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JUN 21 1991

1

Shakertown  South Union

The South Union Messenger

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF SHAKERTOWN AT SOUTH UNION
JUNE 1991

30th ANNUAL SHAKER FESTIVAL BEGINS THIS WEEKEND

You will not want to miss the 30th Annual Shaker Festival, taking place June 22-23 and 29-30. This year's event includes many changes planned to offer the visitor much more to do than ever before. Twenty-three craftspeople will be demonstrating and selling a variety of 19th century wares including Shaker brooms, oval boxes, baskets, dolls, dough bowls, Shaker chair tape, handwoven pieces, stone-ground meal and much more. A Shaker picnic luncheon will be served from the window of the Centre House kitchen all day long instead of just at lunchtime. Dramatic reenactments of scenes from South Union history will take place throughout the day in the meeting room and will include performances of Shaker music and dance.

One major change in the 1991 Shaker Festival will be the absence of "Shakertown Revisited," the outdoor drama. Because of rising expenses it was decided not to host the production this year. Hopefully it will return in the near future.

The festival will begin at ten o'clock each morning and conclude each afternoon at five o'clock. Ticket prices are \$3.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children, ages 6 - 12. A video history of the South Union colony produced by Western Kentucky University's WKYU-TV will be shown throughout the festival with copies available in the museum shop.

AN IMPORTANT ARTIFACT RETURNS TO SOUTH UNION

The museum has been able to acquire an exceptional piece of South Union furniture with the help of several generous members. The piece is a large press or cupboard, made of cherry, on a walnut base. The base has two doors flanked with sets of three drawers, each numbered.

This recent acquisition has the best of provenance, including a penciled construction date of "March 1846" and an appearance in two historic photographs of the Centre Dwelling hallway, dated 1918 and 1922. The press has been placed in the same location as pictured in the 1922 photograph.

Friends of Shakertown at South Union who made the purchase possible are:

Mrs. Curry Hall
The Estate of Jane Hines Morningstar
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Brown
Dr. and Mrs. Ben Caldwell
Mr. Harry C. Peart

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mr. and Mrs. Hunter Armistead, Nashville, Tennessee
 R. Bloch, Bowling Green, Kentucky
 Martin and Cathy Stewart Brown, Jr., Nashville, Tennessee
 Mr. and Mrs. Martin Brown, Nashville, Tennessee
 Catherine W. Coke, Annapolis, Maryland
 Frances Brooks Corzine, Nashville, Tennessee
 Mr. and Mrs. Dan Griffith, Owensboro, Kentucky
 Jonathon Jeffrey, Bowling Green, Kentucky
 Mrs. Jack C. Massey, Nashville, Tennessee
 Mr. and Mrs. M. F. McNamara, III, Nashville, Tennessee
 Tom Poole, Bowling Green, Kentucky
 Kris Potter, Rockfield, Kentucky
 Elizabeth Queener, Nashville, Tennessee
 Celeste Casey Reed, Nashville, Tennessee
 John and Shirley Reed, Dayton, Ohio
 Joan Robbins, Laurel, Maryland
 Robinson Neil Bass and Associates, Nashville, Tennessee
 John and Anne Short, Madison, Wisconsin
 Janice M. Siedelmann, Henderson, Kentucky
 Mari Anne Skodney, Franklin, Tennessee
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Street, Nashville, Tennessee
 William Ridley Wills, III, Nashville, Tennessee
 Trans Financial Bank, Russellville, Kentucky

SHAKER TEXTILE EXHIBIT OPENS AT MUSEUM

The Programs in Folk Studies at Western Kentucky University and Shakertown at South Union have received a \$1,000 mini-grant from the Kentucky Humanities Council and have mounted an exhibit, "Beyond the Borders: Shaker Philosophy Through Textiles." The exhibit, which opened May 1, was designed by the Museum Procedures and Preservation Techniques Class under the direction of Dr. Michael Ann Williams and Tommy Hines, Executive Director of Shakertown at South Union. Donna Parker, Exhibits Curator for the Kentucky Museum, served as a design consultant and textile specialist for the project.

"Beyond the Borders" focuses on the relationship of Shaker religious beliefs and philosophy to the production and aesthetics of their textiles. The theme of "borders" relates both to the simple, restrained designs found in borders of Shaker textiles as well as to borders of community and social order governed by their beliefs.

The textiles featured in the exhibit are part of the permanent collection of the South Union Shaker Museum. Due to their fragile nature, the majority of the items in the exhibit are not usually on display. The grant from the Kentucky Humanities Council allows for the exhibition and humanities-based interpretation of this important collection.

The "Beyond the Borders" exhibit is open during museum hours through November 1, 1991.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

A "Knife Basket" woven on an original Shaker wooden basket mold in the museum collection by Ruth Owrey.

.....donated by Ruth Owrey, Franklin, Ohio

Trade Card, "Shaker Family Pills"

.....donated by Curt and Debbie DeBaun, Terre Haute, Indiana

Chair, child's, South Union, ca. 1840. Purchased by the mother of its donor from the Shakers in 1920.

.....donated from the estate of Mary Elizabeth Stevenson

Chair, attributed to the South Union Shakers, original finish.

.....donated by Ralph and Marge Eldred, Franklin, Kentucky

Ink Shaker, attributed to the Mount Lebanon, New York Shakers, swatch of Shaker silk, and four paper labels advertising Shaker products.

.....donated by Dr. Ben Caldwell, Nashville, Tennessee

Bed, cherry, made by Pleasant Hill Shakers

.....purchased for the museum by Mrs. Curry Hall, Auburn, Kentucky

Wood Box, original red wash, made by the Pleasant Hill Shakers.

.....purchased with funds from 1990 Fall events

Rag Rug, attributed to the New Hampshire Shakers

.....purchased with funds from 1990 Fall events

Copies of The Valley of God's Pleasure, 1951, The Divine Book of Holy Wisdom, 1849, and Millennial Church, 1823.

.....donated by Kit Cress, Mansfield, Ohio

Cupboard or Press, made by the South Union Shakers in 1846, walnut and cherry.

.....purchased with funds from:

Mrs. Curry Hall, Auburn, Kentucky
 The Estate of Jane Hines Morningstar
 Dr. and Mrs. Ben Caldwell, Nashville, Tennessee
 Mr. and Mrs. Martin Brown, Nashville, Tennessee
 Mr. Harry C. Peart, Bowling Green, Kentucky



SPECIAL THANKS TO. . .

Ralph Jordon, of Colonial House Furniture, Auburn, Kentucky, for the use of a moving van needed for transportation of recent acquisitions.

Maurice Hines, Woodbury, Kentucky, for the use of a pick-up truck needed for transporting recent acquisitions.

Nancy Hillenburg, Anaheim, California, for a monetary donation above her annual membership.

Pat and Mary Allen, Lebanon, Ohio, for a monetary donation.

IN MEMORY

There have been six deaths among the membership of the Friends of Shakertown at South Union since the last newsletter. All contributed to Shakertown at South Union in many ways over the years. Mr. Raymond Vick and Mr. Bill Howlett were Life Members in the organization. Miss Mary Elizabeth Stevenson and Miss Mary Tempie Blakey, both natives of Auburn, were also supporters of all Shakertown projects. Miss Stevenson contributed the largest sum to the Bingham Challenge in 1990. Jane Hines Morningstar, a tireless supporter of preservation in Kentucky, was an important and consistent member for many years. Margaret McQueen was a member who truly loved Shakertown and pledged her support in so many ways. All of the members will be missed.

DONATIONS MADE IN MEMORY OF MARGARET McQUEEN

Mrs. Raymond Vick, Auburn, Kentucky
 Mrs. Curry Hall, Auburn, Kentucky
 Vernon and Mary Price, Louisville, Kentucky
 Jessie W. Ridenour, Loudon, Tennessee
 Mrs. Sam Wilson, Loudon, Tennessee
 Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Robinson, Loudon, Tennessee
 Mary Lucy Franklin, Russellville, Kentucky
 Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Hall, Paris, Illinois
 Alan and Beverly Spitler, Knoxville, Tennessee
 Mr. and Mrs. Tom Montgomery, Bowling Green, Kentucky
 Mr. and Mrs. William Coke, Nashville, Tennessee
 Mr. O. Edward Freeman, New York, New York
 Mr. and Mrs. Tom Nichols, Loudon, Tennessee
 Charles and Joyce Brakebill, Loudon, Tennessee
 Mr. and Mrs. James F. Roberts, Loudon, Tennessee
 Joyce S. Niles, Loudon, Tennessee
 Carolyn Myher, Atlanta, Georgia
 Eugene and Vicki Boyd, Auburn, Kentucky
 David P. Hall, Auburn, Kentucky

The funds donated in memory of Margaret B. McQueen will be used to restore the two historic Shaker wellhouses on the South Union site, a project that Mrs. McQueen had intended to fund this season.

CURRENT PHASE OF CENTRE HOUSE RESTORATION COMPLETE

If you have not visited the museum this year you are in for a visual surprise. Eleven rooms and the first and second floor hallways have been restored with plaster repairs, new paint, cleaned woodwork, and the removal of all unnecessary electrical conduit. The project cost was \$11,000, money budgeted for restoration/maintenance from the Bingham Challenge funds raised in 1990. The restoration also included the installation of track lighting in the exhibit rooms, the removal of all old fuse boxes, and the replacement of three damaged chimney caps. 1930's lighting fixtures were removed from the main hallways and replicas of the Shaker-installed 1918 fixtures replaced them.

There is still much to be done to restore the Centre House interior completely. The ground floor and the fourth floor await much needed restoration as does the back hallway on the second floor. The current state of the Centre House offers the visitor the perfect juxtaposition between the restored and the unrestored. "Before and after" can be witnessed with the simple turn of the head.

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

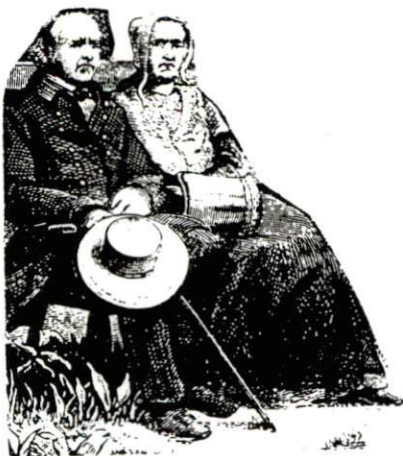
I want to invite each of you to visit the museum this year, not only to see the changes made during the recent interior restoration, but to be a part of our 1991 Calendar of Events.

The Shaker Festival is shaping up nicely and should be one of the best ever, even though we had to make a major change by not hosing "Shakertown Revisited." It will be back soon, we hope.

The South Union Seminar was a real success with 50 participants taking part in the day's events. Rose Mary Lawson and Kit Cress did a fine job with their presentations and it seemed that everyone enjoyed the Shaker luncheon. Special thanks to Sue Carol Browning for opening her home, the 1846 Ministry Shop, to the seminar group.

Very special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Robbins and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Robbins for co-chairing Shakertown's 1991 gala event, "A Celebration of Shakertown." A recognition dinner will be given by the Shakertown Board of Directors, July 1 in honor of the two couples. The event brought in \$6,000.00 to Shakertown for the 1834 Smoke and Milk House restoration project, slated for completion in December 1991.

Hope to see you at the Festival!



Jimmy Lewis

1991 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 22-23,
29-30 **SUMMER SHAKER FESTIVAL**
Two weekends of Shaker foods, music, dance, and crafts. No reservations required. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. \$3.00 adults, \$1.00 children (6-12).
- July 14 **SHAKER TOPICS**
"Harvey L. Eads: Lifetime Believer," presented by Dianne Watkins, Education Curator, Kentucky Museum. No reservations required. Free admission to museum. 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- July 20-21 **BROOM-MAKING DEMONSTRATION**
- Aug. 10-11 **BROOM-MAKING DEMONSTRATION**
- Aug. 16-17 **OVAL BOX/SHAKER BASKET WORKSHOP**
A two-day workshop where you learn to make either a nest of oval boxes or a miniature Shaker cathead basket. Reservations required. \$60 per person.
- Aug. 31-
Sept. 2 **BROOM-MAKING DEMONSTRATION**
- Sept. 14 **WALKING TOUR AND LUNCHEON**
An annual walk to a point of interest at the South Union site, followed by a Shaker luncheon. Reservations required. \$13 members, \$15 non-members.
- Sept. 29 **SHAKER TOPICS**
"The ABC's of Shaker: Illustrated Look at the Garden and Medicinal Herb Industry of the Shakers Through the Use of **Almanacs, Bottles, and Cards.**" Presented by Sheldon Baugh, Shaker researcher and collector. No reservations required. Free admission to museum. 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Oct. 12 **FALL CANDELIGHT TOUR**
An evening of living history in the 1824 Centre Dwelling House by candlelight. Shaker music performances. No reservations required. \$2.00 adults, \$1.00 children. 7:00 p.m.
- Oct. 19-20 **BROOM-MAKING DEMONSTRATION**
- Nov. 16 **A SHAKER BREAKFAST**
An historic South Union menu served in the 1824 Centre Dwelling dining room. Reservations are required. \$13 members, \$15 non-members. 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- Dec. 7-8 **CHRISTMAS AT SHAKERTOWN**
An open-house celebration with period decorations, music, and refreshments. Booths of fine crafts and antiques. Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. No admission.

Shakertown  South Union
Shakertown at South Union, Kentucky 42283

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