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South Union Messenger (August 1990)

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AUG 16 1990

The South Union Messenger

THE FRIENDS OF SHAKERTOWN AT SOUTH UNION NEWSLETTER
August 1990

THE EDIE BINGHAM CHALLENGE

After several visits to South Union over the past two years, Mrs. Barry Bingham, Jr. has become interested in the preservation efforts going on here. Two weeks ago Mrs. Bingham contacted the museum with some very exciting news, offering Shakertown at South Union a challenge grant of fifteen thousand dollars if our board of directors could raise thirty thousand by September 15. Needless to say, the Shakertown board accepted the challenge with much excitement and dedicated itself to meeting the goal.

Shakertown at South Union has seen tremendous growth and development over the past several years and in order to continue that growth additional funding is needed. Currently, operating expenses are met with receipts from museum admissions, museum shop sales, Shaker Tavern and South Union Antiques rent and, most importantly, memberships. While this funding has been sufficient in the past, there is a problem in meeting the future needs of operational expenses like maintenance, staffing, and publicity, as well as important restoration and acquisition projects.

Mrs. Bingham wrote in a recent letter to board president, Ray S. Clark:

It is clear that South Union is poised for its next and very important period of growth...I believe that South Union must develop its resources now with careful planning and vision or face a slow death on the vine, relinquishing the striking achievements of the past twenty years...I see the exciting future opportunities South Union harbors for the benefit of many...

As of this date we have raised almost ten thousand dollars and are continuing to solicit funds from foundations across the state of Kentucky.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sue Berry, Owensboro, Kentucky
Joe Bevalqua, Los Angeles, California
Richard M. Clark, Franklin, Kentucky
Karl, Carla and Erin Federer, Glenarm, Illinois
Marion Firchow, Russellville, Kentucky
M. Louise Galloway, Bloomington, Indiana
Sarah and Steve Graberstein, Nashville, Tennessee
William and Judith Hassoldt, Torrance, California
Dorothy Ann Jones, Indianapolis, Indiana
Diane McKanna, Russellville, Kentucky
Ann Metzger, Los Angeles, California
Mary Metzger, Lake Oswego, Oregon
Suzanne J. O'Neil, Franklin, Tennessee
Richard and Elizabeth Reynolds, Indian Rocks Beach, Florida
Harriet Shapiro, Los Angeles, California

RECENT DONATIONS

Two sets of metal shelves.....Reynolds, Catron, Johnston &
Hinton, Bowling Green, Kentucky

Five sock stretchers, one
#5 cherry ring box, two #2
oval boxes, one set of three
carriers, two divided carriers,
and three peg boards, all
handmade by Larry Owrey for
sale in museum shop.....Larry and Ruth Owrey, Franklin,
Ohio

Color photos of Shaker buildings
adjacent to the Shaker Tavern...Richard Cox, Auburn, Kentucky

Funds to restore Shaker post
office building's south
entrance.....The Earl C. Spurlock Family,
Russellville, Kentucky

Collection of letters written
by various members of the
Shaker villages of Canterbury,
N.H., and Sabbathday Lake, MN.
(1959-1976).....Mrs. Curry Hall, Auburn, Kentucky

Funds to replace missing
fanlight transom in second
floor hallway of Centre Family
Dwelling.....Mrs. Edie Bingham, Glenview,
Kentucky

Two iron candleholders hand-
made by blacksmith, Joel
Patterson for sale in shop....Joel Patterson, Glasgow, Kentucky

THANKS TO FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

Wanda Rice
Tommy Stewart
Trent Spurlock
Debbie Britt
Ann Boyd
Helen Shores
Virginia Hurst
Lillie Mae Hayes
Addie Brooks
Sue Brooks
Bess Martin
Paula Clark
Ray Clark

Nancy Gaines
Bill Gaines
Adrienne Dieball
Alan Dieball
Deedy Hall
Margaret McQueen
Bea Vick
Dianne Watkins
Becky Saalwester
Ann Silva
Chris Shuffit
Gailan Roberson

THE 1990 SHAKER FESTIVAL

Once again Shakertown at South Union experienced a successful and well-attended Shaker Festival. This year's event featured fifteen craftspeople from Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana and Ohio demonstrating 19th century traditional crafts. There were also Shaker music performances in the meeting room by Sherri Phelps, soprano, Gailan Roberson, soprano, Chris Shuffit, tenor, and the South Union Shaker Quartet. Shaker foods proved to be very popular served on the summer kitchen porch as did tours of the museum and the out-door drama "Shakertown Revisited." This year's performance was very well done and all of the credit should go to the fine cast and directors John McDonald and Rob Paugh.

WKYU-TV PRODUCES DOCUMENTARY ON SOUTH UNION

The educational television station of Western Kentucky University has just completed a wonderful video documentary on the history of the South Union Shaker colony. Director Tim Kuss combined live interviews with South Union director Tommy Hines and Kentucky Museum education curator Dianne Watkins with historic photographs, new graphics, newly-tinted lithographs, footage of the historic site today, and scenes from South Union's history recreated by this year's cast of "Shakertown Revisited." The finished product is probably the finest video history of the South Union Shakers ever produced. It is an effective, professional, well-organized and entertaining documentary sure to be a great educational and promotional vehicle for Shakertown at South Union. Plans are to air the program on KET in the spring.

WANT LIST

Filing cabinets, four drawer
Folding Tables

SHAKER TAVERN BED AND BREAKFAST NOW OPEN

There are three beautiful rooms now available for overnight accommodations at the Shaker Tavern. Recently restored with funds from a donation by Mrs. Curry Hall, the Tavern rooms are again ready for guests for the first time in over seventy years. A modern bathroom and central air-conditioning have also been installed. For information about the Tavern meals or reservations for bed and breakfast call: (502) 542-6801.

SOUTH UNION AT THE NHCSA MEETING IN MT. LEBANON/HANCOCK

The annual meeting of the National Historic Communal Societies Association is being held October 25-28 at the Shaker village sites of Hancock, MA and Mt. Lebanon, NY. South Union will be represented by having two papers on the program: "Harvey L. Eads, Lifetime Believer" presented by Shakertown board member and Kentucky Museum education curator, Dianne Watkins, and "South Union, The Outer Branch of the Vineyard" presented by Shakertown director, Tommy Hines.

SOUTH UNION IN PRINT

Early American Life, August 1990, "The Vegetarian Shakers" ...quotes South Union manuscripts.

The Courier-Journal, June 24, 1990, "Deedy Hall's Mission Preserves Heritage of South Union Shakers"...a wonderful article by Martha Elson about the tireless preservation efforts of Mrs. Curry Hall, museum founder.

The Courier-Journal, July 9, 1990, "South Union's Last Broom Maker is Reminder of Shakers' Glory Days"...an article written by Byron Crawford for his column about broom-maker, Dean Watkins, South Union Friends member and site broom-maker.

Southern Accents, July-August 1990, "Worktables of Early America"...included one Shaker worktable, a sewing desk from the South Union collection.

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

The staff and board of directors are working enthusiastically to meet the goal set by the Edie Bingham Challenge. It is exciting to see what new interest can bring to a project and we are so thankful for the interest of Mrs. Bingham. Very special thanks should also go to Ann Early Sutherland of Bardstown and Dr. Sam Thomas of Louisville who are helping with Mrs. Bingham's challenge in a variety of ways. There will be an update on the project mailed to the members very soon.

While we are not asking our members to donate to the Bingham Challenge, we would appreciate assistance in finding additional funding sources. Of course, if you do want to help us meet the challenge, we would be more than happy to accept your donation! Thanks so much for your continued support.

Tommy Hines

SOUTH UNION FALL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- September 1-3 BROOM-MAKING DEMONSTRATION
- September 8 WALKING TOUR AND LUNCHEON
Our annual walk to a point of interest on the South Union site, followed by a Shaker luncheon. 10:00. 12.00 members, 15.00 non-members. Reservations.
- September 29 BROOM-MAKING DEMONSTRATION
- October 13 FALL CANDLELIGHT TOUR
An evening tour of the 1824 Centre Dwelling by candlelight. Shaker music performance. Free. No reservations.
- November 17 A SHAKER BREAKFAST
A Shaker breakfast menu served in the dining room of the 1824 Centre Dwelling. 10:00. 12.00 members, 15.00 non-members. Reservations. A performance by the South Union Shaker Quartet follows.
- December 1-2 CHRISTMAS AT SHAKERTOWN
An open house celebration with period decorations, music, holiday refreshments, fine handmade treasures and antiques. Saturday 9:00-4:00, Sunday 1:00-5:00. Free. No reservations.

Shakertown  **South Union**
Shakertown at South Union, Kentucky 42283

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