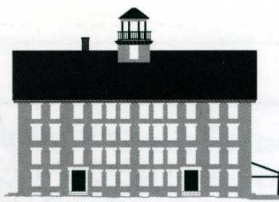


The Friends' Quarterly



A Newsletter from the Enfield Shaker Museum

The Order of Young Believers at Enfield, New Hampshire

Stephen Paterwic

Starting in 1787, Shakers began to gather into communities in the pattern known as Gospel Order. By the late 1790s, however, it was clear that the system had to be changed. The most pressing need was to add a new category of membership called the Order of Young Believers or the Gathering or Novitiate Order. Until that time all Shakers had been divided into those of the Church Order and those in the Order of Families. There was no means to gather new converts or accommodate them. One of Mother Lucy Wright's major accomplishments was to fill this need by creating the Order of Young Believers.

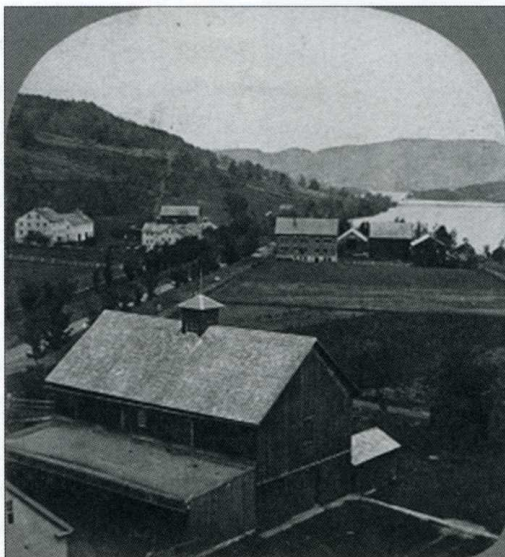


Image of the Enfield North Family, taken by C. E. Lewis of Lebanon, N.H. Collection of the United Society of Shakers, Sabbathday Lake, Maine.

Consequently, in 1799, the Order of Young Believers was started at New Lebanon, New York, in the North Spin Shop at the Church Family. It was first thought that gathering orders might be regional in nature and gather people for various communities. This proved to be impractical. In addition, it was determined that it was unwise to place it within the Church Family or have its temporal interest intertwined with the Church. In time, as the Gathering Order took shape, modifications were made until it was decided that each Shaker society should have at least one separate family for a Gathering Order. Between 1807 and 1819, all of the eleven Shaker communities in the East began novitiate families. Most of the communities took an existing Shaker family from the Order of Families and re-organized it. The members who had lived there were sent to live in other families and specific elders and eldresses were chosen to take charge of the new order. Two societies, Harvard and New Gloucester, had to purchase additional land to accommodate the new order. At Tyringham, the number of Shakers was so few that the Second or North Family doubled as a Gathering Order. In the West, Gathering Orders were added as communities were founded.

The NH Shaker society at Enfield faced a unique situation when it started its novitiate family in 1810. The first Shakers at Enfield lived on individual farms on the **east** side of Mascoma Lake around Shaker Hill. Through land trades and purchases, when it was time to organize Enfield into Gospel Order, the Shakers moved to the **western** side. Thus Enfield did not have multiple small groups making up an Order of Families. Instead, there was the First Family of the Church (Church Family) organized in 1793 and the Second Family of the Church (Second Family) organized in 1794. Until large dwellings could be erected, Believers lived in small houses but belonged to

either the First or Second Families of the Church. In contrast, the Shakers of New Lebanon ended the Order of Families in 1811 and gathered them into the Second Family of the Church. When the two families at Enfield were started, they numbered 40 each. By 1803, numbers had increased to 132. Sixty-one lived in the Church Family and seventy-one in the Second Family. This increase was not due to an influx of outsiders but rather to an effort to gather in as many as possible of the first people who had become Shakers in the 1780s. Henry Cumings writes: *After the families were organized they lived very secluded, had no public meeting and received but few accessions for several years, the object being mainly to get things into good working order.* Yet people were seeking to join, and it was inevitable with the impetus from New Lebanon that Gathering Orders would be formed in the two NH communities.

(Continued on page 2.)

This article is based on a presentation that Paternic will give at the Enfield Shaker Museum's Spring Forum on May 7, 2011. He received the Shaker Workshops Award for Outstanding New Research at the Forum in 2010. He is the author of many published articles and the Historical Dictionary of the Shakers. He is a past president of the Boston Area Shaker Study Group, an overseer at Hancock Shaker Village and a corporator at Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village. He serves on their Friends of the Shakers board.

(Continued from page 1.)

Instead of having to reorganize an existing Shaker family at Enfield for this purpose, the New Hampshire Ministry in 1810 chose land north of the Church Family and made plans to create an Order of Young Believers. The site was perfect. New converts would naturally be prone to live in a more relaxed manner than seasoned stalwarts. Rather than place the family near the Second Family, which was then a looser association, the Gathering Order was created at the opposite end of Shaker village with the nearby Church Family as the role model. This matched the situation at New Lebanon. The first dwelling of the North Family was raised in September 1811 and occupied on June 12, 1812. Elder Edmund Lougee and Eldress Molly Mills served as the leaders. They were assisted by Brother John Lyon and Sister Lucy Lyon.

By 1819, Enfield had 172 members, most of the increase since 1803 due to the Gathering Order. A Shaker census reveals that after Enfield's opening, *almost immediately followed quite a little ingathering, Joseph Dyer, his wife Mary, and their children...also a Curtis family of several member, and several others...Soon after this several other families united with the Society: The Bronson family, the Allard family, the Huntington family, the two Bradford families, the Thurstons family, the Annis family, Stephen Folsom and children, also quite a few who came in singly. But I mention the families as it was largely from these families that the permanent members, and especially the leaders, came.* In 1819, 15 males and 19 females lived at the North Family under the guidance of Elder John Lyon and Eldress Mary Shepherd. They were assisted by Brothers Joseph Dixon and James Jewett and Sister Lydia Merrill.

Two small out-families also existed by 1819 and these may have had the potential to become full-fledged families or branches of the Gathering Order. Six of the original eleven Shaker societies in the East had more than one Gathering Family and the society at New Lebanon had three. Yet all over Shakerdom expansion into new families and new communities stopped after 1826, and Enfield never had more than three Shaker families. If Gathering Orders had attracted so many people,

why didn't the existing communities continue to push outward since Shaker population figures continued to rise until the 1840s and many communities stayed at the high numbers until 1860?

Any early clue that gives answer may be found by looking at the Second Family at Enfield which had decreased from 71 members in 1803 to 62 in 1819. This negative change was largely the result of children of the founders who had left the society when they became adults as well as deaths. This situation, which was not unique to Enfield, should have been a warning to Believers that they could not rely on children to keep membership levels high. Indeed, Mother Lucy Wright as the over-all leader of the Shakers and Elder Green, Shaker theologian and elder at the North Family at New Lebanon, both cautioned against the policy of taking children without their parents. Mother Lucy's exhortation in this matter was ignored after her death in 1821. For the next 50 years Shakers everywhere took in large numbers of children without their parents. This overwhelmed the societies and kept them in constant flux since very few of these children stayed Shakers when they came of age. This policy was a strong factor that mitigated against a functioning Gathering Order.

This policy was not the only reason the Shakers began to fail in attracting adults, but until the 1860s, the elders of Gathering Orders shifted from active evangelization to instructing people, conducting public meeting and preaching to those who attended on Sundays. That is why the Gathering Orders never worked out the way they were intended. Emphasis had long shifted to keeping up high numbers in the Children's Order, which was connected to the Church Family.

By the 1870s the need for new adult members was so severe that the Ministry of Mount Lebanon allowed all Shaker families to gather converts. Enfield's North Family continued to exist, but its original purpose had shifted. For many reasons, having each Shaker family function did not work either, and Enfield continued to unravel. By 1913, when the North Family closed, it had long ceased to be a vital Order of Young Believers. ■

New Exhibit Opens: The Ties that Bind

To celebrate the Town of Enfield's 250th anniversary, the Collections and Exhibitions Committee, chaired by Galen Beale, is planning exhibits for the Great Stone Dwelling, North Enfield, and Enfield Center. Under the common title, *The Ties that Bind*, the three exhibits will illustrate the close relationship between the Enfield Shakers and their neighbors.

The exhibit set for the Great Stone Dwelling will open May 2. One theme will be about early collectors and their interactions with the Shakers. One example is a trunk that Enfield Shaker Caleb Dyer took with him during his travels to promote the Shakers' wares. After his death, it was passed from friend to friend until it was returned to the Village. The exhibit will

also explore early industries he initiated. Another theme will be Shaker craftsmanship and how it has inspired many artisans. The exhibit will highlight some of these works.

The other two exhibits will be open July 1-5 for the 250th Anniversary Celebration. A full description of the exhibits will appear in the Summer 2011 newsletter.

Sponsored by John Parker Carr and Marjory A. Carr



*Image of Enfield Shakers and their friends, 1923.
From the Collection of Dartmouth College Library.*

5th Annual Spring Forum on the Shakers: May 6-8 - please register by May 4

Friday, May 6

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Registration and tours of restoration projects in the Great Stone Dwelling.

4:00 p.m. Mary Ann Haagen, a member of the Exhibition and Collections Committee and a former Museum trustee, will lead a guided tour of the new exhibit, *The Ties That Bind*.

5:30 p.m. Welcome Reception featuring New Hampshire and Vermont cheeses and cider. Cash Bar.

6:30 p.m. Dinner: Shaker roasted chicken; baby greens with vinaigrette and shaved Parmesan; Canterbury sweet potatoes with apricots; green beans; Shaker baked stuffed tomato; Shaker rosemary apple pie ala mode. The film *Come Thou Fount: Thoughts on the Shakers* will be shown.

Saturday, May 8

9:15 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Presentations will be made throughout the day. Lunch will be served.

5:30 p.m. Shaker Workshops will present the \$500 cash *Award for Outstanding New Research*.

6:00 p.m. Reception featuring New Hampshire and Vermont breads, jams and honey. Cash bar.

7:00 p.m. Dinner: Sabbathday Lake Shaker herbed roast pork; Shaker victory garden salad with lime vinaigrette; Sabbathday Lake Shaker creamed potatoes; Esther Perkins biscuits; carrots; Canterbury Shaker angel cake with Bavarian cream. Richard Dabrowski, President of Shaker Workshops, will present a history of the Great Stone Dwelling with colorful descriptions from primary sources. Shaker Workshops is restoring the drawers and door frames on the Sisters' side of the building.

Sunday, May 9

8:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Shaker readings and songs

Weekend overnight package, single occupancy: \$269; double occupancy: \$199 pp; local resident weekend package: \$129; local resident Saturday package \$59-\$69. Friday dinner: \$30-\$35. Museum Store discounts will be offered throughout the weekend.

Sponsored by Shaker Workshops and Ford Bookkeeping, LLC.

Contribute to the Museum's Yard Sale!

Help make our annual Yard Sale the best ever! Give your unwanted items to the Museum. Jerry Goslar and June Rock (right) chair this event and are seeking good or high quality sports equipment, office equipment, furniture, household goods, toys, baby items, books, holiday items, machines, art work, and antiques. We collect donations year-round.

Benefit Yard Sale.

Friday – Saturday, May 21-22, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

This will be a HUGE sale offering antiques, books, furniture, household items and more! Held in the Stone Mill.



Plant Your Garden in the Community Garden at the Enfield Shaker Museum

Participate in organic farming in historical soil farmed by the Shakers and later by the Missionaries of La Salette. Children are especially welcome if accompanied by an adult. Plots are 20' x 20' @ \$30 and 10' by 10' @ \$20. Some 10' x 20' plots @ \$25 are available. An annual deposit of the same amount is required and will be returned at the end of the season if the plot has been kept free of weeds, has been used to grow vegetables and is completely cleaned up by October 30.

All Community Gardeners must attend an initial orientation program. Workshops and educational programs will be presented periodically throughout the spring, summer and fall. *New this year:* a Giving Garden in partnership with Listen will provide fresh produce to families in need.

Thanks to a generous grant from Hypertherm, Inc., the Community Garden was established in 2010. Coordinated by Museum Board President Mardy High and her husband Colin, the garden is now certified by the USDA as a National Organic Program.

**4th Annual Country Life Festival
Saturday, June 11, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Celebrate country life with activities for the whole family. Watch broom makers, chair tapers, spinners, and other craftspeople. Ride in a horse-drawn wagon or on a pony. See local farm animals. Make fairy houses and kites. Play old-fashioned games. Hike the trails, tour the herb garden and Museum, sample local foods. Vendors galore! Music, lunch, and more! Rain or shine!

***Sponsored by Morin Contracting
and The Couch Family Foundation***

Right: Jane Carpenter, owner of Fun with Ponies, takes a child on a wagon ride.



Restoration of the Great Stone Dwelling Main Roof, Cupola and Cornice

In the words of an Enfield Shaker hymn, *We Will Sustain the Structure*. The hymn is a favorite of the Sabbathday Lake Shakers and is the theme of their upcoming conference on their built environment. While it refers to "God's great and glorious plan," it could also be the theme of our Capital Campaign.

At the Enfield Shaker Museum, we work year-round to "sustain the structure." The restoration of the Great Stone Dwelling's cupola, roof, cornice and chimney will begin in April. The Building Committee outlined the scope of work with head contractor Paul Morin. Jim Garvin, Architectural Historian, NH Division of Historical Resources, approved the methods and materials.



The trustees of the Butler Foundation donated \$45,000 to fund the restoration of the cupola. Left to right are, front row: Barbara Butler (a former Museum trustee) and Clara W. Butler. Back row: Graham McSwiney, Cynthia Wentworth, Bonnie Butler and Steve Albrecht.

The cupola (bell tower) will be addressed first. The handrails, columns, bell cradle, floor, walls and windows are water damaged and will be properly treated. The Butler Foundation is funding this significant project. The slate roof will be completely restored, thanks to a grant from the Timken Foundation in Canton, Ohio. The new shingles are from the same quarry in Penrhyn, Wales. The shingles have a blue hue that contrasts with the granite walls and are of extremely high quality. Copper nails will replace the iron nails to reduce future rust and deterioration. The cornice, which is about 400 linear feet and is located about 40 feet from the ground, is in fairly good condition and plays a relatively minor role in this project. The slanted soffitt, however, may

be a unique Shaker design and is, therefore, no small endeavor. While the scaffolding is installed, the cornice will be scraped and painted. The deteriorated chimney will also be addressed.



Timken employees wear hard hats in the bell tower to "raise the roof" in celebration of the next restoration project. On the stairs, left to right, are: John P. Carr, Robert J. Bauman and Elizabeth Hoffman. Front row: Timken employee and Museum Trustee Paul Waebler and Museum Property Manager Tom Boswell.

The committee took considerable care to schedule these segments concurrently to save time and money. Funding is still needed to complete the project, but the sense of urgency has propelled the board to proceed. Upon request, the staff will give tours of the work in progress. The Great Stone Dwelling was once a dazzling spectacle. This effort is another step to bring back this venerable structure to its former glory. With this careful treatment, the roof and cupola should last another 200 years.



Enfield Shaker Museum

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Invest in the Museum's Future

It is possible to help the Enfield Shaker Museum without spending a lot of time or cash. Many avenues allow you to make a lasting contribution that will also help you at tax time, earn you money and give you peace of mind. Posthumous giving is one example. A bequest may reduce the estate taxes imposed on your survivors and at the same time support the Museum; simply name the Enfield Shaker Museum as a beneficiary.

Visit our Store or Shop On-Line!

Our Museum Store offers unique gifts year-round fit for any budget. Take advantage of our featured item-of-the-month! In May, purchase an all-natural lotion or bug spray and receive a free Shaker Trail Guide! In June, Cardigan Mountain Soapworks' items are buy-one-get-one-half-off. Also, check out our new online store with free shipping! Contact Store Manager Hollyann Martin at (603) 632-4346 or e-mail shakermuseum.giftshop@gmail.com.

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