

# WOOLENS

## OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECTS

<b>Repository:</b>	Crandall Public Library. Folklife Center Glens Falls, NY.
<b>Creator:</b>	Ursula DePaul and Heidi DePaul, Cambridge Valley Farm, Cambridge, Washington County, NY.
<b>Title:</b>	Woolens
<b>Dates:</b>	1997
<b>Quantity:</b>	15 items; 1 cf
<b>Identification:</b>	Folk Art

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

The DePaul family participated in a 1997 program called "Woolens" traveling to libraries in the Southern Adirondack Library System, a part of the ongoing series, produced by the Folklife Center at [Crandall Public Library](#), entitled, Growing Up in the North Country. This family workshop series began in 1989, where people would share their own traditions (from Abenaki stories and Finnish sauna, to Moosewood whistles and tied fishing flies) to celebrate folk arts as the essence of daily life. Notes from the program flyer:

Ursula DePaul has developed a cottage industry, now in its eight season (in 1997), for the wool yarn grown on her family's farm. Along with a couple of local women, she handcrafts the dyed and natural-colored yarn into hats, mittens, socks and a unique line of Nativity figurines. Nine years ago the DePauls decided to go strictly sheep, ridding themselves of their milking dairy. Tunis, Dorset and Suffolk made up the bulk of a 225 sheep flock, with a Scottish Black Face and Jacob thrown in for the novelty. Today, much of the wool from a trimmed 100-sheep flock is taken by husband Fred to Harmony Maine where it is processed into yarn and woolen blankets. The mid-nineteenth century woolen mills in Washington County no longer provide this service locally.

A portion of the raw wool not taken to the mill is handspun by 17 year-old Heidi, who with her mother, travels to youth fairs and craft shows to teach and market their products throughout New York and Vermont. Other income for the farm comes from selling lambs - rams for meat and ewes for new flocks. Besides tending to the farm, Fred DePaul is called on to shear flocks all over the region.

## INDEX TERMS

**Topics:** Wool  
Woolen goods  
Knit goods

**Places:** Cambridge, Washington, NY

**Important People:** DePaul, Ursula  
DePaul, Heidi

**Form/Genre:** Realia

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**Preferred Citation:** Woolens  
Folklife Center  
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

**Accession Information:** Acquired by Todd DeGarmo for the Folklife Center, 1997

**Processing Information:** Arranged and described by Erica Gonyea, 2019

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECTS**

4 pairs of knitted mittens, 3 natural colored wool; 1 died wool

1 knitted hat, dyed and natural colored wool

1 pair of knitted socks, dyed and natural colored wool

6 Animals and Nativity figures

Cleaned, natural colored wool, roving, and yarns