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South Union Messenger (February 1998)

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South Union Messenger

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

A New Year Begins!

The 1998 season will bring some exciting and refreshing changes to South Union. We begin the year with historic building acquisitions, land preservation projects, and many new exhibits. Visitors will immediately notice alterations inside the Centre House itself. Four new permanent exhibits will be in place by March 1, in addition to a temporary exhibit highlighting the photography of local artist Roger Selvidge. The new exhibits include a photographic orientation, an architectural exhibit combining graphics, photographs and artifacts from Village buildings, and an exhibit focusing on South Union Shaker commercial marketing.

One of the most noticeable changes is the museum gift shop. For many years, the shop has been located on the second floor of the Centre House, near the meeting room. Over the winter, the shop was relocated to the first floor of the Centre House, filling the downstairs hall and two flanking rooms. The new location will provide for a more climate-controlled environment and convenient public access. These changes, along with the hopeful opening of the 1846 Ministry Shop, are important for South Union and we look forward to sharing them with you all!

Museum Receives Recognition

In November, the Shaker Museum proudly received two awards from the Historical Confederation of Kentucky, both representing the organization's highest honors. The first was an award of merit for the museum exhibit, *Harvey Lauderdale Eads: A Lifetime Believer*. This temporary exhibit was on view from May through November 1997, chronicling one of the most prominent Shakers in America. Eads promoted South Union industries, recorded South Union history, published pamphlets and books on Shaker theology, and more. The exhibit examined both Eads' influence and the many changes occurring at South Union throughout his lifetime. Our exhibit catalog *A Sense of Place: Kentucky Shaker Furniture and Regional Influence* also received an award of merit. The catalog reflected the museum's continued research into Kentucky Shaker material culture and particularly examined regional influences on Shaker furniture-makers.

The Historical Confederation of Kentucky annually honors the best achievements in state and local history. The Shaker Museum greatly appreciates their recognition.

South Union Continues to Grow

The Shaker Museum at South Union recently added another 180 acres to its historic farm. Located directly across the street from the Centre House, this acreage includes archaeological sites of the community's East Family, West Family, Church Family, and the South Union cemetery. Besides these important prospects, the 1875 Grain Barn also stands on the property. The former owners of the farm have a one-year lease with the museum, but have agreed to allow developmental projects to begin as funding becomes available. Long-range plans are to restore and interpret the Grain Barn, reconstruct original fence rows, tree lines and sidewalks and, after archaeological research, erect signs marking former buildings and other important sites. The 1846 Ministry Shop, acquired in 1997, is also located on this property.

One of the most important aspects of the acquisition is the future preservation of the South Union cemetery. Over 400 Shaker brethren and sisters were buried there between 1810 and 1921. Plans are to reconstruct the fence that once protected the burying ground and mark the site with an appropriate memorial. Original grave markers were destroyed after the Shakers sold the village in 1922.

This land acquisition represents the largest tract ever purchased by the museum, and one of great historic importance. The purchase was made possible with a \$211,000.00 grant from James Graham Brown Foundation and Transportation Enhancement Funds. The Shaker Museum is indebted to the Brown Foundation for its gracious contribution and to the federal government for its allocation. The South Union historic site has grown from 20 to 350 acres over the past decade because of these generous supporters.

Fund-raising continues for the 145-acre tract to the east of the Centre House, our "Buying Back the Shaker Farm" campaign.

Contributors to "Buying Back the Shaker Farm"

Atticus Trust of Nashville, Tennessee
Henry Brockman, Jr., Franklin, Tennessee
Dale Clark, Russellville, Kentucky
Jeffrey Clark, Hillsborough, North Carolina
Skip Cleavinger, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Bill and Fletch Coke, Nashville, Tennessee
Crystal Corum, Jennifer Corum, Adam Corum, John Corum, and Jackson Pryor, Auburn, Kentucky
Grover and Mary Corum, Auburn, Kentucky
Allison Fuqua, Russellville, Kentucky
Carolyn Garrett, Auburn, Kentucky
Lucy McCarley, Russellville, Kentucky
Charlie Ray, Russellville, Kentucky
Mark Reynolds, Russellville, Kentucky
Mike Robbins, Nashville, Tennessee
Rochester Shaker Study Group
Sally Ann Strickler, Auburn, Kentucky
John and Linda Tanner, Madison, Tennessee
John B. Tirrill, Nashville, Tennessee
Mr. and Mrs. Ridley Wills, III, Nashville, Tennessee

Memorial Contributions

William C. Conn, Adairville, Kentucky in Memory of Mr. Lloyd Arnold
Jeanne Weaver, Morgantown, Indiana in Memory of Ethelda Coffman

New Benefits for Friends of the Shaker Museum

New for 1998 are some improved benefits for Friends of the Shaker Museum at South Union. You may have noticed a new look for this issue of the *South Union Messenger*. The newsletter as well as free admission to the museum, a 10% discount in the museum shop, and discounted rates for events are basic benefits received by Friends at all membership levels. At the individual membership level, free admission and reduced rates to an event are extended to one guest. At the family membership level and above, free admission and reduced rates to an event are extended to two guests. The museum also wants to announce some expanded benefits for specific levels. These are:

West Family (\$100).....	One ticket to the annual Shaker Breakfast
East Family (\$250).....	Two tickets to the annual Shaker Breakfast
Centre Family (\$500).....	One night stay at the Shaker Tavern for two
Jasper Springs Society (\$1,000).....	Two nights at the Shaker Tavern for two
.....	Complementary use of the Shaker Tavern meeting room or
.....	Shaker Store Conference Center for one day



Welcome New Members

Mr. and Mrs. John Campbell, Nashville, Tennessee
Frances Corzine, Nashville, Tennessee
Ralph Gola, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Mr. and Mrs. Terry Hale, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Lynn O'Keefe, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Tracey and Zena Parks, Gallatin, Tennessee
Vicki Reuter, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Janet Roark, Franklin, Kentucky
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene M. Spalding, Hot Springs, Arkansas

Thank You Volunteers

Each year the museum is fortunate to have so many volunteers who contribute in so many ways. We are always grateful for their help.

At the annual volunteer dinner in December, the Shaker Museum named Dory Hudspeth volunteer of the year. Dory has been donating time and effort to the museum for nearly ten years in maintaining the herb garden. This year she was responsible for adding the kitchen herb garden located by the north door of the Centre Family Dwelling. Dory has also been active in demonstrating herb crafts at various special events.

The Civil War at South Union - Part I - Saddler Taylor

During the 1998 season, our visitors are going to be presented with a particularly chaotic aspect of South Union's history - the Civil War. "Are These Not Perilous Times?", an exhibit focusing on this period of struggle in and around South Union will open in May. Plans also include a Civil War encampment coinciding with our November Shaker Breakfast. These events represent both a dynamic and devastating part of Village history and warrant additional background information for the interested reader. This constitutes the first of a three part series.

During the first few months of 1861, the South Union Shakers found that their geographic location would prove quite unfortunate. Rumors of war had been percolating throughout the region for some time and by the fall of that year the members found themselves in the middle of the Kentucky Confederacy. One South Union member who was living at Union Village, Ohio at the start of the war penned his views on the impending conflict:

It seems that Brother Urban thinks that Kentucky will go out of the Union. I entertain no such fears -- Simply because I think Kentuckians have entirely too much good Sense to commit an act so insane.

The writer, Brother Harvey Eads, also voiced the hope that if the "Cotton States" did not act aggressively and fire the first shot, the whole debacle could be avoided. Unfortunately, Brother Harvey's hopes did not become reality and South Union found itself in a very awkward position. The Federal troops assumed that since the Shakers were abolitionists, cooperation with the Union cause would follow. The pacifist position of the Shakers simply confused and frustrated Union proponents.

Likewise, the Shakers, who began freeing their slaves as early as 1819, were suspect among their Successionist neighbors. Making matters worse, the main artery between Bowling Green and Russellville went right through the heart of the village. This provided an almost constant flow of traffic, both Union and Confederate, within the community. Luckily, very little fighting occurred within the village proper, but the presence of the troops still had devastating, lasting effects.



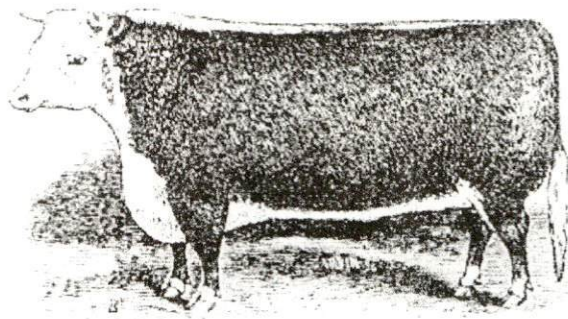
A Word From the Director - Tommy Hines

The museum staff always enjoys the months of January and February as an opportunity to reflect on the past season and plan for the coming one. Attendance was down in 1997, a trend that seemed to be statewide, but we were still blessed with opportunities we never thought possible. Some wonderful artifacts came back to the museum in 1997, pristine examples of South Union material culture that attest to the community's unique style. We were also able to acquire property, both land and buildings once part of the village. The Ministry Shop and now the Grain Barn finally belong to South Union again, after many years of effort by the museum. Only two of South Union's remaining nine structures are still in private hands. The reality of owning additional historic structures and doubling our land holdings also brings new responsibilities. I believe that our organization is up to the challenge, and with your continued support will make South Union one of the nation's finest historic sites. It really is exciting to watch things develop.

As we begin a new year, let me again say thank you for the many ways you assist South Union as a member of our Friends organization.

Education Notes - Mary Inkrot

Preparations are now underway for our new education program *Spring on the Farm*. During weekdays from April 20 through May 1, local school groups will be visiting the museum to learn about dairy activities of the 19th century and of today. Students will experience a cow being milked and learn how butter and cheese are made. As a hands-on activity, students will make and taste their own butter. *Spring on the Farm* also includes a Saturday filled with dairy-related demonstrations and activities for families. The program is being made possible through the generosity of Don and Sue Brooks (museum shop manager) who will be loaning their cow Bossie and her new calf for the event.



Even though our thoughts are turning to spring, I do want to thank everyone who helped out with our Christmas events. The open house held at the Shaker Tavern during "Christmas at Shakertown" was a success thanks to the bake goods donated by: Ruth Allender, John Campbell, Dale and Beth Clark, Mary Lucy Franklin, James and Kia Grinter, Lillie Mae Hayes, Tommy Hines, Virginia Price, Betty Spurlock, Sally Ann Strickler, and Saddler Taylor. The museum also added several new Friends due to the efforts of board members Dale Clark, Carolyn Moreland, Mark Reynolds, and Sally Ann Strickler at the membership table. Our children's Christmas tours went extremely well, aided by everyone who kindly donated pine cones and Christmas cards for ornaments.

Thanks for Your Contribution

Patrick and Mary Allen, Lebanon, Ohio for General Support
Edie Bingham, Glenview, Kentucky for General Support
Bowling Green Bicycle Club for General Support
Helm Foundation for General Support
Dr. Thomas McKenzie, Huntsville, Alabama for the Morton House
Sandra Miller for General Support
Pig Improvement Corporation, Franklin, Kentucky for General Support
South Union Shaker Study Group for Holy Ground Maintenance

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

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You may visit our Web Page at:

<http://www.logantele.com/~shakmus/>

Upcoming at the Shaker Museum

- March 1 **Opening of *Reflections of the Shaker World: An Artist's View***
This exhibit features photographs of South Union and Pleasant Hill by Roger Selvidge. Through April 30. Opening reception from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Free admission.
- March 28 **Broom Workshop**
Learn how to make a Shaker style broom. Includes lunch. Limited enrollment. Reservations required. Fee: members \$35, non-members \$40 Time: 8:30 am - 12:30 pm or 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- April 17 - 18 **South Union Seminar**
The eleventh annual seminar will focus on Shaker music, with guest speakers Daniel Patterson, Randy Folger, and Vicki Bell. Music provided by singers from South Union and Pleasant Hill. Includes Friday evening dinner, Saturday continental breakfast and lunch. Fee: members \$45, non-members \$55. Time: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Friday, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Saturday
- April 20 - May 1 **Spring on the Farm**
Meet Bossie the cow and learn about Shaker dairy crafts. Open to classrooms by reservation and to the general public with paid admission.



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