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South Union Messenger (June 1998)

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South Union Messenger

Newsletter for the Friends of the Shaker Museum at South Union, Kentucky
June 1998

Spend an Evening in the Shaker Garden

This year's gala fundraising event promises to be one of the loveliest ever. Its appropriate theme, "An Evening in a Shaker Garden," will offer guests an atmosphere that relates to the very core of South Union's history, the legacy of farming. While the Shakers looked at agriculture as a means to commercial success and as an endless source of work, many of the icons from farming's past evoke images of beauty and tranquillity for us today. Combine a decorative theme built around the appeal of nature's splendor with a wonderful cocktail buffet and dancing to the Sam Levine Orchestra and you have the makings of a perfect evening. The event is planned for June 6.

Event chair Noel Smith and co-chair Dr. Stan Cook, along with a committee of nearly 100 volunteers, have worked tirelessly for many weeks in preparation for this year's gala. "An Evening in Shakertown" is the Shaker Museum's largest annual fund-raising effort and one that supports education and restoration at the historic site. Invitations to the event were mailed to members of the Museum's Friends organization, as well as to other supporters, on May 16.

Recent Acquisitions

Steel engraving of Elder Harvey Eads, used in printing the photograph that appears in all five editions of his *Shaker Sermons*, 1879-1892. When reprimanded by Shaker leadership for using his own photograph in the book, Eads commented that he thought it would sell more books
.....purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Seating Material, ca. 1890, decorative woven seating material saved from a South Union chair when a new seat replaced it in the 1960s
.....donated by Maxine Marbury, Auburn, Kentucky

Chair, maple and ash, South Union, ca. 1850. Classic community chair with egg and cup finials, early refinish with traces of yellow ochre paint, type B
.....purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Candlestand, walnut, South Union, ca. 1830. Classic community tripod stand with characteristic scribe line detail, cabriole legs and non-molded edge top, in old finish
.....purchased with acquisition endowment funds

A Word from the Director - Tommy Hines

Summer is already upon us as our pleasant spring days have turned into 90 degree scorchers! Any of you who have been to South Union in the summer know what I am talking about. It really makes you respect those who occupied this building before electric fans.

1998 has been an overwhelming year so far. Our visitor numbers are creeping up after a two-year slump and we welcome them with open arms. We have also been busy raising funds to purchase the 145 acre farm to the east of the Centre House. Our "Buying Back the Shaker Farm" drive is progressing as we are now well over half way to the \$585,000.00 goal. The last of the fund-raising letters are being mailed in May and June.

The Shaker Tavern is looking better than ever as reproduction lighting and floor coverings have been added to all six bedrooms. Each is also being painted, a project that should be complete by mid-June. If grant funds become available later this year, the two dining rooms will be restored to their former size and appearance. Another service, evening meals for overnight guests, is being offered by our new innkeeper, Jo Ann Moody. Jo Ann replaces Paula Robinson who served in the capacity of innkeeper for nearly two years. We welcome Jo Ann and say thank-you to Paula.

Come see us this season. We appreciate your continued support. It is because of you that great things happen at South Union.

Recent Contributors to "Buying Back the Shaker Farm"

Martha Boice, Dayton, Ohio
Mildred V. Horn Foundation, Louisville, Kentucky
Sally Willis Meigs, Louisville, Kentucky
William T. Young, Lexington, Kentucky

Advisory Committee Welcomes New Member

Ann Early Sutherland, charter member of the Shaker Museum's Advisory Committee, retired from her post in December 1997. Ann Early, one of Kentucky's leading preservationists, served for six years, guiding and advising the museum on historic preservation issues. Her knowledge and enthusiasm were contributed with great results for the museum organization. Ann Early was replaced by John Ridley of Wheat First Union, Bowling Green. John brings tremendous energy to the committee, coupled with business knowledge, a creative mind, and a past connection with the Shaker Museum; he served on the Board of Directors from 1993-1996. John's wife Roiann served as chair for the 1993 gala. We offer sincere thanks to Ann Early Sutherland for her many contributions and say a hearty welcome to John Ridley.

Memorial Contributions

Trent Spurlock, Russellville, Kentucky in Memory of Mrs. Clay Franklin

The Civil War and South Union - Part II - Saddler Taylor

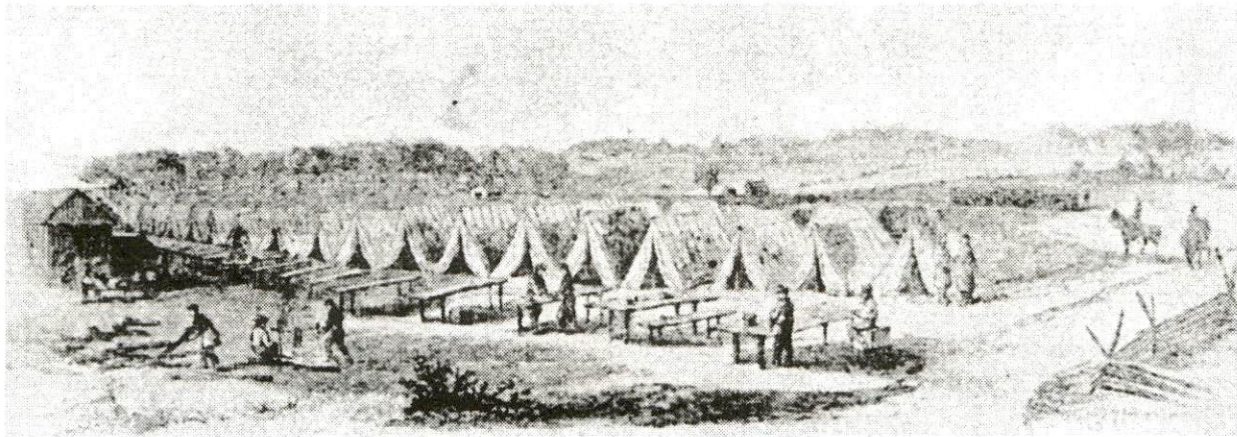
During the 1998 season, visitors will be able to learn about this particularly chaotic period of South Union's history. "Are These Not Perilous Times?" an exhibit focusing on this conflict, will be open through December 1998.

Both Confederate and Union troops demanded concessions and services, primarily food, on a frequent basis from the South Union Shakers. No one knows how many fence rows were torn down to be used as firewood, but references to such activity are numerous. Treatment of the Shakers during this time can be considered polite indifference at best and outright hostility at worst. Note this entry in the journal in February, 1862:

INCIDENT --- At one time whilst El. Br. Solomon was attending to the wants of the Rebels; a rough customer interrogated him respecting our religion -- Whereupon El. Br. quoted the scripture -- If a man smite thee on one cheek turn to him the other -- This was no sooner said than he smote El. Br. on one cheek -- who instantly turned the other, & was also smitten on that -- which created a laugh by the crowd...

The frustration and hardship endured during this period are illustrated in such confrontations. The Shakers would wake to find thousands of soldiers encamped throughout the surrounding pasture land. Officers would show up at all hours of the day and night, "requesting" food for their troops. Generally, the military officers stayed at the Trustee's Office, while the rest of the troops would camp in the fields.

The Shakers estimated that they fed approximately 100,000 soldiers and before war's end, the conflict cost them over 100,000 dollars. This was a financial burden from which they never fully recovered.



Thank You for Your Contribution

Cracker Barrel Old Country Store Foundation, Lebanon, Tennessee for General Support
Joseph Jones, Indianapolis, Indiana, for General Support
Hilliard Lyons, Bowling Green, Kentucky for underwriting the South Union Seminar
Logan County Animal Clinic for underwriting Spring on the Farm
Mr. and Mrs. John T. Weber, Louisville, Kentucky for General Support

Welcome New Members

Robert and Carol Crowe Carrico, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Nada Fuqua, Hopkinsville, Kentucky
Jeff and Donna Kazisek, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Don and Darlene Kent, Whites Creek, Tennessee
Renee Narimatsu, Clarksville, Tennessee
Beverly Parker, Clarksville, Kentucky
Vivian Sutton, Savanna, Oklahoma
Jimmy Wolfe, White House, Tennessee

Education Notes - Mary Inkrot

Summer is coming soon and it is time to get ready for the return of our Shaker Day Camps. Each camp participant will experience a variety of nineteenth century activities, including candle dipping, cheesemaking, and boiling laundry. We will practice our cooking skills by baking bread and trying out other Shaker recipes. Much of the camp will also be centered on discovering Shaker traditions, such as learning Shaker songs and visiting the Holy Ground. Each camp session concludes on a Friday with a short performance and a small reception to which family members are invited.

Times are 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Campers need to bring a sack lunch. Daily snack provided. Four weeks of camp are being offered as follows:

For 3rd and 4th Graders
June 15-19
July 6-10

For 5th and 6th Graders
June 22-26
July 13-17

The cost to attend camp is \$37 each week per participant for children of members of the Friends of the Shaker Museum and \$40 for non-members. Some partial scholarships are available thanks to the generosity of Bill Holt and Trent Spurlock. For more enrollment information, just contact Mary at (502) 542-4167.

In addition to having our own camps, the museum will also be hosting participants in other area camps. During their day-long visit, these groups will tour the museum, learn about South Union history, and try their hand at some 19th century crafts. We are looking forward to having these special guests.

It promises to be a busy summer at South Union.

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

The Shaker Museum recently debuted Spring on the Farm, a program focusing on Shaker dairy crafts. Held the last two weeks of April, the new offering reached over 600 student visitors, whose visit was both fun and educational.

Meeting a real cow delighted most of our young visitors. They saw Bossie being milked and many had an opportunity to try it for themselves. Students were able to pet Bossie's three-month-old calf as well as come up with ideas for the yet nameless heifer. We received many suggestions such as Buttercup, Star, Claudia, and Moo-Weese but Annabel proved the most popular choice with both the children and the cow's owners.



Students spent much of their visit learning about the Shakers' dairy activities. We read a journal account of the Shaker sisters making in one day forty cheeses weighing a total of 1,500 pounds. Students tried out a dairymaid's yoke to see how they would like transporting the liquid to the 1835 Milk House. Each group also learned the basics of cheesemaking, seeing how milk could be turned into curds and whey. They viewed different types of butter churns in the museum's collection and then were able to fill small glass jars with cream to churn their own butter. To every groups' amazement the butter tasted delicious. All tours finished with students happily munching on crackers with their homemade spread.

Spring on the Farm included more than just school tours. On Saturday, April 25 the museum offered a family day, where both parents and children could participate together in dairy activities. Families enjoyed meeting Bossie and making butter as much as our school groups.

Teachers, parents, and students gave the museum high marks for the new program. We would not have received such a positive response without the assistance of our many contributors. Our warmest thanks to: Logan County Animal Clinic for underwriting the event; Don and Sue Brooks for loaning their cows; Kentucky Dairy Council for supplying educational materials; Roger Selvidge for photographing the tours; and Harper Lee, Ginger Morelock, and Lorna Thigpen for volunteering.

Thank You Volunteers!

We extend our appreciation to those who helped with recent special events.

Don Brooks
Harper Lee
Ginger Morelock

Roger Selvidge
Dale and Mary Spurlock
Lorna Thigpen

Upcoming at the Shaker Museum

- June 6 **An Evening in Shakertown**
A gala fund-raising event to support preservation of the South Union historic site. This event funded in part by Commonwealth Health Corporation.
- July 18 **Broom Workshop**
Learn how to make a Shaker style broom. Includes lunch. Reservations required. Fee: member \$35, non-members \$40 Time: 8:30 am - 12:30 pm or 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- June-July **Summer Day Camps**
A week-long camp where children spend mornings at South Union experiencing Shaker traditions. Reservations required. Fee: members \$37, non-members \$40 per child per week
- August 28-29 **Oval Boxes and Shaker Baskets Workshops**
Choose to make a nest of oval boxes or a Shaker style basket in this two-day workshop. Includes Saturday lunch. Reservations required. Fee: members \$65, non-members \$70 Tim: 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Saturday



SHAKER MUSEUM AT SOUTH UNION
South Union, Kentucky 42283

Nonprofit Organization
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Paid
Shakertown at
South Union, Kentucky 42283
Permit No. 3

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