The South Union Shaker Village’s most popular annual event, our Holiday Market, is again scheduled for the first weekend in December. On Saturday, December 3, the first and second floors of the Centre House will be filled with antiques and fine hand-made crafts, just in time for your Christmas shopping. The historic environment provides a perfect setting for this event, guaranteed to put you in the Christmas spirit. The Saturday open house is free to the public, but a canned food item is required for admission. The food is distributed before Christmas to those needful in our outlying community.

On Friday night, December 2, we host a Preview Party for those who want a “first chance” option to make purchases. Reservations are suggested for this event and can be made by calling the village at 270-542-4167. Tickets are $10 per person. Coffee, cider and desserts will also be served to guests.

The Shakers at South Union celebrated Christmas throughout their history, but not in the way we might expect. Throughout most of the 19th century, Christmas tradition for the Shakers meant no more than a special meeting or gathering to observe the purpose of the holiday. The Shakers mandated that on Christmas day “Believers should make perfect reconciliation one with another, and leave all grudges, hard feelings, and disaffection one towards another externally behind ... to forgive as we would be forgiven.” The fact that Christmas trees, special meals and gift-giving were not mentioned does not necessarily set the Shakers apart from those outside the communities. Most Americans did not participate in the customs with which we are familiar today until late in the 19th century.

By the early 20th century the Shakers at South Union were exchanging gifts, decorating a Christmas tree, and preparing special foods for the season. Still, the emphasis was on reconciliation and remembering those less fortunate. On Christmas Day in 1919 the Shakers noted in one of their journals, “A very quiet day. No one came except a poor fellow traveling afoot. We gave him a good dinner, which he relished and seemed so thankful for. So we made one at least happy today.”

We hope to see you at the Shakertown Holiday Market!
RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Collection of Secondary Material, including books on Shaker history and material culture, many first editions

Donated by John Helm, Montclair, New Jersey

"Shaker Sermons," 3rd Edition, by Harvey L. Eads, South Union, Kentucky, printed at South Union, 1884

Purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Sidewalk Stones, thirteen stones attributed to South Union, to be re-used to recreate original Shaker walk

Purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Collection of Letters, photocopies of early 19th century manuscript letters written from South Union to Old Economy, Pennsylvania

Donated by Old Economy Village, Ambridge, PA

MEETING HOUSE BENCHES COME HOME

In May of 2011 the South Union Shaker Village acquired two poplar benches, originally used in the 1818 Meeting House. The benches had been in the collection of the Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill for many years. Not only are the benches fine examples of Shaker craftsmanship, but they are the only two from South Union known to exist. Our sincere thanks go to those donors who made the purchase possible:

Ray and Judy McCaskey—$3500.00
John and Linda Tanner—$1000.00
Jim and Dianne Stuart—$500
George and Darlene Kohrman—$500
Margy Thomas—$500

Above is a detail from a photograph of a group of Shakers, seated on Meeting House benches, South Union, Kentucky, ca. 1885. At right, one of those benches, recently acquired.
South Union hosted the annual conference of the Communal Studies Association, September 29 through October 1. Approximately 120 participants enjoyed two full days of presentations by a variety of scholars in venues throughout the village. The weather was nearly perfect over the weekend and the southern Kentucky meals served proved to be a big hit. Special thanks to Kathy Fernandez, Marc Rhorer, and Christian Goodwillie for steering a great conference. Thanks also to Operations Manager, Kaelin Vernon, for handling the details from South Union.

Next year’s CSA conference, "Women in Communes," will be held at The Oneida Community Mansion House, and Hamilton College, Oneida County, New York, October 4-6.

For more information contact:
www.communalstudies.info
THANK YOU SUE BROOKS

After 21 years as a member of South Union’s staff, Sue Brooks has decided to retire. Sue was hired in 1990 and soon after became manager of the site gift shop. She has also given countless tours and worked dozens of events. Over the years, Sue’s name has become synonymous with our gift shop and she knows every item and the names of all the vendors “like the back of her hand.”

On Monday, November 7, the Village hosted a luncheon at the Shaker Tavern in Sue’s honor. Over 20 staff members, former staff members, and family came together to pay tribute to Sue, a friend, a loyal and dedicated employee. Thank you, Sue Brooks, for 21 years! We love you and will miss you.

Sue Brooks (left) in 2002, and (right) in 1994 with volunteer Virginia Hurst, and staff members Lillie Mae Hays and Addie Brooks.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ophelia & George Paine, Nashville, TN
Brooks Mathews, Nashville, TN
Howard Herndon, Nashville, TN
Mr. and Mrs. Ridley Wills II, Nashville, TN
Ann Harwell Wells, Nashville, TN
Tara & Ben Armistead, Nashville, TN
Robin & Bill King, Nashville, TN
John & Maria Teselle, Nashville, TN
Bob Gordon, Nashville, TN
Ms. Susan Edwards, Nashville TN
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Oldfield, Nashville, TN
Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Cook Jr., Nashville, TN
Luke & Susan Simons, Nashville, TN
Fathers of Mercy, Auburn, KY
Ann Roberts, Nashville TN
Lisa Rice, Morgantown, KY
Sarah Duval, Adairville, KY
Susan Gardner, Bowling Green, KY
Mr. & Mrs. John Campbell III, Nashville, TN
William & Cecilia Shea, Dalton, MA
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION...

Ernest and Elaine Ezell, Auburn, Kentucky, for restoration of the Smoke and Milk House
Joseph and Dorothy Jones, Indianapolis, Indiana, for general support
Eli Lilly & Company, Indianapolis, Indiana, for general support
Fathers of Mercy, Auburn, Kentucky, for general support
Communal Studies Association for general support
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, for honorarium
Martin Brown, Brentwood, Tennessee, for fundraising event
Hank Brockman, Franklin, Tennessee, for fundraising event
Bill and Fletch Coke, Nashville, Tennessee, for fundraising event
Will Martin, Nashville, Tennessee, for fundraising event
Carol Rochford, Nashville, Tennessee, for fundraising event
Ridley Wills III, Nashville, Tennessee, for fundraising event
Ray and Judy McCaskey, Chicago, Illinois, for collections
Jim and Dianne Stuart, Winnetka, Illinois, for collections
George and Darlene Kohrman, Portage, Michigan, for collections
Margy Thomas, Louisville, Kentucky, for collections

ANOTHER NON-SHAKER BUILDING DEMOLISHED

An open shed, located near the entrance of the cemetery, was demolished in late October. Built by Oscar Bond soon after the Shakers sold the village in 1922, the shed was in poor condition and an unnecessary anachronism in the village restoration. Much of the building's material was salvaged for re-use.

Three additional Bond-era (post 1922) buildings remain in the village and plans are to continue to utilize each of them. The ca. 1940 brick farm manager's residence has been adapted as our Visitor Center, the ca. 1925 brick garage is used as our site maintenance building, and a 1930s barn will eventually become usable space for educational programs and events.

The shed is pictured (left) as the metal roof was being torn off and salvaged in mid-October. Currently stored in the building are re-claimed brick that will be used in the restoration of floor in the Smoke and Milk House. Also stored are dozens of original sidewalk stones that will eventually be placed where original walks were removed in the 1920s. As funding becomes available, these projects can become a reality.

Also pictured, beyond the shed, is a Bond-era barn that the Village has chosen to keep for future use. Both buildings face the cemetery.
A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Tommy Hines

It's been an interesting year at South Union, much like Dickens' opening lines of Tale of Two Cities . . . "the best of times and the worst of times." From a developmental standpoint our historic site experienced some of its greatest changes in 2010, thanks to the generosity of various private donors, foundations, and other granting agencies. We are now able to offer more to the general public than ever before. The fact that very few of the general public visited South Union this year characterizes the negative side of the equation. Our numbers are half of what they were in the 1990s and the situation is becoming one for concern. We are exploring new avenues of promotion and creative ways to use the site for income, without compromising it's historic integrity. There are many challenges, but we thank you so very much for continuing to support our efforts here. We have decided to close the site on Mondays, year 'round, so please make a note of that if you plan to visit.

We were very pleased to have been featured in the November-December issue of Preservation, the magazine of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The article, entitled "Barn Again," details the recent restoration of the 1875 Grain Barn at South Union, and includes a photograph of the barn with restoration professional Eugene Hall and yours truly in the foreground. The article was written by Gwendolyn Purdom and the photography was by Rachel Paul. This recognition for South Union is a wonderful end-of-the-year gift for our historic site and we are proud to be featured.

Hope to see you at the Shakertown Holiday Market on December 3, or at the Preview Party the night before!

Restoration professional Eugene Hall (left) and Director Tommy Hines pose for Rachel Paul's camera inside the Grain Barn in one of the shots not used in the Preservation article.
SOUTH UNION PROFILE: BRO. JOHN PERRYMAN

Much has been written about South Union's 19th century leaders, like Elder Benjamin Seth Youngs and Eldress Molly Goodrich, Eldress Nancy Moore and Elder Harvey Eads. But there are several lesser known members who served important roles in the community in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. One of those members was John Perryman.

Perryman came to South Union during the mid-1840s as an infant in his mother's arms. "Unequal to the task of buffeting with the world," (Record B) Perryman's mother, Angeline, chose life with the Shakers after the death of her husband. Both mother and son remained true to the Shaker faith for the remainder of their lives.

A shepherd and a gardener in his youth, Perryman quickly grew to be one of the most respected businessmen at South Union. He was first entrusted with the peddling trade, an occupation that placed Shakers in direct contact with "the world," while still in his 20s. During the last decades of the 19th century Perryman was put in charge of the community's successful cattle industry, traveling to locales as distant as Kansas and Texas. He was also responsible for winning several livestock awards for South Union at the Kentucky State Fair.

Perryman was one of the most photographed members of the South Union community, appearing in nearly a dozen extant examples. No formal studio portraits, however, have yet surfaced. His name also appears prominently on South Union's turn-of-the-century advertising of their products for sale.

John Perryman died at the dinner table in the Centre House on June 27, 1916, outliving his mother by seven years. His obituary stated: "There was not a better known businessman throughout the whole of Southern Kentucky. Essentially a man of strong convictions, he was yet affable, cultured, scholarly and refined, and a more intensely honest man never had a place among us."
UPCOMING EVENTS

SHAKERTOWN HOLIDAY MARKET
Saturday, December 3
One of Kentucky’s finest antique and craft markets, just in time for Christmas! Features regional antique vendors and artists, all nestled in the historic atmosphere of the South Union Shaker Village. Admission is a canned food item or contribution for those needful in our community.

For a “first change” opportunity to shop, make reservations for the Preview Party, Friday evening, December 2. Enjoy coffee and desserts in a historic setting. Reservations are suggested, $10 per person. Time: 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DINNER IN 1911
AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR SCHOOLS
Tuesday through Friday, Dec. 6-9 and Dec. 13-16
Learn what it was like to prepare Christmas dinner in 1911 in southern Kentucky in this hands-on, interactive program. Christmas customs of the early 20th century will also be explored. Admission is $4 per student, teachers and bus drivers are free. Tour lasts approx. 1 1/2 hours. Reimbursement for travel is available at $1 per mile through our Bus Fund.

COMING SOON

L&N RAILROAD LUNCHEON
Saturday, March 3, 2012

SOUTH UNION SEMINAR
Friday and Saturday, April 20-21, 2012

SHAKERTOWN ANTIQUE AND GARDEN MARKET
Saturday, April 28, 2012

For information or reservations for events call:
1-800-811-8379 or 270-542-4167

Or visit: shakermuseum.com

The South Union Shaker Village is located 10 miles west of Bowling Green or 3 miles east of Auburn, just off US 68-80, in historic Logan County.