

Suggested readings on Pine Grove Furnace and the iron industry version 3

Pine Grove Furnace in particular

History of Pine Grove Furnace by Lenore Embick Flower (Cumberland County Historical Society, 4th edition, 2003 update with new preface & endnotes by Sandy Mader). First written in 1933. The current edition includes numerous photographs. Be aware that Flower does not cite her sources and not all details are necessarily correct. She oddly skips over certain time periods and key figures, including owner Jay Cooke. Despite its limitations, this 32 page booklet is without doubt the best place to start learning more about PGF.

Railroads to Pine Grove Furnace: Book Two in a Series, Railroads of the Cumberland Valley by Randy Watts (Keystone Computer Services, Carlisle PA, 1991). Despite the title, covers much more than railroads. Discusses Jackson Fuller's public park at PGF. Available from the Cumberland County Historical Society.

The Clay Brick and Sand Industries in the Mountain Creek Valley of Cumberland County 1890-2012 by Randy Watts (Cumberland County Historical Society, 2012). Includes the Fuller Slate & Brick Co. at PGF.

“Recollections, Historical and Otherwise, Relating to Old Pine Grove Furnace” by Horace Andrew Keefer A memoir first published in 1934 by a former superintendent of the South Mountain Mining and Iron Co. A few details about the years before he arrived at PGF in 1879 may be incorrect. Includes amusing tales about life at PGF. Full text available free online at www.patc.us/history/archive/pine_grv.html.

“Iron Workers in Cumberland County” by Linda F. Witmer in *Cumberland County History* (journal of the Cumberland County Historical Society), volume 13, number 1, Summer 1996.

“The Mystery of the Unburned Mansion: The Loss of the Ege ‘Big House’ and Other Fires at Pine Grove Furnace and Laurel Forge” by Andre Weltman in *Cumberland County History*, volume 29, 2012.

“Civil War Troop Movements at Pine Grove Furnace” by Andre Weltman in *Cumberland County History*, volume 30, 2013.

Iron industry in general

The Iron Industry in Pennsylvania by Gerald Eggert (Pennsylvania History Studies No. 25, Pennsylvania Historical Association, 1994). This 98 page soft-cover book is a very approachable introduction to the topic. Only briefly mentions PGF. Highly recommended.

Pennsylvania Iron Manufacture in the Eighteenth Century by Arthur Bining (Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission; 2nd edition, 1979). Covers exactly what the title says, in clear prose. Particularly useful discussion of British efforts to control the iron industry, a factor leading to the American Revolution. ***Making Iron and Steel: The Historic Processes 1700-1900*** by Jack Chard (NJ Highlands Historical Society,

1995). Attractive 22 page booklet by a metallurgist. Concisely demystifies the often confusing terminology. ***Mastering Iron: The Struggle to Modernize an American Industry, 1800-1868*** by Anne Kelly Knowles (Univ. of Chicago Press, 2013). Overview of the charcoal iron industry, most notable for its fantastic maps.

American Iron, 1607-1900 by Robert B. Gordon (Johns Hopkins Studies in the History of Technology, 2001). A detailed history of the industry by an award-winning technologist. Gives full technical information on metallurgy and how furnaces actually worked. This book is the essential resource. Includes lots of photos.

The Texture of Industry: An Archaeological View of the Industrialization of North America by Robert B. Gordon and Patrick Malone (Oxford Univ. Press, 1997). Not limited only to the iron industry, this wonderful book “covers the evolution of technology with emphasis on metallurgy, textile and lumber.” The opening pages, free on Amazon.com, are worth looking at by themselves as an introduction to industrial archaeology.

“How to Run an Ironworks” by Thomas Doerflinger in *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* (journal of the Historical Society of PA), volume 108, pages 357-66, July 1984. Describes a 1786 letter by Quaker ironmaster Henry Drinker, answering a query on exactly what the title says. It wasn't easy!

A History of Metals in Colonial America by James A. Mulholland (Univ. of Alabama Press, 1981). Includes a chapter on copper. Nothing about PGF. Gives useful background on artillery in the American Revolution.

Hopewell Village: The Dynamics of a Nineteenth Century Iron-Making Community by Joseph E. Walker (Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 1966). Does not focus on technology, rather an investigation of the people and economy of an “iron plantation.” Hopewell is a model for what PGF must have been like 200 years ago.

Hopewell Furnace: A Guide to Hopewell Village National Historic Site, Pennsylvania by Walter Lewis and Walter Hugins (Official National Park Handbook, 1985). Includes a concise description of the iron industry.

An early version is available free online at www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/hh/8/index.htm

Historic sites in PA: On a related note, anyone interested at all in the iron industry should visit the Hopewell Furnace historic site in Berks County (run by the National Park Service – see www.nps.gov/hofu) as well as the Cornwall Furnace historic site in Lebanon County (run by the PA Historical & Museum Commission – see www.cornwallironfurnace.org). Both include small museums. If you only visit one site, see Hopewell!

Slavery in the iron industry

Shadow of Freedom: Slavery in Post-Revolutionary Cumberland County, 1780-1810 by John Alosi (Shippensburg Univ. Press, 2001). Available on open shelves at Pennsylvania State Library in Harrisburg at 974.83 A73s C.3 or in the Shippensburg University library. Reliable scholarship on this question is hard to find – trust this source, not newspaper articles or word-of-mouth stories of uncertain origin. Discusses original documents (business records and the U.S. census) relating to PGF.

“**The Iron Industry and the Persistence of Slavery in Early 19th Century Cumberland County**” by John Alosi in *Proteus* (journal of Shippensburg University), volume 19, number 1, pages 33-37, Spring 2002. A shorter version of material in his book (both derive from his Master’s Thesis at Shippensburg University). Alosi demonstrates that ironmasters in Cumberland County held more slaves than perhaps previously appreciated. The number of slaves at PGF under Michael Ege increased in the early years of the 19th century, probably due to a tight labor market (the number peaked at 14 slaves in 1810, of 30 total residents).

“**Negro Labor in the Charcoal Iron Industry of Southeastern Pennsylvania**” by Joseph Walker in *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, volume 93, number 4, pages 466-486, October 1969. Not about PGF specifically, but provides further background and some economic explanations for the persistence of slavery in the iron industry, even as slavery was waning in Pennsylvania overall.

Forging America: Ironworkers, Adventurers, and the Industrious Revolution by John Bezis-Selfa (Cornell Univ. Press, 2004). The changing social landscape of 18th and 19th century ironmaking, including slavery.

“**Cumberland County Fugitive Slave Cases**” by Lindsay Houpt-Varner in *Cumberland County History*, volume 27, 2010. Not directly related to PGF, but gives a sense of local attitudes toward slavery.

Camp Michaux (farm, CCC camp, POW camp in World War II, and church camp)

Secret War at Home: The Pine Grove Furnace Prisoner of War Interrogation Camp by John Paul Bland (Cumberland County Historical Society, 2006). The essential, carefully researched history. Camp Michaux is 2 miles from the PGF park office/furnace stack area. Drive south 1¼ miles on Rte 233, and turn right onto Michaux Road (look for blue-and-gold history marker). Camp Michaux is 1⅓ mile up the mountain.

Camp Michaux Self-Guided Walking Tour by David L. Smith. (Cumberland County Historical Society, 2011). Free online at historicalsociety.com/Camp_Michaux.html or buy it from the Society in Carlisle as a booklet.

Jay Cooke

Jay Cooke: Financier of the Civil War by Ellis Paxson Oberholtzer (1907). This two-volume work is the standard biography, prepared with his family’s cooperation after his death in 1905. Includes some personal details of his involvement with PGF. Available free online via *Google Books*. Other biographies of Jay Cooke (by Larson in 1936, and Lubetkin in 2006) cover business matters but do not mention PGF at all.