



Ralston Cider Mill Museum

336 Mendham Road West
Mendham, New Jersey 07945



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An Operational Cider Mill

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Photos: Luis Rey Ramirez

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Ralston Cider Mill Press

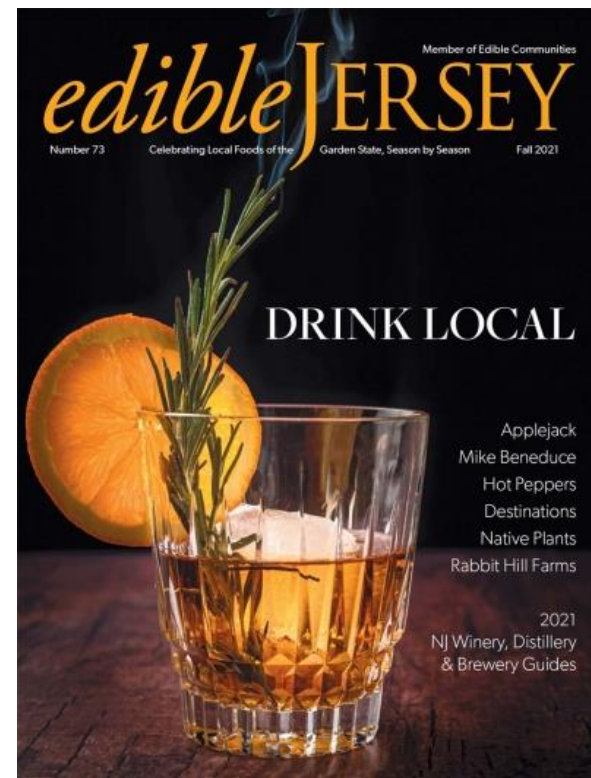
FALL 2021



“A Nip of History Worth Preserving” Cider Mill Featured in Statewide Publication



Standing overgrown and abandoned alongside Route 24, Nesbitt's mill had long intrigued Raymond Nadaskay. As a member of Mendham Township's Historic Preservation Committee, he wondered how the mill could be saved from further decay. As an architect and entrepreneur, he also contemplated the various ways that the building, which he assumed was a gutted shell, could be put into residential or commercial use. Those musings gave way to resolve on the day he was invited to look inside the mill. 'I saw a great big vat on my left, another vat on my right. I looked up on the next floor and I saw two presses,' Nadaskay says. 'Everything was there. When they walked away from [the mill], they just left it. Nobody took anything.'"



So begins Fran McManus' feature article in the Fall, 2021 edition of *Edible Jersey* magazine. On his first visit into the building, Nadaskay exclaimed "this cannot be made into anything but what it is; a cider mill." What followed was a years-long effort to restore the building and create a museum to the mill's extraordinary history with the public.

For her article, McManus researched New Jersey's cider and applejack history and shares its story in the context of the Ralston Cider Mill.

Once a bustling site of cider production, the mill went dormant for decades. So, too, did New Jersey's once-dominant status as the producer of the finest cider in North America.

While the mill was restored and has been providing educational tours and annual cider pressings for more than a decade, New Jersey is still only beginning to fully embrace its venerable cidermaking heritage.

Print editions of *Edible Jersey* can be found at farm stores and markets around New Jersey, and the article can also be read online at ediblejersey.com

New Exhibit Cases Enhance Visitor Center Experience

The Ralston Cider Mill Visitor Center recently had a new display case installed to display historic artifacts from the mill's heyday. As part of an exhibit on the era of cider production from 1910 to 1938, the artifacts include unopened bottles of peach brandy and applejack produced at the mill prior to Prohibition, glass decanters from Loughlin and Co. (the business that operated the mill from 1910-1920) that read "Tiger Applejack," "Licking River Rye," and "Fine Old Scotch," and a framed original bill of sale from Loughlin and Co.



In the future we will continue adding more artifacts to display in the Visitor Center to enhance the tours and experience visitors receive at the Ralston Cider Mill.

2021 Season Reconnects Cider Mill With Community

After a limited tour season in 2020, the Museum was pleased to return to its traditional tour schedule in 2021, with weekend tours in May, September, and October, as well as the return of our major Pressing Day event in October.

On October 23 the mill welcomed hundreds of people (with appropriate distancing and masking precautions still in place) and pressed 100 bushels of apples into several hundred gallons of cider. Special thanks go to Alstede Farms and John O'Hara Co. for their support.

It was a pleasure to welcome the public back to the mill in 2021, and we look forward to the 2022 season!



Pressing Day, 2021



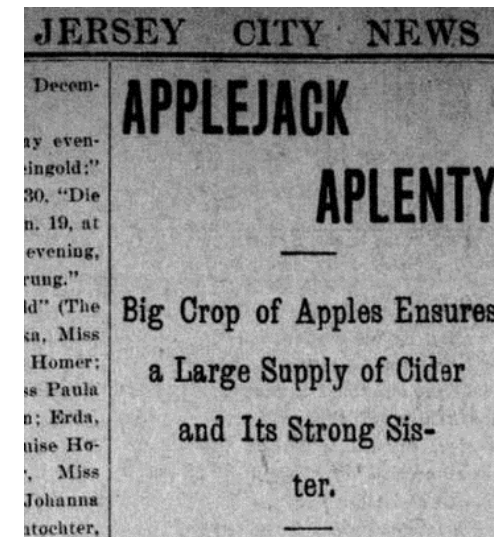
Photos: Luis Rey Ramirez

Archival Research Affirms Historical Significance of Ralston Cider Mill

A recently uncovered newspaper Jersey City News article from 1904 provided some remarkable insight into the history and importance of the Ralston Cider Mill and apple cider production in Mendham, New Jersey.

The article, reprinted as an insert with this newsletter, touches on many subjects that Ralston Cider Mill guides cover with visitors on present-day tours, including the history of apple growing and cider production in Morris County and its role in the state and nationwide economy.

The article is especially important because it verifies that of all the places in New Jersey where cider was produced, the heart of the industry was in Morris County and Mendham in particular. While the Ralston Cider Mill was at one point one of hundreds of cider mills in the state, it is fortunate that this mill survived and has been restored to its former glory. Ralston Cider Mill is a uniquely valuable site to convey the history of apples and cider.



Original 1904 Newspaper Article



Your Donation

will ensure continued restoration and provide operating funds for the coming year. Thank you for your support. Please use the return envelope to mail your donation. You can also donate online at www.ralstoncidermill.org and support the mill through AmazonSmile.

The Ralston Cider Mill is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

We Are Grateful

for support from The 1772 Foundation, A.P. Kirby, Jr. Foundation, The Morris County Heritage Commission, Morris County Historic Preservation Trust Fund, New Jersey Cultural Trust, and the ongoing generosity of Foerster Landscaping and Alstede Farms.

Volunteers

are the core of the Museum's team. We are happy to train new volunteers to lead tours and bring the mill experience to the public. Please indicate your interest in volunteering on the enclosed envelope.

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