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South Union Messenger (September 1994)

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Shakertown  South Union

The South Union Messenger

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF SHAKERTOWN AT SOUTH UNION, KENTUCKY
September 1994

THE SOUTHERN FURNITURE SYMPOSIUM IS SOLD OUT!

The Shaker Museum at South Union will host a Southern Furniture Symposium, "Close Ties: The Relationship Between Kentucky Shaker Furniture Makers and Their Worldly Contemporaries," Saturday, October 1st. The day-long seminar will address the stylistic similarities and differences found when comparing Kentucky Shaker furniture with the antebellum vernacular furniture traditions of Kentucky and Tennessee. Experts in the field will give presentations on the subject, including Nathan Harsh, co-author of The Art and Mystery of Tennessee Furniture; Jean Burks, co-author of The Complete Book of Shaker Furniture; and Marianne Ramsey and Diane Wachs who are currently researching for an upcoming book on Kentucky furniture.

In conjunction with the Southern Furniture Symposium, the Shaker Museum will open an exhibit of antebellum Kentucky and Tennessee furniture that will include pieces from the museum collections of South Union and Pleasant Hill and from fine private collections in the region. Many of these pieces will be on display to the public for the very first time. The exhibit will be the focus of a walking tour given by the symposium speakers who will give commentary and analysis. The exhibit will be in place through November 1st.

The Southern Furniture Symposium is funded in part by Oak Hill Antiques, Russellville and Irene's Gallery of Antiques, Elizabethtown. The exhibit catalog was funded in part by Emerson Electric. Jean Burks' presentation is underwritten by the Kentucky Humanities Council and is free to the public. Ms. Burks' presentation begins at 1:00 p.m.

"AN EVENING IN SHAKERTOWN" A MAJOR SUCCESS

The Shaker Museum's annual gala fund-raising event, held June 25th, was a great success due to the efforts and creative talents of chairperson Jane Mathis of Russellville and co-chairperson Susan Minton of Bowling Green. Along with the assistance of a sixty member committee, the gala organizers turned the grounds surrounding the Centre House into a formal garden for the evening event. Three hundred guests enjoyed an atmosphere of fountains, statuary, flowers and trees bought in especially for the gathering as well as fine music and a gourmet meal. Once again, the highlight of the evening was a live auction that featured an original painting by Ivan Schieferdecker and Lauren Notheisen, created expressly for the 1994 gala.

"An Evening in Shakertown" raised over \$22,000.00 that will go toward restoration and education projects for the museum. Special thanks to Jane Mathis and Susan Minton, Jay D. Joines, Carol Dyche, Mike Robbins, Charlie Ray, and all of the volunteers who helped make "An Evening in Shakertown" a success. A thank you party for volunteers is scheduled for September 25th at the Bibb House in Russellville.

This year's gala was dedicated to the memory of Deedy Hall, founder of the Shaker Museum at South Union.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Naomi and George McAfee, Catonsville, Maryland
Christy Tutino, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Teddy and Dave Emmerich, Smith's Grove, Kentucky
Mr. and Mrs. John Edward Cain III, Nashville, Tennessee
Dr. Chester C. Kennedy, Konowa, Oklahoma
Sarah B. Price, Russellville, Kentucky
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Clift, Princeton, Kentucky
Bob Ward, Cave City, Kentucky
Mrs. John E. Sloan, Franklin, Tennessee
Larry Leslie, New Richmond, Ohio
Mr. and Mrs. Ward Coleman, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Mary E. McKinney Woolford, Austin, Texas
Lynne Minish, Russellville, Kentucky
Alice E. Bowlds, Louisville, Kentucky

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

Allison Fuqua, Russellville, Kentucky	Scholarship for Summer Day Camp
Trent Spurlock, Russellville, Kentucky	Scholarship for Summer Day Camp
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Owrey	Donation Applied to General Support
Chase Manhattan Bank	Donation in Memory of O. E. Freeman, Jr.
Kit Cress, Mansfield, Ohio	Donation Toward South Union Chest Purchase
Edie Bingham, Glenview, Kentucky	Donation Toward South Union Chest Purchase
Mrs. W.L. Lyons Brown, Harrod's Creek, Kentucky	Donation Toward South Union Chest Purchase
Irene Swartz, Irene's Gallery of Antiques, E-town	Underwriting for Southern Furniture Symposium
Dixon Yeates, Oak Hill Antiques, Russellville	Underwriting for Southern furniture Symposium
Emerson Electric, Russellville	Underwriting for SFS Exhibit Catalog
Logan Memorial Hospital, Russellville	Underwriting for Autumn Days at Shakertown
Old Kentucky Leathers	Donation Applied to General Support
Mr. and Mrs. J. Gran Clark, Russellville	Donation Applied to General Support
Mr. and Mrs. Todd Ernest	Donation Applied to General Support

NEW EXHIBIT OPENS AT MUSEUM

"Shaker Gift Drawings," a new exhibit mounted in the meeting room, opened September 11th with a reception and a presentation by W.K.U. graduate student Graham Hatcher. Hatcher worked with Director of Education Sharon Koomler on the project, gathering seventeen reproduction gift drawings, some of which have ties to Daniel Boler, an early South Union Shaker. Portions of the exhibit will be available to libraries, schools, and local historical societies after it closes at South Union on December 1st. "Shaker Gift Drawings" is supported by a grant from the Kentucky Arts Council.

WISH LIST

New Filing Cabinets	Metal Shelving
Folding Tables	Ironing Board
White Sheets	VCR
Pine Cones and Old Christmas Cards	Screen for Slide Projection
Volunteers, volunteers	

SOUTH UNION FEATURED IN PBS "AMERICAN WOODSHOP"

A segment of "American Woodshop" was recently filmed at South Union, featuring oval box maker Larry Owrey. Owrey, a resident of Franklin, Ohio, has been making oval boxes at the Shaker Museum for nearly a decade. He and his wife Ruth host workshops twice annually at the museum and donate the proceeds to support the historic site. Both accomplished craftspeople, the Owreys are loyal supporters of the Shaker Museum and have been an important part of the growth of the organization.

The "American Woodshop" segment featuring Larry Owrey making boxes at South Union will air in January. Check with your local PBS station for details.

THANK YOU W.K.U. FOR SPRING INTERNS

A special thank you is extended to a number of Western Kentucky University student interns who volunteered their time for a variety of projects. . .

Wayne Gannaway . . . American Disabilities Act Compliance Proposal
Robin Fanslow . . . Photo Documentation and Accessioning
Neal Stanley . . . Cataloging Morton Family Documents
Annamary Fitzgerald . . . Exhibit Proposal (Green River Museum Through Shaker Museum)
Ginger Lewis . . . Exhibit Proposal (Green River Museum Through Shaker Museum)
John Boland . . . "A Peculiar Grace" Shaker Chair Exhibit
Erica Mair . . . "A Peculiar Grace" Shaker Chair Exhibit
Marge Sterling . . . "A Peculiar Grace" Shaker Chair Exhibit
Hillary Glatt . . . "A Shaker Sheep to Shawl" Exhibit and Program
Kathy Lyons . . . "A Shaker Sheep to Shawl" Exhibit and Program
David Sarafini . . . "A Shaker Sheep to Shawl" Exhibit and Program
Marci Wilson . . . "A Shaker Sheep to Shawl" Exhibit and Program

THE SOUTH UNION SHAKERS AND GEORGE WASHINGTON

Over the past several months, staff member Mike Sisk has been corresponding with the Mount Vernon Ladies Association concerning a George Washington land grant found in the Morton family manuscripts recently donated to the museum. Apparently George Washington received land for his service in the French and Indian War (1756-1763) that included property in Grayson County and Logan County, Kentucky. Copies of the deed, along with an 1818 map showing the location of the survey, have been donated to Mount Vernon and to the Alderman Library in Charlottesville, Virginia where all known Washington documents are currently being compiled. The 1818 map indicates that the Washington survey of 666 1/3 acres was a few miles southeast of present day Auburn, Kentucky. Included on the map is the South Union out-family located at Black Lick (formerly the farm of Deedy Hall), only a short distance from the land claimed by George Washington.

NEW MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The "Jasper Springs Society" is a new membership category instituted by the museum at the suggestion of one of our most recent members. The society is designed for those people who are willing and able to commit to a serious level of support on an annual basis. The \$1,000.00 per year membership will receive membership benefits including a 10% discount in the museum shop, free admission to the museum with eight guests, a quarterly newsletter, discounted admission to all special events, and invitations to an annual gathering of society members.

Special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. John Edward Cain III of Nashville for becoming the first members of the Jasper Springs Society. Jasper Springs was the first name the Shakers gave to their settlement at South Union.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Chest of Drawers, ca. 1850, walnut with cherry and poplar secondary wood, South Union
... purchased with acquisition endowment funds and private donations

Two-Step Production Stool, ca. 1880, and Oval Box with red stain, Mt. Lebanon, New York
... anonymous gift from the O. Edward Freeman Estate, New York

Pantry Box, Paint Brush, Oval Box, and Sewing Stand, attributed to Shaker
... anonymous gift from the O. Edward Freeman Estate, New York

Table Swift, ca. 1850, attributed to Hancock Shakers, and Rug Beater, 19th century, attributed
to Shakers
... donated by Jeanne Weaver, Morgantown, Indiana

Jewelry Box, attributed to Sabbathday Lake Shakers
... donated by Richard Scharrer, Franklin, Indiana

Crutches, ca. 1840, pine and poplar with leather rests, Mt. Lebanon North Family, formerly
of the Bissland Collection
... purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Two Coverlets, blue and red, 19th century, non-Shaker pieces for exhibit use
... donated by Nancy Wright, Olmstead, Kentucky

Tin Lamp Filler, 19th century, attributed to Shakers
... purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Collection of Secondary Shaker Material, purchase from the O. Edward Freeman estate sale,
Bristol, Virginia
... purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Manuscript Letter, written for Shaker youth Otis Bell by a South Union Shaker living in the
West Family in 1886
... donated by Betty Parrot, Harrodsburg, Kentucky, and Ken Hamilton, Lexington, Kentucky

Copy of Indian Atrocities: Narratives of the Sufferings of Dr. Knight and John Slover Among
the Indians During the Revolutionary War, 1983 (reprint of 1798 publication), John Slover
was an early South Union Shaker
... donated by Brooks Woolford, Jr., Austin, Texas

Two fine early Stoneware Pitchers, Simpson County, Kentucky origin, non-Shaker
... purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Collection of Coin Silver, Two Family Portraits, and Collection of Quilts from the Morton Family
for the Morton House Project
... donated by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas McKenzie, Huntsville, Alabama

Cash Box used and Iron Poker used at Shaker Store and fine copy of Christ's First
and Second Appearing, Fourth Edition, 1856
... donated by Elizabeth Reeves, Bowling Green, Kentucky

NOTES FROM SHARON KOOMLER DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

We have enjoyed an active summer of programs and are looking forward to a busy schedule this fall. I would like to thank all those who donated time, materials, and financial support to educational programs this summer. Many children and adults have benefitted from your generosity. We still need volunteers to assist with many of our fall programs. If I have not called you to help, please call me! I continue to meet new people who volunteer at South Union. Thanks!

The 2nd annual Summer Day Camp recently completed five full weeks of fun and learning. Fifty-nine children spent days learning about the Shakers and creating memories that will last a long time. We had a number of children return from last year because they enjoyed it, and they tell me they can't wait to come back again in 1995. Thanks to Allison Fuqua and Trent Spurlock for sponsoring day camp scholarships. These allowed many children to attend who might not have been able to otherwise.

The South Union Spinners and Weavers Guild has organized and had several meetings since April. We have washed fleece and are sharing skills of carding, spinning, dyeing, knitting and weaving. If you have skills or an interest in learning, please join us for some fun and fellowship. Call the museum for details.

Fall is here and area school children will soon be returning by the hundreds to South Union. In addition to a program that focuses on "Shaker Gift Drawings," students will also be able to learn about manuscripts and journals, 19th century lighting practices, and the use of herbs for domestic, culinary, and medicinal purposes. I will also be offering some presentations in the schools. Please call the museum to have your school participate.

Marge Sterling and I recently attended the Bicentennial Celebration at Sabbathday Lake Shaker Community in Maine. We were warmly received and spent three incredible days interacting with our Shaker friends and learning more about their history and mission from Shaker scholars. One highlight was Saturday evening's singing of Shaker songs by candlelight in the 1794 meeting house. Sunday morning everyone gathered for meeting, bringing together the spirit of the celebration for all who attended. I returned to South Union renewed.

MAJOR ACQUISITION

The museum recently purchased an extremely fine piece of South Union furniture with excellent provenance. The tall walnut chest of drawers, ca. 1850, has two small drawers over four graduated drawers and an original finish, and will be exhibited as part of the Southern Furniture Symposium, beginning October 1st and running through November 1st. The chest also has pear and ring turned feet, a typical South Union feature. The Shakers gave the chest to their farm manager, Joe Wallace, prior to 1920 and it has remained in the same family ever since. The museum purchased the chest from a descendent of Wallace.

The walnut chest was acquired in part with acquisition endowment funds, but because of the expense, private donations are being solicited to retire the debt. We have already received donations from Kit Cress, Mansfield, Ohio; Edie Bingham, Glenview, Kentucky; and Mrs. W.L. Lyons Brown, Harrod's Creek, Kentucky. Approximately \$4,200.00 is needed to complete the purchase.

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

I hope that each of you will attend one or more of the fall events that we have scheduled. The Southern Furniture Symposium is full, but we still have space available for the Shaker Breakfast and the Candlelight Dinner, a new event. The traditional Candlelight Tour and our Christmas at Shakertown do not require reservations. Events have been well attended this year, although weather dampened our spirits a bit during the Shaker Festival in June and Autumn Days earlier this month. Both events are being restructured for 1995. Your suggestions would be appreciated.

Catalogs of the Southern Furniture Symposium exhibit will be available October 1st at a cost of \$16.75 post paid. The catalog has forty-eight pages and includes thirty-seven black and white photographs of antebellum Kentucky and Tennessee furniture. Both South Union and Pleasant Hill pieces are included. The exhibit will be in place through November 1st.

Special thanks to Logan Memorial Hospital for underwriting Autumn Days at Shakertown and to Auburn Banking Company for their sponsorship of Christmas at Shakertown. I look forward to seeing you this fall.

Tommy Hines

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- October 15 **FALL CANDLELIGHT TOUR**
A living history tour of the 1824 Centre House by candlelight with Shaker music performances and a reception to follow. No reservations are required except for large groups. Fee \$2 for adults. Free to children accompanied by an adult and to members. Time 7:00 p.m.
- October 22 Logan County Day - Free admission to the museum for all citizens of Logan County in appreciation for their support. Valid driver's license needed for admission. Museum hours 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- October 29 **CANDLELIGHT DINNER IN THE CENTRE HOUSE**
An evening meal of Shaker recipes served in the dining room of the 1824 Centre Dwelling. Shaker music performances. Reservations required. Fee \$17 non-members, \$15 members. Time 7:00 p.m.
- November 12 **A SHAKER BREAKFAST**
An historic South Union Civil War era menu served in the dining room of the 1824 Centre Dwelling. Shaker music performances. Fee TBA. Time 10:00 a.m.
- December Christmas Children's Programs - A hands-on program that shares the Christmas traditions of the Shakers. Reservations by classroom.
- December 3-4 **CHRISTMAS AT SHAKERTOWN**
An annual open house celebration that features 19th century decorations, music performances, holiday foods, and booths of fine antiques and handmade treasures for sale. Admission is free with a canned food item. No reservations required except for large groups. Time Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Underwritten by Auburn Banking Company

Special thanks to the W.L. Lyons Brown Foundation for supporting educational programming at South Union. All events are held at the Shaker Museum at South Union, 10 miles west of Bowling Green and 3 miles east of Auburn on US 68. For more information call: (502) 542-4167. Or write: Shaker Museum at South Union, P.O. Box 30, South Union, Kentucky 42283.

Shakertown



South Union

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