History of the East Brethren’s Shop

By Michael O’Connor, Curator

Visitors to the Museum this summer have noticed that the East Brethren’s Shop has been a beehive of activity. During work on the roof, one of a number of projects conducted through the summer, a number of nails from the original roof sheathing were removed and brought to me to be cataloged into the Museum’s collection. Holding this cup full of nails made me ponder the many changes to the building since they were forged.

The East Brethren’s Shop was constructed in 1819 as recorded in the Enfield Shaker’s 1858 history entitled *A Historical Narrative of the Rise and Progress of the United Society of Shakers Enfield, N.H.*:

“In 1819 the brethren’s east shop was built; but it stood originally in the front row, where the stone house now is, and was moved to its present site in 1834.”

This brief entry refers to the building with the name it receives after 1834 and does not mention the buildings earlier name or what it was specifically used for. It does clearly state where it was originally located, in the first, or Dwelling House row. Picture this building standing where the west end of the Great Stone Dwelling now stands.

Continued on page 3
Dear Friends,

As I finalize this newsletter we are also preparing for our upcoming Annual Meeting and the launch of our Annual Appeal. To prepare for these events, our President and I created a list of our accomplishments over the past year; many of these items are highlighted in the pages ahead. As we talked about all that we have done, it came to me that through all our efforts, the greatest achievement is that we are connecting with people, bringing them into the Museum community, and ultimately sharing the Shaker legacy.

Whether one is a visitor to the site, an attendee at one of our Museum events or a private event, a contractor, a volunteer, or a staff member, I am always in awe at the deep respect and interest people have for this spot in Enfield.

Recently, we received an online donation through our website. I did not recognize the name of the donor so I followed up via email right away. It turns out, they were guests at a recent wedding held here. They were so impressed with the facility and what we are doing here they wanted to give us a donation. This is not the first time someone new has ventured into our midst and felt inspired to support us, and we know it will not be the last. We have so many things yet to accomplish that will continue to inspire all of us.

I hope you enjoy this issue of our newsletter. I hope you see firsthand what we have been up to these past several months. Please take advantage of some of our upcoming events, too. If you live too far away to visit regularly, I hope you will enjoy our website and follow us on Facebook to keep in touch.

Thank you for your support and interest which allow us to draw new people into this wonderful community we call the Enfield Shaker Museum.

Executive Director Message

by Dolores Struckhoff

The Museum Gift Shop has had a busy year with shoppers from not only the Upper Valley but from around the world. Just recently, we had visitors from Australia and Canada who had met in South Africa over 50 years ago. It is exciting to talk to visitors and learn how they came to our site. It is also exciting to help them choose souvenirs to take home. Our most sought after items include Shaker boxes, Shaker brooms, our selection of other wooden ware, Shaker books, and local maple syrup.

Museum Member specials for the next few months include the following: for November, 30% off the cookbook Giving Thanks (which is a compendium of Thanksgiving recipes and history) and 20% off gardening gloves from Woman's Work. In December, we offer $3.00 off the book Snow Season (a collection of winter photographs and poetry), as well as 15% off Goose Pond earrings. In January, it is a custom in the U.K. to start the new year off with a new broom, so in honor of the Shakers' origin in Manchester, England, we will offer Shaker brooms at 20% off, and in consideration of the cold weather, we will mark our Shaker yarn at 10% off.

We hope to see you in the Gift Shop soon!

Gift Shop News

by Kate Mortimer, Shop Associate
Another reference from the 1858 history Rise and Progress may give us a hint at the use of the building at two different times. The chapter describing the establishment of schools in the community states:

“In 1820, a regular school was established. The winter school for the boys was kept in what is now known as the tailor’s shop, and the summer school, at first, in the east room, in the present girls house; but in a short time it was concluded to have both schools kept in one room, and the tailors shop was fitted up for that purpose.”

The building referenced was a Tailor's Shop in 1858, and used in part as a School Room in 1820. Its use as a School Room was brief, as a new School House was built in 1825 and first used that winter.

It is important to note that Rise and Progress never specifically describes the East Brethren's Shop as the Tailoring Shop, but later accounts do ascribe that usage to it so it is reasonable to theorize that the building had assumed that use by 1858.

The next mention of the East Brethren's Shop is in 1834 as preparations are being made for the construction of the Great Stone Dwelling. There were three buildings moved to make way for the huge construction project, with the West Wood House being moved in 1833 and the East and West Brethren’s shops moved in 1834:

“The brethrens shops were moved, to their present position, and the preparations for the house began in earnest…”

The removal of the three buildings not only cleared the way for the new Stone House, but also allowed substantial space around it for staging the construction. The buildings were moved to the north with the East and West Brethren's Shops side by side and the West Wood House, later called the Boy's House, just to the north. This small cluster of Brother's work buildings no longer fit within the orderly row structure that defined the layout of the early village.

Changes were made to the building over the remainder of the 19th Century, some documented and others only seen by examination of the building itself. No mention is made in the Shaker record, but a trip to the attic reveals that the roof has been altered more than once. The pitch of the roof was raised and extensions were added to the top end of the rafters to span the greater distance. Another change involved extensions at the bottom end of the rafters that pass through the walls and allowed construction of a greater eaves overhang along the roof-line of the building. Both of these changes are shown in the earliest photographs of the building from ca. 1880, but it is likely that the work was done long before that.

Canterbury Brother Henry Blinn, in his summary of heavy jobs done at the Enfield Church Family records “October 1854 Lay the stone street from Stone house to the brethrens shops.”

This slate walk led directly from the Brother’s door on the north side of the Great Stone Dwelling to this small group of Brother’s work buildings who had been moved to allow for its construction.

Two last improvements were made to the East Brethren’s Shop during the Shaker era. The first is indicated by a vent stack appearing in the roof in a ca. 1890 photo which indicates the likely installation of a toilet in the building. The second was the installation of a slate roof, as recorded by Henry Blinn in his Enfield history which states: “Nov 4th, 1895 Brethren east work shop is slated, work done by F Theobald and boys.”

By the close of the Shaker community in 1923, the East Brethren's shop had been moved once and altered in minor ways over the years, but remained a Brother's work building and retained the general appearance it likely had in 1819. Soon after the sale of the site to the La Salette Brothers the building would soon have a new look and function.

The La Salette Brothers purchased the site in December of 1927, and by September of 1928 architectural plans existed to convert this 19th Century work building into a 20th Century convent to house the Sisters of Martha who served on the site. Upon the death of the La Salette benefactress Mary Keane, the Sisters moved into the elegant Mary Keane House and La Salette Brothers resided in the former Convent.

The building continued to be used as housing for the Brothers into the 1960s. It was later used for youth programming and temporary housing until the sale of the site to developers in 1985. At that time the building served as rental rooms in addition to the full time inn operating in the Great Stone Dwelling. Some early Museum visitors may remember that the Museum briefly operated a small store on the first floor in a room that also housed the community mail boxes.

When the inn ceased operation the building was rented as an apartment for a number of years. A leaky roof and years of deferred maintenance issues finally led to the apartment no longer being rentable, and led us to the point where restoration in the summer of 2014 left me holding a cup of forged nails and thinking.

In 1819, a Shaker brother knelt under the sun on the roof of a new workshop. He took from his apron a nail, possibly forged by one of his communal brethren, and nailed a sheathing board on the new roof. Not 100 yards from him stands the first building the Enfield Shakers
Mary Keane Chapel

By June K. Hemberger, President and John R. Acher, Vice President

Back in the day, when you watched a silent movie, it was likely to be accompanied by dramatic organ music. On October 24 we had a chance to relive that special experience in our Mary Keane Chapel. Peter Krasinski, nationally known organist, provided the organ accompaniment to Buster Keaton’s “The Haunted House” and the 1925 classic “Phantom of the Opera”. It was certainly a fitting event to celebrate Halloween.

Over the years, listeners know that the booming chords and the whispering notes from the famous Casavant organ in the Mary Keane Chapel make beautiful and unforgettable music. But that’s not all! Last summer’s Chapel events included the traditional July 4th Sing-along and a delightful hammered dulcimer concert in August. Both were well attended and much enjoyed. Musicians who play or sing in the chapel always comment on the fine quality of the acoustics there, and organists have praised the performance qualities of the Casavant organ for decades.

We have a stake in helping these special places continue to serve and tell their story. Last July, the Museum invited anyone interested to a community discussion to brainstorm future uses of the Chapel. After Michael O’Connor, our Curator, spoke to us about the history and architecture of the Chapel, Donna Butler demonstrated the amazing capabilities of the Casavant organ! Then we brainstormed how to make the best use of the Chapel, how to enhance our visitors’ experience, and how to raise money to support the Chapel. Ideas flowed, and focused strongly around more concerts, events, performances and Chapel tours.

Those who attended expressed their deep interest in the Chapel, recognizing the on-going need for maintenance and repairs of this building. Knowing that there is community interest in this building will help the board plan for the future. Although it is possible that the La Salette Shrine may close in 2015, we are hoping that we do not lose altogether our good neighbors, the Brothers and Fathers of La Salette.

Should you have interest in being involved in planning Chapel activities, please contact our Executive Director, Dolores Struckhoff at (603) 632-4346 or info@shakermuseum.org.

Although the Mary Keane Chapel is a sharp contrast to the stark simplicity of the Shaker buildings, all were created by believers with strong, although different, religious beliefs.

built in 1793, the Meeting House. Surrounding him now are more than a dozen more buildings, raised at a rate of about one per year. This growth illustrates an optimism for the future as the community creates an environment to support their communal and spiritual idealism.

The building he labored on in 1819 has witnessed almost 200 years of history, including the rise and slow decline of the Shaker village, a second era of communal, religious life on the site, a period of corporate ownership, and the creation of a non-profit museum to ensure its future preservation. The work the Museum has recently undertaken that placed these nails in my hand illustrates our optimism for the future, where the new life we are giving this building will support our educational and preservation mission for the next 200 years.


*Rise and Progress, Ch IX “Of the Admission of Children; and Establishment of Schools”, p. 85-86.

*Rise and Progress, Ch IX “Of the Admission of Children; and Establishment of Schools”, p. 86.

*Rise and Progress, Ch XI “Of the Erection of Buildings and other Heavy Jobs done by the Church”, p.107.

*Rise and Progress, Ch XI “Of the Erection of Buildings and other Heavy Jobs done by the Church”, p.107.


A Tale of Two Gardens…

The Village Garden
by Lindsay Smith

The Village Herb Garden has never looked better than it did this summer thanks to the hard work of 18 Village Gardeners, the Garden Coordinators, Judy Rice, myself, and Happy Griffiths, retired Museum Herbalist, advising all. This year, the Museum hired Judy Rice as a part-time Garden Coordinator. Judy, whose has a background in landscape architecture, focused on edging all the beds and creating distinct, wide walking paths. Because of a generous donation of woodchips from John Pelkey, and thanks to the very hard work of June and Paul Marshall, all the paths were covered.

In late July, Judy and her husband moved back to their home in Massachusetts and I took over the Garden Coordinator position. With a background in small sustainable agriculture, I focused on weeding and mulching the blueberries and creating the new rose bed. “There is so much to learn from Happy and all the other gardeners. Basically, I am learning from the weeds up! The garden is a spectacular and healing place and I am honored to be a part of it. I already have lots of ideas for next season, including more workshops for our members and the community.

The gardens have now been put to bed for the winter. The lavender, southernwood, and roses have been blanketed with straw; the annuals have been pulled up, the perennials cut back, the two rows of garlic have been planted and covered, the rosemary plants have been dug up and are safe inside for the winter, and the compost piles have been turned for the last time. To celebrate the season and all our hard work, the Village Gardeners gathered for the yearly celebratory potluck at Happy and Clark Griffiths house. It was a wonderful and delicious evening!

Interested in becoming a Village Gardener? Watch our website for spring signups or send an email to gardencoordinator@shakermuseum.org.

Community Garden
By Mardy High

The Community Garden at Enfield Shaker Museum has enjoyed a lush growing season. Now in its fourth year, thirty of the forty-two plots were cultivated, and cover crops were grown in the unused plots. Twenty-one gardeners and several children were busy on those plots, applying organic methods and getting splendid results. As always, one plot was dedicated to a Giving Garden which has given over two hundred pounds of produce so far this season, to food pantries at the LISTEN Center and The Haven.

We are happy to say we did not see a return of the woodchuck. Squirrels and chipmunks continue to share our vegetables whether we are willing or not.
Since I started last April, I have been able to enjoy (in just six months) a rich display of the range and diversity of events that the Shaker Museum attracts. Vreni, our previous Event Coordinator, was a wonderful guide as I learned about the Museum, its facilities and their potential. I was able to dive right in working on the Museum Spring Fundraiser this past April, the Taste, Toast and Tour (TTT). Attendees sampled wines paired with hors d’oeuvres and participated in a live auction to raise funds for the Museum. The annual Spring Shaker Forum was another success with its outstanding list of presenters and special guests including Rachel Urquhart, author of The Visionist, her latest novel. Everyone enjoyed her evening reading facilitated by Ilyon Woo, another outstanding Shaker author.

People and organizations renting out the Museum’s facilities since have spanned from small, intimate meetings of local groups to an upcoming 100+ person Wellborn Ecology Fund Conference organized by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation which brings together professionals celebrating place-based ecology education across the Upper Valley and beyond.

The Museum has hosted a range of weddings since March from a short ceremony to a destination weekend. The Stone Mill, Great Stone Dwelling and Mary Keane Chapel have all been the backdrop to multiple unions and celebrations of many family and friends. These events offer us a unique opportunity to show our buildings and spaces to those who might not otherwise visit.

The staff at the Museum have delighted and educated me, and the volunteers have humbled me with their commitment and drive. I look forward to our upcoming holiday events, as well as our annual Snowshoe Festival and overnights in January 2015. I hope to continually expand our hospitality capabilities. We have been able to take extra overnight stays by staying attuned to the Upper Valley’s calendar. For instance, we have families staying with us in October for Cardigan’s family weekend, we hosted some Dartmouth graduation overflow and we hope to fill some overnight rooms during this year’s Dartmouth homecoming crowd. These events allow us to coordinate opening the Great Stone Dwelling to overnights efficiently and effectively, minimizing its impact on our daily operations while still taking advantage of our beautiful assets.

We sincerely thank the following people who have contributed to our collection this past year:

**Recent Acquisitions**

Lynn Anderson
Books.
Anonymous
Three Enfield North Family sap buckets.
Galen Beale
15 sap buckets, framed village drawing, books for the museum library, cooperage and broom making research.
Robert P. Emlen
Books and manuscripts for the museum’s library, copies of 19th Century advertising broadsides.
Mary Ann Haagen
Books for the Museum’s library.
Austin and Betty Ann Kovacs
Books.
Anne Morris
Blue Sabbathday Lake Dorothy Cloak.
Nan Munsey
Book.
Carolyn Smith and Richard Dabrowski
Enfield wash stand, lined oval carrier, lidded Enfield bucket, small tub, Enfield side table, fire wood box, forged fire place tongs, blanket chest, wooden box lined with Shaker labels, tin scoop with wooden handle, 6-drawer tailoring counter, wash stand, two wool blankets, wooden mortar and pestle, Flora Appleton autograph album, two pairs of knit socks.
Janice Staggs
Three postcards and a hayrake.
Alan Strickland
Book.
Dolores Struckhoff
Book.
Jim Temple
Lot of North Family sap buckets and a hand bell.

Facility and Museum Events

Weddings and Facility Rentals By Anna Guenther

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Education News
by Nan Munsey, Education Committee Chair

4th Grade School Field Trips
In May the Great Stone Dwelling and the grounds once again echoed with children’s voices. Now in its second year, the Museum hosted all day school field trips for 4th grade classes. This year we added making whisk brooms and weaving to the list of activities provided for the children. After a welcoming Shaker song fest in the meeting room, the classes divided into smaller groups rotating through four activities including cooking, gardening and seed production, a visit to the 1850s schoolroom followed by lunch eaten in Shaker style, a journal session, and an exhibit visit. “What I liked best”, one fourth grader mused, “was to spend the day imagining I lived here as a Shaker.” Thanks to the **Upton and Brundage Family Foundations** these field trips were offered free to Canaan and Enfield children.

**AVA and Enfield Shaker Museum Camp**
In a new objective to collaborate with other museums, the Museum partnered with the **AVA Gallery** in Lebanon, New Hampshire to provide a camp for children during the last week in July. Mornings were spent on Museum grounds learning Shaker songs with **Mary Ann Haagen**, exploring the architecture and mapping the grounds with **Charlie DePuy**, exploring the herb gardens and gathering plants for pressing and drying for their herb books with **Galen Beale**, broom making under the tutelage of **Susan Brown** and volunteers, making hand pies in the kitchen with **Nan Munsey**, and exploring the Shaker water system with **Michael O’Connor**. Afternoons were spent back at the **AVA Gallery** creating art from the morning experiences.

**Children’s Garden**
Scarecrows Beth and Josh guarded another new summer initiative, a children’s garden, situated next to the herb gardens and manned by junior **Girl Scout Troop 10610** with leader **Kara Jerez**. The girls planned, planted, cared for, and harvested the garden throughout the summer. Their goals were to learn about organic gardening, create a giving garden, and a pizza garden. The troop donated over 60 pounds of produce to the **Haven Food Pantry**, took vases of flowers to the **Brookside Nursing Home**, and celebrated at the end of the season with a pizza made from their garden harvest. Parent volunteers and **Mascoma High School student Shayna Levesque** assisted.

**Family Activities in the Ministry Building**
What’s new at the Ministry? Two rooms of activities for families visiting the Museum! Begun in August, families touring the Museum can now sit in the old fashioned desks in the schoolroom doing lessons Shaker children studied 100 years ago, try their hands at weaving and bucket making, dress in Shaker garb, read picture books about life in Shaker villages or sit on the rug and play with the farm animals. According to the guest book, it’s been a popular addition to the Museum offerings!

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Upcoming Programs

**Friday, November 21** 6:30 to 9:30 pm
**Moravian Folding Star Workshop**
Join artist and teacher extraordinaire, Tracy Smith, for an evening of paper folding. You will create the many pointed stars used in the Moravian community to mark the advent season. These lovely symbols of light are versatile, handmade expressions of hope; fun to make and display.
Cost: $20.

**Saturday, January 31**
10:00 am to 3:00 pm
**Fourth Annual Shaker Snowshoe Festival**
Experience the Shaker legacy on this fun-filled day of winter activities.
Snowshoeing the Shaker Trails
Sleigh rides
Dog sledding
Outdoor games
Museum Shaker Quest
Lunch and overnight packages available
Raffles and more
Cost: Adults $12, Ages 13 to 17 $8, Ages 12 and under $5, families of three or more $20.
To register or sponsor this event: call (603) 632-4346 or email events@shakermuseum.org.
Snowshoes available for loan (first come, first served, so register early!)

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**Save the Date**
April 24 – 26, 2015
**Spring Shaker Forum**
Shaker Holidays

This year’s Shaker Holidays will have a new twist. The Festival of Trees will be donated table top trees artistically decorated by local artists, businesses, individuals and organizations. The trees will be raffled or auctioned off to raise money for the Museum. Join us for tree displays, extended hours in our gift shop, our annual cookie fair, and an evening gala this holiday season.

Festival of Trees Display
Saturday, December 6
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Our table top festival of trees will be on display in downtown Enfield during the Enfield Village Association’s annual Hometown Holidays and returned to the Great Stone Dwelling on December 7 where the trees may be viewed during our regular business hours (10:00 am to 4:00 pm) with special events taking place on the following dates and times:

Gift Shop Extended Hours and Festival of Trees Display
Friday, December 12, Saturday, December 13 and Friday, December 19
10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Join your Museum friends to holiday shop in our Museum Gift Shop and view the Festival of Trees display in the Shaker Dining Room where you can purchase raffle tickets to win one of the many wonderfully decorated table top trees to take home for the holidays. Music and refreshments will be provided.

Holiday Cookie Fair
Sunday, December 14, 1:00 pm
Get your spot in line early to buy homemade cookies by the pound. The cookies are generously donated by our dedicated volunteers and they go very quickly.

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

Festival of Trees Gala
Saturday, December 20 5:00 pm
Holiday music, cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, and extended hours in the Gift Shop round out a lovely evening spent at the Enfield Shaker Museum. This evening we will draw the winning tickets and let you know if you have won the tree of your choice.

The staff at the Museum will also decorate a traditional tree in our Shaker Meeting Room. Visitors may bring in a non-perishable item to place under the tree. As in the past, the items will be donated to the local Indian River Helping Hands program.

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