



# HOLCOMBE-JIMISON FARMSTEAD

The Voice of Hunterdon Agriculture Since 1984

Dedicated to Preservation of Hunterdon County's Rural Heritage

609-397-2752

[www.holcombe-jimison.org](http://www.holcombe-jimison.org)

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"Facebook / Holcombe - Jimison"

1605 Daniel Bray Hwy (Route 29), Lambertville, New Jersey 08530

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The Museum is Open Every Sunday May through October, from 1 pm to 4 pm, Wednesday work days all year from 9 am until noon. Call Mary Lou, 908-788-5885 for Group Tour Appointments.

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## The Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead Museum Open House, Sunday May 3 from 1PM to 4PM. Free

Come and see what has been accomplished at the Farmstead. We have several new items on display; an 1824 hand press printer plus a "Turtle" donated by the Thomas Family of the Hunterdon County Democrat. John Thomas will be demonstrating how these objects were used at the Democrat. See back page.

We are bringing **OUR TRACTORS** out of their barns and driving them around for all to see. **We invite anyone with an antique tractor or car to bring it for everyone's enjoyment.**

There will be a **Good Old Fashioned Social Time** at about 3 o'clock. The Farmstead will supply beverages and hand cranked ice cream. Children can use old fashioned toys and make bracelets on a rope machine. There will be candle making for all to try.

**The Farmstead contains these shops:** A Blacksmith Shop using a restored bellows, A Machine Shop using old tools to repair farm equipment, a Print Shop using manual operated printers, a Herb Garden maintained by the Delaware Valley Herb Society of America, the restored 1711 House, one of the oldest homes in Hunterdon County, a Barbershop where men were shaved, a General Store and one of the last Phone Booths.

The Farmstead is Open May 1 through October from 1 to 4 pm. Located at 1605 Daniel Bray Highway, route 29, just north of Lambertville.

The May 3 Open House is Free for everyone. If you wish a Donation of \$5.00 for Adults, would help defray the costs of maintaining the farmstead.

### Presidents message

This year is rolling out with many traditional farmstead events plus private events with various photo clubs, local service groups and The Hunterdon County 300th Organization.

Sorry to say that the Civil War Re-enactment had to be cancelled this year because of the nearby Eagles Nest.

We are continuing efforts to get the word out about the uniqueness of the Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead to attract new members. Last year the farmstead hosted its first wedding, in October. If you have a relative/friend planning a wedding, check us out.

We will continue farmstead repairs and improvements to our displays throughout the year. We have a list of items that need attention and our volunteers are checking off the list as things get done.

The 1711 house Kitchen was completed last year and is off the list. One new task is the restoration of the Museum barn. The Loft door had to be restored due to water damage to the sill and support posts. We have applied for grants to fund complete restoration of the exterior and painting.

**As always, we can use help on various projects.** Every Wednesday the Trustees and volunteers meet from 9 a.m. till noon and work on something. If you have some time we can find a job working on a project that interests you. If it's too cold or the weather is bad we work inside or take a long coffee break and talk about what we will do the following week.

**We did mail 2015 dues envelopes for you to renew your membership for 2015. Please encourage those you know to join. If you are not a member there is a membership form in this newsletter, please join.**

*Tony Weber*

### What is a Power Hammer?

It is a machine that hammers heated metal into shape without having to hold the hammer in your hand thus leaving your hands free to hold the object.

The Power Hammers is an example of early automation devised during the industrial revolution of the nineteenth century. Our power hammer is located in the blacksmith shop and is run by an electric motor. Early hammers were driven by steam. This unit was designed and built in our blacksmith shop and is made of donated materials from all over Hunterdon County. There is channel iron from a farm in Lebanon, a steel I-beam from a camp in Stanton, a motor from Frenchtown, wire and pulleys from Lambertville. Museum volunteers Lew Needham, Fred Rynearson, and Wayne Witowski provided all the labor.

### Come and see the Power Hammer in action.

**The Museum is Open Every Sunday  
May through October 1 pm to 4 pm  
Wednesday work days all year from 9 am to 12.  
Volunteers are welcome on Wednesdays  
Come and see if there is some project that will  
capture your imagination.**

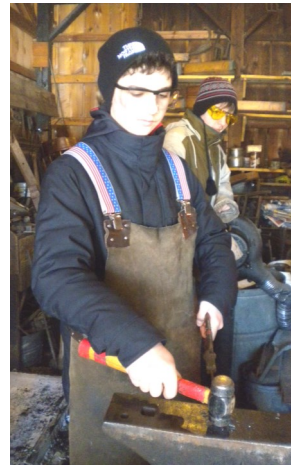
**Call Tony Weber at 908-782-6428 for more information.**

## Home Schooler's from Readington Township

### Working and Learning at the Farmstead

While Zack Majorossy 14 years old (in the background) and Max Renieris 15 years old are learning Blacksmithing from Ben Suhaka, our resident blacksmith. Annabelle, sister of Zack, and her mother Jacqueline are working in the 1711 house to get it ready for Opening Day May 3rd.

Most Sundays Ben, Wayne and sometimes Duffy are in the Blacksmith Shop here at the Farmstead and ready to teach you how to shape iron into useful things. They would like to give you a taste of the work involved to make something as simple as a nail. Come and give it a try.



### News of the 1711 House by Jacqueline Majorossy

As spring finally starts to show us her greens and yellows, ..... We prepare for another season at Holcombe-Jimison. Many members worked in the 1711 house this long winter, and we are happy to showcase the fruits of our labors.

The Civil War-era kitchen, the first room you enter from the North end of the house, underwent the most transformation. Once a shed, this kitchen area was closed off and made into a kitchen in the Mid-1800s, and surely has endured many re-dos in its lifetime.

After removing cabinets and stripping the walls in the 1800s kitchen, several doors which were not originally there were removed and filled in by Henry Nalance and Ken Cummings and one was replaced with a window by this team. A period window was created and another repaired in our farmstead woodshop by woodworker John McPherson. Walls throughout the room were re-plastered professionally and then much of the trim and ceiling beams were re-painted by Linda Setescak. A modern era sink was replaced with an older, period pump sink. A Radiator was installed and an original 1936 thermostat, donated by Tom LaRowe, replaced a more modern one in this kitchen. After scrubbing/waxing the floors, all the cleaned artifacts were returned to the space.

As you exit this 1800 kitchen and go deeper into the house you can notice the trim over the doorframe and its hand carved design-thought to be original. The middle room floor also received a coat of Tung oil this winter, despite the frigid temperatures we endured. Out of public sight, repairs were also done to the tiny, curving staircase that leads to the basement. The 1711 house is now ready for your visit!



### The 1900's Ice Box

was donated by Ben Suhaka, our Blacksmith. There is an interesting display of turn of the century kitchen tools. Many, in a modern form, are used today. Do you like the Hand pumped Cold water right in your kitchen sink not behind the house! Come and see how everything worked.

### Icebox/Refrigerator Information

In 1803, Thomas Moore patented a metal-lined butter-storage tub which became the prototype for most iceboxes.

In 1911, GE released a household refrigeration unit that was powered by gas. The use of gas eliminated the need for a motor and decreased the size of the refrigerator. However, electric companies that were customers of GE did not benefit from a gas-powered unit. Thus, GE invested in developing an electric model. In 1927, GE released the Monitor Top, the first refrigerator to run off electricity.

### More Events Sponsored by The Farmstead

**May 9, Saturday, New Jersey History Fair** held in Manalapan NJ, Monmouth Park. It is a wonderful event with many displays and re-enactors. I great family event. Come see our display.

**May 16 & 17, Saturday & Sunday, the Delaware Valley Herb Society Herb Sale.** A very well attended sale, come early to get your favorite herbs. Plant list is at [www.delvalherbs.org](http://www.delvalherbs.org)  
**June 14, Sunday the Delaware Valley Herb Society**

Program starts at 1:30PM, *Medical Plants of the Civil War*. Tour of the Herb Garden, grounds and buildings to follow. \$5.00 per person. Details at [www.delvalherbs.org](http://www.delvalherbs.org)

**June 28th, Sunday The Annual Corporate Meeting and Farmers Honor Roll** 2 pm meeting to elect Trustees and to honor the farmers selected for the Honor Roll. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

**July 12, Sunday, the Delaware Valley Herb Society**

Program starts at 1:30PM, *The Stillroom Garden in the 1600's*. Tour of the Herb Garden, grounds and buildings to follow. \$5.00 person. Details at [www.delvalherbs.org](http://www.delvalherbs.org)

## Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead Museum

### Trustees 2015

|                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>President</b>      | <b>Tony Weber</b>        |
| <b>Vice President</b> | <b>Leslie Salisbury</b>  |
| <b>Secretary</b>      | <b>Mary Lou Crabtree</b> |
| <b>Treasurer</b>      | <b>Frank Barlow</b>      |
| Michael Judkins       | George Carkhuff*         |
| Francis Zamek         | Andy Tirpok              |
| Hank Snyder           | Thomas LaRowe            |
| James Bowers          | Lewis Needham            |
| Carol Hrubesh         | Don Gootee               |

\* original trustee 1982

### Unique Programmable Seed Planter

There are many unique tools at the Farmstead. All created for a special purpose and most with US Patents for their ingenuity. Below is an example that was reconditioned by Jim Bowers. It is programmed by inserting 1 of 8 metal disks, with dimples, that control the spacing of the seeds while the farmer pushes the planter down the row. The disk turned by the chain drive triggers when a seed is dropped in the row. This tool is in the Garden Shop.



### Old Barn Door Frame Restored

In November of 2014 the Board approved a project to restore the Barn Loft Door Frame and support structure which had become weakened by prior attacks by termites (all eradicated) and more recently, water damage. An investigation by the New Jersey Barn Company provided a description of the condition of the Barn Loft door frame which required remediation. Specifically the north post of the frame had dropped by more than 3 inches due to rotting at the post base and shifted outward 2 inches because of deterioration of the sill under the post. The post supported an 8x12 beam which held up the third floor of the barn and the roof above.

Decayed wood in the post was cut out and replaced and a new sill was installed.

### **NOT ALREADY A MEMBER OF THE FARMSTEAD**

**You can join with this form.**

#### **Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead Museum Annual Membership Dues for 2015**

The Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead Inc. is a private nonprofit and tax exempt organization dedicated to the purpose of collecting, restoring and preserving every variety of illustrative material relating to the history of Hunterdon County and New Jersey including agricultural, industrial and commercial implements, tools and products from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. The museum is educational, charitable and non-profit. The IRS # is 222570137. May 1, 2015.

**Please check one:**

**Annual Single or Family \$25.00** \_\_\_\_\_ **Student \$10.00** \_\_\_\_\_ **Contributing \$100.00** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Lifetime Patron (one time only) \$1,000.00** \_\_\_\_\_ **Institutional \$150.00** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

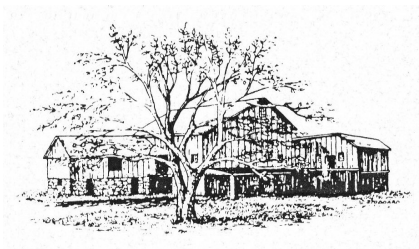
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail with check made out to Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead to:**

**Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead Museum, 1605 Daniel Bray Hwy, Lambertville, New Jersey, 08530**





## **Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead Museum**

**1605 Daniel Bray Highway (Route 29)**

**Lambertville, New Jersey 08530**



Dow Iron Hand Press

“Turtle” Table



### **Hunterdon Democrat Newspaper Donation**

The Hunterdon Democrat donated a Dow 1830's iron hand press with Ramage toggle and a “Turtle” table (Circa 1950) to the Farmstead in 2014. We are grateful to the Thomas families for this generous gift to the displays at the Holcombe-Jimison Print Shop. **Mr. John Thomas will demonstrate the operation of this press at the May 3 open house.**

This 1824 press is one of two that exist in the United States. Built in Philadelphia it was last used in 1949 at the Milford Leader until the Democrat obtained it.

Operationally, the Printed page text was manually composed of single letter typeset on the Platen table and then each page was printed one at a time using the mechanical toggle lever of the press.

The 1950 ‘wooden adjustable height table (called a “Turtle”’) was the first step in a process to make a Semi-Circular Autopony Cast Lead printing plate for a Rotary Duplex Newspaper Printing Press. The process is labor intensive..

The Turtle holds a ‘Chase’ set with Linotype type and plastic photo engravings which was composed at a marble topped table. FYI the ‘Chase’ is the metal frame on the turtle that holds the Type for the printed page. The 1976 Hunterdon Democrat hot type page is still set in the Chase on the turtle.

The hand crank lets the Turtle gear mechanism raise its table to a height to move the chase from the composer table to the rotary press. Visit our print shop for details on how it works.