

KEEPER- FOUNDER ~~XXXX~~ RICE

p 30,114) was one of two keepers in early 1784 paid by Furnace Founder Steese, a method of hiring-payment lasting into the 1830's at Hopewell. Along with co-keeper Roads, he became Furnace Founder at Steese's death in September 1784. As keeper and/ or teamster, Rice had earned extra-moonlighting money by cleaning castings in 1782-83, while Deweese of Valley Forge fame operated Hopewell Furnace (and the Birdsboro ~~Borges~~.) This extra work was paid by moulder John Hart. Hart and moulders George and John Moats(Mountz today?) paid him for like work during 1784, even after he became co-founder. 6.13.8, over \$16.60.

CAPITALIST?

As a fairly-well paid keeper, he may have purchased a team and wagon, hired a teamster and thus became a capitalist, as several moulders at Hopewell did a half-century later. His keeper(and filler?) pay, over 44L, about \$144 on April 8 for an UNSTATED TIME, suggested that the three month^s pay from teaming on April 20 was earned by team own^{ers}hip as noted above. That teaming pay was 45L annually, 11.10.9 over \$30 for the three months and two days credited. This teaming income was about \$10 a month, or .37 a day = 3/1.

Rice drank irregularly, used tobacco moderately and probably rode a horse to work. His cloth purchases were entirely linen, ^{13 yards,} but he had NO clothing made by tailor McCormick. He did have outside store accounts with John Gray and George Douglass(of Douglassville.) Whether availability was the reason is unknown, but Rice did drink whiskey after becoming cofounder. Three pints of rum at nine pence a pint were followed by seven quarts of whiskey at 1/8(about .21) in the next three months. This consumption certainly was moderate. Also Rice did have illness in his family at this period, paying Dr. Christian Baum four Shillings, about .52. He used his hoe in his family garden and bought potatoes at Hopewell when his own were exhausted. He paid taxes of 5/6, about .70.

FLOUR AND MEAT PURCHASES

Rice was "paid" by credit^{time} three times during 1784; the first/ because the "blast" ended; the second because of Steese's death and ~~his~~ advance to co-founder and at Rice's

the end of ~~the~~ 1784. In the Jan - March period of ninety-one days, he bought $17\frac{1}{2}$ quarters (of 28 pounds) of white flour and two of rye, totaling 546 pounds. He also took home 15 pounds of beef and $87\frac{1}{4}$ of pork (at 7 pence). This was ^{AVERAGE} ~~an~~ flour consumption of six pounds daily and a bit less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of red meat a day. (Six pounds of flour would have baked into about SIX LOAVES.) Recall that Rice's teaming income alone was about .37 a day at this time.

In his next pay period ^{again} as keeper-filler during the 153 days from April 1 to Aug. 31, Rice charged 194 pounds of pork at 6 and 7 pence, 103 of beef at 4 and 5, $12\frac{1}{2}$ of bacon at 8 pence, 24 mackeral at 6 pence and $20\frac{1}{2}$ quarters of white flour, 854 pounds. Flour use averaged then dropped to about $5\frac{1}{2}$ pounds daily, while meat consumption rose to OVER two pounds, plus the 24 mackeral, about a fish a week. This time also is home-garden peak production. At Steese's death by September Rice had earned 18.7.5 for five months work, (153 total days) or over \$9 a month, not quite .35 or $2/9$ a day. A woodcutter earned $2/3$ (.29) for cutting a cord. (On this pay basis, his earlier keeper-filler earnings had EXTENDED back/into ^{thirteen months,} the Dewese period.

During the remainder of 1784, Rice earned founder pay for 122 days. He purchased $25\frac{1}{2}$ quarters of white flour and ~~one~~ of rye., $184\frac{1}{2}$ of beef and 16 of mackeral. ^{cheaper pork} (Why/~~pork~~ was absent from Hopewell is unknown.) His flour use again averaged six p (loaves) pounds a day, the sixteen mackeral provided variety about once a week, while his beef averaged about 1.5 pounds daily. But ~~recall that~~ Rice bought a beef at this time.

FOUNDER PAY AND PRODUCTION

As cofounder with Wm Roads, Rice's pay in January 1785 reflected half of the Hopewell production between September and Dec. 31, 1784:

134 Ton pig iron	© 5 S	2.5.0
23 Tons stoves (all flat bed)	© 20 S	23.0.0 Paid to founder; NOT to moulder)
1.5 Hammers-Anvils	© 10 S	17.6 (for forges)
2.9.1 Forge castings	© 8 S	19.9 (two-inch plates for forge fireboxes.)
165.14.1.0		28.1.15, about \$74.

This production times the two founders meant that Hopewell SMELTED 331.4 tons

~~DAILY~~ With an unknown beekkeeping time lag, these 331 tons/^{were} produced in four months, times 25 working days a month, in 104 days. This then averaged 3.18 tons DAILY, the average for the 1830's as well. In money, each cofounder earned about \$74, or about 5/4 (.64) a day.

After becoming cofounder, Rice had purchased a half-priced stove- fire-tight but defective in looks- for 3 L, about \$11, and a four gallon and a French pot. His flour and meat purchases suggested a family, but of unstated size. In the 1790 Census is was [?] . His staples(coffee and sugar purchases) totaled ten and fourteen pounds. Why he bought NONE after April 1 is unknown.

By Nov. 20, Rice paid Hopewell 6.15.0, almost \$17 for a live beef of unstated weight. The purchase of an empty barrel and a bushel of salt within three days suggested that he killed ^{the meat from} and corned/this animal.

At the Journal's end , Mark Bird owed Founder² Rice about 60 L, almost \$169. Rice ~~had~~ lived moderately, drawn little cash and his spendings with outside stores ~~was~~ ^{WERE} small. The only item of clothing he definitely replaced by Journal purchase were shoes. He had earned 151.10.1, nearly \$403 during 1784 and had "saved" a very substantial portion, \$169.

Since his 1784 family is unknown, how well Rice lived is equally unknown. His ~~fixer~~ ^{and especially his} cash balance, /flour and meat purchases have provided a minimal life- style

clues:			DAILY	Daily	Daily
Time xxxxxx	Days	Pork	Beef Flour	average	average
			Beef Flour	Meat	FLour
Jan.-Mar.	91	87½#	25 17½ of 28# 2 Rye	1½	6# *
Apr-Aug	153	194	103 20½	2# + 24 Mk1	5.5 #
Sept.-Dec.	122	-	189½ 25½ 1 Rye	1.55+ 16 Mk1	6#

* According to the Berks County Home Economy Dept. a pound of flour would produce a LOAF of bread. Rice and his family consumed from 5.5 to 6 LOAVES DAILY.

**** DATES ARE ARBITRARY. THE EARLIEST BLAST ENDING FOUND IN JOURNAL WAS APR 8. TIME KEEPING TIME LAG IS UNKNOWN**

1
P

BOOK