

The Friends' Quarterly

Newsletter of the Enfield Shaker Museum

Sharing history and hospitality.

Dolores Struckhoff, Executive Director



Winter 2015

Upcoming Events

For more details, visit our website at www.shakermuseum.org

March 25 **Preservation Wednesday**
March 25 **Winter Snowshoe Walk**

April 1 **Shaker Book Club**
April 8 **Preservation Wednesday**
April 11 **Taste, Toast, and Tour**
April 22 **Preservation Wednesday**
April 24 - 26 **Spring Shaker Forum**

May 2 **Exhibit: Spotlight on Dorothy Cloaks**
May 4 – June 5 **History Alive Program**
May 10 **Planning and Planting an Herbal Garden**
May 26 – June 12 **Archaeological Dig (First Session)**
May 30 **Behind the Scenes Tour: 1854 Cow Barn**

June 6 **NH Preservation Alliance Window Workshop**
June 13 - June 19 **Archeological Dig (Second Session)**
June 27 **Behind the Scenes Tour: Basement to Cupola**

ESM Acquires 1854 Barn

By Carolyn Smith

On January 5, 2015, Enfield Shaker Museum recognized its decades-long dream of purchasing the 1854 Cow Barn. This significant structure was the last of the remaining Church Family buildings not owned by the Museum. Ownership of the barn insures the protection of the barn in perpetuity and allows for expanded interpretive opportunities.

The 1854 Cow Barn is important for two reasons – first, it is the only remaining Shaker great barn in the state of New Hampshire and second, along with the Round Stone Barn at Hancock Shaker Village it is one of only two multi-story Shaker barns remaining in the United States. Fortunately, it is also in excellent condition. At the Board's request, Deerfield, New Hampshire timber framer **David Ottinger** inspected the structure and noted that at the present time the only repairs needed are on the roof adjacent to the skylights.

A purchase and sale agreement was negotiated and signed in December



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A publication of the Enfield Shaker Museum
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Executive Director's Message – New Board Members
Recent Events – Upcoming Programs
Development Committee Report – Garden News



Executive Director Message

by Dolores Struckhoff

Dear Friends,

As I write this message, it is a warm March day. The sky is blue with a few clouds. Winter is nearly over and for those of us who live in New England, I think I am safe saying that we are all looking forward to green grass!

Last fall, for various reasons, the board and I decided to close on Mondays and Tuesdays from January 1 through March 31. That didn't mean we were going to be idle. The snow shoveling alone, kept us busy. The staff and volunteers have also been very busy planning for events including our upcoming Spring Shaker Forum on April 24 – 26.

Anna Guenther, our Event Coordinator has been working on planning our events while also scheduling facility rentals. **Michael O'Connor**, our curator has been documenting all the new items donated to our collections. He has also been working on preservation projects with volunteers including a new site survey, the purchase of the 1854 Cow Barn, and our first ever "archaeological field school". **Lindsay Smith**, our Administrative Assistant and our Garden Coordinator has been doing daily office work and planning the upcoming Village Garden programs. **Bonnie Lambert**, our Historic Housekeeper has been juggling the cleaning while windows are being removed and restored and the dining room ceiling has been scraped for new plaster.

With this winter's weather, we did see a slight decline in our shop visitors, but we have kept **Kate Mortimer** and **Cyndi Weiger** busy adding inventory, moving displays around when the windows were removed for restoration, and supporting other staff members on the many projects we have undertaken for the new season.

Joe Frazier, one of our interpreters has kept busy with our weekend tours and on weekdays when tours are slow, he has supported some of our IT issues, our building maintenance projects, and events. Finally, we have been lucky to add a new volunteer interpreter, **Kyle Sandler**, a Dartmouth Student to the staff. Kyle will also be facilitating our new book read program beginning April 1. The group will be reading *The Collected Writings of Henry Cummings*, by **Mary Ann Haagen**.

When I began this letter, I was thinking about the weather outside and I kept envisioning what it would have been like to be here years ago and see the Shakers bustling about in their daily work and enjoying their connection with the site. Well, although the staff, volunteers and I are not Shakers, we are a community of people working together to ensure that the Shakers are not forgotten here in Enfield. I hope that all of us in learning about the Shakers, their faith and their values, set an example that the Shakers would be proud of.

New Board Members

At our 2014 Annual Meeting in November, we recognized our outgoing trustees and nominated and approved our new trustees.

Retiring board members are **Emily Rowe**, **Wendell Smith**, **Paul Waehler** and **Karen Wolk**.

New Trustees include **Amy Guertin Flockton**, **Lisa E. Guitar** and **Reginald H. Jones**.

Amy Flockton spent the last 15 years of her career working in public television. She holds an M.A. in History from Columbia University and attended Swarthmore College. She satisfies her love of history by exploring family genealogy and geography, and enjoys the outdoors, reading, cooking, and anything to do with animals. She lives in the Upper Valley with her husband Chris a professional actor and her seven-year-old son Nathaniel.

Lisa Guitar is a native of Lebanon. After high school she joined the United States military as an Army Policewoman. In 1998, she joined Hypertherm, Inc. in Hanover. She holds an MBA from Plymouth State University. Lisa is a 23-year American Legion member where she served as an elected officer. She also participates in the Upper Valley horseshoe league and will be serving as the Treasurer in 2015. She is married with no children but has a very bustling household with two yellow labs (Marley and Cooper) and a Jack Russell (Peanut).

Reginald Jones is a Lebanon native who spent 20 years in college and the Air Force. He recently retired from his Optometry practice after 33 years. Currently he is president of Valley Land Corp and the Frank and Olive Gilman Foundation. He is also Treasurer of the Mascoma Sailing Club and Secretary of the White River Lions Club. He has been a member of the Enfield Shaker Museum for five years and is now ready for a more active role in Museum activities. He and his wife now live in Enfield; they have two sons and four grandchildren.

The Enfield Shaker Museum

Gift Shop

25% discount
on all shop items
through April 15.

Must bring this coupon.
Consignment items not discounted.



History of the 1854 Cow Barn

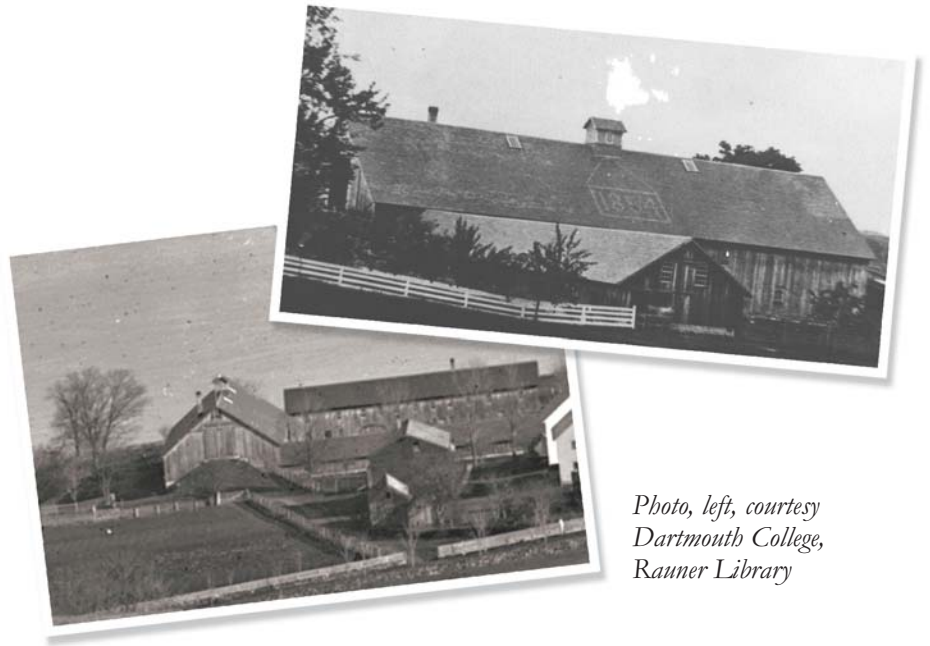
By Michael O'Connor

With the Museum's recent purchase, the 1854 Cow Barn will be a focus of the upcoming Spring Forum, so it is timely to look at the factors leading to the development and construction of this magnificent structure. This barn is the best remaining example of the Shaker "Great Barns" built beginning in the 1850s which became icons of the Shakers agricultural program.

When the Shakers settled this site in 1793, America was an agricultural nation, with over 90 percent of the population being involved in farming. In the subsistence-farm economy of the time, the land provided the resources and the family's skills and labor created a living from it. Food, clothing and shelter needed to be provided to ensure survival in this rugged climate. In the quest for self-sufficiency that was the hallmark of this economy, a diversity of skills became of vital importance.

It was in this economy in which the growing Shaker village flourished. New members brought a myriad of skills and trades into the community and created an efficient division of labor. With their spiritual belief in work as a form of worship, and communal idealism rooted in all working for a common good, their labors not only provide the basic essentials for survival, but created a surplus which could be traded with the World. We often look at the Shaker's progressive social ideals, and their progressive use of technology in their trades, but this quest for continual improvement extended to their agricultural pursuits as well and was an important factor in their growth and success.

By the 1830s farmers in the Northeast were divided into two schools. There was the traditional farmer, who continued to farm the way his father, and grandfather, had before him. Then there was the progressive, or scientific, farmer, who



Photo, left, courtesy Dartmouth College, Rauner Library

was open to experimenting with new ideas to improve upon the traditional farming practices of the past. The Shakers fall decidedly in the latter group. The emerging agricultural press was a key factor in the dissemination of the new ideas that began to ripple through the rural countryside. The Shakers not only read these journals, but often contributed to them as well. They also visited and traded information between Shaker villages, and with the greater agricultural community as well.

Barn design is one area that continually evolved over the first half of the 19th Century and one in which the Shakers remained in the forefront. The English-style barn with one door in the broad side of the barn requiring carts to be backed out after unloading gave way to the New England drive-through with doors on the gable ends allowing carts to enter, unload, and exit the barn without needing to back out. These New England drive-through barns would further develop in sophistication with additional levels and specialized work spaces. Shaker barns in Hancock, MA, Harvard, MA, and Alfred, ME,

show the incremental improvements over time, but it is the Shaker barns first constructed in mid-1850s which are the ultimate expression of the evolution of the dairy barn, and the 1854 Cow Barn is the best surviving example.

These barns featured a 4-level design – manure pits, cattle level, hay mows, elevated drive – that greatly reduced labor. Unlike the common New England drive-through with the drive at the bottom and the hay mows high above, the new 4-level barns were designed with great ramps leading to a door high on the gable end of the building which accessed an elevated drive running the length of the barn. Wagons entered one end of the building, passed over the elevated drive where the hay is pitched from the elevated drive down into the hay mows below, and then the wagons continue through the building and exit the opposite end from where they entered. From the hay mow level, hay is fed down through trap doors to the cattle level below. Below the cattle level is a cellar where manure can be collected and stored.

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Great Stone Dwelling Update

By Richard Dabrowski

Since the report in the Fall 2013 newsletter we have made significant progress on our preservation efforts in the Great Stone Dwelling.

Retiring Room Doorway Built-Ins

All drawers have been restored or reproduced and installed (with the exception of some drawers on the 4th floor which are made but not installed). The trim for the missing built-in cupboards is being fitted and installed by **Guy Biechele** of **Shaker Workshops**.

Exterior Window Sash

More than one-third of the 150 windows have been restored and reinstalled. **Robert Adam** continues to coordinate this effort. **Jade Mortimer** of **Heartwood Window Restoration** is doing the sash and glass restoration work. **David Lewis** of **Boxwood Preservation and Woodworking** is preparing the window openings. In 2014, the Museum was fortunate to receive a grant from the **Butler Foundation** to support this project.

Retiring Room Closet Built-In

The partial remains of a 21-drawer built-in with space for hats/bonnets on top and shoes below was discovered in Room 22 on the

fourth floor. There were likely ten of these in the building originally. **Tim Rieman** and **Guy Biechele** removed the interior framing, which was restored in Tim's shop, and returned for reinstallation. The drawers are being made by Enfield woodworker, **Chris McGrody**.

Dining Room

Major restoration in the dining room has included replacing the left half of the wall on the west side and the left half of the wall on the east side including two new closets and a corner built-in. The work was undertaken by **Tim Rieman**, assisted by **Guy Biechele**. The cupboard doors are being built by **Chris McGrody**. Most recently, the 1980s-era drywall ceiling was removed to reveal a nearly intact original Shaker plaster ceiling above. More details of this on-going project will be in the next newsletter.



Continued from page 3

In addition to the efficient 4-level design where gravity facilitates the moving of the hay through the building, there were spaces for storage of grain and tools, an office for the herdsman, and facilities to cook the food for the cattle. In 1855 a 120 foot calf shed was added to the west end of the barn partially enclosing the barn yard on the south side of the building. In 1856 a substantial building was built defining the east end of the barn yard, but not connected to the barn, to be used as a hen house, soap house, and slaughter house. That summer a new well was dug and pipe laid to the Laundry and on to the Barn and Hen House. In 1857 the project was completed with the leveling of the barn yard, installation of pickets on the barn yard fence and the completion of the Slaughter House.

Thus the construction of the barn was completed, creating a complex of buildings which stood as a visible symbol of the progressive agriculture that the Shakers practiced. The building was favorably reviewed in the press and in private correspondences in the ensuing years. The Shakers continued to update the barn through the end of the 19th Century, reflecting their desire to stay current with agricultural trends despite their declining population and increased reliance on hired agricultural help. With the Museum's acquisition of the barn, its preservation is ensured, and the opportunity for detailed study and analysis of the building in the future will reveal much more of the unique history of this iconic structure.

New Summer Program!

May 26 – June 5 and June 8 – June 19 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Archaeological Field School

Conducted by Plymouth State University and directed by Dr. David Starbuck, Professor of Anthropology at PSU, this four-week field school will be the first professional archaeological excavation at Enfield, and should prove to be an exciting first season.

There will be both a four-week college credit offering through Plymouth State University and a two-week volunteer offering open to the public.

Cost: Plymouth State University Students: In-State \$472/credit; Non-resident \$551/credit.

Volunteers (must be 18 years or older and must register for at least two weeks to participate): Free.

Space is limited, so please register early

Recent Events

Festival of Trees

By Lindsay Smith, Administrative Assistant

This year's Festival of Trees and Holiday Gala were a smashing success! This time there was a new twist to our Festival of Trees fundraiser – instead of our usual large trees, there were 36 table top trees ornamented by local artists, businesses, organizations and individuals, one gift card tree with over \$400 worth of gift cards donated from local businesses, and four completely handcrafted trees. It was amazing to see all the unique and beautiful decorations on each of the trees. For instance we had a Mardi-Gras tree, a tree of hand-felted owls, a sewing notions tree, and even one dressed up as Olaf (the snowman from *Frozen*).



The trees were displayed at the Lutheran Church for Hometown Holidays and then back at the Great Stone Dwelling for two weeks before being raffled and auctioned off at our Holiday Gala on December 20, 2014. Friends, patrons, and volunteers enjoyed the holiday music, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres while buying their final raffle tickets and placing last minute bids (there was a true bidding war down to the last second over one of the handcrafted trees). Even Santa stopped in to say hello! As a fundraiser for the Museum, the Festival of Trees was a great success.

Snowshoe Festival

Saturday, January 31, 2015

By Nan Munsey, Education Committee Chair



For our 4th annual Snowshoe Festival, the wind blew, the temperature dropped into the single digits, but the fields and trails were blanketed with snow, lots of snow! The hale and hearty made it out for snowshoe treks on the Shaker trails all day. Toddlers and their parents to teams of athletes braved the elements for a day of exercise and fun. Volunteers helped novices find snowshoes to fit and accompanied them on the trails while **L.L. Bean** volunteers ran all-day snowshoe clinics with advice on equipment and technique.

Participants warmed themselves by the fire or took a sled run while waiting for a chance to speed around the field on a dogsled provided by **Seal Cove Journeys' Christine Richardson** and **Kip Bartlett**. Children and adults alike enjoyed the quintessential New Hampshire experience snuggling into **Richard Vincent's** wagon pulled by huge Belgian draft horses.

Inside the Great Stone Dwelling people warmed up with hot drinks and a hearty lunch prepared by a team of volunteers led by past board member, **Karen Wolk**. Entertained by a wonderful selection of raffles, Museum tours, a photo booth where one could get their picture taken with our penguin mascot, and good camaraderie, it was a grand day at the Museum! If you missed it, put next year's date on your calendar now: Saturday, January 30, 2016.

A special thank you to our sponsors: **Leafie "Casey" Cantlin, Associate Broker Vanessa Stone Real Estate LLC, Eden Levinsky of Just Paradise Salon** and **Wendell and Ginger Smith**. Their support made all the difference! Also, a rousing salute to our volunteers who made this day work!

Upcoming Spring Program

Friday through Sunday April 24 – 26
Spring Shaker Forum

Immerse yourself in Shaker Studies for a weekend of lectures, tours and a special preservation update.

Weekend Highlights Include:

- Papers by Shaker scholars
- Insider's tour of the 1854 Cow Barn (recently purchase by the Museum)
- Updates on Museum preservation progress
- Networking with colleagues and friends
- Meals and lodging in the Great Stone Dwelling

Special Presentations:

By John Porter, co-author of "Preserving Old Barns" and Dr. David Starbuck of Plymouth State University who will lead an archaeological field school at the Museum during the summer of 2015.

Weekend packages include overnight stays, meals and programs.

For rates and to register: call the Museum at (603) 632-4346 or email info@shakermuseum.org.



Recent Acquisitions

We continue to acquire a variety of objects that create a tangible link to the Enfield Shakers. These items help us tell the story of this important community now and in the future.

We sincerely thank the following people who have contributed to our collection since our last newsletter.

Scott De Wolfe Alfred ME

John Bradford letterhead
with recipe
Four Shaker flannel mill-end
fabric samples

Cheryl Gerding Enfield NH

Canterbury Dorothy cloak
Two sap buckets
Round Canterbury pin cushion
Poplarware needle book
Poplarware pin cushion
Oval box
Three Shaker pegs

Shoe pegs
Canterbury crocheted table pad
Satin strawberry emery
Sabbathday Lake herb bottle

Kurt Gotthardt Enfield NH

Shaker baskets book

Charmian Proskauer Newton

Highlands MA

Carte de visite of Hiram Baker

Carolyn Smith Groton MA

Three-slat Enfield rocking chair
with arms
Small tabletop six-drawer
butternut and pine chest

Meredith Smith Enfield NH

August 1884 Shaker Manifesto
1918 Enfield Annual Town
Report

Nancy Smith Enfield NH

Stamped North Family sap bucket
Steuben County History Center
Enfield bicentennial booklet

Richard Vandall Canaan NH

Oval box form
Oak shelf brackets
Harpar's Bazar article with
Enfield photos
Cog from Shaker mill
Iron slate roofing tool
Head stone for Luther Lyon
Plane irons and wedges
Collection of Leona Merrill
ephemera

Development Committee Report

By John Archer, Development Committee Chair

ESM Annual Appeal: More than a number!

Many buildings feature a specially inscribed foundation stone where two main walls meet. This cornerstone often is a secret resting place for historical objects and documents that represent a snapshot of history, dedicated to a hope that the building will be there for future generations.

Every year, the Enfield Shaker Museum looks to the Annual Appeal to act as the cornerstone for our hope that the upcoming year will open yet another chapter in the Museum's history—one that allows visitors to enter and experience the intersection of a lively present with a vibrant, unique community of the past.

Your connection to the Museum may be a snowshoe trek through the grounds on a crisp winter's day, a crafts exhibit at the Fall Harvest Festival, learning more about Shaker history at the spring Shaker Forum, hearing the timeless sounds of a dulcimer and banjo concert or singing patriotic songs in the Mary Keane Chapel, or exploring, with a guide or on your own, the fascinating assembly of artifacts that form the Museum's collection.

Whatever your point of entry the result is the same—you embody and bear witness to the hope that the heritage of this special place will continue to touch hearts and minds as it has in years past.

This is what a successful Annual Appeal helps to make possible.

The Appeal represents by far the largest piece of funds that we raise each year to keep that central hope alive. This year is no exception, and the Annual Appeal is off to a fine start to realize its goal of \$80,000. The money goes to pay for staff and expenses associated with the wide range of events and experiences that make our history come alive for thousands of visitors, new and old, who come each year.

As I write this, this year's Annual Appeal stands at \$70,195 – a healthy number for this point in the year. But we have a ways to go. Please join me in contributing to this effort. The Appeal is more than a mere number. It's the cornerstone of our mission to sustain and extend the vibrant life of this unique community, and to keep the past and present conjoined.

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of 2014 by **Dolores Struckhoff**, ESM Executive Director, and **Kevin O'Reilly**, President of the 1854 Barn Renewal Corporation. The Museum agreed to pay \$230,000 for the building and barnyard (.83 acres) and thanks to generous donations by several individuals we were able to raise a down payment of \$120,000. The balance of the purchase price is to be paid off with a one-year mortgage from Mascoma Savings Bank.

You can help the Museum pay for the Barn by returning the coupon

on the back of this newsletter with a contribution in any amount. We are committed to paying off the mortgage by the end of 2015, with your help we can make this happen.



Garden News

Become a Village Gardener

Become a Village Gardener this summer and learn new skills! This popular program under the direction of Emeritus Museum Herbalist **Happy Griffiths** and Garden Coordinator **Lindsay Smith**, covers all phases of herb gardening. Soil preparation, garden planning, composting, mulching, propagation and use of herbs, harvesting, and herb crafts will be covered. There will be discussion on the growth, maintenance and use of the “herb bed of the week” (culinary, medicinal, dye and everlasting) followed by a hands on activity using one or several of the herbs. Each “student” gardener will be enriched with herbal and gardening knowledge which they can then incorporate into their own garden.

Village Gardeners are encouraged to volunteer at the annual Harvest Festival in September.

If you are interested in becoming a Village Gardener, please email our Garden Coordinator at gardencoordinator@shakermuseum.org or by calling (603) 632-4346.

Basic Garden Schedule is as follows:

Sign up: NOW!

Kick off meeting: Late April
(date to be announced)

First week in the garden: Week of
May 11, 2015

Harvest Festival: September 26, 2015

End of season celebration and
potluck: Late October (date to be
announced)

Detailed schedules will be sent to
all who sign up.

There is no charge for this program. Each Gardener is encouraged to become a member of the Museum, although not mandatory.

Become a Community Gardener

The Community Garden at Enfield Shaker Museum is poised to begin its Sixth Season! As always, a majority of our gardeners are returning, no doubt called by the urge to get their hands in the soil and spend some of their spare time growing delicious organic vegetables.

We like to think we share this urge with the Enfield Shakers, who were phenomenal farmers, and faced the long winters just as we do. Evidently they practiced excellent soil management, because the piece of land on which we set our Community Garden is very productive. The abundant sun, ready source of water, and fence protecting us from all but the smallest four footed creatures make it an ideal setting.

Add to that the sense of community growing among the gardeners, and the picture is almost complete. This year, as we straighten up from our weeding and look around, we will smile in the knowledge that the 1854 barn adjacent to the Community Garden is now part of the Museum and will be preserved with our nine other buildings.

Though most of the plots are taken with returning gardeners, we do have plots of all sizes, small (10 x 10), medium (10 x 20) and large (20 x 20) available. As soon as the snow melts and we can see the open ground, new gardeners will be invited to take a look and choose their plots.

You just need to live near enough to take good care of your plot, and to be willing to learn and abide by organic methods. Rents are \$20 for small, \$25 for medium, and \$30 for large plots. Please email the Community Garden coordinators, **Colin** and **Mardy High** at mhigh22@gmail.com for information or to reserve a plot.



The program officially runs from May through October. Each Village Gardener is asked to contribute **at least** two hours per week to the maintenance of the garden. Village Gardeners meet every Tuesday morning at 9:30 am and/or an additional time on one evening. Gardeners are free to set their own work schedule. The Garden Coordinator will post the times during the week when she will be working in the garden and available to help and answer questions.



Yes, I would like to help pay for the 1854 Cow Barn!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

I want to be part of preserving and protecting the 1854 Cow Barn. Please put this contribution of \$ _____ toward paying off the mortgage.

I am enclosing a check. (Made payable to Enfield Shaker Museum.)

Please charge my credit card.

Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Please send your gift to:

Enfield Shaker Museum
447 NH Route 4A
Enfield, NH 03748

or call (603) 632-4346.

Enfield Shaker Museum is a private nonprofit 501(c)3 organization.
Your donation is tax deductible.

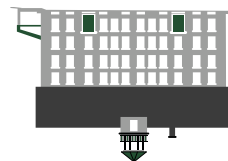
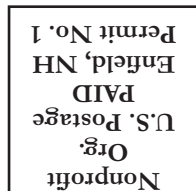
Taste, Toast and Tour



*A Live Auction
Fundraising Event
at the Enfield
Shaker Museum*

*Saturday, April 11, 2015
6:00 pm to 10:00 pm
Live Auction begins at 7:30 pm*

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Enfield Shaker Museum
447 NH Route 4A
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