



The Cockayne farmhouse.
All photos from the Cockayne Farmstead.



The burial mound that was originally part of Mr. Cockayne's farm.

The Cockayne Farmstead

- The Cockayne Farmstead, consisting of a c. 1850 farmhouse and its artifacts, are all that remain of a sprawling and vibrant 303-acre farm located in Glen Dale, West Virginia, 70 miles southwest of Pittsburgh. The home was built in 1850 by Bennett Cockayne, the father of Samuel A.J. Cockayne, who raised Merino sheep.
- The farmstead, originally named the Glen Dale Farm, is named for Samuel A.J. Cockayne, who prospered in the 19th century as an internationally recognized producer of Merino wool. Merinos are prized for producing the highest grade wool of any sheep. Samuel Cockayne sold his wool and sheep as far away as Australia, utilizing the farm's position on the Ohio River and near the railroad line to transport his goods. For his expertise and dedication to his trade, he was awarded a Bronze Medal at the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition.
- Located directly across from John Marshall High School in Glen Dale, the one-half-acre farmstead is an educational institution dedicated to preserving the memory of the region's rich cultural and economic heritage. Its mission is to create an educational and cultural center from a unique historic property that will nurture individual creativity and artistic expression, and to encourage the development of leadership skills and community pride through the rich cultural heritage of West Virginia.
- The artifact collection, meticulously cataloged under the guidance of Jim Mitchell from the West Virginia State Museum, consists of an eclectic mix of artwork, clothing, furnishings, jewelry, magazines, tools, and toys. The farmstead also boasts more than 14,000 primary source documents dating from 1775, most pertaining to the mid-19th and early 20th centuries.
- Through the untiring efforts of Marshall County and the West Virginia Historical Society, the Cockayne Farmstead was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002.
- In 2010, the farmstead was reunited with a smaller structure and a prehistoric Indian burial mound, both of which had been part of Mr. Cockayne's original farm. The mound dates to the Adena Culture and it has been authenticated but never excavated.
- The Cockayne Historic Preservation Committee promotes awareness of the farmstead through community involvement, education, preservation, and special celebrations.
- The museum is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and also by appointment.
- The Cockayne Farmstead is located at 1111 Wheeling Avenue, Glen Dale, West Virginia, 26038. For additional information, please visit www.cockaynefarm.com or contact them at cockaynehouse@gmail.com or (304) 845-1411. The Cockayne Historic Preservation Committee and Marshall County Historical Society can be reached at PO Box 267, Moundsville, WV 26041, or on Facebook at Cockayne Farm Historic Preservation Project.



Table setting in the farmhouse's dining room.

The History Center Affiliates Program, HCAP, is a membership-based network that allows local and regional historical societies and museums access to museum professionals and best practice standards through the Senator John Heinz History Center.

To learn more about HCAP or to apply for membership for your organization, please contact Robert O. Stakeley, Educator, at rostakeley@heinzhistorycenter.org or (412) 454-6359.

