
The Friends' Quarterly

A Newsletter from the Enfield Shaker Museum

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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
