COMING SOON . . . THE SOUTH UNION SEMINAR

Make your reservations to attend the South Union Shaker Village’s 24th annual South Union Seminar, “O the Zeal and Energy:” Life in the Western Shaker Meeting House. The two-day event will focus on the architecture and folk-life associated with the church buildings, or meeting houses, in the western Shaker villages. Performances by both the Pleasant Hill Singers and the South Union Shaker Quartet, a special tour of the newly-restored 1818 Meeting House foundation, an unveiling of the recently erected memorial stone at the South Union cemetery, and hearty southern meals served by the Shaker Tavern highlight the weekend. Presentations by Susan Hughes and Rich Spence will explore the rich history of the two remaining western Shaker meeting houses located at Pleasant Hill, Kentucky, and White Water, Ohio. Register to attend today, either by mail, using the enclosed form, or by calling the village at 1-800-811-8379 or 1-270-542-4167.

VILLAGE STAFF TRIP TO PLEASANT HILL

On a cold Monday, January 24th, fourteen South Union Shaker Village staff members boarded a van for a day trip to the Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill. Several of the group had visited the site many times but this was a first trip for most. Hosted by Larrie Curry, Curator, and Susan Hughes, Manager of Museum Programs and Special Events, the South Union staff spent time in the Centre Dwelling and Meeting House, then had lunch at the winter kitchen in the West House. After lunch the group was given a tour of the museum collections storage, then paid a visit to the crafts demonstration area of the village.

The goal of the trip was to broaden the staff’s understanding of the Kentucky Shakers, beyond their knowledge of South Union. It was also an opportunity for the group to learn more about hospitality at another historic site. Thanks for an entertaining and informative day, Pleasant Hill staff!
RECENT ACQUISIONS

Side Chair, classic South Union Type A, ca. 1840, found in Owensboro area, maple with ash stretchers, traces of yellow ochre paint

Purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Side Chair, classic South Union Type B, ca. 1830, purchased at 1922 Shaker auction by a Bowling Green family, room number “12,” maple with ash stretchers, traces of ochre and orange paint

Purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Bureau, South Union, ca. 1840, purchased at 1922 Shaker auction by a Bowling Green family, walnut and poplar, four-drawer, refinished

Purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Bed, classic South Union Empire style, ca. 1850, purchased at 1922 Shaker auction by a Bowling Green family, original dark walnut finish

Purchased with acquisition endowment funds

“Summary View of the Millennial Church,” 1848 edition, inscribed “Presented by Josephine Thrall, South Union, Ky.” Thrall was one of the last nine South Union Shakers, leaving when the village closed in 1922.

Purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Oval Carriers (2), cherry, with handles and lids, attributed to eastern Shaker villages, one lined with pink silk and the other with a blue silk-lined lid

Donated by Donna Riley, Russellville, Kentucky

Photographs of South Union (4), ca. 1923, from an album owned by William Irvin and Ruth Wells Hardison, who lived at South Union and worked for Oscar Bond after the Shakers left in 1922.

Donated by Mark Hardison, Woodburn, Kentucky, in memory of his grandparents, William Irvin and Minnie Ruth Wells Hardison

EXHIBITS OPENING AT SOUTH UNION IN 2011

“The Last Days of South Union”
Artifacts, Historic Photos, and Original Documents Detail the Sale, Auction and Destruction of South Union Between 1921 and 1930
OPENING IN APRIL

“Gospel Ingenuity: Textile Production at South Union”
A Collection of Original Textiles Produced by the South Union Shakers from the 1830s through the Early 20th Century
OPENING IN AUGUST
A REMARKABLE FIND!

A photograph documenting the 1923 destruction of the 1847 East House was recently discovered in a family home by Mark Hardison, Woodburn, Kentucky. Mark, who is a former member of South Union’s Board of Directors, graciously contributed several pages from a ca. 1923 album once owned by his grandparents, William Irvin and Minnie Ruth Wells Hardison. The Hardisons came to work for Oscar Bond soon after he took possession of the former Shaker village of South Union in 1922. In the album were several photographs of the Centre House, but the picture that proved to be the most valuable was one of the East House in the midst of being torn down. A tornado struck the building on March 11, 1923, not only heavily damaging the structure but ripping away most of its roof. Soon after, Oscar Bond directed his hired men to take the building down. Finished in 1847, the East House was South Union’s largest communal dwelling. Several photographs of the building’s exterior have been published, but images that provided information about the interior had never surfaced, until now. Photographed looking north, workers have obviously begun to tear away the building’s “ell” first. From this vantage point the image reveals a large arch on the second floor and a smaller arch on the third, an arrangement identical to the interior of the Centre House. These arches opened into cross halls with doors on the second floor and windows on the third that opened east and west for light, access and ventilation. Evidence of baseboard, chair rail and peg rail are visible in the photo, as is the plaster that was applied directly to the brick walls. It is likely that the meeting room was on the second floor and that retiring rooms occupied space on the third, similar to what is found in the Centre House. The door on the fourth floor undoubtedly led into the East House attic. Unlike the Centre House, the front section of the fourth floor housed an additional level of retiring rooms, not low-ceilinged garret rooms.

The South Union Shaker Village is most grateful to Mark Hardison, who donated these photographs in memory of his grandparents, William Irvin Hardison (1895-1970) and Minnie Ruth Wells Hardison (1896-1987).
FUND-RAISING QUILT GIVEN TO SOUTH UNION

One of our most dedicated and supportive members, Dorothy Jones, has recently donated a beautiful South Union-themed quilt for the purposes of fund-raising. The brightly colored quilt, which features designs from a number of T-shirts, postcards, photographs and festival programs from the last fifty years, is a one-of-kind work for someone who truly loves and admires South Union.

Tickets are on sale in the gift shop for $5 each and will be available through the end of 2011. Make sure and buy your ticket and support the preservation efforts at the South Union Shaker Village.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Gene Harris, Franklin, Kentucky
Skip Cleavinger, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Dr. James Spears, Franklin, Kentucky

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION

Henry & Mary Brockman - $300.00 for general support
George and Darlene Kohrman - $500.00 for acquisitions
Edie Bingham - $10,000.00 for general support
Atticus Trust - $15,000.00 for general support
Edie Bingham - $1,000.00 for the Bus Fund
Ann Early Sutherland - $100.00 in honor of Edie Bingham and Tommy Hines

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Alecia Allen, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Bob and Linda Pulsinelli, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Larry, Kate and Molly Watkins, Franklin, Tennessee
Mary Montoya, Bowling Green, Kentucky
CEMETERY STONE FUND DRIVE A SUCCESS!

Our goal of $10,000.00 has been met and the South Union cemetery stone is in the process of being created. The unveiling is planned on Saturday, April 16, at 2:30 p.m. as part of our annual South Union Seminar. The culmination of a two-year project to identify, partially excavate, and fence the Shaker cemetery, the stone will read "SHAKERS," and will post the first and last burial dates at South Union, 1810-1921. The public is invited to attend the ceremony, even if they have not made reservations to attend the Seminar. We ask that people gather at the Centre House at 2:00 p.m.

The following have generously donated funds to make the cemetery stone a possibility. We are indebted to each person who has given, especially to the Central Trust who not only funded half the cost of the stone, but also contributed most of the money needed to construct the fence around the South Union cemetery. Special thanks to Friends members Elaine Disch and Curt DeBaun who co-chaired the fund drive.

Contributions to $499.00
Jackson and Betty Kesler in memory of Lillie Mae Hayes
Ernest and Elaine Ezell in memory of Evelyn Ezell
David and Jacqueline Bevil in memory of Evelyn Ezell
Employees of the Auburn Post Office in memory of Evelyn Ezell
Kevin Gorman in memory of Evelyn Ezell
Paul and Marcia Heintschel in memory of Evelyn Ezell
Joyce Chesnut
Anonymous
Dorothy Marshall
Carol Rochford
Edie Bingham
Steve Cooper
Jeff and Marion Jackson Clark
Robert Campbell

Contributions from $500.00 to $1,000.00
Dale Covington
Margy Thomas
Elaine Disch
Curt DeBaun
Ernest and Elaine Ezell
Anonymous

$5,000 Contribution
Central Trust

Recent photograph of the cemetery stone at Sabbathday Lake, Maine, after which the South Union cemetery stone is being patterned. Photographed by Dr. Kim McBride, Co-Director, Kentucky Archaeological Survey, University of Kentucky.
The Kentucky Museum and Library, located on the campus of Western Kentucky University, recently returned a piece of South Union history. Placed on long-term loan is this large wooden and pulley system that was removed from the 1854 Wash House in 1975 during renovation by St. Maur’s Priory. The Wash House, which is owned by the Fathers of Mercy, was constructed at a time of great prosperity at South Union. The five-level brick building was the largest workshop constructed in the village, housing work space for the sisters of the Centre Family.

Large shop rooms inside were used for ironing, sewing and mending, and laundry. The wheel was probably part of an intricate pulley system that moved clothing through the building. South Union’s Wash House boasted modern laundry equipment, including gasoline-powered dryers by the early 20th century. The Wash House also housed retiring space for the sisters, an infirmary, and, during the 1870s, a music room complete with pianoforte.
REGISTRATION for the
SOUTH UNION SEMINAR

“O, the Zeal and Energy:”
Life in the Western Shaker Meeting House
April 15-16, 2011

Name__________________________________________________________

Phone Number ___________________________________________ Email______________________________

Address__________________________________________________________

Special Needs (vegetarian meals, etc.)__________________________________________

_____ $80 per member ______ $90 per non-member

_____ Check Enclosed

________________________________________ Credit Card # _______ Exp.

Register to participate in South Union's annual seminar, bringing together people interested in
in-depth study of Shaker history. This year's event focuses on the folk-life and architecture
associated with the western Shaker meeting house. Enjoy special tours, an exhibit opening,
presentations by Susan Hughes of Pleasant Hill and Rich Spence of White Water,
performances by the Pleasant Hill Singers and the South Union Shaker Quartet. Meals are
provided by the Shaker Tavern, including Friday evening dinner, continental breakfast and
lunch on Saturday. The event begins on Friday evening at 6:00 pm
and concludes Saturday at 3:00 pm.

A detailed schedule of events and confirmation will be mailed to you when you register.
Registration deadline is Friday, April 8. Please mail registration to:
South Union Shaker Village
P. O. Box 177
Auburn, Kentucky 42206

For more information call: 1-800-811-8379 or 1-270-542-4167

This event is underwritten by Hilliard Lyons and Michael & Shannon Vitale
UPCOMING EVENTS

L&N RAILROAD LUNCHEON
Saturday, March 5
Enjoy a hearty Victorian noon meal, typical of what would have been served at South Union’s famous railroad hotel, the Shaker Tavern. Reservations are required: $22 members, $25 non-members.

SOUTH UNION SEMINAR
Friday, April 15, and Saturday, April 16
Explore the architecture and the folk life associated with the western Shaker meeting house, during a weekend of learning, entertainment, great food and great friends. Event begins on Friday evening with dinner at the Shaker Tavern, and convenes at the Centre House on Saturday from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm.

Reservations are required: $80 members, $90 for non-members. Meals, including Friday night dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch, are provided by the Shaker Tavern, and are included in the price.

SPRING ANTIQUE & GARDEN MARKET
Saturday, May 21
Shop booths of antiques, plants and flowers, and garden art in and around the 1875 Grain Barn and enjoy informative presentations throughout the day. Lunch will be served on site. Admission is $5 per person and the market is open from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm.

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

The South Union Seminar is underwritten by Hilliard Lyons and Michael & Shannon Vitale

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