These letters are produced by kind permission of George Ingle

To Jas.Collins from Robt. Bradley 24 Jan.1801

Sir/ I have lost one of the best of mothers & am

in a poorish state of health myself at present,

or else I should have been at Skipton today.

But I have sent my sister over with the

rent of Rilston Mill Farm & as for the rent

of Rilston Mill I think Mr. Heaton will not object

to allow for this year when he fully is acquainted

with the difficulty & loss I continually keep

struggling under with respect to the roads to

Rilston Mill. I have at present a good tenant & on

account of the roads being so indifferent & Rilston

people so backward and awkward that their intension

must be to do nothing at present. A carriage

can scarcely pass without some misfortune so

upon all those circumstances Mr. Walass my

tenant has given up the Mill. He says he has used

every civil & quiet means he could to get the

road from Rilston to the Mill kept in some

decent repair & he finds those means of no

use and it is the only road people will tra*vel*

with a carriage to the Mill until Hetton road *is*

decided therefore he will leave it until this *year is*

out. I have allowed him for this year for o*ne*…..

extra carriage that he has been incurred with fo*r*

all his carriage of Coals Cotton Wool Twist or any

other thing which came from Gargrave has been

obliged to go round by Rilston to the Mill which

made the carriage double for no person. Whatever

indemnification they were under they said they

would not throw themselves into adversary with

people on that subject. I am afraid it will

be difficult for me to procure another tenant

without an inditement or some other means according

to Mr Heaton’s wisdom & assistance upon this event

being done & so I will leave you to judge my situation.

I have expended all my property very near in

rebuilding the Mill & nothing but crosses and

disadvantage upon *that head* & as for the house

belonging to the Mill Farm has come down & what to

do without your order in respect of it. I did not

now think the *Thatch* had better be wheeled into the

Midding instead of manure & if you have any

wood that is good, if you choose I will put it into

the barn until your further orders. I think as

for having on it …… rebuilded as the walls are

kept up by props will be a folly & by saying

as the croft will be a great addition to it & if

a tenant to the Mill should want a house

to the farm I have a good house adjoining

his Grace’s in Rilston nearly newly rebuilded

which I will anytime if it is agreeable, to exchange

between this place *from* Dugdals farms at Hetton [*& it*]

and be satisfied upon any creditable man’s judgement

between both parties. & so no more from-----

Sir/ your most obedient & most humble

Servant etc. Robt. Bradley

 Hetton Jan. 24th 1801

but if Mr Heaton should require rent for the

Mill I will send it when it is required & rest

satisfied with the indulgence he thinks *required*

To Jas. Collins from Robt. Bradley 28ty June 1799

Sir. I ham Sory I Cannot A Void being

at th Morow but I haive Left you hat

The New Inn £15. 17.0 which his the

Rent up with the £10.0.0 before Sent,

for the Rilston Mill Farm & as for the

Rent Due for the Last Year for Rilston

Mill I hoape Mr Keaton will be Pleased

to Let *Rist* as haiving been put to so

muth Expence in Advertising the Mill

& hit Standing Now so Long Ded upon

my hands & Now wen Let I haive been

A Bleedged to *Fest* boath Lime & uther

Artickels to gow Round from Hetton by

Rilston to the Mill on ACount of Mr Tindal

Tenont Stoping this Road from Hetton

Side& Saying that any One that was so

Dairing as to Venter thay wood be Sewed

but Mr. Hartley his now hat London, hand

I haive Roate [h..p] to him to wait on

Mr. Heaton wile in Town upon this

Subjeckt but if Mr Heaton wen Thean

Expeckts haiving the Saim Paid I will

Send you the [Cai….] without twise APlying

from your well Wishing & humble

 Servant Robt. Bradley

Hetton june 28th 1799

To Jas Collins from Robt. Bradley 29th July 1801

Sir/ I only came home this morning

and have read your letter which arrived

here at Hetton on Monday last. I am really

sorry I have no money with me to bring

to you. I had borrowed money when I was

rebuilding the Mill so as to go forward with it.

With all the money I have sold the Mill

for, it was not quite sufficient to pay *back* the borrowed money. And by having a little to raise too, it has so *pinched me in thraid* that without just

putting myself to a *fissol* stop just at present I cannot raise more. I have suffered so very

much on behalf of the Mill therefore I hope you will

wait until Black letter day[ a week day?] at Skipton

and if I’m still alive, then I will meet you to

settle upon with terms as your discretion

Mr Heaton will admit I have tried

to raise some money for the past two weeks

as much as possible, in order to come forward

according to my last letter. I hope and beg you

will endeavour to give me a grant for the time

mentioned before and by so doing you will much

oblige me. Your most obedient and most

 Humble Servant Robt. Bradley

Hetton July 29th 1801