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## South Union Messenger (March 1984)

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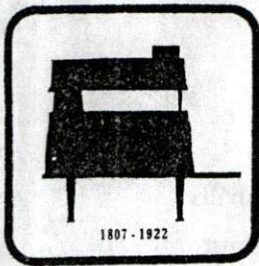
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# Shakertown

AT SOUTH UNION, KENTUCKY 42283

NEWSLETTER - MARCH, 1984

## MUSEUM NEWS

Despite the record heat and lack of rain during the 1983 season, the museum had over 5100 visitors. This compares to 5600 visitors during 1982. The gift shop sales were up considerably for the year, and the antique mall recorded one of its best sales months in July. With the 1984 World's Fair being held in New Orleans, we are expecting a great increase in visitation during the upcoming season. As usual, the museum will open for the summer on May 1. Several changes have been planned for this year, including the opening of two new areas. The 1840 Presevatory will be the new starting point for visitors to Shakertown. The building will house the gift shop and will be the place to buy admission tickets. As has always been our policy, members of the museum shall be admitted at no charge. Visitors may then enter the Cistern to view from the inside the large mound that has been the subject of many questions over the years. A new orientation will take place in the Centre Dwelling House (the museum) and will include a tour through the main floor rooms. In order to better facilitate the needs of our guests, tours will begin at regularly scheduled times throughout the day.

Another change for this season is the addition to the staff of Mr. Tommy Hines. Mr. Hines is a graduate of Western Kentucky University and will be helping to implement the new exhibits at the museum and assisting with the orientation program.

### PRESERVATORY OPENS

As noted above, the Shaker Preservatory shall be open to the public for the first time beginning this summer. The building was built about 1840 and was where the Shakers did dairy preserving and butter and cheese making. The building was remodeled after the Shakers left, and has been a private residence for the last twenty years. The building has not yet been restored to its "Shaker way", but will be used as a gift shop, office, and director's apartment. The gift shop will be on the lower floor and will be featuring many new products. Mr. Dale Spencer of Franklin (Ky) has been reproducing selected pieces of Shaker furniture which will be available in the shop and antique mall. Several other new Shaker reproduction items will be for sale and an expanded variety of the very popular herbs and teas grown by the Shakers of the present Sabbathday Lake, Maine community are sure to attract the cooking interests of visitors.

### TAVERN RENOVATION

Through the generosity and special efforts of many of our friends, spearheaded by the Reverend Alfred Bennett of Auburn, work has now begun on repairing the 1869 Shaker Tavern! The electrical wiring in the building is being replaced and some repair work has been done to the plumbing and inside walls and ceiling. The funding for this project has been raised by a group of donors known as the 400 Club. The Club is comprised of persons who have donated a minimum of \$100 towards the restoration of the building. It is hoped that at least 400 individuals and businesses will contribute to this most worthy and needed endeavour. Several fund raising events were held during the holiday season under the guidance of Mrs. Bess Martin of Russellville. More activities are planned for the spring and the building is available for receptions and club gatherings. For further information on the progress of the restoration or to help with any aspect of the project, please contact either Mr. Bennett or Mrs. Martin through the museum address or directly.



## MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

With the great variety of projects currently proposed and underway, there are even more opportunities for the members to become more involved in Shakertown. This is truly a museum that belongs to its members, for without you none of this would be possible. We have had an increase in donations and new members in the past two years and we are most grateful for this. Financial support is the most obvious way our members can help, but it is certainly not the only way. Anyone having ideas for projects or wanting to help with a current one is most welcome to participate. You may contact any of the Board of Director members to express your thoughts or to volunteer to help; members are listed later in this newsletter. One very needed area for volunteers is in the gift shop. With the shop being relocated in the Preservatory, it will be a much more pleasant environment in which to work. We can use volunteer clerks and hosts/hostesses throughout the season. You do not have to have any great knowledge of salesmanship or Shaker history, just a willingness to greet people and share your support of South Union with our visitors. Help can also be used in the office, with groundskeeping, the July festival, antique mall, and a variety of other areas. If you only have an afternoon free once a month, we can use your help!

Encouraging your friends, neighbours, and/or relatives to visit the museum and to become members is a very easy and most needed way to help preserve the Shaker heritage of this region. For groups of ten or more, special rates are available provided the museum is notified at least ten days in advance. Members can also arrange to have a visit to the museum to include additional information on any of a variety of Shaker-related topics. A membership form is included as a part of every newsletter for your use in this important aspect of sharing the museum with others.

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170 YEARS AGO

This is another in our continuing series of highlights of the South Union Journal. As much as possible, the excerpts are copied as they appear in the original journals. Typed copies of them are available for reading in the Kentucky Library at Western Kentucky University. The series is now up to the records kept for the year 1814. By this time the Shaker Community was attracting many new members and the land holdings were increasing rapidly.

1/1/1814 Whole Number - There is at this time in the Society here professing to be Believers, old & young 300 souls.

1/22 Baby Born - Nancy Davis the Mother-boy named Eleazar.

2/21 Apple Tree Planting - Brethren went to Wolf Lick for apple trees returned the 25th with 700.

2/28 Sugar Making - Absalom Chisholm, John Slover & boys, went to Wolf Lick to make sugar-returned soon with 200 pounds.  
Sickness - considerable sickness about this time Jenny Buchanan taken today.

Baby Born - Ichabod Shaw born some time in this month.

3/8 Sickness - David Davis taken severely.

3/14 Baby Born - Polly McGuire the Mother-a boy named Francis.

3/25 Sugar From Wolf Lick - All hands from Wolf Lick brot 400 lbs more of Sugar-600 in all.

3/25 SICKNESS & DEATH !!!

3/26 The Cold Plague!!! On the 25th & 26th in the Town of Russellville in this (Logan) County 15 persons were taken with the prevailing Epidemic called the Cold Plague & 3 of them died & we learn many are dying & dead in the upper counties of this State.