

The Friends' Quarterly

A Newsletter from the Enfield Shaker Museum

Volume X/No. 3

Fall 1998

Pontine Movement Theater Coming to Enfield "Journey to Heaven: The Shaker Way"

Museum members and friends will have an opportunity to share in a unique theater experience at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, October 25th when one of New Hampshire's most talented performance groups presents "Journey to Heaven: The Shaker Way." Pontine Movement Theater of Portsmouth will perform in "a place just right," the Meeting Room of the Great Stone Dwelling at Enfield Shaker Village.

"Journey to Heaven: The Shaker Way" is a dialogue between the historical and contemporary importance of the Shakers' theology and lifestyle, and contrasts the small everyday tasks that made up that lifestyle with the utopian ideal that framed it. Every word spoken in the production is taken from a Shaker journal, letter, testimony or spirit message. The six part structure of the journey, according to one reviewer, is "highly thematic, highly relevant and cleverly constructed. We are faced, ultimately with the same metaphysical and secular questions that the Shakers were."

Critics have hailed the work of this veteran company. "Each time I see a Pontine production, I feel as though I've stumbled into a diamond mine. The work they do is creative, original, exciting, produced in exquisite detail, and performed to perfection." M. Marguerite Mathews and Gregory Gathers, the artistic co-directors of the Pontine Movement Theater, "perfectly reflect the discipline of the Shakers with the intricate discipline of their performances. Not a movement is wasted, not an unnecessary expression crosses their faces, not a superfluous syllable is spoken. There is a gentleness and all-absorbing simplicity to every aspect of what is seen and heard." The creation of "Journey to Heaven" was made possible by grants from the Morton Fund of the Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation, the New Works Program of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts. We are grateful for grant support from the Samuel P. Hunt Foun-



Historically accurate dialog and costuming make this performance one you will not want to miss.

dation, Bell Atlantic and the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts for bringing the production to the Enfield Shaker Museum.

Seating is limited, so call the Museum office (603-632-4346) today to reserve your ticket. Adults \$14, museum members \$12. The Shaker Inn at the Great Stone Dwelling will serve a Shaker dinner following performance. Please call the Inn (603-632-7810) for reservations.

From the President

Sarah Shaffer stepped down as Director of the Museum in July, and was feted with several good bye events. At the August 1st Gala Dinner in the Inn, Gary Hamel presented the Museum with a painting of the 1854 Barn in honor of Sarah and all her hard work for this institution. Sarah oversaw a period of rapid growth during her three years at the Museum, and contributed so much of her time and energy to get us where we are today. Michael O'Connor has capably assumed the role of Acting Director. Having worked for the Museum for many years, Michael has a strong institutional memory, runs our computers, is our cooper and circular knitting machine expert, and our best tour guide.

The search for a new director is underway, guided by Sybil Williamson. We have received a large number of applications and identified four well-qualified potential candidates to be interviewed for the job. We hope to have a new director in place by the beginning of next year.

The Museum's work continues on at a rapid pace. With grant support from the Upper Valley Community Foundation, the Museum's permanent collection was completely reinstalled in the Laundry/Dairy Building around three main themes: the Shakers' interaction with the outside world, their trade and industry, and Shaker family life, giving visitors a fresh look at the Enfield Shakers.

The Shaker Inn in the Great Stone Dwelling opened this summer and has received rave reviews. The interior of the building is newly painted and furnished by Shaker Workshops and the effect is stunning. Historic Inns of New England has done a magnificent job and their expertise as innkeepers has made the opening and running of the Inn very smooth. The food is delicious and the rooms are wonderful. The Inn has done a great deal of publicity this summer and the Museum has seen a strong increase in attendance as well as sales. For 1999, our Calendar of Events will be planned jointly with the Shaker Inn. This is indeed a terrific collaboration. I believe that the future holds many exciting opportunities for joint events and expanded programming as we both grow into our potential.

Galen Beale

\$35,000 Award Received from IMLS

The Enfield Shaker Museum has been awarded a grant of \$35,000 for general operating support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), a federal agency that assists non-profit, educational organizations across the country. These highly competitive grants, notes Diane Frankel, Director of the IMLS, "provide national recognition for museums that have the highest approval of their peers. It is a stamp of achievement. Your museum's success in this competition demonstrates an outstanding level of professionalism among all of your staff."

IMLS received 942 applications requesting a total of almost \$80 million. The agency made only 186 awards (20% of those that applied) with the money available in 1998. The Museum, which maintains and interprets the architecture and lifestyle of the Enfield Shakers, will receive the grant payments over the next two years. "This grant," said Galen Beale, President of the Museum's Board of Trustees, "is the culmination of a landmark year at the Museum with last year's purchase of the village's historic core, and the beginning of restoration work this year." The successful application of the Enfield Shaker Museum was prepared by former Director Sarah Saville Shaffer.

The programs of the Enfield Shaker Museum are funded in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the New Hampshire Humanities Council, the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, and the Upper Valley Community Foundation.



The Inn has done much work in returning the Shaker's dining room to its original layout. Call (603) 632-7810 for reservations if you have not eaten there yet this summer.

SAGE THOUGHTS: LEMON BALM - *Melissa officinalis*

This fragrant, lemon scented member of the mint family is native to the Mediterranean region and is cultivated throughout much of the world. The early colonists from Europe and England brought lemon balm with them to plant in their new gardens and the Shakers mention it in their writings as early as 1830. The Latin name, *Melissa*, comes from the Greek word for 'bees.' The plant attracts bees in profusion and was often planted around hives.

For centuries Lemon Balm has been valued for its culinary and medicinal uses. As a medicinal herb it is said to have a soothing effect on the nervous system. The Shakers found it useful in lowering fevers and found a warm infusion taken freely produced sweating. It is also useful for treating insomnia, nervous tension, heart palpitations and digestive upset. The oil of this herb has been known to inhibit bacteria and viruses.

As a culinary herb, the leaves have a strong lemon scent and are a nice addition in marinades for fish and chicken, poultry seasoning, fruit salads, vegetables, desserts, punch, and tea. For a warming cup of tea, just pour 1 cup of boiling water over 2 teaspoons of dried leaves, cover and let steep for 10 minutes. Amy Bess Miller, in her book "Shaker Herbs," suggests adding a little rosemary or spearmint and a few cloves for extra flavor. Serve this tea warm or iced and slightly sweetened.

Lemon balm, an easily-grown perennial, thrives in full sun although it will do well in partial shade. It prefers moist well-drained soil with a high humus content and a pH of 7.0. With this in mind, sprinkle a little lime around the base of the plant in early spring. It can be grown from seed planted in February, by cuttings taken in early summer or by plant division, and grows 1 - 3 feet high. Mulch this herb during the winter to protect it from frost and cold weather damage. Lemon Balm can be harvested three times during the summer and early fall just before it blooms by cutting back the plant by one third. The leaves should be dried carefully indoors in a warm dark room or attic to preserve their lemony aroma, then stored in a glass jar in a dark cupboard.

Happy Griffiths, Herbalist



Museum Herbalist, Happy Griffiths, with a tour in the garden

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:

Michael O'Connor
Happy Griffiths, Herbalist

Board of Trustees:

Galen Beale, President
Ron Boehm, Treasurer
Sharon Carr
Monte Clinton, Vice-President
John Crilley
Charlie DePuy
Dan Eastman
Kathy Gamache
Linda Stamm
Jackson Verdery
Sybil Williamson, Secretary
Philip Zea

Newsletter Editor:

Maggie Stier

Volunteers are an essential component of the Museum, and this year our dedicated crew has worked extraordinarily hard, along with the staff, to meet the demands of our expanded operations. Accomplishments this year include: Opening a new store in the Great Stone Dwelling. Under the direction of Mary Ann Haagen, we have experimented with different products, and are finding out what schedules are best for each of our two stores.

Jane Gerard, head of our Curatorial Department, has spent many hours in the Laundry building this summer cataloging our collection. This year, because of many new gifts and loans, she has put in additional hours. We are grateful to her for her careful handling of our valuable objects and to our past Director, Sarah Shaffer, for her thorough teaching of accepted curatorial practices now so carefully applied to our collection.

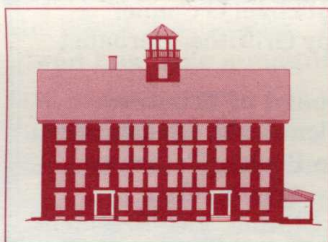
During the winter months a loyal and enthusiastic group of volunteers cleaned and removed years of accumulations in the Great Stone Dwelling. When the snows melted, we held several workdays that assisted with cleaning up our new purchases and some of the surrounding lands. The Brothers of LaSalette very generously lent us a crew of their service volunteers for two days. These young men from Tuscon, Arizona, cleaned the undercroft of the Chapel, the fifth floor of the Great Stone Dwelling, the West Brethren's Shop, and did some outside work as well.

Dart Corps, Dartmouth's volunteer corps, also came to work on the site. It was great to have these young people who generously donate their time to area non-profits. They too worked in the Great Stone Dwelling.

We thank each one of you who have donated volunteer time and talent to the Museum. We could not exist without you. Many volunteers help run our public events. Our loyal craftspeople, who come to demonstrate weekly, always fascinate and educate our visitors. Other volunteers serve on behind-the-scenes committees and focus on specific buildings or long range planning. We always welcome new volunteers, and can offer a variety of on-going and new projects to meet a wide range of interests. Please call the Museum and let us know you'd like to help— it's a lot of fun.



LaSalette Brother Claude supervised visiting volunteer workers Roberto Nunéz, Armando Altamirano, Dario Altamirano and Gilberto Hoyos during two days of heavy clean-up.



Enfield Shaker Museum
2 Lower Shaker Village
Enfield, New Hampshire 03748
(603) 632-4346

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Enfield, NH
Permit No. 1

A Year of Celebration

The Museum has continued to celebrate the purchase of the Historic Core of Enfield Shaker Village in a year-long series of public events.

Last winter we spent several months studying the Great Stone Dwelling and planning for its re-opening. Charlie DePuy drew detailed plans of the work to be undertaken by the Inn and has had almost daily interaction with them consulting on the completion of this work. Charlie has also drawn up a Site Plan addressing traffic issues and has shepherded it successfully through the Town Planning Board. This work has been a labor of love on Charlie's part and we are very grateful for his skill, patience and time.

In April we held the second Annual Spring Forum, funded by the NH Humanities Council; the topic was the Great Stone Dwelling. This year there was a sellout crowd coming to see the re-opened building and hear the three interesting lectures presented: Rob Emlen, University Curator and Senior Lecturer in American Civilization, was the keynote speaker. Rob spoke on the design and construction of the Dwelling and the possible contribution of architect Ammi Burnham Young; Richard Dabrowski described his findings on the elaborate system of built-in furniture in the Dwelling and set the buildings design in the context of Shaker philosophy. Mary Ann Haagen gave a fascinating talk about life and worship in the Great Stone Dwelling. Extracted from a wealth of primary source material, her talk creating a sharp and moving picture of daily life in this building.

In June we held our newest event, the Spring Family Festival. This hands on day featured pony rides, sheep shearing, sheep herding with dogs, and many hands on educational activities for all ages. The Herb Symposium, also held in June was a day long series of lectures, tours and workshops on Shaker and Native Americans herbal practices. Throughout the summer Happy Griffith has presented a varied program of herbal workshops ranging from Herbal Cosmetics to Herbal Wreaths.

Many special outdoor walks filled the summer season too: a hike up to the Feast Ground with Mary Ann Haagen, a walking tour of the Shaker Mill sites by Michael O'Connor and Exploring for Shaker Medicinal Herbs with Galen Beale.

The Enfield Lion's Club and the Enfield Fire Department ran the Enfield Family Fair again this August, and we applaud each organization for all that they contributes to the citizens of the town of Enfield. We also thank them for the generous donation each made to the Museum for the use of the land. In September, in conjunction with the Mary Keene House, Mascoma PTA, and the Shaker Inn at the Great Stone Dwelling we hosted the first Mascoma School District Teacher Appreciation Day.

This season we continued to use the Stone Mill building as an exhibit space. This two story open space with it's large windows that cast a soft light make this a beautiful exhibit space. Gary Hamel's show, "In Solstice Light", paintings done at three Shaker Villages: Enfield, NH, Sabbathday Lake, Maine and Canterbury, NH was very successful. Gary generously donated a portion of his profits from this show to the Museum. Gary has been an active and long time member of the Museum. This exhibit then traveled to Sabbathday Lake. Joan Feierabend's show, "Fluid Origins" was completely different and fascinating. Her connection to the period of Mother Ann's Work and its resultant spirit drawings was striking. This show provoked a good discussion on Shaker spirituality.

The Chapel, also purchased last year, was filled with music this summer. The Organ and Concert Series in the Mary Keane Chapel was very well attended and we hope to continue to use the Chapel more and more for musical performances. A generous grant from Linda McKim of Lebanon, NH will provide for the installation of two railings at the entrance of the Chapel. The railings are being forged by IronBear Forge of Enfield, NH.

September continued the busy summer. Another Heirloom Appraisal Day was combined with the opening of the Museum's Silent Auction in the Chapel's Undercroft. The Silent Auction will run until Columbus Day so please stop by and put in your bid.

As our season winds down we are beginning to plan for next year. We will continue to expand our programming: more music in the Chapel; more weekend programming with the Inn as well as programs that build on our new properties. We welcome your thoughts and we hope that you have enjoyed this year as much as we have.

Museum Preservation Plan is Underway

The Museum's 1997 purchase of the Great Stone Dwelling insured the permanent protection of the building under Museum ownership. Since then, both the Museum and the Inn have made a great effort to clean and spruce up the interior and exterior of the building to make it attractive and useful as both an inn and a museum exhibit. Lodging guests, diners and museum visitors have commented on what a wonderful job has been done so far, and many have asked "What's next?". In a word - Restoration.

This is not a renovation as you or I may do on our house, but a full-fledged, detailed, historically accurate restoration of every visible surface in the building. This will be an on-going project supervised by the Museum, progressing room by room, and resulting in a building which will again contain the attention to quality and detail that the Shakers originally designed and built into the building.

Before the work even begins comes the most important part of the project, the writing of a Preservation Plan. A committee has been formed, called the Preservation Committee, to oversee this planning and is comprised of Charlie Depuy and Galen Beale, Museum Board members; Richard Dabrowski and Carolyn Smith, of Shaker Workshops; and Michael O'Connor, acting director. The plan will include a history of the building, compiled through primary and secondary source information; a complete photographic documentation of the building as the Museum received it; a room by room inventory of missing features; inventories of windows, doors, built-ins, shutters and hardware; and technical drawings of all architectural features.

The importance of this plan cannot be underestimated, and we are indebted to all on the committee, especially Richard and Carolyn who have spent hours measuring and drawing built-ins throughout the building, and Charlie DePuy who formulated the site plan and did all the planning necessary to get the building up and running as an Inn.

Upcoming Events

October 9 Barry and Shelley Phillips will perform in the meeting room of the Great Stone Dwelling at 7:30 p.m. Fluent in a variety of instruments, Celtic harp, cello, oboe, tabla, English horn, tenor mandolin and penny whistle, Barry and Shelley are trained in both folk and classical traditions. Their concerts of Shaker music have "all the beauty of traditional music and all the excitement of modern arrangement and performance." Last year Shelly Phillips released a new CD, "Verdant Groves," which was recorded at four Shaker villages. The bell on the Great Stone Dwelling is heard dividing the tracks on this CD. The Museum Shop sells this recording and all proceeds benefit the Museum. Tickets are \$12.00 and \$10.00 for Museum members.

October 10 Harvest Festival 11:00 to 4:00. This day is filled with hands on educational activities for the family, carriage rides and sheep dog demonstrations, plus food including our own Shaker rosewater apple pies.

October 25 PONTINE Movement Theater will present their newest production, "Journey to Heaven; the Shaker Way" in the meeting room of the Great Stone Dwelling at 3:00 pm with a wine and cheese reception at 4:30. Thoroughly researched from Shaker letters diaries and published works, this Shaker dance incorporates Shaker music as the connecting background and Shaker spirit drawings as the visual motif. Tickets are \$14.00 and \$12.00 for members. The Shaker Inn at the Great Stone Dwelling offers a Shaker meal afterwards; please call the Inn for price or reservations.



What are these two guys up to? Earl Brady (l) and Charlie Depuy (r) build a stockade around the utility platform.

