North Union Messenger (June 1989)

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SHAKER FESTIVAL APPROACHING

The 28th annual Shaker Festival is almost here. The festival begins June 16-18 and continues for the following two weekends after. Beginning at 10:00 each morning and continuing until 5:00, activities will include 19th century craft demonstrations and sale, Shaker music and dance performances, a Shaker picnic luncheon served between 11:00 and 1:00, and tours of the historic buildings. This year's craftspeople include white oak basket makers, an oval box maker, Shaker mold basket maker, leathersmith, blacksmith, tinsmith, broom-maker, potter, chair-caner, and examples of wood craft, corn shuck doll-making, butter-making, spinning, weaving, and an herbalist.

Evening meals, available at the Shaker Tavern between 4:30 and 8:00, will be followed by the festival's highlight at 8:15, performances of the outdoor musical drama, "Shakertown Revisited." This year's drama boasts new sets and costumes with several new scenes taken from the South Union journals and all newly arranged historic Shaker music. Several of the tunes were recently transcribed from the South Union manuscript hymnbooks and journals.

The cost of admission to the festival is 2.00 for adults and 1.00 for children. Play tickets are 5.50 for adults and 2.00 for children. Reservations are not required except for the evening meal at the Shaker Tavern. Group rates are available.

For more information or reservations call the museum office at: (502) 542-4167.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need volunteers to help with the festival this year if you know of anyone with some free time the last three weekends in June. We need people to sell tickets during the day and evening, people to help serve lunch, and people to help out in the gift shop. If interested call: 542-4167.
RECENT DONATIONS

Shaker Winter Bonnet..................Vicky Boyd, Auburn, KY
Push Lawn Mower........................Margaret McQueen, Auburn
100.00 Donation.......................Roger Kimball, Laguna Hills, CA
160.00 Donation.......................Western Shaker Study Group
50.00 Donation.........................Chase Manhattan Bank
50.00 Donation in honor of Deedy Hall
....................................Mrs. Paul York, Glasgow, KY
Collection of crockery, iron ware, tin ware and copper ware, a
Shaker flax wheel, cotton gin, lap desk
..........................Mrs. Curry Hall, Auburn

MEMBER INITIATES FUND RAISING DRIVE

Friends of Shakertown at South Union member Margaret McQueen of Auburn, Kentucky has recently donated a beautiful quilt to be raffled with proceeds going toward restoration at Shakertown. The quilt, which is both hand and machine made, is made in the "Old Maid's Puzzle" pattern and is 100% cotton. The quilt measures 86 by 86 and is blue and white. Raffle tickets will be available at the museum at a cost of one dollar each.

The drawing will be held July 31. For more information call the museum office or write: Quilt Raffle, Shakertown at South Union, Kentucky 42283.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Elizabeth Bancroft and Charles Sims, Alexandria, Virginia
Timothy and Barbara Durham, Palm Bay, Florida
Carrie Helm, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Sara McNulty and Sarah Jewell, Owensboro, Kentucky
Kristin L. Smith, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Margaret York, Glasgow, Kentucky

SOUTH UNION SHAKER QUARTET

The Quartet has recently recorded a tape of Shaker music in the meeting room of the Centre Dwelling at South Union. A combination of well-known and newly transcribed tunes, the tape will be available after June 15.
Thirty-six participants from five states enjoyed a day of Shaker lectures, tours and fine food at the second annual South Union Seminar. Held on April 1st, the seminar included tours of the Centre Dwelling House and the 1834 Preservatory restoration project. Guest speaker Julia Meale gave a wonderful talk on Shaker children during the morning session and Dianne Watkins, education curator at the Kentucky Museum, spoke on Kentucky author Janice Holt Giles and her novel, "The Believers" during the afternoon session.

A luncheon of Shaker and Kentucky recipes was served in the dining room of the Centre Dwelling and an evening meal was served at the Shaker Tavern. One of the many highlights of the day preceded the dinner hour as the group toured the home of Mrs. Curry Hall. The Hall farm was once owned by the South Union Shakers and was used as a sugar maple farm. Everyone seemed to enjoy Mrs. Hall's beautiful home her gracious Southern hospitality.

Next year's seminar will be held on April 7th. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

IN MEMORIAM

Deepest sympathy is expressed to Ruth Owrey of Franklin, Ohio, in the death of her father, Harry Wise. Ruth is a member of the South Union friend's organization and a volunteer and craftsperson for the museum.

PRESERVATORY RESTORATION CONTINUES

The 1834 Preservatory or "Smoke and Milk House" restoration project will soon complete its second phase of work. Funded by the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation, the restoration project is an exciting and educational experience for everyone involved. We have just completed exterior paint work, installation of 19th century style round gutters, restoration of one of the original front doors (the other one will have to be made to match), removal of a 1930s pine floor in the smoke house room, reopening of original brick attic vents, and installation of all existing original windows. Currently the building is being repointed and after a 1930s window opening is bricked over, the grant money will be depleted.

We are in hopes that grant money will continue to be available for this project as the building's interior holds many original details that need to be restored. The preservatory is a fascinating structure and an invaluable resource to Shakertown at South Union.
SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL BED AND BREAKFAST........

For those of you interested in staying in the area near South Union, a new bed and breakfast has opened in Auburn, five miles from Shakertown. Located at 421 West Main, THE DAVID WILLIAMS GUEST HOUSE is a beautiful old home, finely decorated, with each guest room signified by the type of wood used in the furnishings. There are five guest rooms and two full baths, ranging in price from 20.00 to 40.00. A wonderful breakfast is included in the price.

Special rates are available for senior citizens and for those staying more than one night. For reservations: (502) 542-6019. Your innkeepers, David, Joy, and Andrea Williams will make you very welcome.

WELCOME...

New museum employees
Lisa Rice and Tommy Stewart.

Summer interns Carol Bell and Sara McNulty

Returning employees
Addie Brooks, Sue Elliott, Lillie Mae Hayes, and Mary Reynolds.

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

I hope that each of you will visit South Union during the Shaker Festival this year. It will be a rewarding visit, I can promise you, especially if you haven't been to South Union for some time. You will enjoy seeing all of the improvements here as well as being a part of the festival atmosphere. Steve and Laura Nealy Burks are directing the play this year and I know you will be delighted at the changes made in the production.

I want to personally thank Julia Neal and Dianne Watkins for speaking at the South Union Seminar in April. Both speakers were so well received. Thanks too, to Mrs. Deedy Hall for opening her lovely home for the seminar participants. It was a perfect end to a day of Shaker, Kentucky style. I want to also thank Larry and Ruth Owrey for another fine oval box workshop in May and for all they do for South Union.

See you at the festival and don't forget to buy your raffle ticket.
June 16-18  SHAKER FESTIVAL  
Three weekends of Shaker crafts, foods, and music, highlighted by the outdoor drama, "Shakertown Revisited."

June 23-25

June 30-July 2

August 19  CHAIR TAPPING WORKSHOP  
Bring a bottomless slat back chair and learn to weave a seat using Shaker tape. Reservations required. 10:00-3:00. Cost.

September 16  WALK TO THE NORTH FAMILY and LUNCHEON  
A morning walk to the site of the South Union North Family followed by a Shaker luncheon served in the Centre House dining room. Reservations required. 10:30. Cost.

October 28  CANDLELIGHT TOUR  
Our annual candlelight tour of the Centre Family Dwelling. An evening of living history and Shaker music. 7:00pm. Free to the public. No reservations required.

November 18  SHAKER BREAKFAST  
A sumptuous yet simple South Union breakfast served in the Centre House dining room. A menu from South Union in the 1870s. 10:00am. Reservations required. Cost.

December 2  CHRISTMAS AT SHAKERTOWN  
Christmas carols and Shaker music with decorations of the Victorian period and holiday foods set the mood for a Christmas celebration of long ago. The finest in Kentucky craftsmen will also be on site offering the most unique in gift ideas. Free to the public. 10:00am-5:00pm.