



Ironworkings

The Friends of Long Pond Ironworks

www.LongPondIronworks.org

REPORT FROM THE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Fall 2009

Long Pond Gets New Site Brochure

The familiar buff- or cream-colored site brochure that the Friends of Long Pond Ironworks uses to represent the site to the general public has been updated and redesigned. The former brochure had been in use for over twenty years, unchanged since the early days of the Friends. The instigation for modernizing the brochure was to make it fit into off-site display racks and be easier to mail. The old brochure was a two-page 8.5-by-11 inch format; the new brochure is a one-page 8.5-by-14 inch format folded in thirds, making it a smaller size. The new brochure, along with our improved traveling display, will give a refreshed look to our public face when we are out there informing the public about our great historic site. Both this brochure and the traveling display were paid for from a grant by our friends at the Passaic County Cultural and Heritage Council.

☞ More than 200 hundred people attended the annual presentation of Shakespeare in the State Park at Long Pond Ironworks on August 8—the most ever. This year, the Hudson Shakespere Company put on the comedy *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. These popular performances are staged on the lawn in front of the beautiful Stone Double House, and admittance is free. Funding for Shakespeare and for the musical acts that appear at the Furnace Area during Candle Lantern Tours is provided, again, by the Passaic County Cultural and Heritage Council.

☞ Speaking of Candle Lantern Tours, our next set will be given on Saturday evening, September 26. See the back-page schedule for times and other important information. FOLPI's very special friend, the multi-instrumental historical balladeer Linda Russell, will perform by the campfire. She is not to be missed.

☞ The 2009 Long Pond Ironworks History Award has gone to Michael van Brunt, a senior at West Milford High School. Michael is planning to attend Kutztown University in Pennsylvania to work toward becoming a secondary-school

history teacher, specializing in special education. The \$300 scholarship award was presented by FOLPI members Hans and Cristina Niederstrasser, the creators and sponsors of the award.

☞ Hans also chairs our Membership Committee. According to his latest monthly report, dated June 2009, FOLPI has 706 active members.



☞ This summer Long Pond was the victim of a particularly heinous kind of vandalism: graffiti. Sometime in the first half of August, someone took spray paint to two areas of the Historic District. One was the hub of the rebuilt waterwheel (see photo); the other was in three places on the

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Cooper-Hewitt's operation in Phillipsburg, photographed in 1856. No traces remain today.

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stonework of the 1873 wheel pit. At the same time, trespassing at Long Pond by illegal swimmers—most of whom walk through the Historic District to reach the off-limits and dangerous Mine Hole—has been very high. On hot days, upwards of thirty people may be hanging out and partying in the forbidden zone. Out of concern that confronting Mine Hole swimmers leads to retaliation in the form damage to our precious buildings, FOLPI's museum greeters and other volunteers have stopped doing so. We do, however, continue to encourage the State Park Police to patrol the area and ticket Mine Hole swimmers and other trespassers. Vandalism hurts all of us who care about Long Pond—and about historic sites in general. Hopefully, a solution to this most vexing problem will be found. In the meantime, let's hope the damage doesn't get worse.

☞ We've heard rumors that the Hasenclever Iron Trail appears to be open through the Peter's Mine area, so FOLPI member Paul Frost investigated. During the cleanup at Peter's Mine, hikers who attempted to move through the area were stopped by plastic fencing (not very effective) and personnel working to clean up the site (fairly effective). Now the fencing is down and the workers and equipment are gone, so there is nothing to stop people from passing through. The trail is still there, but few blazes remain, and the area is very altered in appearance. The official word is that this part of the trail is NOT open, so please do not hike it until further notice.

WE ARE ALL THAT IS LEFT

Over its iron-producing lifetime of about 115 years, Long Pond Ironworks had three major, successive owners: Peter Hasenclever and the American Company (1765-1780); Martin Ryerson and his family (1807-1853); and Cooper, Hewitt & Company, run mainly by Abram Hewitt (1853-1882). Each of these owners operated other iron furnace sites besides Long Pond.

- Hasenclever ran four furnaces—at Ringwood Manor; Charlotteburg, in Morris County; Cortland, on the east side of the Hudson River; and Long Pond.
- Ryerson ran five furnaces—at Ringwood Manor; Midvale, NJ; the falls at Pompton; Bloomingdale, NJ; and Long Pond.
- Cooper-Hewitt ran four furnaces—at Phillipsburg, NJ; Pequest, in Warren County; Durham, in Pennsylvania; and Long Pond.

That's ten separate sites in total, and if you go looking for furnace remains at any of them, GOOD LUCK! Besides some slag dumps at a few of the sites and the small ruins of a forge downstream from the Charlotteburg site, there is practically nothing left of these once impressive ironmaking operations.

Long Pond Ironworks is the only site of the ten with significant iron furnace remains. We are all that is left. Think about that.



Recent view of the back of the Manager's House. This building and the industrial remains in the Furnace Area are considered the most important structures for preservation at Long Pond.

LOCAL IRON MINES

by T.T. Tailings

Summit Mine

Summit Mine is a small, interesting mine because what is left now is in and along a mountain stream. From what I can see, it may have been a flowing stream when the mine was active, which was in the second half of the 1800s. This is odd, because for miners water was a pain in the neck. Unfortunately, there is no one left to explain it to us.

To get to the mine, go south from the Sterling Forest Visitor Center on the blue Sterling Lake Loop Trail. Cross over a wooden foot bridge, and when you get to a paved road, turn right. With the lake on the right, walk down the road for about three minutes. Look for the first home on the left, which is gray. Just *before* this house, turn left into the woods and bushwack uphill.

You'll know that you're going the right way if you almost immediately pass a concrete shed on the left. Angle 45 degrees to the right and listen for the running stream. It was active in August when I was there. The stream is in a ravine, so you'll have to climb down to it. If you come to a park fire road, you've gone too far.

Look for a big, old stone wall in the stream bed/



Stone wall at Summit Mine.

GET YOUR TOES WET: VOLUNTEER TO HELP ON A CANDLE LANTERN TOUR

FOLPI will be holding our next set of Candle Lantern Tours on Saturday evening, September 26. Currently only about fifteen FOLPI members work to put on this event. Tasks we take on include setting up for the event, administrative duties, and appearing as villagers on the site during the tours. Know what? Fifteen people is not enough!

Luckily we have an extremely confident administrative staff for the tours consisting of exactly one person: Sue Deeks.

It's in the other two areas—set-up for the event and appearing as a villager—that we need help.

Set-up is not my responsibility, so I can't say exactly what is needed, but I do know that help is always wanting. The part of Candle Lantern Tours I'm involved with is what goes on in the village during the tours themselves. And I know that we desperately need more people to populate the village, because when it was a active furnace site, about 250 people lived there. On Lantern Tours now, guests see only about ten "inhabitants" of the town, not counting Civil War re-enactors (who, in strict historical terms, should not even be there).

What is needed are people to walk through or just stand around on the site so we can give the appearance, at least, of a populated town.

Please come out September 26 and help us put on a good show. No acting is required. And during lulls in the action, you can talk to other volunteers about getting further involved.

ravine. Just downhill from the wall on the left is a water-filled pit against the rock wall of the ravine. To the right of the stone wall is another water-filled pit. The water was very clear. Up from the stone wall are more minor stone works and an open mine cut. At the uphill end of this cut is a small, scary looking underground opening. There also is a small, straight-down opening farther up the ravine on the right. From there look for tailing piles up on the right side of the ravine. There are two small pits up there.



FALL 2009 Calendar of Events

Friends of Long Pond Ironworks

FOLPI Business Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m., at the Long Pond Ironworks Visitors Center and Museum. **Work Meetings** are usually held the following Thursday at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome!

The **Long Pond Ironworks Museum** is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., April to November. **Walking Tours** are conducted on the second Saturday of the month, 12 noon and 2 p.m., April to November. **Group tours** are available year-round by arrangement.

- September 26 (Saturday): **Candle Lantern Tours**. Visitors Center, 7:30 and 9 p.m. Adults \$15/children \$10. **No children under 12**. Reservations are required. Phone (973) 657-1688.
- October 10 (Saturday): **Walking Tours of Long Pond Ironworks**. Visitors Center, 12 and 2 p.m.
- October 24 (Saturday): **Candle Lantern Tours**. Same information as September 26, above.
- November 14 (Saturday): **Walking Tours of**

Long Pond Ironworks. Visitors Center, 12 and 2 p.m.

- December 5 & 6, 12 & 13 (Saturday & Sunday): **Victorian Christmas at Ringwood Manor**, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Have a memorable seasonal touring experience and learn how the owners of Long Pond Ironworks lived.
- **COMING EARLY NEXT SPRING (2010):** Water Power Tour, Behind the Bushes Tour, and Hasenclever Iron Trail Hike. Experience the history of the ironworks in depth. Members only.

For information about any of these programs, please leave a message on the FOLPI Information Line, (973) 657-1688. We will return your call.



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From the west end of the mill pond looking over the dam at the far end, toward the Stone Double House, which is visible in the center.



Today, the pond has long since been drained and is overgrown with vegetation. The Stone Double house is hard to see from this position now.