

The Friends' Quarterly

A Newsletter from The Museum at Lower Shaker Village

Volume VI/No. 3

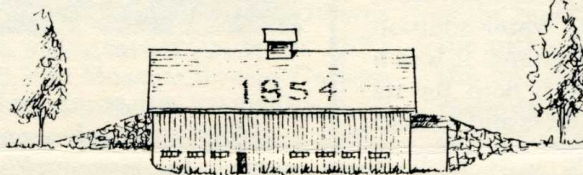
Summer 1993

The 1854 Cow Barn: A Closer Look

THE COW BARN

BUILT IN 1854, IT IS THE LARGEST REMAINING WOOD SHAKER COW BARN.

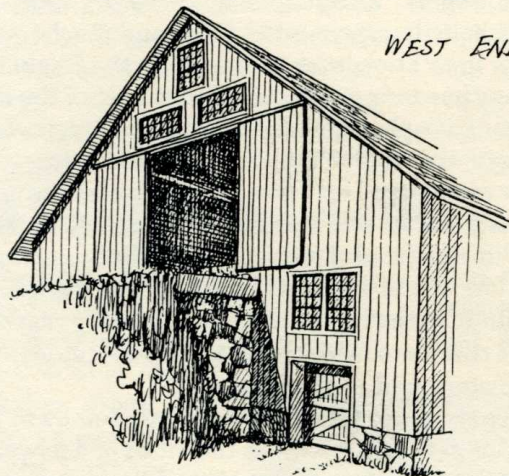
IT WAS BUILT ACROSS A NATURAL RAVINE SO THAT WAGONS COULD HAVE ACCESS ON SEVERAL LEVELS.



SOUTH SIDE

SIZE = 145' x 57'

WEST END



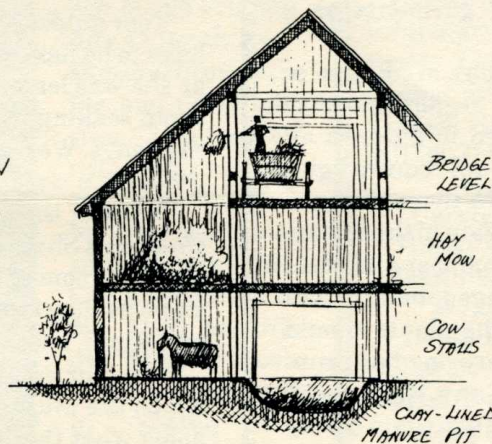
THE RAMP GIVES ACCESS TO THE BRIDGE LEVEL, FROM WHICH HAY CAN BE THROWN DOWN TO THE HAY MOW LEVEL. THE DOOR ON THE LOWER RIGHT LEADS TO THE HAY MOW. A SLATE ROOF WAS USED FOR GREATEST LONGEVITY. AFTER ALMOST 140 YEARS IT'S STILL IN GOOD CONDITION.

CROSS-SECTION

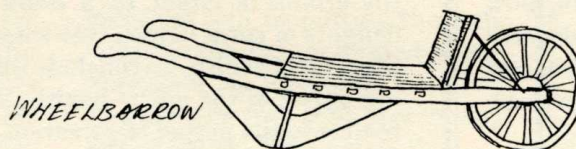
THE DESIGN ELIMINATES THE NEED TO RAISE HAY INTO LOFT - IT GOES DOWN FROM WAGON TO MOW LEVEL, THEN DOWN TO THE COWS. WAGONS ALSO COULD BE BROUGHT INTO LOWEST LEVEL TO REMOVE MANURE FROM THE CLAY LINED PIT FOR USE AS FERTILIZER ON THE VARIOUS CROPS. A SPECIAL FEATURE OF THIS BARN WAS HEATED

RUNNING WATER AT THE STABLE LEVEL. WARMED

STALLS AND WARM WATER FOR THE COWS DRAMATICALLY INCREASED MILK PRODUCTION IN THE WINTER.



WOODEN SHOVEL FOR GRAIN



WHEELBARRON

John Taylor, of Wilmot Flat, New Hampshire, is an architect and author of *Common-sense Architecture*, a study of creative, practical approaches to building design in cultures worldwide. He is currently working on a book that examines building design and construction in various self-sufficient communities, among them the Shakers. The study of the Enfield 1854 Cow Barn shown here comes from this work in progress.

Sage Thoughts

by Happy Griffiths

Lavendar

Lavendar *angustifolia* and its cultivars are one of the best known of the fragrant herbs and have been loved and used from earliest times. Its name comes from the Latin "lavare," meaning to wash, and its fresh, clean scent was the favorite bath water addition of the Greeks and Romans. It was a popular strewing herb both for its insect-repelling qualities and its lasting scent. Every Shaker community had a distillery where scented waters were extracted from herbs and either sold for domestic use or used in the infirmaries. Shaker records show they made perfumes and colognes from essential oils of herbs. Rose oil was the most popular, but lavender oil was often used as a cologne ingredient. This oil benefits all skin types and is used to treat serious burns, alleviate headaches and make a relaxing bath. Today lavender is often used in fragrant potpourris, and bags of lavender flowers can be tucked into drawers, placed under pillows and stored with special garments as a moth preventative.

Most lavenders are native to the Mediterranean region but they are widely cultivated in gardens all over the world. They all require light, well-drained soil with the addition of lime in the fall and again in the spring. A side dressing of compost and occasionally some well-aged manure will give good results. The plants should be cut back after flowering but pruning and removing any dead wood should be done only in the late spring after new growth has begun. A winter mulch is very beneficial in a cold climate like New England's. The flower stems should be picked just as the lower flowers open. Tie them together in bunches and hang in a warm, dark place or just put in a vase to dry. All lavenders last well in water too, and can be used in fresh or dry flower arrangements.

Tour Guides Enliven Museum



Nancy Martin leads a summer tour

It's listed in the Program Guide, and mentioned in local papers: Guided Tours at the Museum at Lower Shaker Village. That brief mention gives no hint of the people power it takes to offer 16 tours a month, people power supplied by the Museum's dedicated volunteer guides. Who are they, and what brings

them out, sun or rain, to help visitors trace the steps of the Shakers?

Nineteen people are on the roster for tour guides this year. Some came to the Museum knowing a lot about the Shakers, some with curiosity and a few impressions: "I knew about the furniture," says one new guide. Their professions and backgrounds are varied—therapist, computer expert, antique dealer, history buff—but "teacher" is the most heavily represented field, and teachers they all are as they pass on their knowledge of or love for the Shaker life.

Sue Mellow, a long-time tour guide, noted that part of the fun of being a guide is meeting people from all over the country, and even the world. The visitors are wonderful—friendly and interested—and often "they know more than I do!" Sue likes to stress the people side of the village, using stories and anecdotes of long-ago residents to show that Shaker life consisted of more than buildings and implements. Apart from a love of sharing knowledge, guides mention the opportunity to contribute to the community as a primary reason for volunteering, and the chance to meet visitors and other guides with shared interests in history and in the Shakers.

Tour guides receive training, and often study on their own. They have to be flexible: Elaine Loft remembers the onset of a downpour as she was leading her group through the Mary Keane chapel. "To avoid soaking the visitors, I led them down and out the back passageways. We were groping our way in virtual darkness." That was probably a closer look than some of the visitors wanted!

Many of the guides especially enjoy school tours, teaching the children a Shaker song and dance steps done in Shaker order in the meeting room of the Great Stone Dwelling. And many a guide will smile as they tell of being asked "Are you a Shaker?" or asked, time and again, about "the celibacy business."

The tour guides are emblematic of the type of volunteer without which the Museum could not exist: enthusiastic, generous people, doing what they do for the pleasures of teaching and learning in a community where their interests are both shared and appreciated.

Summer - 101 Years Ago

"The outing season is upon us, so we are encamped about, if not by the armies of Israel, by a small army, seeking change, and the delights of rural living....yet when we see pale faces go away with the color of health, we conclude they have been successful in acquiring a part of the gift of health, which is closer allied than we all realize to the gospel of salvation." - Ella Briggs of Enfield in *The Manifesto* of August 1892

Annual Meeting Charts Progress

The Museum's annual meeting on April 18th drew 39 members to hear a review of the past year, plans for the current year, and a presentation on the first part of the Laundry/Dairy Historic Structure Report.

The Board of Trustees reported that their March retreat, focusing on long-range planning, led to the creation of new Board committees, composed of Board members and non-members alike, to help the Board fulfill its many functions. New Board officers elected at the meeting are Linda Boucher, President; Charlotte Barret, Vice President; Sybil Williamson, Secretary; and Patti Laurie, Treasurer. Charlotte Barrett honored past Board presidents Steve Powell and Greg Schwarz for their service to the Museum.

The 1992 financial figures presented at the meeting show substantial increases in revenues and expenses. These reflect the Museum's growth in areas such as the acquisition of two more buildings and land, and the opening of the Emporium (selling food-related items), whose 1992 sales of \$12,000 proved it a successful addition.

Attendance in 1992 (13,826) was up only modestly from 1991 (13,705). Museum Director Carolyn Smith sees this as a positive note in a year that saw tourism suffer greatly in the region, and most New England museums showing lowered attendance. Smith also reported that membership dipped slightly in 1992, when no membership drive was held, but had already been brought back up by the 1993 member drive.

The meeting concluded with a

presentation by Jeff Stetter of the Burley Partnership, the firm preparing the Historic Structure Report (HSR) on the Laundry/Dairy Building. He explained the analysis behind the first part of the report, which details the history of the building's construction from its beginnings through each stage of additions and alterations. This part of the report ends by summarizing the authenticity of each segment of the building, and suggesting the restoration required or advisable for each segment. The report is fascinating, with detailed explanations of the clues used to reconstruct the building's history. Look for more in a future article of the *Quarterly*. The second section of the HSR will include restoration schedules, estimated costs, analysis of how the building can relate to the rest of the site, and more.

Local Author's Work Republished

The Enfield (N.H.) Shakers, A Brief History, by Wendell Hess, has recently been republished and is available at the Shaker Store. The only written history of the Enfield community, it was first published in 1989 and has been out of print, but is available in a new edition to commemorate Enfield's bicentennial. Historian, friend to the Enfield Shakers through long residence here, and member of the Museum Board, Mr.

Hess shares with his wife Viola a passionate interest in the Shakers that led naturally to his writing



Viola and Wendell Hess

this book. Its coverage of the community's growth, worship practices, daily life and personalities, illustrated with historical photographs, breathes life into the quiet site we know today. Congratulations to Mr. Hess on this new edition, a boon to those interested in learning more about the Shakers in this Community.

Revels Cancellation Announced

The Museum regrets to announce that Shaker Revels, scheduled for July 23-25, has been canceled. The new production planned for this year requires additional time for the enormous amount of work that goes into researching and staging

the show. Many of the Revels cast members will be putting their efforts into the Shaker Sing weekend scheduled for November 6 and 7; we hope that fans of Shaker music, and of Revels, will join us then.

The Friends' Quarterly is a publication of The Museum at Lower Shaker Village. It is mailed as a service to Museum Members. For information on Membership write: The Museum at Lower Shaker Village, #2 Lower Shaker Village, Enfield, NH 03748. Or call (603) 632-4346.

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Craft And Herb Festival Culminates In Silent Auction

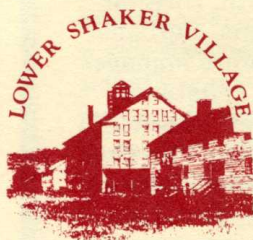
The theme for this year's Festival of Shaker Crafts and Herbs on June 5 was "For the Love of Roses," and roses were just one temptation amid the fragrant herbs and fine crafts. Though the skies threatened, the tradition of good weather for the festival held, and hundreds of visitors toured the herb garden, listened to lectures on herbs and roses, tasted herbal goodies, and delighted in the fine craft displays and demonstrations.

The festival also marked the last day of this year's Silent Auction. The Auction spotlights over 65 craftspeople whose work echoes the Shaker tradition of superb craftsmanship. Herbal foods, books, and other Shaker related items rounded out the offerings. This important Museum fund raiser owes its success to the hard work of numerous volunteers and the wonderfully generous donations of the following people, to whom we extend our sincere appreciation for their work:

Preening Loon Pin - Ken Kantro
Family Pass, limited edition print - Hancock Shaker Village
Assemblage - Gary Hamel
Numerous Shaker-related books - Sabbathday Lake, ME Shakers
Cross-stitch - Shaker Workshops
3 Wooden Serving Trays, Birdseye Music Box, Pin Cushion, and a #5 Lined Cherry Box - Canterbury Woodworks
Woven Runner - Becky Powell
Shaker Footstool - Barbara and Earl Brady
2 Free Admissions - Canterbury Shaker Village
Flower Nightlight - Mary Saltmarsh
Handwoven Towels - Kate Smith
2 Woven Pot Holders - Patti Mitchem
Hogscraper Candleholders - Roger Gibbs
Poplarware Box - Beale & Gibbs
Antique Sash Plane - Jay Davis
#5 Oval Box - James D. Whidden
Hooked Wool Chair Pad - Fay Leischner
Pine Table Top Desk - Kurt Leischner
Gourmet Mustards & Jams - Ken Ekkens
Shaker Sewing Box - Diana Van Kolken
Pressed Flower Picture - Ginny Tillson
Wooden Bowl - Peter Bloch

Handpainted Mohair - Ruth Fortune
Woven Scarf & Hat - Nancy Lyon
Handwoven Placemats - Esther Pollard
Watercolor Lampshade - Joey Thurston
Patchwork Vest - JoAn Van Derpoel
Lamp & Shade - Joanne Burrows
Watercolor - Ann Semprebon
Framed Cross-stitch - Kitty Scherer
Herbal Wreath - Happy Griffiths
Herbal Wreath - Carolyn Freese
Woven Tapestry - Nancy O'Connor
Wrought Iron Latch - James Kearney
Wool Socks - Anne Hennessy
Miniature Quilt - Lynn Anderson
Woven Pillow - Marion Packard
Handspun Silk & Wool - Ellen Gelotte
Crib Quilt - Constance Lebel
Hand Knit Scarf - Faith Wight
Box w/Shortbread - Frye's Measure Mill
Woven Scarf - Upper Valley Spinners
Screwball Pincushion - Carol London
Lithograph - Sandra Peterson
Woven Rag Rug - Nancy Hemlin
Mustard - Phyllis Fox
Handspun Mittens - Deb C. Rearick
Silver Bracelets - Kathy Binns
Handwoven Wool Scarf - Mary Gunn

Tibetan Coat - Sharon Hyde
Silver Bracelet - Linda Sorensen
Crazy Quilt Bags - Marie Wiggins
Stationery Gift Certificate - Maggie Steele
Watercolor - Joyce Terceira
Oval Box - Phil Donovan
Certificate/Hand Hewing - Dan Dustin
Pewter Cups - Rev. Raymond E. Gibson
Jewelry Box - George Simon
Night Stand - Dana Robes Wood Craftsmen
Gigantic Oval Box - John & Sally Wilson
Counted Cross-stitch - Becky Jennings
Gift Basket - Rathdowney Herbs
Shaker Sweater - Cadagren Handknits
Shaker Oil Can - Roger Gibbs
Shaker Basket - John McGuire
Iron Rush Light - Dimitri Gerakaris
Monoprint - Susan Berry Langsten
Poplarware Jewelry Box - John Ryan
Fanny Pack - Middle Room Creations
Reprod. Shaker Rocker - Jeff Hinman
Felt Hat - Suzi Wallis
Homemade Jam - Leone Gage
Fairie Ring - Betsy Williams
Topiary - Patti Cohen
Handmade Piggin - Michael O'Connor



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