



# BILLINGS

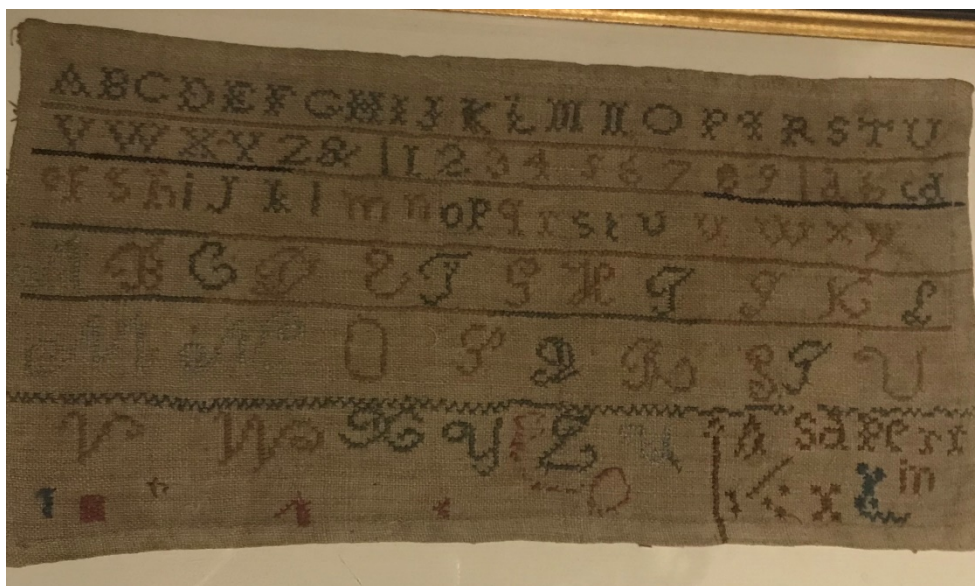
## FARM & MUSEUM

# FUN AT HOME

## EMBROIDERY

Embroidery is a way of decorating fabric with thread. Decorations follow different patterns that crafters plan out or that they “free-hand”. You may have seen embroidery on your clothes, pillows, or blankets. Embroidery has been around for centuries all around the world! Archaeologists have found embroidery in Ancient China, Ancient Greece, and Ancient Egypt.

In the 1890s as well as today, embroidery was a way to pass the time, to decorate plain fabric, and to show off your skills. We have some great examples of embroidery at Billings Farm & Museum!



Cross-stitching is a type of embroidery. It involves creating images and words by stitching ‘x’s’. This Alphabet Sampler from the Billings Farm Collection is an example of cross stitch.

# CRAFT: EMBROIDERY SAMPLER

Let's make a sampler, or a sample, of different embroidery stitches. Samplers are a great way to practice new stitches. Start with straight lines and basic shapes, then once you get the hang of it try stitching letters, patterns, or designs.

## Materials:

- Embroidery hoop
- Needle
- Any color(s) of embroidery floss
- A piece of fabric (a solid light color works best)
- Scissors



## Getting Started:

1. Cut a length of embroidery floss. Knot one end of it.
2. Thread your needle by putting your unknotted end through the eye of the needle. Pull your thread through so you have a tail. Put aside somewhere you won't lose it.
3. Take embroidery hoop and loosen the screw on top so that you can remove the bottom hoop.
4. Lay fabric over the inner hoop. Make sure it fits nicely!
5. Place outer hoop over inner hoop, making the fabric tight (but not too tight!) across the hoop. Retighten screw.
6. Let's get crafting! We will show you three basic stitches!

# CRAFT: EMBROIDERY SAMPLER

## The Backstitch:

1. Start by pushing your threaded needle up through the fabric. This means you are going through the back of the embroidery hoop. Pull until your knot hits the back of the fabric.
2. From where you came up insert the needle down through the fabric  $\frac{1}{4}$  of inch away. Pull all the way through.
3. Now go about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in front of the stitch you just made. Push the needle up like in step 1, pulling all the way through the fabric.
4. There should be a gap between your first stitch that you made and this new point. Go back to the second hole you made, or the closest hole to your new hole. Go down through this same hole, creating a new stitch. Pull through. This is the backstitch!
5. Repeat steps 1-4 in a straight line until you are almost out of thread. Leave enough thread to be able to knot it on the back side of the fabric. Make your knot by threading through a back stitch and guiding your needle through the loop created, like you would a normal knot. Double knot it if you like, just keep it close to the fabric. Cut off extra thread.





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## Split Stitch:

1. Start by pushing your needle up through the fabric. Pull until your knot hits the back of the fabric.
2. Pull your needle down through the fabric about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch away from where you came up.
3. Bring needle back up through the middle of the stitch you made.
4. Go forward another stitch length, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in front and bring the needle down through the fabric. Then repeat Step 3. This is the split stitch!
5. Repeat Steps 3 and 4 until you are almost done with your thread. Tie off a knot on the back side of the fabric. Cut off extra thread.



# CRAFT: EMBROIDERY SAMPLER

## Satin Stitch

This stitch is used to **fill** shapes and large areas.

1. Draw a medium sized circle (no bigger than a few inches across) on your fabric using a pencil.
2. Using the backstitch you just learned, outline the circle.
3. Once done, re-thread your needle with either the same thread or different thread. Make sure to knot one end!
4. Start at the edge of the circle. Like all the stitches we have learned, start by pulling your thread up through the fabric.
5. Pull your thread down vertically from the hole you just made.
6. Take the next stitch up right next to where you made your first hole. Get it as close as you can!
7. Bring your stitch down close to your second hole that you made. Repeat steps 4-5 across the circle until its full.
8. Tie a knot on the back side of the fabric. Cut off extra thread.



**There are many videos and guides to help you embroider.  
Find more stitches online to add to your new sampler!**