

# The Friends' Quarterly

A Newsletter from the Enfield Shaker Museum

Volume XVI/No.1

Spring 2005

## New Hampshire's Shaker Villages

by Susan Maynard, Shaker Scholar and Author

In November 2005, I spoke to the annual meeting of the membership at Enfield about my recently published book, *A Shaker Life: The Diaries of Brother Irving Greenwood 1894-1939*. I had learned from Irving's diaries that the two communities, Enfield and Canterbury, were closely connected and that he devoted much of his time to working in the interests of both Villages.

Beginning in the 1790's Enfield and Canterbury were overseen by Ministers from both Villages. The two communities prospered in the 1800's, but at the beginning of the 20th century, their populations had declined. By 1918, fewer than 15 members remained at Enfield and 73-year-old Franklin Young was the only Brother. The Central Ministry decided to close Enfield and move the members to Canterbury where there were more than sixty active residents. Elder Arthur Bruce and Trustee Irving Greenwood of Canterbury were appointed as Trustees to guide the closing of Enfield Shaker Village.

On May 11, 1918, Irving wrote: "We have decided to take down South brethrens shop to make room for office at Middle family which we are going to move down & fix up for the Enfield NH people. Begin to move things out today." Irving was referring to a location adjacent to the Dwelling House in the Church Family at Canterbury where a new home would be set up especially for the Enfield Sisters.

A group from Canterbury traveled to Enfield to organize and plan the move: May 28, 1918 "We look over their furniture & kitchen utensils & decide what had best come to Canterbury." In June, Irving arranged to move the Middle Family Office at a cost of \$2200. During the summer, Irving brought truckloads of household goods from Enfield to Canterbury. By mid-August, Elder Arthur and Irving were negotiating the sale of Enfield's herd of cows.

In October 1918, Elder Arthur and Irving talked with Enfield members about moving and on November 7 Irving wrote "Take home Elizabeth Estabrooks, Myra Green, Mary Darling & Flora Appleton. They are going to live at Canterbury." All but Flora were older Sisters; perhaps she would be able to help them adjust to their new home and care for them.

While the Enfield Sisters lived temporarily at Canter -

bury's Infirmary, their new home was renovated completely with heating, plumbing, and electrical systems installed and new carpets, paint, and fixtures put in place. During 1919, Mary Basford moved to Canterbury from Enfield.

After three years of labor, on November 25, 1921, Irving wrote: "Sisters move into the Enfield house today. Eldress Mary [Ann Wilson] in charge of house. Ellen Ross, Mary Darling and Ann Cummings move in. Some of our sisters stop there." Ellen Ross had recently arrived from Union Village, Ohio; Canterbury Eldress Mary Ann Wilson would help the other Sisters to become comfortable in their new home and join in the life of their new community. Canterbury Sisters visited with them in their dwelling.

In November 1923, Irving wrote "Arthur, Eldress Emma [King], Aida Elam & I go up to Enfield today. Both trucks up. We bring home most of Franklin Young's things. Also Rosetta's & the Appletons' things. After the trucks leave, I take the car & take Eldress Emma, Aida, & Rosetta to Lebanon so Rosetta can say goodbye to some of her friends. We stay at Enfield tonight." Rosetta Cummings, Abigail Appleton, and Franklin Young moved to Canterbury that week. Brother Franklin lived at the Brethren's Shop since only women were going to live in Enfield House. He was cared for by the Canterbury Brothers and lived until 1935 when he was 90 years old.

Just before Thanksgiving, Irving concluded the five-year story of Enfield's closure: "Arthur & I bring home the last of the sisters - Fannie Fallon, Margaret Appleton & Ruth Currier."

Elder Arthur and Irving hired caretakers to look after the buildings and property at Enfield until the Village was sold. They also made sure that the Shaker cemetery was properly maintained there.

The Sisters and Brother from Enfield brought their skills and experience to Canterbury. Several of them lived there for decades. Myra Green lived until 1942 when she was 107 years old. Margaret and Abigail Appleton died in the 1940's and Flora Appleton, the last Enfield Shaker, lived until 1962.



*Enfield House photo courtesy of Canterbury Shaker Village, Inc., Canterbury, N.H.*

## Sage Thoughts

*Lavender angustifolia* and its cultivars are one of the best known of the fragrant herbs and have been loved and used from the earliest times. Its name comes from the Latin "lavare", meaning to wash, and indeed, its fresh clean scent was the favorite bath water addition of the Greeks and Romans. It was a popular strewing herb both for its insect-repelling qualities as well as its lasting scent.

Each of the Shaker communities had a distillery where scented waters were extracted from herbs and then either sold for domestic use or used in their infirmaries. Shaker records show they made perfumes and colognes from essential oils of herbs. Lavender oil benefits all skin types and can be used to treat serious burns. A little oil rubbed on the temple can help alleviate headaches and relaxing in a warm bath scented with lavender oil or flowers can relieve the stress of the day. Today lavender is often found in fragrant potpourris, and bags of lavender flowers can be tucked into drawers, placed under pillows and stored with special garments as a moth preventative.

Many lavenders are native to the Mediterranean region but they are widely cultivated in gardens all over the world, most notably Norfolk lavender from England and Provence lavender from France. They all require light, well-drained soil with lime added in the fall and again in the spring. A side dressing of compost and occasionally some well-aged manure will give good results. The plants should be cut back after flowering but pruning and removing dead wood should be done only in the late spring after new growth has begun. A winter mulch is very beneficial in the New England climate, particularly their first winter when plants are small and subject to winterkill. The flower stems should be picked just as the lower flowers open and can either be tied together in bunches and hung in a warm dark place or put in a vase to dry. All lavender flower stems last well in water and can be used in fresh bouquets.

When purchasing lavender plants this spring, be aware that the genus *lavendula* is divided into two groups. The English lavender cultivars are Hidcote, Munstead, and Jean Davis a pink flowering variety. These have the best chance of surviving the New England winters. The other family of lavenders are French and Spanish cultivars. These are tender and will not survive freezing temperatures. Some varieties are L. Grosso, L. Provence, and L. Stoechas.

A favorite way of using fresh lavender from the garden is to make lavender wands or bundles. On a dry day pick an odd number (usually 13 or 15) well-formed lavender stalks with the plump flowers just opened. Strip off their leaves, tie them together at the base of the flower heads and cut the stalks to a uniform length. Select a 3 ft. piece of 1/4-inch ribbon in a coordinating color. Leave an 8-inch tail of ribbon and tie it around the bundle just below the heads. Bend back each of the stems gently to create a cage over the heads. Pull the long piece of ribbon through the outside at the top and weave it in and out of the flower heads in a continuous spiral until the end of the head is reached at the base. Finish it off by tying a bow together with the short end of the ribbon. Place in your drawer and enjoy!

*Happy Griffiths, Herbalist*

## From the President of the Board

Spring is such a wonderful time of year as everything is new, fresh and reawakening. Springtime also reflects the changes and happenings at the Museum. This year as the Museum celebrates its 20th Anniversary – *Bridging Past, Present and Future* is a perfect time to take stock of where we've come, where we are and where we're headed. In 1987, we began with a modest display of Shaker items in a corner room of the Great Stone Dwelling. Over the past 20 years, the Museum has grown significantly and developed into an organization with a collection of nine historic buildings, 28 acres of land and two floors of exhibits.

In just the past year, we refocused our business plan, eliminated our dependence on an innkeeping operation, and moved into the Great Stone Dwelling. In December of 2005 we gratefully accepted a generous donation that allowed us to retire our mortgages. We have reestablished a board committee structure to assist in accomplishing the many tasks required to be a successful Museum. These are enormous strides and have been accomplished only through the tireless efforts of dedicated members, donors, volunteers and staff.

We have been hard at work planning for our 20th Anniversary season. Shaker dinners will continue with Chefs Tim Lenihan and Betsy Oppenneer. George and Donna Butler will lead us in another July 4th Sing-Along in the Mary Keane Chapel. Long-time Museum favorites, the Harvest Festival and Cookie Fair, will return in the fall. We are putting the finishing touches on an expanded program schedule that includes workshops, slide shows, lectures, concerts, the Enfield Shaker Singers and a benefit performance by The Original Highwaymen.

One of the most exciting events of the season will be our 20th Anniversary exhibit, "An Ever Widening Circle of Friends". The exhibit will illustrate how as the Shakers in Enfield became fewer and fewer, their friendships in the surrounding area began to grow. We have chosen 5 neighbors to illustrate this connection to the (Continued on pg. 6.)

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## Shaker Swing Returns to Museum



Mary Ann Haagen treats Evan Miller to a ride on our newly refurbished reproduction Shaker swing. After almost 14 years of continuous service the swing, had fallen into disrepair and was removed from the site. We approached the swing's maker, Eric Gesler (formerly of Dana Robes Woodcraftsmen) for help getting the swing back in commission. Thanks again to Eric's wonderful workmanship the swing has been returned to the site in perfect working condition. Look for the swing in its new location in front of the West Brethren Shop.



## Museum Gets a Spring Cleaning

Early in the month of April the Museum was abuzz in preparation for our season opening celebration.

Six student volunteers from Kimball Union Academy under the supervision of faculty member Bruce Gordon cleared downed branches and other winter debris from the grounds, vacuumed the Mary Keane Chapel, and swept the back porch of the Great Stone Dwelling.

A crew of 12 volunteers spent a total of 52 hours collectively scrubbing, sweeping, vacuuming, mopping, and polishing the Museum. Volunteers spent another 40 hours cleaning the 3rd and 4th floors of the Great Stone Dwelling in preparation for the arrival of Elderhostel the last week of April. Tere Kipp, and Gail and Arthur Gagnon have been preparing the Museum Store for the opening as well. The result is a refreshing new look.



*Upstairs, downstairs, and everywhere in between....Museum volunteers at work in the Great Stone Dwelling.*

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## Meet the Board of Trustees Executive Committee

**Karen Hambleton, President** – After nearly 20 years as a computing manager and database programmer at the University of New Hampshire, Karen decided to stay home with her three-year old son. Her family has a long history with the Shakers and has had a place on Mascoma Lake for four generations. She and her family split their time between Bradford, NH and Enfield. Karen co-chairs the Museum's Long Range Planning Committee.

**Keith Oppenneer, Vice-President** – A retired military officer and former Enfield Selectman, Keith is also involved in his church and marketing his wife Betsy's books and videos on bread baking. When they're not traveling for Betsy's lectures and book signings, they reside in Enfield. Keith is chairman of the Museum's Facilities Committee.

**Donna Butler, Secretary** – Recently retired from a 36-year career as a Music Educator in Massachusetts, Maryland, and the Ray School in Hanover (27 years), She and her husband George are organists and choir directors in the Upper Valley. They have had a long history with Mary Keane Chapel and for 21 years, hosted the Organ Recital Series. They live in Enfield in a log cabin on Mascoma Lake. Donna co-chairs the Museum's Events Committee.

**Richard K. Blodgett, Treasurer** – Retired from IBM and a graduate of Dartmouth and the Tuck School of Business, Dick lives in Hanover in the winter and Enfield in the summer. He has had a place on Mascoma Lake for many years. Dick is chair of the Museum's Finance Committee.

## Meet Our New Museum Staff Members



*Tere Kipp, Museum Administrator*

### Administrative Staff

**Theresa Kipp M.S.** joined the Enfield Shaker Museum staff in February of this year. She comes to the Upper Valley from Ellsworth, NH where she resided for 32 years and brings 15 years of non-profit business experience to her position as Museum Administrator. Tere has worked with non-profits throughout the United States as a consultant with a concentrated focus on the Creative Arts and Education. Her most recent acclaim was working with the New World Symphony in Miami Beach, Florida with world-renowned conductor Michael Tilson Thomas.

Tere has a personal passion for music as a vocalist and bass player. She is also the Musical Director of Esprit a performing arts group with the Pathway Center in Plymouth, NH.

**Nicole Champeny** is another new addition to the Museum staff. She is a native of Wisconsin with a degree in Theatre from the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. She has worked on and off for various theatre companies in the western United States. Her love of travel and history has lead her all to visit many areas of this country and the British Isles.

Nicole loves outdoor activities such as kayaking, backpacking, and hiking with her dog. She has recently taken on the job of Administrative Assistant at the Museum. Among other responsibilities, Nicole will be spending a lot her time running the Museum Store.

### Museum Gardeners

**Tara McHugh** and **Barbara Kresse** have agreed to share the position of Museum Gardener. These two former Village Gardeners will bring a wealth of knowledge, experience and TLC to our Herb Garden. We are excited to have them on our team.

Tara has been vegetable gardening and interested in plants for as long as she can remember. A stint in pharmaceuticals drew her to the world of herbal medicines in the mid-1990s. She moved from the Boston area to the Upper Valley in 2001 and became a Village Gardener in 2003. She has enjoyed working with herbs ever since.

Barbara has had a vegetable garden for many, many years - canning and preserving the produce. She also has a keen interest in history and belongs to the Croydon Historical Society. Becoming a Village Gardener brought together these two passions.

Barbara thoroughly enjoys tending to the Herb Garden early in the morning with the Shaker buildings and the lake in the background. She looks forward to sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm about herbs and the history of the Enfield Shakers with others.

**From the President of the Board** (Continued from page 2.)  
Shakers: Wendell Hess and family; Clarice Carr and family; Col. Frank Churchill and family; Robert Leavitt and family and Ann Tarney and family. These neighbors interacted with the Shakers in a more informal and personal way than the rest of the world. Some photographed the Shakers to memorialize them, others spread their music in the form of The Shaker Singers, and all of them had stories about their relationship with the Shakers of Enfield.

Despite our strong progress, we continue to face challenges. The most significant of these are the lingering effects of the failed innkeeping operation, namely the back property taxes. I am delighted to share that we are making progress here as well. Just as this newsletter went to press, the Museum paid the 2003 back taxes in full – a sum of around \$35,000 – thus protecting our property from the threat of being deeded to the Town. The payment was funded with monies budgeted for the debt reduction and with proceeds from the sale of a small piece of land. The land sale, initiated last summer, annexes four-tenths of an acre of Museum property to a neighboring property. The Board of Trustees agreed to the sale only after determining that the sale did not adversely affect Museum operations or a visitor's experience of the site. The Board will now focus its attention on eliminating the remaining tax debt in a timely manner.

Looking to the future, long-range planning efforts are underway, a complete inventory of our deferred maintenance issues is being prepared, and plans for a Capital Campaign are in full swing. Two very important tasks we will undertake this year are the completion of the second apartment in the East Brethren Shop (also known as the Bethany House), which will provide a steady stream of income, and repair of the most serious of our deferred maintenance issues. Additionally, we are committed to the expansion of our program offerings and greater involvement in our community. With volunteer participation on

the rise again, we are also dedicated to better appreciating and recognizing these devoted friends.

A year ago, the future of the Museum appeared worrisome. Today, our future is promising and we are filled with tremendous energy and excitement as we look toward our future. I extend my deepest appreciation to the many volunteers and staff who are working so very hard to make that future a reality.

*Karen Hambleton*  
*President, Board of Trustees*

*The Friends' Quarterly* is a publication of the Enfield Shaker Museum.

The Enfield Shaker Museum  
24 Caleb Dyer Lane  
Enfield, NH 03748  
www.shakermuseum.org  
chosen.vale@valley.net  
(603) 632-4346

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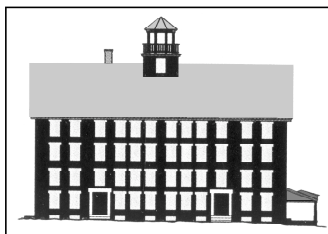
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**Enfield Shaker Museum**  
24 Caleb Dyer Lane  
Enfield, New Hampshire 03748  
(603) 632-4346

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The Enfield Shaker Museum board, staff, and volunteers extend their most sincere appreciation to everyone who generously provided support during 2005. If your name was misspelled or inadvertently omitted, please accept our apologies and contact us so that we may correct our records.

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## Coming Events and Activities

### Music at the Museum

#### Chosen Vale International Trumpet Seminar Concerts

Saturday, June 24th, 8:00 PM

Mary Keane Chapel, Enfield Shaker Museum

Edward Carroll, Gabriele Cassone, Mark Gould, David Rosenboom, and members of the seminar perform trumpet music from the 17th Century to today

Tuesday, June 27th, 8:00 PM

Rollins Chapel, Dartmouth College

Improvisation by David Rosenboom and Markus Stockhausen

Friday, June 30th, 8:00 PM

Mary Keane Chapel, Enfield Shaker Museum

Stephen Burns, Edward Carroll, David Rosenboom, and members of the seminar perform trumpet music from the 17th Century to today

Saturday, July 1st, 8:00 PM

Mary Keane Chapel, Enfield Shaker Museum

Stephen Burns, Edward Carroll, Markus Stockhausen, David Rosenboom, and members of the seminar perform trumpet music from the 20th and 21st Centuries

#### Patriotic Sing

Tuesday, July 4, 11:00 am

Mary Keane Chapel, Enfield Shaker Museum

Led by George and Donna Butler, Mary Keane Chapel Organists

#### Organ Recital

Sunday, July 9, 4:30 pm

Mary Keane Chapel, Enfield Shaker Museum

George & Donna Butler, Mary Keane Chapel Organists

#### The Highwaymen Benefit Concert

Sunday, August 13, 4:00 pm

Stone Mill Building, Enfield Shaker Museum

Meet the Musicians Reception  
following the concert

#### Enfield Shaker Singers Concerts

Wednesday, October 4, 7:00 pm

Great Stone Dwelling, Enfield Shaker Museum

Wednesday, October 25, 7:00 pm

Great Stone Dwelling, Enfield Shaker Museum

A capella singing of Shaker hymns and anthems. Led by Mary Ann Haagen.

### Save the Dates

#### "An Ever Widening Circle of Friends" Opening Reception

Sunday, June 4, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

A new exhibit featuring the stories, photos and collections of Frank and Clara Churchill, George and Robert Leavitt, Clarice Carr, Ann Tarney and Wendell and Viola Hess. Each of these individuals had a strong association with Enfield and developed treasured friendships with their neighbors the Enfield Shakers.

#### Hand-Built Pottery Workshop

Saturday, June 17, 1:00 – 5:00 pm

Explore traditional methods of forming pottery including pinch, coil, and slab. Learn to imprint natural objects (leaves, grasses, and pine cones) to create texture. Taught by Ethan Hamby and Shana Brautigam, full time potters from Rindge, NH.  
Fee: \$60.00/Museum Members \$54.00 + \$25.00 materials fee

#### "Images of Enfield"

Sunday, July 2, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Carolyn Smith, a former director of the Enfield Shaker Museum, will share her extensive collection of post cards, stereoviews and photographs of North Enfield, Shaker Village, LaSalette and Shaker Bridge. Bring your own historic images of Enfield to add to the discussion. Free admission.

#### Introduction to Hand Paper Making Workshop

Saturday, July 8, 10:00 – 12:30

Learn the basics of hand paper making, sheet formation, and embedding. Taught by Angie Follensbee-Hall, NH League of Craftsmen juried paper artist.  
Fee: \$36/Museum Members \$32

#### Shaker Dinner

Saturday, July 15, 6:30 pm

A sumptuous meal prepared by Chef Tim Lenihan (formerly of the New London Inn) menu to be announced.

#### Shaker Chair Taping Workshop

Saturday, July 22, 1:00 -3:00 pm

Learn Shaker chair taping techniques. Bring your own chair or stool, chair tape available for sale at the Museum. Taught by Barbara Brady, Museum Volunteer  
Fee: \$40/Museum Members \$ 35 + Materials

#### Introductory Digital Photography Workshop

Saturday & Sunday, July 29 & 30, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Targeted at beginning and intermediate digital photographers, this weekend workshop will cover using your digital camera as well as managing, editing, emailing and printing your images. Taught by Jim Block, professional photographer and photography teacher from Etna, NH.  
Fee: \$160/Museum Members \$144

For more details or to reserve a space, please call the Museum at (603) 632-4346.