

"HISTORIC" FURNISHINGS , EFFECT on Interpretation

JUG

When Norm Souder furnished the Office Store a BEAUTIFUL BIG glass Jug was prominent as furnishings in the visitor section of the Store. It brought many questions about its USE from visitors and school children.

NO SUCH JUG was found in the list of ~~WHAT~~ TWENTY-FIVE MEN BOUGHT in the year of specifically 1832. Eventually, when Mr Souder was asked/about the JUG, he said it was for ACID. When asked "What acid"? , he was surprised to hear that Hopewell sold NONE. Finally, he told that he bought it "because it was so pretty." Historical?

Naturally, "acid" was not mentioned by Dr Walker in his Thesis.

FLAX

The presence of FLAX ready to spin is a bit more authentic; Dr Walker quotes on p 132, the sewing of flax in 1804. In the 1832 TWENTY-FIVE PURCHASES -28 yrs later- and recall that the cotton gin and the English Industrial Revolution were contemporary and that Hopewell had CONSTANT Wagon contact with seaport Philadelphia- contained NO purchase of flax in ANY form. Yet he displayed hanks of flax READY TO SPIN. Another source of questions. One of the 25 men completely listed for every purchase in 1832 was a WEAVER, Whitaker, who BOUGHT CLOTH, including TOW LINEN from the store. WAS FLAX SOLD AT HOPEWELL'S STORE. NONE by any of the 25!! Hence, the display of flax is not correct. LINEN WAS USUALLY UNCOMFORTABLE. OIL more than moulder Care, NEGRO Wilkinson Hill purchased 6 quarts of lamp oil at .12½ a quart- /beef in the quarter was .04½ and all workers had credit without ANY interest charge- He bought neither tallow nor candles. Here, then was a "poor " laborer who did NOT buy candles nor candle making materials. Candle dipping as a demonstration hence is NOT accurate, but is MISLEADING.

BIG HOUSE ROOF STEPS

Since 1958 Mr. Souder has been advocating the REMOVAL of the ROOF STEPS from the south wing of the BIG House. Never has he presented any reason for this removal. Actually, these steps are a feature that makes Hopewell's Big House DISTINCTIVE, the SOLE feature differing from the ordinary farm house of the area. Supposedly added to the house before the mason, Sands, died in 1850, off they come!