

BIRD'S PIG IRON PRICE (p9)

Sounds silly, but the exact price Mark Bird received for a TON of pig iron is hard to determine. Seemingly, the price charged was indefinite, perhaps a provisional one, with the precise amount per ton to be later determined. Or he may have made contracts to deliver at a set price, or he may have received advance payments NOT recorded in this Journal. The ~~second~~ ^{contract} method ~~was~~ ^{was probably, the} ~~operational system~~ Bird, or (his bookkeeper) kept a Pig Metal page(9) and charged costs and income. But THREE TIMES made no ^{money} entry at all. On Jan. 17, 1785 forge owners Twaddel, Potts and Passmore receive 48 tons of pig, but no price per ton nor total purchase are in the Journal entry. Equally puzzling are charges to Wm Dewees, lease operating the Birdsboro Forges 1782-85, while Mark Bird is busy at the Falls of Delaware

UNINTENTIONALLY

spending himself into bankruptcy with his borrowed \$200,000, Shot and shell cost ~~was~~ ^(abt \$13.30) more per ton than pig iron: 7.10.0 for the shot and only 5L for the pig. (While credited to Bird and not to Pig Metal, the sale of a great GUNS, weighing 11 CWT, to Forgerman Passmore at 5.12.6 on Jan 17, 1785 and TWO on Aug. 12, 1784 at 5.12.0 ^(abt. \$28.60) a ton is also baffling. Passmore paid 10.15.0 for pig on June 21, 1784.) Quantity purchased may have been a price factor; Henry Dean, buying less than two hundred ~~po~~ ^(abt \$39.90) pounds of pig, paid 15 L/a ton. In the same period three forge buyers, had paid or only 5L. But yet other forge men a month before Dean's purchase had paid 10.15.0 a ton.

Production paid to Founder Steese credited him with smelting 196 Tons of pig from April to Sept. 1784. Sold in the same period were 247 tons, 51 tons ABOVE the Steese production.

October-November 1784 sales were equally varied in price. Hockley paid 5L; James Moore paid two different prices in the SAME Journal entry: 10.15.0 and 11.8.7! ^{(13.30) (abt 28.60)} Pig sales, ALL entered on 21 June 1784 to seven forgermen charged 5L, 7 L to 10.15.0 per ton. Quantity purchased had no price bearing. Thomas Potts bot 23 3/4 Ton and paid 7L, while George Ege took 48 1/5 and paid 10.15.0 a ton! Walker needed 10 ton and paid 10.15.0 also. The most logical conjecture for this wide fluctuation sp? is that Mark Bird had CONTRACTED to sell pig to some forgermen while the others

REAL

~~xxxx~~ sale prices reflect the ~~xxx~~ and current value at the time of sale to those ~~xxxx~~, ~~xxxxx~~ Later Wilson and without contracts. Bird sale proposals suggest such contracts.

Production between the Steese settlement in September and the end of Blast by January 1785 showed that ^{co}founders Rice and Roads had smelted 268 tons of pig. Sales across the same period, according to Journal bookkeeping, totalled 368 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons. These oversales most likely reflect the Steese production of 636 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons by April 6, 1784 without any matching sales.

Advances to Mark Bird from five forge owners on Jan. 24, 1785 varied in price from 5.6.7 a ton to 6.5. The SAME forgerman, J. Moore, had three prices: 5.15.0, 6L, and 6.3.0. Explain that variation!! **MOST LIKELY, A CONTRACTED PRICE RAISE,**

Pig was profitable according to ~~this~~ Journal page! Lacking sales prices for the three sales in Jan. 17, 1784 for 48 tons of pig, Mark Bird earned ^(abt \$5383.52) 2023.18.7/on sales of 3726.19.4 $\frac{1}{2}$! (abt \$9913.69) His listed costs were to his founders, for ore washing, a bit of woodcutting and hauling, for mine baskets and charcoal making. But these were far from being COMPLETE COSTS.

Stove sale prices reflect both iron value and Bird profits. If pig at 5 L a ton a profit paid ~~xxxxxxx~~, a single stove selling for 5L was very profitable.

Bird took advance payments on pig iron on Jan. ²⁴~~26~~, 1785 for 131 ton of pig,

noted above, The total of this advance, ~~xxxxxxx~~ 883.17 . 6 must be deducted from his pig iron total to present an **NONEST** picture of actual production.

2023.18.7
- 883.17.6
1140. 1.1 net "profits" from pig production

FORGEVAN AND FIG SALES 1784-85:

Lancaster C.Spg Forge?									
Hockley	English								
20 T @ 5L	30 T @ 5L	40 T @ 5L	120 T @ 5L						
20 T @ 5L	20 T @ 5L	1.3 + ShotSS							
40 T @ 5L		€ 7.10.0							
40 T @ 5L		48.4+€ 5L							

Total 120T Total 50 T Total 209.7+ Total 25T Total 10 T Total 18 T Total 20T Total 0.1.2.0

Bird's

Moore	Spring Forge	Twaddel	Thomas Netts
13.13.0.1 @ 10.15.0	30 T @ 5L	25 T @ ?	10 T @ ?
39.12.3.24 @ 11.7.8	30 T @ 5L		23.15.0.0 @ 7L
7 @ 11L			

Total 59.10.3.25 Total 60 T Total 25 T Total 33 3/4 T

630.15.2.5

Total Pig Sales 1784-85 ~~xxxxxx~~ Total production: 1100½ Tons (Mark Bird had 469 3/4 T on hand?)

~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~
~~xxx~~

SALES PRICES FOR HOPEWELL PRODUCTION IN 1784:

with a L POUND at \$2.66 BEEF was 3 and 4 pence a POUND.

Forge hammers 4 L (\$10.64)
 " plates 192# ea (\$11.50) ea (\$14.86)
 Cart Boxes (wheel bearings)
 5 d lb + 28.10.0 TON (\$75.78)
 4 d to "help"
 28 L ton, 28.10.0

STOVES:

Lg 10 plate 5.5.0 (\$13.95)
 " 4.0.0 (\$10.64)
 " 1/2 price
 3.10.0 (9.28)
 Lg 6 plate 3.10.0 (9.28)
 Sm 6 plate 2.10.6 (\$6.68)
 Franklin np

POTS- Hardware

Pots, ton 28L (\$74.48)
 29L (\$77.14)

Hardware 1 S lb (.13)

126 pcs 6.6.0 = 126 Sh or 1 sh (.13)

Unknown items:

BOYLE weighed 1.2.6 or 174#
 BOIT " 1.2.4 or 172#
 HUSK " 2.2.3 or 293#
 BRASS " 28 Lb
 STAND " 3.1.22 or 306# (\$9.13)
 HALLOWER 5S ea or (.65)

Arvils weighed 70wt, 50wt

POTS:

French 6/8, 7/6 (.96 - .90)
 3 gal 10S, 7/6 (1.30 - 90)
 4 gal 12/6 (1.62)
 2 gal 7/6 (.90)
 2 gal w bail 8/6 (1.10), twenty cents
 for handle)

Flat irons:

5S, 7/6 pr (65., 90)
 Tailor's Goose 6/6 (.84)

Dutch Bake Oven 18/9 (\$2.43)

(w lid)

Kettle 5 d a lb

" 74# 1.10.10 (\$4.06)
 " middling 14/6 (1.98)

Bake Plate

Plate 8/4 (\$1.08)

STOVES:

Cambosses- a stove for ships:

" # 1 12L (\$31.92)

" # 2 10L (\$26.66)

" # 3 8L (21.28)

Six " # 3 7.6.8 ea (\$19.68 ea)

Scale Weight

56's six for 3.15.0 or 12/6 ea (\$1.62)