

HOPEWELL VILLAGE

Good day, everyone--it's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania.

Steel and iron--the sinews and muscles of the world--that's Pennsylvania today--and that's Pennsylvania's history, too.

For Pennsylvania has one of the oldest existing ironworks in the United States at enchanting Hopewell Village which you can reach about 10 miles from the Morgantown Interchange of the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Here you can see the forerunner of our modern multi-billion-dollar-a-year iron and steel industry in the restored furnace and in the buildings of the village.

Hopewell Furnace was constructed back in 1770 by Mark Bird and within five miles of the furnace were three mines of iron ore. Bird quickly recruited skilled workers from surrounding areas. They worked at the furnace. They built homes and a village evolved. In practically no time, there were more than 60 people working in a variety of capacities--from moulder to miner, from woodcutter to carpenter, from mason to laborer; forerunners of Pennsylvania's skilled craftsmen.

The furnace produced pig iron for stoves, forges and pots, and forge hammers for various industries were turned out at the furnace.

During the Revolutionary War, cannon and shot were cast at Bird's Furnace and Bird not only helped the cause by producing supplies; like Pennsylvanians always, he heeded his country's call and

served in the militia--as a colonel.

In 1800, Bird's Furnace was bought by Matthew and Thomas Broke and their brother-in-law, Daniel Buckley.

After a rough start, the trio turned the Hopewell Furnace into a very profitable operation. It also was a very important operation--fulfilling some of the early nation's many needs. It responded to America's need for iron...iron to build; iron to progress; iron for the wheels of the future--all from Hopewell.

The furnace operated for nearly 100 years continually, but in 1883--in the wake of an earlier depression which hampered its productivity--it closed down.

When we boast of Pennsylvania--of our heritage of industrial might--iron and steel, particularly, is one area in which we need take a back seat to no other area in the nation--and in the world.

Pennsylvania has been the Arsenal of Democracy, and along our trails of history, no arsenals stand out as prominently as Hopewell Village. Its men served our wars; its forges might well have won our most important war.

Hopewell Village remains today a visible monument to early American productivity. And the Village, which can be toured practically every day of the year, also remains a monument to America's industrial heritage. Get off the Turnpike for a moment and visit it.

This is Pete Wambach. It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania.