

9-2001

South Union Messenger (September 2001)

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South Union Messenger

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

Lillie Mae Hayes Retires from Museum

After nearly twenty years as an interpreter, Lillie Mae Hayes recently retired from her familiar post at the front door of the Centre House. Lillie Mae, who began work at South Union in 1982, has greeted thousands of tourists with an infectious smile and a mind full of knowledge about the history of the Shakers in Kentucky. Her tremendous dedication to South Union, her willingness to work long hours in a variety of capacities and her constant desire to learn made Lillie Mae the ideal staff member. Her presence will be greatly missed at the museum, but we wish her many happy days of retirement.



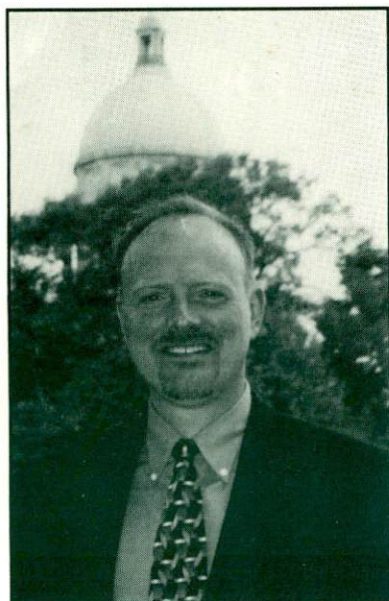
Lillie Mae Hayes



Lillie Mae Hayes (L) & Jo Ann Moody (R), Innkeeper at the 1869 Shaker Tavern

State's Top Historic Preservation Honor Awarded to South Union's Tommy Hines

In May, the museum's material cultural specialist and former executive director, Mr. Tommy Hines, received the Ida Lee Willis Stewardship Award, the state's top award for excellence in historic preservation. This prestigious state award is given annually to one individual statewide who performs outstanding advancements in historic preservation. Tommy, who received many nominations for this award, traveled to Frankfort along with a contingent of museum employees, friends, and volunteers to accept the award from Governor Patton in the Governor's Mansion. Tommy has been instrumental in the complete restoration of the Shaker Museum over the last sixteen years and continues to be an integral part of the many positive developments the museum has made. Congratulations Tommy on this exceptional achievement!



Tommy Hines

September 2001

"In addition to this year's program success, the museum has made enormous gains toward our preservation and long-range planning goals"

The Directors Corner . . .



My museum career began in the late 1980's as an historical interpreter for the National Park Service. Since then, I have maintained the belief that visitors to historic sites and museums have a need to be entertained or at least evoked to learn more about history and in our case, the South Union Shakers. By maintaining this motto, I have seen throughout the first seven months as director, a curve of enthusiasm that I hope will continue to be the driving force behind elevating the Shaker Museum to an even higher plane.

The summer season has been outstanding. For those who were fortunate to attend this year's "An Evening at Shakertown" gala, then you got to see why maintaining and preserving the Shaker Museum as one of Kentucky's most valuable historic treasures was such a special event. The interest in keeping the Shaker's legacy alive at South Union through music was again carried through in July with our "Shaker Summer Nights." As a first time event, I was overwhelmed with the evening's events and visitor turnout. It looks as if this event will gain strength in upcoming years.

In addition to this year's program success, the museum has made enormous gains toward our preservation and long-range planning goals. This kind of positive change has included the removal of non-Shaker era buildings, construction of more Shaker style fencing on the east side of our main entrance, new exhibits featuring themes about the South Union Civil War history and the 1917 Shaker store, and an aggressive marketing campaign that will soon net the museum an interstate billboard along I-65 with the hopes that more traffic will be generated to the museum.

But challenges still lay ahead for the Shaker Museum. Despite our gains, significant funds still have to be raised to keep our progress advancing. As we enter our fall event season, our focus will continue promoting first-class visitor services like the "Shaker Farm Festival" in October and "Christmas at Shakertown" in December. To do this I will make sure that our finances continue to be sound and that all of our members are served beyond what they expect each time they visit the Museum.

Great things will continue to develop as the museum moves forward in 2002, so I hope you're along for the journey.

Sincerely,
Jerry T. Wooten
Executive Director

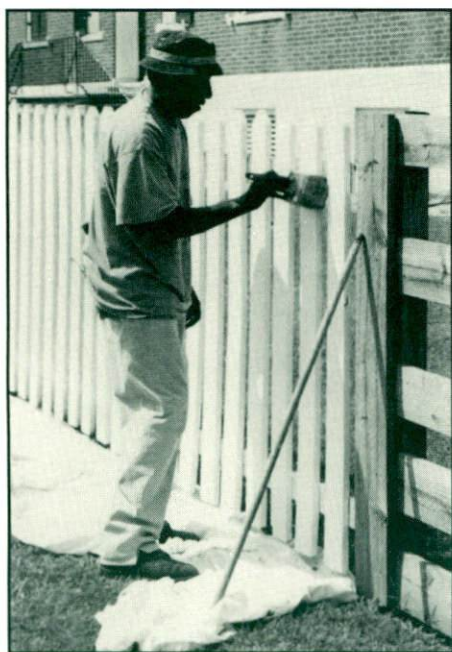
From the President of the Shaker Museum
at South Union Board of Directors:

Greetings on behalf of the Board of Directors. We hope everyone is staying comfortable during this hot summer. We also hope that you've been taking advantage of the numerous events and exhibits at the Shaker Museum. Many changes have occurred at the site and continue to occur. One of the most conspicuous changes is the "deconstruction" of the home built by Mr. Bond on the site of the Meeting House across from the Centre House dwelling. Mr. Bond razed the Meeting House and used materials from that structure to build his home. This deconstruction process has allowed us to research and archive these materials, and, frankly, we've discovered many new things about the Shaker site. According to former Director and current preservation and restoration expert, Tommy Hines, our goal will be to reconfigure the foundation, which is made from the original Shaker Meeting House cut stones, to match the original footprint and placement of the Meeting House.

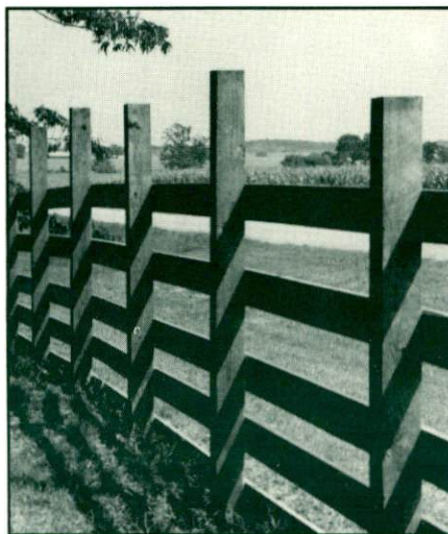
Our Executive Director, Jerry Wooten, has extensive knowledge about the Civil War in general, and Tommy Hines is also very knowledgeable about the Civil War as it impacted the South Union Shakers. Additionally, we of course know a great deal about this period from journal entries made by the Shakers themselves. All of this knowledge resulted in the development of South Union Shaker Civil War Days, which was held the weekend of August 18th. Civil War events have become very popular, and it is very appropriate that we interpret this period in the lives of the Shaker community at South Union. The Civil War had a profound impact on the South Union Shakers in many, many ways.

Thanks to all our members for your support at South Union; we could not have achieved what we have without you. Likewise, future preservation and growth of the South Union Shaker site will depend on continued support from our membership. Please encourage your family and friends to become members.

Sincerely,
Skip Cleavinger, President
Shaker Museum at South Union
Board of Directors



Museum's Ground's & Maintenance employee, James Grinter, painting the Centre family dwelling picket fence



South Unions new Shaker style fencing
August 2001

Thank You
Gala
Contributors!

Grants and Foundations
Awards Update

The Museum is always pleased to receive grants and other funding awards. These grant and foundation monies are used for the continuation of our quality education programs and special events we offer through the season. Without financial support of this kind, the museum could not survive. During the months of June-August, the following grants were received:

1. Firstar:

\$3,000 Grant

(Educational and Special Events)

2. Historic Confederation
of Kentucky

\$250.00 - Travel & Training

\$500.00 - Special Events Grant
(Civil War Days)

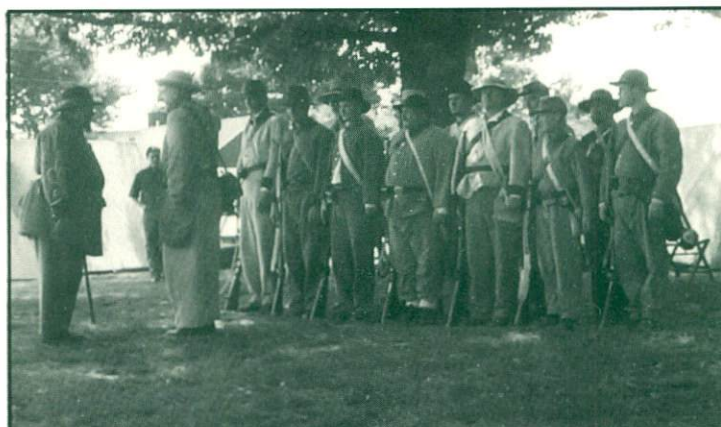
Other potential awards we anticipate will be announced in the upcoming months and will be announced in the next newsletter.

We sincerely thank these businesses and organizations for their support as well as the continued financial support from our members.

"The weekend offered good weather which helped bring out over 500 museum visitors for the event. The single biggest one day event this year."

1st Annual Civil War Days - Huge Success

The weekend of August 18-19 once again saw Union and Confederate soldiers encamped on the grounds of the South Union Shaker Village. Over 60 Civil War reenactors and period vendors (sutlers)



came from as far north as Indianapolis and as far south as Memphis, Tennessee to participate in the living history. Firing demonstrations, military drill, medical demonstrations, and civil war photography demonstrations were just a few of the activities that made the weekend a success.

The living history was opened to the public both days. The weekend offered good weather which helped bring out over 500 museum visitors; the single biggest one day event this year. Those who participated were able to re-live the Civil War between 1861-1865. The camps were opened to the public both days between 9 and 5 p.m.

On Saturday evening, the participants were treated to a tasty Shaker dinner at the 1869 Shaker Tavern prepared by our own innkeeper, Jo Ann Moody. Following dinner, the group was entertained by the Double Ought String Band from Hopkinsville. As the music played, both the civilian and military reenactors danced period reels and waltzes on the front porch of the Tavern to the sounds of "The Girl I Left Behind" and other period tunes. A good time was had by all.

In addition to the living history on Saturday, the museum opened its latest exhibit in the 1835 Smoke and Milk House entitled, "War at our Front Door: The Civil War at South Union." A well-attended opening reception took place on Saturday between 1-3 p.m. The exhibit will remain on display for the remainder of the season.

It looks as if Civil War Days will certainly grow into one of the museum's more popular special events.



Civil War Reenactors

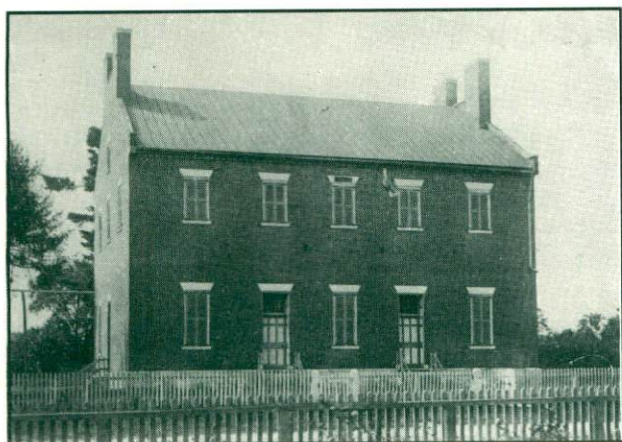


Union and Confederate Soldiers Encampment

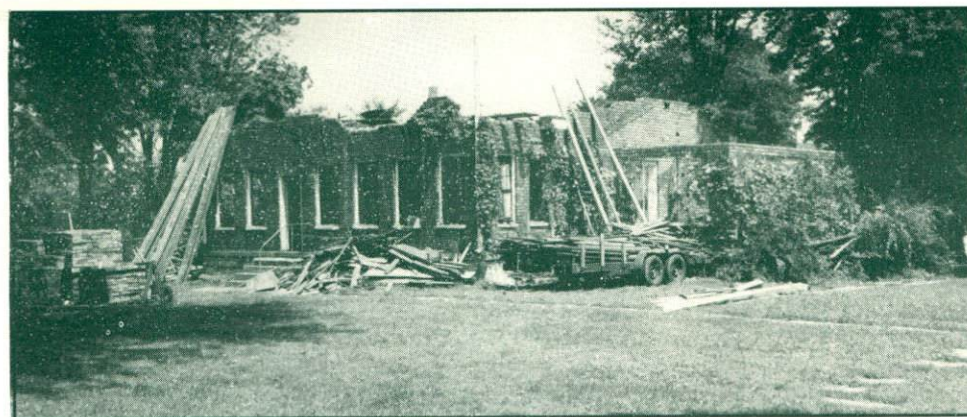
Collections Update by Tommy Hines

Just when you think that artifacts from South Union's history are few and far between, pieces of the past begin to appear in the most unlikely places. During the recent removal of the 1926 Oscar Bond home across the street from the Centre House, surprising evidence of the 1818 Meeting House, which Bond had demolished before building his home, has surfaced. We knew that Bond had reconfigured the beautiful cut limestone foundation of the Meeting House to support his new Dutch Colonial home, but were unsure about the historic nature of the other building materials.

While the interior of the home boasted flooring and trim from the mid 1920s, the building's exterior was constructed using materials salvaged by Bond from the Shaker structures being razed at the time. When the demolition of Bond's house



1818 Meeting House (razed 1925)



Bond House (removed 2001)

began in May, workmen discovered at least a dozen dated bricks, marked either "1812", "1813", or "1814". Several bricks were found with the initials "J.M.", possibly those of early mason John McComb. These bricks, which predated the construction of the Meeting House kiln, are earliest examples of South Union brick-making.

Director Wooten Selected to Attend Preservation Leadership Training

Between June 1st through the 12th, Shaker Museum director Jerry Wooten attended the National Trust for Historic Preservation's - Prevention Leadership Training in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. Wooten was selected to attend the training along with 40 other candidates across the nation. The week-long training was held at the famous Beaumont Inn in Harrodsburg. "The experience was intense, but boy was it worth it!", Wooten commented. "After the training, I felt as if I had completed two college semesters of leadership skills, board development, preservation law, and team relationships."

The purpose of the training was to educate preservation and leadership issues in the community and work place. Wooten's team project consisted of developing a preservation plan for an endangered historic property and to show how it could be an effective asset for area tourism and economic enhancement.

Welcome New Members!

Cynthia Kingsbury
Alderpoint, CA 9551

Gene Mullins
South Fulton, TN 38257

Zachary Kafoglis
Bowling Green, KY 42102

Firstar Bank
Bowling Green, KY 42102

Martin & Sandy Jones
Bowling Green, KY 42104

Corwin Cruz
Chicago, IL 60640

Ronald & Shelby Watts
Ft. Collins, CO 80526

Theodore Miles
San Francisco, CA 94127

Dr. Jane Bramham
Bowling Green, KY 42103

Bertha Robertson
Auburn, KY 42206

Dr. James Dodson
Russellville, KY 42276

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Taylor
Nashville, TN 37205

Dr. & Mrs. Benjamin Byrd, III
Nashville, TN 37205

R. Bernard
Betty Werthan
Nashville, TN 37215

Bill & Patty Harbison
Nashville, TN 37215

Leonard Wood
Nashville, TN 37215

James Neil Liles
Knoxville, TN 37917

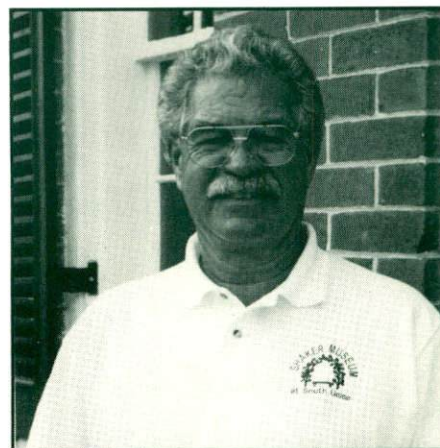
".....the trip generated over 75 potential tour groups who will visit Kentucky next year and the Shaker Museum will be a featured site."

Museum Welcomes Two New Staff Members

We welcome to the staff Mrs. Twila Cox of Bowling Green and Mr. Mike Hossom of Russellville. Twila joined the staff in July as the museum's new office manager. She comes to the museum with over thirty years of office experience as a legal secretary. Twila and her husband Ronnie have two sons, Kevin and Brandon, who also live in Bowling Green.

Mike was recently hired as our newest Historical Interpreter. However, greeting visitors is nothing new to Mike considering that he and his wife Margaret also own and operate The Log House Bed and Breakfast in Russellville.

We are very pleased to have these two wonderfully talented employees at the Shaker Museum. On your next visit to the museum, be sure to say hello to Twila and Mike.



Mike Hossom - Historical Interpreter
Twila Cox - Photo not available

Shaker Seminar Comes to South Union

South Union and Pleasant Hill were the villages highlighted and visited by the Shaker Seminar this summer. While at South Union the group inspected restoration projects in progress and others awaiting funding. They also visited some of our region's historic sites, enjoyed a number of southern menus, and listened to a variety of presentations pertaining to Shaker history. Special thanks to Sharon Koomler for a great program and to all of the Seminar participants for spending time with us at South Union. You deserve extra praise for visiting in the summer heat.

Shaker Museum Executive Director

Promotes Kentucky Tourism in Pennsylvania

The museum's executive director, Jerry Wooten (pictured with Kentucky Governor Paul Patton) recently attended a Kentucky tourism "blitz" to Pennsylvania July 30th through August 3rd. Over 50 Kentucky representatives from tourism and other state attractions traveled to Lancaster, Bethlehem, and Easton, Pennsylvania along with



Governor Patton, Secretary of Tourism Ann Latta, and Tourism Commissioner Bob Stewart to help promote Kentucky's wonderful parks, cities, and historical attractions.

Director Wooten commented "....being such a valuable historic site to Kentucky the Shaker Museum is, I wouldn't have dared miss such an opportunity to promote our site." As it turned out, the trip generated over 75 potential tour groups who will visit Kentucky next year and the Shaker Museum will be a featured site. Each tour bus (sometimes two) bring over 60 visitors at a time to tour a featured attraction. The Shaker Museum should generate at least half of those visitors. Good job, Jerry!

SPECIAL EVENTS

October 6

SHAKER FARM FESTIVAL AND DINNER

Step into the 1870s and join us for our Fall harvest celebration. Costumed demonstrators will perform broom making, milking, dyemaking and lard rendering. Children can try apple bobbing and other games. Fee \$6.00 adults, \$2.00 children 6-12. Time: 9 - 5 p.m. Saturday
Dinner available at the Shaker Tavern, seating time is 6 p.m. For dinner reservations by September 28, please call 270-542-6801 or toll free 1-800-811-8379.

November 10

A SHAKER BREAKFAST

Experience a morning meal like no other with an extensive menu taken from South Union's Civil War journals. **Reservations required.** Fee: \$25.00 each, members \$20.00. Time: Two seatings at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

November 30-
December 1

"GIFTS FOR THE SEASON" - CHRISTMAS AT SHAKERTOWN

One of Kentucky's finest antique and handmade craft shows. Friday evening wine and cheese preview party, 7-9 p.m. (benefits the museum) Fee: \$15.00 per person. **Reservations are required.** Fee: canned food for local charity. Time: Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

EXHIBIT OPENINGS

September 22

"FIELDS OF GOLD"; SOUTH UNION AGRICULTURE

The staple of South Union's economy depended heavily on agricultural elements. This exhibit will explore the South Union Shaker's agricultural role in Logan County. Fee: Free with paid museum admission. Time: 1-3 p.m.

WORKSHOPS

September 29

HATMAKING

Make your own hat during this 19th century hat making workshop demonstrating Shaker style men's hat. The fee is \$75.00. Included is the hat blank, ribbon, hat liner materials and instructions. Class size limited to 8. Instructor: John Ferrol. Time: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Special thanks to the W.L. Lyons Brown Foundation for supporting education programming at the Shaker Museum.

*Mark your
Calendars ...*



*September 22nd
"Fields of Gold" - Agriculture Exhibit*

*September 29th
Hatmaking Workshop*

*October 6th
"Shaker Farm Festival and Dinner"*

2001 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



SHAKER MUSEUM AT SOUTH UNION

850 Shaker Museum Road
South Union, Kentucky 42283

Nonprofit Organization
US POSTAGE
PAID
Shakertown at
South Union, KY 42283
Permit No. 3

Jonathan Jeffrey
110 Riverwood
Bowling Green, KY 42103

From the Past...



The decade following the closing of South Union in 1922 is one of the most poorly documented. No records pertaining to the changes made to the community after the Shakers left exist and oral history documentation is scant. We do know that approximately fifty buildings were standing at the time of the auction and that only nine remained by 1935. This photograph, recently printed from a negative found in the Ray Pearson Collection at South Union, pictures non-Shakers posing at the site of a demolished Shaker building. It is difficult to determine which structure is captured in the photograph, but the image does provide valuable information.