
The Friends' Quarterly

A Newsletter from the Enfield Shaker Museum

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Summer 1999

The Ann Tarney Collection

By Mary Ann Haagen

The Shakers have been important to Ann Tarney for as long as she can remember. Since the Enfield Shaker Museum first opened its doors as the Museum at Lower Shaker Village in 1986, Ann has shared her knowledge with visiting students of Shakerism, and has loaned her cherished Enfield Shaker artifacts for exhibitions.

In celebration of the Museum's recent acquisition of the Great Stone Dwelling and other Church Family Shaker property, Ann has generously given many of her important Enfield Shaker objects to the Museum's permanent collection. Ann's gift significantly enlarges and enriches the Museum collection, and by extension, enhances our visitors' experience of the Enfield Shaker story. Much of the Ann Tarney Collection is on display this summer.

Ann Nichols Tarney was born in Enfield, New Hampshire in 1904, the second daughter of Ralph and May Morse Nichols. Her childhood home, probably built before 1840 by Thomas C. Burnham, was the only house on a road that ran from High Street (Route 4) to south Main Street. It sat on open land surrounded by apple trees, and overlooking Mascoma Lake. Ann's father was a loom fixer at the American Woolen Company (later the Baltic Mills) which was located in North Enfield on the Mascoma River. In the summers he left the mill to operate a passenger launch on Mascoma Lake, delivering summer residents and their luggage to lakeside cottages and carrying the daily mail and supplies.

When Ann was a child the Shakers were still very much a presence in Enfield, and she recalls that her family not only traded at the Shakers but counted individuals in the Society as their friends. Some of Ann's most prized Shaker possessions were purchased for her at the Shaker Store of the Church Family, or given to her family by the Enfield Shakers. Other artifacts that she has given to the Museum were first given to her by her friend, Nellie Pierce, a fellow Enfield resident whose collection of Shaker scrapbooks and other materials is now at Dartmouth College.

As a young woman Ann taught school for

several years in southern New Hampshire. The Enfield Shaker Community closed in 1923, and by the time Ann returned to Enfield about 1945 to take a position

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Ann Tarney with a Shaker doll and other items she has recently donated to the Museum's permanent collection.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

New Staff Hired

The Board is very pleased to announce the selection of a new Director to lead the Museum into the 21st century. William Moore of Brooklyn, New York will move with his family to the Upper Valley in late summer to begin his new position. Since Sarah Saville Shaffer's departure last August after directing the Museum for three years, Michael O'Connor has ably led the organization as Acting Director. During the transition, Sarah continued to lend her support to the Museum, and we wish her well as she moves to the Boston area this fall.

"Will" Moore has worked for the last six years as Director of the Livingston Masonic Library and Museum in New York City, administering the development and preservation of both library and museum collections, coordinating educational programming, and fund raising. He graduated from Harvard College in 1986 with a B.A. cum laude, and received High Honors in Folklore and Mythology. Will received his doctorate from the American and New England Studies Program at Boston University this spring.

The Museum's new Director is well-suited to take on his leadership role at Enfield. He has written and lectured on a wide range of material manifestations of nineteenth-century American religious practices including spiritualism, phrenology, and Shaker architecture. He is a board member of the Vernacular Architecture Forum, the Victorian Society of America, and the Census of Stained Glass Windows in America, and currently serves as Treasurer of the Masonic Library & Museum Association.

Since our last issue of the Quarterly, we have also hired Christine Filbin Hoffman as Store/Marketing Manager. Christine owned and operated the Carpenter Street Restaurant in Norwich and also worked as Director of the Vermont State Crafts Center when she lived in Vermont a number of years ago. More recently she has lived with her family in Nebraska and West Virginia. She brings to the Museum an extensive knowledge of business, marketing, store management, and public relations. She began work in June from an office in the Laundry/Dairy Building, and is a welcome and wonderful addition to the staff.

Our profound thanks go to Barbara Brady and Jean Beard who so expertly ran our two stores during this last year. The Museum is exceptionally fortunate to have such a strongly committed corps of volunteers. The Board hopes that with the addition of two very qualified new staff members, our volunteers will not have such

heavy responsibilities and can enjoy more flexibility in the hours and areas in which they wish to contribute to the Museum. Barbara and Jean are both still working in the Store, but now they can also do some of the traveling they enjoy.

Collectors and Supporters

Over the past several years we have displayed many new Shaker artifacts in our exhibits thanks to the Museum's generous friends who are collectors. These supporters have sometimes loaned precious objects to special exhibits and sometimes made direct gifts of Shaker materials to the Museum. All have greatly enhanced both the breadth and depth of our collections.

We appreciate both the vote of confidence in the Museum that these gifts represent and the accompanying friendships that they have brought. Many of these supporters have been long-time friends of the Museum, while others are new friends who simply desire to return Shaker objects to their original home. In this issue we have highlighted our special friend Ann Tarney who, long before the Museum was incorporated, appreciated and worked for the preservation of the Enfield Shakers' legacy.

There are also many other collectors of Enfield Shaker materials who have been very generous to the Museum. We are deeply grateful to the benefactors listed below, and apologize if we have unintentionally overlooked others.

Judy Breed
The Brothers of LaSalette
John and Marjorie Carr
John and Greta Crilley
Harte and Ann Crow
Jane and Will Curtis
Richard Dabrowski
Nancy Diemand
Dan Eastman
Kimball Elkins
Mary Ann Haagen
Wendell and Viola Hess
Jeff Hinman

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Elizabeth Johnson
Robert Leavitt
Suzanne Levine
William and Nancy Martin
Marty Pusey
Sharon Rask
The Sabbathday Lake Shakers
Richard M. Underwood
James F. White

I hope to see many of you at one of our fall events or the Annual Meeting on November 14.

Sincerely,



Galen Beale
President

Sage Thoughts

By Happy Griffiths, Museum Herbalist

Black Cohosh - *Cimicifuga racemosa*

This native North American herb, characterized by very long white spikes of bloom in mid to late summer, is found in rich woods from southern Ontario to Georgia. A three to eight-foot perennial, it prefers moist sandy soil, but will grow in full sun as it is doing in the Museum's herb garden.

Black Cohosh has many folk names: rattleroot, because the mature seed pods contain hard dry seeds and rattle in the wind sounding like a rattlesnake's rattle; bugbane because the plant's rank smell is known to repel insects; and squawroot because Native Americans used it to treat uterine problems and to aid in childbirth. They also named it "cohosh" in reference to its "rough" roots. The botanical name, *cimicifuga*, derives from the Latin 'cimex' meaning bug and 'fugo' meaning to drive away.

The first medicinal herb catalog printed by the Canterbury Shakers in 1835 offered a Compound Syrup of Black Cohosh. The medicine was described as "one of the most powerful deobstruents and alteratives in the vegetable kingdom and has proven to be an effectual remedy in rheumatism, gout, chronic lameness, and in glandular eruptive diseases." The Groveland, NY Shakers made two preparations containing Black Cohosh— a purifying tea and a pectoral syrup. The popular Corbett's Shaker Sarsaparilla Syrup prepared in the Canterbury society contained Black Cohosh, as did Lydia Pinkham's famous "Vegetable Compound" which was consumed by women in the late 19th and early 20th century to relieve menstrual stress and nervous tension.

After 1930, pharmaceuticals replaced herbal remedies as the treatment of choice in the United States. But the experience of the "eclectic" physicians, or herbally-oriented doctors, wasn't forgotten. The knowledge of many American remedies made its way to Europe where German researchers, aware of the clinical effectiveness of some of these herbs, began developing marketable plant-based drugs.

The anti-inflammatory, anti-spasmodic action of black cohosh root is specific for nerve and muscle spasms, and rheumatoid and osteoarthritis, especially when these symptoms are associated with menopause, headaches, and ovarian and uterine pain. Black Cohosh is also a good remedy for tinnitus (ringing in the ears), vertigo, and high blood pressure. Black Cohosh was long thought to have an estrogenic or balancing effect on female hormone production, but recent research has failed to substantiate this claim. However, it is still used effectively for hot flashes, sleep disturbances and depression, especially when combined with St. John's Wort.

Wish List:

Thank you to everyone who responded to last issue's Wish List. We received two 56k modems (a huge improvement over our previous ones) and some hand tools. Keep the Museum in mind if you find yourself ready to dispose of any of the following equipment. As always, we are happy to provide you with a donation receipt for the fair market value of the item for your tax purposes.

Macintosh computers
Laser printer
Scanner
Digital camera
Fax machine
Heavy duty vacuum cleaner
Hand tools
Office desk and chair
Filing cabinet

Desk lamps
Children's chairs
Folding 6' tables or card tables
Shelving or bookcases
Cash register
Garden tools
Tractor
Lawnmower
TV and VCR

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The Enfield Shaker Museum
24 Caleb Dyer Lane
Enfield, NH 03748
Or call (603) 632-4346

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Heirloom Discovery Day

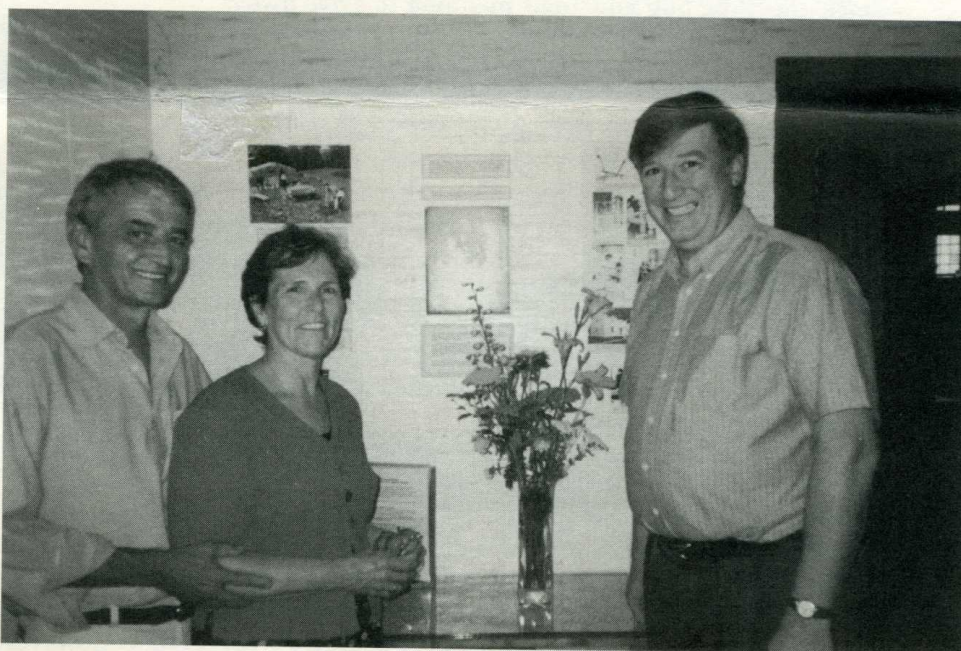
The Enfield Shaker Museum will host its 3rd annual Heirloom Discovery Day on Saturday, September 18th, from 10 am to 3 pm. Professional appraisers will be on hand to satisfy your curiosity about everything from your most recent yard sale discovery to the porcelain vase that Great-aunt Gertrude told you was priceless. Rates will be \$6 for one item or three for \$15. A portion of the proceeds will be used to support the Museum and its ongoing programs.

The panel of experts on hand for the day will include jewelry appraiser Gail Joy Nelson, C.G. of Quechee, Vermont; Richard Miller of Plainfield, New Hampshire, a former curator who will be available to inspect fine art; Evelyn Lamprey of E. S. Lamprey Antiques, Gilmanton, NH, who will review collectibles and antiques; and Louise Hall, A.S.A., of L. T. Hall Appraisals, Inc., Plainfield, New Hampshire, who will provide expertise on antique furniture and decorative arts.

So dig out those old treasures, and bring in your paintings, prints, sculpture, porcelain, pottery, glass and other decorative arts such as metal ware, furniture, and anything that might be of Shaker origin. Items need not be "antique" to be evaluated, and many pieces from the early- to mid-20th century have substantial value. No appraisers will be available to evaluate stamps or coins.

Exhibit Opening

On Sunday, June 27 the Museum hosted *Anima*, a women's vocal ensemble from Vermont. After the performance in the Mary Keane Chapel, a reception was held in the chapel undercroft to celebrate the opening of a new exhibit entitled "A Religious Life Continues." This exhibit, by museum trustee and chair of the Education Committee Mary Ann Haagen, examines the era of the La Salette's tenure here in Enfield. It is abundantly illustrated with photographs from the La Salette's collection and chronicles the communal, agricultural life they pursued here after the departure of the Shakers in 1923.



The final section of the exhibit "A Religious Life Continues" is a tribute to Father Dan Charette and the research and work he did to preserve the Shaker history here in Enfield. Shown are Father Dan's sister, Joanne Samson (center), her husband, (left) and Father Dennis Loomis (right)



Enfield Shaker Museum
2 Lower Shaker Village
Enfield, New Hampshire 03748
(603) 632-4346

Richard Dabrowski
PO Box 8001
Ashburnham MA 01430-8001

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Ann Tarney Collection

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teaching 5th and 6th grades at the Enfield public school, the remaining Shakers were living at Canterbury. Ann's efforts helped assure that the Shakers' contributions to Enfield history would not be forgotten.

Ann found a good friend and kindred spirit in a newcomer to Enfield, Mrs. Clarice Carr. They shared an interest in the Shakers, particularly Shaker music. Mrs. Carr formed a singing group, the Enfield Shaker Singers, and Ann was a charter member. Through this performing group, the Shaker tradition was kept alive at Enfield, and new interest was kindled whenever the Shaker Singers performed. With other local historians and friends like Clarice Carr, Nellie Pierce, Mr. Wilson Roberts, and later, Wendell and Viola Hess, Ann built up a great store of knowledge about Shaker history and Shaker song.

The Shaker objects given by Ann to the museum include poplarware items, boxes, bottles, and an Enfield Shaker doll, and add an important new dimension to the museum's collections. The Shakers would have marketed most of these items through the store in the Trustee's Office on Route 4A.

Ann Tarney is one of our important links to the Shakers who once lived out their communal vision here in Enfield. Present day researchers are indebted to people like Ann who have valued, preserved, and are willing to share what they themselves cherish of the history they know. On behalf of all future visitors to the Enfield Shaker Museum, we celebrate Ann's generous gift.



Father Dennis Loomis of the La Salette Brothers, and his work crew painted the Laundry/Dairy Building during the hottest days of the summer.

La Salette Summer Work Project helps the Museum and other Upper Valley Non-Profits

For the second summer in a row, work crews from the La Salette Brothers' Summer Work Camp have helped the Museum with tough clean-up and maintenance jobs. The first crew led by Brother Claude Rheaume, spent one day cleaning up fencing that had fallen at the West Meadow Barn, and a second day cleaning years of accumulated junk out of the basement of the newly acquired Ministry House.

A second crew of painters was led by Father Dennis Loomis. They scraped, primed and put two coats of paint on the back of the Laundry/Dairy Store, an improvement our neighbors on Caleb Dyer Lane are sure to appreciate.

All this work was done during the worst of this summer's heat and high humidity. The work was hard and dirty, but everyone stuck with it and did a great job, despite the conditions. The work crews donated their services to a variety of Upper Valley non-profits as well as to the Museum.

We would like to extend a hearty thank you to these volunteers and express our admiration of the Brothers of La Salette, who, through teaching by example, instill the value of "service" in these young adults each summer.

Facilities Improvements Include Site Work and Bell Wheel Restoration

On Tuesday, August 10, the Museum celebrated the installation of a new bell wheel in the cupola of the Great Stone Dwelling. The dedication ceremony took place on the front lawn of the Great Stone Dwelling under a beautiful summer sky, and was attended by over 50 museum members and visitors.

Museum trustee Mary Ann Haagen opened the celebration with an introduction of the museum's special guests, Ray and Judy McCaskey and Wendell Hess. The reproduction of the bell wheel was made possible by a generous donation by Ray and Judy in honor of their long-time friends Wendell and Viola Hess. Viola was not able to attend, but Mary Ann brought a framed picture of Wen and Vi, and she was in everyone's hearts and minds during the dedication.

Much singing of Shaker songs and some beautiful readings made the event truly a joyous celebration. Ray and Judy McCaskey read selected passages from a diary collection of Eldress Rosetta Cummings. Museum Board President Galen Beale read an account of a visit to the Great Stone Dwelling written by an early 19th century local newspaper correspondent "The Old Timer." Mary Ann thanked representatives of the Dana Robes Wood Craftsmen for their excellent work. Present were Mike Graham, President, and master craftsman Peter Woods, who made the wheel. Kevin Ordway, also of Dana Robes Wood Craftsmen, who engineered the installation of the wheel unfortunately could not be present.

The ceremony ended with the ringing of the bell, and all retired to the West Brethren's Shop for lunch and socializing. Tours of the Great Stone Dwelling, including visits to the cupola to see the new wheel, and much bell ringing completed the days activity. The occasion will be remembered by all who attended as a wonderful tribute to Wendell and Viola and a fitting celebration of the community of people who work so hard to preserve the Enfield Shaker legacy.

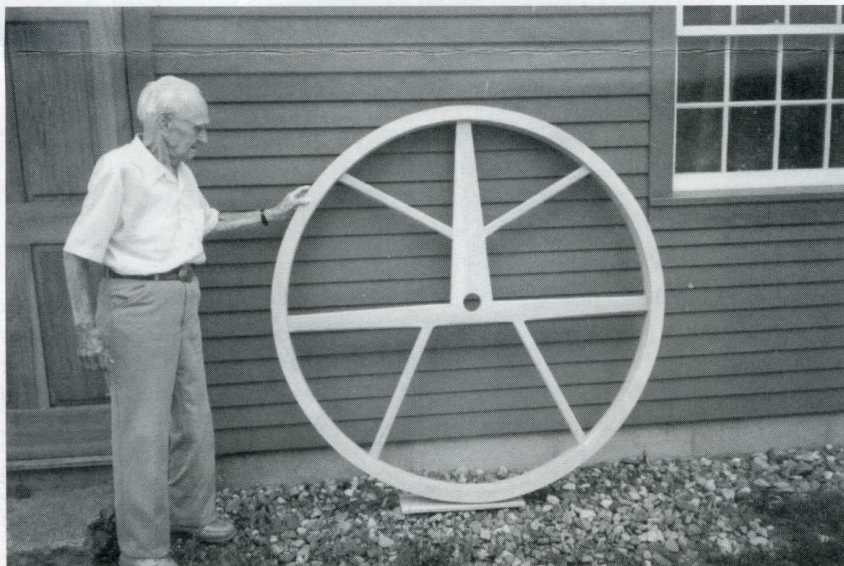
Charlie DePuy, pictured above, was also busy with site restoration work this summer. Charlie planned and oversaw several projects which helped bring the site closer to its former Shaker configuration.

Work this spring included digging and laying conduit to the East and West Brethrens' Shops and the Ministry House as well as installing a utilities pedestal to allow the removal of the remaining aboveground poles near the Mary Keane House. This lays the groundwork for the removal of all remaining overhead power lines to historic Shaker buildings.

The Museum also completed its new peripheral parking lots which serve the Laundry/Dairy, Great Stone Dwelling, Ministry House, Brethrens' Shops and Chapel. To reduce visual clutter, all outdoor lighting has been installed on buildings adjacent to the new parking lots.



Summer was just a distant thought when Facilities Committee Chair Charlie Depuy (left) began preparation for the bell wheel reproduction with Dana Robes Wood Craftsmen President Michael Graham (center) and master craftsman Peter Woods (right).



Outside Dana Robes Wood Craftsmen, Wendell Hess examines the finished bell wheel before it was painted and installed in the Great Stone Dwelling cupola.