

# The Friends' Quarterly

A Newsletter from the Enfield Shaker Museum

Volume VIII/No. 3

Vol IX No 3

Fall 1997

## Museum Buys Historic Village Core

On September 29, after a summer of frenetic activity, the Enfield Shaker Museum purchased four key buildings in the Enfield Shaker Village — a long-held dream for Museum supporters. Included in the purchase are the Great Stone Dwelling and Mary Keane Chapel, the East Brethren's Shop (also known as Bethany House), the West Brethren's Shop, the Shaker cemetery, and the land where the Museum's Shaker herb garden is now located. Total purchase price for the three parcels was \$530,000.

Over 800 individuals and businesses contributed to a summer-long campaign to raise \$275,000 in cash. The town of Enfield received \$75,000 in back taxes at the closing, and the balance of the purchase price was provided by a mortgage from Mascoma Savings Bank of Lebanon. Last minute efforts by U.S. Senators Bob Smith and Judd Gregg (both R-NH) helped secure a \$490,000 mortgage guarantee through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Program.

This important acquisition assures the future of the Shaker legacy in Enfield, complementing the Museum's current holdings, the Laundry/Dairy building, the Stone Mill Building and the West Meadow Barn. Supporters from throughout the Upper Valley, New England, and beyond responded

to the urgent request for funds, and contributed generously to see the village reunited under Museum ownership.

The Shakers sold their Enfield property in 1927 to the Catholic LaSalette order. In the mid 1980's, the LaSalletes sold the Church family property to a developer, retaining possession of the North Family buildings. Foreclosure proceedings by Winter Hill Federal Savings Bank, the major mortgage holder for the developers, were begun last spring. The only bidder at the May 13 foreclosure auction, Rev. Keith Marsh, decided in late June not to exercise his right to purchase the buildings.

The Museum's plans for the new properties include leasing a portion of the Great Stone Dwelling for use as a restaurant and inn, and expanded public programs in these new sites. Some repairs, especially to the Great Stone Dwelling, will need to be done immediately. As

a thank you to the many supporters of the Museum's campaign, public tours of the Great Stone Dwelling have already been offered on several occasions. The Museum will continue to raise funds toward building restoration, an endowment, and a rapid reduction of our substantial mortgage liability.



*The Great Stone Dwelling*

*Photo by Ron Boehm*



## Thank You to All Our Donors

Board President Mary Ann Haagen wrote hundred of letters this summer. In her words, "We have been given an extraordinary opportunity to preserve Enfield Shaker Village as an educational, cultural, and historic site. The Trustees and Staff of the museum feel our goals are vital and achievable. We are grateful for your faithful support of the Museum in the past. Please do all you can to help us today." Now, we can thank all of you who gave so generously.

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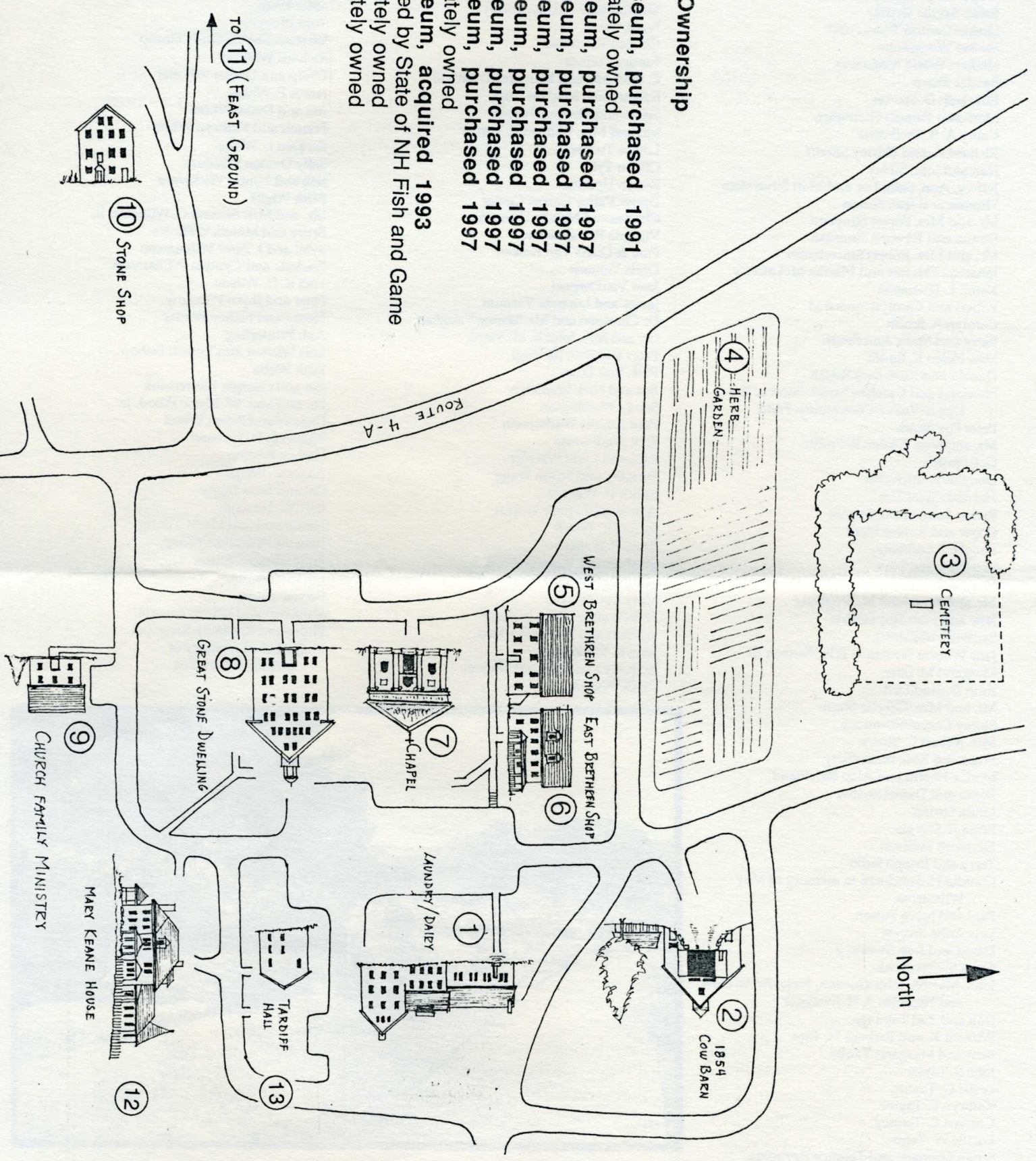


*The Enfield Shaker Museum Gardens - purchased September 1997*



# Key to Ownership

1. Museum, purchased 1991  
Privately owned
2. Museum, purchased 1997  
Privately owned
3. Museum, purchased 1997  
Privately owned
4. Museum, purchased 1997  
Privately owned
5. Museum, purchased 1997  
Privately owned
6. Museum, purchased 1997  
Privately owned
7. Museum, purchased 1997  
Privately owned
8. Museum, purchased 1997  
Privately owned
9. Museum, purchased 1997  
Privately owned
10. Museum, acquired 1993  
Owned by State of NH Fish and Game
11. Privately owned
12. Privately owned
13. Privately owned





## A Dream Come True

Little did anyone think, when the hammer fell on Reverend Keith Marsh's purchase at a foreclosure auction in May, that the Great Stone Dwelling would be part of the Enfield Shaker Museum less than five months later. Yet the miracle that so many Museum friends and supporters had dreamed about really did come true on September 29, when the Museum became the proud owner of 8.5 acres of land and four buildings at the center of the historic Shaker village.

"We are just overjoyed," commented museum president Mary Ann Haagen after the purchase was finalized. She spearheaded a three-month campaign that successfully raised \$275,000 for a down payment on the property and back taxes due to the town of Enfield.

Many long-time observers and supporters of the Shaker Museum felt great satisfaction that the Museum was able to acquire the Great Stone Dwelling. "It was the logical outcome, and we are very pleased," commented Sister Frances Carr, leader of the only remaining Shaker community at Sabbathday Lake, Maine.

Many people have asked why the Museum did not purchase the buildings last spring when they were offered for sale. At an advertised price of over a million dollars, the price was simply beyond the Museum's reach. "We had been working to find a buyer who would want to operate an inn and restaurant that would reflect the Shaker context," said Museum Director Sarah Saville Shaffer.

The Reverend Keith Marsh's successful bid of \$525,000 at that auction, brought the Shaker Museum to a hard awakening. "In retrospect," continued Shaffer, "it was that reality that allowed us to mobilize so quickly and effectively."

"The Campaign for Historic Enfield Shaker Village" made a direct appeal to a wide audience. Friends and businesses gave generously, knowing that if the effort failed, the money would be returned and the fate of the Shaker buildings would be uncertain once again.

As the Campaign progressed, so did the mortgage application and development of a business plan. The qualification requirements of Mascoma Savings Bank, while "they put us through the wringer, gave us a much more structured and stronger approach to the ownership of these buildings," Shaffer explained. "We hope to have a tenant in place and the restaurant doors open by the spring of 1998."

### Save These Dates

#### Upcoming Events at Enfield Shaker Museum

Sunday, November 9 ..... Annual Meeting and Reception  
Sunday, November 16 ..... Herbal Cosmetics Workshop  
Saturday, November 22 ... Holiday Gift Extravaganza  
Sunday, November 30 ..... Advent Wreath Workshop  
Saturday, December 6 ..... Shaker Woodworking Workshop  
Sunday, December 7 ..... Boxwood Tree Workshop  
Sunday, December 14 ..... Christmas Cookie Fair

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

#### Museum Staff:

Sarah Saville Shaffer, Director  
Michael O'Connor, Educator/  
Buildings Administrator  
Happy Griffiths, Herbalist

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## From the Director

Dear Friends,

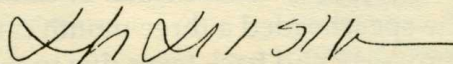
There are so many friends to thank for their help as we worked this summer to purchase and reunite the core structures of the Enfield Shaker village under single ownership. More than 800 individuals, organizations, and businesses donated money to help us save the village. The town of Enfield (Selectboard, Managers, and citizens) gave us strong support; advisers from the Service Corps of Retired Executives gave generously of their advice and expertise as we developed a business plan; Museum Volunteers gave unstintingly of their time to help with mailings, special events, publicity, and fundraising; our elected officials helped push through the loan guarantee from the Rural Development Agency; volunteers from Dartmouth College brought strong backs and youthful energy to clean out the Great Stone Dwelling; the New Hampshire Office of Historic Preservation provided valuable counsel; and our Board, led by President Mary Ann Haagen, worked tirelessly on every aspect of the purchase.

Our thanks go also to the many local businesses which supported the purchase through the gift of services and labor. Defiance Electric, Dana Robes Wood Craftsmen, Johnson and Dix Oil Heat Specialists, and Shaker Workshops are all helping us through the first months of stewardship of these historic properties.

The list of those who helped would be incomplete without special thanks to Mascoma Savings Bank, which granted the mortgage that made the purchase possible. Through its support of

the Museum's acquisition of this property, Mascoma Savings Bank has made a tremendous investment in the future of this community.

Please come celebrate this wonderful achievement at the Museum's Annual Meeting at 3 pm on Sunday, November 9 in the Meeting Room of the Great Stone Dwelling. I hope all of you will join us for the festivities, which will include a reception to honor all our contributors, and tours of the village core—the new Enfield Shaker Museum.



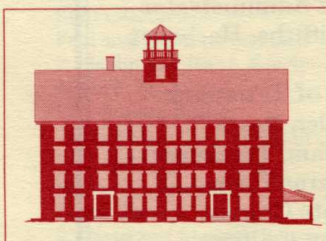
Sarah Saville Shaffer

PS: Be sure to mark your calendars now for Saturday, April 25, 1998—the date of our second Spring Forum. The topic will be the design, construction, social history, and preservation implications of the Great Stone Dwelling.

### Corporate Membership Program

The Enfield Shaker Museum introduced a Corporate Membership Program this summer. Our charter members are: Defiance Electric, Geokon, Globe Firefighter's Suits, Mascoma Savings Bank, and Yankee Publishing. We welcome their support.

The Corporate Membership Program is designed to give corporations and professional associations the opportunity to participate in the Museum's well-respected educational programs and to channel their community service philanthropy into a highly visible museum with a national reputation for quality education, innovation, and community involvement.



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