

# The Friends' Quarterly

## *Newsletter of the Enfield Shaker Museum*

Sharing history and hospitality.



Vol. XXVII No. 1

Winter 2017

### Upcoming Events

For more details, visit our website at [www.shakermuseum.org](http://www.shakermuseum.org)

April 15	<b>Seat Caning Workshop</b>
April 21-23	<b>Spring Shaker Forum</b>
April 30	<b>Spring Open House</b>
May-June	<b>History Alive: 4th and 5th Grade Field Trips</b>
May-October	<b>Broom Making Workshop</b>
May 9	<b>Tuesday Tour: Great Stone Dwelling</b>
May-November	<b>Shaker Sing</b>
May 13	<b>Preparing Your Garden Workshop</b>
May 15	<b>Shaker Cat Head Basket Workshop</b>
May 16	<b>Introduction to Bees and Beekeeping</b>
May 21	<b>Herbal First Aid Kit Workshop</b>
May 23	<b>Tuesday Tour: Ministry House</b>
May 26	<b>ESM's 30th Anniversary Celebration Dinner</b>
May 29-June 9	<b>Archaeological Field School with PSU</b>
June 6	<b>Tuesday Tour: Laundry/Dairy Building</b>
June 12-23	<b>Archaeological Field School with PSU</b>

### Remembering Sister Frances Carr 1927 - 2017

by Mary Ann Haagen

On January 2, 2017 friends around the world received the news that “Sister Evangeline Annie Carr, better known as Frances Ann Carr, passed into eternity January 2, 2017 at her home surrounded by her community and loved ones, following a very brief battle with cancer.”

Sister Frances was born in Lewiston, Maine on March 13, 1927. She was the sixth of seven children born to Herbert and Margaret (Rourke) Carr. Her mother brought Frances and her younger sister Ruth to the Shakers on August 26, 1937.

Adjusting to life in a Shaker community was not always easy for Frances. She reflected on many aspects of her unusual upbringing in her thoughtful and heartfelt autobiography, *Growing Up Shaker*. In the book, she talks not only of her own experiences, but also of the important Shaker women who helped her decide to commit herself to a life of faith. She notes in her book, “Those who knew me as a child and as a young teenager, would never in their wildest dreams have expected that out of the ten, I would be the one to remain with the Community.” She particularly credits her teacher and mentor Sister Mildred Barker with supporting her in the complex process of “becoming a Shaker”. One of Mildred’s great gifts to Frances was a love of Shaker spirituals. (Continued on page 2.)



*Sister Frances Carr*

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Get to Know Our Staff – Winter Program Updates  
Preservation Partners – Welcome New Board Members

## Executive Director's Message

Dear Friends,

A few days ago our housekeepers were beginning our spring-cleaning. They finished the fifth and sixth floors and started on the basement. They also walked outside and picked up debris around our site and along the ditch on the west side of Route 4A near the Stone Mill. We were optimistic that spring was here and that we could get outside and prepare for our new season's visitors. We were shocked when the recent North Easter forced most of the staff to stay home! But we were soon back on site and the entire staff helped dig out, hoping it would be the last of the snow so we could get back to getting ready for our opening on April 1.

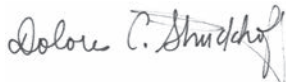
Over the winter we have been busy putting together programs for the 2017 season. We've continued with our most popular programs, added programs the Museum held in its early days and organized two slightly modified fundraisers. This year we've scheduled a record number of workshops and other events and have also booked a record number of facility rentals. This year will be a year of stabilizing and strengthening our site and our offerings.

If you are planning to attend our upcoming Spring Shaker Forum on April 21 – 23, please register now. Dick Dabrowski and Paul Waehler, who head up our Preservation Committee will be leading a tour around the site, highlighting work they did during the winter. It's amazing how much a few people can accomplish on Preservation Wednesdays. Drive and perseverance is the key. The Preservation Committee definitely keeps the pace going in terms of meeting one of our objectives, preserving our buildings.

This year's Forum has a full schedule with presenters, keynote speakers and readers, all dedicated Shaker Scholars coming together under one roof to share their knowledge of the Shakers. If you can't make it to the Forum, check out our 2017 Program Guide. We hope you find something that interests you and that you decide to visit Enfield this year and see the difference we are making!

Warm regards,

Thank you all!



### Remembering Sister Frances Carr *(continued from page 1)*

Shaker songs were constantly in Frances' heart and on her lips. She shared them in daily devotions, and taught them to her Shaker family, friends, school children and visitors. Over the years, the Enfield Shaker Singers were privileged to enjoy several weekends of singing and fellowship with the Shaker family. In recent years Sister Frances was "the driving force for a collaboration of the Community with the Boston Camerata which produced two recordings and many public performances."

Cooking was another of Sister Frances' gifts. She was named head cook at Sabbathday Lake when she was only 21, and remained in charge of the Shaker kitchen for the next 50 years. She shared her love of good cooking not only with her Shaker family but also with an incalculable number of visitors and friends who were the happy recipients of her hospitality and generosity. She wrote a cookbook, *Shaker Your Plate: of Shaker Cooks and Cooking*, and lectured widely on Shaker culinary arts and their relationship to her communal way of life.

Many children, including some young singers who visited from Enfield, still treasure stuffed animals that were given to them by Sister Frances. She continually found ways to express her deep interest in the welfare of children, and she communicated her love freely to all who visited.

Her hospitality was legendary, and she is credited by her Shaker family with being "the public face of Shakerism for decades, serving as our goodwill ambassador." Before traveling

became difficult, Sister Frances Carr made several trips to Enfield to support the work of the Enfield Shaker Museum. She and other members of the family attended the opening of one of the Museum's first major exhibitions, "Precious Gospel Kindred," and she was a special guest at the 1998 Spring Shaker Forum, a celebration of the Museum's purchase of the historic core of the Enfield Shaker Church family. The Maine Shakers also came to Enfield to participate in the funeral of longtime friend and supporter, Wendell Hess.

Sister Frances was appointed a Trustee of the Sabbathday Lake Shaker Community in 1988 and Eldress in 1990. Her life and her testimony have been a blessing to her Shaker family and an inspiration to untold numbers of individuals. She lived the words of a Shaker spiritual that she often sang:

*I never did believe that I ever would be saved*

*Without giving up all to God.*

*So, I freely give the whole, my body and my soul  
To the Lord God, Amen.*



*Sister Frances Carr (1927 - 2017)*

## Winter Educational Programs Update

by Kyle Sandler, Education Program Coordinator

During the winter season, there has been a variety of educational activities taking place at the Museum. The first of these was a new workshop called Gifts from the Kitchen Workshop. Taught by Education Committee chair, **Nan Munsey**, this workshop helped participants create five holiday themed treats. The workshop activities included preparation, cooking, presentation, and packaging. Maybe, the most interesting aspect of this session was its combination of dinner and a workshop, which could prove a useful structure for future events.

The end of 2016 also included a Holiday Herbal Wreath Workshop taught by **Marcia Knapp** and Moravian Star Making taught by **Tracy Smith**. The Herbal Wreath Workshop has been so popular over the years that in the 2017 calendar year, we have scheduled both an Herbal Wreath Workshop and a Holiday Evergreen Wreath Workshop. By offering a variety of new opportunities, the Museum hopes to attract a wider audience of participants.

Since the second week of December, the focus in education has turned towards the 2017 season. A fair amount of time has been spent reaching out to possible instructors and firming up dates for next year's workshops, events, and special activities. A few examples of new classes for next year include

sessions on creating your own reproduction Shaker pin cushion, blending herbal teas, and making a nest of cherry Shaker oval boxes. Youth exploration activities for 2017 include our Inspired by the Shakers Summer Camp and the Field Ecology School for Senior and Junior High School students. A portion of these programs has been funded by a grant from the **Charles E. and Edna T. Brundage Charitable Scientific Wildlife Conservation Foundation**.

Lastly, we have had our first two educational events of 2017. On Saturday, January 28, the Museum had our Sixth Annual Snowshoe Festival with instructional support from LL Bean. This event was a success with a larger group of participants than last year including both old and new faces. Then in February, during the local winter school vacation, we had our second Winter Shaker Camp. The

theme of this year's camp was outdoor exploration. Some of the activities featured at the camp were a winter animal track hike, the production of cyanotype prints, and broom making.

It is my hope that we will continue to have a successful educational season throughout the 2017 calendar year. Watch for the Museum's 2017 Program Guide...arriving in your mailbox soon!!!



*2017 Snow Shoe Festival at ESM.*

## Get to Know: Kyle Sandler, Education Program Coordinator



Kyle Sandler is the Education Program Coordinator at the Enfield Shaker Museum. Kyle grew up in Rhode Island where he received a B.A. in History from Roger Williams University, concentrating on Early American Political and Literary History focusing on New England figures such as Henry Adams, Henry David Thoreau, and Daniel Webster. His most focused research analyzed the overarching similarities and differences between John and John Quincy Adams, through the behavior during their later years. After graduating, he moved to New Hampshire to continue his studies in a master's degree program at Dartmouth College. While at Dartmouth, he focused on the History of American and World Religions. His soon to be completed thesis is called [A New English Israel: the Jewish Influence on Politics and Religion in the Massachusetts Bay Colony](#). In addition to his research at Dartmouth, he is also working on two Shaker related projects: one on the life and writings of Shaker Elder Henry Blinn of Canterbury/Enfield, NH and the other on the life and works of Shaker Trustee Micajah Burnett of Pleasant Hill, Kentucky.

He began his time at the Enfield Shaker Museum as a volunteer interpreter and has since progressed to his current position. As Education Program Coordinator, he has been able not only to foster his own interest in the history of the Shakers, but also to gain a better understanding of the importance of nurturing a love for the past in those who visit the Museum. In his role as Education Program Coordinator, he is able to do this through the various educational camps, workshops and events that the Museum offers to the public. In addition to his role as Education Program Coordinator, he also works as a Museum interpreter. As an interpreter, he has much more contact with the public and this allows him to gain greater insights into how people respond to history in the twenty-first century. At the end of the day, the goal for Museum education is to create an environment in which Museum attendees can build lasting modern memories in a historic location with the hope of preserving these sights for future generations. The list of Museum programs for 2017 is a reflection of Kyle's energy and interest in furthering the Museum's educational goals.

## Preservation Partners: Lynn and Paul Waehler

by Dolores Struckhoff, Executive Director

If you are familiar with the Museum's Preservation Wednesdays, you will recognize volunteers, **Lynn and Paul Waehler**. Nearly every Wednesday, they are on site as soon as the Great Stone Dwelling doors open and they leave long after the doors are officially closed. Lately, after hours, they have been seen working in unheated buildings and under makeshift lights alongside **Dick Dabrowski**, Preservation Team Leader.



Since Preservation Wednesdays began in the fall of 2012, Paul and Lynn have been involved in deconstructing the Brethren's East Shop and preparing the Brethren's West Shop and the Laundry/Dairy for future restoration. Alongside Dick Dabrowski and other volunteers, they have

removed walls, floors, stairways, insulation, cement floors, clapboards, porches, etc. You name it and they have done it! Basically, they have helped remove anything added to the buildings after the Shaker's left in 1927, to prepare to return the buildings to their former Shaker condition.

In between work on building preservation, the Waehlers have participated in Spring Shaker Forums, attended many fundraising events and volunteered for two archaeological digs on the site of the Trustees' Office and across the road on the site of the Blacksmith Shop and the Tannery. Their work is so meticulous that they are one of the Museum's most sought-after volunteer teams for the dig and the Museum has

already signed them up for this year's archaeological dig. Not only are they involved in the digs, they helped staff and other volunteers clear the areas where the digs take place and a stretch along the stream behind the West Meadow Barn helping to return the area to its Shaker appearance.

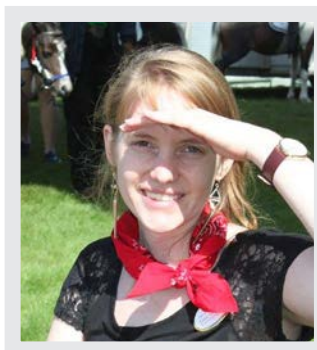


When asked about their interest in historic preservation, Lynn says "it goes back 40 years in my case and closer to 60 for Paul." In fact, Paul and Lynn chose a circa 1790 house when they decided to settle in Enfield. It took them four years of intense work to turn the deteriorated house into a home. To this day, they continue ongoing restoration work on their historic home.

Paul and Lynn have been members of the Museum for almost 30 years. In 1988 one of their sons did his Eagle Scout project at the Feast Ground. Their real involvement came when Paul joined the board in 2008. Lynn says, "working on the Museum's buildings has provided an outlet for our ambitions and an opportunity to learn more about historic building techniques. In particular, we enjoy meeting people with similar interests and talking about the Museum's buildings with contractors and consultants brought in for the finish work."

Thank you Lynn and Paul, without volunteers like you, the reality of returning the Museum site to its former Shaker self could not exist.

## Get to Know: Anna Guenther, Events Coordinator



Anna Guenther has been the Events Coordinator at the Museum since early 2014. She enjoys hosting private events, mostly weddings, that capitalize on the Museum's uniquely varied range of historic spaces. She assists couples to plan their ceremonies and receptions on-site, helps hobbyists organize themselves into retreats, rents out the site for conferences, and generally attempts to bring Shaker neophytes into the fold via their interest in our beautiful and diverse buildings.

From the beginning, she has focused on expanding the use of our site and shoring up our digital footprint. She is able to offer couples assistance in planning a 'wedding weekend'. We have also opened the overnight rooms to individual rentals: usually self-selecting individuals interested in the site's history, this change allows visitors to have an immersive and impactful experience visiting the Museum. She has worked to cultivate repeat events and clients, from corporate holiday

parties to annual yoga retreats. She works with volunteers and staff to organize new events, such as our Cider Festival and Cider Tasting Dinner.

Anna came to the Museum with a hospitality and non-profit background, as well as a B.A. from Dartmouth College. While an undergraduate, she double-majored in Religion, and 'Science and Technology Studies,' a self-directed "special major." She focused on American philosophy of religion, specifically secularization in America in the 1950's and 1960's, and digital studies. Anna is originally from Savannah, GA and grew up planning and hosting parties with her schoolteacher mother in an 1815 home constantly undergoing restoration by her carpenter father, so she feels quite at home at the Museum and in the Great Stone Dwelling! Anna loves living in Vermont, and spends her free time reading, watching science fiction, volunteering for the Main Street Museum in White River Junction and cuddling with her three cats.

## Acquisitions Updates: Enfield Shaker Sewing Desks

by Michael O'Connor, Curator

Throughout the 19th Century, as the Shakers were creating a built environment to accommodate their growing membership, they filled their buildings with furniture that was derived from forms common in the outside world. Even as they developed a design aesthetic that was an expression unique to themselves, the basic form, and often the construction techniques, of their furniture usually had direct comparisons to the furniture of the World.

One exception is the Shaker sewing desk, a form often considered unique to the Shakers with no exact comparable style commonly seen in the World. The textile arts were central to the work of the Sisters, and these desks developed over time to accommodate the Sister's needs. It should be noted, that while we call these desks "sewing desks," they could certainly have been used for several other work activities conducted by the Sisters which would benefit from their spacious work surface and abundant storage.

As the Museum has acquired sewing desks over the years, we continue to learn how much variety there is in these Enfield pieces. One of the first pieces of furniture donated to the Museum was a sewing desk received in 1990 as a gift of the Estate of James G. Harvey (seen at right). This piece has a base that is like an Enfield side table with a gallery of six drawers and three cubby holes set on top. This piece suggests that the commonly seen form of the Shaker sewing desk did not spring forth as a completed vision, but was more likely the result of incremental changes as the design was refined and improved to provide ever increasing functionality.



A second desk, this one donated by Carolyn Smith and Richard Dabrowski in 2016, shows how the design has evolved into the classic form of an Enfield sewing desk (seen at left). The base and gallery of drawers are integrated into one piece, spacious storage drawers have been added under the work surface, and an extended work surface slides out from under the main work surface. This desk is sturdily constructed, but still possesses the grace associated with Enfield furniture. This piece came with an interesting provenance, including communication between early owners and the Canterbury Shakers, and will be further investigated in a future Friends' Quarterly.



The sewing desk is an interesting example of Shaker design, so be sure to take time to visit the the desks described here and others, the next time you are at the Museum.

## Get to Know: Michael O'Connor, Curator



**Michael O'Connor** began at the Enfield Shaker Museum in May of 1991 as a volunteer, demonstrating cooperage on a weekly basis. He had previously worked at Old Sturbridge Village as an interpreter in the blacksmith and cooper shops, sawmill, and the historic construction and dance programs. Soon after beginning the weekly cooperage demonstrations he was hired as a part-time

seasonal interpreter, and eventually full-time seasonally as an interpreter.

In 1993 he moved to the office as the administrative assistant on a full-time year-round basis. Once in administration he wore many hats and held a variety of job titles including

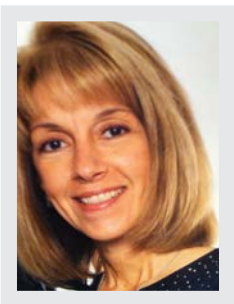
acting director on three separate occasions.

In 2005 he left the Museum but continued to volunteer occasionally on exhibits and other projects. In 2011 he returned to the Museum as a part-time interpreter and then became the part-time curator in 2012.

In 2015 Michael was instrumental in helping to organize and run our first professional archaeology dig. In addition, he participated as a digger and went on to find the first artifact of the dig, as well as significant architectural features.

The volume of new artifacts being donated to the Museum keeps him busy, but his long-term goal is to oversee the digitization of the Museum's curatorial records going back to the Museum's creation in 1986. He feels that it is important that this work be done as soon as possible while the individuals who were instrumental in the creation and growth of the Museum are available to provide the institutional memory that is needed in reviewing the early Museum paperwork.

# Welcome to Our New Board Members

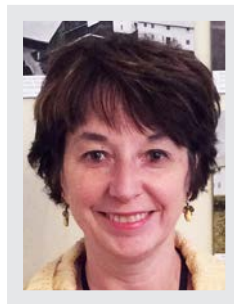


## Catherine M. Ayres

Cathy Ayres has spent her professional life in the field of public health administration. She is currently a Cancer Registry Contractor working for the New Hampshire State Cancer Registry in Lebanon, NH.

Prior to this she spent 26 years at Parkland Medical Center in Derry, NH working in laboratory management, hospital administration and cancer registry. During her tenure there she received numerous awards for her leadership achievements. Cathy has always been and continues to be an active community volunteer.

“The Shakers had always interested and intrigued me even before moving to the Upper Valley. I love being part of the board at the ESM and watching the passionate endeavors to preserve this important historic site.” - Cathy Ayres



## Carolyn J. Maloney

Carolyn Maloney has been the Treasurer of Hypertherm, Inc in Hanover, NH since 2006. She has also been the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees for the Enfield Shaker Museum and has been an active contributor to the Twin Pines Housing Trust organization.

As Treasurer, she has been a key fiduciary to the Hypertherm, Inc Stock Ownership Plan. Other areas of focus include global banking, payroll, tax compliance/global legal setup and strategy, credit, and equity management. She has led or been an active contributor to many of the Hypertherm Global growth and financing projects.

“I would love to help the Museum in strategic planning and execution, fundraising, financial governance and community awareness.” - Carolyn Maloney

### Enfield Shaker Museum

447 NH Route 4A ♦ Enfield, NH 03748

Enfield Shaker Museum is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational institution whose mission is to protect, enhance, and utilize its historical structures, landscape and Shaker cultural heritage.

#### Executive Director

Dolores C. Struckhoff

#### Curator

Michael J. O'Connor

#### Education Program Coordinator

Kyle Sandler

#### Events Coordinator

Anna Guenther

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Bruce R. Stefany

Christopher D. Wadsworth

Paul D. Waehler

## Museum Wish List

We greatly appreciate past wish list donations! Here are a few items we are in need of this year.

42" Flat Screen TV for our video room

External hard drive (1 or 2 TB)

Four-slice toaster

Kuerig coffee pods

Oven mitts

Small generator for emergencies

Snow blower

Stainless steel cookware set

For more details call (603)632-4346 or email [info@shakermuseum.org](mailto:info@shakermuseum.org).

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Enfield Shaker Museum



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