



Ironworkings

The Friends of Long Pond Ironworks

www.LongPondIronworks.org

REPORT FROM THE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Summer 2009

New Season Under Way at Long Pond Ironworks

This year FOLPI will be holding all of the types of events we held last year, plus we have added a couple of new things to our calendar. In addition to the variety of tours we conduct every year for members and non-members and our other events, such as the Civil War Living History Weekend and Shakespeare in the Park, we are going to try two new things this year.

Friends of Long Pond Ironworks Annual Meeting. This is the one meeting each year that every member should make an effort to attend. Get together with your fellow volunteers and catch up on news about our site. A slate of board members are elected; a special guest speaker follows the business meeting. This year, FOLPI's Vice President and Long Pond historian Paul Frost will present a slide show titled "Then and Now," featuring old and new photos of the Historic District.

The **Civil War Living History Weekend** is a two-day outdoor event featuring reenacting military personnel from both sides of the great American conflict, North and South. Learn about Long Pond's role in the Civil War. We will also hold the first of this season's **Candle Lantern Tours** during this event.

New this year is the moving of the **Volunteer Appreciation Party** from November to July and from inside the Visitor Center to a **Picnic** out on the site. The picnic will be a pot luck affair, and all who have volunteered in the service of Long Pond are invited.

The other new event this year will be a **Night Tour of Long Pond Ironworks**. Led by Paul Frost, this informative tour of the site will take place using few or no manmade light sources—a rare chance to see the ironworks at night by natural light only. This is a free event for FOLPI members only.

Shakespeare in the State Park returns this year with a presentation of *Julius Caesar*. Bring your own chairs and a picnic dinner to enjoy with the show. Admission is free to all.

☞ Our museum is once again open for the season on weekends from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Thanks to all of the volunteer greeters who make this possible. They're doing a great service. Please come by, have a look around, leave a donation, or buy something from our small gift shop. We have acquired a new book for sale—*Crossroads of the American Revolution*—a very good guide to Revolutionary War sites in New Jersey.

☞ The last newsletter contained a misstatement about the progress of repair on the Hasenclever furnace: A plan for the way to begin physical work on the furnace has not been decided, let

alone approved by the State. The problem is that the repair required is very rare, and nobody out there has much experience fixing 240-year-old iron furnaces. Different repair methods must be tested first to determine which one will be the way to move ahead. Things seem slow, but FOLPI is moving as fast as we can on this project.

☞ The final section of the industrial area of the Long Pond site has been cleared of small trees and undergrowth. The Long Pond industrial area is generally considered to be the section bounded by Furnace Road and Furnace Bank Road on the

sides and the Company Store and the 1873 Wheel Pit on the ends.

Renewed clearing of brush began in 2001 in an effort to return Long Pond to its historic treeless appearance. The final section cleared is also the largest: the triangular area between the Company Store intersection and the furnace area. When the ironworks was an inhabited village, at least two houses—and possibly more—were located in this area.



View of newly cleared area, looking from the edge of the Furnace Area toward the Company Store intersection

- ☞ In December, FOLPI received a grant from the Passaic County Cultural and Heritage Council to update and improve our traveling display. FOLPI completed the project within the three-month timeline and unveiled the new display board at the Spirit of the Jerseys History Fair on May 2, 2009, at Washington's Crossing State Park. FOLPI called on Cornerstone Spatial Design and Production in Ramsey to fabricate the display material.

The board will be set up in the Visitors Center throughout the summer, when it is not otherwise being used, so stop by and take a look! This project is funded, in part, by the Passaic County Cultural and Heritage Council at Passaic County Community College, made possible, in part, by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment of the Arts.



Norwegian painting of a forge in operation, 1848.

- ☞ By now, all FOLPI members should have received our membership renewal mailing. The core of our strength as an Officially Recognized Volunteer Organization is our membership base: Because our site is located in northern Passaic County, State officials in Trenton may get the idea that we're out of the way. A large membership for FOLPI, however, shows them otherwise. Also, membership dues are our most dependable income source. As of February, 2009 FOLPI has 683 members!
- ☞ Our first Candle Lantern Tours in 2009 will be held on June 20. Please consider coming out and helping with this event. Volunteers are needed to populate the ironworks village. No particular skills are required—Just show up at the Visitors Center one hour before the first tour begins.



Remains of Long Pond sawmill, west of Long House Road..

LOCAL IRON MINES

by T.T. Tailings

Tip Top Mine



This Sterling Forest mine is a real beauty and easy to get to. Not much is recorded about the Tip Top Mine, which is also known as Clarke Mine. Supposedly, not a lot of mining was done here, which seems hard to believe when you look at the site today. Tip Top Mine closed in the 1880s, like so many mines in this area. .

To get to Tip Top Mine, take the Lakeville Ironworks Trail mentioned in the last newsletter. Go to the interpretive sign that talks about the environmental effects of iron mining. Facing the sign as if you're reading it, go up the hill in front of you and follow the winding gorge upslope. Very quickly the small gorge turns into the open cut of the mine. Go under an overhang of rock and enter the bowl-like area of the main excavation. On the left side is an eye-shaped slit that opens to a large, cave-like section of the mine.

This mine should be explored very carefully. When I visited it in January, I noticed several unstable sections. Remember: You must be hyper-aware of your surroundings and what your hands and feet are doing when you explore any mine site.

LONG POND MAKES IT EASY TO VOLUNTEER

When it comes to volunteer work, FOLPI follows a simple policy: "If it's your idea, you're in charge of the work." This motto springs from necessity: A lot of people come to us with suggestions for improving the site but don't want to take on the work themselves. Though many of the suggestions are good, all of FOLPI's currently active volunteers have enough on our plates, and we need help.

The flip side of this policy is that if you come up with an idea that helps FOLPI carry out our mission *and* you're willing to do the work involved, you'll be given control over your project and support to carry it out. As mentioned in past newsletters, all you need to do is attend a monthly business meeting to present your idea to the Board of Directors. (As an ORFO with the State of New Jersey, we do need to keep tabs on all work being done at the site.) The Board will then decide whether or not to approve the project, but as long as it meets our mission to preserve and interpret the Historic District, approval is virtually guaranteed.

Then you'll be free to proceed with your project in your own time and at your own pace. If it's some kind of maintenance at the site, for example, you'll be free to come and go to work on the project any time during park hours. If you want to take on one of the many off-site jobs we need done, such as research, grant writing, or fund raising, active members of FOLPI will help get you going in the right direction and then leave you to it.

Again, volunteering is fun and rewarding, but you have to try it to see how true this really is. Come to a FOLPI business meeting and get started!



SUMMER 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.

- **June 11 (Thursday): Annual Meeting.** Visitors Center, 7:30 p.m.
- **June 20 & 21: Civil War Living History Weekend.** Long Pond Ironworks, Saturday, 11 a.m.– 5 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.– 2 p.m.
- **June 20 (Saturday): Candle Lantern Tours.** Visitor Center, 8:00 and 9:30 p.m.
- **July 26 (Sunday): Volunteer Appreciation Picnic.** Long Pond Ironworks, 2 p.m.

- **August 1 (Saturday): Night Tour of Long Pond Ironworks.** Visitors Center, 9 p.m.
- **August 8 (Saturday; rain date, August 9): Shakespeare in the State Park: Julius Caesar.** Stone Double House, 5 p.m.
- **September 26 (Saturday): Candle Lantern Tours.** Visitors Center, 7:30 and 9 p.m.
- **October 24 (Saturday): Candle Lantern Tours.** Visitors Center, 7 and 8:30 p.m.

For information about any of these programs, see page 1 of this newsletter or leave a message on the FOLPI Information Line (973-657-1688). We will return your call. **All FOLPI programs are held Rain or Shine**, unless noted otherwise .



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Close-up of the mill pond dam behind the Stone Double House, c. 1930. The sawmill is faintly visible in the center background.



Mill pond dam today, eighty years later. The difference in the number of trees between the two photos is striking.