

Vol XX

The Friends' Quarterly

A Newsletter from the Enfield Shaker Museum

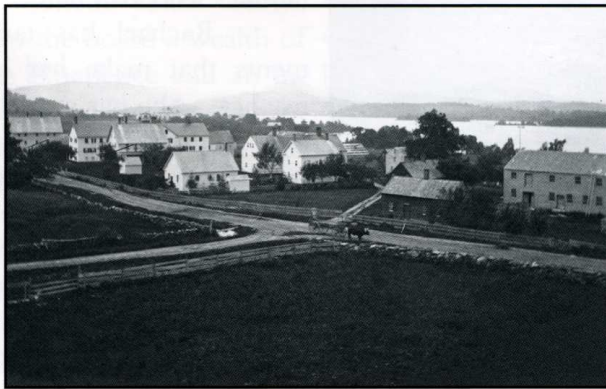
The Noble History of the Second Family of Shakers, Enfield, NH, 1794-1894

By Mary Ann Haagen

It would have made things easier for the Ministry and Church Elders of the Enfield Shaker Community if the Second Family had quietly and willingly closed their doors and united with their fellow believers at the Church. Certainly there was plenty of room for them in the Great Stone Dwelling. And the Church desperately needed the financial resources that would accrue from the sale of the Second Family's valuable farm and timber holdings. The Church could absorb their still profitable industries like broom making and the valerian extract business, and the income could be used to defray debt. Real estate taxes and maintenance costs could be eliminated, and Second Family elder, William Wilson, could redirect his energy to assisting aging Elder Abraham Perkins at the Church. It seemed quite logical to everyone – everyone except the Believers being asked to leave the home they loved.

To understand why a move to the Church Family felt so difficult we need only to look at the family's long and proud history. The Second Family was organized in 1794, one year after the Church Family was called into order. These were not "second tier" believers. Its members had been essential participants in Shakerism's exciting formative years. Like the Church they had a full measure of commitment. Molly Estabrooks had visited Mother Ann and been converted by her. Moses Johnson had built the meetinghouses that Shaker Church families throughout New England were gathered around. Fortune Peters, a former slave, was a full member, a living testimony to Shakerism's commitment to gender and racial equality. Nathaniel Barker had come to Enfield from Warner, NH, bringing thirteen other Shaker converts to strengthen the core of new believers here. When James Jewett's home was burned on Shaker Hill, Nathaniel's residence became the gathering place for worship until the society relocated across the lake. Once the Second Family was established, Nathaniel was "named its first Trustee, had the management of the farm, and had general charge of the business of the family." When he retired his sons Samuel and John took up his responsibilities, serving the family faithfully until their deaths in 1852 and 1860. Nathaniel, Samuel and John became so strongly identified with the interests of the Second Family that it was often referred to as "The Barker Family" by local residents.

Members of the family signed a covenant almost identical to that of the Church. Their leadership structure was also identical. Several large kinship groups joined the Shakers at the Second, giving that family the benefit of two generations of committed believers. But though they operated under a parallel spiritual and governmental structure they maintained a respectful independence from the Church. Second Family trustees held the family property. The



The Enfield Shaker Second Family, n.d. Image from the Collection of the Dartmouth College Library.

products of their farm and profits from their industries were for their exclusive support. Visiting with other Enfield Shaker families was extremely limited. A separate school was maintained, and except for special occasions, the family worshipped in their own meeting room. Like the Church, they did all they could to model their community life on the example set by the Shaker society at New Lebanon, NY. When visitors from the societies in Kentucky visited in 1869 they praised their adherence to Shaker ideals.

*"This family cultivate Valerian and make extract to sell, and raise Garden seeds and carry on the coopering business, farming and gardening in a small way. And everything is as neat and as clean as a penny, and the folks seem as pure minded and bright as Saints ought to be. We had a delightful visit with them, and found them social, free and pleasant."*²

The Second Family was consistently fortunate in its leaders. Not only were its business and farm interests well managed, but Shaker Elders and Eldresses like Abraham Blodgett, Phebe Kidder, Timothy Randlett, Nancy Allard, Hannah Taylor, William Wilson and Betsey Hartford, provided strong, inspired spiritual leadership. To its credit the New Hampshire Ministry and Church Elders tried not to raid the family's leadership pool to fill gaps in other places. In 1843 New Lebanon brother Giles Avery reported back to his Ministry, "I went to the Second family on a visit. There is here about 114 souls, a powerful strong family, particularly on the sisters side." And when Schubel Prentis came in 1847 to teach the family new broom making techniques he found them filled with spiritual zeal.

*Went to the Second Family; took a visit until evening. Then we assembled with the family in the meeting room. Sat down and visited one hour then put our chairs away. The singers pitched a quick song. All were in motion. I never saw such dancing before. The Brethren and Sisters took in Spirits freely, and they brot many precious gifts for the visitors."*³

Like Shaker families everywhere, the Second Family also suffered losses both material and spiritual. In 1851 the New Hampshire ministry reported that fifteen children and adults had left the family that year. In their opinion, however, those defections made the family "none the worse. Disorderly members bring no blessing." In 1866 fire took its toll on the community's resources.

*Sept 8, a large fire at our South Family consuming two barns, one broom shop, one tool house, one shed and one house which had been occupied by swine with most of contents 40 tons hay, one ton broom brush, 25 bushels peas, 25 doz brooms, broom machines, a large assortment of farming tools of almost every description, a good assortment of Carpenter and Joiners tools &c &c besides damaging the house which was barely saved by means of Engine from Second Family."*⁴

(Continued on page 6.)



Stone Mill Restoration Continues With the Help of New Volunteer

For many, the Stone Mill is a place of fond memories. It's where some people attended the Harvest Festival as child; where they danced or listened to music; where some even had their weddings. For volunteer John O'Donnell, it's a place where he can use his skills and give back to the community.

While the building is continually maintained these days, the biggest challenge are the windows. The wooden frames have deteriorated to such a degree that the glass panes drop out on average of two per month.

Repairing the windows appealed to John. He had joined our volunteer team in June, after answering the Museum's ad in the *Valley News*. He is a house painter and lives in Canaan, and this is his first experience as a volunteer. Tom Boswell, Property Manager, gave him a tour and pointed out projects that might interest him. John mowed the Feast Ground and then started to repair the exterior signs. Meanwhile, he organized a system to repair the windows in the Stone Mill. He set up a "shop" in the basement, where he works without disturbing the visitors. According to Tom, the results are "fantastic."

John's attraction to the Museum stems from the Shakers' "strong spiritual interest and their devotion to creating community." He also likes preserving the Shaker buildings for future generations, learning about them and enjoying the property and its history. Thank you, John!

Museum Welcomes Year-Round Tour Guide Rachael Cohen

Rachael Cohen joined the Museum staff this summer. Her job is primarily to give tours, but she is also assisting in the store and is helping develop interactive programs and activities for families who visit here.

Rachael has taught in many environments that make her a flexible and engaging teacher. She has a graduate degree in Environmental Education from the Audubon Expedition Institute, an unusual program that involves traveling throughout the U.S. to study ecology, natural history, community building, folklore and history by direct experience. She has applied her experiential learning techniques at the Vermont Humanities Council's Reading and Discussion programs, Elderhostel and the University of Michigan's New England Literature Program. It was on a NELP trip in 1995 that she first visited Canterbury Shaker Village. Since then, she has read a great deal about the Shakers and visited Canterbury almost every year.

Rachael is a year-round employee. Her work in developing family programs at the Museum is funded in part by a grant from the NH State Council on the Arts.

"We are pleased to include Rachael as a member of our team," said Executive Director Mary Boswell. "Family programs are a key part of our educational mission. Her perspective and experience are greatly valued."



Fall Programs and Events

Shaker Lecture Series and Dinner Thursdays, Sept. 16 – Oct. 21, 6 - 7:30 p.m.



This program series will culminate with a dinner. Attend all six programs and dinner for only \$100. Or pick your favorite: each lecture is \$25 and includes wine and refreshments. The final program and dinner on Oct. 21 is \$35.

Sept. 16: Shaker Spirituality (Mary Ann Haagen)
Sept. 23: Enfield Shaker Images (Carolyn Smith)
Sept. 30: Shaker Medicinal Herbs (Galen Beale)
Oct. 7: Shaker Music (Mary Ann Haagen)
Oct. 14: Paint Colors and Symbolism in the Great Stone Dwelling (Dick Dabrowski)
Oct. 21: Shaker Archeology (David Starbuck)

Volunteer Recognition Breakfast Sunday, September 18, 9:00 a.m.

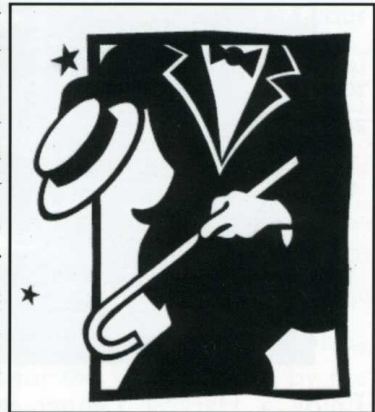
We thank our volunteers for their time, talent and dedicated service, and we invite them to attend this annual breakfast held in their honor. They will see an entertaining summary of last year's events that they helped accomplish! Our



hosts will be the Enfield Shaker Museum's board of trustees. (Last year, Barbara Brady, left, presented a Shaker box to Sue Hammond for her outstanding long-term service.)

An Evening of Vaudeville! Saturday, September 18, 7 p.m.

Vaudeville has a strong tradition in the Upper Valley. Tourists and local residents flocked to see the variety theater that was offered in their communities. The Shakers also entertained themselves with their own va-



riety shows and performances. We continue this tradition in the 19th century Stone Mill. Our program includes comedy skits, song, dance, and sing-a-longs! A bake sale is included. Admission: \$15/member; \$18 non-member, children 12 and under, \$8.

Fall Foliage Weekend & Harvest Festival (11 a.m. – 4 p.m.) Friday - Saturday, October 1-2

On Friday, enjoy a Harvest dinner in the Shaker dining room. Stay overnight and have a "Simple Shaker" breakfast in the morning. On Saturday, take a horse-drawn wagon ride! Create cornhusk dolls, bird feeders, cookies, bookmarks, candles and child-sized scarecrows! Crank your own ice cream, churn butter! Enjoy craft and animal demonstrations. Lunch includes Shaker rose-water apple pie. Saturday's event is included in the general admission. *Sponsored by Clark-Mortenson Agency, Inc. and Family Pharmacy.*

(More programs - continued on p. 4.)



Fall Programs and Events

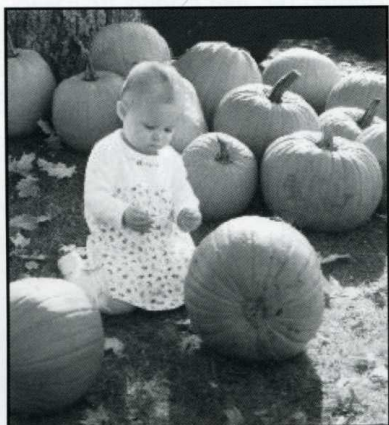
Harvest Dinner Friday, October 1, 6:30 p.m.



Enjoy a Harvest Dinner in the Great Stone Dwelling, where the Shakers shared their meals from 1841 to 1923. \$30/member and \$35/non-members, includes a complimentary glass of wine. Cash bar is also offered. Reserve now for the dinner and Harvest Festival Weekend, which includes an overnight stay in one of the original dwelling rooms and a "Simple Shaker" breakfast.

Apples and Pumpkins and Pears, Oh My! Saturday, October 23, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Enjoy our pancake brunch, with apples, pears and more! Enjoy talks, demonstrations and games. Learn how to pair cheeses, apples and pears together. Learn about the Shakers' apples. Activities include apple bobbing, apple tasting, cider tasting and an apple pie contest. Check out our pies, candied and caramel apples, and cider donuts! Lots of pumpkins, too! \$20 per adult; \$5/child.



Taste of the Upper Valley Friday, Nov. 5, 6:30 p.m.

Join us for an evening of food, fun and festivities! The Upper Valley's top purveyors of fine foods will offer sample culinary works of art - "signature" appetizers, entrees and desserts. Complimentary wines and non-alcoholic beverages will be served. A fabulous auction, offering many high quality goods, services and experiences, will be offered, with the entertaining auctioneer Leigh Webb (retired assistant director from Hollywood). \$50 admission.



Annual Meeting for Members Sunday, November 14, 2:00 p.m.

Members are invited to review the Museum's past achievements and share our vision for the future. Members also have the benefit of voting on the Museum's governance.

Quilt Show

Friday – Sunday, November 12-14

Explore the beautiful colors and patterns of a large array of local quilts. The weekend will also include demonstrators, a quilt appraiser, a pillow workshop, lunch, and raffles. This event is included in the general admission.



Holiday Programs and Events

Holiday Shopping at the Museum Store

It's that time of year again, and the Enfield Shaker Museum Store is a great place to do your holiday shopping. Stop by and browse items by local artisans and talented craftspeople. We have a large selection of wonderful items, from colorful hats and mittens, to oval boxes made by a variety of artisans. Also check out herbal soaps, baskets, wooden bowls, gold and silver jewelry, and much, much more! Make sure you take advantage of our Item of the Month: in September save on Mole Hollow full taper and half-taper candles. We are open Monday through Saturday at 10 am, and Sundays at noon. Please feel free to call us for more information at (603) 632-4346 or e-mail shakermuseum.giftshop@gmail.com.

Festival of Trees

December 1-22

In the 20th century, the Shakers decorated a tree for the holidays. Visit the Great Stone Dwelling and see a tree in every dwelling room! Vote for your favorite in the kid's and adult categories. The two winners will each receive a \$100 prize! The winners will be announced on Sun., Dec. 19, at noon. Admission is \$5; members, children and Enfield residents are admitted for free.

Holiday Open House

Saturday, December 4, Noon – 5:30 p.m.

The Great Stone Dwelling will be decorated for the holidays. Our Store will feature locally hand-crafted items. Enjoy hot cocoa, music and more! Free admission.

Candlelight Holiday Dinner

Saturday, December 4, 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy a traditional holiday roast beef dinner in the historic Great Stone Dwelling with your family! The "stone house" captures the Shaker ideals of simplicity, spirituality and order. \$35/member; \$40/non-member. Register by Dec. 3. Catered by Stone Wall Catering.

Christmas with Santa

Saturday, December 11, 1-3 p.m.

Have your picture taken with Santa! Create your own greeting card! Explore the dwelling rooms - each has a tree for the holiday season! Vote for your favorite! Enjoy cocoa and look for bargains in the Museum Store. Admission is \$5; members, children, and Enfield residents are admitted free.

Cookie Fair

Sunday, December 12, 1:00 p.m.

Select from 100 varieties of homemade cookies - festively arranged for the season! Sold by the pound. Free admission to all.

Christmas Sing Along

Saturday, December 18, 12-3 p.m.

Trustee Donna Butler will lead the "joyful noise" of a participatory sing-a-long of your favorite Christmas songs from 1-2 in the Great Stone Dwelling. Browse for bargains in the gift shop and view the holiday trees in each dwelling room - vote for your favorite! Sample hot cocoa and cookies. Admission is \$5; children, members, and Enfield residents are free.

Saturday, December 31, 6:30 p.m.

New Year's Eve Ball

Start the celebrations at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails, followed by a seated dinner and dance through the New Year! \$60/member; \$80/non-member. Dancing only \$10 per adult; 9 p.m. - midnight. Limited tickets; advance registration only.



(Continued from page 1)

It is a testimony to the family's strong economy that they recovered quickly from these losses. A major component of that strength had been the trustees' decision to build its industries at home, rather than across the lake in North Enfield. They had acquired water rights that gave them superior waterpower for their industries. They hired help from the world, and had many advantageous contracts with outside businesses, but did not entwine their interests with outsiders as Church Family trustee C. M. Dyer was doing. A report by the New Lebanon Ministry in 1850 indicates the variety and ingenuity of Second Family operations.

We went from here to the Sisters shop, here the Sisters have the use of water power to help them do their work, one power loom, a machine to twist and spool yarn, and 4 knitting (sic) machines to knit flannel draws for sale, we saw a new fashion churn, to churn by air. We went from here down to the saw mill, it is a good mill, and does good business, we went to their machine shop the Brethren work at different kinds of business; their greatest branch carried on here is coopering, they expect to make about 4000 pails and 500 tubs the coming winter, it is most all done by water power.⁵

With all its prudent management of resources, debt free ownership of a productive and beautiful farm, faithfulness to the Shaker way of life, and proud history, the Second Family could not overcome the problem they shared with Shaker communities everywhere – an inability to attract new converts. Although Trustee and Elder William Wilson worked tirelessly right through the decade of the 1880s to upgrade and modernize the family's buildings and industries, his efforts did not bring new members to the community.⁶ Ultimately this was the reality that forced the family to accept the decision of the New Hampshire ministry. In December 1893, weeks after the Enfield Society celebrated its Centennial, the second family was closed and brought into the Church. Elder Abraham Perkins knew the distress the family felt.

The dissolving of the Second Family has been long contemplated and a removal of its members to the church and the family at the north has commenced. The family at the south contained only fifteen in number the family is mostly of advanced age or very young and unable for proper support creditable to a christian people. This breaking up and dissolution of our families and Societies brings more or less of burden and trial. Its necessity is to be very much regretted. It pains me sorely.⁷

Two months later in the February issue of the Shaker publication *The Manifesto* Brother George Kirkley shared these thoughts about the consolidation of the two families.

It has been decided to close our South family and as fast as business will permit, the members are moving to the church and North family. Elder William Wilson comes to the Church to be associated with Elder Abraham Perkins. We make them all heartily welcome, and trust that they will find in the strength of our numbers a consolation that will in some degree, compensate for the loss of their dear old home. It is one hundred years since the South family was established. On the 7th ult. we held a Society meeting at their home to commemorate this event. From the older Brethren and Sisters, we received many beautiful lessons of patience and forbearance, through examples and incidents drawn from the lives of the first Believers in this place. The room in which we met is 50x30 ft., arched over and contains what has been called the finest floor among Believers. Not a nail head is visible, and the joints between the boards are scarcely discernable, so closely is the grain of the wood matched. A worthy record in itself of the faithfulness of the early Believers.⁸

Faithfulness was a hallmark of the Second Family not only in its early days but through its one hundred year history. Though there are now few physical evidences of this once flourishing community, it contributed much to the vitality of Shakerism in Enfield.

Footnotes

¹In most official Shaker documents the term "Second Family" is used. Because the community was located at the south end of Mascoma Lake it was, in later years, commonly referred to as the "South Family".

²Western Reserve Historical Society (hereafter WRHS) Shaker Manuscript Collection
VB 228, Travel Journal of the South Union and Pleasant Hill, KY Ministry to the East
6 July 1869

³WRHS VB 331 22 February 1847

⁴Canterbury Shaker Village Archive, #769 p. 87

⁵WRHS VB 147 Travel Journal of the New Lebanon Ministry to the East, 9 July 1850.

⁶The Concord Daily Monitor, Monday 11 October, 1887 *A Visit to the Shakers* "William Wilson the head man of this family [Second] has been making extensive improvements in their water privileges. A main 6-inch pipe has been laid to their buildings with lateral pipes of various sizes as to use in their dwelling, stables and work shops. Thirteen hydrants, with a proper supply of hose, gives ample protection against fire. Three water motors furnish power to run their machinery. Mr. Wilson turned the water from a 5/8-inch pipe into a motor which gave sufficient power and speed to grind roots, cut hay and straw, etc. A motor with a 3/8-inch pipe turned a churn, washing machine, and some other light machinery. The whole extra expense thus far has been nearly \$10,000. The other families have similar conveniences, but not so elaborate as at the South."

⁷WRHS IV-A-15, 10 December 1893 Abraham Perkins to Alonzo Hollister

Mary Ann Haagen Haagen is a former trustee of the Museum and a founder of the organization. She serves on the Museum's Collections and Exhibitions Committee and Educational Programming Committee. She has written many articles about the Shakers and advised staff members Richard Burley and Nicole Ford on the research of the Museum's current exhibition on the Second Family.

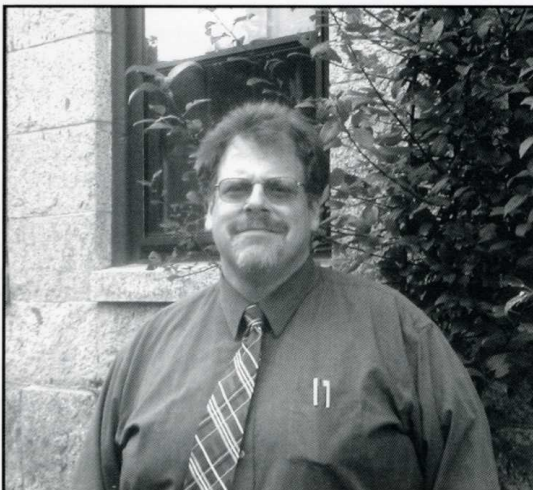
Dominic Albanese Joins Museum's Board of Trustees

At the Museum's board meeting in August, Dominic C. Albanese was elected as a new trustee. At the Annual Meeting on November 14, the membership will have the opportunity to re-elect him for a three-year term.

Dominic brings to the board a wealth of financial and fundraising experience and an interest in Shaker heritage. He is a lifelong resident and a third-generation resident of the Town of Enfield. His family lived on the 18-acre farm on Main Street next to the late Ann Tarney, whose family was friends with the Shakers. As a boy, he first learned about the Shakers from Ann.

Today, Dominic works for Dartmouth-Hitchcock, his place of employment for the past 10 years. He reports to the Chief Advancement Officer and is responsible for budgets/human resources, gift recording, information technology, and research & records for the Advancement division of the academic medical center.

Dominic served on the Museum's board when Sarah Saville Shaffer was executive director, and the center of operations was the Laundry/Dairy building. He served on the Town of Enfield's Selectboard for four years and the Budget Committee for 12 years. He also served on the Enfield Village Association board. His other interests are studying medieval and imperial periods of Russian history. He lives in Enfield with his partner Brenda Sturtevant, who is a nurse at the Norris Cotton Cancer Center.



Staff Farewells

We say goodbye to Richard Burley and Nicole Ford, who have worked in the Museum Store and as tour guides for more than a year. They will be moving to Boston, where Richard will attend Boston College and Nicole will continue her career in the museum field. Both will still assist the Museum with exhibitions and other projects. Nicole is a third generation member of the Museum; her grandmother Kathy Ford is a volunteer craft demonstrator, and her mother Debra Ford is the Museum's bookkeeper; Debra's business Opus Office Programs is a Corporate Member and Sponsor.



Museum Promotes Hollyann Martin as New Store Manager

Hollyann Martin, who had been working as a tour guide and store assistant at the Museum this summer, has been promoted to the position of Store Manager, replacing Richard Burley, who left the Museum in August to return to school to pursue a Ph.D. in English.

Hollyann brings to the Museum several years of retail experience in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. She majored in history at Salem State College and is thrilled to be able to use that knowledge as well as her retail talents in the museum world. She will continue to work as a tour guide at the Museum part-time.



Enfield Shaker Museum

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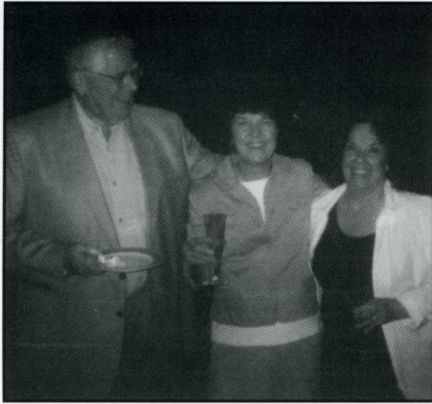
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A Tribute to Former Trustee John Hilberg (1940-2010)



John Hilberg with wife Inge and Executive Director Mary Boswell in August, 2006.

John Hilberg, a former trustee of the Museum, passed away on July 26, 2010. A modest and very private man, he wanted no public accolades for his devotion, but this tribute is meant to help those who fondly remember him.

John's association with the Enfield Shaker site dates back to his childhood in New York. His mother had become seriously ill, and his father sent him to stay with the Missionaries of La Salette in Enfield for a time about 1947. John missed his mother terribly. In protest, he decided not to bathe, and after several days, he was thrown into the lake! He also contracted chicken pox and had to stay alone on the top floor of a building where he was quarantined. It was a traumatic time for John.

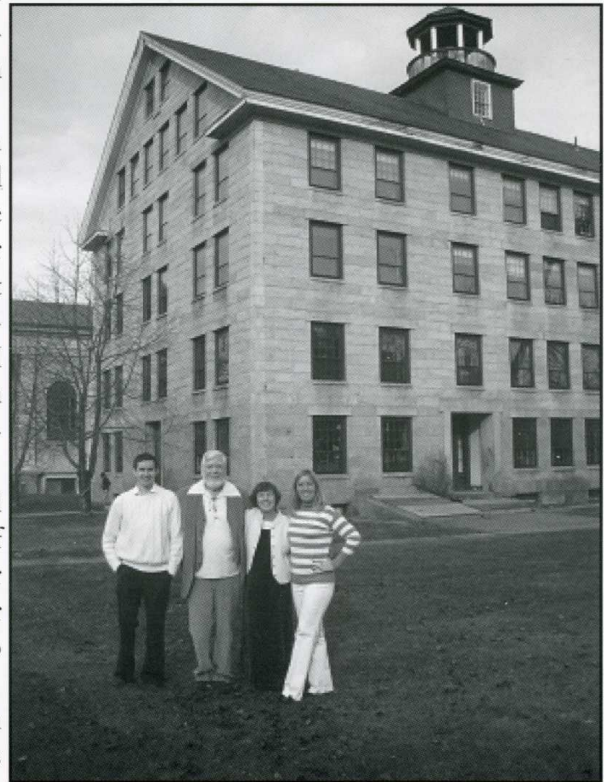
Years later, John became a successful entrepreneur. He founded StockCross, the pioneer discount stock brokerage firm in Boston, and later Calcogen, an alternate energy and cogeneration developer in California.

John felt it was very important to preserve the Shakers' historic structures and heritage. He joined the Museum in 1990. Mary Ann Haagen, who chaired the Capital Campaign, remembers him as "a very interested member who played a key role at every critical stage in the Museum's history." In 2006, he became the lead donor of the Capital Campaign. He was instrumental in bringing Mary Boswell and Tom Boswell as executive director and property manager to the site. He fully supported their professional activities and felt it was an investment well spent.

Karen Hambleton, who was president in 2006 when he joined the board of trustees, recalled his deep connection with the site. She once wrote to him about an afternoon when they sat together on the south lawn and looked up at the Great Stone Dwelling: "I was deeply moved by your passion and energized by your visions for the future. I was thrilled at the prospect of working with you and learning from you. You inspire an overwhelming enthusiasm in me."

After attending a reception that Karen held for the trustees, John recognized the benefits of having them socialize together. A few months later he hosted his own party for them. Many remember how he would throw back his head and give a deep booming laugh, living life to the fullest.

John did not want the Museum to establish a fund in his name, but his family agreed that gifts could be made to the Enfield Shaker Museum in his memory. John Hilberg was a true friend and will be greatly missed.



John Hilberg with his son Eric, wife Inge and daughter Lisa Craig at Thanksgiving, 2009.