

The Friends' Quarterly

Newsletter of the Enfield Shaker Museum

2013 a year of preservation, progress and promise.

Dolores Struckhoff, Executive Director



Fall 2013

Upcoming Events

For more details, visit our website at www.shakermuseum.org

- November 2 Youth Workshop "Peg Rails"
- November 3 Annual Meeting
- November 6 Preservation Wednesday
- November 9 Youth Workshop "Beading"
- November 16 Youth Workshop "Kids Cook"
- November 20 Preservation Wednesday
- November 30 Youth Workshop "Fleece to Felt"

- December 4 Preservation Wednesday
- December 7 Holiday Open House Begins
- December 13 Extended Gift Shop Hours
- December 14 Pancake Breakfast with Santa
- December 15 Annual Cookie Fair
- December 18 Preservation Wednesday
- December 25 Closed for Christmas

- January 1 Closed for New Year's Day
- January 8 Preservation Wednesday
- January 19 Special Exhibit
- January 25 Snowshoe Festival
- January 29 Special Tour

- February 5 Preservation Wednesday
- February 7 Stargazing
- February 12 Snowshoe Walk
- February 17 Closed for President's Day
- February 19 Preservation Wednesday
- February 26 Snowshoe Walk

Building Restoration at the Enfield Shaker Museum

By Michael O'Connor, Curator

The Enfield Shaker Museum is proud to be undertaking several building restoration projects at the current time. These projects are vital to the pursuit of the core of our mission - preservation and education. Each project must meet rigorous criteria for conserving original material, restoring original appearance and function where possible, and creating functional space where the education mission of the Museum can be pursued within the unique architecture we have restored.

Each of these projects presents unique challenges that must be addressed, but there is also a common thread present in each project. It is the understanding that the Shakers created a unique built environment that developed as an expression of their spiritual and communal beliefs. The meticulously cultivated fields, orderly rows of buildings, and architecture ranging from the simplest work buildings to the spectacular Great Stone Dwelling, are testament to the hopes, dreams, and ideals of the people who created this village in a quest to create a heaven on earth.

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A publication of the Enfield Shaker Museum
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Exhibitions and Special Tours

The Museum is pleased to announce a new exhibit program, **“Spotlight on...”**

In conjunction with our regular running exhibit, we will offer quarterly in depth looks into other aspects of the history of the Enfield Shakers. Join us on **January 19** as we “Spotlight” our **Recent Acquisitions**.

We are also pleased to announce a new tour program, **“Behind the scenes...”**

These tours will explore areas normally not available to our visitors. Join us on **January 29** for a **GSD Preservation Tour** where you will learn firsthand what preservation projects we are working on in the Great Stone Dwelling.

Watch our website for more details and future **“Spotlights on...”** exhibits and **“Behind the scenes...”** tours.

2013 Board of Trustees

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Executive Director,
Dolores C. Struckhoff



Executive Director Message

by Dolores Struckhoff

Dear Friends,

It is difficult to believe I have been at the Enfield Shaker Museum for two years on November 1. I started out as a part time, 15-hour a week Administrator, and last July I was appointed to the position of fulltime Executive Director.

As a past board member, I learned a great deal about the board's role in managing the Museum. As the Executive Director, I have learned what it is like to be involved in the day-to-day and behind the scenes operations.

This past year I have been privileged to work beside “Carolyn Smith, founding director of Enfield Shaker Museum, and Dick Dabrowski, president of Shaker Workshops”.

They have been instrumental in creating our “Preservation Wednesdays” which you will read about later on. I have also been lucky to work beside another past staff member, Michael O'Connor, our part-time Curator, and volunteers Galen Beale and Mary Ann Haagen. With the guidance of these original Museum founders, and the work of many of our local, long-term volunteers, I have become much more knowledgeable about the Enfield Shakers and their community.

As you will read in this newsletter, we have had an outstanding year.

The board and I have worked with volunteers, staff and other supporters to develop a building site plan where we have prioritized current and future projects. The staff and I have worked on bringing more visitors to our site through changes in how we manage and organize our tours, the Gift Shop, facility rentals and Museum events. Our volunteers have worked with the staff to improve our educational programming. Without all of these people, we would not have made so much progress this year.

My goal in 2013 is to keep the momentum going with everyone who feels at home on these grounds. I feel so lucky to live less than a mile down the road and to be able to experience my home-town history nearly every day. Please stop in, introduce yourself, and join us in bringing back the spirit and promise of community once felt by the Enfield Shakers.



President's Message

by Mardy High

This November, as I retire from the board, I will feel confident in our new board leadership, excited about all the good things happening at the Museum, and proud of the courageous path we took during the time I have been President of the Board of Trustees.

We turned around a crash and burn budget, found new leadership and did a complete turnover of staff, and built up a strong board. All the while, we kept on welcoming visitors, running events and weddings and groups, growing flowers and medicinal herbs and vegetables in the gardens, increasing the number of people with plots in the Community Garden, and most important of all, educating our audiences with a full range of programs for children, families, and adults.

I can only take a small portion of the credit for our successes, because there are so many significant players who have made major contributions with their volunteering and their treasure. Some of the original “movers and shakers” if I may use that phrase, are still here making great things happen. When this Museum began in 1986, the vision of a handful of far-thinking Shaker enthusiasts was astounding. They set a challenge for those to who would follow, to build this Museum into a renewed Shaker Village.

In leaving the board, I am not leaving the Museum and that wonderful challenge. Serving on committees and coming to events will still bring me here week in and week out.

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Building Restoration at the Enfield Shaker Museum

The Great Stone Dwelling is the centerpiece of the Museum, as it was the center of Shaker life previously. The building was a monumental undertaking in the 1830's and it incorporated every architectural innovation the Shakers had developed to further their spiritual and communal idealism, as well as the most innovative and progressive hardware, materials and techniques that they could gather from the outside world. Today it is the object of several of our ongoing restoration projects.

One of the best known and most visible of the unique features of the building's interior are the extensive built-ins throughout the building. They helped fulfill the Shakers spiritual objective of a heaven on earth – orderly, free of clutter, and clean – as well as fostering communal

harmony in the lives of its inhabitants. Many built-ins remain, but wear and tear over the decades had resulted in many damaged or missing built-ins.

Shaker Workshops began the work of built-in restoration in 2010 with the Sisters' doorway built-in project. The drawers were inventoried, built-in and drawer construction studied and documented, and a paint analysis done. Research established the ground work for this phase and subsequent restoration projects to come.

The damaged built-in cases were repaired and missing drawer rails and runners were replaced with an innovative, non-intrusive and totally reversible technique devised by Shaker Workshops' production manager Guy Biechele. Missing built-in cases

were reproduced by Shaker furniture maker and author Tim Rieman. Dick Dabrowski and Carolyn Smith of Shaker Workshops removed non-Shaker layers of paint and repainted the drawers with the exact color of the original Shaker paint as determined by scrapings taken by Sara Chase and analysis by Susan Buck. Finally, hand turned knobs of mahogany, like the Shaker originals, were made by Guy Biechele.

The Sisters' side doorway project is complete, and the Brothers' side was undertaken in 2012. The project used the same techniques and craftsmen, but was slightly more complex because of several drawer sizes present and greater variation within sizes than seen on the Sisters' side.

Additional built-in projects were also undertaken in 2013. First is the tall set of built-ins next to the chimney in each of the second, third, and fourth floor dwelling rooms. There should be 20 of these units, but only two remain – or as Dick Dabrowski optimistically stated at the 2012 annual meeting, we are only 18 short. Tim Rieman has reproduced five sets of frames for these built-ins and two have been installed. The next project was the Brothers' waiting room on the first floor. 63 drawers have been made and installed, including one massive built-in of 36 drawers on the east wall. This fall, Enfield woodworker Chris McGrody reproduced drawers for the dining room built-ins.

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Gift Shop News

by Kate Mortimer, Shop Associate

If you have not visited the Museum since June of this year, you will be surprised to see some big changes in the Gift Shop. There is now a little cafe in the Brethren Waiting Room (Gift Shop Room Two) with tables. We offer coffee, tea, beverages, bottled water, fruit and other treats as well as the daily newspaper and Wifi! It is a good place for visitors to stop for refreshments and a little relaxation after a tour.

Please be sure to stop by the Museum Shop next time you visit and for Museum Members we are offering these special monthly discounts:

- November 25% off Prints
- December 25% off Toys
- January 25% off Books
- February 25% off Fiber Craft

From July through October, we have donated more than 150 lbs. of fresh vegetables for people who depend on the food pantires at LISTEN and The Haven.



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Also begun in 2013 is the Great Stone Dwelling window restoration project. Recently retired North Bennet Street School window specialist Robert Adam is heading up this project. He conducted an inventory of every window in the building and this planning document will be the road map for the restoration of all the windows. This fall, Jade Mortimer has begun work on some of the windows on the 5th floor.

2013 has also seen us embark on the complete renovation of the East Brethren's Shop. Architect Jay White has rendered a plan which returns the exterior to the Shaker form seen in 19th century photographs and an adaptive

reuse of the interior creating a second floor apartment and first floor multi-use space for Museum functions. Volunteer labor has been used for some interior demolition to make way for the first phase of work which will begin with the construction of new chimneys scheduled in November.

The implementation of these restoration projects transcends the basics of preservation – ensuring the resources' survival for the future – and moves us to the next step of preserving the features of the buildings to illustrate the rich story of the people who created such a unique life on this site.

Mary Keane Chapel Update



The Mary Keane Chapel has hosted many events this past year including several weddings, our annual Fourth of July Sing-a-long and several concerts performed during the Center for the Advancement of Musical Studies annual summer camp.

We are also very happy to announce that the match for the LCHIP grant for the Mary Keane Chapel has been met. A big “thank you” goes out to the Chapel Committee, Donna and George Butler, and the many Chapel followers who worked diligently to secure the funds that will help repair the water damage to the foundation. Our next step is creating a project plan for the State of New Hampshire and contracting the work both to the grounds and the inside of the Chapel.

Facility and Museum Events

by Vreni Gust, Event Coordinator

Facility rentals have been very successful this year. We have been able to provide exceptional customer service and a great experience to guests and visitors all around. This year we've hosted weddings, meetings, parties, retreats, and regular annual Museum events.

We were pleased to have several spring, summer, and fall weddings for couples from as local as Enfield to as far away as California. We have also added a few new clients to the queue this year, such as the Northeast Basket Weavers Guild Fall Retreat which will be taking place in November.

Guests and renters have been raving about the site and customer service

they received during their event. One bride had this to say about her experience at the Shaker Museum:

"I was married in the Mary Keane Chapel on the grounds of the Shaker Museum, had my cocktail hour in the Great Stone Dwelling, and had my reception at the Stone Mill. I could not have asked for more! I was able to make each aspect of the day personal. Staying with friends and family in the Great Stone Dwelling before and after the big day was a big highlight for me. Finally, the Event Coordinator at the Museum, was extremely kind and helpful the whole way through. Choose the Enfield Shaker Museum for a personalized NH wedding!"

Event rentals are a great way to bring in new visitors and expose

a new audience to what the Enfield Shaker Museum has to offer. We are excited about the success of this year's events and we are looking forward to an exciting schedule of events for 2014.



Recent Acquisitions

The artifacts we display illustrate the lives of the Shakers and create a tangible link to the individuals who lived here. The last year has seen the acquisition of a variety of objects that will help us better tell that story in the future. We thank the following donors for items listed below:

Celie Aufiero

Four Enfield chairs, including two straight chairs and two rocking chairs.

Galen Beale

Collection of books for the Museum's library.

Richard C. Dabrowski and Shaker Workshops

Mount Lebanon Shaker Village armless rocking chair.



Robert P. Emlen

Collection of books for the Museum's library.

Mary Ann Haagen

Cooperage including two Enfield sap buckets. Collection of books for the Museum's library.

Margaret Seamans

Manuscript account of the last person to cross the Shaker Bridge in the Hurricane of '38. Book for the Museum's library.

Carolyn A. Smith

Three Shaker hymn books, Shaker bed, two Shaker rugs, seven sap buckets, iron fork with wooden handle, cheese press, set of bread pans, sad irons, Canterbury fireplace tongs, machine parts, architectural components to be repatriated into the Great Stone Dwelling during restoration, books for the Museum's library.

Betty and Barbara Wilson

Photocopy of a letter dated July 8, 1842, from Enfield Brother Orville Fobes to his sister Sarah.

Our Volunteer Program

Village Gardeners

The Village Gardeners are a long standing program at the Enfield Shaker Museum. Headed up by Museum Herbalist, Happy Griffiths and her summer recruits, all the beds and paths were well taken care of this season.

One of the gardeners' major tasks this season was to remove the shrubs and trees. With the help of board member, Joe Gasparik, and Community Garden Coordinator, Colin High, they were able to remove the bed and create a children's garden for future programs. Plans are also underway for a new rose garden.



A small production garden, managed by Betsy Drinkwater, sits at the east end of the herb garden. This past season we grew wheat which was ground and combined with other ingredients to make bread as part of our spring Fourth Grade program. Along with our Community Garden's Giving Garden, the production garden donated fresh produce to The Haven and LISTEN food pantries. As always, we used some of the produce at our Fall Harvest Festival.

Interested in becoming a Village Gardener? Watch our website for spring signup! You will meet a fascinating group of people, learn or improve on your garden skills, and keep our gardens looking lovely for the many visitors that visit us throughout the growing season.

Preservation Wednesdays



If you haven't heard, last fall we began a regularly scheduled preservation day here at the Museum. It started with Carolyn Smith and Dick Dabrowski showing up regularly to work on the drawer and cupboard project and then they committed to coming every other Wednesday. After a few of these visits, we started calling every other Wednesday, Preservation Wednesday and it stuck! It's a great day where volunteers and staff come together to work on preservation projects. Anyone is welcome as long as you are willing to roll up your sleeves and work hard. In addition, there is a fabulous lunch served in the GSD Dining Room. Our resident Wednesday chef has been Mary Ann Haagen. When Mary Ann is not available Nan Munsey, Karen Wolk, Galen Beale, and the staff have filled in. Preservation Wednesdays has created a day to embrace the spirit of community living once felt here by the original Shakers. Anyone interested in joining us, please contact us at info@shakermuseum.org or by calling (603) 632-4346.

Becoming a Volunteer

There are many ways to become a volunteer at the Enfield Shaker Museum. Just recently we were contacted by a retiree, Barbara Olson of West Lebanon, NH. Barbara learned about us through our website. When Barbara approached us, we talked about some of the areas where she could volunteer and she chose our interpreter position. Barbara has been training with us as an interpreter for the past month and if you visit the Museum on Tuesdays you will see her out and about guiding our visitors through our exhibit rooms. Another source of volunteers for us is by word-of-mouth from our regular, very satisfied volunteers. If you have a friend who has been volunteering with us, give them a call and ask when they are next volunteering and if they would bring you along. There is nothing better than volunteering with a friend and sharing the experience of helping with a mutual cause. You can also give us a call to talk about volunteer opportunities available.



Education News

This past year our Education Committee designed and launched a new program for local fourth grade students. The program was funded by a grant from two New Hampshire family foundations, the Charles E. and Edna T. Brundage Foundation and the Lucy & Eleanor S. Upton Charitable Foundation.



This spring program provided a quality educational experience for seven local schools. Throughout May, we hosted 194 school children and the adults who accompanied them. The fourth grade proved to be an ideal age for substantive engagement with Shaker history. Each segment of the day's activities focused on some aspect of a Shaker child's experience of communal living in a 19th century Shaker village. We were also able to reach out to parents of these children through "homework" assignments, take-home materials, and free tickets for future family visits to the Museum.

"Thanks Michael O'Connor for teaching me about the Shaker Bridge. I had never heard of it before. That is so amazing! The plan is so complex. Your friend, Cole."

The program also allowed us to recruit new volunteers for Museum programming, primarily retired school teachers. The teachers engaged in a new way with Shaker history, school visitors and the Museum. Over 300 volunteer hours were dedicated to the field trip program which strengthens public perception of the Museum as an important cultural and educational resource for the Upper Valley.

"Our classes really enjoyed our time at the Enfield Shaker Museum. They still talk about their day." Kelli Knapp (Canaan Elementary School)

Funds from the grant provided transportation cost assistance to five schools, bus and admission costs for

Enfield and Canaan school children and their teachers, and the purchase of materials for current and future programming. The funds also supported the creation of a second entry/exit on the first floor of our Ministry Building which was mandated by the Town of Enfield if the Museum wished to use the building for continued educational programming.

Everyone at the Museum is greatly indebted to the Brundage and Upton families for their continued support of our education programs here at the Enfield Shaker Museum. Plans are already in the works for the 2014 spring program.

Fall Youth Programs

Workshops for Youth 8 to 13 Saturdays in November 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

November 2 Peg Rails

Create your very own Shaker peg rail and learn the history of this important Shaker item.

November 9 Beading

Learn the basics of beading and take away a beaded item.

November 16 Kids Cook

Baking in a Shaker Kitchen. Pizza-to-pies. Students will learn basic baking techniques and create a lunch for the participants.

November 30 Fleece to Felt

Participants will learn the basics of felting and make a felted ball and mat.

All programs are for youth ages 8 to 13. Registration is required for all workshops one week prior to the workshop by calling the Enfield Shaker Museum at (603) 632-4346 or by emailing info@shakermuseum.org. Call NOW to reserve your place.

Cost: \$8.00/members and \$10.00/non members.



Shaker Holidays

The Enfield Shaker Museum is decking the halls again this year for another festive holiday season! We will be decorating the Great Stone Dwelling and hosting several holiday events including:

The Holiday Open House

Saturday, December 7 – Sunday, December 15

Stop by the Museum to see our lovely holiday decorations. Do not forget to bring a non-perishable food pantry donation to vote for your favorite tree!

Extended Gift Shop Hours

Friday, December 13, 10 am to 6 pm

Our Museum Gift Shop will be open until 8:00 pm on December 13 for evening shopping. Featuring hand crafted and locally made products, the Gift Shop is a great place to find unique items. We will also be offering a 10% discount on all items and free refreshments.



Pancake Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 14, 8 am to 11am

Join us for a delicious homemade pancake breakfast in the Shaker Dining Room featuring a tableside visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Annual Cookie Fair

Sunday, December 15, 1 pm

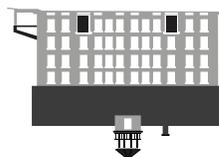
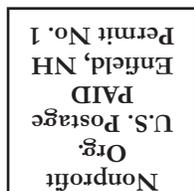
Get your spot in line early to buy homemade holiday cookies by the pound. The cookies are generously donated by our volunteers and they always go quickly.

Annual Appeal

Coming to your mailbox soon:
our annual appeal letter.
We need your support!



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Enfield Shaker Museum
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