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Shakertown  South Union

The South Union Messenger

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF SHAKERTOWN AT SOUTH UNION, KY.
September 1993

"AN EVENING IN SHAKERTOWN" GALA EVENT A BIG SUCCESS

Shakertown's annual gala fund-raising event, held June 26, was a rousing success due to the talents and efforts of a sixty member volunteer committee and event chairperson Mrs. John Ridley. The Centre House and the grounds surrounding it were transformed by the committee into an atmosphere that combined the colors of the Shakers' original paint surfaces in a contemporary setting. The menu chosen complimented the gala's theme as did the fine music that was provided throughout the evening. One of the highlights of this year's event was an auction that featured an original painting by Ivan Schieferdecker and Laurin Notheisen, created especially for the gala.

"An Evening in Shakertown" raised over \$17,500.00 that will go toward the establishment of the museum's acquisition endowment fund. That amount will be matched by the James Graham Brown Foundation, bringing the museum much closer to its goal of a \$375,000.00 endowment. This endowment will allow the museum to purchase artifacts for its collection. At the writing the museum organization must raise approximately \$33,000.00 more before December 1.

Many thanks to Trans Financial Bank and the Medical Center at Bowling Green for underwriting this year's gala. Thanks also to Mrs. John Ridley, Jay Joines, Carol Dyche, Mrs. Randall Fuqua, and all of the volunteers who made "An Evening in Shakertown" a success.

SHAKERTOWN AT SOUTH UNION PURCHASES ADDITIONAL PROPERTY

Thanks to a federal grant received earlier this year, Shakertown at South Union was able to purchase 72 acres northeast of the Centre House. The land was originally pasture and garden property of South Union's North Family. The federal ISTEPA funding, a \$500,000.00 grant, may be used to purchase former Shaker buildings and property that have the potential of being impacted by the widening of US 68 through Shakertown. Shakertown at South Union must raise \$120,000.00 to match the federal grant.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Gary Spencer, LaVergne, Tennessee
Roger Felix, Indianapolis, Indiana
Marilyn Mason, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Peter Fourness, Evansville, Indiana
Margaret Sterling, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Colleen Jones, Newton, New Hampshire
Belva Mohle, Belmont, New Hampshire
Kathleen Moriarty, Natick, Maine
Nancy Haller, New York, New York

Margaret Price, Russellville, Kentucky
Nettie Trent, Newburgh, Indiana
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Carraco, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Walter Brumm, Washington, Pennsylvania
Gus Nelson, Cheshire, Maine
Claire Viverito, Cincinnati, Ohio
Mr. and Mrs. George Kohrman, Portage, Michigan
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Spence, Cincinnati, Ohio
Sherrie Pryor, Auburn, Kentucky

THANK YOU SHAKER FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

Ruth Allender
Gingie Hines
John and Linda Tanner
Bill and Frances Holt
Dorothy Wallace
Susan Johnstad
Charlie Ray
Robin Fanslow
Mabel Howlett
Sally and Gran Clark
Trent Spurlock
Sally Ann Strickler
Marlene Hawks
Erin Potzik

Amy and Wes Moore
Virginia Hurst
Helen Shores
Nancy Gaines
Mary Page Estes
Cynthia Swan
Owen James
Allison Fuqua
Mary Lucy Franklin
Anna Fitzgerald
Colin Morgan
Chris Douglas
Tom and Camma Roberts
Kelly and Jacob Koomler

John Morgan and Lynn Bilotta
Dale and Mary Spencer
Skip and Christy Cleavinger
Ray and Paula Clark
Jan Black
Bill Moats
Jose Marinay
Alan and Adrienne Dieball
Claudia Pratt
Chris Grabowski
Tim Minor
Eric Zimmerman
Pam Herriford
Sheldon and Brenda Baugh

RESTORATION PROJECT COMING TO A CLOSE

A \$62,000.00 grant from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation has allowed Shakertown at South Union to accomplish a tremendous amount of restoration work on the 1824 Centre Family Dwelling House. The restoration project, which began in May of 1992 and is now almost complete, has made a major impact on the preservation and the appearance of this important Shaker structure. Twenty rooms have been replastered and painted, a fire/security system has been installed, all wiring has been concealed, all new lighting has been installed, three modern style windows have been replaced with replicas of the originals, all exterior woodwork has been painted, a significant structural repair has been completed, hidden outlets have been installed, unused bathroom and radiator pipes were removed, the bell-rope channel has been restored, and the missing woodwork was replicated and installed. The results of the work are worth seeing, so make plans to visit South Union before the end of the 1993 season and see for yourself what \$62,000.00 can do! We are indebted to the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation for their generous support.

A \$5,000.00 matching grant from the Kentucky Heritage Council has completed the restoration of the ca. 1835 Smoke and Milk House. All five rooms in the building are now open to the public for the first time. Most of the work accomplished with the Heritage Council grant focused on the unrestored east end, second level room. Approximately one third of the original poplar flooring in the room had to be replaced as the result of moisture from bathroom pipes that occurred over an extended period of time. Both upstairs rooms have had new plaster, paint, and floor finish. All rooms in the building have concealed wiring, outlets and lighting fixtures. Woodwork had to be replicated in almost one fourth of the second level. We wish to acknowledge the Kentucky Heritage Council for their contribution toward the project.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION TO THE ACQUISITION ENDOWMENT FUND DRIVE

W.G. Lussky
The Tarrent Foundation
Mrs. Bea Vick
Kit Cress
Rose Mary Lawson
John and Linda Tanner
O. Edward Freeman
Chase Manhattan Bank
Eli Lilly Foundation

Courtaulds Coatings
Larry and Ruth Owrey
Robert and Suzanne Gilbert
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Jones
Dale and Mary Spencer
Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Broeker
Cracker Barrel, Inc.
Major General Dillman A. Rash
Lucille Lyne (in memory of Deedy Hall)

MUSEUM EDUCATION PROGRAM HAS A SUCCESSFUL SEASON

With the hiring of Sharon Koomler as part-time Director of Education, the museum's programming schedule has increased dramatically this year. One of the highlights of the season was our first Summer Day Camp. For three weeks a group of children ages 6-15 learned a variety of things about the history of the Shakers and about 19th century living. They had sessions on journal writing, took walking tours to several historic sites around the village, learned to dip candles, worked with natural dyes, studied the herb garden, made ice cream, and generally had fun. Special thanks to Emerson Electric for sponsoring children through scholarships to the day camp.

Shakertown will be hosting fall and Christmas tours for school age children as well. Three separate programs, "Writer's Workshop," "Herbal Harvest," and "Candle Craft," will be available to area classrooms beginning in mid-September. Scheduling for Christmas tours will begin toward the end of November.

BERKSHIRE SHAKER SEMINAR VISITS SOUTH UNION

On July 16, forty members of the Berkshire Shaker Seminar arrived at South Union to begin a two day addendum to the group's annual meeting. The Seminar is made up of people from across the United States who have a keen interest in Shaker studies. At South Union they learned about the history of the community, listened to a presentation by Jonathon Jeffrey and Donna Parker on the flax industry at South Union, and visited a number of village sites, including the privately owned 1846 Ministry's Shop, the West Family site, the Gasper River Meeting House site, the holy ground, and the mill site. Saturday evening was concluded with a performance by the South Union Shaker Quartet in the meeting room. All meals were served by the Shaker Tavern with great success, according to the Seminar participants.

The Berkshire Shaker Seminar folks were a joy to host because they exhibited true interest in the history and the preservation of South Union. All survived the extreme summer heat and seemed to enjoy the visit. The participants also visited our museum shop on a frequent basis, leaving us with the largest single day sales record in the history of the museum!

Thank you to Dale Spencer for helping coordinate the South Union portion of the program and to seminar director Gus Nelson for his work toward making the event a success.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY COMPLETED AT SOUTH UNION

An \$11,650.00 grant from the Kentucky Heritage Council for an archaeological survey of South Union has recently been completed. The two-year study included digs across the historic site in an attempt to find former Shaker structures. Archaeologist Kurt Fiegel, along with several volunteers and employees, accomplished the mission of the grant by finding several important sites and a large number of artifacts. One of the most significant finds was the 1841 Trustees Office, which burned in 1930.

Museum staff member Mike Sisk contributed to the completion of the project with a major research study on the built environment of South Union. All significant entries from journals, letters, and traveler's accounts pertaining to the Centre and West families were entered into a computer for future use by researchers. The final report includes chronologys of each of the major South Union buildings, a listing of all known building dimensions, and maps of the village in the 19th century and the early 20th century. Thirty seven South Union structures have been documented through photographs.

Special thanks to Kurt Fiegel who donated his time to the project. Kurt will be occupying the 1917 Shaker Store building for use as a field office for archaeological research in our region. He will also be continuing his work at South Union, focusing next on the remains of the 1821 Brick Shop/Dwelling that stood directly northeast of the Centre House.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Maple chair with original paint, attributed to South Union or Union Village, room numbers on front posts, early seat
.....purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Walnut step-back cupboard purchased from the South Union Shakers prior to 1920, very early construction, possibly 1820
.....purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Oak loom, made and used in Logan County, Kentucky, similar to those used by the South Union Shakers
.....donated by James Shelton and Marie Goodwin Families, Lewisburg, Kentucky

Doily made by eastern Shaker sister
.....donated by Julia Neal, Bowling Green, Kentucky

Basket used by the South Union Shakers
.....donated by Elsie Burr, Auburn, Kentucky

Cheese Press with original red paint from Mt. Lebanon, New York, Shakers
.....purchase with acquisition endowment funds

Cheese Cutter from Mt. Lebanon, New York, Shakers
.....purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Maple chair made at South Union, ca. 1840, with "LS" imprint on front of top slat, refinished
.....purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Manuscript letter, written from South Union Shaker Emily Elliot to her daughter, July 3, 1872
.....purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Miniature Shaker furniture, stove, side chair, rocking chair, and candlestand
.....donated by Irvin and Margaret Dagen, St. Louis, Missouri

Exhibit items for Smoke and Milk House, not Shaker used: four milk pans, two meat saws, one meat cleaver, hog scrapers
.....purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Mule wagon and corn sheller from Curry and Deedy Hall farm, Auburn, Kentucky
.....purchased with acquisition endowment funds

35 pounds of wool for use in exhibits and for demonstration
.....donated by Pat Obye, Anchorage, Kentucky

Anvil, not Shaker used, acquired for exhibit purposes
.....donated by Helen Hess, Louisville, Kentucky

Collection of Kentucky items for exhibits: oak loom, meat scales, tin cutters, iron spit with lid, iron grill, rag rugs, tapestry loom, Jacquard coverlet, dog irons, wooden barrel with iron staves, and large swift
.....donated by Alma Lesch, Shepherdsville, Kentucky

Copy of Vegetable Dyeing by Alma Lesch
.....donated by Alma Lesch, Shepherdsville, Kentucky

SOUTH UNION MANUSCRIPT NOW AVAILABLE

Through the generous efforts of Richard and Betsy Reynolds of Indian Rocks Hills Beach, Florida, the first five years of South Union's Journal B have been transcribed and indexed. The original manuscript, a daily record kept by the South Union Shakers from 1836 to 1854, is housed in the Julia Neal Library at the museum. The Reynolds have compiled three indexes (place, name, and subject), making the journal's information much more accessible for researchers. The Reynolds plan to continue working with Journal B and eventually hope to offer the entire document in its indexed form to the public. The first installment of Journal B is now available in the museum shop at \$10 per copy.

THANK YOU SOUTH UNION AREA STUDY GROUP

The summer project for the South Union Area Study Group has been the cleaning and maintenance of South Union's holy ground. The acre tract was restored in 1990 when the original configuration of maples and pines were planted back to their 1843 plan. The Shakers held worship services at the holy ground during the 1840s and 50s but abandoned the spot after the railroad was constructed nearby in 1860. The study group cleaned away truckloads of thick grass and brush and prepared the site so that it could be mowed with a riding mower in place of a tractor. It has a wonderful appearance now and is much more accessible to visitors, thanks to the efforts of the members of the South Union Area Study Group.

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

1993 has been a busy year. The South Union Seminar, underwritten by the Kentucky Humanities Council, was a success due to keynote speaker Jean Burks and the other presenters, Donna Parker, Jonathon Jeffrey, Sally Ann Strickler, and Martha Boice. The attendance was up this year and everyone seemed to benefit from the program. The Shaker Festival, underwritten by Southern Deposit Bank, did not draw the crowd that we anticipated but we did involve more volunteers and attracted more local visitors than ever before. As mentioned earlier, the 1993 gala was one of the best ever, raising \$17,500.00 to benefit the museum. "An Evening in Shaker-town" was underwritten by Trans Financial Bank and the Medical Center at Bowling Green.

Shakertown at South Union was awarded two grants from the Kentucky Arts Council in July. One of those grants will fund music performances at museum events in 1993-94 and the other will fund a sheep-to-shawl workshop next season.

Our visitation in 1993 has reflected a statewide downward trend. At the end of August we had experienced a 14% decrease from last year's numbers. However, because our admission price was raised to \$3.00 at the beginning of the year, admission receipts are up 7%. Our gift shop sales continue to climb and at this point are showing a 16% increase over last year's sales.

At a recent meeting of the Shakertown Board of Directors, it was unanimously voted to name South Union's new library, the Julia Neal Library. Miss Neal has devoted much of her life to Shaker studies, particularly in the area of western Shaker topics. She has volunteered her time and talents to South Union on countless occasions and has always been the undisputed source of South Union history. This is only a small way to honor her contribution to the South Union historic site.

I hope that each of you will visit South Union this fall.

Tommy Hines
Director
Shakertown at South Union

DON'T MISS THESE FALL/WINTER EVENTS...

- September 18 AUTUMN DAYS AT SHAKERTOWN
Meat smoking, candle dipping, broom making, apple cider pressing, apple butter making, and much more can be experienced at the Autumn Days celebration at the museum. A light lunch will be served and fried apple pies will be prepared on site. Also music and children's activities. This event presented in conjunction with Auburn Autumn Days. 10:00 - 4:00, \$3 Adults, \$1 Children ages 6-12. **Autumn Days at Shakertown is underwritten by Logan Memorial Hospital.**
- September 18-19 BROOM MAKING DEMONSTRATION
- September 25 SHAKER HARVEST LUNCHEON
A noon meal served at the 1824 Centre Family Dwelling, featuring recipes used at harvest time. A short program will precede the meal. 11:30. \$13 non-members, \$11 members. Reservations required.
- October 9 FALL CANDLELIGHT TOUR
An evening of living history in the 1824 Centre Family Dwelling by candlelight. Shaker music performances. No reservations required except for groups. 7:00 p.m. \$2 Adults, \$1 Children ages 6-12. Members free.
- October 16-17 BROOM MAKING DEMONSTRATION
- October 16-17 OVAL BOX/SHAKER BASKET WORKSHOP
A two-day workshop given by Larry and Ruth Owrey, teaching participants to make either oval boxes or a Canterbury Cathead basket. A Shaker luncheon, catered by South Union's Shaker Tavern, will be included during the Saturday session. Cost for the box workshop is \$70, cost for the basket workshop is \$50. Call for reservations and additional information. Space is limited.
- October 23 WEAVING DEMONSTRATION
- November 13 A SHAKER BREAKFAST
Our annual Shaker breakfast, featuring a menu from the 19th century and served in the 1824 Centre Family Dwelling dining room. Shaker music performances. 10:00 a.m. \$13 non-members, \$11 members.
- December 4-5 CHRISTMAS AT SHAKERTOWN
An open house celebration with period decorations, music, refreshments, and booths of fine antiques and handmade gifts. No reservations required except for large groups. Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. No admission fee but non-perishable food items will be accepted for local needy.

All events are held at the South Union Shaker Museum on US 68, South Union, Kentucky. **Reservations are required for the Shaker Harvest Luncheon, the Oval Box/Shaker Basket Workshop, and the Shaker Breakfast.** For more information call: (502) 542-4167.



Shakertown at South Union, Kentucky 42283

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