

1784 MOULDING AT HOPEWELL FURNACE

*POURING RED-HOT*

Of the three moulders ~~casting~~ iron at Hopewell during 1784, moulder JOHN MOATS (p 37) left the Furnace at the end of March 1784 "blast". His relationship to moulder George Moats is unstated and unknown. He "poured" himself 21.1.6, over \$69, by March 29 for casting:

4.15.3.0	10,724 lb	7 Pottware	@ 5L	23.12.9
	9 Bake Ovens	Dutch?	@ 3S	1. 7.0
	13 pieces hardware	?	@ 1 S	13.0
	3 Half-price	defective		
	teakettles	@ 15pence		3.9
				<u>26.2.6</u>

NOTE that no moulder poured a stove; this was founder work! How Moats lived is unknown. He paid only 5½ days board at a Shilling, abt .13, a day. He earned extra income by working for Mason Davis 7½ days at 6S a day helping replace in April the burned out hearth and/or inwalls at the blast's end. He also worked 20½ days for Mark Bird at 5/6 a day at unstated work. He bought a trunk, and after earning nearly 35 L, or \$95, left Hopewell. Mark Bird owed him 17 L, \$ 45 at the Journal's end. He purchased neither tobacco nor liquor and drew over 3L in cash, near \$8. He had purchased neither cloth nor clothing and had NO account with local store-dealers. His earnings, averaged about 6S 9 pence a day, about .67.

GEORGE MOATS ( p 46, 126) in contrast appeared like a permanent citizen, moulding at the Furnace ten months of 1784. Veal sales to Hopewell and tax payments sound like ~~tax~~ land ownership as does the sale of cabbages, the ownership of a horse, a hoe and the purchase of housekeeping Hopewell castings: pots, Dutch bake oven, skillets and a tea kettle. However, the charging of three 10-plate stoves suggested either a ~~large~~ large house or buying for resale. The purchase of flat irons was the sole faint potential trace of a woman in his background. He bought neither cloth, shoes, nor clothing, but regularly charged unstated purchases from Moore and Dundas, Reading merchants. Small purchases of flour, beef, potatoes and mackerel may have meant cooking for himself. He drew considerable cash, but bought neither liquor nor tobacco. While he paid Peter Rice over 3L, nearly \$8 to clean his castings, he worked 20½ days EXTRA for Mark Bird. He also earned over \$3 by cutting 16 loads of "mine" wood and bought wheat, rye and corn by the bushel, had his horse reshod.



of 8/4 on land, about \$1.08, was married and provided himself, wife and child with new shoes( three pairs abt\$3.05), During January- March 31, he bought 13 quarters of white flour( 264 pounds), 92 of pork, 24 1/2 of veal at 3 pence, and 38 1/2 of pork, or 154 1/2 154 1/2 pounds of red meat in a 91 day period, over 1.6 pounds a DAY. Staples, six quarts of salt, 14 pounds of Indian meal, two pounds each of coffee and sugar and 4 bushels of bran completed his needs from the store stock at Hopewell Furnace. Mark Bird knew he was a dependable man and allowed him credit to buy a 5 Pound 10-plate stove to his household equipment. He <sup>rt</sup> also drew cash, did not use tobacco and bought NO liquor in the first three months. A pint of rum at the end of August cost him a Shilling, .13. Why he hired furnace teams for a day and a half is not recorded, yet he paid to have his garden plowed and bought a scythe for 7 S, about .91. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ He purchased neither cloth nor clothing, but as many other workers, made moderate purchases with John Gray and other dealers serving Hopewell as well as Bird's store. He paid tailor John McCormick <sup>18 S, abt\$2.34</sup> in January 1785. \* Potatoe purchases after May probably meant his own were exhausted. Buying an empty barrel generally was a part of beef-corning process. Two pair of new shoes within a short time may mean a move from the woods into the foundry, where red-hot iron was an enemy to leather. His wife visited Hopewel for <sup>.21</sup> cash and bought soap fat.

MOULDING EARNINGS

Hart probably moulded again at the furnace by July 1, about the time of credits for cordwood work, 12.5.0, about \$32, entered the Record. By October 26, in partnership with John Moats, he had poured:

		Alone:	
Pottware 5.0.2.11	© 5L 27. 7.11	2.7.3.10	© 5L 11.19.0
225 pieces Hardware	© 1 S 11. 5. 0	133 pieces	© 1 S 6.13.0
24 1/2 large Bake Ovens	© 3 S 3.13. 6		
13 1/2 large teakettles	© 2/6 1.13. 9		
2 1/2 small teakettles	© 2 S 5 . 0		
11.2.22 Slitting Mill castings	© 4 S 2. 6.9		
19.1.8 "Rulers"	© 4 S 3.17.7		
	Totals	50.8 .8 about \$124	Total 18.12.0 about \$50.

The 118 days from July 1 to October 26, less 15 Sundays had 103 working days, and paid Hart almost \$1.70 a day. However, he paid Peter Rice 3.6.10, about

\$8.86, for clearing the above iron castings.

Hart was the sole moulder pouring iron at Hopewell after October. His December 31 moulding credit was:

2.9.0.8 Pottware	© 5 L	12. 5.0	
6 Bake ovens	© 3 S	18.0	
19 large Skillets	© 1 S	19.0	
14 middle Skillets	© 1 S	14.0	
32 2 gallon pots	© 1 S	1.14.0	
8 French Pots	© 1 S	18.0	
	Total	<u>16.18.0</u>	about \$ 50.

#### ACTUAL MOULDERS' PAY

It is known that moulder Hart did NOT work steadily at his trade to December 31, since he was also credited for one month and 22 days @ 40L annually from "Work and Wages" plus six days for mowing hay at 3 S a day. These working credits date precisely with his moulding credits of December 31, 1784. ~~These working credits~~ Calculating working time from his last moulding credit of October 26 showed how DIFFICULT the compilation of earning can be.

Oct .	5 days work
Nov.	30
Dec.	<u>31</u> without allowing for bookkeeping time lag.
Total	66 days, divided by 7 to remove Sundays,
	<u>9</u>
	57 days. Less "Work and Wages" time, 54 days
	<u>54</u>
	3 days in which he poured nearly 2½ TONS, an impossibility!

Calculating Hart's entire yearly income for 1784 makes more sense. His total

moulding earnings were:	50. 8.0 in partnership with Moats,
	18.12.0 by himself,
	<u>16.18.0</u> by Dec. 31,
	85.18.3 ACTUAL molding income from July 1.

Six months times 26 working days was 156 days, less 54 days paid by "Work and Wages" - 54 leaves 102 days for moulding. Based on these potential 102 days, for this half year, Hart poured himself 15 Shillings and 10 pence a day, about \$2.18. Recall that this work was by "the sweat of his brow"; the harder he ~~worked, xxxxxx~~ rrammed sand in a flask, the more he earned.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

## MOULDER EARNINGS IN 1784

Two moulders were able to satisfy the demand for castings in 1784. The stoves were entirely flat-bed cast by the furnace founder, not by the moulders<sup>RS</sup>. Their absence from moulder credits well illustrated this practice. Moulding<sup>or</sup> DAILY earning for

1784 were: John Moats 6 S 9 p, about .87 a day.  
 George Moats 8 4 , about 1.08 a day.  
 John Hart 16.10, about \$2.18 a day. Compilation of ~~xxx~~ actual

working days for Moulder Hart is more accurate than for the other two. Production during 1784.

of all moulders/was heavily pottware, the kitchen castings demanded from EVERY furnace by the neighborhood.