

The Friends' Quarterly



A Newsletter from the Enfield Shaker Museum

Enfield Sap Buckets, Revisited

By Robert P. Emlen

In the 1970s, when I was researching the home industries of the Enfield Shakers, I became interested in Elder Henry Cumings' bucket and tub manufactory at the North Family. The material evidence of this Shaker industry was everywhere—buckets, pails, and tubs stamped “N.F. SHAKERS/ENFIELD N.H.” were turning up in antique shops and flea



markets all across northern New England, near the farm towns and sugar maple groves where they had originally been used in the years following the Civil War. A series of articles Cumings wrote about his experiences with the Enfield Shakers for a local newspaper called *The Enfield Advocate* in the early 20th century filled out the pieces of this story. Elder Henry Cumings had been charged with developing a new source of income to restore the Enfield Shakers' finances after Elder Austin Bronson devastated the North Family when he embezzled its funds in the early 1860s. Elder Henry's solution was to transform the old cooperage into a mechanized operation that used local resources to produce excellent woodenwares efficiently, inexpensively, and in great numbers. Labeled with the Shakers' name, these tubs, pails, and sap buckets soon became to the Enfield Shakers what Br. Robert Wagan's chair factory had become for the Mt. Lebanon Shakers—a useful commodity cleverly marketed under the Shaker brand to great profit for the community. In 1979 I published this story in the *Maine Antiques Digest*, which was reprinted the next year in the *Shaker Messenger*.

Looking back on it, I think I got it pretty much right, though if I knew then what I know now, I would have changed a couple of things.

The case of the mysterious “2”:

Every once in a while an Enfield Shaker pail turns up with the number “2” stamped on the bottom. After seeing #2 pails itemized on an 1870 bill of sale from the North Family, I supposed they might have been numbered by size, something like the chairs made at the Shakers' factory at Mt. Lebanon, New York. But in the

years that followed I never saw any number other than “2.” What I did see was Elder Henry's advertisements in the *Shaker Manifesto* in the 1870s warranting that his pails and tubs were made of old-growth, virgin timber. As his stock of this dense, clear, strong lumber dwindled, he advertised that he also had for sale pails made from second growth pine, that is, from subsequent generations of trees that grew up after the virgin forest was harvested. I have now come to think that the stamped “2” refers not to the size, but to this less durable and less expensive “second growth” lumber.

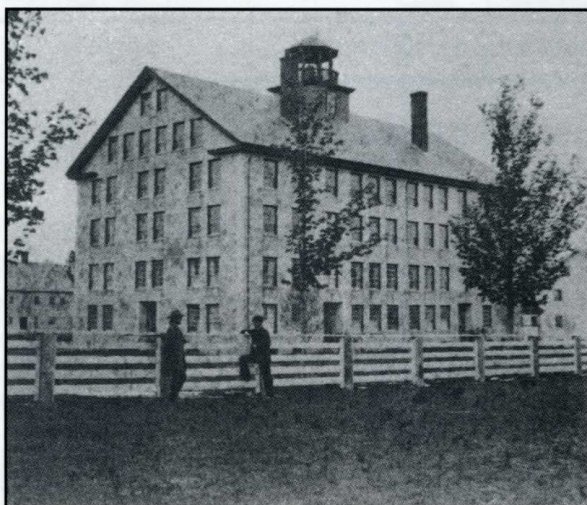
The case of the recycled machinery:

In an 1895 issue of the town newspaper, the *Enfield Advocate*, I found a notice that the old pail shop at the North Family of the Enfield Shakers had burned to the ground. It had been standing vacant, its machinery having been sold when the pail business was given up some years before. I took that to mean that someone had purchased the whole operation—lathes, cutters, coopering jigs—and had continued to make buckets to the Shakers' original specifications. While that may well be true, I have since come to think that the notice in the *Enfield Advocate* doesn't necessarily support my original conclusion. It just as well could have meant that the neighbors purchased only the steam engine, and that the Enfield Shaker's industry of making pails and tubs may have ended after Henry Cumings left the faith to get married in 1881.

Oh, hindsight. How nice it would be to go back and tidy up the things we said 30 years ago. How nice it is to have this opportunity to revisit some hasty conclusions I made in 1979.

Robert P. Emlen is Senior Lecturer and University Curator in the Dept. of American Civilization at Brown University. He also serves on the Adjunct Faculty of the Dept. of History of Art and Visual Culture at the Rhode Island School of Design. He is a former trustee of Enfield Shaker Museum. His publications include *Shaker Village Views: Illustrated Maps and Landscape Drawings by Shaker Artists of the Nineteenth Century* (University Press of New England, 1987). He will speak on *Branding: The Revival of the Shaker Cooperage Industry at the Spring Forum*.

Sign Up for the Spring Forum!



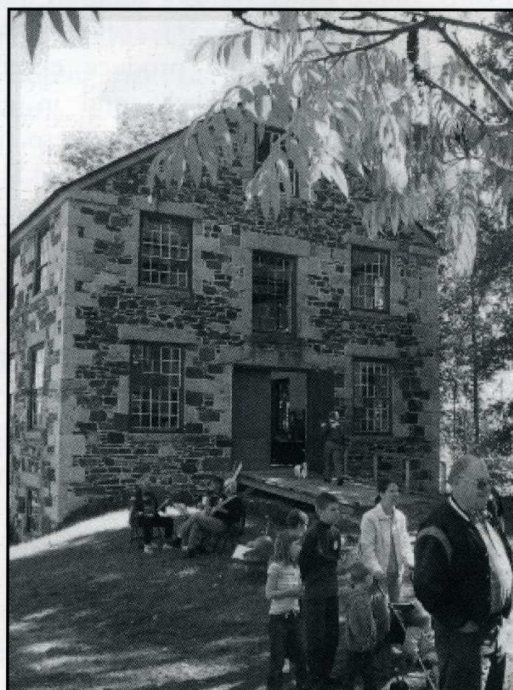
Immerse yourself in Shaker culture for an entire weekend! On Friday, scholar Galen Beale will lead a tour of the exhibit *Shaker Yokefellows: Enfield Shakers from Vermont*. Guests will sample local cheeses and cider at a reception and enjoy a Shaker-inspired dinner with complimentary wine. On Saturday, Carol Medlicott, Dept. of History and Geography at Northern Kentucky University, will present a program on the musical documentation at Watervliet, Ohio. Stephen J. Paterwic, an outstanding scholar on Mount Lebanon, will talk about the devolvment of the Mount Lebanon Ministry to Canterbury. Susan Maynard, who has written about Canterbury Shaker Irving Greenwood, will speak on the ties between Canterbury Shaker "Mothers and Daughters." Ilyon Woo, a doctoral candidate at Columbia University, will discuss an incident that occurred at the Enfield, NH, Shaker Society in 1818. Preservation consultant Paula Dennis will speak on the gendered landscape. Robert P. Emlen will speak on the Enfield Shakers' cooper industry. At dinner Saturday night, Rebecca Rule will entertain guests with her version of "Yankee Shakers." On Sunday, Property Manager Tom Boswell will lead a tour of the Great Stone Dwelling. Trustee Donna Butler and organist George Butler will give an informative program of organ music in the Mary Keane Chapel. Also planned are special interest roundtables, group discussions and displays of private collections.

Shaker Workshops, Inc. will award a \$500 cash prize to the presenter demonstrating the most outstanding, new scholarship in the field. Opus Office Programs is sponsoring the Forum.

The deadline for registration is April 1. The weekend package is \$259, single occupancy; \$189pp double occupancy. The local resident weekend package is \$119, and the local resident Saturday package is \$50-\$60. Saturday Dinner/Performance is \$35-\$45. A detailed invitation will be mailed to Museum members and donors in March. To reserve now, call Martha Doelle, Event Coordinator, at (603) 632-4346 or email enfieldshakermuseum@yahoo.com.

Enfield Farmers Market Moves to the Museum's Stone Mill

The Museum's Stone Mill will be the new site for the Enfield Farmers Market starting July 1, and extending through October 7. The market will be held on Wednesdays, 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. The farmers will have fresh local produce, meats, jams, relishes, and baked goods. Craftspeople will have jewelry, knitted goods, hand-dyed wool and hand-sewn creations. Please join us during the 2009 market season and support your local farmers and craftspeople.



Spring 2009 Programs and Events

The Museum is open 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday - Saturday, and noon - 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Tours are given throughout the day; the last tour is held at 3:00 p.m. Make it a weekend and stay overnight in the Great Stone Dwelling! Call Event Coordinator Martha Doelle at (603) 632-4346 or email enfieldshakermuseum@yahoo.com.

Sugaring Off Dinner **Saturday, March 14, 6:30 p.m.**



Board President Doug Smith taps the maple trees at Enfield Shaker Museum.

Enjoy a traditional meal served in the elegant Great Stone Dwelling where the Enfield Shakers dined for nearly 100 years. Our menu is spring asparagus soup, spinach & roasted beet salad with Dijon sour cream dressing, maple corn bread, pork roast with maple mustard balsamic glaze, butternut squash puree, roasted zucchini, and maple pecan bread pudding. The meal will be flavored with maple syrup from the trees at the Museum! The \$35/member; \$40/non-member fee includes complimentary wine. Stay overnight for only \$85/room, including breakfast and tour. Seating is limited; please register by March 11.



Spring Forum on the Shakers **April 3 - 5**

The weekend will be packed with lectures, tours, and programs. Package rates, including rooms and meals, are offered. See page 2 for details. *Sponsored by Shaker Workshops, Inc. and Opus Office Programs, LLC.*

Service Elderhostel **Sunday - Friday, April 19 - 24**



Elderhostel participants will return for another week of "hands-to-work" projects to help the Museum. Deb Williams of the Hulbert Outdoor Center is leading the projects and programs.

School Vacation Week **Monday - Friday, April 20 - 24**



Appropriate for ages 5-11, the activities include planting seeds, cooking, making crafts, singing, storytelling and more. The program will be held from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Admission is \$5/day; 10% discount for Museum members. The daily fee includes a project to take home and a snack.

(Continued on reverse.)

Spring 2009 Programs and Events *(Continued from reverse.)*

The Museum is open 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday - Saturday, and noon - 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Tours are given throughout the day; the last tour is held at 3:00 p.m. Make it a weekend and stay overnight in the Great Stone Dwelling! Call Event Coordinator Martha Doelle at (603) 632-4346 or email enfieldshakermuseum@yahoo.com.

Casavant Organ Demonstration Wednesday, April 22, 1:00 p.m.



Organists George and Donna Butler will give a demonstration on the Casavant organ in the Mary Keane Chapel. The performance is open to the public, with free admission.

Enfield Shaker Singers Concert Wednesday, April 22, 7:15 p.m.

Led by volunteer and former trustee Mary Ann Haagen, this a cappella vocal ensemble preserves the musical traditions of the Shakers. Dressed in authentic costume, the performers recreate the Shakers' traditional song and dance based on original documents. Free admission.



Benefit Yard Sale.

Friday – Saturday, May 22-23
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



Volunteers Mary Ann Haagen and Gail Gagnon wrap up an item for a customer at last year's Yard Sale.

This will be a HUGE sale offering furniture, toys, tools, linens, jewelry, games, small appliances, books, household items and much more! The event will be held at the 1849 Stone Mill.

Wanted: Items for the Yard Sale!

It's that time of year again - spring cleaning! That should remind you to give your unwanted items to the Museum's annual Yard Sale! We accept items year-round, including furniture, tools, exercise equipment, linens, jewelry, toys, games, baby items, books, small appliances and household goods (lamps, dishes, glassware, flatware, holiday items). No electronics or clothing will be accepted. If you have trouble delivering your items, we will pick them up for you if you live within a reasonable distance of the Museum. You will receive a letter, for your tax records, acknowledging your contribution. Our goal is to raise \$5,000 from this event. You can help with your donations!

Adopt A Window!

Make a lasting contribution to the Museum by adopting a window in the Great Stone Dwelling! Last fall, new storm windows were added to the Great Stone Dwelling as an energy saving measure. The project involved removing the old storms, repairing the original wood frames and re-painting them to match the historic dark green color. This addition not only saves energy but also protects the original windows and improves the appearance of the building.

Please help by adopting a window with a \$500 gift. You may select from nearly 152 windows, and you may indicate whether or not the gift is made in honor or in memory of someone. The names of the donors, memorials and honorees will be displayed in the Great Stone Dwelling. To select a window and make a gift, call the Enfield Shaker Museum at (603)632-4346 or email info@shakermuseum.org and ask for a registration form.

We are grateful to the following individuals who have already selected their windows:

Richard & Ruth Blodgett
Tom and Mary Boswell
Earl and Barbara Brady
Kathy Ford
Mariann Guaraldi
Colin and Mardy High
Doug and Meredith Smith
Reid and Margaret Taube



Nicole Ford and Richard Burley are helping in the Museum Store and giving tours as volunteers. They will continue working at the Museum in the summer before returning back to school.

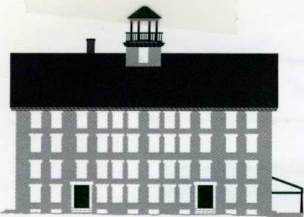
Welcome New Volunteers

Nicole Ford is an Enfield resident and career student. She received a BA in Liberal Arts from Sarah Lawrence College, recently completed her MA in Medieval Studies at the University of York (UK), and hopes to begin a PhD in Art History program next fall. Her primary interests include medieval art/architecture and theology, but she enjoys expanding her historical horizons at the Shaker Museum several days a week.

Richard Burley is a student of history and literature and an aspiring author. Having recently completed his MA in Medieval Studies at the University of York, he is awaiting word on PhD applications for programs beginning in September 2009. Although new to the Enfield Shaker Museum, he enjoys learning more about the Shakers as well as the maintenance and preservation of their historical buildings.

Good News for Nonprofits

In the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, the IRA Charitable Rollover provision of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 was extended to the end of 2009. If you are aged 70 ¹/₂ or older, you may "rollover" up to \$100,000 from your IRA account to the charity of your choice - which we hope is the Enfield Shaker Museum - without having to count the distribution as taxable income.



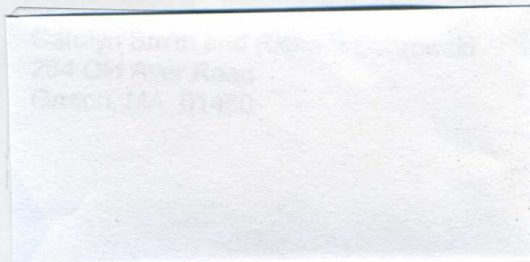
Enfield Shaker Museum

447 NH Rt 4A
Enfield, NH 03748
(603) 632-4346

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Enfield, NH
Permit No. 1



SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

Enfield Shaker Museum's Development Committee is hoping that eventually all our mailings will be sent to you electronically to save money, paper and time. Our membership has doubled in the past year, so our expenses are rising with the additional mailings. We understand that many of our members and friends do not have access to email or prefer to receive hard copies in regular mail. Please let us know what you prefer. **Either mail in this page of the newsletter (which includes your name & address) to Enfield Shaker Museum, 447 NH Route 4A, Enfield, NH 03748, or email your contact information and email address to info@shakermuseum.org.**

☐ Email only: My email address is (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY):

☐ Regular Postage only

☐ Both

Thank you!