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# Miller-Cory House Museum

## Offers Look at 18th Century Farmhouse

A Westfield landmark nestled amidst a bustling residential stretch along Mountain Avenue is the historic Miller-Cory House Museum.

Samuel Miller purchased 100 acres of land in the "West Fields" of Elizabethtown and began building the farmhouse for his bride, Sabra, in 1740.

All of Samuel and Sabra's eight children were born in the house and three sons served



The Miller-Cory House Museum, 614 Mountain Avenue, Westfield

in the Revolutionary War. The house was sold to Joseph Cory, also a Revolutionary War soldier, in 1784, and the Cory family owned the house for almost 140 years. The inventory taken of Joseph Cory's possessions at the time of his death serves as a basis for furnishing the house.

Beginning in 1972, a group of historically-minded citizens formed the Miller-Cory Volunteers to save the 18th century farmhouse.

Wearing authentic costumes, the Miller-Cory Volunteers provide tours of the farmhouse and demonstrate crafts and tasks practiced by families on 18th and 19th century New Jersey farms, when life was regulated by the seasons.

Each Sunday, from mid-September to mid-June, visitors of all ages experience activities such as maple sugaring, soap making, straw hat weaving, gunsmithing, stenciling and cider making.

Children make crafts to bring home at the annual Fall Festival in October. "Sheep to Shawl Day" each spring enables visitors to see how wool was processed into cloth and features sheep shearing, spinning and weaving.

Early-American foods are researched and prepared over the open hearth by members of the Cooking Committee using herbs and vegetables from the museum's gardens.

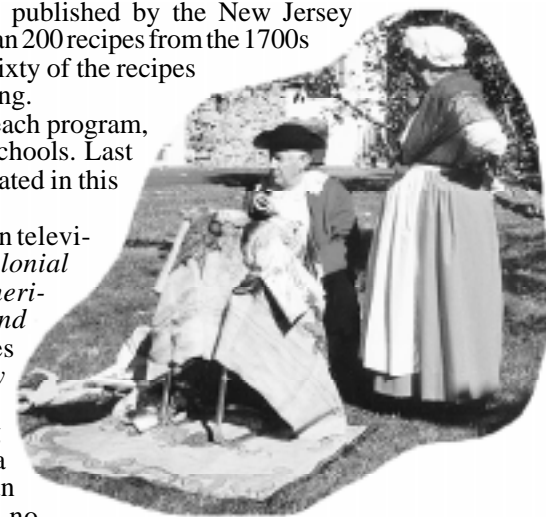
*Pleasures of Colonial Cooking*, published by the New Jersey Historical Society, contains more than 200 recipes from the 1700s and tested by Miller-Cory cooks. Sixty of the recipes have updated for modern day cooking.

"Showcase," the museum's outreach program, brings Early- American crafts to schools. Last year, nearly 1,800 children participated in this program.

The museum has been featured on television and in magazines such as *Colonial Homes*, *Early American Life*, *Americana*, and *Garden State Home and Garden*, and also in a social studies textbook *New Jersey: Yesterday and Today*. Volunteer training sessions are run each fall and spring for anyone interested in becoming a part of this "living museum." It is an opportunity to learn new skills; no experience is necessary.

The museum is located at 614 Mountain Avenue and is open, starting September 14, on Sundays from 2 to 5 p.m., except on major holiday weekends. Winter hours, January to March, are 2 to 4 p.m. on Sundays, but there are no open hearth demonstrations. A gift shop, containing a variety of educational materials and gifts appropriate to the time period, is open during museum hours.

Group tours are available during the week by appointment. For additional information about the museum and its programs, please call the office at (908) 232-1776.



RUG HOOKING...One of many demonstrations held at the Miller-Cory House Museum.



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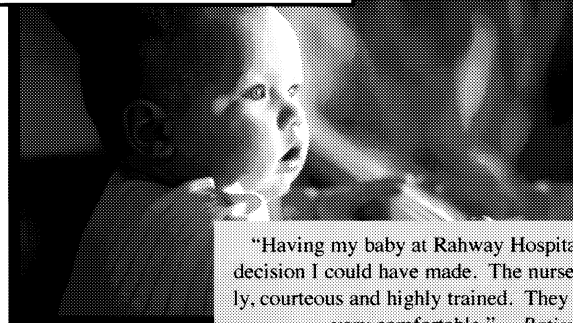
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