

MARK BIRD'S SOLE SURVIVING RECORD

For the period 1770 to 1800, only a single Mark Bird Journal survives. In time, this account dates from January 1, 1784(the end of the Dewees lease for Hopewell Furnace) ~~and~~ into 1785, but the furnace seemingly went OUT of operation at the end of 1784. And NO wood cutting for 1785 operation is charged. Most men are paid off. Counter arguments are the advances collected on PIG ^{and STOVES as well as} ~~and~~ waterwheel rebuilding.

Bird and Wilson signed a Deed Poll to John Nixon(FOR the Bank of North America) on Aug.16, 1786, admitting their inability to pay interest-\$1,000 a month- or the \$200,000 mortgage of March 29,1785. NONE of Bird's involved financial affairs are in this Journal . The Falls of Delaware- where Mark Bird spent the\$200,000- was sold by the sheriff during September 1786.The HopewellFurnace, Birdsboro and Spring Forges were sold in 1788. ~~But~~ But Bird had ~~attempted~~ ^{unsuccessfully} advertised a private sale for May 1786. ^{WITH THE FURNACE IN OPERATION, " BIRD OPERATIONS AT BIRDSBORO ARE COMPLETELY UNKNOWN"} But there is NO indication whatsoever in this Journal that Mark Bird was failing financially. But, the account REFLECTS THE LIFE of furnace workers, their income, costs and problems during a segment of time- ONE YEAR- after the Revolution. Pennsylvania had denied a tarriff~~for~~ its iron industry. The Constution, which treated more efficiently that problem, was too late to save Mark Bird. Expansion at the wrong time bankrupted him.