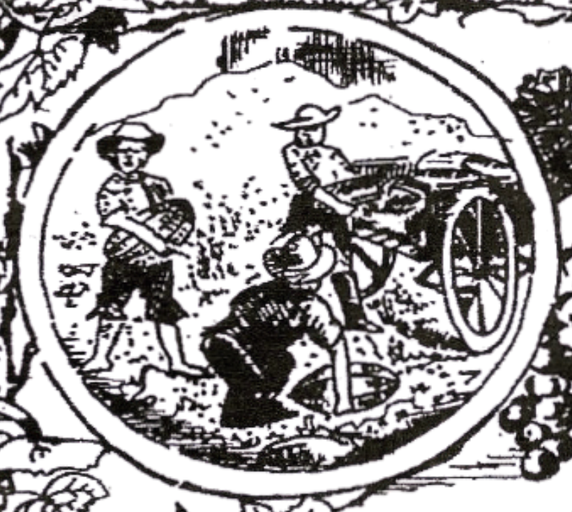
Fall 2026





Farm News

The Dudley Farm Guilford

2351 DURHAM ROAD, GUILFORD, CT | 203.457.0770 | DUDLEYFARM.COM

"To preserve, restore, and operate the farm as a historical, educational, and recreational resource for the public."

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY MARIA TRUMPLER

It was such a joy to come by the Dudley Farm this summer and see our campers exploring all the different spaces on our 10 acres. Even on the hottest of days, the shade in the barnyard seemed to always have a breeze. The Dudleys themselves didn't have air-conditioning, electric fans, or even very good airflow indoors, and on hot days spent most of their time in that barnyard and on the lovely front porch. The campers also explored the paths along the stream to the east and this is likely where indigenous people sought refuge from the heat. We have a grove of cedars, a tree once used for medicine and ceremonies, and utilized by settlers for fenceposts.

In March, I gave a walking tour that explored using the land as an "archive" to tell us how people interacted with this land over the centuries. As an academic historian, I'm trained to interpret letters, diaries, and treaties, but only a small subset of people left documents like these for us to engage with. The land that Dudley Farm sits upon was acquired by Luther Dudley in 1722 and has seen very few changes in ground elevation or creek beds. I wondered with visitors what he may have seen in 1722 that led him to set down roots here: The river for sure, plus the good drainage, the south slope, and the crossroads. We know from early settler reports that this land sat at an intersection of Native American pathways: one connecting the Quinnipiac and Connecticut Rivers and the other going along the Menunkatuck River past the cliffs we call Bluff Head. What was the energy like at such conjunctions? How often did people encounter one another at the crossing?

I just finished teaching a college summer session course, "Rye: Cultural History and Embodied Practice," which explored various ways of "listening" to rye and what it can tell us of its interactions with humans over millennia. In her book "Braiding Sweetgrass," Robin Wall Kimmerer describes how indigenous gatherers of sweetgrass engage with the plants, leaving gifts and blessings, asking for guidance in harvesting, harvesting in ways that allow the remaining

(continued from page 1) plants to flourish. Many of us have lost this deep connection with the natural world. One of the things I value most about the Dudley Farm is that it invites us to notice, reflect, and connect with land, sky, animals, and plants. I welcome you to join us.

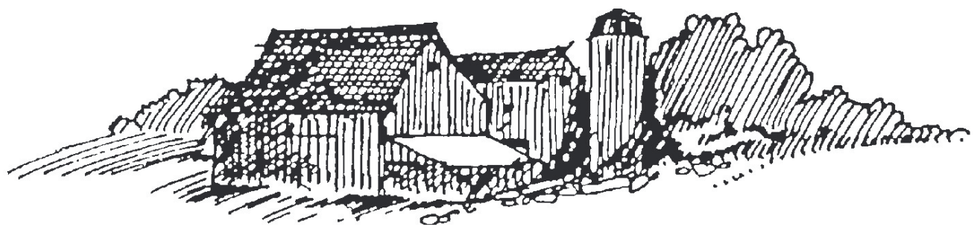
STRINGS & SUPPORT: BLUEGRASS BENEFIT ON 9.27.26

BY MICHAEL RUSSO

Amy Gallatin & Stillwaters have built a distinctive sound rooted in the rich traditions of American roots music. With Amy Gallatin on vocals and guitar, the group blends bluegrass, traditional country, folk, and Western swing, creating music that feels both timeless and warmly personal. Their repertoire draws inspiration from classic country and roots artists, while also incorporating the energy and musicianship of bluegrass and the relaxed swing of Western-style music.

A major part of the Stillwaters sound has been the exceptional musicianship of the band's instrumentalists, including renowned dobro player Roger Williams. His tasteful playing adds a distinctive bluegrass character to Gallatin's vocals and guitar, while the group as a whole creates an engaging blend of traditional and contemporary roots music.

What makes Amy Gallatin & Stillwaters special is their respect for the past without sounding stuck in it. Their music celebrates the enduring appeal of acoustic music—songs about love, life, the open road, and the American landscape—while Gallatin's warm vocals and the band's polished musicianship give those traditions a fresh presence.



CURRENT OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President: Maria Trumpler
Vice President: Jim Powers
Treasurer: Bill Black
Assistant Treasurer: Sue Torre
Secretary: Jerri Guadagno
Corresponding Secretary: Jane Limbach
Board of Directors: Sharon Bloom, Ray Guimont, Don Homer, Aubrey Honer, Tom Leddy, Audrey Nefores, Mary Norris & Buster Scranton
Museum Director: Kaitlyn Goodwin

Email: director@dudleyfarm.com
Social Media: @dudleyfarmmuseum
The Dudley Farm Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and contributions are tax-deductible.



Amy Gallatin & Stillwaters are headlining the Dudley Farm Bluegrass in the Barn benefit concert on Sunday, September 27th from 3 to 5PM; buy tickets at dudleyfarm.com/events

AUGUST. MEH.

BY SCHUYLER BEEMAN

The month of August for farmers is always tough. Summer in general as a farmer is a lot. Whether it's extreme heat, torrential rain, or pestering bugs, this season brings a slew of reasons to pack everything up and live in a small apartment with nothing to take care of. If I did throw in the towel and give up on farming, I would like just a few houseplants to maintain and nothing more. That ease of living for myself and my loved ones sounds incredibly dreamy.

I'm not actually planning on giving up on farming, but the end of summer does make me think, "Why do I put myself through this?"

As a farmer in the present day, you have the public's attention because the public knows they're supposed to support farmers. However, even though people know this, that doesn't mean they actually follow through and support those farmers. And I get it, truly, because supporting local farmers is not always convenient or cost effective. In a day where you can order something off of Amazon in the morning and have it there by the evening, why would you go out of your way to drive to a farm just for special tomatoes for your sandwich or wool sponges to wash your dishes? To make the effort to support a farmer may seem extremely luxurious and inefficient when there is seemingly so little time and money today.

But is there actually so little time and money? During this time right before fall harvest, when the hot days seemingly never end, when farmers are trying to tie loose ends together before the winter freeze, I hope you take a moment to inconvenience yourself and head to a farmers market or reach out to your local farmer and buy something they have worked tirelessly to produce. I promise that when you do, you'll feel better.

So, who wants some rabbit? Contact me, I have plenty.

MORE FARM HAPPENINGS

Raptors of Connecticut, Saturday, Oct 10, 11am–12 noon, Munger Barn
Blue Moon Raptors will once again join us for a program featuring beautiful birds of prey.
Event is Free, Registration Requested

Dudley Farm Annual Meeting, Thursday, Oct 29, 6:30–8pm, Munger Barn
Members are invited to attend a short business meeting to elect Board members and Officers, followed by a time of fun and fellowship listening to the music of local songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Joe Flood while enjoying home-baked desserts.

Veterans Cemetery Tour, Sunday, Nov 8, 1:30–2:30pm; gather at the North Guilford Cemetery, Meetinghouse Hill
In honor of Veterans Day and America 250, join us in celebrating the many veterans buried in the oldest cemetery in Guilford. Many Dudleys served as deacons and influenced the direction of the early church here.
Event is Free, Registration Requested



REFLECTIONS FROM CAMP

BY KATE GOODWIN & CAMPERS

What a wonderful summer we had at Dudley Farm Camp! Each week brought new adventures and opportunities for campers to explore, create, and learn through hands-on experiences. From conducting an archaeology dig and using atlatls to hunt down our very own dodo bird (Jim Bob), to learning how to spin wool, care for bees, and work with a blacksmith, our campers were constantly discovering something new. Our historic transportation and craft activities also gave campers a chance to connect with the past in fun and memorable ways. Most importantly, the campers were engaged, curious, and excited to learn each day. It was truly rewarding to watch them build new skills, ask questions, work together, and experience history, nature, and farm life in ways they will remember long after the summer is over. We are so proud of the incredible summer we shared with more than 60 young people at Dudley Farm Camp!

Keep your eyes peeled for our 2027 camp announcement mid-winter! We cannot wait for another summer of fun, learning, and friendships. Now for some comments:

What is something you learned or can do now that you couldn't do before camp?

"I learned that although weeds may look bad in front of your house, they can keep the ground moist for vegetables and other plants." —*Caleb*

"I learned bunnies can eat carrots but only for special treats." -—*Frannie*

"I learned the three rabbit chores are to fill the waters, hay and grain bowls. Cows can kick." —*Stassia*

What was your favorite animal, activity, or place at Dudley Farm?

"My favorite activity was feeding the animals, especially the bunnies" —*Maggie*

"I really liked the cows and sheep." —*Mikey*

"Stewart & Harvey were my favorite."
—*Anna*

"My favorite part of camp was learning about the birds of prey!" —*Week 1 Camper*

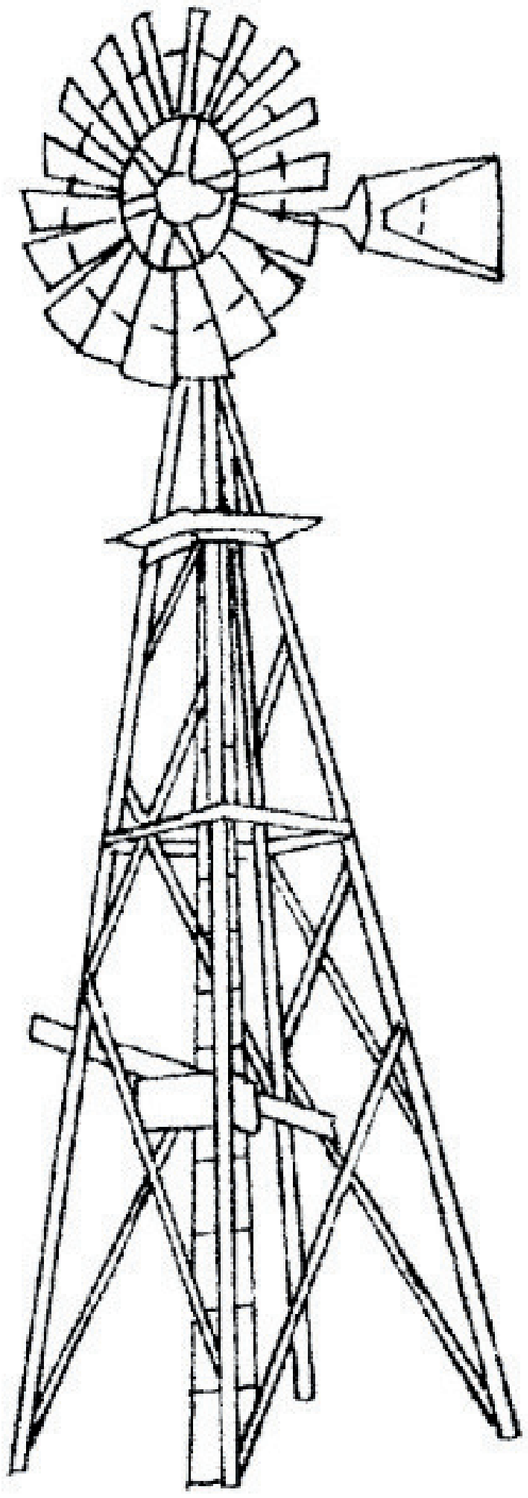
What makes Dudley Farm Camp different from other camps?

"Dudley Farm is different from other camps because you get to hang out with live animals." —*Caleb*

"What makes Dudley Farm camp different from others is that most of it is outside which makes learning and working super fun, and it teaches you how to work together with people you don't know."
—*Caleb*

THE DUDLEY FARM WINDMILL

BY JIM POWERS



For those of you who have been around the Dudley Farm for many years, you may have wondered what that wooden platform (until recently covered with weeds) was on the hill between the house and the pasture for the sheep and calves. Occasionally, someone from the Board of Directors, a docent, or a Farm member who knew the answer would explain "that's where the windmill used to stand."

The windmill. Before electricity came to the farm, the windmill was used to bring water to the farm and more importantly to the Big Barn to supply water to the horses and cows. Without it, the Dudleys would have relied on hauling buckets of water from the well pump outside the house.

Those of us who have been around the farm since the 1990s can proudly say we remember the rusted steel tower still standing above the platform, minus the great blades of the windmill fan. For safety reasons, it was taken down as restoration work kicked into gear during that decade. The tower parts were saved with the idea of refurbishing them and putting them back up, topped with a fan and motor donated by Buster Scranton. The pieces are currently stored in the center section of the Big Barn.

As the years went by, there was occasional discussion about putting the windmill back together as an important piece of the circa 1900 interpretation for the farm. While other, more urgent restoration and building projects came first for the next 25-plus years, the windmill was never forgotten.

Research was occasionally done on its use and, along with oral history about the farm, that story became a bit more clear. Under the platform below where the windmill frame stood is a relatively large cistern, dug at some point in the second half of the 19th century. Unlike many windmills that pumped ground water for use and storage, the Dudley's windmill actually pumped water up through a pipe from the millpond across the road from the house and farm into the cistern. The millpond had been created by the Dudley family in the early 1800s by building a dam to provide water power to their gristmill, bone mill, and tannery. The water from the millpond was stored in the cistern

(continued from page 5) and would gravity-feed to the barn as needed. This was a relatively unique and innovative way to obtain a stable and workable water supply.

Thanks to the ongoing effort of Farm Board members Bill Black and Don Homer, along with Farm member Mark Cascio, the windmill with its fan will grace the Dudley Farm again. After a great amount of research and the engineering skills of Mark, a new tower frame of the correct dimension and size is being obtained from an Amish company in Pennsylvania that provides them nationwide. It was determined that the original frame, in pieces, was too far gone and some crucial components were missing. Added to the problem, some of the donated pieces from Buster's windmill were possibly not compatible. The cost of restoring what was there, and replacing the missing parts, and then erecting the frame proved more expensive than purchasing a new one.

Bill, Don, and Mark are working on a plan to erect the frame for the tower when it arrives, possibly sometime in September. The hope is to have the tower mounted with Buster's fan by Harvest Day, October 17th. The sight of a windmill turning in the breeze will once again grace the farm after some 100 years.

We will let you know when the tower will be erected and topped with the fan. It will be another milestone in the restoration of the Dudley Farm as we depict life in North Guilford circa 1900.

MOON SWALLOWS

BY SHARON BLOOM

An amber crescent peeks over treetops
nudging its way into a dusky sky
the curtain rises, the show begins

The full moon whispers to the sun
should be a good one tonight
the sun dons a cloak of watermelon sky
flashes a tangerine smile and disappears

Moonglow beckons swallows to roost
rustling reeds nod feathery heads
come, find safe haven here

One swallow swoops overhead
dozens skim the surface
racing to this nightly ritual



Thousands swarm smudging the sky
daredevils flit across the moon
they dive and dip in an aerial ballet

A dance of veils pulsing and surging
then vanishing in a whoosh as
the night curtain falls

Like arrows shot from the moon's quiver
they rest amidst the swaying reeds
one night of magic, of mystery, of awe



Dudley Farm Gift Shop Volunteers

(Top row:) Mary Norris, Sean Gargamelli-McCreight, Market Manager. (*Bottom row:)* Sue Torre, June Jewell, Jerri Guadagno, Bill Black, Don Homer

A MARKET FOR ALL SEASONS

BY JERRI GUADAGNO

Summer is over and fall is on its way. The Dudley Farm "Farmers Market and More!" will continue to draw visitors from near and far on Saturdays from 9:30am to 12:30pm through October. Here fresh local produce, delicious baked goods, tasty jams, breakfast sandwiches, North Guilford syrup, and a wide variety of handcrafted items consistently delight buyers, while visits to the farmhouse museum, Dawnland collection, farm animals, and weekly demonstrations of heritage skills engage and educate the curious.

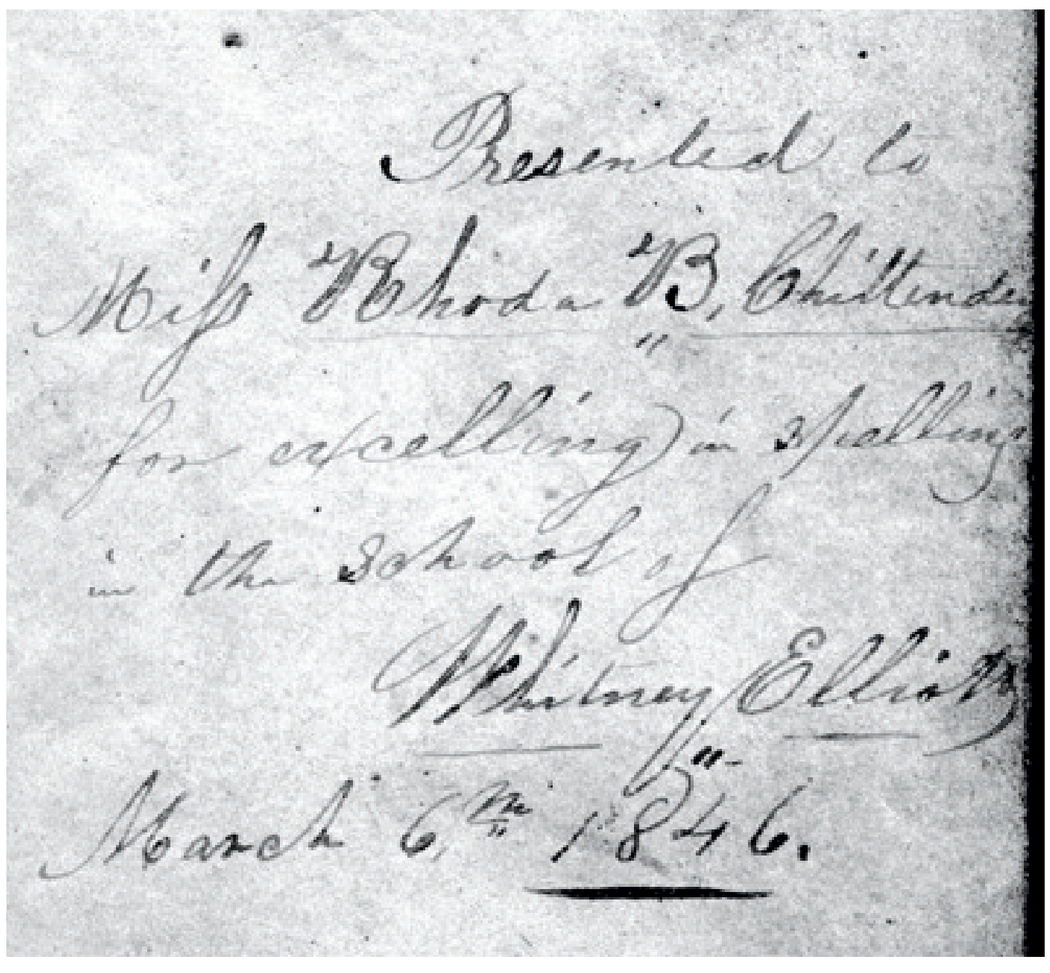
Our little gift shop at the Farmers Market has so many wonderful items to choose from: potholders, quilted runners, microwave bowl cozies, and things for baby are among the many handmade items for sale. Many of our offerings are donated by the ladies who attend "Makers Monday" here at the Farm each week, meeting from 1:00pm to 3:00pm downstairs in the yellow Munger Barn. If you are crafty, please come join our friendly community and bring whatever you're working on!

And don't forget our popular Holiday Markets, held the 10am to 2pm Saturday and Sunday, the first two weekends of December. Shop local directly from talented and friendly artisans, then visit our historic Farmhouse Museum, decorated for a Victorian Christmas!

NEW MUSEUM ACQUISITION

BY MARIA TRUMPLER

On March 6, 1846, at a school in North Guilford, 21-year-old teacher Whitney Elliott gave 14-year-old pupil Rhoda Chittenden a small book in honor of her excellence in spelling. Thanks to the research of Joel Helander, we know that Rhoda went on to marry Samuel Cruttenden who became the railroad agent and postmaster in Madison. Whitney settled in North Haven, had a family, and became a state senator. Both are buried in Alderbrook cemetary and this little book now in the Dudley Farm collection marks an instance of what we can imagine to be a moment of genuine connection. With gratitude we thank Peggy Jean Lavery, who donated the book from her collection.



THE FARM ECONOMY

BY BUSTER SCRANTON

To say that things are different in North Guilford than they were in 1900 is an understatement. I say different, not necessarily better or worse. Back then it was a simpler, although more strenuous, lifestyle, with hard work instead of convenience. While interviewing Priscilla Otte for our book "Voices from North Guilford," she stressed that people here were better off than city dwellers during the Depression. This was mostly due to greater self sufficiency. Rural residents could produce most of their own food—no need to lay out cash for meals. An added benefit was that cooking and baking skills were often superior to "store bought" items (but not always). The downside was that kitchen work was time consuming, and could involve hot summer conditions. By that time, home canning had become a laborious option, but always appreciated in the depths of winter.

The country life involved farm animals—cows, pigs, chickens—with purpose other than being pets. They were labor intensive also, but their feed and care were sourced by their owners, instead of being purchased. Horses, mules, and oxen were the source of farm power, and had to be fed and cared for. But they paid their own way, and produced manure as a bonus! Making hay was always a hot, sweaty job, but might be rewarded with a swim when all done. Resources for nourishing these farm animals could be tricky, with drought, flooding, and weather anomalies being unpredictable. Farm life was often feast or famine, which is still true today.

Everybody out here had a garden. No one had to wonder where produce came from, or how old it was. Again, labor intensive, subject to the vagaries of weather. Rocks, weeds and more weeds, critters, and bugs were facts of life. Some rewards—you might find an arrowhead, or eat a few strawberries while picking them. You could also go out and pick wild berries. Most rural dwellers had orchards. There was no such thing as a perfect apple, but they were good eating nonetheless. Of course, some things were not available, such as tropical fruits and vegetables. I would miss bananas and oranges, for example. A few things could be stored for later use. No root cellars today! but I do remember a few in my younger days. No freezers back then either.

There was no easy way to keep food cool. Ice houses for ice storage were the only option, and ice harvest had to be a wet, miserable job, although I never experienced it. Guilford once had 22 ice houses. An "open" winter could mean little or no ice for the ice houses, and when there was no more, well, that was it 'til next winter. Ponds and lakes were common sources for the ice. Occasionally a horse would fall through, into the drink.

To stay warm, the rural dwellers would cut their own firewood, a labor intensive (and sometimes risky) venture—but you didn't have to buy it. Keeping the house warm took work also, and there were frequently cold rooms in the winter. The ashes were a good soil amendment. And watch out for those fire hazards!

(continued from page 8) Some things that went with country living were actually fun. One didn't go somewhere to buy a Christmas tree —you went out to the back lot to cut a cedar, always an adventure. Deep snow could make it a challenge. (They used to get snow).

It's no wonder that there wasn't much obesity back then. Stop in at the Dudley Farm and see first hand what country living was like.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CRAFT

BY BRIANNA COSTELLO

Something I hear often when I'm doing a demo at the Dudley Farm Market is how people wish they could learn to do "something like that." I'm always very excited to share with them that they can and should. Many crafts are extremely accessible! While using a wool walking wheel requires a large piece of equipment, using a drop spindle is much smaller, cheaper, and more portable. Knitting and crochet only require a hook or needles and some yarn. Drawing just requires something that can make a mark and something to make a mark on, even if it's just a stick in the dirt.

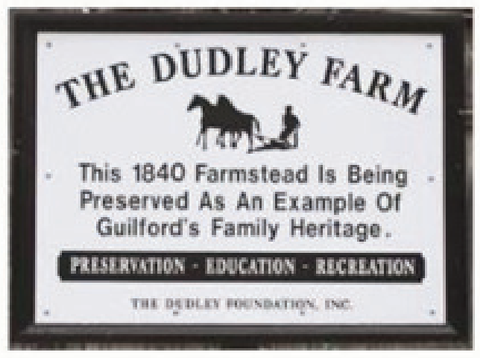
The most basic forms of craft reach way back through history to our earliest ancestors who used craft for survival, communication, and enjoyment in much the same way they are used today. Something I find very exciting about craft is how similar but different practices can be between cultures. These differences enable connecting to your own culture and to cultural exchange and appreciation. Many of these crafts even come with built-in communities, both in-person and online. During the pandemic, I picked up hand sewing and have made numerous friends online, many of whom I have met in person and love dearly. When I picked up knitting and crochet a few years ago, I joined the fiber art club at my local library so I can meet up with like-minded folks every week. If your club is like mine, they'll have yarn, hooks, and needles for you to use and very helpful folks who would love to teach you!

Life today can be so isolating in a way that humans were never meant to live, and breaking out of that can be extremely difficult. Beyond using craft as a bridge to connect to others, it can also be used to connect to ourselves and our environment. Making something with your hands is extremely tactile and can be very centering when you're feeling overwhelmed with the day to day; a small repetitive task can act as a sort of meditation with the reward of making something when before there was nothing. It has become more apparent to me as the years have gone on that craft has changed how I see the world. I've always been interested in nature and noticing the little things, but since I've gotten more into the fiber arts, I'm noticing how things are constructed, how different materials move and feel, how long it takes to make one garment, and how the person who made my clothes might live. When I go to a museum, I'm able to think about how an artifact might have been made and use that as inspiration for whatever my next project might be, or if I need to pick up yet another craft to share with my friends and bring myself some peace.

The Dudley Farm Museum
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Dudley Farm Farmers Market *and More!*
Saturdays 9:30–12:30

Local produce • Bread • Baked Goods • Maple Syrup
Farm-fresh Meat & Eggs • Artisan Wares • Museums
Handmade Gifts • Live Music • Demonstrations
Family Friendly • Crafts & Games • Monthly Events



Our Vision: "The Dudley Foundation will create a vibrant community gathering spot that nurtures historical awareness, the arts, and traditional agriculture and craft practices."

Fall 2026