

History Repeats Itself

Whilst carrying out research at Sheffield Records Office, I came across the following letter (S.R.O. Bag.Coll. 494 - a book of entered letters from John Barker, Edensor). I thought members might be interested to know that written warnings concerning employment are not new!

6th March, 1780.

To Mr. Francis Melland.

We desire you will acquaint the miners that work under you that if any of them for the future shall ever dress any ore in such manner as to have a different sort of ore in the lowest part of their heaps to what appears at the top that they shall immediately be discharged and never employed in our mines again.

And we desire you will enter copies of this notice into your Reckoning Books and your Settlement Books that it may not be forgot.

We are your Honourable Servants,

(Signed) John Barker. Alexander Barker. John Barker.

Note. Francis Melland (1748 - 1820) was a member of the Melland family of lead miners who have lived in the Youlgreave and Alport area for over three hundred years. They were originally yeoman farmers (like their ancestors in the Monyash and High Needham area). He was the son of William (IV) (1710 -1764) of Alport. He was a partner in, and agent for, many mines. He was also associated with the driving of Hillcarr Sough, being responsible for the most troublesome and important part of connecting it with Guy Vein. (Kirkham 1964). The Mellands were closely connected to the Barkers and Francis was appointed by them as the third Overseer on Hillcarr Sough (Willies 1983).

REFERENCES

Kirkham N. 1964 Wheels Rake, Alport-by-Youlgreave. *Bull.PDMHS*. Vol. 2, Pt. 3.

Willies L. 1983 The Barker Family and Wyatt Lead Mining Businesses 1730-1875. *Bull. PDMHS*. Vol. 8, No.6.

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