

## The History of Scott Farm Orchard

Located in Dummerston, Vermont, the Scott Farm has a recorded history dating to 1791, when George Washington was serving his first term as President. The Farm consists of 571 acres and 23 buildings, all of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1908, Frederick Holbrook II, son of a former Governor of Vermont and founder of the Vermont National Bank, purchased Scott Farm. Under the careful stewardship of three generations of the Holbrook family, the Farm grew in size and diversity, becoming a model of agricultural excellence in New England. At one point in time, the Farm employed 26 people. The Farm had a dairy (with a cork floor for the comfort of the cows) creamery, a sawmill to process timber from the Farm's forested land, a poultry barn, hog barn, horse barn, a carpenter's shop, mechanic's workshop, pastures and hayfields and 6 stone masons to build walls, foundations and drainage systems for the fields. In 1911 they began planting some of the hillside fields with Baldwin, Wealthy, Northern Spy, Red McIntosh and Duchess of Oldenburg apple trees. The Scott Farm was one of the first orchards to use refrigeration for fruit storage. By the 1920's Scott Farm mail order apples and maple syrup were being shipped all across the country and winning awards at agricultural expositions.

In 1995 the last member of the Holbrook family to own the Farm gifted it to the Landmark Trust, an historic preservation organization that had recently restored Rudyard Kipling's neighboring home. Landmark Trust undertook the restoration and maintenance of the Farm buildings and leased the orchards out to be run by another farm.

In the winter of 2001 the Trust hired Ezekiel Goodband to undertake the management of the orchards. Zeke, by training an ecologist and orchardist by trade, was an expert in, and collector of heirloom apple varieties. That first winter he sawed the tops off McIntosh trees and grafted in twigs, or scions, of heirloom varieties from his collection. As these grew, trees that had produced McIntosh now grew Hubbardstons or Blue Pearmains. In the spring he planted grapes, peaches, blueberries, plums and pears. Since that first year the Farm has added more heirloom apple varieties, quince, medlars, hops, gooseberries, cherries, figs, and more varieties of pear, plum and peaches.

The Scott Farm now grows over 120 heirloom apple varieties. We are pleased to have a knowledgeable and talented staff to work throughout the year. They help to maintain the orchard and bring our fruit to customers that come to the Farm or shop at markets and coops throughout the northeast. We're grateful for the hardworking crew that comes every year to harvest our fruit, all by hand, and then grade and pack it with such great care.

The Farm also hosts educational programs, workshops, and weddings. Four historic houses, on and surrounding the farm, have been authentically restored and are available year-round for short-term vacation rentals.