

The Friends' Quarterly



A Newsletter from the Enfield Shaker Museum

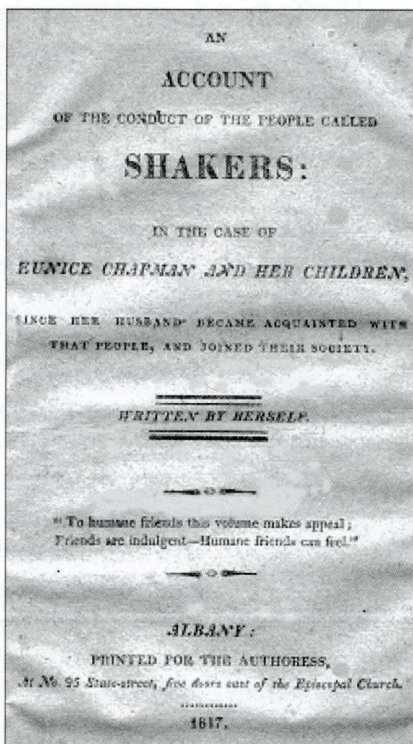
A Woman of the World

Early Americans could be terribly fickle about the Shakers, as evident in the New York legislature in 1816. One day in March, the state granted the Shakers a long-desired exemption from military fines and duties, thereby recognizing the society's claims as a legitimate pacifist religion. Yet within a month, lawmakers were ready to kill off the same model citizens—legally, that is. It was proposed that all who joined the Shakers be considered “civilly dead,” that “their estates shall be disposed of as though they were really dead,” so that the Shakers would be “forever thereafter incapable of taking any estate, real or personal, by inheritance.”

Why the sudden reversal? Some of the change was no doubt the result of a basic tension in public attitudes towards the Believers. The Shakers drew admiration for their peacefulness and good works, as well as their law-abiding ways. Nevertheless, they continued to arouse fear and suspicion on account of their unusual lifestyle and religion. But there was something more at play as voices rose against the Believers in the spring of 1816: an angry, vengeful woman who the Shakers once called “the most abusive and refractory of any woman that ever came among us.”

Eunice Hawley Chapman's campaign against the Shakers began in 1814, when her estranged husband, James Chapman, took their three children from the home they once shared in Durham, New York, and brought them to the Watervliet Shakers, near Albany. Eventually, James fled with the children, relocating them to the Enfield, New Hampshire, Shaker community. Eunice's anguish was of little consequence: by the laws of the times, a man could do with his children as he pleased. Thus the story should have ended there.

Eunice Chapman, however, was a formidably savvy woman, who was determined to bring the Shakers down, if necessary, to bring her children home. “Remember,” she once warned the Believers, “that a woman can be as mighty to pull you down, as a woman was to build you up. If you think it is for revenge; remember that a woman can dive deep in that art, even to exceed an army.” She made a proud display of this fighting spirit in 1816, when due to her relentless petitioning of her state legislature, a committee of Senators resolved to grant her a divorce by direct legislative author-



ity—the first ever in New York history—and also to lay the groundwork for her custody claims by declaring the Shakers “civilly dead.”

It was customary in this period for the Shakers to take the high road when faced with challenges from attackers like Eunice. They had refrained from giving public remarks when ex-Shaker Valentine Rathbun had published ridiculous charges involving sedition and sorcery. Likewise, they had opted not to address Thomas Brown, whose even-keeled, historian's approach had done their society even more public damage. But this latest threat, originated by a woman, was one they could not ignore, and it would permanently alter their course. Never mind that the Shakers considered themselves “not of this world”: if the world's people refused to recognize them as citizens, the Believers stood to lose their property and everything they had worked so hard to build up as a society.

And so, for the first time, the Believers decided to fight back, embarking on an intense public relations campaign of their own. The lessons from this time would be well-learned: when Mary Dyer, a similarly enraged mother, came slinging her mud against the society in future years, the Shakers would know how to handle her. Here too, with Eunice, the Shakers had their successes, drawing sympathy from the likes of Thomas Jefferson. The Shakers scored the immediate victory when the proclamation of “civil death” against their society was taken off the table. But this initial skirmish would prove to be only the first in what would become a prolonged battle between Eunice and the Shakers—one with dramatic consequences that no one, save perhaps Eunice, could possibly have foreseen.

The Shakers seemed to have some sense of foreboding from the very beginning: they recognized that with a woman as cunning as Eunice, there was no knowing what to expect.

Ilyon Woo is the recipient of the Shaker Workshop Outstanding Scholarship Award, presented to her at the Museum's Spring Forum in 2009. She holds a B.A. from Yale College and a Ph.D from Columbia University. She wrote her doctoral dissertation on anti-Shaker and Shaker apostate narratives. Her book on Eunice Chapman, The Great Divorce: A Nineteenth-Century Woman's Fight to Save her Children from the Shakers, will be published by Grove/Atlantic next summer. For details see www.ilyonwoo.com.

Welcome New Trustees

At the Annual Meeting, the members elected a new slate of officers and trustees: Mardy High, President; Carolyn Maloney, Treasurer; Nancy Scovner, Secretary; Donna Butler; Charlie DePuy; Paul Mirski; Nan Munsey; Wendell Smith; Chuck Stone; Dolores Struckhoff; Paul Waehler and Barbara Woods.

Nan Munsey is joining the Museum board for the first time. She is a recently retired middle school teacher, having taught grades 5-8 in the Mascoma and Lebanon schools. She has had a strong interest in multidisciplinary work which she pursued throughout her teaching career. Active in theatre, Nan directed many plays and musicals with both school and community groups. Due in part to acting as team leader for the NASA Explorer School Program at Mascoma, she was recognized as the Air Force Academy NH Teacher of the Year in 2008. Nan has served on several boards including The North Country Community Theater and The Lebanon Opera House. Presently she is working with the Friends of the Noyes Academy to preserve and make known the story of the Noyes Academy, the first interracial high school in the country, which was in operation in the mid-19th century. She is excited about serving on the Enfield Shaker Museum Board and helping organize educational programs for the Museum.

Dolores Struckhoff returns to the board of trustees, having served from 2006 to 2008, when she left to pursue a position as the Marketing Manager for DEM Solutions, in Lebanon, NH, based in Edinburgh, Scotland, UK. Dolores was raised in Enfield, and many of her family members share a strong community spirit. She has 20 years of marketing management experience and worked at Hypertherm for nearly 20 years. Dolores has also been on the board of directors of the Enfield Village Association and is now Executive Director of that nonprofit organization. Her goals at the Museum are to focus on two of the board's strategic initiatives: Leadership Development and Marketing.

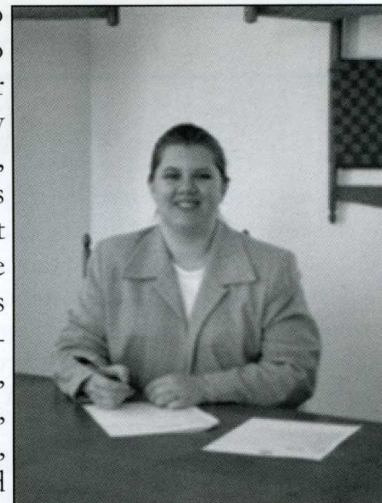
Meet Our New Events Coordinator

We are happy to introduce you to Sara Parris, your contact for family functions, retreats, business meetings and overnight stays here at the Museum. Sara has four years of hospitality experience, including catering, sales, reservations, guest services, and revenue reporting.

She also brings high energy and creativity to the Museum. Sara was selected from nearly 40 applications for the position.

"We were impressed not only with her knowledge, but also her intelligent questions and her sensitivity to the Museum's mission," said Executive Director Mary Boswell.

"She will be a great addition to our very talented team," she added.



Among the trustees present at the Annual Meeting were, left to right: Nan Munsey, Treasurer Carolyn Maloney, Barbara Woods, President Mardy High, Charlie DePuy, Secretary Nancy Scovner and Dolores Struckhoff.

(Non-Shaker) Valentine's Overnight!
February 13-14



Sign up for a romantic getaway in the beautiful surroundings of the Great Stone Dwelling. The spacious rooms and baths, quiet atmosphere and breathtaking views offer a unique and memorable occasion for you and your loved one. Your stay includes a welcome basket, sleigh rides, musical entertainment, dinner for two, dessert extravaganza, breakfast, special discount in the Museum Store, and more! *From just \$119/person.*



Family Fun Day

Saturday, February 27, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Enjoy a day of family fun! Take a horse-drawn wagon ride, enter in our snow sculpture contest, and make s'mores by a campfire! Koby Van Beest will show you how to track animals in the snow. Bring your sled and slide down Shaker Hill – or make your own sled and enter in our “cardboard box derby” - the race will begin at 2 p.m. Prizes will be given for the best looking and fastest sleds. Indoor activities include storytelling, singing, making cookies, and much more! \$5/family; Museum members half price.

Maple Sugar Weekend
March 12-14

Join us on Friday (4-6 p.m.) with a welcome reception. On Saturday, enjoy breakfast, sugar house tours, demonstrations, sleigh rides, and more! End the day with our Sugaring Off Dinner. On Sunday, have breakfast and choose from other optional activities. *From just \$169/person.*

Sugaring Off Dinner

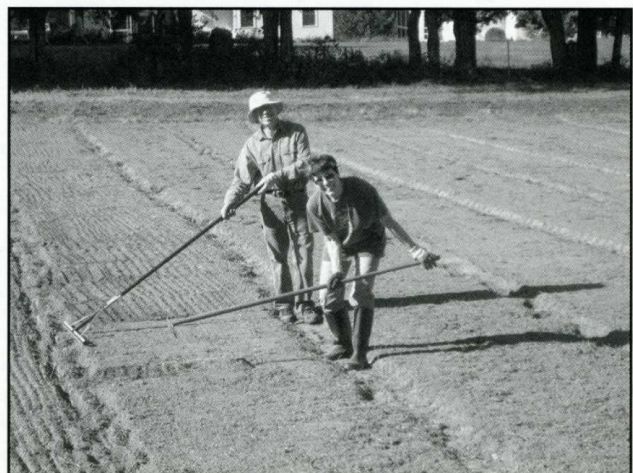
Saturday, March 14, 6:30 p.m.

This dinner is also offered separately from the Maple Sugar Weekend package. Our traditional Shaker-inspired meal will be catered by Stone Wall Catering and will feature locally made produce and products. The fee of \$30/member; \$35/non-member includes complimentary wine.

Community Garden Program

Saturday, February 20, 10 a.m.

With funding from Hypertherm, our organic Community Garden will open this spring. Sign up for plots of 20' x 20' @ \$20, or 10' x 10' @ \$10! A deposit is required and will be refunded if the plot is properly maintained. Children are welcome to participate. On Feb. 20, a program will feature Ron Krupp, author of the *Woodchuck Guide to Gardening* and the recently published book *Lift the Yoke*, about local food production and community gardens. There is no charge, but donations will support the Museum's gardens.



Board President Mardy High, with her husband Colin High, a member of the Museum's Sustainability Committee, prepares the property for the community garden.

Visit Our Expanded Museum Store

It's the coldest time of year outside, but through January and February it's still warm and welcoming in the Gift Shop at the Enfield Shaker Museum! Whether you're looking for candles to brighten your nights or chocolate to sweeten your evenings, we've got all you need to warm up your winter. All through January and February, take an extra 10% off all purchases of Mole Hollow and Bayberry Candles when you spend \$25 or more, plus take an extra 10% off selected seasonal products. If you're out for some winter fun, come on in for a warm drink and some hot deals!

Store Manager Richard Burley

Festival of Trees a Success

In the 20th century, the Shakers began to celebrate Christmas with a tree. The Sabbathday Lake Shakers continue that tradition today. We carried that tradition even further with our "Festival of Trees" in December. Visitors saw a tree in every room on the third floor of the Great Stone Dwelling. Tree decorators were: the Town of Enfield ("Enfield"), Safflowers ("Fragrant Tree"), Energy Emporium ("Green Tree"), "Bear Tree" (Arthur and Gail Gagnon), "Wildlife" (Lynn Wachler), Cornish Colony Museum ("Illustrating the Imagination"), and the Museum staff ("Shaker Tree" and "White Christmas"). Sponsors of the trees were Morin Contracting Services, Opus Office Systems, Wendell Smith, and an anonymous donor. Other contributors were Family Pharmacy, George's Super Value and Independent Property Management. The Lions Club and Arthur Gagnon donated the trees. The Energy Emporium and Home Depot donated the lights.

WINTER HOURS

The Museum is open daily. Winter hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. The last tour is at 3 p.m. If you wish to hold your family event or business function at the Museum, call Events Coordinator Sara Parris at (603) 632-4346, or email her at info@shakermuseum.org.

Call for Papers

Spring Forum - May 7-9

Sponsored by Shaker Workshops

The Museum is seeking papers for the Spring Forum on the Shakers, May 7-9. 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 March 1** to the Museum or email maryboswell@shakermuseum.org. Lectures must be no more than 45 minutes with 15 additional minutes for questions and answers. Applicants will be notified by April 1. 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.



Joanna Anderson of Safflowers received a \$100 cash award for the most popular tree. Her tree was sponsored by an anonymous corporate donor.

Capital Campaign Closes

The Capital Campaign began on Oct. 22, 2006. The Great Stone Dwelling was in such need of attention, the NH Preservation Alliance named it one of the state's "Seven to Save." Today, three NH agencies consider it to be a model to follow. The \$1.1 million goal has almost been reached, and gifts to the *Adopt a Window* and *Purchase a Drawer* efforts are still arriving. Work on the roof, cupola, porch and insulation will continue.

Happy and Clark Griffiths were Campaign Co-Chairs. Since 2006 the Development Committee has included Charlie DePuy, Mardy High, Sue Jukosky, Mariann Shaffer, Dolores Struckhoff, Sybil Williamson, Wally Borgen, Doug Smith and Father Jerry Boulanger. At the Annual Meeting, Mary Ann Haagen was honored for her outstanding leadership as committee chair.

Once the campaign was launched, Charlie DePuy presented a list of priorities and ensured that we stayed on course. The Preservation Planning Committee, chaired by Carolyn Smith and Paul Mirski, and consisting of Earl Brady, Susan Brown, Richard Candee, Arthur Gagnon, Colin High, and Jim Garvin (advisor), reviews methods and materials. The Facilities Committee, chaired by Paul Waehler and consisting of Earl Brady, Clark Griffiths, Paul Mirski, Wendell Smith, reviews the expenses and details. The Property Manager Tom Boswell coordinates the work.

The campaign would never have succeeded without the extraordinary support of John and Inge Hilberg, whose lead gift retired the mortgages on all museum property and buildings. Other major donors to the campaign were the Butler Family Foundation, Lucy and Eleanor S. Upton Charitable Foundation, Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation, Deborah L. Coffin, Whitney and Closey Dickey, Mascoma Savings Bank, David and Barbara Roby, the Greenhouse Gas Reductions Fund, and the Charles E. and Edna T. Brundage Foundation. The campaign has so far funded insulation, a new heating system, storm windows, signs, wiring, interior repairs, and upgrades to the offices and kitchen.

Board President Mardy High and I often talk about "Gospel Order." The efforts of so many individuals and businesses on this immense project have brought us closer to the Shakers' ideals of organization, frugality, and community. We are grateful not only to the 292 donors, but also to the contractors and volunteers who gave their time and talent to make this campaign a success. A detailed report will be given in the summer when all projects are completed.

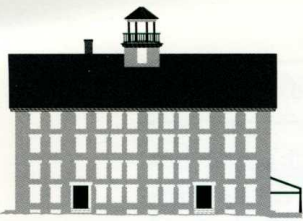
Mary Boswell, Executive Director

Sabbathday Lake Shakers Present Oval Boxes to Museum

To help the Capital Campaign, the Sabbathday Lake Shakers gave a collection of oval boxes made by Sasha Tovani, who had joined the community in 2007. Sacha had studied woodworking at McCann Technical School in North Adams, MA. About a year ago, she left the Sabbathday Lake community, but the boxes are a lasting memory of Shaker woodworking tradition. Because of the boxes' historical value, the Development Committee decided to keep them as part of the Museum's collections. At the annual meeting, on behalf of the committee, Sue Jukosky presented the set to Galen Beale, chair of the Collections and Exhibitions Committee, and former Board President.



Development Committee member Sue Jukosky presents the Sabbathday Lake Shakers' oval box set to Collections and Exhibitions Committee Chair Galen Beale.



Enfield Shaker Museum

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