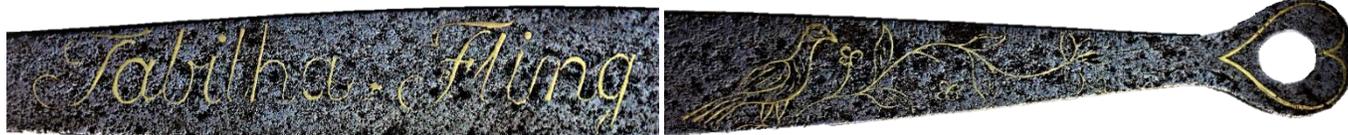


# East Bradford Worldly Goods

The image to the right is an 18<sup>th</sup> century toaster. Our ancestors used toasters in the same way we do – to warm and brown bread. The bread – likely large round loaves like today’s artisan bread – was sliced and placed between the toaster’s hoops and the toaster was placed close to the hearth fire. On this toaster, the handle is hinged so that the bread can be toasted on both sides.

Most toasters were purely utilitarian utensils made of wrought iron for hearth cooking. Not this one. The following attributes lead to the conclusion that the toaster pictured here is a presentation piece meant for display, not use: brass hoops, and brass inlay of a bird, flowering vine, heart and the owner’s name – Tabitha Fling.

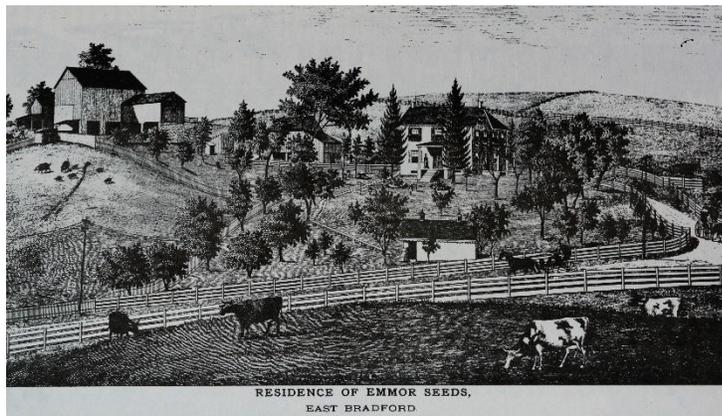


Tabitha Weston (of East Bradford Township) married David Fling (also of East Bradford) on December 29, 1796. Tabitha and David Fling owned a 99 acre farm in East Bradford Township which included Historic Resource #91, currently known as Seeds Rock Farm on Allerton Road. They bought the “messenger [dwelling], plantation and tract or parcel of land” in 1798 when it was sold by the “High Sherriff” to satisfy the debts of David Fling’s older brother. (Chester County Archives, Deed Book Q-2, page 392.) The property came into the Fling family when David’s father purchased three contiguous lots in East Bradford in 1764. The 1764 mortgage for one of the lots states that the lot had a “messenger” (a dwelling). Most of that lot is part of current-day Seeds Rock Farm. This means that the core of Seeds Rock Farm was likely built before 1764. The core is located between the white stucco section facing Allerton Road (with a datestone that reads “EMRL SEEDS Jr 1860”) and the 2016 brick addition at the back of the house.



“Emmor Seeds House and Farm” (Seeds Rock Farm) (HR #91), 2017 photograph by Jean Renshaw

Tabitha Fling died in 1819 and in 1820 David Fling sold the farm to his cousin, Joseph Hance, and his nephew, Emmor Seeds. Emmor Seeds then acquired the property from Joseph Hance. When Futhey and Cope wrote *History of Chester County, Pennsylvania* (published by Louis H Everts, Philadelphia 1881), Emmor’s son (also named Emmor Seeds) owned Seeds Rock Farm.



“Residence of Emmor Seeds, East Bradford” facing page 181, *History of Chester County, Pennsylvania* by J. Smith Futhey and Gilbert Cope, Facsimile Reprint Edition 1986, Whipporwill Publications