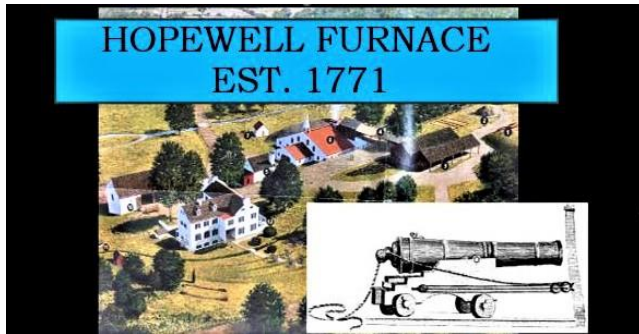


The Friends of Hopewell Furnace



America's 250:

Cannon Production for the
Continental Navy during
the American Revolution

Robert Donnelly Operations Manager,
Visitor & Community Engagement
Major (Ret.) USA (Cavalry/Armor)
Valley Forge National Historical Park



When: Sunday, June 8, 2025, at 2pm

Where: Hopewell Furnace Visitor Center Theatre
2 Mark Bird Lane, Elverson, PA 19520

Free

From 1775 to early 1778 (when France entered the war against Great Britain) the Americans had to look primarily to furnaces like Hopewell for iron cannon, shot and shell. Yet none of these sites had ever before cast ordnance. In spite of the difficulties of "learning by doing," the iron industry met the challenge. Hopewell alone produced 115 cannon for the Continental Navy, some of which were used aboard the frigate *Randolph* and gunboat *Delaware*. Even more importantly, Hopewell provided shot and shell to the Continental Army and Navy throughout the war, including 10-inch mortar shells used to help win the final major battle at Yorktown, Virginia.

Due to capacity limitations in the park's theatre, those interested in attending are encouraged to arrive as early as possible prior to the advertised start time to ensure a seat.