

# **Enfield Shaker Museum**

## **2019 Spring Shaker Forum**

**April 26 – 28, 2019**

**Enfield, NH**

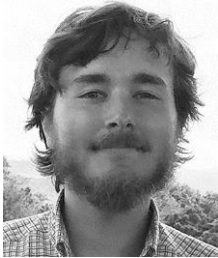


### About the Enfield Shaker Museum

Nestled in a valley between Shaker Mountain and Mascoma Lake, in Enfield, New Hampshire, the Enfield Shaker site has been cherished for over 200 years. At its peak in the mid-19th century, the community was home to three "Families" of Shakers. They practiced equality of the sexes and races, celibacy, pacifism and communal ownership of property. The Shakers farmed over 3,000 acres of land, educated children in model schools and worshipped in the "Shaker Way."

**The Enfield Shaker Museum is an educational institution dedicated to interpreting and preserving the history of the Shakers of Enfield, NH.**

### Greetings from the Education Coordinator



I would like to welcome all of you to the Enfield Shaker Museum's 2019 Spring Shaker Forum. As in the past, the goal of the Spring Forum is to bring together a diverse group of researchers and enthusiasts with the goal of sharing the latest in research and materials. Year to year, our Spring Forum has seen the presentation of insightful and informative works on the Shakers by an assortment of leading scholars.

Shaker Studies as a field continues to be dynamic with new works published every year. Today's scholars have access to a larger and more accurate body of information than ever before. This increase in knowledge is due to the dedicated work of researchers who have devoted their time to making Shaker primary source material more accessible. This ongoing work will allow Shaker scholarship to grow for the foreseeable future.

For this year's Spring Shaker Forum, we have a full weekend of events which will include two key note addresses, seven individual presentations, a guided hike to the Shaker Feast Ground on Mount Assurance, and a special discussion about the latest in Enfield, NH material culture. I wish everyone the best and look forward to spending time with attendees at this year's program.

Thank you.

Kyle Sandler

### Greetings from the ESM President

Welcome to the Enfield Shaker Museum's 2019 Spring Shaker Forum.

Whether you are a presenter or attendee, your participation allows for sharing of research, exploration of new interests, and an opportunity to engage in lively discussion.

It is the Museum's intention to provide a platform for Shaker scholars and enthusiasts to be part of a significant educational endeavor focusing on the fascinating history and culture of the Shakers. Your participation provides depth and meaning to our existence as a Museum and place of learning.



I certainly hope that you find this weekend to be informative, thought provoking and thoroughly enjoyable. I look forward to welcoming each of you personally.

Thank you.

Carolyn A. Smith, President

# At-A-Glance Schedule

## Enfield Shaker Museum

### 2019 Spring Shaker Forum

	Dining Room	Meeting Room	Gift Shop Café
<b>Friday, April 26</b>			
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm			Registration
3:15 pm – 4:00 pm		A Tale of Three Tables and Other Recent Acquisition Stories – <b>Richard Dabrowski</b>	
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm		Portraits of the Shakers and the Illustrated Advertisements for Shaker Goods – <b>Rob Emlen</b>	
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm		Welcome Reception	
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Dinner		
7:30 pm		Kentucky Shaker Furniture: A Southerner's Interpretation of the Rules – <b>Tommy Hines</b>	
<b>Saturday, April 27</b>			
8:00 am – 8:45 am	Breakfast		
9:00 am – 10:00 am		The Transformation of Enfield, CT Shaker Village, 1870 – 1880 – <b>Stephen Paterwic</b>	
10:00 am – 11:00 am		Rejecting Celibacy: Shakers Who Fell in Love, Eloped, and Married – <b>Thomas Sakmyster</b>	
11:00 am – 11:15 am		Break	
11:15 am – 12:15 pm		Photogenic Ghosts: Three Shaker Mills – <b>Ned Quist*</b>	
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm	Lunch		
1:15 pm – 2:15 pm		Supernatural Powers and Common Favours: Shaker Doctors and Medicine in the Early Church at New Lebanon – <b>Kerry Hackett*</b>	
2:15 pm – 4:00 pm		Talk/Guided Hike to the Feast Ground	
4:00 pm – 4:15 pm		Break	
4:15 pm – 5:15 pm		Shaker Suicide: History or Fiction – <b>Richard Marshall</b>	
5:15 pm – 5:30 pm	Break		
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm		Cocktails and Announcement of the Shaker Workshops Award for Outstanding New Scholarship – <b>Carolyn Smith</b>	
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Dinner		
7:30 pm		Twenty Years of Shaker Paint Research: Mysteries and Discoveries- <b>Susan Buck</b>	
<b>Sunday, April 28</b>			
8:00 am – 8:45 am	Breakfast		
9:00 am – 10:00 am		Life at the West Family Watervliet Farm in the Late 18 <sup>th</sup> and Early 19 <sup>th</sup> Centuries: New Archaeological Data – <b>Matthew Kirk*</b>	
10:00 am – 10:15 am		Break	
10:15 am – 10:45 am		Shaker Readings and Songs – <b>Mary Ann Haagen</b>	
10:45 am – 11:00 am		Closing Remarks- <b>Carolyn Smith</b>	
11:45 am – 12:00 pm			Pick up Box Lunches
11:00 am – 3:00 pm			Checkout

*\*Participants in the Shaker Workshops Competition for Outstanding New Scholarship.*

# Schedule of Events

## Enfield Shaker Museum

### 2019 Spring Shaker Forum

#### Friday, April 26

**2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Registration, *Gift Shop Café***

**3:00 pm – 4:00 pm A Tale of Three Tables and Other Recent Acquisition Stories, *Richard Dabrowski***

Join Richard Dabrowski for a discussion of his research-based investigation into the history and provenance of the three extant Enfield Shaker Church Family dining tables. He will additionally discuss other new acquisitions in the Museum's collection and what they can tell us about the lives and legacy of the Enfield, NH Shakers.

**4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Portraits of the Shakers and the Illustrated Advertisements for Shaker Goods, *Robert Emlen***

In the late 1850s, the Shakers began to have portrait photographs of themselves produced. By the 1880s, portraits of individual members had become so accepted in Shaker communities that they were even used to advertise Shaker-made or Shaker-related goods. In this presentation, Rob will explore this phenomenon and its implication as an example of the Societies' move towards modernity.

**5:30 pm – 6:15 pm Welcome Reception, *Meeting Room***

**6:15 pm – 7:15 pm Dinner, *Dining Room***

**7:30 pm Special Presentation: Kentucky Shaker Furniture: A Southerner's Interpretation of the Rules,**

*Tommy Hines*

Over the course of the Nineteenth Century, the Kentucky Shakers interpreted traditional eastern Shaker design through the cultural lens of the American South. In this special presentation, Tommy will explain the characteristics which made Southern Shaker furniture unique. Additionally, he will discuss the cultural differences between the Shakers in Kentucky and those in the northeast.

#### Saturday, April 27

**8:00 am – 8:45 am Breakfast, *Dining Room***

**9:00 am – 10:00am The Transformation of Enfield, CT Shaker Village, 1870 - 1880, *Stephen Paternic***

For the Shakers, the period after the Civil War was one of transformation. Stephen will discuss in detail the outward changes that occurred as Enfield, CT recovered its equilibrium in the decade after the tumultuous 1860s. The context of these events will be explored thoroughly, and the new look of the society will be amply illustrated by stereo and photographic views. These perspectives were the final ones, and as a result still serve as the way we see the community.

**10:00 am – 11:00 am Rejecting Celibacy: Shakers Who Fell in Love, Eloped, and Married, *Tom Sakmyster***

Despite the central tenant of celibacy, examples of Shaker relationships can be found in almost all the communities. Discussing this topic in detail, Tom will present a comprehensive picture of Shaker romance, courtship, elopement, and marriage, identifying what kind of Shakers were involved, what motivated them, how they were able to evade the rules and conduct a kind of courtship, and how they were viewed by the Shaker community at-large.

**11:15 am – 12:15 pm Photogenic Ghosts: Three Shaker Mills *Ned Quist \****

Water-powered machinery in the 19<sup>th</sup> century Shaker mills helped Shaker communities produce essential goods for themselves such as flour, lumber, and refined cotton. In this presentation, Ned will discuss the history and importance of Shaker mills through the lens of Harvard's Bennet Brook Mill, Mount Lebanon's North Family Saw Mill, and Sabbathday Lake's Great Mill.

**12:15 pm – 1:15 pm Lunch, *Dining Room***

**1:30 pm – 2:30 pm Supernatural Powers and Common Favours: Shaker Doctors and Medicine in the Early Church at New Lebanon, *Kerry Hackett\****

The period of 1787 to 1826 was a formative period in the development of Shaker society. One aspect of this era was the emergence of a physician class among the Shakers at New Lebanon. Kerry will explain the rationale behind this development while also demonstrating that Shaker doctors were treating the sick in a series of dedicated facilities long before the official designation of a Physician's order by the Lead Ministry in 1821. Finally, this presentation will illustrate that a succession of definable events propelled the evolution of early Shaker healthcare.

**2:30 pm – 4:00 pm Special Talk and Guided Hike to the Feast Ground**

**4:15 pm – 5:15 pm Shaker Suicide: History or Fiction? *Richard Marshall***

The topic of Shaker suicide has been explored in a variety of fictional accounts often in questionable ways, but less historical accounts have approached the topic. In his presentation, Rick will discuss how Shaker journals duly record that despite the occasional self-inflicted death, suicides in Shaker villages did not exceed those in the world. Furthermore, about the very infrequent suicides, Shaker journals usually record a motive vastly different than the oppressive Shaker lifestyle for which the novels blame the self-inflicted deaths. The record often revealing that individual found a renewed will to live in Shaker villages.

**5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Cocktails and Announcement of the Shaker Workshops Award for Outstanding New Scholarship, *Carolyn Smith and Richard Dabrowski of Shaker Workshops***

**6:30 pm – 7:30 pm Dinner, *Dining Room***

**7:30 pm Special Presentation: Twenty Years of Shaker Paint Research: Mysteries and Discoveries, *Susan Buck***

Ongoing research into the surviving paint evidence remaining on Shaker furniture and architectural elements continues to reveal more about the colorful palettes of Shaker communities in New England, New York and Kentucky. In the past twenty years there have been significant improvements in the microscopes and digital imaging techniques used to capture images of tiny remnants of original paints, and the body of knowledge about traditional Shaker paints, varnishes and color combinations has continued to expand. This presentation will explain how analysis of Shaker painted and varnished finishes is undertaken and will reveal more recent discoveries about paint colors on furniture and architecture. It will also discuss how paint archaeology can help to explain the evolutions of, and alterations to, selected Shaker buildings.

**Sunday, April 28**

**8:00 am – 8:45 am Breakfast, *Dining Room***

**9:00 am – 10:00 am Life at the West Family Watervliet Farm in the Late 18<sup>th</sup> and Early 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries: New Archaeological Data, *Matthew Kirk***

In the late fall of 2017, excavations were conducted within the West Family Watervliet Shaker community in the modern Town of Colonie, Albany County, New York. The artifact assemblage provides an intriguing glimpse into Shaker life when natural families cohabitated and private property remained held by church members. Matthew will explore both the material culture recovered archaeologically from the site and the historical record of the West Family to better understand how the radical change into communal living impacted those early Shaker families.

**10:15 am – 10:45 am Shaker Readings and Songs, *Mary Ann Haagen***

**10:45 am – 11:00 am Closing Remarks, *Carolyn Smith***

**11:45 am – 12:00 pm Pick up Box Lunches, *Gift Shop Café***

**11:00 am – 3:00 pm Checkout, *Reception (Gift Shop)***

## 2019 Spring Shaker Forum Readers

**Roben Campbell** is an independent scholar specializing in Harvard Shaker life. She has conducted extensive research and delivered papers and talks on Shaker textiles, the demographics of Harvard, and tuberculosis as a major health problem in the village. In 2011 she received the Shaker Workshops Award for her research on burial patterns in the Harvard Shaker Cemetery, which was published in the *American Communal Societies Quarterly*. She has also been the leader of the Boston Area Shaker Study Group since 2015.

**Christian Goodwillie** is the Director and Curator of Special Collections and Archives at the Burke Library, Hamilton College in Clinton, NY. In addition, he is an Associate Editor of the Richard W. Couper Press. Christian has published several books including *Shaker Autobiographies, Biographies, and Testimonies* and *Gather up the Fragments: the Andrews Shaker Collection*. He has also published numerous articles touching on many different aspects of Shaker Studies.

**Jerry Grant** is the current Director of Collections and Research at the Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon. Jerry has also been a Director at Hancock Shaker Village. Jerry has published several works on the Shakers including *Shaker Furniture Makers* with Douglas Allen, *Noble but Plain: The Shaker Meetinghouse at Mount Lebanon, New York*, and “Oval Box Making at Mount Lebanon, New York” in *Inspired Innovation: A Celebration of Shaker Ingenuity*.

## 2019 Spring Shaker Forum Key Note Speakers

**Susan Buck** has worked in the field of paint and finishes analysis since 1991 and has led the evolution of the field of architectural paint research from an observational craft-based approach to a scientific field incorporating analytical techniques derived from art conservation and cell biology research. She completed her Ph.D. in Art Conservation Research at the University of Delaware in 2003, where she won the outstanding dissertation award for that year from the University of Delaware College of Arts and Sciences. She also has an MS from the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation (WUDPAC), where she co-teaches a course in cross-section microscopy analysis for art and architectural materials. Her private conservation work includes paint and finish analysis for objects and architecture, as well as conservation treatments, for institutions including Mount Vernon, Monticello, Historic Charleston Foundation, Historic Annapolis, Historic Deerfield, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Hancock Shaker Village, Enfield Shaker Village and the World Monuments Fund Qianlong Garden Conservation Project in The Forbidden City in Beijing.

**Tommy Hines** is the Executive Director of South Union Shaker Village. Tommy is a graduate of Western Kentucky University with a degree in Music Theory and Folk Studies, and a Master of Arts degree in Historic Preservation. He began his career at the South Union Shaker Village in 1986 as Executive Director and Curator. Hines has served on the boards of a variety of organizations and has acted as consultant for restoration and interpretive projects at numerous historic sites and museums. He has also presented on topics related to Southern material culture and folklife at venues that include Frist Center for the Arts, Colonial Williamsburg, and for the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts. Hines has authored three award-winning exhibit catalogs, published articles in *Antique Review* and *The Magazine Antiques*, and contributed to other publications, including *Shaker Communities in Kentucky* (2006), *Kentucky by Design: The Decorative Arts and American Culture* (2015), and *Making Time: The Art of the Kentucky Tall Case Clock, 1790-1850* (2019).

## 2019 Spring Shaker Forum Presenters

**Robert Emlen** is a Visiting Scholar in American Studies at Brown University. For over twenty years, Rob was the University Curator and Senior Lecturer in American Studies at Brown University in Providence, RI. He was also an adjunct faculty member in the History of Art and Visual Culture at the Rhode Island School of Design. Robert has published several books on Shaker History such as *Shaker Village Views* and *Picturing the Shakers in the Era of Manifestations* and many scholarly articles.

**Kerry Hackett** has been in clinical practice as a Medical Herbalist for almost two decades. In addition, she has a Professional Doctorate in Health from the University of Central Lancashire (UK); her dissertation is entitled "Preserving the Knowledge: Botanical Treatments of the Sick in Mid-nineteenth Century Shaker Community as a Microcosm of Pre-Industrial Medicine". Kerry has published several articles on herbal medicine, presented at many conferences and in 2015, received the Faith Andrews Fellowship for the Study of Shaker Life and Material Culture from the Winterthur Museum and Library (Delaware).

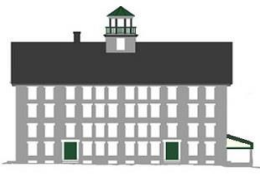
**Matthew Kirk** is a principal investigator for Hartgen Archaeological Associates Inc and holds a Master of Arts in Anthropology from the S.U.N.Y. Albany. He has worked on a variety of archaeological projects throughout his career at sites such as Blow-Me-Down Farm at Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish, NH, Saratoga National Historical Park, and the Woodfords Brigade Area at Valley Forge National Historical Park. Additionally, Matthew has published several pieces in various books and journals including "The Retreat to Victory Woods" in *The Saratoga Campaign: Uncovering an Embattled Landscape*.

**Richard Marshall** holds a Ph.D. in English from Purdue University. He is currently both an Associate Professor in the Department of English and the Writing Lab Director at the University of Indianapolis. Richard has presented on the Shakers in a variety of settings including most recently at the Communal Studies Association Annual Conference in 2016. Richard's primary scholarly interests include the Shakers in literature and history, American slave narratives, and literature about slavery.

**Stephen Paterwic** has been researching the Shakers since 1967. He is a frequent presenter at Shaker forums and seminars. Stephen has also written several books such as his *Historical Dictionary of the Shakers*, numerous articles in publications such as the Shaker Quarterly, and has contributed chapters to other works on the Shakers including *Inspired Innovations: A Celebration of Shaker Ingenuity*. Currently, he serves as an overseer at Hancock Shaker Village and as a trustee of Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village.

**Ned Quist** is a retired academic librarian who served as an Associate University Librarian for Research and Outreach for Brown University from 2011 – 2018. Prior to that, he was the Music Librarian at the Orwig Music Library at Brown University from 2001 – 2011 and the Head Librarian at the Peabody Conservator of Music at Johns Hopkins University from 1976 – 2001. Currently, he is an independent researcher working on in the field of Shaker Studies with a focus on Shaker mills.

**Thomas Sakmyster** is an Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Cincinnati. He holds a Ph.D. in History from Indiana University. Tom has published a variety of books and articles on both Shaker and non-Shaker topics. Tom's Shaker books include *The Last Shaker Apostate: Augustus Wager and Union Village, Ohio* and *The Shakers of White Water, Ohio: 1823 -1916* which he co-authored with James Innis. Additionally, Tom has presented at Shaker conferences at South Union Shaker Village, Hancock Shaker Village, and Sienna College.



## ENFIELD SHAKER MUSEUM

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Enfield, NH 03748

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**2020 Spring Shaker Forum**

**April 17 – 19, 2020**

**A Weekend Conference at the  
Enfield Shaker Museum**