



From the Museum Director

2017 continued to be a very busy year for our organization. Visitors to our Museum include people visiting from as far away as Germany, Seattle and Texas and as close as next door. Foundation membership grows, with over 260 members. The website (www.dudleyfarm.com) sees much activity, while our Facebook page keeps the public current with almost 900 likes (www.facebook.com/dudleyfarmmuseum). Dudley Farm Doings, an electronic mailing, is sent out at least monthly to over 375 subscribers. We've been fortunate to continue to have Master's degree level interns to help us with our many activities, including two who have made our Museum the focus of their graduate degree independent project. 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, was completed in February, 2017. This program, which included 24 other small historic museums in this state, guided us through such diverse topics as collections management and pest control. Our participation allowed us to be the recipient of a grant from Connecticut Humanities to complete a Collections Assessment which will give us the guidance needed to effectively interpretive life on the Dudley Farm during the late 19th century.

After 22 years our Farmers' Market continues to attract new folks to the Farm, and this year we are adding a third day to our popular Holiday Open House. 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 – Big Barn Phase II (The north end of the barn complex) has been restored and we are now striving to acquire the financial support needed to restore the largest part of the barn, which is also the part most visible to passers-by and visitors. Wow. Your support has made this dream a reality, and your continued support will help us to get this job done. Thank you so much.

It has been a busy year, and 2018 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 2017?

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. More than 150 people came to see how it was done the old fashioned way. The director provided a PowerPoint presentation to almost 200 people: The Blizzard of 1888. This presentation was given at local libraries and was prompted by the restoration of our 1893 Potter Quilt which uses the blizzard as its theme. The Dudley Foundation then hosted our annual tag sale in April, and opened the museum to the public. Our intern helped to plan and implement several Museum exhibits, including:

Illuminating History: Lighting the Way: From Whales to Edison at The Dudley Farm Museum, in conjunction with Guilford's Five Historic Museums summer-long exhibit, *Illuminating History*.

A Woman's Work is Never Done, in conjunction with the Five Historic Museums of Guilford *Early Guilford Days Festival*. We had more than 150 visitors.



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. Melissa Jones School sent their 64 first graders for a field trip to the farm. Whew! Hard but rewarding work!

It has been a very 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.

