

Spring 2019

## South Union Messenger (Spring 2019)

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# SOUTH UNION MESSENGER

Vol. XLVIII, No.2, 2019  
South Union Shaker Village, Kentucky

## REMEMBERING MARTIN BROWN, SR.

In the fall of 1990, Martin Brown was asked by Edie Bingham if he might be willing to serve on South Union's Advisory Committee. The brainchild of Mrs. Bingham, the committee was to function as a broadening mechanism for South Union's growth and development, offering expertise in fund-raising, preservation, grant writing, and the opportunity to be introduced to influences outside the immediate region.

Mr. Brown graciously agreed to serve and attended the first meeting of the Advisory Committee, held on January 10, 1991, along with Edie Bingham, Dr. Ben Caldwell, and Sam Thomas. At the time, Mr. Brown had recently retired as Chairman and CEO of Jack Daniels Distillery and was embarking on other business opportunities and serving on boards in and around the Nashville area. Fortunately for South Union, he became interested in the work here and remained committed to his role on the Advisory Committee for the next eighteen years.

For nearly two decades, Martin Brown served as a source of strength and wisdom to South Union Shaker Village. He will undoubtedly be remembered as one of the most respected leaders ever associated with our historic site, always offering sound advice, consistent kindness, and unmatched generosity. When he spoke, people listened . . . a response that came not from a personality that demanded it, but from someone who exhibited judgement, insight, compassion, and character throughout a lifetime.

Martin Brown passed away on August 11, 2019. We at South Union, along with countless others, consider ourselves fortunate to have been influenced by his life and legacy. We are most thankful. Our sincere sympathies to the Brown family.



SUSV's Advisory Committee in 1999 included (left to right) William G. Coke, Tommy Hines (Executive Director), John Ridley, Doris Thomas, Edie Bingham, Mike Harreld, and Martin Brown, Sr.

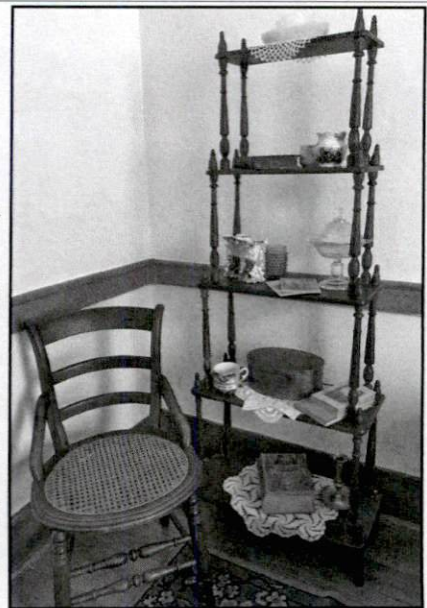
Members of the current South Union Shaker Village Advisory Committee include Mary Barris, Edie Bingham, Jeffrey Clark, William G. Coke, Margy Thomas, and Ridley Wills III

# RECENT ACQUISITIONS

## “What-not” Shelf

Walnut, five-tiered, ca. 1890, (right) once owned by either Harriet or Virginia Breedlove, both of whom were Shakers at South Union during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Donor is a descendent.

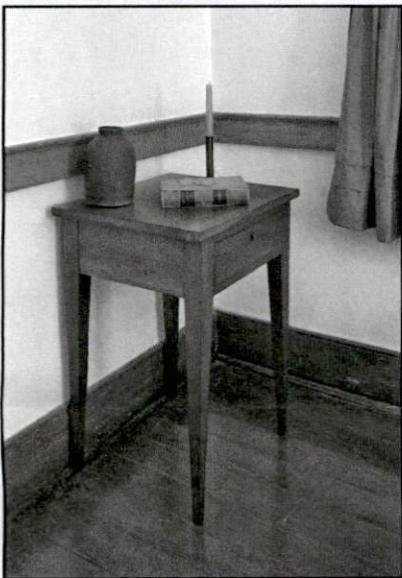
.....Donated by Ted and Arlene Miles



## Table

Cherry and poplar, ca. 1820, (below) with oral history relating it to South Union Shakers, refinished by Leroy Loving, Bowling Green, in 1931 (paper label intact).

.....Donated by Roger and Margaret Futrell



## Snuff Box

South Union, 1837, (right and below) with paper label and manuscript names of Malinda Buchanan and Eunice Patterson. Malinda Buchanan (1799-1890) was South Union’s lead Eldress from 1835-1843, after which she moved to Union Village, Ohio, where Eunice Patterson was a member. The box



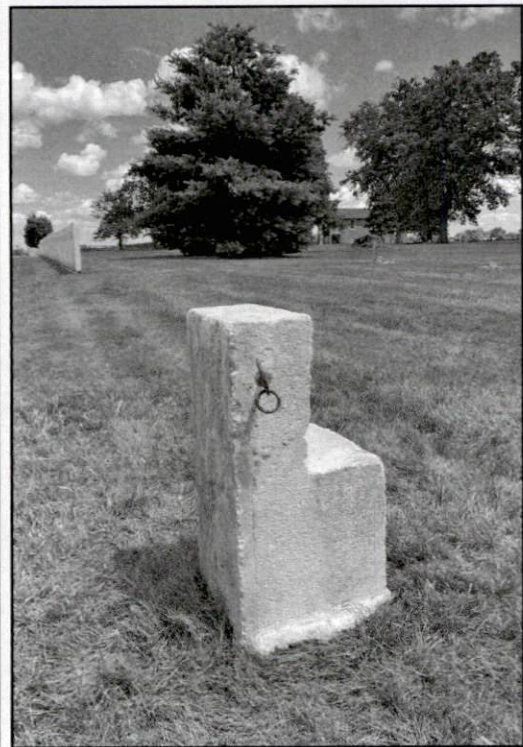
measures 2 and 7/8 inches by 5/8 inch. The manuscript within the outer circle reads, “Malinda Buchanan, South Union. 1837” and the inner circle, “Eunice Patterson, Union Village.” To learn more about the life of the first Kentuckian to be a Shaker Eldress, see the article on page 4 of this newsletter.

.....Donated by Cheryl Kline

## Mounting Block / Hitching Post

Limestone, ca. 1840, (left) with decorative tooling similar to South Union Shaker work, iron hook and ring intact. 20<sup>th</sup> century history in Auburn, Kentucky at the home of Stanley & Mattie Bass, grandparents of donor.

.....Donated by Glenn Rogers in memory of Stanley & Mattie Bass



## RECENT ACQUISITIONS (CONTINUED)

### Peg or "Pin" Rail

Poplar, from the 1854 Wash House, removed in the 1970s by St. Maur's Monastery and salvaged by Bro. Thomas Whitaker, who gifted it to the donor. Rail includes one original peg.

.....Donated by Dale Spencer

### A Collection for Study and Exhibit

Two canning crocks, jug, wide-mouth crock, "Stag Liquor Co." jug, Enfield, Connecticut Shaker village side chair, Number 12 Aladdin mantle lamp with shade and chimney, and two iron trivets.

.....Donated by Roger and Margaret Futrell

### A Collection for Exhibit and Demonstration

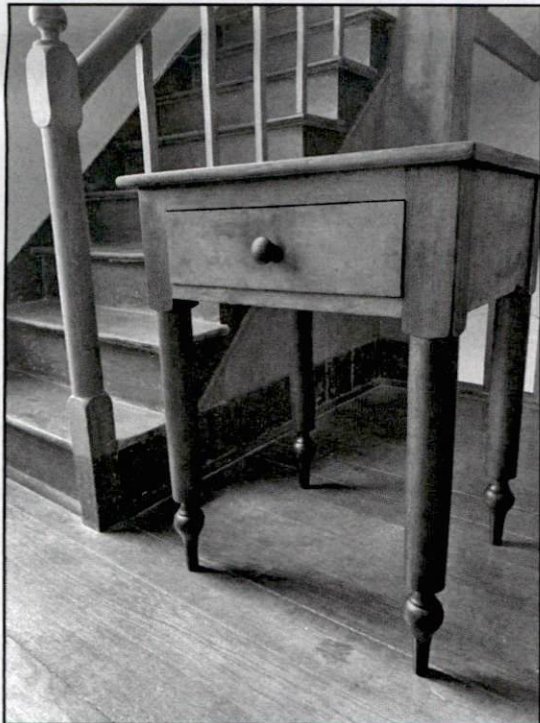
Large collection of 19th and early 20th century kitchen tools, gadgets, and utensils to be used for exhibition and for "To Grandmother's House We Go" historic foodways elementary educational program.

.....Donated by Kenneth Hatcher

### Table

Cherry and poplar, ca. 1840, molded edge top, and heavily stylized pear-shaped feet, purchased at the 1922 village auction and relating significantly to architectural details in the Centre House. The newel post in the photograph is near the same circumference as the table leg. The Centre House's north stair hall was completed in 1833.

.....Purchased with Acquisition Funds and the generous assistance of those listed below:



Anonymous - \$600.00  
George and Darlene Korhman - \$500.00  
John and Linda Tanner - \$250.00  
Ken Hatcher - \$200.00  
Robert Hawk - \$100.00  
Sheila Flener - \$100.00  
John Perkins - \$100.00  
Dr. Judy Pierce - \$100.00  
Gene Wilson - \$100.00  
Martha Boice - \$100.00  
David Taylor - \$50.00  
David and Nancy Stewart - \$50.00  
John Campbell - \$50.00  
Cheryl Frerman - \$50.00  
Thomas and Marcia Heil - \$50.00  
Brenda Vinson - \$50.00  
Susanna Pyatt - \$40.00

## DID YOU KNOW ... ?

We are in the process of installing linen curtains in the Centre House period rooms, with hemming done by Bonnie Eilers, replication of original wooden brackets by Roger Ryan, and installation by Johnny Miller. This group effort will make our period spaces more authentic, while protecting the collections from harmful light.

Check it out next time you visit South Union Shaker Village!

## SOUTH UNION PROFILE: MALINDA BUCHANAN

At the time of the founding of Kentucky's Shaker villages, Pleasant Hill (1805) and South Union (1807), both communities were initially assigned Elders and Eldresses from the Northeast to guide them through their formative days. Eventually, those leaders either passed away or were sent back to their original homes. South Union's Malinda Buchanan (1799-1890) figures prominently in Shaker history because she was the first "home grown" member to be elevated to the lead Ministry in Kentucky, serving from 1835-1843.

Malinda came to South Union at the age of eight, along with her parents, Thomas and Jenny Buchanan, and three brothers, arriving just as the community was being settled in 1807. By 1812, Thomas had become disenchanted with the Shakers and he "decamped" in December, taking away all of the household furniture the family had brought into the community. Initially leaving his wife and four children behind, Thomas returned five months later and took his oldest son with him. In November of 1813, he returned again, taking his other two boys "by violence."

On January 15, 1815, the journal writer records, "MOB - Thos. Buchanan . . . brings a mob to take away his daughter . . . but failed thro the vigilance of the sisters & school girls, & her own courage." Malinda remained at South Union, along with her mother, but by the 1820s journal records indicate that Jenny Buchanan was suffering from mental illness. Although difficult to discern in 19th century terminology, the journal writer notes that the Shakers built a private residence for her in the summer of 1825, "which was done because she was nervously disposed & was thence annoying & easily annoyed but in no criminal manner—her afflictions being entirely out of her control." At the time, Malinda Buchanan was working as a nurse at South Union and may have attended to her mother. Jenny eventually improved and resumed living communally, in the East House where she died in 1830.

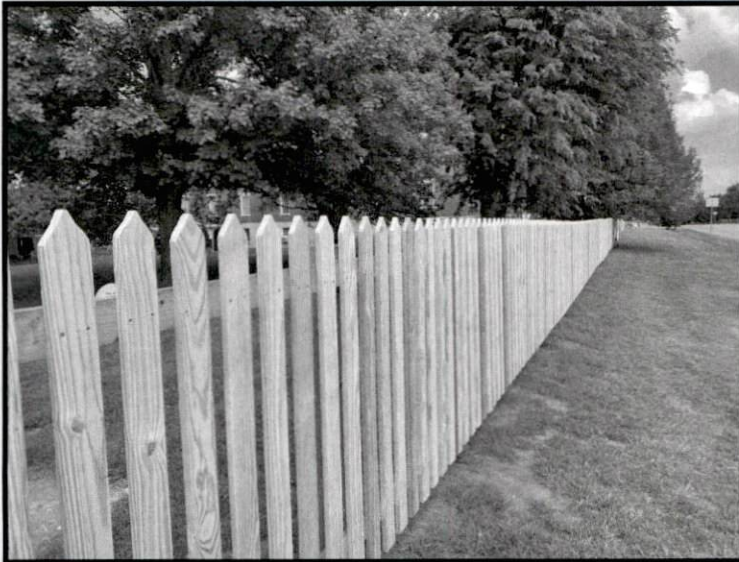
Malinda's prominence in the community continued to grow and on January 1, 1827, she was placed in the leadership position of Eldress of the East Family, one of South Union's four communal families. In 1833, she was moved to the Centre Family to assume the Eldress role there and she made her first journey to Pleasant Hill. In December of 1835, South Union's lead Eldress, Molly Goodrich passed away. Apparently, Eldress Molly has already chosen her successor. Immediately after the burial ceremony, the community was summoned back to the Meeting House, where it was announced that Malinda Buchanan would fill the role of South Union's lead Eldress. The appointment was not without controversy as the journal writer notes that the decision was made, "not heeding the conventional requirements of consulting the Elders & others & ascertaining the general feeling & Union." A vote was cast and, while not unanimous, Malinda became the female leader of South Union.

On May 16, 1843, Eldress Malinda Buchanan resigned as first Eldress, "in consequence of ill health and retires to Union Village, with hope of regaining it." The Union Village, Ohio, Ministry, being at South Union for a visit, took Malinda home with them, where she remained for the rest of her life. When Malinda died at the age of 91 in December of 1890, South Union's Elder Harvey Eads made note of it in the community journal, casting doubt as to Malinda's leaving Kentucky almost fifty years prior, stating, "The truth is she was taken away by Elder Freegift Wells [and] was told before starting that she was to make her home there."

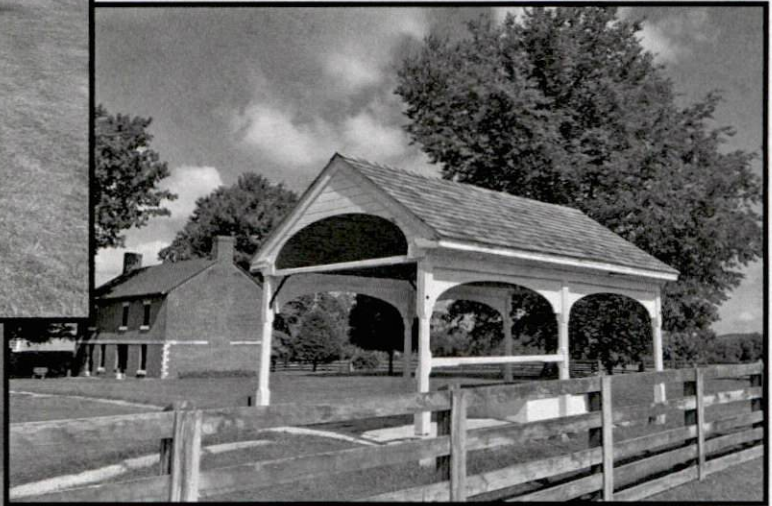
There is no further explanation regarding Eads' comments, but Malinda Buchanan did live a long and healthy life at Union Village in Ohio. She did make one journey back to South Union, accompanying Union Village's Ministry in October of 1851. Sister Malinda was no longer in a position of leadership but was undoubtedly still deeply connected to the Kentucky community where she grew up and pleased to have the opportunity to return one last time.

We are most grateful to have acquired an object this year . . . a snuff box with an affixed paper label that belonged to Malinda Buchanan. It includes, in manuscript, her name and the name of Union Village's Eunice Patterson, along with the date 1837. Many thanks to Cheryl Kline for her generosity and for helping us bring attention to one of the many strong and faithful Shaker women at South Union.

## THE GIFT OF RESTORATION



Restoration projects at South Union have traditionally been funded by foundation grants, but this year we have experienced great progress due to the generosity of private funders. During the months of July and August, a new picket fence was installed in front of the 1854 Wash House. A replica of what



the Shakers constructed in the mid-19th century, (above, left) the fence was a gift from **Linda Tanner**, in memory of her mother, Sallie Morris. A much-needed replacement roof on the 1823 Well Shed (above) was funded by a gift from **Kay Bender**. An on-going, room-by-room study of the Centre House continues, thanks to a generous gift by **Jack and Betty Kesler**. Four rooms and the hall on the 4th level have been meticulously analyzed

and documented. The project also includes replacing missing wooden trim, repairing plaster, painting, and cleaning and waxing woodwork. These contributions have made significant changes at South Union, and we are most appreciative!

## GRANT FUNDING AT SUSV

South Union has recently been the recipient of two grants for restoration projects. The National Trust for Historic Preservation gifted \$5,000.00 to be used for work associated with the 1846 Ministry Shop, including shutter replication on the south side of the building and restoration of the structure's nine windows, all of which date to the construction of the building. We also hope to replicate the wooden bannisters on the front steps, patterned after remnants of the originals.

A second grant has been received, \$14,000.00 from the E. Rhodes & Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, designated for projects on the Centre House dormers and windows. Ironically, much of this work is focused on restoring wooden elements that were installed in 1972. After nearly fifty years of exposure to nature, it is time to restore the original restoration. We are very thankful for the generosity of the National Trust and the Carpenter Foundation.

## A MIGHTY TASK

In May, SUSV welcomed a special group of students from Trigg County High School for a day of fun and exploration. The group was made up of special needs students who were accompanied by fellow students serving as peer mentors. The students enjoyed a day filled with hands-on activities, each intentionally designed to encourage collaboration among the pairs of students, one differently-abled joined by his/her peer mentor. Out of this fantastic day came a new education program being offered this year for the first time.



Students participate in a rope plating relay, an updated version of a work/recreation activity that took place at South Union during the 19th century. The competition was fierce between students and teachers!

A *Mighty Task* is a program designed especially for differently-abled children and teens. This program encourages students to try out a variety of tasks, like map drawing, rope twisting, and herb gardening . . . activities that enabled the Shaker village to operate successfully. A second component of the program asks students to consider what they might like their future profession to be by linking historic tasks to today's careers. We are excited to serve young people from the differently-abled community, and we hope you will help us spread the word about this new program.

For questions or to reserve a program date please contact Rebekah at [Outreach@SouthUnionShakerVillage.com](mailto:Outreach@SouthUnionShakerVillage.com)

## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

South Union is experiencing a busy season, with numbers slowly climbing upward when compared to recent years. Credit goes to our hard-working staff who make efforts everyday to build our group tour calendar, promote site rentals, create in-depth school programs, make strides towards outreach, and further develop our gift shop. I also have to acknowledge the beautiful and creative work of Dianne Howerton, who designs all of our promotional print work and online presence. She makes us look good!

I want to thank two members of our Board of Directors who are leaving the group this summer. Roiann Ridley has served South Union since 2012 and has contributed a special creativity that will be difficult to match. Christine Sowders joined our Board in 2013 and has been active in various events, especially our annual "Shake, Ride & Roll." Both women have been major assets to South Union Shaker Village and we wish to thank them both for faithful service. We have recently welcomed four new Board members. Brent Stinnett, Travis Wilson, Vicki Hawkins Fitch, and Gray Caudill bring important expertise and experience to South Union and we look forward to a fruitful working relationship with each of them.

We wish to once again acknowledge the loss we have felt with the passing of Martin Brown. Mr. Brown's influence at South Union cannot be underestimated and he will be missed by everyone here. A man of great character and wisdom, Martin leaves an important legacy. I feel fortunate to have counted him as a friend and a mentor.

Tommy Hines, Executive Director

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

## **To the General Fund:**

US Bank Matching Gift (David Bell) - \$350.00  
Carrie and Steve Cox - \$300.00  
Laura Haury - \$200.00  
Sheila Flener - \$120.00  
George and Darlene Kohrman - \$100.00  
Scott Greene - \$100.00  
Houchens Industries - \$100.00 (in-kind)  
John Campbell - \$50.00  
Rick DuBose - \$50.00  
Donna Wilson - \$30.00  
Bobby Webb - \$27.41 (in-kind)

## **Memorial Gifts:**

Kathy Britt—In Memory of Ellsworth Strickler  
Jeff Clark—In Memory of Martin Brown, Sr.

## **To Restricted Funds:**

Kay Bender—\$5,000.00 (restoration project)  
Linda Tanner—\$2,530.00 (restoration project)  
John and Linda Tanner—\$500.00 (Wash House window restoration)  
Cheryl Kline—\$250.00 (collections)  
Donna Hill—\$100.00 (restoration project)

## **Sponsorships:**

Logan Aluminum—\$600.00 (Shake, Ride & Roll)  
Logan Aluminum—\$600.00 (Holiday Market)  
Brent Stinnett—\$500.00 (Shaker Breakfast)  
Mike and Leigh Harper—\$500.00 (Shake, Ride & Roll)  
Diane Moats—\$500.00 (Shake, Ride & Roll)  
English, Lucas, Priest & Owsley—\$250.00 (Spirits of South Union)  
Service One—\$200.00 (Shake, Ride & Roll)  
Don Davis—\$100.00 (Shake, Ride & Roll)

## **Grants:**

Anonymous Foundation—\$1,000.00  
National Trust for Historic Preservation—\$5,000.00  
E. Rhodes & Leona B. Carpenter Foundation—\$14,000.00

## SOUTH UNION SHAKER VILLAGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sheila Flener, President  
Laura Haury, Vice-President  
Skip Cleavinger, Secretary  
David Bell, Treasurer  
Kathy Britt  
Heather Brooks  
Gray Caudill  
Carrie Cox  
Rick DuBose  
Vicki Hawkins Fitch  
Mike Harper  
Renee Kilgore  
Brent Stinnett  
Travis Wilson

## SOUTH UNION SHAKER VILLAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Eddie Bingham, Chairman  
Mary Barris  
Jeffrey Clark  
Bill Coke  
Margy Thomas  
Ridley Wills III

## SOUTH UNION SHAKER VILLAGE STAFF

Tommy Hines  
*Executive Director*

Rebekah Brummett  
*Curator of Community Engagement*

Sally Givens  
*Curator of Collections*

Bonnie Eilers  
*Gift Shop Manager*

Johnny Miller  
*Maintenance & Restoration*

Mike Hossum, *Docent*

Erik Gieman, *Docent*

Abby Zibart, *Docent*



# SOUTH UNION SHAKER VILLAGE

P.O. Box 177, Auburn, KY 42206

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## SUSV CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### FARM TO TABLE IN THE GRAIN BARN

Saturday, September 7

Join us for an autumn meal created from local sources, served in the rustic atmosphere of the 1875 Grain Barn. Catered by River Cottage Farms. Wine by Carriage House Vineyards. Menu available online

**Reservations required: \$75 per person**

**Time: 6:30pm**

Sponsored by Marion Jackson and Jeffrey Clark

### "SPIRITS OF SOUTH UNION" CANDLELIGHT TOUR

Saturday, September 28

Hear the real stories of some of the people who lived at South Union Shaker Village in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, told in first person by candlelight, in the 1824 Centre House. This cooperative experience is made possible by the Fountain Square Players and the historic environment of SUSV.

**Reservations suggested: \$15 person, \$5 children ages 6-12**

**Time: 6:30 p.m.**

Sponsored by English, Lucas, Priest, & Owsley, LLP

### A SHAKER BREAKFAST

Saturday, November 2

A Civil War-era Shaker breakfast that promises to please and to astonish . . . featuring fried chicken, scrambles eggs, sweet potatoes, pork sausage, asparagus, apple pie, buttermilk biscuits and more! Served at the historic South Union Hotel.

**Reservations required: \$24 members, \$27 non-members**

**Time: Seatings at 8:30am and 10:30am**

Sponsored by Brent Stinnett, First Southern Nat. Bank, Vickie A. Cole

### SUSV HOLIDAY MARKET PREVIEW PARTY

December 6

For a "first chance" opportunity to shop, make reservations for the **Holiday Market Preview Party**. Enjoy coffee, cider and desserts in the most festive of holiday atmospheres.

**Reservations required: \$10 per person / Time: 6:00pm - 9:00pm**

Sponsored by US Bank, Logan Aluminum, and Logan Telephone Cooperative

### SUSV HOLIDAY MARKET

December 7

One of Kentucky's finest antique and craft markets, just in time for Christmas! Features over 30 regional antique vendors and artists, all nestled in the historic atmosphere of the South Union Shaker Village.

**Admission: A canned food item or donation that will be distributed to those needful**

**Time: 9:00am - 4:00pm**

Sponsored by US Bank, Logan Aluminum, and Logan Telephone Cooperative

### DICKENS IN THE CENTRE HOUSE

December 17

A *Christmas Carol* comes alive in the Centre House with a lively performance by the Fountain Square Players.

**Reservations suggested: \$15 adults, \$5 children 6-12**

**Time: 6:30 p.m.**

SOUTH UNION SHAKER VILLAGE

PO Box 177, Auburn, Kentucky 42206

270-542-4167

SouthUnionShakerVillage.com