

# The Friends' Quarterly

A publication of the Enfield Shaker Museum

## The New Hampshire Bishopric

By Mary Rose Boswell, Executive Director

As the Shakers formed new societies, they organized a structure to ensure efficiency in their communication and decision-making. The New Lebanon society in New York became the central authority. Bishoprics, consisting of two or more communities in close proximity, were formed to assist the Lead Ministry. Within each Bishopric were two Ministry Elders and two Eldresses who oversaw their communities' spiritual needs.

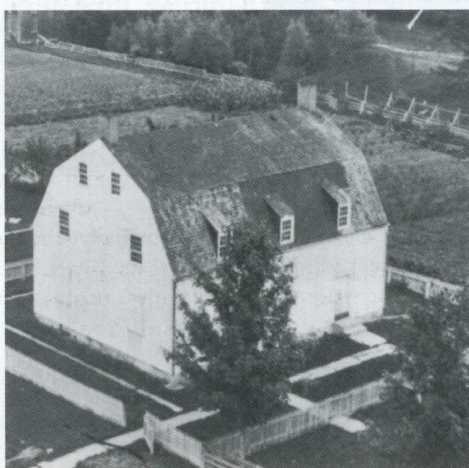
The Canterbury and Enfield societies formed the New Hampshire Bishopric. By 1792 Job Bishop was appointed to oversee both communities, even before Enfield was officially formed. Edmund Lougee, who had been gathered from Canterbury to New Lebanon, arrived with Elder Job Bishop at Canterbury on February 10, 1792. In May Hannah Goodrich and Anna Burdick rode horseback from New Lebanon and Hancock respectively to aid the new bishopric. In September Job Bishop, Hannah Goodrich and Anna Burdick traveled to New Lebanon, presumably to report on their progress. The next month Job and Hannah returned to Canterbury, but Anna remained at Hancock, and Hannah Lougee succeeded her as Ministry Eldress. Hannah Goodrich assumed the title of Mother, and in 1795 Job Bishop assumed the title of Father. The purpose was to provide spiritual leadership. As Ministry parents, they made policy, settled disputes, enforced regulations and facilitated communication. Enfield and Canterbury's stability and economic prosperity were largely due to Goodrich and Job's long tenure and capable leadership.

The New Hampshire Bishopric alternated their time between Enfield and Canterbury, staying several weeks at each community. Occasionally they traveled to New Lebanon and other societies. Their travels often averaged 1,400 miles or more per year. After sojourns to New Lebanon, they often brought back instructions regarding their ritualistic dances, songs and marches.

Only the Ministry was permitted to visit other villages with any regularity until 1799. Travel on horseback was the norm. In 1802 the Canterbury Shakers built a "pleasure carriage" for the Harvard Ministry. The New Hampshire Bishopric continued to ride on horseback, and they rode to Enfield that winter in a sleigh.

The Ministry's mode of travel improved with the railroad. It not only saved them time but exposed them to new experiences as well. In 1876 their trips included a tour of the Centennial Exhibit in Philadelphia, visits to the beach, a picnic at Northfield Depot, a spiritualist camp meeting and a temperance convention.

The length of time an individual served as a Ministry Elder or Eldress depended on many factors. Often they stepped down to help in other areas as needed. After 13 years as Ministry Eldress in New Hampshire, Hester Ann Adams was appointed to the order of the Ministry at Alfred and Gloucester. Apparently this move was



*New Hampshire's Bishopric often stayed overnight in Enfield's Meetinghouse. (Detail, Enfield Shaker Museum, Leavitt Collection.)*

highly beneficial, for Canterbury Shaker John Whitcher reported in December, that the Ministry Order in Alfred was *wholly renewed*. Father Job served as spiritual leader for 39 years until his death in 1831, and Benjamin Whitcher of Canterbury filled the position with Joseph Johnson of Enfield. To ensure that the communities had trained leaders, "junior" elders were appointed to prepare for the role and be able to step in as needed.

The Ministry Elders and Eldresses did not sleep in the Dwelling Houses and or work with the other Shakers. They had their own workspaces and initially slept upstairs in the communities' Meeting Houses. Later, they had their own residences. In 1848 the Canterbury Shakers built a new Ministry House on the site of their former one. The Enfield Shakers built their first Ministry House in 1800, and their second one in 1880.

While their focus was on spiritual matters, the New Hampshire Ministry was also expected to participate in temporal concerns to help the economy of the communities under their care. In her spare time, Eldress Lucy Williams operated a "Pleasant Spinner" on the second floor of the 1808 two-story Work Shop at Canterbury. The spinning mule was probably made at Pleasant Hill, Kentucky, and it ran the length of the room when in use. The Brethren occupied the two rooms below.

New Hampshire's Bishopric had many progressive leaders who faced change as necessary for survival. The Ministry could be drawn from either society. Enfield provided several important leaders with considerable tenures: Esther Ferrin, Joseph Johnson and Abraham Perkins. Canterbury's Henry C. Blinn wrote histories of the Enfield and Canterbury and recorded a biography of Mother Ann Lee. While she served in the Ministry for only one year, Eldress Dorothy Durgin had a significant impact on the United Society. She was a strong advocate of equal authority between the male and female leaders and helped establish the role of female trustees, which allowed the Sisters to handle money, necessary for the operation of their lucrative trades.

These leaders encouraged the United Society of Believers to meet contemporary needs. They proposed how to handle economic, behavioral and leadership challenges that had plagued the sect for decades. They advocated abandoning outdated practices, increasing their missionary efforts and marketing their progressive beliefs. This approach appalled many conservative leaders, who argued in favor of a more limited separation from the World.

When Henry C. Blinn died in 1905, no one replaced him as Ministry Elder. The New Hampshire Bishopric was dissolved on December 16, 1918. Enfield closed its doors from 1918 to 1923, and the remaining Shakers there moved to Canterbury.

*Thanks to Mary Ann Haagen for her advice on this article.*



## Concerts

June 21 – 27



### Chosen Vale International Trumpet Seminar

The Center for Advanced Musical Studies presents the Chosen Vale International Trumpet Seminar, featuring talent from around the world.

Free public performances will be held at 8 p.m.:

**Saturday, June 21**

Music from the 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> centuries

**Tuesday, June 24**

Solo performance featuring Markus Stockhausen

**Friday, June 27**

Sounds like Now!

Pre-concert introductions with Seminar Director Edward Carroll at 7:30 p.m. on June 21 and June 27.

**Friday, July 4, 11 a.m.**

### Patriotic Sing-Along

To celebrate the national holiday, George Butler and his wife Donna (who also serves as Vice President on the Museum board of trustees) will lead this participatory program in the Mary Keane Chapel with patriotic ballads and folk songs. An open house in the Great Stone Dwelling will follow. Free admission.

**July 18 & 19, 7:30 p.m.**

### Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic

As part of a statewide celebration of the 400th anniversary of the founding of Québec City, and the contribution of French culture to New Hampshire, the Museum is hosting a concert of French music performed by the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic. The WMP will perform two identical concerts including Poulenc's Organ Concerto, featuring organist George Butler. The Mary Keane Chapel is a very appropriate venue for these significant performances: the organ was designed by Casavant Frères of Québec. The patriarch of the family, Joseph Casavant, was Canada's first organ builder of note. \$15 admission.



**Saturday, July 26, 6:30 p.m.**

### Wood's Tea Company



The Wood's Tea Company gives a lusty performance of Celtic tunes, bluegrass, sea shanties and folk songs. The trio has performed nationwide, including college campuses, Lincoln Center, the Chautauqua Institute and National Public Radio. Their dry Vermont wit is guaranteed to entertain! Wood's Tea Company is a recipient of the Irish Heritage Foundation's Outstanding Innovations Award. The concert will be held in the recently renovated 1849 Stone Mill. Funded in part by the New England Foundation for the Art, with additional support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the NH State Council on the Arts. \$10 per Member; \$15 per non-member; \$5 per child under age 12. Seating is limited. Sign up today!

**Thursday, August 28, 8:00 p.m.**

### Organ Recital

The Organ Historical Society has chosen Mary Keane Chapel to conclude its summer tour of organs in southern New Hampshire. George Butler has been selected to perform the final organ recital. Free admission. For more information, please visit [www.organsociety.org/aoatour](http://www.organsociety.org/aoatour).

(At right, George and Donna Butler.)





## Dinners and Events

### Saturday, May 17, 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy a traditional dinner in the Great Stone Dwelling, the Shakers' greatest architectural achievement. Our menu will be Cheddar Cheese & Shaker Beer Soup, Chilled Baked Apples with Minted Vinaigrette, Brother Irving Greenwood's Pot Roast, Boiled Potatoes, Steamed Spring Asparagus, and Warm Chocolate Bread Pudding with Crème Anglaise. Chef Mickey Dowd graduated from Whittemore School of Business and Hotel Administration and worked in New York City as the Food & Beverage Director for the Conservatory Restaurant at the Mayflower Hotel and as the Assistant Director of Food & Beverage for the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. He is the founder/owner/chef of Dowd's Country Inn in Lyme, and the manager/chef/owner of the Alden Country Inn in Lyme. He is also the chef/owner/manager of Mickey's Roadside Café in Enfield. \$30/member; \$35/non-member includes a complimentary glass of wine. Limited seating, so reserve soon!

### Shaker Dinner



### Saturday, June 7, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

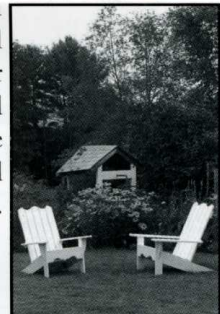
### Country Life Festival



Celebrate living in harmony with the land! Sample the Upper Valley's cheeses, honey, herbs, cider, maple syrup and more! Watch craft demonstrations; take a horse-drawn wagon ride! Many booths and activities will be held in historic buildings, so this event will be held rain or shine. Musical programs and lunch will be features. An admission fee will be charged.

### Saturday, July 12, 1-5 p.m. Art and Garden Tour

Enfield Shaker Museum is teaming up once again with the Enfield Village Association to host this beautiful event, celebrating the town's colorful and fragrant private and public gardens. As you tour these serene locations, a map will guide you. Watch artists demonstrating their skills, and take a painting home! The final stop will be the Museum's herb and flower garden, where refreshments will be served. A silent auction will also offer many gardening items and works of art. Rain or shine! \$15 admission.



### Saturday, July 12, 6:30 p.m.

### Shaker Dinner



Enjoy a traditional dinner in the Great Stone Dwelling. Designed in 1837 by Ammi Burnham Young (later the architect for the U.S. Treasury), the "stone house" captures the Shaker ideals of order and simplicity. Our menu will include fresh herbal broth with Shaker dumplings; strawberry and cucumber salad with honey lime dressing; sour cream herb biscuits; chicken fricassee with rice; baked tomatoes; and rhubarb lemon pie. Chef Betsy Oppenneer is an award-winning member of the International Association of Culinary Professionals and has made several appearances on national television. \$30/member; \$35/non-member, includes complimentary wine.

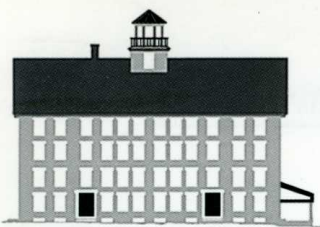


### Saturday, August 2, 5:00 p.m.

### Dragonfly Ball

Experience a luminous evening of music, magic and memories on Lake Mascoma! Watch the sun set over Mount Assurance while dining and dancing by candlelight under the stars. Seasons Restaurant's menu will include Poached Wild Alaskan King Salmon; Chicken with fresh basil and goat cheese; Carved Roast Beef with horseradish cream; locally grown vegetables and the following desserts: Mini Chocolate Raspberry Decadence; Petite Fours; Strawberries with Chocolate Dipping Sauce and Fresh Fruit. This gala event will benefit Enfield Shaker Museum. Just \$60 per Museum member and \$80 per non-member. Sign up now either for you and a loved one, or reserve a table for eight if you wish!





**Enfield Shaker Museum**

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*What does a dragonfly have to do with  
Enfield Shaker Museum? See inside!*

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## Enfield Shaker Museum's Capital Campaign Benefits the Great Stone Dwelling



*Capital Campaign Honorary Co-Chairs  
Happy and Clark Griffiths*

Since Honorary Co-Chairs Happy and Clark Griffiths announced the Museum's \$1.1 million Capital Campaign in 2006, many donors have supported our efforts to rehabilitate the Great Stone Dwelling. Built in 1841, this magnificent building is the Museum's most important artifact. In 2006-2007 Trustee Charlie DePuy oversaw the removal of the roof on the ambulatory and designed a new access ramp that was constructed by our Elderhostel friends. Charlie also arranged for new exterior signage and a thermographic scan to test for heat loss. After Property Manager Tom Boswell was hired in 2007, renovations to the kitchen began. Tom also spent many months upgrading the offices, plastering and painting the interior as needed, organizing basement storage and adding a wireless connection. This year's Elderhostel resulted in structural repairs to the entrance, and more painting and minor repairs.

A major improvement was the installation of a new heating system. Despite a very severe winter and increased oil prices, the new system saved the Museum two thousand dollars. After seeking six bids, the Museum has hired an electrical contractor, and work will begin in May to bring the basement up to code and to add a new fire alarm system.

What are our next immediate goals? We need to repair and paint the building's 155 windows and add new storms! Our Preservation Planning Committee, including Trustee Paul Mirski and energy specialist Colin High, have given us guidelines to meet standards for historic preservation and energy efficiency. We have received a challenge grant from the Butler Foundation and must raise \$35,000 by August 1 to complete the electrical work. The estimated cost for the windows is \$77,500. Please support these efforts!