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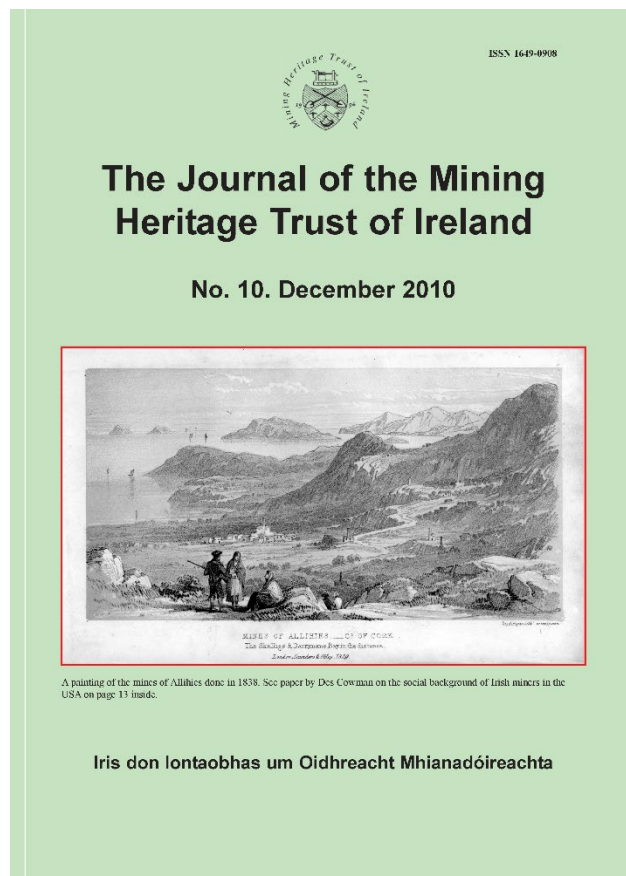
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Morris, J. H. (2010) A Register of Share Certificates, and other Fiscal Ephemera, of Mining Companies which Operated in Ireland during the 19th and Early 20th Centuries' *Journal of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland*, **10**, pp. 37-73

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A REGISTER OF SHARE CERTIFICATES, AND OTHER FISCAL EPHEMERA, OF MINING COMPANIES WHICH OPERATED IN IRELAND DURING THE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURIES

by John H. Morris

Abstract: This paper provides an overview of the corporate fiscal history of a variety of primarily English registered enterprises which operated mine ventures in Ireland during the 19th and early 20th Centuries. The register is derived primarily from three sources, with additional material from other sources: extant historic share certificates, and corporate records held in the archives of the Public Records Office, Kew and Guildhall Library, both in London. This register is planned as the first of a series which together will provide a more readily accessible information resource relevant to other aspects of mining history research, including not only technology and mining infrastructure but also contribute to social and mining genealogical research. *Journal of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland*, 10, 2010, 37-73.

INTRODUCTION

Corporate fiscal history does not generally feature to any great extent in mining history research although such information can provide a wealth of information pertinent to other aspects of mining history, including technological, infrastructure and physical development of mines on surface and underground. It can also contribute to social and genealogical research as such records include the names of many people involved with each of the companies, including promoters, subscribers, directors and especially shareholders, as lists of such almost invariably include their place of residence or work and their profession. By way of illustration, an analysis of the shareholder investors in the TASSAN Mining Company is included in the description of that company below.

There are many potential sources of fiscal history information, although the most fundamental are the primary records created by corporate entities during the course of company registration and raising capital; the pursuit of mining operations; cessation of activities; and, not least, litigation at any stage during the life of the venture. The survival of such records pertaining to 19th and early 20th Century mining enterprises is very variable and all too frequently they are dispersed across various archival repositories and other public and private collections. This is a particular problem for Irish mining enterprises as they may have been incorporated and registered with the "Companies Registration Offices" in England, Scotland or Ireland and, consequently, surviving documentation is likely to be very widely dispersed across a variety of national and regional archives.

This register does not purport to be an exhaustive or definitive compilation of all extant materials lodged in such repositories. Rather it is an initial compilation of information lodged in three primary collections, and focus primarily on mining companies registered in England:

- the author's personal collection of historic share certificates and other documents (augmented by material from

other sources where appropriate: all images author's collection unless otherwise acknowledged);

- "Companies Registration Office" (CRO), England archival records which form part of the "Board of Trade" (BT) records lodged in the Public Records Office (PRO), Kew, London;
- And similar corporate records housed in the archive of the Guildhall Library, London.

The author, in the company of D. Cowman, and with additional assistance from D. Smith, spent several weeks in 2000 and 2001 searching the records in the two latter archives for any information pertaining to mining enterprises formed in England to search for, and/or develop mines and mineral deposits in Ireland. While every effort was made to make this process as thorough as possible, there is always the possibility that some sources were overlooked inadvertently. Extensive notes, as well as photographic and photocopy records were compiled for a very large range of companies (see Morris and Cowman, 2001 for a list of surviving English CRO records and description of archive classification system) although the following register is restricted principally to a précis of corporate history for those companies for which the author possesses historic share certificates or other documents.

However, the latter collection also includes other Irish mining company share certificates and documents which are either not recorded in the PRO, Kew or Guildhall archives or were incorporated in Scotland or Ireland. These are, with only a few exceptions, excluded from this register, as it is intended to incorporate them into subsequent register publications: these include the Arigna Mining Company Ltd., Mount Cashel Iron Ore Company Ltd., the Wicklow Copper Mine Company and Glendalough Mines Ltd. It is intended that the next register in the series will focus principally upon companies registered in Scotland for which an extensive collection of photocopy records have been obtained from the Scottish CRO archives, now housed in the National Archives of Scotland.

Reference is also made in various places to the "Mining Journal", which commenced weekly publication in 1835, and continues to this day [<http://www.mining-journal.com/>]. Where cited below, reference is made to the publication date on which any given article or commentary was published.

SHARE AND BOND CERTIFICATES

CAPPAGH MINING COMPANY, LTD (THE)

There are two Companies known to have been registered under this name: one registered in 1862 [BT31/642/2694] and dissolved in 1902; the other registered in 1870 [BT31/1507/4701] and wound up in 1875. The certificate illustrated here, and the company history described is that of the first company of this name, registered in 1862. An outline of the history of the 1870 company is included also, as an extant Prospectus conserved in the archives of the Guildhall Library, London provides a wealth of ancillary information about the mine and its infrastructure.

2) CAPPAGH MINING COMPANY, LTD (THE) (1862

The certificate illustrated is possibly unique, as it is the only currently known example of a Cappagh Mining Company share certificate still in existence. It is also extremely unusual as it is one of only two presently known examples of an Irish mining share certificate to bear a vignette of an Engine House, operating as a winding engine, and other surface mining infrastructure (Fig. 1).

The Engine House complex is a most perplexing design for a mid-19th Century enterprise, when such installations were dominated by Cornish design Engine Houses and cylindrical Cornish or Lancashire design, high pressure boilers housed in elongate, single storey lean-to boiler houses generally abutting against the upright engine houses. In this vignette, while the rather stylised engine house could reflect either a Cornish design installation, or an earlier Boulton and Watt design, the associated round top, "haystack" and implicitly low pressure boiler is totally inconsistent with a Cornish design installation. It is however characteristic of either late 18th to early 19th C Boulton and Watt or even early 18th Century Newcomen Engine installations. In this instance, the combination of a haystack boiler and a beam operating directly to a sweep rod connected to a flywheel via an eccentric crank, all favour interpretation as a late 18th or early 19th Century Boulton and Watt installation. If correct, and assuming that the illustration

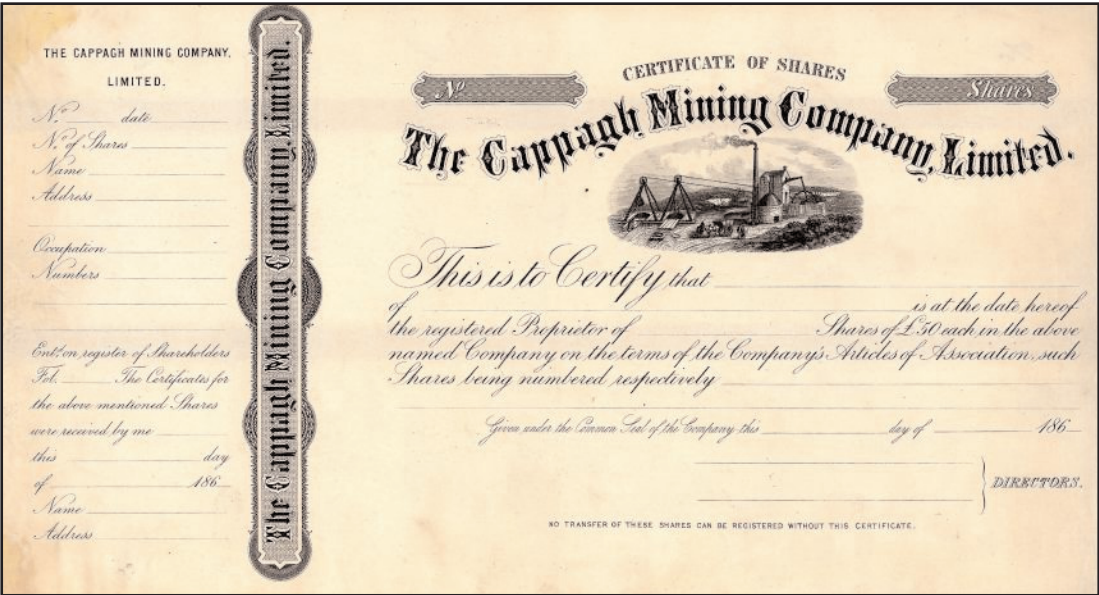


Figure 1. An unissued, possibly a printer's proof copy of a Cappagh Mining Company Limited share certificate.

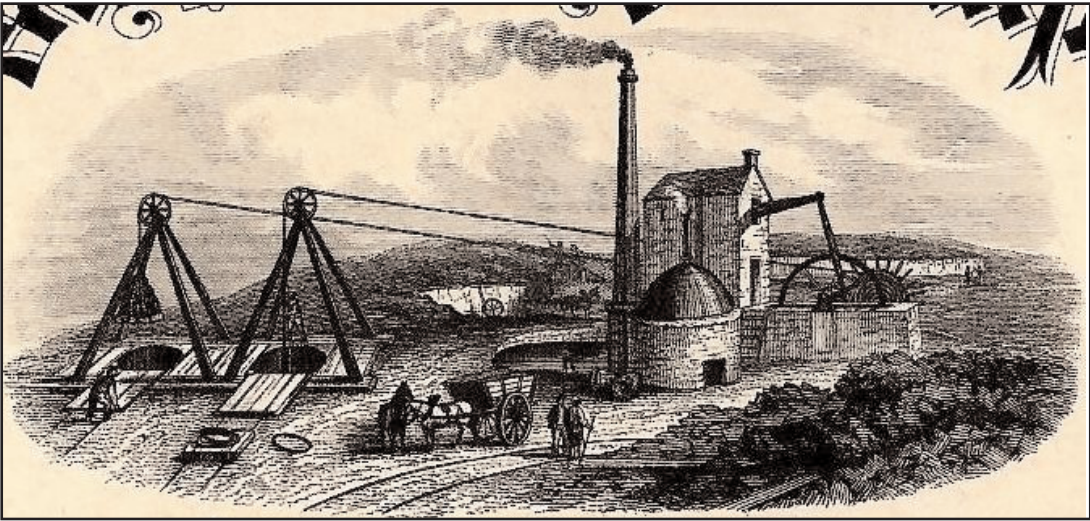


Figure 2. An enlargement of the vignette incorporated into the Cappagh Mining company share certificate illustrated in Figure 1.

reflects reasonably accurately an engine erected on the site, which is in itself a problematic assumption (see discussion under HORSE ISLAND company below), then this implies that the Cappagh engine was most likely acquired second hand from elsewhere and re-erected on this site. An 1869 inventory of machinery on site (see discussion of 1870 company below) includes a 22" double acting whim engine and a 10 ton boiler, in addition to a 60" pumping engine and boiler. This listing is at least consistent with the winding function of the Engine House illustrated.

Incorporation date:

1862: May 8

Registered Office:

18, New Street, Westminster, London.

Capital and share structure:

£36,000 in 720 shares of £50 each

Subscribers:

8, all allocated 10 shares each, only one of whom had an Irish address: Thomas Saunders CAVE, Rossbrin Manor, Co. Cork. No less than 6 subscribers bear the same surname, GIRDLESTONE, and most likely all were related to each other: two appear to have been clergymen (Charles, Weston-super-Mare and Robert Baker, Worthing); one Engineer (John W., Birkenhead); one surgeon (William Theophilus, Penbridge, Stafford); one Gentleman (James, 18 New Street, Westminster); and one of unspecified profession (Arthur Gilbert, Magdalen College, Oxford).

Purpose:

To resume workings and to work the Cappagh Mine at Skull (sic) under lease dated Sept. 30, 1858.

Directors and Officers:

Directors: James Girdlestone

Auditors

Secretary: Henry George Ashbury

Solicitors: Great New Street and Spring Pardeux

Shareholders:

1863: June 12. All shares allocated. The list provides the names, addresses and profession of eleven shareholders, including all six GIRDLESTONE subscribers, five clergymen (two Girdlestone + Henry Maldon, Brighton; Edward Elliot, Broadwater; John Salter, Iron Acton, Bristol) and three solicitors, including James Girdlestone, a Director. Thomas Cave held the largest share holding (430), Charles Girdlestone 120, and all others less than 100 shares each.

1864: October 17. A list of thirteen shareholders, which includes all of those noted above, with some variations in shareholdings. Total of 720 shares issued. The shareholding of Thomas CAVE, now with an address at 3, Argyle Square, London NW, was reduced to 274 and in a side note it is noted that he was adjudicated bankrupt on January 29, 1864, his shares forfeit and his debt vested in the company.

Legal actions: ?

Receivership/winding up:

1865: January 29. Upon the petition of Robert Charles Roosmale, supported by affidavits provided by Mark Noble Buttonshaw and Henry Martin, the Court ordered the appointment of Joseph Sawyer, Accountant of 173 Fenchurch Street, London as Provisional Official Liquidator.

1865: February 22. Liquidation approved, Joseph Sawyer

confirmed in his assignment, and James Shields noted in the action to be the assignee of Thomas Cave.

1865: March 15. Upon the petition of various named shareholders (mainly Girdlestons), a Court order was issued discharging Joseph Sawyer as Provisional Official Liquidator and the appointment of Frederick Whinney, of 5, Serles Street, Lincoln's Inn as Official Liquidator.

1891: September 9. Letter from Whinney, Hurlblatt and Smith, Solicitors of 8 Old Jewry, London EC, on behalf of Cappagh Mining Company in response to one issued on Sept. 7th by the Registrar of Companies in which it is noted that the company had been wound up over 20 years previously, and that Company books and papers were no longer in existence.

Dissolution:

1902: January 24. CRO form letter noting that Company to be struck off 3 months from date of letter (= April 24, 1902). CRO Reference [NB. See Morris and Cowman (2001) for a discussion of the classification system used by the PRO, Kew. BT = "Board of Trade"] : BT31/642/2694

Comment

See under 1870 company following.

2) CAPPAGH MINING COMPANY LIMITED (THE) (1870)

Incorporation date:

1870: January 18

Registered Office:

15, Finsbury Place South, London EC.

Capital and share structure:

£21,000 in 7000 shares of £3 each

Subscribers: ?

Purpose:

To purchase the leasehold and machinery of the Cappagh Mines from the Encumbered Estates Court for £7,000 and to work the mine. The lease was for 21 years from November 1, 1869, and carried a provision for an annual royalty payment of 1/60th and a dead rent of £50/annum. The prospectus notes that more than £30,000 had been expended on opening the mines to a depth of more than 84 fathoms and ore worth more than £30,000 sold from these "mere trial workings" (Fig. 3).

At time of the preceding closure, precipitated by the death of the previous proprietor, it is stated that the lodes were worth £60-70/fathom, and that ore worth £5,650 had been extracted from workings between the 80 and 90 fathom levels. The prospectus includes optimistic opinions and reports provided by Captain EDDY, Mine Manager during previous operations, Captain Henry THOMAS and St.Pierre FOLEY. An inventory dated August 8, 1869 of machinery, plant and buildings on site, and estimated to be worth about £10,000, includes a 60" steam engine with an 11 ton boiler; a 22" double acting whim engine with a 10 ton boiler (see Fig. 3 above, and discussion); and crushing machinery amongst a range of other infrastructure, machinery and equipment (Fig. 4).

Directors and Officers:

Directors: George ROGERS (Long Ashton, Bristol),

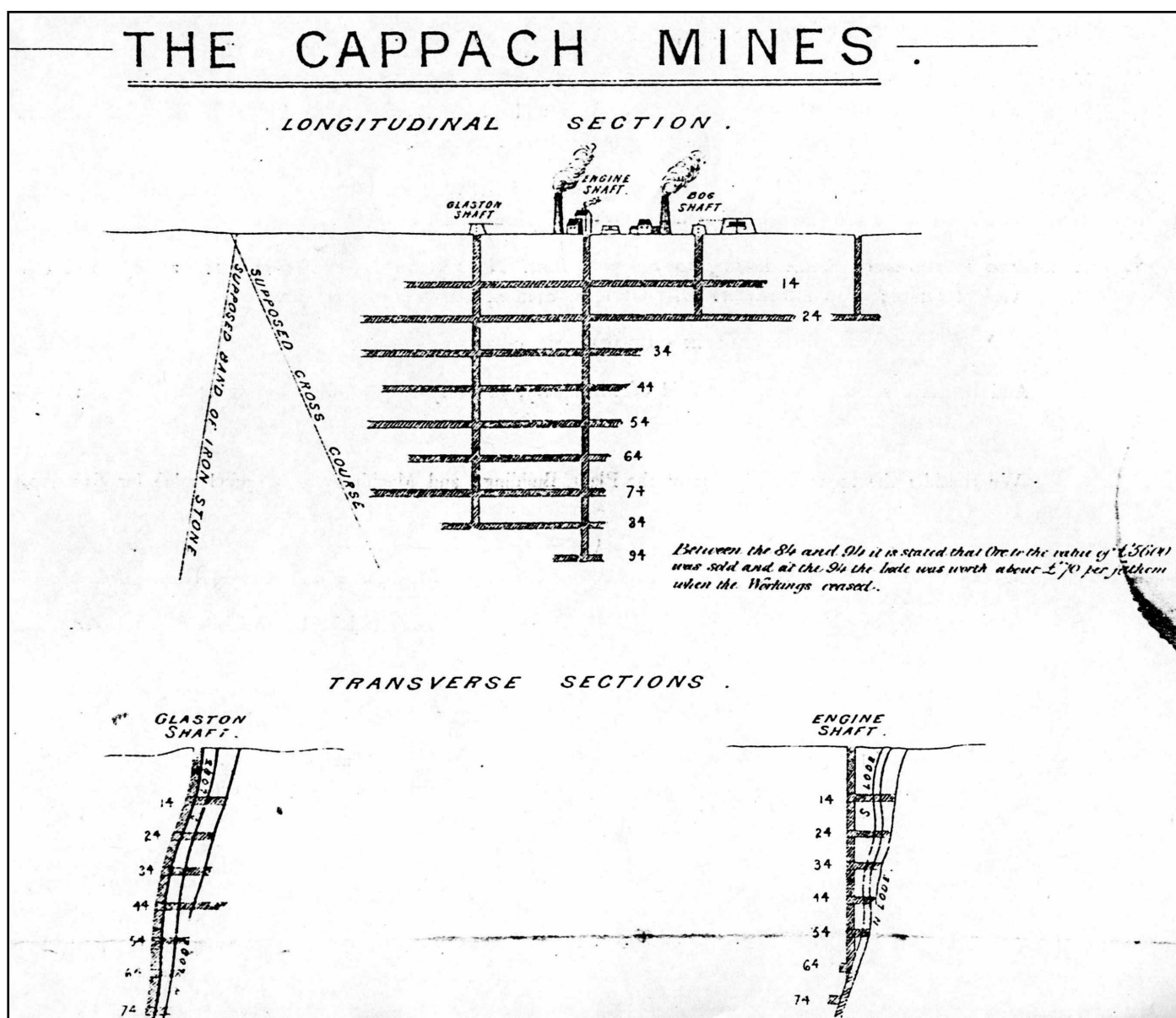


Figure 3. Longitudinal and transverse cross sections of the Cappagh Mine as depicted in the Cappagh Mining Company Ltd prospectus [Guildhall Library archive]. The depiction of two Engine Houses accords well with the inventory of equipment on site and their stated functions (see Fig. 4 and discussion below).

Charles Titian HAWKINS (Summertown, Oxford), John MORKHILL (Killingbeck Lodge, Leeds, Colliery Proprietor), Thomas PRINGLE (Newcastle), P.E. Van NOORDEN (Bedford Square, London)

Auditors: Addis, Harris and Smith, 8 Old Jewry, London EC.

Secretary: Robert W. Smith

Shareholders:

1872: August 20. List of shareholders, most located in various provincial areas of England, several in the Bristol region.

1873: March 5. Two further lists, in which a Richard Chancellor of 20 Shelley Terrace, was to be allotted not more than 5,000 shares at a discounted price of £1 each. This agreement had been ratified at EGMs on March 25 1872, and confirmed again on April 8, 1873. At that date 2,000 shares had been sold.

1873: August 19. Capital £14,460-17-8, with unpaid calls amounting to £1,272-2-4 and 60 shares forfeit. 5,245 shares

issued, excluding 2,000 allocated to Richard Chancellor. George Rogers, a Director, held the largest number of shares (1,000).

Legal actions: ?

Receivership/winding up:

1873: December. Placed in liquidation

1875: November 2. Wound up.

Dissolution: ?

CRO References:

BT31/1507/4701

Guildhall Library Prospectus

Comment

The history of mining development at Cappagh (Cowman and Reilly 1988; Hodnett, 2010) is long, tortuous and replete with litigation. The following very summary history is derived from Cowman and Reilly (1988) and Hodnett (2010) to which reference is directed for more detailed accounts.

The mines were first discovered on the estate of Lord Audley by

INVENTORY
OF
MACHINERY, PLANT, BUILDINGS, &c.,
ON THE
Cappagh Mine, County Cork,
MADE THE
8TH OF AUGUST, 1869.

A 60-INCH CYLINDER STEAM-ENGINE, 120 nominal horse power, complete, of the most improved and modern construction; 11 TONS BOILER, large Double-Acting Winch, Blocks, Chains, &c., &c.

30 FATHOMS 11-INCH PUMPS, 9-INCH PLUNGER, Plunger Case, Stuffing-Box and Gland, H and Door Pieces.

30 FATHOMS 8-INCH PLUNGER LIFT, Plunger Case, Stuffing-Box and Gland, H and Door Pieces.

20 FATHOMS 7-INCH DRAWING LIFT, Pump-Rods, Boxes, complete.

10 FATHOMS 6-INCH Ditto Ditto.

60 FATHOMS OF SHAFT-RODS, 11 inches square, with Strapping-Plates, &c., &c.

180 FATHOMS OF LADDERS, SOLLARS, DIVIDINGS, AND CASINGS; LARGE CAPSTAN, SHEARS 60 FEET HIGH, Strapping-Plates, and Pulleys.

A 22-INCH CYLINDER DOUBLE-ACTING WHIM ENGINE, a powerful CRUSHER attached; 10 TONS BOILER, 10 TONS OF STRONG CHAIN, 40 FATHOMS OF STANDS AND PULLEYS, SHAFT TACKLE AND PULLEYS, SKIP-ROAD FROM SURFACE TO THE 94-FATHOM LEVEL, Skip Waggon, Rolls, &c., &c.

A LARGE SMITHY, containing Two Forges, Bellows, Anvil, Vices, Plates, and Taps, and a quantity of Useful Materials.

LARGE CARPENTER'S SHOP, Bench, Sawpit, and Frame.

MATERIAL HOUSE, containing NEW SPARE GEAR for Pit-work, Stuffing-Boxes and Glands, Rolls for Main-Rods; also Pinion Wheels, Crusher Sieves, Large Iron and Wood Blocks, ROPE, LAUNDERS, AND A VARIETY OF OTHER USEFUL ARTICLES ADAPTED FOR MINING PURPOSES.

130 FATHOMS OF RAILS LAID DOWN ON Dressing-Floors, Iron Waggon, Jigging-Hutches, Brass-bottom Separators, WOOD ORE-FLOORS, EXTENSIVE DRESSING-HOUSES, all complete.

About 400 FATHOMS OF RAILS leading to Shipping Port, NINE GOOD DWELLING-HOUSES, a large and convenient Office; ALSO EXCELLENT OUT-OFFICES, Stables, Car-House, &c., &c.

ALL IN COMPACT AND COMPLETE ORDER;

And we have seldom seen a finer field of Machinery, in every respect, for carrying on a large and extensive Mine.

We consider the approximate value of the Plant, Buildings, and Machinery to be good value for £10,000.

(Signed)

HENRY THOMAS.

Manager of the Roaring Water Mine.

JAMES VERRAN, *Engineer.*

*Bandon Barytes Mine, Ballydebb, Cork, Ireland,
September 14, 1869.*

This is to certify I have carefully inspected the machinery at the Cappagh Mines, County Cork, Ireland; and, having many years of practical experience in mining engineering, I unhesitatingly say better machinery for mining purposes cannot be found throughout Ireland, and, in fact, rarely to be met with in the mining districts of Cornwall, in England. I would remark also, after looking at the well-built houses and offices necessary for the proper management of a first-class Copper Mine, if any capitalists wish to invest their money in mining property, they will rarely meet with the facilities and advantages offered in this mine.

(Signed)

RICHARD ANDREW.

Figure 4. An inventory of equipment and other extant infrastructure at the Cappagh mine site as recorded in the Company prospectus [Guildhall Library].

Colonel Hall under whose management developments commenced about 1814 and quickly produced about 239 tons of good quality copper ore. Lord Audley continued developments during the early 1820s by raising loans totalling about £6,500, in part from the Public Loans Commissioner, but operational control soon passed to the Mining Company of Ireland when it took over operations in 1824. Initial operations were quite promising but quickly deteriorated and in 1830 the MCI terminated the lease agreement with Lord Audley, after expending about £12,000. The mines then passed into the control of Lord Audley's trustee in 1832, who commissioned a valuation of Lord Audley's estate in which the value of minerals was estimated to be about £15,000. About this time, Lord Audley met Joseph PIKE, with whom he agreed a 61 year lease for a sum of £165,000, £50,000 in shares of what was to become the WEST CORK MINING COMPANY (see below), incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1834, the balance in cash.

Audley died in 1837, leaving Pike, his executor, in effective control. In 1838, Pike initiated a series of successful legal actions to recover purchase money from shareholders, but by November 1843, the Audley Estate and mines thereon were offered for sale, a process ultimately completed in 1852 when the estate was sold to Thomas Saunders CAVE for £7,000.

Thomas Saunders CAVE had a long and contentious association with this and other mines in the region from 1852 onward. He was declared bankrupt on at least two occasions, each time re-emerging Lazarus like to continue his mine promotional endeavours: in 1841, on foot of unsuccessful mining ventures in Cornwall and in 1864 in connection with the 1862 Cappagh Mining Company.

It is uncertain when exactly the extensive infrastructure present on this mine site, as described in the 1870 company prospectus (Fig. 4), was first installed, built and/or upgraded. Assuming that the 1862 company did indeed raise a substantial part of the total capital provision of £36,000, as capital rather than as shares issued to purchase the mine and/or as allocations to Directors, then it is possible that much of the extensive infrastructure could have been funded during its 18 month period of operation, between mid-1862 and end 1863 after which it was placed into liquidation.

The records are silent upon what happened in the period between the final winding up order in March 1865, and the subsequent acquisition of the mine and all its assets by the 1870 company, probably in that year. It is equally perplexing how the latter company sought to purchase the company assets not from the Official Liquidator of the 1862 company, but from the Encumbered Estates Court. This could indicate other legal manoeuvrings resulting from Thomas Cave's bankruptcy and consequential settlements and assignment of assets. If so, it is strange that no mention is made by Whinney & Co. in their response to the CRO in 1902, as they would have been involved inevitably in any such proceedings.

1870 company operations commenced in May of that year, and over the period June 1871 to June 1872 produced and sold 48 tons of ore for £653, and a further 24 tons for £296 by December 1872. Consideration was given to winding up the

company in early 1873, although operations continued to about August that year subsequent to re-financing. A total of 19 tons of ore worth £209 was produced and sold between June 1873 and June 1874. The company was placed into liquidation in December 1873.

CARBERRY WEST MINING COMPANY OF IRELAND

Incorporation date:

c. 1852?

Registered Office:

c. 1852: 34 Lombard Street, LONDON

date unknown: Adelaide Chambers, 52 Gracechurch Street, London (Fig. 5).

Capital and share structure:

£15,000 in 30,000 parts or shares of 10/- (ten shillings) each, paid up. Company to be operated on the cost book principle.

1854: August (Hodnett, 2010). 9,050 shares issued, £4,525 total capital raised.

Property Lease:

31 years at 1/16th royalty (lease commencement date not recorded).

Purpose:

The only primary, extant source of company information is provided in an undated (probably 1852) prospectus preserved in the archive of the Guildhall Library, London. The prospectus includes two reports, both dated June 1852, one by St.Pierre FOLEY, M.E, the other by Captain Henry THOMAS. The former report stresses the pivotal location of the company property in the midst of very productive mines elsewhere in the region (see Fig. 6); draws particular comparison with the "rich mines" of Crookhaven; and provides three ore sample analyses, the richest assaying 71% copper and 68 ounces of silver per ton. It further notes three prospects on the property, the North, Middle or Danes Works and South Mines, of which only the Danes Works had been worked to date and proposes to open workings to a depth of 30 fathoms by horse whim.

Captain Thomas' report is of a somewhat more sober, but still positive tone ("*Upon the whole, I consider Boulaslough (sic) to be a very valuable mineral property..*"), and his description of ancient stone hammers found at the site of the Dane's Works features prominently.

Anonymous manuscript notes on the prospectus question various assertions and indicate a perhaps healthy degree of caution on the part of the anonymous CRO official at the time:

- *Ample water power for a wheel* (Thomas): CRO comment - can this water power be cut off by any of the neighbours?
- *Ancients were excellent judges of mineral grounds* (Thomas): or of minerals when they happened to be in sight.
- General queries:
 - o Have dues been paid to Lord?
 - o Are amounts paid for sett in money or shares?
 - o How many free shares?
 - o Why discontinued if recently worked?

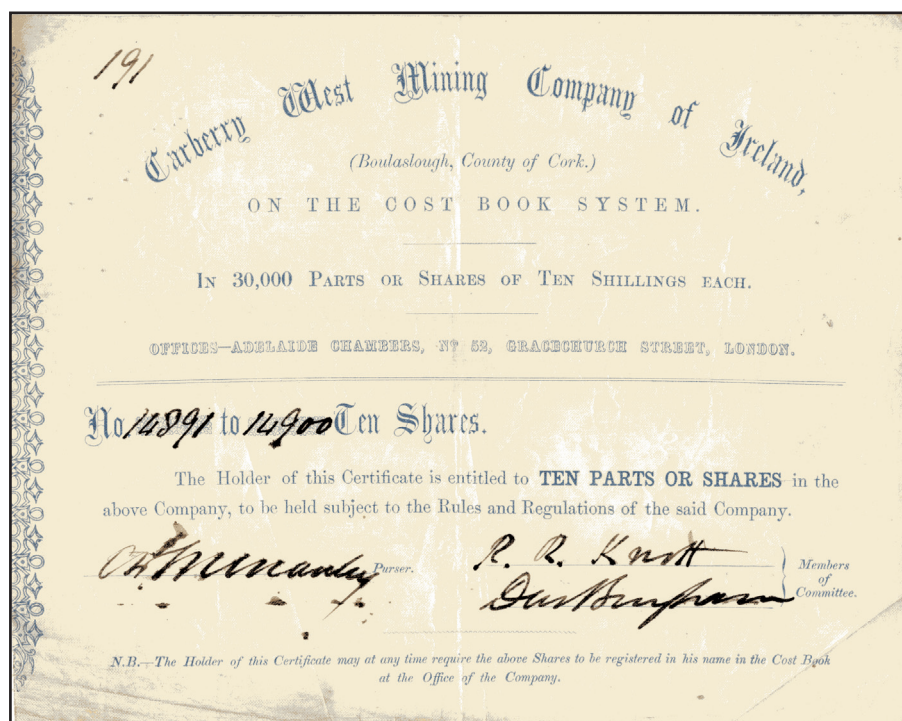


Figure 5. An undated share certificate of the "Carberry West Mining Company of Ireland".

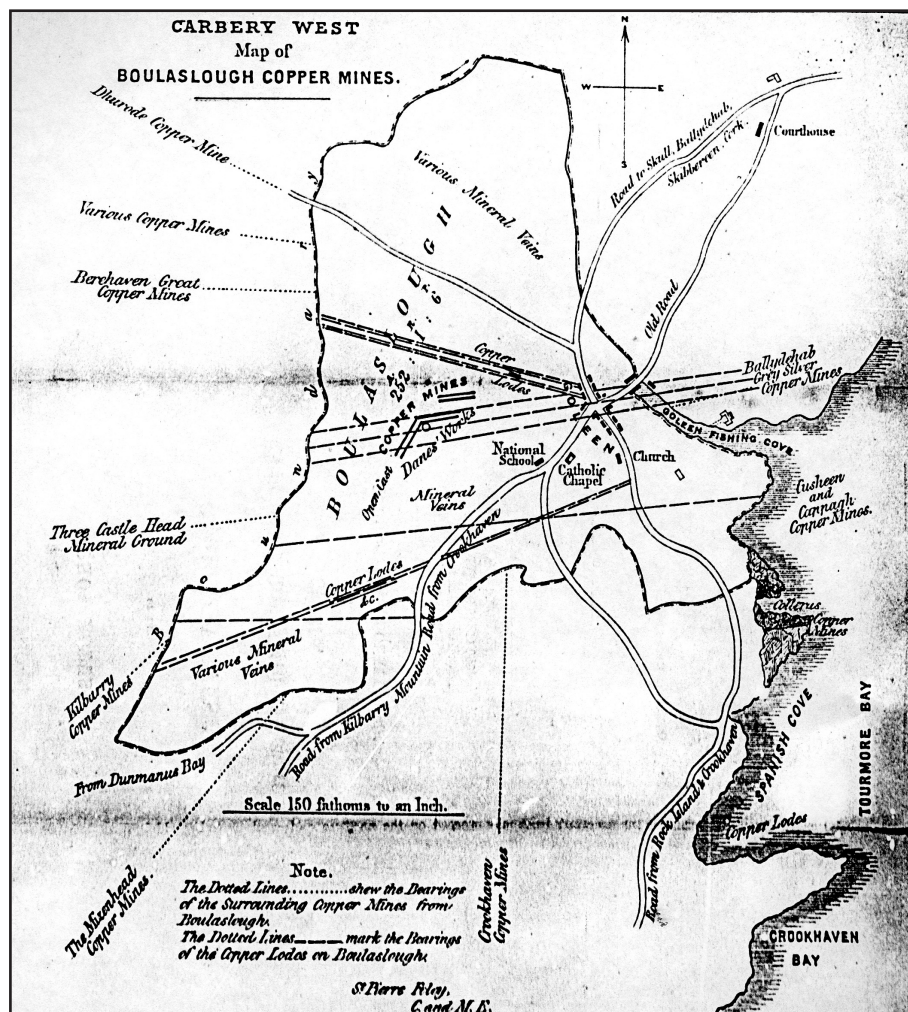


Figure 6. A reproduction of the map included in and forming part of the Prospectus of the Carberry West Mining Company of Ireland. [Guildhall Library archive]

Subscribers: ?

Directors and Officers:

Committee: The Honourable A. BINGHAM (Portland Street, London and Newbrook Park, Co. Mayo); The Honourable Luke PLUNKETT (Chester Square, London); Charles BROWNE, Esq. (Hanwell, Middlesex); the Reverend R. KNOTT, MA (5, Clement's Lane, London); D. WHELPLEY, Esq. (Skibbereen, Co. Cork). A manuscript annotation on the prospectus adds a further name "The O'Gorman Mahon (indecipherable)".

Consulting and Inspecting Engineer: St.
Pierre Foley, Esq., C and ME.

Mine Manager: Captain Henry Thomas

Shareholders: ?

Legal actions: ?

Receivership/winding up: ?

Dissolution: ?

Comment

Cowman and Reilly (1988) and Hodnett (2010) provided detailed accounts of the mining activities of this company and still visible remains at Boulysallagh in west Cork, and from which the following summary is derived. Henry THOMAS was appointed Mine Captain, most likely in early 1853 and by April that year trial shaft sinking commenced at the "north" prospect near Goleen. Extant shafts were noted on other parts of the lease and in an attempt to placate shareholders the company issued optimistic reports in late 1853 on developments and prospects. This did not however assuage concerns, and Hodnett (2010) in particular summarises extensive comment by irate shareholders published in the Mining Journal at various times from late 1853 onward. By mid 1854, Captain Thomas had been replaced by Captain James HOSKINS, and note made of three shafts sunk on the "North" prospect as well as efforts to deepen shafts on the Danes Workings. By August 1854, and despite optimistic reports and comments made at a meeting that month, all but £337 of the original capital of £4,525 remained in the company accounts, and this had diminished further to £32 by December 1854. A year later, in September 1855, an EGM was convened in London, to empower trustees to sell the plant and lease the mine, after which records fall silent.

CASTLECOMER COLLIERIES, LTD (THE)

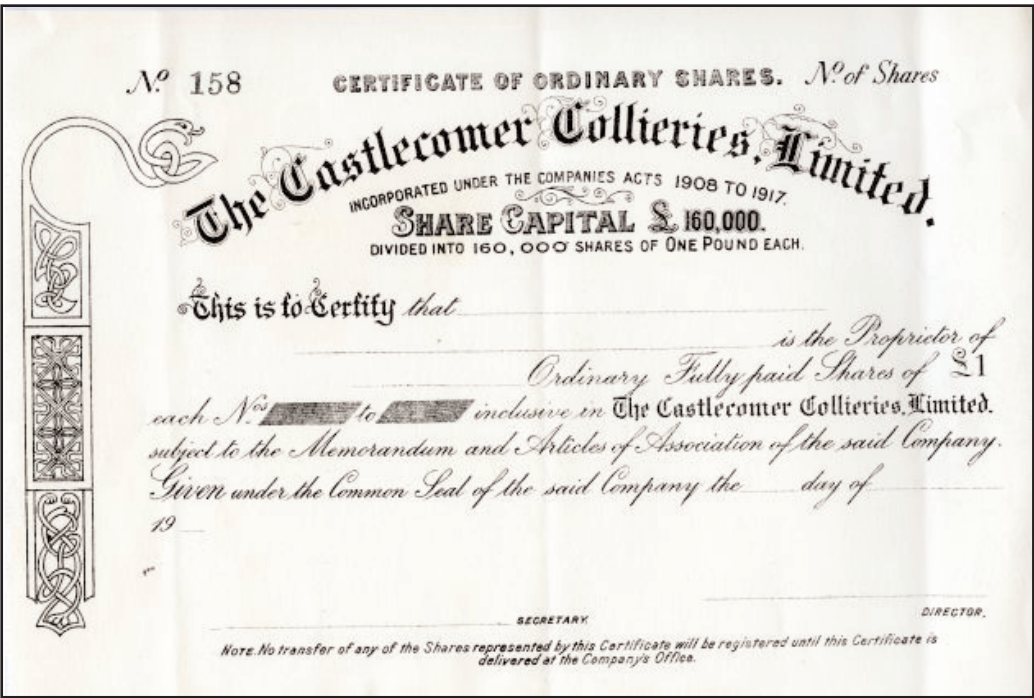


Figure 7. An undated and unissued share certificate of "The Castlecomer Collieries, Limited".

Very little is known about this company at present, apart from what may be deduced directly from the unissued share and debenture certificates illustrated (Figs. 7 and 8) and the following brief history provided by Mr. Errol Delaney of the Castlecomer Discovery Park, Co. Kilkenny [<http://www.discoverypark.ie/>].

Castlecomer Collieries Ltd was founded by Capt. R.H. Prior Wandesforde in the early 20th C to promote the Leinster Coalfield in a more business like manner and with better capitalisation. He inherited the Castlecomer Estate, some 22,000 acres and much of the Leinster Coalfield, from his grandmother at the age of 22. Although the family had control of the collieries since the 1630s, it was leased out to middlemen for much of that time. The Dobbs family had large parts leased during the 1800s. The Castlecomer Estate was broken up in 1905 under the Land Acts and Capt. Wandesforde bought out the Colliery leases and took full control of the day-to-day running of the Collieries.

Capt. Wandesforde was Chairman and Managing Director of the Company. The nominal Share Capital of the Company was £100,000 of which £94,000 was issued according to a report written in 1950. The Share Capital was almost all held by the Wandesforde family. Capt. R. B. Gahan was Director and Co Secretary.

The Castlecomer Collieries Ltd was almost certainly the largest mine operator, not just in Leinster, but also in Ireland. It

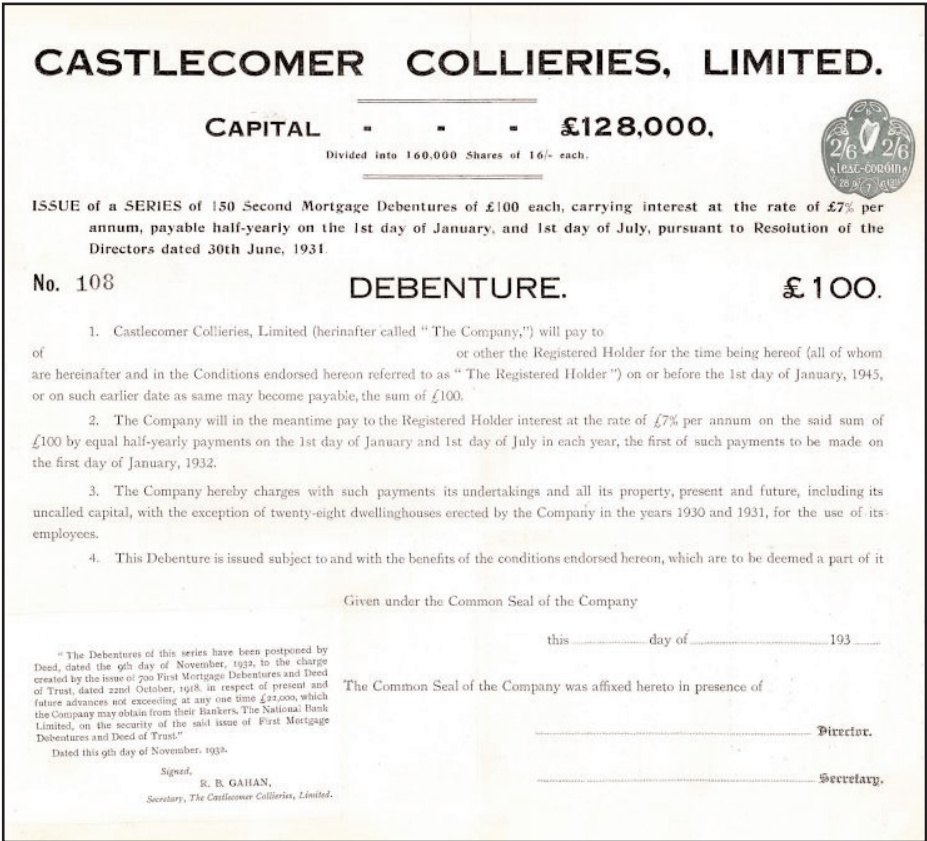


Figure 8. (below) An unissued, c.1931 "Castlecomer Collieries, Limited" debenture for £100. The sticker attached in the lower left corner notes that the debenture issue was postponed by deed, dated Nov. 9, 1932.

employed up to 1000 people and ran several Collieries including Deerpark, Skehana, Rock, Rock Bog, Jarrow Numbers 1 to 6, Vera and Monteen. The closure of the Deerpark Colliery in 1969 ended over 300 years of underground coal mining, although open cast mining continued for another 20 years.

Mr. Delaney notes that some additional archival material survives in Castlecomer, including a debenture book and other share certificates.

CONNEMARA MINING COMPANY OF IRELAND

The history of this mining company and its operations at Caherglassaun near Gort, Co. Galway has been described in detail by Morris (2009), including note of its fiscal dimensions, which are not repeated here, other than in the summary tabular format below. Morris (2009) notes that the company issued a total of 5030 £1 shares to various shareholders all of whom are recorded in the only surviving list of shareholders in the PRO archive (Morris, 2009, Table 2 therein: BT41/162/918). However, Morris (2009) notes and discusses the existence of share certificates bearing certificate numbers greater than 5030. He notes specifically a certificate numbered 5121-5125, and to this several more may now be added: 5541-5545, 5596-5600 and 5601-5605. The latter certificate for 5 £1 shares is illustrated in Figure 9.

Incorporation date:

1852: June 30

Registered Office:

1853: 3, Cannon Street, LONDON

Capital and share structure:

£15,000 in 15,000 shares of £1 each

1854: March 4. Deed of settlement which made provision to increase share capital to £100,000.

Purpose:

"the working all descriptions of mines and digging searching for and obtaining the ores minerals and produce thereof and buying selling leasing and disposing of the same"

1854: March 27. "The working of all descriptions of mines in Ireland..." added in a schedule to a deed of settlement.

Subscribers:

1853: February 3. A list of the names, addresses and professions of 65 subscribers.

Directors and Officers:

Directors: Cornelius BOYLE Esq. (Highgate, Middlesex); Richard Dillon TENNENT Esq. (Hampstead Road, Middlesex); the Reverend George BULL, Clerk (Dorney Vicarage, Windsor).

Trustee: James Sutton Swaby

Auditors: John Conway Kingston (Director of the Industrial and General Life Assurance Company, Waterloo Place, Pall Mall)

Solicitors: Messrs Tyrrell, Paine and Layton (Guildhall Yard, London)

Secretary: Robert Sutton Swaby

Shareholders:

See Morris (2009), Table 2 therein and discussion.

Legal actions:

1855: November. See Morris (2009), p. 18

Receivership/winding up: ?

Dissolution: ?

CRO Reference:

BT41/162/918



Figure 9. A "Connemara Mining Company of Ireland" share certificate, for share numbers 5601-5605, and dated July 26, 1852.

GLENAULIN & CARIVILLEEN MINING COMPANY OF IRELAND (THE)

The Glenaulin and Carivilleen Mining Company of Ireland (GCMCI) was essentially a sister company to the Connemara Mining Company of Ireland (CMCI) both incorporated in June 1852 and sharing the same Directors, promoters, subscribers, secretary, registered office and many key share holders. The inclusion of the name "Mining Company of Ireland" in the title of both of these companies may have had a deliberate promotional intent, to associate both enterprises, even if only by name, with the then very successful "MINING COMPANY OF IRELAND" (see description below).



Figure 10. A share certificate of the Glenaulin and Carivilleen Mining Company of Ireland, number 5511-5515. This certificate derives from the holding issued to James Sutton, as do all others in the author's possession. A certificate numbered 3576-3580, which was one of a block of shares issued to the Rev. George Bull, was sold in Germany in 2001.

Incorporation date:

1852: June 21

Registered Office:

1852: June 10. Provisional address at 19 Lombard Street Chambers, Clements Lane, LONDON

1853: February 2. 3, Cannon Street, LONDON

1853: March 4. 19 Lombard Street Chambers, LONDON

1864: Nov. 1. 3, Cannon Street, LONDON

Capital and share structure:

£12,000 in 24,000 shares of 10/- (ten shillings) each.

1854: Nov. 1. Total capital subscribed or to be subscribed, £4,450.

Purpose:

"For working and mining for extraction copper, silver, lead, tin and other metals and ores and for buying and selling copper, silver, lead, tin and all other metals and ores in Ireland and for extracting and mining for and producing carbonate

of manganese and for buying and selling manganese in Ireland".

Subscribers:

1852: June 21. List of 18 subscribers, most of whom feature amongst the more extensive list of 65 subscribers to the CMCI and including all Directors and Officers common to both companies, but, unlike CMCI, also including the Company solicitors, Tyrrell, Paine and Layton.

Directors and Officers:

Directors: Cornelius BOYLE; Richard Dillon TENNENT; Reverend George BULL; James Sutton SWABY (Trustee)

Secretary: Robert Sutton Swaby

Auditor: John Conway Kingston

Shareholders:

1854: Nov. 1. A list of 18 subscriber shareholders, giving their full names, addresses, professions and shareholdings. See Table 1 below (and compare with CMCI shareholder list provided by Morris, 2009, Table 2 therein)

Legal actions: ?

Receivership/winding up: ?

Dissolution: ?

CRO Reference:

BT41/257/1465

Comment.

Cowman and Reilly (1988) provide a brief account of the history of this mining venture, including a delightful account of how the first Mine captain, Captain John Thomas (Hodnett, 2010), a young Londoner with no mining experience, soon abandoned the hardships of the mine site for the fleshpots of Skibbereen. He was replaced by a Captain Tonkin, who by January 1855 had to sue the Company for unpaid wages. Initial efforts focussed upon manganese production, switching quickly to copper, although there is no record of any production or sales of either commodity.

Hodnett (2010) also provides a separate history of this company and its developments. She notes that the company failed to provide any accounts or reports after 1852; that it last met in 1853; that it was sued for unpaid accounts in 1856 by Mr. Tyrell (most likely the same individual who had initiated similar proceedings against the CMCI in November, 1855: Morris, 2009); and that by 1860 the workings lay idle. Hodnett (2010) also notes that the Reverend George Bull, a director of GCMCI, was vicar of Treslothan, Cornwall. This is incorrect: the GCMCI (and CMCI) Rev. George Bull resided at Dorney Vicarage, Windsor, as recorded in surviving GCMCI and CMCI company documents (e.g. see shareholder list transcription reproduced in Table 1 below), and as discussed by Morris (2009).

O'Sullivan (2006) provides a brief history of this mine, including various successor companies, as well as an illustrated description of extant mine workings.

| GLENAULIN and CARIVILLEEN MINING COMPANY OF IRELAND | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|---|------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Name | Profession | Place of Residence | Share Number(s) | Aggregate | Date of Signature |
| BIRCH, William | Esquire | Pudbicote, Enston, Oxon | 1 - 100 | 100 | |
| BOYLE, Cornelius | Gentleman | Millfield Lane, Highgate Rise, Middlesex | 101 - 2100 | 2000 | March 4, 1853 |
| BULL, Reverend George | Clerk | Dorney Vicarage, Windsor | 2101 - 4100 | 2000 | March 8, 1853 |
| CHALLICE, John | Esquire | Grange Road, Bermondsey | 4101 - 4200 | 100 | |
| FELL, Joseph Charles | R.N. | 15, Montpelier Place, Brompton, Middlesex | 4201 - 4225 | 25 | |
| MARSDEN, William | Esquire | Oldland Hall, Wellsbridge, near Bristol | 4226 - 4375 | 150 | |
| PIDCOCK, John H | Esquire | 9, Liverpool Street, Hyde Park, Middlesex | 4376 - 4525 | 150 | |
| PRINSEP, William | Esquire | Gloucester Terrace, Hyde Park, Middlesex | 4526 - 4725 | 200 | |
| SIMONS, Charles Marshall | Esquire | Wellington Place, Stoke Newington, Middlesex | 4726 - 4800 | 75 | |
| SUTTON, Messrs Robert & James | Stock Brokers | 79 Hamilton Terrace, St. Johns Wood Road, Middlesex | 4801 - 5300 | 500 | |
| SUTTON, James | Esquire | Cavendish Road, St. Johns Wood Road, Middlesex | 5301 - 5800 | 500 | |
| SUTTON, George Frederick Prince | Solicitor | 6 Basinghall Street, London | 5801 - 6100 | 300 | March 9, 1853 |
| SWABY, James | Gentleman | 23 Earls Terrace, Kensington, Middlesex | 6101 - 8100 | 2000 | March 4, 1853 |
| TENNENT, Richard Dillon | Gentleman | 15 Hamilton Place, New Road, Middlesex | 8101 - 8350 | 250 | March 4, 1853 |
| TYRRELL, Timothy | Gentleman | Guildhall Yard, London | 8351 - 8450 | 100 | March 4, 1853 |
| TRYE, James Henry | Stock Broker | Richmond, Surrey | 8451 - 8550 | 100 | |
| VANSITTART, Henry | Esquire | 29 Oriental Place, Brighton | 8551 - 8700 | 150 | |
| WYLLIE, Sidney Alexander | Esquire | 18 St. James Square, Nottinghill, Middlesex | 8701 - 8900 | 200 | |
| TOTAL shares issued | | | | 8900 | |

Table 1. A list of "Glenaulin and Carivilleen Mining Company of Ireland" shareholders transcribed from a list held in the PRO, Kew folio for this company.

**HOLYFORD COPPER MINING COMPANY,
LTD (THE)**



Figure 11. A certificate for 5 shares in the "Holyford Copper Mining Company Limited" numbered 1631-1635. Information printed on the reverse indicates that the shares were issued "free of calls" and that they could not be transferred to any person other than existing member of the company within a period of 12 months from May 14, 1864 (the date of issue of the share certificate).

The Company described here was predated by an earlier enterprise, entitled the "HOLLYFORD COPPER MINING ASSOCIATION", incorporated on December 18, 1845 [BT41/299/1746]; and post dated by the "HOLLYFORD MINING COMPANY LIMITED" incorporated on May 6, 1866 [BT31/1259/3064].

There are no records so far known which refer to the Dublin based "HOLLYFORD COPPER MINING COMPANY LIMITED", other than information recorded on the share certificate itself. In this absence of information an outline of the legal and fiscal history of both the earlier and later enterprises are included here to provide a context for the Dublin company.

1) HOLLYFORD COPPER MINING ASSOCIATION (1845)

Incorporation date:

1845: December 19.

Registered Office:

Pinnars Hall, Old Broad Street, LONDON

1848: 34, Great Winchester Street, LONDON

Articles of Association:

To work copper mines in Kilnemanagh, Co. Tipperary

1846: July 4. An indenture makes provision to purchase the mine leasehold from Edward Hunt for a total consideration of £18,000 and £2,000 for extant machinery and infrastructure [Note. The reference to in situ machinery etc clearly indicates that a mine was in operation at this site prior to 1845/6].

1846: November 30. Property to be purchased for £16,284 primarily by issue of 740 shares at £20.

Capital and share structure:

£25,000 in 1,000 shares of £25 each.

Subscribers:

William Brock (50 shares), Arthur Hunt (100), Charles Hunt (100), Edward Hunt (400), Frederick Le Mesurier (10).

Directors and Officers:

Directors: Edward and Charles HUNT, both Liverpool, and Frederick LE MESURIER, City of London

Auditors: Arthur Hunt (Kent) and William Brock (Guernsey)

Secretary: John Buckland

Shareholders:

The BT file contains a series of annual and half yearly returns, balance sheets and lists of shareholders, dated between February 1, 1847 to May 31, 1851, and from which the following information is summarised.

1846: February 2 [Accounts for period to Dec 20, 1846].

Income:

share sales: 740 at £22 = £16,280-0-0

miscellaneous: £4-12-1

Expenditures:

mine purchase: 740 shares at £20 each = £14,800-0-0,

mine working costs: £1,089-1-4

administration: c.£160

1846-1847: November 30 - May 31, 1847.

Income: share sales 260 at £22 = £5,720

ore raised: £2,443-18-1

Expenditures: mine purchase, £5,200

Mine working costs: £2,915

Administration: £142

Legal fees: £300

1847: May 31- November 30.

Balance: £10,189-1-4

Income: ore raised: £10,352-17-6 [Caveat. The hand written entry is very unclear, so it is uncertain if all of this income results from sale of ore only]

Expenditures: Mine working costs: £5,045
 Dividends: £3,000
 1847-1848: November 30, 1847 - May 31, 1848.
 Balance: £10,869-13-6
 Income: ore raised: £9042-10-9
 Expenditures: Mine working costs: £4,224-6-11
 Dividends: £3,000
 Cost of buying and erecting an Engine: £1,613-7-3
 1848: May 31 - November 30.
 Balance: £5,992-0-2
 Income: ore raised: £4,076-3-3
 Expenditures: mine purchase:
 Mine working costs: £4,258-8-11
 Engine erecting expenses: £763-2-9
 1848-1849: November 30, 1848 - May 31, 1849.
 Balance: £4,433-18-9
 Income: ore raised: £2,930-6-3
 Expenditures: Mine working costs: £4,212-5-11
 1849: May 31 - November 30.
 Balance: £3,333-15-7
 Income: ore raised: £2,352-15-11
 Expenditures: Mine working costs: £3,175-19-4
 1849-1850: November 30, 1849 - May 31, 1850.
 Balance: £3,354-7-5
 Income: ore raised: £3,004-8-5
 Expenditures: Mine working costs: £3,267-15-2
 1850: May 31 - November 30.
 Balance: £3,494-14-11
 Income: ore raised: £3,614-10-7 [A charge is noted against this amount in this account, as well as in the three preceding half yearly returns.
 The net figure in this instance is £1,884-6-3]
 Expenditures: Mine working costs: £3,406-16-0
 1850-1851: November 30, 1850 - May 31, 1851.
 Balance: £3,710-6-6
 Income: ore raised: £4,968-9-8 [charge £3,360-13-2.
 Net value: £1,607-16-6]
 Expenditures: Mine working costs: £3,605-16-9
 1851: May 31.
 The final list of shareholders: 16 in total, 1000 shares issued to a total value of £9,260-6-9.

Legal actions: No record.

Receivership/winding up:

1851: July 30. Special General Meeting to approve resolution to dissolve the company. A formal notice and advertisement to that effect are dated August 14, 1851.

Dissolution: No record.

CRO Reference:

BT41/299/1746

Comment

The wealth of documentary evidence still in existence for this enterprise makes it worthy of much more detailed analysis than that provided here, although there are certain key observations which may be noted:

- The total capital investment was about £20,520, of which at least £14,800 may be ascribed to the purchase of the mine lease from Edward Hunt
- The mine operated at a profit for only 1 year, between mid-1847 and mid-1848, during which period investors received total dividends of £6,000.
- The total cost of purchasing and erecting an Engine on

site in 1848 amounted to an extraordinary £2,376-10-0. No doubt the mine management was sufficiently encouraged by the very profitable returns enjoyed up to that time to warrant such an investment, a decision which, sadly for them, was totally unjustified as from that year onward the mine operated at a loss.

- The gradually accumulating losses are reflected by the charges against the value of ore raised, resulting in a widening gap between income and expenditure which culminated with the responsible and prudent, albeit no doubt painful decision to wind up the enterprise in mid 1851.

- It is not known at present when the enterprise was dissolved or who purchased the assets. However, reference to materials, machinery, steam engines, whims etc in the Articles of Association of the 1866 successor company suggest that infrastructure established on site during this period of operation was retained on site, rather than dispersed upon dissolution of the 1845 company.

2. HOLYFORD COPPER MINING COMPANY LIMITED (1864)

Incorporation date:

1864: May 14

Registered Office:

22, Nassau Street, DUBLIN

Capital and share structure:

£24,000 in 24,000 shares of £1 each

Subscribers: ?

Directors:

Directors: Jon(athan?) CASH; (indecipherable)

Secretary: Thomas S. Malony

Shareholders: ?

Legal actions: ?

Receivership/winding up: ?

Dissolution:

The note in the Articles of Association of the succeeding company, the HOLYFORD MINING COMPANY (see below) notes that a contract had been signed on April 25 1866 to sell all the assets of the Holyford Mine to the new company. This indicates that the Dublin company had ceased to exist by that date, as the vendors were not the Dublin company, but two individuals who presumably had acquired the company assets prior to April 1866.

3. HOLYFORD MINING COMPANY LIMITED (1866)

Incorporation date:

1866: May 4

Registered Office:

33, Old Jewry, London

Articles of Association:

Aim to buy the Holyford Copper Mine and more specifically to purchase from SALMON (a Director) and ROBERTSON (a non-Director) " all existing materials, machinery, steam engines, whims...." etc for £1,530, as provided in a contract dated April 25, 1866.

Capital and share structure:

£20,000 in 2,000 shares of £10 each

Subscribers: ?

Directors:

Five in total, including Harvey WADGE, Gentleman, of Dublin, allocated 100 shares, and Henry Carwen SALMON, Mining Engineer, of Manchester with 610 shares.

Shareholders:

Two extant lists in the BT file. Most shareholders based in and around London and Manchester, some in northern England and a few in Ireland: Lewis (200)

1867: May 20. All shares had been purchased: 50 at £10 and all others part paid: £1,775 at £3-10-0 and 175 forfeited shares at £1-10-0. Total capital raised, £6,975.

1869: May. Updated summary of revenue generated by share placements and calls: 50 shares at £10 and 1,950 at £3-10-0. Peter Graham, an upholsterer, of Oxford Street, London was the largest shareholder (265 shares).

Legal actions: None recorded

Receivership/winding up:

1867, Aug. 13. EGM, following another meeting on July 26, to approve a decision to wind up the Company.

Dissolution: 1883: August 31.

CRO Reference:

BT31/1259/3064

HORSE ISLAND MINING COMPANY, LTD (THE)

Incorporation date:

1853: May 26

Registered Office:

69, Lincoln's Inn Fields, LONDON

Capital and share structure:

£60,000 in 6000 shares of £10 each

Subscribers:

7, all based in and around London. Each allocated 1 share at time of company formation.

Directors and Officers: ?

Shareholders: ?

Legal actions: ?

Receivership/winding up: ?

Dissolution:

1882: March 7.

CRO Reference:

BT31/778/420C

Comment

The share certificate vignette depicts two Engine Houses, both of apparent Cornish design, one a winding engine, the other a pumping engine; a large factory style building with its own chimney; several ranges of other buildings; and a large number of sailing ships moored just offshore (Figs. 12 and 13). Overall, the illustration creates an impression of a substantial, fully functional and productive enterprise. The reality was however somewhat different, from which it may be concluded that the vignette engraver chose, or, more likely, was encouraged to use a degree of artistic licence in composing his illustration.

Cowman and Reilly (1988) and Hodnett (2010) provide separate accounts of the history of copper mining on Horse Island, from which the following précis is derived.

The Horse Island mine was first developed by Colonel Hall, under whose management it produced 5 tons of copper ore in 1814. By 1820 it had reverted back to the estate owner, Lord Audley, and in that year produced 20 tons of ore. After a subsequent, short period under the control of the MINING COMPANY OF IRELAND (see below) before 1830, activities resumed again in 1835 under the management of the WEST CORK MINING COMPANY (see below). Rich copper ore, worth several thousand pounds, was discovered that year and

worked by windlass from shallow workings at several sites to depths ranging between 6 to 30 or 40 fathoms (36 to 240 feet: Hodnett, 2010). Cowman and Reilly (1988) deduce that all of the company's officially recorded copper sales at Swansea between 1835 and 1837, amounting to 326 tons of copper ore, were mined at Horse Island. Even though the West Cork company had spent a considerable amount on acquiring offices and a wharf in London in 1834, there is no indication of how much was spent on developing mining facilities. It is, however, reasonable to presume that a certain amount must have been expended on the



Figure 12. An unissued, possibly a printers proof copy of an Horse Island Mining Company Limited share certificate. This is a rare example of an Irish share certificate to bear an illustrative vignette (see discussion under "Comment" below).

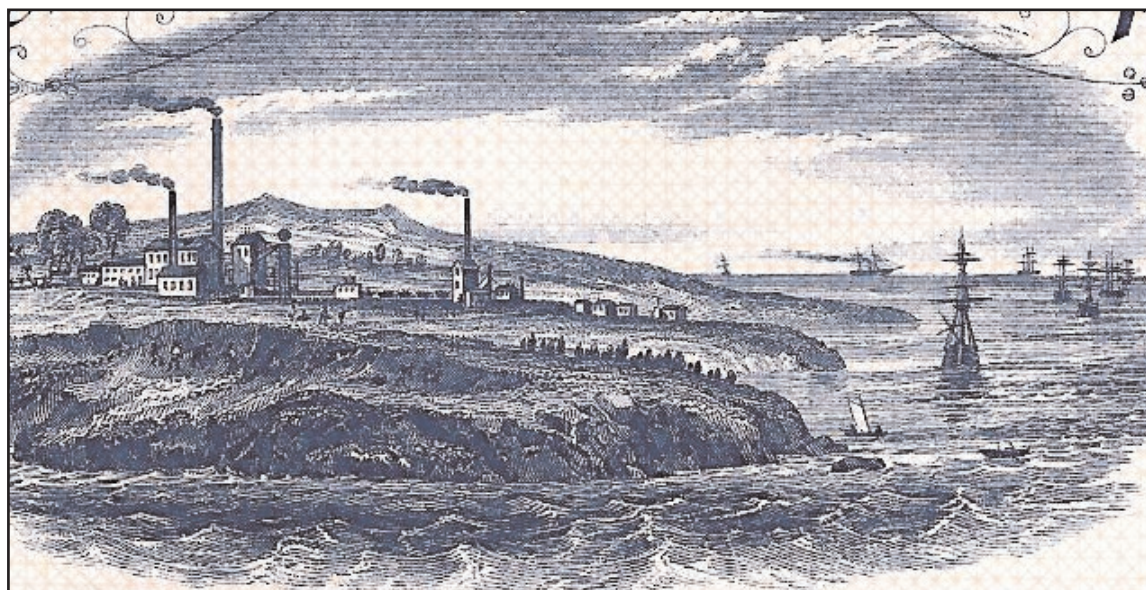


Figure 13. An enlarged view of the vignette shown in Figure 12.

mining operations described by Hodnett (2010), although not of a scale or style commensurate with the extent of infrastructure depicted in the vignette.

Subsequent to the demise of the West Cork company in 1843, ownership of the mine once more reverted to the Audley Estate under the trusteeship of the Mining Company of Ireland, and it was subsequently acquired by Thomas CAVE in 1852 (Cowman and Reilly, 1988). Trials were resumed at Horse Island by late 1852. Cowman and Reilly (1988) note that between 1852 and 1853 a total of 419 tons of copper ore were raised from an anonymous source in west Cork, and sold at Swansea with an aggregate value of £4,915. They surmise that it could have been supplied by Cave from his operations. If so, it is conceivable that at least some of it was sourced from Horse Island, as was a further 16 tons of low grade ore in 1858.

Hodnett (2010), citing a c.1854 report by Pierre J. Foley, notes a number of shafts developed to various depths up to a maximum of 24 fathoms in the "Engine Shaft", as well as then extant infrastructure on site: "*.. miners houses, ore houses, smithy and carpenters' shops are built, and an excellent horse whim erected..*" There is no mention whatsoever of Engine Houses or other infrastructure on site of a scale and substance even approaching what is depicted in the vignette (Fig. 13). That illustration can therefore be regarded as at least fanciful, if not a gross misrepresentation designed deliberately to mislead investors.

KILLALOE SLATE COMPANY LTD (THE)

Although little is presently known about the fiscal history of this company, what is known is included here as an adjunct to a brief history presented by Cowman (2008) and to facilitate inclusion of previously unpublished notes arising from an MHSI (now MHTI) field excursion to the Killaloe Quarries in October, 1998.

Incorporation date:

1854: January 14

Registered Office: ?

Capital and share structure:

£25,000 in 25,000 shares of £1 each

Subscribers: ?

Directors and Officers:

Secretary: W.J.Hanly

Shareholders: ?

Legal actions: ?

Receivership/winding up: ?

Dissolution: ?

The following summary history of the development of the Killaloe Slate quarries is derived from two sources:

- A brief history compiled by Cowman (2008)
- And a compilation of field excursion notes of comments and remarks made by Dr. A. M. Flegg (AMF) and Mr. Michael Joy (MJ), over the course of a Mining History Society (now Trust) of Ireland field excursion to the quarries on October 10th, 1998. Any inaccuracies are the responsibility of the author, and not of the excursion leaders.

▪ **Garrykennedy.**

Slate shipped from here to railheads at Killaloe or Nenagh. This trade stopped only with the advent of trucks in the early 20th Century (AMF). Slate yard and restored Mine House by harbour.

- First records of workings date back to the time of Brian Boru (AMF).
- Location mentioned in the Annals of the Four Masters - slates used on roofs at Kincora (?) (AMF)

18thC. Grant of lease to Francis Rolliston, a Cromwellian settler.

1777. 60 men working on site. Transport along Shannon. Derryhea. (Arthur Young: "Tour of Ireland") (MJ). Old quarry at Derrycastle.

1826 (Cowman, 2008). Killaloe quarry operations initiated by the Mining Company of Ireland, at a cost of £886 by the end of that year.

1827 - 1830 (Cowman, 2008). Operations afflicted by a strike and dismissal of all workers in 1827, and by denial of most direct access to the R. Shannon by landowners, necessitating 6 miles land transport to an access point. Ongoing strikes, failure to resolve access and reduction of workers wages led to serious

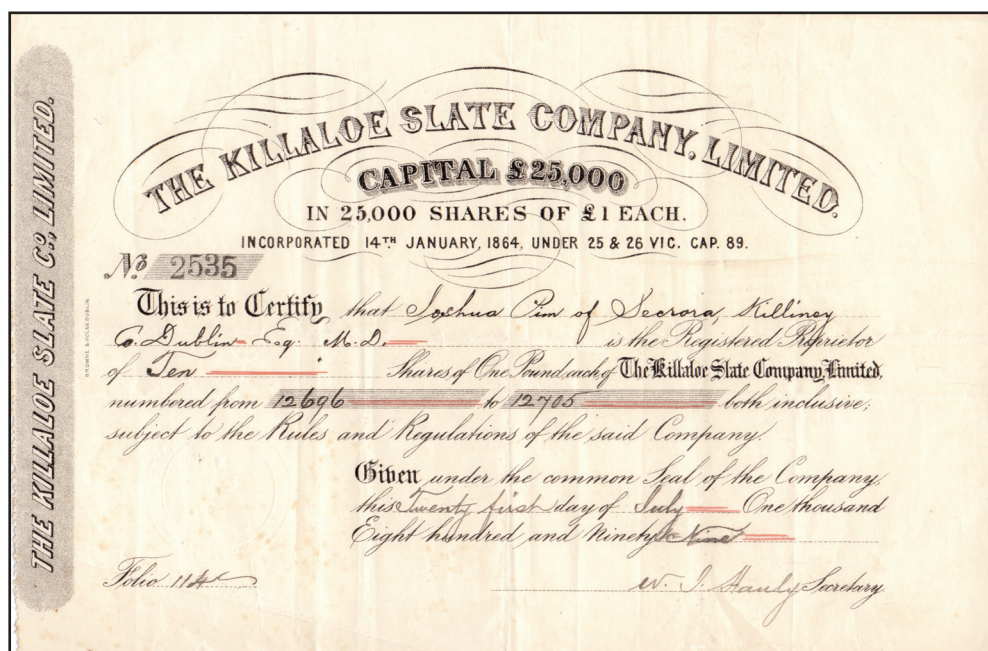


Figure 14. A certificate for ten shares in "The Killaloe Slate Company, Limited", dated 1899.

unrest and violence on site.

1831 - 1835 (Cowman, 2008). Commissioners for Public Works undertook in 1831 - 1832 to build a road and riverside pier to facilitate company operations. The road was constructed, amidst landowner objections, in 1834 and, in anticipation MCI had expanded production facilities including the erection of a 30' waterwheel, two other wheels, and the construction of a tunnel and rail system. However, two tip heap falls impeded extraction operations.

1836 - 1840 (Cowman, 2008). Although slate available for sale at MCI yard in Grand Canal Basin, Dublin, about £10,000 worth of unsold slate had been stockpiled by 1838 due to marketing problems. The stock had been reduced to a value of £4882 by 1840. MCI had operated at a profit of £1908 between 1835 and 1837, but at a loss of £2175 between 1838 and 1840.

1841. Lease acquired from MCI by an English company, the Imperial Slate Company, for £4,000. Also operated at about this time by the ROYAL IRISH MINING COMPANY (MJ; Cowman 2008)

1850. Welsh miners village at Corbally (derelict, but still relatively intact in 1998). Occupation dates of 1839 and 1847 noted (MJ).

1864 - 1914/5. Killaloe Slate Co. Ltd formed in 1864. Share Certificate issued in July 1899. Bronze Medal awarded to the Loughtea Slate Quarry at the Dublin International Exhibition of 1865. Delahunty was manager at that time (from Wicklow originally). 10,000 tons of dressed slate produced per year at a waste: produce ratio of 6:1 = 60,000 tons of rock lifted per annum. 700 men and boys employed (Kane 1844)

1881. Transport cost. Cartage 3/6 per ton to Nenagh or Killaloe. Shipping 1/6 per ton through Garrykennedy. Coal, turf and porter imported, slates and oats out. Horses carried slate down from quarries and coal back up to quarries.

1914/5. 1 ton of slate per horse to customers as far away as Rathdowney and Urlingford (MJ). Quarries closed due to diversion of manpower into the British Army at the start of the 1st World War. "Lamentations" upon closure.

1923 - 1956. Operated by Mr. J. B. O'Driscoll. Strike in 1949,

from which the quarries never fully recovered. Closed in 1956, though a minor amount of re-working waste tips, with dressed slate sold through the Company which still existed on paper.

1991- 1992. Unsuccessful attempt by Capco and Penrhyn Quarries to open a new site west of the old quarries at Killoran. Automated dressing introduced. Slate from a much drier site - dried out too easily and not as easily split as wet slate (cf. Newfoundland Slate process, 1997).

1998. MHSI site visit. Both quarry sites owned by Mr. Finn O'Driscoll.

Curragh Quarry. 100- 150 feet deep. Miners path entrance to base. Pumped 24 hours per day throughout 1912 - 1956 period of operation. Large iron buckets for lifting slate blocks: 1 of these is still intact. Best quality slate from a narrow cutting at

west end of quarry. Potatoes grown in 4 fields above quarry, now forested. 2 types of slate produced: striped (= siltstone beds in slaty pelite) and unstriped (= slaty pelite). See GSI memoir for list of quarrymen's terms: e.g. "bellies" = cleaved joints; "ends" = vertical joints; "jump" = throw of fault. Magazine, still intact, built 1950s - in two halves, detonators one half, fuse cord in the other? Other concrete buildings still relatively intact (need roofs).

Corbally Quarry. Mine/Estate managers house, occupied until 1950s. Foundations of Police Barracks just opposite. Photos/video of various buildings and 19th C walls and buildings at SW end of Quarry (compare reasonably well with 1843 engraving of quarry from Wilkinson: *The Practical Geology and Ancient Architecture of Ireland*). Manual slate dressing until 1923, when electricity installed for diamond saws (blocks still split manually). Had to work 2 or 3 sides of block to get it to split, as compared with only 1 or 2 sides for Bangor slates = less labour. Two Blondin (diesel) engines installed in late 19th C: very powerful, unnecessary for working "slig". A group of divers on site noted that the pit is 45m deep: intact wooden crane platform found near bottom, along with other equipment.

▪ **Engine House.** A Cornish design Engine House was discovered on site. There is no known previous record of its existence or when and by whom it was erected. The building is heavily overgrown with ivy, but is otherwise in surprisingly good condition, and it even includes partial remains of roof timbers. There are additional remains of a boiler house and a flue leading up the hill side to a square profile chimney (again relatively intact). The engine cylinder diameter is estimated to be about 24 - 36 inches on the basis of the size of the house, the floor of which was filled in to ground level. It is possible that the cylinder block/cataract pit lie just below this surface. A winding engine? (JHM and DC)

Killoran. 1990 - 2. Vacuum pads + mechanical splitters. Diamond wheel on block (cf. Newfoundland Slate, Canada, processing system).

MINING COMPANY OF IRELAND

The following corporate history is summarised from Cowman (2001, 2002), while the development history summarised under "Comment" below are derived from both of these articles as well as three others by Cowman (2007a, 2007b, 2008). Between them, these five articles provide the most comprehensive overview yet published of the formation and activities of the Mining Company of Ireland (MCI).



Figure 15. An illustration of an MCI share certificate dated May 2, 1855, which appeared in the scripophily sales catalogue (Auction 47) of the Tschöpe auction house, Germany (<http://www.tschoepe.de>) in May, 2001.

Incorporation date:

1824: February 5 (date of inaugural meeting in Chamber of Commerce, not Act of Parliament)

Registered Office:

1824: Dublin
1856: 30 Lower Ormond Quay, Dublin
1886 - c. mid-1990s: Ringsend, Dublin

Capital and share structure:

- 1824: January - February
- £500,000 in an intended share structure of 25,000 shares of £25 each, with a deposit of 10/- payable on application. This changed, after protest, to 20,000 shares of £5 each at inaugural meeting, with 10/- deposit payable on application
 - Limit of 25 shares per person. All 20,000 issued, including 1,568 to English investors.
 - £10,000 capital raised
 - Shares trading at £2 each by February 1824.
 - Calls totalling 30/- issued over next 18 months

Subscribers: ?

Directors and Officers:

1824: March. More than 400 shareholders were eligible to serve as Directors. This included 22 members of the Quaker PIM family.

Shareholders:

1824: March. More than 1,000 individuals listed in a shareholder register, of whom about 400 held more than 25 shares each and were therefore eligible to serve as Directors. 1825 - 1826. Problems with forfeitures and ability to deal shares allocated to English investors. Resolved by early

1828 when a large portion of issued shares held by English and Scottish investors.

Legal actions:

1848-1852. Various actions pursued by MCI against Lord Audley under the provisions of the Encumbered Estates Act (1848) to recover a £10,000 loan made in 1824. MCI awarded 50% of the loan in 1852.

1868-1870: Actions against Robert Heron, erstwhile Company Secretary for misrepresentation during course of negotiations to purchase the Allihies copper mines from the Puxley family.

Receivership/winding up:

1891: March. Formal liquidation initiated
c. 1895. Company's affairs merged with those of a lead manufacturing and retailing company, Strachan Brothers (a subsidiary of Williams and Woods) to form the "Mining Company of Ireland and Strachan Brothers"

1994. Mining Company of Ireland and Strachan Brothers taken over by the Calder Group (UK), which continued sheet lead manufacturing amongst other metal fabrication activities.

The MCI was arguably the most successful of the four "philanthropic" companies established by Act of Parliament in 1824, the other three being the Hibernian Mining Company, the ROYAL IRISH MINING COMPANY (see below) and the Imperial Mining Company.

The MCI was established in 1824 upon three expectations: that Ireland abounded in as yet undeveloped mineral wealth; an expressed desire to promote economic prosperity and employment in Ireland (the philanthropic principle); and to act as a conduit for English inward investment into Ireland (Cowman, 2001). Once established, the philanthropic principle fell by the wayside somewhat, as the company entered into fierce competition with the Hibernian Mining Company to secure mines and promising prospects. By mid 1825, and on foot of expending £16,000 of their total capital of £40,000 at the time, MCI had secured leases on 38 properties, of which 8 were developed as mines, but only two of which proved profitable - Knockmahon/Tankardstown (1824 - 1876) in Co. Waterford and Luganure (including the Ballycorus smelter) in Co. Wicklow (1824 - 1895: Cowman, 2002, 2007b).

Apart from those districts, the MCI was very active in exploring and/or developing prospects and mines in many other parts of Ireland, as described by Cowman (2002, 2007a, 2007b, 2008) and to which reference is directed. These include: Cappagh (1824 - 1852); Allihies (1868 - c. 1870s); Slieve Ardagh coalfield (1825 - 1890); the Keeldrum lead mine in Co. Donegal (1825 - 1832); the Killaloe slate quarries (1826 - 1840: also see KILLALOE company description above); Clontibret antimony mine, Co. Monaghan (1825 - 1826); Derrynoose lead mine, Co. Armagh (1825 - 1826 and 1836 - 1837); Caime lead mine, Co. Wexford (1836 - 1861); and HOLLYFORD COPPER MINE (1837 - 1840: see above).

ROYAL IRISH MINING COMPANY (THE)

Cowman (2001, 2002) provides a brief account of this company, from which the following summary is primarily derived. His account focuses principally upon its establishment by Act of Parliament, but also provides summary information upon its subsequent history or operations.

Incorporation date:

1825: January 23. Date of public meeting at which incorporation of the company recorded formally, although it was incorporated by an Act of Parliament in late 1824 (Cowman 2001).

Registered Office: Dublin

Capital and share structure:

£400,000 in 16,000 shares of £25 each: 5/- deposit payable upon application.

Subscribers: ?

Directors and officers

Chairman: John McMahon

Directors: John Clancey; Pat Nolan; M.M. Duignan

Shareholders: ?

Legal actions:

1838. Chancery proceedings between Lord Dunally and RIMC concerning Silvermines lease at which it was discovered that the supposed RIMC negotiator John Salmon had, instead, been negotiating on his personal account.

Receivership/winding up: ?

Dissolution: 1842. Payment of 4d in the £1 to creditors.

Comment

The Royal Irish Mining Company (RIMC) was one of four public companies established by Acts of Parliament in Ireland in 1824, ostensibly to satisfy, at least in part, philanthropic objectives. While the origins of one of these companies, the

Hibernian Mining Company (HMC), date to April 1822, the inaugural meeting of the first, the MINING COMPANY OF IRELAND (MCI: see above) was held on February 4, 1824 and incorporated formally by Act of Parliament subsequently. The "Hibernian Mining Company" was incorporated shortly afterwards and fierce competition soon developed between these two companies to secure the best mining prospects then known and available.

By contrast RIMC entered the property acquisition fray somewhat late, after most of the best prospects had been secured by either the MCI or HMC, and this despite the inaugural RIMC meeting being held only two months after that of the MCI, in April 1824. Nonetheless, it commenced offering shares to the public immediately and despite transitory problems with the Parliamentary incorporation process, the company is reported to have raised £27,000 by early 1825 and share dealings commenced on the Dublin Stock Exchange.

The RIMC certificate illustrated is numbered 12,545 and bears an issue date of March 4, 1825. This suggests that RIMC had raised significantly more from share sales than just the deposit amount of 5/- per share as this would have raised only £3,136 by the date of the certificate. It must be presumed therefore that extra calls were made on allotment of shares. How much is conjectural, as full payment of £25 on 12,545 shares would have raised a total of £313,625. By early 1826, the working capital had been reduced to about £17,000 presumably on foot of expenditures incurred assessing six metalliferous sites, two potential coal mines and two slate quarries, including KILLALOE (see above) during 1825. Further prospects were evaluated in 1826, including development of a lead prospect at Killiney, by an adit which is still visible today, as well as a lead

mine at Milltown, Co. Clare now visible as a small overgrown open pit.

Considerable expenditure was however incurred developing a lead prospect at Wheatfield in Co. Kildare. Production is not recorded, but the company continued in existence up to 1835 at which time it was evaluating prospects in Glenmalur and Silvermines, the latter through its supposed representative, John Salmon (also associated with the establishment of the BALLYMONEEN COPPER and SULPHUR MINING Co. Ltd: see below). It was discovered during the course of subsequent legal proceedings concerning Silvermines that Salmon had been negotiating on his personal account.



Figure 16. A certificate for one £25 share in the "Royal Irish Mining Company", printed on vellum and dated 1825.

**SIMPLEX COPPER EXTRACTION
(IRELAND) SYNDICATE, LTD (THE).
(DEBENTURE CERTIFICATE)**

Incorporation date:

1904: March 12

Registered Office:

1904: May 10. Benthall Hall, Broseley, Shropshire

[Residence of Ronald Hugh FitzRoy]

1904: June 26. 5, Moorgate Street

Buildings, LONDON EC

Articles of Association:

Company established "to exercise and use in Ireland a certain patented invention for an improved method for the extraction of copper from its ores and with a view thereto to acquire and take from THE SIMPLEX COPPER EXTRACTION COMPANY LIMITED a licence to use said invention".

Capital and share structure:

£100 in 100 shares of £1 each

£2000 in 20 debentures of £100 each

Subscribers:

Seven subscribers, all London, mainly solicitors clerks, other than two solicitors: J. WHEATLEY, 81 Denmark Hill, London SE, and H. A. SWEPSTONE, 31 Great St. Helen's, London EC.

Directors and Officers:

Directors: Ronald Hugh
FITZROY (sole Director)

Secretary: J. Wheatley

Solicitors: Swepstone and Stone,
31 Great St. Helen's, London EC.

Shareholders:

1904: December 31. List of share holders, all as per subscribers, and all with 1 share, save Fitzroy with 93. Total shares issued: 100.
1905: March 20. 15 debentures, numbered 1 - 15, of £100 each issued to a total value of £1,500, and each bearing an annual interest rate of 5%.

1905: December 5. List of shareholders: no change from previous year.

Legal actions:

1905: March 14. Creation of a £2,000 mortgage secured on Company assets, to the benefit of R.H.FitzRoy.

Receivership/winding up:

1906: June 24. Letter to CRO noting that company had ceased business in June 1906 and that its

assets had been sold for the benefit of debenture holders.

1906: June 26. Letter to CRO noting appointment of Mr. Joseph Irving, of Schull, Ireland (but had moved to America) as Receiver acting on behalf of debenture holders.

Dissolution:

1909: March 5

CRO Reference:

BT31/10616/80325

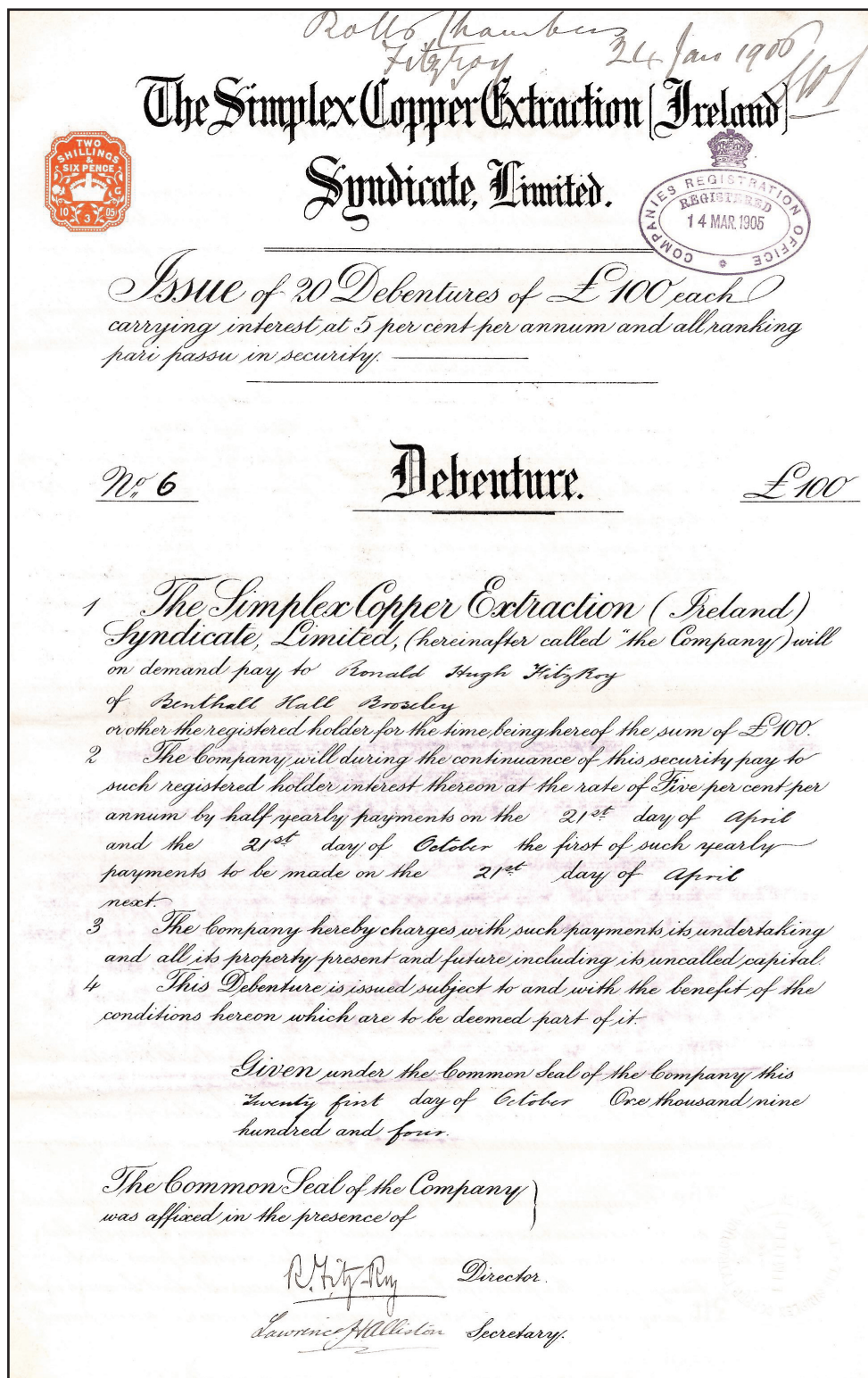


Figure 17. A £100 debenture certificate in "The Simplex Copper Extraction (Ireland) Syndicate, Limited", dated 1904.

TASSAN MINING COMPANY, LTD (THE)

Summary histories of the development of the Tassan Mine, Co. Monaghan are provided by Morris (1996) and Morris et.al. (2002). The latter account provides information relating to the history of the mine before and after the period of operation as "The Tassan Mining Company Limited", as well as a survey of the then extant mine buildings and other infrastructure at the mine site [Note: most features still remained intact in 2010, though in increasingly precarious condition, especially the roof on the main office building, cf. Morris *et al.*, 2002].

The following account is somewhat longer than that given for other companies in this register, primarily to accommodate inclusion of ancillary fiscal history information recorded in the *Mining Journal*, as well as an analysis of shareholder investors in this company.

Incorporation date:

1857: April 9 (as a Limited Liability Company: but see discussion under "Comment" below)

Registered Office:

1853: 26, New Bridge Street, Blackfriars, London

1857: 9, Market Street, Bradford

Purpose:

".. the taking of over and holding of a certain mine and mineral hereditaments and premises known as the Tassan Lead Mine in the parish of Clontibret in the County of Monaghan in Ireland and the working, raising and selling of lead and other ores and minerals upon, under and from the same.."

It is further noted in the Articles of Association that the new company would acquire all of the interests of the former "Cost Book Company", presumably the entity entitled the "Tassan Lead Mine".

Capital and share structure:

£20,000 in 20,000 shares of £1 each.

Shares issued at a price of 17/- paid

1857-1858: at least two calls totalling 2/6 per share

Subscribers:

George Greenwood TETLEY, Bradford, Stuff Merchant (3,000 shares); Benjamin Briggs POPPLEWELL, Bradford, Wine Merchant (1,005); James KNOWLES, Gomersall, Cloth Merchant (1,900); James KEIGHLEY, Bradford, Plumber and Glazier (567); Richard NEWBY, Bradford, Druggist (500); John Allison HESSELTON, Bradford, Accountant (100), John Benjamin POPPLEWELL, Bingley, Wine Merchant (182).

Directors and Officers:

Directors : as per list of subscribers (Fig. 19).

Secretary: J.A.Heselton

Shareholders:

See Table 3 and Figure 20

Legal actions:

Receivership/winding up:

1858 : September 6. Company meeting at which it was resolved that the company be wound up voluntarily

1858: December 29 (confirmed January 29, 1859). Meeting at which it was confirmed that all of the assets of the company had been sold at public auction on November 11, 1858

to Mr. Gregory, agent acting on behalf of two of the late Directors of the Company.

Dissolution:

1860: April 14. Confirmation of final notice of dissolution agreed at a company meeting on July 23, 1859, and signed by G.G.Tetley and R.Newby, Liquidator.

CRO Reference:

BT31/249/821

BT41/675/3686

Comment

This relatively poorly known mine was one of the largest of a cluster of lead deposits developed during the mid-19th C in northeast Co. Monaghan and the adjoining part of Co. Armagh. Summary accounts of the currently known history of the development of the Tassan Mine are provided by Morris in MHSI newsletter No.3, December 1996, and by Morris *et al.*, (2002).

The following outline of its corporate fiscal history is abstracted principally from articles in the *Mining Journal* (MJ). It is very notable that the latter records document corporate and capitalization developments well before the date of incorporation documents which survive in the CRO archive records in the PRO, Kew. This discrepancy most likely reflects non-survival of the pre-1857 "Cost Book Company" records in the CRO archives.

The mine was formed, most probably as the "Cost Book Company" noted above, in April 1853 to work a sett granted by Lord Templeton under a 21 year lease dated from May 1852. From various entries it may be deduced that the Company was capitalized at £20,000, in the form of 20,000 shares of £1 nominal value. These were, however, only issued as "partly paid" shares, which were subject to "calls" periodically whenever the Company required extra working capital to sustain its development. In the first announcement of the formation of the Company (*Mining Journal*, April 9th 1853), it is noted that an initial target capital requirement of £2,500 was required and that this had already been raised prior to the public announcement. However, records of the initial fund raising are slightly confused: a figure of £2,350 is mentioned in the following June and a called up price of 10/-, suggesting an initial placement of 4,700 shares. Additional shares were also issued to fund the purchase of the lease. This and subsequent information concerning paid up prices, calls and share prices/sales are noted in Table 2.

The report of the first AGM held in London and published in the *Mining Journal*, on June 25th, 1853 was, not unexpectedly, very bullish. It was noted that the share placement had been received very eagerly, although, amazing though it might seem, dissatisfaction was expressed at share prices being quoted in the *Mining Journal* above the paid-up value - a quotation of £1-10-0 per share on May 25th is cited. This was considered unwarranted, did not reflect well on either the Company or the *Journal*, and should be discontinued in favour of listings authorized by the Company! A Mr. Josiah Hitchins of Tavistock was noted as a new and substantial shareholder.

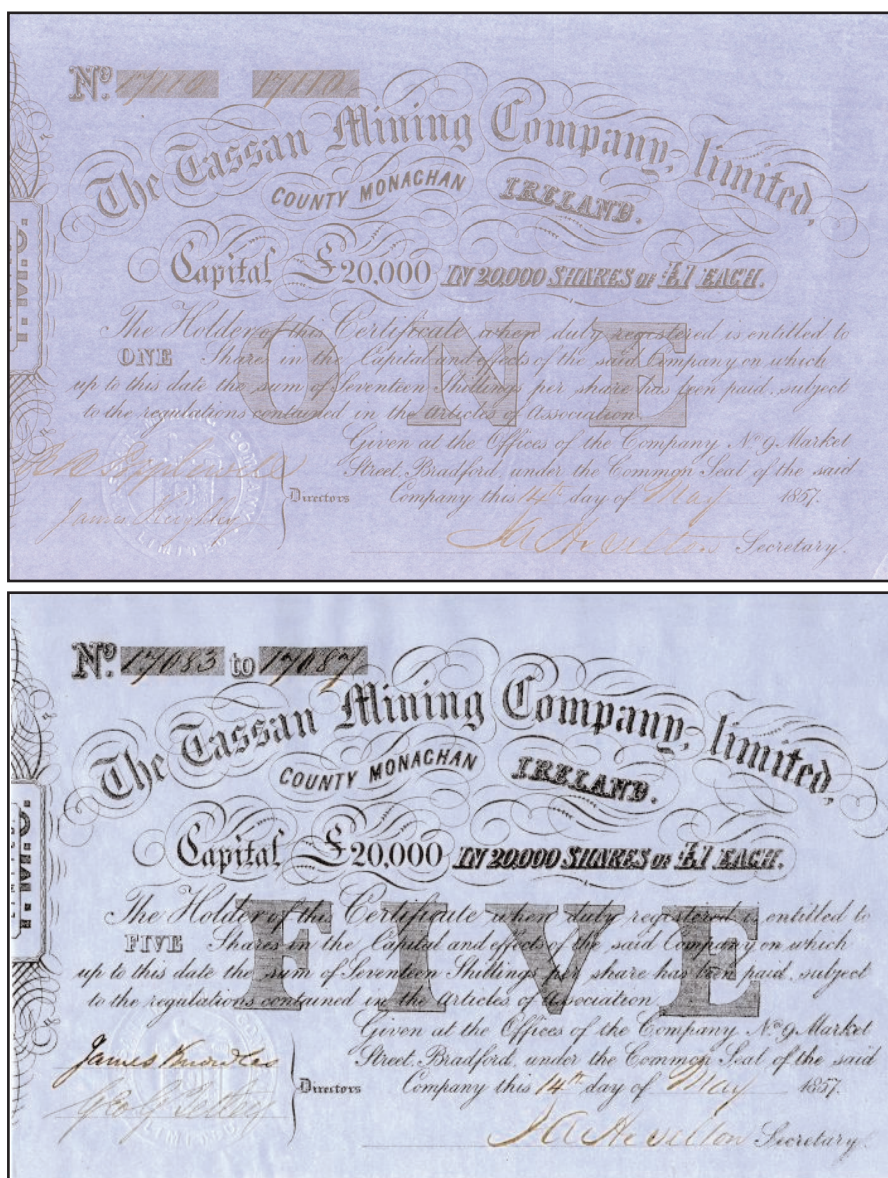


Figure 18. Two share certificates for the Tassan Mining Company limited, one for a single share (number 17110), the other for five shares (numbers 17083 - 17087). Both certificates are dated May 14, 1857.

Table 2. A summary record of capital raising activities undertaken by the Tassan Mining Company between 1853 and 1858.

| Date | Nominal Cap: £1 shares | Paid-up value per share | Paid-up capital | Share Price | Comments |
|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| April 9, 1853 | £20,000 | | £ 2,500 | | Private placements |
| May 25, 1853 | | | | £1-10-0 | |
| June 25, 1853 | | 10/- | £ 2,350 | | |
| Dec 3, 1853 | | | £ 2,350 | | |
| Oct 7, 1854 | £20,000 | 12/- | £ 12,000 | 5/- | |
| Oct 28, 1854 | | | | | Shares traded |
| Nov 4, 1854 | | | | | Shares traded |
| Jan 20, 1855 | £20,000 | 13/- | £ 13,000 | 7/6 | |
| Oct 6, 1855 | | | | | New management |
| Jan 26, 1856 | £20,000 | 15/- | £ 15,000 | 3d: at auction | 300 shares auctioned |
| Feb 9, 1856 | | 1/-per share call | ? £16,000 | | £350-12-0 calls in arrears |
| April 3, 1857 | | 17/- | £ 17,000 | | Incorporation as a Limited Company |
| 1857 | | | | | |
| Sept. 1858 | £20,000 | | ? | 3.6d | Voluntary liquidation |
| Nov. 11, 1858 | £300 | | | = 0.18d/share | Sale of all assets at public auction |

The manner of how shares should be dealt was a source of ongoing comment, almost from the outset. Joseph Holdstock, in a letter to the Journal published on June 29th, 1853, expresses many concerns: the lack of a public market for share dealings; the power of agents to control prices; the differences between quoted and actual prices of dealings; and the manipulation of prices by Directors and insiders to the exclusion of others. Similarly, in January 1854, a Mr. J. S. Lane expressed his outrage at the share transfer charges levied by dealers: 2/6 per transfer.

Development difficulties afflicted the mine throughout 1854 and 1855. This in part reflects operational problems, but also the impact of the Crimean War which started in March 1854 and continued until early 1856. Somewhat surprisingly, the commencement of the war induced a drop in lead prices (Mining Journal, Jan 20th, 1855), while costs, of materials, supplies and equipment, not unexpectedly, started to rise. The net result for the mine was financial problems - as can be deduced from the periodic increase in called-up share values, reflecting the need for the company to seek extra working capital from its shareholders (Table 2). Even so, its shares still traded at reasonable prices, although by mid to late 1855, the difficulties would appear to have become almost insurmountable with shareholders calling for the dissolution of the Company. Instead, a new group, based in Bradford, took over management in October 1855 and re-financed the Company.

We, the several persons whose Names and Addresses are subscribed, are desirous of being formed into a Company, in pursuance of this Memorandum of Association, and we respectively agree to take the number of Shares in the Capital of the Company set opposite our respective names.

| Names and Addresses of Subscribers. | No. of Shares taken by each Subscriber. |
|--|---|
| George Greenwood Tetley Leeds Road Bradford in the County of York Staff Merchant | 3000 |
| Benjamin Briggs Apperwell Market Street Bradford in the County of York Wine Merchant | 1005 |
| James Knowles, Cornhill in the County of York Cloth Merchant | 1900 |
| James Keighly, Bradford in the County of York, Plumber & Glazier, Chapel Court, Kirkgate | 567 |
| John Allison, Hevelton, Darby Street Bradford in the County of York. Accountant | 100 |
| Richard Newby Kirkgate Bradford in the County of York. Druggist. | 500. |
| John Benjamin Popplewell. My Mill in Fall Bingley in the County of York. Wine Merchant | 182 |

Figure 19. A copy of the List of Subscribers to the formation of the Tassan Mining Company (photographic copy of the original list contained in the BT41/675/3686 folio in the PRO, Kew).

This transfer of control was extremely acrimonious, charges and countercharges littering the pages of the Mining Journal throughout the first half of 1856: the Bradford faction claiming incompetence on the part of the preceding, London based management, and vice versa. With the benefit of hindsight, and in light of the fate which would soon befall the Company the views of the London based group and its supporting shareholders are not without merit.

By January 1856, the share price had all but collapsed to 3d/£1 share, albeit at an auction sale of shares. This coincided with yet another call of 1/- per share, bringing the total paid up value to 16/- per share and this despite substantial arrears from previous "calls" which remained unpaid.

At an unknown later date, the Company decided to avail of the provisions of the Joint Companies Stock Act 1856, as it was reformed and renamed as a Limited Company, which was incorporated formally in April, 1857 (see above). This action,

and at least two further calls totaling 2/6, to a total paid-up value of 19/6 per share, failed to save the Company: it went into liquidation in September 1858 and was sold to two anonymous ex-Directors on November 11, 1858 for £300, the equivalent of 0.18d/£1 share. The total amount of capital raised by "calls" during the 18 month existence of the company amounted to £2,273-16-0, or a net amount of £2,047-12-0 if unpaid calls amounting to £226-4-0 are discounted.

The sale of the mine and all its assets in November, 1858 was not, however, the end of the mine. It was, no doubt to the chagrin of its erstwhile shareholders, just the beginning of its most successful phase of operation - as an apparently privately owned and operated Company in which, no doubt, the two anonymous ex-Directors who bought its assets in November 1858 played a significant role.

An analysis of shareholders by family name (and presumed familial relationship), occupation, registered address and

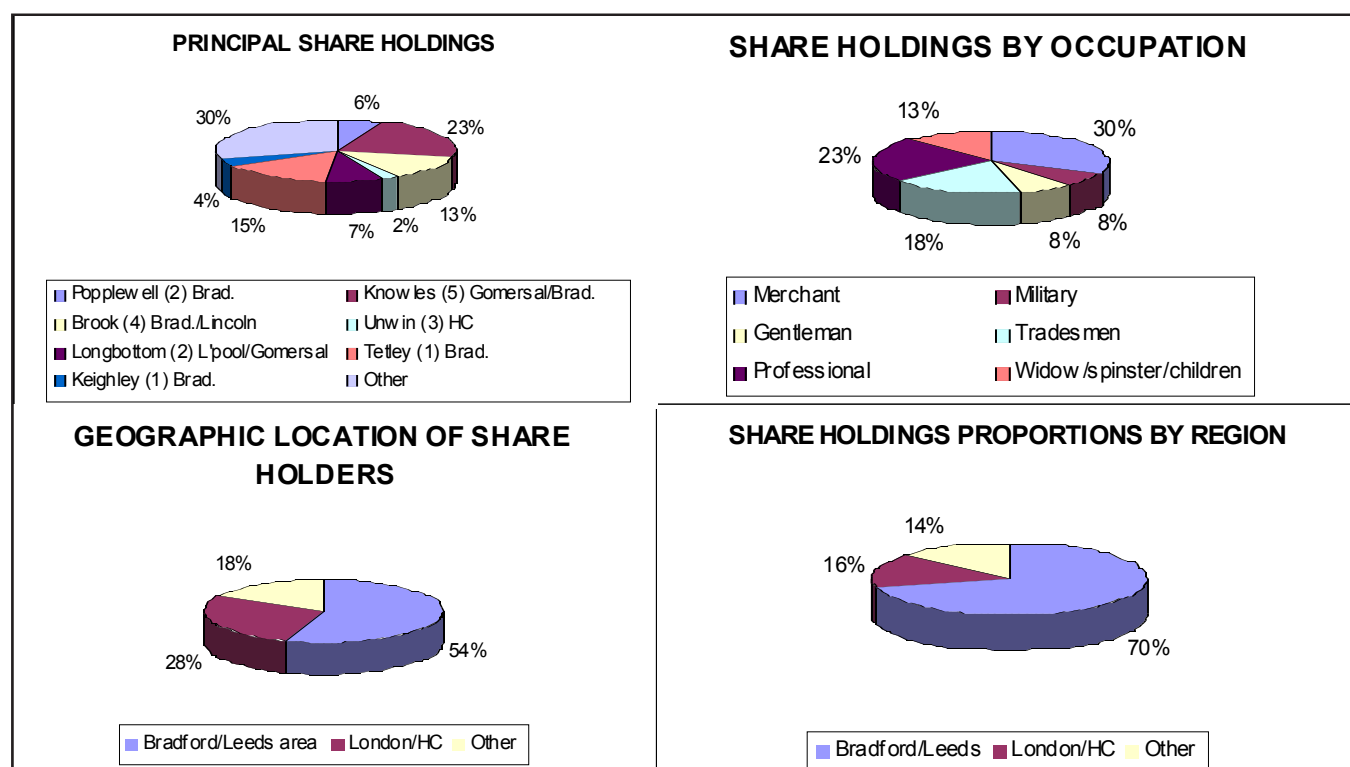


Figure 20. An analysis of Tassan Mining Company limited shareholders by: family name (top left); occupation (top right); residence/office address (bottom left); and region (bottom right). Abbreviations: Brad, Bradford; L'pool, Liverpool; HC, Home Counties.

regional distribution is presented in Table 3 and Figure 20. Two members of the POPPLEWELL family owned 30% of the company, followed closely by the five members of the KNOWLES family with an aggregate holding of 23% and the single member of the TETLEY family with 15%.

The latter, and Benjamin POPPLEWELL were both quite significant shareholders in the BALLYMONEEN COPPER and SULPHUR MINING Company (see below), the only other obvious link between the two companies provided by both sharing the same registered office address at 26, New Bridge Street, Blackfriars, London: the Tassan Company in 1853, before the offices were re-registered in Bradford in 1857, and Ballymoneen in 1857. That Popplewell and Tetley became involved with the latter in the same year as the Tassan offices were moved to Bradford, most probably at their own behest as they were two of the largest shareholders in Tassan (Table 3), is noteworthy and even more so given the acrimonious split between Bradford and London based investors noted above.

The resulting shift towards dominance of shareholders located in the Bradford/English Midlands region is emphasized by both shareholder addresses given by individuals (Table 3), as well as by regional distribution (Fig. 20). This distribution is some-

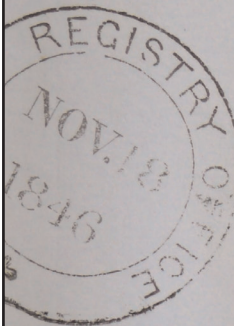
what more subtly reflected by the nature of the occupation of shareholders. Merchants and tradesmen, most reasonably interpreted to reflect "new wealth" generated by industrialization in the Midlands, total almost 50%, whereas there is a tendency for what might be regarded as "old wealth" shareholders, expressed by occupations such as gentlemen or military, to be slightly more prevalent amongst individuals based in London and surrounding areas of SE England.

One very remarkable feature for such a high risk venture is the aggregate 13% shareholding of widows/spinsters and children amongst the list of shareholders. In the case of the two BROOK children, it is reasonable to postulate that their holdings may have been made in their names by a listed and presumed relative, William Brook, even though he resided at a different address. Three shareholders bear the name UNWIN, including one widow (of a Jacob Unwin), one spinster and a Jonah Unwin, a tea dealer, and all probably related to each other. The widow's holding appears to form part of an inheritance from her presumed husband, while the spinster, probably his sister, may have invested upon his recommendation. The involvement of individuals such as these either belies the old adage that "high risk investments are not for widows and orphans", or perhaps it contributed towards the development of that adage, in light of the fate that was soon to befall them as shareholders.

| TASSAN MINING COMPANY Limited. | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|-----------------------|--|---------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| List of shareholders as recorded in Companies Registration Office files BT 41/675/3686 and BT 31/247/821 | | | | | | | | | |
| Folio in Share Register | Surname | Forenames | Address | Occupation | First Directors | Number of shares | | | |
| | | | | | | Founder subscriber s. April 3, 1857 | Sept. 17, 1857 [BT 31 list] | Feb. 15, 1858 [BT 41 and BT 31 listing] | Aug. 10, 1858 [BT 41 and BT 31 lists] |
| 1 | Parry | Frederick John Sidney | Worthing | Major | | | 535 | 535 | 535 |
| 2 | Tetley | George Greenwood | Bradford | Merchant | Director. Chairman at time of liquidation Sept. 6, 1858, and signatory to final dissolution notice April 15, 1860 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| 3 | Kirsop | John | London | Merchant | | | 535 | 535 | 535 |
| 4 | Newby | Richard | Bradford | Druggist | Director. Liquidator, and signatory to final dissolution notice April 15, 1860 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| 5 | Rawstorne | Isabella | Knostrop | Spinster | | | 32 | 32 | 32 |
| 6 | George | William | Bradford | Solicitor | | | 500. Exors of Richard Brook. [200, May 15, 1857; 200 May 25; 100, June 24] | 500. Exors of Richard Brook | 500. Exors of Richard Brook |
| 7 | Morrison | Peter | London | Captain | | | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| 8 | Humfreys | Richard | London [72 Wimpole St., Cavendish Sq.] | | | | 42. Not signed articles of association | 42 | 42 |
| 9 | Paget | George | London | Colonel | | | 100 | 100 Forfeited | 100 |
| 10 | Brook | William Henry | Lincoln | Surgeon | | | 1000 [200 August 29, 1857] | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 11 | Cox | John | Kew Bridge | Gentleman | | | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| 12 | Keighley | James | Bradford | Plumber and Glazier | Director | 567 | 767 | 767 | 767 |
| 13 | Unwin | Jonah Steven | Brighton | Tea Dealer | | | 222 | 222 | 222 |
| 14 | Unwin | Isabel | Hackney | Widow | | | 130 Exor of Jacob Unwin | 130 Exor of Jacob Unwin | 130 Exor of Jacob Unwin |
| 15 | Unwin | Elizabeth Houston | Hackney | Spinster | | | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 16 | Beddoe | John | Stourport | Gentleman | | | 600 | 600 | 600 |
| 17 | Barrow | Richard Bridgman | Matlock | Gentleman | | | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| 18 | Hill | Joseph | Southampton | Surveyor | | | 100 | 100 Forfeited | 100 |
| 19 | Popplewell | Benjamin Briggs | Bradford | Wine Merchant | | 1,005 | 1,005 | 1,005 | 1,005 |
| 20 | Job | John | Grassington | Book keeper | | | 80 | 80 | 80 |
| 21 | Haigh | Thomas | Bradford | Accountant | | | 321 | 321 | 321 |
| 22 | Ward | William Mann | Bradford | Solicitor | | | 267 | 267 | 267 |
| 23 | Wilkinson | Thomas | Leeds | Goldsmith | | | 200 | 200 | 200 |

Table 3. A list of Tassan Mining Company shareholders and other information abstracted from company share registers dated as per right hand three columns.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------|----------------|----------|-------|-----------|------------|--------------------|
| 24 | Popplewell | John Benjamin | Bradford | Wine Merchant | | 182 | 182 | 182 | 182 |
| 25 | Longbottom | Benjamin | Gomersal | Cloth finisher | | | 1,236 | 1,236 | 1,236 |
| 26 | Brook | Catherine George | Bradford | Minor | | | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| 27 | Brook | Richard George | Bradford | Minor | | | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| 28 | Rowbotham | Thomas Kenworthy | Portobello | Agent | | | 628 | 628 | 628 |
| 29 | Knowles | James | Gomersal | Cloth Merchant | Director | 1,900 | 1,900 | 1,900 | 1,900 |
| 30 | Reserved shares | | | | | | 144 | 144 | 144 |
| 31 | Brewster | William | London | Mercer | | | 428 | 428 | 428 |
| 32 | Knowles | Jonathan | Bradford | Merchant | | | 250 | 250 | 250 |
| 33 | Cooke | John | Bradford | Sharebroker | | | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| 34 | Blackburn | Henry Webster | Bradford | Accountant | | | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 35 | Duckitt | William | Bradford | Banker | | | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| 36 | Knowles | Lionel William | Gomersal | Cloth Merchant | | | 1,137 | 1,137 | 1,137 |
| 37 | Longbottom | David | Liverpool | Wool Merchant | | | 250 | 250 | 250 |
| 38 | Lenox | Arthur Wellesley | Liverpool | Wool Merchant | | | 250 | 250 | 250 |
| 39 | Knowles | Arthur | Gomersal | Dyer | | | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| 40 | Heselton | John Allison | Bradford | Accountant | | 100 | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| 41 | Knowles | Frederick Hartley | Gomersal | Cloth Merchant | | | 296 | 296 | 296 |
| TOTAL SHARES ISSUED | | | | | | | 19,856 | 19,856 | 19,856 |
| CALLS TO DATE | | | | | | 17/- | 1/- | 2/- | 2s 6d |
| TOTAL RECEIVED FROM CALLS | | | | | | | £952-12-0 | £1852-16-0 | £2273-16-0 |
| TOTAL CALLS OUTSTANDING | | | | | | | £47-8-0 | £147-4-0 | £226-4-0 |
| SHARES FORFEIT | | | | | | | | 200 | |
| TOTAL FINANCE RAISED | | | | | | | | | £19629-16-0 |



VALENCIA SLATE COMPANY.

Capital, 100,000*l.* in Shares of 10*l.* each.

The Valencia Slate Quarries, situate in the Island of Valencia, on the south-west coast of Ireland, have been worked on a limited scale for a few years, during which time the superior quality of the slate, and its peculiar adaptation for sawing into slabs, have been fully established. The demand for Valencia slabs has now, in fact, become regular and extensive. Having great strength, perfectly true surfaces, and not being affected by acids or grease, nor absorbing moisture, they have been found applicable to a vast variety of uses, and more particularly for factory floors, warehouses, granaries, maltings, stores, prisons, hospitals, railway stations, and for the floors, ceilings, and roofs of public buildings. The station at Birmingham is laid with Valencia slab, and they are used at the Model Prison, Pentonville, at the new Houses of Parliament, and at numerous other public buildings in London. There is also a large and increasing demand for Valencia slabs in the colonies, for coffee drying floors and for sugar-houses. For the purpose of more effectually attaining the enlarged scale of production required to meet the present great and still increasing demand, and of carrying out certain arrangements, whereby the cost of production will be greatly reduced and the rate of profit increased, it is proposed to extend the capital embarked in the undertaking, and to convert the present proprietorship into a Joint-Stock Company, to be constituted under a proper deed of settlement. The capital of this Company to consist of 10,000 shares of 10*l.* each, 2,500 of these shares, constituting a paid-up capital of 25,000*l.*, to represent the capital already invested by the present proprietors in uncoverings, buildings, mills, machinery, and plant; the remaining 7,500 shares to be issued at par to such parties as shall be approved of by the Provisional Committee.

Prospectuses, containing more full details, and showing the immediate and large returns to be obtained, and also forms of applications for shares, may be had at the offices of Messrs. Palmer and Nettleship, Solicitors, 4, Trafalgar-square; and of Messrs. Field, Son, and Wood, Stockbrokers, Warrington-court, Throgmorton-street.

VALENCIA SLATE COMPANY.

The ALLOTMENT of SHARES will be made on FRIDAY, the 20th instant, and no later application can receive attention.

London, Nov. 13, 1846.

Figure 21. A photographic copy of one of two advertisements inviting applications for shares in the "VALENCIA SLATE COMPANY" dated November 13, 1846 [JSC, "Joint Stock Companies" archive, PRO Kew, London]

VALENCIA SLATE (SLAB) COMPANY (THE)

There are records of two companies of similar name housed in the CRO Archive in the PRO, Kew and in the archive of the Guildhall Library, London: the earlier, unlimited company incorporated in 1846, the other, limited company in 1864

1) VALENCIA SLATE COMPANY

Incorporation date:

1846: October 30 [to convert the then extant "Association" into a "Joint Stock Company"]

Registered Office:

1846: October 30: Knightstown, County of Kerry

Capital and share structure:

£100,000 in 10,000 shares of £10 each

2,500 to be issued fully paid to current proprietors, balance at par.

Capital target on initial placement of part paid shares: £30,000 with provision for future calls.

Promoters (Subscribers):

Bewick BLACKBURN, Engineer, Valencia; Thomas BLACKBURN Esq., Surrey; Henry BLACKBURN, Doctor, Surrey; John Folliott POWELL, Esq., London; John Horatio LLOYD, Barrister, London; Robert Samuel PALMER, Solicitor, London

Purpose:

"the working of the slate quarries in the island of Valencia in the County of Kerry in Ireland".

A prospectus dated October 10, 1846 provides considerable detail of the proposed acquisition, noting that the quarries had been worked for a number of years and that they were held on a 31 year lease from the Knight of Kerry. The then extant workings were capable of producing about 5,000 tons/year with the machinery then on site, including one engine. An expenditure of £15,000 was required to increase production to 10,000 tons of slabs/year, but would require installation of an additional 25hp engine, which had been ordered.

The bulk of the slab production was sold into the London market from where it had been used at Birmingham Station, the Model Prison, Pentonville and the New Houses of Parliament (Fig. 21). It

was proposed to establish a London depot to further develop and service this market, while slate was the primary product sold into the local, Irish market. The prospectus presents several profit projections, ranging between £5,000 - £15,000 according to projected annual production rates and whether or not a London depot was established after Year 1 of operations. All projections included provision of an annual dividend, varying between 10% if production amounted to only 5,000 tons/year, and up to 25% if production of 15,000 tons/year achieved and sold through the proposed London depot.

Directors and Officers:

Committee (Directors): as per list of promoters listed above.
Secretary: ?

Solicitors: Messrs Palmer and Nettleship, 4 Trafalgar Square, London.

Shareholders: no record

Legal actions: no record

Receivership/winding up: no record

Dissolution: no record

CRO Reference:

BT41/725/3897 [Memorandum and Articles of Association; Company Prospectus]

2) VALENCIA SLATE SLAB COMPANY LIMITED (THE)

Incorporation date:

1864: January 14.

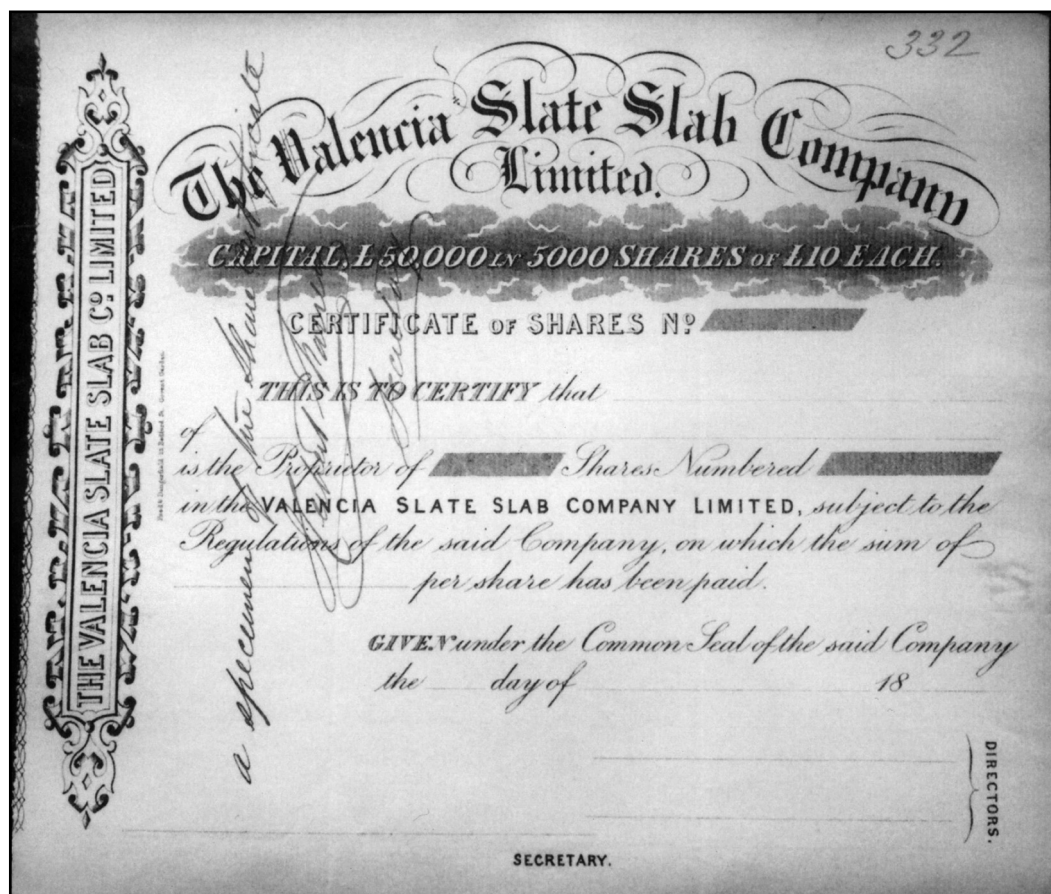


Figure 22. A photographic copy of a specimen share certificate of "THE VALENCIA SLATE SLAB COMPANY LIMITED", held in the archive of the Guildhall Library, London (Folio 19A 23).

Registered Office:

- 1864: January 19: Dowgate Hill Chambers, Cannon Street, London EC
- 1864: August 9: 40, Upper Belgrave Place, Pimlico, London SW

Capital and share structure:

£50,000 in 5,000 shares of £10 each

1864: January 24. 1,500 shares issued as part of purchase agreement + public applications for 4,059 shares, of which 3,500 allocated according to priority of application. Sum of 10/- to be paid on application; £1-10-0 on allotment, with subsequent calls over the following 3 to 4 years. Initial capital target of £20,000 required to fund the extension of the current single opening and create two new openings.

1865: July 12. 5,000 shares in issue, of which 1,500 are purchase shares, the balance, subscription shares upon which total call receipts amounted to £10,430. 76 shareholders, mostly lower professions, shareholdings in the general range of 5 - 25 shares each.

1871: November 7. 67 subscription shareholders, total calls/share of £7-10-0, and total capital raised £40,880.

Lease:

- Lease of 57 years from January 1864 agreed with the Knight of Kerry, at an annual rent of £30 + a minimum annual minimum royalty of £200 comprising a royalty of 2/6 per ton of 21 hundredweight (of 120 pounds) of slabs + 1/18 of sale price of slates.
- Purchase price: £30,000 comprising £10,000 in cash and £20,000 in fully paid up shares. Manuscript addendum to Articles of Association, following Special resolution dated May 3, 1864: G.E.Magnus would accept £15,000 cash + £1,500 fully paid up shares in lieu of original purchase terms.
- Dividend of 10% guaranteed in first year.

Purpose:

"to purchase quarries in the Island of Valencia, County Kerry, known as the Valencia Slate Slab Quarries and Mills, including machinery, engines, equipment, buildings ..."

As with the earlier company of 1846, considerable ancillary information is provided in the Company Prospectus dated May 2, 1864. It notes, amongst other details, that:

- Operations were carried on by previous proprietors for about 14 years, over which time they spent c. £40,000 principally on machinery and equipment rather than developing resources;
- G.E.Magnus had purchased property recently and committed to sell his interest to this Company;
- 2,000 tons produced in previous year of operation from a single opening with two new galleries proposed to triple production;

- The slabs are much larger than may be obtained at Bangor quarries and wages half those paid in Wales;
- £11,000 worth of "enamelled" (polished?) slabs used recently on one building. Used at Nottingham, Derby, Rugby and Leicester Stations, and being prepared for use at Charing Cross, Blackfriars and Waterloo Stations
- And provides a detailed list of buildings, machinery and equipment at the quarry, including saws and a 15HP steam engine; sawing and planning machines powered by two 30HP steam engines in the Mills, located about 2.5 miles from the quarry adjacent to a shipping pier capable of handling ships up to 300 tons;

Directors and Officers:

Directors:

First Directors: George Eugene MAGNUS, Managing Director (Pimlico Slate Works, 39-40 Upper Belgrave Place, Pimlico); Henry Bayly GARLING, Esq., Bayswater; Hugh HUTTON, Esq., Notting Hill; William LOBB, Esq., MD, Weir Hall, Edmonton; Samuel MAGNUS, Esq., St. John's Wood; John PINK, Esq., Castlebar Park, Ealing.

Directors listed in Prospectus: G.E. Magnus; H.B.Garling; Frederick Charles Jones, Esq., MD, Blackfriars Road; W. Lobb; S. Magnus; Gerard Ralston, Esq., Consul-General of Liberia, Tokenhouse Yard, EC.

Secretary:

1865: Henry Farren

1871: John Ferguson

Shareholders:

1865: July 12. 76 subscription shareholders, mainly minor professions, shareholdings in the general range of 5 - 25 shares each.

1871: November 7. 67 subscription shareholders.

Legal actions: no records

Receivership/winding up: see under dissolution

Dissolution:

1872: March 19 (confirmed March 19, 1872). EGM Resolution to dissolve company and place it into voluntary liquidation.

1872: May 24. Court of Chancery petition by Henry Bayly Garling, a contributor and Liquidator of company, to continue winding up.

1877: December 12. Notice of completion of winding up and disposal of company property.

CRO Reference:

BT31/883/933C [Memorandum and Articles of Association records]

Guildhall Library [Prospectus and specimen share certificate]

WEST CORK MINING COMPANY

The following corporate history is summarised in the first instance from a Company prospectus dated 1834; and also from accounts provided by Cowman and Reilly (1988) and Hodnett (2010).

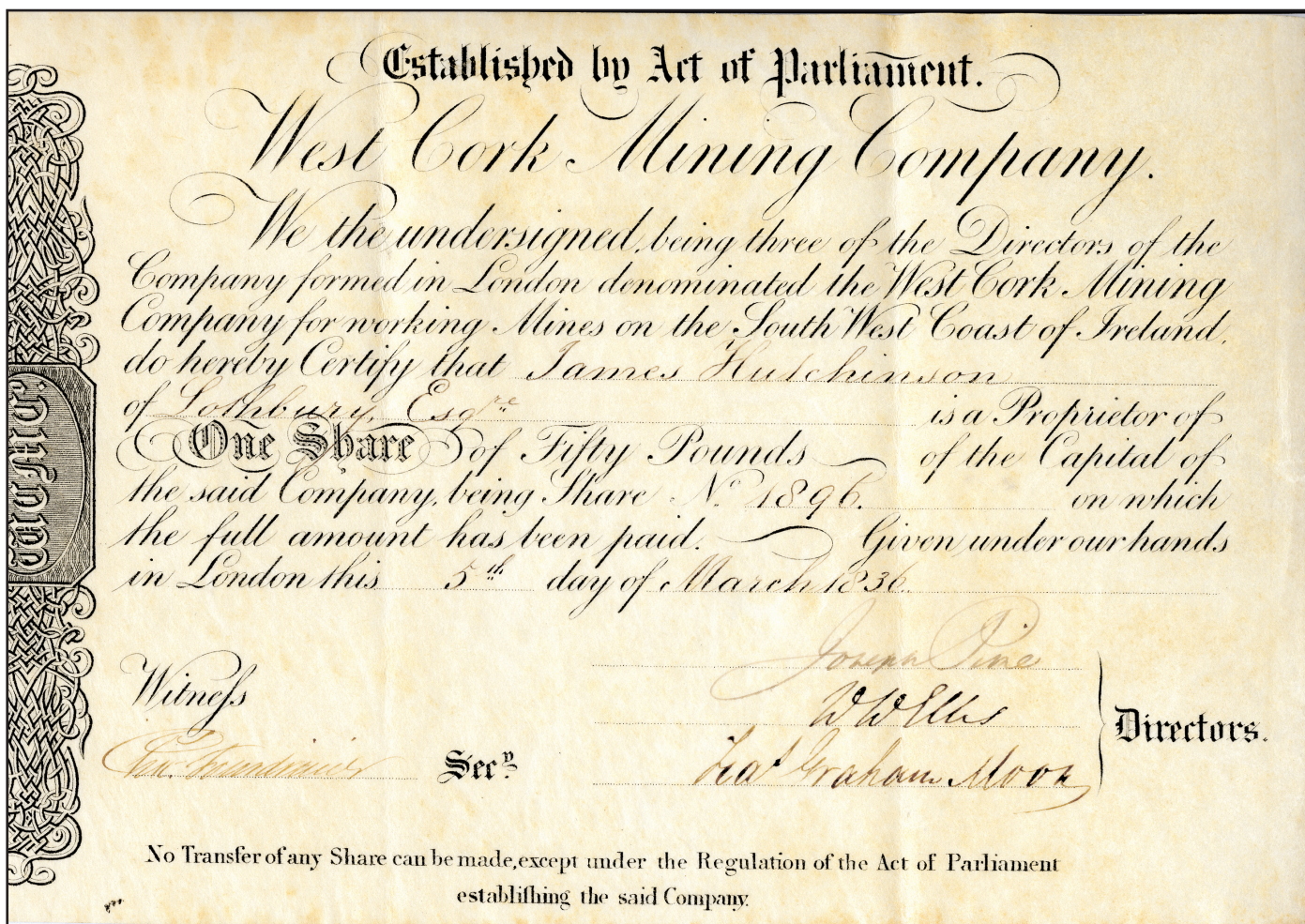


Figure 23. A certificate for 1 share in the "West Cork Mining Company", printed on parchment and dated March 3, 1836.

Incorporation date:

1834: June, by Act of Parliament.

Registered Office:

1834: Salvador House, Bishopsgate, London (Cowman and Reilly, 1988, note that £7,000 was spent on an office building with overhead accommodation for Joseph Pike and Lord Audley).

Capital and share structure:

£165,000 in 3,300 shares of £50 each [purchase price = £165,000]

First deposit/share of £15. Balance payable by instalment, not to exceed £10/instalment and at not less than two months notice.

£25,000 of the purchase money to be retained by the company for 3 years at 0% interest/year for "...working of the mines."

Company accounts to be reported monthly

1836. The certificate illustrated in Figure 23 bears the number 1896, suggesting that by March 1836, a minimum of £28,440 had been raised by that date.

Purpose:

Prospectus: "working very valuable mines, extending, at intervals, a distance of thirty miles along the Southern coast of the County of Cork, from Ross Harbour, about 40 miles west of the City of Cork, to Skull (sic) harbour, opposite Cape Clear".

Cowman and Reilly (1988) and Hodnett (2010) further note that the company was formed to work various mines on the estate of Lord Audley, on foot of a 61 year lease granted by Lord Audley in 1832 for a consideration of £165,000, of which £50,000 allocated in shares, the balance in cash. Operations at Cappagh Mine, Bog Mine, Ballycummisk (1834) and Horse Island (1835) as well as a slate mine at Audley's Cove.

Subscribers:

presumed to be the first Directors noted in the prospectus (see list below)

Directors and Officers:

Prospectus:

Provision for seven directors, including three trustees, with power to increase number of "Provincial Directors"; three Directors to form a "Court" (quorum)

Minimum of 15 shares to qualify as a Director, all directors eligible to remain in office unless removed by a "General Court" [= general meeting of all shareholders (= "Proprietors")].

Managing Director:

Joseph PIKE, (Paternoster Row, London, clerical and scholastic agent, banker, but also a declared bankrupt)

Directors:

Edward Southwell RUTHVEN, Esq., M.P. for Dublin (died 1836); Lieut.-Col. JENKIN, Belle Vue, Plymouth; Wm. WILKINSON, Esq., Broad Street; Samuel JACOB, Esq., Paternoster Row (15 shares); Francis Graham MOON, Esq., Pall Mall (Alderman and High Sheriff, London); Richard WARNEFORD, Esq., Gray's Inn (Solicitor to Lord Audley:15 shares)

All above Directors as per Company prospectus, 1834

Other Directors noted at other times:

Thomas PIKE, brother of Joseph (15 shares); Reverend W.W.ELLIS, tutor of Lord Audley's children (15 shares); Reverend (J. or George) KNAPP, Sub-Dean, St. Paul's Cathedral, and Chaplin to Queen Victoria; George PRICKETT, a Director of the East London Water Works

? Mason (15 shares); William Revell VIGERS, elected 1836 on death of Ruthven (15 shares).

Secretary:

Charles Fourdrinier (of Messrs Rivington and Fourdrinier, Company Solicitors, Fenchurch Buildings).

Shareholders:

Voting rights: 1 vote for 5 shares or more; 2 votes for 10 shares or more; 3 votes for 15 shares or more; 4 votes for 25 shares or more.

Legal actions:

1836 - 1843: Numerous - see both Cowman and Reilly, and Hodnett, op. cit.

Receivership/winding up:

1843: Mining Company of Ireland acted as Trustees to dispose of all assets, achieved eventually in November 1852 for £16,000.

Guildhall Library reference:

Company prospectus (dated February 1834)

Comment

The prospectus notes that the company was to be formed to work very rich copper, manganese and slate mines, located

close to the shoreline, thereby minimising extraction and shipping costs. Very little expenditure was deemed necessary to facilitate ore shipments, although comment on mining costs is conspicuously absent. Apparently fulsome reports by Robert Frazer (Collector of Dues in Cornwall and Dartmoor) and Adam Murray (Surveyor, London) attest to the "...extreme richness and abundance of the Copper..", worth £69/ton based upon an analysis cited from an 1826 report by Richard Griffith, Esq., (Mining Engineer). The manganese is stated to be "...perfectly inexhaustible.." and, by comparison with other operations, projected to be worth £7 - £10 per ton landed, while extraction costs would not exceed 3/6 per ton, excluding freight charges.

Operational activities of this company at two of its ventures, CAPPAGH and HORSE ISLAND, are described briefly above under the names of successor companies formed to continue developments at those locations. However, as both Cowman and Reilly (1988) and Hodnett (2010) note, in so many words, the focus of this company seemed more to be directed towards extracting money from investors than ore from the ground.

Expenditures on office facilities, wharfs and salaries for the principals were quite lavish while the value of ore production was derisory, culminating with an observation in mid 1836 by one irate director shareholder, William VIGERS, that Pike was "... the dictator of the concern, the other directors appeared like automatons." (Cowman and Reilly, 1988). Accounts were found to be at best cursory and incomplete. Relationships degenerated very rapidly in the ensuing months, including shareholders being locked out of company offices, followed soon afterwards by the inevitable initiation of litigation, on the grounds that Pike had misled and misrepresented to shareholders the financial affairs of the company.

Claims and counterclaims, writs and counter-writs continued throughout 1836, 1837 and 1838 culminating ultimately in an astonishing judgement in favour of Pike in January 1839, a judgement which was appealed to the House of Lords who, after three years preparation and hearings, once again found in Pike's favour in 1842. A final appeal to the Irish Chancery Court on a legal technicality was also rejected in April 1843.

Notwithstanding this outcome, the company was obliged to put its assets up for sale, which it did in late 1843, although it took until 1852 before a sale was agreed for a mere £16,000.

YOUGHALL (SIC) MINING COMPANY

Nothing is presently known about this company, when it was formed, or where it operated, other than information recorded on the share certificate illustrated. No company of this name is recorded by Cole (1998/1922) although it might in some way relate to a record of lead on the coast "opposite" Youghal which is noted in Griffith's 1853 and 1854 Catalogue of Mines in Ireland (Morris, 2001; Wyse-Jackson, 2002). It is conceivable that this cost book company was registered in Ireland during the 1840s as the certificate is dated September 4, 1848.

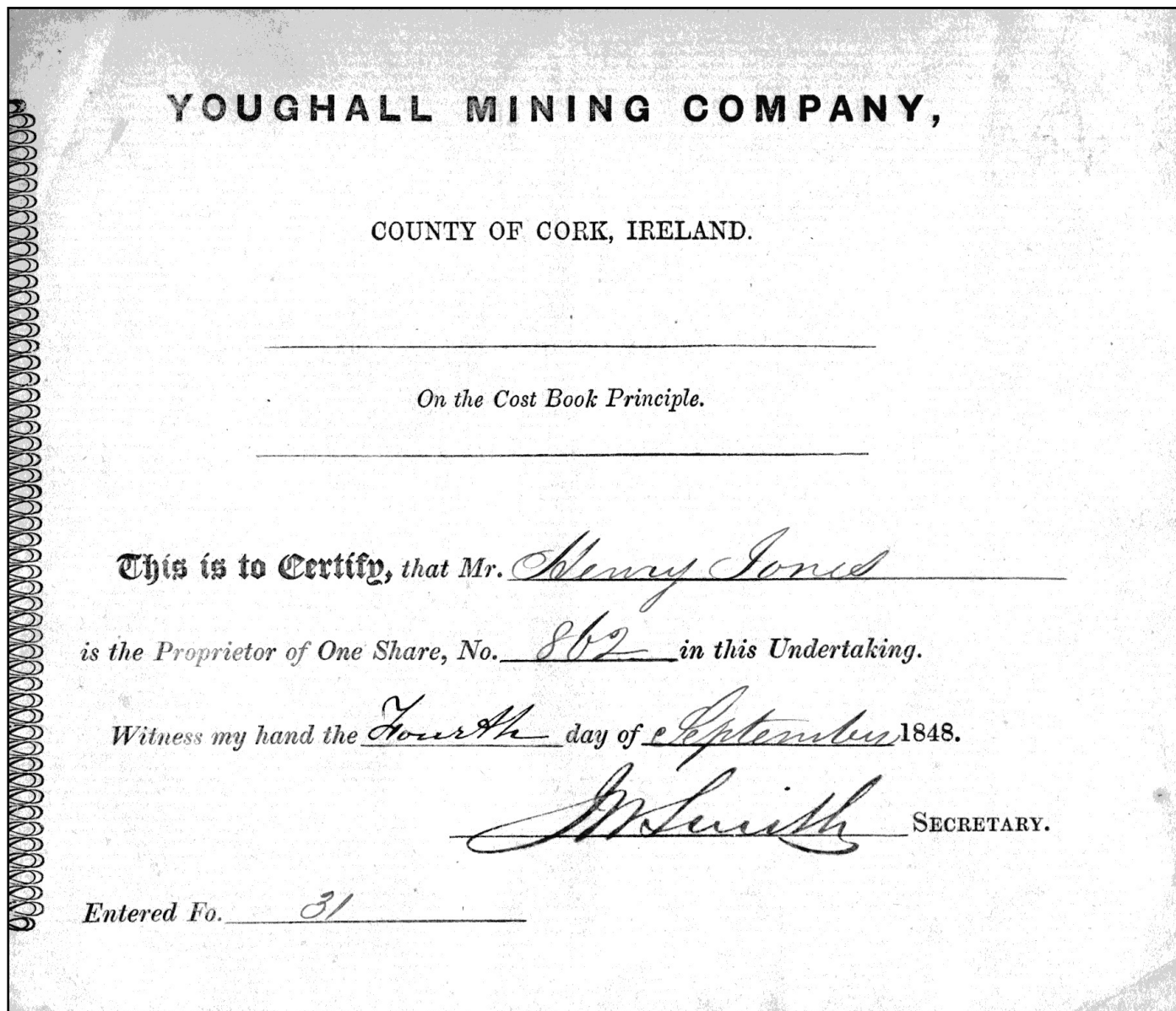


Figure 24. A certificate for 1 share in the "Youghall Mining Company", dated Sept. 4, 1848.

MISCELLANEOUS MINING FINANCIAL EPHEMERA

BALLYMONEEN COPPER & SULPHUR MINING COMPANY, LTD (THE)

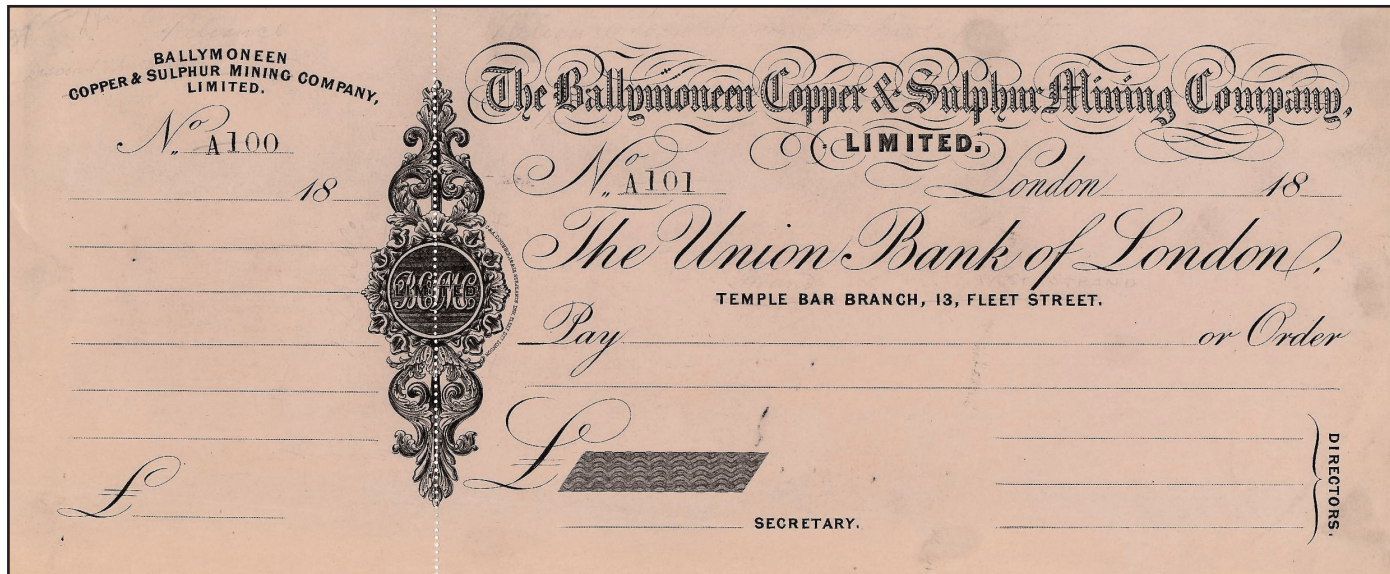


Figure 25. An unissued Union Bank of London cheque for the Ballymoneen Copper and Sulphur Mining Company Ltd. It is interesting to note that the cheque number on the cheque (A101) and on the counterfoil (A100) do not match which, if replicated on issued cheques, might have contributed to interesting accounting problems.

Incorporation date:

1856 : December 16.

Purpose:

to acquire a mine in Castle McAdam

Where:

1856: 26, New Bridge Street, City of London

1881: 37, New Bridge Street, Blackfriars, London.

Capital and share structure:

£20,000 in 10,000 shares of £2 each, with a sum of £1-7-6 payable upon application. NB. Cowman (2003) notes that elsewhere in the prospectus the capital is stated to be £2,000 in 1,000 shares of £2 each, of which 780 had already been allocated.

1858: March 12. 10,000 shares issued. Total capital raised: £16,891-17-6, but with calls of £608-2-6 unpaid.

1859: September 6. Total capital raised: £18,924-7-6, but with calls of £75-12-6 unpaid.

Subscribers:

James Arundell WHITTON, 26, New Bridge Street, London (145 shares); Philip JONES, Upper Woburn Place, Middlesex (15); William BEDDOE, 2 Honey Lane, Cheapside, City (250); Thomas Charles BATES, 4 Drayton Terrace, Middlesex (200); Robert ALEXANDER, 27 Walcot Place, Kennington Rd., Surrey (150); Henry ELLIS, 27 Walcot Place (10); James LOCKIE, 20 Hampton Tce., Hampstead Rd., Middlesex (10); Albert BUTTON, 20 Hampton Tce (8).

Directors and Officers

Directors (First): Richard Bridgman BARROW; John BEDDOE; William BEDDOE; Thomas Charles BATES; George

BULLOCK; George BLAGDON.

Shareholders:

There are two extant lists of shareholders, one dated March 12, 1858, the other September 6, 1859.

1858: March 12. 44 shareholders (extant record for share register numbers 27-44), residing mainly in London and English Midlands. Largest shareholdings: BEDDOE, J (1,200); BEDDOE, W. (1,100); RUDDOCK, J. (1,100). Others of note include: TATTERSALL, Edward (100: Hyde Park Corner, auctioneer. A possible relation to the Tattersall's associated with horse racing?); and the only Irish shareholders EVANS, Silas (150, increased to 200: Belfast, Mining Agent [Mine Captain at Newtownards Lead Mine]) and PARAMORE, Matthew (50: Dublin, gentleman). The shareholder list includes the names of several individuals associated with the TASSAN MINING COMPANY (see above): BARROW, R.B. (800); BEDDOE, J.; POPPLEWELL, B.B. (500); TETLEY, G. G. (200).

1859: September 6. Essentially as above, but with minor changes including: BEDDOE, J. (2,000); SWALES, H. (1,100. This might be a transfer of Ruddock's shareholding as he is not included in the 1859 list);

Legal actions: ?

Receivership/winding up:

1860: December 12. Special resolution at a General Meeting to place the company in voluntary liquidation. Charles EDWARDS appointed liquidator for a fee of £21. Resolution confirmed at a General meeting on January 23, 1861.

1878: May 23. CRO form letter noting lack of returns

between 1860-1877.

1881: February 2 and March 5. Form letters from CRO informing officers of record that advertisement to be placed in London Gazette notifying intention for company to be struck off.

1881: November 22. Form letter from CRO giving 3 months notice of order to be struck off register.

Dissolution:

1882: March 7

CRO Reference:

BT31/211/652 [Memorandum and Articles of Association]

BT41/40/229 [Memorandum and Articles of Association]

Comment

Cowman (2003) provides an analysis of three mining companies established in the late 1850s ostensibly to develop and exploit mineral resources in the Avoca mining district of Co. Wicklow, but all of which, in Cowman's opinion (*op. cit.*), may have been little more than scams. Ballymoneen was one of these companies and this brief summary of its history is based entirely upon Cowman (2003).

The recorded history of this company relates to the period 1856 - 1859. It was promoted quite assiduously by individuals such as Henry English, editor of the Mining Journal, William Crockford, of the gambling family, and John Salmon. Both English and Salmon had a somewhat dubious record of promoting mining ventures: see under ROYAL IRISH MINING COMPANY above for a note of Salmon's misrepresentation of that company's interests at Silvermines in 1838 legal proceedings.

The property was leased in 1854, and a report subsequently compiled by Captain Backhouse (possibly the Joseph Backhouse, of London, associated with the discovery and initial development of the TASSAN MINE, Co. Monaghan in 1853 [see above]: Morris *et al.*, 2002), and published but with serious distortions introduced by the promoters which became the subject of rancorous comment by Backhouse. This matter notwithstanding, further partners were introduced to the Company (Arundel, Barrow and Bedow), and it was incorporated formally under the above name in 1856. Subsequent reports published in the Mining Journal after initiation of activities in 1857 document various operational problems but by early 1859, the company was close to insolvency with only £237 capital remaining from whatever had been raised from initial allocations and any subsequent calls. A further call of 6/- per share was made at that time, and operational reports published in the Mining Journal in June and between September and November 1859, after which documentary history falls silent.

The commonality of individuals between this mining venture and the TASSAN MINING COMPANY LTD are quite noticeable, and perhaps worthy of more detailed investigation, especially of those with addresses in Bradford/Buxton/Matlock.

BONMAHON COPPER MINES DEVELOPMENT SYNDICATE LIMITED (THE)

No. 70

THE BONMAHON COPPER MINES DEVELOPMENT SYNDICATE, LIMITED.

ALLOTMENT LETTER.

BROAD STREET HOUSE,
LONDON, E.C.,
7 Dec 1905

To *John Martin Esq*
Passage East
Waterford

DEAR SIR (or MADAM),

I beg to inform you that, in compliance with your application, the Directors have this day allotted to you *5* Shares in this Company.

The amount payable on Application and Allotment, viz.:-

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|---|------------------------|
| 10s. per Share is | ... | £ | <i>2</i> : <i>10</i> : |
| Of this amount you have already paid | ... | £ | <i>1</i> : <i>5</i> : |
| Leaving | ... | £ | <i>1</i> : <i>5</i> : |

which amount is due and payable to the Company's Bankers, THE NATIONAL BANK, LIMITED, 13, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Yours obediently,
H. J. Dixon
Secretary.

THE BONMAHON COPPER MINES DEVELOPMENT SYNDICATE, LIMITED.

(Not to be detached.)

Received this *18* day of *Dec* 1905,
from *John Martin Esq.*
the sum of £ *1* : *5* : - , being amount payable upon the allotment of *5* Shares.

For THE NATIONAL BANK, LIMITED,
L. S. Cohen
Cashier.

£ *1* : *5* : -

Vertical text on left: This Sheet to be sent ENTIRE to the NATIONAL BANK, LIMITED, 13, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., together with the amount payable.


Vertical text on right: NOTE.—This Allotment Letter and Receipt, after being returned from the Bankers, should be preserved to exchange for Share Certificate.

The Bonmahon Copper Mines Development Syndicate, Limited.

BANKERS' RECEIPT.

Received this *30th* day of *November* 1905, from *John Martin Esq.*
for the credit of THE BONMAHON COPPER MINES DEVELOPMENT SYNDICATE, LIMITED, the sum of £ *1* : *5* : - being a deposit of 5s. per Share on *5* Shares of £1 each in the above-named Company.

For THE NATIONAL BANK, LTD.
E. J. Ryan
Clerk.

Stamp: 

Vertical text on left: This Form should be sent ENTIRE with the deposit of 5s. per Share.

Bottom text: This Receipt, when returned from the Bankers, should be preserved by the Applicant for exchange in due course for the Share Certificate.

Figure 26. Certificates of allotment of five shares to Mr. John Martin, Passage East, Waterford and a bankers receipt for the deposit paid by Mr. Martin (Originals: D. Cowman collection)

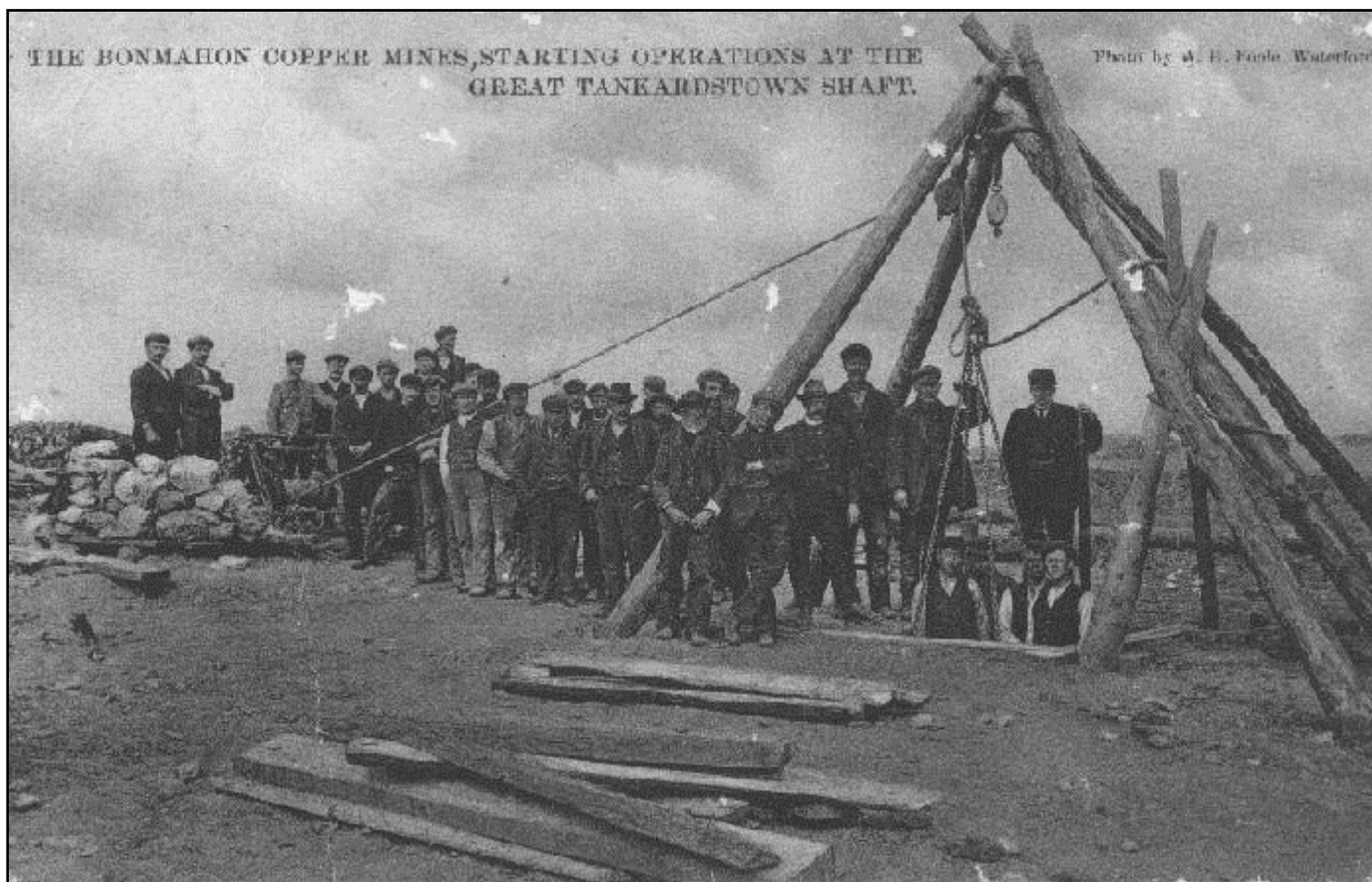


Figure 27. A posed photograph of miners at the collar of the "Great Tankardstown" shaft at the North Tankardstown mine site (Postcard: author's collection). A large selection of other images of this development, on surface and underground, are available from the web site of the National Library of Ireland [http://catalogue.nli.ie/Search/Results?lookfor=bonmahon&type=AllFields&filter%5B%5D=collection%3A%22Poole+Whole+Plate+Collection%22&filter%5B%5D=format%3A%22Photo%22&filter%5B%5D=digitised%3A%22Digitised%22].

Incorporation date: 1905

Registered Office: ?

Capital and share structure:

Capital ?

£1 shares, issued at 5/- paid on allotment

Subscribers: ?

Directors and Officers:

Secretary: H.S. Dixon

Shareholders: ?

Legal actions: ?

Receivership/winding up:

1907: April 13. Winding up procedures commenced

1910: July 22. Liquidation commenced

Dissolution:

1913: June.

CRO Reference:

BT31/11305/86495 [Memorandum and Articles of Association]

Comment

Cowman (2005, 2009) provides a very brief account of this mining venture, about which very little has been recorded to date. He notes that it was formed specifically to reopen the Tankardstown Mine, near Bunmahon, Co. Waterford, although he deduces from Director's correspondence that it was little more than a scam to defraud investors of their money (Cowman 2006). Whatever about their mining skills, there is little doubt that they were very adept at publicity and promotion, the postcard illustrated (Fig. 27) being one of a set of such cards produced by the company for promotional purposes. Mining, as distinct from publicity operations commenced in 1906 and by 1907, the company employed 123 people of whom 69 were employed on surface, possibly reprocessing spoil heaps. That year it produced 270 tones of ore grading 5.2% copper and the following year, 1908, the venture employed 50 people and produced 100 tons of ore grading 5% copper.

LOUGHAGANNON MINE

A printed document addressed to a Mr. J. O'Donnell, Dunkaneely, Killaghtee, Donegal, and post marked May 21, 1855, appears to be the only surviving information concerning a London based company established to work the Loughagannon Mine near Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.

No records of a Company by this name survive in the PRO archives, Kew and no mine of this name is mentioned by either Cole (1922, reprinted 1998) or by Griffith (Morris 2001; Wyse-Jackson, 2002). There is, however, a lake by the name "Lough Agannon" located about 6km NNE of Letterkenny and where, on 19th Century Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) 6 inch to one mile (1 mile = 1.6093km) field sheets Donegal 45/4 and 53/1, there are manuscript notations of lead occurrences and one shaft spread over a distance of several hundred metres between the lake and Knock(y)brin just to the south [Irish grid reference 218936 416290]. Cole (1922/1998) notes evidence of lead mining at Knockybrin, perhaps by the Mining Company of Ireland, a location coincident with that of a "worked" lead mine recorded by Griffith in 1853 and 1854 under the name "Castlegrove" (Morris 2001; Wyse-Jackson, 2002). It is thus probable that Knock(y)brin, Castlegrove and Loughagannon

are all names used at different times for the same lead mine. The brief reports by Silas Evans (presumed here to be Silas Evans, Mine Captain at Newtownards, Co. Down) and Edward Rogers of the Kilraine Mine, Ardara, Co. Donegal both recommend suspension of operations. Rogers notes the presence on site of a whim engine capable of sinking the mine to 30 fathoms (1 fathom = 6 feet = 1.83m) , though the then deepest workings were only 9 fathoms, with various drives extending for another 9 fathoms from that level.

An anonymous (but most likely G.H.Kinahan) manuscript note on the reverse of GSI field sheet Donegal 53/1 corroborates and amplifies somewhat on Silas' report. It notes that the shaft was sunk about 1850 to a depth of about 10 fathoms, with drives at the 5 fathom level extending 37 fathoms north and south on a 6 inch (1 inch = 2.54cm) wide galena lode. It goes on to note that works had been stopped "*..as the agent was drinking instead of looking after the men who were working by the day.*"

Company name:

It is likely that the name LOUGHAGANNON (Fig. 28) refers only to the name of the location of the mine, and not the company name. The Board of Trade Records conserved at the PRO Kew list a number of "Joint Stock Companies" incorporated in various years up to 1855 when "Limited" liability was enacted and consolidated by a further Act in 1856 (Morris and Cowman, 2001). In all but one instance the names and/or surviving details of such companies clearly indicate their locus of interest, but not in the case of the "Anglo-Hibernian General Mining Company" (BT41/22/106). This company was registered in 1852, with the purpose of mining at unknown/unspecified locations in the "Kingdom of Ireland", a sufficiently broad sphere of interest which should at least make it a candidate worthy of further research.

Incorporation date: ?

Registered Office:

1855: 4 Union Court, Old Broad Street, LONDON

Capital and share structure: ?

Subscribers: ?

Directors and Officers:

Directors: W. Law (?)

Secretary: Fred J. Padley

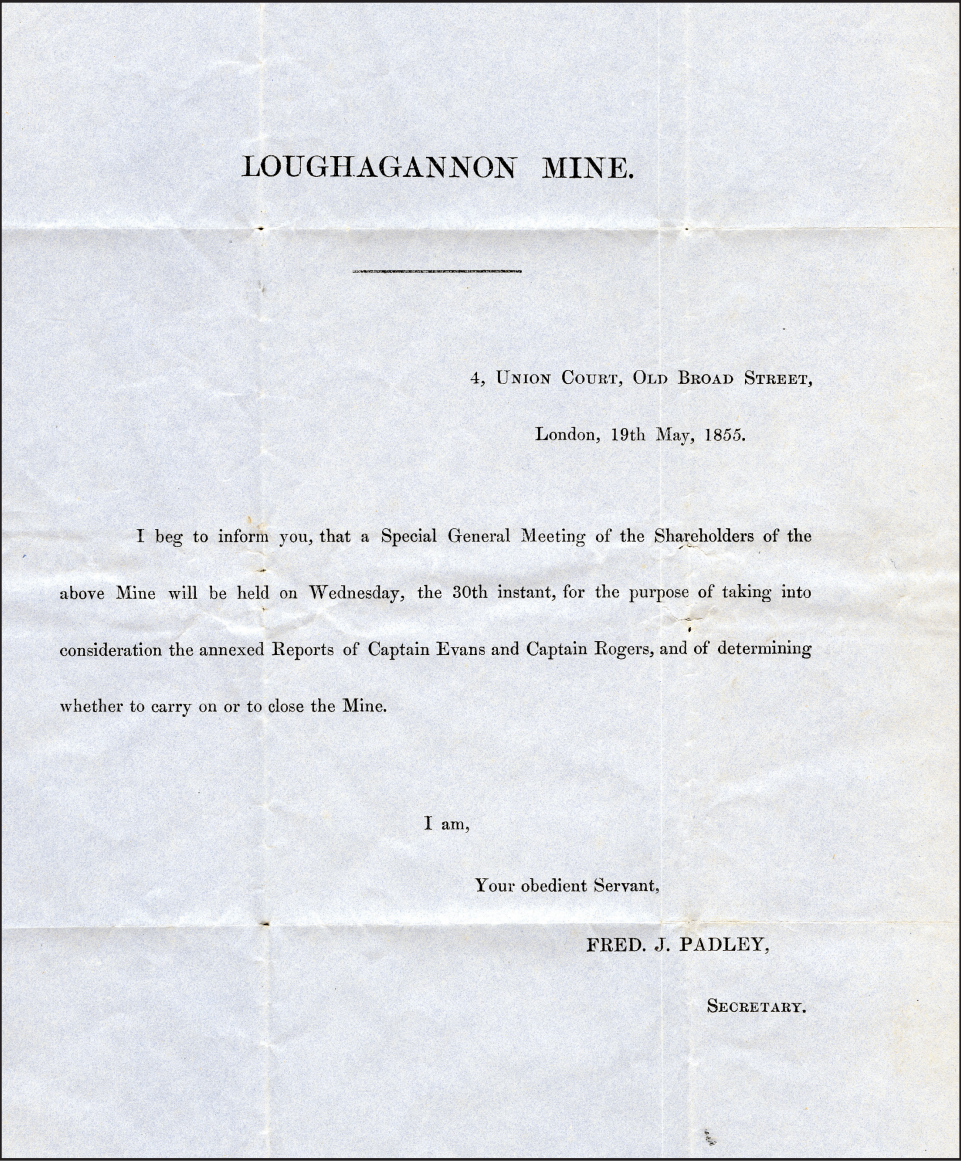
Shareholders: ?

Legal actions: ?

Receivership/winding up:

1855: May 30. Special General meeting convened to consider cessation of mining activities

Dissolution: ?



REPORTS.

LOUGHAGANNON MINE, LETTERKENNY, 22nd March, 1855.

DEAR SIR,

I have, to-day, inspected this Mine as far as I was able to do for the water; from the information I received, it is sunk ten fathoms from surface; the lode opened on for a short distance from the shaft, and a portion of the ground opened produced from ten to twelve tons of lead ore, which I suppose is about the quantity now in the Mine. No doubt you are already in possession of the particulars respecting the mode of working ground opened, &c.; that, I need not now particularise, as I presume you want me more particularly to give my opinion as to the results likely to arise from future operations. I much regret that the water was not out of the bottom of the shaft, that I could have seen the whole of the workings; that, however, would not be until some time next week. I, however, saw a portion of the upper workings, and of course, the stuff that came from the lower parts, with the stratification of the district. From the whole, I entertain a very unfavourable opinion of the Mine, and do not consider that the strata or the lode is likely to produce lead in any great quantity, or sufficient to pay the expenses of working. The strata is very hard, being a mixture of clay slate and porphyry, with portions of limestone, or a rock that very much resembles it. The lode is principally composed of these hard substances and quartz equally hard, it lacks those essentials requisite for producing lead in the stratification, not having either gossan, fluccan, priam, peach, barytes, or other property that is congenial.

Holding these views respecting the concern, it only remains for me to say that I cannot recommend you to expend any more money in resuming operations; my advice is to abandon the concern. I consider it has had a fair trial, as I don't consider the prospects warrant any further outlay. The Mine may produce small quantities of lead; but the lode is not of that nature that in my opinion is likely ever to make a paying Mine.

W. LAW, Esq.

I am, dear Sir,

Your obedient servant,
(Signed) SILAS EVANS.

KILRAINE MINE, ARDARA, 20th April, 1855.

SIR,

I beg to say I was at Loughagannon Mine with Mr. WILSON, and inspected the whole of the workings on that day, and also at the time CAPTAIN WILLIAMS left. On examining the surface I find there is a whim engine erected capable of putting the Mine down thirty fathoms deep; by the help of which a shaft is sunk nine fathoms, and was commenced on a small deposit of ore, occasioned by several branches forming a junction at that particular spot; this continued for about ten feet in depth, and producing lead ore, more or less for six fathoms in length; after which it dwindled away so small that scarcely any sign of a lode can be found. The shaft, from this point to the depth named above, is sunk on the underlie through a hard porphyry stone, mixed with a small quantity of spar. At the bottom or 9 fathom level, there is driven in different directions, about nine fathoms; from the appearance of this level or ground opened there is no indication of any lode, but only a quantity of dislocated joints; and I very much doubt if any thing different from this would be found in conjunction with the present workings: at the surface there has been several trials made, but nothing worth following can be found. In conclusion I would recommend you not to spend any more money on the concern, as I do not see the least chance of any success.

F. J. PADLEY, Esq.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,
(Signed) EDWARD ROGERS.

Figure 28. Notice of Special General Meeting of the Loughagannon mine to consider suspension of operations, dated May 19, 1855.

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