

COLLIERIES OF THE RIVER MARRON VALLEY

This document covers the history of five collieries in the valley of the River Marron, in the area around Dean and Lamplugh, Cumberland. It has been put together using readily available sources only. It is, at this stage, presented simply as notes in a time-line. It is intended as a supplement to the Graces Guide web pages for each colliery and multiple links are therefore provided to associated pages.

The mines described are [Dean Moor Colliery](#), [Moorside Colliery](#), [Asby Colliery](#), [Lamplugh Colliery](#) and [Branthwaite Colliery](#). There were several collieries of varying size and prosperity to the west of Dean Moor, including Studfold Colliery, Whillimoor Colliery, Wythmoor Colliery and Oatland Colliery which are outside the scope of this note. There were also several collieries further north close to the point where the Marron joins the River Derwent which are also outside the scope. The map overleaf shows the locations of the collieries described.

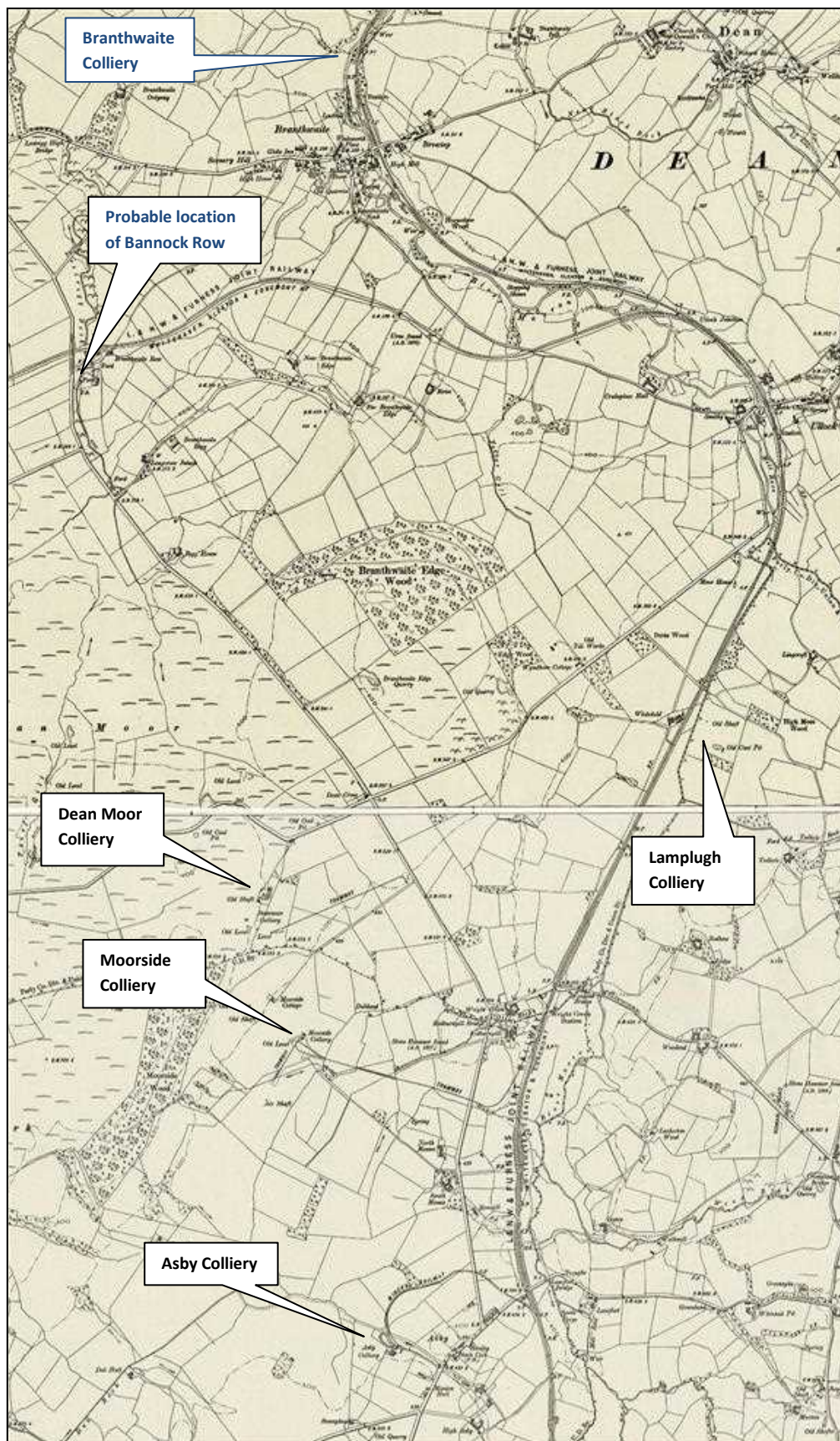
A valuable reference source is West Cumberland Coal 1600-1982/3 by Oliver Wood 1988, published by Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, Extra Series XXIV. For brevity this is referred to simply as Oliver Wood in the text. In writing his book, Wood clearly had access to manuscripts held by the Egremont Estate which are not now publicly available.

Another valuable resource has been the website of the Durham Mining Museum, particularly their transcribed data from the List of Mines - Government report from the Mines Department over many years.

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Whilst some records in the National Archives have been seen, a visit to Whitehaven and Carlisle records offices will, in the fullness of time, allow a better interpretation, but for now it seemed worthwhile making this interim document available as fairly raw data.

Bill Swift 22 Dec 2025



6" Ordnance Survey Map (1898 revision) showing the collieries described, identified in blue overlay by the author

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Section 1

Dean Moor Colliery

Oliver Wood recounts that in 1711 William and Henry Stockdale were granted leave to search for coal in the Manor of Dean. Dean was one of the manors in the Cockermouth Castle Estate, in the 18th century belonging to the Wharton family. It was later bought by the Duke of Somerset and passed down to General Wyndham, heir of the Earl of Egremont who inherited the estates but not the peerage, though he became Baron Leconfield in 1859.

In 1761 Daniel Griffiths leased Dean Colliery for 21 years. This business failed, and in 1866 John Fearon took over the lease and paid off the rent arrears. Fearon also incurred heavy losses, and was released from further payments by Lord Egremont in about 1772. A report for Lord Egremont in 1773 concluded that the colliery could never be profitable as it was too far from the sea. Notwithstanding this, Richard Fawcett leased the colliery in 1774 for 7 years. He was followed by William Waite, who fell into debt and was rescued by his brother-in-law, John Fisher who took over the colliery himself, leasing it for 12 years in 1789. He too lost money and fell into debt.

In 1816, Dean Colliery was leased Anthony Wild (coal miner) and Henry James Johnson for 14 years. The lease was renewed in 1834 by Wilde's widow, Jane, and Johnson for a further 14 years. For most of this period production was under 3,000 tons, but in 1833 and 1834 production exceeded 5,000 tons.

The exact location of this early colliery is not known, but the 1863 Ordnance Survey map (below) shows an old coal pit adjacent to the road between Dean and Gilgarran, close to Dean Cross.



6" Ordnance Survey Map (1863 survey) showing Dean Moor.

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1846 Lease dated 29 Dec 1846 for **Dean Moor Colliery**, General Wyndham (Leconfield Estate) to John Percival.ⁱ Not confirmed, but it is thought that John Percival was the Steward (or Agent) of the Earl of Lonsdale's collieries. If so, he lived in Great Clifton and died in 1853. Dean Moor Colliery is not mentioned in Mannix Directory of Cumberland 1847.

1848 Oliver Wood records a lease to John Percival dated 25 Mar 1848, for 21 years at a rent of £37 10s per annum plus one-twelfth of the value of coal raised. This might be a second document,

or perhaps this is the 1846 document above, with an effective date of 29 Dec 1846, but signed on 25 Mar 1848. The document is not publicly available.

1853 As mentioned above, it is believed that **John Percival died** in 1853 and that the colliery was continued by his widow.

1858 Colliery not listed in directory of Dean, but is in a list of collieries, with General Wyndham as proprietor.ⁱⁱ

1859 Dean Moor Colliery lease advertised for sale with 11 years remaining.ⁱⁱⁱ (Right)

1860 Directory entry – “At Dean Moor is a colliery worked by Mr [sic] Percival, consisting of one shaft, whose perpendicular depth is 16 fathoms. The seam now worked is two feet 10 inches thick. The other seams, varying from two feet two inches to 3 feet, are worked out.” Owner General Wyndham. Winding said to have been by horse gin.^{iv}



1860 New pit sunk and a 13hp engine erected for pumping and winding. (Oliver Wood)

1861 OS map (see above) show 2 “coal pits” at Dean Moor.^v Not confirmed, but it seems likely that these are the two pits identified above.

1864 Owner Mrs Percival.^{vi}

1868 Operations under Mrs Percival ended in May. (Oliver Wood)

1869 Dean Moor Colliery began operations under **George Greveson and Son**. (Oliver Wood). George Greveson of Croft House, (later of Orchard House), Dean. Born c 1815, he married Elizabeth Jackson in Cockfield, County Durham, in 1835. Before coming to Dean, he had been (1851) a coke burner in Evenwood, Co Durham, and (1861) a coal proprietor in Cockfield. The links back to Cockfield will appear frequently.

1874 Owner George Greveson.^{vii}

1875 Death of George Greveson, 16 Feb 1875 at Dean.^{viii} Same year, ref to Greveson and Sons of Dean Moor Colliery.^{ix}

1877 Lease dated 24 Jul 1877 for Dean Moor Colliery for 21 years, Earl of Leconfield to George and John Greveson.^x There is also a Gazette notice naming George and John Greveson relating to a creditor.^{xi} George was George Nicholson Greveson (1842-1916) who married Isabella Summerson, niece of William Summerson, (below). Who the John Greveson mentioned was is not clear, as George’s son called John had died in 1871.

UK Mineral Stats 1878 (i.e. 1877 data) list owner as George Greveson and Co.

Oliver Wood states that the colliery was leased from 1880 to William Summerson. Without knowing the source, this date must be open to question as Midland & Northern Coal & Iron Trades Gazette 1881-1884 lists the owner of Dean Moor as G Greveson and Co.^{xii} The 1881 census shows G N Greveson still a colliery owner at Orchard House, Dean. In Nov 1882, a fire occurred at “Edge Pit”, Dean, reported as belonging to Mr Greveson of Dean^{xiii}, and in the same year there are archive papers referring to George Greveson of Dean Moor Colliery.^{xiv}

1882 Manager R Cruddace.^{xv} Robert Cruddace came from Cockfield, and was George Greveson senior’s son-in-law (married to his daughter Jane). A former miner – presumably at Summersons - he arrived in Dean in about 1873¹ and an announcement of a son’s death in 1875 shows him as a colliery manager living in Branthwaite. In the 1881 census he is shown as a colliery viewer, living in Greveson’s former residence, Croft House. He continues to be listed as manager for many years.

1882 Fire at a coal pit called “Edge Pit” belonging to Mr Greveson.^{xvi} The location of Edge Pit is not known, but probably near Branthwaite Edge, so possibly the pit nearest to Dean Cross?

In Jan 1883, George Greveson auctioned his household furniture etc., suggesting that he was leaving the district.^{xvii} This fits with the directory entry below. He subsequently worked at the whinstone quarry at Cockfield owned by the Summersons.

1883 Directory entry – “At Dean Moor is a colliery employing about 18 men and producing 60 tons of coal per week. It consists of two shafts - an air shaft and an upcast shaft, and is sunk to a depth of 32 fathoms.” Proprietor William Summerson. Manager Peter Gray of Ullock.^{xviii} William Summerson (1816-1891) was a colliery and quarry owner of Cockfield, Co Durham. He was a brother of [Thomas Summerson](#), of [Albert Hill Foundry, Darlington](#).

Note that there can be some confusion over the use of the term manager. The mine probably had a general manager who was responsible for the commercial operation of the business, and a mine manager who operated the mine. The latter is sometimes called viewer. At this time it seems likely that Peter Gray was the general manager and Cruddace the mine viewer or manager.

1891 Death of William Summerson, 2 May 1891.^{xix}

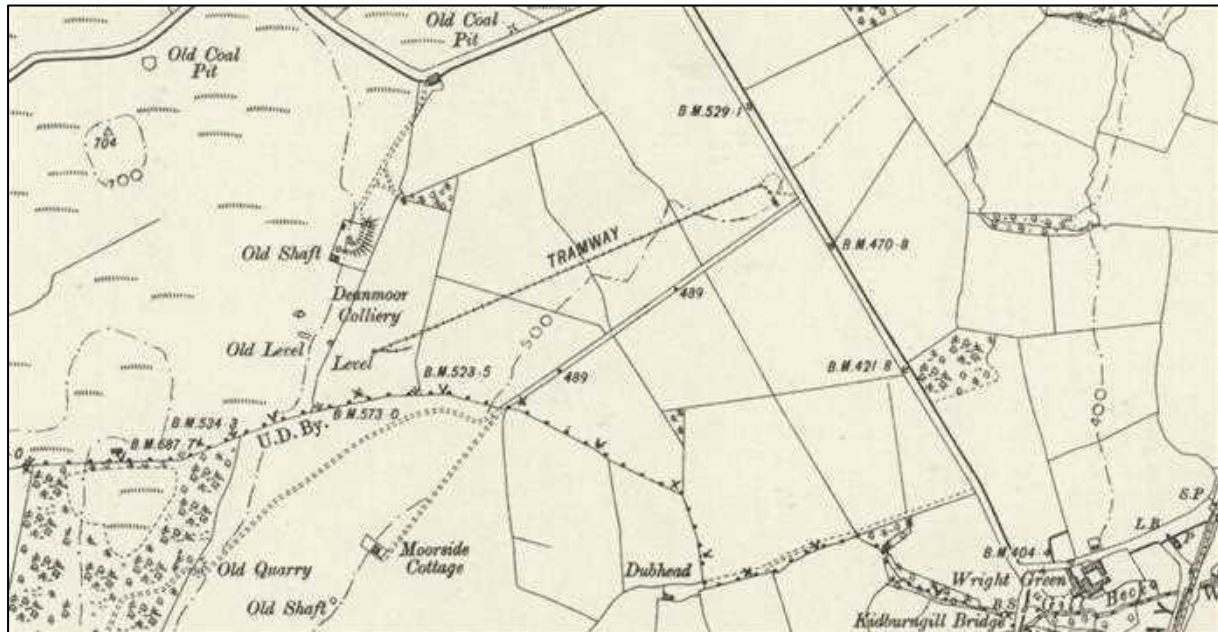
1891 Advertisement for quotes to drive a stone drift for Dean Moor Colliery.^{xx}

1892 Leconfield Estate, agreement with “Summerson Brothers” relating to land at Dean Moor and Pardshaw Cragg. (Pardshaw Cragg was a limestone quarry near Deanscales).^{xxi} Later directories (1884 and 1887)^{xxii} show the owners as W and R Summerson, who were William’s sons, William Robinson Summerson (1874-1920) and Robert Summerson (1868-1939). See note below (1898) however, as it is likely that they were managing the business on behalf of the trustees of William the elder’s estate.

1896 Employees - below ground 22, surface 5. Manager R. Cruddace.^{xxiii}

¹ A daughter was baptised in Dean on 30 Nov 1873

1896 New tramway being laid in June from the new drift to the side of the main road.^{xxiv} This was opened in September.^{xxv} Both the tramway and new drift can be seen on the 1898 OS map below.^{xxvi} It is of note that Dean Moor Colliery was never connected to a railway, the Whitehaven, Cleator and Egremont at Wright Green being the nearest point (bottom right).



6" Ordnance Survey Map (1898 revision) showing Dean Moor Colliery

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1897 In January, notice of termination was given to all employees. It was understood that the colliery was to be closed permanently.^{xxvii} A few days later it was reported that "Messrs Summerson of Cockfield, Durham, the owners of the colliery, have visited the pit and made a thorough examination of the workings. They have decided to continue working the colliery for the present, and if after another attempt to come across a paying seam there is no satisfactory result, the colliery will be finally closed."^{xxviii}

1897 John McDonald appointed manager and 14 new workers taken on.^{xxix} Later in the year it was reported that trade was slack and some of the men were engaged in haymaking.^{xxx}

1898 Dean Moor Colliery Co to make another attempt to work the colliery.^{xxxi}

1898 Death of the late William Summerson's widow, Ann, 13 Aug 1898.^{xxxii}

1898 **Dean Moor Colliery Company Limited** was incorporated on 22 Sep 1898 with capital of £10,000 (Company No: 58893).^{xxxiii} To take over as a going concern and continue the business of the Dean Moor Colliery Company. The registered office to be in Cockfield.

The former owners were :- Herbert W. Summerson; Arthur S. Summerson, Robert Summerson; William R. Summerson; Amy A. Roberts; Annie Summerson, and Laura Summerson (all William Summerson's surviving children). The formation of the limited company following quickly after the death of Summerson's widow suggests that the colliery was in trust for Ann's benefit until her death, then passed in equal shares to their children.

The sale price was £2,450, to be paid in 245 fully paid up shares in the new company, 35 to each of the vendors.

The initial subscribers to the new limited company were:- Herbert W. Summerson, Cockfield, colliery owner; Arthur S. Summerson, colliery owner; Robert Summerson, colliery owner; [Thomas Summerson](#), Haughton-le-Skerne, Darlington, retired iron founder; [Robert B. Summerson](#), Haughton-le-Skerne, Darlington, iron founder; William R. Summerson, Cockfield, colliery owner; Mrs. Amy A. Roberts, Shillington, Bedfordshire; Miss Annie Summerson, Cockfield; Miss Laura Summerson, Cockfield.^{xxxiv} I.e., all the children of William Summerson, plus his brother.

1899 Manager R. Cruddace. Employees, below ground 30, surface 5.^{xxxv}

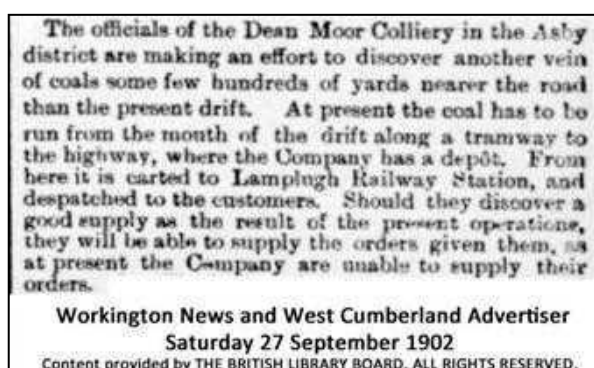
1900 Working seams 3ft 6in and 2ft.^{xxxvi} Manager William Thomas (later reports show him as general manager). Employees:- below ground 59, surface 5.^{xxxvii} John William Thomas (known as William) relocated from Co Durham to take charge of Dean Moor, having obtained his mine manager's certificate of competence the previous year. Notwithstanding Thomas's appointment, Robert Cruddace remained with the company, though now as overman (per 1901 census). He was not certificated as a mine manager, which might have resulted in his apparent demotion.

1900 Directors^{xxxviii} —

Herbert William Summerson, colliery owner, Cockfield, Co Durham
Arthur Sanderson Summerson, colliery owner, Cockfield, Co Durham
Robert Bradley Summerson, ironfounder, Haughton, Darlington
Robert Summerson, colliery owner, Barnard Castle

1902 Death of Zebedee Wood. Of Cockfield, but had been business manager for Dean Moor Colliery for some 14 years, only recently transferring back to Cockfield as a base for business.^{xxxix} He was an early shareholder.

1902 Exploratory borehole sunk between Dean Moor drift and road (right).^{xl} After successfully boring for coal "near Dean Moor Colliery", the first sod for a new shaft was cut by Robert Cruddace, the oldest employee at the colliery.^{xli}



The officials of the Dean Moor Colliery in the Asby district are making an effort to discover another vein of coals some few hundreds of yards nearer the road than the present drift. At present the coal has to be run from the mouth of the drift along a tramway to the highway, where the Company has a depot. From here it is carted to Lamplugh Railway Station, and despatched to the customers. Should they discover a good supply as the result of the present operations, they will be able to supply the orders given them, as at present the Company are unable to supply their orders.

Workington News and West Cumberland Advertiser
Saturday 27 September 1902
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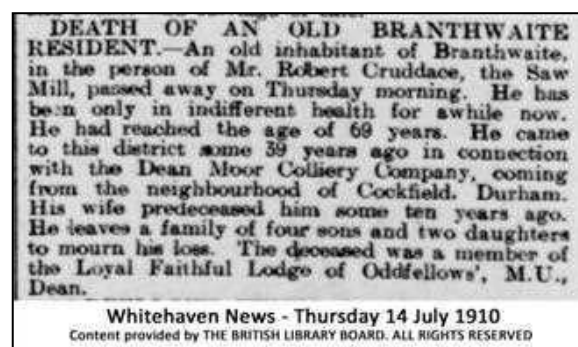
1904 After core drilling indicated a good seam of coal and fire clay, Dean Moor Colliery Co began prospecting at Bannock Row by opening up an old shaft there.^{xlii} Apparently this had been an idea William Thomas favoured some years ago, but had not developed.^{xliii} A great deal of water was encountered but by June they had reached what was believed to be the Gilgarran Yard seam. Reported to be only 50 yards from the Ullock to Distington Railway, it seems probable that this was located at Branthwaite Row though maps available (1898 and 1923)

show no active or past mining activity there. Some very early maps show Bannock Row Farm in this area but it has not been found on later maps.

1904 Around this time, Dean Moor Colliery Company took over the lease of the neighbouring (and abandoned) Moorside Colliery. A draft lease (available but not seen) for 21 years was written in 1904 between Walter Lamplugh Brooksbank (of Lamplugh Hall) and the four directors of Dean Moor Colliery Co Ltd. It is assumed this lease was executed, though the first additional reference found is not until 1909 when Dean Moor Colliery Co. had been given permission to run a narrow gauge tramway across the road near North Mosses^{xliv}, which must have been a reinstatement of that previously built by the Moorside Company, which had been the subject of complaint in 1900 about the condition of the roadway.^{xlv} (see comparative maps fig 1 for comparison).

1910 Death of Robert Cruddace (right)

1910 A fatal accident report in 1910 confirms that Moorside drift was part of Dean Moor Colliery^{xlvi}



1912 Dean Moor reported to be the only colliery working in Cumberland during a national strike. Thought to be the largest colliery in the country still working, though at 30-40 tons/day it was quite small^{xlvii}. This was later corrected as nearby Branthwaite Colliery was also still operating.^{xlviii} The reports said that Dean Moor was one of the oldest collieries in Cumberland, 60 years ago having been worked by horse gin. Since then, 3 shafts and various levels had been worked, and it was now worked from a drift on the Moorside Royalty.

1912 Following a fatality due to an inrush of water, it was reported that while working their new drift, the company struck old mine shafts from the earlier days of the Moorside Colliery.^{xlix}

1912 Won a contract to supply 1,000 tons of coal to Cleator Moor Gas Works.ⁱ

1913 Lease of coal and fireclay at Moorside Park, Arlecdon, to the Dean Moor Colliery Co. Ltd. by Lord Lonsdale.ⁱⁱ The lease has not been seen, but we might assume this was a neighbouring Royalty (perhaps some or all of the abandoned Asby Colliery, the boundary of which was very close to Moorside Drift) as they already had Lamplugh Estate and Leconfield Estate land.

1920 Draft Conveyance of Mines and Minerals at Moorside, Arlecdon, from James Lamplugh Brooksbank, (son and heir of W L Brooksbank above) to The Dean Moor Colliery Company Ltd.ⁱⁱⁱ The manuscript has not been seen, but the wording in the catalogue suggests sale rather than lease.

1921 Manager John William Thomas (known as William), Assistant Manager John William Thomas the younger, known as John, (his son), surface manager George Thomas (another son).^{liii}

- 1923 Manager William Thomas. Directors: A S Summerson, Wood View, Cockfield; H W Summerson, Garden House, Cockfield; [Robert Bradley Summerson](#), Hall Garth, Coatham Mundeville, Darlington; R Summerson, Fairfield, Barnard Castle (secretary).^{liv}
- 1926 In a repeat of the 1912 strike, Dean Moor was the only colliery in the county working, producing about 30 tons/day. The owners were not members of the Mining Association, and the men not affiliated to the Union.^{lv}
- 1926 Arthur Sanderson Summerson died 21 Apr 1926. He was replaced as a director by Thomas Philip Sanderson Summerson (known as Philip) who became company secretary. Registered Office moved to 20 Horse Market, Barnard Castle.^{lvi}
- 1926 There are papers in Lord Lonsdale's archives (not seen) relating to a lease to Dean Moor Colliery Co Ltd. It is not known whether this is an additional lease or a renewal.^{lvii}
- 1928 Herbert William Summerson died and was replaced as director by Maurice Vivian Summerson.
- 1931 Manager William Thomas died 16 Mar 1931 at his home, Rydal House, Frizington, aged 66.^{lviii} He was succeeded as manager by his son John William Thomas the younger (John).
- 1932 Abandonment plan, Dean Moor Colliery, Anthony Seam (Two Feet Seam) and Yard Seam workings.^{lix}
- 1933 Registered office: 20 Horse Market, Barnard Castle, near Durham. Seams worked: Two Feet, Yard. Annual Output: 10,000 tons p.a. Class of coal: Coking, Household, Steam. Directors: M V Summerson, Hartford Road, Darlington; R B Summerson, Coatham Mundeville, Darlington; R Summerson, Fairfield, Barnard Castle (secretary); T P S Summerson, Fairfield, Barnard Castle. General Manager: J W Thomas.^{lx}
- 1935 Registered Office moved to 44 Galgate, Barnard Castle.^{lxi} The accounts for this year show that the company owned a briquetting plant.
- 1939 Robert Summerson died 2 Sep 1939 and Maurice Vivian Summerson resigned about the same time. A single replacement, Thomas Hawksley Summerson was appointed.^{lxii} Collier manager was still John W Thomas.^{lxiii}
- 1941 Robert Bradley Summerson died 3 Jan 1941 and was replaced on the board of directors by general manager John W Thomas. The board of 3 thus comprised J W Thomas, T P S Summerson (secretary) and T H Summerson.^{lxiv}
- 1947 Oliver Wood states that post nationalisation, Dean Moor was a licensed mine not operated by the National Coal Board.
- 1949 The colliery was vested in the National Coal Board as of 1 Apr 1949. Twelve months later it was stated that no progress had been made regarding payment of compensation to the owners.^{lxv}

1950 Oliver Wood records closure of Moorside Drift No 4, bringing this company's production to an end. By July John W Thomas had retired to run a pub in London². He died in 1978.

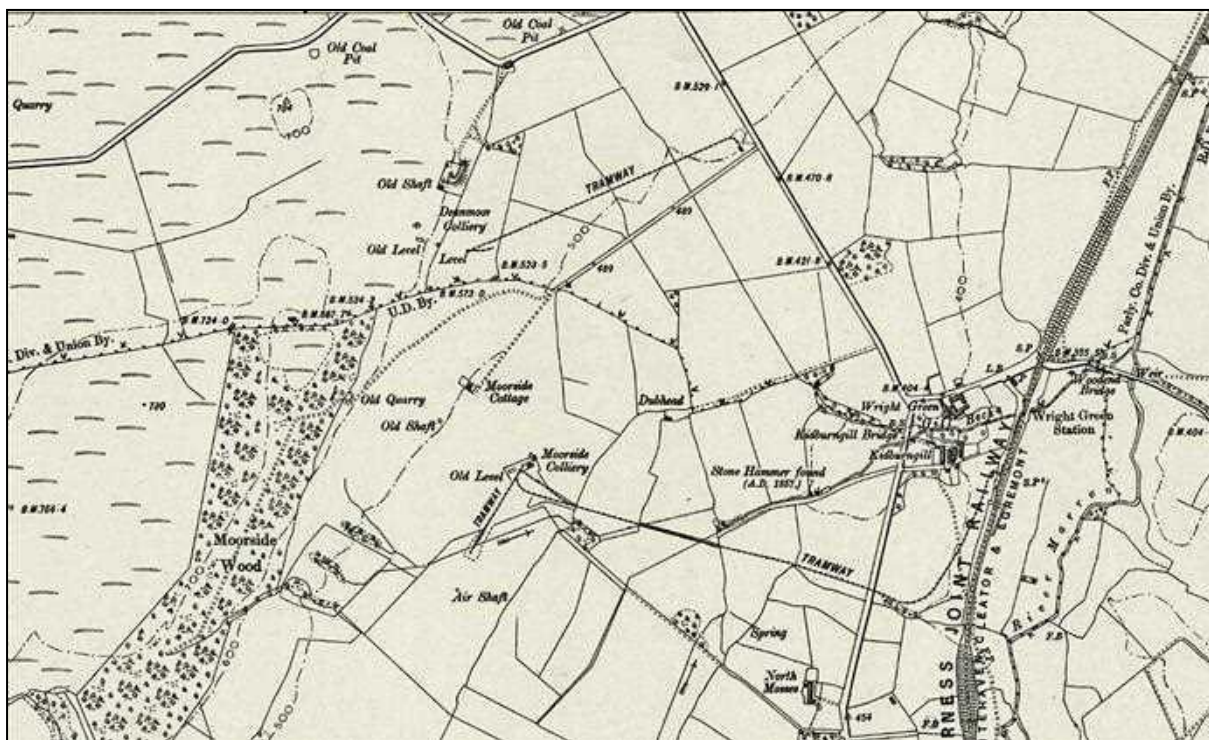
1952 Resolution passed at EGM to wind up the company voluntarily.^{lxvi}

1956 Liquidation completed. Meeting held to receive liquidator's final report.^{lxvii}

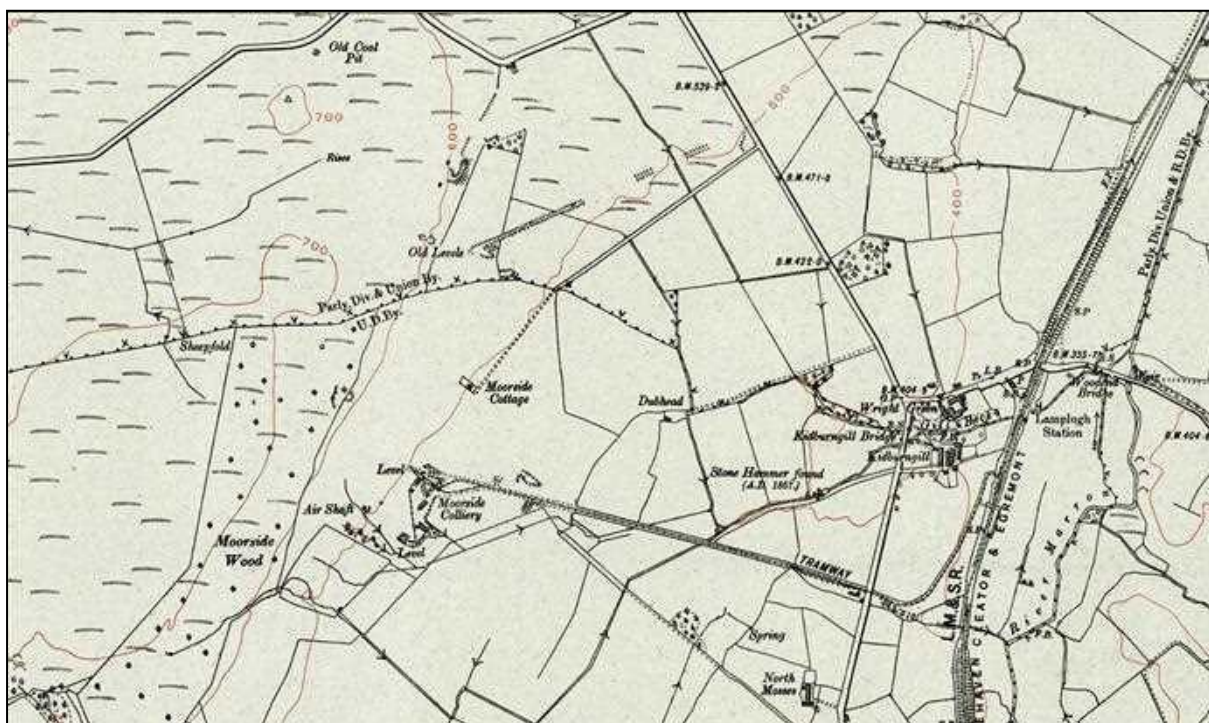
Potentially useful additional source material not yet seen by the author

- Lonsdale Estate - Dean Moor Colliery Company Limited, Lamplugh; correspondence, schedules and statements of sales - 30 Sep 1933-27 Nov 1951.^{lxviii}
- Lease particulars relating to land in Arlecdon, Dean, Frizington leased to Dean Moor Colliery Company Limited. 1943-1945.^{lxix} Lessor not named in catalogue.
- National Coal Board collection, Cumbria. Files relating to Dean Moor Colliery closure 1947-1952.^{lxx} Various abandonment plans also held.
- National Coal Board, National Archives, Kew:
 - Registration and Valuation of Assets. References [COAL 36/324](#), [COAL 38/215](#) (inc 15 plans), [COAL 38/1077/2](#), [COAL 34/238](#), [COAL 38/1077](#) (inc 4 plans)
 - License for smaller mines. Reference [COAL 35/181](#).
 - Compensation. Reference [COAL 34/1199](#).

² Recorded in the register of directors as being at 52 Norfolk Street, Hyde Park, London W2. Norfolk Street by Park Lane (which was in W1) was renamed Dunraven Street before 1940 and never had number 52, so this is more likely to have been 52 Norfolk Square, which was part of the Hyde Park Estate, was in W2 and is now a small hotel.



6" Ordnance Survey Map (1898 revision) showing Dean Moor and Moorside Collieries



6" Ordnance Survey Map (1923 revision) showing Moorside Colliery only

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- ⁱⁱ Kelly's Directory of Cumberland 1858.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Carlisle Journal - 24 Jun 1859.
- ^{iv} Whellan's History and Topography of Cumberland and Westmorland - 1860
- ^v 6" series OS Map. Cumberland Sheet LXII. Surveyed: 1863 to 1864, Published: 1867
- ^{vi} Mineral Statistics of the UK, 1864 (1863 data)
- ^{vii} Mineral Statistics of the United Kingdom 1875.
- ^{viii} West Cumberland Times - 20 Feb 1875
- ^{ix} Cumbria Archives [DBH/1/31/2](#); papers relating to a debt.
- ^x Cumbria Archives ref [DLEC/5/9/1/13](#).
- ^{xi} [London Gazette 27 Jul 1877](#)
- ^{xii} Midland & Northern Coal & Iron Trades Gazette – regularly between 15 Jun 1881 and 2 Apr 1884
- ^{xiii} Whitehaven News - 30 Nov 1882
- ^{xiv} Cumbria Archives ref [DBH/25/12/4/3](#).
- ^{xv} 1881 Mines Inspectors Report.
- ^{xvi} Whitehaven News - 30 Nov 1882
- ^{xvii} Whitehaven News - 18 Jan 1883
- ^{xviii} Bulmer's Directory of West Cumberland 1883
- ^{xix} Brief obituary. Northern Echo –6 May 1891
- ^{xx} West Cumberland Times - 14 Nov 1891
- ^{xxi} Cumbria Archives Ref [DLEC/3/9/4/39](#)
- ^{xxii} Kelly's Directories of Cumberland 1894 and 1897
- ^{xxiii} 1896 List of Mines - Government report from the Mines Department.
- ^{xxiv} Cumberland Pacquet and Ware's Whitehaven Advertiser - 18 Jun 1896
- ^{xxv} West Cumberland Times - 9 Sep 1896
- ^{xxvi} 6" series OS map. Cumberland Sheet LXII.SW. Revised: 1898, Published: 1900
- ^{xxvii} The Scotsman - 4 Jan 1897
- ^{xxviii} Carlisle Journal - 12 Jan 1897
- ^{xxix} Whitehaven News - 4 Feb 1897
- ^{xxx} Whitehaven News - 12 Aug 1897
- ^{xxxi} Whitehaven News - 11 Aug 1898
- ^{xxxii} National Probate Calendar
- ^{xxxiii} [National Archives BT 31/37135/58893](#). This file contains the original registration certificate, Memorandum and Articles of Association, sale agreement, and the usual regular filings of shareholders, directors and registered office.
- ^{xxxiv} Memorandum of Association and Newcastle Daily Chronicle - 28 Sep 1898
- ^{xxxv} 1899 List of Mines - Government report from the Mines Department.
- ^{xxxvi} Maryport Advertiser - 8 Sep 1900
- ^{xxxvii} 1900 List of Mines - Government report from the Mines Department.
- ^{xxxviii} Board of Trade Form E, 15 Jan 1900.
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- ^{xli} Whitehaven News - 6 Nov 1902
- ^{xlii} West Cumberland Times - 11 May 1904 and Whitehaven News - 30 Jun 1904
- ^{xliii} Whitehaven News - 1 Aug 1901
- ^{xliv} Whitehaven News - 30 Sep 1909
- ^{xliv} Maryport Advertiser - 3 Mar 1900
- ^{xlvi} Whitehaven Advertiser and Cleator Moor and Egremont Observer - 31 Dec 1910

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- xlvi Whitehaven News - 21 Mar 1912
- xlvi Whitehaven News - 28 Mar 1912
- xlvi Whitehaven News - 12 Sep 1912
- i Whitehaven Advertiser and Cleator Moor and Egremont Observer - 5 Oct 1912
- li Cumbria Archives Ref [DLONS/W/7/1/246](#)
- lii Cumbria Archives ref [DWM/640/12](#)
- liii 1921 Census
- liv 1923 Colliery Year Book and Coal Trades Directory
- lv Lancashire Evening Post - 19 May 1926
- lvi Board of Trade files - 5 Aug 1926
- lvii Cumbria Archives Ref [DLONS/W/7/1/471](#)
- lviii Newcastle Daily Chronicle - 19 Mar 1931 and National Probate Calendar
- lix Cumbria Archives Ref Cumbria Archives Ref [TNCB/BCC/AMP/66](#)
- lx 1933 Colliery Year Book and Coal Trades Directory
- lxi Board of Trade files – 18 Oct 1935
- lxii Board of Trade files
- lxiii 1939 Register
- lxiv Board of Trade files
- lxv Director's Report 25 Jul 1950. [National Archives BT 31/37135/58893](#)
- lxvi London Gazette - 4 Apr 1952 and Board of Trade files
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- lxviii Cumbria Archives Ref [DLONS/W/7/4/5/134](#)
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- lxx Cumbria Archives Ref [TNCB/BCC/EST/1/1](#)

Section 2

Moorside Colliery

1873 Cumbria Archives hold a draft lease from Lamplugh Hall Estate dated 1873, to [William Baird and Co.](#) The names of the signatories confirm that this was the firm of coal and iron masters in Lanarkshire.^{lxxi} From 1869 this firm leased hematite mines from Lamplugh Hall Estate at nearby Kelton and Knockmurton, their operations there continuing into the 20th century. Test borings were made at Moorside between 1873 and 1877.^{lxxii}

1874 Colliery owner W Baird & Co.^{lxxiii} Records show that the Royalty belonged to the Brooksbank family of Lamplugh Hall, with documents dated 1875 onwards.^{lxxiv}

Whilst we have evidence that coal was being raised in 1874 (prior to the Cumberland miner's strike), as the next paragraph indicates, Bairds did not persist with this coal royalty.

1876 Moorside shown as not working in 1876, but still in Bairds' ownership.^{lxxv}

1879 Offer made to Lamplugh Estate by letter of 23 Apr 1879 from John Parker of Asby and William Vraig and Abraham Dixon of Branthwaite offering to reopen the Moorside coal royalty formerly worked by Bairds. John Parker had formerly been Deputy Overman during the Bairds time and William Craig had also been employed by them and was a "steady man and a thoroughly practical miner".^{lxxvi} It is not known whether this was carried forward, but it is thought not.

1889 In Feb, reported the [William Dalzell](#) of Linethwaite, Whitehaven, in association with others (not named), had taken the lease to the Moorside royalty. [Andrew Johnston](#), of [Strongitharm and Johnston](#), mining engineers of Whitehaven, inspected the works and plans were agreed to lay a tramway to the former Whitehaven, Cleator and Egremont Railway (now LNWR/FR joint).^{lxxvii}

William Dalzell died suddenly in June (intestate) and an agreement was made for [James Duffield](#) of Workington, ironmaster and Andrew Johnston of Whitehaven, mining engineer, to take over the interests of William Dalzell in Moorside Colliery, Arlecdon, dated 2 Aug 1889.^{lxxviii} Duffield was general manager of [Charles Cammell and Co.](#), [Derwent Steel and Iron Works](#) and was shortly to become Mayor of Workington. At this time, Johnston lived at North Mosses, close by the colliery (see maps).

1891 Lease of Moorside Colliery by Walter Lamplugh Brooksbank to James Duffield of Ashfield House, Workington and Andrew Johnston of Whitehaven.^{lxxix}

1892 Andrew Johnston, acting partner [sic]. George Bitcon, deputy manager, Adam Miller, working manager.^{lxxx}

1893 A draft lease is archived in Dub Hall Estate papers described as "draft copy lease to the Moorside Colliery Co, 1893".^{lxxxi} The meaning is not clear.. that year, Andrew Johnston had taken the lease of Dub Hall Farm, so it could be the lease of the farm to the Moorside company, or it could be lease of additional coal royalty, or both.

1894 Directory entry - Moorside Coal Company, Moor Side (Arlecdon) and office in Whitehaven.^{lxxxii}

1894 William Donaldson, colliery manager (certificated mine manager). Andrew Johnston, engineer, mine agent.^{lxxxiii}

1894 Employees 36 (28 below ground, 8 surface).^{lxxxiv}

1895 reassignment of the 1891 lease to Joseph Smith Peile of Parton, and Thomas Bowman and George William Wilkinson - merchants of Whitehaven.^{lxxxv} None had a background in mining, Peile being a retired bookseller and publisher in Whitehaven, Wilkinson an iron ore and coal merchant and Bowman grocer, so Johnston's continued involvement was essential. Indeed, without having seen the manuscript, it is possible that he remained a partner and the reassignment was only of Duffield's share. Johnston was certainly a partner later.

1896 "Sinking and drifting have been carried out since the inrush of water to the old workings."^{lxxxvi}

1896 Coal cut in the drift and hope to employ men soon.^{lxxxvii}

1897 April - Advertised for 30 coal hewers.^{lxxxviii} October - Contractors wanted for coal dip.^{lxxxix}

1897 Adam Miller re-appointed manager. He had been the first manager, but had resigned several years previously and been replaced William Donaldson, who was retiring.^{xc}

1897 White Metal Band seam said to be abandoned 5 Jul 1897 - Drowned out, owing to extra influx of water.^{xc}

1897 Advertised for 20 coal hewers.^{xcii}

1898 Engine house destroyed by a fire.^{xciii} John Mackenzie new manager.^{xciv}

1899 White Metal Band or Six Quarters seam said to have been abandoned 16 Dec 1899 - unprofitable to work on account of faults.^{xcv}

1900 Johnston and his partner(s) took the nearby Asby Colliery (see section 3), so they owned both for a short time, referred as the Moorside and Asby Colliery Company.^{xcvi} In 1903 the lease of Asby was formalised to Andrew Johnston and Joseph Smith Peile.

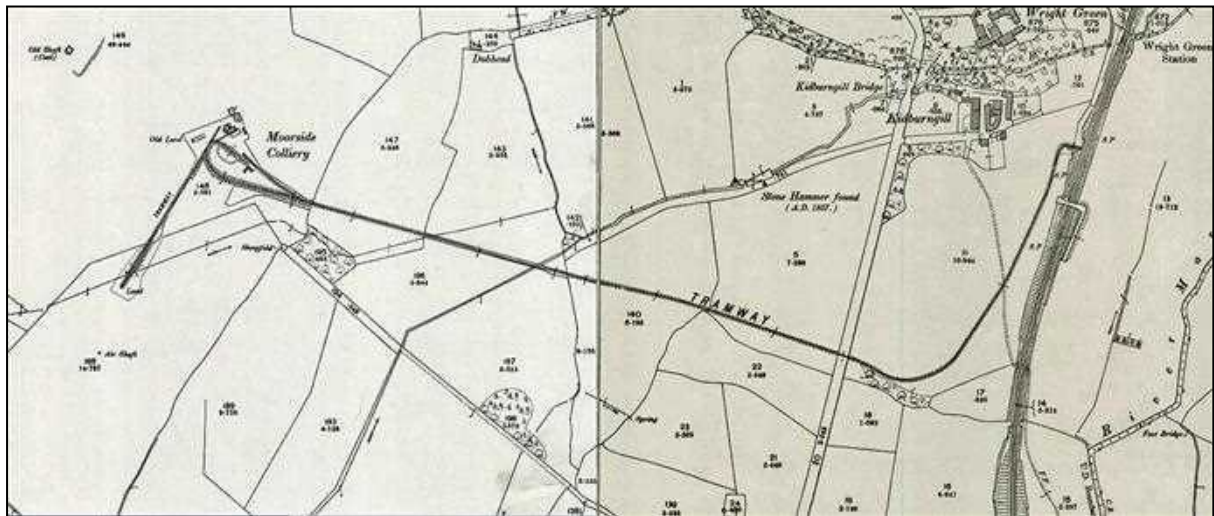
1901 Directory entry – "About a mile from Asby is the pit belonging to the Moorside Colliery Co. [sic], which was opened in 1893, and employs 40 persons. There are two drifts in operation, which yield about 50 tons per day."^{xcvii} The reference to opening in 1893 does not really fit with what we know. Note that elsewhere in the same directory it is named the Moorside Coal Company, which is believed to be correct, though there is a good deal of inconsistency.

c1903 Lease on Moorside colliery taken by the owners of next door Dean Moor colliery.^{xcviii} However, the indications are that work was not re-started for some time, at least above ground. Narrative continued in Section 3.

1908 Andrew Johnston, former partner, confirmed that Moorside Colliery Co. [sic] no longer existed and that part of the machinery had been removed.^{xcix}

Potentially useful additional source material not yet seen by the author

- Papers mainly relating to the leasing of the Moorside Colliery 1875, 1877 - 1878, 1880. Cumbria Archives ref DLAM/4/34/2.
- Cross section of seams at Dean Moor pit; plan of Moorside royalty, Dean. 1903. Cumbria Archives ref DWM/1/156.



25" Ordnance Survey Map (1898 revision) showing Moorside Colliery

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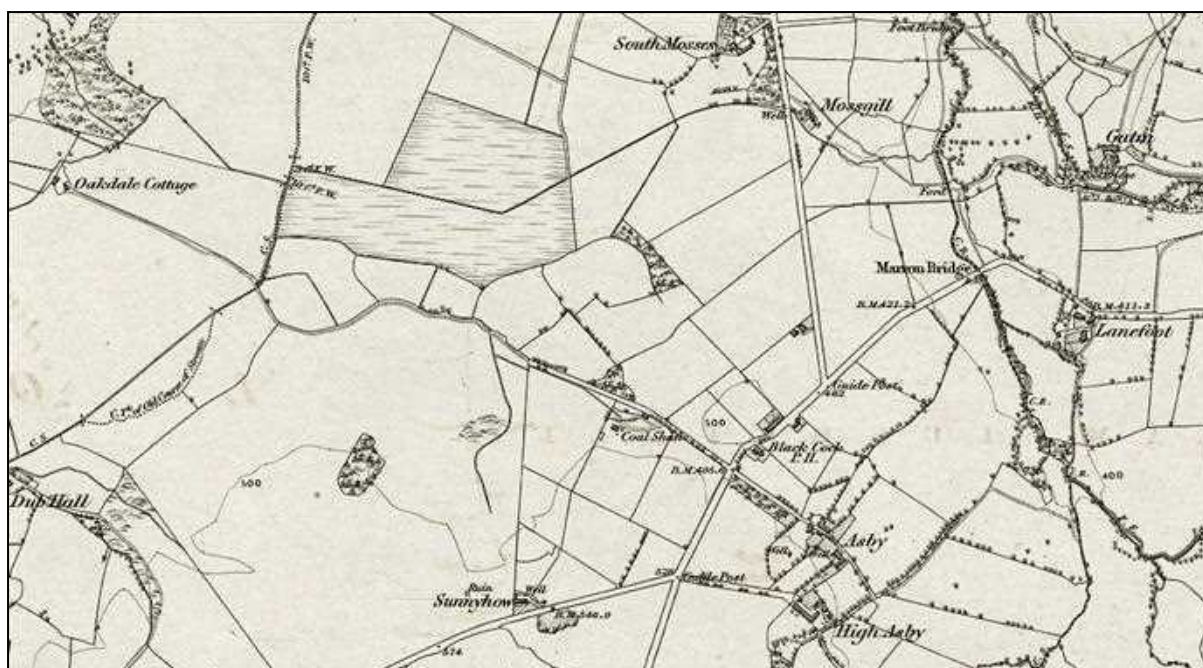
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- lxxi Cumbria Archives ref [DWM/317/4](#). Bundle of 5 Draft Leases of coal mines in the Parishes of Arlecdon and Lamplugh from Walter Lamplugh Brooksbank of Lamplugh Hall to Messrs W Baird and Co.
- lxxii Results of test borings at Moorside Colliery, Arlecdon; plan showing position of boreholes. Cumbria Archives, Lamplugh Hall family records ref [DLAM/4/33](#)
- lxxiii Mineral Statistics of the United Kingdom 1875.
- lxxiv 1875 on. Papers mainly relating to the leasing of the Moorside Colliery 1875, 1877 - 1878, 1880. Cumbria Archives, Lamplugh Hall family records ref [DLAM/4/34/2](#)
- lxxv [Mineral Statistics of the United Kingdom 1877](#)
- lxxvi Cumbria Archives ref [DWM/317/20](#)
- lxxvii Whitehaven News - 28 Feb 1889
- lxxviii Cumbria Archives ref [DWM/809/16](#)
- lxxix Cumbria Archives ref [DWM/317/22](#)
- lxxx Inquest into fatal accident - Maryport Advertiser - 17 Dec 1892
- lxxxi Cumbria Archives ref [DBH/24/59/26](#)
- lxxxii Kelly's Directory of Cumberland 1894
- lxxxiii West Cumberland Times - 27 Oct 1894
- lxxxiv 1894 List of Mines - Government report from the Mines Department
- lxxxv Cumbria Archives ref [DWM/317/22](#)
- lxxxvi Cumberland Pacquet and Ware's Whitehaven Advertiser - 18 Jun 1896
- lxxxvii West Cumberland Times - 9 Sep 1896
- lxxxviii West Cumberland Times - 7 Apr 1897
- lxxxix West Cumberland Times - 9 Oct 1897
- xc West Cumberland Times - 8 Dec 1897 and Whitehaven News - 6 Jan 1898
- xcj Durham Mining Museum website. Cumbria Archives Ref [TNCB/BCC/AMP/20](#), Abandoned Mine Plan: Moorside Colliery. Original 1900, copied 1933; White Metal or Six Quarters, 1897
- xcii West Cumberland Times - 15 Dec 1897
- xciii Whitehaven News - Thursday 10 Mar 1898
- xciv Whitehaven News - 15 Sep 1898
- xcv Durham Mining Museum website. Cumbria Archives Ref [TNCB/BCC/AMP/20](#), Abandoned Mine Plan: Moorside Colliery. Original 1900, copied 1933; White Metal or Six Quarters, 1897
- xcvi Letter from Andrew Johnston on behalf of the "Moorside and Asby Colliery Company" - Maryport Advertiser - 3 Mar 1900
- xcvii Bulmer's Directory of Cumberland 1901.
- xcviii Cumbria Archives ref [DWM/317/70](#)
- xcix Whitehaven News - 30 Jan 1908

Section 3

Asby Colliery

- c1859 [William Irving \(1811-1872\)](#) obtained a “take-note” from Lord Lonsdale to explore for coal at Asby,^c in rather remote district in the parish of Arlecdon. Irving had no background in mining, being in business as a draper in Workington.
- 1860 In May Messrs. Irving and Co. bored into a seam of good quality coal, 6 feet thick.^{ci} A “seam of excellent coal” was struck in December and several cart loads were raised - so this was by now a working shaft - and soon afterwards Irving entertained his workforce to a celebratory dinner.^{cii} A copy of a description of strata sunk through dated 1861 exists.^{ciii} There are several references to the colliery standing on land belonging to Mr Joseph Atkinson, but also it being a Lonsdale Royalty.
- 1862 Dinner given to Mr Irving at Lamplugh Cross by local people to express their appreciation for his having opened a colliery to the great benefit and convenience of the district.^{civ}
- 1863 Partnership dissolved. “William Irving, John William Irving, and George Clegg, carrying on business at Asby Colliery, in the Parish of Arlecdon, in the County Cumberland, as Coal-miners and Coal-merchants, under the firm of Asby Coal Company, has been dissolved as from the 2nd day of November, [1863], by mutual consent.” Business to be continued by William Irvine.^{cv} It is assumed that John William Irvine was his son, though aged only 19 at the time; nothing is known of George Clegg. UK Mineral Stats (1863) shows owner as J Irving and Son [sic] which is clearly incorrect.
- 1863 Ordnance survey map (overleaf) shows a coal shaft at the colliery site, but no rail or tramway. The relevant section of the Whitehaven, Cleator and Egremont Railway is not shown, not having opened until 1866.
- 1864 Lamplugh extension of the [Whitehaven, Cleator and Egremont Railway](#) opened as far as Collier Gate. At this station facilities were provided for loading coal wrought from Asby Colliery.^{cvi}
- 1865 Colliery Steward – Robert Frazer.^{cvii}
- 1866 [Whitehaven, Cleator and Egremont Railway](#) completed from Rowrah to Workington. By 1872 a branch had been constructed to the mouth of Asby Colliery, but the exact date has not been found.
- 1868 Overman Isaac Ashburn killed on 20 Apr 1868 in a gas explosion, carrying his lamp uncapped.^{cviii}
- 1871 In March, after 6 months work sinking the main shaft at Asby, Irving proved a seam of coal 8ft 6in thick, believed to be the Main Band.^{cix} In June an advert was placed for 30-40 coal hewers to work a seam 8ft 6in thick.^{cx}
- 1871 Lease from 2 Jan 1871 for 21 years, Asby Colliery comprising 215 acres, from the Earl of Lonsdale to William Irving.^{cx} This is believed to be a formalisation of the earlier take-note.



6" Ordnance Survey Map (1863 survey) showing Asby Colliery

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1872 William Irving died 6 Dec 1872.^{cxii} Although the will has not been seen, it is believed that his business was placed into the hands of Trustees for the lifetime benefit of his widow, Janet (née Johnston).

1873 Colliery offered for sale as a going concern by the late William Irving's trustees.^{cxiii} The colliery is described as having a shaft 53 fathoms deep, sinking through six seams of coal. A branch line connected to the [Whitehaven, Cleator and Egremont Railway](#). The vendors' mining engineer was [Henry Woolcock](#). The colliery did not sell and was continued by his trustees.^{cxiv}

1874 UK Mineral Stats 1875 (i.e. 1874 data) shows owner as Executors of the late W Irving.

1876 A Presbyterian minister named Rev. Joseph Burns alleged that William Irving had obtained the agreement for the colliery from Lord Lonsdale in 1859 through his good offices and that by virtue of an agreement dated 1860 was due 25% of the profits, which had never been paid. A court case followed in Chancery with the

FOR SALE, by Tender, ASBY COLLIERY,
near Workington and Whitehaven, in the county of Cumberland.

In consequence of the death of the late Mr. William Irving, the Lessee, the Trustees under his will are prepared to receive Tenders for the purchase of the above-named valuable Colliery, which, with all the PLANT, including ENGINES, WEIGHING MACHINES, RAILS, TIP, and all OFFICES complete, will be sold as a going concern.

The Coal field comprises 215½ acres, and is held upon very favourable terms, under a lease granted by the Earl of Lonsdale for the term of 21 years, from the 2nd January, 1871.

The Shaft is in depth 53 fathoms, and six seams of coal have been sunk through. One of these seams, which is upwards of seven feet in thickness, and good coal, and for which there is a considerable local demand, is now being actively worked. It is believed that the coal will be found under the whole of the royalty, and that other seams may be found below the present bottom.

The Colliery is in good working order, and has a branch line from the pit's mouth to the Whitehaven, Cleator, and Egremont Railway. It is within very easy rates of the neighbouring shipping ports, and of the numerous mines and ironworks in the districts.

Particulars of the colliery may be obtained on application to Mr. HENRY WOOLCOCK, C. and M.E., 61, Lowther-street, Whitehaven; J. F. SEDDON, M.E., Great Harwood Colliery, near Accrington; or C. R. STEELE, M.E., Maryport, either of whom will show the premises.

Conditions of sale, &c., may be obtained on application to Messrs. BROCKBANK AND HELDER, Solicitors, Whitehaven, by whom sealed tenders for the colliery, addressed to the trustees of the late William Irving, will be received up to the 30th day of April next.

The trustees do not bind themselves to accept the highest or any tender.

Whitehaven News - Thursday 27 March 1873
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defendants claimed that Rev Burns' documents were forgeries and the no agreement had ever existed. As the other two parties had died there was no other witness. The Court ruled that as Rev Burns had been supine and negligent in not actively pursuing his claim in a timely manner, he had debarred himself from getting relief in Court. The claim was dismissed with costs.^{cxv}

1877 UK Mineral Stats 1878 (i.e. 1877 data) shows owner as Executors of the late W Irving.

1878 Death of John William Irving on 27 Nov, son of the late William Irving.^{cxvi}

1881 Census entries – Tom Kirkbride (1855-1902), colliery overman. His brother William Kirkbride (1852-1899), coal mine deputy.

1882 Asby Colliery still owned by the trustees of the late William Irving.^{cxvii}

1883 Directory entries – Asby Colliery, John Ramsay, manager. Office 49 Lowther Street, Whitehaven, the office of Henry Woolcock and Son.^{cxviii}

1882 to 1891 Frank (Francis) Coulthard – manager. He left in 1891 to manage iron ore mines at Marbella.^{cxix}

1891 Mrs Janet Irving died on 12 Jan 1891. Her executors were Captain James Jacques and Henry Woolcock.^{cxx} As a result, the mine workers were given notice, pending rearrangement of working as a result of the proprietor's death. They chose to strike and the colliery was idle for 2 weeks before work restarted with half the number of hewers, pending some alterations.^{cxxi}

1891 Census – Adam Miller, colliery manager. Tom Kirkbride, colliery manager. William Kirkbride, colliery overman.

1891 Borehole put down from the Main Band north of the coal shaft (begun 27 August 1891, finished 21 February 1893).^{cxxii}

1892 [Henry Woolcock](#) died and was succeeded as agent for the mine by his son, [Joseph Henry Woolcock](#), who continued to trade from 49 Lowther Street, Whitehaven as H Woolcock and Son.. The lease on the colliery expired that year, but operations continued.

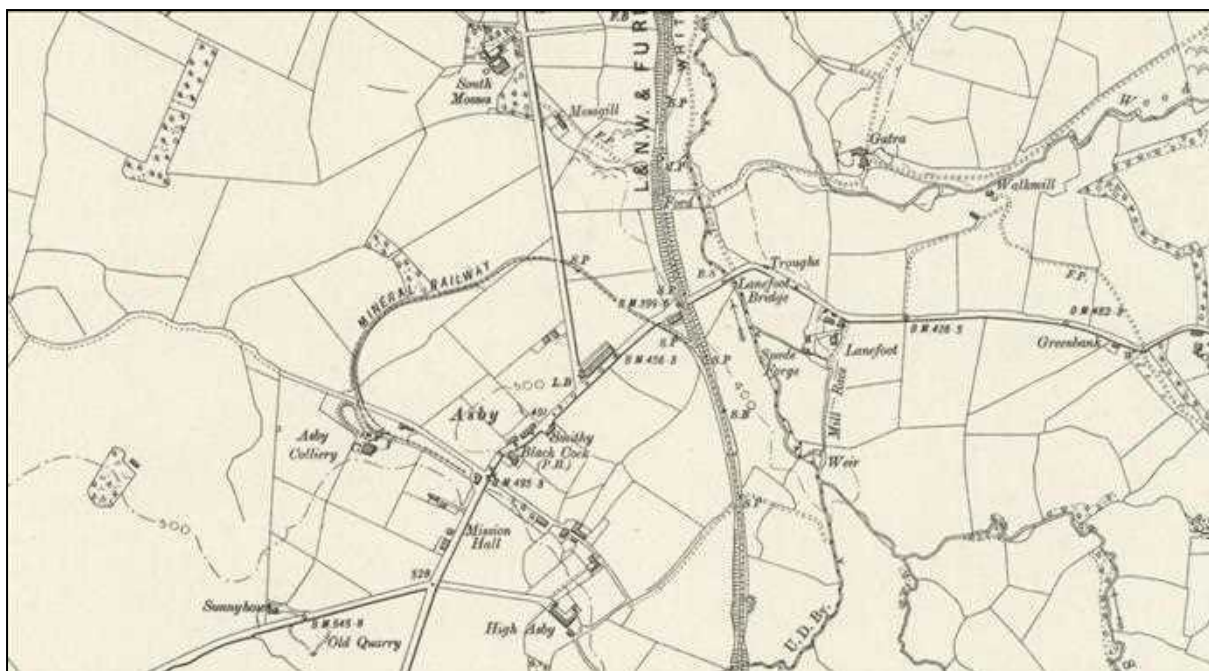
1892 Wood says ownership passed to J H Woodcock and J Huntrods in 1892, but this author is doubtful about that. That year William Thompson Irving and Richard Bowness Irving were allowed to be added to the electoral roll in Arlecdon based on their joint ownership of Asby Colliery since Jan 1891.^{cxxiii} It seems fairly clear that ownership remained with the trustees of the estates of William and Janet Irving until Apr 1893, when a limited company was formed.

1893 **Asby Colliery Company Limited** incorporated on 27 Apr 1893 (company No: 38732) with capital of £7,000 to purchase Asby Colliery.^{cxxiv} The colliery was bought through two agreements, one with Joseph Henry Woolcock, William Thompson Irving and Richard Bowness Irving, and the other with James Jacques. Without seeing the agreements, it is likely that the former were the surviving trustees of William Irving's estate and the latter for Janet Irving.

The initial subscribers were James Jacques (gentleman), Joseph H Woolcock (engineer), John Cuthbertson Irving (cabinet maker), James Jacques Irving (chemist), Richard Bowness Irving (mining engineer), Janet Johnston Irving (spinster) and William Thompson Irving (engineer). The Irvings named were all children of the late John William Irving. W T and R B Irving both give their address as 409 Lowther Street, suggesting both worked for Woolcock.

- 1893 Potts Mining Register lists 2 collieries owned by Asby Colliery Company Limited. Asby Colliery, manager J H Woolcock and Jenny Lind colliery, manager J H Rothery. This is a puzzle, as there is no record anywhere else of a Jenny Lind pit or colliery at Asby.
- 1894 Directory entry – Asby Colliery Company, Asby; office 49 Lowther Street, Whitehaven. James Rothery, manager; William Kirkbride, underground manager (brothers, both resided Asby Road)³. John Gowan, clerk – resided North Mosses. H Woodcock and Son managers.^{cxxv}
- 1894 Captain Jacques chairman Asby Colliery Company Limited.^{cxxvi}
- 1894 Frank Simon appointed as certificated mine manager in place of James Rothery (resigned).^{cxxvii}
- 1895 George Ashbridge appointed manager of Asby Colliery. Formerly under-manager at No 9 Colliery, Parton.^{cxxviii}
- 1895 Long serving Chief Clerk, John Gowan of Rowrah left to emigrate to South Africa.^{cxxix}
- 1896 New head gear erected over the air shaft with a view to winding coal from the Rattler Seam.^{cxxx}
- 1897 Directory entry – Asby Colliery Company, Asby. George Ashbridge, manager. Office 49 Lowther Street, Whitehaven. H Woodcock and Son managers.^{cxxxi}
- 1897 Thomas Steele, formerly manager of Crossbow Colliery, Dearham, appointed manager of Asby Colliery, with George Ashbridge as under-manager.^{cxxxii}
- 1898 Thomas Steele became sole manager.^{cxxxiii}
- 1898 Report to the Asby Coal Company New Lowther Street, by F Coulthard, Arica Villa, Whitehaven, 10 February 1898. Covers the effects of flooding, and remedies for same; other prospect for the Colliery); a list of Asby Colliery coal and fireclay seams in the White Metal Band, Bannock Band ("China"), Rattler Band ("Moresby Bannock"; alone includes fireclay), Yard Band, Main Band, and Moresby Yard Band.^{cxxxiv}
- 1898 By March 1898 over half the issued shares (87/156) belonged to [Joseph Huntrods](#), engineer of Workington.^{cxxxv}
- 1898 Ordnance survey map shows the colliery with air shaft and winding shaft, and a connection to the former Whitehaven, Cleator and Egremont Railway (Below).^{cxxxvi}

³ William Kirkbride died in 1889, aged 42. His obit says that for many years he was “deputy and paymaster and overman at Asby colliery.” (West Cumberland Times - 29 Jul 1899)



6" Ordnance Survey Map (1898 revision) showing Asby Colliery

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- 1899 Resolution at EGM that the **Asby Colliery Company Limited to be wound up voluntarily** by reason of its liabilities. Chairman Joseph Huntrods.^{cxxxvii}
- 1900 Meeting of the Asby Colliery Company Limited held 29 Sep 1900 to receive liquidator's report on completing of winding up.^{cxxxviii} Notwithstanding this, the colliery continued to operate, and a few weeks later it was stated that Andrew Johnston and Co., were owners of Asby Colliery with William Jameson (or Jamieson), colliery manager.^{cxxxix} The owners were revealed in another report to be Andrew Johnston and Joseph Smith Peile.^{cxl} The pair had previously held the lease to neighbouring Moorside Colliery, see Section 2.
- 1901 Directory – "The village of Asby occupies an elevated position about half-way between Rowrah and Wright Green, being one mile distant from either place. Most of the inhabitants are engaged in mining. The coalpit of the Asby Colliery Co., Ltd., [sic – so clearly a little out of date] is near the village. It has a depth of 25 fathoms to the Bannock Band, and 42 fathoms to the Yard Band. The output averages about 60 tons daily, and the number of hands employed 40."^{cxli}
- 1902 After a strike of a month, it was announced that the colliery was to be closed down while a shaft was sunk to a lower seam.^{cxlii} A report by the inspector of mines in June stated that the colliery had been abandoned, with inferior coal and a bad roof; coal was exhausted in the white metal band.^{cxliii}
- 1903 2 Apr 1903, Colliery leased by the Lowther Estate to Joseph Smith Peile (gentleman of Parton) and Andrew Johnston, mining engineer of Whitehaven.^{cxliv} The royalty now comprised 250 acres; a map accompanies the agreement but cannot be reproduced here. The agreement gives no indication of any previous agreement.

- 1903 By May, a shaft had been sunk and discovered a good seam of coal at a lower level. Andrew Johnston was engineer and manager.^{cxlv}
- 1906 Directory entry – Asby Colliery Co.. Andrew Johnston, manager. Office, Whitehaven.^{cxlvi}
- 1907 Death of Joseph Smith Peile, 20 May 1907.
- 1908 Colliery offered for sale. Sale particulars are archived^{cxlvii}, but catalogue does not say whether this was an auction, as a going concern, or just the plant and machinery which were advertised for sale in October.^{cxlviii} The mine was abandoned 31 Oct 1908. Abandonment plans archived covering Bannock Band; White Metal Band; Rattler Band; Main Band.^{cxlix}
- 1912 Death of Andrew Johnston.

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-
- ^c From evidence produced in court case 1876, Burns v Irving
- ^{ci} Whitehaven Herald and Cumberland Advertiser - 5 May 1860
- ^{cii} Cumberland Pacquet and Ware's Whitehaven Advertiser - 25 Dec 1860 and 1 Jan 1861
- ^{ciii} Cumbria Archives ref TNCB/6/13
- ^{civ} Whitehaven Herald and Cumberland Advertiser - 19 Apr 1862
- ^{cv} The London Gazette - 13 Nov 1863
- ^{cvi} Whitehaven Herald and Cumberland Advertiser - 13 Feb 1864
- ^{cvi} Whitehaven Herald and Cumberland Advertiser - 30 Dec 1865
- ^{cvi} 1868 Mines Inspectors Report, Northumberland, North Durham and Cumberland District
- ^{cix} Whitehaven News - 2 Feb 1871; Whitehaven Herald and Cumberland Advertiser - 11 Mar 1871
- ^{cx} Workington Free Press and Solway Pilot - 17 Jun 1871
- ^{cx} Cumbria Archives Reference [DLONS/W/7/1/464](#) and Whitehaven News - 27 Mar 1873 (advert for sale of colliery)
- ^{cxi} National Probate Calendar and obituary, [Whitehaven Herald and Cumberland Advertiser - 14 Dec 1872](#)
- ^{cxi} Whitehaven News - 27 Mar 1873
- ^{cxi} Workington Free Press and Solway Pilot - 11 Mar 1876
- ^{cxi} Workington Free Press and Solway Pilot - 11 Mar 1876, 8 Apr and 27 May 1876
- ^{cxi} Workington Free Press and Solway Pilot - 30 Nov 1878
- ^{cxi} Midland & Northern Coal & Iron Trades Gazette - 9 Aug 1882
- ^{cxi} Bulmer's Directory of Cumberland 1883
- ^{cxi} West Cumberland Times - 21 Nov 1891
- ^{cxi} Cumberland Pacquet and Ware's Whitehaven Advertiser - 31 Dec 1891
- ^{cxi} Workington Free Press and Solway Pilot - 24 Jan 1891 and Whitehaven Advertiser and Cleator Moor and Egremont Observer - 14 Feb 1891
- ^{cxi} Cumbria Archives ref TNCB/6/13
- ^{cxi} Cumberland Pacquet and Ware's Whitehaven Advertiser - 29 Sep 1892
- ^{cxi} [Board of Trade file, National Archives ref BT 31/5568/38732](#) and Cumberland Pacquet and Ware's Whitehaven Advertiser - 11 May 1893
- ^{cxi} Kelly's Directory of Cumberland 1894
- ^{cxi} West Cumberland Times - 27 Jan 1894
- ^{cxi} Cumberland Pacquet and Ware's Whitehaven Advertiser - 30 Aug 1894
- ^{cxi} West Cumberland Times - 12 Oct 1895
- ^{cxi} Maryport Advertiser - 9 Nov 1895
- ^{cxi} Cumberland Pacquet and Ware's Whitehaven Advertiser - 18 Jun 1896
- ^{cxi} Kelly's Directory of Cumberland 1897
- ^{cxi} Maryport Advertiser - 11 Sep 1897
- ^{cxi} Whitehaven News - 3 Nov 1898
- ^{cxi} Cumbria Archives ref Reference [TNCB/6/18/2](#)
- ^{cxi} Board of Trade Form E
- ^{cxi} 6" Series Map. Cumberland Sheet LXII.SW. Revised: 1898, Published: 1900
- ^{cxi} The London Gazette - 21 Nov 1899
- ^{cxi} The London Gazette - 28 Aug 1900
- ^{cxi} Carlisle Journal - 16 Nov 1900
- ^{cx} Maryport Advertiser - 19 Jan 1901
- ^{cx} Bulmer's Directory of Cumberland – 1901
- ^{cx} Whitehaven News - 13 Mar 1902
- ^{cx} Whitehaven News - 5 Jun 1902
- ^{cx} Cumbria Archives Ref [DLONS/W/7/1/469](#) (seen)
- ^{cx} Maryport Advertiser - 16 May 1903
- ^{cx} Kelly's Directory of Cumberland 1906
- ^{cx} Whitehaven News - 22 Oct 1908
- ^{cx} Sale Particulars – Cumbria Archives ref [DH/412](#)
- ^{cx} Cumbria Archives ref TNCB/BCC/AMP/38

Section 4

Lamplugh Colliery

A small and short-lived colliery located by the River Marron, between Ullock and Wright Green. On the property of the Dickinsons of Red How. Little information is immediately available through on-line sources, but much is held in Cumbria Archives which would help this narrative.

- 1873 First sod cut.^{cl}
- 1874 Lamplugh Colliery was directly connected to the railway by a branch called the Whitehaven, Cleator and Egremont Railway: Lamplugh Colliery line.^{cli}
- 1875 First wagon load of coal.^{clii}
- 1875 Lamplugh Colliery Co., 14 Tangier St., Whitehaven. This address suggests a connection with the [Burnyeat family](#), but no other information has come to hand about the owners.
- 1877 Report by [J D Kendall](#) on Lamplugh Colliery.^{cliii}
- 1877 Way leave and lease granted to build a tramway.^{cliv}
- 1877 Owner - Lamplugh Colliery Company.^{clv}
- 1878 Employees given 2 weeks' notice. Intention to permanently close the colliery.^{clvi} The cause was shortage of orders and poor economics. They had sought a reduction of 1d per ton in rent, but this was refused. After the closure was announced, a rent reduction was offered, possibly extending the life of the colliery, but it is not clear whether this happened.
- 1879 Several documents point to efforts to sell the colliery in 1879, but no dated period document has been found.^{clvii}
- 1880 Man working at Lamplugh Colliery injured by roof fall^{clviii}. It is possible that in this case they could mean a colliery in Lamplugh (e.g. Asby) so this may not indicate that the colliery was still working.

No dissolution notice for the owners found.

Potentially useful additional source material not yet seen by the author

- Plan of Lamplugh colliery. Adjacent landowners; L. N. W. Railway; river Marron. Date 1877. Cumbria Archives ref DBT/26/46
- Printed description of Lamplugh Colliery (undated) "to be let, in full working order". It states that "The Colliery has been worked since the year 1875 ... It is ... close ... to the Cleator Branch of the L.N.W.R., with which it is connected by a tramway; so that the wagons are brought to the pit-head" Cumbria Archives ref [DDI/13/6](#) Note that the mention of the LNWR dates this at 1877 or later.^{clix}

- Lamplugh Colliery: Plan of Workings. "Copied April 21st 1879 from Lessees Plan." Shows the underground workings, with certain surface features also (Pithead buildings, tramway to and line of the Whitehaven Cleator and Egremont Railway, Todhole Farm). Cumbria Archives ref DDI/35.



25" Ordnance Survey Map (1898 revision) showing the location of Lamplugh Colliery upper right, with the embankment for the branch railway shown. This is still just visible on Google Earth.

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- ^{cl} Cumbria Archives Ref [DDI/51/1](#)
- ^{cli} National Archives file ref [MT 6/112/9](#), dated 1874.
- ^{clii} Cumbria Archives Ref [DDI/51/1](#)
- ^{cliii} Cumbria Archives Ref [DDI/12](#) and [DDI/13](#)
- ^{cliv} Cumbria Archives Ref [DDI/46/5/14](#)
- ^{clv} Mineral Statistics of the UK, 1878 (1877 data)
- ^{clvi} Workington Free Press and Solway Pilot - 1 Jun 1878 and 8 Jun 1878
- ^{clvii} 14 August 1896 letter covering the return of borrowed items from Whitehaven Castle Estate to the Dickinsons - specifically - "1. Tracing, Plan of the Lamplugh Colliery, 1879. 2. Printed description for advertising the same. 3. Book of Journals of Boreholes made in the Estates of Red How, Havercroft, Woodend, and Todhole. 4. Tracing of Lamplugh Colliery (small scale) torn". Cumbria Archives ref [DDI/13/5](#)
- ^{clviii} Cumberland Pacquet and Ware's Whitehaven Advertiser - 18 May 1880
- ^{clix} London and North-western Railway (Whitehaven, Cleator, and Egremont Railway Vesting) Act 1877

Section 5

Branthwaite Colliery

This colliery was located just north of Branthwaite railway station (see upper centre on map below) and operated in the early part of the 20th century. The Manor of Branthwaite belonged to the Curwens of Workington Hall.

There is evidence that a colliery was worked at Branthwaite in the 1870s in the ownership of John Graham, but it is not thought that this was the same colliery.^{clx} Large scale maps of 1898 show an “old level” close to the river just to the south of the village (see bottom right in map below).

The first mention of this colliery found is in 1900, in the ownership of membership of members of the West family. It is not mentioned in the 1897 directory nor is it shown on the 1898 survey Ordnance Survey map. The indications are that this was a drift mine, worked from a level, and it is interesting to note that neither of the brothers later named as manager has any mining experience or certification.

The Wests were farmers. William West, the father, was killed in an accident in Jan 1897. His family comprised wife Ann, sons William, Robert, John and Thomas, and a daughter Ann. At the time of his death, West held 2 farms, Far Branthwaite Edge and Stargill. He also owned a flour mill, saw mill and cottage in the village^{clxi} and at this point William the younger was miller at Branthwaite Mill.⁴

1900 The government annual mine report first lists Branthwaite Colliery, with 5 employees (4 below, 1 surface)^{clxii} and manager William West (no certificate).

1901 “NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership lately subsisting between us the undersigned, John Marshall, William West, Robert West, John West, and Ann West, carrying on business as Colliery Owners, at Branthwaite, in the parish of Dean, in the county of Cumberland, under the style or firm of “The Branthwaite Colliery Company,” has been dissolved by mutual consent so far as regards the said John Marshall, who retires from the firm as from the 29th day of November, 1900. All debts due to or owing by the said late firm will be received and paid by the said William West, Robert West, John West, and Ann West, who will continue the said business under the present style or firm of “The Branthwaite Colliery Company.”—As witness our hands this fifth day of January, 1901. John Marshall; John West; William West; Ann West; Robert West.”^{clxiii} Who John Marshall was is not known, and we cannot say whether Ann West was mother or daughter. We might note that Thomas was not part of the firm.

1901 The 1901 census finds widow Ann, John, Robert and Ann jr at Far Branthwaite Edge, Thomas married and farming at Stargill, while William occupied the mill.

1902 Employees 9 (7 below, 2 surface). Manager: R West (no certificate).^{clxiv}

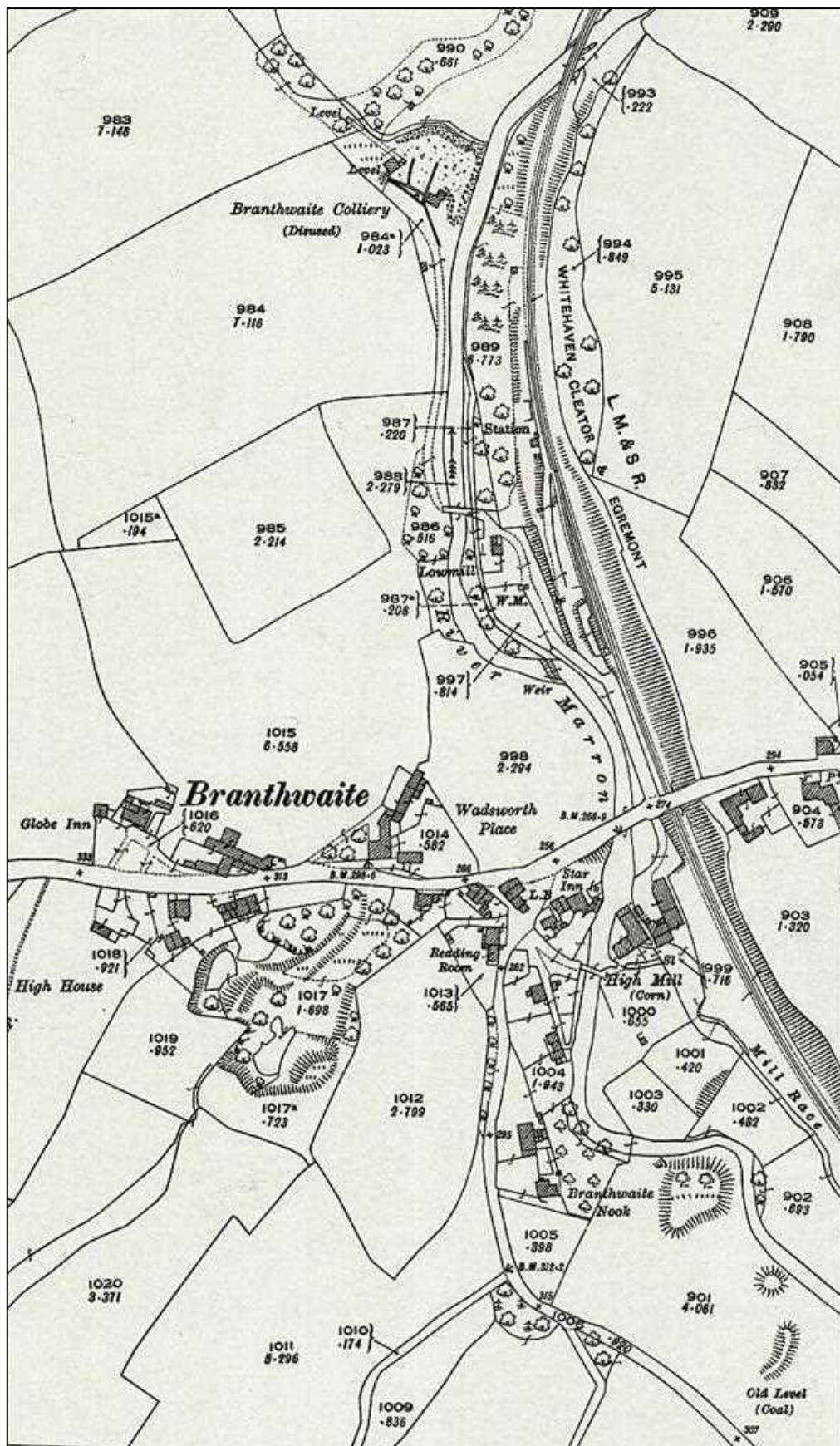
⁴ According to OS maps, Branthwaite had two corn mills - high mill and low mill - and a paper mill. It also had a water powered saw mill, which it is assumed was attached to one of the corn mills, though maps give no clue. For a time, William West was a miller and sawyer. It is understood that by West’s time, one of the mills was derelict, and since the High Mill survives today, it is likely that this was West’s mill.

- 1902 A 500 acre coal royalty “under the Estates of Branthwaite in the Parish of Dean” was advertised to let.^{clxv} It is thought that this was unrelated to Wests’ colliery, but there is no other detail.
- 1905 Employees 10 (7 below, 3 surface). Manager: R West (no certificate).^{clxvi}
- 1906 Directory entry - William West of Branthwaite, miller (water), saw-miller and colliery proprietor. Ann West and Sons, farmers, Branthwaite Edge.^{clxvii}
- 1908 Report of strong demand for ganister⁵ and clay at Mr West’s coal pit.^{clxviii}
- 1910 Employees 12 (9 below, 3 surface). Manager: R West (no certificate).^{clxix}
- 1910 Directory entry – Branthwaite Colliery Co., William West and Brothers proprietors. William West of Branthwaite, miller (water), saw miller and colliery proprietor.^{clxx}
- 1912 Branthwaite Colliery, along with nearby Dean Moor, was still operating during the national strike, the only collieries in Cumberland.^{clxxi}
- 1912 Branthwaite Colliery extension. Curwen estate correspondence relating to draft terms for a lease to Mr West.^{clxxii}
- 1914 Directory entry – Branthwaite Colliery Co. William West and Brothers, proprietors. William West of Branthwaite, miller (water), saw miller and colliery proprietor.^{clxxiii}
- 1915 Employees 3 (2 below, 1 surface). Manager: W West (no certificate).^{clxxiv}
- 1918 Extension of lease for Branthwaite Colliery, Curwen estate.^{clxxv}
- 1920 Colliery passed into the ownership of the [United Steel Companies Limited](#).^{clxxvi}
- 1921 Employees 20 (16 below, 4 surface). Manager: Andrew Miller. Certificated manager^{clxxvii}
Andrew Miller had been manager of Workington Iron and Steel Co’s Harrington and Gillhead Collieries for some years and continued in that position when United Steel was formed.
- 1923 Branthwaite Colliery abandonment plan - Six Quarters with Little Main.^{clxxviii}
- 1923 Colliery shown as disused on OS Map.

Potentially useful additional source material not yet seen by the author

- Map showing coal royalties, Curwen and Leconfield estates, Distington, Wythemoor and Branthwaite. Likely to be properties leased to United Steel Companies. Cumbria Archives ref DCU/Colliery Plans/59.
- Branthwaite Colliery fire insurance plan of surface buildings (only) 6 Feb 1922 for Eagle Star Insurance Co. Cumbria Archived ref TNCB/6/15.

⁵ A close-grained, hard siliceous rock found in the coal measures of northern England, and used for furnace linings.



25" Ordnance Survey Map (1923 revision) showing Branthwaite Colliery

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- clxxvii List of Mines - Government report from the Mines Department.
- clxxviii Cumbria Archives Reference [TNCB/BCC/AMP/52](#)

