

The Friends' Quarterly

A Newsletter from the Enfield Shaker Museum

Volume XVI/No.2

Summer 2006

"Reminiscences of Shakers I knew."

by George Ulysses Lincoln Leavitt

John Whittaker (1815-1886)

"Another 'character' among the Barker, or South Family of Shakers, was John Whittaker. He was a very large man standing about 6 foot 4 inches tall and had broad shoulders and a long face. Would weigh well over 200 pounds. He was the 'butcher' at the Barker Family for many years, and I have had quite a few meals of meat that he brought over across the lake to my camp. He always staid to dinner when he brought over any meat, and always seemed to enjoy eating. I remember one occasion when there were quite a lot of us in camp that he came over with his friend and companion Elias Smith, in his boat that he had 'builded himself' and called his 'Mighty Runner.' (It was a very long heavy boat, and one side of it was nearly straight, while the other was more nearly curved, as the side of a boat should be.) So we invited them to stay to dinner. After the dinner we passed around slices of watermelon and he had a slice the same as everyone else. I asked him if he would like another slice and he said, 'yea I would.' He ate five or six slices before he went back home, on top of a hearty dinner. I noticed that he saved all of the seeds and put them in his vest pocket, so I said, 'I see you saved the seeds', and he replied, 'Yea I would not have ate so much melon, but those seeds looked black and good to plant.' He was not a

fool, but just a simple Shaker. They said of him that he was one of the best workers that they had on the place. He lived in a three story building near the road, at the South Family, which building was one of the very last Shaker Buildings to be taken down."



Elias Smith (left) and John Whittaker of the Enfield Shaker Community.
Photo: Robert Leavitt Collection, Enfield Shaker Museum

Elias Smith (1810-1890)

"I have spoken of Elias Smith as being a close friend and companion of John Whittaker. They were always together when out of doors, and no doubt lived in the same building. Elias Smith was a brother of Mrs. Willis Johnson, who for many years owned and operated the 'Quincy House' hotel in Boston. He had lived with the Shakers from a child, and was a nice looking man of about 50 years old when I first knew him. He played a 'flute' quite well and I used to ask him to play out on the lake evenings, when we had

company. For he did enjoy playing, especially if there were ladies to listen. I asked him once if he knew how to play 'Money-musk' and he said, 'Nay, I am not allowed to play worldly tunes, but I can play this' and he played it, keeping very good time. He died some time before the Shakers left Enfield.

("Reminiscences of Shakers I knew." A series of short essays from the Robert Leavitt Collection, Enfield Shaker Museum is featured in the current exhibition "An Ever Widening Circle of Friends".)

Good News from the President of the Board

I am thrilled to be able to tell you that the tax debt to the Town of Enfield has been paid in full!! The Museum recently paid approximately \$47,000 to the Town and is now completely current in all its tax payments. After paying approximately \$35,000 in back taxes in April, the Board immediately set to work addressing the remaining tax balance.

After discussing several different means by which the issue could be resolved, the Board decided to make personal loans to the Museum at an interest rate that is much

more favorable to the Museum than the 18% rate the Town is charging. This arrangement allows the Museum to repay the tax debt over 2 1/2 years, a timetable that fits within the Museum's projected budget. In addition, by paying the Town of Enfield now, we are looking at the possibility of a partial abatement of the interest already accrued on the debt. Thanks to 100% Board participation in this effort we were able to pay off this debt in early August.



Donna Butler conducting the sing along (top left), George Butler at the organ console (top right), Donna Butler with trumpeters Chris and Danny Carroll (bottom left), and the crowd prepares to sing along on the 4th of July (bottom right).

4th of July Patriotic Sing Along

On July 9, 1880 the Granite State Free Press noted: "At Shaker Meeting last Sunday, Elder Cummings preached a Fourth of July sermon to a large audience. It was a very able, concise, and patriotic discourse, and we think the practice of preaching such sermons in all our churches on the Sunday next to our 'Glorious Fourth' would be an idea that it would be well to follow."

In continuing celebration of this national holiday a capacity crowd filled the Mary Keane Chapel of the Enfield Shaker Museum on July 4, 2006 to sing folk songs and patriotic ballads of America. The impromptu community chorus was led by organist George and song leader Donna Butler, assisted by trumpeters Chris and Danny Carroll. An open house at the Museum followed.

Our Apologies

The Enfield Shaker Museum board, staff, and volunteers extends their sincere appreciation to the following generous donors to the 2005 Annual Appeal who were inadvertently omitted from the list of Museum supporters published in the last issue of *The Friends' Quarterly*.

Henry & Lucy Atkins	Lorraine Jones
Harry & Helen Auger	Jill Markowski
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Carol & David Davenport	Bob & Grace Rudd
Kenneth Forseth	Joanne Waeler
Ridge Satterthwaite & Sally Gage	
Roger Gibbs	

Historical Marker Commemorating Enfield Shakers Is Installed

Thanks to the efforts of our Town Historian, Marjorie Carr, Mary Ann Haagen of the Enfield Shaker Museum and Chairperson Meredith Smith of the Enfield Heritage Commission (and Enfield Shaker Museum volunteer) a Historical Marker commemorating the Enfield Shakers, has been constructed by the State of New Hampshire. This effort has been underway since early 1999.

This will be the first Official New Hampshire Marker placed in the Town of Enfield and one of the very few in the Upper Valley. It is most fitting that this marker comes at this time and place, as the Enfield Community of Shakers were more community involved than other Shaker villages that tended to be more isolated from the "world's people." Also, this year marks the 20th anniversary of the Enfield Shaker Museum's founding.

Political power in New Hampshire does not "come out of a gun barrel"; rather it is achieved by the diligent efforts of our elected officials. In this instance, the slow wheels of democracy were lifted and carried by Executive Councilor Raymond S. Burton, Senator Peter H. Burling and Representative Paul Mirski. Getting this project started, and when the stalls occurred, the aforementioned leaders were but a phone call away and they made things happen. I should also note that the Enfield Board of Selectmen and the Enfield Budget Committee strongly supported this effort.

The marker is in place and covered (see photo at right), and a September 30th unveiling date has been set. Governor Lynch has been invited to officiate, along with other State Officials. The Town of Enfield and the Enfield Shaker Museum will work together to plan an appropriate ceremony and reception. Details of the unveiling will be announced as soon as available.



Chief Peter Giese

Museum Receives Planning Grant

The Byrne Foundation has made a \$10,000 grant to the Enfield Shaker Museum to support the planning and implementation of a capital campaign for the Great Stone Dwelling.

This grant will provide funding for campaign consultation, grant writing, training of volunteers and the creation of printed materials relative to the campaign. The Board of Trustees and the Membership/Development Committee extend their sincere thanks to the Byrne Foundation for its generous support of the Enfield Shaker Museum.

Chosen Vale International Trumpet Seminar

Enfield, NH - a cutting edge contemporary music scene?

For two weeks in June the Center for Advanced Musical Studies, Edward Carroll, Director made it just that. Undergraduate and graduate conservatory students and trumpet professionals found their way from Australia, Malaysia, Italy, Germany, Luxembourg, Finland, Russia, Canada and the United States to Chosen Vale (Enfield Shaker Museum) for two weeks of study with an extraordinary faculty of composers and performance artists.

The more than forty participants lived in the Great Stone Dwelling, were fed by our own Betsy Oppenneer, and filled the Laundry and Dairy Building, the Chapel, and the Stone Mill with music day and night. Out of the classes, rehearsals and symposia came a series of five concerts in Mary Keane Chapel. The music performed by faculty and students ranged from the sublime to pieces exploring sound combinations we didn't know trumpets could make. However demanding and limit pushing the composition, the audience always knew it was participating in an extraordinary musical gathering of which we can all be proud.



"An Ever Widening Circle Of Friends" Exhibit Opening

This summer's special exhibit, "An Ever Widening Circle of Friends" lived up to its name on Sunday, June 4, as family and friends gathered to officially open the galleries for the season. The exhibit was planned and executed by the Museum's Collection Committee, chaired by Galen Beale. Photographs, furniture, ephemera and other Shaker artifacts from the collections of Wendell Hess and family, Ann Tarney and family, Clarice Carr and family, Robert Leavitt and family, and Col. Frank Churchill and family tell a story of long friendships with the Enfield Shakers. The exhibit will remain open through the season.

Join us, won't you?

June was Membership Renewal Month at the Enfield Shaker Museum. The Development & Membership Committee thanks everyone who has already renewed their memberships for the coming year. If you haven't done so, please take a moment to clip and return the coupon below.

As the Museum embarks on a Capital Campaign for the Great Stone Dwelling, a strong membership roster is more important than ever. In addition to the direct encouragement and financial support your renewal provides, membership figures are an important criteria for federal funding of organizations and regional foundation grants. Thank you for being part of the Enfield Shaker Museum family.

Membership Renewal Coupon

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Daytime Phone _____

email _____

Level:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30 -39	Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250 - 499*	Steward	*Members at \$250 and above receive a reproduction Shaker Oval Box
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40 - 49	Dual/Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500 - 999*	Patron	
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 - 249	Sponsor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000+*	Chosen Vale Society	

☐ Enclosed is my/our check (payable to the Enfield Shaker Museum for \$ _____)

☐ Please bill my Visa or Mastercard in the amount of \$ _____

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature (for credit card charges only) _____

Remit to: Enfield Shaker Museum, 447 NH Rt 4A, Enfield, NH 03748

Woodworking Wish List

We are looking to establish a Woodworking Shop in the annex of the Laundry Dairy Building which would allow us to complete maintenance projects on site and hold a series of woodworking workshops at the Museum.

We have worked with Eric Gesler (a former Museum Board member and former Dana Robes Woodcraftsman) to compile a list of tools and other supplies that would make this possible. Eric has agreed to work with the Museum to develop a schedule of workshops and to teach a series of workshops himself. This fall he will be teaching a one-day workshop on Oval Box Making on Saturday, October 14.

If there is anything on the list that you would like to donate please call the Museum to arrange for pick-up. If you would like to talk with Eric about tools you have that you would like to donate you can call him at 603-353-9111.

Tools and Equipment

Drill Press
Drills
3 hp Fixed Router
Router Table
Table Saw
Saw Blades
10 Bar Clamps
Power Drills
Drivers
Dead Blow
Jig Saw
Chop Saw
Bandsaw
Saw Blades
Dado Blade
Band Clamps
3-4 Work Benches
Vises
Storage Cabinet

Supplies

Sandpaper
Finish
Stains
Nails
Screws

Have you visited the Museum Store lately?

Come explore the new items in the Enfield Shaker Museum Store. Spice up your summer with some pepper jelly or sweeten your day with jam. Enjoy the subtle scents of our new selection of Mount Cardigan Soaps and Lotions.

A new selection of beautifully handcrafted items are now available on consignment from several Museum demonstrating craftspeople and workshop instructors. We have the latest Shaker publications as well as the long time favorites. A wonderful selection of Shaker recordings and, of course Shaker Oval Boxes. The Museum Store is your place to buy unique quality gifts. Stop by and see what is new!

The Friends' Quarterly is a publication of
the Enfield Shaker Museum.

The Enfield Shaker Museum

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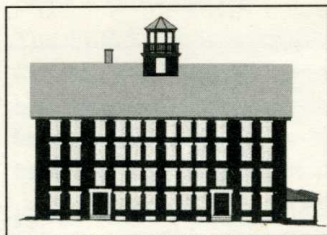
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Museum Staff:

Theresa (Tere) Kipp, Museum Administrator
Nicole Champeny, Administrative Assistant
Tara McHugh, Museum Gardener
Barbara Kresse, Museum Gardner



Enfield Shaker Museum

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