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## South Union Messenger (January 1995)

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# The South Union Messenger

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF SHAKERTOWN AT SOUTH UNION, KENTUCKY  
January 1995

## MUSEUM RECEIVES \$40,000.00 FROM CARPENTER FOUNDATION

The E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation recently awarded Shakertown at South Union a grant in the amount of \$40,496.34 for structure restoration and historic landscape replication. The funds will be spent to restore the 1847 Steam House and a 19th century brick cattle cistern. It will also allow the museum to rebuild the 1830s fencing system around and through the property, plant trees documented by archaeology, rebuild the ca. 1830 well house on the west side of the Centre House, and double the size of the current parking lot. This project will be first time that Shakertown at South Union has focused on restoration of the historic landscape at the Centre House site.

Work will begin in early February if the weather cooperates. The Steam House restoration should be completed by late October. We are indebted to the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation for its support of South Union preservation projects. The Carpenter Foundation awarded \$62,000.00 to the museum in 1992 for interior and exterior restoration of the Centre House. For the results of that project, see the newly-published Shaker Built by June Sprigg and photographer Paul Rocheleau. South Union's Centre House, Smoke and House, and Shaker Tavern are beautifully documented throughout the book. Thanks to the Carpenter restoration we looked our best when Paul Rocheleau shot for the book.

## NATIONAL TRUST GRANT BRINGS CONSULTANT TO MORTON HOUSE

The Morton House, Shakertown at South Union's recently acquired property, will undergo an historic architectural analysis conducted by the firm of Phillips and Oppermann of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Joe Oppermann will spend several days at the ca. 1820 brick home outlining original floor plans, room designations, and architectural details. In addition, the firm will supply the museum with a conditions report and recommendations for restoration. These consultant services were funded by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and private donations.

## SHAKER MUSEUM GOES HIGH-TECH

Because of several generous donations, the Shaker Museum will soon be installing a computer system. . .our first. The new computer will be used for collections management, financial record keeping, promotion for museum programs, and general office use. Gone will be the days of typewriter frustration, we hope! A very special thank you to members of the Advisory Committee and an anonymous donor for their contributions.

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Three Side Chairs, ca. 1820, maple and ash, purchased from the Shakers in the 1920s  
...bequest from the Marguerite Procter estate, Franklin, Kentucky

Child's Chair, ca. 1840, original red paint and seat, given to Josephine Shackelford by the South Union Shakers when she was a child  
...donated by Josephine Shackelford, Clarksville, Indiana

Paint Brush, 19th century, attributed to Shaker  
...anonymous donation, from O. E. Freeman estate, New York

Basket, 19th century, white oak, classic South Union style, "No. 30" written in old ink script in four places on the underside of basket  
...anonymous donation

Grain Measure, attributed to South Union use, collection of secondary library materials and two reproduction carriers for exhibits  
...Evadine Parker, Bowling Green, Kentucky

Miniature Berry Bucket, attributed to Shaker  
...donated by Richard Scharrer, Franklin, Indiana, in memory of Joyce Johnson Scharrer

Rug, late 19th century or early 20th century, attributed to Shaker, and milk pan and early blanket, non-Shaker, for exhibits  
...donated by Jeanne Weaver, Morgantown, Indiana

Collection of secondary library materials  
...anonymous donor

## THANK YOU...

To the current members of the Jasper Springs Society, Shakertown at South Union's highest level of annual membership contribution:

Edie S. Bingham, Glenview, Kentucky  
Mr. and Mrs. John Edward Cain, Nashville, Tennessee  
The Helm Foundation, Upper Montclair, New Jersey  
Kit Cress, Mansfield, Ohio

To those who loaned furniture from their private collections for the Southern Furniture Symposium exhibit, "Close Ties: The Relationship Between Kentucky Shaker Furniture Makers and Their Worldly Contemporaries:"

Skip Cleavinger, Bowling Green, Kentucky  
Mr. and Mrs. David Hall, Auburn, Kentucky  
Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Harsh, Gallatin, Tennessee  
Irene's Gallery of Antiques, Elizabethtown, Kentucky  
Naomi and George McAfee, Catonsville, Maryland  
Julia Neal, Bowling Green, Kentucky  
Oak Hill Antiques, Russellville, Kentucky  
Mr. and Mrs. Tracey Parks, Gallatin, Tennessee  
Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, Harrodsburg, Kentucky  
Mrs. Kenneth M. Sheffield, Russellville, Kentucky  
Paul and Irene Swartz, Elizabethtown, Kentucky



## SHAKER MUSEUM HONORED WITH HCK AWARDS

The Shaker Museum was recently honored at the annual meeting of the Historic Confederation of Kentucky. Among the awards the museum received were "Best Museum Exhibit" for "Shaker Gift Drawings, 1837-1859;" "Best Education/School Program" for "Shaker Sheep to Shawl;" and the Award of Distinction was given to the memory of Deedy Hall. The museum also received honorable mention for "Best Publication" (the 1994 gala artwork poster) and "Best Public Program" (the 1994 South Union Seminar).

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

James K. Cleavinger, Frankfort, Kentucky  
Andrew Lee, Bowling Green, Kentucky  
Dr. and Mrs. Charles Mathis, Russellville, Kentucky  
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gola, Bowling Green, Kentucky  
Sandra Tierney, Ft. Campbell, Kentucky  
Elizabeth Yank, St. Charles, Illinois  
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Mucha, Geneva, Illinois  
Gary Asher, Byron, Illinois  
Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Muth, Rockfield, Kentucky  
Bobbie Strickler, Bowling Green, Kentucky  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gillespie, Houston, Texas  
Paul and Irene Swartz, Elizabethtown, Kentucky  
Erma K. and Linda Thomas, Bowling Green, Kentucky  
James Dobbins, Cleveland, Ohio  
Mr. and Mrs. David Keim-Comley, Bowling Green, Kentucky  
Dennis Darling, Nashville, Tennessee

## RECENT DONATIONS

Gift in memory of Brother Thomas Whitaker	Dale and Mary Spencer, Franklin, Kentucky
Donation to Morton House Fund	Dr. and Mrs. Thomas McKenzie, Huntsville, AL
Donation toward purchase of South Union Chest	Elaine Disch, Evanston, Illinois
Donation toward purchase of South Union Chest	David Taylor, Owensboro, Kentucky
General Operating Support	Edie S. Bingham, Glenview, Kentucky
General Operating Support	Helm Foundation, Upper Montclair, NJ
Donation to Computer Purchase Fund	Shakertown Advisory Committee
Donation to Computer Purchase Fund	Anonymous Donor
Underwriting for "Christmas at Shakertown"	Auburn Banking Company, Auburn, Kentucky
Donation of sheets, folding tables, candy for tours	John and Linda Tanner, Madison, Tennessee
Gift in honor of museum volunteer, Mary Page Estes	Mr. and Mrs. Scott Neill, Geneva, Illinois

## DEEDY HALL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The recipients of the Deedy Hall Volunteer of the Year Award are long-time volunteers and supporters, Larry and Ruth Owrey. Larry and Ruth have been donating their time and talent to Shakertown at South Union for nearly a decade. They continue to be an important asset to the organization by participating at the annual Shaker Festival and Christmas at Shakertown events, demonstrating their extraordinary skills in oval box and basket making. Larry and Ruth also volunteer twice each year to give workshops to the general public. Their friendship has become invaluable to everyone at South Union and we appreciate the many contributions they make toward the development of the site.

## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

If you visited South Union last year, you probably noticed great changes in the interior and the exterior of the Centre House. The E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation's restoration grant made those changes possible. This year you will see great changes in the landscape at South Union. Thanks again to the Carpenter Foundation, the land that surrounds the Centre House, the Smoke and Milk House, and the Steam House will be restored to its pre-Civil War appearance. It is really great to be involved in a restoration that is still on ground level with boundless potential. I hope that each of you will be as excited as we are about the projects in the works for 1995.

Another space that has been restored is the back staircase of the Centre House. With a grant from the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, all four levels of the 1832 addition were restored. The third floor level, the only part that is currently open to the public, boasts original paint on all wooden surfaces. With this restoration went the last of the large "pink" spaces in the building.

Christmas at Shakertown was a great success this year. Our attendance was well above average and the list of craft and antique dealers grew as well. We collected over 500 lbs of food for the needy in our area, thanks to the generous folks who brought canned goods in lieu of admission. I want to thank Auburn Banking Company as well for underwriting the event.

The Shaker Tavern is staying open all winter this year, serving lunch each day, except for Sundays and Mondays. The menu is wonderful, either a hearty winter lunch or a light soup and sandwich. I encourage those of you in the area to eat at the Tavern when you can. Tourism is light in the winter and we need to support the Tavern through the lean months. The food is great and Michael and Sharon Laster are always there to make you feel at home.

I want to say a special thank you to Jay D. Joines, Gran and Sally Clark, and J.D. and Nola Joines for opening their homes during the fundraiser for the Southern Furniture Symposium. The evening was a perfect end to a day of learning. The food and the atmosphere in each of the homes was nothing less than wonderful.

Plans are already underway for this year's gala, "An Evening in Shakertown." Chairperson Susan Minton and co-chairperson Belinda Ray are already hard at work in preparation for the June event. Posters featuring the 1994 gala artwork by Ivan Schieferdecker and Lauren Notheisen are now available in the museum shop at a cost of \$10 each. The poster sales support the museum.

Come see us this year! I hope to see each of you at the South Union Seminar in April.

Tommy Hines  
Executive Director

## SPRING EVENTS

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| March 12       | EXHIBIT OPENING<br>"Black Shakers in America" Reception 2:00 to 3:30, Presentation 2:30    |
| April 8-9      | WORKSHOP<br>Oval boxes and Shaker baskets, \$70 for box, \$60 for basket, Reservations.    |
| April 28-29    | SOUTH UNION SEMINAR<br>See registration form next page.                                    |
| April 24-May 5 | "Shaker Sheep to Shawl" Wool processing for schools and general public.                    |
| May 27         | SPRING HERBAL FAIR<br>Herbal craft and foods, herbal sales, 9:00-4:00.                     |
| June           | "AN EVENING IN SHAKERTOWN"<br>Our annual gala fundraiser.                                  |
| June 16-18     | SUMMER SHAKER FESTIVAL<br>A weekend of Shaker foods, music, and craft. 9:00 to 5:00 daily. |



**SOUTH UNION SEMINAR**  
**April 28-29, 1995**

Friday, April 28 - THE SHAKER TAVERN

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|-----------|---|
| 6:00 p.m. | Gathering of Participants   |
| 6:45 p.m. | Welcome   |
| 7:00 p.m. | Evening Fare<br>Shaker Recipes by Candlelight                               |
| 7:45 p.m. | Shaker Music Performance  |
| 8:00 p.m. | Evening Presentation<br>"The Shakers in Fiction"<br>Dr. Sally Ann Strickler |
| 8:30 p.m. | Closing   |

Saturday, April 29 - THE CENTRE HOUSE

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|------------|---|
| 9:00 a.m.  | Registration and Light Breakfast  |
| 10:00 a.m. | Welcome   |
| 10:15 a.m. | Presentation<br>"Tips From 25 Years of Collecting Shaker"<br>Fran Kramer, Pittsford, New York   |
| 11:15      | Break   |
| 11:30      | Presentation<br>"Ho! for Drakes Creek:" Something Ventured, Nothing Gained"<br>Donna Parker, Kentucky Museum, Western Kentucky University |
| 12:00 p.m. | Lunch   |
| 1:15 p.m.  | Presentation<br>"Shaker Built"<br>June Sprigg Tooley, Pittsfield, Massachusetts   |
| 2:15 p.m.  | Tour of New Steam House Property  |
| 3:00 p.m.  | Closing Remarks   |
| 3:15 p.m.  | Autograph Session with June Sprigg Tooley and <u>Shaker Built</u>   |

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For registration please send your check to: South Union Seminar, P.O. Box 30, South Union, KY 42283.

Registration Fee:      \$28 Members              \$35 Non-Members              \$12 Tavern Meal (Friday-Optional)

Participants may attend the Friday evening session even if not choosing to reserve space for dinner.  
Seating is limited. Registration is due before April 14, 1995.

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

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