

HOW LONG DID MARK BIRD OPERATE A SLITTING MILL AND STEEL FURNACE ?

Assessed the FIRST time in 1779, after the Revolution began, does NOT date postively these two forbidden-by-British-law structures. Did the friendly tax assessor deliberately overlook these structures? And for how long? The same applies to the Valuations on the Wm Bird Estate after his death in 1761. Did friendly parties "hide" forbidden structures by failing deliberately to place them on "public" documents?

Both the furnace and rolling mill survived the Revolutionary period, being mentioned in 1795 and 1796 accounts of Birdsboro. But their beginnings, other than the 1779 Assessments, are perhaps hidden by "friendly" assessors and friends of William Bird.

"Rulers" in the 1784 Journal were most likely for Bird's Rolling Mill at the Falls of Delaware, since Dewees was operating Birdsboro until late 1784. The charging of over 2.8 TONS of rolling mill castings charged to Mark Bird on March 29, 1784 suggests that these Hopewell product went to the Falls plant and not to Bdsbo. Whether Dewees operated the Rolling Mill at Bdsbo is unknown. His purchases show NO ROLLING MILL repairs. However, Mark Bird MAY have been operating both the "illegal" rolling mill and steel furnace HIMSELF.