

3-1999

South Union Messenger (March 1999)

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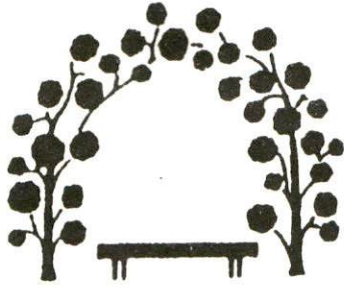
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South Union Messenger

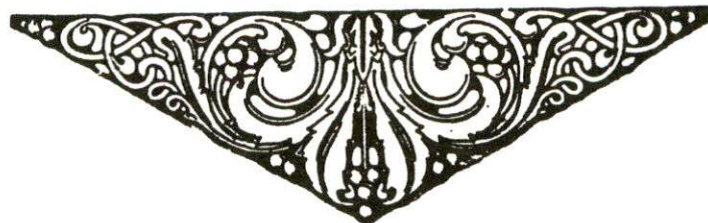
Newsletter for the Friends of the Shaker Museum at South Union, Kentucky
March 1999

20th Century South Union?

Our visitors this season will likely be surprised by some of what they see inside the Centre Family Dwelling. The exhibits on the first floor of the building have taken on a rather fresh, unique flavor. The dining room and kitchen now reflect a picture of what the areas probably looked like around the year 1900. While it is important to interpret the 19th century aspects of the site, we felt that the incredible changes occurring around the turn of the century were worth representing from an exhibit standpoint.

What an appropriate way to illustrate the progressive nature of the Shakers and their acceptance of labor- and time-saving devices! The kitchen, still an area of activity in the later years, now contains "modern" gadgets like a large capacity iron coffee grinder, a fruit press, potato slicer, and apple peeler--all with patent dates in the last decade of the 19th century. In addition, while the obligatory candle is present as a supplementary lighting source, kerosene lamps now grace the tables. The dining room also looks different, with such amenities as preserve stands, kerosene lamps, and nickle-plated castor sets at each table setting. Through archaeological documentation, we know that items like the period artifacts in these exhibits were used at South Union.

Along with the Victorian Bedroom and Sisters' 1916 Bathroom, these updated exhibits offer a new perspective on the diverse history of the South Union Shakers. We hope you will be able make it out to the museum this year and see these changes first hand!



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*Recent Acquisitions*

**South Union Garden Seed Catalog**, 1849. Black print on tan paper; has additional manuscript information noting additional seed type "Spinach."

.....purchased with acquisition endowment funds

**Daguerreotype w/case**. Image of two Shaker sisters, possibly South Union. Both sisters wearing silk kerchiefs. Very rare format.

.....purchased with acquisition endowment funds

**Shaker Broadside**. Farm broadside lamenting the inhumane treatment of animals and warns that all of God's creatures are under his "omniscient eye."

.....purchased with acquisition endowment funds

**Booklet, "Life Among the Shakers"** ca. 1880. Small, color printing, featuring detailed account of a visit to the Mt. Lebanon community. Fairly rare publication.

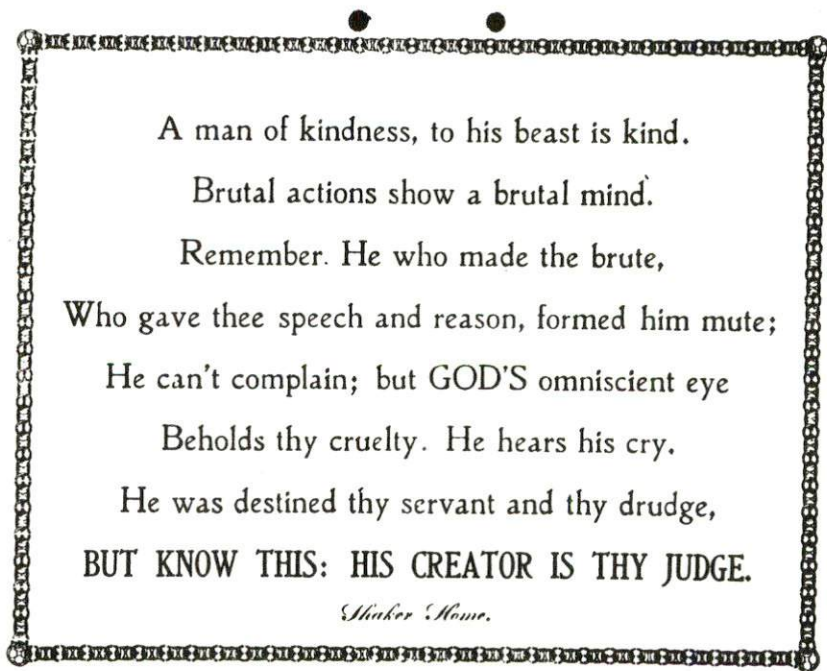
.....purchased with acquisition endowment funds

**Shaker Sermons: Scripto-Rational**, 1887. 4th edition of South Union Elder Harvey Eads' seminal work on Shaker theology. Includes a manuscript letter from Eads on his letterhead.

.....purchased with acquisition endowment funds

**Corn Shredder**, 1895. Large, belt driven machine used to separate ears, chop fodder and blow fodder into barn loft. Wooden construction with cast iron wheels and chassis.

.....donated by Mr. Garland Holland, Woodburn, KY







*Education Notes - Saddler Taylor*

After an exhausting, yet exhilarating Christmas program that brought over 1,100 students to the museum, we are preparing for spring here at South Union. This year we will introduce a new program focusing on the history of lighting in America. From betty lamps to electric ceiling fixtures, students will learn how dramatic changes in lighting technology affected the Shakers and the activities of everyday life. What exactly is a rush light or pan lamp? How bright does a betty lamp burn? When did electricity become the common method of interior lighting? These are but a few of the questions we will present during the program.

In addition, students (and chaperones alike!) will have the opportunity to make a pair of their own hand-dipped, beeswax candles. Let's all hope for pleasant, sunny weather! Even though we do have the capability of making candles indoors, the ideal situation will allow us to teach and entertain the students outside, over a kettle rolling with the aroma of melted beeswax. While we do not have honeybees yet, we do have the hives to show the students, thus illustrating the process from beginning (bee harvesting) to end (lighting of a dipped candle). If anyone is interested in helping out during the program (and you don't mind getting a bit hot and dirty!) feel free to call the museum for more information. The program will be offered April 26 through May 13.

*Thank You Recent Contributors to "Buying Back the Shaker Farm"*

Fundraising Drive Goal: \$585,000  
Balance Yet to Raise as of 2/1/99: \$166,300

- Mr. & Mrs. Robert R. Marshall, Jeffersonville, IN
- Alexandra M. Germano, Harvard, MA
- Dale & Mary Spencer, Franklin, KY
- Nancy Hillenburg, Anaheim, CA
- James Scott, Bowling Green, KY
- Mike Harreld, Louisville, KY
- Helm Foundation, Upper Montclair, NJ
- George & Darlene Kohrman, Portage, MI
- Dr. & Mrs. Ben Caldwell, Nashville, TN



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### *Thank You for Your Contributions*

Mr. & Mrs. Pat Allen, Lebanon, Ohio, for general support.  
Logan Aluminum, underwriting for Southern Furniture Symposium  
Mr. Dale Clark, Russellville, Kentucky, reproduction candlestand for raffle  
Mr. Dale Spencer, Franklin, Kentucky, reproduction benches and clothes hangers  
Mr. John Campbell, New Haven, Kentucky, website development

### *Welcome New Members*

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Boyd III, Russellville, KY  
Jim & Dianne Stuart, Tampa, FL  
Esther Coke, Marshfield Hills, MA  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Smila, Glasgow, KY  
Edith Bennett, Owensboro, KY  
Tina S. Brown, Woodburn, KY  
Helen Tepon Siewers, Bowling Green, KY  
Chuck & Taylor Emery, Clarksville, TN  
Rebecca Willard, Bowling Green, KY  
Mr. & Mrs. Wade Sessoms, Jr., Hendersonville, TN  
Sandra Staebill, Bowling Green, KY  
Mr. & Mrs. Jay D. Joines, Russellville, KY  
Mr. & Mrs. David C. Stewart, Bowling Green, KY  
Soline D. McLain, New York, New York

### *Museum Shop Move a Success!*

We want to invite all of our members to make a visit to the Museum Shop this year. Now settled into a new location, the shop is larger and has a new look, with more to offer you. Be sure to bring the coupon below and receive an additional 10% off of your purchases.

**Shaker Museum Shop  
Member Coupon**

Use for an additional 10% off any Shop purchase  
Good through June 31, 1999



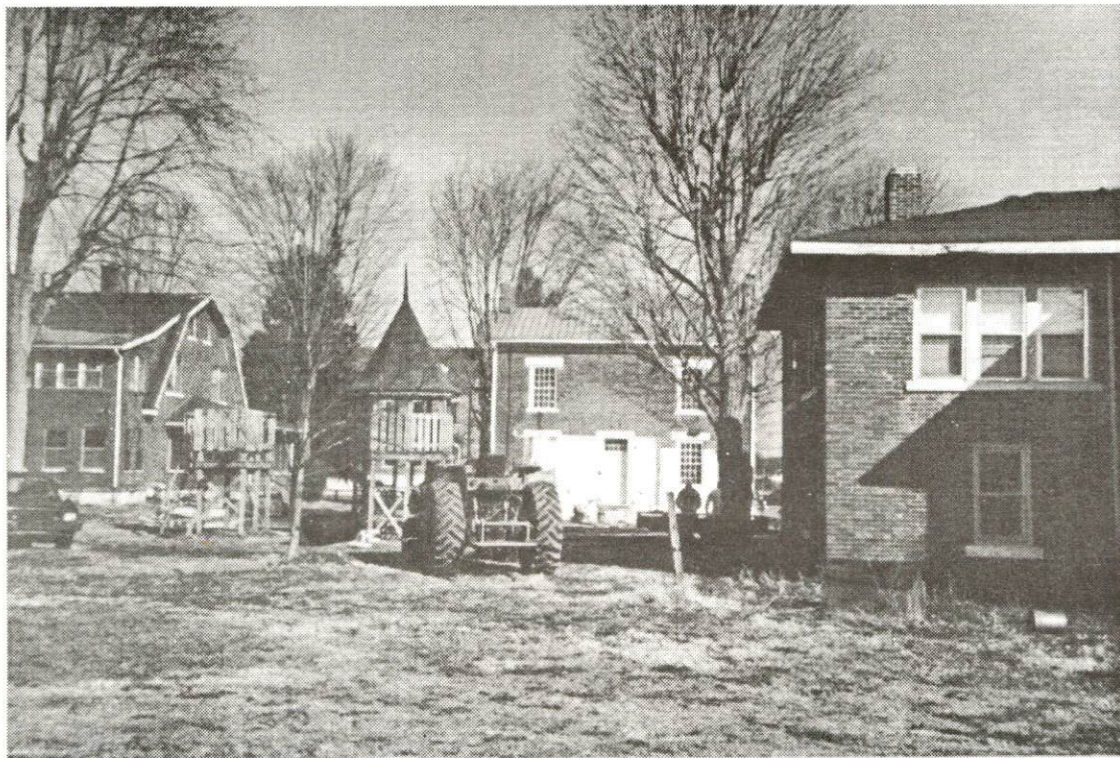
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### *A Word from the Director - Tommy Hines*

Nothing makes me happier than to see positive results taking place. I want to personally invite each of you to visit South Union sometime this season and see for yourself what I am talking about. Much of the progress over the winter months has been in the removal of post-Shaker buildings. While no major structures have been demolished, several small outbuildings have been. Little by little, the historic buildings begin to inhabit an environment of historical accuracy. Two frame structures built in the 1950s behind the Shaker Tavern have been torn down, as have two 1930s sheds near the 1846 Ministry Shop, and a concrete block well house across the north lane from the Centre House. The 1930s addition to the Ministry Shop has also been removed. Rounding out this impressive list, we have also taken away three satellite dishes and a basketball goal.

The Shaker Tavern renovation is also going to pleasantly surprise those who are familiar with the building. We are in hopes that the front dining room will be complete by South Union Seminar time, but the back dining room may still be in process! Both hallways and all six guest rooms have been repainted using historically appropriate colors and our acquisition endowment allowed us to purchase Victorian furniture to fill out the empty spaces. Bed and breakfast customers are already enjoying the added comforts. Thanks to the gracious hospitality and culinary expertise of innkeeper Jo Ann Moody, the Shaker Tavern showed a profit for the first time in 1998.

Don't miss the South Union Seminar April 16-17! I hope to see you there.



Can you find the Shaker building?



*You are invited to attend the 12th annual . . .*

# SOUTH UNION SEMINAR

"Wilderness Restored: The Ohio Shakers"

Friday, April 16

- 6:00 ~ Gathering of Participants at the Shaker Museum
- 6:30 ~ Dinner in the Centre House Dining Room
- 8:00 ~ Presentation: *North Union: A Point of Connection*  
Cathie Winans, Director, Shaker Historical Society  
Shaker Heights, Ohio

Saturday, April 17

- 8:00 ~ Registration and Light Breakfast at the Centre House
- 9:00 ~ Welcome - Tommy Hines
- 9:15 ~ Presentation: *The Y1.9K Georgia Bug and Union Village*  
Dale Covington, Marietta, Georgia
- 10:15 ~ Presentation: *White Water Furniture: A First Look*  
Richard Spence, Cincinnati, Ohio
- 11:30 ~ Lunch at the Shaker Tavern
- 1:00 ~ Presentation: *The Shakers, the Shawnee and the Passing  
of the Middle Ground in the Old Northwest*  
Dawn Elizabeth Bakken, Bloomington, Indiana

This event is underwritten by Hilliard Lyons

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REGISTRATION - SOUTH UNION SEMINAR, APRIL 16-17, 1999

_____ \$45.00 Members of the *Friends of the Shaker Museum*

_____ \$55.00 Non-Members

Mail by April 6 to: Shaker Museum, P.O. Box 30, South Union, Kentucky 42283

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Memorial Contributions

Mr. & Mrs. William G. Coke, Jr. in memory of Haley O. Finney

1998 Volunteer of the Year

We would like to congratulate Mr. Roger Selvidge on being named the Shaker Museum Volunteer of the Year for 1998. Roger, who resides in Hopkinsville, has devoted countless hours to the development and organization of our photograph collection. An accomplished photographer himself, Roger has proven to be an invaluable resource in the ongoing documentation of the site, through hundreds of slides, color, and black and white print images. From recording special events and children's programming to capturing the before and after images of a demolished building, Roger has been there.

In addition to his weekly volunteer efforts, last spring we featured Roger's work in the exhibit "Reflections of the Shaker World: An Artist's View". We are excited to offer another exhibit in May of this year that will feature his hand-colored black and white photography. "Impressions: The Kentucky Shaker Villages of South Union & Pleasant Hill" will include over twenty original images and we encourage everyone to come meet Roger and enjoy his work.

***Museum Welcomes New Jasper Springs Member
Our Highest Level of Annual Giving***

Jim and Dianne Stuart, Tampa, FL

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The *South Union Messenger* is published by the Shaker Museum at South Union.

For more information contact the museum at:

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Bowling Green, KY 42101

Upcoming at the Shaker Museum

- April 16-17** **South Union Seminar**
Annual two-day event, focusing this year on the Ohio Shakers. Fee includes Friday evening dinner, Saturday continental breakfast and Saturday lunch. Reservations are required. See enclosed flyer for registration information.
- June 12** **An Evening at Shakertown**
A gala fund-raising event to support preservation of the South Union historic site. This event funded in part by Commonwealth Health Corporation.
- April 1** **"South Union: Then& Now"**
This new permanent exhibit will guide visitors through the history of the site after the Shakers left in 1922. With only half of this dwelling room restored, visitors will get a glimpse of what the interior of the 1824 Centre House looked like prior to restoration.