

Winter 2013

## South Union Messenger (Winter 2013)

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# SOUTH UNION MESSENGER

Vol. XLII, No.1, 2013  
South Union Shaker Village, Kentucky

The South Union Shaker Village presents the 26th annual

## **SOUTH UNION SEMINAR**

“To Make a Faithful Record:”

Researching the Lives of Individual Believers

Friday, April 19, and Saturday, April 20

Make your reservations to attend the South Union Shaker Village's 26th South Union Seminar, *“To Make a Faithful Record:” Researching the Lives of Individual Believers*. The two-day event will focus on biographical research of the Shakers and will include insightful presentations by authors Carol Medlicott and Glendyne Wergland, Janet Scott's first-person interpretation of Sister Mary Settles, hearty meals served by the Shaker Tavern, and a behind-the-scenes look at some of the more unique objects in the South Union collection.

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

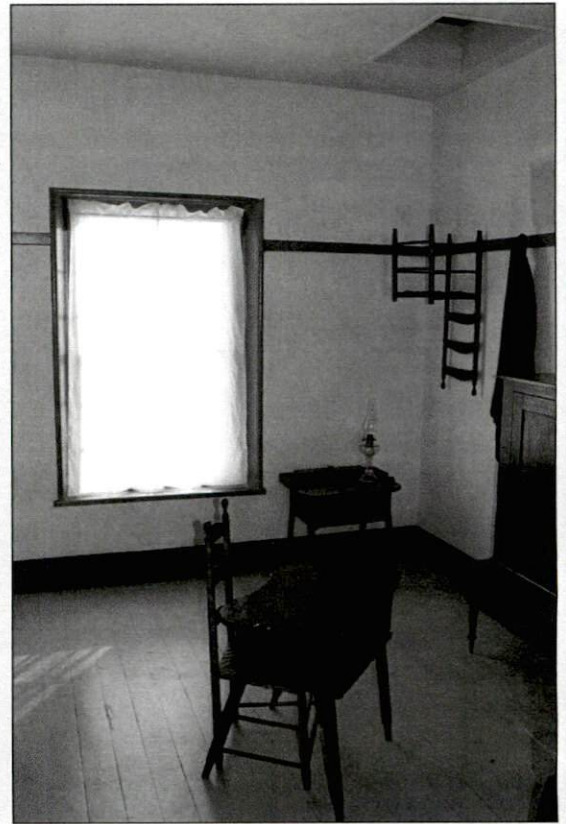
Janet Scott's *Sister Mary Settles* presentation is made possible by the  
Kentucky Humanities Council

Register to attend today using the enclosed form  
or by calling 1-800-811-8379 or 1-270-542-4167.

# LINEN CURTAINS IN THE MINISTRY SHOP

When the Centre Family infirmary was restored in 2012, wooden curtain brackets were found attached to one of the windows. Covered with many coats of paint, the brackets were attached to the window frame with one square nail each. Further investigation revealed that the brackets were painted in yellow ochre, the same color the Shakers used on the interior woodwork during most of the 19th century.

As we continue to look for clues throughout South Union's buildings we are finding evidence of curtain brackets in most of the rooms the Shakers used for retiring. This includes the 1847 Ministry Shop. Reproduction wooden brackets are currently being installed in that building, and linen curtains made by SUSV do-cent, Cheryl Odenthal. Not only do the new window treatments help protect objects in the rooms from direct sunlight, but they hopefully present a more accurate depiction of how the space would have looked in the late 19th century.



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

W. L. Lyons Brown Foundation . . . . .	\$15,963.00
Eddie Bingham . . . . .	\$11,000.00
Margy Thomas . . . . .	\$1,000.00
Ridley Wills III . . . . .	\$1,000.00
Fathers of Mercy . . . . .	\$250.00
Stewart Richey . . . . .	\$500.00 (event underwriting)
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Logan Aluminum . . . . .	\$500.00 (event underwriting)
Contribution from Robert Wright in memory of Claire Hines	

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

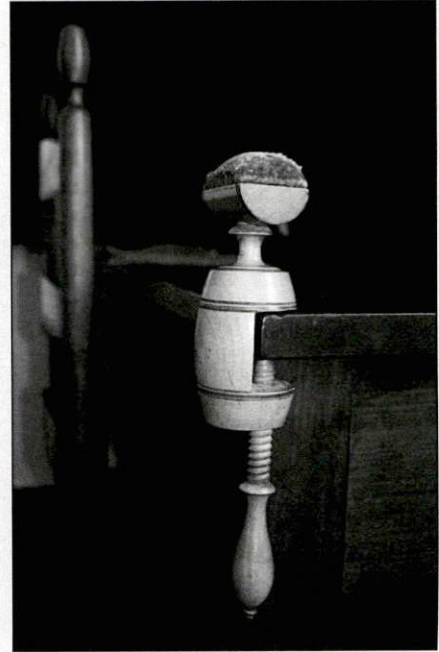
Laura & Larry Hicks, Lexington, KY  
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Carrie & Don Adamic, Bowling Green, KY  
Mr. Patrick Kerensky, Bowling Green, KY  
Mr. Colin Moss, Bowling Green, KY  
Mr. Doug Carr, Hopkinsville, KY  
Mr. & Mrs. John Carr, Bowling Green, KY

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS



**Work Table**, ca. 1840, cherry, two small drawers over larger drawer, early re-finish, turnings typical of South Union furniture making in the mid-19th century, attributed to South Union Shakers. Originally belonged to Alta Monin (1898-1986) of Bowling Green, Kentucky.

*Both pieces were purchased with Acquisition Endowment Funds*



**Sewing Clamp**, ca. 1860, maple with velvet pin cushion, covered as repair in linen. Attributed to South Union Shaker use and probably production.

## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Tommy Hines

For those of you who were unable to attend our "Shake and Stir on Ice" event in December, you certainly missed one of our most beautiful and unique events. Our Board of Directors' attempt at raising additional funds for the SUSV was successful and we made many new friends as the result of the party. We plan on doing something similar toward the end of this year so I hope that even more of you can participate. Many thanks to our Board, especially our president, Skip Cleavinger and his wife Julie for chairing the event. We also thank Steve Rose and Roiann Ridley who contributed in-kind contributions, to our Board committee and to our underwriters, Riley & Son Insurance, Stewart Richey, and Logan Aluminum.

I hope that many of you will be able to attend our annual South Union Seminar in April! It is going to be a great program and, if you've been before, you know the food is top-notch. Take a look at the other events listed on the back of the newsletter and check out our website ([www.shakermuseum.com](http://www.shakermuseum.com)) for our full-year calendar.

We wish to extend our sympathy to the family of Beverly Rogers, long-time employee at the Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill and a dear friend. Beverly was a spirited tour guide for many years, filled with enthusiasm and devoted to her workplace. Many may also remember her as a member of the Pleasant Hill Singers. Beverly will definitely be missed by all who knew her.

I am happy to be back at South Union on a full-time basis and look forward to what the future holds for our efforts here. I want to thank our Advisory Committee and Board of Directors for making this a reality. As always, thank you for your continued support. It does make a tremendous difference in what we are able to do.

REGISTRATION for the

# **SOUTH UNION SEMINAR**

**“To Make a Faithful Record:”**

**Researching the Lives of Individual Believers**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 19 & SATURDAY, APRIL 20**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs (vegetarian meals, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$80 per member      \_\_\_\_\_ \$90 per non-member

\_\_\_\_\_ Check Enclosed      \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card #      \_\_\_\_\_ Exp.      \_\_\_\_\_ CVV

Register to participate in South Union’s annual seminar, bringing together people interested in in-depth study of Shaker history. *“To Make a Faithful Record:” Researching the Lives of Individual Believers* focuses on current biographical research on selected members of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century Shakers. The event will begin Friday evening with dinner at the Shaker Tavern, followed by a candlelit, first-person interpretation of Sister Mary Settles, the last Shaker at Pleasant Hill. The seminar will resume Saturday at the Centre House for a day filled with presentations and special tours 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 Wednesday, April 10. 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

**Underwritten by Hilliard Lyons and Michael & Shannon Vitale  
and The Kentucky Humanities Council**

## SOUTH UNION PROFILE: ELDRRESS BETSY SMITH

Betsy Smith was born October 5, 1813 and came to South Union with her father and five siblings in 1823. Initially Betsy was assigned to live in the East Family, but by 1827 was listed as a member of the Centre Family. As a young girl, Betsy witnessed the construction of the massive new Centre House, the foundation of which nearly complete when her family arrived. She also took part in the final stages of work on the building in 1834, recorded as being one of two women and one man who painted the shutters, "verdigris green."

Betsy's youth is characterized by hard work and growing responsibility. At 23 she was assigned the role of caretaker for the young girls, taking up quarters on the 4th floor of the new Centre House. She continued in that role for nearly a decade.

In 1844 Betsy Smith was asked to assist lead Eldress Sarah Rice in her duties, to "stand with her in care." She accompanied the Ministry on a trip to Union Village, Ohio in July of 1846, her first recorded journey away from South Union. Betsy apparently proved both faithful and able, as she was appointed lead Eldress of South Union on September 30, 1850.

Journal references during Eldress Betsy Smith's tenure record milestones like her trip to Mt. Lebanon in 1854, as well as advantages afforded by her position in the Society. However, Betsy also enjoyed picnics and outings, was not adverse to manual labor like painting and cleaning, and enjoyed the everyday work of making silk kerchiefs as gifts for "our Eastern friends" and participating in bonnet-making bees. Elder Harvey Eads marveled at Betsy's work ethic in June of 1891 when he penned, "Remarkable—Eldress Betsy Smith finished washing the walls and ceiling of my room in the Ministerial little brick building & she nearing her 78th year!" Eads was 84 at the time.



Eldress Betsy Smith (left) and Eldress Nancy Moore, seated side by side in a group photograph at South Union, ca. 1885. Nancy Moore served as Eldress Betsy's assistant from 1850-1864, and again from 1873 until Moore's death in December of 1889.



From 1868 until 1872, the Kentucky Shaker villages were joined into a singular bishopric. During that time Eldress Betsy Smith and Elder Harvey Eads shared their duties with James Rankin and Paulina Bryant of Pleasant Hill. Once the combined government was dissolved, Eldress Betsy again became the sole female leader at South Union, remaining in that position until her death on February 27, 1897, at the age of 84.

A "presentation box," probably made for Eldress Betsy Smith during her journey to the eastern Shaker villages in 1854. The box was sold at auction when South Union closed in 1922 and is today in the museum collection.

# SOUTH UNION SHAKER VILLAGE

shakmus@logantele.com • 800-811-8379  
P.O. Box 177, Auburn, KY 42206

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### L&N RAILROAD LUNCHEON

Saturday, March 2

Enjoy a hearty late 19<sup>th</sup> century menu typical of what would have been served at South Union's famous railroad hotel, the Shaker Tavern.

Reservations required: \$22 members, \$25 non-members

Time: 12:00 noon

### SOUTH UNION SEMINAR

Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20

*"To Make a Faithful Record:" Researching the Lives of Individual Believers* focuses on current biographical

research on selected members of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century Shakers. The event will begin Friday evening with dinner at the Shaker Tavern, followed by a candlelit, first-person interpretation of Sister Mary Settles, the last Shaker at Pleasant Hill. The seminar will resume Saturday at the Centre House for a day filled with presentations, great food and special tours.

Reservations required: \$80 members, \$90 non-members

Time: Friday 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm and Saturday 8:00 am - 3:00 pm.

### FIRST CLASS PASSENGER BREAKFAST

Saturday, July 20

Experience a first class breakfast, ca. 1912, at South Union's famous railroad hotel, the Shaker Tavern. The breakfast, chosen from a 100-year old southern railroad menu, includes breakfast tenderloin, scrambled eggs, fried potatoes, baked apples with sausage, yeast rolls and plenty of hot coffee.

Reservations required: \$15 members, \$17 non-members

Time: 10:00 am

For information or reservations for events call:

1-800-811-8379 or 270-542-4167

Or visit:

[shakermuseum.com](http://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.