

Notes Pertinent to R. Smith's Forge's Operation

The statistics contained herein are from the ledger of the Salisbury store operated by Lane & Colver (1779-1783), later by Smith & Lane (1783-1785). Only items that would have survived the ravishes of time are listed.

The nails that have turned up in Robertsville were probably made by Thomas Grogan, of Salisbury, based upon entries in the ledger – for example:

“July, 1781, By making 74 lbs. shingle nails @ 6 shillings, 8 pence; by making 53 lbs. 10-penny nails @ 8 shillings”.

There was also an Isaac Peck of Herrington who also made nails, but more than likely for sale in New York. “June 1781, by making 26 lbs. of 8-penny nails @ 2 shillings per lb.; 670 4-penny nails valued at 10 shillings, 8 pence”. On the debit side of the ledger there is a “commission of 3 shillings on the sale of nails.”

There is a note on May 8, 1781 that 10 dollars Massachusetts' money was equal to 5 dollars hard money (probably Spanish pieces of eight), which was valued at £2/0/0.

Doctor Samuel Wheeler of Salisbury purchased 6 china plates on March 1, 1780, @ 4 shillings, 6 pence per plate.

In 1782, one set of china was exchanged for 5 bu. of wheat.

July 1782, 33 lbs. of 8-penny nails and 30 lbs. of 20-penny nails sold at 2 shillings per lb.

In October 1779, Samuel Lee of Salisbury bought a large looking glass for 10 pounds, and with it “2 guilt screws for 2 shillings.”

In July 1781, Stephen Keys of Salisbury purchased 2 tumblers for 12 shillings.

In 1780, Philip Spencer purchased a looking glass (£10/0/0), one soy cruet & one mustard pot for 16 shillings, two wine glasses @ 6 shillings each, two jelly glasses @ 3 shillings each and he purchased 6,000 4-penny nails for 72 shillings per lb. (£3/12/0).

In 1782, a 7x9 sheet of window glass cost one shilling six pence each.

In 1780, a set of china cups and saucers cost one pound, 10 shillings.

In 1781, one pound of coffee cost 2 shillings, and one half pound of tea cost 6 shillings.

July 1781, one fire glass – 4 shillings.

1781, two pounds of brimstone, (sulfur), 2 shillings, 8 pence.

Malaki Gales paid 10 shillings for 8 lbs. of steel, and 20 shillings, 7 pence for 48 lbs. of bloomed iron, and 6 pence for 6 flints.

1784 – 3 lb. of iron cost 1 shilling.

In 1782 Martin VosBurgh of Red Hook bought 97½ lbs. of 8-penny nails @ 2shillings, 3 pence per lb.; 3,045 4-penny nails for 1 pound, 19 shillings, 2 pence; 4,950 4-penny nails for 2 pounds, 12 shillings, 0 pence.

In 1783 there is an entry that Philip Row, Jr., of Oblong was charged 4 shillings for transporting nails from Canaan. (It doesn't say how many, or what weight, but someone in Canaan must have had a slitting mill.)

During this time period, many “rub stones” were sold. I assume that this means a whetstone for sharpening scythes, etc.

In 1782 punch bowls cost 4 shillings, 8 pence each.

Items sent to Jacob Ogden in 1782:

Tumblers, 1 padlock,

On Dec. 25 1781, a tailor charges 1 shilling, 6 pence for “4 loops to collar hooks”. He also made a coat containing 14 buttons and a vest containing 10 buttons.

In 1782, 1 tin candlestick cost 6 shillings, 8 pence.