

The Friends' Quarterly

A Newsletter from The Museum at Lower Shaker Village

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Autumn 1993

"An Extra Good Crop"

Seth Bradford was a member of the Enfield community who spent almost 14 years performing agricultural work before moving to the position of Boys' Caretaker. The journal he kept from 1837 to 1849 gives a detailed picture of the myriad tasks required to supply this large community with food, and of the enormous quantity and variety that was produced here. Major events of the community--deaths, the raising of a building--receive brief mention along with his notes on the weather and the day's labor. The following excerpts from his journal take us from planting time through harvest in observance of the season.

April 9th. [1839] Hauled 3 loads of dung onto the point. [The journal mentions a day's hauling of up to 34 loads.] Spread and ploughed it in. Set 25 bus. of red onions, 20 bus. of yellow onions, 1 bus. of white onions. Whole amount 145 bushels of onions set this spring.

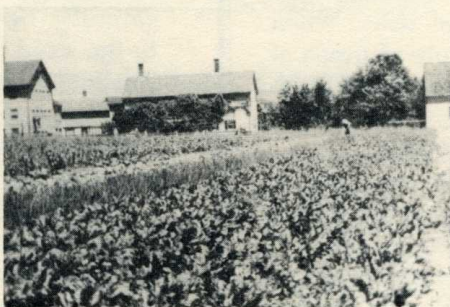
April 18th. [1840] Planted early Potatoes, 3 sorts, Otis, Bleues, Mastings. Sowed 3 rows of Peas, acrossed the garden and 2 of them large kind. Set sage and parsley...The pond exempt from ice.

April 23rd. [1839] Set 18 bus. of Lemon Carrots on the sand and 9 bus. of Orange Carrots on the point and 8 bus. of Horn Carrots down in the hog pasture. Very warm. Mercury up to 70 above zero...

May 2nd. [1844] Putting manure in hill for cucumbers. Sowing peas, 2 sorts Blackchit & marrowfat. Planting sweet corn in the North Garden, 10 rows.

May 6th. [1844] Planted Mammouth squash, butter and sweet potato squash. Showery. Planted early cluster cucumber seed and 4 rows of sweet corn...

May 10th. [1843] Set 3 sorts of beets. Quite warm. Sowed some lettuce seed from Lebanon. Sowed some radish seed, 3 kinds, sowed green H. lettuce and Ice Lettuce. Planted Peppers, squash and cayenne planted green London peas.



May 22nd. [1839] Dull. Set green Head Lettuce. Also set Turks Island Lettuce among the Onions. Set Peppers. Raked and set young sage. Joseph Dyer planted pop Corn in the Horse pasture. Also planted squash and melons and set Tobacco plants, some for seed and some to chew. Farmers planting potatoes. Pears and tame Cherry trees are in the height of blossom.

June 8th. [1848] ...railing up the peas to keep them off from the ground. The cold weather of late and the insects at present have come very near putting the vine tribe into nonexistence.

June 19th. [1840] We went a strawberrying. Harrowing cabbage ground. Hoed the Pop corn.

July 12th. [1847] Ploughed the

ground and set the cabbage plants, beginning on the west side - 250 Cromwell Drumhead - 106 of Early York - 140 of Red - 413 of New Y. Drumhead - 206 Green G. Savoy - 400 Low Duch - 428 Savoy - 340 Early Duch. Total 2299.

July 12th. [1841] A FROST IN THE MORNING...

July 20th. [1841] Went to haying. Very dry and hot. Mercury 80° above 0.

Aug. 31st. [1843] Harvested our last peas for this year.

Sept. 3d. [1847] Commenced cutting onion seed - an extra good crop

Sept. 18th. [1847] Threshed out peas by water power.

Sept. 20th. [1844] Finished cutting yellow onion seed. Cut the green head lettuce seed. Finished cutting beet seed...

Sept. 24th. [1842] The ground froze 1/2 of an inch which killed the vines and cucumbers.

Oct. 20th. Got the carrots into the cellar - Lemon, 17 bus. - Orange, 9 bus. - Early, 4 bus. - which makes 30 bus. for seed - 24 bus. to eat. - total 54.

Oct. 26th. Very cold. Got the cabbages into the cellar. A gang of our folks turn out and help the North Family dig their potatoes and got in their beets and carrots. Took 2 loads of potatoes to recompense us.

Nov. 13th. [1844] Finished ploughing. Wild geese flew.

Compiled by Becky Powell

Sage Thoughts

by Happy Griffiths

Natural Insect Repellents

When most of us think of herbs we think of the many ways we use them in cooking, but there are a vast number of scented herbs used for natural insect repellents in applications for people, plants, pets. The Shakers were familiar with these herbs and many of the recipe ideas presented here come from a Shaker manuscript.

Black flies and mosquitoes will not bother you if you have Pennyroyal and Tansy in your garden. Just rub a branch of either on your skin. You can also make a good repellent by using safflower or corn oil. Pour a small amount in an amber colored bottle and add essential oils of Citronella, Pennyroyal, Eucalyptus, Rosemary or Lavender oil according to personal taste. Cap, shake well, and it's ready for use. Pregnant women should avoid using Pennyroyal oil.

Dogs and cats can be rubbed with Pennyroyal branches to help repel fleas and ticks. When bathing your animal, add a couple of drops of essential oil of Eucalyptus, Pennyroyal, or Rosemary to the rinse water. Remember, these oils are highly concentrated and go a long way.

In the garden, a number of herbs can deter insects, some as companion plants and others when made into sprays. Chives and other members of the Allium family can be planted near roses and vegetables to keep them bug free. Chervil planted with radishes helps keep flea beetles away, and Calendula and Marigold are good for all plants in helping to kill nemodes and discourage bean beetles. To make a good spray for getting rid of Aphids, boil 2 quarts of water and add: 2 TB each of Wormwood and Chamomile, 1/2 tsp each of garlic powder, onion powder and red hot pepper. Let the mixture stand overnight, strain through a cheesecloth the next day and add 1 TB liquid dish soap. Put in a mister bottle and spray infected plants.

For moth repellents try growing Southernwood, Rosemary, Wormwood, Costmary, Lavender, Tansy, Pennyroyal, and Mints. Place the herbs in small muslin bags and hang in the closet or place in drawers or shelves where moths could be a problem. While these herbs are not lethal to moths, they usually deter them from laying their eggs near the smell. An easy recipe is equal parts Lavender, Rosemary, Wormwood and Southernwood, with a few cloves for added scent. Replace after a year.

Museum Receives Unusual Sieve

An August 9 reception in the appropriate setting of the Herb Garden celebrated the donation of an unusual, circa 1840 Shaker sieve. The sieve was donated by The Herb Society of America and presented by Betty Stevens, past president of The Society and prime mover in bringing the sieve to the Museum. According to her story, The Society learned in 1992 that a sieve owned by them had been on loan to a Massachusetts museum since 1945. However, there were no records of how the loan came to be made, who was the sieve's donor, or what was its earlier history. After having it appraised and identified as a New England Shaker piece, The Herb Society decided to donate it to a deserving Shaker historic community, and settled on the Museum at Lower Shaker Village as their choice.

The sieve's frame is crafted like the more familiar oval boxes, with overlapping fingers of wood carefully held in place by copper tacks. Attached to the wood frame is a fine netting of horsehair. The sieve's most unusual feature is that it has both top and bottom covers. Its exact purpose is unknown, although the Shakers used sieves for purposes such as sorting seeds.

The Museum gratefully acknowledges The Herb Society of America for its donation of this very special artifact, a rare and interesting addition to the collection.



Museum Director Carolyn Smith, center, examines the sieve as Happy Griffiths, Museum Herbalist, left, and Betty Stevens of The Herb Society of America, right, look on.

New Staff Member Joins Museum

The Museum is pleased to announce the addition of an experienced and enthusiastic new member to the staff.

Stacy Hogsett joined us in June as part-time public relations and special events coordinator. Stacy, who has an M.A. in history from the University of New Hampshire and is working on her Ph.D. there, has worked at numerous museums and historical sites including Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, the Calvin Coolidge Birthplace in Vermont, and the Washburn-Nordlands Living History Center in Livermore, Maine (where, as a first-person interpreter, she brought to life the "Blacksmith's Wife").

Work as a children's librarian



and a program developer for the Portsmouth Children's Museum reflect her special interest in the younger set, and expansion of the Museum's programs and exhibits

for children is high on Stacy's list. "Part of my job is to create special events that are meaningful in terms of the Museum's mission. I'll be working to attract more people, especially families, and to bring more bus tours to the Museum."

To make special events happen, Stacy has to keep track of everything from advertising to the forks for refreshments. In her role as public relations coordinator, Stacy thinks of herself as "the Museum's chief promoter;" she is working hard to ensure greater and more consistent media coverage, and to keep the staff and volunteers as well as the community excited about what the Museum is doing. Stacy lives with her husband David in Fairlee, Vermont; her energy and ideas are a welcome and lively addition here.

Additional Support Opportunities

Wish List

Office-quality electric typewriter

A Macintosh Computer with internal hard drive - contact the Museum for details

Boards: For edging the Herb Garden beds, 1,500 board feet of wood, ideally cedar, between 6-8" wide. Pine or hemlock would suffice, too.

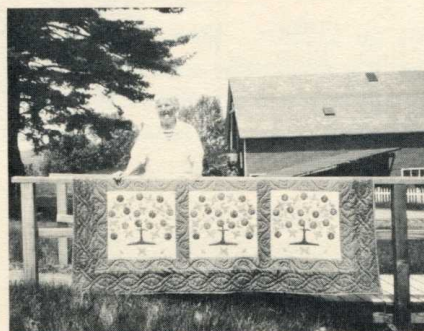
Museum members and donors to our fund raising campaigns are a major part of the Museum's sup-

port. But there are additional ways to support the Museum that you might not have considered. Perhaps you can provide an item on our wish list, above. Or contact Carolyn Smith, Director, if you can offer:

- A Special Gift to support a particular program or event of interest to you
- A gift in kind of a product or service

Tree of Life Quilt Winner

During this year's Festival of Shaker Crafts and Herbs, the drawing was held for the beautiful Tree of Life design quilt donated to the Museum by the Soo-Nipi quilters. The winner was Jane Heald of Elkins, New Hampshire. The quilt raffle raised \$2,400 for the Museum. Many thanks again to the quilters, and congratulations to the lucky winner!



The Friends' Quarterly is a publication of The Museum at Lower Shaker Village. It is mailed as a service to Museum Members. For information on Membership write: The Museum at Lower Shaker Village, #2 Lower Shaker Village, Enfield, NH 03748. Or call (603) 632-4346.

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Happy Griffiths, Herbalist
Jean Beard, Store Manager

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Stone Mill Building Cleaned; Hosts Antique Show & Art Exhibit

On a quiet July Saturday, the interior of the Museum's recently acquired Stone Mill Building was awash in soapy water and window cleaner as a group of volunteers and staff scrubbed away years of grime. After removing the heavy wooden grids installed over the lower windows when the buildings and dirt. The simple acts of opening up the windows and letting the views show and the light shine in were enough to transform the build-



Before... (l. to r.) Charlie DePuy, Becky Powell, Cindi Weller, intrepid cleaners

ing and give a hint of how it once looked.

This sparkling setting was quickly put to use for the August 7 **Antique Show**. The new indoor

location meant that vendors showing delicate, non-weather-proof pieces could exhibit for the first time. The stone and wood of the old mill created a perfect setting for the Shaker and other antiques that filled the space. A new addition to the show was a **Silent Auction**, benefiting the Museum. Organized by Museum trustees under the leadership of Dan Eastman and Mary Ann Wilde, the Auction offered antiques donated by dealers and Museum members

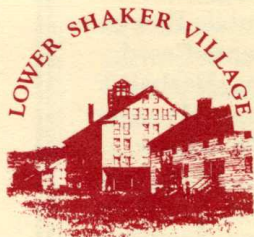
The Antique Show was barely over when the Mill Building became an art gallery, with the August 10 opening reception for local artist Gary Hamel's show "**Borrowed Light**." The artist created a show that was both a retrospective of previous area exhibits, and a presentation of new paintings based on the buildings and sites of Lower Shaker Village. The paintings were hung on old Shaker doors in a beautiful display conceived and executed by Museum Director Carolyn Smith, craftsman Michael O'Connor and the artist. In this very special setting, the paintings indeed seemed to glow with the light borrowed from their surround-

ings. Several hundred people visited the exhibit (many were newcomers who toured the Museum as well), resulting in the sale of 22 of the 28 paintings. Half of the sale proceeds were donated to the Museum by the artist. Those connected to the Museum are grateful to Gary not only for his extremely generous donation, but for bringing to visual life the strong emotions and sense of the past embodied in the buildings and land of this special place.

Director Smith is pleased that the Stone Mill Building is not just sitting idle as a piece of property with potential, but has already become a vital part of the Museum.



...and after. A beautiful setting for Gary Hamel's art work.



The Museum
Route 4A
Enfield, NH 03748
(603) 632-4346

Richard Dabrowski
PO Box 1028
Concord, MA 01742

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