Winter 2006

South Union Messenger (Winter 2006)

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Christmas at Shakertown Holiday Market

The holidays are here! The popular Christmas at Shakertown Holiday Market is set for December 1 and 2, 2006.

Over 30 fine antique vendors and artisans will sell a wide array of holiday gifts perfect for everyone on your shopping list. From gorgeous antique furnishings to hand-made jewelry and holiday décor, the market has it all!

Be among the first shoppers by purchasing tickets to the annual Preview Party on Friday, December 1 at 7 p.m. The event features a Starbucks Coffee & Dessert Bar and special holiday performances by the South Union Quartet. Tickets are $10 and can be reserved by calling the Shaker Museum at 270-542-4167.

Saturday’s Open House will run from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Lunches will be sold by the Logan Friendship League. Enjoy your hot meal in the future Shaker Museum Visitor’s Center, located across the street from the 1824 Centre House.

In lieu of a traditional admission fee, please bring canned food or monetary donations for the Auburn Rural Fire Department with proceeds benefiting local families in need.

Christmas at Shakertown is generously sponsored by Logan Telephone Cooperative, Smith & Scarbrough and the Logan County Tourist and Convention Commission.

Shaker Museum Receives 2006 Kentucky History Award

The Shaker Museum was honored on March 4th at the Kentucky History Awards Program held at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History. Sponsored by the Kentucky Historical Society and the Historical Confederation of Kentucky, the annual awards program recognizes the best history projects and achievements relating to state and local history.

The Shaker Museum received the Certificate of Commendation for an Educational Program for the Public for the South Union Seminar, April 2005. The nomination was made by Sam Terry, executive director of Bowling Green’s Riverview at Hobson Grove.
The Shaker Museum has acquired more original South Union items in 2006 than during any of the past twenty-five years. There have been a number of important artifacts purchased by the museum, but there have also been some very significant items donated to the collection. The following list illustrates why it has been a banner year for South Union. Thank you to all who have contributed in some way!

**Side Chair**, South Union, ca. 1840, maple and ash, original seat, room number "7" stamped on top of one post, purchased at the 1922 South Union sale by the Coke family, Auburn, Kentucky (Donated by Dr. Esther Coke, Marshfield, MA)

**Sugar Bucket**, ca. 1880, purchased at the 1922 South Union auction by the Coke family, Auburn, Kentucky (Donated by Dr. Esther Coke, Marshfield, MA)

**Silk Handkerchiefs**, ca. 1890, decorative Victorian designs, probably only used by the Shakers and not made by them. Descended through family from Henry Boyd, who, with his mother and siblings, lived at South Union during the late 19th century (Donated by the Estate of Lillian Boyd Whitfield, Franklin, KY)

**Stand Table**, ca. 1850, walnut, attributed to Shakers at South Union (Donated by Ernie Ezell, Auburn, KY)

**Side Chair**, South Union, ca. 1840, maple and ash, replaced seat and refinished. Originally owned by Richard Curd, who operated the Shaker Tavern sometime before 1922 (Purchased with acquisition endowment funds at the McFarland estate sale in Bowling Green KY)

**Side Chair**, South Union, ca. 1870, ash with maple slats, replaced seat and refinished. Originally owned by Richard Curd, who operated the Shaker Tavern before 1922 (Purchased with acquisition endowment funds at McFarland estate sale in Bowling Green, KY)

**Armed Rocking Chair**, South Union, maple and ash with walnut arms, replaced seat and refinished. Rare South Union form. Originally owned by Richard Curd, who operated the Shaker Tavern sometime before 1922 (Purchased with acquisition endowment funds at the McFarland estate sale in Bowling Green, KY)

**Collection of Tinware and Photographs** attributed to the Shakers. Collection of secondary material (Donated by Gary Gardner, Elizabethtown, KY)

**Pair of Iron Dutch Ovens**, for use in exhibits (Donated by the Estate of Bill & Frances Holt, Bowling Green, KY)

**Mitchell’s School Geography**, 19th century school book with the following written inside the front cover: "This book is the property of the East Family. Signed by Reader. Do not tear any leaves out of this book." (Donated anonymously)

**Ledger Book**, W. B Young and Company, 1942, first proprietor of the 1917 Shaker Store after the South Union auction and purchaser of the Shaker Tavern in 1922 (Donated anonymously)

**South Union Auction Booklet**, September 1922, photographs and description of property for sale (Donated anonymously)

**Collection of Shaker-related Books**, secondary material (Donated by Joseph and Colleen Kresoich, Melvindale, MI)

**Miniature Bureau**, South Union, ca. 1830, cherry and poplar, four graduated drawers, turned feet typically found on Shaker bureaus from South Union, purchased at the 1922 auction by Clara Duncan, Auburn, Kentucky, later acquired by Ellsworth Strickler (Donated by the Estate of George Ellsworth Strickler, Auburn, KY)

**Blanket Chest**, South Union, ca. 1840, walnut and poplar, early re-finish with traces of original orange paint, turned legs typical of South Union design, first example of a South Union blanket chest on turned legs (Acquired from Hancock Shaker Village, Pittsfield, MA, in a three way trade with the Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, KY)

**Bureau**, South Union, dated in pencil 1851, walnut and poplar, original finish, classic South Union form, one of the largest examples known to exist (Purchased with contributions from the following generous donors: Col. and Mrs. Robert E. Spiller, Eddie Bingham, Bill and Fletch Coke, George and Darlene Kohman, Martha Boice, Sharon Koomler and Jerry Grant, Bob Campbell, Joseph and Dorothy Jones, Lyle and Ruth Taylor, Cathy Moriarty, Dale and Mary Spencer, Ed and Elaine Disch, Rich and Suzy Spence, Peg McGee)
Shaker Farm Day was again a tremendous success! Over 500 gathered to experience life at South Union during the mid-1800’s through twenty interactive living history demonstrations. From spinning and weaving to broom and apple butter making, blacksmithing and old-fashioned storytelling, we had a great day on the farm!

Special thanks to our returning title sponsor FIRST SOUTHERN NATIONAL BANK. Thank you to partners Logan Telephone Cooperative, Logan County Tourist and Convention Commission and Just Piddlin’ Farm. We also appreciate the support of the Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana and the 40 volunteers & skilled crafters who made Shaker Farm Day a reality. Thank you!

Save the date—and your appetite! South Union’s famous “A Shaker Breakfast” is scheduled for Saturdays November 4 and 11 in the 1869 Shaker Tavern. Breakfast will be offered at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. each day. Call the museum for breakfast reservations.

The menu was taken directly from Civil War-era Shaker journals. The event features such Southern favorites as buttermilk biscuits, fried chicken, sweet potatoes, sausage, scrambled eggs, apple pie, Shaker sweet cake and more!

Tickets are $20.00 for members and include admission to the Shaker Museum. Take time to view our new exhibits and acquisitions and, of course, browse in the museum shop!

Even in 2006, Shaker genius and ingenuity is hard at work!

Last fall, Dr. Michael Stokes of Western Kentucky University brought a guest from Africa to Shaker Farm Day. The visiting gentleman was so amazed by the corn shelling device that he is introducing reproductions in many villages in Kenya.

The photo captures a lively corn shelling demonstration for villagers in the Kasigau region of southeastern Kenya. According to the team in Africa, the villagers were amazed by the invention and are excited about working the tool into everyday village life.

Dr. Jerry Deday demonstrates the corn sheller with community leader Ezr Mdam.
SAVE THE DATE!

November 4  (8:30 & 10:30 am)  
A Shaker Breakfast  
1869 Shaker Tavern

December 2  (9 am - 4 pm)  
Christmas at Shakertown Holiday Market, 1824 Centre House

November 11 (8:30 & 10:30 am)  
A Shaker Breakfast  
1869 Shaker Tavern

April 20-21, 2007  
South Union Seminar  
Program To Be Announced

December 1   (7-9 pm)  
Holiday Market Preview Party  
1824 Centre House

June 2007  
SHAKE, RIDE ‘N ROLL Bicycle Ride  
Stay Tuned!

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

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 to dressing in Shaker costume and demonstrating crafts and activities, we’re looking for your energy and enthusiasm!

Sound like fun? Call Doris at (270) 542-4167 or email shakmus@logantele.com today!
Special Thanks

Memorial Donations
(November 2005—May 2006)
In Memory of Ellsworth Strickler
Sheldon & Brenda Baugh
Chris & Carrie Barnette
Tommy Hines
In Memory of Leonard Sutton
Mary Lucy Franklin
In Memory of Barry Bingham, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. William Coke
Mr. & Mrs. W. Ridley Wills, Ill

Donations in Honor
(November 2005—May 2006)
In Honor of Mary Page Boyd
Northwood Garden Club
In Honor of Matthew Cook
Dr. Kate Hudepohl

New Members
Double M Farms

Membership Renewals
(November 2005—May 2006)
Pat & Mary Allen
Dr. & Mrs. Tom Baird
E. Hanlin & Jane Bavely
E.M. Bear
Drs. James Beattie & Marie Michelson
Gene & Peggy Bradley Boaz
Martha Boice
Ron Bombardi
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Kari and Marcia Federer
Wilson and Winifred Ferguson
Mary Lucy Franklin
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Dr. and Mrs. Gordon B. Newell
Dann Pottinger
Donald and Lillian Riley
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Riley
Shaker Realty & Auction Co.
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. C. Smila
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Sparling
Col. and Mrs. Robert Spiller
David and Nancy Stewart
Stanley and Edwina Strickler
Kenneth Tacket
Cindy Tacket
Mr. and Mrs. John D. Tanner
Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Taylor

Contributions
(November 2005—May 2006)
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Allen
Martha Boice
Bowling Green League of Bicyclists
Robert Campbell
CBRL Group Foundation
David Coleman
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Disch
Ann Hardison
Eli Lilly & Company Foundation
for the Joseph and Dorothy Jones Charitable Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Jones
Mr. and Mrs. George Kohrman
Logan Co. Tourist & Conv. Com.
Logan Telephone Cooperative
Rose Mary Lawson
Margaret McGee
Kathleen Moriarty
Forrest & Vickie Pearce Salyers
The Shaker Historical Society
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Spencer
Mrs. Cora Jane Spiller
Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Taylor
Barbara English
Dayton Foundation

Thank you for your generous support!
The Dispersal of South Union Furniture

By Tommy Hines

When the Shakers began selling their old furniture in the early 1920s, it was, as the keeper of the community journal wrote, "better than leaving [it] for the rats to destroy in the attics." The researcher senses no remorse for selling what had been theirs for a nearly a century, no sentimental yearnings for the past, and no mention of a reverence for Shaker craftsmanship. It was simply that the Shakers needed money and that the furniture they were not using had some value.

Two decades before, however, the South Union Shakers seemed more aware of their history. That awareness may have been heightened as outsiders were becoming more interested in the Shaker past. A collection of letters written by collector J. P. MacLean to Eldress Jane Cowan between 1902 and 1909 reveals not only MacLean's interest in acquiring old books, printed material and manuscripts from South Union but Cowan's willingness to send him just about anything she could find. Jane Cowan's delight in having a faithful correspondent interested in South Union's history is evident in her writing.

Wallace Cathcart, president and director of the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland, Ohio, also corresponded with the South Union Shakers. Brother William Bates eventually shipped to Western Reserve the Benjamin Seth Youngs clock that had hung in the South Union meeting house nearly one hundred years. When Cathcart sent a check to South Union in payment for the clock, Bates promptly returned the check, writing, "We did not expect you to pay any charges. We are only glad to have . . . it in your collection and know it will be preserved, which we could not have done."

Finally, three sales between 1920 and 1922 helped dispose of practically every piece of furniture in the community. The only exceptions seem to be the pieces that were given to Mr. Joe Wallace, the Shakers' farm manager, and the furniture that was being used by the few remaining Shakers. The first sale, held May 8, 1920, took place in the yard of the Shakers' meeting house. The Shakers seemed surprised that "several pieces brought over $100.00 each. All went high, beyond our expectations." Profit for the day was between three and four thousand dollars. A second sale later that year was referred to as "Mr. Wallace's sale." The final furniture auction was held in April of 1922, just three weeks after the last nine Shakers left South Union.

The process of collecting Shaker furniture and other items associated with the South Union village began in 1956 and continues today, fifty years later. While some of the items in the museum collection were given to people by the Shakers before the community closed, most can be traced back to one of the three auctions. This year's incredible list of acquisitions is no exception. It's a real source of pride that South Union's collection is now made up almost entirely of furniture and artifacts that can be traced directly to the community. Putting the pieces back together is a fascinating process.

South Union blanket chest acquired from Hancock Shaker Village (see acquisition list, page 2)
A Summer In Hancock Shaker Village

By Matthew Cook

As a partial fulfillment of my MA in Historic Preservation I completed an internship at Hancock Shaker Village in Massachusetts. While there I filled the roll of assistant to the Curator of Collections, Mr. Christian Goodwillie. Over the course of the summer I helped preserve and store the 1852 Shaker timber frame originally from Enfield, Connecticut. The frame, now disassembled, is in the possession of HSV.

Perhaps the most rewarding part of the summer was getting to see many of the New England sites. Traveling to each of the societies in the east, and most cases getting to see both the outside and inside of many of the buildings, motivated me to immerse myself in the history of the eastern societies. Of those visits, my trip to Sabbathday Lake was the highlight. There I had the opportunity to attend a Sunday service, to spend time with Brother Arnold (who sent a “hello” and his compliments to South Union) and to have lunch with the Shakers. In many ways my visit to Sabbathday Lake and the perceptions of contemporary Shakerism I gained while there was both a surprising wake-up call and a breath of fresh air.

Lastly, I met some wonderful people while in New England, many of whom have been in the Shaker world for many years, and others like myself who are only starting to scratch the surface. Hopefully, my experience has allowed me to bring back to the Shaker Museum at South Union a more fulfilling interpretation of general Shaker history.

Matthew Cook has been a graduate assistant at South Union for the past two years and has been an invaluable source of help in the areas of research, archaeological investigation and interpretation.

Museum Shop Feature:

James Hooper's The Shaker Communities of Kentucky

The Shaker Communities of Kentucky: Pleasant Hill and South Union presents the lives, struggles, and achievements of a remarkable people. The book spans Shaker beginnings in England and relocation to America to the establishment of the South Union and Pleasant Hill Shaker villages.

Pleasant Hill and South Union were among the most successful and enduring of all Shaker villages. The book provides a striking visual portrayal of Shaker life by means of rare vintage images. Gradual decline resulted in the closing of both villages, but restorations have turned both sites into popular destinations.*

Author and professor Dr. James Hooper worked closely with Tommy Hines and museum staff to compile a series of photographs illustrating both historic and modern-day South Union.

Call the museum shop today or log on shakermuseum.com to order your copy today!

Featuring forwards by South Union’s own Tommy Hines and Larrie Curry of the Pleasant Hill Shaker Village.

*Review From Arcadia Publishing.
From the South Union Journals: Winter Preparations

1 Sept 1837: Drying Peaches—plenty of fruit this year of all kinds common to the county, cherries excepted.

1 Sept 1848: Farmers break harvest for wheat

5 Sept 1859: Pleasure Excursion: 17 Brethren and Sisters went to Bowling Green (and) there took the Cars (railroad) to the City of Nashville, Tennessee. Returned about 12 (midnight) having paid dearly enough for "their whistle!"

8 Sept 1848: Prosecution—Albert Hooper and Charles Himmah (apostates) arrested on suspicion of having stolen the missing garden seed.

30 Sept 1859: Sorghum—Began to make molasses.

19 Oct 1836: Brethren Urban E. Johns and Samuel McClelland set off for Clarksville (TN) with Garden Seed, etc to load the boat for the Southern market.

Nov 1858: Preserve Manufacturing has assumed somewhat gigantic proportions. Brethren unite with the Sisters in the business & together have put up 6,000 jars in 500 boxes for market.

26 Nov 1846: Thanksgiving—Held meeting at the different families in obedience to the requisition of the Governor. Brother Urban read the Holy Saviour's Prayer.


1 Jan 1859: Silk Business has been carried on by the Sisterhood for some time...they have just taken from the loom a web of 100 yards making 164 fine white pocket kerchiefs for sale @ $12 per dozen.

6 Jan 1856: Coffee again used at table, tea also; having sometime since been discontinued - 13 years ago.

Read more! Shaker Journals available in museum shop.

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