

**Historic Name – Neabsco Iron Works**  
**Date or Period – ca, 1730-1820**  
**Original Use – Iron Mine and Furnace**  
**Vicinity - Leesylvania**  
**Source – Prince William: A Past to Preserve**

During the 1730s, the Tayloe family developed a 5,000-acre tract along Neabsco Creek to manufacture iron. They kept extensive records of the operations, showing, for example, that in 1741 Neabsco Iron Works produced 591 tons of pig and bar iron, of which 551 tons were shipped to England. Adjacent to the remains of a collapsed stone furnace are visible signs of former industrial activities, including chunks of ore-producing stone, molten glass, ricks of slate, and byproducts of a blast furnace. Items manufactured by Virginia furnaces during the colonial period included iron pots, tools, and household products. Although modest in size and output, they were considered important to the colony. During the American Revolution, this foundry manufactured equipment for the Virginia forces. Thomas Jefferson said in 1781 that it was making “bar iron from pigs imported from Maryland.”

**Prince William County, April 9<sup>th</sup> 1781**  
**Virginia Governors Executive Papers - Thomas Jefferson**

Sir.

On the first Instant a small schooner vessel Jender to the Trimer privateer belonging to Goodrichs Company with 21 men commanded by one Dickson went up to Alexandria and in the night attempted to cut out before the town a vessel belonging to Baltimore fortunately they were discovered and the wind changing prevented their succeeding they immediately made off down the river and were pursued by two armed vessels and owing to a favorable North West wind was taken before they got to the Trimer which with the Surprise and another Hooper of War laid at Cedar point belonging to the same Company as the Schooner found the (Must?) be taken the men took to their boats and landed on the Virginia Side of the river 16 of them were taken by the Inhabitants 8 of whom were sent to Fredericksburg from whence I hear they are sent to Winchester the others were sent up in the vessels that pursued them to Alexandria and are confined in that Joal among them is Dickson. The privateers as they came up took thirty Negroes and the overseer from a plantation of Consellor Carters at Coles point in Westmoreland and have Plundered the Houses of Messrs Gerard Hooe, John Washington and many other persons of all their furniture & other valuable effects and taken off some Negroes on Friday last in the night (we had an account yesterday from a man from Maryland) they went up Port Tobacco Creek and there did great damage plundered the houses of Mr. Walter Harrison, Mr. Neale carried Mr. Neale off and also a ton of Mr. Harrison plundered the house of the Priest and many others. Mr. George Scott houses they burnt and a fine stallion and two champion horses suffered in the flames. Mr Lawson manager to both Tayloes Neabsco Iron Works near one lost also a vessel boarded with 100 barrels of corn was taken from Nanjamy. One receiving official notice from the county distant of Stafford that the Enemy were making up the river and the Town of Dumfries with the Warehouses on Quantico Creek might be their object and that the Inhabitants might be secured against these plunderers . I immediately ordered all the Militia that could be armed to rendezvous at the mouth of Quantico Creek and they have been there two days about forty there on duty if the enemy do not appear on the shifting of the wind which being this two days at Northwest and against them. I shall only keep a few look outs if the enemy had succeeded at Alexandria they intended ; one of the prisoners said to have burnt Genl. Washington's houses, plundered

Cols Masson and myself and endeavored to have made me a prisoner. As the Act of Assembly empowers you to raise any number of horse it would be advisable to order a few horse to be raised in the different counties on Potomac and constantly keep in pay to give notice of the movements of the Enemy from time to time each would be of --maging --tivity and --rit the Inhabitants in their possessions and save many family's from being plundered. I hope to receive your answer by the return of the Port with such orders as you may please to give which shall be implicitly obeyed by your Excellency.

Most Obedient Servant

Henry Lee

Republican Journal & Dumfries Advertiser 3 Nov 1796

LAND FOR SALE – 944 Acres of LAND lying just above Dumfries. This land is laid off in four lots to suit the purchasers, for terms apply to WILLIAM BEALE JUNR. At Neabsco Furnace who is employed to sell the same. If it is not sold by private sale before the fifth day of December next it will be offered for sale to the highest bidder on that day in Dumfries before Mr. Smock's Tavern Door. Deeds of Conveyance with a clause of general warrantee will be executed for the whole of this land by

John Tayloe  
Neabsco Va.  
November 1, 1796

Alexandria Gazette 27 Aug 1805

FOR SALE – In Prince William County, NEABSCO FURNACE, and its Appendages, with 4 or 5000 acres of land adjoining. Near the Town of Dumfries, and within four miles of the Potomac. The soil is generally adapted to the produce of small grain, if too considerable for one purchase, will be laid off in lots suitable for small farms. A description of the land is thought unnecessary, those wishing to purchase will, no doubt, first view it. The payments required will be one third cash, and the balance in two annual installments, to be secured by a mortgage on the land and no deed will be made until the last payment is complied with. Any person wishing to purchase, may know the terms by applying to Mr. Thomas T. Page, living near the premises; who is fully authorized by me, to sell the whole or any part.

John Tayloe  
Mount Airy, August 12, 1805

N. B. A valuable MINE BANK, in Maryland, may be had with the Furnace.

Alexandria Gazette 15 Jun 1809

FOR SALE OR LEASE for a term of years, MY MANUFACTURING MILL on Neabsco Run, near the stage road and very convenient to navigation, now in complete order, having two pairs of burrs, and all in the newly invented machinery, and can grind from 50 to 60 barrels of flour in the 24 hours --- besides the CROPS OF WHEAT of the subscriber on Potomac, which can always be had at market price. The mill is conveniently situated to a fine farming back country --- There is attached to the mill two acres of land, a good granary and miller's house (more land though can be had if desired). Any person desirous of such property can be informed all about it on application to my agent. THOMAS T. PAGE, at Neabsco, near Dumfries, Va.

John Tayloe  
Neabsco, June 10, 1809

Alexandria Gazette 6 Sep 1810

RUNAWAY NEGRO – Ran away from the estate of John Tayloe, Esq. on Occoquan, in the county of Prince William, a likely Negro man, named CHARLES, very black, and has a sulky appearance when spoken to – he is about 5 feet 10 inches high, 30 years of age, and has a considerable rupture which may be perceived from his manner of walking, his clothing of Virginia cloth. I will give five dollars, if

taken in the county; ten if in an adjacent one; and Twenty, if out of the state, or so secured that I get him again.

Thomas T. Page  
Agent for John Tayloe, Esq.  
September 1, 1810

Alexandria Gazette 18 Aug 1846

NEABSCO MILL – The subscriber wishes to contact for the repair of damages by late floods to Neabsco Mill, three miles north of Dumfries, and near Mr. Kankey's. A new wall canal and other work is to be done, making an object worth the notice of masons, carpenters, and laborers. Apply to the tenant, W. C. Merchant, at the mill.

William H. Tayloe  
Washington