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South Union Messenger (January 2003)

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SOUTH UNION MESSENGER

Newsletter for the Friends of the Shaker Museum at South Union, Kentucky

A Word from the Director...

Winter at South Union is always a productive time. Even with the very cold temperatures this year (both outside and inside!) we are continuing to work on the interior of the Ministry Shop and have restored a small room in the Centre House that has never been open to the public. The L-shaped Deaconess' Closet is a well lighted room that was used to store supplies for the sisters in the Centre House. The Deacons' Closet across the hall has been open for nearly a decade, but the room on the women's side suffered greater damage to the floors and to the trim as the result of a bathroom installed in the 1930s.

There has been much progress in restoring the landscape as well. You will see more historic fencing and several re-constructed sidewalks, using Shaker-cut stones that were moved from their original locations in the 1920s. Thanks to maps and manuscripts kept by the Shakers, the process of reconstruction is made much easier. Some of the best information was found in a turn-of-the-century photo album from Canterbury, New Hampshire. A well documented visit to South Union by a group of Canterbury Shakers provided views of the village that we had never seen.

Take a look at our 2003 calendar and plan a visit to South Union. There is more to see than ever before and plans for future development are in the works. Thanks so much for your continued interest in the preservation efforts here and for your generous support.

Tommy Hines



From a recently acquired album donated by Mrs. John Clark, Russellville, KY

Recent Acquisitions ...

"The Word of Holy and Eternal Wisdom," 65-page manuscript, leather and paper binding, copied at South Union November 16, 1845

..... Purchased with acquisition endowment funds.

"The Holy Orders of the Church," 96-page manuscript, leather binding, copied at South Union January, 1843

..... Purchased with acquisition endowment funds.

Hymnal, 200-page manuscript, leather binding, 1850, probably Canterbury, New Hampshire, 1859-1861, used in the Narcoossee, Florida Shaker community and acquired by donor's grandmother near the time of the community's dissolution in the 1920s.

..... Donated by Carolyn J. Moore.

Work table, cherry, dated August 2, 1839, attributed to South Union, acquired from Mrs. Joe Wallace, wife of the Shakers' farm manger, by Nell McCarley, aunt of the donor, in the 1920s (this table was pictured in Jerry V. Grant and Douglas R. Allen's 1989 book "Shaker Furniture Makers").

..... Donated by Ms. Lucy McCarley.

Photo album, 1916, containing approximately 300 photographs of George and Lucy Harrison Hardy family of Russellville, Kentucky. The album probably belonged to one of the Hardy's four daughters while attending Logan Female College in Russellville. The collection includes seven photos of a picnic at Shakertown.

..... Donated by Mrs. John Clark.

Tim Bookout Shaker Collection Leaves South Union . . .

In 1975 Tim Bookout brought his collection of western Shaker furniture to South Union to be exhibited in the Centre House. The museum organization had owned the building for less than three years when Bookout first visited the site, but he became interested in the restoration project and developed a relationship with museum directors Deedy Hall and Julia Neal. South Union's collection was not large enough in 1985 to fill the many rooms of the Centre House, so Bookout decided to leave his collection with the museum indefinitely.

The Tim Bookout collection included forty pieces of furniture, two coverlets, an oval box, a heating stove, a mantle, and a garment hanger. Most of the objects were attributed to Union Village, Ohio, but there were also pieces from White Water, Ohio; Watervliet, Ohio; Pleasant Hill, Kentucky; Mt. Lebanon, New York; Watervliet, New York; and Hancock, Massachusetts. The collection was exhibited in the Centre House as a unit from 1975 until 1987 when it was dispersed throughout the historic buildings at South Union and incorporated into a number of individual exhibits.

In the fall of 2002, Tim Bookout decided that the collection should be sold at auction. The pieces were gathered in South Union's meeting room in mid-December, labeled with Mr. Bookout's original item numbers and picked up by the Brunk Auctions of Asheville, North Carolina. The auction is scheduled for the weekend of February 22 in Asheville.

A Message From Our Incoming President . . .

As a new year begins, we all look forward to exciting and new possibilities. Newly appointed to the position of President of the Board of Directors for the Shaker Museum, I would like to give a brief introduction. Being a lifelong South Union resident, I am no stranger to the area nor to the deep history that is Shakertown. I have served on the Board of Directors in other capacities for the past two years and it is my honor to now serve as President of the Board. I appreciate the confidence that the Board of Directors has placed in my abilities to serve as President. I look forward to helping this great historic site continue to prosper and flourish.

The coming year holds a number of challenges and opportunities. The efforts opposing Apex Environmental's proposed waste transfer station continue. Our members have been very generous and helpful in combating this threat and continued involvement is necessary.

It has been my experience that volunteers play a vital role in an organization such as the Shaker Museum. Since we are expanding our educational programs, and tour groups are already being booked for 2003, additional volunteers will be welcomed. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, please contact Twila Cox at the museum, 542-4167. Since we have a full schedule of events, the Board and staff would like to encourage all to be involved.

Thank you for your continued support as we anticipate a great season.

Respectfully,

Jon Taylor Barrow
President
Board of Directors
The Shaker Museum at South Union

SPECIAL EVENTS

April 11-12

SOUTH UNION SEMINAR

This year's theme is "Marketing the Shakers," with presentations focused on the trade practices in both the eastern communities and in the west. Our guest speakers, both well-known Shaker researchers, are Elaine Disch from Evanston, Illinois, and Nancy Hillenburg, from Morro Bay, California.

The weekend will also include lots of good Kentucky food, a sneak preview of the 1846 Ministry Shop restoration and some other surprises as well. Reservations required.

Fee: \$45.00 for member
\$55.00 for non-members

Time: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday

June

GRAND OPENING OF THE 1846 MINISTRY SHOP

An event commemorating the official opening of the restored 1846 Ministry Shop, held on the grounds of the historic structure. Reservations required. Details to be announced.

August 24

CIVIL WAR ENCAMPMENT

The difficult days of the Civil War are relived as re-enactors portray the Shakers' encounter with Confederate and Federal troops.

Fee: Free with museum admission

October 4

SHAKER FARM DAY

Step into South Union during harvest time in the 1870s. Living history demonstrations include everything from lard rendering to laundry boiling. Enjoy a Kentucky barbeque lunch under the shade trees and tour the historic Shaker building.

Fee: \$6.00 Adults
\$2.00 Children (6-12)

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**November 8
November 15**

A SHAKER BREAKFAST

Experience a morning meal like no other when you sit down to an 1863 South Union breakfast. This Civil War era menu includes eggs and sausage, fried chicken, sweet potatoes, buttermilk biscuits, peach pie, and much more. Reservations required.

Fee: \$20.00 for members, \$22.00 for non-members

Time: Seatings at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

December 6 CHRISTMAS AT SHAKERTOWN

One of Kentucky's finest antique and handmade craft shows - just in time for Christmas.

Fee: Canned food item to be given to needy families

Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A preview party on Friday evening, December 5, benefits the museum. Reservations required.

EXHIBIT OPENINGS

March 22 "THE SHAKER MUSEUM AT A GLANCE"

An exhibit in the cellar of the 1824 Centre house, highlighting the spaces on the upper floors of the building not accessible to those not able to climb stairs.

April 26 "THE MINISTRY AT HOME"

South Union's 1846 Ministry Shop, once living and work space for the community's leadership, will open to the general public after a five-year restoration. The structure was used by the Shakers for nearly fifty years and is an extraordinary example of Kentucky Shaker craftsmanship.

July 19 "ORDERED LABOR: THE SHAKER WORKSHOP"

An exhibit examining the Shaker workplace through historic photographs, manuscript records, and original equipment. Whether providing for the domestic needs of the community or producing goods for sale to "the world", the Shakers created clean, efficient, modern workshops in which to accomplish their daily tasks.

For more information:

The Shaker Museum at South Union

P.O. Box 30

South Union, Kentucky 42283

(270) 542-4167 or (800) 811-8379

e-mail: shakmus@logantele.com

www.logantele.com/shakmus

Special thanks to:

Mrs. W. L. Lyons Brown and the W. L. Lyons Brown Foundation

Mr. Will Martin in recognition of Ms. Bess Martin

Mr. Martin Brown

for supporting educational programming at the Shaker Museum.



2002's Christmas at Shakertown was a wonderful success. If you were unable to attend, here's just a sample of what you missed. Plan to attend an event at South Union in 2003.



A Special Thanks to Our Very Special Donors ...

<i>WILL MARTIN</i>	<i>MARTIN BROWN AND ATTICUS TRUST</i>
<i>EDIE BINGHAM</i>	<i>W.L. LYONS BROWN FOUNDATION</i>
<i>HELM FOUNDATION</i>	<i>W. RIDLEY WILLS, III</i>
<i>BRIAN LANKFORD</i>	<i>DALE SPENCER</i>
<i>JOSEPH AND DOROTHY JONES</i>	<i>GROVER CORUM</i>
<i>BARBARA ENGLISH</i>	<i>STUART FAMILY FOUNDATION</i>
<i>CRACKER BARREL</i>	<i>CORA JANE SPILLER</i>
<i>OWSLEY BROWN</i>	<i>BB&T BANK</i>
<i>AUBURN BANKING COMPANY</i>	<i>CARPENTER FOUNDATION</i>

A Special Thanks to Our New Members ...

Christian Goodwillie
Pittsfield, MA

Brian Lankford
Evansville, IN

Lorna Thigpen
New Bern, NC

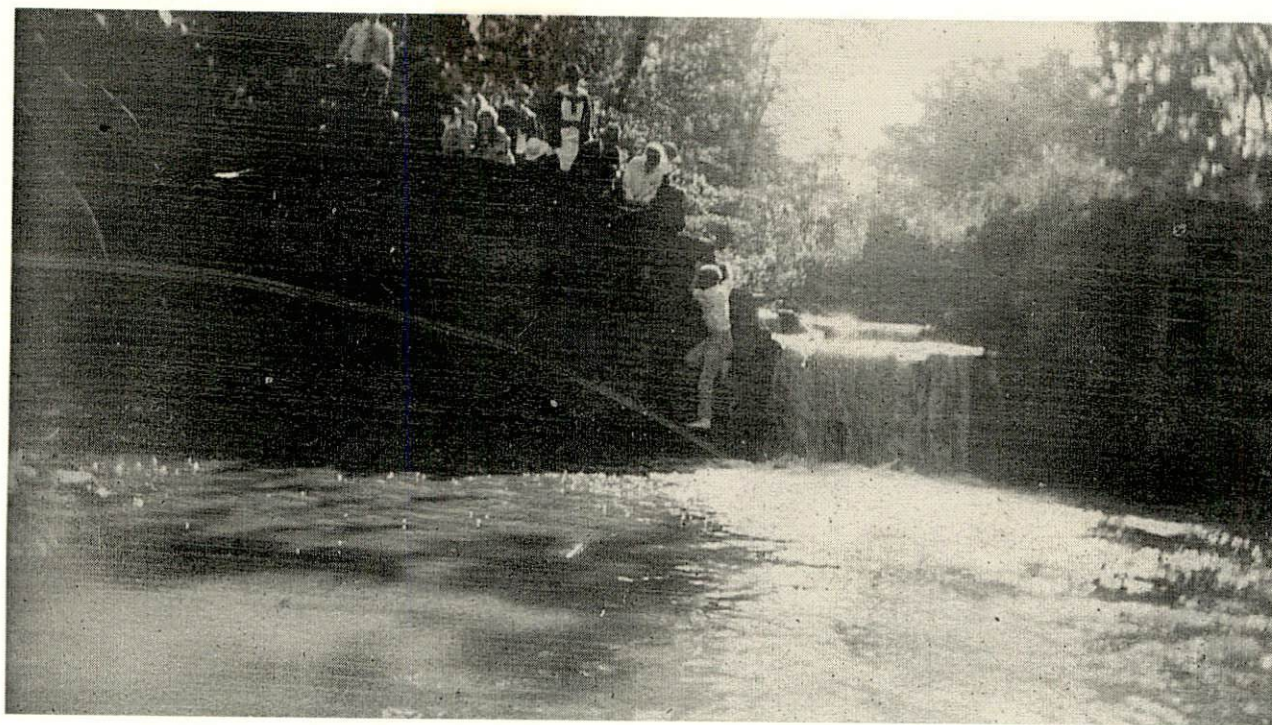
And, a very special thanks to all our members. Without all of this support, The Shaker Museum at South Union would not exist.

Come Join the Crowd !!!

As we begin our 2003 season, we have a great need for volunteers. Our staff is hard at work preparing for our season kickoff on March 1 and we plan to make all of our events bigger and better this year. We are continually working to improve all areas of the museum and to reach more and more people, but we need volunteers for tour guides, greeters, grounds work, special events, gardeners and gift shop workers. In years past, our volunteers have been the life-blood of the museum.

If you are interested in becoming a Shaker Museum volunteer, please contact Twila Cox at (800) 811-8379 or (270) 542-4167.

PLEASE CONSIDER BECOMING A VOLUNTEER.



From a recently acquired album donated by Mrs. John Clark, Russellville, KY



SHAKER MUSEUM AT SOUTH UNION

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