South Union Messenger (Fall 2005)

Kentucky Library Research Collections
Western Kentucky University, spcol@wku.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/su_messenger

Part of the Christian Denominations and Sects Commons, and the United States History Commons

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/su_messenger/51

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in South Union Messenger by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.
An Evening in Shakertown

Sponsored by BB&T and First Southern National Bank, An Evening in Shakertown is returning!

The museum will host the popular gala on Saturday, September 24. An Evening in Shakertown will feature live music from the Sam Levine and City Lights Orchestra and delicious fare from 440 Main in Bowling Green.

New in 2005, a VIP Champagne Reception and Wine Tasting will be hosted by Beachaven Vineyards & Winery for the gala’s corporate partners. Kentucky’s own Brown-Forman returns as the gala’s Spirits Sponsor.

Tickets are $100 with all event proceeds benefiting the museum’s programs and special projects.

Logan County artist Brenda Brown painted a beautiful watercolor, which will be a featured part of the exciting Live Auction. Trips, wine dinners, sports memorabilia, fine clothing, jewelry and more will be part of both the Live and Silent Auctions.

To purchase your tickets for An Evening in Shakertown, please call the museum at (270) 542-4167.

Special thanks to event chairs Jay and Cathy Joines and their fantastic committee!

Tell Us What You Think!

Throughout the fall, the museum’s board of directors will be working with the Center for Nonprofit Excellence to develop a strategic plan. This plan will detail major goals and will shape future projects and renovation efforts.

As a South Union supporter and friend, your opinions and concerns are very important to us. Please take just a few minutes to go to our web site and complete the brief survey. Please log on SHAKERMUSEUM.COM and click on the "Survey" link before October 1st.

Thank you for your time and your honest thoughts and opinions!
A Word From Our Director

The summer heat at South Union is beginning to temper itself just a bit by now and we are all looking forward to the cooler days of fall. If you would like to experience South Union during the autumn months for yourself, there are many opportunities for you to participate, including our annual Shaker Farm Day and the Evening in Shakertown gala fundraiser. You will not find two events more dissimilar, but one meets the educational goals of our mission and the other assures funding of those educational goals. There’s something for everyone at South Union.

Our strategic planning also begins this fall and promises to bring about changes at South Union that we have been hoping to see for many years. Several of you longtime members will be contacted for input regarding future development of the historic site. In fact, we welcome any ideas for change or improvement in the way that we interpret the Shakers at South Union. We want to make the site more enjoyable for visitors, while improving the effectiveness of how we tell the story. It is really going to be important to make prudent decisions now for the future at South Union.

Our sympathy was extended to the families of two people who died earlier this year, both of whom contributed greatly to the museum. Addie Brooks Bennett worked at the museum from 1985 until 1993 and was a hard-working, loyal and beloved staff member. Ruth Allender spent time at South Union as a volunteer, was an ardent supporter and member of the Board of Directors from 1988-1991. Both women brought unique gifts to the organization and formed close friendships with all of us here at South Union. They will be greatly missed.

-Tomm Hines

South Union Acquisitions

Collection of White English Ironstone, Seventy pieces of late 19th century china for use in retiring room and dining room exhibits. The Shakers at South Union used common English ironstone during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as evidenced by extant examples in the collection and in archaeological finds. While the Shakers used decorated china as well, white ironstone seems to have been prevalent in the village by the 1870s.

.................................................a bequest from the estate of Ruth Allender

Chair, South Union, ca. 1840, classic details and proportions, traces of early orange paint, rockers added and seat replaced after 1922, purchased from South Union in 1922 by a family from Auburn, Kentucky

.................................................purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Apple Peeler, walnut with brass and iron elements, fine workmanship, dated 1832, attributed to the Shakers

.................................................purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Work Table, South Union, ca. 1860, walnut with classic South Union turnings common to mid-19th century construction.

.................................................purchased with acquisition endowment funds
Shaker Farm Day: Oct. 1st

Step back into South Union’s 1870 harvest season on Shaker Farm Day. Presented by First Southern National Bank and the Kentucky Historical Society with support from Lewisburg Banking Company and WGGC-FM, the museum will host the popular living history event on Saturday, October 1st from 10AM-4PM.

Over 25 skilled craftspeople and volunteers will lead period crafts and farm chores throughout the day, including cow milking, spinning and weaving, blacksmithing and much more. Roy’s Pit Bar-B-Que and Chaney’s Dairy Barn will again sell lunch and snacks.

New this year, the Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana will sponsor the old-fashioned kids games and educational activities as part of their new The Active Girl Scout (TAGS) program.

In addition to the living history demonstrations and exciting old-fashioned games, Shaker Farm Day will feature special performances by the South Union Shaker Quartet and tours of the museum.

Be sure to mark October 1st on your calendar. Get ready for a day filled with FARM FUN!

Shake Ride ‘N Roll: Recap

On Saturday, June 11, the museum hosted its first annual bicycle ride, appropriately named SHAKE RIDE ‘N ROLL. Despite threatening storm clouds, over 75 riders from throughout Kentucky, Tennessee and Indiana supported the event.

Riders were given three routes from which to choose: 60 miles, 35 miles and a 10 mile fun ride. Each route took the riders through the beautiful western Kentucky countryside.

Rest stops and snacks were provided every 15 miles. The stops were run by volunteers from Logan Telephone, the Russellville Boy Scouts, the museum’s board of directors and spouses of museum staff.

Following the ride, participants were treated to a picnic lunch. Riders enjoyed food from Chaney’s Dairy Barn, Roy’s Pit Bar-B-Que and Bread and Bagels to the tunes of Logan County Grass. Logan Memorial Hospital provided body fat analysis while WUHU’s Brett Highland and board members served lunch.

The museum wants to thank each of the event sponsors: Logan Memorial Hospital, Logan Aluminum, Logan Telephone Cooperative, Bluegrass Cellular, Southern Foods, WBKO, WUHU-FM, and the Bowling Green Visitors Bureau.

Special thanks to artist James Pearson for donating his bicycle-themed work, “South Union,” to the museum to help promote the ride. The piece will be part of the An Evening in Shakertown auction!

Get ready to SHAKE RIDE ‘N ROLL in 2006!
SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
An Evening in Shakertown Gala
7-Midnight, Shaker Museum

NOVEMBER 5 & 12
A Shaker Breakfast
8:30 & 10:30AM, 1869 Shaker Tavern

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1
Shaker Farm Day
10AM-4PM, Shaker Museum

NOVEMBER 19 & 20
Civil War Living History
All Weekend, Shaker Museum

OCTOBER 1-8
Logan Co. Tobacco & Heritage Festival

DECEMBER 3
Christmas at Shakertown Holiday Market

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE EVENTS BY CALLING THE MUSEUM AT (270) 542-4167 OR (800) 811-8379.

Volunteer Opportunities

Costumed Interpreters... Event Planners and Decorators...
Administrative Support... Program Support... Shaker Enthusiasts...

The Shaker Museum has an ongoing need for volunteers. From helping host special events and gatherings to dressing in Shaker costume to demonstrate crafts and activities, we're looking for your energy and enthusiasm!

Sound like fun? Give Lauren a call at (270) 542-4167
or email the museum today at shakmus@logantele.com.
Do You Want To Be "In The Know"... 

Become a Friend of the Shaker Museum today! Museum members are the first to know about new exhibits, exciting happenings and news from South Union.

All museum memberships include the quarterly "South Union Messenger" with other levels including such benefits as discounts in the Museum Shop, tickets to special events, free overnight stays at the 1869 Shaker Tavern and much more!

JOIN ONLINE @ SHAKERMUSEUM.COM!
Shaker Architecture?

These dim images may not seem significant when studying the classic architecture of South Union, but they actually document an era of the village's history that was almost lost. Taken by a visitor from Canterbury, New Hampshire, on a trip to South Union in the early years of the 20th century, the photographs capture some of the first dwellings constructed by the South Union Shakers. Considered a quaint novelty by the 1910s when the pictures were taken, log cabins had once been the prominent architectural feature in the village.

When the Shakers began attracting members at South Union in 1807, the small community occupied the new brick home of early convert Jesse McCombs. As more people joined the Shakers, log structures were built to accommodate the growing population. The builders used methods of construction and vernacular floor plans that were common to Kentucky and to the southern region. Adult converts always brought some degree of regional bias, custom, and tradition with them when they joined a Shaker village.

The "cabins," as they were referred to in Shaker records, served as living quarters for the community, but the Shakers initially saw the structures as temporary. However, even after the first permanent building was constructed in 1810, the log cabins remained in use. The number of converts had increased to 300 by 1820, providing a workforce that could erect log buildings in a day's time and making immediate dwelling space a possibility. As the 19th century progressed, log structures were also used as detached kitchens for several of the early dwellings, as well as for corn cribs and other farm-related buildings. Many were eventually disassembled by the Shakers or moved about the village where they were needed.

Both photographs of South Union's log cabins survive in the collection of Canterbury Shaker Village in New Hampshire. Whether realizing it or not, the photographer documented the first examples of Shaker architecture at South Union. The log cabins were a far cry from the brick and limestone masterpieces that would dominate the landscape by the 1830s, but their long-standing presence in the village and their relationship to Kentucky folk architecture attest once more to South Union's strong regional connection.
Remembering Addie
By Tommy Hines

Addie Brooks Bennett spent her last days in a nursing home, not really able to care for herself anymore. That’s hard to take, remembering that when Addie worked at the museum for almost a decade, she was one of the most self-reliant, hardworking people I had ever met. There was never a task that she was afraid to tackle, never an obstacle that defeated her. Addie primarily worked in the museum shop, but on slow days you might find her in the yard picking up limbs, dust mopping the hallways or washing a window.

Addie even volunteered when she wasn’t on schedule. She performed living history for candlelight tours and served punch and cookies behind countless reception tables.

She even helped “constant cohort” and tour guide Lillie Mae Hayes and daughter-in-law Sue Brooks prepare food for the Shaker Breakfast event... in the Centre House... before we could afford a caterer! Addie was also known to invite a young museum director to her house for lunch on many occasions, an invitation that I never turned down.

Most of all, we all loved Addie. She was not only loyal to the museum, but to those with whom she worked. She made us feel like part of her family. I can honestly say that we had a ball in those days and knowing Addie truly helped form some of my most pleasant memories at South Union.

Memorial contributions will be used to plant trees documented in Shaker records at South Union.

Museum Shop Feature:
Plainview Farm Goat Milk Soap

According to Plainview Farm soapcrafter Lea Ann Poynter, “We are a family operation trying to recapture the old way of doing things while providing high quality, all-natural products and serving as a good steward of our animals and resources.”

Popular varieties include Lemon, Peppermint, Rosemary, Natural Nanny, Lavender-Patchouli and Honey-Oatmeal.

The Lincoln County family is well known throughout Kentucky for their fragrant goat milk soap. The museum is excited to introduce the fine product to the South Union museum shop. Shop online at SHAKERMUSEUM.COM.
Museum Mission

- 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

2005 Board of Directors
Jon Barrow (President), Russellville, KY
Joe Gran Clark (Vice President), Russellville, KY
Charlie Ray (Secretary), Russellville, KY
Mark Hardison (Treasurer), Woodburn, KY
Carrie Barnette, Bowling Green, KY
Peter Bryant, Bowling Green, KY
Rusty Clark, Russellville, KY
Allen Corum, Bowling Green, KY
Teri Curry, Morgantown, KY
Tom Moody, Franklin, KY
Greg Moore, Russellville, KY
Sally Ann Strickler, Auburn, KY

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