



The Historical  
Society of  
Pennsylvania

Collection 212

**Forges and Furnaces  
Collection**

1727-1921

158 boxes, 955 volumes, 271.2 lin. feet

**Contact:** The Historical Society of Pennsylvania  
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<http://www.hsp.org>

**Restrictions:** None

**Related Collections at HSP:** Codorus Forge Papers (Collection 1678)  
Greenberry Dorsey Family Papers (Collection 1627)  
Grubb Family Papers (Collections 1488, 1967A, 1967B)  
Jones Family Account Books 1810-1874 (Collection 718)  
Mary Ann Furnace and Forge (Collection 1644)  
Thomas G. Norris Papers (Collection 1830)  
Uriah Hunt Painter Papers (Collection 1669)  
Potts Family Papers (Collection 520)  
Persifor Frazer Smith Papers (Collection 1377)

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Forges and Furnaces Collection at The Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP) represents a significant repository of the original forge and furnace books that documents the rise-and-fall of the charcoal iron industry of Pennsylvania. During the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, due to its rich iron deposits, southeastern Pennsylvania was the major center of American iron production. As time passed, the industry moved steadily westward from the Schuylkill Valley where it started to the Susquehanna Valley and its tributaries; to the Juniata River and the ports on the Union Canal; and eventually to Pittsburgh and western Pennsylvania. In time, charcoal gave way to coke, and iron to steel. The collection documents that progression.

With the Hopewell and Cornwall sites being the exception, few physical plants of charcoal ironworks remain today and none of the early ones do. Abandoned ironworks did not last long as piles of building stone quickly found use in other projects. Often the details surrounding an individual forge or furnace's history and the ironmaster's role at them have been forgotten or at best clouded with the passage of time. Original forge and furnace books are often the only remaining link to Pennsylvania's very rich industrial past.

While the collection is diverse, containing the ledgers, accounts and other business books and business papers of almost 70 different ironworks, for the most part it is comprised of material from the Potts, Bird, Grubb, Coleman, and Ege families' Pennsylvania ironworks. It also includes Potts and Grubb family papers and journals as well as those from ironmaster Henry William Stiegel's Manheim Glassworks. Containing almost 1,000 volumes, the collection was obtained by the Society during the last one hundred years through acquiring several major iron collections and through the receipt of a number of gifts and purchases.

In addition to their industrial and historical significance, the forge and furnace books themselves represent a treasure trove of genealogical information that for the most part, has not been mined. Pre-Revolutionary ironworks used a combination of indentured servants, African slaves, free laborers and part-time local farmers for labor. Due to the scarcity of hard money, particularly before the Revolution, most ironworks functioned on a debit-credit arrangement and each employee had an individual debit "accounting" page in the ironwork's books. Although generally un-indexed, the thousands of clerks, unskilled workers, fillers, miners, teamsters, woodcutters, and colliers who worked at the ironworks are listed, what their wages were, and what they purchased from the company store.

Furnaces and forges also generally had sawmills and gristmills attached to them using the waterpower created to run the furnace bellows and forge trip hammers to saw lumber and grind corn and wheat. As the general population increased these operations served as a public resource. These mills created additional income for the owners and their operations

are documented in the furnace and forge books. Consequently, the collection also serves as an important record of that industry.

Although the HSP's collection is the largest in the state, other historical and genealogical repositories also have forge and furnace books from the same ironworks and same time period contained in the HSP collection and in fact, these books often complement and dovetail nicely with the HSP books. The Pennsylvania State Archives in Harrisburg and the Historical Society of Berks County in Reading both have excellent collections, as do others. These books and their locations are noted in the individual ironwork sketches.

## **FURNACE AND FORGE DISTINCTIONS**

The HSP collection contains both forge and furnace books. While they get often get lumped together in discussions about the early iron industry and their operations did have similarities, forges and furnaces were different entities. Although they had a symbiotic relationship, it was hierarchical. Refinery forges needed furnaces to supply their pig iron and to a lesser extent, furnaces needed forges to which to send their pig iron. These dependencies led to a number of furnace-forge relationships and particularly in the case of earlier ironworks, a furnace and a forge were often thought of as a package when sold or rented. Agreements were often reached on guaranteeing supply before an independently owned forge was built but the furnace owner, as supplier, always had the upper hand financially.

While both forges and furnaces obviously worked with iron, they performed different functions in the manufacturing process. Before the widespread use of coke after the Civil War, early blast furnaces produced pig iron from iron ore, charcoal and limestone. Their physical plants were bigger than forges and the expense to erect one was considerable. Furnaces also required a larger labor force to operate, and they had to be housed, fed and supplied with other goods and services. Consequently, to distribute the expense and the risk, new furnaces were more apt to be capitalized by a group of shareholders. Particularly during the early period, shares, like stocks, were continually split or consolidated and care should be taken not to confuse owners, shareholders, and ironmasters. Before the advent of canals and railroads, these enterprises also had to be located near their natural resources, generally causing them to be on the edge of European settlements and inland. A large furnace when in blast could use up to an acre a day of timber for charcoal. Consequently, the acreage required by furnaces was both considerable and rapidly denuded of trees. This, combined with the more rapid technological advancements in iron production, caused most charcoal furnaces to have relatively short existences.

On the other hand, forges, which refined the furnace's pig iron into wrought iron, consumed natural resources at a pace that was renewable, required smaller physical plants and were cheaper to build, and unlike furnaces, were more often owned by one individual. Other than increasing the number of "fires" to reheat the pig iron or trip hammers to refine it, their technology remained relatively stable and their workforce small. As a result, they had a much longer existences than furnaces and ones such as Pine Forge and Coventry Forge were continuously operational for over 100 years.

As it became technologically possible to consolidate forges and furnaces at the same site and as the financial advantages of consolidation became obvious, iron barons such as Samuel Nutt, George Ege, and Robert Coleman co-located forges and furnaces at the same location or added slitting and rolling mills to existing sites. These sites were then generally

given the name “works.” For instance, Coventry Forge became “Coventry Works” when Samuel Nutt added his steel furnace, but returned again to “Coventry Forge” when its furnaces were closed and replaced by the newly built and family owned nearby Warwick Furnace. As the industry continued the progression from its independently owned, cottage industry-style beginnings, to the huge iron and steel producing complexes after the Civil War, consolidation at one site became the norm. As a result, stand alone independent forges generally were closed by the early 1800s although their grist and/or saw mills often had a longer independent existence.

In addition, Pennsylvania was also unique in that it consistently had a higher ratio of forges to furnaces than did Maryland or Virginia, whose initial furnace locations were near the Chesapeake Bay and whose output was more often shipped directly to England. Shareholders did invest in early Pennsylvania furnaces such as Durham and Colebrook Dale with the idea that their pig iron would be exported to England. However, early on, Pennsylvania ironmasters realized that domestic growth could consume their output and consequently, Pennsylvania forges, not English ones, refined and sold finished products such as tools, hardware, and weapons locally. Consequently, in Pennsylvania, while large furnaces such as Warwick supplied from four to eight local forges with iron, there were generally two or three forges for every furnace. The HSP collection reflects this proportion, having more books from forges than furnaces. After creating a domestic need for local iron, by exporting a greater or lesser amount of their iron overseas, later pre-Revolutionary War iron producers such as the Potts, Grubbs, or Colemans could and did adjust domestic supply. They were able to create artificial shortages in Philadelphia and inflate prices.

## **NAMING CONVENTIONS AND BOOK USE**

Eighteenth and nineteenth century ironwork naming conventions present some difficulty in correctly identifying ironworks in general and using the forge and furnace books in the collection specifically. With an unlimited number of names to call their works, ironmasters on the whole proved fairly unimaginative in providing unique names. Often given the name of the stream on which they were located or the builder’s or a major investor’s wife, many ironworks in Pennsylvania had the same name. Mt. Joy, Mary Ann, Mt. Pleasant, Oley, Pool, Elizabeth, Colebrook, Union, Hopewell, Reading, Speedwell, and Spring are all repeated by different owners. Almost all ironworks were also known locally by the owner’s name and numerous examples exist. Hence, Oley Forge was called “Leshner’s,” Rebecca Furnace was known as “Peirsol’s Furnace,” Vincent Forge was known as “Young’s Forge,” and so forth. This however, creates some identification problems when the owners had more than one ironwork in the same area at the same time. During the 1777 Philadelphia Campaign, Washington’s orders noted Gen. Maxwell was at “Potts’ Forge,” which created some disagreement among later researchers as to which Potts forge he meant.

Additionally, when an ironwork changed hands, the new owners would also frequently change the name, but both names were often used inter-changeably for some time. William Bird’s Roxborough Furnace’s name was changed to Berkshire Furnace by John Patton and later changed to Reading Furnace by George Ege. It is the same furnace but for several years on each side of the name change, older names were used in a variety of records. Similarly, newer works were often built on the site of older works with different names. Bailey’s Pine Forge Rolling Mill was built on top of the old Potts Pine Forge site, which was built on top of Rutter’s Forge, which was built on top of Rutter’s Bloomery.

To add further to forge or furnace identification complexities, ironworks were often locally called something different than the actual name. Mt. Joy Forge was listed by neighbors when selling their own property as “the valley forge” which eventually became the better-known “Valley Forge.” In other instances, names were tried but quickly changed. Robert Coleman called his new furnace Mt. Joy but changed it to Colebrook the following year; Roxborough Furnace became the more colloquial Roxberry Furnace; and John Potts called his new forge Pottsylvania, but almost immediately changed it to Pottsgrove. In each case, the books reflect both names. Finally, as consolidation of forges and furnaces at the same works became technologically possible and financially advantageous, forges and furnaces were given the same name and numerous examples exist including Codorus, Hopewell, Martic, Dale, and Mary Ann.

Numerous examples exist where more than one ironwork appears in a single book, although this is usually when the ironmaster was renting one or both of the works and for a short period of time. While located in the same book, the works are separated – generally one in the front and one in the back. This has been noted in the write-ups where it occurs. However, other examples exist where two works are combined in the same book – such as the blasts for Colebrook Dale and Mt. Pleasant Furnaces were combined in one book.

The formation of various new counties from the older counties (particularly Philadelphia and Lancaster) have also caused numerous ironworks to have originally been located in one county but later another. This was also true for townships and often these changes occurred after the work was closed. Mt. Pleasant Furnace was located in two counties and three townships without moving. Even steams changed names. All of these factors sometimes make it difficult to gather background information on the correct work. Without knowing the exact location of the forge or furnace and its precise years of operation, identification should be done with caution.

With those caveats, basic information about most of the ironworks in the collection is available and has been provided here in the individual sketches. Where several ironworks of the same name occur, the county has been listed and where applicable, the name of the family that owned it. A biographical resource list has also been included. Many of the works of the early Pennsylvania iron biographers (Bishop, Swank, and Pearse) were not used as resources for the write-ups as much of their material has been updated and corrected by more recent research. Nicholas Scull’s 1759 map of Pennsylvania and his grandson William Scull’s 1770 map of Pennsylvania were also used and are excellent resources to date and locate early Pennsylvania ironworks. Samuel Potts’ 1789 list for the legislature of all active and inactive Pennsylvania works was used as was Henry Mercer’s classic book on Pennsylvania Stove plates. Although not its intent, Mercer’s book is an excellent source to both date and locate ironmasters at a specific furnace at a specific time. And travel logs and early histories such as the Rev. Israel Acrelius’ *History of New Sweden*, Johann Schoepf’s *Travels in the Confederation*, and Samuel Hermelin’s *Report about the Mines in the United States of America* were also useful.

Finally, to help with identification, appendix B contains a list of pre-1800 ironmasters and the ironworks they are associated with has been provided.

Dan Graham  
2003

## **Separation report**

None.

## **Related materials**

At HSP:

Codorus Forge Papers (Collection 1678)  
Greenberry Dorsey Family Papers (Collection 1627)  
Grubb Family Papers (Collections 1488, 1967A, 1967B)  
Jones Family Account Books 1810-1874 (Collection 718)  
Mary Ann Furnace and Forge (Collection 1644)  
Thomas G. Norris Papers (Collection 1830)  
Uriah Hunt Painter Papers (Collection 1669)  
Potts Family Papers (Collection 520)  
Persifor Frazer Smith Papers (Collection 1377)

For information on collections housed at other repositories, please see individual descriptions of each forge/furnace starting on page 8.

## **Subjects**

Furnaces -- Pennsylvania  
Industries -- Pennsylvania -- History  
Iron foundries -- Pennsylvania  
Iron industry and trade -- Pennsylvania  
Iron-works -- Equipment and supplies  
Pennsylvania -- Ironworks.

## **Administrative Information**

### **Restrictions**

The collection is open for research.

### **Acquisition information**

This is an artificial collection created by HSP staff over time from donations of individual collections and volumes.

### **Preferred citation**

Cite as: [Indicate cited item or series here], *Forges and Furnaces collection* (Collection 212), The Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

### **Processing note**

When the collection was re-inventoried in 2008, several items could not be located:

- Barree Forge daybook, 1855, in Greenberry Dorsey family papers (Collection 1627)
- Cornwall Furnace bar book, 1803-1809 (Vol. 359)
- Cornwall Furnace receipt book, n.d. (Vol. 360)
- Coventry Forge and Works daybook, 1789-1790 (Vol. 362)
- Isabella Furnace record book, n.d. (no vol. #)
- Lebanon Furnace, three volumes dated 1856-1870 (no vol. #)

In addition, while this finding aid lists two Windsor Forge ledgers in HSP's collection (see page ), only one ledger was found under the call number Amb .980

## Descriptions and volume lists

**For Barree Forge (1 vol.) see Appendix A: Related Collections.**

### **Berkshire Furnace (21 vols.) Bird, Patton, Ege Ironwork**

Berkshire Furnace, located in Berks County, was built by William Bird (1703-1762) in 1755/6. It was located on a branch of Spring Creek, in Lower Heidelberg Township, about two miles southwest of Wernersville. It is not shown on Nicholas Scull's 1759 map. Its original name was Roxborough Furnace. Bird died in 1762 and his widow Bridget married John Patton (d. c1790). Some combination of Bird's son Mark (1739-1816) and Patton initially managed it under Patton & Bird and the name was changed to Berkshire. The Orphans Court in 1764 gave Bird all of his father's ironworks and lands, but he had to partition them among his siblings and mother. Bird sold his interests in the furnace property to Patton on 10 December 1764 and severed his connection with the ironwork. Patton apparently also ran Reading Furnace in Chester County from 1765-1769, as the ledger for that furnace and time period is included with the Berkshire ledgers at Winterthur.

Patton carried on the furnace and he controlled it through the Revolution. He was a Colonel in the Berks County Militia. The furnace made munitions for the American government and both Patton and Berkshire appear on Knox's list of ironworks providing munitions. (Patton is also shown at Oley Furnace on the list.) Patton wrote the Pennsylvania Board of War in 1780 noting he had an agreement with the "Continant" to make 90 tons of shells and shot. He was writing to make sure his workman and Hessian prisoners would not be "call'd off from me." It is unclear if Patton ran the furnace during the entire war as George Ege (1748-1829) is credited with assisting in its management during that time and the company did eventually change to Patton & Ege. Hessian prisoners were used there and the workman exempted from militia duty. There is a stove plate in existence from Berkshire dated 1782 marked "Peter Grubb and George Ege." Both Schoepf and Hermelin noted the furnace in 1783. Schoepf describes it as "John Patten's [furnace] ten miles above Reading near Heidleberg." He also notes the Berkshire ore is not sufficient and "more is fetched" from Grubb's mine (at Cornwall). In 1784, Patton is also noted at Salford Forge near Norristown. Berkshire is noted on Potts' 1789 list as producing 500 tons annually.

In 1786, Ege purchased an ore right to the Grubb's Cronwall mines and brought ore from there, about 25 miles distant. Although Ege continued living at Charming Forge, in 1790 he purchased Berkshire from Bridget Patton, who was then living in Fairfax, Va., for £2,500, perhaps renaming it Reading Furnace. The deed indicates Patton had died and Bridget is noted as a widow. The deed also states that it was called "Roxborough Furnace but now called Berkshire Furnace." Montgomery indicates that Ege carried it on for several years but abandoned it in 1794 for the lack of fuel and water and built another furnace that was named Reading several miles to the west on Spring Creek. See the Roxborough Furnace and Reading Furnace descriptions for additional information.

The Pennsylvania State Archives has a large number of Berkshire Furnace ledgers (some are combined with Charming Forge Books) including: Ledgers (1748-1898); Journals (1767-1815); Day Books (1855-1872); and Cash Books (1843-1902). The



Berkshire Furnace Waste Books (1765-1767, 1770-1772), Daybook (1789-1790), and Ledger (1791-1794) reside at Winterthur in Delaware; and a Waste Book (1777) and an Account Book (1784-1785) reside at the Historical Society of Berks County.

| Berkshire Furnace volumes | Dates                                     | Volume numbers |
|---------------------------|---|----------------|
| Daybooks                  | 1767-69;<br>1781-88                       | 1-6            |
| Wastebooks                | 1769-70; 1774-<br>76; 79;<br>1788-89      | 7-10           |
| Journals                  | 1767-69; 1772-<br>74; 1774-76;<br>1777-78 | 11-14          |
| Ledgers                   | 1772-1781                                 | 15-17          |
| Account Book              | 1768-1771                                 | 18             |
| Hauling Ledger            | 1784-1785                                 | 19             |
| Time, Blast, Etc. Book    | 1790-1793                                 | 20             |
| Hauling Memo Book         | 1777-1781                                 | 21             |

### **Birdsborough Forges (3 vols.) Bird, Brooke Ironwork**

Located in Berks County, near Birdsboro, the Birdsborough Forges, also called by secondary sources the Hay Creek Forges, were founded by William Bird (1703-1762). Bird, who took warrants for land on Haycreek Road and later Six Penny Creek as early as 1737, established a forge on the banks of Hay Creek about 1740. Other forges along the creek, as well as a sawmill and a gristmill, followed. Between 1737 and 1751, he took up warrants for about 1,600 acres of land. Bird would build several ironworks including Roxborough Furnace and Birdsborough, Hopewell, and New Pine Forges.

William Bird was an Anglo/Irishman and was a witness to Thomas Rutter's 1728 will. He was generally thought to have immigrated as an indentured servant. Additionally, prior to becoming an ironmaster, he worked for Thomas Potts as a woodcutter at Colebrook Dale Furnace during the 1733 furnace rebuilding, and later as store manager at Pine Forge. In 1745, a petition was drafted and signed by John Potts, William Bird, and others to create Berks County but they were unsuccessful. Bird advertised two forges and 1,000 acres of land in Robeson Township, Lancaster County (later Berks County) for sale in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* of 12 April 1750. Later that year he lists himself as: "William Bird, late of Robeson township....now at Mt. Pleasant." However, by August he was managing William Allen's Union Iron Works in Hunterdon County, West Jersey. The following year he sold his two forges and the 965 acres (which were later developed into the town of Birdsboro) to Samuel Seely and his wife Mary on 29 May 1751.

Bird apparently remained in New Jersey briefly as he is mentioned in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* throughout the 1750s in Union Township, Berks County. He sold and purchased land during this period. He built Roxborough Furnace in Lower Heidelberg Township in 1756. In 1760 Bird obtained his ironworks and most of his Birdsboro lands again from

Seely. He died testate on 16 November 1762 and his son, Marcus or Mark (1739-1816), after releasing his interest in Berkshire Furnace in 1764 to his stepfather, took over these ironworks. Berkshire is shown on Nicholas Scull's 1759 map but is on the 1770 map. Hermelin lists "Burdsborough" in 1783 as having 2 hammers and 6 fires, a rolling and slitting mill, and receiving its pig iron from Hopewell Furnace. After the war, Mark Bird went bankrupt and eventually went to North Carolina to avoid the sheriff. Philadelphia merchant John Nixon, who put the Birdsborough Forge and Hopewell Furnace up for sale in 1787, obtained his works and lands. At that time, they contained 1,300 acres. The forge and furnace, while remaining open, passed through several hands during the next decade. "Birdsburrough" Forge is listed on Samuel Potts' 1789 list as active. In 1796, Matthew Brooke purchased much of the lands previously owned by the Bird family including all the forges and mills at Birdsboro. Brooke died in 1821 and his two sons, Edward and George, became the exclusive owners in 1837. They later became organized into the E & G Brooke Iron Co.

The Pennsylvania State Archives (Manuscript Group 258) has a number of Forge Books including Waste Books (1770-1793); Time Books (1798-1810); Ledgers (1800-1842); Journal (1831-1834); and Day Book (1880.) Hopewell Furnace NHS has several books including: Forge Book (1821-1825), Cash Book (1806), Ledger (1829-1831) and Time Book (1789-1810). The Historical Society of Berks County also has a Correspondence and Account Book (1788) and a number of other books (1794-1831). Additionally, the Hagley Museum and Library has a Forge Diary and Time book which lists anchories and bars made at the "Birdsboro" Forges (1816-1824). See also New Pine Forge description for more information.

| <b>Birdsborough Forges volumes</b> | <b>Dates</b> | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Journal                            | 1798-1800    | 22                    |
| Daybooks                           | 1800-1803    | 23-24                 |

### **Caroline Furnace (1 vol.) Creigh, Bailey Ironwork**

Caroline Furnace was built by John D. Creigh in 1835 and began operations the same year. Hain notes that it was listed in a newspaper marriage announcement in August 1835. It was located on the bank of the Juniata Canal, six miles above the mouth of the Juniata River and three below Newport in Miller Township in Perry County. When it was sold in 1841, it had 1,750 acres of land. Coal and iron ore were transported on canal boats from Bloomsburg, Columbia, and Harrisburg. It appears to have been owned by Samuel Alexander when he put it up for sale in 1841, but Creigh is noted as residing at the furnace.

Joseph Bailey (1810-1885) purchased "the Caroline furnace estate" in 1845. Bailey, who had been born in Chester County, served in the State House of Representatives and in 1843 became a member of the State Senate. He moved to Perry County in 1845, where he remained out of public office while he repaired the furnace so that iron manufacturing could resume. It may have been back in operation in August 1847 when Bailey advertised for an iron founder. From 1851-1853, Bailey was again elected as a member of the Pennsylvania State Senate. In 1854, he joined the Know-Nothing party

and was admitted to the bar in 1860. Baily served in Congress as a Democrat from 1861-1865 and died at Bailey Station in Perry County on 26 August 1885.

Washington State University has the Joseph Bailey papers (Cage 670).

| <b>Caroline Furnace volume</b> | <b>Dates</b> | <b>Volume number</b> |
|--------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Daybook                        | 1855         | 25                   |

**Castle Fin Works (45 vols.) (Palmyra Forge) Coleman Ironwork**

Built in 1810 in York County by Joseph Webb, it was located in the extreme southern part of Lower Chanceford Township on Muddy Creek. Webb called it Palmyra Forge. In 1812, Joseph Winters & Co. managed the property and continued until December 1815 when it was offered for sale by the sheriff. Webb obtained the property again and sold it to Thomas Burd Coleman of Cornwall Furnace. Coleman renamed it after his father's birthplace, Castle Fin, which was in County Donegal, Ulster Ireland. Coleman added a furnace and steelworks and Pearse (1876) states "the works included a forge, furnace, and a steel-works." Joseph Longenecker purchased the forge from the Colemans."

| <b>Castle Fin Works volumes</b> | <b>Dates</b>     | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Daybooks                        | 1826-40; 1848-64 | 26-28                 |
| Journals                        | 1837-1863        | 29-32                 |
| Ledgers                         | 1826-1863        | 33-37                 |
| Cashbooks                       | 1826-1863        | 38-42                 |
| Receipt Books                   | 1841-1863        | 43-45                 |
| Time Books                      | 1826-1863        | 46-47                 |
| Anchories and Bloom Books       | 1827-1860        | 48-50                 |
| Bar and Pig Iron Books          | 1828-30; 1848-60 | 51-52                 |
| Bar and Steel Books             | 1838-1848        | 53-54                 |
| Bar Iron Book                   | 1827-1844        | 55                    |
| Pig Iron Book                   | n.d.             | 56                    |
| Blooms and Bar Iron Book        | 1848-1863        | 57                    |
| Coal Books                      | 1827-1860        | 58-59                 |
| Cordwood Books                  | 1827-1860        | 60-61                 |
| Provision Daybooks              | 1826-43; 1848-63 | 62-64                 |
| Provision Journals              | 1826-1863        | 65-66                 |
| Provision Ledger                | 1841-1848        | 67                    |
| Grain Books                     | 1826-1862        | 68-69                 |
| Miscellaneous Accounts          | 1846-1854        | 70                    |

**Charming Forge (21 vols.) (Tulpehocken) Ege Ironwork**

John George Nickoll and Michael Miller built Charming Forge about 1749 on the Tulpehocken Creek. It was located about two miles north of Womelsdorf in that

township in Berks County. It later became Marion Township. On a 1751 deed it is called "Tulpeocken Iron Works or Forge." It is not shown on Scull's 1759 map. In 1762 Henry William Stiegel (1729-1785) acquired lands adjacent to the forge and in 1763, purchased the forge, selling half to Charles and Alexander Stedman. It is shown as active on William Scull's 1770 map. By 1770 Charles Stedman had purchased his brother's share and by this time the name had been changed to Charming Forge. In 1773 the sheriff sold Stiegel's undivided half interest in the tracts of land, forge, lots and houses to Paul Zeninger, a merchant of Lancaster who conveyed his interest to Henry William Stiegel's nephew George Ege, ironmaster of York County. Nine years later, in 1782, Ege bought Stedman's share and for nearly fifty years was associated with, and lived at, the forge. In 1783, Hermelin states it had 2 hammers, 4 fires, and received its ore from the Berkshire blast furnace. It is listed as an active forge on Potts' 1789 list. The forge's iron initially came from Berkshire and later the Reading and Robesonia Furnaces.

George Ege was born at Womelsdorf, in 1748. He became a member of the State House of Representatives in 1783 and was appointed one of the first associate judges of Berks County under the constitution in 1790. He served from 1791 until 1818, when he resigned and resumed his extensive business interests. He was elected as a Federalist to the Fourth Congress and served from 8 December 1796 until October 1797. Ege died at his residence at the forge on 14 December 1829 and was buried at Zion's Church Cemetery in Womelsdorf. In 1836 Ege's property was sold at public sale and Charming Forge is noted as a "four fire forge" with a rolling mill and grist and saw mill. The property contained 3,000 acres and it was noted that the Union Canal passed through the property near the forge. The forge was purchased by Henry P. Robeson in 1845 and sold to Andrew Taylor, the forge's manager and Ege's Assignee, in March of 1855.

The Pennsylvania State Archives has a large number of Berkshire Furnace and Charming Forge books: Ledgers (1748-1898); Journals (1767-1815); Day Books (1855-1872); and Cash Books (1843-1902). The Historical Society of Berks County also has Forge Ledgers (1763-1767, 1771) and a large number of other Forge Books (1794-1856). See also Tulpehocken Forge.

| <b>Charming Forge volumes</b>                                       | <b>Dates</b>                              | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|---|---|-----------------------|
| Daybooks (fragments)  | 1763-67; 1772-77<br>1788-91               | 71-74                 |
| Journals  | 1763-67; 1772-75;<br>1780-90; 1792-<br>98 | 75-80                 |
| Ledgers   | 1772-75; 1784-99<br>1809-19               | 81-88                 |
| Cashbooks   | 1793-1812                                 | 89-90                 |
| Index (there is a loose page from<br>Castle Fin Works in this vol.) | n.d.                                      | 91                    |

**Chestnut Hill Ore Bank Records (4 vols. + 1 box)**

The Chestnut Ore Banks were located in Lancaster County near the Susquehanna River near Columbia. The company was incorporated in 1851. It supplied several ironworks including Codorus and Mananda Furnaces and others. Pearse notes the Chestnut Hill Furnace, built in 1844, was located nearby and was originally called Shawnee. It used ore from Lancaster and York Counties and from Cornwall.

See also HSP Collection 1488, for Ore Bank papers (1851-1865).

| Chestnut Hill Ore Bank volumes      | Dates     | Volume numbers |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Daybooks                            | 1855-1875 | 92-94          |
| Time Book                           | 1864-1871 | 95             |
| Ore bank Book (in Cornwall section) | 1866-1871 | 353            |

**Codorus Forge & Furnace (Hellam) (10 vols. + 1 box) Grubb Ironwork**

Hellam Forge was erected about 1765 by William Bennett, a part owner of Martie Furnace, on the south side of Codorus Creek near the junction of the Susquehanna River in Manheim Township, York County. It was built in the extreme northeast corner of Hellam Township immediately south of York and was originally known locally as the Hellam Forge or the Hellam Iron Works. Hellam initially received its iron from nearby Mary Ann Furnace. Bennett ran the works until 1771 when he went into receivership. The property was purchased from the sheriff by Charles Hamilton who sold the property to James Smith (c1720-1806), a prominent lawyer and later signer of the Declaration of Independence. Smith, who also went bankrupt, disposed of the works in 1778. The furnace was listed as closed on Samuel Potts's 1789 list but "Cadrous" Forge is shown as active. It changed hands several times until 1802 when the entire property was sold by Thomas Neill, a merchant of York to Henry Bates Grubb (1774-1823) who enlarged the works and renamed it Codorus. Grubb hired John Shippen who managed it from 1818-1825. Grubb's two sons, Edward Burd Grubb (1810-1867) and Clement Brook Grubb (1815-1889) inherited the property and formed a partnership to run it. About 1837 they built the furnace and ore was obtained from the Chestnut Hill mines in Lancaster County. The ore was towed across the river in flat boats. The furnace and forge ceased operation in the 1850s.

See also HSP Collection 1678, Codorus Forge deeds and land drafts (1738-1861). The Hagley Museum and Library has Account Books (1818-1850) in their Grubb collection.

| Codorus Forge & Furnace volumes | Date                         | Volume numbers |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Daybooks                        | 1802-1809                    | 96-97          |
| Journals (fragments)            | 1802-12; 1830-38;<br>1866-68 | 98-102         |
| Cashbooks                       | 1805-1812                    | 103-104        |
| Provision Book                  | 1804-1808                    | 105            |

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| Miscellaneous papers (Collection 1678) | 1738-1861 | 1 box |
|--|-----------|-------|

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**Colebrook Furnace (110 vols.) (Mt. Joy Furnace) Coleman Ironwork**

Robert Coleman (1748-1825) founded Colebrook Furnace in 1791 on Conewago Creek, two miles west of Mt. Gretna in South Londonderry Township in Lancaster County. It received its ore from the Cornwall Mines which was located about six miles to the northeast.

The original Day Book indicates from April 1791 to April 1792, the furnace was called Mt. Joy. The name was changed to Colebrook at that time. Coleman was born near Castle Fin, which is near Londonderry, Ireland in 1748 although he was of English parentage. Bining indicates he came to America at sixteen and by 1773, he was working at Reading Furnace in Chester County near Warwick Furnace for James Old. Coleman married Old's daughter. Venturing into iron manufacturing during the war, his rise was phenomenal. He leased and bought interests in many ironworks and built several others. After his death in 1825, he was succeeded by his son Thomas Bird Coleman, and then in turn by his son William Coleman. After William Coleman's death in 1861, the property passed to Robert H. Coleman. Robert erected the Colebrook Furnaces in 1880-81, but these were a different work in West Lebanon Township.

Grittinger indicates that under William Coleman's ownership it was run by a succession of individuals. Samuel Jacobs was connected with the early management of the furnace and Henry P. Robeson, later manager of Robesonia Furnace, was in charge from 1834 to 1843. Mr. John Benson, who apparently remained at the furnace until it closed, succeeded him. The furnace was almost continually in operation until about 1860, when it was abandoned and afterwards dismantled.

The Pennsylvania State Archives has a large Coleman Collection within their Lebanon County Historical Collection (Manuscript Group 182).

| <b>Colebrook Furnace volumes</b>      | <b>Dates</b>                         | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Daybooks                              | 1797-1830; 1837-43; 1848-58          | 106-111               |
| Mt. Joy/Colebrook Furnace Daybook     | 1791-1797                            | 112                   |
| Journals (including 1 Estate Journal) | 1791-1816; 1822-30; 1841-48; 1858-85 | 113-120               |
| Ledgers                               | 1791-1808; 1822-48; 1853-63;         | 121-131               |
| Cash Books                            | 1791-1856-98                         | 132-155               |
| Time Books                            | 1791-1809; 1822-78                   | 156-162               |
| Casting Books                         | 1824-1853                            | 163-169               |
| Coal Books                            | 1808-22; 1834-57                     | 170-172               |
| Coal and Cordwood Book                | 1822-1834                            | 173                   |

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|   |                             |         |
|---|-----------------------------|---------|
| Cordwood Books  | 1792-1811; 1834-59; 1880-82 | 174-178 |
| Farm Books  | 1857-1887                   | 179-180 |
| Grain Books   | 1834-1862                   | 181-187 |
| Letter and Account Book   | 1855-1879                   | 188     |
| Ore Books [one book, 1814-1832, is a combined Colebrook/Elizabeth Furnace book] | 1794-1848                   | 189-194 |
| Mill Books  | 1831-1861                   | 195-197 |
| Pig Iron Books  | 1799-1858                   | 198-203 |
| Provision Books   | 1811-1879                   | 204-209 |
| Receipt Books   | 1837-1859                   | 210-211 |
| Estate Settlement Book  | 1857-1879                   | 212     |
| Store Order Book  | 1846-1848                   | 213     |
| Memorandum Book   | 1800-1815                   | 214     |
| Blast Book  | 1848-1857                   | 215     |

**Colebrook Dale Furnace (10 vols.) Rutter, Potts Ironwork**

Colebrook Dale Furnace was built by Rutter, Coates & Company in 1720 and was the first furnace in Pennsylvania. It was located on the Ironstone Creek, a tributary of Manatawny Creek in eastern Berks County near present day Boyertown. Thomas Rutter (c1660-1730) and his sons Joseph and John managed the furnace until 1725 when Rutter rented the property to a company composed of Evan Owen, Maurice Morris, James Lewis, Robert Griffith, and Thomas Marke and later Anthony Morris. They in turn, rented it to Thomas Potts (c1680-1752) who after the death of Rutter and his sons, eventually obtained a two-thirds and controlling share. It is noted by the Rev. Acrelius as: “Manathanim (Manatawny) or Rutter’s works...The mine is rich, but of red broken ore, and is used chiefly for castings. It has a furnace; also a forge, which is used after the addition of ore from French creek.” Thomas Potts ran it from 1725 until his death in 1752. At his death, Potts’ two-thirds share was given to son Thomas Potts, Jr. (c1720-1762) who managed it in partnership with Thomas Rutter (1732-1795), the grandson of the original builder. It is shown on Nicholas Scull’s 1759 map and on William Scull’s 1770 map.

The younger Potts operated it until his own death in 1762. Rutter, who owned the remaining one-third of the furnace, ran it for three years after his partner’s death and put it up for lease in 1765, at which time it contained 200 acres. Rutter eventually closed it. It was refurbished and opened briefly in 1770 by Rutter and his new Warwick Furnace partner and brother-in-law Samuel Potts (1737-1793), but was financially unsuccessful and the property was sold to farmers. Hermelin notes “the Collebrookdale blast Furnace... abandoned partly because their own forests have been used up by Coaling and partly because the ore has become too expensive.” Also noted as “closed” on Potts’ 1789 list. The furnace supplied Pine, Pool, Spring, Birdsborough or Hay Creek, and Glasgow or McCall’s forges.

| <b>Colebrook Dale Furnace<br/>volumes</b> | <b>Dates</b>                 | <b>Volume<br/>numbers</b> |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Daybooks                                  | 1734-41, 1746-49;<br>1751-52 | 216-218                   |
| Journal                                   | 1735-1742                    | 219                       |
| Ledgers                                   | 1730-33; 1740-67             | 220-223                   |
| Production/Rental Book                    | 1743-1752                    | 224                       |

**For Columbia Furnace (3 vols.) see Appendix A: Related Collections.**

**Conestoga Store Books (3 vols.)**

Conestoga Store served the Coleman's Martic Works in Lancaster County near Colemanville. The books start 9 June 1830. The store manager was paid \$275 per year. The books present a good picture of the mercantile end of the iron industry of supplying iron workers. See also Martic Forge and Furnace Books in this collection.

| <b>Conestoga Store volumes</b> | <b>Dates</b> | <b>Volume<br/>numbers</b> |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Store Daybooks                 | 1830-1833    | 225-227                   |

**Cornwall Furnace (133 vols.) Grubb, Coleman Ironwork**

Peter Grubb (1700-1754) founded Cornwall Furnace in 1742. It was built in Lancaster (later Lebanon) County on Furnace Creek. The ore came from the famous Cornwall Mines. Grubb also built Hopewell Forge nearby. In 1745 Grubb leased the furnace and forge to Jacob Giles and partners of Maryland called the Cornwall Company. They ran it for a number of years and ended up in litigation in the Maryland Court of Chancery (Garrett vs. Giles). Curtis (1733-1789) and Peter Grubb (1740-1786) inherited the furnace after their father (the elder Peter) died in 1754; Curtis owning two-thirds and Peter one-third. The Swedish Missionary, the Rev. Israel Acrelius, indicated that Cornwall made 24 tons a week and kept "six forges regularly at work--two of his own, two belonging to Germans in the neighborhood, and two in Maryland. Pig iron is carried to the Susquehanna river, thence to Maryland, and finally to England...Peter Grubb was its discoverer." Shown as active on William Scull's 1770 map but listed as "Cornwall Forge." Cornwall, under the Grubb brothers, cast salt pans during the Revolution for the American armies and made armaments. Listed on Potts' 1789 list as active and producing 500 tons annually.

In 1785 Peter Grubb III sold one-sixth of his three-sixth share of the furnace to Robert Coleman (1748-1825). Between 1786 and his own death in 1825, Coleman obtained a higher and higher percentage of the various Grubb furnaces and mines and at that time he owned all of Cornwall and five-sixths of the Cornwall Estates. Cornwall Furnace remained in operation until 1883 and remained in the Coleman family until the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania obtained it in 1936. Charles Rose Grubb sold the Cornwall Ore Banks to Bethlehem Steel in 1902.



The Pennsylvania State Archives has a Cornwall Furnace Collection (1768-1940) (Manuscript Group 203), a large amount of Coleman material (Manuscript Group 182), and some Cornwall Furnace and Hopewell Forge Books, (1752-1766), (Manuscript Group 346). See also Grubb papers at the HSP: Collections 1488, 1967A, and 1967B.

| <b>Cornwall Furnace volumes</b>  | <b>Dates</b>                           | <b>Volume numbers</b>       |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Daybooks                         | 1765-1822                              | 228-240                     |
| Journals                         | 1764-1841                              | 241-258                     |
| Journal/Provision Book           | 1802-05; 1807-20                       | 259                         |
| Ledgers                          | 1764-67; 1770-1837; 1843-1861          | 260-275                     |
| Provision Books                  | 1820-1844; 1848-78; 1881               | 276-283                     |
| Mill Books                       | 1842-48; 1857-63; 1869-1885            | 284-290                     |
| Grain Books                      | 1826-47; 1857-73                       | 291-294                     |
| Grain Order Book                 | 1768-1774                              | 295                         |
| Ore, Coal & Cordwood Book        | 1798-1814                              | 296                         |
| Coal and Cordwood Books          | 1776-90; 1794-1798; 1809-32            | 297-300                     |
| Coal Books                       | 1833-48; 1851-60                       | 301-302                     |
| Coal and Pig Iron Book           | 1877-1897                              | 303                         |
| Pig Iron Book                    | 1880-1881                              | 304                         |
| Blast and Pig Iron Books         | 1776-92; 1798-1822; 1825-46; 1848-1867 | 305-311                     |
| Cordwood Book                    | 1832-1848                              | 312                         |
| Blast Book                       | 1867-1883                              | 313                         |
| Time Books                       | 1776-1885                              | 314-324                     |
| Time and Payroll Book            | 1902-1911                              | 325                         |
| Account Books                    | 1851-1864                              | 326-327                     |
| Store Daybooks                   | 1852-56; 1860-62                       | 328-332                     |
| Store Ledger                     | 1853-56                                | 333                         |
| Store Beef and Pork Book         | 1870-1879                              | 334                         |
| Settlement Books (Ledgers)       | 1868; 1873-75                          | 335-336                     |
| Memorandum Books                 | 1868; 1877                             | 337-338                     |
| Cash Books                       | 1779-85; 1791-92; 1796-1824; 1832-70   | 339-351                     |
| Cash Book, W. G. Freeman         | 1874-1876                              | 352                         |
| Ore bank Book                    | 1866-1871                              | 353                         |
| Cornwall Weight and Ore Accounts | 1849-1851                              | Box 6 of Grubb papers #1488 |

|                                 |           |         |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Miscellaneous Indicies          | n.d.      | 354-357 |
| Sales Book                      | 1882-1884 | 358     |
| Bar Book                        | 1803-1809 | 359     |
| <b>[Missing as of 1/6/2009]</b> |           |         |
| Miscellaneous Receipt Book      | n.d.      | 360     |
| <b>[Missing as of 1/6/2009]</b> |           |         |

**Coventry Forge and Works (20 vols.) Nutt, Grace, Potts Ironwork**

Founded about 1717/18 by Samuel Nutt (1685-1736), Coventry is generally considered the second ironwork in Pennsylvania to make iron and the first to make steel. Located in Coventry Township in Chester County on French Creek, the Coventry Iron Works had a long existence although its early history is somewhat obscure. In the early 1720s Nutt took in partners William Branson (1684-1760) and Mordecai Lincoln (1686-1736) and expanded the works to include both an iron and steel furnace. Nutt died in 1736 and the works were run by son-in-law Robert Grace (1709-1766) and his wife Rebecca (Savage) Nutt Grace. Grace's entry into the management of the Nutt interests seemed to have exacerbated the already strained relationship between Branson and the Nutt/Savage family. In Chester County, at the August Quarter Sessions Court, 1741, suit was brought against William Branson in the name of Anna Nutt, Robert Grace, and Samuel Savage. Branson was charged with taking iron ore from their property. At the same term, Branson brought suit against Anna Nutt, Robert Grace, and Rebecca his wife. Branson's suit provides a good contemporary description of Coventry in 1741: "the moiety of Five messuages, Two Hundred and Fifty acres of Land and the moiety of one Iron Work called a Forge, Three Coal-Houses with the appurtenances, all situate in Coventry...and also of the moiety of an Iron mine with six acres of Land."

The books (1743-1747) of Rock Run Furnace, which was on the property, show that ironmaster John Potts (1710-1768) sent pig iron to Robert Grace at the forge during this time. However, as the nearby and newer family-owned Warwick Furnace grew to prominence, the forge remained open but the furnaces at Coventry closed. Warwick provided the forge with iron. Coventry is listed on Gov. William Denny's list of 1757 as producing 330 tons in seven years (which was one of the lower amounts). Coventry is shown as "Robert Grace" on Scull's 1759 map; but both Grace and Coventry are listed separately on William Scull's 1770 map.

In 1764 the Graces sold their son-in-law Thomas Potts (1735-1785) their one-half interest in the works. His father John Potts owned the other one-half by that time. Although the Coventry steel furnace appears not to have been in operation at the time of the sale, Thomas and his brothers formed a company and reopened it. Steel was produced there through the Revolution. Thomas managed and paid taxes on the works from 1764 to 1783 except during the war years of 1775-1778 when it was apparently inactive. When Hermelin wrote his *Report on the Mines* in 1783, he noted "Coventry or Potts Forge, 1 hammer, 3 furnaces, d.o. [pig iron] 120 tons...At Coventry there is one blister steel furnace with two pipes." Schoepf visited in November of 1783 and noted there were three hearths and three hammers: "The hammers lie parallel with the shaft...The bellows are of wood, and consist of two cylindrical casks, fitting closely the one into the other..."

Samuel Hodgdon’s letter book for May 1780 shows Potts was sent bar iron by the “Government” to make steel and his estate inventory notes he had a contract for same with the “American government”. Thomas Potts died in 1785. The forge was rented in 1786/87 to Ellis Jones & Co., (Jones, Thomas Bull, John Smith, and Samuel Potts) and from 1787/90 to George North & John Evans. North & Evans, who were brothers-in-law, ended their partnership in 1790 but forgesman Philip Benner (1762-1832) stayed on for two years at which time he removed to Centre County. Coventry is shown as active on Samuel Potts’ 1789 list. Thomas Potts’ son-in-law, Robert May (1750-1812) purchased the forge tract in 1792 and ran it until 1796 when he sold the property to Jonathan Hudson and Thomas Church. Between 1792 and 1812, Coventry’s pig iron was received from Joanna Furnace. Church & Hudson sold the forge the following year to Thomas Davis who sold it in 1807 to George Chrisman, whose family operated it on-and-off until the mid-1800s.

The Hagley Museum and Library has an Account Book (1787-1789). The Chester County Historical Society has an Account Book (1789-1791), and many of the Chrisman & Co. Account Books (1850s to the 1870s). The Pottstown Historical Society has a Thomas Potts Ledger (1768) and the Pennsylvania State Archives has a Rock Run Furnace Ledger (1743-1747.)

| <b>Coventry Forge and Works<br/>volumes</b>       | <b>Date</b>                 | <b>Volume<br/>numbers</b> |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Daybook   | 1746-54                     | 361                       |
| Daybook   | 1789-90                     | 362                       |
| <b>[Missing as of 1/6/2009]</b>                   |                             |                           |
| Journals  | 1753-60; 1792-96            | 363-365                   |
| Ledgers   | 1727-59; 1787-89<br>1792-96 | 366-377                   |
| Coventry Iron Works Account<br>Book – Samuel Nutt | 1727-1730                   | 378                       |
| Account Book                                      | 1727-1733                   | 379                       |
| Robert Grace Ledger                               | 1744-1754                   | 380                       |

**For Cumberland Furnace (4 vols.), see Appendix A: Related Collections**

**Dale Furnace (2 vols.) Potts, Smith, Bull, May Ironwork**

Dale Furnace was built in 1791 by the firm of John Smith (1762-1815), and Thomas (c1764-1823) and Joseph Potts (1766-1824), who were sons of Samuel Potts. The Furnace was located on the West Branch of the Perkiomen Creek, in Hereford Township Berks County, about a mile below the old (and then inactive) Mayburry Hereford Furnace. The ore came initially from the old Colebrook Dale mines. Samuel Potts (c1766-1850) was manager at the furnace. At the same time Thomas Potts and his Philadelphia partner, Robert Enoch Hobart (1768-1826), under the company name Potts and Hobart, opened the Vincent Slitting Mill in Vincent Township, Chester County. They also founded a copper company. Iron from Dale went to the slitting mill. In 1793, Hobart married Thomas’ sister, Sarah May Potts, and Hobart would trade his one-half

share of Glasgow Forge from his father-in-law's estate for Joseph's share of Dale. Joseph moved to Glasgow at this time. The furnace did not prosper under its initial management.

Thomas Potts declared bankruptcy in 1797 and his creditors put his one-third share of Dale and his interests in Joanna and the slitting mill up for sale. In 1799 Samuel Miles (1739-1805) and Robert Hobart were assessed for taxes and 250 acres. By November 1800 Hobart was convinced that he could see no probability of making the furnace profitable and Miles put an advertisement in the papers in January 1801 advertising a one-third ownership sale of both the furnace and slitting mill which may have been owned by Samuel Potts. The furnace had 80 acres at that time. Gemmell notes in 1804, Thomas Bull (1744-1837), Robert May (1750-1812) and John Smith, acquiring John Thompson as a new partner, purchased shares in and reorganized the Dale Furnace Company, with John Smith remaining as an owner. Called John Thompson & Co., the new company built Dale Forge on the property that year and the complex became known as the Dale Forge Iron Works. Dale was run in conjunction with the partner's other ironworks; Joanna Furnace and Gibraltar Forge. Thompson & Co. paid taxes until 1819 when Jacob Leshar (1764-1843) paid taxes in 1820. The furnace was abandoned about 1822. The property was sold to Leshar (the deed says "Leaser") who sold it to David Schall in 1826 for \$12,000. Schall reopened and operated the forge until 1868 when it was abandoned.

Gremmell states many of Schall's Forge Books (1826-1868) reside at the Schwenkfelder Library. Many of the Samuel Potts to Robert Hobart letters are contained with the Hagley Library Potts material.

| Dale Furnace volumes | Dates     | Volume numbers |
|----------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Ledger               | 1799-1801 | 381            |
| Journal              | 1799-1801 | 382            |

**For Danville Furnace (21 vols.) see Appendix A: Related Collections.**

**Durham Furnace (2 vols.) Logan, Galloway, Taylor, Ironwork**

A company of merchants and other influential men in the Colony including Proprietary officials James Logan and James Hamilton founded Durham Furnace in 1727. It was located in Bucks County less than two miles from the Delaware River on Cook's (Durham Creek) and the area was known to contain iron ore before English settlement. The furnace was built to export iron to England. There were a number of forges connected with the furnace during its existence. The Rev. Israel Acrelius discusses Durham extensively, noting: "it may be the best iron-works in the country...the ore is so near the furnace, and the furnace so near the forges...that there is only ¾ mile hauling." The iron was taken to the Delaware River and shipped to Philadelphia. Durham is shown as active on Nicholas Scull's 1759 map.

In 1752, George Taylor (1716-1781) who had worked at Warwick Furnace, Rock Run Furnace, and Coventry Forge, formed a partnership with Samuel Flower who was the ironmaster at Reading Furnace in Chester County and at Winsor Forges and they

leased the furnace. Taylor served as on-site manager. Their partnership dissolved in 1764 and in 1766, Taylor and Flower advertised the sale of their one-third of Greenwich Forge. In 1768, a fire destroyed part of the furnace.

As the original shareholders died, their shares were transferred or sold and by the mid-1760s, Joseph Galloway (1727-1803) eventually obtained a majority share through his wife's inheritance. A "Plan of the Durham lands on the River Delaware in Bucks Cou[nty] to be sold at public vendue on the premisses the 3rd day of May 1773" is at the Library of Congress. The property contained 8,484 acres at that time. Taylor returned as manager after the sale in 1773 and continued through the Revolution. There were three forges connected with the furnace at this time. In 1777, Hiltzheimer noted: "Reached George Taylor's at Galloway's Iron Works." Taylor later signed the Declaration of Independence as a Pennsylvania delegate. From August 1775 to 1778, Taylor was involved in the production of grape shot, cannon balls, and bar shot for the Pennsylvania government, which he continued making for the Continental government afterwards. Galloway joined the British shortly before the occupation of Philadelphia in 1777 was "attainted," and in 1778, the furnace was confiscated and sold under the "Act of Attainment" by the Pennsylvanian authorities.

Although Taylor protested and Grace Galloway brought suit, Richard Backhouse (c1748-c1793) purchased Durham, and operated it as Richard Backhouse and Company from 1779 to 1793. Taylor moved to run the Greenwich Forge in Greenwich, N.J. and died and was buried there in 1781. Hermelin listed Durham as active in 1783 and producing 400 tons annually; and it is also listed by Samuel Potts in 1789 as producing the same amount. Backhouse got into financial trouble and tried to rent it in 1789 but apparently had no takers. It had 1,100 acres at that time. The original furnace was blown out in 1791 and torn down in 1829. Frackenthal estimates the tonnage from 1727-1789 was 21,700 tons. A number of ironworks were built and run on the property during the next century. The Durham books note the furnace's pig iron was sent to Chelsea and Greenwich Forges (Greenwich, New Jersey).

See also, Bucks County papers 1682-1850, Collection 98; and the Benjamin Franklin Fackenthal, Jr., papers, Collection 821 at the HSP, and a large collection of his notes at the Hagley, Call Number 1133. Additionally, Durham's books for 1778-1800 can be found at the Bucks County Historical Society with the Backhouse Manuscripts.

| <b>Durham Furnace volumes</b>               | <b>Dates</b> | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|---|--------------|-----------------------|
| Ledger                                      | 1744-1749    | 383                   |
| Durham Furnace & Chelsea<br>Greenwich Forge | 1779-1780    | 384                   |

**Elizabeth Furnace (16 vols.) Stiegel, Coleman Ironwork**

Jacob Huber purchased 400 acres in 1756 in northern Lancaster County at Manheim (later Lebanon County), near Lititz. About 1760 he built Elizabeth Furnace on the property. His son-in-law, Henry William Stiegel (1729-1785) and partners John Barr and Alexander and Charles Stedman, bought the furnace in 1757, which is not shown on Nicholas Scull's 1759 map. In 1762 Stiegel purchased more land in the surrounding area and founded the town of Manheim. Stiegel eventually ran the furnace. In 1763, he also

started his famous glass works and the following year he erected a large glasshouse at Manheim. By 1768, he was in financial trouble having mortgaged his shares of Elizabeth to Daniel Benezet. The furnace is shown on William Scull's 1770 map. In 1773 the sheriff took over his property and Stiegel was sent to prison in Philadelphia. In 1773, Robert Coleman rented Salford Forge near Elizabeth Furnace and in 1776, he leased Elizabeth Furnace for a period of seven years. It was noted by Hermelin as active in 1783.

Robert Coleman (1748-1825) was the owner of Cornwall, Elizabeth, Mt. Hope, and Colebrook Furnaces. Swank, in his biographical sketch, indicates that he was born in 1748 near Castle Fin, Ireland. In 1764, he came to Pennsylvania and became a clerk for ironmaster James Old; first at Quitiapahila Forge near Lebanon and afterwards at Reading Furnace on French Creek. He married Old's daughter Ann whose brother William had married Elizabeth Stiegel. Before the expiration of the Elizabeth Furnace lease, Coleman owned it in fee simple, purchasing thirds in 1780 from John Dickinson, 1784 from Charles Stedman, and in 1794 from Daniel Benezet. Stiegel was brought back during the war and served as manager.

Elizabeth made munitions for the government as Robert Coleman at Elizabeth Furnace is listed on "Estimate of Ammunition by Requisition of H Knox, 1780." Elizabeth is shown as active on Samuel Potts' 1789 list of furnaces and producing 500 tons annually. Coleman also employed Hessian prisoners during the war who cut the famous "Hessian Trench" through solid rock to bring more waterpower to the works. The furnace remained in the Coleman family and eventually passed to James Coleman. It supplied pig iron to a number of Coleman Forges. Swank notes it was in operation until 1856 when George Dawson Coleman abandoned it for "want of wood."

The Pennsylvania State Archives has an Elizabeth Furnace/Speedwell Forge Ledger (1834-1839); Elizabeth Day Books, (1764, 1829-30); and Cash Book, (1835-1836). The William L. Clements Library in Michigan has some Elizabeth Furnace Records in their Pennsylvania Iron Furnaces Collection. Also, an Elizabeth Ore Book, 1819-1832, is mixed with a Colebrook Furnace book in that collection.

| <b>Elizabeth Furnace volumes</b> | <b>Dates</b>                                | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Daybooks                         | 1767; 1771-78;<br>1795-1802                 | 385-387               |
| Journals                         | 1766-71; 1828-32                            | 388-391               |
| Ledger                           | 1762-65; 1767-<br>1771; 1773-74;<br>1828-32 | 392-398               |
| Cashbook                         | 1825-1832                                   | 399                   |
| Henry W. Stiegel Ledger          | 1768-69                                     | 400                   |

**Elk Forge (9 vols.), May, Potts Ironwork**

Elk Forge was built in 1761 by a company of Pennsylvanians comprised of Thomas May (1731-1792), John Roberts, David Davis, and David Thomas, who were all from Pennsylvania, and Jesse Hollingsworth from Baltimore. It was built on the Big Elk Creek in Cecil County Maryland about two miles north of the present town of Elkton. Elk

Forge received its iron from the Potts-owned Warwick Furnace in Chester County until the early 1800s when Joanna Furnace in Berks County sent it iron. By 1810, it began receiving iron from William Dorsey's Furnace at Elkridge, Md. The forge had an active gristmill and was involved in the production of flour, which it supplied to the American armies.

Hollingsworth and Roberts originally ran the forge but May, who was renting Pottsgrove and Pine Forges from John Potts, took an active role after 1770, eventually buying his partners out. By 1777, the forge was run by the name of Thomas May and Co., with May owning three-fourths and John Roberts owning one-fourth. In 1777 the British landed an army at Elkton and burned and destroyed Army supplies stored at the forge. Roberts was hung in Philadelphia in 1778 as a Loyalist and the State of Maryland confiscated Robert's share of the forge. May expanded the forge lands considerably during the war and the company liberally used Maryland's law for the expansion of iron forges. At the time of the invasion, May moved to Wilmington where he became a merchant; shipping wheat, flour, and iron and lived there until his death in 1792. His brother Robert May (1750-1812) managed the forge for the company from 1781 until 1801, when May, John Hayes, Steven Hayes, and Joshua Seal purchased it and it was run under "Robert May & Co." Steven Hayes managed it until his death in 1809 and May died in 1812. The forge reorganized under "John Hayes & Co." and was closed by 1841. A cotton mill was built on the site in 1846 by Daniel Lord.

The volumes at the HSP include Thomas May's Wilmington Journal and a "combined" iron ledger which includes Pottsgrove and Pine Forge information. The Maryland Historical Society also has some of the forge books and Winterthur in Delaware has the Thomas May Elk Forge books from 1781-1789, and Robert May's estate books for his brother's estate including Elk Forge for 1792-1809.

NOTE: Ledger fragments and cash books are all together in one box (Volumes 403-406)

| <b>Elk Forge volumes</b>  | <b>Dates</b> | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Journals                  | 1777-1792    | 401-402               |
| Ledger (fragment)         | 1789-1790    | 403                   |
| Cash Books                | 1775-1781    | 404-406               |
| Ledger (Wilmington)       | 1781-1800    | 407                   |
| Ledger: Elk Forge         | 1774-1777    | 408                   |
| (Also includes Pottsgrove | 1762-1764    |                       |
| and Pine Forge)           | 1770-1773    |                       |
| Journal                   | 1781-1794    | 409                   |

**Gibraltar Forge (accessioned in 2005)**

From accessions database: Manuscript daybook documenting the management and financial affairs of Gibraltar Forge on the Allegheny Creek in Robeson Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania. This iron forge - sometimes called the Seyfert Forge - was established in conjunction with the nearby Joanna Furnace by Samuel Potts, Thomas Rutter, Thomas May, and Thomas Bull,. The accounts preserved here include expenditures on this iron plantation's masonry (including upkeep of the forge itself, the

furnace building, the cupola, and workers' houses), foodstuffs, goods and tools for laborers, and related drayage, blacksmithing, weaving, tailoring, and shoemaking.

| <b>Gibraltar Forge volume</b> | <b>Dates</b> | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Daybook                       | 1815-1822    | 410                   |

**For Grubb Family papers see Appendix A: Related Collections.**

**For Hanover Furnace and Mary Ann Forge (17 vols.), Jones Ironwork see Appendix A: Related Collections.**

**For Henry Clay Furnace (2 vols.), Grubb Furnace, Grubb Ironwork see Appendix A: Related Collections.**

#### **Hopewell Forge & Furnace (49 vols.) Bird, Brooke Ironwork**

Hopewell was located in Union Township, Berks County near the Chester County line on the north branch of the French Creek. There was also a Hopewell Forge in Lancaster County built about 1737 by Peter Grubb. William Bird (1703-1762) started Hopewell Forge about 1744 and later converted it to a furnace. It received its iron from Bird's "Good Luck" Mine and later the Warwick mines. Bird advertised his two forges (Hopewell and Birdsborough) and 1,000 acres of land in Robeson Township, Lancaster County (later Berks County) for sale in the Pennsylvania Gazette of 12 April 1750. He is noted in August as manager of the Union Iron Works in Hunterdon County, West Jersey. On 29 May 1751, he sold his two ironworks and the 965 acres (which were later to develop into the town of Birdsboro) to Samuel Seely and his wife Mary. Hopewell is not shown on Nicholas Scull's 1759 map. In 1760, Bird obtained his Birdsboro lands back from Seely.

In 1763, after Bird's death, his son Mark Bird (1739-1816) took over Hopewell and ran it. It is shown as active on William Scull's 1770 map. Bird built the furnace in 1771 and obtained two-thirds of the old Potts family's Spring Forge in Earlville. The Journals of the Continental Congress note that in 1776, Colonel Mark Bird had contracted to cast cannon for the United States. In 1777, Bird asked the Congress to discharge eleven workmen at his Cannon and Nail Rod Works from the Pennsylvania Militia. Bird and Hopewell Furnace made munitions for the government as they are listed on "Estimate of Ammunition by Requisition of H Knox, 1780."

Bird, who became a Colonel in the Militia, rented Hopewell during the Revolution to forge master William Hayes and the furnace made armaments for the Continental Government. Hermelin noted Hopewell in 1783 as producing about 900 tons annually. Caught in the post-war depression, Bird went into receivership and lost the property after the Revolution to John Nixon, a Philadelphia merchant. It was put up for sale with Birdsborough Forge and the Spring Forge in 1786/7 and at that time the furnace had 4,300 acres. It was not sold by 1788. Edward Burd attempted to lease it in 1789 with



Mt. Hope Furnace. In the fifteen years following the war it passed through the hands of Cadwalader Morris and James Old; Benjamin Norris and James Old; and later James Old (alone); and James Wilson, Bird's brother-in-law. The forge and furnace were listed as active on Samuel Potts' 1789 list and the furnace is noted as producing 700 tons annually.

In 1800, it was purchased by Daniel Buckley and brothers-in-law Thomas and Mathew Brooke and included 5,000 acres, two mines, and the furnace. It was not in blast from 1808-1816. In 1853 the furnace was converted to using anthracite coal rather than charcoal and was finally closed in 1883. The furnace property was obtained by the state in 1933/34 and reconstructed and is currently open to the public as a national historical site. Many of the forge and furnace records reside there.

Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site has a large collection of Furnace Books. The Pennsylvania State Archives (Manuscript Group 257) has a number of Hopewell Forge Books: Cash Books (1818-45, 1854-60); Day Books (1802-03, 1816-19, 1824-27, 1846-88); Journals (1805-37, 1846-53); Ledgers (1804-1856), Time Books 1853-1856); and Miscellaneous Account Books, (1818-76.) The Chester County Historical Society also has an Account Book (1876-1896); and the Historical Society of Berks County has furnace Account Books (1802-1804, 1822-1825, and 1848-1853).

| <b>Hopewell Forge &amp; Furnace<br/>volumes</b> | <b>Dates</b>   | <b>Volume<br/>numbers</b> |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| Daybooks  | 1769-71; 1780-92;<br>1795-1817   | 411-420                   |
| Journals  | 1783-1786; 1787-<br>1789; 1795-<br>1796; 1803-1817   | 421-424                   |
| Ledgers   | 1783-1786; 1794-<br>1816   | 425-429                   |
| Cashbooks                                       | 1803-1817  | 430-432                   |
| Coal/Provision Book                             | 1797-1802  | 433                       |
| Coal and Cordwood Book                          | 1803-1816  | 434                       |
| Moulding Account Book                           | 1831-1832  | 435                       |
| Index   | n.d.   | 436                       |
| Miscellaneous                                   | 1809-1819  | 437                       |
| Lancaster Lebanon Company<br>Journals           | 1765-1767; 1768-<br>1769; 1769-<br>1771; 1771-<br>1774; 1774-<br>1775; 1775-<br>1780; 1780-<br>1783; 1786-1788 | 438-445                   |
| Lancaster Lebanon Company<br>Ledgers            | 1765-83  | 446-454                   |
| Lancaster Lebanon Coal, Iron &<br>Time Book     | 1768-1775  | 455                       |
| Lancaster Lebanon Time, Coal &<br>Anchories     | 1785-86  | 456                       |

|  |           |     |
|--|-----------|-----|
| Lancaster Lebanon Pig Iron and Time Book                       | 1803-1816 | 457 |
| Lancaster Lebanon Bar Iron Book                                | 1803-1816 | 458 |
| Lancaster Lebanon Anthonies Book                               | 1811-1816 | 459 |
| Hopewell/Lancaster Lebanon Canal Book                          | 1841      | 460 |
| Berks County Journal   | 1806-1808 | 461 |
| New Pine Forge and Hopewell Ledger (in New Pine Forge section) | 1744-1761 | 652 |

**Isabella Furnace (70 vols. + 158 boxes), Potts Ironwork**

In 1836, Henry Potts (1797-1861), son of Joseph Potts and grandson of Samuel Potts, with his brother David Potts (1799-1870) and cousin John Potts Rutter (1797-1870), built Isabella Furnace on Perkins Run in West Nantmeal Township in northern Chester County near Wyebrooke. The furnace was named after Henry’s wife, Isabella Hitner, and the ore was supplied by the Potts mines at St. Mary’s, Warwick. Later Robert and Joseph Potts obtained shares but David Potts eventually secured the majority interest and operated the furnace until 1855. Pearse noted that Isabella was converted to a forge in 1853.

The property changed hands several times until David’s son, Joseph D. Potts (1829-1893), styled Colonel, purchased the property in 1880. Potts made numerous improvements to the roads, bridges, and furnace property in general. He replaced the waterpower system with steam and greatly increased the plant’s production capacity. Pearse indicates (1876) that it was reconverted from a forge to the only charcoal furnace in the county. In 1891, Potts began building a palatial mansion that he called “Langoma.” Col. Potts died in 1893 and did not live to see it completed. The furnace went out of blast in 1894 shortly after Potts’ death. It was known as the last rural iron furnace to operate in Chester County.

See also the William McCleary Potts collection (HSP Collection 1401) which contains Isabella Furnace correspondence and business papers (1880-1921).

| <b>Isabella Furnace boxes and volumes</b> | <b>Dates</b> | <b>Box and Volume numbers</b> |
|---|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Vouchers                                  | 1880-1921    | Boxes 1-79                    |
| Letters                                   | 1880-1914    | Boxes 80-158                  |
| Record Book<br>[Missing as of 1/6/2009]   | n.d.         | n/a                           |
| Daybooks                                  | 1871-1893    | 462-469                       |
| Ledgers                                   | 1871-1893    | 470-471                       |

|   |                 |         |
|---|-----------------|---------|
| Letterpress Books (these fall into two runs: 1880-1918 and 1880-1895 -- the latter run includes Garman Mines letters) | 1880-1918       | 472-500 |
| Notes of William Potts  | 1886-1895       | 501-519 |
| Cash Book   | 1887-1893       | 520     |
| Docket  | 1877-1879       | 521     |
| Record Books of Real Estate   |                 |         |
| Negotiations  | 1886-1893       | 522-523 |
| Analyses Book   | 1880-1881; 1888 | 524     |
| Bill Book   | 1882-1897       | 525     |
| Exercise Book   | 1822            | 526     |
| Checkbooks  | 1895-1896       | 527-528 |
| Inventory   | n.d.            | 529     |
| Pig Iron Data Book (empty)  | n.d.            | 530     |
| Memorandum Book (empty)   | n.d.            | 531     |

**Joanna Furnace (1 vol.) Potts, Rutter, May, Bull, Smith Ironwork**

Rutter May & Co. built Joanna Furnace in 1791 on Hay Creek in Robeson Township, Berks County. The Company was comprised of Thomas Rutter (1731-1795), Samuel Potts (1736-1793), Thomas May (1731-1792), and Thomas Bull (1744-1837). Rutter, Potts, and May also owned Warwick Furnace. Joanna received its ore from the Jones Mine, which Warwick controlled. The furnace went into blast in 1792 and was managed until 1796 by David Potts (c1762-1834), the son of Samuel Potts and nephew of Rutter and May. In 1796 Potts moved to Warwick Furnace and from 1796 to 1798, Thomas Rutter's son Samuel Rutter (1764-1809) managed the furnace.

In 1798 the company was reorganized due to the deaths of three of the original partners and the bankruptcy of both Samuel Rutter and Samuel Potts' son, Thomas, who owned their families' shares. Thomas May's executor, Robert May (1750-1812) and Thomas Bull sold one-third of the furnace to Bull's son-in-law John Smith (1762-1815) and the furnace was run under "Thomas Bull & Company." In 1800, the company built or acquired Gibraltar Forge located on the Allegheny Creek about a mile from the Schuylkill River in Robeson Township, Berks County and the Dale Works on the Perkiomen. Known for its hollowware, Joanna iron was also sent to Elk Forge in Maryland. May died in 1812 and John Smith died in 1815. In 1820, Thomas Bull & Co. disbanded and Smith's son and Bull's grandson, Thomas Bull Smith (1793-1825) began leasing the furnace and managed it until his own death in 1825.

At that time, Thomas Bull and son-in-law William Darling (1796/7-1871) put the furnace up for rent and it was rented for a short time to the Brooke brothers and Daniel Buckley of Hopewell Furnace. L. Heber Smith joined the firm in 1830, and it was run as Darling & Smith. Smith eventually took over and the furnace closed shortly after his death in 1898.

Account records of the Joanna Furnace in the 1790s, including records of expenditures accrued by Potts and Rutter in building the furnace and some tax records, reside at the William L. Clements Library at the University of Michigan. The Historical Society of Berks County has a large number of furnace books (1805-1901) as does

Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site; and the Hay Creek Valley Historical Association also has some ledgers and account books.

| <b>Joanna Furnace volume</b> | <b>Dates</b> | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Ledger                       | 1791-1799    | 532                   |

**Lebanon Furnaces (3 vols.) Coleman Ironwork**

NOTE: all volumes missing as of 1/6/2009

The Lebanon Furnaces were built in North Lebanon, Lebanon County on the Union Canal about one mile northwest of Lebanon in 1846 by the sons of James Coleman, Robert, and George Dawson Coleman (1825-1878). The first furnace was blown in 1847 and the second in 1848. They were the first furnaces in the county to use anthracite coal. Ore was hauled from Cornwall. Shortly after completion of the furnaces, a large pipe foundry was erected near the works. It continued until the Civil War and was discontinued and abandoned due to the labor shortage caused by the war. In 1852, Robert Coleman sold his interest to his brother George who operated it up to his death, with Charles B. Forney as manager. The furnace had ties with the E. G. Brooke & Co. After Coleman's death it was obtained by his sons, B. Dawson and Edward Coleman and in 1901, was purchased by the Pennsylvania Steel Co.

The Coleman Collection, 1757-1940 at the Pennsylvania State Archives, Manuscript Group 182, has a number of papers and furnace books, 1757-1900, pertaining to the Lebanon furnaces.

| <b>Volume</b>                                       | <b>Date</b>                         | <b># of vols.</b> |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Letter Books<br><b>[all missing as of 1/6/2009]</b> | 1856-1862; 1862-<br>1866; 1862-1870 | 3                 |

**Manada Furnace (3 vols.) Grubb Ironwork**

Egle indicates that Manada Furnace was built on Manada Creek, a tributary of Swatara Creek, in the northwest part of East Hanover Township in Dauphin County at Sand Beach in 1836 near the site of the old "Fort Manada." Gen. Timothy Green bought the land on which Manada Furnace would later be built. He built a house that was later used as the iron master's house. In March 1785 Dauphin County was established. Green sold the land to Henry Bates Grubb (1774-1823) in 1803. Grubb's sons Clement Brooke Grubb (1815-1889) and Edward Burd Grubb (1810-1867) built the furnace. The furnace embraced some 2,500 acres. Their partnership ended in 1855. In 1856, Manada Furnace was the only charcoal furnace in the county.

During the Civil War, the owners of Manada Furnace were able to get Confederate prisoners out of Camp Curtin for use as woodcutters and laborers. The ore came from the Grubb's Chestnut Hill mine or from the Cornwall mines via the Union Canal to Lebanon. From there it was brought by wagon to the furnace. In addition to making pig iron, the furnace did some casting of products. The metal was sent to the Swatara

railroad station for transport. From 1837-1848 the furnace produced over 22,000 tons of iron. Swank does not mention it in 1876 and it was definitely closed by 1883.

The Hagley Museum and Library has an Account Book (1841-1844); and Hopewell NHS has a Journal on microfilm (1837-1841). See also Grubb Family papers at HSP (Collection 1488) for papers on the furnace (1837-1862).

| <b>Manada Furnace volumes</b> | <b>Date</b> | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Cash Book                     | 1836-1841   | 533                   |
| Pig Iron Book                 | 1856        | 534                   |
| Surveys & Deeds Record Book   | n.d.        | 535                   |

**Manada Furnace volumes located in Grubb Family Papers, HSP Collection 1488**

|                     |            |       |
|---------------------|------------|-------|
| Ore Weights         | 1845       | Box 4 |
| Business Papers     | 1837-1862  | Box 4 |
| Records of Castings | 1840-1848  | Box 4 |
| Ore Shipments       | 1853; 1863 | Box 4 |

**Manheim Glassworks (7 vols.) Stiegel**

Manheim Glassworks was founded by ironmaster Henry William Stiegel (1729-1785) in 1763. Stiegel employed German artisans and produced high-quality glass. His estate was mortgaged to Isaac Cox in 1770 and Stiegel was later jailed for debt. He immigrated to Philadelphia in 1750, and managed iron forges in Lancaster and Berks Counties. Profits from the business enabled him in 1762 to buy huge amounts of land, on which he designed and built the town of Manheim in Lancaster County. Two years later he began work on a glass factory, having already made plate glass at one of the iron forges. He imported glassblowers from Venice, England, and Germany to produce glass tableware. Though none of the pieces was signed, his use of color, including high-quality blue, green, and purple, became his signature. A notorious spendthrift, Stiegel had three fully staffed mansions, and paid a band to play music from a rooftop to announce his comings and goings in his elaborate carriage, complete with its four servants. When the economy turned sour in the face of the impending Revolution, Stiegel went bankrupt and was imprisoned in 1774 for debt. Upon his release, he worked as a foreman in one of his former forges, then worked as a preacher, schoolteacher, and music tutor. He had "sold" some of his land in Manheim to the Zion Lutheran Church in exchange for five shillings and a yearly payment of a rose. He died in 1785.

| <b>Manheim Glassworks volumes</b> | <b>Dates</b>    | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Journal                           | 1765-1767       | 536                   |
| Account w/King of Prussia Tavern  | 1768-1769       | 537                   |
| Ledgers                           | 1764-1769; 1774 | 538-540               |
| Rent Book                         | 1763-1767       | 541                   |
| Day Book                          | 1770-1773       | 542                   |

**Martic Forge & Furnace (11 vols.) (Martock) Smith, Ege, Coleman Ironworks**

Noted as the second furnace and third forge in Lancaster County, Martic Furnace was founded by Thomas and William Smith about 1751 and called Martock. It was located on a branch of the Pequea Creek called Furnace Run near Colemanville in southern Lancaster County not far from the Susquehanna River, initially in Conestoga Township. The forge was built shortly afterwards about four miles from the furnace on Pequea Creek. Cremers indicates that in 1758, Samuel Flower and his brother-in-law purchased an interest. It is not shown on Nicholas Scull's 1759 map. By 1761, William Bennett, who Mercer indicates owned Codorus Forge in 1759, and Samuel Webb, both of Maryland, each owned one-third. In 1764, the firm became bankrupt. When the firm was put up for sale in 1767, and again in 1769, the furnace and forge contained "upwards of 3,400 acres." The forge is noted as having four fires and two hammers, two slaves and "All late the property of Thomas Smith, James Wallace, and James Fulton; seized...by James Webb, Sheriff."

In 1769, Thomas Smith sold the forge and furnace after he was jailed for debt. They were split at this time and remained under different owners for some period. It is listed as "Martock" Forge on William Scull's 1770 map. Between 1770 and 1793, a multitude of owners owned a variety of shares. Hermelin shows "Martick" blast furnace was abandoned by 1783, but states "Marticks" Forge was active and had 2 hammers, 4 fires, a rolling and slitting mill and purchased 230 tons of pig iron annually. Swank states musket barrels were drawn there during the Revolution.

George Ege purchased one-quarter of the forge in 1783, eventually owning five-eighths by 1793 with Robert Coleman (1748-1825). Although the furnace is listed as inactive on Samuel Potts' 1789 list, the "Martick" Forge is shown as active. The furnace was closed during the American Revolution and was opened again by Coleman and Ege in 1793. By 1794, Coleman had bought out Ege and owned the entire property, including the lands associated with the works. He brought in his son-in-law Edward Brien as manager who remained until his death there in 1816. Martic Forge received Elizabeth Furnace iron. Coleman ran it until his own death in 1825 when his heirs ran it as part of the Coleman complex. A steel works was eventually added to the works. In 1883 the forge had two hammers and four fires and was owned by Davies & Potts (Robert Smith Potts 1814-1886) with Potts as the manager. The furnace and works closed about that time of his death.

See also Conestoga Store Books in this collection.

| <b>Martic Forge &amp; Furnace volumes</b> | <b>Dates</b> | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|---|--------------|-----------------------|
| Daybook                                   | 1828-1833    | 543                   |
| Ledgers                                   | 1828-1833    | 544-545               |
| Store Ledger                              | 1830-1833    | 546                   |
| Provisions Daybook                        | 1830-1832    | 547                   |
| Cash Book                                 | 1828-1835    | 548                   |
| Bar Iron Book                             | 1828-1832    | 549                   |
| Time Book                                 | 1818-1830    | 550                   |
| Anchonies Book                            | 1830-1832    | 551                   |
| Pig Iron Received Book                    | 1830-1832    | 552                   |
| Coal and Cordwood Book                    | 1830-1831    | 553                   |

**Mary Ann Furnace (21 vols.) York County, Ross Ironwork**

Built by George Ross & Company in 1762, the company was comprised of Ross (1730-1779), George Stevenson (1718-1783), and William Thompson (1736-1781) and perhaps Ross' brother-in-law, Mark Bird. Montgomery indicates there was another Mary Ann Furnace in Berks County that was erected by Jacob Leshner in 1797/8. In May 1763, Thomas Barr at the furnace put a notice of a runaway in the *Gazette*. Mary Ann Furnace was located in southwestern York County on Codorus Creek about three miles south of Hanover in West Manheim Township. It was initially run in conjunction with Spring Forge and apparently sent iron to nearby Hellam (later Codorus) Forge. The furnace had an overshot gristmill and sawmill associated with it and is listed on William Scull's 1770 map.

George Ross, who owned three undivided quarter parts, tried to sell it in 1773. At that time it contained 6,000 acres of land and had a grist and saw mill. George Ege was involved in 1774 and he appears to have run the furnace during the war. Ross died in 1779 and Thompson was captured during the war, badly treated, and died in 1781. Mary Ann Furnace was listed on the 1779 Manheim Township tax list with William Gwinn as having 5,000 acres; also listed by Hermelin in 1783 as active and producing 400 tons annually. In 1781, Ege contracted with the Pennsylvania Board of War to cast various size shot and shells there. In 1782, it was owned by John Steinmetz, a Philadelphia merchant, who advertised it in that year to be let for a "term of years."

Mercer indicates John Steinmetz and John Brinton of Philadelphia owned it in 1790. "Maryan" Furnace is shown on Samuel Potts' 1789 list as closed.

| <b>Mary Ann Furnace volumes</b> | <b>Dates</b>                  | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Daybooks                        | 1763-1766; 1772-1776          | 554-559               |
| Ledgers                         | 1764-66; 1771-1773; 1775-1778 | 560-565               |
| Journals                        | 1764-1776                     | 566-571               |
| Waste Book                      | 1762-1763                     | 572                   |
| Store Daybook                   | 1765-1766                     | 573                   |
| Time Book                       | 1765-1771                     | 574                   |

**Mary Ann Furnace and Forge (26 vols.) Huntingdon (later Blair) County**

Mary Ann Furnace and Forge was built on Big Trough Creek in Huntingdon County. Harris' 1837 Pittsburgh Directory indicates that it was "owned by John Savage, (and) conducted by George Thompson." George Thompson was associated with Mary Ann Furnace and was the agent for the executors of John Savage.

The Pennsylvania State Archives has the George Thompson Papers, 1833-38, MSS Group MG-138, which relate to the manufacturing and price of iron, payment of debts, protests of notes for nonpayment, etc.

| <b>Mary Ann Furnace and Forge volumes</b> | <b>Dates</b> | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|---|--------------|-----------------------|
| Daybooks                                  | 1833-1838    | 575-581               |

|                              |            |         |
|------------------------------|------------|---------|
| Ledgers                      | 1833 -1838 | 582-587 |
| Account Book                 | 1837       | 588     |
| Trough Creek Provisions Book | 1833-1834  | 589     |
| Record Book                  | 1836-1838  | 590     |
| Settlement Books             | 1836-1838  | 591-592 |
| Receipt Books                | 1833-1838  | 593-595 |
| Time Books (fragments)       | 1836-38    | 596     |
| Blast Book                   | 1836-1837  | 597     |
| Pig Iron Book                | 1833-1836  | 598     |
| Cordwood Book                | 1836       | 599     |
| Provisions Book              | 1837-1838  | 600     |

**Middletown Furnace (1 vol.)**

This appears to be the book for Middletown Furnace founded in 1849 in Fayette County. There was also a Middletown furnace located in Dauphin County built in 1853. This Middletown Furnace was shown as active on Samuel Potts' 1789 list of active Pennsylvania Furnaces.

| Middletown Furnace volume                 | Dates     | Volume numbers |
|---|-----------|----------------|
| Surveys/Letterbook/Journal/Ore bank, etc. | 1849-1861 | 601            |

**Mt. Gretna (3 vols.) Coleman Ironwork**

Robert H. Coleman was the grandson of Robert Coleman and managed the Coleman iron interests, which he inherited, from Mt. Gretna. Mt. Gretna is located in southern Lebanon County between Lancaster and Hersey in South Annville Township. Coleman was involved in the Chautauqua Movement, the United Brethren Church and was a major influence in the area.

| Mt. Gretna volumes                                     | Dates     | Volume numbers |
|--|-----------|----------------|
| Journal  | 1885-1895 | 602            |
| Mt. Gretna Time Book                                   | 1888-1895 | 603            |
| Coleman Employee Account [incl. folder of loose items] | 1880-1881 | 604            |

**Mt. Hope Furnace (28 vols.) Grubb, Coleman, Grubb Ironwork**

Peter Grubb (1740-1786) established Mt. Hope Furnace in 1784 shortly before his death on Big Chickies Creek in northern Lancaster County near the Lebanon line, 4 miles east of the Cornwall Furnace. The furnace had property in both Rapho and Penn Townships. Grubb's son, Henry Bates Grubb (1774-1823), inherited the furnace at age twelve. The furnace was located at what is now Mt. Hope near the families' famous



Cornwall mines, whose ore it used. It was shown as active on Samuel Potts 1789 list of Pennsylvania furnaces, producing 500 tons annually. Edward Burd Grubb put it up for lease with Hopewell Forge in 1789 and noted them as “late the estate of Peter Grubb.”

The furnace became part of the Grubb/Cornwall iron production complex. In 1798, Henry created a partnership with Robert Coleman (1748-1825) and sold him one-half interest of Mt. Hope and Hopewell Forge. In 1802 the property was divided and Coleman received the Hopewell Forge and Grubb the Mt. Hope Furnace. It was passed on to Grubb’s heirs, and sons Edward Burd Grubb (1810-1867) and Clement Brooke Grubb (1815-1889) formed a partnership in 1833 to manage it. In 1845, Clement sold his share to brother Alfred Bates Grubb (1821-1885) who then operated it in partnership with Edward, and later by himself.

The Hagley Museum and Library has Account Books (1836-1844).

| <b>Mt. Hope Furnace volumes</b> | <b>Dates</b>                                  | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Daybooks                        | 1784-1787 Patton & Bird; 1794-1819; 1825-1834 | 605-613               |
| Journals                        | 1784-1787; 1800-1802                          | 614-615               |
| Ledgers                         | 1784-1788; 1800-1820; 1845-1848               | 616-625               |
| Daybook/Letterbook/Ledger       | 1841-1854                                     | 626                   |
| Cash Book                       | 1798-1802                                     | 627                   |
| Time Book                       | 1856-1866                                     | 628                   |
| Grain Book                      | 1802-1803                                     | 629                   |
| Daybook/Cordwood Book           | 1794-1802                                     | 630                   |
| Daybook/Journal                 | 1834-1850                                     | 631                   |
| Mine Book                       | 1821-1823                                     | 632                   |

**Mt. Joy Forge (Valley Forge) (8 vols.) Potts Ironwork**

Daniel Walker and Company founded Mt. Joy Forge in 1742 on Valley Creek, which was the dividing line between Chester and then Philadelphia (later Montgomery) Counties. John Potts (1710-1768) bought a share of the furnace at sheriff’s sale and eventually became majority owner. In 1757, Potts considerably expanded the forge and added a merchant mill. He hired James Hockley (c1728-1794) to run the mill. The forge received its iron from Warwick Furnace. During the late 1750s and early 1760s the forge was rented to John Potts’ sons and is shown as active on Scull’s 1759 map. It was purchased after Potts’ death by son Joseph Potts (1742-1804) and was eventually renamed Valley Forge. In 1773 he sold it, splitting the mill and forge.

Isaac Potts (1750-1803) purchased the mill; the forge was purchased by a company comprised of David Potts (1741-1797) and William Dewees (c1738-c1809) with Dewees as manager. They added a second forge upstream. The British burned the forge but not the mill in September during the Philadelphia campaign of 1777. Washington’s army camped there during the 1777/1778 winter. Schoepf mentioned the forge in 1783 as

burned and inactive. Isaac Potts obtained the forge in 1783 and he eventually rebuilt it. He ran it under the name of the "Valley Works" which was retained when purchased by his brother David. Samuel Potts' 1789 list shows "Valley" Forge was active. David died in 1797 and it passed through a series of relations. The forge was abandoned about 1816 and a cotton mill built on the site.

See also Valley Works description for additional information.

See also Colebrook Furnace for volume 112 for Mt. Joy / Colebrook Daybook, 1791-1797

**See Potts Family Furnaces volume list starting on page 39.**

### **Mt. Pleasant Furnace (4 vols.) Potts Ironwork**

Mt. Pleasant Furnace was built by a company comprised of Thomas Potts, Sr. (1680-1752), Samuel Mickel, and George Mifflin in 1737/38 and was located in eastern Berks County on the west branch of Perkiomen Creek. It was situated on a tract of land surveyed for Samuel Mickle in 1733 and he may have been the moving force in the venture. The furnace was located north west of Old Route 100 at the intersection of Forge Dale Road about 7 miles directly northeast of Colebrook Dale Furnace in what would become Barto. Although initially in Colebrookdale Township, the forge became part of Hereford Township in 1753. The forge itself eventually was included as part of Washington Township when the latter was formed in 1839 while some of the land containing timber remained in Colebrookdale Township. The first blast occurred 12 October 1738.

John Potts (1710-1768) ran the works for the company from 1738 to 1742. In that year Samuel Savage, the manager of Warwick, died and John began to turn his attention to Pine Forge and Warwick Furnace and became manager of both at that time. In February of 1742, Mickel, Mifflin, and Potts contracted with Thomas Mayburry (c1700-1747) to lease the furnace for 48 tons of bar iron a year. Mayburry owned both Green Lane Forge and Hereford Furnace near Mt. Pleasant, but died in 1747 apparently not having made payments. Thomas Potts, Jr. (1720-1762) managed the furnace until his death and was followed briefly by partner Thomas Rutter (1732-1795), at which point it fell into disuse for lack of ore. It is shown as active on Nicholas Scull's 1759 map but not shown on William Scull's 1770 map.

By 1767, the furnace was apparently owned by the Mifflin heirs and was in receivership. Joseph Fox ended up with 1,667 acres of the land which he subdivided and began selling in 1772. The 276 acres with the furnace was retained by the Mifflins and in 1777 sold to Christian and William Butz and Moses Yaman. The Butz family had run the Chelsea Iron Works in Greenwich, New Jersey and was connected to Durham Furnace which was being confiscated by the Authorities that year and sold. They brought German workers with them. Butz is shown living at the furnace in 1776. The Butz Company tried to revive the furnace and built a new forge about a mile upstream known in local records as the "Upper Mount Pleasant Forge." The "Lower" Forge was built later in the immediate area by Nicholas Hunter and his son-in-law John Fischer and was not connected at all to the furnace. The works failed and Butz sold the property to Charles Drukenmiller in 1785. Mt. Pleasant Furnace was put up for sale by Charles Miller (Drukenmiller?) in 1792, who noted it lay contiguous to a number of forges. It is listed on Samuel Potts' 1789 list as active; but showing only 50 tons produced a year, the

smallest of any furnace on the list. It is shown on a 1797 Berks County Road Draft Book but appears closed at that time.

The Historical Society of Montgomery County has a Mt. Pleasant Forge Account Book, 1797-1801.

| <b>Mt. Pleasant Furnace volumes</b> | <b>Dates</b> | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Daybooks                            | 1738-1740    | 633                   |
| Daybooks/Ledgers                    | 1740-1747    | 634-635               |
| Ledger                              | 1738-1740    | 636                   |

**Mt. Vernon Furnace (12 vols.) Grubb Ironwork**

Henry Bates Grubb (1774-1823) erected Mt. Vernon Furnace. It was located on the east bank of Conewago Creek, also noted as River, near the point where the railroad crossed the creek in Dauphin County. It was built about 1800 in Conoy Township, about two miles above the mouth of that stream in Lancaster County at Conewago. The ore came from the Cornwall mines. There was a forge connected with these works which apparently was erected before the furnace was built. In 1836 this property consisted of a forge, grist and saw mill, together with about four thousand acres of land in Lancaster and Dauphin Counties. Grubb died in 1823 and the property was eventually run by a company comprised of sons Edward Burd Grubb (1810-1867) and Clement Brooke Grubb (1815-1889). The furnace was abandoned in 1852.

The Hagley Museum and Library has furnace Account books (1834-1848).

| <b>Mt. Vernon Furnace volumes</b> | <b>Dates</b> | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Daybooks                          | 1801-1812    | 637-638               |
| Journal                           | 1800-1805    | 639                   |
| Ledgers                           | 1800-1812    | 640-644               |
| Provision Books                   | 1802-1824    | 645-647               |
| Coal Book                         | 1800-1802    | 648                   |

**New Pine Forge (10 vols.) Bird, Patton Ironwork**

William Bird (1703-1762) built New Pine Forge about 1744. The forge was located in Union Township, Berks County on Hay Creek in what is now Birdsboro. The books show a second “Middle Forge” was constructed in 1757/8 and an Upper and Lower Forge are also mentioned. The ironwork received its iron initially from Hopewell Furnace but eventually from Warwick, Roxborough, and later Berkshire Furnaces. In the late 1750s, Mark Bird (1739-1816) ran the forge in conjunction with Thomas Potts & Co. William Bird died in 1762, and John Patton, who married Bird’s widow, put an advertisement in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* for a “run away” from there in 1762. After he relinquished his interests in Berkshire Furnace to Patton, Mark Bird managed New Pine Forge from 1763 on, but he eventually returned to nearby Birdsborough to run Hopewell forge and build the furnace there. By the later 1760s the complex was managed by Bird’s stepfather as John Patton & Company but it closed before 1770.

New Pine Forge was a part of the Potts production and distribution system. It was not listed on Samuel Potts' 1789 list.

Some of the New Pine Forge books are located at the Historical Society of Berks County. See also Roxborough Furnace for William Bird iron books.

| New Pine Forge volumes             | Dates              | Volume numbers |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Ledgers                            | 1758-1761; 1760-63 | 649-651        |
| New Pine Forge and Hopewell Ledger | 1744-1761          | 652            |
| Journal A                          | 1760-1762          | 653            |
| Wastebooks                         | 1757-58; 1760-62   | 654-655        |
| Daybook                            | 1758-1763          | 656            |
| Time book                          | 1760-63            | 657            |
| William Bird Ledger A              | 1741-1747          | 658            |

**Pequea Works (6 vols.) Coleman Ironwork**

The Pequea Works, also called the Coleman Works, were founded in 1828 and consisted of a rolling mill and nail factory. Located on Pequea Creek in Lancaster County, the works received iron from the Martic Works. It made nails, spikes, and iron rods.

| Pequea Works volumes | Dates     | Volume numbers |
|----------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Journal              | 1830-1833 | 659            |
| Ledger               | 1829-1832 | 660            |
| Bar Iron Book        | 1829-1832 | 661            |
| Time Book            | 1828-1832 | 662            |
| Cash Book            | 1830-1832 | 663            |
| Coal & Iron Book     | 1828-1832 | 664            |

**Pine Forge (14 vols.) Potts Ironwork**

Pine Forge, originally called Rutter's Forge, was built by Thomas Rutter (1660-1730) in 1720 on the site of Rutter's Bloomery, Pennsylvania's first ironwork, which was built in 1716. It was an active forge for an extremely long period. Initially part of Philadelphia County, it was located in eastern Berks County on Manatawny Creek in Douglass Township. The forge initially received its iron from Colebrook Dale Furnace but later from Warwick and others. In 1725 Rutter rented Colebrook Dale to a Company who rented it to Thomas Potts (c1680-1752), a butcher from Germantown. However, the Rutter family retained Pine Forge and Joseph Rutter (1705-1732) built the center part of Pine Forge Manor there in 1731/2. Joseph died shortly after and the Potts family eventually purchased the Rutter shares and obtained full title with John Potts (1710-1768) gaining full ownership at his father's death. Pine is listed on Gov. William

Denny's 1757 list as having made 747 tons of iron in the previous six years. It is shown on Scull's 1759 map as active.

During the late 1750s and early 1760s it was rented by John Potts's sons, and in the 1760s and 1770s by Thomas May (1731-1792). At Potts death in 1768, it was purchased from the estate by his son-in-law and nephew, David Potts, Jr. (c1742-1782), but he appears to have rented it to Thomas May and eventually Thomas Walker. It was shown as active on William Scull's 1770 map. David Potts died in 1782, and the property was managed for several years by Samuel Potts (1763-1793) and Thomas Rutter (1732-1795) in conjunction with Warwick Furnace. It is shown as active and purchasing 120 tons of pig iron annually by Schoepf. It is also mentioned by Hermelin in 1783 and shown as active on Samuel Potts' 1789 list.

About 1787 Rutter's son, David Rutter (1766-1817), obtained Samuel Potts' one-half interest and he received the second share at his father's death in 1795. David ran the forge until his death in 1817. By that time it was managed by his son John Potts Rutter (1797-1870) but eventually abandoned. Rutter sold the forge property to Joseph Bailey in 1843 who dismantled it and erected a rolling mill.

A large number of the forge ledger books reside at the Pine Forge Academy (1748, 1780-1783, 1787, 1795, 1805, and 1838); and two Account books (1769-1771 and 1770-1780), reside at the Hagley Museum and Library. A David Potts Daybook and Pine Forge Time Book (1774-1783), reside at the Pottstown Historical Society. The Historical Society of Berks County also has an Account Book (1762-1763.)

| <b>Pine Forge volumes</b>                     | <b>Dates</b>   | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|---|--|-----------------------|
| Journal                                       | 1757-1770; 1774-1781; 1781-1782;   | 665-667               |
| Day Book                                      | 1748-1757  | 668                   |
| Ledger  | 1732-40; 1744-48; 1748-1757; 1770-73 (with Elk Forge books); 1774-1781; 1775-1778; 1781-1783 | 669-675               |
| Rutter and Potts, accounts with Thomas Walker | 1784-1786 (In HSP Collection 108.)   | Am .92155             |
| Bar Iron/Anchony Book                         | 1787-1790  | 676                   |
| Receipt Book                                  | 1752-1760; 1787-1790   | 677-678               |
| Coal Book                                     | 1744-1760  | 679                   |

**For Pine Grove Furnace (1 vol.), Ege Ironwork see Appendix A: Related Collections**

**Pool Forge (1 vol.), Berks County, Potts Ironwork**

In 1725, James Lewis, one of the shareholders of Colebrook Dale Furnace, formed a company and began construction of a forge which is often confused with both Rutter's Bloomery, Pennsylvania's first ironwork, and its replacement, Rutter's Forge. There was also a Pool(e) Forge in Lancaster County built by James Old in 1760 which was still active when Ebeling wrote his history in 1797. Pool Forge was located on the west side of Manatawny Creek directly above where the Ironstone Creek enters it and it was about a mile south of Rutter's Forge and north of McCall's or Glasgow Forge in Douglass Township, Berks County. Pool was built to use Colebrook Dale's iron and both companies had their shareholders intermixed. The name is often spelled Poole in early records. In the initial forge book the first entry is dated "1725 8mo 5day" and the original members of the forge company, given as James Lewis & Co. in later records, were James Lewis, Alexander Wooderup, Francis Rawlins, and Robert Griffiths. The cost to the shareholders of the forge for the first three years amounted to £1,608. The shareholders changed during its forty-year life span and Anthony Morris gained a share. In March of 1725, the shareholders of Pool Forge petitioned the Quarter Sessions Court that a road the Proprietary had built from Pine Forge to the "Great" road gave owner Thomas Rutter an unfair advantage.

The forge was in operation for parts of 1725 to the 1740s and sporadically in the 1750s. Even initially, it was part of the Potts production and distribution system. In 1747, George Mifflin, who also owned shares in Mt. Pleasant Furnace and Spring Forge in Berks County, put "Eight twelfths and 5 6ths of a twelfth, of Pool Forge in Philadelphia county, with...about 834 acres" up for sale. Perhaps obtaining some of this share, Thomas Potts (1680-1752) became a shareholder in the forge in the late 1740s and perhaps eventually its manager. The Potts family took over the forge, initially renting and eventually becoming majority shareholders. John Potts (1710-1768) was involved in its management from the late 1740s to the early 1750s. It was listed on Gov. William Denny's 1757 list as having made 313 tons of iron in the previous four years. Scull's 1759 map indicates it was active at that time. It may have been open after that but was definitely closed by 1765 when the heirs of the original owners sold the land to two Philadelphia merchants. Of interest, it is listed presumably as active on William Scull's 1770 map.

The Historical Society of Berks County has the Lewis family Account Book (1725-1853).

| <b>Pool Forge volume</b> | <b>Dates</b> | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Daybook                  | 1748-1753    | 680                   |

**Potts Family Furnaces (72 vols.)**

The Potts family iron dynasty was founded by Thomas Potts (c1680-1752), a Germantown butcher who rented the Thomas Rutter-built Colebrook Dale Furnace and Rutter's Forge (later Pine Forge) in 1725. Within the next several years he began purchasing shares of the iron company and the Potts family replaced the Rutter family as the major iron producers in the state. At his death in 1752, Thomas Potts owned a majority share of Colebrook Dale Furnace and Pine Forge and had built Mt. Pleasant

Furnace and Spring Forge. Thomas and son John also began operating Pool Forge at this time. Potts' major contribution to the Pennsylvania and colonial iron industry was his development and implementation of the concept of the mass production of iron. He took a "cottage-industry" and in spite of England's discouragement, started it on the road to industrialization. His sons continued and enhanced that progression.

Two of Potts' sons, John (1710-1768) and Thomas (c1720-1762) were involved in the iron industry. John ran Mr. Pleasant Furnace for the family in the late 1730s and early 1740s but moved to manage Warwick Furnace for his in-laws. The Rock Run Furnace Book (1744-1747) at the Pennsylvania State Archives shows he was also involved with that ironwork. About this time he began keeping personal accounts of his iron dealings. These books were labeled "Pottsgrove." He owned Pine Forge at his father's death. Thomas managed Mt. Pleasant and received Colebrook Dale and Spring Forge when his father died. In 1751 John purchased 945 acres from Samuel McCall. He built Pottsgrove Manor near the conflux of the Manatawny Creek and the Schuylkill River and moved there. He established his "Headquarters" (which included a company store which supplied all his works) next to the manor. After considering briefly changing his company's name to "Pottsylvania" he again used Pottsgrove and began keeping books to record his activities. He build Pottsgrove Forge and several mills immediately to the east of Pottsgrove Manor and he ran his iron production and distribution system from there until his death.

At the time of the establishment of his "headquarters," John Potts was forty-one years old and his iron empire would become the largest pre-Revolutionary War industrial business enterprise in Pennsylvania and maybe the entire Colonies. His "integrated" holdings included mines, furnaces and forges, grist and saw mills, immense timberlands, and trading interests in Pennsylvania and Virginia. Potts also obtained a majority interest in Mt. Joy, later Valley Forge in 1757. In 1761, John began laying out the town of Pottsgrove, now Pottstown.

John Potts had thirteen children of whom nine were boys and most of whom were involved in the iron industry. They ran the Potts furnaces and forges during the Revolution and their descendants remained in the Pennsylvania iron industry for decades. The Potts collection itself needs further investigation and work, which will be forth coming. The papers include a large collection of Greenway & Yorke, Yorke & Potts, Thomas Potts & Co., and Robert Enoch Hobart ledgers. These were the firms that handled the transportation of iron and supplied the Potts ironworks with merchandise. Greenway & Yorke were originally located in Germantown but Potts eventually opened a store in Philadelphia.

The Hagley Museum and Library has a large microfilmed collection of Potts-Rutter papers, 1714-1839, (Collection 1699) and the originals are located at the Pottstown Historical Society; and the Pennsylvania State Archives also has a large collection of Potts family papers 1704-1853 (Manuscript Group 104.) Also, the HSP has other Potts books and papers in various collections including a Ledger, 22 June 1768-20 January 1779, of cash accounts against the Estate of John Potts.

| <b>Potts Family Furnaces volumes</b> | <b>Dates</b>          | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Pottsgrove Headquarters Ledgers      | 1755-1757; 1762- 1765 | 681-682               |

|   |   |         |
|---|---|---------|
| Pottsgrove Headquarters Journals                                      | 1758-1769; 1759-1765  | 683-684 |
| Pottsgrove Daybooks   | 1755-57; 1816   | 685-686 |
| Pottsgrove Forge Store Daybooks                                       | 1758-1762; 1759-1761  | 687-688 |
| Pottstown Journals  | 1789-1795; 1824-1825  | 689-690 |
| Pottstown Mill Wastebook  | 1772-1773   | 691     |
| Pottsgrove/Philadelphia/<br>Pottstown/Reading Daybook                 | 1767-1772   | 692     |
| John Potts Ledgers  | 1739-1740; 1744-1749;<br>1758-1769; 1757-1759;<br>1764-1773; 1765-1767;<br>1769-1771; 1770-1775;<br>1805-1807; 1810-1815;<br>1816-1840; 1824-1825 | 693-704 |
| John Potts Loan Receipt Book  | 1755-1759   | 705     |
| Jonathan Potts Ledger   | 1774  | 706     |
| Jonathan Potts Cash Books   | 1768-1782   | 707-708 |
| Samuel Potts Ledger   | 1772-1793   | 709     |
| Thomas Rutter and Samuel Potts<br>Ledgers                             | 1773-1787; 1782-1783  | 710-711 |
| William Potts Ledger  | 1798-1816   | 712     |
| Potts Day Book  | 1764-1769   | 713     |
| Potts Journal   | 1767-1774   | 714     |
| William John Potts List of<br>Employees at W. Jersey                  | 1869  | 715     |
| William John Potts miscellaneous<br>volume with genealogical material | n.d.  | 716     |
| Greenway & Yorke, Yorke & Potts<br>Day Book                           | 1742-1754   | 717     |
| Greenway & Yorke, Yorke & Potts<br>Journal                            | 1749-1759   | 718     |
| Greenway & Yorke, Yorke & Potts<br>Ledgers                            | 1737-1751; 1753-1767;<br>1759-1765  | 719-721 |
| Pratt & Took (later Hobart)<br>Daybooks                               | 1764-1775; 1765-1775  | 722-723 |
| Pratt & Took (later Hobart)<br>Ledger                                 | 1764-1775   | 724     |
| Mt. Joy Daybook   | 1762-1772   | 725     |
| Mt. Joy Ledgers   | 1757-1768   | 726-729 |
| Mt. Joy Journal   | 1757-1761; 1759-1763  | 730-731 |
| Popadickon Day Books  | 1744-1755   | 732-733 |
| Popadickon Ledger   | 1744-1751   | 734     |



|  |            |         |
|--|------------|---------|
| Miscellaneous volume<br>(Mathematics, geometry,<br>surveying, sailing, account<br>keeping) | 1757, n.d. | 735     |
| John Potts, Jr. Law Book   | 1770       | 736     |
| Joseph Miminn Surveying notes<br>Book  | 1799-1801  | 737     |
| Copper Mine stock account book   | 1805-1807  | 738     |
| Copper Mine Blank Stock<br>Certificates  | 1806       | 739     |
| J.D. Potts Pig Iron Data Book  | 1883-1888  | 740     |
| Checkbooks   | 1880-1895  | 741-752 |

**Pottsgrove Forge (5 vols.) Potts Ironwork**

In 1751, John Potts (1710-1768) purchased two tracts of land comprising 995 acres in Philadelphia County from Samuel McCall, Jr. of Philadelphia. In 1752, he built Pottsgrove Manor and established his company headquarters, which he called Pottsgrove, near the manor. Shortly after, he built Pottsgrove Forge on this property. (Identification of the company, store and forge books at the HSP should be done with caution as they are all named Pottsgrove.) The forge was located on the Manatawny Creek shortly above where it enters the Schuylkill and also contained a mill and sawmill. Originally part of New Hanover Township in Philadelphia County, the area eventually became Pottstown. The forge received its iron from Colebrook Dale and Warwick Furnaces.

About 1758, keeping ownership, Potts began renting his various ironworks to companies composed of his sons and kin. Under the name of Thomas Potts & Company, Potts' sons Thomas, Samuel, and John began renting Warwick Furnace, Coventry, Pine Forge, Pottsgrove Forge, land Valley Forge. Pottsgrove Forge is shown as "Osgrove" and active on Scull's 1759 map. About 1762, Thomas Potts filed for bankruptcy because of the collapse of a company that he had been running with his uncle, Thomas Yorke. The financial failure of Yorke & Potts also affected Thomas Potts & Company. As a result, while the Potts brother's company did not dissolve, Pine Forge and Pottsgrove Forge were rented to Thomas May (1731-1792). May rented Pottsgrove from Thomas Potts & Company from 1762 to 1764 and Pine Forge from 1762 to 1773 at the rate of £400 a year for the forge and the African slaves who worked there. After 1764 Pottsgrove Forge was probably closed. Although the Pottsgrove mill on the forge property still functioned for a number of years, the forge is not mentioned in records after this time and is not listed in John Potts' 1768 will.

Pottsgrove Forge books are located with HSP Potts Family Collection 520. See also Elk Forge Ledger (1762-1764) during May's tenure. Pottsgrove Manor in Pottstown has a Ledger.

**See Potts Family Furnaces volume listing starting on page 39.**

**Reading Furnace (31 vols.) Berks County Ege Ironwork**

Montgomery indicates that about 1794, George Ege (1748-1829) abandoned Berkshire Furnace and in the same year erected Reading Furnace several miles to the west on Spring Creek, in Heidleberg Township, Berks County about three miles from Womelsdorf. There was also another Reading Furnace (1736-1783) in Chester County. Ege owned Cornwall ore rights and the furnace's ore came from there. Although he remained living at Charming Forge, in 1807 Ege built a mansion house on the property for the manager. Ege carried on the works until 1824 when it became vested in his creditors and he died in 1829. All of Ege's property, including Reading Furnace, was sold at public sale in 1836 and included with the furnace were six to seven thousand acres lying in Berks, Lebanon, and Lancaster Counties which was mostly woodland. Between the estate sale and 1844, the property changed hands several times. In 1845, Henry P. Robeson, an ironmaster of Dauphin County, obtained the furnace and lands. The furnace was run under the name Robeson & Brooke. They improved it by the erection of an anthracite furnace shortly after purchase in 1845, which eventually became known as Robesonia Furnace. They built another furnace on the property and by then the entire works were known as Robesonia. In 1858 White, Ferguson & Company purchased the property. The furnace provided iron to Charming Forge and Schuylkill Forge. See information on Berkshire and Robesonia Furnaces.

The Historical Society of Berks County has Account Books (1799-1804, 1818-1826) and a Ledger (1802-1809).

| Reading Furnace volumes | Dates                           | Volume numbers |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Daybooks                | 1793-1814                       | 753-759        |
| Journals                | 1793-1810; 1828-1829            | 760-767        |
| Ledgers                 | 1792-1801; 1811-1816            | 768-772        |
| Cash Books              | 1793-1801; 1805-1822; 1836-1850 | 773-778        |
| Time Books              | 1794-1801; 1824-1829            | 779-780        |
| Receipt Book            | 1845-1851                       | 781            |
| Pig Iron Book           | 1828-1836                       | 782            |
| Blast Book              | 1852-1857                       | 783            |

**Robesonia Furnace (Reading's successor) (1 vol.) Ege, Robeson Ironwork**

In 1845, Henry P. Robeson purchased George Ege's old Reading Furnace and the furnace lands surrounding it. The furnace was located on Spring Creek, in Heidleberg Township, Berks County about three miles from Womelsdorf, near the Lebanon County line. Run under the name of Robeson, Brooke and Company, the firm also purchased nearby Charming Forge. Robeson, an ironmaster who had previously managed the Colebrook Furnace in Lebanon County, immediately began to improve the works with an addition to the mansion and several office buildings and tenant houses. The ore was hauled from Cornwall. In 1854, the firm built a new stack and sold Charming Forge the

following year to manager Andrew Taylor. The Lebanon Railroad came through the area at this time expediting and reducing the cost of obtaining ore from Cornwall. The furnace became known as Robesonia about this time. In 1855, Robeson started building the town of Robeson.

Robeson died in 1860 and the furnace came under the management of his son-in-law William White who ran it as White, Ferguson and Company, which by 1875 had become Ferguson, White and Company. The works surrounding the furnace grew, as did the town for the workers. In 1885 the Robesonia Iron Company was formed with William White taking on new partners. W. C. Freeman was the first chairman. The complex continued to produce iron and steel into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1923 the company was incorporated. Bethlehem Steel obtained the corporation in 1927 and the furnace closed. See Reading Furnace for more information.

The Pennsylvania State Archives has a Ledger (1898-1913), Manuscript Group 2 and the Coleman Collection, 1757-1940, Manuscript Group 182, contains information on the later years.

| <b>Robesonia Furnace volume</b> | <b>Dates</b> | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Pig Iron Orders                 | 1875-1884    | 784                   |

#### **Roxborough Furnace (2 vols.) Bird, Patton Ironwork**

Roxborough Furnace, also known locally as “Roxberry,” was built in 1755 by William Bird (1703-1762). It was located on a branch of Spring Creek, in Lower Heidelberg Township, about two miles southwest of Wernersville in Berks County. The iron ore used there initially came from South Mountain. After Bird’s death in 1762, Berkshire was part of Bird’s estate. Account books show that John Patton (d. c1790) and Bird’s son Mark (1739-1816) under “Patton & Bird,” ran the furnace in 1762. Patton married Bird’s widow and Walker indicates that Mark Bird transferred Berkshire to his mother and John Patton; other sources indicate Patton purchased it. Regardless, John Patton acquired the property in 1764 for £2,550 and carried on the furnace, renaming it Berkshire about 1767. The furnace was eventually leased to George Ege who acquired it from Bridget Patton in 1790.

See information on Berkshire Furnace and Reading Furnace. The Pennsylvania State Archives has a “Roxberry” Account Book, 1760-1762.

| <b>Roxborough Furnace volumes</b> | <b>Dates</b> | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Daybook                           | 1756-1762    | 785                   |
| Ledger A                          | 1755-1765    | 786                   |

#### **St. Charles Furnace (3 vols.) Grubb Ironwork**

St. Charles Furnace was located on the northern boundary line of Columbia Borough in Lancaster County and located on the Pennsylvania Railroad. It was built in 1852 by Clement Brooke Grubb (1815-1889). In 1872, Grubb formed a company with his son to run the furnace. It was still owned in 1883 by C. B. Grubb and Son who noted the

“Stack fifty-three by fourteen.” St. Charles was closely associated with Columbia Furnace, which was also located in Lancaster County. Pearse notes it was originally named Henry Clay Furnace but this seems to be a separate furnace located a mile farther up the shore of the river. The furnace used anthracite and was active in 1883.

See also HSP Collection 1488 for Grubb family papers on Furnace (1854-1861).

| <b>St. Charles Furnace volumes</b> | <b>Date</b> | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Daybook                            | 1853-1877   | 787                   |
| Journal                            | 1856-1858   | 788                   |
| Ledger                             | 1855-1880   | 789                   |

### **Sarum (Seram) Forge (2 vols.) Taylor, Potts Ironwork**

Located in Thornbury Township in Chester County (later Delaware County), on Crum Creek, it was built about 1739 by John Taylor, a physician and surveyor. A slitting mill and rolling mill were added to the works in 1746 and were in use in 1750. (This predated the Iron Act of 1750 and made the works potentially more valuable after the passage of the act.) Taylor’s brother-in-law, Samuel Savage, was a partner in the newly built (1737) Warwick Furnace and Sarum was built to receive iron from Warwick Furnace. On 13 August 1743, Obadiah Bonsall petitioned the Chester County Court for permission to keep a tavern on the road leading from French Creek to Thornbury Forge because of “many reporting to and working at [or] near the said forge.” Taylor died intestate in 1756 and Israel Acrelius noted that Sarum belonged to Taylor’s heirs and had three stacks.

In 1756, John Taylor’s property, including the Sarum Complex, was divided between his heirs. Ashmede however, indicates that the works are said to have been conducted by his son, John Taylor, for some time but: “Certain it is that in 1766 Sarum Forge was operated by John Chamberlain, and he was in occupancy of the four acres upon which the mill stood. In 1770, John Thomson had succeeded Chamberlain in possession of the works. In 1775 the estate was divided between the heirs of John Taylor, and in February of that year Anthony Wayne, who ...surveyed the property preparatory to the partition being made among the heirs.”

Although the “Mill or Engine for Slitting and Rolling Iron” was closed by 1775, it had been built before the restrictions of the Iron Act. The Potts family decided renovating the works met the letter of the law although not the spirit. Consequently, on 13 March 1775, a partition deed was made for the Taylor heirs and on 19 March 1775, Joseph Potts (1742-1804) purchased land in Thornbury, Aston, and Middletown Townships on the Chester Creek that contained Taylor’s old slitting mill. The deed is complex as Thomas Bull (1744-1837), his son-in-law Perisor Frazer (1736/7-1792), and James Thomson were also involved as partners with Joseph Potts in obtaining the slitting mill, and Frazer the forge. Potts reopened the slitting mill. The forge closed during the Revolution but in 1779 the old slitting mill was rebuilt, and was operated by Norris Jones. “Starum” Forge is shown on Samuel Potts’ 1789 list as active.

Jones and Abraham Sharpless were occupying it in 1781 and in 1784. Shown as active on Potts’ 1789 list, the forge and mill were sold and rented numerous times and finally closed in the early 1800s. The Glen Mills were built on the property in the 1830s.

| <b>Sarum (Seram) Forge volumes</b> | <b>Dates</b> | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Daybook                            | 1767-1771    | 790                   |
| Ledger                             | 1767-1771    | 791                   |

**Schuylkill Forge (19 vols.) Ege, Coleman Ironwork**

Schuylkill Forge was built in 1796 on the Little Schuylkill (Tamaqua) Creek, in Brunswick Township, originally Berks County but later Schuylkill County, by George Ege (1748-1829). It was located a short distance from Port Clinton. It received its iron from Ege's Reading Furnace and his Charming Forge is mentioned in the Schuylkill Forge books. He ran it until his death in 1829. It was sold with the estate in 1836 and abandoned by the 1850s. Ege's daughter Rebecca married Joseph Old, who appears to have been involved in running it at that time. The property contained six thousand acres.

The Hagley Museum and Library has a Forge Ledger, 1797-1801.

| <b>Schuylkill Forge volumes</b> | <b>Dates</b>         | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Daybooks                        | 1796-1810; 1836-1837 | 792-798               |
| Journals                        | 1796-1804; 1811-1816 | 799-801               |
| Ledgers                         | 1796-1801; 1803-1807 | 802-804               |
| Cash Books                      | 1801-07; 1819-26     | 805-807               |
| Time/Coal and Cordwood Books    | 1799-1804; 1818-1826 | 808-809               |
| Provisions Book                 | 1797-1801            | 810                   |

**Speedwell Forge (52 vols.) Lebanon County, Old, Coleman Ironwork**

James Old and David Caldwell, a Philadelphia merchant, built Speedwell Forge on Hammer Creek in Lebanon County about 1760. The tract is now in Elizabeth Township. It was located about three miles from Elizabeth Furnace, from where it received its iron. (There was a different Speedwell Forge on Angelica Creek in Cumru Twp. in Berks County built by Philip Seidel and in 1815 obtained by Daniel Yocem or Yocum, and another in Morristown New Jersey.) In 1762, Old purchased Caldwell's interest for 4,000 pounds and the property at that time contained 1,700 acres. In 1768, Old went to Reading Furnace in Chester County and his son William (who had married a daughter of Henry William Stiegel) took over the on-site management. It is shown on William Scull's 1770 map as "Olds Forge." Hermelin lists it in 1783 as, "Old's Forge and having 3 hammers and 3 fires and purchased 150 tons of iron annually." In 1785, while at Reading Furnace in Chester County, Old sold the property to son-in-law Robert Coleman.

It is shown as active on Samuel Potts' 1789 list. Coleman operated the forge, eventually making his son William the manager. William Coleman remained there until

1801 when he became manager of the Cornwall complex. In 1809, when Coleman retired, his brother James, who ran it as James Coleman and Company, managed Speedwell Forge together with the Elizabeth Furnace and the Martic works. James' sons, Robert and George Dawson Coleman, eventually obtained ownership.

There are Speedwell Forge Mill books, 1834-1838 and 1842-1853 at the Pennsylvania State Archives in Manuscript Group 182.

| <b>Speedwell Forge volumes</b> | <b>Dates</b>                    | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Daybooks                       | 1784-1811; 1816-1828; 1848-1870 | 811-815               |
| Journals                       | 1784-1849                       | 816-822               |
| Ledgers                        | 1784-1869                       | 823-828, 830          |
| Index to Vol. 827 (Ledger)     | 1832-1848                       | 829                   |
| Cash Books                     | 1788-1814; 1832-1869            | 831-836               |
| Time Books                     | 1806-1846; 1856-1878            | 837-842               |
| Record Books                   | 1819-1822; 1831-1832; 1840-1860 | 843-845               |
| Mill Books                     | 1809-1819; 1837-1842            | 846-848               |
| Provisions Book                | 1814-1829                       | 849                   |
| Bar Iron Books                 | 1822-1849                       | 850-852               |
| Bar Iron and Anchonies         | 1784-1795; 1797-1808            | 853-854               |
| Anchonies and Blooms Book      | 1832-1848                       | 855                   |
| Bar, Pig Iron & Blooms Book    | 1848-1853                       | 856                   |
| Cordwood and Coal Book         | 1812-1861                       | 857-859               |
| Atlas of Lancaster Co.         | 1864                            | 860                   |
| Memorandum Book                | 1851-1868                       | 861                   |
| Miscellaneous                  | 1863-1882                       | 862                   |

**Spring Forge (41 vols.) York County, Ross, Coleman Ironwork**

There are several Spring Forges and identification should be done with caution. This Spring Forge was located in York County on Cordorus Creek and built about 1765. It was built by George Ross & Co., comprised of George Ross (1730-1780), William Thompson (1736-1781), and George Stevenson (1718-1783). During the war, Thompson was a General and Ross a Colonel of Militia. Ross also signed the Declaration of Independence. Spring Forge received its iron from the Mary Ann Furnace, also built by the same company. It is shown on William Scull's 1770 map. In 1777, when it was put up for sale, it had four fires and two hammers. Samuel Hermelin noted it as active in 1783 and purchasing 200 tons on iron annually. Between 1775 and 1815 the forge passed among several owners: Daniel Shireman (1775), John Brien (1800), David Eaton (1807), and eventually Robert Coleman (1815), who managed it for

several years. It is listed on Potts' 1789 list as active. The forge was operated by Coleman's son, Thomas Burd Coleman from 1817 to 1850 and was abandoned in 1851.

The Pennsylvania State Archives has some forge account books with their Cornwall Furnace collection, Manuscript Group 203, and a ledger (1765-1767), Manuscript Group 184. Additionally, the Hagley Museum and Library has a ledger (1772-1773).

| <b>Spring Forge volumes</b> | <b>Dates</b>                    | <b>Volume numbers</b> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Daybooks                    | 1815-1850                       | 863-864               |
| Journals                    | 1765-67; 1812-1836; 1848-1852   | 865-869               |
| Ledgers                     | 1767-1771; 1773-1775; 1806-1852 | 870-876               |
| Cash Books                  | 1773-1775; 1802-1813; 1823-1852 | 877-884               |
| Time Books                  | 1805-1852                       | 885-887               |
| Provision Books             | 1814-1862                       | 888-889               |
| Cordwood and Coal Book      | 1818-1848                       | 890                   |
| Bar Iron Books              | 1793-1795; 1805-1850            | 891-895               |
| Pig Iron Books              | 1818-1848                       | 896-897               |
| Bars and Blooms Books       | 1843-1852                       | 898-899               |
| Grain Books                 | 1834-1852                       | 900-902               |
| Supplies Book               | 1818-1848                       | 903                   |

**For Springton Forge (4 vols.) see Appendix A: Related Collections.**

**Springwell Forge (1 vol.)**

Springwell Forge was built by George Eckert, Sr. (1743-1824) in 1800. Eckert, a miller, owned land on both sides of the Pequea Creek in Strasburg and Leacock Townships, Lancaster County. Sometime in the 1770s, Eckert erected a grist and saw mill on this property, which is known today by the name of Osceola Mill. In 1800, he added the forge to the operation and by that time, the activities there also included a distillery. The books themselves make mention of a Ringwood Forge (1804-1805), Isaac Van Leer, Springton Forge, and Robert Coleman.

| <b>Springwell Forge volume</b> | <b>Dates</b> | <b>Volume number</b> |
|--------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Ledger                         | 1804-1805    | 904                  |

**Sylvan Forge (1 vol.)**

This appears to be the Sylvan Forge founded by J. Oliphant in 1796. It is located in Fayette County.

| Sylvan Forge volume | Date      | Volume number |
|---------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Journal             | 1809-1819 | 905           |

**Tulpehocken Forge (1 vol.) Ege Ironwork.**

John George Nikoll and Michael Miller erected Tulpehocken Forge, also called locally “Tulpehocken Eisenhammer” and later called Charming Forge, in 1749. It was located on the southeastern border of Tulpehocken Township on the Tulpehocken Creek in Berks County and is noted in a 1751 deed as the “Tulpehocken Works or Forge.” Montgomery states that by 1763, after several parties had purchased it, it was obtained by Henry William Stiegel (1729-1785). Stiegel then sold one-half interest to Charles and Alexander Stedman, who were merchants in Philadelphia. By 1770, Charles Stedman had purchased his brother’s share at sheriff’s sale and the forge became known at this time as Charming Forge. In 1773 the sheriff sold Stiegel’s undivided half interest to Paul Zeninger, a merchant of Lancaster who conveyed his interest to George Ege (1848-1829), ironmaster of York County. See Charming Forge for more information.

| Tulpehocken Forge volume | Dates     | Volume number |
|--------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Journal                  | 1754-1756 | 906           |

**Union Forge (13 vols.)**

Union Forge on the Swatara Creek in Lebanon County was built by Robert Coleman (1748-1825) who operated it, in 1783. Brobst’s Forge in Berks County was renamed Union Forge about 1820 when purchased by George Reagan. This is a different forge. The Pennsylvania State Archives has a Union Forge Journal 1796-1798 and two forge books, 1862-1877 (Manuscript Group 182).

| Union Forge volumes                     | Date                                       | Volume numbers |
|---|--|----------------|
| Daybooks                                | 1783-1792                                  | 907-911        |
| Journals                                | 1783-1795                                  | 912-915        |
| Ledgers                                 | 1783-1787; 1787-1789; 1789-1792; 1792-1795 | 916a-c, 917    |
| Time Book                               | 1783-1795                                  | 918            |
| Pig and Bar Iron/Coal and Cordwood Book | 1784-1795                                  | 919            |

**For Valley Works (1 vol.) Potts Ironwork see Appendix A: Related Collections.**



### **Warwick Furnace (18 vols.) Potts, Rutter Ironwork**

Samuel Nutt's heirs built Warwick Furnace in Chester County on the south branch of French Creek by 1737. Samuel Nutt had run the nearby Coventry Works in partnership with William Branson (1684-1760) but the partnership dissolved and both built separate furnaces: Branson built Reading Furnace in 1736 and would build the Windsor Forges in Churchtown, Lancaster County in 1742; and Nutt's family retained Coventry and built Warwick. Nutt became sick and his nephew, Samuel Nutt, Jr. and son-in-law Samuel Savage (1707-1742) probably built the actual structure. Nutt died about the time of its completion and the furnace ownership was equally distributed to his widow Anna (1686-1760), and to nephew Samuel Nutt and wife Rebecca. Nutt and Samuel Savage ran Warwick briefly but the younger Nutt died in 1739. Anna (Rutter) Savage Nutt and her daughter Rebecca were involved in managing the furnace. By September 1739, Anna and Rebecca Nutt were sending pig iron to Philadelphia.

In 1740, Anna Nutt gave one-fifth of the furnace from her share to Samuel and for the next several years the furnace was run under Samuel Savage & Co. In 1739, Savage's brother-in-law John Taylor built Sarum Forge to use Warwick's iron. Savage died in 1742. After Savage's death, several shareholders were involved in its management. Savage's widow married ironmaster George Taylor (1716-1784) who was involved in running both Warwick and Coventry Forge. In 1740, Robert Grace (1709-1766) had married Savage's sister, the widow Rebecca Nutt, and represented her interests in the partnership. John Potts (1710-1768), Anna's son-in-law, represented her interests and by the mid-1740s was renting Savage's portion and had taken over the management. During the 1750s Potts built Warwick into the largest charcoal iron furnace in Pennsylvania making it the "king-pin" for his iron empire. Potts eventually obtained a three-eighths ownership. It is shown as active on Nicholas Scull's 1759 map.

During the 1760s, Potts rented out the furnace to a series of companies comprised of his sons Thomas (1735-1785), Samuel (1736-1793), and John (1738-c1790) and each managed it for a time. Son Thomas obtained one-half ownership from the Graces, who were his in-laws. At John Potts, Sr.'s death in 1768, son John consolidated ownership and ran the furnace until 1770 when he sold it to his brother Samuel. It is shown as active on William Scull's 1770 map. In 1771, Thomas Rutter (1732-1795) purchased one-half from Samuel and it was this partnership that ran it until the 1790s. The partners contracted with the Pennsylvanian Government in 1775 to make cannon and other armaments. Warwick is also mentioned on Knox's Estimate of Ammunition showing munitions were made there throughout the war. In September 1777, the American Army camped in the French Creek Valley at Reading and Warwick Furnaces. During the war, Potts & Rutter purchased the lands belonging to Branson's old Reading Furnace in Chester County. Samuel Hermelin mentioned Warwick in 1783 as producing 900 tons annually. Schoepf also noted in the same year: "Warwick furnace, 19 miles from Reading, near to Pottsgrove, makes the most iron, often 40 tons a week."

After the war, as Potts and Rutter started investing in anthracite coal lands in what was then Berks County and needed capital, Samuel sold one-fourth of his interest in the furnace to Thomas Mayburry (1740-1797), which was eventually purchased back, and to Thomas May (1731-1792), who retained it until his death. Warwick is shown as active and producing 1,200 tons annually on Samuel Potts' 1789 list, the highest in Pennsylvania. Thomas May died in 1792, Samuel Potts in 1793 and Thomas Rutter in 1795 and there was a court fight as to whether the Rutter or Potts heirs would obtain a majority interest and run it. The Potts family "won" and Samuel's son David Potts

(c1762-1832), who was the manager of Joanna Furnace, became manager. His son, David Potts, Jr. (c1794-1863), who also served as a Congressman, ran it until the 1860s. Warwick declined after the Civil War being too far from markets. Nathaniel Potts closed it in 1867.

Thomas May's Wilmington Journal 1781-1794 with the Elk Forge books at the HSP has accounts during his ownership. The Chester County Historical Society has a Warwick Journal (1789-1792), and there is a 1744 Warwick Ledger at the Pottstown Historical Society.

| Warwick Forge volumes | Dates                                      | Volume numbers |
|-----------------------|--|----------------|
| Daybooks              | 1747-1748; 1750-1755                       | 920-923        |
| Journals              | 1748-1750; 1755-1760; 1765-1770            | 924-928        |
| Ledgers               | 1745-1756; 1757-1759, 1759-1762; 1767-1770 | 929-934        |
| Receipt Books         | 1752-1759; 1762-1765                       | 935-937        |
| Receipt book index    | 1762-1765                                  | 938            |

**For Windsor Forges (2 vols.) Branson, Jenkins Ironwork see Appendix A: Related Collections.**

**Unidentified Forges in Collection (17 vols.)**

| Volume  | Date      | Volume numbers |
|---|-----------|----------------|
| Daybook   | 1795-1797 | 939            |
| Ledger (prev. identified as "Schocken")   | 1757-1760 | 940            |
| Ledgers   | 1811-1872 | 941-946        |
| Account Book (Grubb furnace?)   | 1847-1856 | 947            |
| Anchonies Book  | 1803-1809 | 948            |
| Memo Book   | 1827-1834 | 949            |
| Index Books (950=Grubb-Coleman?; 951 and 952 are unidentified indexes; 953 is an index to Ledger A) | n.d.      | 950-953        |
| Settlement Book (Coleman?)  | 1846-1854 | 954            |
| Robert Smith inventory  | 1794-1819 | 955            |

## Appendix A: Related Collections at HSP

### Barree Forge (1 vol.) Dorsey Ironwork

Barree Forge was located at the junction of Spruce Creek and the Little Juniata River, opposite the Village of Barree, 2 miles north of Alexandria, Huntingdon County. It was located originally in Barree but later Porter Twp. In 1794, Edward Bartholomew of Chester County obtained several tracts of land from Lazarus McLane and with his son-in-law, Greenberry Dorsey, erected the forge. A second forge was built about 1800. It received its iron from Col. John Patton's and Col. Samuel Miles' Centre Furnace. Green(s)bury Dorsey was the on-site ironmaster there. Dorsey was originally a Philadelphia merchant. Swank in *Progressive Pennsylvania* indicates "Dorsey's iron from Baree Forge was for sale at Pittsburgh in October, 1805, by Thomas Crowwell." General Samuel Miles Green (1797-1878), Dorsey's son-in-law and later manager, and Dr. Jonathan H. Dorsey were proprietors in 1838 and Green remained there until 1875. The forge was run under Dorsey, Green & Co., who also rented Union Furnace. In 1883, J. Simson Africa in his *Huntingdon and Blair Counties* book, states the forge was still active and "a few years ago a furnace was added. Both are yet run on charcoal." Harris' *Pittsburgh Directory* of 1837 indicates that Barree's annual production of bar iron was 300 tons per year.

The Pennsylvania State Archives has some Greenbury Dorsey papers (1779-1788) in their manuscript collection. The Greenberry Dorsey papers at the HSP, in addition to the Barree Forge Daybook, contain over 300 items.

| <b>Located with Greenberry Dorsey Family Papers (Collection 1627)</b> |              |                   |
|---|--------------|-------------------|
| <b>Barree Forge volume</b>  | <b>Dates</b> | <b># of vols.</b> |
| Daybook [this item could not be located as of 1/13/2009]              | 1855         | 1                 |

### Columbia Furnace, Grubb Ironwork

Columbia Furnace was a Grubb family ironwork and the books are located with the Grubb family papers. It is closely associated with St. Charles Furnace. Columbia was built about 1840, and located in Columbia County.

| <b>Located with the Grubb Family Papers (HSP Collection 1488)</b> |              |              |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Columbia Furnace material</b>                                  | <b>Dates</b> | <b>Box #</b> |
| Columbia Furnace  | 1853-1860    | 9            |

### Cumberland Furnace (4 vols.), Ege Ironwork

Cumberland Furnace was built in Cumberland County about 1798/99 by Michael Ege (1750-1815). The furnace was located at the northeast corner of Pine Road and Sheaffer Road on the Yellow Breeches Creek. Ege is listed on the 1798 Direct Tax as having a furnace and sawmill in Dickinson Township and a slitting mill, gristmill, forge,

and steel furnace in Middletown Township. It may have had a forge sometime during its existence. Ege operated it along with other family interests until he died in 1815, when the furnace became the inheritance of his daughter, Elizabeth Ege Wilson and her husband James.

After Ege's ownership it changed hands numerous times. In 1821 the Wilsons mortgaged the furnace to a bank and the property was eventually foreclosed on. In 1835 the furnace was sold to Frederick Watts and Samuel Alexander, who also owned Caroline Furnace. In 1838, the furnace was sold to General T. C. Miller, who also operated it. In 1854 Dr. William Mateer leased it and it last produced iron in that year. Mateer apparently obtained the property for its water rights. Pearse notes that it was abandoned about 1854 with Cumberland Forge for want of charcoal.

**Located with Thomas G. Norris papers (Collection 1830)**

| <b>Cumberland Furnace volumes</b>    | <b>Dates</b> | <b># of vols.</b> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Miscellaneous Record book            | 1798-1808    | 1                 |
| Charcoal Book                        | 1878         | 1                 |
| Cordwood Book                        | 1878         | 1                 |
| Analysis Book (of various iron ores) | 1880-1901    | 1                 |

**Danville Furnace (21 vols.)**

Danville Furnace is located in Danville, Montour County, Pennsylvania, and it was built 1867.

**Located with the Uriah Hunt Painter papers (HSP Collection 1669)**

| <b>Danville Furnace volumes</b>  | <b>Dates</b>      | <b>Boxes/Vols.</b> |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| Danville Furnace papers, including correspondence, receipted bills, other accounts and records | ca. 1879-ca. 1884 | 5 boxes            |
| Danville Furnace ledgers and accounts books  | ca. 1879-ca. 1884 | 6 vols.            |

**Grubb Family Papers (Collection 1488)**

The Grubb papers include business accounts of Peter (1740-1786) and Henry Bates Grubb (1774-1823), early iron masters of Pennsylvania. The Grubb family controlled the Cornwall ore mines and Cornwall Furnace, Hopewell Forge, Mt. Vernon Furnace, Mt. Hope Furnace, Codorus Forge, and Manada Furnace, among others. The family was established by Peter Grubb (1700-1754) who founded and developed the Cornwall ore banks in 1732. The Grubb iron empire was established around this ore, the richest deposit in the United States until the mid-1800s. Peter Grubb built Hopewell Forge about 1737, which was a bloomery forge. It was built near the mines and located in Lancaster County (later Lebanon County). In 1742, Grubb built Cornwall Furnace and Hopewell Mansion where he lived. He operated the complex until 1745 when the Cornwall Company was formed. The Grubbs leased the furnace and mines to this company from 1745 to 1763.

Peter Grubb died intestate in 1754, and his sons Peter (1740-1786) and Curtis (1733-1789) took over the lease and ran the furnace during the Revolution. Both served in the militia; Peter as the Lt. Col. of the 8<sup>th</sup> battalion of the Lancaster County militia and Curtis as the Col. of the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion. During 1776/77, while Warwick made cannons for the Provincial government, the Grubbs made cannon and armaments for the Continental government. After the war, with Curtis keeping Cornwall Furnace and Hopewell Forge, Peter built Mount Hope Furnace in 1785 and engaged in iron production, drawing ore from the Cornwall mines. Peter died in 1786 and Curtis in 1789. At Peter's death, the orphan's court appointed twelve men, including Samuel Potts and George Ross, to make partition of the estate between Curtis, Robert Coleman, and Peter's two sons, which was done. During the next decade, Robert Coleman purchased ownership shares of the ore rights and various ironworks from the sons of both Peter and Curtis. By his death in 1825, Coleman owned almost all of the original Grubb iron empire. However, the sons and grandsons of Peter and Curtis remained in the iron industry and purchased and ran many existing ironworks in the 1800s.

The Pennsylvania State Archives has a large amount of Grubb material (Cornwall Furnace Collection, Manuscript Collection 203, Cornwall and Hopewell Forge Account Books, Manuscript Collection 364.) Additionally, the Hagley Museum and Library in Delaware also has a large number of Grubb account books and business papers, 1818-1854; and the University of Delaware has Grubb Family Papers, 1737-1940, Manuscript Collection number 355. See also other HSP Grubb Family Collections (1488, 1967A, and 1967B.)

| <b>Box or volume number</b> | <b>Box title</b>   |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Box 1                       | St. Charles Furnace states of working, 1854-1857<br>St. Charles Furnace draft of erection  |
| Box 2                       | St. Charles Furnace invoices, 1856-1863<br>Chestnut Hill ore book, labor reports, 1857-1861<br>Chestnut Hill orders for pig iron, 1859-1862  |
| Box 3                       | Statements of working, 1858-1861<br>Miscellaneous, 1854-1856   |
| Box 4                       | Henry Clay Furnace statements of working, 1852-1853<br>Manada business papers, 1837-1862<br>Manada records of castings, 1840-1848<br>Manada ore shipments, 1853-1863<br>Miscellaneous surveys, n. d.<br>Union Canal permits for boats, 1849-1850 |
| Box 5                       | Chestnut Hill ore bank reports, 1851-1863  |
| Box 6                       | Cornwall weight and ore accounts, 1849-1851<br>Grubb account books (4), 1850-1851, 1836-1844, 1837-1844, 1855-1862<br>Pass books (6) – David Hughes accounts<br>Manada ore weights, 1845<br>Manada account books (5), n.d.                       |
| Box 7                       | Manheim and Lebanon Plank Road correspondence, 1852-1862<br>Manheim and Lebanon Plank Road tonnage and tolls, n.d.   |

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| Box 8  | Miscellaneous business papers, 1814-1869 (bulk 1834-1869)   |
| Box 9  | Grubb correspondence, 1834-1848<br>Columbia Furnace, 1853-1860<br>Miscellaneous receipts, 1856-1860<br>Circular Letters and miscellaneous, n.d. |
| Vol. 1 | Henry Grubb estate – land surveys   |

**Hanover Furnace and Mary Ann Forge (17 vols.), Jones Ironwork**

Hanover Furnace and Mary Ann Forge books are part of the Jones family papers, owners of the furnace and forge which was located in Pemberton Township, at Bridgewater in Burlington County, New Jersey. It was built in 1791 on Rancocas Creek. Benjamin Jones (1761-1849) had married Mary Howell, a descendant of one of the founders of Hanover Furnace, in 1797. By 1811, Jones had acquired full control of the furnace, just as it reached its full peak during the War of 1812, when both cannon and cannon balls were made there. During the 1820s, Jones suffered bankruptcy, but by 1826 he had regained control of Hanover Furnace. In the next few years he acquired a share in Gloucester Furnace in Atlantic County, and also built Mary Ann Forge to refine Hanover pig iron. Hanover Furnace is said to have made much of the pipe used in Philadelphia's early water system. The furnace closed in 1864.

The New Jersey Historical Society has Hanover Furnace papers with the Joseph Cox Field Book, 1853-1861, Manuscript Collection 854.

**Located with Jones and Taylor family papers (Collection 2037)**

| Hanover Furnace and Mary Ann Forge volumes                                   | Dates     | Volume numbers |
|--|-----------|----------------|
| Benjamin Jones: Letterbook including drafts by A.M. Jones                    | 1834-1847 | 1              |
| Jones & Howell Receipt Book (Continued by Benjamin Jones & his executors)    | 1810-1855 | 2              |
| Account book (Continued after Benjamin Jones's death)                        | 1818-1849 | 3              |
| Ledger   | 1821-1849 | 6              |
| Daybook  | 1821-1849 | 7              |
| Cashbook   | 1827-1844 | 8              |
| Cashbook   | 1844-1869 | 9              |
| Account Book: A.M. Jones & A.S. Morris as executors of Benjamin Jones estate | 1849-1874 | 10             |
| Andrew M. Jones: Ledger  | 1823-1854 | 11             |
| Andrew M. Jones: Letterbook  | 1823-1852 | 12             |
| Andrew M. Jones: Daybook   | 1835-1854 | 13             |
| Andrew M. Jones: Letterbook  | 1851-1861 | 14             |
| Journal as executor of the estate of James Cooper                            | 1839-1870 | 15             |

|   |           |    |
|---|-----------|----|
| Receipt book  | 1822-1855 | 19 |
| Receipt book as administrator to William J Taylor I | 1864-1871 | 20 |
| Harvey Beck Receipt Book                            | 1821-1835 | 41 |
| Harvey Beck Receipt Book                            | 1836-1843 | 42 |

**Located with Thompson Family Papers (Collection 654)**

| <b>Hanover Furnace and Mary Ann Forge volumes</b> | <b>Dates</b>    | <b>Volume number</b> |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|
| Hanover Furnace Company, daybook & ledger         | 1793-1795, 1803 | 60                   |

**Henry Clay Furnace (2 vols.), Grubb Furnace, Grubb Ironwork**

Ellis and Evans state Peter Haldeman, a merchant of Columbia in 1844/5 in West Hempfield, Lancaster County, built the Henry Clay Furnace. There was also a Henry Clay Furnace in Berks County at Reading. It was located on the Susquehanna River near Marieta and up-river from the St. Charles Furnace. Montgomery notes that it had a second stack built in 1854. In 1857 Clement Brooke Grubb (1815-1889) and James McCormick purchased it. The furnace remained idle from 1857 to 1863, when it was purchased by a group of men. It changed hands again and eventually was obtained by a company comprised of Clement Brooke Grubb and his son in 1872. They obtained the St. Charles Furnace at the same time. The furnace used anthracite coal.

The Hagley Museum and Library has an Account Book (1853-1854) with their Grubb papers. See HSP Collection 1488, for Grubb Family papers relating to the furnace (1852-1853). The Pennsylvania State Archives has a large collection Henry Clay Furnace records (Manuscript Group 260) but this was the Berks County furnace run by the Eckert family.

**Located with Grubb Family papers (Collection 1488)**

| <b>Henry Clay Furnace volumes</b> | <b>Date</b> | <b>Box number</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Statements of Working             | 1852-1853   | 3                 |

**Manada Furnace (3 vols.) Grubb Ironwork**

Egle indicates that Manada Furnace was built on Manada Creek, a tributary of Swatara Creek, in the northwest part of East Hanover Township in Dauphin County at Sand Beach in 1836 near the site of the old "Fort Manada." Gen. Timothy Green bought the land on which Manada Furnace would later be built. He built a house that was later used as the iron master's house. In March 1785 Dauphin County was established. Green sold the land to Henry Bates Grubb (1774-1823) in 1803. Grubb's sons Clement Brooke Grubb (1815-1889) and Edward Burd Grubb (1810-1867) built the furnace. The furnace embraced some 2,500 acres. Their partnership ended in 1855. In 1856, Manada Furnace was the only charcoal furnace in the county.

During the Civil War, the owners of Manada Furnace were able to get Confederate prisoners out of Camp Curtin for use as woodcutters and laborers. The ore came from the Grubb's Chestnut Hill mine or from the Cornwall mines via the Union Canal to

Lebanon. From there it was brought by wagon to the furnace. In addition to making pig iron, the furnace did some casting of products. The metal was sent to the Swatara railroad station for transport. From 1837-1848 the furnace produced over 22,000 tons of iron. Swank does not mention it in 1876 and it was definitely closed by 1883.

The Hagley Museum and Library has an Account Book (1841-1844): and Hopewell NHS has a Journal on microfilm (1837-1841). See also Grubb Family papers at HSP (Collection 1488) for papers on the furnace (1837-1862).

**Located with Grubb Family Papers (Collection 1488)**

| <b>Manada Furnace volumes</b> | <b>Dates</b> | <b>Box number</b> |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Business Papers               | 1837-1862    | 4                 |
| Records of Castings           | 1840-1848    | 4                 |
| Ore Shipments                 | 1853-1863    | 4                 |
| Ore Weights                   | 1845         | 6                 |
| Account books (5)             | n.d.         | 6                 |

**Pine Grove Furnace (1 vol.), Ege Ironwork**

The Pine Grove Furnace was located in Cumberland County 14 miles southeast of Carlisle and 17 miles from the Susquehanna River. Mercer indicates that Robert Thornburg and John Arthur built it in 1770 but the exact date an ironwork was built on the property is unknown. It was located on Mountain Creek, a branch of Yellow Breeches Creek in what is now Cook Township. George Stevenson (1718-1783) purchased the property from Samuel Pope in 1762. Stevenson, who later built Mary Ann Furnace in York County, and his wife, sold it by deed in 1772 to Findlay McGrew. McGrew erected a sawmill and sold it to Jacob Simons who owned it in 1782. Simons sold the property to Michael Ege (1750-1815) of Middleton Township, and Joseph and Thomas Thornburg of West Pennsborough. In the deed the property is noted as the Pine Grove Iron-works. It was noted by Schoepf in 1783 as "Mr. Eger's iron-works," so Ege could have been the on-site manager prior to buying it. The works were considerably enlarged and by 1792, it was owned by Ege (one-half), Thomas Thornburg (three-eighths) and John Arthur as resident manager, (one-eighth). It was shown as active on Samuel Potts' 1789 list.

By 1803, Michael Ege, who also owned the nearby Mt. Holly Iron Works, owned the entire furnace. Ege died in 1815, and the furnace went to son Peter Ege the following year. In 1830, Peter added Laurel Forge. Ege went into receivership in 1835 and the sheriff sold the property in 1843 to the Watts family. William Watts successfully ran the furnace until the 1860s. In 1864, the property was purchased and run by the South Mountain Iron Company and Keefer gives an excellent description of the works after that time. Pearse notes that it was built in 1770 and ran until recently (1876), and had, in 1870, the last extant specimens of the old single acting wooden blowing tubs. The property is currently a State Park.

The Pennsylvania State Archives has a Pine Grove Furnace Records Collection, 1785-1914 (Manuscript Group 175). Winterthur in Delaware has a Day Book for Pine Grove (1788-1789).



**Located with the Thomas G. Norris papers (Collection 1830.)**

| Pine Grove Furnace volume | Dates     | # of vols. |
|---------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Day Book                  | 1789-1790 | 1          |

**Springton Forge (4 vols.)**

The Springton Forge (also given locally as “Springtown Forge”) was built about 1770 in the south-central part of West Nantmell (which later became part of Wallace Township), Chester County on East Brandywine Creek immediately downstream from Rebecca Furnace near Downingtown. It was located adjacent to what is now the county-owned Springton Manor Farm about six miles from Warwick Furnace, which later supplied its iron. Robert McConaghey (d. 1800), an early settler, began operating the forge about 1770. It was operated by a succession of owners for more than one hundred years; the Forge turned out iron during the Revolutionary War and produced iron well into the nineteenth century. Robert McConaghey has also been credited with building the 1770 saw and grist mill located near the corner of Creek and Devereux Roads. The forge contained 264 acres, a grist and saw mill when put up for sale in 1784/5. The property may have been obtained or used by Persifor Frazer, who also owned Sarum Forge nearby.

In 1788, Springton was owned by William Starret and by 1794 owned by Jacob Winings (d. 1811) of East Nantmell. In 1797, Winings put it up for sale at which time it had three hammers and two fires and 800 acres. It was sold at sheriff’s sale shortly after and apparently Starret and his son obtained it again by 1799. By 1817, the forge was owned by Isaac Vanleer. He eventually supplied Springton from his Hiberna Furnace in nearby West Caln Township. In 1816, Vanleer declared himself bankrupt and turned his property over to his wife’s nephew and brother--Samuel and James Culbertson--to settle his affairs. The sheriff’s sale included both the Springton and Hiberna ironworks. Springton was purchased by Samuel Potts’ son David Potts (1799-1870), who sold it in 1836 when he formed a company with his brother and cousin. He was called “Springton David” to distinguish him from other relatives named David Potts who ran Warwick Furnace. The forge was still active in 1881 when Futhey and Cope wrote their county history. The forge eventually closed and was obtained and used as a farm by Samuel Woodhouse.

The Chester County Historical Society also has some Springton Forge papers.

**Located with Persifor Frazer Smith papers (Collection 1377)**

| Springton Forge volumes  | Dates                               | # of vols. |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Daybooks                 | 1770-1773; 1803-<br>1804; 1833-1842 | 3          |
| Matthew Stanley Accounts | 1815-1841                           | 1          |

**Valley Works (1 vol.) Potts Ironwork**

The Valley Works was the successor to Valley Forge, originally called Mt. Joy. Valley Forge was owned by David Potts (1741-1797) and William Dewees (c1739-c1809), when the British burned it in September 1777 during the Philadelphia Campaign. Washington’s

army camped there during the 1777/1778 winter. Schoepf mentions the forge in 1783 as burned and inactive. Isaac Potts (1750-1803) purchased the forge from the partners in 1783, and he eventually built a new forge and slitting mill and recombined it with the nearby grist mill which had not been damaged. Isaac Potts & Company ran it as the "Valley Works" for the next several years. The company consisted of Isaac, David, and Isaac's son. "Valley" is listed as an active forge on Samuel Potts' 1789 list.

In 1790 Isaac put the "great Valley Works Estate" up for sale at which time it consisted of "A Forceable forge, with four fires and two hammers well founded on a large dam of 17 feet head and falls. Also, an excellent slitting and rolling mill upon the same dam with a large stone coals house to each." It was not sold. In 1793, Isaac moved to Philadelphia and erected Martha Furnace and the Wading River Forge and Slitting mill in New Jersey. Shortly after, the mill was sold separately and David Potts, the previous owner, purchased the forge. David restored and expanded the mansion house known as the "Deweese House" at the Park. He died at the forge in 1797 and it was managed by his son-in-law and children. In 1814 John Rogers and Joshua Malin bought the forge and related property. In 1816, Rogers bought out Malin and brought in James Wood as a partner and manager. The forge produced saws, shovels, spades, files and other farming equipment. James Potts was selling Valley Forge iron in Philadelphia in 1821. However, the hardware business declined and about 1821 a cotton mill built on the site by Rogers who also went into business briefly with Brooke Evans making muskets for the government. The forge was eventually abandoned.

The volume notes the sales of sundries such as tobacco, sugar, rye and common flour, Indian corn and pickled pork. "Valley Works" appears as the heading of each page. The volume also included is a wood-cutter's agreement, 12 February 1790, concerning cord wood and rails. See also Mt. Joy Forge with the Potts Family Papers Collection.

| <u>Valley Works volume</u> | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Call number</u> |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Account Book               | 1790-1791    | Am .9272           |

### **Windsor Forges (2 vols.) Branson, Jenkins Ironwork**

Windsor Forge was built about 1742 in Lancaster County. (There are two other Windsor Forges: one in Albany Township, Berks County which was owned by the Hunter family and later George Reagan; and the other in Schuylkill County.) William Branson (1684-1760) built the Windsor Forges shortly after he built Reading Furnace in Chester County and the forge is immediately to the east. He purchased the property from John Jenkins. Eventually called the Windsor Forges, the works were located on the eastern branch of Conestoga Creek in Caernarvon Township about a mile south of Churchtown. John Jenkins obtained the tract in 1718. Branson had entered into partnership with Samuel Nutt (1685-1736) at Coventry in the 1720s but by 1736, the partnership had ended with the Nutts' heirs keeping Coventry and building Warwick Furnace; and Branson building Reading and Windsor. The Rev. Israel Acrelius noted about the Nutt/Branson break-up: "Each has his own furnace – Branz at Reading, Nutt in Warwick. Each also has his own forges – Branz in Windsor..."

Windsor received its iron from Reading Furnace with whom its management, ownership, and history were closely aligned until the Revolution. In the 1740s Branson began breaking up his extensive holdings among his daughters and sons-in-law and he

conveyed by deed the forge and forge land to his daughter's husbands: Samuel Flower, Richard Hockley, Dr. Bernhardus Vanleer, and Lynford Lardner. It was this combination of men or their descendants who would be involved in running the furnace and forge until the 1760s. In 1750, Lardner removed to the forge and took over management. The Windsor Forges are the ones referred to in 1753 or 1754 by Acrelius as "Branz works" on the Conestoga. They are shown as "Windsor" on Nicholas Scull's 1759 map.

In 1758, David Jenkins (c1748-1797), son of John, who was a clerk at the forge, began buying shares from Branson's numerous grandchildren. Shortly after his marriage in 1773, he obtained one-half, and by the end of the Revolution he owned the entire property. After the war, Windsor was also known locally as Jenkins' Forge. It is shown as active by Hermelin in 1783, having two hammers and three fires and purchasing 150 tons of iron annually.

"Windsor" is shown as an active forge on Samuel Potts' 1789 list. Jenkins was a member of the Provincial Convention and a Colonel of the Tenth Battalion of the Lancaster County Militia. David's eldest son John worked with his father at the works but died from an accident. His brother, Robert Jenkins (1769-1848), replaced him and took over the management for the family after his father's death in 1797. Robert was born at Windsor Forges. He was a member of the State house of Representatives in 1804 and 1805 and was elected as a Republican to the Tenth and Eleventh Congresses (March 4, 1807-March 3, 1811). He increased the land holding of the forge to 4,000 acres. He died at Windsor Forges in 1848 and was interned in the Caernarvon Presbyterian Churchyard in Churchtown. At Robert's death, the ironwork passed through several family members but the forge was eventually closed. Ellis and Evans' 1883 Lancaster history notes: "The forges have not been in blast for many years."

The 1830-1840 books have several references to Elizabeth Furnace, Pool Forge and Ninezeltzer Forge. In addition to Robert Jenkins, the names of son David, an Isaac Jenkins, and Mrs. C. Jenkins also appear.

| <b>Windsor Forge volumes</b>                       | <b>Dates</b> | <b>Call number</b> |
|--|--------------|--------------------|
| Ledgers  | 1830-1840    | Amb .980           |
| [NOTE: only one volume located<br>as of 1/23/2009] |              |                    |

## Appendix B: Pre-1800 Pennsylvania Iron Masters and their Ironworks

| Ironmaster                            | Ironworks   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Allen, William (1704-1780)            | Union Iron Works (NJ)   |
| Backhouse, Richard (1748-1793)        | Durham Furnace  |
| Benner, Philip (1762-1832)            | Coventry Works, Rock Forge and Slitting Mill (Centre)   |
| Bennett, William                      | Codorus Furnace and Forge   |
| Bird, Mark (1739-c1816)               | Berkshire Furnace, Birdsborough Forges, Hopewell Forge, Hopewell Furnace, New Pine Forge, Spring Forge (Berks), Delaware Works  |
| Bird, William (1703-1762)             | New Pine Forge, Hopewell Forge, Roxsborough Furnace, Birdsborough Forges  |
| Branson, William (1684-1760)          | Coventry Works, Reading Furnace, Windsor Forges, Branson's Steel Furnace  |
| Brobst, Michael and John              | Brobst's Forges (Union Forges) (Berks)  |
| Brooke, Matthew and Thomas            | Hopewell Furnace, Joanna Furnace  |
| Buckley, Daniel                       | Hopewell Furnace, Joanna Furnace  |
| Bull, Thomas (1744-1837)              | Warwick Furnace, Joanna Furnace, Coventry Iron Works, Gibraltar, Dale Iron Works  |
| Butz, Christian and William           | Mt. Pleasant Forge  |
| Christman, George                     | Coventry Forge  |
| Coleman, Robert (1748-1825)           | Speedwell Forge, Reading Furnace (Chester), Martie Furnace and Forge, Elizabeth Furnace, Quittaphailla Forge, Union Forge, Mt. Joy Furnace, Colebrook Furnace, Cornwall Furnace |
| Davis Brothers (Myrick, John, George) | Vincent Forge   |
| Deweese, William, Jr. (c1738-c1804)   | Glasgow Forge, Valley Forge   |
| Dicks, Peter                          | Crum Creek Forge, Dick's Bloomery   |
| Eckert, Valentine (1733-1821)         | Sally Ann Furnace, Moselem Forge  |
| Eckert, Solomon                       | Moselem Forge   |
| Ege, George (1748-1829)               | Berkshire Furnace, Charming Forge and Slitting Mill, Reading Furnace (Berks), Rockland Forge, Schulykill Forge, Mary Ann Furnace  |
| Ege, Michael (1750-1815)              | Pine Grove Furnace, Carlisle Iron Works, Cumberland Iron Works, Holly Iron Works  |
| Flower, Samuel                        | Cumberland Furnace, Windsor Forges, Reading Furnace (Berks), Durham Furnace   |
| Fischer, John                         | Mt. Pleasant Forge  |
| Frazier, Perisor                      | Sarum Forge   |
| Grace, Robert (1708-1766)             | Warwick Furnace, Coventry Forge   |

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Grubb, Curtis (1733-1789)           | Cornwall Furnace, Hopewell Forge  |
| Grubb, Henry Bates (1774-1823)      | Mt. Vernon Furnace, Codorus Furnace and Forge, Manada Furnace, Mt. Hope Furnace   |
| Grubb, Peter (1700-1754)            | Grubb's Forge, Cornwall Furnace   |
| Grubb, Peter (1740-1786)            | Cornwall Furnace, Hopewell Forge  |
| Hobart, Robert Enoch (1768-1826)    | Dale Furnace, Vincent Slitting Mill   |
| Hockley, Henry,                     | Vincent Slitting Mill   |
| Hockley, James (1728-1794)          | Valley Forge, Glasgow Forge   |
| Hockley, Thomas (1735-1780)         | Pine Forge, Valley Forge, Coventry Works  |
| Hockley, Richard                    | Windsor Forges, Reading Furnace (Chester)   |
| Hunter, Nicholas                    | Mt. Pleasant Forge, Sally Ann Furnace   |
| Jacobs, Benjamin                    | Juanita Works   |
| Jacobs, Cyrus (1761-1830)           | Pool Forge (Berks), Gibraltar Forge, Hopewell Forge, Spring Grove Forge   |
| Jenkins, David (c1748-1797)         | Windsor Forge (Jenkins' Forges)   |
| Jenkins, Robert (c1769-1848)        | Windsor Forge (Jenkins' Forges)   |
| Lesher, Jacob (1764-1843)           | Shearwell Forge, Oley Forge (Sprang Forge), District Furnace (German Furnace), Mary Ann Furnace (Berks), Mt. Pleasant Furnace |
| Lesher, John (Johannes) (1711-1794) | Oley Forge, District Furnace (German Furnace), New Works (Va),  |
| Lewis, James                        | Colebrook Dale Furnace, Pool Forge (Berks)  |
| Lincoln, Mordecai (1686-1736)       | Coventry Works  |
| May, Robert (1750-1812)             | Elk Forges (Maryland), Coventry Works, Joanna Furnace, Dale Works, Gibraltar Forge  |
| May, Thomas (1731-1792)             | Elk Forges (Maryland), Pine Forge, Pottsgrove Forge, Glasgow Forge, Warwick Furnace, Joanna Furnace                           |
| Mayburry, Thomas (c1700-1747)       | Pool Forge, Green Lane Forge, Hereford Furnace, Mt. Pleasant Furnace  |
| Mayburry, Thomas (c1740-1797)       | Green Lane Forge, Hereford Furnace, Mt. Holly Ironworks, Bastso and Taunton Ironworks (NJ), Warwick Furnace                   |
| Mayburry, William (c1738-1764)      | Green Lane Forge, Shearwell Furnace   |
| McCall, Samuel (1721-1762)          | Glasgow Forge   |
| Mickel, Samuel, Mifflin, George     | Mt. Pleasant Furnace, Spring Forge (Berks), Pool Forge (Berks)  |
| Miles, Samuel (1739-1805)           | Dale Furnace, Centre Furnace  |
| Nickoll, John George                | Tulpehocken Eisenhammer (Charming Forge)  |
| Nutt, Anna Rutter (1686-1760)       | Warwick Furnace   |
| Nutt, Samuel (c1685-1736)           | Coventry Forge, Coventry Works, Rock Run Furnace, Christine Furnace, Warwick Furnace  |
| Nutt, Samuel Jr., (c1710-1739)      | Warwick Furnace   |
| Old, James (1730-1809)              | Windsor Forge, Speedwell Forge, Hopewell, Birdsborough, Quitapahilla Forge, Mount Hope  |

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
|                                | Furnace, Reading Furnace (Chester), Spring Grove Forge, Poole Forge (Lancaster)  |
| Old, John (c1733-1809)         | Spring Forge (Berks)   |
| Patton, John (d. 1789)         | Berkshire Furnace, Reading Furnace (Chester), Salford Forge, Oley Furnace  |
| Patton, John (1745-1804)       | Centre Furnace   |
| Peirsol, Mordecai              | Rebecca Furnace (Peirsol's Furnace)  |
| Potts, David, (1741-1797)      | Valley Forge   |
| Potts, David, Jr. (1742-1782)  | Pine Forge   |
| Potts, David, (1757-1834)      | Vincent Slitting Forge, Joanna Furnace, Warwick Furnace  |
| Potts, Isaac (1750-1803)       | Valley Forge, Martha Furnace (NJ), Wading River Forge (NJ)   |
| Potts, John Jr., (1738-c1800)  | Mt Joy Forge, Warwick Furnace, Glasgow Forge   |
| Potts, John Sr. (1710-1768)    | Colebrook Dale Furnace, Rock Run Furnace, Pine Forge, Mt. Pleasant Furnace, Pool Forge (Berks), Warwick Furnace, Pottsgrove Forge, Coventry Works, Mt. Joy Forge |
| Potts, Joseph (1742-1804)      | Mt. Joy Forge, Glasgow Forge, Sarum Works  |
| Potts, Joseph (1766-1824)      | Dale Iron Works, Glasgow Forge   |
| Potts, Samuel (1736-1793)      | Pottsgrove Forge, Valley Forge, Warwick Furnace, Rebecca Furnace, Coventry Iron Works, Joanna Furnace  |
| Potts, Thomas (1680-1752)      | Colebrook Dale Furnace, Pine Forge, Pool Forge (Berks), Mt. Pleasant Furnace, Spring Forge (Berks)   |
| Potts, Thomas (1720-1764)      | Colebrook Dale Furnace, Mt. Pleasant Furnace, Spring Forge (Berks)   |
| Potts, Thomas (1735-1785)      | Warwick Furnace, Mt. Joy Forge, Pine Forge, Coventry Works   |
| Potts, Thomas (c1764-1823)     | Vincent Slitting Mill, Joanna Furnace, Dale Furnace  |
| Ross, George (1730-1779)       | Mary Ann Furnace and Spring Forge (York County)  |
| Ross, John (1714-1776)         | Oley Forge   |
| Rutter, David (1766-1817)      | Glasgow Forge, Pine Forge  |
| Rutter, Thomas (1660-1730)     | Rutter's Bloomery, Colebrook Dale Furnace, Rutter's Forge  |
| Rutter, Thomas (1732-1795)     | Colebrook Dale Furnace, Spring Forge, Warwick Furnace, Joanna Furnace  |
| Rutter, Joseph (1702-1732)     | Rutter's Forge   |
| Savage, Samuel Jr. (1707-1742) | Warwick Furnace  |
| Smith, John (1762-1815)        | Dale Iron Works, Coventry Iron Works, Joanna Furnace, Gibraltar Forge,   |
| Taylor, George (1716-1781)     | Warwick Furnace, Durham Furnace  |
| Taylor, John                   | Sarum Works  |
| Tea, Richard                   | Moselem Forge  |
| Templin, James                 | Vincent Forge  |
| Udree, Daniel (1751-1828)      | Moselem Forge, Oley Furnace, Rockland Forges,  |
| Van Leer, Samuel (1747-1825)   | Reading Furnace  |

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Van Leer, Isaac (1771-1820) | Hibernia Furnace, Springton Forge, Changewater Furnace                                |
| Walker, Daniel              | Mt. Joy Forge   |
| Walker, Thomas              | Pine Forge  |
| Winnings, Jacob (1717-1795) | Moselem Forge, Oley Furnace, Rebecca Furnace, Vincent Slitting Works, Springton Forge |
| Young, John                 | Vincent Forge   |