Summer 2008

South Union Messenger (Summer 2008)

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Attend Hoedown at Shakertown and enjoy the unique opportunity for a close encounter with the Bowling Green Chamber Orchestra as they perform the music of American composer Aaron Copland, including his setting of the Shaker hymn, *Simple Gifts*, for baritone soloist and orchestra. Soak up the beauty of the sunset illuminating the Centre House as the evening concludes with John Cowan and his band. John was a member of the '70s progressive bluegrass band New Grass Revival, which included Sam Bush and Curtis Burch in its membership.

- You may pre-order a reserved meal from Brickyard Café, Franklin.
- Gates open at 6 p.m. CT; Music begins at 7:30 p.m. CT.
- Bring a blanket or chair (no tables please).
- Many ticket options are available! Make your ticket and meal reservations through the Bowling Green Chamber Orchestra online at www.BGCO.com or by calling (270) 846-2426.
Shaker Seminar

"Are These Not Perilous Times?"

Guests spent a weekend immersed in history during April’s Shaker Seminar. The seminar, which focused on the Civil War’s impact on the South Union Shaker community, featured lectures by prominent Shaker educators, re-enactments and demonstrations by Civil War soldiers, a reading from Eldress Nancy’s journal and a hearty Civil War-era meal.

L&N Railroad Luncheon

Participants of the inaugural L&N Railroad Luncheon were treated to a hearty late 19th century meal representative of those served at the 1869 Shaker Tavern railroad hotel. The Shaker Museum welcomed special guests of the Historic Railpark and Train Museum at the L&N Depot: Executive Director Sharon Tabor and Business Development Director Duncan McKenzie. Guests were served a menu of dressed lettuce; roast turkey and cranberries; baked macaroni and cheese; baked sweet potatoes; green peas and pearl onions; bread; walnut cake and peach cobbler.

The Shaker Museum at South Union was delighted to add a spring menu taken from 19th century resources to its calendar of events. The next meal is A Shaker Breakfast on Saturday, Nov. 1 & 8 at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. CT. Reservations are required; $22 for members, $25 for non-members.

Make your reservations for A Shaker Breakfast today by calling (800) 811-8379 or sending an e-mail to shakmus@logantele.com.
1875 Grain Barn Restoration Continues

Restoration of the Shaker Museum’s 1875 Grain Barn will continue thanks to a $135,500 grant from the James Graham Brown Foundation of Louisville, Ky. The restoration project was put on hold in the winter of 2007 until funds could be acquired to complete the project. Now, the protective insulation will be removed and restoration contractors will return to finish the work on the historic structure. The move is vital in preserving the local history of South Union Shakers.

Advisory Committee member Edith Bingham of Glenview, Ky., said the grant will increase local interest in South Union’s culture. “The James Graham Brown Foundation has demonstrated again its ongoing support of, and belief in, the long and careful restoration of the South Union Shaker Village, the longest surviving Southern Shaker site, which includes unique and finely crafted structures, farmed land and a collection original to this Shaker site,” Bingham said. “Educational and tourist benefits to the nearby region between Bowling Green and Russellville enhance the area’s economic base. This beautiful rural site demonstrates vividly how the Shakers settled, adapted to the Civil War inroads of their internal stability and how later adaptations to changing cultural practices helped them survive until 1922.”

Besides the barn restoration, the James Graham Brown Foundation grant will also help South Union:

- Memorialize the South Union cemetery, partially destroyed after the Shakers sold their village in 1922, by building a fence around the graveyard and placing a single marker for the more than 400 Shakers buried in the grounds.
- Move the 1818 Meeting House foundation to its original location. The Meeting House was central to the Shaker faith, as worship services were held there.
- Convert a non-Shaker building into a visitor center, research library and office space. A new parking lot will be built behind the visitor center.

Executive Director Tommy Hines said the grant means a great deal to South Union. “We are indebted to the James Graham Brown Foundation for their assistance to our historic site over the years. This latest grant will complete one of the most significant developmental projects we have ever undertaken. The addition of a welcome center and research facility, coupled with newly restored buildings and sites, will allow us to offer more for the general public to enjoy. The educational opportunities for visitors will be greatly increased.”

The 1875 Grain Barn will add a new depth of education experience to South Union visitors. In addition to the barn, individuals, groups and school groups can view the 1824 Centre House, a 40-room, four-story dwelling that houses the country’s largest collection of Southern Shaker artifacts and one of the state’s finest gift shops; the 1835 Smoke & Milk House, which exhibits workshop equipment made and used by the Shakers; the 1847 Steam House, a structure built to cook cow feed, and the 1846 Ministry Shop in which Shaker leaders lived. Visitors may also spend the night at the 1869 Shaker Tavern, a hotel built by the Shakers for railroad travelers.
The Shaker Museum is honored to announce the Board of Directors presidency of Thomas Moody.

"In response to the Advisory Committee's strong suggestion, several of the Board members at last meeting agreed to serve as officers. A person who strongly desires to promote Shaker history at South Union, I offered to serve as chairman. Residing in an ancestral home in Franklin, I am one who loves antiques, restoration, local history and the arts. I am organist of The Presbyterian Church in Bowling Green, and a retiree of the English/History faculty of the local high school. My great aunt attended the 1922 Shaker auction and my McCutchen/Downey ancestors lived very near the colony. Margie Helm and Deedy Hall were relatives and friends, respectively. As a result of all these forces, it has been my distinct pleasure to join those who work untiringly to promote the cause."

~ Board of Directors President Thomas Moody

The Shaker Museum is also pleased to introduce two new members of the Board of Directors: Geri Smith of Bowling Green, Ky. and Robyn Minor of Auburn, Ky.

**Officers 2008**

President: Thomas Moody
Vice President: Sally Ann Strickler
Secretary/Treasurer: Joe Gran Clark
Contributions

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In Memory of Mary Spencer
In Memory of Steve Kisiler
In Memory of Rose Mary Lawson

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‘Hoedown at Shakertown’ Sponsorships
South Union thanks BB&T, Logan Aluminum and Earnhart + Friends for sponsoring Hoedown at Shakertown September 13 at 7 p.m. CT.

BB&T
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## Memberships

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- Martha Boice
- Philip & Mary Page Boyd
- Henry Brockman
- Sue Brooks
- Robert B. & Janice G. Campbell
- Joyce Chesnut
- Henry Brockman
- Sue Brooks
- Robert B. & Janice G. Campbell
- Joyce Chesnut

## In Memory of Mary Spencer

The Shaker Museum lost a very dear friend in April. Mary Spencer, along with her husband Dale, volunteered for scores of museum events over the past twenty years. From shelling corn at Farm Day to serving lunch at the Shaker Festival, Mary was always ready to lend a hand. She and Dale maintained the Holy Ground property at Shakertown for a number of years and together they volunteered to complete the restoration of the Centre House bake room in 1996, the year the couple received the museum’s Volunteer of the Year award.

Anyone who had the privilege of knowing Mary will agree that she was not only hard-working but one of the kindest and gentlest people you would ever hope to meet. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Dale.
South Union Chair Returns Home

Thanks to the generosity of some very special friends of the museum, we were recently able to acquire one of the finest known examples of a South Union chair. The South Union Shakers made chairs in four distinct styles from the late 1810s through about 1870. This chair, which falls into what is uncreatively referred to as type ‘B’ by the museum, has finer proportions, more graceful details, and superior craftsmanship when compared to the others.

Besides its general form and delicate details, the chair also retains much of its brilliant chrome yellow paint. Like all type ‘B’ examples, the original seat has not survived and the front posts are not stamped with room numbers.

It is possible that the absence of room numbers, the more delicate nature of construction, and the consistent retention of original color on most type ‘B’ chairs may indicate that they were made for use by the ministry and not those who lived in the dwelling houses.

We wish to express thanks to those who helped bring this beautiful example of South Union craftsmanship back home.

“Thank You” Contributors

Col. and Mrs. Robert E. Spiller
The Stuart Foundation
Nancy Hillenburg
Edie Bingham
Steve and Miriam Miller (in memory of Mary Spencer)
Bill and Fletch Coke
George and Darlene Kohrman
John and Linda Tanner
Charles Hungate
Nancy Disher Baird
Mr. and Mrs. Hanlin Bavely (in memory of Mary Spencer)
Tom Moody
Lois Madden
Jim and Carolyn Innis
Anthony Thurman
Cheryl Kline
Rich and Suzy Spence (in memory of Mary Spencer)
Mike and Monique Sisk
Elaine Disch (in memory of Mary Spencer)
Jeanne Weaver
Chicago Area Shaker Interest Group (in memory of Mary Spencer)
Robert Martin and Rafael Perez (in memory of Mary Spencer)
Planned Giving

Gift plans benefit you, your family and Shaker Museum at South Union.

There are many options available for such donations.

Please carefully consider expanding your monetary donations.

- Outright Gifts of Real Estate
- Outright Gifts of Personal Property
- Estate Gifts by Will or Living Trust
- Estate Gifts of Life Insurance
- Estate Gifts of Retirement Plans