

2-1988

## South Union Messenger (February 1988)

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### Recommended Citation

Kentucky Library Research Collections, "South Union Messenger (February 1988)" (1988). *South Union Messenger*. Paper 26.  
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# The South Union Messenger

Winter Greetings From South Union!

February 1988

## NEW EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

South Union will be open one month earlier this year in order to initiate a new education program for school children in our area. A special tour is being developed for children in grades K-4 that will involve a visit with a "Shaker sister" in the Centre House kitchen. By listening and interacting with a costumed interpreter who is actually playing the part of a 19th century South Union resident, the children will be able to better understand the people who lived as Shakers. Programs are also in the making for grades 5-8.

We are looking for volunteers to help with these tours and need men as well as women. If you are interested in volunteering to be a "Shaker" for a couple of mornings in April, please drop me a line or call the museum office at (502) 542-4167.

## FINAL PHASE OF RESTORATION PROJECT UNDERWAY

The final phase of the Kentucky Heritage Council grant is now almost complete. The reconstruction of the 19th century kitchen porch is underway using historic photographs as a guideline. The porch will retain its original limestone floor and incorporate the reproduction of such original features as wooden arches, a tin roof, and lattice work.

It is not known when the Shakers added the porch to the west kitchen entrance, although it is doubtful that the porch was a part of the original structure. The porch was probably used as overflow space from the kitchen in the summer months when the sisters required a workplace retreat from the hot ovens. The reconstructed porch will illustrate the changing needs and tastes of the Shakers and will once again perform the function of sheltering the kitchen doors from the wind and rain.

The porch should be finished by the time the museum opens in April.

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Four vacancies on Shakertown's board of directors were filled recently. The new board members are Mrs. Ruth Allender of Bowling Green, a Shaker enthusiast and active community volunteer; Laura Harper Lee of Bowling Green, the secretary of W.K.U.'s Folk and Intercultural Studies Department and soon-to-be graduate of the Folk Studies Masters Program; Allison Dennis of Russellville, a talented weaver, Shaker enthusiast, and owner of the "Log House" bed and breakfast; and Harry C. Peart of Bowling Green, with the accounting firm of Baird, Kurtz, and Dobson and a long-time supporter of Shakertown.

## RECENT DONATIONS

Original bell-rope pulley from attic  
of Centre House.....anonymous  
Reproduction mantle for Centre House  
kitchen.....Dale Spencer  
Copy of shoe size list of South Union  
Shakers, ca. 1869.....Harold Hutchings  
Typewriter and cotton sheets to cover  
furniture during winter.....John and Linda Tanner  
50.00 donation for the purchase of  
dishes for museum kitchen.....Jane Cherry  
100.00 donation and donation of parts  
and labor for electrical work, Centre House.....Bill and Kathryn Thomas

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Carolyn Tyree Bowles, Russellville  
Edward Coffman, Sr., Russellville  
Noble and Lila Jane Craig, Russellville  
Mrs. Clay Franklin, Russellville  
Mary Lucy Franklin, Russellville  
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Guion, Russellville  
Mary Frances Russell, Russellville  
Bill and Kathryn Thomas, Rockfield  
Mrs. Karl Vick, Auburn

## WANT LIST

four-drawer metal file cabinet  
answering machine  
copy machine  
large canister vacuum

## FALL/WINTER EVENTS A SUCCESS

The series of special events and workshops offered to the public last season proved to be quite a success. Each event was well-attended, especially "Christmas at Shakertown" which drew around 500 visitors. Without the many volunteers who participated in these events it could not have been the success that it was. Special thanks to those volunteers:

### Candlelight Tour "Shakers":

Debbie Breeding  
Debbie Britt  
Holly Crandel  
Marcia Foe  
Chandler Fowler  
Carrie Helm  
Kevin Jackson  
Bonnie Lawson  
Tim Minor  
Laura Nealy  
Keith Overton  
Shelly Page  
Gailan Robertson

### Food Preparation Volunteers:

Leslie Corder  
Linda Reynolds  
Jane Cherry  
Lillie Mae Hayes  
Glen Givens  
Bea Vick  
Amanda Gordon  
Deedy Hall  
Margaret McQueen  
Virginia Hurst  
Hilda Hines  
Debbie Britt  
Dianne Watkins

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 1987

The Friends of South Union can look to this list with pride because the membership funds made many of these projects possible. Words of encouragement and suggestion are also invaluable and were appreciated during the 1987 season.

New restrooms installed on the Centre House ground floor, enabling water pipes in the upper stories to be removed.

Major phase of plastering project completed with reproduction woodwork added where original was missing.

Roof, dormers and bell-tower painted.

Underground drainage system installed around Centre House.

Post-Shaker garage torn down in Centre House yard.

Fireplace and ovens discovered in Centre House kitchen.

Modern kitchen installed in former storage area to be used during special events and Shaker festival luncheons.

Year 'round calendar of events developed to increase community involvement and education.

Pavillion constructed to house annual out-door drama "Shakertown Revisited".

Signs erected over a three acre area to mark former building sites.

Restored well-house after storm damage.

Painted exterior doors and shutters original green.

Subject of Kentucky Educational Television's "A Shaker Festival" program.

19th century loom and South Union broadside advertising sale of Shaker furniture in 1922 aquired with donations from various members.

Shaker Museum gift shop sales highest in museum history.

Facade and roof of Shaker Store repaired and painted.

Received 2,675.24 from Kentucky Travel Development for reprint of brochures.

Centre House hallway painted, a volunteer project.

Received 10,000.00 in private donations from Ruth Pottinger and Harry Peart to match grant money from Kentucky Heritage Council.

Removed gravel drive behind Centre House to sow in grass.

## IN MEMORY

Two of Shakertown's members have passed away in the recent months. Eleanor Hall Bird of Auburn, Kentucky and Jennie Mae Freeman of Bristol, Virginia, have been remembered with memorial gifts to Shakertown from many of their friends and relatives. The money received from these gifts has enabled Shakertown to build its endowment fund considerably.

The board of directors voted recently to name the endowment fund the "J. Granville Clark-John P. Hines Endowment Fund" in memory of Mr. Clark's foresight in establishing the fund for Shakertown and Mr. Hines' leadership as president (1985-1987).

David Coursey, father of Shaker Tavern restaurant owner Jim Coursey, passed away in December. Our sympathy goes to the Coursey family and the families of Eleanor Hall Bird and Jennie Mae Freeman.

## HERB GARDEN COMING TO SHAKERTOWN

The Garden Club of Kentucky has graciously offered its services in the establishment of an herb garden at Shakertown. Club representatives Dr. and Mrs. Jack Scott of Alvaton, Mr. and Mrs. Hal Bryant of Scottsville, and Liz Hood of Oakland are working diligently to plan and research the garden which will include herbs grown at South Union and other Shaker villages as well. The garden will be planted close to the original site of the vast South Union medicinal garden and nursery.

We are extremely grateful for the time and effort these volunteers have put into the garden. This project will expand the interpretation of of the South Union site and I am sure will be a joy to many visitors.

## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

We are very excited about everything that is going on at South Union. Our April educational program is shaping up and the Spring/Summer calendar of events includes many new workshops and demonstrations. We are very proud to have the well-known basket-maker, Martha Wetherbee conducting a lecture/workshop series in May and looking forward to a silk production workshop in June. Note that the July festival will be held on week-ends this year. You won't want to miss any of these events.

A recent interview with Mr. William Burr, son of the South Union Shakers' 20th century doctor, Dr. William Burr, has produced information for an exhibit on the Shakers late medical practices. Mr. Burr's fascinating account of his trips to South Union with his father gave insight to the structure of the village during the years prior to 1922. Besides the influence of Dr. Burr as a physician, the medical exhibit will also include patent medicine bottles found in an archeological dig of the Shaker ice house.

Special thanks to Leslie Corder of Bowling Green for coordinating the menus for all of last season's special events and to Linda Reynolds, Shakertown board member, also of Bowling Green, for organizing the craftspeople demonstrations. They made the work load much lighter for me and did a fantastic job. Thanks also to Houchens Industries for the donation of a country ham for our Shaker breakfast in November.

Pay close attention to our Spring/Summer calendar of events listed on the next page. I think that you will agree with me that it looks to be an exciting season. I hope to see each of you participating in these events and inviting your friends to become members of Shakertown. Thanks for your continued support.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
- May 9 CHAIR-CANING WORKSHOP Learn to cane the bottom of a slat-back chair using split weave. Reservations required. Fee. 9:30-2:30.
- May 14 SOUTH UNION SEMINAR A one-day seminar open to the public. Includes an in-depth tour of the 1824 Centre House, lunch in the Centre House kitchen, a hands on restoration session, dinner at the Shaker Tavern, and guest speaker Julia Neal. 12.00 fee includes everything except dinner at the Tavern. Reservations required.
- May 27 MARTHA WETHERBEE LECTURE A lecture on the basketry of the Shakers including a study of the South Union basket collection, followed by a wine and cheese reception. Fee: 5.00 donation.
- May 28 MARTHA WETHERBEE BASKET WORKSHOP Making a Shaker cathead basket. All materials included, 125.00 per person.
- May 29 MARTHA WETHERBEE BASKET WORKSHOP Making a Shaker spoon basket. All materials included, 125.00 per person.
- June 11 SILK SPINNING WORKSHOP A workshop for competent spinners sponsored by the Clarksville Guild of Spinners and Weavers. 25.00 fee. Reservations required by March 31. The public is invited.
- June 23 CHAIR-CANING WORKSHOP Learn to cane the bottom of a slat-back chair using split weave. Reservations required. Fee. 9:30-2:30.
- June 25 SHAKER TEXTILES EXHIBIT A show and tell forum for the Clarksville Guild of Spinners and Weavers, the results of the June 11 silk spinning workshop. Also a viewing of selected Shaker textiles from the museum collection. Open to the public, no charge.
- July 15-17 SHAKER WEEK-END FESTIVAL The annual Shaker festival held  
22-24 on week-ends this year. Includes Shaker crafts, crafts  
29-31 demonstrations, Shaker foods and music and the out-door  
drama "Shakertown Revisited." In its 27th season.  
Festival begins at 9:30 each morning, drama at 8:15 each  
evening. Reservations are not required except for dinner  
at the Shaker Tavern.

All events are held at the Shaker Museum (Centre House) on Highway 68, 12 miles west of Bowling Green, 3 miles east of Auburn. For information on specific times and costs of workshops, seminar or festival call (502) 542 4167 or write: Shakertown at South Union, Special Events, South Union, Kentucky, 42283.

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