

12-2003

South Union Messenger (December 2003)

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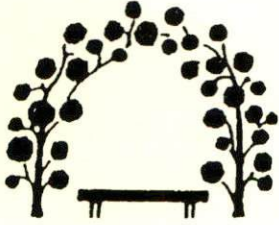
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SOUTH UNION MESSENGER

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

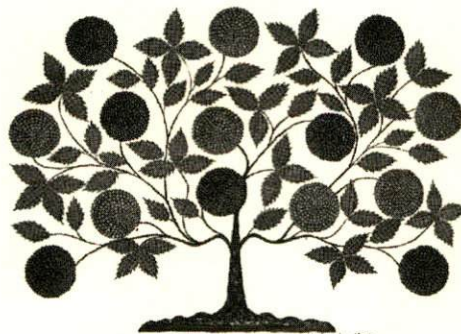
A Word from the Director...

Merry Christmas from everyone at South Union!

The December newsletter will hopefully evoke the mood here as we come to the end of a wonderful year. Our attendance has increased more than ten percent from 2002 figures, and museum shop sales have reflected similar growth. All of that translates into the ability to tackle more restoration and developmental projects in the coming months.

As with most museums, visitor numbers are only a small portion of the overall budget. Your membership support continues to be an invaluable asset to the livelihood of the Shaker Museum at South Union. Thank you so much for participating in what we do here. I appreciate your encouraging words, your faithful attendance at our events, and all the many ways that make us know how much you really care about South Union. I cannot think of a more exciting place to be right now.

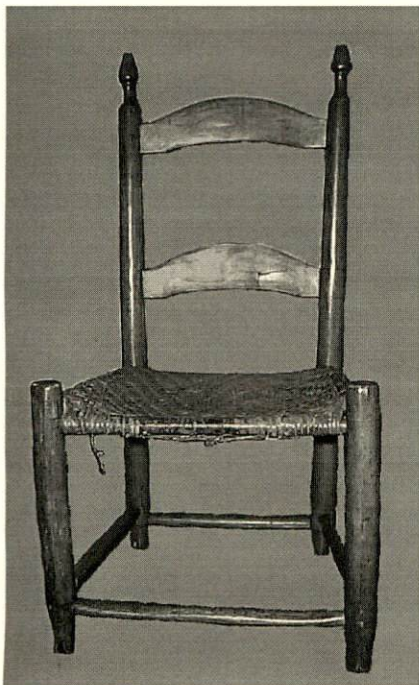
Best wishes for a great holiday season,
Tommy Hines



Recent Acquisitions ...

Chair, ash with maple back slats, classic South Union example, traces of red-orange paint, room number "6" impressed into chair, original painted oak splint seat, ca. 1870, purchased at South Union auction in 1922.

..... purchased with acquisition endowment funds



Chair, child's maple and ash, classic South Union example, traces of red-orange paint, evidence of room number impressed into chair, replaced seat, ca. 1830, purchased at South Union auction in 1922 by Mr. and Mrs. Guthrie Coke, Auburn, Kentucky.

donated by Fletch and Bill Coke, Catherine Coke Shick and Alice Coke

Interesting Note: A white kerchief that our museum acquired from the Willis Henry auction in July, 2003 was reported in our last newsletter as "probably made at South Union." Upon closer examination of the mid-20th century manuscript that accompanied the kerchief, it was discovered that it had a definite South Union connection. Apparently the South Union Shakers sent gifts to each of the brethren and sisters at Canterbury, New Hampshire in 1856, a white silk handkerchief for the men and a white silk kerchief for the women. According to the manuscript the kerchief that we purchased is one of those South Union sent to Canterbury 147 years ago.

A Tribute to Larry Owrey ...

The Shaker Museum lost a great friend earlier this year with the passing of Larry Owrey. Larry and his wife Ruth first came to South Union in 1985 to make oval boxes during the annual Shaker Festival. From that time on, Larry and Ruth Owrey were considered a vital part of the South Union family. Their visits became more and more frequent and the Owreys gave countless hours to museum festivals, special events, and fundraisers.



During those visits, Larry and Ruth appeared on television segments produced by stations in Bowling Green and Nashville, and Larry was featured on PBS's *American Woodshop* when they filmed here. Their skill as craftspeople developed with each season and they began to host workshops on oval box-making and basket-making at South Union, always donating the proceeds to the museum. For nearly fifteen years, the Owreys shared their lives with us. Not only were they the ideal volunteers, but the ideal friends as well.

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to Ruth.

A Message From Our President . . .

Another exciting year is coming to a close for the Shaker Museum at South Union. This has been a wonderful year for the museum, with new exhibits, exciting events, the opening of the 1846 Ministry Shop, and expansion of our gift shop.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members, volunteers and contributors for their continued support. Without your help, our museum would not continue to flourish.

In the coming year, we have a number of new ideas we hope to implement and challenges to face.

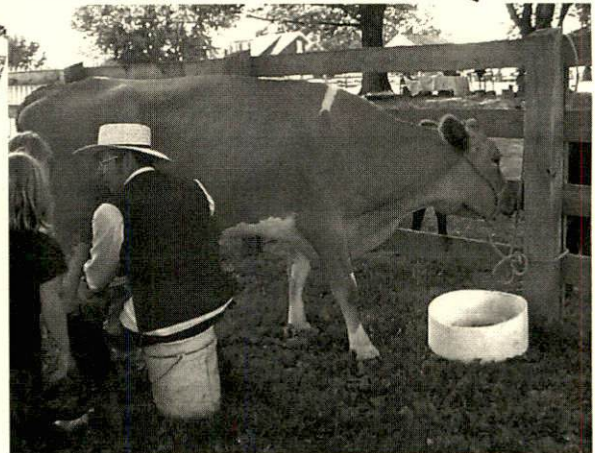
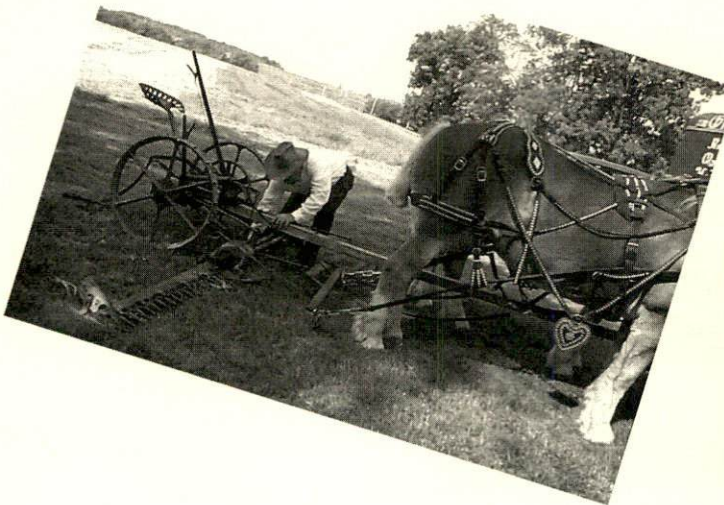
As our staff continues to improve the gift shop and tours, attendance continues to grow. Perhaps the most exciting addition will be our new website. In addition to a more informative website, we are eagerly anticipating the ability to shop from the gift shop on-line.

The Shaker Museum and the South Union community continue our efforts to combat the proposed waste transfer station. While there are no new happenings to report, I would like to thank all who have contributed to this effort. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the Board and Staff, thank you again for your memberships, donations, and continued support. We look forward to a prosperous and exciting 2004.

Jon Taylor Barrow

Farm Day ...



Farm Day 2003 was a great success, there was much to do and see. If you missed it, we hope these pictures will give you a sense of what a great time we had.

Christmas at Shakertown ...



Over 800 visitors shopped the booths of fine antiques and handmade crafts at this year's event. The silent auction was a great success; thanks to those who contributed items; the amount of canned food donated by visitors exceeded last year. All-in-all, it was a great day!!!

Attention to Detail ...



Restoration does not always take place in broad sweeps, but it sometimes addresses the minute details of a skilled craftsman. Such is the case with a recently completed project on the back door of the Centre House. Installed sometime between May of 1832 and April of 1833, the door at the north end of the kitchen had seen countless coats of paint and a number of repairs over the years. Because it was determined that delicate decorative details were being hidden under the many layer of paint and that restoration quality repairs were needed to ensure the future of the 170 year old door, work began this fall. The back entrance to the kitchen was chosen as the first of the Centre House's seven exterior doors to be restored because of its northern exposure and its history of heavy use.

Local craftsman Eugene Hall, who also completed much of the carpentry work on the recently restored 1846 Ministry Shop, was chosen to do the project. Layer after layer of latex paint was stripped from the door to reveal an original dark green painted surface, consistent with the rest of the exterior

doors. Hall also discovered that the original thumb latch from the 1830's had been replaced with a second thumb latch sometime during the 19th century, and that a great variety of locks had been used on the door over the years.

The door is back on its original iron hinges now and it works like a brand new door. The door and its surrounding trim still show signs of many years of use, but Shaker-designed moldings and beadings are much more defined than they were before restoration. The condition of the door and the workmanship that has now been more closely examined is a true testament to the skill and craftsmanship of the Shaker carpenters who created these entrances so many years ago.

New Members ...

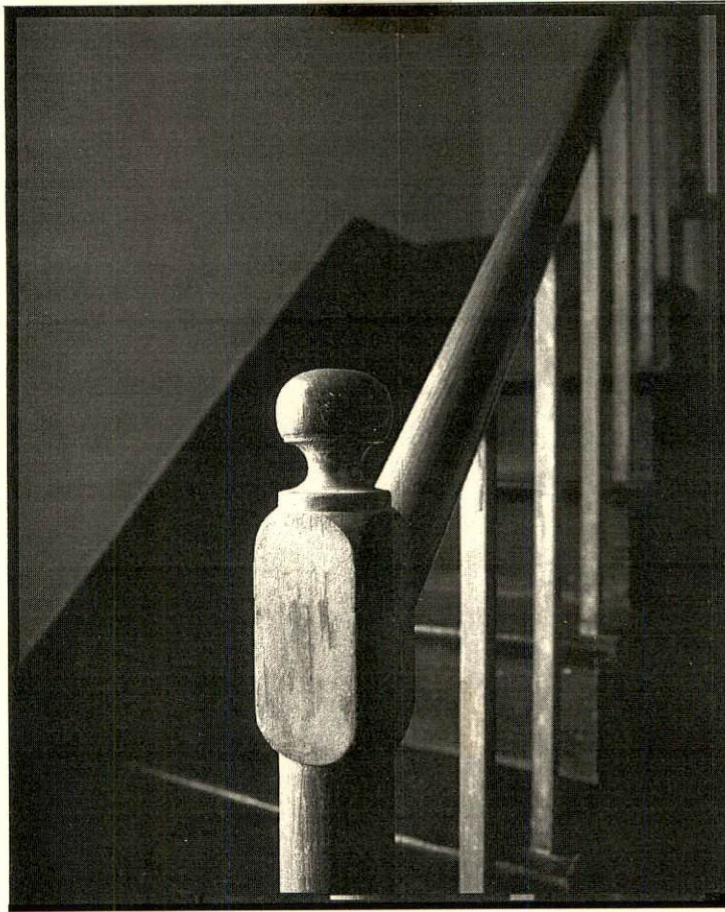
Frances Swedlund
Cobden, IL

Jackson and Betty Kesler
Bowling Green, KY

A special thanks to Elizabeth Hancock for her recent donation to the Shaker Museum. Ms. Hancock is the daughter of Janice Holt Giles, author of so many wonderful Kentucky books. We were honored to have Ms. Hancock as a visitor to our museum and as a guest at our Bed & Breakfast in October.

A Very Special Thanks To ...

John Campbell for his many hours of volunteer service this past year. He has volunteered his time to help with group tours, school tours, and library work. He is also making brooms for our gift shop. Thank you so much, John, for all your hard work.



SHAKER MUSEUM AT SOUTH UNION

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