

The Friends' Quarterly

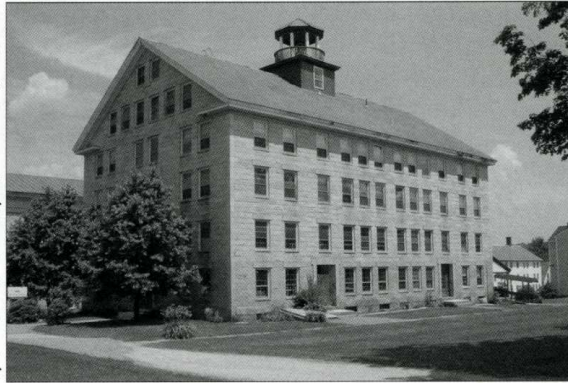


A Newsletter from the Enfield Shaker Museum

Discovering the Refinements of the Great Stone Dwelling

By James L. Garvin, State Architectural Historian, N.H. Division of Historical Resources

The Great Stone Dwelling has always inspired awe. One of the first to comment upon the structure after its construction between 1837 and 1841 was Shaker brother Giles Avery. Writing in 1843, Avery described the dwelling as "one of the most stately, magnificent, and solid buildings I ever saw." The largest dwelling built by the Shakers anywhere, the building was regarded as the greatest stone edifice north of Boston and as an astonishing accomplishment in planning, construction, and perfection of detailing.



Photograph of the Great Stone Dwelling by James L. Garvin

The Enfield Shakers had to invest immense labor even before they were ready to raise the walls of their great home. The East and West Brethren's Shops stood on the site and had to be moved north to their present locations. The brook that descends from the hillside to the west ran in an irregular course close to the eastern end of the planned dwelling. It had to be re-channeled to the south, and its former bed needed to be trenched with drains to carry away the ground water and make a dry cellar. Using plows, shovels and carts, the Shakers excavated more than 1600 cubic yards of stones and soil from the great basement, fifty-eight by one hundred feet in dimensions.

Membership of the Enfield Shakers in the 1830s did not include builders with the skill and equipment needed to build granite walls that rise almost fifty feet from their footings to the building's eaves, or roofers with experience in laying the needed 7400 square feet of imported Welch slate. The Shakers depended on Boston craftsmen to perform the heavy and dangerous work of raising the walls and covering the roof. Luther Kingsley of Boston and Lowell served as masonry contractor for the building, while David Tillson superintended the slating of the roof.

Yet the Shakers did own a quarry that provided the granite for the walls, ample woodlots that supplied the timber, and mills and machinery to saw and plane the woodwork of the building. Shaker brethren quarried and hammered the stone and cut and sawed the timber for the internal framing, drawing these materials to the building site with their own draft

animals. The Shakers' immense labor made possible the construction of an edifice that would have been far beyond the financial capacity of the community if its members had needed to purchase the materials from others.

It has long been understood that the Shakers employed Ammi Burnham Young (1798-1874), a native of the adjacent town of Lebanon and an experienced builder-architect, to design their great edifice. Young had

already designed brick buildings at Dartmouth College, where his brother Ira was a professor. Young was the architect of the Vermont State Capitol, rising in Montpelier as the Great Stone Dwelling was being planned. He would soon win a design competition for the granite custom house in Boston, and would later become the supervising architect for the U. S. Treasury, designing many federal buildings.

With this quality of talent brought to bear upon the Great Stone Dwelling, it is not surprising that the edifice was extraordinary in scale and workmanship. Yet beyond its obvious distinction, more subtle refinements are becoming clear as the building is examined for work planned under the ongoing capital campaign for its rehabilitation. As a design by one of northern New England's leading builder-architects and as the joint effort of Shaker and non-Shaker craftsmen, the Great Stone Dwelling was one of the most advanced structures in New Hampshire in 1840. The building also shows an awareness of then-current detailing that is surprising in a Shaker building.

(Continued on page 5.)

James L. Garvin has served as curator of Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth, N.H. and of the New Hampshire Historical Society. He has degrees in architectural engineering, art history, early American culture, and a doctorate in American Studies from Boston University. He has been the State Architectural Historian for more than twenty years. He is the author of many books and articles, including A Building History of Northern New England (University Press of New England, 2001). He is a member of the Enfield Shaker Museum's Preservation Planning Committee.

Hypertherm Supports Garden

Hypertherm, Inc., located in Hanover, has joined the Museum's corporate partners as a top-level Special Event Sponsor, with a \$2,000 gift to support a new community garden. The garden will offer residents a chance to grow their own vegetables. The project responds to the economy and meets Hypertherm's core values to care for the environment and the local community where Hypertherm associates live and work, and promote programs related to the well being of children and families. The goals to support the community, environment and the well being of children and families also tie in with the Museum's critical success factors. The Sustainability Committee will plan the garden. Hypertherm designs and manufactures the world's most advanced cutting systems for use in a variety of industries such as shipbuilding, manufacturing and automotive repair. As do the Shakers, the company has a relentless commitment to experience, innovation and excellence.

Museum Opens New Exhibit

The Edward Cummings family will be the focus of a new exhibit in the Great Stone Dwelling.

Through the life stories of seven individuals, the exhibit will explore Enfield Shaker history from the 1840s to the close of the Society. Edward Cummings brought his wife and children to Enfield in 1843. They were one of the last largest families to join the Enfield Shaker community. Their five children ranged in age from three months old (Ann) to 16 (John). Although the parents did not remain with the Society for long, the children came to maturity as Shakers. Over the years, John, Henry, Rosetta and Ann filled important roles in the Society's leadership structure. In part because of their abilities and resourcefulness, the Enfield Shaker community remained economically viable into the 20th century. After he had abandoned his Shaker life, Henry Cummings became one of the Society's most important chroniclers of Enfield Shaker history.

The exhibit will explore general themes of Shaker life through the family's experiences. Images, artifacts and a pamphlet will supplement the stories. The Exhibit Committee members are: Galen Beale, Mary Ann Haagen, Charlie DePuy, Richard Henderson, Rob Emlen, Michael O'Connor, Clinton Pitts and Carolyn Smith. They hope to have the exhibit ready for viewing at the Open House on July 4. (See p. 3.)

Ilyon Woo Receives Shaker Workshops' Scholarship Award

At the Spring Forum in April, Shaker Workshops Sales Manager Carolyn Smith presented Ilyon Woo a \$500 cash award for her presentation "A Mob on Enfield Village" about the Chapman family. Shaker Workshops offered the award to encourage outstanding, new scholarship in the field of Shaker studies. All of the presenters at the Spring Forum met the criteria, but Woo "tipped the scales" with her literary format. She holds a B.A. in the Humanities from Yale and a Ph.D. in English from Columbia University, where she completed her dissertation on 19th century anti-Shaker and Shaker apostate narratives. Woo is writing a book on Eunice Chapman's case against the Shakers, to be published by Grove Atlantic Press.



Ongoing Programs

Herb Talks: Thurs., 11 a.m., June 11-Sept. 17

Herbalist Happy Griffiths will cover herb planting, cultivation and harvesting for cooking, medicinal healing and dyeing. She will compare how the Enfield Shakers used herbs with our use today. Her talks are part of the Museum admission. The length of the lectures will vary with the visitors' preferences.

Farmers' Market: Wed., 4-7 pm, July 1 - Oct. 7

Moved to the Great Stone Dwelling grounds this year, the Enfield Farmers' Market offers fresh local produce, meats, flowers, crafts and prepared foods. Visit the gift shop featuring works by local artisans, or hike the trails as part of your experience here. On rainy days, the market will be held in the Stone Mill.



Herbalist Happy Griffiths presents a tussie mussie to Hypertherm Vice President of Human Resources Barbara J. Couch. With them are Hypertherm Treasurer and Museum Trustee Carolyn Maloney and Museum Executive Director Mary Boswell.

Enfield Shaker Museum Programs and Events

Benefit Yard Sale: Friday - Saturday, May 22- 23, 8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.



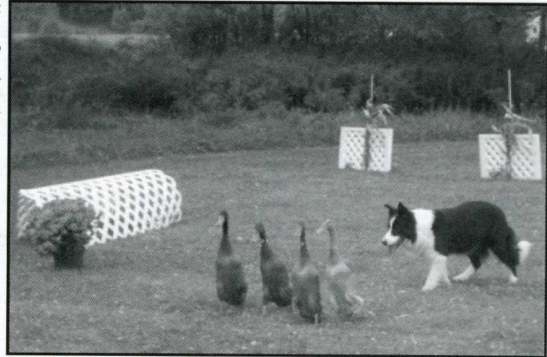
Mary Ann Haagen and Gail Gagnon at last year's Yard Sale.

Need to spruce up a camp or furnish an apartment for a college grad? In this economy, we all need bargains, and you will find what you are seeking: furniture sets, bikes, toys, dinnerware, tools, linens, jewelry, books, equipment, small appliances and more! The event will be held in the 1849 Stone Mill. Refreshments will be served.

Country Life Festival: Saturday, June 6, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Live in harmony with the land! Sample Upper Valley cheeses, honey, herbs, cider, maple syrup and more! Take a horse-drawn wagon ride; explore old tractors and watch a horse plow a field! You'll also see llamas, goats, chickens and more! Musical programs and lunch will also be featured. Admission: \$5 per adult; \$2.50 per child aged 6-12; children under 6, free. Members 10% off.

Sponsored by the Enfield Energy Emporium.



Lana Petty's dog Doc will herd ducks at the Country Life Festival.

Shaker Seven Road Race: Sunday, June 28, 9 a.m.



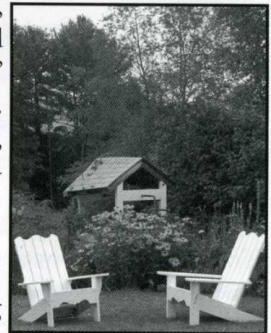
Organized by the Enfield Village Association, the race starts at the Museum, runs

through downtown and across the bridge. The Museum will host the post-race brunch in the 1849 Stone Mill for race competitors and the public.

Art and Garden Tour: Friday-Saturday, July 10-11, 1-5 p.m.

In partnership with the Enfield Village Association, this event features many local colorful private and public gardens. A map will guide you. "Fairy gardens"

designed by local residents will be sold at a silent auction in the West Brethren Shop. Refreshments will be served near the Herb Garden. \$25 admission covers both days, including Friday's Twilight Tour, wine & cheese reception, silent auction and the self-guided tour on Saturday. \$15 admission covers Saturday-only activities.



Firefly Ball: Saturday, July 18, 5 p.m. cocktails; dinner at 6:30 p.m.



Experience a luminous evening of music, magic and memories on

Lake Mascoma! Watch the sun set over Shaker Mountain while dining and dancing by candlelight under the stars. Our menu will include a wide variety of fresh and delectable choices. Music for dining and dancing will be provided by East Bay Jazz Company. Just \$60/Member and \$80/Non-Member. Table of eight: \$450/Member and \$600/Non-Member.

Shaker Seminar: July 22-25

Hancock Shaker Village has selected Enfield Shaker Museum and Canterbury Shaker Village as the sites for its 35th annual Shaker Seminar. This nationally known seminar convenes at different locations each year for

lectures and tours. Volunteer Mary Ann Haagen will present a program on the Cummings family, featured in our new exhibit (page 2). To register, access Hancock's website at www.hancockshakervillage.org.

Concerts

Organ Recital: Sunday, June 7, 4 p.m.

This recital is presented by the Vermont Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, who designated organist and Museum Trustee Donna Butler as *Artist of the Year, 2008-2009*. She will be assisted by Heidi Baxter, a well-known flutist in the Upper Valley. This recital is open to the public, and admission is free. Mrs. Butler began playing organ at age 16 and has held organist/choir director positions in MA, MD, VT and NH. During her career, she taught K-12 and college level music. Her final 27-year position was at the Bernice A. Ray School, Hanover, NH, 1977-2004. In 1992, she was awarded the Christa McAuliffe Federal Fellowship, which resulted in a guidebook that was disseminated to the Department of Education in all 50 states and U.S. territories. She is the co-host of the Mary Keane Chapel with her husband George.

Chosen Vale International Trumpet Concert Series

The Center for Advanced Musical Studies, based in Hanover, N.H., presents the fourth annual Chosen Vale International Trumpet Seminar at the Museum, with 50 world-class trumpeters from across the globe. Free public performances will be held in the Mary Keane Chapel, each preceded by an introduction presented by Seminar Director Edward Carroll:



Tuesday, June 16 (8:00 p.m.; introduction 7:30 p.m.): This concert will feature music by Krzywicki, Torelli, Hindemith, Brandt, and Takemitsu, performed by trumpeter Kazuaki Kikumoto and pianist Ayako Yoda. Kazuaki Kikumoto is from Japan and is a recipient of the Silver Medal at the 2008 Ellsworth Smith Competition. In addition to this monetary prize, he was awarded a full scholarship to the Seminar.

Saturday, June 20 (8:00 p.m.; introduction 7:30 p.m.): The "Opening Concert:" will highlight music from the 17th - 20th centuries, performed by all Seminar faculty and participants.

Friday, June 27 (8:00 p.m.; introduction 7:30 p.m.): *Sounds Like Now!* will focus on contemporary music by Stevens, Birtwistle and others, and will be performed by Seminar faculty and participants.

Saturday, June 28 (4:00 p.m.; introduction 3:30 p.m.): Faculty members Edward Carroll, Gabriele Cassone, Thomas Stevens, Håkan Hardenberger and seminar participants will perform *Trumpet Favorites*.

Patriotic Sing-Along: Friday, July 4, 11 a.m.

To celebrate the nation's holiday, George & Donna Butler will lead this popular participatory program in the Mary Keane Chapel with patriotic ballads and folk songs. Bring your flag to wave! Veterans are invited to appear in uniform. Join us afterwards in the Great Stone Dwelling for light refreshments. The Exhibitions Committee hopes to have the new exhibit on the Enfield Shaker Cummings family available for viewing as part of the Open House. (See page 2.)



Wood's Tea Company: Saturday, September 26, 7:30 p.m.



Wood's Tea Company, which tours nationwide and was honored by the Irish Heritage Foundation for "outstanding innovation to Irish music," will perform in the 1849 Stone Mill with upbeat folk songs and Irish ballads, paced with their dry Vermont humor. A dinner is planned to precede the concert! Concert only tickets are \$15, \$10 and \$5. Call for reservations and dinner prices.

SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

If you have not already, please send us your email address and indicate whether or not you wish to receive Museum communications via email or U. S. postage. Call (603) 632-4346 or email info@shakermuseum.org.

The Great Stone Dwelling (*Continued from page 1.*)

Two of the most sophisticated features of the house are invisible except through careful exploration. One of these features is a structural system that permitted the second-floor meeting room, which extends across the full 54-foot width of the building and is almost 38 feet in breadth, to have a floor and ceiling that were originally unobstructed by supporting columns. This structural miracle was accomplished by supporting the meeting room's floor by columns and partitions in the dining room below it, and by supporting its expansive ceiling from above. Hidden in the corridor walls of the third and fourth stories of the dwelling are tall wooden trusses, which extend to the level of the attic floor. The horizontal bottom timbers of these trusses span the width of the ceiling of the meeting room and support the joists that hold the ceiling plaster and the floor boards above. The load carried by this structural system is impressive: by itself, the ceiling lath and plaster of the meeting room weighs some 12,000 pounds.

A second hidden feature of the dwelling is its double-joisted floor system. Throughout most of the building, ceiling joists are tenoned into the bottoms of massive supporting girders. A separate set of floor joists are notched into the tops of these timbers. By this means, deflections in the floors have no effect on the plaster ceilings below. Such a system was common in upstairs tavern ballrooms, permitting the hall floors to spring under the motion of the dancers without damaging the plaster below. The system would likewise have been necessary for the Shakers' meeting room, described above, where they performed their religious dances. Seeing the benefits of such a structural system, the builders extended it throughout most of the Great Stone Dwelling.

Another unusual feature of the building is the beauty of the finish flooring, with is largely composed of hard pine boards of uniform, narrow widths. Rather than being face nailed, as was common in most buildings of the period, these boards are "toe-nailed," or fastened diagonally through their edges, making the nail heads invisible.

The dwelling is also unusual for a structure of 1840 for being plastered with "grounds." These are flat boards, run through the Shakers' planing machines for uniform thickness, and placed beneath all door and window casings, baseboards, and peg rails. The

plasterers troweled the wall plaster onto the split-board lath, using the grounds to provide guides for its uniform thickness. After the plaster had dried, the finish woodwork was nailed to the grounds. This system became commonplace later in the nineteenth century, but was rare in 1840. Most buildings constructed in 1840 had their plaster troweled against the sides of the door and window casings.

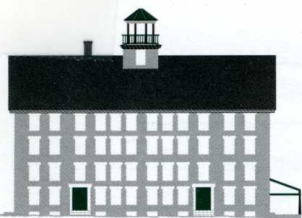
Still another feature of the building, unusual for a Shaker building, is evident throughout the structure. This is the stylish, worldly nature of the woodwork, especially the five-panel doors and the folding window shutters. Although this woodwork was executed by joiners from within the Shaker community, it is far from exemplifying Shaker simplicity. These paneled elements are, in fact, indistinguishable from contemporary details to be found in urbane buildings of the 1840 period.

By recruiting so much skill from outside the community in the construction of the Great Stone Dwelling, the Enfield elders seem also to have gently suffused the Shaker community with a new acceptance of worldly style. The building is the great home of the Enfield Shakers, built with the integrity and perfection that Shakers invested in all their work. But it is also a demonstration that Shaker craftsmen could borrow comfortably from the architectural style of "the world" if they chose to do so.



Nancy Scovner Joins Museum's Board of Trustees

At the board meeting in April, Nancy Scovner was elected as a new trustee. At the Annual Meeting on Nov. 1, the membership will have the opportunity to re-elect her for a three-year term. Many area residents know her as a past member of the Town of Enfield's Selectboard, 1993-1996 and 2004-2007. She is a past member of the Town's Zoning Board of Adjustment, Affordable Housing Selection Committee, Land Use Committee and Mascoma Valley Regional School Board. She served on the Advisory Board of Vital Communities of the Upper Valley and was Office Manager for Northeast Utilities. She was a substitute teacher at Lebanon High School for 23 years and Mascoma Elementary School for one year. She served as a State Representative for two terms.



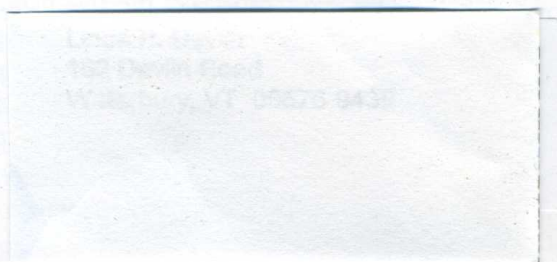
Enfield Shaker Museum

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Save the Date: Saturday afternoon, August 22, 4:00 p.m.



In appreciation of their donations to the Capital Campaign, Clark and Happy Griffiths present pins to Whit and Closey Dickey and Walter Paine and Barbara Moyer. See front page article on the Great Stone Dwelling!

Enjoy a cookout on the Great Stone Dwelling side lawn, beginning at 4:00 p.m. The event will be hosted by the Museum's Development Committee for the Great Stone Dwelling Capital Campaign.

We're anxious to have you:

- View Capital Campaign work already completed in the Great Stone Dwelling
- See works in progress being funded by the campaign
- Learn what still needs to be done
- Meet other Museum friends who are supporting the Capital Campaign
- Join the 'final push' to reach our \$1,100,000 goal.

We look forward to seeing you!

Clark and Happy Griffiths, Campaign Co-Chairs