SOUTH UNION SEMINAR CELEBRATES TWENTY-FIVE YEARS!

The Shaker Museum at South Union was founded in 1971 when Shakertown Revisited, Inc. purchased the 1824 Centre House and moved Mrs. Curry Hall's Shaker collection from Auburn to the South Union historic site. Mrs. Hall's vast collection had outgrown the small museum in Auburn after a decade of success so the organization diligently raised the funds necessary to move the collection to its new home. This year we celebrate twenty-five years as a museum and historic site.

The South Union Seminar, in its ninth year, will focus on South Union's history and on the preservation efforts that have been going on for nearly forty years. Speakers will include museum staff members and local scholars who have had first-hand experience in the preservation process. Topics planned include: a recollection of thirty years of collecting Shaker with slides and correspondence from the Deedy Hall papers, a history of the preservation efforts at South Union, a restoration retrospective detailing the work accomplished on South Union buildings, a tribute to Julia Neal and her contributions to South Union preservation, and the role of Shaker women in the South Union community. The South Union Quartet also plans to perform newly researched music manuscripts from the Julia Neal Library collection. The meals provided during this year's seminar promise to be a culinary experience unlike anything offered to participants from year's before.

You will not want to miss the South Union Seminar, April 26-27. Members will receive invitations that include a detailed schedule of the weekend's events in early March.

MUSEUM RECEIVES AWARDS FROM HISTORIC CONFEDERATION OF KENTUCKY

The Shaker Museum at South Union was honored at the annual meeting of the Historic Confederation of Kentucky in November, 1995. The Shaker Museum earned two first place awards and one honorable mention. "Black Shakers in America: The South Union Experience" was awarded first place in the category of public education programs. Our publication, Close Ties: the Relationship Between Kentucky Shaker Furniture Makers and their Worldly Contemporaries received first place as an exhibit catalog. One of our newest exhibits, "Black Shakers in America" received honorable mention.

We are proud of this recognition from such a respected organization. This was a state-wide competition, and the Shaker Museum brought home more awards than any other institution.
MUSEUM RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM W. L. LYONS BROWN FOUNDATION

The W. L. Lyons Brown Foundation in Louisville, Kentucky, has awarded the Museum $30,000.00 to assist in educational programming. The funding will be used to support all aspects of the children’s programs, workshops, and educational events hosted by the Museum from this season through 1998. We are indebted to the Brown family for their generous support of education at South Union and wish to offer sincere thanks for their assistance.

MUSEUM PUBLISHES SOUTH UNION TEXTILE HISTORY

The Shaker Museum at South Union will soon release its first publication of historical data, detailing the 19th century linen, wool, and silk industries in the community. The text and photographs were prepared by Jonathon Jeffrey and Donna Parker, both staff members at the Kentucky Museum and Library on the campus of Western Kentucky University. Jonathon and Donna have researched primary source material relating to the South Union textile arts for several years and have presented their findings at past South Union Seminars. The Shaker Museum is proud to publish this well-documented research and plans to make the book available the weekend of the South Union Seminar, April 26-27.

The publication was funded in part by generous contributors Nancy Hillenburg, Amanda Batey and Bernard Margolis, Ray and Judy McCaskey, Elizabeth Baker, Pat and Mary Allen, Dale and Mary Spencer, Annie Metzger, Bob Hamilton, and Christine Ammeian. Thanks for your support.

A SPECIAL THANK-YOU

The Shaker Museum at South Union owes a great debt to Jay Joines for two progressive and productive years as President of the Board of Directors. Many strides were made during the 1994 and 1995 seasons due in great part to Jay’s able leadership. Recently elected to succeed Jay Joines as President was Charlie Ray of Russellville. Charlie has served on the Board for five years and has been an integral part of the ISTEA, properties, and finance committees. Newly-elected as vice-president was John Ridley of Bowling Green. John has served on the Board for four years and has been involved in the areas of marketing and finance. Continuing as secretary is Allison Fuqua and as treasurer, Mark Reynolds, both of Russellville.

MIKE SISK LEAVES SOUTH UNION

After three years as Assistant to the Director, Mike Sisk has chosen to leave the Museum and pursue a career in teaching. He begins student-teaching in Hardin County, Kentucky, this month and will seek a position as an instructor of history at the high school level in the fall. Mike came to South Union in 1993 as a graduate student and was hired the following year as full-time staff member. Mike’s knowledge of the South Union collections and of the village manuscript records will be a loss to the Museum as will his keen research abilities, his natural public relation skills, and his willingness to work beyond the required limits of the position. Mike was responsible for editing the newsletter, accessioning new acquisitions, planning and preparing exhibits, answering research inquiries, and for major annual events. Everyone at South Union wishes Mike the best in his new endeavors.
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: MARGARET STERLING

The Shaker Museum at South Union could not provide the wide variety of special events and programs it does without the tremendous contributions from our many volunteers. It takes countless hours to accomplish the tasks we face each day, so we are grateful for the able assistance offered to us by so many. It is always difficult to single out one person for recognition, but the choice for 1995’s Deedy Hall Volunteer of the Year Award was a hands-down winner!

Margaret Sterling has been a volunteer at the museum for more than three years. Marge has helped at almost every major event at the museum, assisted with school group tours, helped prepare literally thousands of items for children’s activities, and baked sweets for many events. She single-handedly baked all the muffins and sweet breads for the 1994 Seminar breakfast buffet! Marge has also made significant contributions to the educational resource guide being developed for teachers. Marge will be graduating in May with a Master’s degree in Historic Preservation from Western Kentucky University, and we will miss her as she pursues personal goals in the museum profession.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have contributed your time and talents to the museum. Those who were involved last fall include:

- Kimberly Divine
- Pete Wilson
- Brandi Wheeler
- Karen Heege
- Chris Norman
- Lou Ann Johnson
- Ann Boyd
- Michelle Hartley
- Jacob Koomler
- Skip Cleavinger
- Cara Catlett
- Kelly Koomler
- Nancy & David Comley
- Stephanie Wells
- Jane Robbins
- Marcia Fuqua
- Michelle Pezzuti
- Wes & Amy Moore
- Craig Catlett
- Sam & Mike Hossom
- Kim Cash
- Marge Sterling
- Larry Morrisey
- Donna Riley
- Cathi Currey
- Virginia Hurst
- Bill & Juavue Handy

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

Maybe you want to share your talents with the museum but have not been asked, or did not know what opportunities were available. I would like to invite you now to become one of the most valued members of our staff: a volunteer! A manual has been developed to help us provide sufficient information for you, and our training session held last year had great results. We plan to hold another training session in March or April and would love to have you join us.

If you are able to give even a few hours a month, please call Sharon Koomler at the Museum during regular hours or fill out the application below and return it to us. Sharon will call you! Typical commitments have included one (1) four-hour shift per month in the gift shop, interpretation at special events, preparing materials for school groups, assisting with activities for school groups (approx. 2 hour sessions), providing baked goods for events and openings, or any other way you might wish to be involved.

NAME__________________________
ADDRESS__________________________
PHONE______BEST TIME TO CALL______
AREA MOST INTERESTED IN:__________________________
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Since the Centre House was purchased in 1971, deterioration of mortar joints in the chimneys and in the stone elements of the structure has taken place. In addition, chronic problems with the roof flashing and the copper-lined stone gutter system need immediate attention. Temporary patching over the years has kept the structure from experiencing significant damage but the problem needs to be dealt with in a professional manner. Water infiltration is the major culprit in the deterioration of buildings and the Centre House has the potential of suffering extensive damage if the problem is not addressed.

Several restoration experts in the state have assessed the situation and a bid of $30,000.00 has been submitted to the Museum to correct the problem. Foundations and granting agencies are being approached to help fund the project but we need your assistance as well. Donations to the project will be accepted in February and March and pledges will be accepted during that same two-month period, but payable at any time this year.

EDUCATION NOTES:

We closed a year of school tours with almost 1200 area students sharing in “The Shaker Order of Christmas.” Thirty more young people participated in the first Christmas Workshops for Children. They learned about a Shaker Victorian Christmas, made an ornament, and completed either a cross-stitch bookmark or fragrant sachet for Christmas giving. All of the children left the museum with wrapped treasures to share with loved-ones. Look for more workshops for children later this year.

A new school program will be introduced this spring to accompany a new exhibit of the same name. “So Shall They Reap: The Shaker Garden Seed Industry” will introduce students to the important seed industry of the South Union Shakers with the use of the exhibit, copies of primary documents, and an activity that includes packaging “seed.” Teachers will also take with them seed gathered from the herb garden at South Union to plant in their classrooms. All previously advertised programs for schools will continue to be available.

During late April and early May we will present the 3rd annual “Shaker Sheep to Shawl.” Visitors to the museum will learn the process of “sheep to shawl” as sheep are sheared and the wool is spun, dyed, and woven into fabric. This is a fascinating industry that the Shakers here carried on for decades. This program is open to the public with paid admission to the museum, and to classrooms and groups by reservation. On Saturday April 27, members of a local spinners and weavers guild will demonstrate the process by spinning and weaving a fine woolen shawl in a single day. This shawl will be the grand prize of a raffle, proceeds to benefit children’s programming. Raffle tickets will be available through the museum’s gift shop after March 1, and the drawing will take place on May 3.

Students from Western Kentucky University’s Programs in Folk Studies will be working with the staff in the development of a new exhibit on Shaker foodways. We thank the administration, faculty, and students at Western for their continued interest and participation in museum operations. This collaboration provides important assistance to the museum staff and much-needed laborers!

MUSEUM WISH LIST:

Christmas Cards
Thermos Coffee Decanter
Large Projector Screen
Two Drawer and/or Four Drawer Filing Cabinet

Pine Cones
Kitchen Towels
RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Step-Back Cupboard, poplar, attributed to South Union, from the estate of Evadine Parker, Bowling Green, Kentucky
......purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Armed Rocker, maple and ash, classic South Union example
......purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Bed, walnut and poplar, room number, purchased at the South Union auction in 1922 by father of seller
......purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Variegated Wood Thread Box, Small Eastern Built-In Case of Drawers
......anonymous donation, from Estate of O. Edward Freeman, New York, New York

Dress and Silk Scarf, Canterbury Shaker Village, scarf possibly made by Kentucky Shakers
......purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Basket, white oak, attributed to South Union, collection of Chairs attributed to South Union
......donated by Ernie Ezell, Bowling Green, Ohio

Two Salt Glazed Crocks, non-Shaker, for exhibition
......donation of David P. Taylor, Owensboro, Kentucky

Manuscript Letter from Elder Rufus Bishop to Albany, New York, written while on visit to South Union, 1834
......purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Shaker Church Covenant, printed 1889, Shaker Village, New Hampshire
......purchased with acquisition endowment funds

A Collection of Secondary Library Materials
......donation of Dorothy Jones, Indianapolis, Indiana

A Collection of Secondary Library Materials
......Kurt Fiegel, Versailles, Kentucky

A Collection of Secondary Library Materials
......anonymous donation

South Union, Jasper Valley, Ky. Sept 3rd, 1834.

Much beloved Elders, Deacons, Brothers and Sisters in the gospel of our blessed Mother, whom I remember with an everlasting love— Be assured that my great distance and long absence from you have not weakened or softened my affection from you—may I just
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

James Ray, Nashville, Tennessee
Mr. & Mrs. Bryon Clark, Owensboro, Kentucky
Jerry L. Jackson, Benton, Kentucky
James & Eula Carrier, West Frankfort, Illinois
Reba C. Hamm, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Jean Waggoner, Paris, Illinois
Mark & Jean Reynolds, Russellville, Kentucky
Paul Rothert, Hot Springs, Arkansas
Dennis Furlow, Lewisville, Texas

THANK YOU!

... To the members of the Jasper Springs Society, our membership category that represents the highest level of giving.

Edie Bingham, Glenview, KY
The Atticus Trust
Kit Cress, Columbus, OH
The Helm Foundation

Mr. & Mrs. John Edward Cain, Nashville, TN
The Cracker Barrel Foundation
Apollo Fund
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Owrey, Franklin, OH

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

General Operating Support
Barbara Strickler, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Emerson Electric, Russellville, Kentucky
DePrez Travel, Rochester, New York

Underwriting Museum Events
Logan Memorial Hospital (Autumn Days 1995)
Auburn Banking Company (Christmas at Shakertown 1995)

Gifts
Margaret Sterling (vacuum cleaner and shop vac)
David Taylor (donation to collection)
Ernie Ezell (donation to collection)
Dorothy Jones (donation to library)
Kurt Fiegel (donation to library)
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McKenzie III (Morton Project)
SPRING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENTS
April 26-27  South Union Seminar
The ninth annual South Union Seminar celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Shaker Museum at South Union with presentations featuring topics related to the village and its preservation. Fee $25 members, $32 non-members. Friday evening meal at Tavern $12, optional. Time TBA. This event funded in part by Hilliard Lyons.

May 25  Spring Herbal Fair
Herb talks in the garden, herb sales, herbal remedy demonstrations, and herbal recipes served on the kitchen porch. Open to the public with museum admission. Time 9:00-4:00.

June 15  "An Evening in Shakertown"
A gala fund-raising event to support the museum. Invitations sent to all members of the Friends of Shaker Museum at South Union. This event funded in part by Commonwealth Health Corporation and Trans Financial Bank.

June 21-23  Summer Shaker Festival
A weekend of Shaker food, music, and craft in celebration of South Union Shaker folklife. No reservations required except for large groups. Fee TBA. Time 9:00-4:00. This event funded in part by Southern Deposit Bank.

EXHIBIT OPENINGS
March 3  "The Works of Richard Harris: Images of South Union." Twelve watercolor paintings of the South Union historic site by local artist Richard Harris, an exquisite collection donated by the artist to the permanent museum collection. On exhibition through June 30, 1996. Opening reception from 1:00 to 3:00.

April 14  "So Shall They Reap: The Shaker Garden Seed Industry." A collection of reproduction 19th century Shaker seed boxes and labels by renowned artist Marty Travis, exhibited with original South Union seed industry manuscripts and ephemera. On exhibition through November 17, 1996. Opening reception from 1:00 to 3:00.

WORKSHOPS
April 20-21  Oval Box/Shaker Basket Workshop. Learn to make wooden oval boxes or a Shaker style basket in this two-day workshop. Includes a Shaker lunch on Saturday. Reservations required, fee TBA.

May 4-5  Shaker Sampler Workshop. This class is designed for both beginning and advanced students who will complete a cross-stitch sampler based on the Shaker Mulberry Bower. Includes all materials and tools. Shaker lunch served on Saturday. Reservations required, fee TBA.

July 19-20  Red Ware Pottery Workshop. Learn the history of redware and make two items in this two-day workshop. Includes Shaker lunch on Saturday. Reservations required, fee TBA.
DONATIONS (cont’d)

In Memory of Miss Julia Neal
    Mrs. Edie Bingham, Glenview, Kentucky
    Dale Covington, Marietta, Georgia
    Trent Spurlock, Russellville, Kentucky
    Kit Cress, Mansfield, Ohio
    Steven & Dawn Pace, Frankfort, Kentucky
    Lucy McCarley, Russellville, Kentucky
    Elizabeth M. Hancock, Santa Fe, New Mexico
    Paul & Diana Van Kolken, Holland, Michigan

In Memory of J.D. Joines (Father of Past Board President, Jay D. Joines)
    Mary Lucy Franklin, Russellville, Kentucky
    Mr. & Mrs. John Ridley, Bowling Green, Kentucky
    Kenneth & Jane Robbins, Auburn, Kentucky
    Mike Robbins, Nashville, Tennessee
    Mr. & Mrs. Randy Fuqua, Russellville, Kentucky

In Memory of O. E. Freeman, Jr.
    Alan Schoen, New York, New York

FROM THE DIRECTOR

I hope you will make plans to attend this year’s South Union Seminar. It should be one of the most memorable yet as we concentrate only on South Union history. If you have been before, this seminar will offer many new surprises along with the familiar traditions. If you have never attended, this would be a great time to start!

We have much to be thankful for in 1996 and are looking forward to the challenges of a new year. Everyone at South Union appreciates the support of the Museum membership. If you are able to help us over the latest hurdle, the roof repair, your donation would go to an important project. The collection and the interior details of the building are not in danger at this point. You know that our first priority is the protection of the collection that so many have worked so hard for. But there is a potential for damage if the roof is not fixed. It’s as simple as that. I know that many of you have already mailed your membership contribution recently but any extra donation would sure give us the leverage to say we have enough to commit to the contractor. Thank you for being patient with our growing pains and the challenges that accompany them.

You should hear from us much more this year than ever before. Besides the newsletter, you will also receive notification of events, invitations to special programs, and our printed calendar of events. If you do not receive something from South Union at least once a month, please let us know.

Again, thanks for your continued support.

Tommy Hines