

GUN FOUNDING AT HEATHFIELD IN THE XVIII. CENTURY.*

BY HERBERT BLACKMAN.

THE Fuller family, who for several generation lived at "Tanners," in the parish of Waldron, and later at "Rosehill," Brightling, were Gunfounders for a very long period, as John Fuller, writing to the Board of Ordnance in 1749, relating to Gunfounding states:—

"My family have been Contractors for over 100 years, etc."

And even when the Wealden iron industry was rapidly declining, remarkable activity was shewn at the Heathfield Furnace, in the casting of guns of various calibres for the Board of Ordnance.

The mining for the ore, cutting and coaling the wood, cartage of the ore and fuel, and in addition the work in and about the Furnace, provided employment for nearly half the population of the parish.

John Fuller, who was at the head of the Heathfield Foundry at the period these extracts commence, viz. 1703, died in 1722, aged 70, and was buried at Waldron. His son John, who succeeded him, continued the Gunfounding until he died in 1745, aged 66, also buried at Waldron. He also was succeeded by his son John, who died in 1755, aged 49, and was buried at Waldron.

The last John Fuller succeeded to the estates, etc., on the death of his uncle Rose Fuller in 1777, when the products of the Furnace were probably a negligible quantity.

From the mass of manuscripts which have been preserved the following extracts from accounts and

* The following particulars were extracted from the original records of the Fuller Family, in the possession of Mr. W. A. Raper, Battle.

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¹ John Fuller (1680—1745), married July 1703, to

² Elizabeth Rose, died February 1727.

³ John Fuller, born 1705, died February 1755.

⁴ Rose Fuller, born 1708, died 1777.

⁵ Elizabeth Fuller, born 1709.

⁶ Stephen Fuller, born 1716, died 1808.

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} Probably Thomas, Hans and Henry Fuller.

THE FULLER FAMILY : from an oil painting by von Hubner 1734, in the possession of Mr. W. A Raper.

letters concerning the Industry in various ways may prove of some interest.

“An account of what money I have disbursed in and about the Furnace in Ye year 1703.”

Pd. George Kilner for making ye hearth 5½ days at 2s. per day	11	0
Paid ye two founders and ye two fellows	1	2
Pd Richard Barton for 8 load of hearthstone (for interior of Furnace)	3	0
Pd more for carrying ye same at 4s per load	1	12
Pd more for three bulls hides (for the bellows)	3	12
Pd more for filling ye Furnace and breaking up the old hearth and carrying away ye rubbish	6	0
Pd Jaspas Dymond (gun moulder) three weeks for himself and his men	6	0
Nov. 26th spent with ye woodcutters at Catt (Cade) Street	6	0
Dec. 23rd pd. Thomas Somers for carrying of ye Stock which was 936 loads of coles, and storing at ye Furnace, storing only at 2d ye load	8	0
Pd more to Jaspas Dymond for 18 weeks for him and Hy . . . beginning 25th Nov. and ending 8th of March att 3 pounds a week, ye sum for Gunning	54	0
To Thomas Somers for Underfill at 7s a founday—29 foundays	10	0
Thos. Stubberfield for 29 foundays and further for filling the Furnace	11	9
To ye two founders for 29 foundays wanting 2 days, at twenty shillings	28	15
Pd for drink when ye wood was “put out” at Horsemonsex (Herstmonceux)	15	0
Pd. to Barton and Wittol for hair at 8 pence ye bushel, 300 bushels	10	0
Pd. to James Dynor his bill for tallow & candolls ye sum of	9	0
Pd. to Mother Wood att Warbleton Church for bringing up for drinks 12 times at 2s a time, and once for load of ye Valt sand, ye sum of	1	6
Pd John Ackhurst for carrying 80 loads of loam att 1-3 per load	5	0

“An Acc/ of what Coales and Mine I have carried in ye year 1703, and by whom carried and pd. to—”

Mitten, Barden and Thos. Caley for carrying 283 loads of Mine from 'Iwood' and 'Bignowle' wood ..	27	8	0
John Bitheridge 60 loads of Mine, out of my Ld. Sussex land	6	0	0
Allowed him for badness of ways, and going through another man's ground	1	8	0
John Haffenden, Mrs. Ann Roberts and others 154 loads	17	16	0
DRAWING (OR DIGGING) MINE.			
Pd Jaspar Dymond, John Hannah and others in Bignowle wood, 'Iwood' and my Lord Sussex land 844 loads (this was not all brought in)	100	7	1
WOOD CUTTING AND CORDING.			
Pd. to John Hannah for ye cutters, and cording of Cadwolly Woods, and others as appears at Several times by my pockett book and to drink when about ..	42	18	2
Pd more for cutting and cording three woods=900 and odd cords of wood at 1/4 ye cord for cutting, and 2d for cording per cord	67	10	0
Pd. Deering for 4. 2. 0. cord of wood last year and John Paller for 21. 2. 0. cords of wood and for 600 faggots to Goodman Moor	11	17	0
COLEING (MAKING CHARCOAL).			
Pd. to Hannah, Smith and Edwards for coleing 911 loads of coles at 2/6 per load	114	0	0
1704 acc/s are on similar lines, including the following:			
Pd. to Alick the carpenter for making pattern, and mending and putting in of gugeons, and also for a bord to make ye 24 pounders on	1	15	0
Pd. to John Smith for 2 trees, bought of Mr. Studley of Claytons, to make ye Furnace wheel and frame ..	3	12	0
Pd John King for making two wheels	8	0	0
GUN CARRYING TO MAIDSTONE.			
Pd. various carriers for carrying Guns to Maidstone 139 tons 12 cwt. 2 qr. att 21 shillings a ton, ye sum of which is in full for all Gun carrying to Maidstone in 1704	148	3	0
CASTING SHOT (the only mention)			
Pd. to Joseph Mitton for casting shott 77 tons at 6s 6d ye ton	25	0	0
Pd. for making shott molds at 12d a pair, above saker, and 6d a pair below saker	5	15	6
September 29 1709 Pd. William Oxley for cutting and boreing 113 Robinett Guns	5	18	0
(Robinetts are the smallest guns carrying a half-pound shot only.)			
1712 Pd. to John Oxley on Gun boreing, six 24 pounders	11	14	0

1722 By a barrel of beer at the Furnace Feast, May
 28th 1 0 0
 (This in all probability was at the 'Blowing out' of the
 Furnace)

"An account of Charges of Guns sold at Woolwich to Mr.
 Harrison 11th April 1725."

9 barrels and $\frac{1}{4}$ of gunpowder	11 17 0
Charges and expenses at the proving	3 16 6
To Mr. Chatfield, attendance at Woolwich	3 10 6
Mr. Remnant, Shott, &c.	1 16 2
Commission on £697 2. 0.	26 8 6

The Guns were in number 62 and weighed

tons	cwts.	qrs.	lb.	
63	7	3	11	= £697. 5. 3.

FURNACE OUTPUT 1727

145 tons 19 cwt. 2 qrs. of sowes att 7 shillings	1025 16 6
1 .. 6 .. 0 .. an iron roll att 18s	23 12 6
134 .. 1 .. 3 .. being 114 guns	2149 9 0
18 1 .. being 16 guns refused	132 15 0
17 .. 0 .. 0 .. Gunheads	110 10 0
	<hr/>
	£3442 3 0

"By this account it appeareth that there was used to make the iron above, 985 loads of Veins, and 380 loads of coarse mine, which is four loads and 3/10ths to the ton.

"There was also 1076 loads of coals used, this I am sure of, is 3 loads and almost 4/10th to a ton; the odd 4/10th must be reckoned for drying the Gun moulds, for otherwise I believe 3 loads will make a ton of Sowes."

"I made for the Office of Ordnance in the year 1727 6 pounders 8 ft. long in all No. 82 of which, received 73 ;

rejected 9, weighed 134 tons 6 cwt., 3 qrs. 8 lb. .. 2149 9 6

"I received in June 1729 at 6s per cwt for the refused guns sold to Mr. Harrison 132 15 2

"The charge after they were delivered at Woolwich, as followeth—

For commission to Mr. Remnant (his agent)	107 9 6
Mr. Footwarp, bill for drawing &c.	3 12 6
to odds at receiving money	4 6 6

120 8 6

Nett balance received for tons cwt. qrs. lb.	2161 15 8
153 6 0 15	

which is about £14 2. 0. a ton.

“There was 774 load of Mine brought upon Horses backs early in spring in the year 1728 as near as I can compute at 5s the ton

“carried by Langridge & Gorham	32	17	6
“by my own four horses	17	12	0

(No doubt by reason of the bad ways)

GUNS BORED TOO HIGH

“May 27th 1732 to Mr. Remnant

“Sir, I have received yours of the 11th inst., advising of 17 6 pounders of 8 feet being proved and two refused, and that I should run the risque of having them all refused for being bored too high.

“Those that you have now at Woolwich were bored before the brass rammer heads were sent, by wooden rammers which were sent us from the offices, which we can produce; and those which we have made this year are bored to the same height, and are all bored as they have been for this thirty years last past.

“It is I confess a great carelessness in the workman in not comparing the new rammer heads with the old.

“Success we have had in this sort of Guns above anybody else, that made him not to look so carefully to them, he having protested to me that he bored them to the same height he always did.

“It is very discouraging to have the Models and rammer heads, in the midst of Blowing, which cannot frequently be altered, the difference of which from the former is not easily seen, and I hope the Honble. Board will pass them for this time, and I will promise they be no more so.” (After much correspondence it appears that these Guns were refused.)

SUSSEX MINE AND LANCASHIRE MINE

“SUSSEX MINE

“There goeth of Burnt Mine to 2-0-0 of metall five hundred of Burnt Mine. We seldom have above 11 hundred of burnt mine to the load, so that there is 50 hundred of burnt mine to the load, which is at 11 hundred to the load is $4\frac{1}{2}$ load to a Ton of Iron, wanting half an hundred.”

“So that if the mine stand you in att the Furnace seven-and-sixpense a load you must have 6 loads and a quarter for 30 hundred which att 7-6 the load is 2-6-10 $\frac{1}{2}$

“Brayds” (fine charcoal) for burning the Mine .. 1-0-0

£3-6-10 $\frac{1}{2}$

1738.

“To prove this on Saturday March 24th I measured out 2 loads of Mine (12 bushels to a load) each load weighed 16 cwt. 2 qrs. these were all veins (the best ore).

“I also weighed some Pitty (coarse ore) which was the same weight.

"On the Thursday following I weighed and measured the same Mine after it was burned.

"The measure was exactly the same.

"The weight per load was 11 cwt. 1 qr. 12 lb."

"50 cwt. of Burnt Mine is needed for a Ton of Metal."

LANCASHIRE MINE.

"Two Tons of Lancashire ore att 120 pounds to the Hundred; and 21 hundred to the Ton is averdupois 2 Tons 5 cwt. 0

"This will cost, the best Abgarly sort 14sh per ton .. 1 8 0

"Two Tons laid on board

"Freight 15sh per Ton to Newhaven 1 10 0

"Pier Duty 2 0

"Wharfage and Lighteredge 5 0

"Carriage 16 0

£4 1 0

"Thirty Hundred of this will make a Ton of Iron which if it doe, then Two Tons five hundred will make a Ton and half of Iron which will cost £4. 1. 0. The overplus weight making the two Tons, Two Tons five Hundred N.B. Some is to be had for 10sh and some for 12sh the Ton."

"April 1736—Mr. Brown told me his Lancashire Ore stood him in att 21 cwt. to the Ton and 120 lbs. to the Hundred, 12sh put on board at the place 15sh per ton to London and about 40sh per ton at the Furnace in all. That by using 4 baskets to a charge with other coarse mine, he made 12 Tons of Iron a week when before he could make but 8 tons.

"The 4 tons of iron gained he computed at £6. 0. 0. per Ton so that he gained 6 pounds by it and a good metal fit for guns or any work. He said the Furnace was apt to run curdly, and so will not make so fine bars, as iron melted in an Air Furnace."

1737.

"I made a great many skillets, from a gallon to a pint, and mortars and bowles; these are moulded by the piece at 10/- per dozen.

"They are sold by retail, the pint skillet at 2/-, the 2 pint at 2s 6d the three pint at 2-9 and the 3 quart at 3/-

"I sold them to Moier the Brazier at 2/- a piece one with another; it is too cheap, and little to be got by them, they are so heavy, the gallon skillet weighing 13 lbs."

"You have but ten pounds for your metal, loam and fuel for annealling, without the charge for moulding."

TUMBLING IN A FURNACE.

"I attribute what they call 'tumbling' of mine in a Furnace to a quantity of hard mine getting together, which will not readily melt, or perhaps not at all, and then falls down in a lump, hard

as it is, and spoils the other metal in the hearth; this they think they can help by the 'Boches' having an obtuser angle, but this must be very uncertain."

HAIR FOR GUN MOULDS.

"In Barton's account there is 1652 bushels of hair to 992 Tons of Guns and Rolls, which is 1 bushel and 6/10th to a Ton.

"In Hammond's acc. 133 Tons to 260 bushels of hair, which is almost two bushels to the Ton; there was a good many small Guns, so then about $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels to a Ton in large Guns, and two bushels on small Guns."

"Barton's acc/- was from 1723 to 1734"

"Hammond's acc/- was for 1735 and 36"

"Hammond's acc/- 1740 for Hair £13-8-8

"The Computation of Tallow and Butter for Gun Molds is about $2\frac{1}{6}$ pound to the Ton.

"1742. Butter bought of Smith att $3\frac{1}{2}$ d pound	6 cwt 1 qr.
" " Cole	1 cwt
	<hr/>
	7 " 1 qr.

"of this was made in 1741-2 18 Tons of Guns
1742-3 295 " " "

"which att $2\frac{1}{6}$ lb. to the Ton is 812 lbs. which is the weight of the butter above.

WIRE FOR GUN MOULDS.

In the accounts of 1745-6 is a bill for wire amounting to £18. 16. 0. the various sizes being indicated. Mr. Fuller states "that two sorts of wire are used for every Model; the biggest on the inside, the smallest on the outside"

"John Hart (Gun Moulder) came Wednesday Nov. 5th 1740 and made the last Gun Saturday the 23rd May 1741

"By 28 weeks and 4 days at £3 0. 0. per week 85 16 0

"By 3 Gun Boards £3-0-0, By 3 Cages 15/- 3 15 0

"The Furnace began to blow on Thursday 10th October 1740, three days allowed after starting the Furnace before the Bellows blow and the Blow out was on June 10th 1741.

1741

"Paid John Bucknall for cleaning Guns			
eleven six-pounders 8 feet att 1/- .. ..	..	..	11 0
sixty nine-pounders $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet att 1/- .. ..	..	..	3 0 0
thirty-two Twelve pounders att 1/6 .. ..	..	..	2 9 6
Six nine pounders 7 feet att 1/- .. ..	..	..	6 0
fifty-one eighteen pounders att 1/6 .. ..	..	..	3 16 6
			<hr/>
			£10 3 0

"Pd John Stevens for carrying loam from 1738 to Dec. 1740
(for Gun moulds) 202 loads at 12d £10 2 0

1741

"Pd. for digging "Mine" 1553½ loads at prices varying
from 1-8 to 4/- per load 176 14 0

"Pd. Thomas Reed, levelling 50 Mine pits at 6d 1 5 0

"Pd. for Cutting 1843 Cords of Wood at 1s 2d 107 14 5

"by cording 1048 of wood in Eyewood att 2d 8 14 9

"by coleing 368 loads coles 48 12 6

"by carriage of 750 loads coles att 3/- 92 15 0

"Furnace began to blow the 2nd November 1741

"Blew out" 8th June 1742

"John Hart came December 12th (his work began Nov. 16th
and said he would not work under ten shillings a week more, which
they gave at other Furnaces, so I am forced to give, having never
given but three pounds unless they went upon small guns."

"By Gunning 28 and 6 days at £3 10. 0. per week .. 101 0 0

"To Richard Barton, Miner, and others digging 1051 load
att 2/- and 3/- 144 10 0

"John Smith 'Clerk to the Furnace' from April 25th
he is to have 9 shillings a week so long as I want him.
Cash to August 1742 6 15 0

"John Hammond, Josiah Bonwick, John Dulake and
Widdow Geering carried 158 Tons of Guns at 9sh 71 10 0

BOREING HOUSE.

"Stephen Smith of Heathfield, his bill for work from
March 11th, 1740 to June 7th 1742 for making
the Boreing Wheel, and the Hutch and Gate to the
Wheel, and foundation of the Hutch 5 0 6

Mr. Fuller writing to his Agent in May 1742 states:—

"I am setting up a new Boreing House, to use the water twice,
else I do not know when I shall get these Guns ready," and again
23rd June, 1742, he says: "My new Boreing House worketh very
well." (This was situate on the stream about 200 yards below the
Furnace.)

"By drawing to the Boreing by William Mephram thirteen
32 pounders of 9½ feet att 55 cwt. each 35 tons 15
cwt. att 6d per ton 18 0

GOODS MADE AT THE FURNACE, 1742:

"To Sowes 419 cwt.
Guns 100 9-pounders 7 feet att 22¾ cwt.=2275 cwt.
,, 100 9-pounders 8½ feet art 26¾ cwt.=2675=268 tons
Other goods 18. 16 cwt.

286 16 cwt.

"20th November Powder for Proof of Guns per Mr. Remnant			
"42 pounder 25 lbs. powder	9 pounder 9 lbs. powder		
"32 pounder 22½ "	" 6 "	" 6 "	" "
"24 pounder 18 "	" 4 "	" 4 "	" "
"18 pounder 15 "	" 3 "	" 3 "	" "
"12 pounder 12 "	" "		
"John Hart (Moulder) came Monday 18th October, reckon from the 19th, to May 28th 1743 is 31 weeks and five days att £3-10-0 per week 111 0 0			
"Thomas Carey (Founder) by 35 Foundays att £1-2-0 per founday 38 13 8			

"GOODS MADE AT THE FURNACE DURING THIS BLAST.

" 9 pounders of 7 feet No. 20 att 22¾ cwt.=	445 cwt.
" 9 pounders of 9 feet No. 36 att 28 cwt.=	1008 cwt.
"18 pounders of 9 feet No. 20 att 39 cwt.=	780 cwt.
"24 pounders of 9½ feet No. 30 att 49 cwt.=	1476 cwt.
"32 pounders 9½ feet No. 25 att 55 cwt.=	1395 cwt.
"32 pounders 10 feet No. 14 att 57 cwt.=	798 cwt.

No. 145

295 Tons.

"December 20th 1743 'They put fire in the Furnace this day' (very late)		
"John Hart came December 24th, by 29 weeks and three days Gunning from December 27th to July 19th 1744 att £3-10-0 per week	103	0 0
"By one board each for 9 pdr. 12 pdr. 18 pdr. and 24 pdr.	4	0 0
"And by fetching and carrying board to Brede ..	12	0
"By the remainder of Stephen Smith's bill for work at the new Boreing House	12	2 6
"Thos. Mepham. To 650 sacks of Coals and 11 of Brayds=54 loads and one sack	44	5 0
"John Harmer, putting up 1551 loads of coals and Brayds at 2d	12	18 6

"COALS" FROM MR. TAPSELL'S LETTER. Bushels

"Two wagon loads should be 24 quarters	192
"60 sacks of 3 bushels of coles each	180
"so two wagon loads is more than a sack load	12
"A sack load should be 64 sacks to make it equal to two wain loads, and half a sack load should be 32 sacks.	

"The prices for carriage by Mr. Hussey and Mr. Legas is 12 pence for the first mile—9d afterwards, for a wagon load 60 sacks is a sack load and pays double.

"The colliers are allowed for two loads and a half because of the trouble of filling the sacks."

"The Tonbridge Navigation Co. "By carrying 249 tons, 13 cwt. at 3/- ton from Branbridge to Maidstone £37 8 6

"EXPENDITURE AND RECEIPTS AT FURNACE IN 1746.

Cavey, Head Founder	60	5	7
Harmer, Upper Feller	32	14	0
J. Gurr, Under Founder	22	16	2
J. King, Under Feller	16	13	7
J. Hart, Moulder	125	9	2
W. and R. Oxley, Smiths	93	8	1
W. and J. Russell, Smiths	9	14	5
Mepham, Collier and Woodcutter	30	0	0
Hannah,	47	5	1
Collins & French, Collier and Woodcutter	84	17	4
3210 Cords of Wood att 7/6	1263	15	1
1186 loads of Mine att 6/6	385	9	0
Wire of Myers	18	16	0
Loam for moulds 80 loads at 2 shillings	8	0	0
Hair	50	4	6
Forge Iron	20	0	0
Sea coal	3	0	0
Wood for moulds	10	0	0
By carriage of 1600 loads of coles att 2/6	200	0	0
Carriage 289 tons of Guns to Woolwich at £1 4 6	348	6	0
Furnace wear and tear	50	0	0
Incidentals	50	0	0
Interest on £2500 at 4%	100	0	0
Agency Mr. Remnant on £5111	255	10	0

£3285 4 0

BY CONTRA.

265 Ton received at Woolwich at £19 per Ton	5111	0	0
By 20 Ton refused at £10 per Ton	200	0	0
By 25 Ton of Gunheads at £5 per Ton	125	0	0
Hammers, Anvils, &c. myself and others	20	0	0
Plates and Andirons at my House	10	0	0

£5466 0 0

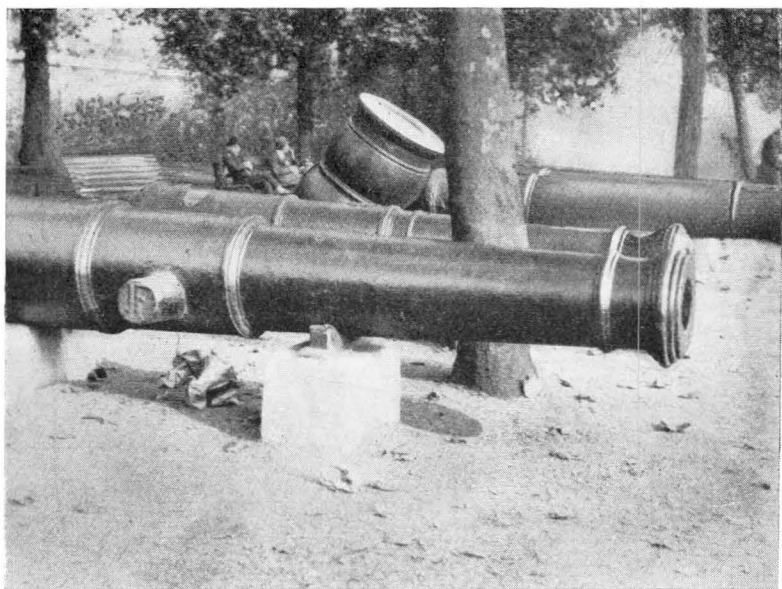
EXPENDITURE AT FURNACE IN 1754.

Coals and Mine laid in	2240	17	7
Total of other expenditure (not including Agents Commission	933	16	6

£3174 14 1

PRODUCE OF FURNACE IN 1754.

In addition to about 300 tons of Guns	£385	14	6
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GUNS ON TOWER WHARF, BEARING JOHN FULLER'S MARK.

[Photo, by E. Straker

PRODUCE OF FURNACE 1756.

For Board of Ordnance 150 Tons of Guns	2115	18	0
By Soves, Gunheads, refused Guns and miscellaneous goods	776	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£2891	18	0
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PRICE OF GUNS TO BE DELIVERED IN 1757.

32 pdrs. 24 pdrs. 18 pdrs. and 12 pdrs.	at £20	0	0	per Ton.
9 pdrs. 4 pdrs. and 3 pdrs.	at £18	0	0	per Ton
half pounders	at £24	0	0	per Ton

The following are chiefly extracts from books in which Mr. John Fuller (who died in 1745) and his son John his successor preserved copies of many letters; the extracts containing many points of interest regarding the Gunfounding industry at Heathfield.

“Rosehill, March 25th 1732. To Samuel Remnant (his agent)

“Sir, I think I have now upon the Warren 19 6 pounders of 9 feet and 32 do. of 8 foot, which were made last year, which I desire you would solicit the Board, that they may be proved.

“The dry weather is broke upon us, but hope shall be able to make all this year.

“If a Proof should be ordered, let my son at the Inner Temple have notice if in Town; I have ordered the iron to be made for you at the Forge, which you bespoke, which shall be sent by a Maidstone Hoy, when the ways are a little better.”

“Rosehill, June 7th 1732. To Mr. Remnant at Woolwich.

“Sir, I received yours of the 1st instant and have taken care to inform the workmen about ‘camphering’? the muzzles of the Guns.

“They used to cut off more formerly, but he tells me they have been directed to cut them no longer than a crown thread; but this may be easily mended with a file, if wanted.

“I sell my Bar Iron at the Forge for 18 pounds a ton, ready money, as it runs, and this being picked iron and costing me 25 shillings a ton sending to you, cannot afford under 19 pounds per ton, which I doubt not will be fit for your service.

“I have likewise yours of the 6th instant, which is the worst proof that I have ever had.

“Our ways are just passable, and the Guns will now go to the waterside apace, but cannot tell when they will come.

“I should be glad to know whether the Guns were refused on the ‘search,’ or for what reason, that we may rectify them for the future.”

"Rosehill, January 5th 1732. To Mr. Harrison.

"Sir, You may remember when in Town I desired you would give me orders for an 100 tons of Guns, but you thought I should have enough from the Ordnance; but that not being likely, or at least nobody knows when: I should be glad if you would forthwith let me know what sorts you would have, for my workmen are all starving, and the season of the year advances apace."

"Rosehill, January 5th, 1732. To Mr. Remnant.

"Sir, I received yours wherein you acquainted me with the Board's refusal of trying one of my 6 pounder guns against another of the same sort.

"I am informed that only Sir Charles Wills was against it, and Mr. Gregory told my son he was of the opinion it might still be brought about when Sir Charles was cool; but no favour is to be asked of a man in a fitt of the gout, when people are too peevish to consider anything.

"You wrote me also there was an estimate given of what guns they would want. I wish you would solicit that affair, that I may know speedily what I have to do, for our people are all ready to starve for want of work, and if they do not determine before summer we shall have no water."

"Rosehill, January 29th, 1732. To Mr. Remnant.

"Friend Ambrose. The office will not take any of my 6 pdr. guns so am afraid we shall be forced to make them over again.

"As I must have some of the others which were refused, so shall have some gun-heads for you, tho' I do not know how many, which you shall have at five pounds per ton, and Sows at six pounds five shillings; I cannot sell them under, because I have no abatement in the price of Wood, or Mine."

"Rosehill, November 6th, 1733. To Mr. Remnant.

"Sir, Our guns now being all on board in order to sail next Spring will be at Woolwich in a very short time.

"There being a great sign of a Warr, I hope they will take those of last year. I desire also to know whether they will want any more this year, because I must regulate myself as to Stock for another year; the sooner I know this the better."

"Rosehill, January 7th 1735. To Sir Thomas Dyke.

"Sir. I am informed by my people at the Furnace that there is a large bank of loam fit to make moulds for guns in the Kilnfield on Nettlesford land. Your tenant has brought in a load which they think will do very well; I used to give 15d. a load for it delivered in at the Furnace, and they hired a way to bring it in at a mile distance.

“It will be of some advantage to the tenant to bring in; we commonly using 30 or 40 loads in a year when we go upon the Guns, so that it may be worth about 12d a load.”

“Rosehill, September 19th 1735. To Mr. Remnant.

“Sir, I think I told you before, I cannot venture to blow until November when the rains are set in, and so cannot deliver them (the guns) till Midsummer, besides that, the roads are now almost impassable, so that if they want them presently, they must take of those at your wharf.

“You, never having seen a Furnace, think we can easily make 14 or 15 Guns, as you could at your melting furnace and leave off when we had made them, but you must know every furnace stands one in at least £50 before she comes to her Yield, and he that maketh less than 200 Tons at a blast were as good be asleep, so if there be an occasion you may acquaint the Board that I cannot deliver them before Midsummer.

“As to your not being able to find out a person capable of serving me in selling of Guns in the Merchants way, I believe shall easily find out one myself upon a certain salary, for I do not know of any new Gun founders, though there are many of the lesser sort, who make goods I never do.

“I would sell them for 12 shillings a hundred; but would not sell them for any money with a power to deliver them in my name to the Office of Ordnance. If they won't sell presently they will make a good appearance upon a wharf with other guns, and may invite people perhaps to buy them.

“As to the reflection upon me that I cannot deliver the Guns as soon as other people; it is certain that I cannot, because my furnace will go in no other time but in winter, and Mr. Harrison's people always have one furnace going, and always had &c.”

(A letter to John Fuller from his younger brother Stephen.)

“Rosehill, March, 1735.

“Dear Jack, I received yours concerning your talk with Mr. Banister. Mr. Nichols was with me last week and told me he should see him and believed he would bring him down with him—but in answer to your questions—

“To the first, I will contract with him only, he taking off my hands what I can make, excepting the Office of Ordnance and Sow and Pig trade, and what things I shall make for people in the County.

“As to what quantity, for how many years, and at what price? That cannot be determined, because if people should know I was under contract for a certain term of years, they would raise wood upon me, and the price at present is so low that it is not worth while, only, that we cannot conveniently lye still.

"Falconetts and Robinetts being the smallest sorts of Guns cannot be included among the guns to be sold at 11/- the hundred.

"I sold the Robinetts and Falconetts the last I made for 15/- and 20/- the hundred, and I believe they are sold so now, so that if 12/- an hundred on each of them, a reasonable profit will be had to the seller.

"The guns I shall make this year are:—						Tons.	cwt.	qrs.	
30	6	pdrs. of	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	feet at	17 cwt. 1 qr. 0 lb. each	25	7	0	
10	4	"	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	"	11 " 1 " 0 "	5	12	2	
10	4	"	6	"	10 " 0 " 0 "	5	0	0	
60	3	"	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	"	8 " 3 " 0 "	26	5	0	
60	3	"	6	"	7 " 1 " 0 "	21	15	0	
60	2	"	5	"	4 " 3 " 0 "	14	5	0	
60	2	"	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	"	4 " 1 " 0 "	12	15	0	
40	1	"	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	"	3 " 0 " 0 "	6	0	0	
40	1	pdr. of	4	"	2 " 2 " 0 "	5	0	0	
40	1	"	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	"	2 " 1 " 0 "	4	10	0	
<hr/> 410 Guns						Tons	126	9	2

"So you see I have ordered no Robinetts this year.

"As to Piggs, you know I sell them six pounds a ton at the Furnace door, so that I cannot afford them at Newhaven, and no other place under six pounds eleven shillings a ton, besides that, I cannot now furnish any this year, whilst Ambrose and Galloway take so much off my hands; thus I think I have answered all your questions but only one, and that is, if the water hold out can make 40 or 50 more tons of anything.

"Our usual way of selling our Gun was by commission. We allowed Mr. Peters 3 p.c. commission, but that no wharfage or King's Taxes was to be paid upon them, nor any other charge whatsoever; only one shilling per ton for landing and 6d per ton for shipping them off. I never sold any Guns to any person to sell again but Mr. Harrison (unless one parcel to Mr. Peters) and he obliging himself to take 70 tons of metal at any time in those sorts of goods which you have the prices of."

"If the Office of Ordnance have no demands, I can supply him with 150 tons a year of goods of any sort, but cannot supply more whilst my Sow trade lasts. Upon the whole I can make no bargain any further this year with the prices you have told him but yet notwithstanding, if he be a fair man I shall never part with him, or if he will sell the Guns by Commission I will employ him, provided he find a convenient place to lay them att, or any other way to dispose of them, for I will not give up the business to Mr. Harrison and Jukes.—STEPHEN."

(This is the only letter extracted, signed by Stephen Fuller, but this fully shows he had a great deal of the management in his hands.)

“Rosehill, October 2nd, 1735. To Mr. Harrison.

“Sir, It is now four years since I made anything for you upon contract of Dec. 13th 1725; and am now grown weary of doing nothing, and therefore unless you can take some metal off my hands and the refused guns at the Office, now in Mr. Remnant's hands, I must again set up for myself and sell the other guns as well as I can.

“I thought fit to advise you of this, that you having now the sole trade in your hands, might think it worth while to keep it; if you do not, I must proceed in my own way.”

1737.—“The names of the several rings on the outside of Guns, as our people call them are:—

“The first behind the Touch-hole—The Base ring.

“The ring next the Touch Hole—The Asticall Muller.

“The ring before the trunnions—The Fore Garter.

“The next—The Muller before the Foregarter.

“The next—The Freer with an Ogee behind it where it is cut off the square.”

“Rosehill, June 12th, 1738. To Mr. Taylor.

(Extract.) “Sir, We are just ready to blow out, the ways are yet so bad it is impossible to get anything to the Seaside, those who have attempted it being laid fast!

“As the ways are so bad I see no hope of getting the guns to you before Michaelmas.”

“Rosehill, September 11th, 1739. To Mr. Thos. Fuller (his brother).

“Dear Thos., When I was in Town last, I saw in Bridewell Precinct a piece of timber one foot thick, 15 feet long and 3 feet 3 inches wide, which when sawn asunder through the middle will make two upper lids for my Furnace bellows each of one piece. The man asked four shillings a foot for it as it is now, but would slot it through the middle into the bargain. Will you go in my name to Shanton the Bellowmaker in the Minories, and desire him to go with you to see if it is sound and fitt for the purpose, I will contrive to get it down by some hop-team.”

“Rosehill, November 13th, 1739. To Mr. Taylor.

“Sir, I do not think it possible to furnish you with the Guns in six weeks or two months time, the ways being so bad now by reason of the summer concluding so very wet.

“Mr. Banisters people are but nine miles from the sea, giving thirty shillings a ton to carry them that distance, which is more than 20/- a ton that they give in summer, and had they not a fore-handed bargain with horse teams, none of which are near us, but only oxen, they could not do it.”

“Rosehill, October 7th, 1740. To Mr. Remnant.

“Sir, I shall be able to get to Blowing in less than a fortnight’s time, and by the time we have any ready the winter will be set in, that it will be impossible to get them to the sea-side, so that I cannot deliver any till Summer, but since the Government is in so great want of them, Mr. Harrison’s people might soon make them at Brede, whose furnace is now blowing, and are very near to water carriage and can I believe send them at any time, as well as Mr. Jukes at Robertsbridge.”

“You know that mine is a winter furnace and never did, nor can work but in winter, and consequently cannot deliver any guns but in summer.”

“Rosehill October 23rd 1740. To Richard Savage, Esq.

“Sir, I received yours of June 13th last, which was in answer to mine of May last, wherein you say you like the price of ‘Mine’ but that I do not mention ‘pitty’ or ‘Collour.’

“The words Coarse Mine, and Veins, comprehends all the sorts of mine whatever, that are fit for use and are known by everybody, but if you enter into all the several names the Miners call the several stratas by, you will never come to an end.

“As stated, I give 18d a load for Veins, and 12d for Coarse Mine.”

“Rosehill, February 28th, 1741.

(After stating that the 12 pounders are made, and shall go next on the 18 pounders, the letter states:—)

“The reason why we do not go on upon them which we are to make of the same sort per your letter of Jan. 13th last, is because we reserve some for next year, that we may rise gradually from the lesser to the biggest guns, because we cannot make the biggest at the first of a blowing.”

“Rosehill, July 30th, 1741.

(Extract.) “I take Robertsbridge Furnace and Beckley to be the only two furnaces that can supply guns in winter: the one being upon a navigable river, and the other very near the sea.”

“Rosehill, November 7th, 1741. To Mr. Hicks at Town Malling, Kent.

“Sir, I received yours and will take your wood and top wood at your price—viz.—at six shillings a cord upon the stubb and will pay you for it at Christmas 1742.

“The Colliers must have the usual allowances for cover, &c. and their lodge. I have ordered the Colliers to begin in Wett Wood, but people are so much in want of work, they will be down by Christmas.

"Rosehill, December 22nd 1741. To Mr. Hans Stanley in Old Bond Street.

"Sir, In relation to Iron Oare; the price we give for it here is 12d a load which is twelve bushels (the measure is one bushel by heap, the other by strike) if they take it as it ariseth, but if they take only the best sorts of oare, which we call veins and leave the worst, they call "Eleven foot Pitty" and "Bottom" they paid eighteen pence a load."

"The Iron Master is at the whole charge of digging it, carrying it to his Furnace, and filling up the pits, only the Owner of the ground alloweth two pence for throwing in the Claves, and also levelling the pits, if he will have it done, which may cost about a groat a pitt more, and then the ground will look as well and be more profitable to the Tenant than it was before the oare was dug.

"I wish you joy of so good an appendage to your estate, for if there should be but four load in a pit, it will yield you thirty two pounds an acre 12d the load and the land never the worse.

"The method of contracting is so much a load as above, which they will give you an account of at Michaelmas and pay for at Christmas.

"Care should be taken if they find a Vein of Oare, that they should draw that which lyeth deepest first, and so follow it up along till they come to the flittest, for if they draw the flittest first, which they are apt to do if not looked after, the water which lyeth amongst all oare will drown the deepest, which will then be lost or at least made very difficult to come at by reason of the water which always followeth broken loose ground.

"The Iron Master, if he have any understanding will take care of this, but the workmen will not who to get themselves a shilling will drown five pounds worth of oare.

"You must trust the man that digs it, and he that carries it to the Furnace, and it will be difficult for the Iron Master to deceive you, because the person who diggs the oare, and he that carry's it will both be checks upon him.

"Thus I think I have told you all that is necessary in this affair."

"Rosehill, October 23rd 1742. To Mr. Remnant.

"Sir, My new Boreing House worketh very well, but I still have 80 guns to bore, but hope to get them ready in a short time.

"Robertsbridge Furnace is blown out, and I am informed they must do the same at Ashburnham and Brede, it being the dryest time that ever was known.

"I have seen iron chains with real short links which they work at Capstans instead of ropes. If such a chain could be got not exceeding an inch and a quarter, or an inch and half in diameter, sixty feet long, it would serve instead of a rope to bore our guns with, and I would have you get me one, unless you can find one secondhand.

"Mr. Jukes tells me that they double charge our guns with shott twice, and prove them so, and that they have done so for twenty years; I am sure they were never proved with shott but once formerly, and if it be as Mr. Jukes says, I do not wonder that Mr. Harrison's Guns were broke, and my own are torn all to pieces, especially if the shott should be rough or too large.

"I never sent guns from the Furnace that searched better in all my life."

"Rosehill, November 16th 1742. To Mr. Remnant.

"Sir, I should be glad to know how much powder they put to the first proof of the Guns, as you call it, for this is all as new to me as if I never were concerned in the trade.

"If the guns search bad upon the first proof (for without doubt they then search them) why do they prove them a second time; if they prove good the first time, why should they be proved a second; I believe the best gun that ever was made may be proved till she is torn in holes.

"The chain is come and does very well, also the rammer-head.

"Rosehill, Feb. 26th 1743. To Mr. Remnant.

"Sir, I have gotten 20 9 pounders of 9 feet to Lewes, and they are most of them on board the "Sussex Oak" which they promise to bring to Woolwich very speedily.

"These 20 have torn the roads so that nothing can follow them and the Country curse us heartily."

"Rosehill, July 13th 1743. To Mr. Remnant.

"Sir, If the present wet weather holds it will give us an opportunity of blowing very early; the roads are now almost as bad as in winter, and if the great guns had not been at the waterside I know not how we should have gotten them there."

"Rosehill, December 15th 1743. To Mr. Remnant.

(extract.) "Sir, I hope the weather is now so far altered that I may set on Blowing; Ashburnham Furnace is blown out, and they 'Tread the Wheel' at three Furnaces, Robertsbridge, Waldron and Beckley."

"Rosehill, February 4th, 1744. To Mr. Remnant.

In this letter he mentions what he designs to make and then states:—

"If the water hold, which I am very much afraid of; as the springs have not broke, nor we have not had two hours rain this six weeks: I presume you are not ignorant of the fact that both Mr. Crowleys furnaces are blown out for want of water and as I previously stated they tread the wheel at Waldron, Robertsbridge and Beckley, which is an excessive charge, and is the same thing

as if men should walk in one of your Capstans, night and day for a quarter of a year together.

"If the weather continueth, want of water will blow out all the Furnaces in the County.

"I believe with you our best times are over, and that a land war will so drain us of money that we shall have little left to pay us at home.

"Rosehill, December 10th, 1747. To Mr. Remnant.

"Sir. . . . I wont make any 42 pounders at 20 pounds a ton . . . Whoever knows so much of a Furnace as I do, must know that to make 4 tons of metal at once you burn away at least one ton, and an undeniable instance of the truth is this, that upon 12 pounders and 18 pounders I can make two ton a week more than I can on 32 pounders."

"Rosehill, February 27th, 1748. To Mr. Remnant.

"Sir. . . . one of my bellows has been ill of Asthma this month! I shall want I believe four of the finest Ox Hides that can be bought, and dressed in oil, if you can recommend an honest Currier to me. They must not be bulls hides, or bull stagg, but fine and even Ox Hides.

"I am like to have a brave blast."

"Rosehill, June 13th, 1748. To Mr. Remnant.

"Sir, With this I send an account of the Guns made this year; most of um I hope are at the waterside at Branbridge on the Tunbridge Navigation.

"I am now on my 32 pounders, which turn out very good, tho' one of my Bellows looks like a ship with Jury masts after a storm.

"I have received a letter from Thomas Rast without date or place, advising that he has sent to the Furnace 4 fine Hides at 2½ guineas a Hide, which is ten guineas.

"Pray pay him and take money of Brother Tom.

"I think I have nothing more to tell you than that my cellars are well stocked, and next month my venison will be good and you will meet with a most hearty welcome to me and your young Mistress."

"August 5th, 1748. To . . . Rawlinson, Esq., in Marlborough Street, Bencher.

"Sir, As the season of the year now approaches in which we commonly receive orders from the Board of Ordnance, I hope from your acquaintance with me, and your known good nature that you will pardon this address and assist me if it is in Your power.

"If I have tolerable luck in my proofs, I shall not have above 50 ton of Guns to make of my own this winter, and had I not

taken Mr. Bowen's contracts (by favour of yourself and brother officers) I should have now had none to make at all, or very few.

"The state of my Warrants now are—of my own 51 ton. 14 cwt. of Mr. Bowen's 117 tons, all 24 pounders and upwards, in all 168 Ton, and the last year as nigh as I can guess I have made 400 Tons.

"Think Sir, what a situation your oldest Gun Founder is in; my family have been contractors near 200 years.

"I have now a good deal above 2000 loads of coals collected at an immense price, at least 26 shillings per load. I am alone a contractor by myself, without any attachment to any Founder living, have no trade amongst the Merchants, and have not for 10 years last past, ever made an ounce of Iron, but by contract from your Honble. Board, nor will I ever whilst I can receive your commands.

"I have you perceive 117 Ton of Mr. Bowen 24 pdrs and 50 Ton of my own; I can never get my furnace hot enough, or the hearth large enough, to make um with any profit to myself or service to the Government, and therefore hope your Honble. Board will order me 200 Ton, 250 or even 300 Tons; I can near or quite manage with my spring stock coming in, and a good wet winter, of what kinds the service requires.

"I beg I may mention without offence, one thing to you and you will forgive me, because it is for the service of the Government, the earlier we receive your commands—viz., at or about Michaelmas, will be of great service.

"Guns are always best when you begin on small and rise by degrees—*vestigia nulla retrorsum*—is a good motto for a Gun Founder, for when they go from great to small, and then up to great guns again, I desire them to know what they are about, or that they can depend upon their work.

"I hope Sir you will pardon the Freedom and Truth of this letter, and believe me to be your most obliged and humble servant."

"Rosehill, June 19th, 1749. To Mr. Jukes.

"Sir, This day I sent two servants down to Robertsbridge Furnace to see if what I heard was true—viz—that you were there making $\frac{1}{2}$ -pounders, to offer at a proof for me, and had set my mark J.F. on the trunnions: I find it to be true; this you never did before and therefore is infamous if not treacherous, and to draw me into the censure of the Board of Officers, at least you must have some private reason for it, you never had my leave to do it, or have you ever done it before.

"I therefore from henceforward disclaim any sort of dealings with you, and desire you and Mr. Remnant would immediately make up the account between us, and if you presume to offer any guns with my mark to be proved, I will send to the Office directly that it is an imposition upon them and your humble servant,

JOHN FULLER.

“Rosehill, Sussex, October 23rd. To Charles N . . k, Esq.

(Extract.) “The state of the Gunfounder at present is this—we that make the great guns—viz—32 pounders and 24 pounders play as deep as they do at “Whites” and there is very little difference between standing between 50 and 60 pound in a blast of gunpowder, or the cut of a card.

“Whereas those that deal in smaller sorts, by residing in London, with dealing with the India Company and with Merchants Shipp, sell the smaller sorts after they are refused at perhaps £10 per ton, but for the great guns refused we make nothing at all of them, so that our losses are infinitely greater than theirs.

“The exigencies of the State during the Wars required great numbers of Guns and the Board very wisely contracted with more gunfounders than before; the exigency set up numbers of little Foundries which I call Tinkers shops, and supplied the Government with small guns; they contracted slap-dash for all sorts.

“There is Brede, Beckley, Lamberhurst, Robertsbridge, Ashburnham and my own are the only furnaces which can make great guns, and I really had hope that when the exigency ceased, the Board would have brought things into the old channels again, and have dealt with those and those only who could make all sorts.

“If according to Mr. Rush, his letter, you contract with those who will make them cheapest the Government will be ill-served; they must get one of us to make their great guns.

“I really want your advice for I have a vast stock of Coals and Mine and 50 pairs of hands that have nothing to do; I really from the bottom of my heart approve of your economy in contracting as cheap as you can; but should think I run an infinite hazard if I contracted for ordnance from 18 pounders to 32 pounders, both inclusive at less than £20 per ton, especially at the high prices my present stock cost me.

“Smaller guns, if they were cheaper than the usual price, would be only on the view that when they are refused they would sell for about £7 per ton, and just pay for workmanship and carriage.

“I beg your advice for the 7th of November is near at hand.”

“Rosehill, November 11th 1749. To Mr. Remnant.

“Sir, I have been perusing my father’s letter book and find he has never been consulted much, particularly in the article of round shott, who lowers that article; my father has never made any that I can find, though there has been many blasts of it by Mr. Legas at Waldron, where wood and mine are dearer than at any other Furnace, and everything bought—while my father with 1200 acres of wood and heaps of course mine at the furnace and in his own land never had any to make that I know of . . .”

“Rosehill, October 25th, 1750.”

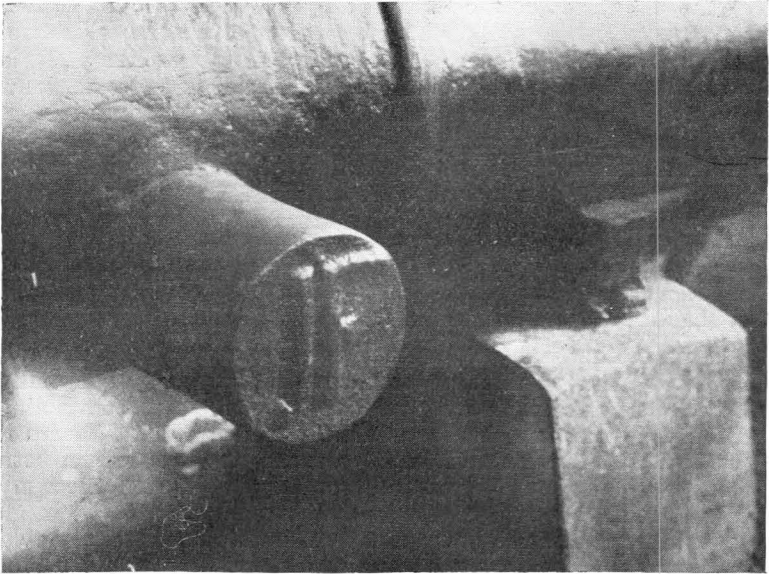
In a letter to Mr. Remnant (his late agent) are notes for the final adjustments for Commission &c.

Mr. Remnant had been Agent for the Fullers for many years. The following extract is from *Heathfield Memorials* in which it appeared as a footnote taken from the *Gents Magazine*.

"Samuel Remnant, Master Smith, was a large contractor supplying the Government with gun-carriages and all kinds of small ironwork, in addition to Ordnance.

"Apparently he was a gunfounder himself, besides acting as Agent for the Fullers, and for John Legas at Wadhurst.

"He died at Brentwood, Essex, on the 11th of April 1753 worth nearly £100,000."



" MARKED ON THE TRUNNIONS JF."

[Photo. by E. Straker.

"Rosehill October 11th 1750. To Jefferson Miles at the Tower of London (his new agent).

"Sir, There are a great many of my Guns now on the Proof place, and a great many in the Yard; I should imagine you might get enough of all my own, drawn on to make a Proof, and I am sure my friend, the Surveyor, woud prove them before the frosts set in.

"I would stand the whole proof dinner, which I shall leave to your discretion, but desire may be handsome, and begin a new regulation in which I desire all the clerks may be handsomely provided for, and the under Officers, but none of the rabble of Woolwich.

“My guns are all marked on the trunnions J.F. I have heard the officers don't care to prove above one hundred guns of a day.”

“Rosehill, January 1st, 1753. To Mr. Miles.

“Sir, I have seen to two new tryal guns, they are as pretty a Gun as ever I saw, they look exactly like a pair of handsome pistols; they are made so exact as to be within 3 pounds weight of the Model, and within 3 or 4 pounds of each other.”

“Rosehill, January 16th 1754. To Mr. Miles at the Tower.

“Sir, I received yours this instant, and am willing to sell to Mr. Eade and Winton the 30 refused 12 pounders at 10 Guineas each for ready money.

“I am going the first week in next month cross the country to Bath to get out of this sink of the nation with these perpetual rains; I have paid away 13 or £1400 since Xmas day for a fine stock of Mine and Coals now in Blast.

“I am to make this year Guns	222 Tons	12 cwt.	} 314 Tons 12 cwt.
and of Sows ..	20	0 ”	
Gunheads ..	20	0 ”	
“and 40 9 pounders at 26 cwt. 52	52	0 ”	

“I have made Mr. Eade and Winton's small guns, the $\frac{1}{2}$ -pounders are very handsome, next year I propose to make iron tobacco pipes!!”

“They must not send the powder for the proof till I order it, the Carrier that is to bring the powder, his name is Philip Luck at the . . . Southwark, on Wednesday night, to me at Heathfield Furnace.”

GUNS FOR THE IRISH GOVERNMENT.

September 8th, 1746. To Sir Robert Wilmot, St. James St.

“Sir, This day received the honour of your commands and will take the utmost care in making these guns for the Service of Ireland, and think my own credit concerned, as it is the first time I have been employed by that Kingdom; tho' my Family have been contractors with the office of Ordnance above 100 years.

“The price must be twenty pounds per ton (the same price as the office pay for guns) for the tackle must be on purpose, there being no 24 pounders of 10 foot long made for the Office for a great while, if ever, they being provided at my expense will be near 30s each Gun.

“The Proof price will be the same as in this Country, and the landing at the Tower, the same as at Woolwich.

“As to the time; with the Board of Ordnance, we deliver any time the next summer after they are contracted for, but if there is an absolute necessity for them before next summer, I will begin to blow a fortnight sooner and will make um between this and

Christmas next certainly; and then wish for a frost or a possibility of getting them to the water-side.

“The model board is a nice piece of work; I observe the gun is quite plain, and only for use; a little more ornament by way of compliment to Ireland, or his Excellency’s coat of arms would have been more for the credit of the workmen.”

Writing from Rosehill on July 28th, 1747, to G. Blair, Esq., Secretary to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, on the dispatch of the Irish Guns which amounted to £954. 8s. 2d. at £20 per ton, Mr. Fuller writes: “. . . You are sensible that those I have just made being all of a new form, required new tackle to every part, and by other incidental charges at the proof, I shall get very little more than the honour of being esteemed Grand Artificer for the Kingdom of Ireland, a title I am very proud of, and whenever I receive the honour of your commands from thence, will by the exactness to models and goodness of Guns deserve to be continued to your much obliged and humble servant. JOHN FULLER.”

SARDINIAN GUNS.

“Rosehill, October 25th, 1752. To Mr. Miles.

“Sir, I have received your letter in regard to Guns for the Empress Queen and that my proposals are approved; they would be French calibre:—

“Diameter of guns.	English.	French.
6 poundsers	3.66	3.83
12 poundsers	4.63	4.81
24 poundsers	5.83	6.0

“I have together with this sent a letter which may be shewn to the Empress Queen’s Ministers.”

“Rosehill, December 21st 1752.

“Guns for the King of Sardinia:

“23 32 poundsers of 9½ feet, each 45 cwt. or near it at			
£16 per ton .. ..	..	..	901 12 0
“48 16 poundsers 8½ feet, each 31 cwt or near it at			
£16 per ton .. ..	..	..	1190 0 0
			<hr/>
			2091 12 0

“In reference to the guns for the King of Sardinia, if I have not the leave of Charles Frederic, Esq. I cannot make them this Blast, for I must not offend my friends of the Board of Ordnance, although I am fond of this Contract, as I have never had a foreign one, and shall for the honour of old England, and my own credit take the utmost pains that they shall be good and handsome.”

“Rosehill, June 19th, 1753.

To. Mr. Miles.

“My Sardinia guns are all at Lewes, so you may export them very soon, and the moment they are landed, I desire a letter, for I myself will come up to the proof, and hope it may be as soon as possible.

“I intend to invite Count Peron, Lords Barrington and Villiers and the Vienna Ambassador if he is arrived and two or three friends.”

August 1st, 1753—Charges on a Proof of the King of Sardinia's Guns.

“Powder, Ball, Cartridges, &c. . . . .	..	..	..	..	122	9	9
Mr. Cockburn for landing and drawing	..	..	..	..	20	2	6
Mr. Angell, the Cooks bill	..	..	..	..	18	2	0
Mr. Merrick for wine	..	..	..	..	20	14	5

GUNS FOR THE KING OF NAPLES AND SICILY.

“Rosehill, 30th July, 1754. To Mr. Miles at the Tower.

“Sir, I last post received a letter from the Prince of San Sorriano Envoy for the King of Naples and Sicily that he was now ready to contract for Iron Ordnance with me for his Master, and has appointed me the 7th, 8th, 9th of August to come to Town.

“I am to have £16 per ton if delivered in July next; if by the latter end of April £17 per ton whichever his orders are.”

“Rosehill, October 24th, 1754. To the Prince of Sorriano.

“Sir, I have the honour of your last letter before me and do desire the Contract to be made for all the guns to be delivered and proved in or before the month of July at £16 per ton.

“A Furnace is a fickle mistress and must be humoured and her favours not to be depended upon. I have known her produce 12 tons per week, and sometimes but 9 tons, nay, sometimes but 8, the excellency of a Founder is to humour her dispositions, but never to force her inclinations.

“I shall not cast one drop of metal for anybody till your Royal Master's guns are all made, and will have enough laid down by the first week in February to answer to—

35 12 pounders 4 6 pounders 13 4 pounders.

“I shall be making the rest while the first are at sea and proving, and the moment there has been a Proof, those that are refused, I shall order to be re-made.”

“Rosehill, October 28th, 1754.

To Mr. Miles.

“You have my absolute authority to contract that all the Naples Guns shall be at the Proof place by the end of March, barring accident of shipwreck and unforeseen accidents; I assure you to have them there long before, I go on briskly, though I actually

have not above three weeks water, and should I want water 'twill cost me £10 to tread the wheel . . . a winter Contract I will never aim at again."

"Rosehill, November 2nd, 1754. To the Prince San Soorrino.

"Sir, I desire that Jefferson Miles, Esq., or any person you may please, may contract in my name that I will deliver, proved, at His Majesty's Yard at Woolwich:—

"35	12	pounders	} As per Model sent me, and French Calibre, at £16. 12. 0. per Ton by the last day of January next.
"4	6	pounders	
"13	4	pounders	

"the other Moiety—viz—

"35	12	pounders	} By the end of March or 1st week in April at £16. 12. 0. per Ton.
4	6	pounders	
13	4	pounders	

"The whole Contract is for 70 12 pounders, 8 6 pounders and 26 4 pounders.

"129 Tons 8 cwt. at £16 0 0 per Ton=£2070 8 0

"I beg your Highness 'will comply with the other artciles in de Peron's Contract, and that a deposit of £2000 be made at Childs and Backsells shop at my risk for fear of Mortality. At the Furnace there was yesterday 10 4 pounders and 2 6 pounders made."

(This is the latest letter extracted from the books of letters. John Fuller died February 5th, 1755.)

FROM MR. FULLER'S BOOK.

"Memoranda, that Mr. Ray, one of Mr. Hussey's partners from whom I had this list in the year 1717, says—from a list of all the Furnaces and Forges in England and Wales, with a Computation of what iron they are supposed to make, and can make one year with another. (The following refers to Sussex.)

Ashburnham Furnace	350	Tons	Westfield Forge	..	50	Tons
Beckley	200	"	Darvell	"	30	"
Brede	200	"	Etchingam	..	50	"
Robertsbridge	120	"	Burwash	"	40	"
Beach	120	"	Glaziers	"	40	"
Darvell	150	"	Bivelham	"	50	"
Heathfield	200	"	Lord			
Waldron	150	"	Montagu	"	50	"
			Mayfield	"	40	"
			Eridge	"	30	"

EXTRACT FROM FULLER MSS.

- J. Fuller was married at Paddington in Middlesex the 20th of July 1703 to Mrs. Elizabeth Rose.
- John my eldest son was born the first day of Feb 1705, and baptized the 8th day of the same month. Father Fuller and Uncle Thomas Fuller, Godfathers, Mother Sloane, Godmother.
- Rose my second son was borne the 12th day of April 1708, and was baptized the 27th day of the same month, Dr Sloane and Brother Samuel Fuller Godfathers, Sister Isted, Godmother.
- my daughter Elizabeth was born the 28th of October 1709, was baptized the 9th of November following. Mrs. Collins and Sister Green, Godmothers Bro. Isted, Godfather.
- my third son Thomas was born the first day of October 1710. baptized 19th day of October. Uncle Stephen Fuller and Coz John Lade, Godfathers, Sister Phillipa Rose, Godmother. Thomas died the 28th day of February 1711 and was buried at Waldron, the first day of March following.
- my fourth son Henry was born 15th day of January 1713, was baptized thirty first day of the same month. Henry May and Henry Collins, Godfathers sister Sarah Sloane, Godmother.
- my fifth son Ashburnham borne the 22nd day of June 1714 was baptized July 9th. Ld Ashburnham and Father Fuller, Godfathers, Sister Eliza Sloane Godmother; he died the 11th November 1714 and was buried at Waldron on the 15th of the same month.
- my sixth son Thomas was born the second of November 1715, and was baptized the 16th day of the same month. Walter Parker and George Courthope Esqrs., Godfathers. Mrs. Margaret Collins Godmother.
- Stephen my seventh son was borne the 26th day of November 1716. baptized 27th Dec 1716. Godfathers Coz Thomas Fuller and Mr. Thomas Shirley, Mrs. Courthope of Whiligh Godmother.
- Hans my eighth son was born the 25th day of September 1718. was baptized 8th of October following. Sir Hans Sloane and Sir Nicholas Pelham Godfathers. Lady Sloane Godmother.
- Samuel my Ninth son born the 20th day of May 1720, baptized the 9th of August following. Godfathers, Lord Ashburnham and Bro. Stanley, Sister Isted, Godmother. he died the eleventh day of June 1721 and was buried at Waldron the 14th of June following.

Elizabeth Fuller, my wife died 18th February 1727, and was buried the 26th February following, at Waldron in the chancel.

My daughter Elizabeth was married to William Sloane Esq. the 29th of April 1733.

Hans Fuller died of the small-pox att Lisbon the 18th of March (new style) which is our 7th of March 1736, and was buried in the English Burying place at Lisbon.

My son Thomas Fuller was married to Elizabeth Lidgater.

My son Stephen Fuller was married to Elizabeth Noakes the eighth day of July 1744.

later the following entry appears—

John Fuller (Grandfather) died 14th May 1722 ætat. 70 buried at Waldron.

John Fuller senr died 4th August 1745 ætat. 66 buried at Waldron.

John Fuller Junr died 5th February 1755 aged 49 buried at Waldron he died without issue.