Shakertown South Union

The South Union Messenger

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF SHAKERTOWN AT SOUTH UNION, KENTUCKY
MARCH 1992

SHAKERTOWN RECEIVES GRANT FROM JAMES GRAHAM BROWN FOUNDATION

On the last day of 1991 Shakertown at South Union received a grant from the James Graham Brown Foundation in the amount of $125,000. The funds will be used to establish an endowment for the acquisition of artifacts for the museum collection. The foundation also challenged Shakertown to raise an additional $125,000 over the next two years, pledging to match all donations dollar for dollar. Shakertown at South Union is grateful for the opportunities awarded them by the Louisville-based foundation and is enthusiastic about the possibilities the grant brings. The acquisition endowment will allow the museum to purchase important pieces of South Union history when they become available for sale.

Donations or pledges made to Shakertown at South Union during the next two years can be earmarked for the new acquisition fund.

SHAKER TAVERN OPENING DATE SET FOR APRIL 1

The Shaker Tavern will open for business April 1, pending the completion of a major restoration project. The Shakertown Board of Directors leased the Tavern to Mr. and Mrs. James Adams of Bowling Green whose experience and ability promise to bring the business to a level it has not achieved before. The entire second floor of the building is being restored for greater bed and breakfast capacity and will offer two rooms with private bath, two rooms with shared bath, and a suite with two rooms and bath. Luncheon will be served in the Tavern dining room six days a week.

The Tavern's exterior will soon have a more historically accurate appearance as a new standing seam metal roof is installed in March. The building originally had a metal roof covering it but it was replaced with asphalt shingles sometime after 1960. Repairs to the cornice and the guttering system will also be made in addition to repointing the chimneys. A commercial septic system will be installed to accommodate the increased size of the bed and breakfast.

Shakertown at South Union welcomes Jim and Floydine Adams to the organization.
A PIECE OF SOUTH UNION HISTORY COMES HOME

An important artifact from South Union's past recently made its way back home. Because of the generosity of two museum members we were able to purchase an 1840s manuscript hymnal at auction from Christie's in New York. The hand-written hymnal is bound in leather and contains 144 pages of songs written and sung by the Shakers at South Union. While most of the songs included in the book were written in the South Union community, there are also examples from New Lebanon, New York and Union Village, Ohio. Sallie Eades, the mother of South Union Elder Harvey Eades, is listed as composer of many of the hymns.

There are several South Union manuscript hymnals in existence, most of which are housed either at the Kentucky Library or at Case Western Reserve. The addition of this manuscript to the South Union collection is a first for the museum. The Shakertown organization wishes to thank Mr. Martin Brown of Nashville and Mrs. Curry Hall of Auburn, Kentucky, for helping with the purchase of this valuable artifact. The hymnal will be on display during the South Union Shaker Seminar, April 10-11.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

South Union Manuscript Hymnal, 1842-1846, leather binding purchased with funds donated by Mr. Martin Brown, Nashville, Tennessee, Mrs. Curry Hall, Auburn, Kentucky, and acquisition endowment funds

The Journal of Eldress Nancy, Parthenon Press, 1963, Julia Neal, ed. donated anonymously

Cheese Mold, attributed to Shaker community of Enfield, Connecticut purchased with private funds for dairy exhibit

Two Tin Milk Pans, attributed to Eastern Shaker purchased with private funds for dairy exhibit

Two Wooden Butter Bowls and Butter Paddle, Kentucky origin purchased with private funds for dairy exhibit

Two Wooden Pails, original blue exterior paint, white interior paint, attributed to South Union community purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Collection of papers dealing with the September 1922 auction of South Union land and buildings, including photograph of automobile raffled the day of the sale donated by Irma Blanche Davis, Murray, Utah

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Earl and Louis Clark, Leitchfield, Kentucky
Randy and Allison Fuqua, Russellville, Kentucky
Kathy Nuckolls, Owensboro, Kentucky
John and Mary Wolford, Bloomington, Indiana
THANK YOU FOR RECENT DONATIONS...

The Atticus Trust, Nashville, Tennessee  
South Central Bell, Bowling Green, Kentucky  
The Helm Foundation, Upper Montclair, New Jersey  
O. Edward Freeman, New York, New York, in memory of Amanda Gordon and Margie Helm

CONGRATULATIONS TO DALE SPENCER

Dale Spencer was recently honored as the first recipient of the Mrs. Curry Hall Volunteer of the Year Award for the time and effort he donated to Shakertown during 1991. Dale volunteered during a variety of museum events and shared his woodworking skills in the restoration of the Smoke and Milk House. Dale is originally from Auburn and has been active in the restoration of the site since his high school days. Dale is employed by the Logan County School System and lives with his wife, Mary, in Franklin, Kentucky.

The award is named for Mrs. Curry Hall, the founder of the South Union Shaker Museum. For more than thirty years Mrs. Hall has exhibited interest and support exceeding that of all others associated with the preservation of South Union. Shakertown at South Union owes a great deal to Deedy Hall for her unwavering devotion to the project and for setting an example of a perfectly dedicated volunteer. The award will be given annually.

IN MEMORY

Shakertown at South Union is saddened to note the death of long-time volunteer and member, Mrs. Wilma Holland. Mrs. Holland donated her time in the museum shop several days a month for over four years. The staff and board wish to express sympathy to Mrs. Holland's husband, Andrew, and family.

Sympathy is also expressed to the family of Miss Margie Helm. Miss Helm was a life member of Shakertown at South Union and one of the most well-loved citizens of our region. Miss Helm's memory of the South Union Shakers heightened her interest in the restoration of South Union, a project she and her family faithfully supported.

MAKE RESERVATIONS NOW FOR THE SOUTH UNION SEMINAR!

You will not want to miss the fifth annual South Union Seminar to be held April 10-11. The event will feature five presentations from authorities in the field of Shaker studies, including a keynote presentation from June Sprigg, curator of collections from Hancock Shaker Village. A detailed agenda and registration form are enclosed. Space is limited so send your reservation as soon as possible.
1992 SPRING/SUMMER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 10-11
South Union Seminar
Our fifth annual seminar will feature a variety of speakers focusing on the theme, "The Shakers: Folklife and Folk Art." The two-day event will also include Shaker music and foods and keynote speaker June Sprigg. Reservations required. Fee $25.

April 24-25
Oval Box/Shaker Basket Workshop
A two-day workshop where you learn to make either a nest of oval boxes or a miniature Shaker fancy basket. Reservations required. Time TBA. Fee $60. Includes lunch.

May 3
Shaker Topics
A Sunday afternoon lecture series focusing on South Union history. This first installment deals with the subject of South Union music, led by the South Union Shaker Quartet. No reservations. 2:00 pm. No admission fee.

May 9
Blacksmithing Demonstration

May 16-17
Broom-making Demonstration

May 23
Weaving Demonstration

June 6-7,
June 13-14
Summer Shaker Festival
Two weekends of Shaker foods, music, and crafts. No reservations required except for groups. 10:00 am-5:00 pm. $3 Adults. $1 Children.

July 11
Blacksmithing Demonstration

July 19
Shaker Topics
This installment will feature a discussion of Shaker clothing, its style and form as fossilized fashion, by Donna Parker, Exhibits Curator, Kentucky Museum. No reservations. 2:00 pm. No admission fee.

July 25-26
Broom-making Demonstration

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

I hope each of you will visit Shakertown at South Union this season and enjoy the newly-opened Tavern and Smoke and Milk House. Our calendar of events is very full for '92 with events that will hopefully attract new visitors and old friends back to the museum.

Brother Wayne of Sabbathday Lake visited South Union recently with Pat and Mary Allen of Lebanon, Ohio. I truly enjoyed the visit and the current-day perspective on Shakerism from Brother Wayne.

I want to thank those board members and volunteers who made our recent evening honoring Edie Bingham possible. Thanks for all the time and effort to Gran and Sally Clark, Jay Joines, Carol Dyche, Mary Lucy Franklin, Belinda Ray, Allison Fuqua, and Keith Northern.
REGISTRATION FORM
SOUTH UNION SHAKER SEMINAR - "THE SHAKERS: FOLKLIFE AND FOLK ART"
APRIL 10-11, 1992

Name ________________________________
Address __________________________________________
Telephone ________________________________

$25 Seminar Registration Fee (Includes Lunch, Breakfast, and all materials)
$12 Shaker Tavern Meal, Friday Evening (Optional)
Total Enclosed

Mail registration and check to: Shakertown at South Union, P.O. Box 30, South Union, Kentucky 42283 by April 3, 1992. Participants may attend the Friday evening session even if choosing not to reserve space for dinner. Friday's program begins at 7:30 pm. All times listed are Central Standard Time.
During the lunch break (12:15 - 1:30) participants can visit the newly-restored ca. 1835 Smoke and Milk House, located behind the Centre Dwelling.

1:30 pm  Presentation
"Flax Production at South Union, Kentucky"
Donna Parker, Exhibits Curator
Kentucky Museum

Jonathan Jeffrey, Special Collections Librarian
Kentucky Museum

2:30 pm  Break

2:45 pm  Presentation
"Folklife in the Writing of Shaker Historical Fiction: The Believers"
Dianne Watkins, Education Curator
Kentucky Museum

3:45 pm  Closing Remarks
Tommy Hines

The Fifth Annual South Union Seminar is funded in part by Trans Financial Bank...Bowling Green, Russellville, and Auburn.
SOUTH UNION SHAKER SEMINAR - "THE SHAKERS: FOLKLIFE AND FOLK ART"
April 10-11, 1992
Shakertown at South Union, Kentucky

Friday, April 10, 1992 - THE 1869 SHAKER TAVERN

5:30 pm  Gathering of Seminar Participants
6:00 pm  Welcome  
Tommy Hines, Executive Director  
Shakertown at South Union
6:15 pm  Shaker Evening Fare  
Tavern Dining Room
7:30 pm  Shaker Music Performances  
South Union Shaker Quartet
8:00 pm  Presentation  
Fran Kramer, Antique Review Magazine
9:00 pm  Closing  
Tommy Hines

Saturday, April 11, 1992 - THE 1824 CENTRE FAMILY DWELLING

8:00 am  Registration/Light Breakfast
9:00 am  Welcome and Orientation  
Tommy Hines, Executive Director  
Shakertown at South Union
9:30 am  Presentation  
"Iconic Marginalia in Oliver Hampton's Journal"  
Dale Covington, Marietta, Georgia
10:30 am  Break
10:45 am  Keynote Presentation  
"Shaker Design: New Insights"  
June Sprigg, Curator of Collections  
Hancock Shaker Village
12:15 pm  Shaker Luncheon  
Centre Family Dining Room  

(over)