

The Friends' Quarterly

A Newsletter from The Museum at Lower Shaker Village

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The Stone Machine Shop - Church Family, 1849

by Wendell Hess

In an important agreement signed March 31, the Stone Shop described here, a Shaker barn, 18 acres of land, and a large part of the Museum collection became Museum property. See page 2.

A brief description is necessary to explain why the Stone Machine Shop was built in the middle of the 19th century, when this Community was at the peak of its growth, activity and membership.

One of the early buildings of importance in the Community was the grist mill, erected in the early 1800s. It was 60 x 32 feet and two stories high. It was built on the site of the present Stone Machine Shop, facing north and south instead of east and west, as does the present shop. From all that can be determined, the mill was erected over the existing brook, which at that time flowed down through the center of the Church property.

A huge overshot water wheel, 30 feet across with 8 foot wide troughs, divided the building. A 25-foot, octagonal pine log went from the wheel into both sides of the building. Attached to it were huge cog wheels which supplied power to each side of the mill. Water was brought from the reservoir by a wooden trough on trestles that reached some 30 feet

high at the mill. The building had three runs of millstones, reduced to one when a later grist mill was erected in Enfield town. This shop was well equipped with both wood-working and iron working machinery. Iron working lathes replaced the mill stones. Edging saws, matchers (machines to cut the tongue and

season, but the day was very windy. In no time the mill and surrounding buildings, six in all, were ablaze. On that unfortunate day, the Brothers were haying in the neighboring town of Canaan. The only help was from the Sisters, children, and a few South Family Brothers. Smoke from the fire was seen as far away as North Enfield, and men from there crossed the partially complete Shaker bridge bringing ladders and buckets to help keep the fire from spreading farther. It was a great loss to the Community, estimated at \$3,000.

So much for the old wooden predecessor to the Stone Machine Shop!

Caleb Dyer, the great leader and materialistic builder of the Community, went to work to replace the tragic loss as soon as possible.

On September 10, 1849, less than two months after the devastating fire, work was started on the new machine shop, to be four stories high, perfectly proportioned, and built of "fireproof" granite. Granite was quarried from as near as half a mile and as far away as five miles, accounting for the variety of colors of stone in the mill. An open quarry on nearby Shaker Hill Road supplied some of that granite, and parts of the "trail" on which the stone was drawn to the lake are still visible after 134 years. The stone shop's perfect proportions suggest that perhaps Ami Burnham Young had a hand in its

(STONE SHOP, continued on page 3)



Photo Courtesy Viola Hess

the matching groove on the sides of boards to be "matched up" into solid siding), planing mills, fine edging and planing machines—including machines for shaping the sides and bottoms of buckets and measures—was some of the equipment there.

All sorts of hand tools and hand-operated machines occupied the second floor of this mill. In fact, all the woodwork for the Great Stone Dwelling was made in this wood frame shop. At the time, the Shakers also did contract work for the folks in the surrounding area. The mill was reputed to be the best equipped north of Boston.

On July 29, 1849, a fire broke out in the old mill. It not only was a dry

Sage Thoughts

by Happy Griffiths

Aromatherapy may seem like a new way of using herbs but it goes back many years. The Shakers, as an outgrowth of their medicinal herb business, made fragrant distilled waters, such as cherry, elder flower, lavender, peach, peppermint, rose, spearmint and sassafras. Shaker records contain receipts for perfumes and colognes made from scented oils.

Simply defined, aromatherapy is the use of essential oils to enhance the quality of life. Egyptians, Greeks and Romans used aromatic oils for healing purposes. Today aromatherapy is undergoing a revival and people ask what essential oils are and how to use them. They are, simply, the heart and soul of the plant. They are the essence that deters bugs from eating the plant. They are the fragrant, aromatic part of the plant extracted—generally by steam distillation—from flowers, roots, bark and resins. Their chemical components are contained in tiny plant cells liberated during distillation.

Essential oils can add to our lives in many ways. Try putting a few drops on your vacuum cleaner bag or in your humidifier. Drop a few drops on a light bulb or on a light bulb ring (available in specialty stores) and the heat of the light will release the fragrance. A favorite oil in the rinse water of hand washables will keep the scent with you all day. Oils are essential to good potpourri: their scent lingers long after the petals and herbs stop releasing their special smells.

My favorite way to use essential oils is on the body. I've been creating my own personal essence, skin care products, massage oils, hair rinses, bath and shower gels and herbal salves for treating cuts, wounds and sore muscles. Essential oils are never applied directly on the skin as they are very concentrated. They are always diluted in a "carrier oil" (e.g., olive, almond, canola). Make a simple bath powder by adding a few drops of your favorite oil to some arrowroot or cornstarch. Six drops of oil in your next bath creates a wonderful scent. Mix 15-20 drops into four ounces of shampoo to make your own blend. Try coating the bristles of your brush with rosemary oil before brushing your hair.

Probably the most popular aromatherapy application is massage oils. Choose from the wide range of oils to make blends that stimulate waste product removal, tone muscles and skin, relieve muscle pain and tired legs, combat stress, and detoxify the body. Massage works on body and brain by calming nerves, stimulating energy flow (to relieve tension) and removing toxins while building healthy tissues.

In today's hectic world we need to take time to smell the roses—and other flowers and herbs. Some plant oils can be calming, like chamomile, marjoram, lavender and orange blossom. Other essences stimulate—rosemary, peppermint, lemon and basil. Clary sage, jasmine, patchouli and ylang-ylang are considered aphrodisiacs. For healing properties we could use tea tree, eucalyptus or garlic. The next time you want to relax after a hard day, try using essential oils in one of the above ways. Experiment, enjoy, and have fun!

Museum Acquires Buildings and Artifacts; Land Preserved

One of the most exciting events in the history of the Museum at Lower Shaker Village took place on March 31 when an agreement was signed giving the Museum title to two Shaker buildings, 18 acres of land, and the major part of the Museum's collection (previously on loan only).

This significant acquisition was tied to the state of New Hampshire's equally exciting purchase of 1,100 acres of land on the hillside overlooking Mascoma Lake, across from the village. The land, comprising open fields and woods where the Shakers once grazed livestock and harvested timber, is now under permanent conservation, with public access and protection from development ensured forever.

The land purchase was made possible through a program called the Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP), which was set up by New Hampshire six years ago to purchase and protect valuable open space in the state. The LCIP does not allow for state ownership of buildings, however, and this restriction was the seed for the idea of donating the 1849 Stone Machine Shop and the 1856 West Meadow Barn to the Museum.

It took more than a year's worth of negotiations to accomplish this. Along the way, the Museum's collection of artifacts was added to the deal. And the "donation" actually required the Museum to spend approximately \$20,000 for appraisal fees, land survey fees, and legal costs. After spending countless hours working out



Lisa Stanton, Hilco, Sarah Thorne, State of N.H., Carolyn Smith, MLSV.

the details, Museum staff and trustees are beaming at the results: a dramatic increase in the number of Museum-owned buildings and artifacts, and secure protection for much of its beautiful and historic setting.

Successful Annual Appeal Supports Acquisition

Thanks to many generous contributions, the Museum's 1992 Annual Appeal allowed us to meet our goal of raising the funds needed to support the acquisition of land, buildings, and artifacts detailed on page 2. Although the properties were technically donated, the Museum was required to pay survey, appraisal, legal, and land planning costs, which were significant. Our grateful thanks to all the supporters who made it possible.

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Bicentennial Events Planned

1993 marks the bicentennial year of the Enfield Shaker community's establishment on the west shore of Mascoma Lake. It was on November 3, 1793, that the community first gathered into order in their new house of worship. The event will be celebrated beginning this November and running through next fall. A volunteer committee led by Mary Ann Wilde is planning the events and displays through which the Museum community will mark the occasion, and they welcome all who would like to add their ideas and enthusiasm to the planning process. Some of the many activities the committee is working on are highlighted here.

One group is designing and creating a model of the Church and North families as they appeared at the Community's height in the mid-nineteenth century. The model will show the type and location of buildings and indicate the extensive water system that provided drinking and washing water as well as water power to the Community.

The committee also hopes to republish local author Wendell Hess's history of the Enfield Shakers, published earlier in a limited edition. The wider availability of this work will enable many more visitors, members and history enthusiasts to learn about the special people and happenings in this Community's past.

In honor of the bicentennial, funding is being sought for the Shaker singers—performers of Shaker Revels—to add a second recording of Shaker music to their successful first. The new recording will include a number of "anthems," songs that were composed deliberately as opposed to the more common "gift songs" which were received as inspiration. The anthems are less commonly performed, making the recording a valuable contribution to available recorded Shaker music.

One exciting possibility pursued by the committee is to bring to this country from England a one-woman show about Mother Ann Lee.

The opening event for the bicentennial promises to be a joyful, stirring weekend. November 6 and 7 will be filled with singing as a "Shaker Sing" invites singers from other Shaker groups and anyone who wants to join in, as well as listeners, to share some of the Shakers' beautiful music. On Sunday, a Shaker-style singing meeting will be held, and in addition to the music, the weekend will include scholarly presentations and the re-reading of some of the speeches and poems read at the Enfield Shakers' centennial celebration 100 years ago.

In addition to all these, lectures and programs for schoolchildren are on the list of plans for a special year coming up.

Overwhelming Response To Member Survey

"We were told that a good response to a survey is about 15%," says Museum Director Carolyn Smith. "So we were floored when the responses to our membership survey came pouring in this winter." Perhaps the phenomenal 39% response rate is a measure of Museum members' level of commitment and interest; whatever the reason, the detailed, often thoughtful responses give the Museum staff and Board of Trustees invaluable information as they embark on a long-range planning process to determine the Museum's direction for the future.

We'd like to share with you some of the survey results: those that provided the most surprises, or sent

the strongest statements about what the membership wants to see happen here. The complete tabulated results are extensive, as the response rate would indicate, but we'd be happy to send a copy to any member requesting one.

When questioned about reasons for joining or renewing a membership to the Museum, responders sent the emphatic message that preserving the Shaker legacy in general, and the Enfield site and buildings in particular, was of greatest importance, more than activities offered or even visiting the Museum. It made clear how strong the support is for historic preservation as an end in itself.

For those who live at a distance or mentioned financial and time constraints, programs and events were of less importance than preservation support, but those who attended the Museum's workshops, festivals, fund raisers, and other events expressed a high level of satisfaction with the programs.

A number of questions sought to determine how well-informed members are (or think they are) about various aspects of the Museum. While most felt well-informed about the Museum's mission and programs, fewer than half felt informed about the Museum's financial condition. And the number of "Don't Know" responses was significant (ranging from 34% to 54%) on issues such as whether the Museum's leadership is effective and whether the Museum has adequate financial and human resources to do its work.

All this information tells us a lot about you and what you think. And it will help us keep you better informed, in these pages and in other ways, about what happens behind the scenes and what is needed to keep the Museum growing as a vital force for preserving Shaker history.

Stone Shop, from page 1

design, as he was the architect of the Great Stone Dwelling 12 years before.

The building was laid up as follows: "The outside walls were constructed of granite and then faced on the inside with brick, the thickness of two feet on the first floor and one foot on the upper floors. The brick then was covered with wood sheathing and finished with plaster. The roof was laid with slate. One more significant feature of the machine shop was the slate ground floor, exhibiting a superb degree of workmanship." Iron rods went from one side to the other, tying the building together. The shop was completed before winter, and the new machinery was installed the following spring. Since the machines and equipment in the burned shop were beyond repair or use, all new equipment, of the latest design, was installed. Once again it became the best equipped and most modern machine shop north of Boston.

No record can be found of the type of water wheel used in the construction of the Stone Machine Shop. However, one Harvey K.

Annis, a member of the Second Family, was an accomplished mechanic, and amongst other things he is reported to have invented the turbine water wheel. At an unknown date after the shop was built, Brother Harvey installed a turbine water wheel to replace the wooden water wheel. It was in operation as long as the mill was used. (Brother Annis moved to Canterbury in 1865 and died there in 1875, aged 86.)

In keeping with their reputation, the Enfield Shakers built, equipped, and fully paid for the Stone Shop in less than a year, leaving no debt to the Community. It was used for many years. But as the male members of the Community died or left the Society, there were fewer men to operate the machinery. At the turn of the 20th century, the machinery was gradually sold.

When the LaSalette Missionaries founded their seminary for boys entering the priesthood, the building was gutted and made into a gymnasium. The ground floor was also used for a meeting room, and rest stop for cross country skiers. With the exception of the addition of entry ways to both ends of the building, the exterior remains pretty much as it was.

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Dartmouth College

Arthur D. Little - 1961

Author Wendell Hess began spending summers in Enfield in 1914, and retired here in 1967. He was here when the Shaker community was still active and remembers rowing across the lake with his brother to buy eggs from the Shakers, to visit, and to wander the property. Mr. Hess has written a history of the Enfield Shakers, and has contributed numerous articles to the Shaker Messenger and the Shaker Quarterly.

Village Gardener Program Begins May 19

The Museum's extensive herb garden, which includes old varieties of roses and apple trees once grown by the Shakers here, has been one of the Museum's main attractions since its start seven years ago.

Through the ten-week Village Gardeners program, you can help the garden flourish while cultivating your own herb gardening knowledge! Village Gardeners, guided by Museum herbalist Happy Griffiths, contribute a number of gardening hours each week in exchange for lectures,

hands-on programs on all aspects of herb gardening, and an apron as well. There are still a few openings, so call the Museum now to register.



The Friends' Quarterly is a publication of The Museum at Lower Shaker Village. It is mailed as a service to Museum Members. For information on Membership write: The Museum at Lower Shaker Village, #2 Lower Shaker Village, Enfield, NH 03748. Or call (603) 632-4346.

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New Program Guide Ready

When your 1993 Program Guide to the Museum at Lower Shaker Village comes in the mail, you'll want to clear your calendar and get ready for some good reading. More than a listing of events, it's really a guide to the Museum itself and all that makes it hum. Historic background, volunteer opportunities, information about current preservation efforts: it's all here and more.

Events have not been neglected, however: the 1993 Guide is filled with old favorites—woodworking workshops at Dana Robes Wood Craftsmen, the June Festival of Shaker Crafts and Herbs—as well as a number of new and special offerings. The list of ever-popular herbal workshops has been expanded, to include classes such as Aromatherapy and making an Herbal Garland. An exhibit on the New Hampshire knitting industry's role in history, complemented by artifacts from the Shaker knit industry, comes to us on tour this summer with the help of funding from the N.H. Humanities Council and the Belknap Mill Society; supplementing the exhibit will be a lecture series in August. Another special exhibit, "Borrowed Light," features paintings of Lower Shaker

Village sites and buildings by well-known local artist Gary Hamel, who is contributing 50% of sale proceeds to the Museum.

Music lovers can look forward to a new Shaker Revels work in progress, and a "Shaker Sing" to start the Museum's bicentennial.

The Program Guide will keep you up to date on the Museum, and give you an inside look at some of the people and planning that make it all happen.

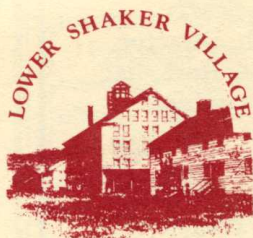


Grant To Fund Study of Enfield Buckets

The Early American Industries Association (EAIA) has awarded a grant of \$1,000 to Galen Beale of Loudon, NH, for an oral history project on Shaker buckets, to be completed in cooperation with the Museum. EAIA is an organization that encourages the study of early American industries in the home and shop, on the farm, and at sea.

Ms. Beale's project "will increase knowledge of the types, uses and details of manufacturing of Enfield Shaker buckets in the New England market." With the assistance of Museum craftsmen and coopers Roger Gibbs and Michael O'Connor, Ms. Beale will spend the year interviewing and tape-recording residents of Enfield and the surrounding area who were involved in the cooperage business or know of others who were involved and knew the Shakers personally. The research will lead to an exhibit at the Museum in 1994.

Anyone with information about the whereabouts or history of Enfield Shaker buckets or the machinery used to make them is requested to contact the Museum.



The Museum
Route 4A
Enfield, NH 03748
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Richard Dabrowski
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