

1-1993

## South Union Messenger (January 1993)

Kentucky Library Research Collections  
Western Kentucky University, [spcol@wku.edu](mailto:spcol@wku.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/su\\_messenger](https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/su_messenger)



Part of the [Christian Denominations and Sects Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Kentucky Library Research Collections, "South Union Messenger (January 1993)" (1993). *South Union Messenger*. Paper 13.  
[https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/su\\_messenger/13](https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/su_messenger/13)

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in South Union Messenger by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact [topscholar@wku.edu](mailto:topscholar@wku.edu).

Shakertown  South Union

# The South Union Messenger

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF SHAKERTOWN AT SOUTH UNION  
JANUARY 1993

## IN MEMORY

It is with much sadness that we report to you the death of Mrs. Deedy Hall, the founder of the South Union Shaker Museum.

In the 1930s Deedy Hall and her husband Curry purchased a portion of the Shakers' sugar maple farm called Watervliet. The house on the property included a section built by the Shakers in the 1820s as a dwelling. The rich history of the farm, coupled with Mrs. Hall's personal memories of the South Union Shakers, must have lit a spark that prompted her interest in collecting Shaker.

By the mid-1950s Deedy Hall was collecting Shaker furniture in order to fill one of the bedrooms in her home. When friends became aware of her interest, they began to give "Shaker presents" for birthdays and other special occasions. Because most of the area residents had attended the South Union auctions in the early 1920s, Mrs. Hall found many willing to sell or donate to the growing collection. Before long it became apparent that the Shaker room could no longer contain Mrs. Hall's collection.

The space problem was solved when Deedy Hall convinced her husband that an old church building they owned would be a perfect location for a museum of her Shaker things. It was in this building that the first South Union Shaker Museum was opened to the public in 1960. Located in Auburn, Kentucky, only three miles from the South Union historic site, the museum grew through the efforts of Mrs. Hall and many local citizens who supported the cause. A non-profit organization was formed and a summer festival was created to support the museum and it continued to operate with volunteer labor until the early 1970s.

In 1971 "Shakertown Revisited, Inc." began to purchase original buildings located on the South Union site. Because of the perseverance of Deedy Hall and others, the organization raised the funds to purchase four of the remaining nine structures. The museum collection moved from Auburn to the 1824 Centre Family Dwelling in 1971 where Mrs. Hall and Julia Neal became volunteer co-directors, a position they would hold until the early 1980s.

South Union has experienced a great loss with the passing of Deedy Hall. With her went a wealth of experience that came from forty years of collecting Shaker, an abiding sense of love and dedication



for South Union, and a personality that exuded kindness, perseverance, generosity, diplomacy graciousness and total support for a project in which she never lost interest. The contributions that she made to Shakertown at South Union, however, were not short term. The gifts that she gave will never lost their impact. She generously shared her knowledge of Shaker material culture and that information, recorded meticulously by her, will be forever valuable to those who continue the work at South Union. She gathered a collection that has become nationally recognized as one of the finest and most unique in the United States, leaving it all to the museum to be studied and used for educational purposes. Finally, she charged those who knew her with a infectious zeal for preserving the heritage of the South Union Shakers. It is now our responsibility to keep that spark alive for those who will carry on the work of Deedy Hall.

Mrs. Hall passed away October 30, 1992. Those who have made contributions to the museum in her memory are:

Mary Lucy Franklin, Russellville, Kentucky  
Mrs. T.B. Wilson, Auburn, Kentucky  
Julia Neal, Bowling Green, Kentucky  
Mrs. Bea Vick, Bowling Green, Kentucky  
Van Stilley, Wilmington, North Carolina  
Sue Brooks, Rockfield, Kentucky  
Lillie Mae Hayes, Auburn, Kentucky  
Trent Spurlock, Russellville, Kentucky  
Christine Adams, Bowling Green, Kentucky  
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Summers, Auburn, Kentucky  
Maxine Marbury, Auburn, Kentucky  
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Neely, Russellville, Kentucky  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Price, Russellville, Kentucky  
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Clark, Russellville, Kentucky  
Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Ray, Russellville, Kentucky  
Mrs. Ray T. Scott, Auburn, Kentucky  
Mr. and Mrs. Grover Corum, Auburn, Kentucky  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Owrey, Franklin, Ohio  
Mary Burt, Bowling Green, Kentucky  
Mary E. Sloss, Dallas, Texas  
Bill Clement, Dallas, Texas  
Mary Helm, Upper Montclair, New Jersey  
John Helm, Upper Montclair, New Jersey  
V. Sloss Costen, Memphis, Tennessee  
Virginia Hurst, Morgantown, Kentucky  
Colonial House Furniture/ Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Jordan, Auburn, Kentucky  
Bobbi Martin, Russellville, Kentucky  
Mr. and Mrs. Earl Spurlock, Russellville, Kentucky  
Elaine Dodson, Bowling Green, Kentucky  
Mr. and Mrs. William G. Coke, Nashville, Tennessee  
Dale Covington, Marietta, Georgia  
Mr. and Mrs. Earl Wright, Olmstead, Kentucky  
Mr. and Mrs. H.C. Peart, Bowling Green, Kentucky  
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gran Clark, Russellville, Kentucky  
James Heston Thomas, Harrodsburg, Kentucky  
Shakertown at Pleasant Hill, Harrodsburg, Kentucky



Memorial Donations for Deedy Hall, continued...

Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Baugh, Russellville, Kentucky  
Jean Dones, Columbus, Ohio  
Mrs. Walter C. Eden, Pine Bluff, Arkansas  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Myers Simpson, Pine Bluff, Arkansas  
Mary Delong Hughes, Franklin, Kentucky  
Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Eldred, Franklin, Kentucky  
Ann Bell McCoy, Hopkinsville, Kentucky  
Edith S. Bingham, Glenview, Kentucky  
Mr. and Mrs. Oddvar Berg, Russellville, Kentucky  
Franklin Duplicate Bridge Club, Franklin, Kentucky  
Mr. and Mrs. Harold T. Hanks, Auburn, Kentucky  
Col. and Mrs. Robert E. Spiller, Oakland, Kentucky  
Sharon Koomler, Bowling Green, Kentucky  
Mr. and Mrs. Randy Fuqua, Russellville, Kentucky  
Janet Herrick, Bowling Green, Kentucky  
M. M. Richardson, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Mrs. Frank Bell, Midlothian, Virginia  
Alan Schoen, Old Chatham, New York  
Mrs. William L. Peterson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma  
Mrs. Beverly Spitler, Knoxville, Tennessee  
O. Edward Freeman, Jr., New York, New York  
Chase Manhattan Bank, New York, New York  
Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Hines, Woodbury, Kentucky  
Paul and Diana Von Kolken, Holland, Michigan  
L. Evadine Parker, Bowling Green, Kentucky  
Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Hines, Sr., Newberry, Florida

**SOUTH UNION ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT CONTINUES**

Archaeologists continue to discover more about South Union's past as part of a project funded by the Kentucky Heritage Council. A grant for \$11,650 was awarded to Shakertown at South Union in June of last year to fund an archaeological investigation of the historic site. Kurt and Jayne Fiegel of Versailles, Kentucky, are supervising the dig which will provide information about the buildings that once stood at South Union. Only nine structures are standing today but over 190 have been documented by manuscript research. Kurt is generously volunteering his time to the project and we are very grateful that his time and talents can be used for the site.

**IN MEMORY**

Friend and supporter of Shakertown at South Union, Steve Kistler, died August 1, 1992. Steve was well-known in the Shaker world for his enthusiasm and dedication to the preservation of the White Water Shaker community, the Western Shaker Study Group, and his "Shaker Seed Box Company in Mariemont, Ohio. Steve was also a member of the Friends of Shakertown at South Union. Memorial gifts in his memory have been received from Trent Spurlock, Paul and Diana Von Kolken and Pat and Mary Allen.

## RECENT MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

Two early South Union side chairs, refinished, acquired from South Union in early 1920s  
.....purchased with Acquisition Endowment funds

Cradle made by Enfield, New Hampshire, Shakers with early finish  
.....purchased with Acquisition Endowment funds

Tinware coffee pot from Mt. Lebanon Shaker Village, 19th century  
.....purchased with Acquisition Endowment funds

Two hogscraper candlesticks for use in exhibits, 19th century  
.....purchased with Acquisition Endowment funds

Six walnut Victorian dining chairs used at South Union by Sister Josie Thrall, one of the last nine members of the community  
.....purchased with Acquisition Endowment funds

South Union walnut table, dated August 1851, South Union walnut chest of drawers, and Victorian cherry side table used at South Union  
.....purchased with funds given in memory of Steve Kistler

Shaker medicinal bottle filler, eastern Shaker  
.....purchased with Acquisition Endowment funds

South Union cherry table with turned legs, ca. 1850  
.....purchased with Acquisition Endowment funds

Two arrow-back dining chairs used in the South Union dining room, purchased from the Shakers in the 1920s  
.....purchased with Acquisition Endowment funds

Walnut and cherry chest of drawers, South Union, purchased from the Shakers in 1922  
.....purchased with Acquisition Endowment funds

## FROM THE SHAKER COLLECTION OF DEEDY HALL...

Mrs. Hall left six pieces of Shaker furniture that she had used in her home to the museum collection.....

Walnut South Union chest of drawers, purchased from the Shakers in the 1920s. Unusual Union Village-type feet and apron, typical South Union top.

Cherry candle stand purchased from the Shakers in the 1920s. Petite stand with Queen Anne legs and oval top.

Cherry work table with typical South Union cylindrical leg

Walnut blanket chest, maple rocker, walnut plantation desk, all attributed to South Union



## RECENT DONATIONS

A collection of colorful medicinal herb labels, eastern Shaker  
.....Mrs. Barbara Stewart, Bowling Green, Kentucky

Pail with red wash, attributed to Shaker, for use in milk  
house exhibit

.....Karl Federer, Glenarm, Illinois

Canterbury Shaker Village: Archeology and Landscape by David  
R. Starbuck

.....Kurt Fiegel, Versailles, Kentucky

Donations made for general support from.....

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cress, Mansfield, Ohio

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Jones, Indianapolis, Indiana

The Atticus Trust, Nashville, Tennessee

Mrs. Edie Bingham, Glenview, Kentucky

The Helm Foundation, Upper Montclair, New Jersey

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Anne Baker, Owensboro, Kentucky

R.L. and E.M. Bear, Harrisburg, Illinois

Angie Beck, Henderson, Kentucky

Roy E. Combs, Saratoga, California

Elaine B. Dodson, Bowling Green, Kentucky

Jane G. Flener, Louisville, Kentucky

Mrs. Robert C. Hawley, Louisville, Kentucky

Mrs. I. Hughes, Louisville, Kentucky

Avie Kalker, Dallas, Texas

Sharon Koomler, Bowling Green, Kentucky

Mrs. Jack C. Massey, Nashville, Tennessee

Margaret H. Pearce, Dallas, Texas

Josephine Price Shakelford, Clarksville, Indiana

## JULIA NEAL NAMED BOARD MEMBER EMERITUS

By unanimous vote Julia Neal was named Board Member Emeritus in honor of the exceptional contribution she has made to the preservation of Shakertown at South Union. Miss Neal became involved with the museum in the early 1970s and, along with Deedy Hall, steered the organization for over a decade. She is the official South Union historian, authoring The Kentucky Shakers and By Their Fruits: The Story of Shakerism in South Union, Kentucky. Besides these works Miss Neal also edited and published The Journal of Eldress Nancy, contributed to The Shaker Image, and published countless articles on the Shakers in the west. Her research continues today and she remains an important part of the work going on at South Union.

## FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP RESPONDS TO CHALLENGE GRANT

In January of 1992 the James Graham Brown Foundation in Louisville granted Shakertown at South Union \$125,000 for the establishment of an acquisition endowment. While the principal cannot be touched, the interest can be used to purchase South Union furniture and other artifacts. The James Graham Brown Foundation also promised to match every donation made toward the endowment, up to \$125,000. Donations will continue to be matched by the foundation until December 1993. Special thanks to those members who have responded to our recent letter:

Donations of \$1,000-\$5,000: Mr. and Mrs. William G. Coke, Jr.  
Col. and Mrs. Robert E. Spiller  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cress  
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Allen

Donations of \$500-\$999: Mr. and Mrs. H.C. Peart  
Julia Neal

Donations of \$100-\$499: A.C. Holland  
Mrs. Irvin Dagen  
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Guion  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Owrey  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Mallory  
Mr. and Mrs. Mac Brown  
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Lester  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Jones  
L. Evadine Parker

Donations to \$99: Sue Elliott  
Mrs. Robert Sharp  
Mrs. William O. Brooks  
Marguerite Procter  
Mr. and Mrs. Oddvar Berg  
Mr. and Mrs. David Williams  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Bennett  
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Newberry  
Margaret York  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kirkpatrick  
Jane Flener  
Julia Duncan  
Wallace Herndon, Sr.  
Virginia Spickard  
Ann Early Sutherland  
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Baird  
Dr. and Mrs. Edmund Wilkins  
Mr. and Mrs. Randy Fuqua  
Addie Brooks  
Mary Russell  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Marshall  
Trent Spurlock

Dr. and Mrs. Jack Scott  
Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Taylor  
Nancy Hillenburg  
Mable Howlett  
Ed and Elaine Disch  
Susan Jackson Keig  
Rose Mary Lawson  
Martha Boice  
Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Wren  
Sara Tyler  
Sharon Lee Edwards  
Mr. and Mrs. Giles Woolf  
Barbara Ackerman  
Per C. Pearson  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Boyd III  
Dorothy Hindman

All donations made in memory of Deedy Hall and Steve Kistler will also go towards the acquisition endowment. The donations represented above, along with receipts from the 1992 "An Evening in Shakertown" (\$20,626.98), an \$18,000 anonymous contribution, and other donations come to a total of \$62,000. We're almost halfway there!



## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

The progress made at South Union in 1992 is overshadowed by the loss of Mrs. Hall. She will be missed in ways difficult to express in words. We owe everything to her and her efforts to preserve South Union will always be remembered.

Mrs. Hall's greatest love was the collection. The prospect of acquiring new pieces for the museum never failed to generate a contagious excitement in her. Throughout her illness she was kept up-to-date about the most recent acquisitions and seemed most pleased when we acquired the "August 1851" walnut table recently. She left the museum the six pieces that she had used in her home, along with over 350 items that were on loan to the museum at the time of her death. Most of the artifacts in the collection today are there as the result of her efforts. We will be eternally grateful for the influence of Deedy Hall.

Tommy Hines

## SPRING/SUMMER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 26-27

### **Oval Box/Basket Workshop**

Learn to make a nest of oval boxes or a Bushwacker basket with teachers Larry and Ruth Owrey. Friday 7-10, Saturday 8-finish. A Shaker luncheon is included. Reservations required. Fee.

April 4

### **Exhibit Opening**

#### **"Inspired By Shaker Design: An Exhibit of Contemporary Craft"**

In celebration of the Year of the Craft in the Americas this exhibit will in the meeting room through May 15, at which time the works will be sold at auction to benefit the museum. More details to be announced.

April 16-17

### **South Union Seminar**

This year's seminar will feature key-note speaker Jean Burks, along with other speakers, tours, Shaker foods, and music. Reservations required. Fee.

June 12-13  
19-20

### **Shaker Festival**

Our summer festival featuring Shaker foods, music and crafts. \$2.50 Adults, \$1.00 Children 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.

June 26

### **An Evening in Shakertown**

Our annual gala fund-raiser to benefit the museum. Invitations go to all members.



Shakertown  South Union

Shakertown at South Union, Kentucky 42283

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SHAKERTOWN AT  
SOUTH UNION, KENTUCKY 42283  
PERMIT NO. 8

Kentucky library  
WKU  
Bowling Green, Ky 42101