
The Friends' Quarterly

A Newsletter from the Enfield Shaker Museum

Vol. XII, No.1

Fall 2000

Museum to Produce Walking Tour of Downtown Enfield, New Hampshire

The Enfield Shaker Museum has received a grant from the Upper Valley Community Foundation to support the publication of a guide to Shaker sites in downtown Enfield, New Hampshire. Enfield's central business district, along Main Street between Route 4 and Lake Mascoma, contains a number of nationally significant sites and buildings related to the history of Enfield's Shaker community. Shaker manufacturing operations, including furniture factories and textile mills, were located within the district in the nineteenth century. Residences were built to house workers employed in these enterprises. Further, as the Shaker settlements on the west side of the lake went into decline between 1880 and 1923, buildings were moved to locations in this area. Researched by Hanover High School teacher Pamela Miller, this tour guide will be user-friendly focusing upon the historic significance of these structures and their present-day locations.

"The Trustees of the Enfield Shaker Museum are pleased that the Upper Valley Community Foundation has chosen to invest in this project which will benefit the town at the same time that it will help the museum to fulfill its mission of interpreting and preserving the complex history of the Enfield Shaker village," observed Dr. William D. Moore, Executive Director of the Enfield Shaker Museum. Produced and distributed with the assistance of the town of Enfield, the Enfield Historical Society, and the Enfield Village Association, a newly formed community development organization, this guide will be an important component of Enfield's planned economic renaissance.

The Shakers are America's largest and most successful communal religious organization. The Enfield Shaker community was one of eighteen villages in the United States, located from Maine to Kentucky and from Massachusetts to Ohio. Shakers resided in Enfield, New Hampshire, from the 1790s to the 1920s.

The Upper Valley Community Foundation is a joint initiative of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and the Vermont Community Foundation. The Upper Valley Community Foundation makes grants to nonprofit organizations each year to help preserve and improve the quality of life in communities of the Upper Valley along the Connecticut River.



Shaker Mills dominated downtown Enfield in the 19th Century

Photo: Enfield Shaker Museum

From the Director:

"Special Places!"

Dear Friends:

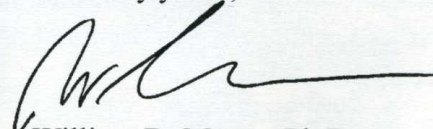
In April, the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance asked me to testify in support of Senate Bill 401 at a public hearing of the New Hampshire House's Resources, Recreation and Development Committee. I was pleased to do so! This important piece of legislation, passed this last summer, established the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, a permanent public-private partnership offering financial support to communities across New Hampshire which are working to conserve significant lands and historic structures. Individuals and organizations from across the Granite State, including ours, expressed strong support for this bill, and the organizers of the movement promoting it chose "Special Places!" as their rallying cry. This government program is designed to protect and preserve the "special places" that elevate the quality of life in New Hampshire.

In preparing to express support for this legislative initiative, I spent some time ruminating on the Enfield Shaker village as a special place. I decided that, in fact, it is not a single special place, but rather a collection of them linked by a wonderful and unique history of individuals grappling with the existential questions of being human. Most museum members probably can list three or four of their favorite places in the compound. Mine include the meeting room on the second floor of the Great Stone Dwelling, where I can practically hear the sound of ghostly feet shuffling in worship; the area behind the Stone Mill, where the Shakers moved an entire hillside to facilitate the flow of water driving their machinery; and the undercroft of the Mary Keane Chapel, where the anti-secular and anti-materialistic message of La Salette is expressed so evocatively in stained glass.

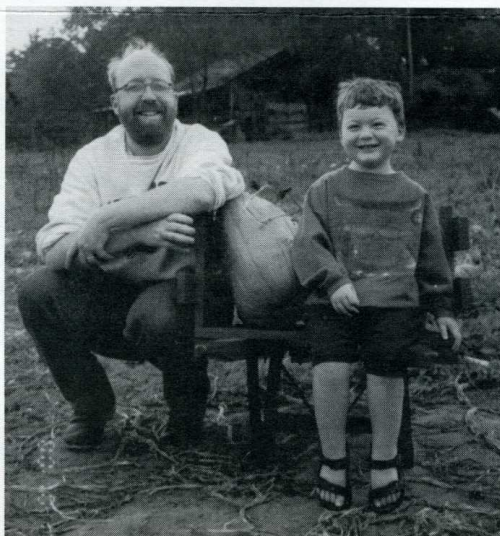
It is admirable that, as citizens of New Hampshire, we have cooperated to ensure that our state government will preserve our natural and cultural heritage. As a lover of American religious history and material culture, however, I find it even more striking that the individuals who compose the Enfield Shaker Museum, through private initiative, have protected so many of the special places here on the west bank of Lake Mascoma. As the museum's executive director, each day I revel in the unique qualities of the compound, and every day I marvel at what the institution has accomplished in its brief fourteen-year existence.

The Museum has evolved considerably since its founding in 1986; but we still have significant work ahead of us. The future is still uncertain! Please rally with us in our cry for "Special Places!" and join us in our efforts to protect and preserve the special places unique to the Enfield Shaker village.

Sincerely yours,



William D. Moore, Ph.D.
Executive Director



Executive Director William D. Moore, with his three-year-old son Gideon, in the pumpkin patch.

Great Stone Dwelling Ornament

The Enfield Shaker Museum is pleased to offer a new 24kt. gold electroplated ornament in the shape of the Great Stone Dwelling. This ornament measures approximately 3 inches in size. It makes an attractive lamp pull, window decoration, or tree ornament. It is convenient to mail as a gift and is a wonderful reminder of the Enfield Shaker Museum. The ornament retails for \$10.50; a display stand is available for an additional \$6.00. To purchase by phone call (603) 632-4346, or just come by one of the Museum's shops.

***Yankee Magazine* cooperates with the Enfield Shaker Museum in Community Partners Program**

The Enfield Shaker Museum is pleased to announce that it has been selected by *Yankee Magazine* to participate in its Community Partners Program. This program will help to fund the Museum's ongoing efforts to preserve the site established by the Shakers in 1793 on Lake Mascoma in Enfield, New Hampshire. The Museum has purchased, and seeks to renovate, historic buildings erected by the Shakers and the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette, including the Great Stone Dwelling, the largest Shaker dwelling structure erected anywhere in the world.

Yankee Magazine's Community Partners program helps New England's nonprofit organizations to help themselves, with the assistance of their communities, by providing ways to raise awareness of, and funds for, their initiatives. Community Partner groups sell subscriptions to *Yankee Magazine*. For every \$20.00 subscription sold, the non-profit organization receives \$10.00 toward its program goals.

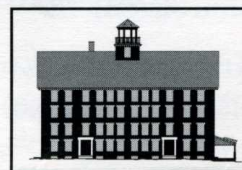
"We are delighted to be a partner in *Yankee Magazine's* Community Partners program," remarked Dr. William D. Moore, Executive Director of the Enfield Shaker Museum. "Our current goals include maintaining the unique and historic buildings already in our possession while presenting innovative programs to educate the general public about the cultural heritage of the site. To accomplish these goals, *Yankee* and the Enfield Shaker Museum are enlisting the support of our members, others in the community, and local businesses. We especially want to thank the Shaker Inn at the Great Stone Dwelling and Dana Robes Woodcraftsmen for helping us with this fund-raising endeavor."

"Since 1935, *Yankee* has been writing about what makes New England communities special," said Jamie Trowbridge, President of Yankee Publishing, Inc. "We implemented this program to help make sure our communities stay that way, as needs increase and financial support gets tougher to come by."

Subscriptions are available at the Museum's web site, www.shakermuseum.org, at the Museum's shops, and at upcoming events. To order a subscription by phone, or to obtain information on how you or your company can help, call (603) 632-4346.

To learn more about *Yankee Magazine's* Community Partners, call (800) 729-9265, ext. 406, visit *Yankee's* web site at www.NewEngland.com, or write YMPC, Yankee Magazine, Box 520, Dublin, NH 03444. Headquartered in Dublin, New Hampshire, *Yankee Magazine* is published by Yankee Publishing, Inc., which also publishes *The Old Farmer's Almanac*,

Subscribe to *YANKEE* Magazine and Preserve the Enfield Shaker Village



Join *Yankee* and the Enfield Shaker Museum in a special fund-raising effort to preserve and restore historic buildings built by both Shakers, who occupied the site from 1793 to 1923, and the Catholic Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette, who ran a seminary on the grounds from 1927 to 1985. Each subscription includes:

- ◆ One year of *Yankee Magazine*!
- ◆ Free *Yankee* cookbook!
- ◆ A \$10 donation to the Enfield Shaker Museum.

☐ **YES!** Please enter my subscription to *Yankee* right away at the low price of \$20 (*Yankee* alone regularly costs \$24!) and send my FREE *Yankee Church Supper Cookbook*. I understand that for each paid subscription, the Enfield Shaker Museum will receive a donation of \$10.

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Renewals extend current subscription.

Donors will receive gift announcement cards. (Outside U.S. add \$6).

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The Museum's Mission Statement

In April of this year, the Museum's Board of Trustees adopted the following Mission Statement. This concise, but inclusive accounting of our goals, directs the Museum to fully explore the rich and complex history of this important site

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Enfield Shaker Museum, a not-for-profit educational institution, is to foster public knowledge and understanding of the cultural, religious, and economic history of New England by interpreting the complex and multi-faceted site settled by the Enfield Shakers. The Museum collects, preserves, and interprets the buildings, material culture, and landscapes produced and used both by the Shakers and by the Missionaries of La Salette. Through collections, research facilities, exhibits, and public programs, the Museum promotes discussion of the great existential questions of human life including community, spirituality, creativity, and economic activity.

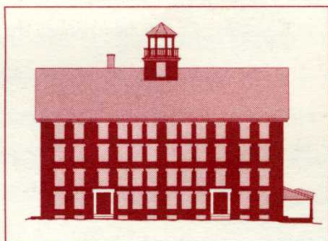
HAVE YOU ... remembered the Enfield Shaker Museum in your will? For further information about how to help the Museum when planning your estate, contact William D. Moore at (603) 632-4346.

And Our Special Thanks To:

The staff and board express their sincere gratitude to STONEWALL FARM, in Keene, New Hampshire, for the loan of the disc harrow used on Harrowing Day; THE PATTEN FAMILY of Springfield, for kindly sharing their expertise and oxen with us on Harrowing Day; THE AMES FAMILY of Lebanon, PRISCILLA PARMENTER of Wilmot Flat, SUE HAMMOND of New London, and the MILLER FAMILY of Plainfield, for their assistance in making Sheep Shearing and Textile Arts Day a success.

Do you like kids?

In developing our educational outreach programs for school groups, the Museum seeks a volunteer to play a leadership role in coordinating events for fourth grade classes. This is an exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic individual to help expand the Museum's impact on the Upper Valley. For further information contact the executive director at (603) 632-4346.



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Because of the generosity of the following individuals, 1999 was a landmark year for the Museum's Annual Appeal, which raised more than \$42,000. Funds raised during the annual campaign support the Museum's general operations and are vital to the institution's success. The board and staff extend their heartfelt thanks to all our donors for their continuing support!

Donors to the 1999 Annual Appeal

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Wendell Hess Memorial Maple Tree

Earlier this summer, the Museum planted a maple tree as a living memorial to Wendell Hess. Mr. Hess was a long-time resident of Enfield and a loyal supporter of the Museum. He was known throughout the world of Shaker enthusiasts for his history of the Enfield community. His friends and family gathered in the Meeting Room of the Great Stone Dwelling following his funeral on July 29th.

Mr. Hess's memorial tree was made possible by many generous donations to the Museum made in his honor. It replaces a tree missing from the rows of historic Maples lining either side of Chosen Vale Lane. This thoroughfare, just south of the Great Stone Dwelling, originally provided public access to the Shakers' meeting house.

The planting of this tree is part of the Museum's continuing endeavor to replace the noble boughs lost to storm and disease over the past century. Contact the Museum office if you would like to sponsor the planting of a tree to mark a significant occasion in your life, or that of a loved one.

*Members of Wendell Hess's family
 gather around the maple tree planted in
 his memory.*

