

# The Early History of Old Troy

## Settlement and the First Roads

In the late 1600s, land speculators began buying up large plots of acreage. By 1700, the first settlers arrived, drawn by the area's timber, wildlife, and natural water power.

- **South Beverwyck Road:** The first simple houses were built along this road, which follows an original Native American trail. It is the **second oldest road** in the township.
- **The Minisink Trail:** Now known as **Route 10**, this is the oldest road in the area.
- **A Growing Community:** In 1739, Morris County was officially formed. By 1745, the population had grown to over 4,400 people, and local industry was taking off.

## How the Troy Forge Worked

By 1745, the **Troy Forge** was a center of local industry. It was known as a "bloomery" forge, using a specific process to create iron:

1. **Air & Heat:** Water power from the brook operated large bellows. These bellows forced air into the furnace, creating the intense heat needed to melt iron ore.
2. **The Hammer:** Once the iron was soft, it was moved to an anvil.
3. **The Sound of Industry:** A massive **500 lb. power hammer** pounded the metal into wrought iron bars. This rhythmic thumping was a constant, familiar sound to everyone living in the community.

## The Seeds of the Revolution

The iron produced here (called "pig iron") played a role in the tension with England:

- Local iron was shipped to England to be turned into finished products.
- Those products were then sent back to the colonies to be sold, but with high British taxes added.
- This unfair trade system angered the colonists and eventually helped lead to the **Revolutionary War**.