

George Fife Angas: On Mining Operations

Rob Linn

From the earliest days of the colony of South Australia some men had visions of the land yielding tremendous rewards, not from the soil, but rather from its hidden mineral wealth. The German geologist, Menge,¹ had revealed the possibility of such extensive finds, but the depressed state of the colony's economy in the early 1840s and the fact that the majority of the settlers looked to the land for food and for an income from agricultural or pastoral concerns inhibited early attempts to embark upon exploitation of these deposits.

In 1843, however, due to a combination of amateur geological knowledge and good luck, some exciting mineral deposits were discovered, most notably the Kapunda Mines.² These finds whetted the appetite of British investors and had them dreaming of an ore-rich colony. Mining fast became the talk of Adelaide:

Nothing was, or is now more talked of, but copper or lead; hot days or cold days, early or late, people were to be met with amongst the hills, searching for mines far and near, almost bent double under the weight of massive hammers, and bags of stones, and most unmercifully were the poor rocks knocked about.³

Unlike the majority of British investors in South Australia, George Fife Angas seemed to be unmoved by this rush of interest in mining. Angas, from Newcastle-on-Tyne, had inherited a successful coach building concern which under his guidance extended its interests to shipping and colonial investments both in the Honduras and then South Australia. He was a man of some standing amongst British capitalists; however, his almost fanatical concern for the setting up and continued existence of South Australia made him as many enemies as friends. His detractors saw him as an interfering money-grubber whose actions in business and whose personal dealings were motivated by an intense self-interest.⁴ His supporters on the other hand, saw him as a philanthropic zealot, concerned only with the welfare of others. He was to them a man of high moral and religious ideals whose life was ruled by a total trust in God 's 'providence'.

His biographer, Edwin Hodder,⁵ held the latter view of Angas and his book was an attempt to emphasise Angas's philanthropic and moral nature while he played down the man's hardheadedness in business dealings. The only glimpse Hodder gives

us of Angas's feelings towards mining is in a letter George Fife wrote to his son, John Howard Angas, on being offered a share in a copper-mine on the land of his son-in-law, Henry Evans:

I duly appreciate this token of Henry's thoughtfulness and generosity, which will not lose its reward; still I feel very far from being at ease in respect to that discovery. It has proved the ruin of multitudes to discover a mine of that sort; it excites in the mind the feeling of covetousness, and too often ends in the ruin of the proprietor, of his soul or his fortune. If successful his affections become chained to earthly things, and if adverse he is pierced through with many sorrows ... I charge you solemnly not to expend money in mines, but if worth anything let them remain untouched until others see their way to work them.⁶

Hence, the view evolved that Angas was opposed to speculative ventures, and in particular mining.⁷ Later researchers have either carried on this view intact or omitted to refer to Angas's business dealings⁸ in detail, hence giving Hodder's argument credence, despite evidence to the contrary.

The reason that this view has remained credible for so long, however, is not only due to Hodder. Rather the credit should also be given to the Rev. Henry Hussey, whose own views on Angas were only too well known,⁹ and whose careful selection of documents from Angas's papers and helpful comments on the nature of the man, became the core of Hodder's work. Hodder, then, was more an editor of Hussey's research rather than the author of the biography¹⁰ and therefore could only reveal Angas in the way that Hussey wished him to be seen: upright, moral, religious, and most importantly, devoid of interest in speculation. So, then, we come to three letters, 'On Mining Operations', which Hussey chose to ignore in his quest to immortalise George Fife Angas.

Letter 1.

per 'Templeton'

London
19 July, 1845

On Mining Operations

J.H. Angas Esq.

Angaston

My dear John,¹¹

The 'Australian Mining Co.' of which I forward you a prospectus is said to be making considerable progress, it is also given out that the Directors have bought 20,000 acres to entitle them to a special survey for £20,000. This will give the half of that for emigrations or rather will allow the mining company to send out 4 adults free for every £1,000. That will be a great benefit to the colony.

As William Jury¹² is employed by another Compy., he ought to pay me the £5 I lent him here, which you can ask him for. It is strange that this man has been of use to other people in mining and yet has not been made of use to me by Mr. Forster¹³ when I sent him abroad for that very purpose. I do not know if his agreement is uncanceled, if so, the Mining Co. which now has his services ought to pay me part of the expenses incurred by me in sending him out and supporting him at a high salary for doing nothing almost. Having written to my firm at Adelaide by this ship about *consignments* I shall not touch upon that point here. With respect to the *Black Lead* mine of which Mr. Forster brought home a specimen from a section near to Mr. Randall's¹⁴ residence, I repeat my caution on the danger of paying a high price for land where that specimen was found, because the *real* black lead for making pencils is found in small quantities and at great expense and hazard. In the Keswick plumbago mine many thousands of pounds have been spent in trying to find the vein which has been lost and now they are giving it up in despair.

Still as there clearly is black lead near Randall's, either on his own land or near it, and so long as black lead is found, it may be safely worked and be given up when the vein is lost sight of. It might be well to join Randall in it rather than take it alone, but probably the same article of black lead will be found in my own lands from some indications of specimens in my own hands brought by Capt. Poole,¹⁵ but I am not sure of the spot from whence they were taken. As Mr. Croucher has filled the heads of some people that 4Gs./lb. will be got for black lead here, some foolish ones may be wildly speculating in this black lead scheme, but do not be led away with any high notion about it, and if you cannot get the sections where the specimens that Forster brought home was got for £200, or for Randall to buy half with you at £80 to £100 each, you had better let the scheme alone altogether. Probably you might get the common sort plumbago such as comes from India and sells for £12 per ton and even at that rate the section might do at that value.

On all occasions where you have influence I hope you will incline the

colonists to consign their wool, gum and ores to my house in London; surely it is the least return they can make me for all the money and labour I have spent establishing the Colony. We will do the business as well and with as moderate terms as any House in London.

In all my arrangements in England for working the mines in my lands, I will insist upon the returns coming through our house at Adelaide and in London and the supplies to be got of us abroad. I herewith send you copies of my letters in relation to your employing the German Miners under Capt. Eys¹⁶ (*sic*) I hope you will be directed for the best in that matter. It is important that you should not commit yourself to any engagement with them beyond six months, so as to leave me here at full liberty to make any engagement in England with any persons of capital who will join me in working the minerals on any of my own lands. In this I am making progress daily and hope before three months are over to inform you of my success. In the meantime go on working out the copper ore from my lands, or from the lands Henry Evans improperly got hold of¹⁷ (which the Law will oblige him to give up, as he can have no title to them, as no consideration was given for them) and send the ore to me in London or Liverpool. I will keep to myself all the ore brought out up to the day the new company may take it off me and they will pay me full value for all exertions *etc.* connected with the mine. To enable you to go on, you can raise money in the ore consigned for sale to Angas, Bevan & Co. to any extent beyond the £2,000 if you make the bills payable to order and give the Bank orders to insure. You must keep in with Mr. E. Stephens,¹⁸ for the Bank of Australasia will do nothing for us henceforth. Also I send you a credit of £500 with which to purchase any sections of land in the Barossa Ranges¹⁹ where you are sure there are copper or lead ore to be obtained, but on this point I will address you in another letter.

I am dear John,

Your affect. father,

Geo. Fife Angas.

Letter 2.

per 'Competitor'

London

13 May, 1846

On Mining

J.H. Angas esq.,

Angaston.

My dear John,

The unfavourable reports you have sent me about the working of our mine in Salem Valley has thrown me into great perplexity, as it has come to hand just as we had established the Barossa Mining Co., however I think we shall work our way, under the blessing of Divine Providence, somehow or other, and we must shape our course according to circumstances.

Your letters per 'Sans Pareille' arrd. on the 11th and the same day the Directors and Friends of the B. Mining Co. met at Mr. Josh Browne's office, Bedford Place. Present, Messrs. Rundle & Matthews from Tavistock, Mr. Brown, A. Smith,²⁰ myself and two other Gentmn. of London. I could not tell them that your reports did not bear out Forster's statements, for it mortified me exceedingly to show them the specimens of copper sent home by Forster and Mr. Evans and to have your adverse report, but I struck out such a course for the working of the Co. as would meet such a disappointment.

1. The whole business of the Co.'s operations in mining will be conducted by Capt. Rodda²¹ who with a dozen miners, including a carpenter and blacksmith and their families (all under engagements with the Company) will proceed to Adelaide per 'Brittania' to leave Plymouth about the end of May.
2. You are to sign all checks upon the So. Austn. Bankg. at Adelaide where they will remit money for the working of their setts,²² be they where they may be situated in the colony. These checks you only draw upon the report of Capt. Rodda and a clerk or keepers of accounts whom you will have to appoint according to instructions from the Board which Mr. Browne will forward you by the 'Brittania'.
3. The next point was to have some person conversant with mining to form with you and Capt. Rodda 'a Board of Advice'. Now after much thoughts Rundle and Brown suggested Mr. Shearman²³ of Adelaide; as the control of the Funds will be in your hands, I thought this a capital plan, because it will give the Directors a representative and take away from you all painful responsibility, while Shearman's knowledge will help you and Rodda to decide any difficult movements. To protect my property and Lease, it was right that you should have power to advise, and to protect the

Co., they should have one to advise them.

If your report of the working of the Wheal Salter Mine had been good I could have recommended a very different course, but having led the Shareholders into the formation of this new mining Co. upon the specimens and reports Forster and Co. sent and gave us, I am bound in justice and honour to help them out of their perplexity. Now it was thought to employ Forster as clerk or purser, but his foundation having given way, none of the Directors named him and in fact I was afraid to suggest it. If you and Shearman judged fit, there would be no objection on the Director's part, to Forster's taking the accounts; but I do not suppose as he is at Adelaide and the remuneration for it will be very small, for a year or two, it would be worth his while, as they will have you to be responsible for the funds they remit to Adelaide.

Therefore, You, Mr. Shearman and Capt. Rodda will constitute 'the Board of Advice' to deliberate on all measures and operations in the Colony. Rodda to be the operator, you to keep the money, and Shearman to correspond with the Directors in London on matters resulting from the Board of Advice, while Rodda will report to them his own proceedings direct. Knowing your engagements I have framed matters so as to relieve you of all labours except a monthly meeting of the Bo. of Advice at Angaston or where you please to hold it, at that time, or oftener. We are all aware of Mr. Shearman's failings, but he will have no power to do mischief and may do great good and to save your time and to keep responsibility from your shoulders, this was the only course and plan that suggested itself. I thought of Mr. Evans,²⁴ but his health, heavy engagements and want of the knowledge of mining that Shearman has, rendered his appointment unadvisable for the present.

4. The greatest perplexity is now to be met: viz. suppose there are no minerals on the 4,000 acres and if no reasonable success attends their explorations there, call a meeting of the Board of Advice and direct their attention to any other part of my lands in the Barossa Range that is unsold, which I will allow the Co. to work on the same terms as those of the Lease of 4,000 acres. Then, if reasonable success does not follow on either of the surveys there, (and in making investigations over our surveys you can get the advice of Menge, or such other persons as Mr. Shearman or yourselves see fit), the Board of Advice may order Rodda and his people to take setts elsewhere as he may be most likely to benefit the shareholders. In that case you need not trouble yourself with the dispute that may arise between me, as Lord of the

Manor, and the Barossa Mining Co., that may be settled here. But both you and I must in honour aid them in all their operations be they on my lands or other peoples.

5. You need not write to the Directors in England as Mr. Shearman will do that, but you should inform *me* of what is going on until I advise you that my way is clear for leaving England, which I do not doubt will be made open.

6. Since the So. Austn. Co. have taken the 12,000 acres of land at or near Mount Barker, Mr. Rundle, Brown & Matthews are anxious for the Mining Co. to get a Lease of part of that. To this I have no objection, providing my lands are fairly explored and justice is done me; if Capt. Rodda removes to Mt. Barker and that succeeds, they may allow me to keep my shares in the Co. still; free of advance, as a compensation for their not carrying out the full conditions of my Lease to them of the 4,000 acres at Salem Valley. Whether we get much or little from mining, let us fear God, and do these people justice. Thus I have clearly laid down my plans and principles of this matter and pray God to guide us all in the undertaking.

I am greatly pleased and encouraged by the excellent report that I hear of you from Stonehouse, Shearman to Rundle and all others. For this I praise God! It comforts and sustains me most amazingly in all my tribulations; only seek first and keep fast hold of the Kingdom of Heaven. Someday your parents and dear Willey may yet be permitted to strengthen your hands.

7. The Mining Co. propose sending to the Adelaide So. A. Bank some £1000 or £1200 by the 'Brittania' to start the Company and Capt. Rodda will take out all supplies of mining, blacksmith and carpenter's tools, iron, gunpowder &c.

8. Now as to erecting cottages for the workmen and families and house for Capt. Rodda, the 'Board of Advice' must decide what to do and where to erect their locality. If your report of the mine at Salem Valley had been good, then there would have been no difficulty, as you might have begun at once and erected them near the mine. Perhaps wood cottages, or tents, such as might be removed would be best, or would your large tool shed at Turrawurta not do to shelter them, till you saw what next to do? These are matters which it is not possible for us to decide in London. The Directors are going to send out a few sets of waggon wheels and axles to carry 2 tons of ore each, we suppose all the cartwrights in the Colony will be employed otherwise.

9. I am *at present* a Director of the Barossa Mining Co. but I shall resign, (in case such should be the case, but I think the So. A. Co. will work the land), because it would not

do for me as Director of the So. A. Co. to let them a Lease of lands at Mount Barker, while I am also a Director with them who propose to take one, our So. A. Co. deed of settlement has a clause to prevent it.

Now, my dear John, I have done my best in this mining affair and leave the result without anxiety to the Guidance of Providence. I am pleased to find your mind free from the mania that prevails for speculation in mines in So. A., and but for the *duty* of developing the natural resources of our own lands I would not have touched it, and as my shares in the Barossa Co. cost me nothing, I have little risk.

I am my dear John,

Your own affectionate Father,

George Fife Angas.

Letter 3.

per 'Competitor'

London

18 May, 1846

On Mining

J.H. Angas esq.

Angaston.

My dear John,

However desirous Messrs. Brown and Rundle may be of getting hold of a part of the 12,000 acres of the So. A. Co. land in Mt. Barker, nothing can be done in that matter before the annual meeting of the Company in the end of June, and then *perhaps* they will not succeed, because the So. A. Co. may choose to work the mine themselves: this they can do if everyone of the shareholders consent. In this, also, I have a voice!! Your plan will be to get Capt. Rodda and his men lodged in our surveys, and if Menge is really worth anything get him up to throw light upon the subject of exploring our lands. After all the trouble I have had in forming this Barossa Mining Co. it would be very hard to lose the advantage it affords us of working the ores in our Surveys. The terms of the Lease of the 4,000 acres for 21 years *of the whole minerals*, (say 50 sectns. of 80 acres each) except of gold, silver, precious stones, and plumbago or black lead, which will belong to me.

The Co. is to pay me £5 per acre for land taken by them, they may quarry for use, but not for sale. They may take any land wanted for buildings, roads or mining

stuff and pay 10/- per acre rent for the same. What timber they may want for building or mining will have to be paid for by them. They must not come near Farmsteads to injure them. All water may be used but not to injure the supply of flocks or herds or inhabitants supply. I reserve all quarrying of marble, stone &c. for sale, but the Mining Co. should have what they want of stone or clay for buildings. They pay me 1/14th of all the ore that is raised copper, lead or other metals and minerals. The Captain is to give us 14 days notice of making division of the metals. They are bound at all times to keep 5 able miners at work on the property and to erect a steam engine of competent power for working the mines in the most effectual manner during the Lease. A plan of the workings I may demand at any time. If they abandon the Lease 12 months notice must be given me, all the erections, houses etc. must in that case be given up to me, but the machinery may be sold.

You see then from these terms that it is really important to commence the workings of the ores in our several surveys *and if after due justice is done to them* you judge that it is of no use continuing on them you will advise the 'Board of Advice' to look out for other setts elsewhere in the colony. In the meantime, at home, in July next, if the So. A. Co. will consent to let a part of their lands at Mt. Barker to the Barossa Mining Co. we may *enlarge* the Capital of our Co. which is now 600—£40 shares, about 10 per ct. paid up, and undertake working at Mt. Barker also.

On all these matters I will keep you advised and study to keep you free from having anything *material* to do with the mining operations; but until I can be there myself I must make use of you as a confidential person in relation to financial matters. All the produce of the mines of the Barossa Mining Co. are to be shipped through our House at Adelaide and London. I have had a long correspondence with Capt. Rodda about smelting ores, which, as we have plenty of wood on our lands would be worthwhile attempting if we can only get metals in the surveys. Perhaps other mines further north might be willing to let us smelt their ores on our lands. No blast is requisite, and Capt. Rodda only wants a sharp, steep hill diagonally placed, up which to run a very long chimney to give him a good draft, and he can get up smelting works upon a large scale for almost 7 to £ 800. He will take a charcoal burner with him. The smelting works could be erected near the Road to the Port, on part of our lands where wood was not far distant, it would pay us admirably in time. But to begin with we must get Capt. Rodda and his people located on our surveys.

I saw the copper ores discharging from the Burra-Burra Mine that came per

‘Taglione’ it looked very fine quality. Probably you might find out ores on the sections on the Rhine Station²⁵ 338 & 348. Nothing can be more important to us than to develop minerals on our Surveys if such there be. It would be of vast service to our Farmers and Villages. If, then, you think minerals can be got in any part of the 7 Special Surveys, erect cottages for the miners and a house for Rodda and his family. If Mr. Henry Evans will exert himself to aid mining and any success should attend it, he may be assured that I shall reward him and you for the service when I reach the Colony.

Besides the ‘Barossa Mining Co.’ of which Mr. Browne of Bedford now is secretary and solicitor, Mr. Page of Jeffrey Square is trying to raise a Mining Co., Messrs. Bartlett & Beddome (now Beddome & Weir) are to be the solicitors. Of this company I expect to be chairman & Trustee & if it shd. go forward I hope to have some control over their affairs should I ever reach the colony of So. Aust. If the past 12 years of *unrequited* labour which I have devoted to the Colony be not enough to satisfy the Colonists I am not in duty bound, I think, to give away more of my time, but must now look to myself and my family.

The report from Capt. Rodda leads me to fear that he will not obtain more than half the number of miners for the ‘Brittania’ that we expected, the Commissioners are so difficult to please if they have children.

I am my dear John,

Yours Truly,

Geo. Fife Angas.

P.S. Mr. Weedon and his family go out in the ‘Brittania’, he is acquainted with Book Keeping by a single entry & was several years in a Mahogany & Timber yard in London. He is a Methodist. — G.F.A.

From these letters it can be concluded that George Fife Angas was not totally opposed to mining, as his biography maintained, although he was critical of the speculation which followed in its wake. To a man in Angas’s position, where ready money was accessible, speculation was the folly of immoral, irreligious persons whose precepts maintained that wealth and power were ends which justified the means of gaining them. Yet Angas damned himself by this definition of speculation, for as a capitalist he was not above gambling in a business or mining venture if the odds were in his favour. F.S. Dutton commented:

Mr. George Fife Angas has had the good fortune to find a rich vein of copper on part of his extensive estates in South Australia ... [and] has lately formed a private company amongst his own friends, to whom he has leased the mine and surrounding land on advantageous terms.²⁶

But it may be doubted whether he sought the opinion of any other Barossa Mining Company shareholder, for the terms offered were hardly fair and generous as is implied. Rather, the conditions Angas proposed were those of a man who wanted to have his cake and eat it too; to be involved in mining speculation but to lose nothing by it. This example is indicative of the inherent contradiction in Angas's character. For although, as Pike stresses²⁷ Angas could see no distinction between his Christian philanthropy and commercial transactions, there was a continual tug on his emotions to serve either God or mammon.

It is also important to note that no matter how much Angas wanted mining to benefit all the people of South Australia, he also felt that the Colony owed him something for the work he had done on its behalf; thus revealing his essential paternalism. This paternalism was further enhanced by Angas's reference to himself as 'the Lord of the Manor';²⁸ giving rise to pictures of Antipodean serfs sending forth the produce of the Lord's estates. Whether Angas was embittered and seeking remuneration because of the financial embarrassment of Flaxman's²⁹ land purchases and the failure of other colonial investment³⁰ can only be guessed at; however, he certainly considered his sufferings worthy of suitable acknowledgment.

Future biographers of Angas are always going to be hampered by the 'haze around (him) ... that was almost a halo',³¹ created by Hussey and Hodder. *The legacy of George Fife Angas: Father and Founder of South Australia* has been one which has hidden the man, rather than revealed one of the most interesting and complex characters in South Australian history. It can only be hoped that the diaries and papers which Hussey sent to England in 1881 may someday be retrieved, and then the real George Fife Angas may step forward.

¹ Johannes Menge was first engaged by the South Australian Company in August 1836 as a mine and quarry agent. He was dismissed from the firm in 1838 and subsequently gave assistance to many mining companies through his knowledge of the soils and minerals in various parts of the colony.

² Copper was first discovered at Kapunda in 1842, on a section owned by Captain Bagot. By early 1844 some ninety tons of ore has been shipped from the mine.

³ F.S. Dutton. *South Australia and Its Mines*, (London, 1846), pp.256-257.

⁴ Of the attackers of George Fife Angas probably the section on 'The Christian Philanthropist' in R. Harrison, *Colonial Sketches*, (London, 1862), is the most scathing. This chapter is without doubt a

caricature of Angas.

⁵ Douglas Pike's description of Hodder in *Paradise of Dissent*, (2nd ed., Melbourne, 1967), p.26 is worth noting. Others who held similar views of Angas, almost without query, were G.E. Loyau, *The Representative Men of South Australia*, (Adelaide, 1883); R. Cockburn, *Pastoral Pioneers of South Australia*, (Adelaide, 1925), A. Grenfell Price, *Founders and Pioneers of South Australia* (Adelaide, 1929).

⁶ E. Hodder, *George Fife Angas*, (London, 1891), pp.284-285.

⁷ It is interesting to note that in Harrison's book, p.85, the maxims of the Christian Philanthropist are: 1. Never take any railway shares. 2. Never invest in mines. 3. Never trade beyond half your capital.

⁸ In F.S. Dutton, *op cit*, there is a paragraph on 'Mr. Angas's mine'. It was also well known that Angas was a director of the Barossa Mining Company and a shareholder in the Wheal Barton Mine, near Truro; both of which were on his lands. There is also a reference to the fact that mines were on his property and his interest in them in *Description of the Barossa Range and its neighbourhood in South Australia*, (London, 1849) and also in *Colonists, Copper and Corn in the Colony of South Australia, 1850-51* by Old Colonist, (ed.) E.M. Yelland, (Melbourne, 1970), p. 118.

⁹ Henry Hussey, *Colonial Life and Christian Experience* (Adelaide, 1897).

¹⁰ For information on Hussey's contribution to Hodder's books see, G.L. Fischer, 'Henry Hussey's "History of South Australia"', *South Australiana*, Vol. VIII, No. 1, March 1969, pp.17-24.

¹¹ J.H. Angas's son, John Howard.

¹² William Jury was the first mining captain to come to South Australia with a specific contract to uncover and work mines on the lands of his employer, who happened to be Angas. He fell out of his contract after a brush with Anthony Forster, and was put in charge of the Montacute Mine where he stayed until his death in 1847. He died tragically falling down a hundred foot shaft at the Paringa mine. The *Register* of 10 February 1847, noted that he 'left a widow, six children, an aged mother and brother in the colony to lament his sudden and untimely fate'.

¹³ Anthony Forster had become Angas's agent in South Australia in 1841. He was a most unpopular man to some colonists whose dogmatic and argumentative nature lost Angas many reliable and hardworking employees.

¹⁴ David Randall, of Glen Para, now Corryton Park, about 7 km from Williamstown.

¹⁵ Captain J.B. Poole. He prepared a map of the Yorke's Peninsula mines in 1881 and was Master of Angas's vessel, 'Caleb Angas'.

¹⁶ Captain William Ey was a driving force behind early mining in South Australia. He was the source of the Scott's Creek silver rush in 1868; worked the Balhannah Mines with German miners in 1869, uncovering an important lode; and was employed by the South Rhine Gold Mining Company in 1870. This information was supplied by Royce Wells, Department of Mines.

¹⁷ It can be seen that the letter Hodder quotes, referring to Henry Evans in Angas's biography, pp. 284-285 reveals a rather different opinion of the son-in-law than George Fife gives to John Howard Angas here.

¹⁸ Edward Stephens was in charge of the banking branch of the South Australian Company. He was not popular with George Fife Angas because of financial agreements he made with Charles Flaxman and Edward Rowlands in 1841 to 1843, which nearly caused Angas's downfall.

¹⁹ A. Grenfell Price, p. 89, maintains that Angas was in a difficult financial position during this period. The offer of the £500 indicates that this view needs some qualification.

²⁰ These gentlemen, who made up the board of the Barossa Mining Company, were all close friends of George Fife Angas.

²¹ Captain Richard Rodda was a well known name in South Australian mining circles. He lived in Penrice, near Angaston, and worked on mines in the Lyndoch Valley, Greenock Creek and Barossa Ranges. Primarily though, he was sought as an advisor on the smelting of ores; and, he established a smelting works at Port Adelaide.

²² 'Setts' was the term used by Cornish miners to describe the pegging out of a section on which they wanted to sink their mine.

²³ Mr. Shearman seems to have become an anonymous character of South Australian history. It is known however, that he was not on the Board of Advice in 1848, for Mr. Randall of Glen Para sat in his place.

²⁴ Mr. Evans is Henry Evans who married Sarah Lindsay Angas, daughter of George Fife Angas.

²⁵ The Rhine station was situated on the North Rhine River on part of Angas's surveys. One of the earliest descriptions of this area is in a letter from Joseph Keynes to George Fife Angas, dated 21 June, 1841, 'Rhine Survey--this consists chiefly of very indifferent land almost wholly unfit for the

purposes of agriculture, it affords tolerable sheep runs but owing to the great scarcity of water would not keep above 3000 sheep ... This survey is the eastern boundary of the rest is no water between it and the Murray Scrub'. No mine was worked on either of the sections.

²⁶ Dutton, pp.287-288.

²⁷ Pike, pp.124-130.

²⁸ See letter No. 2 above, point number 4.

²⁹ Charles Flaxman, as agent for G.F. Angas, bought land at a tremendous rate in the early 1840s, far exceeding the limits of his employer and nearly causing Angas's financial ruin. See footnote 17.

³⁰ The firm of Flaxman and Rowlands, and Joseph Keynes and Co., in which Angas was the principal partner, collapsed at the time of Flaxman's land speculations. Angas incurred extensive losses; in the case of Joseph. Keynes and Co. in excess of £9,000.

³¹ Pike, p.126.