

The Friends' Quarterly

A Newsletter from The Museum at Lower Shaker Village

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Spring / Summer 1988

& So We Go Along

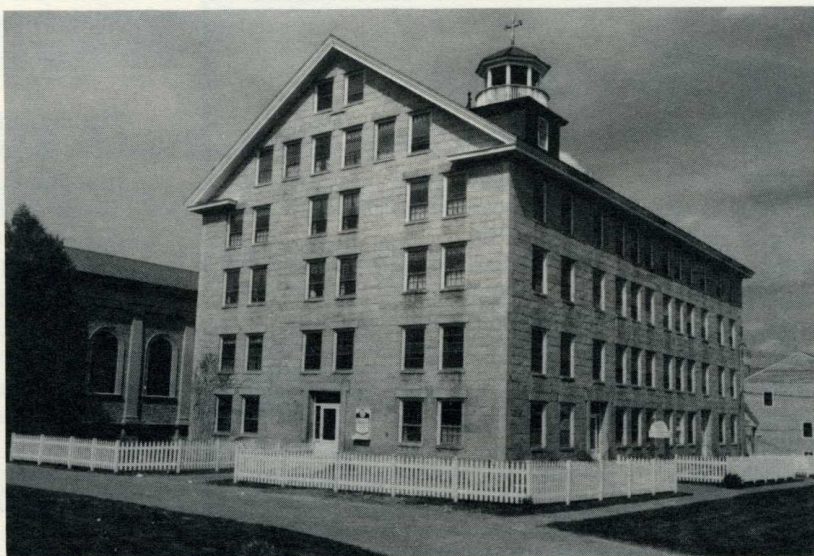
by Douglas C. Leitch

For a structure as magnificent as the Enfield Shakers' Church Family dwelling a detailed account of its design and construction would be of significant interest. The Great Stone Dwelling, with its precise layout of living spaces ordered around the meeting room at its core, is a clear statement of Shaker beliefs. Yet the existing record of its construction is unfortunately limited to a few letters from the Enfield Shakers to the Ministry at New Lebanon and two journals written at Enfield during the period 1834-41.

One of these journals is a pocket-sized notebook most likely written by Caleb Dyer, an Enfield Trustee and the Shaker responsible for supervising the building of a new granite dwelling for the Church Family. The account book begins with observations made during a fact-finding trip to Boston and Worcester, Massachusetts in 1836 when Brother Caleb surveyed the current preferences for roofing materials - "slate vs. zink." After conducting his exhaustive pre-construction survey, he determined that slate was more permanent and waterproof than "zink" and therefore was the roofing material of choice for a Shaker structure.

The remainder of this no-frills

record documents the construction beginning in May 1837. Weekly summaries of work progress are terse and sometimes scrawled in a hasty hand.



The Great Stone Dwelling in 1988. The Museum's permanent collection and the Shaker Store are currently housed in the ground floor. The building is the subject of a new exhibit entitled "Building in the Shaker Spirit." See article on page 2. Photo by D. Leitch.

Few words and little punctuation make it appear to be the work of a busy person, a taciturn Shaker. Sentences often end with "e&" (etc.) as though the author hadn't time to complete the thought (but, of course, the reader could be expected to follow each logical thought to its conclusion).

Entries make brief reference to the weather as it affected progress (or lack of it) in raising the granite walls. The account is so abbreviated and limited to the essentials that, if each entry were illustrated and the pages rapidly flipped with one's thumb, it would be easy to visualize an animated high-speed film of the building's growth with industrious

Shakers scurrying about their tasks.

By October 1837 construction of the walls and roof was nearly complete. After six months of block-by-block labor compressed into laconic entries, Brother Caleb concluded his October 21st summary with the unexpectedly loquacious remark, "& so we go along." That brief extraneous editorial could be construed as the resignation of a tired supervisor too long on the job. But, written by a Shaker, the phrase suggests an enthusiasm for completing a worthwhile project.

Minor setbacks due to the weather and the Shakers' begrudged use of hired stone masons and slaters notwithstanding, the building was closed to the elements in six

months and its interior painstakingly finished in another four years - a phenomenal tribute to the strength of the community. The Enfield Great Stone Dwelling symbolizes not only the Shakers' beliefs, but also their unity and their optimistic growth soon to peak in the 1840's.

Like the building itself, the inclusion of the words "& so we go along" in the account of its construction speaks of the broader Shaker faith in their ability to create a heaven on earth by overcoming obstacles through patient labor. These are not the words of an overworked construction supervisor. They are the words of joy and progress toward a lofty goal.

"Building in the Shaker Spirit"

*A Photographic Exhibit on Enfield's
Great Stone Dwelling*

Over thirty historic and contemporary photographs, architectural drawings, and manuscript reproductions are on display in this season's new exhibit, "Building in the Shaker Spirit." (See "& So We Go Along," pg 1).

This show looks at the impressive Great Stone Dwelling of Enfield's Church Family from a philosophical point of view. In addition to the building's more obvious features, such as its enormous size (when completed in 1841 it was the tallest building

north of Boston), solidity (the outer walls were built of local granite), graceful and harmonious design (with 182 windows), the Great Stone Dwelling fully embodied some of the most fundamental tenets of Shaker belief.

The words of the Shakers themselves narrate the exhibit, showing how they saw in the building the expression of such principles as practicality, simplicity, industry, union, celibacy, self-reliance, perfection, permanence and order.



Doug Leitch constructs one of the many panels involved in mounting the "Building in the Shaker Spirit" exhibit.

Sage Thoughts

by Happy Griffiths, Herbalist

Companion planting is an excellent way of bringing the balance of nature into the garden. Many herbs are natural insect repellents and can help keep the garden bug free and reduce or eliminate the need for potentially harmful pesticides. By using this technique of planting specific herbs and vegetables together you can discourage garden pests without harming the beneficial insects like lady bugs and bees. Herbs through their odors or root secretions will deter pests naturally. Some herbs even improve the flavor or growth rate of their companion vegetables.

Following is a list of some of the herbs used in successful companion planting:

Basil - Plant with tomatoes to improve growth and flavor and to repel flies.

Chamomile - Improves flavor of cabbage and carrots. A mild chamomile tea poured around young seedlings will discourage damping off.

Chervil - Improves growth and flavor of carrots.

Dill - Improves growth and health of cabbage. Don't plant near carrots.

Garlic - Plant near roses to repel aphids.

Lovage - Improves growth and flavor of most plants.

Marigolds - Improves soil, controls nematodes, root diseases and the bean beetle.

Marjoram - Has a beneficial effect on nearby plants, improving growth and flavor.

Mint - Deters the white cabbage worm by repelling the worm's butterflies. It also can be used as a moth repellent indoors.

Rosemary - Use against cabbage moths, bean beetles, carrot flies and sage.

Sage - Helps to protect and improve the flavor of carrots and cabbage. Do not plant with cucumber which does not like aromatic herbs in general and sage in particular.

Summer Savory - Plant with beans and onions to improve flavor.

Tansy - Plant with fruit trees, roses, raspberries, grapes and other cane fruits. It deters flying insects, aphids, ants, Japanese beetles, cucumber beetles and squash bugs.

There are many more vegetable and herb combinations. If you want more information on companion planting, visit your local library or come out and stroll through the gardens at Lower Shaker Village.

If you have gardening problems, send your questions addressed to me at The Museum and I will answer them in future columns.

"Building in the Shaker Spirit" is housed in the West Brethren's Shop and remains open through the season. It was coordinated primarily by **Doug Leitch** (whose photography supplements the historic images), with the help of **John Taylor**. The exhibit was made possible by a grant from **John Hayes**, **Kevin O'Reilly**, and **Toby Hoare**, and goods and services donated by several companies.



A New Computer

It is especially appropriate for a Shaker museum to strive for the most efficient means of accomplishing its work. In the 1980s that often involves a computer, and thanks to a generous donation by Trustee **Julie Adams** and her husband **Weston**, The Museum has obtained a Macintosh SE.

Among the tasks we are now able to do in record time include membership drives and membership services, mailing list management, exhibit labels, and the direct typesetting of much publicity, not to mention the *Friends Quarterly*! Our thanks again to the Adams for helping us obtain this invaluable tool.



A group of volunteers under the direction of Greg Schwarz (r) has begun the important task of cataloging the museum's collection. Wendell Hess (l) has been invaluable in helping identify the age, size, description, use and origin of the artifacts. Nancy King (not pictured) has been recording the information and marking each piece with an ID number.

Cross-Stitch Herb Quilt Nearing Completion

Since November of last year a group of dedicated museum volunteers has been hard at work creating a quilt of cross-stitch herb designs. The result of this effort is now on display in the West Brethren's Shop. Each of the 36 designs represents a plant grown and used by the Shakers. The purpose of the quilt is not only to show the variety of plants that once grew here as part of the extensive Shaker gardens, but also to help support The Museum's new display gardens, created over the past year.

The designs are counted cross-stitch and represent hundreds of hours of careful handwork. The quilt was pieced entirely by hand and is currently being hand quilted. Raffle tickets at \$1.00 each are available through the 1988 summer season. On October 15 the winning raffle ticket will be drawn and some lucky person will take the quilt home to enjoy for a lifetime. If you would like to order one or more tickets, call The Museum at (603)632-5533 or 632-4838.

Volunteer Recognition

With a full-time staff of two, The Museum depends heavily on volunteers to accomplish every one of its major programs. Happily, the volunteer pool has been steadily increasing...as we've embarked on our most ambitious summer ever.

These volunteers have contributed in more ways than can be counted over the past several months. We literally could not be succeeding without them! The following people have been providing invaluable help by: labeling maple syrup containers, helping with carpentry in the Shaker Store and collection room, cataloging the permanent collection, cleaning up the West Brethren Shop and other museum buildings, serving as The Museum's first tour guides, docenting in the museum, helping in the office and with numerous mailings, stitching together the herb quilt, setting up displays in various buildings, readying the display gardens and tending them as Village Gardeners, serving tea and cookies after La Salette organ concerts, helping with the Festival of Shaker Crafts and Herbs, and not last and certainly not least...helping design, coordinate and build the new

photographic exhibit, "Building in the Shaker Spirit." And this doesn't begin to cover it all!

We couldn't have done it without:

Julie Adams	Nancy King
Barbara Bennett	Sarah Kinter
Becky Brady	Doug Leitch
Charlie Bosson	Wayne Newport
Becky Brady	Jayne Ottmar
Liz Bunten	Becky Powell
Ann Cattabriga	Steve Powell
Betty Cattabriga	Kyle Roberts
Deborah Coffin-Rearick	Heidi Rogers
Eva Daniels	Irene Rogers
Richard Dionne	Tim Sanford
Lucille Drew	Helga Scherer
Teri Elmore	Katharina Scherer
Nancy Foley	Gregory Schwarz
Debbie Ford	Brownie Smith
Andy Green	Joanne Spencer
Donna Gregoire	Victoria Sullivan
Happy Griffiths	Nancy Sycamore
Lisa Griffiths	Ann Tarney
Sue Hammond	John Taylor
Wendell Hess	Joe Thompson
Viola Hess	Norman Tourville
Tim Jennings	Richard Vandall
Krissy Johnson	Suzanne Wallis
Lois Johnston	Barbara Woodard
	Russell Yearke

After just two years of operation, we are honored to have such a high level of commitment from so many. Our heartfelt thanks to all of you!

Museum Receives \$1400 Institute Grant

In July The Museum was notified it had received a \$1400 grant from the Institute of Museum Services in Washington D.C. to partake in its Museum Assessment Program. This grant will provide funding for an expert "surveyor" to evaluate The Museum's programs, management, and operations, and to provide guidance in this crucial early stage in its development.

Twelve Foot Water Pipe Donated

The Museum recently acquired a wooden water pipe once used as part of the Enfield community's complex aqueduct system. A gift from the **War Bonnet Corporation** of Canaan, NH, this pipe is on display in the 1854 Cow Barn during the summer. It will be featured in a future water-related display.

Board of Trustees: New Members, New Committees

Dana Robes, local businessman and woodcraftsman, **Steve Powell**, professor at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College, and **John Taylor**, architect and author, have recently been appointed to The Museum Board of Trustees. These three come with a variety of experiences and expertise that will be most helpful as we work on developing organizational and financial plans for The Museum's future.

Four new committees have been formed by the Board of Trustees which include both Trustees and interested members of the public. The formation of these committees, which focus on Finance, Membership and Development, Properties and Exhibits, and Education, is an important step in The Museum's development.



1988 Summer Season Shows Increased Attendance

The 1988 season is off to a good start. The Festival of Shaker Crafts and Herbs, held June 4, opened the season with a full schedule of speakers, demonstrating craftspeople, musical entertainment, guided tours of the village and gardens, and an array of artisans selling their wares. Over 700 people attended the day-long event, with 200 of those choosing to take the museum walking tour.

The new Summer Sunday series has been well received. On June 26, **John Taylor**, author of *Commonsense Architecture*, presented a fascinating look at Shaker buildings as compared with other forms of folk architecture. **Greg Schwarz**, historian and archeologist, spoke on July 17. He presented a unique view of Shaker religious life by focusing on Holy Grounds and their use. Then on August 7 photographer **Doug Leitch** gave a stunning audio-visual program

on the Shakers' concepts of light and order. Mark your calendar for the conclusion of the series: a talk by historian **Wendell Hess**, "The Shakers: A People and a Religion" on Sunday, August 28.

In addition to our scheduled programs we have been keeping an eye on daily attendance, which we are pleased to announce is more than double what it was at the same time period last year!



Illustration by
Lisa Griffiths

Build An Oval Box Collection While Benefiting The Museum

"Build a Shaker Collection" is the title of a new card you'll find enclosed in your next membership renewal mailing. This announces an opportunity for members to actually build two Shaker collections: one at The Museum, and one at home. By contributing \$100 as a membership donation you are entitled to receive your own 8 3/4" hand-crafted oval box. Higher contribution levels entitle you to larger size boxes.

Your collection begins the next year. If you contribute at the *same level* as you did previously you may receive the *same size box or one size smaller*. This way you begin to stack the boxes for a beautiful effect. A *larger contribution* enables you to

build your stack by adding a *larger box*.

In either case you are also making a substantial contribution to building our Shaker collection here at The Museum. We rely on members such as yourself as a vital source of our funding. Without you we could not grow. With your support we are able to reach our full potential as a major educational institution. Consider it!

P.S. - Membership Update: From zero members when our program began in March of 1987, our membership has now reached 200! We value each and every one of you, and look forward to having you remain involved as we continue to grow.

Eldress Gertrude Soule Remembered

Gertrude Soule, one of the three remaining Shakers in New Hampshire, died at her home in Canterbury on Saturday, June 11, 1988. She was 93, and an active, energetic member of the Sabbath-day Lake Shakers (where she lived from 1906 to 1972) and then the Canterbury community. The Museum at Lower Shaker Village remembers Eldress Gertrude for her warmth and friendliness at the beginnings of our work at the site of the other New Hampshire Shaker community.



Deborah Coffin-Rearick, Museum Spinner-in-Residence, and coordinator of the craft demonstrations in the West Brethren's Shop.

Crafts Demonstration Program Diverse and Growing

Craftspeople at work provide a window into the past. By preserving many fast-disappearing skills The Museum's demonstrating craftspeople give a special glimpse of Shaker life and work. The Museum is fortunate to have five Craftspeople-in-Residence this summer as well as over a dozen Visiting Craftspeople who drop by at various times.

Coordinating the program is spinner, weaver and basket-maker **Deborah Coffin-Rearick**. She recruits and schedules craftspeople so that on most days Museum visitors can view a live person at work.

Our thanks to the following Craftspeople-in-Residence who demonstrate at The Museum on a weekly basis: **Sue Hammond** who hooks

rugs, **Deborah Coffin-Rearick** who spins, **Roger Gibbs** who makes Shaker reproduction tinware, **Inez McClintock** who knits, and **Becky Powell** who weaves.

In addition, we appreciate the time and energy of the following craftspeople who made visits during the season:

Lynn Anderson, quilter
Joan Benham, spinner
Jennifer Congdon, spinner
Marge Gibbs, poplar ware maker
Thelma Hause, spinner
Kyle Roberts, chair taper
Mary Samuels, basketmaker
Daniel Sheret, spinner
Brownie Smith, rug braider
Suzanne Wallis, spinner

Local Bakery Produces Line of Shaker Breads for The Museum

Blacksmith Bakery of Lebanon, NH is famous locally for its delicious breads and pastries baked from scratch. Now, in cooperation with The Museum, Blacksmith has come out with three breads baked from Shaker recipes. These breads, Herb, Onion-Cheese, and Caraway Tea Cake, are available exclusively from The Museum (whole, or by the slice in The Good Room) or at Blacksmith's headquarters. In an innovative arrangement, part of the profit from each loaf goes to benefit museum programs.

The Friends' Quarterly is a publication of The Museum at Lower Shaker Village. It is mailed as a service to Museum Friends. For information on the Friends program, please write: Membership Coordinator, The Museum at Lower Shaker Village, Box 25, Enfield, NH 03748, or call (603) 632-5533 or 632-4838.

Museum Staff:

Caryn Bosson, Assoc. Director
Carolyn Smith, Assoc. Director
Happy Griffiths, Museum Herbalist

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Nancy King, Treasurer
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Can You Spare...?

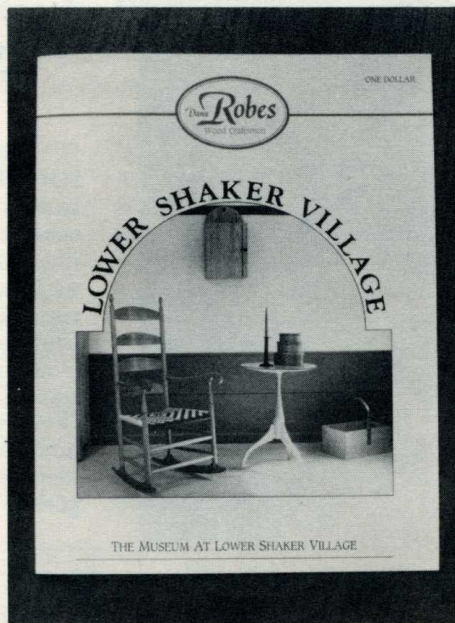
As The Museum grows it requires an increasing amount of equipment to keep it functioning. Does anybody out there have any of the following items to donate to a good cause? (All donations are tax-deductible).

- 35 mm camera
- space heaters
- cassette player
- plastic tarp-covering
- refrigerator
- computer table

If you can spare any of these items and would like to make a donation, please call The Museum at (603) 632-5533.

Have You Seen Our Catalog?

The Museum and Dana Robes Woodcraftsmen have entered into a new venture with the joint publication of a catalog of Shaker style gifts. This new 15 page booklet features small finely crafted wooden items made by Dana's shop and a selection of other items from the Shaker Store, including tinware by Roger Gibbs, handwoven wool afghans by Becky Powell, and Shaker screwball pincushions by Carol London. The catalog sells for \$1.00, but all Museum Friends will receive a complimentary copy. If you have not received yours, it will be arriving soon.

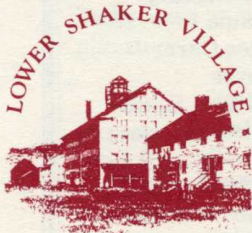


The cover of the Dana Robes/Museum catalog reflects the simplicity and grace of its contents.

During Your Summer/Fall Visit, Don't Miss These Exciting New Offerings...

- Guided tours offered Friday through Monday at 2 pm
- "Building in the Shaker Spirit" photographic exhibit on the Great Stone Dwelling
- A wide variety of workshops and programs (listed in the Calendar of Events)
- 1 1/2 acres of display herb, vegetable and flower gardens
- The Shaker Good Room refreshment area
- Craft demonstrations (call ahead for schedule)
- Farmer's Market, Saturday mornings 9 to Noon

Exciting Museum News Inside



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