South Union Messenger (May 1994)

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HONORED GUESTS AT SOUTH UNION SEMINAR

The 7th annual South Union Seminar was indeed a highlight in the museum’s 35 year history because of the event’s keynote speakers, Sister France Carr and Brother Arnold Hadd of the Sabbathday Lake Shaker community in Maine. Insightful and highly informative, Sister Frances’ and Brother Arnold’s presentation will long be remembered by those in attendance. Brother Arnold gave an historical retrospect of the community while Sister Frances discussed daily life at Sabbathday Lake. Response to the presentation and to the Shakers themselves was warm and enthusiastic.

Also speaking were Donna Parker and Jonathon Jeffrey of Western Kentucky University’s Kentucky Museum and Library. They presented a research project on the woolen industry. Sally Ann Strickler was scheduled to present a paper called "Shaker Women Leaders: Inspired Believers," but was unable because of illness. Sharon Koomler read the paper in her place. The Seminar weekend focused on both South Union and Sabbathday Lake and included music performances and meals of Shaker recipes.

Special thank you to Margaret Sterling for volunteering to prepare the seminar breakfast, to the Kentucky Humanities Council and Milliard Lyons for funding the event, to the seventy participants who traveled to South Union for the event, and, most of all, to Sister Frances Carr and Brother Arnold Hadd for their willingness to come to South Union and for their kindness and generosity.

AN IMPORTANT ADDITION TO THE COLLECTION

The museum recently received a wonderful cherry dwarf grandfather clock made by Shaker clock maker, Benjamin Youngs. The clock came to the museum from the estate of long-time member and supporter O. Edward Freeman, nephew of the late Deedy Hall. Through Mr. Freeman's kind bequest, South Union probably has one of its most unique and interesting artifacts. The clock, made in 1812 in the Shaker community of Watervliet, New York, and stands only four feet, nine inches tall. Inscribed on the face is "B. Youngs" and on the back of the face: "Made 1812 by B. Youngs/ Aged 76 years/ Oct. 4th 1812/ Watervliet C.H. (Church Family)."

There are several clues that seem to confirm that the clock was at South Union during most of the community's history. Written in pencil inside of the clock's bonnet is "August 26, 1927, repaired and sold by T.J. McConnell, jewler (sic), Auburn, Ky." McConnell probably purchased the clock at South Union and sold it to a member of Mr. Freeman's family several years later. The traces of original ochre and red stain on the clock's interior match the original paint colors in the Centre House. Additionally, in small script on the back of the clock is the name of South Union's first Elder, Benjamin Seth Youngs, nephew of the maker.

The clock is one of thirteen known to have survived by Benjamin Youngs, Sr.
SHAKERTOWN AT SOUTH UNION PURCHASES 1847 STEAM HOUSE

Thanks to the federal ISTEA grant received last year, Shakertown at South Union now owns another of the remaining nine Shaker structures. The Fathers of Mercy, an order of priests and the museum's neighbors to the west, agreed to sell 1.2 acres of land north of the Centre House which includes the 1847 brick steam house, a 19th century brick cistern, and a portion of the foundation of the 1919 Shaker barn. The ISTEA funding, a $500,000.00 grant, is being used to purchase former Shaker buildings and land that are being impacted by the widening of US 68 through Shakertown. A portion of the grant has previously been expended for 72 acres that was originally pasture and garden property of the South Union North Family. The steam house will be fully restored and interpreted as a valuable component of 19th century Shaker farm culture.

MUSEUM RECEIVES M.A.P. II GRANT

The South Union Shaker Museum recently received a Museum Assessment Program II grant for the Institute of Museum Services in Washington D.C. The grant will pay for a museum consultant to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the collections policy and management. The M.A.P. grant is an excellent way to gain a new perspective about an existing museum and to obtain advice on improvement and development of a site.

SOUTH UNION RESTORATION RECOGNIZED

Shakertown at South Union was honored recently by being included in America Restored, the newest publication of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The full-color hard bound book features 102 sites that "represent the best restoration projects undertaken since 1980," according to a press release from the National Trust. The Trust calls the new book "the most important historic preservation book of the year."

Other projects featured in America Restored include the Capitol building in Nashville, Tennessee; the Biltmore House in Asheville, North Carolina; Flagler College in St. Augustine, Florida; and the Palace Hotel in San Francisco. Kentucky's other restoration selected for the book was the Frontier Nursing Service historic site in Wendover. America Restored is available at bookstores nationwide, including the museum shop at South Union.

MUSEUM RECEIVES GRANT FROM THE HONORABLE ORDER OF KENTUCKY COLONELS

Shakertown at South Union received a grant in the amount of $4,000.00 from the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels. The funds will be used to complete the restoration of the back stair well in the 1824 Centre Family Dwelling. With the completion of this project later this year, the Centre House will be fully restored except for twelve closets and the meeting room. The stair well restoration will involve repairing plaster to its original appearance, cleaning original woodwork, and painting. The museum appreciates the generosity of the Kentucky Colonels.
RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Dwarf Grandfather Clock, Cherry, made by Benjamin Youngs at Watervliet, New York, 1812, probably used at South Union
....from the collection of O. Edward Freeman, bequest

Two Drying Racks, Cherry Spool Caddy, Brush, and Towel Rack, all attributed to Shaker
....from the collection of O. Edward Freeman, bequest

"0" Production Side Chair, Mt. Lebanon, New York, ca. 1870, original red tape seat
....donated by Mr. and Mrs. David Hall and Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Hall in memory of O. Edward Freeman

Four Maple Arrow Back Windsor Chairs, purchased by the Shakers at South Union for use in the dining room, Fine Maple Dough Bowl purchased from the 1922 Shaker sale
....donated by Mr. and Mrs. William G. Coke, Nashville, Tennessee, in memory of the four children of J. Guthrie and Carrie McCutcheon Coke, Jennie Winston Coke Sullivan, and William Gaston Coke, all of whom grew up as neighbors to Shakertown during its last 25 years as a community

Child's Side Chair, Maple, Classic South Union form
....purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Large Spool with Black Thread, Brush, and Silk Covered Bonnet Stand, attributed to Shaker
....donated by Louise Galloway, Bloomington, Indiana

Silk Scarf, Rose Color with Blue Border, made by the Kentucky Shakers, probably South Union
....purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Two Pails with Red Paint, attributed to Shaker
....donated by Karl Federer, Glenarm, Illinois

Collection of Over Three Hundred Books, Journals, Magazines, and Examples of Ephemera, all relating to the Shakers
....donated anonymously

Three Clothes Hangers, Wooden Wedge, and Fragments of Pail
....found in Centre House attic by archaeologist Kurt Fiegel

Set of 1847 Rogers Silverplate, 19th century, for use in exhibits
....donated by Julia Neal, Bowling Green, Kentucky

Ogee Mirror, ca. 1850, initials "L. M." on back, given as a gift from Irving Greenwood to Leona Mitchell who lived with the Shakers as a child at Enfield, New Hampshire
....donated by Jeanne Weaver, Morgantown, Indiana

Three Maple Sieves, not attributed to Shaker, for use in exhibits, and Wooden Comb, attributed to Shaker fancy goods shops
....donated by Jeanne Weaver, Morgantown, Indiana
MORTON HOUSE UPDATE

Daniel Carey of the National Trust for Historic Preservation paid a visit to the Morton House and farm several weeks ago to review the possibilities for funding. Mr. Carey was very optimistic about the property and said that there was a good chance for a research grant to determine the original layout and use of the structure.

Neal Stanley, a Western Kentucky University intern, has been instrumental in the processing and documentation of the Morton manuscript collection. Neil, an Auburn, Kentucky native, is majoring in history at Western.

The Morton House was donated to Shakertown at South Union along with its contents to be interpreted as an 1840s single family counterpart to the communal lifestyle at South Union. The 1820 brick home and seventy five acres of land will be developed as part of the historic site as funds become available.

NOTES FROM SHARON KOOMLER
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

The snowy winter and rainy spring did not dampen the enthusiasm of the teachers and students who braved the weather to attend various programs at South Union. More than 1,200 area school children have visited the museum since January, and at least half of those came to a new event, "A Shaker Sheep to Shawl." The program was held April 11-22, and highlighted the process of wool production from the shearing of sheep to carding and spinning wool to weaving a finished shawl or rug. Many thanks to our shearer, Roger Dove; our spinners, Mary Alice and Judy Williams and Mike Hossom; our weavers, Sam Hossom and Carole Henderson; and to the Kentucky Arts Council for providing monetary support for this new annual event.

We have also been fortunate to have several occasions to host special events for the out-of-school adults. In February the Centre Family Dwelling was one of the sites for the Capitol Art Center's Great Dinners. It was an elegant evening of Shaker music and a candlelight meal served in the dining room. In March, while Western Kentucky University played host to the 1994 Sun Belt Conference Basketball Tournament, the South Union Shaker Museum and Shaker Tavern entertained and provided a Shaker breakfast for the wives of the team coaches. In early May, Lifeline Home Health Care used the Centre Family meeting room to present a continuing education workshop to 28 nurses. They also enjoyed lunch at the Shaker Tavern followed by a presentation on Shaker medicinal practices, provided by the museum.

May also brought the advent of a new annual event, "A Spring Herbal Fair." Despite bouts of rain, it was a successful day and we look forward to greater participation next year. Summer Day Camp will be held during June and July and the six available weeks are already filling up. This brings me to a plea for help. Our calendar of events and group visitation has grown tremendously. I will be calling past volunteers to help with the festival and other events this year, but would love to meet more of you as supporters of our museum. In addition to the scheduled events, I can use help with school groups, large bus tours, and preparation of materials for programs. I will give you EVERYTHING you need to say or do, I just need your time and talents. Please call me at the museum if you have even an hour a month to offer. Thanks.
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Crawford, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Donna Parker, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Jeff Clark, Hillsborough, North Carolina
Mr. and Mrs. Carl King, Morgantown, Kentucky
Debbie Donaldson, Franklin, Kentucky
Mr. and Mrs. Jay Sloan, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Weigel, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Mr. and Mrs. David Lee, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Mr. and Mrs. Don W. Combs, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Kelley Hammers and Leo Fernandez, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Mr. and Mrs. David Hall, Auburn, Kentucky
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Schaaf, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Richard B. Rainey, Nashville, Tennessee
Lynn Reynolds, Harrodsburg, Kentucky
Carole Henderson, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Jenkins, Russellville, Kentucky
Mr. and Mrs. David LeNoir, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Ashley Trapp, Franklin, Tennessee
Lisa H. Campbell, Nashville, Tennessee
Mr. and Mrs. K. M. Grafton-Grattan
Mr. and Mrs. John Eddy Cain III, Nashville, Tennessee
Lucie W. Cammack, Nashville, Tennessee
Nancy Keen B. Palmer, Nashville, Tennessee
Dorothy B. Earthman, Nashville, Tennessee
Mrs. Ann Marie M. McNamara, Nashville, Tennessee
Douglas and Sue Joyce, Nashville, Tennessee
Irene Jackson Wills, Franklin, Tennessee

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

Mr. and Mrs. J. Gran Clark
Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Ray
Jeannie Weaver
Christine Conlin
Sharon Stafford
Cracker Barrel
Emerson Charitable Trust
Emerson Electric
Southern Deposit Bank
Fruit of the Loom
Dick and Betsy Reynolds
Dixon Yeates
Randy Fuqua
Caldwell Gasket
Karl Federer
Trent Spurlock
Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill

Donation to Morton Project Fund
Donation to Morton Project Fund
Donation in Memory of Joyce J. Scharrer
Donation in Memory of Joyce J. Scharrer
Donation in Memory of Joyce J. Scharrer
$1,000.00 for General Support
$1,000.00 for General Support
Scholarships for Summer Day Camp
Scholarships for Summer Day Camp
Scholarships for Summer Day Camp
Donation of Expenses for Producing SU Journal Inde
Donation of Appraisals for Museum Collection
Loan of Truck for Morton House Project
Donation of Boxes for Morton House Project
Loan of Shaker Chairs for Museum Exhibit
Loan of Shaker Chairs for Museum Exhibit
Loan of Shaker Chair for Museum Exhibit
"AN EVENING IN SHAKERTOWN" ON JUNE 25

The Shaker Museum at South Union's most important and well-attended fund-raising event has a committee of nearly fifty preparing for June 25. The fifth annual gala is being chaired this year by Jane Mathis of Russellville, co-chaired by Susan Minton, Bowling Green. This year's garden party theme will feature South Union's herb garden, original art work by Laurin Notheisen and Ivan Schieferdecker, and a delightful summer atmosphere under a tent in the west yard of the Centre House. The very best in southern cuisine and hospitality will again be the emphasis for "An Evening in Shakertown.

Proceeds from this year's gala will go toward continuing restoration in the Centre House and will match two grants already in place, enabling the museum to purchase the 1847 Steam House and completing the funding for the 1994 education program. The museum is indebted to Trans Financial Bank and Commonwealth Health Corporation for underwriting the event. Sincere thanks to Jane Mathis, Susan Minton, Carol Dyche, Jay Joines, Charlie Ray, Mike Robbins, and the volunteer committee for their time and special talents.

This year's gala is dedicated to the memory of Deedy Hall, the founder of the Shaker Museum at South Union, whose volunteer spirit is carried on by all of those involved with this event. All members of the Friends of Shakertown at South Union receive an invitation to "An Evening in Shakertown." For additional invitations please contact the museum.

DON'T MISS...

The 33rd annual Summer Shaker Festival, June 11-12 and 18-19. Shaker foods, music, and craft will be featured. The event is presented free of charge to members. Thanks to event chairperson Sally Ann Strickler for her work.

The Southern Furniture Symposium, October 1, will focus on antebellum furniture made in Kentucky and Tennessee, including that made by the South Union and Pleasant Hill Shakers. Antique collectors and material culture scholars will enjoy presenters Jean Burks (The Complete Book of Shaker Furniture), Nathan Harsh (The Art and Mystery of Tennessee Furniture), and Marianne Ramsey (currently researching for a book on Kentucky furniture). The event will also feature an exhibit of Kentucky and Tennessee furniture and other surprises. More to come later...

THANK YOU...

To Ed and Elaine Disch for their gracious hospitality to staff members on a visit to Evanston and to the Chicago Area Shaker Interest Group for their kindness

To Advisory Committee members Martin Brown, Bill Coke, and Edie Bingham for organizing a very special picnic and tour at South Union for their friends

To June Sprigg and Paul Rocheleau for the time they spent at South Union in preparation for their upcoming book Shaker Architecture.

To volunteers Margaret Sterling, Anna Mary Fitzgerald, Todd Sterling, Mark Jones, Virginia Hurst, Kelly Koomler, Jacob Koomler, Larry and Ruth Owrey for their help during the spring season
A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

Shakertown at South Union owes a great debt of gratitude to the Two Creeks Garden Club and the Garden Club of Kentucky for all of the time and effort put into the establishment and maintenance of the South Union herb garden. The groups are going on to other projects but are leaving quite an impact on our historic site. The garden has been a favorite for many of our visitors and has been the basis of one of our most successful children’s programs. We appreciate all of the work that has gone into the herb garden and know that it will continue to be a source of education and pleasure for our museum visitors.

This season the garden has been weeded and replanted by Virginia Price, Margaret Price, Sally Price, Janet Griffing, Dory Hudspeth, and C.D. Allen. Thanks so much to these hard working volunteers.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT

Archaeologist Kurt Fiegel has several new discoveries to report. While no foundation has survived, the builder’s trench of the 1821 Brick Dwelling, located behind the Centre House, has been located. Kurt has also found one of the Shaker rock quarries on the northern premises of the original village boundary. Among the artifacts found was a chisel still wedged into a limestone outcropping. The archaeological project is funded in part by the Kentucky Heritage Council, to whom we are grateful.

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

I had always thought that if the Shaker Museum hired more full time staff, the work load might decrease. Somehow that has not been the case. Having Mike and Sharon on staff has allowed us attempt new projects, events, tour group possibilities, and research, keeping everyone busier than ever before. I want to take this opportunity to brag on all the staff at South Union for the extra time and effort they have put forth during our recent period of growing pains. Lillie Mae Hayes continues to greet visitors with a smile as our principle interpreter, Sue Brooks is overseeing all of the museum shop activity and bringing in the biggest receipts in the museum’s history, Donna Brooks keeps the books and runs the office with great efficiency, and James Grinter continues to make our building and grounds look their very best.

It has been a great help to me having Sharon Koomler responsible for all of our educational programming and events. The program has expanded tenfold and she is receiving glowing reviews from teachers, tour operators, and those who have the advantage to be on the receiving end of her presentations. Mike Sisk, as my assistant, has taken over several of my former responsibilities and has created new projects that are helping to develop a system for collections management. Besides answering all inquiries related to history and genealogy, Mike also is responsible for accessioning new artifacts, documentation of the collection, and is the coordinator of activity related to the Morton Project. He also now writes the articles for this newsletter and most of our press releases.

It was an extreme pleasure to have Sister Frances Carr and Brother Arnold Hadd as our guests for the South Union Seminar in April. The whole weekend experience was something I will never forget as it was the first time I had met either of them. As I told them, they left many knew friends in Kentucky when they traveled back to Sabbathday Lake. I learned a tremendous amount from our short visit and have great respect and admiration for Sabbathday Lake. Now I am anxious to go to Maine and am hopeful that the Sabbathday Lake Shakers can make many other visits to South Union.
UPCOMING EVENTS

June 11-12, 18-19  SUMMER SHAKER FESTIVAL
Two weekends of Shaker foods, music, and craft. $4 adults
$1 children (ages 6-12) Funded in part by Southern Deposit Bank.

June 25  "AN EVENING IN SHAKERTOWN"
A gala fund-raising event to support the museum. Funded in part
by Trans Financial Bank and Commonwealth Health Corporation.

June-July  SUMMER DAY CAMP
A week-long camp where children spend mornings at South Union
and experience Shaker history in a way that is both fun and
educational. $40 per week per child. Scholarships funded by
Emerson Electric, Southern Deposit Bank, and Fruit of the Loom.

July 16-17  BROOM-MAKING DEMONSTRATION

August 19-20  OVAL BOX/SHAKER BASKET WORKSHOP
A workshop given by Larry and Ruth Owrey. Shaker lunch on
Saturday. $60 for basket, $70 for box workshop.

August 27-28  BROOM-MAKING DEMONSTRATION

September 3-5  BROOM-MAKING DEMONSTRATION
SOAP-MAKING DEMONSTRATION

September 17  AUTUMN DAYS AT SHAKERTOWN
An annual event celebrating the harvest activities of the South
Union Shakers. Shaker music performances and picnic lunch
available. 10:00 to 5:00. No admission charge to members.

September-November  FALL CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS
A hands-on activity for the elementary age child that includes
journal writing, candle-dipping, and herb packaging. Reservations
by classroom.

October 1  SOUTHERN FURNITURE SYMPOSIUM
A day long seminar focusing on antebellum furniture made in
Kentucky and Tennessee. Experts in the field will present papers
on the subject and a Shaker luncheon will be served. An evening
tour of historic homes in Russellville and a progressive dinner will
be offered in conjunction with the symposium as an optional fund-
raising event.

October 15  FALL CANDLELIGHT TOUR
A living history tour of the 1824 Centre House by candlelight with
Shaker music performances. $2 adults. Free to members. 7:00 p.m.

October 22  LOGAN COUNTY DAY
Free admission to the museum to all citizens of Logan County in
appreciation for their support.

October 29  CANDLELIGHT DINNER AT THE CENTRE HOUSE

November 12  A SHAKER BREAKFAST

December 3-4  CHRISTMAS AT SHAKERTOWN