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South Union Messenger (October 1991)

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OCT 18 1991

Shakertown  South Union

The South Union Messenger

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

SMOKE AND MILK HOUSE RESTORATION NEARS COMPLETION

The ca. 1834 Smoke and Milk House is beginning to take on its historic appearance as recent restoration nears completion. Using funds from the 1991 gala fundraising event and from a grant awarded by the Kentucky Bicentennial Commission, efforts have been made to take the structure back to its 1830s floorplan. Many original features have been uncovered as modern additions were removed but 1830s flooring, woodwork, plaster and a staircase on the building's first floor had to be reproduced. The old woodwork, flooring and plaster were in tact on the second floor.

The structure will be complete by December 31, 1991 and will be open to the public for the first time April 1, 1992. Still to be completed is the installation of a brick floor, restoration of a large arched fireplace opening, electrical work, painting, and the installation of six reproduction windows. Gone are the days when the building boasted cork ceilings, fluorescent lighting, parquet flooring, blonde pine closets lined with red floral wallpaper, wood paneling and a pink tile bathroom...

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Debbie Britt, Auburn, Kentucky
Dr. and Mrs. Ben Caldwell, Nashville, Tennessee
Mrs. Ralph Eldred, Franklin, Kentucky
Mr. and Mrs. Trent Hutcheson, Greenville, Mississippi
Ralph Kern, Orlando, Florida
Patricia P. McDonald, Nashville, Tennessee
Wesley Moore, Nashville, Tennessee
Mrs. Marlin J. Phythyon, Nashville, Tennessee
Dorothy Steers, Franklin, Kentucky
Mr. and Mrs. David Sutterfield, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Mrs. Robert J. Warner, Jr., Nashville, Tennessee
Jamie Watkins, Oakland, Kentucky
Jay Watkins, Oakland, Kentucky
Margaret Henry Wood, Brentwood, Tennessee

SOUTH UNION KEEPS ITS POST OFFICE

One of many significant factors in the importance of the South Union site is the presence of an operational post office. While most of the Shaker villages had post offices at one time, South Union's is the only one that has not closed. The post office is important to the museum not only as a tourist attraction but as a "living" part of South Union history. The post office was established at South Union May 22, 1826 and has been in continuous operation ever since.

Earlier this year the U.S. Postal Service advertised for a building site on which to place a modular structure, planned to house the South Union post office. Because the post office is currently located in the 1917 Shaker Store building, the last building constructed by the Shakers for that purpose, we obviously felt that it should stay in its appropriate historical setting. After many letters to our Congressmen, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Kentucky Heritage Council, and the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation, the plans were changed and the post office will stay in the Shaker building. Many thanks to those who wrote letters of support for Shakertown at South Union.

There will be some modernization incorporated into the re-designed post office space within the building.

IN MEMORY

The Friends of Shakertown at South Union have lost one of the most active members in the museum's organization. Mrs. Amanda Gordon was a Life Member and a faithful supporter of the programs and activities of the museum for many years. She served on the Shakertown Board of Directors as secretary during the 1960s and donated funds to a host of projects including the replanting of the "Holy Ground" and much of the restoration activity that has taken place. Mrs. Gordon's presence will be missed by those who knew her.

SOUTH UNION ESTABLISHES AN ENDOWMENT FUND

Through the generous bequest of Mrs. Amanda Gordon, an endowment fund is being established that will fund operations and capital improvements for the South Union site. Mrs. Gordon's bequest, an amount that exceeds \$175,000.00, will be added to a small sum that has been collected over the years from memorial donations. The total amount will be maintained and its interest used to supplement current operational income. Shakertown at South Union hopes to continually add to the endowment fund principal until the organization can operate totally on earned interest.

Everyone connected with the South Union preservation effort will be eternally grateful to Mrs. Gordon for her important contribution to the future of Shakertown at South Union.

SPECIAL THANK-YOUS TO...

The Auburn Bank for donation made in memory of Margaret McQueen.

Mary Lucy Franklin for a donation made in memory of Mr. Sebrien Joines, grandfather of Board Member Jay D. Joines.

Bill and Liz Clement, Dallas, Texas, for a donation in memory of Margaret McQueen.

Mary B. Wilson, Auburn, Kentucky, for a donation in memory of Richard Waugh, McCormick, South Carolina.

Bob and Kit Cress, Mansfield, Ohio, for a generous contribution toward the restoration of the Smoke and Milk House.

Those who donated in memory of Mrs. Amanda Gordon:

Mrs. Curry Hall, Auburn, Kentucky
Bess Martin, Russellville, Kentucky
Mrs. Raymond Vick, Auburn, Kentucky
Julia Neal, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Margaret Sloss, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Mr. and Mrs. William Price, Gallatin, TN
Russellville Duplicate Bridge Club
Franklin Duplicate Bridge Club
Janet and Hall Burmeister, Valley Forge, PA
Mrs. Ray T. Scott, Auburn, Kentucky

HISTORIC CONFEDERATION OF KENTUCKY TO MEET AT SHAKERTOWN

"Victorian Kentucky" will be the theme of the 1991 HCK Annual Meeting to be held in Bowling Green, November 1-2. Topics ranging from Victorian courtship practices to 19th century death and mourning will be discussed in sessions held at the Kentucky Museum. The meeting will also include a tour of the Kentucky Museum's "Growing Up Victorian" exhibit, a candlelight tour of Riverview: The Historic Hobson House, and a program of Victorian parlor music.

Shakertown at South Union will be host to the meeting participants with a "world's people" dinner at the Shaker Tavern and an evening tour of the Centre Dwelling House. For additional information write: HCK, P.O. Box H, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Wood Box, South Union ca. 1840, original red wash
.....donated by Burr W. Porter and the Porter Family in
memory of B. Monroe Porter II and Amanda Gordon

Trestle Table, South Union ca. 1833, walnut and ash
.....donated by Mrs. Curry Hall, Auburn, Kentucky

EXPERIENCE THE SIGHTS, SOUNDS, AND TASTES...

You will not want to miss the two final events on the museum calendar for 1991. The Shaker Breakfast, an annual November feast, will offer a sumptuous historic menu taken from Shaker manuscripts. The breakfast always includes the ordinary and the out-of-the-ordinary morning foods that the 19th century Shakers enjoyed. The meal begins promptly at 10:00am and will be followed by a performance by the South Union Shaker Quartet.

The Christmas at Shakertown celebration brings the 1991 season to a close with one of the most popular events held at the museum. This two-day celebration of the holiday season is filled with the sound of Christmas carols and Shaker hymns in an atmosphere bedecked with the decorations of the late 19th century. You can also enjoy holiday foods, touring the Centre Dwelling, shopping in the Museum Store, and browsing through booths of antiques and handmade treasures that offer the finest in Christmas gift ideas. Celebrate a Shaker Christmas at South Union.

1991 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 19-20	<u>Broom-making Demonstration</u>
November 16	<u>A Shaker Breakfast</u> Reservations required. \$13 members. \$15 non-members. 10:00am - 11:30am.
December 7-8	<u>Christmas at Shakertown</u> No reservations required. No admission fee. Saturday: 9:00-4:00 Sunday: 1:00-4:00.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

The museum season may be coming to a close for 1991 but activity continues. Besides the events described above, several projects are planned for the fall and winter. Western Kentucky University's archaeology department will be excavating around the Smoke and Milk House this fall in an attempt to help us learn more about the structure while restoration continues on the building's interior. If you want to see the work while it is still in progress let me know and I will give you a tour. Hopefully, restoration will continue on the Centre Dwelling and the Shaker Tavern as well.

I cannot overemphasize the importance of the bequest made to Shakertown at South Union by Mrs. Amanda Gordon. This is our first serious step toward an endowment fund that can mean so much to the site in the future. We are indebted to her for this act of kindness and support.

Tommy Hines

Shakertown South Union

Tommy Hines, *Director*

CALL FOR PAPERS

FIFTH ANNUAL SOUTH UNION SEMINAR

The Shakers: Folklife and Folk Art

April 10-11, 1992
Shakertown at South Union, Kentucky

The Fifth Annual South Union Seminar will be held at the South Union Shaker Museum on April 10-11, 1992. June Sprigg, Curator of Collections, Hancock Shaker Village, Hancock, Massachusetts, will be the keynote speaker. The theme of the seminar is "The Shakers: Folklife and Folk Art." Proposals for individual papers/panels and complete sessions are invited in all areas of Shaker studies. Abstracts for papers should be approximately 200 words, typed and double-spaced. Paper presentors should send vitae to the Program Committee. All materials should be received no later than January 15, 1992. The Program Committee will announce selections by February 1.

Address all inquiries and abstracts to:

Program Committee
South Union Seminar
Shakertown at South Union
P.O. Box 30
South Union, Kentucky 42283

Telephone: (502) 542-4167.

Name _____

Abstract Deadline:
January 15, 1992

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Conference Dates:
April 10-11, 1992

Zip _____ Phone _____

Yes, I am interested in participating in the seminar.

Yes, I am interested in attending the seminar. Please send program when available.

Shakertown at South Union
Kentucky 42283
542-4167 or 542-6757

Shakertown  South Union

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