

The Friends' Quarterly

Newsletter of the Enfield Shaker Museum

Sharing history and hospitality.



Vol. XXVII No. 2

Spring/Summer 2017

Upcoming Events

For more details, visit our website at www.shakermuseum.org

Nov 5	2017 Annual Meeting
Nov 9	Gifts from the Kitchen Workshop
Nov 11	Velvet Strawberry Pin-cushion Workshop
Nov 14	Soap Making Workshop
Nov 16	Fall Auction and Giving Gala
Nov 18	Make a Moravian Star Workshop
Dec 2 - 17	Festival of Trees and Holiday Cookie Sale
Dec 3	Silk Scarf Dyeing Workshop
Dec 7	Holiday Herbal Wreath Workshop
Dec 17	Festival of Trees Gala
Feb 19 - 23	Winter Vacation Shaker Camp
Apr 20 - 22	Spring Shaker Forum

For more information about programs, to register for workshops, or buy tickets to events please call the Museum at (603)632-4346 or email info@shakermuseum.org

A History of Enfield Shaker Museum's Collections

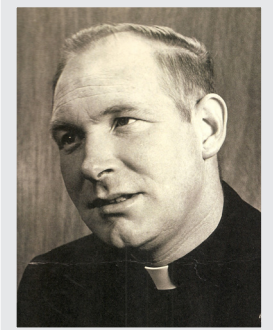
by Michael J. O'Connor, Curator

As the Enfield Shaker Museum (ESM) celebrates its 30th anniversary we look back on the growth of the Museum's collections as a metaphor of the growth of the overall institution.

The Enfield Shaker Museum (then known as the Museum at Lower Shaker Village) was created as an independent, non-profit organization in 1986. From her "office" of a card table and folding chair under the stairs in the first floor hallway of the Great Stone Dwelling, Carolyn Smith recruited a Board of Trustees, drafted bylaws, applied for IRS non-profit status, and created a mission statement to guide the operation of the Museum.

The formative years:

Next came the building of the components of the organization which enabled the Museum to fulfill its mission – staff, volunteers, public programming, exhibits, and collections. The systematic collection of Shaker artifacts on the site predates the creation of ESM. In the 1960's, La Salette Father Dan Charette developed an interest in Enfield Shaker history. He conducted research which led to a college thesis, transcribed primary source Enfield documents, and gathered the Shaker artifacts scattered around the site to protect and conserve them. Even after his untimely death in 1970 at age 36, interest in Enfield Shaker history continued, resulting in the opening of the Father Dan Charette Shaker Visitor Center in the Ministry House in 1979. Upon the sale of the property from the La Salette order to a group of *(continued on page 3)*



Fr. Dan Charette (1934-1970)

A publication of the Enfield Shaker Museum
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Get to Know Our Interpreters – Practical Principles of Shakerism
Preservation Update – Shaker Herb Garden

Executive Director's Message

Dear Friends,

On November 1, I will celebrate my sixth year as Executive Director. It has been a wonderful learning experience working alongside so many dedicated Shaker Scholars and Enthusiasts!

While looking through photos for a post card announcing our upcoming Annual Meeting I realized all that has been accomplished by so many people. Not just during these past six years, but since the Museum opened over 30 years ago.

This past summer season has been particularly busy. In May we celebrated our 30th anniversary. We welcomed local school children to our History Alive program where we teach fourth, fifth and sixth graders what it was like to be a Shaker child. Late May saw the return of Dr. David Starbuck from Plymouth State University to lead our 3rd archaeological dig. June through this past weekend, we hosted fifteen facility rentals including weddings, the annual CAMS summer music camp and a yoga retreat. We also hosted both our Harvest Festival and our second Cider Festival with record attendance of over 500 people. These are just the main events. There was much more going on as you will see in this combined spring and summer issue.

Thank you all for your continued support and interest in sustaining the Enfield Shaker Museum. I hope to see many of you at the Annual Meeting on November 5 and our Fall Giving Gala on November 16. Tickets are on sale in our Gift Shop. Call or stop by!

Thank you all!

Dolores C. Struckhoff

Enfield Shaker Museum



Thank you to everyone who attended this joyous evening and all of our generous sponsors.

Dominic Albanese
Barbara Bickel
Richard and Ruth Blodgett
George and Donna Butler
Dorothy Byrne
Howard and Cecelia Jack
Alix Olsen and Martha Popp
Shaker Farm LLC
Sybil Williamson



Sponsor recognition and photo panels at 30th Anniversary Celebration.

On May 26, 2017, more than 80 members and friends helped us celebrate our 30th year as a Museum. The evening began in the Meeting Room with appetizers, drinks and photo panels outlining our growth and development. This was followed by a three-course Shaker inspired dinner in the Dining Room. Each course was introduced with remarks from volunteers and staff who have been involved with the Museum over the years.



Michael O'Connor, Mary Ann Haagen, and Carolyn Smith select photos for 30th Anniversary panels.



Dolores Struckhoff, Mary Ann Haagen, Steve Powell, and Susan Brown speakers at the 30th.



Museum members, family, and friends come together to celebrate 30 years of growth and development.

History of ESM's Collections *(continued from page 1)*

private developers in 1985, it was this display of Shaker artifacts in the Ministry House that was the seed of the future museum.

In 1987, visitors to the Museum's exhibit space housed in the Sister's Waiting Room on the first floor of the Great Stone Dwelling, were probably not aware that the Museum did not own any of the artifacts they saw, not to mention any land or buildings on the site. ESM continued to mount exhibits with artifacts owned by the developers, supplemented with artifacts on loan from individuals and other museums.

These exhibits, along with a robust program of workshops and events helped to create the perception that ESM, was a worthy home for Enfield Shaker artifacts, and gradually ESM began to acquire artifacts through donations. One notable early donation was a North Family anodyne bottle complete with front and back labels and cork donated in 1987 by Dr. Ralph Hunter. Another early acquisition was a classic En-

field side chair with cane seat purchased by the Museum in 1987. Growth of the collection in this period would not be complete without mentioning the donation of an Enfield Shaker seed box with 92 packets of seeds donated by the Perkins Academy in South Woodstock, VT.

Each donation created a sense of excitement, and pride in the knowledge that the donors felt that the Museum's mission of preservation and education justified entrusting these important artifacts to us.

Each of these items enriches our visitors experience and allows us to interpret important aspects of the Shakers' lives in Enfield. The artifacts mentioned have all been on continuous display since their acquisition, a testament to the quality of the artifacts donated from the earliest years of the Museum.

Archaeology is another avenue of artifact collection that occurred in the early years. In 1987, then Board President Gregory Schwartz conducted an archaeological dig at the site of the Shaker Feast Ground on Shaker Mountain. He and his crew exposed the foundation of the Fountain Stone and the

location of the posts of the adjacent fencing. The base of the Fountain Stone is visible today, and the reproduction fence was built with the information gleaned from that dig.

Another dig occurred in 1989, under very different circumstances. Arriving at work one day, Carolyn Smith was greeted with an excavator working outside the entrance to the Museum offices. Looking into the hole, she realized that it was full of Shaker artifacts. She asked the workers to stop and requested time from the developers to excavate the hole. They gave her 24 hours to dig, after which they would resume their work. She found an archaeologist willing to oversee the digging and recruited a crew who worked virtually nonstop until the deadline. They found a large quantity of artifacts including many Shaker medicine bottles and other domestic items. These artifacts are today at the Plymouth State University archaeology lab being cleaned, cataloged, and bagged.

Another aspect of the growth of the collection is the acquisition of buildings, which are, after all, our largest artifacts. As with the acquisition of other artifacts, the early era saw slow, but steady progress in this area. ESM moved into the Laundry/Dairy building in 1987 and for the first time had adequate space for a shop, exhibits, offices, programs, and storage. The Museum did not own the building yet, but it had a home.

In 1991, ESM acquired its first building with the purchase of the Laundry/Dairy. It was one of those watershed events whose significance can only be realized in looking back. If the day Mary Ann Haagen walked through the door of the Great Stone Dwelling and said "I hear that you are going to have a museum and I want to be your first volunteer" is the symbolic beginning of the spirit of the creation of the Museum, then the day of closing on the Laundry/Dairy is the symbolic end of the first era of ESM's history.

This progress in the growth of the collection is an apt metaphor for the overall building of the institution, and the Museum ended the first era of its existence with an optimistic look at a bright future.



Greg Schwartz, ESM Board Member and Dorothy Goldsmith, Curator, Perkins Academy. c. 1987



Laundry/Dairy c. 1905

Enfield Shaker Museum ♦ 447 NH Route 4A ♦ Enfield, NH 03748

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Dolores C. Struckhoff

Curator

Michael J. O'Connor

Education Program Coordinator

Kyle L. Sandler

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Enfield Shaker Museum is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational institution whose mission is to protect, enhance, and utilize its historical structures, landscape and Shaker cultural heritage.

Get to Know Our Interpreters

by Dolores Struckhoff, Executive Director

We are pleased to introduce our Interpreters. Although they come from many different walks of life, as Museum Interpreters, they have one thing in common: sharing the legacy of the Enfield Shakers while bringing their own character and values to the table, as they share the Enfield story with our many visitors from around the world.

ESM's interpreters are provided with training and access to primary and secondary research materials by **Michael O'Connor**, Curator, **Kyle Sandler**, Education Coordinator, and **Mary Ann Haagen**, Shaker Scholar.



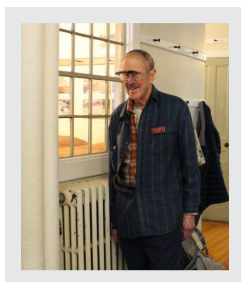
Joe Frazier

Joe spent thirty years in the computer industry as an installation engineer and systems and network manager. He was fortunate to have been involved in the creation of some of the earliest educational computer labs installed in the United States. Four years ago, Joe attended our "Sharing Shaker History Series" and shortly after became an interpreter.

Among the things Joe enjoys most about working at the Museum are his co-workers and the volunteers who have dedicated themselves to the Museum's Education and Preservation mission. In addition, his position as Interpreter allows him to interact with the most interesting people one could meet, our visitors.

Arthur Gagnon

Many years ago while out for a ride, I decided to stop at the "Enfield Shaker Museum." After completing a tour, a young man, who seemed to be in charge of everything, (Michael O'Connor) asked "Would you be interested in conducting tours for us?" From that time to now, some twenty plus years, I have had the privilege of sharing the Shaker people and their culture with thousands of interested and delightful people. According to Arthur: "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." Robert Frost



Gail Gagnon

Gail is a retired teacher and she started working as a sales clerk in the Gift Shop when it was housed in the Laundry/Dairy Building many years ago. When the artifacts were moved to the Great Stone Dwelling and exhibit rooms were set up, Gail became an interpreter.

As a student of history, she enjoys sharing the history and growth of the Enfield Shaker Community with our visi-

tors. She looks forward to continuing to increase her knowledge of the Shakers through reading, research, and studying new exhibits.



David Park

As a county prosecutor trying scores of felony cases over the years, David was not only able to interact with and learn from the diverse array of people who populate the criminal justice system; but also, to teach jurors about the various legal principles they would be applying when they got down to the

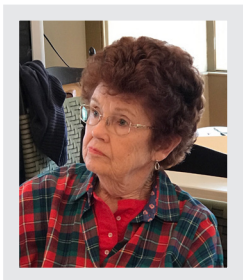
business of deliberating to reach a verdict. Although the subject matter is certainly different, as an Interpreter of things and events which comprise the Enfield Shaker experience, he imparts to visitors both facts, when those are supported and considered settled by the historical record; as well as impressions or suggested possibilities, concerning those practices or parts of the Shaker story, the record of which is more scant and less reliable.

His greatest and most happy surprise doing this work, has been welcoming the enormous numbers and variety of foreign visitors to the Museum. He has gotten the unexpected treat of being able to occasionally "dust off" his French (with varying degrees of success depending on what aspect of Shakerism is being discussed). His goal in the coming year is to become more knowledgeable about some of the more obscure and elusive aspects of the Shaker religion, and to discover the extent to which the Enfield brothers and sisters participated in organized recreational or athletic activities.

Lisa Torres

Lisa graduated from the University of Michigan with a BS in Aquatic Environmental Chemistry and an MS in Water Resources/Water Chemistry. After a Peace Corps tour as a science teacher in Ghana, West Africa, she began teaching in Vermont and eventually spent the last 31 years of her career at Lebanon High School. After retiring a couple of years ago, she proposed and taught a summer field ecology class at the Museum. She quickly found herself on the Education Committee, and she began working as an Interpreter last fall.

Lisa greatly enjoys the opportunity to learn and teach in a new subject area. She plans to visit some of the other Shaker Villages in New England this year to learn more about the Shaker legacy. She is also interested in designing new workshops to be offered at the Museum in the future.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW
FOR NEXT YEAR'S
SPRING SHAKER FORUM
APRIL 20 – 22, 2018



The hike to the railroad cut at last year's Shaker Forum led by Michael O'Connor, ESM Curator.

Shaker Headstone Comes Home

Last spring, John Kluge, Enfield resident, Museum interpreter, and English teacher at Kimball Union Academy brought his students and a Shaker headstone he found to the Museum for a special program he conducted on site. Several years ago John bought a piece of property in Enfield, when he started working on the property he discovered this headstone (upside down) in a walkway. He is thrilled to be able to return it to the Museum.

The headstone which matches others from the Enfield Shaker Village Church Family cemetery belonged to Br. Solomon Williams (1778 - 1831).



John Kluge and the headstone of Shaker Brother Solomon Williams.

Practical Principles of Shakerism Discussion Series

by Lisa Torres, Interpreter

For four weeks this summer, a series of discussions was held at ESM exploring how the "Practical Principles by which the United Society is Guided in all its Institutions"¹ might be relevant to today's society. We began with **Brother Arnold Hadd**, a Sabbath-day Lake, ME Shaker, who joined us via Skype to discuss the application of the principles in the Shaker community today. Over the next three weeks, we met with **Dr. Kenneth Sharpe** (Professor of Political Science at Swarthmore College), **Father John Sullivan** (Director of the La Salette Shrine in Enfield), and **Reverend Mary Brownlow** (Pastor at the Norwich Congregational Church in Norwich, VT).



Br. Arnold Hadd

We were eager to hear from **Brother Arnold**. We asked him how the Shakers used these principles in their lives. Did they memorize them to use as a guide, or refer to them for reflection? Brother Arnold bluntly replied that the "Principles" were addressed to the world, to better inform them about Shakerism. According to Brother Arnold, Shakers learn their theology by living it. If there are any memorized works that teach Shaker theology to the Shakers, Brother Arnold suggested, it would be the Shaker songs. He also pointed out that individual Shakers did not necessarily live out the practical principles of Shakerism in any perfect way. Sometimes we idealize the Shaker life and forget that the Shakers are ordinary human beings, with faults and failures, who are not necessarily perfect followers of the Shaker principles.

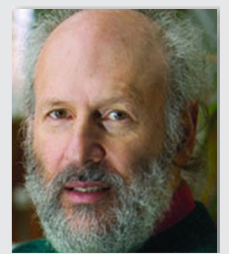
Dr. Kenneth Sharpe explored with us how a communal society like the Shakers not only has common understandings and purposes, but also is united in love as a family. This love enabled the Shakers to act in a unified manner. The question for us is, how do we bring that love and unity of purpose into our divided world?

Father John Sullivan focused on one area in which we might develop a unity of purpose: care of the environment. Using Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home* and the qualities of St. Francis of Assisi and his followers, he led us to consider how we can appreciate the natural world as a window into the spiritual or heavenly gifts of the Kingdom of God. In caring for the earth, we find ourselves living simply and economically, as the Shakers did.

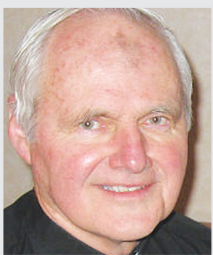
Reverend Mary Brownlow helped us to reconsider the roots of the Shaker principles: a communal agrarian lifestyle based on Scripture. She noted that our nation's focus on success, competition, and individualism is counter to Shaker principles. She suggested

we could embrace one particular Shaker value: the dignity of each human being. Thus, we can begin to recognize that such Shaker principles as suitable education, employment and provision for each person are human rights that our society must provide out of mutual love and respect.

¹Taken from the Testimony of Christ's Second Appearance, exemplified by the Principles and Practice of the True Church of Christ. By Benjamin S. Youngs and Calvin Green. 4th edition, 1854, pp. 631-614.



Dr. Kenneth Sharpe



Fr. John Sullivan



Rev. Mary Brownlow

Preservation Update: Brethren's West Shop

Beginning in March of 2016 Preservation Wednesdays have been focussed on the Brethren's West Shop, with great progress and change in the building as a result.

The Brethren's West Shop, a post and beam structure, was built in 1820 by the Enfield Shakers as a workshop for small woodworking trades (furniture, oval box, and broom making). In 1834, it was moved to its current location to make room for the Great Stone Dwelling and continued to be used as a workshop space for Shaker brothers. By 1880, Brother Franklin Young, the last of the Enfield Shaker cabinet makers, converted the second floor of the building into his living quarters, where he lived and worked until the closing of the Shaker community in 1923.

In 2016, the post-Shaker shed addition on the Brethren's West Shop was removed and the end wall re-sheathed by volunteers **Paul and Lynn Waehler** and **Dick Dabrowski**, in preparation for the restoration of the building's post and beam frame. **Tim Baker**, a timber framer from Canaan, NH, began replacing the missing beams and joists at the west end of the building in February of 2017.

By mid March, the timber framing had been completed and it was time to drop the section of the plaster ceiling on the second floor that had been sliced out and raised to make way for a theater stage area. This ceiling is of great interest to the Museum as it has Shaker applied Victorian stenciling and was

most likely the ceiling to Franklin Young's parlor while he lived in the building.

Tim Baker was able to install a chain fall in the attic of the building which allowed him to lower the ceiling in place with only a small loss of plaster. In fact, his system was so successful that he was able to drop the ceiling joists back into their original pockets in the beams.

The next job was to replace the sub-flooring on the second floor. 18" wide pine boards to match the sub-floors still in the building were carefully installed and for the first time in more than 65 years the Brethren's West Shop has its structural integrity re-established and its second floor complete.

For now there are no staircases in the building that allow access to the second floor, but the first floor has a newly installed Broom Making Shop with regularly scheduled demonstrations by broom squires **Susan Brown** and **Larry Antonuk**, so once again the Brethren's West Shop is a workshop for small woodworking trades. Next time you are in Enfield, plan to stop by and see the changes for yourself!



Newly installed Broom Making Shop in Brethren's West Shop



Chain fall in attic of Brethren's West Shop with plaster ceiling being lowered into place.



Plaster ceiling being lowered into its original position. Victorian stencil pattern partially visible.



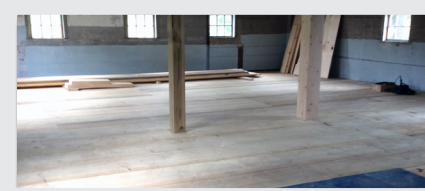
Resheathing of east end of Brethren's West Shop completed in the spring of 2016.



Timber framing in progress, Brethren's West Shop March of 2017.



Restored timber framing, note the dark joists on the right. These original joists were found in the attic.



Replaced sub-floor on the west end of the second floor of Brethren's West Shop.



Tim Baker, timber framer, inspecting his chain fall in the attic of the Brethren's West Shop.

Gardening at the Enfield Shaker Museum

by Kathryn Labrecque, Garden Coordinator

This summer was a wonderful time to visit the gardens at the Museum. Planned and planted by **Happy Griffiths**, this year marks the 30th anniversary of the gardens at ESM.

The lavender, which was gorgeous and fragrant this year has been harvested. Catmint was in bloom for many weeks and our on-site honey bees just loved it, along with all other flowering herbs. Onions, carrots and radishes planted by 4th graders from Enfield Village School have been harvested.

Sign improvements were made in the gardens so that visitors could identify the various beds and plants in the museum's gardens. Marking the individual plants is still a work-in-progress, in the meantime visitors used the updated garden map available in the newly spiffed up white box at the entrance to the garden.

Nan Munsey and **Betsy Drinkwater** worked to make the Children's Garden more attractive and inviting, by adding a fun hand water pump, children's signs and instructions and tools kept in a mailbox, painted by our own **Kate Mortimer**. Dancing tomatoes and zucchinis have got to get the kids over to the garden, right?

Also, this year the Museum has been highlighting an Herb of the Week, marked out in the garden by a colorful, eye

catching sign. Inside the Museum visitors could pick up a one-page description of the herb which gives its history, how the Shakers used it, how to use it today, and maybe even a recipe. The information sheets were found on a table near the

Gift Shop entrance, along with a pitcher of the tea made from the Herb of the Week, by **Nan Munsey**.

The Production Garden has everlastings for wreath making and basil and garlic coming for pesto making. Fresh cut rhubarb and potted plants from the garden were on sale all summer.

The Village Gardeners have done an excellent job whipping the gardens into shape this season. Many, many thanks to the volunteers who have helped in the garden this spring and summer: **Happy**

Griffiths, Ginny Bayliss, Betsy Drinkwater, Joe Frazier, Judy Golden, Joan Holcombe, Nan Munsey, Doris Vannasse, Mattison Crowe, Kelly O'Toole, Nancy Lee, Paul Morrison and several high school students who are eager to help and learn more about gardening and the Shakers. The Shaker Museum gardens could always use the help of more willing hands. See our website on how to become a Village Gardener or email info@shakermuseum.org to learn about the benefits of becoming a Village Gardener for next year.



ESM Children's Garden tool storage mailbox.

Bee Keeping Returns to ESM's Gardens

by George Grama, Bee Keeper

I became involved in bee keeping with my Grandpa when I was 5 or 6 years old in his apiary yard in Bistrita, Transylvania. Later, I took bee keeping classes in high school and college. I did not have my own bee hives until last year. In the spring of 2016 I brought two packages of bees to the Enfield Shaker Gardens and added one more nucleus of bees in the mid-summer, bringing the total to three hives.

Unfortunately, last winter we lost all three hives. However, I did not get discouraged and for the 2017 season increased the bees to four hives. I was convinced I would learn from my mistakes. And, this season has been good. The bees are happily buzzing about, bringing good healthy honey to their home. So far, I have not harvested any honey. The honey combs on frames have been boosting this seasons bees.

The Shaker Museum Gardens are a wonderful place to keep bees. Especially since it is an organic garden with a wide variety of herbs, medicinal plants, flowers, and vegetables. The location near the woods and water are also very important. I am very excited that everyone involved in the Museum and in the Gardens, has accepted and embraced the idea of bringing bees back to the Shaker Village.



Photo on left: William Wilson (1827 - 1907) with his bee hives at the Second Family c. 1890.

Photo on right: George Grama with his bee hives at ESM's Herb Garden 2017.



Save the date! Join the fun!
Support the cause!

Fall Auction & Giving Gala

November 16, 2017 6-9 pm

- * Fabulous Food and Drink
- * 100 Bottle - Wine Cork Pull
- * Silent and Live Auctions:

Travel, Meals, Lodging, Sports Events,
Furniture, Fitness, Private Museum
Tours and more!!!

* Cause-Within-A-Cause

"Step up" and help us replace three
flights of stairs in the Brethren's West
Shop. A bid of \$250 will buy a step.

**If you can't join us call or email us
and leave a bid.**

Tickets: \$35/person (Museum members \$25)
(603) 632-4346 events@shakermuseum.org

SAVE THE DATE

2017 Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 5

1:45 pm Great Stone Dwelling

Join us for a

Preservation Update Walkabout

led by

Dick Dabrowski, Paul Waehler
and Michael O'Connor

Tour the Brethren's East and West Shops
and the first floor of the
Laundry/Dairy.

Museum Wish List

We greatly appreciate past wish list donations!
Here are a few items we are in need of this year.

Kuerig coffee pods
Oven mitts
Small generator for emergencies
Snow blower
Stainless steel cookware set

For more details call (603)632-4346 or email
info@shakermuseum.org.

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