The Friends' Quarterly

A Newsletter from the Enfield Shaker Museum

Volume XVII/No.2 Spring 2007

The Great Stone Dwelling: A Testament to the Shakers' Vision

by Mary Boswell, Executive Director

Shakers and "World's People" visiting the Enfield Society in the mid-19th century were often amazed as they approached the community. What they saw was a carefully organized village with neatly arranged buildings and bustling activity. The real testament to the Enfield Shakers' success, however, was the Great Stone Dwelling, rising 60 feet into the sky. Their "stone house" would have astounded any first-time visitor in

the mid-19th century, for it would likely have been the largest building seen in a lifetime.

The Great Stone Dwelling was the center of the Church Family's daily life. It was where they cooked their meals, baked their bread, worshiped, slept and greeted guests. The Brethren occupied the west side, facing the fields, mills and machine shops. The Sisters occupied the east side, providing them easy access to the kitchen and baking rooms, as well as to their shops, laundry, and dairy building.

The Great Stone Dwelling was beliefs in celibacy, simplicity and order. Specifically, it reflected the

faith of Caleb Dyer (1800-1863), a visionary leader of the Enfield Shakers. Dyer "thought in large terms," according to Robert P. Emlen, a Shaker scholar and past trustee of the Enfield Shaker Museum. It was Dyer, he reminds us, who oversaw the construction of the Shaker bridge across Lake Mascoma, and who led "the complex of mercantile ventures that turned the community into a major economic force in the state."

To design the new building, Dyer approached Ammi Burnham Young (1798-1874), a local architect already gaining a reputation in the field. By 1837 he had designed the First Congregational Church in Lebanon, New Hampshire, two dormitories at Dartmouth College and Vermont's State Capitol. Dyer's assessment of this emerging architect was correct: Young later became the nation's first Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury, creating Federal courthouses and post offices across the United States.



built between 1837 and 1841, a time Stereoview - Photographic Views, Shaker Village, Enfield, N.H. of great spirituality for the Shakers. General Views of the Village #8 or 9 "Stone Dwelling House and Its stark symmetry reflected their Second House". Published by W.G.C. Kimball, Photographer, Concord, N. H., circa 1890 (Enfield Shaker Museum, Leavitt Collection).

The Great Stone Dwelling was innovative in many respects. It was among the first in Enfield made of granite. To crown this magnificent building, Dyer felt that a roof of wooden shingles would not do. He studied the most modern building technology in Boston and determined that

slate was the proper material. He hired stonemasons, carpenters, slaters and

> sheet-metal workers to carry out the specialized work required for the exterior. Within the 30,000 square feet of building, the Enfield Shakers maintained the same high standard of quality on the interior. They employed one style of baluster, one type of drawer, one molding for their panel doors, one type of flooring and one panel design for the window jambs. They judiciously used every square foot of space. The built-in drawers and cupboards ensured their efficiency. The external and internal windows, light wells and circulation vents facilitated their work and comfort.

Today, the modern visitor is also struck by the Great Stone Dwelling. With a Land & Community Heritage Investment Program grant, the Museum

hired architect Michael Gohl to conduct a Historic Structures Report, including the Great Stone Dwelling. His report details the consistency in construction unique to the Enfield area and to Shaker design. It is an essential guide as we progress on the \$1.1 million drive to address the building's most serious needs. Our immediate goals are to bring back the original appearance of the exterior, increase energy efficiency and upgrade mechanical systems. During the Spring Forum, Gohl will give a tour of the building, noting changes over time. We invite you to contribute to the campaign and attend the Spring Forum on May 18-20. Details are found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Credit for this article goes to:

Emlen, Robert P. "The Great Stone Dwelling of the Enfield, New Hampshire Shakers." Old-Time New England, 69 (1979) 69-85.

Gohl, Michael. "Historic Structures Report" (2006), 55-214.

Sage Thoughts

LEMON BALM (Melissa officinalis)

As the snow melts and the ground begins to warm up, young leaves of lemon balm are among the first herbs to greet the winter weary gardener. Lemon balm, chosen as the 2007 Herb of the Year by the American Herb Association, is found growing in sandy places, as an escapee in farm fields, and under cultivation in our gardens, as it has been for over 2000 years.

It belongs to the Lamiaceae family, along with mints and other square-stemmed herbs. As the name suggests it has a refreshing lemony flavor and fragrance. The genus Melissa (from Greek) means 'bee' and true to its name bees are attracted to it. Beekeepers once used the leaves to rub in the hives to 'home' the bees. This herbaceous perennial grows to 2-3 feet, has small ovate leaves, and tiny inconspicuous two-lipped white or pale yellow flowers that appear in June. It is easy to divide any time during the growing season and cuttings can be made in the spring and early summer. Lemon balm self seeds easily once it becomes established and under ideal growing conditions can become invasive. It likes a friable loamy soil with good drainage and partial sun, but does well in full sun if the soil is not too dry.

As with any herb, lemon balm should be harvested just before it flowers, when the oil in the leaves is most intense. Once fully established and healthy, it can be cut three times during the growing season. The leaves can always be used fresh for maximum flavor. Dry the leaves by carefully stripping them from their stems, place on trays is a warm (85-95 degrees) dark place until 'cornflake chip' dry, then carefully put in glass jars without breaking them up. They should be stored in a dark cupboard until ready to use.

The Shakers used lemon balm mostly for medicinal purposes. A delicious tea was made from the leaves to reduce fevers and sometimes a little rosemary or spearmint with a few cloves was added for extra flavor. Many generations have used this herb for relief from insomnia. Today people make a hot tea to bring on a sweat that is good for relieving symptoms of colds, flu and fevers. Recently its antiviral properties have been found to help relieve cold sores.

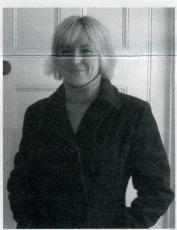
Aside from tea, lemon balm leaves can be tossed into green salads, fruit salads, poultry stuffing, a citrus punch, and as a marinade for fish. Finely shred or coarsely chop the leaves and sprinkle them on carrots, peas, cut up fennel bulbs or summer squash. When baking sugar cookies, crumbled leaves of lemon balm can be added to the batter for a citrus flavor. A delicious refreshing sorbet can be made by steeping springs of the fresh herb in a simple syrup along with a little cut ginger. Something to look forward to in the coming summer months.

Happy Griffiths, Herbalist

Museum Hires Head Gardener

Last December Mary Boswell led a community-wide meeting to hear ideas for the Museum's future. Overwhelmingly, the participants suggested that attention be given to maintain the high quality of the Museum's signature program, the nationally recognized Herb and Flower Garden. They also suggested that the Museum start a children's garden and program series.

In response to these requests, the Museum launched a search for a Head Gardener. Boswell and Museum Herbalist Happy Griffiths reviewed nearly 20 applications and narrowed them down to three. After interviewing the



Heather Hough has joined the Museum staff as the Head Gardener.

top three applicants, Boswell and Griffiths selected Heather Hough as the new Head Gardener, who was hired on March 14.

Hough (pronounced "Huff") was Head Gardener for the town of Hanover, NH, where she maintained 30 gardens. For three years, she designed and maintained herb gardens for the Green Mountain Institute, where she lectured on the medicinal properties of herbs and native plants. She

studied in the Masters Degree Program in Oriental Medicine with the Green Mountain Institute College of Oriental Medicine. She also worked as a horticultural assistant at Stonecrop Gardens in Cold Spring, NY, which consists of 63 acres of gardens, fields and woodlands.

Boswell is organizing a committee of teachers to help Hough create garden-related programs that meet the state standards for teaching science, economics, and other topics that teachers have requested assistance.

"We are meeting the needs of our Museum patrons as well as teachers," said Boswell. "Hands-on, multidisciplinary programs outside the classroom have been linked to higher grades and better work habits. These programs should teach children self-reliance and responsibility, as well as appreciation for nutritious diets and a more active lifestyle," she added.

Hough is seeking input from past Village Gardeners regarding which classes they will want this summer. She will bring her own experience and interpretation to the Museum garden and programs. "Heather has a sparkling personality and a lot of enthusiasm. Her knowledge of herbal medicines should draw new audiences as well as maintain our committed circle of friends," said Boswell.

The Museum is currently accepting applications for the 2007 Village Gardener Program. For information about or to sign up for Heather's classes, please call the Museum at (603)632-4346.

Enfield Shaker Museum 2006 Annual Appeal & Capital Campaign Donors

The Enfield Shaker Museum board, staff, and volunteers extend their sincere appreciation to everyone who has generously provided support to the 2006 Annual Appeal and/or Capital Campaign for the Great Stone Dwelling. 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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Upcoming Programs and Events

Music at the Museum

Organ Recital Performed by Daniel Sullivan

Sunday, June 10, 4:00 p.m. Mary Keane Chapel, Enfield Shaker Museum



Concert organist Daniel Sullivan, whose creative interpretations and musical depth have been recognized in concert halls around the country, will perform classic organ music on the renowned Casavant organ in the Mary Keane Chapel. \$15.00 admission benefits the Chapel Program Series.

Patriotic Sing

Wednesday, July 4, 11:00 a.m. Mary Keane Chapel, Enfield Shaker Museum

To celebrate the national holiday, organist George Butler and song leader Donna Butler will lead this participatory program of patriotic ballads and folk songs in the Mary Keane Chapel. Bring your friends and family, all voices are welcome. Open House in the Great Stone Dwelling follows. Free admission.



Summer Strings Classical Concert

Sunday, July 8, 4:00 p.m. Great Stone Dwelling, Enfield Shaker Museum

Members of the Summer Strings program are doctoral students and staff of the Upper Valley Music Center. Founded in 1995, The Upper Valley Music Center is the premier source of orchestra, chamber ensemble, and chorus education and performance opportunities for the Upper Valley. This concert will be conducted by Bob Mark. A suggested donation of \$10.00 benefits both the Center and the Museum.

Bluegrass Concert with Southern Rail

Sunday, July 22, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Mt. Assurance, or the Stone Mill (in case of rain), **Enfield Shaker Museum**

Bring a blanket and enjoy an afternoon of summer fun "on the hill."

Southern Rail has achieved a reputation for excellence in performing traditional material and on-stage entertainment. Southern Rail's hallmark sound is first-class harmony with heart-stopping banjo and mandolin playing. Sponsored by the



New England Foundation for the Arts. \$10.00 in advance; \$12.50 at the admission booth on the hill.

"nostalgia"

Sunday, August 12, 4:00 p.m. Mary Keane Chapel, Enfield Shaker Museum

A "mini" organ recital performed by George Butler with a range of music including a summertime "pops" sing-a-long of "golden oldies." Free admission.

Wood's Tea Company Concert

Saturday, August 18, 6:30 p.m. Stone Mill, Enfield Shaker Museum



Tap your toes to fun-filled Irish, folk and bluegrass music and sea shanties. The Irish Heritage Foundation honored them with an Outstanding Innovation Award to recognize their gifts to Irish music. Tickets are \$15.00 in advance, \$17.50 at the door and includes a com-

plimentary Irish coffee. Sponsored by New England Foundation for the Arts.

Summer Workshops

Exploring for Shaker Medicinal Herbs in the Wild

Saturday, July 7th, 10 a.m.-12 noon Meet at the Museum Store in the Great Stone Dwelling, **Enfield Shaker Museum**

Join Galen Beale on a walk to the Feast Ground in search of plants the Shakers used in their medicinal herb business. Beale will discuss how the Shakers selected their plants, and how they harvested and manufactured them into products sold throughout New England. Fee: \$12.50/Members; \$15.00/Non-Members. Rain Date: Saturday, July 14, 10:00 a.m. This program is limited to 15 participants, so sign up no later than Thursday, July 5th.

Shaker Craft Workshop: Make a Shaker Style Herb Cabinet with Milk Paint Finish

Saturday, July 28th, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Laundry/Dairy Building, Enfield Shaker Museum

Make an open-faced herb cabinet with two adjustable shelves. Finish the cabinet with traditional milk paint similar to that used by the Shakers. Taught by woodworker Dan Grecoe. \$60/Member; \$70/Non-Member. Call (603)632-4346. Make checks payable to Enfield Shaker Museum. Credit cards are accepted.

Shaker Craft Workshop: Make a Traditional Floorcloth

Saturday, July 28th, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Laundry/Dairy Building, Enfield Shaker Museum

Design and paint a 2' x 3' foorcloth. Learn the principles of designing, painting and finishing a traditional floorcloth. Taught by artisan Betsy Grecoe. \$60/Member; \$70/Non-Member. Call (603)632-4346. Make checks payable to Enfield Shaker Museum. Credit cards are accepted.

Shaker Craft Workshop: Shaker Poplar Pincushion Workshop

Saturday, Aug. 11th, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Great Stone Dwelling, Enfield Shaker Museum

Learn how woven poplarware, an important Shaker industry, represented the continuation of a communal lifestyle and dedication to craftsmanship. Galen Beale will teach you how to make a large "tomato" cushion, a reproduction of a popular item sold by the Maine Shakers. All materials are provided, including the poplarcloth. Bring scissors, ruler and pencil. Fee: \$35.00. Space is limited. Call (603) 632-4346. Make checks payable to Enfield Shaker Museum. Credit cards are accepted.

Upcoming Programs and Events

Spring Forum on the Shakers

Friday, May 18th – Sunday, May 20th Great Stone Dwelling, Enfield Shaker Museum

Immerse yourself in the latest research on the Shakers during this two-day forum. Registration begins at noon on Friday, May 18, followed by a wine and cheese reception and Shaker-style dinner. Keynote speaker UNH Professor David H. Watters, will present a lecture on "The Shakers and the Rise and Fall of New England."

Benefit Yard Sale

Friday-Saturday, May 25th-26th, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Stone Mill, Enfield Shaker Museum

Join us for this HUGE sale of used books, furniture, household items, a used car, and much more! We'll hold this event in the Stone Mill to benefit the Museum's Herb and Flower Garden. Refreshments will be served.

Shaker Herb Dinner

Saturday, June 2nd, 6:30 p.m. Great Stone Dwelling, Enfield Shaker Museum

The Shakers often held dinners for the "World's People" to promote their high quality food products. Following this tradition, we invite you to celebrate summer with an elegant dinner catered by Museum Executive Chef Betsy Oppenneer. The menu will include chilled minted strawberry yogurt soup; asparagus and orange salad w/ herbed vinaigrette; spinach with rosemary; herbed pork roast; herbed biscuits; and herbed jellyroll with orange sauce. \$30.00/member or \$35.00/non-member. Two complimentary glasses of wine are included. Please reserve by May 30.

Plant Sale

Saturday, June 16th, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Stone Mill, Enfield Shaker Museum

This colorful sale will include potted plants, herb samples and herbal tastings, which will benefit the Museum's Herb and Flower Gardens. Meet new Head Gardener Heather Hough!

Art and Garden Tour

Saturday, July 21st, 1-5 p.m. – rain or shine! Begin at the flower booth on Main Street, Enfield village

Where are Enfield's best-kept Secret Gardens? Find out when you tour enchanting gardens in private homes and public spaces, watch artists at work, and enjoy garden art on display and for purchase. End your tour at the Enfield Shaker Museum's Herb and Flower Garden for refreshments. Tickets \$10.00 each in advance, or \$12.00 on the day of event. Proceeds will benefit both the Enfield Village Association and Enfield Shaker Museum.



Damage to the Mary Keane Chapel roof (left) resulted in a temporary patch installed by A Fox Tree & Landscaping Service (right).

Mary Keane Chapel Gets Emergency Repairs

The Capital Campaign is addressing serious needs of the Great Stone Dwelling, but that does not mean we can ignore the Museum's eight other buildings. During the week of March fifth, a severe windstorm peeled back an eight-foot by six-foot section of copper roofing at the southwest corner of the Mary Keane Chapel. Several neighbors, including Polly Dickinson, notified us about the damage. Our immediate need was to cover the exposed area before the next storm hit. We had to find a company that could reach the roof, a good 40 feet from the ground. Enfield Fire Dept. Lieutenant John Pellerin contacted the Lebanon Fire Department, but they were unable to bring over a truck. He then contacted a local company, A Fox Tree & Landscaping Service. I soon found myself in a soaking rainstorm taking photographs of Anthony Stewart from A Fox Tree, up 40 feet in a crane, laying down a plastic tarpaulin to protect the exposed area until we found a contractor to make the permanent repair.

The Facilities Committee bid out the work, asking for quotes both on the repair itself and on a complete replacement of the copper roof. We soon discovered that specialized skills and materials are required to replace this old roof, and these are hard to find. We decided to limit our project to the repair, and awarded HP Roofing the job. To prevent the tear from happening again, the roofing team refastened the front edge of the roof along the pediment. HP Roofing was prompt and did an excellent job. We were very pleased that their bill came only to \$1600. The Museum was able to make this emergency repair thanks to trustee Donna Butler and her husband George, who have created a special fund to preserve the Mary Keane Chapel.

Tom Boswell, Property Manager

Dolores Struckhoff Joins Board of Trustees



Dolores Struckhoff appointed to Museum Board of Trutees.

Enfield Shaker Museum is pleased to announce the appointment of Dolores (Crate) Struckhoff to the Board of Trustees. Dolores is a life-long resident of Enfield with a passion for her local heritage. For the past year, she has been a member of the Museum's Development Committee, where she leads the development of the Museum's business membership program. She comes to the board with 20 years of marketing management experience, having been a Marketing Communications Manager and Corporate Communications Manager at Hypertherm, Inc. in Hanover, NH. Previously, Dolores held a position on the Enfield Village Association Board of Directors. It was her letter, depicting the Main Street Community when she was a child growing up in Enfield, that was read at the ceremony when the town became a "NH Main Street Community". As a new Museum trustee, Dolores will focus on two of the board's strategic initiatives: Leadership Development and Marketing.

The Friends' Quarterly

New Exhibit to Feature Recent Donations



Galen Beale and Mary Boswell examine recent- ing the last year we ly donated Shaker poplarware.

The Museum, under the leadership of Mary Boswell, has held several strategic planning sessions. Participants were asked what was important to them, and topping many lists was a request for new exhibits each year. Durreceived some wonder-

ful gifts, many of which we will put on display this year in "New To Us, Maybe to You", our latest exhibit.

Last summer Sister Barbara Whittemore donated a collection of objects that belonged to her grandfather, William Hemingway Whittemore. William and his brother were both raised by the Enfield Shakers.

Over the last several years the estate of Eugene Dodd has been disbursing his collection. Mr. Dodd, former curator of Hancock Shaker Village in Massachusetts, retired to our area and his donation contains many interesting books, phonograph records, a Shaker stove, the manuscript of a book he was writing and an extensive collection of photographs of Shaker villages and artifacts.

Elizabeth Ballinger of Terre Hill, Pennsylvania sent us pages from a scrapbook she inherited from her cousins, Miss Elsie Osgood and her sister Cora Davenport Osgood. The pages include photos of house parties held on Mascoma Lake from 1911-1913.

Recently, the St. Petersburg, Florida Historical Society, wishing to return some Shaker objects to their rightful home sent us a collection of 20th c. Shaker handiwork. The gift includes several New England poplar boxes and pincushions. Sister Florence Phelps (formerly of Canterbury Shaker Village) donated this collection to the Florida museum.

Also on display this summer will be the collection of

Anthony C. and Patricia K. Perry of Bristol, RI. The Perrys have donated an extensive library of Shaker books and magazines including issues of the Granite Monthly (c. 1920's) and the Shaker Manifesto (c. 1880's). Among the books are original works such as David Lamson's 1848 Two Years Among the Shakers and works by F. W. Evans from the 1870's and 1880's. The Perrys intend the collection to be used for study and exhibition. In addition, they have donated a framed collection of postcards, photographs and lithographs of a wide sampling of Shaker Villages.

> The Friends' Quarterly is a publication of the Enfield Shaker Museum 447 NH Rt 4A Enfield, NH 03748

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