

Rolling & Slitting Mill and Nail Factory¹

1820 Census - United States Census Manufacturing Schedules: "The Roxborough works consisting of a Rolling & Slitting Mill & Nail Factory Roxborough Township, Philadelphia County, Pa."

John Moore is given as employer as he rented the mills from his father-in-law in 1820 (per page 2) and later owned them one-third part (per P. Robeson letter and 1834 deed) upon the death of his father-in-law, Peter Robeson. In 1804, Dr. John Moore married Catherine Robeson, b. 1781 d. 1860, who was the daughter of Peter Robeson and Martha Livezey. Peter Robeson was the great-grandson of Andrew Robeson Jr. (Andrew Robeson Jr. was the nephew of Andrew Robeson Sr. (purchased the land in 1691), not his son, and Andrew Jr. came to own the land in 1703 after Andrew Sr. died). Martha Livezey² was the granddaughter of Thomas Livezey, Miller, whose home, "Glen Fern," is the last surviving millers house in the Wissahickon.³

No. 1. Raw Materials Employed: In Rolling & Slitting Mill Bar Iron. Nail Factory Hoop Iron.

2. Annually consumed: Bar Iron 135 Tons, Hoop Iron 82 Tons.
3. Annual Cost: Bar Iron \$13,884, Hoop Iron \$10,660
4. # Men: In R&S (Rolling & Slitting) Mill Four Men. Nail Factory Three men consistently & occasionally three others heading nails.
5. & 6. None (No Women or Boys/Girls)
7. Machinery: In R&S Mill, one sett (*sic*) of Rolling & 6 setts cutters with necessary appendages.

In Nail Factory, two patent Machines for cutting & heading nails at the same operation & one side Machine for cutting Brads & points, also, Four tools for heading nails by hand.

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No. 7.

Questions to be addressed to the Persons concerned in Manufacturing Establishments by the Marshals and their Assistants, in taking the Account of Manufactures.

Name of the County, Parish, Township, Town, or City, where the Manufacture exists. *Roxborough works, consisting of a Rolling & Slitting Mill & Nail Factory in Roxborough Township Philadelphia County Pa.*

RAW MATERIALS EMPLOYED. { 1. The kind?
2. The quantity annually consumed?
3. The cost of the annual consumption?

NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED. { 4. Men?
5. Women?
6. Boys and Girls?

MACHINERY. { 7. Whole quantity and kind of Machinery?
8. Quantity of Machinery in operation?

EXPENDITURES. { 9. Amount of capital invested?
10. Amount paid annually for wages?
11. Amount of contingent Expenses?

PRODUCTION. { 12. The nature and names of Articles Manufactured?
13. Market value of the Articles which are annually manufactured?

14. General Remarks concerning the Establishment, as to its actual and past condition, the demand for and sale of, its Manufactures.

Answers to the above Questions—
No. 1. *In Rolling & Slitting Mill Bar Iron. Nail Factory — Hoop Iron.*

No. 2. *Bar Iron — 135 Tons. Hoop Iron — 82 "*

No. 3. *Bar Iron cost \$13,884. Hoop Iron — 10,660 "*

No. 4. *In R. & S. Mill Four Men. Nail Factory, Three & constantly & occasionally three others heading Nails.*

No. 5. *None.*

No. 6. *None.*

No. 7. *In R. & S. Mill one sett of Rollers & 6 setts of cutters, with necessary appendages. In Nail Factory, Two patent Machines for cutting & heading Nails at the same operation, &*

¹ CTRL-CLCK: [Records of the 1820 census of manufactures \(familysearch.org\)](https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-3?i=100&cc=2020)

² See Martha's family history here: [Genealogies Details — FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-3?i=100&cc=2020)

³ Glen Fern was once the home to the Valley Green Canor Club: [Northwest: Rediscovering The Past At Glen Fern - \(philadelphianeighborhoods.com\)](https://www.philadelphianeighborhoods.com/)

8. Quantity of Machinery in Operation: In R&S Mill, all. In Nail Factory, all.
9. Expenditures: Amount capital invested: In R&S Mill \$3,000, In Nail Factory \$3,000.
10. Annual Wages: R&S Mill, \$867, Nail Factory, \$1,497.
11. Annual Contingent Expenses: R&S Mill, \$1,229, Nail Factory, \$1,820.
12. Articles Manufactured: R&S Mill, Hoop & Rod Iron. Nail Factory, Nails & Brads.
13. Annual market Value: Hoop & Rod Iron, average price \$ 125 ^{88/100} per ton. Nails & Brads 8 ^{3/4} lots per lb.
14. General Remarks concerning the Establishment, as to its actual and past condition, the demand for, and sale of, its Manufactures.

The above works are the property of Peter Robeson, rented by John Moore & by him carried on, through his agent. The works are in good repair. The demand for & sales of Hoop & Rod Iron has been dull for the last year occasioned by the importation of large quantities of foreign Iron of those descriptions, more particularly small hoops. The R&S Mills is capable of Manufacturing 300 tons of Hoop & Rod Iron annually if the demand thereof was adequate thereto, The demand for & sail of Nails has been for the last year.

In No. 8, it is stated that all the Machinery in the Nail Mill are in operation, which must be understood with some exceptions, on respect to the Tools for heading nails by hand, there being four of them one which is occupied occasionally by the man who works the side machines the other three, by three of the hands who work in the R&S Mill only when they have nothing to do therein. Also, respecting Cutters in the R&S Mill...(next page)

one side Machine for cutting Brads & points - also, Four tools for heading Nails by hand. Nos. In R. & S. Mill, all. " " Nail Factory, all. No. 9 In R. & S. Mill \$ 3000. " " Nail Factory \$ 3000. No. 10 R. & S. Mill - \$ 867. + " " Nail Factory \$ 1497. + No. 11 R. & S. Mill \$ 1229. + " " Nail Factory - \$ 1820. + No. 12 R. & S. Mill, Hoop & Rod Iron. " " Nail Factory, Nails & Brads. No. 13 Hoop & Rod Iron, average price \$ 125 ^{88/100} per Ton. " " Nails & Brads " " 8 ^{3/4} lots per lb. No. 14 The above works are the property of Peter Robeson, rented by John Moore, & by him carried on, through his agent. The works are in good repair. The demand for & sales of Hoop & Rod Iron has been dull for the last year, occasioned by the importation of large quantities of foreign Iron of those descriptions, more particularly small Hoops. - The R. & S. Mill is capable of Manufacturing 300 Tons of Hoop & Rod Iron annually, if the demand thereof was adequate thereto. The demand for & sales of Nails has been pretty brisk for the last year. In answer No. 8. it is stated that all the Machinery in the Nail Mill are in operation, which might be understood with some exceptions, on respect to the Tools for heading Nails by hand, there being four of them, one of which, is occupied occasionally by the Man who works the side Machines the other three, by three of the hands, who work in the R. & S. Mill, only, when they have nothing to do therein. Also, respecting the Cutters in the R. & S. Mill.

14. General Remarks continued.

R&S Mill there being Sett of different sizes, but one sett only are in operation at a time.

There is also one Blacksmith constantly employed in keeping the Machinery in repair, whose wages are \$416 per annum, which sum is inclusive in the amount of contingent expenses No. 11 together with the cost of coal & wood consumed, hauling to & from Market. Agents Salary being apporportioned between R&S Mill and Nail Factory.

The foregoing Statements I believe to be nearly correct for the last year ending the 1st Instant.

8th Mo. 16, 1820 James Davis,
Agent, for John Moore.

R. S. Mill, there being 6 Sett of different sizes, but one sett, only, are in operation at a time.

There is also, one Blacksmith constantly employed, in keeping the Machinery in repair, whose wages are \$416 per annum, which sum is included in the amount of contingent expenses in No. 11. Together, with the cost of Coal & wood consumed, hauling to & from Market. Agents Salary, &c. being apporportioned between the R. S. Mill, and Nail Factory. —

The foregoing Statements, I believe to be nearly correct for the last year, ending the 1st Instant.

8th Mo. 16-1820

James Davis Agent
For John Moore

Not yet transcribed, the 1820 Census response by Peter Robeson for the grain mill upstream, on the opposite, East side of the Wissahickon⁴.

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No. 7.

Questions to be addressed to the Persons concerned in Manufacturing Establishments by the Marshals and their Assistants, in taking the Account of Manufactures.

Name of the County, Parish, Township, Town, or City, where the Manufactory exists.

Roxborough Township Philadelphia County

RAW MATERIALS EMPLOYED.

- 1. The kind? *Wheat rye corn &c*
- 2. The quantity annually consumed? *210000 bushels different kinds*
- 3. The cost of the annual consumption? *\$30.000 dollars*

NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED.

- 4. Men? *5*
- 5. Women?
- 6. Boys and Girls?

MACHINERY.

- 7. Whole quantity and kind of Machinery? *6 pair Mill Stones*
- 8. Quantity of Machinery in operation? *3 pair*

EXPENDITURES.

- 9. Amount of capital invested? *8000 Dollars*
- 10. Amount paid annually for wages? *1200 do*
- 11. Amount of Contingent Expenses? *2000 Rent & Repairs*

PRODUCTION.

- 12. The nature and names of Articles Manufactured? *flour*
- 13. Market value of the Articles which are annually manufactured? *32000 -*

14. General Remarks concerning the Establishment, as to its actual and past condition, the demand for, and sale of, its Manufactures.

The present condition very much depressed and consequently limited for the demand of bread stuff

Answers to the above Questions—
No. 1.

Peter Robeson's Establishment

John H. Drey A. M.

⁴ CTRL-CLCK: [Records of the 1820 census of manufactures \(familysearch.org\)](https://www.familysearch.org)