

The Friends' Quarterly

Newsletter of the Enfield Shaker Museum

Sharing history and hospitality.

Summer 2016

Upcoming Events

For more details, visit our website at
www.shakermuseum.org

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|------------------------|--|
| August 3 | Preservation Wednesday |
| August 4 | Shaker Herb Garden Stroll |
| August 4,
11, 18 | Traditional Rug Hooking
Workshop |
| August 6 | Taste, Toast, and Tour:
Fundraising Benefit |
| August 7 | Cooking Workshop:
Summertime Refreshers |
| August 9 | Tuesday Tour: Shaker
Ministry Shop |
| August 16 | Soap Making Workshop |
| August 22 | Cooking Workshop:
Oil and Vinegar |
| August 27 | Dulcimer Concert |
| August 31 | Harvesting and Preserving
Flowers and Herbs |
| | |
| September 1 | Shaker Herb Garden Stroll |
| September 11 | Cooking Workshop:
Garden Tea Party |
| September 13 | Tuesday Tour: Shaker
Feast Ground |
| September 18 | Shaker Sing |
| September 20
and 27 | Photographing Plants and
Flowers Workshop |
| September 24 | Shaker Harvest Festival |

Eclipse Corn Planter:

“Every Farmer Should Have One”

A Brief History of Corn Planters

Initially, farmers carried a sack of seed corn on their shoulder and used a stick or hoe to poke a hole in the soil into which they dropped a seed. About one acre of corn could be planted per day with this method. Hand-held planters allowed a farmer to plant two acres a day without bending over to insert each seed.

Devising a successful mechanical corn planter was a difficult problem for early inventors to solve. The first hurdle early manufacturers faced was constructing a device that reliably measured the exact number of seeds required for each hill. The second problem was to design a machine that dropped those seeds at the desired distance apart so the rows could be cross-cultivated.

The 1880 United States Census recorded 4,008,907 farms with an average of 56 acres per farm of tilled land. Of that land, 62,368,504 acres were planted in corn. By 1910, this figure had reached over 100 million acres. The need for an efficient corn planter was urgent. In NH and VT, many farmers submitted patents for new or “improved” corn and seed planters, undoubtedly hoping that their design would be successful, popular, and of course, profitable.

In 1882, Charles H. Thompson (1855-1929), a young farmer living in Claremont, N.H., invented a “Seed-ing-Machine and Fertilizer-Distributor”, a corn planter constructed with a specially designed plow that allowed the fertilizer to be deposited immediately over the seed with a thin layer of earth between them. His patent was
(continued on page 2.)



*Hand-held Corn Planter,
19th c.*

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Executive Director's Message – Second Family Cemetery
History Alive – Archaeology Field School Update
Spring Shaker Forum Update – East Brethren's Shop News

Executive Director's Message

Dear Friends,

As I sit in my office today and watch the maple leaves blow in the breeze and visitors pass under them, I imagine the days when the Shakers were out doing their summer work. It was a quieter time, no cars or airplanes and no Pokémon Go visitors running around. I like to think I would have heard Shakers singing in the distant fields as they worked. I imagine women moving about in the Great Stone Dwelling with long, swishing dresses as they tidied up or prepared and served their meals.

For us, today is like many other days, very busy and writing this letter gives me time to reflect. Today we have had non-stop tours, visitors shopping in our Gift Shop, and volunteers working in the Village Garden.

It is hard to believe we are four months into the season. Tours started in early April, followed by our Spring Shaker Forum. Our History Alive program for fourth graders and archaeological dig for college students took place in May, and then we had the Center for Advanced Musical Studies camp which lasted four weeks. Just last week, we held our Inspired by the Shakers Children's Summer Camp in the 1854 Cow Barn. Stop by to see some of the farm animals they made to inhabit the barn until we get the "real" ones!

By no means, are the coming warm days and cold nights of August any indication of our slowing down. By now, you will have received our new program guide. We hope you sign up for one of our many programs being offered between August and December.

As I finish typing this letter, our first visitors of the day walk by my open office door on their way out. As they pass by, they thank me and compliment the staff on a wonderful visit. It makes me happy to hear this. Without our staff and all of you, these compliments would not come our way.

Thank you all!

Dolore C. Shudde

Eclipse Corn Planter (continued from page 1)

issued May 16, 1882. In 1884, he improved his corn planter by inventing a cylindrical hopper with a feed tube, which feeds the fertilizer consistently even though it may be moist or sticky. This patent was issued December 10, 1884. Thompson's horse-drawn corn planter could easily plant 20 acres per day.

Evidently, Thompson was unable to bring his newly invented corn planter into production. About 1885, he sold his patents to Enfield, N. H. residents Horace B. Stanley (1836-1900), a jeweler, and Joseph F. Perley (1837-1901), an agent for the Walter A. Wood Mowing Machine Company. Together they founded the Eclipse Corn Planter Company in Enfield and engaged Brother John T. Cumings (1829-1911) to produce the machines for them at the Enfield Shaker Community. The corn planter exceeded all their expectations and the business grew rapidly every year.

and the Central and Western states to build their business. By 1889, the company averaged a railcar load of freight per week. One of their advertising brochures states: "Our positive check row attachment will check in the seed and fertilizer ANY DESIRED DISTANCE, regardless of any irregularity in marking of rows, or unevenness of the ground." Farmers all over the country found their claims to be true. In 1895, J.W. Smith of Lenoir City, Texas wrote in his testimonial about the Eclipse Corn Planter, "I planted thirty acres of rough, stony ground without any trouble. **Every farmer should have one.**"

The Enfield Shaker Connection

The invention and manufacture of the Eclipse Corn Planter was beneficial to the Shakers in many ways. Their contract with Horace Stanley and Joseph Perley to produce the wooden parts and assemble the corn planters for sale meant a new and steady source of income for the Shakers. John Cumings and John Bradford, the Church Family Trustees, were experienced and competent tool makers with reputations for excellent quality. The Shakers had the capacity for large scale production and storage in their water-powered mills and barns.

It is unclear how many of the Shaker brothers were involved in the work on the Eclipse Corn Planters, but it is clear in the articles sent to the Shaker Manifesto for publication that the contract was of significance to the Enfield Shakers. In December 1894, George H. Kirkley wrote: "We have commenced the manufacture of eight hundred Eclipse Corn Planters; the iron work is delivered to us all finished...The hard wood frames and seed hoppers are made from our own lumber and by our own people. We are quite fortunate in having this employment during the winter season, as it is quite a help in a financial way, although we do not consider the remuneration we receive is anymore than adequate."



From an Eclipse Corn Planter broadside printed in 1894.

The Eclipse Corn Planter Co. used extensive newspaper advertising and a network of sales agents throughout New England

Spring Shaker Forum Update

by Dolores Struckhoff, Executive Director

Our weekend began with a Museum preservation tour, followed by a cocktail welcome reception and dinner. At dinner we christened our new Enfield Shaker reproduction dining room trestle tables and chairs which were thoughtfully donated by **Shaker Workshops**, our Forum sponsor. Dining at these tables was one of the extraordinary moments of the weekend.

With four outstanding presenters—**Jane Crosthwaite**, **Rob Emlen**, **Kerry Hackett** and **Roger Hall**, two key note speakers—**John Roe**, Upper Valley Land Trust, VP Operations and Programs and **Lacy Schutz**, Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon, Executive Director and a newly launched exhibit—**The Eclipse Corn Planter: “Every Farmer Should Have One”**, our 2016 Spring Shaker Forum was a huge success! As stated by one of our participants in our end of Forum survey, “there was a good mix of scholarly and Enfield related presentations.”

Jane Crosthwaite’s presentation “The [Surprising] Charms and Wonders of ‘A holy, sacred and divine roll and book: from the Lord of heaven to the inhabitants of earth’: Reconsidering Philemon Stewart’s Almost-Unreadable Sacred Text” was the recipient of the annual Shaker Workshops’ \$500 cash prize for demonstrating the highest standard in new and outstanding scholarship. The award was chosen by our readers: **Starlyn D’Angelo**, **Marc Rhorer** and **Sandra Soule**, all outstanding Shaker scholars themselves.

John Roe’s presentation “Exploring Smith Pond Shaker Forest” brings the Enfield Shaker landscape full circle as the Upper Valley Land Trust commits funding to purchase nearly 995 acres of forest once owned by the Enfield Shakers. The Land Trust envisions this land acquisition as a community forest that will become a popular hiking destination with trails to the pond and waterfalls and the historic dams and canals that once supplied water to the Enfield Shaker Village. This land connects to another 1,096 acres “Lower Shaker Wildlife Management Area”; land already preserved by the NH Fish and Game that directly borders our Museum acreage. In addition to John’s evening presentation, over 40 participants and other local visitors traveled to Smith Pond with **Michael O’Connor**, Museum Curator where John and Michael led a guided walk and talk while exploring the natural and cultural features of this amazing property.

Lacy Schutz’s presentation “Digital Preservation of Cultural Heritage Material” was timely and valuable to all of us in the Museum field as we move into digitization of our collections. She covered the history of digitization and shared her extensive process knowledge and best practices. Many of us came away with a different perspective on opening up our materials to the public to decrease the trend of declining audiences visiting Museums.

I want to thank **Mary Ann Haagen** and **Charlie DePuy** for coordinating and leading our traditional Sunday morning Shaker Sing in the Meeting Room and **Michael O’Connor** who led a yearly hike up to the Feast Ground. Finally, I want to thank all our participants for attending and for completing the survey at the conclusion of the weekend. We thank you for your positive comments and appreciate your ideas for improvements to next year’s Forum.



John Roe and Michael O’Connor lead the group on a hike to Smith Pond.



Mary Ann Haagen and Charlie DePuy lead the Sunday morning Shaker Sing in the Meeting Room of the Great Stone Dwelling.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW
FOR NEXT YEAR’S**

**2017 SPRING SHAKER FORUM
APRIL 21 – 23, 2017**

**HELP US CELEBRATE OUR 30TH
YEAR AS A MUSEUM!**

Town Votes to Transfer Second Family Cemetery to Museum

by Michael O'Conner, Curator

Warrant Article 11 at the 2016 Enfield, NH town meeting asked voters "Shall the town vote for a conveyance of the religious burial ground, known as the Shaker Cemetery to the Enfield Shaker Museum?" With minimum discussion, a motion to accept the article as worded was offered, seconded, and passed by unanimous voice vote; thus paving the way to transferring ownership of the Second Family cemetery to the Enfield Shaker Museum.

Visitors to the Museum have long been familiar with the Church Family cemetery, with its one, large, granite stone engraved with the single word "Shakers" marking the entire cemetery. Although the removal of individual grave stones in favor of a single large marker was a common Shaker trend in the 20th century, there are several Shaker cemeteries that still retain individual headstones, including the Enfield Second Family cemetery.

To reach the Second Family cemetery from the Great Stone Dwelling, drive south on Route 4A one mile and turn left onto Bassy Lane. A short distance in from the highway the cemetery is visible on the right with a small pull-off just before it. The cemetery has three rows of identical stones, bounded by tidy antique wire fencing, amidst a grove of towering oak trees.



Grave markers in the Second Family Shaker Cemetery

Each grave marker is comprised of three parts; a split granite base, a marble middle stone and a three-inch-thick marble tablet each is engraved with a name, age at death, and death date. The markers are carefully aligned along a horizontal plane and in three precise rows. Two rows of 16 markers and a partial row of eight markers.



Sign at Second Family Cemetery

The earliest burial is Sister Molly Howard who died on July 9, 1862 and the last was Sister Annie Ellis who died on August 2, 1915. It is interesting to note that there are eight burials after 1894, when the Second Family was closed and the remaining members moved to the Church Family. The extraordinary uniformity of the markers is explained by a notice in the Enfield Advocate on August 16, 1895 indicating that Elder William Wilson had commissioned the installation of new headstones in the Second Family cemetery. The work was done by George Fletcher Andrews, who had a marble shop along the Knox River in Enfield Center. The disposition of the original stones is unknown.

For many years the cemetery was carefully maintained by Enfield resident Richard Henderson, a tireless researcher of Enfield Shaker and town history, member of many local historical societies, and an elected Enfield Cemetery Trustee. The Museum will continue his tradition of caring for the Second

Family cemetery with a workshop entitled Memorial Grave-stone Care and Maintenance on Saturday, October 3, 2016 from 10 am – 3 pm. Under the guidance of instructor Rob Gregg, participants will inventory the condition of the markers, and learn to clean and maintain gravesites as you work on the Second Family markers. Pre-registration is required, class size is limited. Cost is \$25/\$20 museum members. For more information or to register email education@shakermuseum.org or call the Museum at (603)632-4346.

Cemeteries are oases of calm in our often hectic lives and an important connection with our past. With headstones in place, the Second Family cemetery is a resource for genealogical research and a destination for Shaker enthusiasts who want to see one of the remaining Shaker cemeteries with individual headstones. It is a special piece of Shaker history, so take a moment and visit the Second Family cemetery the next time you are at the museum.

Enfield Shaker Museum ♦ 447 NH Route 4A ♦ Enfield, NH 03748

Executive Director

Dolores C. Struckhoff

Enfield Shaker Museum is a 501(c)3 non-profit educational institution whose mission is to protect, enhance, and utilize its historical structures, landscape and Shaker cultural heritage.

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History Alive Program

By Kyle Sandler, Education Program Coordinator

The History Alive Program at the Enfield Shaker Museum is an interactive program that allows fourth and fifth grade students the chance to experience the lives of Shaker youth in the 1850s. In order to gain this understanding, students participated in activities that resemble tasks that would have been completed by Shaker children. The 2016 History Alive program consisted of seven field trips



Baking traditional cookies in the kitchen of the Great Stone Dwelling.

from five different schools including **Canaan Elementary, Crossroads Academy, Danbury Elementary, Enfield Elementary** and **Mount Lebanon Elementary**.

For the first time this year, students worked on a brand new simple machine activity designed by Enfield Shaker Museum volunteers **Charlie Depuy** and **Ken Munsey**. In this multi-faceted session, students were able to learn about the importance of simple machines in completing every day chores in a Shaker village. During this session, fourth grade students from Crossroads Academy worked on three activities related to simple machines. Among these was a group activity that asked students to move a granite block with just a fulcrum and lever. The fourth graders were able to complete this activity successfully while learning the difficulties of every-day Shaker tasks.

Another unique aspect of this year's History Alive Program was that five

of the seven groups were able to participate in the 2016 Archaeological Field School which was proceeding near the 1849 Stone Machine Shop. For many of the students this was their first exposure to archaeology and how this discipline can inform our understanding of history. As part of this activity, the students were able to get a close view of the dig and laboratory while asking questions which were answered by Museum Curator Michael O'Connor and Archaeologist Dr. David Starbuck of Plymouth State University.

Overall, the History Alive Program this year was a success and the Museum hopes to include more area schools participation in the future.

On behalf of the Museum, I would like to thank the schools that participated and the volunteers whose hard work allows us to continue to stage fun and informative educational programming. Special thanks goes to volunteers: **Mary Ann Haagen, Nan Munsey, Ken Munsey, Charlie DePuy, Happy Griffiths, Mardee Laumann, Barbara Bickel, Lee Ar-end, Lisa Torres, Donna Largent, Priscilla Geoghegan, Becky Powell, Peggy Mitchell, Joan Holcombe, Mardy High, Fran Lozeau, Mariann Shaffer, and Alix Olson.**



Michael O'Connor and Charlie DePuy teach students to make their own Shaker brooms.

2016 Archaeology Field School

The Museum recently completed an archaeological dig of the Church Family Blacksmith Shop and other water-powered/industrial archaeology sites on the west side of Route 4A.

The dig, was supervised by **Dr. David Starbuck**, Professor of Anthropology at Plymouth State University. The diggers included current and recently graduated students from Plymouth State, Museum staff and volunteers, and members of the community.

The Blacksmith Shop built in 1795 was located in front of the Stone Machine Shop and proved to be a rich source of artifacts. After removing a few inches of topsoil we found architectural debris, most likely the remains of buildings taken down in the first half of the 20th century. In many of the pits the most exciting finds came after digging below 30 centimeters.

Most of the artifacts were metal - blacksmithing tools, ox shoes, gears, chain links, etc. We even found pieces of the Eclipse Corn Planter that had perhaps been brought to the Blacksmith Shop for repair. The most significant find was a metal trigger guard (found by Museum volunteer **Lynn Waehler**). It is the first trigger guard known to have come from any Shaker site. Although they were pacifists, the Shakers did use guns. The Millennial



Laws included a section on hunting and guns. Chris Barber, a weapons expert at Skinner, Inc., feels "this trigger guard is from a c. 1740-1760 French hunting or trade gun. These guns were used extensively in Canada and many made their way into New England after the Seven Years' War."

East Brethren's Shop Gets New Cellarway

While preparing the East Brethren's Shop for restoration we discovered that the cellarway on the east end of the building had originally had a barrel shaped roof (see photos of roof and doorway framing below). Following some research in the Museum archives, we located a photograph of the cellarway on the Second Family Stone Office showing a barrel shaped roof.

The question then became how did the Shakers build this kind of roof? As luck would have it, there is an arched roof cellarway still standing in the White Water, Ohio Shaker Village. We contacted Rick Spence at White Water who sent us photos of the interior construction details. Using these photographs, the restoration carpenters from Warwick Carpenters were able to construct and install the new cellarway.



Cellarway with barrel roof on the Second Family Trustees Office.



Newly reconstructed cellarway on the East Brethren's Shop.

We were able to save and use much of the original framing and all of the original granite foundation. The roof itself is lead coated copper with standing seams. We are now waiting for the doors and clapboards to be installed and our new cellarway will be complete! Be sure to stop by and see it next time you are at the Museum.

Museum Wish List

DVD players (2)
Elastic bands
External hard drive (1 or 2 TB)
Gas grill
Kitchen cutlery set
Loppers
White copy paper

For more details call (603)632-4346
or email info@shakermuseum.org.



Original cellarway framing on the East Brethren's Shop.



Original arched cellarway door frame on East Brethren's Shop.



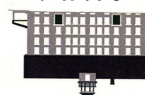
New leaded copper roof on East Brethren's Shop cellarway.

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Enfield Shaker Museum



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