



NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 21

SEPTEMBER 2002

Iontaobhas Oidhreachta Mianadóireachta na hEireann

Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland

CONTENTS

- 2 Activities – AGM; West Cork Field Meet, Geophysical Survey
- 6 Publications – MHTI Journal; Proceedings of Nenagh MINET Conference; Mineral Statistics
- 7 Conferences/Meetings
- 8 Spanish Share Certificates pursued
- 9 Newly discovered mining history source material – Allihies, Avoca
- 10 Man-engine House Allihies
- 12 Questions and answers – Cornish miners in West Cork

EDITORIAL

Your editor had assumed that the publication of a Journal would lead to a nice slim Newsletter just updating members on events. However, there has been much activity of one kind or another and it has been a job not making a mini-journal! Apologies therefore to all whose news items have been truncated.

Amidst the news it would be easy to miss an important development at Allihies. John Morris' brief report alludes to "difficulties" in relation to saving the man-engine house. In fact these were such that a lesser mortal might have consigned it to its fate, but John persevered through all adversities. Assuming he is nearly there and it will be saved, for many of us it has already become the John Morris man-engine house Allihies.

Des Cowman dcowman@iol.ie

MHTI PROGRAMME of EVENTS 2002-2003

(Bold print indicates finalised programmes; further details will be sent to members of events in ordinary print)

- **30th September – 4th October: Research visit to Guildhall Library, London, to investigate prospectii of Irish mining companies (For details contact John Morris or Des Cowman)**
- Nov 2-3 (provisional dates) Allihies. Visit to inspect work on restoration of the man-engine house. The date will be dependent on the stage of work reached by the contractors. Contact John Morris for details.
- **NAMHO 2003, Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow. 7-8th June 2003**
with field and underground visits around the Wicklow/Avoca area.
- Spring 2003: Workshop on Geophysical techniques at Tankardstown
- Provisional Spring 2003 Conference: Mining and the Environment: the historical legacy

WWW.MHTI.IE

REPORTS ON MHTI ACTIVITIES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This was held on Sunday 23 June 2002 in the Community Hall, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny

Opening Addresses

Seamus Walsh welcomed the Trust to Castlecomer and gave a brief update on recent developments in the area by the Colliery Heritage Association and Castlecomer Demesne Association. Margaret McGrath of the Fassadine Historical Society also welcomed the group and encouraged the many local people present to join MHTI.

Chairman's Address

M. Critchley congratulated the people of Castlecomer for the welcome the MHTI received and for organising demonstrations and exhibits in the hall. He summarised the origins of the MHTI, which is now a charity, trust and company limited by guarantee. The formal business of the AGM was outlined.

He reported on the activities since the last AGM of MHSI including the increasing acceptance of MHTI as an authority on mining heritage. This has included recognition by Dúchas (with MHTI as potential contractor for certain works) and the Eastern Fisheries Board (concerned with acid mine drainage, now with MHTI representative as committee member).

The first Journal is now published and thanks were expressed to D. Cowman and M. Parkes for its production. A difficult year for field activities was caused by Foot and Mouth restrictions, which caused the re-scheduling of the NAMHO meeting. This will now take place at Avondale, Co. Wicklow in 2003. Heritage Week was also restricted but a successful exhibition was mounted in the GSI, some of which was displayed in Castlecomer at this AGM.

With all underground workings in the Republic being the property of the State it is significant that the Exploration and Mining

Division has granted access for the MHTI. Documentation and research of workings is proceeding, particularly in preparation for trips as part of NAMHO 2003.

There is only one tourist mine, at Glengowla, Co. Galway. It is hoped to continue to support this private venture and to encourage others to develop. Conservation work by the Trust has concentrated on the man-engine house at Allihies in west Cork. Grants awarded in 2001 could not be used due to Foot and Mouth restrictions but have been secured again. The Trust requires a budget of €200-300,000 for the project and plans to commence work in two months time. The trust is indebted to the work of J. Morris with the people of Allihies for the work so far.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer E. Duffy distributed 5 pages summarising the accounts, both for MHTI and MHSI. The auditors, Fielding Flynn, were thanked for their work. Re-appointment of Fielding Flynn as auditors for the coming period was proposed (M. Critchley), seconded (M. Parkes), carried unanimously.

Election of Directors

N. Monaghan informed the meeting of the requirement that all Director's must resign at the first AGM. Two Directors (N. Moles and K. Verbruggen) were not available for re-election and were thanked for their contribution to the Trust. The following Directors were elected at the meeting.

D. Cowman, W. Cox, M. Critchley, E. De Stafort, E. Duffy, B. Jones, P. Lally, N. Monaghan, J. Morris, M. Parkes, S. Walsh

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Emer Crean	Margaret McGrath
Brian Jones	John Brennan
Petra Coffey	Jim Carroll
Anthony Power	John Curran
James Murphy	Michael Crowhurst
Willie Joe Meally	Kieran Moran
Ainsley Cocks	
Nancy and James Geoghegan	
Industrial Heritage Association of Ireland	

WEST CARBERY FIELD EXCURSION Co. Cork, May 15 – 16, 2002.

The Copper Mines. About a dozen members met in where we were met by our guides for the morning – and here we would like to thank most sincerely the members of the *Rosscarbery and District Historical Society* for their generosity and help in organizing and leading the trip on both days: Paddy O’Sullivan, Fachtna O’Callaghan, Sean O’Mahony and Michael Tobin.

The day started overcast and dis-improved very rapidly, as, over the next few hours we were doomed to experience every conceivable form of rain. First stop Glandore – to view the remnants of the manganese mine and the **Maulagow** boglands.



Maulagow. General view of boglands from which copper rich peat was extracted.

Copper impregnated peat was apparently discovered here by Colonel Hall, who is also associated with the discovery of copper at Allihies at about the same time. At first he bought in copper rich ash from locals and exported it to Swansea at £8 per ton. The early success encouraged him to establish much larger scale peat burning operations, and between 1810 – 1819 he recovered about 600 tons of copper enriched ash, valued at £5,000. Some of that production is variously recorded under the names “Burnt Irish” and “Malagow” in “Mineral Statistics”.

The **Glandore (Aghatubrid)** mine stands on a ridge overlooking the now completely worked-out boglands. Col. Hall had

prospected the area for the source of the copper in the boglands, and discovered manganese during these operations, it was not until about 1840 that serious development was undertaken, though all work ceased by about 1850 as a result of more competitively priced manganese from Germany. It was reworked again in the late 19th century.

Today, some of these workings are still readily visible, including an overgrown flooded adit, which drains from the mine workings into the boglands. But the undoubted showpiece is the Glandore engine house, which the landowner, Brendan Mahony, kindly allowed us to visit. This is in remarkably good condition and it is now the sole surviving representative example of Cornish Engine Houses in the entire West Carbery mining district. For that reason alone, it should feature very prominently for conservation, an objective which should be given urgent attention, as an attempt was made to demolish it in recent years on safety grounds. Here we were conducted around by Paddy O’Sullivan who gave us the benefit of his extensive exploration of the mine, particularly its underground aspects. He helped us make sense of the relationship between the adit, the great pit-cum-shaft (securely hidden in fenced undergrowth) and the engine house. By then, the rain was bucketing down, so the sodden, bedraggled group headed back to the “Leap Inn” to consider the situation.

We decided to carry on and headed west to visit the remnants of Cappagh, Ballycummisk and Coosheen mines and were rewarded by a gloriously sunny afternoon. Marvellous weather, but what a depressing sight at **Cappagh** – an almost funereal gathering by the remnants of the chimney [V 99027 32445] which had been for so long a landmark in the region – felled, not by Fred Dibnah, but by lightning a few months ago, as reported in Newsletter 18. A 10’ [3m] high stump is all that now remains as rubble, most of which has already been cleared away. The Captains House and other buildings are however, still



Cappagh chimney. The sad remains of what was until early this year a local landmark.

in good shape, as are the remains of a terrace of probable workshops. Tom Reilly showed us a curious hollowed out depression in the bedrock beside these, which looks quite unnatural – perhaps a pestle connected to assay work in one of the adjoining buildings?

Evidence of strangely sited concrete pylons at **Ballycummisk** suggest that much of the 19th century workings there has been obliterated by later operations. In contrast, **Coosheen** turned out to be somewhat more rewarding – even if part of it is now contained within a golf course, though the Club management were very obliging in permitting us entry. The powder magazine [V 94107 31207], now housing a water pump, is in good condition, though overgrown with ivy. It stands beside a dammed up and partially flooded open cutting leading back towards the deep adit.

About 300m below this, and close to the edge of Schull Bay, there is a complex of single storey buildings which are almost certainly part of the mine infrastructure though hard now to decipher. In the building at the south end of the complex, we found in situ narrow gauge [74 cm outside rail edge, 70 cm inside rail edge] rail lines (as well as bogies) below a possible entry point opening in the upslope side of the building. We also visited the inland end of Coosheen site: mainly fenced off shafts, the heavily overgrown remnant of an engine house wall [V 94529 31302], now incorporated into a farm-yard enclosure, and concrete foundations of a 20th C winding engine house.



Coosheen Mine. Powder house, with Ewan Duffy standing in adit cutting on the left.

The Slate Quarries

Next day, a complete contrast, visiting 3 slate quarries, again led by our friends from the Rosscarberry and District Historical Society. First stop, **Modrana Slate Quarry** [W23282 39251]. Workable slate deposits were first discovered at Benduff (see below) about 1812, though these here, and nearby at Cooladreen (see below) are somewhat later in origin. Here the workings are primarily underground, in the form of a series of about 10 interconnecting galleries, each measuring up to about 15m in plan view and 10m high. The pillars between connecting galleries are punctured by sublevels, with a ventilation drive at the top of each pillar to provide an exhaust route for blasting fumes. The slate was worked in “veins”; these defined as joint defined blocks which determined the maximum size of blocks of slate extracted for splitting and dressing. The galleries here are a sight to behold, and reasonably easily accessible with wellies to traverse the flooded first and second galleries.



Modrana Quarry. Above: general view.



Modrana Quarry. Close up of entrance to underground workings with MHTI group.

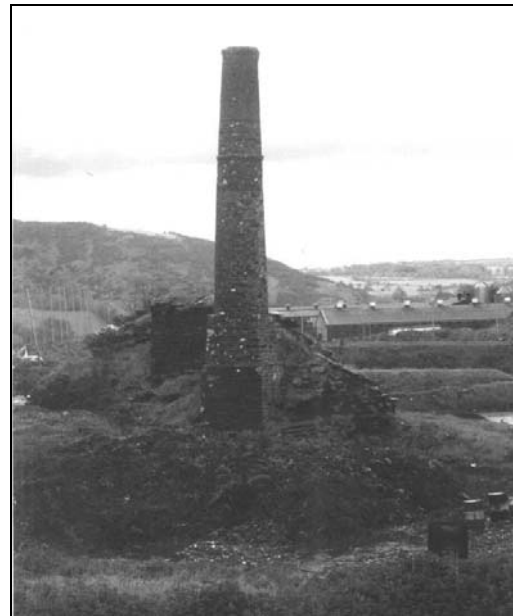
The **Cooladreen Slate Quarry** [W 23576 39467] is about 600m across the valley from Modrana. When extraction commenced here is uncertain, though as it is mentioned by Griffith, Cole and Kinahan, it was probably in existence by at least the 1880s. In contrast to Modrana, operations here were entirely by open pit, which extended to a depth of about 40m when operations ceased in 1939. The workings were serviced by a very large gantry crane on one side of the pit, of which only the masonry foundation now remains – though a picture of it is reproduced in Volume 3 of the *Rosscarberry and District Historical Society Journal*. Amongst other winding functions, this operated a 2m square cage for winding the quarrymen up and down from the bottom of the pit. The relatively small slates produced from this quarry were sold locally, unlike those from Modrana which were sold throughout Ireland and exported to the UK through Skibbereen and Glandore. It is estimated that the waste: product ratio in both quarries was about 90:10.

Impressive though both of these sites are, neither approaches in size that of the major slate quarry in the district, the **Benduff Slate Quarry** [W25950 38338]. The slate potential of this site was discovered by chance, during the course of constructing a new road from Cork to Skibbereen in 1812.

The quarry was opened in 1830 and it provided considerable employment, estimated at about 150 men per year, up to 1892. Then disaster struck. Quarrying activities had undermined a large hanging wall mass, and



Benduff Quarry. Memorial at foot of rock crag/land fill. Note low scarp in background marking hanging collapse fracture of 1892.



Benduff Quarry. Chimney and remains of engine house. Light coloured lower section, to just below drip ring, marks height of slate spoil once stacked up around the ruin.

though its stability was monitored closely, it collapsed suddenly at 8am on the morning of July 20, 1892, killing 7 men and 1 boy, the bodies of 5 of which were never recovered. A memorial garden to their memory has been erected in recent times. Another memorial stone in the quarry marks the western edge of modern landfill operations. The quarry went into decline after the accident, eventually being liquidated, though the Munster and Leinster Bank, one of the creditors, took it over and worked it up to 1911. A Sinn Féin Company took it over in 1919 and continued to operate it until 1950 when it finally closed. Two chimneys were erected on site to service plant though only one now remains. It is unclear what the layout and function of these were. This building and chimney obviously fell into disuse during quarrying operations, as waste slate is carefully stacked within remaining wall ruins, and there is a very prominent “high tide” waste mark clearly visible about half way up the height of the chimney. For a more detailed account of the operation of these quarries and the Benduff disaster, we refer you to the following publications by the Rosscarbery Society:

Printer, D.W. 1978. *Disaster at Benduff*. Leaflet.

Tobin, M. 2001. The Rosscarbery Slate Industry 1830 – 1954. *Rosscarberry Past and Present*, Volume 3, 55 – 65.

And that was the end of the trip, apart from one minor indulgence by the writer! What was to become the Benduff quarry lay within the estate of the local landlord who resided at Castlesalem, and who brought in Welsh experts to assist development. His name, reflected in that of a nearby pub – and my namesake – Morris! John Morris



GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY OF TANKARDSTOWN

Kevin Barton, then of UCG, conducted a geophysical survey of the area around the engine-houses at Tankardstown, Bunmahon, County Waterford, as reported in Newsletter 15. It became apparent that other features lay in the overgrown ground immediately to the east. Extensive preliminary strimming indeed visually revealed the footings of walls as well as hollows and other anomalies of elevation. On August 26th 2002 Kevin and his assistant Donna began laying out a surface grid and over the next five days conducted the various phases of the geophysical survey. The results are currently being processed and correlated with the earlier survey, and will be published in MHTI Journal 2.

Next Spring MHTI intends to conduct a workshop in Tankardstown on the techniques for the geophysical investigation of mine-sites with hands on experience of laying out the grid, using the equipment and interpreting the results. Places will be limited and there will be a charge. Anybody with preliminary interest should contact Des Cowman.

PUBLICATIONS

MHTI Journal No. 2

This is in the course of preparation and should reach members by the end of the year. A preliminary table of contents is as follows though not necessarily with these exact titles nor in this order. The blend of heritage and history as established in Journal 1 will be maintained.

1. Glandore Mine, Co. Cork – Paddy O’Sullivan
2. Some historic Irish mine illustrations – Petra Coffey and John Morris
3. Quarrying heritage of Holy Cross Abbey – Geraldine Carville
4. Sales to Irish Mines by Harveys of Hale – Roz Cundick
5. Some Nineteenth Century Mineralogists – Nigel Monaghan
6. The migration of Irish miners to the US – Bill Mulligan

7. Tassan Mine, Co. Monaghan – John Morris, D. Cowman and Phelim Lally
8. The Mining Boom of 1824-25, Part II – Des Cowman
9. A unique engine house: Williams' at Tigroney – Ken Brown
10. Griffith's earliest mine catalogues – Patrick Wyse Jackson
11. A bibliography of Irish mines by county

Please contact Des Cowman as soon as possible if you have a paper you wish to see included.

Abstracts from the MINET Conference

Entitled "Mine Heritage and Tourism: A Hidden Resource", this conference was held in Nenagh in November 1999. The programme and abstracts were issued only to those who attended. As the papers contain much valuable material that is still relevant, the directors of MHTI have decided to republish them as an MHTI Occasional Publication, issued free to members with a small stock for sale. This should be ready at the same time as the Journal.

The Mineral Statistics of Ireland

This volume has had a long gestation but it is hoped now to have it ready early in 2003. It will be published jointly by MHTI and the Northern Mine Research Society under their "British Mining Series". However, this volume will go much further than the Mineral Statistics already published for various counties in the UK, which reproduced the statistics exactly as they were given originally. The Irish volume has re-collated the statistics by county, cross referenced erroneously spelled mines in the originals, added location maps and references for each mine as well as a bibliography for each county. Many people have been involved in all of this, which is why it has taken so much time, but the result should be almost an encyclopaedia of Irish mining history.

Digitising the Mining Journal – A proposal to create an indexed, digital archive of the Mining Journal, 1835 to 1920

The Mining Journal, which is still published to this day, arguably provides the single most comprehensive and detailed account of the evolution of the mining industry in Britain, Ireland and elsewhere internationally. The journal was initiated in 1835 as a specialist journal dedicated to recording and commenting upon all facets of the industry, technical, legal, economic and social, as they arose and developed over time. Now it is an enormously valuable research resource containing a great deal on Irish mining. However, locating and accessing copies of the Journal is difficult. Less than half a dozen libraries in Britain and Ireland have anything approaching a continuous run from 1835. Added to this, extant copies are becoming increasingly fragile. Microfilm copies can be obtained, and are used by some libraries, but these have a limited life as working copies and are prohibitively expensive for individual researchers.

To address these access and conservation issues a consortium of agencies in Wales and Ireland, including MHTI, Welsh Mines Society, National Libraries of Wales and Ireland, and the Geological Survey of Ireland, are proposing to apply to the EU INTERREG 3A Programme for funding to establish a digital archive of the Mining Journal, 1835 to 1920. The archive would contain scanned imagery of all the issues with a subject and geographical index for Welsh and Irish mines, with particular emphasis upon those located within the designated INTERREG geographic region. If feasible, character recognition techniques will be used to create a searchable text database. The archive will be accessible free on the Internet using the World Wide Web, and available offline using appropriate digital technologies.

The consortium believes that such an archive will be of considerable benefit to both Ireland and Wales with their long history of mining activity. Parts of Eastern Ireland and West Wales have a potential asset in their mining history and archaeology. A substantial market exists for heritage tourism within which

mining has a significant role. Environmental issues, including the remediation of abandoned mine sites to improve water quality, will have an impact on the the archaeological and landscape values of both areas. The proposed archive will provide an information resource relevant to sustainable development of mining heritage and environment, and in doing so will foster co-operation between Eastern Ireland and West Wales.

Whilst it is envisaged that the INTERREG 3A Programme would provide the bulk of the funding for the project, the consortium will still require up to 25% from other sources. The National Association of Mining History Organisations (NAMHO) has already agreed to provided funds towards planning costs, but implementation of the project will be reliant on the generosity of other sources in Ireland and the UK.

Mine, Water and Environment, (corresponding to the International Mine Water Association Congress Proceedings held in Seville September 1999).

This full English publication (122 selected technical papers) is bound in two volumes (834 pages in total) covering the following topics – Coal mining; metal mining; Iberian Pyrite Belt and Aznalcóllar Mine tailings dam failure; uranium mining; mining in Latin America; mine water: quality, treatment and utilisation; geological and geotechnical barriers; ornamental and construction stones; industrial rocks; environmental legislation, liabilities and strategies; miscellaneous topics. The costs of the two volumes is €62 plus credit card and p&p charges. Further details from proyectos@frasaingieros.com or <http://www.frasaingieros.com>

CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

The Building Limes Forum held a weekend conference in Kilkenny on 13th-15th September 2002. Based in Kilkenny castle events involved speakers on various aspects of lime use in Ireland together with

demonstrations and workshops. Subjects covered included lime burning, washes and paints, thatching, dry tstone and mortar walling, lath and plaster, sustainability and the environment. Further details from The Building Limes Forum, c/o Irish Regional Group, 4 Castle Street, Dublin 2 or www.buildinglimesforum.org.uk

ABMIN 2002 is hosting a practical seminar on the problems caused by abandoned mine workings. It is being held in edinburgh from October 22-23 2002. Further information: www.cavitiesurveys.co.uk

The twelfth international congress of TICCIH will be held in Moscow from 10-17 July 2003. The conference will be held (in English) on the theme – The transformation of old industrial centres and the role of industrial heritage. Further details available from <http://www.ticcih2003.ur.ru> (in Russian) or from the Congress Secretariat at ticcih2003@ural.ru. You can learn about TICCIH (The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage) online at <http://www.ss.mtu.edu/IA/TICCIH/TICCIHS/ET.html>

The 6th International Mining History Congress will be held in Japan on 26-29 September 2003. It will be based in the coal mining district near Akabira City, Hokkaido. Further details available at <http://www.imhc2003.com>

Hidden Earth 2002 is the national caving conference in the UK. It is being held on 27-29 September at Monmouth Leisure Centre in the Forest of Dean. Full details at www.Hidden-Earth.org.uk Contact Wendy Williams, 51 Churchill Road East, Wells, Somerset, BA5 3HU at +44 (0)1749 679839 or by email at bookings@hidden-earth.org.uk

Natural and Cultural Landscape: The Geological Foundation.

This took place in Dublin Castle from 9-11 September 2002. It was organised jointly by

the Royal Irish Academy and the Geological Surveys, north and south. The Abstracts have already been issued to participants and a Forum set up to further geological heritage and conservation in Ireland.

SPANISH SHARE CERTIFICATES PURSUED

In the review of some Mining Share vignettes in Newsletter 19, I undertook to visit historic mine sites in the vicinity of Alcaracejos, about 75km north of Cordoba, Andalucia, to try and identify the site of the beautifully engraved Cornish Engine House on the certificate of the “Minas de Alcaracejos”. Summer came, the rain stayed mainly in Ireland, we headed off for our summer holidays, and one day I headed up to Alcaracejos to give my liver a holiday. Approaching the town, and not speaking a word of Spanish – well, not any that would be relevant to mining history – I was wondering how I might find what I was looking for. But no problems, mine ruins, spoils heaps and the odd chimney or two poking out of the olive groves were more than adequate navigational aids to 6 sites which I was able to visit during the day.



El Rosalejo lead mine, Alcaracejos

The first target was a lead mine by the name of “El Rosalejo”, for the reasons outlined in Newsletter 19. And very conveniently, some massive spoil heaps lurked behind a roadside sign for the “Finca El Rosalejo”, about 3km south of the town on the N 502 road [Grid Reference VH 2795 4695: Spanish 1:50,000 Topographic Map Series, Sheet 15-34, El Viso].

Eureka! I thought – but it wasn’t to be. The building complex illustrated in Newsletter 19 most definitely does not include any remnants of a Cornish Engine House – not even the building which I thought might be an engine house (see pictures above). But at least the top of the spoil heap provided a good vantage point to spot other sites, especially chimneys. I checked out 4 of these, again all to no avail. Chimneys are conspicuous at two of these just to the SW of the town, one now within the limits of the town rubbish dump (picture - GR VH 2520 4905), and the other within a nearby active mine complex (picture – GR VH 2495 4885). But no obvious engine houses, though I admit I did not try to enter the active mine to try and get a closer look at the rather fine looking set of buildings adjacent to the chimney.



The chimney within the rubbish dump



The chimney within an active mine site

Five sites – and no engine house. So was the vignette illustration no more than a flight of allegorical fantasy? The short answer appears to be no. As luck would have it, the very first of the 6 sites I visited, and which I spent about 4 hours surveying, is the prime suspect. But I'm not going to disclose details of that here – all will be revealed in the Journal.

John Morris.

NEWLY DISCOVERED MINING HISTORY SOURCE MATERIAL.

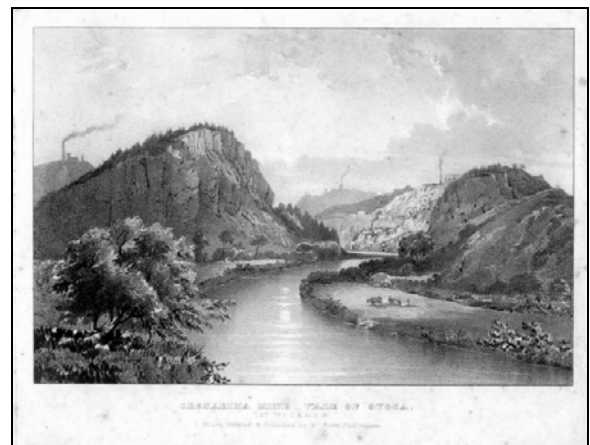
A number of new, or alternative copies of known source material have come to light since the report in the last newsletter (No. 20). While these, and those noted below, will be documented and illustrations reproduced in the next issue of the MHTI Journal, this note will serve to provide summary information.

“Rambles in the South of Ireland” by Lady Chatterton, 1839. This source is already reasonably well known as it provides an excellent account of mining activities at the Berehaven Mines, Allihies, Co. Cork, as well as providing a contemporary illustration, all of which have been reproduced by Alan Williams in his book “The Berehaven Copper Mines” (1991 and 1993). However, we were very kindly loaned a copy of this 2 volume publication by Capt. William Chatterton Dixon, who is not only an indirect descendant of Lady Chatterton, but he is also connected to the Camac family who were associated with the Hibernian Mining Company developments at Ballymurtagh, Avoca in the

late 18th Century. William has allowed us to make copies of information to add to the MHTI archive, including the illustration (reproduced in the article on Allihies elsewhere in this newsletter), as well as text sections describing operations at Allihies, and at the Valentia Slate Quarry. We are very grateful for this permission. William is very interested to learn more about the Camacs involved with the Avoca developments.

Cronabina (sic) Mines, Co. Wicklow.

A very fine engraving drawn, printed and published by G.Howe, Cheltenham, looking north up the Vale of Avoca, Co. Wicklow. The Bell Rock is clearly visible to the left of the river, as are various Engine Houses (Ballygahan, Farmers or Baronets, and possibly Connorree misplaced), Castlehoward, and, most interestingly, to the right of the Avoca River, a set of 3 water wheels set one above the other and extending down the Tigroney hillside towards the Avoca River. The engraving is, unfortunately, undated, though possibly dating from the 1820s – 1830s, and we do not know if, or in what book it might have been published originally. Do any of you know? (We gratefully acknowledge provision of the original of this engraving by an anonymous collector).



Ballymurtagh Mine Rock, Co. Wicklow.

Yet another engraving which shows much the same view as that above, but published much earlier, in 1795. This earlier view, which shows very little in the way of obvious mine

developments, is one of 60 engravings by Jonathan Fisher, contained in a book entitled “Scenery of Ireland illustrated in a series of select views, Castles and Abbies”, published by J. Debrett, Piccadilly. The illustration is accompanied by a page of descriptive text – which will be reproduced in the Journal article.

Petra Coffey and John Morris

**MAN ENGINE HOUSE,
ALLIHIES:
an update on recent developments.**

Much has happened since the last note on the Allihies project in Newsletter 20. Since then, the **West Cork Leader Programme** has formally offered the MHTI a grant of €65,000 towards the conservation programme, and, more recently, this has been followed up by an offer of €5,000 by the **Ireland Fund**. Both offers have been accepted, and we wish to record here our gratitude to both organisations for offering such substantial support to the conservation project. Both grants are. However, subject to matched costs, so we still have to raise an equivalent amount, €70,000. So any offers or suggestions as to where we might raise such funds would be very gratefully received!

In terms of initiating on-the-ground actions, we had first to await the outcome of our applications to both the above organisations, as well as seek quotations from 2 contractors for a first phase of conservation works. A locally based building contractor, who had expressed a strong interest in the project when it was first suggested 2 years ago, was invited to provide a quotation. Unfortunately, he was eventually unable to do so, as, despite very strenuous efforts, he was unable to obtain appropriate public liability insurance cover. To our Irish members, this will perhaps come as little surprise, given the very dramatic increase in the cost of such insurance in Ireland in the last 6 months or so.

We extend our genuine sympathy to this local contractor for the predicament he found

himself in, for reasons totally beyond his control. However, he was aware that another contractor based in Cornwall was also interested in the work, and, critically, able to provide appropriate insurance cover. So, with his goodwill, and both in full knowledge of each other, we have agreed to offer the conservation work programme to that contractor, Darrock and Brown of Bodmin, Cornwall. The work will be supervised by the John Knevitt Practice, also of Bodmin, a firm of Consultant Engineers very familiar with conservation of Engine Houses in Cornwall.

It is anticipated that the 1st phase conservation works will start in late October, and take about 2 weeks to complete. To facilitate access, the Exploration and Mining Division of the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources have very kindly arranged for a secure gateway to be installed by late September into the currently fenced off area around the building. Quotations for scaffolding are currently being sought, though current indications are that it, also, is likely to be a very expensive item, again reflecting the cost of insurance.

As noted in the programme on the front page, we intend to organize a weekend trip to Allihies during early November while the conservation works are underway. Details of this event have yet to be arranged, but could any members who might be interested in participating, please contact John Morris for further information: johnmorris@clubi.ie or phone (00353)-(0)1-2886658 (evenings only).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank John Terry O’Sullivan and Paddy Harrington, both of Allihies, for their ongoing support and commitment to the aims of this project.

John Morris

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: CORNISH MINERS IN WEST CORK

The following is a summary of questions and answers that have come in via the MHTI website. If any member wishes to contact any of the individuals named below, to offer assistance, suggestions help etc, please let me know [johnmorris@clubi.ie], and I'll gladly forward email contact information.

From Diana Morrison. *I am currently researching an influx of Cornish miners who came to West Cork to work in the Mount Gabriel Copper Mines. Has anyone got any information on this or know of any descendants of these miners?*

From Michael Kiernan, Redruth, Cornwall [A Mining and Industrial Historian] *My particular interest is in tracing details of Cornish people who travelled to the Allihies region.*

From Margaret Reed, Cape Cod, USA. Margaret is a descendant, by marriage, of Capt. John Richards Reed Jr. She forwarded the following summary of her family history. Her account picks up where Alan left off in his book, with the words (p. 149) "No record of what became him after he left Berehaven has yet been found.." Well now it has, thanks to Margaret:

"The Reeds went to Bristol, and after JRR II's (John Richards Reed Jr) wife Priscilla died, he moved to the Isle of Wight with two adult single children. The children are buried there, and I have pictures of the grave site. I also have a picture of his grave site in Arnos Vale Cemetery in Bristol England. Through the internet I found a man who took a picture of his home in Ryde.

Another son lived in Devon, and my husband's grandfather was William BOWLES REED who married Jennie COFFEY in St. Patrick's Cathedral in Montreal. Sometime along the line William must have become a Roman Catholic, because the rest of the

family are now Catholic. Around 1888 he came from Newfoundland to Paterson NJ., and died there. My husband is Leonard TYNAN REED born in Paterson in 1921 and I was born in Montclair NJ, in 1926.

From Tony Nancarrow. *'Cork Co Beuboren Mines' was their birthplace in the 1881 British census as given by my Great Grandfather (a Cornish Miner), by then working in Wales. The return included 2 children aged 3 and 5 also born, 'Cork Co Beuboren Mines' as well as a servant, Hanora Holland recorded as born, 'Cork Co Allihies'*

This last reference suggested that Beuboren could be a gross misspelling of Berehaven so local genealogist, Riobard O'Dwyer, Eyerics, was contacted and he provided the following: *Robert Richard Nancarrow, a widower & Mine Agent (son of Richard Nancarrow, a Mine Agent), Berehaven Mines, married in Berehaven, Co. Cork (South-West), on August 9th 1873, to Elizabeth Emrina Chynoweth, aged 19 years (daughter of Joseph Chynoweth, a Mine Agent), Berehaven Mines (= Allihies Copper Mines).*

Tony adds, I don't at present know where the family were for the 1891 census. They ended up at Perranporth, Cornwall and were there for the 1901 Census, but there was no entry for Hanora and they had another servant.

Finally – gravestones

Has anybody come across any west Cork burials of Cornish miners? One of the very few gravestones left standing in the overgrown and derelict churchyard of the ex. C. of Ireland church in Bunmahon, Co. Waterford reads:

In memory of Charles Thomas Crase, late manager of Knockmahon Mines in this Parish, and formerly of St. Ives, Cornwall, England. Died 10 February 1871 aged 39 years.

Also of Charles Francis, infant son of James W. Crase and Mary his wife, late of this Parish, and nephew of the aforesaid. Died 12 September 1867.