

The Friends' Quarterly *Newsletter of the Enfield Shaker Museum*

Sharing history and hospitality.

Dolores Struckhoff, Executive Director



Summer 2015

Upcoming Events

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

- September 8 **Take a Tour Tuesday***
September 13 **Shaker Sing**
September 20 **Garden Workshop:
Harvesting and Preserv-
ing Flowers and Herbs**
September 22 **Take a Tour Tuesday***
September 26 **Harvest Festival**
- October 11 **Garden Workshop:
Teas and Tinctures**
October 13 **Take a Tour Tuesday***
October 27 **Take a Tour Tuesday***
- November 10 **Take a Tour Tuesday***
November 16 **Garden Workshop:
Herb Condiments**
November 20 **Garden Workshop:
Garlic and Onions**
November 24 **Take a Tour Tuesday***

*Take a Tour Tuesday is an hour long walking tour focusing on an interesting Enfield Shaker Topic including the North Family site, the Caleb Dyer Story, Shaker Music, and more...

ESM's First Archaeological Dig

*Archaeological Dig and Field School
Looks at the Church Family Trustees' Office*

By Michael O'Connor, Curator

The Enfield Shaker Museum and **Plymouth State University** have recently concluded a four-week archaeological dig and field school which focused on the Church Family Trustees' Office. The dig was supervised by **Dr. David Starbuck**, Professor of Anthropology at Plymouth State, and ran from May 26 to June 19. Dr. Starbuck is well known for his archaeological digs at Revolutionary War sites in New York and Vermont, and has also dug for over 20 years at New Hampshire's other Shaker village in Canterbury.



The Trustees' Office was prominently located immediately adjacent to the Fourth New Hampshire Turnpike (today's State Route 4A) and served as the site of economic interaction between the Shakers and the World. The building housed the offices of the Trustees, a store where the Shakers sold goods to visitors from the World, accommodations for visitors, a substantial kitchen where meals could be prepared

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Executive Director's Message

by Dolores Struckhoff

Dear Friends,

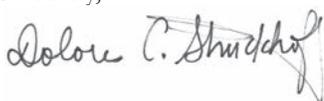
We are well into the summer of 2015. Early summer began with our first ever, archaeological dig. It was very exciting to have so many students and volunteers unearthing artifacts, making our history come alive in front of the Great Stone Dwelling. My only regret was that I wasn't in one of the pits to our past! Wait until next year though. I will be ready with a trowel, whisk broom, brown bags and other tools of the trade.

Shortly after the dig began, our buildings were filled with the sounds of trumpets and percussion instruments from The Center for Advanced Musical Studies (CAMS). Can you believe, CAMS celebrated their 10th Anniversary with us this summer. **John Wallace**, a student at CAMS, hailing from Glasgow, Scotland, wrote a beautiful piece for the trumpet in honor of our site, Chosen Vale.

Another very important announcement is that on July 15 we welcomed our new Education Coordinator, **Althea Goundrey**. Althea comes to us from AVA Gallery with a background in Art, Education, and Museum Studies. With the addition of Althea, we are sure to add many new Educational Programs for adults and children in the months and years ahead. Follow us on Facebook and bookmark our website calendar of events page for the latest additions.

As you can see, there is a lot going on at the Museum these days, do stop by for a regular tour, one of our special Tours on Tuesday, an upcoming musical event, one of our many fundraising events, or stop in and check out our Gift Shop. With the help of **Carolyn Smith** and **Dick Dabrowski**, the shop staff, **Kate Mortimer** and **Cyndi Weiger**, have been busy adding many new items.

Sincerely,



ESM Community Garden in Full Bloom



Run by Museum volunteers, Colin and Mardy High, the ESM Community Garden gives local people an opportunity to grow their own food, as well as spreading the meaning and practice of organic gardening. It is an extension of the agricultural endeavors of the Shakers, as we are gardening in soil that they worked 185 years ago. This year there are 35 cultivated plots including two called the Giving Garden in which we grow food for local food pantries.

2015 Shaker Forum

As always, the Shaker Forum was a huge success thanks to our sponsors, presenters, readers, volunteers and staff. We particularly want to thank our readers **Galen Beale**, **John Ott** and **Mike Volmar** who read the papers to choose the slate of presenters and the winning paper.

Talks covered a wide range of topics: Shaker healthcare at New Lebanon by **Kerry Hackett**, Shaker menus and programs by **Laura Smith**, drawings of Shaker life at Mt. Lebanon by **Rob Emlen**, the life of a Shaker brother from Pleasant Hill by **Aaron Genton**, the relationship between demographics and commitment to the organization of Pleasant Hill by **Marc Rhorer**, Shaker music by **Roger Hall**, and Shaker gift drawings by **Sharon Koomler**.

Our program focus this year was the 1854 Shaker Cow Barn acquired by the Museum in January of 2015. **John Porter** opened the forum with a talk on historic NH barns and **Michael O'Connor** gave a talk and tour of the 1854 Shaker Cow Barn.

Our second keynote by Dr. David Starbuck's presentation was "Archaeological Field Schools: What's involved A-Z" was a fascinating look at unearthing the past.

The winning paper this year was by **Rob Emlen** who focused on the 19th c. drawings by Arthur Boyd Houghton of daily life at the Mt. Lebanon, NY Shaker village. He graciously donated his \$500 prize, given by our sponsor, **Shaker Workshops**, to the Museum to be used towards the mortgage on the barn. Thank you Rob!

SAVE THE DATE

2016 Shaker Forum

April 22 - 24, 2016

Mark your calendar now and plan to join us!

ESM's Archaeological Dig

Continued from page 1

and many of the foods and sweet treats sold in the store were produced, and work rooms where small manufactured items were produced for sale in the store. In addition to these diverse economic activities, it appears that during the waning years of the community the Shaker sisters would move from the Great Stone Dwelling into the Trustees' Office during the winter months.

During the first days of the dig a grid system of 1 meter plots was surveyed and laid out over the site of the former Shaker building. Once the grid was established, Plymouth State students and volunteer diggers opened pits along the foundation lines of the building and began excavations. As soil was removed from the pits, it was sifted through 1/4" mesh, and artifacts recorded as they were found. The first days found the diggers working in 90 degree temperatures with no cover. Over the course of the week, canopies began to appear to shelter the pits from the sun and abundant rain which would come later.

Soon signs of foundation stones were reached, and an exterior, underground drain was uncovered on the south side of the building. When features such as these were found, the pits were drawn to scale and photographed with a meter stick and north arrow for scale and orientation.

Throughout the process, detailed field records were kept, recording what was found in each pit by layer and level. Soon a steady stream of artifacts was being unearthed – pottery, glass, nails, sewing shears, wood fragments, bricks, mortar, buttons, forks, a twentieth century brooch, and more. The artifacts were placed into paper bags which were labeled with the pertinent location information and delivered to the lab with their associated worksheet.

The lab located on the first floor of the Stone Mill was supervised by lab manager **Betty Hall**. Betty has worked with Dr. Starbuck for over twenty years, first as a digger and more recently as his lab manager. With her breadth of knowledge, positive attitude and inquisitive mind, Betty is the heart of the dig crew. With almost 90 years of life experience, she is a source of inspiration for all who visit the lab or work with her.

Once received in the lab, the artifacts are washed, dried, identified, and bagged. The individual artifact bags are then bagged by pit, layer and level and boxed for transportation to the Plymouth State Archaeology Lab. There the detailed cataloging will continue under Betty's supervision. Once cataloged, the collection will be transported back to the Museum for permanent storage and display.

In addition to housing the lab, the Stone Mill was the site for daily lunchtime talks, open to the public

free of charge. The eighteen talks covered a number of topics and featured guest speakers **Jonathan Schechtman** and **Adam Krakowski** of Meeting House Furniture Restoration in Quechee, **Iilana Grallert** from Dartmouth College's Rauner Library, **Dr. Starbuck**, **Mary Ann Haagen**, **Carolyn Smith**, **Galen Beale**, and **Michael O'Connor**.

Visitors ask, "why do you need to do archaeology on the Shakers?" "Don't you know everything there is to know about the community?" As Dr. Starbuck points out, with over 100 substantial buildings at Enfield during the height of the Shaker community, and only nine Church Family buildings remaining, archaeology will be crucial in gaining a further understanding of the missing buildings and how the surrounding lands were used by the Shakers.

As the Field School came to a close, two pits reached the floor of the 1818 Trustees' Office basement. As the diggers stood on the meticulously laid slate floor, massive foundation stones to their side, an intact brick wall extending into the basement, a bag of unearthed 19th century Shaker artifacts at the rim of the pit – there was no question that each of them would be back next year. You can join them, digging in the pits or working in the lab, there is something for everyone. Planning is under way for next year's dig, so stay in touch to be part of the ongoing discoveries.



*From left to right:
Preparing the pits,
an early artifact find,
and granite foundation
corner stones c. 1818.*

ESM Receives Challenge Grant for IT Upgrade

This spring NH Charitable Foundation awarded ESM a \$7500 grant (with an equal match) to purchase new computer equipment, upgrade our wifi and networking capabilities, and acquire new and updated software. To date we have raised \$2980 toward the \$7500 match. We hope you will support us in raising the additional funds.

Yes, I want to help match the NH Charitable Foundation IT grant!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

I want to help upgrade the Museum's IT. Please put this contribution of \$ _____ toward matching the grant.

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

Please charge my credit card.

Number _____

CCV# _____ 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.

Development Committee Update

by John Archer, Development Committee Chair

In addition to meeting our Membership revenue goal of \$22K, we are committed to expanding our membership numbers this year. The letter you received contained a card entitled "Tell a Friend about Enfield Shaker Museum". Share the card and spread the good news to your friends and neighbors! Encourage them to sign up as members in this unique adventure, and help us continue to grow.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 26
10 am to 3 pm



Wagon Rides

Old Time Games

Craft Demonstrations

Bluegrass Music

Harvest Lunch

Sheep Dog Demos

Handmade Ice Cream

Children's Crafts

Fun for all ages!

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