

FOUNDER JACOB STEESE DIED AT HOPEWELL IN 1784

Jacob Steese, (p 4, 54) Mark Bird's founder in 1784, died while ~~smelting iron~~ ^{smelting} here. (Widow Steese is so designated in the Moulder Moats entry of Dec. 5, 1784) ^{reflects} His ability to own a horse ~~suggests~~ ^{suggests} his high pay status, but his spendings strongly suggest that he did NOT live at Hopewell. The absence of flour, sugar and coffee purchases are the basis for this supposition. Only four bushels of potatoes (at 3 Sh, .39) , 28 pounds of veal at 3 pence and 5½ pounds of beef at five pence are then carry-home items. Only the purchase of a pair of flat-irons and ~~two~~ ^{TWO} stoves suggest family living. But these stoves and 200 pounds of cart boxes (wheel bearings) may have been bought for resale. It is most doubtful that he actually lived near the Furnace ^{or} in one of the Tenant Houses, since he purchased ^{two} little meat, no staples nor cloth. Nor did he buy clothing from Tailor McCormick. However, his pay WITHOUT STATING, may have included board at the Big House operated by Mary Paine and where the Negroes and Irish indentured men probably ate. A gallon of rum purchased within a week's time did not make him a drunk. He did not use tobacco.

His earnings on April 8, 1784 definitely were for that "blast":

Tonnage		Rate	Total
636½	Pig	RATE @ 5 S	159.2.6
8½	Forge Castings	RATE 12 S	5.2.0 (Two-inch thick forge fire-boxes)
9½	Forge anvils and hammers	20 S (a L)	9.10.0
62¼	Ladle castings*	30 S (1½ L)	93. 7.10
33¼	Potts and Slitting Mill castings	15 S	24.19.3
750 Tons	TOTAL		291.11.7 about 774.06

* The term "ladle" strongly suggests poured castings within ^{wooden} flasks. ~~These castings made the moulds in the~~

This total income for an UNSTATED period certainly dwarfed moulder incomes of 26.2.6 each for John and George Moats. However, blast beginning is unknown for this production period of January- April 1784. Likewise , bookkeeping time lag is unknown. Without Sundays, blast time would be 77 days for the 750

tons and earnings of 291 L. Since the tonnage averages ^{daily} nearly TEN TONS DAILY, this blast HAD TO BEGIN long before January 1. In the 1830's at peak production the furnace averaged 3 tons DAILY, about a thousand tons annually. Based on this later average of three tons daily, the Steese blast, settled/in April, began 250 ^{days} earlier, about March 1783.

The next Steese settlement was entered on Sept. 14, 1784. While the April entries were the ACTUAL end of a "blast"- the burning through of the sandstone furnace lining- this settlement was necessary because of Steese's death. Production and earnings were:

6.2 Ton Potiware	@ 5 S	4.11. 8 $\frac{1}{4}$
.6 Ton Forge Castings	@ 12 S	3. 7
4.1 Ton Forge Hammers and Anvils	@ 15 S	3. 1. 6
4 Ton Stoves	@ 30 S	6.0. 0
169 Tom Pig "Mettle"	@ 5 S	49. 0 0
TOTALS		
210.5 Tons		62.9.6 $\frac{1}{4}$, about \$154.92.

This pay settlement caused by Steese's death, provided a more definite production time. Not allowing for any bookkeeping lag, the total days from the April pay was 159, less Sundays, 21 leaves 138, less 21 days for inwall replacement, or Steese earnings then were about 1.336 a day, without Sundays.

116 working days./ Tonnage then averaged about 1.7 tons daily, or about 10.2

tons weekly. ~~Coleman's~~ - Baron Setigel's Elizabeth Furnace in this very period ^{supposedly} produc

^{PRODUC} ed from 20 to 25 tons weekly, but in blasts of 22 or 23 weeks. Steese's credit ~~is~~

for 116 days of six-day weeks could have been a blast of 17 weeks, but NOT based o

on actual "Blast" time. Moulders Moats and Hart earned 55.10.12 and 69.1.6 in the same "blast". Their daily earning then averaged \$1.27 and \$1.48. With his FOUNDER EARNINGS added responsibility, Steese did NOT fare well financially.

Counting "blast" time with Sundays, reduced Steese's daily pay, 153 days.

Using this compilation, and a founder was on call 24 hours a day, he averaged just over a dollar a day. Also recall that the day of his death is unknown.

His total earnings at Hopewell for both "blasts" were 359.7.2 Moderate living- he spent 172.7.2, had drawn little cash and bought NO Clothing at Hopewell, enabled Steese to leave his widow 186L, about \$494.76.