

Winter 2005

## South Union Messenger (Holiday 2005)

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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

## CHRISTMAS AT SHAKERTOWN

Get your shopping list ready for the **Christmas at Shakertown Holiday Market!**

Presented by U.S. Bank, the museum's annual **Holiday Market** is set for Saturday, December 3.

Nearly forty fine antique vendors and Southern artisans will set up a festive holiday marketplace throughout

the first three floors of the 1824 Centre House.

In addition to first-rate antiques, artisans will feature holiday gifts, hand thrown pottery, wood turned bowls, original art and much more!

Be among the first to shop for holiday gifts at Friday, December 2's **Preview Party** from 7-9PM. Preview Party tickets are \$10 each and include a Coffee & Dessert Bar from **Starbucks Coffee** and special holiday tunes from the South Union Shaker

Quartet.

Saturday's **Holiday Market** begins with **Early Bird Shopping** from 8-9AM (\$5 at the door). The **Open House** is from 9AM until 4PM. Please bring canned food or monetary donations for the Auburn Rural Fire Department to distribute to local families in need.

The **Logan Friendship League** will again sell home-made soup and dessert for lunch. Proceeds benefit local nonprofit organizations.

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## STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Our thanks to all who took time to complete the Strategic Plan Survey.

The Board of Directors is using these findings and other research to write a strategic plan to guide the museum and its projects over the next 3-5 years.

A few survey results:

- 100% felt the public viewed the museum in a highly positive or positive way
- On a regular basis, 85% encourage friends/guests to visit
- 50% did not realize the museum has a web site
- A majority of respondents

listed living history activities, hands-on workshops and antique/craft markets as their top three program preferences

- Of the items in the shop, the most popular included handmade KY crafts, handmade brooms and Shaker-inspired gifts and books

## SOUTH UNION ACQUISITIONS

Tin Lily, attributed to South Union, mid-19th century

.....purchased with acquisition endowment  
funds and contributions from friends

Sugar Desk, ca. 1810-1820, black walnut, with poplar, hickory, and oak  
secondary woods, Kentucky or Tennessee, from the collection of Shaker  
Museum founder Deedy Hall

.....donated by David Hall, nephew of Mrs. Hall

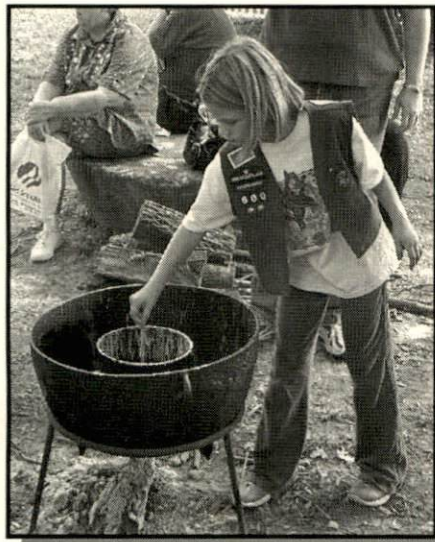
The museum acquired two very unusual items for its collection this fall, a rare "tin lily" lamp used at South Union and a sugar desk that has no direct association with the Shakers. The sugar chest is a highly sought-after form of early 19th century southern furniture. Creative cabinet-makers of the period sometimes designed elaborate variations on the basic sugar chest form for discriminating customers, even though the primary use was still to store sugar. While no example with a Shaker attribution has been discovered, the sugar desk was the "jewel in the crown" of museum founder Deedy Hall's fine southern furniture collection. Fortunately for the Shaker Museum, Mrs. Hall's passion for collecting antiques eventually narrowed to a sharp focus on Shaker furniture, but this non-Shaker desk was always one of her favorite pieces. It was purchased at her estate sale by nephew Edward Freeman and later bequeathed from Mr. Freeman to his cousin, David Hall. David donated the sugar desk to the museum in loving memory of his Aunt Deedy.

According to June Spriggs' *Shaker Built*, the tin lily was seemingly an innovation of the Mt. Lebanon, New York, Shakers. Comprised of a tin plate covered with a funnel-shaped hood terminating into a small pipe, the "lily" supported a kerosene lamp, the smoky fumes from which were vented into a flue. "The funnel kept the smoke from blackening the ceiling and provided a good strong draft to make the flame brighter," writes Sprigg.

A well-known example currently hangs in the hallway of Hancock's Church Dwelling but a recent purchase has allowed the museum to bring an original South Union tin lily back home. Plans are to have four reproductions made, hang them in the Centre Family meeting room, and connect the pipes to the three-inch flues that have been covered over for more than a hundred years. The purchase of the South Union tin lily was very significant for our site and we hope to have the original on exhibit very soon as well.

## SHAKER FARM DAY THANKS

Talk about farm fun! Over 900 children and adults took part in Shaker Farm Day on Saturday, October 1.



The generosity of Shaker Farm Day's sponsors was key to the success of the event. Special thanks to our two presenting sponsors, **First Southern National Bank** and the **Kentucky Historical Society**. Thanks also to event partners **Lewisburg Banking Co.**, the Girl

Scouts of Kentuckiana and WGGC-FM.

We appreciate all the skilled craftspeople and volunteers who spent the day demonstrating over twenty period crafts, including *spinning, weaving, basket making, sheep shearing, cow milking, candle dipping, old-fashioned games* and more!

Finally, to all who attended and actively participated in Shaker Farm Day... thanks for spending your day with us!

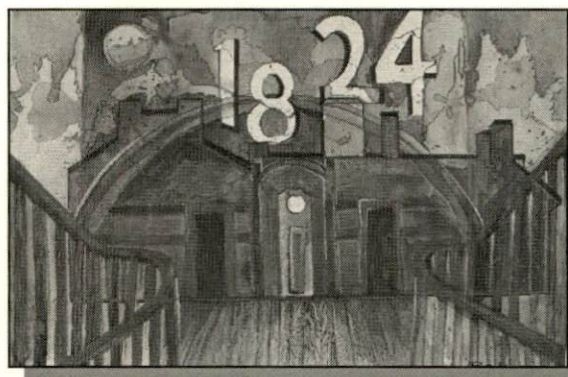


## AN EVENING IN SHAKERTOWN

*Oh, what a night!* Amidst the historic South Union buildings and grounds, gala guests enjoyed delicious fare from 440 Main and danced to the jazzy tunes of Nashville's City Lights. The new VIP Champagne Reception, led by **Beachaven Vineyards and Winery**, was a fantastic addition to a truly extraordinary evening.

We are indebted to our presenting sponsors: **BB&T** and **First Southern National Bank**. We also want to thank our corporate partners: **Houchens Industries**, **Logan Memorial Hospital**, **Logan Aluminum**, **Pro-Fab/Amtech LLC/Pro-Tec/ Boulding Roofing**, **Riker Materials**, and **U.S. Bank**. Finally, we thank event sponsors **Beachaven Vineyards & Winery**, **Bowling Green Tent Rentals**, **Brown-Forman Corporation** and **440 Main**.

The 2005 Steering Committee, led by chairmen Cathy and Jay Joines, included Allison and Randy Fuqua, Dianne Howerton, Kelley and Jody Lassiter, Susan Minton, Tina Epley, Belinda and Charlie Ray and Alice Rockhold. The steering committee recruited an amazing crew of volunteers to assist in such areas as decorations, live and silent auctions and invitations. Thanks to all who gave of their time and energy to make *An Evening in Shakertown* a dynamic success!



Original artwork created for the Gala by Logan County's Brenda Brown

**LOG ON SHAKERMUSEUM.COM AND CLICK ON THE SPECIAL EVENTS PAGE TO VIEW PHOTOS FROM THE GALA! ORDERING INFO INCLUDED ONLINE.**

# SAVE THE DATE!

## DECEMBER 1

Winter Hours Begin: Tuesday through Saturday, 10AM-4PM

## DECEMBER 3

Christmas at Shakertown Holiday Market (8AM-4PM)

## DECEMBER 2

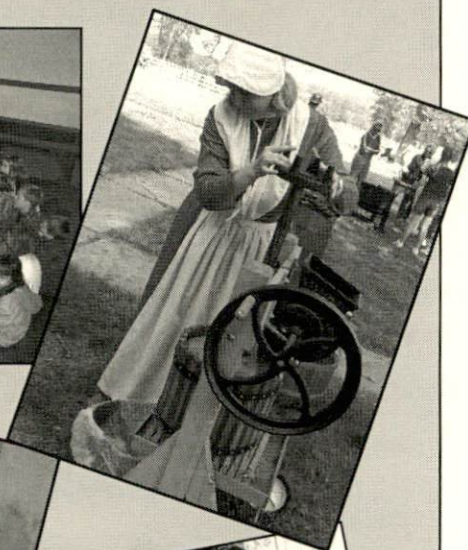
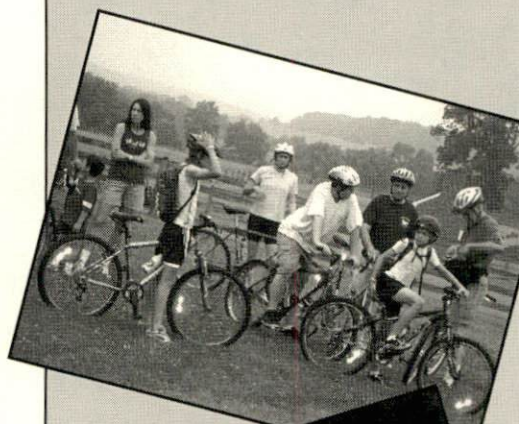
Christmas at Shakertown Preview Party (7-9PM)

## APRIL 21-22

South Union Seminar Shaker Museum

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

## A Year In Pictures...



# THANK YOU

## Memorial Donations

(August–October 2005)

### In Memory of Jane Morningstar

Robert G. Wright

### In Memory of Addie Brooks Bennett

Ann Early Sutherland  
Tommy Hines

## New Members

(August–October 2005)

Eugenia Holman

## Membership Renewals

(August–October 2005)

Irene Ahlgrim

Chris & Carrie Barnett

John & Lisa Campbell

Robert & Janice Campbell

Clark & Peggy Cathrae

William & Jean Cook

Lloyd & Libby Davies

Mr. & Mrs. Alan Dieball

Lillie Mae Hayes

J.R. & Vardee Hollins

A.R. & Bonnie Huffman

Jackson & Betty Kesler

George & Darlene Kohrman

Wayne and Dottie Metcalf

Robert & Dorothy Marshall

Robert Martin

Tom Moody

Pamela Napier

Barbara Strickler  
Ellsworth & Sally Ann Strickler  
Rebecca Willard  
Mr. & Mrs. James H. Reed III  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert K. Sharp  
Brenda Sobecki  
Dale & Mary Spencer  
Sandy Staebell

## Contributions

(August–October 2005)

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BB&T

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Bouldin Roofing

Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Boyd

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Boyd III

Hon. Sue Carol Browning

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Bryant

Mr. Keith Carwell

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Mr. & Mrs. Mark Reynolds

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Riker Materials

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Mr. & Mrs. Ellsworth Strickler

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Townsend

U.S. Bank

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry White

Mr. & Mrs. Ridley Wills, III

Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Wrenn

*Special Thanks  
to You All!*

## THE MYSTERY OF THE SMOKE AND MILK HOUSE

The Centre Family's Smoke and Milk House is one of the most unusual buildings remaining at South Union and a structure that still leaves the researcher with unanswered questions. There is no reference to its construction in the community records, although it does appear on a map drawn by Brother Lorenzo Martin in 1836. Because the building is not included on Brother Isaac Newton Youngs' 1834 map of South Union, we know the construction must have taken place between September 1834 and October 1836.

The west end of the brick structure was used for the butchering, preserving, and smoking of meat, but it is the east side of the building that has left fewer clues to its history. We know that the sisters made butter and cheese in the two downstairs rooms, at least prior to the 1870's. The dairy floor-plan subscribes to common 19th century "worldly" examples, especially those found on larger plantations in the South. Dairies were not as common in the southern regions as in the North, and were considered "an architectural emblem signaling the wealth of the planter class," according to John Michael Vlach in *Back of the Big House*. The South Union Shakers certainly did not construct the dairy with prestige in mind, but the building does have an uncommonly decorative exterior when compared to other workshops in the village.

Upon entering the dairy side of the building, the front door opens into a room where, according to oral history and common practice, the churning was done. The same resources have given us the historic name of the adjoining space, which was referred to as the "milk room," where milk, butter and cheese were stored.

Traditionally, it was necessary that the milk room be kept at a constant temperature of 50 to 60 degrees, a feat accomplished by lowering the floor approximately three feet below grade and installing louvered shutters over the windows for proper ventilation.

The practice of sinking a floor several feet below ground level for temperature control was common in 19th century dairies. In *Barn Plans and Outbuildings*, published in 1889, this method was still being touted as efficient, and the milk room illustrated in the book appears almost identical to South Union's milk room, designed fifty years earlier. Although the Mt. Lebanon, New York, Shakers once wrote that South Union's dairy was quite small compared to theirs, it was probably far superior to most in the state, if not the upper South.

After several years of planning, archaeological work in the milk room has finally begun. The excavation is being conducted by Matthew Cook, a graduate student at Western Kentucky University, and Rex Henry, a volunteer undergraduate student. The first phase of the project will attempt to locate the original chimney foundation and floor level and to investigate areas of the foundation that have been tampered with since the construction of the building. The second phase will help determine whether or not the Shakers installed underground pipes from the adjacent ice house to keep the dairy cool.

For an archaeological progress report and more on the unsettled history of the Smoke and Milk House, see your next newsletter!

## SMOKE AND MILK HOUSE



*The ca. 1835 Smoke and Milk House, photographed in the 1930's after the closing of South Union in 1922. At this time the building was used as a residence by Slim and Zula Trogden and their daughter Edna. The Trogden family proved to be an excellent resource for documenting the history of the building. Details of interest in the photo include a window on the east end of the building that was added after the Shakers left, an unidentified frame structure, and chickens in the yard!*

## A DAY WITH THE MOSCOW BALLET

Yes, you've read that correctly! The Moscow Ballet's featured soloist Boris Baskakov recently spent a morning at the Shaker Museum leading the Russian Cultural Ballet Project.

The Moscow Ballet activity was featured in conjunction with the ballet company's performance of *The Nutcracker* in Bowling Green, scheduled for late November.

The Moscow Ballet's Russian Cultural Ballet Project provides an in-depth look at Russian culture for children. Performed by Baskakov, the project features a sample performance of highlights from classical ballets, a small lecture on Russian heritage and hands-on activities. Children also had an opportunity to try on traditional Russian crowns.

Special thanks to the Moscow Ballet for providing the Shaker Museum with this unique educational activity!





# 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 Site: 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

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Charlie Ray (Secretary), Russellville, KY  
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Sally Ann Strickler, Auburn, KY

## Shaker Museum Staff

**Executive Director:** Tommy Hines  
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**Museum Shop Manager:** Sue Brooks  
**Museum Docents:** Lillie Mae Hayes,  
Mike Hossom, John Campbell, Matt Cook  
**Maintenance & Restoration:**  
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**Shaker Tavern Innkeeper:** Jo Ann Moody



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MUSEUM  
AT SOUTH UNION

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