that Business, you must put Him to one of yr. Old Smelters who you think the most capable to instruct him in the Art for a While at Servts. Wages; and after you think him fit to have half shift you must let him work wth. Thos. Purvis.

I desire you'll make your Smeltrs. (when the weather will allow) make as much Lead as possible – they must not make less than 2 Ton a Man p[er] Week when the Ore is anything Tolerable. & am

Yrs. &c IH Jr:

**8 Dec 1775 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Decr: 8th. 1775. Dukesfd.

Mr. R. Morrow Blaydon

Sir

I have not as yet been able to make out any of the Lead wanting in the Hands of any of the Westhand Carriers, tho I cannot say that they are clear of negligence this year, tho the instance you give should not (I think) charge them wth. the whole blame however shall write you an answr. once I make any discovery. The Wards I believe delivd the Ore they took up at Allanhds. Mill at Whitensday, & I find by that Mills Accots. that they had 180 ps. & by your Accot. Green has brought but 168 so that inables us to charge them & Green wth. the 12 ps. wanting – below you have an Accot. of the Quantity that each Man you mention has taken f'm the Mill & allso the Quantity of Dukesfield Ld. delivd in 1774 & 1775 & whats delivd fm Rookhope to the 4th. Inst. & am

Yrs. &c IH Jr.

Dufd. Mill 1774 & 5 - 34,145

Rookhope 11 Sto 12,065 – 8 Sto – 7902

**15 Dec 1775 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd. 15 Decr: 1775

Mr. H Richmond N. Castle

Sir

Inclosed you have the Mills Month Accots: for November & also an Octobr. accot for Allanhds for Mr Sparke did not know that we keep a distinction between the Ld. made f'm Ore charged to the Mill & Ld. made f'm Grove West Ore or Ton Tail – so that you'll please to burn the One sent before – the Quantity of Ld. delivd. this year f'm Dukesfd. & Allanhds. Mills (that the East hand Carriage is to be paid for by Agreement in this Month) is 20,097 ps. the Carriage of which for the East stage will amount to £418.13s.9d the Rents will be to deduct f'm the Above Sum. You'll please when Mr. Morrow wates upon you (wth. an Accot. of the Rect. of the above Ld.) to find the time to pay the East hand Carriers wch. Mr. Morrow may advise me of & am

Yrs. &c IH.Jr.

**15 Dec 1775 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Dukesfd. 15 Decr: 1775

Mr. Morrow Blaydon

Sir

Yours of the 13th. inst. I recd. last Night & was surprized to find by it that you had not Recd. mine of the 8th. wch. I sent that morn.g to N.Castle by one of Sir Wrs. Servts. wch. I hope will come to hand as I had there given you an Accot. of the Quantities of Ld. delivd. f'm the several Mills, but I find that Mr. Walton had made a mistake in the Accot. given me of the 8 Stone Lead & wch. I gave you of one Thousand ps. for upon reexamining his Month Accots. I find that His delivy. of 8 Stone Ld. is 8902. I have seen the Wards in regard to the 12 ps. of Allanhds. Ld. who I hear got last Monday what you speak of at the Grey-Mare – I have don what I can to find the 24 ps. of Dukesfd. Ld. in this Westhand but can not find so much as a single peace of it have examined all the several unloading places that any of the Carriage Men ever used to lay of Ld. at & also all the Ling &c sought near wherever any Lead had ever been knowing to be lying, & the several off Carriers that are of the Ld. way that carried Ld. this year f'm Dukesfd. have been examined who are all willing to make Oath that they delivd. the quantity at the Bankfoot wch. they took fm the Mill. I cannot help thinking but some of the Easthand Wainmen must have it by them & more so f'm the No. as it answrs. To 2 of their Fothrs. & none of the Westhd. Carriers ever carry more than 11ps. at a time. I wish it could be found & soon, for I have this day wrote Mr. Richmond an Accot. of the Quantity delivd. which the East Stage Carriage of was to be paid for by agreement in this Month & that He would please to fix the time of payment wth. you when you gave him an Accot. of the Rect. wch. you would advise me of. I am

Dr. Sr. Yr. &c IH Jr.

**21 Dec 1775 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd: 21st. Decr: 1775

Mr. Richmond N.Castle

Sir

I have herewith sent you a plate of Silver weighing 901 Ounces just taken off wth. out an Accot. of the Lead &c as we had not time to get the Reduced Ld. weighd. to save this days Carrier & being informed that no Carriers will go f'm Hexham next Week being Christmas, so shall bring the Accot. of the Lead &c with me on Monday & am Yrs. &c I:H: Jr:

**21 Dec 1775 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Dukesfd: 21st. Decr: 1775

Mr. R. Morrow Blaydon

Sir

I have been with all the Westhand Carriers that Carried any Lead f'm Dukesfd. Mill this year since I saw you, & have had all the Places where ever Lead was known to been laid off examined again wth.out finding so much as a single pig. I find by yours (wch. I recd. last night) that the 47 ps. wanting are all of the short Lead. I am convinced now that there's not a Pig of Lead in the Hands of any of the Westhand Carriers as much as one can be of a thing they do not see the performance of & are obliged to take the report of the doers. You I suppose is as much convinced that none of your Easthand Men has any by them; so there is no way for it but being stolen, & the quantity I think is too great for that. however shall have it called at all the Churches on the West end of the road on Sunday next & I think it would not be improper if you caled it also at Righton. shall offer a reward of 2 G[uine]as (if its Hid) for any that will discover who hid it to be paid on conviction. the Mines Pays are next Week, & shall be in town all day Tuesday where I should be glad to see you & am

Yrs. &c IH:Jr:

**10 Jan 1776 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd: 10th. Jany: 1776

Mr Richmond N.Castle

Sir

You would see by th Pay Bills that I recd: 4£..8s .3d for Fewal of Allanhds. Mill for the Ton Tail Lead of Coalcleugh & Allanhds. Mines; the fewal for the Weardale Mines I find by Mr. Maughan was always accounted for in his General Accot. the Fewel for Coalcleugh & Allhds Mines was always recd. at the Mines Pays by the Clerk at Allds. Mill and deducted f'm his Salary as you may see by examining that Mills Decr. Quartr. Accots. for 1773 & 1774. I have had the Stock of Lead at this Mill examined again wth. the Smelting & Delivery wch. agrees wth. what Mr. Salkeld makes it. have not heard of any of the Lead wanting as yet; its surely too great a quantity to be stolen & its very od one cannot find some of it on the Roads; if its not found soon after the Snow's of[f] the ground I think it would be proper to have it advertised & am yrs. &c I:H: Jr:



**11 Jan 1776 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Dukesfd. 11 Jany: 1776

Mr. R. Morrow Blaydon

Dr Sr.

I cannot tell what course we can now take to find the Lead wanting, the calling of it has made no discovery as yet. I have examined the Stock wth. the Smelting & Delivery & find them to agree exactly. can you have made any mistake in placing the Dukesfd. Lead & Rookhope Mill's Lead? as that Mills Ld. has been led I suppose by several that let Dukesfd. and there's a part of that Lead not got of[f] the Roads yet & if you have not Weigd. All that's come to hand would hope you'll find it there, for I despair now of our finding it upon the Roads & am yrs. &c. IH.Jr.

**9 Mar 1776 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd: 9th. March 1776

Mr. H. Richmond N.Castle

Sir

With this you'll receive a Plate of Silver as p[er] inclosed Accot.

Mr. Forster I suppose would (when last in Town) acquaint you wth. a little parcel of Wood that's upon this Farm, wch. he would like to have for Wolfcleugh Mine. its very crooked & small, and I think has not improved any thing for these 10 or 15 y. past. if you are agreeable that he should have it shall get some Body to put a Value upon it. & am

Sir yrs. &c IH Jr

**11 Mar 1776 Isaac Hunter to Isaac Walton**

11th. March 1776

Mr. Walton Rookhope

Sir

I doubt I shall not be able to get to the mill this Week therefor desire that you'll make up your Accots. & send me as soon as possible. You may leave a half Sheet at the end of your Qr. Accot. that I may ad here any thing that may be omitted. Give me a line what you think Dixon should have for stamping the Chatts. I hope you make the Slag Harth Men when they have not Slags go to the several Ore Hearth's week about as I wrote you in my last & am yrs. &c IH.Jr.

**14 Mar 1776 Isaac Hunter to Isaac Walton**

Dukesfd 14th. March 1776

Mr. Walton Rookhope

Sir

If Sr. Walter has a Right to a way for Mannure &c to his Ground through Hutchinson's Ground as you say (& I suppose is so at proper Seasons) would have you to lead out the Mannure wth.out taking any notice of Pringle. Elliot or any Old Person in the Neighbourhood will show you the way that was always used that you may keep to it & am yrs. &c. IH Jr.

**18 Mar 1776 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Dukesfd. 18th. March 1776

Mr. Morrow Blaydon

Dr. Sr.

I have inclosed you an Accot. of the Lead delived f'm Rookhope Mill to the Several Carriers, the Clark there has been Ill so that I did not get that Mill's Accots. till last week or should have sent it sooner. shall be glad to hear f'm you soon wth. an Accot. of the Quantity short & the People that are, for I purpose beginning to Reckon in 10 or 15 Days time & would like to have your Tickets by that time. I would like to have the Accots. &c sent to N.Castle before we have the Meeting wth. the Carriers of the Easthand stage for this years Carriage, but shall give you a Line when I would like to have the Meeting that you may acquaint them & have an Article prepared for them to sign.

& am yrs. &c IH Jr.

**26 Mar 1776 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd: 26th. March 1776

Mr. Richmond N.Castle

Sir

Mr. Isaac Walton Clerk at Rookhope Mill died last Sunday, I was there yesterday & took Mr. Bowman wth. me, who I left to take care of the Mill &c till a Clerk be appointed. I can answr. for Him that he will take care that the Works there be properly conducted while he has the Charge of the Mill, so that you need not on that Accot. be in any hast in fixing One. We have had 3 eight stone Pigs Stolen f'm Allanhds. Mill this

Month, there has been several Strowling People in that Neighbourhood for some time past as Spoon-makers &c who are likely to have stolen them, I sent to the Constable once I heard it (but am affraid it was too late for I heard after that they had left the Country) to desire that he would take them up or I would complain to the Justices of his neglect of duty as they have all orders to take up all the Strowling People that comes wth.in their districts. the death of Mr. Walton will hinder me f'm giving you an Accot. of the Money it will take to make the Smelt Mill pay so soon as I intended. however shall do my endeavours to get the Accots. Pay Bill &c ready to send against the 22d April & am yrs. &c

IH Jr.

P.S. shall endeavour all I can to learn the Characters of those that I heare apply for the Place before I come to town.

**30 Mar 1776 Isaac Hunter to Anthony Watson**

Dukesfd: 30th. March 1776

Mr. Anthy. Watson Clerk at Acton Mill

As it would give me great pleasure to be anyway instrumental to the preferment of young Smith, who has offerd for the Clerks place at Rookhope, & as he has in a manner been brought up under your Eye, you must know his dispositions, and knowledge of the Business better than any else, and as I can rely upon your report of him (knowing that you would not intentionally deceive me) therefor beg you'll give me his True Character in a line by the Bearer, both as to Talents & conduct; that I may be able to do him Justice when called upon, as I doubt not but His will bear the strictest examining & as I can say nothing f'm my own knowldge he being a Stranger to me. Your complying wth the above will oblige yr. Sincear Friend

I Hunter Jr

**30 Mar 1776 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd: 30th. March 1776

Mr. Richmond Newcastle

Sir

I have but just recd: yours of the 26 or should have wated upon you according to your Order. shall wate upon you on Monday morning. you would find by my last what steps I had taken for the present when at Rookhope.

I am yrs. &c IH Jr

**6 Apr 1776 Isaac Hunter to Westgarth Forster**

Dukesfd. 6th. April 1776

Mr. Forster Allanhds.

Yesterday I saw some of your Ore at the Mill wch. came in that day, its better than what I complained of in my last, tho' not so well as it ought. I beg you'll reprimand your Workers so as to prevent their putting any of their Sands till well dress'd. you must let us have it good to have any peace. the produce both of Allanhds & Coalecleugh Ore last year is shamefull & I do not know how to Face Mr. Richmond after he gets the Accots. & am

Yrs. &c IH:Jr

**6 Apr 1776 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Crawhall**

[Note: Undated and has been given the date of the preceding letter in the book]

Mr. Crawhall Coalcleugh

Dr. Sr. I have recd the Sample of Ore you spoak off, it's much better than what came at first, tho not so well dressed as it ought. I see that yr. Ore is naturaly of a better quality & if your Washrs. were to take half the pains that was take wth. what we got 2 yrs. ago it would exceed any that ever came f'm her in my Time. As your Ore (by yr Sample) is much better in Quality, let me beg of you to do it justice in the Dressing that we may be able to remove the Slur it has got by last yrs. produce. I dread to meet Mr. Richmond after he gets the Accot. IH Jr

**12 Apr 1776 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd. 12th. April 1776

Mr Richmond N.Castle

Sir

Potts is a Stranger to me, and I have not been able to learn as yet more than that he was a Miner when he left Derwenhead (where he was born) & went to Work as such at Fallowfield; that he's past his prime of Life, and was very well thought on when at the Mine & in Derwent head as a diligent, sober, Honest Man. I should suppose f'm his having the conducting of the Mill at Fallowfield for some years past, that he must be qualified for the place at Rookhope, for I know that Fallowfd Ore requires to be

skillfully delt with. Geo Lowes is a Sly cunning Man & in my opinion not qualified for the place. There's One Robson of Birken side I hear means to offer who wrought as a Smelter at Mr. Errington's Mill for 4 yrs. & the Agent there gives him a great Character as to Skill & abilities I do imagine that you cannot be wrong in fixing any One of the Three (ie) Potts, Smith or Robson so shall wate your further Orders as to whom you would choose to have sent down to you.

Shall finish the Ore at Rookhope this Week & it will be 3 or 4 Week before we will get f'm the Mines what will keep her going. shall repair the <Bank> &c next Week, & if you think proper would start the Lead Carriage f'm the Several Mills as the Oate-seed time is near over. I have sent the Hand bills in to all the Daleheads & little Vilages in round that Neighbourhood. I made a Mistake in the Amount of the Dec qr in the calculation I gave you in my last as to the Sum it would take to make the Pays here; it will take as near as I can guess 4660£ exclusive of the New Castle bills these paid in the General Accot. & am yrs. &c IHunter Jr.

**24 Apr 1776 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Dukesfd. 24th. April 1776

Dr Sr,

I did not get the inclosed till after I had sent you one taken f'm the Quartr. Accots., by yours I find I had made a mistake in it in regard to Rennisons <No.> for he's only charged at the Mill wth. 50 ps. the same that you have him I have made the Total the same wth. this so must have set 10 ps. short to some other of the Carriers, have sent you this that you may make it out by. I have examined the Stock at the Mill since I recd. yours & find it to agree wth. the Accots. so that Mr. Walton has not charged the Smelting of the 10 ps. that you have recd. more than he has made in his Accot. delivd. as I have the Mill Accots. by me shall make them agree wth. your Tickett wch. I desire you'll send me by the bearer as I purpose sending the Accots. &c to N.Castle this Week – If – I should get the Accots. &c setteld as I expect shall meet you and the Wainmen next week in regard to this yrs. Carriage wch. I shall write you & fix the day when I send the Pay Bill &c to N.Castle. & am

Yrs. &c IH Jr

Mr Morrow Blaydon

**27 Apr 1776 Isaac Hunter to Henry Richmond**

Dukesfd. 27th April 1776

Mr Richmond N.Castle

Sir

I have here wth. sent you the Qr. Accots. Pay Bill, Rental Decer. Month Accots for & General Accots for all the Mills & also my General Accot. for last year. any Day that you think proper to fix for the Pay will suit me. Last Years Lead being all got in (except a few pieces that's lost & those of Rookhope the Carrrs. are to make good) have set on the Lead Carriage fm all the Mills & goes briskly forward. I expect we shall clear Dukesfd. & Rookhope Mills before May's out of all the Common Lead. Mr. Smith was taken very Ill the other day & the Surgeon that attends Him I hear has very poor hopes of his recovery, so that I have been obliged to send Bowman again to take care of the Mill. & am

Sir Yor. &c &c IH Jr

P.S when packing the Accots. &c I discovered a mistake in Mr. Walton's Decr. Month accot. so have keep it & the General Accot. wch. I shall send you by Tuesdays post. I hope then to be able to give you a better accot. of Smith.

**13 May 1776 Isaac Hunter to Jonathan Sparke**

Dukesfd: 13th. May 1776

Mr. Sparke Allanhds: Mill

Sir

I have sent you the Bearer Jno. Lee to be a Smelter at your Mill, you may let him work wth. Foster's partr: as he does not intend being at the Mill for Some time, whe (sic) he does we shall provide him wth. one. Delivr: no little Lead next Week

& am Sir yrs. &c IH Jr

**18 Jun 1776 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesfd: 18th. June 1776

Jno. Erasmus Blackett Esqr. Newcastle

Mr. Richmond ordered me when last wth. him, that when I heard of a meeting in regard to New Turnpike on the south side of the Tyne to attend & acquaint him wth. the Resolution there taken, I see by the Papers that there's to be One on the 27th. inst in N. Castle & find by my Brothr. that there's no place fix'd upon, but that the Subscribers

are on that day to fix wch. will be the most convenient – as none but principals (I suppose) will attend shall like to know whether you think that I ought, or if you choose that I should come down & acquaint you befor the Meeting how the projected Roads are situated wth. the Lead Way. & am wth. due deference

yor: mst Hble St. I Hunter Jr

**18 Jun 1776 Isaac Hunter to Joseph Dickinson**

[Note: 'Ayd' was probably 'Aydon Shields']

Dukesfd: 18th June 1776

Mr. Jos. Dickinson Coalcleugh

Dr. Sir

I am sorry that you should Relapse so soon at your place into your last years method of Sending us bad Weight after so much has been said upon that head – on the 14th. inst. Widow Reed's servt. wanted 4 ½ Stone in 9 Horses of Ore the 15th Chrstr. Bell wanted 24lb in 12 do. and the most of the Carriers last Week were sharp weight & several w[eighe]d: 1lb in a Poke. Jos. Bell's Man of Ayd. Wanted yesterd. in one poke 1 stone in another 6lb in others 2lb and several full Weight. Thos. Forster's Man I find by Mr. Salkeld has had Generally sharp weigt. & frequently wanted a pound in a poke, wch. plainly shows that the Person that delivrs: the Ore is negligent. I desire that you'll give such Orders as will prevent the like for the future if any of the Carriers play any tricks wth. him so as to deceive shall readily make an example of them, but cannot suffer the Ore to come to the Mills short of Weigt. wth.out reporting it so I hope you'll keep your Washrs. at making their Ore good & when you have any that you cannot make good, would have you to send it to Allanhd's Mill You may send to that Mill 1000 Bings by the following Carriers

Jos. Bell C.C.  
Joshua Archer  
Wd. Reed  
Jos Currey &  
Thos. Forster –

I am yrs. &c IH Jr

**18 Jun 1776 Isaac Hunter to Westgarth Forster**

Dukesfd. 18th. June 1776

Mr. W. Forster Allanhds

Dr. Sir

Least I should not see you to Morrow in my way to the Mill must thus acquaint you that your Ore does not come so well dresd for these few days past as before therefor beg you'll give orders to have it better don before its sent to the mill & am  
Yrs. &c IH Jr:

**30 Jun 1776 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

[Note: loose draft letter inserted into the volume. Interpolations marked by '/']

Dukesfield 30th. June 1776

Sir

I have / here wth. sent / on the other Side you an estimate of the kinds / sorts / of Lead that we shall be able to send to Blaydon f'm the Several Mills this Year in case the Mines keeps us going wth. Ore wch. I hope there's little doubt off I am like to think that Mr. Mulcaster must be mistaken in the calculation of Refinable Lead to be sent to keep the Refinery going at B.don this year, its near 5000 ps more than they had last year & I find by Mr. Richmond Order to me last Year was but 9500 ps: I suppose (as you'll see on the other side) to be able to Delivr: f'm Rookhope 11600 8 st ps =8300 ps of 11 sto ps. nearly. We have Kilhope Ore at this Mill that will make 400 ps. of X Lead & should hope befor the season is over to get what will make the 1000 ps & shall out the Remainder wth. Coalcleugh Lead f'm this Mill, wch. will reduce the Quantity of Common Ld. calculated on the other side to be sent so much. I ordered the Bed at the Abby for Mr. Trevelyan, the Sassans [Quarter sessions?] are not till the 17th of next Month Cholerford Club is on Thursday next. I gave directions for a Small Plan Sir Walter ordered but there was sumthing else that He ordered me to do in Hexham wch. I cannot for my Life recolect, if you can (and its not too late) should be Obliged to you if you acquaint me by the Return of the Post; at Breakfast that He spoak of it. am very sorry to have been so stupid & if you cannot recollect what it was beg you'll acquaint Sr. Walter that he may blame none but me for the neglect. I hope you & the Ladys got well home. & am wth. Due Defference

Sir your mo Hble Servt

IH:

Mr. Erasmus Blackett Esqr.



Dukesfield Mill Allanhds Rookhope

						11 Sto	8 Sto
1776	<Coalcl> Kilhope Refined Kilhope All<.>					Common	
	WB	X	WB L	X & L	WB	Ld. WB	
Delivd to Blaydon	2465	..	4067	X 1016	272	6346	2804
				L 320			
Computed to Smelt & deliver f'm the Mill before the Carriage for this year strikes up	8000	1000	3600	---	---	1200	8800
	10465	1000	7667	1336	272	7546	11604

Refinable

Lead f'm

Dukesf.d Mill	1000	
Do. Allanhds	1336	2465
Do. Rookhope	8280	6346
	10616	8811

[other rough workings underneath:]

2465	10465	
6346	1000	10465
8811	7667	6014
	19132	4471

**6 Jul 1776 Isaac Hunter to John Bell**

[Note: loose draft letter inserted into the letter book. Recipient not named but must, from context, be John Bell]

Dukesfield 5th July 1776

Dear Sir

I recd: on Wednesday evening by Wm. Carr a message f'm you in regard to the Long, or Refined Lead, wch. made me fear that I had made a mistake in the Accot: I gave Mr. Blackett last Week of the Quantity delivd: of that Lead for Blaydon this Season wch: is 4617 ps & 150 a Week will be nearly what we can Refine send during the Season. I surveyed the Lead Way yesterday to Apperley & did not find more than 120 ps: of that Lead upon the Road wch. I expect will be all at Blaydon by Monday if there's any quantity of it on the Ways it must be in the Hands of the Barlow Tenants. I am wth Compts. &c to Mrs. Bell

Dear Sir Yor: mo. Hble Servt:

Isaac Hunter Junr:

**10 Jul 1776 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Maughan**

Dukesfield 10th: July 1776

Mr. Maughan N.House

Dr. Sr.

The Bearer Jno. Atkinson & <part.r> Earle has taken Sr. Walter's Farm at Redburn & Expects by being Tenants to have part Carriage f'm your Mines to Rookhope Mill wch. I beg you'll give orders to those that delivr. the Ore to let them have.

We want to make Assays of the Several Ores got in Weardale, therefor beg you'll order 4 or 5 Bings to be sent to Rookhope Mill as soon as possible f'm each Mine & am yrs. &c IH Jr.

**12 Jul 1776 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesfd: 12th. July 1776

Jo. E Blackett Esq Newcastle

Inclosed you have the Month Accots for the Several Mills & also 2 Assays made f'm Allanhds. & <Cateray> Ores ( as p[er] Accots on the papers they are put up in) <Cateray> is a Mine that no Ore has been got at for many Years past. Shall once we get 3 or 4 Bings of Ore f'm each Mine send you Assays of them All, & have wrote to Mr. Maughan desiring that he'll send that quantity f'm each Grove as soon as possible. You may expect a Plate of Silver against the 22d. inst. & shall take care that the Quantity of Refinable Lead that you name be delivd. for Blaydon before the Carriage is stop'd. & am

Yrs. &c IH Jr.

**20 Jul 1776 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesfield 20th. July 1776

Jn E Blackett Esqr. Newcastle

Sir

By Mondays Carrier you'll receive a plate of Silver as p[er] inclosed Accot. Rookhope Mill was set on Fire last Tuesday morning but Fortunately it was discovered soon or the whole Building would have been Burnt down the damage don I think will not exceed 6 or 8 £ but will hinder us a little in Smelting as it lays of[f] one of the

Hearths – have set on Workmen to get it repaired as soon as possible. How it happened cannot say it began among the Peats that was got in to the Mill for Smelting & think a spark of Fire must have gon f'm the Hearth when they were taking the Fire out of Her – others think that it had been set on Fire intentionally ; tho there's little cause for that Suspicion, than that the Smelters that left the Mill last are very steady & carefull Men and that the Clerk was in the Mill an Hour or more after they left Her, and that He left a Man getting in Peats who stayed a good while after him and that neither of them perceived the least smoke when they left the Mill. I have ordered 2 Men to attend Her the Nights till she's made secure (wch. I expect will be in a Weeks time) for we are sure that there's Idle People frequents Her to steal Firing.

I was at the meetg. in Gateside last Monday. Mr. Askew & part of the People of Gateside attended & gave their Consents to accommodate the Road as to Ground as much as in their Power. Old Mr. Walton & Mr. Leighton were there & seemed to have little doubt but that both Ld. Ravenworth and Ld Strathmore would comply wth. the requests of the Subscribers in regard to the Ground the Road is to go through – the Bridge was not let but reserved to a future day (Tuesday in the Assize Week) for the Gentlemen by the advice of Mr. Smeaton agreed to lower the elevation & make the ascent on to the Bridge easier, so the Proposers had their Plans return'd to make the sade alterations against the meeting when the Road is to be finally settled as to the Way it is to go; there was two ways proposed for the Branch to the Lead Way wch. is to be viewed by a part of Gentlemen before the Meetg. wch. seem'd to be the only part of the Road that was not then fixed the Way it was to go – the Gates & Toll was never spoak off. Sir Thos: Clavering desired that I would acquaint Sr. Walter that they were in hopes that He would favour them wth. his Subscription & consent as a Lord of Winlinton against their next meetg. I expect to get the Plan for Sr. Walter in a few days time & then shall send it wth. as particular Accot. of the Roads as I can give. I have got a few Assays of Lead by me & shall indeavour to have the whole against the Assize Week & if its thought that I should attend that meetg. of the Road shall bring them down wth. me & am

Sir yr: mo Huble Servt.

IH:Jr:

**22 Jul 1776 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Maughan**

Dukesfield 22d July 1776

Mr. Maughan Newhouse

Sir

I beg you'll give such Orders to those that Delivers the Ore that will prevent any from going to the Mill till properly dressed; when there last Wednesday I saw from several of the Groves Ore that was not so well as it ought to be; we do not expect when the Groves are poor to get the Ore so good as when Rich but in both cases it should be

taken pain with & more sow when the mine is poor. However I hope you'll indeavour to let us have the Ore sent to the Mill as clean as possible. I am wth. Compts. to Mrs. Maughan

Dr. Sir yor. Hble Servt.

IH Jr

**22 Jul 1776 Isaac Hunter to Joseph Dickinson**

Dukesfd. 22d. July 1776

Mr. Dickinson Coalcleugh

Sir

I was sorry to find when at Allanhds: Mill the other day that you was relapsing into last years method of dressing your Ore by what was then coming in to that Mill f'm Whitewood Vain. I cannot say that we have any great cause to complain of what comes to this Mill as yet this Season, tho' there does now & then some come that's badly dressed wch. showes what a carefull eye is required to watch the Washers: for I do suppose that these parcels wch. we have got ill Wash'd had been owen to their deceit. I beg you'll give such Orders as will prevent any Ore going f'm your Mine till properly dressed. & am

Yrs. &c IH:Jr:

P.S. I see no occasion for the Whitfield Carriers being allowed to have so much Ore at your place this year, when our Old and constant Carriers cannot get imployment. Jos. Armstrong of Stobalee is just come into the Office & begs much to have a Catch a Week to this Mill He's an honest Man & if you can wth. convenience would like he should.

**9 Aug 1776 Isaac Hunter to Joseph Dickinson**

Dukesfield 9th. Augt. 1776

Mr. J. Dickinson Coalcleugh

Sir

I wrote you the latter end of last Month that I was sorry to find you had relapsed so soon into last years manner of dressing your Ore & was disapointed yesterday when at Allanhds. & this Mill to find that it had had no effect for what had come that day to both the Mills were very badly dressed. I would allow (if any is to be sent f'm the Mines ill don) that it should go to Allanhds. Mill rather than come here On Accot. of the Carriage therefor beg that you'll send all the Old Coalcleugh or what is cald the Limestone Ore to Allanhds. (that is) till you make the Quantity this year between 7 & 8 Hundred Bings & by the Carriers that I named in a former Letter. Mr. Salkeld tells me

that there's a Leonard a Millr a new Carrier that frequently gets Ore f'm your place when the Old Carriers can get none, wch. I wish you would prevent for the future for we have no occasion to set on new Ones this year when our constant Carriers can not get Ore above a Day in the Week & some weeks not that. I am

Dr. Sir, yrs. Hble Servt.

I Hunter Jr.

**9 Aug 1776 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Maughan**

Dukesfield 9th. Augt. 1776

Mr. Maughan Newhouse

Sir

I wrote you last Month in regard to the Ore coming f'm your Mines to Rookhope Mill be not well dress'd & was sorry to find yesterday when there that it had had no effect for what had come in since I was there the week before were as badly washed as what came when I made the complaint particularly what had come from Barbry & Todstone However I hope that you'll give such Orders to those that delivers the Ore as to prevent any future complaint of that kind. I am wth. Compts. to Mrs. Maughan

Dr. Sr. Yrs. &c IH Jr.

**19 Aug 1776 Isaac Hunter to Joseph Dickinson**

Dukesfd. 19th. Augt. 1776

Mr. Dickinson Coalcleugh

Dr. Sr.

I recd. yours of the 13 yesterday & think you are right in not letting the Carriers keep so near the Washers for I do suppose that is a great means of their deceiving you – you mistake me when you suppose that I should be against your letting any Carriers have Ore that assist you any how in getting Coals, Wood &c to the Mines – all that I ment was not to act on any new Carriers when the Carriage were so poor - & am sorry that you should think that I would hinder either you or Mr. Crawhall f'm letting any Person that brings you anything to your Houses fm having a Catch of Ore. I beg you'll let Thos. Bell R.G. have a catch or two in the Week & am

Yrs. IH Jr

**20 Aug 1776 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Maughan**

Dukesfd. 20th. Augt: 1776

Mr. Maughan N[ew].Ho[use].

Dr Sr.

I was surprised to find by yours of the 16th. inst wch. I recd. yesterday at Rookhope that you had not recd. my first, for I understood by Mr. Smith that he sent it wth. the Hand bill (in regard to the Fire) into Weardale. We do not expect to get so good Ore when the Mines are poor as when Rich but expect there should be proper pains taken to make it so in both cases – and am sorry I cannot say that the Ore is coming better dressed, for what was coming when there yesterday f'm Dawson's Grove was far f'm being so well as it ought & am sure you cannot wth. justice complain of the poorness of that Bouse. However I hope fm your promise the next time that I am at that Mill to be able to say that there's a great change in the Ore for the better, as to dressing before it's sent f'm the Mines.

& am yrs. &c IH Jr.

**3 Sep 1776 Isaac Hunter to Westgarth Forster**

Dukesfd: 3d. Septr. 1776

Mr. Forster Allanhds.

Dr. Sr.

I don't doubt but it will surprize you when I tell you that the Ore we recd. the other day fm your place is as bad as any we have recd. for this Twelve Months past; and particularly the Shattered Ore, wch. is Brangled wth. Black Stone & Spar & several of the pieces are not one third part of them Ore & when cover'd wth. Smidum or Small Ore has the appearance of good Ore. I own I should not have discovered it so soon if it had not been this days Rain & what I took notice of was what Jno Rowland had brought in. I wish you would come & take a Day or two among the Partridges & then you would see I did not complain wth.out a Cause – pray do insist on Mr. Allgood not to delivr. any till well & properly dressed – can you supply us here wth. 100 Bings p[er] Week for two Months time. & am yrs

&c IH Jr:

5 Sep 1776 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow

Dukesfd: 5th. Septr. 1776

Mr. R. Morrow Blaydon

Dr. Sr.

By Mr Bell's letter by yesterdays post I find that they are in want of Refined Lead the Quantity deliv'd f'm this Mill 6014 ps. & shall delivr nearly 170 pr Week so that you'll be able to judge how it comes in, & whether there's any Quantity on the Roads. we have none on this side of the Bankfoot & if you find your Rect. much short of the above, I beg you'll hasten your Men in wth. it. below you'll have the delivrs f'm each Mill to last Saturday & am yrs &c IH Jr.

D.	14373
A	2353 8 Sto.
R.	8222. 6194
	24948 6194

6 Sep 1776 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett

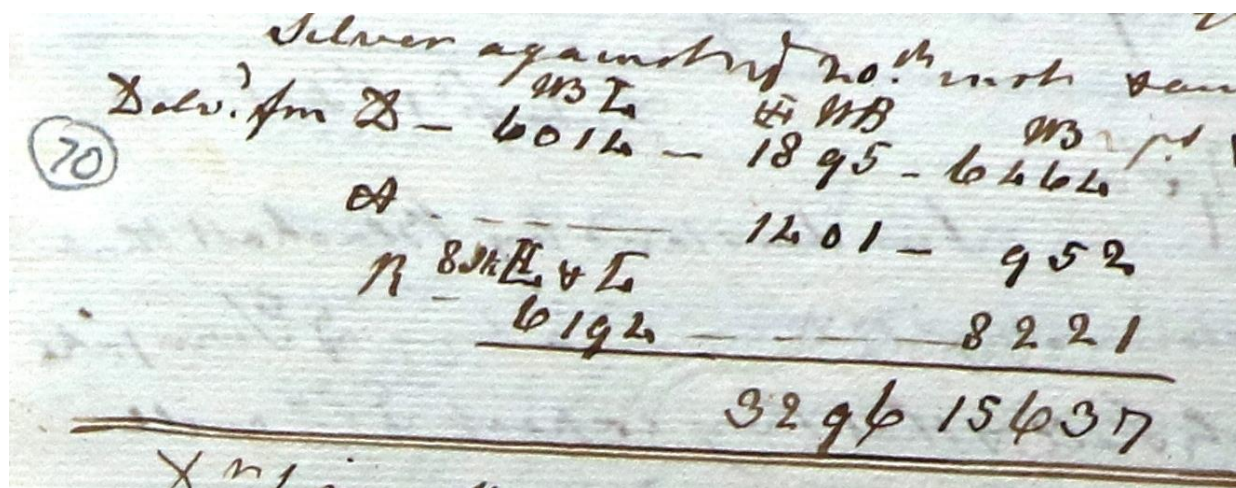
[Note: The marks shown in the small table against the various types of lead will have been impressed into the pieces at each smelting mill, shown below in an extract from the original document]

Dukesfd. 6 Septr. 1776

J.E.Blackett Esqr. N.Castle

Sir

Inclosed you'll have the last Month Accots. for the Several Mills – this day will Smelt all the Allanhds Ore that's at this Mill, so that I am afraid we shall fal short of the Quantity of Common Lead that I computed in a former Letter would be sent this year f'm here; as that Ore is the only Ore that comes to this Mill wch. we make the Common or WB Ld. off. The Quantity of Refined Lead delivd. to this day is 6014 ps. & shall send it as we refine it, for I find by Mr. Bell that you are in want of that sort of Ld., but I doubt I have gon too far in the calculation of the Ld. to be sent this year – have wrote to Mr. Morrow acquainting him wth. the quantity delivd. that if any is in the Hands of the Easthand Carriers for him to hasten them in wth. it. I expect to send you a Plate of Silver against the 20th. inst & am  
&c. &c. IH Jr.



Delvd. Fm		WB L	X WB	WB ps
D		6014	1895	6464
A			1401	952
	8St HL & L			
R		6194		8221
			3296	15637

**10 Sep 1776 Isaac Hunter to Joseph Dickinson**

Dr. Sir

It gives me more pleasure to commend than find falt, & thats the case at present, for the Ore that I saw at Allanhds. Mill yesterday that you are now sending is exceeding well dressed, & I hope you'll continue in having your Ore made according to that sample before you send it to the Mills, & then I do assure you that I shall not trouble you wth Complaints on that Head.

You may let your Wood Carriers have Ore to this Mill when they bring up Wood, tho' you should not have the quantity for Allanhds Mill that I named. I am yrs &c.

IH Jr.

To Mr. Jos. Dickinson Coalcleugh

10th. Sepr. 1776



**14 Sep 1776 Isaac Hunter to Westgarth Forster**

Dukesfd: 14th. Septr. 1776

Mr. Forster Allanhds.

Dr. Sr.

The Ore we are now Receiving f'm your place is not so well dressed as it ought to be, tho better than what I complain'd of on the 3rd. inst. that you not hasten it away on Accot: of our wanting it to Smelt before its properly examined as to being well dress'd, have set the Smelters on to Smelt Coalcleugh for a fortnight's time, so hope you'll give such Orders as will prevent any coming to the Mill till properly dressed for the future. I have ordered 5 Bings to be weigh'd & Wash'd & 5 to be wrought unwashed for a Trial & shall acquaint you wth the result of it wch will fully prove that I have not complained wth.out a just case & am yrs. &c. IH Jr.

**14 Sep 1776 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Smith**

Dukesf'd. 14th Sept 1776

Mr Thos. Smith Rookhope Mill

Sir

I understand by Blackett that the Carriers claim a right to come along the Turnpike on Lintsgarth Hall, & that they expect the Co. will support them in it, so will not pay any acknowledgement for the use of it. I therefore desire that you'll give them Notice that we will not allow them to go that way & if any of them persist (after the above notice) in going that way that you will seize a Horse from those that are the most fractious.

I am told by the Carriers who has the Carriage of the Wood to Sr W Blackett's mines, that they are all discharged from having any Ore at the Co. Mines for no other case (I am told) than for being Sr Wms Wood Carriers as Mr Hall will be at your House next week I beg you'll inquire of him whether it's by his orders. I would have wated upon him myself but am afraid I shall not be able to get so expect to have his Answ'r by you when next at the Mill & am

Yrs &c IH:Jr

**19 Sep 1776 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesf'd. 19th Sept 1776

J.E. Blackett Esq. Newcastle

Sir

Youll receive with this a Plate of Silver as per inclosed accot.

I had a letter some time ago from Justice Westgarth wherein he names a 'Man been seen to run out of the Mill one night & that the People who saw him had behaved ill in not alarming the Country as there was no place for him to hide himself but the Fells'. the Person he means of was one of the Men that I had ordered to watch the Mill between the <Fires> with out the knowledge of any of the Smelters or Workmen as I think I told you & my reason for so doing) and the Smelters coming this Night to Work sooner than usual saw one of the Watch Men run out of the Mill is the Person that Mr Westgarth has heard off. I mention this to you, least he should either see or write to Sr Walter to acquaint him with it that you may be able to explain the Matter & am

Yrs &c IH:Jr

**8 Oct 1776 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesf'd. 8th October 1776

J.E. Blackett Esq Newcastle

Sir

Inclosed youll have the three Mills Month Accot. & shall bring you the Quarters Accots next week as we want some little things for the Mills before the Lead Carriage strike up. if its not inconvenient would like to have some Subsistence Money

& am Yrs &c IH:Jr

**14 Oct 1776 Isaac Hunter to Jonathan Sparke**

Dukesf'd. 14th October 1776

Mr Jonathn Sparke Allanh'ds Mill

Sir

Have sent the Bearer Jno. Bowman Jn. to be a Smelter again at your mill. You may set him to work with whome you think proper till I see you

& am Yrs &c IH:Jr

**14 Oct 1776 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Smith**

Dukesf d. 14th Octobr 1776

Mr Thos. Smith Rookhope Mill

Sir

I am afraid that you do not keep your Men in proper subjection by Phillipson & Richardson not working together last Week as I ordered. I therefore desire that you will always for the future make my directions be complied with, & which ever of the workmen that does not obey them when given through you & you acquaint me they shall be immediately discharged the Works. I therefor order that Phillipson & Richardson work together at the Little Hearth (ie the North Hearth in the East End of the Mill) till I come over & then we shall fix the Hearth they shall work at after  
& am Yrs &c IH:Jr

PS I hope you'll use your authority so as to see the above orders complied with

**8 Nov 1776 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Smith**

Dukesf d. 8th November 1776

Mr Thos. Smith Rookhope Mill

Dr Sir

The Bearer Mr Blackburn I have sent to Work the Slag Hearth at 15s per ton & Bell's son of Hunstanworth to be the Serv[e]r. at the usual Servers Wages (ie 1/3 & Blackburn 2/3 ) I'm not affraid but he will give satisfaction as to abilities & hope he may sute in other respects for I hear a very good Character of him as to Honesty &c. I beg you'll lose no time in getting all the Ton Tayl Ore smelted  
& am Yrs &c IH:Jr

**10 Nov 1776 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesf d. 10th Nov 1776

J.E.Blackett Esq Newcastle

Sir

Agreeable to promise in my last have inclosed you the Months Accots for the several Mills, by which you'll find the Delivery for this Year for each of them to be as below for I have stopt the Deliv[er]y at them all but Rookhope of the 8 St[on]e P[iece]s which are carried on Horseback & will be got to Blaydon early in the spring for the Refinery there. Carriage of the D[ukesfield] & All[an]h[ea]ds Lead was to be paid

against Christmas in case its all got in by agreement before then I have sent Mr Morrow an Accot. of the quantity that he may fix the pay when you think proper which he will advise me off

& am Yrs &c IH:Jr

	WB	Refd L	L	X	Total
D	8,930	7,643	557	2,829 =	20,009
A	1,241		350	1,314 =	2,905
			48 <Ps>		
			8 Sto		
R	9,107		9,046*		18,153
	19,328	7,643	9,953	4,143	41,067

\* 9,046 ps of 8 St. Lead = 6460 ps of 11 Do so that the Deliv.y from the Re[iner]y at Blaydon this yr = 11,510 ps of 11 stone L[ea]d nearly

#### 10 Nov 1776 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow

Dukes' d. 10th Nov 1776

Mr Morrow Blaydon

Dear Sir

I have below given you an accot. of the Quantity of Ld delivd from each Mill this year for Blaydon; there will be more 8 stone Ld Delivd from Rookhope & perhaps three or four Fothers of 11 stone ps but not any more from the other two mills than the quantity named, so that when you have rec.d it you'll please to acquaint Mr Blackett, that he may fix the Day for paying the Carriage from the Bankfoot to Blaydon which you may advise me of

& am Dr Sir Yrs &c IH:Jr

NB the Accot of the Lead given the same as the above accott to Mr Blackett

#### 15 Nov 1776 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett

Dukes' d. 15th Nov 1776

Jno.E Blackett Esq Newcastle

Sir

I saw the other day a Letter from Mr Adams of Alnwick to the Surveyor of the Highways for New Ridley to attend at Christmas Sessions with Witnesses to try the <traversight> Indictment of the Road between the Lead Hill & Hedley, which is what

Mr Fenwick spook off at the meeting in the Assize Week. as Sr Walter has a Way for his Lead by the Lease of Apperley Lane I do think that the Lead Co. & the People of that Neighbourhood should support it themselves & if you think proper, shall acquaint the Ld Co's Agent that Sr Walter I believe will have nothing to do with it now as they deserted him at first, but if Sr Wr means to support the Indictment it will be necessary to be looking out for Witnesses

& am Yrs &c IH:Jr

**17 Nov 1776 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesf'd. 17th Novr 1776

Mr J Blackett Esq Newcastle

Sir

You'll receive with this a Plate of Silver as per inclos'd acct. its larger than we generally make them, but thought that what we could refine against Christmas would be too little for three plates. I expect to send you the Month Accots by Sundays post

& am Yrs &c IH:Jr

**21 Nov 1776 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesf'd. 21th Nov 1776

J.E. Blackett Esq Newcastle

Sir

Agreeable to Mr Bell's orders, wated upon Mr Heron who was concerned in the Indictments & acquainted him with Mr Adams Letter to the Surveyor of New Ridley & he says there can be no trial till Easter Sessions & that what Mr Adams has ment is that the Surveyor should attend at C'mas Sessions to enter into recognizance & have the Matter Trey'd at the Easter Sessions. I would have come to Town this Week as you desired but have got a little cold which has attacked my throat & makes me fearfull of the consequence since the last I had – but shall wate upon you the latter end of next week

& am Yrs &c IH:Jr

**10 Dec 1776 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Dukesf'd. 10th Dec 1776

Mr Morrow Blaydon

Dr Sir

The Waters being out prevented me from giving you a call in my way from Newcastle, I have expected to have heard from you for these several posts past in regard to the Lead you had rec'd' You said (I think when I saw you) that you would exceed the Quantity of Allanhds lead then what I had given you an accot. were deliv.d from that Mill – I have again re-examined that Mill Accot. & make the Quantity the same as before (ie 2905 Ps) I beg to hear from you soon whether you think you'll have all the lead in so as to be able to make the Pay at the Bank F[oo]t on the 25th Inst. for I am to be at Newcastle that week on accot. of the Mines Pay & as Mr Blackett has no objection to my making it on that week would like to have it then if possible -- shall write Mr Blackett that you'll wate upon him with the Tickett &c once you get all the Lead in & that you'll write me in case He should alter the Day

& am Yrs &c IH:Jr

NB Let me hear from you soon.

**10 Dec 1776 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesf'd. 10th Dec 1776

J. E. Blackett Esq Newcastle

Sir

Inclosed you'll have the Month Accots for the several Mills & shall send you a Plate of Silver against the 21 inst. the waters being out prevented me from returning by Blaydon, but am in hopes that the Dukesfd & Allanhds Lead will be all got in so as to be able to make the pay for the Carriage of it from the Bankfoot to Blaydon in Xmas Week as we spook off. have wrote to Mr Morrow desiring that he will give you an accot. once he get it all in & that he may give notice to the Wainmen if its agreeable to you to have it in that week, to receive the Money of you the same daythat the Grove Agents receive theirs --- the Carriage of the above stage will amount to £477-7-6 for the Lead. I imagine there may be near £200 to deduct for Rent, tho' I should have (if convenient at this time) some for Subsistance.

I am Dr Sir Yrs &c IH:Jr

**19 Dec 1776 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesf'd. 19th Dec 1776

Jno. Erasmus Blackett Esq Newcastle

Sir

With this you'll receive a Cake of Silver which Weighs 715 Oz the reduced lead was not all weighed so could not send the accot &c with it, but shall bring it with me on the 23rd.

& am Sir Yrs &c IH:Jr

**27 Dec 1776 Isaac Hunter to John Laidler**

[Note: This must refer to the Dukesfield refinery as Hunter was not responsible for the Blaydon refinery. A John Laidler was at Steel Hall (about a mile from Dukesfield in the 1770s) and a Thomas White lived at Steel at the same time, also close to the mill. The hamlet of Steel was home to several smelters. John Laidler's name is used here.]

Dukesf'd. 27th Dec 1776

Messrs Laidley & White Refiners

Sirs

I have ordered Robt. Nichol be be [sic] instructed by you as a Refiner for one Yr at a small wage – but if you think any hardship in teaching him as above, let me know & I shall endeavour to get you one that's master of his Business which I have not the least doubt of getting as our Refinery is now so well established

& am Yrs &c IH:Jr

**20 Feb 1777 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesf'd. 20th Feb 1777

J. E. Blackett Esq Newcastle

Sir

With this you'll receive a Plate of Silver as per incl;osed Accot. I am just got Home from Rookhope & Allanhds Mills, where I have been taken an Inventory of the Stock &c which I hope to be able to send you by Sundays post

& am, Sir Yrs &c IH:Jr

**23 Feb 1777 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

[Note: Sir Walter Calverley Blackett had just died, to be succeeded by Sir Thomas Wentworth, who duly took the surname Blackett. This required an inventory to be made of all the business assets for inheritance purposes.]

Dukesf'd. 23rd Feb 1777

J. E. Blackett Esq Newcastle

Sir

I have sent an Inventory of all the stock &c at each Mill as correct as the Weather would allow for. there was so much snow at Allanhds & Rookhope Mills that I could not examine the stock of Lead with the accots. tho I hope it will be right at them both for the Clerks says that they try'd the stock & their accot. of smelting before the snow fell & that they were then right. I took the dimensions of the Building at Rookhope as I could not make out the charge by the mill accots (which from the best inteligence I can come at was Built 40 yrs ago) and has computed from that what they might cost & the same for the Coal & Cinder Ho[use] at Allanheads. shall be in town this week & can then make what alteration you shoose to have – should like then to consult you as to the propriety of applying to Sr Thos &c

Will it be necessary for Mr Salkeld, his son & two more Freemen (thats in this neighbourhood) who I think I could get to be sent to town at the Election?

I am with real sorrow

Sir, Yrs &c IH:Jr

**29 Mar 1777 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesf'd. 29th March 1777

J. E. Blackett Esq Newcastle

By Mr Morrows of the 22nd inst I find that you want Refined Lead at Blaydon and as this time is the greatest throng in this neighbourhood of sowing their spring corn, am afraid that I can get you very little sent till that throng be over which I expect will be in a fortnights time if the weather prove anything tolerable – I can get none sent now without giving what they call the Winter Price & even then the Quantity will be so small (till the seed is got into the ground), that if you could possibly put off till after that time I think I could then send it briskly & at the Summer price.

I am Yrs &c IH:Jr

PS the great fall of snow yesterday will prevent any being sent for a Weeks time at any price.



**8 Apr 1777 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesfield. 8th April 1777

J. E. Blackett Esq Newcastle

You'll receive with this a Plate of Silver as per inclosed acct. I have got the Lead started from this Mill at the summer price, it goes bu slowly yet tho I expect it will brisken every day; have delivered of the Refined Lead 650 p<iece>s & hope that the quantity you want at this time will be deliv.d from the mill before the end of the month. I shall be in town soon & then shall know the sorts you would choose to have sent from the several mills first.

I am Yrs &c IH:Jr

**17 Apr 1777 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Dukesf'd. 17th April 1777

Mr Morrow Blaydon

Dr Sir

I wrote you on the 8th inst that we had delivered 650 ps of refined lead from this mill & that I would be at Newcastle on the Saturday following & would like to see you there to fix a meeting of the Wainmen - not then seeing you & finding that the lead goes but slowly from the Bankfoot makes me imagine that you have not rec.d my last letter – shall clear the Mill tomorrow of refined lead, & expect before May's out to have all sent from this mill but the Refinable Lead –should we have a meeting soon to agree & fix your carriagemen to certain Rules? If Friday the 25 inst be agreeable to you to meet then let me know or if you choose to have it on an earlier day give me a LIne & I shall attend

& am Yrs &c IH:Jr

**7 May 1777 Isaac Hunter to Westgarth Forster**

Dukesf'd. 7th May 1777

Mr Forster Allanheads

Dr Sir

I reced yours last night by Jno Ridley in regard to meeting Mr Hall at Aldstone on Saturday to settle the Ore Carriage. I do assure you if the meeting was within 20 yds of my own House, that I would not attend it, nor shall while in this office, ever rely

anything upon Mr Hall's agreements from the little trials I have already had of his abiding by them.

The regulating the Carriage to and from the Mills is my province which I shall never give up either to an Hall or Bell (or indeed to anybody else) for the whole is a scheme of Bells & I am amazed to find that you should think of coming into it. to let their Carriers (who I know from experience would fly from us upon any emergency) have 2/3 better work than those who have always been at our call in time of need - shall readily consult with you or any other of Sir Thos. Blacketts Mining Agents in regard to the improvement of the carriage &c but shall at the same time retain all the Powers of this Agence which I have maintained for 20 years upwards for Fath.r and self – I hope to see you soon & shall then tell you why I have said this much

& am Yrs &c IH:Jr

**7 May 1777 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Dukesf'd. 7th May 1777

Mr Morrow Blaydon

Dr Sir

I shall meet you & the Wainmen at Mrs Reynaldsons on Wednesday the 14th inst to settle for this years carriage against when I hope you'll have an proper Article ready

& am Yrs &c IH:Jr

**28 May 1777 Isaac Hunter to Joseph Dickinson**

Dukesf'd. 28th May 1777

Mr Dickinson Coalcleugh

Dr Sir

I cannot understand why your Wood Carriers should not have the same usage this year as formerly, but least they should abuse the privilage they used to have, have consulted with Walton and we have fixed upon the following manner ie, that each 8 Horses shall carry 6 full Load of Wood to the Mine, to be entitled to Ore for the 8; and so in that proportion for the other No. of Horses. and that they go (while they have the wood in hand) 3 Days in the Week two to Allanheads one week & one to Coalcleugh the succeeding week twice to C[oalcleugh]h and once to Allanh.ds, which will be but 3 days at each Mine in the Fortnight which I dare say you will be able to have ore to answer. I desire that you may deliver no ore but to your Wood Carriers in the above manner till I see you (except what you send to Allanheads Mill by those named below) for I intend giving a list of those that are to have ore on the Set Days and would like to have your opinion.

I am Yrs &c IH:Jr

Carriers to carry to Allanheads Mill

Robert Archer

Joshua Archer

Jos Bell C.C.

Jos. Currey

Jos. Carrick

Thos. Forster

Nicholson Allanhds

PS You'll please to order that Thos.Bell R[aw].Green have ore of the Set & Wood Days as he has had for these 2 Years past. I hope to see next week – therefor must again beg that you do not make a general Set Day at your mine till we meet.

Yrs &c IH:Jr

**28 May 1777 Isaac Hunter to Westgarth Forster**

Dukes' d. 28th May 1777

Mr Forster Allanheads

Dr Sir

I have consulted with Walton in regard to the Wood Carriage to the mines, and we have agreed to put it upon the following plan – the Wood Carriers to go 3 Days in the Week with Wood so long as they have in their Hands; twice one week to your place and once to Coalcleugh, the succeeding week twice to Coalcleugh & one to your place which he thinks will get up all the Wood, and that each 8 Horses carry 6 full Load of wood to be entitled to 2 Bings of Ore to the Mill and in that proportion for the other No. of Horses. I have wrot Mr Dickinson this – shall see you soon & then will settle with you who we will choose to let have ore on the Set Days – let Thos. Bell have whiles a catch of the Wood Days

Yrs &c IH:Jr

**10 Jun 1777 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukes' d. 10 June 1777

Jno. E. Blackett Esq Newcastle

Sir

Inclosed you have the Month Accots. for the several Mills and also the General Accots for ore which I forgot to take when I carried the Q[arterly] Accots.

We have got forward pretty well for this some time past with smelting at all the mills – but this dry weather should continue any time will be a hinderance, particularly at Allanheads Mill; at the other two I hope we shall do nearly what we have done for these 2 months past – shall in a fortnights time send you a Plate of Silver and by that time expect to have all the mills cleared of Common Lead.

I am with due deferance

Dr Sr Yrs &c IH:Jr

**11 Jun 1777 Isaac Hunter to Joseph Dickinson**

Dukesf'd. 11th June 1777

Mr Dickinson Coalcleugh

Dr Sr

As I had not the pleasure of seeing you last week as I expected, to have settled the Carriage for this Year from your place, have inclosed you a list of those that I would choose should have ore from your Mine to this Mill, on the Set Days exclusive of your Wood, Coal &c carrying and they to be regulated in the manner I mentioned in my last of the 28 Ult. to have Ore thrice a Fortnight while they have Wood &c to carry up, to fix them to certain days, & to deliver to none of them of these days & to none but who brings you loding up, in the proportion before named; and when you have ore ready to answer a Set Day (according to the list) would have you fix one - if there's any left out of the List, that either you or Mr Crawhall want to oblige you may ad them to it letting me know by a line - the Whitfield carriers named below kept a catch of ore in their hand for ten days & then wanted 4c-2q-12lb of weight which is the first we have had this year from your Mine short of weight and what was taken up at the same time by the other carriers was weight – they must make us up the Weight and ought to be reprimanded, if not discharged for a while – but that I leave to you to act as you think proper only desiring that we may have the short weight made up at the mill.

I am Yrs &c IH:Jr

	No. H<orse>s
Jos. Dickinson	8
Christr. Taylor	8
Thos. Taylor	8
Jos. Parker	8
Hugh Parker	6
Thos. Alexander	5

4c – 2q -12lb short weight.

**13 Jun 1777 Isaac Hunter to Joseph Dickinson**

Dukesf'd. 13th June 1777

Mr Dickinson Coalcleugh

Dr Sr

Christr. Bell's son is now with me complaining of his yesterdays treatment, which if he tells the truth I think he has just case for it, 'that several Carriers who had no loding to the mine were allowed to have Ore & he sent away without'.

You are sensible how much Freemen presume just as the case of an Ellection and what clamor they make with only an imaginary case; and I do think (when it can be don without any injury to the Works) that they ought to have some little favours shown; which I beg may be don to him, notwithstanding what I wrote you on the 11th inst. for I make no doubt but either he or his father will go & complain to Sir Jno. Tevelyan once they hear his got into the Country; and one would wish to prevent troubling him with such kind of complaints when in our power.

I am Yrs &c IH:Jr

**18 Jun 1777 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesf'd. 18th June 1777

Jno. Blackett Esq. Newcastle

You'll receive by the Hex[ha]m carrier a plate of Silver as per above Accot. have made an assay of some Steel like Ore that we have got from Allanheads which yields 5 oz-10-6 of silver to the Ton – the quantity rec.d of that kind of ore is but small but shall put a mark upon the Lead made of it so if you choose to have it refined at Blaydon Mr Morrow can separate it from the Common Lead.

I am Yrs &c IH:Jr

**23 Jun 1777 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Dukesf'd. 23rd June 1777

Mr Morrow Blaydon

Dr Sir,

We this day delivered 45 Ps of Lead marked H besides the W.B. from this mill which you'll please to separate from the Common that it may be refined (if Mr Blackett thinks proper) for I have made an Assay of it & find it yields in Silver 5 oz-10dw-6g to the Ton – If we should get any more of that kind of ore shall shall [sic] put the same

mark upon the Lead – give my Comp[limen]ts to Mr Robt. Mulcaster and acquaint him that I believe it will answer as well for Litharge as the X or Kilhope Lead

& am Yrs &c IH:Jr

**13 Jul 1777 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesf'd. 13 July 1777

J.E. Blackett Esq Newcastle

Sir

Have inclosed you the several Month Accots. for June – hope to be able when down on the 28 inst. to give you a calculation of the time that we shall Smelt up all Sr. Jno. Trevelyan's ore as I expect before then, that we shall have got it all from some of the Mines & a computation of what will be to come from the others near the quantity

& am Yrs &c IH:Jr

**14 Jul 1777 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Smith**

Dukesf'd. 14 July 1777

Mr Thos. Smith Rookhope Mill

Dr Sir

Seeing Thos. Purvis pass by here this evening between 4 & 5 O'Clock from getting his Week's Work, has made me take the following resolutions (for I have long thought of the impropriety in suffering the smelters to do in 2 ½ Days what should have taken 5) which I desire that you'll take care to have fully performed, that none stand longer at a shift then 6 or 7 Hours (ie) they change regularly at each Hearth every 6 Hours and that there may be the same No. (of smelters) at each Hearth. You may set on Mr Dixon & Bell the server till all Sir Jno Trevelyan's ore be smelted, but you must tell them when you set them on that they will have to turn off[f] them that they may not think it a hardship when the time comes to quit – I do suppose that they will find it difficult to get all their Work as above, but they may follow in a little closer (ie) not let the Hearth be so long off at Nights, for they cannot well make hot Lead without being very negligent, and you must when you see a Hearth making too hot Lead make them draw her immediately - set Collingwood to serve the Slag Hearth while Bells at the Ore Hearth

& am Yrs &c IH:Jr

PS pray have the things that will be wanted for this year at the mill from Newcastle set down against I come next week – hasten those Wainmen that has Lead in their hands to get it to Blaydon.

**21 Aug 1777 Isaac Hunter to Joseph Bell**

Dukesf'd. 21st Aug 1777

Jose. Bell Aydon S[hie]lds

Sir

On reflecting on the whole of the Facts that appeared yesterday in regard to the Offence committed by you, and after putting the most favourable construction that the facts would admit off, the crime is of so deep a die that it cannot be past over without being stigmatized with some sort of punishment as an example to Others.

I therefore discharge you (for the offence of ordering your Servant to take Lead from Allanheads Mill whether the Clark there would or not which Orders he obeyed), from Carrying any Ore or Lead from any of Sir Thos. Blackett's Mines or Mills for the space of 14 days from the date here off, and then to be admitted carrier again as one that had never offended. I doubt not but you'll be sensible of the mildness of this punishment as you was fully yesterday of the crime, for it will at this time be little or no disappointment to you as the ore carriage will be hardly began at the expiration of the time you are excluded.

I am Yrs &c IH:Jr

**31 Aug 1777 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesf'd. 31st Aug 1777

J.E. Blackett esq.

Sir

You'll receive with this a Plate of Silver as per inclosed Accot. the Lead made from Low Coalcleugh Ore which yield the most silver. We have settled the Accots. with Allanheads & Coalcleugh Mines as to Sir John Trevelyan's Ore sent to this mill and the delivery agrees with the rec.t at the Mill so has set on the carriers to bring in Sir Thos. Blackett's ore. shall finish all Sir Jn's Bouse Ore at this Mill against Tuesday next; the wastes that are ready to smelt will I think take till the 13th Sept. as they will run much slower than Bouse Ore –

Shall be glad to hear from you before then in regard to taking an Inventory of the Utensils &c. we were disappointed last Wednesday in the lawyers who I suppose would have fix'd what we should value as <personalty>

I am Yrs &c IH:Jr

9 Sep 1777 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett

Dukesf'd. 9th Sept 1777

J.E. Blackett Esq. Newcastle

Sir

Inclosed you have the Month Accots for the Several Mills – Sir Jno Trevelyan's ore got at Weardale Mines is not all sent to Rookhope Mill, so that I cannot with any certainty say when we shall finish the smelting of it at that Mill, but hope we shall against the time I suppose in case the quantity does not exceed what Mr Maugham computed it to. the Refined Lead resting at this mill will take about two Months time to work it all at this Refinery which I doubt will be too late of the season to get the lead (when refined) sent to Blaydon; so if you think proper would send half of it directly to the Refinery there – We shall finish here the smelting of all the Wastes &c thats ready within a day or two of the time I mentioned (ie we will not be longer then the 15th or 16th inst. and if I do not get instructions from you, shall take a ride down once we finish for them.

I am, Sir Yr mo<st> Obedient servt.

IH:Jr

18 Sep 1777 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett

Dukesf'd. 18th Sept 1777

J.E. Blackett Esq. Newcastle

Sir

Have sent this day to Corbridge two casks of Flue dust (weight as below) directed for Matfin & to the care of Mr Winship till call'd for, once we get a Cupper [cooper?] to secure the casks shall send to Blaydon what we have of it – We began to smelt yesterday for Sir Thos. Blackett of Allanheads Ore and hope shall send you to markett this season of his Lead near a thousand Ps You'll receive with this one of Mr Kidds sheep which I hope will come safe.

I am, Sir

Yr mo<st> Obedient servt. IH:Jr

	[cwt qr lb]
2 casks of Flue dust	2 3 00
Tare	- - 20
	2 2 08



**25 Sep 1777 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesf'd. 25th Sept 1777

Jno..E. Blackett Esq. Newcastle

Sir

With this you'll receive a Plate of Silver weighing 553 ½ Ounces. The reducing furnace wanting a little repair prevented me sending an Accot. of the Lead Wrought & reduced; but shall send you it in a few days time –

I hope you & the Lawyers got safe home  
& am, Yrs etc IH:Jr

**29 Sep 1777 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Dukesf'd. 29th Sept 1777

Mr Morrow Blaydon

Dr Sir,

I have below given you the quantity of each sort of Lead delivered this year from this mill for Blaydon, and as you will get now no more from Her for Sir John Trevelyan but of the refined lead and as it differs in the size with Comon Lead (which will be the only kind that will be sent this Season of Sir Thos. Blackett's) I desire you'll give me a line once you have got all the short Lead of the Roads that we may send what we have smelted for Sir Thos. there's only the Figure of an Eight to distinguish it from Sir John's, so that His (ie Sir John's) should be all in before we deliver of Sir Thos's.

The accot. you sent me with your last does not still convince me, but that we weigh lead at D.f.d Mill as accurate as you do it Blaydon: if you had given me the accot. of the deficiency (if any) of the whole quantity rec.d of the lead would then have believed that we were short.

I am Yrs &c IH:Jr

Lead Deliv'd from Dkfd Mill to 29th Sept 1777 viz

WB, L, X, CL & S Lead	14837
Refined or Long Lead	9906
8 stone ps L Lead	2142
	26885

**6 Oct 1777 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Dukesf'd. 6th Octob 1777

Mr Morrow Blaydon

Dr Sir,

I have examined the Accots since I rec.d yours and find that Mr Salkeld had in the accot. given me omitted the delivery for one Month; so that the deliv. from this mill to & with this Day will be 28,176 Ps. The short 11st[one] Ps : 15,872, the Long or Refined Lead 10,162 & 8 st All[anhea]ds Lead 2,142 Ps. As the season is near an end would like to hear from you in a day or two's time if the short Lead be got of the roads that we may be sending you of Sir Thos. Blackett's, for I would like to send you 2 or 3 thousand Ps. of His Lead before the Carriage strike up if the Weather should prove favourable.

&am Yrs &c IH:Jr

**10 Oct 1777 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesf'd. 10th Octobr 1777

J.E. Blackett Esq. Newcastle

Sir,

Inclosed you have the Month Accots for the several Mills and the Accot. of the Lead refined for the last plate of silver which I hope you recd. safe on the 27 Ult. I see by the papers that Lintsgarth Farm the property of the late Mr Hutchinson is to be let at Allandale town on the 22d inst. and I hear that Mr Whelpdale who's left executor, has signified that if the Tenant that takes it has not great advantage by Rookhope Mill, that He'll pull her down. I suppose that when that Mill was removed nearer the Inclosers that it had been from a complaint that it would be injurious to that farm that had made Sr Wr. Blackett take a Lease of it at £16 per year which expired mayday 1761. its now let at £43 & I imagine that it will not give the present rent which makes him threaten the destruction of the Mill; it would be very prejudicial to the Business for any have a right to privileges at the Mill by farming that Farm and if you think he can molest Her, would it be proper to have the Farm Viewed by a judge before the day of letting and to bid or have some to bid the full value of the Ground as if there was no Smelt Mill near it.

I was at Allanheads and Rookhope Mills yesterday and think they will finish smelting all Sir J. Trevelyan's Ore at both these mills against the 14 or 15 inst. should like to have the Accot. from you against then, of the things that the Lawyers fix'd upon to be Valued, as I would then set about getting a fresh Value put upon them at all the Mills – Will it be proper to have an Agent (from other Works) that has been long experienced with SmeltMills with two or three skilfull Workmen to assist in valuing the utensils &c at the Mills?

We shall compute the Quantity of Lead that the Slags, Black Slags and Ore Tails at each Mill will yield, and the expence per Ton to be laid down at Blaydon and then you can value the Lead according to the sorts.

I am Yrs &c IH:Jr

**23 Oct 1777 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesf'd. 23rd Octobr 1777

J.E. Blackett Esq. Newcastle

Sir,

I have here which sent you the smelt Mills Q.r Accots for March & June and also the Estimates of the several Wastes &c at both Mines & Mills which the Agents desired me to forward to you.

I am afraid we shall not get all Sr. J[oh]ns Lead delivered in time for the Pay at Xmas the backerly harvest & late wet Weather has made the Wainmen slacken so much both at this & Rookhope Mill, that I doubt it will be some time before all Sr. Jno's Lead be moved from that Mill, for when there on Saturday there was between 3 & 4 Thousand Ps. I sent among the Carriage men on Monday & offered them a little advance of prices; what effect it will have shall acquaint you when in Town which I intend to be on Monday next for Subsistance Mo[ney] - shall come by Blaydon, so that I will be able to give you an accot. of the Lead upon the Ways – The Deliv.y of Sr. Jno's Lead from this Mill = 28,236 Ps.. the last Accot I had from Mr Morrow was on the 2nd inst. and he had recd. 25,684 Ps. we have to send from this Mill of Sr Jno's 382 Ps. (of) 8 Sto. Lead which kept for this Ref[iner]y but our Ref[in]er Laidley is very ill & I doubt will never work more, so obliges us to send it of which will make this plate a small one. The Refined Lead 620 Ps. & there may be near 200 Ps. more against the Silver is taken off which will be from the beginning of next week – have delivd. of Sir Thos. Blackett's Lead 613 Ps., resting at the Mill 1632 Ps. so that if the Weather would stand good for a while could send you 3 thousand Ps. of his Lead (from this mill) this backend – Have finished at all the mills smelting for Sir John now, & shall acquaint you (when in town) of steps taken in regard of Valuing of Utensils &c

& am Sr. with due deference Yrs &c IH:Jr

19 Dec 1777 Isaac Hunter to Cuthbert Peart

Dukesfd 19th. Decr. 1777

Mr Cuth Peart N.Castle

Dear Sr

I recd a line from the Clerk of the Skinnerburn Foundry in regard to the Sum we had made due to that Foundry in the Pay Bill, and find on examining the Accots. that we have charged the Cast plates for the Refinery twice, so that you must deduct £10. 3s. 3d from the due in the Pay Bill wch will their demand on Sr. Jno. Trevelyan 82. 1. 7½ for the Smelt Mill & Dfd Refinery. I should like to hear from you in what manner Mr Blackett will choose to have the above Error rectified, whether he'll let the Accots. stand as they are and me to account for the over charge to Sr. Jno. after as there will be several little things to charge to Sir Jno. after the Pays, or to have it taken of the Accots. &c &c I am yrs IH Jr

P.S. I am expecting every Post to have an accot. from Mr Morrow & shall then write Mr Blackett in regard to the East Land Carriage pay

19 Dec 1777 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Rowell

Mr Thos Rowell Clerk at the Skinnerburn Foundry

Dukesfd. 19th. Decr. 1777

Sir

I recd. yours of the 13th, but not in time to answr by the last post – I find that we have made a mistake in the Accot sent Mr Blackett of £10. 9s. 3d so that your demand on Sir John Trevelyan Bart. is 82. 1. 7 ½ on Accots. of the Smelt Mills & Refy at Dukesfd I am

Sir Yor Hble servt IH Jr

7 Mar 1778 Isaac Hunter to Cuthbert Peart

Mr Cuth Peart Newcastle

Dukesfd 7th March 1778

Sir

By Mondays Carrier You'll receive a Plate of Silver for Sir Thos Blackett as p inclosed Accot. I hope when Mr Blackett see's the Quantity of Lead wrought, the Frosty weather, and all hindrances considered he'll not think we have been Idle. If I had known when the other Stewards went to N.Castle, & that Mr Blackett choose that I should have been with them should certainly have attended – You'll please to acquaint Mr Blackett, that once the roads is travelable fm Rookhope that there shall be no pains

wanting to get Sir Jno. Trevelyan's Lead fm that Mill to Blaydon – but the weather is so stormy there at present, that I am afraid (for the Husbandry being kept so much back) that we shall not be able to start that Carriage so soon as other years. I am

Sir Your mo[st] Hble Servt. IH Jr

**4 Apr 1778 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesfd 4th. April 1778

J.E. Blackett Esqr N.Castle

Sir

Inclosed you have the Month Accots. for Decr, Jany. Feby. & March for the several Smelt Mills & also the Pay Bill for the Lead Carriage fm Apperly Bank ft to Blaydon paid there on the 12th Jany. last – I had them all with me when at N.C. (vizt March Accots) and forgot to give you them. I was at Rookhope on Thursday, and except a snow wreath or two think the Draugh[h]ts may get to her in a few days time so took some of the Wainmen in my return home who promised that they would start with that Mills Lead (i.e.) Sr. Jno Trevelyan's next Week so that I hope we shall get you it all to Blaydon against Mayday if the weather keep fine tho they will not go briskly till they have got their seed into the ground.

I recollect your saying that you had greater demands for Litharge then You could supply at Blaydon, we have some Ld wch I understand answr's well for Litharge and if you think proper that we should work it directly and sent it in Litharge to Blaydon might be some help to your supplying the demands; there will be an addition of expense upon it but when the Carriage of the Lead is deducted from the Litharge that will be but trifling; but, its a thing that I'am a entire stranger too, therefor hope you'll excuse this hint, and if you think it will at any time (when there's little demand for Lead &c) be an advantage to the Business shall endeavour to make my self more master of it. Sir John Trevelyan finished smelting at the several Mills Viz

At Dukesfd on the 13th. Septr. 1777

At Do. Refinery 25th. Octobr

At Allanheads Mill 18th. Octobr

At Rookhope 31st. Octobr

The Ore at all the Mills is Smelted, but I expect in 3 Weeks or a Month's time we shall get fm the Mines that will set them all at work again I am Sir

Yor mo Hble servt

I Hunter Jr

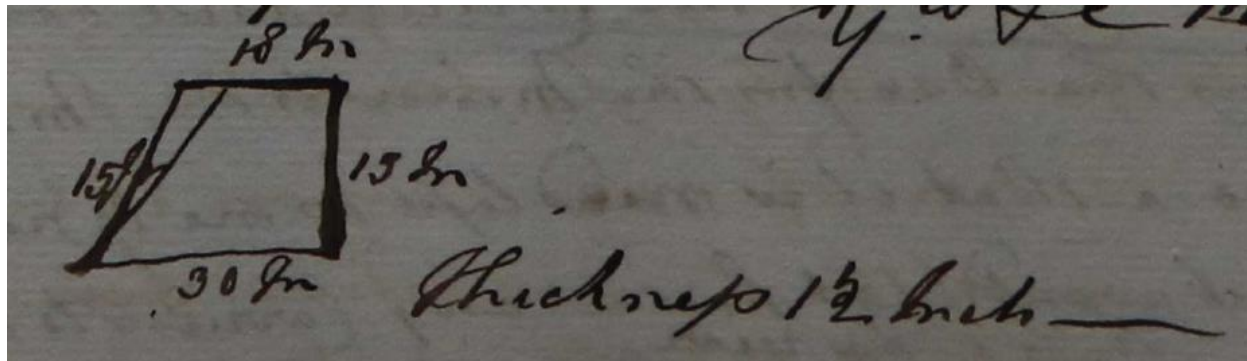
4 Apr 1778 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Rowell

Rowell Clerk at the Foundry

Dukesfd 4th. April 1778

I desire you'll send without fail by the Hexham Carrier (Corbitt) on Monday next a Cast Metal Plate according to the size & Pattern below for the use of Sir Thos. Blckett's Refinery at D.f.d. & You'll You'll [sic] Oblige

Yrs &c IH Jr



6 Apr 1778 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Smith

Mr Thos. Smith Clerk at Rookhope

Dukesfd. 6th. April 1778

Sr.

I cannot say whether I told you when at the Mill last Week that the Smelters (as the Works will be but poorer this Year) were to do all the Work that will be nessary [sic] to be don at the Mill on days Wages there for you may acquaint Hearvey (who I see you have by Your Accots. employed upon all od occasions) that he must look our for other employment as there will be no more for him there. You'll please to acquaint me by a line what kind of work he was at besides carring Dust for by your Accot. there's 57 Days charged for 'Carrige of Dust &c' wch makes the Dust the principle work and I recollect you saying that he was but 7 Days for it. I can not send the Accots. to N. Castle till I can give an accot. what the 50 Days were wrought at.

IH Jr

NB I do not mean by the above that you are to discharge Hearvey directly but that he may continue on wth the Smelters till the Bank is made passable for the Lead

**7 Apr 1778 Isaac Hunter to Joseph Dickinson**

Mr Dickinson Coalcleugh

Dukesfd. 7th April

Sir

As the Season is now approaching when the Carriers will be starting to bring the Ore fm the Mines to the Mills, I do suppose that it is needless in me to remind you that I would not have any Carriers to carry ore fm your Mines this year but those that Carried last season of Sir Thos. Blackett's Ore. Mr Salkeld told me some time ago that there was some that had got Ore at your place that deserted our Carriage, but I suppose it has been got unknown to you therefor beg (to prevent any for the future that did not carry of Sr. Thos. Blackett's Ore last back end) that you'll give such orders to those that delivers the Ore, to let none have but those discribed above with out a line from me. I am wth Compts to Mrs Dickinson & Mr Crawhall

Dr. Sr. Yor mo. Hble Servt

IH Jr

**14 Apr 1778 Isaac Hunter to Cuthbert Peart**

Mr Peart N. Castle

Dukesfd. 14th April 1778

Sir

Sixty Casks of Bone Ashes is what we have will serve this Refinery till this time 12 months. I should like to know (if Mr Blackett's in town) whether he would choose to have all the Lead thats at the Several Mills, and what can be made before October sent to Blaydon this Year, as I intend meeting the East hand Wainmen in a little time to settle this yrs Carriage & it would be a guide to me in that matter & am

Yrs &c IH Jr

**12 May 1778 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Mr Morrow Blaydon

Dukesfd. 12th. May 1778

Dr. Sir

I was in hopes ere this of haveing from you that all Sir John Trevelyan's Lead was got to Blaydon, I have in the course of these few days seen several of the Wainmen that got of His Lead this Spring and they all tell me that they have carryed it all in. I do suppose fm my not hearing fm you that there's some of it on the roads yet, therefor beg you'll send me an Accot. on the rect. of this wth the quantity that's short, and also what

you have recd from each Wainman this spring (that I may be able to find where the blam lies) both of the 11 F 8 Stone Lead as there's a deal of each sort taken fm the Mill by different People then in the Accot. that you have fm Mr Smith.

I shall in my next give you the names of those who sign'd the Agreement for this Years Carriage last Tuesday and desires that none may carry but what was spook of that day. I am afraid you did not collect last Tuesday what was due fm them for the repair of the Lane. I have examined the Accots. as to Cuth Nixon's 14s/6d for Apperley Lane and find that it was charged to your Accot. wht you would get Cr. for as rent by Mr Blackett I imagine in your last rental – but that you may be perfectly sensible of it have below given you a copy of your Accot. I am

Yrs &c IH Jr

Copy from the Reck[onin]g Book for 1777

**23 May 1778 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E. Blackett Esq N. Castle

Dukesfd. 23d. May 1778

Sir

You'll receive with this a Plate of Silver weighing 892½ Ounces, the Litharge was not all wrought up wch prevented my sending you the quantity of the Lead wrought &c, but shall send you the Accot. by next post & am

Yrs &c IH JR

**26 May 1778 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Dr. Sr.

I wrote to you on the 12th. inst to know if all Sir Jno. Trevelyan's Lead was got to Blaydon but have not heard f'm you since, and as the Carriagemen begin to grow empassiont for their Money (for I promised to pay them once it was all got to Blaydon) must beg that you'll give me a line on the rect. of this for I do suppose its all there some days ago, and my not hearing f'm you prevents me sending Sir Thos Blackett's Lead fm Rookhope Mill as I would like all Sir Jno's should be off the Roads first. Have inclosed you the Names of the Carriagemen that signed the Agreement for this yr you may let them start to lead as soon as you please there's 614 ps. of + Lead wch answr's well for Litharge at the Bankfoot wch you should make your Wainmen bring in first for the Refinery as it will be some time before she can be kept going wth Lead f'm Rookhope. I am

Yrs &c IH Jr



**28 May 1778 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E. Blackett Esqr N.Castle

Dukesfd. 28th. May 1778

Sir

Inclosed you have an Accot. of the Lead wrought for the last Plate & am glad to find it has yielded so well in Silver. I hope we shall not be so long in getting you another Plate as this, for the Furnaces are now all in good repair I am

Yrs &c IH Jr

**3 Jun 1778 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E. Blackett Esqr N.Castle

Dukesfd. 3d. June 1778

Sir

Inclosed you have May month Accots for the several Mills, by wch you'll see that the Lead is delivring f'm all the Mills to Blaydon, and I think this Month will clear them all of common or WB Lead. Weardale Mines make as yet but a poor appearance at Rookhope Mill and if Wolfcleugh does not sumthing extraordinary this summer that Mill will be but badly supply'd wth ore for the Winter

Yrs &c IH Jr

**18 Jun 1778 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Mr R. Morrow Blaydon

Dukesfd. 18th June 1778

Dr. Sir

I expected long ere this to have had an accot. of the defaulters as to the Rookhope Ld belonging to Sr. Jno. Trevelyan thats upon the Roads which you could soon have don by comparing your Accots. of the Rects. with those of the Delivy that you had & I left you on the 10th. inst when at your place. I was sorry to find that the Clerk who I sent down on the 15th. could get no Accot. but what Mr Mulcaster gave him, by which I find there's short of Head Mill's L'd 15 ps of the 8 sto. & 58 ps of the 11 sto. I beg you'll give me an accot. as soon as possible in which of the carriers hands the above Lead are is resting, and that you'll also send me the Tickett for Rookhope Mill Lead & am

Yrs &c IH Jr

**11 Jul 1778 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Mr R. Morrow Blaydon

Dukesfd. 11th. July 1778

Dr. Sir

My not hearing f'm you today makes me thus remind you of the Accots. of the rects. of Rookhope Lead for these two years past wch you promised I should have this week when with you at N.Castle, for I cannot pay the Carriagemen wthout it, and you should before this let us know who to lay the Ld. wanting upon, for I'm afraid that the quantity will be so great that there will be some difficulty to get it all paid for. I have re-examined the Mills Accots. of the delivy and find them the same as formerly given you (viz)

A copy of the Delvy fm each Mill for 1776 & 1777 wth his rect.

so that the want will soley ly on Rookhope, by the above accots. wch I make no doubt but are right, tho I recolect you saying you had recd. more f'm Allanhds then was delivd f'm her by her own Accot. wch might by mistake been placed to her instead of Rookhope, but if one had your Accots. or if you had taken a little pains to have compared your Accot., wth that Mill's (Rookhope) particular Accot. of delivy, and where they differed, to have reckon'd wth the Carriagemen have not the least doubt, but you might long ere this have had all Sr. John's Lead at Blaydon or at least known who were to pay for whats wanting; wch must be the case at Last. We have sent f'm this Mill of Slag & refined Lead this week of each 250 ps wch I hope will inable you to supply Dr Hall, wch I learn'd by Mr Mulcaster that these to were wanting to compleat his order. Yrs &c IH Jr

**19 Jul 1778 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Jno. E. Blackett Esqr N.Castle

Dukesfd. 19th. July 1778

Inclosed you have the Dukesfd. Month Accot. & an accot. of a Plate of Silver wch you'll receive by tomorrow's Carrier, have put a piece of red Lead up wth the Silver. I saw a Lre from Mr Smith to his Brother in regard to the Spar who says that he was in Wales when he received his Lre but once he got home would do his indeavours to get you of the different sorts that their Mines produce but that he was afraid he would not be able to get so good as he would wish as the Masters had given orders to have what's curious preserved. I hope that last week would get in the different sorts of Lead wanted to complete Dr Hall's order the drought is so great that we cannot do smelt half the quantity at the several Mill p Week and at Allanhds Mill little or none I am yrs  
&c IH Jr

**19 Jul 1778 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Mr Robt. Morrow Blaydon

Dukesfd. 19th. July 1778

Dr. Sir

Last Friday I paid the Carriagemen for Sr. Jno. Trevelyan's Lead brought f'm Rookhope Mill last spring agreeable to the notice given, but am sorry to say that there was a great outcry against you (for I could only pay those that you had marked as right upon the accot.) for want of your Tickett, I would not have believed that you would have been so negligent, or indeed treated me with so much contempt as neither to give an answer to my Lre's or send me the Accot. of the above Mills Lead when I acquainted you at N.Castle on the 6th. inst. that I would pay the Carriers the Week following therefor beg'd to have your Tickett before then.

The Lead wanting fm the above Mill belonging to Sir John will make a very serious affair for by what I can learn there will be above 40 ps wch must be paid for by some of the Carriagemen, and I doubt that you will not be able to fix them upon those that you have in the Accot. sent me, as I saw one who you made (in that Accot.) a defaulter have a Tickett f'm you for what he took f'm the Mill. However I must once for all tell you that I shall be obliged to lay the whole affair before Mr Blackett the latter end of this Week, so if you can before then send me your Tickett of the rect. of the Lead fm Rookhope for 2 yrs past and also an accot of the Lead wanting that will palliate the matter, shall be very glad of it, otherwise it must appear in the same dark shade to the Alder[ma]n as it now does to me - the consequence I dread, not with standing what I have said of your treatment, do assure you that I should be much hurt both on your & my own Account if the Ald[er]man should take any disagreeable steps towards one who I had in the yr 72 said 'that his Character as to Honesty, Sobriety, Ability and diligence in Business are universely allowed, and his living a great part of his life in the Neighbourhood so as to know the genius of the People believe him to be a very proper Person to succeed Mr Reynoldson.' If your own wellfare will not make you more circumspect as to your Business &c

I hope your sensibility will have some influence, when you reflect how disagreeable it must be to be obliged to complain of the negligence &c of the same Person recommended above and in a manner to the same Power. I am wth best wishes &c

Yrs &c IH Jr

**27 Jul 1778 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesfd. 27th. July 1778

Sir

Not knowing certainly the quantity of Sir Jno Trevelyan's Rookhope Lead that's wanting nor the Carriers that are to pay for it for want of Mr Morrows Accot. makes

me beg that you'll some opportunity speak to him as he will mind your directions, for I have several times the Accot. that I might be able to settle the Carriage - I am afraid the Lead wanting will be considerable.

Pringle telling me the other day, that the Black Galloway you got of him was too spirit'd for your Ladies, makes me make free to offer One that they may each have a Galloway to ride while at Home – it's a very quiet one, & has been used to carry a Girl, but am afraid it will be thought too little as its smaller then the one that Pringle last brought you would have offered the B. Galloway (wch I used to ride) if it had not had the spavin wch makes it disagreeable for a Lady to ride - can send either you choose without any trouble by the Post & am wth Comp'ts to the Ladies

Sir yrs &c IH Jr

To J.E. Blackett Esqr Newcastle

**4 Aug 1778 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E. Blackett Esqr N. Castle

Dukesfd. 4th. Augt. 1778

Sir

Inclosed you have July Month Accot. for the several Mills. Yesterday I rec'd an accot. f'm Mr Morrow of the rec't of Sr J. Trevelyans Rookhope Lead, and have examined it with the Mills Accot. & find that the want is very considerable, I think the Accot. he has sent me will be Erroneous, and that one will not be able to make those Carriers (wch he has made defaulters) pay for the Lead wanting as I have seen some of them that has Accots. f'm Morrow of the rect of their Lead & am

Yrs &c IH Jr

**3 Sep 1778 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E. Blackett Esqr N. Castle

Dukesfd. 3d. Sept. 1778

Sir

When at Rookhope yesterday I found that the Ore does not increase upon the Smelting at this time, and cannot hear that we have any case to expect that Weardale Mines will send this season what will make the Lead required for Blaydon refinery – therefor if you think proper would send f'm Allanhds & Coalcleugh Mines to Rookhope Mill Ore that would keep Her Working till the Spring; for both this & Allanhds Mills are well stocked with Ore. I expect to send you a Plate of Silver & the Mills Month Accots. the latter end of next week I am

Sir yor most Hble servt

IH Jr

**13 Sep 1778 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E. Blackett Esqr N. Castle

Dukesfd. 13th. Sept. 1778

Inclosed you have the Mills Month Accots. and also the Accot. of a Plate of Silver wch I hope you'll receive by tomorrows Carrier I suppose you had not been at home when I wrote last in regard to sending Ore to Rookhope Mill fm Allanhds & Coalcleugh Mines; fm that supposition and believing you would not be against it have set on Carriers to carry Ore fm Coalcleugh to Rookhope and in case I do not hear f'm you to the contrary shall let them continue till they carry 6 or 8 Hundred Bings to that Mill & am

Yrs &c IH Jr

**25 Oct 1778 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E. Blackett Esqr N. Castle

Dukesfd. 25th. Octobr. 1778

Sir

The Inclosed accot. of a Plate of Silver (wch I expect youll receive with this) I purposed delivring myself tomorrow, but have just recd a Line f'm Mr Forster acquainting me that it will be more convenient for you for us to come next Week I am

Yrs &c IH Jr

**13 Dec 1778 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Smith**

Mr Thos. Smith Rookhope

Dukesfield 13th. Decr. 1778

Sir

When I come to reflect upon the Accot. you gave me yesterday in regard to the New Bellows, cannot help thinking it a matter of more consequence then the discharge of a Smelter as (by your Letter) that seems to be your only desire, I cannot help saying that it was a falt in you to leave the Mill while they were Smelting & I hope it will be a caution to you for the future never to leave the Mill while [struck out: 'Smelting'] Working (except on particular occasions) for it appears to be sumthing like <..eng> the Mill; I'm convinced we have some Treacherous & deceitfull People at that Mill that would do any thing in their power to injury of the Agents; & that should make us very cautious in the management of Mill – that we may get all the light now in our Power into the misconduct on Saturday last, I desire that you'll go over on the rect. of this and Lock up the Mill & let no Body come into her till I come over (wch I would have don

tomorrow but am obligd to be at N. Castle) on Thursday Morn as then shall bring Bowman wth me to examine the Bellows &c I am

Sir yrs sincerely  
I Hunter Jr

**8 Feb 1779 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Mr Rt Morrow Blaydon

Dukesfd 8th Feby. 1779

Dr. Sir

I recd. your several Letters wth. the accots. of Back Carriage &c in due course and was surprized to find by yours of 31st. Ult. that I had made so great a mistake (in the Accot. I sent you on the 27 of the Delivy fm each Mill of Sir Thos. Blackett's Lead) as one thousand pieces, but it sometimes happens when one's for being the exactest that they commit the greatest Blunders wch has been the case wth me for I was for being so exact & correct in the Accots. sent you that I examined each Mills Quarter, Month & General Accots. of their delivery and they all agreed Viz

Dukesfd	21,058	8 sto ps
Allanhds	2,175	
Rookhope	9,552	11,021
Total	32,785	11,021

On receiving yours I immediately applied to the wast paper where I had made the comparison above named & the Quantities exactly agreed wth those above given, so that I had omitted 1000 ps. in copying them from that Paper into the Accot. sent you – the Want will be 34 ps wch I hope you'll be able to find (and soon) either among your Wainmen or Rookhope Lead for if even other circumstances would allow'd us to have paid the East Carriage, I think it would have been wrong to pay them while so much Lead is wanting.

I hope youll lose no time in making the necessary inquiry to make out the Dukesfd Lead and that you may accomplish and soon is the Wish of

Dr. Sr. your Hble servt  
I Hunter Jr

**8 Feb 1779 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E. Blackett Esqr N. Castle

Dukesfield 8 Feby. 1779

Inclosed is the Accot. of the last Plate of Silver, wch you'll please to excuse the neglect in being so long of sending – Have also sent Mr Salkeld (who's attending the

Christening of his great Grandchild) Sept. Quartr and Decembr. Month Accots. for the several Mills. the Decembr Quartr. Accots, Rental & Pay Bill, I shall not be able to send you before the 20th. of next Month, and then, you may depend upon having them. By the best estimate I can at this time make it will take £6900 to make the Smelt Mills & refinery at Dukesfds Pay including wch paid at Newcastle. Mr Salkeld (I hope) will be able to explain & apologize to you for the above delay in the Accots. &c I am

Your mo. Obligd. & Hble servt  
I Hunter Jr

**19 Mar 1779 Isaac Hunter to Jonathan Sparke**

Mr Sparke Clerk Allanheads Mill

Dukesfd 19th. March 1779

Sir

I was not a little surprized yesterday on receiving a line f'm Allexd. Whaley to find that you had acted so much out of your station as to discharge a Person (and for performing the agreement he had made wth. me) with out my orders; it's my province, and I shall not willingly give it up, tho', I must own you are the first clerk since I came into office that has attempted to take it fm me – the Business and duty of a Mill Clerk is to keep an accot. of the work don, what comes & goes to and fm the Mill and that just sufficient Loads be brought to her & work wrought; when ever he see's any neglect in either to acquaint the Agent, who's station it's to imploy, discharge and order what he thinks most proper for the carring on & use of the Smelt Mills.

I do suppose your acting so by Whaley had not been with an intent to infringe upon my office, but fm some neglect or fault in him or Partr. so have given him no other answr. to his Letter then that I would meet him at your Mill on Thursday next the 25th inst.

I am yrs &c IH Jr

**20 Mar 1779 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E. Blackett Esqr N.Castle

Dukesfd 20th. March 1779

I took a ride yesterday to Crook Oak and call'd upon Mr Silvertop's Tenant there in regard to the part of the Allotment of Bullbeck Common belonging to Sr. Thos. Blackett wch his (Silvertop's) Tenants has had in possession since that divition and demanded it of him for Sir Thos. He told me that he had no orders f'm Silvertop to give it up, but would acquaint him wth the demand made & let me know in a few days the Answr. he gets – if I do not hear fm him in Weeks time shall call again & then let you know if Silvertop means to quit it or not

Im yrs &c IH Jr

**21 Mar 1779 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Mr Morrow, Blaydon

Dukesf[iel]d: 21st March 1779

D'r S'r

I beg (if you do not send the Tickets of the Receipt of Lead) that you'll let me know by a line of the Return of the Post if you have got all Dukesfield & Rookhope Mills 11 st. Lead in that I may start the Carriage f[ro]m these Mills this fine season, for I told Mr Blackett when in Town last week that I should set on the Carriage this, as f[ro]m] what you told me when on the road there did expect to have had your acco'ts &c by yesterdays post. I heard (tho not from you) that there was 3 Foth[er]s of Rookhope 11 stone L[ea]d taken f[ro]m the Pit hill w[hi]ch I hope will will make the Lead from all the Mills right for last year.

The undertakers of the Rookhope Lead & you must make the best shifts you can to make out the acco'ts of that Mills Lead for I intend you no other acco't of the deliv[er]y f[ro]m the Mill than what you have (i.e) the Quantity of each sort of Lead. I am Y`rs &c

IH

**5 Apr 1779 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Mr Morrow, Blaydon

Dukesf[iel]d: 5th April 1779

D'r S'r

Since yours of the 22nd Ult have be in daily expectation of y'r Ticketts for last y[ea]rs Lead as you then told me you had got all the D[ukesfiel]d & Rookhope 11 sto. Lead wanted & the few 8 stone p[ie]ce]s then short, I hear has been at Blaydon for some days past; the Ticket for Dukesf[iel]d & Allenheads Lead must come to hand before the East hand Carriage Pay of that Lead can be fixed. as to your surmize of my refusing Rookhope Mill acco'ts as usual, shall only say that I have my Reasons for it, and so long as I have the direction of the Mills shall act according to my own judgment of things, till ordered by a Superior to the contrary; and if you think it any grievance being refused that acco't you have my leave to apply to Mr Blackett for redress.

I am yrs &c IH jr



**11 Apr 1779 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E.Blackett Esq, Newcastle

Dukesfield: 11th April 1779

D'r S'r

Not hearing f[ro]m Mr Silvertop's Tenant as he promised, I called a second time at his house, but did not meet w[ith] him at home, so desired S'r Thos Blackett's Tenant at Crook Oak to enquire of him (i.e. Silvertop's Ten[an]t) and let me know w[ha]t answ'r he got f[ro]m his Landlord; the inclosed is an acco't of what he told him, by w[hi]ch I think Mr Silvertop means to keep the Close f[ar]m in supposition that it's not of that consequence to compel him by law to give it up.

Have got the Ore & Lead Carriage started at all the Mills and we have already deliv[er]ed 4000 p[ie]ces f[ro]m both Dukesfield & Rookhope Mill; and I expect we shall clear all the Mills of C. L[ea]d before Mayday. I should like to know before I meet the East hand Wainmen to treat w[ith] them for the Carriage f[ro]m the Bankfoot to Blaydon of the Dukesfield & Allanh[ea]ds Lead for this Year, when it will be convenient for you to let me have Cash to pay them for the last y[ea]rs Carriage of that Lead. I suppose you are in no want of Lead at Blaydon and if we get that Carriage set on against Mayday will be as soon as it will be wanted there. I have inclosed you the Month Acco'ts for the several Mills I am

Sir yr mo[st] Obliged & H[um]ble Serv[an]t

I.H. jr

**7 May 1779 Isaac Hunter to Robert Mulcaster**

Mr. Mulcaster, Blaydon

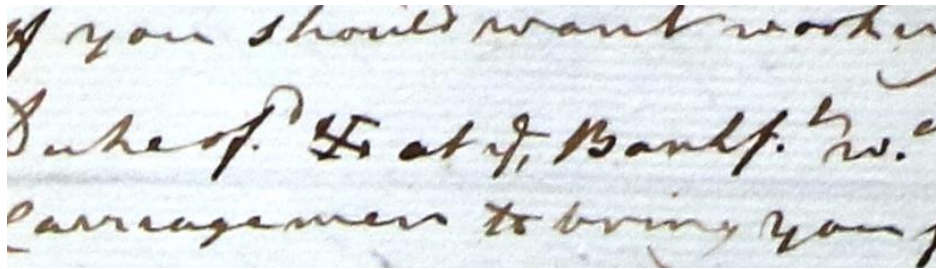
Dukesfield: 7th May 1779

D'r S'r

Not hearing from Mr Morrow since I last saw you makes me thus trouble you to desire that you'll let me know the quantity rec'd of S[i]r Thos Blackett's Rookhope L[ea]d of each sort, Mr Morrow in the Acco'ts I last had fr[o]m him makes 9568 11 st. p[ie]ces & 10,998 p[ie]ces w[hi]ch is 16 p[ie]ces more then the Mill acco't of the 11 stone Lead and 23 p[ie]ces short of the Mill of the 8 stone p[ie]ces so that the difference in point of weight is but trifling w[hi]ch makes me think he has made a mistake between the 8 & 11 st. p[ie]ces. I hope he has been able to get to N.C before this. As the Lead Carriage from the Bankf[oo]t will begin on Monday shall be obliged to you if you'll give me a line how he goes on for I'm afraid as he has lost his Gd.son that the carriage will be neglected. The Coalcleugh Ore smelted at Rookhope Mill Mr Smith has marked with a L not joined to the WB as the other L Lead f[ro]m that Mill is mark'd w[hi]ch is all the difference for you to know it f[ro]m the Slit L[ea]d. I have order'd the Slag Lead made f[ro]m that Ore to be marked with a C. as it will be worth refining for I suppose you do not refine the L. slag from Rookhope

If you should want working lead there's a cart of the Dukesf[iel]d X [see image below] at the Bankf[oo]t w[hi]ch Mr Morrow should order the Carriagemen to bring you first to keep you going till the Rookhope L be got down.

I am yrs &c I.H.jr



**7 May 1779 Isaac Hunter to Robert Morrow**

Mr Morrow, Blaydon

Dukesf[iel]d: 7th May 1779

D'r S'r

I hope you have been able to wate upon Mr Blackett at the time desired and that you'll get me a Tickett for the Rookhope Lead made ere long - as your Carriage f[ro]m the Bankf[oo]t starts on Monday have below given you the Names of those who signed the Article at Blaydon and I desire that you'll not allow any to carry of S'r Thos. Blackett's Lead f[ro]m thence but those mentioned below - shall in my next give you the heads of the Articles

I am Yrs &c I.H.

NB there will come f[ro]m Rookhope this season Lead (8 stone p[ie]ce[s]) marked w[ith]h an L (not joined to the WB as the other L Lead) which is made f[ro]m a different sort of Ore and ought to be kept separate; Mr Mulcaster I suppose will choose to work it bt it's self as it will not answ'r so well for so well for Litharge as the other Lead f[ro]m that Mill.

**8 May 1779 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E.Blackett Esq, Newcastle

Dukesf[iel]d: 8th May 1779

D'r S'r

By Mondays Carrier you'll receive a Plate of Silver as per inclosed acco't have also inclosed you the Pay Bill for the Lead Carriage f[ro]m the Bankfoot to Blaydon. Mr Morrow was confined to his Bed when I got there, but I hope he's been so well since as to wate upon you. I agreed with the East hand Carriagemen on the Pay day so that I hope the Lead will be got of the Roads in good time this Year. The Ore & Lead Carriage

has been very brisk for this Month past tho I doubt the change among the Hospitals  
Tenants will slaken the Ore Carriage for a while

Im Yrs &c I.H. jr

**7 Jul 1779 Isaac Hunter to Alexander Whaley**

Mr Alex[an]d[er] Whaley Hardwoodshield Dukesf[iel]d 7th July 1779

Sir

I'm sorry to find when at Allenh[ea]ds mill last Week that what was agreed between you and me last Spring (in regard to the Lime you was to supply that Mill with) has not had the desired effect of preventing future complaints of want of Measure in the Loads sent; as we agreed there should be a Measure sent to the Mill as a standard and in case you could not afford the quantity - by it at the price that I was to advance it in proportion to what it might be larger then w[ha]t you sold to the Country - Mr Sparke tells me that 5 of your Loads will hardly by 2 1/2 by the Measure at the Mill and that your man (that brought Lime to the Mill that morn[in]g that I was at the Mill) told him that he should have no better measure then what he then had upon his Horses and in case he would not charge them as full Loads he had orders not to leave them but to take them elsewhere - if this be so its quite contrary to what I expected and the agree[men]t above referred to - I should like to hear from you for I cannot suffer such things to pass un-redress'd - should have wrote you sooner but expected to have seen you at Stagshaw bank & talked the matter over - I'm yrs &c

I.H.

**8 Jul 1779 Isaac Hunter to Cuthbert Peart**

Mr Cuth Peart, Newcastle

Dukesf[iel]d 8th July 1779

Sir

You'll herewith receive a Plate of Silver as per inclosed acco't & also the Month Acco'ts for May & June for the several Mills, I forgot to leave you May Month Acco'ts when last at the office. I hope you have got Mr Morrow's Acco'ts settled, I am in hopes to get all the Lead of the Roads against Mr Blacketts return, that we may then be able to settle the Lead Acco't properly - shall be obliged to you for a line on Mr Blackett's getting home as I would like to wate upon & consult with him before any more Lead be Deliv[ere]d from the Mills. I am

Sir Yr H[um]ble Serv[an]t

I. H. jr

**10 Jul 1779 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E.Blackett Esq, Newcastle

Dukesfield: 10th July 1779

Sir

Inclosed you have July month Acco'ts by wh[ic]h you'll see there's better than 12 thousand p[ie]ce[s] of Lead at the several mills ready for Blaydon - once the weather takes up shall start the Lead Carriage f[ro]m this Mill as all the Lead deliv[er]ed f[ro]m her is got in except one piece, I'm in daily expectation of hearing that all the Lead of the other two Mills are also got off the Roads.

The Smelt Mills Pay not coming now as expected has caused a general murmur & clamour through the whole country, the Landlords and other C[reditor]s of the Ore Carriers, Workmen &c are grown quite impatient, that I'm afraid that many of them (i.e. Carriers & Workmen) will be greatly distress'd. I should be glad to hear in a Post or two that you have fix'd the Pay, (tho' it should be further distant then you would wish) as that being known would (I hope) prevent several Families f[ro]m being distressed & any future prejudice to Sir Thos Blackett's Lead Works.

I'm Sir Yr H[um]ble Serv[an]t

I Hunter

**17 Aug 1779 Isaac Hunter to Cuthbert Peart**

Mr Cuth Peart, Newcastle

Dukesfield 17th Augt 1779

Sir

Inclosed you have my General Acco'ts and also an acco't of the Lead Refined and reduced since Sir Thos. entered to the Refinery to the 31st of Dec'r 1778 as desired, I have put the quantity of Silver extracted in one line w[hi]ch was the produce of 6 plates as the Plates were mostly mixed w[it]h 11 & 8 stone p[ie]ce[s] of Lead. I have sent you the General Acco't according to the quart[er]ly Acco't w[it]hout rectifying the mistakes you'll let me know after you have rectified the Acco't in what manner you do it & whether there's any other in the Acco't then there's named that I may bring one with me clear of errors - I was not a little disappointed yesterday in not getting an Acco't as you promised of the pay being fixed - I wish Mr Blackett would fix it in a Post or two's time (tho it should be at a little distance) as it would stop the Clamour in the Country w[hi]ch increases daily. I'm yrs &c

**17 Aug 1779 Isaac Hunter to Robert Mulcaster**

Mr Mulcaster, Blaydon

Dukesfield 17th Augt 1779

Sir

You'll please to forward the Iron Castings, Iron &c to the Bankfoot now that the Carriage is on, have inclosed the Article of agreements made with the Carriagemen on the 29th of April for your Friend, who I expect will make the Carriagemen abide by, and that those who has already brok through them may be punished in the manner that you and I was speaking of, (i.e.) to put all the Carriagemen upon a level as at starting and then to keep them tight to the Articles -

I'm yr H[um]ble Serv[an]t IH jr

**15 Nov 1779 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Maughan**

Mr Thos Maughan N[ew] house

Dukesfield 15th Nov'r 1779

D'r Sir

On examining the Ton-Tail Ore that was come to Rookhope Mill last Friday I find it so bad that it cannot be Smelted in its present state without great Injury both to the Hearths & Bellows, so gave orders to the Clerk not to let it be smelted till it's made better - I therefor desire that you'll acquaint thoses that has taken at your several Groves that they must not send it f[ro]m the Mines to the Mill without making it better and what is already sent that they must go there and make it better before it will be allowed to be smelted - Mr Smith will make them conveniences for weshing it over at the Mill

I'm w[ith] Compl[imen]ts to Mrs M -

Y[ou]rs &c IH jr

**9 Dec 1779 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E.Blackett Esq, Newcastle

Dukesfield: 9th Dec 1779

Sir

Inclosed you have the Month Acco'ts for the several Mills - I'm in hopes that I shall not trouble you for any Subsistance M[one]y till the Spring's pritty fore-advanced; but in case otherwise shall acquaint you beforehand I am

Yrs &c &c IH jr

25 Dec 1779 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett

J.E.Blackett Esq, Newcastle

Dukesfield: 25th Decr 1779

Sir

By Mondays Carrier youll receive a Plate of Silver as per inclosed Acco't. If you have any Castor Oil by you I wish you would send a Bottle of it by Mr Forster who I suppose will be in town next week & will think little of the trouble for one of the Workmen who got great benefit f[ro]m what you before sent us, is now very ill & desiring to have of it again - you'll please to accept of the Pheasant sent herew[i]th I'm w[ith] Compl[imen]ts of the Season

Sr Yr mo[st] H[umble] S[ervant]

IH jr

21 Feb 1780 Isaac Hunter to Robert Mulcaster

Mr Mulcaster, Blaydon

Dukesfield 21st Feb'y 1780

Sir

Both yours I rec'd in due course and should have answ'd your last sooner, but expected to have got Rookhope Acco't that you might find in who's hands that Lead wanting are in; but on second thought, think it will be as well to send Mr Smith down - the quantity deliv[er]ed f[ro]m Rookhope last yr of Eleven sto[ne] p[iece]s 8,261, Eight sto[ne] 11,229 w[hi]ch makes 358 of the former & 2586 of the latter went at Blaydon by your Rec't.

I think it will be as well to refer making the east hand Carriage pay till we see whether the 13 p[iece]s wanting can be made out, for I am as much persuaded as you possible can be that they are not in the hands of the West Carriers; I would hope that they are not lost, and the quantity is too great to be hid among the mud at the Bankfoot; I reather think they have been hid or cast out of the way through spite one to another of those who had Lead laid off to load out with after they got up Hedley Bank. last Spring we wanted 34 p[iece]s w[hi]ch the West Carriers got the blam off, tho I was as confident then as now that there was not a Pig of it in their hands (i.e. the D[ukes]f[ield] Leaders I would not say as much for Allanh[ea]ds as its goes many ways) and it was found among the Rookhope Lead as I recollect; may not the same happen this? however I think we had as well not pay the East Carriage till we be fully convinced that the lead wanting <cannot> be made out, I have wrote Mr Blackett to that effect, I wish we could for the time to come hit off some method that will remove the complaint by making those that takes it f[ro]m the Mills accountable the whole road as Rookhope. I am w[ith] Compl[imen]ts &c

IHunter

I approve of the Form of the L[ea]d & Back carriage pay Bill and think is much better both for the Leaders and those concernd to have the whole paid together

**22 Feb 1780 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E. Blackett Esqr N.Castle

Dukesf[iel]d 22d Feb'y 1780

I find by Mr Mulcaster's rec't at Blaydon that there's 13 p[ie]ce[s] of the Dukesf[iel]d & Allanh[ea]ds Lead short of these Mills deliv[er]y for last year and he tells me that you have some thoughts of paying the Carriage f[ro]m the Bankfoot of that Lead the latter end of this month. I think it will be as well to refer paying that Carriage till we be fully convinced that the s[ai]d Lead cannot be found; it's too much (I would hope) to be either stolen or lost on the Roads and would reather suppose that (as it's not to be found in the hands of the Wainmen) that it has been tost into some out of the way place by some of them out of malice one to another; as they were allowed to unload some at the top of the Bank, and their not being paid till it's some how or other made out will make them all intrested in finding it. The severity of the Weather has hindered both Smelting & Refining this Winter much, so that it will be a Month before we will be able to send you a Plate of Silver (for I expect the Refinery will not be again hindered) and at the same time I shall bring you the Q[uar]terly Gen[er]al & Month Acco'ts and will be obliged to trouble you for Subsistance M[one]y and hope the Lead now on the Roads will be all got in or some how made out.

I am yrs &c I Hunter

**4 Mar 1780 Isaac Hunter to Jonathan Sparke**

Mr Sparke Clerk at Allanh[ea]ds

Dukesf[iel]d 4th March 1780

Sir

I intend beginning to Reckon on Monday the 13th Inst and continue till the 23d both day included w[hi]ch I desire you'll make known to all those that has any demands on Acco't of Allanh[ea]ds Mill that they must Reckon within the time above described. You'll take care that none of the Carriers bring in any Coals or Cinders this Spring to the Mill as I acquainted you when last here. I am

Yrs &c IH

**19 Mar 1780 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E. Blackett Esqr N. Castle

Dukesfield 19th March 1780

You'll receive herewith a Plate of Silver as the inclosed Acco't.

Lady day being near at hand when the ore Carriers &c will want Cash to pay the Wintring of their Galloways, I hope you'll let me have when in Town (on Acco't of the East hand Carriage pay in Easter Week) 200 or 150£ to help the Most Necessitated & Subsistance for the Workmen. I have not heard of any of the L[ea]d wanting being made out - have examined all the West Carriers for this & Allanh[ea]ds Mill who are all very confident that they deliv[ere]d what they got at the Mills safe at the Bankfoot. I am

Yrs &c IH

**18 Apr 1780 Isaac Hunter to Robert Mulcaster**

Mr Mulcaster Blaydon

Dukesfield 18th April 1780

Sir

Inclosed you have a List of the Carriagemen & No. of Draughts that I think we should imploy this Season but as it's only made f[ro]m the Papers I got f[ro]m you & the Minutes taken when paying the Money at Blaydon I beg that if there's any in it or omitted by your opinion that you may correct it for I think we may make a pritty good sum[m]er work for 34 Draughts. for I shall give Mr Smith a schedule of those we ingage into the Carriage w[i]th orders to acquaint the Leaders f[ro]m Rookhope that if they do not give the preference to them in regard to the Lead they let the Leading of f[ro]m the Pit or Bankfoot that they will be marked for the time to come. I would like to meet them on Friday at Mr Reynoldson's between 4 & 5 o'clock as I have to be at N.Castle that evening.

I am Yrs &c IH

**18 Apr 1780 Isaac Hunter to Joseph Dickinson**

Mr Dickinson Coalcleugh

Dukesfield 18th April 80

D'r Sir

I have fixed Friday next to meet the East hand Carriers to settle the Lead Carriage for this year from the Bankfoot & as the [London Lead] Comp[an]y's carriagemen has had the advantage of the Back Carriage of the things sent of Sir Thos. Blackett's Lead Mines by the Bankfoot for some years past to the prejudice of His Lead Carriage it has been alledged by those that has that Carriage that they cannot get it so



cheap brought to the Bankfoot by Sir Thos. Blackett's Lead Carriagemen & Tenants as the Comp[an]y's does I desire you'll let me know the prices that you give & I shall under take to be accountable for delivering the things sent to the yard at Blaydon safe at Coalcleugh at the same prices you now give (in case your present undertakers will not treat w[i]th Sir Thos.'s own Tenants) I should like to hear f[ro]m you before Friday morn[in]g I am w[i]th Compl[imen]ts to Mrs Dickinson & Mr Crawhall

S'r Yrs &c IHunter

NB Wrote Mr Forster a Letter similar to this

**23 Apr 1780 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E. Blackett Esqr N.Castle

Dukesf[iel]d 23d April 1780

Sir

The inclosed Month Acco'ts I intended wating upon you w[i]th last Friday after I had settled w[ith] the Easthand Carriers at Blaydon for this years Carriage but my Galloway was so lame that I dares't go no further, I found the Lead Ways so Wet & bad that day that Mr Mulcaster & I agreed not to start the Lead Carriage till Monday come a fortnight the 8th May (in case you do not want Common L[ea]d in the meanwhile for the Market) as there's in hand what will supply the Refinery for some time.

I am Sir Yr's &c I.H.

**21 May 1780 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E. Blackett Esqr N.Castle

Dukesf[iel]d 21st May 1780

Sir

You'll receive herewith a Plate of Silver as per inclosed acco't I understand by Mr Mulcaster that you wanted to know what quantity of Com[m]on & Reduced Lead we can deliver f[ro]m the Several Mills before the latter end of Aug[us]t if we are kept going with Com[m]on Ore till then (w[hi]ch I have no doubt but we shall at this Mill) shall be able to send to Blaydon f[ro]m this Mill 15500 p[iece]s Com[m]on Lead and 8500 p[iece]s of Reduced Lead f[ro]m Allanheads 2000 f[ro]m Rookhope 6000 p[iece]s but as the Com[m]on Ore is always late of the season of geting to Rookhope so that I think you must not call the quantity f[ro]m that Mill more than 4000 p[iece]s to be at Blaydon before the time mentioned but the Dukesf[iel]d & Allanheads you may make your self sure to have at Blaydon against the time mentioned as I have seen Mr Forster & he says they will keep the Smelters going w[ith] Ore

I am Yrs &c IH

**22 May 1780 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Maughan**

Mr Thos. Maughan N.House

Dukesf[iel]d 22d May 1780

D'r S'r

I was sorry to find when at Rookhope Mill the 19th inst. that the Ore we are getting f[ro]m your Mines is no better dressed than what was sent the latter end of last year. I therefor beg that you'll give such Orders as will prevent my troubling you with further complaints on that head for I am certain that what's sent this Spring f[ro]m Middlehope that we cannot make a Ton of Lead f[ro]m 6 Bings of it, and what has been sent f[ro]m the other Mines is not a great deal better - the Mill produce will make a very poor Figure at Christmas in case there's not a great alteration in the Quality of the Ore thats to send from what has already come to the Mill this Season.

I am glad to find that there's some call for Lead & would hope that the prices are advancing also, w[hi]ch may case the Pays to bee a little sooner; for Mr Blackett wants all the Com[m]on Lead to markt & to know what we can Smelt & send him there before the latter end of Aug't I desire you'll hasten the Ore that you have at the several Mills that's not refinable to the Mill before the time mentioned that the Smelters may be less smelting of com[m]on Ore till the last week of Aug't. We have at the Mill (I think) what will keep them smelting till the latter end of June so if you can send in 12 or 13 hundred between then & last of Aug't I shall be able to send Mr Blackett the No. of p[ie]ce[s] I have proposed against the time, but if you think you cannot send the above quantity of Com[m]on Ore that will keep the Smelters going till then would be glad to hear from you soon that I may acquaint Mr Blackett of the quantity we shall fall short. I am yrs &c IH

**6 Jun 1780 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E. Blackett Esqr N.Castle

Dukesf[iel]d 6th June 1780

Sir

Inclosed you have the Month Acco'ts for the several Mills by w[hi]ch you'll see that we get but poorly forward w[i]th the Lead Carriage from Rookhope & Allanheads Mills, f[ro]m Dukesf[iel]d we do pritty well, for including this Morn[in]g have delivered better than 10 Thousand p[ie]ce[s] of Com[m]on Lead, and am not affraid but we shall clear the Mill before mid-summer of all the Com[m]on & Refined Lead. I do not know what to think of the Rookhope for the Carriage reather decreases then increases when there last week, as for Allanh[ea]ds I do not doubt but we shall send all the Com[m]on Lead that's at her to Blaydon against the latter end of Aug't. We begin to find the affect of the Pays not being in the Rookhope Carriage, tho' I hope in case you have it in your Power to make the Mills Pay when you make the Mines Pays in will

briskened our L[ea]d Carriage therefor by that you would put the Mines pays a little rather than make them separate for I am sure that it will damp the Lead Carriage so much once it's known that the Mills Pay is not to be w[ith] the Mines that we shall not be able to get the Rookhope Lead to Markett this Year - shall be able to judge better against the 19th inst. w[hi]ch I understand is the day that the Grove Stewards goes down for the Lent M[one]y when I hope it will be convenient to let me have 200 or 150£ for Subsistance for the Smelt Mills & Refinery, and shall then acquaint you more fully in regard to the Carriage and whether we shall be able to send the quantity against the latter end of Aug't that I named in my last

I am Sir Yrs &c I.H.

**8 Jun 1780 Isaac Hunter to Robert Mulcaster**

Mr Mulcaster Blaydon

Dukesf[iel]d 8th June 1780

Sir

Shall make you sure of the quantity of Com[m]on Lead that you name in yours of the 6 inst being at the Bankfoot against the last of this month if you do not want of the Long or Refined Lead in the time for I understood by you that you would want of that Lead 1800 p[ie]ce[s] to make up a former Bargain. you'll give me a line if you should want of the L[ea]d as I shall continue deliv[er]y Com[m]on till I hear f[ro]m you will not be able to send 400 p[ie]ce[s] of Slag Lead against the time you name as we cannot build anything from the other Mills sending Slag Lead to Blaydon by the last of the Month for the Fells are so wet that the Carriage is hardly begun f[ro]m them.

You have in your late Letters laid a great stress upon Pringle's not getting his Winter Lead in; the blam will fall upon me, for he has s[o] far fulfilled his agreement that I made w[ith] him in not letting the Refinery want Lead, and I flatter myself that when Mr Blackett & you are made acquainted w[ith] the circumstances &c when I made the Agreement that you will both think as I then did; however, this I am sure off that, there would have been above 3000 p[ie]ce[s] more 8 stone Lead at Rookhope Mill this Day w[hi]ch Your Refinery must have found the want of last Spring. Would with pleasure acknowledge any hint or information towards any improvements in the Business f[ro]m you or any other Person, but would not willingly have the agreements I had made set <aside>

Yrs &c I.H.

**16 Jul 1780 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E. Blackett Esqr N.Castle

Dukesfield 16th July 1780

Sir

Herewith you'll receive a Plate of Silver, Weighing 1153 Ounces, the Litharge was not all wrought up w[hi]ch prevented my sending the Acco'ts &c.

I have been among the Rookhope Wainmen last week and have got as many promised as will carry all the L[ea]d that's at that Mill so that I do not fear but we will get it all moved for I find they have carried above 12 Hundred p[ie]ces this last week w[hi]ch is a great deal more then has been carried in a Week this Season; and I have not the least doubt but we shall send more this Week.

I'm Yrs &c I.H.

**20 Jul 1780 Isaac Hunter to Joseph Dickinson**

Mr Dickinson Coalcleugh

Dukesfield 20th July 1780

D'r S'r

I find when at Allanheads Mill yesterday that there's already as much Ore at her as we ought to have, as w[it]h the Ton Tail that's expected; I therefor desire that you'll stop any more of your Boose Ore being sent, and in case we can make Room at her the latter end of the Year if you are likely to have any difficulty of getting your Mines clear'd shall then take 2 or 3 Hundred Bings but we have no pretence for over stocking her at this time

I am &c Yrs I.H.

The Carriers that carried to that Mill bring Ore to Dukesfield

**29 Aug 1780 Isaac Hunter to Cuthbert Peart**

Mr Cuth Peart Newcastle

Dukesfield 29th Aug't 1780

Inclosed you have the General Acco'ts closed in the manner I understood you choosed to have it; if not to your liking pray send me it with the alterations upon it & shall make one accordingly & bring to town w[i]th me

I neglected when I saw the <Ald[er]m[an]> at Hexham to inquire of him the quantity there would be of Species to make the several Pays as I will have to procure a Carrier to carry the whole would not have him to bring more Horses than necessary shall be obliged to you if you'll give me the information when you write in regard to

the General Acco't - have also sent the Acco't for the Plate of Silver you would receive by Yesterday Carrier

I am Yrs &c I.H.

**10 Sep 1780 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E. Blackett Esqr N.Castle

Dukesf[iel]d 10th Sepr 1780

Sir

Inclosed you have the Month acco'ts for the Several Mills and also Mr Ord's Ltre [Letter] by w[hi]ch you'll see he will not promise his Vote for S'r M. till he see's his Friend who's a Mr Storey Leather-Seller on the Sand Hill. I have been w[i]th Thompson twice since I saw you but can make nothing of him. Mr Salkeld & I will be in Town against the time you mention

I wish you would order Mr Peart to give me a line of the Receipt of the last Plate & also the Quantity of Money there will be to make All the Pays as I shall have a Carrier to provide would not have him to have more Horses then's necessary.

I am Yrs &c &c I Hunter

**24 Oct 1780 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E. Blackett Esqr N.Castle

Dukesf[iel]d 24th Octobr

Sir

I wish it may be convenient for you to let me have when I come down 250£ instead of the 200 that we talked of when here; for I have had so many applications for Carriers &c in distress that I doubt I shall not be able to divide the latter sum so as to relive them shall be at the Office on Wednesday Morn[in]g the 1st Nov'r or any other day that's more agreeable between this and the 8th (for thats Hexham Fair where the Smelters commonly buy their Beef) on Mr Peart giving me a line

I expect we shall send you in the course of the Week a pritty good Plate. & am Yrs &c

**3 Nov 1780 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Maughan**

Mr Thos. Maughan N.House

Dukesf[iel]d 3rd Nov'r 80

D'r S'r

Yours of the 30th Ult I rec'd yesterday and am sorry to find by it that you will have so much Ore to lye over Winter at the Mines for it's too late now to make any

proposals to the Carriers that can answ[e]r any good end - it has been a complaint for these some Summers past that there was nothing for any but the Wood-carriers during the Prime of the Season. However shall do what I can (consistently w[i]th the future Carriage) to get a part moved if the Weather be any way tolerable; and shall take care to regulate the Ore Carriage f[ro]m your Groves against next year as I hope will prevent the Ore thats dress'd up before Michaelmas f[ro]m lying at the Mine. I am

Yrs &c I.H.

**20 Jan 1781 Isaac Hunter to Jonathan Sparke**

Mr Sparke Allanhds Mill

Dukesf[iel]d 20th Jany 1781

Sir

On examining you last Decl.d M.th Accts I find £5..2s..10d charged to Jno. Hutchinson for Candles &c, w[hi]ch seams so exorbitant a charge for that article to me that I must desire you to send me his Bill before I can pass the Acc[oun]t. I thought his charge =last= for Y[ear] 1779 of £3..1s..9d high & should like when you are sending to have that Bill also – I am

Yrs &c IH [Isaac Hunter]

**2 Feb 1781 Isaac Hunter to Robert Mulcaster**

[Note: given as 1780 but presumably an early-in-the-year slip of the pen]

Mr Mulcaster Blaydon

Dukesf[iel]d 2nd Feb[ruar]y 1780 [sic]

Sir

I find now that I have got all the Mill acc[oun]ts for last year, that I had made a mistake in the quantity of Lead deliv[ere]d f[ro]m Dukesf[iel]d & Rookhope in the acco[unt]s I sent you on the 6th Dec[embe]r as youll see below so that there will be only 3 ps of Dukesfield wanting w[hi]ch probably may be lost of the Draughts or hid among the mud at the Stob – as the Wainsmen are accountable for the Allanheads & Rookhope have no fear but we shall get the roads cleared of Last Y[ea]rs Lead early in the Spring – I'm Yrs, &c

IH

Deliv'd to Blaydon 1780

D	30,740
A	2,546
R 11 Sto	16,804
8 Sto	12,600

Total 62,690

**2 Feb 1781 Isaac Hunter to Jonathan Sparke**

Mr Sparke Clerk Allanhds Mill

Dukesf[iel]d 2nd Feby 1781

Sir

Yours w[i]th Hutchinson's Bills inclosed I rec[eive]d & Lee's son the other day, by w[ho]m I find that you have some what misapprehended mine, for it's my greatest pleasure to discharge the duty of my office to the satisfaction of all under my inspection, so as not to prejudice the Masters intrest. You are either misadvised or do not rightly understand what's required of a Person in my station; therefor, shall give you an account of one part of his duty w[hi]ch is that he's accountable to S[i]r Thos Blackett (or who he pleases to appoint to inspect the Acco[un]ts) for every article that's charged in the Mills Acco[un]ts as to the usefulness and equitableness of the charges &c w[hi]ch I shall (while in office) endeavour to discharge I trust confided in me as related above to the utmost of my power not withstanding any false notions of privileges – People may get into their heads – on my Visits to the other two Mills I always see the Bills of parcels & Books of Wages &c so that I'm fully satisfied before the Quart[erly] Acco[un]ts are made up, and should have been the same at your Mill, if it had not been for the Mill Office being misapplied for this two years past & your last bad Health w[hi]ch obliged the Acco[un]ts &c to be at your own House that I could not so conveniently see them on my Visits and not f[ro]m any respect of Persons. You say "that You'll let 'me know the privileges given you w[i]th Your place' w[hi]ch I shall be obliged to you for and soon, for I asure you if I have infringed upon them, it's been for want of knowing them – I must be very deficient and ignorant of my duty if I am to learn of you what were practiced by your predecessors. as to the article you name and 25 y[ea]rs experience (for I have don the Business for Fath[e]r & self so long) must make me have some knowledge what's requisite on the increase of Merit &c

I would not have you suppose f[ro]m what I have said that I have the least enmity towards you, it would give me great pleasure if I could be any way serviceable to you or your Family and it's my earnest wish to be upon a Friendly footing w[i]th my Clerks & that harmony may ever be among us is the sincear wish of

Sir Y[ou]r H[um]ble Serv[an]t

IH

**26 Feb 1781 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E.Blackett Esqr. Newcastle

Dukesfield 26th Feb[ruar]y 1781

It's with pleasure that I acquaint you that the two last years deliv[er]y from Dukesfield & Allanh[e]ads agree w[i]th the rec.t at Blaydon on within 5 p[iece]s – Mr Mulcaster tells me that you would like yt[that] pay of the East Carriage to be made at or before the time promised w[hi]ch was on or before the 25th of March as that day falls on a Sunday shall pay them either the week before or after as is most agreeable to you to let me have the cash – as the Grove Agents (I imagine) will receive their Subsistance Money on the 20th it may be more convenient for you that day as then w[oul]d 26th, but you'll please to order Mr Peart to give me a line the time you fix.

We shall send you a Cake of Sinver [sic] in sixteen days time

I am y[ou]rs &c IH

NB It will take 415£ to make the pay of the East Carriage

**26 Feb 1781 Isaac Hunter to Robert Mulcaster**

Mr Mulcaster Blaydon

Dukesfield 26th Feb[ruar]y 1781

Sir

I'm glad to find by yours there the Lead will be so near tall[y]ing this year, and what you have found of the last years Lead will make the Rect and deliv[er]y for the two last yrs agree to 5 p[iece]s for the p[ie]ce Mr Surtees got was included in the No. I gave you –

I have wrote Mr Blackett that I would either make the pay the week before the 26 or after as is most agreeable to himself or if you should be in town might fix the time with him what made me name the week before was f[ro]m the Grove agents having to receive their Subsistance Money on the 20th so thought it might be conveniener for Mr. Blackett that day to pay the M[one]y to me than the Week after – Shall make the pay at Mr Reynoldson's as usual

I am y[ou]rs &c IH



**13 Apr 1781 Isaac Hunter to Robert Mulcaster**

Mr Mulcaster Blaydon

Dukesfield 13th April 1781

Sir

The Lawyer had not got the depositions &c from Mr Heron who was out of town on acc[oun]t of the Militia Business so did not see him, but the Lawyer said he would see the Mayor the next day & have some talk with him.

I think it would be right for you to discharge the Wainmen f[ro]m using the Turn Pike at the West end for I find they have used it this season (so far) for upwards of 3 Hundred Y[ar]ds w[hi]ch Silvertop will make an handle of to have a side gates fixed at where you cross at B.d.n. I shall acquaint Mr Blackett before the meeting that he may be able to make a reply to Silvertop that the Lead can come w[i]thout using the Road more than crossing at each end – but as the Turn pike & Lead Way at the Lead-hill are near & upon a Com[m]on it will be difficult to prevent the Wainmen at all times for going upon it at that end it might not be amiss to agree with the Trustees for the Use of that part by keeping it in repair and if you should be in Town between this & the Meeting might talk of affair over w[i]th the Mayor

I am, Y[ou]rs &c IH

**15 Apr 1781 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E.Blackett Esqr. Newcastle

Dukesfield 15th April 1781

Sir,

I call[e]d upon Lawyer Wilson after I left you, but he had not got the Case w[i]th the depositions of the Witnesses f[ro]m Mr Heron who I also call[e]d upon to desire that the Lawyer might have them as soon as possible but he was f[ro]m Home.

I took a ride the other day to see how much the Carriage men went upon the Turn pike at the West end, and find they have (as far this season) gon upwards of three Hundred Y[ar]ds w[hi]ch I do suppose Mr Silvertop will make a handle of at the meeting tomorrow for having a side Gate at Winlton Lane post - the Branch f[ro]m Mickly Bank to lead-hill is upon a Com[m]on or unenclosed ground, so that the Carriage-Men keeps the Turn pike so far as it goes near the Old road, but S[i]r Tho[mas] Blackett's Lead can go down the old road by Winlton without coming upon the Turn pike more then crossing it at each end. I have wrote Mr Mulcaster to desire the Wainmen not to use it at Apperley Bank as that will make them liable to pay the Toll – as the Branch and the old road f[ro]m Lead hill along Apperley bank for three or four hundred y[ar]ds are parallel and upon unenclosed ground it may be difficult to prevent the Carriage men at all times f[ro]m going upon the Turnpike at that part, and to prevent disputes on that Acc[oun]t it might not be amiss to agree w[i]th the Trustees for the use of that part of the Turnpike – I am

Yrs Hble servt & c IH

**22 May 1781 Isaac Hunter to Ralph Dixon**

Ralph Dixon at the Lee

Dukesfield 22nd May 1781

I wrote two Months ago that if you did not go and Wash up the Black Slags that were stamp'd that I should emply some body else to wash them. I find when I was at the Mill yesterday that you have don little or nothing at them; I give you this second notice that if you do not go against Monday the 28th inst. and follow them (till what's stamped be fit to smelt) that I shall look upon it as a quitting of the Work and shall let them to some other Perston [sic] that will do them as they ought and not inconvenience the Mill (as to room) and the Person that has the Stamping of then and also preventing getting that Lead to Markett this season

Y[ou]rs &c IH

**29 May 1781 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E.Blackett Esqr. Newcastle

Dukesf[iel]d 29th May 1781

Sir,

I thought it was proper to acquaint you that there's a great Clamour made on account of the Pays w[hi]ch increase daily, and I realy doubt if there's not a stop put to it by fixing them, that Sir Tho[ma]s Blackett's Lead Works will be greatly retarded and prejudiced; I'm convinced that if the Carriers could get other work that the greatest part of them would leave us even now and that next Y[ea]r we should only get the out casts or be last sarved; the hopes of the Pay being before Old May was out got us briskly forward and w[i]th the Carriage this Spring. – If You could make the Pays against Midsummer have not a doubt but it would remove all complaints and establish the Credit of the Pays: however I wish you could name a time (tho the further distant) when they will be as it will not only disappoint the Malicious who endeavours to increase the clamour of the Country by insinuating that they will not be before next May, but ad greatly to the credit of the Workmen &c as Corn is got very High in the Marketts here and if Farmers will not give Cr[edit] without the day of payment is named

You'll excuse this freedom for it proceeds wholly f[ro]m an Need for the prosperity of the S[ai]d Work[er]s. I am

w[i]th due deference Y[ou]r Obliged & H[um]ble Serv[an]t

IH

24 Jun 1781 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett

J.E.Blackett Esqr. Newcastle

Dukesf[iel]d 24th June 1781

Sir,

I find by my Broth[e]r that there's to be a meeting of the Trustees of the Toll Road at Corbridge on Wednesday next to Confer w[i]th the Lead Owners & less on the Toll upon Lime & Coals – have measured what S[i]r Tho[ma]s B[lackett]'s Lead can go upon the Branch at the Lead Hall (to go by Apperley Lane) to 42 Y[ar]ds above a Q[uar]te[r] of a Mile, f[ro]m Stella- Path to the Yard at Blaydon (& Mr Mulcaster is Aud[ito]r) is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a Mile so that the whole that S[i]r Tho[ma]s's Lead will go upon the Turn Pike at each end will be little above a Mile – as it may be inconvenient for you to attend at Corbridge, would it be improper if you ordered Mr Bell to attend?

I am yo[u]r Obliged & H[um]ble S[ervan]t

I H

28 Jun 1781 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett

J.E.Blackett Esqr. Newcastle

Dukesf[iel]d 28th June 1781

Sir,

I attended the Turnpike meeting at Corbridge yesterday, the Lead Co[mpany] & Mr W. Errington's people agreed w[i]th the Trustees at 2d p[er] Fother between Lady day & Mart[in]mas and at full Toll the other part of the Y[ea]r. I offered to comp[oun]d for Sir Thos B's Lead by the Y[ea]r they asked 35£ but did not choose to treat by by the Fother as they had don so with the other proprietors of Lead - there was a full meeting 12 Com[pan]ies attended tho[ugh] neither of Silvertops – the comp[oun]d of 2d p[er] Fother for the Stella Barr is to be paid Quart[er]ly and if you thought proper that S[i]r Tho[mas]'s should go on the same footing as the others was to acquaint the Clerk in the course of a few days – Sir Tho[ma]s I think should have all considering every thing more indulgence then the other Lead owners and if you agree to give the 2d[pence] would with that as little as possible might go by Stella, tho[ugh] if the latter end of the Summer should prove wet might have some difficulty of get[t]ing the Lead in the other way.

The next meeting was fixed to be at Corbridge on the 29th of Aug[us]t. Shall send you a plate of Silver by next Friday's Carrier & am

Sir Y[ou]rs &c IH

**5 Jul 1781 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E.Blackett Esqr. Newcastle

Dukesf[iel]d 5th July 1781

Sir,

Herewith You'll receive a Plate of Silver weighing 921 Ounces – Mr Salkeld's illness prevent me sending the Acc[oun]ts of the Lead wrought but as he's a good deal better to day, hope he'll be able to get to the Mill in a day or two's time so shall bring You that Acco[un]t and the Month Acco[un]ts against the 9th when I shall be obliged to trouble you for Fifty Pound, as I have some small payments to make in this Month for oak Wood &C got for the use of the Mills. I did expect not to have troubled you till the Pay when I got the last, but the necessity of several of the [struck out: 'Carriagemen'] Workmen were so great that I was obliged to let them have as long as I had any by me – I am

Sir Yo[ur] Obliged & mo Hble Servt  
IH

**6 Sep 1781 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E.Blackett Esqr. Newcastle

Dukesf[iel]d 6th Sepr1781

Sir,

Inclosed have sent the acco[un]ts for the last plate – the wet weather has prevented sending any Lead since you was here the Flood Tuesday week wracked up the Races of this Mill & Refinery and took away the Dam at Rookhope Mill – we got this mil and Refinery to work again on Tuesday but last nights Flood stoped the Refinery again tho' I hope a day will remove what's washed in to the Tail Race. have got Rookhope to work, & shall endeavour to keep her going while the Lead Carriage is on by making a Race & a Temporay Dam higher up the Burn – the Burns have continued so learge that I can not certainly say what damage there's do[ne] to the Works; tho' I hope what's named will be the whole – I am

Sir Yo[u]r mo[st] H[um]ble Serv[an]t  
IH

**17 Oct 1781 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E.Blackett Esqr. Newcastle

Dukesf[iel]d 17th Octobr 1781

Sir,

I am glad to find that the time you talked of at Allanh[ea]ds for the Agents coming for Subsistance will be before the Fairs that the Smelters usually get their

Winter Beef at so that I need not trouble you till then – I do think that I cannot do with Less than 300£ - we have got a Set of Miners cutting the new Race who will be to be supplied – the quantity of Lead deliv[er]ed f[ro]m the Several Mills this Sum[mer] to Blaydon (as you see by the Month Acc[oun]ts w[hi]ch I sent to Mr Peart the other day) is 47,208 ps including 20 thousand of Refinable Lead, and as Common Ld is so much wanted at Markett shall not Smelt any refinable while we have of the Com[m]on Ore; therefore have agreed w[i]th Pringle that he shall carry all the Refinable Lead that shall be made at Rookhope Mill before the 31st Dec[embe]r deliv[e]r it at Blaydon on against the 12th of May next at the Sum[mer] price on having 60£ advanced at Mar[tin]mas to pay his rent with w[hi]ch eases the above demand to be so High; for I think it will be a means of helping the Refinery there w[i]th Lead in the Spring with out hindering the Com[m]on Lead being got early to Markett in case of a demand. am glad to hear you have so brisk an one now & at so good a price – Are doing what we can to get you com[m]on L[ea]d made & sent off at All the Mills but am afraid that Allanh[ea]d Mine will not be able to keep us with Ore while the Carriage is on, for when there last Monday I found that the Carriers had that day lifted all the washed Ore so do suppose we shall not be able to send to Markett this backend above 3000 ps more of Comm[on] L[ea]d including all the Mills. I am

Sir Y[ou]r mo[st] Ob[edien]t & H[um]ble  
Serv[an]t I Hunter

**4 Feb 1782 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E.Blackett Esqr. Newcastle

Dukesf[iel]d 4th Feb 1782

Sir,

I have made three Assays of the Newbiggin Ore, One f[ro]m the Round, another f[ro]m Round & Small mix[e]d the other f[ro]m the Small and find, taking the medium of these three Assays would require 5 Bings nearly to make a Fod[der] or 21 Cwt of Lead. I do suppose that the Ore I got was the best then at the Bank, so that one cannot expect to get a quantity to yield equal to it, but I think we might venture to calculate it's produce of Lead f[ro]m the yield of ye[the] Small w[hi]ch will take 5 Bings & 5/8 to the Fod

To 5 5/8 at £3/15s p Bing (the price sold at)	21 1 10 1/2
To Exp.s Carriage &c	18 6
To Ref[iner]y & Returning	8 -
To Carriage to Blaydon	10 7 1/2
	22 19 --

Cr

By 30 oz of Silver @ 6s	9 -- --	
By L. Lead 1/15 L of it	15 17 4	24 17 4

Gain[e]d 1 18 4

by the above calculation there can be no risk in giving the present price in case Lead does not drop before its got to Markett: as there's a reporting in the Country that Sir Tho[ma]s Blackett's for buying that Ore, will require great caution to come at it at a reasonable pr[ice] for I desay [dare say] if the L[ea]d Co[mpany] knows that S[i]r Tho[ma]s bids that they will put it above &c. As I got no subsistence at C[hrist]mas will be obliged to have 200£ when the other agents are down on the 18th for I have promised several of the Ore Carrier they should have Cash to pay the Wintering of their Galloways

**12 Apr 1782 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E.Blackett Esqr. Newcastle

Dukesf[iel]d 12th April 1782

Sir,

The Weather continues so harsh that I am afraid we shall not be able to get any quantity of Lead to Markett before the middle of Next Month

You talked of making the Pay[ment]s in May, I wish you could make them before Whitsun Fair which is on the 18th as it would be a great advantage to the Carriers & Country in general and remove all complaints and grumbling – You'll see by the Month Acco[un]ts (w[hi]ch I have sent w[i]th this) the quantity of Lead at the Mills; tho[ugh] you must not expect that any quantity of the Allanh[ea]ds or Rookhope will be got to Markett before June; but the Com[m]on & reduced now at this Mill (I hope) will be all at Blaydon by the middle of May – expect to send you a Plate of Silver the latter end of next Week or the beginning of week following

I am Sir Y[ou]rs &c I H

**20 Apr 1782 Isaac Hunter to Westgarth Forster**

Dukesf[iel]d 20th April 1782

Mr W. Forster Allanh[ea]ds

I'm sorry to acquaint you that I cannot consistently with my former agreement with Pringle (w[hi]ch is in writing and signed by us both) let you have the carriage of any of Wolfcleugh Ore till his term is expired. I thought it was right to give you this second information least you should suppose f[ro]m what past at Hexham that you would get a part, & increase your Horses, for I heard that your Brother was inquiring for one for that purpose tho' I confess it's some relief to the disappoint of not being able to grant the request that it was your goodness to serve others and not yourself

**23 Apr 1782 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

23d April 1782

J E Blackett Esq[uir]e Newcastle

Sir

You'll herewith receive a Plate of Silver as p[er] inclosed Acco[unt] the Weather still continues so hindersum to the Husbandry that I am afraid we shall not get the Lead at this Mill to Markett so soon as proposed in my last. I am y[ou]rs &c

**1 May 1782 Isaac Hunter to Robert Mulcaster**

Dukesf[iel]d 1st May 1782

Mr Mulcaster, Blaydon

D[ea]r Sir

Yours with Mr Pearts inclosure I rec[eive]d last night shall surely hasten Mr Smith & Mr Parke to send the Acco[un]ts you desire but I cannot see any cause why the Business should be turned out of its usual channel for the Ticketts of the rec[eip]ts at Blaydon being sent here which was always the method followed since I know anything of the Business

I'm y[ou]rs &c &c IH

**7 May 1782 Isaac Hunter to Robert Mulcaster**

7th May 1782

Mr Mulcaster, Blaydon

Sir

Inclosed have sent you the Rookhope & Allanheads Mill Acco[un]ts of their deliv[er]y of L[ea]d to Blaydon on Last Y[ea]rs and desire that Mr Emerson will send me his Rec[eip]ts of these Mills L[ea]d to the 13th inst.

You may order the Lowhand draughts to start on the 13th as I hope we shall against them be able to keep them going.

Y[ou]rs &c IH

**8 May 1782 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

8th May 82

J E Blackett Esq[uir]e N[ew]Castle

Sir

Inclosed you have the several Mills Acco[un]ts for April the great fall of snow on Sunday night & Monday hinders us from getting briskly forward w[i]th the L[ea]d Carriage tho' hope to get you all the Common & reduced L[ea]d that's at this Mill to Markett this month

Y[ou]rs &c IH

**8 May 1782 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Smith**

8th May 1782

Thos Smith Rookhope

Sir

The situation I found you in when last at the Mill gives me too much reason to believe that the reports that I have heard in regard to your conduct were too true, its (at least to me) a disagreeable subject to dwell upon, therefor shall only ad[d] what the consequences will be in case there's not a reformation and that not a partial one – in the first place I must tell you that you have put it out of my power to show the least indulgence, therefor may expect the greatest attention &c to your office will be expected f[ro]m you & that the least neglect or mismanagement will be reported by me – do not deceive yourself with hopes of being screen'd by our former friendship, for I solemnly declare (however I may be hurt in my feelings by being obliged to expose the faults of a Person that I work'd so much to see do well) that that shall have no effect w[i]th me but will report the least fa[ul]t as if my greatest enemy ,till there's a through out reformation – and that it may is a real wish of (but a Character lost is not eas[i]ly regain'd)

Y[ou]rs &c IH

**7 Jul 1782 Isaac Hunter to Westgarth Forster**

Dukesf[iel]d 7th July 1782

Mr W. Forster Allanh[ea]ds

D[ea]r S[i]r

I was in hopes that the Affair in regard to the Carriage of Woulfcleugh Ore would have been drop'd & what had past entirely buried, but the expressions you made use of at



Hex[ha]m in your way from the Fair made me sorry to find that I had been mistaken; therefor trouble you with this to beg of you to give it up, as its what I cannot comply with, with out the forfeiture of my Honour w[hi]ch I'm sure you on your own acco[un]t would not desire. I'm willing to make any satisfaction in my power (consisting [sic] w[i]th my Honour) for the Error I made last Winter in promising you that Carriage (w[hi]ch at the time I believed should have granted) but once I found my mistake that I had signed an agreement to another I wrote to acquaint you of it and f[ro]m the Friendship w[hi]ch (I flattered my self) subsisted between us did hope that that mistake would have been overlook'd after 12 or 13 y[ear]s. Acquaintance & Friendship would be greatly hurt to suppose that you should think that I would refuse any thing in my power to serve you or any of your Family, I do assure you that it would give me great pleasure at any time to serve you and to the uttermost of my abilities. I know your delicacy too well to suppose that you would then thing [sic] so much on your own acc[oun]t if you was not push'd on and advised to persevere but I forbear sa[y]ing anything further on the subject wishing to give as little case for blame or uneasiness to you as possible, hoping f[ro]m what I have already said that you'll drop the matter and give orders for the Ore to be deliv[er]ed regularly and to the person desired – and that what has past between us on the subject may be buried in oblivion is my sincere wish & hope it will be yours also

**11 Jul 1782 Isaac Hunter to Westgarth Forster**

Dukesf[iel]d 11th July 1782

Mr W. Forster Allanheads

D[ea]r S[i]r

I am sorry to find that you still persist in not let[t]ing the Wolfcleugh Ore be deliv[er]ed to Pringle as desired, for I did flatter myself that after my l[ette]r of the 7th Inst that you would have let the matter drop'd however as that's not now the case am very much hurt to be under the necessity of acquainting you that I cannot consistently with my Honour let you carry (this year) any of that Ore and that if you should after this persist in doing it, that I will then be obliged to take such steps as (I am sure) will be disagreeable to us both. I have wrote to Wm Smith to weigh the Packs that the Miners had fill'd of Pringles and to send them to the Mill this day and in case any Ore f[ro]m that Mine is brought to the Mill by any other Person to charge the Carriage of it to him after all, its my wish to be on Friendly Terms with you and every Agent that I have any connexion w[i]th and as I said in my last am willing to make any satisfaction in my Power for the Error I made of promising you what was not in my power to grant consistently with my former after engagements which I told you (after) was quite out of my mind when I made you the promise, the Wheels & Cart I'm willing to pay for, which by your Letter was the only inconvenience that the mistake I made had put you to, and I am convinced that if you was not push'd on by (I cannot help calling) a false

Friend that you would be as sorry as me to have any difference and I do as[s]ure you that if you'll be so good as to let the matter drop, that what has past shall be intirely buried in oblivion on my part and that it may so on yours in the sincere wish of  
D[ear] S[i]r Y[our]s &c IH

**30 Jul 1782 Isaac Hunter to Westgarth Forster**

Dukesf[iel]d 30th July 82

Mr Forster Allanheads

D[ea]r S[i]r

I saw Pringle to day and he's willing that you should have a part of the Wolfcle[u]gh Ore to carry that he had taken, but promised that he would wate upon you this Week and settle the quantity &c

**12 Nov 1782 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesf[iel]d Nov 12th !782

J E Blackett Esq[uir]e N[ew]Castle

Sir

I have inclosed you the month Acco[un]ts for Octob[er] f'm the present distress'd appearance of the Country and so little corn got sown, in case there was to be a Month or 6 Weeks of dry Weather I cannot flatter you with any hopes of getting any more Lead f[ro]m the Mills this y[ea]r but if an opportunity should offer you may depend it shall not be slip[p]ed

I have been thinking since the conversation we had at N[ew] C[astle] in regard to the Weardale Mines, how detremental it would be to S[i]r Thos's Lead Business if He should loss them – shall in a cursorily manner lay my reasons before you, that in case they appear the same to you that you might use your influence with S[i]r Thos to loss no time in making them secure

What detriment a No. of Adventurers w[i]th Lead at Markett, would be of there you are ablest to judge but I am sure they will be very great in the carr[y]ing on the L[ea]d Works, f[ro]m being so contiguous to S[i]r Thos's own Mines, for you know that the Bishop's boundary joins upon both Allanh[ea]ds & Coalcleugh and also the extensiveness of it there's not a doubt in case it was at liberty, that there's many that would turn Adventurers, and in so large a Field have not a doubt (notwithstanding the present View of Weardale Mines) but many discoverys May be made for there's few of the Mines in Alston Moor or Tinehead (by the points they bear) but what enters that Boundary, some where or other; the Lead Co. I should suppose would like to have an opportunity of reviving their Works where they have so many Smelt Mills doing little –

the refinery at Blaydon would not be 1/5 of it's use (if these Mines were loss'd) therefore, the plan of a Building there would in a great part be unnecessary – the reverse of all these detriments will be the case provided Sir Thos continues to hold His Lease and in so large a Track [tract] & where the Vains are so numerous; for I have known Ore come f'm 28 different Vains to Rookhope Mill in one y[ea]r and it's the belief of every Miner that knows the country that 1/10 of the Vains that's in that district has not been discover'd; it cannot then be thought romantic expecting to meet with some new ones – I am far f'm supposing that S[i]r Thos should try for all the Vains that's within these Limits, but if He was to let all that's on the East of Eastgate or Stanhope at 1/5 duty, taking the Ore of those that takes Tacks or Leases (for I have not a doubt but there are several would like to make trials on these terms) at 50s p[er] Bing when lead is at 12L p[er] Foth[e]r in N[ew]C[astle] Market rising or falling 1 shilling p[er] Bing for every 5s that the Lead rise or fall in the s[ai]d Markett; by w[hi]ch means several Vains might be wrought greatly to S[i]r Thos's advantage & without any interference to his other works; and the Adventurers having a fair market price for their Ore – I hope you'll excuse this freedom w[hi]ch proceeds solely f'm an anxiety for the Lead Works & a desire to prevent any obstructions falling in the way when so promising – that there may not it the sincere wish of

Sir Y[our]s &c IH

NB Where 21,761 Bings of Ore has been raised since the death of Sir Walter (w[hi]ch is the quantity rec[eive]d f'm Weardale Mines exclusive of the Wast[e] or Ton Tail Lead) I think sufficiently justify the conclusions that I have made, that there's great reason to hope some new discoveries may be made that will indemnify S[i]r Thos for any expense he may be at to make that Boundary secure

## 26 Dec 1782 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett

Dukesf[iel]d 26th Dec[embe]r 1782

J E Blackett Esq[uir]e N[ew]Castle

Sir

Have here with sent a Plate of Silver & the Smelt Mills Quart[e]r Acco[un]ts for March, June & Sept[embe]r the Acco[un]t of the Silver is w[i]th the Q[uar]te[r] Acco[un]ts – If the frost had stood for a few days longer we would have got all the reduced & Kilhope Lead sent to the Bankfoot however we got 2350 p[ie]ce[s] sent there w[hi]ch the Lowhand Carriers will have no difficulty in getting to Blaydon as they have Turnpike f'm there – the dearness of Corn will oblige me to have a larger sum for subsistence (when the Agents are next down) then usual at this season – I hope you left Sir Thos B. well and has prevailed on him to secure the W Mines I am w[it]h Comp[li]men[ts] of the season

Y[our]s &c IH

**8 Mar 1783 Isaac Hunter to John Emerson**

Dukesfield 8th March 1783

Mr Jno Emerson Blaydon

Sir

I desire that youll send me as soon as you conveniently can an acco[un]t of the quantity of Lead you have rec[eive]d f'm each of the Rookhope Carriagemen – I find Mr Peart has been intimating when in Rookhope last week that Mr Smith should send a particular acco[un]t of the delivery f'm the mill to you; if it's a fault that it's not sent the fault is in me for he has my orders not to send such an acco[un]t. when I next see Mr Blackett shall indeavour to exculpate myself of it – I do as[s]ure you that it's not don[e] with any disrespect to you or any other Person concerned in the Business –

I am w[i]th Comp[lemen]ts to Mr M &c y[our]s &c IH

**16 Mar 1783 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesfield 16th March 83

J E Blackett Esq[ui]re Newcastle

Sir

I have herewith sent you a Plate of Silver as p[er] inclosed Acco[un]t the severity of the Weather prevented it's being taken of sooner – youll also receive the Quart[e]r Acco[un]ts Pay Bill Rental & General Acco[un]ts w[hi]ch I hope will be found right - I am

Sir Yo[u]r mo[st] H[um]ble s[ervan]t IH

**1 May 1783 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesfield 1st May 1783

J E Blackett Esq[ui]re N[ew]Castle

Sir

I have compounded for Sir Thos Blackett's Lead at Stella Path Barr for one Year at Twelve Guineas, and yesterday agreed with the Easthand Carriagemen for this year at last y[ea]rs price – we have sent to the Bankf[oo]t f'm this Mill 3,560 p[ie]ce[s] 2924 p[ie]ce[s] of Litharge 170 p[ie]ce[s] of slag & the remainder L C Lead

Theres a Person about taking the House at the Bankfoot that would take an Acco[un]t of all Sir Thos's Lead & Goods sent that way for the use of his Mills & Mines

for a small sum p[er] year as 5 or 6L; it's more then in a general manner the Loss of Lead would repay, but the satisfaction of being able to know the defaulters when Lead is on the Roads either on the East or West Stage would (I think) balance that, if the Acco[un]t be properly kept, and if you approve of it shall indeavour to agree with him for one y[ea]r to settle the manner of keeping the Acco[un]ts there's some other little alterations w[hi]ch I think would be for the Better but shall refer mentioning them till I see you on the 19th inst (when I understand the Agents are to [be] down for Subsistence) and will be obliged then to trouble you for 150L for the same purpose  
Y[ou]rs &c IH

**6 Jun 1783 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesf[iel]d 6th June 1783

J E B Esq[ui]re N[ew]Castle

Sir

Inclosed you have the Month Acco[un]ts for the several Mills by w[hi]ch you'll see that the Lead is going to Markett briskly f'm all the Mills & hope ere this that you have had a demand for it I take the opportunity of Mr Harris, to send this who wates upon you for your advice in regard to the Allandale Living now vacant by the death of Mr Stokoe – He's Curate to Mr Brown who begs his respectfull Comp[lemen]ts and will be infinitely oblige[d] to you if you would favour Mr Harris with your Intrest – He applies by Petition f'm the Parishioners at the late Vacancy

Y[ou]rs &c IH

**14 Jul 1783 Isaac Hunter to John Emerson**

Dukesf[iel]d 14th July 83

Mr Emerson Blaydon

Sir

I desire you'll let me know what Lead you have re[ceive]d f'm each Mill since the last Acco[un]t you gave me, and that you would please to particularize what each Wainman has brought in of the Rookhope L[ea]d none of the Wood's came to hand – I am

&c IH

**11 Sep 1783 Isaac Hunter to James Emerson**

[Note: Recipient unclear, but assume J.s refers to either a James or Joseph Emerson. James used here.]

Dukesfield 11th Sept 83

Mr J s Emerson Newhouse

Dear Sir

When at Rookhope Mill yesterday I looked over the several Ores that had come from your Mines since I was last at the Mill, in hopes of seeing an improvement in the dressing but was disappointed; shall give you my opinion of those I saw that you may give such orders that there may none for the future be sent to the Mills as Buse Ore from any of your Groves till well dress'd – Langtyhead badly dress'd though but poor Mettal, the greatest part little better than Cutting Ore – Depcleugh much the same Long-Sike badly dress'd but good Mettal and might with a little more pains be made as good as Rowintree Sike which I think no body ought to find fault with; Bortry Pasture but indifferently done – these were all the sorts that I could distinguish; I hope that this hint to you will be sufficient to prevent for the future any Ore being sent from your Groves without being properly dressed, for you are sensible that we cannot make the quantity of Lead that will be expected in case the Ore is not sent well dressed to the Mills – I am yours

&c IH

**2 Oct 1783 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesfield 2d October 1783

J E Blackett Esquire Newcastle

Sir

The other day the Corn Mill Wheel fell to pieces, I had an experienced Mill Wright to view her and he says she's so old & bad that the Wheel and all the inside Works must be new and by his Calculation it will cost (to make her a clever going Mill) One Hundred Pounds.

It was formerly a Smelt Mill, and I see by the rental that Martins 1729 was the first rent received and that she was let to a Tho Dickinson at 10£ per year who was Clerk at Dukesfield Smelt Mill that Family Farm'd her till 1753, then Mr Salkeld at the same rent in the year 1770 the Millers agreed to give 30 shillings more rent to have Blue Stones since then Mr Salkeld has paid 11£ 10s per year – I am afraid there will be no advance of Rent to Sir Thos Blackett for expending so large a Sum during Mr Salkelds time – you'll please to let me know soon whether you choose she should be repaired or not – I am sorry to find the Lead Trade's so dull. I am

Yours IH

8 Oct 1783 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett

Dukesfield 8th Octobr 1783

J E Blackett Esquire Newcastle

Sir

Mr Salkelds anxiety for his Miller causes me a second time to trouble you for your Orders in regard to the Corn Mill

I was not a little surprized last night by Mr Emerson's letter to find that you had given him 'positive orders' not to give me a particular account of the receipt of the Rookhope Lead, shall not presume to say any thing as to the propriety or impropriety of the Order no further then that it shows a mistrust & belief that I would make an improper use of such an account, not doubting but you have some reason for forming these mistrusts, and as I am not conscious of having intentionally done any thing to deserve them; for my sole Wish & study since in office has been to discharge it with fidelity and advantage to my Master; notwithstanding I do not imagine but I have committed Errors, and when convinced of them would readily acknowledge them, therefore hope you'll not impute to arrogance my requesting to know in what I have offended to cause the above that I may have it in my power to justify myself – shall not say any thing as to my feelings on the occasion, but if you would for a moment suppose yourself in my situation of being mistrusted & suspected by the Person that my greatest endeavours had been to merit his confidence will then be able to form some Idea of them – I am with due deference

Yours &c IH

18 Oct 1783 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett

Dukesfield 18th Octobr 83

J E Blackett Esquire Newcastle

At the Pay here in August 1781 I gave Sir Thos Blackett & you my opinion in regard to the Corn Mill which I then wanted leave to destroy from a supposition that a Wheel of a sufficient power could not be got without that being done and looking upon the Corn Mill (in that case) as no object to Sir Thos in comparison with his Smelt Mill – Sir Thos was not (as you will recollect) willing the Corn Mill should be destroyed from a belief that it might be an inconveniency to the community – on taking the level from the two Wheels found that we could get a Wheel of the Size required & continue the Corn Mill by her taking the Water at the Centre which I acquainted you of – before the race was be gon with – there's six Corn Mills within three Miles of this 2 of which within one. the Country nothing so populace as to keep them all

constantly employed; several of the M[aste]rs makes oate-meal and carry to the Mines to sell – the M[aste]r at this Mill attends Allandale town Markett weekly with 3 or 4 Horse Load of Meal, that w[i]th the Corn he get to grind in the neighbourhood makes him a decent livelihood – the present rent of the Mill will drop if not repaired, except what the Houses will give and that will not exceed 40s or 50s p[er] y[ea]r On the 3d of next Month the agents are to be in town for subsistence M[onie]s when I hope it will not be inconvenient for you (as I got none at Hex[ha]m) to let me have 35£ being Mart[in]a's time when the Smelters &c are always suppl[i]ed to get their Winters Beef

Inclosed you have the Month Acco[un]ts  
Y[ou]rs &c IH

**15 Nov 1783 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Dukesf[iel]d 15th Nov[embe]r 1783

J E B Esq[ui]re Newcastle

Sir

Inclosed you have the Month Acco[un]ts for the several Mills – We have been lucky in getting the piece of Oak for the Axle-tree to the Mill for I find that the People of the Steel Forge had their Eyes on it. Mr Hurry said that he had to call upon you for some wood that went to Blaydon & would expect them to receive for the Axle tree we have got, its 128 f[ee]t and he would not take anything less then 5s p[er] Foot - 32£. I am

S[i]r y[ou]rs &c IH

**13 Jan 1784 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

13th Jan[uar]y 1784

J E Blackett Esq[ui]re N[ew]Castle

Sir

I have just received f'm Blaydon a Pay bill for Dukesf[iel]d & Allanheads Lead Last y[ea]rs carriage by w[hi]ch it appears that it will take 437£ 11. 8 to make that Pay w[hi]ch we promised to make (provided the Lead was all in) before the 31st Dec[embe]r last. If it's agreeable to you would make it in the first week of February (either the 3d or 5th) youll please to let Mr Peart acquaint me if the that time will suit you that I may give notice to the Carriage-men &c shall be obliged to trouble you at the same time for 150£ for subsistence w[hi]ch I hope will be able to put off with till the Pays the great fall of snow has stop'd all communication w[i]th the other Mills w[hi]ch prevents my sending the Acco[un]ts of the Deliv[er]y of Rookhope L[ea]d as promised, but as we have had a frost for these two days past hope soon to send it – we have got



this Mill & refinery to Work again and hope in the course of this week to have the other two to work also Y[ou]rs &c IH

**29 Mar 1784 Isaac Hunter to Cuthbert Peart**

Dukesf[iel]d 29th March 84

Mr Peart N[ew]Castle

Yours of the 26th I have just rec[eive]d and the Mistake you speak of in the Rookhope Dec[embe]r Quarter Acco[un]ts is in wrong Cop[y]ing for the price p[er] Bing of the Wolfcleugh Ore is 12d therefor[e] the Sum & quantity of Ore are both right – you'll please to correct the price in the Acco[un]ts you have – I have here with sent the Pay-Bill, Rental & General Acco[un]ts and also the Mill Month Acco[un]ts all of w[hi]ch I hope you'll find right – pray make my Comp[li]ment[s] to Mr Blackett, would have wrote w[i]th these Acco[un]ts but was afraid of losing this day's post as you was desirous of having them as soon as possible – I am w[i]th Comp[li]men]ts &c  
Y[ou]rs &c IH

**2 Aug 1784 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E. Blackett Esqr N[ew]Castle

Dukesfield 2d Aug[us]t 1784

Sir

The 9th being the time that the Mining Agents are to be in Town for Subsistence Mo[ney] shall be obliged then to Trouble you for 250£ the cause of my demand being larger then usual at this Season is owing to the Wheel Wright that made the Wheels etc for the Smelt & Corn M[ill] being behind w[i]th his Journeymen & having promised to pay them once he had finish[ed] the job, their resentment at his deception were so great that they were for sending him to Prison if I had not interfeared by promising to see them paid the first subsistence Mo[ney] that I got

We have got pritty briskly forward w[i]th the Lead Carriage this year tho the late wet Weather has slakend the Carriage f[ro]m Allenh[ead] Mill the other two Mills we had cleared of the Comon, slag & 10 sto[ne] p[ie]ce[s] before the weather Brock – the quantities deliv[er]ed f[ro]m each are Viz

Dukesf[iel]d 18,590 ps

A[[llen]heads 2,600

Rookhope 11,400

32,590

& am Sir y[ou]r mo[st] H[um]ble Serv[an]t

IH

**24 Aug 1784 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E. Blackett Esqr N[ew]Castle

Dukesfield Augt 24th 1784

Sir

The Miller at the Corn Mill here wants to sell Ale, I told him that I was sure you would not allow of it being so near the Smelt Mill I find by him that Mr Salkeld reather encourages him (who's pub Tenant he is) and that he's not willing to give it up without an order f[ro]m you, I therefor beg you'll let Mr Peart acquaint my by l[ett]re of your disapprobation of it for I am sure that it will be a detrement to Sir Thos Blacketts Works here to have an Ale House so near that the Workmen can go to on the slightest occasins

I am Y[ou]rs etc IH

**27 Sep 1784 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E. Blackett Esqr N[ew]Castle

Dukesfield Sept 27th 1784

Sir

I have had the moulds or Pig-Pans at the several Mills tried and find that they will all make 12 Stone pieces; those at Rookhope Mill are the least & only just held the quantity: so that when Smelting Poor Ore the Pigs may be short of weight and indeed at all times the Smelters must be attentive that the Pig Pans are always kept level – We keep the Acc[oun]t etc by the Foth[e]r (ie) 16 ps to the Foth[e]r or 22 Cwt if made 12 stone pieces must call 15 ps a Foth[e]r w[hi]ch will gain in the Smelting 2 cwt in every Ton for I do not suppose that they will in the least Grumble at that as the over weight will on an average be equal to it – in the Carriage f[ro]m this Mill to the Bankfoot will loss a stone in every 10 ps as we will be obliged to give the same price for 10 ps that we now give for all for the Common People are too apt to suppose on any change being made that it had been for to get the advantage – the alteration you proposed can not in my opinion be of any detriment to the Works and if you choose that it should be made would advise it to take place at the close of this y[ea]rs Lead Carriage as it will prevent your having Lead sent to Markett <next> Spring f[ro]m the Mills of Different weights

I find that the Mining Agents are to be in Town on the 20th next Month, when I intended also to have troubled you for 300 or 350 as usual for the Smelters etc to get their Winter Beef with- but my Galloway fell a few days ago with me & bruised & sprained my Ankle so much that I have been obliged to keep my Room ever since & Pearson The Surgeon tells me that it will be 5 or 6 Weeks before I will be able to ride any distance I shall be obliged to you if you'll let Mr Peart acquaint me the Sum you

please to let me have for the above purpose & I shall send with Mr Dickinson a receipt who will take the Trouble to receiveing & bringing up for me

The quantity of Lead deliv[er]ed this Season is 45,572 p[ie]ce[s]

D – 26,761

A – 4,912

R – 13,879 exclusive of the 3 stone L[ea]d f[ro]m Rookhope

I am       y[ou]rs etc   IH

**7 Jan 1785   Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E. Blackett Esqr N[ew]Castle

Dukesfield 7th Jany 85

Sir

I find by Mr Emerson that there's 6 p[ie]ce[s] of Dukesf[iel]d & 28 of Allanh[ea]ds Lead short rec[eiv]ed at Blaydon of the Deliv[er]y f[ro]m there Mills this last Y[ea]r. if the snow was of the Ground I do not doubt to make out the greatest part of it. F[ro]m the rise of the Glass theres appearance of the frost continuing so have wrote to Mr Emerson to make up the pay Bills for what he has rec[eiv]ed for by the agreement they were to be paid at Xmas On the 25th inst. I understand that the Agents are to receive their L[en]t Mo[n]ey if it be agreable to you would make the pay that week for by that time one would hope there will be a thaw & the Lead wanted may be found You'll please to let Mr Peart acquaint me when you would choose to have that pay made & am etc       IH

**3 Mar 1785   Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E. Blackett Esqr N[ew]Castle

Dukesfield 3rd March 85

Sir

Have send pr this days Carrier a Plate of Silver as p[er] inclosed Acc[oun]t the severity of the Winter I fear will oblige me to trouble you for more money when in town on the 21st of this month then usual at this season as the Ore Carriers are complaining much of their Galloways and unless they have Mo[n]ey against Ladyday to get meal for them that they will not be able to do much till after the Pastures get up, w[hi]ch will not be before the latter end of May; I think I could with 50£ more then last spring (i.e. 250£) satisfy them pretty well. Mr Gibsons the Clerk to the South Road told me when I saw him last that there would be a meeting of th Comm[issione]rs at Corbridge in March to let the Gates which would be advertised. I sent to him last

Tuesday to know the day but he was not at Home. I doubt it will not be convenient for you to attend and that those Commis[sione]rs that will attend will be too much under the influence of Mr Silvertop for any think to be don in regard to Stella Barr without you. I spook o Mr Fuester Teasdale who said he would attend; but I expected that the meeting would have been at N[ew]castle I think one might get Cap[tai]n Smith, Major Surtees & Busby to attend in case you could meet them so as to prevent Mr Silvertop having the whole of his own way and if the Commiss[i]oner[s] would compound w[i]th Sir Thomas Blackett for his Lead at Stella Barr for a term of y[ea]rs would be better then to be subject every y[ea]r to those that takes that Barr w[hi]ch they cannot refuse if they pay any regard to the promise made to Sr Walter Blackett that no Barr should be placed there – shall acquaint you of the Day of meet.g once I learn it of Mr Gibson

Mr Robson (who married one of the Miss Roberts's) has a son in the West Indeas who has send thim some Castor Oil he has a large stone Bottle of it at Hex[ha]m the Surgeons there are to have a part of it. I desire he would keep the remainder till I acquainted you as its said to be very fine & he can sell it much lower then th Chymists and I find by Mr Dean that it will keep a long while w[i]th proper care I am

Sir yo[u]r mo[st]H[um]ble Ser[van]t  
IH

#### 10 Apr 1785 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett

[Note: Loose leaf insert to volume. Recipient not stated but from context would appear to have been JEB]

Dukesfield 10th April 1785

Sir

I have herewith sent you the Quart[erly] Acco[un]ts, Rental, Pay Bill & General Acco[un]ts for the year 1784, all of which I hope you'll find right.

The meeting for letting the Barrs on the South Road was fixed at the last to be on the 20th at Corbridge where I hope you'll attend that a compound may be made at Stella Barr for Sir Thos Blacketts Lead; but, shall likely see you at N[ew]castle before then. I was at Rookhope last Friday & think that some Corn might be now got there & as the Smelters there are in great want of. spook to Pringle who promised he would go up with sum and would send Po[u]ches to Newcastle on Monday you'll please to order Mr Peart to give him a Tickett to get them filled w[i]th Rye. I am

Sir Y[ou]r mo[st] H[um]ble Serv[an]t  
Isaac Hunter

#### 1 May 1785 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett

[Note: Loose leaf insert of a draft letter. Unsigned and recipient not stated but from context would appear to have been from Hunter to JEB]

Dukesfield 1st May 1785

Sir

I set out the yard & agreed with Mr James Hall to take an Acco[un]t of [struck out: 'Sir Thos Blacketts'] Lead for this year in my return f[ro]m Newcastle and the yeard will be started w[i]th tomorrow sen[ne]t [ie. week]. I expect it will be got finished by the time that the Carriage is begun, I saw his method with the Co[mpany]s Lead & think we cannot put him on a better so shall come to Town on Saturday to describe and order the Books that will be necessary and settle the General Acco[un]t w[i]th Mr Peart as I did not see him when in Town but I hope you'll let the Balance [2 confused lines struck out and amended] be more then he names in his Letter (explaining the mistake) on acco[un]t of Subsistance as you did Last pay or shall be obliged to trouble you soon after the pay for some; w[hi]ch 7400 shall be very much straitened w[hi]ch will make the Ball 56.6.2  $\frac{3}{4}$  shal when in town shall settle these matters. I have wrote to Mr Peart explain[ning] the mistake he speekes of I am S[i]r

y[ou]r mo[st] H[um]ble ser[van]t

**24 Jun 1785 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

[Note: Undated loose leaf insert, apparently addressed to JEB. A plate of silver wzas sent from Dukesfield on June 24th 1785, and there was to be subsistence money for the mines on July 12th (per the accounts, NRO 672/E/1B/5) so 24th June is assumed here]

Sir

Dukes[field]

Have sent (as p[er] inclosed Acco[un]t) a Plate of Silver & the Month Acco[un]ts for the several Mills. The Mills are all cleared of their Winters Lead or old stock w[hi]ch I hope will be got to Blaydon in good time what will be sent more this Season will only be what can be smelted between this and the Carriage striking up

You'll receive herewith the Month Acco[un]ts for the several Mills & a Plate of Silver as p[er] inclosed Acct we have got the Mills clear of their Old Stock or Winter Lead, so that what will be sent more can only b[e] whats Smelted before the Carriage strike up - the quantities sent f[ro]m

this Mill is	18,639
fm Allanheads	2,758
fm Rookhope	10,242
	31,639

Shall be obliged to trouble you for 150 or 200£ for Subsistance on the 12th of next month when other Agents get their Lent Mo[ney] & am y[ou]rs

IH

17 Nov 1785 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett

J E Blackett Esqr N[ew]castle

Dukesf[iel]d 17th Nov[embe]r 1785

Sir

You'll receive a Plate of Silver as p[er] inclosed Acco[un]t with this and also the Months Acco[un]ts for the several Mills – In my L[ett]re of the 27th Sept 1784 I gave you my opinion in regard to the Moulds or Piggans at each Mill on acco[un]t of the alteration you then proposed making in the Weight of the Pigs; on the Complaint this summer of Rookhope Lead being short of weight I had the Weights at that Mill examined and found that the 11 Stone Weight wanted nearly 5lb so that the Piggans there will not cast Pigs of 12 stone weight If you think proper to have the Reduced Lead at this and Blaydon Refinery made 12 Stone p[iece]s I think might be done w[i]thout any inconvenience; the Moulds are Long which will remove the objection that Mr Mulcaster made in regard to the Lab[oure]rs: I am

Sir Y[ou]r <etc> IH

28 Dec 1785 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett

[Note: loose leaf insert found between letters of 1789 and 1791. Recipient not stated but assumed from content to have been JEB]

Dukesf[iel]d 28th Dec'r 1785

Sir

Tom Fairlamb Tenant to S'r Thos B[lacket]t Bt of a Small Estate at East Dukesf[iel]d died the other day his children are all married (except his Youngest Daug[h]ter & she about 40) and able to provide for themselves, as its not turning out a Family would like to take it; as I have been obliged to buy Hay in the Spring for these several years parst; it being in my Rental have my doubts that complaints & misrepresentations might be made therefor would not name it till I had your approbation - it's the convenience of the situation that makes me desires of having it and if Mr Noble will take a view of it next Summer shall readily give the advance that he may set upon it. I hope you'll pardon this freedom of requesting your ans[we]r. I am

Sir, Yrs &c &c I.H.

**7 Mar 1786 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J E Blackett Esqr N[ew]castle

Dukesf[iel]d 7th March 1786

Sir

I hope you received safe by the Fridays Carrier a Plate of Silver as p[er] inclosed Acco[un]t; from the calculations that I can now make do suppose that it will take 8 thousand pounds to make the Smelt Mills & Dukesfield Refinery's Pay for 1785 and I expect to finish the Reckonings etc so as to be able to send you the Acco[un]ts Pay-Bill & Rental against the 20th inst – We have this day smelted all the Ore at this Mill so have ordered an Ore Hearth to be made into a Slag H[ear]th that we may reduce the quantity of Slags before we get Ore in for all the Hearth's which will not be before May unless the weather should be very favorable

I am Sir y[ou]rs etc IHunter

NB Wrote the same time to Mr Peart for an Acco[un]t of Rye sent to Rookhope & weight of the last Plate

**9 May 1786 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J E Blackett Esqr N[ew]castle

Dukesf[iel]d 9th May 1786

Sir

Mr Salkeld died last Night shall wate your Orders as to Mr Westgarth who has taken care during his illness that the Business at the Mill & Refinery has been properly conducted – We have started the Lead Carriage f[ro]m all the Mill & hope in a little time that some of it will be got to Blaydon & am y[ou]rs etc IH

**11 Oct 1786 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J E Blackett Esqr N[ew]castle

Dukesf[iel]d 11th Octobr 1786

Sir

You'll receive herewith a Plate of Silver as p[er] inclosed Acco[un]t

I wated upon Mr Ord in my return f[ro]m N[ew]castle in regard to the Wolfcleugh Ore coming through his estate at Hunstanworth & acquainted him with what I knew (f[ro]m my own knowledge) & what I had learned from the Neighbourhood of it being a public High Way, Mr Ord said that his Agent (Mr Ramsey) told him that it was not but that he would not dispute the matter w[i]th Sir Tho[ma]s Blackett, that his Tenant complained of damages w[hi]ch he would be obliged to make him an allowance for; I acquainted Mr Ord that we would do all in our power to prevent the Carriers from

trespassing on his Grounds and if his Tenant would inform me of the Carriers that suffered their Galloways to graze (while they past through the Estate for the future) that they should be discharged f[ro]m the Carriage; Mr Ord thought that might be a means to prevent his suffering so much, though I think he would rather that Sir Thomas contributed towards walling off the Way; it's no doubt an disadvantage to have a Public Way through in Estate (for such I am convinced it is) that's not fenced off but , think its unreasonable for that Sir Tho[ma]s to be singled out as the only contributor because he happens at this time to make more use of it then others; if Wolfcleugh Mine should fail or the other Weardale Mines so that Rookhope Mill could smelt all that Ore, there would be little or no use made of that Way (for Sir Thomas's Carriage) (then on former) years for the Wood etc that's sent f[ro]m here to Rookhope.

There's a small Estate belonging to Mr N White of Hexham, that joins on the West of Sir Tho[ma]s Blackett's Estates, at Dukesfield and the Steel, which Mr Bell tells me will be soon to be sold (as White has failed) which I wish you would advise Sir Tho[ma]s to purchase as a part of it lies on each side of the Devils Water, it would inable us to make a more durable Dam then the present One which is built on a ragged Sil, broken by a Vain that closses it, and being tied to the present sight to get Level to bring the Water on to the Wheels) as the Water might be taken off 150 yds above the present at a trifling expence in comparison to what it would cost at the present place; in case this should be taken away the Estate is Copyhold & let (I believe) at £14 14s p[er] y[ea]r

Y[ou]rs etc IH

**19 Oct 1786 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Emerson, Newhouse**

Mr Emerson Newhouse

Dukesf[iel]d 19th Octob[er] [17]86

Wrote this Day complaining of the Ore being badly dress[e]d etc etc

**25 Dec 1786 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J E Blackett Esqr N[ew]castle

Dukesf[iel]d 25th Decr 1786

Sir

Inclosed you have the Acco[un]t of the Plate of sliver sent on the 21st its Weight the same as Mr Peart makes it. I am in hopes that we shall this year get the Road cleared of the Lead and that the Deliv[er]y at the Mills will agree (nearly) w[i]th the Rec[eip]t at Blaydon; the last Acco[un]t I had f[ro]m Mr Emerson there wanted 32 p[ie]ce[s] of D[ukes]f[iel]d 252 of the Rookhope, and Allanh[ea]ds all in. Mr Smith tells me that he has made out the Rookhope & that the Carriagemen promised to have it to Blaydon in the course of a last Week and the Dukesfield Lead wanting Mr J[ame]s Hall tells me



will be all th got in tomorrow so that I expect to hear f[ro]m Mr Emerson as the Carriagemen will be looking for their Pay once its all got to Blaydon. The Lead Carriage f[ro]m the Bankfoot by Mr Hall's Acco[un]t of the quantity rec[ei]ve[d] of the Rookhope will amount to Eight Hundred & Fifty exclusive of the Back Carriage but I have wrote t B. that <...> Acco[un]t of the Charge may be sent you once its finilly settled.

**19 Apr 1787 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Smith**

Mr Smith Rookhope Mill

Dukesf[iel]d 19th April 1787

D[ea]r S[i]r

On second thought I think it will be as well if you stop the Lead Carriage f[ro]m the Mill next week that the Carriers may get what they have in their hands to Bankfoot or Blaydon otherwise they will not be able to fulfill the Conditions.

Your leaving Dukesf[iel]d on Sunday morning before I came down stairs prevented my having some talk w[i]th you in regard to your L[ett]re of the 1st & what you said the night before – when you was here some time ago you talked a deal in the same stile which I then imputed to the effect of Liquor as you took no notice the next day but a repetition in the same way has the appearance of something premeditated & the other used as a Cloak. I therefore desire, that when ever you have complaints of Workmen or Works or impositions in Sir Tho[ma]s Blacketts Works under your inspection that you'll do it in writing or officialy when I am surveying the Mill.

As to what you say in your L[ett]re of being informed that a Person wants to take the Carriage f[ro]m you appears to me to be just the reverse; I shall only ad that my power in office shall not be given up: but with my Agentship – you'll please to mind that none of the Draughts get any little Lead this year f[ro]m the Mill IH

**26 Aug 1787 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J E Blackett Esqr N[ew]castle

Dukesf[iel]d 26th Aug 1787

Sir

You'll by this days Carrier receive a Plate of Silver as p[er] inclosed Acco[un]t. The Building at the Mill & excise for the Bricks that we are making for it will oblige me to want more money for subsistence against the next lending day then usual at this season & do not think that I can do w[i]th less then 3 Hundred pounds & am

Y[ou]rs etc IH

18 Oct 1787 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett

J E Blackett Esqr N[ew]castle

Dukesf[iel]d 18th Octobr 1787

Sir

One Ton or 20 cwt of Test Bottoms produced 5cwt 1 qtr 00lb of Lead at the Slag Hearth w[i]th Black Slags as a flux, the expence of Fuel & Lab[ou]r for the above 12s/4d. There will be better then a Hundred Ton of Test Bottoms at the Mill & if you sell them would advise to make the Person take them as weighed here w[hi]ch will prevent any difference as to wast by the way & difficulty in getting them sent to Blaydon at this Season.

The next Lending day will be the usual time that the Smelters etc are allowed Mo[ney] to get their Winter Beef with & I fear I shall not be able to supply them with less then 400.

& am etc IH

28 Nov 1787 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett

[Note: Recipient un-named but would appear to have been JEB, as the content follows on the previous letter in this series.]

Dukesf[iel]d: 28th Nov'r 1787

Sir

The quantity of Test Bottoms at this Mill could not be wrought up here (with the present convinience) in less time then half an year w[hi]ch would increase the Gray Slags much as they must be wrought at the Slag H[ear]th. I have below made a calculation what Qant[ity] it will take of them according to the Tryal before made w[i]th the exp[en]ces charging the Test Bottoms at 4£ per Ton that you may judge f'm the price of Lead & the likeliness of it's continunce whether it would be most advisable for to abate of the 4£ or not; f'm the present state of the Mines there's little fear of this Mill wanting Ore & to get both the Gray Slags & Test Bottoms to markt next year cannot be don w[i]thout converting one of the Ore H[ear]th into a Slag H[ear]th

	£	s	d
To Test Bottoms to make 1 Foth[er] of Lead 4 Ton @ 4£ per ton	16	-	-
To Exp[en]ces of Working the above & Fuel	2	9	4
To Carriage f'm Dukesfield to Blaydon of the above Lead	11	1	
	19	-	5

NB The Last Assay that I made of the Test Bottoms Lead yielded 11 oz of Silver to the Foth[er]

IH

6 Dec 1787 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett

J E Blackett Esqr

6th Dec'r 1787

Have made an Assay of 1lb of the Test Bottom Lead that we made a Trial of as to the quantity of Lead the contained in the Ton and find by the Assay that that Lead will yeild in Silver 11 oz to the Foth.r; the Assay I have inclosed that you may try it in your scales as being more accurate then mine. On the other side have given you a calculation (supposing that Sir Thos. can have for the Test Bottoms at this Refinery £3 / 11s per Ton) what a Foth[er] of Lead extracted f'm them would cost & also the exp[en]ces of Refining, Reducing & deliv[er]y at Blaydon. It will take 6 months to smelt all the Test Bottoms thats here w[hi]ch would cause one thousand ps less of Slag Lead from being sent to Markett, therefor have set 6 M[on]ths intrest for that quantity of Lead against the Gain - if Lead is likely to keep it's present price would not advise you to take loss the the above, though that you are the best judge off.

I am &c &c IH

P.S. I have just rec'd a Letter f'm Rotherham that the Cylinder Bellows are sent to Hull to be ship'd per first Vess[e]l to N-Castle, I beg you let Mr Straker inquire when any ship comes to the Quay f'm Hull & acquaint me on their arrival that I may send & have them taken f'm the Ship w[i]thout being put in to a Warehouse - have made free to send you a Pheasant killed yesterday.

	£	s	d
To 4 Ton of Test Bottoms @ £3/10s per Ton to make 1 Foth[er] of Lead	14	-	-
To Smelting, Fuel & Ware & Tare for d.o	2	12	1
To Refining & Reducing the above		15	6
To Ware & Tare in d.o			9
To Carriage of the Reduced Lead to Blaydon allowing for Wast in Refining &c 1/12th part w[hi]ch will make 19cwt 1qtr 0lb of Lead to send	10	-	
	-----		
Total exp[en]ces on 1 Foth[er]	17	18	4
	-----		
By 11 oz of Silver extracted f'm 1 Foth[er] as per Assay @ 5s/3d per oz	2	17	9
By 19cwt 1qtr 0lb of Lead Reduced as above @ 20£ per Foth[er]	18	6	8
	-----		
Total Value of Silver & Lead for 1 Foth[er]	21	4	5
	-----		
Gain in 1 Foth[er]	3	6	1
	-----		
To 6 Months Intrest on 1000 ps of Slag Lead being prevented sending	31	17	6

to Markett by Smelt.g 26 Foth.s of Test Bottoms (being the quantity of Leads that they are computed to contain by their taking that time at the Slag Hearth to Smelt Them

Cr

By Gain on 26 Foth[er]s of Test Bottoms Lead according to the above	85 18 2
acct 3/6//1 per Foth[r]	-----
	54 - 8

**1 Sep 1788 Isaac Hunter to Westgarth Forster**

Mr Forster Allanh[ea]ds

Dukesf[iel]d 1st Sept'r 1788

D'r S'r

On examining the Ore that came last Set Day f'm Allanheads to this Mill I find it not in the least better dressed than what came before which has been so frequently complained of, and particularly that f'm the East end You must take some method to have it better dressed before sent to the Mills, and I wish you would Order the poorer sort to be sent to Allanh[ea]ds Smelt Mill, for the Carriage here lays a greater Weight upon it; for I am sure that it will take take upwards of 6 Bings to a Ton of Lead of all the Ore that we have got this year from the Eastend - Wife joins in Compl[iment]s &c w[i]th

D'r Sir Yrs Sincerely I.H.

**29 Jul 1789 Isaac Hunter to Westgarth Forster**

[Note: In a different hand to earlier letters in the volume, possibly that of 19 year old Isaac Hunter III acting as clerk to his father]

Mr Foster Allanh[ea]ds

Dukesf[iel]d 29th July 1789

D'r Sir

I called at your House today in my way to the Mills, to acquaint you how bad the Ore that's been sent from your Mines to this Mill has been dressed and partularly what has come for these few days last past, I saw some, when at the Mill this evening, that had come in today, not so good as cutting Ore. I find on Inquiring that Mr Archer was present and saw the Ore when Carriers took it up; Mr Westgarth sent to desire that he would not send it till better washed, I have ordered him to deduct from the quantity receved since it was sent so natorious 1/10. Archer gives a bad specimen of the cofidence placed in him, for it can nat be supposed that you can seal the Ore before its

sent to the Mills; however I hope that you'll give such orders as will prevent for the future any Ore being sent from your Groves till properly dressed.

**1 Aug 1789 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Emerson**

Dukesfield 1st Aug't 1789

Wrote to Mr Emerson in regard of Sedling Ore being badly Washed & to send Middlehope to Rookhope

**17 Oct 1789 Isaac Hunter to Westgarth Forster**

Dukesfield 17th Octob'r 1789

D'r Sir

I am sorry to find that my Letter on the 29th July in regard to the Ore f'm your Mines being sent to the Mills has had so little effect, for what's sending now to this Mill is very badly dressed and particularly what came this Week, I think Archers doubly to blame to suffer such Ore to be taken f'm the Mine when both you & your Son was f'm home; it plainly shows that the Masters interest he has not at hart. the produce of the Allenheads Ore rec[eive]d this year at the Ore Harth is greatly short of what it used to be & much short of the Ore f'm the Other Groves this Year that I have been able as yet to ascertain by finishing the Bingsteads; w[hi]ch I shall be obliged to acquaint Mr Blackett what I believe to be the cause; if you think proper you may let Mr Archer see this; I would not wish to make an attack on a Mans Character without giving him an oppertunity to defend it. shall we see you in Your Road to Newcastle; I purpose being at the Mills next Week if the weather permits may give you a call. Wife joins in Compl[imen]ts to you Mrs Foster and Young Folks with Dear Sir Yours Sincerley  
Isaac Hunter

**20 Nov 1789 Isaac Hunter to Friedrich Wilhelm von Reden**

[Note: von Reden (1752 –1815) was a German pioneer in mining and metallurgy, heavily involved in developing industry in Silesia, now in Poland (Wikipedia). He evidently took an interest in the North Pennines lead industry.]

Count de Reden, Black Bull Hexham

Dukesfield 20th Nov'r 1789

Sir

The two Test Bottoms weighed 29 stone 11 lb. Inclosed you a Plan of the Refinery with explanations which I hope you will be able to make out but if theres anything in

the Plan or of the Works here that I can inform you of shall with pleasure do it, on your acquainting me with it - the specimens of Slags &c that you left here I sent to Newcastle (in a Box w[i]th the few Spars that Kilty gave you) last Monday directed to be left at Mr Turners. I am w[i]th due deference

Sir, your mo Humble Srvt  
Isaac Hunter

**2 Sep 1791 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

[Note: an image of the account is given below for its possible value in denoting the style of the markes used on the lead pieces at the time.]

J. E. Blackett Esqr Mayor N.Castle

Dukesf[iel]d 2 Sep'r 1791

Sir

Below you have an Acco't of the Quantity of Lead deliv'd this year f'm the several Mills and a calculation of what will be deliv'd to the 31st of Octob'r in case the weather permits the Carriage to continue on till then. Viz

	Deliv'd	supposed to be 31st of Oct
Dukesfd Reduced Lead L	9,892	2,000
Do Comon WB	13,139	6,000
Do Coalcleugh CL	8,734	-
Do Slag S	2,822	400
	34,587	8,400
Allenhds Com[m]on WB&S	2,500	1,800
Rookhope do WB & Slag	15,232	5,000 [combined]
Do 8 st0 ps L+L	18,148	
		15,200
Rec'd at Blaydon the 23d Aug't		
Dukesfield	23,161	
Allanhds	588	
Rookhope	5,946 = 3,517 8 sto ps	
upon the Roads by the above acco't viz		
Dukesfield	6,426	
Allanheads	1,912	
Rookhope	9,286 - 9,631	

on till then — Dury Deliv<sup>d</sup> — Suppose to be 31<sup>st</sup> of Octob<sup>r</sup> 1791

Dukesf <sup>d</sup> Reduced Lead	9,892	2,000
Do — Common W <sup>d</sup>	13,169	6,000
Do — Coalcleugh L <sup>d</sup>	8,734	0,000
Do — Slag — S	2,822	400
	<u>34,587</u>	<u>8,400</u>
Allanb <sup>d</sup> — Common W <sup>d</sup>	2,500	2,800
Rookhope Do W <sup>d</sup> & Slag	15,232	} 5,000
Do — 8 stop <sup>d</sup> B <sup>d</sup> & L	18,148	
	<u>15,200</u>	

If you think that the 8,734 p[ie]ce[s] of Coalcleugh Lead sent f'm this Mill w[i]th the 13,148 8 stone p[ie]ce[s] f'm Rookhope Mill will be sufficient for to keep the Refinery at Blaydon working w[i]th the Old Stock on hand till next year shall make them smelt only Com[m]on Lead at Rookhope while the Carriage is on f'm that Mill. I am

Sir, Yr mo H[um]ble Serv[an]t I. H.

**1 Dec 1791 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

[Note: Undated, but in sequence in volume between Sept 1791 and August 1792. The only record of £150 subsistence money being paid him between these dates was on Dec 19th 1791 (NRO 672/E/1B/5), rather than the 20th, but a date in Dec 1791 is assumed, and 1st December is used here]

J. E. Blackett Esqr Newcastle

Dr Sir

The Bearer Thomas Bowman Bellow-maker to Sir Thomas Blackett's works, has a Large & Small family, who has been off Work for sum time by a bad Hand. & Mr Ord who has been employed says he must loss a Fingure & told him yesterday that he wished he would go to the Infirmary to have it taken off as his Eyes fail him - thinking that his not coming till next Thursday might be too late, have mad[e] free to send him of a taking in day. I hope that Harrogate has restored the use & strength of your arm. On the 20th shall trouble you for £150 for Subsistance with the other Agents I am

Sir Your mo H[um]ble Serv[an]t IH

**18 Aug 1792 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J. E. Blackett Esqr Newcastle

Dukesfield 18th Aug't 1792

Sir

The inclosed copy of the Resolutions will inform you of the result of the Wolsingham meeting, those that attended thought it very reasonable that there should be a clause in the Act to prevent any side Barrs being placed to the prejudice of the Ore & Lead Carriage & that the places for the Tole-Bars should be marked upon the plan by the Committee for the approbation of the Next Meeting. Mr. Dodd the Lead Co's Agent attended upon the same principal that Mr Emerson & me, and he told me, that the Co would subscribe very handsomely to the Road in case that there were no advantag taken of the Ore by placing side Bars

I am Sir yrs &c IH

**29 Aug 1792 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

[Note: this is an exact draft of the letter sent to JEB and now found in NRO ZBL/208]

J. E. Blackett Esqr Newcastle

Dukesfield 29th Aug't 1792

Sir

Isaac would acquaint you that the Flood on Sunday night took away 1/3 of the Dam here, the Water was in the New Mill, and among the Waste Work &c but the damage don there trifling; the waters were so high that I could not see the other Mills till Yesterday, the Dam at Allanheads Mill much injured and the Races all wrecked up; Rookhope Dam quite swept away and races wrecked - I ordered Men to be set on to clear the races at Mills; and Once the Waters are so little that Men can stand to work in them, shall set People to make temporary Repairs at the Dams - The good Effect of the purchase of the Stapples is now felt, for we had made a cut in that Estate to gain a greater head of water w[hi]ch we Yesterday opened, by w[hi]ch we shall be able to Repair the Dam at this Mill without the Works being stoped a single day. Mr Oakes the Engineer was here last Thursday, and has undertaken to improve the Cylinder Bellows & erect at Allanheads Mill 2 Cylinders that will work the four Hearths with less Water then the present Leather Bellows; His terms &c I shall acquaint you more fully wen we meet I am Sir,

Yours &c IH



**12 Sep 1792 Isaac Hunter to Joshua Straker**

Mr. Straker Newcastle

Dukesfield 12th Sept'r 1792

Sir

Last night I rec'd a Lre from Mr Skelton saying that 'Mr Straker desires to have the Vouchers for your accounts', I beg you'll let me know by the return of the Post what Vouchers they are you want. Inclosed you have the Account of the Silver which I hope you would receive safe yesterday. I am

Sir Yo'r H[um]ble Serv[an]t

IH

**16 Sep 1792 Isaac Hunter to Joshua Straker**

Mr. Straker Newcastle

Dukesfield 16th Sept'r 1792

I have inclosed you an Inventory & Valuation of the Utensils at the Several Mills &c and also Mr Westgarth attestation, that the Sums charged in my last Rental for Repairs were in the Pay Bill for 1791, & also for the Allowance for Land Tax &c - whether, this may please Mr Skelton or not, I cannot say, it's all the vouchers that I can at this time give, though, I have not a doubt, but the People that has rec'd the Mo[ney] for the Repairs would if asked give Recc'ts w[hi]ch would, I think, hurt the <Cr[edit]> of the Pay Bill; the Rental has been kept here in the same manner since the Y'r 1727, and I beleave that there's been in that time People that suberintend the Business w[i]th as penetrating an Eye as Mr. S. &c would had it altered before this if they had thought it subject to fraud; but when I say this would not be understood to mean, that no improvment can be maid, & shall readily adopt any other method of making the Rental for the future that Mr. Skelton pleasesto point out - was much obliged to you for you speedy Answ'r to my last I am D'r Sir Yo'r H[um]ble Serv[an]t

I Hunter

NB shall we not have the pleasure of your company at Hexham

**29 Sep 1792 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

[Note: The transcript of the actual letter sent (original in NRO ZBL/208) based on this draft is also available, but because of slight textual differences and in the subscriptions this transcript of the draft is included here.]

Mr Blackett

Dukesfield 29th Sept 1792

Att the meeting yesterday the Committee & Surveyor produced a Plan & estimate of the intended Road pointing out the improvements to be made & the Expence of each which amounted on the whole to £6500 & 0d, its to go by Marley Hill, with a Branch to pont Burn . A Subscription was opened & £4000 subscribed (as on the other side) another meeting was fix'd on the 25th Octob'r at Wolsingham at which the Committee are to acquaint the Meeting with the additional Subscriptions, being desired to apply by Lre [Letter] to those they thought wished the Road well, & the Subscribers then to settle the places for the Toll Gates and other clauses of the Bill & choose their Solicitor, which they may do by Lre [Letter] in proportion to the sum Sub[scribe]d none under £50 to vote. Mr Ornby of Darlington & Mr Peter Hunter of Durham are the Candidates there's not a doubt a Bill will be carried in to Parliment & if Mr Beaumont does not Subscribe at the next Meeting his Agents cannot with any propriety propose any clause to be inserted in the intended Act. That a good Road through that Country to Alstone will undoubtedly be a great advantage to the Country in general & to Mr B Works there, by provisions &c coming cheaper. The Trustees ought to be limeted in their Power in the Act, or the Road will be long of being finished for it appeared at the Meeting that several of the Gentlemen that attended were very shy in having it any further than the Chapel [St.John's Chapel] & there's not more than 5 or 6 above Wolsingham thats qualified to be Commiss[ioner]s so that the whole of the Business will be directed by the Gentlemen on the other end of the Road that with out a provition in the Act be made for the other part between Wolsingham & Alston the Country will have the disadvantages of Pay Gates with out good Roads made as has ben the case of several Turnpikes. Mr Peter Hunter begs (in case Mr B Subscribes) that youll name him as a candidate for Solicitor hoping as acquaintance of his Brother the Cap[tai]n whose now in India that he'll favour him with his Intrest. I am

Sir yr mo Hble Servt

IH

To Jon Erasmus Blackett Esqr Newcastle

R Fenwick for Mr Scafe	100	Mr Clavring	400
D[itt]o for Do Huntley	100	Revd Mr Dent	100
Do for Revd Mr Ellison	100	Mr Burdon	100
Do for H Swinburn	200	Mr Greenwell	100
Thos. Rowell	50	Mr Ornsby	100
Jos.e Watson	50	Mr Hardinge	200
Chris'r. Emerson	100	Revd Mr Wilson	100
Thos. Chapman Jun'r	50	Mr Harvey	200
Jno. Emerson	50	Mr Wren	100
Jno. Wallas	50	Mr Wilson	100
Alstone Moor	550	Mr Jackson & Smith	100
Mr Tweddell &c	300	Mr Dighton	100

Mr Curry	300	Mr Hall	100
Mr Wright	200		

**1 Oct 1792 Isaac Hunter**

[Note: From the tone this was presumably directed to one of his under-agents at either Allenheads or Rookhope]

D'r Sir

Dukesfield 1st Octob'r 1792

In looking over your March & June Quart'ly Acct's was surprised to find 200 1/2 Days charged to Adamson's Lad which is 44 1/2 Days more (including 26 Sundays) then theirs days between the 1st Jan'y & 30th June. Your Man Simon Dodd is charged 333. Days in the above Quart'rs. You'll please to explain the above charges, & I desire for the future the No of Days that each Person works be entered weekly in your Wage Book saing what kind of work they have been employed at each Week. Your man cannot be allowed Days Wages & piece work at the same time

I am D'r Sir Your Hble Servt.

I Hunter

NB Why does not Harvey send the Largest Quantities of the Ton Tail Ore to this Mill first

**1 Oct 1792 Isaac Hunter to John Emerson**

Mr Emerson Bladon

Dukesfield 1st Octob'r 1792

I did not expect to have found so much Lead at the Bankfoot as I did last Thursday, as we had so great a No. of Carts ingaged for the Low, or East stage; Mr Hall was not at Home, that I could get no Acc't f'm him, but was told that you would not let them bring Lead in but upon set Days; I beg for the future that the Carriagemen that's taken on to Carry Lead f'm Apperly yard to Bladon may be permitted to bring in Lead there when ever there's at in the Yard at Bankfoot. The Flood last Sunday has distroyed our Dam, & has made so great a Wash in the Gravel Bed that we cannot repair properly this Winter & as something must be don to keep the Mill &c at Work till next Spring shall be greatly obliged to you if you could buy 20 or 30 Old large Corves or Coals Baskets & send to the Bankfoot as soon as you possibly can, for I cannot think of any other method of supporting at this Season the remainder of the Gravel bed; thin by sinking them w[i]th Stones. Youll please to give me a line by the Return of the post, whether I may depend of your procuring the above, for some method must be taking immediately to secure it.

I am Yrs &c I H

**2 Oct 1792 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J.E. Blackett Esqr N. Castle

Dukesfield 2d Octob'r 1792

Last Saturday we finished the Temporary Dam & got the Water down the Old Race, but the Flood on Sunday night has swept the whole of the New work and part of the Old quite away and teared up the Sand and Gravel Bed above the Old Dam for 20 or 30 yds to a great depth so that the Expence will be dubble now to make a Dam to secure the Gravel Bed & the Temporary Dam to the new Race. The Water was so high Yesterday that we could not ascertain the damage done to the uper dam, but I suppose that the Smelting &c will not be stoped on that Account longer than a Week. The Continual Wet Weather has made the Lead ways f'm this Mill almost unpassable w[i]thout some of the worst places be mended it will not be possible to get any more Lead to Market f'm the Mill this Yr except there should be a Frost. Our best Carriagemen have wrought their Horses so low f'm the harshness of the Season that I fear that if we wear to Repair the bad places of the Road & give a greater price for 4 Horses cannot doe ye Work that 3 did in Sum[me]r that the quantity that would be got moved woud be small, as the Harves[t] is so late in the Neighbourhood of our best Carriagemen for when I roed the Lead way Last Thursday 3/4 of the Corn between Hedly and hear was in the Fields. I am Yrs &c

IH

**17 Oct 1792 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

J. E Blackett Esqr

Dukesfield 17th Octob'r 1792

Sir,

I subscribed at the Meeting for Mr Beaumont conditionally, that a draught of the Bill be laid before Mr Hopper Williams for his opinion of the Clauses as to the Ore Carriage &c, and in case he disapproved of them Mr Beaumont's subscription to be void for the Subscribers (from the increase of the Subscriptions as youll see below) were very shy as to the proposed Clauses, & maid several objections; on consulting w[i]th Mr Emerson & Mr Dodd we thought it advisable to put Down Mr B. as a Subs[cribe]r that the draught of the Act might be laid before Mr H Williams in behalf of the Lead Owners, for Mr Dodd had not got an Answ[e]r f'm the Co. to impowr him to Subscribe for them, though he did not doubt but they would Subscribe 250 or 300. Another meeting was fixed on the 5th Nov'r &, as the Clauses are to be approved of by Mr Williams there will be no occasion for my attending it. Mr Peter Hunter was choose Solicitor. Mr Hunter of the Harm.e [possibly the Hermitage on the north side of the

Tyne from Hexham, owned by a John Hunter, almost certainly unrelated to Isaac] - offered to rase the Mo[ney] to extend the Branch from Pont Burn to join the Corbridge North Road near Slotley [Shotley] Bridge, & Mr Pearson of Durham proposed to do the same for a Branch from Wolsing[ha]m to Durham bouth w[hi]ch propositions are to be settled at the next meeting -

The weather still continues so unfavourable that the Ore & Lead Carriage will be soon totally stoped, and unless a hard frost set in betwixt now and Christmas no more Lead will be got to Market this yr.

Subscribed at the former Meeting £4000

Mr Todd	200	Maddison	200	Jno Greenwell	100
Mr Jas Harrison	100	Mrs Surtees	100	Mr Dickinson	100
Moses	25	Westgarth Snaith	100	Jon'n Wooler	200
Mr Milbank	100	Thos Snaith	100	Mr Beaumont	300
Thos Emerson	50	Mr Bain	50	Rich'd Steele	50

### 12 Nov 1792 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett

J. E Blackett Esqr

Dukesfield 12th Nov'r 1792

You may be assured that no opportunity shall be lostd in getting all the Lead to Markett that I possibly can though fear with all the exertions that the quantity will be small, these few fine days has made all very busy to get the seed into the Ground and till that's don not a Carriagemen can be got at any price, but hope if this Weather continue that we shall be able to send a little more from this Mill; their Horses are Wrought dow so low from the badness of the Roads &c that 4 cannot now do the work of 2 so that if we were to advance the price the quantity that could be got down would be but small & if the spring should be favourable they would not move w[i]thout the same price; if what's upon the Roads & the little matter we may send from heare would compleat your Sales would you to trust to the Spring reather then advance the price now there's 7400 p[ie]ce[s] 11 & 12 Sto Lead & 8670 of 8 Sto Lead upon the Roads on the 3 inst. The wet Weather has maid us short of peat Coal & Cinders so that all the Carts that we can at this season rase will do little more then keep the Mill & Refinery going The Dam Races &c we have secured here & at Rookhope, but not the whole at Allanheads but expect this week will finish that, the Rains hindred us greatly by keeping the Burns allways high which added much to the Expencc for there was no trusting to the Weather taking up; least another Flood should have swept the whole away & stoped the Works.

Youll Recieve a Plate of Silver by the Tuesday's Carriers & also a brace of Partredges & Gray Plover which you'll please to accept.

I am Sir Your mo Humble Servt I H

**13 Nov 1792 Isaac Hunter to Westgarth Forster**

To Mr Forster Allanheads

Dukesfield 13th Nov'r 1792

Dear Sir

Finding the Roads so bad to Rookhope yesterday & not starting so soon as I purposed durst not take Allanheads in my way as I promised you; the Shire carriers have quite given over coming to the Mill so that theres no chance of their bringing in the Ton Tail Ore to this Mill this backend, & if it had not been for the reasons that you gave, would not have let it gone to Rookhope which you may now send there; but expect that for the future that my Orders will be complied with as I entend that all the Ton Tail Ore shall be smelted at this Mill & if the Washers or the person that deliv'rs it does not choose to let it come at the proper season it shall ly at the Grove over Winter for the time to come. You promised before Mr Blackett when last at N.Castle that you would make convenience at Wolfcleugh Engine for the whole of the Water in the Burn to come past her, even when the Engine was not working, so that the works at the Mill might not be stoped; when there yesterday find that the Stamp Mill is off for want of Water; I therefor beg, Youll give orders for it being don in the manner you spook off without loss of time, or will be obliged to Repair the Dam which cannot be don at a little Expencc.

IH

**14 Nov 1792 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Smith**

[Note: The 'Rookhope Mill' annotation was possibly by the shaking hand of Isaac Hunter II. All letters from July 1789 onwards are in a different hand, possibly Isaac III's.]

To Mr Thos. Smith

Dukesfield 14th Nov 1792

[annotated in a different hand, 'Rookhope Mill']

Dear Sir

I forgot to tell you when at your Mill to hasten the Lead that upon the Roads; I find by a Letter that I had last Night that theirs 5434 p[iecc]s of 11 sto Lead & 8408 p[iecc]s of 8 sto. [lead]. Youll observe the orders as to the Coals, & take every precaution to prevent any waste or pilfery of them and also what I said in regard to the day Lab[ouers]. After Christmas your Man must quit either the Lab[ourin]g Work, or getting on the Lead & Harthends &c that you rather choose for the Reason I gave. I am D'r Sir

Yours Sincerely I.H.

NB Hasten the Lead all you can while the Weather's good being much wanted at Bladon particularly the 11 sto Lead

**18 Feb 1793 Isaac Hunter to James Hall**

To Jam.s Hall

Dukesfield 18th Feb'y 1793

Sir

I'm to acquaint you that the Salary for taking an Acco't of the Lead that comes to the Yard at Bankfoot, belonging to Thos. Rich'd Beaumont Esqr will be continued to you no longer then to last Christmas. I'm Sir,

Y'r Hble Servt I H

**21 Mar 1793 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Jno E. Blackett Esqr Newcastle

Dukesfield 21st March 1793

I was sorry to find by Isaac that you had been soo poorly since we were in town but hope you have got better. The Lease for Apperley Lane was executed on the 13: June 1793 [1773?] for 21 Yrs by Mr Surtees of Ackworth so there will be 2 Yrs to go of the Lease as it would not commence till Mayday 1773. I was told the other day that the Com[missione]rs of the South Road at their last meeting resolved to fix a Pay-Gate upon the Branch leading to Apperley Bankfoot to make the Lead have two pay Gagates on that Road w[hi]ch I think should be a caution not to suffer new Turnpike Bill to pass near the Mining Country without clauses to prevent their oppressing that Trade, and as Mr Beaumont is in London it would be advisable for Him to oppose the Bill for the Road from Lobleyhill to Chapel unless a proviso is in the Act to prevent his Ore Carriage paing full Tolls for going only 1/4 mile upon the Road, and that in the Summer. I'm

Sir Your most Hble Serv't

I Hunter

**4 Jun 1793 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Emerson**

Mr Emerson Weardale

Dukesfield 4th June 1793

I am sorry that whenever I write to you that it should always be making complaints of the Ore bein sent from your Groves badly dressed for when at the Mills yesterday found what was coming of the New Ore both f'm Sedling & Middlehope were badly washed, sedling most shameful, though I mus own I was more surprised to find whats

sent f'm Middlehope both to this & to Rookhope Mill so badly washed when the Mine is so Rich for if you so not then send good Ore, there's little hopes of having it when poor - there was some cutting Ore laid down at Allanheads Mill from Hillhope 2/3 nothing but Sand; when 3 Ore packs would not hold weight you may judge of its quallity, the Bouse Ore f'm there was also very badly dressed – You may f'm me acquaint those that's to see the Ore properly dressed that I shall for the future make the Clarks at the Mills keep an Acco't of the Ore that comes badly dressed and deduct from the quantity sent to the Mills according to its quality; for I cannot think of having the Mills charged with 1/5 part of refuse instead of Ore ) in case I have Mr Blacketts leave so to do which I shall apply for the next time I meet with Ore coming to the Mills badly dressed with out troubling you any more w[i]th my complaining Letters on that head. I am

D'r Sir, Yrs Sincerely  
Isaac Hunter

**6 Jun 1793 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Smith**

Mr Smith Rookhope

Dukesfield 6th June 1793

When at Blaydon on the 27th Ult I found that your 8 Stone Lead sent last year was short of weight w[hi]ch I forgot to acquaint you when at the Mill on the 3rd and that you are only to set the S on your Slag Lead without the WB shall order Bricks for a Rosting Furnace so that you may lett Waltons small w'ts be unsmelted till it is built I am yrs

&c IH

**7 Jun 1793 Isaac Hunter to Westgarth Forster**

Mr Forster Allanheads

Dukesfield 7th June 1793

As I cannot meet you this day at Allandaletown take this method of Acquainting you that I would have all the Tontail Ore to be sent hear both f'm Allanheads & Wolfcleugh - Youll let us know when you have sent of all Sir Thos. Blackett's Ore. I beg that you'll order the Ore to be better washed before you send it to the Mills, for I made a Trial of 6 Bings w[hi]ch only yielded 15 p[ie]ce[s] of 11 Stone p[ie]ce[s] and I had 6 Bings washed which had 1/3 of refuse taking out of it w[hi]ch you may see the first time you are at Dukesfield as I had it laid by itself - to prevent trouble to you and me for the future. I desire that you will acquaint those that has to see the Ore properly dressed, that I shall consult Mr Blackett (if not better washed for the future) to de[d]uct f'm the quantity sent to the Mills in proportion of its quality w[hi]ch I fear will not be better then what I have named above. I flatter myself that this will have the desired effect



w[i]thout giving either you or me further trouble being sure that you have Mr Beaumonts interest at Heart & I am sure if you had seen the Ore that you would not have lett it be sent to any Mill.

I am D'r Sir IH

**8 Jun 1793 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Crawhall**

Mr Crawhall

Dukesfield 8th June 1793

When at Allanheads Mill on the 3d Mr Sparke made a complaint against your Man Hutchinson of being bribed by Spark the Washer to team Bous Ore among the Cutting Ore & that he came to the Mill in the Night that he might not be detected. I saw the Ore, it is as good as what was laid down for Bous I believe the complaint proceeds from malice, but being maid by the Clark at the Mill must have the matter fully investigated, therefor beg that you'll take the trouble by going to the pirson that delivers the Kilhope Ore (for Spark does not think him innocent & learn whether Emersons, Sparks Man, & your Man did not all fill at the same Ore at the mine, and whether he cals it Bous or Cutting Ore if your Man is innocent the aspirition ought to be removed & shall expect to hear from you on the subject. I am Yr's &c

I.H.

**12 Jul 1793 Isaac Hunter to Westgarth Forster**

Mr Forster Allanheads

Dukesfield July 12th 1793

Dear Sir

This Morning I saw som Ore that was brought from Allanheads Mine yesterday to this Mill amounting by the day book to 54 Horse as badley dressed as that I gave you an Acco't the 7th of last Mounth, that I had maid a Trial of & that 1/3 was refuse; so have ordered Mr Westgarth to charge the Mill with only 44 Horse instead of 54 w[hi]ch I am sure is not so much as ought to be deducted from its quality, & that you may know whose Ore it is have below given you the Carriers names that brought it I hope you'll take such Steps as will prevent this trouble by making the Ore be properly washed before it's taken from the Mines.

**15 Feb 1794 Isaac Hunter to Jonathan Sparke**

Dukesfield 15th Feb'y 1794

Sir

I am not a little surprized to find that you shoud remove any of the Wastes thats under bargain & more so to have them put into the Race that they may go the Bargain of a higher price I have Ordered Hutchinson's Son's to remove them back again to the place they were when I let the bargains at your mill & you may acquaint Robson that he shall not have any thing more to do with the old black Slags after he has got the metal smelted that he has already got out of them & am sorry that you give me so many reasons to find fault with your conduct as a Clark in not having the masters in trust more at heart than the gratifying of a malicious revenge against the workmen to the prejudice of the master of the works. will hope that this may be the last for if other wise the consequence will be serious I am

Sir your humble servent

I Hunter

[annotated in a different, shaky, hand: 'Mr Sparke Clerk Allanheads Mill']

**22 Mar 1794 Isaac Hunter to Thomas Smith**

Mr Smith Rookhope

Dukesfield 22d Mar 1794

Wrote him this day that nothing was to be got to or don at the Mill with out my knowledge and that when he wanted any thing for the Mill or thing to be don to make the application in writing for the future.

**1 Jul 1794 Isaac Hunter to John Erasmus Blackett**

Mr Blackett N. Castle

Dukesf'd 1st July 1794

Sir

Ralph Longstaff Plumber & Glazier called upon me Yesterday to know if he could have any Lead for the use of Mr Allgood of Nunwick he having the Roof of the House to Repair and the Lead to be sent there the day following there not being time to have your Ticket, and knowing that he could get it at Langly Mill agreed to let him have it provided he sent a Line f'm Mr Bell (as to his Character &c) with the Cart, w[hi]ch he did this morning; so let him have 12 p[ie]ce[s] of Reduced Lead w[hi]ch w[eig]h[d] 18cwt 1qtr 26lb once I know what it's to be charge at shall take his & his Friend's joint Note w[hi]ch he offerd to Mr <N.Owen> till the M[oney] is paid; I hope f'm the above causes

that you'll excuse the Freedom I have taken. On the 29th will be obliged to trouble you for £300 for subsistence

The Markittable Lead is all sent f'm this & Allanh[ea]ds Mill, the Carriers f'm Rookhope are very tardy but expect that this Mill's Carriers will enliven then as a part of them will be now going to that Mill having nothing for them here but as its Smelted. I am

Sir, Y'r mo. Hble Servt

IH

**9 Jul 1794    Isaac Hunter to Westgarth Forster**

Mr W. Forster

9th July - 94

Wrote to him that Thos & Wm Nevin had brought 23 H[orse]s of Badly washed Ore & that I would only charge the Mill w[i]th 20 believing that the refuse were much more then 3 H[orses]