



From the Museum Director

This membership year continued to be a very busy one for our organization. Visitors to our Museum include people visiting from as far away as Australia and as close as next door. Foundation membership grows, and we are now over 250 members strong. The website (www.dudleyfarm.com) sees much activity, our Facebook page keeps the public current with over 650 likes (www.facebook.com/dudleyfarmmuseum), while Dudley Farm Doings, an electronic mailing, is sent out at least monthly to over 270 subscribers. Last year's interns have moved on to continue their studies in public history, and this year's intern continued to work on our collections and our exhibits. We've come a long way.

Our involvement in StEPs (Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations), sponsored by Connecticut Humanities, Connecticut League of History Organizations (CLHO), and The American Association for State and Local History, will be completed in February, 2017. This program, which includes 24 other small historic museums in this state, has been guiding us through such diverse topics as collections management and pest control. The program is offered as an independent study throughout the country, but Connecticut is fortunate to have the leadership of Connecticut Humanities and CLHO to provide a more formalized approach.

After 21 years our Farmers' Market continues to attract new folks to the Farm, while the Munger Barn is a popular wedding and event venue providing much of the needed financial support for maintaining our eleven buildings.

By the way – have you seen the progress made on our Big Barn? With the help of member

donations; Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation (The 1772 Foundation); the Summer Hill Foundation, and the North Guilford Fire Company the first phase has been completed and we are now working on Phase II. Wow. Your support has made this dream a reality. Thank you so much.

So it has been a busy year, and 2017 promises to be even busier. If you have not been involved, I ask that you consider volunteering, and/or financially contributing to our organization.

Beth Payne, Museum Director



What did we do in 2016?

Before we even opened our doors for the season, Dudley Farm Maple Syrup was being produced in our sugar house thanks to George Page and his team of helpers. The Dudley Foundation then hosted our annual tag sale in April, and we opened the museum to the public. Our interns helped to plan and implement several Museum exhibits, including:

Pint-Sized: 19th Century Children's Furniture at the Dudley Farm, in conjunction with Guilford's Five Historic Museums summer-long exhibit, "Pint-Sized: Children's Furniture from 1700-1900."

A Woman's Work is Never Done, in conjunction with the Five Historic Museums of Guilford *Early Guilford Days Festival*.

Churning Butter, an educational display which featured our various churns and other butter making equipment.

And did you see the articles in our newsletter written by our interns? My thanks to them!

We've continue to reach out to audience's young and older, large and small. April saw us collaborate with the North Guilford Nursery School for Earth Day, which included a presentation from Blue Moon Raptors. Raptors were again featured early in the summer when we hosted Suncatchers, the school-enrichment program located in North Guilford.

The Dudley Foundation made many important structural improvements to our buildings as well as implementing signage for our visitors.

It was a good year – and next year should be even better.



So Won't You Consider ---

-Giving an additional gift to our organization. As you know, there is no governmental funding, and financial contributions are needed for day-to-day operations as well as special projects. Matching funds are needed for grant support.

-Volunteering to assist in one of our many projects or as a committee member. There is much work to be done.

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Mission: To preserve, restore and operate The Dudley Farm Museum as a late 19th century historical, educational and recreational resource to serve the general public.

Vision: The Dudley Foundation will provide leadership to the greater community in the promotion of historic awareness and interpretation of the history of the North Guilford community.