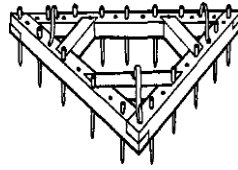


THE FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM



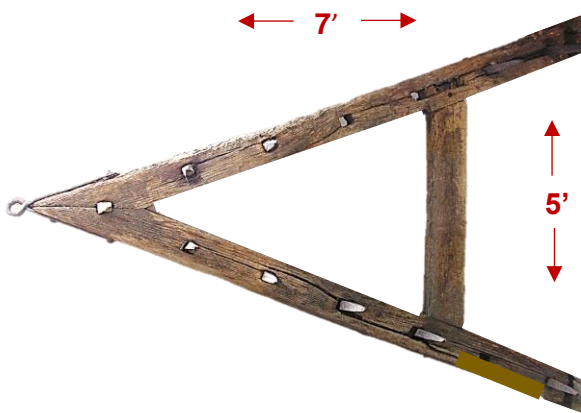
Newsletter

April 2021

SPIKE HARROW

A NEW ACQUISITION

No, the museum has not gone into the medieval age's torture business. This was a state of the art device back when Francestown was founded.



This SPIKE HARROW was donated by a local family who found it under a barn on a property they had purchased.

Our early colonial ancestors were largely farmers and were faced with clearing fields before they could begin growing crops. This created some problems for even after the trees were cut and stumps and large rocks removed, the new fields still held an ample number of smaller rocks and roots. In order to till this soil they needed an implement that was strong and also able to slide around obstructions rather than get caught on them. Thus the A-Harrow was developed. Early harrows such as the one donated to the museum consisted of heavy timbers and had wooden or iron pegs driven through the timbers so that they protruded from the bottom. Needless to say, these early harrows with wooden and iron teeth were prone to frequently having the teeth snap off whenever a rock or buried root was struck. Steel teeth which were less likely to snap off were not available until after the Civil War. By then the harrows being made were also larger and square rather than A-frame.

CON'T - PAGE 2

THE MARCH WHATZ IT . . .



This would be a "croze". Back in the days when wooden barrels and casks were the preferred means of shipping, Coopers were kept busy as barrel making was one of the specialties of their trade.

Once the wooden barrel was made and assembled it would be time to make the wooden top and bottom for the barrel. The wooden pieces would be cut to the needed length "plus a little more". They would then have to cut a groove into the inside of the barrel just below the top and bottom rim of the barrel. This groove was called a croze and the tool for making it was called a croze.



Here a croze (different style than ours) is being used to cut the groove inside the barrel.

CON'T - PAGE 4

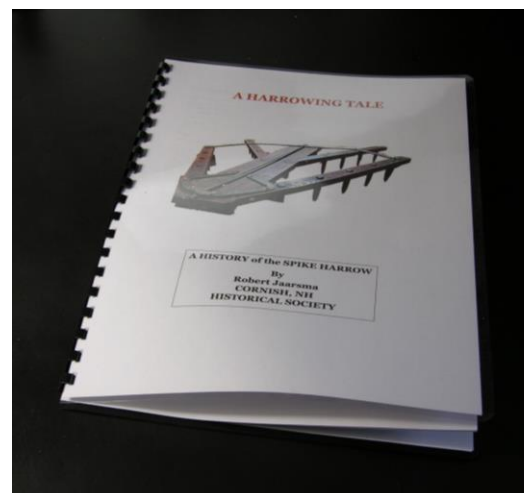
SPIKE HARROW CON'T - from Page 1

While the A-Harrow got the needed job done, it was tedious, hard work to use one. The farmer had to walk alongside or behind the harrow to rein the horse. The harrows were not effective in wet soil so they were used when the soil was dry and dusty. Thus the farmer had to walk many miles behind the harrow in softened soil – a tiresome task. A description of this is found in an old book “The Desert of Wheat” – walking behind the harrow into the wind, a farmer faced “. . . wind laden with dust as dry as powder. At every sheeted cloud, whipping back from the hoofs of the horses and the steel spikes of the harrow, he had to bat his eyes to keep from being blinded. The smell of dust clogged his nostrils. As soon as he began to sweat under the hot sun the dust caked his face, itching, stinging, and burning. There was dust between his teeth.” Ah, the good old days!



The spike harrow played a significant role in the colonial era farm but was found to have a limitation. The problem with the spike harrow was while it was very good at pulverizing the top 2” or 3” of soil which made it beneficial for the early stages of plant growth, the wedge shape of the spikes continually compacted the soil deeper down. This was detrimental to the plant during its later growth when the roots develop and need the soil to be pulverized much deeper than 2” to 3”. As a result the spike harrow was followed by many different iterations and new inventions.

As fate would have it, about the same time as we obtained the spike harrow in the Frankestown Heritage Museum, a member of the Cornish NH Historical Society, Robert Jaarsma, was restoring an old spike harrow he found in the woods. He has written an account of this project and has agreed to let the Frankestown Heritage Museum and Cornish Historical Society make this story available to the public. A copy can be obtained by contacting Bill McAuley at the Frankestown Heritage Museum (wfm03043@comcast.net) or Laird Klingler at the Cornish Historical Society (laird.klingler@myfairpoint.net). We are not charging for this comb bound 10 page booklet but supplies are limited and neither organization would decline any possible donation.



THE FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

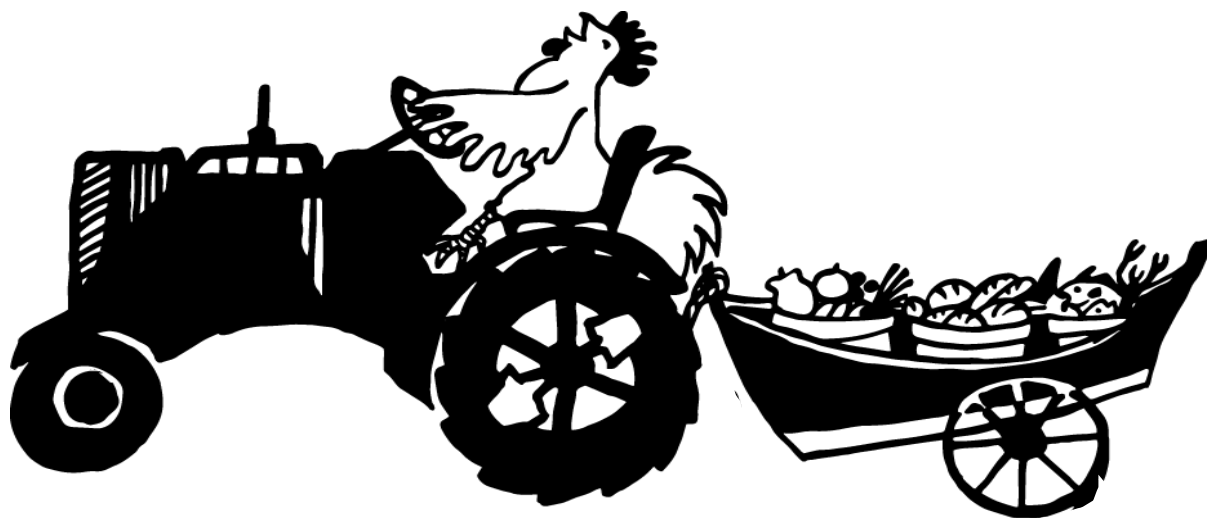


Newsletter

APRIL 2021

SUPPLEMENT

Starting April 2, 2021, The Frankestown Heritage Museum will be open concurrently with the Frankestown Community Market. With our emphasis on our ancestor's agricultural roots and self-sufficient life-style we feel that our mission closely aligned with that of the Frankestown Community Market and indeed the entire Buy Local – Farm to Table concept. Our exhibits focus on agriculture, domestic life and commerce as it was when the town was founded. Residents then depended on their neighbors, agriculture and local businesses to supply their needs. Whenever you go to the Community Market, you are welcome to stop by the museum for a look at how it all began in Frankestown. Shopping at the Frankestown Community Market will support your local businesses, farms and neighbors.



FRANCESTOWN COMMUNITY MARKET

**2021 OPENING – APRIL 2ND FROM 4:00 – 7:00 AT THE FRANCESTOWN
HORSESHEDS**

The 2021 season already has 14 vendors with several more applications in the works. These vendors will be offering a wide selection of goods ranging from A to Z. As in the past, the selection constantly increases as seasonal

products are added throughout the year. These would include the following with more to come:

BACKWOODS BEAUTY – beauty and healthcare products

BEYOND the HORIZON – breads and baked goods

BLOOMS and SHROOMS – mushrooms, eggs and plants

BLUE DOG FARMS – poultry

CARBEE FARMS – jams and jellies

CARDS by PAM – cards and gift bags

CAROL and ED’S KITCHEN – jams, jellies, fruit breads and pies

FIBER DREAMS – chicken, pork, lamb and cheese

LEDGE TOP FARM – produce

OLIVE and HONEY – Greek pastries and baked goods

PUP’S CIDER – hard cider and beer

RED HOUSE FARM – mustards, sauces and pancake mix

VICUÑA CHOCOLATE - chocolate



THE FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM



Newsletter

APRIL 2021

VENDOR PROFILE

FRANCESTOWN COMMUNITY MARKET



In addition to our having concurrent hours when we are open to the public, the Francestown Heritage Museum will include a profile of a different market vendor each month. Brad Bull is the first out of the gate so what follows is the lowdown on his Red House Farm. We want to thank Brad for his time in effort in helping to put this profile together.



If you haven't guessed, Red House Farm is the old place on Red House Road with the red house and the red barn. "I suppose we could have been more imaginative." says owner Braddock Bull. "But it kind of named itself."





The Bull family moved here three years ago from Vermont where they had a small farm, farm stand, and a specialty food business. The house and property date back to 1791 but the land hadn't been farmed in many decades. Reclaiming fields was job one. "Coming from Addison County VT, we went from big field little woods to big woods little field." said Bull. After lots of work, lime, and legume, he's hoping to finally make hay this year for their flock of Babydoll sheep and for "Queequeg" and "Pip" the miniature donkeys. Behind the barn and paddock is the rich growing area for pumpkins and a variety of fresh summer produce.

Continuing with artisan foods, the family rebranded their recipes using local ingredients including their own homegrown tomatoes and horseradish. The result is a line of delicious Red House Farm mustards and sauces. Although developed in the home kitchen, all the products are now professionally co-packed nearby using FDA scheduled processes. The natural sweetness of pure New Hampshire maple syrup is a theme in many of the recipes,

robust and zingy Maple Horseradish Mustard and the sticky Maple Teriyaki Sauce are best sellers. Get creative with our products, says Bull who is also a chef. "Whether in the sauté pan, oven, or on the grill, our mustards and sauces make everyone a gourmet."



Lastly – don't forget the first Francestown Community Market of 2021 is April 2nd at the Town Hall horse sheds. It is early in the season but there will still be a wide variety of products for sale. Also, stop by The Red House Farm booth and say hello to Brad.



APRIL THEME CROSSWORD

This month's crossword is a standard crossword with the theme words in yellow. There is however a twist (you knew there would be). Once the puzzle has been completed if you take the letters that appear in the green blocks and rearrange them you will get the bonus word(s). NOTE: The letter in square 34 is used twice in the bonus word(s). Solution will be in next month's newsletter. Sorry – ran out of space here.



Across

1. Fungal spore sacs
5. Famous dragon
9. ___ del Sol
14. Bowl over
15. Biblical birthright seller
16. Part of "the works"
17. Those who trade
19. Move, as a plant
20. Willows
21. Aim
23. WITH 31D, A TOOL TO BRAKE UP SOIL
25. Rose shrub
30. Taboos
32. Map line
33. Color of honey
36. All visitors welcome
38. High school class, for short
39. Existence
40. Undertake, with "out"
41. Anteaters
44. Glove material
46. BARREL MAKER
47. Continental money
49. Window shade
51. Women's guard
54. Heavy, durable furniture wood
56. MADE BY 46A
58. Breathing problem
62. Throw in, as a question
64. TELLING TALES
65. Advertising sign
66. European language
67. Run out, as a subscription
68. Caddie's bagful
69. Big game

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15				16					
17				18				19					
20						21		22					
	23					24		25		26	27	28	29
				30			31	32					
33	34	35				36		37					
38					39					40			
41			42	43				44	45				
46							47	48					
49						50		51			52	53	
				54			55	56					57
58	59	60	61			62		63					
64						65				66			
67						68				69			

Down

1. Schools professional assoc.
2. Hiding place
3. Papal court
4. Hospital resident
5. Being
6. "It's no ___!"
7. GROW CROPS HERE
8. Joins together
9. WHERE A HARROW WAS RESTORED
10. "___ moment"
11. Bit of a draft
12. "___ bad!"
13. Amazon, e.g.
18. Overthrow, say
22. Imitating
24. Beau
26. "Winnie-the-Pooh" baby
27. Bullying, e.g.
28. Alleviated

29. Mountain crest

31. WITH 23A, A TOOL TO BRAKE UP SOIL
33. Hemp plant
34. Cat's cry (Var.)
35. Found in Borax
37. Arise
39. Trash hauler
42. Printer resolution measure
43. Small hole or vent
44. Navigational aid
45. Infringed upon
48. Flemish artist
50. Peter, Paul or Mary
52. 10,000,000
53. "Siddhartha" author
55. "Trick" joint
57. Bad look
58. "Is that ___?"
59. Myanmar money
60. Barely beat
61. "Star Trek" rank: Abbr.
63. "For shame!"

SPIKE HARROW CON'T - from Page 2

These photos show the condition of the harrow when found in the woods and the finished restoration.



REMAINS FOUND IN WOODS



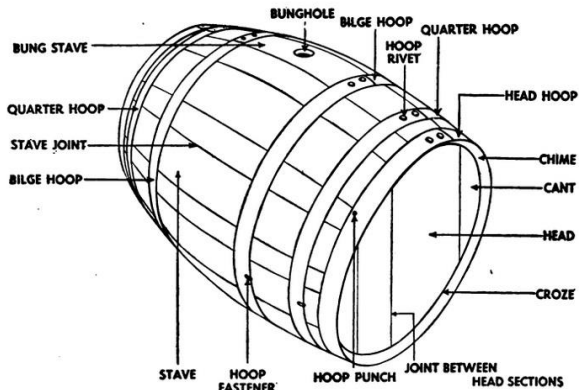
COMPLETED RESTORATION

WHATZ IT CON'T - from Page 1

This photo clearly shows the croze groove that has been cut into the inside top rim of the barrel.



Who knew the number of parts in a barrel!



LYING DRAPER

The August 1897 issue of The Granite Monthly tells the story of Driscoll hill resident William Draper know to the town residents as "Lying Draper". Well known for his "ingenious and amusing fictions", he and rival Jessie Glover spent much time trying to outdo each other with their fabrications. One such story by Draper goes:

"Hearing one night a flock of geese flying over my dwelling, I seized my gun and fired up the chimney with such precision that six of the fowl came tumbling down upon the embers in my capacious fireplace."

