ANNIVERSARY

When the Shakers first arrived in Logan County in the early 1800s, there were not any towns in the area other than Bowling Green, Russellville, and a few small communities or outposts. The area which is now South Union was simply farmland, mostly owned by the Rankin and McComb families. The river running through the area was known as the Gasper, and the Shakers adopted the name Gasper Congregation for their new community. By about 1808, the Gasper Congregation had become known to other Shakers as South Union because of its location in relation to Union Village in Ohio. However, the central Shaker Ministry did not officially change the name to South Union until 1813.

The South Union scribe recorded in the journal this account of the name change:

May 1st, 1813

Name Changed From Gasper To South Union

Letter - We the ministry, wrote the first letter to day to the ministry of Lebanon, N.Y. since we came to Gasper. And on this day & by means of this letter the name of this place is changed from Gasper to that of South Union, by such name it is hereafter to be designated. The letter was to Mother Lucy Wright.

South Union was granted a postmark in 1826, making it the second town in Logan County to receive one—the first being Russellville. Today, South Union's post office has the distinction of being the only Shaker post office still in operation.

MUSEUM NOW OPEN

The Shaker Museum is now open for the 1983 summer season. This year, in addition to our permanent exhibits, we will exhibit a series of unusual items that have not been on display in years past. Different items will be featured each month—some from the South Union collection, and some on temporary loan from other sources.

Museum hours are from 9:00 to 5:00 Monday through Saturday and from 1:00 to 5:00 on Sunday.

Charges for admission to the museum are the same as last year: $2 for adults, $1 for children ages six through twelve, and free for children under six. As usual, members of the Shakertown at South Union organization are admitted without charge upon presentation of their membership cards.
170 YEARS AGO AT SOUTH UNION

This is the third in our series of excerpts transcribed from Shaker Journals which were kept as a record of day-to-day happenings at the community. Typed and bound copies of the South Union Shaker Journals are available for reading in the Manuscript Division of the Kentucky Library at Western Kentucky University.

March 13, 1813 Journey - James M. Rankin set out for Pleasant Hill to learn tanners trade, but returned not making his home at Pleasant Hill. George Shannon who went with him for the same purpose departed from the "faith once delivered to the saints."

March 27, 1813 Great Flood at Cincinnati - The Ohio River there said to be 74 feet above low water mark - 4 feet higher than ever known before.

March 30, 1813 More Grubbing - Brethren commenced grubbing 10 acres at Black Lick - finished April 3rd prox. [of the same year.]

Farm - The farmers have sowed 25 acres in Oats.

April 2, 1813 Move - Joseph & Anne Dunn moved from Sam'l G. Whytes old place to the North House.

April 7, 1813 Farm - Sowed 18 acres of flax at Black Lick.

April 18, 1813 Soldiers - Cap't. Gaines with about 400 soldiers encamped at the Springs at the head of our creek and all marched orderly away on the 19th.

April 22, 1813 High Water - over the door sill of stone shop 3 feet & over running the bridge.

April 28, 1813 Sheep Washing & corn planting finishes the month.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

The museum building has been closed for the winter, but museum work never stops. Since early last October, John Campbell, Museum Director, has been supervising two Western Kentucky University Folk Studies graduate students who have been doing research using the Shaker Journals and other documents which are housed in the Manuscript Division of the Kentucky Library at Western.

Ann Silva has been compiling all available information about buildings constructed and used by the South Union Shakers from 1805 through 1854, while Nancy Nusz has been studying several families who were prominent in early South Union history. Some of the material gathered by these two students will be published in this summer's festival program.
McLAIN FAMILY BAND TO PERFORM AT SHAKERTOWN

On Thursday, May 19, 1983, the McLain Family Band from Berea, Kentucky, will perform in the field beside the Shaker Tavern at 7:00 pm. Their appearance is made possible, in part, by the Kentucky Arts Council through the Governor's Challenge Grant program.

The McLain Family Band is one of Kentucky's best known and best loved bluegrass groups. They've performed their blend of traditional and original music throughout the United States and in over 60 foreign countries, delighting audiences with their talent and enthusiasm.

Tickets are on sale now at the Shaker Museum and at many local businesses. Admission is $4 for adults (18 and over), $1 for children (6 to 17), and free for children under age six.

The Shaker Museum will remain open later than usual on the day of the concert. We invite you to come early, tour the museum, bring a picnic supper and have dinner on the grounds, and then enjoy the fine music. For more information, telephone the museum.

FESTIVAL PLANS

Dr. Jackson Kesler will direct the 23rd annual production of "Shakertown Revisited" scheduled for July 14-23, 1983. Jack is a member of the theatre faculty at Western Kentucky University and has also directed several musicals for the Fountain Square Players of Bowling Green. The theatre isn't his only interest, though; Jack is a history buff and has done extensive research in Shaker history. He's also a member of the Bowling Green Landmark Association's Board of Directors, and is a licensed antique dealer.

As we reported earlier, Ted Barr will direct the music for this year's pageant. He's been working throughout the winter on some new arrangements of Shaker songs and has picked out several new songs to add to the show. The musical numbers will be staged by Pamela Napier, who has choreographed the pageant for the past four years.

Auditions for the pageant are Monday and Tuesday, June 6th and 7th, from 7:00 until 9:00 pm at the Centre House. If you'd like to take part in the festival in any way, come to auditions or call the museum and let us know what you'd like to do.

Dinner will again be served in the kitchen and dining rooms of the Centre House and catered by Mr. Charles Anderson of the Logan Heritage Inn. We had hoped to be able to use the Tavern for the festival meals, but all work has stopped on the water line coming from Simpson County, leaving the Tavern with no acceptable source of water.

The Tavern won't be empty during the festival, though. Several traditional artists will be busy demonstrating their skills and answering questions about their work. This "artists' showcase" is something new for Shakertown at South Union and is being funded, in part, by the Kentucky Arts Council through the Governor's Challenge Grant program.
FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Dear Friends,

On April 6, 1983, I signed papers for the acquisition of the house and the fifteen acres of ground surrounding the store building (Antique Mall and Post Office). The family renting the house has requested to continue renting, and the alfalfa hay and tobacco base have been cash rented.

Currently, several projects are in the works. Plans are being developed for construction of an over-night camping site. Cost, size, and construction design are being studied for the outdoor pavilion we hope to build. New and better signs directing traffic from US 68-80 to the Tavern, Antique Mall, and Post Office are being painted. And finally, Mr. Royce Wood, Logan County Health Sanitation Officer, has inspected the Tavern, which is preliminary to our developing plans for serving meals there.

We do appreciate the people who have expressed their approval and those who have made contributions that have allowed us to start turning these plans into reality. Many thanks for your support and suggestions. We're open to them.

Sincerely,
Grover Corum, President
Shakertown at South Union

HELP US RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS

Share this newsletter with a friend and encourage him or her to fill out this application and become a member of Shakertown at South Union.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll me as a member of Shakertown at South Union in the class checked below:

- Full-time student - $10.00
- Senior citizen - $10.00
- Individual - $15.00
- Family - $25.00
- Contributing - $100.00
- Sustaining - $500.00
- Life - $1000.00

Name ____________________________________________

Street ____________________________________________

City ____________________________________________

State ___________ Zip ___________

Checks should be made payable to Shakertown at South Union, Inc. All contributions are tax exempt. Your check is your receipt.