

The Brookeville Farms community north of the Town of Brookeville is located on land that was once a 1,000-acre land grant in 1725 from Charles Calvert, 5th Lord Baltimore, to Thomas Bordley, who named it Bordley's Choice. Bordley's heirs sold the land to John Riggs of Annapolis Junction, whose son Samuel Riggs built a farmhouse known as Pleasant Hill on a portion of Bordley's Choice in approximately 1769. Pleasant Hill stayed in the Samuel Riggs family for five generations before it was sold in 1913. The farmhouse was destroyed by fire in the 1970s.

This fireback was recovered in 2017 from the ruins of the Riggs home by a team of students from Richard Montgomery High School supervised by Robert Hines, a teacher, historian, and life-long Olney resident.

Pine Grove Furnace was operated from 1764-1782 by Robert Thornburgh and John Arthur along Mountain Creek between Gettysburg and Carlisle in what is now known as Pine Grove Furnace State Park. Under different ownership, Pine Grove Furnace continued ironmaking until 1895. The establishment of Pleasant Hill in circa 1769 and the operation by Thornburgh and Arthur of the furnace until 1782 place the casting of this fireback firmly in the Revolutionary Period.



NO. 87 D-5 SAMUEL RIGGS CA. 1769 BRICK

Courtesy of the Brookeville Farms Homeowners Association