



## Welcome to the Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society



The Historic Dreibelbis Farm has been owned by the Dreibelbis family for over 240 years. The farm, its buildings, and the artifacts of the site are maintained by the Dreibelbis Farm Historical Society, Inc., a registered 501(c)3, nonprofit, charitable organization (EIN: 23-2986673). The mission of the society is to preserve and protect the historic Dreibelbis farm and to make it available to the public for educational, historical, and environmental purposes. Financial contributions are always welcome and may be deductible for income tax purposes.

The original log house at the farm lasted for almost exactly 100 years. Joel and Elizabeth Dreibelbis replaced it with the present brick structure shortly after the Civil War. It remains almost completely unchanged from the time of its construction. Our largest public event is the annual Farm Festival usually held on the fourth Saturday in August. As visitors walk the farm's lanes and land, they'll leave the modern rush of 21<sup>st</sup> century society to experience life in the quieter, slower-paced times between the Civil War and America's Great Depression. Admission is free; a donation is requested for parking; food is available for purchase. The festival is held rain or shine.



### Why do we do what we do?

We love history. We especially love **living** history! This farm is not only important to the Dreibelbis clan; it's a treasure for our Berks County community.



Docents guide tours through the farmhouse (for a small fee). Visitors have a rare opportunity to see the farm's outstanding arrowhead collection.



Because of the ingrained conservatism of the family over the last three centuries, the house and buildings have remained virtually unchanged. This site is a wondrous example of living history and historic conservancy. We want to protect the farm from future development, preserve the historical resources of the site, and enhance the ecological value of wetlands and endangered species habitat onsite. Our non-profit corporation was founded to make the resources of the farm available to the public. We look forward to working with new volunteers and contributors!

*(There's more about the festival and the historic farm on page 2.)* →

The Historic Dreibelbis Farm is located south of the village of Virginville along Rte. 143 in Berks County. GPS street address : 356 Hard Hill Road, Hamburg 19526 For more information, contact Mark Dreibelbis at 610-488-7896, visit us on Facebook or email to DreibelbisFarm@gmail.com.

Demonstrators display the rural skills and arts necessary to keep an intact farmstead thriving: spinning, butchering, butter-making, chair caning, barrel-making, and sauerkraut-making. Children enjoy making hand-dipped candles, wooden bird houses, or even trying some games that were popular for kids back at the time of the American Civil War. And there's a hayride, too!



**The old Milk House**



**Ice Harvest Demonstration**

### Restoration

Work continues on the brick chicken house to restore and develop it into a museum display area and multi-purpose building for historical workshops and meetings. This big task involves digging down to allow wood flooring to be installed. The windows are being totally refinished/rebuilt.



recreating a stone bake oven, erecting a pig stable, and rebuilding a sagging wall in the butcher house.

Perhaps the biggest restoration project was a three year , all volunteer barn-roofing job to eliminate the dozens and dozens of leaks caused by the winds of Hurricane Sandy.



Roof insulation, electricity, and heating and air conditioning will complete the project. Future projects include reroofing the ice house,



**Better start running now to the Historic Dreibelbis Farm!**

### Some of our Programs and Activities

- **February:** Ice making on the farm. This includes a demonstration of how ice was harvested and stored, and why this was important to early farm life.
- **Spring:** The "Peep Walk" an evening trek to a large vernal pool to meet some of the thousands of the farm's tiny frogs.
- **Early Summer:** Wildflower Walk. A local botanist leads a walk through the wetlands.
- **August:** Annual Farm Festival. Demonstration of crafts and techniques of Pennsylvania German 18th and 19th Century farm life with tours of the historic house.
- **October/November:** Fall Family Fun is our family-oriented activity which often includes an opportunity for paranormal investigation.

### What would you like to see?

We would like to hear from our supporters about the kinds of activities, presentations, demonstration, etc., you would be interested in that may fit in with the mission of the DFHS. Consider ideas that would help make us visible to the public, and provide educational opportunities relevant to early Pennsylvania German farm life, nature and the environment, Native American culture, or old-time farming.

### Volunteer Opportunities

The DFHS functions exclusively through the efforts of volunteers. We have no paid staff. Who would be a likely volunteer? Anyone who has a strong desire to preserve farmland and open spaces, a strong interest in history, a connection to farming, a love of nature and environmental preservation, or a love of teaching and demonstrating crafts or skills.

If you are looking for a worthwhile activity, a great group of people to join, or if you're are a skilled craftsman or tradesman who would like to "give back" to the community, we would love to have you join us. Friends and relatives are welcome, too! Please contact us if you have any interest in volunteering.

**Look for our Email Newsletters and Event Announcements — sent six or seven times each year.**