

Report on the Mersey CoalfieldIntroduction:

The Mersey Coalfield extends from the Don to the Mersey Rivers, from Tugrah in the northwest to Dulverton in the southeast.

The coal has been worked at shallow depth in ten distinct areas:-

Tugrah: The Don Mining Company, (River Don Trading Company)

Denny Gorge: (On the Don River, at the entrance to Denny Gorge)
Dennys Colliery, the ~~Lucky~~ Novelty Colliery.

Bott Gorge: (At the mouth of the Bott Gorge, on the Don River (original outcrop)
The Mersey Coal Company

Spreyton, west of Figure-of-Eight Creek: Spreyton 2; The Aberdeen,
The Illamatha 1 and 2, the Don Colliery.

Spreyton, east of Figure of-Eight Creek Spreyton 1 and 3, The Russell.

Tarleton Township: The Denison, Southern Star, Riley 1 and 2, Coventry 1
and 2 (or Tarleton Colliery), Spreyton 4 and 5.

Sherwood: (On the west bank of the Mersey, opposite Latrobe)
The Alfred and the Mersey Colliery

Nook (On the west bank of Rays Creek at ~~Nook~~ or South Spreyton).
Various mines between 1855 and 1940.

Mouth of Caroline Creek: (The original Sherwood ~~is~~ locality).
Mines were Dawsons Pits, Allisons, The Mersey Valley Oil Co.,
and others, over a period from about 1860 to 1925.

Dulverton: (High up Caroline Creek west of Railton).
Numerous mines, such as the Lucky Hit, Black Beauty, especially
in 1930-1940.

The last three localities lie in Sheffield Quadrangle, and
will not be given much attention.

~~Principalexxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

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The Mersey Coal Company

This Company worked two areas--one at Sherwood, described later under the heading "Mersey Colliery", and one near the Don River, described below.

Location: 1710ac R.W.Nutt and J.W.Gleadow, granted on a location order purchased from Mr. Robinson, with later Lot 438, 500ac, Gleadow and Nutt. ~~This is the~~ (Map of 1850-61).

History: Coal was discovered in April, 1850, at the mouth of the Bott Gorge on the Don River, by Messrs. Dean and Cocker, per Powell and Ayres (Fenton, 1891, pp. 86-88).

The Mersey Coal Company was formed in Launceston by W.B. Dean, J. Scott, J.W. Gleadow, J. Aikenhead, J. Crooks, W.S. Button, W.D. Grubb, J.G. Jennings, and Tregurtha and Weedon. An experienced miner Z. Williams from Newtown, nominated by Dean, was unacceptable to the syndicate, so Dean withdrew and W. Dawson was appointed manager.

Development: The original outcrop is described by Milligan (1852) and Gould (1861, p. 8). Initial production was six drayloads from the outcrop, shipped to Launceston in 1853 to stimulate the market. There is no record of any further production from the Bott Gorge.

The company proceeded then to explore the land held at the Don, spending £17,000 by 1855, working in an extravagant fashion condemned by Selwyn. Shafts 7, 8, 11, 17; and boreholes 1, 2, 8, were sunk, and a tramway was partly built across Deans land to the Mersey. The only result was the proving of "one or two acres" (Selwyn) of coal, in the extreme northwest corner, near bores 1, 2, at a depth of 134 feet. This coal was never worked. Fenton (1884, p. 319) records expenditure of £100,000; but this may include costs at the Mersey Colliery. Work at the Don stopped in 1860 (Reid, 1922, p. 227. Twelvrees, 1911, p. 108), ^{Reid, 1924, p. 108}

The Workings: Shaft No. 7 (Gould, 1861, No. K) was the deep shaft sunk 1 mile from the river, entirely in fossiliferous beds. The shaft reached between 250 and 300 feet before work was stopped by an enormous influx of water (artesian). Selwyn says the shaft debris is "fossiliferous limestone shales" which underly the coal. In order to find a lower coal seam, to disprove Selwyn, the Company's workmen sunk bore 8 near the shaft "where the water runs out the top" (Dean, 1855).

Shaft 8 (Gould, 1861, No. O) was sunk to 50 feet through marls and shaley impure limestones, not reaching the coal. Shaft 11 (Gould No. N) was also sunk by the company.

Shaft 17 was a shaft and borehole started in a small outlier of coal measure sandstone, which found no coal (Selwyn, plate V, fig 1).

Bore 1, 50 or 60 yards from the Don, cut coal at 134 feet. Hence, after Selwyn, there is a fault between this and shaft 4 of 116 feet.
~~Bore~~

Bore 2 was 50 to 80 yards from 1, close on the river bank, the coal on the opposite bank being only 18 feet deep at the shaft (Selwyn). This was sunk searching for a second seam, to at least 110 feet through soft sandstone and dark "clod" or argillaceous shale (Dean). This is probably Fith's borehole, which passed through the coal in the first seven feet and went 250 feet below the coal (Gould).

The Mersey Colliery

Location: On Lots 420,421, each 100 acres, Gleadow and Nutt, (See map of 1850-61), a few hundred yards north of the Alfred (Gould, 1861), on the bluff at Sherwood (Thureau, 1883).

History: This was probably opened by Bennett, then lessee of The Alfred, in 1861. (Gould, 1861, p.6). It was operated by the Mersey Coal Company (Thureau, 1883, particularly figure 2; Twelvetrees, 1911, p.108; Reid, 1922, p.227). It will be noted that the Sherwood tramway ran through this property, and that production from Dawsons Pits at Dulverton had ceased by 1861 due to a disputed right of way (Gould).

Development: The coal was worked by adits, driven into the cliff from the bank of Ballahoe Creek ^{Nos. 5-8} ~~(Nos. 5-8)~~. (Gould, 1861, Thureau 1883, ~~1884~~ No. I, Reid, 1922, p.227). One of the adits, essentially unchanged at the present day, is figured by Thureau (1884, fig.2).

The Colliery was a regular producer for a number of years, raising and shipping a large amount of coal (Reid, 1922, p.227; 1924, p.108). No production figures of any kind are available.

The Workings: The colliery was confined to a small fault block, bounded on the south by faults against the Alfred workings (Reid, 1922, p.224) which probably trended north-west and downthrew a nett 25 feet to the southwest. The western boundary was probably the same large northeast fault which cut off the Alfred workings.

(The mine was closed before 1900, and probably before 1891.

Dennys Colliery

Location: On Lot 366,500 ac J.Denny,west of the Don River at the entrance to the Denny Gorge. Lease 307 P/M was taken out around the main shaft in 1938,presumably "The Novelty"Colliery of Aberdeen.

History: After withdrawing from the Mersey Coal Company,W.B.Dean formed a syndicate with J.Fawns and J.Hurst. The colliery was abandoned after a few years due to extensive faulting,J.Hurst defecting, and £1,000 forfeited to Denny for nonfulfilment of lease terms.

Development: Shaft No.1 was sunk near the original outcrop in the bed of the Don River. The coal ran out against a large fault.

Shaft No.2 was sunk 30 yards away,but went 80 feet through fossiliferous grey shales without coal.

~~Shaft No.3 was sunk along the strike from No.1,meeting the coal at 20 feet,and eight tons of coal was at grass in 1855~~

Shaft No.3(Gould,1861,No.L)was sunk along the strike from No.1,cutting the coal at 20 feet,and eight tons was at grass in 1855.

Shaft No.4(Gould No.M)was completed in 1855,meeting the coal at 18 feet. The section in the shaft is:-

Mould	3'6"
Yellow Clay	2'6"
Grey sandstone	1'6"
Blue bind or shale	2'5"
Coal	6"
Blue fireclay	8"
Clod	4'4"
White sandstone	4"
Coal	2'3"

It may be noted that Milligan(1852) reported of the coal at the Bott Gorge,not far away,that it occurred in three beds "varying from ~~10 to 15 inches~~ about ten inches to fifteen and sixteen inches in thickness".

Dean completed the tramway to the mersey,which also served his sawmill,with a wire rope haulage to the hilltop at Aberdeen east of the mine. Most of the production came from Shaft No. 4,amounting to 3000 tons for the first year(Fenton,1891,p.88).

The Novelty Colliery: The Novelty was presumably one of the collieries that removed pillars or marginal coal during the depression years,and re-opened Dennys main shaft.

Production was 1938 508 tons
1939 85 tons (Annual Reports).

The Don Colliery

Location: The northeast corner of Lot 328,500 ac,W.B.Dean,on the west bank of Figure-of-Eight Creek at Spreyton.Note that the Tugrah Collieries were operated by the Don Mining Company(Thureau,1883)which has no ~~History~~ connection with the Don Colliery.

History: After failure of Dennys Colliery,Dean sank a shaft at the Don,shipped some coal,then let the mine to Z.Williams(Fenton,1891,p.88). The mine was in operation in 1861(Twelve trees,1911,p.108;Reid,1924, p.108). ~~the~~

The Workings: The coal was proved by three boreholes in a triangle--Bores No.5,6,and 7,which reached the coal in 70,90 and 100 feet. These bores were sunk in 1857(Hainsworth,1888)and in 1861 Gould sank a shaft on the site of bore 7 to satisfy himself as to the presence of fossils above the coal. The upper part of the bore contained blue sandy clays with spiriferæ,etc(Gould).

~~Dean~~ Dean sank shaft No.10(Gould,1861,No.J) and Williams shaft 9(Gould No.I). The colliery was cut by a northwest fault, downthrowing east by 14 feet,which within the triangle of bores, met a westerly fault downthrowing south 20 feet(Gould,1861,p.7). The main shaft,No.9,was destroyed in 1922(Reid,1922,p.228).

The section in the main shaft ~~was~~(after Johnson,1888,p.132, Reid,1924,p.108)was-

Clay	30'	
Gravel	3'	
Sandstone	3'	
Blue marl with marine fossils	21'	
Grey sandstone with coal streaks	27'6"	
Black clod)	
Streak of coal)	5'
Alum shales)	
Shales with plant fossils	6"	
Shales	4"	
Coal	1'8"	
Fireclay	1'	

Production: Little data is available. ~~25,000 tons was raised prior to 1883~~ Reid(1922,p.228)says 25,000 tons was raised prior to 1883,which would represent a large proportion of the coal available, but this figure (after Thureau) probably refers to the Tugrah Colliery.

The Denison Colliery

Location: On Lot 340,500ac,F.Higgins,on the south face of the hill at the southwest corner of Tarleton township. Much of the colliery probably lay within the area of the later lease 171P/M. The "old workings" on Vaudeau's plan of the Southern Star Colliery are likely to be the Denison workings.

History: This mine was operated by Williams for his Hobart syndicate. Dean reports Williams preparing the first shipment in 1855. The coal was shipped by tramway to a jetty on Ballahoo Creek. Operations had ceased by 1861(Twelve trees,1911,p.108,Reid,1924,108)

The Workings: Shaft No.6 started below the coal,and was barren. The coal was won from at least three short adits(adits 3 to 4). Upon driving 300 feet due west from the southwesternmost tunnel,a great downthrow was met.Another large fault bounds the workings on the east side,to form a small horst (Twelve trees,1911,p.108;Reid,1922,p.225). Judging from the size of faults which delimit workings in this and other mines on the field,the "great downthrow" was probably quite a small fault,with a throw of a few tens of feet.

The Russell Colliery

Location: At the western end of Lot 280 500ac Z. Williams (Map of 1861-1900, Underground Plan 255, 1895), on the east bank of Figure-of-Eight Creek at Spreyton.

History: Coal was probably first discovered in this vicinity by Williams in 1855 (see Williams Company, above), but little had been done in 1861, and it appears Williams did not exploit his discovery.

The colliery was a substantial producer in 1894 (Montgomery, 1894) and a large area had been worked at this time (Underground Plan 255, 1895).

It was apparently owned by Thos. Hainsworth, with Joshua Mackey manager in 1896-7. The output was delivered by tramway to the railway line.

Production ceased in ~~18~~ 1900.

Workings

The Workings: The mine was developed from a number of adits driven into the eastern face of the hill. A large number of small faults trending north-west were encountered. (Figure)

Production: Data prior to 1897 is not available. Quarterly reports give the following returns:-

1897	586 tons (3rd quarter only)
1898	2263 "
1899	1366 "
	Closed (not mentioned after 30/9/1899).

The Alfred Colliery

Location: On ~~lot~~ 640 ac Alexander Clerke, on the west bank of the Mersey opposite Latrobe. ~~xxxxxi~~ Thureau shows the workings occupying much of the centre of the land block, but the mine area was smaller and further east.

History: The colliery was in operation in 1861, Mr. Bennett lessee, Johnson owning the land (Gould, 1861, Reid, 1924, p. 108) ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~Davies~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~the~~ ~~owner~~ ~~in~~ ~~1888~~, while ~~Johnson~~ (1888) ~~refer~~ ~~to~~ ~~this~~ ~~as~~ ~~Exemption~~ ~~is~~ ~~is~~ ~~is~~ ~~is~~ Twelvetrees (1911, p. 108).

Thureau records Davies as the owner in 1883.

In 1888, Johnston referred to this as Crompton's Colliery.

The earliest record of this colliery is 1858, p it closed somewhere around ~~1888~~ 1880.

The Workings Adits 1 and 2 were driven by Bennett just above the level of the alluvium (Gould). ~~On~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~main~~ ~~tunnel~~ ~~is~~ ~~the~~ ~~northernmost~~, driven in from a creek re-entrant. This cut the seam 390 feet from the entrance (Reid, 1922, p. 224).

Bore 3 (Gould No. C) was Johnson's borehole to the coal. This may be the same as Crompton's bore (Gould, 1861, pp. 4-5; Reid, 1922, p. 224; Johnston, 1888, p. 132) which logged:-

Surface soil and clay	6' 0"
Indurated clay	6' 0"
Gravel	6' 0"
Blue marl	14' 0"
Sandstone, stained yellow and white	20' 0"
Coarse grey sandstone	10' 0"
xxxxxx rough sandstone	
Fine grey sandstone	11' 0"
Parting	0' 6"
Grey sandstone, streaked with black	5' 0"
Very coarse sandstone (rough sstone)	2' 0"
Coal	1' 6"

Bore No. 4 (Gould No. D) was put down by subscription to nearly 500 feet. According to Thureau (1883) it was sunk by Bauld Senior of the Alfred Colliery in 1858, passing through marine beds to coal at 53' 6", and thence to a further depth of 246' 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", total 300' 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Reid says the bore was sunk in search of a second seam. ~~Despite~~ ~~publication~~ ~~by~~ ~~Gould~~, ~~Thureau~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~agreed~~ ~~not~~ ~~to~~ ~~publish~~ ~~details~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~bore~~ ~~supplied~~ ~~by~~ ~~Bauld~~ Thureau (1883) overlooked publication of the log by Gould, and agreed not to publish details of the section below the coal supplied to him by Bauld. The oversight was acknowledged in 1884. The bore log was published by Gould (1861, pp. 5-6) and Reid (1922, p. 225).

Twelvetrees (1911, p. 108) apparently confused bores 4 and 5. He describes a bore of 1858 which met 18 inches of coal at 80' 6" from the surface (Bore 3) but which went an additional 250 feet below the coal, ending in grey sandstone (Bore 4) without more coal.

Shaft 16 is Wm. Davies shaft, 60 feet to the coal (Thureau, 1883, No. E). This may be the same as Bauld's shaft (Thureau, 1884, section).

The workings were bounded on the south by a northeast fault downthrowing east, and on the north by another fault.

The 300 foot bore at the Alfred Colliery (Gould, 1861, pp. 5-6)

Reid, 1922, pp. 225x

Note: "faikes" is fissile, sandy shales

"blaze" is shale.

An amended version was given by Reid in 1922 (p. 225)

<u>Unit No.</u>			<u>Unit No.</u>		
1	Surface	3' 0"	30	Extra hard sandstone	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Sand and stones	9' 0		Strong dark grey faikes	
	Gravel	5			12 5
	Brown sandstone	4 2		Strong grey faikes	6 3
	Grey faikes	2 6		Dark sandstone	2 9
	Dark faikes	1 4		Dark grey faikes	1 6
	Grey faikes	2 0		Light grey sandstone	6 5
	Grey sandstone	7 3		Dark grey faikes	4 4
	Grey faikes	1 6		Light grey sandstone	7 0
	Grey sandstone	9 6		Light grey sandstone	0 10
	Grey faikes	1 0		Dark grey faikes	1 6
	Coarse grey sandstone			Grey sandstone	1 11
		6 8		Grey faikes	0 9
	Dark clod faike or		42	Grey sandstone	34 1
	parting	0 1			
14	Coal, first seam	1 4			
1	Fire clay or damp	0 5			
	Sandstone in beds	3 10			
	Dark grey faikes	4 0			
	Grey sandstone	3 3			
	Dark faikes	1 9			
	Grey faikes	1 6			
	Dark grey sandstone	8 0			
	Dark faikes	3 9			
	Dark faikes and blaze				
		5 3			
	Dark grey sandstone	4 3			
	Grey faikes	8 5			
	Black blaze	1 4			
	Grey faikes	1 0			
	Dark blaze	10 3			
	Dark grey faikes	2 0			
	Dark faikes and blaze				
		12 6			
	Grey sandstone	1 0			
	Dark faikes and blaze				
		13 9			
	Dark grey sandstone	1 10			
20	Grey faikes and blaze				
		16 8			
21	Grey sandstone	0 6			
	Dark blaze	12 0			
	Grey faikes	3 0			
	Strong dark grey				
	faikes	5 9			
	Dark blaze	5 0			
	Dark faikes and blaze				
		5 0			
	Strong dark grey faikes				
		16 6			
	Sandstone in beds	3 9			
29	Dark grey faikes	3 10			

Rileys Coal Mines

History: Riley worked in the Tarleton township, first on a southern lease (here called Riley 1), later on a northern lease (Riley 2). Riley later took out an extended lease over the rest of Tarleton township, lease 3058/87M, 274 acres (1897).

Riley 1

Location: Lease 1083M, 20ac (Devon 6/48, 1881; Thureau 1883, No. P).

This was also called the Tarleton Coal Mine (Thureau, 1884, section). The mine operated for a short period after 1881, closed pre-1891.

Development: Shaft 15, Rileys Shaft, was sunk 51 feet to the coal (Thureau, 1883, Level Plan).

Riley worked much of the southwest corner of Tarleton township. A 35 foot shaft and workings on the south boundary of 39M/48 43, in existence when surveyed in 1944, may have been some of Rileys workings.

X In 1909 the Spreyton 4 operated contiguous workings.

Riley 2

Location: Lease 775M, 20ac (Devon 6/13, 1883) in association with Lobley.

Development: The area was worked by bord and pillar, and most of the available coal extracted in the period 1883 to about 1900. The workings suffered from water troubles, all the workings north of the road being now flooded.

At a later date Spreyton 5 worked much the same area.

Spreyton 1

Location At Spreyton, probably on the east side of Figure-of-Eight Creek on Lot 280,500ac,Z.Williams. This colliery probably worked the southwest corner of the fault block largely worked out by the Russell Colliery.

History: This mine, operated by Allison, was known as the Spreyton Coal Mine, or Allisons Coal Mine. There is no record of its existence before 1901, and it had probably ceased production by 31/3/1903.

Development: There was a main tunnel, with the seam faulted at 420 feet. In March, 1903, Quarterly Reports (p.14) recorded that work was now directed on the north side of the tunnel, in a westerly direction towards the outcrop, which means the mine lay east of the creek.

Recorded production, ~~is~~ from the Quarterly Reports, is

1902	1709 tons
1903	382 tons (first quarter only).

There is reason to believe that this was almost the total production, as in March, 1903 it was reported that these old workings will soon be abandoned, and the same seam opened up on the opposite side of the valley, where Teasdale and Bound and Sons are already working (i.e. the west side).

Spreyton 2

Location: ~~xxxx~~ On the west bank of Figure-of-Eight Creek at Spreyton, probably south of the Aberdeen Colliery, although there is a small possibility it was between Illamatha 1 and 2.

History: This was the new workings opened up by Allison in 1903. The mine worked in 1903 and 1904, as the Spreyton or Allisons Coal Mine. In September, 1904, ~~xxx the~~ Quarterly Reports state that the seam west of the road has had to be left for the present, owing to faulting and influx of water, so the mine probably closed about 30/9/1904.

Development: There was one main tunnel, surveyed 23/1/04 (Underground Plan 257).

Production was 1903	706 tons (last 3 quarters)
1904	444 tons (first 2 quarters).

Spreyton 3

Location: On the east bank of Figure-of-Eight Creek at Spreyton, on Lot 280,500ac,Z.Williams (Underground Plan 257, Survey of 18-8-1905).

History: After leaving Spreyton 2, Allison shifted to the east side of the road, "opposite Bounds" (Quarterly Reports, 30/9/1904). The mine probably closed in 1908, when Allison moved to Tarleton.

Development : A small area was worked from a low tunnel, with a short tramway to the main road (see plan of Russell Colliery,).

Production was:-

1904	365 tons (last 2 quarters)
1905	817 tons (Quarterly Reports)
1906	1584 tons (Annual Reports)
1907	1417 tons " "
1908	851 tons " "

Spreyton 4

Locality: Lease 3750M 40ac (Devon 2B 22/4), later 8824M, at the southwest corner of Tarleton township.

History: This was ~~also~~ called the Mersey Colliery, as well as the Spreyton or Allison's Colliery. Lease 3750M was granted to John Allison and Jno. Allison the Yr. in 1908, cancelled 6/12/18, restored 10/1/19, and cancelled 15/2/22 (Devon 36/36). It was renewed as 8824M by John Wm. Allison (Devon 33/2, 1922), finally cancelled 26/2/24.

Production figures from all the Allison Collieries are not distinguished by location, however the first production from Spreyton 4 can be reasonably deduced as the lift in Spreyton output in 1909.

The mine was operating in 1911 (Twelve Trees, 1911, p. 109). Reid (1922, p. 223) records the mine as having been producing continuously for 40 years, but this must include Riley's workings. ~~Production at this colliery had practically ceased by 1916.~~ Production at this colliery had practically ceased by 1916.

Development: Annual Reports for 1909 (p. 34) record Allison working 7 bores on the north-east side of the hill, and driving a tunnel on the south-west side, to meet the coal. This is the tunnel driven south-east under the tramway. Reid (1922, p. 223) records dip tunnels about 1200 feet long using longwall methods of extraction.

Production: Production figures for Spreyton 4 and 5 are difficult to separate. The figures for 1909-1916 are probably mainly Spreyton 4, those for 1917-1923 mainly Spreyton 5.

Annual Reports for 1912 (p. 63) report an output of 80-90 tons per month, or 1500 to 2000 tons per annum (Reid, 1922, p. 223). The coal was sold in Latrobe and neighbourhood.

Production totals were:-

1909	1543	tons	(Quarterly Reports)
1910	1591	"	" "
1911	1496	"	" "
1912	956	"	" "
1913	1167	"	" "
1914	1000	"	(Annual Reports)
1915	270	"	" "
1916	673	"	" "

Spreyton 5

Locality: Lease 3837M, 40ac, (Devon 22/3, 1908), ~~later 8825M~~ in the name of John Allison and John Allison Jr. This lease has an ~~identical~~ history of cancellations identical with 3750M. ~~later~~ In 1922 the lease was renewed as 8825M, 40ac, John Wm. Allison (Devon 33/3, 1922)

History: This mine was operated by the Allisons, with all production recorded as from the Spreyton Colliery. Annual Reports for 1916 (p. 40) record a little work done on the "Spreyton seam" near Tarleton Railway Station. It says the old mine now appears to be working to a finish, with only patches of the seam left. ~~Since the mine was closed in 1923, it is probable that the mine was engaged in reworking patches of the old Riley 2, mainly extracting pillars, from 1917. The mine ceased in 1923.~~ With information from Mr. Crebbin, Mayor of Tarleton, it is probable that ~~the mine was engaged in reworking patches of the old Riley 2, mainly extracting pillars, from 1917. The mine ceased in 1923.~~ Allison was engaged in reworking patches of the old Riley 2, mainly extracting pillars, from 1917. The mine ceased in 1923.

Development Allison worked from a tunnel driven southeast on 8825M.

Production: The coal raised, sold in Latrobe and neighbourhood, totalled

1917	350 tons	(Annual Reports)
1918	421	
1919	657	
1920	782	
1921	272	
1922	583	
1923	55	

Other Allison Collieries

It may be noted that Allison opened up a new pit at Dawsons Siding, producing 189 tons in 1923, 179 tons in 1924. This mine was sold to J.A.Wauchope (of the Mersey Valley Oil Company) and renamed the Mersey Valley Colliery. It produced 37 tons in 1925, then ceased production. (Annual Reports).

The Southern Star Colliery

Location Lease 171P/M,40ac, in the name of W.T.Gower and J.Wilson (Devon 36/36,1931), later William Thomas Gower; later Hedley Bott and Thomas Donnelly. This adjoined the old Denison workings on the west side. ~~xxxxxxx~~

Development: The mine was worked by three adits--No.1 Pit, around 1933, No.2 Pit, around 1935; and No.3 Pit, ~~xxxxxx~~ abandoned December, 1935 (Underground Plan No.1). The lease was cancelled 17/5/38.

The production, all sold to the Goliath Portland Cement Company at Ralton, totalled:-

1931			
1932			
1933			
1934	468 tons	(Annual Reports)	
1935	279	"	"
1936	411	"	"

Note that after the closure of the Southern Star, Bott worked at South Spreyton (Nook), production being recorded in Annual Reports under the names H. Bott and Party; Jeffrey and Bott; H. Bott and Jeffrey Bros.; H. Botts Pit; J. Botts Pit; and Botts No.2 Pit.

The Aberdeen Mine

Locality: On lease 179P/M, 29 ac, E.A. Bramich and others, west of Figure-of-Eight Creek at Spreyton.

Development: No.1 Pit operated till 1938, driven from the northeast angle. ~~The location of~~ (Underground Plan 281), the location of No.2 Pit is unknown, but it may have shared the same access tunnel. Production totals are (after 1946, including the Illamatha)

1931	
1932	
1933	
1934	1962 tons
1935	2353
1936	1927
1937	2054
1938	2051
1939	1070
1940	1949
1941	1921
1942	1322
1943	849
1944	804
1945	787
1946	1198
1947	2645
1948	2031
1949	1772
1950	2044

Illamatha 1

Location: On lease 248P/M, Florence Victoria Bound, later (1933) R. Bound and others; and lease 348P/M, 176 ac., R, J.R., and C.A. Bound.

Development: Operations began in 1903 (Quarterly Reports, 31/3/1903, p.14) It was worked on a small scale in 1911 (Twelve trees, p.108) ~~Reid~~ Reid reports that in 1922 operations had ceased with with extraction of coal to the edge of the lease, but production had been resumed by 1924 (Reid, 1924, p.108) on an extended area.

Workings were by the step-longwall method, from dip tunnels over 1000 feet long (Underground Plan 281, Reid, 1922, p.223).

The mine was worked on tribute for the first half of 1918. Production was governed by demand, rising in 1919 and 1920 when Holymans took ~~some~~ bunkering coal on contract, and in 1929 during the mainland coal strike.

A small mine, ~~probably the initial Illamatha workings,~~ was surveyed ~~by~~ ~~in~~ on 1/10/1907 (Underground Plan 257) ~~but~~ and included with the Spreyton plans. It was probably the initial Illamatha workings, located just north of 248P/M, and is probably the "old workings" of plan 2031-29.

Production totals were:

1903	20 tons	(Quarterly Reports)
1904	590	" "
1905	121	" "
1906	NIL	" "
1907	30	" "
	150	(Annual Reports)
1908	60	" "
1909	NIL	" "
1910	129	" "
1911	128	" "
1912	110	" "
1913	160	" "
1914	74	" "
1915	188	" "
1916	512	" "
1917	463	" "
1918	932	" "
1919	2139	" "
1920	2538	" "
1921	546	" "
1922	305	" "
1923	623	" "
1924	675	" "
1925	763	" "
1926		" "
1927	1328	" "
1928	901	" "
1929	1817	" "
1930		" "
1931		" "
1932		" "
1933		" "
1934	1717	" "
1935	1668	" "
1936	1775	" "
1937	1590	" "
1938	949	" "
1939	1259	" "
1940	1276	" "
1941	903	" "
1942	757	" "

Illematha 2

Location On 349P/M, R. Bound and others, and 348 P/M, R., J. R., and C. A. Bound west of Figure-of-Eight Creek at Spreyton.

Development: Coal was extracted by bord and pillar methods, from a shaft 80 feet deep (Underground plan 281). A detailed description of this mine will be given elsewhere. Worked by ~~Maxxxxxxxx~~ the Bound brothers, all production went to the Ovaltine Factory at Quoiba for boilers. The colliery, the last on the field, closed in 1961 ~~by~~ when the factory changed over to fuel oil.

Total production (including the Aberdeen Mine between 1947 to 1950 inclusive) was:-

1943	1554 tons
1944	1874
1945	1651
1946	1421
1947	2645
1948	2031
1949	1772
1950	2044
1951	1018
1952	876
1953	930
1954	917
1955	610
1956	587
1957	736
1958	647
1959	424
1960	<u>552</u>
	22189

Tugrah Colliery

Location: On both banks of the Don River between the settlement of Tugrah and the old Tugrah Siding, between Eugenana and Don.

History: Cummings, Raymond and Co., later the River Don Trading Company, built a tramway up the Don River from their port at the Don Heads, as far south as Lower Barrington. The present Melrose Line and the Government ~~line~~ railway to Barrington follow a route close to the old tramway. The company exported timber, and limestone from Eugenana. In 1862 (Fenton, 1891, p. 113) coal was discovered close to the tramway, and considerable quantities were shipped to Launceston. Thureau reports the Don Mining Company operating in 1883.

Reid (1922, p. 228) records a production of over 25,000 tons by 1883, ~~at the Don Colliery, and~~ which he mistakenly assigns to the Don Colliery. *those*

Coal exports from the Don Heads were probably recorded at Port Sorell, the figures being:-

1875	2491 tons
1876	1860
1877	3072
1878	1366
1879	960
<u>1880</u>	<u>511</u>
	10260

Thureau (1883) reported that the Don Mining Company had raised 25,000 tons in the 18 years *Don Mining, between 1865 and 1883.*

Reid (1922, p. 228) mistakenly assigns this production to Dean and Williams' Don Colliery. *years, i.e. 1865-1883,*

Reid

Spreyton Area

This area was non-producing, but there were a number of exploratory workings.

Shafts 15, 16 were sunk either side of Swan Bay (now Flour Mill Bay) but were too shallow to afford any results (Gould, 1861, Reid, 1922, p. 226).

A bore was sunk further northwest, on Q.S. Button's 100 acres, near Spreyton Racecourse, to 100 feet without finding coal. ~~The~~

Another bore was sunk by Crompton in the same area in 1861. The log below is after Gould (p. 8). Reid (1922, p. 226) reproduces the log, but mistakenly ~~calls~~ calls the bore location Tarleton.

Gravel	2' 0"
Clay, of a superior quality	4' 0"
Indurated clay, strongly resembling sandstone	12' 0"
Fine sandy marl, or blue binds	14' 0"
Fine grey sandstone	18' 0"
Bed, or parting, darkish cream colour	0' 6"
Fine dark coloured sandstone	10' 6"
Fine light coloured and rather strong	5' 6"
Very fine ditto, and very strong	3' 0"
Very coarse grey sandstone, soft	2' 0"
White soapstone	4' 3"
Very coarse grey sandstone, rather soft and free cutting	16' 7"
Very strong sandstone rock	1' 8"
Coarse sandstone, soft	4' 0"
Light colored clod or soap stone	2' 0"
Coarse grey sandstone, in thin layers, good sandstone to cut.	31' 6"
At this point all our water left the hole.	
In 5 minutes time the water in the hole dropped 130 feet.	
Strong dark grey sandstone, almost as heavy as lead, very difficult to collect borings in consequence	3' 6"
Total	<u>135' 0"</u>

Crompton's Bore at Dawsons Pits

This bore, after Gould (1861, p. 6) was sunk on the east or right bank of Caroline Creek at Dawsons Pits, or the Sherwood as it was known. (Note also Johnston, 1888, pp. 132-133; Ried, 1922, p. 227).

The log, after Gould, was

Surface soil and clay	7' 0"
Gravel	1 0
Indurated clay	6 0
Marl or blue binds	32 0
Strong grey sandstone	10 0
Soft grey sandstone	10 0
Soft grey sandstone with thin shaley bands and streaks of carbonaceous matter	17 0
Light coloured shale	2 0
Coal	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fireclay	1 0
Coal	0 6
Fireclay	1 0
Soft grey sandstone, very coarse and gritty	2 0
Black shale or clod	1 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Coal	2 0
	<hr/>
	94 0

Exports from the Mersey Coalfield

(Booth, pers. comm.)

Year	Port of Recording				Total (tons)
	Port Sorell	Ballahoo	Sherwood	Tarleton	
1866					1782 xxxx
1867					2075
1868					2000
1869					3000
1870					2400
1871					2810
1872					2000
1873					3180
1874					2474
1875	2491				2491
1876	1860				1860
1877	3072				3072
1878	1366		780	1500	3616
1879	960		250	1800	3010
1880	511			1850	2361
1881			360	300	660
1882		1800	1500		3300
1883		1200	900		2100
1884		1500	700		2200
1885		500	1200	414	2114
1886					1400
1887					1050
1888					1468
1889					2445
1890					3778
1891					9304
1892					3000
1893					4930

from Tugrah of 25,000 tons, and Thureau(1883) reported a total aggregate production from the Mersey Field of ~~£~~ about 60,000 tons. In 1888, Johnston(p.134) recorded production as "recently fallen" to 6000 tons per annum.

Reid(1922,p.222) estimated that if 85,000 tons had been raised in the period 1858-1883; the production on the same rate in 1883-1922 is 136,000 tons; giving an estimate for the field of 211,000 tons in 1858-1922. Reid(1924)p.108) says the coal occurs over 20,000 acres, of which 1/5 can be mined profitably.

Tugrah Area:

Tugrah Colliery: Discovered 1862, first production probably 1865, operating in 1883, closed shortly after.

Denny Gorge

Dennys Colliery: Operating for a few years from 1885, closed before 1861.

The Novelty: Operating 1938-1939 on Dennys old workings.

Bott Gorge

The Mersey Coal Company: Discovered April, 1850.
Small production in 1853.

Spreyton, west of Figure-of-Eight Creek

The Don Colliery: Started in 1857, probably finished before 1883

Spreyton 2: 1903-04

Illamatha 1: 1903-1942

Aberdeen: From about 1931 to 1950

Spreyton, east of Figure-of-Eight Creek

The Russell Colliery: Possibly the outcrop discovered by Williams in 1855, remained a prospect in 1861. Probably started production in 1870-1880, finished 1899.

Spreyton 1: 1901-1903

Spreyton 3: 1904-1908

Tarleton

The Denison Colliery: Started 1855, finished before 1861.

Riley 1: Started about 1881, finished pre-1891.

Riley 2: Started about 1883, finished about 1900.

Allison 4: 1908-1916

Allison 5: 1917-1923

Southern Star: 1931-1936

Coventry 1 (The Tarleton Colliery): 1931-1939

Coventry 2: Probably 1939-1946.

Sherwood

Alfred Colliery: Started earlier than 1858, probably finished about 1885.

Mersey Colliery: Started 1861, probably finished before 1891.

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Note: For convenience, references to locations are given in ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~
~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ four ways.

~~xxxxxx~~

Lot 6833, 135 acres, Geo Atkinson, 33/11 ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ is an original grant or purchase from the Crown of 135 acres to Geo. Atkinson. This is the name of the land block for title purposes, and for cadastral maps ~~in preparation~~ published by the Department of Lands and Surveys, Hobart. The numbers refer to the bound volumes of survey plans.

Devon 6/13, in connection with mining leases, refers to the bound volumes of survey plans for the County of Devon, Book 6, No. 13, held by the Mines Drawing Office, Department of Lands and Surveys, Hobart.

Underground Plan 257, or Bundle 257, refers to underground surveys of mines, usually with some surface information, made by Inspectors of Mines at intervals during the life of the mine. These plans are held by the Chief Inspector of Mines, Hobart.

4400-9817-150 is a coordinate on the State Grid, being 44000 yards east, 981700 yards north, of the origin, and 150 feet above sea level.

(25)
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