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Coggeshall Farm Merges with Old Sturbridge Village

Will Strengthen and Grow the Treasured Living History Experience in Rhode Island

Sturbridge, M.A., and Bristol, R.I., July, 23, 2025 - [Coggeshall Farm Museum](#), an authentic, 18th-century salt marsh farm is merging with [Old Sturbridge Village](#), New England's premier living history museum in a move that will bolster the former's viability, enhance its offerings, and continue to drive experiential tourism in Rhode Island. Together, the museums will work to expand the Farm's educational programming, events, and interpretations that reflect everyday life in early agricultural New England.

Coggeshall portrays the daily experience of a tenant farmer on a salt marsh farm in the 1790s, and Old Sturbridge Village builds upon this timeline by highlighting life in the early 1800s. Both organizations aim to help modern Americans learn from the complexities of history and the diverse experiences of people who lived before them. They provide visitors with a unique, immersive, educational journey through live interpretation, historic structures, agriculture, and heritage-breed animals.

"This merger between our two, like-minded museums makes natural sense," said Morgan Devlin, Chair of the Coggeshall Farm Board. "With Old Sturbridge Village's operational expertise and resources, Coggeshall can focus on developing exciting learning exhibits, piloting new events and maintaining one of Rhode Island's beloved landmarks."

With unanimous Board of Trustee approval at both organizations, the new arrangement builds upon an innovative partnership that began in 2020 when Old Sturbridge Village took over management of Coggeshall Farm's daily operations. With more than 200,000 annual visitors, 200 scenic acres and 40 historic buildings, Old Sturbridge Village has the resources, and what it sees as a responsibility, to support Coggeshall at a time when many smaller museums are struggling.

"It has long been my goal to strengthen the sustainability of living history in New England," said Jim Donahue, President and CEO of Old Sturbridge Village. "In today's tourism economy, some

organizations are just too small to go it alone. By reinforcing Coggeshall Farm's future, we can ensure it continues to offer a distinctive early American learning experience for years to come."

Under the merger, the two museums will retain their individual names and distinct identities, but they will now both be overseen by Old Sturbridge Village's Board of Trustees, which will include several Coggeshall representatives.

"We have been working together for years so we know this is an especially good fit," said Cynthia Michener, Chair of the Old Sturbridge Village Board of Trustees. "By joining forces, we are offering members the opportunity to learn about another interesting aspect of early American life while expanding our reach and ability to attract new visitors."

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About Old Sturbridge Village

Old Sturbridge Village, first opened to the public in 1946, is one of the country's oldest and largest living history museums, celebrating life in early New England from 1790-1840. It is the largest living history museum in the Northeast. More than 200,000 visitors interact with costumed historians each year, experience up-close demonstrations of early American trades, and meet heritage breed farm animals. Situated on 200 scenic acres, the Village is a collection of more than 40 historic buildings - including homes, meetinghouses, trade shops, working farms, restaurants, shops, and three water-powered mills. For more details, visit osv.org.

About Coggeshall Farm

Coggeshall Farm Museum brings to life the history of middle-class farm families in the late 18th century. Set on 48 acres of coastal farmland in Bristol, Rhode Island, the Museum recreates the daily experience of tenant farmers on a salt marsh farm through live interpretation, historic structures, heirloom plants, and heritage-breed animals. For more information, visit coggeshallfarm.org.