

Fall 2004

South Union Messenger (Fall 2004)

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SOUTH UNION MESSENGER

S H A K E R M U S E U M A T S O U T H U N I O N

SHAKER FARM DAY 2004

It's a busy day on the farm. The air is full of the sweet smell of apples boiling to make fresh apple butter and cider. Cattle shuffle through the pastures as men gather and bale hay by hand. Smoke wafts throughout the village as meat is prepared in the Smoke House and laundry is boiled in huge iron pots. Children help churn butter in the side yard while several women weave newly-spun wool thread into winter blankets and sweaters.

The Shaker Museum will host our annual 1870's-era Shaker Farm Day on **Saturday, October 2 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.**

Talented Kentucky craftspeople will be on hand to demonstrate various Shaker farm duties and crafts, including broom making, basket making, spinning & weaving, candle dipping and blacksmithing.



Costumed volunteers will recreate a wide number of farm chores for visitors, including laundry boiling,

meat smoking, candle dipping, cow milking, sheep shearing and apple butter making. There will also be fun period games for the kids including

sack races and three-legged races

New this year, the **South Union Quartet** will perform

three times throughout the afternoon.

Admission is free for current museum members. The entrance fee for non-members is \$6 for adults and \$2 for children 6-12; children under six are admitted for free. This price includes admission to all historic buildings.

Be sure to stay for a picnic lunch! Roy's Bar-B-Que of Russellville will be selling barbeque sandwiches, sides and fried pies while Chaney's Dairy Barn of Woodburn will have their home-made ice cream for sale.

Shaker Farm Day is sponsored by Citizens

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A SHAKER BREAKFAST

Make your reservations today for the highly anticipated "A Shaker Breakfast" event set for **Saturday, November 6 and Saturday, November 13.**

New this year, the 1869 Shaker Tavern will host the event under the culinary

leadership of our own Jo Ann Moody. The Civil War-era breakfast includes eggs, *country sausage, fried chicken, sweet potatoes, buttermilk biscuits, peach pie and much, much more!*

Each Breakfast event will have two seatings: 8:30 a.m.

and 10:30 a.m. **Be sure to make your reservations in advance!** Admission will be \$20 for members and \$22 for non-members.

To make reservations, call 542-4167 or email shakmus@logantele.com.

A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR

It has been a summer of change at the Shaker Museum. We are slowly expanding our interpretation of South Union by making more of the grounds accessible to visitors. Guests can now walk to the area where the 1841 Trustees Office once stood and can read about the structure and its outbuildings. Thanks to surviving 19th century maps and manuscript references, other former building sites will soon be marked by interpretative signage. These sites include the 1875 Ash House, 1824 Meeting House Privy, 1818 Ministry's Carriage House, 1822 Chair Shop, 1842 Post Office and the 1825 Jenny Neely House. (*)

Another change in the

works is the expansion of the Museum Shop. Original shelving from the 1917 Shaker Store building was brought out of storage and is being used to make ready another Centre House cellar room for additional museum shop space. This will allow the museum to carry a new array of merchandise and the increased space will make shopping for visitors more comfortable. An "unveiling" is planned for late fall.

Our most significant change at the museum this summer was the hiring of a new operations manager. Lauren Land began work at South Union in June and brings to the museum a wealth of experience in the area

of public relations. She is an excellent writer, gifted speaker and is skilled in graphic design, marketing and strategic communications. Lauren graduated from Louisiana State University with a major in Mass Communications and a minor in History and most recently worked as the Communications Manager at the Atlanta Community Food Bank in Atlanta, Georgia. Lauren and her husband Kendal moved to Russellville, Kentucky in 2003.

We welcome Lauren to the Shaker Museum and are already seeing the result of her energy and enthusiasm.

- Tommy Hines

(*) Jenny Neely was a Shaker sister who presented a challenge, as she was "nervously disposed... thence annoying and easily annoyed." In 1825 a small frame building was constructed near the Centre House as a residence for Sister Jenny where she lived, probably with a caretaker. This practice was uncommon at South Union, but people who disrupted community or experienced a difficult transition into communal living were sometimes isolated from the rest of the members. A cabin had been constructed for "Old Daddy Shackelford" in 1820 for a similar reason. Eventually, the Shakers constructed a building for the purpose of housing elderly members who were in need of assistance. After the mid-1830's, Jenny Neely's house was converted into a school house for Centre Family children.

SPECIAL THANKS: MATTHEW COOK

The Shaker Museum was again fortunate to have undergraduate **Matthew Cook** serve as an intern during the summer months. Working through Western Kentucky University's

Department of Folk Studies, Matthew completed an exhaustive search of available manuscript records for references to sidewalks, roads, fences and ornamental trees at South Union.

This timeline of village development, gathered from resources housed at the Shaker Museum at South Union, the Kentucky Library and Western Reserve Historical Society and Library, will be crucial in

the continued restoration of South Union's historical landscape.

Special thanks to Matthew for a job well done and to **Dr. Michael Ann Williams**, Matthew's faculty advisor.

INSIDE THE CIVIL WAR ENCAMPMENT



"A Patriotic Appeal Calling All Men of Warren County: 80 Good Men Needed Immediately to Fill the Kentucky Light Guard. These Gallant Corps Will Leave Shortly To Defend the Commonwealth of Kentucky."

(Excerpt from event flyer)

On July 10th and 11th, nearly one hundred seasoned re-enactors

gathered at the Shaker Museum to recreate the 1860 recruitment of the Kentucky Light Guard. Dressed in authentic civilian attire, these re-enactors traveled to South Union from as far as New Jersey to participate in the event. Each of these re-enactors volunteered their time and energy to bring attention to the Shaker Museum at South Union.

Stations were set up for the "civilians" to enlist in the Kentucky Light Guard. A "physician" was on hand to inspect each man's general health and ability to serve. The group led a variety of drills for the public, including drills between

mounted cavalry and infantry soldiers. The officers also led an official issuance of arms to the newly formed company.

Throughout the weekend, the men camped on the museum grounds. Hoop-skirted civilian women served the men picnic meals each day, complete with fruit, roasted chickens and bread.

Nearly 300 guests attended the encampment and took time to tour the museum. Our thanks to event planner **Ethan Harrington** and to each volunteer who made this event a tremendous success! A special thanks to event sponsors **Col. and Mrs. Robert E. Spiller** of Oakland.

CHRISTMAS AT SHAKERTOWN

Each year, the Shaker Museum presents one of the region's finest antique and artisan shows... just in time for Christmas!

The event begins with a **Preview Party** scheduled for Friday, **December 3rd from 7-9 p.m.** During the Preview Party, guests are given the very first opportunity to view the unique merchandise and shop for special gifts.

New this year, the Preview Party is sponsored

by **Starbucks Coffee**, who will serve a delicious array of coffees, desserts and pastries throughout the event.

The popular **South Union Quartet** will offer musical entertainment during the party, treating all guests to beautiful and authentic Shaker hymns and Christmas carols.

Preview Party tickets are only \$10.00 and must be purchased in advance. Please call the museum at

(270) 542-4167 or email shakmus@logantele.com to order your tickets.

The **Open House** portion of the Christmas at Shakertown event is scheduled for **Saturday, December 4th from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.** Over 40 fine antique dealers and artisans will display and sell furniture, antique wares, hand-made crafts and decorative holiday items throughout the festive event.

And, of course, our own Shaker Museum Shop will be open!

Admission to the Christmas event is just \$1.00 or one canned food item to be donated to local families in need.

The museum will host a special **Silent Auction** throughout the weekend, featuring special items donated by the vendors. Silent Auction proceeds will benefit the museum.

2004 EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Shaker Farm Day

October 2 (10 a.m.—4 p.m.)

Shaker Museum

A Shaker Breakfast

November 6 and 13 (8:30 & 10 a.m.)

1869 Shaker Tavern Bed & Breakfast

(Reservations Required)

Christmas at Shakertown

Preview Party: December 3 (7-9 p.m.)

(Reservations Required)

1824 Centre House

Open House: December 4 (9 a.m.—4 p.m.)

1824 Centre House

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are a vital resource! The museum encourages anyone with an appreciation for history and folk-life to

explore these volunteer opportunities:

- **Shaker Farm Day**— Costumed volunteers are needed to assist with living history demonstrations

- **Office Assistants**— Have some extra time during the week? Consider helping out in our museum office!

For more volunteer information, please call Lauren Land at (270) 542-4167 or email shakmus@logantele.com.

COMMUNITY POST OFFICE OPENS AT SOUTH UNION

The historic South Union postmark is back!

In August, the Shaker Museum announced the opening of its Community Post Office.

Currently, the museum can sell stamps and money orders to customers. In the near future, the museum hopes to offer gift shop customers the option of mailing their purchases home or to friends and family.

The development of this community post office holds a great deal of significance—the rich history of the last Shaker post office can now continue indefinitely.

The South Union Post Office was established on May 22, 1826. It was originally housed in a log building just west of the Centre House. The post office was moved within the Shaker village several times until the Shakers

decided to move it closer to their commercial operation. The building that housed the post office burned *three* separate times but was rebuilt each time by the Shaker community.

Until 1889, members of the Shaker community served as postmaster. When the position of postmaster was removed from Shaker control, they attempted to open a new post office within their

village, yet this effort only lasted five months.

After more than 170 years of operation, the South Union post office was closed by the US Postal Service in 2003. The post office served as a community hub for 140 of its 170 years and will always hold the distinction of the last of the Shaker post offices.

SPECIAL THANKS



Contributions

(As of June 30, 2004)

Col. and Mrs. Robert E. Spiller
Elaine Disch
Eli Lilly Matching Donation
Stuart Foundation

New Members

(As of June 30, 2004)

Kim Mi
Deborah Morse-Kahn
Thomas Margy
John and Martha Wells

Renewed Memberships

(As of June 30, 2004)

Pat and Mary Allen
Judge and Mrs. William Allender
Christine Ammeian
Elizabeth Baker
Jon and Darla Barrow
E. Hanlin and Jane Bavley
E.M. Bear
Kay Bender
Margaret S. Berg
Peggy Bradley Boaz
Mr. and Mrs. Martin S. Brown

Sue Carol Browning
John E. Cain III
Ivor Carter
Clark and Peggy Carthrae
Jeffrey Clark
Byron Clark
Robert and Patricia Clendennen
Mr. and Mrs. William Coke, Jr.
Esther Coke
Mr. and Mrs. Everett Coleman
W. Clark Conn
Dale W. Covington
Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Cravens
Sharon Crawford
Curt Debaun III
Dr. and Mrs. Ernest Dewald
Ed and Elaine Disch
Dorothy Dodson
Karl and Marcia Federer
Wilson and Winifred Ferguson
J. Terry and Nada Fuqua
Roger W. Galvin
Carolyn Garrett
Gene and Diane Hargis
Col. and Mrs. Michael Harper
Kenneth Hatcher
Beth Hester
Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Hines, Sr.
Gary and Diane Howerton

Mrs. William Howlett
Barbara Hulette
Charles Hungate
Jonathan Jeffrey
Romanza Johnson
Lee and Betsey Johnson
Joseph and Dorothy Jones
Dr. and Mrs. Nick Kafoglis
Sandra Kinser
Robert Kirkpatrick, Jr.
Neda Knowles
Sharon Koomler and Family
Joseph and Colleen Kresovich
Salli Shropshire LaGrone
Brian S. Lankford
Logan County Chamber
Logan Telephone Co-Op
Bess Martin
Stephen N. Mathis
O.M. Mazuryk
Ray and Judy McCaskey
Gary and Laura McIntosh
Dickie McKinney
Wesley J. Moore
Dent and Phyllis Morriss
Flo Morse
Dennis L. Newberry
Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Newell
Thomas Noe, III
Jesse L. and Donna Riley
Donald and Lillian Riley
Jim Riley
Mike and Claire Robbins
Charles A. Roberts
Glenn B. Rogers
Shaker Realty and Auction Co.
Bill and Sarah Smila
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Sparling
Col. and Mrs. Robert E. Spiller
David and Nancy Stewart
Stanley and Edwina Strickler
Richard and Carol Switzer
Kenneth Tackett
Cindy Tanner
Susan K. Taylor
Mrs. and Mrs. Lyle Taylor
Margo Thomas
Douglas Tilghman
Dennis Tilghman
Claire Viverito
Dr. and Mrs. William T. Wade
Mary Lou Warner
Lionel A. Whitson
Mr. and Mrs. Ridley Wills, II
Mr. and Mrs. Ridley Wills, III
Sherry Wittry
Robert and Phyllis Wright

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: ETHAN HARRINGTON

Volunteers are essential to the success of the Shaker Museum. We would like to recognize a special volunteer in each issue for their efforts to preserve the integrity of South Union and further its message to others.

Ethan Harrington has actively volunteered with Shaker Museum events

and activities for several years. Seeing the need to bring a chapter of South Union's history to life, he had the idea to combine his ongoing love of Civil War history with the story of South Union. This idea resulted in the recent Civil War Living History & Encampment event (see page 3 for details).

From recruiting 80 top-notch re-enactors (and nearly 20 horses!) to talking with local media about the event's significance, Ethan spent countless hours planning and promoting the event. He worked closely with the museum staff to secure each event detail.

In 2003, Ethan coordinated a similar event which illustrated battles between Union and Confederate troops. He plans to bring this event back to South Union in the summer of 2005 with over 100 skilled re-enactors.

Thank you, Ethan!

YMCA VOLUNTEERS

On a hot July afternoon, 24 YMCA students pulled up in their vans, ready to work! The students were finishing up a week of service projects led in cities throughout Kentucky. The Shaker Museum was fortunate enough to be one of their stops!

One of the nation's largest service organizations, the YMCA mission is to *put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all*. Each of the students lived out this mission through their service to the community.

The students were first given a South Union orientation. They spent some time looking through the museum and asking questions.

The students then changed into their "work clothes" and hit the museum grounds.

Groundskeeper James Grinter divided the group into teams and gave them instructions

and work materials.

The group spent two full hours leading a variety of tasks. These tasks included *painting the Ministry Shop fence, weed-eating, picking up sticks and debris from recent storms and leveling the ground*



where a huge pecan tree fell after a storm.

The work that these

teens accomplished is much appreciated. All museum staff were struck with their enthusiasm and respect for the grounds and museum collections. Throughout the day, the work groups said "Thank you!" to the staff over and over again, reminding us that service to others is truly something to enjoy and learn from. Each of the YMCA teens deserves a heartfelt thanks for their hard work!

Thank you, YMCA!

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Bed, South Union, ca. 1839. Walnut, early finish with traces of red-orange paint, typical community turnings and decorative elements, including finials that match to scale the finials on the newel posts in the Centre House. First of its kind in South Union collection. Purchased with acquisition endowment funds.

Chair, South Union, ca. 1840. Maple and ash, early finish, with traces of yellow ochre paint, typical community turnings and decorative elements including "egg in cup" finials. Room number "2" stamped into top of front post. Purchased with acquisition endowment funds.

Trunk or Chest, dome-lidded, ca. 1860. Poplar with original orange-red paint, typical community details including trim reminiscent of South Union beaded peg rail. Purchased with acquisition endowment funds.

Conditions of Society and its Only Hope in Obeying the Everlasting Gospel as Now Developing Among Believers in Christ's Second Appearing by South Union Elder Harvey L. Eads, printed and published by the Day-Star Office, 1847. 120 pages bound in paper, 1,000 copies originally printed. Eads's first published work, written while he was living at Union Village, Ohio. Inscribed "East House, No. 8, Eldress's Room" Purchased with acquisition endowment funds.

Collection of secondary material relating to the Shakers: books, auction catalogs, printed material. Donated by Gary Gardner.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends of the Shaker Museum,

As we enter into the Fall season, there are several exciting events we know you will want to make plans to attend. Our annual Shaker Farm Day on October 2 promises to be better than ever. Be sure and bring the entire family for a walk back in time to view a re-creation of life at Shakertown in the mid-1800's.

Also this Fall, the Shaker Breakfast will be hosted at the 1869 Shaker Tavern on November 6th and 13th. Please make your reservations now.

As you plan your visit to the museum, be sure and visit our new website at shakermuseum.com. From the website, you can access many interesting facts and historic photos, plan your visit, and even purchase items from our

museum shop.

As many of you know, in March 2003 the Post Office at South Union was closed. However, with diligence from several museum members and the community, we are proud to inform you that a Community Post Office has been reopened at the Shaker Museum. We are very proud to have preserved the historic South Union postmark.

Thank you very much for your continued support of the Shaker Museum. We look forward to seeing each of you at our upcoming Fall events.

Sincerely,

Jon Taylor Barrow

2004 Board President

JOIN THE SHAKER MUSEUM!

Join the Shaker Museum today! New members can enjoy excellent benefits throughout the 2004 fall event season. Already a member? Give a membership to a friend, family member or colleague. All new and renewed members will be recognized in an upcoming issue of the *South Union Messenger*.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

Make checks payable to Shaker Museum at South Union

Please bill my _____ Visa _____ MC

Card No. _____

Signature _____

Expiration Date _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

(Basic Benefits Include Free Museum Admission, 10% off in Museum Shop, Free or Reduced Event Admission, Quarterly Newsletter)

Student (\$15) _____ Basic Benefits for 1 person, 1 Guest Admission

Individual (\$25) _____ Basic Benefits for 1 person, 1 Guest Admission

North Family (\$50) _____ Basic Benefits for Immediate Family, 2 Guest Admissions

West Family (\$100) _____ Basic Benefits for Immediate Family, 4 Guest Admissions

East Family (\$250) _____ North Family Benefits, 2 Tickets to A Shaker Breakfast event

Centre Family (\$500) _____ North Family Benefits, 1 Night's Stay at Shaker Tavern for 2

Jasper Springs _____ North Family Benefits, 2 Night's Stay at Tavern,

Society (\$1,000.00) _____ Complimentary Use of Tavern Meeting Room

MAIL TO: SHAKER MUSEUM, P.O. BOX 177, AUBURN, KY 42206

FAX: (270) 542-7558

WHO WE ARE...

SHAKER MUSEUM AT SOUTH UNION

P.O. Box 177
Auburn, KY 42206

Phone: (270) 542-4167 Fax: (270) 542-7558

E-mail: shakmus@logantele.com

Web: shakermuseum.com

Shaker Museum Operating Goals:

- To preserve and maintain the site of the Shaker Society which once existed at South Union
- To protect its buildings, its landscape, its folk-life and material culture
- To use the buildings and grounds to further the interest of the public in historic preservation and Shaker history
- To sponsor continuing programs of an educational and cultural nature

2004 Board of Directors

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Mark Hardison (Treasurer), Woodburn, KY
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Teri Curry, Morgantown, KY
Buzz English, Bowling Green, KY
Renee Kilgore, Bowling Green, KY
Tom Moody, Franklin, TN
Tracy Morgan, Russellville, KY

Museum Staff

Executive Director: Tommy Hines
Operations Manager: Lauren Land
Museum Shop: Sue Brooks
Museum Docents: Lillie Mae Hayes,
Mike Hossom, John Campbell
Maintenance & Restoration: Arndre Beard,
James Grinter
Shaker Tavern Innkeeper: Jo Ann Moody



SHAKER
MUSEUM
AT SOUTH UNION

P.O. Box 177
Auburn, KY 42206

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Jonathan Jeffrey
110 Riverwood
Bowling Green, KY 42103