

The Friends' Quarterly

A Newsletter from the Enfield Shaker Museum

Mary Keane Chapel and the Casavant Organ

Personal Reflections By George Butler

Our beloved Mary Keane Chapel was not so-called in the beginning – it was first known as the La Salette Chapel. The cornerstone, visible at the extreme south corner of the portico, is inscribed 1929, although written histories round out the years of construction to 1930-1932. It is said there was to be an additional bay behind the high altar, but that dream vanished when the Great Depression left the Chapel's benefactress, Mary Keane, penniless.



Mary Keane Chapel, interior, looking east, 2007.
Collection of Enfield Shaker Museum.

Mary Keane was the only woman taken in by the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette in Hartford, Connecticut, when the Order first immigrated to this country from Canada in 1892. Mary Keane, an orphan, was adopted by her ailing uncle, who was devoted to the La Salettes. His only surviving relative, she inherited his immense fortune. It was she who helped purchase the Enfield Shaker land and buildings in 1927 to be used as a seminary where young men would be trained as missionaries. It was her money that funded the chapel in gratitude to the Order. Her uncle's name, "Mulcahey," appears on a plaque with her name on the left panel of the organ console: *In Memoriam/Margaritae Mulcahey Keane/1831-1889*.

She died in 1932 and is the first person as well as the only woman to be buried in the La Salette cemetery adjacent to the Museum's herb garden. Her grave is located at the edge of the Shaker burial mound.

A new focus was introduced in 1951 with the opening of the La Salette Shrine and the construction of the Shrine Chapel across the street. The new parish church was open to the community and the public at large. The La Salette Chapel was then used less frequently. However, numerous Brothers did penance by keeping the building immaculate. All this came to an end when, facing financial difficulties, the Order sold the core of the Shaker village property to a group of private investors in March of 1985. The group later filed bankruptcy, which led to an auction. Eventually, the Museum became the owner of the La Salette Chapel, although the

Order still owns the brass doors, altar, stained glass windows and the organ. This was no overnight deal. As a matter-of-fact, some of us regard it marvelously – as a modern-day miracle: God's Will!

When I organized the "Organ Vespers on Mascoma Lake" at the La Salette Chapel in 1984, confusion struck! Which Chapel was which? In 1999 we adopted the lesser known name of the building, the Mary Keane Chapel. The "new"

name continues to be seen in print, recognized and perpetuated to this day.

One plaque is located to the left of the great bronze doors: *Chapel/Gift of our/illustrious benefactress/Mary A. Keane/God Bless Her*. This is the only English inscription throughout the building. Another plaque, in French, refers to the stained glass window that is in the furthest corner behind the High Altar on the North Wall: *En memoire de Mlle. M.A.Keane/et de nos bienfaiteurs*.

The Latin inscription over the portico reads "EUNTES ERGO DOCETE OMNES GENTES," which literally means "GO THEREFORE TEACH ALL NATIONS." For the musicians who have brought Mary Keane Chapel to the foreground this phrase might mean, "Make Music That All People May Hear."

Today, visitors to the Museum have a far richer experience because of the Mary Keane Chapel and the musical programs offered there. Mary Keane's gift of the Chapel to the Order of Our Missionaries of La Salette has become THE GIFT OUTRIGHT to us today.

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George Butler held his first church organist position at age 15. He studied at the Eastman School of Music, then transferred to New England Conservatory, graduating cum laude. He retired after 60 years as church organist and choir director in Boston, Pawtucket and Meriden, NH. His mission is to acquaint the public with virtuoso organ literature, emancipating the organ from being solely a church instrument. He has been connected with Mary Keane Chapel since 1958. He and his wife Donna have been caretakers of the Casavant organ since 1984.

Welcome New Trustees

Enfield Shaker Museum welcomes these new members of the board of trustees:

Barbara Butler is a retired professor of anthropology at the University of Wisconsin. Her special research interest has been indigenous people in Highland Ecuador. She is a trustee of the Butler Foundation, which has given to the Museum generously for many years. (See page 4 of this newsletter.) She and husband Jeff Bendis were neighbors to the Museum in Enfield but recently moved to Woodstock, VT.

Carolyn Maloney, Treasurer, is treasurer of Hypertherm, in Hanover, NH, where she has risen through every area of financial management in 18 years. She has a BS in accounting from Bentley College (Magna Cum Laude) and an MBA with honors from Franklin Pierce College. She has served the United Way and was a trustee and officer of Twin Pines Housing Trust. A former resident of Vermont, Carolyn and her husband live in Canaan, NH.

Wendell Smith is founder and president of Polestar, Ltd. He was chairman and CEO of Baldwin Technology Company and has served on other corporate and community boards. Wendell is a Dartmouth College graduate and received an MS in mechanical engineering from the Thayer School. He and his wife Ginger are new to Enfield, and he serves on the Town's Energy Committee. On behalf of the Museum's Sustainability Committee, he is studying the feasibility of reviving water power at the 1849 Stone Mill.

Paul Waehler is a Product Engineer at Timken Aerospace in Lebanon, NH. He holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering from RPI. His interests include architecture, antique autos, historic preservation and industrial archaeology. He is a past officer of the Enfield Historical Society and is a member of many history-related organizations. He and his wife Lynn restored a 1790 house in Enfield.

Meet the Office Staff

Handling tours, programs and meetings requires a talented staff in the office. We are fortunate to have two new additions to our team:

Kami Stone, Office Manager, will be your first contact because she answers the phone and receives most of the emails. We rely on her for reports and office support. Kami has nearly 10 years of finance experience. She earned an accounting certificate and a GPA of 3.9 through the NH Community Technical College. She and her daughter Brooke live in Canaan, NH.

Martha M. Doelle, Events Coordinator, will be your contact for overnight programs, family functions and business meetings. She is a former Village Gardener, teacher, environmental consultant and paraprofessional. She has a BA in Geological Sciences and a Master of Environmental Management. She has taken many historic preservation courses.

Finlay Foundation

Membership Incentive Update:

Enfield Shaker Museum is a Winner!

The Museum received a \$2,500 cash award - third prize in the museum category - in a state-wide challenge offered by the Finlay Foundation. In a year-long race, 35 historical societies, museums and libraries participated to raise the highest number, and percentage increase, in members. The Laconia Historical & Museum Society won first place, increasing its members from 158 to 501. The American Independence Museum placed second, raising its members from 84 to 273. Our museum was close behind with an increase from 279 to 592 members. We hope to continue to inspire people to increase their appreciation for our services. For example, the Museum is open daily year-round for tours and programs. Visitors may enhance their experience with overnight stays. We have expanded the gift shop and added programs such as the Country Life Festival and the Washington Philharmonic concerts. We thank our friends for taking on this challenge with us.

Winter 2009 Programs

Winter hours are 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday - Saturday, and noon - 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Make it a weekend and stay overnight in the Great Stone Dwelling! Call (603) 632-4346 or email info@shakermuseum.org for details.

The Shakers in New Hampshire Thursdays, January 15 – February 19 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.



Executive Director Mary Boswell will teach this course through the Institute for Lifelong Education at Dartmouth. Tours, lectures and a Shaker meal are included. She, Mariann Shaffer, David Starbuck, Jay Satterfield, and Carolyn Smith will cover a variety of topics through artifacts, manuscripts, archeological evidence, recordings and historic images. A similar program will be offered to Museum members at the Great Stone Dwelling this spring.

School Vacation Week February 16 – February 20 10:00 a.m. – Noon



Sign up for a variety of musical programs, crafts, games, cooking and storytelling with your child or grandchild! Each day new hands-on experiences will be introduced. The series is designed for ages 5-11. Guided tours will be available. The fee - \$5 for adult and child, and \$2.50 for each additional child - includes a nutritional snack. Members have free admission.

Shaker Snow Fun Day Saturday, February 21 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



Join us for a day of outdoor family fun! A fee of \$5 per adult and \$2.50 per child includes horse-drawn wagon rides, a snow sculpture contest, a tour of the Great Stone Dwelling, s'mores by a campfire, hot chocolate and coffee. Members have free admission. A hot lunch is extra.

Sugaring Off Dinner Saturday, March 14, 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy a traditional Shaker-inspired meal featuring maple syrup from the trees at the Museum! The fee of \$35/member; \$40/non-member includes complimentary wine.

Call for Papers Spring Forum - April 3-5 Sponsored by Shaker Workshops

The Museum is seeking papers for the Spring Forum on the Shakers, April 3-5. The Forum is a weekend of lectures, performances, meals and tours. Shaker Workshops will present a \$500 cash award to the individual who shows new, outstanding research. Mail an abstract (maximum 500 words) **by February 15** to the Museum or email maryboswell@shakermuseum.org. Lectures must be no more than 45 minutes long with 15 additional minutes for questions and answers. Applicants will be notified by February 23. Presenters will be offered two meals and one overnight stay in the Great Stone Dwelling.

Special packages, including rooms and meals, are available for other attendees. Double occupancy is \$259; single occupancy is \$189. Local resident weekend package is \$119. Local resident Saturday package is \$50/member; \$60/non-member. Call (603) 632-4346 or email info@shakermuseum.org.

Capital Campaign Update

In October, members of the Butler Foundation gathered at the Great Stone Dwelling to celebrate a major milestone in the Capital Campaign: the installation of the new electrical wiring and life safety systems, bringing the building up to code. Celebrating with them were Board President Doug Smith and his wife Meredith, Development Committee chair Mary Ann Haagen, volunteer Mariann Shaffer, and Executive Director Mary Boswell. Last summer, the Butler Foundation offered to donate one half of the project cost, or \$35,000, to the Museum if it could raise the other half by August 31. Thanks to many donors, \$37,497 was raised before the deadline, which more than met the challenge and allowed the Museum to complete the project.



President Doug Smith and Executive Director Mary Boswell celebrate a Capital Campaign achievement with Butler Foundation members Bonnie Butler Bunning, Marjorie W. Butler, Clara W. Butler, Barbara Y. Butler and Cynthia Wentworth, Foundation advisor. In the back row are Property Manager Tom Boswell, who oversaw the project and gave a tour to the Foundation members; Mary Ann Haagen, Development Committee Chair; and Steve Albrecht, Butler Foundation member.

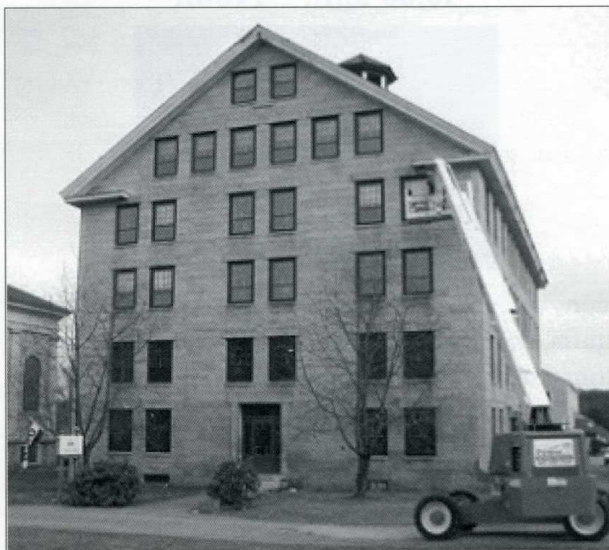
The Next Project will be to insulate and cap the heated areas of the Great Stone Dwelling. Work is expected to begin this winter to save on heating costs. Other projects will involve repairs to the roof, cupola and exterior trim; plumbing and landscaping. The Campaign will end on September 30th, so if you have not already, please make a donation before that date!

Adopt A Window!

The installation of new storm windows this fall represents another milestone passed for the Capital Campaign to safeguard the Great Stone Dwelling. The project involved the removal of the old storms, repairing the original wood frame of each window and painting the frames to replicate the historic dark green color. The new storms meet historic preservation guidelines. This improvement not only saves energy but also protects the original windows and is less noticeable than the old storms.

To cover the cost, the Development Committee is asking friends to "Adopt A Window" with a \$500 gift. Each donor may select a window and indicate whether or not the contribution is made in honor or in memory of a person or business. A graphic illustration recording the names of the donors, memorials and honorees and will be displayed in the Great Stone Dwelling. Registration forms are available at the Museum office. To select a window and make a gift, call (603) 632-4346 or email info@shakermuseum.org.

The following individuals have already selected their windows, and we thank them for their support: Richard & Ruth Blodgett, Kathy Ford, Mariann Guaraldi, Doug and Meredith Smith, and Reid and Margaret Taube.



The Casavant Organ *(Continued from page 1.)*

It was the summer of 1958 when my parents moved from Lebanon to Mascoma (where my wife Donna and I now reside in our log cabin). In need of a practice space for my organ concerts, I remembered my Grandmother Potter of Lebanon told me that the La Salettes had built a chapel on Mascoma Lake with a brand new organ! Although the La Salettes had purchased all the Shaker land and buildings the year I was born (1927), and the Chapel was not built until 1930, I had never walked through the great bronze doors until 1958! I was 31 years old. On August 6, 1977, Donna and I were united in marriage in the chapel – the first wedding held there. The year 2008 marks the 50th year of my “destiny” with this chapel and the continuing harmonious relationship with the La Salette Fathers and Brothers.

As our Organ Recital Series evolved, somehow the Casavant Organ Company in St. Hyacinthe, Canada, was informed about it and sent us, unsolicited, a copy of the original contract dated “7 decembre, 1929.” The document was signed by Rev. E. Dubois and indicated that the organ cost \$16,160.00. Later, \$900.00 was added for a set of Cloches (Chimes). The organ was built, completed and installed in its present position simultaneously with the construction and completion of the Mary Keane Chapel. The importance of this juxtaposition cannot be overestimated! The organ builders recognized the acoustical qualities of the building and they were able to match the sound (voicing) of the organ accordingly.

Such a happenstance seldom occurs. And that is why, today, this Casavant Organ is so beloved by those who play it and those who hear it. The acoustics are amazing!



The Casavant Organ, Mary Keane Chapel, n.d.,, from the collection of George Butler.

The Casavant organ was built when craftsmanship of the highest order was the rule of the day. Metal pipes, wooden pipes, bellows, chests, organ chambers and the organ console were built by hand. When our first organ curator, Bob Waters of the Watersmith Organ Company, viewed this organ in 1986, he stated “it represents an artistic achievement which has survived, amazingly enough, almost completely unaltered. We are able to enjoy this instrument and room as they were intended to be seen and heard completely intact.” This dictum has been in continuation

to the present time. Since 1985 to the present, a minimum of \$18,000.00 has been spent for its care and preservation. This sum has come from “Supporters like You” – silently, unseen, sincerely.

The organ has 1800 pipes; the largest pipe organ has 28,000. Our Casavant is 76 years old. Sooner, rather than later, the pneumatics (miniature leather bellows for each pipe) will disintegrate, and the organ will be silent. Our luck is this inevitability usually occurs within a rank (set of pipes) or a single pipe, one at a time. There is ALWAYS restoration to be done.

Through more than 20 years of the Organ Recital Series, this instrument has been played by some of the most famous organists, not only from America but also from England, Canada, Germany, and New Zealand. This organ has brought renown to Mary Keane Chapel and its setting in the Chosen Vale. The time has come to open the great bronze doors so that all people and visitors upon entering will behold a Sacred Place as seen by the La Salettes and upon leaving will view a Sacred Place as seen by the Shakers called Mount Assurance.



Enfield Shaker Museum

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Enfield Shaker Museum's Development Committee is hoping that eventually all our mailings will be sent to you electronically to save money, paper and time. Our membership has doubled in the past year, so our expenses are rising with the additional mailings. We understand that many of our members and friends do not have access to email or prefer to receive hard copies in regular mail. Please let us know what you prefer. **Either mail in this page of the newsletter (which includes your name & address) to Enfield Shaker Museum, 447 NH Route 4A, Enfield, NH 03748, or email your contact information and email address to info@shakermuseum.org.**

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Thank you!