6-1997

South Union Messenger (June 1997)

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/su_messenger

Part of the Christian Denominations and Sects Commons, and the United States History Commons
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE!

This is the first newsletter the Shaker Museum has mailed to its members in 1997! Because of the loss of three staff members, one permanently to Hancock Shaker Village, one for nine weeks to military training, and the third for seven weeks due to injury, life at the Shaker Museum this spring has been extremely busy. One of the casualties was the March newsletter. We apologize for not providing current news about the Museum and its programming. Hopefully, you have received the 1997 calendar of events, and invitations to the South Union Seminar, exhibit openings, and "An Evening in Shakertown." Things are slowing returning to normal so we will do everything possible to keep you informed about the progress and preservation of South Union. Again, thank you for your patience!

1846 MINISTRY SHOP PURCHASED BY MUSEUM

An acquisition of extreme significance took place on June 11 when the 1846 Ministry's Shop was purchased by the Shaker Museum at South Union. Throughout the 19th century, the Ministry Shop was used as a dwelling and workspace for the community's spiritual leaders or ministry. The structure's original floorplan incorporated a central hallway flanked by two rooms on the ground floor and two additional rooms on the second level. South Union's Ministry Shop is an outstanding example of Shaker architecture with sturdy brick walls, finely crafted interior woodwork, large well-lit rooms, and a gracefully designed staircase. The 1846 Ministry Shop was once the home of such community notables as Eldress Nancy Moore, Eldress Betsy Smith, and Elder Harvey Eads.

Funding for the purchase was provided by the James Graham Brown Foundation and a federal ISTEA grant. The Museum will take possession of the structure on September 30, after which plans for restoration and interpretation will begin. If restoration funding becomes available, the Museum hopes to have the building open to the public in 1998. This important addition to the historic site brings the number of original Shaker buildings owned by the Museum to six.

(continued on following page)
For purposes of an update, the following buildings currently make up the historic site of the South Union Shaker Village:

The 1824 Centre Family Dwelling has been restored and is open to the public.

The 1835 Smoke and Milk House has been restored and is open to the public.

The 1869 Shaker Tavern has been restored, with several interior projects pending, and is open to the public as a bed and breakfast.

The 1847 Steam House restoration is nearing completion and will be open to the public in late 1997.

The 1917 Shaker Store houses the South Union Post Office and will be restored in 1997-1998, converting the interior to conference/meeting space.

The 1846 Ministry Shop will be restored in 1997-1998, open to the public in 1998.

Three additional South Union historic structures, the 1875 Grain Barn, 1854 Wash House, and ca.1830 Stone Shop, are privately owned. The South Union Shakers constructed at least 240 documented buildings between 1810 and 1920. Of that number, only nine remain.

THE SITE CONTINUES TO GROW . . .

The Shaker Museum recently signed a contract to purchase the 145-acre farm just east of the Centre Family buildings. Approximately 5 acres of road frontage has already been acquired, a tract that includes a 1930s brick house and barn, both constructed by Oscar Bond, the man who purchased the farm from the Shakers in 1922. Currently the house and barn are being leased to Mr. and Mrs. Mike Stevenson who operate "The Country Barn," a retail business that produces furniture and gifts. Eventually, the property will be the subject of archaeological investigations, a probe that will offer additional information about both the Centre and North Families.

A fund-raising effort to purchase the remaining 140 acres will be launched later this summer. The initial 5-acre purchase insures the preservation of the land directly across the lane from the Museum and the property on the east side of the Museum's approach from new US 68.
SHAKER MUSEUM RECEIVES ISTEA GRANT

As the Shaker Museum attracts more groups each year, the need for meeting space has increased. Recently a federal ISTEA grant in the amount of $125,000.00 was received to restore the exterior of the 1917 Shaker Store Building and to rehabilitate its interior for conference and meeting space. The building will continue to house the South Union post office, a 170 year old institution and the only Shaker village post office still in operation. The remainder of the structure has been used for storage since the Shaker Antique Mall closed in 1990.

The Shakers constructed the store building near the tracks of the L & N Railroad in 1917. It was the fourth store constructed by the Shakers on the present lot, each replacing a predecessor due to fire. When South Union was sold in 1922, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Youngs bought the store, the depot, and the Shaker Tavern. The Youngs lived in the Tavern and operated the store where Mr. Youngs was also postmaster. At the time of Youngs' death in 1963, Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Reeves became the sole proprietors of the store at South Union, offering groceries, dry goods, and hardware to local customers. Mr. Reeves served as South Union's postmaster and his family called the Shaker Tavern home for nearly 20 years. The Shaker Museum purchased the 1917 Store Building in 1977, just prior to the organization's acquisition of the Shaker Tavern.

The exterior of the building will receive a standing seam metal roof, a restoration of the wooden elements of the storefront, a metal awning replicating the original, and a reconstruction of the brick portion of the storefront. The interior of the building will house a caterer's kitchen, a storage area, two rest rooms, and meeting space for approximately 100. A heating and cooling system will also be installed. A completion date for the project has been scheduled for late 1998.

Special thanks to Mrs. Delbert Reeves for supplying information about the Tavern and store.

A STEAM HOUSE UPDATE

The 1847 Steam House restoration is nearing completion and may be ready to open to the public later this fall. The exterior brickwork was recently finished by craftsman Roger Pearson of Lexington, Kentucky, who also reconstructed the arch kettle on the interior of the structure. The arch’s iron elements were reproduced by blacksmith Larry Cole of Clarksville, Tennessee. The doors, windows, and shutters were replicated by craftsman Richard Waters of Nashville, Tennessee. An original Shaker-made window sash, found in the attic of the Centre House, fit exactly into one of the openings in the Steam House. It was restored and placed in a newly-built frame.

The 1871 Brick Cistern, located north of the Steam House, once stored water to be used by the Centre Family’s cattle. Both ends of the cistern had caved in, due to decades of disuse and neglect, but have been reconstructed by Roger Pearson. The final phase of the project will be to cover the cistern with sod, a method used by the Shakers for purposes of insulation.

The restoration of the 1847 Steam House was funded by the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation. The restoration of the 1871 Brick Cistern was funded by members of the Shaker Museum Advisory Committee. Special thanks to these faithful contributors.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ralph and Claudia Jordan, Auburn, Kentucky
Bob and Jan Campbell, Genoa, Illinois
James Sanders, Evansville, Indiana
Stephen N. Mathis, Russellville, Kentucky
Paulette Hale, Madison, Tennessee
O. M. Mazuryk, Ontario, Canada
Brenda Hall, Campbellsville, Kentucky
John C. Desmarais, Auburn, Kentucky
Joseph S. Hayes, Smith’s Grove, Kentucky

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Trent Spurlock, Russellville, in Memory of Gertrude Dyche
Alison Coleman and Carolyn Garrett, Auburn, in Memory of Gertrude Dyche
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Robbins, Auburn, in Memory of Gertrude Dyche
Carolyn Garrett, Auburn, in Memory of Vicki Cross
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Robbins, Auburn, in Memory of Thomas Garrett
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Robbins, Auburn, in Memory of Mary Rebecca Clark
Carol Dyche & Marguerite Kirkpatrick, Russellville, in Memory of Mary Rebecca Clark
Dale and Mary Spencer, Franklin, in Memory of Lyle Mowrey
Alan Schoen, Old Chatham, New York, in Memory of O. E. Freeman
RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Poplar Quilting Frame, ca. 1850, purchased at the 1922 South Union auction. This is the first piece of equipment relating to quilt-making that has ever been acquired by the Museum. Manuscript records verify that the Sisters did quilt during the mid-19th century, but no examples have survived.

Oak Barrel, Cobweb Broom, Hand Mirror, and Unknown Wooden Mechanism, attributed to South Union Shaker Village.

Spinning Ginny, ca. 1830, this Tennessee piece is a fine, rare example of early regional textile machinery created to make the spinning and ginning process more efficient. The South Union Shakers ordered several of these machines prior to the Civil War for use in the village. The presence of worldly-made equipment known to have been used by the SU Shakers is virtually nonexistent in the Museum collection today, making this acquisition all the more significant.

Historic Photograph, 1916 Tri-County Medical Conference Held at South Union. The photo includes a large group of Logan, Warren, and Simpson County doctors and their wives, posing with five members of the South Union Shaker community. The Meeting House is visible in the background. The photograph was acquired from the family of Dr. William Burr, the Shakers' physician during the early 20th century.

Discursive Letter, Types of Christ, and Shaker Sermons, by Elder Harvey Eads, South Union, late 19th century, and The Manifesto, by John Dunlavy, Pleasant Hill, 1847. These works by Kentucky Shakers were part of the Milton Sherman Collection.

Manuscript Letters from Elder Benjamin Seth Youngs, South Union to Enfield Ministry, 1828, and from Elder Harvey Eads to J. E. Woodhead, 1890. These rare South Union manuscripts were part of the Milton Sherman Collection.

Shaker Music, 1875-1900, autographed by Mary L. Wilson, with manuscript hymns included, and A Short Abridgement of the Rules of Music, by Isaac Newton Youngs, 1846. These significant eastern Shaker materials influenced both those who composed and those who performed music at South Union.

(continued on following page)
A *Summary View of the Millennial Church*, printed 1823. This is an excellent copy of an important Shaker work, signed by an early owner.

............................................................donated by Jeanne Weaver, Morgantown, Indiana

Primary and Secondary Material for the Library Collection

............................................................anonymous donation

Secondary Material for the Library Collection

............................................................donated by Grover Corum, Auburn, Kentucky

Secondary Material for the Library Collection

............................................................donated by Carolyn Garrett, Auburn, Kentucky

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

In January, three new members were added to the Shaker Museum Board of Directors.
Dr. Dale Clark, a dentist from Russellville, Kentucky and an active Museum volunteer, began his term as did Carolyn Garrett, a retired educator and local historian. Gary West, director of the Bowling Green-Warren County Tourism Commission, also joined the governing body. Each brings expertise, talent and enthusiasm to the organization. We welcome Dale, Carolyn, and Gary.

Stepping down from the Museum Board in January was Jay D. Joines, who served as president in 1994 and 1995. Much of the progress made during that period can be attributed to Jay's leadership and creativity. The Shaker Museum staff and Board wish to express appreciation to Jay for a decade of faithful service.

Also leaving the Board in January was John Ridley. John served the Museum as a Director from 1993 through 1996, bringing many fresh ideas and a contagious enthusiasm to the organization. We wish him the best and offer sincere thanks for his many contributions to the development of the site.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION

Hillview Garden Center for Underwriting the Spring Herbal Fair
Hilliard Lyons for Underwriting the South Union Seminar
Pat and Mary Allen, Lebanon, Ohio, for General Support
Trans Financial Bank for Underwriting the Shaker Festival
Cracker Barrel Foundation for General Support
Commonwealth Health Corporation for Underwriting "An Evening in Shakertown"
Dale and Mary Spencer, Franklin, Kentucky, for General Support
Larry and Ruth Owrey, Franklin, Ohio, for General Support
Nick Cambron, Owensboro, Kentucky, for General Support
SOUTHERN FURNITURE SYMPOSIUM PLANNED FOR FALL '98

Work is already underway in preparation for the 1998 Southern Furniture Symposium. The biannual event has become one of the Museum's most popular, offering in-depth presentations on southern material culture and an accompanying exhibit of regional furniture. The theme for the event, scheduled for the first weekend of October 1998, will focus on the antebellum dining room, including such objects as sugar chests, cellarets, sideboards, tables, chairs, and silver. The search is already underway for undiscovered furniture and silver to be featured in the exhibit. Kentucky and Tennessee makers will be the primary focus, but pieces from other nearby southern states will also be considered for inclusion.

Information from members regarding objects for exhibit or suggestions pertaining to the focus of the symposium will be greatly appreciated. Contact Tommy Hines (502) 542-7734 at the Museum or Mike Sisk (502) 737-0868 (evenings) for additional information.

SOUTH UNION SHAKER FURNITURE IN "ANTIQUES"

The May 1997 issue of the Magazine Antiques featured the article "South Union Shaker Furniture." The eight page essay included 14 color photographs of objects attributed to South Union from both the Museum and private collections. The article is the culmination of nearly a decade of research on South Union furniture-making traditions. Copies of this 75th anniversary issue of the magazine are available through the Museum Shop at South Union while supplies lasts. For mail order call: (502) 542-4167.

MUSEUM WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Mary Inkrot began her tenure as the Shaker Museum's new Director of Education in late May. Formerly the Curator of Public Outreach at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, Savannah River Division, she has worked extensively in the development of educational programming, has written a number of articles and created exhibits relating to her field. Mary interned at the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland, Ohio, and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park in Pembrokeshire, Wales. She received a Master of Arts degree in Applied History from the University of South Carolina.

Mary was selected from among 47 applicants for the Director of Education position. She brings to South Union notable gifts and abilities and an innovative perspective on the interpretation of Kentucky Shaker history. We welcome her to our staff!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

Spring and summer storms graced both the Herbal Fair in May and the Shaker Festival in June. Spirits were not dampened, however, as craftspeople and visitors ran for cover, and the yard surrounding the Centre House became a literal swamp. Everyone who braved the storm had a good time. As is always the case, we are indebted to the faithful volunteers who gave of themselves for both events:

Marrianne and Kevin Arrington
Karen Heege
Larisha Bland
Charlie Ray
Debbie Bogle
Grover Corum
Debbie Britt
Gingie Hines
Cara Catlett
Carolyn Garrett
Gran Clark
Trent Spurlock
Dale Clark
Amy Taylor

Andrea Merical
Brian Gregory
Phyllis Deweese
Sheri Childress
Lorna Thigpen
Carolyn Moreland
Mable Howlett
Melanie Smith
Amy and Wes Moore
Brandi and Pete Wilson
Mark Reynolds
Linda and John Tanner
John Minton
Allison Fuqua

Special thanks to the underwriters of these events: Hillview Garden Center for Spring Herbal Fair and Trans Financial Bank for the Shaker Festival.

NEW EXHIBIT OPENS AT MUSEUM

On May 11, the Shaker Museum unveiled a new exhibit entitled, "Harvey Lauderdale Eads: Lifetime Believer." The exhibit chronicles the life and work of South Union's well-known Elder from his arrival in the community in 1807 at the tender age of seven months to his death in 1892. Eads manuscripts and printed material are on display along with an elaborate Victorian walnut desk made for the Elder after the Civil War. Five studio portraits and three exterior village photographs that include Eads are also exhibited, illustrating the fact that he was probably the most-photographed South Union Shaker.

Dianne Watkins, former South Union Board Member and a noted Kentucky author, presented a paper on the life of Eads to a crowd of over 50 at the opening in May. Watkins' research provided the basis for the exhibit, designed by Museum staff member Saddler Taylor. This fascinating collection of manuscripts, photographs, printed material, and objects belonging to Harvey Eads, will be exhibited through November 30. Each month on South Union's web page a different Eads manuscript from South Union's collection can be accessed. Web Page Address: http://www.logantele.com/~shakmus/
EDUCATION NOTES - Mary Inkrot, Director of Education

Hello Members! I want to introduce myself as the new Director of Education, Mary Inkrot. I am extremely happy to be here and look forward to getting to know the members of the Shaker Museum community.

In just one day of work I learned that my predecessor Sharon Koomler left me some big shoes to fill. In going through her files, I discovered many wonderful programs and activities, such as Herbal Harvest and the Shaker Order of Christmas. I intend to continue many of her programs and to introduce a few more in the next few months.

I also know from Sharon that she had some fantastic volunteers. I hope that many of you will want to continue your involvement. Any help that I receive will be greatly appreciated. If you wish to continue to help with school groups or want to become a volunteer, please ask for me on your next visit to the museum or just give me a call. I am particularly interested in learning about what you enjoy most as a volunteer.

The road of life that led me to the Shaker Museum began with my childhood love of stories about the past. So by the time I reached college, I knew I wanted to make history my major. While earning my bachelor’s degree from Ohio University, I realized I wanted to share my interest in the past with others and began to focus my career aspirations to museum work. I went on the graduate school and received in 1993 a master’s degree in Applied History - Museum Studies from the University of South Carolina. Before coming to the Shaker Museum, I spent four years developing and implementing educational programs for the archaeology program located at the Savannah River Site near Augusta, Georgia.

On the more personal side, I was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio. My husband, Tom Downey, is working on his Ph.D. in history and spends most of his time researching his dissertation. Together, we enjoy baseball, old movies, "antiquing," and traveling. I also like to read fiction, walk, and add to my collection of cow creamers.

Let me close by saying again how great it is to be part of the Shaker Museum. I know that I will be working with some wonderful people and that I will be growing along with the Museum.

"AN EVENING IN SHAKERTOWN" DRAWS RECORD CROWD

The Shaker Museum’s largest annual fund-raising effort, "An Evening in Shakertown," once again proved to be a perfect success. The eighth annual gala dinner dance drew nearly three hundred guests and garnered more contributions than ever before. Event chair Mrs. Steven Rockhold and co-chair Mrs. Al Smith created a memorable evening with the help of an eighty-member volunteer committee. Sincere thanks to both Mrs. Rockhold and Mrs. Smith for their tireless efforts and to everyone who contributed in some way. A final tally of proceeds will be reported in the next newsletter. The Shaker Museum organization wishes to express sincere thanks to Commonwealth Health Corporation for underwriting "An Evening in Shakertown."
A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR - Tommy Hines, Executive Director

It is an exciting time to be involved with the Shaker Museum at South Union. There are so many restorations and property acquisitions taking place and I know that you share our enthusiasm for the progress the Museum is experiencing. By this time next year we may have as many as three additional buildings open to the public and more protected land on which to wander! I hope you will plan to visit South Union this year and see the progress in action.

We welcome Mary Inkrot to the Museum staff and look forward to her being a member of the team. Saddler Taylor, my assistant, is experiencing basic training as part of the Army Reserve at this writing, but will return to the Museum in early August. James Grinter, our gifted restoration and maintenance staff person, fell and broke his ankle about three weeks ago. He will be out of commission for at least another month. I am looking forward to August when everyone is back home at South Union!

Thank you for your continued support of the Shaker Museum.

WHAT'S COMING UP AT THE SHAKER MUSEUM?

September 26-27  Fall Candlelight Dinners
A memorable evening of living history, featuring a historic SU menu. Fee: $20 members, $25 non-members. Time: 7:00 pm. This event is funded by Emerson Electric.

November 8  A Shaker Breakfast
A historic SU Civil War era menu served in the dining room of the Centre House, followed a performance of the South Union Shaker Quartet. Fee: $17 members, $20 non-members. Time: 10:00 am. This event is funded by Emerson Electric.

December 6-7  Christmas at Shakertown
Our annual open house celebration that features 19th century decorations, music performances, holiday foods, and booths of fine antiques and handmade treasures for sale. Fee: canned food item. Time: 9:00 to 4:00 on Saturday, 1:00 to 4:00 on Sunday. This event is funded by Auburn Banking Company.