

# Memo

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**To:** North Manchester Center for History

**From:** Jordan Moss, Amanda Dickman, Joanne Case

**Re:** Activities for the Miller Farm Collection

The Miller Farm Collection is a wonderful exhibit! We hope the proposed children's activities help visitors connect with the exhibit. For the children's activities to succeed, we recommend a few changes and additions. Thank you for this opportunity.

## Materials

- Copies of the worksheet (double-sided) for all students
- Pencils for all students
- Farmer dress-up clothes: overalls, boots, hat
- Camera to take children's pictures (or a class picture) while in dress up clothes
- For the seed sorting activity: A 2-cup container of a mixture of seeds and grains (corn, soybean, wheat, peas, pumpkin, chaff) and a container with several compartments (e.g., fishing tackle box, a 6-egg carton)

## Changes

- Add name labels to the rug beater, washboard, ice carrier, scythe, oil lamp.
- Move the lawn mower so it is more visible to children.
- Add a direction sign to each wall: north, south, east, and west (so children can identify object locations in the I-Spy activity).
- Take children's pictures and post them on the Facebook page.



# The Miller Farm Collection

Welcome! You are now standing among tools and equipment that have been in the Miller family for 4 generations. The Millers were active in the North Manchester community—not only as farmers but also church members and Manchester College students and alumni.



**I-Spy** Look at all the farm tools and see if you can spy these things. For things you find on the wall, write **north**, **south**, **east**, or **west**. For things on the floor, write whether you found it on the **1<sup>st</sup>** or **2<sup>nd</sup>** floor.

Sled	Pitchfork with 4 prongs	Wheel barrow
Mouse trap	Chains	Lawnmower
Oil lamp	Watering cans	Basketball hoop
Wash board	Stuffed rat	Plow made by John Deere
Cross cut saw	Horseshoes	Feed bag



**Bonus:** Corn rows were planted \_\_\_ inches apart in hills that were \_\_\_ inches apart. How many seeds in each hill?

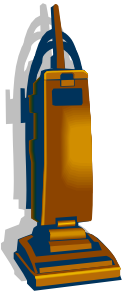


**Dress Up** Find the overalls on the wall. Beside them you will find clothes that a farmer might wear. Dress up and have your picture taken. Look for your picture on the Facebook page for the Center for History!



## Matching: Old vs. New

What items in the exhibit do the same jobs as the items listed below? Find them and write down their name and location.



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Discs to break up hard ground that has never before been used for farming

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**Bonus:** Without a fridge, the Millers had to carry blocks of ice into their home. What tool could carry a block of ice? Where did you find it?

## Sorting Seeds and Grains



Go to the seed sorter machine. Using your fingers, sort the seeds from the chaff and put each into a different compartment of the container. Imagine how much time the Millers would save by using this machine!

## Take the Farm with You!

- Using a box of dirt or sand, make a scale model of a field of corn that the Millers would have planted. Use the measurements you wrote down in the **I-Spy** section.
- Make butter with a baby food jar and 2 glass marbles. Clean all materials and fill jar with heavy cream at room temperature. Add the two marbles, close lid tightly, and shake for 30 minutes or until marbles no longer hit the sides of the jar. Pour off liquid from the jar and remove marbles. Add a few drops of cold water and mix with spoon until all butter is collected. Pour out remaining water, add salt if desired, and refrigerate. (Recipe found at [http://www.ehow.com/how\\_5678906\\_make-butter-baby-food-jars.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_5678906_make-butter-baby-food-jars.html))

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Recently your student had an exciting visit to the North Manchester Center for History. There, students spent time exploring the **Miller Farm Collection**. This collection has been in the Miller family for four generations, and the family was gracious enough to donate many rare and valuable artifacts dating back to the 1800s. These artifacts show how farming has changed over the years.



Students played I-Spy, locating many different tools and artifacts. They also compared the items to equipment students would see out in the fields today. They dressed as farmers and sorted different grains and seeds that are commonly planted in this area. Not only did the students enjoy themselves while exploring history, but they also met several Indiana state standards. They covered topics concerning the growth and development of regions of Indiana, as well as historical comprehension and chronological thinking. Ask your child about the worksheet he or she completed during their visit.

To enhance your student's learning experience, ask to see your child's Miller Farm Collection worksheet. The worksheet lists two activities your family can do at home to support what students learned at the Center for History. You may find the following resources helpful to enrich their understanding of this and other excellent exhibits at the Center for History.

- Facebook Page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/North-Manchester-Center-for-History>. A picture of your child's class will be posted here within a week.
- The North Manchester Historical Society Webpage at <http://www.nmanchesterhistory.org/>
- The Miller farm (now owned by the Cripe family) can be found at the Northwest corner of State Road 114 W and 200 W.
- Books about farming
  - The American family farm* by Halberstadt Hans
  - The life and times of corn* by Charles Micucci

Sincerely,

Your child's teacher



# The Miller Farm Collection

## Teacher Information

### State Standards

Visiting the North Manchester Center for History and completing the activities in the Miller Farm Collection addresses the following Indiana State Standards:

- 3.1.2 Explain why and how the local community was established and identify its founders and early settlers.—*The Miller family were early settlers in the town of North Manchester. The students learn about other founders elsewhere in the Center.*
- 3.1.3 Describe the role of the local community and other communities in the development of the state's regions.—*Farming played a significant role in early North Manchester. Through this exhibit, students learn the challenges of farming and why it was so important to the community.*
- 3.1.6 Explain how key individuals and events influenced the early growth of and changes in Indiana.—*The Miller Family exerted great influence in the farming industry. As they compare old and modern tools, students see how farming has changed and how it has stayed the same.*
- 4.1.12 Describe the transformation of Indiana through immigration and through developments in agriculture, industry and transportation.—*Students explore how Indiana farming has changed over the years.*
- 4.1.14 Research Indiana's modern growth emphasizing manufacturing, new technologies, transportation and global connections.—*Students will see how technology has played a role in modernizing farm tools to fit to changing needs in farming.*

## Activities

- **I-Spy**—Students must find and read about a list of items found in the collection.
- **Matching: Old vs. New**—Students are given a list of modern tools. They must locate equipment in the Miller collection that performed a similar task (e.g., washing machine – wash board).
- **Sorting Seeds**—Students sort seeds from chaff by hand, sitting beside an electric seed sorter.
- **Dress Up**—Students dress in farmers' clothing and have their picture taken.

## Extension Activities for the Classroom

- **Grow class crops**—Plant seeds in a classroom garden. Have students act as farmers as they tend to the crops.
- **Pictures of modern farms**—Invite students to bring in pictures of their farm or the farm of a close friend. Have them compare the pictures to what they saw in the Miller collection.
- **Seed sorting**—Divide students into small groups. Assign each group a seed (corn, soybean, wheat, pumpkin). Give each group some cardstock, scissors, and a small cup containing their assigned seeds. Have them create a grain sorter that will sift out any grains that are smaller than their assigned grain. When all groups have finished, test out the sorter.
- **Visit the Facebook page**—Find your class picture on the Facebook page for the Center for History. Have students leave comments on the page.

## Classroom Resources

- *How to shovel manure and other life lessons for a country woman* by Gwen Petersen
- *Every farm tells a story: A tale of family farm value* by Jerry Apps
- *Red are the apples* by Mark Harshman
- *Fantastic farm machines* by Cris Peterson
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