Christmas at Shakertown!!!

Although difficult to believe, the Christmas season is almost upon us! Our popular Christmas show, *Christmas at Shakertown*, is beginning to take shape and looks to be one of the best yet. On December 4th and 5th, over thirty antique dealers and craft vendors will fill the Centre House with treasures of all kinds. This year the museum will be hosting a Friday evening preview party that will offer guests the opportunity to visit with the vendors and get an early look at what they have for sale. Reservations are required for Friday evening, which will include seasonal beverages and a dessert buffet that promises to please those with a hearty sweet tooth.

1998 marks the first year for such a change to the Christmas show. Instead of continuing through Sunday afternoon, the vendors will be set up for the Friday evening preview party and all day Saturday. We hope everyone enjoys this new schedule and we encourage you to call the museum to reserve your tickets. Admission to the Saturday show will again be a canned food item and we anticipate another successful collection for the less fortunate in the local area. We wish everyone a joyous holiday season and look forward to seeing you all at *Christmas at Shakertown*!

We want to invite all of our members to take advantage of our the museum shop sale that begins Thanksgiving weekend. Between November 28 and December 15, come in and receive a 20% discount on all shop purchases.
Farm Day Introduces Fall Season

The first annual Shaker Farm Day opened with beautiful weather, an army of eager volunteers, and interested visitors of all ages. The inaugural event featured many activities demonstrated for the first time; activities representing the diverse agricultural heritage left by the South Union Shakers. Fires were stoked in the 1835 Smokehouse as well as the 1847 Steam House. The partially restored Steam House had not been used to cook cow feed for over 100 years. The sight of smoke rolling from the chimney of the building was certainly captivating.

Visitors had the opportunity to see apples being pressed to make cider, corn processed with the corn sheller and fodder cutter, and the Shaker cow “Bossie,” who provided milk for the diary activities. To our surprise, lard rendering appeared to be a crowd favorite. Although not recommended, many visitors could not resist the urge to sample the resulting pork “cracklings.”

While a success, there are always things to be researched and improved upon, and we look forward to an even better event next September. One of the keys to the success of any event of such size is the work of dedicated volunteers. The Shaker Museum would like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers whose support is truly invaluable:

Linda Heady
Jamie Heady
Melanie Smith
Pete Wilson
Tommy Hines, Sr.
Gingie Hines
Sally Ann Strickler
Brandi Wilson
Amy Taylor
Lorna Thigpen
Jonathan Kesler
Mark Reynolds
Mike Sisk

Dale Spencer
Drew Mauney
Trent Spurluck
Mabel Howlett
Mary Spencer
Ginger Morelock

We would also like to express a hearty word of thanks to the skilled craftspeople and organizations that contributed their time, talents, and resources:

Mike Hossum
Sam Hossum
Dory Hudspeth
Vera Gramling
Scott’s Auburn Mills
Don & Sue Brooks

Dean Watkins
Frank Jarboe
Roy’s Barbeque
Star Bank
Kirby & Poe Meat Processors
Roland & Donnalyn Spencer

Gary McIntosh
Garland Holland
J. P. Robertson
Barnes & Noble
Thank You Recent Contributors to “Buying Back the Shaker Farm”

Fundraising Drive Goal: $585,000
Balance Yet to Raise as of 11/1/98: $219,000

Belva Mohle, Belmont, New Hampshire
Julia Duncan, Providence, Rhode Island
Team Environment, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Winifred Ferguson, Laporte, Pennsylvania
Brenda Hale, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Bob and Patty Clendennen, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania
David Hall, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Hilliard Lyons, Louisville, Kentucky
Roger and Maggie Selvidge, Hopkinsville, Kentucky
Curt and Debbie DeBaun, Terre Haute, Indiana
Tommy and Gingie Hines, Newberry, Florida
Frances Tipton, Nashville, Tennessee
Mrs. Robert Warner, Nashville, Tennessee
Per Pearson, Chicago, Illinois
John Campbell, South Union, Kentucky
Larry and Ruth Owrey, Franklin, Ohio

Thank You for Your Contributions

Dr. Camilla Collins & Dr. Jane Bramham, Bowling Green, Kentucky, for general support.
Dory Hudspeth, Alvaton, Kentucky, mulch for both herb gardens
Star Bank, underwriting for Shaker Farm Day
Auburn Banking Company, underwriting for Christmas at Shakertown

Education Notes

After gearing up for our popular Christmas season, we anticipate hosting many excited groups of children. Our traditional Shaker Order of Christmas tour will be complimented with new programming highlighting the preparation of Christmas dinner in the 19th century. Christmas in the Kitchen will feature demonstrations of many kitchen gadgets used around the turn of the century, including devices to cut potatoes, slice turnips, knead bread, and whip cream. Students will be able to taste freshly baked bread and apple butter, and have the opportunity to see how homes were decorated for Christmas one hundred years ago.

The program is tailored to students in grades K-6 and will be offered at two different times, 9:00 am and 11:00 am, Monday through Friday, November 19 through December 22. In addition to the Christmas tours, we also offer the general guided site tour to students of all ages.

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Recent Acquisitions

Bureau, walnut, South Union, ca. 1850. Classic pear-shaped foot, six-drawer piece with traces of red paint on all but drawer fronts.

Basket, white oak, South Union. Classic community design with salmon paint typically found on South Union chair seats.


Collection of secondary library materials relating to South Union and general Shaker history and material culture.

Photograph, late 1920s. Wonderful panoramic view of South Union buildings south of the main road. Includes 1846 Ministry Shop, 1818 Meeting House, and 1841 Trustee’s Office.

Photographs, ca. 1922. Four images, two of Centre House during 1922 auction and two of Shaker Tavern facade.

The Long Road Home

A book could be written about the many ways South Union artifacts have found their way home. In over nearly forty years of collecting, the Shaker Museum has discovered wonderful examples of South Union furniture and other items from across the United States. The Shakers’ furniture sales in the early 1920s initiated the distribution of South Union artifacts and putting the collection back together has been an exciting and challenging process.

Recently the museum acquired a pristine South Union candlestand, ca. 1830, from where else but Pagosa Springs, Colorado. This cherry stand was apparently purchased from the Shakers in the 1920s by Effie Harris of Bowling Green, at whose estate sale in 1950 it was purchased by Clarice Neighbors. The stand was offered for sale to the Museum earlier this year by Kathryn Terry, Mrs. Neighbors’ daughter, who now resides in Colorado. Fortunately, Col. Robert Spiller, supporter and Friend of the Shaker Museum, was able to pick up the candlestand in Colorado for the museum on a recent trip. To make it even better, Col. Spiller and his wife Cora Jane donated one third of the purchase price and Mrs. Terry contributed another third. Many thanks to the Spillers and to Mrs. Terry for helping bring this classic South Union piece back home after more than 75 years.
Welcome New Members

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Rainey, Nashville, Tennessee
Roger Galvin, Olney, Maryland
Winifred Ferguson, Laporte, Pennsylvania
Mr. & Mrs. Ivor Carter, Grosse Pointe, Michigan
Carrie Panaja, Wichita Falls, Texas
Mary Inkrot & Tom Downey, Aiken, South Carolina
Joseph Allen Anthony, Sacramento, Kentucky
Garland Holland, Woodburn, Kentucky
Lloyd & Libby Davies, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Bethany Nadar, Phoenix, Arizona
Eddie Belle Denison, Cave City, Kentucky
Janice Redfearn, Jackson, Tennessee
Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Thomason, Bowling Green, Kentucky

Memorial Contributions

Alan Shoen, Old Chatham, New York, in memory of O.E. Freeman

Mark Your Calendar for 1999

April 16-17 South Union Seminar with a focus on Ohio Shakers
June 6 An Evening at Shakertown
September 11 Shaker Farm Day
October 2 Southern Furniture Symposium focusing on the Antebellum Dining Room
A Word from the Director - Tommy Hines

I want to encourage each of you to visit the Museum during our Christmas at Shakertown celebration. The Friday night preview party is something new we are trying as an end of the season fund-raiser. We are in hopes that response will be favorable and profitable, not only for the Museum but for our antique and craft vendors as well. It should be a beautiful evening for guests of the event, with the Centre House decorated for the season and a dessert buffet, the menu for which sounds great. If you are not able to attend on Friday evening, please visit on Saturday when admission will be a canned food item. Last year we collected a pick-up truck load of canned food, all of which was distributed by the Auburn Volunteer Fire Department to those in need.

We are all holding our breath, waiting to hear results from a variety of grant applications. If funded, there could be some very exciting restoration projects taking place in the spring, including the 1846 Ministry Shop, the 1917 Shaker Store, and others. Applications have also been submitted to foundations for those all important operating funds. We should know more before the end of December.

I want to say an end of the season thanks you to the very dedicated staff of the Shaker Museum and Shaker Tavern. They each do a great job and are helping to improve the South Union historic site in many ways. I have listed them below and hope you too will say thanks for a job well done to each of them when you visit.

Saddler Taylor - Assistant to the Director
Donnalyn Spencer - Office Manager & Visitor Services
Sue Brooks - Museum Shop Manager
Lillie Mae Hayes - Senior Interpreter
James Grinter - Maintenance and Restoration
Melanie Smith - Interpreter/Museum Shop
Jo Ann Moody - Innkeeper, The Shaker Tavern
A multitude of volunteers!

Have a wonderful holiday season and thanks for all you do for the Shaker Museum at South Union.
Christmas at Shakertown

One of Kentucky’s finest antique and craft shows, nestled in a 19th century Christmas

Saturday, December 5, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Preview Party Friday Evening by Reservation

SHAKER MUSEUM AT SOUTH UNION
1-800-811-8379
This event is graciously underwritten by Auburn Banking Co.
Saturday admission is free with a canned food item.


**Upcoming at the Shaker Museum**

**December 4-5 Christmas at Shakertown**
Our annual open house celebration features 19th century decorations as well as booths of fine antiques and handmade treasures for sale. Friday evening preview party benefits the museum. Reservations required for Friday only. Saturday fee: canned food item. Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Saturday. This event funded in part by Auburn Banking Company.

**December 5 Volunteer Banquet**
An evening of good food and fellowship to honor and thank the many volunteers who offer support throughout the year. The “Volunteer of the Year” award will be presented at the conclusion of the evening. Invitations will be sent to all who volunteered in 1998.