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Time to Move On....

After fifteen years as director of the Shaker Museum at South Union I have made the tough decision to explore other career opportunities, outside the realm of Shaker research and historic preservation. My time at South Union has been both exciting and challenging and I really never imagined myself anywhere else. It has been wonderful being a part of a preservation project from the ground level, working along side tireless volunteers and staff members whose interest never seem to wane. I also feel so fortunate to have known and learned from two very special people, Deedy Hall and Julia Neal.

For the many years of assistance and support I want to thank the great staff with whom I have been privileged to work: Sharon Koomler, Mike Sisk, Pete Wilson, Mary Inkrot, Saddler Taylor, Donnalyn Spencer, Jo Ann Moody, James Grinter, Sue Brooks, Addie Brooks, Lillie Mae Hayes, Melanie Smith and Sharon Saucedo. I also want to thank all of those who served on the museum's Board of Directors, and the many dedicated volunteers, interns and students who have made such a tremendous impact here. I especially wish to thank the Advisory Committee for the gift of constant encouragement and valuable expertise: Edie Bingham, Bill Coke, Martin Brown, Ridley Wills III, John Ridley, Doris Thomas, Mike Harrell, and Ann Early Sutherland. So many have been generous to share time, knowledge, and inspiration with me and I will always be indebted to Jim Thomas, Larry Curry and the staff at Pleasant Hill, David Morgan at the Kentucky Heritage Council, and my friends who continue to live out what many of us are trying to preserve, the Shakers at Sabbathday Lake, Maine.

My new vocation is that of Associate Pastor at Morgantown Community Church in Morgantown, Kentucky. You won't see me in the pulpit, but I will be working with the adult ministries as well as coordinating the music ministry. I am excited about my new career and feel certain that it is where I need to be. God has blessed me with fifteen great years at South Union and has, I believe, more of the same in store for me now.

I will not be completely disassociated with the Shaker Museum, thank goodness, as the organization has hired me as a part-time staff member in the role of Material Culture Specialist. I will keep office hours
on Fridays and will oversee restoration projects, write grants, and design the exhibition plan for each of the buildings at South Union. You can still reach me at the museum email address or at my new address: mccthines@hotmail.com

Thank you, Friends of the Museum, for attending events, for encouragement, for financial support, and for your unwavering devotion to South Union. It may sound trite, but I could not have done it without you. It has been an unforgettable fifteen years.

Tommy Hines

**Restoration Projects**

Several important restoration projects that have long awaited attention are finally becoming a reality. Federal ISTEA funding in the amount of $124,000.00, a figure representing eighty percent of the finished project, was made available to the Shaker Museum in May, allowing work to begin on both the restoration of the 1917 Shaker Store and Post Office and the historic landscape along the 1825 Road. The project also included a restoration project at the 1869 Shaker Tavern.

The earliest known photograph of the 1917 store building can be found in a booklet published in 1922 to advertise the final sale of South Union. That image has become the basis for the restoration of the building’s exterior, a project that began in mid-July. Besides the restoration of original windows and doors, the addition of historically accurate roofing material and the repointing of brick and stone features, the most striking change will take place on the building’s facade. When completed in 1917, the storefront was adorned with a tall brick parapet wall, rising high above a metal awning. Sometime before 1930 the brick wall was replaced with a wooden counterpart, the reason for which was always a mystery until recent restoration revealed a design flaw. The beam that supported the entire weight of the brick wall was made of wood, wood that failed very early in the life of the structure. The restoration architect has chosen to replace the wooden beam with iron, a choice that should have probably been made in 1917. Fortunately, the building’s original datestone survived and has now been secured once more in the center of the beautiful new brick storefront.

The restoration of the Shaker Tavern dining room, a project that returned the space to its original dimensions, was completed in June with the removal of a 1950s window that had replaced one of the 8 by 3 foot original windows on the east wall. A replica was built to match the other windows nearby and the dining room was once again ready to welcome guests...that is after woodwork was installed, light fixtures were rewired, a door was replicated, wallpaper was hung, and painting was finished!
Programming Notes

While hard to believe, spring has come and gone, summer is almost over, and fall will be here soon. May and June were busy months at the museum. Well over three hundred guests enjoyed the 2000 gala event "An Evening in Shakertown." In addition to an exhibit featuring her work, Martha Weatherbee held several workshops focussing on Shaker basket-making. Participants had the opportunity to make a variety of traditional Shaker baskets. Visitors also had the chance to bring in a basket of their own for Martha to evaluate.

Shaker Farm Day is scheduled for September 9, and we anticipate another good crowd for the third annual event. Farm Day is fast becoming a visitor favorite and we look forward to a day full of fun 19th-century "chores." We encourage everyone to stop by and join us in welcoming fall to South Union!
**Recent Acquisitions**

**South Union sewing desk, ca. 1860.** Cherry, classic South Union form. Identical to sewing desk already in collection.

..............................anonymous acquisition

**South Union manuscript letter.** March 23, 1871. Letter written by South Union Trustees Pearcifield and McGown. Addressed to Nashville, TN merchant.

..............................purchased with acquisition endowment funds

**Sabbathday Lake, ME woodenware and needle work.** Round box, 7 5/8" diameter, stamped Sabbathday Lake. Embroidery/cross-stitch of shepherd & sheep with Bible verse, done by Sister Eleanor Philbrook.

..............................donated by Rose Mary Lawson, Sevierville, TN

**Canterbury, NH fancy goods.** Poplarware handkerchief box, Canterbury Shaker manufacture. Green fabric with elastic fastener and button on front.

..............................donated by Rose Mary Lawson, Sevierville, TN

**Photograph of 1810 Frame Dwelling, ca. 1929**

..............................donated by Tom Sanders, Frankfort, KY

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**Farewell to a Friend**

The Shaker Museum at South Union lost a dear friend this past spring. Roger Selvidge, a long-time supporter of the museum, passed away in April of this year. A talented photographer and artist, Roger put in hundreds of hours of volunteer work at the museum. Rarely did the museum have an event that Roger did not attend, camera always in hand. Roger alone is responsible for expanding the extensive photographic archive that is housed in the library. This archive provides thorough documentation of numerous museum events and several major restoration projects. Without Roger's dedication, most of this documentation would not exist.

The Shaker Museum was also fortunate to host two successful exhibits featuring Roger's work. Always gracious, Roger wanted only what was best for the museum and his enthusiasm was matched by no one. He will be sorely missed by all and our thoughts and prayers are with his family and many friends.

*From a photograph by Roger Selvidge, 1999*
Thank You Recent Contributors to "Buying Back the Shaker Farm"

Fundraising Drive Goal: $585,000
Balance Yet to Raise as of 8/1/2000: $100,000

Mr. & Mrs. Ridley Wills III, Nashville, TN
H.C. Peart, Bowling Green, KY
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Clark, Russellville, KY
Logan Memorial Hospital, Russellville, KY
Clifton Anderson, Lexington, KY
Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Dewald, Clarksville, TN

Carpenter Grant Received

Thanks to a generous grant from the Carpenter Foundation of Russellville, Kentucky, the 1847 Ministry Shop will soon come alive with the sights and sounds of a major restoration project. The Shaker Museum was awarded the grant in late July, with work slated to start during the fall of this year. While minor stabilization work has been done, this funding will allow for some of the most important and costly work to be completed. Extensive brickwork, installation of an HVAC system, new shutters, and isolated interior work will be a few of the priorities. The long awaited goal of opening the Ministry Shop to the public looks to become a reality during the 2001 season. We at the museum want to extend a hearty word of thanks to the Carpenter Foundation for being such a faithful supporter of preservation efforts at the South Union historic site.

The South Union Messenger is published by the Shaker Museum at South Union.
For more information contact the museum at:
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South Union, Kentucky 42283
Phone: 270-542-4167 Fax: 270-542-7558
E-mail: shakmus@logantele.com Webpage: http://www.logantele.com/~shakmus/
Welcome New Members

Mr. & Mrs. H. A. Hotsey, Union City, TN
Richard Bailey, Joelton, TN
Harriet C. Pritchard, Lucine Valley, CA
Judie Pederson, Clarksville, TN
Diana Barry, Vevay, IN
Beth McKinney, Bowling Green, KY
Jean B. Lee, Madison, WI
Arthur H. Tischer, Huntsville, AL
Tracey Johnson, Vienna, IL
COL & Mrs. Michael V. Harper, Bowling Green, KY

Thank You for Your Contributions

Logan Aluminum, Russellville, KY for general support
Edie Bingham, Glenview, KY for general support
Cracker Barrel, Lebanon, TN for general support
Dory Hudspeth, Alvaton, KY for herb garden development
John Campbell, New Haven, KY for general support
Dr. Bobbie Lubker, Chapel Hill, NC for general support
Eli Lilly Corporation, Indianapolis, IN for general support
Bowling Green Bicycle Club, Bowling Green, KY for general support
Nancy Baird, Bowling Green, KY for general support
Jean Burks, Shelbourne, VT microfilm reader for library

Memorial Contributions

Edie Bingham, in honor of Sally Brown
Jeff Clark, in memory of Clark family
Barbara Norris, in memory of Ray Norris
James Cleavinger, in general memoriam
Alan Schoen, in memory of O. Edward Freeman
Jamie Malek, in memory of Mary Halek and Helen Holeb
Come and see what life was like on Kentucky's largest 19th century farm....

Shaker Farm Day

When the "simple" life meant rendering lard, boiling laundry, shelling corn, pressing cider, smoking meat, milking the cow, making candles, churning butter, baking bread . . . and that was all before breakfast.

The Shaker Museum at South Union

Saturday, September 9 from 9:00am - 4:00pm
Admission: $5.00 for Adults and $1.00 for Children ages 6-12
Upcoming at the Shaker Museum - Special Events

September 9  Shaker Farm Day
Step into fall in the 1870s as costumed demonstrators show you what it was like to prepare for the long winter months at South Union. Fee: $5 adults, $1 children, members free.
Time: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Sponsored in part by Firstar Bank.

November 11  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: TBA  Time: 9:00 am & 11:00 am