

# The Friends' Quarterly

A Newsletter from the Enfield Shaker Museum

Volume X/No.1

Winter 1998

## Shaker Inn at the Great Stone Dwelling to Open in May

Historic Inns of New England, a partnership that specializes in restoring old buildings for use as inns and restaurants, is the new tenant of the Great Stone Dwelling. They plan to open the building in May, 1998, with 24 guest rooms and a full-service dining room. The East Brethren's shop is included in the agreement and will be used as a residence by one of the managing partners.

The Museum's discussions with HINE began even before the Campaign to Save Historic Enfield Shaker Village was completed in September, 1997. As soon as the museum closed on the sale, staff and board members turned their attention to crafting a detailed lease for the new tenants. Key provisions concern restoration of the historic details of the building's interior. Shaker scholars and the State Office for Historic Preservation helped to assure the long-term integrity of the building.

Just as at another Shaker site, Pleasant Hill in Kentucky, visitors to Enfield will be able to stay within the community and gain a whole new perspective on Shaker life. Guest rooms on the second and third floors, many complete with original built-in cupboards, will be furnished in simple Shaker style. Meals will incorporate Shaker cooking traditions with contemporary American cuisine. And the first floor dining room, which was designed to accommodate 100 Shakers at meal times, will have its modern bar and room divider removed to restore the room to its original configuration.

Inn partners Don Leavitt and Rick Miller, who have been in business together for 14 years, come to Enfield with experience restoring and operating the Red Hill Inn in Center Harbor, NH. "If the Shakers weren't associated with this site... it would still be a



*(l-r) HINE partners Don Leavitt and Rick Miller, Board President Galen Beale and Museum Director Sarah Shaffer sign the lease on January 22, 1998.*

great spot for a country inn," observed Leavitt, "but the Shaker legacy allows us to attract a whole new market.... There is a tremendous fascination with the Shakers."

All this is good news for the Museum and its supporters. The Museum gains necessary revenue for underwriting mortgage and operating expenses for the new buildings. It gains new partners in its mission of presenting the story of the Enfield Shakers. New programming possibilities abound. And the public

gains greater access to one of the finest Shaker buildings ever built, and new reasons to visit the Enfield Shaker Museum more often. Please join us in welcoming Don Leavitt, Rick Miller, and their staff, and in celebrating the promise of a bright future for the Great Stone Dwelling.

### Volunteer Brunch Honors 5-Year Vets

On a chilly Sunday morning in February, the Great Stone Dwelling warmed to the sounds and smells of a convivial gathering over a delicious brunch served in the historic dining room. The Board of Directors hosted the annual volunteer appreciation event, and recognized ten individuals for having completed 5 years of volunteer service: Don and Kathy Gamache, Kathy Ford, Joan Fishman, and Nancy Martin, all of Enfield; Eleanor Densen of Grantham; Steve Priest of Bedford; Karen Sluzenski of Etna; Mary McCleskey of Hanover; and John Gilbert of Woodstock, Vt. Congratulations and thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who contribute so much of their time and talent to the Museum.



## From the Director

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to present the Museum's first Annual Report in this issue of the Friends' Quarterly. The accounting firm of Bridgman Valiante & Villard prepared the financial statements.

The tremendous difference between the FY97 year-end figures and those of FY96 reflect, of course, the amazing achievements of the summer. 1997 will always be remembered as the year the Enfield Shaker Museum purchased the village core!

As I look back on 1997, however, many other accomplishments stand out. This was the year we adopted a new name, the Enfield Shaker Museum, to better reflect our location and importance.

We introduced two new educational programs: the Spring Forum, and a pilot program with second grade classes in the Enfield Village School. We presented two new exhibits, "Precious Gospel Kindred" in the Stone Mill, and "The Shakers of Enfield" at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. And a new raised-bed Accessible Garden was added as a permanent feature of our herb gardens. On the technology front, we premiered our own web page with listings of courses and programs, historical information, and links to our Shaker Museum Store. Check it out at: <http://www.valley.net/~esm>

We were fortunate to have grant support for many of these programs and exhibits. The NH Humanities Council and the NH Charitable Foundation generously underwrote "Precious Gospel Kindred." The Mascoma Savings Bank Foundation and the Upper Valley Community Foundation provided funding for an interpretive position for that exhibit. In addition, the School to Work program paid for two local teachers to intern at the Museum and

receive work experience in a non-classroom education setting. During their time here, Ann Dontonville also wrote a pilot 2nd grade curriculum for the Museum's outreach program, and Rebecca Hutchins translated our visitor orientation brochure into French.

Increasing accessibility was an important focus in 1997. The new ramp to the Stone Mill, where we do so much programming, makes that building fully accessible. For visitors in wheelchairs or those with visual impairments, the Accessible Garden offers a tangible experience of some of the delights of the herb garden. In the coming season, the new video theater and restrooms in the Laundry/Dairy Building will be accessible to all visitors, too, thanks to several private donations and the hard work of many volunteers.

We introduced a Corporate Membership Program in 1997, and invite all local businesses to join this important group of supporters in 1998. We welcome Globe Firefighter Suits, Defiance Electric, Geokon, Mascoma Savings Bank,

and Yankee Publishing Inc.

Finally, we added several artifacts to the museum collection this year. A multi-color latch-hook rag rug, seven early-20th-century photographs of Enfield Shakers, a great wheel (a large spinning wheel) attributed to Enfield, and three Shaker stoves (one purchased from the Enfield Shakers) add depth to our holdings. Several dozen Shaker windows and doors were given to us for restoration purposes. The glass was incorporated into the restored windows in the Stone Mill. And we accessioned several objects for use in our educational programs—a yarn winder, a hat mold, and a map of Grafton County.

Everyone involved with the Enfield Shaker Museum should look back on 1997 with great satisfaction. It was a memorable year in the history and growth of the Museum. Thank you all for your generous support.

  
Sarah Saville Shaffer



*Honored guests at the opening of "Precious Gospel Kindred." seated(l-r): Wendell and Viola Hess, to whom the exhibit was dedicated, (standing) Brother Arnold Hadd, exhibit curator Mary Ann Haagen, Brother Wayne Smith, Sister Frances Carr, and Wendell and Vi's granddaughter.*



## Board Changes

Galen Beale of Canterbury, NH is the new President of the Board of Trustees. Galen has been active in the field of Shaker studies for many years. She is the author, with Mary Rose Boswell, of "The Earth Shall Blossom" as well as "Shaker Baskets and Poplarware" with Gerri Kennedy. As Herbalist and Crafts Coordinator at Canterbury Shaker Village, she instituted the demonstrating crafts program which included tinware, basketmaking, broom-making, , and poplarware as well as the Village's Herbal Program. Monte Clinton was elected Vice President, and Ron Boehm and Sybil Williamson were reelected Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

Three new board members were elected this year: Jackson Venderly and Linda Stamm, both of Lebanon, and Charlie DuPuy of Enfield. Marty Pusey of Enfield retired.

Out-going President Mary Ann Haagen was honored with a presentation of a Shaker-style music stand. Her driving energy in raising the money to purchase the Great Stone Dwelling and other Shaker buildings will be recognized for years to come. Mary Ann has been involved at Enfield for many years, as a Shaker music historian, performer, and director of Shaker Revels, and as curator of the last summer's "Precious Gospel Kindred" exhibit. We thank you, Mary Ann, for your tremendous contribution to the growth and development of the Enfield Shaker Museum.

## 1997 Annual Appeal

We thank the following donors to the Museum's 1997 Annual Appeal. Appeal funds support the Museum's on-going activities and are an essential component of our annual budget. If you have not given to the Annual Appeal and would like to do so, call the Museum to receive information or mail your donation to The Enfield Shaker Museum, 1997 Annual Appeal, 2 Lower Shaker Village, Enfield, NH 03748.

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*The Friends' Quarterly* is a publication of The Enfield Shaker Museum. It is mailed as a service to Museum Members. For information on Membership write:

The Enfield Shaker Museum  
2 Lower Shaker Village  
Enfield, NH 03748  
Or call (603) 632-4346.

### Museum Staff:

Sarah Saville Shaffer, Director  
Michael O'Connor, Educator/  
Buildings Administrator  
Happy Griffiths, Herbalist

### Board of Trustees:

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### Newsletter Editor:

Maggie Stier



## Spring Forum April 25th

"The Great Stone Dwelling: Technical Masterpiece and Social Experiment" is the title of this year's spring forum, scheduled for Saturday, April 25. An exciting line-up of speakers will address three different aspects of the history of this monumental structure. Tours of the building will highlight the research presented by all three expert speakers.

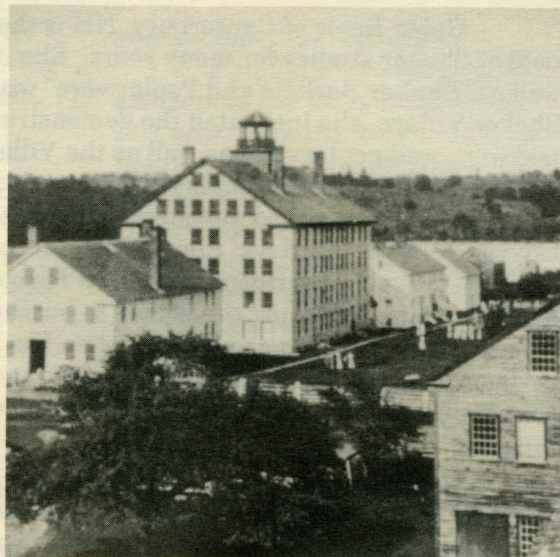
Robert P. Emlen of Brown University will give a talk entitled: "Building for Eternity: The Enfield Shakers Build a Stone Dwelling House in 1837." Rob is the author of *Shaker Village Views* and has written articles on Enfield sap buckets and woodenware, among many others topics. Nearly twenty years ago, he wrote the nomination for the Enfield Shaker Village to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Mary Ann Haagen, well-known to Enfield audiences, will present a talk drawn from her recent research for "Precious Gospel Kindred" on the lives of Enfield Shaker Village inhabitants. She will provide glimpses into interesting events and everyday occurrences in the Great Stone Dwelling.

Richard Dabrowski, of

Groton, Massachusetts, has been studying the "Architectural Details of the Great Stone Dwelling" and will share his findings. Differences between rooms for brothers and sisters, for instance, have only recently come to light, and Dick will explore some of the explanations for such differentiation.

Registration for the day is \$65 (\$75 for non-members), and includes lunch. Although the Inn will be several weeks away from its official opening, forum participants can take advantage of a rare opportunity to stay overnight in the Great Stone Dwelling, or may make arrangements with the Mary Keane House on site. Be sure to register early for what promises to be an exciting day!



*Shakers in the dooryard of the Great Stone Dwelling photographed from the 1849 Stone Mill Building.*

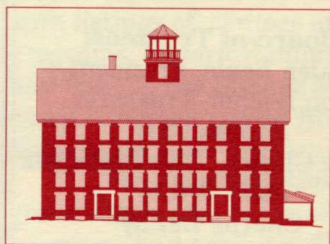
### Save These Dates

**Saturday, June 7 Spring Family Festival**

**Saturday, June 20th Exhibit Opening**

"In Solstice Light: Paintings of the Three Northernmost Shaker Villages" by New Hampshire artist Gary Hamel. At the Stone Mill Building through July 5. All works will be for sale, with a portion of the proceeds benefitting the Museum.

**Saturday, July 18 Herb Symposium**



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