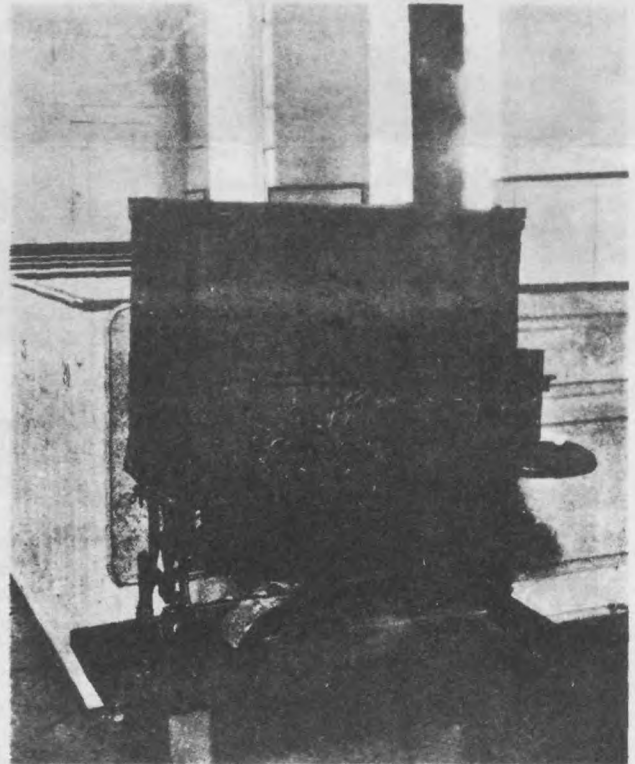
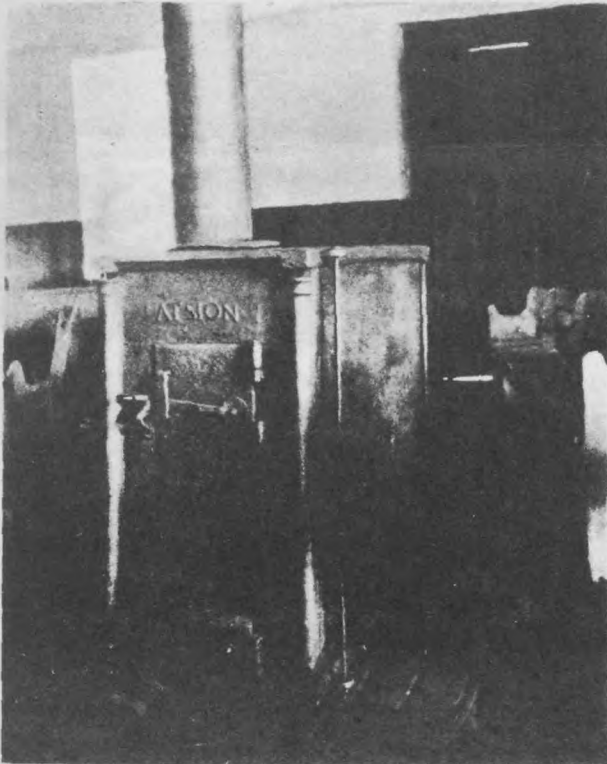


STORIES of New Jersey

Four of the most important of the bog-iron furnaces grew up from Read's dream: Taunton, Aetna, Atsion and Batsto.

Taunton Furnace, about 11 miles southwest of Mount Holly, on what is now called Haines Creek, was started by Charles Read in 1766. Four years later he offered it for sale, calling attention to the fact that it had an advantage over many other works further back in the woods because cost of transportation to Philadelphia was only 10 shillings a ton. The furnace, according to Read, had a capacity of 80 tons of pig iron a month. The plant continued in operation until about 1847, when the mill pond and the adjacent property were converted into a cranberry bog.

The second of Charles Read's projected ironworks, the Aetna Furnace, which was in full swing by 1768, was about 10 miles from Taunton, on the southwest branch of Rancocas Creek. It is not certain just when this furnace ceased operations. In 1790 the water power was being used to operate a gristmill and sawmill, the foundations of which are still visible. The old dam has been rebuilt and the mill pond is now named Aetna Lake. The property is being developed as a summer colony under the name of Medford Lakes in the Pines.



ATSION STOVES IN CROSSWICKS MEETING HOUSE, AND BROAD STREET CHURCH, BRIDGETON

The Atsion Forge, on Atsion River about 20 miles southeast of Medford, was an important forge, with a capacity of 150 or 200 tons of bar iron annually. During the early days of its operation many of the Indians from the Edge Pillock reservation, three miles away, were employed here. After the Revolution the forge turned out pots and kettles of various sizes, as well as stoves. Two of these old stoves, made probably about 1815, are in the old First Presbyterian