BAKE ROOM RESTORATION EXPOSES A SURPRISE!

During the recent restoration of the Centre House bake room, a project funded by the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, remnants of an original brick partition wall were discovered. Before restoration began the bake room was believed to have been one large space. However, after finding evidence of a missing wall, it became quite obvious that there were originally two rooms, one that housed the bake ovens and the other which served as a pantry.

Volunteers Dale and Mary Spencer reconstructed the wall and Dale replicated the original woodwork. Visitors will soon be able to see the reconstructed brick fronts of the bake ovens, a restoration by Roger Pearson, and new iron frames and oven doors, handcrafted by blacksmith Larry Cole. Special thanks to all of the craftspeople for sharing their talents with us and to the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels for funding the restoration.

STEAM HOUSE TO OPEN IN 1997

Thanks to a $77,000 grant from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, our landscape and outbuilding restoration is nearly complete. Awarded in 1994, the Carpenter grant helped restore the grounds surrounding the Centre House to a mid-nineteenth century appearance. The installation of a well-documented fencing system is complete as are plantings recorded in the journals.

The most significant achievement of the project has been the restoration of the 1847 Steam House. The brick walls were restored and repointed by Roger Pearson of Rochester-Miller Restoration of Paris, Kentucky. Because of unforeseen restoration expenses, two of the projects slated for completion with Carpenter funding were not finished on schedule. The installation of a new brick floor for the Steam House will have to wait for additional funding, although the building will probably be open to the public in 1997, even with the floor incomplete. Also planned as part of the Carpenter grant was the restoration of the brick cattle cistern near the Steam House. Because of the generosity of the museum’s Advisory Committee, funds for repairing the cistern have been secured and the restoration will take place in the spring.
THE CARPENTER FOUNDATION LENDS ANOTHER HELPING HAND

The E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation has been most generous to South Union's growth and development. When moisture became evident around the Centre House chimneys and copper-lined stone guttering system, the Carpenter Foundation agreed to fund a major project to reline the gutters, replicate the original copper downspouts, reflash parapet walls, and repoint weak mortar joints. The work was completed during the fall of this year. The installation of new wooden shutters is still to come and will hopefully be in place before summer 1997.

SHARON KOOMLER LEAVES SOUTH UNION

After four years as South Union's Director of Education, Sharon Koomler is leaving Kentucky to join the staff of Hancock Shaker Village. Sharon has accepted the position of Curator and will begin her new duties January 2. The Shaker Museum at South Union has seen tremendous growth in the field of education over the past four years because of the leadership and creativity of Sharon Koomler. During her tenure the organization experienced innovative programming and events, and benefited greatly from her writing skills, public speaking ability, and knowledge of Shaker history and folklife. She will be greatly missed by the staff, the museum Boards, the membership, and the many teachers and school children with whom she has become friends. We wish Sharon the very best as she begins her exciting duties at Hancock.

SOUTHERN FURNITURE SYMPOSIUM A SUCCESS

The second bi-annual Southern Furniture Symposium was attended by over eighty participants from seven states. The "sold-out" event featured experts in the field of antebellum decorative arts, including Tracey Parks, Ann McPherson, Larrie Curry, and Susan Buck. Topics focused on characteristics of early 19th century Kentucky and Tennessee furniture and original paint surfaces found on Shaker furniture. An exhibit of 35 representative pieces of regional "worldly" and Shaker furniture, loaned to the museum from 16 public and private collections, opened in conjunction with the symposium. The exhibit catalog, A Sense of Place: Kentucky Shaker Furniture and Regional Influence, is available at the Shaker Museum Shop, $17.50 plus tax, shipping & handling. Very special thanks to those who funded the event:

Mrs. Edie Bingham
Col. And Mrs. Robert E. Spiller
Mr. and Mrs. Ridley Wills III
Emerson Electric, Russellville

The Colonial House, Auburn
Irene's Antique Gallery, Elizabethtown
The Kentucky Humanities Council

EDUCATION NOTES

This has been a busy fall season for school-age and adult group tours. More than 500 area school children have visited the museum to learn more about the Kentucky Shakers. Teachers have been provided with materials to help them integrate Shaker history in their classrooms. Almost 700 students are already scheduled to share in the "Shaker Order of Christmas" program in December.

New opportunities for adult group touring have been developed and implemented with great results. The most frequently scheduled tour, the "Enhanced Tour," includes a short slide/lecture presentation and seasonal beverages. This option provides a visual and more personalized introduction to the Shakers. The museum also now offers the option of having catered meals served to groups in the...
dining room of the Centre House Dwelling or at the Shaker Tavern. Tours and meals have been scheduled by travel groups, church groups, and a variety of other special interest groups. We look forward to hosting greater numbers in 1997.

The last workshop of the season is designed for local children! "The Shaker Order of Christmas: A Children’s Workshop" will be held on Saturday December 14, from 1:00 until 3:30 pm. Children will see the museum decorated for the holidays and learn how the Shakers celebrated a Victorian Christmas. They will make a Victorian-style ornament to take home, and complete one of a choice of crafts suitable for Christmas gift-giving. Seasonal refreshments will be served, and gift wrap will be provided. Reservations are required. Cost is $7.00 per child.

The museum hosted two Candlelight Dinners in September. These is a popular events that bring guests into the museum after dark to experience the museum in a different light (so to speak!). Guests were treated to a sumptuous meal followed by a guided tour through the building, as costumed volunteers re-enacted the activities of an 1840s evening at Shakertown. The tour culminated in a Shaker music performance in the meeting room. This is truly a memorable event - mark your calendars to attend next fall!

The Shaker Harvest Festival in October was a wonderful event. It was a sunny -though a bit chilly- day, and the grounds were busy with activities of fall. apple butter making, candle dipping, blacksmithing, broom making, laundry washing, and wool dyeing. Roy’s Bar-B-Que of Russellville provided warm drinks and “the best bar-b-que around,” according to our visitors!

The annual Shaker Breakfast was held in early November. Participants were treated to a wonderful meal, with the menu taken from Eldress Nancy Moore’s Civil War era journal. Tommy Hines shared some interesting facts about the South Union Shakers’ experiences during the Civil War and music was provided by the South Union Shaker Quartet. Plans are already underway to expand this event for 1997 to include a weekend of interpretation highlighting South Union during the Civil War.

The Shaker Museum at South Union participated in a one month survey of historic sites sponsored by Heritage Communications. The intent of this survey is to learn who visits historic sites, what they expect from their visits, and how each site meets those expectations. Comments made by visitors indicate that we are doing a good job here.

The Historic Confederation of Kentucky awarded the Shaker Museum at South Union a number of recognitions at their annual meeting in November. Julia Neal was recognized for her significant contributions to the museum. The Southern Furniture Symposium was given an award of excellence for public programming, while a new program, “The Art of the Shakers: A Classroom Experience,” was recognized for excellence in programming for schools. Our new publication, A Thread of Evidence: Shaker Textile Industries at South Union, Kentucky, was recognized as an outstanding publication. We are proud of these awards!

As events for this year start winding to a close, so does my tenure with the museum. I have accepted a position as curator at Hancock Shaker Village and will begin there in January. It is impossible for me to acknowledge individually each of you who has touched my life. I have made so many friends through my association with South Union and I value them all. Please know how much I appreciate the support you have given me and how much I will miss you all! Please ask for me if you visit Hancock!
COMING HOME TO SOUTH UNION

The last half of 1996 has been an exciting time as a number of South Union treasures returned to the museum. Probably one of the most important acquisitions this year was Elder Harvey Eads’ manuscript hymnal. The hymnal includes Shaker songs recorded by Eads between 1835 and 1842, most of which originated in the South Union community. Containing nearly 550 entries, the hymnal was taken by Eads on a trip east in 1835 where he filled 75 pages with hymns, notes, autographs, and messages of love and union from, and in the hands of, various eastern brothers and sisters. The hymnal was purchased by the museum from the Milton Sherman collection via David Newell, who calls the manuscript “perhaps the most important western song manuscript extant.” The hymnal can be seen at the museum next April, as part of an exhibit called “Treasures of the Julia Neal Library Collection.”

Other Important Recent Acquisitions Include:

Harvey Eads’ Desk, Walnut and Poplar, ca. 1870, typical South Union antebellum characteristics coupled with Victorian details, descended from the Joe Wallace family, farm manager for the South Union Shakers

Sugar Chest, Walnut, ca. 1840, used by the South Union Shakers but probably not made by them

Rocking Chair, Canterbury, NH, Maple, ca. 1850, also two brushes and a 6” rule attributed to Canterbury

Three Door Cupboard, Walnut and Poplar, ca. 1840, original finish, attributed to South Union

1960s and 1970s Christmas Cards from Eldress Bertha Lindsey and Eldress Gertrude Soule

A Collection of Eastern Shaker Ephemera

A Collection of Periodicals, “The Circular” and “The American Socialist,” 1870s, containing articles about the Shakers
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Terry & Beverly Rogers, Harrodsburg, KY
Douglas Tilghman, Portland, ME
Bill & Linda Oldham, Bowling Green, KY
Roger Selvidge, Hopkinsville, KY
Paula Uzzle, Madisonville, KY
Susan Silva Skinner, Union Grove, NC
Ann Taylor, Mt. Washington, KY
James & Roberta Petznick, Hendersonville, TN
Mark Wetherington, Louisville, KY

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

In Memory of Virginia Jiurst:
Rex & Addie Bennett, Greenfield, IN
Margaret Sterling, St. Petersburg, FL
Dale Covington, Marietta, GA
Elizabeth M. Hancock, Santa Fe, NM
Ann Early Sutherland, Bardstown, KY
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Fuqua, Russellville, KY
Jane G. Flener, Louisville, KY

In Memory of Rebecca Clark:
Mary Lucy Franklin, Russellville, KY
Mrs. Ray T. Scott, Auburn, KY
Garland H. Butler & Family, Raleigh, NC
Area Bancshares Corporation
Trent Spurlock, Russellville, KY

Morton House Restoration:
Thomas A. McKenzie, III, Huntsville, AL

Thank you for your donation.

Cistern Restoration Project:
Mr. & Mrs. William G. Coke, Jr., Nashville, TN
Commonwealth Health Corporation

Board of Directors Fund Drive:
Mark & Jean Reynolds, Russellville, KY

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Dr. James Middleton, Jr., Munfordville, KY
Mary Jane Cress, Mansfield, OH
Joe & Dorothy Jones, Indianapolis, IN
Mr. John Clark, Russellville, KY
Mr. & Mrs. Oddvar Berg, Russellville, KY

THANK YOU FOR UNDERWRITING EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

Auburn Banking Company, Auburn, Ky - Christmas at Shakertown
Logan Memorial Hospital, Russellville, KY - Shaker Harvest Festival
A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

South Union has experienced great change this year as restoration projects have taken place and important acquisitions have come back to the community. Other changes, namely the resignation of Education Director Sharon Koomler, definitely don't bring the same joy. Everyone at South Union hates to see Sharon go, but wish her the best as she begins work at Hancock Shaker Village.

Dale and Mary Spencer received the 1996 Deedy Hall Volunteer of the Year Award at the museum’s annual volunteer dinner on December 7th. Dale and Mary have been involved with the museum for many years, but this past year they made significant changes in the site because of their time and talents. The couple has kept South Union’s Holy Ground mowed all season, videotaped two of our major seminars, and constructed the partition wall in the Centre House bake room. Dale also volunteered his carpentry skills to replicate woodwork for the bake room and to construct display units for the gift shop. Dale was the first recipient of the award in 1991. Congratulations and thanks to Dale and Mary.

It is impossible to list the numerous contributions made throughout the year. Our special thanks to each of you who support the Shaker Museum in so many ways.

Tommy Hines

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 1 MUSEUM OPENS

April Exhibit of treasures from the Julia Neal Library Collection

April 18-19 SOUTH UNION SEMINAR
The tenth annual South Union Seminar will feature presentations on topics related to the village and its preservation. Keynote speakers will be Sister Frances and Brother Arnold of the Sabbathday Lake Shaker community. Time and Fee TBA.

May 3 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: 9-4.

May 11 Exhibit on the life of South Union Elder Harvey Eads scheduled

June 7 “AN EVENING IN SHAKERTOWN”
A gala fundraising event to support the museum. Invitations sent to all members of the Friends of Shaker Museum at South Union.

Also mark your calendar for the following dates:

June 13-15 Summer Shaker Festival
July 6 “Contemporary Gift Drawings: The Traditional Works of Sister Karlyn Cauley”
Sept 12-13 Fall Candlelight Dinners
Nov 8 Shaker Breakfast
Dec 6-7 Christmas at Shakertown