

Feb. 14, 74

THOMAS BELL, part-time miner p 39,108,137 may have dug ore at either Hopewell or Jones Mine, since his work location is not stated. Nor is ~~his~~<sup>a</sup> family hinted. He most likely lived at the Village because of his other work.

Mining was one of his several jobs. While his store charges begin Jan. 10, 1784, he received no credits of any kind until October. Naturally, he bought whatever he wanted and needed from the store and drew cash also. Credits in October from Master Collier Sims suggested that he earned 7.2.1 as a collier, about \$18.50. A credit at the same time of 8.16.1 from the furnace cofounders Rice and Rhodes suggested that Bell filled or "kept" the furnace. Only earnings, no timem- are given.

A month later, Bell received 13.7.8, about \$35, for 3 months and 9 days from Work and Wages at 4L a month. A pay raise of ten shillings a month- half a Pound- and about \$1.33 credits him with 20 days at 4.10.0 a month. Naturally, the work for which this was paid is not ~~is~~ stated.

MINING, credited from Mark Bird (not from Pig Mettle or Castings) is for 11 days only, 1.18.0, not quite \$5.32. This work then paid him three Shillings a five Pence a day, about .45. He definitely filled the furnaces since he is credited with two "turns"- two twelve hour shifts at 9 Shillings, or at 4 S 6 P a day. He also paid a day's board near this time, one Shilling, about .13.

At a Dec. 31st settlement, Bell again received a credit as a miner, 1 month and 1½ days in the "Mine Hole", at 3 1 15 S a month. Three and a half months later he returned to the store with a middling skillet and a French Pot, valued at 12 shillings ( 1.56). ~~But~~ These utensils may be the same ones he bought on May 17, eleven months before. But he then was charged only eleven shillings, about \$1.43. Since colliers "rented" axes and wedges, this utensil exchange suggests that miners may have "rented" coking equipment.

Bell used tobacco and bought but two pints of rum and three of whiskey. He also bought five pairs of shoes, reflecting wear and tear as a miner or filler. These cost from \$1.39 up. He bought and resold a <sup>13S</sup> blanket, perhaps used as a collier,

Bell 2

an axe and  
as his purchase of/bacon, four pounds , ~~xxxx~~.may have been. While his cloth purcha:  
purchases were quite limited, only 1 3/4 yards of DEFFLE, he placed "orders"with  
Joun Gray twelve times for goods or merchandise worth 8.9.4, over \$21, and spent  
2.13.9 in three payments to tailor McCormick. He drew cash fourteen times in the  
year, but the most, 5.9.2 was as his account ended and the furnace quit operations.  
He used corffee wiht sugar, purchasing o ver five and ten pounds respectively.  
His flour purchases totaled 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  quarters of 28 pounds each, 434 pounds of LOAVES  
OF BREAD. He salted no meat, buying bu a single quart of salt. He ate nine fish  
and mackeral. His beef purchases, as low as 4 d a pound amounted to 87 $\frac{1}{4}$  pounds;  
his pork buyings 116  $\frac{1}{4}$  as low as 6 pence a pound.H's bacon, beef and pork provided  
him with over a half pound of meat daily.

His mixed work as filler, collier and miner earned him 40.6.3 for the year of 1784.  
Clerk Dougherty began the same year at 40L ~~xxxx~~. Hence, Bell earned as much as a  
somewhat educated may did. With family size/<sup>if any,</sup>unknown he consumed 434 loaves of  
bread, ate nine fish, four pounds of bacon bought three tailor-made items, drew  
nearly \$26 in cash and had a credit of over a pound at year's end, \$2.66.