

BLACKSMITHING AT HOPEWELL , 1784-5

in a horse and wagon economy

Three accounts reflect this necessary craft/at Hopewell in the sole Mark Bird Journal: ~~the~~ Smithshop(p 8), George Ox,(p 27) and William Sargin (p 32). Permanent-resident blacksmithing seems unlikely, though this absence

does not prove or disprove the existence of the present blacksmith shop.

(All that is ^{presently} known about this shop is that it was built on slag fill and therefore was erected after furnace operation in 1770.) Because ^{MONEY} charges

reflect work here, these two smiths may have ~~worked~~ worked ~~here~~ at Hopewell as required. (Check Union Twp assessmnts for possible residence.) The sole

credit to a smith between Jan. 6, 1784 and June 15, 1785 is to Sargin for

7½ days paid in "work and wages" on Sept. 17, 1784. Yet horses are shod, ^{and} axes upsett~~ed~~ new steel cutting blade installed~~ed~~; wood ~~sicking~~ splitting

wedges are charged and credited wto woodcutters.

Total ^{SHOP EARNINGS} earned ~~CREDITS~~ were about 71.3.7½; ^{alt \$188.} charges are lower, ~~mtx~~ 41.8.8, ^{bar iron COSTS}

alt 69,

but reflect the FAILURE to enter/costs (as of Aug. 23, 1784) mostly from ^{known}

ironmaster Thomas Potts. Except for the/operation of Birdsboro by Wm Dewees 1782-85, (shown by Tax Assessments) one would ^{SORMISE WRONGLY} say that the heavy work

might have been done there. ^{AT THIS TIME} In addition, [^] the account headed "Birdsboro" does not verify

this supposition . A rough horseshoeing count tallied 58 new shoes and 14

"removed"- the taking off of the old worn shoe, remaking and renailing it

back on the horse's hoof. This would completely reshoe eighteen horses.

This work also identified owners of horses. Also, there is NO blacksmithing for the neighborhood- very common in the

pre 1840 period. ^{STEEL!}

p32

WILLIAM SARGIN ~~is~~ was credited with a SINGLE day's smithing on April 27, 1784, four months after this Journal began and "paid" by a Sept. 17, 1784 ^{series}

entry "work and wages" for 7½ days. BUT this ~~same~~ entry/credited him for the making of 16 shovels @ 3/9 each(about .50 each) and for four/NEW/

horseshoes at 5 shillings, (abt 65 or .13 each) His main income was

from the manufacture of SCREWS, the long bolt necessary to assemble stoves,

each about 24 inches long plus a wing nut for each bolt. ~~xxxxxxx~~
 Hopewell's 1772 surviving six-plate heating stove required two bolts; pre-
 1844 stoves needed four. His purchase of flour, over three quarters (^{each} 28 pd)
 in the first half of June suggests both residence and family as his regular
 meat purchases do. He buys his raw bar iron from Hopewell, NOT from any
 of the local forges buying pig from Hopewell.

His ^{regular} screw manufacture reflects ^{both his} his work and stove production at Hopewell:

Oct. 6, 1784	13½ pound	⊕ xxxxxxx	0.11.3	
Nov. 10, 1784	76 "	) xxxxxxx	3. 3.4 "	for cambooses [†] (ship's stoves)
Dec. 17, 1784	34 3/4	) xxxxxxx	1.10.7	
Jan 24, 1785	42	) ALL at 10 d	1.15.0	p 32
Mar. 10, 1785	21	)	17.6	p 146
Mar. 20, 1785	<u>61</u>	)	<u>2.10.10</u>	
	Total 247¼		10.7.10	(about \$27.20)

Sargin's beef cost him five pence a pound; his pork 7 pence.

As this Journal ended, Sargin owed Mark Bird 2.17, 5 3/4, ~~about~~ less than eight dollars.

George Ox, p 27, unlike Sargin bought no meat nor staples from Hopewell, ^{3 sh, abt .39,} except for two bu. of potatoes at

suggesting work at a blacksmith shop AWAY from Hopewell. Most of his work-earnings are from axes and does not have any credit for horsehoeing.

His largest single credit is for stove/^{assembly}bolt manufacture, 506 ½ bolts at ten pence. This accounted for 21 Pounds(about \$56) out of the 30 Pounds

(about \$80) he earned . Unfortunately, costs for iron purchases from forge owners Potts and Hockley are blank. Yet he did ^{buy} pay for over a ton of bar

iron, 1.14.3.8/a lot of stove bolts. The lack of charges for his bar iron ^{3900 pounds,} ~~pre~~ prevents any comparison of his income/with his costs. ^{over 30Pounds, abt \$80,}

That Hopewell's smith worked with steel is shown by the steeling of axes as well as credits for both common and ANDOVER steel p 8c.(over a sh, .13, a lb.