Don’t Miss Shaker Farm Day!

Things are starting to come together for our new fall event, Shaker Farm Day. While the month of June lacked the familiar sounds, smells, and excitement of the long-held Shaker Festival, this new event promises to be even better. For our visitors, Shaker Farm Day will recreate the atmosphere of South Union during the 19th century.

Activities such as apple butter-making, blacksmithing, meat-smoking, lard rendering, and corn shelling will provide visitors with a glimpse into a time much different than our own. Craftspeople will do more than just demonstrate. Through period dress and equipment they will appropriately compliment the surrounding 19th century buildings. Many of the daily activities visitors read about inside the museum will be witnessed first-hand throughout the grounds.

We are also very excited about the possibility of using the newly-restored 1847 Steam House. For the first time in well over one hundred years, the arch kettle will be fired to cook cow feed, utilizing the building for its original purpose. We hope you will join us for this inaugural event and help celebrate the folk arts and “living” traditions that are a part of the South Union experience and still active in the region today.
**Recent Acquisitions**

Corn Sheller, ca. 1890, manual operation, single hole feed, for demonstration purposes
..........................................................................................................................donated by John Ridley, Bowling Green, Kentucky

Iron Warmer, i.e. “Goose Pan,” 19th century, Canterbury Shaker Village, made of tin, rectangular with handle, placed over a hot iron when not in use to retain heat
..........................................................................................................................purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Candlestand, cherry, 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 and private contribution of Col. and Mrs. Robert Spiller, Oakland, Kentucky

Billhead, 1855, “Drugs, Medicines, and Chemicals,” receipt of Lothrop & Co., a Dover, NH wholesale/retail dealer who carried Shaker herbs
..........................................................................................................................purchased with acquisition endowment funds

Seed Packets, South Union, cabbage and radish, excellent condition, one in vibrant blue
..........................................................................................................................purchased with acquisition endowment funds

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**Tavern News - Meet the Innkeeper**

We welcome Jo Ann Moody, a Simpson County native, as our new innkeeper at the Shaker Tavern. Jo Ann graduated from Allen County High School in 1961 and has two children, Cindy Downey and Mark Moody. Before joining the South Union staff, Jo Ann worked with First Baptist Church in Franklin for twenty-two years in the day care/kindergarten program, which involved catering for a variety of occasions. Her interests include old buildings and cooking. Pleased to be staying at the Tavern and taking care of guests, Jo Ann plans on filling the Tavern every night and providing each guest with a pleasant, memorable experience. She also wants to provide more in-house catering for luncheons and dinners. We certainly look forward to the new ideas Jo Ann brings with her!

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The Tavern has certainly undergone some exciting changes. We have spent most of this year making some very important improvements to the interior. Guest rooms have been furnished with many new period pieces and repainted in appropriate dark colors. This new paint scheme, combined with the addition of rugs and reproduction light fixtures, creates a much different atmosphere—one we hope you will enjoy! As more work is planned on both the interior and the exterior of the building, we hope you will all plan a visit to see the changes first-hand!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Thank You Recent Contributors to “Buying Back the Shaker Farm”

Fundraising Drive Goal: $585,000
Balance Yet to Raise as of 8/1/98: $234,300

Leah, Laura, and Kelsey Coleman, Auburn, Kentucky
Kenneth Tackett, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Bob and Kit Cress, Mansfield, Ohio
Alan and Adrienne Dieball, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Robinson, Jr., Nashville, Tennessee
Dory Hudspeth, Alvaton, Kentucky
Susan Jackson Keig, Chicago, Illinios
Dickie McKinney, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Celeste Casey Reed, Nashville, Tennessee
Dr. and Mrs. Nick Kafoglis, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Larry and Ruth Owrey, Franklin, Ohio
Sharon Crawford, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Elizabeth Hancock, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Dennis L. Newberry, Owensboro, Kentucky
Susan Menees, Allensville, Kentucky
Sharon Koomler, East Chatham, New York
Richard Rainey, Nashville, Tennessee
Trent Spurlock, Russellville, Kentucky
Judge and Mrs. William Allender, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Cheryl Kline, Williamson, New York
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sharp, Nashville, Tennessee
Robert L. George, Cleveland, Tennessee
Flo Morse, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Jean Ward Oldfield, Nashville, Tennessee
Alan Schoen, Old Chatham, New York
Joseph and Colleen Kresovich, Melvindale, Michigan
Dale Covington, Marietta, Georgia
Lelane Hoose, Fair Haven, New York
Jean Middleton, Nicholson, Pennsylvania
Lyle and Ruth Taylor, Huntsville, Alabama
Dr. George Kennedy and Dr. Barbara Norris, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Elaine Disch, Chicago, Illinios
Dennis Tilghman, New Egypt, New Jersey
Mr. and Mrs. Edgar McCormick, Kent, Ohio
Sandra Pruitt Miller, Greer, South Carolina
Rose Mary Lawson, Sevierville, Tennessee
Avie Kalker, Dallas, Texas
Betsy and Lee Johnson, Washington, D.C.
Lynn Minish, Auburn, Kentucky
Mary Lucy Franklin, Russellville, Kentucky
Claire Viverito, Cincinnati, Ohio
As the 1998 season progresses, people continue to make positive comments regarding our exhibit "Are These Not Perilous Times?" Corresponding to the Civil War theme, this final installment in this brief synopsis truly makes me look forward to the Civil War Breakfast scheduled in November!

Conscription and enlistment affected the South Union Shakers. As pacifists, the Shakers corresponded several times with President Abraham Lincoln regarding their refusal to take part in the draft and military service. After much effort, the Shakers were tentatively released of their obligation to engage in mandatory service. However, many young people that lived in the community chose to join the war effort. For the most part, none of these young males had yet signed the covenant, a step required by all who decided to pursue the Shaker lifestyle in earnest. Most of these enlistees would never return to the community.

The Journal of Eldress Nancy is not only one of our best primary resources regarding the Civil War years, but also provides illuminating and invaluable information, especially about Shaker foodways. Much of what we know about the food soldiers on both sides received was drawn from this resource. For instance, on January 22, 1863, she wrote:

The sisters done the cooking and the brethren carried the victuals to the different places. For supper they had biscuit and loaf fried ribs, sausage and midling of pork; sweetened and well creamed sassafras tea, as much milk as they would eat and drink; we opened a three gallon jar of green peaches which they consumed and the very best of sweet potatoes what they could eat and onions. For breakfast they had biscuit, loaf, fried pork, eggs, sausage, onions, pickles, sassafras and sage tea, as much milk as they desired, stewed apples and butter and corn bread.

And on another occasion...

They [Union soldiers] soon discovered where the victuals came from and they flocked to the kitchen doors, they appeared very hungry for vegetables, they devoured the raw lettic[esic] with avidity...

Is it any wonder the soldiers hung around? Granted, not every meal served was so extensive, but one can recognize the draining effect the war did have on the community's resources. The end of the war left South Union depleted physically and strained financially. After a period of such steady growth prior to the Civil War, the 1870's showed evidence of the decline that was to follow as the twentieth century approached.

Thank You for Your Contributions

Edie Bingham, Glenview, Kentucky for General Support
Martha Boice, Dayton, Ohio for the Shaker Museum Web Site
Carolyn Garrett, Auburn, Kentucky for General Support
Col. and Mrs. Robert Spiller, Oakland, Kentucky for General Support
Education Notes - Mary Inkrot

Our four weeks of summer day camps proved to be lots of fun. With small groups, each participant could spend more time experiencing nineteenth century lifeways such as candle dipping and churning butter. As one parent noted to me, in the high technology world that children know today, it is important that they learn about how different it was in the past. Her comment attests to the vast educational value of our camps. With camps over, scheduling for the museum's thematic school tours has begun. As always, the museum remains committed to providing these unique opportunities for young visitors.

It is with much regret that I must tell you I am leaving my position at the museum. Family reasons compelled my decision and I will be returning to South Carolina in early August. I have enjoyed my time here and appreciate all the help I received from so many individuals. The Shaker Museum is truly a special place. I will take with me many memories of wonderful people and the many things they taught me. It saddens me that I will not continue to be part of the staff as the museum continues to grow. But I do not intend my leaving to be good-bye forever. I will continue my involvement with the museum, not as staff but as a friend.

Blessings!

Welcome New Members

Laren P. Anderson, Nashville, Tennessee
Les and Jeanette Casteel, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Mr. and Mrs. Terry Goodman, Beaver Dam, Kentucky
Stephen and Lisa Goodwin, Gilbertsville, Kentucky
Freddie and Kathryn Higgins, Princeton, Kentucky
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Hines, Rome, Georgia
Dr. Melvin A. Johnson, Orlando, Florida
Connie Kessinger, Bowling Green, Kentucky
Anne McPherson and John Bivens, Charleston, South Carolina

Memorial Contributions

Lillie Mae Hayes, Auburn, Kentucky in memory of Gladys Owrey

The South Union Messenger is published by the Shaker Museum at South Union.
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A Word from the Director - Tommy Hines

South Union is experiencing an upswing in visitors this summer. After a two year slump, the Museum is steadily edging beyond last year’s attendance. This is great news for us, especially when visitors seem to be spending more time and money in the gift shop. Its new location on the ground level of the Centre House offers more floor space, an expanded line of merchandise, and, most importantly, cooler temperatures.

Thank you for contributing so generously to our “Buying Back the Shaker Farm” campaign. Since letters were mailed to the membership almost eight weeks ago, we have received over $23,000.00 in donations. What a terrific group of supporters! Thank you Friends of the Shaker Museum for making such an impact on this important fund-raising effort. Pledges and contributions continue to come in on a weekly basis, bringing us closer and closer to the $585,000.00 goal. Rumors of a 3,000 acre air park coming to the South Union area make this acquisition all the more imperative.

Come see us Shaker Farm Day . . . join us for the Shaker Breakfast . . . and don’t miss Christmas at Shakertown!

Upcoming at the Shaker Museum

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. Reservation required. Fee: members $65, non-members $70 Time: 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Saturday

September 12  Shaker Farm Day
This new event will recreate the atmosphere of a 19th century farm community with living history demonstrations. Fee: Members free, non-members $5 per adult, $1 per child (6-12 years). Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. This event funded in part by Star Bank.

November 14  Shaker Breakfast
A unique, generous morning meal based on a South Union Civil War menu, served in the dining room of the Centre House. Reservations required. Fee: members $17, non-members $20 Time: 9:00 am and 11:00 am

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: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. This event funded in part by Auburn Banking Company.
Come and see what life was like on Kentucky's largest 19th century farm

Shaker Farm Day

When the "simple" life meant rendering lard, boiling laundry, shelling corn, pressing cider, smoking meat, milking the cow, making candles, churning butter, baking bread . . . and that was all before breakfast.

The Shaker Museum at South Union
Saturday, September 12 from 9:00 - 5:00
Admission $5 for Adults and $1 for Children
The Shaker Museum is located ten miles west of Bowling Green or three miles east of Auburn, just off US 68
For more information call: 502-542-4167
This event is graciously underwritten by STAR BANK
Bank Without Boundaries
1855 Billhead, Daniel Lothrop, Dover, NH, seller of Shaker herbs