

[This is a small sheaf of papers related to late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century London Lead Company agents on Alston Moor . The security bonds (items 299, 300, 306) are straightforward attempts by the LLC, in common with other mining concerns based at a distance from the works, to bind their agents in attempts to reduce the chances of fraud. The subsequent letters (items 318-27) exemplify the kind of allegations of corruption that were all too likely to have been the corrupt reality on the ground. It is not known how they ended up amongst the Bowes papers. At The Story.]

**1 Dec 1778 Robert Stagg**

[Note: Document 299 marked on reverse side: Robert Stagg & others Bond of Security to the Govr. & Co. for Smelting down Lead &c for £300 dated 1st. December 1778.]

Know all Men by these Presents that We Robert Stagg of Garrigillgate Joshua Stagg the Elder and Joshua Stagg the younger of Howgillsike All in the Parrish of Garrigill in the County of Cumberland Gentlemen are held and firmly bound to the Governor and Company for Smelting down Lead with Pit Coal and Sea Coal in the Sum of Three Hundred Pounds of good and Lawfull Money of Great Britain to be paid to the said Governor and Company or their certain Attorney Successors or Assigns For the true Payment whereof We bind our selves and each of us our respective Heirs Executors and Administrators and each of them firmly by these Presents Sealed with our Seals dated this first day of December in the Nineteenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland. King Defender of the Faith and so forth and in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy eight

Whereas the above bounden Robert Stagg is chosen and admitted a Mineral Agent to the said Governor and Company in the North of England The Condition of this Obligation is such That if the said Robert Stagg do and shall from time to time and at all times hereafter during his Continuance in the Service of the said Governor and Company faithfully and honestly Execute and Discharge the said Service and every other Service of the said Governor and Company wherein he is shall or may be employed and Faithfully Account for all such Sums of Money as he shall receive or may be intrusted with on behalf of the said Governor and Company Then this Obligation to be void and of none Effect or else to be and remain in full Force and Virtue

Signed Seal'd and Delivered  
being first duly Stamp't  
in the Presence of  
Thos. Hall

Thos. Friend

(signed) Robt. Stagg (his seal)

(signed) Joshua Stagg Elder (his seal)

(signed) Joshua Stagg Younger (his seal)

**29 Aug 1794 Thomas Dodd**

[Note: Document 300 marked on reverse side: 29th. Aug 1794 Thomas Dodd Chrstr. Walton Robt. French Bond £500 To The Govr. & Co. for Smelting down Lead &c. The bond is set out on printed legal stationary with particulars entered by hand.]

Know All Men by these presents That We Thomas Dodd of Nenthead in the Parish of Aldston in the County of Cumberland Gentleman, Christopher Walton of the Parish of Stanhope in the County of Durham Merchant and Robert French of the Parish of Allendale in the County of Northumberland Gentleman are held and firmly bound to The Governor and Company for Smelting down Lead with Pit Coal and Sea Coal in the Sum of Five Hundred Pounds of good and lawful Money of Great Britain To be paid to the said Governor & Company or their certain Attorney Successors or Assigns For which Payment to be well and faithfully made We bind ourselves and each of us our respective Heirs Executors and Administrators and each of them firmly by these Presents Sealed with our Seals Dated this twenty ninth day of August in the Thirty fourth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c and in the Year of our Lord One Thousand and seven hundred and ninety four

Whereas the above bounden Thomas Dodd is Chosen and Admitted Mineral Agent to the said Governor & Company in the North of England, The Condition of this Obligation is such That if the said Thomas Dodd do and shall, from time to time, and at all times hereafter during his Continuance in the Service of the said Governor and Company , faithfully and Honestly Execute and Discharge the said Service, and every other Service of the said Governor and Company wherein he is, shall or may be employed, and faithfully Account for all such Sums of Money as he shall Receive or may be intrusted with on behalf of the said Governor and Company, Then this Obligation to be void and of none Effect, else to be and remain in full Force and Virtue.

Signed, Seal'd & Delivered  
(being first duly Stampd)  
in the Presence of us  
John Dickinson  
Isaac Hornsby

(signed) Thomas Dodd (his seal)

(signed) Chris. Walton (his seal)

(signed) Robt. French (his seal)

**30 Oct 1822 Robert Stagg**

[Note: Document marked on reverse side: Dated the 30th. Day of Octr. 1822. Mr. Stagg and others to The Governor and Company for Smelting &c Bond for the due Execution of an Office &c.]

Know All Men by these Presents that We Robert Stagg of Middleton House in the County of durham Gentleman Anthony Steel of Barnard Castle in the said County Gentleman and Thomas Hall of Hunsonby in the County of Cumberland Gentleman are held and firmly bound to The Corporation of the Governor and Company for smelting down Lead with Pit Coal and Sea Coal in the Sum of One Thousand Pounds of good and lawful Money of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland current in England To be paid to the said Governor and Company or their certain Attorneys Successors or Assigns For which payment to be well and faithfully made we do hereby bind ourselves and each and every of us by himself for the whole our each and every of our Heirs Executors and Administrators and every of them firmly by these Presents Sealed with Our Seals dated this thirtieth day of October in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Two.

Whereas the above bounden Robert Stagg is chosen and admitted Cashier and Superintendent of Mines and Mills to the said Governor and Company in the North of England The Condition of this Obligation is such That if the said Robert Stagg do and shall from time to time and at all times hereafter during his Continuance in the Service of The said Governor and Company faithfully and honestly execute and discharge the said Service of the said Governor and Company and every other Service wherein he is shall or may be employed and faithfully account for all such Sum and Sums of Money as he shall receive or may be intrusted with for or on behalf of the said Governor and Company Then this Obligation to be void and of none effect otherwise to be and remain in full force and virtue

Signed sealed and delivered  
(being first duly stamped) in  
the presence of

Robt. Bainbridge  
Soln. Alston

(signed) Robert Stagg      (his seal)  
(signed) Anthony Steel      (his seal)  
(signed) Thomas Hall      (his seal)

**14 Apr 1808 Robert Hayton**

[Note: A series of letters addressed to the members of the Court of the London Lead Company]

Nenthead 14th. April 1808

Hon. Masters,

I am under the painful necessity of addressing you at this time, respecting a disagreement betwixt Mr. Dodd & me. I will fairly & truly relate this circumstance and leave it to you to judge whether I am deserving of being dismissed from your employ for such a trifle. The old Day-Book that I enter'd the Gunpowder & Candles into when I deliver'd them to the Workmen at Your Magazine, being filled up, I asked Mr. Dodd for another; but their being none in his Office proper for the business, he gave consent for one to be ordered of the Stationer at Alston. I accordingly order'd one, & gave him a ruled paper to make it by. Whether he misunderstood my meaning, or he wilfully transgress'd his orders, I don't know; but when the Book came it turn'd out to be twice as large as was intended. The first time I went to the Office after it came, Mr. Dodd fell upon me and called me all the scurrilous & awkward names he cou'd possibly invent, as if I had been solely to blame in the matter. I was very much hurt by such abuse & ill treatment, and knowing myself clear of the charge, I begun in a very cool way to prove myself innocent: But he wou'd hear no reason, and kept calling me worse & worse, till I began to reply to some of his expressions with some degree of warmth. At length he got into such a rage that he took up the Book about which he quarrel'd, toss'd it with great vengeance at [me], and hit me on the head with it. He then order'd me out of the office, and as I was opening the Door he laid hold of me and dashed me against the Door post with great violence, & then setting his hand against my back, sent me with all the force he was possessed of down stairs, shouting after me, ye dog, if I get at you I will knock (strike) that short arm off you. Very fine expressions for a man professing religion to make use of. Then in a Letter sent me soon after he said I was for ever discharged from your employ. You no doubt will think it a strange expression for him to say he wou'd strike my short Arm off, but I will relate this matter to you, & leave you to say whether it was christian behaviour to call after me in such language as this. I had a fall from a Horse when young, in consequence of which my arm was both broken & put out of Joint. The Doctor through bad management, suffered the arm to contract, & the bones are also out of their proper situation. On this acct. my Father, though in narrow circumstances, (having a very small family) dispensed with my small help in the way of working, and put me to School 2 or 3 Years, in order to make me fit for some kind of business, as he thought my misfortune wou'd render me incapable of working for a living. I was very thankful to providence & you, for the place I have had under you, for these four years past, and permit me to say I have made it my study to render myself worthy of the favour. I don't like to speak much in vindication of my conduct, except in cases of necessity: I only say that I defy any man to come forward & prove that I ever neglected your business entrusted to me, to otherwise injure you, or any man, in your concerns in this place. I refer you to the Mr. Stagg & Mr. Friend with

whom I have had to do, respecting the Ore when it goes to the Mills, & business on other accounts: Also Mr. Smith at Whitfield Mill, who will also inform you of my conduct respecting the Ore, & Ore accts. I would here observe, my Father has served you near forty Years, and in a little time will be unable to work, & when that takes place, his dependence will be on me.

My Father, myself, & many others have long thought that Mr. Dodd wants my situation for his Son Thos., as he proffered to get me a situation in the East Indies last Year. His Son has got married & being very gay & extravagant, takes a great deal of supporting: And yet his income must be considerable as he has share of a Shop at Nenthead, shares of Mines & Gunpowder business with his uncle Jno. Dodd: &c. I could make your ears tingle of if I had room to mention the things of this nature I know. Every body knows if young Mr. Dodd is appointed to my place, it will be solely for the emolument arising from it, as every person knows very well, he will never attend to it at all, & in fact, knows nothing about it. I understand he has so much a year for attending the delivery of the Wood at the Mines & he never attends it at any times. I could have said a great deal more respecting the ill treatment I have met with from time to time from Mr. Dodd's self & family, & about things that seriously affect your concerns in this place; but on the acct. of Mr. Dodd being instrumental of my getting a situation under you I forbore. I encourage myself in the hope that you will continue me in your employ, not being conscious of doing any thing to render me deserving of a discharge from the place I hold.

I am Hon. Mast[ers] Your Hble Servt.

R. Hayton

[Written in the margin of the final page:]

NB: I should thank you kindly for an answer hoping you will continue me in my place 'till you enquire into my conduct of impartial men. Please to inclose the answer to this under cover to Mr. Stagg.

**27 Apr 1808 Robert Hayton**

Nenthead 27th. April 1808.

Hon. Masters,

I was not a little surprised on seeing a Man appointed to my place immediately after Mr. Dodd received your Letter. I will just observe that it is my real opinion (along with Mr. Stagg, & all the people that have known anything about the affair) you would not have consented to my dismissal if you had known the real circumstances of the Case; but make no doubt they have been wrong represented by Mr. Dodd. I hope you will excuse me the expression when I say you are sadly deceived with regard to Mr. Dodd's conduct. Your business in this Country has got into great confusion, owing to private concerns clashing so much with it. You are perhaps not aware that Mr. Dodd

has hold of every thing almost that comes within his reach; Viz. A great share of supplying your mines with Shovels, Cobrakes, Nails, in fact almost every kind of hardware the Mines require: Also a share of G. Powder business with his Brother Jno. (who by the by is not worth the Expenses he runs you to every Year, let alone his Salary, for his chief business at Nenthead is to get money Enter'd for his Shop Goods, Gunp[owde]r &c. & to solicit new orders for these articles,) a share of a Farm, &c. &c. which cannot be fully express'd in the Compass of a Letter.

He has a very great number of Cottage Houses, rent for which, Cash for Shop Goods for his Son Thos. & Ptnrs., Cash for Shop Goods, G. powder &c for his Bro. Jno. & every other species of Debts they want is enter'd generally on the Month Days, whether the persons have the money so advanced earned under you or not, for I can prove it to a demonstration that there have been persons in your balances at the Year's End that wou'd not been there if it had not been owing to large advances put in for the Sundry articles named above. Mr. Dodd is also employed by sundry persons to let their farms at so much per £, or otherwise, & it frequently happens that when he enters as Landlord, the Old Tenant is greatly in arrear with his Rent, and let him be ever so infirm, or unsuitable for your business, he is immediately employed, & frequently to the disapp[ointmen]t & injury of many of your best Workmen. I understand that Mr. Dodd has nothing allow'd for Coals & Candles above the 20£ you advanc'd his Salary on that acct. but it is well known by Mr. Stagg, myself and others, that he does not pay for a third of those articles, you will easily imagine who pays for the remainder. I heard him say not above half a Year ago, that he had received some very unpleasant Letters from you, & if you did not let him alone he wou'd give up, & that he cared nothing for you, saying at the same time he could live without you, & further observing if he had a mind to turn himself wholly to the Dean & Chapter, what they wou'd allow him and what he cou'd realise on his own (which must be considerable) he cou'd live very well. I am persuaded you are not so credulous as to believe him when he says that if you don't discharge me he will quit your business, or if you won't let him alone he will do it. It is laughable to hear a man talk thus. There are very few men in this poor Country wou'd be fond of giving up 8 or 9 hundred pounds a Year, which is a modest rating of his income. It is also a joke if he endeavour to make you believe that there is no person in this Country so fit for his place as himself, & can render you such imminent [sic] service. The contrary is plain to every discerning Eye; for where a Man at the Head of a public concern has shares of so many private concerns depending for their success upon the public concern; it is impossible it can have justice done it. It remains for me to say that I wou'd have been extremely happy to have served you in my late capacity, or any other, & I must say there is still room especially in the Wood business, for there is very much wanting a steady man to attend to the Delivery of it from the Carriers to see whether they bring the full quantity deliver'd to them at the Woods. Should thank you very kindly for either appointing me to this business or letting me continue in my old place 'till you come into the Country & have an opportunity of investigating my conduct, when I am persuaded you will find no just ground for my dismissal.

I am Dr. Masters, Your very Hble Servt

Robt. Hayton

I cannot omit naming some more things, that are very injurious to you. Every person in this place are very much astonished that you gave consent to Mr. Dodd doing business for the Dean & Chapter, & As you cannot help thinking that when he is absent from your concerns here (which frequently happens) on the above acct. your business in a certain degree must be neglected. It is so gross thing what I am now going to mention that it is matter of talk for every one. Mr. Stephenson (who married Mr. Dodd's Daughter) & Jos. Cowper Mr. S. Nephew carried on Shop keeping at Nenthead, but on Mr. S. obtaining the <Surgeoncy> in the Lancashire Militia they gave up that business, 3 or 4 Years ago, & ever since that time Mr. Dodd has been taking money off such of your workmen as owed the above persons to the great injury of you & said workmen. Mr. Dodd keeps one man constantly employ'd in attending his Cows, Horses & working about his Lands, except 2 or 3 Hours in the forenoon (by way of covering the fraud) at any small job belonging you works, which is all you get for 13/ or 14 s per Week. He has also a share of a Bargain along with 6 or 7 men for a number of years, paying so much a Bing out & selling the Ore themselves, which I expect you will not approve. He never scruples to take of the Masons & Joiners from your employ when they have half completed their Day's labour. Young Dodd has used your Candles & Coals in abundance since he married, having not paid one Shilling for these things.

**11 May 1808 Robert Stagg**

[Note: This correspondent is Robert Stagg Senior (d. 1808), Superintendent of Smelting Works & Lead Carriage in the North for LLC. He commenced working for the Company in 1755.]

Alston 11th. May 1808

Honoured Masters

Sirs,

I have received yours of the 5th. Inst. inclosing two Letters from Robert Hayton to you, and at your Request shall candidly and faithfully give you my Sentiments on their Contents: though I feel it a painful Task, for I am so weak I am unable to write myself, all I can do is to dictate to my Son.

When Robt. Hayton was first appointed to his late Situation under you, he was unacquainted with the Business and of Consequence did not manage it well for some Time, which obliged us to find Fault several Times, when this was done he always behaved in a becoming Manner and promised to take all possible Pains in future, and for some Time past we have seen Nothing to complain of: he got acquainted with his Business and managed it very well; and so far as we have observed he has been diligent and steady, and except what has come from Mr. Dodd we never heard any Thing improper laid to his Charge. I sincerely believe his chief Fault with Mr. Dodd has

been too warmly vindicating his own Conduct, when Mr. Dodd charged him with any Thing, and though he might be blameless, yet this is a Manner Mr. Dodd cannot put up with. Hayton's Account of his Quarrel with Mr. Dodd is, I dare say, very just and I believe the Country considers it a most scandalous Thing indeed for a Person to be turned out of his Situation on Account of such a foolish Piece of Business, and for my Part I can view it in no other Light.

I attempted to interfere and begged Mr. Dodd to be reconciled to Hayton again, but all in vain: he was quite resolute and violent against him, observing he was determined Hayton should quit the Company's Service or otherwise he would himself.

What Robt. Hayton observes about Mr. Dodd Junr. in his first Letter to you is too true; he has grown very dissipated and not at all likely to attend to his Business: he went off to Greta Green some Time since with an Innkeeper's Daughter at Nenthead, to the no small Mortification and Grief of his Parents and Friends. I understand the Business of his Appointment to attend the Delivery of Wood &c at the Mines is left to be done by the Company's Wagemen, but much neglected. He has as Hayton observes a Share, along with Isaac Hornsby and John Hutchinson, of the Shop at Nenthead: they were joint Agents to the Durham Bank, but now only Hutchinson's Name appears in the Banking Business, though I understand it is carried on the same as before: This Shop Business is quite scandalous and what I still considered altogether improper for Agents or their Families to be concerned in. I always believed Mr. Dodd had a Share with his Brother John of the Gunpowder Business: It is kept along with the Company's in your Gunpowder House and your Agent delivers it (R. Hayton had this to do till his Dismission) to the Workmen. They supply the Workmen with upwards of one half of what is used at your Mines, which is a capital Business to them as you will find if you enquire farther into it. I must also now mention to you that there is a Deficiency in the Stock of 94 Half Barrels of the Company's Gunpowder at your Gunpowder House at Nenthead: how this loss has arisen I cannot tell, you may judge by what probable Means.

The Trade carried on with the Company's Mines is most notorious: what Hayton mentions is a Fact. At Ireshopeburn, Fairhill, Fletchers &c &c Bargains, or rather the Mines, have been let for a Term of Years, the Partners taking such Mines paying a trifling Sum per Bing to the Company: but the Acct. at the End of the Year is made up to appear as though <this is> Nenthead raised Ore and worked dead Work in the <regular> Way, for Mr Dodd always buys the Ore.

Ireshopeburn Mine was let in this Form last Year, and raised near two hundred Bings of Ore (Isaac Hornsby and his Partner in the Shop at Nenthead (Hutchinson) are Parties in the Bargain) you will probably remember this Mine never raised any Ore of Consequence before. Mr. Dodd. Tho. Dodd Junr., Hornsby &c have Hirelings that are Partners in such Bargains. The Mine Accts. are not as you will expect a Fair Representation of what has been done, but are made up just as will best preserve Appearances. It is the Outcry of the whole Country that Mr. Dodd and his Friends monopolise almost every kind of Business that is any Way connected with your Concerns, and he has ordered Advances to a considerable Amount for Persons who



were in the Balance Paper, for the express Purpose of paying himself, his Brother, Hornsby, &c. Robert Hayton frequently had this Money to take up or collect for the above Purpose on the Month Day: such as this has really brought the Company's Business into Confusion and Disrepute.

It is a general Opinion that John Dodd is quite an useless Person and also a very expensive one to the Company.

I suppose Robt. Hayton speaking about Mr. Dodd's Farm, refers to the one he took of Mr. Rippon, when you took a Lease of Rippon's Mines. The Farm is managed and worked by a Workman of the Comp[an]y's and has still been, who has always a full Year's Wages entered in the Stanhope Mine Accounts.

What Robt. Hayton says about Mr. Dodd's coals and Candles is just: which will appear in the Accts. which he (Hayton) kept and by our Due Papers. I have always been quite surprised at you allowing Mr. Dodd to be Agent for the Dean and Chapter Durham, when at the same time he cannot do your own Business without so many Assistants.

Robert Hayton it is evident writes in the Way of Retaliation. He would not have brought these Things to Light had this Quarrel not taken Place, but though this is the Case I cannot detect him in asserting any Thing really false and unfounded, though had Mr. Dodd the Explaining he would give several Things a different colouring: however Hayton has given you a Clue which may lead to interesting Discoveries if you think proper to investigate Things more thoroughly.

What he says about several in the Country being fit for Mr. Dodd's Place is rash and foolish. I know not one in the Country suitable that can be got.

I have not explained every Particular which Hayton has brought forward: but if you require further Information on any Thing I will give you it to the best of my Knowledge and Belief.

On reviewing what I have been obliged to remark on Mr. Dodd's Conduct, I cannot help being pained at having such a Task assigned me. However what I have said is without Prejudice or Partiality and what I conceive you require and expect of me.

Things of this kind I expected would come to your Knowledge at some time or other but I now hoped to have been done with the Business of this Life before such an Opening out had taken Place.

I am most respectfully Gentlemen Your most obedient humble Servant  
Robert Stagg

**3 Jun 1808 Robert Hayton**

Grassington 3rd. June 1808

Hon. Masters,

On account of my dismissal from your employment, I have been under the necessity of leaving Nenthead to seek a situation in this Country, being determined that Mr. Dodd should not be gratified by seeing me work for bread in the place where I

had served you & him as an Agent. I was not a little uneasy that you took no notice of my Letters, not so much that you did not answer them, but that you never asked the Mr. Stagg's opinion respecting the case. Mr. Stagg & some other of your Agents here are of Opinion you intend to say nothing about the affair 'till some of you be in the Country, & which is hinted to me, will very likely be some time this Summer. I understand from what I can gather from other people, Viz. such as Mr. Dodd makes free to talk to on the subject, that he has taken particular pains to make me appear as black as possible in your Eyes, & especially with regard to me not delivering up the Books &c I have in my possession belonging to you. There are two reasons may be assigned for my retention of them. First; after Mr. Dodd's quarrel & mine, his proud & insolent Son threatened to Strike me down one Day. I cou'd not put up with this from a Cousin 10 or 12 Years younger than myself, and of course words began to run very high on both sides. I told him in allusion to nefarious practices that he & his Father might get peculation Sacks & throw them over their shoulders & go & join Lord Melville. For this I was threatened to be prosecuted, & so thought fit to keep the Books, that in case they should proceed in this way, I might produce the Books as a corroboration of what I had said, as there are records in them that would completely establish the above assertion. The second reason I assign for retaining them is this: As you had not taken any notice of my Letters by way of answer, I thought if the Books &c were in my possession when you came into the country, I would have an opportunity of delivering them to yourselves & letting you see my lame Arm Mr. Dodd threatened to strike off, when perhaps you'd have more mercy on me than Mr. Dodd has had, for it is not possible you can have less. There is a circumstance or two (out of a multitude that cannot be mentioned in the compass of a Letter, but which I could relate, if you would condescend to hear me when you are in the Country) I did not mention to you in my former Letters, which I'm sure if known to you before, you wou'd have laid aside: What I allude to here is first, that Mr. J. Dodd his Brother has made a practice for many years of sending their G. powder into your Magazine for me & Others to deliver out amongst your Workmen, And since Mr. Dodd has ordered such small quantities at a time, they always let your Stock be exhausted before Mr. Dodd gave orders for more, which gave him & his Brother an opportunity of vending a great deal amongst your workmen before your new Stock came in. 2nd. Mr. Dodd gave an order to Mr. Jno. Grey of Newcastle for 20 ½ Casks last Year, & am of opinion, was without your consent: Not only so but I'm very much inclined to think the Workmen were not fairly used in this business. This might be known if you cou'd get an acct. from Jno. Grey what Mr. Dodd paid him pr. Cask for it. I conclude with <observing> it is the general opinion in Alston Moor that <Mr.> Dodd (if you believe him) has deceived you <respecting> him drawing out his security from the Durham Bank. It is very unlikely they will take Jno. Hutchinson's security (who is a partner with Hornsby & young Dodd in the Shop at Nenthead) for 1000£ or 1500£ of their Notes in his hands when he himself is not worth above 200£ or 300£. I am determined to throw myself upon your mercy when you are in the Country, when I hope my case may be fairly considered. In the meantime, I am

Dr. Masters, your unworthy & unfortunate servant,  
Robt. Hayton Jn.

The Gov[erno]r & Company For smelting down Lead/ London

**16 Jun 1808**

[Note: This document is unsigned but appears to comprise minutes written by a Committee appointed by the Court of the London Lead Company on 16th and 23r June 1808 to investigate the allegations of abuse raised by Robert Hayton in response to his dismissal from the Company's employment. The handwriting in the original document is difficult to decipher in places and there are several crossings out and amendments.]

16th. June

The Court having recd. Intimation in various Letter from the North that Abuses have <prevailed> in a principal Department - It has been thought <admissable> for the Company to avail themselves of the Services of Mr. Masterman for the purpose of ascertaining by private Means how far the Reports which have been made to the Court are well or ill founded. - The Committee to <action> the <Court's direction> of this Matter has been <recessed - Later> therefore requested the Attendance of Mr. Masterman with a View of learning in the first Instance how far it may be <consistent> with his Engagements to carry into Effect the Wishes of the Court. The Committee have the Satisfaction to acquaint the Court that Mr. Masterman has expressed his Willingness to comply with their Wishes and will be ready to take his Departure from London about the End of this Month.

In Consequence of which a general Conversation has taken Place at a Meeting held with him this Day and various Points upon which your Committee have thought it most important to obtain Information have been <noticed> for his Guidance and with a View of enabling Him to report his Opinion hereafter upon the <.....> of this Subject.

23rd. June

a Committee Held

Mr. Masterman present

Govr., Depy <Secr.> Mr. Palmer, Mr. Pearson, Mr Mills

Mr. Masterman stated to the Committee his Intention of setting out on Saturday 2nd July \_

A Letter was agreed upon to be written to Joseph Stagg to be signed by The Governor.

**23 Jun 1808 to Joseph Stagg**

[Note: A note on the reverse of the original document states that this is a copy of a letter to Jos. Stagg dated 23rd June 1808. Although not signed, accompanying documents in the batch indicate that it was written by, or on behalf of, the Governor of the London Lead Company. Joseph Stagg was the son of Robert Stagg Senior and the Agent for Acton Smelt Mill. He was appointed to the position of Superintendent of Smelting Works and Lead Carriage after the death of his father in 1808.]

London 23 June 1808

Mr. Joseph Stagg

Sir,

Our Friend Mr. Masterman being about to take a Journey to the Lakes. He has been requested by the Court to go by Way of <Newcastle> in Order to have a Conference with you upon the State of the Company's Affairs - and you are desired to meet Him at the Queen's Head on Friday Morning the 8th. July and to give him every Information within your Knowledge that respects the Interest of this Company.

You will take Notice - that the cause of Your Journey is not to be made known to any one even of your own Family \_ Altho' Mr. Masterman is not this Year a Member of the Court - you are to consider him in their perfect Confidence - and you are expected to communicate with him upon all Matters without any Reserve whatever.

You will not notice anything of what is here written in your Letters to the Court, but if you should judge any reply necessary you will address yourself to me Brabant Court, Philpot Lane.

[On a slip of paper folded within this copy letter is written the following:]

He draws for £1500. Eleven Hundred for Monthly advances & Four Hundred pounds for Candles to Dodds Hornsby &Co.

Letter from Joseph Stagg dated 14th. June 1808

1/0 - <.> <deducted> which reduced it to £<3407>

**19 Oct 1808 Joseph Stagg to Thomas Masterman**

[Note: The original letter is addressed on the reverse: Thos. Howe Masterman Esqr., No.1 White Hart Court, Lombard Street, London. T.H. Masterman was a former member of the Court of Assistants and later Governor of LLC (1823-4). There is a small tear in the document which has made it necessary to interpolate a few words from the sense of the text.]

Alston 19th. Oct: 1808

Mr. Masterman

Sir,

I wrote two Letters to you since you were in the Country both of which I hope you received. My principal Reason for writing at present is to have your, or the Court's, Directions how to proceed with Respect to fixing the Price per Barrel to take the Gunpowder off the Workmen. Mr. Dodd has hitherto fixed the Price and of Course allows himself & Brother what Profit he thinks proper by what they furnish the Workmen with. We are just going to commission the Reckonings I therefore conceive it my Duty to <represent> this to you & to request your Directions as soon as convenient. Mr. Dodd charged the last Quarters Candles 14/6 but I paid them only 11/- observing that the ready Money Price of Candles was no more, & that the Greenwich Hospital's Works were furnished by Mr. Dickinson at six Months Credit at that Rate. I find the Company have to pay for Candles used at Ireshopeburn Mine every Quarter the same as for Candles used at the other Mines. Two more Bargains have been let in the Moor that I know of upon the same Conditions as Ireshopeburn Mine is let, since you were here: I got this out of Briggs the new Agent without his being aware I had any Design in the Enquiries I made.

We are much plagued with the Lead & Ore Carriers at present - All Proprietors of Lead & Ore are doing their utmost to get them carried before the Winter set in: and there is a great Deal more in the Country than can be got off. Col. Beaumont's Superintendent (my Father-in-Law) told me this Week they have upwards of two thousand Bings of Ore at Coal Cleugh & Allenheads that must remain at the Mines over Winter, and in Weardale a great Deal More. I suppose at least four thousand Bings in the Whole. Our Lead has gone away from the Mills very briskly of late.

I have quite brought Matt. Johnson the Agent at Nent[hea]d Mill into my Measures. They have been smelting very badly at that Mill for some Months past which he is now well convinced of. He therefore sees it indispensable to go upon another Plan. They have taken about one third of a Bing more at Nenth[ea]d Mill for the last three Months to make a Fodder of Lead than we have done at Stanhope Mill. I have the Stanhope Smelters at this Time at Nenthead Mill smelting Tontale Ore. The Nenthead Smelters had smelted some Tontale Ore so extremely ill that the other Workmen complained very heartily to Mr. Dodd and he got quite out of Patience with them and Johnson. However before I heard this I had turned some of the Smelters of Work and made other Arrangements which, when I told Mr. Dodd, perfectly satisfied him. I have also reduced <the> Price of smelting from 10/- to 8/6 per Fodder <in> Consequence of which the Smelters have <packed> up their Work expecting we could not do without them: This I was aware of, and considered how to <must>, and have so laid my Plans as to convince them we are independent of them and when they are made sensible of that, it will make them better to manage.

One of the Workmen at Mannergill has been killed by the crushing Machine catching his Foot about a fortnight since.

I am with great Respect Sir Your most h.ble Servt.

Joseph Stagg

P.S. Should the Court think of appointing my Brother to my former situation, I should wish to know it as early as it can be done with Propriety. At the same time I will observe to you that I wish the Court to determine on the Point just as may be thought most for the Company's Interest, for except the disagreeableness of a Traveller's Life to a married person, my Brother has no Motive for desiring to change his present Situation.

**21 Oct 1808 Joseph Stagg to Thomas Masterman**

[Note: Original letter addressed on the reverse: To T.H. Masterman Esqr, No 1 White Hart Court, Lombard Street, London.]

Alston 21st. Oct. 1808

Mr. Masterman

Sir,

Since writing to you on the 19th. I have seen all the Invoices of Gunpowder sent to Mr. Dickinson, the Moor Master, for the last Year viz. from Michaelmas 1807 to Mich. 1808. The Price charged is £5-10- per Barrel without variation throughout the Year - 10 p Cent Discount, and 2 ½ p Cent Commission - The Carriage from Kendal which is 4/6 per Barrel - <Neat> Cost at Alston £5. 1s. 3d per Barrel - The Cost was I believe, exactly the same last Year and Mr. Dodd ordered the Gunpowder to be taken of the Workmen @ £7. 4s. per Barrel. I should be very glad if the Court would fix the Price this Year, however I think it my Duty to make these Observations to you and you may make what Use of them you think proper.

I understand the Nenthead Mill Smelters are wishing to return to their Work again & one blames another for standing out. I suppose they intend to offer their Services to the Company again tomorrow on the Terms we have fixed.

The Ireshopeburn Co. have had upwards of £200 advanced by Mr. Dodds Orders to carry on the Mine this Year: and all the Persons who take Bargains in the same Way have also Money advanced.

Ra: Briggs, R. Hayton's Successor, has a <...ling> employed in a Bargain.

Isaac Hornsby's Advances for Whimsey & Level Horses only amount to about 350£ for this Year.

Doctor Stevenson's Advances this Year will be about £90£ - and S. Hutchinson's (Partner in the Shop at Nenthead) about the same.

The Shop Concern at Nenthead is a Source of incalculable Injury to the Company's Business and will be, so long as Mr. Dodd's Sons are Partners.

This Week M. Johnson of Nenth[ea]d Mill told me in a confidential Way, that a certain workman had said he could upon his Oath testify, if required, that about 16£ was added to his Account for which he never worked, to pay a Bill due to the Shop Co. - I heard R. Hayton say the same Thing some Time since. The Shop Concern keeps up the Banking Agency which our Bankers are still jealous of & with <too> much Reason.

And it is quite a common Observation that if a Person only be in Debt to the Nent[head] Shop he is sure of Work & must <.....> Work.

Matt. Johnson also told me that when Mr. Dodd was at Durham he sent Orders that the Coal Carriers should fill his, J. Hornsby's & his Son's Coal Houses with Coals before any were carried to any other Place (either Mill or Mines) this Jno. Bell the Washing Agent told Johnson as a <Secret>. The Order was sent to Bell & Briggs, & it seems they all understood that the Company pay for their Coals.

I am Sir Yours respectfully

Joseph Stagg

P.S. You may find the Court's Rules for their Agents in Letter Books - Decr. 10 1778 & Oct. 6th. 1785. At the latter date you will find - 'No Agent shall have any allowance of Coals and Candles' - In 1798 A Gratuity of £20 per Annum was given to Mr. Dodd & my late Father in Lieu of any such Allowance. If I am not mistaken Mr. Dodd at that Time requested some Allowance for his Office.

**27 Oct 1808 Thomas Masterman to Joseph Stagg**

[Note: Original document annotated on the reverse: Copy Letter to Jos. Stagg 27 Oct 1808 Although the copy letter is unsigned it may be assumed from the context that it was written by, or on behalf of, T. H. Masterman.]

London 27 Oct. 1808

Mr. Stagg

Sir,

On Mr. Pearson's & my return we found your first two Letters & I have to acknowledge the receipt of those of the 19th. & 21st. Instant, these two last were laid before the committee, who have our Joint & my separate reports under consideration, but as they were not before the Court you could not receive any directions respecting the price the Workmen are to be charged for the Gunpowder, therefore (if on receipt of this there should be time to exchange a letter with the Court previous to your reckoning with the Workmen) I think you should write letter on this Subject, to know the price that the Court may determine to fix, at the same time offering your opinion what you think fair for the Workmen to pay, over & above the price at which the Company purchase it which I conclude you are made acquainted with, when any is forwarded, if not the Court will furnish you with it, but if there should not be time to receive the Court's instructions as above proposed then you & Mr. Dodd will (I suppose) fix it the same as last Year.

The other subjects noticed in yours are also under consideration & that part which relates to your Brother will be replied to as early as the nature of the subject, as connected with other arrangements will admit.

5 Jan 1809    William Todd

[Note: Letter addressed on cover to: The Incorporated Lead Company, Martin's Lane, Upper Thames Street, London]

Alston 5th. Jan[uar]y 1809

Gent[leme]n,

As there has been of late a great deal said here about Mr. Thos. Dodd leaving your employ.

In case it should prove true and that he leaves it. I take this early opportunity of offering you my service. Should I meet with your approbation when you may want a person to manage your Mines I hope I shall give satisfaction. I worked in the Mines for several Years and since I gave over working I have for the last 18 Years been engaged in the direction of a number of Mines in this neighbourhood.

You'll please to observe I do not wish to have any persons place from him, but when a vacancy takes place then I will thank you for the situation. But before I can expect it I suppose you will enquire more about me, and as I am well known here I dare venture to refer you to any person or persons who does know me. I am

Gent[leme]n Your Very Obed. Servt.

Wm. Todd