

Monmouth County Park System

Wool Days/ Sheep Shearing

The Monmouth County
Park System and the
Monmouth County
Historical Association
are joining to present
a weekend of

Sheep Shearing, Herding and Wool Processing



www.MonmouthCountyParks.com

*Visitors will watch sheep
being herded with border
collies and being sheared by
hand at the 1890s Historic
Longstreet Farm. At the
Holmes-Hendrickson House,
visitors will discover how
wool was processed into
fabric during the late 1700s.*



**Historic Longstreet Farm will
provide horse-drawn wagon rides to
the Holmes-Hendrickson House from
12:30-2:45 p.m. The last wagon will
leave the Holmes-Hendrickson House
at 3 p.m. to return to Longstreet Farm.**



Monmouth County Park System
805 Newman Springs Road
Lincroft NJ 07738
732-842-4000
MonmouthCountyParks.com

Monmouth County
Board of County Commissioners
Board of Recreation Commissioners

The sights, sounds and smells of rural Monmouth County in the 1890s have been recreated by the Monmouth County Park System at Historic Longstreet Farm, a living history farm located in Holmdel. Interpreters in period dress use the machinery, livestock and crops available to late-Victorian farmers to show daily and seasonal farm life.

The Holmes-Hendrickson House, operated by the Monmouth County Historical Association, illustrates the blending of Dutch and English traditions in colonial Monmouth County. In 1959, the Holmes-Hendrickson House was moved to its present location and restored by the Historical Association. Furnished according to documentary evidence, the Holmes-Hendrickson House creates a vivid picture of the late 1700s in Monmouth County.



Whether made at home or commercially, producing textiles required much labor and many steps to complete. Most women in the 1700s produced only plain fabrics at home, usually linen sheets and woolen blankets. More complicated fabrics were produced by professional weavers or were imports purchased from merchants. The 1801 estate inventory of Garret Hendrickson (Holmes-Hendrickson House) included numerous textiles, the tools and equipment to make those fabrics and the furniture in which to store them.



During the late 1700s, many homes still engaged in basic wool processing to provide income and materials for the household. The Industrial Revolution allowed textile mills to process and produce woolen goods faster and cheaper than in the home. This freed farm families to perform other jobs. By the late 1800s, people were purchasing woolen cloth and ready-made clothing from stores or from catalogs.

While most farmers in Monmouth County during the 1800s were not raising sheep, farmers in the Holmdel area did. The sheep at Historic Longstreet Farm are a breed known as Southdowns. In 1898, The Shepherd's Manual noted that the Southdown was chiefly favored for its mutton (meat). Farmers who raised sheep sheared them in the spring, after their wool coat had grown over the winter and before the onset of the warm summer weather. The Southdowns at Historic Longstreet Farm exhibit older characteristics of the breed. The Monmouth County Park System works with the American Livestock Conservancy and other historic sites to help preserve this older style of Southdown.



Historic Longstreet Farm

Longstreet Road
Holmdel, NJ 07733
732-946-3758



Holmes-Hendrickson House

Longstreet Road
Holmdel, NJ 07733

Monmouth County Historical Association

70 Court Street
Freehold, NJ 07728
732-462-1466
MonmouthHistory.org